Township of Lower Merion Fire Department

2017 Annual Report

The 2017 Lower Merion Fire Department Annual report is dedicated to the memory of Past Chief George Culbertson, who served the Lower Merion Fire Department and in particular the Gladwyne Fire Company for 62 years before his passing in December of 2017.

Chief Culbertson joined the Gladwyne Fire Company when he was 16 years old in 1955. He was elected Chief of the Fire Company in 1969 and was a top volunteer responder every year until his retirement from Chief in 2001. After his retirement from the brigade Chief Culbertson remained very active and was an integral part of the Gladwyne Fire Company. He served on multiple committees, the Board of Directors and most of all an avid supporter.

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A Letter from the Chief Fire Officer

Ernie B. McNeely,
Township Manager

Dear Mr. McNeely,

I am pleased to present you with the Lower Merion Fire Department's 2017 Annual Report. This report is dedicated to the memory of Past Chief George Culbertson, who served the Lower Merion Fire Department and in particular the Gladwyne Fire Company for 62 years before his passing in December of 2017.

You will notice a new look to the 2017 Annual Report. Although we're still learning our new system, the ability to more fully utilize the different reports has allowed us to provide more relevant information to those who read this report. The pages that follow provide a detailed account of the Lower Merion Fire Department's accomplishments and efforts to keep the Township of Lower Merion a safer place for our residents, businesses and those who visit the Township.

The fire department provides services with resources from seven facilities, six located in the Township and one in the Borough of Narberth. Resources from these stations were used to respond to 2,401 fire and rescue calls in 2017. Of these, 2,401 incidents 2037 occurred in the Township of Lower Merion with the remaining 364 calls occurring in surrounding municipalities. Contained within this total were 32 building fires with a property value of $24.3 million dollars. Because of our fire departments response, the resulting property value loss of $3.28 million dollars was far less than the potential for loss. In 2017 we witnessed no loss of life, but there were 11 civilian injuries and 7 firefighter injuries which occurred while responding and working at the aforementioned emergency scenes.

Fire prevention continues to be an ongoing focus of the Fire Department Office, and in 2017 we continued with our building inspection program conducting 737 building inspections which resulted in 254 violation notices being issued. In addition, 96 plan reviews took place, 24 land development meetings were attended, and staff participated in 52 code consultations with the Township's Building and Planning Department. Members of the Fire Department Office visited both public and private schools in the Township to encourage fire prevention, and working with the schools, conducted 168 fire drills Township-wide. In addition, we continue to utilize our Fire Prevention Trailer and presented 71 fire safety programs to over 1700 attendees.

A major focus for 2017 was finding ways to cut down on the number of false alarms our fire companies respond to. Working with yourself and the Board of Commissioners, we passed new legislation which we are hoping will help to cut down on these false alarms, while holding those responsible for initiating these false responses accountable through fines and other means. A public information campaign was undertaken and letters were mailed to all the alarm vendors who have done work in our township explaining our new ordinance and the ramifications. Although still early in the process, I do believe it is having some effect.

Professional training is another area that is a critical to Fire Department Operations. Deputy Fire Marshals and myself continued our training and education attending various programs at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, locally at the Montgomery County Fire Academy, and attending programs put on by those professional organizations that we belong, thereby receiving the necessary continuing education credits in order to maintain our certifications in the fire and life safety, code enforcement and operations areas.

Continued training with our fire department database "Emergency Reporting" continues to enable staff to better utilize the system. Staff attended a regional training seminar that was held in Philadelphia which taught us new ways to better utilize this database.

A Letter from the Chief Fire Officer

The fire training tower continues to be key in training our firefighters. Deputy Fire Marshals prepared and conducted 62 supervised firefighter-training sessions allowing them to enhance their firefighting skills in a controlled atmosphere – a crucial function of our fire service. We had 704 firefighters in attendance, averaging approximately 11 firefighters per training session. Once again, the Department was afforded the opportunity to conduct extensive training as a result of the acquisition of four dwellings slated for demolition. The use of these properties enabled our fire companies to perform more realistic drills as well as to participate in multi-company training.

As part of the Township's Apparatus Replacement Program, the Bryn Mawr Fire Company received funding for a new ladder truck and the Belmont Hills Fire Company both received funding for a new Rescue truck We also continue to support our fire companies with performing repairs to the different firehouse in accordance with the fire company facilities policy.

Clearly however, the secret to the success of the Lower Merion Township Fire Department is our firefighters, both career and volunteer, as well as the staff in my office. In all that we do, we strive for excellence and are committed to the communities we serve.

In closing, we also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Board of Commissioners, members of Township staff, and to our citizens for their continued support, as well as to you, our Township Manager, for your leadership and commitment to the fire service in the Township of Lower Merion.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles J. McGarvey, Sr., M.S., EFO, CFO, MIFireE
Chief Fire Officer / Fire Marshal

Lower Merion Township Fire Department Staff

Charles J. McGarvey, Sr., MS, EFO, CFO, MIFireE

Chief Fire Officer / Fire Marshal

Deputy Fire Marshal

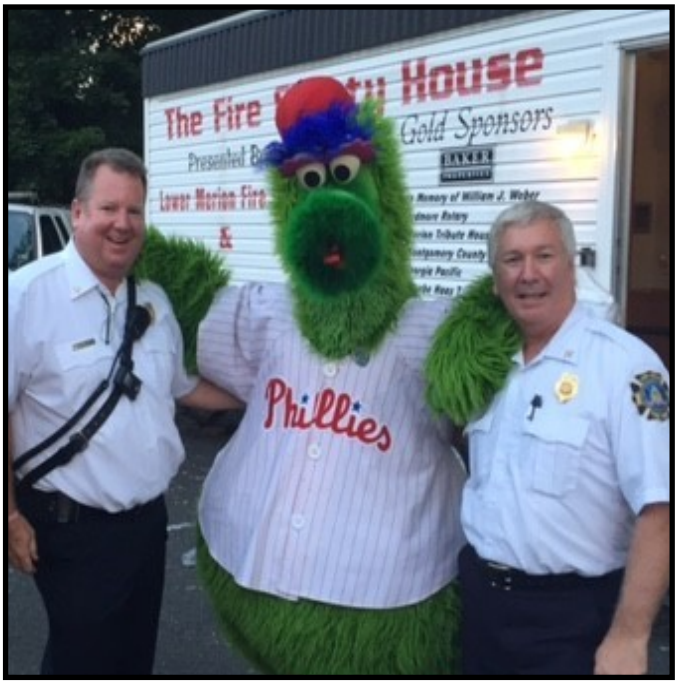
Frank Hand

Deputy Fire Marshal

Matthew Maguire

Deputy Fire Marshal

James McCoy



Our Mission:

