



Montgomery
Township

2022 & 2023



ANNUAL REPORT

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www.fdmr.org
www.montgomerytwp.org

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INTRODUCTION

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://WWW.FDMT.ORG](https://www.fdmtd.org)



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/FDMT18>



CONNECT WITH US ON INSTAGRAM:
<https://www.instagram.com/fdmtd18?igsh=MW94OGprdDUweGRmMA==>



With the conclusion of 2023, the FDMT and DFS have been proudly serving the community since opening in **2002**. In total, the fire department responded to **763** incidents in **2022** and **789** incidents in **2023**. The fire department's responsibilities include responding to emergencies related to fires, rescues, EMS incidents, and hazardous material incidents. The department engages in community risk reduction activities, maintains operational readiness, emergency management, and creates a culture of fire safety in Montgomery Township.

Montgomery Township, Pennsylvania has a combination fire department which is made up of two cohesive components. The first being the **Department of Fire Services (DFS)** which includes career staffing. The second component are the volunteers of the **Fire Department of Montgomery Township**, which operate under the **DFS**. The department provides fire services **24** hours a day, **7** days a week, **365** days a year.



Here are three of our DFS staff at the Bucks C.C.C. earning their Department of Public Safety Training and Certificate. More posts and updates on our department can be found on our **Facebook page!** (Anthony Rubas on the left, Eoghan Lowry in the middle, and Jake Weltman on the right)

86% of total responses were related to fire incidents in 2023.



A Message from the Fire Chief

Fire Chief William Wiegman



We experienced great growth and redevelopment in our department over 2022 and 2023. I am extremely proud of our people and our development into a premier combination fire department. We grew our career staffing and promoted a Career Captain and Assistant Chief. We increased our visibility in the public by focusing on community engagement and fostering a culture of fire safety amongst residents and businesses. We expanded our fire inspection efforts and engaged in community risk reduction activities across all demographics. We solidified our roles in Emergency Management and developed a Township Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) that focuses on the sustainability of emergency and governmental services during a disaster. We created new programs including Technical Rescue, Drone, and Quick Response Service. We improved the capabilities of our fire investigation unit and transitioned to a new Fire Record Management System for data collection, inspections, and reporting. We also took delivery of Tower 18 featuring our new logo and color scheme of grey over red.

We are so very fortunate to have a department comprised of volunteer and career members who believe in service to our community above all else. The diversity in our department's membership is the foundation of our strength as a combination fire company. The members of our department are committed to continually training and developing to meet the challenges of responding to incidents in the ever-growing all-hazards environment. We have accomplished so much over the last two years, and I am looking forward to our continued growth and success in the years to come. I would like to especially thank the members of our Department, the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors, Township Manager Carolyn McCreary, and the residents and businesses in Montgomery Township for their continued support of our department's mission to serve the residents, merchants, and businesses of Montgomery Township with excellence.



JOIN US

FDMT is a volunteer non-profit organization, and we are always looking for dedicated members who are ready to learn. We will help you every step of the way!

If you are interested in helping our department serve and protect our community, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below for more information.



Interview with a Volunteer

What would you say to someone looking to join FDMT as a volunteer?

"If you have even a little bit of interest, just come out... Our department is very welcoming and provides you with the proper training and equipment, so you don't have to pay out of pocket. You come in, we take care of you, we train you, and as soon as you get through fire school, you just grow."

-Captain Rachel Gibson

Volunteer Firefighters make up about 75% of total Firefighters in our department. They are crucial to our ability to act fast and provide necessary services and relief during a crisis.



Incentives

1. Local and County Tax Rebate Program
2. Membership to the Montgomery Township Community Rec Center (CRC)
3. Pay for call and training under SAFER Grant
4. Free training
5. Free uniforms and turnout gear
6. Overnight Duty Program
7. Membership events
8. Health and Wellness Program



