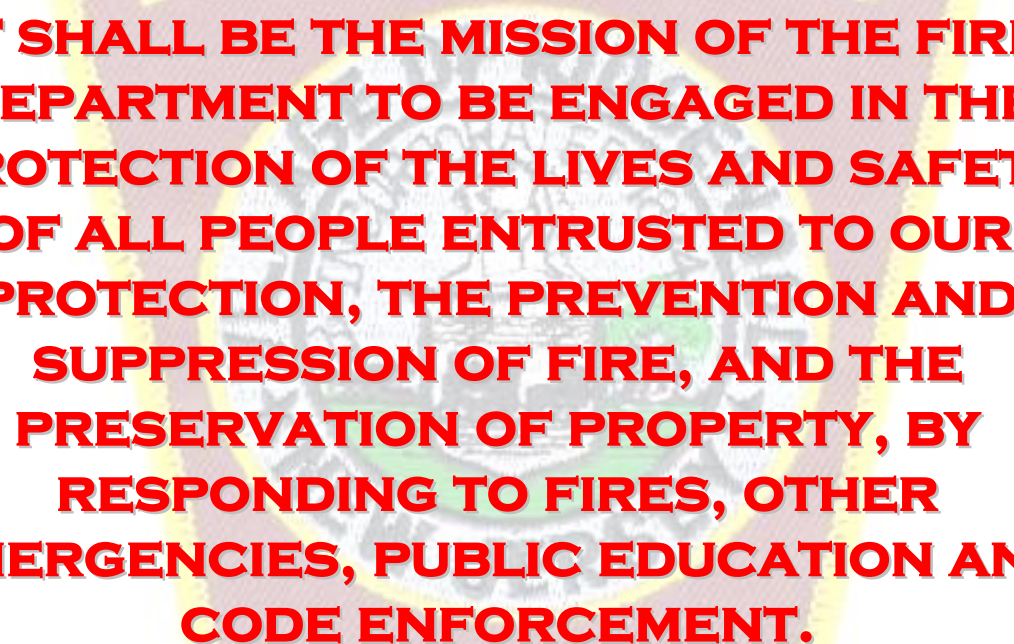


VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



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A faded, large badge of the Ridgewood Fire Department is centered in the background. The badge is shield-shaped with a yellow border and contains the text "RIDGEWOOD" at the top and "FIRE" at the bottom in yellow letters. The central part of the badge features a circular emblem with a fire hydrant and other symbols.

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.

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 once again my honor to present the 2011 Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report. This report summarizes activities of the Fire Department from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. 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, based on the department's core values of respect, trust, and support.

The fire department has made tremendous strides in the areas of emergency response, training, disaster preparedness, fire, and life safety. 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.

In February 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. Chief James Van Goor along with FF. Harvey Weber applied for the grant which was used to hire three new Firefighter/EMT's. Due to future retirements over the next few years, the cost of these new hires will have no impact on the village for the duration of their career. With this grant and contract negotiations, the fire department has been able to maintain the same budget for the last three 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 2011

Mayor Keith Killion

Deputy Mayor Tom Riche

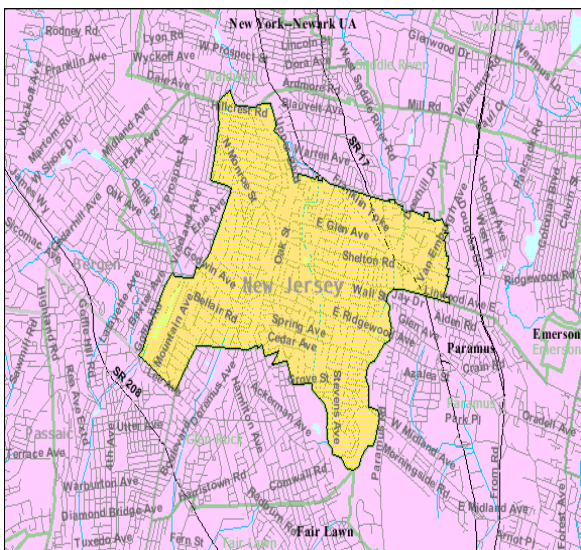
Councilman Stephen Wellinghorst

Councilwoman Bernadette Walsh

Councilman Paul Aronsohn

Village Manager Kenneth Gabbert

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, two automobile dealerships, 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 \$2.00 per household/commercial business, per day, to have a Professional Fire Department

FIRE STATIONS

History/Location's

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 50 years.



