



2016

Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report



James Van Goor, Chief

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“Every community should have its own plan for fire protection, as “each community has a set of conditions unique to itself, and a system of fire protection that works well for one community cannot be assumed to work equally as well for other communities. To be adequate, the fire protection system must respond to local conditions, especially to changing conditions and community needs” (Bland, 1973).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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FORMAT AND LAYOUT:

Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU:

Sr. Fire Prevention Officer/Fire Official John Young
Dolores Tomei, Bureau Administrative Secretary

PRINTING:

Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant

FIRE NARRATIVES:

Captain Duflocq
Captain Schmidt
Captain Hillerman

PICTURES

Boyd Loving, Village Resident



DEFINITION OF TERMS

CO - Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. It is toxic to humans when encountered in concentrations above about 35 parts per million.

Elevated Alarms:

- Second Alarm - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.
- Third Alarm - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters and off-duty Specific Professional Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.
- General Alarm - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters and all off-duty Professional Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.

Fast Team - Firefighter assist and search team (FAST), also known as a rapid intervention team/crew (RIT/RIC), is a team of two or more firefighters dedicated solely to the search and rescue of other firefighters in distress. FAST shall have no other operational assignment during an incident. Multiple alarm fires may require multiple FAST/RIC teams.

Jaws of Life - Hydraulic rescue tools are used by emergency rescue personnel to assist vehicle extrication of crash victims, as well as other rescues from small spaces. These tools include cutters, spreaders, door busters and rams.

PPE - Personal Protective Equipment refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.

Response Time - The amount of time it takes to get from units being dispatched to the location of the emergency.

SCBA - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus sometimes referred to as a compressed air breathing apparatus or simply breathing apparatus, is a device worn by rescue workers, firefighters, and others to provide breathable air in an "Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health" atmosphere.

T.I.C. - Thermal Imaging Camera is a type of thermographic camera used in firefighting. By rendering infrared radiation as visible light, such cameras allow firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers. Thermal imaging cameras are typically handheld, but may be helmet-mounted. They are constructed using heat- and water-resistant housings, and ruggedized to withstand the hazards of fire ground operations.

Uniform Construction Code - A complete set of technical standards for construction with a uniform method of administration and enforcement.

Uniform Fire Code - Ensures that all areas of the State are protected by a uniform, minimum fire safety code so that the lives and property of the State's citizens are guarded against the hazards presented by fire.

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

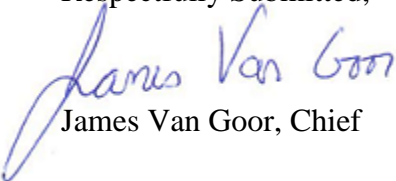
On behalf of the members of the Ridgewood Fire Department, I am pleased to present you with the 2016 Annual Report. This report provides a summary of the department's activities from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. In this report, you will learn about the personnel, facilities, equipment, and programs that serve you and our residents. You will also learn how we deliver this vital service through Fire Prevention, Public Education, and Emergency Response. You will see how the firefighters are continually focused on improvements, implementing best practices, and developing performance enhancements in all areas of our department.

The Fire Department is a proactive organization staffed with 41 professional firefighters, dedicated to the delivery of service to the citizens and visitors of Ridgewood. In 2016, the fire department responded to 2,321 emergency calls and conducted 3,432 fire prevention inspections. The emergency responses ranged from minor calls to life threatening situations. We also held classes on leadership, fire inspector certification, firefighting, emergency medical technician courses, and Mel Safety training.

The Ridgewood Fire Department, through its highly trained and dedicated employees, strives to deliver the highest quality fire protection and emergency medical services in the most cost effective manner with the utmost regard for the safety of its citizens, visitors and employees. We strive to make our partnership with the Village of Ridgewood stronger and will never take for granted the support we receive from our community.

On behalf of all the Firefighters and Administrative Staff of the Ridgewood Fire Department, I would like to thank you, the Village Council, and the residents of Ridgewood for their continued support. I want to also thank all of the different departments in town for their prompt and professional assistance given to this department. Without their support we would not be able to carry out our mission.

Respectfully Submitted,



James Van Goor, Chief

INTRODUCTION

Organized fire protection began in the Village of Ridgewood in 1897 with the formation of the Protection Hook and Ladder Co. #1. Much has happened since that time and the history of the fire department has gone from the Bucket Brigade to automated master streams.

Today's firefighters are called upon to do much more than put out fires. Our fire department is skilled at handling a variety of emergency situations and is called upon to respond to motor vehicle accidents, hazardous spills, downed wires, and medical emergencies to name a few. A number of minor emergencies are handled by the department daily as well. Some of these include pumping flooded basements for residents, responding to activations of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, ring removals, resident lock-outs, child lock-ins, and electrical problems. The department also has a Rescue Dive Team to handle ice and water rescues.

Monday thru Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. the fire department responds to all medical emergencies in conjunction with the Ambulance Corps and is a first responder to all ALS calls 24/7. Having a fire engine and ambulance respond simultaneously ensures that medical assistance reaches the scene within 3-4 minutes.

The basic organizational structure of the department consists of an administrative component, a fire and emergency response component, and a Fire Prevention component. The administrative component is comprised of a Chief and an Administrative Assistant. The normal work schedule is 35 hours per week with the Chief Officer on call 24 hours per day.

The fire and emergency response component is made up of both professional and volunteer Firefighters. The professional firefighters are grouped into three platoons of 13 and provide the primary response to fires and emergencies 24/7. Each platoon is comprised of (1) Captain, (2) Lieutenants, and (10) Firefighters, and maintains a minimum of nine (9) personnel on duty. The platoons work schedule is based on a 56 hour per week work schedule. The volunteer personnel are a support group for the department and are called out whenever there are working fires, during the times of storms or for multiple responses.

The Fire Prevention component is comprised of (1) Fire Official, (2) Part-Time Fire Inspectors, and (1) Administrative Secretary. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for inspections under the Uniform Construction Code and the Uniform Fire Code. All Fire Prevention activities and Public Fire Safety Education programs are scheduled through the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Fire Department members are expected to perform all of the duties associated with responding to fires and emergencies. Such duties include incident management, personnel accountability, establishing a water supply, hose deployment, forcible entry, search and rescue, ladder placement, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, and any other activities required to safely complete an operation.

To ensure the safety of personnel and the highest level of service to the community, a training schedule has been established to ensure that all components of fire suppression and emergency operations are covered in a comprehensive manner.

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

The Ridgewood Fire Department protects the lives and property of all Village residents and visitors. The department is entrusted to the prevention and suppression of fire, emergency medical calls, disasters, public safety, education and enforcement.

Vision Statement

The Ridgewood Fire Department will be a progressive, modern department that will maintain high levels of service ensuring responsible use of the resources, and focus on the professional development and training of all personnel.

The Ridgewood Fire Department serves the community by performing the following essential services:

Fire Suppression – Building, Vehicle, Brush, Electrical, etc.

