

**Peters Township
Fire Department**

Annual Report

2024



www.ptfd64.org

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From the CHIEF



As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that I share with you the achievements and challenges our department has faced. The dedicated men and women of the Peters Township Fire Department continue to serve with unwavering commitment, providing a high standard of safety and protection to our community. This annual report highlights our ongoing progress, operational successes, and efforts to meet the evolving needs of our citizens.

In 2024, our department responded to 1,869 emergency incidents, ranging from fires to medical emergencies, rescues, and hazardous material incidents. The continued growth of our municipality and the complexities of modern emergencies have challenged us to innovate and adapt. Through specialized training, the introduction of new technologies, and a focus on collaboration, we have ensured that our personnel are prepared for any situation.

One of the highlights of this year was the successful completion of increasing our staffing to 14 fulltime employees in an effort to fully staff fire station 3. Additionally, we were able to expand our community outreach and public education initiatives by offering “smoke detector blitz's” and holding 52 CPR classes.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue building on our successes. We will remain focused on improving our service delivery, expanding community outreach, enhancing training, and ensuring the safety and well-being of our dedicated personnel. We are also working on adding a first ever summer Kids Camp to offer our young heroes in training.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks to the incredible team of firefighters and support staff who make our department a beacon of excellence. I also want to express our gratitude to the citizens and businesses of Peters Township for their continued support and partnership. Together, we are building a safer, stronger community for everyone.

Thank you for your trust, your cooperation, and your commitment to the safety and well-being of 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 50 personnel comprised of 22 career members and 28 volunteers. These personnel respond from out of 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.



TOWNSHIP FIRE-RESCUE

Station Coverage

Having staffed fire stations is key to having resources available to respond immediately to an emergency, supports both prevention and intervention, thus ensuring and increasing the safety of residents and visitors of Peters Township. The department staffs two fire stations 24/7/365 (Stations 1 & 3) with a minimum of one crew of 2 qualified career firefighters in each. These firefighters are also certified medical providers and rescue technicians. Therefore, they can respond to all types of incidents. Staffing is also increased during times of need and when volunteers are available and do "duty shifts" alongside the career staff, increasing the safety of both the public and our personnel. The other station (Station 2) is for home response personnel. This means it is not staffed all the time but has apparatus for off-duty and volunteer personnel who respond there to assist during multiple calls or significant emergencies.

Career Personnel

In 2024, the Township employed 14 full-time firefighters, 6 part-time firefighters, 2 Chief officers, and 1 part-time administrative assistant. 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, reports, etc.

Volunteer Personnel

While many departments struggle to recruit and maintain volunteers nowadays, PTFD proudly has a strong volunteer base of 28 volunteers with various skills and abilities. These volunteers assist with staffing, respond from home, and are trained to help when needed. They all come from different backgrounds, including, but not limited to, construction/maintenance, college students, IT, business, nursing, law, photography, pharmaceuticals, EMS, and even other career fire departments. Even as some move away for work or retire, we have been able to recruit new ones to fill their boots actively. We proudly obtained three new volunteers just in 2024! If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.ptfd64.org to learn more.



Highlights and Accomplishments

Smoke detector Blitz

One of our goals is to ensure all homes have working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors are essential to providing early warning to occupants in a building if there is a fire. In 2024, trying to be proactive with our message, we hosted "smoke detector blitzes" in multiple neighborhoods where we previously noticed aging or missing smoke detectors while on calls or had critical incidents nearby. During these blitzes, crews canvassed the neighborhoods and assisted residents with installing new detectors, checking old ones, and changing batteries. Crews visited over 100 homes and found over a dozen homes that did not have any working detectors before our campaign and happily assisted the residents with fixing these issues. Throughout the year, we provided and installed over 60 detectors in more than 50 residences. One of our goals in 2025 is to continue to plan Smoke Detector Blitzes throughout our Community. If you need assistance with checking or installing smoke detectors in your home, please call us at 724-941-4176.

EQT Drill

In February 2024, we partnered with EQT for a mock emergency drill involving a significant issue with a gas transmission line. Although the drill was only a drill, there were many takeaways, and it proved to be good practice for everyone involved in keeping the public safe. The drill included our emergency response and protection measures to a mock incident, EQT's response, mitigation, and preventative planning in case of a real-life issue.



