



PENNSYLVANIA'S 1ST REGIONAL COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CHIEF'S CORNER
- TRAINING
- STATS
- STRATEGIC PLAN
- KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- APPARATUS MAINTENANCE
- EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE !



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

FIRE CHIEFS CORNER

*Welcome to the fourth edition of the
YAUFR Newsletter for 2021.*

It is hard to believe we are at the end of another year. Another year of each and every member of the YAUFR family doing their best to serve our citizens and making our department stronger. For all that each of you do, I thank you immensely.

I had hoped by this point in the year to be able to report on a budget approval that included three new hires, but as most of you know by now that was not in the cards for us in 2021. But I will not be deterred, and neither should any of our employees, volunteers or supporters. We need to focus on the wins: building the awareness, a commitment from all charter townships to study staffing in 2022 and develop a plan for the future, the relationship building internally and externally that resulted from this common vision and the tremendous support we realized from so many.



This year's budget situation was not a loss, but an opportunity. An opportunity to do it better, to realize areas for improvement and create more discussion and it was an education about the groups and processes that are involved and necessary considerations. And, I am happy to report that during December's Commission meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to send a revised budget to the charter townships for approval in January. This is a very important measure to ensure we do not have to revert to the 2021 budget and guarantee that we have appropriate financial resources to successfully operate for the entire year.

I read a LinkedIn post recently that said, "Failure is not the Opposite of Success, but a part of Success". This statement resonated with me, and it should with each of us. We should never let the minefields and obstacles we encounter turn us back from our goal(s). Each time we learn how not to proceed, it places us one step closer to achieving or exceeding our objective. We just need to stay the course and continue to serve with the same level of professionalism that is always expected of us.

As we move into the new year, we will obviously be focusing on a staffing study but also continuing with our accreditation efforts and hopefully finalizing discussions regarding a lieutenant's position so we can move toward a testing and promotional process. Training will remain as intensive as ever and we hope to be able to introduce some new opportunities for growing our public education efforts and increasing our public presence. For those interested in helping with the CERT program, we are hoping for more training opportunities in the coming year in that area, also.

There are many opportunities for activity and involvement in our department – from public education to maintenance and even building codes work. And if none of those areas really interests you, don't be afraid to suggest something new. We are always looking for new and creative ideas to serve our community.

I want to thank everyone for supporting our mission. Leading with a passion for this job, our community and the people that make up this department can often mean additional highs and lows throughout the year, but our department and this community are worth the effort.

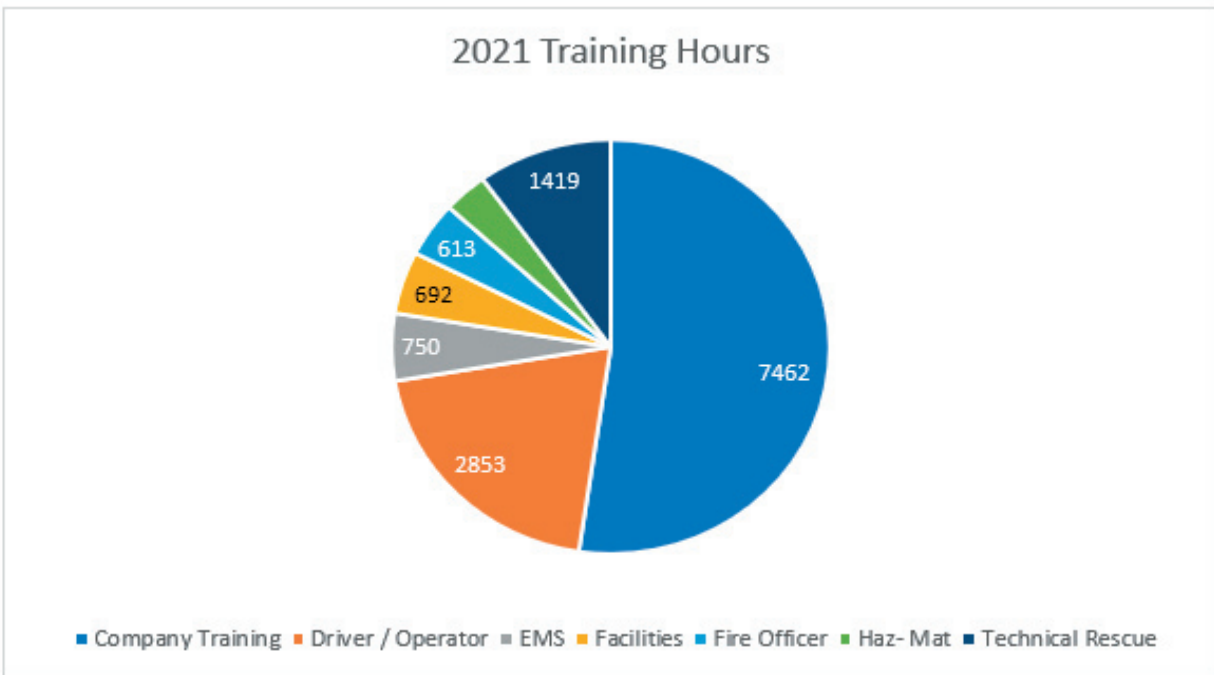
I wish each and every one of you, and your families, the happiest and safest of Christmas holidays.

