

YARDLEY-MAKEFIELD FIRE COMPANY



2022
YEAR-END REPORT

Introduction



It was the fire at Cadwallader's Store, on the corner of Main and Afton, which prompted the meeting of concerned citizens on December 14, 1897. When the meeting finished, the Yardley Fire Company had been formed. The story goes that the Cadwallader fire was eventually put out and the town was saved by the gallant actions of two men, William Baird and James Casey. They rode to

Trenton with four horses and brought back a steam pumper, with water from Lake Afton, the fire was quickly extinguished.

Starting in the 1950's the fields surrounding Yardley were being turned over to houses and the calls for service started to increase. Fire company members decided they needed to provide protection out in the township and an engine was housed in a member's barn on Stony Hill Road, this station is called the Woodside Station. On January 16, 1961 the Yardley Fire Co. # 1 became the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company being it was serving both Lower Makefield Township and Yardley Borough.



Yardley Borough Hall building served as the firehouse from 1897 until 1972 when the current firehouse at the corner of South Main Street and College Avenue was built. A lot of residents ask about the current Firehouse Cycles building on South Main Street which has a sign for the Yardley Fire Co. #2. In the mid 1930's a group of members separated themselves from the Fire Company and created the Yardley Fire Company #2. Two Fire Companies serving the residents did not last long and all the members and apparatus returned to one station.

In the late 1960's the need for more equipment at the Woodside Fire house was needed, a new building was built where the current Giant Food store is today. This new building was big enough for an engine, a field truck and the additional manpower responding to that station. The Fire Company was approached by the developer of the current McCaffrey's Shopping Center wanting to use the land the firehouse was on and offered to build a new firehouse where the current Woodside firehouse is located



today. The firehouse was completed in 1986 and has gone through numerous renovations to keep up with the growing fire service.



Yardley Borough and Lower Makefield Township has gone through a substantial growth throughout the years. The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company coverage area consists of roughly 19.5 square miles, almost all of it being suburban and commercial

developments. The population density for the densest part of the coverage area is 2,500 people per square mile. Our primary response area is also scattered with several “target hazards.” A target hazard from a fire company stance is defined as: “a more complex building or group of buildings that present a greater threat or potential problem than a single-family dwelling.”

Yardley-Makefield Fire Company is home to several small shopping centers, three apartment complexes (soon to be 4 with Prickett Preserve), one 3- story hotel, 17 schools, six assisted living facilities, several 55 and older communities, a five mile stretch of Interstate 295, a four mile stretch of CSX/Septa Railroad, a five mile stretch of the Delaware River, a four mile stretch of the Transco Pipeline which transports natural gas from the gulf coast up to the northeast region, and a three mile stretch of the Sunoco Petroleum Pipeline which transports petroleum products from Marcus Hook up to Newark, New Jersey. The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company is dispatched by the Bucks County 911 Communications Center and assigned Company 0 (Yardley Borough Station) and Company 80 (Woodside Station) as its designation for radio transmissions and dispatches. It is assisted on an as needed basis by the Morrisville (Company 98), Upper Makefield (Company 71), Falls (Company 30), Newtown (Company 45), Fairless Hills (Company 31), and Langhorne (Company 21) fire companies.

The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company operates a fleet of apparatus consisting of:

Yardley Station:

2012 International “Special Service 0” used for water rescue incidents

2014 Pierce “Engine 0” used for pumping water from hydrants to hose lines and extinguishing fires.

2016 Triton “Marine 0” used when there are emergencies on the Delaware River

2020 F-550 “Utility 0” used for transporting equipment and manpower to scenes

2021 Pierce “Ladder 0” used for search, rescue, and access to buildings

Woodside Station

2006 F-550 “Utility 01” used for transporting equipment and manpower to scenes.

2009 F-550 “Traffic 0” used for protecting scenes and directing traffic at all incidents.

2013 Chevy Tahoe “Traffic 01” used for protecting scenes and directing traffic.

2014 F-550 “Utility 80” used for transporting equipment and manpower to scenes.

2018 Pierce “Rescue 80” used for extricating victims from motor vehicle accidents.

2023 Pierce “Engine 80” arrival expected June 2023 (ordered Sept. 2021)

Command Vehicles

2015 Chevy Tahoe “Assistant 0” used for incident command and control at incidents.

2017 Chevy Tahoe “Assistant 80” used for incident command and control at incidents

2021 Chevy Tahoe “Chief 0” used for incident command and control at incidents.

2023 Chevy Tahoe “Deputy 0” used for incident command and control at incidents.

The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company is staffed by a 100% professional volunteer crew of roughly 50 personnel that handle the administration, operation, and finances for the company. Members are notified of an emergency by carrying pagers that alert them and by our responding software that sends a text message out to the member’s phone. Members are required to attend 25% of all emergency calls, attend 33% of the scheduled drills and attend annual refreshers to be considered an active member and receive certain benefits.

Benefits for Active Members

National Certified Training – Any expenses for members to attend training are covered by the fire company as long as the training is pertinent to what the fire company provides.

Social Events – Members can bring their families to these various events throughout the year ranging from Bowling, picnics, pool events, etc. These events are to thank the members and their families for their time.

Christmas Party – Every December after the Yardley Borough Christmas Parade the fire company hosts a catered Christmas Party with a visit from Santa for all its members and their families. Santa gives out small gifts to each of the children and listens to their Christmas lists.

Class A Uniform – Each member is fitted for a Class A uniform to participate in parades, funerals and any other special events.

Duty Uniform (BDUs) – Each member is fitted for a BDU to wear during events where there is a possibility of the member actively participating in demonstrating firefighting tactics or where the member is still on duty to respond.

Apparel – Each member is eligible to receive jackets, shirts, pants, etc. with the fire company logo on it to wear in public. Members must wear it with the understanding that they are representing the company and to act in a professional manner at all times.

LMT Pool Membership – Each active member receives a membership for their family for the LMT Pool.

Shady Brook Holiday Passes – Members receive passes to Fall Fest and the Holiday Light Show, along with the Fall Fest tickets the fire company has a bonfire night for the members and their families with catered food.

Physical Fitness – At our Woodside station we have gym equipment for members to use, we also reimburse members up to \$30.00 a month for their membership to outside gyms as long as they show proof of attending 8 times a month.

