

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Overview

The Department of Emergency Services is comprised of a Director, 3 full-time firefighters (1 Battalion Chief, two firefighters), Fire Marshal, 16 part-time firefighters, and an administrative assistant. There are four firefighters assigned to a Rescue Engine and a supervisor assigned to the Special Service Vehicle Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 4:30 pm. In 2019, one part-time position was converted to a full-time position. In addition, one full-time employee left Warrington Township to pursue another opportunity.

Statistics

In 2019, the Department of Emergency Services responded to 237 fire or rescue calls and 151 EMS Calls. In addition, there were 1272 fire or life safety inspections conducted. In 2018 there were 582 inspections conducted. The large increase is due to having three full-time firefighters conducting inspections and the addition of a part-time fire inspector that conducts property maintenance, residential U and O, Commercial U and O and fire inspections when the schedule allows. There are several types of inspections that the Department of Emergency Services conducts, they are: Commercial Pre-fire inspections, Commercial Use and Occupancy inspections, Residential Use and Occupancy inspections, and Construction inspections per the Fire Code i.e. Rough and final sprinkler inspection's .

In addition to emergency calls and inspections, the Department of Emergency services averaged over 10 hours monthly checking and maintaining fire department equipment to ensure readiness. This saves the volunteer fire company thousands of dollars a year by catching problems while they are small or even completing the repairs in-house.

Fire Prevention and Outreach

The Fire Prevention program is in motion every day. While Fire Prevention Month is October, our fire prevention outreach spans three months, starting in September and ending in November. During this time frame all the elementary schools, and day care centers in Warrington Township, are visited, and an age appropriate fire safety message is delivered. During the summer months, each daycare center is visited as part of their summer camp program and an age appropriate lesson is given. During the time of September through November we contacted over 1900 people during that time frame. In 2017 we visited over 1700 people so we increased by 200 People in two years.

There were several requests by home owners associations, and new business for the Department of Emergency Services to visit and review either fire safety techniques or fire code

points of interest. Each time we visited a community, an appropriate; program was delivered to cover the request and the needs of that organization.

In addition to fire and life safety, the Department of Emergency Services also offer free of charge car seat installation and evaluation. Battalion Chief McCann and Director Greenberg are certified car seat technicians. They are able to install and provide information to anyone who has a car seat about proper placement, installation, safe travels with children, and the effects of a crash on the passengers. In 2019, they consulted on 52 car seat installations. This number does not include the St. Paul's Church Car Seat Blitz conducted in May where they worked on 20 car seats each.

EMS Certification

In 2018 The Department of Emergency Services achieved Basic Level Quick Response service recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. From that point, it became a goal to achieve the Advanced level of service. In 2019, that goal became a reality. The equipment was purchased, the staff was readied, and the inspection from Bucks County was performed. The only thing left to do is to have this process completed by the Warrington Community Ambulance Medical Director (who serves as Warrington Township's Medical Director) has to sign off on the application which he is expected to do in the weeks to come. We expect to respond as an ALS (Advanced Life Support) provider by March 2, 2020.

The need for this advanced certification became evident after many discussions with the Warrington Community Ambulance Chief. It is important to know that this does not take the place of the excellent service the Warrington Community Ambulance provides, it enhances it! There are times when both medic units are tied up on other calls, the Department of Emergency Services responds on all "cover calls" so those residents or business owners will now have paramedic care while and ambulance is responding from another town. In addition if a Paramedic is unable to staff an ambulance for WCAC the Medic from DES will be responding from the firehouse to fill the void. This again insures no loss in coverage to the residents.

Training

Training was conducted as often as possible when time permitted. Special consideration was given to work on areas of Fire/Rescue/EMS that we respond to, or have the potential to respond to regularly. Training is the back bone of emergency services. We train so we are prepared for any emergency.

