



# BEAVERCREEK TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## HOW DOES YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVE YOU?

*“The Beavercreek Township Fire Department will serve and protect the lives, property, and environment of our community from the hazards of fire, medical emergencies, and natural or man-made disasters in a socially responsible manner, while safeguarding the health of our members so that they return safely to their families.”*

The Beavercreek Township Fire Department is a typical, modern suburban fire department. Our basic mission can be divided into three core categories: fire suppression, medical emergencies and calls for service. Each of these areas requires specialized training, equipment and apparatus. As the community continues to grow, the need for additional specialization also grows, adding complexity to our organization.

In 1941, the fire department was founded to help residents extinguish their own fires. By the mid-1950's, the department had begun responding to medical emergencies, and by the early 1970's, firefighters were being specifically trained as emergency medical technicians. The 1980's brought hazardous materials training and responses to the fire department, while the 1990's introduced the organization of specialized technical rescue (trench, rope, building collapse) training and teams. Finally, the past several years have introduced weapons of mass destruction and homeland security training and responses.

Fire suppression is the department's first mission. Fire continues to be a destructive force in the country, putting lives and property at risk, and Beavercreek is no different. The fire department trains on and responds to many different types of fire calls: structure fires, both residential and commercial, vehicle fires, and outdoor fires. Although they typically make up only 5% of the total calls for our service each year, fire calls are the most dangerous calls we respond to. They pose the greatest risk to firefighters and require the most staffing, time and equipment to control.

Emergency medical calls are the most common we respond to. Making up almost 70% of our calls for service each year, much of our resources are dedicated to providing medical care. Every front line piece of apparatus in Beavercreek, including ambulances and fire engines, is equipped and staffed to provide advanced life support; they are capable of shocking a heart, pushing emergency drugs, and inserting an artificial airway. We routinely transport patients to twelve local hospitals. In addition to the residents of Beavercreek, we are often called to care for visitors at our shopping centers and those traveling on the highways through the community.

Service calls make up the remaining 25% of our annual calls for service. This category combines a variety of specific types of calls: false alarms, good intent calls, hazardous materials responses, and weather related emergencies. These calls vary greatly, from only requiring a report to be taken on a false alarm to multi-day hazardous material responses. In addition, our crews can respond to water related emergencies, trench and building collapse, and almost any other emergency that occurs.

The department's fire prevention bureau serves the community primarily in a non-emergency capacity. Much of their work involves new construction; reviewing construction plans and inspecting buildings during construction. They ensure that our fire engines can access buildings and that there is adequate water for fighting fires. Once buildings are completed, they perform periodic fire safety inspections, making sure exits aren't blocked and fire alarm and sprinkler systems remain operational. When a fire does occur, the fire prevention bureau works to determine where the fire started and what caused it. If a fire proves to be intentional, they can work with police to find whoever started it.

Today the Beavercreek Township Fire Department is much different than it began. We are proud of the fact that we have grown over time to provide the community with the skills and services that it requires. Training on old skills and learning new ones is a priority to every one of our members and they take it very seriously. As our mission grows and changes with the community, we are committed to ensuring you continue to receive the best service we have to offer.