Health Physical – All members depending on their age are required to have a health physical done. These physicals check lungs, hearing, vision, blood work, body movement and function. In the past these physicals have caught health issues for some members prior to it being a major complication.

Life Insurance – Members are eligible for life insurance after 5 years of active firefighting service. This is a \$60,000 life insurance policy that is paid out to the beneficiary the member identified in their paperwork.

Long-term care insurance – Members are eligible for this after 20 years of active firefighting service. This care gives the member \$175.00 a day for 10 years for any health care needs he/she requires.

LOSAP Program – This program invests \$1,000 each year the member is active by fire call attendance, in which when the member turns 62, they will be eligible to receive the money in the account. In turn each active year after they turn 62, they will receive that \$1,000 at the end of the year.

VIP Program – This program awards points to members when they attend emergency calls, training and special details. At the end of the year points are totaled up and the budgeted amount of money is then divided by the total points to give a dollar amount for each point earned. If the member is active by fire call attendance, then he/she will receive a check for the total amount of points earned.

Gene Cadwallader Scholarship - This award is in memory of past treasurer and life member Gene Cadwallader and is given out to an active member or his/her child who is pursuing higher education. The scholarship is for \$1,000.00 and directly issued to the school he/she is attending.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OFFICERS



On behalf of the members of the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company (YMFC), we are pleased to present our 2022 year-end report. This review illustrates our commitment to the residents, visitors, and businesses within our community; it also reflects our dedication to each other as a progressive fire service organization. The excellent professional work accomplished by our members exemplifies “our family, serving yours.”

In 2022 the fire company answered 649 calls for service which included 5 working house fires, 1 building fire, 5 automobile fires, 1 trash truck fire which resulted in a hazardous condition, 3 dumpster fires, 1 trench rescue, 1 vehicle extrication and were called to assist our mutual aid fire companies at 12 working fires. Above and beyond the emergency calls members participated in numerous fire prevention, special details, holiday parades, memorials, and station details, along with maintaining their training requirements.

In 2022 the fire company had 20 new members join in which we saw an immediate impact. Three of the members joined as fire police officers which brought our fire police crew up to 10. Four of the members attended fire school in the fall and completed the 192-hour long course. Three of the members came in with previous fire experience and could contribute right away. We had a former member who moved out of the area come back and rejoin. There are currently 4 of those new members attending the spring fire school with a completion date of May 2023. Unfortunately, 5 of the new members left us due to personal reasons. This many new members at one time were a big undertaking with a lot of our apparatus had crews with little experience along with many of our officers and members spending many hours teaching them in house our operations and procedures.

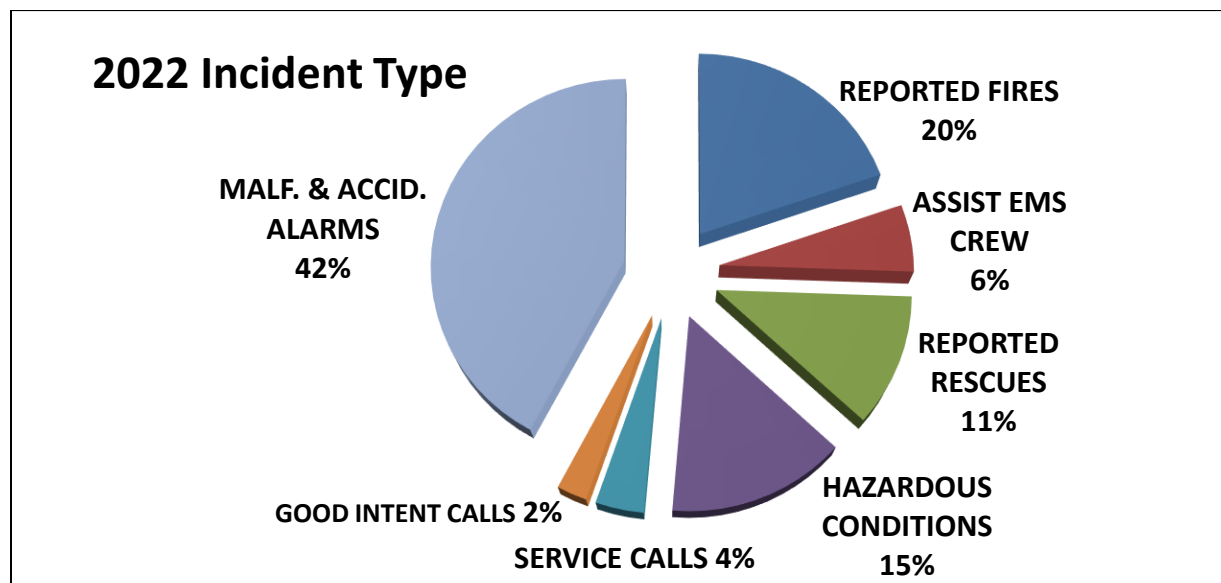
In May of 2022 the hiring of the Lower Makefield Fire Service Director immediately showed a tremendous impact to helping the fire company with day to day activities, filling out the crew during the day, overseeing our Fire Marshal's Office and improving the fire service for the community through the updating of the fire codes, partnering with the American Red Cross for smoke detector installation, and making sure that the needs of the fire company were considered during development. We look forward to working with the Fire Director and improving the fire service in the township.

Again, we would like to thank all members of our company for their professionalism and commitment at every level of the organization. we would also like to thank our elected officials (past and present), Township Manager, Mayor, and our outstanding residents for their continued supportive efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yardley-Makefield Fire Company Chief Officers

Emergency Response



The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company received 649 calls for service requiring a response. The pie chart above breaks down the 649 incidents into categories based on the National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS).

Category #1 (Reported Fires) are generally what most people think of when they picture a fire department. This includes all structural, wild land, rubbish, dumpster, train/truck/vehicle and heater fires.

Category #2 (Assist EMS Crew) includes all assistance given to EMS services such as during cardiac arrests, gaining access to residence or assistance in lifting patients.

