JOHN T. JUDGE, CHIEF

FIRE HEADQUARTERS
201 E GLEN AVE

2022

RIDGEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

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

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to share the 2022 Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report.

As the Chief of the Ridgewood Fire Department, I could not be more proud to serve the community where I grew up, and lead an incredible team of dedicated men and women.

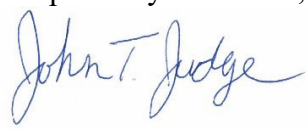
The Ridgewood Fire Department celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2022. The department is staffed with forty-five professional firefighters, six volunteer firefighters, and two civilians, all dedicated to the delivery of service. Eighty-five percent of our department members are dual-certified as both a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). While this not only provides a cost-savings to the Village, it ensures medically trained personnel are available wherever the firefighters are; whether this is on emergency calls, fire inspections, or pre-planning in the Central Business District.

Our Village of Ridgewood Fire Department provides its citizens, businesses, and community with a full range of services including, but not limited to, fire suppression and fire prevention as well as fire safety education. As first responders, we answer all requests for service, which can include anything from hazardous materials and swift water rescue to emergency medical needs; a more complete list of services can be found on page four. The services we provide will continue to adapt and respond to the challenges found within our community.

On behalf of all the Firefighters, Fire Prevention Bureau, and Administrative Staff of the Ridgewood Fire Department, I would like to thank the Village Manager, the Village Council, and the residents for their continued support. Furthermore, I want to thank all of the various departments in the Village with whom we often interact for their prompt and professional assistance. Without this, we would not be able to carry out our mission to its fullest.

While the information in this Annual Report focuses on the Fire Department's programs and accomplishments, the people we serve are at the core of our mission.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Judge
Chief of Department

THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Susan Knudsen

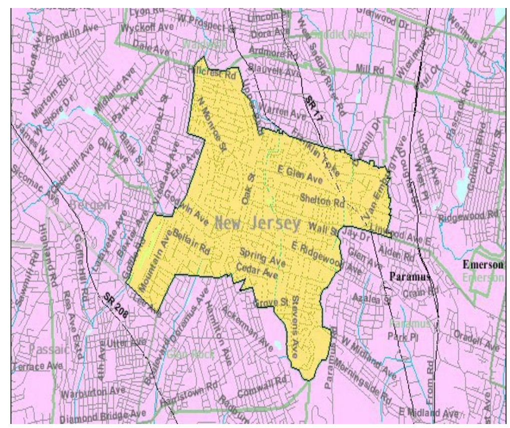
Deputy Mayor Michael Sedon

Councilmember Pamela Perron

Councilmember Lorraine Reynolds

Councilmember Paul Vagianos

To Ridgewood's Mayor and Council, I extend my thanks and gratitude along with that of all our personnel for your support and valued service. I know firsthand of the long hours and hard work you put in to make Ridgewood a great place to live and work.



25,979
POPULATION (2020 CENSUS)

94.7
ROAD MILES

4,479
RESIDENTS PER SQ. MILE (DENSITY)

320
COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES

7430
RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

29
APARTMENT BUILDINGS

5.8
SQUARE MILES LAND AREA

2
FIRE STATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Organized fire protection began in the Village of Ridgewood in 1897 with the formation of the Protection Hook and Ladder Co. #1 with apparatus pulled by horse teams. Our last two horses, Joe & Dan, who passed in the 1930s, are buried on the West side of town. The history of the fire department has gone from the horses and the Bucket Brigade to modern fire engines and ladder trucks.

Today's firefighters now respond to a myriad of events aside from fire calls. The Ridgewood Fire Department is skilled at handling a variety of emergency situations including motor vehicle accidents, hazardous spills, downed wires, confined space rescues, and medical emergencies to name a few. The department regularly handles a number of routine emergencies as well, such as pumping flooded basements for residents, responding to activations of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, ring removals, residential lockouts, child lock-ins, and electrical emergencies. The department also has a Rescue Dive Team to handle ice and water rescues.

Monday through Saturday from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm, the fire department responds to all medical emergencies. Additionally, the department provides first responder service to all advanced life support calls and back-up ambulance service 24/7. Having a fire engine and ambulance respond simultaneously ensures that medical assistance reaches the scene within minutes.

The basic organizational structure of the department consists of three components: administrative, fire prevention, and fire and emergency response. The administrative component is comprised of the Chief and the Administrative Assistant, Patti A. Walsh. The administrative office is open Monday through Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm with the Chief Officer on call 24/7/365.

The Fire Prevention component is comprised of the Fire Official Lt. John Young, Fire Inspector Lt. Vincent Krug, and Bureau Administrative Assistant, Marisol Romero. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for inspections under the Uniform Construction Code and the Uniform Fire Code. The Fire Prevention Bureau schedules all Fire Prevention activities and Public Fire Safety Education programs.

The fire and emergency response component is comprised of both professional and volunteer firefighters. The professional firefighters consist of three platoons of 14 and provide the primary response to fires and emergencies 24/7. When fully staffed, each platoon is comprised of (1) Captain, (2) Lieutenants, and (11) Firefighters. The platoon's shift schedule is based on a 56 hour per week work schedule. The volunteer personnel are support staff for the department and are requested whenever there are working fires, during times of storms or for multiple responses.

Fire Department members are expected to perform all the duties associated with responding to fires and emergencies, while being guided by three principles: Life Safety, Property Conservation & Incident Stabilization. Such duties include incident management, search and rescue, personnel accountability, establishing a water supply, hose deployment, forcible entry, 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 and continuous manner.

