

2023

ANNUAL

REPORT



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From the **CHIEF**



As the Fire Chief, I am honored to present the 2023 Fire Department Annual Report on behalf of the dedicated personnel of Peters Township Fire Department.

This year, we achieved some considerable milestone accomplishments as an organization with the support of the Township. These major highlights were years in the making and will help provide an even more exceptional public service to the Township. Station 3's construction was completed, and in March, crews began staffing it. The project was on target, with the plan to open in the first quarter of 2023.

This is all accompanied by record numbers of emergency responses at 1,865 and training hours totaling over 6,569. The hard work and dedication of our members make this organization thrive, and we are thankful for that.

As we close another record year, this one with significant milestones, we are always looking ahead, planning, evaluating, and adjusting our course to ensure we provide the best possible service to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

All of this could not be done without the fantastic support we receive from Township Administration, Township Council, and most importantly, the support of our community residents. We sincerely thank you all!

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

Department Overview



Peters Township Fire Department is a combination fire department with career and volunteer personnel. Our personnel work together to provide the best possible emergency service at the lowest cost to the Township.

It all started in 1937 when a group of residents grew concerned about fire protection in Peters Township and decided to do something about it. That is when they founded the Peters Township Volunteer Fire Company. For many years, that all-volunteer organization provided fire protection and rescue services to the growing Township. After realizing the need for increased staffing to provide the best possible service, paid staffing was added in the late 1970s/early 80s to meet the needs of the growing Township. Since then, the Department has grown like the Township and continues to provide the best possible service.

Today, the Department has a roster of 52 personnel comprised of 22 career members and 30 volunteers. These personnel respond from three stations throughout the Township, two of which are staffed 24/7/365.

The Department operates multiple fire apparatus, including – 3 engines, 1 specialized rescue/engine, a 109' aerial ladder truck, 1 reserve pumper, specialized squads, a boat, and specially outfitted UTV for rescuing patients from wooded areas and the Montour trail.

While we hold emergency response as our top priority, the Department does much more than just put out fires. Our all-hazards department responds to emergencies involving fires, hazardous materials, rescue incidents, medical calls, hazardous conditions, etc. We also provide fire prevention and community outreach activities that include but are not limited to, fire prevention programs for children and adults, CPR/AED training, Stop the Bleed training, Car seat installations by certified techs, fire inspections, preplanning, and much more.

Highlights



Station 3 Open and Staffed

Construction of Station 3, located at 435 Bebout Road in the Venetia area of the Township, was substantially completed in late February. On March 6, 2023, crews began staffing the Fire Station. This station was constructed with the intent to staff it and reduce response times to emergencies on that side of the Township. Since opening in March 2023, this has proved to be an immediate success, not only in the areas close to this station but throughout the entire Township. Station 3 is one of the two staffed fire stations out of the three total stations in the Township. With staffing allocated to Stations 1 & 3 and over 25% of calls overlapping, crews can provide better coverage and response as a whole.



Engine 3

In April 2023, the final inspection of the new engine was completed at the Pierce factory in Florida. The apparatus was then sent to PA and fitted with the remainder of the equipment and tools necessary to function. The apparatus was placed in service in June. Once it received its EMS license from the State, it was placed in service as the primary response unit from apparatus at Station 3. This apparatus is a 2023 Pierce Saber Pumper with 750gal water and 25 gal foam. It has the tools and capabilities to handle emergencies immediately. The apparatus is also licensed by the PA Department of Health as an Advanced Life Support Medical Squad and carries all the same medical equipment (with trained providers) as the Ambulance, except the stretcher.



Accomplishments



Squad 2 & 3 Upfitting

Both Station 2 and Station 3 squads were upfitted to carry more appropriate tools for fire suppression, hazard mitigation, and emergency response. These units are used to move firefighters to the scene of emergencies and help with incidents like storm-related calls where a large apparatus isn't always necessary. On-duty crews completed the work, including installing a CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) on Squad 3 for fires where large apparatus cannot go, like wildland and wooded areas.



Accomplishments



Grants

The Department received multiple grants in 2023 totaling over \$100,000 to help with equipment needs. These grants all took a lot of time and effort by our personnel to write, apply for, and implement the results—special thanks to our crews, who have skills well beyond the required duties.

