
Wyomissing Fire Department

2024 Annual Report



Wyomissing Fire Department Mission Statement

We are a team of highly trained and dedicated Career and Volunteer professionals focused on providing service excellence to the Borough of Wyomissing and our neighboring communities. We are committed to protecting the lives and property of our residents by delivering exceptional fire suppression, emergency medical response, and rescue services. We focus on creating a safe and healthy community as part of the Public Safety Services provided in the Borough. We achieve this goal by using a comprehensive Community Risk Reduction program that includes code enforcement, fire prevention and investigation, and public education.

Wyomissing Fire Department Vision Statement

The Wyomissing Fire Department aims to maintain the highest level of safety for our residents, visitors, and businesses by using technology, applying a comprehensive community risk reduction strategy, and an ability to strategically adapt to the dynamic changes within our community.

Wyomissing Fire Department Values Statement

As an organization, our foundational values are **integrity** and **respect**. Our team members act with **compassion** for each other and those we serve. Our team's **dedication** is witnessed in their selfless acts of courage and service to our community and neighbors.

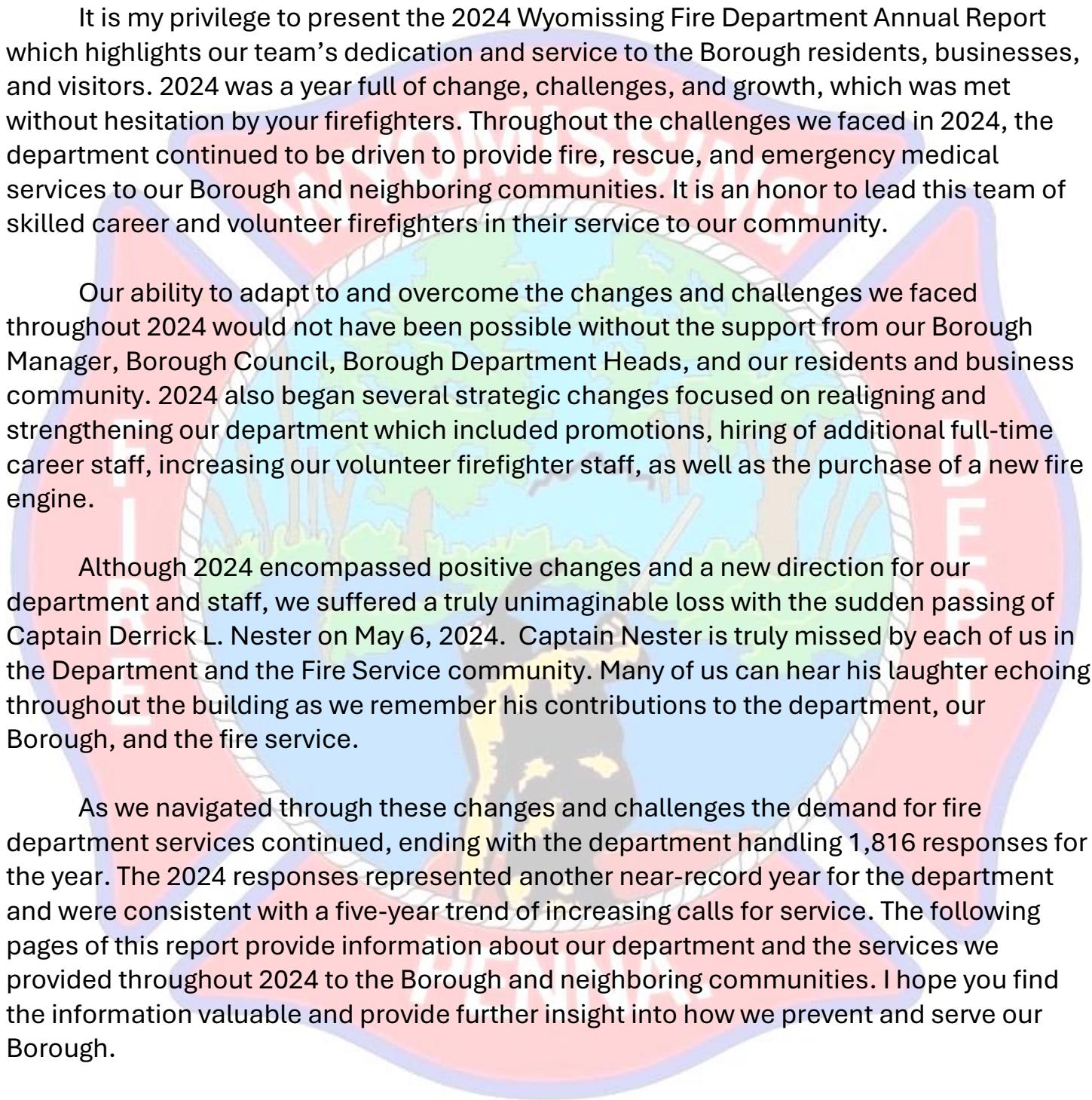
As an organization we are driven to provide **service excellence** to all we engage with.

