



2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

MT. LEBANON FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

555 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Nicholas W. Schyda  
Fire Chief, EFO





## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

It is my honor to present to our community the 2023 Mt. Lebanon Fire Department Annual Report.

In January, the department began responding to all high-priority medical emergencies, resulting in a 75% increase in EMS responses over previous years for a total of 2,214 calls for service, a record number of responses for the department.

While a large portion of the fire service struggles to recruit and retain volunteers, we managed to recruit seven new members in 2023 and have eight new members starting the recruit academy in 2024. We are appreciative of the engagement and support of our community members that find time in their busy lives to serve our community.

One of our major goals for 2024 is to complete the construction of a regional fire training facility that will provide more realistic training for our members to maintain their skills as well as improve recruit training for new recruits from fire departments throughout the South Hills.

On behalf of the members of the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, I am appreciative of our municipal leadership, property owners, and residents who continue to support our mission.

## ABOUT US

The Mt. Lebanon Fire Department is an all-hazards, all risk, fire, rescue, and emergency services agency comprised of 18 full-time, 49 volunteer, and two civilian staff. While emergency response is at the core of our mission, the department expends a lot of time and resources on the reduction of risks. Through strict adherence to and enforcement of the community's building and fire prevention codes and the delivery of enhanced life safety education programs that target specific risks and risk audiences, the department's primary goal is to eliminate and/or reduce the impact of fire and other emergency events.



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- The department responded to 2,214 incidents, a record number of emergency incidents for a single year. Fire loss for the year is estimated at \$326,537.00 or \$9.58 per capita. This is well below the department's goal of an annual fire loss of less than \$25.00 per capita and the national average of \$44.00 per capita.
- In January, members began responding to all high-priority medical calls to assist MRTSA. While this has presented some challenges, there have been several positive outcomes, including one life saving award involving a male in cardiac arrest.
- Additional activities included over 1,600 inspection activities, 250 elementary fire and life safety programs, 25 middle/high school/senior programs, 50 smoke detectors installed, and 50 fireplace inspections.
- While many fire departments struggle to recruit and retain volunteers, our organization remains strong. In 2023, seven (7) recruits completed their initial training and passed their certification exam. In January of 2024, eight (8) new recruits will begin their recruit training, bringing the volunteer department membership to 50 members.
- Placed into service a 2023 Pierce Enforcer Pumper, replacing a unit that was 21 years old. The new unit was designed to be smaller, more maneuverable, and less costly in a fire apparatus market that saw increases of between 20 and 30% over the previous two years.
- The department's Quick Response Service and Advanced Rescue Certifications were re-licensed for an additional 3-year period by the Department of Health. These licensures include a review of the department's equipment, training, maintenance, and record keeping.
- Established both a Fire Lieutenant and Deputy Chief Eligibility List. Max Schoppen was hired as a new Lieutenant in July and Dan Morris was promoted to Deputy Chief in December.
- Worked with management to choose a location for a new fire training facility that will be constructed on the Public Works site in 2024. State Representative, Dan Miller, assisted with \$200,000.00 in grant funding and the volunteer department committed \$100,000.00 to the project, which was approved by the Planning Board and the Commission.
- Implemented several recommendations from the 2022 Re-Accreditation site visit, including providing annual goals and objectives updates to all members, obtaining feedback from public education programs, developing a tracking process for changes to Standard Operating Guidelines and Critical Procedures, and improved dialogue with Pennsylvania American Water Company.

## RECOGNITION



The Department is one of 311 Accredited Agencies in the United States and Canada. The department was originally accredited in 2012 and re-accredited in 2017 and 2022. Accreditation affirms the department's commitment to continuous improvement and compliance with national standards and best management practices.

The Department is one of 498 ISO Class 1 Fire Departments in the United States. The Class 1 Rating recognizes the efforts of the community to provide fire protection services for citizens and property owners. The community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Insurance companies use PPC information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance – generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection.



The Pennsylvania Department of Health, Voluntary Rescue Recognition Program, recognizes those emergency services that can safely and efficiently perform rescue operations and that have met all the standards as established by the DOH. The department is certified to the "Advanced" Level based on its equipment and training.

