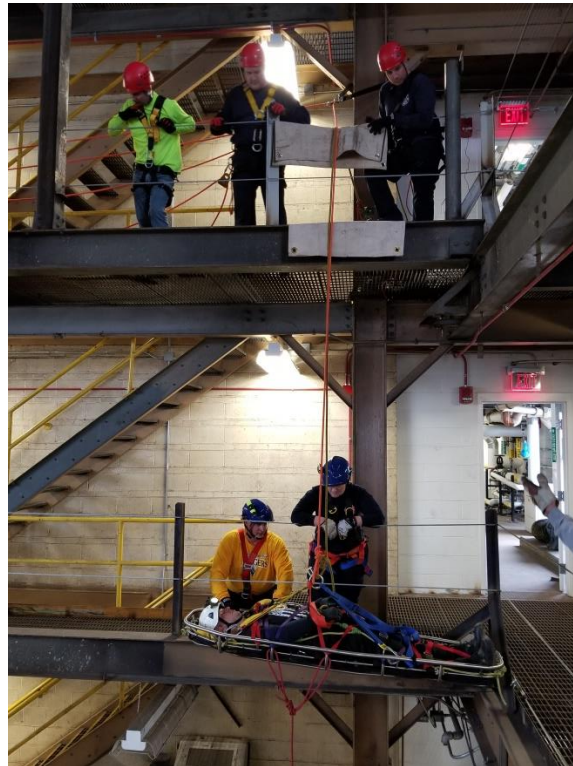


LORAIN COUNTY SPECIALIZED RESCUE RESPONSE TEAMS

2019 Annual Report



Advisory Board:

Chief John C. Reese, Lorain County Fire Chiefs

Chief Tim Card, Lorain County Fire Chiefs

Director Tom Kelley, Lorain County Emergency Management Agency

Ted Schriver, Lorain County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Kevin Pocos, Lorain County Technical Rescue Response Team

Gordy Lent, Lorain County Dive/Rescue Team

Jim Droke, Lorain County Swift Water/Flood Rescue Team

Lorain County Specialized Rescue Response Teams 2019 Annual Report

The Lorain County Specialized Rescue Response Teams and the Board have been busy again this year making improvements in the Specialized Rescue Response for Lorain County. The improvements include purchasing necessary rescue equipment for the teams and continuing monthly training for all of our teams. The teams faced several challenging incidents this year. Thankfully, all of their training and preparation led to successful mitigations of all



incidents. These incidents are just more examples of the importance of the Lorain County Specialized Rescue Teams and the sacrifice that our team members make. The continued support from all of the leaders of Lorain County's Cities, Townships, and Villages is an excellent example of government working together. The leaders of Lorain County should be proud of this great achievement. Our Specialized Rescue Teams are among

the best of the county organized teams in the State of Ohio.

As stated, the teams responded to several emergency calls for assistance in 2019. The teams are dispatched by Lorain County 911 according to which discipline is needed for the incident. The 2019 calls for assistance are as follows:

01/23/2019	The Vermillion River	<i>Swift Water Flooded Home Rescues on Vermillion River.</i>
02/07/2019	Elyria	<i>Lost Person Search.</i>
02/13/2019	Elyria – Black River	<i>Swift Water Team River Rescue.</i>
08/23/2019	Avon Lake – Lubrizol	<i>Hazmat Team stabilization of a chemical release.</i>
10/29/2019	Oberlin – Walmart	<i>Hazmat Team stabilization of a white powder incident.</i>

The Board and the Specialized Rescue Teams are already making plans for further improvements and continued training in 2020. Our goal is to provide professional specialized rescue responses to the residents of Lorain County. Our regional approach is not only working, but saving County Taxpayer money. Please enjoy the report that we have created and if you have any questions about your Specialized Rescue Response Teams, please contact me at (440) 353-0803 or EMA Director Tom Kelley at (440) 329-5117.