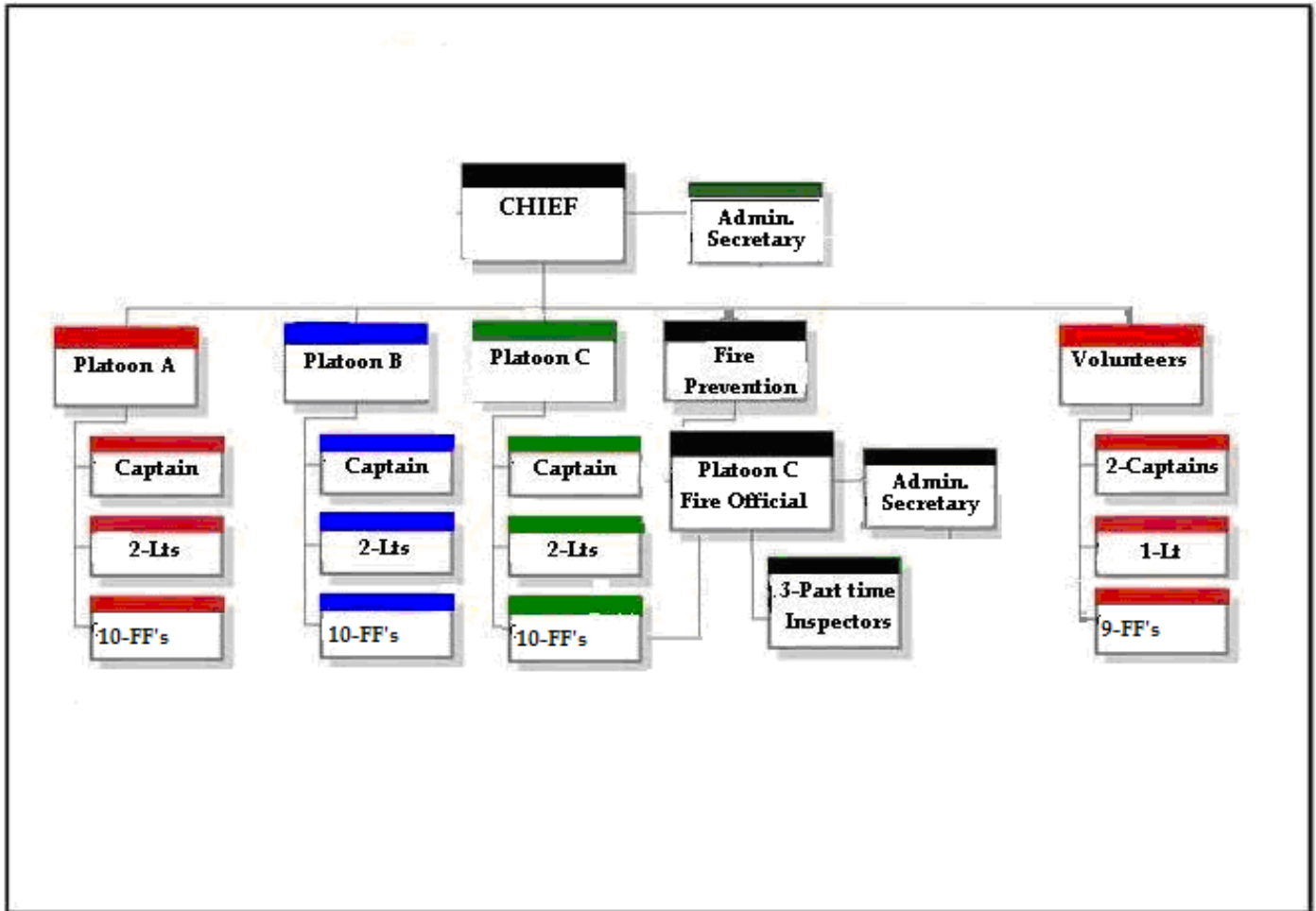
The current Fire Headquarters is located at 201 E. Glen Avenue. This facility has been operational since June 1, 1992 and serves as quarters for the officers and men of Engine Company No. 35, Ladder Company No. 36, and Rescue Company No. 42. The building also houses the Administrative Offices, the Fire Prevention Bureau, and Engine Company No. 37, which is comprised of Volunteer Firefighters.