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS



**DEPUTY
CHIEF**
VINAY SETTY

Vinay began his fire service at the age of 16 in 1998. His interest began when he saw a booth marketing that the firehouse was looking for volunteers while walking around the Montgomery Mall. He has previously run with Colmar Fire Company and Wissahickon Fire Company and came back to The Fire Department of Montgomery Township in June of 2005. Vinay has completed multiple firefighting certifications ranging from Firefighter 1 & 2, Fire Instructor 1 & 2, Fire Officer 1, Special Vehicle Rescue Technician, and Vehicle Technical Rescuer Levels 1 & 2. Vinay Setty feels that his greatest accomplishment while running with FDMT has been rising to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief. From 2005 to now, he has held the title of Officer, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief, and now Deputy Chief. His extensive education and training have allowed him to gain a deep understanding of what he needs to do to get the job done. As Deputy Chief, Vinay serves as the liaison between the Chief and the volunteers. He acts as the Training Officer and the second highest operational chief officer. He lists honesty, empathy, integrity, and dedication as the most important traits that a firefighter must possess. His advice to any aspiring firefighters is to not be afraid to ask questions and put yourself out there. "Being open to making new friends [is important], you know? You'll learn so much, and you'll be able to build friendships with a lot of people that will last years."



**ASSISTANT
CHIEF 18-1
& PRESIDENT**
**ADAM
ZWISLEWSKI**

Adam started volunteering with Edgely Fire Department when he was 16 years old and stayed for about seven years. In his early career, he worked as a flight nurse on a medical helicopter; a position that lasted 20 years. After moving to Montgomery Township in 2015, he immediately joined the FDMT. Within six months, he was appointed lieutenant, a position he held for a year and a half. Then he became Battalion Chief. In 2024, he was appointed Assistant Chief. He also has held the position of President since January 1st of 2023. As Assistant Chief, his responsibilities consist of personnel management and emergency response management. This includes organizing and managing the schedule for the volunteer stipends. As President, Adam maintains the department's budget, ensuring all of the rules and regulations are followed properly. He is also responsible for all committee work within the department. Most recently in 2023, he worked alongside Bill Wiegman to develop a retention and recruitment committee. This committee focuses on a multitude of ways to reward our members and to continue to get our name out into our community. He takes pride in our members. When asked how he would describe the work environment, he said: "I really wouldn't refer to it as a work environment because it is very family oriented. You spend a lot of time here with these people and they're truly brothers and sisters and for the older people they are kind of like your grandparents and the younger ones are kind of like your kids. We are a close-knit bunch".



CAPTAIN
**RACHEL
GIBSON**

Rachel Gibson joined as a junior firefighter in March of 2014. Her father, uncle, and cousin were all volunteering here at the time, so she would frequently visit the firehouse. She always knew that she wanted to help people but didn't know how to harness that passion until she was introduced to firefighting. She was intimidated at first, as she was one of two women, but she quickly realized that FDMT is just "a very big family vibe because we spend so much time together." She has served as a past President of FDMT, and her current duties as Captain 18-2 are to run Battalion 2, manage the crews, ensure the station is ready and tidy. Family is what drew her most to the FDMT. "Everyone taught me something different, and everyone has their own skills which is what makes the department whole. You will learn so much from just sitting around the table and listening to people." Since she joined the fire service, she has obtained Firefighter 1 & 2, Instructor 1, VRO, NFPA 1006 General Rescue Requirements Core, Decision Making for Initial Company Officer, Truck/Engine Company Operations and more. When asked what her greatest accomplishment and proudest moment while volunteering for FDMT, she said that she is most proud of becoming a part of leadership as a female. She was the first female president of the department, and now holds the title of Captain. She is looking forward to hopefully continuing to climb up the leadership ladder.



Budget for 2022-2023

Fundraisers

Fundraisers	2022	2023
Residential Mailer	\$36,000	\$42,000
Business Mailer	\$13,000	\$11,000
Car Wash	\$2,000	\$2,000



Grants



- **2022 OSFC Grant for High Pressure Lifting Bags**
 - \$15,000 DFS
 - \$15,000 FDMT
- **2022 SAFER Grant**
 - \$193,000 for Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers
- **2022 FEMA COVID-19 Grant**
 - \$61,947.83
- **2022 FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant**
 - \$79,000 for Smoke and CO Alarms and Residential Fire Safety Checks
- **2023 OSFC for Rope Rescue Equipment and TOG**
 - \$16,951.99 DFS
 - \$16,951.99 DFS
- **2023 Montgomery Township Fire Dept. COVID Recovery Grant**
 - \$26,622