Merry Christmas and God Bless!

Chief Hoff

TRAINING

- YAUFR members completed a total of 14,257 training hours in 2021.

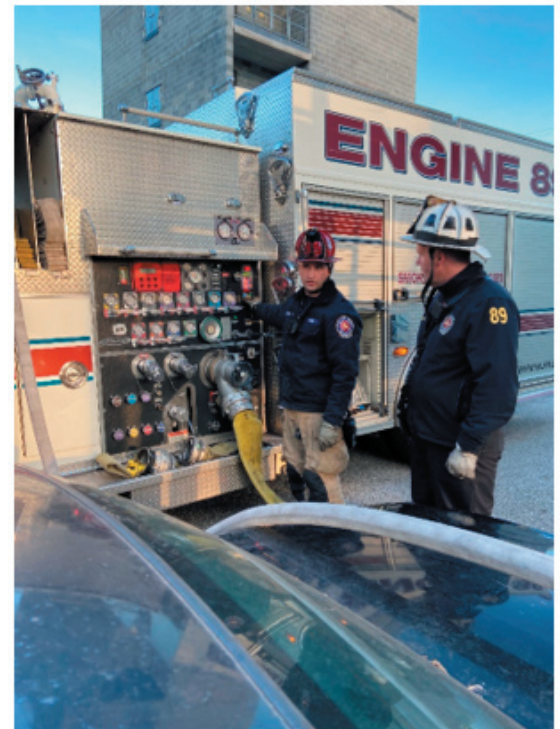


- During the 4th quarter of 2021 crews focused on training in the following areas: Fire Ground Operations (ICS / NIMS Review, Single Family Residential Fires, Multi-Unit Fires, Thermal Imager Operations, Reading Smoke, Flow Paths, Flammable liquids & Gases, Heating Emergencies and Cold weather pump operations) and Planning and Prevention (Preplanning, Codes and Fire Prevention).



TRAINING - CONTINUED

- On November 4, 2021, Crews assisted Life Team EMS with their Stress Induced Competency Assessment Day at the York County Fire School. Our staff assisted with instruction and working through various rescue scenarios that allowed the students to put their acquired skills into practice. We are proud to continue aiding with the education of new providers and strengthening our relationship with our EMS partners.
- Annual fall company level burn training was conducted on October 20th, November 3rd, and November 17th. Crews worked through decision making scenarios relative to fires in multi-family structures.
- Bi-Annual CPR/AED training was completed for 2nd Battalion Personnel 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.
- 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 - 3,838