The department is licensed as a Quick Response Service by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. A Quick Response Service uses EMS providers to respond to calls for EMS and provide basic life support to patients before an ambulance arrives. Maintenance of this licensure is based on the department's vehicles, equipment, training, and record keeping.



The department is certified to the "Advanced" Level in the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program. The certification is based on the department's capabilities to deliver care to infants, toddlers, and children.

The department is one of 42 departments in the Commonwealth to be certified to the "Gold" Level in the Office of the State Fire Commissioner's Participating Department Recognition Program. This program recognizes departments for maintaining certified fire professional at various levels in accordance with nationally recognized and sanctioned Professional Qualification Standards.





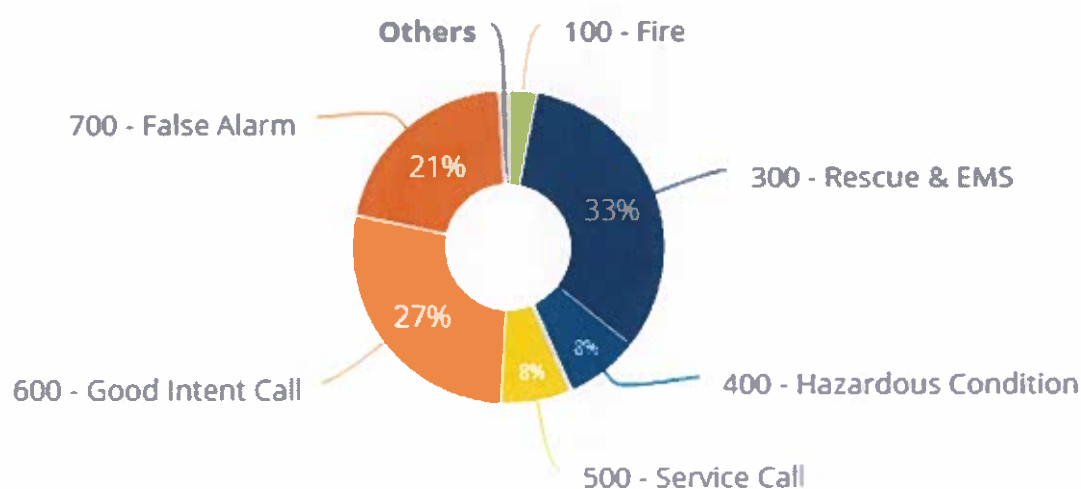
## OPERATIONS: SERVICE DEMANDS

Emergency services minimizes injuries, deaths, and property loss related to fires, medical emergencies and other disasters through the quick response and efficient delivery of effective fire suppression, per-hospital treatment, hazardous materials, and technical rescue services.

Building / Chimney Fire .....	23
Cooking Fire .....	7
Vehicle Fire .....	7
Dumpster / Trash Fire .....	18
Excessive Heat / Cooking Fire .....	32
First Responder / Assist EMS .....	537
Vehicle Accident .....	136
Vehicle vs. Pedestrian .....	7
Lock-In .....	9
Extrication .....	6
Elevator Rescue .....	11
High Angle Rescue .....	3
Rescue, Other .....	3
Hazardous Condition .....	7
Gas Leak .....	53
Flammable Liquid / Chemical Spill .....	7
Carbon Monoxide Incident .....	9
Power Line Down .....	33
Overheated Motor, Short Circuit .....	6
Shorted Electrical, Wiring .....	49
Building Collapse .....	1
Lock-Out .....	19
Water Evacuation / Leak .....	27
Animal Rescue .....	5
Assist Police or Other Agency .....	22
Smoke / Odor Removal .....	6
Public Service .....	52
Unauthorized Burning .....	8
Service Call / Weather .....	27
Good Intent, Other .....	9
Cable / telephone Wires Down .....	113
Cancelled In Route / No Incident Found .....	397
Smoke Scare / Steam .....	34
Controlled Burn .....	2
Haz Mat Investigation .....	46
Malicious False Alarm .....	21
Alarm Malfunction .....	156
Unintentional False Alarm .....	234
CO Detector, No CO .....	41
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>2,214</b>

