

Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance



Annual Report

2014

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Executive Director's Introduction

It is with great pleasure I present the 2014 Annual Report for your review. I am pleased to share the many activities undertaken and accomplishments of the Alliance. I am excited by our work and the relationships with our members and other organizations in the region. I have had the pleasure of working with the current and new members of the Alliance, the committees and the Advisory Boards for organizations under the Alliance umbrella. The Board of Directors meeting in April 2014 was a celebration of the Alliance 20th Anniversary. Many previous Directors, board, and committee members were invited to share in the celebration. We had cake! It was a fine day to celebrate 20 years of great mile markers on the "Roadmap to Success".

Increasing revenue has always been a challenge for the Alliance. The per capita rate of \$0.24 has not changed since day one of the Alliance. As all understand, the cost of doing business has steadily risen since 1995. I'm happy to report that in FY 2012-13 the Alliance had five Affiliate/Associate Members. In FY 2013-14 the Alliance Affiliate/Associate Member roster grew by adding two fire departments and three businesses for a total of five new members or a \$2,500 increase in revenues. CPAT income in FY 2012-13 went from \$12,960 to \$19,235 for FY 2013-14. National Testing Network testing for Entry Level Firefighter and Law Enforcement, Call Taker/Dispatchers grew from \$2,022 in FY 2012-13 to \$2,491 in FY 2013-14. With the addition of a Coordinator Assessment Center income grew from \$1,000 in FY 2012-13 to \$3,000 in FY 2013-14. In FY 2014-15 we conducted several tests for both law enforcement and fire, dispatchers and for the first time promotional testing for one jurisdiction in one day for Lieutenants, Captains and Battalion Chief. CPAT income is on target to increase in 2015 as well. The income increases have been very beneficial to overcome shortfalls from years past. Rolling into our 21st year, the Alliance is on an upward climb.

Another mile marker for the Alliance was hiring a full-time Executive Director in May 2013 and a part-time Administrative Assistant in January 2014. While the job description for the Administrative Assistant would certainly support a full time status, we are working together to make every minute count to accomplish our work in a timely and efficient manner. Another addition to our Alliance Team was an Assessment Center Coordinator. Half way into the year, he was given a new title as Coordinator for Special Projects. This is related to his skills in ISO presenter/advisor, Assessment Center Coordinator, and providing additional training opportunities for our members and their community representatives. The Alliance is moving forward to assist our members to look for best practices, best bid pricing, and more services. The Alliance is in discussions with our partners to look at best pricing for members. Non-

members would receive good pricing, but only Alliance members would receive the best pricing. This has been a hurdle to overcome for many years. Stay tuned for more information.

The activities and accomplishments in the pages that follow demonstrate the continuation of services provided in the here and now; while also setting the stage for providing greater levels of assistance and influence in the future within the Miami Valley. There is no doubt 2015 will present additional challenges, but the Alliance team is committed to serving its members to identify new opportunities that will take us in new directions. The Alliance is on solid ground and moving on up the road!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline A. Leland
Executive Director
Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance

April 15, 2015

Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance

The Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance, a Regional Council of Government, was established under the Ohio Revised Code 167 with the Board of Directors as the governing body. The Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance or as it is referred to "The Alliance" was founded in March 1995. Twenty years later, the vision, mission, and philosophy of business have evolved making the Alliance a premier organization that is truly unique.

Vision Statement:

High quality, cost effective Fire and EMS services throughout the Miami Valley.

Vision Proclamation:

The Alliance will be the premier organization that others will emulate. The Alliance will offer core products and provide added-value services to our increasing membership throughout the region and state. We will be THE location for testing of new recruits and promotions throughout the region. These offerings will be technically advanced and offer many clear-cut advantages and improvements.

Mission Statement:

The Alliance assists members in enhancing their Fire and EMS services through optimal resource utilization, operational efficiencies, information sharing, and regional cooperation while striving to maximize cost effectiveness.

