



ANNUAL REPORT

2025





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From the CHIEF

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud to present this Annual Report highlighting the accomplishments, challenges, and progress of the dedicated personnel of the Peters Township Fire Department. This report represents more than statistics and response times; it tells the story of a department committed to service, professionalism, and the safety of our community. Through unwavering commitment, our personnel continue to provide a high standard of protection, above and beyond customer service, and high-quality emergency care while adapting to the evolving needs of the citizens we serve.

Throughout the year, our firefighters, officers, and support staff responded to 1934 incidents, our busiest emergency response year to date. These incidents ranged from structure fires and emergency medical calls to technical rescues and hazardous conditions. In every situation, our personnel demonstrated courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to protecting life and property. Their actions, often carried out under challenging and unpredictable conditions, exemplify the highest traditions of the fire service.

This year also marked important progress beyond emergency response. We continued to invest in training, ensuring our members are prepared to meet evolving risks and modern challenges. We made strategic improvements to our equipment and facilities, strengthened our fire prevention and public education efforts, and reinforced our focus on firefighter safety and wellness. These initiatives are essential to maintaining a resilient, effective department now and into the future.

Our success would not be possible without the strong support of our community, elected officials, and partner agencies. Your trust, collaboration, and continued investment allow us to carry out our mission with excellence. I am especially grateful to the families of our members, whose support and sacrifice make this work possible.

As we look ahead, the Peters Township Fire Department remains committed to continuous improvement, accountability, and service. We will continue to adapt, train, and lead with integrity to meet the needs of the community we are honored to serve.

Thank you for your continued confidence in our department.

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 46 personnel comprised of 22 career members and 24 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, a drone, 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.



Fire Department Officers



Fire Chief Michael McLaughlin Jr.



Deputy Chief David Caputo



Assistant Chief Bill Gaughan



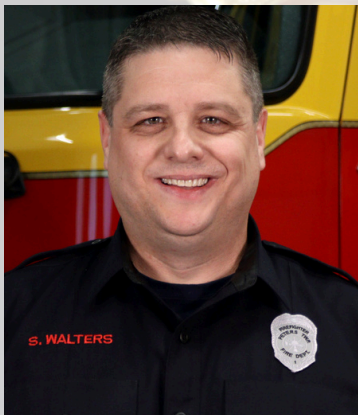
Captain Christopher Chiprich



Captain Christopher Barton



Captain Timothy Frazier



Lieutenant Sean Walters



Lieutenant Robert Lois



Department Staffing

Station Coverage

Staffed fire stations are essential to providing immediate emergency response and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in Peters Township. Staffing allows critical resources to be available at all times to support both emergency intervention and prevention efforts. The department staffs Stations 1 and 3 24/7/365 with a minimum of two qualified career firefighters per station. These firefighters are also certified medical providers and rescue technicians, allowing them to respond to all types of emergencies. Staffing levels are increased when volunteers are available to serve duty shifts alongside career personnel, further enhancing public and firefighter safety. Station 2 operates as a home-response station, providing housing for additional apparatus for off duty career and volunteer personnel to use during multiple calls or significant incidents.

Career Personnel

In 2025, 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 24 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 are always looking for interested volunteers that want to serve. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.ptfd64.org to learn more.



Highlights and Accomplishments



As part of the 2025 capital improvement plan, the parking lot lights at fire station were replaced and wired under ground. The project was completed in December 2025 and came in under budget. The parking lot light poles that existed were over 50 years old and the wood was rotting underground.

The Fire Department purchased three Carter Kits. Carter Kits were developed in 2019 in Saginaw County, Michigan. Carter Kits Sensory Bags contain items known to comfort/appropriately focus children on the Autism Spectrum, as well as other children who find themselves overwhelmed/impacted by traumatic events. When responding to calls, the Team has encountered an increased number of children with Autism. The kits will provide our Team with an array of options to assist individuals with special sensory needs.



In 2025 we replacing all 1.75-inch attack nozzles that are more than 15 years old with new Elkhart Brass nozzles to enhance firefighter safety, operational reliability, and fireground effectiveness. Upgrading to new Elkhart nozzles ensures consistent water delivery, improved stream quality, reduced maintenance issues, and alignment with current firefighting standards and best practices.