Water Calls / Floods/ Broken pipes/ Basement pump outs

Lock out / Lock-in (house & car)

Storm Emergencies / Wires down / Tree Limb Removal

First Responder/ EMT

Confined Space Rescue

Dive Team / Swift Water Rescue

Hazardous Material Response

Vehicle Extrication

Auto-accidents / Spill Cleanups / Battery Disconnects

Building Collapse/Entrapments

Electrical Emergencies

Chemical Spills / Leaks

Carbon Monoxide

Elevator Rescue

Utility Emergencies

Gas Leaks (Natural Gas or LPG)

Rope Rescue / High and Low Angle

Fire Prevention Services:

Building inspections

Code enforcement

Plan review

Public fire safety education

THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

MAYOR AND COUNCIL 2016

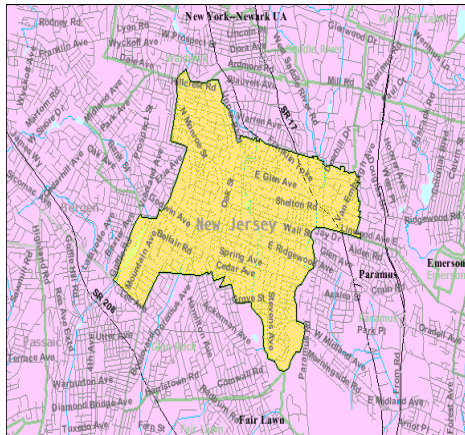
Mayor Susan Knudsen

Deputy Mayor Michael Sedon Councilman Ramon Hache

Councilman Jeff Voigt Councilwoman Bernadette Walsh

To Ridgewood's Mayor and Council, I extend my thanks and gratitude along with that of all our personnel for your support and valued service. I know firsthand of the long hours and hard work you put in to make Ridgewood a great place to live and work. We also want to thank Mayor Paul Aronsohn, Deputy Mayor Albert Pucciarelli, and Councilwoman Gwenn Hauck as you leave office. We know you will continue to support Ridgewood in other ways.

THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD



The Village of Ridgewood is located in Bergen County, New Jersey. It is primarily a residential community with a thriving business district. The district contains over 1,100 businesses including one major lumberyard, three major grocery chain stores, thirty-five restaurants, a four-screen movie theater, twenty houses of worship, twenty-five schools, a large natural pool, and a YMCA/YWCA facility. In addition to the almost 9,000 single-family homes, the community has sixty-eight apartment complexes with over 1,090 apartments, a regional medical center that has 451 beds, two nursing homes, and two senior citizen apartment complexes. We have a population density of 4,308

residents per square mile, and an overall population of 25,496 within a 5.79 square mile land area. The population density is significantly higher than the Bergen County average of 3,775.

PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

The Ridgewood Fire Department is proud to announce that in 2012, we earned the Village a higher Public Protection Classification (PPC). ***Ridgewood was upgraded to a Class 2 Public Protection Classification (PPC) from a Class 3.*** Insurance Service Organization (ISO) assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) from 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest and 10 being the lowest rating. By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, Insurance Service Organization (ISO) helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training.

Insurance Service Organization (ISO) collects information on municipal fire-protection in communities throughout the United States. The information is used by insurance companies to establish fair premiums on fire insurance for homeowners and commercial properties. ISO evaluated 47,242 communities countrywide, only 592 are rated as Class 2 and 61 received a Class 1. Out of 688 communities in New Jersey, only 18 communities received a Class 2, and 3 communities received a Class 1 rating. This accomplishment has placed the Ridgewood Fire Department as one of the top twenty one (21) Fire Departments in New Jersey.

A community's investment in fire protection is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Statistical data on insurance losses proves that there is a relationship between excellent fire protection and low fire losses. Not only does a lower classification reduce the insurance rate for homeowners and businesses, it also justifies the investment that the Village has put into fire protection. Having a Class 2 fire department should give the residents a feeling of security and a greater peace of mind.



5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

A 5-year strategic plan was developed in 2014 to provide the Ridgewood Fire Department with valuable information concerning goal development as well as the positive and negative aspects of the overall organization. One component of the process included evaluating the past and present culture, programs, and services of the department. The initial part of the strategic planning was spent identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT). Particular attention was given to the current conditions, growth of the community, and demand for services.

The focus was on customer service, continuous improvement, and the safety and welfare of our residents and employees. The Ridgewood Fire Department's Strategic Plan provides a realistic approach that will effectively guide our department for the next five years. The department's goal is to provide emergency and non-emergency services in an effective, fiscally responsible, and compassionate manner. This document serves as a planning tool to direct the current and future activities of the Fire Department in an effort to provide the best possible service to the community for the next five years.

The programs and goals for the next five years are:

- 1-Expand on the current programs/classes to support professional development, leadership training, Firefighting and EMT
- 2-Expand on and improve our emergency medical calls, first responder
- 3-Improve radio communication and equipment
- 4-Increase Fire prevention inspection/pre-fire plans
- 5-Create programs to improve customer service
- 6-Create and improve on Fire Prevention education and outreach programs to children, seniors and the disabled
- 7-Develop a health and wellness program for the personnel

The Ridgewood Fire Department must proactively respond to changes. Today's fire departments are called on to respond to a much wider range of services. The department staff must continually assess the needs of the organization and their ability to continue to improve the level of service. Strategic planning is another tool that will aid the department in accomplishing future goals. The strategic plan is never finished; it will need to be evaluated and updated on a regular basis. Strategic goals will need to be updated to identify accomplishments and to recognize change within the fire department. When evaluating progress towards accomplishing the goals, timelines may need to be adjusted to reflect changes in the department's needs, environment, and resources.

FIRE STATIONS: HISTORY AND LOCATION

Fire Headquarters:

Fire Headquarters is located at 201 E. Glen Avenue. This facility has been operational since June 1, 1992 and serves as quarters for the officers and firefighters of Engine Company No. 35, Tower Company No. 36, and Rescue Company No. 42. The building also houses the Administrative Offices and the Fire Prevention Bureau.