Philosophy of Business:

The Alliance is committed to the safety and well-being of the citizens of the Miami Valley. The primary responsibility of the member departments is to provide an outstanding level of protection and service to its citizens. The Alliance supports these efforts by promoting regional cooperation and efficient use of public funds. The Alliance recognizes and respects the local identity and control of member departments while striving toward a vision of high quality, cost effective Fire and EMS services throughout the Miami Valley.

ADMINISTRATION Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Alliance. The Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance (Alliance) would not be the organization it is today without the Board's continued direction and support. Each full membership comes from one of three counties: Montgomery, Greene, and Warren and has a Delegate or Alternate with full voting rights. (A current Delegate, Alternate, and Representative list is attached). On August 20, 2014, at a Special Board Meeting held at Bullwinkle's in Miamisburg, a motion to change the counties for full voting members from Montgomery, Greene and Warren Counties to the contiguous counties of Butler, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren was approved.

In 2014 the Alliance Board of Directors had 4 regularly scheduled meetings – January 14, 2014, April 16, 2014, July 16, 2014, and October 15, 2014. One special meeting was held on August 20, 2014, due to a quorum not being met at the July 16, 2014 meeting.

In addition to the general overview and guidance of the Alliance, the 2014 Board of Directors acted on specific issues including:

- Motion to nominate Trick as Chair for the Board and Executive Committee. January 14, 2014
- Motion to nominate Milliken as Vice-Chair for the Board and Executive Committee. January 14, 2014
- Motion to accept Bellefontaine as an Associate Member. April 16, 2014
- Motion to change Delegate and Alternate in Clayton: Garver as Delegate and Rose as the Alternate. April 16, 2014
- Motion to approve changes to the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance By-Laws: Removing “Volunteer” to use “Full Time” and “Combination”. April 16, 2014
- Motion to approve the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2016. April 16, 2014
- Motion to approve the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance 2013 Annual Report. April 16, 2014
- Motion to appoint Michael Guadagno as Region 3 Rescue Strike Team Coordinator. April 16, 2014
- Motion to approve the eight contiguous counties of Butler, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren for communities to be full voting members in the Alliance with the cut-off date for application as an Associate Member to be September 30, 2014. August 20, 2014
- Motion to approve membership for two Affiliate Members – Greater Dayton Construction and PuroClean; and one Associate Member – The City of Troy. August 20, 2014
- Motion to approve the document “Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance Benefits of Membership – The Alliance Advantage.” August 20, 2014
- Motion to approve the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance Budget for year 2014-2015. August 20, 2014
- Motion to approve the Board Member Job Description and Code of Conduct. October 15, 2014
- Motion to approve the Amendment to the Sinclair Community College lease for November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2017. October 15, 2014

** FYI Dates listed after the motions are the date of the meeting.

Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance
Board of Directors
Associates and Affiliates
2014

<p>Bellbrook Chief James Neidhard, Delegate Captain Athena Haus, Alternate</p>	<p>Jackson Township Chief Tom Wallace, Delegate Assistant Chief Jeff Erisman, Alternate</p>
<p>Brookville Chief Ron Fletcher, Delegate City Manager John Wright, Alternate</p>	<p>Jefferson Township Chief Larry Sexton, Delegate Administrator Len Roberts, Alternate</p>
<p>Clayton Chief Brian Garver, Delegate City Manager Rick Rose, Alternate</p>	<p>Kettering Chief Terry Jones, Delegate Assistant Chief Tom Butts, Alternate</p>
<p>Dayton Assistant Chief Michael Caudill, Delegate Chief Jeffrey Payne, Alternate</p>	<p>Miami Valley Joint Fire District Chief Matthew Queen, Delegate Battalion Chief Andrew Harp, Alternate</p>
<p>Englewood Chief E.D. "Bud" Bergman, Delegate Chief Ron Fletcher, Alternate</p>	<p>Moraine Chief Anthony Trick, Delegate Deputy Chief David Cooper, Alternate</p>
<p>Germantown Chief Dan Alldred, Delegate City Manager Annie Sizemore, Alternate</p>	<p>New Lebanon Chief George Markus, Delegate</p>
<p>Harrison Township Chief Mark Lynch, Delegate Administrator Randall Brooks, Alternate</p>	<p>Oakwood Captain Alan Hill, Delegate Director Alex Bebris, Alternate</p>
<p>Huber Heights Chief Mark Ashworth, Delegate</p>	<p>Phillipsburg Chief Dave Evans, Delegate Assistant Chief Matthew Rhoades, Alternate</p>

