

the SIREN UPDATE

Agency Highlight: Norwich Township Fire Department



Established 1942, the Norwich Township Fire Department is a full-service EMS/Fire Department on the Northwest side of the City of Columbus. The department provides service to Norwich Township, the City of Hilliard and Brown Township; with area coverage at 39 square miles and a population of approximately 35,000.

It operates out of three fire stations with three ALS transport vehicles, two ALS engines, one ALS engine/rescue and one ALS ladder. Support staff includes one Fire Chief, one Assistant Fire Chief, one EMS Coordinator, one Training / Safety officer, as well as a fire prevention bureau.

In evaluating the needs of the community and the evolution of the fire service, Norwich Fire department has modified its approach to operations. Over the years the number of fires has decreased while the number of EMS incidents has increased. EMS is their area of focus and they have a group of employee's that are open to changes within their agency as they strive to succeed and lead.

Run Statistics for 2009:

EMS: 3420 Incidents
3204 Patients
2328 Transported patients

Fire: 966 Incidents
33 Structure Fires

Department's Focus/Service areas:

Fire Suppression
Technical Rescue
Hazardous Materials (regional response team member for 30 years)
Fire Prevention Programs
Emergency Medical Services
EMS Protocol
Elder Care

David Long serves as the department's fire chief.

Wills For Heroes Foundation Hosts Event for EMS Providers

The Dayton Bar Association is hosting a Wills for Heroes event where emergency personnel can obtain free wills and other estate planning documents. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Schuster Center located in Downtown Dayton.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Chris Abrekston at calbrekston@daybar.org



Amendment to HB 449 Provides Firefighters and EMTs with a Minimum Paid Military Leave

An amendment to House Bill 449, which became law in June of 2010, provides public safety employees with paid military leave of seventeen 24-hour days. This is the equivalent of 408 hours within one calendar year. Before this, non-traditional employees such as firefighters and emergency medical technicians were forced to take unpaid leave to perform military service.

Increasing the number of paid military leave hours for firefighters and other public employees who do not work a traditional work week will allow sufficient paid time off to cover National Guard and Reserve monthly weekend trainings and annual training during the year.

Division of EMS Seeking Nominations for Fire Awards Program

The Division of Emergency Medical Services' (EMS) Office of Fire Services is seeking nominations for the Ohio Fire Awards Program, a newly established state awards program to recognize outstanding achievements in Ohio's fire community and honor those whose accomplishments rise above the day-to-day excellence in fire training, education and safety.

"Each day in Ohio, firefighters save lives and perform countless noteworthy acts to their community," said Ohio EMS Executive Director Richard Rucker. "These awards are a tribute to those individuals and organizations whose overall contributions go beyond their basic duties and responsibilities and who represent the finest traditions of our profession."

Categories for the state awards include: Ohio Volunteer Fire Department of the Year/ Ohio Fire Officer of the Year/ Ohio Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement, Ohio Fire Service Instructor of the Year; and, Ohio Fire Prevention Educator of the Year.

Award criteria, eligibility rules and nomination instructions are described at www.ems.ohio.gov under the Applications and Forms section. Deadline for nominations is August 13, 2010.

The Division of EMS will honor award recipients during National Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9, 2010.

Fire News

- The New Volunteer Firefighter course is posted on the division website at www.ems.ohio.gov/ems_fire_srvcs.stm. The division will remove the old volunteer firefighter course objectives November 1st, 2010. Student after this date will be required to take the new volunteer firefighter certification examination.
- The recommended hour guide for fire training has been placed on the website at http://www.ems.ohio.gov/ems_fire_srvcs.stm. This guide has been update to the new volunteer firefighter course.
- The Office of Fire Service has submitted their application and self study for Firefighter I and II accreditation through Pro Board. This will allow those with approved fire charters the opportunity to offer Pro Board certificates for fire training conducted by their training program.
- The 2010 EMS Fire Program Coordinator's Conference is scheduled for October 7, 2010 at the Ohio Department of Transportation Auditorium.

**Do you have stories to share about your EMS or fire agency? We want to know!
Submit stories to China Dodley at: cldodley@dps.state.oh.us**