- Assistance to Firefighters Grant - \$55,454 for exhaust removal system
- PA State Fire Commissioner Grant - \$20,000 for hose replacement
- PA Skill Charitable Gaming Foundation - \$3,500 for EMS bags
- TC Energy - \$12,500 for two outboard motors to upgrade the boats
- Washington County Community Foundation - \$5,000 for CAFS system
- Columbia Gas - \$3,000 for a set of turn-out gear
- PA American Water - \$500 for wildland fire hand tools



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Accomplishments

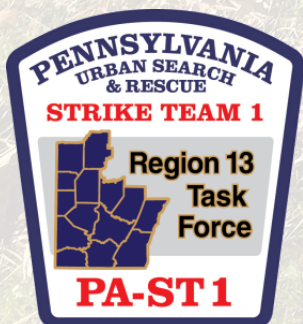


Storm Ready

As part of our Emergency Management functions for the Township, we provide the best possible preparedness and response to all hazards, including weather emergencies. In January 2023, we partnered with the National Weather Service as a Storm Ready community. This helps us develop plans to handle all types of extreme weather, from tornados to winter storms. It helps improve local hazardous weather operations by providing clear-cut guidelines. With this program, we have established a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center and have multiple ways to receive severe weather warnings and forecast them to alert the public early. Additionally, we have a system that monitors weather conditions locally and a small weather reading station. In the future, we plan to upgrade our weather monitoring systems, host community seminars with the NWS to answer questions, provide residents with training, and hold mock exercises.

Specialty Teams

PTFD has multiple members who are trained to specialty levels in certain areas. These members supplement different State and Local Response teams for various types of emergencies. They are trained to specialty levels and provide care as Collapse Medical Specialists, Rescue specialists, Tactical Paramedics, and HazMat Technicians. These teams include the PA Urban Search & Rescue Team, South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG) Technical Rescue Team, SHACOG Critical Incident Response Team (SWAT), and the Washington County HazMat Team. The teams are sent to incidents in and around Peters Township, where local-level emergency responders need more resources, additional capabilities, or specialized equipment/training to handle an incident. The members attached to these teams train with the respective teams and with PTFD, thus bringing additional knowledge, skills, and abilities directly to our department.



Staffing



Station Coverage

The department staffs two (Station 1 & 3) fire stations 24/7/365 with a minimum of 2 qualified firefighters working together in each station. These firefighters are also certified medical providers and rescue technicians. Therefore, they can respond to all types of incidents. The other station (Station 2) is for home response personnel. This means off-duty and volunteer personnel respond to the stations to assist during multiple calls or major emergencies.

Career Personnel

In 2023, the Township employed 12 full-time firefighters, 8 part-time firefighters, and 2 Chief officers. This staffing will move to 14 full-time, 6 part-time, and 2 Chiefs in 2024 to assist with needs. Personnel are assigned to shifts to cover staffing requirements, safely respond to emergencies, and cover non-emergency duties. Crews also handle many other functions during their shifts, including, but not limited to, vehicle and station maintenance, training, equipment procurement and readiness, inspections, fire safety education, etc.

Volunteer Personnel

The Department proudly has 30 volunteers with various skills and abilities. Volunteers assist with staffing, respond from home, and are trained to help when needed. These volunteers come from different backgrounds like IT, accounting, Law, Military, etc., and other career fire departments. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.ptfd64.org.

Skill Bridge Program

Peters Township partnered with the United States Department of Defense as a skill bridge program facility. During the last six months of military service, US Service members can apply for a skill bridge program in a career field they were trained for in the military or have an interest in pursuing after military life. This program is to ease the transition from military to civilian life. They are considered interns and compensated by the DoD. In 2023, we hosted our second skill bridge intern. This one was a Marine Corps firefighter completing his military service and moving to the civilian side. After the program, Brock even joined us as one of our volunteers!



