

The Whitehall Division of Fire

2017 Annual Report



2017 In Review

The Whitehall Division of Fire had a very productive year in 2017. Our contributions toward helping the City obtain its objectives, strategies, and tactics are well documented and produced much of the content for this report. Division goals included creating a more active and visible fire prevention bureau, challenging Division personnel to perform their duties and operate our vehicles in a safe manner, being more visible in attending community events and public demonstrations, and evaluating the effectiveness of a value-based service delivery model. Working on each of these goals produced the opportunity for the Division to further develop its operating guidelines and further establish its role as a major contributor to City wide development and success.

Over the last several years, the Whitehall Division of Fire has spent a significant amount of energy at improving the cardiac arrest survival rates for our residents. This energy has come in the form of investing in training, new techniques, extensive debriefing, and a systematic approach to cardiac arrest events. These efforts have led to an increase in our successful cardiac arrest resuscitations to 9.4% in 2017. What is especially impressive about our survival rate is that not only is it higher than the 2016 (8.9%) national average, but our data reflects ALL cardiac arrest incidents, whereas national data-sets generally exclude cardiac arrests caused by traumatic injuries and overdoses.

The statistical breakdown of our cardiac arrest responses are as follows:

1. The Division of Fire Responded to 68 cardiac arrest incidents in 2017
2. Resuscitation was not attempted on 32 incidents due to obvious signs of death
3. Resuscitation was attempted on 32 incidents
 - a. 9 resuscitations were terminated in the field
 - b. 20 resuscitations were terminated in the hospital
 - c. 3 patients were ultimately discharged and returned to living a normal life with no neurological impairments
4. There were 4 incidents in which cardiac arrest was suspected, bystander CPR was in progress upon arrival of Division crews, and the patient was found to have regained a pulse.

Like many communities, the City of Whitehall continues to battle the nationwide opioid epidemic. In 2017, the Division of Fire responded to 110 incidents that were determined to be related to Heroin or other opiates. On 89 of those incidents, our personnel delivered a total of 138 doses of Narcan, as some patients required multiple doses to reverse their symptoms.

In 2017, we provided training to all officers with the Whitehall Division of Police and assisted in the acquisition of Narcan for each officer through Project DAWN (Death Avoidance With Narcan). This has ultimately led to Whitehall Police Officers administering 30 doses of Narcan to 21 different patients, leading to the successful overdose reversal in 20 individuals who had taken a likely fatal dosage of Heroin. Sadly, in 2017, there were 4 cardiac arrest deaths that were determined to be likely related to Heroin.

Many large projects were completed in 2017. Many of these projects were designed to enhance the delivery of our service through the purchase of new equipment or the planning to purchase new equipment. Highlights of these projects include:

- **Zoll X-series Monitors** – Our current cardiac monitors were quickly approaching their end of life and due for replacement. With our focus on improving cardiac arrest survival rates, it was rapidly evident that the Zoll X-series monitors with their innovations in cardiac monitoring and CPR feedback were the most appropriate choice to replace our aging equipment. This project included a significant amount of research, in-service evaluation, and negotiations with our vendor. Ultimately, our crews confirmed that this was a superior product and we were able to coordinate the purchase and training of these new cardiac monitors, which were placed into service in January of 2018.
- **New Medic** – With diligence and persistence, the Medic Spec Committee was able to fully develop a set of specifications for a new medic and ultimately recommend the purchase of a McCoy Miller Ambulance on a Dodge chassis that will be purchased in early 2018.
- **New Fire Engine** – Using a similar process as described above with the Medic Committee, a Fire Truck Committee was formed with the assignment to establish the specifications for a new fire engine that will replace our 1999 E-One pumper. The committee chose a Sutphen Fire Engine and we will take delivery in March of 2018. This new truck is smaller, holds more water, has more efficiently designed cabinetry, and will enhance our fire suppression capabilities.
- **New EMS Staff Vehicle** – With the development of the EMS Coordinator's position in 2016, the Division realized the necessity to provide a staff car for the EMS Coordinator to use as a response vehicle as he responded to emergencies. In addition, the EMS Coordinator has become intricately involved in many committee and boards in central Ohio and needs to be able to attend the various meetings that are located off-site.
- **Phase II of Ballistic Vests**- The remainder of the personnel that were not issued the new style, light-weight ballistic vests were issued these vests in 2017. This new style vest increases the mobility and dexterity of the paramedics as they provide their interventions to patients.

