

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



**BOWLING GREEN
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

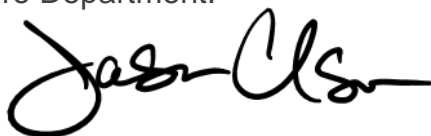
On behalf of the members of the Bowling Green Fire Department, I am honored to present the 2019 Annual Report. This report is as a testament of the dedication of our firefighters and staff and highlights the great work accomplished by our Suppression, Prevention, and Training staff.

I am honored to serve alongside such members who are willing to go above and beyond in caring for our citizens while displaying professionalism at the highest level. The members of our organization are valued and considered our most important resource. We are committed to developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our workforce and ensuring their health and safety.

We are thankful for the support we receive from our community. We understand that citizens expect the organization to provide the best possible service at the best possible value and will strive to maintain efficiency and improve the services we offer.

Our beautiful City has been blessed with growth and development. Such growth presents challenges by increasing the demand for emergency services. Providing adequate emergency services during phases of growth requires constant evaluation. The BGFD is committed to ensuring that our resources meet the future needs of the citizens of Bowling Green.

I would like to thank the men and women of the Bowling Green Fire Department for their professionalism and commitment. I would also like to thank the Board of Commissioners, City Manager, Senior Management, and all City departments that support the operations of the Bowling Green Fire Department.



FIRE CHIEF JASON COLSON

**“OUR ORGANIZATION WILL
CONTINUOUSLY STRIVE TO
REDUCE THE RISKS IN OUR
COMMUNITY BY
PROVIDING EMERGENCY
RESPONSE, EDUCATING
THE PUBLIC, AND
ENFORCING APPLICABLE
FIRE CODES. WE ARE AN
ORGANIZATION THAT STRIVES
TO CREATE A FIRE SAFE
COMMUNITY.”**

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented Emergency Reporting records management software to improve pre-incident planning and inspection
- Replaced six front-line apparatus and improved reserve fleet
- Improved accountability and incident command on-scene capabilities with command boards
- Completed installation of traffic pre-emption on all remaining target intersections
- Implemented Cancer Prevention policy and equipped each apparatus with a Cancer Prevention kit
- Developed a Peer Support Team and attended “Saving Those who Save Others” class
- Upgraded Firefighter and Station security with key-fob entry system
- Launched Fire Extinguisher training program for the public as well as a Train the Trainer program for commercial industry. Multiple classes were held throughout the year



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Vision

Professional improvement through innovation and efficiency

Mission

To protect lives, property, and the environment by providing a high level of professional fire and rescue services to the Bowling Green community.

Values

- Service Excellence – We will strive to deliver the best possible service to the community
- Professional Competence – We will develop our members by training for improvement, proficiency, and effectiveness
- Teamwork – We will work and train as a team and recognize each member's contribution is important
- Integrity – We value honest and ethical behavior at all times
- Accountability – We will be accountable to each other for our competence, our attitude, and our actions