Emergency Response



Emergency Response



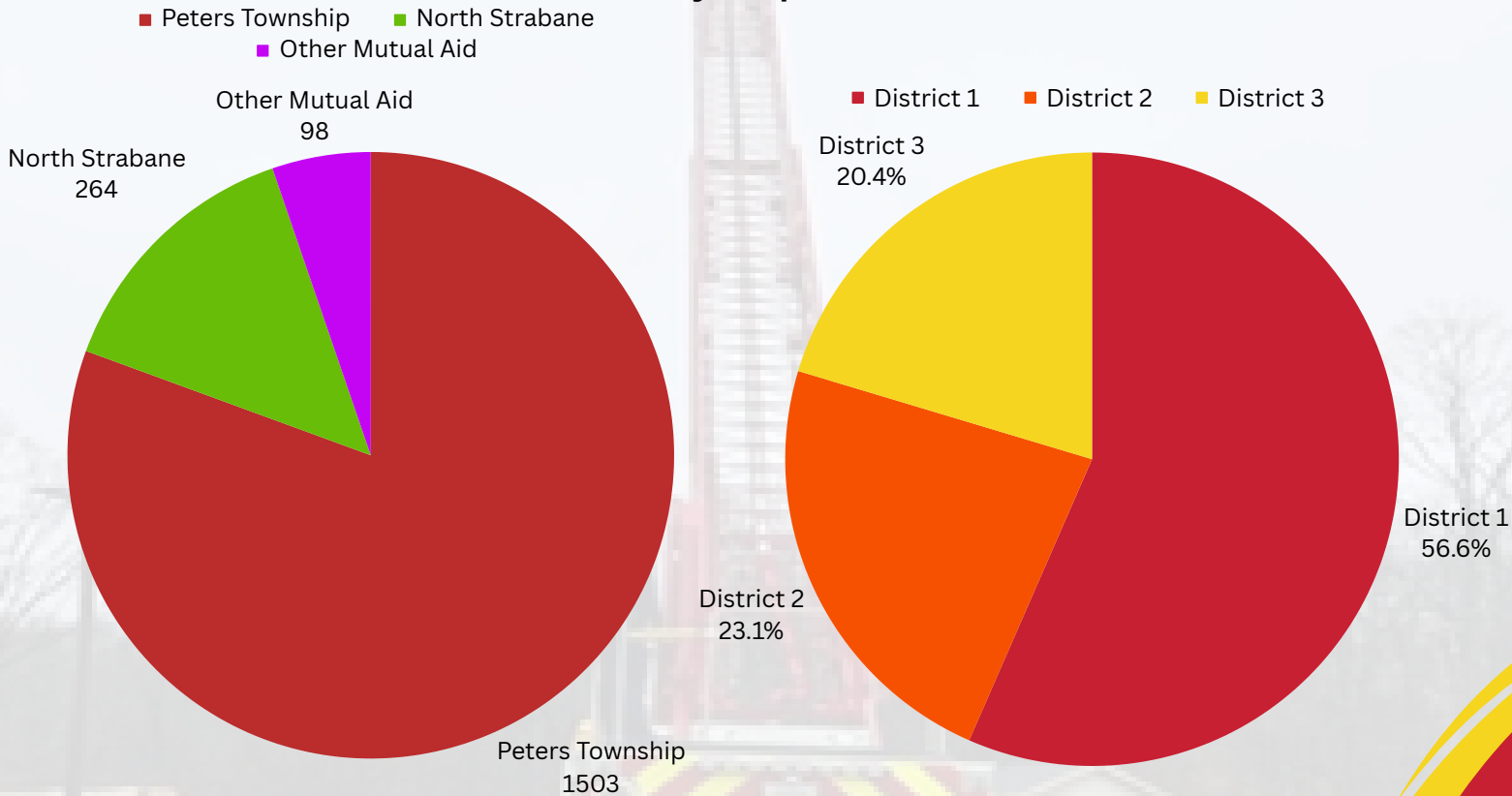
Response by Call Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Structure Fire	30	16	13	19	28
Structure Alarm	376	335	410	402	375
North Strabane	232	206	212	252	232
Mutual Aid	66	82	72	110	86
Rescue	15	24	24	15	24
MVA - no entrapment	82	83	92	101	85
Hazardous Condition	237	194	192	239	218
Vehicle Fire	6	7	4	5	3
Brush Fire	12	12	9	11	15
Other Fire	7	5	5	18	3
Medical	296	271	328	496	579
Weather Related	2	23	60	30	29
Miscellaneous	146	143	162	154	188
Total	1507	1401	1583	1852	1865

Emergency Response



With the opening of Station 3 in 2023, the Township is now separated into 3 fire response districts to respond more efficiently and collect better data. Although all three Fire stations protect the whole Township, Only Stations 1 and 3 are staffed 24/7, with Station 2 remaining a home response station. Therefore, to provide the best service, Station 1 is primarily responsible for District 1 and a small portion of District 2. Station 3's primary response area is District 3 and the rest of District 2. The opening of Station 3 and response district changes have already reduced response times throughout the entire Township. This was expected in Districts 2 and 3 because there were previously no staffed stations except Station 1 covering everything, but the reallocation of resources has proved it's worth Township-wide.

