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Fire Chief Alec O'Connell Retires, Assistant Chief John Donahue Promoted

Fire Chief Alec O'Connell retired from public service on March 14, 2025. Chief O'Connell served as firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, assistant chief and chief in a fire service career that spanned over 36 years.

"The Board of Trustees is grateful for Chief O'Connell's leadership with the Washington Township Fire Department and his commitment to the Dublin community. He worked with the Board to provide for a seamless transition of leadership in the WTFD, which we are so appreciative of. He will be sorely missed, but Chief O'Connell is most deserving of this well-earned retirement after serving the Washington Township Fire Department for over 36 years," stated Board Chair Jan Rozanski.

Upon Chief O'Connell's retirement, the Board of Trustees promoted Assistant Chief John Donahue to serve as the next Chief for the Washington Township Fire Department. "I've had the opportunity to work side-by-side with Chief O'Connell over the last two years, and get to know the top notch personnel and officers within the WTFD. Washington Township has a reputation for delivering high quality emergency response and a culture of service to its residents which will continue under my leadership," Donahue said. With a career spanning nearly 44 years, Chief Donahue serves the public with a willingness to learn and emphasis on bringing continued safety to the Dublin Community.

"I would like to thank the current Board, as well as previous boards of trustees, for having confidence in me and their continuous support for the fire department and personnel. I've been blessed to have a long career in the fire service, the majority of which was with Washington Township. I want to thank our many community partners who make the Dublin community the special place that it is. I'm happy with what the WTFD has accomplished during my tenure, and feel confident the department will continue to excel in the future."

-Chief O'Connell



Lithium Batteries

Lithium-ion is the most popular rechargeable battery used today. Many people don't realize their favorite tech gadgets are powered by lithium-ion batteries that can become unstable if damaged, improperly used, overcharged, or exposed to extreme temperatures. This instability can lead to overheating, sparking, and even explosions.

What Items Contain a Lithium-Ion Battery?

Lithium-ion battery-powered devices can be found in the home and workplace in many common products, such as cell phones, laptops, gaming devices, electric power tools & ride-on toys, wheelchairs, lawnmowers, e-bikes, e-scooters, and electric vehicles.

How do they pose fire hazard?

Despite their many advantages, lithium-ion batteries have the potential to overheat, catch fire, and cause explosions. This most commonly occurs when the batteries are damaged, suffer electro-chemical abuse (e.g., from overcharging or completely draining the battery), are in high- or low-temperature environments, or have an internal short-circuit. The heat from an internal short circuit can cause chemical reactions that can lead to fire.

How can you dispose of a lithium-ion battery properly?

From the first sign of a problem, you could have less than one minute to escape a battery fire. With the speed of these fires, the best way to be safe is to prevent a fire from starting. Responsibly dispose of old or damaged batteries and devices by taking them to a designated battery recycling center. Remember these will not be treated the same as end of life, old batteries. Never discard batteries, chargers, or battery-powered devices in regular trash bins. For more information on where to recycle batteries, please visit <https://www.call2recycle.org/locator/>.

Take "C.H.A.R.G.E." of your Fire Safety!

Choose Certified Products: Prioritize your safety by selecting lithium-ion battery-powered devices that are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to ensure they meet important safety requirements.

Handle Lithium-Ion Battery-Powered Devices with Care: Always follow manufacturer guidelines and use the provided charger for lithium-ion battery-powered devices. Avoid modifying batteries or chargers, and charge your devices in safe environments away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, and flammable materials. For larger devices, such as e-bikes, charge in a location that does not block your exit path, is separate from sleeping areas, and is ideally outside your home. Refrain from overnight charging of large devices.

Always Stay Alert for Warning Signs: Regularly inspect devices for any signs of damage, such as swelling or punctures. Be aware of unusual sounds like hissing or popping. Watch out for excessive heat or a strange odor. White or gray wispy smoke indicates there is immediate danger of fire. This can be toxic and/or flammable gas. If you notice any of these warning signs, stop using the lithium-ion battery-powered device immediately.

Recycle Devices and Batteries Properly: Responsibly dispose of old or damaged batteries and devices by taking them to a designated battery recycling center. Never discard batteries, chargers, or battery-powered devices in regular trash bins.

Get Out Quickly if There's a Fire: Know the warning signs to look and listen for a fire, and get out if you see or hear a fire. Follow your home fire escape plan to leave immediately, closing doors behind you as you exit and call 9-1-1.

Educate Others on Safe Practices: Help protect your friends and loved ones by sharing how they can Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety.

