

Cranberry Township VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



COMMITTED TO SERVING
OUR COMMUNITY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Smith, *President*
Tom Klingensmith, *Vice President*
John Walter, *Secretary*

DIRECTORS

Dave Mack
Nouhoum Cisse
Jeff Ammerman
Ron Feil

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Scott Garing, *Chief, Fire and
Emergency Services*
Bruce Hezlep, *Assistant Chief*
Chris Snedeker, *Captain*
Connor Mack, *Captain*
Amy Behun, *Lieutenant*
Cory McLaughlin, *Lieutenant*
Spencer Shea, *Lieutenant*
Alex Hepler, *Lieutenant*
Steve Dancisin, *Safety Officer*
David Watkins, *Safety Officer*

FIRE POLICE

Jeff Ammerman, *Captain*
Brandon McKenzie, *Lieutenant*

RELIEF ASSOCIATION

David Watkins, *President*
Dave Mack, *Treasurer*
Artie Osniak, *Secretary*
John Bachner, *Director*
Dan Kane, *Director*
John Saleone, *Director*



• CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP •
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

MESSAGE FROM CTVFC

We are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company. Reflecting on the past year, our commitment to excellence in serving and safeguarding our community has never been stronger. The mission of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company is 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. To achieve this, we aim to staff our stations with on-site crews of volunteer firefighters 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with supplemental assistance from our outstanding home responders and fire police. Our fire police aim to have an officer equipped with a vehicle available to respond from home to emergencies alongside our crews. Additionally, when the community requests fire safety presentations or workshops, we strive to provide those services effectively and in a manner that is engaging to all audiences. Achieving these goals takes time and dedication. In 2024, our members contributed over 45,000 volunteer hours to the community. Additionally, our dedicated firefighters and fire police responded to 1,183 emergency calls—a record number for the Company. Our fire safety education program conducted 80 presentations and workshops, reaching 3,300 children and 2,060 adults. These accomplishments underscore our unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community, and we humbly look forward to serving Cranberry Township and its neighbors in 2025.

DFES Chief Scott Garing
CTVFC President Dave Smith
CTVFC Vice President Tom Klingensmith
CTVFC Assistant Chief Bruce Hezlep

2024 CTVFC ANNUAL REPORT

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

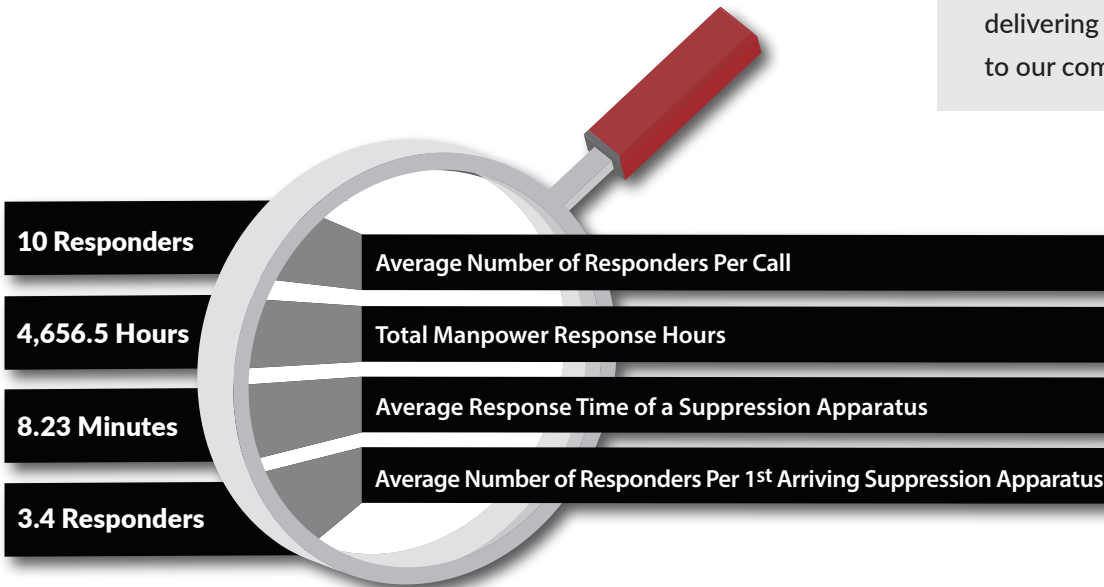
This year, our call volume reached a record high of 1,183. While we responded to the usual range of incidents, one alarming trend emerged: a significant increase in calls related to struck gas lines. Improvements in internet and communication networks, particularly the installation of fiber-optic cables, coupled with horizontal drilling activities, have led to numerous natural gas line strikes. These incidents required our presence on-site until the hazard was mitigated, often extending for prolonged durations.