Highlights and Accomplishments

Kids Fire Safety Camp

The Fire Department hosted Kids Fire Safety Day Camp July 15th, 16th and 17th. The camp was offered through Parks and Recreation for students ages 6 -12. Each morning students started the day with some light warm up exercises. The remainder of the morning was spent experiencing 'a day in the life' of a firefighter.

Day 1

Students received a tour of the Fire Station, learned about personal protective equipment, learned about the equipment and gear that Firefighters wear/use, completed an obstacle course, used thermal imaging cameras (finding fellow students playing hide and seek) and completed an activity in the Safety Trailer, searching the room to 'save' the mannequins. The Firefighters explained when to call 911 and discussed the importance of having a home evacuation plan.

Day 2

Students learned hands only CPR, aspects of rope and water rescue, and cribbing. The students also had the opportunity to use our extrication tools.



Day 3 was all about water and extinguishing fires. Students learned about hose lines, pump lines and the house line (water supply). They learned the importance of teamwork by completing a bucket brigade. They also learned about fire extinguishers. Finally, they had the opportunity to operate a fire hose.





Community Education



CPR Training

The Fire Department continues to offer CPR training on a monthly basis. Along with the public training, we also conduct private training classes upon request. In 2025, the Fire Department worked with Parks and Recreation to offer Safe Sitter classes. Overall our team conducted 50 classes and trained over 450 individuals.

Open House

On Saturday, September 27th the Fire Department held its 14th Annual Open House. The Open House ran from 11 AM- 3 PM and hosted over 500 families. This year, families visited 9 different informational stations. They even had a chance to 'Dunk a Firefighter'! We are thankful for the employees and volunteers that made this a successful event.





Community Education

Fire Prevention

Our team at the Fire Department began Fall Fire Safety Presentations in September and continued to conduct presentations throughout the month of October. In addition to the fire safety presentations, our team conducted visits to several homes within the Township to check and install smoke and CO detectors. We also participated in two Trunk or Treat events.





Community Education

Public Safety Day

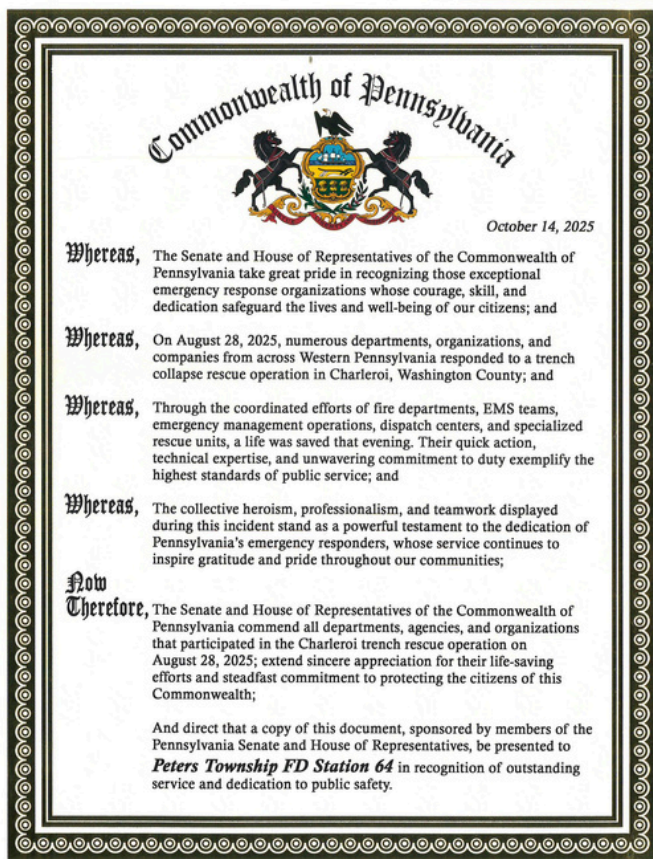


Community Day





Recognitions



In October, the Peters Township Fire Department was formally recognized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for their outstanding performance during a life-saving trench rescue operation earlier this year.

This recognition highlights the exceptional skill, teamwork, and dedication demonstrated by our firefighters in a highly technical and dangerous rescue environment. The incident required precise coordination, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to safety – all of which contributed to a successful outcome that saved a life.

Our department's achievement not only reflects the professionalism of our local emergency responders but also underscores the value of ongoing training, regional cooperation, and community investment in public safety resources.

Much of this training is afforded to our firefighters through participation on regionalized technical rescue teams such as PA Strike Team 1. The township's participation of these teams allows our members exposure to training opportunities far beyond the local level response.

