

Village of Ridgewood Fire Department
Annual Report
2012



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RIDGEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT;

*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.*

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

- *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 2012

Dear Dr. Gabbert,

It is my honor to present the 2012 Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report. This report summarizes activities of the Fire Department from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. In this document, you will learn about the personnel, facilities, equipment, and programs that serve you and our residents. The Ridgewood Fire Department is a highly trained and professional organization, providing quality service. As you will see in this document, the Ridgewood Fire Department has one goal in mind, providing the best level of customer service possible.

It is to the credit of such a fine group of individuals that we are able to effectively meet all of the increasing demands for service. The members of this department have dedicated their lives to serving their community and do so with strength, honor, and compassion. It is these beliefs that have become the cornerstones for which we provide our services, including fire prevention, public education, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and technical rescue. I thank the members of this department for their unparalleled service. The coming year promises to bring more positive changes to the organization and we will continue our focus on customer service and training.

The continuing economic climate is a challenge for all. 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. I am in my twenty-seventh year serving the Village, time has not changed my enthusiasm and dedication to ensure that the best fire services are provided to our community.

FF. Harvey Weber and I applied for and received two grants from the Assistance to Firefighter grant program administered by FEMA. In January 2012, 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 second grant, which was awarded in March 2012, was in the amount of \$131,195.00. This grant paid 90% of the cost to purchase new structural firefighter protective gear and a personnel escape device for every firefighter.

In 2011, The Ridgewood Fire Department was awarded a grant from the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant Program administered by FEMA in the amount of \$348,000.00. The grant paid the salary and benefits for three firefighters for a period of two years.

On behalf of all of the Career and Volunteer Firefighters and the Administrative Staff of the 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.

It is my pleasure to serve this community as Fire Chief. If you have any questions regarding your fire department, please contact me at (201) 444-8822 or e-mail at jvangoor@ridgewoodnj.net.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Van Goor, Chief

THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

Mayor and Council 2012

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. Our congratulations to Mayor Aronsohn on his re-election, congratulations and welcome to Councilwoman Gwen Hauck and Deputy Mayor Albert Pucciarelli. We look forward to working with you, Councilman Thomas Riche and Councilwoman Bernadette Walsh in the coming years. We also say thank you to Mayor Keith Killion 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 citizens apartment complexes. We have a population density of 4,308 residents per square mile, and an overall population of 24,936, within a 5.79 square mile land area. The population density is significantly higher than the Bergen County average of 3,775.

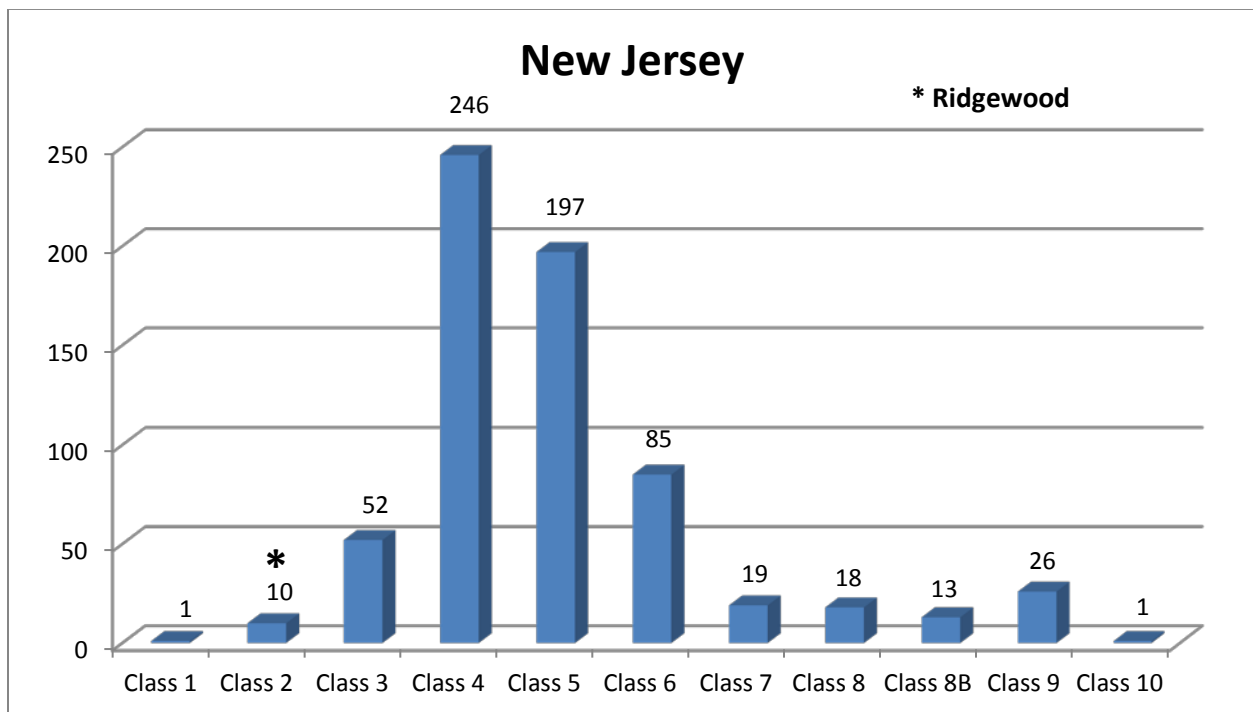
**It costs the average tax payer \$1.96
per household/commercial
business, per day, to have a
Professional Fire Department**