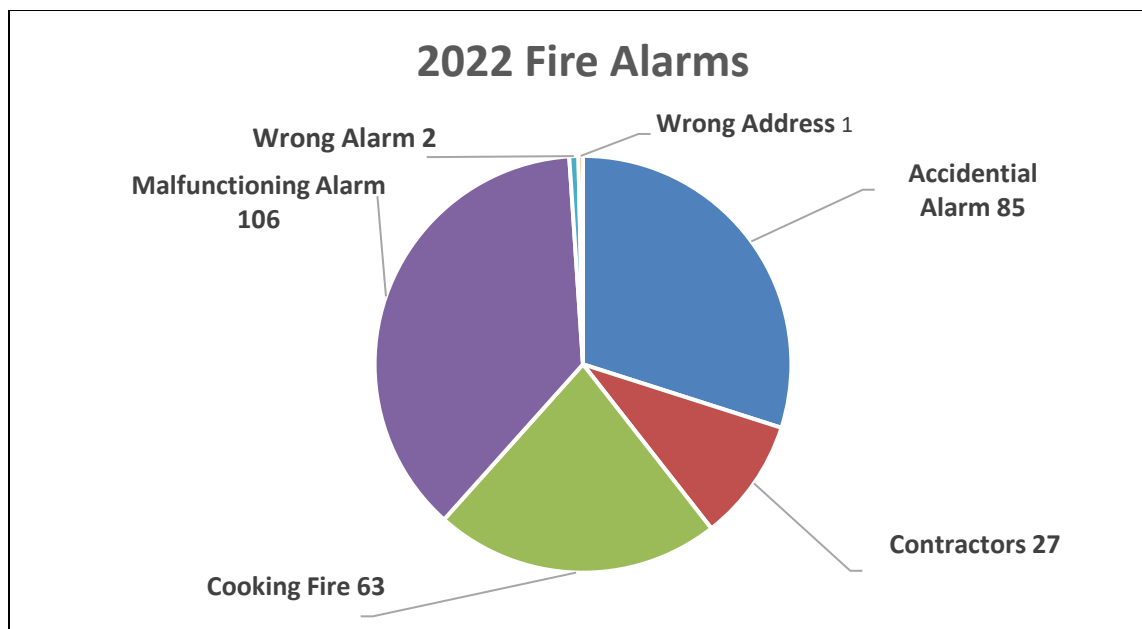
Category #3 (Reported Rescues) includes any reported people trapped due to vehicle accidents, stuck elevators, building collapses, falls down steep hills/trenches, or stuck in household items such as stair banisters or furniture.

Category #4 (Hazardous Conditions) pertains to incidents including Carbon Monoxide incidents, hazardous material spills and leaks, and power lines down.

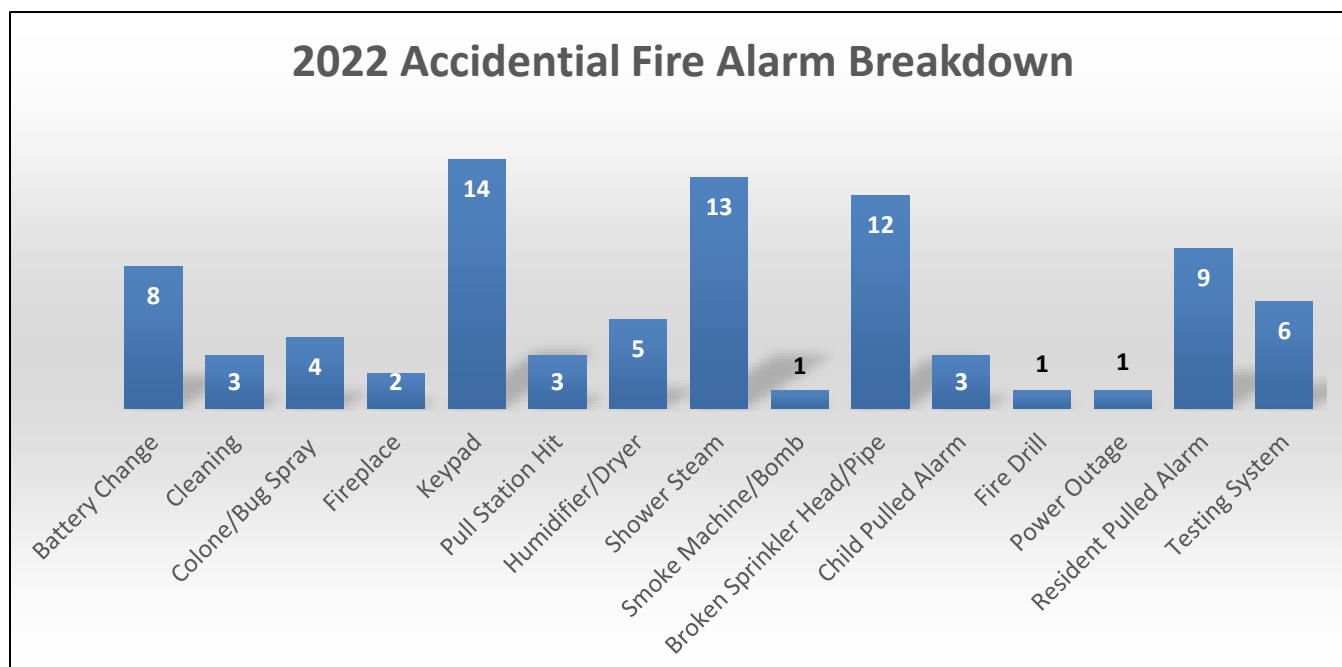
Category #5 (Service Calls) includes water and steam leaks, citizen complaints for open burning, assistance requested by Lower Makefield or Yardley Borough Police Departments, and public service requests of various nature.

Category #6 (Good Intent Calls) refers primarily to incidents received for odors of smoke that result in no problem found and incidents when the fire company is cancelled by another agency prior to arrival on scene.

