



PENNSYLVANIA'S 1ST REGIONAL COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT



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2021 YOUTH SAFETY CAMP



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

FIRE CHIEFS CORNER

Welcome to the third edition of the YAUFR Newsletter for 2021.



It is the best of times and the worst of times, and I am not referring to Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. It is simply fall.

For me the best of times includes cooler weather, time in the woods and getting closer to the holidays. The worst of times because it is my least favorite part of the job, budget season.

I am writing this edition of the Fire Chiefs Corner on the morning after our annual joint budget presentation. For the first time since this department was created, our personnel had an impressive presence at this presentation session. Perhaps it was because they knew what their Fire Chief was asking for in the 2022 budget or maybe, just maybe, it is deeper than that. Time will tell.

At any rate, this was the largest audience I have ever presented the annual budget to. And I feel good about the presentation. A great deal of truthful information was provided and hopefully it impacted our elected officials in the desired way.

It is no secret that for 2022 our fire department budget includes a request for three additional firefighters. Moreover, we are asking for our charter townships to look ahead, and plan with us, to eventually accomplish reaching our goal of three personnel on every apparatus. This is not because we want to bolster our numbers arbitrarily. It is because we do not presently come close to meeting a national standard (NFPA) for firefighters per apparatus. Nor do we satisfy the ISO rating for company personnel on apparatus. And for the business-owners and homeowners reading this newsletter, ISO is the organization that helps to determine your insurance rates. A lower ISO Rating for your fire department can positively impact your insurance rates.

The truth is that we are not even asking to staff our apparatus to the NFPA recommended level, we are just asking for our charter townships to meet us halfway to improve the staffing that we presently have, gradually over an estimated ten-year period of time, to help control budgetary growth. And the reasons are as simple as they can be – increased safety for our firefighters and improved efficiency and effectiveness for our community stakeholders.

We do not get to schedule our emergency responses, so our complement of apparatus has to be properly staffed and equipped every day and all day in order to be effective.

Last night's presentation may be the culmination of budget work that for us began in May of this year, but it is far from over. The next two months will involve us continuing our work to convince elected officials that what we are asking for is essential to the safety of our people and to the service we provide to our community.

FIRE CHIEFS CORNER CONTINUED

But it is still the best of times since we were able to recognize employees for excellence in community service. Our September meeting involved recognitions and milestones for numerous department personnel. We recognized employees with citations for excellence in responses that included a cardiac arrest save and a flood (no pun intended) of incidents related to recent tropical storms. And we swore in two new employees and a new Battalion Chief.

The best of times because yesterday was the first day of fall - my favorite time of year - and I know that means a number of our employees may be out hunting or just enjoying the outdoors. I urge everyone to be careful in their outdoor activities and follow all safety precautions regardless of the activity you are engaged in. We value our employees and your well being is always a concern for us.

Our strategic planning process is wrapping up and we are hoping to have a draft plan to present before the end of the year. The response to this initiative from fire department personnel, township representatives and the community has been terrific, and we are excited to be able to bring all this work together into one document that can guide our organization into the future.

As I wrap up this edition of the Fire Chief's Corner, a huge thank you to the charter townships for the support they do provide us. To our office, command and line personnel – you folks are the best. And finally, to the community for all of their appreciation efforts over the last month – thank you.

Hopefully, we will have good news to report for the final 2021 edition of the Fire Chief's Corner in December.

Stay Safe and remember to take care of one another !

Chief Hoff



TRAINING

- YAUFR members completed a total of 11,232 training hours in the 3rd quarter of 2021.



- During the 3rd quarter of 2021 crews focused on training in the following areas: Engine Company Operations (Master Stream Operations, Nozzles and Appliances, Hydrant Operations, Multi-Line Drills, Foam Operations and Drafting) and Special Rescue Operations (High / Low Angle Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Air Monitoring and Vehicle Rescue Operations).
- On August 4th, Crews assisted Life Team EMS with a Vehicle Rescue Skills day for their 2nd Emergency Services Academy. Our staff assisted with instruction and working through various scenarios to not only educate new providers but to continue strengthening our relationship with our EMS partners.



TRAINING- CONTINUED

- Crews completed the PA Fish and Boat Commission Water Rescue and Emergency Response Program in July. This training provided personnel with hands on, practical, in-water training. This proved invaluable as crews performed multiple in-water rescues because of Hurricane Ida and other severe weather events in the months of August and September.
- Annual fall company level burn training is scheduled for October 20th, November 3rd, and November 17th. Evolutions will focus on scenario-based situations to hone skills in initial company operations.
- As part of a plan to increase personnel training in the multiple disciplines of Special Rescue Operations, personnel will complete 1006 Rope Rescue Technician Training and Certification through Bucks County Community College in the 4th Quarter. Once dates are finalized, an email will be sent out detailing the schedule and course syllabus.
- Bi-Annual CPR/AED training is scheduled for 2nd Battalion Personnel and any other staff needing recertification. These classes will be hosted at the Farmtrail Rd. Station starting at 10:00 hrs. on October 18th, 22nd, and 26th.
- Remember to check your EMT con-ed status. Personnel are reminded to ensure all required con-ed is submitted and the recertification application is completed in a timely manner to avoid any issues before your certification expires.
- Don't forget to enter all your daily training in Target Solutions. Check your training tracker to monitor your required ISO training hours for the year.
- Please forward copies of training certificates that you receive so we can keep your training records current.