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Message from the Fire Chief



It is my privilege to present the 2024 Wyomissing Fire Department Annual Report which highlights our team's dedication and service to the Borough residents, businesses, and visitors. 2024 was a year full of change, challenges, and growth, which was met without hesitation by your firefighters. Throughout the challenges we faced in 2024, the department continued to be driven to provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to our Borough and neighboring communities. It is an honor to lead this team of skilled career and volunteer firefighters in their service to our community.

Our ability to adapt to and overcome the changes and challenges we faced throughout 2024 would not have been possible without the support from our Borough Manager, Borough Council, Borough Department Heads, and our residents and business community. 2024 also began several strategic changes focused on realigning and strengthening our department which included promotions, hiring of additional full-time career staff, increasing our volunteer firefighter staff, as well as the purchase of a new fire engine.

Although 2024 encompassed positive changes and a new direction for our department and staff, we suffered a truly unimaginable loss with the sudden passing of Captain Derrick L. Nester on May 6, 2024. Captain Nester is truly missed by each of us in the Department and the Fire Service community. Many of us can hear his laughter echoing throughout the building as we remember his contributions to the department, our Borough, and the fire service.

As we navigated through these changes and challenges the demand for fire department services continued, ending with the department handling 1,816 responses for the year. The 2024 responses represented another near-record year for the department and were consistent with a five-year trend of increasing calls for service. The following pages of this report provide information about our department and the services we provided throughout 2024 to the Borough and neighboring communities. I hope you find the information valuable and provide further insight into how we prevent and serve our Borough.

Ethan J. Holmes
Borough Fire Chief

Executive Summary

- 1,816 calls for service were handled by the department in 2024, which is a decrease of 74 incidents compared to 2023.
- 1,196 calls for service were in the Borough, while 620 calls were mutual aid responses.
- 441 calls for service for EMS Quick Response Services (QRS) with 193 patient contacts and zero Naloxone (Narcan) administered.
- 2,044.50 hours of training were completed by department staff.
- 819 Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement activities were documented.
- Transitioned from a shared Record Management System (RMS) with a neighboring municipality to First Due RMS to accurately capture our unique department activities.
- Department Career Firefighter Staffing was increased to 4 per shift.
- Department Volunteer Staffing welcomed 3 new volunteer firefighters.
- 2024 Pierce Enforcer Pumper was purchased to replace the 2009 KME Engine.

Department Staffing Overview

As a municipal combination fire department, we are comprised of both full-time career and volunteer firefighters that respond to incidents from a centrally located firehouse at 1259 Penn Avenue. The career firefighters operate in three platoons, working a rotating 24-hour shift on duty followed by 48 hours off duty, while our volunteer firefighters respond to incidents as their schedules permit. The department's staffing in 2024 consisted of 1 career fire chief, 12 career firefighters, 3 volunteer firefighters, 3 volunteer fire police officers, and 13 volunteer support members.

