

# *Ridgewood*



## *Fire Department 2013 Annual Report*



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**RIDGEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT;**

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***IT SHALL BE THE MISSION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BE ENGAGED IN THE PROTECTION OF THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF ALL PEOPLE ENTRUSTED TO OUR PROTECTION, THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF FIRE, AND THE PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY, BY RESPONDING TO FIRES, OTHER EMERGENCIES, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND CODE ENFORCEMENT.***

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**THE RIDGEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVES THE COMMUNITY BY PERFORMING THE FOLLOWING ESSENTIAL SERVICES;**

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- ***FIRE SUPPRESSION***
- ***EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:***  
*VEHICLE AND INDUSTRIAL EXTRICATION*
- ***FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES:***  
*BUILDING INSPECTIONS, CODE ENFORCEMENT, PLAN REVIEW, PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION*
- ***HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INTERVENTION***
- ***SWIFT WATER RESCUE***
- ***RESCUE DIVE TEAM***

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD**  
**BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief James Van Goor

Fire Headquarters  
201 East Glen Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
201-444-8822

March 2014

Dear Mrs. Mailander,

On behalf of the members of the Ridgewood Fire Department, I am pleased to present you with the 2013 Annual Report. This report provides a summary of the departments activities from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. In this report, you will learn about the personnel, facilities, equipment, and programs that serve you and our residents. You will learn that our primary mission is to take care of our citizens, some who are having the "worst day of their lives." 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.

In 2013, there were many changes in Fire Department staffing. There were four retirements, one promotion, and three new appointments. The Fire Department is a proactive organization staffed with 40 professional firefighters, dedicated to the delivery of service to the citizens and visitors of Ridgewood. We proudly deliver this service through two fire stations strategically located throughout the Village.

As our Village copes with budget restraints, the expectation of our citizens to have quality emergency service has not changed. This department will work hard to meet these demands, continually striving to be one of the finest Fire Departments in the country. Every member of the Ridgewood Fire Department endeavors to insure that our budget is fiscally sound, comprised of wise choices and decisions that best provide fire services to the Village. 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.

In 2013, we placed in service a new fire engine for the fire station located at 311 West Glen Ave. We also outfitted all the firefighters with new state of the art firefighting gear and personnel bailout system. The fire engine, firefighting gear, and bailout system was paid for by a grant from the Assistance to Firefighting Grant Program that covered 90% of the cost.

On behalf of all of the Career and Volunteer Firefighters and the 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. Without this support we would not be able to carry out our mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Van Goor, Chief

# **THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD**

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## Mayor and Council 2013

Mayor Paul Aronsohn

Deputy Mayor Albert Pucciarelli    Councilman Thomas M. Riche  
Councilwoman Bernadette Walsh    Councilwoman Gwenn Hauck

To Ridgewood's outstanding 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.

Village Manager Dr. Kenneth Gabbert/Retired  
Acting Village Manager Heather Mailander

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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 citizens apartment complexes. We have a population density of 4,308 residents per square mile, and an overall population of 25,205 within a 5.79 square mile land area. The population density is significantly higher than the Bergen County average of 4,355 people per square mile.

**It costs the average tax payer \$2.19  
per household/commercial  
business per day to have a  
Professional Fire Department**

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION**

The Ridgewood Fire Department is proud to announce that in 2012 they have earned the Village a higher Public Protection Classification (PPC). ***Ridgewood has been 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 15 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 eighteen (18) 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 relationship between excellent fire protection and low fire losses. Not only does a lower classification lower 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.



## **FIRE STATIONS: HISTORY AND LOCATION**

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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 over 60 years.



The current 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 men of Engine Company No. 35, Ladder Company No. 36, and Rescue Company No. 42. The building also houses the Administrative Offices, the Fire Prevention Bureau, and Engine Company No. 32, which is comprised of Volunteer Firefighters.



## **ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT**

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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. A number of minor emergencies are handled by the department daily. 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.

During the weekday hours of 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. the fire department responds to a significant number of medical emergencies in conjunction with the Ambulance Corps. 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 40 hours per week with the Chief Officer on call 24 hours per day.

