



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

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**Daniel J. Hoff**  
Fire Chief

**Matthew Russ**  
Battalion Chief

**Brett Graham**  
Battalion Chief

**Curvin Wolfgang**  
Battalion Chief

**Joe Madzellan**  
Battalion Chief

Headquarters  
50 Commons Drive  
York, PA 17402

Office: 717-718-2383

Office Hours :  
Mon. thru Fri. - 7:00 to 3:00

Operation Hours : 24/7

[www.YAUFR.com](http://www.YAUFR.com)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**



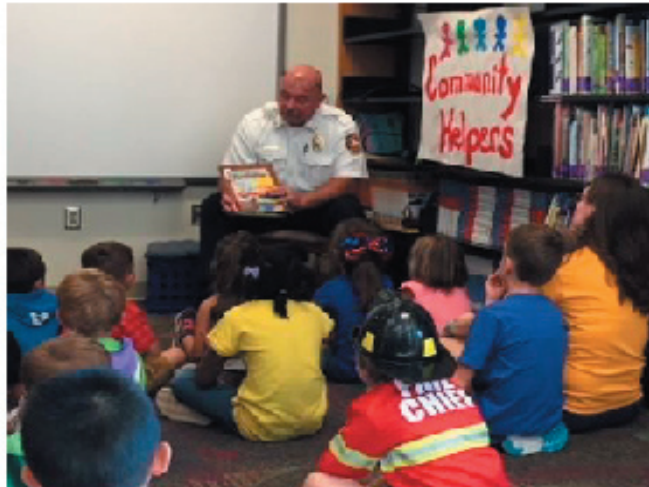
@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue



## FIRE CHIEFS COMMENTS



Once again in the blink of an eye, we are looking at the end of another year. It has been, and continues to be, a challenging time for our fire department. This year we were challenged with significant, long-term leave for not one or two, but at one point five personnel. Not only was this a huge unplanned budgetary impact, but it also challenged us in filling shifts. I know most firefighters usually appreciate some overtime, but this past year proved that too much of anything can be burdensome. I want to express my appreciation to our entire department for stepping up and making sure apparatus and stations were properly staffed so we could fulfill our mission to our communities.

We started the year acknowledging the retirement of Battalion Chief John Woods, who was instrumental in developing this department from the beginning. We followed several months later by saying goodbye to Captain Rich Higgins on his well-deserved retirement after more than 27 years. Shortly thereafter, FF Nathan Tracey announced his early retirement from the department. We continue to wish BC Woods, Captain Higgins and FF Tracey well with this next stage of their lives.

That wasn't the end of it though. In August we were notified that a huge part of our daily operations would be taking a Fire Chief position in North Carolina, and so at the end of September we said goodbye and congratulations to Battalion Chief Matt Arnold. The impact Chief Arnold had on this department's daily operations cannot be overstated, and his absence is felt on numerous levels. And lastly we are ending the year preparing to say goodbye and congratulations to BC Brett Graham as he heads north to Dauphin County to assume the Deputy Chief position with Lower Paxton Township. BC Graham has made significant contributions to a more defined training plan for the department and his attention to training and certification will be missed.

No individual is bigger than the department they serve. And, despite this department losing a lot of experience in 2022, we are fortunate to have established a culture with great people ready to move into these roles and our newly hired replacements promise a bright future that gives us confidence in maintaining our forward momentum.

The last two years have been challenging in other ways as well. We continue to express the need for additional staffing to keep our residents and personnel safe during operations. During 2022, the YAUFR Commission hired a consultant to evaluate that need. Although this study paints the same picture that our command staff has provided, there is no mandate to do anything with the results of the study. We must continue to tell our story and ensure that we are heard.

## FIRE CHIEFS COMMENTS

Also, during budget preparation for 2023, another priority was to address some inequity regarding our command and administrative staff to assist in motivating personnel to strive for continued advancement. We will continue to carry that message forward as well. We firmly believe that our residents and our personnel are best served by our own people, who know the culture, the administrative and operational processes, and the community. YAUFR personnel have already made a commitment to care for your family as though they were their own.