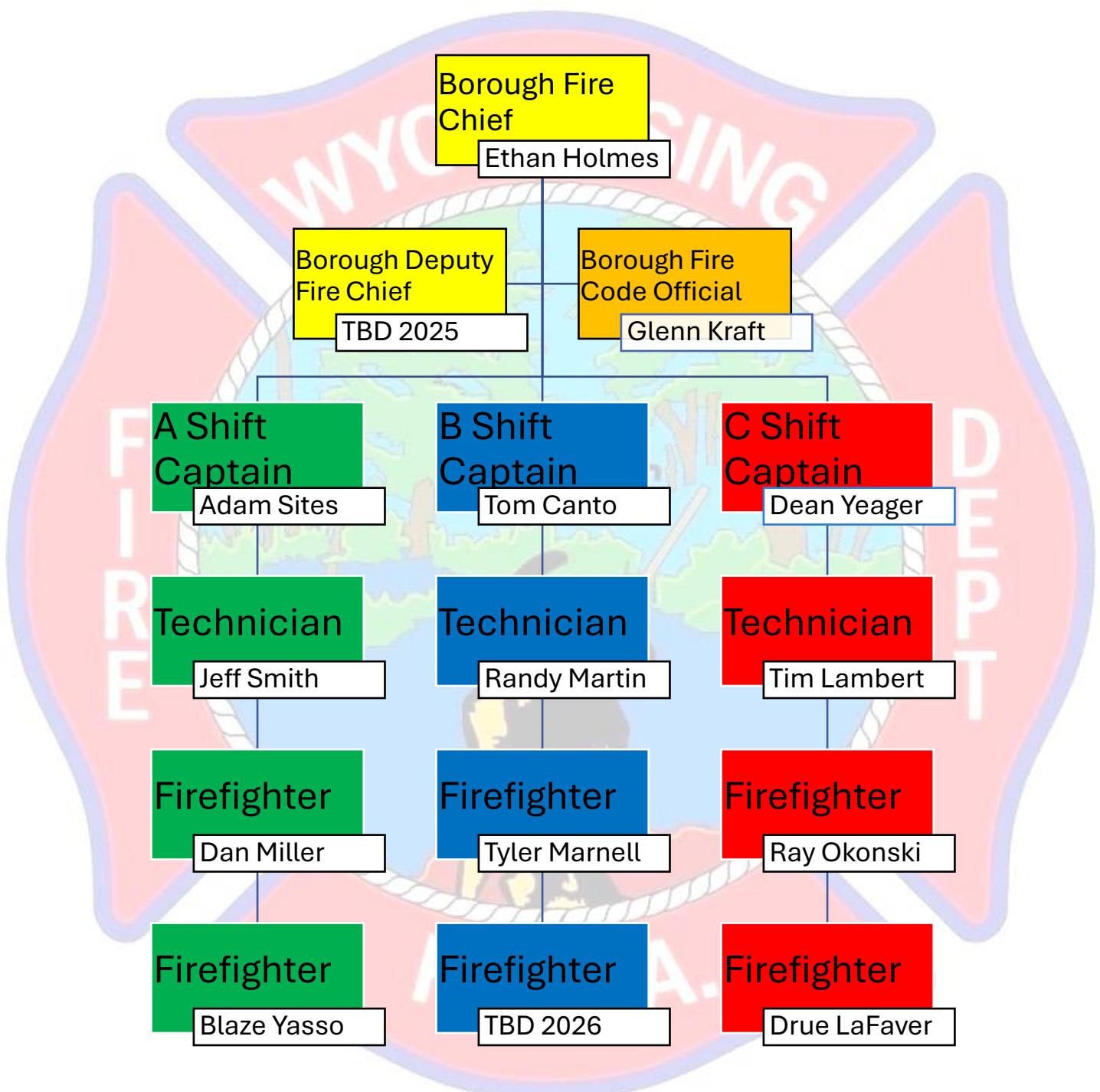
Captain Derrick Nester 7/2/2007 – End of Watch 5/6/2024

