

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #1



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

SUPPORT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT !!!!

VOTE FEBRUARY 17TH, 2018 (2:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.)

#213 E. HOLLY AVENUE, SEWELL, N.J. 08080



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Residents,

It gives me great pleasure to present you this Annual Report that highlights your Fire Department's activities during 2017. This report will also cover general information about the department. As your Fire Chief, I cannot express how much we appreciate your trust and support. There is nothing more important to us than the community we serve. Our men and women dedicate so many hours in not only responding to emergencies, but also interacting with our residents and many community events and life safety initiatives. This incredible department is made up of career and volunteer staff that serves this Township with integrity, compassion and grace. It is important to know that approximately 85% of the Fire Department is volunteer. They feel the same impacts as most of you in regards to work demands, fiscal constraints, etc. The dedication required to be a volunteer firefighter in today's environment is incredibly challenging. Like most departments across the United States, we continue to face struggles in recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. You will find more information about this topic in this report.

This past year we made some significant changes in our career firefighter schedule, as well as creating new incentives for our volunteer firefighters in order to improve our responses in a more effective manner. We enhanced our partnerships with several other agencies and organizations to implement aggressive life safety initiatives, such as our Smoke Alarm campaign with the American Red Cross. We improved firefighter safety, by ensuring that all of our volunteer firefighters are provided with station uniforms that meet or exceed NFPA standards, in addition to being one of the first departments in the region to provide all firefighters special hoods that are designed to block carcinogenic particulates and other harmful contaminants. We ordered a new 107' ladder truck that will replace a 1997 75' ladder truck. With the number of multi-story buildings being constructed, as well as numerous homes with significant set backs, this new ladder truck will enhance our abilities for reach as well as the ability to carry additional equipment. This new ladder truck is expected to be in service by the end of April and will be housed at the Friesmill Road Fire Station. Apparatus is usually replaced based on age, maintenance cost factors, etc. We continue to maintain an apparatus replacement program that is strategically planned so it will not make a significant impact on our annual budget.

As we move forward in 2018, we will continue to work in making our community safe with our fire safety and public education programs. Our Training Division continues to ensure that our firefighters maintain competencies and train our firefighters with the latest tactics in the fire service. We are working on the specifications on a new rescue truck that was approved by the voters in 2017. This truck should be completed later this year.

Another important goal this year is to continue with our strategic plan focusing on facilities. We are in the process of identifying problematic issues in our existing facilities, researching energy efficient upgrades, focus on needed upgrades and repairs of HVAC, technology, etc.

I am sure that you will be very pleased that for the third year in a row, we continue to lower our fire district taxes. This year will be \$30,000 lower than 2017. This is a result of a 2003 General Obligation Bond that was paid in full during 2017 and through the efforts of seeking cooperative purchasing and partnerships to reduce costs.

Several of our members received awards and recognition for their service during 2017. Some of these awards included Life Saving, Unit citations, Dedicated Service, and Educational Achievement awards. As a resident of Washington Township and as a member of this great department since 1985, I am very proud to be part of this team.

I hope you are as proud as I am to have such passionate, well trained, humble, dedicated, competent, and hard-working firefighters protecting our community. Most of these men and women do it for nothing. No matter day or night, we are there committed to protect you.

I hope you will continue to support us and we look forward to seeing you on this Saturday, February 17, 2018 to support our budget. Voting will be open from 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Fire Administration Building, located at #213 E. Holly Ave.

Best Regards,



Patrick M. Dolgos – Fire Chief

INTRODUCTION

This report, prepared and issued by the Washington Township Fire District, is intended to familiarize the residents and business owners of Washington Township with the organization, operation, and goals of the fire district.

MISSION STATEMENT

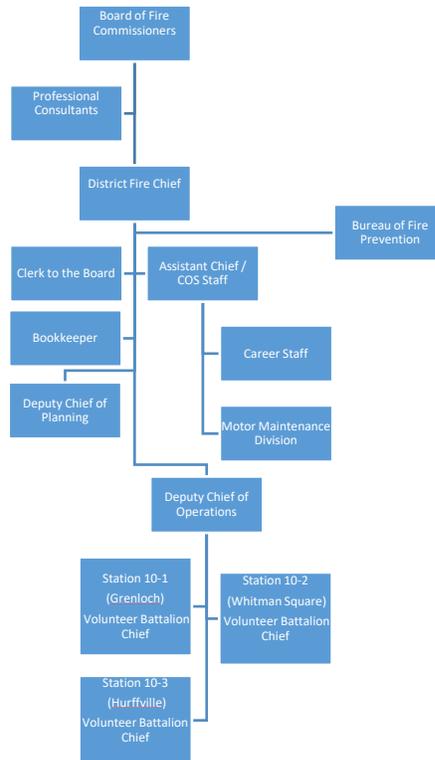
The mission of the Washington Township Fire District is to provide a professional level of community fire protection and rescue services to the citizens and property within Washington Township in order to prevent or minimize the loss of life, pain and suffering, and property damage as a result of fire or other emergency.

