

**KENTON COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 18523 ERLANGER, KENTUCKY 41018-0523**

DATE: April 23, 2014

To: The Honorable Judge/Executive: Steve Arlinghaus

Fiscal Court Commissioners: Beth Sewell, Jon Draud, Kris A. Knochelmann,

Deputy Judge/Executive: Mark Kreimborg

From: Kenton County Fire Chiefs Association, KCoFCA.---(consisting of 15 Fire/EMS Departments)

Subject: 2013 Annual Report

The main purpose of this report is to provide the Kenton County Fiscal Court (KCoFCourt) with some highlights of the operations & activities of the Kenton County Fire Chiefs Association (KCoFCA) for the year 2013. During the past year we have been challenged in a number of areas e.g. keeping-up with the Heroin problem, Shooter/Schools responses, improving Dispatching and Communications, Paramedic Services, new Regional guidelines, training requirements, radio banning, emergency response operations and for the first time in 39 years taking out a loan to add onto our classroom building located at the D.F./WTC., etc. Despite all of these on-going activities and changes, the Team Work and tireless efforts of all the Fire/EMS emergency personnel have not deviated from their goal of making the whole Kenton County Area one of the safest places in which to live and work.

The KCoFCA. has been working together serving the citizens of Kenton County since 1975, (**that's a remarkable 40 years**). However, without the financial help and support of the KCoFCourt as well as the local governing entities, Cities and Fire Districts, we could not cite these accomplishments.

-COMMITTEE REPORTS-

In appreciation for the work performed by the various committees, let's take a brief look at the overall operations of the KCoFCA during this past year:

- **Mobile Equipment:**

- **AIR TRUCK (AIR 1):** after six full years of service, the new Air I has now traveled 9,278 miles. In 2013, 941 SCBA bottles; 30 cascade systems were filled and 10 training runs were completed. Engine hours now stand at 1,383 hours and the accumulated compressor operating hours amounts to 253.59. This unit now is stationed at Edgewood F.D. and is available for call 24/7. With a new operations protocol in place, the unit responds with one person to the emergency scene, where trained personnel fill the SCBA. Each Department has trained personnel for operating the compressor; and the compressed gas is tested according to NIOSH Standards every four months. All of the Departments in Kenton Co. were serviced plus the Recruit Class, Kenton Co. SWAT, Newport, Pt. Pleasant, GCI Airport, Burlington and Florence during 2013..
- **TANKER:** in the year 2013 the KCo. Tanker I completed its 11th year of service, while making 5 emergency runs supplying ~ 8,000 gallons of water; in addition there were 2 training runs. Currently, Kenton houses and maintains this unit; which now has logged 5,629 miles with engine hours of 638; this vehicle carries 2,000 gallons of water and is easily operated by one person. Problems with a rear end seal have hopefully been resolved.
- **DECON & MASS CASUALTY TRAILERS:** recall that through UASI Grants, KCo. now has responsibility for operating and maintaining both of these Units. In 2013 the Decon trailer was used several times in practical drills; while, the MCU is checked routinely for readiness and participates in many local non-emergency exercises. Recently, the equipment on this unit has been rearranged to make it more readily user available. Regional operational protocols have been developed and are available in Power Point Format for hands-on training. A new tri-County Mass Casualty Plan has been approved which enables Dispatchers to call-out up to 64 Squads + Fire + P.D. for large emergencies. It is interesting that Hamilton Co. has recently approved a similar plan and tested it recently..
- **FIRE SAFETY HOUSE:** the Safety House Committee reported that 979 children and 79 adults toured this educational resource in 2013; while being handled by six different departments. This Unit has been servicing this area for twelve years and proudly we announce that we have two corporate sponsors, A-Carb, Walton, KY., and Gold Star Chili.
- **Survival, SCBA and Ventilation props:** are located at the training field and were also frequently used in 2013. Another portable prop has been added to our repertoire of training resources, an old fire pump has been mounted on a trailer along with a fire hydrant. Both units have a cut-away clear view of the operational mechanics of their performance. Additionally, we have received some new props which are available at the D.F.. Protocols are being written for proper operation.