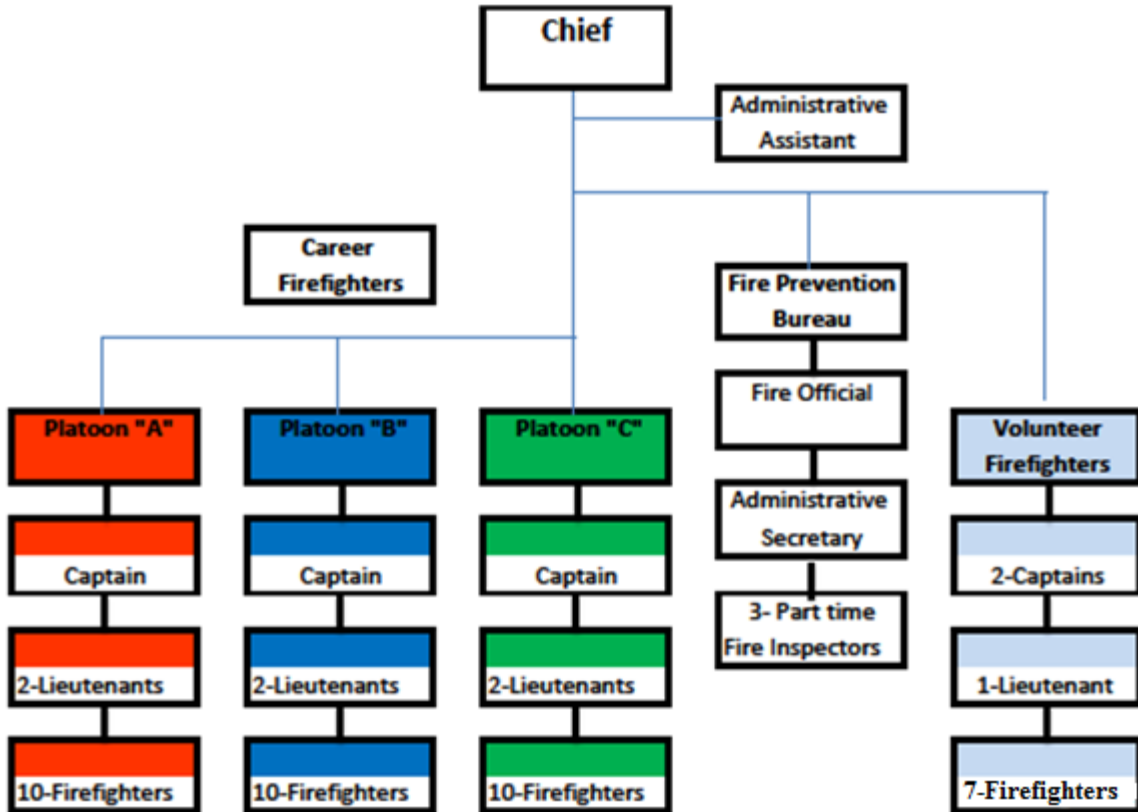


Engine Company 31:

In response to residents' concerns after serious fires in the mid 1940's, and to better serve the West side of town, Engine Company No. 31 was established in 1947. Located at 311 West Glen Avenue, the structure is a renovated barn, which houses an apparatus room, offices, and living quarters for firefighters. There is one Engine Company with a three person crew on duty 24 hours a day. This fire station has served the Village for almost 70 years.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CAREER PERSONNEL

Administration: Chief James Van Goor

Administrative Assistant Patti Herman

Fire Officers:

Captain Chris DuFlocq
Captain Greg Hillerman
Captain Scott Schmidt
Lt. Brendan Corcoran
Lt. John Judge
Lt. Michael Kakolewski
Lt. Joseph Koonce
Lt. Justin O'Connor
Lt. Harvey Weber
Lt./Fire Official John Young

Firefighters:

FF. John Baughman
FF. Matthew Bombace
FF. Tim Bombace
FF. Paul Brennan
FF. Greg Corcoran
FF. Scott Cornell
FF. Anthony Dinice
FF. Chris Eidschun
FF. Joseph Ferraro
FF. Michael Ferraro
FF. Kurt Harba
FF. Jason Jacoby
FF. James Kakolewski
FF. Jason Kane
FF. Dave Kelly
FF. Brian Kelly
FF. Dan Kostro
FF. Vincent Krug
FF. Oscar Martinez
FF. Michael McLaughlin
FF. Matthew Musicant
FF. Brian Peacock
FF. Matthew Ramge
FF. Michael Rohrman
FF. Thomas Shortway
FF. Daniel Steen
FF. Chris Wolfstirn
FF. Hank Vanwageningen
FF. Jordan Zales

Starting in 2010, the “Firefighter of the Year” Award is being dedicated in Memory of FF. Mark Cassidy



“Mark Cassidy Firefighter of the Year” award was presented to Lt. Harvey Weber

Appointments:

Prob. FF Christopher Mead – July 25, 2016

Retirements

Lt. Harvey Weber-December 1, 2016

COMMENDATIONS

CPR Save

On Sunday, April 17th, 2016, Engine 35 self-dispatched to the area of West Saddle River Road and Kingsbridge Lane for a reported man down. Upon arrival, Engine 35 found the police on-scene performing CPR. Engine 35 continued CPR in collaboration with the Ridgewood police and ambulance. Pt. was transported to Valley Hospital and walked out of the hospital shortly thereafter.

The Ridgewood Fire Department would like recognize:

Sr. Firefighter Engineer Paul Brennan

Sr. Firefighter Eng. Michael McLaughlin

Sr. Firefighter Engineer Michael Ferraro

On Tuesday, November 22nd at 5am, Engine 35 was dispatched to a reported unresponsive male party at an east side residence. Upon arrival, Engine 35 worked with the Ridgewood police performing CPR on the individual. Upon the ambulance arrival, care was transferred for transport to the hospital. Thankfully for the efforts of these men, this individual was also able to leave the hospital alive.

The Ridgewood Fire Department would like recognize:

Sr. Firefighter Engineer Michael Ferraro

Firefighter Tim Bombace

Firefighter Matt Musicant

Kings Plaza Fire

On April 26 at 1:40pm all on duty firefighters were dispatched to a working fire at 102 N. Maple ave., Kings Plaza. Kings Plaza is an ordinary constructed strip mall with a common cockloft. This type of construction is notorious for allowing fire to quickly spread from one store to another. Upon arrival in 2 min 31 sec. they found the pizza restaurant fully involved in fire.

From the moment the call came in, every member realized the urgency of the situation and went into double time. Two water supplies were established, two attack lines were put into operation and the ladder truck was set up to the roof. A coordinated forcible entry, ventilation and attack operations were accomplished seamlessly. With the firefighters on duty the fire was quickly brought under control and the fire was contained to one store.

The following individuals received a unit citation award for their performance and professionalism,

Captain Greg Hillerman

FF Hank Van Wageningen

Lt Joe Koonce

FF Chris Wolfstirn

Acing Lt Matt Ramge

FF Greg Corcoran

FF John Baughman

FF Jason Kane

FF Jim Kakolewski

VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL

Fire Officers:

Administrative Capt. Richard Scalione
Capt. Chris Raimondi
Lt. Robert Peacock

Firefighters:

FF. David Azzopardi
FF. Jeffrey Creegan
FF. Trevor Fetkowitz
FF. Dane Knudsen
FF. Dennis Johnson
FF. Anthony Monton
FF. Robin Savage



PERSONNEL TRAINING

Career Personnel

The Members of the Career Department conducted training in 2016 covering the following subjects:

Blood Borne Pathogens	Personal Protective Equipment	Building Construction
Personnel Accountability	Structural Firefighting	Winter Operations
CPR Re-certification	Building Collapse & Safety	Right to Know
Trench Rescue	First Aid	Pre-Fire Planning
Vehicle Firefighting	Engine Company Operations	Ropes & Knots
Driver Training	Rescue Tools	Brush Firefighting
Extrication – Motor Vehicle	Sprinklers & Standpipes	Forcible Entry
Search & Rescue	Portable Fire Extinguishers	Ground Ladders
Aerial Ladder Operations	F.A.S.T. Operations & Equipment	Master Streams
Radio Communications	Advancing Hand Lines	Computer
Ventilation	Report Writing	Self Contained Breathing
Engines & Pumps	Elevator Rescue	Tools & Equipment
Confined Space Rescue	Use, Care & Maintenance of Equip.	Fire Behavior
Operation of Gas Meters	Salvage & Overhaul	Thermal Imaging Camera
Cause & Origin	Water Rescue	Air Tools & Rescue Air Bags
Natural Gas Emergencies	Incident Command System	Decontamination

Volunteer Personnel

The Members of the Volunteer Department conducted training in 2016 covering the following subjects:

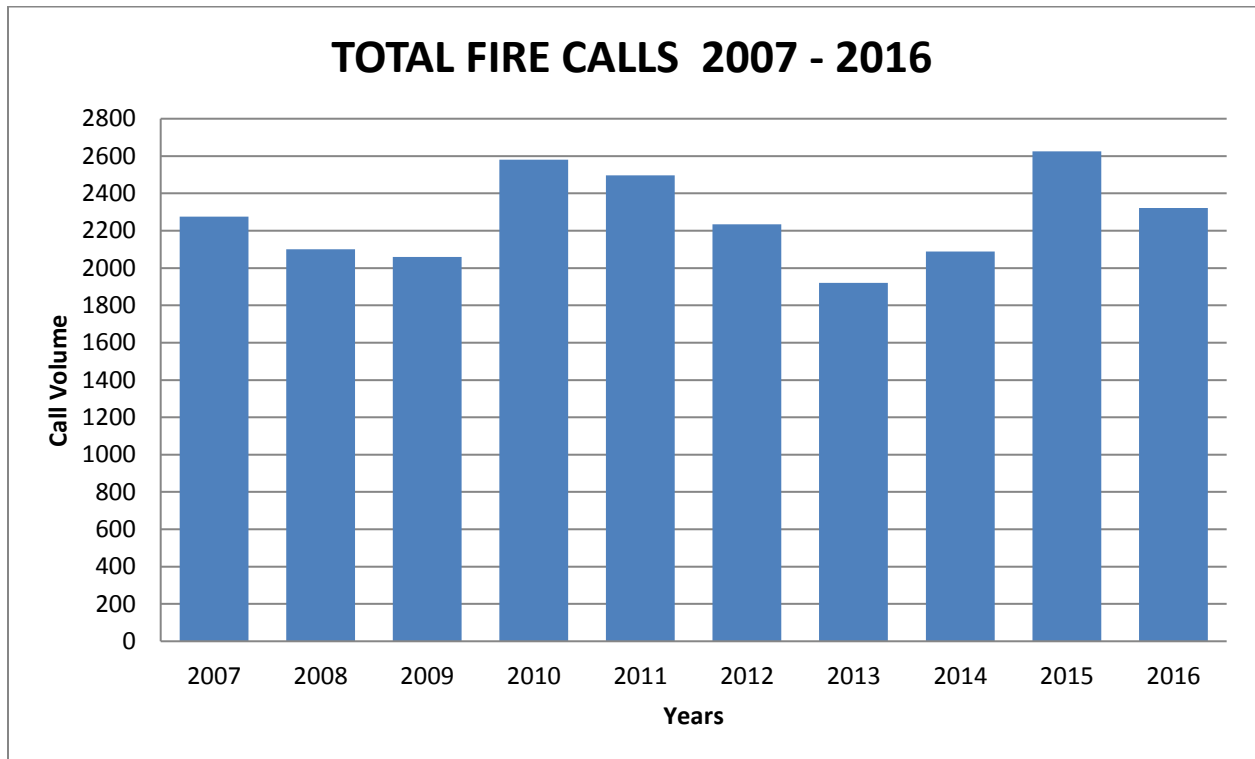
Blood Borne Pathogens	Fire Behavior	Building Construction
Structural Firefighting	Portable Fire Extinguishers	Right to Know
Search & Rescue	Ropes & Knots	Mass Decontamination
Personal Protective Equip.	Natural Gas Emergencies	Confined Space Rescue
Rescue Tools	Personnel Accountability – Safety	Self Contained Breathing
Building Collapse & Safety	Forcible Entry	Pump Operations
Ground Ladders	4” Hose Operations	Master Streams
Ventilation	Advancing Hand Lines	Driver Training

FIRE CALL VOLUME MONTH/YEAR

Due to increased fire prevention activity and community education, our accidental / malfunction of alarm responses decreased by 25% from 2011- 2015 with an additional 10% decrease over the last year

RESPONSES BY MONTH - 2016

JANUARY	201
FEBRUARY	195
MARCH	189
APRIL	168
MAY	170
JUNE	202
JULY	226
AUGUST	211
SEPTEMBER	180
OCTOBER	206
NOVEMBER	182
DECEMBER	191
TOTAL ALARMS	2,321



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Structure Fire- Response Time 2:05

The Ridgewood Fire Department was dispatched to a reported fire in a residence. Upon arrival, it was found that a light fixture mounted in the kitchen had overheated starting a fire and sending smoke throughout the house. Due to the quick response the fire was contained to the drywall around the fixture.

Structure Fire - Response Time 2:16

Upon arrival, firefighters found the wood siding of a residence next to the propane grill was on fire. The grill was being used to cook and the heat from the grill caused the siding to catch fire. The grill was pulled away from the home, the propane cylinder was turned off and the fire was quickly extinguished limiting the fire spread to just a small portion of the cedar shakes behind the grill area.

Motor Vehicle Accident - Response Time 2:10

Car 38, Engine Company 31 and Rescue 42 were dispatched for a motor vehicle accident (MVA) with entrapment and injuries. Firefighters used extrication tools to gain entry and free the driver. The driver was treated by Eng 31 medical staff & EMS and transported to the hospital.

Structure Fire - Response Time 0:55

The fire department received reports of a potential fire at an east side residence. Upon arrival, a structure fire was found in the basement quickly growing in size. Fire personnel initiated fire attack by stretching a hand line through the front door to the basement. With assistance of the thermal imaging camera, firefighters were able to locate, confine and extinguish the fire located in the laundry room. Utilities in the basement were secured by shutting off the main gas line to the structure; this was due to the gas meter being damaged by the fire.

Elevator Rescue - Response Time 1:55

An elevator at The Valley Hospital was found stuck between floors with a person stuck inside. Fire department personnel shut down the power and were able to manually open the elevator utilizing specialty tools. The elevator appeared to have stopped working due to a mechanical failure. The victim was removed from the elevator without incident.

CPR Save - Response Time 3:00

Engine 35 self-dispatched to reported man down on West Saddle River Rd. Upon Engine 35 arrival, fire department personnel performed CPR; the patient was transported to the Valley Hospital Emergency room with a pulse and breathing. This individual walked out of the hospital shortly thereafter.



Structure Fire - Response Time 2:31

Upon arrival at the Kings shopping plaza, a well advanced fire was found despite having arrived 2 minutes and 31 seconds after initial dispatch. A fire that could have easily spread to the rest of the strip mall was contained to the pizzeria due to a quick, aggressive attack. A pre-controlled overhaul was quickly begun in both adjoining stores, limiting the damage to only smoke and water damage.

Trapped Valley Hospital Workers - Response Time 1:21

Upon arrival, several staff members were found trapped in the Colonoscopy / Endoscopy procedure room. The magnetic door locking system was malfunctioning and would not release the heavy steel doors. Attempts were made to shut the power to the magnet units, but a power disconnect was not able to be located by the Valley engineers. Fire personnel had to disassemble the units with hand tools to free the trapped hospital staff.

Overdose / Narcan Save - Response Time 2:01

Engine 31 personnel had just cleared a previous fire call in the central business district when they heard on the mobile radio that police were being dispatched to an unconscious, non-breathing person. Eng.31's personnel self-dispatched to the residence and found an unresponsive patient who was not breathing. They administered Narcan to reverse the overdose and provided supportive ventilations until the individual began to breathe on their own.