The Fire District's mission will be accomplished by the effective use of its volunteer, career, and physical resources, in cooperation with other public agencies, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, innovative techniques, and available technology to provide a high level of cost efficient, quality service.

ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, AND OPERATION

On August 23, 1972, the governing body of the Township of Washington adopted an ordinance creating the Washington Township Fire District No. 1. The territorial jurisdiction of the fire district encompasses the entire Township of Washington.

The Fire District organizational chart appears below. As you can see, the Board of Fire Commissioners oversees all aspects of the Fire District. The District Fire Chief is in charge of the daily operations and management of the Fire District. The Bureau of Fire Prevention is responsible for the prevention, fire safety education, fire investigation, and code enforcement. The Maintenance Division's responsibilities include the repair, testing, and preventive maintenance of all fire district owned and contracted agency's vehicles and equipment. The Training Division is responsible for the coordination, development and delivery of fire / rescue related training and education for all Career and Volunteer personnel.



The district's three volunteer fire companies; Grenloch, Whitman Square, and Hurffville, supported by the paid staff, are primarily responsible for the fire and rescue operations in the township. All active members of these fire companies are volunteer. We respond to all types of emergencies, including but not limited to; Fires, Motor Vehicle Crashes, Water and Ice Rescue, Animal Rescues, Fuel Spills, Hazardous Materials incidents, certain medical calls, Carbon Monoxide incidents, and technical rescue incidents.

All fire districts in the State of New Jersey are governed by state statute. Fire district statutes are generally located in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70 et seq. These statutes give fire districts taxing authority, regulate when and how fire district elections are to be conducted, and regulate their fiscal responsibilities, among other things. The Board of Fire Commissioners serves as the Fire District's governing body. The length of a fire commissioner's term of office is three years, and these terms are staggered so that no more than two terms expire in any given year. An annual public election for fire commissioners, as well as approval of the proposed annual budget, is conducted on the third Saturday in February, as mandated by New Jersey statutes.

The Fire District develops its own budget, has taxing power, and owns buildings and equipment.



EMERGENCY REPSONSES

The following were some of the incidents that the Washington Township Fire Department responded to during 2017.

353 Chapel Heights Road – Building Fire 4/14/2017

The WTFD was dispatched for a Building fire at 5:46 pm. Chief Dolgos arrived on scene and reported a fire in an abandoned building. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire.



Surry Court – Dwelling Fire 5/3/2017

On Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 2:40 pm, the WTFD was dispatched for a reported dwelling fire. Upon arrival, crews found a fire on a second floor deck and storage area.



Camelot Place – Newton Commons – Kitchen Fire 6/4/2017

At 10:51 pm, the fire department was dispatched to a reported dwelling on Camelot Place in the Newton Commons. Upon arrival there was smoke showing from a first floor unit with the report of the homeowner suffering from minor burns. Crews found a small fire that was contained to the kitchen.



Wedgewood Golf Course, #200 Hurffville Road – Building Fire 07/03/16

At 9:58 pm, fire department units were sent to a report of a fire alarm activation. Upon the arrival of Battalion Chief Reisenwitz, he reported smoke showing from the maintenance building and Pro-shop. The assignment was upgraded to a working fire box bringing in the entire WTFD and mutual aid from Blackwood and Glassboro. The Fire was placed under control within apx. 30 minutes. There were no injuries reported.



Hartford Road 07/06/2017

At 3:22 pm, the fire department was summoned to Hartford Road for a reported dwelling fire. Upon arrival, there was light smoke showing from the front door. Crews found a small kitchen fire and extinguished it with minimal damage.



Dorothy Drive 07/31/2017

The fire department was dispatched at 5:04 am for reported house fire. Chief Dolgos arrived with smoke showing from the home and found a kitchen fire in progress. All occupants safely exited the dwelling. Crews placed the fire under control in apx. 12 minutes. No injuries were reported