In 2011 the average response time was 3 minutes 32 seconds

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Officers:

Administrative Capt. Richard Scalione

Capt. Chris Raimondi

Lt. Robert Peacock

Firefighters:

FF. Ryan Andersen

FF. Joseph Carey

FF. Jeffrey Creegan

FF. Robert DeRaffele

FF. Trevor Fetkowitz

FF. Anthony Monton

FF. Kyle Monton

FF. John Spinello

FF. Henry Van Wageningen



PERSONNEL

Administration:

Chief James Van Goor

Administrative Assistant Patti Herman

Fire Officers:

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

Retirements:

Captain John Sharo May 1, 2011

Promotions:

Captain Chris DuFlocq July 21, 2011
Captain Robert Kozielski June 27, 2011
Lt. Michael Kakolewski Sept 9, 2011
Lt. Joseph Koonce Sept 9, 2011

Appointments:

Prob. FF. Greg Corcoran June 17, 2011
Prob. FF. Jason Kane June 16, 2011
Prob. FF. Brian Peacock June 17, 2011
Prob. FF. Chris Wolfstirn June 20, 2011
Prob. FF. Jordan Zales June 20, 2011

**“Mark Cassidy
Firefighter of the Year”
award was presented to
FF. Jason Jacoby**



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



RIDGEWOOD PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT

BACK ROW: FF. R. Gebhard, J. O'Connor, J. Koonce, V. Krug, D. Skoplar, D. Steen, M. Kakolewski, T. Shortway, R. Shortway, B. Corcoran, M. Bombace, J. Young

MIDDLE ROW: FF. M. Ferraro, J. Ferraro-Ambrose, K. Reilly, S. Daly, R. Marmion, M. Range, J. Baughman, J. Judge, S. Cornell, M. Musicant, P. Brennan

FRONT ROW: Lt. G. Hillerman, Lt. S. Schmidt, Lt. J. Albano, Capt. P. Monton, Capt. P. Francis, Chief J. Van Goor, Capt. J. Sharo, Lt. R. Kozilewski, Lt. C. DuFloccq, Lt. S. Matfei

PERSONNEL TRAINING

CAREER DEPARTMENT:

The Members of the Career Department conducted training in 2011 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 2011 covering the following subjects:

Blood Borne Pathogens	Fire Behavior	Building Construction
Structural Firefighting	Air Tools & Air Bags	Right to Know
Aerial Ladders	Incident Command	Ropes & Knots
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
F.A.S.T. Team Operations	Search & Rescue	Mass Decontamination

The Ridgewood Fire Department is conducting a roof operation drill in December 2011 at the Habernickel Farm. The house was made available to the department to drill on prior to being demolished.