Garage Fire - Response Time 3:12

The homeowner called 911 when they saw fire coming through the roof of their garage. Upon arrival a large amount of fire was found in a detached two car garage. The fire was contained to the garage and declared under control in seven minutes after arrival. Fire dept. personnel conducted salvage and overhaul operations while searching for the source of the fire. The fire was determined to be caused by an overloaded electrical circuit.

Trash Fire - Response Time 2:07

Upon arrival of a reported fire, trash bags, other debris, and a vinyl fence was on fire. The rubbish on fire was piled next to the house but due to the quick response there was no damage to the house. The fire was determined to be caused by oily rags that had spontaneously combusted.

Vehicle & Gas Pump Fire - Response Time 2:16

Responded to 490 Rt.17 South, where a vehicle went off the highway and crashed into one of the pumps at the gas station and burst into flames. Firefighters extinguished the fire of the gas pump and the vehicle before it could spread to the other pumps. Fire personnel also attended to the three occupants inside the car that needed medical assistance.

Child Locked In a Car - Response Time 2:35

Upon arrival found a 5 yr. old child locked in a car with the vehicle running. Fire personnel quickly gained entry to the car using their lock-out tool kit and re-united the mother and child with no damage to the car.

Vehicle Extrication - Response Time 1:03

Upon arrival found a motor vehicle accident with a person trapped. Fire department personnel began first aid for the trapped victim and assured the vehicle was turned off and in park. Access was gained to the patient by opening the driver side door with the Jaws of Life. The patient was removed and transported to the hospital.

**Animal Entrapment -
Response Time 3:00**

Upon arrival found a baby deer that was entangled in a fence. Animal control was contacted and firefighters extricated the deer from the fence. Animal control personnel gave the deer a checkup before releasing it.



Structure Fire - Response Time 4:31

Upon arrival, firefighters found an oven fire and smoke throughout the entire residence. The fire was quickly extinguished which kept the fire contained to the oven and smoke ejectors were used to remove the smoke.

Mutual Aid Fire in Ho-Ho-Kus - Response Time 2:36

Engine #35 and Car #38 responded as Mutual Aid to HoHoKus for a working house fire. Upon arrival, Ridgewood firefighters were ordered to the roof to cut a hole for ventilation and help with extinguishing the fire.

Structure Fire - Response Time 1:58

Upon arrival, the home was evacuated and the residents were stating that their dryer was on fire in the basement. The quick fire dept. response kept the fire limited to the contents of the dryer. After extinguishing the fire, crews secured the gas to dryer and completed overhaul operations to the surrounding area affected by the fire.

Vehicle Fire - Response Time 1:02

On duty personnel were summoned to the front of fire headquarters for a vehicle on fire connected to a tow truck. The City Wide Tow Co. driver realized the car he was towing was on fire so he drove to Ridgewood Fire headquarters where he knew firefighters were on duty. Fire dept. personnel extinguished the fully involved vehicle fire within minutes.

Structure Fire at G.W. Middle School - Response Time 4:00

Upon arrival found smoke coming from under the wooden stage at G.W. Middle School. Staff was evacuated from the school and hose line was stretched to the auditorium. Fire personnel investigated further and found the source of the smoke was coming from an electrical box smoking with arcing wires. Fire personnel secured electrical supply to the auditorium to stop wires from arcing and checked charred electrical equipment and wood under stage for fire extension. Fire crews also ventilated smoke from the area using fans.

Landscape Truck Fire - Response Time 2:26

Upon arrival, found a pickup truck on fire with a trailer attached that had full gas cans on board. Engine 31 personnel extinguished the fire within minutes as Rescue 42 personnel removed gas cans from trailer. The vehicle was a total loss, but the attached trailer was saved with no damage.

Overheated Boiler - Response Time 3:30

A heat detector activation in the basement led to the discovery of two overheated furnaces. The furnaces would not shut off and were close to starting a fire. Firefighters shut down the electric and gas to the units in order to shut them off. The basement was ventilated and the building owner only needed call for repairs of the units with no other damage occurring.

Structure Fire - Response Time 3:02



Upon arrival found all occupants outside of the home, with fire on the rear exterior of the home. The fire started on the deck and was traveling up the 1st and 2nd floor walls to the roof line. Fire was found on the 1st floor in the kitchen and family room and within their walls. On the second floor fire was found in both rear bedrooms and within the walls. The fire was suppressed on both floors with the hose lines, and an extensive overhaul of the building was done. The fire was stopped and extinguished before it was able to spread throughout the house. The damage that the house sustained was minimal in relation to the fire conditions found upon arrival.

Garbage Truck Fire - Response Time 1:39

Upon arrival found a Village of Ridgewood garbage truck with a fire in the rear compactor area. A fire attack hand line was advanced and the fire was extinguished; pike poles and hooks were used to overhaul and sift through the garbage contents. Pockets of fire were found and extinguished during overhaul. The garbage truck sustained no damage from the fire during the operation.

Bird Extrication

A resident walked into Headquarters with a bird trapped in a bird feeder. She was holding a metal bird feeder with a wild sparrow trapped within it. She stated she went to the Oradell Animal Hospital but they were unable to release the bird. The fire department utilized hand tools to disassemble the bird feeder and were able to release the bird back into the wild unharmed.

CPR Save - Response Time 3:58

Eng 35 responded to a 5 am call for unresponsive male. Upon arrival fire personnel found a male party not breathing and without a pulse with police officers beginning CPR. Fire personnel continued performing CPR in conjunction with the police. Upon ALS arrival, the patient's pulse had returned due to efforts of the first arriving units. The patient was transported to the hospital by BLS and ALS units where he was transferred out alive shortly thereafter.

Carbon Monoxide Incident - Response Time 4:50

Upon arrival found a homeowner who stated that the family had just returned home and found their CO alarm sounding in the home. Elevated readings of CO were found on all floors of home by fire personnel. Firefighters with use of their self-contained breathing apparatus found a malfunctioning heating unit causing the condition. The heating unit was shut down and secured. PSE&G was requested and fire personnel ventilated the home with the use of department smoke ejectors.

Locked In - Response Time 3:06

Upon arrival found two child care workers, and two young children trapped in a windowed porch room. The door had locked behind them, and they were unable to open any of the old painted shut windows. The parties were trapped in the cold windowed porch without phones for approximately an hour. Eventually they were able to get the attention of a dog walker, who alerted called 911. RFD gained access to the home through a second floor window without causing any damage. RFD was able to get the door unlocked from the inside using hand tools.

Structure Fire - Response Time: 4:06

Upon arrival found occupants exiting the building; one of them stated that she accidentally set her curtains on fire with a candle. Another exiting occupant who attempted to put the fire out was coughing severely; rescue 42 personnel treated her until the ambulance arrived. Once inside it

appeared that the curtains had mostly burnt themselves out, but had ignited other items in the home. Once the fire was extinguished, a thorough overhaul was completed, removing drywall to check for fire spread. Small pockets of fire were found and extinguished. Smoke ejectors were set up to remove the heavy smoke condition from all levels of the home. The ambulance transported the injured occupant to the hospital for further treatment.



Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries and Entrapment
Response Time: 0:10

RFD received a request by the police for a motor vehicle accident with injuries. Upon arrival of Car 38, the patient was found trapped in the vehicle. The vehicle was pinned against the steps and a railing. RFD personnel were able to use a haligan bar to pry the driver side door open to remove the occupant.



September 8, 2016
Intersection of Grove Street and Stevens Avenue

November 12, 2016
Intersection of Monroe Street and Farview Avenue



EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPARISON 2013-2016

<u>FIRES (100 CODE)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
STRUCTURE FIRES (111-123A)	33	40	55	45
VEHICLE FIRES (131-138)	4	2	6	7
TREES, BRUSH & GRASS FIRES (140-143)	6	17	19	14
REFUSE FIRES (150-155)	8	4	4	3
SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE (160-173)	3	8	5	0
TOTAL CODE 100	50	71	89	69
<u>OVERPRESSURE, RUPTURE, EXPLOSION - (200 CODE)</u>				
STEAM, AIR & GAS RUPTURES (200-251)	7	12	12	10
TOTAL CODE 200	7	12	12	10
<u>RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES (300 CODE)</u>				
EMT CALLS (321D)	792	817	886	972
EMT MUTUAL AID CALLS (321M)	0	1	2	0
SEARCH, RESCUE, EXTRICATION (322-381)	24	52	32	32
TOTAL CODE 300	816	870	920	1004
<u>HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (CODE 400)</u>				
COMBUSTIBLE SPILLS & LEAKS (400-413)	60	75	106	124
CHEMICAL HAZARD/Carbon Monoxide (420-431)	47	34	35	45
ELECTRICAL WIRING/EQUIPMENT (440-445A)	121	168	148	148
VEHICLE ACCIDENT/STRUCTURE COLLAPSE (451-482)	24	29	15	16
TOTAL CODE 400	252	306	289	333
<u>SERVICE CALLS (500 CODE)</u>				
SERVICE CALL PERSON IN DISTRESS (500-512)	68	61	100	75
WATER PROBLEM (520-522)	45	71	17	49
SMOKE REMOVAL/INVESTIGATION (531-531A)	147	118	141	121
OTHER ASSISTANCE (540-571)	44	80	336	111
TOTAL CODE 500	304	330	594	356
<u>GOOD INTENT CALL (600 CODE)</u>				
GOOD INTENT CALL (600-641)	48	28	41	43
SMOKE SCARE/INVESTIGATION (650-661)	15	28	23	25
HAZMAT RELEASE INVESTIGATION (671-672)	7	3	4	2
TOTAL CODE 600	70	59	68	70

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPARISON (2013 - 2016) CON'T

ALARM ACTIVATIONS (700 CODE)

MALICIOUS CALL (700-729)	12	14	13	7
MALFUNCTION OF ALARM (730-736)	190	220	208	159
GENERAL ACTIVATION (740-746)	216	195	217	228
TOTAL CODE 700	418	429	438	394

SEVERE WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTER (800 CODE)

WIND STORM, LIGHTNING STRIKES (800-815)	4	11	5	3
TOTAL CODE 800	4	11	5	3

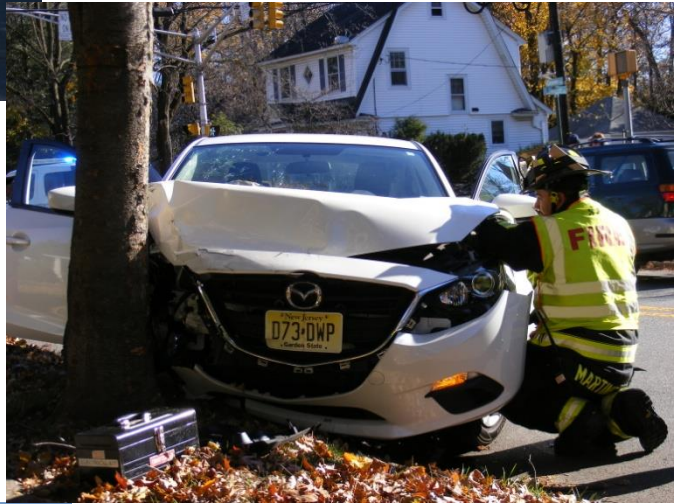
SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE (900 CODE)

SPECIAL TYPE (900-911)	0	1	210	82
TOTAL CODE 900	0	1	210	82

2013 TOTAL INCIDENTS	1921		
2014 TOTAL INCIDENTS		2088	
2015 TOTAL INCIDENTS			2625
2016 TOTAL INCIDENTS			2321

ALL OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (NFIRS).



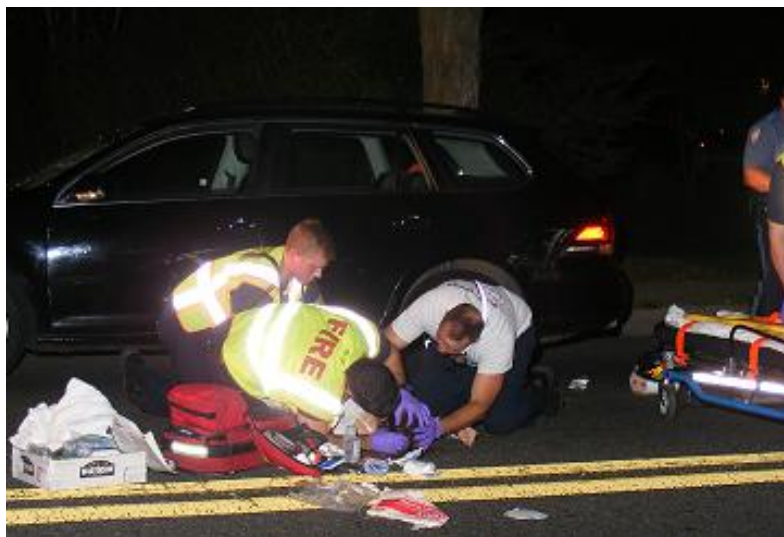


EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

For many years Ridgewood had ample volunteer coverage of the Ambulance Corps. However, the Village is not immune to the problem of volunteer staffing during daytime hours. In 1986, Ridgewood addressed this problem by allocating Fire Department resources to make sure that Village residents are provided with the best emergency medical service available. Monday through Saturday, from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm, the Fire Department responds in conjunction with the Ridgewood Ambulance Corps. to all emergency medical calls with additional responses to all advanced life support calls 24/7. The Ridgewood Fire Department responded to nine hundred and seventy two (972) medical requests for assistance in 2016.

When an emergency medical call is received, Fire Department EMT's are given the call location and the nature of the problem. Depending on the location, the nearest fire engine company is dispatched from either Fire Headquarters or the West Glen Avenue Firehouse. At least one Fire Department EMT is always on duty at each location. The Ambulance Corp. EMT responds with the ambulance from their quarters, located on Douglas Place, to the call. Both fire engine companies carry a three-man crew and provide First Responder capabilities upon arriving at the scene quickly. Engine Company #35 and Engine Company #31 are both equipped with Medical bags, oxygen units, a defibrillator, naran (naloxone), glucose and Epipens.