Station 891 YTD - 1,030

Station 892 YTD - 427

Station 893 YTD - 520

Station 894 YTD - 508

Station 895 YTD - 998

Year To Date Fire Loss - \$1,229,470

Year To Date Property Saved - \$161,801,885

Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:22

Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:50

2020 Year To Date

Number of Incidents - 3,293

Station 891 YTD - 942

Station 892 YTD - 361

Station 893 YTD - 423

Station 894 YTD - 506

Station 895 YTD - 813

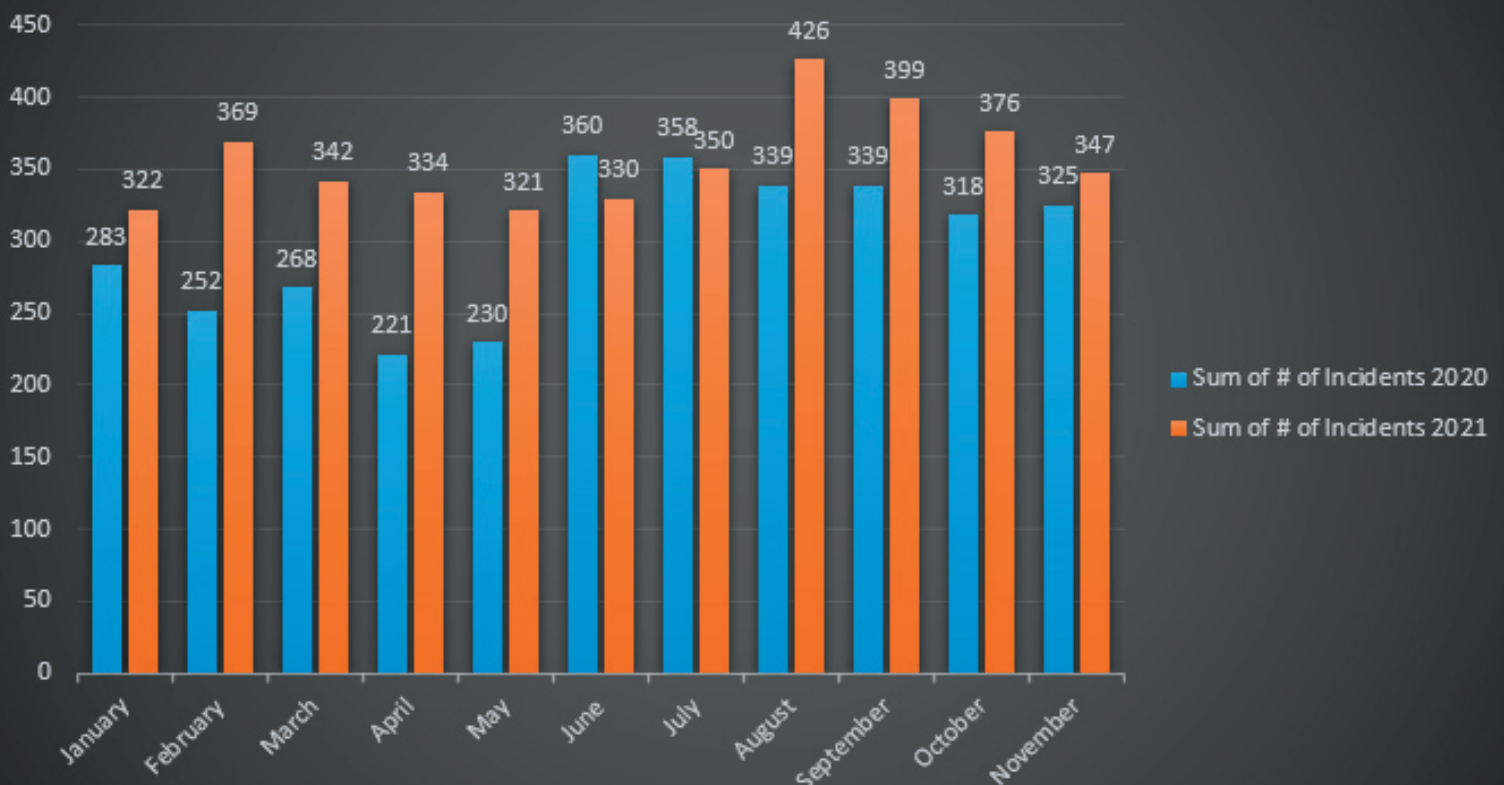
Year To Date Fire Loss - \$1,252,820

Year To Date Property Saved - \$148,004,476

Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:19

Response To 1st Arrival Time - 06:28

STATS 2020-2021



YAUFR STRATEGIC PLAN

Throughout 2021, a 30-member strategic planning committee, comprised of internal and external stakeholders, worked diligently to develop a draft YAUFR strategic plan for 2022-2024.

