



Warrington Township

Department of Emergency Services

Fire Marshal's Office

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2016 End of Year Report

Department of Emergency Services

Overview

The Department of Emergency Services is comprised of a Director, 2 full time firefighters (Battalion Chief's), Fire Marshal, 12 Part-time Firefighter's, and an Administrative Assistant. There are 4 firefighters assigned to Rescue 78 each week day from 6:30 am-4:30 pm.

Statistics

2016 was a busy year. The career firefighters responded to 243 fire calls and 168 EMS calls. This trend represents a more active year than 2015 when Emergency Services responded to 199 fire calls and 157 EMS calls. In addition to the 411 calls we responded to, 511 pre-fire inspections were conducted. This trend is up considerably from 2015 when 368 pre-fire inspections were conducted.

In addition to the emergent responses and the pre-fire inspections, the staff averaged 30 hours per month in apparatus maintenance, and 10 hours per month providing equipment maintenance. These efforts saved the volunteer fire company time and money. Due to an aggressive apparatus checking procedure, any problems that were found with the apparatus or equipment were either fixed by the career staff or arrangements were made for repairs from a vendor while the problem is minimal.

Mapping Project

The career staff started working on updating the fire response maps for the township. This task consisted of drawing each street and updating the pertinent information. There were many housing developments and commercial building projects in 2016 which made this a monumental task. Each map has all the fire hydrants, sprinkler connection, stand-pipe connections, etc. In addition, every street must be driven, drawn and checked after completion. The staff has spent countless hours on this project. We hope to have it completed by December of 2017.

Fire Prevention Program

The fire prevention program is a program that was started prior to the career staff being hired and has been enhanced since their hiring. The staff visits each elementary school, day care center, private elementary school (K or pre-K) program and conducts a program for the associated age group. This year over 1,500 students were in attendance for a program. In addition to the program, each student is given a “goody-bag” which included fire prevention materials. This allows for the message to reach home.

There were several programs given to the adult community. We visited homeowners associations, civic groups and teaching organizations. Approximately 4 times a year, we provide teacher re-qualification to the Malvern School teachers and student teachers in emergency procedures, evacuation, alarm procedures and fire extinguishers.

Training

Training is the back-bone of what we do. Training not only increases the individual’s knowledge, but it strengthens our organization as a whole by increasing our overall knowledge level.

The Department of Emergency Services was involved in many hours of training in 2016. The 3 full-time staff and multiple part-time staff attended a 40 hour class hosted by Warrington, Montgomery and Horsham Townships on Senior Level Fire Command and Control. This was a National Fire Academy class offered by two instructors from the National Fire Academy.

Other training classes attended included: commercial fire alarm systems (10 hours), NFPA 1006 Standard for professional qualifications for the technical rescuer (40 Hours), Arson scene evidence collection (24 hours), Proper Child Safety Car Seat installation (32 hours), Hazmat Update and Requalification (8 Hours).

In-house training included: auto extrication, rope rescue, fire suppression techniques, proper use of ground ladders, proper use of gas metering devices, various EMS topics, large scale shooting events, armed intruder training and active shooter response just to name a few.

Emergency Management

Although there was no emergency management call-out in 2016, there were many hours spent in preparation. Many training classes were attended; however there was a focus on civil unrest. After seeing so many cases of civil unrest in the country due to police interaction, the leadership in the police department and Emergency Management thought it would be beneficial to discuss and come up with a procedure in case unrest would occur in Warrington. A procedure was discussed and agreed upon in the case of a Warrington Police Officer who was involved shooting. This procedure was incorporated for the safety of the officers and the residents.

The Emergency Management Plan was updated and given to the Board of Supervisors for their review and questions. In 2017, this plan will be put on line through the Commonwealth and will make updating less time consuming and easier for all to review.

In closing, the Department of Emergency Services had a busy year. We managed to stay prepared for the emergencies that arose by keeping our training relevant and frequent. From a non-emergent stand-point we were just as busy, but managed to be more efficient by employing good time management skills and preparation. These practices both emergent and non-emergent will aide us in staying successful in 2017 and many years to come.

2016 End of the Year Report **Code Enforcement**

Overview

The Code Enforcement Department is comprised of the Director, Chief Permit Administrator, the Emergency Services Administrative Assistant, Fire Marshal, Code Enforcement Officers, Residential Building Inspector, Commercial Building Inspector, and the Zoning Inspector. They work together seamlessly to accomplish many goals including serving the residents and business owners, and aiding them with their building, code, and ordinance questions and or problems.

The code enforcement department is divided up into two sections, construction and code enforcement. The construction side handles all the permits both construction and fire systems. The code enforcement side handles the violation of either the township codes and ordinances, or applicable building code and property maintenance violations.

Statistics

2016 was a busy year for Code Enforcement as well. 1249 permits were issued for the year. The staff conducted 4,243 inspections. The inspections included are: construction permits for building both residential and commercial, fire permits for sprinkler and alarm system (not to be confused with pre-fire inspections), and Use and Occupancy for residential resale, commercial resale, and rentals. In addition, code inspectors investigated countless property maintenance, neighbor dispute, and action line requests for service **Training**

The code officials and inspectors spent many hours in training on new construction techniques, code updates, and the plan review concepts.

Scanning Project

The street file scanning project which took 5 years to complete was finished up in June. This was a monumental task, due to the amount of files, and the condition of the paperwork within the files. I am happy to report that due to the Chief Permit Administrator's (Karen) hard work the files are useable and staff time is cut down dramatically when researching the files for a given reason. **Dallas Software**

During 2016, the administrative staff worked on the committee to review new township financial and code enforcement software which will help us to streamline our work. After the decision was made to choose Dallas Software, Jackie Wilson was assigned as the Code Enforcement and Emergency Services representative to this transition. We anticipate being brought on in the 2nd quarter of 2017 which will benefit the staff with streamlining the processes we use daily to conduct business.