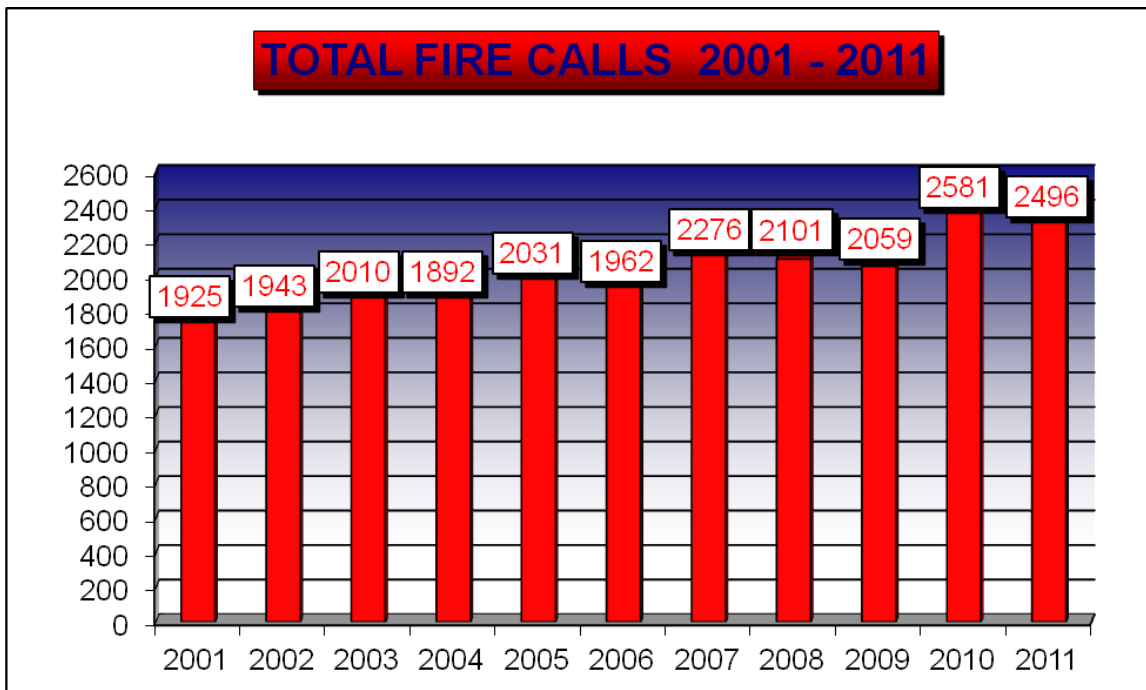


FIRE CALL VOLUME INCREASES

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

RESPONSES BY MONTH – 2011

JANUARY	148
FEBRUARY	156
MARCH	194
APRIL	145
MAY	169
JUNE	168
JULY	184
AUGUST	389
SEPTEMBER	210
OCTOBER	346
NOVEMBER	207
DECEMBER	180
TOTAL ALARMS	2,496



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

January 9, 2011, 22:33 hours

Responded to a report of natural gas at a residence. Upon arrival, fire personnel discovered very high levels of carbon monoxide in the residence, which were enough to cause CO poisoning. The residents were evacuated until the house was vented and made safe.

APARTMENT FIRE

March 3, 2011, 20:00 hours (2nd Alarm)

Responded to a 2nd floor apartment in the Central Business District for a report of something burning. Upon arrival, 3 minutes later, fire personnel entered the apartment and found a slight haze and odor of smoke. Extra alarm was struck for a working fire. Engine companies stretched hose lines to the front of the building; ladder truck aerial was set up to the roof of the building to check for fire extension. Upon further investigation, fire personnel found the fire located in the apartment two doors down from the original caller, concealed in the kitchen wall and running vertically to the roof. Quick investigation and knock down of the fire stopped it from doing any major damage to the apartment and spreading to the connected apartments and stores of this very large old block long building.

CAR FIRE

March 11, 2011, 07:27 hours

Received a call for a working car fire in a driveway that was encroaching on the home. Upon arrival, found a fire in the engine and passenger compartment. Fire personnel arrived on scene in 3 minutes extinguishing the fire quickly. The fire was confined to the vehicle, but would have started the home on fire if it had burned much longer.

ARSON FIRE /TRAPPED RESIDENT

March 26, 2011, 15:48 hours

Responded to a structure fire with heavy smoke coming from the first floor with a possible trapped occupant. The resident was pulled from house and was transported to The Valley Hospital for injuries suffered in the fire. The house fire reached a third alarm and was knocked down and under control in 24 minutes. The arson squad was notified after investigation of the scene.

RESTAURANT FIRE

May 25, 2011, 18:58 hours (General Alarm)

Responded to a reported smoke condition in the intersection of S. Broad St. and Ridgewood Ave. En route, the Captain reports smoke is coming off the roof above a restaurant at 20 E. Ridgewood Ave. Upon arrival, smoke condition is visible also inside the restaurant. Engine companies stretched hand lines inside the business and also to the roof using ladder truck aerial. Due to the building construction and possible fire extension, extra alarms were struck bringing off duty personnel and Volunteers to the scene to keep ahead of the fire. Mutual aid companies were used to man empty firehouses as well as assist at scene with an extra ladder truck and to provide mandated firefighters rescue team. After aggressive attack and quick overhaul to stop fire extension, fire was held to the cooking vent system and roof area around it.

BRUSH FIRE

June 7, 2011, 18:48 hours (Second Alarm)

Found brush fire in wooded area behind 1057 Hillcrest Road. Two Engine Companies with tank water and booster lines were used to control and extinguish the fire. The call elevated to a second alarm. The area was checked and overhauled to be sure the fire was out.

DRYER FIRE

July 10, 2011, 00:23 hours

Received a call for a dryer fire at 619 Delaware Ave. Fire personnel were on scene in 3 minutes and 50 seconds and found a heavy smoke condition coming from the basement. Engine 35 crew extinguished the fire quickly limiting the damage to the dryer and the area directly around it. Fire department personnel helped the homeowner clean the area and remove the dryer from the home.

UNCONSCIOUS PERSON ON RAILROAD TRACKS

July 26, 2011, 17:14 hours

Responded to a call of an unconscious adult male lying on the East bound train tracks at Station Plaza with the next train scheduled to arrive in a few minutes. All trains were stopped, flares were placed on the tracks, and rescue performed; removing the patient from the tracks with no further injury.