Committee members reviewed and discussed various programs and services provided by the department, analyzing our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Through open and collaborative discussion, the committee developed eight goals and twenty-two associated objectives that will guide our departments direction over the next three years. The plan will be re-evaluated at least annually to measure our progress toward meeting these goals and objectives, and ensure that priorities of the department and the community we serve have not changed. The Strategic Plan and its companion document, the Community Risk assessment and Standard of Cover, will be presented to the YAUFR Commission members in early 2022.



APPARATUS MAINTENANCE

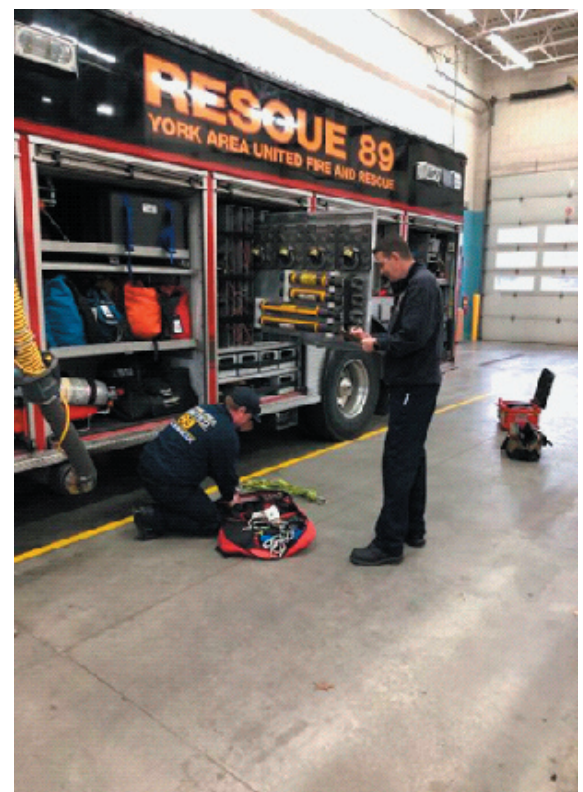
What is a Rescue Truck and what its purpose?

This is a question that we occasionally receive from our citizens

York Area United Fire and Rescue provides heavy rescue service to its immediate response areas and assists other areas when technical rescue emergencies occur. Our Rescue Truck, which is designated as Rescue 89, is a 2002 KME heavy rescue unit that carries most of the equipment we use to perform rescues safely. This includes removing people trapped in vehicles, confined spaces, industrial accidents, water rescues, and many other types of rescue or medical emergencies. As part of our ongoing rescue program, crews spend hundreds of hours training and maintaining their skills every year. Rescue 89 carries over five hundred items, including power tools, lifting jacks, cutting torches, hand tools, rope, and hydraulic and pneumatic rescue tools. Each piece of equipment must be inspected and maintained weekly or monthly by the assigned crews.



YAUFR must recertify every three years with the Department of Health and PA State Fire Commissioner's office to verify our readiness, including training and adequately maintained tools and equipment. This voluntary certification program requires a full inspection of our personnel's training records and a complete inspection of our apparatus and tools. We recently completed the recertification process, and once again crews did a fantastic job helping YAUFR recertify to the highest level of "Advanced Rescue".



KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Protecting your family, on and off the job.

Tis the season of families gathering, holiday parties, and friendship. All this means we need to continue to be on high alert. As COVID-19 seems to be hanging around and raging with new strains, we must remain cognizant of who and what we surround ourselves with. As hard as it may be, sacrifices continue to be made by families across the world to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

Social distancing can be hard on everyone as grandparents can't hold their grandchildren and Christmas morning is now viewed on an iPad and not in person. Slowly we continue the path to normalcy and as it may seem so far away, we must continue to charge on. Be sure to check in on your families, on and off the job over the holiday seasons and through out the year. The past two years and the foreseeable future are putting a mental and sometimes physical strain on everyone. A simple, "Hey, how are you doing?", goes a long way.