MISSION / VISION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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

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

Fire Suppression – Building, Vehicle, Brush, Electrical, etc.
Vehicle Extrication
Dive Team / Swift Water Rescue / Ice Rescue
Building Collapse/Entrapments
Elevator Rescues
Carbon Monoxide Incidents
Hazardous Material Response
Auto-Accidents / Spill Cleanups / Battery Disconnects
Electrical Emergencies / Chemical Spills / Leaks
Water Calls / Floods / Broken pipes / Basement pump outs
Lock-out / Lock-in (Vehicle, Residential & Commercial)
Storm Emergencies / Wires down / Tree Limb Removal
First Responder / EMT
Confined Space Rescue
Utility Emergencies
Gas Leaks (Natural Gas or LPG)
Rope Rescue / High and Low Angle
Ring Removals
Aircraft Standby
Active Shooter Response Team
Car Seat Installations

Fire Prevention Services:
Building inspections
Code enforcement
Plan review
Public fire safety education

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Headquarters

Fire Headquarters is located at 201 E. Glen Avenue. This facility has been operational since June 1, 1992. It serves as quarters for the officers and firefighters of Engine Company No. 35, Tower Ladder No. 36, Rescue Company No. 42, Ambulance 11 as well as the reserve apparatus. The building also houses the Administrative Offices and the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Engine Company 31

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

APPARATUS

Unit #	Year/Make	
Car 30	2018 Chevy Tahoe	Chief of Department
Car 38	2018 Chevy Tahoe	Tour Commander
Engine 31	2020 Pierce Saber	1500 GPM Pumper
Engine 35	2017 Pierce Saber	1500 GPM Pumper
Tower Ladder 36	2012 Pierce Arrow XT	95' Platform
Rescue 42	2019 Ferrara Cinder	Rescue Truck
Engine 37	2013 Pierce Saber	1500 GPM Pumper (Reserve/Recall)
Engine 33	2003 Pierce Saber	1250 GPM Pumper (Reserve/Recall)
Ambulance 11	2003 International	PL Custom Ambulance
Car 39	2015 Chevy Tahoe	Tour Commander (Reserve/Recall)
Car 40	2017 Chevy Tahoe	Fire Prevention Bureau
Car 41	2010 Ford Escape	Fire Prevention Bureau
Car 43	2014 Ford F-250	Utility Truck

PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

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.

The Ridgewood Fire Department is proud to announce that in 2012 it earned a Class 2 Public Protection Classification (PPC). During the next examination in 2018, the Ridgewood Fire Department maintained this rating.

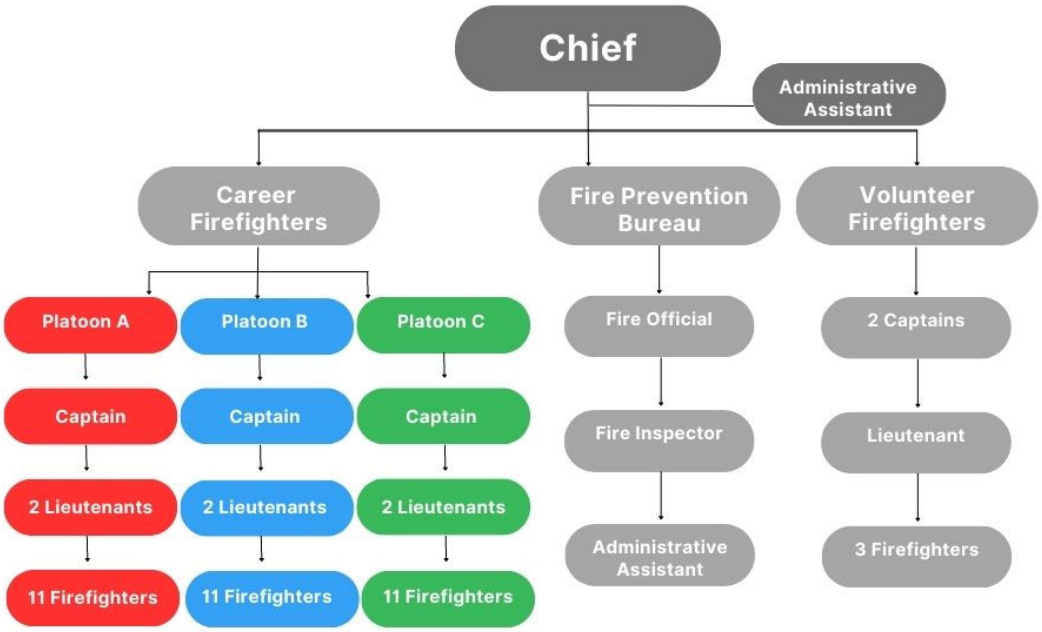
ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection in communities throughout the United States. Insurance companies use the information to establish fair premiums on fire insurance for homeowners and commercial properties. Based on figures from our 2018 classification, ISO evaluated 39,378 communities countrywide; only 1,772 are rated as Class 2 and 393 received a Class 1. Out of 673 communities in New Jersey, only 26 communities received a Class 2, and two communities received a Class 1 rating. This accomplishment has placed the Ridgewood Fire Department as one of the top 28 Fire Departments in New Jersey.

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

Here are some general guidelines to help you understand the benefits of improved PPC ratings for residents and businesses:

- PPC may affect the underwriting and pricing for a variety of personal and commercial insurance coverages, including homeowners, mobile home, fine arts floaters, and commercial property (including business interruption).
- Assuming all other factors are equal, the price of property insurance in a community with a good PPC is lower than in a community with a poor PPC.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CAREER PERSONNEL

Administration:

Chief John T. Judge
Administrative Assistant Patti Walsh

Captains

Captain Brendan Corcoran
Captain Justin O'Connor
Captain Scott Schmidt

Lieutenants

Lt. Joseph Ferraro
Lt. Michael Kakolewski
Lt. Jason Kane
Lt. Brian Peacock
Lt. Matthew Ramge
Lt. Jordan Zales

Fire Prevention

Lt./Fire Official John Young
Lt./Fire Inspector Vincent Krug
Admin. Assistant Marisol Romero

Appointments

Probationary FF. Ryan Hardt
Probationary FF. Chris Santucci

Retirements

FF. Michael Ferraro

Senior Firefighter Engineers

FF. Matthew Bombace
FF. Paul Brennan
FF. Scott Cornell
FF. Jason Jacoby
FF. Michael McLaughlin
FF. Matthew Musicant
FF. Thomas Shortway
FF. Daniel Steen