We are honored to see the Commonwealth acknowledge our firefighters' efforts, and we hope this serves as a reminder of the critical role our emergency services play in protecting the residents of Peters Township, Washington County, and beyond.



Recognitions



Firefighter of the Year – Michael Norkus

Michael Norkus is named Firefighter of the Year for his exceptional dedication, operational excellence, and unwavering commitment to the Peters Township community. Throughout the year, Michael consistently demonstrated a high level of skill and professionalism on emergency scenes while maintaining a strong presence in training, station duties, and team support. Known for his reliability he leads by example and embodies the core values of service, teamwork, and integrity that define the Peters Township Fire Department. Michael is a fulltime firefighter with Peters Township and has served the community since January 2022. Michael is also one of the departments trusted Fire Inspectors.



Fire Officer of the Year – Sean Walters

Sean Walters is recognized as Fire Officer of the Year for his outstanding leadership, sound judgment, and dedication to developing both people and operations within the department.

Sean's ability to lead effectively during emergency incidents, coupled with his commitment to training, mentorship, and accountability, has had a measurable impact on department readiness and morale. His steady leadership, respect for the chain of command, and focus on safety and professionalism make him a trusted officer and a vital asset to the Peters Township Fire Department. Lieutenant Walters is a volunteer with the department and has served since November of 2011.



Iron Man of the Year – Jeffrey Gruber

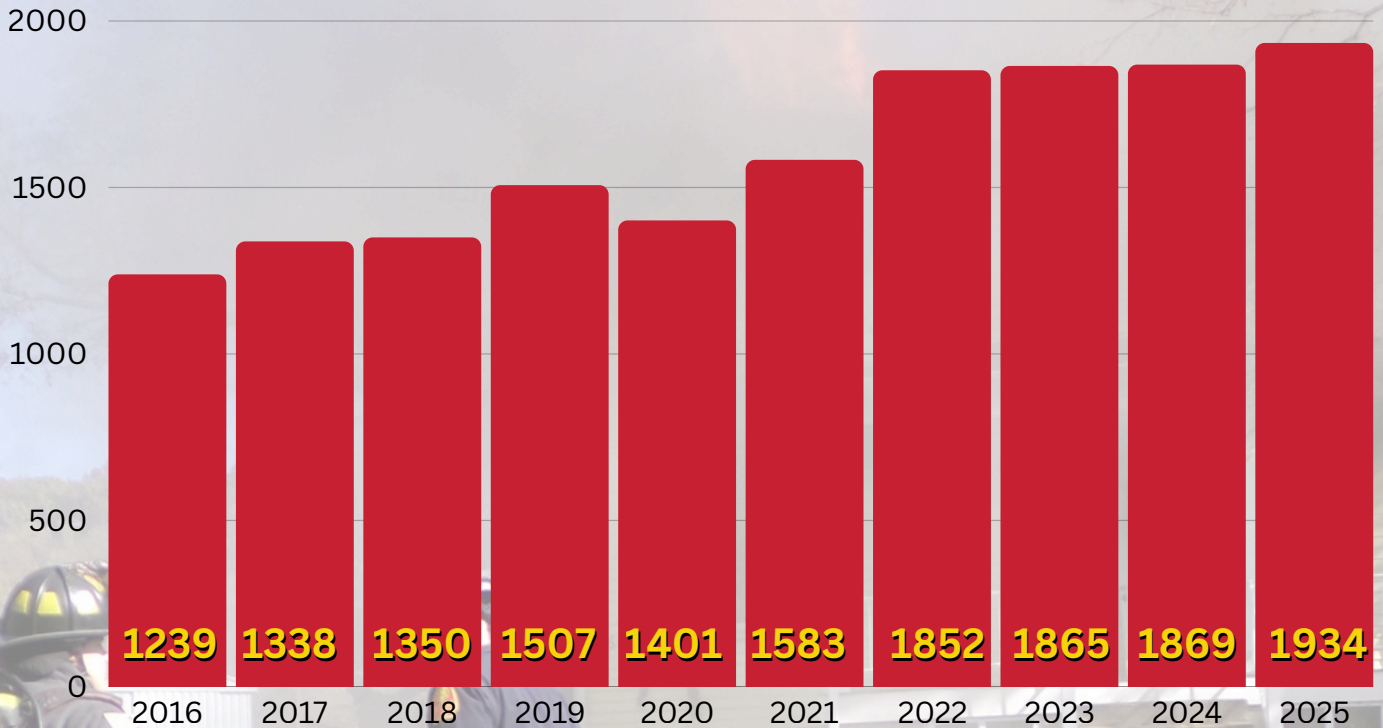
The Iron Man of the Year award is proudly presented to Jeffrey Gruber in recognition of his extraordinary resilience, determination, and commitment to service. After courageously battling throat cancer, Jeffrey worked tirelessly through recovery and rehabilitation, ultimately returning to full firefighting duty. His perseverance in the face of adversity, combined with his continued dedication to the department and his fellow firefighters, serves as an inspiration to all. Jeffrey's strength—both physical and mental—epitomizes the spirit of the Iron Man award and the heart of the Peters Township Fire Department.

