

# Fort Thomas Fire Department



## 2022 Annual Report

I am pleased to present the 2022 Fort Thomas Fire Department Annual Report. The Department prides itself on being prepared for the future and remains focused on delivering safe, effective, and efficient service. Our mission is to provide the community with the highest level of fire and emergency medical services. 2022 started with issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and eventually relaxed as the year progressed. Dedication to our mission and creativity allowed us to meet challenges while maintaining the highest level of service delivery and efficiency. As with the previous two years, many of our standard practices, both operationally and administratively, continue to be adjusted to keep our members and community safe. Our success remains a result of all our members' dedication and the support of our wonderful community.

As Chief, I am incredibly proud of the work the Fort Thomas Fire Department members did this past year. It was busy with emergency calls, requests for services, and providing community services to a changing world. Still, our members responded to these challenges in a manner that made our community proud.

Throughout the year, the Department and I received clear and constant support from the Mayor, Council, CAO, and Staff. It is through this support which makes our Department function and thrive within the City.

In January, our Department changed to a new robust Records Management System. This new product enables us to keep better records, streamline operations, schedule staff, and provide a community connection element to our citizens. The transition from past records management to a new platform is labor-intensive. Many hours were spent on data migration and integration into our operation. We had weekly meetings with our vendor to enable a smooth transition. Also, in January, we completed our semi-annual promotional testing for Lieutenant and Captain. The process of learning and adapting continued throughout the entire year.

On February 5, the ambulance and crews were dispatched to the rear of 18 N Fort Thomas Ave for a sledding accident. When the personnel arrived, they found a patient at the bottom of the hill with a severe leg injury. The incident was challenging to navigate as the hillside was a solid sheet of ice. While EMS crews attended to the patient and provided care, Fire Personnel set up a low-angle rescue system with the stokes basket and the Engine. Crews had to be attached to the stokes basket to get back up the hill! Despite the adverse conditions, the team performed flawlessly and safely transported the patient to the hospital for treatment.

In March, we completed our annual SCBA functional testing, assisted Southgate with a structure fire, and had another success story with our Lucas CPR device. The patient in this incident fully recovered and was discharged from the hospital!

For April, our Crews began annual hose testing. We also had a very busy month of training. We had the unique opportunity to train in an acquired structure, the old St. Thomas school. We performed many evolutions, including forcible entry, search and rescue, and firefighter rescue maneuvers. These opportunities do not occur frequently, and we are grateful to have the experience. FF/P Mike Wright retired from the Department. We are thankful for his dedication to the City.

In May, we concluded annual hose testing, began yearly fire hydrant flow testing and assisted Southgate with a structure fire. We also hired FF/P Glenn Riggs for Mike Wright's retirement vacancy. Glenn

came to us from the Wilder Fire Department and has many years of experience as a firefighter and paramedic.

For June, the Fire Department participated in the Campbell County Library "Touch-A-Truck" activity. We also completed annual hydrant inspections and prepared for the Fourth of July Celebrations. In addition, we responded to the June 13 police situation.

In July, we participated in July 4 Celebration, had two documented "Saves" from Cardiac Arrest victims, and responded to a four-alarm structure fire in Wilder.

For August, the Fire Department participated in supervised safety drills for all the schools. These drills include fire evacuation, active shooter/threats, and severe weather. The partnerships we have developed with the school administrations have been crucial in developing plans to ensure the safety of our students. This cooperation also extends to our Police Department as our joint endeavors create the best possible plans.

In September, Captain Rick Daugherty retired. He spent over twenty years serving the community. With his retirement, we began a recruit testing process. We also responded to a significant structure fire on Highland Ave. This home had no working smoke detectors! We continue to educate our community about the importance of checking their smoke detectors to ensure operation. We also formed a committee to replace our current ladder truck. After numerous meetings with vendors, research, and presentations to our Public Safety Committee, the City signed a contract for a new ladder truck with expected delivery in late 2024.

For October, we completed Public Education programs at Schools and began Poster Contest with our Schools. We also started our Hydrant winterization program and continued work on the hiring process.