Sincerely,

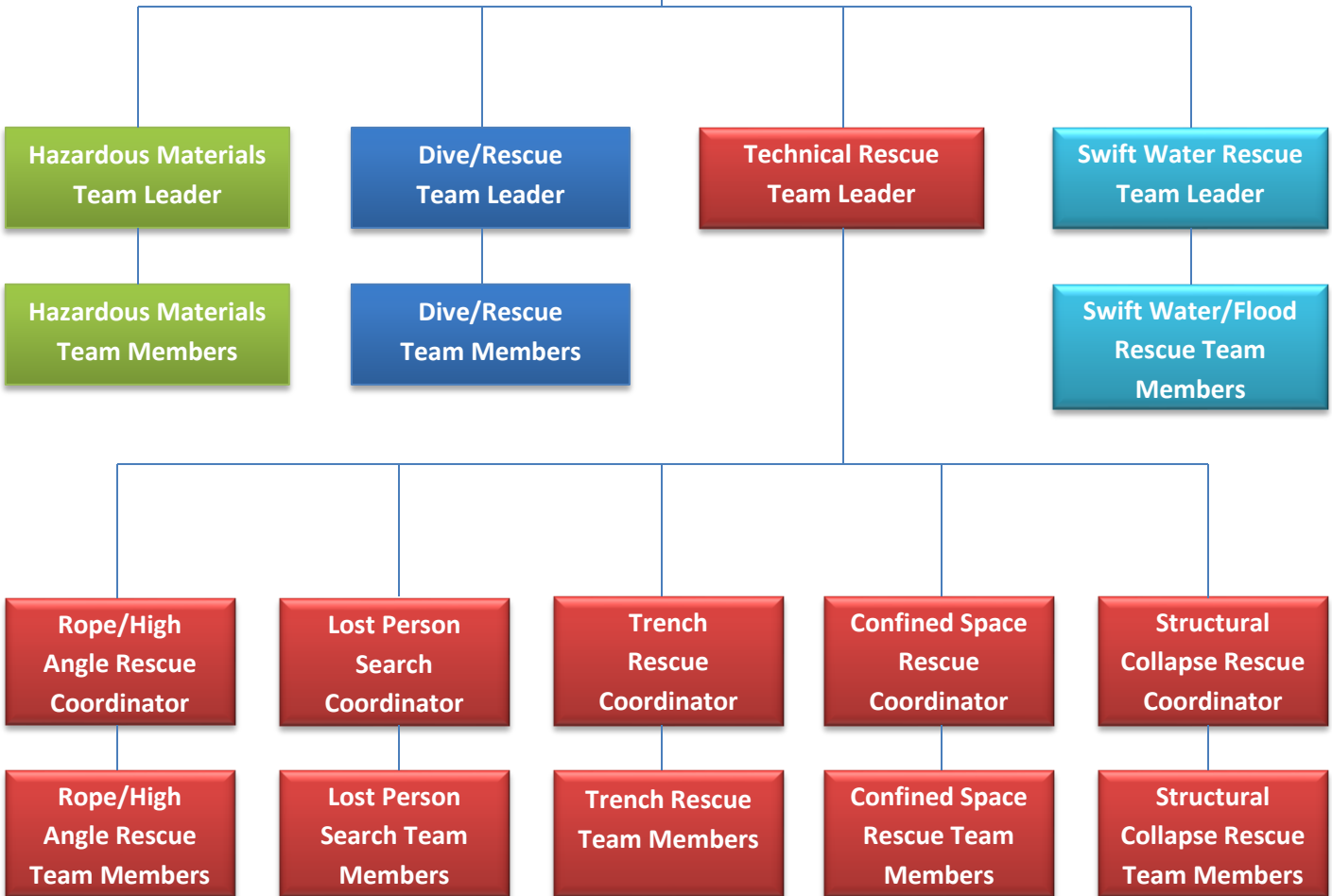
Chief John C. Reese, Chairperson

Lorain County Specialized Response Teams 2019 Organizational Chart

**Lorain County
Commissioners**

Lorain County Specialized Response Teams Advisory Board
1-Lorain County Hazardous Materials Response Team Representative
1-Urban Search and Rescue Response Team Representative
1-Dive/Rescue Response Team Representative
1-Swift Water/Flood Rescue Response Team Representative
2-Lorain County Fire Chief's Association Representatives
1-Local Emergency Planning Commission Representative
1-Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Representative