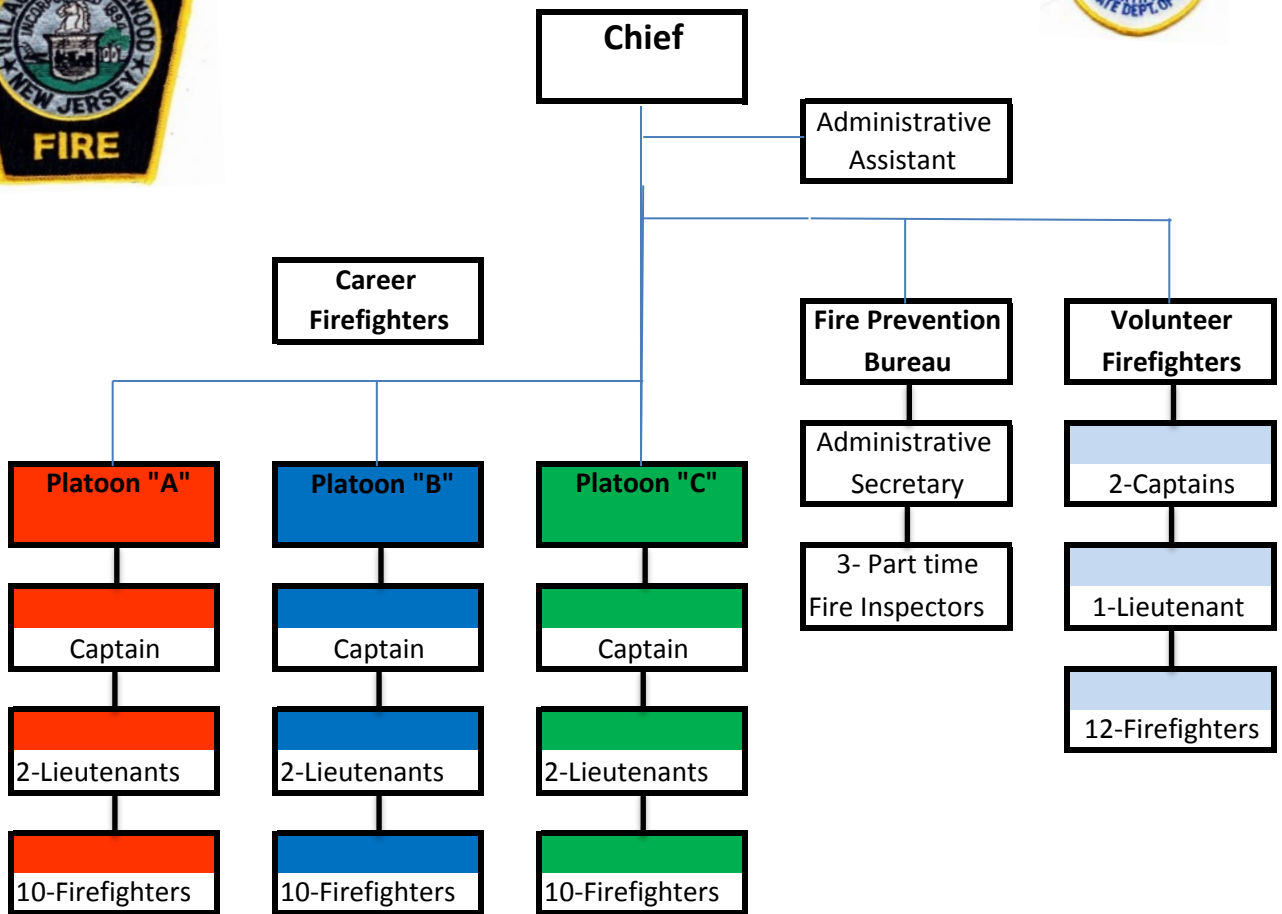
The fire and emergency response component is made up of both Professional and Volunteer Firefighters. The Professional Firefighters are grouped into three Platoons of 13 and provide the primary response to fires and emergencies. Each Platoon is comprised of (1) Captain, (2) Lieutenants, and (10) Firefighters, 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 multiple responses. There is a Volunteer Captain and Volunteer Lieutenant directly in charge of this group.

The Fire Prevention component is comprised of (1) Fire Official, (3) Part-Time Fire Inspectors, and (1) Administrative Secretary. One Fire Inspector works Monday through Thursday in the afternoons, one Fire Inspector works all day Tuesday and Thursday, the third Fire Inspector works all day Friday. 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.

# Fire Department Organizational Chart





# PERSONNEL

## Administration:

Chief James Van Goor

Administrative Assistant Patti Herman

### Fire Officers:

Captain John Albano  
Captain Chris DuFlocq  
Captain Paul Monton  
Lt. Brendan Corcoran  
Lt. Greg Hillerman  
Lt. Michael Kakolewski  
Lt. Joseph Koonce  
Lt. Scott Schmidt  
Lt. Harvey Weber

### Firefighters:

FF. John Baughman  
FF. Matthew Bombace  
FF. Paul Brennan  
FF. Greg Corcoran  
FF. Scott Cornell  
FF. Sean Daly  
FF. Joseph Ferraro  
FF. Michael Ferraro  
FF. Russell Gebhard  
FF. Jason Jacoby  
FF. John Judge  
FF. Jason Kane  
FF. Vincent Krug  
FF. Ray Marmion  
FF. Michael McLaughlin  
FF. Steven Missel  
FF. Matthew Musicant  
FF. Justin O'Connor  
FF. Brian Peacock  
FF. Matthew Ramge  
FF. Kevin Reilly  
FF. Richard Shortway  
FF. Thomas Shortway  
FF. David Skoblar  
FF. Daniel Steen  
FF. Harvey Weber  
FF. Chris Wolfstirn  
FF/Fire Official John Young  
FF. Jordan Zales

### Retirements:

Captain Kozielski January 1, 2013  
FF. Sean Daly February 1, 2013  
Lt. Steven Maffei July 1, 2013  
FF. Raymond Marmion November 1, 2013