In November, FF/P Matt Fite attended the Poster Contest winner banquet. We also completed Annual Apparatus Preventative Maintenance and continued with the hydrant winterization program. Our Department was also afforded the opportunity to collaborate with Highlands HS Media Department for the production of recruitment videos. We hired FF/P Cody Krentz to replenish our ranks. Cody was a legacy hire, as his father volunteered for the Department many years ago.

For December, we participated in the Holiday Walk. Additionally we responded with Bellevue-Dayton Fire Department for a fatal boat fire at Manhattan Harbor.

## Community Involvement

Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Fromeyer continues to serve as the Department's Car Seat Safety Officer. FF/P Fromeyer helps teach people how to properly install and maintain their children's car seats on specially scheduled days by appointment. This year he installed twenty-four car seats and trained parents, grandparents, and caretakers to install the car properly seats themselves.

The Fire Department continues to deliver and provide community CPR programs. Lieutenant Eric Scherpenberg and FF/P Brandon Fromeyer deliver most of our CPR programs. For 2022, they delivered classes reaching 100 students. We remain committed to providing our residents and business members with the highest quality training to reinforce this critical procedure.

The Fire Department continues to be very active in partnering with the Schools to provide direction for schools' safety programs and evacuation procedures. In conjunction with our Police Department, we met before the school year to review each school's plan, provide input, and conduct an on-site observation of their procedures. Furthermore, we have become very active with Highlands High School staff and counselors to provide information to their students wanting to pursue firefighter/EMS careers.

Our members remain very active with the City functions. Participation in the Summer Recreation Program, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Events, Touch-A-Truck, Pumpkin Walk, and Holiday Walk highlight the events we are proud to be part of.

The Fire Department also purchased a limited number of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for our most vulnerable citizens. The installed detectors have a ten-year lithium-ion battery that will prevent repeat calls to change the battery and possible fall scenarios for the citizens attempting to change their batteries. These detectors remain the most critical tool in providing early warning of a fire or carbon monoxide gas presence and the need for emergency action and evacuation.



## **Public Education**

The Fort Thomas Fire Department members are committed to keeping our community safe from the perils of fire and other life-threatening emergencies. This commitment begins with prevention by educating the public on the dangers of fire and life safety interventions such as CPR. As always, our commitment to safety starts with educating our youth in a close partnership with our local schools.

In 2022 the Ft. Thomas Fire Department had to find a way to continue delivering public education despite having limited access to the schools due to the pandemic. We achieved this by partnering more closely with the Ft. Thomas Independent School System. We also focused heavily on our annual NKFA Junior Fire Marshall Poster Contest. The Fort Thomas Fire Department once again led the way in public education, not only in Campbell County but also in the entire three-county NKY region. Lt. Scherpenberg chairs the Campbell County Fire Protection Association's public education committee and coordinates the Northern Kentucky Junior Fire Marshall Poster Contest for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Proudly, Fort Thomas schools (both public and private) continue to be awarded the most awards out of every other school system.

