

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT



PETERS TOWNSHIP  
FIRE DEPARTMENT



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# FROM THE CHIEF

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On behalf of the devoted men and women of the Peters Township Fire Department, as the Fire Chief, I am honored to present the 2022 Fire Department Report.

This year highlighted many accomplishments by the organization and its members. Highlighted by record numbers of emergency responses (1,852), non-emergency incidents (1,361), training hours (5,014), and volunteer duty shift hours (4,626), the hard work and dedication of our members is what makes this organization thrive.

In May, crews broke ground on a Fire Station 3. This day comes after years of gathering and analyzing data, purchasing land, designing a building to suit the needs of the community, and awarding the general construction contract to the lowest of six qualified bidders. The building is planned to be opened in the first quarter of 2023.

Always looking for ways to better our organization, in 2022, the Peters Township Fire Department was recognized by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner as a Gold Level Participating Department for having 100% of our firefighting personnel certified by nationally recognized professional qualification standards. At the time of award, Peters Township Fire Department was only one of 37 Gold level departments recognized by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

All of this could not be done without the amazing support we receive from Township Administration, Township Council, and most importantly, the support of our community residents.

Michael R. McLaughlin Jr.  
Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator



***"The hard work and dedication of our members is what makes this organization thrive."***

# DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW



When a group of residents grew concerned about fire protection in Peters Township, they decided to do something about it. In 1937, they founded the Peters Township Volunteer Fire Company. For many years, an all-volunteer organization that provided fire protection and rescue services to the growing township. After realizing the need for an increased staffing level, especially during daylight hours, paid staffing was added in the 1980s to meet the needs of the Township.



Today, The Peters Township Fire Department's 50-person roster is comprised of both career and volunteer firefighters who staff our stations with a minimum of 2 firefighters 24/7, 365 days per year. This staffing ensures that no matter the time of day, a fire apparatus will respond immediately, with qualified personnel, as soon as a 911 call is received. The Department operates multiple fire apparatus, including - 3 engines, 1 specialized rescue/engine, a 109' aerial ladder truck, specialized squads, a boat, and specially outfitted UTV for rescuing patients from wooded areas and the trail. These fire and rescue apparatus are housed in two fire stations - the headquarters on East McMurray Road near Washington Road and the Substation at the intersection of Bebout and Sugarcamp Roads.

Coming soon in 2023 will be the addition of Station 3 in the Venetia area of the Township. The station was under construction throughout 2022 and is set to be completed in early 2023. See the Station 3 section later in this report to learn more about this project.

## Mission Statement

*Peters Township firefighters are a team of highly trained and dedicated professionals, committed to providing the highest standard of emergency service to our community. We stand ready to provide fire suppression, emergency rescue, fire prevention and education, and emergency medical care.*

*We will provide these essential services promptly, safely, and compassionately to all who need them in Peters Township and surrounding communities.*

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## Participating Department Recognition Program

In April of 2022, the Peters Township Fire Department was recognized by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner for having 100% of our firefighting personnel trained to nationally recognized professional qualifications and standards.

Participating Department” is a program that Commonwealth emergency responders have an opportunity to participate in and be recognized as a certified fire professional at various levels in accordance with nationally recognized and sanctioned Professional Qualification standards. The purpose is to recognize those organizations that support, promote, and encourage their emergency response personnel to voluntarily certify within the Commonwealth’s Certification Program administered by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

There are four Levels at which fire departments can apply for recognition. The levels are based on the percentage of personnel the department has certified to the following levels:

At the time of application, Pennsylvania has a total of 2,448 fire departments according to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner. 209 of those departments participate in the recognition program, and only 36 of them are at the Gold Level. Peters Township is now the 37th Gold Level Participating Department.

- 10% of Personnel Certified
- 50% of Personnel Certified – Bronze
- 75% of Personnel Certified – Silver
- 100% of Personnel Certified – Gold



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## Fern Hollow Bridge



# Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue

On January 28th, the Fern Hollow Bridge Collapsed in the City of Pittsburgh. Captain Chris Chiprich from the Peters Township Fire Department responded as a member of PA Strike Team 1 to assist with searching for victims. He and Captain Chris Barton are two members of our organization that serve on that team. Peters Township should be proud to be a sponsoring agency for these members who are provided an amazing level of training each year as a result of this partnership.

