

Serving Tredyffrin & Easttown Townships since 1894

BERWYN FIRE COMPANY

2017 ANNUAL REPORT















Message from the Fire Chief

Tredyffrin Township Board of Supervisors, Easttown Township Board of Supervisors, Tredyffrin Township Manager, Easttown Township Manager, and Citizens:

On behalf of the dedicated, trained, and professional career and volunteer members of the Berwyn Fire Company, it is a pleasure to present our 2017 Annual Report.

Berwyn Fire Company protects the majority of and the most densely populated sections of Tredyffrin Township and Easttown Township. Protecting nearly 13 square miles with a residential population of over 30,000 and a daytime work population in excess of 100,000. Our primary territory includes 3 limited access highways covering over 7 miles and travelled by over 150,000 commuters daily. Additionally, regional mass transit routes of Septa and Amtrak pass directly through the center of the Berwyn Fire protection district.

With 15,000 residential units ranging from old historic farmhouses to mid-rise apartment buildings to lightweight townhome and cluster homes the variety of residential dwellings is vast and challenging. As well the variety of commercial property protected is equally vast; protecting dozens of strip malls, many box stores, nearly 100 mid-rise office buildings and also a variety of industrial and manufacturing facilities.

In 2017 our volunteers and career staff responded to over 3,000 incidents for the fourth year in a row. In 2017 there were 480 fire calls and 1,293 EMS calls in Tredyffrin Township. In Easttown Township we responded to 287 fire calls and 685 EMS emergencies. Mutual aid assistance was provided to neighboring municipalities 119 times for fire incidents and 148 EMS incidents last year.

In 2017 Berwyn Fire Company successfully renewed its 100% gold level status with the Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC) Participating Department Recognition Program. We first participated in this program in 2005 at the 75% silver level and have now maintained our 100% status since 2008. As of February 2018, Berwyn Fire Company is one of only 40 departments in the entire Commonwealth at the 100% mark. This special recognition has been made possible by the ongoing dedication of our volunteers and staff. We will continue to emphasize high training standards as an organization to ensure our community is well served and effectively protected.

One major operational challenge we will face in 2018 is the 100-day temporary closure of the Old Lancaster Road over Amtrak/SEPTA Bridge near Main Line Berwyn Apartments and Lancaster Avenue. This is a vital route we utilize to respond to a large number of emergency incidents daily, and is also a critical route for our volunteers to reach the fire station. In order to minimize the impact of the bridge closure we will be housing two emergency vehicles and assigning personnel at a location near Cassatt Road and Route 252 in Tredyffin. This will hopefully lessen response delays in areas on and north of the Route 202 corridor during the bridge closure.

The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) will be assisting us with the development of a 5 year community-driven strategic plan process later this year. The document will encompass Company strategic initiatives, goals, objectives, critical tasks, and performance measures. This will be a great opportunity to engage our internal membership and external community stakeholders as we aim to excel at providing mission-focused service.

We continue to pay close attention to all of the new development that has recently taken place, or is in the planning stage in both Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. Increased call volume, risk potential, and staffing requirements are all key factors when assessing the emergency services impact of each project. Along with these considerations, we also continue to analyze the benefit of a substation to better service our primary coverage area in order to better balance our emergency response resources in both Townships.

Please visit our website at www.BerwynFireCo.org or 'Like' us on Facebook to stay current on our call activity and projects during the year. Feel free to contact me directly at 610-644-6050 ext. 16 or by email at firechief@berwynfireco.org if you have any questions or concerns. On behalf of our membership, thank you in advance for your support.

Yours In Service, Eamon C. Brazunas, EFO Fire Chief





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Emergency Operations

The Berwyn Fire Company provides emergency services and emergency responses to Tredyffrin, Easttown and surrounding areas from our single station located on Bridge Avenue, Berwyn. From this station we provide fire suppression services, emergency medical services (including ALS), rapid intervention response, water rescue response, technical rescue response, and other hazard mitigation services. The operations division is staffed 24x7x365 by 70 volunteer personnel, 10 full-time paid personnel, 29 part-time paid personnel and 14 volunteer business members.