**6 FIRE
STATIONS**

**40.2
SQUARE MILES
PROTECTED**

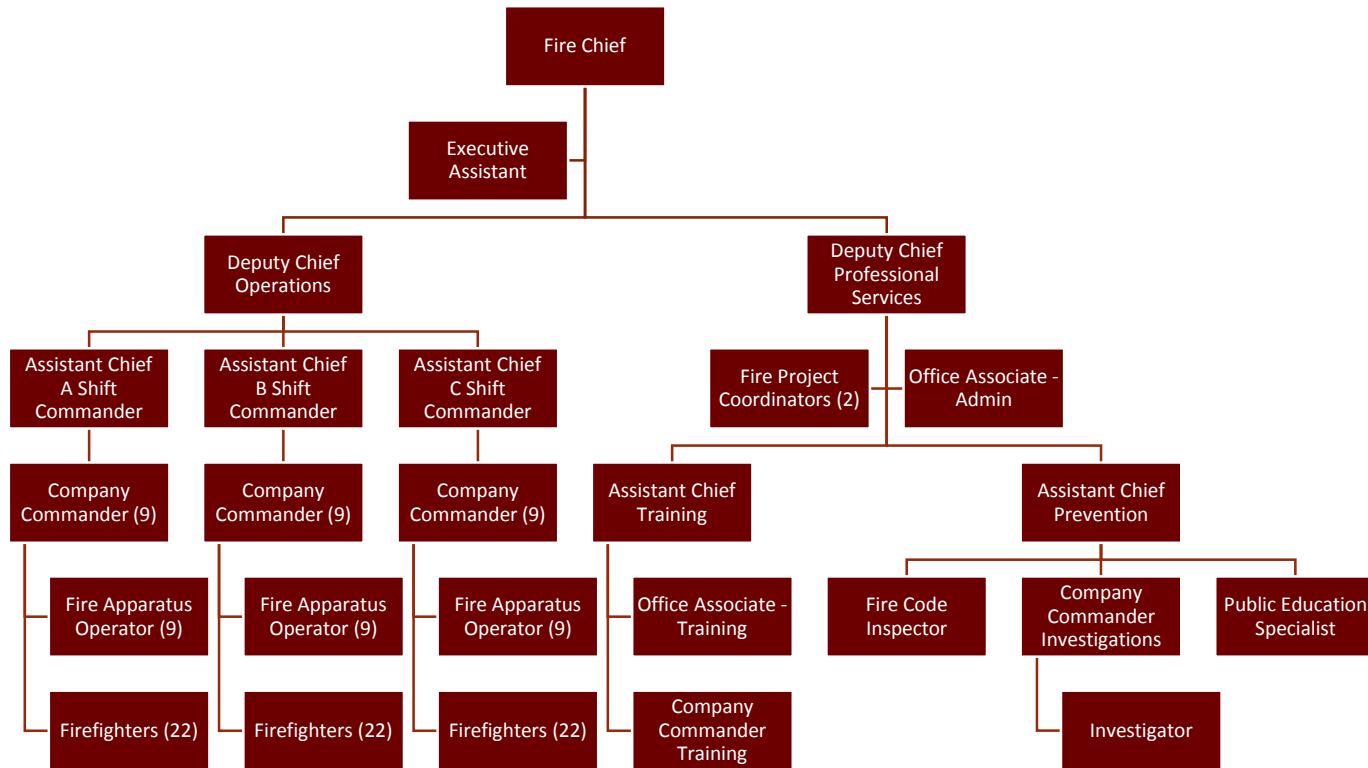
**68,400
BOWLING GREEN
POPULATION**

**\$15.1M
FY 2020
OPERATING BUDGET**

**\$1.8M
FY 2020
