



**PENNSYLVANIA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> REGIONAL COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

## FIRE CHIEFS COMMENTS



I am writing this welcome message as we transition from Spring 2022 to Summer 2022. As I do so, I cannot help but be amazed as to how fast the days seem to go by, but also am impressed with the great things our department has done so far this year.

We have successfully worked with both union locals to develop a Lieutenant's position and as such have already promoted our first lieutenant for the department. For those that have been around awhile, you may recall that this position existed in Spring Garden Township prior to the creation of YAUFRR, but it went away with the first combined contract, so we are excited and grateful for the cooperation that brought this position back.

Although we ended 2021 with some uncertainty regarding future staffing, we are now making progress and at Junes meeting the YAUFRR Commission, they approved the consulting firm of Kramer and Associates to be the consultant to examine our present and future staffing needs. This move signifies a commitment to establishing safe and effective fireground staffing numbers and also will undoubtedly play a major role in our accreditation efforts.

Officers and firefighters alike are providing input into potential apparatus specifications and alternatives are being sought for turnout gear replacement and repair issues due to the ongoing supply chain difficulties that all consumers are experiencing.

Just yesterday, I witnessed our personnel rescue an unconscious man from the basement of a home where he was overcome by carbon monoxide. The man is expected to recover, but being able to witness our personnel save a life was a very proud moment and one that I will be forever grateful to have in my memories.

With this issue, we bid farewell to Captain Richard Higgins who retired on June 30, 2022 after a career with our department spanning 27 years, 3 months and 17 days. Captain Higgins was one of the first Captains promoted after the creation of YAUFRR. During his career he represented the department through activity with the FF Combat Challenge, he was active with several committees and will be remembered for his commitment to YAUFRR and the growth of the department. Please join me in wishing Captain Richard Higgins all the best and long life in his well-deserved retirement.



## FIRE CHIEFS COMMENTS



We also extend our sympathy to the family of Ramon “Doc” Wolfe, who passed away on June 18, 2022 following a lengthy illness. “Doc” served the citizens of East York for well over fifty years as a Station Chief for the Springetts Fire Company, as Fire Police Lieutenant and most recently as a Trustee for the Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company. We express our condolences to Nancy and the family on Doc’s passing.

In closing out this edition’s Chief’s Corner, I would like to recognize our administrative staff for the excellent work they perform everyday – and often on their off hours – to provide our personnel everything they need. Please make sure you always show Lisa and Laurie appreciation for all they do.



We hope everyone has a safe and successful summer. And as always, remember to take care of one another!

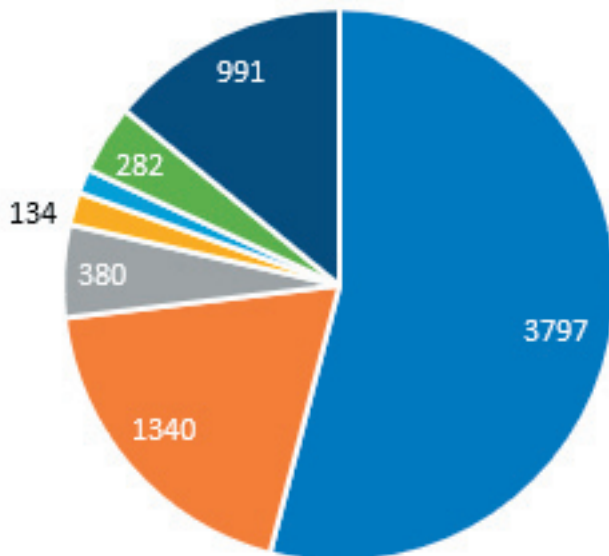
Stay safe,

*Chief Hoff*

## TRAINING

- YAUFRR members completed a total of 7,025 training hours to date in 2022.

### 2022 Training Hours



■ Company Training ■ Driver / Operator ■ EMS ■ Facilities ■ Fire Officer ■ Haz- Mat ■ Technical Rescue

- During the 2nd quarter of 2022 crews focused on training in the following areas: Truck Company Operations (Search and Rescue, Ventilation, Ladders, Overhaul, Utility Control and Aerial Operations), Engine Company Operations (Pumps and Hydraulics, FDC Operations, Leader lines and long lines, Hotels and Apartment Operations) and RIT Operations (Firefighter Safety and Survival, LODD Report Review, SCBA review and operations, Various RIT Drills).
- Annual spring company level burn training was conducted on April 13th, 20th, and 27th. Crews worked through decision making scenarios relative to fires in below grade and difficult access situations.
- Annual respiratory FIT testing has been completed by all shifts on the Scott Air Packs.



## TRAINING



- 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.

## DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

*2022 Year To Date*  
**Number of Incidents - 1,728**  
*Station 891 YTD - 533*  
*Station 892 YTD - 178*  
*Station 893 YTD - 275*  
*Station 894 YTD - 259*  
*Station 895 YTD - 483*  
**Year To Date Fire Loss - \$10,382,780**  
**Year To Date Property Saved - \$54,724,765**  
**Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:12**  
**Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:13**

*2021 Year To Date*  
**Number of Incidents - 1,569**  
*Station 891 YTD - 448*  
*Station 892 YTD - 162*  
*Station 893 YTD - 204*  
*Station 894 YTD - 210*  
*Station 895 YTD - 382*  
**Year To Date Fire Loss - \$650,200**  
**Year To Date Property Saved - \$22,316,805**  
**Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:12**  
**Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:15**

## STAFFING STUDY AWARDED


Earlier this year, in response to questions raised during the 2022 budget process regarding what YAUFRR's apparatus staffing should be, the YAUFRR Commission directed Fire Chief Hoff to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to have the issue studied by an outside consulting firm.

In April of 2022, the YAUFRR Commission voted in favor of advertising the RFP. The administrative staff advertised the RFP locally, as well as nationwide. The RFP was also directly sent to eleven (11) known consulting agencies as well as being advertised on our own website and Facebook pages.

With a deadline for submissions set as May 27, 2022, the department received five (5) submissions from throughout the country. Command and Administrative Staff spent significant time reading and reviewing each submission in order to make an appropriate recommendation to the YAUFRR Commission.

At the June meeting of the YAUFRR Commission, Commission Members voted to award the staffing study to Kramer and Associates, Fire Service Consultants. We are excited to begin this process and are confident that the information gained will provide valuable insight to our operations and provide the added benefit of being useful in our accreditation efforts as well.

We anticipate this study to include discussions with personnel from every level and welcome the opportunity for honest feedback. We will provide more information via intra-departmental communications as this process develops.



### Stopping Rumors in the Workplace

**R**umors are stories that are doubtful or of uncertain truth. In the workplace, the first victims of rumors are trust and morale. Misinformation and gossip fuel rumors, and each time a tale is shared, it acquires additional layers of untruth. What a mess! Since rumors can be disruptive, it makes sense to understand how to quash them. Rule #1 is don't participate. Many rumors are associated with astonishing, amusing, interesting, or spicy information. You may feel an earnest need to repeat the information. This is a signal you're caught in the rumor mill. Rejecting participation will dampen the motivation of your coworkers to further repeat the rumor. Asking, "Is it true?" will often end the progression of a rumor by exposing its lack of confirmable information.

## SUMMER SAFETY RESOURCES

*Surviving the Hot Weather - National Safety Council (nsc.org)*

<https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/summer-safety/heat>

*37 Summer Safety Tips For Your Next Newsletter (totalwellnesshealth.com)*

<https://info.totalwellnesshealth.com/blog/summer-safety-tips>

*Summer Safety Tips: Staying Safe Outdoors - HealthyChildren.org*

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Summer-Safety-Tips-Staying-Safe-Outdoors.aspx>

*Summer Safety Tips for Seniors | National Council For Home Safety and Security (alarms.org)*

<https://www.alarms.org/infographic-summer-safety-tips-for-seniors/>



## GAS GRILLING SAFETY TIPS

*With summer now upon us, it is a good time to review safety suggestions published by David Bower in June 22, 2020 on [www.gasgrillhub.com](http://www.gasgrillhub.com):*

**Have a Fire Extinguisher** - The first and main safety instruction or action you need to take is to arrange and keep a fire extinguisher always by the side of the grilling machine. With the fire extinguisher at proximity, you can take quick actions if anything goes wrong. You can use the grill in the backyard or while you are camping far away without anything to worry about.

**Keep a Distance** - Always set the gas grill away from the house, tent, and anything flammable so that accidents can't do much damage to your property. It is common to have problems or little accidents while using a gas grill. Many users and experts with experience highly recommend people to maintain a distance for the safest grilling.

**Clean Regularly** - One thing most people don't do is the regular cleaning of the gas grill, which results in rusty parts. As a result, you can have accidents anytime, which won't be the fault of the gas line or the cylinder. So, clean every time after cooking a meal using your gas grill so that you can know which part has become bad and change immediately.

## GAS GRILLING SAFETY TIPS, CONTINUED

**Check for Leaks** - Always keep checking the gas lines so that you can notice potential leaks and take action accordingly. Gas leaks can easily be detected by smell or hearing hissing sound around the cylinder or gas pipe. If you smell gas, turn off the line immediately and take necessary actions to repair the leak and prevent significant accidents.

**No Decorations Near the Grill** - We know that parties without decoration are something that rarely happens, and you should not make any decorations near the gas grill. The temperature of the gas grills can rise very high, which can fire up certain decorative pieces causing significant accidents and hurt the members.