Call Totals By Response Area



Average Response Time By District (Dispatch to on scene)	2022	2023
District 1	5:35	5:10
District 2	8:48	6:31
District 3	n/a	6:44

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

District 2: Areas north of Valley Brook Road and west of East McMurray Road.

District 3: Areas north of Thomas Road and East of East McMurray Road.

Emergency Response



Response by Day	2022	2023
Monday	264	237
Tuesday	285	274
Wednesday	268	256
Thursday	216	296
Friday	295	301
Saturday	295	283
Sunday	229	218
Total	1852	1865

Average Manpower	2022	2023
7am-3pm	6.7	7.3
3pm-11pm	6.7	7.5
11pm-7am	3.8	4.8

Response by Time of Day Weekdays	2022	2023
Between 7am-11pm	1151	1087
Between 11pm-7am	177	144
Response by Time of Day Weekends		
Between 7am-11pm	447	563
Between 11pm-7am	77	71
Total	1852	1865

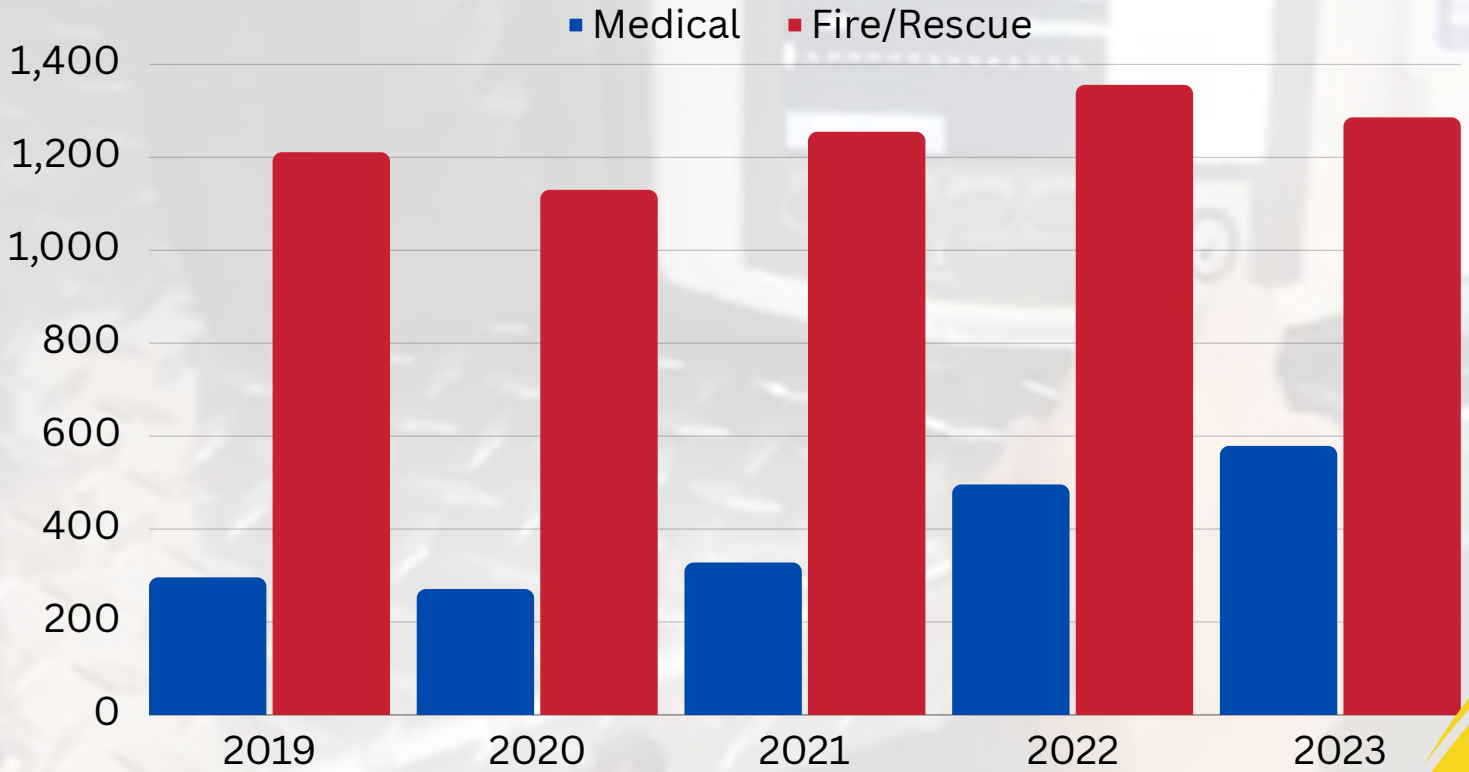




Emergency Response



Four vehicles are certified as “ALS Squads,” which allows the Department to respond to medical calls. They carry all the same equipment as an ambulance without the stretcher. Crews are dispatched to all priority medicals in the Township and when an out-of-town ambulance is responding or the responding ambulance doesn’t have an ALS provider to provide the appropriate level of care. We provide Advanced Life Support Quick Response Service “QRS” to the community with our certified EMTs, Advanced-EMTs, and Paramedics. During these calls, our personnel treat life-threatening emergencies. When the transporting ambulance arrives without an Advanced Life Support Provider crew, our ALS providers keep patient care and provide the needed ALS care on the way to the hospital in the ambulance. The chart below shows our calls separated Medical vs. Fire/Rescue. In 2023, we responded to 579 Medical calls and 1,286 fire/rescue calls.