2022 DFS

Revenues: \$1,614,725



Expenditures: \$1,427,772

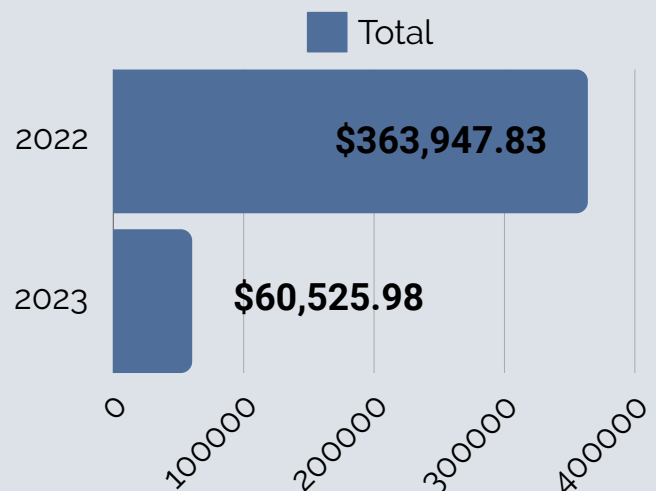
2023 DFS

Revenues: \$1,643,475



Expenditures: \$1,534,947

Grant Summary Data for 2022 & 2023



Mission

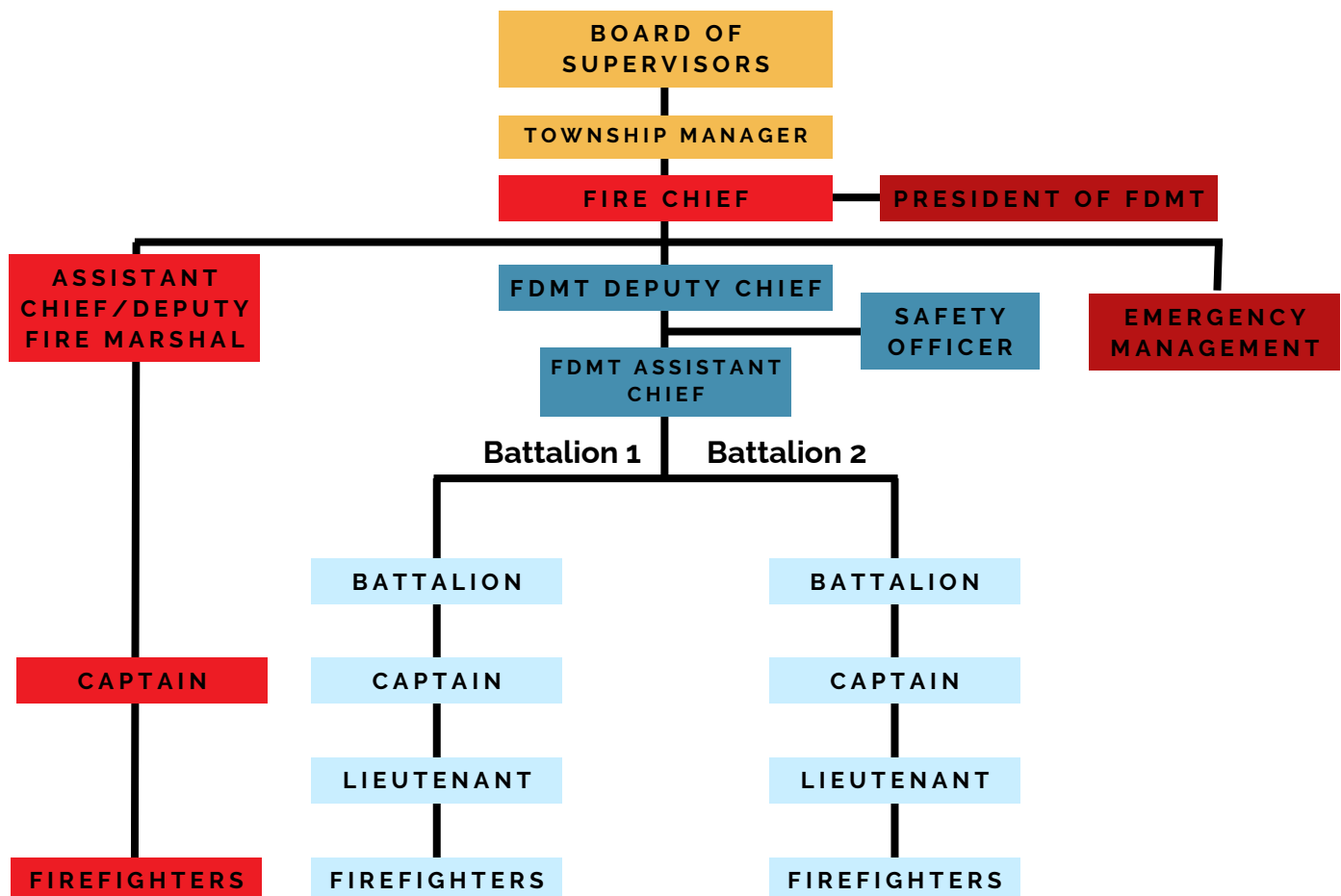
The **Mission** of the department is to serve the residents, merchants, and businesses of the Township with excellence. The department provides the Township with emergency services twenty-four hours a day, responding to all types of emergencies to provide fire suppression, fire prevention, and public safety education with a "customer first" philosophy. The department takes pride in providing a total systems approach to serve the community along with other agencies within the Township government.

