



## 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).

**Cloyce "Corky" Snyder** joined the Fire Department in 1948 and served for 40 years. He was the **first paid Fire Chief.** Station 26 in Groesbeck bears his name.

In 1954, the Township Trustees – William "Bud" Thomas, John Herrmann, and Dale Diefenbacher – **decided to organize a Fire Department in the Dunlap area.**

On October 19, 1964, worst fire in Groesbeck history occurred at the Western Cabinet Company on Colerain Ave at Jonrose. **30 men responded...only 28 returned ... Capt. Lee Hammitt and Firefighter Bruce Price both died in that fire. They were the first Colerain firefighters to die in the Line of Duty.**

**In 1975, the Groesbeck and Dunlap Fire Departments merged into the Colerain Township Fire Department.** First Fire Chief of the new department was Cloyce "Corky" Snyder. The Colerain Township Fire Department began with 8 full-time firefighters including Chief Snyder, and approximately 60 volunteer firefighters.

Also in 1975, a new firehouse was built on Springdale Road – Station 25 Northgate.

Tragically on **November 29, 1977**, Colerain Township lost another Firefighter when **Lt. Charles Palm died in a house fire.** Palm Park on Springdale bears his name.

Township growth continued into the 1980's. And it became increasingly difficult to retain volunteer firefighters and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)'s. In 1984, Colerain's volunteer system was disbanded and stations were staffed 24 hours a day with paid personnel.

From a membership of approximately 75 in 1986, the department grew to over 100 by 1989. In May of 1989, paramedics were added to the department's EMS division.

In October of 2004 a 5th fire station opened at the corner of Kemper Road and Pippin Road – Station 109 Pleasant Run. In 2015, this station was dedicated to retiring Chief G. Bruce Smith

**April 4, 2008** Colerain experienced the loss of two firefighters in the Department's first line of duty deaths in over thirty-years - when **Captain Robin Broxterman and Firefighter Brian Schira died fighting a house fire.**

**In 2015, Chief Bruce Smith retired having served the department for over 40 years and Chief Frank W. Cook assumed the duties as the Chief of the Department.**

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## **Colerain Township Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services**

*ExcerptS reprinted with permission from 2018 Colerain Fire & EMS Annual Report*

In 2019, under only it's third Fire Chief Frank Cook, Colerain Township Fire & EMS is comprised of 160 personnel.



**It is an Insurance Services Offices (ISO) Class One fire department.**

There are over 30,000 fire departments across the United States. Only 225 have achieved an ISO Class One rating.

The Fire Department operates from 5 fire stations with a \$13.8 million operating budget while providing various disciplines of labor including: fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, enhanced 911 communication; community risk reduction; fire investigations; and technical rescue operations.

**In 2018,** Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS was recognized as **Ohio's EMS Agency of the Year** by the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of EMS for its commitment and innovative efforts in improving the quality of life in the community through fall prevention and QRT risk reduction.

***Colerain Township was first to develop the Quick Response Team or QRT. A cooperation of the Colerain Township Department of Fire & EMS, the Colerain Township Police and the Addiction Services Council – the "Team" consists of a firefighter/paramedic paired with a police officer and member of the council, who work***

*as a team to offer drug intervention and assist with admission to rehabilitation and recovery facilities.*

**Chief Cook's vision is to keep the department progressive and attuned to new techniques that provide enhanced safety to both our firefighter/paramedics and the citizens of Colerain Township.**