A bill was introduced to the PA House of Representatives in April to streamline the Urban Search and Rescue Response in Pennsylvania. Fire and EMS Chiefs from all around the area attended a press release.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## Fire Station #3 Project

The existing building on the site of the new fire station 3 was demolished in April. Before demolition, Peters firefighters used the building for training in the months leading up to it. The department also hosted a Rapid Intervention class led by state-certified instructors. Members from local mutual aid departments also attended.

Rapid Intervention Teams "RIT" are teams of firefighters assigned at an incident to rescue firefighters who have become trapped or disoriented. These teams also place ladders for firefighter egress and assist in making the building safe during firefighting operations.



After the demolition, site work took place to prepare the land for the foundation of fire station 3. During the summer of 2022, the plumbing and infrastructure were installed before pouring concrete. The building began to take shape in the fall of 2022 and is almost near completion in December. We are excited to open station 3 in 2023, and better serve the residents of Peters Township.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## Peters Township High School Mock Crash

In May, the Mock Crash was conducted along with Peters Township High School, PT Police, EMS, Beinhauer funeral home, and Life Flight. The mock crash is a simulated exercise to teach kids the hazards of destructive decisions like drinking, drugs, and distracted driving. Each year the mock crash is demonstrated just before prom as a reminder to be safe and responsible teenagers in the community.



## Open House

Annually Peters Township Firefighters open the doors at Station 1 on East McMurray road and welcome the public to see what the fire department is all about. Throughout the fire station are a variety of informational stands set up to provide information about fire and life safety, the fire department's daily operations, and future safety plans for the Township's emergency response. Live demonstrations, handouts, food, and the ability to get hands-on with various attractions are provided to visitors during the event.



One of the main attractions at the Open House is the kids' agility test. Here, kids drag a manikin, carry a hose, climb a ladder, and use a firefighter-style hose to spray fake flames.



Sparky visited with hundreds of guests at the 2022 Fire Department Open House. Sparky was one of about a dozen attractions that guests could enjoy.

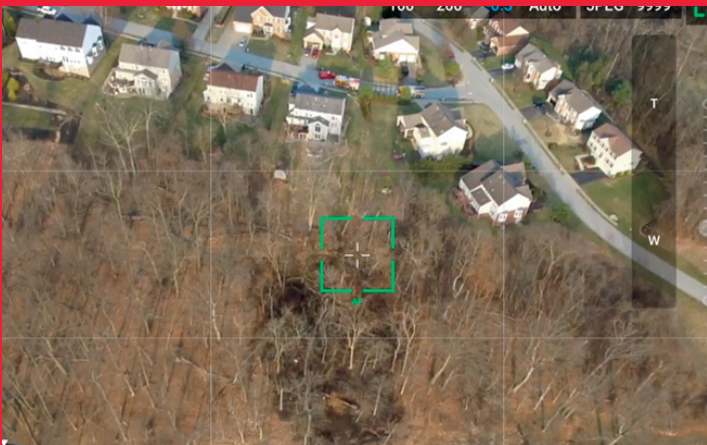
# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## New Advanced Drone Technology Saving Lives



In 2022, the fire department replaced its old DJI drone with the newest technology. The new DJI drone is designed for firefighting and search and rescue purposes. The drone is equipped with Flir thermal imaging capabilities to sense heat. The drone is deployed for search and rescue calls, brush fires, and any critical incident in which it can be useful.



To the left is a drone photo from a large brush fire in March that extended from a residential property to Township Open Space. Drone use at brush fires can help firefighters see the fire's size and spread, aiding in proper quick extinguishment. The thermal capabilities also enable crews to find hot spots helping prevent rekindles.

In October, the drone was called to North Strabane to look for a missing driver following a severe crash on Rt 519. Thanks to the FLIR camera on the drone, the patient was found hundreds of feet away from the crash scene in the woods. Our fire department paramedics treated his serious injuries on the scene. He was then flown to a Pittsburgh trauma center via a medical helicopter for further treatment.



Actual drone image of finding the driver

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## Station 1 Garage Door Replacement

In November 2022, the garage doors on Fire Station #1 were replaced. All the doors facing the road were replaced with mostly glass ones. The two back doors were also replaced but with all metal doors. The improved look with the glass doors is energy efficient and helps residents see inside while the doors are closed!