Public Protection Classification

The Ridgewood Fire Department is proud to announce that 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 668 communities in New Jersey only 10 communities received a class 2 and one community received a class 1 rating. This accomplishment has placed the Ridgewood Fire Department as one of the top eleven (11) 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/Location

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.



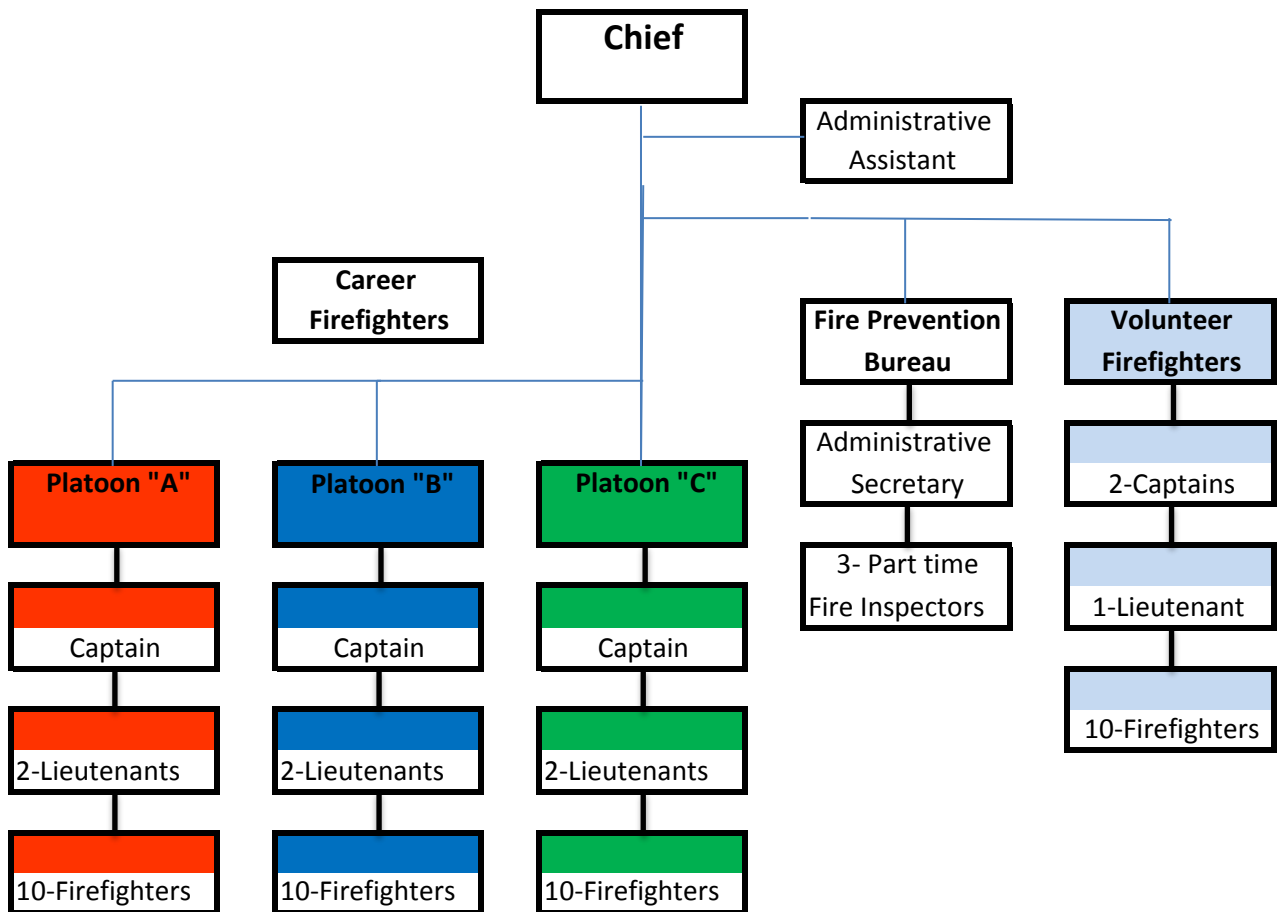
The current Fire Headquarters is located at 201 E. Glen Avenue. This facility has been operational since June 1, 1992 and serves as quarters for the officers and men of Engine Company No. 35, Ladder Company No. 36, and Rescue Company No. 42. The building also houses the Administrative Offices, the Fire Prevention Bureau, and Engine Company No. 32, which is comprised of Volunteer Firefighters.