MISSION & RESPONSIBILITIES

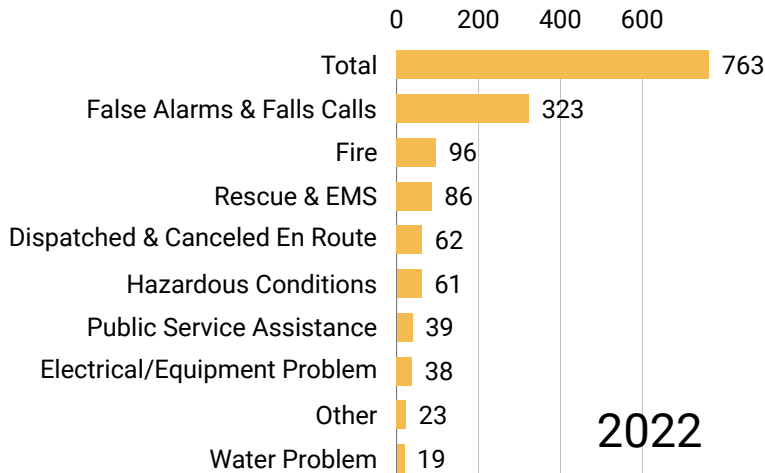
What we do:

- Respond to emergencies including but not limited to fires, rescues, medical incidents, and hazmats.
- Community Risk Reduction activities including fire inspections, pre-planning, fire prevention, and fire safety education.
- Maintain operational readiness as a combination fire department in an all-hazards environment.
- Emergency Management & Disaster Recovery.
- Creating a culture of fire safety in Montgomery Township.
- Origin and Cause Investigations.

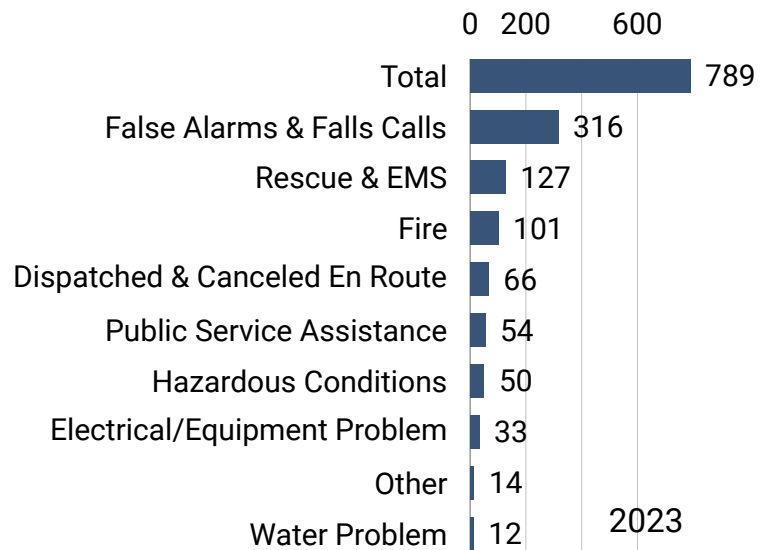
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