The projects noted above serve as a testimony that the Whitehall Division of Fire remains committed in its development and growth. We strive each day to provide high quality and efficient service to the members of our community.

Chief Preston Moore
Assistant Chief Christopher Menapace
Administrative Assistant Dawn Williams
Fire Prevention Captain Dean Ortlieb
EMS Coordinator Michael Burnes
Community Paramedic Randy Jones



Captain John King
Lieutenant Dan Mercer
Mike Mason
Mark Soder
Rob Homman
David Hughes
Brian Irwin
Brendan Cottrell
Judson Bates
Ray Cunningham
Andrew Morales

Captain Grant Long
Lieutenant George Gatewood
Garry Keiffer
Tim Swingle
Dan Horn
Ron Casto
Tim Moxley
Jerry Reed
Jeff Grossman
Brandon Scott
Matthew Erhard

Capt. David McBride
Lieutenant Del Shepherd
Greg McQuesten
Tim Crabtree
Lance Short
Mark Simpson
Stephanie Reed
Doug Neighbarger
Pete Richison
Drew Glenn
Conner Hamons



Matthew Erhard has a strong EMS background spending the past 13 years with the Sterling EMS Department. Additionally, he has been employed both the City of Westerville and Prairie Township fire departments. He has been married for 9 years to his wife Angie and has two children, Emma and Jacob. Matthew and his family enjoy the outdoors and anything Disney related.

2017 Emergency Response Report

<u>Year:</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
EMS Runs	6,234	6,399	5757	5661
Fire Runs	1,023	1,057	939	762
Cancelled En Route			649	1074
Total Runs	7,257	7,456	7,345	7,497

Incidents By Time And Day

	<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUE</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THR</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
1 AM	24	16	24	21	9	36	18	148
2 AM	21	19	19	16	14	17	29	135
3 AM	11	12	19	12	17	22	21	114
4 AM	21	16	9	8	16	19	20	109
5 AM	15	14	26	18	21	10	22	126
6 AM	22	20	23	27	15	21	30	158
7 AM	23	33	22	30	32	21	21	182
8 AM	31	45	34	43	37	38	31	259
9 AM	29	53	73	60	62	60	36	373
10 AM	33	56	77	60	67	64	37	394
11 AM	50	61	67	68	60	83	49	438
12 PM	48	70	67	59	55	73	53	425
1 PM	43	68	69	79	82	67	42	450
2 PM	62	78	76	75	62	62	51	466
3 PM	68	75	76	70	75	76	48	488
4 PM	50	57	75	71	89	73	51	466
5 PM	59	64	77	66	68	59	59	452
6 PM	76	68	71	66	76	68	54	479
7 PM	68	56	54	47	51	69	59	404
8 PM	51	49	45	59	38	46	65	353
9 PM	39	71	49	36	48	67	52	362
10 PM	40	52	41	38	37	43	42	293
11 PM	34	47	28	24	27	36	40	236
12 AM	36	23	26	20	17	31	34	187
TOTALS	954	1123	1147	1073	1075	1161	964	7497
GRAND TOTAL: 7497								