Our last initiative for 2023 revealed during our annual budget presentation was the need to be forward thinking as it relates to apparatus replacement. YAUFR personnel have been working hard to review and establish specifications for a future apparatus replacement that is due in 2025. However, in the last two years apparatus manufacturing has increased from less than one year to deliver, to presently being 24-30 months after ordering for delivery. In order to receive apparatus according to our scheduled replacement plan, we are asking for our charter townships to support our next apparatus purchase with an ordinance to authorize the expenditure. If we are successful in accomplishing this in 2023, we will remain hopeful that our next apparatus order will be delivered prior to the end of 2025, barring any supply chain issues.

Like I said, it has been a busy year for the department. YAUFR held two promotional processes from which we have already promoted Lieutenant Celeste Jones as our first Lieutenant, and we will have two new Battalion Chief's and four more new Lieutenants officially promoted in January of 2023. Preparations are underway for a new records management system implementation to begin the new year as well.

We established an apparatus technician program in Manchester Township, and have made significant movement in the adoption of the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code. Manchester Township and Spring Garden Township are already on board, and we remain hopeful that Springettsbury Township will follow suit in order to provide us the ability for consistent education and enforcement across all of our communities.

As I was searching for a photo that has not been used in previous editions of the Fire Chief's Corner, I came across the one of me reading to some students at Yorkshire Elementary. I feel as though this picture is very appropriate, as it signified our service commitment - to the community and in this case the future of our community and to our employees and their family members. It is a responsibility that our entire staff approaches with the utmost sincerity and with a passion that goes beyond the uniform we wear.

As we rapidly approach Christmas, please remember all those serving and caring for you and your family and support them in any manner possible. Keeping communities safe and futures bright takes the whole village, and we will be continuing to do our part with training, equipment and personnel that are second to none and an honest and transparent approach in order to maintain your trust. We salute all of our career and volunteer personnel who contribute to our mission and vision.

From YAUFR to all who we serve, thank you for your support. We wish you a very merry Christmas and as always, remember to take care of one another!

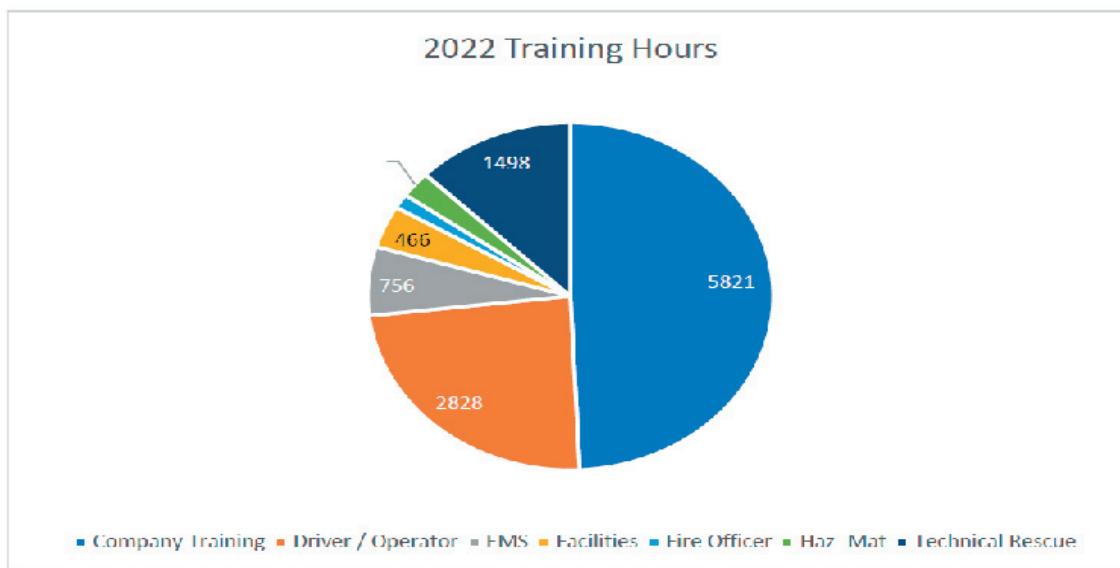
God Bless,

Stay safe,

*Chief Hoff*

## TRAINING

- YAUFR members completed a total of 11,816 training hours to date in 2022.