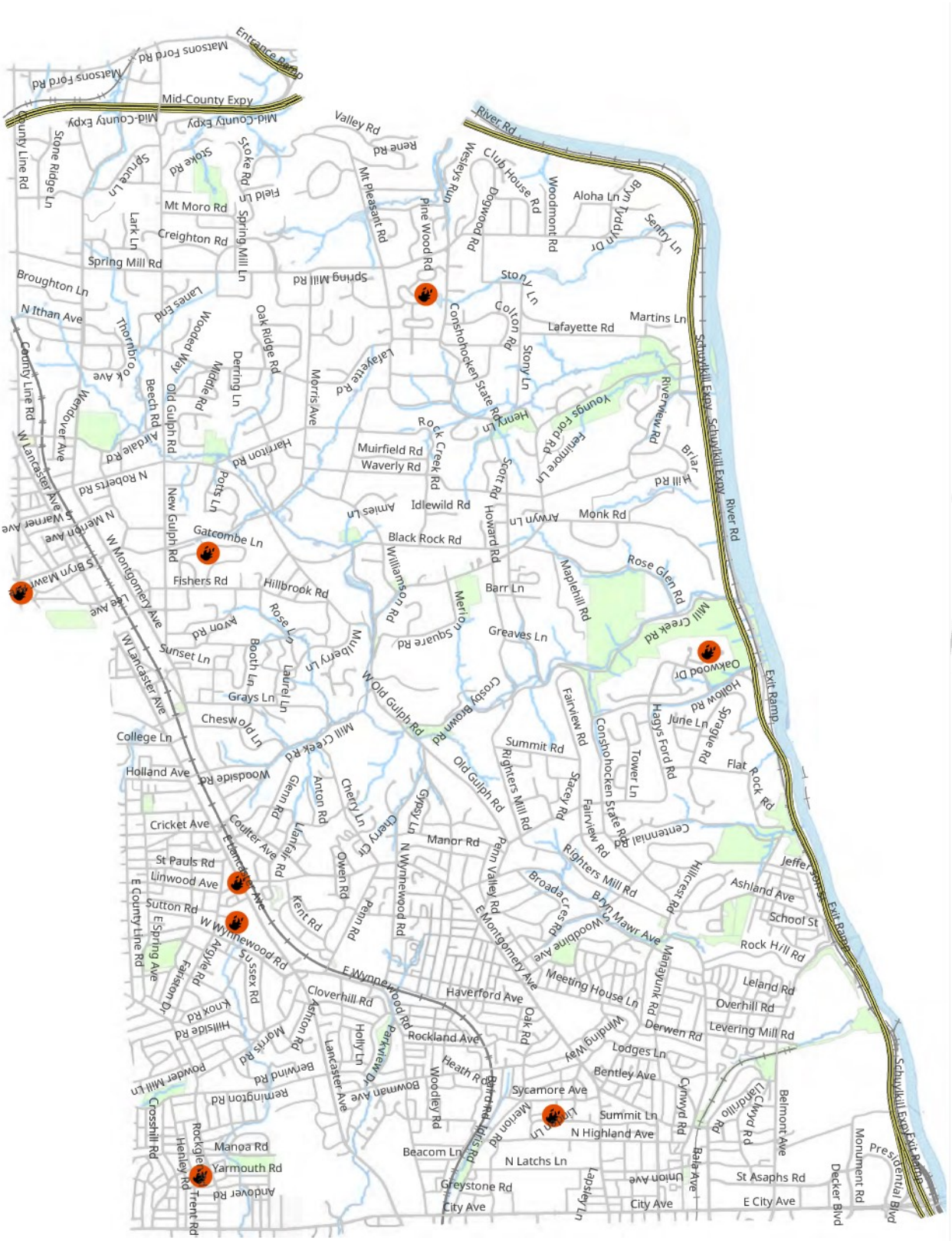
It is the mission of the Fire Department to provide the highest level of fire protection coordination necessary to minimize life and property losses through stringent regulations, fire prevention and improved suppression capabilities.

Our Creed:

- It is our ***DUTY*** to train ourselves to be the best we can be in order to protect life and property.
- It is an ***HONOR*** to be able to give back to our communities and to serve you.
- We understand and accept the ***SACRIFICE*** and time constraints we must make in order to perform our duties.

Building Fire Locations

(In Lower Merion Township)



Building Fires by Alarm Date/Time

(In Lower Merion Township)

Incident Number 2017-1700098	1/2/2017	170 Lakeside Road Ardmore, PA 19003	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$3,656,000	$3,756,000	$10,000	$14,000
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$100,000		$4,000	
Incident Number 2017-1702631	2/2/2017	112 Beverly Road Wynnewood, PA 19096	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$329,000	$464,000	$50,000	$70,000
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$135,000		$20,000	
Incident Number 2017-1702799	2/4/2017	130 West Lancaster Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$1,610,000	$1,710,000	$0	$10,000
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$100,000		$10,000	
Incident Number 2017-1711300	5/16/2017	723 County Line Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$350,000	$420,000	$5,000	$8,500
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$70,000		$3,500	
Incident Number 2017-1715113	6/24/2017	640 Carisbrooke Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$1,600,000	$2,300,000	$300,000	$340,000
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$700,000		$40,000	
Incident Number 2017-1724435	10/3/2017	1650 Oakwood Drive # E316 Penn Valley, PA 19072	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$150,000	$155,000	$0.00	$1,500
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$5,000		$1,500	
Incident Number 2017-1725984	10/17/2017	271 Linden Lane Merion Station, PA 19066	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$625,000	$1,625,500	$5,000	$6,000
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$1,000,000		$1,000	
Incident Numbers 2017-1729133 & 2017-1729176	11/19/2017 & 11/20/2017	1162 St Andrews Road Gladwyne, PA 19035	PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY	PRE-INCIDENT TOTAL	PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL LOSS
			$3,000,000	$4,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,500,000
			PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS		CONTENTS LOSS	
			$1,000,000		$500,000	

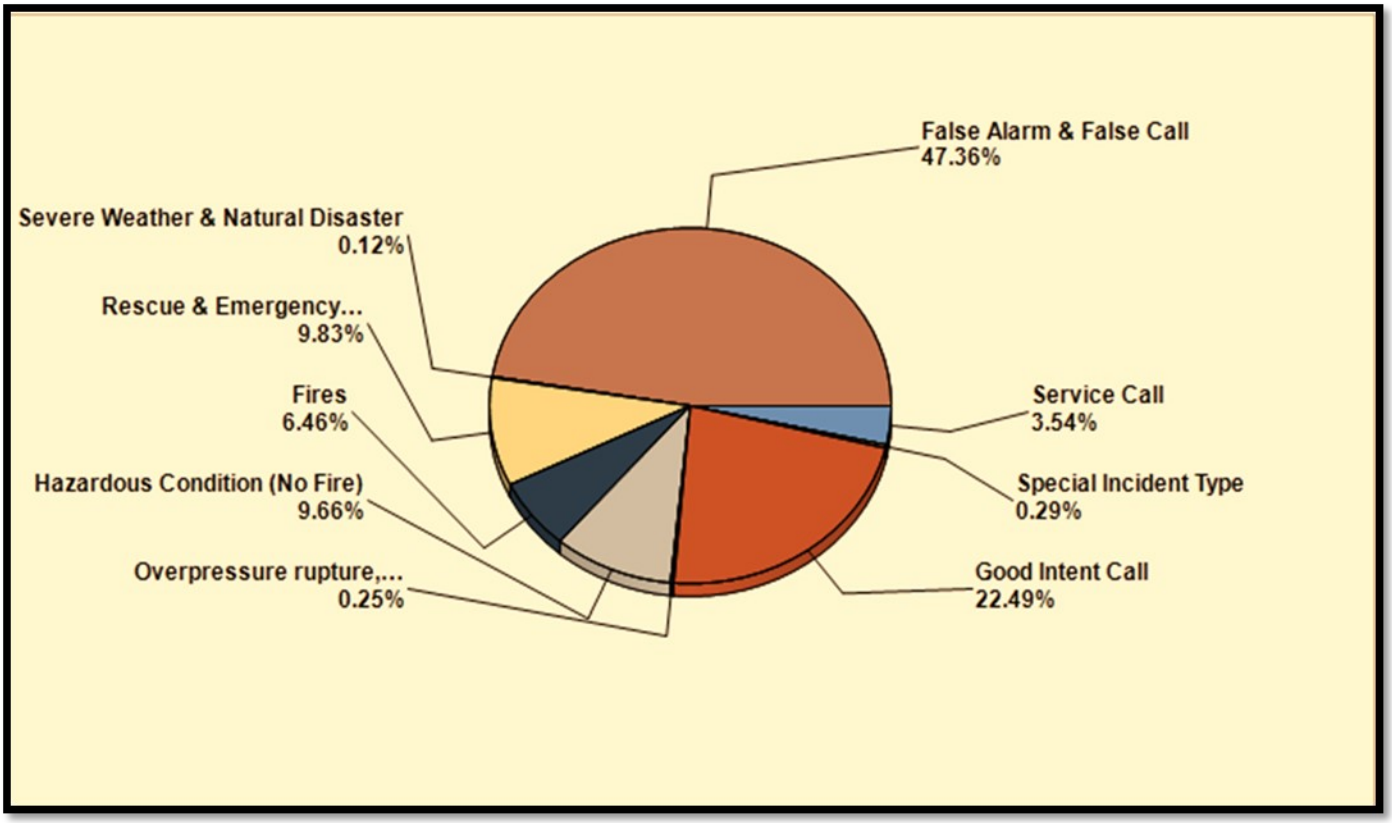
NUMBER of INCIDENTS	TOTAL PRE-INCIDENT PROPERTY VALUE	TOTAL PRE-INCIDENT CONTENTS VALUE	TOTAL PRE-INCIDENT VALUE	AVERAGE VALUE	TOTAL PROPERTY LOSS	TOTAL CONTENTS LOSS	TOTAL 2017 LOSSES	AVERAGE LOSS
9	$11,320,500	$3,110,000	$14,430,500	$1,603,339	$2,370,000	$580,000	$2,950,000	$327,778