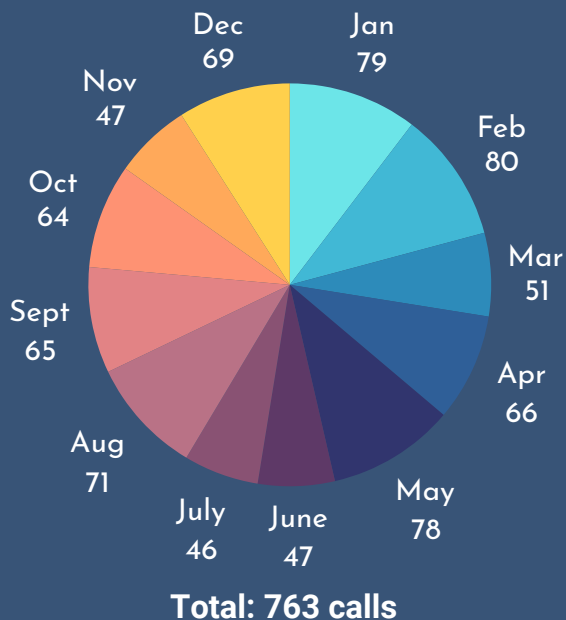
INCIDENT SUMMARY / CALL DATA



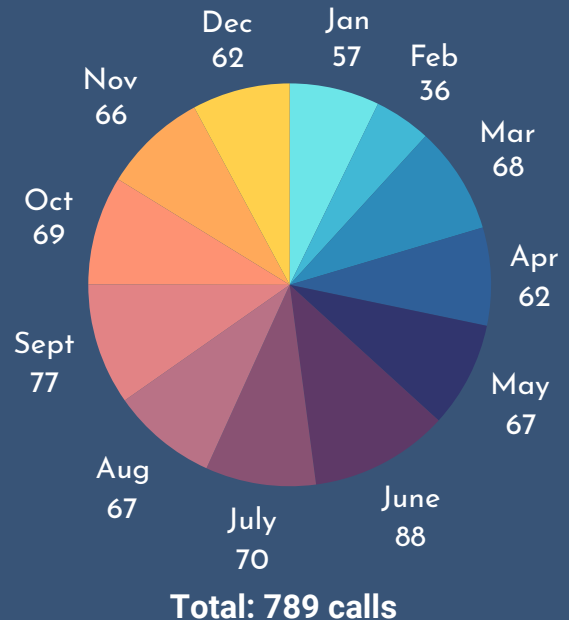
The department responded to 763 calls in 2022 and 789 calls in 2023. The statistics included in this summary report are derived from our firehouse software Data Entry Program, and they include every call from both 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the department had an average of 10 responders per call for service.



Calls by Month 2022



Calls by Month 2023



GOALS & INITIATIVES

The fire department has set a list of goals for the 2024 fiscal year. Along with these goals, the addition of a strategy section has been added to display how we plan to achieve our goals.

Goals

- 1 Plan for the sustainability of governmental and Emergency Services.
- 2 Increase Community Education, Fire Prevention, Emergency Management, and Service Delivery.
- 3 Provide a robust all-hazards training program for staff.
- 4 Engage with all stakeholders to increase the Department's visibility and operations within the Community and Region.
- 5 Ensure quality insurance and fidelity with all service provided.

Strategies

- 1 Continue to exercise and evaluate the COOP and perform a community wide risk assessment.
- 2 Continue to engage in community risk reduction activities across all demographics.
- 3 Continue to provide a robust training program for career and volunteer staffing.
- 4 Provide opportunities for community and regional engagement focused on fire safety and emergency preparedness.
- 5 Continually monitor and evaluate programs and services provided by the department.



APPARATUS



Tower 18



Engine 18



Squad 18-1



Squad 18



Utility 18



Traffic 18



Special Service 18



Chief's Vehicle

OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

2022

Fire Chief	William Wiegman
Deputy Fire Chief	Vince Zirpoli
Assistant Chief 18	Vinay Setty
Assistant Chief 18-1	John Scheiter
Battalion Chief 18	Adam Zwislewski
Captain 18	Andrew Backlund
Captain 18-1	Rachel Gibson
Lieutenant 18	Michael Shinton
Lieutenant 18-1	Andrew Weiner
Lieutenant 18-2	Mike Kunzig
Lieutenant 18-3	Jacob Millevoi
Lieutenant 18-4	Frank Blusiewicz Jr.
Safety 18 ISO	Steve Splendido
Safety 18-1 HSO	Austin Nedwick
Captain FP 18-1	William Adams
Lieutenant FP 18-2	Bill Tuttle
Lieutenant FP 18-3	Lee Morano

FDMT	
President	Rachel Gibson
Vice President	Frank Blusiewicz Jr.
Treasurer	Lee Morano
Secretary	Danae Tucker
Financial Secretary	Bill Tuttle

FDMT RA	
President	Paul Mogensen
Vice President	Vinay Setty
Treasurer	Joel Silver
Secretary	Bill Tuttle