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



YEAR END PERSONNEL

SUPPRESSION **126**

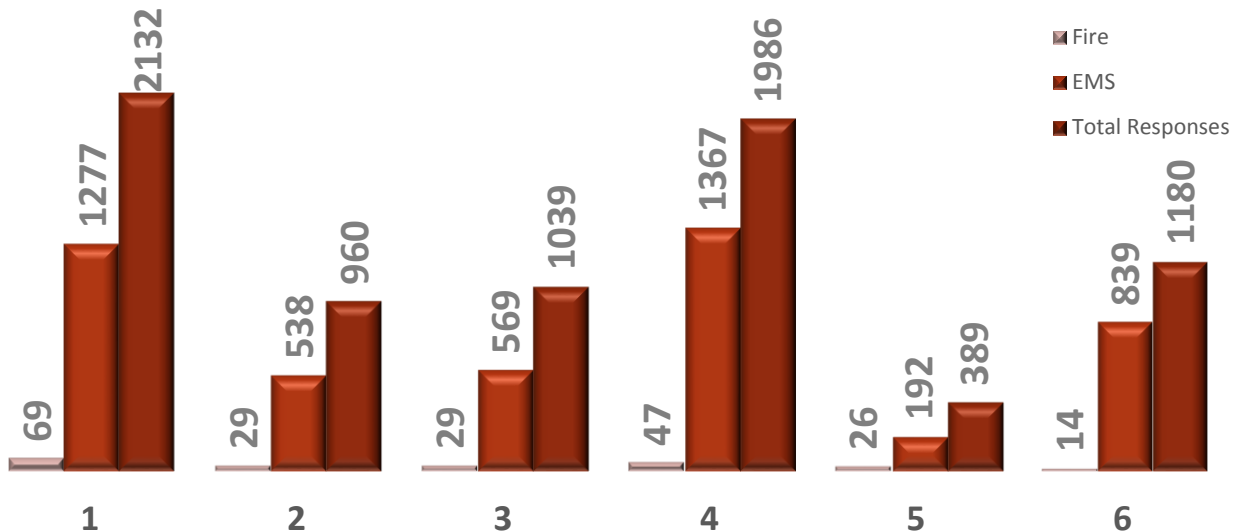
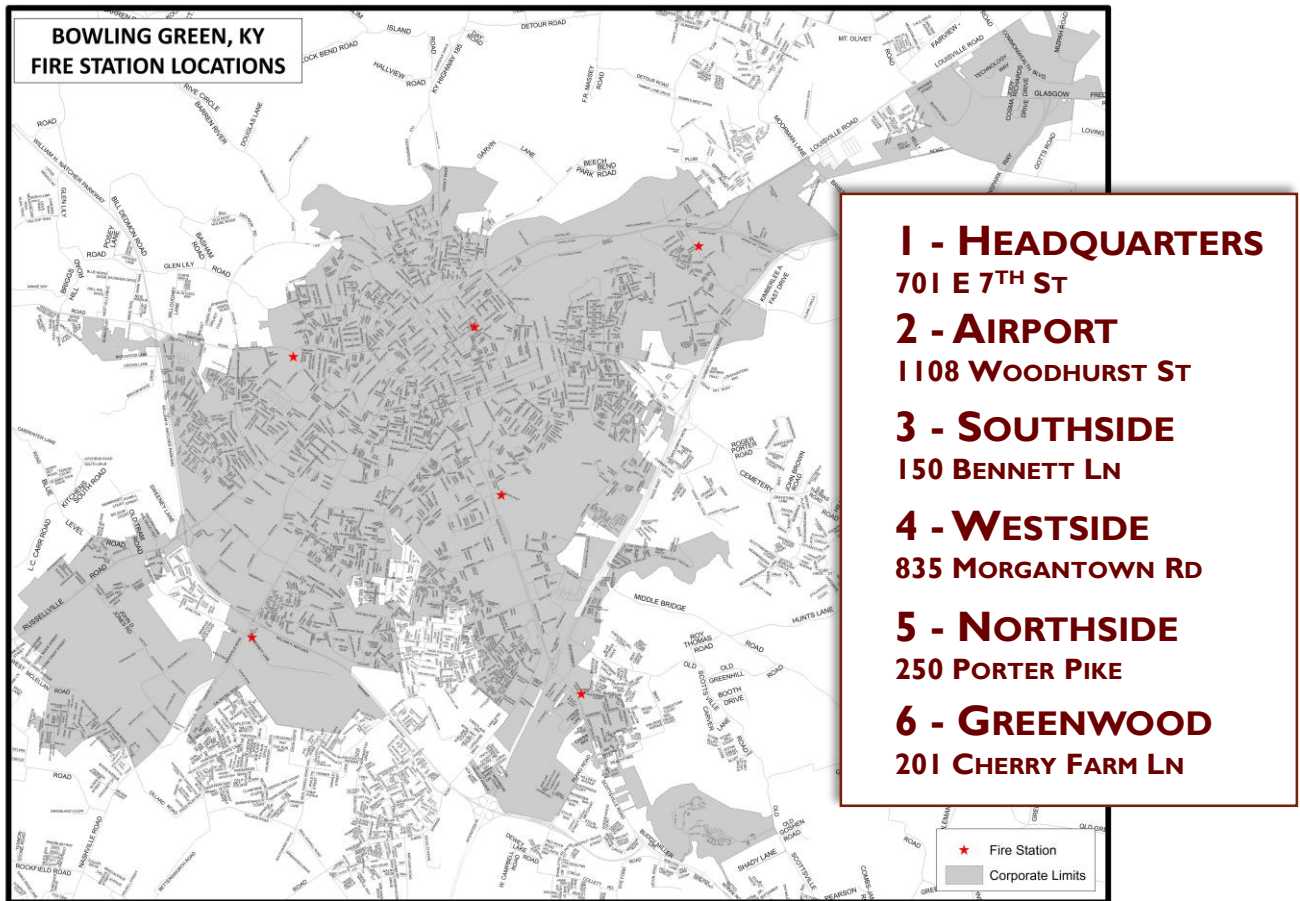
ADMINISTRATION **7**