Firefighter Gruber has held many offices in his career since it began in October of 2009, including Captain and Lieutenant.



Emergency Response

10 Year Call Volume



Emergency response remains the department's highest priority, as protecting the safety and well-being of our community is fundamental to our mission. Our personnel are highly trained to manage a wide range of incidents, including fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials responses, and rescues. The ability to respond quickly and effectively is critical to minimizing damage, saving lives, and providing support during times of crisis. Whether extinguishing a fire or delivering emergency medical care, our members operate with precision, coordination, and urgency. This steadfast commitment ensures the community can depend on the fire department during its most critical moments. The following pages provide an overview of our call volume and a breakdown of responses by incident type, time of day, staffing, and location, etc.



Emergency Response

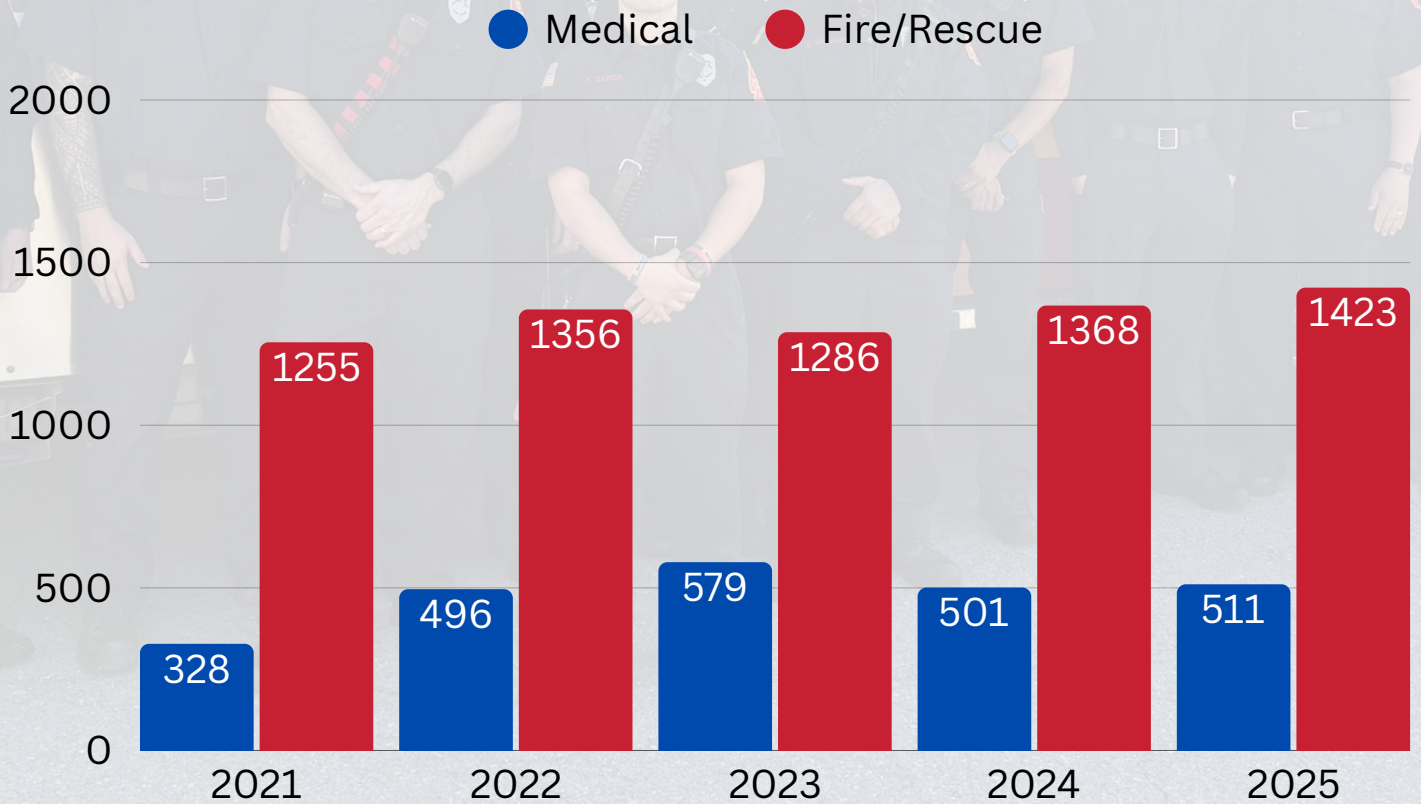
Response by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Structure Fire	13	19	28	22	21
Structure Alarm	410	402	375	388	462
North Strabane	212	252	232	228	187
Mutual Aid	72	110	86	127	161
Rescue	24	15	24	19	21
MVA - no entrapment	92	101	85	121	110
Hazardous Condition	192	239	218	205	263
Vehicle Fire	4	5	3	8	5
Brush Fire	9	11	15	18	11
Other Fire	5	18	3	9	19
Medical	328	496	579	501	511
Weather Related	60	30	29	27	4
Miscellaneous	162	154	188	196	159
Total	1583	1852	1865	1869	1934