Apparatus at 23 Bridge Aven	ue
Engine 2-1 (ENG 2-1)	Class A Attack Pumper w/ ALS
	Class A Attack Pumper, Specialty engine capable of performing
Engine 2-2 (ENG 2-2)	vehicle rescue services and specialty rescue services.
Engine 2-3 (ENG 2-3)	Class A Attack Pumper w/ ALS
Tower Ladder 2 (TOW 2)	95' aerial platform ladder capable of performing vehicle rescue
Tower Ladder 2 (TOW 2)	services
Utility 2 (UTL 2)	Multi-Purpose utility/support vehicle for Fire/EMS/Fire Police
Ambulance 2-1 (AMB 2-1)	Advanced life support transport ambulance
Ambulance 2-2 (AMB 2-2)	Advanced life support transport ambulance
Ambulance 2-3 (AMB 2-3)	Advanced life support transport ambulance
ATV 2 (ATV 2)	6WD Polaris equipped with stokes basket, pump and water
Berwyn 1 (BER 1)	Command Officer response vehicle with AED
Berwyn 2 (BER 2)	Command Officer response vehicle with AED
EMS 2 (QRS 2)	Command Officer response vehicle – EMS QRS, ALS Responder

The department participates in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to track and analyze response trends in the community, risk probability, fire loss, system reliability, and service outputs. The following charts depict our service in the community by historical incident types, station call volume, and unit work load:

2015-2017 Fire Call Type Analysis

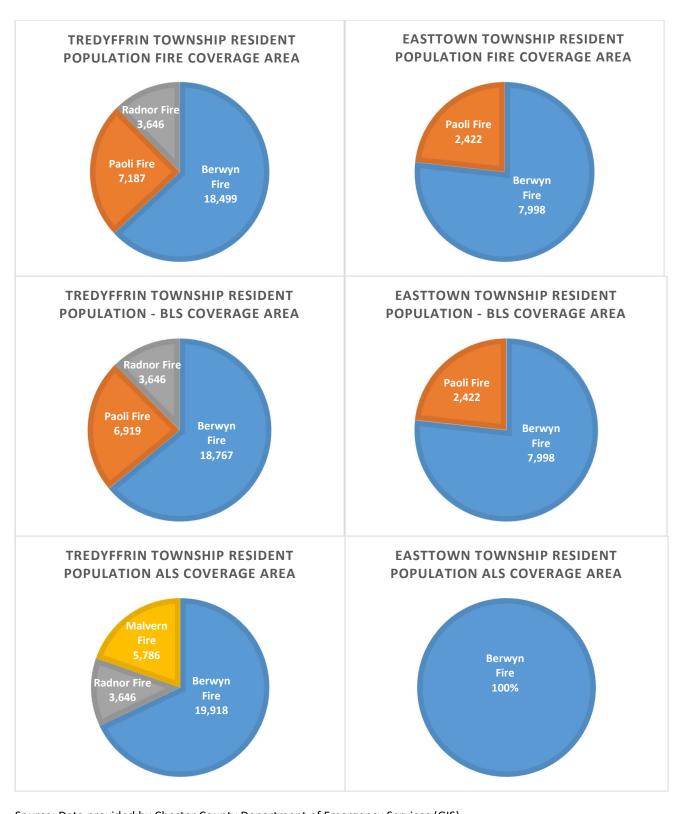
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NFIRS Incident Type	2017	2016	2015
Fire	154	166	143
Overpressure, Explosion, Overheat (No fire)	0	1	1
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	187	190	167
Hazardous Condition (No fire)	139	135	132
Service Call	37	34	28
Good Intent Call	130	119	107
False Alarm & False Call	238	273	339
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	2	0
Special Incident Type	0	0	0
Total	886	920	917







Fire Departments serving Tredyffrin & Easttown Residents



Source: Data provided by Chester County Department of Emergency Services (GIS)





2017 Call Type by Township

NFIRS Incident Type	Tredyffrin Township	Easttown Township	Other Townships
Fire	75	45	34
Overpressure, Explosion, Overheat (No fire)	0	0	0
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	119	65	3
Hazardous Condition (No fire)	82	45	12
Service Call	14	10	13
Good Intent Call	56	17	59
False Alarm & False Call	134	104	0
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	1	0
Special Incident Type	0	0	0
Total	480	287	119

2017 Unit Response by Call Type

NFIRS Incident Type	ENG2-1	ENG 2-2	ENG 2-3	TWR 2	UTIL 2	ATV 2
Fire	77	45	69	40	13	2
Overpressure, Explosion, Overheat	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescue & EMS	41	86	44	21	21	3
Hazardous Condition (No fire)	52	73	77	23	39	0
Service Call	7	13	12	11	0	0
Good Intent Call	47	27	47	21	4	0
False Alarm & False Call	117	19	106	70	6	0
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	0	1	1	0	0
Special Incident Type	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	341	263	355	187	83	5

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Incidents	886	920	917	903	812	838
Response Time	7:40	8:10	8:16	8:01	7:55	8:16
Personnel responding	8540	8728	10000	10682	9362	11000
Personnel hours at Incidents *	6590	5799	7094	7442	7793	8158
Avg. Personnel Responding	10	9	11	12	11	13

^{*}Personnel hours does not include special events, meetings, administration or stand-by shifts.