PREVENTION **5**

TRAINING **3**



FIRE STATIONS



ACCREDITATION AND ISO

Accreditation

Being efficient and well-trained is a top priority for the Bowling Green Fire Department. In order to ensure that the department continues to offer great service to its citizens, the department continually evaluates itself. One way this is done is through a national accreditation process.



Currently, the Bowling Green Fire Department is one of only three accredited organizations within the state of Kentucky and one of only 255 in the United States and Canada.

While originally accredited in 2008, a lot of work had to be done to ensure the department was performing to the best of its abilities. The re-accreditation process involved numerous hours of research to update documentation on all operations.

ISO

Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluates communities and gives a Public Protection Classification based on:

- Fire Department
- Emergency Communications
- Water Supply System
- Community Fire Risk Reduction

The classification is given to insurance companies and affects insurance premiums. The Bowling Green Fire Department currently has a Public Protection Classification of 2.

An ISO on-site survey was conducted in January 2020. At the time of this report, the classification had not been determined.

The Bowling Green Fire Department is striving to obtain a Public Protection Classification of 1.

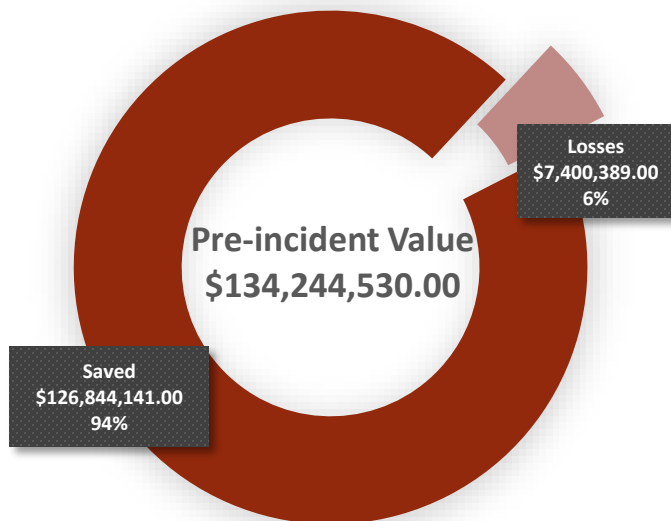


SUPPRESSION DIVISION

The Fire Suppression Division includes 126 sworn personnel divided into three shifts providing full-time response to all categories of emergencies. Suppression Division is comprised of three Assistant Chiefs / Shift Commanders, 27 Company Commanders, 27 Fire Apparatus Operators, and 66 Firefighters.

Suppression operates around the clock, working three shifts on a 24/48-hour rotation. The Department has six stations strategically located to provide efficient coverage for the City.

Fire Suppression personnel provide additional service to our community through many Specialty and Technical Rescue programs. These include: EMS first responder, hazardous materials mitigation, rope rescue, water rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, structural collapse, auto and machinery extrication, and loss control. Thousands of hours are logged annually to maintain proficiency in these disciplines.



