



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

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## YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!**

PLEASE TAKE OUR  
STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY  
TO BETTER SERVE YOU  
AND OUR RESIDENTS  
BY SCANNING THE QR CODE  
OR GO TO THE LINK BELOW



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YAUFR2024>

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

# STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

## FIRE CHIEFS MESSAGE



York Area United Fire and Rescue is pleased to provide our citizens and followers our Fall Newsletter for 2024. I am sure many of you feel as I do and find it hard to believe that we are in the final quarter of the year already. It has been another very busy year, and we are very proud of the work being done by our department personnel.

At the end of 2023 the YAUFRR Commission approved the next step of our fleet replacement plan, and the order was placed for a Sutphen Tower, Pierce Rescue and two (2) Pierce Pumps. There were months of very hard work by our staff, led by BC Wolfgang to ensure that this order was going to meet departmental needs and serve our citizens appropriately, while also being focused on getting the best value possible. Expected delivery of this apparatus is staggered between 2026 and 2027.

Our Public Education and Fire Prevention efforts have been increased under the guidance of BC Heilman and we have an increasing number of personnel who are helping to increase our outreach efforts.

Thanks to a FEMA and Opioid Settlement Grant in 2023, our training and certifications have been bolstered this year and those efforts will continue into 2025. BC Russ has been handling all logistical needs and has been doing an outstanding job of handling this increase in opportunities.

BC Madzellan continues to devote many hours to accreditation, assisted by BC Russ, Lt.. Eckert and numerous others. In addition, BC Madzellan handles EMA and Code issues for the department.

BC Blackwell heads up our Safety Committee and they work cooperatively to ensure we remain at the top of our game regarding safe operations and practices. Everything mentioned above boils down to Community Risk Reduction. Each project, program and policy is designed to help us manage, reduce or eliminate risks for the community we serve. As our employees are well aware, all of these efforts would not be possible without the support of our employees, volunteers and especially our Administrative Director Lisa and Administrative Assistant Laurie.

Many thanks go to Manchester Township for sponsoring a Local Share Account Category 4 grant application for YAUFRR to assist with replacement of hydraulic rescue equipment. This application has been submitted and we are eagerly awaiting word on its status.

Also, we are grateful for Spring Garden Townships sponsorship on a Local Share Account Statewide grant application for replacement of our portable radios. Service and support are expiring for our radios at the end of 2026. This grant application will be submitted shortly ahead of the November 30th deadline, and we are hopeful of our success with this application as well. Every grant opportunity we seek is another opportunity to do more without impacting our citizens.

I am personally and professionally grateful for the team that we have developed in YAUFRR and we are committed to continue to look for ways to take care of our citizens in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

I wish all of our followers and personnel a safe and enjoyable holiday experience and thank you all for your continued support.

*Stay safe and God Bless!*

**Chief Hoff**

## EMPLOYEE NOTES

BC William Blackwell completed Fire Officer IV Certification

BC Matt Russ received Fire Officer Designation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence and Fire Investigator Technician Certification through the International Association of Arson Investigators

FF Nick Serikstad received Fire Officer Designation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence

BC Todd Heilman completed Fire Officer III Certification and Fire Officer Designation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence



On September 11th Chief Hoff was honored to be one of the participants to throw out a first pitch prior to the York Revolution game honoring First Responders. Many thanks to Shane DiGiovanni and Nate Tile for organizing this opportunity.

