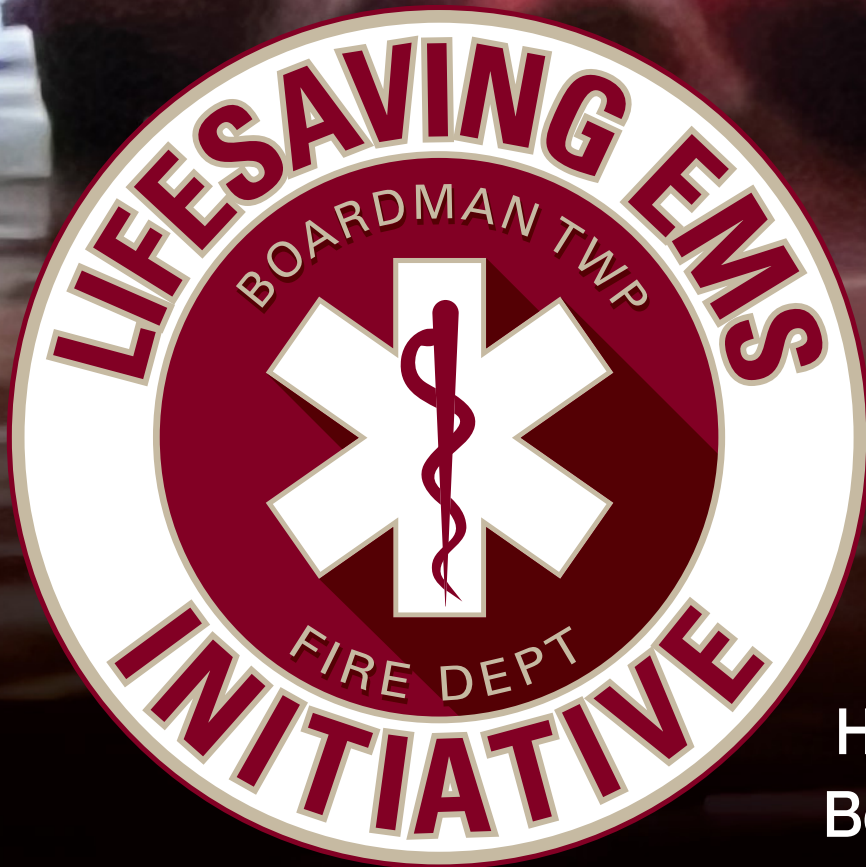


Boardman Reporter

MAY 2024



Protecting The
Health And Safety of
Boardman Residents

FACTS & FIGURES

4,000 CALLS

Ambulance units and crews must be strategically planned for the best response time and ability to handle the large volume of EMS calls in the township — which is approaching 4,000 calls per year.



Other Ohio Township EMS Services

Most Ohio townships of similar size to Boardman Township maintain full-time in-house Emergency Medical Service ambulances and crews.

Boardman Township has an increasingly aging population and needs Emergency Medical Services (EMS) more frequently.



“ Boardman Township is urged to bring equipment and staffing to the levels needed to properly protect the health and safety of residents. ”

— National Fire Protection Association and ER healthcare professionals.



Until January of 2024, Boardman Township had no full-time in-house EMS vehicles or crew. We currently have one used ambulance and a crew backing up a private ambulance company.



911 calls for EMS are increasing. The township receives at least 1,000 more EMS calls annually than it did 10 years ago.

“ Boardman Township EMS capabilities and resources are at **BELOW ACCEPTABLE LEVELS** and may negatively impact the health and safety of residents. ”

— Township Exploratory EMS Committee

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"Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our residents. They count on us to get their loved ones to the hospital or even to save their life. It's a great responsibility, but also a great honor."

— Mark Pitzer, Fire Chief
Boardman Township Fire Department

The Boardman Township Exploratory EMS Committee, formed in 2018 and comprised of township residents reported the following facts:

Boardman Township has an increasingly aging population and needs Emergency Medical Services (EMS) more frequently. In fact, 911 calls for EMS have risen drastically in recent years. The township receives at least 1,000 more EMS calls annually than it did 10 years ago.

Boardman Township currently has one ambulance and crew supporting a contracted private provider. Of the 30 largest townships in Ohio, only two do not have fully staffed EMS — Boardman is one of them.

Our limited EMS resources must cover response to medical emergencies for 42,500 residents during the evening and another 60,000 visitors who come to Boardman every day to work or shop. (100,000 total)

Private ambulance companies have struggled to maintain adequate staffing. EMS coverage in the township falls far below the standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and most modern fire departments.

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Boardman Township EMS Coverage

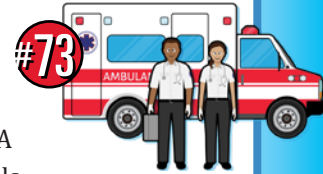


Current EMS Coverage

As of January 2024, Boardman Township has one ambulance and crew supporting a private provider to cover all of the township's 25 square miles.

Recommended EMS Coverage

To properly protect the health and safety of Boardman residents, NFPA and healthcare professionals recommend EMS staffing and equipment at all three Boardman Fire Stations.



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Conclusion:

Township EMS capabilities and resources are at **BELOW ACCEPTABLE LEVELS** and may negatively impact the health and safety of Boardman residents.

Recommendation:

The township is urged to bring equipment and staffing to the levels needed to properly protect the health and safety of Boardman residents.

On April 4, 2024, the Boardman Fire Department Lifesaving EMS Initiative was launched with the goal of informing residents about the need for EMS staffing and equipment at all three Boardman Fire Department Stations.



Q & A QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who was providing EMS services before now?

For the last 12 years, Lane LifeTrans has been the primary provider of EMS services to Boardman Township. As the need for EMS became more dire, additional staffing was added in the form of a used ambulance staffed by Boardman Fire Department and put into operation in January of 2024. That ambulance and its crew are identified as Medic 71.

Why do we need to improve EMS services NOW?

As more nearby communities lose EMS services, Lane LifeTrans has had to cover more areas. While Boardman residents are aging, the Township needs more coverage and attention and can't risk longer response times or a shortage of EMS coverage.

What happens if we don't improve our EMS services now?

Boardman Township residents are facing potentially longer response times, which could result in a higher risk to the health and safety of loved ones in need of critical care.

How do other similar-sized township EMS services work?

Most townships of similar size to Boardman Township maintain full-time in-house EMS

services like the model recommended by the Township Exploratory EMS Committee, NFPA, and healthcare professionals. In fact, of Ohio's 30 largest townships, only Boardman and one other do not staff dedicated full-time EMS services.

Were other arrangements considered?

Yes, every option was examined including partnering with neighboring townships and fire districts. In fact, negotiations were close to fulfillment when the best candidate for partnership backed out.

Why are three ambulances and EMS crews needed?

EMS calls in the township are approaching 4,000 per year and crews must cover Boardman's 25 square miles. Ambulance units and crews need to be strategically located for the best response time and also take call volume into consideration. As the diagram on Page 4 illustrates, the township has three strategically-located fire stations to provide the best response time in fire emergencies. Likewise, one ambulance and crew should be stationed at each fire stations to provide the best EMS response time and coverage.