SUPPRESSION

7686
TOTAL RESPONSES

214 FIRES

5537
RESCUE & EMS CALLS

790 FALSE
ALARMS

761
GOOD INTENT CALLS

169
HAZARDOUS
CONDITIONS

177
SERVICE CALLS

SUPPRESSION DIVISION

A Shift

- Building Fires: 6
- EMS Incidents: 1668
- Extrication from a vehicle: 12

New Firefighters to A Shift:

Dylan Bohn

Taylor Kiser

Ben Hurt

Chase Voorhees

B Shift

- Building Fires: 15
- EMS Incidents: 1556
- Extrication from a vehicle: 10

New Firefighters to B Shift:

Jonathan Harrell

Joey Hernandez

Matt Reynolds

Zach Shuffett

C Shift

- Building Fires: 16
- EMS Incidents: 1558
- Extrication from a vehicle: 10

New Firefighters to C Shift:

Stephen Estes

Brennan Elsas

Justin Meredith



EMS ACTIVITY

234

FIRST AID

67

CPR PERFORMED

AED USED

106

MEDICATION

ADMINISTERED

774

OXYGEN

APPLIED



TRAINING DIVISION

The BGFD Training Division is comprised of one Assistant Chief, a Company Commander, and an Office Associate. The Training Division oversees the Department's annual training regimen. This includes all National, State, Local, and ISO compliance training for fires, natural and man-made disasters, technical rescues, and emergency medical treatment. The Training Division is additionally responsible for ensuring any City-level compliance training is accomplished in coordination with the City Human Resources Risk Manager.

2019 started off with a change in the Training Division coupled with the start of 11 new careers. In January, Captain Lee Hatcher moved from Suppression and assisted with recruit school while training on-the-job to replace Captain Shannon Pardue, who was transferring to Suppression. This enabled the Training Division to offer more consistent supervision and evaluation to the 11 new recruits as they endured the 12-week academy.

Training Division 2019 Highlights:

- FAO Testing— 15 personnel
- Annual SCBA Functional Testing and Skills Evaluation
- EMT Class
- Recruit Class
- Officer Training School
- BGWC Airport Inspection Training Audit



TRAINING

39,516

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS

329

**AVG HOURS
PER FIREFIGHTER**

400+

**RECRUIT TRAINING
HOURS LOGGED**

11

**RECRUITS
GRADUATED**

10

EMT CERTIFICATIONS

TRAINING DIVISION

2019 Certifications Obtained:

IFSAC Driver Operator Pumper	14
IFSAC Driver Operator Aerial	12
IFSAC Fire Officer 1	10
IFSAC Fire Officer 2	3
IFSAC Hazmat Technician	5
IFSAC Hazmat IC	1
IFSAC Firefighter 1	10
IFSAC Firefighter 2	10
IFSAC HazMat Awareness	10
IFSAC HazMat Operations	15
ICS 400 NIMS	14
EMT	10
Total	114

Department Training Hours:

Facility Training (PSTC)	7244
Company Training	10467
Officer Training	3298
Officers Meeting	633
Driver Operator Training	2509
Hazardous Materials Training	2255
Physical Fitness	7953
Preplanning	417
Weekly Apparatus Familiarization	500
EMS	1401
Technical Rescue and Specialty Training	2060
ARFF	779
Total	39516



PREVENTION DIVISION

The Prevention Division is comprised of five personnel: Assistant Chief / Fire Marshal, Senior Fire Investigator / Inspector, Fire Investigator / Inspector, Fire Inspector and Public Education Specialist.

The Bowling Green Fire Department continues in the effort to educate our community in regards to fire safety as proven by the steady increase in the number of classes taught and in the number of attendees at those classes. In three of the past four years, the Department set new records, with 2019 being the highest overall at 1,081 classes taught and 34,700 attendees.