## Fire Engine Replacement



A capital improvement project for the Township between 2022-2023 was to replace the 2007 HME Pumper. In early 2022, the apparatus was designed and approved to be built. The truck committee traveled to Pierce Manufacturing in April for the pre-construction meeting of the fire pumper ordered in January by Council. Although this new apparatus replaces an old reserve pumper, it will become the first out frontline pumper allocated to the new Station 3..

Below are progress update picture from Pierce Manufacturing of the new Engine 3 being constructed. The Engine is expected to be completed in the spring of 2023.



Rear Hose Bed

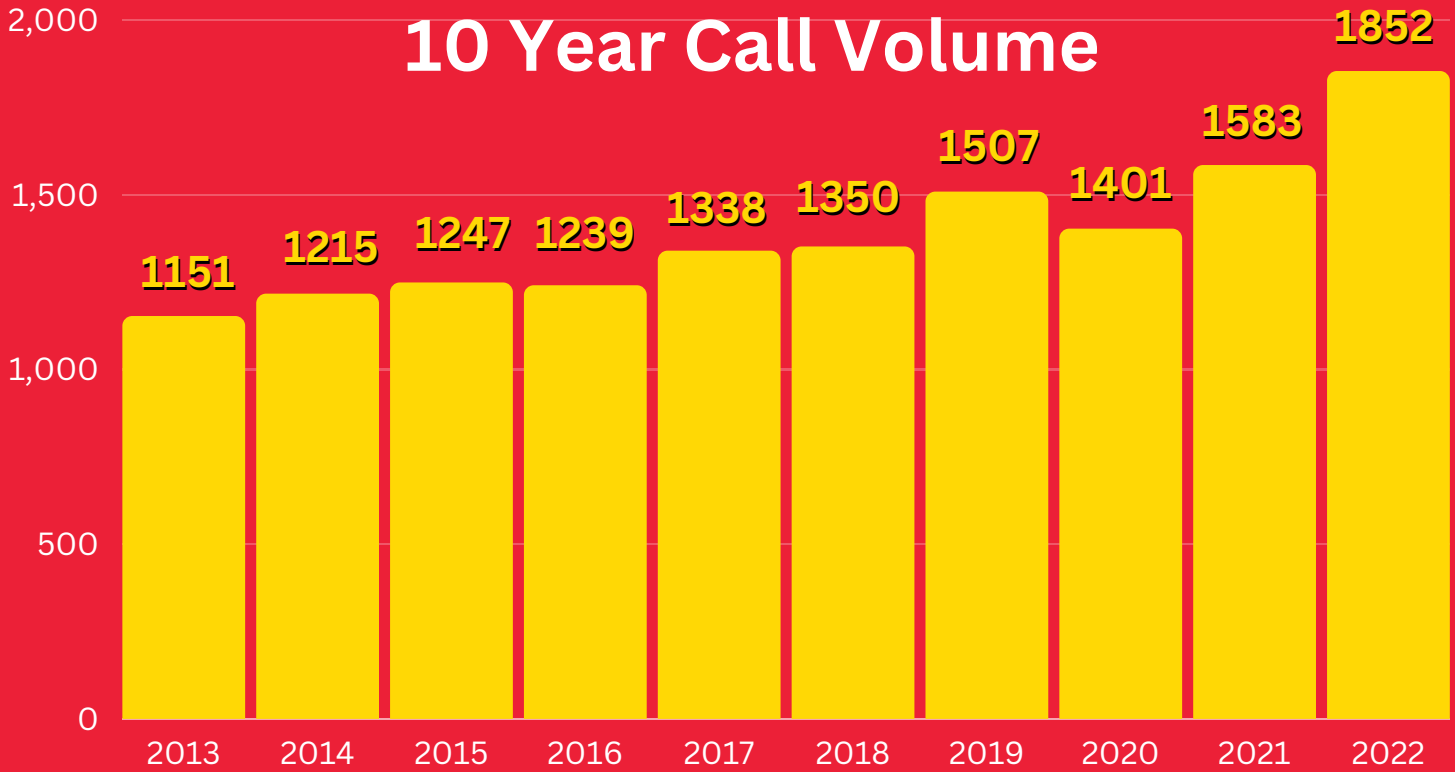


Officer side body compartments



Officer side body cab

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



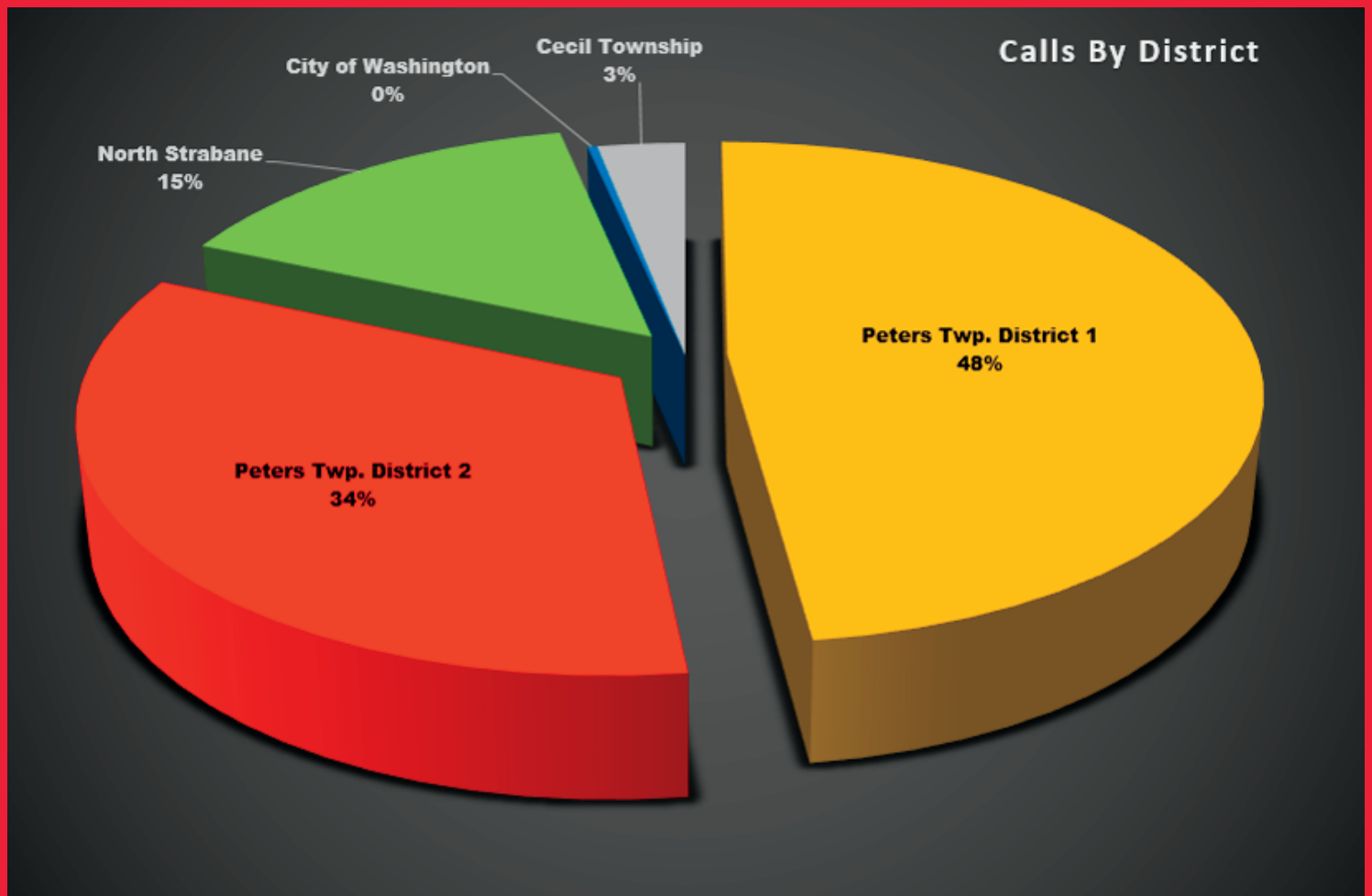
# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Average Response Time By District	2021	2022
District 1	5:16	5:35
District 2	8:53	8:48

District 1: Areas south of Valley Brook Road and west of Thomas Road.