Trotwood Chief Stephen Milliken, Delegate	1-800 Board Up Ken Parks, Representative
Washington Township Chief William Gaul, Delegate Administrator Jesse Lightle, Alternate	Angler Construction Holley Freeman, Representative
Wright Patterson Air Force Base Chief Jacob King, Delegate Deputy Fire Chief Tracy Young, Alternate	Greater Dayton Construction Kim Billbrey, Representative
Bellefontaine Chief Andy Fissel, Representative	PuroClean Becky Edgren, Representative
Bethel Township Chief Jacob King, Representative	Sinclair Community College Robert Chambers, Representative
Sidney Chief Bradley Jones, Representative	Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC Peter Bohrofen, Representative
Troy Chief Matthew Simmons, Representative	

Executive Committee

All Alliance activities are directed by the Executive Committee. The five members of the Executive Committee are from the Board of Directors. Chair for 2014 was Chief Anthony Trick of Moraine Fire Department and Vice-Chair was Chief Stephen Milliken of the Trotwood Fire and Rescue Department. Other members of the Executive Committee were: Assistant Chief Michael Caudill of the Dayton Fire Department, Chief Brian Garver from Clayton Fire Department, and Chief Matthew Queen of the Miami Valley Joint Fire District.

In 2014 there were 12 regularly scheduled meetings and several additional meetings to discuss the Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee is very dedicated, working many hours to help direct the Alliance to move forward.

The Executive Committee executed the following issues:

- Recommend to the Board of Directors for the approval of the Financial Statement for the Alliance and OH-TF 1, which was prepared by Flagel, Huber, Flagel. December 16, 2014

- Recommend to the Board of Directors for the approval of the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance Board of Directors the Board Resolution; Job Description and Code of Conduct. August 19, 2014
- Recommend to the Board of Directors to approve the acceptance of Full Voting membership of communities in the eight contiguous counties to Montgomery County. Counties would benefit from full voting membership; they would be encouraged to join. July 15, 2014
- Recommend to the Board of Directors to approve acceptance of membership for the Greater Dayton Construction LTD., and PuroClean. Contingent on Troy. July 15, 2014
- Motion to approve the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance policies. July 15, 2014
- Recommend to the Board of Directors, the Alliance Proposed Budget FY 2014-15. June 17, 2014
- Motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to approve the final A-133 Single Audit FY 2012-13. May 20, 2014
- Recommend to the Board of Directors to appoint Michael Guadagno as Region 3 Rescue Strike Team Coordinator. April 15, 2014
- Motion to approve funds for the Alliance 20th Celebration: additional printing costs and food not to exceed more than \$500. March 18, 2014
- Recommend to the MVFEA Board of Directors to approve the 2013 Alliance Annual Report. April 15, 2014
- Kick-Off to our 20th Anniversary. March 18, 2014
- Motion to recommend for approval by the Board of Directors the Strategic Plan 2014 to 2016. March 18, 2014
- Motion to approve the Customer Service nominees of Washington Township Fire Department for Outstanding Organization and Lt. Jeff Susong, of Dayton Fire Department for the Outstanding Individual. March 18, 2014
- Motion to approve the Communication Committee SOG to change the radio alias. February 18, 2014
- Recommend to the Alliance Board of Directors to approve the Resolution and the Partnership Agreement with Sinclair Community College. February 18, 2014
- Recommendation for changes to the By-Laws of removal of “volunteer” to “combination” and “full-time.” February 18, 2014

** FYI Dates shown after the recommendation or motion are the date of the meeting.

The Alliance Team

Executive Director, Jacqueline Leland manages the daily operations while assisting the various committees and Advisory Boards. In 2014, the Alliance hired several part-time employees: Administrative Assistant, Valerie Tate; Special Projects Coordinator, Franklin Clay, as an outside contractor; and CPAT Administrative Assistant, Daniel Tyler Lewis. The Alliance also has numerous part-time CPAT Proctors who assist and direct the CPAT exams. The Alliance could not do all that has done without the faithful support and strong work ethic of our team.

