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Van Wert CERT

Year-End Review

A Message From:



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2021 Proves Busy

With 2021 coming to a close, I would like to commend every member of our team for their hardwork and dedication. From assisting the Health Department with Vaccination Clinics, to aiding fire departments on fire scenes, each volunteer proved once again that they were willing to answer the call to action regardless of the circumstance. The community of Van Wert has much to be proud of with their fellow citizens volunteering their time to help those in need. I look forward to seeing the team's continued success in 2022.



2021 Review

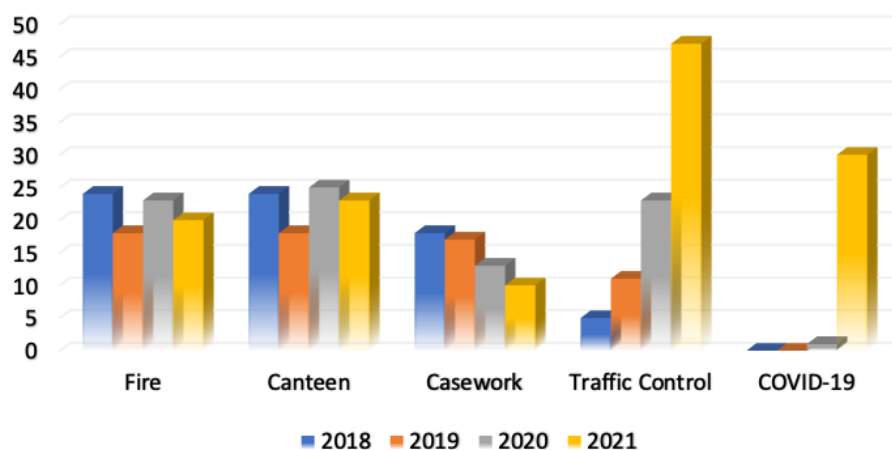
In looking at 2021 as a whole, we notice a few interesting details about our responses. Broken down into categories of “Fire”, “Canteen”, “Casework”, “Traffic Control”, and “COVID-19” we see where our efforts have been utilized. Since the team’s inception, we have seen an steady incline of our traffic control responses. This is a reflection of the partnerships we have developed with our local Law Enforcement agencies. The Van Wert Police Department utilized us to assist with traffic control on all local parades. The Sheriff’s department requested us several times to help divert traffic due to an accident, downed powerlines, or during an active fire scene. In total, 1,098 volunteer hours were accumulated by our team last year in the area of traffic control.

COVID-19 consumed 24% of our run volume in 2021, mostly due to our interaction with the Van Wert Health Department’s vaccination clinics. Our volunteers put in a total of 81 hours of service at these clinics, whether that be traffic control or sanitization of the stations within the building.

In response to fire scenes, our team served over 500 first responders, 23 families who had lost their home in a fire, totaling 1,257 volunteer hours from CERT.

In 2018, CERT began with 6 members. Through several recruitment campaigns, we are overwhelmed to report that we currently have 36 volunteer members.

Response Types by Year



Fire Incidents

DIXON HOUSE FIRE February 6

DETAILS

50 Responders
9 CERT Volunteers
72 Volunteer Hours

C O N V O Y



DAIRY BARN FIRE July 3

DETAILS

50 Responders
11 CERT Volunteers
77 Volunteer Hours

C O N V O Y



COVID CLINIC March 11

DETAILS

Served over 300 community members
3 CERT Volunteers
12 Volunteer Hours

V A N W E R T H E A L T H D E P T .



SEMI ROLLOVER CRASH December 21

DETAILS

20 Responders
5 CERT Volunteers
40 Volunteer Hours

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Donations

CERT relies heavily on the generosity of local organizations and businesses to continue to serve in our capacity. We are forever grateful for donations from Chief Supermarket, Pak-A-Sak, and McDonald's, Subway and Wal-Mart to hydrate and nourish our first responders. Whether the temperature be 0 degrees or 100 degrees, we have products donated to match the conditions.

The United Way has been, perhaps, our largest supporter financially. The money received from United Way stays within Van Wert County and helps to assist CERT in response supplies and maintaining our equipment so that we can remain response ready. We are honored to be a United Way Agency.

The Salvation Army plays a major role in family assistance. When a family loses their home to disaster, donations are brought in from community members. The Salvation Army organizes these collections and will get them into the hands of the respective family.

In addition to the Salvation Army, the Van Wert County Foundation receives all monetary donations that are brought in for family members. Collectively in 2021, nearly \$4,000.00 was donated by the community of Van Wert to assist families during their loss.

Our media partners of Times Bulletin, Van Wert Independent and Ohio City's Pride have provided excellent services to us in the area of Press. When donations are needed, they request information as soon as possible so that donations can be acquired. Their ability to reach the masses has proven vital to our team's success.



COVID - 19

VACCINATION CLINICS



Beginning in January, the CDC began approving the use of vaccinations against COVID-19. In conjunction with the Van Wert County Health Department, CERT provided volunteers to handle traffic control and other administrative duties for 16 clinics, totaling 363 volunteer hours.

OTHER COVID-19 MISSIONS



Each dosage of vaccine required to be placed in extreme cold storage. Because of this, the Van Wert County Health department was in need of dry ice almost weekly. In order to relieve the pressure of getting the required amounts of dry ice, CERT made numerous trips to Lima's Air Gas to maintain the required product at the Health Department. Team member Chris Bercaw put in 624 miles and a total of 24 hours completing these missions. Thank you, Chris!





A Note from the Chairman

2022 has begun and, if January is any indication, this year will keep CERT busy. The partnerships we have cultivated with local agencies has proven its value to the community. Families have been extraordinarily grateful for our team's efforts and the quick responses from the first-responder agencies. We will continue to serve our community whenever called into action.

To our team, your dedication and commitment to our mission has continued to impress us since our inception in 2018. We applaud all of your hard-work and hours put into serving your fellow citizens. It is a pleasure serving next to each of you.

Best,
Mark Klausing

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