Highlights and Accomplishments

Mock Crash

The "Mock Crash" is a simulated event to raise awareness about the real-life dangers of reckless driving and other destructive decisions. In a partnership with the school district, emergency personnel from Fire, Police, and EMS, along with other volunteers and students, participate in a scenario to make the scene realistic. The goal is to show students the devastating consequences of poor decisions and encourage them to make responsible choices for their lives, including on prom night, ensuring everyone stays safe while celebrating. This event takes place in Peters Township every two years to keep students aware of these dangers as they progress through highschool.



Highlights and Accomplishments

ALS Licensure

Peters Township Fire is a licensed "Advanced Life Support" emergency medical agency through the PA Department of Health. This allows us to respond to medical calls with appropriately stocked apparatus and highly trained personnel to handle medical incidents. Every three years, we must go through re-licensure, including an audit of policies, procedures, calls, equipment, personnel, etc. In 2024, we were proudly relicensed as an "ALS Agency" for four of our apparatus. Additionally, we hold an Expert level additional Pediatric care certification. This additional certification program means not only do we meet the needs to be an ALS agency, but we also meet the expert level in equipment, training, and additional services (like our car seat program) to handle incidents involving pediatric patients.

Station 3 Full year of operation

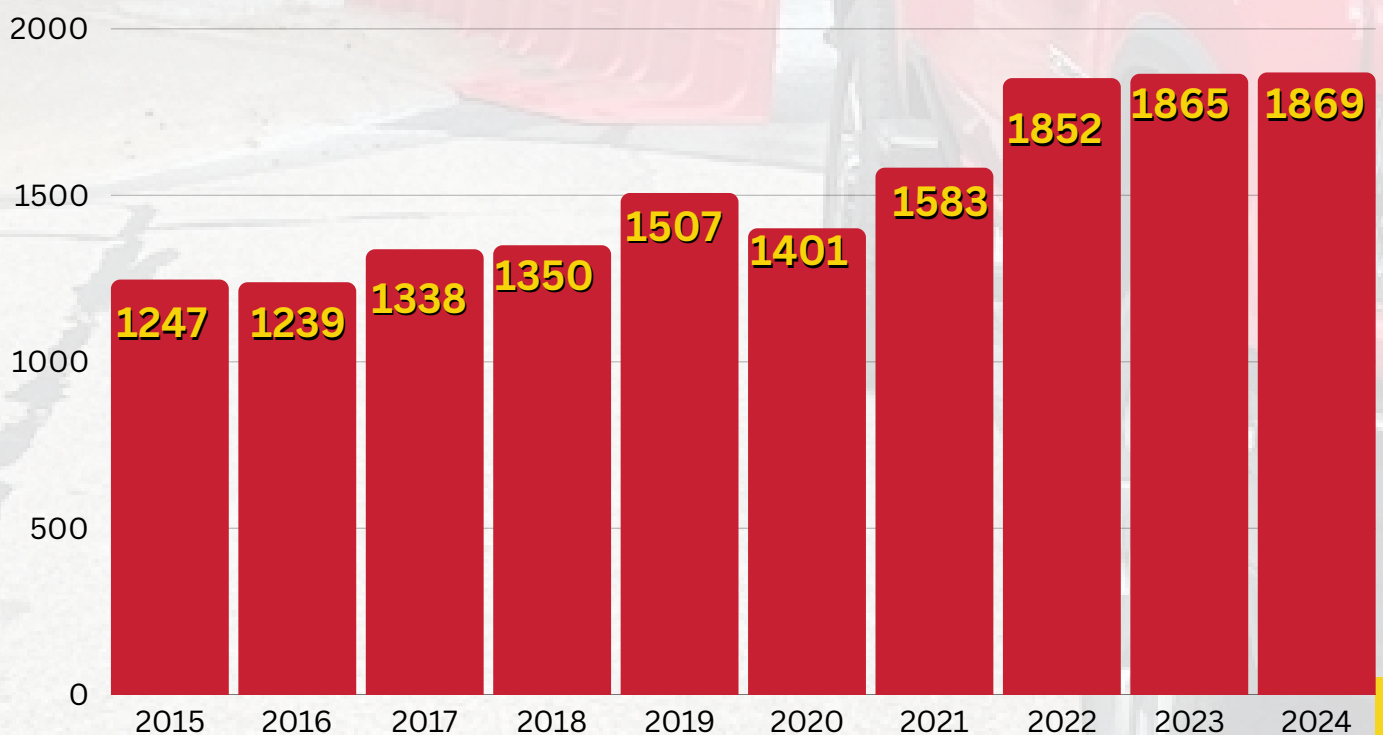
2024 marked the first full year of Station 3 being open, staffed, and responding to calls. It was not only a remarkable year to see the decrease in response times but also a year where the location and staffing of this station made an immediate impact during emergency incidents. In June, crews responded to a working attic fire in District 3. Crews from Station 3 arrived within 5 minutes of dispatch and were able to keep the fire from spreading further. Additionally, crews responded to another working structure fire in Station 3's area in July. Engine 3 arrived and had water on the fire less than 6 minutes from the original 911 call. These incidents only highlight the importance and positive impact of Station 3. If they had not been there, the intensity of the damage and loss of property would have been much more significant. In both cases and many others, including critical medical calls, the location and staffing at station three have had a considerable impact and increased the overall safety of the residents across the Township. We are thankful and look forward to providing this top-level protection for the future.