BASEMENT FIRE

August 21, 2011, 19:06 hours (3rd Alarm)

Responded to a fire alarm in a residential structure in the 800 block of East Ridgewood Ave. during a heavy thunderstorm. Upon arrival, about one minute later, the Captain entered the home and found smoke conditions on the 1st floor and basement of home. Extra alarms were struck due to a working fire and heavy weather conditions outside. Engine companies stretched hand lines to the first floor and basement. Further investigation via personnel and use of thermal imaging cameras found a fire burning behind the basement bathroom walls and ceiling. Swift response and quick investigation contained this fire to a small area behind the walls and ceiling in the basement. The home is valued at over 1.2 million dollars and sustained an approximate loss of only \$8,000.00.

HURRICANE IRENE

August 28 – August 31, 2011 hours (General Alarm)

The Ridgewood Fire Department responded to 217 calls in 3 ½ days, with 184 calls occurring within the first 42 hours, due to Hurricane Irene. Hurricane Irene presented many problems that had to be overcome by fire department personnel. Many residents had to be rescued from their homes by boat or riding a bucket loader with a firefighter to get out of their homes. Some residents had to be rescued from their motor vehicles when they became flooded over. Firefighters entered many flooded homes to shut off utilities or to pump out basements to help homeowners.

TREE INTO HOUSE

August 28, 2011, 17:15 hours

While an engine company was in the area of Hillcrest Road dealing with multiple downed power lines and trees, they noticed a another tree that was leaning towards a house get closer and closer with every gust of wind. The engine company personnel immediately ran to the front door and evacuated the residents. Moments later, the tree fell onto the house, breaking into an upstairs bedroom. Awareness and quick response saved a family from a very possible bad outcome.

TWO CAR ACCIDENT- 8 VICTIMS

September 17, 2011, 22:48 hours (2nd Alarm)

Received a call for a two car motor vehicle accident with injuries. Upon arrival, found a two car accident with one victim trapped in the car and two victims lying on the sidewalk hurt. Further investigation by fire personnel found four 7-year olds and a mother of three of the kids off to the side also hurt from inside one of the vehicles. Fire Department had seven EMT's and one paramedic on duty, all who jumped in to render aid. Three ambulances were needed to transport 8 victims to 2 different hospitals with firefighter/emts on both ambulances.

MANHOLE/HAZMAT EXPLOSION

September 23, 2011, 9:07 hours

Responded to a manhole explosion at the intersection of Walnut and Franklin Avenue. The first Fire Department apparatus arrives on scene in 25 seconds and finds a manhole blown out of its sleeve with black smoke pouring out of the open hole. Fire personnel established a safe area to protect residents and secured the area until PSE&G arrived. The fire department found leaking gas from a nearby gas station into a PSE&G electrical vault that gave off a short causing the explosion. Twenty-five surrounding homes and businesses were checked for fumes and found safe. Fire department assisted Bergen County Hazmat at the scene.

MVA WITH ENTRAPMENT

October 4, 2011, 10:50 hours

Motor vehicle accident with entrapment on Rt 17; car drove into the Exxon gas sign post. The patient was swiftly removed via Hurst tools (Jaws of Life), treated by the paramedics, and transported to a trauma center.

SEVERE WEATHER INCIDENT

October 29 – October 31, 2011 hours (General Alarm)

The Ridgewood Fire Department responded to 158 calls in 2 ½ days due to the Halloween weekend snow storm. 81 of these calls were responded to within an 11 hour time period on October 29th. The conditions out on the road were extremely hazardous and due to the weight of the snow on trees that still had their leaves on them, branches were 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 removing fallen branches.

ROLLOVER ON ROUTE 17 NORTH

December 19, 2011, 11:48 hours

A person driving on Route 17 North drove off the highway and into the woods. Witnesses said the minivan rolled over multiple times and stopped, balanced on the edge of the roof. The vehicle was stabilized and patient was extricated, causing no further injury.