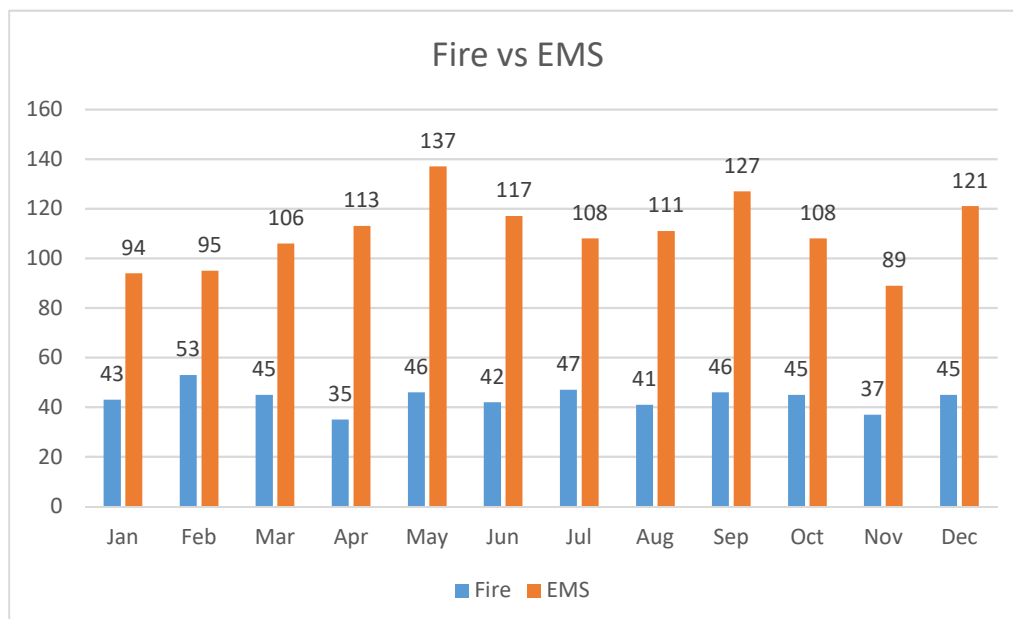
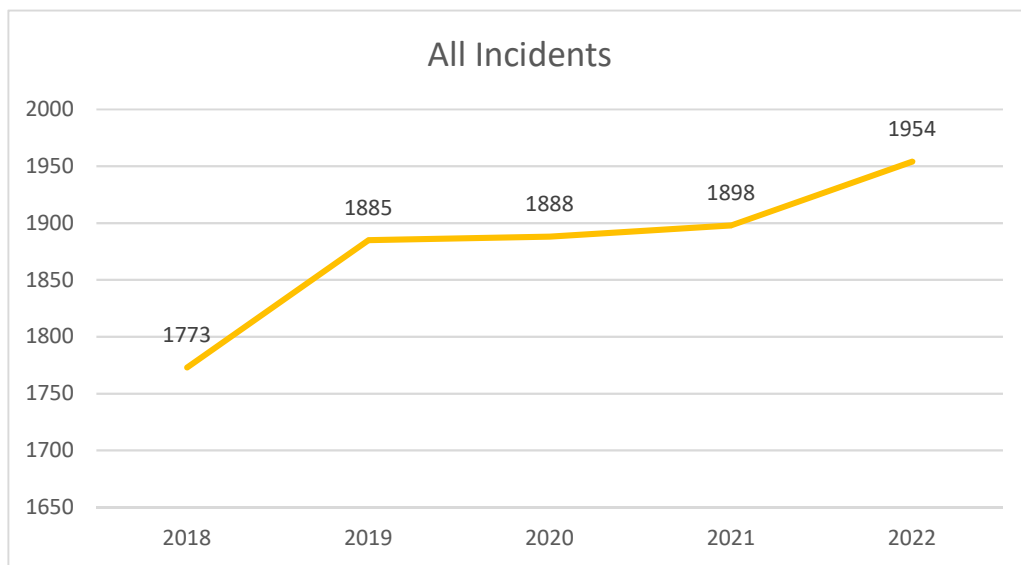
This year's fire safety message was; Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape. This theme was chosen to teach students about the proper planning of home escape plans. This message was reinforced to all students participating in our Public Education programs.