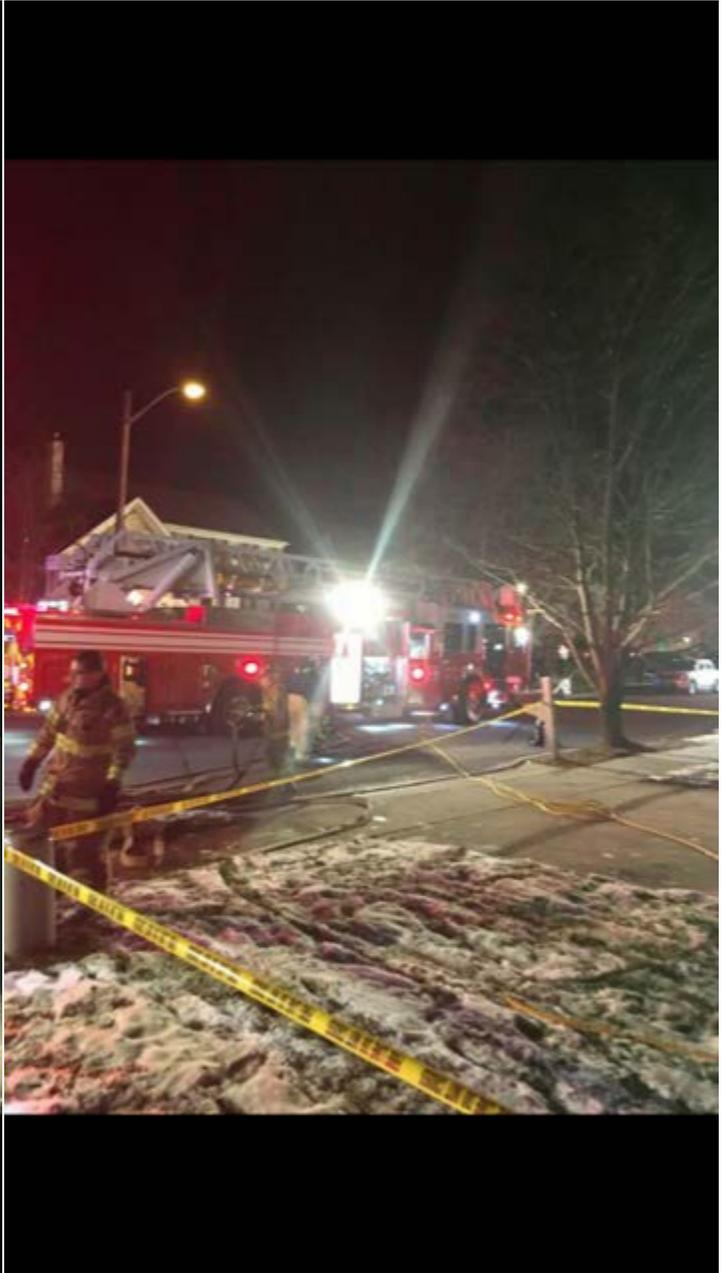


Chesterfield Road 10/17/2017

Companies were dispatched to Chesterfield Road for a house fire. Crews located fire in a ceiling that extended to the floor joist on the second floor. The fire was extinguished and no injuries were reported.

Alton Way 12/11/2017

At 6:18 pm, after clearing another assignment, the WTFD was dispatched to Alton Way for smoke coming from a house. Engine 1033 (Captain Schmidt) arrived and reported smoke showing from the rear of the home. The crew stretched a handline and extinguished the fire. Crews searched the house and removed an animal suffering from smoke inhalation. It was determined that the residents were not home.



Congress Drive 12/26/2017

On 12/26/17 at 4:02 pm, a 9-1-1 call was placed reporting a house fire on Congress Drive. The caller along with another neighbor entered the burning home and pulled the unconscious resident outside. Once outside they started CPR until EMS arrived. Upon the arrival of the Fire Department, crews observed heavy smoke and visible fire showing. After making an aggressive attack, crews completed a primary search looking for other occupants. Unfortunately, the resident did not survive this fire.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

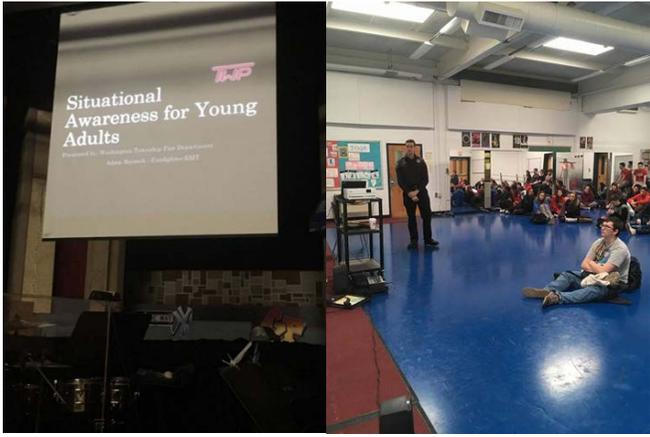
As in previous years, our dedicated firefighters are involved with community events and outreach programs. Our department is committed in supporting our community. You can always look forward to seeing representation from the fire department throughout the calendar year. Here are some highlights from 2017.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND SUPPORTING OUR HIGH SCHOOL'S SPORTS PROGRAMS



Each year the WTFD is proud to host "Senior Service Day", where students from the senior body spend a half day at the firehouse. Firefighters provide breakfast and work with the students on several housekeeping projects. In addition, we provide educational sessions to the seniors about post school safety. (Left: Several students get a first hand look as to how firefighters train. We were delighted to have a special visit from Mayor Gattinelli.)