### Promotions:

Lt. Brendan Corcoran April 8, 2013  
Lt. Harvey Weber August 26, 2013

### Appointments:

Prob. FF. Chris Eidschun June 1, 2013  
Prob. FF. Kurt Harba June 1, 2013  
Prob. FF. James Kakolewski June 1, 2013

**“Mark Cassidy  
Firefighter of the Year”  
award was presented to  
Retired FF. Steve Maffei**



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

# **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

## **Fire Officers:**

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

## **Firefighters:**

FF. Ryan Andersen  
FF. David Azzopardi  
FF. Joseph Carey  
FF. Jeffrey Creegan  
FF. Trevor Fetkowitz  
FF. Dane Knudsen  
FF. Dennis Johnson  
FF. Anthony Monton  
FF. Kyle Monton  
FF. John Spinello  
FF. Henry Van Wageningen



# **PERSONNEL TRAINING**

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## **CAREER DEPARTMENT:**

The Members of the Career Department conducted training in 2013 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 – Locations | 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 Use-Desktop & Laptop      |
| Ventilation                 | Report Writing                      | Self Contained Breathing Apparatus |
| Engines & Pumps             | Elevator Rescue                     | Tools & Equipment on Apparatus     |
| 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 DEPARTMENT:**

The Members of the Volunteer Department conducted training in 2013 covering the following subjects:

|                            |                                   |                                    |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Blood Borne Pathogens      | Fire Behavior                     | Building Construction              |
| Structural Firefighting    | Air Tools & Air Bags              | Right to Know                      |
| Aerial Ladders             | Ropes & Knots                     | Mass Decontamination               |
| Personal Protective Equip. | Natural Gas Emergencies           | Confined Space Rescue              |
| Rescue Tools               | Personnel Accountability – Safety | Extrication – Motor Vehicle        |
| Building Collapse & Safety | Forcible Entry                    | Pump Operations                    |
| Ground Ladders             | 4” & 5” Hose Operations           | Master Streams                     |
| Engine Company Operations  | Advancing Hand Lines              | Driver Training                    |
| Ventilation                | Portable Fire Extinguishers       | Self Contained Breathing Apparatus |
| Search & Rescue            |                                   |                                    |



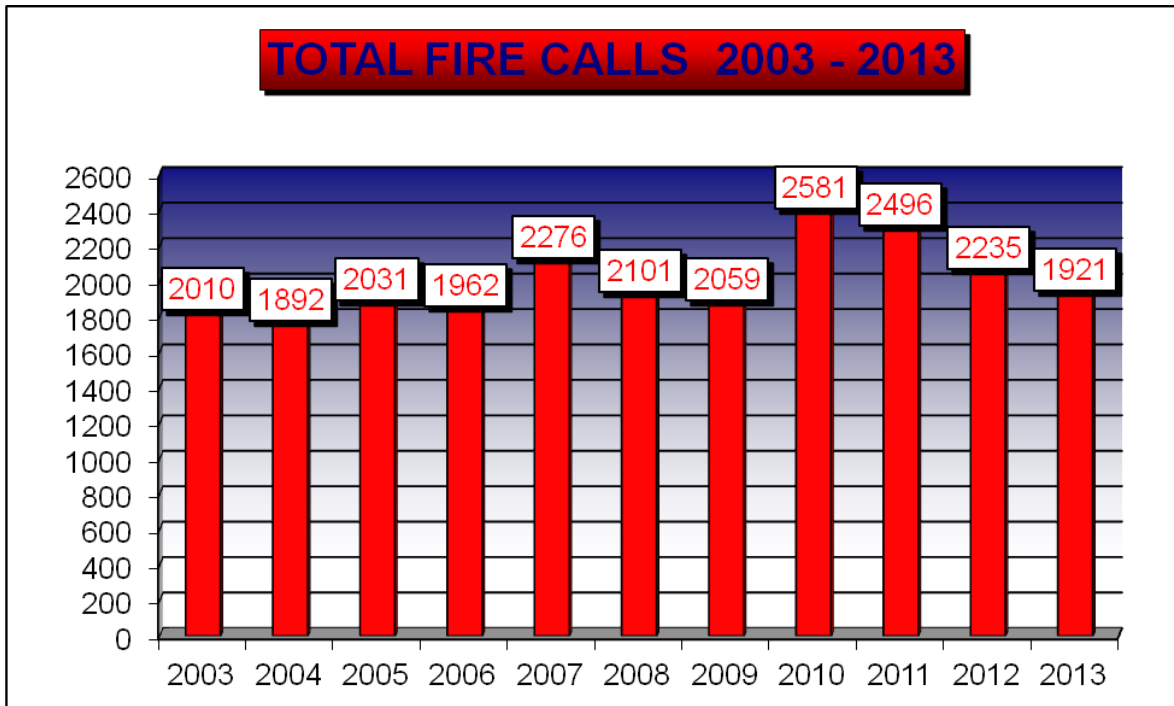
## **FIRE CALL VOLUME INCREASES**

*Due to increased fire prevention activity and community education, our accidental / malfunction of alarm responses has decreased by 25% since 2011.*