Fire Chief Ethan Holmes
Captain Adam Sites
Captain Tom Canto
Captain Dean Yeager
Technician Jeff Smith
Technician Randy Martin
Technician Tim Lambert
FF/EMT Dan Miller
FF/EMT Ray Okonski
FF/EMT Tyler Marnell
FF/EMT Blaze Yasso
FF/EMT Kyle Parkins
FF/EMT Harry Huhn
Support Member William Jenckes
Support Member Kevin Quinter
Support Member Thomas Wentzel

FF Dan Macrina
FF Victor Khmaruk
FF Noah Keckler
Fire Police Captain Ron Zdunowski
Fire Police Lieutenant Keith Kerns
Fire Police Fred Wolfe
Support Member Richard Bare
Support Member David Bausher
Support Member Thomas Bausher
Support Member Thomas Endy
Support Member James Fromuth
Support Member Leon C. Grim
Support Member Leon J. Grim
Support Member Bruce Longenecker
Support Member Jeff Reinert
Support Member Gary Rhoads

Volunteer members support the functions of the legacy Wyomissing Fire Company No. 1 and the Relief Association of Wyomissing Firefighters. The Fire Company maintains a 1947 Mack pumper, which served as a frontline fire apparatus until its retirement in 1970, and a museum in the lower level of the firehouse that is full of historical articles, memorabilia, and displays depicting the fire protection services in the Borough. If you have not visited the museum, I encourage you to stop by.

Organizational Chart



Fleet Overview and Apparatus Response Priorities

The fire department provides our services to the Borough and neighboring communities using a fleet of four emergency response vehicles. Fire apparatus operated by the department are Ladder 79, Engine 79, Engine 79-1, and Utility 79. In addition, the firehouse also provides space for the Wyomissing Police Department Special Services Unit and the Wyomissing Fire Company's 1947 Mack pumper.

Emergencies in the Borough are primarily handled using Ladder 79 or Engine 79. The outline below uses the County Incident Types and shows how they are shared between these two front-line fire apparatus for Borough responses.

Ladder 79 is the primary response apparatus for:

- Automatic Fire Alarms
- Bomb Threat Standby
- Building Collapse
- CMA & CMA w/Symptoms
- Hazmat & Hazmat w/Symptoms
- Helicopter Standby
- Structure Investigations
- Miscellaneous Fire
- Rescue
- Rescue Confined Space
- Rescue High Angle
- Rescue Trench
- Structure Fire
- Structure Fire w/Entrapment
- Structure Investigation
- Water Emergency

Engine 79 is the primary response apparatus for:

- Brush Fires
- Fluids & Debris Down
- QRS & Medical Assist
- MVA w/Entrapment
- MVA w/Entrapment & Fire
- MVA w/Injuries
- MVA w/Injuries & Fire
- MVA Unknown
- MVA Unknown Level 2
- MVA Unknown w/Fire
- MVA No Injuries w/Fire
- Pump Detail
- Search Detail
- Tree Down
- Vehicle Fire
- Wires Down

Engine 79

2024 Pierce Enforcer Pumper with a 1500 GPM pump, and carrying 750 gallons of water



Ladder 79

2020 Pierce Enforcer Quint with a 1500 GPM pump, and carrying 500 gallons of water



Engine 79-1 (Reserve)

2009 KME Pumper with a 1500 GPM pump, and carrying 500 gallons of water



Many thanks and photography credit to Dale Feehrer for the photographs of our fleet of apparatus used in this section of the report. Mr. Feehrer stopped by the firehouse in December to take these photographs for publication in the 1st Responder and PA Fireman magazines.

When our 2024 Engine was officially placed in service in mid-December as a front-line apparatus, the 2009 KME Engine was moved to reserve status. As a reserve unit, Engine 79-1 will be used when one of the front-line fire apparatus is out of service due to scheduled annual service and inspection or repair.