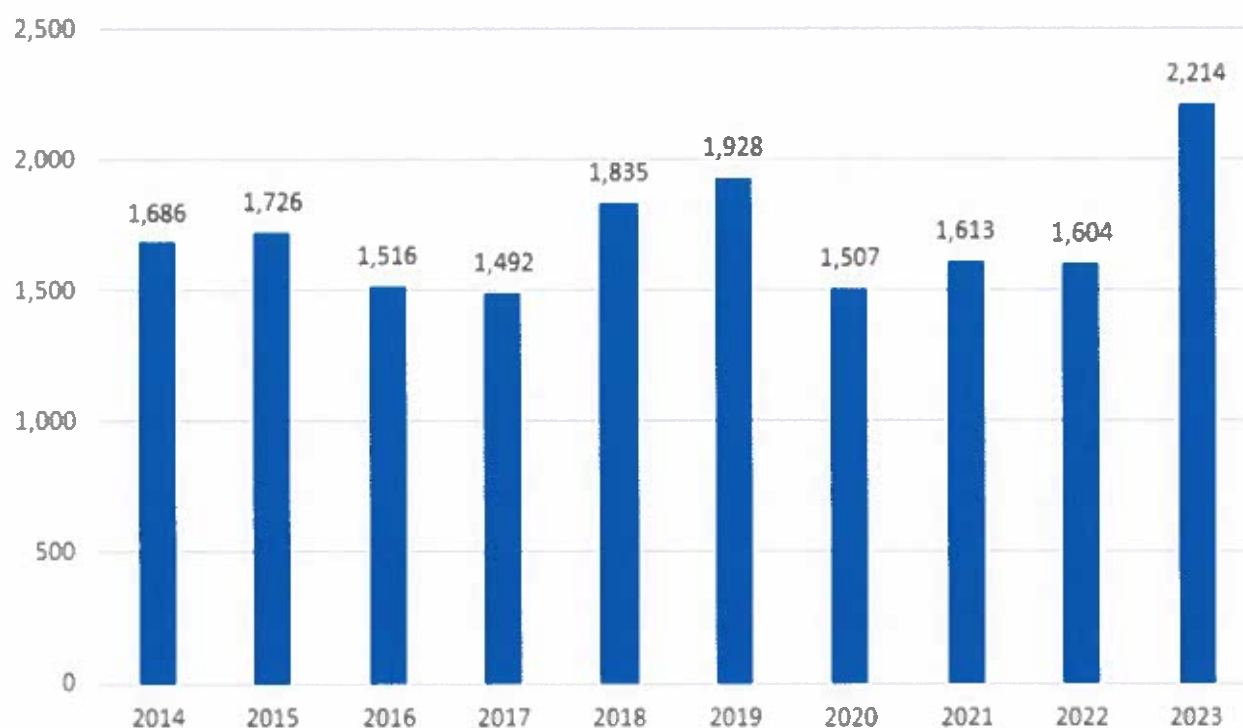


## Percentage of Calls by Incident Type - 2023



Nationally, Rescue & EMS calls account for 69% of all responses, fires account for 2% of all responses, and all other incidents account for 29% of calls.

## Total Incidents, 2014 - 2023



## FIRE SUPPRESSION

**The objective of the Fire Suppression Program is to safely limit the loss of life and property at fire-related incidents.**