**Administrative
Assistant Jessica Fetter**



Lorain County 2019 Specialized Rescue Response Teams

Lorain County Commissioners

Lori Kokoski, President

Ted Kalo, Vice-President

Matt Lundy, Member

Advisory Board

Chief John C. Reese, Lorain County Fire Chief's Representative

Chief Tim Card, Lorain County Fire Chief's Representative

Director Tom Kelley, Lorain County Emergency Management Agency Representative

Ted Schriver, Lorain County Local Emergency Planning Committee Representative

Kevin Pocos, Lorain County Technical Rescue Response Team Representative

Gordy Lent, Lorain County Dive/Rescue Team Representative

Jim Droke, Lorain County Swift Water/Flood Rescue Team Representative

Jessica Fetter, Advisory Board Administrative Assistant

Hazardous Materials Response Team

Lieutenant Jason Strah - Sheffield Village FD, Hazardous Materials Response Team Leader

Dive/Rescue Response Team

Lieutenant Dave Novak - Sheffield Lake FD, Dive/Rescue Response Team Leader

Swift Water Rescue Response Team

Captain Dave Swope - Avon FD, Swift Water Rescue Response Team Leader

Technical Rescue Response Team

Assistant Chief Tim Gates – Amherst, FD Technical Rescue Response Team Leader

Firefighter Chris Emling – Sheffield Village FD, Rope/High Angle Rescue Response Team Coordinator

Firefighter Dave Colon – Avon FD, Wide Area Search Response Team Coordinator

Captain Eric Wagner – Avon Lake FD, Wide Area Search Response Team Coordinator

Captain Mark Slack – Elyria FD, Trench Rescue Response Team Coordinator

Firefighter Mark Hricovec – Avon FD, Trench Rescue Response Team Coordinator

Lieutenant Jody Dorsey – Elyria FD, Confined Space Rescue Response Team Coordinator

Firefighter Thad Campbell – Sheffield Lake FD, Confined Space Rescue Response Team Coordinator

Firefighter Kevin Pocos – North Ridgeville FD, Structural Collapse Rescue Response Team Coordinator

Firefighter William Foster – North Ridgeville FD, Structural Collapse Rescue Response Team Coordinator



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM



*TEAM LEADER
LIEUTENANT JASON STRAH,
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT*

The Lorain County Hazardous Materials Response Team is currently made up of 34 members from 19 fire departments in Lorain County and 2 from Lorain County Public Health. The members of the team are all trained to the level of Hazardous Materials Technician and are required to maintain their certification to function with the team. Team members operate under the Lorain County Hazardous Materials Response Team Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). The team has received a type III certification from the State of Ohio as a result of the team's training and equipment. The type III certification allows the team to respond to emergencies outside of the region. The team operates using a 2000 Ford F550 hazardous materials truck, a decontamination trailer and two zone trailers which are located strategically throughout the county. The hazmat zone trailers which carry a complement of single use mitigation supplies were originally purchased in 1993. In 2017, those original zone trailers were replaced with two new aluminum built trailers. The hazardous materials truck which carries all of the team's equipment was originally purchased in 2000 and is scheduled to be replaced in the next several years. Major equipment replacement costs are covered by an equipment fund which is established from a portion of the yearly contract costs that each jurisdiction (city, village or township) pays. The Specialized Rescue Response Teams Board maintains \$15,000.00 in an Unknown Spiller Fund as an insurance policy for participating jurisdictions in case they experience an incident where cost recovery for services is not an option. The team also assists the Lorain County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) with tracking all hazardous materials manufactured or stored in Lorain County.