2017 Emergency Responses by Type

Incident Type

Incident Type	Occurrences	Percentage
Fire, other	5	0.1
Building fire	31	0.4
Fires in structure other than in a building	1	0.0
Cooking fire, confined to container	10	0.1
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	4	0.1
Fire in portable building, fixed location	1	0.0
Passenger vehicle fire	10	0.1
Natural vegetation fire, other	2	0.0
Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	0.0
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	4	0.1
Outside rubbish fire, other	2	0.0
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	3	0.0
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	10	0.1
Outside equipment fire	1	0.0
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1	0.0
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2	0.0
Emergency medical service incident, other	8	0.1
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	5325	71.0
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	113	1.5
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	18	0.2
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	123	1.6
Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)	10	0.1
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	1	0.0
Water & ice-related rescue, other	1	0.0
Electrocution or potential electrocution	1	0.0
Rescue or EMS standby	1	0.0
Hazardous condition, Other	1	0.0
Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	2	0.0
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	5	0.1
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	35	0.5
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1	0.0
Toxic condition, Other	2	0.0
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	1	0.0
Carbon monoxide incident	13	0.2
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	8	0.1
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	3	0.0
Overheated motor	6	0.1
Power line down	42	0.6
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	15	0.2
Accident, potential accident, other	1	0.0
Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1	0.0
Aircraft standby	2	0.0
Explosive, bomb removal (for bomb scare, use 721)	1	0.0
Attempt to burn	1	0.0
Service Call, other	8	0.1
Lock-out	12	0.2
Water problem, other	6	0.1

Water or steam leak	8	0.1
Smoke or odor removal	12	0.2
Animal problem	1	0.0
Animal rescue	2	0.0
Public service assistance, other	8	0.1
Assist police or other governmental agency	26	0.3
Police matter	20	0.3
Public service	26	0.3
SAFE SLEEP CAMPAIGN	2	0.0
COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE INITIAL VISIT	13	0.2
COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE STANDARD VISIT	140	1.9
Assist invalid	24	0.3
Unauthorized burning	6	0.1
Cover assignment, standby, moveup	12	0.2
Good intent call, other	10	0.1
Dispatched & canceled en route	794	10.6
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	280	3.7
Authorized controlled burning	1	0.0
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	24	0.3
Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	1	0.0
EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	1	0.0
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	16	0.2
False alarm or false call, other	19	0.3
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	2	0.0
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	2	0.0
System malfunction, other	2	0.0
Extinguishing system activation due to malfunction	1	0.0
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	11	0.1
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	39	0.5
CO detector activation due to malfunction	1	0.0
Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	2	0.0
Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	2	0.0
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	22	0.3
Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	5	0.1
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	68	0.9
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	22	0.3
Special type of incident, other	15	0.2
Citizen complaint	2	0.0
TOTAL	7497	100.0

IT IS

TO HELP

Mutual Aid Report

- We received mutual aid 643 times or 8.6% of our overall calls
- We provided mutual aid 1031 times or 13.7% of our overall calls

We provided mutual aid to Columbus 870 times in 2017

We provided mutual aid to our MECC partners 38 times in 2017

We provided mutual aid to DSCC 18 times in 2017

Fire Facts

TOP 5 Incident Types:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. False Alarms | 192 or 25% of calls |
| 2. Non-Injury Accident | 123 or 16% of calls |
| 3. Assist the Police | 46 or 6% of calls |
| 4. Fires | 44 or 5.5% of calls |
| 5. Down Power Lines | 42 or 5% of calls |

Fire Cause of Ignition

Intentionally Set	6
Unintentionally Set	10
Failure of Equipment	2
Undetermined	23

3 Fires are still currently under investigation.

Heat Source - Fire

Heat Source - Fire	Occurrences	Percentage
Heat from powered equipment, other	9	20.5
Spark, ember, or flame from operating equipment	1	2.3
Radiated or conducted heat from operating equipment	4	9.1
Electrical arcing	5	11.4
Hot or smoldering object, other	1	2.3
Heat, spark from friction	1	2.3
Incendiary device	1	2.3
Heat from other open flame or smoking materials, other	2	4.5
Cigarette	1	2.3
Lighter: cigarette, cigar	1	2.3
Undetermined	18	40.9
TOTAL	44	100.0