Building Fires by Alarm Date/Time

(In & Out of Lower Merion Township)

Incident Number	Incident Date	Incident Time	Location
2017-1700098	1/2/2017	19:55:03	170 Lakeside Road/Ardmore, PA 19003
2017-1700245	1/4/2017	15:06:30	230 Stoneway Lane/Merion Station, PA 19066
2017-1701295	1/17/2017	4:49:04	326 East Elm Street/Conshohocken, PA 19428
2017-1702631	2/2/2017	6:48:27	112 Beverly Road/Wynnewood, PA 19096
2017-1702799	2/4/2017	7:05:19	130 West Lancaster Avenue/Ardmore, PA 19003
2017-1704917	3/2/2017	8:53:29	235 Barcladen Circle/Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
2017-1706413	3/21/2017	14:44:42	9 Chestnut Avenue/Narberth, PA 19072
2017-1707680	4/5/2017	15:46:34	961 Trinity Lane/King of Prussia, PA 19406
2017-1708087	4/10/2017	19:09:43	191 Presidential Boulevard/Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
2017-1708283	4/12/2017	15:50:08	315 West 6th Street/Bridgeport, PA 19401
2017-1708408	4/14/2017	6:42:56	500 Rose Lane North/Haverford, PA 19041
2017-1709341	4/24/2017	22:29:45	241 East Elm Street/Conshohocken, PA 19428
2017-1710885	5/12/2017	0:24:28	326 Prospect Avenue/Bridgeport, PA 19401
2017-1711300	5/16/2017	19:09:16	723 County Line Road/Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
2017-1711467	5/18/2017	11:16:21	2 West Main Street/Norristown, PA 19401
2017-1714347	6/19/2017	15:26:20	800 Spring Mill Avenue/Conshohocken, PA 19428
2017-1715113	6/24/2017	18:10:03	640 Carisbrooke Road/Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
2017-1715956	7/4/2017	14:58:17	670 Bair Road/Berwyn, PA 19312
2017-1716032	7/5/2017	13:42:30	227 Washington Street/Conshohocken, PA 19428
2017-1721866	9/5/2017	16:14:05	15 Merion Road/West Conshohocken, PA 19401
2017-1724435	10/3/2017	8:52:39	1650 Oakwood Dive # E316/Penn Valley, PA 19072
2017-1725236	10/10/2017	17:32:27	619 Sproul Road/Villanova, PA 19085
2017-1725535	10/13/2017	9:11:31	301 Ford Street/Norristown, PA 19401
2017-1725984	10/17/2017	11:00:44	271 Linden Lane/Merion Station, PA 19066
2017-1727564	11/2/2017	10:11:53	1001 Washington Street/Conshohocken, PA 19428
2017-1727562	11/2/2017	10:00:19	1010 Spring Mill Avenue/Conshohocken, PA 19428
2017-1728304	11/10/2017	11:19:12	2202 Oakwyn Road/Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
2017-1729133	11/19/2017	13:23:56	1162 St. Andrews Road/Gladwyne, PA 19035
2017-1729176	11/20/2017	4:38:35	1162 St. Andrews Road/Gladwyne, PA 19035
2017-1730577	12/7/2017	12:47:05	512 Hughes Road/King of Prussia, PA 19406
2017-1730905	12/11/2017	19:33:17	553 Arch Street/Norristown, PA 19401
2017-1732625	12/30/2017	16:28:09	1145 Maplecrest Circle/Gladwyne, PA 19035

Total Incident Type Summary



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER of INCIDENTS	PERCCENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	155	6.46%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	6	0.25%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	236	9.83%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	232	9.66%
Service Call	85	3.54%
Good Intent Call	540	22.49%
False Alarm & False Call	1137	47.36%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3	0.12%
Special Incident Type	7	0.29%
TOTAL	2401	100.00%

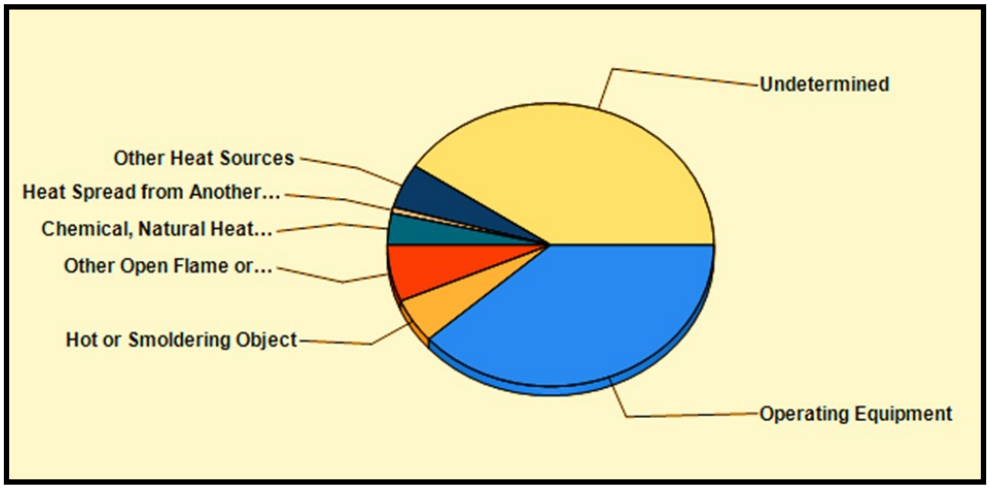
Thirty Year Total Loss Fire Statistics

Type	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Building Fires	45	35	33	39	24	16	39	26	44	24
Vehicle Fires	88	90	53	65	81	61	88	72	83	64
Total Fires	311	264	245	228	212	194	253	210	227	207
Other Calls	928	935	875	868	1034	989	1102	1109	1406	1233
Township Calls	1043	994	904	860	984	965	1100	1084	1225	1105
Out of Town	248	253	273	279	279	292	406	386	484	434
Total Calls	1239	1199	1120	1093	1246	1183	1355	1319	1633	1439
Dollar Loss in Thousands	3518	1144	342	765	1245	786	1712	1564	1990	955