In 2012 the average response time was 3 minutes 44 seconds

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. Greg Hillerman
Lt. Michael Kakolewski
Lt. Joseph Koonce
Lt. Steven Maffei
Lt. Scott Schmidt

Firefighters:

FF. John Baughman
FF. Matthew Bombace
FF. Paul Brennan
FF. Brendan Corcoran
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 Robert Koziieski December 31, 2012

**“Mark Cassidy
Firefighter of the Year”
award was presented to
FF. Christopher Wolfstirn**



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. Timothy Bombace
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

CAREER DEPARTMENT:

The Members of the Career Department conducted training in 2012 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 2012 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		



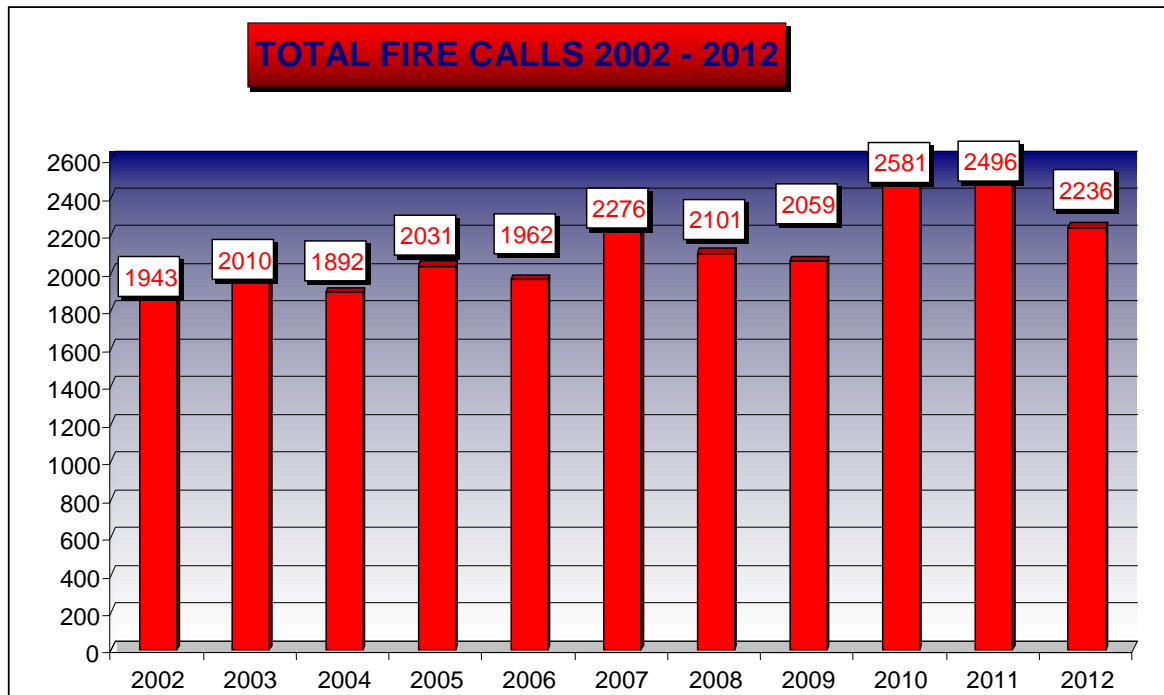
FIRE CALL VOLUME INCREASES

Our annual call volume has increased by 29.7% over the last decade.