### **RESPONSES BY MONTH – 2013**

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| JANUARY   | 174 |
| FEBRUARY  | 147 |
| MARCH     | 141 |
| APRIL     | 133 |
| MAY       | 168 |
| JUNE      | 146 |
| JULY      | 177 |
| AUGUST    | 170 |
| SEPTEMBER | 167 |
| OCTOBER   | 153 |
| NOVEMBER  | 174 |
| DECEMBER  | 171 |

**TOTAL ALARMS 1,921**



# **HIGHLIGHTS OF** **2013 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS**

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## **Tree into House**

**January 20, 2013**

A college student at home for his winter break narrowly escaped injury when a tree smashed through the roof of his home after being toppled by high winds. Fire Department personnel responded to the scene after receiving several 911 calls reporting the incident. The house was secured as gas and electric utility service to the home was shut off by Ridgewood FD personnel.

## **Extrication with "Jaws of Life"**

**March 25, 2013**



A Honda Passport and Toyota Camry collided at the intersection of South Van Dien Avenue and Grove Street resulting in injuries to the occupants of both vehicles. The driver of the Camry was trapped in her vehicle until members of the Ridgewood Fire Department freed her by using the "Jaws of Life" to remove the driver's side door.

## **Carbon Monoxide**

**March 31, 2013**

Received call for a carbon monoxide detector (c/o) activation. Upon arrival, found occupants had evacuated the house. Homeowner stated that she was feeling ill so Fire department personnel gave her oxygen and an ambulance was dispatched. Fire Department personnel checked the entire house with multi gas meters and found the heating system was malfunctioning causing the elevated levels of c/o on all floors. PSE&G was notified, the heating system was shut off, and the house ventilated with FD smoke ejectors.

## **Fire at Valley Hospital**

**April 21, 2013**

Responded to a contents fire located in a basement storage room; second alarm was transmitted. The sprinkler system was activated, which helped contain the fire until fire department personnel arrived to extinguish the remainder of the fire. After the fire was extinguished, the room was overhauled and smoke ejectors were used to clear the smoke that filled most of the basement.

## **Car Fire**

**May 4, 2013**

Responded to a car fire in the driveway of a home located on Hanks Avenue. Swift response and action by the Fire Department kept the fire contained to the engine compartment and not spreading to the house that was a few feet away. No injuries were reported in the blaze; however, the vehicle had extensive damage.

## **HIGHLIGHTS CON'T**

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### **Roof Collapse**

**May 14, 2013**

Fire Department responded to a reported roof collapse at a vacant one story retail store. Upon arrival, found that the sub-roof and ceiling had collapsed; no one was in the store at the time. Fire Department personnel were directed to check neighboring structures for damage. No injuries to either civilians or emergency personnel were reported. This was a successful collaborative effort among departments led by Fire Chief James Van Goor, Police Chief John Ward, and EMS/Emergency Services Chief Brian Pullman.

### **Fire at Car Lot**

**May 23, 2013**



Several vehicles being stored in a towing company's secured impound lot were damaged when one of them caught fire. Fire Department units responded to that address at approximately 8:00 PM after receiving a 911 telephone call reporting a vehicle fire. Responding units located a car within the impound lot whose engine compartment was fully involved in fire. Due to the immediate response, only the initial car and three cars immediately adjacent to the source of the fire were damaged instead of the remainder of the car lot.

### **Bomb Scare**

**June 1, 2013**

An abandoned package was found on the corner of Downs's St. and Fairfield Ave. on school property. Fire Department personnel secured the area and assisted the Bergen County Bomb Squad. The bomb squad x-rayed the package and determined that there was no hazard.

### **Dryer Fire in Residence**

**June 6, 2013**



A two-alarm fire that originated in a clothes dryer, destroyed the dryer and resulted in smoke and water damage to several apartments of a multiple occupancy building located on South Broad Street. Fire Department units were dispatched to the scene shortly after 9:00 AM in response to several 911 telephone calls reporting smoke coming from the building. All occupants were safely evacuated from the fire building and two (2) adjacent buildings. The fire department's immediate response allowed this fire to be contained solely in the dryer and not spread to the remainder of the apartment or entire building. No injuries were reported to either civilians or first responders.

### **Apartment Building Fire**

**July 5, 2013**

A three-alarm fire that began near an oven in a garden apartment located on East Ridgewood Avenue was quickly extinguished by firefighters late Friday afternoon. Residents of one building in the complex were safely evacuated as firefighters doused flames in sweltering 90 degree plus heat and high humidity. No injuries were reported.

## *HIGHLIGHTS CON'T*

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### **Bear Catching**

**June 8, 2013**

Fire Department personnel responded to a request for assistance from Tyco animal control. Animal control needed help catching a bear that had been corralled in a tree. Fire department personnel assisted with clearing the area and catching the bear in a net after it was tranquilized. The bear was successfully caught and transported to a remote wooded area.