Emergency Response

Responding to emergencies is a top priority of the department, as it is essential to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. Our personnel are highly trained to handle various emergencies, including fires, medical incidents, hazardous material spills, and rescues. The department's ability to respond quickly and effectively is crucial in minimizing damage, saving lives, and providing support during times of crisis. Whether it's extinguishing a fire or providing emergency medical care, the fire department must act with precision, coordination, and urgency. This commitment to rapid response and service ensures that the public can rely on the fire department in their most critical moments. Over the next few pages, we will look at our call volume and our responses by type of incident, time of day, personnel, and location of incidents.

10 Year Call Volume



Emergency Response

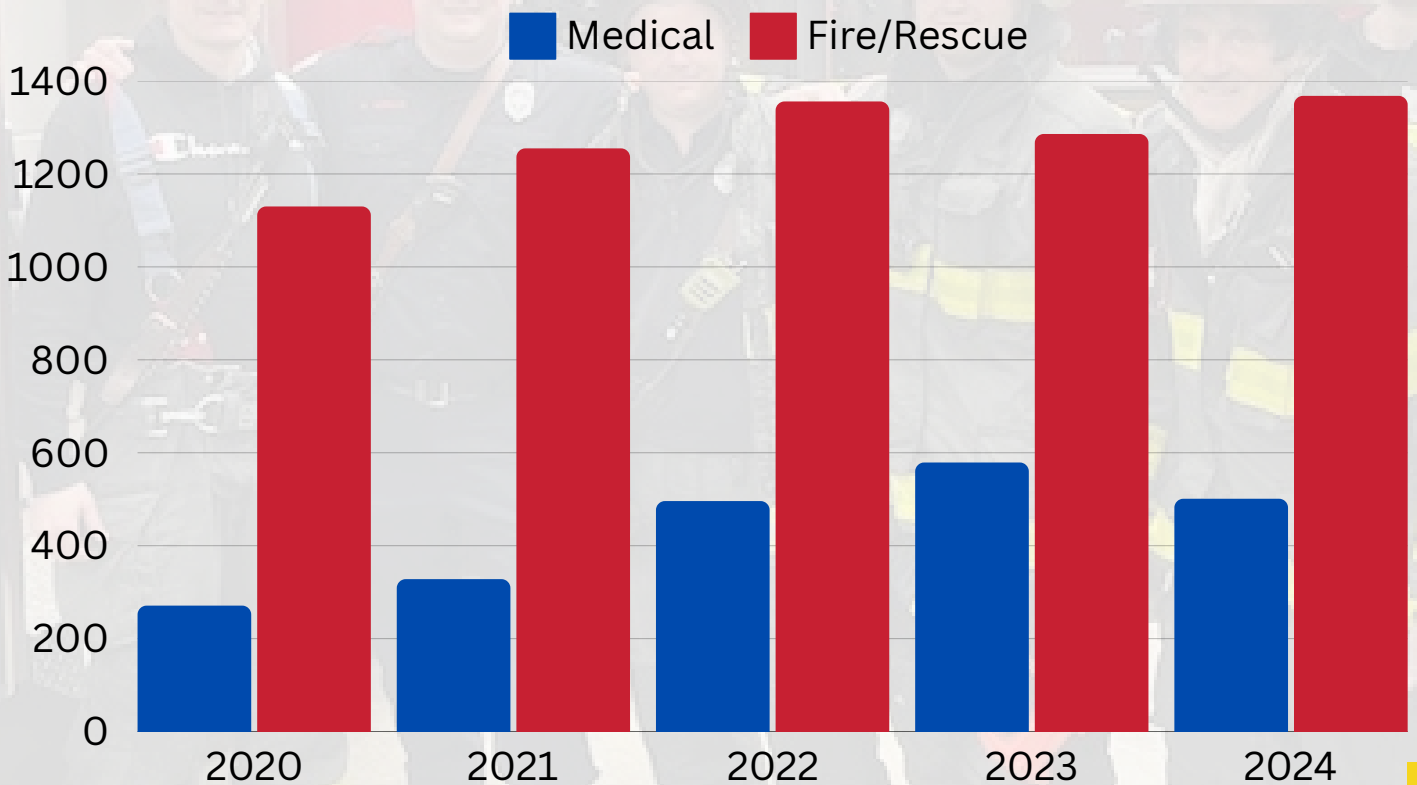
Response by Call Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Structure Fire	16	13	19	28	22
Structure Alarm	335	410	402	375	388
North Strabane	206	212	252	232	228
Mutual Aid	82	72	110	86	127
Rescue	24	24	15	24	19
MVA - no entrapment	83	92	101	85	121
Hazardous Condition	194	192	239	218	205
Vehicle Fire	7	4	5	3	8
Brush Fire	12	9	11	15	18
Other Fire	5	5	18	3	9
Medical	271	328	496	579	501
Weather Related	23	60	30	29	27
Miscellaneous	143	162	154	188	196
Total	1401	1583	1852	1865	1869