Emergency Response

Each year, we review our call volume to better understand the needs of our community many different ways. One of which is comparing our Fire/Rescue Response to our medical/QRS responses

In 2025, our crews responded to 1,423 fire and rescue incidents and 511 medical emergencies, reflecting the broad scope of responsibilities our firefighters carry each day. Providing Advanced Life Support Quick Response Service to critical medical calls remains a top priority, allowing our highly trained personnel to deliver lifesaving care while working closely with our EMS partners. Whether responding to a fire, rescue, or medical emergency, our crews are committed to being there when our community needs them most.

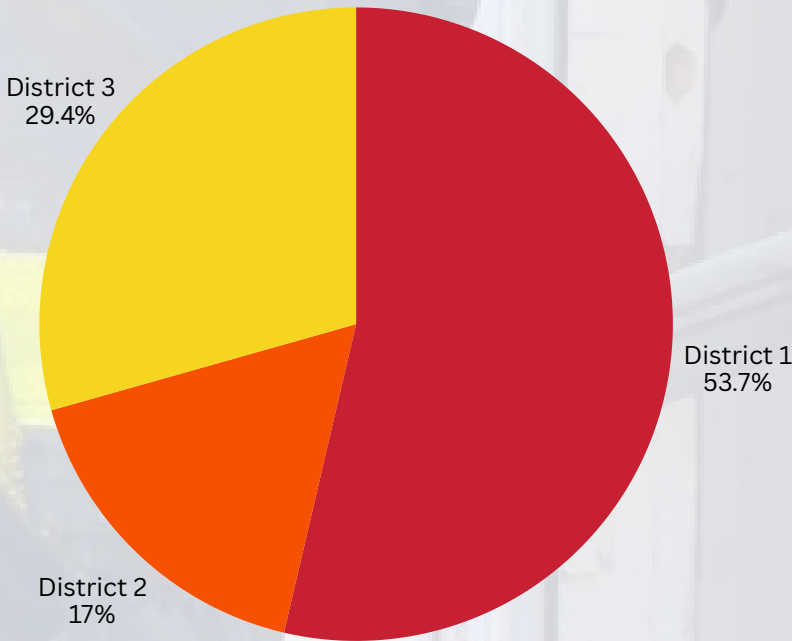




Emergency Response

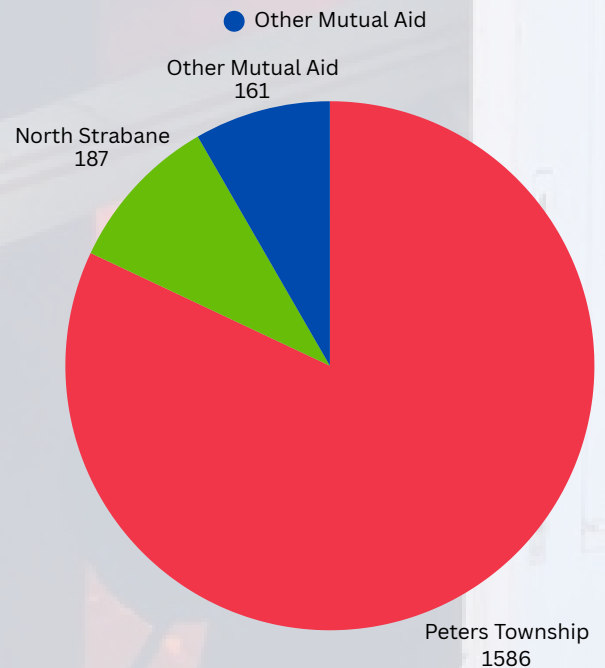
Responses to Peters Township only by district.

● District 1 ● District 2 ● District 3



Responses to Peters Township compared to assistance provided to mutual/Automatic aid areas.