Training:

- **ARSON:** a fire origin and cause team (FITeam) was established in '92 and has reported another busy year for '13 with 13 calls for investigations. The team works closely with local P.D. during the fire cause and origin investigation. Seven of the cases have been closed, while six are still open and investigations are being handled by local Authorities. Most of these investigations determined the cause to be accidental. However, evidence from all of the suspicious fires are combined and submitted to the P.D. of the local jurisdiction for continued investigations. The FITeam trains monthly Jan.-Apr.; Sept.-Dec., and many members attend regional fire investigation classes.
- **DISASTER-HAZMAT-HSEM:** HSEM Manager-Steve Hensley and Deputy Emergency Manager Kirk Reinhart work closely with the KCoFCA., they attend most of our monthly meetings and tend to keep us up-to-date as to current emergency issues. They have been instrumental in bringing together all types of agencies to discuss protocols and formulate procedures for Tornadoes, Wildland fires, Flooding .emergencies and CERT projects.. They also keep the F.D.s abreast of the results of the Tab Q inspections in conjunction with the NKYEPC.
- **BUDGET:** thanks to the support of the KCoFCourt we have been able to maintain the service contract for our Air I Unit; purchase equipment, film and processing for the Fire Investigation Team's crime scene evidence collection; and maintain two EMS Recruit and Fire Recruit training classes annually. Other projects include support of the annual EMS training weekend, vehicle maintenance, OLSeminar, an Officers Training Program, plus covering the Insurance for the D.F.
- **MOVE-UP/RADIO/CAD:** our major project, radio banning was completed in 2013 Kudos to the RADIO Committee and all the personnel involved in this monumental project. The future holds promise for greater communication and interoperability for the entire area; direct/ immediate communication among the tri-county dispatch centers is now feasible; Hamilton County now has our radio frequencies, so we can communicate with them, and a recent UASI Grant has provided a mobile communications unit for the area. The Radio Committee continually works with Dispatch to improve operations and communications. Currently, most MDCs have been updated and are operational. A District Chiefs Response protocol was established in April '10 which enables on a 24/7 basis, an incident commander to request additional management assistance. Schedules change monthly.
- **TRAINING CENTER:** once again with the help of many, this facility is shaping-up to be a well equipped training center. The new classroom has been open better than eleven years now and was used 162 times for various classes in 2013; a total of 383 different agencies used this and the other facilities/props: smoke house (WTC), pump test station, confined space simulator, flammable liquids pits, tower, etc. a total of 221 times. Recruit, Officers School along with Paramedic and EMT classes are ongoing through out the year at this location. The committee has developed SOGs for operating in the smoke house, guidelines for RITeams, and recommended new training books for the Recruit Classes. A new joint regional Grant allows for a mobile command training unit which will provide scenario training for chief officers. The old classroom building has been renovated and is now available for additional training classes, and the new addition to . Bromley F.D. recently donated an old fire truck for permanent usage at the WTC. During 2008 the Drill Field's name was changed to WTC in honor of AC Charlie Wietholter.
- **EMS & PARAMEDICS:** this committee always maintains a pro-active status. They arrange for the new EMTs classes throughout the year; some sponsored by the FCourt, the weekend EMS refresher, recertification classes, the annual seminars, and The KY/NREMT-EMT-B Courses. SOPs for Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties have been accepted locally and approved by the State EMS Board. Newer pilot programs include the use of the Nebulizer-Albuterol System, and Restraint Techniques. Recent developments covering the H1N1 flu, the MRSA infections and bedbug issues, the Heroin problem and the SAVE program are always being addressed.
Dr. Le continually monitors the Squad reports and reviews the various protocols in order to keep them updated; e.g. the Combi-tube has now been replaced with the King tube, etc.
In 2009 the Committee used Incentive Monies to purchase Bariatric equipment for the spare squad. It is used for lifting heavy patients, e.g. >450 pound, for transportation. We now have a second spare ambulance that is operational and housed in Independence station 1 that is available for additional use..

This concludes our brief summary of the activities of the various committees for the year 2013. We are sure that you realize that there are many ongoing activities performed by this Group and that many of these programs outlined above would not be possible without the involvement and overall commitment of all of the Kenton County Emergency Personnel operating in conjunction with the assistance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court as well as their Local Governmental Agencies. All of these supports are vital for our continued existence and service to the residents of Kenton County. If you have any questions or comments about these topics, or this Association in general, please feel free to address them to our Chairman Paul LaFontaine (Chief of Elsmere Fire/EMS Dept.) or myself.

Respectfully submitted: John (Jack) A. Scheben, Vol. Assistant Chief Erlanger Fire/EMS Dept.,
Secretary KCoFCA.-----Fcannual'13-4-23-14