District 2: Areas north of Valley Brook Road and east of Thomas Road.



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Response by Day	2021	2022
Monday	220	264
Tuesday	187	285
Wednesday	257	268
Thursday	244	216
Friday	249	295
Saturday	216	295
Sunday	210	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1852</b>

Response by Time of Day Weekdays	2021	2022
Between 7am-11pm	977	1151
Between 11pm-7am	115	177
Response by Time of Day Weekends		
Between 7am-11pm	434	447
Between 11pm-7am	115	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1852</b>



Average Manpower	2021	2022
7am-3pm	6.7	6.7
3pm-11pm	6.7	6.7
11pm-7am	3.8	3.8

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Response by Call Type	2019	2020	2021	2022
Structure Fire	30	16	13	19
Structure Alarm	376	335	410	402
North Strabane	232	206	212	252
Mutual Aid	66	82	72	110
Rescue	15	24	24	15
MVA – no entrapment	82	83	92	101
Hazardous Condition	237	194	192	239
Vehicle Fire	6	7	4	5
Brush Fire	12	12	9	11
Other Fire	7	5	5	18
Medical	296	271	328	496
Weather Related	2	23	60	30
Miscellaneous	146	143	162	154
<b>Total</b>	<b>1507</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1852</b>

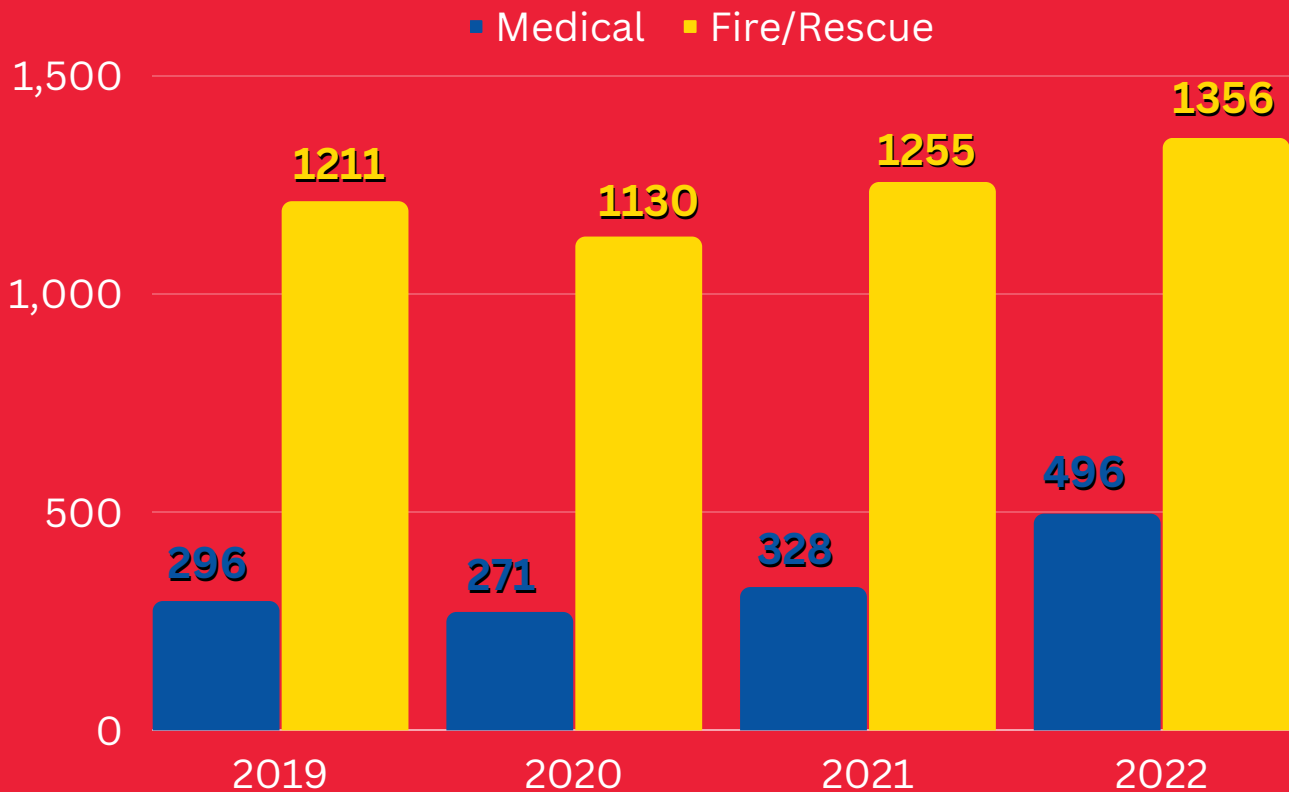
# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