Each Year our firefighters provide fire prevention education in all elementary schools and day cares throughout our community. Not only do we provide this important education during Fire Prevention Week, we provide programs in the spring as well.



High School Seniors also attend an assembly in school where our Fire Prevention Officer discusses post graduation safety. This program is titled "Situational Awareness for Young Adults". Topics include Safety at Dormitories, Distracting and Drunk Driving Awareness, general safety and smart decision making. We are in the process of developing a Middle School Program for 2018.

You can be sure to find one of our trucks stopping by almost every fund raising car wash at the high school. Our Firefighters enjoy stopping by and making donations to the car wash event.



The WTFD Training Division provides CPR training for the entire School District. Throughout 2017, our Certified AHA CPR instructors conducted CPR / AED training at all of the Township Schools and a number of Day Care Centers.



We are there for our community!!!



Here are a few photos of the many birthday parties our firefighters attended in 2017

2017 Community Events





SUPPORT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT!!! VOTE FEBRUARY 17TH, 2018

#213 E. Holly Avenue (2pm to 9 pm)

OUR FIREFIGHTERS SUPPORT YOU!!

2017 WTFD EXPLORER POST

Year End Summary

In 2017, the Washington Twp Fire District Explorer Post continued to hold their meetings on the first and third Monday nights of each month at the East Holly Ave. Station. The Explorers, ages 14-18, learn many of the same firefighting skills that our senior firefighters must also master. Last year's firefighting topics included water supply, extinguishers, equipment, hydrant connections, ladders, and CPR to name a few. In addition to learning what it takes to be a firefighter, the Explorers practice good citizenship by participating in an annual food drive with the Washington Twp Police Explorer Post, and coordinate the Fire District's now 3rd annual "Coats for Santa" coat drive. In 2017, an amazing 1,400 coats were collected from the residents of Washington Twp during Santa's firetruck tour of our town. In March of 2017, the Post was honored to be awarded the 2016 Explorer Post of the Year by the Boy Scouts of America Old Colony District. The co-ed Post accepts young men and women between the ages of 14 and 18, who have completed the 8th grade, on an ongoing basis. Anyone interested in joining the Post may apply by visiting the Fire District website: www.WTFD10.com



EQUIPMENT



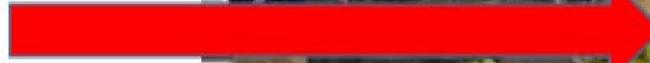
700 mhz Radio
\$3,600.00

Firefighter PPE
\$2,500.00

Thermal Camera
\$12,000.00



Breathing Apparatus
\$7,800.00



Flashlight \$150.00



Firefighting tools
\$150-\$400

Our budget supports the purchase and maintenance of firefighting equipment. As you can see in the above graphic, the equipment that is needed is costly. The firefighter pictured above is carrying 75 lbs of extra weight.