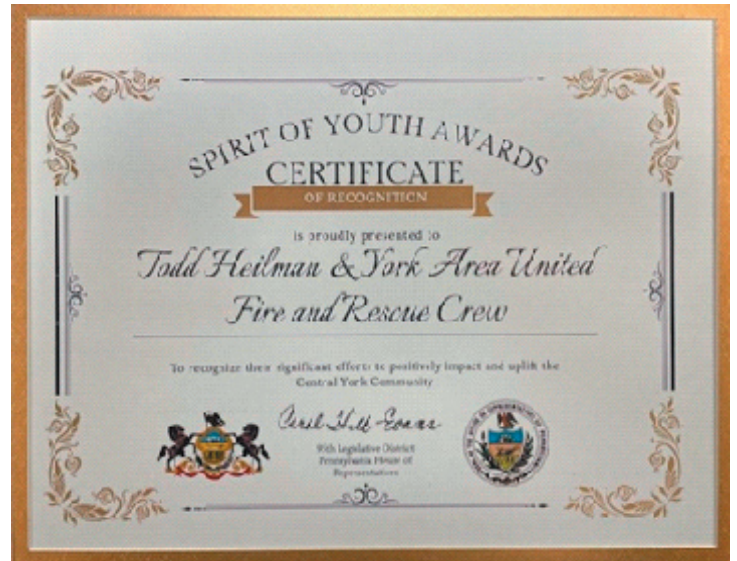
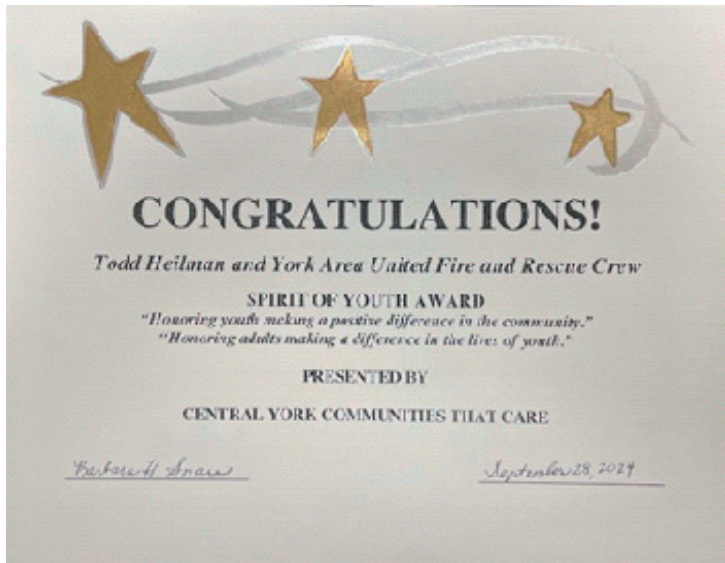


On October 11th, Chief Hoff served as one of several guest speakers during a panel discussion at The Pa Municipal League Summit in Scranton, Pa. The topic was “Today's Challenges for Fire and EMS – Is Regionalization the Answer?”

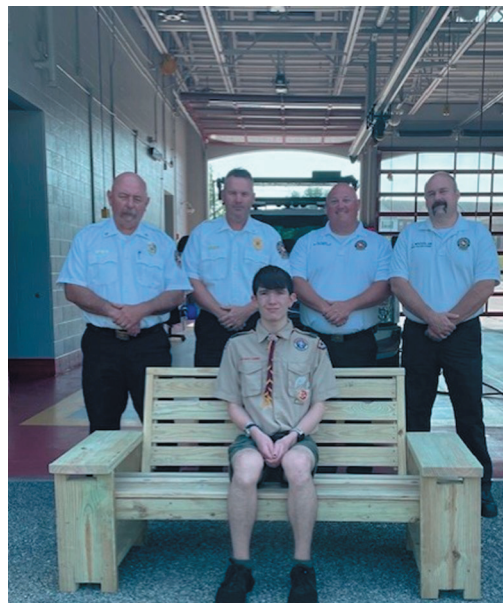


## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

YAUFR is very proud of the Community Outreach by all of our personnel, and we are extremely grateful for recognition by our community for efforts to make a difference in the lives of our young people.



## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT COMPLETED



During 2024, YAUFR was approached by Ethan Mickey with an idea that would serve the fire department while also assisting him in earning his Eagle Scout, the highest award in the Boy Scouts. Originally Ethan thought about building a PPE Dryer for the firefighters. But when he visited Headquarters, he discovered that our fire stations already had PPE Dryers for the firefighters to utilize. After some discussion and careful thought, Ethan settled on replacing the wooden benches in front of Station 891 and Station 893. Ethan worked very diligently to raise the necessary capital to make this project a reality and with a little help from friends and family, his project was soon completed. Ethan delivered his creations to our fire stations over the summer, and we are excited to watch him formally be awarded his Eagle Scout in December.

**Thank you for all you have done Ethan !**



## STRATEGIC PLANNING NEEDS YOUR INPUT

York Area United Fire and Rescue is asking for assistance from our community stakeholders. We are in the midst of developing our Strategic Plan for the next five years, which will guide our projects, programming and services. Our goal is to have a plan that provides us direction from our community based on their expectations and experiences with our department.

How can you help?

1. Using the QR Code or link in this post, complete the survey created by our Strategic Planning Consultant
2. Share this post, or at least the QR Code and link, with your contacts who are serviced by our department
3. Let us know if you would be interested in participating in any other way in helping shape the future direction of your fire department.