RESPONSES BY MONTH – 2012

JANUARY	140
FEBRUARY	135
MARCH	173
APRIL	151
MAY	159
JUNE	180
JULY	158
AUGUST	169
SEPTEMBER	184
OCTOBER	378
NOVEMBER	224
DECEMBER	185

TOTAL ALARMS 2,236



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2012 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Motor Vehicle Accident

February 1, 2012



The driver of a 2006 BMW sedan was seriously injured when his vehicle veered off of Route 17 North near Paramus Road at approximately 1:55 PM, rolling over several times, and then winding up right side up on a highway embankment. Responding to the scene were Ridgewood PD, Ridgewood FD, Ridgewood EMS, and paramedics from The Valley Hospital.

Basement Fire

February 2, 2012

Responded to a report of a house fire shortly after 10:40 A.M. Found fire in basement with heavy smoke throughout the house. An elderly resident of the home was safely evacuated prior to the arrival of the first responding units. Members of HoHoKus Fire Department also responded to the scene.

Mutual Aid House Fire

February 12, 2012

Responded to a call for Mutual Aid for a structure fire in Glen Rock at 7:28 P.M. Engine Company #35 responded with a crew of four (4) Firefighters. Engine Company #35 performed ventilation operations and advanced a 1 ¾" attack line into the structure using the TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera) to locate, confine, and extinguish the fire.

Restaurant Fire

February 17, 2012



Responded to a report of a three (3) alarm fire reported at 1:45 A.M. The fire damaged two (2) Ridgewood businesses (Oak Street Collision located at 70 Oak Street and the Dim Sum Dynasty Restaurant located at 75 Franklin Avenue).

Structure Fire

February 27, 2012

Received a call for a structure fire. The fire was determined to have originated in the wall behind a fireplace. Firefighters doused the blaze using pressurized water extinguishers. Smoldering debris was removed to the street and damage was confined to the point of origin. There was also minor smoke damage to the home.

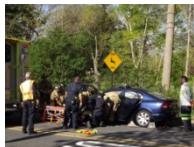
Contents Fire

March 4, 2012

Responded to a report of a chimney fire. Upon arrival, Engine Company #35 crew found that the first floor was filled with smoke. Firefighters did an investigation with the TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera) to check for possible extension in the adjacent ceiling or walls and found none. The source of the smoke, a smoldering cardboard box, was discovered in an adjacent room. A pressurized water extinguisher was used to soak the box and the carpet below it, which was then removed from the premises. Embers had been transferred from the fireplace to the box by the homeowner, unaware that the box began to burn. The extinguished carpet was removed from the home and placed outside. Due to the quick response, the fire was contained and caused minimal damage to the residence.

Motor Vehicle Accident w/Entrapment

April 24, 2012



Responded to a call for a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Linwood Avenue and Paramus Road. Fire Department personnel used the Hurst Tool to remove the driver's side door to remove occupants from a 2011 Honda Civic. Two occupants were removed and were transported to the Valley Hospital. Fire Department personnel disconnected the battery.

Motor Vehicle Accident/Car Fire

May 25, 2012

Responded to a two (2) car motor vehicle accident, with a roll over, at the intersection of East Glen Avenue and Van Emburgh Avenue. A gray Nissan Pathfinder was found lying on its driver's side with the driver sitting on a front lawn by the intersection. The second vehicle, a blue Dodge Charger, was found on a front lawn with the driver out of the vehicle and lying on the lawn. The Dodge Charger had a fire in the engine area from the front impact and was extinguished with a dry chemical fire extinguisher. Both vehicles were stabilized and the batteries were disconnected. Speedy dry was spread in the intersection to absorb and contain a small fluid leak from the Dodge Charger.

Porch Fire

June 1, 2012

Responded to a report of a porch fire. Engine Company #35's crew deployed a hose line to knock down the fire prior to the embers and the flames entering the residence. While Engine Company #35's crew controlled and extinguished the fire on the porch, Engine Company #31's crew entered the residence and searched the home for occupants and extension of fire using the TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera). After Engine Company #31's crew confirmed there were no occupants or extension of fire into the home, they assisted Engine Company #35's crew with salvage and overhaul. The ceiling of the porch was taken down and the attic area of the porch was checked for extension of fire. Nothing was found. Due to the quick response, the fire was contained and caused minimal damage to the residence.

Electric Vault Fire

June 7, 2012



Received a call for a basement fire on E. Ridgewood Avenue. Upon arrival, found electrical vault in the sidewalk emitting fire and smoke. A second alarm was transmitted, and a request for a FAST Team was made to Ho-Ho-Kus. The businesses were evacuated and a portion of E. Ridgewood Avenue was closed off by Fire Department personnel. PSE&G was notified to respond. Fire Department personnel searched the basements of 190, 192, 194, 196 E. Ridgewood Avenue for fire and electrical shorting with the use of the TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera). No fire, electrical shoring, or heat was detected in any of the addresses above, but all had a light smoke haze in the basement, which extended to the first floor. PSE&G arrived on scene and determined that the transformer beneath the sidewalk shorted out, which in turn caused it to catch fire. The fire was extinguished with fire extinguishers and fans were used to evacuate smoke from the buildings. The scene was turned over to PSE&G.