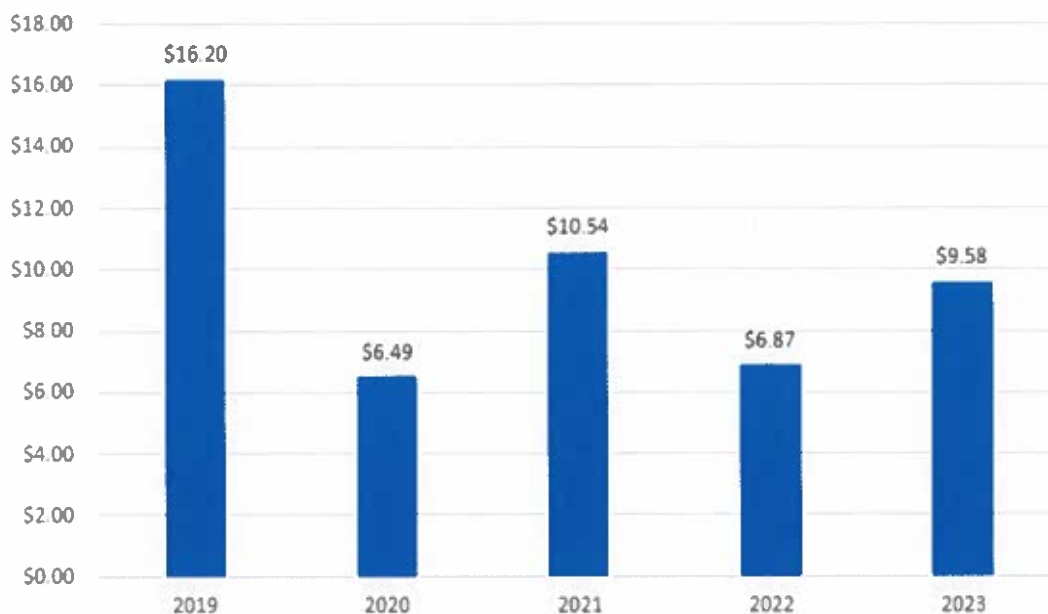


**Building Fires** - The department responded to 87 fire-related incidents in 2023. Twenty-three incidents were classified as building fires. Six building fires occurred within the Municipality.

**Staffing** - The average number of members responding to building fires was 23 members. Including automatic and mutual aid, the average number of personnel responding was 34.

**Property Saved** - The value of property saved by fire department intervention at 15 incidents resulting in property loss in 2023 was \$14,689,920.00.

### Fire Loss Per Capita, 2019 - 2023



**Fire Loss** - Per Capita fire loss for 2023 was \$9.58. The community's 5-year average per capita fire loss is \$9.94. This is 76% lower than the national average and well below the department's 5-year average fire loss benchmark of \$25.00 per capita.

**The department's baseline performance for structural fire responses over the previous 5-year period is as follows:**

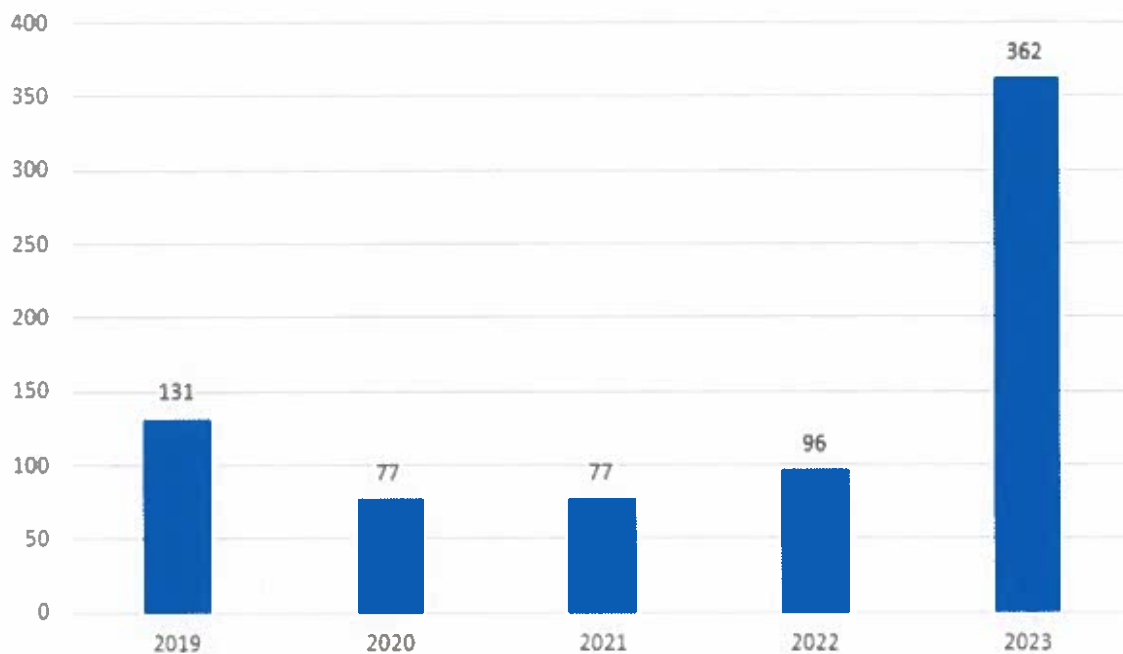
(Moderate Risk) Fire Suppression - 90th Percentile Times - Baseline Performance		Benchmark (Target)	2019-2023	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019			
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch		2:21	2:21	2:30	2:13	2:10	1:26			
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1st Unit		1:30	1:30	1:08	1:07	1:07	1:09			
Travel Time	Travel Time 1st Unit		4:44	5:15	4:30	5:47	4:45	4:32			
	Distribution										
			Travel Time ERF		8:57	8:30	9:37	9:02	6:36	6:39	
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1st Unit Distribution	6:50	7:21	7:58	6:51	8:20	7:25	6:36			
			n=106	n=19	n=23	n=23	n=21	n=20			
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration	10:50	12:47	12:51	13:06	14:00	12:11	12:47			
			n=30	n=2	n=11	n=2	n=6	n=9			