RESPONSE STATS

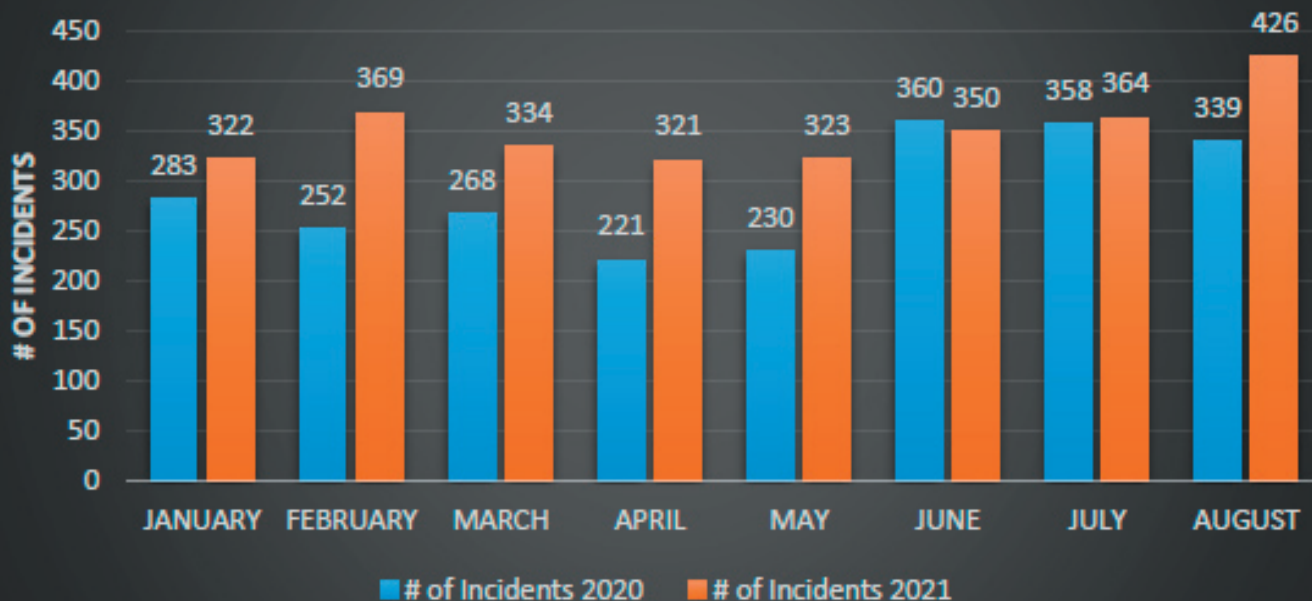
2021 Year To Date

Number of Incidents - 2,716
Station 891 YTD - 745
Station 892 YTD - 274
Station 893 YTD - 357
Station 894 YTD - 360
Station 895 YTD - 719
Year To Date Fire Loss - \$972,070
Year To Date Property Saved - \$65,144,505
Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:09
Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:04

2020 Year To Date

Number of Incidents - 2,311
Station 891 YTD - 678
Station 892 YTD - 234
Station 893 YTD - 293
Station 894 YTD - 372
Station 895 YTD - 570
Year To Date Fire Loss - \$841,070
Year To Date Property Saved - \$71,674,056
Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:21
Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:55

STATS 2020-2021



BURNING REGULATIONS

As the weather turns cooler, people often increase their use of outdoor recreational fires. YAUFR receives numerous questions throughout the year about open burning and recreational fires, here is a brief summary of the rules for burning in our three Townships.

What type of burning is allowed?

Burning is only allowed for recreational, cooking, or ceremonial purposes. This includes camp fires, fire pits, and outdoor fireplaces. Open burning of trash and brush is not permitted. Permits are not required for recreational fires, but a zoning or building permit may be required if you plan to build an outdoor fireplace or oven. Please check with your respective Township office.

Where can I burn?

Recreational fires such as fire pits or camp fire rings must be at least 25 feet from structures or combustible material. Outdoor fireplaces, chimineas, portable fire pits, and similar fires are not regulated when used at one and two family homes. For consumer-type portable fireplaces, you should follow the manufacturer's instructions. Common sense should always be the theme.

While regulations for recreational burning are limited, please burn responsibly. Never leave a fire unattended, and always have a way to extinguish the fire nearby. Be considerate of your neighbors. Always burn clean, dry wood to minimize smoke, and avoid burning on damp or windy days, when smoke can blow onto neighboring properties or into their houses. When possible, use a screen over the fire to help stop embers from going airborne.

For more information, visit our website at www.YAUFR.com/faq.

