

# Cranberry Township VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



HONOR. INTEGRITY. COMMITMENT.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Smith, *President*

Tom Klingensmith, *Vice President*

John Walter, *Secretary*

Mark Sekera, *Treasurer*

## DIRECTORS

Dave Mack

Nouhoum Cisse

Jeff Ammerman

Ron Feil

## BRIGADE

Scott Garing, *Chief, Fire and Emergency Services*

Michael Hanks, *Division Chief*

John Pristas, *Assistant Chief*

Chris Snedeker, *Captain*

Connor Mack, *Lieutenant*

Amy Behun, *Lieutenant*

Cory McLaughlin, *Lieutenant*

Steve Dancisin, *Safety Officer*

Bruce Hezlep, *Safety Officer*

David Watkins, *Safety Officer*

## FIRE POLICE

Jeff Ammerman, *Lieutenant*

## RELIEF ASSOCIATION

David Watkins, *President*

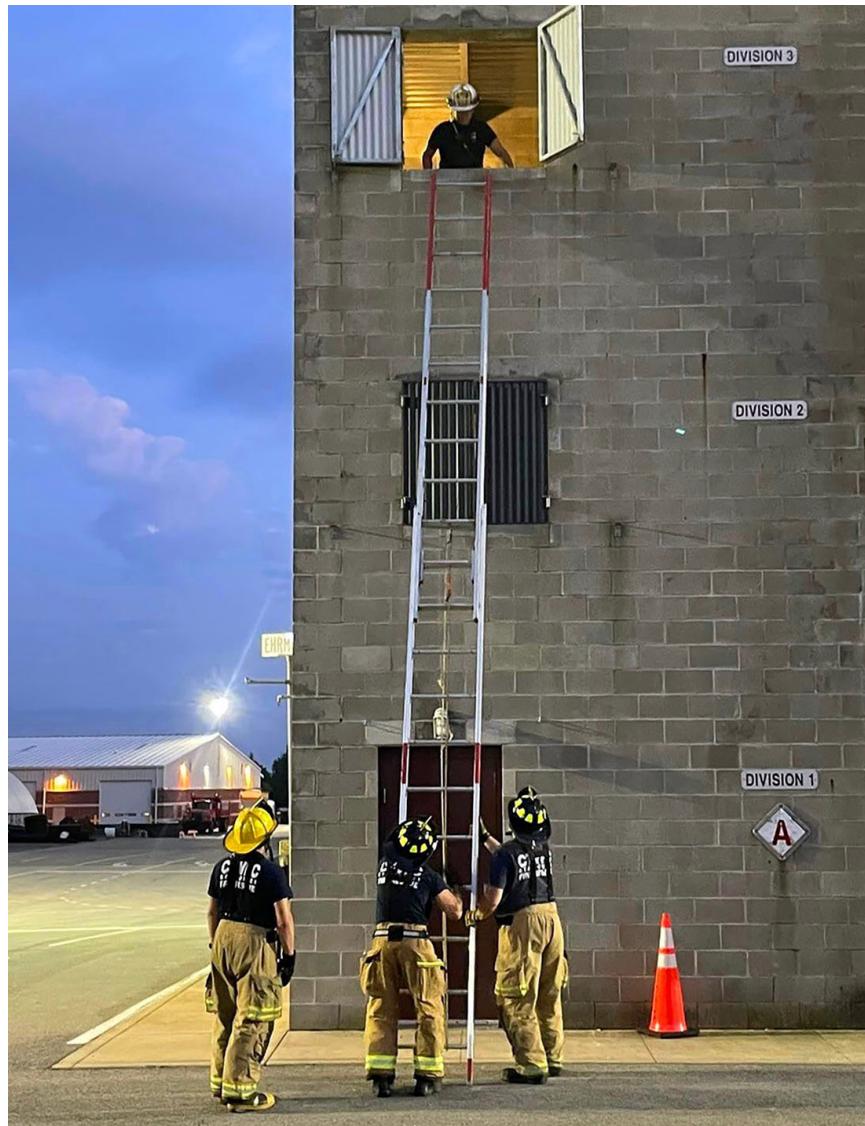
Artie Osnia, *Secretary*

John Bachner, *Director*

Paul Brown, *Director*

Dan Kane, *Director*

John Saleone, *Director*



# 2023 CTVFC ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM CTVFC

The Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company is pleased to present its 2023 Annual Report.