TRAINING

The Lorain County Hazardous Materials Response Team held ten training sessions in 2019 as follows:

February

Research – ICS

Lorain County EMA

March

Evidence Collection, Chain of Custody

LCSD, Lorain County EMA

April

Meter Training/Bad Day Training

Lorain County EMA

May

8 Hour Hazmat Refresher

Lorain County EMA

June

Annual State Drill

Lorain County EMA

July

Maintenance: Annual Equipment Testing

Lorain County EMA

August

Chlorine Kits

Lorain County EMA

September

Damming Exercise

Greg Miller's Home

October

Sampling, Metering

Lorain County EMA

November

Cold Weather Drill

Lorain County EMA

BUDGET

In 2019, a budget of \$21,750.00 was provided to the Hazardous Materials Response Team for training and equipment. The following items were accomplished in 2019 with the provided budget:

- Purchased a Chlorine "A" Kit
- Replacement Portable Radio Batteries
- Replacement of Scott SCBA Cylinders

MEMBERS

Lieutenant Hugh Martin, Amherst Fire Department
Firefighter Charles Kellogg, Amherst Fire Department
Firefighter Nathan Grys, Amherst Fire Department
Firefighter Jeff Collins, Avon Fire Department
Firefighter Gene Legeza, Avon Fire Department
Firefighter Nicholas Kus, Avon Lake Fire Department
Firefighter Joe Harder, Avon Lake Fire Department
Firefighter James Borer, Camden Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Adam Bernard, Carlisle Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Mike Pitts, Carlisle Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Robert Hardy, Columbia Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Nick Jacobucci, Columbia Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Phillip Brescan, Eaton Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Eric Keeslar, Elyria Fire Department
Lieutenant Daniel Budzar, Elyria Fire Department
Captain Art Mead, Elyria Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Greg Miller, Grafton Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Jerry Norton, LaGrange Twp. Fire Department
Firefighter Kyle Dull, LaGrange Twp. Fire Department
Bob Goard, Lorain County Health
Juston Carpenter, Lorain County Health
Firefighter Michael Williams, North Ridgeville Fire Department
Lieutenant Colt Eberling, North Ridgeville Fire Department
Firefighter OJ Tingler, Oberlin Fire Department
Firefighter Samuel O'Baker, Oberlin Fire Department
Firefighter Matthew Bielawski, Oberlin Fire Department
Firefighter Daniel Forror, Sheffield Lake Fire Department
Lieutenant Wesley Mariner, Sheffield Lake Fire Department
Firefighter Chris Davis, Sheffield Township Fire Department
Lieutenant Jason Strah, Sheffield Village Fire Department
Firefighter Andrew Koviak, South Amherst Fire Department
Firefighter Kyle Kudela, South Amherst Fire Department
Firefighter Ken Knapp, Wellington Fire District
Lieutenant Ethan Little, Wellington Fire District
Firefighter Derek Kuba, Vermillion Fire Department
Firefighter Doug O'Donnell, Vermillion Fire Department



Hazardous Materials Technicians preparing protective equipment at 2019 Oberlin white powder incident.

**LORAIN COUNTY
HAZMAT OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT ZONE
TRAILERS**

COVERAGE AREAS

NORTH ZONE TRAILER

COVERAGE: Amherst, Amherst Township, Avon, Avon Lake, Brownhelm Township, Carlisle Township, Columbia Township, Eaton Township, Elyria, Elyria Township, Henrietta Township, Lorain, New Russia Township, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Township, Sheffield Village, South Amherst, Vermilion.

HOUSING LOCATION: DIY COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY BUILDING (ELYRIA FIRE)

SOUTH ZONE TRAILER

COVERAGE: Brighton Township, Camden Township, Grafton Village, Grafton Township, Huntington Township, Kipton, LaGrange, LaGrange Township, Oberlin, Penfield Township, Pittsfield Township, Rochester Township, Rochester Village, Wellington Village, Wellington Township

HOUSING LOCATION: LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

ALL TRAILER REQUESTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH LORAIN COUNTY 9-1-1