Firefighters

FF. Mark Barone
FF. Thomas Benintende
FF. Timothy Bombace
FF. Gregory Corcoran
FF. Anthony Dinice
FF. Christopher Eidschun
FF. Trevor Fetkowitz
FF. Kurt Harba
FF. James Kakolewski
FF. Brian Kelly
FF. David Kelly
FF. Dane Knudsen
FF. Daniel Kostro
FF. Oscar Martinez
FF. Christopher Mead
FF. Chad Miller
FF. Kevin Monton
FF. Michael Rohrman
FF. Ryan Romero
FF. Steven Scanapico
FF. Shelby Taylor
FF. Henry VanWageningen
FF. Christopher Wolfstirn

VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL

Volunteer Fire Officers

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

Volunteer Firefighters

FF. David Azzopardi
FF. Jeffrey Creegan
FF. Dennis Johnson
FF. Connor McGuire

TRAINING

To always be ready and to provide superior service, firefighters must be highly trained. The men and women of the Ridgewood Fire Department train rigorously every day to prepare them for the unexpected. This training ensures that every incident is handled by an extremely capable and professional crew of firefighters.

Annually, the Ridgewood Department documents an average of 500-1000 hours of training per member. This training begins their first year at the Bergen County Fire Academy. The classes they attend include Firefighter I & II, Emergency Medical Technician, Hazardous Materials Operations, Confined Space Operations, Apparatus and Pump Operations, and Driver Training.

To keep the Firefighters as prepared as possible, a yearly training schedule is created. This schedule guarantees that the firefighters keep up to date on new training and technologies. The firefighters are required to progress with the changing times as well as keep their time-honored skills sharp.

Our yearly training schedule includes:

Active Shooter Response	Confined Space Operations	Decontamination
Blood borne Pathogens	Personal Protective Equipment	Building Construction
Personnel Accountability	Structural Firefighting	Officer Development
CPR Re-certification	Building Collapse & Safety	Right to Know
Vehicle Firefighting	Engine Company Operations	Ropes & Knots
Driver Training	Rescue Tools	EMT Continuing Education
Vehicle Extrication	Sprinklers & Standpipes	Forcible Entry
Search & Rescue	Portable Fire Extinguishers	Ground Ladders
Aerial Ladder Operations	R.I.T. Operations & Equipment	Master Streams
Radio Communications	Advancing Hand Lines	Information Technology
Ventilation	Report Writing	Air Tools & Rescue Air Bags
Pump Operation	Elevator Rescue	Tools & Equipment
Pre-Fire Planning	Equipment Maintenance	Fire Behavior
Operation of Gas Meters	Salvage & Overhaul	Thermal Imaging Camera
Fire Cause & Origin	Water Rescue / SCUBA	SCBA Confidence Training
Natural Gas Emergencies	Incident Command System	

"In the heat of the battle you don't remember very much. You don't think very fast. You act by instinct, which is really training. So, you've got to be trained for battle so that you will react exactly the way you did in training". - Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN

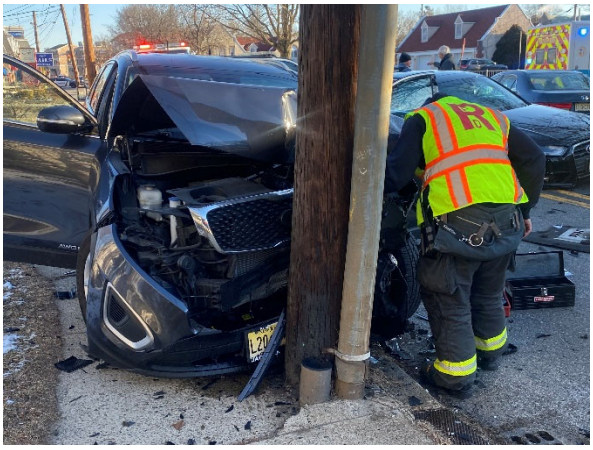
EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

For many years, Ridgewood had ample volunteer personnel for ambulance staffing. However, the Village is not immune to the problem of volunteer staffing. In 1986, Ridgewood addressed this problem by allocating Fire Department resources to make sure that Village residents are provided with the best emergency medical service available. Monday through Saturday, from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm, the Fire Department responds with an engine company and a fire department staffed ambulance to all emergency medical calls, with additional responses to all advanced life support calls 24/7. In addition, Ambulance 11 is stationed at Fire Headquarters to respond to additional calls as needed 24 hours a day.

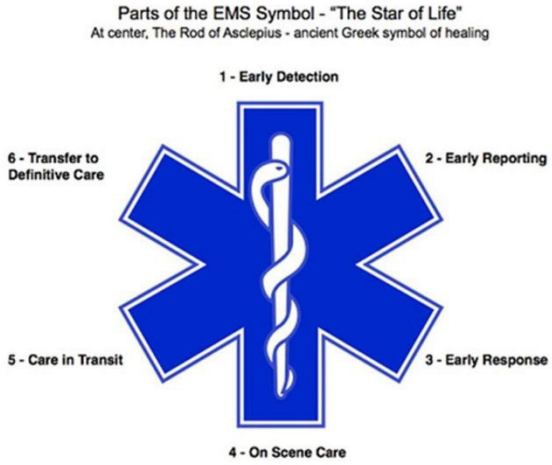
When an emergency medical call is received, Fire Department EMT's are given the location and the nature of the emergency. Based upon the location, the nearest engine company is dispatched from either Fire Headquarters or the West Glen Avenue Firehouse as well as the Fire Department staffed ambulance; Fire Department EMT's are always on duty at each station. Both engine companies carry three firefighter/EMT's and provide basic life support. Engine Company #35 and Engine Company #31 are fully equipped with medical equipment, automatic external defibrillators, suction devices and medication to treat a variety of conditions including anaphylaxis, overdoses and diabetic emergencies.

The system ensures two EMT's arrive on the scene quickly, and additional personnel 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.