As we reflect on the past year, our commitment to excellence in serving and safeguarding our community has never been stronger.

In 2023 our dedicated firefighters and fire police responded to 1,021 emergency calls – a record number for the department. Additionally, our fire safety education group trained 4,300 children and 2,500 adults through education and awareness programs.

These efforts support of our mission to preserve and protect the life and property of the citizens and visitors of Cranberry Township from the dangers of fire, disaster and other emergencies through education, prevention, and emergency response. Our response and staffing statistics stand as a testament to our unwavering commitment to your safety.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our firefighters and the support of our community. One of our key focal points continues to be training and professional development. Our team has logged more than 7,187 hours of training in 2023. This commitment to training ensures our personnel have the latest skills, knowledge, and techniques necessary to respond swiftly and effectively to any emergencies. This investment of continuous training ensures that we remain at the forefront of firefighting response and ready to face any challenge that may arise.

The Company's members have embraced a culture that values teamwork, selflessness, commitment, accountability, integrity, and professionalism. These values help us foster positive changes that enhance our overall effectiveness and adapt to evolving challenges, enabling us to provide more efficient and effective services.

As we navigate the path forward, we remain focused on our mission. The community's safety is our top priority, and we are committed to continuous improvement to ensure that CTVFC remains focused on emergency response, staffing, and professional development. The organization - driven by the Board of Directors and Brigade Officers - remains committed to continuously exploring every option we can to bring a high-quality, highly trained, and time-driven product to your call for help 24/7.

We are incredibly proud of the men and women that serve in this all-volunteer department and are grateful for their commitment and service.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. Together, we build a safer and stronger Cranberry Township.

DFES Chief Scott Garing  
CTVFC President David Smith  
CTVFC Vice President Tom Klingensmith  
CTVFC Division Chief Michael Hanks  
CTVFC Assistant Chief John Pristas

## OUR MISSION:

To preserve and protect the life and property of the citizens and visitors from the dangers of fire, disaster and other emergencies through education, prevention, and emergency response.



## OUR VISION:

We strive to be a highly respected model of professional fire service delivery, with a sufficient number of competent, well-trained, well-equipped, active, and healthy members to meet the challenges and demands we may face, while delivering the best possible service to our community.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In 2023, call volume reached a record high of 1,021.

While this includes the usual category of incidents, there is one alarming trend.

Due to improvements in internet and communication networks, mainly the installation of fiber-optic cables, calls pertaining to struck gas lines increased dramatically. With horizontal drilling being conducted across the Township, a significant number of natural gas lines have inadvertently been struck. Consequently, each incident requires our presence on site until the hazard is mitigated, often extending for prolonged durations.

Our response program is made up of several components, including:

- Stipend Staffing – A nominal stipend is provided to incentivize firefighters to be on station for four, six, or eight hours per shift.
- Duty Shifts – An incentivized program where members are encouraged to staff for two or more hours.
- Home Response – Members who respond to the station from home for emergency response.

The program has continued to evolve and change since its inception in 2019. Like any organization, we closely monitor trends within our program and proactively address them.

For 2024, we implemented several changes, including increasing the payment per stipend shift and eliminating weekend blocks of time that were not being filled and adversely impacted our staffing percentages.

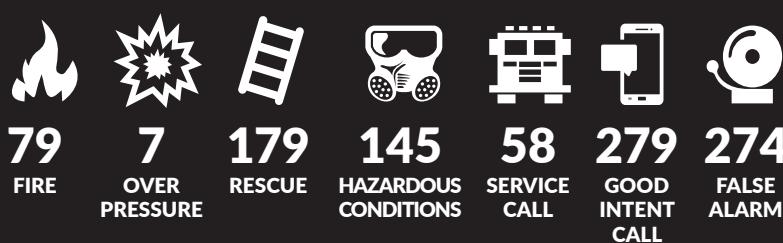
Additionally, we viewed statistics from different perspectives which allows us to celebrate the hidden successes of the program. We recently achieved a month where 99% of evening and overnight shifts were staffed with qualified firefighters. When coupled with our duty staffing and home response, we can see how well we are achieving the mission of the organization.