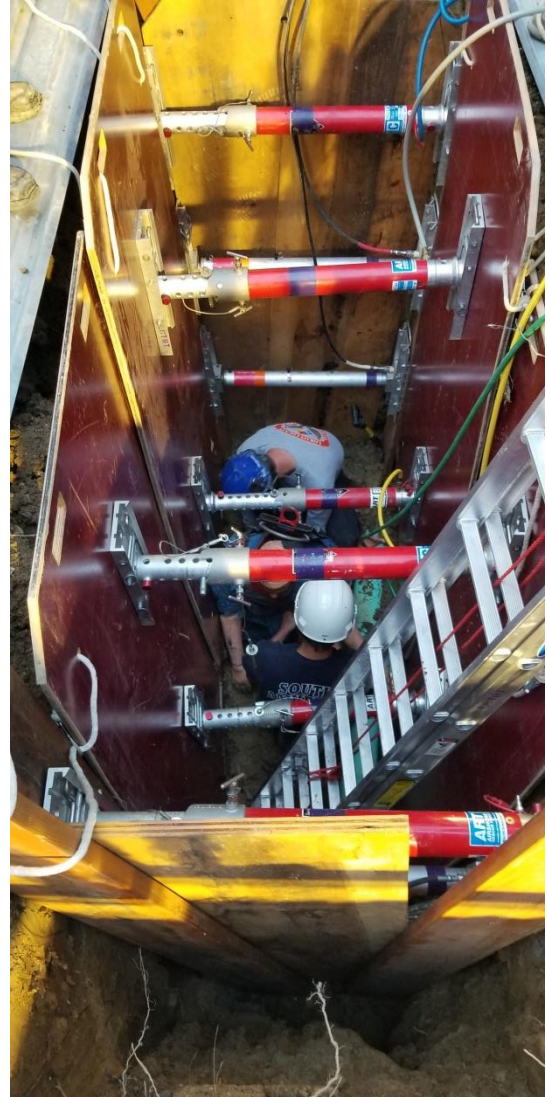
TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

TEAM LEADER Assistant Chief Tim Gates, Amherst Fire Department



The Lorain County Technical Rescue Team (LCTRT) is currently made up of 26 members from 13 fire departments in Lorain County. Technical Rescue refers to the aspects of saving life or property that employs the use of tools and skills that exceed those normally reserved for firefighting or medical response. The members of the LCTRT are trained to respond to incidents involving high and low angle rope rescue, structural collapse, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and wide area search. Team members operate under the Lorain County Technical Rescue Team Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). The team is a member of the Ohio Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team. Region 2 is one of the eight homeland security planning regions in Ohio. The Region 2 USAR Team is the primary urban search and rescue capability for the five county region.

The LCTRT operates using a 2000 Ford F350 pickup truck and two technical rescue equipment trailers which are located strategically throughout Lorain County. Major equipment replacement costs are covered by an equipment fund which is established from a portion of the yearly contract costs that each jurisdiction (city, village or township) pays. The Specialized Rescue Response Team Advisory Board also administers a yearly budget for small equipment and training as requested by the LCTRT Leader.



Members of the Trench Team simulate a victim rescue during training.

TRAINING

The Lorain County Technical Rescue Team held 12 training sessions in 2019 as follows:

January 19th

Inventory, Rope & Trench Review Elyria DIY Building

February 9th

Rope & Structural Review Elyria DIY Building

March 16th

Rope & Search Review Elyria DIY Building

April 17th

Confined Space Drill Oberlin Power Plant

May 15th

Trench Rescue Drill Columbia Station

June 8th

Structural Collapse North Ridgeville

July 24th

Missing Person Drill Sheffield Village

August 10th

Trench Rescue Drill Avon

September 25th

Confined Space Drill Elyria Twp. Trailer

October 19th

Swift Water Rescue Drill Cascade Park

November 16th

Rope Rescue Drill Medina Water Tower

December 14th

Maintenance & Rope Review DIY Building

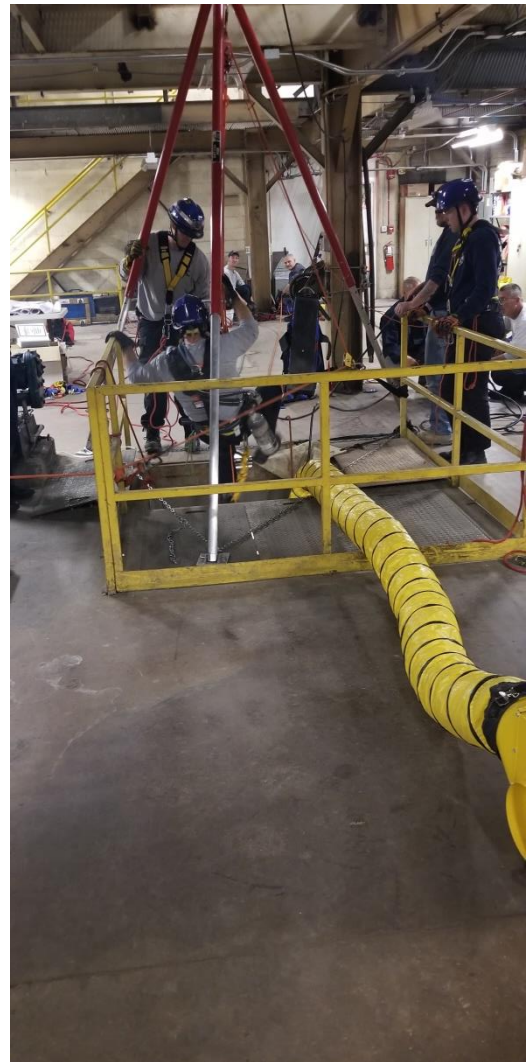
BUDGET

Technical Rescue Team Leader Assistant Chief Tim Gates requested a budget of \$30,000.00 in 2019 for training and equipment. The following items were purchased or accomplished in 2019:

- Twelve monthly trainings (*Lunch and Supplies*)
- 1 Rope Operation Level Class
- 1 Person to Trench Operations Class
- New Equipment and Maintenance of Equipment
- Maintenance of all Meters

MEMBERS

Assistant Chief Tim Gates, Amherst FD
Firefighter Rob Giacobbe, Amherst FD
Firefighter Chris Emling, Sheffield Village FD
Firefighter Kevin Pocos, North Ridgeville FD
Captain Mark Slack, Elyria FD
Lieutenant Jody Dorsey, Elyria FD
Firefighter Thad Campbell, Sheffield Lake FD
Firefighter Dave Colon, Avon FD
Captain Eric Wagner, Avon Lake FD
Firefighter Jason Leimbach, Amherst FD
Firefighter Joe Reising, Avon FD
Firefighter Mark Hricovec, Avon FD
Firefighter Forest Mercer, Avon Lake FD
Firefighter Kyle Urig, Avon Lake FD
Firefighter Jim Droke, Elyria FD
Firefighter Sid Shannon, Elyria FD
Firefighter Erika Leshner, Elyria Township FD
Firefighter Greg Miller, Grafton Township FD
Firefighter William Foster, North Ridgeville FD
Firefighter Koty Brescan, Oberlin FD
Lieutenant Dave Novak, Sheffield Lake FD
FF Bill Hodge Sheffield Township FD
Lieutenant Rob Abfall South Amherst FD
Firefighter Jacob Lawrie South Amherst FD
Assistant Chief Doug Keith, Vermillion FD



Confined Space Rescue team members practice working in a confined space.



SWIFT WATER RESCUE TEAM

TEAM LEADER Captain Dave Swope, Avon Fire Department



The Lorain County Swift Water Rescue Team is currently made up of 29 members from 9 fire departments and the Lorain County Metro Parks. There are 13 members trained to the level of Swift Water Operations and 15 trained to the level of Technician. All members have full Swift Water PPE and have passed a Watermanship level swim test. Team members are required to maintain their

certification to function with the team. The team operates under the Lorain County Swift Water Rescue Team Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). The team's training is held February through May when the water is normally at its highest/fastest level. It



is a standard practice for the team members to use each other's equipment and work with

Lorain County Swift Water Rescue Team vehicles staged at a recent training.

personnel from the different fire departments. This demonstrates how the team is truly a multi-jurisdictional agency.