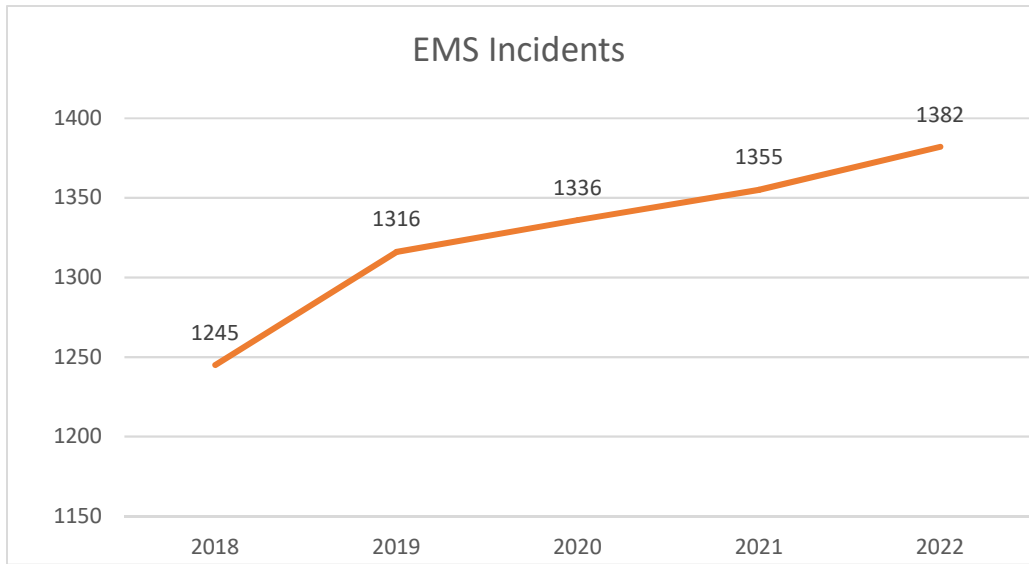
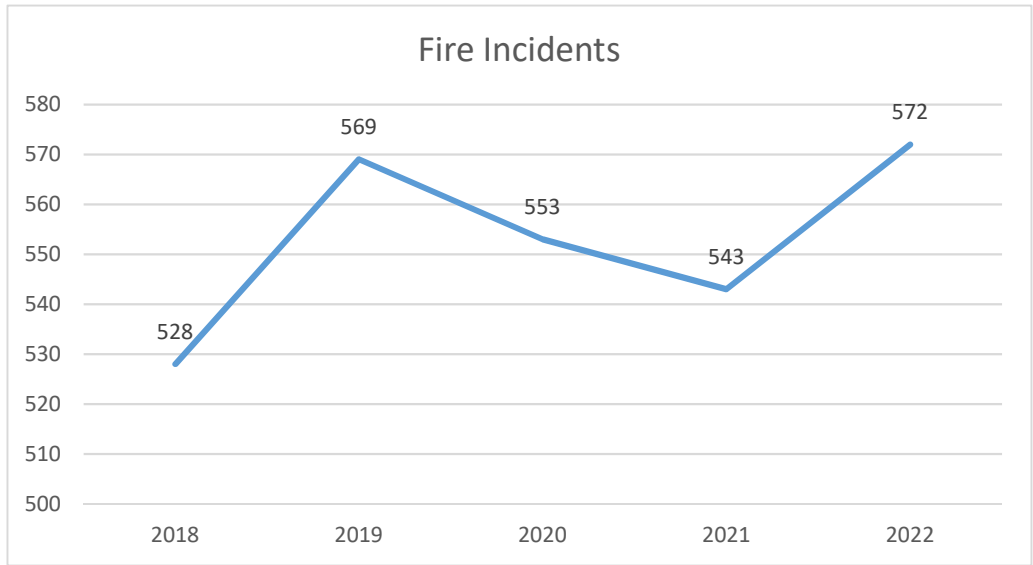
## Fire Prevention