Emergency Response

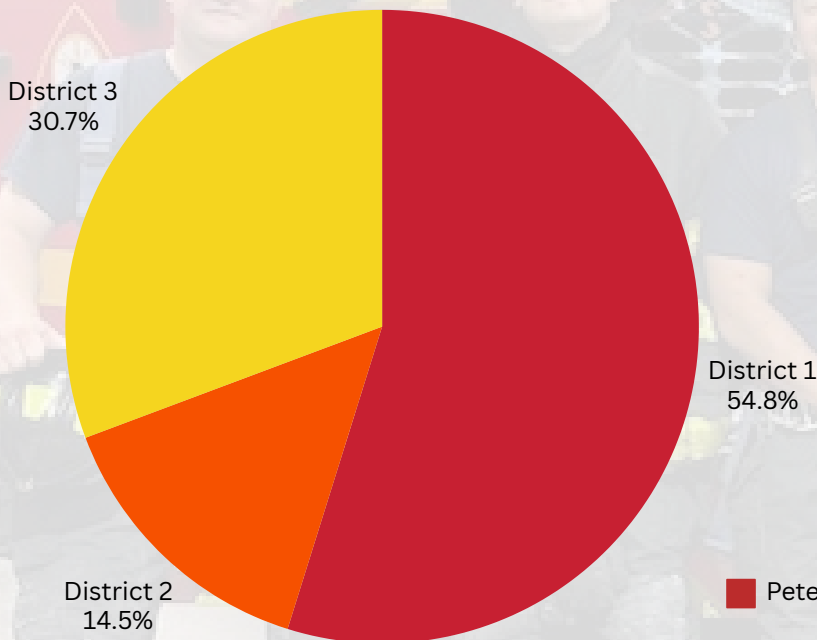
Each year, we compare the amount of responses to medical emergencies to fire/rescue responses. In 2024, crews responded to 501 medical emergencies compared to 1,368 fire/rescue emergencies. Despite an increase in emergency responses overall, for the first time in over 5 years the total number of medical emergency responses didn't increase from year prior.



Emergency Response

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.