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**The objective of the department's emergency medical program is to provide for a rapid response to all high-priority emergency medical incidents to provide patients with a greater likelihood of a positive outcome.**

As the Baby Boomer generation ages and private EMS agencies deal with increased demands for service, fire-based first responder programs can be effective in filling the gap between a quick response and the arrival of an Advanced Life Support Transport Unit. In 2023, the department began responding to all high-priority medical emergencies, whereas previously it only responded when the primary EMS agency was delayed or upon request. This change in response protocols has resulted in in almost a 400% increase in emergency medical calls over prior years.



In October, 3 members of the department, along with members of MRTSA and Mt. Lebanon Police, were recognized for their efforts in saving the life of a cardiac arrest patient.

**The department's baseline performance for emergency medical responses over the previous 5-year period is as follows:**

(Moderate Risk) EMS - 90th Percentile Times - Baseline Performance		Benchmark (Target)	2019-2023	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch		2:42	3:14	1:13	:51	1:00	:56	
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1st Unit		1:24	1:36	1:20	1:25	:58	1:19	
Travel Time	Travel Time 1st Unit Distribution		5:36	5:46	6:12	5:31	5:53	6:10	
	Travel Time ERF Concentration		5:36	5:46	6:12	5:31	5:53	6:10	
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1st Unit on Scene Distribution		6:50	8:08	9:18	8:08	7:04	7:17	7:30
				n=743	n=362	n=96	n=77	n=77	n=131
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration	6:50	8:08	9:18	8:08	7:04	7:17	7:30	
			n=743	n=362	n=96	n=77	n=77	n=131	