### **Jaws of Life**

**August 1, 2013**

Two individuals were taken by ambulance to The Valley Hospital following the collision of two Honda Civics in the intersection of North Monroe Street and West Glen Avenue. One driver was trapped in his vehicle and was freed only after firefighters used the "Jaws of Life" to remove a door. A traffic signal equipment box and outdoor trash can were demolished when one of the vehicles careened off the roadway into a nearby park. The accident occurred within several yards of the Engine 31 Firehouse. At least one firefighter raced to the scene on foot to provide aid, while others drove a pumper truck containing necessary emergency rescue and first aid equipment. Ridgewood Fire Chief James Van Goor, who lives nearby, also raced to the scene to assume incident command.

### **Electrical Fire at Ridgewood High School**

**November 4, 2013**

An electrical fire in a second floor classroom forced the temporary evacuation of Ridgewood High School at approximately 7:30 AM on Monday morning. Fire Department personnel extinguished the blaze with a hand held dry chemical fire extinguisher prior to extending beyond the classroom area. The fire was contained to a malfunctioning electric heater, however; smoke spread beyond the affected classroom requiring firefighters to use high velocity fans to eject it. No injuries were reported and students, faculty, and administrative personnel were able to return to the building 30 minutes after firefighters arrived.

### **Dumpster Fire**

**November 10, 2013**



Responded to a dumpster fire behind the stores on Oak Street. Due to the proximity of the dumpster in relation to occupied buildings, all on duty firefighters responded to the scene. The fire was completely extinguished within 2 minutes of firefighters' arrival. No injuries were reported and damage was contained to the dumpster and its contents.

## *HIGHLIGHTS CON'T*

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### Fire in Strip of Stores on E. Ridgewood Avenue

November 13, 2013



A fire sparked by an electrical short circuit destroyed a wooden facade of an office building (Gilsenan and Company) located at 219 East Ridgewood Avenue after 9:00 AM. No one was injured in the blaze and firefighters had the fire completely contained to the facade and fully extinguished within 30 minutes. Fire officials at the scene reported light smoke damage to interior portions of the building.



## INCIDENT TYPES (2011 - 2013)

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|  | <u>2011</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>FIRES (100 CODE)</b>                                      |             |             |             |
| STRUCTURE FIRES (111-123A)                                   | 24          | 39          | 33          |
| VEHICLE FIRES (131-138)                                      | 8           | 3           | 4           |
| TREES, BRUSH & GRASS FIRES (140-143)                         | 8           | 15          | 6           |
| REFUSE FIRES (150-155)                                       | 2           | 8           | 4           |
| SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE (160-173)                               | 5           | 2           | 3           |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 100</b>  | <b>47</b>   | <b>67</b>   | <b>50</b>   |
| <b>OVERPRESSURE, RUPTURE, EXPLOSION - NO FIRE (200 CODE)</b> |             |             |             |
| STEAM, AIR & GAS RUPTURES (200-251)                          | 11          | 13          | 7           |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 200</b>  | <b>11</b>   | <b>13</b>   | <b>7</b>    |
| <b>RESCUE &amp; EMERGENCY SERVICES (300 CODE)</b>            |             |             |             |
| EMT CALLS (321D)   | 801         | 843         | 792         |
| EMT MUTUAL AID CALLS (321M)                                  | 0           | 3           | 0           |
| SEARCH, RESCUE, EXTRICATION (322-381)                        | 49          | 12          | 24          |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 300</b>  | <b>850</b>  | <b>855</b>  | <b>816</b>  |
| <b>HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (CODE 400)</b>                       |             |             |             |
| COMBUSTIBLE SPILLS & LEAKS (400-413)                         | 73          | 62          | 60          |
| CHEMICAL HAZARD/Carbon Monoxide (420-431)                    | 63          | 51          | 47          |
| ELECTRICAL WIRING/EQUIPMENT (440-445A)                       | 266         | 219         | 121         |
| VEHICLE ACCIDENT/STRUCTURE COLLAPSE (451-482)                | 28          | 45          | 24          |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 400</b>  | <b>430</b>  | <b>377</b>  | <b>252</b>  |
| <b>SERVICE CALLS (500 CODE)</b>                              |             |             |             |
| SERVICE CALL PERSON IN DISTRESS (500-512)                    | 68          | 53          | 68          |
| WATER PROBLEM (520-522)                                      | 182         | 37          | 45          |
| SMOKE REMOVAL/INVESTIGATION (531-531A)                       | 203         | 184         | 147         |
| OTHER ASSISTANCE (540-571)                                   | 26          | 46          | 44          |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 500</b>  | <b>479</b>  | <b>320</b>  | <b>304</b>  |
| <b>GOOD INTENT CALL (600 CODE)</b>                           |             |             |             |
| GOOD INTENT CALL (600-641)                                   | 59          | 44          | 48          |
| SMOKE SCARE/INVESTIGATION (650-661)                          | 16          | 7           | 15          |
| HAZMAT RELEASE INVESTIGATION (671-672)                       | 8           | 10          | 7           |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 600</b>  | <b>83</b>   | <b>61</b>   | <b>70</b>   |
| <b>ALARM ACTIVATIONS (700 CODE)</b>                          |             |             |             |
| MALICIOUS CALL (700-729)                                     | 8           | 17          | 12          |
| MALFUNCTION OF ALARM (730-736)                               | 269         | 192         | 190         |
| ACTIVATION - NO EMERGENCY (740-746)                          | 281         | 280         | 216         |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 700</b>  | <b>558</b>  | <b>489</b>  | <b>418</b>  |