The department provides Advanced Life Support Quick Response Service "QRS" to the community with Certified EMTs, Advanced-EMTs, and Paramedics. The chart below shows our calls separated Medical vs. Fire/Rescue. In 2022, we responded to 496 Medical calls and 1,356 fire/rescue calls.



During these calls, our personnel treat life-threatening emergencies. Sometimes if the transporting ambulance arrives without an ALS crew, our paramedics provide the Advance Life Support care all the way to the hospital in the ambulance.



# NON-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS



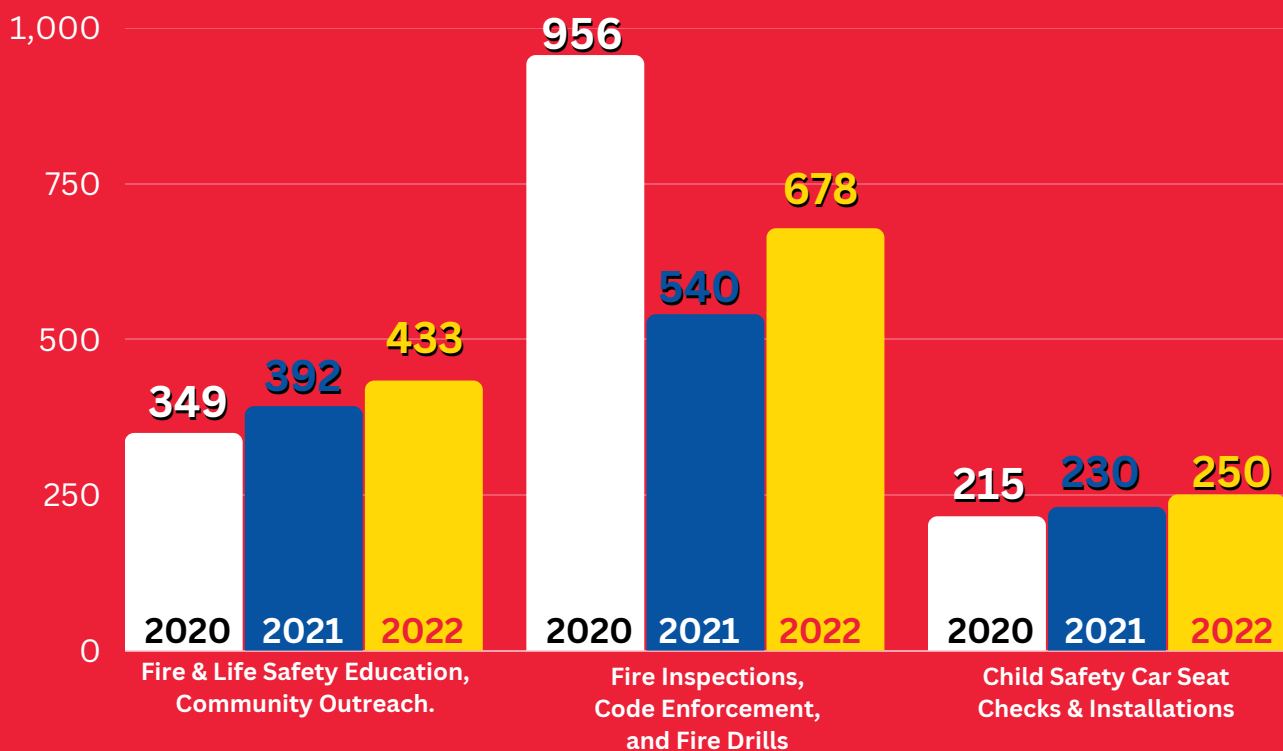
## Fire Drills

Every month, all personal care facilities, childcare centers, preschools, and educational institutions must undergo a supervised fire drill. PTFD crews conduct these drills and test both occupants and staff on their reaction to a fire alarm activation. Additionally, these drills allow us to test the alarm systems and the companies who monitor them to ensure that they are working correctly and will notify us quickly in case of a fire or emergency.