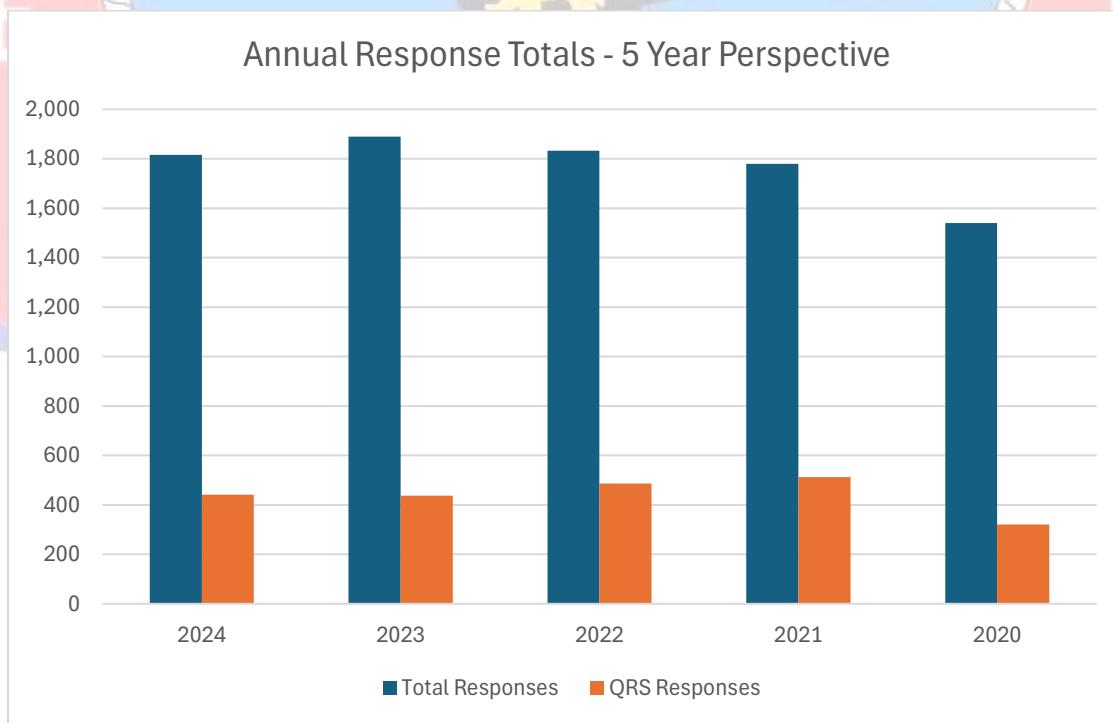
Utility 79 is owned by the Relief Association and used by the department to provide additional manpower at incident scenes. Utility 79 is planned for replacement in early 2025. The new vehicle will be designed to carry additional tools, equipment, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for additional staffing to be properly equipped to assist on incident scenes.

As 2024 came to an end, the Department's internal Apparatus Replacement Committee began the process of researching options for the replacement of Ladder 79. Ladder 79 will remain a front-line apparatus until 2030 and then serve five years as a reserve unit. Because apparatus build times can take four years or longer, it is important to be prepared to move forward with selecting and purchasing a replacement aerial device soon.