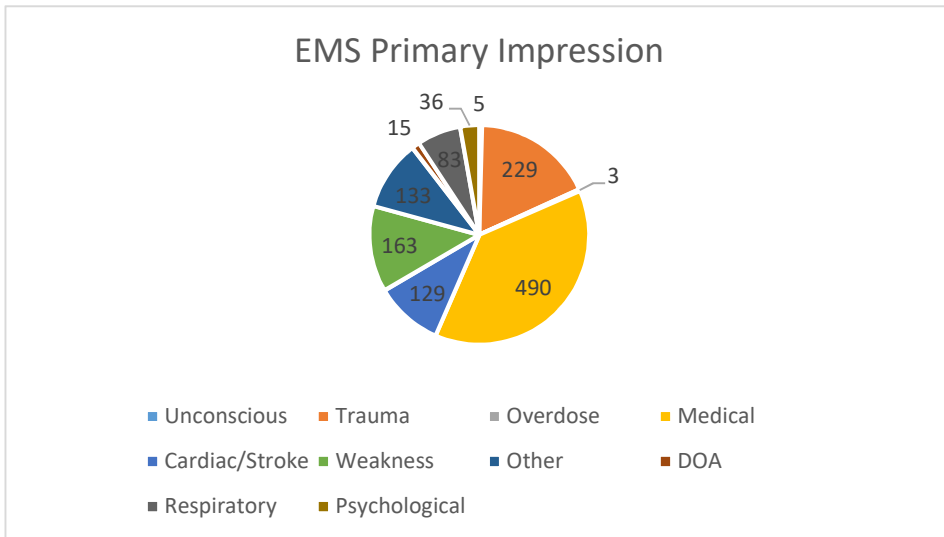
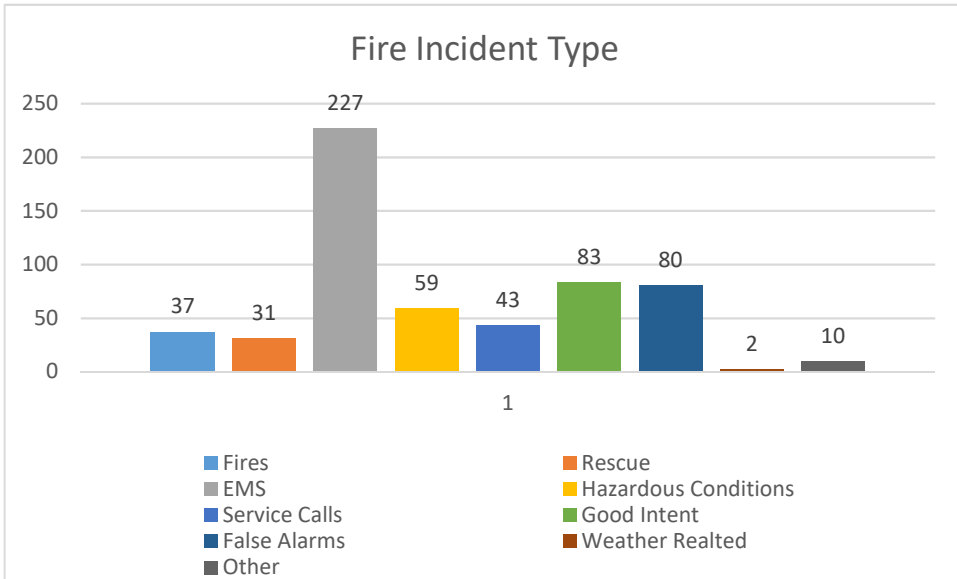
Led by Captain Steve Lumpp, our Fire Prevention Bureau reaches our businesses in the City for a Life Safety Inspection. Our Lieutenants, Lt. Carr, Lt. Scherpenberg, and Lt. Kaufman, completed numerous inspections. This is the first line of defense to preventing a tragedy from occurring.

## Incident Response

In 2022, the Fire Department responded to 1954 incidents, an increase from the previous year. Of the responses, 572 were fire, and 1382 were E.M.S. Below are charts illustrating our incident data and comparison from previous years.