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.



MUTUAL/AUTO AID

Mutual Aid Given: 182
Mutual Aid Received: 196

Mutual Aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries.

INCIDENT STATISTICS



Fires - Includes building fires, car fires, and brush fires

Over pressures - Explosions

Rescue - Vehicle crashes, technical rescues

Hazardous conditions - Gas Leaks

Service - Power lines down, traffic control, water leaks

Good intent - Cancelled or downgraded calls

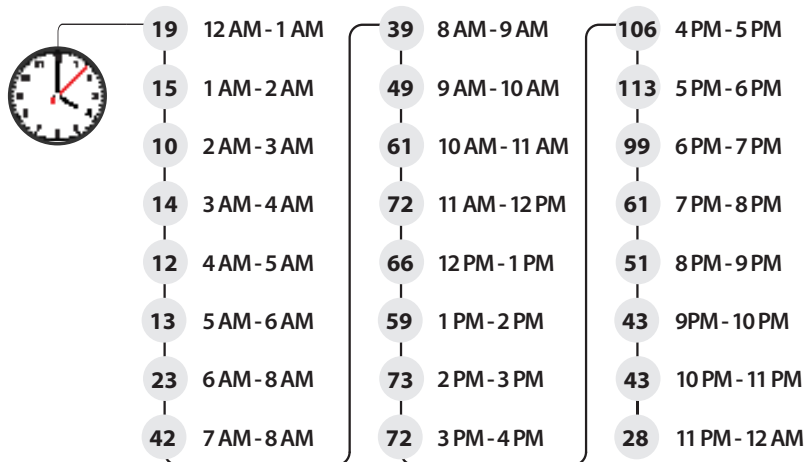
False alarms - Automatic fire alarms

Severe Weathers - Power lines and trees down due to wind, flooded roadways

INCIDENTS BY DAYS OF THE WEEK



INCIDENT BY HOURS



MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Since its inception in 2019, our Stipend Staffing Program has evolved to address emerging trends proactively. In 2024, we increased payments per stipend shift with differential rates and eliminated underutilized time blocks to improve staffing percentages. This year, we achieved a milestone: qualified firefighters staffed 99% of evening and overnight shifts. This achievement, combined with our duty staffing and home response efforts, demonstrates our mission's success.

Our response program comprises several components:

Stipend Staffing – Nominal stipends incentivize firefighters to staff at the station for shifts ranging from four to eight hours.

Duty Shifts – An incentivized program encouraging members to staff at the station for two or more hours.

Home Response – Members respond to the station from home for emergency calls.



TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of our key focal points this year has been our firefighters' continuous training and professional development. In 2024, our team logged over 6,500 hours of training. This dedication ensures our personnel have the latest skills, knowledge, and techniques to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies. By prioritizing training, we remain at the forefront of emergency response, ready to face any challenge.

Furthermore, we have embraced a culture that values teamwork, selflessness, commitment, accountability, integrity, and professionalism. These core values drive positive change, enhance our effectiveness, and enable us to adapt to evolving challenges, ensuring we deliver more efficient and effective services to our community.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

This past year, the CTVFC hosted several training opportunities for the community and for those pursuing a career in firefighting. This past June, the Company hosted our fourth annual Cadet Fire Academy, which welcomed fifteen teenagers to participate in a weeklong fire service and first aid program. The week culminated in a simulated event, where the participants demonstrated their skills in front of their families.

2025 also marked the first year of holding our Citizens Fire Academy. Five community members took advantage of the program, where they learned about the history of the fire service and the basics of firefighting, including various skills used by firefighters on the fire ground and in-vehicle rescues. This 8-week program finished with the participants experiencing fire dynamics training inside our burn building. It allowed the students to see the type of fire usually only reserved for firefighters. Best of all - two of the five participants decided to join CTVFC as firefighters.

The training grounds also hosted two significant regional training programs in 2025. Annually, CTVFC hosts two 24-Hour Emergency Response Simulations. The program brings firefighters from across Western Pennsylvania to participate in complex training. The crews stage at the Park Station and respond to various "emergencies" that test skills from technical rope rescues, false alarms, vehicle rescues, and structure fires. During the event, those participating also respond to live emergencies in and around Cranberry Township. Over 100 staff and students are involved to make the training day happen.

Finally, CTVFC maintains a close partnership with Butler County Community College. CTVFC partners with the college on many training opportunities, including professional certification testing, the Essentials of Firefighting program, and more. CTVFC has three members who are certified State Suppression Instructors who instruct these classes. These programs are how CTVFC turns recruits into firefighters.