## TRAINING

- In place of our Fall Company Level burns, all personnel participated in Flashover recognition training provided by the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. This valuable training provided our staff hands on practical training in fire behavior and demonstrations that prepare them to recognize hazardous conditions within the fire building.
- Bi-Annual CPR and AED training was completed by 1st Battalion Staff.
- During the month of November, department personnel completed the 1006 Rope Rescue Technician course through Buck County Community College. Personnel were required to show proficiency in high level technical rescue competencies and were later tested to obtain national certification. We are proud to announce that YAUFR now has 33 new Rope Rescue Technicians on roster.
- 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.



## UPCOMING PROMOTIONS

During 2022, YAUFR was successful in establishing the rank of Lieutenant within our department. This rank has not existed in YAUFR since our first contract was signed. With support from the YAUFR Commission and through cooperative efforts from both of our locals, we were able to recreate the position to fit into our current officer structure. Staff felt that this effort was critical to the appropriate development of our personnel and/or future officers, providing a logical process for advancement that did not exist previously.

On May 14, 2022, Celeste Jones was officially promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Jones is the first YAUFR firefighter promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Jones is a seventeen-year veteran of the department.

In January four more firefighters will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. FF Aaron Eckert is a fifteen-year veteran of the department, FF David Kane is a seventeen-year veteran and FF Todd Kroh is a fourteen-year veteran of our department. FF Chris Mowry, a fourteen year veteran of the department will be promoted to Lieutenant on January 14th.

Captain William Blackwell is a nineteen-year veteran of our department. Captain Blackwell was promoted to his current rank in 2017 and will be assuming the rank of Battalion Chief on January 1, 2023.

Captain Todd Heilman will retire on January 13th, 2023 to complete 30 years as a Manchester Township Firefighter. Captain Heilman will begin his new career as a YAUFR Battalion Chief on January 16th.

## YAUFR PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

In an effort to keep our customers informed about our performance, York Area United Fire and Rescue is pleased to announce the release of our incident performance dashboard. This interactive, mobile-friendly webpage is used to measure key performance indicators for incident counts, response times, and goals met. Content is updated around the middle of each month, providing ongoing measurement of baseline performance and insight into our service.

The dashboard can be found at

<https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/fire-performance-dashboard-yaufir> A link will also be available from our website soon.

The logo for mySidewalk, featuring the word "my" in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by "Sidewalk" in a blue, uppercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a light gray background.



## 2022 SANTA RUN



December 17th and 18th was a fun filled weekend with career and volunteer personnel alike participating in the annual Santa Run. This year was a bit different as our Alert Volunteers agreed to help by expanding the Santa Run to Spring Garden and Springettsbury Townships. Santa and Mrs. Claus visits took place in Manchester Township on Saturday the 17th, following Breakfast wit Santa at the Alert Fire Company and then on the 18th Santa rode through Spring Garden and Springettsbury Townships to visit everyone there.

Many thanks are in order for this weekend including our Santa's (Mrs Claus too), Game Stop for donating all of the toys that were given out, YAUFR Volunteer Fire Police for keeping everyone safe, Northern Regional, Spring Garden and Springettsbury Police for their participation. The two most important thank you's go out to our community for your faithful support and to our personnel - volunteer and career - for all you do everyday for our citizens and for making this event a huge success.






## 2022 SANTA RUN






## HOLIDAY SAFETY




**Winter Holiday Safety**


Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

 **HOLIDAY DECORATING**

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

 **HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING**

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.





