



100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1923 - 2023

# WEST MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

380 East Berlin Road, York, PA 17408  
(717) 792-3505 \* [www.westmanchestertownship.com](http://www.westmanchestertownship.com)

Clifton Laughman  
Township Fire Chief

David Markle  
Deputy Chief

Roy Gentzler  
District Chief

Robert Sells  
District Chief



75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1948 - 2023

*“Preparing for the Future, while preserving the past.”*

**TO:** West Manchester Township Board of Supervisors  
Kelly Kelch, Township Manager  
**FROM:** Clifton Laughman, Fire Chief  
**DATE:** May 15, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** April 2023 Monthly Report

The month of April was another busy month for the Department. Ending the month with 102 calls for service. This means the department averaged 3.4 calls per day with an average of 8 personnel per incident. This is outstanding, and I can't thank our volunteers enough for all of the time and commitment they provide to our community all while holding down full-time jobs and families. I am extremely grateful to have the men and women I do under my command and proud of them for the time and commitment they give.

Below is the April report for the May West Manchester Township Board of Supervisors Meeting.

## TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Type of Response	Total	Percentage	YTD
Fire	14	13.73	49
Over Pressure, Rupture, Explosion	0	0.00%	1
Rescue & Emergency Medical	33	32.35%	124
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	5	4.90%	20
Service Call	12	11.76%	47
Good Intent Call	22	21.57%	56
False Alarm & False Call	13	12.75%	54
Severe Weather	0	0.00%	0
Special Incidents	3	2.94%	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>355</b>

- There was a total of 692 personnel that responded to the incidents with an average of 8 per incident. (Average does not include Duty Officer & Fire Police Only Calls). This is a 20% decrease from last month.
- Year to date, a total of 1,981 personnel responded to the incidents. This is a 0.00% from last year.
- We are at a 2.74% decrease in call volume from this time last year.

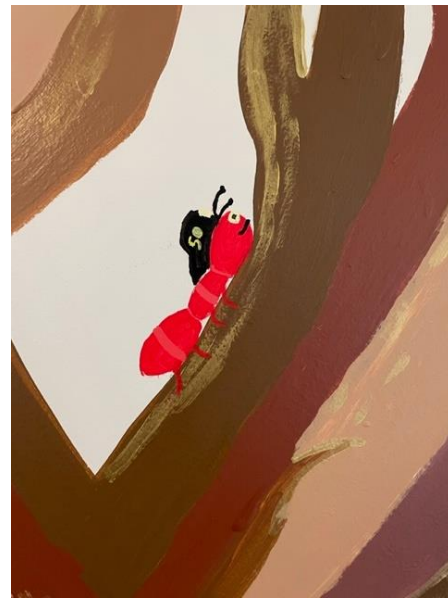
## EMERGENCY RESPONSES BY STATION

Station	Total Calls for Month	Year to Date
Station 502	57	166
Station 505	62	182

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

- As you may know in December of 2021, we placed an order for a new Pierce Enforcer Pumper (Engine). One of the new features on the engine is a HAAS Alert System. This system is something that is coming standard with all new Pierce apparatus. While I was at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) I had the opportunity to meet with the HAAS Alert vendor and really get a good look at what this new system does and how it will be equip our apparatus to keep our firefighters safe. After meeting with the vendor, I was able to secure a better deal to equip the rest of our fleet than what I had originally budgeted. During the June meeting I'll be able to report out more about the program as we will have some data to show.
  
- On May 23<sup>rd</sup> I will have the opportunity to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast on the Hill at the Longworth Building in Washington DC. Breakfast on the Hill is where Fire Chief's can meet with members of Congress to discuss issues within the fire service on a National Level. I along with other Chief's from the Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association will be attending to represent Pennsylvania. See the attached memo to show what we plan on discussing with members of congress.
  
- Towards the end of 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved for the WMTFD to start pursuing a new Heavy Rescue unit and allocated monies for this project. A Rescue Committee was formed and for the past year and a half, the Rescue Committee has been diligently working and researching data to design the next rescue that will meet the needs of the Township for the next 20 years. I am happy to report that we are in the final stages and hope to have a finished specification to present to the board during the June Board of Supervisors meeting.
  
- On April 6<sup>th</sup> I had the honor to attend the York County Economic Alliance annual awards dinner where they recognize businesses within York County for their outstanding accomplishments. This year a business within West Manchester Township was awarded the best small business in York County award and that business was Hola Spirits. We are very excited and proud of our businesses in West Manchester and can't thank them enough for their continued support. Hola Spirits was very instrumental during the COVID pandemic as it provided free hand sanitizer to not only the Township but to the Police and Fire Departments. They switched their Vodka production to Hand Sanitizer production during the Pandemic to make this happen. Congratulations to Hola Spirits and Thank you for your continued support.

- On April 21<sup>st</sup> Country Meadows provided lunch to all of the members of the WMTFD. This was especially grateful, as this was also the day of a fatal car accident on W. College Ave and the members were extremely hungry from being out at the incident for several hours. The members are always very appreciative and thankful for the support they receive from our community. Thank you to Country Meadows for all that you do for the WMTFD.
- The week of April 10<sup>th</sup> was Telecommunicators Week in which we recognized the unsung heroes of Emergency Services. These unsung heroes are our 911 dispatchers, the 1<sup>st</sup> responders to an emergency. I had the honor to help serve and provide lunch to the 911 dispatchers who were on shift on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>. I was then given the honor to paint a picture on their new wall mural. The mural was a large tree, and I was told I could paint anything I wanted. While I am not much of an artist, I chose a little Fire Ant as way to depict something with “fire” in it.