Training



Program and Activities

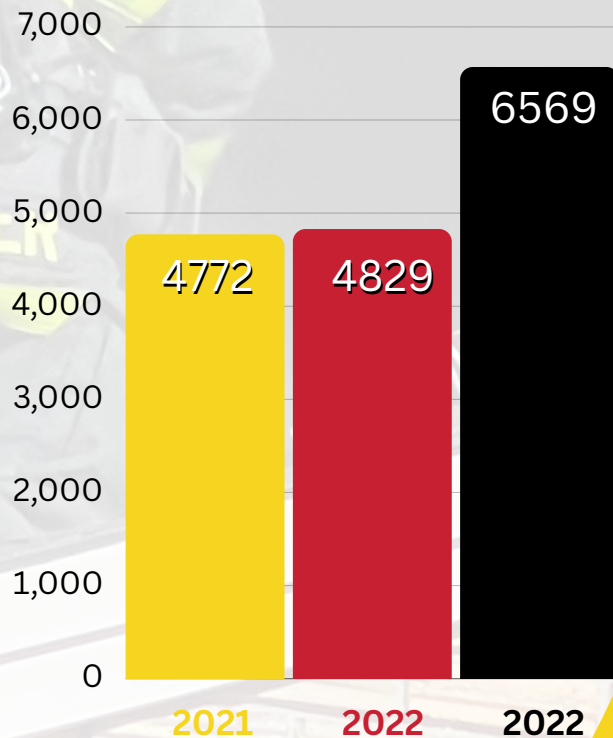
PTFD Trains every Monday evening as a whole department, newer members train additionally on Wednesday nights, and classes are held throughout the year at the Department to keep up with current standards. In addition, crews train during their shifts and, when able, attend training at local, state, and national fire academies and conferences around the US to better prepare for emergencies.



In 2023, 8 personnel attended the State Fire Academy, completing classes in incident command, structural firefighting, and truck company operations. Additionally, 9 personnel obtained new pro board certifications, and multiple personnel obtained water rescue certifications.

The department also sponsored two state-certified live fire classes in acquired structures in the Township.

Training hours by year



Training



Acquired Structures

Peters residents and businesses helped support the Department's training efforts last year by donating over 4 residential houses that crews could use for training before they were demolished. Training in actual structures is a significant advantage for our personnel because they are actual buildings and provide real-world challenges while in a training environment. Two structures donated in 2023 were also used for live fire evolutions by our Department. These evolutions are the most realistic types of training that crews can do. A huge thank you to all involved in donating the residences and those who helped conduct the training classes!