*Before Heading Out or to Bed*

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

**FACTS**

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



 **NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

## HOLIDAY SAFETY



Winter  
December 21, 2022

Seasonal change and holidays can be a hard time for people. If you or a loved one is suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts call

988- Suicide and Crisis  
Hotline

Or  
911

### SNOW SHOVELING

Unfortunately, winter means freezing rain, ice, and snow. Snow shoveling leads to many injuries and heart attacks. Here are some tips to keep you safe.

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter
  - Push the snow rather than lifting it
  - Lift with your legs, not your back
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion
- Know the signs of a heart attack, and stop immediately and call 911

### Rising Cost of Heating Fuels.



Here are some tips when trying to stay warm during the colder months.

- Use a mesh ember screen with your wood burning fireplace.
- Dispose of burnt fuels in a metal container with a lid and place it away from combustibles.
- Do not use outdoor propane heaters inside.
- Space heaters need to be monitored and never plugged into extension cords.
- Low-income individuals can apply for heating assistance through **LIHEAP**.



## STRATEGIC PLAN ADOPTED

As a component of the unanimous adoption of our three-year Strategic Plan by the YAUFR Commission on April 19, 2022, our Commission approved revisions to our Mission and Vision Statements. Our staff feels very strongly that these statements, along with our Values Statement, should serve as our departments guide to ensure that we are providing an exceptional level of service to our community and our neighbors.

We thought it may be a good idea to provide them in this newsletter, not only as reminder to our staff but also to enlighten our community as to what their fire department stands for.

### Mission

*“The Mission of York Area United Fire and Rescue is to serve the community by providing the highest level of comprehensive and timely emergency services.”*

### Vision

*“York Area United Fire and Rescue strives to be a model, world class, fire department. We accomplish this through our dedication to professionalism, education, training, collaboration, and community involvement. We take pride in supporting the success of all emergency services organizations in our region.”*

### Values

***Commitment** to our community, to our service, to each other and to proactive, relevant education.*

***Professionalism** in the performance of our duties.*

***Honor** in placing service before self.*

***Pride** in being a premier provider of emergency services within the region.*

***Embrace** change and recognize that continuous improvement is necessary to remain the best we can be.*

## STATION 893 STORAGE ROOM PROJECT

YAUFR would like to give a special shout out to the members of C Shift for picking up a project for Captain Krout who is off on an injury.

In an effort to maximize storage space for both career and volunteer operations, the creation of this new storage space at Station 893 will permit centralized storage of volunteer equipment at Station 893 while assisting YAUFR with storage needs at Headquarters with the relocation of some volunteer equipment.

The next step in this process is finish work by members A Shift.

Much appreciation to all who have had a hand in this project.

This is just another great example of the cooperation that occurs regularly between the various groups that make up York Area United Fire and Rescue.





## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

*The department regularly tries to highlight our employees and introduce them to the community we serve. We are fortunate in this edition to be able to introduce several new staff members*

1. **How long have you worked for the fire department?**  
I was hired part time in November of 2021, before being brought on for full time in August of 2022.
2. **Before working for the fire department what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?**  
I worked construction for close to 3 years.
3. **How or why did you become involved in the fire service?**  
I started my fire career with York Springs Fire Company after being around the firehouse for a lot of my childhood.
4. **What is your proudest fire service moment?**  
A confined space rescue with YAUFR, in which a 7-year-old girl was trapped in a drainage tube.
5. **If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who should be cast to play you?** Leonardo DiCaprio
6. **What is your favorite travel or vacation spot?**  
I like to spend time at the beach.
7. **What is your favorite past time?**  
I like to hunt, fish and spend time with my daughters.
8. **What are the top two items on your bucket list?**  
I would like to hunt out west and travel to Texas.
9. **If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?**  
I would live somewhere in the mountains.
10. **Tell us one thing about you that would surprise most people.**  
I am terrified of snakes.