2023

Fire Chief	William Wiegman
Deputy Fire Chief	Vince Zirpoli
Assistant Chief 18	John Scheiter
Assistant Chief 18-1	Vinay Setty
Battalion Chief 18	Adam Zwislewski
Captain 18	Andrew Backlund
Captain 18-1	Andrew Weiner
Captain 18-2	Rachel Gibson
Lieutenant 18-2	Frank Blusiewicz Jr.
Lieutenant 18-3	Mike Kunzig
Safety 18 ISO	Steve Splendido
Safety 18-1 HSO	Rachel Troutman
Captain FP 18-1	Lee Morano
Lieutenant FP 18-2	Bill Tuttle
Lieutenant FP 18-3	William Adams

FDMT	
President	Adam Zwislewski
Vice President	Brandon Uzdzienski
Treasurer	Lee Morano
Secretary	Danae Tucker
Financial Secretary	Bill Tuttle

FDMT RA	
President	Paul Mogensen
Vice President	Carl Herr
Treasurer	Joel Silver
Secretary	Bill Tuttle



FIRE PREVENTION

OVERVIEW

The fire department is always prepared to provide fire protection and related services to the Township, but preventative measures are prioritized to stop fires before they start. This is why we have developed and implemented a comprehensive fire prevention program. Our main goal is to stop fires before they begin by providing information to citizens and businesses that help them reduce risk. Arming our citizens with the necessary fire prevention knowledge is crucial to mitigating or preventing the loss of property and even life.

The department reaches out to the community annually in October during the recognized Fire Prevention Week. Several activities are conducted throughout the week in township schools, daycare facilities, healthcare facilities, and hotels.

Year round, the department is committed to fire prevention through educational outreach, life safety fire inspections at every site visit, and more. The department also provides a residential smoke alarm program that provides smoke alarms and battery changes.

INSPECTIONS

In accordance with the International Fire Code, our career firefighters (DFS) conduct inspections of the existing business properties throughout the township. These inspections happen on a rotating basis in order to keep the business owners, employees, customers, and the general public safe while simultaneously providing our DFS firefighters with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the facility in case of future fire emergencies.

2022 Inspection Total: **1079**

2023 Inspection Total: **1047**

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 theme for Fire Prevention Week was "Cooking Safety Starts with You. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention." Due to the weather conditions, the Autumn Festival was canceled, but this didn't stop Montgomery Township's Fire Department from going to schools, daycares and assisted living communities to spread the word on fire prevention to help keep our township safe and fire free.



FIRE PREVENTION



2022 Fire Prevention School Activities/Statistic Report

Name Of School Facility	Showing of Fire Apparatus	Emergency Evacuation Drill	Fire Safety Talk	Staff Training
Bridle Path Elementary	72	543	72	0
Celebree School	42	52	42	0
Children of America	70	0	85	0
Childtime Childcare	77	90	77	0
Goddard School	91	91	91	0
Kiddie Academy	46	40	40	13
Lightbridge Academy	30	30	30	0
Malvern School	42	67	67	15
M.M.R.	75	465	75	0
J's Lincoln Logs Daycare	8	0	8	2
Montgomery Elementary	200	200	200	0
TOTAL	753	1578	787	30
2022 Fire Prevention Public Training				
Hudson Estates	0	52	0	0
Montgomery Adult Living	0	36	0	0
Park Creek Place (Front)	0	0	0	0
Park Creek Place (Rear)	0	46	0	0
Pro Medica Skilled Nursing	0	150	0	0
TOTAL	0	284	0	0

2023 Fire Prevention School Activities/Statistic Report

Name Of School Facility	Showing of Fire Apparatus	Emergency Evacuation Drill	Fire Safety Talk	Staff Training
Bridle Path Elementary	80	550	50	0
Celebree School	45	55	45	0
Children of America	70	0	70	0
Childtime Childcare	78	90	77	0
Goddard School	93	93	93	0
Kiddie Academy	49	42	42	13
Lightbridge Academy	32	32	32	0
Malvern School	45	70	70	15
M.M.R.	100	476	100	0
J's Lincoln Logs Daycare	8	0	8	2
Montgomery Elementary	200	200	200	0
TOTAL	800	1607	787	30
2023 Fire Prevention Public Training				
Hudson Estates	0	60	0	0
Montgomery Adult Living	0	38	0	0
Park Creek Place (Front)	0	0	0	0
Park Creek Place (Rear)	0	50	0	0
Pro Medica Skilled Nursing	0	150	0	0
TOTAL	0	298	0	0





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

What is COOP?