The team's resources include ten boats with motors, three caches of rope gear (with the ability to use the Technical Rescue Team's gear if more is needed), two line guns and over 50 rope throw bags. The Lorain County Specialized Rescue Advisory Board is working on the goal of standardizing equipment on the Lorain County Swift Water Rescue Team. This goal will be accomplished through yearly equipment additions/replacements from a portion of the yearly contract costs that each jurisdiction (city, township or village) pays.

TRAINING

The Lorain County Swift Water Rescue Team held four training sessions in 2019 as follows:

February

The year started with a review of river tactics, communications, and fundamental rope skills. Given the date, it was held indoors and consisted of a combination of classroom and hands-on training. It is the first of four required trainings for the year. The training was front-loaded to take advantage of the spring thaw and higher water. **Attendance: 25 members**

March

March training was broken into two days in order to be flexible to those members who cannot get off work during the week. March's training was held in Elyria at Cascade Park along the Black River. The main focus was rope systems and throw bag operations. The team trains in all types of weather and this month the river was iced over and the team was unable to launch their boats. **Attendance: 22 members**

April

Training was held in Vermillion. The team trained on the river and in the lake to further the skill set of the team members. The main focus was on boat operations, river reading and maneuverability. Utilizing the lake with 2' waves allowed the team to simulate working through many boat skills while being hit with the relentless surf of the lake. **Attendance: 22 members**

May

The training in May is normally the last training of the year and the team completes some needed routine skills like being able to release the rescuers safety buckle while under distress. The team capsizes and rights an inflatable and then finishes the training off with a victim rescue and recovery scenario. This training was also held in Vermillion. **Attendance: 22 members**

BUDGET

Dive/Rescue Team Leader Captain Dave Swope requested a budget of \$13,571.00 in 2019 for training and equipment. The team accomplished its mission last year without expending any of the budgeted funds.

MEMBERS

Captain Dave Swope, Avon FD
Firefighter David Conlon, Avon FD
Firefighter Gene Legaza, Avon FD
Firefighter Matthias Burke, Avon FD
Assistant Chief Tim Gates, Amherst FD
Lieutenant Louis Hodge, Carlisle FD
Firefighter Nick Bezbatchesenko, Elyria FD
Firefighter Jim Droke, Elyria FD
Firefighter Mike Eichenlaub, Elyria FD
Firefighter Jeremy Lombardo, Elyria FD
Firefighter Keith Paul, Elyria FD
Lieutenant Rick Thrasher, Elyria FD
Firefighter Bill Foster, North Ridgeville FD
Lieutenant Rick Knowlton, North Ridgeville FD
Firefighter Gary Chase, North Ridgeville FD
Firefighter Dean Souris, North Ridgeville FD
Firefighter Anthony Gallam, Oberlin FD
Firefighter Josh Myers, Oberlin FD
Lieutenant Bob Schubert, Oberlin FD
Lieutenant Jon Secue, Oberlin FD
Firefighter Jim Boesken, Sheffield Village FD
Firefighter Chris Emling, Sheffield Village FD
Assistant Chief Doug Keith, Vermillion FD
Firefighter Bryan Smith, Vermillion FD
Firefighter Rick Thrasher, Vermillion FD
Firefighter Mike Barlow, Wellington Fire District
Firefighter Gordy Lent, Wellington Fire District
Lieutenant Chad Regal, Wellington Fire District
Firefighter Dave Roser, Wellington Fire District
Deputy Brian Homes, Lorain County Metroparks





DIVE/RESCUE TEAM



TEAM LEADER Lieutenant Dave Novak, Sheffield Lake Fire Depart.

The Lorain County Dive/Rescue Team is currently made up of 29 members from 8 fire departments in Lorain County. The participating departments are: Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Columbia, Elyria, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Lake, and Wellington. In 2019, the team provided Public Safety Diver Training to eight team members. Currently, the team has twenty active divers and nine support personnel. Team members are required to maintain their certification to function with the team. The team operates under the Lorain County Dive/Rescue Team Standard Operating Procedures (SOGs) and trainings are held throughout the year at different pools and ponds throughout Lorain County. The team currently operates using equipment provided by the individual fire departments. This equipment includes rescue boats, trailers, equipment trucks and all necessary personal dive equipment. The team also utilizes a state-of-the-art sonar unit which belongs to Lorain County. The sonar unit was purchased using funds provided by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The Lorain County Specialized Rescue Advisory Board is working on the goal of standardizing equipment on the Lorain County Dive/Rescue Team. This goal will be accomplished through yearly equipment additions/replacements from a portion of the yearly contract costs that each jurisdiction (city, township or village) pays.