Emergency Medical Services

The delivery of emergency medical services accounts for approximately 70% of the fire department's overall emergency call volume.

2017 EMS Patient Transports

Month	Responses	Transports	BLS Dispatches	ALS Dispatches
January	187	127	100	87
February	142	96	65	77
March	198	136	101	97
April	171	115	91	80
May	194	132	94	100
June	189	118	106	83
July	151	109	67	84
August	157	105	85	72
September	187	128	96	91
October	174	124	90	84
November	192	130	114	78
December	184	124	86	98
Total	2126	1444	1095	1031

Basic Life Support is emergency medical care provided by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Care includes recognizing and identifying medical emergencies and providing immediate basic intervention. This includes administration of some medications such as glucose, naloxone, aspirin, and Epi-Pen. EMT's are able to splint extremities, immobilize neck & spine, provide supplemental oxygen, perform CPR, etc.

Advanced Life Support is emergency medical care provided by a Paramedic (EMT-P) or Pre-Hospital Nurse (PHRN). Care includes recognizing and identifying medical emergencies and providing immediate advanced intervention at and above the basic level. This includes administration of over 30 different medications designed to assist with cardiac function, lung function, pain management, blood pressure, overdoses, seizures and other life threatening injuries and illnesses. Paramedics and PHRNs can place patients on a heart monitor to analyze ECG, administer IVs, perform advanced airway management including intubation and use of a ventilator.





EMS Call Disposition Type

Disposition Type	Count
Total Responses	2126
Transports	1444
ALS	892
ALS Assist	99
BLS	1095
EMS Fire Standby (ALS/BLS)	40

Chief Complaint-Call Type

Complaint	Total	Complaint	Total	Complaint	Total
Abd. Pain	38	Epistaxis	5	Obvious Death	8
Acute Respiratory	94	Fever	13	Opioid Related	1
Acute Abdomen	1	Foreign Body – Respiratory	2	Other	116
Allergic Reaction	17	Gastro Intestinal Hemorrhage	6	Stimulant Disorder	1
Alt Mental	69	General Weakness	41	Pain (Non- Traumatic)	39
Asthma	1	Headache	9	Pneumonia	1
Back Pain	2	Hemorrhage	25	Poisoning (Drug)	24
Cardiac Arrest	14	Hypertension	6	Respiratory Arrest	1
Cardiac	45	Hyperthermia	4	Respiratory Disorder	1
Chest Pain	61	Hypovolemia	1	Seizures	37
Chest Pain / Non-Cardiac	2	Inhalation Injury	1	Seizures without status epilepticus	1
Common Cold	1	Injury	167	Stroke	30
Congestive Heart Failure	9	Injury (head)	1	Substance Abuse	9
Dehydration	8	Injury (Pelvis)	1	Suicide Attempt	1
Diabetic	21	Intracranial Hemorrhage	1	Syncope Fainting	107
Maternity	1	Mental Disorder	21	Unknown	1





Training Division

Our training division is charged with ensuring our personnel maintain a high level of skill readiness. The annual training program is designed to ensure skills are learned or maintained meeting applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, Insurance Services Office (ISO) training guidelines. Our training programs is comprised of weekly in-house training, in-house training of specialized disciplines including: RIT (Rapid Intervention Team to locate and extricate downed firefighters), confined space rescue, water rescue. Additionally, our volunteers and career staff are encouraged to attend outside organized training at our local county-run training centers as well as state and national training academies.