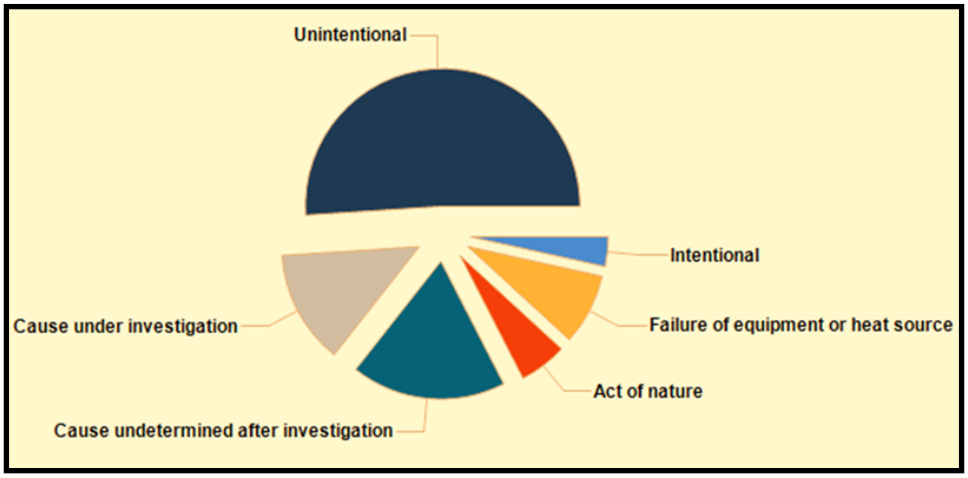
Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Building Fires	38	35	35	27	49	18	29	41	30	26
Vehicle Fires	53	65	54	50	59	49	45	47	36	36
Total Fires	188	258	191	226	213	147	163	289	258	263
Other Calls	1392	1467	1480	1433	1412	1566	1553	1660	1661	1697
Township Calls	1224	1381	1324	1278	1278	1293	1327	1659	1630	1608
Out of Town	458	506	465	480	355	490	493	278	289	352
Total Calls	1580	1723	1671	1659	1625	1713	1716	1937	1919	1960
Dollar Loss in Thousands	1448	1762	1279	1893	1595	3858	1952	2775	1160	1273

Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Building Fires	29	34	25	30	40	23	30	23	28	32
Vehicle Fires	31	25	27	28	22	25	23	23	24	26
Total Fires	248	211	242	234	273	207	171	194	209	155
Other Calls	1590	1736	1706	1891	2104	2125	2510	2229	2333	2246
Township Calls	1526	1648	1627	1739	1989	1739	2297	2042	2158	2037
Out of Town	316	285	321	394	388	294	384	382	384	364
Total Calls	1838	1947	1948	2125	2377	2332	2681	2424	2542	2401
Dollar Loss in Thousands	759	3.96 M	1.649 M	2.562 M	2.659 M	1.384 M	3.955 M	1.580 M	1.850 M	3.277 M

Heat Source and Ignition Details



MAJOR HEAT SOURCE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Operating Equipment	53	38.40%
Hot or Smoldering Object	7	5.10%
Other Open Flame or Smoking Materials	9	6.50%
Chemical, Natural Heat Sources	5	3.60%
Heat Spread from Another Fire	1	0.70%
Other Heat Sources	7	5.10%
Undetermined or Not Requiring Investigation	56	40.60%



CAUSE OF IGNITION	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Intentional	5	3.2%
Failure of equipment or heat source	12	7.7%
Act of nature	8	5.2%
Cause undetermined after investigation	26	16.8%
Cause under investigation	19	12.3%
Unintentional	73	47.1%

2017 Fire Department Response Details

Confined and Unconfined Fires:

	CONFINED FIRES	NONCONFINED FIRES
5. Residential Fires	32	23
13. Structure Fires	46	31

Breakdown of False Alarm Responses:

	TYPE OF FALSE ALARM	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	Malicious, Mischievous False Call (IT 710-715)	36
2.	System Malfunction (IT 730-739)	426
3.	Unintentional (tripping of interior device accidentally, etc. (IT 740-749)	661
4.	Other False Alarms (bomb scares, etc.) (IT 721, 700)	14

Intentionally Set Fires In Structures and Vehicles:

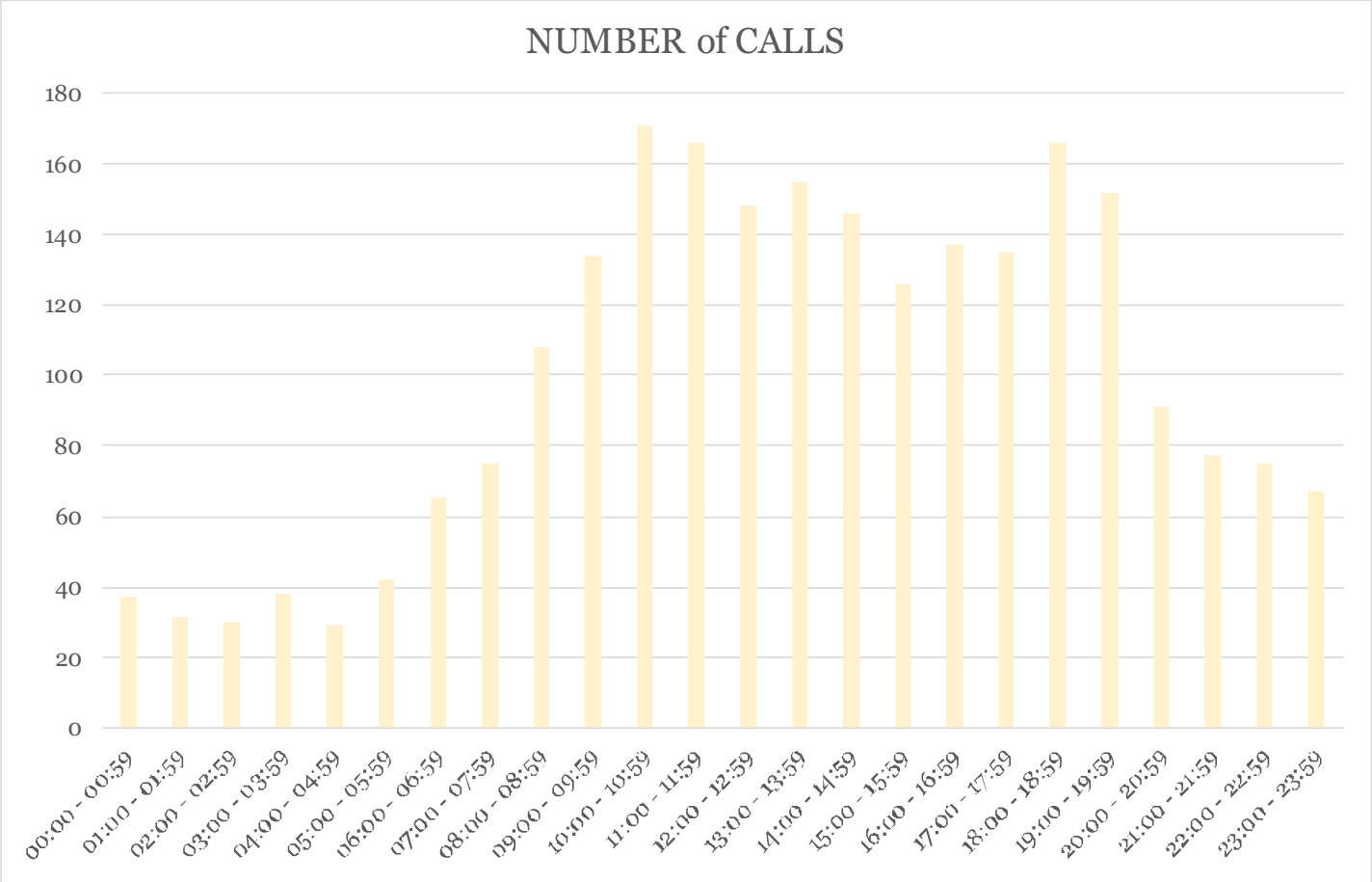
		Number of Civilian Fire Casualties		
INTENTIONALLY SET FIRES	NUMBER OF FIRES	DEATHS	INJURIES	ESTIMATED PROPERTY LOSS DAMAGE FROM FIRE
Structure Fires intentionally set (IT=110-129; cause E1=1)	1	0	0	$0.00