In addition to these medical calls, an engine company also responds on all medical alarms in the Village. This ensures medical care is available should the alarm activation indicate a true medical event. Other medical responses also include serving as a backup for lift assist requests in the Village. While the Ridgewood Police are requested for all lift assists, this system ensures response to all residents and visitors in case the officers are unavailable due to other requests for service.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN



There are thirty-one Firefighters, five Lieutenants, three Captains, and the Chief that have completed the extensive Emergency Medical Technician training course and have become certified. In addition, we also have a trained Paramedic.

Chief John T. Judge
Lieutenant John Young

Platoon A	Platoon B	Platoon C
Captain Schmidt	Captain O'Connor	Captain Corcoran
Lieutenant Ferraro	Lieutenant Zales	Lieutenant Kakolewski
Lieutenant Peacock	Lieutenant Kane	
Firefighter Barone	Firefighter T. Bombace	Firefighter Brennan
Firefighter Benintende	Firefighter Knudsen	Firefighter Dinice
Firefighter M. Bombace	Firefighter Harba	Firefighter Eidschun
Firefighter G. Corcoran	Firefighter B. Kelly	Prob. Firefighter Hardt
Firefighter Cornell	Firefighter Martinez	Firefighter Jacoby
Firefighter Fetkowitz	Firefighter Musicant	Firefighter J. Kakolewski
Firefighter Kostro	Firefighter Rohrman	Firefighter D. Kelly
Firefighter Miller	Firefighter Scanapico	Firefighter Mead
Firefighter Romero	Firefighter Taylor	Firefighter Monton
Prob. Firefighter Santucci	Firefighter Wolfstirn	Firefighter Shortway
		Firefighter VanWageningen

SWIFT WATER / RESCUE DIVE TEAM

The Ridgewood Fire Department proudly operates a swift water rescue team during and after extreme rainfall events. Specially trained fire fighters equipped with wet suits, personal flotation devices, helmets, and specifically designed water rescue devices staff these teams. 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 throughout the Village of Ridgewood.

The Ridgewood Fire Department Dive Team has 18 Certified Scuba Divers and the necessary equipment to facilitate a water rescue when needed. Whenever the lifeguards at Graydon Pool receive an alarm of someone missing or a possible drowning, the fire department is summoned. The Dive Team conducts combined drills with Graydon Pool Lifeguard Staff. While the Dive Team is primarily dispatched to Graydon Pool, there are several large ponds located in Ridgewood where their specialized skills may be needed.

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors certifies the following personnel:

Chief John T. Judge
Captain Brendan Corcoran
Captain Justin O'Connor
Lieutenant Joseph Ferraro
Lieutenant Michael Kakolewski
Lieutenant / Fire Official John Young
Lieutenant Matthew Ramge
SFFE Michael McLaughlin
SFFE Matthew Musicant
SFFE Matthew Bombace
Firefighter Timothy Bombace
Firefighter Gregory Corcoran
Firefighter Trevor Fetkowitz
Firefighter Kurt Harba
Firefighter James Kakolewski
Firefighter Brian Kelly
Firefighter Dane Knudsen
Firefighter Ryan Romero

EMERGENCY RESPONSES- 2022

Fires	
Structure Fires	14
Vehicle Fires	4
Trees, Brush, Grass Fires	15
Refuse Fires	3
Outside Fires	2
Total	**38**
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion	
Steam, Air & Gas Ruptures	5
Total	**5**
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	
EMT Calls, Medical Alarms, Lift Assists	1,157
Search, Rescue & Extrication	94
Total	**1,251**
Hazardous Conditions	
Combustible Spills & Leaks	90
Chemical Hazards/Carbon Monoxide	22
Electrical Equipment/Wiring	146
Biological Hazards	5
Vehicle Accidents/ Structure Collapse	18
Total	**281**
Service Calls	
Person in Distress	63
Water Problem	51
Smoke Investigation/Removal	88
Other Assistance Call	119
Total	**321**
Good Intent Calls	
Good Intent Call	87
Smoke Scare/Investigation	30
Hazardous Materials Investigation	8
Total	**125**

Alarm Activations	
Malicious Alarm	8
Malfunction of Alarm	221
General Activation	284
Total	**513**
Severe Weather/ Natural Disaster	
Wind Storm, Lighting Strikes	4
Total	**4**
TOTAL INCIDENTS	**2,538**

2022 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Building Fire
The Ridgewood Fire Department (RFD) was dispatched to an east side residence for an odor investigation. Upon arrival, heavy smoke was found in the home. A fire was found on the second floor in the floor beams, which extended through the entire stud bay. A water supply was secured and hand lines were stretched, while opening up the ceiling to expose the hidden fire. The fire was extinguished quickly limiting the extension and damage to the home. The home remained habitable.

Carbon Monoxide Condition
RFD was dispatched for a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm activation. Upon arrival, a carbon monoxide condition of 300 parts per million was found throughout the entire commercial building. The source of the CO was found to be an ATV that was accidentally left running inside overnight. Multiple companies remained on scene for an extended period to vent the building of CO.

Elevator Rescue
RFD responded to The Valley Hospital for a person trapped in a stalled elevator car. Fire personnel attempted recalling the elevator and circulating the power; both did not fix the issue. Fire personnel secured power to the car and manually opened the doors to safely remove the occupant from the elevator. The occupant was scared, but uninjured. Valley Hospital Engineering assured fire personnel that the elevator would remain out of service until repaired by a technician. Doors on all floors were taped off and signs put up. The power remained off to prevent attempted use.

Hazmat – Fluid Spill
Responded to a report of an oil spill in front of a commercial business in the Central Business District. Upon arrival, Car 38 assumed command and determined that a truck was leaking cooking oil down the roadway of Chestnut St. Fire department personnel applied speedy dry to absorb the oil and block the oil from entering the storm drains. An estimated 200-300 gallons of oil leaked out and of that, approximately 20 gallons entered the storm drains. Car 38 requested Bergen County Hazmat to the scene, along with notifying The Department of Environmental Protection. Ridgewood Emergency Services responded to the scene and helped with closing Chestnut St. and blocking off the affected areas with cones and banner tape. The truck company sent a cleanup crew to the scene, who applied absorbent pads, speedy dry, and used a vacuum hose to clean up the oil in the driveway and storm drains. Bergen County Hazmat and Ridgewood Police remained on scene to oversee the cleanup.