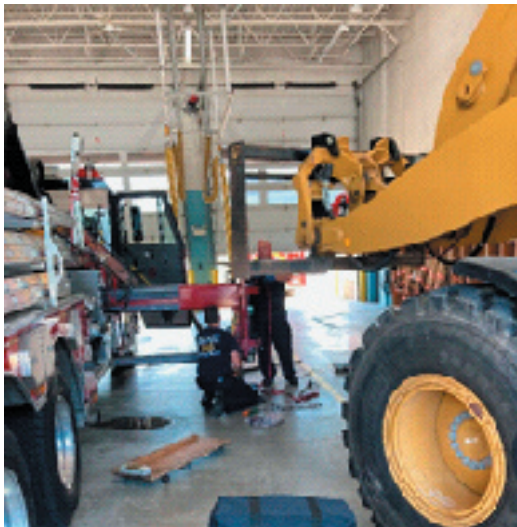


APPARATUS MAINTENANCE

When not responding to emergencies, personnel spend time training and preparing for the next emergency.

Part of that preparation is maintenance and service of the apparatus, tools, and equipment we need to extinguish fires, treat medical emergencies and perform rescues. This includes regular daily and weekly maintenance and performance tests. However, there are many other areas where personnel use their talents and training to keep our fire apparatus safe and ready for operation. Personnel trained and certified in fire apparatus maintenance will work with other crewmembers to make repairs and perform preventative maintenance. We are very fortunate to have personnel certified by the EVT (Emergency Vehicle Technician) Commission. To achieve this certification, it requires an initial test of knowledge through testing. To maintain certification, our personnel must be reevaluated and tested every three to four years, depending on the level of certification.

By having trained and certified personnel in-house, it not only saves money but more importantly allows most repairs and routine maintenance operations to be completed in house. This, combined with reliable and dedicated local truck repair facilities, can keep our fire apparatus in service and ready for the next emergency response. While not all of our personnel will perform some of the more technical maintenance and repair operations, many will assist by using their talents to help in other ways. If you have ever noticed how well organized our tools and equipment are, this is due to the creative and talented personnel we have. Many firefighters have backgrounds and training in areas outside the fire service, this includes machining, metal fabrication, electrical and other skills that we can utilize to make tool mounts, relocate equipment, and even make custom tools.



2021 YOUTH SAFETY CAMP

In August, we completed the 2021 Youth Safety Camp – and it was a great success!

We had 20 motivated and enthusiastic kids who learned a lot about safety and had some fun along the way. During their two weeks with us they learned about the roles of different fire department apparatus, vehicle rescue, fire behavior, fire safety, police departments, and in the end had the opportunity to become CPR/First Aid/AED Certified. Plans are already being made for an even bigger and better even for next year!



NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY MONTH

This year, Fire Prevention Week occurs October 3rd – 9th and the focus will be “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”.

Throughout this week, and the entire month of October, we will be sharing messages helping people to understand the reasons that smoke alarms may sound and what to do when they do. We will also share some information regarding Carbon Monoxide (CO) and dangers associated with it in the home. Here are some of the tips we will be discussing this month:

- When a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide (CO) alarm sounds, respond immediately by exiting the home as quickly as possible.
- If your alarm begins to chirp, it may mean that batteries are running low and need to be replaced. If the alarm continues to chirp after batteries are replaced, or the alarm is more than 10 years old, it is time to replace the alarm.
- Test all smoke and CO alarms monthly. Press the test button to make sure the alarm is working.
- If there is someone in your household who is deaf or hard of hearing, install a bed shaker and strobe light alarms that will alert that person to fire.
- Know the difference between the sound of a smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide alarm – three beeps for smoke alarms; four beeps for carbon monoxide alarms.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

On November 7th we will be turning our clocks backwards and enjoying an extra hour of sleep. When you change your clocks, remember to change batteries in your smoke alarms. Only WORKING smoke alarms save lives!!

Should you find that your alarm is out of date or not functioning, they can be purchased at any hardware store. If you need assistance with installation, obtaining a detector, or if you have any other questions relating to smoke detectors or fire safety – please contact our office at 717-718-2381.



Do you have an upcoming event in your neighborhood, at your office, or in the community that you would be interested in having our staff attend to present fire safety information? Our department is happy to assist you FREE of charge. To schedule, please contact PublicEducation@Yaufr.com or 717-718-2381.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS



Firefighter Pooler was hired as a full-time firefighter on April 17, 2020. On September 21, 2021 he was officially sworn in during our monthly YAUFR Commission Meeting.

Welcome FF Justin Pooler!



Firefighter Little was hired as a full-time firefighter on March 28, 2021. He was officially sworn during our monthly Commission Meeting on September 21, 2021. ***Welcome FF Austin Little !***

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS



Captain Matt Russ was promoted to Battalion Chief on August 21, 2021. He was officially sworn into his position at our YAUFR Commission Meeting on September 21, 2021. *Congratulations to Battalion Chief Russ on achieving this well-deserved milestone.*