Presence and Operation of Detectors for 2017:

DETECTOR PRESENCE STATUS	COUNT
Present	17
Undetermined	4
Total	**21**

DETECTOR OPERATION STATUS	COUNT
No data	1
Fire too small to activate detector	1
Detector operated	11
Undetermined	4
Total	**17**

Number of Incidents by Alarm Hour

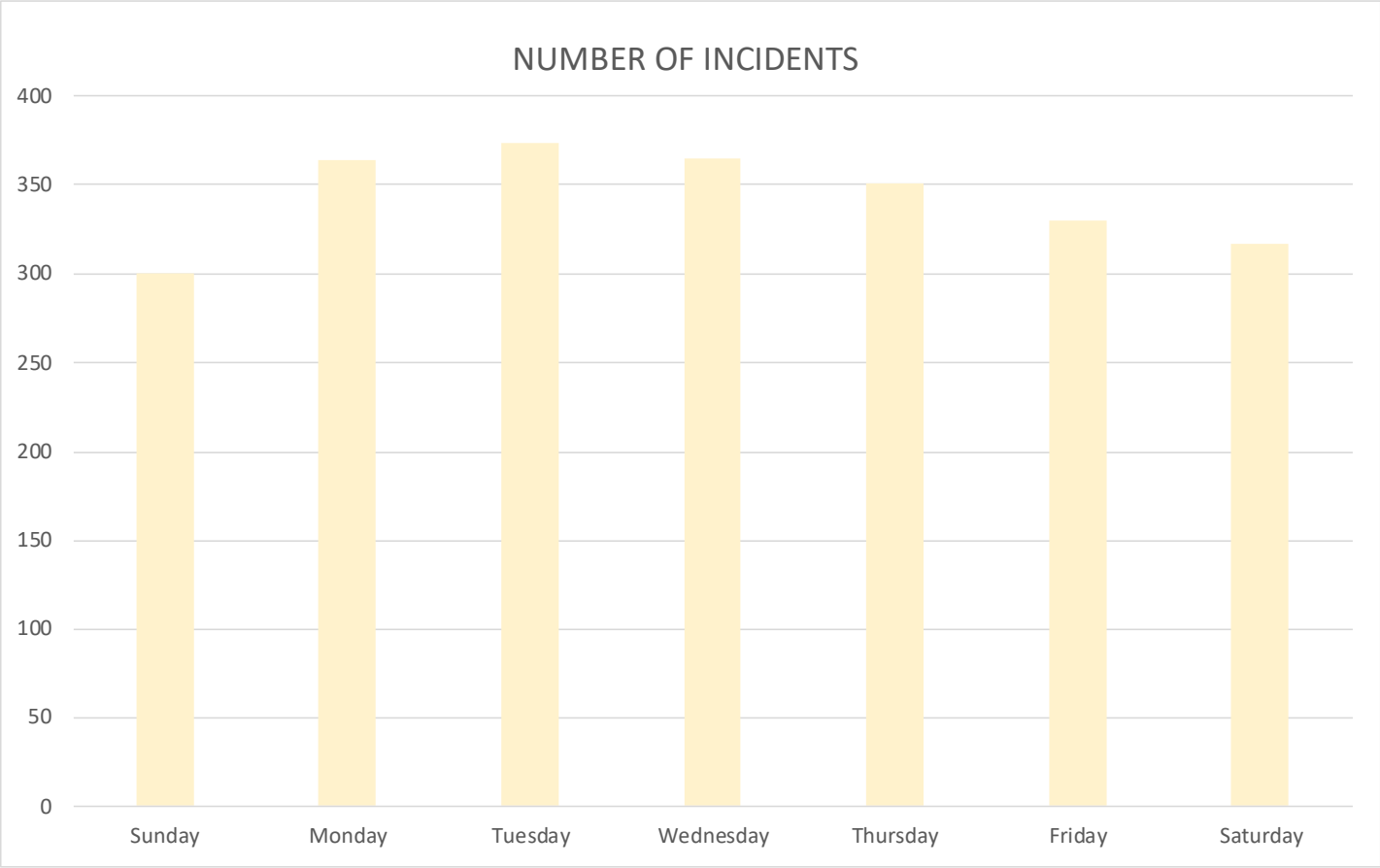


HOUR	00:00-00:59	01:00-01:59	02:00-02:59	03:00-03:59	04:00-04:59	05:00-05:59	06:00-06:59	07:00-07:59	08:00-08:59	09:00-09:59	10:00-10:59	11:00-11:59
NUMBER of CALLS	37	31	30	38	29	42	65	75	108	134	171	166

HOUR	12:00-12:59	13:00-13:59	14:00-14:59	15:00-15:59	16:00-16:59	17:00-17:59	18:00-18:59	19:00-19:59	20:00-20:59	21:00-21:59	22:00-22:59	23:00-23:59
NUMBER of CALLS	148	155	146	126	137	135	166	152	91	77	75	67

Incident Responses by Day of Week

Alarm Date Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017



DAY OF THE WEEK	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
Sunday	300
Monday	364
Tuesday	374
Wednesday	365
Thursday	351
Friday	330
Saturday	317
TOTAL	**2401**

10 Year Consolidated

ITEM	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Routine Inspections	625	643	455	454	470	512	766	783	779	816
Alarm System Testing/Follow Up	112	73	128	274	171	194	131	34	37	29
Code Violations	254	419	385	362	406	884	131	34	37	29
Citizen Contact/ Complaints	52	106	56	121	131	230	208	54	27	4
Plan Reviews/ Land Development Meeting	120	100	103	102	114	140	108	69	82	212
Fire Code Requests/ Consultations	52	106	132	160	187	200	224	64	45	7
Fire Marshal Signs	4	2	2	1	3	11	1	4	6	4
Training Programs	121	219	219	219	263	157	252	312	112	103
Apparatus Testing	15	19	19	17	20	21	28	28	28	21
Revenue Accounts	$18,025	$4,300	$4,300	$5,250	$3,350	$4,230	$4,200	$4,525	$3,850	$3,695
Blasting Supervision	15	17	17	2	1	6	18	4	5	2
Fire Report Requests	12	12	12	11	22	31	42	26	35	23
File Searches	21	16	16	7	14	11	12	5	5	3
Car Seat Inspections	172	134	134	110	66	49	36	26	9	_

Training Information

Professional training continues to be a critical element of the Fire Department. The Fire Department Office continued its ongoing training with the National Incident Management System, code enforcement, various fire investigation and arson courses, fire alarm and plan review, sprinkler systems and tactics and strategies in suppression operations, attended various programs at the National Fire Academy, as well as took part in national conferences.