2024 Department Response Statistics

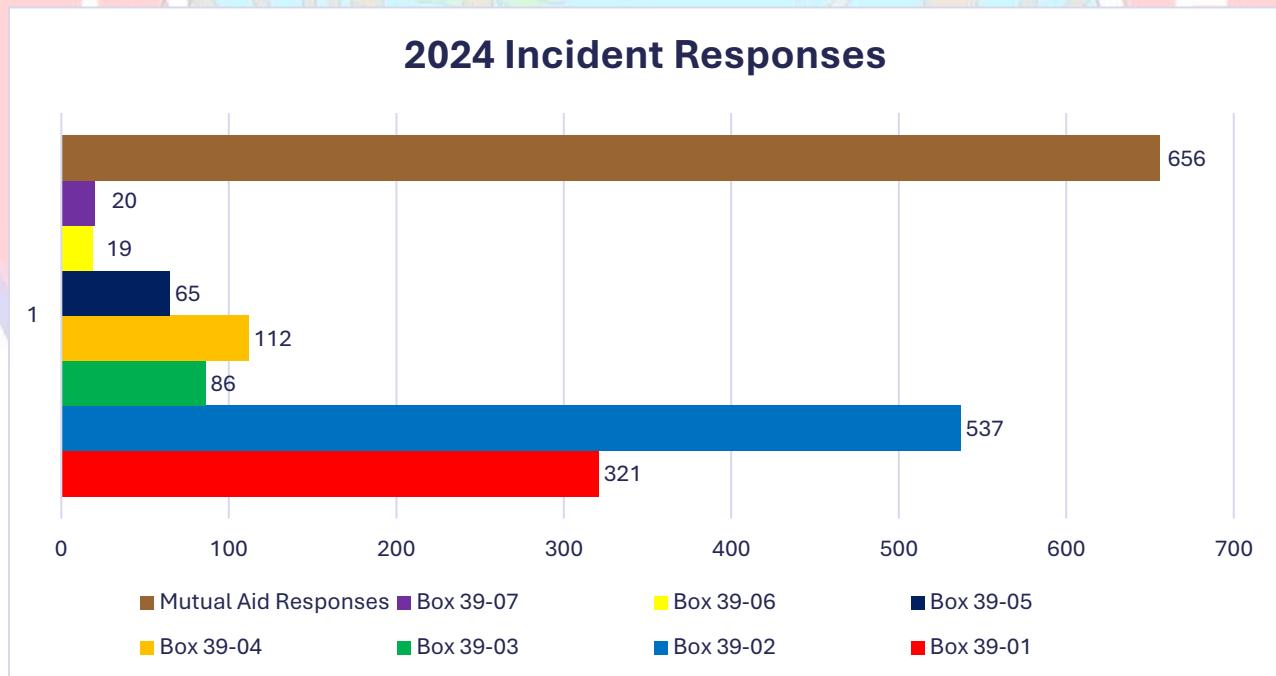
As we moved through 2024, a thorough investigation was completed to identify a new record management system (RMS) to accurately capture the types of incidents and response characteristics for the department. Accurate data collection is two-fold, in that it highlights the areas of the Borough where our fire department services are utilized as well as allowing us to be more competitive with state and federal grant submissions. This valuable information is used to identify incident response trends, our use of mutual aid assistance, and ensure that we are meeting recommended best practices for turnout and response times in the Borough. The department transitioned to First Due Reporting System on September 16, 2024, to capture all our department activity data in a more efficient and effective manner. Due to the transition between RMS platforms partway through the year, the data below is mostly derived from our paper reporting process. I look forward to having a full year of data presented in the 2025 Year End Report.

The department answered a total of 1,816 calls for service in 2024. Incident responses in the Borough were 1,160, which includes 441 Quick Response Service (QRS) EMS incidents. Fire department personnel provided Basic Life Support care to 193 patients and had zero Narcan deliveries in 2024. The total response by the department in 2024 is on track with the increase of demands in the Borough as well as in our neighboring communities.