NFPA Part III: Fire And Incident Type Breakdown

	Number	Deaths	Injury	Dollar Loss
A: Structure Fires By Fixed Property Use				
1. Private Dwellings (1 or 2 Family)	13	0	0	238300
2. Apartments (3 or More Families)	7	0	1	80000
3. Hotels and Motels	0	0	0	0
4. All Other Residential	0	0	0	0
5. TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES	20	0	1	318300
6. Public Assembly	0	0	0	0
7. Schools and Colleges	0	0	0	0
8. Health Care and Penal Institutions	3	0	0	3005
9. Stores and Offices	5	0	0	87100
10. Industry, Utility, Defense, Laboratories	0	0	0	0
11. Storage in Structures	0	0	0	0
12. Other Structures	1	0	0	200
13. TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES	29	0	1	408605
B: Other Fires And Incidents				
14a. Fires in Highway Vehicles	10	0	0	31500
14b. Fires in Other Vehicles	0	0	0	0
15. Fires Outside of Structures With Value Involved	4	0	0	715
16. Fires Outside of Structures With No Value Involved	3	0	0	0
17. Fires in Rubbish	15	0	0	800
18. All Other Fires	3	0	0	7200
19. TOTALS FOR ALL FIRES	64	0	1	448820
20. Rescue, Emergency Medical Responses	4950	0	0	95850
21. False Alarm Responses	187	0	0	0
22. Mutual Aid	1031	0	0	115000
23a. Hazmat Responses	53	0	0	100
23b. Other Hazardous Conditions	77	0	0	7860
24. All Other Responses	1135	0	0	1000
25. TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENTS	7497	0	1	668630

All fire loss dollar figures are estimated

EMS Essentials

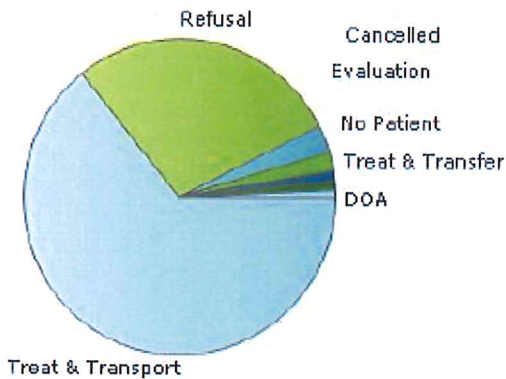
TOP 5 Incident Types:

1. General Illness	1132	20% of runs
2. Injury / Assault	802	15% of runs
3. Breathing Problems	613	11% of runs
4. Chest Pain	417	7% of runs
5. Unconscious Person	204	4% of runs

Medic 151 responded on 2978 calls
Medic 152 responded on 2966 calls

Pediatric (0-17 years)	328 calls
Adults (18-64 years)	3044 calls
Seniors (65+ years)	1564 calls

