



## Colerain Fire Department

*A history by The Coleraine Historical Society*

The time is 1931. The place is Groesbeck, OH in rural Colerain Township. Times are rough. Citizens are concerned as the country is in a depression. A group of citizens gather at Ed Honnert's garage on Colerain near Galbraith. They call themselves, "the Groesbeck Improvement Association" (G.I.A.). **A big concern is fire protection.**

In 1933, G.I.A. purchased a used 1930 Model A Ford Pumper. **John Schulte was appointed first Fire Chief.** The first fire occurred on December 25, 1933 – a barn on the Rocker property (now Burgundy Court and Rocker Drive).

**In 1975, the Groesbeck and Dunlap Fire Departments merged into the Colerain Township Fire Department.** The Colerain Township Fire Department began with 8 full-time firefighters, including **Chief Cloyce "Corky" Snyder** (1975 – 1988), and approximately 60 volunteer firefighters.

**Under Chief Bruce Smith** (1988 – 2015), the Fire Department would expand to 5 fire stations, increase personnel from 75 to 150 and in 1989 add Paramedics to the EMS division.

The **Colerain Township Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services** of today extends way beyond just protecting the community from fire hazards. By comparison, in 1965 the department responded to 365 EMS runs. In 2018, they responded to 10,250 calls with 80% EMS runs.

Under only it's third Fire Chief, **Chief Frank Cook** (2015 to present), the 160 personnel of the Fire Department respond to all hazards and provide emergency response to all fires, medical calls, rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and other miscellaneous emergencies and service requests.

*Read more details in 3 more articles on founding of Groesbeck Fire Department, Dunlap Fire Department, and merging the 2 to become Colerain Township Fire Department*