The Alliance administrative team is responsible for day-to-day operations while serving as the administrative support for the committees, boards, and workgroups. The Alliance Director also oversees and maintains financial records for all entities under the Alliance umbrella. The Alliance Director is the primary contact with the Ohio Auditor of State for the annual A-133

Single Audit. The Executive Director is an Ex-officio member of all committees, workgroups, advisory boards, and other organizations listed below:

- Dayton Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team Advisory Board
- Region 3 Rescue Strike Team Advisory Board and Executive Committee
- Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee
- Montgomery/Greene County Local Emergency Response Committee
- Montgomery/Greene County Fire Chiefs Association
- The Greater Dayton Mayors and Managers Association
- Sinclair Community College Fire Science Technology Advisory Board

Funding and Budget

The Alliance is primarily funded by an annual per capita contribution rate of \$0.24; which has not changed since the Alliance began in 1995. The Alliance continues to be in good financial standing by being good stewards of the public funds. Other sources of income are from the National Testing Network tests, CPAT Exams, Assessment Centers; and funds received from OH-TF 1 and Dayton Hazardous Materials Response Team for administrative support. The Alliance is the sponsoring and fiscal agent for OH-TF 1, Dayton Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, Region 3 Rescue Strike Team, and the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Corporation. Through careful fiscal management, the Alliance has maintained a positive budget.

Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance Strategic Plan 2014 to 2016

A three year Strategic Plan was presented to the Board of Directors at the April 16, 2014 meeting. The plan is a combination of member's, staff, and partner's discussions regarding the future of the Alliance programs, services, and initiatives. The plan is used as a guide for years 2014 to 2016 and reports of updated accomplishments.

Goals and Objectives are listed below.

- Provide Appropriate Programs and Services
- Emphasize Interactive Communication with Members
- Create a Clearing House of Information for Regional Resources
- Develop Relationships with Outside Organizations
- Offer Opportunities for Member Participation
- Expand the Membership Base

Alliance Advantage Programs

Alliance Savings Programs: The Alliance currently maintains three primary programs for members to take advantage of cost reductions: Ladder Testing, Physical Examinations, and EMS Supplies. As noted in the Executive Director's introduction, the Alliance is working on special pricing for members with a new partner.

Alliance Assessment Centers: Special Projects Coordinator, Frank Clay, is able to organize Assessment Centers for fire officer advancement which range from lieutenant to fire chief. The normal fee for outside organizations range from \$5,000 to \$10,000; however, the cost to Alliance members is \$500 and \$2,500 for non-members. Assessment Centers require many hours of preparation, such as working with HR departments and fire service personnel to ensure the assessment is congruous with the job description. Having access to the many assessor volunteers reduces costs and improves the overall assessment. In 2014, the Alliance hosted four lieutenant assessment centers; for members of Washington Township Fire Department, Trotwood Fire Department, and non-members for Riverside Fire Department and the City of Mason Fire Department.

Testing and IAFF/IAFC CPAT: The Alliance along with our partner, the National Testing Network, hosted five entry level firefighter tests; which included traveling to the City of Bellefontaine. In addition to the entry level firefighter test, the Alliance has testing material for Call Taker/Dispatcher, Promotion, Law Enforcement, and Corrective Officers. Candidates may use the National Testing website at www.nationaltestingnetwork.com to register and submit their payment.

As a testing center for Candidate Physical Ability Tests (CPAT), the Alliance is authorized to conduct tests for numerous departments and individuals. The Alliance website provides information about cost, conditions for testing, and a CPAT video. The Alliance encourages all to familiarize themselves with the course and to practice to afford the best possible outcome.