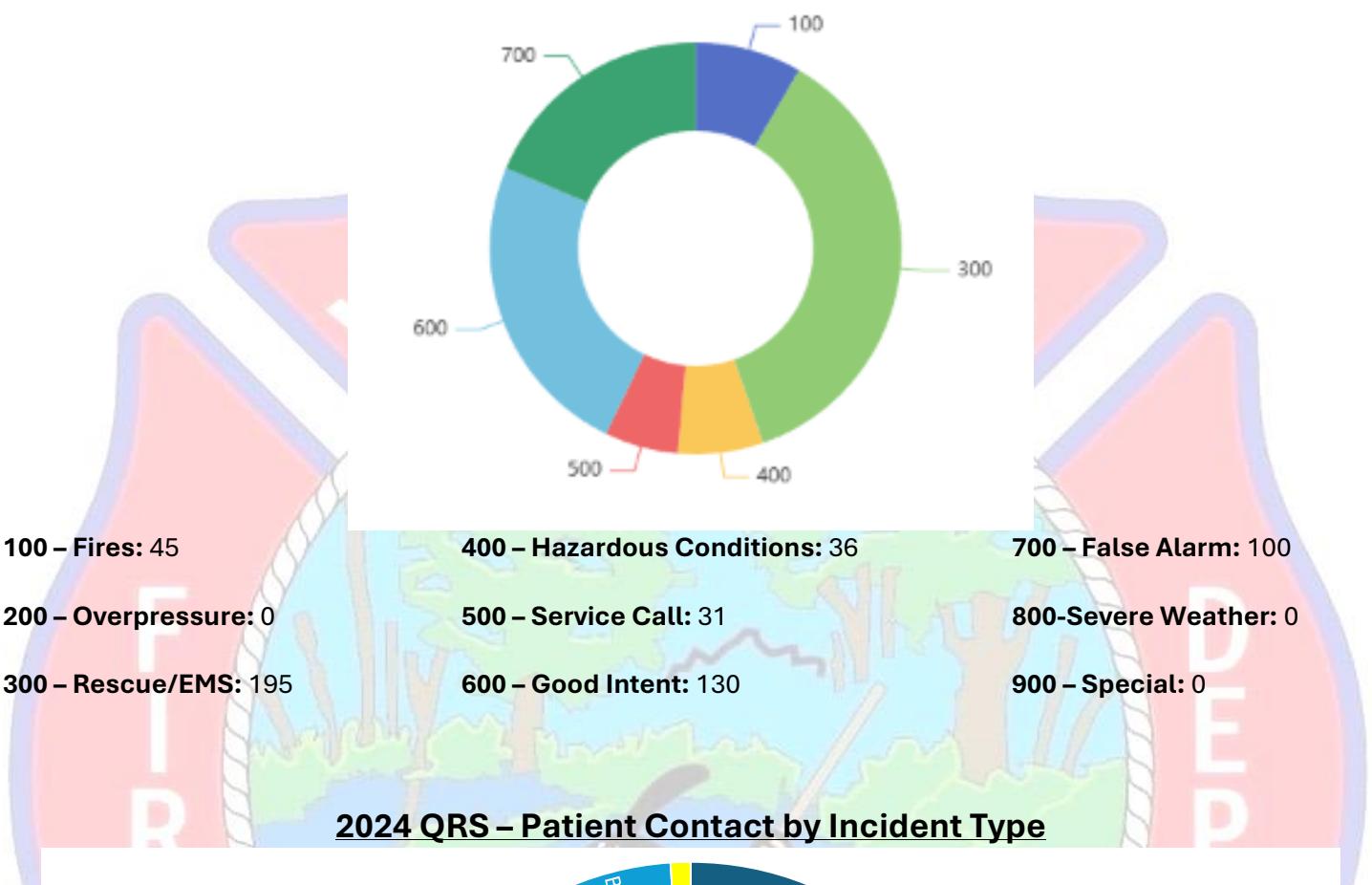


The Borough is divided into seven sections, referred to as box cards, that are used to determine apparatus response based on the emergency incident.