## INCIDENT TYPES (2011 - 2013) CON'T

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|  |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| SEVERE WEATHER & NATURAL DISASTER (800 CODE) |             |             |             |
| WIND STORM, LIGHTNING STRIKES (800-815)      | 34          | 47          | 4           |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 800</b>                        | <b>34</b>   | <b>47</b>   | <b>4</b>    |
|  |             |             |             |
| SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE (900 CODE)             |             |             |             |
| SPECIAL TYPE (900-911)                       | 4           | 4           | 0           |
| <b>TOTAL CODE 900</b>                        | <b>4</b>    | <b>4</b>    | <b>0</b>    |
|  |             |             |             |
| <b>2010 TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>                  |             |             |             |
| <b>2011 TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>                  | <b>2496</b> |             |             |
| <b>2012 TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>                  |             | <b>2236</b> |             |
| <b>2013 TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>                  |             |             | <b>1921</b> |

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



## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

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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 works in conjunction with the Ridgewood Ambulance Corps. to respond to emergency medical calls. The Ridgewood Fire Department responded to seven-hundred and ninety-two (792) ambulance calls in 2013.

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 EMT Bags, oxygen units, and a defibrillator.

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 stair 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, drive the ambulance

There are 23 Firefighters and five Lieutenants that have completed the extensive Emergency Medical Technician training course and have become certified. In addition, one FF/EMT and one Lieutenant are trained Paramedics.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT EMT'S**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Lieutenant Brendan Corcoran</b>      | <b>Firefighter/EMT Jason Kane</b>             |
| <b>Lieutenant Mike Kakolewski</b>       | <b>Firefighter/EMT Michael McLaughlin</b>     |
| <b>Lieutenant Maffei</b>                | <b>Firefighter/EMT Matthew Musicant</b>       |
| <b>Lieutenant Scott Schmidt</b>         | <b>Firefighter/EMT Justin O'Connor</b>        |
| <b>Lieutenant Harvey Weber</b>          | <b>Firefighter/EMT Brian Peacock</b>          |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT John Baughman</b>    | <b>Firefighter/EMT Matthew Ramage</b>         |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Matthew Bombace</b>  | <b>Firefighter/EMT Thomas Shortway</b>        |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Paul Brennan</b>     | <b>Firefighter/EMT David Skoblar</b>          |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Gregory Corcoran</b> | <b>Firefighter/EMT Dan Steen</b>              |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Scott Cornell</b>    | <b>Firefighter/EMT Chris Wolfstirn</b>        |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Joseph Ferraro</b>   | <b>Firefighter/EMT John Young</b>             |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Michael Ferraro</b>  | <b>Firefighter/EMT Jordan Zales</b>           |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Russell Gebhard</b>  | <b>Prob. Firefighter/EMT Chris Eidschun</b>   |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT Jason Jacoby</b>     | <b>Prob. Firefighter/EMT Kurt Harba</b>       |
| <b>Firefighter/EMT John Judge</b>       | <b>Prob. Firefighter/EMT James Kakolewski</b> |



# **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE**

## **Decontamination Trailer:**

The Ridgewood Fire Department houses the Northwest Bergen Mutual Aid Association's Decontamination Trailer. When requested by any member of the Mutual Aid group, the trailer will be dispatched with career and volunteer members of the Ridgewood Fire Department, along with Volunteer Firefighters from the Ho-Ho-Kus, Ramsey, and Wyckoff Fire Departments who will provide whatever decontamination service is necessary to the requesting community.

The Ridgewood Fire Department is also one of two locations where the Mutual Aid Association stores Firefighting Foam for the use by any member in the Mutual Aid Association.

## **Hazardous Materials Incidents:**

The Ridgewood Fire Department responded to one hundred and seven (107) incidents involving hazardous material substances in 2013.

All Ridgewood Fire Department personnel receive instruction in the handling of hazardous materials incidents as first responders in our regularly scheduled training sessions. Current standards require State mandated minimum training for all emergency response personnel (i.e. Fire, Police, and E.M.S.).

All personnel have completed an initial fourteen (14) hours of hazardous materials training covering Level I Awareness and Level II Operational. In addition, they received annual training in the handling of hazardous materials situations.

The goal of this training is to ensure our first responders are able to recognize, contain, and control the dangers to the public and/or the environment. The Fire Department contains the situation until the County or State Hazardous Materials Response Team arrives on the scene. Once other agencies arrive on the scene, the Fire Department provides assistance until the completion of the clean up.



## **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 and equipped 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 systems, 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 eighteen 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.