Building Collapse
Received a call to respond to the Central Business District for a report of bricks falling from a building. Upon arrival, the facade of the building was found to be structurally unsound due to long-term water damage and current water backup on the roof. This was due to a blocked drain causing pieces of masonry to fall off periodically. The sidewalk and street was secured until the drain was cleared and the loose bricks were removed. The sidewalk was closed until permanent repairs could be made, and notification was made to the Building Department and the property owner.

Medical Emergency Stroke
Received a call from Central Dispatch for a Village resident having a medical emergency. Upon arrival, two FF/EMTs were able to quickly recognize that the patient was presenting symptoms of a stroke. Fire personnel quickly and efficiently prepared the patient for transport all the time providing care to the resident. Once the paramedics arrived on scene, the patient was transported to The Valley Hospital where they were able to receive lifesaving care do to quality and quick care form Ridgewood Fire Department EMTs.
Email from Valley Hospital Paramedics:
Wow, what a clot! Glad he's doing well! I would also like to give credit where credit is due. Ridgewood Fire had quick recognition of this stroke and already had the patient in the ambulance when we arrived. This is why we were able to have a 6-minute turnaround time. Could someone reach out to them and give them the good news and a job well done too?

Building Fire
Responded to a report of a building fire at 11 Ridge Rd, a large multi-family dwelling. Upon arrival Engine 31 personnel reported smoke coming from the eaves of the South side of the building. Car 38 arrived and conducted a 360 of the property and found smoke showing from the eaves and roof vent of Building 11 and a dark smoke condition from the rear 3rd floor apartment. A working fire was confirmed and fire personnel went to work establishing a water supply and stretching hose from the building standpipe. The fire was quickly extinguished and search operations completed. The remaining building was searched and evacuated ensuring the safety of all remaining occupants. After investigations, search, extinguishment, and ventilation all tenants were returned to their apartments having contained the damage to the apartment of origin.

Power Sub-station Alarm
Responded to a report of an audible fire alarm at a power substation. Upon arrival, found horns and strobes sounding and a distinctive mint smell coming from the building. From pre-planning knowledge, the CO2 extinguishing system for the building had a mint smell to identify a dangerous low oxygen environment. PSE&G notified several supervisors who were responding. Fire personnel were then able to ventilate the building for an hour at the direction of public service. After venting, fire personnel entered the building with SCBA packs and monitored the building for sufficient oxygen. Once deemed safe, PSE&G was able to enter the building to make proper repairs and the fire department was released.

Kitchen Fire
Received tones via Central Dispatch for assistance to an East side residence. Upon arrival, the homeowner was on the front lawn reporting a toaster oven fire with extension to the kitchen cabinets above. Fire personnel found a smoke condition and flames inside the residence. Car 38 confirmed a working fire. The engine company was able to make a quick and aggressive push to extinguish the fire. Crews assisted in overhaul and checking for extension, finding none. The residence was checked with a multi-gas meter, finding zero readings. Ladder Tower 36 and Rescue 42 conducted a primary search of home, finding no victims or fire extension. Fire crews isolated electric to the affected area. Companies set up positive pressure ventilation and removed all smoke from the home. The residence was made safe and turned over to homeowner.

Lock-In
Received a call for an employee locked in a storage room at The Valley Hospital. Upon arrival, Car 38 was met outside by hospital security reporting a kitchen employee had locked himself in a storage room and is unable to open the door. Fire personnel found the locked door with the employee visible through a window in no distress. Fire crews utilized forcible entry tools to open the door and extricate the employee without causing further damage. Fire personnel found that lock mechanism in door was inoperable and reported it to the hospital Engineering Department.

Apartment Fire
Responded to a Gamewell Box activation at the Chestnut Apartments. Upon arrival, found resident stating a fire in their kitchen on the second floor. Firefighters secured a water supply, supplied the sprinkler/standpipe system, and stretched a charged hose line to the fire apartment. A smoke condition was noted in the hallway and upon entering the apartment, the sprinkler system had activated extinguishing most of the fire. Fire crews then shut down the sprinkler head and overhauled the kitchen looking for fire extension. Searches were conducted, utilities secured, and the building was turned over to management for cleanup and restoration of the fire and sprinkler system.

Vehicle Trapped Under a Building
Received report of a sprinkler activation at the NOMA apartments via Gamewell Box activation. Upon arrival, found a delivery van stuck underneath the building having struck sprinkler heads causing their activation. The system was secured and the van was removed by lowering the tire pressure. The building management company was notified to have the sprinkler system repaired.

MVA with Entrapment
Received call for a motor vehicle accident with a rollover and entrapment. Upon arrival, Car 38 established command and began investigation. Car 38 found a motor vehicle accident with entrapment. Fire personnel utilized battery-powered spreaders and cutters as well as additional rescue tools to extricate patient from the vehicle. Upon patient removal and initial assessment, EMS was available on scene and ready to take over patient care.

Person Trapped Under Car
Received a call for person trapped under a motor vehicle with unknown injuries. All apparatus responded and found a person whose upper body was trapped under a vehicle that they had been working on and the jack had tipped over. Fire personnel utilized their own jack while stabilizing and cribbing the vehicle to raise it up. The patient was successfully freed from under the vehicle and then the ambulance took over care.

Lawn Mower Fire with Brush Fire Extension
Received report of an outside fire in the rear of a residence. Upon arrival, a lawn mower was found on fire in a deep backyard property and it was extending to leaves and brush around it. Fire personnel stretched 300 feet of hose to the rear of the home to extinguish the fire and surrounding area. A TIC was utilized to extinguish all hot spots and prevent a future flare up.