For more information, visit
[wtwp.com/fire-ems/fire-prevention/batteries](https://www.wtwp.com/fire-ems/fire-prevention/batteries)

SOURCE: Fire Safety Research Institute | UL Research Institutes

Washington Township Fire & EMS Levy 2025

WTWP FACT SHEET

FINANCIALS

Proposed Levy Rate	Renewal of 8.25 mills, current levy expires Dec. 31, 2025
Proposed Levy Duration	5 years, starting Jan. 2026
Amount Current Levy Generates	\$18.35 million annually
Amount Proposed Levy Will Generate	\$18.35 million annually
Estimated Township Land Valuation	\$3.42 billion
Annual Cost to Property Owner	\$176/year per \$100K property value, no increase from the current (2021-2025) levy
Other Funding Sources	Permanent fire levies, which generate \$3,921,583 annually, or cost property owners \$26.40/year per \$100K of property value.

FACILITIES & SERVICES

Fire Stations and Locations	Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Road Station 92, 4497 Hard Road Station 93, 5825 Brand Road Station 95, 5750 Blazer Parkway Administration and Fire Training Facility, 6200 Eiterman Road
Department Services	Fire suppression, technical rescue, hazmat response, dive, EMS bike patrol, water rescue, emergency medical services, disaster planning, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, safety and fire prevention education, EMS support at community events (e.g. Dublin 4th of July, Irish Festival, school sporting events)
Safety Education & Community Outreach	CPR and first aid certification classes, child car seat safety inspections, fire extinguisher training, speaker's bureau, home safety surveys, school presentations, fire station tours.

STAFFING & SERVICE TERRITORY

Staffing	102 full-time (98% are paramedics) and 12 uniformed part-time firefighters (11 EMTs and 1 paramedic), with 90% of all personnel paramedics; 1 Fire Marshal, 4 Fire Inspectors, 1 Community Safety Coordinator, 1 Community Safety Liason, partial funding to support various administrative functions including human resources, communications, and fiscal.
Service Territory	27,658 square miles in northwest Franklin County (including the entire City of Dublin), southern Delaware County, and southeast Union County.
Population/Audiences Served	More than 50,000 residents; daytime population exceeding 70,000. Public, businesses, schools, youth and adult special interest groups, and professional organizations.

2024 SERVICE STATISTICS

Annual Emergency Call Volume	7,511 (65% EMS) 36% increase in calls since 2020
Fire Code Compliance Inspections	2,410
Fire Code Violations	1,738
Safety Education Participants	4,873
Community Outreach	9,204



Hydrant Flushing & Maintenance

There are more than 3800 fire hydrants located throughout the City of Dublin.

About 84 percent of these hydrants are publicly owned and maintained by the City of Dublin and Washington Township Fire Department. The remaining 14 percent are owned and maintained by companies, apartment complexes and neighborhoods serviced by private water lines.

The easiest way to tell the difference between a private hydrant and public fire hydrant is by color. Public hydrants are painted completely green; private hydrants are white with green caps. Private fire hydrants are connected to a private water line, whereas public fire hydrants connect to a public water line.

Publicly owned hydrants are inspected and flushed at least every six months and painted every three to five years. Every May, hydrants are flushed to remove mineral deposits that may occur inside the pipes. Hydrant flushing may cause water to become rusty or discolored. If this happens, run your faucets until the water is clear. It is possible for laundry water to also be impacted when washing clothes due to the potential of rust. Each fall, the hydrant barrels (the portion of the hydrant above ground) are drained to below the frost line to ensure they do not freeze during winter months.



Smart Steps to Stormwater Management

Make your community better! You can take steps to decrease the pollution that flows into local waterways every time it rains, snows, or sleets by following these tips.

Direct water from downspouts and sprinklers to green areas only.

Keep trash in its place and never dump down storm drains.

Don't oversalt your walk or driveway.

Avoid applying pesticides or fertilizer when rain is predicted and avoid spraying any chemicals on pavement.

Always pick up and dispose of pet waste in the proper container.

Don't park on the street during days designated for street sweeping.

Where Stormwater Flows, Everything Goes



Can you discharge fireworks in Dublin and Washington Township?

The use of fireworks in the City of Dublin and Washington Township are still prohibited, despite the legalization in Ohio. With the passage of HB 172, local jurisdictions were given the authority to restrict or eliminate the discharge of consumer grade fireworks. The City of Dublin and Washington Township and many other communities have exercised their authority to opt out of HB 172 and ban the use of consumer grade fireworks in the City of Dublin and Washington Township.

In 2023, the State of Ohio Fire Marshal's Office documented 128 fireworks incidents, with 22 of those incidents involving residential building fires. While fireworks may be a tradition within families and/or the community, we kindly remind you that the discharge of fireworks in the City of Dublin and Washington Township is banned.

For more information regarding fireworks, and where to view professionally licensed fireworks exhibitions, please contact: Fire Marshal Sam Parsons, (614) 652-3930, sparsons@wtwp.com.



Block party visits, stations tour & more!

Would you like the Fire Department to stop by your block party this summer with a fire truck? Do you want to schedule a station tour? Would you like a fire safety talk at your next HOA meeting? The Fire Department can help with a number of programs. Request a Program forms are available on our website: wtwp.com.