Structure fire on Garfield Place – March 26, 2011

INCIDENT TYPES (2009 - 2011)

	2009	2010	2011
FIRES (100 CODE)			
STRUCTURE FIRES (111-123A)	36	35	24
VEHICLE FIRES (131-138)	5	6	8
TREES, BRUSH & GRASS FIRES (140-143)	14	18	8
REFUSE FIRES (150-155)	6	7	2
SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE (160-173)	3	7	5
TOTAL CODE 100	64	73	47
OVERPRESSURE, RUPTURE, EXPLOSION - NO FIRE (200 CODE)			
STEAM, AIR & GAS RUPTURES (200-251)	11	7	11
TOTAL CODE 200	11	7	11
RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES (300 CODE)			
EMT CALLS (321D)	845	882	801
EMT MUTUAL AID CALLS (321M)	1	0	0
SEARCH, RESCUE, EXTRICATION (322-381)	23	41	49
TOTAL CODE 300	869	923	850
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (CODE 400)			
COMBUSTIBLE SPILLS & LEAKS (400-413)	62	86	73
CHEMICAL HAZARD (420-431)	50	59	63
ELECTRICAL WIRING/EQUIPMENT (440-445A)	143	328	266
VEHICLE ACCIDENT/STRUCTURE COLLAPSE (451-482)	15	43	28
TOTAL CODE 400	270	516	430
SERVICE CALLS (500 CODE)			
SERVICE CALL PERSON IN DISTRESS (500-512)	37	96	68
WATER PROBLEM (520-522)	85	133	182
SMOKE REMOVAL/INVESTIGATION (531-531A)	202	181	203
OTHER ASSISTANCE (540-571)	34	33	26
TOTAL CODE 500	358	443	479
GOOD INTENT CALL (600 CODE)			
GOOD INTENT CALL (600-641)	54	71	59
SMOKE SCARE/INVESTIGATION (650-661)	20	16	16
HAZMAT RELEASE INVESTIGATION (671-672)	4	4	8
TOTAL CODE 600	78	91	83
ALARM ACTIVATIONS (700 CODE)			
MALICIOUS CALL (700-729)	11	11	8
MALFUNCTION OF ALARM (730-736)	226	264	269
ACTIVATION - NO EMERGENCY (740-746)	166	240	281
TOTAL CODE 700	403	515	558

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 of any member in the Mutual Aid Association.

Hazardous Materials Incidents:

The Ridgewood Fire Department responded to ninety-two (92) incidents involving hazardous material substances in 2011.

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 of our career and volunteer 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 one (801) 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

Prob. FF Gregory Corcoran

FF. Scott Cornell

FF. Joseph Ferraro

FF. Michael Ferraro

FF. Russell Gebhard

FF. Jason Jacoby

FF. John Judge

Prob. FF. Jason Kane

FF. Mike McLaughlin

FF. Matthew Musicant

FF. Justin O'Connor

Prob. FF. Brian Peacock

FF. Matthew Ramge

FF. Thomas Shortway

FF. David Skoblar

FF. Dan Steen

FF. Harvey Weber

Prob. FF. Chris Wolfstirn

F.O. John Young

Prob. FF. Jordan Zales



RESCUE DIVE TEAM

The Ridgewood Fire Department 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 Robert Kozielski
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 2011 there were 159 Life Hazard Uses, and 1,158 periodic Fire Safety Inspections conducted. A total of 521 occupancies were re-inspected for the 452 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 2011, 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. Lt. Maffei conducted a Fire Extinguisher Demonstration by having members of the audience use extinguishers to extinguish a simulated pan fire on a stove top.

Public Education

The Fire Prevention Bureau is very involved in Public Fire Safety Education. In 2011, there were 18 School Visitations, 6 Visitations to Fire Headquarters, and 6 Special Programs, reaching over 1,578 children and 432 adults. Also, the Fire Department conducted fire drills at all the Public Schools, Church Sunday Schools, and various locations as requested for 5,070 children and adults.



**FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE
OCTOBER 2011**





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU 2011

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS
(COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS & DWELLINGS)

General Business	949
Gas Station and Auto Repair Shops	21
Restaurants	57
Retail Food Stores	6
Lumber Yards	1
Multi Family Buildings	60
Institutional Buildings	17
Public and/or Private Schools	20
Church and/or Sunday School Buildings	21
Municipal-Owned Buildings	23
Life Hazard Use - Annual	136
Life Hazard Use - Quarterly	23
Fire Prevention NE/INL	111
Smoke Detector Certification Inspections	525

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE
(HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCE INSPECTIONS)

Fireplace/Chimneys	37
Furnace Installation - Gas	187
Furnace Installation - Oil	15
Other Gas Appliances	89
Oil Tank Installations	10
Fuel Tank Installations	0
Fuel Pump Installations	0
Abandonment of Underground Tanks	8
Removal of Underground Tanks	116
Removal of Interior/Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks	24
Chimney Liner Installation	51
Other	5