*Austin Tipler*

*FIREFIGHTER  
B-SHIFT  
STATION 895*

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

1. **How long have you worked for the fire department?**  
I started part time in October of 2021, and recently was hired full time in July of this year.
2. **Before working for the fire department what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?**  
I worked for 4 years as a 911 dispatcher at Lancaster County.
3. **How or why did you become involved in the fire service?**  
My entire family is involved in emergency services in some form, so I grew up around the fire service.
4. **What is your proudest fire service moment?**  
Achieving my dream of becoming a career firefighter.
5. **If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who should be cast to play you?** Will Farrell
6. **What is your favorite travel or vacation spot?** North Dakota
7. **What is your favorite past time?**  
Golfing or hunting
8. **What are the top two items on your bucket list?**  
Hunt the Midwest  
Hunt on another Continent
9. **If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?**  
North Dakota, great people and hunting.
10. **Tell us one thing about you that would surprise most people.**  
I'm terrified of spiders
11. **Anything else you might want people to know about you.**  
I have a beautiful 5-year-old daughter who keeps me on my toes 24/7



***Jared Poole***

***FIREFIGHTER  
A-SHIFT  
STATION 891***



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

1. **How long have you worked for the fire department?**  
Two and a half years
2. **Before working for the fire department what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?**  
I worked in orthopedics as an orthopedic technician
3. **How or why did you become involved in the fire service?**  
My entire family is involved with the fire service in some fashion, so everyone I looked up to growing up was a part of the fire department
4. **What is your proudest fire service moment?**  
Getting sworn in as a firefighter with this department
5. **If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who should be cast to play you?**  
Will Farrell
6. **What is your favorite travel or vacation spot?**  
Outer Banks
7. **What is your favorite past time?**  
Golfing or spending time with friends
8. **What are the top two items on your bucket list?**  
Go waterfowl hunting in Arkansas and go skydiving
9. **If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?**  
South where it doesn't snow
10. **Tell us one thing about you that would surprise most people.**  
I love labs
11. **Anything else you might want people to know about you.**  
I'm a twin



***Justin Poole***

***FIREFIGHTER  
B-SHIFT  
STATION 894***

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

1. **How long have you worked for the fire department?**

*4 months*

2. **Before working for the fire department what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?**

*I never had any "unusual job." However, the most interesting job I had was being a Forward Observer in the United States Army.*

3. **How or why did you become involved in the fire service?**

*I knew I wanted to do something to serve the community and help people, so I decided to start volunteering with my local fire department.*

4. **What is your proudest fire service moment?**

*Getting the job offer from York Area United Fire and Rescue. I had been applying to fire departments for about 7 years with no success and then finally getting that phone call was a sign that all the hard work finally paid off.*

5. **If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who should be cast to play you?**

*Miles Teller*

6. **What is your favorite travel or vacation spot?**

*I love going to the beach. I don't really have a specific beach that I go to regularly. I just enjoy the sun and the ocean.*

7. **What is your favorite past time?**

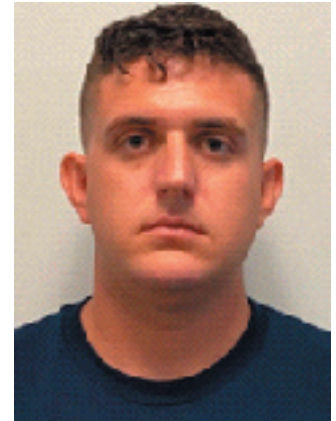
*Golf is definitely my favorite. I'm not good at it by any means but it is fun spending the day on the course with my dad or friends.*

8. **What are the top two items on your bucket list?**

*Go to Greece and Australia.*

9. **If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?**

*Somewhere in Europe, like Italy or Spain. Mainly because I would love to travel and living over there makes traveling around Europe cheaper and easier.*



**Nicholas Davis**

**FIREFIGHTER  
B-SHIFT  
STATION 892**