Proctor Muhl conducted CPAT Proctor training in August 2014 which allows the Alliance to have sufficient Proctors to conduct orientations, practice sessions, the exams, clean, set up, evaluate equipment needs, and storage of testing equipment.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee: The Communications Committee is scheduled to meet on the first Thursday of each month. In 2014, they met seven times with Mike Stewart from the City of Dayton Fire Department as Chair. Two sub-committees were formed in 2014 – Fire and Law Enforcement to work on the MARCS radio system for Montgomery County. Both committees agreed radio inventory is important for a smoother transition. An inventory of each radio, serial numbers, model numbers, and flash codes should be recorded. The committees also

discussed how the templates should be ready for use prior to the new system going live. The Communications Committee will be deeply involved with the new system “stand up” and highly encourage all fire departments, law enforcements, county personnel, and dispatch centers to drill in order to prepare for a stronger radio component.

Training Committee: The Training Committee is scheduled to meet on the second Tuesday of each month. In 2014, they met 10 times with Jeff Eitel from Moraine Fire Department as the Chair. Several goals for 2014 were to work on Officer Development programs, to continue working on the draft for the Officer Manual, and to create and provide, in conjunction with its partner Sinclair Community College, online training through webinars. All participants who watch the webinars are encouraged to e-mail the administrative assistant at the Alliance to receive a copy of a certificate for one hour CEU’s. In addition, webinars are archived on the Alliance website at www.mvfea.com for future viewing.

The following list of 2014 webinars is archived on the Alliance website for easy viewing access:

1. Cancer Awareness
2. Fire Inspector Software
3. Inspector CE – Performing Building Inspections
4. Composite Steel and Auto Extrication
5. Assessment Center Assessment Training
6. CPAT Proctor Training
7. Sprinklers and the Inspector
8. Public Relations
9. Water Shuttle Operations
10. Sprinkler Protection for Space Kept Below 40 Degrees Fahrenheit
11. Ebola Issues for Fire and EMS in the Miami Valley Region
12. Sherwin Williams Fire: 25 Years Later
13. High-Rise Operations

The Training Committee also provides additional opportunities to the fire services of the Miami Valley, they are: The Mayday Trailer and the Confined Space Trailer. Both trailers can be transported to a fire station location -- a towing fee for the Mayday Trailer or a pickup with a hitch for the Confined Space Trailer.

Region 3 Rescue Strike Team: The Region 3 Rescue Strike Team (R3RST) Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on the third Thursday in May, August, and November. The R3RST Advisory Board is comprised of two representatives from each county of the eight counties, the Alliance Director, and the Team Coordinator. It is scheduled to meet on the third Thursday in January. In 2014, all scheduled meetings were held. Michael Guadagno was approved as Team Coordinator at the April 2014 Alliance Board of Directors after the retirement of Scott Hall. The R3RST is a highly trained volunteer team. The team provides equipment resources, training, and personnel that could be required for specialized rescue incidents.

Since becoming the Coordinator, Guadagno has accomplished a great deal. The following is a list of highlights for the R3RST:

1. Guadagno sent out MOU's for members to have signed by their Chief. About a quarter of the MOU's have been returned. Guadagno reported he will continue to working with members that have not returned their signed MOU's.
2. Guadagno updated the application process and streamlined to make it quicker. It is now posted on the Alliance website www.mvfea.com.
3. The organizational chart was updated.
4. Most of the eight county fire chief's were visited to insure the chiefs are aware of R3RST capabilities and level of training.
5. The Coordinator is working to have the team evaluated. The goal is to be evaluated as a Type III Team.
6. Equipment – An extensive review and inventory of equipment was made, making sure all is operational. Also, the location of all equipment has been noted.
7. Several policies have been completed in draft form and others are waiting approval.
8. No major financial expenditures were recorded in 2014.
9. Received the Ohio Homeland Security Grant through the Montgomery EMA for training: SCO, Trench Level I and Rope Level II.
10. There were no full team call-outs in 2014. They did have one telephone consultation and two with the Coordinator and canine responses.
11. New equipment purchases include:
 - a. Generator for Greenville Collapse Trailer
 - b. Additional Air Shores
 - c. Additional Petrogen Cutting Torch
12. The R3Rst is planning a March training preparation for a full scale exercise in May 2015.

