



Established 1972

By and For the People of Love County

**Richard Barker,
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

**Clinic Appointments
276-2400**

**Hospital Information
276-3347**

**Adult Day Center
276-1542**

**Community Resources
211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

**Growers Market
276-9410**

EMS/Fire Brigade Captain On Top of Firefighter Training

Captain Dustin Michael, Fire Training Officer

Even after 25 years of firefighting, Captain Dustin "Dusty" Michael mentally revisits every fire. "I visualize the incident for what occurred as firefighters, but I especially connect with lives saved or helped. Just saving pictures on a wall can trigger so much gratitude in a person who lost their home or possessions. There's no other pleasure like that," Michael said.



At work at Love County EMS/Fire Brigade at Station 2 since 2008, Michael is a veteran trainer and instructor, and he also orders maintenance for the fleet of emergency vehicles.

Michael mentors new Fire Brigade members for the first month, working the firefighters' shifts with them while they learn procedures and how to carry out their assignments safely.

He develops and administers year-round fire education for the entire Brigade and invites other fire departments to participate. "We train in firefighting and emergency driving. We go over pump operations, hose advancing, structure fires, extrications, rescue, and high-rise operations. We put on an evening training session once a month and invite all the other fire departments in the county," he said.

Michael also teaches elsewhere in his capacity as an adjunct instructor with the OSU Fire Service Training Program, from which he graduated in 1995. He is especially well-versed in methods for extricating people from cars and for suppressing fires.

Firefighting does not end after Michael's shift is over. At home in Marietta, he is chief of the Marietta Volunteer Fire Department. He got his first taste of firefighting there as a young man. "A friend invited me on a grass fire emergency to consider becoming a volunteer firefighter. After helping that day, I decided, 'I can do this and I can get better at it,'" Michael said.

He also serves on the Love County E911 Board and represents the Marietta VFD at the monthly meeting of the Love County Fire Association.

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