The fire training grounds continue to be used on a regular basis by our fire companies. This training enables firefighters to participate in live fire training evolutions, allowing them to enhance their firefighting skills in a controlled atmosphere – a crucial function of our fire service. Deputy Fire Marshals prepared and participated in 51 supervised firefighter-training sessions with 704 firefighters in attendance, averaging approximately 11.35 firefighters per training session. In addition, several vehicle extrication and technical rescue drills were also conducted at the fire training grounds.

2017 COUNT OF FIRE COMPANY DRILLS SUPERVISED BY THE LOWER MERION FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE (Conducted at the LMFD Fire Training Grounds)	
Station 21- Penn Wynne/Overbrook Hills Fire Company	3
Station 22- Belmont Hills Fire Company	11
Station 23- Bryn Mawr Fire Company	6
Station 24- Gladwyne Fire Company	11
Station 25- Merion Fire Company of Ardmore	10
Station 26- Narberth Fire Company	8
Station 28- Union Fire Association of Lower Merion	13

The Township Fire Department acquired the use of 11 structures in 2017 to be used for specialized training before the homes were demolished. These sites provided us with the opportunity to teach hands-on classes in overhaul, forcible entry, ventilation and search and rescue techniques. During this training our firefighters practiced the proper use of hand tools such as axes, pry bars and ceiling hooks. These tools are commonly used during the overhaul process required at all building fires.

OVERVIEW OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE SUPERVISED TRAINING DRILLS FOR 2017

Drills Completed at the LMFD Training Grounds	51
Specialized Drills Completed in Other Structures	11
Total Drills	62
Number of Firefighters Attending in 2017	704
Average Firefighter per session	11.35
Average Length per Drill	3.13 Hours

In 2017, over 9,016 total man-hours of training were completed in 349 classes with 245 firefighters attending.

Fire Prevention and Safety Programs

Every year, members of the Fire Department Office provide Fire Safety training classes to various schools, daycare centers, and other community organizations within the Township. These classes consist of emergency preparedness, emergency evacuation, and fire prevention.

2017 Fire Prevention Programs

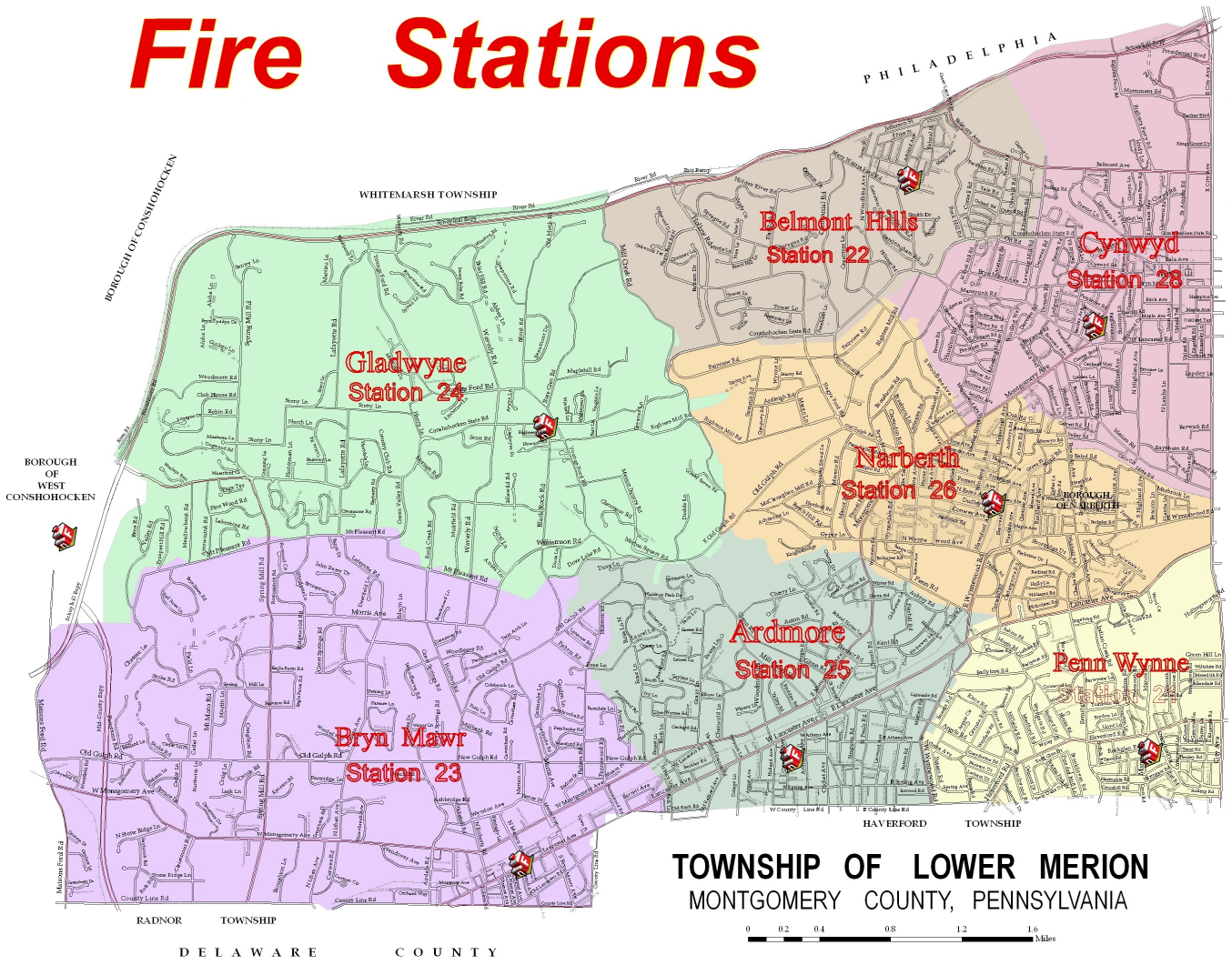
Facility Type	Number of Programs Completed	Total Number of Attendees	Training Hours
Child Care Facilities	11	451 Students & 17 Staff	10:55
Elementary Schools	16	730 Students & 83 Staff	19:15
Senior Care Facilities	7	228 Residents & 13 Staff	10:23
Other	3	188 Adults	3:30
TOTAL:	**37**	**1,710**	**44:30:00**

In addition, members of the Fire Department Office conducted 48 supervised fire drills in schools, medical facilities, and other businesses, and provided over 42 hours of staff in-service training to teachers and staff at over 34 medical centers, schools, religious institutions, and assisted living facilities.

The Fire Department Office also participated in various community events, such as Harriton High School's Career Day, National Night Out, the Belmont Hills Fire Company Block Party, Rosie's Senior Jamboree, and Temple Beth Hillel/Beth el BBQ cook-off, where over 5,250 residents were in attendance.

At the request of our residents, the Fire Department Office conducted eleven (11) Home Safety Inspections and delivered and installed twenty-three (23) smoke detectors to residents in need within in our Township. Additionally, Fire Department staff conducted 172 car seat installations and inspections for our residents.