Thank you for your assistance and interest in helping make our department the best it can possibly be.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YAUFR2024>



## STAFF VEHICLES REPLACED WITH GRANT FUNDS

In late 2023, YAUFR received a Community Grant from T-Mobile for the replacement of our oldest staff vehicle with a hybrid pick up truck. Before this vehicle could be ordered, YAUFR was also the recipient of a Local Share Account Grant Award, sponsored by Spring Garden Township, to replace three more staff vehicles with hybrid pick up trucks. The local share account grants are made possible by gaming funds from the Commonwealth of PA. These units are being finalized and will be in service by the beginning of November.



## FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

### Halloween Safety Tips

*Halloween is just around the corner! Let's keep our kiddos and ourselves safe !*

1. When trick or treating go as a group.
2. Place reflective objects on their costume
3. Carry glow sticks.
4. Carry a flashlight
5. Check your child's candy.

*When driving be extra aware.*

1. Drive more slowly
2. Drive with high beams on to see children from extra distance.
3. Be aware of children darting across the street.
4. Remember popular starting and end times for trick or treating is between 5:30 and 9:30.



### Thanksgiving Safety

#### **Thanksgiving Fire Statistics**

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires with more than three times the daily average for such incidents. Christmas Day and Christmas Eve ranked second and third, with both having nearly twice the daily average.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Cooking causes half (53%) of all reported home fires and nearly two of every five (38%) home fire injuries, and it is a leading cause of home fire deaths (18%).
- On Thanksgiving day alone, an estimated 1,160 home cooking fires were reported to U.S. fire departments in 2021, reflecting a 297 percent increase over the daily average.



#### **Top Safety Tips**

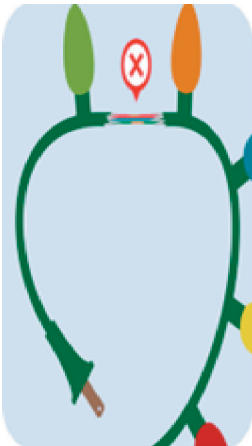
- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot, and kids should stay three feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



## FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

### *Christmas Tree Safety*

Christmas season is soon upon us and most of us love to decorate with real trees and plenty of lights! Even if you're using a fake tree there are plenty of safety tips to think about. Real trees should be watered every day to keep them from drying out. A dry tree is very flammable. Keep all trees at least 3 feet from any potential heat source. Fireplaces, radiators, propane heaters, electric heaters and candles. Even heat vents can help dry the tree out. Make sure your tree does not block the exits of your home. Discard your tree after Christmas or when it dries out. Most Christmas tree fires are in January! Inspect all your lights for damage which can cause a short. Read directions on how many strands can be connected together. Too many can cause them to overheat. If you must burn candles keep them a minimum of 12 inches from anything that will burn. Consider using battery operated candles. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season!!!



## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

### *October YAUFR Commission Meeting*

During the York Area United Fire & Rescue Commission meeting for October 15th, Chief Hoff made multiple recognitions.

Congratulations to Firefighter Jason Grim on his retirement after 23 years of service to our community! YAUFR wishes Jason and his family much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.



## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS-CONTINUED

Congratulations to Firefighters Keith Kuykendall and Nichollas Nunez for completing their probationary periods and officially being sworn in. We were pleased to have your families present to pin you and offer their support.



*FF KEITH KUYDENDALL*



*FF NICHOLLAS NUNEZ*

### ***CHIEF'S COMMENDATION***

First arriving personnel from YAUFR (Captain Stroble, Captain Freet, FF Velez and FF Nunez) and York Township (Captain Goeb) received Chief's Commendations for heroic, life saving measures at a structure fire on South Albemarle Street on August 21st, 2024. Minimally staffed crews were faced with heavy fire on the first floor of an end of the row 3 story row home that was divided into 3 separate apartments with 3 people trapped - 2 adults in the 3rd floor apartment and a 9-year-old child in the 2nd floor apartment. Against difficult odds the crews suppressed the fire and rescued all 3 occupants, all while placing themselves dangerously above the fire. York Area United Fire & Rescue couldn't be prouder of these firefighters.





## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS-CONTINUED

### *UNIT CITATION*

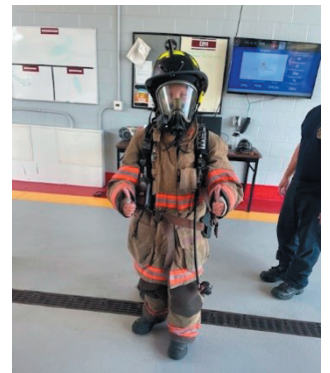
Due to the harsh conditions and successful outcome of the South Albemarle Street fire, all personnel working that assignment (B Shift) were presented with Shift Citations for their performance at this incident.



## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

### *Youth Safety Camp*

York Area United Fire & Rescue has had a very busy 2024 with Fire Prevention activities and community engagement. During the summer months we conducted our annual Youth Safety Camp which was once again a great success. Sixteen (16) youth from York County attended the 2024 Safety Camp, learning many skills and principles required to be a firefighter.



## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION-CONTINUED

### *Car Seat Education*

A car seat technician class was held at Station 89-1 where two (2) more staff members were trained to educate parents on car seat safety and appropriate installation practices.



### *Community Connect Program*

We took advantage of the Springettsbury Summer Concert Series at Springettsbury Park to engage in community outreach with more than 4000 residents during numerous concerts. This form of outreach provides an opportunity to speak to community stakeholders and offers a chance for citizens to speak with us and receive answers to questions about your fire department. This is where we started to introduce our Community Connect Program which allows citizens to sign up and enter important information about their home in case of an emergency. For more information go to our <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/pa-yorkareaunited> and check out the program!

### *Simple Machines Program*

YAUFR also took our Simple Machines Program to 3rd and 4th graders throughout our service area. Participants had fun learning a little bit of science using simple machines to make work easier. We show students how using simple tools can make heavy work a little bit lighter by using levers and ropes and pulleys, which are tools firefighters use daily.



On top of attending many in person events throughout each year, where we take the opportunity to teach fire safety, we try to use technology to make available to our public fire safety tips ranging from turkey fryer safety, Lithium battery fire safety, fireplace safety, trick or treat safety, car seat safety, Christmas Holiday safety, winter safety and carbon monoxide safety and many more. So, keep an eye out on social media <https://www.facebook.com/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue>, and our website at <https://www.yaufr.com>. YAUFR is also on the Nextdoor App and Savvy Citizen, so check us out there as well.

Fire extinguisher training keeps us busy throughout the year as businesses have us train their employees in fire extinguisher use and safety.

### *Santa Run*

The Santa run is always a favorite for kids! He asked for a ride again this year with our department and will be traveling to many neighborhoods to visit the kids. Hope to see you out this Christmas!





## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION-CONTINUED

### *PRIDE PROGRAM*

Our smoke detector program (**PRIDE – Proactive Residential Information Distribution Effort**) is an ongoing effort in which we provide community stakeholders with smoke detectors, along with education and installation, to those who are in need. Working smoke detectors SAVE lives!

It is Autumn!!

Time to Change Those Batteries in Your Smoke Detectors!!!

If you have a sealed smoke detector with a 10-year battery test the detector by pressing the test button to activate.

Check the dates on all your detectors. We recommend replacing all smoke and CO detectors every 10 years.



## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION-CONTINUED

Hard wired smoke detectors should have a battery backup. Replace the battery to ensure operation in a power outage.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors come in many styles and models. If you have any questions on what you need for your home contact York Area United Fire & Rescue.

We recommend at least one detector on each floor of your home. And prefer one in every bedroom. (Sleeping with your bedroom door closed)

You can install individual smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors or purchase combination detectors which are both smoke and Carbon Monoxide detecting.

If you are in need, have any questions on types of detectors or installation, please give us a call.