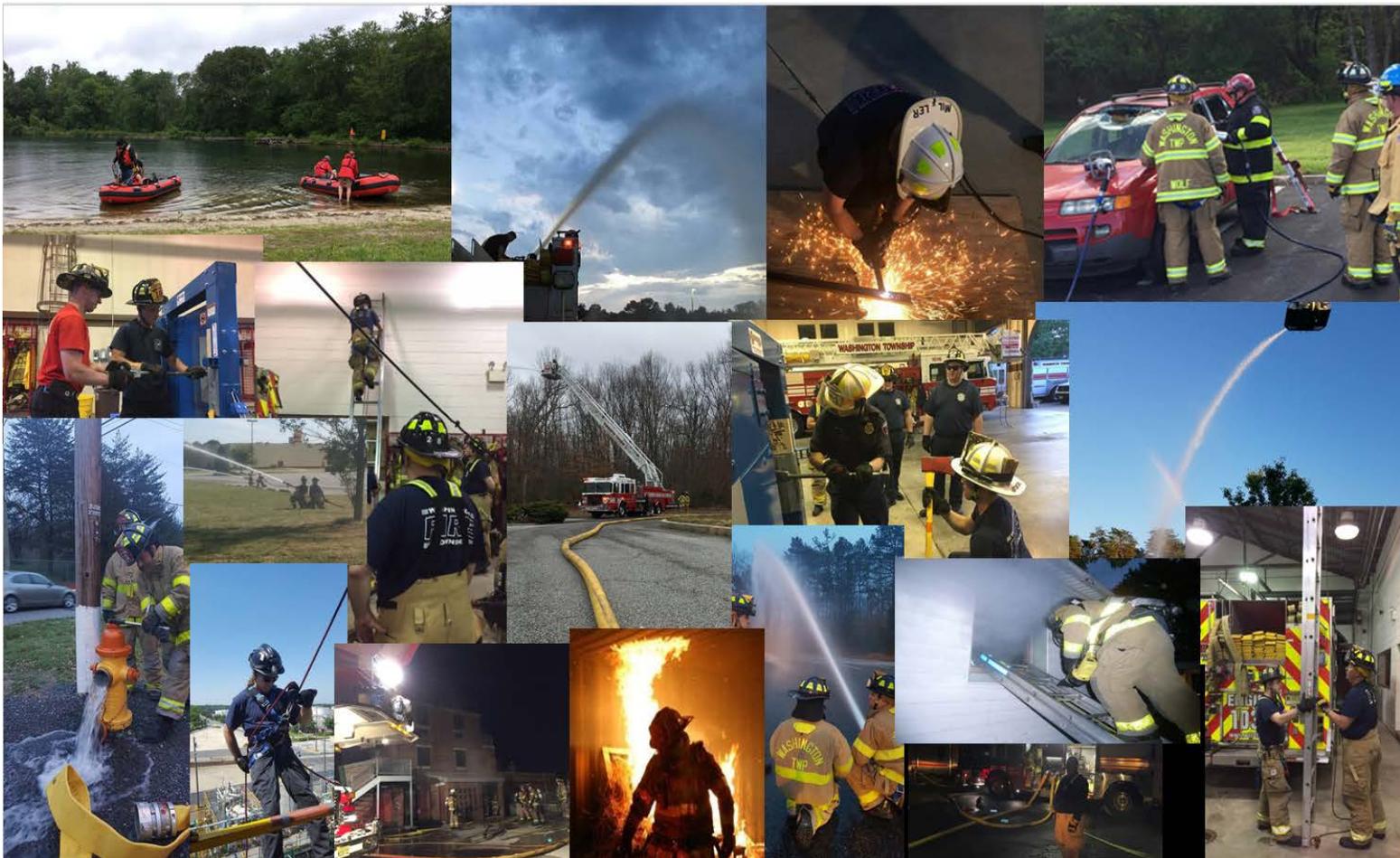
- **FACT:** The time donated by volunteer firefighters saves localities across the country an estimated \$139.8 billion per year. (NVFC)

TRAINING



During 2017 both Volunteer and Career Firefighters in Washinton Township logged thousands of hours of training. We continue to make training one of our top priorities. We purchased a Forcibler Entry Door Simulator / prop, where firefighters can practice conventional forceible entry techniques. We constructed a Roof Simulator as well. This enhaces our ability to practice roof operations and ventilation skills. Our Department also purchased an on-line Learning Management System, where our firefighters can have 24/7 access to various on-line training courses. This will enable them to maintain certifications and increase their knowledge.

Our Training Division provides some of the best training available to our men and women in a wide varity of topics throughout the entire year. We average at least 3-4 training events weekly. We have a large percentage of Certified Instructors and ensure that we continue to train with up-to-date information and use a wide array of training media. We take advantage of local, state and federally offered training and particpate in numerous exercises. Training and Education is critical to our agency and to our mission.