In 2019, BGFD participated in many public education and community outreach events throughout the City of Bowling Green, our local schools, and the campus of WKU.

Investigators recorded 100% closure rate on all Origin and Cause investigations conducted while at the same time taking a larger role in public education and recruiting events utilizing Accelerant Detection Canine Millie.



1081

PREVENTION CLASSES

34,700

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS
REACHED**

46

INVESTIGATIONS

2877

INSPECTIONS

1306

**FIRE CODE
VIOLATIONS OBSERVED**

54

**PUBLIC CPR
CERTIFICATIONS**

PREVENTION DIVISION

Open House

A Fire Department Open House was held in May at Station 1 with several hundred in attendance. Attendees were able to get a variety of fire safety and career information, see ADC Millie in action, ride in the bucket of the aerial truck, tour the station, see new fire apparatus, and meet the firefighters.

Firehouse Festival

The annual Firehouse Festival to commemorate National Fire Prevention Month was held in the parking lot of the Greenwood Mall in September. As with the Open House, community members were given another opportunity to see firefighting equipment, receive valuable fire safety information through handouts and demonstrations and watch displays of the types of emergency responses our department is involved in.

Tony Rose Morning Show

Beginning in January 2019, Bowling Green Fire Department participated in a monthly interview on The Tony Rose Morning Show at WDNS radio to discuss fire safety tips or promote other topics of interest with regard to the Department. A periodic podcast interview is also being done on WGGC radio and segments of the recorded podcast are played throughout the month at various times.



“WITH THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN, FIRE CODE INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT REMAIN A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE PREVENTION DIVISION OF THE BOWLING GREEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH OUR CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITY ON FIRE PREVENTION, SAFETY STANDARDS, AND PRECAUTIONS.”
ASSISTANT CHIEF JASON BROOKS



ACCELERANT DETECTION CANINE

In March 2018, Millie was selected by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to serve as an Accelerant Detection Canine. In October 2018, K-9 Millie was paired with her handler, Captain Michael Cornwell, and in December 2018, they became one of 64 ATF Nationally Certified Accelerant Detection Canine Teams in the United States. Millie serves the ATF Louisville Field Division and works with her handler at the Bowling Green Fire Department.



Top Dog

In 2019, Millie competed against more than 50 Accelerant Detection Canines with the ATF in Boston, MA. Millie competed detecting accelerants on clothing, people and a “pinpoint” challenge testing her precision. Millie had the highest overall score and was named Top Dog.

100% Confirmation

An alert from the canine indicates that an accelerant is present. The canine not alerting is not a negative result but could simply be confirmation to the investigation that an accelerant is not present. At the time of this report, ADC Millie has a 100% confirmation from the Kentucky Station Police Forensic Lab that an accelerant was present in the evidence analyzed.



TECHNICAL RESCUE

The Bowling Green Fire Department Technical Rescue program continues to improve to a high level of proficiency. The Department continues to enhance capabilities to become the most highly-trained and well-equipped program in the region. This program is designed with a solid foundation for success and sustainability.

Extrication

BGFD has the capability to complete various extrications including vehicle, machinery, elevator, and farm machinery. Four front-line apparatus have the ability to respond to extrication calls; this includes Rescue 1 which is outfitted with extensive extra equipment. All members of the Department are trained on vehicle and machinery extrication. Upon graduation, recruits are trained to a level above the NFPA 1670 standard.

- \$35,000.00 annual budget for tool purchase.
- Purchased battery powered hydraulic combination tools to place on apparatus.

Trench Rescue

There are trenches being dug all over Bowling Green every day. Having highly-trained personnel with the right tools and equipment are the main goals of having a Technical Rescue Program. The capability of the training and tools in the Trench Rescue Program meet most of the mitigation requirements for the City of Bowling Green. BGFD currently has 8 trained at tech level and 11 at operations level. All BGFD members are trained to the Trench Awareness level.