If you have a building or vehicle that is no longer of use to you and are looking to donate it to the Department for training purposes, please contact fire@peterstownship.com

Non-Emergency Activities



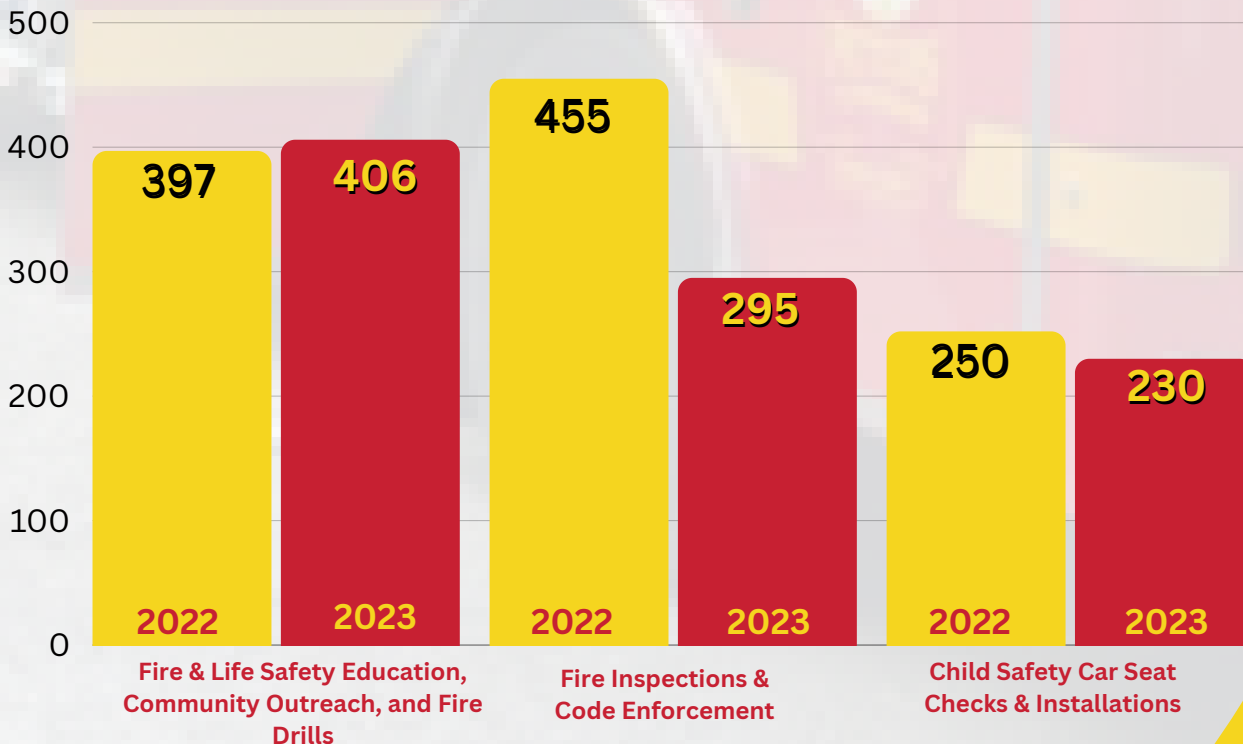
Fire Drills & Prevention



Every Month, crews perform numerous fire drills throughout the township. These drills are required at all childcare centers, preschools, personal care, and educational facilities. These fire drills allow the staff and occupants to understand how to react and respond to emergencies. Additionally, by activating the alarm system, we verify that the system functions correctly and that the notification procedures of monitoring companies and our dispatch system all work as intended. Drills also allow us to be onsite learning the layout, design, and locations of safety features inside the structures in the event of an emergency in the future. We also conduct safety training education for all students and staff at these facilities.

Fire Inspections & Code Enforcement

Under the direction of the Fire Chief, PTFD fire inspectors work closely with the Township Planning Department to perform many tasks and duties. The primary goal of the Fire Inspector program is to ensure all fire and life safety codes are strictly adhered to in commercial businesses across the Township. This goal is met by performing plan reviews before construction, inspections of Fire detection and suppression systems during construction, and final Life Safety inspections of commercial occupancies before they are permitted to open. The Fire inspectors and duty Crews also perform routine annual Fire Inspections and regularly respond to complaints of safety issues in commercial occupancies to ensure safety compliance standards.