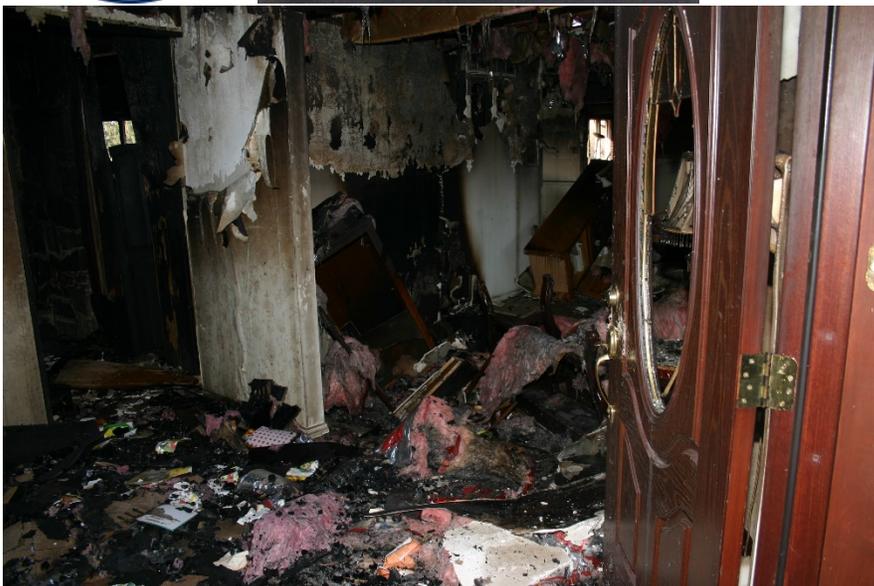


FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

Part of the duties of the Bureau of Fire Prevention is to ensure that all fires that occur within Washington Township are investigated to try to determine the cause of the fire. By determining the cause of a fire, measures can be taken to hopefully prevent future fires of the same cause from happening again. The Washington Township Fire Investigation Unit is comprised of five full-time investigators and one part-time investigator. There is an investigator from the investigation unit on call 24/7 in rotating shifts. The Duty Fire Investigator is assigned vehicle #1061, which is a 2015 Ford F-250 Pick-up. This vehicle contains all of the equipment and gear necessary to perform a fire investigation. Vehicle #1064 is a 2016 Ford Explorer and is assigned to the Fire Marshal, Captain Steve Finn.

In 2017, the Fire Investigation Unit performed 30 fire investigations with an estimated dollar loss of \$962,350.00. This is down from 2016. One of the investigations involved a person receiving serious burns and another was an investigation of a fatal house fire.

Several of our Fire Investigators received certification as Fire Investigation Technicians through the International Association of Arson Investigators. We had one arson conviction following a trial where our Fire Investigators testified relating the origin and cause of the fire. In 2017, our Fire Investigation Unit started In-service training specifically related to Fire Investigations. We have collaborated with other local, county, state and federal agencies to ensure these training topics are the most up-to-date and relevant to fire origin and cause. We will continue to expand on training in 2018.



BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

The Washington Township Bureau of Fire Prevention was established in 1985 in response to the State of New Jersey mandating that certain buildings and occupancy types should be inspected for fire and life safety violations. Since its inception, the Bureau of Fire Prevention has grown due to the increase inspection responsibilities attributed to continued growth in Washington Township.

2017 Bureau of Fire Prevention Inspection Summary:

Fire Inspections Completed	2,933
Registrations	5,007
Complaint Investigations	128
Follow-up Complaints	28
Penalties Issued	41
Permits Issued	94
Plan Reviews	6
Zoning Reviews	4
Total Collected Fees:	\$181,854.58

These inspection duties are tasked to the career firefighters who are all certified Fire Inspectors.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety increased Life Hazard Use Fee and Permit Fees by 29%. The WTFD also increased our fees by \$10.00. This was the first increased in many years.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention has undertaken an aggressive fire prevention program aimed at stopping fires before they start. This includes a visit to every school at least once during the year and many of the schools are visited multiple times during the year. The Bureau of Fire Prevention also provides fire prevention education to many organizations within Washington Township. In 2017 we conducted over 151 public fire prevention / education programs and / or events with the combined effort of the career staff and the volunteer staff.

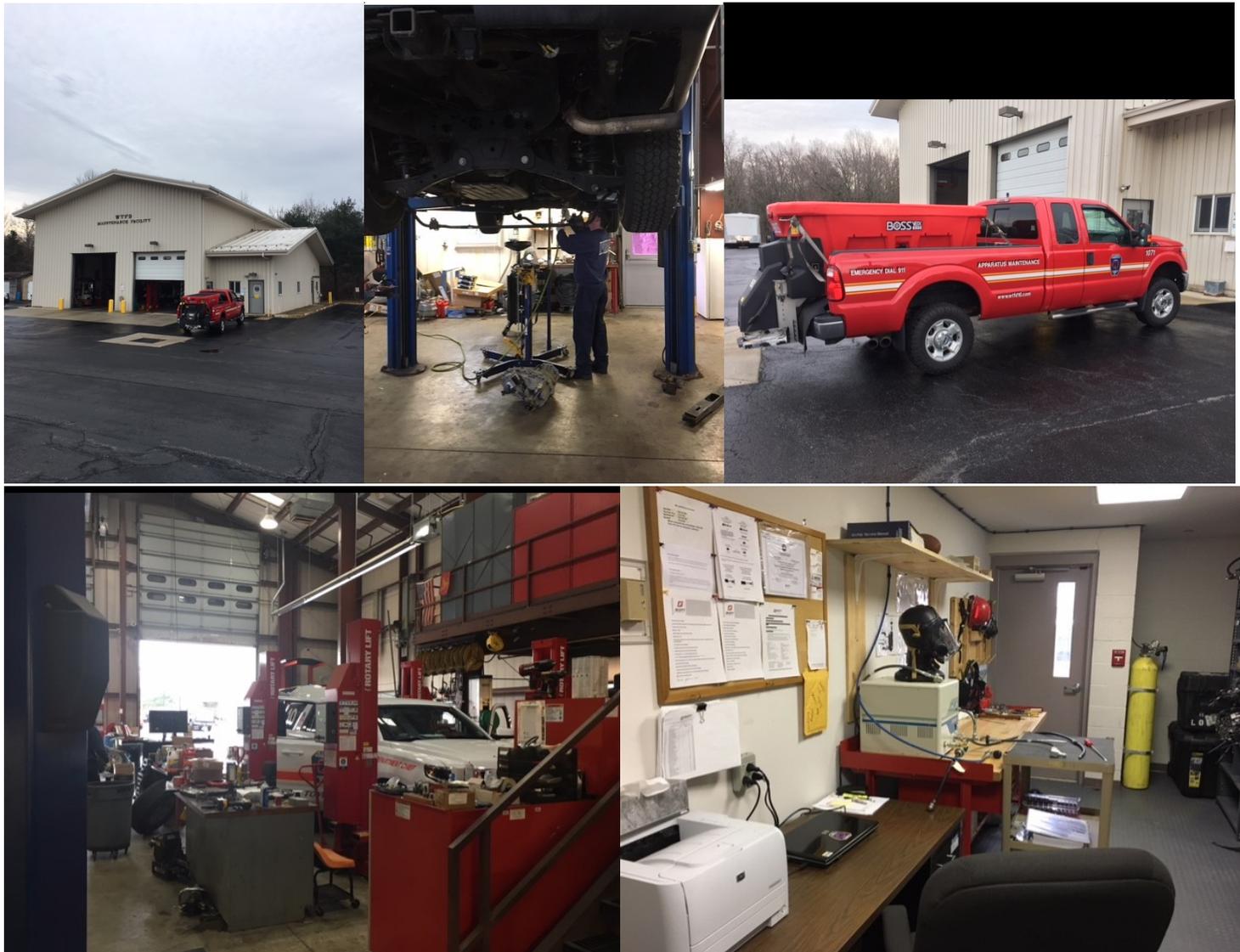
In 2017 the Washington Township Fire Department increased our Smoke Alarm Campaign. Partnering up with the American Red Cross, 6ABC Operation Save-a-Life and our local Home Depot, we were able to install over 435 smoke alarms and 28 Carbon Monoxide Alarms at no cost to the residents. We will be continuing this effort in 2018.