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE
(CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS)

C.C.O. Permits Issued.....	40
Fire Sub-Code Permits Issued	571
U.C.C. NE/INL	13
C.C.O. Inspections of Commercial Occupancies	42
Progress Inspections	16
Fire Sub-Code Related Duties	187
Blueprints Checked	499
Review of Site Plan Locations	20
Smoke Detector - Placement/Installations	203

NOTICES ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS

Fire Sub-Code Violations	145
Fire Prevention Bureau Violations	452
Re-Inspections to Assure Correction	526
Summons Issued	16
Letters Sent	435
Municipal Court Appearances.....	0
Construction Board of Appeals Appearances	0
Fire Prevention Permits Issued	28
Fire Prevention Permit Inspections	28
Fire Prevention Penalties Issued	56

FIRE PREVENTION ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

S/D Certification Fees (Ordinance #3026)	\$31,340.00
Inspection Fees Local	\$77,360.00
Fire Prevention Permit Fees	\$ 252.00
Fire Prevention Penalties	\$ 3,425.00
Life Hazard Use Inspection Fees (State)	\$20,499.16
Fire Sub-Code Fees (Building Department)	\$50,952.50
Alarm Panel Registration Fees	\$36,700.00
Alarm Panel Registration Fines	\$ 0.00
C.C.O. Fees.....	\$ 2,050.00
Miscellaneous Fees	\$ 0.00

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

With Building Department	8
With Other Village Departments	0
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	0
With Board of Education Personnel	8
With Valley Hospital Personnel	0
With Other Governmental Agencies	0
With Contractors	3

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

To Building Department	11
To Other Village Departments	1
To State Agencies	0

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

With Building Department	168
With Other Village Departments	0
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	1
With Board of Education Personnel	0
With Valley Hospital Personnel	6

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED:

Hazardous Condition	19
Blocking Exit Ways	6
Improper Trash Storage and/or Collection	0
Re-Inspections to Assure Corrections	23
Other	2

MISCELLANEOUS:

Fire Safety Education/Training Program	27
Preparation and Maintenance of Reports/Inspection Schedules	232
Respond to Fire Incidents	2
Investigate Fire Incidents	3
Valley Hospital Fire Drills Attended	0
Meetings and Schools Attended	3
Check for Safety at Public Affairs	13

APPARATUS

Car # 30:
2003 Chief's Ford Explorer

Car #38:
2006 Captain's Ford Explorer

Eng. # 31:
2003 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Car #39:
1998 GM Yukon Fire Prevention

Eng. # 32:
1989 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Car #41:
1999 GMC Yukon Fire Prevention

Eng. # 33:
1994 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Car #40:
1997 GMC Yukon

Eng. # 35:
2000 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Rescue #42:
1998 International E-ONE

Ladder #36:
1991 1500 gpm 105' Truck

Car #43:
1997 GMC Utility Pickup Truck

Eng. # 37:
1982 1250 gpm Mack Pumper



All apparatus are road tested every year. Fire Engines are given the Underwriter's Test for pumping capacity. Records of the results of the tests are recorded and filed as required by ISO.

**JOHN F.AND MARY ELIZABETH LYONS
684 HOWARD ROAD
RIDGEWOOD, NJ07450**

July 14, 2011
Lieut. Schimdt
Ridgewood Fire Department
201 E.Glen Ave.
Ridgewood NJ 07450

Dear Lieut.Schimdt,

Just a note to express our appreciation for your continuous and mindful attention (including turning our power back on at 10:30PM) during the recent flash flood event.

Your response to this circumstance reflected not only the professionalism of your Department but also your own and obvious bent to add the personal touch.

Again, our thanks,

John & Marybeth Lyons

cc:James Van Goor, Chief

Brad & Susan Caswell
829 East Ridgewood Ave.
Ridgewood, NJ 07450 (201) 995-7035

September 20, 2011

Chief James Van Goor
Ridgewood Fire Department
201 East Glen Avenue Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Dear Chief Van Goor:

We are writing to thank you for the Ridgewood Fire Department's outstanding work in putting out the fire in our home on Sunday, August 29, 2011. Your department truly saved our home and we cannot thank you enough for your department's great work.