Carbon Monoxide on All Levels of Home
Received a call for a CO detector activation at a single-family home on Christmas Eve. Upon arrival, elevated levels of CO was found on all levels of the 6000 sq. ft. home. The homeowners were evacuated while fire personnel investigated and ventilated. The entire home was systematically ventilated utilizing positive pressure down to zero levels. The furnace was shut down as the likely source, which was confirmed by PSE&G upon their arrival as it was releasing 1000's of parts per million from its exhaust. The furnace was red tagged for no further use until proper repairs were made.

Broken Sprinkler Head and Water Condition
Received a call for a reported broken sprinkler head and flooding in a commercial building. Upon arrival, found a second floor sprinkler head in a dry cleaner broken from freezing that was flooding the area and floor below. The shut off valve in the utility area was rusted and in disrepair stopping our ability to shut it down. Ridgewood Water was notified to respond to shut off water to the entire building in the street. Upon their arrival, the water was able to be shut down and fire personnel evacuated the water from the building and helped the business owner with a language barrier to submit an insurance claim to speed up the remediation process.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Bureau's goal is to ensure the education of all residents and visitors within the Village of Ridgewood of the most current fire prevention and life safety practices.

Lieutenant John Young serves as the Fire Official for Ridgewood and is the Director of the Bureau. Assisting him is Lieutenant Vincent Krug who also serves as a Fire Inspector. Both Lieutenants are also assigned as Fire Investigators to the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office- Arson Task Force.

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."**

In addition, we also conduct:

- Annual inspections of all commercial properties and businesses to ensure fire code compliance.
- Certification of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms and portable fire extinguishers before the resale or re-occupancy of 1 and 2 family homes.
- Fire Safety Complaint Investigations.
- Fire Safety inspections throughout the 36 Village Districts that includes Valley Hospital, nursing homes, all Village-owned buildings, public and private schools, day care centers, multi-family dwellings, and all commercial buildings.
- Plan review of projects during the zoning/planning phases.
- Public Fire Safety Education – Visitations to numerous Village schools ranging from pre-school to middle school.
- Process Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Requests relating to Fire Incidents and Fire-Sub Code Permits.

In 2022, there were 97 inspections of life hazard uses, and 1,197 inspections of non-life hazard uses conducted. A total of 681 occupancies were inspected. On-duty shifts also conduct inspections which additionally functions as building familiarization drills for all firefighters.

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS
(COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS & DWELLINGS)

General Business	920
Gas Station and Auto Repair Shops	13
Restaurants	78
Retail Food Stores	5
Lumber Yards	1
Multi Family Buildings	68
Institutional Buildings	21
Public and/or Private Schools	21
Church and/or Sunday School Buildings	39
Municipal-Owned Buildings	26
Life Hazard Use – Annual	75
Life Hazard Use – Quarterly	22
Fire Prevention NE/INL	22
Smoke Detector Certification Inspections	681

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE
(HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCE INSPECTIONS)

Fireplace/Chimneys	15
Furnace Installation – Gas	13
Other Gas Appliances	61
Oil Tank Installations	3
Removal of Underground Tanks	93
Removal of Interior/Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks	31
Chimney Liner Installation	58
Other (solar)	25

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE
(CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS)

Fire Sub-Code Permits Issued	320
U.C.C. NE/INL	12
C.C.O. Permits Issued	21
C.C.O. Inspections of Commercial Occupancies	25
Progress Inspections	12
Fire Sub-Code Related	232
Blueprints Checked	168
Review of Site Plan Locations	16
Smoke Detector - Placement/Installations	178

NOTICES ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS

Fire Sub-Code	228
Fire Prevention Bureau Violations	1214
Re-Inspections to Assure Correction	826
Summons Issued	3
Municipal Court Appearances	1
Fire Prevention Permits Issued	58
Fire Prevention Permit Inspections	14
Fire Prevention Penalties Issued	11

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

With Building Department	16
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	1

NOTIFICATION TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF CODE VIOLATIONS:

To Building Department	16

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

With Building Department	176

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED:

Hazardous Condition	58
Re-Inspections to Assure Corrections	54

MISCELLANEOUS

Fire Safety Education/Training Program	16
Prep. And Maintenance of Reports/Inspection Schedules	212
Respond to Fire Incidents	6
Investigate Fire Incidents	5
Check for Safety at Public Affairs	11
OPRA Requests Completed	130

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As part of our Mission Statement to provide fire prevention and public safety education to residents and businesses, the Fire Department actively attends and/or hosts events throughout the year in the community, some examples include:

Firehouse Tours

Touch-A-Truck

Super Science Saturday

Earth Day

YMCA Healthy Kids Day

Fire Prevention Day

Junior Police Academy

Downtown for the Holidays

Michael Feeney's Best Day Ever

We have requests for firehouse tours throughout the year. Requested tours come from day cares, schools, Boy and Girl Scout troops and families wanting to know more about the Ridgewood Fire Department.

Firefighters discuss general fire safety basics including checking smoke alarms, changing smoke alarm batteries, and creating an escape plan. The children's favorite part is sitting in the trucks and learning about the tools. The firefighters are always willing to give their time for these important opportunities to help spread the message about fire prevention and safety to reduce fires and other emergencies in our community.

SAFETY TIPS

The following is a comparison photo of a house fire with a door closed versus a door opened. The door on the left remained closed during the fire keeping the interior from burning. The door on the right remained open. Keeping a door closed during a fire can make all the difference.

Ridgewood has a Gamewell Box System that is connected directly to the Ridgewood Fire Department. These red boxes are located on poles throughout the Village. If you have an emergency, you can pull the handle and help will come directly to your location.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY TIPS

In recent years, the fire service has become all-too-familiar with the threat posed by lithium-ion batteries. They are in our smartphones, laptops, toys, scooters, and electric cars; we are surrounded by them at virtually all times. Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective or when they are damaged, or used incorrectly, these batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode. Lithium-ion battery fires also give off toxic gases and burn extremely hot.