In 2018, we will be adding a new Middle School Level Fire Prevention program, continuing CPR training, hosting FREE Fire Prevention programs at our stations, which will be scheduled throughout the year, and increasing our public fire prevention awareness messages through social media.

MOTOR MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Washington Township Fire Department conducts maintenance and repairs to vehicles and equipment owned by the fire district in order to reduce cost. We employ two full-time mechanics, one being assigned to a firefighting crew during the shift. Our Mechanics hold ASE and EVT certifications, as well as receive specialized training throughout the year specific to their assigned tasks. Several of our firefighters are also trained in servicing and repairing our Breathing Apparatus.

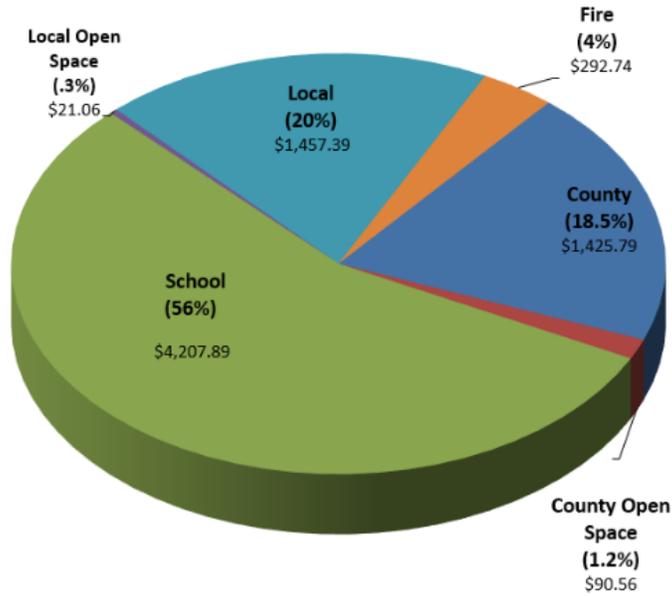
Our Maintenance Facility is located at 213 E. Holly Ave.



ABOUT YOUR WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TAXES

2017 TAX RATE

\$3.559 PER \$100.00 OF ASSESSED VALUE



Based on the average assessed value of \$210,605



2018 = DECREASE IN YOUR FIRE TAXES !!!!

2018 FIRE DISTRICT TAX INFORMATION

The Proposed budget for the Washington Township Fire District as outlined on the next page will have a fire district tax rate of 13.7 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. **This is once again slightly LOWER than 2017!!** For the homeowner in Washington Township with a home valued at \$210,403, they would see a decrease of apx. \$4 in their fire taxes.