The vision for COOP is a more resilient nation through whole community integration of continuity plans and programs to sustain essential functions under all conditions.

The goal is to have organized steps in place in the event of an emergency where action is required.

An example of continuity of government emergency action steps would be shutting down nonessential government operations or scripting announcements and periodic review and updates during an emergency.

Ensuring we have action steps and necessary emergency resources will minimize damage and initiate recovery as quickly as possible.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP)

IDENTIFY ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Conduct a risk assessment.
- Conduct a business process analysis.
- Conduct a business impact analysis.
- Identify and prioritize essential functions.

IDENTIFY MITIGATION OPTIONS

- Alternative locations
- Telework
- Devolution
- Mutual aid agreements

IDENTIFY KEY ELEMENTS

- People
- Human Resources
- Orders of Succession
- Delegations of Authority
- Essential Records
- Communications
- Critical Systems

PLAN AND IMPLEMENT OPTIONS & ELEMENTS

- Phase 1: Readiness & Preparedness
- Phase 2: Activation
- Phase 3: Operations
- Phase 4: Reconstruction

MAINTAINING A CAPABILITY

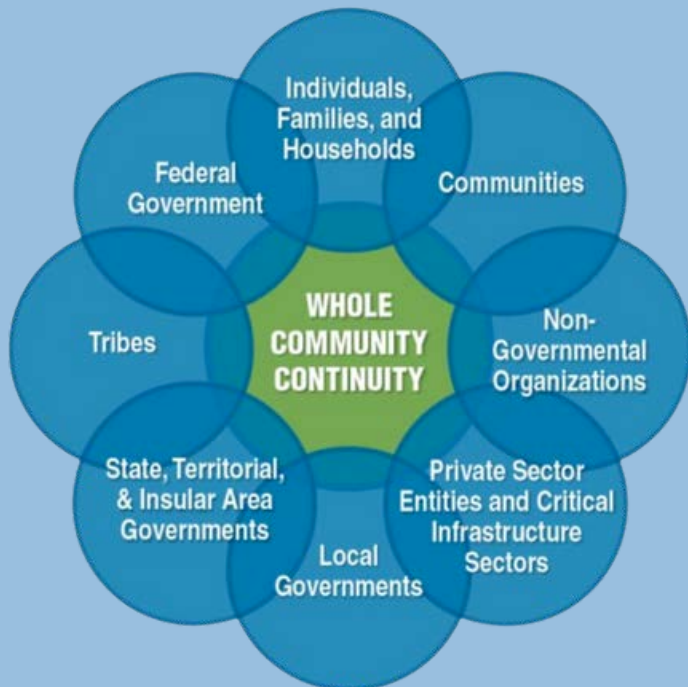
- Testing, Training, and Exercising
- Continuous Improvement Planning
- Updating and Reviewing Plans and Programs
- Resource Direction and Investment
- Multi-Year Strategic Planning



Mission Statement

The Montgomery Township COOP's objective is to establish guidelines for managing disaster recovery and to ensure the sustainability of local government and essential township services during an emergency. The COOP provides a foundation and guidelines for the Township to engage in the recovery of local government and essential functions during an emergency while still providing critical services to citizens, residents, and businesses.

The essential functions of Montgomery Township include public safety, law enforcement, fire and rescue services, public works, internet and technology, finance, human resources, emergency management, and township administration. These functions cannot be left out of service without causing a serious disruption to the recovery and sustainability of the Township. The recovery of these functions needs to be prioritized to achieve governmental resolve and to provide critical services to the Township.



Township COOP

December 3, 2023

Montgomery Township
Emergency Management
Tabletop Exercise



Scope & Purpose

The scope and purpose of the COOP plan are to ensure the safety and security of township staff and assets as well as the sustainability of township government and essential services. The plan's goal is to provide guidance and direction to Township Staff for readiness, preparation, activation, and recovery during an emergency that impacts or threatens the operations of township government and services. The COOP will assist Township Staff in planning, operating, and recovering from an incident.

Key Focuses

1. Safety and Security of Township Staff
2. Sustainability of Government and Essential Services
3. Resiliency of Township Departments
4. Restoration of Township Critical Infrastructure

Successes

- Identification of essential functions of township government and risks and needs of government sustainability.
- Successful completion of COOP tabletop exercise.
- Emergency management digital radio upgrade project.
- Township employee and mass communication plans.
- Staff Training in Emergency Management.