- Total Training Hours: 133.5
- Presented Trench Awareness class at the Risk and safety Conference in Bowling Green



EXTRICATION

447

**ACCIDENTS
WITH INJURIES**

190

**NON-INJURY
ACCIDENTS**

32

**TOTAL
EXTRICATION RUNS**

13

**EXTRICATIONS
OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS**

32

ELEVATOR CALLS

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Rope Rescue

The BGFD Technical Rescue Team is equipped and trained to handle most rope rescue incident types likely to occur in Bowling Green and the surrounding areas if requested. Rescue 1 and Truck 1 are both well equipped for the rescue of subjects requiring either low or high angle rescue. All members of the Department are trained to a minimum Awareness level of training that was updated in the summer of 2019. In October, a 32-hour class was completed to certify new members of the technical rescue team to Operations level.

Total training hours for calendar year 2019 were 1454 hours, this includes:

- 767.45 hours of basic ropes training
- 686.15 hours of Rope Rescue High/Low angle training

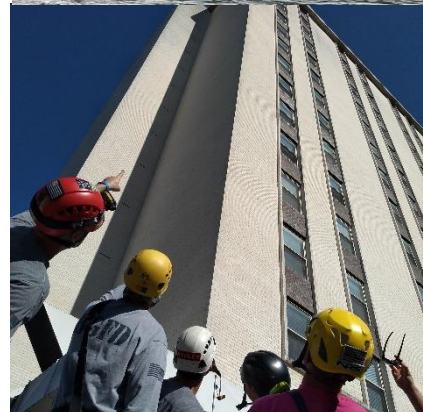
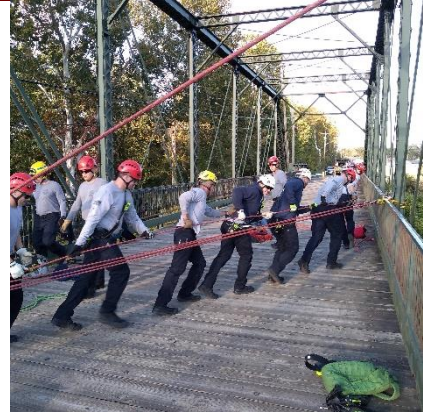
BGFD responded for one High Angle rescue in 2019. The incident was at Lost River Cave and rescuers were sent over the High Angle area of the cave in search of a victim. It was later determined that the victim had survived the fall and fled the scene.

Swiftwater Rescue

The BGFD Swiftwater Rescue Program has grown over the years to accommodate the growing population within the city of Bowling Green. Boats and trailers are currently housed at Stations 1 and 5 for quick access to Barren River at Weldon Peete Park, BGFD's most common and life-threatening rescue location. BGFD's Swiftwater program has benefited over the last several years from nationally recognized programs coming to our area to host classroom and hands-on trainings. This has allowed the BGFD to gain Operations Level Certification for 53 personnel, and Technician credentials for 21 personnel.

Total Training Hours: 411

- January 15, 2019 – Kayaker below the rapids
- February 24, 2019 – Vehicle in rushing water
- June 12, 2019 – Jon Boat overturned
- August 29, 2019 – person in distress in the water
- September 18, 2019 – 2 Kayakers missing, located by Boat 1
- December 16, 2019 – Vehicle in water



TECHNICAL RESCUE

Confined Space

Confined space rescue is a small team of highly trained personnel to mitigate these incidents. All members of the Department are trained to an Awareness Level, which allows them to know and understand the use of all confined space equipment and the various phases of an incident involving a confined space. In 2019, a Confined Space Operations class was held, covering all job performance requirements for certification.

Total Training Hours: 312

Structural Collapse

Structural Collapse is a combination of several different technical rescue disciplines. The department has the capabilities to effect rescue on a small-scale incident. The capability of trained personnel is the largest asset the Department has. BGFD has several trained personnel with the capability to make effective rescue operations with the proper tools. All members of the Department are trained to the Awareness level.