## INCIDENT STATISTICS

2023

**Total Calls: 1,021**



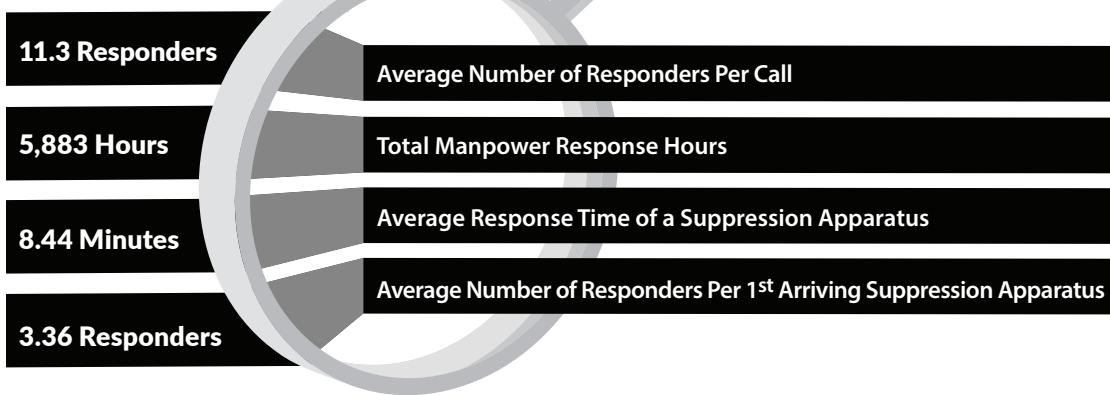
### MUTUAL/AUTO AID

Mutual Aid Given: 88

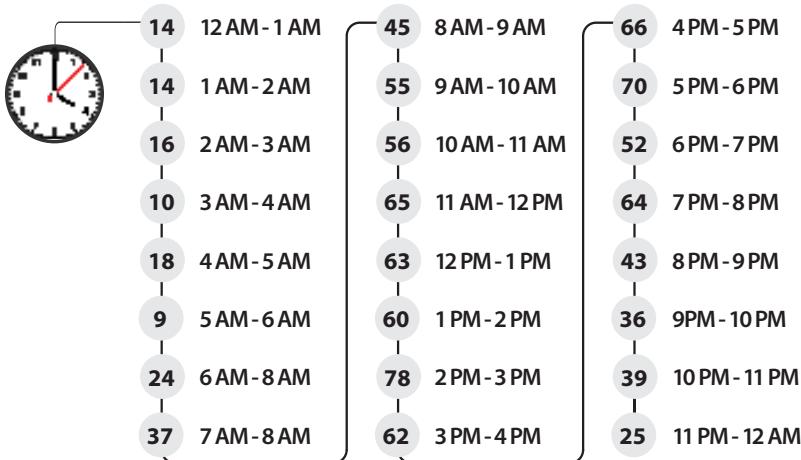
Mutual Aid Received: 178

### INCIDENTS BY DAYS OF THE WEEK





## INCIDENT BY HOURS



## FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

The Fire Safety Education Program was founded more than 30 years ago and has continued to leave a lasting positive impression on children and adults around the region.



**FIRE PREVENTION HOURS: 1,587**  
4,282 Children; 2,521 Adults

# PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

## STAFFING STATISTICS

<b>1,890</b> Duty Shifts	<b>2,914</b> Stipend Shifts	<b>28,237</b> Total Stipend Hours
<b>10,781</b> Duty Shifts Hours	<b>17,456</b> Stipend Hours	<b>62%</b> Staffing % 2 or More (Stipend only)

## CTVFC MEMBERSHIP

Brigade	57
Associate Brigade	9
Junior	7
Administrative	29
Auxiliary	22
Non-participating Members	33

## TOP 20 RESPONDERS BY INCIDENT NUMBER

Nouhoum Cisse	632
David Dellinger	544
James Blew	448
John Pristas	440
Richard Herzog	435
Nunzio Martin, Jr	433
Bryan Coles	403
Brandon McKenzie	396
Michael Hanks	335
Jeff Ammerman	332
Amy Behun	311
Bryce Sekera	298
Kevin Williamson	287
Sean Mulraney	280
Alexander Kovac	269
John Walter	251
Cory McLaughlin	250
Tim Barch	222
Christopher Snedeker	222
Scott Garing	212