York Area United Fire & Rescue

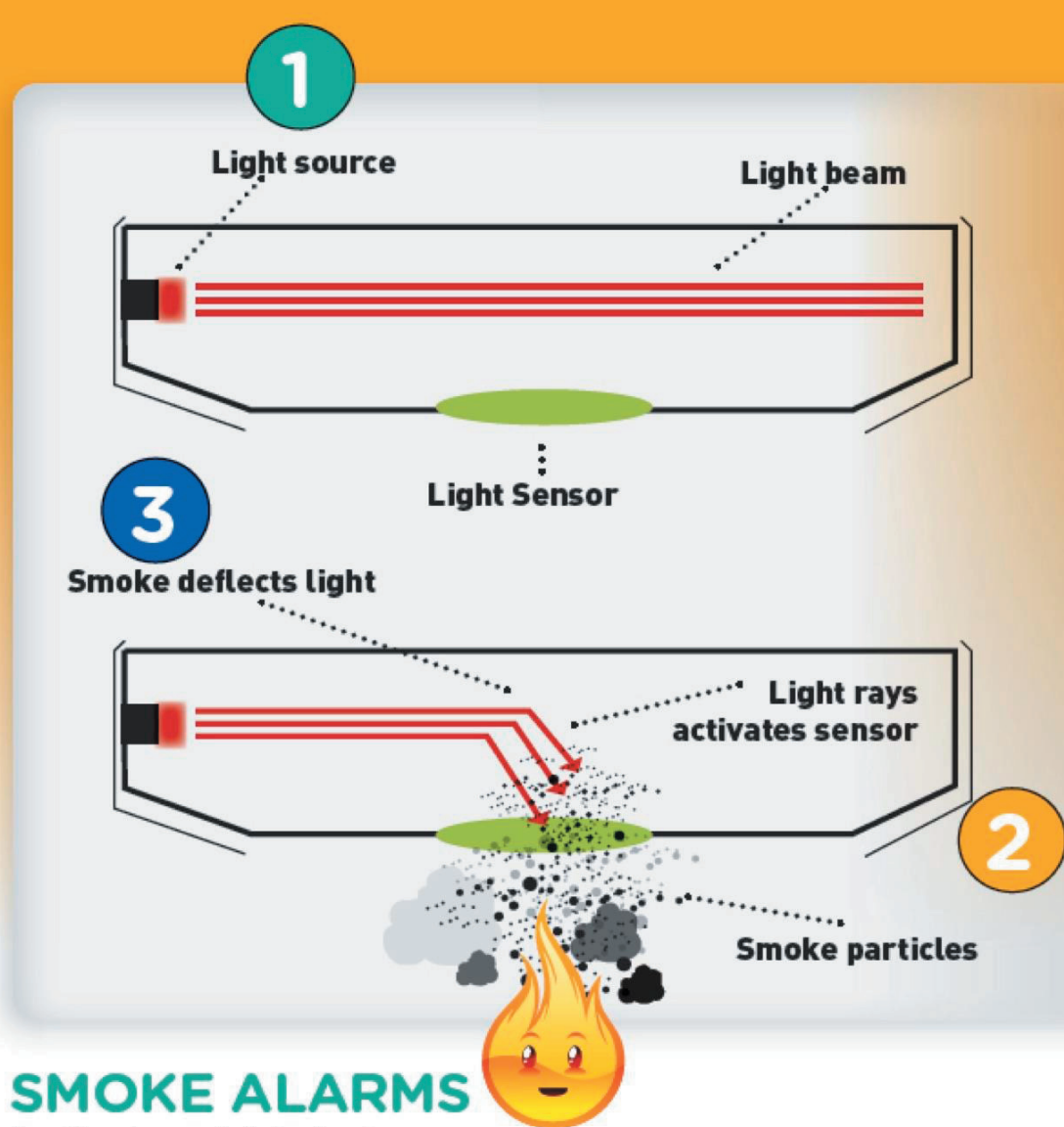
717-718-2383

Or

Go to <https://www.yaufr.com/smoke-alarms/>



## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION-CONTINUED



### SMOKE ALARMS

Another type of detector is an photoelectric smoke alarm. Here's how it works:

**1** Inside the smoke alarm, there is an LED light that sends a beam of light (similar to a laser pointer) in a straight line across the chamber. In a separate compartment inside the chamber, there is a photosensor that detects light.

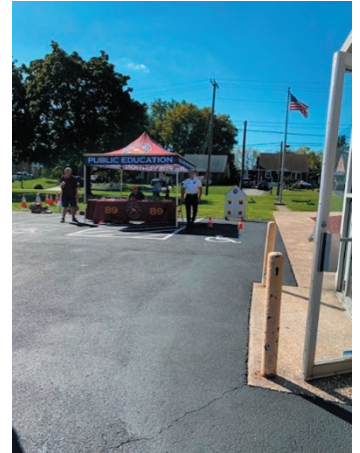
**2** As smoke enters the detector, the smoke particles interrupt the light beam, scattering it in many directions. Some of the LED light scatters toward the light sensor. When light beams hit the sensor, the alarm will go off!

**3** When the batteries in your smoke alarm get low, the smoke alarm automatically activates a low battery chirping sound different from the alarm sound so you know it's time to get new batteries.

Some smoke alarm contain both optical and ionization smoke detection systems.

## FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE

This year we started Fire Prevention Week with an open house at Station 89-3 in Springettsbury Township. We had a great turnout, but next year we would like to see many more of our citizens! We love it when you come out to see us!



There were many activities for the children and much to learn about fire safety for people of all ages. The Palmer dollhouse demonstration is always a great learning experience and receives great feedback from those who attend. Many schools received fire prevention programs along with whole school assemblies where our children were treated with not only fire safety tips but also had fun watching firefighters race donning their protective clothing.