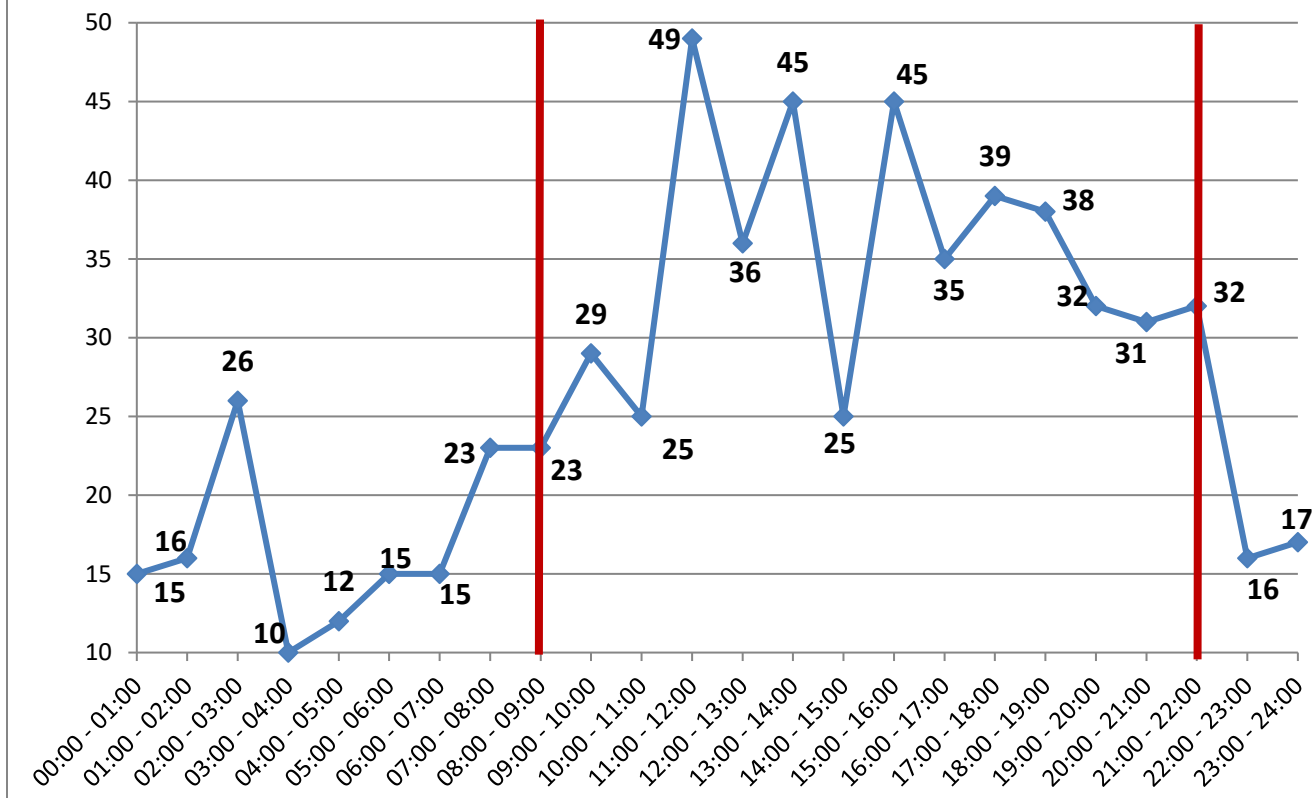
Category #7 (Malfunction & Accidental Alarms) includes all fire alarms responded to where no fire was found upon arrival. A breakdown of the alarms can be found on the next page.



The chart above shows the breakdown of Category #7 from the previous page. As you can see that of the 284 fire alarms the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company responded to in 2022, 106 or 37% of them were for systems that malfunctioned due to lack of annual maintenance or old age of the system. Members when responding to these incidents would educate the business owner or homeowner on how to update their system or repair it. Contractors working in the building set the fire alarm off 27 or 10% of the time, cooking fires which were pots left on the stove or homeowners opening the oven and letting smoke out causing the fire alarm to go off accounted for 63 or 22% of the responses. Accidental fire alarm activations came in a variety of ways, they accounted for 85 or 30% of the responses, a breakdown of the accidental fire alarms the fire company responded to in 2022 is listed in the chart below.



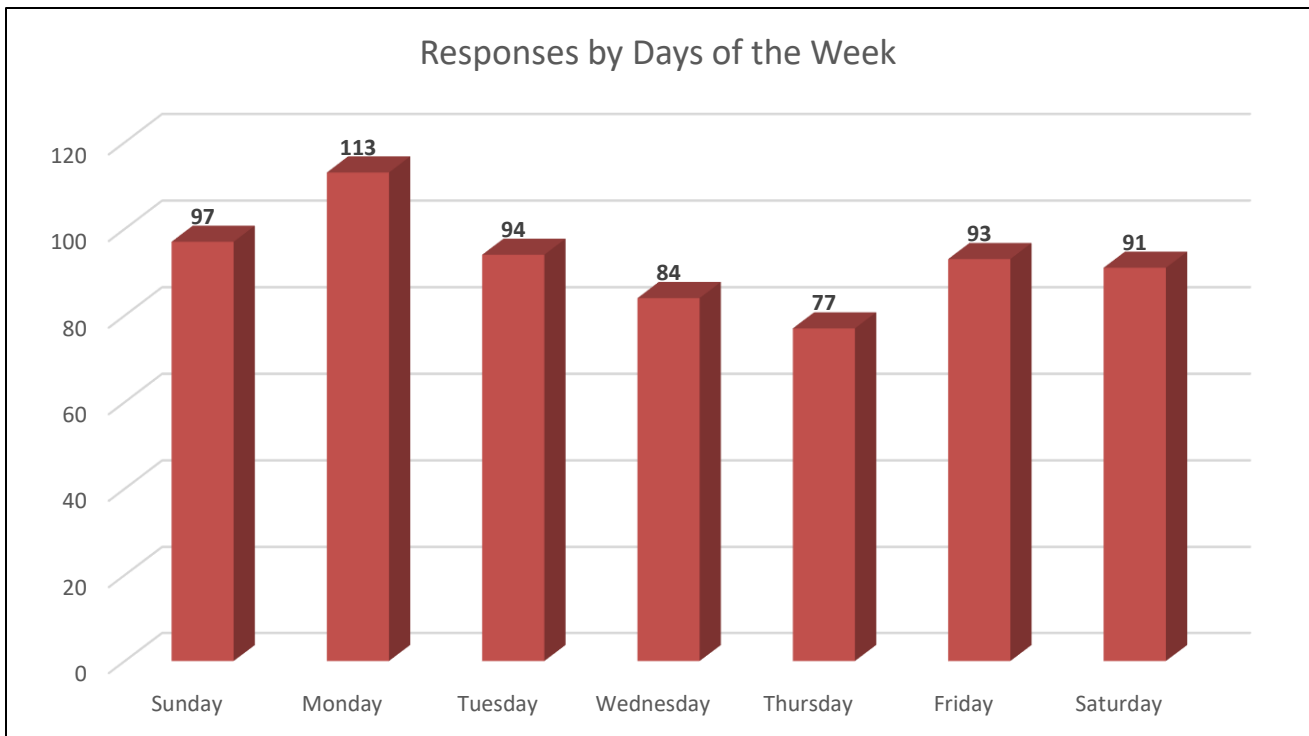
Incidents by Hour of Dispatch



The chart above shows the number of calls handled each hour of the day for the entire year. You can see our busiest hours are between 8 AM and 10 PM (0800 – 2200 hours). There are several logical reasons for this such as more cars on the roads, more people awake and moving around, and more people in the township and borough during these hours for work. The important thing to realize is that our busiest hours also overlap many of the hours most people are at their full-time jobs.