The system ensures two EMT's arrive on the scene quickly and additional manpower is available to handle the emergency. While two EMT's are required to staff the ambulance, many calls require additional help with lifting, securing equipment, and providing other assistance. One of the biggest advantages of having extra personnel is that you have the support you need to move and carry the patient, especially when flights of stairs are involved. An example would be a patient requiring Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). CPR requires at minimum, both EMT's to work on the patient, leaving no one available to move the patient and/or drive the ambulance



There are twenty-eight Firefighters, six Lieutenants, one Captain, and the Chief that have completed the extensive Emergency Medical Technician training course and have become certified. In addition, two Lieutenants are trained Paramedics.

Fire Department Firefighter/EMT

Chief James Van Goor
Captain Scott Schmidt
Lieutenant/Paramedic John Judge
Lieutenant/Paramedic Harvey Weber
Lieutenant/EMT Brendan Corcoran
Lieutenant/EMT Michael Kakolewski
Lieutenant/EMT Justin O'Connor
Lieutenant/EMT John Young
Firefighter/EMT John Baughman
Firefighter/EMT Matthew Bombace
Firefighter/EMT Tim Bombace
Firefighter/EMT Paul Brennan
Firefighter/EMT Gregory Corcoran
Firefighter/EMT Scott Cornell
Firefighter/EMT Anthony Dinice
Firefighter/EMT Chris Eidschun
Firefighter/EMT Michael Ferraro
Firefighter/EMT Joseph Ferraro

Firefighter/EMT Kurt Harba
Firefighter/EMT Jason Jacoby
Firefighter/EMT James Kakolewski
Firefighter/EMT Jason Kane
Firefighter/EMT Brian Kelly
Firefighter/EMT David Kelly
Firefighter/EMT Daniel Kostro
Firefighter/EMT Oscar Martinez
Firefighter/EMT Michael McLaughlin
Firefighter/EMT Matthew Musicant
Firefighter/EMT Brian Peacock
Firefighter/EMT Matthew Ramage
Firefighter/EMT Michael Rohrman
Firefighter/EMT Thomas Shortway
Firefighter/EMT Dan Steen
Firefighter/EMT Henry VanWageningen
Firefighter/EMT Chris Wolfstirn
Firefighter/EMT Jordan Zales



SWIFT WATER/ RESCUE DIVE TEAM

The Ridgewood Fire Department proudly staffs a special swift water rescue team during and after extreme rainfall events. These teams are staffed by specially trained fire fighters equipped with wet suits, personal flotation devices, helmets, and specially designed water rescue devices. The Department's Swift Water Rescue personnel have the ability to create land-based water rescue system, as well as to perform water-based contact rescues in order to save victims trapped in the many natural and man-made waterways in the Village of Ridgewood.

The Ridgewood Fire Department Dive Team has sixteen Certified Scuba Divers and sufficient equipment to facilitate a water rescue when needed. Whenever the lifeguards at Graydon Pool receive a call of someone missing or a possible drowning, the fire department is summoned. The Dive Team conducts combined drills with Graydon Pool Lifeguard Staff and Ridgewood Emergency Services. While the Dive Team is dispatched primarily to Graydon Pool, there are several large ponds located in Ridgewood where the Dive Team may be needed.

The following personnel are certified by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors:

Lieutenant Brendan Corcoran
Lieutenant EMT John Judge
Lieutenant Mike Kakolewski
Lieutenant Joseph Koonce
Lieutenant Justin O'Connor
Lieutenant Harvey Weber
Lieutenant / Fire Official John Young
SFFE/EMT Michael McLaughlin
SFFE/EMT Matt Ramge

Firefighter/EMT Matt Bombace
Firefighter/EMT Greg Corcoran
Firefighter/EMT Joseph Ferraro
Firefighter/EMT Kurt Harba
Firefighter/EMT Jim Kakolewski
Firefighter/EMT Brian Kelly
Firefighter/EMT Matthew Musicant
Firefighter/EMT Chris Wolfstirn



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Prevention Bureau

Lieutenant/Fire Official John Young is Director of the Fire Prevention Bureau along. John joined the Fire Department in December of 2002 as a Firefighter and was assigned to the Bureau in July of 2005.

Staff

Two part-time inspectors conduct fire inspections along with the on duty Firefighters/ Fire Inspectors:

Fire Official Kevin McGuire

Fire Official Jack Wolfstirn

Fire Prevention Administrative Secretary, Dolores Tomei

There are 36 Fire Inspection Districts in the Village that include Valley Hospital and Nursing Homes, all Village Owned Buildings, Public and Private Schools, Day Care Centers, Multi-Family Dwellings, and all Commercial Buildings. In 2016 there were 191 Life Hazard Uses, and 1,231 periodic Fire Safety Inspections conducted. A total of 516 occupancies were re-inspected for the 1,223 violations issued. At times, these inspections are shared with the on-duty shifts and double as a building familiarization drills for all Firefighters.

Fire Investigations

Under the N.J. Uniform Fire Code 5:71-3.3, the local Fire Official is required to “investigate, or cause to be investigated, every reported fire or explosion occurring within the jurisdiction that involves the loss of life or serious injury or causes destruction or damage to property.” Sr. Fire Inspector John Young is trained in fire cause and origin investigation.

Open House

In October 2016, a very successful Open House was held at Fire Headquarters supporting Fire Prevention Week. Demonstrations on cooking safety, repelling, fire extinguishers, exit drills, and stop, drop, and roll were all well attended. There were tours of the Fire House and Fire Department apparatus were on display. A car fire was simulated and extinguished by firefighters and a demonstration on how the jaws of life are used at a motor vehicle accident.

Public Education

The Fire Prevention Bureau is very involved in Public Fire Safety Education. In 2016, there were 16 School Visitations, 15 Visitations to Fire Headquarters, and 6 Special Programs, reaching over 2,687 children and 635 adults. Also, the Fire Department conducted fire drills at all the Public Schools, Church Sunday Schools, and various locations as requested for 4,575 children and adults.



Annual Report of the Fire Prevention Bureau

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

(COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS & DWELLINGS)

General Business	937
Gas Station and Auto Repair Shops	18
Restaurants	70
Retail Food Stores	5
Lumber Yards	1
Multi Family Buildings	48
Institutional Buildings	15
Public and/or Private Schools	39
Church and/or Sunday School Buildings	24
Municipal-Owned Buildings	4
Life Hazard Use - Annual	95
Life Hazard Use – Quarterly	16
Fire Prevention NE/INL	83
Smoke Detector Certification Inspections	636

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE

(HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCE INSPECTIONS)

Fireplace/Chimneys	53
Furnace Installation – Gas	68
Furnace Installation – Oil	5
Other Gas Appliances	116
Oil Tank Installations	11
Fuel Tank Installations	0
Fuel Pump Installations	0
Abandonment of Underground Tanks	0
Removal of Underground Tanks	195
Removal of Interior/Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks	31
Chimney Liner Installation	115
Other	3

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE

(CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS)

Fire Sub-Code Permits Issued	480
Building Permits Issued/Fire Inspector Inspects	52
U.C.C. NE/INL	24
C.C.O. Permits Issued	23
C.C.O. Inspections of Commercial Occupancies	22
Progress Inspections	11
Fire Sub-Code Related Duties	222
Blueprints Checked	130
Review of Site Plan Locations	9
Smoke Detector - Placement/Installations	276