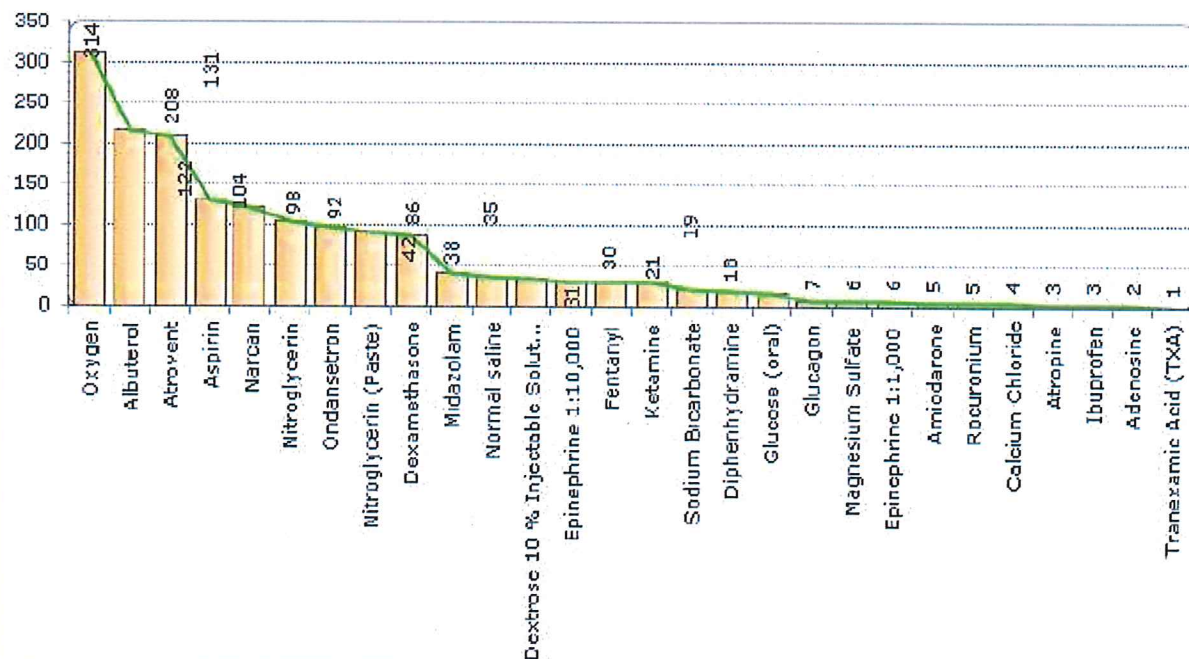
EMS Transport Dispositions



Treat & Transport	- 3282 (64%)
Refusal	- 1446 (28%)
Evaluation	- 145 (3%)
No Patient	- 97 (2%)
Treat & Transfer	- 54 (1%)
Cancelled	- 45 (1%)
DOA	- 40 (1%)

Medication Administrations

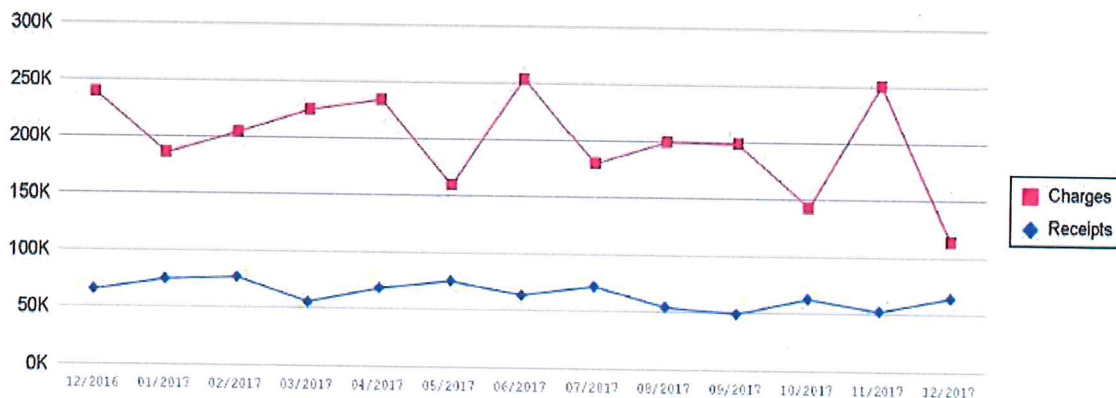
Incident Count (top 40)



EMS Billing

Client Summary

Post Month	Gross Charges	Gross Receipts	Collection Adjustments	Net Receipts	Adjustments/Write-Offs	Aging Balance	Transports
December 2016	\$239,374.92	\$65,128.42	(\$97.31)	\$65,041.11	\$133,126.46	\$441,017.86	328
January 2017	\$185,796.22	\$74,659.84	\$0.00	\$74,659.84	\$164,308.50	\$387,845.74	257
February 2017	\$204,587.83	\$76,903.53	(\$292.34)	\$76,611.19	\$133,607.65	\$382,214.73	286
March 2017	\$224,908.20	\$55,714.35	(\$1,124.93)	\$54,589.42	\$116,446.91	\$436,086.60	308
April 2017	\$234,283.17	\$68,276.60	(\$87.02)	\$68,189.58	\$128,283.79	\$473,896.40	320
May 2017	\$159,956.99	\$75,123.34	(\$1,973.48)	\$73,149.86	\$155,089.36	\$405,614.17	220
June 2017	\$253,631.49	\$63,578.07	(\$93.86)	\$63,484.21	\$136,423.28	\$459,338.17	342
July 2017	\$180,157.19	\$71,970.64	(\$215.49)	\$71,755.15	\$176,540.61	\$391,199.60	250
August 2017	\$199,709.38	\$54,369.42	(\$4,895.72)	\$49,473.70	\$132,094.14	\$409,341.14	280
September 2017	\$198,636.53	\$49,204.76	(\$549.89)	\$48,654.87	\$117,524.47	\$441,798.33	274
October 2017	\$143,058.43	\$62,947.78	(\$2,481.51)	\$60,466.27	\$138,264.00	\$386,126.49	202
November 2017	\$251,028.84	\$52,356.73	(\$1,449.91)	\$50,906.82	\$113,806.75	\$472,441.76	345
December 2017	\$114,134.06	\$64,557.74	\$0.00	\$64,557.74	\$123,178.76	\$398,839.32	154
Total	\$2,349,888.33	\$769,662.80	(\$13,164.15)	\$756,498.65	\$1,635,568.22		3,238
Avg / Month	\$195,824.03	\$64,138.57	(\$1,097.01)				
Avg / Transport	\$725.72	\$237.70					