2017 Training	Total
Count of personnel @ training sessions	917
Personnel training hours – In-House	2092
RIT Training personnel attending	81
RIT Training personnel hours	174
Specialized rescue personnel attending	18
Specialized rescue hours	36

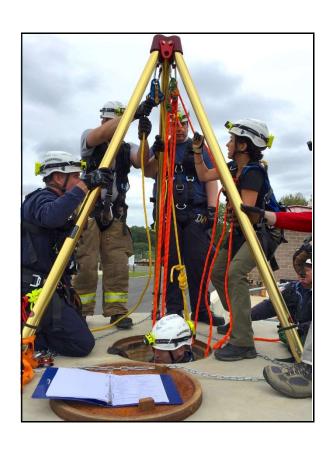






2017 Internal Training Sessions

Aerial operations	EMT class (8)	Physical fitness
Air bags	Engine Company operations (8)	Pump operations (2)
Apparatus equipment knowledge	Equipment review	Rapid intervention (8)
Bloodbourne pathogens	Explosives awareness	Rope rescue
Building familiarization (2)	Firefighter skills competition	SCBA confidence training (3)
Cold weather emergencies	Foam operations	Search & Rescue operations (2)
Confined space rescue (2)	Forcible entry (2)	Standpipe operations
Critical Incident Stress lecture	HazMat operations	Station work detail (2)
Devon Horse Show pre-	Hybrid and Electric vehicles	Truck company operations (2)
planning walk through	emergencies	Truck company operations (2)
EMS con-ed (4)	Live fire evolutions (4)	Vehicle rescue (2)







Finances

The majority of our income is from EMS billing 40 percent, operating contributions from Tredyffrin and Easttown townships 19 percent, and a fund drive mailing 12 percent. The remaining 29 percent of our income is attributed to cell

tower rental, apartment rentals, fundraising events, outreach events, etc. Unfortunately, EMS billing income is facing significant downward pressure from declining or stagnant reimbursements. With the entire Affordable Care Act (ACA) program in limbo, there is incredible uncertainty about future income. The number of self-pay patients has increased and write-offs are also high because the collection rate for these charges is not commensurate with services provided. We also anticipate further loss of income when the cell phone tower contracts must be renegotiated. Last, but not least, it is difficult for the Townships to increase funding because they are under significant pressure not to raise taxes.



Far and away, personnel costs are the single biggest expense. They increase every year as result of longevity salary increases, increases in retirement benefits, as well as steep increases for health care costs. As volunteer participation continues to decline, we anticipate even greater personnel costs in the future.

Running a \$2M professional organization is also expensive (hence the professional fees, fundraising expenses, rental expenses, etc.). With \$150,000 in current loans for fire apparatus, the annual debt payments eat even further into the operating budget.

As a result of the increasing expenses and declining revenue, we have been running a negative balance for the past 3 years. We have managed to make ends meet by drawing down reserves set aside for future ambulance, fire apparatus, and building replacement.

We are doing everything in our power to generate more income and reduce expenses. We apply for Office of the State Fire Commissioner Grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grant, and other grant opportunities. We have also explored local foundation grant programs but have had limited success. As far as cost cutting, we have switched to LED lighting and we are buying in bulk or through group purchases as much as possible. Every little bit helps to close the budget gap, however the trend remains negative.

We are encouraged by our dialogue with the Townships, both directly and through the T-E Fire Companies Funding Coalition, that we will find a sustainable and appropriate Fire/EMS funding solution. We thank township supervisors and township staff for their time and collaboration during the last year.





Income Statement

	 2017	. <u> </u>	2016
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Ambulance services income	\$ 799,437	\$	833,163
Contributions and grants	51,553		49,867
Event income	40,021		62,011
Fund drive income	237,028		234,547
Merchandise income	3,345		4,202
Rental income	62,037		61,800
Outreach income	3,822		3,939
Tower income	144,985		161,497
Township funding	386,119		370,006
Capital contributions from Townships	183,000		142,000
Gain on sale of asset	406		-
Investment income	 111,795	_	47,322
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	2,023,548		1,970,354
EXPENSES			
Program Expenses			
Donations to others	1,300		425
Event expense	74,149		59,349
Facility expense	72,479		98,162
Grant expenditures	7,648		24,741
Merchandise expense	5,099		9,076
Office expense	29,516		40,308
Personnel – career	1,375,742		1,347,253
Personnel – volunteer	4,492		33,185
Outreach expense	2,537		8,949
Rental expense	36,498		31,638
Taxes	24,525		27,406
Service delivery	149,190		155,160
Vehicles repairs and maintenance	115,648		77,074
Depreciation and amortization	120,133		124,238
Miscellaneous expense	1,592		-
Administrative Expenses			
Interest	17,822		20,065
Professional services	26,805		27,836
Fundraising Expenses			
Fund drive expense	 28,730		28,345
TOTAL EXPENSES	 2,093,905		2,113,210
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(70,357)		(142,856)





Community Outreach

Our Community Outreach program is credited with having direct contact with 1000's of residents and students annually. In 2017 we did 116 community outreach events. This includes everything from corporate training, birthday parties, parades, fire prevention visits, special events, etc.