NOTICES ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS

Fire Sub-Code Violations	143
Fire Prevention Bureau Violations	889
Re-Inspections to Assure Correction	464
Summons Issued	14
Letters Sent	593
Municipal Court Appearances	0
Construction Board of Appeals Appearances	0
Fire Prevention Permits Issued	38
Fire Prevention Permit Inspections	30
Fire Prevention Penalties Issued	77

FIRE PREVENTION ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

S/D Certification Fees (Ordinance #3288)	\$37,875.00
Inspection Fees Local	\$79,640.00
Fire Prevention Permit Fees	\$ 840.00
Fire Prevention Penalties	\$5,815.00
Life Hazard Use Inspection Fees (State)	\$24,897.12
Fire Sub-Code Fees (Building Department)	\$51,744.00
Fire Alarm Registration Fees	\$38,904.00
C.C.O. Fees	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Fees	\$0.00

**JOINT INSPECTIONS WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS,
CONTRACTORS, OWNERS, TENANTS, AND OTHER AGENCIES:**

With Building Department	15
With Other Village Departments	0
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	0
With Board of Education Personnel	6
With Valley Hospital Personnel	12
With Other Governmental Agencies	0
With Contractors	0

**NOTIFICATION TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND
AGENCIES OF CODE VIOLATIONS:**

To Building Department	17
To Other Village Departments	1
To State Agencies	0

**CONFERENCES WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS,
CONTRACTORS, OWNERS, TENANTS AND OTHER AGENCIES:**

With Building Department	171
With Other Village Departments	2
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	0
With Board of Education Personnel	0
With Valley Hospital Personnel	0

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED:

Hazardous Condition	17
Blocking Exit Ways	8
Improper Trash Storage and/or Collection	0
Re-Inspections to Assure Corrections	23
Other	0

MISCELLANEOUS:

Fire Safety Education/Training Program	4
Prep. and Maintenance of Reports/Inspection Schedules	242
Respond to Fire Incidents	7
Investigate Fire Incidents	4
Valley Hospital Fire Drills Attended	0
Meetings and Schools Attended	0
Check for Safety at Public Affairs	35
OPRA Requests Completed	80



ADOPT A HYDRANT PROGRAM

In 2013, The Ridgewood Fire Department began a program called “Adopt A Hydrant”. The purpose of this program is to encourage Village residents to keep the fire hydrants in their neighborhood clear of snow and debris.

Most people think little about the fire hydrants throughout the Village, other than it’s a good place to walk the dog to. Actually, fire hydrants are a very important device; it is the Fire Department’s only water source and is necessary to help them save lives and protect property.

When a fire is reported, the Fire Department looks at a map to find the closest hydrant to the fire before responding. When they get there, they must be able to find the hydrant very quickly and every second counts. When things block their view, (i.e. cars, trucks, dumpsters, construction equipment, garbage cans, etc.), it could take minutes to find them and once found, may not be able to be used if blocked.

In winter months, snow covered hydrants is a very serious problem. During high snowfall winters, the fire hydrants could be covered by as much as 4’ of snow. This would make them impossible to find. Even a moderate snow can completely cover them, as they are located on the curb line where snow plows pile up the snow. When the hydrant is needed in an emergency, if not cleared and easily located, it could make the difference between life and death.

Although we have had quite a few adoptions, we are still looking for residents and civic groups to adopt a hydrant in their neighborhood.



APPARATUS

Car # 30:

2012 Chief's Ford Escape

Car #40:

2003 Ford Explorer

Eng. # 31:

2012 1250 gpm Pierce Saber

Eng. # 32:

1989 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Eng. # 33:

1994 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Eng. # 35:

2003 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Tower # 36:

2012 Pierce Mid-Mount Platform ladder

Eng. # 37:

2000 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Car #38:

2016 Chevy Tahoe

Car #39:

2006 Ford Expedition Fire Prevention

Car #41:

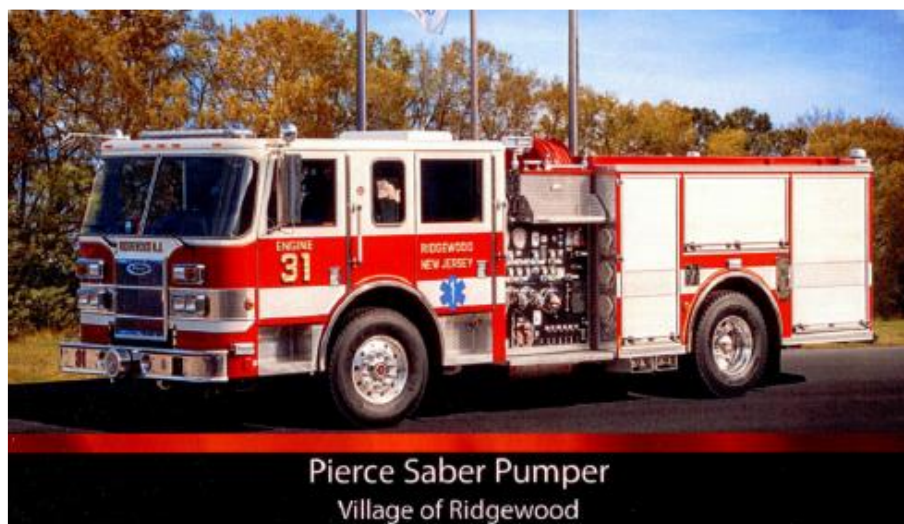
1998 GM Yukon Fire Prevention

Rescue #42:

1998 International E-ONE

Car #43:

2014 Ford F250/Plow




LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Dear Ridgewood Fire Department,

Thank you for doing a job most of us couldn't do. It takes a strong and brave person to do what you do everyday. Thank you for EVERYTHING you do. Thank you for making a choice to protect and serve Ridgewood everyday! Thank you for doing what so many of us aren't brave enough to do. Thank You for keeping us **SAFE!**

Sincerely,

Ireland Horan 

Dolores Tomei

From: Vilma Babin [vbab1009@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2016 12:03 PM
To: Dolores Tomei
Subject: Ridgewood Center Visit

Thank you so very much for taking time from your hectic schedule to update us Seniors on the precaution of fire safety.

When I was attending elementary school, I remember that some firemen would come to our school & instruct us about fire safety. Some lucky kids even got a chance to visit the fire station & run through a fire track AND even slide down the pole...under careful supervision.

THANK YOU, DEAR SOULS, for risking life & limb for us. THANK THE DEAR LORD FOR YOU PRECIOUS, SUPERHEROES, for whom we pray-

LOVE & GOD'SBEST-

*Vilma Babin,
Ridgewood Center Resident*

OOOOOOXXXXXX (hugs & kisses)

Dear Ridgewood Fire Dept,

Thank you for coming to our assistance on March 2. It was very much appreciated, especially going above the call of duty to help get Oliver, safely in a car seat, to a friend's home to be watched.

Our family rests easily at night knowing you in our town.

with thanks and regards,
Dan, Patricia, Henry & Oliver James ⇒

Ridgewood Fire Department,

Thank you all for your
Support at the Ridgewood YMCA.
Healthy Kids Day! It's great
working with the community
and I know the children & parents
get so excited when they get
to talk to a fire fighter and even
tour ~~two~~ three of the trucks! I
really appreciate all you do for
the YMCA.

Best,
Megan Heller
The Ridgewood YMCA Staff

4/20/16