A member of the Dive/Rescue Team ice diving at the February 2019 team training event.

TRAINING

The Lorain County Dive/Rescue Team held nine training sessions in 2019 as follows:

February 6th

Ice Diving

March 23rd

Annual IARDS Watermanship Test

May 18th

Dive Skills/Contingency Drills

June 15th

Search Patterns and Sonar Operations

July 18th

Night Dive Operations/Watercraft Operations

September 21st

Search Patterns

October 5th

Submerged Vehicle Lifting Operations

November 6th

Submerged Vehicles/Search Patterns



Team members entering the waters of Lake Erie during a training event.

BUDGET

Dive/Rescue Team Leader Lieutenant Dave Novak requested a budget of \$5,000.00 for 2019 and actually spent \$3,744.00 on team member training.

MEMBERS

Lieutenant Dave Novak, Sheffield Lake Fire Department

Firefighter Gordy Lent, Wellington Fire District

Assistant Chief Troy Pitts, Wellington Fire District

Firefighter Mike Barlow, Wellington Fire District

Firefighter Dave Roser, Wellington Fire District

Assistant Chief Tim Gates, Amherst Fire Department

Firefighter Gary Orseno, Amherst Fire Department

Firefighter Brian DePalma, Amherst Fire Department

Captain Ron Campana, Amherst Fire Department

Firefighter Rob Giacobbe, Amherst Fire Department

Captain Dave Swope, Avon Fire Department

Firefighter Dave Conlon, Avon Fire Department

Firefighter Gene Legeza, Avon Fire Department

Firefighter Mathias Burke, Avon Fire Department

Captain Dean Marks, Elyria Fire Department
Firefighter Gino Oliveri, Elyria Fire Department
Firefighter Keith Paul, Elyria Fire Department
Firefighter Jim Droke, Elyria Fire Department
Firefighter Mike Eichenlaub, Elyria Fire Department
Firefighter Nick Bezbatchesko, Elyria Fire Department
Lieutenant Rick Knowlton, North Ridgeville Fire Department
Firefighter Gary Chase, North Ridgeville Fire Department
Firefighter Patrick Starcovic, Sheffield Lake Fire Department
Firefighter Chad Bowman, Sheffield Lake Fire Department
Firefighter Brian Wood, Avon Lake Fire Department
Firefighter Cole Eichenlaub, Avon Lake Fire Department
Captain Kevin Barnard, Columbia Fire Department
Firefighter David Kaczynski, Columbia Fire Department
Firefighter Matthew Machingo, Columbia Fire Department



*Dive Team members training
in a local pond.*

MOVING FORWARD

As we continue through 2019, the Lorain County Specialized Rescue Response Teams Advisory Board has identified several goals and objectives which we want to achieve to strengthen our teams and response to the community. This includes working to achieve the following:

- Continue to explore the option of acquiring a tractor trailer type vehicle to replace the Hazardous Materials truck. This would allow us to place equipment for all of the specialized rescue response teams on one response vehicle. This has become a huge challenge due to the cost of the vehicle. The Board will continue to brainstorm and try to come up with a reasonable alternative.
- We have adopted and plan to utilize a standardized identification system for use by all Lorain County Specialized Rescue Response personnel so that our team leaders can identify members by training and discipline during emergency responses. The Board needs to concentrate on completing this project.
- Continue to organize and standardize our record keeping so that all of our teams function more effectively. This includes our financial data and recordkeeping.
- Continue to attempt to standardize Dive/Rescue equipment so that the team can function more effectively.
- Continue to integrate some of the training between the different disciplines to enhance their ability to work together during an emergency situation.
- Begin to establish a five-year plan that incorporates the goals of all of the specialized rescue teams.

Safety and success through teamwork!