Fire Company Response Districts



First Response District	District Size	Approximate Number of Structures Per District
Station 21- Penn Wynne/Overbrook Hills Fire Company	1.734 Square Miles	2,953
Station 22- Belmont Hills Fire Company	2.201 Square Miles	2,278
Station 23- Bryn Mawr Fire Company	5.889 Square Miles	3,672
Station 24- Gladwyne Fire Company	5.732 Square Miles	2,505
Station 25- Merion Fire Company of Ardmore	2.551 Square Miles	3,526
Station 26- Narberth Fire Company	2.968 Square Miles	4,757
Station 28- Union Fire Association of Lower Merion	2.951 Square Miles	4,076

Station 21

Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills Fire Company

1440 Manoa Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096
(610) 642-9688
www.pennwynnefire.org

Chief: Ted Schmid
President: Brad Remick

Incident Type Summary for First Due District In Lower Merion Township
Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	10	6.29%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	2	1.26%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	14	8.81%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	19	11.95%
Service Call	5	3.14%
Good Intent Call	16	10.06%
False Alarm & False Call	91	57.23%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.63%
Special Incident Type	1	0.63%
TOTAL	**159**	**100.00%**

Apparatus Complement

1 Ladder Truck
1 Heavy Rescue Truck
1 Engine
1 Utility Truck
1 Incident Support Unit

Overall Response Summary Between
January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

INSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	OUTSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	TOTAL 2017 RESPONSES
159	51	**210**

Station 21

Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills Fire Company

STATION 21: INCIDENT TYPE COUNT FOR 2017	
111 - Building fire	1
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	4
116 - Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	1
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	2
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1
223 - Air or gas rupture of pressure or process vessel	1
251 - Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	3
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	2
350 - Extrication, rescue, other	1
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	2
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	2
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	5
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	6
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1
443 - Breakdown of light ballast	1
444 - Power line down	2
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	3
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1
510 - Person in distress, other	1
522 - Water or steam leak	1
553 - Public service	1
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	2
600 - Good intent call, other	2
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	5
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	5
652 - Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	2
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	1
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	5
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	17
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	8
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	25
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	25
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	7
814 - Lightning strike (no fire)	1
911 - Citizen complaint	1
Number of Incidents:	**159**

Station 22

Belmont Hills Fire Company

4 S. Washington Avenue
Belmont Hills, PA 19004
(610) 664-9185

Chief: Patrick P. Fusaro, Jr.
President: Rocco J. Burdo, Jr.

Incident Type Summary for First Due District In Lower Merion Township
Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERGENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	16	6.04%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	124	43.77%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	10	3.77%
Service Call	3	1.13%
Good Intent Call	62	21.89%
False Alarm & False Call	65	23.40%
TOTAL	**280**	**100.00%**

Apparatus Complement

1 Ladder Truck
1 Heavy Rescue Truck
1 Squad Engine
1 Utility Truck

Overall Response Summary Between
January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

INSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	OUTSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	TOTAL 2017 RESPONSES
280	55	**335**

Station 22

Belmont Hills Fire Company

Station: 22 : INCIDENT TYPE COUNT FOR 2017	
111 - Building fire	1
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	3
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
130 - Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	3
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	4
140 - Natural vegetation fire, other	1
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	2
150 - Outside rubbish fire, other	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	103
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	18
350 - Extrication, rescue, other	1
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	2
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	4
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	3
413 - Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1
500 - Service Call, other	1
531 - Smoke or odor removal	1
550 - Public service assistance, other	1
600 - Good intent call, other	20
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	29
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	9
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1
700 - False alarm or false call, other	4
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	1
711 - Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm	1
730 - System malfunction, other	4
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	1
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	3
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	23
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	1
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	7
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	9
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	4
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	9
Number of Incidents:	**280**

Station 23
Bryn Mawr Fire Company

901 Lancaster Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
(610) 525-7702

Chief: Daniel V. Kincade
President: Daniel J. Cuff

Incident Type Summary for First Due District In Lower Merion Township
Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	26	3.99%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	2	0.32%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	41	6.30%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	78	11.98%
Service Call	9	1.38%
Good Intent Call	189	29.03%
False Alarm & False Call	306	47.00%
TOTAL	651	100.00%

Apparatus Complement

1 Ladder Truck
1 Squad Engine
1 Engine

Overall Response Summary Between
January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

INSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	OUTSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	TOTAL 2017 RESPONSES
651	44	**695**

Station 23

Bryn Mawr Fire Company

STATION 23: INCIDENT TYPE COUNT FOR 2017	
100 - Fire, other	2
111 - Building fire	4
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	7
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1
116 - Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	1
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	2
130 - Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	1
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	3
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	2
154 - Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	2
200 - Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat other	1
251 - Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	5
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	7
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	9
331 - Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)	1
350 - Extrication, rescue, other	2
351 - Extrication of victim(s) from building/ structure	1
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	3
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	13
371 - Electrocution or potential electrocution	1
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	24
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	6
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	21
442 - Overheated motor	10
444 - Power line down	10
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	3
461 - Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	2
522 - Water or steam leak	1
531 - Smoke or odor removal	3
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	2
561 - Unauthorized burning	2
600 - Good intent call, other	15
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	140
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	17
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	14
652 - Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	1
653 - Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	2
700 - False alarm or false call, other	2
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	4
714 - Central station, malicious false alarm	3
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1
730 - System malfunction, other	21
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	6
732 - Extinguishing system activation due to malfunction	2
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	29
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	55
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	30
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	15
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	3
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	108
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	21
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	5
Number of Incidents	**651**

Station 24
Gladwyne Fire Company

1044Black Rock Road
Gladwyne, PA 19035
(610) 642-9586
www.gladwynefire.org

Chief: Blaine W. Leis
President: Kevin P. Gallagher

Incident Type Summary for First Due District In Lower Merion Township
Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	28	11.62%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	19	7.88%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	24	9.96%
Service Call	24	9.96%
Good Intent Call	13	5.39%
False Alarm & False Call	133	55.19%
TOTAL	**241**	**100.00%**

Apparatus Complement

1 Ladder Truck
2 Engines
1 Utility Truck
1 Air/Light Truck
1 Special Service Unit (Water Rescue)
3 Marine Units
1 Duty Officer SUV

Overall Response Summary Between
January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

INSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	OUTSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	TOTAL 2017 RESPONSES
241	145	**386**

Station 24
Gladwyne Fire Company

STATION 24: INCIDENT TYPE COUNT FOR 2017	
111 - Building fire	19
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	2
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	2
141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire	1
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	3
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	2
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	5
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	2
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	9
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	3
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	3
441 - Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1
442 - Overheated motor	2
444 - Power line down	6
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1
500 - Service Call, other	1
522 - Water or steam leak	2
531 - Smoke or odor removal	3
542 - Animal rescue	1
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	3
552 - Police matter	1
553 - Public service	4
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	10
600 - Good intent call, other	1
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	8
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	2
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	2
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1
714 - Central station, malicious false alarm	2
730 - System malfunction, other	1
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	32
734 - Heat detector activation due to malfunction	2
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	9
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	4
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	1
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	62
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	9
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	13
Number of Incidents:	**241**

Station 25
Merion Fire Company of Ardmore

35 Greenfield Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
(610) 642-9580
www.merionfireco.org

Chief: Thomas C. Hayden, Jr.
President: H. Brooke McMullin

Incident Type Summary for First Due District In Lower Merion Township
Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	30	7.73%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	19	4.90%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	34	8.76%
Service Call	12	3.09%
Good Intent Call	90	23.20%
False Alarm & False Call	201	51.80%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	2	0.52%
TOTAL	**388**	**100.00%**