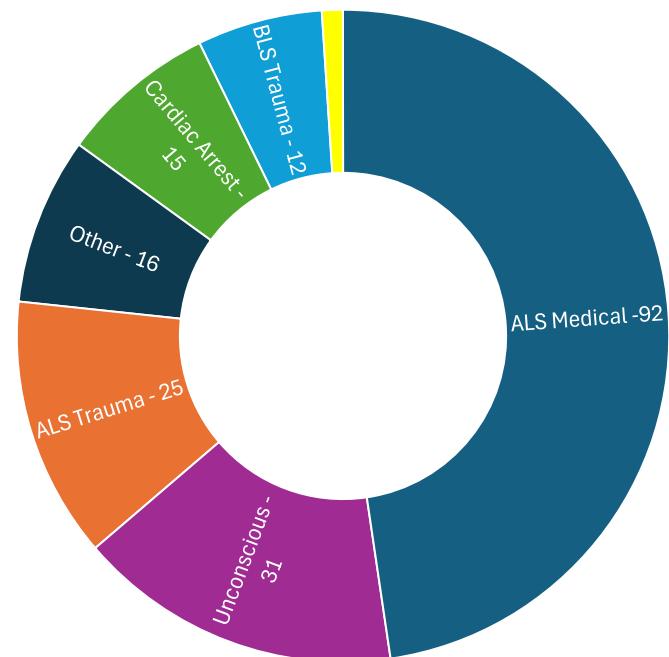
- **Box 39-01:** covers the area of the Borough from the railroad tracks south to Old Mill Rd, west to the Spring Township line, and east to West Reading's Borough line
- **Box 39-02:** covers the Berkshire Heights area, State Hill Rd north to the Tulpehocken Creek.
- **Box 39-03:** covers the Wyomissing Hills section of the Borough
- **Box 39-04:** covers north to south from Old Mill Rd to Farr Rd, east to west from Museum Rd to Lincoln Ave
- **Box 39-05:** Warren Street Bypass
- **Box 39-06:** Route 12 to West Shore Bypass eastbound to the railroad bridge
- **Box 39-07:** West Shore Bypass westbound from the railroad bridge to 222 North at the Spring Township line



Incident Breakdown by NFIRS Code Series (Sept. 16 to Dec. 31)



2024 QRS – Patient Contact by Incident Type



█ ALS Medical - 92 █ ALS Trauma - 25 █ BLS Medical - 2 █ BLS Trauma - 12
█ Unconscious - 31 █ Cardiac Arrest - 15 █ Other - 16

2024 Training

In 2024 department personnel invested a total of 2,044.50 hours in training and preparing to respond to emergency incidents. To develop a more comprehensive approach to training, an internal training committee was created. The goal for this committee was to develop a monthly training calendar that rotated a topic every three days to align with our three-platoon schedule, and to work towards meeting the Insurance Services Office (ISO) training hour requirements. This approach provided staff with a specific training topic to complete each shift.

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) specifies training hours expectations for fire department personnel. Using these annual and monthly amounts, the department has been able to implement strategic changes in how training is conducted and documented. ISO expresses in the FSRS that each year, members should complete the following amount of training:

Discipline

Training Facility Use
Company Level Training
Officer Development
Hazardous Materials
Existing Driver Training
New Driver Training
Recruit Training

Total Hours

| |
|-------------------------------|
| 18 hours per year |
| 16 hours per member per month |
| 12 hours per year |
| 6 hours per year |
| 12 hours per year |
| 60 hours |
| 240 hours |

To provide additional opportunities for training, the department purchased a subscription to Fire Rescue 1 Academy. This online learning platform contains fire and EMS related courses which will be used to supplement the hands-on training.

Fire Inspections and Code Enforcement

2024 saw changes to the processes for managing and completing fire inspections and fire code enforcement activities in the Borough. Glenn Kraft, of Kraft Municipal Group, was appointed by resolution as the Borough Fire Code Official. Working together with Chief Holmes, the annual fire inspection process used a team approach with the goal of completing annual fire inspections for all borough commercial occupancies. In total, 819 fire inspection and code enforcement activities were documented in 2024. These activities included:

- 726 annual fire inspections
- 51 fire activities
- 36 corrective actions issued
- 6 code complaints

The most cited fire code violations during 2024 were:

- Inoperable Emergency Lights
- Storage in mechanical rooms or closer than 18-inches to the ceiling
- Extension cords used as permanent wiring
- Missing smoke detectors
- Fire Extinguisher out of date
- Holes in ceilings or walls, or missing ceiling tiles
- Open junction boxes with exposed wires
- Exits or Exit signs not functioning

The overall goal of the fire inspection program is to maintain the highest level of fire safety as achievable for our community. Each visit to a commercial property in the Borough provides the opportunity to connect with business owners, ensure that the proper keys are secured in the Knox Box, and help maintain a safe and resilient community. A key factor in attaining the goals of the fire inspection program is to provide education to the property owner or occupant on how to correct the violation and increase safety for their business and employees.