Motor Vehicle Fire

June 27, 2012



Responded to a call for a motor vehicle fire with trapped victims. A pick-up truck went off the road and jumped over a curb on E. Glen Avenue taking down road signs until it came to a stop on the lawn in front of the Old Paramus Church. The impact of hitting the curb broke the gas lines under the truck setting the engine compartment and the under carriage on fire. Also, two gas cans and two paint cans in the rear bed of the pick-up truck were ignited. Engine Company #35's crew secured a water source and used a 1 ¾" hand line to extinguish the fire. Engine Company #31 crew provided tools for overhaul and discharged a dry chemical extinguisher to put out a gasoline fire in the rear bed. Speedy dry absorbent was put down in the road around the storm drain to prevent run off. The DEP was notified of the spill.

Haz-Mat Spill

July 17, 2012

Personnel from the Ridgewood Fire Department and Bergen County Health and Human Services Department's Hazardous Materials Response Team worked jointly to contain a diesel fuel spill from contaminating the Diamond Brook. The spilled fuel was caused by a dump truck crash at the intersection of Godwin Avenue and North Monroe Street earlier in the day. Ridgewood Fire Department Lieutenant John Albano estimated that less than 20 gallons of fuel had seeped into a storm drain at the intersection. Fire & HazMat crews placed containment booms in the Diamond Brook at two (2) locations to prevent the spill from making its way further downstream.

Helicopter Landing

July 30, 2012

Fire Department personnel responded to Veteran's Field for a Helicopter Landing. Fire personnel were on standby for slightly over one hour during a medivac helicopter landing and takeoff. The helicopter landed to pick up and transport a critically ill patient from The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood.

Three Car Motor Vehicle Accident

July 31, 2012

Received a call of a three (3) car motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Linwood Avenue and North Pleasant Avenue. One of the drivers sustained minor injuries. The accident caused a minor fluid spill, which was quickly contained by Ridgewood Firefighters.

Bomb Scare

September, 2012



An abandoned briefcase in front of the Capital One Bank on East Ridgewood Avenue resulted in a response by the Bergen County Police Department's Bomb Squad late in the afternoon. After receiving a 911 telephone call from a bank employee reporting the suspicious package, Fire Department personnel closed a section of East Ridgewood Avenue and evacuated several nearby apartments, offices, and stores as they awaited arrival of the County's explosive ordinance team. It was determined that there was no hazard.

Motor Vehicle Fire

September 25, 2012

Responded to a call for a motor vehicle fire in the Ridgewood YMCA parking lot. Upon arrival, found vehicle smoking with heavy fire damage throughout the interior. The fire was out upon our arrival and was extinguished by an employee of the YMCA with a dry chemical extinguisher. While he was extinguishing the fire he sustained a minor injury to his lungs by inhaling hot fire gases. He was treated by Fire Department personnel and transported to the Valley Hospital. The owner of the vehicle stated he had a gas can in the back seat of the vehicle and it spilled. Upon arrival at the location, the owner tried to move the electric seat forward, which ignited the interior of the car into flames. The owner of the vehicle was not injured. Engine Company #35 crew disconnected the battery and overhauled the interior of the car.

Kitchen Fire

September 26, 2012

Responded to a call of a kitchen fire. While enroute to the residence, the homeowner called Central Dispatch stating the fire was extending out of the kitchen. A 2nd Alarm and shortly thereafter, a 3rd Alarm was transmitted. Engine Company #35 arrived and established a water supply from the closet hydrant and proceeded to the front of the fire building where they stretched a 1 ¾" hand line to the main body of the fire, which was located in the kitchen of the home. Rescue #42 and Ladder #36 vented the rear kitchen first floor window and rear door while Engine Company #31's crew went to the second floor to check for extension above the fire and conduct a primary search using the TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera). Fire personnel turned off utilities (water, electric, and gas) and used the Thermal Imaging Camera on all three floors to confirm no extension of fire. Fire personnel assisted the homeowner by helping move personal items from the home. Two cats were found alive inside the home and were unharmed by the fire. There were no injuries reported at this fire.