## Fire Inspections & Code Enforcement

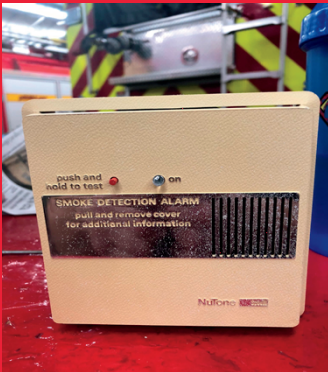
Under the direction of the Fire Chief, PTFD assigns a firefighter as the fire inspector. This firefighter works closely with the Peters Township Planning Department to ensure all fire and life safety codes are strictly adhered to in commercial businesses throughout the Township. This is accomplished through plan reviews before construction, throughout the building process, and with final testing and inspection once the building is complete. Duty crews also assist in routine annual inspections of occupancies to ensure all fire and life safety standards are continuously being met.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



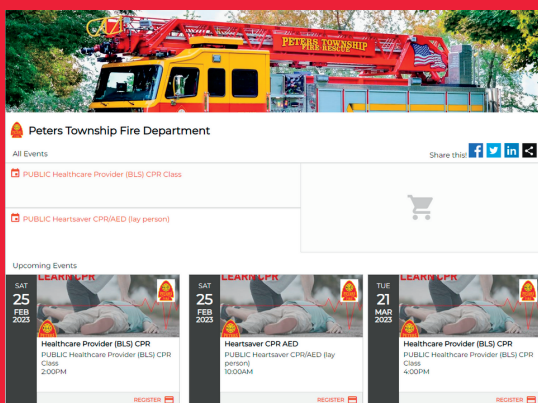
Without our community, we wouldn't be here! Our firefighters take an active role in our community and truly engage with residents whenever they can. The more our residents are familiar with our personnel, the safer our community is. We participate in several events each year to maintain and continue building our relationship with our community members. We are always open to new opportunities!



August 2022: One of many smoke detectors from 1976 that were found and replaced with new detectors during the "Smoke Detector blitz" in Roscommon.

## CPR, AED and First Aid Training

Many of our firefighters are CPR and First Aid instructors. PTFD proudly hosts CPR classes for the public monthly. The website has streamlined the process of signing up and assisted with registration for the over 30 CPR classes taught by PTFD in 2022. In addition to CPR training, offer fire extinguisher training, stop the bleed, and other fire and life safety classes to residents and businesses of Peters Township.



If you are interested in attending one of our CPR, AED courses in 2023 visit our website [www.ptfd64.org](http://www.ptfd64.org). You can also email [fire@peterstownship.com](mailto:fire@peterstownship.com) to learn more about the other classes offered to groups. like fire extinguisher training and stop the bleed.

We also provide Community Outreach with

- Fire Prevention
- Smoke Detectors
- Home Safety
- Car Seats (15 certified technicians on staff)

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Under the direction of Peters Township Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Mike McLaughlin Jr., PTFD performs the Emergency Management functions for Peters Township.

Emergency management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters. Emergency management seeks to promote safer, less vulnerable communities that can cope with both man-made and natural hazards and disasters..



A Township-wide emergency EOC (Emergency Operations Center) is located at Station 64-1 on East McMurray Road. The EOC is essential to the continuum of emergency services during natural and man-made disasters. It provides a unified location for the management and command of large incidents. Depending on the type and size of the incident, includes representatives from fire, police, EMS, emergency management, public works, and township officials.

# TRAINING



Peters Township Firefighters have training every Monday evening except for the first Monday of each month. Monday trainings review the department's operations and provide time for the firefighters to sharpen their skills in our various services offered.



Firefighter Bell forcing open the forcible entry door prop. One of many different props used for realistic training.



In addition to normal Monday trainings, the department holds a structure burn training annually. In 2022, the department was fortunate to have a house on Thompsonville Road that was slated for demolition donated for training purposes before being demolished.