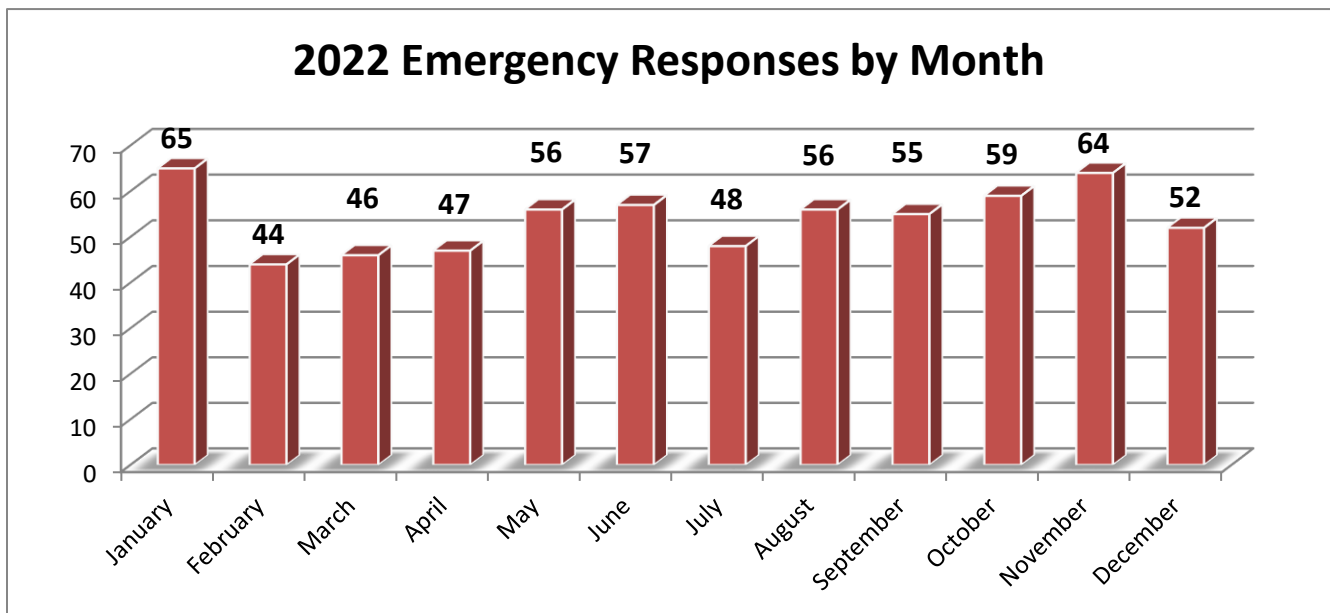
This may seem trivial, but being a volunteer fire company, this means over half of our volunteers are also at work during these same busy hours and this presents a challenge for any volunteer fire company to maintain adequate responses. The tracking of staff availability via the “I Am Responding” computer system helps greatly with this challenge. The system is displayed on a screen in each firehouse and allows members to put their availability up electronically. With personnel schedules being displayed, it allows chief officers to know before an incident how many members are not available. The system is also capable of displaying names of personnel who are responding from home to the firehouse for an incident.

An emergency response is one that requires the use of lights and sirens due to the urgency of the incident. Not all fire company responses require an emergency response. Some responses are not deemed life threatening and can be handled in the non-emergency (without lights and sirens) mode.



The above information breaks a week down by day. Mondays were the busiest day for the fire company with 113 responses. Sunday was the next busiest day of the week with 97 responses.

The chart below displays all 649 calls for service broken down by month. Due to the number of days in a month it is hard to see a pattern for the number of incidents per month. 2022-year average per month was 54 calls.