## TECHNICAL RESCUE

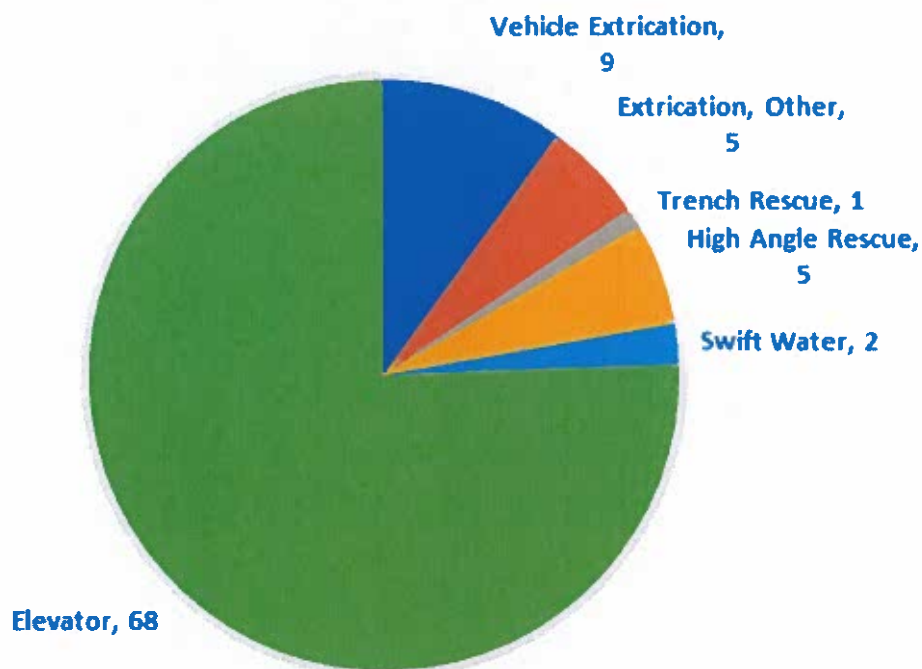
**Technical rescue utilizes specialized tools and skills for rescue, including vehicle extrication, confined space rescue, rope rescue, trench rescue, structural collapse rescue, ice rescue, and swift water rescue.**



The department staffs the only "Advanced" Level Rescue in Allegheny County. The certification is based on required tools, equipment, staffing, and training.



Technical Rescue Incidents over the previous 5-year period included:





**The department's baseline performance for technical rescue incidents over the previous 5-year period is as follows:**

(Moderate Risk) Technical Rescue - 90th Percentile Times - Baseline Performance		Benchmark (Target)	2019-2023	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch		2:11	NA	1:50	2:11	1:45	4:09	
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1st Unit		1:15	NA	:23	1:11	1:11	2:06	
Travel Time	Travel Time 1st Unit		6:31	NA	3:16	7:19	2:08	5:03	
	Distribution								
			6:31	NA	4:20	5:11	5:03	7:20	
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1st Unit on Scene Distribution		7:20	8:38	NA	6:21	8:38	4:47	8:54
				n=17	n=0	n=2	n=6	n=2	n=7
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration		12:00	10:38	NA	6:21	8:42	7:17	12:25
				n=12	n=0	n=2	n=4	n=2	n=4

## FIRE PREVENTION

**The objective of the department's fire prevention program is to protect the public and fire service personnel through coordinated efforts in engineering and enforcement of the community's fire code.**



The fire prevention staff conducts general fire safety inspections in commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings to ensure compliance with the fire code, issues operational permits, conducts plans reviews of fire and life safety features, and witnesses acceptance testing of fire protection systems.

In 2023, fire prevention staff and in-service companies performed the following inspections and activities:

Annual Inspections / Re-Inspections .....	398
General Inspections / Re-Inspections .....	275
Fire Alarm, Permit, Sprinkler Inspections .....	56
Plan Reviews .....	20
Multi-Family Inspections / Re-Inspections .....	469
Violations Discovered .....	2,589
Citations .....	24

There was no fire loss in inspect-able properties in 2023. Ninety-five percent of fire detection and suppression systems were in compliance with testing requirements. Sixty-four percent of annual inspections and seventy-three percent of general inspections were complaint on either the initial or 1st re-inspection. The number of violations discovered decreased by 15% over the previous year.

## FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

**Public fire and life safety education has been shown to be one of the most efficient and cost-effective methods of reducing not only the number of fires but also the number of deaths and injuries resulting from fires.**

Elementary Classes .....	349
Special Needs Classes .....	12
8th Grade Cooking Classes .....	21
Stop the Bleed Programs .....	15
Senior / Adult Education .....	17
Pre-School Visits .....	22



Pictured above, Firefighter, Brian Loughridge, delivering a fire and life safety education program to a kindergarten class .

Pictured to the right, Firefighter, Lindsay Cashman, delivering a fire and life safety education program in Spanish.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Division is responsible for delivering risk reduction programs and ensuring the department's visibility throughout the community.