Severe Weather Incident/ Hurricane Sandy

October 29 – November 5, 2012

The Ridgewood Fire Department responded to 171 calls in 2 days due to the hurricane force winds from Hurricane Sandy. The conditions out on the road were extremely hazardous with branches and trees falling all over town. Fallen trees and downed power lines made travel in the Village extremely difficult and very unsafe. Fire Department personnel went around town taping off unsafe areas from fallen power lines and removed fallen branches from the street.

Structure Fire

November 5, 2012

Responded to call of a fully involved garage fire located underneath living quarters with flames extending to the second floor above the garage and attic space. Heavy smoke and flames were showing on the opposite side coming out of the Gable Vent. PSE&G disconnected power in the street for the structure prior to the Fire Department's arrival. Engine Company #35's crew established a water supply and stretched a 1 ¾" fire attack hand line to the seat of the fire, which appeared to be in the garage. After attacking the seat of the fire, the hand line was stretched to the second floor above the fire. Engine Company #32's crew stretched a second 1 ¾" fire attack hand line to back up the first line. As flames were showing through the roof with conditions deteriorating and a partial roof collapse, inside crews were withdrawn from the structure and a defensive operation was put into place. The deck gun and a 2 ½" hand line were put into operation. After the fire was knocked down, interior lines were put back into operation and overhauling commenced. During this time, Ff. Matthew Ramge emerged from the basement rescuing the family cat, "Mr. Stitches". The cat was immediately assessed by Carol from Tyco Animal Services; oxygen was administered via a pet rescue mask, and the cat was transported to Oradell Animal Hospital. Ridgewood Fire Volunteer's and HoHoKus Fire Department assisted.

Structure Fire

November 11, 2012

Responded to a report of a structure fire that had started in the middle of the patio by hot embers from a fireplace that was discarded in a plastic bag. When the bag melted, the wind blew the embers onto the house igniting the siding in the rear of the structure. Fire Department personnel used a TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera) to check for hot spots and a hose line was used to extinguish the fire and cool off the siding. Several pieces of vinyl siding that were melted by the fire were removed to check for extension of fire. A smoke ejector was used to vent the home of smoke through the front door.



INCIDENT TYPES (2010 - 2012)

	2010	2011	2012
FIRES (100 CODE)			
STRUCTURE FIRES (111-123A)	35	24	39
VEHICLE FIRES (131-138)	6	8	3
TREES, BRUSH & GRASS FIRES (140-143)	18	8	15
REFUSE FIRES (150-155)	7	2	8
SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE (160-173)	7	5	2
TOTAL CODE 100	73	47	67
OVERPRESSURE, RUPTURE, EXPLOSION - NO FIRE (200 CODE)			
STEAM, AIR & GAS RUPTURES (200-251)	7	11	13
TOTAL CODE 200	7	11	13
RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES (300 CODE)			
EMT CALLS (321D)	882	801	843
EMT MUTUAL AID CALLS (321M)	0	0	3
SEARCH, RESCUE, EXTRICATION (322-381)	41	49	12
TOTAL CODE 300	923	850	855
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (CODE 400)			
COMBUSTIBLE SPILLS & LEAKS (400-413)	86	73	62
CHEMICAL HAZARD/Carbon Monoxide (420-431)	59	63	51
ELECTRICAL WIRING/EQUIPMENT (440-445A)	328	266	219
VEHICLE ACCIDENT/STRUCTURE COLLAPSE (451-482)	43	28	45
TOTAL CODE 400	516	430	377
SERVICE CALLS (500 CODE)			
SERVICE CALL PERSON IN DISTRESS (500-512)	96	68	53
WATER PROBLEM (520-522)	133	182	37
SMOKE REMOVAL/INVESTIGATION (531-531A)	181	203	184
OTHER ASSISTANCE (540-571)	33	26	46
TOTAL CODE 500	443	479	320
GOOD INTENT CALL (600 CODE)			
GOOD INTENT CALL (600-641)	71	59	44
SMOKE SCARE/INVESTIGATION (650-661)	16	16	7
HAZMAT RELEASE INVESTIGATION (671-672)	4	8	10
TOTAL CODE 600	91	83	61
ALARM ACTIVATIONS (700 CODE)			
MALICIOUS CALL (700-729)	11	8	17
MALFUNCTION OF ALARM (730-736)	264	269	192
ACTIVATION - NO EMERGENCY (740-746)	240	281	280
TOTAL CODE 700	515	558	489

SEVERE WEATHER & NATURAL DISASTER (800 CODE)			
WIND STORM, LIGHTNING STRIKES (800-815)	11	34	47
TOTAL CODE 800	11	34	47
SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE (900 CODE)			
SPECIAL TYPE (900-911)	2	4	4
TOTAL CODE 900	2	4	4
2010 TOTAL INCIDENTS	2581		
2011 TOTAL INCIDENTS		2496	
2012 TOTAL INCIDENTS			2236

(ALL OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (NFIRS) FIRE REPORTS FILED BY THE RIDGEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT BRACKETED NUMBERS ARE NIFRS FIRE REPORT CODE NUMBERS)



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 thirteen (113) incidents involving hazardous material substances in 2012.