■ District 1 ■ District 2 ■ District 3



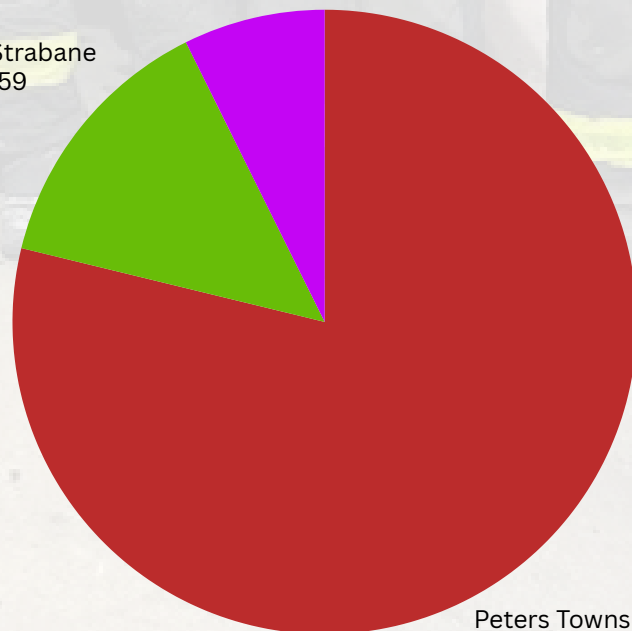
Average Response Time By District (Dispatch to on scene)	2023	2024
District 1	5:10	5:05
District 2	6:31	6:41
District 3	6:44	6:35

■ Peters Township ■ North Strabane

■ Other Mutual Aid

Other Mutual Aid
137

North Strabane
259



Peters Township
1472



Emergency Response

When measuring fire department performance, there are not two bigger categories than response time and manpower. The charts below represent manpower and response times to emergency responses that warranted a response with lights and siren. It is important to note that for our ISO rating and NFPA standards, only structure fires incidents are used for manpower and response time.

Saturdays were our busiest days statistically for emergency responses with a higher average of medical responses occurring on this day.

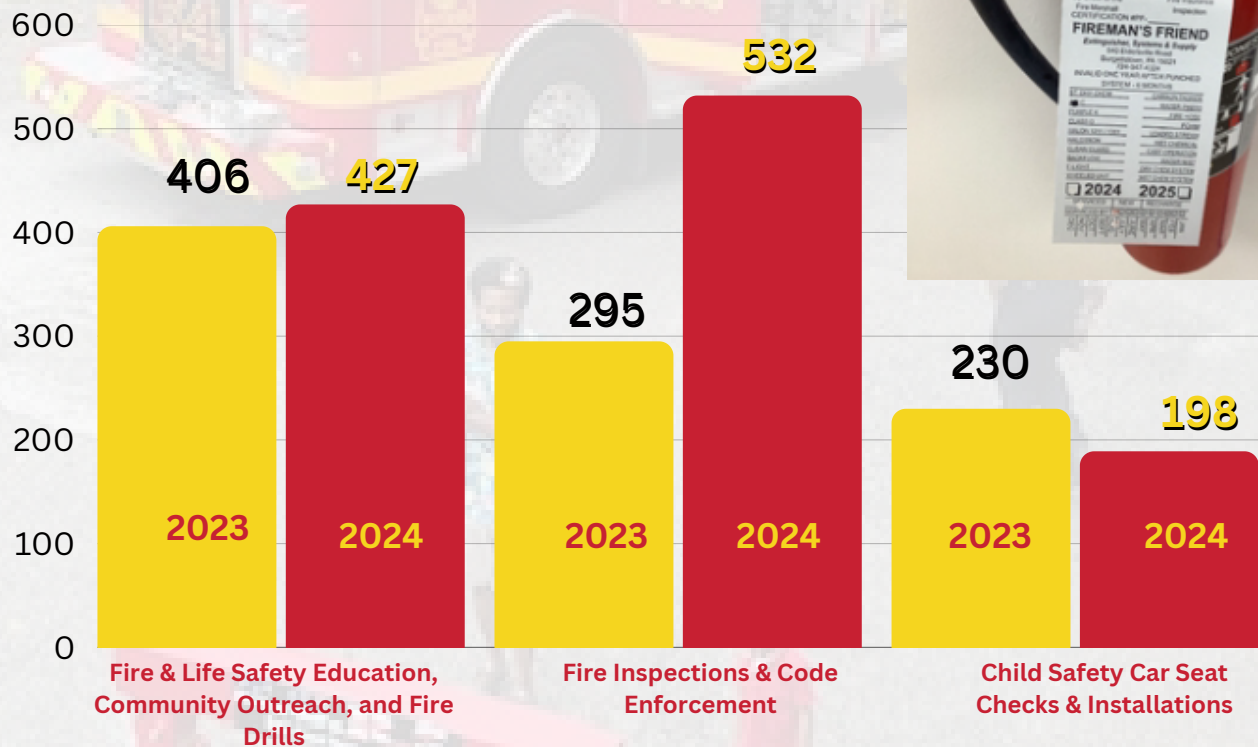
Response by Day	2023	2024
Monday	237	249
Tuesday	274	267
Wednesday	256	289
Thursday	296	288
Friday	301	236
Saturday	283	297
Sunday	218	243
Total	1865	1869