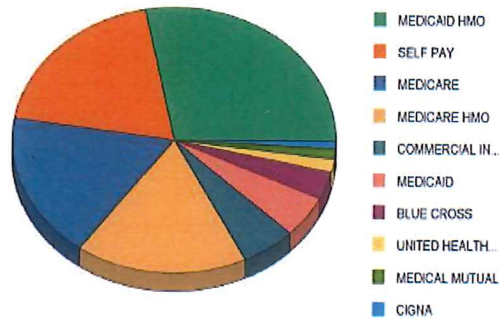


0366 Finance Officer Summary EFO

Our billing is divided between Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS). The difference between the categories is relevant to the severity of the patient's condition and the type and amount of interventions that are needed in order to adequately stabilize the patient.

For the time period between 2014-2017, our overall EMS transport rate has increased over 20%. This is proportionately equal to the increased collections from EMS billing. Our current transport rate relative to all patients transported within our jurisdiction is 71%. Our transport rate was 48% in 2013.

Top 10 Insurance Payers



ENCOUNTER TYPE	CHARGES				GROSS RECEIPTS			
	MONTH TO DATE		FISCAL YEAR TO DATE		MONTH TO DATE		FISCAL YEAR TO DATE	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
MEDICAID HMO	\$21,879	19.2%	\$640,534	27.3%	\$11,962	18.5%	\$159,092	20.7%
SELF PAY	\$25,702	22.5%	\$445,640	19.0%	\$1,464	2.3%	\$25,914	3.4%
MEDICARE	\$23,629	20.7%	\$414,131	17.6%	\$18,227	28.2%	\$186,503	24.2%
MEDICARE HMO	\$20,415	17.9%	\$397,314	16.9%	\$13,611	21.1%	\$170,883	22.2%
COMMERCIAL INSURANCE	\$5,394	4.7%	\$124,741	5.3%	\$2,058	3.2%	\$44,808	5.8%
MEDICAID	\$4,267	3.7%	\$117,210	5.0%	\$2,424	3.8%	\$26,327	3.4%
BLUE CROSS	\$5,185	4.5%	\$79,969	3.4%	\$2,867	4.4%	\$45,546	5.9%
UNITED HEALTHCARE	\$2,616	2.3%	\$37,206	1.6%	\$5,210	8.1%	\$39,048	5.1%
MEDICAL MUTUAL	\$2,763	2.4%	\$30,172	1.3%	\$3,424	5.3%	\$19,774	2.6%
CIGNA	\$1,521	1.3%	\$23,570	1.0%	\$2,051	3.2%	\$19,237	2.5%
Others	\$763	0.7%	\$39,403	1.7%	\$1,259	2.0%	\$32,532	4.2%
Total	\$114,134		\$2,349,888		\$64,558		\$769,663	

0366 Finance Officer Summary EFO

Key components of the EMS billing report are the average monthly gross receipts relative to the charges as well as the average transport's gross charges and gross receipts. We billed over \$2.3 million and we collected \$769,662 which is a collection rate of 32.75%. This percentage of collection is explained by realizing that 67% of our collections originate from Medicare/Medicaid. These categories of payers pay the minimum established government rate for EMS transport reimbursement.

FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

Quarter	Site Visits	Fire Inspections	General	Home	Occupancy	Suppression Acceptance	Sites with Violations	Violations Resolved
1 st	284	179	77	3	23	2	165	30
2 nd	374	180	173	6	12	3	170	34
3 rd	602	384	197	3	15	3	463	223
4 th	781	322	441	2	9	7	363	150
Totals	2,041	1065	888	14	59	15	1161	437

Fire Safety

Fire Prevention staff participated in teaching fire safety to our community in 2017. Highlights included:

- Over 200 Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Grade students visited with firefighters and received a fire and medic truck tour
- Conducting a junior firefighter challenge, 43 children have gone through the challenge
- Conducting home fire safety inspections, 14 home inspections were completed in 2017
- Partnering with the school on literacy initiative, six sessions were completed in which firefighters and Division Administration read to kids
- 15 smoke detector installations
- In May, completed Safety Town for Holy Spirit School
- Worked with our fireworks vendor to assure a safe 4th of July celebration
- Visited area retail stores to inspect for illegal fireworks sales; no illegal fireworks sales were found
- On July 29th, inspected all 32 food trucks at the Food Truck Festival for fire safety concerns; no major violations were found
- On August 1st, 228 kids visited our National Night Out junior fire training camp. Additionally, we distributed fire safety information at the same event.
- On August 2nd, around 100 Whitehall school staff members received EMS and fire safety training
- On August 10th, inspected the Holy Spirit Festival and found no major violations
- During the Christmas season, conducted weekly site checks at 30 separate occupancies from Thanksgiving to Christmas to assure egress and aisle way clearance

High Hazard Occupancy

Fire Prevention views vacant properties as a safety hazard to firefighters and the general public. In 2017, the Fire Prevention Bureau focused on vacant properties to:

- Identify vacant properties
- Confirm and/or update information and inspection records
- Identify hazards found within and around the vacant properties

Building Familiarizations

Fire Prevention staff created a monthly building familiarization process that challenged our operational crews to visit occupancies in order to better familiarize themselves with alarms, suppression systems and building layouts. In 2017, 27 building familiarizations were completed. Major facilities visited included the new Hamilton Crossing and Wasserstrom.

Operational Concerns Remedied

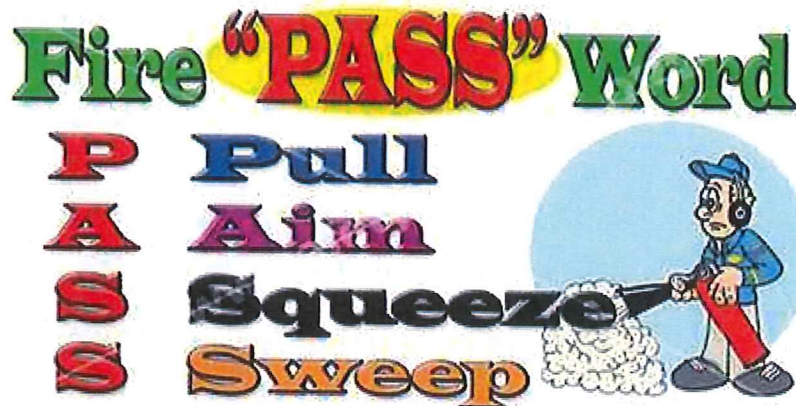
In addition to keeping our residents safe and businesses in compliance with the Ohio Fire Code, a major objective of Fire Prevention is to support the day to day operations of the Division. In 2017, Fire Prevention staff remedied the following problems:

- Fire alarms not working correctly
- Fire suppression systems not working correctly
- Wrong keys in many Knox-Boxes
- Distribution of residential Knox-Boxes
- Incorrectly addressed properties

Committee Involvement

In an effort to improve fire safety in our community, Fire Prevention joined and participates in the following committees:

- Whitehall Senior Council
- Whitehall City School Safety Committee





COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC

On April 10, 2017, the Whitehall Division of Fire placed into service, on a trial basis, a Community Paramedic. This position is designed to serve as a stop gap between hospital and home care. Often times a member of the community needs help but does not necessarily need the emergency squad. In many cases, a visit from our Community Paramedic can help a patient resolve a medication error, correct a problem with a typical at home medical procedure, or prevent a fall with a fall reduction survey. Our Community Paramedic provides many services to our community and we have realized a great benefit as an emergency medical provider in having this position as a resource for our first responders.