During the month of October alone, we made a total of 39 fire prevention visits. That includes visiting each of the Tredyffrin/Easttown elementary schools at least 2 times, as well as many of the other local private schools and preschools. Additionally, last year we worked with a total of 16 local companies to provide fire safety training.







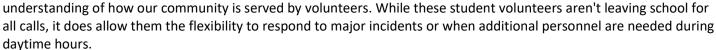
Junior Membership

The Berwyn Fire Company has a lot of new faces around the station thanks to a historic one year influx of volunteers who joined the Company from Conestoga High School in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District (TESD) this past year. A total of 9 student volunteers joined from Tredyffrin Township and 1 student volunteer from Easttown Township.

For the past 7 years, the Conestoga High School Firefighter/EMT Club has assisted in recruiting new members to become Firefighters and EMS providers. This club is open to all students, but to follow through and become a volunteer you must be a minimum of 16 years of age.

Prior to the formation of the club, student volunteers were allowed to leave school for calls dating back to the mid 1980's. Since that time over 30 volunteers continue to remain active in fire/EMS roles, including several leadership positions like Fire Chief, EMS Captain and President.

This partnership between the area fire companies and TESD serves as a model of



In order to be allowed to leave for calls, students must maintain the same academic performance as other students who qualify for sports and other extracurricular activities. This is subject to the approval of the Fire Chief and School Administration. Students are also provided parking spaces near the front of the school parking lot so they can reduce

their response times to the station.





The Berwyn Fire Company extends its appreciation to the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, in particular Conestoga High School Principal Dr. Amy Meisinger for continuing to assist with our ongoing volunteer recruitment efforts.

2018 Operational Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	Member Since
Eamon Brazunas	Fire Chief	1998
Justin Brundage	Deputy Fire Chief	1990
Matthew Valocchi	Assistant Fire Chief	2001
Christopher Bullock	Assistant Fire Chief	2004
Albert Brawn IV	Battalion Chief	1991
Wayne Riddle	Safety Officer	1991
Matthew Norris	Captain	1992
Evan Brazunas	Captain	2008
Sheryl Drach	Career Staff Shift Lieutenant	1989
Christopher Drach	Career Staff Shift Lieutenant	1992
Brian Garver	Career Staff Shift Lieutenant	2000
Christopher McDonald	Career Staff Shift Lieutenant	2002
Thomas Torresson	Chief Engineer	2011
Tom Hardon	Fire Prevention/Communications Coordinator	2005
William King	Planning Coordinator	2002
Michael Baskin	EMS Captain	1997
Scott Kramer	EMS Lieutenant	2003
Carl Weisbecker	EMS Lieutenant	2009
Dr. Edward Dickinson	Medical Director	2002
Patrick Boyle	ALS Coordinator	2007
David Staats	Fire Police Captain	2005
Michael Friedrich	Fire Police Lieutenant	2010

2018 Administrative Officers

Nam Truong	President	1992
Matthew Valocchi	Vice President	2001
Ethan Norris	Treasurer	2004
Craig Williams	Chairman, Financial Management Board	2005
Linda DiMartini	Secretary	1989
Thomas Torresson	Director of Facilities	2011
Mary Ellen Toscani	Director at Large	2006

2018 Administrative Committee Heads

Matthew Valocchi	New Building Committee	2001
Nam Truong	By-Law Committee	1992
Sara Gladney	Fundraising Committee	2013
Matthew Norris	Human Resources Committee	1992
Jack Zabinski	Membership Committee	2013
Gina Mazulla	Nominating Committee	2010
Josh Lichman	Social Committee	2009
Michael Ford	Store Committee	2005
Mary Ellen Toscani	Health and Wellness Committee	2006
Wayne Riddle	Apparatus Committee	1991





Connect with Berwyn Fire Company

The Berwyn Fire Company is active on Facebook and Twitter, please follow or friend us there to keep up to date on events. Our website and Facebook page also have additional information on **Becoming a Volunteer Member** and **Making a (tax deductible) Donation to the Berwyn Fire Company**.