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: 1,788

3,496 Children; 2,268 Adults

While the brigade is ready to respond to fires, the Fire Safety Education team aims to prevent them through education and awareness programs. The group regularly visits schools, daycares, and businesses to provide hands-on training and share fire prevention, detection, and evacuation tips. In 2024, the group conducted over 80 presentations. In total, 3,496 children and 2,268 adults received training, requiring over 1,700 hours of volunteer time.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

CTVFC MEMBERSHIP

Brigade	52
Associate Brigade	13
Junior	10
Administrative	23
Auxiliary	18
Non-participating Members	37
Total	153

HOURS - 46,226.99

- Response Hours: 4,656.5
- Training Hours: 6,564.04
- Staffing Hours: 29,706
- Other Events: 5,300.45

TRAINING HOURS

- Number of in-house training sessions: 115
- In-house training hours: 5,746
- External Training Hours: 1,298
- Pro-Board Certifications: 16

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

- Fire Prevention Hours: 1,788

COMPANY VALUES

- Teamwork
- Professionalism
- Commitment
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Selflessness

STAFFING STATISTICS

8,088

Duty Shifts Hours

21,618

Stipend Hours

29,706

Total Staffing Hours

1,800

Duty Shifts

3,657

Stipend Shifts

72%

24-Hour Staffing of 2 or More (Stipend Only)

*Excludes DFES staffing

84%

Evening/Overnight/ Weekend Only Staffing of 2 or more (Stipend Only)

*Excludes DFES staffing

TOP 20 RESPONDERS BY PERCENTAGE

John Walter	55
Nouhoum Cisse	54
Christopher Snedeker	49
Dave Dellinger	42
Richard Herzog	38
Dave Mack	37
Brandon McKenzie	37
Jeff Ammerman	36
Matthew Nicolai	35
John Pristas	34
Nate Hezlep	32
Scott Garing	29
Cory McLaughlin	28
Bruce Hezlep	27
David Smith	27
Nicholas Szanto	23
Ted Mohrbacher	22
Alex Hepler	21
Connor Mack	19
Jacob Schreffler	19

2024 NOTABLE CERTIFICATIONS

Nick Asfahani:	Firefighter I, Proboard Hazmat Awareness
Amy Behun:	Proboard Hazmat Awareness
David Dellinger:	DOH Special Vehicle Rescue
Cassidy Crooks:	DOH Special Vehicle Rescue
Austin Hannes:	Firefighter I
Nathan Hezlep:	Firefighter II
Mike Hoover:	Firefighter I
Brad Horlick:	Fire Inspector I
Tubba Hunt:	Firefighter I, DOH Special Vehicle Rescue
Connor Mack:	PSFA Suppression Instructor Development
Cory McLaughlin:	Fire Services Instructor I
Joseph Michel:	Firefighter I
Mathew Nicolai:	Firefighter I, Proboard Hazmat Awareness, Proboard Hazmat Operations
Artie Osniak:	Proboard Hazmat Awareness, DOH Special Vehicle Rescue
Anthony Saracoglu:	DOH Basic Vehicle Rescue Tech
Spencer Shea:	PSFA Structure II
Chris Snedeker:	PSFA Suppression Instructor Development
John Walter	Proboard Hazmat Awareness, Proboard Hazmat Operations with all mission specifics, DOH Special Vehicle Rescue

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Conducted “real-life” scenario training utilizing the Public Safety Training Facility.
- Successfully responded to all emergency call requests within and beyond the township.
- Utilized grant funding to offset equipment costs for the anticipated engine 21-3.
- Placed UTV 21 in service with the support of the Firehouse Subs grant.
- Completed small vehicle replacement plan, resulting in 5 pickup-style vehicles placed into service



2025 GOALS

- Improve stipend staffing program performance beyond historical trends.
- Innovate recruitment and retention strategies.
- Develop staff and prepare them for leadership roles within the CTVFC.
- Increase home responder participation for station-based responses.
- Replace our 1989 reserve engine.
- Secure additional grant funding and prepare for the delivery of Rescue 21.
- Complete the upfit of UTV 21 using grant funding.
- Replace our Fire Police 21-3 vehicle.





CLOSING REMARKS

The Board of Directors and Brigade Officers remain committed to advancing the organization in a dynamic environment. As the landscape of firefighting evolves, we continue to adapt by monitoring national trends and implementing proven strategies from other successful organizations. CTVFC's visionary members from the 1980s, who navigated uncharted waters with foresight and determination, laid the foundation for our current success. Their legacy inspires us to uphold and build upon their achievements. We extend our deepest gratitude to the community for their steadfast support throughout 2024. Your trust and collaboration empower us to fulfill our mission. Together, we build a safer and stronger Cranberry Township.



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

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Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Scott Garing, Fire & Emergency Services Chief