We believe that we have far exceeded our hopes to establish proof of concept for this position and have funded it as a permanent position for 2018.

Highlights of our Community Paramedic's year include:

151 Home visits

- Safe Sleep - cribs and education provided to 3 families
- 257 hours, 23 minutes in homes
- 43 Medication Issues resolved – conflicting orders, orders without prescriptions, etc
- 8 Fall risk behaviors corrected, such as stacked rugs, poor lighting, furniture placement, clutter.
- 6 Home safety equipment distributed, such as walkers, bed rails, and shower mats
- 27 issues addressed with physicians – early identification of UTIs and Bronchitis, over-medication, progression of diseases, adjusting insulin schedules were some of the most common reasons for calls
- 15 service referrals to Senior Options (meals on wheels, medical transports, homemaker, etc)

Public Outreach

- 11 CPR classes
- 2 Community Health fairs with Whitehall Family Medical Center
- National Night Out – Provided blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, information about the File of Life and Safe Sleep programs
- Tyler's Light – Spoke to a community group about the local impact of the opioid crisis
- Victory Ministries – Provided education to core staff members on recognizing and managing overdoses. Provided blood pressure and blood sugar screenings to 66 neighbors, identifying 35 with undertreated/untreated health concerns and directed them to primary care.

Training and updates

- Diversion of Psychological Emergencies – worked with Dr Zeeb and Columbus Springs to create a pilot program, evaluating the value in taking patients with primary mental health needs to an appropriate facility capable of providing direct care. The pilot was successful and is now available to all MECC partners. Training files have been shared with other agencies.
- Capnography – Developed the class and led training covering the uses of capnography, including a specific portion focusing on addressing the special needs of a Whitehall resident. The information in this training was put into use a few months later when the patient had an acute crisis; the patient experience a positive outcome because of the crew's actions.
- Annual Whitehall High School in service, focusing on recognition and treatment of seizures and opioid-related emergencies
- DAWN Program: Trained the Whitehall City School nurses on the recognition and initial treatment of opioid-related emergencies. The information from the training was used on a student that overdosed and required emergency care only a few months later.

Although it is a new concept, the role of the community paramedic continues to develop and grow each day. The Division has placed itself as one of the pioneers in community paramedic implementation in the State of Ohio and we are very proud of the work that he completes and the services that he offers to the members of our community.

In 2018, our Community Paramedic will play a large role in the implementation of the various components of the opiate project that the Division has undertaken in a partnership with the Whitehall Division of Police and the Franklin County Department of Justice.

Training and Continuing Education

The Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS mandates annual continuing education hours for the various levels of certifications held by personnel at the Whitehall Division of Fire. Each member of our roster is a Firefighter II and Paramedic. Many are EMS or Fire Instructors as well as Certified Fire Safety Inspectors (CFSI). The State of Ohio requires each of our personnel to complete noted hours of continuing education for the following certifications every three years:

- Firefighter 54 hours
- Paramedic 86 hours
- Instructor 8 hours
- CFSI 30 hours

Additional trainings in Advance Cardiac Life Support, CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Stroke Identification, and Emergency Vehicle Operations Class are mandated for all personnel by Division Administration each year.

2017 continued to be a big year for training within the Division of Fire. Last year, there were several Division-wide major training classes conducted including Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Trauma care and transport, training on the new 2018 protocol, a refresher of our Exposure Control procedures, monthly fire prevention training, and monthly EMS protocol training.

With more than half of our roster holding at least one State of Ohio instructor certification, crew level training saw a substantial increase over previous years as well. In between Division-wide training and responding to emergency calls for service, our crews developed and conducted over 140 hours of training.

Training Topics Included:



Search and Rescue

Hose Movement

Victim Extraction

Vehicle Extrication

Radio Communication

Forcible Entry

Thermal Image Camera

Seizure Management

Medication Administration

Pain Control

Capnography

Sepsis

Respiratory Distress

Trauma Triage