Dayton Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team: The main purpose for the formation of The Dayton Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team (Hazmat) was and remains to be assistance to the Fire Departments located in Greene and Montgomery Counties. The Team consists of highly skilled members from fire departments in the two counties. The core members are from Dayton Fire Department, along with selected representatives from private industry, such as the EPA and others. The Hazmat team is also in contract with Tipp City and Monroe Township to provide services.

Types of Assistance Available:

Consultation is available to all communities for information pertaining to handling, storage and use of Hazardous Materials within its boundaries. Coordinator Dennis Bristow is always willing to meet with agencies for site pre-plans and familiarization with specific fixed facilities and transport companies in their jurisdiction.

Consultation for dealing with accidental releases and spills is always available to the local fire department. For law enforcement and other agencies, please keep in mind during Hazardous materials

incidents the Fire Chief or his/her designate in the jurisdiction where the emergency exists is responsible for coordination of all on-scene activities. For this reason and the fact that the Team really works for the Fire Chiefs, fire departments should request consultation or any other type of assistance needed at the scene. For a consultation at an emergency scene; attempt to contact the Team Coordinator first. If the coordinator is not available, contact the Duty Officer at Dayton Fire Department Station 11; please contact Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center to speak with Duty Officer at DFD Station 11.

Coordinator response to the scene is an option to assist the On-Scene Incident Commander with necessary notifications and offer advice in the decision-making process as needed and requested by the Incident Commander.

Haz-Mat Unit response to the scene is an option to assist the local fire department with any number of tasks, including and up to the mitigation of the incident utilizing Level A chemical protective clothing.

Training is available from the Coordinator. If you would like a presentation to your department or staff, contact the Coordinator Bristow at (937) 901-5112.

The goal for the Team in providing any assistance is to bring all incidents to a safe conclusion with a minimum negative impact on the environment and property.

In 2014, the Hazmat Advisory Board met four times. Chief Pavlak was appointed as the Chair and Chief Sexton was appointed as the Vice-Chair for the 2015 term.

The Coordinator's office is located with the Miami Valley Fire and EMS Alliance and he manages the Team. The Coordinator's position also includes duties as the Community Emergency Coordinator for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (MGLERC).

The following list shows several highlights for 2014:

1. A new Gator was received from Sugar Creek Packing Company. Upgrades and a trailer were purchased.
2. The annual SERC Exercise was held at Sugarcreek Packing Company in May. There were four objectives with a total of 40 points of review. All 40 points were met with no deficiencies; the four objectives follows:
 - a. Initial Notification of Response Agencies
 - b. Incident Assessment
 - c. Incident Command
 - d. Response Personnel Safety
3. A *Partnership/Reachback* contract with Smith's Detection expired in July 2014. The board approved to purchase a new contract for \$5,500.00.
4. The On-Scene Tactical Worksheets were updated. Each worksheet addresses considerations for rescue and victim decontamination, personal protective equipment instrumentation, mitigation actions, notifications, disposal, and clean up.

5. On May 5, 2014, the team was inspected by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Hazardous Materials Technical Advisory Committee and no deficiencies in any area were noted. On May 20, 2014 the team earned **Type I Team** recognition, one of only *ten* Type One Teams in Ohio
6. The Hazmat team received advanced training on how to process and dispose of meth labs. The team will not process the labs, only be available to assist agents if a problem develops
7. Mobile and portable radios for Hazmat I and II were updated with MARC's capabilities.
8. The Hazmat Team received a Thermal Imaging Camera with wireless remote monitoring capabilities from 2013's State Grant. It is a regional asset and has been used twice as of September 2014.
9. The Type one Dayton Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team is capable of responding to and handling WMD/ Terrorist incidents involving Chemical, Biological (including Ebola), Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

The Team is only able to function with such a high level of expertise because of the commitment of the men and women who make-up the team, and the support of the Fire Departments and communities in Greene and Montgomery Counties.