Donated Thompsonville training house.

This training is extremely valuable to the members of the department to get the most realistic training for a structure fire. The class was led by Pennsylvania Suppressions Instructors. All DEP and EPA permits were obtained prior to the training.



Firefighters making entry to extinguish flames inside the Thompsonville training house.



Captain Chris Barton extinguishing flames inside the Thompsonville training house.



Station 1 Training Area

Both Station 1 and 2 have training areas that have been put together over the years.

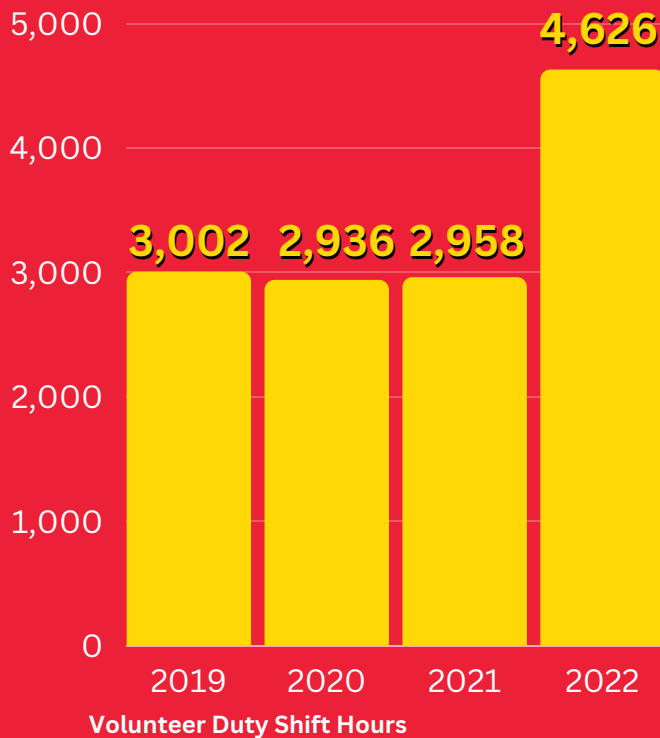
Station 1 has a shipping container with windows for ladder training and a roof prop to simulate cutting ventilation holes. Station 1 also has an area for vehicle rescue training and a forcible entry door prop that can be transported. The classroom at station 1 is used for public and firefighter training. At station 2, the department has the self-contained breathing apparatus confidence maze.

# VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



Peters Township Fire Department is a combination fire department with both career and volunteer personnel. In 2022, the department had approximately 30 volunteers and the equivalent to 13.75 permanent fulltime employees.

Significant time this year was spent in Volunteer duty shift hours. The picture above shows volunteers Brendan Lepore, Adam Gray, and Adam Ketyer on a duty shift. The volunteer duty program allows volunteers to work shifts alongside our career personnel. The duty shifts allow for extra staffing, additional training opportunities, and improved operational readiness to better serve the community. A large increase volunteer duty hours as seen below was in part due to both less covid restrictions and the application of overnight duty shifts.



# 2023 OBJECTIVES



Each year we set new objectives to accomplish in the following year. These objectives help us to continually progress and provide the best services possible at the lowest cost to the community. These objectives range from long term capital projects, to small day to day operational changes. Below you will find a list of some of the objectives we intend to meet in 2023.

- Upgrade Training Facilities to allow for more types of trainings to better prepare for emergencies.
- Open and begin Staffing Fire Station 3
- Evaluate, purchase, and implement a new reporting software.
- Update deployment plans, mutual aid agreements, and zones for new 3 station model.
- Final inspection, take delivery, and place in service new Engine 3 as a frontline ALS pumper.
- Partner with the National Weather Service to become a "Storm Ready" community.

Visit our website for updates [www.ptfd64.org](http://www.ptfd64.org) or follow us on social media.

As we close 2022, we sincerely thank our residents, business owners, and mutual-aid departments for their help and support with another successful year. We also would like to thank the other Township entities that work closely with us and assist in many ways behind the scene to help us provide the best possible service to the community, including, but not limited to, our partners at PT Community TV, the Planning department, Police department, Community Recreation, and Library to name a few. Thank You! We are looking forward to working with everyone in the future as well. Stay safe!