Please support our budget and vote on Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

#213 E. Holly Avenue (WTFD Fire Administration Building)

Visit our website to view the complete proposed 2018 Budget

BUDGET YEAR	AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES
2018	\$5,862,393	\$6,626,125
2017	\$5,893,235	\$6,649,317
2016	\$5,897,716	\$6,565,573
2015	\$5,901,099	\$6,467,533



PLEASE VOTE !!!!!

2018 Budget Summary

Washington Township Fire District No. 1
Gloucester

	2018 Proposed Budget	2017 Adopted Budget	Proposed vs. Adopted	% Increase (Decrease) vs. Adopted
REVENUES AND FUND BALANCE UTILIZED				
Total Fund Balance Utilized	360,000	410,000	(50,000)	-12.2%
Total Miscellaneous Anticipated Revenues			-	#DIV/O!
Total Sale of Assets			-	#DIV/O!
Total Interest on Investments & Deposits	1,000	1,000		0.0%
Total Other Revenue	215,000	185,000	30,000	16.2%
Total Operating Grant Revenue	16,419	16,419		0.0%
Total Revenues Offset with Appropriations	171,313	143,663	27,650	19.2%
Total Revenues and Fund Balance Utilized	763,732	756,082	7,650	1.0%
Amount to be Raised by Taxation to Support Budget	5,862,393	5,893,235	(30,842)	-0.5%
Total Anticipated Revenues	6,626,125	6,649,317	(23,192)	-0.3%
APPROPRIATIONS				
Total Administration	533,590	458,176	75,414	16.5%
Total Cost of Operations & Maintenance	4,711,795	4,601,788	110,007	2.4%
Total Appropriations Offset with Revenue	171,313	143,663	27,650	19.2%
Total Appropriated for Duly Incorporated First Aid/Rescue Squad			-	#DIV/O!
Total Deferred Charges			-	#DIV/O!
cash Deficit, Preceding Year (N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.6)				#DIV/O!
Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Contribution (P.L.1997,c.388)	300,000	465,000	(165,000)	-35.5%
Total Capital Appropriations			-	#DIV/O!
Total Principal Payments on Debt Service	803,862	863,990	(60,128)	-7.0%
Total Interest Payments on Debt	105,565	116,700	(11,135)	-9.5%
Total Appropriations	6,626,125	6,649,317	(23,192)	-0.3%

HELP PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

GET INVOLVED & JOIN TODAY!!!!

One of the most significant dilemmas facing today's fire service is low volunteerism. A lot of this has to do with training and time demands, economy and the stress it places on people to work longer or more hours. It is a struggle many of us in the fire service are looking for new innovated ways to fix this problem.

Volunteer firefighters in Washington Township dedicate many hours to ensure they are prepared to respond to an emergency. They risk their lives in one of the most dangerous jobs and do it for NO PAY. Apx. 85% of the Washington Township Fire Department is Volunteer. Some participate in Duty Crews where they physically sit in the station and wait for a call. This can be 4 hours, 8 hours, 16 hours, overnight and even on Holidays. They work side by side with our career crews and meet most of the same minimum training standards.

The National Volunteer Fire Council states:

- Volunteers comprise of 70% of firefighters in the United States
- Volunteers invest a large amount of time serving their community
- The cost to train and equip a firefighter can exceed \$20,000.00
- Firefighting Equipment and Medical Equipment is very expensive

Many of our volunteers are not just trained in basic firefighting, but many are certified Emergency Medical Technicians and hold many other specialize rescue credentials. We provide the same uniforms as our career firefighters as both are professionals and operate under the same Standard Operating Guidelines. By supporting our budget, you also support the training, equipment and the following benefits we offer our volunteers.

Please feel free to call us or check out our website should you have an interest in being part of this great department and helping your community.



Benefits of Joining our team:

- Sense of accomplishment by giving back to your community
- Complete training for all firefighting duties
- Retirement / Life Insurance Program
- Comprehensive Annual Physical Exams
- Training and Educational Programs paid completely by the Fire District
- Tuition Credit Program for Local Community Colleges
- Dress and Work Uniforms
- Workers Compensation Insurance
- Additional Accident and Health Benefits
- Additional Death Benefit through the New Jersey State Fireman's Association
- Awards and Recognition Program



Fill out an application on line at www.WTFD10.com



THANK YOU!!!!

2017 Washington Township Board of Fire Commisisoners

Frank Stella

Dave Vicente

Larry Kennie

William Robertson

Robert Matteo

2017 Fire Department Leadership

Department Chief Patrick Dolgos

Asst. Chief / Chief of Staff Richard Sumek

Deputy Chief of Operations Gregory Godish

Deputy Chief of Planning / Administration Edwin Weitzman

Battalion Chief Grenloch Fire Company Josph Mason

Battalion Chief Whitman Square Fire Company Jay Reisenwitz

Battlaion Chief Hurffville Fire Company Robert Borkowski

Fire Official / Captain Stephen Finn

www.WTFD10.com