## HOURS

- Response Hours: 5,883
- Training Hours: 7,186.62
- Staffing Hours: 28,237
- Other Events: 5,146.17

## TRAINING HOURS

- In-house Training number: 149
- In-house training hours: 4,726
- External Training Hours: 2,461
- Pro-Board Certifications: 24

## FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

- Fire Prevention Hours: 1,587

## 2023 NOTABLE CERTIFICATIONS

Nouhoum Cisse :	Firefighter 2, Incident Safety Officer
Kristen Coyne:	Firefighter 1, Emergency Medical Responder, Vehicle Technical Rescue Operations, Incident Safety Officer
David Dellinger:	Vehicle Technical Rescue Operations, Firefighter 2, Incident Safety Officer
Joseph Duda:	Firefighter 1
Michael Hanks:	Fire Officer 3
Richard Herzog	Emergency Medical Responder
Nathan Hezlep:	Emergency Medical Technician
Bradley Horlick:	Incident Safety Officer
Alexander Kovac:	Firefighter 1
Connor Mack:	Rope Technical Rescuer Operations and Technician, Incident Safety Officer
Nunzio Martin:	Vehicle Technical Rescuer Operations
Brandon McKenzie	Basic and Advanced Fire Police
Cory McLaughlin:	Emergency Medical Responder, Incident Safety Officer, Firefighter 2, Vehicle Technical Rescue Operations
Anthony Saracoglu:	Firefighter 1
Jacob Schreffler:	Firefighter 1
Bryce Sekera:	Firefighter 1
David Smith:	Emergency Medical Responder
Christopher Snedeker:	Fire Inspector 1 and 2, Vehicle Technical Rescuer Operations, Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Officer, Driver/Operator Aerial
John Walter:	Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician, Incident Safety Officer, Firefighter 2
Sean Ways:	Firefighter 1
Kevin Williamson:	Basic and Advanced Fire Police

# 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully accomplished “real life” scenario training utilizing the amenities of the Public Safety Training Facility.
- Successfully responded to all emergency call requests within the Township and beyond.
- Hired a Training Coordinator to coordinate all training functions within the company.
- Completed a small vehicle replacement plan.
- Successfully used grant funding to offset the cost of equipment for the expected engine 21-3.
- Secured SAFER Grant funding from FEMA for \$836,046 over 4 years.
- Designed and purchased the replacement for Rescue 21.



# 2024 GOALS

- Improve the stipend staffing program percentage beyond historical trends.
- Continue to innovate with recruitment and retention.
- While station staffing remains a top priority, seek ways to expand home response for critical incidents.
- Implementation of driver/operator and rescue professional certifications.
- Seek additional grant funding and prepare for the delivery of Engine 21-3 and Rescue 21.





## CLOSING REMARKS

The Board of Directors and the Brigade Officers remain committed to the fact that we will continue to push forward in this dynamic environment. There is no question that things continue to evolve in the administration and operations of the organization. The only way to prevent ourselves from being a negative statistic is by being open to change and being adaptable.

With metrics either remaining the same or improving we see ourselves on a good path. We understand that this can change at a moment's notice, so we constantly find ourselves trying to be creative, innovative, and discover new ways to stay in front. This is done by looking at nationwide organizational trends and borrowing proven tactics.

Through visionaries that were well before our time, we have been set up for success. These now retired members navigated uncharted waters that most companies could not. Their efforts and their ability to stay ahead of the curve is a shining example of perseverance. Following in their footsteps is not easy but a necessary part of our future.

We extend our gratitude to our "customers" and the community for the unbelievable support for the organization. We have developed some of the best relationships and partnerships within our own community, and at every turn when we need help, we can get it from someone somewhere.

Here's to a successful and safe 2024.



**CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP  
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

20727 Route 19, Suite 21

Cranberry Township, PA 16066

CTVFC21.org | 724-776-6130

Emergency Dial 9-1-1

*Scott Garing, Fire & Emergency Services Chief*