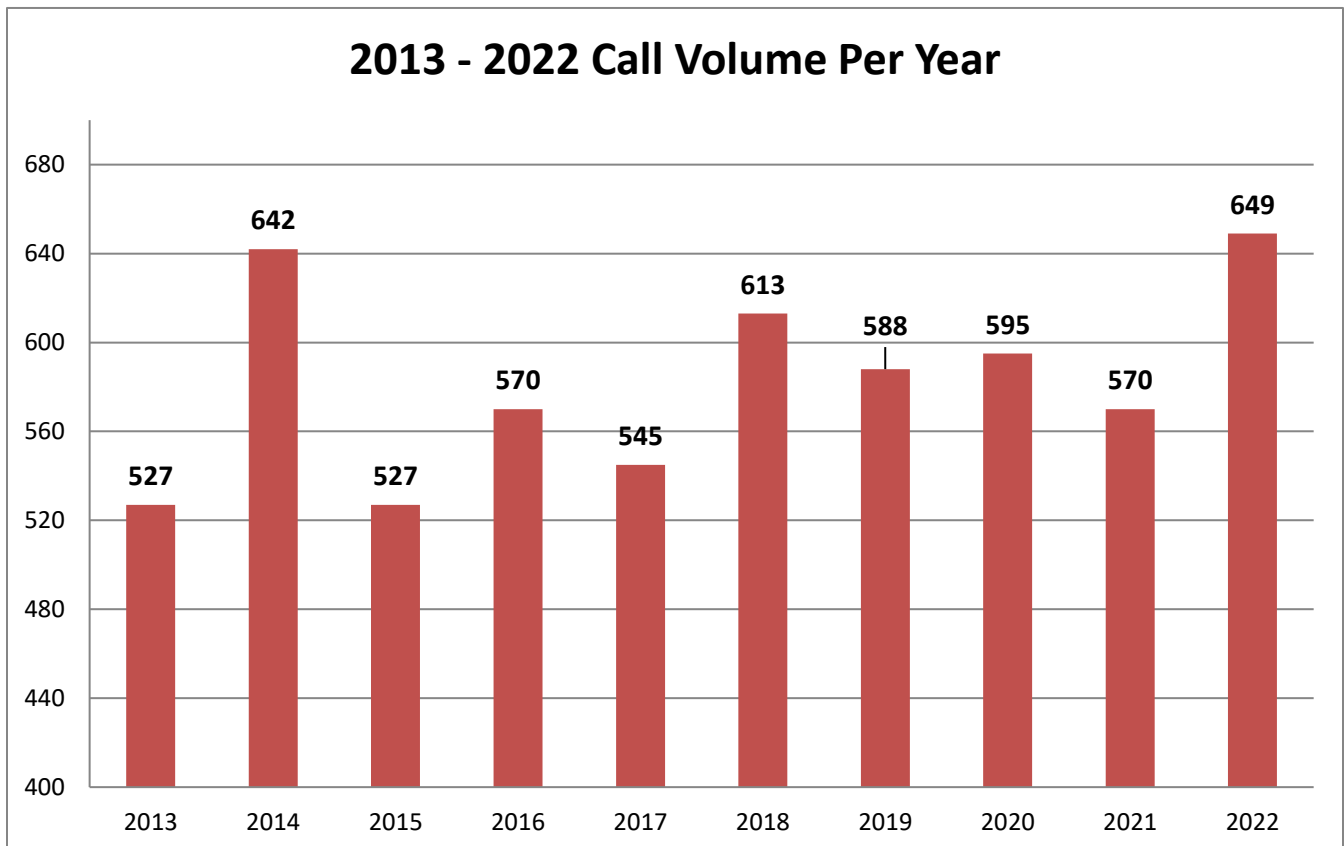


The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company responds to incidents that vary in degree from fire alarms at residential and commercial buildings to technical rescue incidents involving stuck elevators, vehicle accidents, rope and water rescues. The company is sufficiently equipped to handle low angle rope rescues, vehicle accidents with entrapment, and structural fires of any degree.

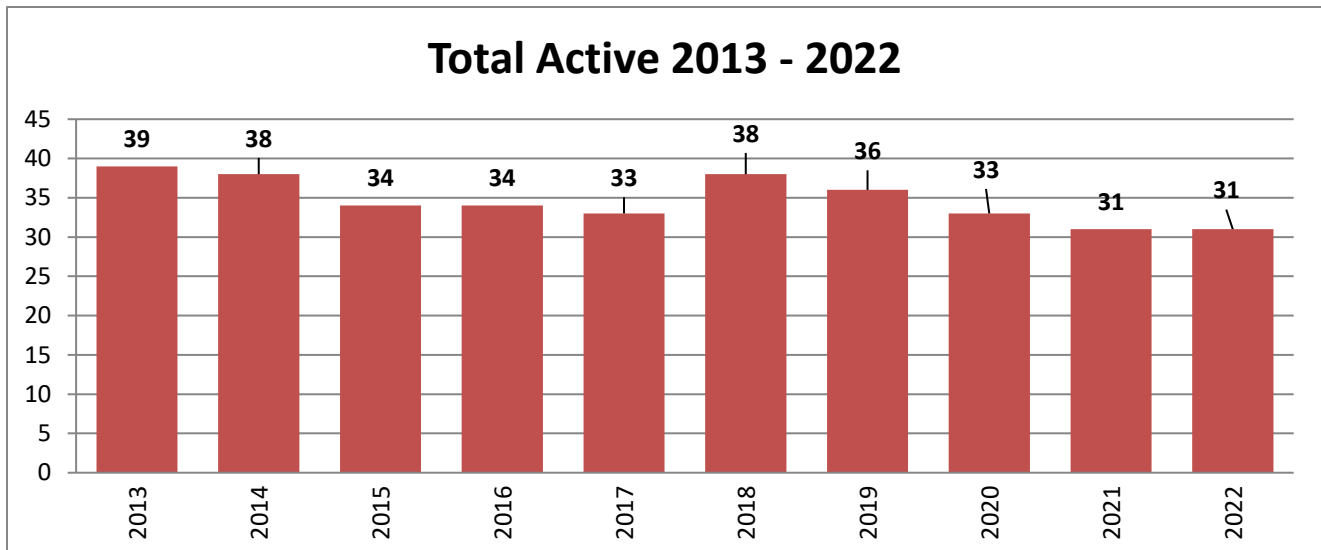


We rely on mutual aid from County based taskforces and teams for technical rescues like confined space or trench as well as for hazardous material incidents. While the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company has several members trained for technical rescue and hazardous materials, we do not carry enough equipment to handle these incidents without mutual aid support.

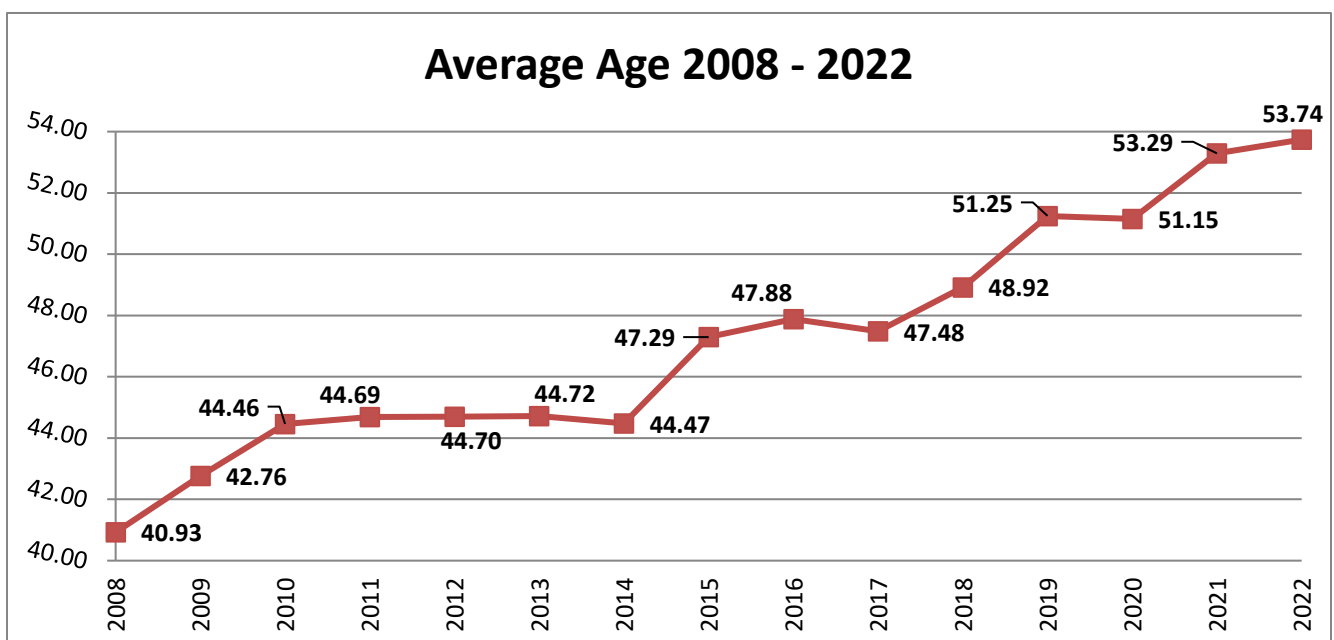
The 649 incidents last year resulted in an average of 1.78 incidents each day. The result is a staggering 5,480.75 man-hours volunteered by our staff of roughly 39 qualified personnel. These are only the hours volunteered to answer emergency calls for service! The chart below shows our incidents on a yearly basis.