In 2013, the following personnel are certified by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors:

Captain John Albano

Lieutenant Brendan Corcoran

Lieutenant Mike Kakolewski

Lieutenant Joseph Koonce

Lieutenant Steve Maffei

Lieutenant Harvey Weber

Sr. Firefighter/Eng. Matt Ramge

Sr. Firefighter/Eng. Kevin Reilly

Firefighter/EMT Matt Bombace

Firefighter/EMT Greg Corcoran

Firefighter/EMT Joseph Ferraro

Prob. Firefighter/EMT Kurt Harba

Firefighter/EMT John Judge

Prob. Firefighter/EMT Jim Kakolewski

Firefighter/EMT Michael McLaughlin

Firefighter/EMT Matthew Musicant

Firefighter/EMT Justin O'Connor

Firefighter/EMT Chris Wolfstirn

Fire Official John Young



Front row: Greg Corcoran, Susanne Warfield (divemaster), and Matt Bombace. Back row: Mike Kakolewski, Matt Ramge, Chris Wolfstirn, Tony Petrak (instructor), Jim Kakolewski, Kurt Harba, Brendan Corcoran, and Geoff Morris (divemaster).

**Pictured above are members of the Fire Department Dive Team at Graydon Pool conducting Rescue Dive Evolutions**

# **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

## **Fire Prevention Bureau**

Firefighter/Fire Official John Young is in charge of the Fire Prevention Bureau. John joined the Fire Department in December of 2002 as a Firefighter and was assigned to the Bureau in July of 2005. Due to budget cuts in 2010, FF/Fire Official John Young was re-assigned back to a shift, but remains in charge. Three part-time inspectors were hired to conduct fire inspections. There are also five Firefighters who are fire inspectors and perform fire inspections while on duty.

The following part time personnel are assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau:

Fire Official Jack Wolfstirn  
Fire Official Kevin McGuire  
Fire Inspector David Yaden

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 2013 there were 146 Life Hazard Uses, and 1,178 periodic Fire Safety Inspections conducted. A total of 490 occupancies were re-inspected for the 627 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 2013, a very successful Open House was held at Fire Headquarters supporting Fire Prevention Week. Demonstrations on cooking safety, 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. Firefighter Matthew Range as Sparky the Fire Dog, and Lt. Brendon Corcoran, did repelling exercises for the audience. A car fire was simulated and extinguished by firefighters. Also there was a demonstration on how the jaws of life are used in a motor vehicle accident.

## **Public Education**

The Fire Prevention Bureau is very involved in Public Fire Safety Education. In 2013, there were 21 School Visitations, 15 Visitations to Fire Headquarters, and 6 Special Programs, reaching over 1,932 children and 436 adults. Also, the Fire Department conducted fire drills at all the Public Schools, Church Sunday Schools, and various locations as requested for 5,256 children and adults.





# **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

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## **FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS** **(COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS & DWELLINGS)**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| General Business .....                         | 966 |
| Gas Station and Auto Repair Shops .....        | 13  |
| Restaurants .....                              | 57  |
| Retail Food Stores .....                       | 5   |
| Lumber Yards .....                             | 1   |
| Multi Family Buildings .....                   | 58  |
| Institutional Buildings .....                  | 21  |
| Public and/or Private Schools .....            | 23  |
| Church and/or Sunday School Buildings .....    | 34  |
| Municipal-Owned Buildings .....                | 16  |
| Life Hazard Use - Annual .....                 | 125 |
| Life Hazard Use - Quarterly .....              | 21  |
| Fire Prevention NE/INL .....                   | 120 |
| Smoke Detector Certification Inspections ..... | 647 |

## **UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE** **(HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCE INSPECTIONS)**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Fireplace/Chimneys .....                              | 34  |
| Furnace Installation - Gas .....                      | 150 |
| Furnace Installation - Oil .....                      | 7   |
| Other Gas Appliances .....                            | 329 |
| Oil Tank Installations .....                          | 5   |
| Fuel Tank Installations .....                         | 2   |
| Fuel Pump Installations .....                         | 0   |
| Abandonment of Underground Tanks .....                | 1   |
| Removal of Underground Tanks .....                    | 190 |
| Removal of Interior/Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks ..... | 57  |
| Chimney Liner Installation .....                      | 86  |
| Other .....   | 6   |

## **UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE** **(CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS)**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Fire Sub-Code Permits Issued .....                 | 902 |
| U.C.C. NE/INL .....                                | 12  |
| C.C.O. Permits Issued.....                         | 24  |
| C.C.O. Inspections of Commercial Occupancies ..... | 24  |
| Progress Inspections .....                         | 2   |
| Fire Sub-Code Related Duties .....                 | 223 |
| Blueprints Checked .....                           | 448 |
| Review of Site Plan Locations .....                | 12  |
| Smoke Detector - Placement/Installations .....     | 198 |