Our family was on vacation in California at the time the fire broke out. Thankfully, the fire/smoke alarm went off. The Ridgewood Fire Department was at the house in a matter of a few minutes. The firefighters on scene were able to pinpoint the source of the fire to the basement walls and were able to contain the fire to that area and extinguish it immediately. I understand that the department used some new heat imaging technology to quickly determine the source of the fire. This enabled the department to find it quickly and put it out with fire extinguishers rather than fire hoses, significantly reducing any potential damage to the home.

My understanding is that if this fire had gone another 30 minutes, the fire likely would have spread and the whole house could have been threatened. Had it not been for your department's exceptional speed and amazing work in locating and putting out this fire, our entire home and everything in it could have been lost. On behalf of our entire family, thank you for your great work!

We have been so impressed by the professionalism of your officers and staff. Captain Chris Duflocq was on scene the night of the fire, and he did a fantastic job of not only dealing with the fire but calmly and professionally keeping us constantly updated on what was going on and dealing with our friends and family who were at the house. We understand that Platoon B was the first on scene and we would like to thank all of the firefighters who were on scene that night. The entire team did an outstanding job and their professionalism is a true credit to the department.

When I spoke to Captain Duflocq and when I called in to the department over the last few weeks to say thank you to the firefighters and staff, I received the same response that "We were just doing our job." This shows why the Ridgewood Fire Department is such a credit to the Village of Ridgewood, and this makes us so proud to live in this town.

Our kids also wanted to thank the Ridgewood firefighters so please find enclosed thank you letters from each of our three children. Again, thank you so much!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brad & Susan Caswell". The signature is written in a cursive style and extends across the width of the page.

Brad & Susan Caswell

Cc: Mayor Keith D. Killion
Village Council Members

I am writing this letter with regard to the recent catastrophic hurricane that devastated much of the East Coast. As Village of Ridgewood residents since 1975, residing in the same home three houses away from the Saddle River, we suffered losses as did many others.

On Sunday morning, at the height of the wind and rain, we lost power which knocked out our basement pumps. Power was not restored for 3 ½ days and, by that time, our basement was lost. On Tuesday morning, we stopped in at the fire department on East Glen next to the Recycling Center to report our plight. A very pleasant young man took our information and put us on the list, stating that there were several other houses on our street already listed to be pumped out. Within 30 minutes, a fire engine manned by firefighters from Squad B was parked in front of our home. They inspected the premises and immediately brought in pumps and hoses and evacuated the 3-4 inches of water covering our entire basement floor.

These men were thorough, efficient, and extremely courteous. They knew exactly what to do and did it without hesitation. When we asked them what we could do to thank them, the reply was "It's just part of our job."

Criticism comes very easily but, it seems, praise is sometimes not so forthcoming. These firefighters deserve to be thanked publicly for a job well done. Clearly, it was beyond just "part of the job." Many thanks again to Squad B. You are appreciated.

*Nail + Elsie Share
686 Terhune Rd*

James Van Goor

From: Heather Mailander

Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 10:57 AM

To: Keith Killion; Thomas M. Riche; Paul Aronsohn; Bernadette Walsh; Stephen Wellinghorst; Ken Gabbert; James Van Goor

Subject: Words of Praise

Barbara Fontana, a resident at 521 West Saddle River Road, phone number 201-652-6995, called to say that her carbon monoxide detector went off in her home during the time when much of Ridgewood was without power. When she called PSE&G about it, they couldn't send anyone out to check, since they were dealing with the power outage.

Ms. Fontana said that she called the Ridgewood Fire Dept. and that they were there in two minutes, under the direction of Captain DuFlocq, and they were great. She said that after they checked out the issue, they called PSE&G for her. She said that the Fire Dept. not only gave her good service, they were fantastic, and treated her like a queen. She said that she wanted to call and let the Village Council know that she appreciates the fabulous service that she received.

Heather

**West Side
Nursery School**

6 South Monroe Street
Village Fire Station
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-447-3501
FAX: 201-852-8556

November 21, 2011
Village of Ridgewood Fire Department
201 East Glen Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Dear Ridgewood Firefighters,

We thank you again for your service to our town and for the time you give teaching safety to the children at West Side Nursery School. Every year they happily look forward to your visit and, of course, your truck!

Yours truly,



West Side Nursery School

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following personnel provided valuable contributions to the 2011 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 Secretary
John Judge, Firefighter

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU:

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

PRINTING:

Chief James Van Goor
Patti Herman, Administrative Secretary

FIRE NARRATIVES:

Chief James Van Goor
Chris DuFlocq, Captain
Steven Maffei, Lieutenant
Greg Hillerman, Lieutenant
John Judge, Firefighter