Ohio Task Force 1:

In 2014, the Ohio Task Force 1 (OH-TF1) remains a strong, viable response entity with over 210 roistered and 178 deployable team members coming from 68 participating agencies and 39 independent members. Calendar year 2014 was active for the Task Force with a total of 193 days (53% of the calendar year) and 14,045 hours of team member contact time at various Task Force and US&R System trainings, exercises, and meetings. The focus of the task force this past year continued with smaller team activities with small scale support to our sister task forces and military search and rescue partners. Individual and small groups of team members did more than the collective effort of team members engaged in larger Task Force activities as in years past.

There were 15 resignations from the team in 2014 and 12 new hires. New hires included members to the Rescue, Hazmat, Canine, Planning, and Logistics teams. OH-TF1 enjoys the versatility of having 94 of its members cross deployable in one or more of the 20 FEMA position descriptions.

Task Force members attended multiple out of town trainings effectively increasing the response capability of the team and bringing the skill set back to the region. Examples of these trainings include; the FDNY Medical Special Operations Conference, FEMA's advanced medical workshop, Structural Collapse Operations in a Contaminated Environment, Structural Collapse Technician, and Canine Search Specialist training to name a few.

OH-TF1 did not do a Type I, 80-person deployment exercise this year. However, the Task Force maintained operational capability through 7-days of joint training and exercise support with our military partners that included 84 OH-TF1 Team Members engaged in wide area search, helicopter and technical rescue operations, communications, and joint mission command. Additionally, 10 OH-TF1 team members supported MA-TF1, PA-TF1, and IN-TF1 as evaluators during their US&R System multi-task force exercises. Further, we completed three days of documentation training for transportation of

hazardous materials, hosted a 4-day FEMA Heavy Equipment and Rigging class, completed two 2-day Task Force quarterly trainings, sent a 40-person team to Muskatatuck, Indiana as part of NORTHCOM's Vibrant Response 14 exercise, and the Task Force's Rescue and Water Teams completed two continuous operational period trainings: a 32-hr water rescue and a 24-hr structural collapse exercise. Also, we attended multiple national and regional FEMA meetings. The associated personnel costs of OH-TF1's activities were approximately \$744,000.

The past 12-months also included completion of several large work efforts and programs. The State of Ohio provided approximately \$225,000 in funding to OH-TF1. This funding was used to complete two trainings coordinated by OH-TF1 for Ohio search and rescue elements – instructors and equipment for a FEMA Technical Search Specialist class for the Ohio Region V Collapse Strike Team (including members of the Mansfield Air National Guard Base fire department), and a three day disaster canine weekend for 18 Ohio based, local response canine teams. Additionally, multiple capital improvement efforts were completed – including the build out of two training caches (Rigging and Rope rescue); the replacement of four over the road vehicles (including our 1975 motor coach with a 1994 motor coach and our 1996 Freightliner Tractor with a 2009 Volvo Tractor); the addition of two off-road UTVs; and other smaller projects. Additionally, the Ohio Department of Public Safety produced a video of the Task Force from numerous training and exercise activities over the course of the year. A new Task Force Leader, Jack Real (Columbus FD) was appointed to round out our operational management team. The number of team members serving on US&R System workgroups doubled in 2014. This serves to give the task force insight into and influence upon the strategic direction of the FEMA US&R system. Two of the TF members, Mike Cayse (Cincinnati FD) and Steve Shubert (Miami Valley FPD) now serve as chairs of the Training and Rescue Work Groups, respectively. While we did not deploy a full task force, OH-TF1 deployed a strike team of five human remains canine teams (handler and canine) to the landslide in Oslo, Washington, and deployed three additional single resource team members to overhead management positions for Oslo, Washington and the tornado in Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition, one person was deployed to the Ardent Sentry exercise in Anchorage, Alaska.

Calendar year 2015 is going to be another busy year for the Task Force. We are expecting to continue our expanded efforts with the Ohio DPS and our support of search and rescue development in Ohio. In May we will deploy an 80-person, Type I task force for three days with our sister team, TN-TF1, to southern Indiana as part of a joint exercise to meet our federal exercise requirements. In June, we will deploy an approximate 20-person team as part of the State of Ohio's Special Focus Event (SFE) exercise; Guardian Shield 15. Our engagement in the SFE will be for 4-days and is expected to include the first air deployment of the task force since 2000. We also anticipate supporting the US&R System by hosting three system trainings – a search planning and management class in March, the hazardous materials documentation class in early fall, and a heavy rigging class in November. Additionally, we will further build on our relationships with the military, especially with the Ohio National Guard and the CERF-P, where we are working on developing joint wide area disaster search trainings and operational procedures.