Smoke Detectors Installed .....	52
Fireplace Inspections .....	69
Block Parties .....	36

Community Outreach supports community risk reduction through the delivery of the Citizen's Fire Academy, Public Safety Block Parties, Touch-A-Truck Events, Kids Public Safety Camp, and participation in numerous community events including Relay for Life, First Fridays, July 4th Celebration, Joggin for Frogmen, Fire Extinguisher Take Back Day, Special Olympics, etc.

## TRAINING

**The Training Division is responsible for the initial and on-going training of all volunteer and career staff members.**

### Training Hours for 2023

Total Career Training Hours .....	3,838
Hours / Career Member .....	213
Total Volunteer Training Hours .....	5,211
Hours / Volunteer Member .....	141

The department has thirteen (13) State Fire Academy Instructors on its staff. In addition, members have obtained over 500 Pro-Board Certifications.



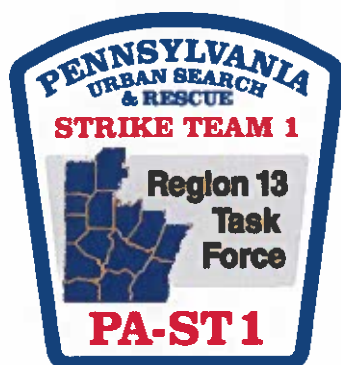


## OPERATIONS & SAFETY

The Operations & Safety Division is responsible for managing the department's fire suppression, EMS, Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Safety Programs. This includes the development and review of Standard Operating Guidelines, Directives, Equipment, Certification Maintenance, and Licensure.



Ten members of the staff are also members of the SHACOG Technical Rescue Team and four members are members of the PA. Urban Search & Rescue Team, Strike Team 1.



The department operates the only "Blue Card" Fire Command Training Center in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The department maintains a Pennsylvania Certified Safety Committee, saving taxpayers 5% on annual workers compensation premiums, and ensuring a safe work environment for career and volunteer staff.



**Pennsylvania  
Certified  
Safety  
Committee  
Program**



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**In accordance with Pennsylvania Law, the Mt. Lebanon Emergency Management Agency was created for the purpose of preventing, minimizing and alleviating damage resulting from man-made or natural disasters.**



The Mt. Lebanon Emergency Management Agency is maintained and operated by the fire department. The agency maintains the Municipal Emergency Operations Plan, the municipal emergency notification system, and coordinates multi-agency exercises to address natural and man-made disasters and significant incidents.

In 2023, Emergency Management Staff coordinated the replacement of 29 Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). These include ten in municipal facilities, three public access, and sixteen in police and fire vehicles. The new AEDs are equipped with Wi-Fi, which allows staff to ensure that the batteries and pads are in working order and alerts them when the device is used.



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**The Resource Management Division is responsible for the procurement and maintenance of all capital assets such as, apparatus, equipment, department vehicles, and technology assets.**



In 2023, the department placed into service a new Pierce Enforcer Class A Pumper, replacing a unit purchased in 2002. Ergonomically, the engine was designed to be easier to drive. It's lower to the ground and shorter in length, which allows it to make sharper turns. The engine holds 500 gallons of water, and large, brightly lit gauges on the back and both sides of the engine make it easy for firefighters to tell from a distance how much water is left.

The department operates three engines, a 105' rear mount ladder truck, a heavy rescue, and several staff vehicles.

## 2024 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

One of the department's major goals for 2024 is to complete the construction of a \$700,000.00, four-story, fire training facility next to the police firing range on Lindendale Drive. The project is partially funded by a \$200,000.00 State Grant from Representative, Dan Miller, and a \$100,000.00 contribution from the Volunteer Fire Department.



Additional goals include:

- Complete recruit training for 9 new volunteers.
- 5-year replacement of protective clothing for all staff.
- Update civil service rules and regulations
- Implement a trail 24-hour shift schedule
- Develop dashboards for improved reporting and data analysis
- Review and update of all critical procedures





On behalf of the members  
of the Mt. Lebanon Fire  
Department, we thank you  
for your continued  
support!



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