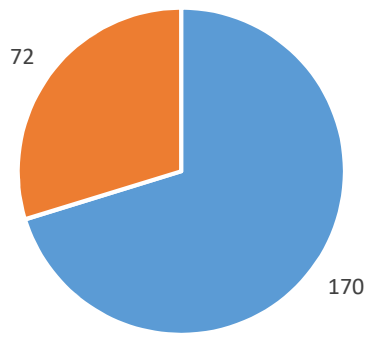






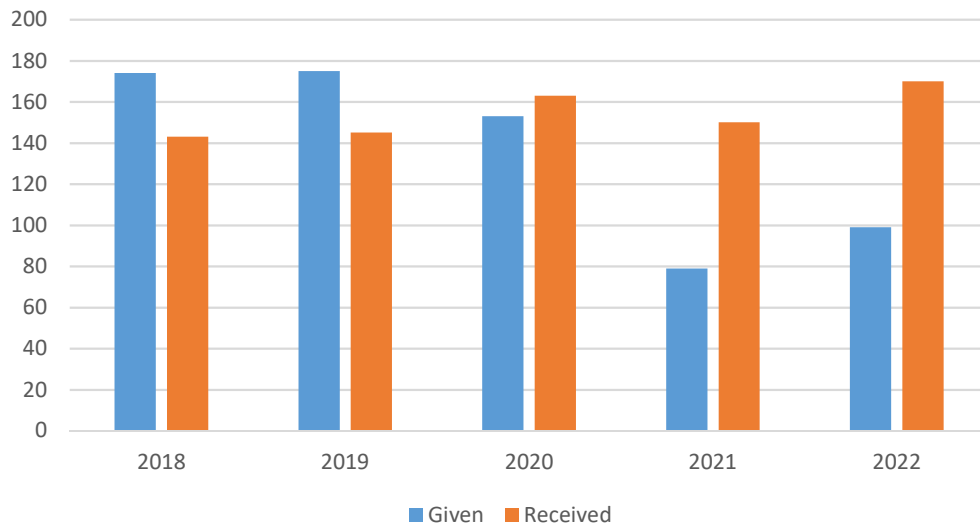


### Aid Detail

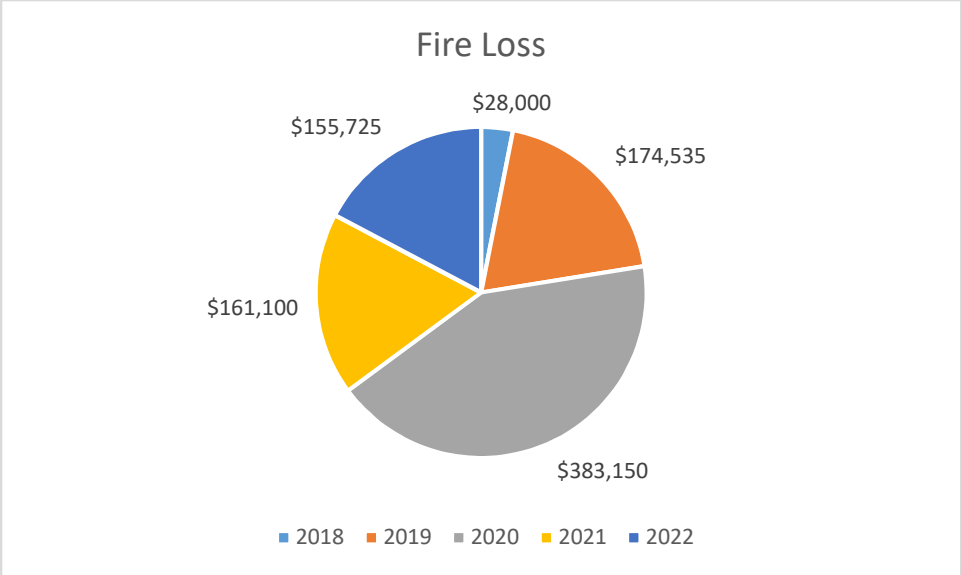


■ Mutual/Automatic Aid Received    ■ Mutual/Automatic Aid Provided

### Aid Given/Received



■ Given    ■ Received



## Training

The Department is continually training. Whether preparing for different parts of the job or training on new equipment, crews spend most of their day training when not on calls. The Training Division heads up all the training in the Department, whether EMS, Fire, Vehicle or Technical Rescue, or HazMat. The Training Division also oversees continuing education. All training is verified through the Kentucky Fire Commission and Kentucky Board of EMS.

Our training model is an all-hazards approach to train our personnel for any situation they encounter. We operate with a comprehensive Annual Training Plan for the Fort Thomas Fire Department. This builds upon the momentum and foundation of training previously provided to the organization and identified opportunities for improvement from past training. The structure and content of this plan have been developed to meet the dynamic needs of the organization and its personnel while simultaneously improving time management and coordination efforts.

The cumulative goal of this plan and its associated efforts is to provide personnel with the best possible preparatory knowledge, skills, and abilities while subsequently establishing the Fort Thomas Fire Department as a recognized authority on the safe, efficient, and effective delivery of all-hazards emergency response training. Doing so will ensure the fulfillment of our organizational mission as we strive to ensure the citizens and visitors of Fort Thomas *Experience a better* quality of life through excellent risk-reduction and response services. Furthermore, the safety and effectiveness of our personnel and emergency scene operations will be enhanced by providing these diverse training opportunities developed following established federal, state, and local requirements and the *ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule*.