# **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

## **NOTICES ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Fire Sub-Code Violations .....                  | 189 |
| Fire Prevention Bureau Violations .....         | 627 |
| Re-Inspections to Assure Correction .....       | 490 |
| Summons Issued .....                            | 25  |
| Letters Sent .....                              | 379 |
| Municipal Court Appearances.....                | 4   |
| Construction Board of Appeals Appearances ..... | 0   |
| Fire Prevention Permits Issued .....            | 55  |
| Fire Prevention Permit Inspections .....        | 45  |
| Fire Prevention Penalties Issued .....          | 84  |

## **FIRE PREVENTION ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| S/D Certification Fees (Ordinance #3026) ..... | \$36,753.00 |
| Inspection Fees Local .....                    | \$79,210.00 |
| Fire Prevention Permit Fees .....              | \$ 1,428.00 |
| Fire Prevention Penalties .....                | \$ 9,381.41 |
| Life Hazard Use Inspection Fees (State) .....  | \$25,161.50 |
| Fire Sub-Code Fees (Building Department) ..... | \$78,683.50 |
| Alarm Panel Registration Fees .....            | \$42,060.00 |
| Alarm Panel Registration Fines .....           | \$ 0.00     |
| C.C.O. Fees.....                               | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Miscellaneous Fees .....                       | \$ 0.00     |

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

|   |    |
|---|----|
| With Building Department .....                        | 5  |
| With Other Village Departments .....                  | 0  |
| With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel ..... | 1  |
| With Board of Education Personnel .....               | 23 |
| With Valley Hospital Personnel .....                  | 0  |
| With Other Governmental Agencies .....                | 0  |
| With Contractors .....                                | 0  |

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

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| To Building Department .....       | 11 |
| To Other Village Departments ..... | 0  |
| To State Agencies .....            | 0  |

# **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| With Building Department .....                        | 152 |
| With Other Village Departments .....                  | 0   |
| With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel ..... | 0   |
| With Board of Education Personnel .....               | 0   |
| With Valley Hospital Personnel .....                  | 0   |

## **COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED:**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Hazardous Condition .....                      | 22 |
| Blocking Exit Ways .....                       | 8  |
| Improper Trash Storage and/or Collection ..... | 2  |
| Re-Inspections to Assure Corrections .....     | 28 |
| Other .....                                    | 0  |

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Fire Safety Education/Training Program .....                      | 6   |
| Preparation and Maintenance of Reports/Inspection Schedules ..... | 234 |
| Respond to Fire Incidents .....                                   | 0   |
| Investigate Fire Incidents .....                                  | 1   |
| Valley Hospital Fire Drills Attended .....                        | 0   |
| Meetings and Schools Attended .....                               | 4   |
| Check for Safety at Public Affairs .....                          | 27  |

## *ADOPT A HYDRANT PROGRAM*

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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 dog to. Actually, fire hydrants are a very important device in the Village. It is the Fire Department’s only water source and is necessary to help them save lives and protect property and woodlands.

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

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**Car # 30:**  
2012 Chief's Ford Escape

**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

**Ladder #36:**  
1991 1500 gpm 105' Truck

**Tower # 36:**  
2012 1500 gpm Pierce Arrow

**Eng. # 37:**  
2000 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

**Car #38:**  
2006 Captain's Ford Expedition

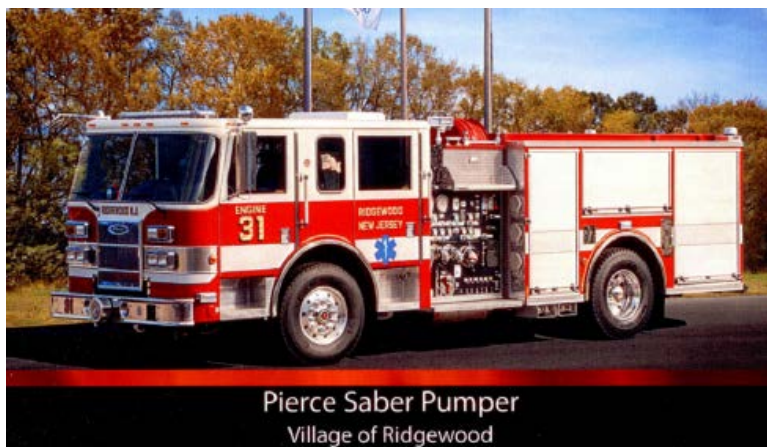
**Car #39:**  
1998 GM Yukon Fire Prevention

**Car #40:**  
2003 Ford Explorer

**Car #41:**  
1999 GMC Yukon Fire Prevention

**Rescue #42:**  
1998 International E-ONE

**Car #43:**  
1997 GMC Utility Pickup Truck



The Ridgewood Fire Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$350,000.00. The grant paid 90% of the purchase price for a new fire engine to replace our current 1982 fire engine. The new Engine 31 was put in service in early 2013.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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The following personnel provided valuable contributions to the 2013 Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report. I appreciate all of their help in making this report:

**FORMAT AND LAYOUT:**

Chief James Van Goor  
Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU:**

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

**PRINTING:**

Chief James Van Goor  
Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant

**FIRE NARRATIVES:**

Chief James Van Goor  
Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant  
John Judge, Lieutenant

**PICTURES**

Boyd Loving, Village Resident  
Phil Francis, Retired Captain