As the fire service continues to work on this growing problem, here are some safety tips for everyone to be mindful of when it comes to lithium-ion batteries including e-bikes and e-scooters:

*Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories; this mark shows that the product was safely tested.
*Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
*Only use the original battery, power adapter, and power cord that came with the device.
*Never charge using an extension cord or power strip; plug the device directly into the electrical wall outlet.
*Do not continue to charge a device or battery after it is fully charged.
*Never charge the device or device battery overnight or when you are not home.
*Only charge one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
*Do not charge a device while it is under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
*Keep batteries at room temperature and store away from anything that can catch fire.
*Do not place in direct sunlight.

*Store E-Bike/ Scooters and batteries in a safe facility and not in your house / apartment, if possible. If you must store the E-Bike / Scooter and batteries in your home / apartment, keep them away from exit doors and anything that can get hot and catch fire. Never store the E-Bike / Scooter and batteries near a source of heat, such as space heaters, radiators, furnace, etc.
*If a battery overheats or you notice an odor, change in shape/color, leakage, or odd noises from a device, discontinue use immediately. If safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire and call 9-1-1.

Battery Disposal:
Recycle batteries by taking them to a battery recycling location. Please do not dispose of lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Additional disposal instructions can be found at www.call2recycle.org.

For further information, please visit the Village of Ridgewood Fire Department's website at rfd.ridgewoodnj.net.

ADOPT-A-HYDRANT PROGRAM

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

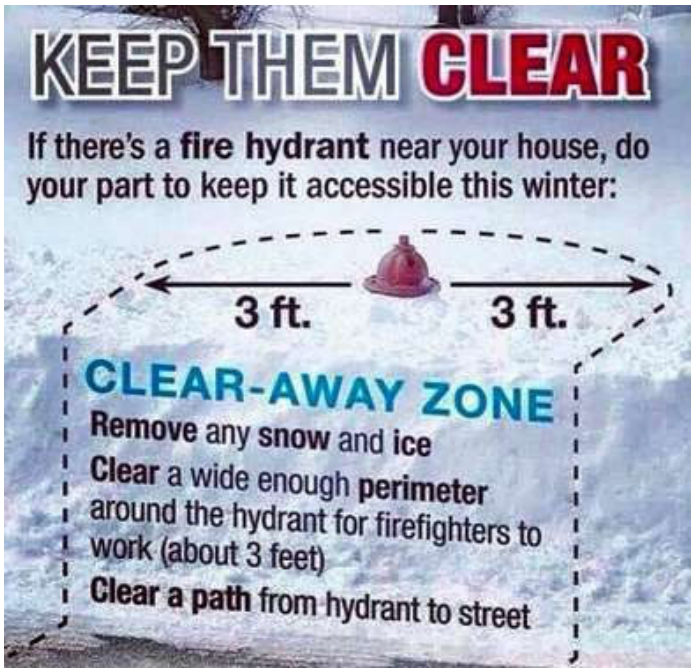
Fire hydrants are an especially important device. It is the Fire Department's only continuous water source and essential to save lives and protect property.

When a fire is reported, Fire Personnel assess a map to identify the closest hydrant to the fire before responding. When the Fire Department arrives, they must be able to locate the hydrant swiftly as every second counts. When articles block their view, (i.e. cars, trucks, dumpsters, construction equipment, garbage cans, etc.), it could take minutes to locate the hydrant and once found, direct access could be blocked.

In winter months, snow covered hydrants are a serious concern. During heavy snowstorms, as much as 4 feet of snow can cover fire hydrants. This will make them impossible to locate. Even a moderate snowfall can completely cover them, as they are located on the curb line where snowplows pile up the snow. When the hydrant is needed in an emergency, if it is not located and accessible, it can mean the difference between life and death.

After a snowstorm, the on-duty firefighters spend many days shoveling out hydrants throughout the Village.

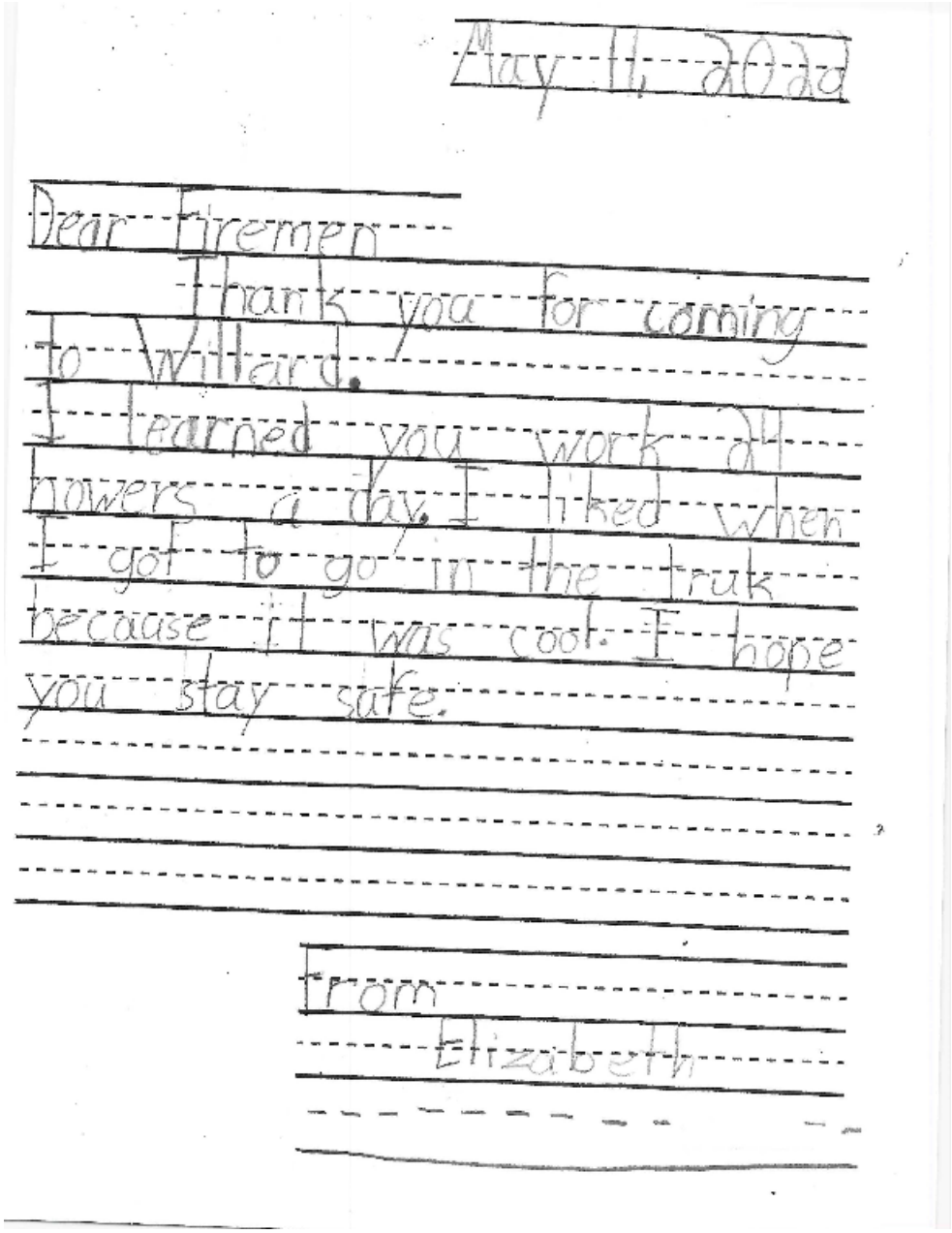
Although we have had quite a few adoptions, we are still looking for residents and civic groups to adopt a hydrant in their neighborhood.