The distribution of continuing EMS education over the two-year license cycle as opposed to “traditional refreshers” lends itself to increased levels of skill maintenance/proficiency and knowledge retention. This plan has been designed to meet the time and topic refresher requirements for bi-annual re-licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic in the State of Kentucky and National Registry Re-certification. EMS continuing education will be delivered on shift the first, second, and third Wednesday each month from 09:00 to 11:30. This training will be delivered by PASS with PASS Like fire training, Bi-Monthly department drills be provided for subsequent delivery at the department level by respective instructors. The content of these drills will address EMS disciplines to meet the organization’s emergency response readiness requirements.

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>ICS/Command</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Hose</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>
<b>A/O</b>	<b>601 DT</b>	<b>602 DT</b>	<b>610 DT</b>
<b>SPECIAL OPS</b>	<b>HAZ MAT</b>	<b>HAZ MAT</b>	<b>HAZ MAT</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL</b>	<b>Command Sim</b>	<b>St Eliz Simm</b>	<b>Mut Aid TC</b>
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>Hose</b>	<b>Ladders</b>	<b>RESCUE</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>
<b>A/O</b>	<b>680 DT</b>	<b>Pump Ops</b>	<b>AERIAL OPS</b>
<b>SPECIAL OPS</b>	<b>HAZ MAT</b>	<b>HAZ MAT</b>	<b>STOKE OPS</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL</b>	<b>MCI</b>	<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	<b>Christ Simm</b>
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>RESCUE</b>	<b>Forcible Entry</b>	<b>VENTILATION</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>
<b>A/O</b>	<b>Highway Ops</b>	<b>DRIVERS TRAINING</b>	<b>DRIVERS TRAINING</b>
<b>SPECIAL OPS</b>	<b>WINCH</b>	<b>LOW ANGLE</b>	<b>HAZ MAT</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL</b>	<b>EXTRICATION</b>	<b>EMS RESCUE</b>	<b>Mut Aid TC</b>
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>RIT</b>	<b>SCBA</b>	<b>ROPES &amp; KNOTS</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>	<b>PASS</b>
<b>A/O</b>	<b>DRIVERS TRAINING</b>	<b>APPARATUS POSITION</b>	<b>VEHICLE SYSTEMS</b>
<b>SPECIAL OPS</b>	<b>TRENCH</b>	<b>LOCK OUT/TAG OUT</b>	<b>CONFINED SPACE</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL</b>	<b>PALS</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>CHMC Simm</b>

The training program results produced 2091 hours of fire training delivered to our members. This averages to approximately 110 hours per person. Additionally, the Department completed 1095 hours of EMS continuing education. This averages to about 58 hours per person.

### Monthly EMS Training Topics

January 2022 - 12 Lead EKG Review (1.0), OB/Gynecology (1.0), Immunology (0.5)

February 2022 - Special Needs (1.0), Psychiatric Emergencies (1.0) & Medication Delivery (0.5)

March 2022 - Airway Management (1.5), Crush Injuries & Rhabdomyolysis (1)

April 2022 - Crew Resource Management (1), NSTEMI/Bundle Branch Blocks (1.5)

May 2022 - Pulmonary Embolisms/Absent Breath Sounds (1), Pain Management (1), Med Delivery (0.5)

June 2022 - Pediatric Cardiac Emergencies & Arrest (1.5) & Hypo/Hyperthermia (1)

July 2022 - Active Shooter Incidents, Tactical EMS (1.5) & Poisonings in EMS (1)

August 2022 - Treating Kids Like Adults (1.5) & Epi Push/Mag Sulfate Review (1.0)

September 2022 - Burns & Burn Management (1.5) & Geriatrics (1.0)

October 2022 - Airway, Oxygenation, Ventilation (2) & Pediatric Cardiac Arrest (0.5)

November 2022 - Sleep Apnea (0.5), Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma (1), & Brain Bleeds (1)

December 2022 - Patient Refusals (1), Diseases of HEENT (1), & Recruitment/Retention (0.5)





The men and women of the Fort Thomas Fire Department take great pride in serving the City. Each member is committed to training, life safety prevention, and community involvement. I am honored and privileged to serve as the Fire Chief and lead such a dedicated group every day.





FF/P Mike Wright ret 4/22



Captain Rick Daugherty ret 10/22



FF/P Glenn Riggs



FF/P Cody Krentz