Meet our Fire Chiefs!

Many people in Lake County are unaware that the Lubrizol Painesville Township facility has its own fire department. Lubrizol's fire department is an important part of our facility's emergency response program providing rapid responses to any emergency in the facility, whether it be a fire, spill, odor investigation or injury.

In addition to their regular duties, more than 130 employees participate in the plant's emergency response organization as responders, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics. There are qualified personnel in the plant around the clock to handle any emergency. The plant has two fire trucks specially equipped with foam for controlling chemical fires, a Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) vehicle for controlling and cleaning up spills and a state-licensed advance life support ambulance for aiding and transporting personnel who require medical attention. Because our foam trucks are the only ones available in Lake County, they are frequently utilized by local fire departments during mutual aid calls*. Foam is an effective firefighting tool used to contain flammable vapors and reduce the possibility of ignition.

The plant operates with four rotating shifts, round the clock. Each shift has a shift fire chief who is responsible for the emergency responders on their shift. Should an emergency occur during their shift, they assume responsibility of the incident commander**.

Greg Hollerbach is the fire chief for our plant and oversees the entire emergency response organization.

Shift Fire Chiefs:

- Chief Hollerbach - 14 years of service
- Alex Fistek - 20 years of service
- Rick Javins - 19 years of service
- Rich Reinke - 32 years of service
- Jason Lewis - 14 years of service

*Mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across community boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency response that exceeds local resources, such as a disaster, a multiple-alarm fire or an emergency situation requiring specialized equipment or expertise.

**The incident commander is the person responsible for all aspects of an emergency response including quickly developing incident objectives, managing all incident operations and application of resources. The incident commander sets priorities and defines the organization of the incident response teams and the overall incident action plan.

Lubrizol firefighters train on firefighting techniques at our on-site fire training grounds.

For questions regarding information in this fact sheet, email PainesvillePlant@lubrizol.com or call Mary Jane Sanders at 440-347-3653.
Lubrizol Provides Aid During Disasters

Our local fire departments do an outstanding job of protecting our community when fires and disasters occur. When they request Lubrizol’s assistance with our specialized equipment on a mutual aid call, we respond. Some of the recent mutual aid calls we’ve responded to:

2011 Fairport Natural Gas Fires – Lubrizol received a mutual aid request for our rescue squad to respond to multiple fires in Fairport Harbor. Lubrizol responders were dispatched numerous times for evacuation assistance, gas metering and even medical care for a dog pulled out of one of the fires.

2009 CEI Substation Fire – Lubrizol Painesville received a mutual aid request to dispatch our foam truck to the scene of a transformer explosion and fire at the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company’s (CEI) substation in Willoughby.

2007 CSX Derailment – The Painesville facility responded with emergency responders, equipment and access to the derailment site. The Incident Commander, Mark Mlachak, Painesville City Fire Chief, summed up Lubrizol’s support of the event: “Your company’s philosophy and actions of being a good neighbor should stand as an example to all private sector companies when dealing with communities and emergency response crews. I thank you and commend you for your actions during this event and on a day-to-day basis.”

Lubrizol prides itself on being a good neighbor. Sometimes being a good neighbor means being there and providing resources when they need us most.

“A Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Technician responds to emergencies involving flammable, corrosive, toxic, reactive, or explosive chemicals. They are trained and equipped to identify the chemical’s potential hazards, repair the problem, and protect the community & environment.
We train side-by-side with local emergency responders to ensure teamwork and coordination among those responding to emergencies. Local fire departments and training centers (e.g., Auburn Career Center) also utilize Lubrizol's fire training grounds.

Emergency responders attend more than 24 hours annually of specialized training. Responders also attend extensive training at Bowling Green State Fire School, Colorado HAZMAT School and Texas A&M Firefighting School.

Hands-on Training Provides Skills for Plant and Community Safety

Firefighters are providing cooling for a simulated tank farm fire.

Lubrizol's Emergency Response Organization – A Leader in Emergency Preparedness

Lubrizol responders pull fire hose to the 2007 CSX derailment/fire.

Lubrizol's emergency response organization is made up of more than 130 firefighters across four shifts, providing round-the-clock protection available to all of Lake County.

Left: Hazard material technician in Lake County emergency preparedness drill trains to fix a leaking tank car;
Right: Joe Hunt prepares to repel from a water tower during training at Bowling Green State Fire School to prepare for technical rescue.