Total Training Hours: 33

On multiple occasions, vehicles ran into buildings causing minor structural damage but not collapse. The Department did not experience a large-scale structural collapse that resulted in an effective response force incident.



HAZMAT

The Bowling Green Fire Department Hazardous Material Incident Mitigation specialty program is primarily housed at Station 3. Crews honed their skills through regular training, including training with the National Guard's 41st Civil Support Team in February. This program continues to improve the protection provided to the City of Bowling Green.

BGFD saw an increase in HazMat responses of 9% from 2018.

- 11 IFSAC Hazardous Materials Technicians
- 143 Training Classes
- 2143 Total Training Hours
- Grant Funding Received: \$14,400

ARFF

The Bowling Green Fire Department is a Class IV Index A airport and provides dedicated ARFF coverage for the Bowling Green Warren County Regional Airport with 24 hours of notice. The BG/WC Airport is home to many different types of aircraft. A scheduled air service did not operate at the BG/WC Airport in 2019.

The BGFD has a staffed station housed right beside the BG/WC airport. Station 2 Crews take pride in their commitment to ARFF coverage. The FAA mandates that responders be trained in 11 different topic areas and participate in a live-fire drill prior to carrying out ARFF duties.

- Passed 2019 FAA annual inspection audit process.
- 15 members participated in annual live burn training in Lexington, KY
- 943 Total Training Hours
- The BGFD successfully provided dedicated ARFF coverage 17 times in 2019.



HAZMAT

52

NATURAL GAS LEAKS

15

GAS SPILLS

10

CARBON MONOXIDE
ALARMS

3

OIL SPILLS

3

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

2

GAS LEAKS

1

CHEMICAL SPILLS

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

MEDAL OF VALOR

Awarded for a conspicuous act of valor and heroism by a member under hazardous conditions in which the person is placed in a life threatening position to save the life of another.

Columns Apartments Rescue

- Captain Isaac Anthony
- Sergeant Ben Mock
- Firefighter Bryan Fulton



Barren River Rescue

- Sergeant Jeremy Maynard
- Firefighter Chase McKee



UNIT CITATION

Awarded for outstanding service while performing as a unit to the public safety of the community with regards to fire and emergency services.

Lovers Lane Extrication

- Assistant Chief Justin Brooks
- Sergeant Jason Meisel
- Firefighter Keaton May

Barren River Rescue

- Firefighter Joe Hernandez
- Firefighter Matthew Reynolds



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

PROMOTIONS

Assistant Chief

Justin Brooks

Captain

Brad Akins, Alan Dezern, Kevin Lashley, Kris Mitchell

Sergeant

Drew Cassady, Bryan Kozak, Clayton Shuffett

SERVICE AWARDS

20 Years

Matt Jones, Buffy Watt

15 Years

Mike Harvey, Lee Hatcher, Brian Hope, Doug Morris,
Michael Webster

10 Years

Stephen Candela, Alan Dezern, Brandon Gilliam

5 Years

Chad Ennis, Esmir Ferizovic, Jeremy Maynard, Will
Moore



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Station 7 – Lovers Ln
 - FY 2019
 - \$3,999,700
- Property Acquisition
 - Purchase property for future use
 - \$1,400,000
- Extrication Equipment
 - Battery powered extrication equipment
 - \$35,000
- Apparatus
 - Truck 4 replacement and additional engine
 - \$1,525,000
- Station Repairs
 - Repair and Seal Bay Floors
 - Replace Carpet
 - Replace lighting with LED fixtures
 - \$75,000
- EMS Interface
 - Direct CAD interface between City dispatch and EMS
 - \$57,000
- Video Conferencing
 - Replace Tanberg video conferencing system
 - \$110,000
- CAD
 - New Motorola CAD system
 - \$1,978,300
- Vehicles
 - Replace 2008 Dodge Pickup
 - \$49,500



STATION 7 – LOVERS LN