- On May 15<sup>th</sup> myself along with Captain Mann met with West York Boro and Dover Township Fire Chief's on how we could better share our resources for the better of our communities. There was a lot of good discussion and one thing that we will be looking into is sharing of reserve apparatus. Currently each department has their own reserve apparatus. We talked about keeping one good reserve apparatus and the rest would be sold. Each department would then equally put into a pool of money to maintain that reserve piece and then anytime one of the departments needs to utilize they may. We also talked about aligning some of our policies and SOGs. We look forward to more discussions like this into the future.
- Now that we are almost two years into the merger of Lincolnway and Shiloh Fire Companies, the department reached out to VFIS who is our insurance company but also offers consulting services. We asked them to put together a proposal looking at our department to make sure we are on track with our current policies, procedures, bylaws, and doing what's in the best interest of the department and West Manchester Township. Also, with the proposal they would look at our budgets, strategic plan, Organizational Chart, Response Data, Standard of Response Cover, Township Documents, Recruitment & Retention, and Risk Assessment/Target Hazards. They

would also look at our ISO Reports, any prior consulting reports, and Board make up and organization. I have included a copy of the proposal with my report, however at this time I am not sure it's feasible to continue to pursue this at this time. The cost of the consultation would be \$12,500, which is a significant amount of money. However, I wanted to make the board aware that we have looked into this and see if Kelly and the board feel this is something they think we should pursue after reading the proposal. I will be more than happy to discuss this further either in an executive session or during the board meeting.

### **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

We had no new members brought up for membership for the month of April. However, we do have 2 applications on deck for the month of June.

### **VIOLATIONS**

There were two (2) violations during the month of April:

- April 13<sup>th</sup> – 2010 W. Market St – Illegal burning and burning during a burn ban.
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – 2010 W. Market St. – Illegal burning and burning during a burn ban

### **COMMUNITY RISK & REDUCTION**

There were a total of three (4) Community Risk and Reduction events for the month of April.

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Annual Easter Bunny Run
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – Fed Ex Facility Tour and Fire Safety Inspection
- April 11<sup>th</sup> – Daisy & Brownie Troop Fire Station Tour
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – Normandie Ridge Emergency Team planning meeting for a large-scale evacuation exercise in the fall.



### **TRAINING**

The month of April was an extremely busy month for training. I had the privilege of attending two different conferences. The first conference was the Eastern Division (Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, & West Virginia) of the International Association of Fire Chiefs which was held in Ocean City MD, on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. These classes included:

- **Seal of God** – This was a motivational training where a retired member of Seal Team One provided his insight on how he overcame many challenges including PTSD.

- **Batteries, Soon to be Everyday Life for the Fire Service** – This was a class on electric vehicles and battery storages in homes and how to best combat these types of fires.
- **Understanding How to Properly Mitigate Incidents Involving Solar Panels** – This was a class on how to deal with solar panel fires and their challenges. This was especially helpful since we have a large number of solar farms within the township.



The second conference I attended was the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) held in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. During this weeklong conference I was able to take lots of excellent classes and talk with a lot of our vendors that we work with. The classes I were able to take during the conference were:

- **Active Shooter Response for the First-Due Company** – Unfortunately mass shootings are becoming more and more prevalent. We average 1.5 mass shootings per day in the US. As our instructor said, it's not a matter of if but a matter of when. When these types of incidents occur all emergency response agencies are involved. This class was a very big eye opener and was an excellent training on how the FD works jointly with the PD to care for injured victims during a mass shooting.
- **Building the Aggressive Fire Company** – This was a class to better our department to become a more aggressive department. While our department is aggressive and forward-thinking this showed ways we can improve and build upon what we already do.
- **Emergency Response to Alternative Fuel Vehicles** – As the title states, this class discussed how to deal with all different types of alternative fuel vehicles in the event of an emergency incident. It covered electric, gas, propane, and natural gas-powered vehicles.
- **Fire/EMS Documentation – The Power of the Written Word** – This was a class done by an attorney to go over ways to better document your reports to keep you out of hot water during legal issues.
- **Rescue Task Force: Providing Care in the Warm Zone** – This was an extension of the Active Shooter class I took earlier in the week. This class went over some additional ways to deal with active shooting incidents or now being referred to as active assailant.
- **Fully Involved** – Was a leadership class to better help understand today's fire service generation.
- **Building an Apparatus to Work** – This class was geared toward departments spec'ing new apparatus and ways to help build the apparatus you want on a budget.
- **Tactical Response to Explosive Gases** – We have been seeing an increase in natural gas calls lately, mostly because of all of the construction in the township. I felt it was necessary to refresh on some tactics to use during these types of calls.

- **Lithium-Ion Battery Fires: Causes, Risks, & Tactics:** - Just like the other classes I took on EV cars and battery storage this class went over how to deal with battery fires. I used this as my focus this year as we see a rising increase on people using lithium-ion Batteries.
- **Proven Leadership Habits for Optimal Personal Performance** - This was leadership class to help look at myself as a leader and ways that I can approve upon myself.
- **Fire & EMS Operations at Highway Incidents** – With us having Route 30 and Carlisle Rd I felt it was essential that I take this class to learn new ways to better keep our firefighters safe.

### MAINTENANCE

The following maintenance was performed during the month of April:

- Annual NFPA Flow Testing on all Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.