TRAINING

Summary

Training provides our firefighters with all fire related competencies needed to perform the essential daily operations of the department. Each member of the department is required to be in compliance with the regulations set by the department, which mandates that all active firefighters consistently attend departmental training sessions to ensure they are proficient in all aspects of the job. There are a number of training opportunities available throughout the calendar year.

Responsibilities

The Department Training Officers are responsible for coming up with the training schedule featuring a variety of sessions encompassing all relevant fire, rescue, HAZMAT, EMS, and human resource needs of the department. Our Fire Department has a partnership with Bucks County Community College at their Public Safety Training Center. We provide our volunteers with a free training membership plan, and this partnership brings 200 hours of training classes to the firehouse in addition to two national certification classes. These classes are offered to the department at a nominal fee that is allocated yearly in the F.D.M.T. Relief Budget.

The members of the department are committed to providing their services to protect and serve our community. The need for ongoing training is crucial to maintain and refresh education, as well as to teach our staff new and standardized information. The department provides a robust all hazards annual training program that is provided by several outside agencies as well as in house training drills.



We pride ourselves on our arrival time, which averaged at 0h:5m:43s in 2023. Training allows us to provide the best response to our community members in need.

Statistics

Overall, during 2022, the department had a total of **8,240** staff training hours. During 2023, the department had a total of **8,415** staff training hours.

Training Session Types

The training sessions include but are not limited to:

- Company Training
- New Member/Recruit
- Emergency Management
- Fire Police
- Firefighting
- Rescue
- Officer & Leadership
- Hazardous Materials
- Driver Operator
- Fire Investigation
- Fire Inspection & Codes



Arrival time averaged at 0h:7m:47s in 2023. The National Fire Protection Association recommends an average response time of 10 minutes.



Fire Police



Mission Statement

Special Fire Police Officers of the Fire Department of Montgomery Township will, in an emergency, or as directed by proper authority, perform crowd and traffic control and security functions. Above all, like all other fire company members, their job is to protect and preserve life and property.

The **Montgomery Township Special Fire Police** are highly trained officers who specialize in providing effective **traffic** and **crowd control** to maintain a **safe** environment during an incident. F.D.M.T. Fire Police provide the following services:

- Traffic and crowd control for emergency responders when the fire department is dispatched.
- When called upon by the Montgomery Township Police Department to assist with a traffic control or other roadway incidents.
- For any other type of special services that are either in the township or in a neighboring township.

Special Fire Police Officers are routinely involved in continued education during each year. They assist with traffic and crowd control at various events throughout the region.

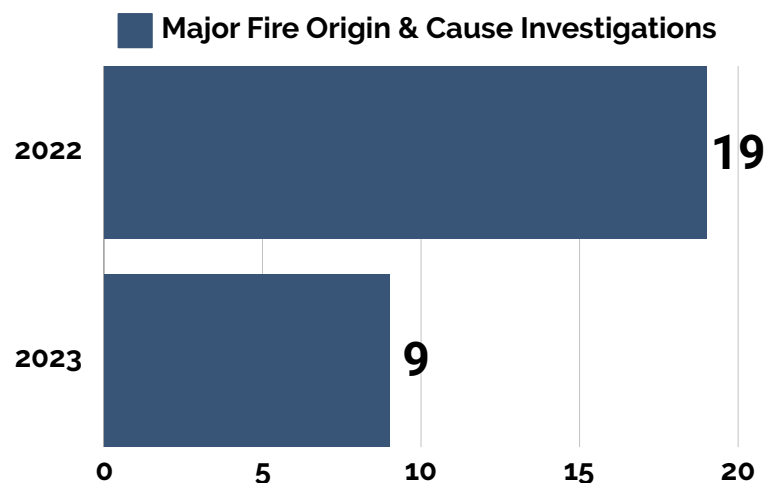
Fire Marshal



Origin and Cause Investigations

Any and all fires that occur in the township are investigated by the Fire Marshal to determine origin and cause. The Fire Marshal and the assigned Assistant Fire Marshals provide investigative coverage twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week.

The members of the Department's investigation team have achieved their National ProBoard Certification in Fire Investigation. Team members engage in continuing education throughout the year for origin and cause investigation. The team also has specialized equipment for the investigation.





Thank You!