**Water Spray Bottle** - As we cook food with different methods and recipes, it is often to fire up the food, or the flames can sometimes rise higher. So, you can keep a spray bottle full of water beside the cooking area and make sure that you can calm it down if the flame tries to go out of control.

**Don't Close the Lid** - It would be best if you did not keep the lid of the grill closed while turning on the gas line because it might build up gas inside. If you do such a thing, it will burst as soon as you light up the grill and seriously hurt you and the people nearby. So, always keep the lid open and take some time before lighting up the grill to make sure that there are no gas buildups.

**Constantly Monitor** - While cooking on a gas grill, you must not leave the thing unattended for a long time to participate in the fun activities though it is very tempting. Either the chef or someone else must keep an eye on the cooking platform to notice anything unusual and take actions before it becomes too late to control.

**Don't Overload with Food** - Parties with many members might make you feel pressured to cook quickly and serve as soon as possible. So, you might think of cooking a lot of food at once, and it is strictly not recommended because accidents happen when you try to cook over your grill's capacity.

**Always Use Outdoors** - This is an obvious point and should be considered as common sense rather than a tip. A gas grill or charcoal grill, no matter what kind of grill it is, you should not use it indoors without proper ventilation. Even if you make sure of proper ventilation, you should not cook inside your house due to several reasons. Always grill food outside and maintain the points mentioned above for having a fun time without worries.

A special note regarding this final point – never grill on balconies or under roofs or canopies.





## BURNING AND FIREWORKS



With summertime upon us, your fire and police departments would like to take the opportunity to ensure that your summertime activities are enjoyable, but also in compliance with recognized and approved regulations.

### Burning

While many people enjoy campfires and the social atmosphere that comes with a recreational fire, there are rules that must be adhered to. Essentially open burning of any type is prohibited in our townships and no fire can create a nuisance or pose a threat to other persons or properties.

We have included a summary of the rules outlined in Section 307 of the International Fire Code for your reference:

**307.4.1 Bonfires.** A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

**307.4.2 Recreational fires.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

**307.4.3 Portable outdoor fireplaces.** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.

**Exception:** Portable outdoor fireplaces used at one- and two-family dwellings.

**307.5 Attendance.** Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

### Fireworks

Although the PA State Legislature changed the PA Fireworks Law in 2017, it does not permit use in residential neighborhoods, use by those under the age of 18 and absolutely prohibits fireworks that are classified as Display Fireworks (Consumer fireworks are labeled as Class C or Consumer grade). Further prohibitions under the current fireworks law include:

- Fireworks are **not permitted** to be ignited/discharged on public/private property without express permission of the property owner.
- Fireworks are **not permitted** to be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building.
- Fireworks are **not permitted** to be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building.
- Fireworks are **not permitted** to be discharged within 150 feet of occupied structures, whether or not a person is actually present. This would apply to the majority of residential neighborhoods in the YAUFRR service area and violators are subject to punishment by fines.
- Fireworks are **not permitted** to be discharged while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.

We also encourage residents to be mindful of potential noise ordinance violations associated with the discharge of consumer fireworks. Your activities should not adversely impact pets, families with small children and/or veterans with PTSD.

We understand that fireworks are fun and appealing, but we urge all residents to consider the inherent danger and unintended consequences of improper use of fireworks and leave the fireworks to the professionals to ensure your celebrations are not marred by mishaps or visits from the authorities.

## SUMMER SAFETY AWARENESS

### Safety Corner Summer 2022



### “It’s Heating Up”

With the summer months approaching the safety committee would like to share some tips to keep everyone safe during the warmer months.

# Stay Hydrated!

**Hydrating every day is a must.**

On average, you lose about 34 ounces of fluid per hour of exercise through sweat. The recommended daily fluid intake is about 15 ½ cups.



**Signs of dehydration:**

- Extreme thirst.
- Less frequent urination.
- Dark-colored urine.
- Confusion.
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Headache.



Keep the coolers filled on apparatus.



Don't forget to rehab.

Take some time and review GO 2-23 Extreme Weather Activities.

## SUMMER SAFETY AWARENESS



**JUNE 19-25, 2022**

**Safety Stand down highlights**

**Critical safety, health, and survival issues for fire and emergency services personnel. Click the link to view their website**

<https://www.safetystanddown.org>

### **“ALWAYS WEAR SUNSCREEN”**

Protection from UV rays is important all year but during summer months your exposures are increased. Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to UV. Here are some suggestions to protect yourself.

- Wear a hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher.
- Stay in the shade.

### **AWARENESS ALERT**



With the warmer temperatures and drier conditions, we will see an increase in road construction. Increased awareness during these months is a must. Be prepared for more slowdowns, closures, and traffic crews while in route to calls.