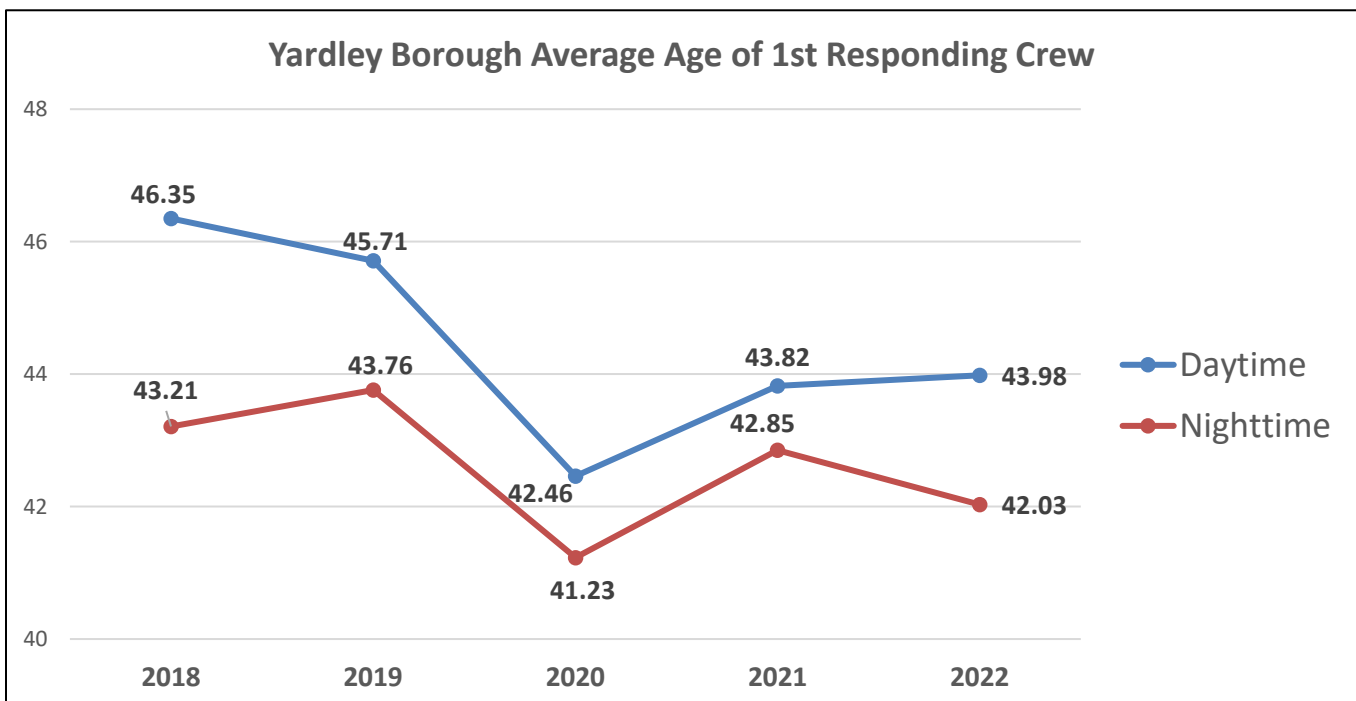
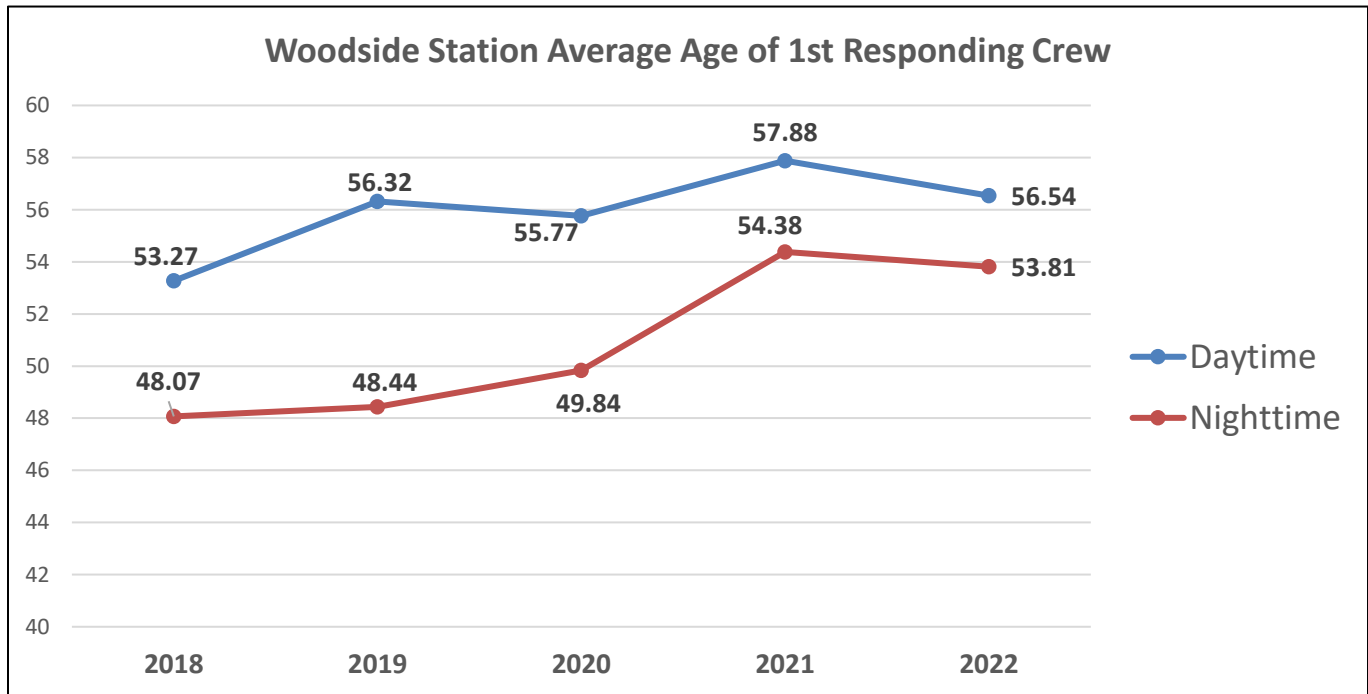
To be considered an active firefighter within the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company a member must attend 25% of the total calls for service within a calendar year. For the year 2022, a member must have attended 163 calls to be considered active and receive the incentives set up by the fire company. The chart below shows the number of active firefighters the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company has had each year from 2013 through 2022.