Kayak Safety

- Always wear your personal flotation device, no matter how experienced or confident you are in the water.
- Take a cell phone with you in a waterproof container so you can call for help, if needed.
- Let someone know your plan, where you are kayaking and what time.
- Practice in your canoe or kayak on calm, shallow water before venturing into any river.
- Avoid high water conditions. River water levels can change rapidly after a period of heavy rainfall.
- Identify potential hazards to avoid in the water: branches, rocks, stronger current.
- Check the weather forecast and water conditions before you go. Air temperature does not equal water temperature.
- Know your limits on the water and how comfortable you feel swimming.

Classes and Programs

Red Cross Babysitting & Pediatric CPR/First Aid (Blended Learning)

This course educates young individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This class helps participants develop leadership skills, learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe, help children behave, and learn about basic child care. This class includes a Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED certification as well. Students will receive a link to take the pediatric first aid and CPR part online before the class. Babysitter's Training and skills sessions for pediatric first aid & CPR will be in-person. Please bring a lunch to class.

Ages: 11-15

Date: Friday, June 6

Time: 9am-3:30pm

**Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices
6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016**

Fee: \$60 (Township/Dublin residents), \$65 (non-residents)

Registration deadline: One week before class to allow time to take the online portion.

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/



CPR for Teens

Do you need CPR training for your summer job? Are you starting to babysit? Learn CPR and how to use an automatic external defibrillator, or AED. Developed by the American Heart Association, this class addresses pediatric and adult CPR, recognizing and relieving a choking victim, recognizing the signs of a heart attack, and how to use an AED.

Ages: 12-17

Date: Tuesday, June 3

Time: 5:30pm

**Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices
6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016**

Fee: \$35 (Township/Dublin residents), \$45 (non-residents)

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/



Wetsuits & Way-cool Trucks

Bring your family, friends, or neighborhood playgroup for a morning of fun! The Washington Township Fire Department will have a variety of activities to help make your summer safe!

Tour Sparky's fire safety house

Watch the fire department's dive team demonstration in the Recreation Center pool (11am)

Learn about bicycle safety

Play games

Check out our fire truck, medic and Dublin Police Department vehicles & equipment

Date: Friday, June 27

Time: 10am-11:30am

**Location: Dublin Community Recreation
Overflow Parking Lot**

Fee: Free!



Register at wtwp.com

Free Hands-Only CPR

This course is intended for anyone who wants to learn CPR, but does not need a course completion card to meet a job requirement. It's ideal for community groups, parents, grandparents, caregivers and students. Topics include:

- Adult, child and infant CPR and AED.
- How to help a choking adult, child, and infant.

Ages: 12 and up

Date: Wednesday, May 21

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices

6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Fee: Free

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/

CPR & AED Certification

Learn CPR and how to use an automatic external defibrillator, or AED. Developed by the American Heart Association, this class addresses pediatric and adult CPR, recognizing and relieving a choking victim, recognizing the signs of a heart attack, and how to use an AED. This class is not for healthcare providers.

Ages: 12 and up

Dates: Thursday, May 1; Tuesday, June 17;

or Wednesday, July 16,

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices

6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Fee: \$35 (Township/Dublin residents), \$45 (non-residents)

Duration: Allow 2 hours

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/



Citizen Fire Academy

The Citizen Fire Academy (CFA) is a school like no other—no homework, no tests, and super cool teachers: Firefighter/Paramedics. They'll show you some of the tools and techniques they use as emergency responders and you'll get the chance to climb, cut, smash, carry, crawl, hang suspended, pull, and push your way through several firefighting, EMS, and rescue techniques. Washington Township/City of Dublin Residents preferred. If you are interested in participating in the 2025 class, fill out the application on our website: <https://wtwp.com/fire-ems/fire/citizens-fire-academy/>

Ages: 18 & up

Date: July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 28, 30 (9am-4pm), September 4

Time: 6pm-9pm

Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices

6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Fee: Free

Family Fish with a Firefighter

Come spend the evening with the firefighters for an exciting family fishing experience! This program includes hands-on instruction on fishing, baiting, and pond safety. Families will also get to check out fire trucks and equipment after they fish. Parent or provider participation is required.

Date: Thursday, June 12

Time: 6pm-7pm

Location: Pond at the Dublin Recreation Center

Fee: \$5 (Township/Dublin residents), \$10 (non-residents)

Registration is required: <https://ohdublinweb.myvscloud.com/>

Washington Township
6200 Eiterman Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016



Washington Township

Board of Trustees

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Scott Melody
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Fire Stations

Station 91
6255 Shier Rings Road

Station 92
4497 Hard Road

Station 93
5825 Brand Road

Station 95
5750 Blazer Parkway

Administration

6200 Eiterman Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016
614.652.3920
M-F 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Administrator
Eric Richter

Fire Chief
John Donahue

Assistant Chief
Adam Smith

Human Resources Manager
Catherine Grossman



www.wtwp.com



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