Federal and State Funding for 2014 remained consistent with years past totaling close to \$1.3M combined. 2015 funding is expected to be very similar in nature. This will enable continued operations

through the next calendar year and enable OH-TF1TF1 to remain a leader within the FEMA US&R system.

Alliance Celebrates 20th Anniversary:

On April 16, 2014, the Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance kicked-off a yearlong celebration for their 20th Anniversary. A great deal of work went into the planning and preparation of the anniversary celebration. Many past and present members, Directors, and committee members attended. By all accounts, the celebration was a huge success.

Members and guests who attended are listed below.

Delegates: Alldred, Bergman, Caudill, Garver, Gaul, Jones, King, Lynch, Milliken, Queen, and Wallace.

Alternates: Baldrige, Cooper, Fullenkamp, Harp, Rose, and Sizemore.

Associates: Fissel and Layman.

Affiliates: Bohrofen, Freeman, and Parks.

Guests: Achor, Alexander, Allen, Clarke, Curl, Ennis, Freed, Frey, Guadagno, Hill, Longpre, Nickel, Portune, Staley, Susong, and Mrs. Susong.

Staff: Bristow, Clay, Leland, Schumann, Tate, and Wilson.

The celebration began with Ron Longpre of the Fire Fighters Memorial Association presenting the American Flag and the “Pledge of the Allegiance.” After the roll call, Leland welcomed all who attended and asked previous members to stand and introduce themselves and to explain what their role or contribution was to the Alliance. Each attendee received a red packet with the latest information about the Alliance including the Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2016, the 2013 Annual Report, and a copy of the history of the beginning days which was written by Glenn Alexander, the Alliance first Executive Director, and published in *Fire Chief Magazine 1996*.

On March 6, 2015, the Alliance celebrated twenty years of leadership, cooperation, innovation, and regionalization. During this past year, the Alliance has been able to look back in history at how it began with several area fire chiefs talking and asking questions such as “What would happen if we could work together to provide quality fire service and also reduce cost by eliminating duplications?” It has been twenty years of looking for answers to those questions and twenty years of working together for the betterment of our community. As we continue to travel on, the bumps in the road may become bigger, but with the strong commitment of our members, together, we will continue on our journey.

Members are the Alliance Advantage.

Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance Looking to the Future

The Miami Valley Fire/EMS Alliance is in a strong position for 2015 and beyond. The dedication of the Alliance team will enable new initiatives, projects, cost-savings, and programs to become part of the *Alliance Advantage*. While the economic outlook is improving, it remains a threat to the Alliance. Cost-saving is an Alliance strategic strength. Now is the time for communities to work regionally, as demonstrated so well with the Communications Committee "Communications Template" and re-banding issues and the future radio migration for Montgomery County. Working together, the members of the Alliance can solve problems, overcome obstacles, and break new ground in the public safety sector. The Alliance supports public safety not only for the fire service but also for law enforcement and call taker/dispatchers.

The Alliance Training Committee worked on several projects. Highlighted in their continuing efforts were the Webinars and the Officer Development Classes. In 2015 a comprehensive Officer Development Program continues with outside speakers and more webinars. The webinars save departments collectively thousands of dollars in continuing education requirements.

The Alliance website www.myfea.com has enabled the Alliance to be on the forefront of the web. All entry level testing information, bids, newsletters, and Board Meeting minutes are posted on the site. In addition, a calendar is available to keep track of upcoming events.

The Alliance is expected to be the leader in regional cooperation and cost reduction through coordination of many activities, cooperative sharing of resources, and enhanced member benefits, for many years to come. We wish to thank the committees, workgroups, Advisory Boards, the Executive Committee and the Alliance Board of Directors for their guidance and participation in 2014. We look forward to many years of "Serving Those Who Serve Others".