Community Outreach



We are proud to be a part of Peters Township and are honored to be afforded the opportunity to serve the residents and visitors of this exceptional community. It is one of our goals to take an active role and engage with the people we serve. It is a vital part of our mission to ensure a safe community for all. We attend several events each year to maintain and build our relationship with the community and are always open to new opportunities!

CPR/AED & First Aid Training



PTFD proudly hosts monthly CPR classes for the public. These classes are provided for the cost of the cards only. We offer public and private classes for businesses/groups in the Township. In 2023, we conducted over 40 CPR classes resulting in the certification of OVER 400 people and an additional 180+ information only non-certified people.

Additionally, the Department has partnered with the School District to help provide certified CPR training to all 9th grade Personal Wellness class students.

If you are interested in attending one of our CPR courses and learning more about classes offered to groups, i.e., fire extinguisher training, stop the bleed, and other safety education programs, please visit our website at www.ptfd64.org.

We also provide Community Outreach for:

- Fire Prevention
- Smoke Detectors checks/installations
- Home Safety Consultations
- Car Seats installations (12 certified technicians on staff)
- Block party visits
- Station tours
- Stop the bleed training
- Fire Extinguisher training

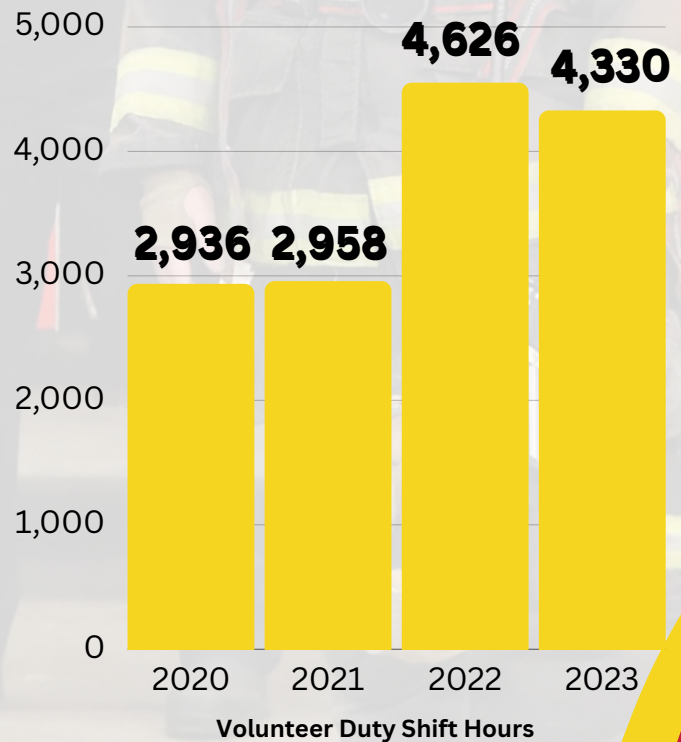
Questions and requests can be emailed to fire@peterstownship.com



Volunteer Fire Department



The volunteer component of our organization is still a top resource for providing additional funding, resources, and staffing. In addition to career staffing, the Department operates a “Volunteer On Duty” program. The program allows our volunteers to work shifts alongside the career personnel. The duty shifts allow for extra staffing, training opportunities, and improved operational readiness to serve the community better. These shifts help build camaraderie between all personnel and increase the capabilities of the Department.



Peters Township Fire Department is a combination fire department with both career and volunteer personnel. In 2023, the Department had approximately 30 volunteers and the equivalent to 15.75 permanent fulltime employees.

2024 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 to the community at the lowest cost. These objectives range from long-term capital projects to small day-to-day operational changes. Below is a list of some objectives we intend to meet in 2024.

- Evaluate, purchase, and implement a new reporting software.
- Update preplans and Preferred operating methods.
- Evaluate and update mutual aid agreements, apparatus deployment models, “Alarm assignments” by zones for the whole Township.
- Relicense all ALS vehicles through the PA Department of Health.
- Update policies and department training manuals.
- Upgrade Training Facilities to allow for more types of trainings to better prepare for emergencies.

Visit our website www.ptfd64.org
and follow us on social media!

As we close 2023, 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, Township Administration, 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!