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.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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 eight-hundred and fifty five (855) ambulance calls in 2011.

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, etc.

There are 24 Firefighters and three Lieutenants that have completed the extensive Emergency Medical Technician training course and have become certified. In addition, two of our FF/EMTs are trained Paramedics.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EMT'S

LT. Mike Kakolewski
LT. Steven Maffei
LT. Scott Schmidt
FF. John Baughman
FF. Matthew Bombace
FF. Paul Brennan
FF. Brendan Corcoran
FF Gregory Corcoran
FF. Scott Cornell
FF. Joseph Ferraro
FF. Michael Ferraro
FF. Russell Gebhard
FF. Jason Jacoby
FF. John Judge

FF. Mike McLaughlin
FF. Matthew Musicant
FF. Justin O'Connor
FF. Brian Peacock
FF. Matthew Ramge
FF. Thomas Shortway
FF. David Skoblar
FF. Dan Steen
FF. Harvey Weber
FF. Chris Wolfstirn
F.O. John Young
FF. Jordan Zales
FF. Jason Kane



SWIFT WATER/ RESCUE DIVE TEAM

The Ridgewood Fire Department proudly staffs 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 fifteen 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.

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

Captain Paul Monton
Lieutenant John Albano
Lieutenant Joseph Koonce
Lieutenant Steven Maffei
Sr. Firefighter/Eng. Sean Daly
Sr. Firefighter/Eng. Russell Gebhard
Sr. Firefighter/Eng. Kevin Reilly

Firefighter/EMT Joseph Ferraro
Firefighter/EMT Harvey Weber
Firefighter/EMT John Judge
Firefighter/EMT Michael McLaughlin
Firefighter/EMT Matthew Musicant
Firefighter/EMT Justin O'Connor
Fire Official John Young



Pictured above are members of the Fire Department Dive Team at Graydon Pool conducting rescue dive evolutions with the Lifeguard Staff.

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 2012 there were 152 Life Hazard Uses, and 1,152 periodic Fire Safety Inspections conducted. A total of 531 occupancies were re-inspected for the 491 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 2012, 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 Ramage as Sparky the Fire Dog, and Firefighter Sean Daly, 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 2012, there were 17 School Visitations, 14 Visitations to Fire Headquarters, and 5 Special Programs, reaching over 1,580 children and 512 adults. Also, the Fire Department conducted fire drills at all the Public Schools, Church Sunday Schools, and various locations as requested for 5,020 children and adults.







ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU 2012

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS
(COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS & DWELLINGS)

General Business	922
Gas Station and Auto Repair Shops	22
Restaurants	59
Retail Food Stores	3
Lumber Yards	1
Multi Family Buildings	48
Institutional Buildings	24
Public and/or Private Schools	27
Church and/or Sunday School Buildings	28
Municipal-Owned Buildings	16
Life Hazard Use - Annual	129
Life Hazard Use - Quarterly	28
Fire Prevention NE/INL	139
Smoke Detector Certification Inspections	587

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE
(HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCE INSPECTIONS)

Fireplace/Chimneys	30
Furnace Installation - Gas	130
Furnace Installation - Oil	8
Other Gas Appliances	145
Oil Tank Installations	21
Fuel Tank Installations	1
Fuel Pump Installations	0
Abandonment of Underground Tanks	1
Removal of Underground Tanks	189
Removal of Interior/Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks	56
Chimney Liner Installation	49
Other	7

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE
(CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS)

Fire Sub-Code Permits Issued	709
U.C.C. NE/INL	10
C.C.O. Permits Issued.....	37
C.C.O. Inspections of Commercial Occupancies	34
Progress Inspections	25
Fire Sub-Code Related Duties	247
Blueprints Checked	607
Review of Site Plan Locations	20
Smoke Detector - Placement/Installations	168

NOTICES ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS

Fire Sub-Code Violations	155
Fire Prevention Bureau Violations	339
Re-Inspections to Assure Correction	480
Summons Issued	12
Letters Sent	320
Municipal Court Appearances.....	0
Construction Board of Appeals Appearances	0
Fire Prevention Permits Issued	32
Fire Prevention Permit Inspections	32
Fire Prevention Penalties Issued	63