● Peters Township ● North Strabane



Average Response Time By District (Dispatch to on scene)	2024	2025
District 1	5:05	5:41
District 2	6:41	7:26
District 3	6:35	7:15

The Township is divided into three fire response districts to help us respond more quickly and track our services more effectively. While all three stations provide coverage across the Township, Stations 1 and 3 are staffed around the clock, and Station 2 operates as a home-response station. To provide the best service to the community, Station 1 primarily covers District 1 and part of District 2, while Station 3 focuses on District 3 and the rest of District 2.

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	2024	2025
Monday	249	273
Tuesday	267	307
Wednesday	289	285
Thursday	288	292
Friday	236	256
Saturday	297	277
Sunday	243	244
Total	1869	1934

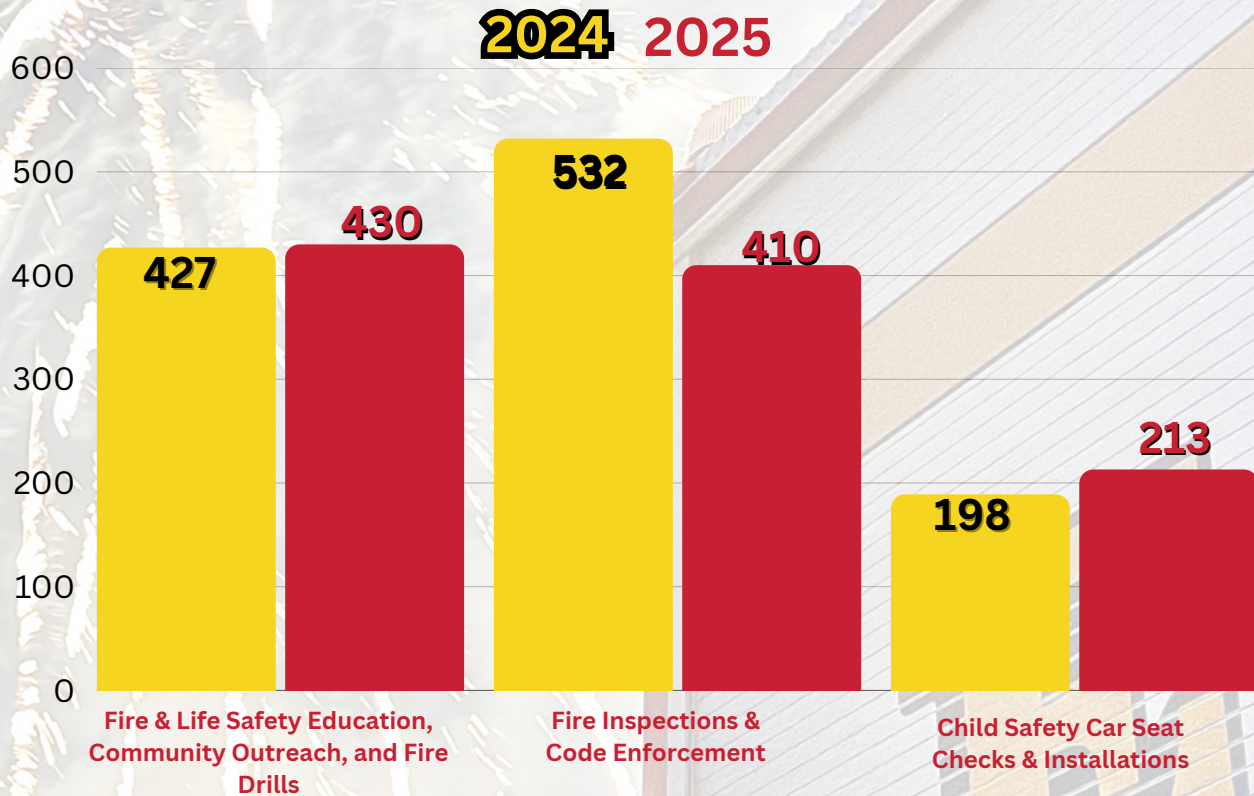
Average Manpower	2024	2025
7am-3pm	7.2	7
3pm-11pm	7.5	6.8
11pm-7am	5	4.8