The chart below shows the average age of all our active firefighters who responded to emergency calls for service over the past 15 years. Note not all those firefighters who responded to calls for service were on the scene. Many of them miss the apparatus and are behind at the stations waiting for the crews to get back. This depends on the traffic, time of day, weather, firefighter location what a call comes in, etc. Everyone is valuable whether on the scene or back at the station. There are many things that need to be completed when apparatus returns to the station such as equipment cleaning, servicing, washing of trucks and personal protective equipment.



In 2022 the average age of the firefighters on the apparatus responding between 6 AM – 6 PM was 56.54 years old with an average crew size of 3.84 members for the Woodside station and 43.98 years old with an average crew size of 3.6 members for the Yardley Borough station. At nighttime or between the hours of 6 PM – 6 AM the average age of responders at the Woodside station was 53.81 with an average crew size of 3.82 members and at the Yardley Borough station was 42.03 with an average crew size of 4.07. The charts below give a visual breakdown of the age of each 1st responding crew from each station.



Departmental Training

The training requirement for a new volunteer coming into the fire service includes a minimum of 192 hours. These classes are hosted at the Bucks County Community College Public Safety Training Center on nights and weekends and help new volunteers understand the basic necessities of the job. An additional 88 hours of training is required to

learn how to remove people from car accidents, 60 hours is required to learn how to operate and rescue victims in moving water situations and 50 hours to operate each of the apparatus. Countless other classes are available to hone and perfect the skills of our personnel. **In 2022, personnel volunteered 2,786 man-hours to attend 53 different training classes that were hosted at the station, at community colleges, and throughout the state and country.**



In-house training sessions provide a review of skills to include extinguishing fires, removing injured people from vehicle accidents, operation of saws and power tools, search tactics to look for missing occupants at fires, and rescue procedures to remove trapped occupants from burning buildings. Our personnel also spend a

considerable amount of time better learning the response area and hydrant locations as well as performing building walk-throughs to pre-plan commercial buildings in the area.

Personnel of the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company are dedicated to bettering themselves. We constantly have personnel seeking out additional training and certifications to stay current with new techniques and tactics. Some highlights from 2022 included four members completed the 192 National Certification Firefighter 1 course, five members completed an intense self-rescue class where they learned to remove themselves during emergency situations, and one member completed the Fire Service Instructor 1 National Certification Course.



Public Education / Special Details

The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company's first due area contains 17 schools ranging from Elementary to Middle School, and several daycares. There are 4 elementary schools and 3 middle schools that are part of the Pennsbury School District which is the 18th largest district in the state. We have two private schools that consist of children from Pre-K through the 8th grade. The daycares are a mixture of commercial and residential day cares scattered throughout our response area.



Yardley-Makefield Fire Company provides fire safety and public education throughout the year but mostly in the month of October (in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Agency's Fire Prevention Week) to any school, organization, or daycare that makes a request. Personnel take the time to don all protective gear worn by a firefighter for a fire. This allows the kids to meet firefighters in a controlled situation so that in an emergency, they know what sights and sounds to expect from a firefighter searching for them. We feel this offers the kids a chance to familiarize themselves with firefighters before they truly need the help of one. We have had very positive feedback from teachers and kids alike about the program's effectiveness.



The Yardley-Makefield Fire Marshal's Office continuously strives to make an appearance in every school during fire prevention in October. Personnel and fire apparatus are also sent to any event throughout the year that we deem beneficial to informing the public about their local fire company. **In**

2022, personnel volunteered 2,017.4-man hours to display, educate, and honor the public and surrounding communities at numerous events.

Conclusion

The personnel of the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company have volunteered more than 10,284.60 hours throughout the year on emergency incidents, public education, training, and standing by at the firehouses. This doesn't even begin to account for the unlogged hours of personnel attending fire company committee meetings, township meetings, inputting fire reports, ordering equipment, paying bills, and handling day to day office administration.



The Yardley-Makefield Fire Company officers and members would like to thank the elected officials and the community for their support throughout the year and look forward to another successful year in 2023.

Yardley-Makefield Fire Company 2023 Officers

Chief 0: Glenn M. Chamberlain

President: Larry Newman

Deputy Chief 0: Timothy J. Chamberlain

Vice-President: Phil Devaney

Assistant Chief 0: Jon B. DiNola

Controller: John Kingham

Assistant Chief 80: Kevin Kall

Treasurer: Joe Devaney

Battalion Chief 0: Adam Keister

Financial Secretary: Marilyn Rosine

Captain 80: John Marrazzo

Recording Secretary: Ronald Workman

Captain 0: Matthew Berry

Membership Secretary: Russell Bellmont

Captain 01: Jason Feyko

Trustees: Matthew Berry, Jeffrey Goldberg,

Lieutenant 0: Andrew Wells

Tim Heasley, Greg Kobol, Marc Johnson,

Lieutenant 80: Billy Kanzler

David Wells

Lieutenant 801: Tim Heasley

Safety Officer: Phil Devaney

Deputy Fire Marshals: Wilford Richards, Jeff Goldberg, Joe Devaney, Kevin Campbell