Apparatus Complement

1 Ladder Truck
2 Engines
1 Utility Truck

Overall Response Summary Between
January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

INSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	OUTSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	TOTAL 2017 RESPONSES
388	50	**438**

Station 25

Merion Fire Company of Ardmore

STATION 25: INCIDENT TYPE COUNT FOR 2017	
100 - Fire, other	1
111 - Building fire	3
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	8
116 - Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	1
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	2
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	5
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	7
154 - Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1
160 - Special outside fire, other	1
162 - Outside equipment fire	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	3
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	2
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	10
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	1
400 - Hazardous condition, other	2
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	11
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	4
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	10
443 - Breakdown of light ballast	1
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	4
460 - Accident, potential accident, other	1
461 - Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1
500 - Service Call, other	1
520 - Water problem, other	1
531 - Smoke or odor removal	6
550 - Public service assistance, other	1
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1
555 - Defective elevator, no occupants	1
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1
600 - Good intent call, other	16
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	43
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	20
631 - Authorized controlled burning	1
650 - Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	1
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	7
652 - Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	1
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	3
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	3
714 - Central station, malicious false alarm	6
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	2
730 - System malfunction, other	20
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	2
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	12
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	30
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	8
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	17
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	6
742 - Extinguishing system activation	1
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	32
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	5
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	51
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	4
800 - Severe weather or natural disaster, other	2
Number of Incidents	**388**

Station 26

Narberth Fire Company

100 Conway Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072
(610) 664-9278
www.narberthfirecompany.com

Chief: Francis N. Dixon
President: William J. Henderson

Incident Type Summary for First Due District In Lower Merion Township
Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	13	5.08%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	4	1.56%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	33	12.50%
Service Call	10	3.91%
Good Intent Call	89	33.98%
False Alarm & False Call	112	42.97%
TOTAL	**261**	**100.00%**

Apparatus Complement

1 Ladder Truck
3 Engines
1 SUV

Overall Response Summary Between
January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

INSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	OUTSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	TOTAL 2017 RESPONSES
261	47	**308**

Station 26

Narberth Fire Company

STATION 26: INCIDENT TYPE COUNT FOR 2017	
100 - Fire, other	2
111 - Building fire	1
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	4
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	2
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	4
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	2
331 - Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)	1
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	1
400 - Hazardous condition, other	1
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	13
413 - Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	3
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	6
442 - Overheated motor	1
443 - Breakdown of light ballast	2
444 - Power line down	3
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1
510 - Person in distress, other	1
511 - Lock-out	1
531 - Smoke or odor removal	4
541 - Animal problem	1
550 - Public service assistance, other	1
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1
561 - Unauthorized burning	1
600 - Good intent call, other	6
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	51
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	8
650 - Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	1
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	20
661 - EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	1
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	4
714 - Central station, malicious false alarm	2
730 - System malfunction, other	11
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	5
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	18
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	14
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	37
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	18
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	2
Number of Incidents:	**261**

Station 28

Union Fire Association of Lower Merion

149 Montgomery Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 664-9112

Chief: James F. Hornung
President: Rob Carovillano

Incident Type Summary for First Due District In Lower Merion Township
Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE of TOTAL
Fires	28	7.91%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	2	0.57%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	20	5.65%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	30	8.47%
Service Call	5	1.42%
Good Intent Call	70	19.77%
False Alarm & False Call	198	55.93%
Special Incident Type	1	0.28%
TOTAL	**354**	**100.00%**

Apparatus Complement

1 Ladder Truck

2 Engines

Overall Response Summary Between
January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

INSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	OUTSIDE FIRST DUE DISTRICT	TOTAL 2017 RESPONSES
354	23	**377**

Station 28

Union Fire Association of Lower Merion

STATION 28: INCIDENT TYPE COUNT FOR 2017	
100 - Fire, other	1
111 - Building fire	3
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	4
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	2
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	8
140 - Natural vegetation fire, other	4
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	6
154 - Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1
200 - Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat other	1
221 - Overpressure rupture of air or gas pipe/ pipeline	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	6
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	1
350 - Extrication, rescue, other	1
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	1
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	9
400 - Hazardous condition, other	1
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	10
413 - Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	8
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	4
442 - Overheated motor	1
444 - Power line down	1
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	2
510 - Person in distress, other	1
531 - Smoke or odor removal	1
550 - Public service assistance, other	1
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	2
600 - Good intent call, other	51
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	9
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	6
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	2
653 - Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1
661 - EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	1
700 - False alarm or false call, other	3
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	1
714 - Central station, malicious false alarm	1
730 - System malfunction, other	11
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	1
732 - Extinguishing system activation due to malfunction	1
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	18
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	14
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	4
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	33
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	1
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	41
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	25
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	42
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1
900 - Special type of incident, other	1
Number of Incidents	**354**

2017 Highlights

In 2017, two long-time members of the Lower Merion Fire Department Board of Directors retired from their positions.

President John P. Derham, of the Penn Wynne/Overbrook Hills Fire Company, and Chief Patrick Fusaro, of the Belmont Hills Fire Company, were honored for their years of dedicated service to the Lower Merion Fire Department.

On June 30th, 2017, members of the Merion Fire Company of Ardmore and Gladwyne Fire Company responded to Haverford College for the rescue of a construction worker who, while dredging the pond, became stuck 35 feet out in the middle of a pond.

2017 Highlights

On May 6, 2017, members of the Lower Merion Fire Department invited the Board of Commissioners to the Fire Department Training Grounds for a demonstration in firefighting operations and the functions of various fire apparatus.

During the demonstration, Commissioner Dan Bernheim, President of the Lower Merion Board of Commissioners donned full turnout gear.

2017 Highlights

This residential fire at 1164 St. Andrews Road in Gladwyne on November 19, rekindled the following morning, represents the largest total monetary loss in Lower Merion in 2017

2017 Highlights

112 Beverly Road
Wynnewood
Building Fire
February 2, 2017

101 Cherry Lane
Wynnewood
Vehicle Fire
March 15, 2017

2017 Highlights

640 Carisbrooke Road
Bryn Mawr
Building Fire
June 24, 2017

2017 Highlights

2017 was not without some serious challenges putting our firefighters to the test with several fire, vehicle accidents, and severe storms.

The Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection…

A badge of honor, its story and tradition are hundreds of years old.

When a courageous band of Crusaders, known as the Knights of St. John, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land they encountered a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a simple, but horrible device of war. It wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave fighters for the cross.

The Saracens' weapon was fire.

As the Crusaders advanced on the walls of the Saracens' city, glass bombs containing naphtha struck them. When they become saturated with the highly flammable liquid, the Saracens' hurled a flaming tree into their midst.

Hundreds of Knights were burned alive. Others risked their lives to save their brothers-in-arms from dying painful fiery deaths.

Thus, these men became the first firefighters; and the first of a long list of courageous firefighters and first aiders. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow Crusaders who awarded each hero a badge of honor, a cross similar to the one firefighters wear today.

Since the Knights of John lived for close to four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea named Malta, the cross became known as the Maltese Cross. The Maltese Cross is your symbol of protection.. It means the firefighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down their life for you, just as the Crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago.

Maltese Cross, a firefighters badge of honor signifying that he or she works in COURAGE, PRIDE and HONOR… a rung away from death.

Township of Lower Merion

Fire Department