FIRE PREVENTION ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

S/D Certification Fees (Ordinance #3026)	\$34,375.00
Inspection Fees Local	\$77,565.00
Fire Prevention Permit Fees	\$ 574.00
Fire Prevention Penalties	\$ 9,405.00
Life Hazard Use Inspection Fees (State)	\$16,200.76
Fire Sub-Code Fees (Building Department)	\$63,584.50
Alarm Panel Registration Fees	\$43,870.00
Alarm Panel Registration Fines	\$ 0.00
C.C.O. Fees.....	\$ 2,100.00
Miscellaneous Fees	\$ 0.00

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

With Building Department	14
With Other Village Departments	0
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	0
With Board of Education Personnel	14
With Valley Hospital Personnel	0
With Other Governmental Agencies	0
With Contractors	5

NOTIFICATION TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF CODE VIOLATIONS:

To Building Department	15
To Other Village Departments	2
To State Agencies	0

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

With Building Department	220
With Other Village Departments	0
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	0
With Board of Education Personnel	2
With Valley Hospital Personnel	0

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED:

Hazardous Condition	34
Blocking Exit Ways	5
Improper Trash Storage and/or Collection	1
Re-Inspections to Assure Corrections	29
Other	1

MISCELLANEOUS:

Fire Safety Education/Training Program	23
Preparation and Maintenance of Reports/Inspection Schedules	246
Respond to Fire Incidentts	2
Investigate Fire Incidentts	4
Valley Hospital Fire Drills Attended	0
Meetings and Schools Attended	1
Check for Safety at Public Affairs	9

APPARATUS

Car # 30:
2012 Chief's Ford Escape

Eng. # 31:
2003 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Eng. # 32:
1989 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Eng. # 33:
1994 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Eng. # 35:
2000 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Ladder #36:
1991 1500 gpm 105' Truck

Eng. # 37:
1982 1250 gpm Mack 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



In late 2012, the new Ladder Truck (pictured above) was purchased as part of the village capital program. It will be put into service early in 2013.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF EFFORT

On November 4, 2012, Firefighters John Young, Matt Musicant, Jason Jacoby, Matt Bombace, and Jordan Zales left Ridgewood Fire Headquarters on Engine #33 and headed to South Jersey. They volunteered to spend the next 48 hours in Ocean County assisting in the relief efforts after Hurricane Sandy. They arrived in Toms River at approximately 9:00 am with a task force that consisted of a Fire Engine from River Edge, a Ladder Truck from East Rutherford, and a Rescue Truck from Fairlawn. From the staging area the Ridgewood Firefighters were assigned to the Silverton Fire Department, which is located on the water, in Toms River. Silverton was one town that was hit hard by Hurricane Sandy. Approximately 90% of the homes lost in that area were full time residents, with 50% of the homes becoming uninhabitable. In Silverton, the Firefighters did routine fire patrols around town to make sure the residents were ok and to assist with anything they needed. Most of their time was spent responding to fire calls because Silverton lost a majority of their fire apparatus during the hurricane. All of their fire apparatus was either flooded or became damaged during the storm. Throughout the night the task force would go out to conduct routine patrols to make sure the resident's generators were not too close to the homes and to also give the residents of Silverton a sense of security. Silverton was having an issue with loitering of the homes, so the residents felt more at ease by seeing fire trucks patrolling the area with the police. They also assisted the Silverton Ladies Auxiliary in setting up a donation center in the firehouse for clothing, cleaning supplies, toys, batteries, etc., and assisted the Red Cross in delivering much needed cleaning supplies.

Assisting in the relief efforts in Ocean County was an experience they will never forget. It was hard to see how people lost everything; their life savings, homes, cars, etc. The children lost their toys and games. The residents were so devastated they would just walk up to the Firemen for a hug and to cry on their shoulders. They couldn't thank them enough for being there for them in their time of need. One memorable experience for the task force was when they were driving around town handing out supplies, a little 6 year old boy came running out from behind his battered home to say thank you.

The Firefighters returned to Ridgewood after the Chief of the Silverton Fire Department said he had enough manpower and supplies to continue the relief efforts. The task force lined up at the Silverton Fire Department with about 50 residents standing there waving goodbye to them and saying "thank you", as they left town.



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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

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Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant

FIRE NARRATIVES:

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Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant
John Judge, Firefighter

PICTURES

Matt Musicant, Firefighter
Boyd Loving, Village Resident