2019 was a busy year when it came to training. With two new full-time firefighters being hired training was in the forefront. We spent a considerable amount of time bringing these two

firefighters up to speed on the way the Department of Emergency Services operates and mitigates emergency scenes. In addition, Firefighter Faust attended Fire Inspector 2 which was a 40 hour program to further his education in the area of Fire Inspections. Firefighter Craig attended Fire Inspector 1 class which provided him the basics for conducting fire inspections.

Firefighters Faust and Craig attended a two day seminar on advanced shoring techniques for compromised buildings and unstable vehicles. They in turn then brought this valuable information back and gave a presentation to the other members of the Department of Emergency Services. Fire Marshal Joe (Delete) Pfizenmayer and Director Greenberg attended classes in the area of fire investigation and fire code enforcement. There are many code and standard changes and modifications that happen on an annual basis. We attend those classes to assure that we are up to speed on the latest techniques and revisions.

2020 is shaping up to be a very busy year in the area of training. In addition to several classes that the members are going to be taking, a comprehensive training program was developed to incorporate the volunteer staff if they so choose. The program is based around basic Fire, Rescue, and EMS for the hazards that the Department of Emergency Services and the Warrington Fire Company respond to on a regular and semi-regular basis. The plan is to train formally twice a month on a given topic, while conducting weekly skills enhancement.

Fire Service Study

In the spring of 2019 it was decided to contract with the DCED to conduct a study of the services provided in the area of fire protection to the residents and business owners of Warrington Township. While the study is still ongoing at this time, the topics under review are the following: Staffing (Volunteer and Career), hours of the career staff, apparatus, facilities, training, and overall operations.

As part of this “study process” both the members of the Department of Emergency Services and the volunteer firefighters were given opportunities to meet with the DCED representative conducting the study. All that participated were asked questions, depending on their status and responsibilities within the organization.

Our chief goal is to get an outside opinion on what we are doing well and solidifying those things, while paying close attention to our areas of improvement. We then will develop a comprehensive plan to address the areas where improvement is needed.

In Closing

This report is a “snap shot” of the accomplishments by the Department of Emergency Services. It was a busy year, and 2020 is slated to pick up where 2019 left off. We will be continuing our fire prevention efforts consisting of pre-fire inspections, pre-fire planning and school visits. We hope to conduct even more training and improve on our skill sets to better serve the community of Warrington.

CODE ENFORCEMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Overview

The Code Enforcement Department is comprised of the Director, Chief Permit Administrator, the Emergency Services Administrative Assistant, Fire Marshal, 2 part-time code enforcement inspectors, the zoning inspector (?), the Residential Building Inspector, and the Commercial building Inspector (Building Code Official). They work together to make the code enforcement process seamless for the residents and business owners in Warrington Township. The goal is to make the process trouble free, and time conscious.

New Code Series

The 2015 code series was adopted late in 2018, so 2019 was a year of change. This code changed many of the ways construction was done so all the inspectors had to learn and apply the new code. To this point we feel the change has been well received and been a benefit to the residents and business owners, and their buildings are safer because of it.

Statistics

2019 was a busy year for Code Enforcement. 1,056 permits were issued for the year this is up from 814 in 2018. The staff conducted 3,186 inspections on the issued permits. These inspections included: construction permits, fire permits for alarm and fire sprinkler construction, use and occupancy (both residential and commercial), and rental inspections. In addition, there were an abundance of code enforcement inspections addressing complaints through the township complaint system.

Property Maintenance Complaints

Each year the township receives an abundance of complaints regarding property maintenance. It is important to understand that although, each complaint is investigated, and sometimes there is nothing for the township to do. The complaint may be a neighbor dispute, or weather related where (the) to problem could be easily rectified with a conversation, or granting time to

address the issue, rather than an official notice of violation. There are many laws that play a role in code enforcement in addition to the adopted township codes.

Training

Each year the code inspectors have to attend continuing education training to both keep up their certifications, but also keep up with new construction techniques. Our inspectors attend training as often as their schedule allows and still maintain enough office and field time to serve the township.

In Closing

Each year, the code enforcement department spends countless hours working with residents and business owners to make their projects a success. We strive to make every contact a positive one, as customer service is a priority.