Protecting people is our number one priority in this career. We cannot accomplish this without each one of you here doing your part. If you are experiencing any type of symptom, whether it be a cough or loss of taste, please seek testing to ensure that we don't spread the virus to our families. Testing can now be done at home with rapid testing as well as in a medical facility. At home tests are just another tool in our toolbox these days to ensure our safety and well-being. Early testing can and will keep our families safe and healthy and able to hopefully, one day, return to normalcy.



HOLIDAY SAFETY AWARENESS

The holidays are upon us! Each year this means time with friends and family, and the chance to decorate our homes for the season. When you do, we want to remind you to do so safely!

- Candles should never be left to burn in a room unattended, and they should always be kept away from any item that could ignite!
- If you choose to have a live holiday tree, cut approximately 2" off of the bottom before you place it into your stand. This will ensure that water has a fresh and open area to use when helping to keep your tree vibrant for the entire season.
- Be sure to water your tree daily. Trees can dry out rapidly and become a fire hazard in your home
- Regardless of the type of tree you display, be sure that it is at least 3' – 5' away from any heat source. This includes fireplaces, pellet stoves, or a wood burning stove.
- We all enjoy colorful lights on our tree but be sure to unplug them when you go to sleep or leave your home.



SMOKE DETECTORS

We are sure that by now you know to change the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks. But if you forgot, there is no time like the present! Should you find that your alarm is not working, is over ten years old, or if you just don't have one - 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.



ONLY WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!

FIRE PREVENTION

The month of October is recognized nationally as Fire Safety Month. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the theme we focused on this year was “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”. This year our crews were able to spend over 90 hours interacting with over 2000 people discussing fire safety!

Did you know that York Area United Fire & Rescue offers Fire Extinguisher Training for your organization? We can come to your location with our self-contained demonstration trailer, and provide the following services to your staff:

- o Fire Extinguisher Operation
- o Classifications of Fire
- o Types of Fire Extinguishers
- o Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Operation with a propane-based fire

For details on pricing and scheduling, please contact PublicEducation@Yaufr.com or 717-718-2381.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BATTALION CHIEF JOHN WOODS

On December 31, 2021, Battalion Chief John Woods will officially retire from his position with York Area United Fire and Rescue. We would be remiss if we did make him the subject of our employee spotlight for this edition of the YAUFR Newsletter.

Most who know Battalion Chief Woods, are aware that he had a storied career in Prince Georges County, Maryland and joined YAUFR following his retirement from PG County. Prior to coming to YAUFR, Battalion Chief Woods was a part time apparatus operator for York Township Fire Department.



Battalion Chief Woods began his career with YAUFR as a part time firefighter and advanced to the rank of Battalion Chief in 2010. During his tenure, his primary functional areas involved apparatus maintenance and new employee training. Battalion Chief Woods implemented our current Probationary Firefighter Manual (Rookie Book). His passion for knowledge and for passing that knowledge on has created a culture that has produced some of the most intelligent firefighters to be found anywhere.

Battalion Chief Woods not only taught our new personnel but also helped inspire seasoned employees to keep up with the young ones. The impact that Battalion Chief Woods has had on YAUFR is a legacy of training and commitment to doing it right on the fireground. Even those that never worked for Battalion Chief Woods will know about him and what he has meant to this department.

YAUFR will salute the career of Battalion Chief John Woods at our annual recognition ceremony at the beginning of the February 2022 Commission meeting. Until then, thank you Battalion Chief Woods for all you have done for YAUFR - we are all better for our time with you!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



COMMISSION RECOGNITION



At Decembers YAUFR Commission meeting, YAUFR Commission members recognized Commissioner Lisa Wingert for her years of public service. Mrs. Wingerts service included twenty-four years on the Manchester Township Board of Supervisors and six years on the YAUFR Commission. Chief Hoff was pleased to be able to provide Mrs. Wingert some YAUFR gear to ensure she always remembers our department and the positive impact her participation has had on YAUFR. Congratulations on your retirement from public office, Mrs. Wingert and thank you for all you have accomplished!