Response by Time of Day Weekdays	2023	2024	2025
Between 7am-11pm	1087	1099	1231
Between 11pm-7am	144	144	184
Response by Time of Day Weekends			
Between 7am-11pm	563	547	442
Between 11pm-7am	71	79	77
Total	1865	1869	1934

When measuring fire department performance, two of the biggest measurable categories are 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.



Non-Emergency Activities



Fire Inspections & Code Enforcement

Under the leadership of the Fire Chief, PTFD fire inspectors work closely with the Township Planning Department to support a wide range of fire and life safety initiatives. The primary goal of the Fire Inspector program is to ensure that all fire and life safety codes are followed in commercial businesses and new occupancies throughout the Township. This is accomplished through plan reviews before construction, inspections of fire detection and suppression systems during construction, and final Life Safety inspections before new occupancies are approved for use. In addition, fire inspectors and duty crews conduct routine annual fire inspections and respond to safety complaints in commercial properties to maintain compliance and protect the community.

In 2025, inspection activity saw a noticeable decrease, largely due to the completion of several major construction projects in 2024 and early 2025, including the Waterdam apartment complex (Preserve of Peters Township).



Training

Beyond responding to emergencies and conducting prevention efforts, one of the most critical aspects of our department's work is training. Our personnel train daily to prepare for every type of incident, sharpen emergency response skills, and continually improve how we serve the community. On-duty crews engage in both mental and physical training—reviewing streets, medical protocols, past incidents, and tactics, while also performing hands-on drills that simulate real-life scenarios.

In addition to daily training, Monday evenings are dedicated to full-department sessions where career and volunteer personnel train together. These sessions provide a unique opportunity to practice coordinated, team-based responses and ensure every member is aligned on procedures, tactics, and safety standards.





Training

2025 Firefighter Training
4,724:15 Hours



In 2025, we were fortunate to host two acquired structure live-fire trainings within the Township. These exercises are rare and resource-intensive, but they offer invaluable experience, allowing crews to practice real-world firefighting techniques in a controlled, high-intensity environment. The skills and confidence gained during these trainings directly enhance our ability to protect lives and property across the community.





Emergency Management

The Peters Township Fire Department serves as the designated Emergency Management Agency for Peters Township. In this role, the Department is responsible for coordinating preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts related to natural disasters, severe weather, public health emergencies, and other large-scale incidents. Working in partnership with Township administration, public works, law enforcement, regional agencies, and county, state, and federal partners, the Fire Department ensures comprehensive emergency planning, continuity of operations, and effective communication before, during, and after emergencies. This responsibility reinforces the Department's commitment to protecting the safety, resilience, and well-being of the Peters Township community.



As a Storm Ready Community, the Fire Department is equipped to handle a variety of storm related emergencies.

Early in April, in anticipation of strong storms, the Team ensured that water rescue equipment was functional and ready to use. Our department has pumps, water diverters, and a boat for water rescue.





2026 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 2026.

- Increase compliance with commercial and other annual inspections.
- Host at least two CPR classes per month.
- Apply for at least 3 grants throughout the year.
- Host another kids fire camp and/or a citizens fire academy.
- Sponsor at least one Live Burn training
- 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 2025, we extend our sincere gratitude to the residents and businesses of the Township for the trust and opportunity to serve you. We are also deeply thankful for the continued support and partnership of our mutual-aid departments, EMS Service, Township Administration, and other Township entities that help us deliver the highest level of service—including Public Works, PT Community TV, Planning Department, Police Department, Parks & Recreation, and the Library, among others. We look forward to continuing these strong partnerships in 2026 as we work together to serve the Township and keep our community safe.

Stay safe.

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