Response by Time of Day Weekdays	2023	2024
Between 7am-11pm	1087	1099
Between 11pm-7am	144	144
Response by Time of Day Weekends		
Between 7am-11pm	563	547
Between 11pm-7am	71	79
Total	1865	1869

Average Manpower	2023	2024
7am-3pm	7.3	7.2
3pm-11pm	7.5	7.5
11pm-7am	4.8	5



Non-Emergency Activities



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 and new occupancies 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 be occupied. 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. A large increase in 2024 was due to multiple large construction projects happening currently in the township, including the Waterdam apartment complex.



Community Outreach

We feel it is a vital part of our mission to ensure a safe community for all. We provide Community Outreach for Fire Prevention, Smoke Detector checks/installs, Home Safety Consultations, Car Seat installations, Block party visits, Station Tours, Stop the Bleed Training, Fire Extinguisher Training and CPR Training.



In 2024, the Fire Department conducted information meetings with two HOA groups in Peters Township. In September, we hosted the monthly HOA meeting for the Village of Prestonwood. Residents requested home safety inspections. We visited 15 homes in the Village of Prestonwood to complete home safety inspections. Each visit took approximately 1 hour and included an inspection of both the inside and outside of the resident's home. We also attend the monthly HOA meeting for Williamsburg Commons. This meeting was requested because one of the Townhomes recently had a fire. Several residents requested visits to check smoke detectors in their homes.

PTFD continues to host monthly CPR classes for the public. These classes are provided for the cost of the cards only. We also offer public and private classes for businesses/groups in the Township. In 2024, we conducted over 50 CPR classes resulting in the certification of OVER 500 people. In addition, the Fire Department continues to work with the Peters Township School District to help provide certified CPR training to all 9th grade Personal Wellness class students.



Community Outreach

Peters Township is fortunate to have twelve Firefighters that are trained as Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. Certified Technicians complete 32 hours of initial training and then must be recertified every two years. The Technicians have a comprehensive list of items that they review the parent, grandparent, or care giver. In 2024, we completed 198 car seat installation safety checks. This program is available to both Peters Township residents and residents of neighboring communities.



If you are interested in scheduling a home safety inspection, scheduling a car seat installation safety check, attending one of our CPR courses or 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.

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



Training

Aside from responding to emergencies and handling prevention activities, one of the most important things we do is train. We train for all types of incidents, emergency issues, and ways to improve our work. Training occurs daily with the on-duty crews, both physically and mentally. They review streets, medical protocols, past incidents, and tactics and physically perform and practice their job functions during live trainings. Additionally, Monday evenings are full department training where all career and volunteer personnel train together as a whole. This allows them to train on the many facets of emergency response as a whole team and ensure everyone is on the same page.



Training





2025 Objectives

Each year, we set new objectives to accomplish in the following year. These objectives help us continually progress and provide the best services possible to the community while being fiscally responsible. 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 2025.

- Increase compliance with commercial and other annual inspections.
- Implement new records management system and migrate previous data.
- Host at least two CPR classes per month.
- Complete the dispatch response zone project, alarm assignment review, and update mutual aid agreements.
- Host a kids fire camp and/or a citizens fire academy.
- Sponsor a smoke detector blitz program at least two times.
- Host a pilot “new parent safety program” focused on safety in the home, car seats, and child/infant CPR.
- Conduct at least one larger drill involving multiple agencies.

As we close 2024, we sincerely thank our residents and businesses for the opportunity to serve you and wish you another successful year. A huge thank you to our mutual-aid departments, EMS service, Township Administration, and other Township entities that help us provide the best service possible, including but not limited to Public works, PT Community TV, the Planning department, Police department, Community Recreation, and Library to name a few. We look forward to working with everyone in 2025. Stay safe!

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