May 11, 2022

Dear Firemen
Thank you for
coming to willard.
I learned how much
the fire trak ways
and that its 25 ton.
I liked going thor
the trak and seing
the equwemit. I hope
I see you again.

From,
Noah



May 11, 2022

Dear Firemen

Thank you for coming to Willard.

I learned you work 24 powers a day. I liked when I got to go in the truk because it was cool. I hope you stay safe.

From

Elizabeth

May 11, 2022

Dear Firemen,

Thank you for
shoing us the truk. I
learned that you have
a camra that can see
heat throu walls. I
liked doing ast and
going throu the
firetruck. I hope
we see you again.

From Dempsy

Ridgewood N.J 07450

September 14, 2022

Dear Chief

I want to extend my sincere thanks to you, the staff in your department and the EMS/Paramedic team that rushed me to Valley Hospital on Friday, August 19. 2022 at approximately 3:00 PM. I was a little woozy, in pain and not processing well; so some of the detail and acknowledgements come via my family members.

Your staff responded rapidly and professionally, and administered the necessary tests and medications. I want to emphasize that they all worked as a well-integrated team, each doing his and her job.

You can be absolutely proud of the staff in your department for applying their training with total skill, maximum speed and careful attention to critical care. The ambulance staff worked seamlessly with the police officer and the fire engine team that also responded. Please share our thanks and praise to the EMS, police and Fire Department members and their chiefs who provided such outstanding service to someone in need.

The reason for the delay in sending this note is that I was in the hospital and then in Wyckoff Christian Health Care Rehab Center.

Respectfully

PPE 4 UKRAINE

FIREFIGHTERS HELPING FIREFIGHTERS

May 31, 2022

Ridgewood Fire Department
ATTN: Chief John Judge
201 East Glen Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Chief Judge,

What began as a simple idea to collect firefighting personal protective equipment from neighboring departments to send to Ukraine, quickly became a nationwide movement. Donated equipment was sent or hand delivered to our facility in Clifton, NJ from over 200 towns, cities, clubs, non-profits, manufacturers and vendors from across the nation.

Over the course of six weeks, we collected more than 60 tons of equipment. This includes over 4,000 sets of turnouts, over 1,000 helmets, over 1,000 sets of boots, and various hand tools and medical supplies. Every donated item was hand packed for air shipment, flown to Poland. It was then transported by ground into Ukraine, where it was distributed to the various regions in need.

In the weeks that have followed, we received confirmation that the donated equipment reached the front lines and is currently being used to protect and assist our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. I am confident our collective efforts will continue to make a positive difference in our brothers and sisters ability to protect and serve their communities.

Thank you for being a part of this movement and making this simple idea turn into a huge success!

Stay safe,

Lt. Mark Drew

FF Oleg Skachko

DEFINITION OF TERMS

CO - Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. Depending on length of exposure, symptoms can begin with levels as low as nine (9) parts per million.

CPR - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is an emergency procedure that combines chest compressions with artificial ventilation to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing in a person who is in cardiac arrest.

Elevated Alarms- During times of increased call volume, working fires, or when an incident occurs that commits all on-duty personnel, an elevated alarm may be transmitted by the tour commander or the Fire Chief. This is sent through the CAD system at Central Dispatch, with redundant back-ups at Fire Headquarters.

Platoon Recall - When requested, this will summon the volunteer firefighters and the platoon of career firefighters that went off-duty that morning

Department Recall – All off-duty firefighters are summoned to report for duty.

FAST Team - Firefighter assist and search team (FAST), also known as a rapid intervention team/crew (RIT/RIC), is a team of two or more firefighters dedicated solely to the searchand rescue of other firefighters in distress.

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

Narcan - Naloxone is an opioid reversal medication. It is used to treat opioid drug overdoses. The most common is heroin.

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

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

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

Stokes Basket - A stretcher designed to be used where there are obstacles to movement or other hazards.

T.I.C. - Thermal Imaging Camera is a type of thermographic camera used in firefighting. By rendering infrared radiation as visible light, such cameras allow firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers.

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2022 Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report is made possible through the help and support from the following people:

John T. Judge, Chief

Patti Walsh, Administrative Assistant

Marisol Romero, Bureau Administrative Assistant

John Young, Lieutenant/Fire Official

Brendan Corcoran, Captain

Justin O'Connor, Captain

Scott Schmidt, Captain

Boyd Loving, Village Resident (Photos)

Stephanie Manganelli, Village Resident