



2017

Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report



James Van Goor, Chief

"I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a firefighter. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the firefighter has to do believe that his is a noble calling.
Chief Edward F. Croker FDNY circa 1910

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2017 Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report is made possible through the help and support from the following people:

FORMAT AND LAYOUT:

Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU:

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

PRINTING:

Patti Herman, Administrative Assistant

FIRE NARRATIVES:

Captain Duflocq
Captain Schmidt
Captain Hillerman

PICTURES

Boyd Loving, Village Resident



DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

Elevated Alarms:

- Volunteer Recall - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.
- Platoon Recall - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters and off-duty Specific Professional Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.
- Department Recall - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters and all off-duty Professional Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

As Fire Chief of the Village of Ridgewood Fire Department and on behalf of the professional members dedicated to preserving the lives, property, and environment of our community, I am honored to offer the 2017 Annual Report. In this report, you will learn about the personnel, facilities, equipment, and programs that serve our residents.

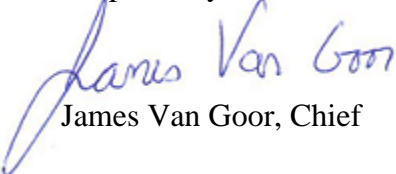
I am proud of the impact we make each day, whether it is taking the time to participate in an event, providing life-saving care or saving someone's home. We are helping our community when they need it most. We endeavor to make our partnership with the Village of Ridgewood stronger and have never taken for granted the support we receive from our community.

We are continually challenged with an increasing demand for emergency services. These challenges are met through progressive training, organizational effectiveness, state-of-the-art equipment, and by our motivated and dedicated members who strive to deliver the highest quality services.

The Ridgewood Fire Department is a proactive organization staffed with 41 professional firefighters and eight volunteer firefighters dedicated to the delivery of service to the citizens and visitors. In 2017, the fire department responded to 2,588 emergency calls and conducted 3,432 fire prevention inspections. The emergency responses ranged from minor calls to life threatening situations. Even though we continue to get busier, this past year was marked by a reduction in major structure fires, which is indicative of our prevention efforts. Our goal is to prevent a fire before they occur.

On behalf of all the Firefighters and Administrative Staff of the Ridgewood Fire Department, I would like to thank Mayor Knudsen, the Village Council, and the residents of Ridgewood for their continued support. I also want to thank all of the different departments in town for their prompt and professional assistance given to this department. Without their support, we would not be able to carry out our mission. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact my office at (201) 444-8822 or email at jvangoor@ridgewoodnj.net

Respectfully Submitted,



James Van Goor, Chief

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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

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

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

Water Calls / Floods/ Broken pipes/ Basement pump outs

Lock out / Lock-in (house & car)

Storm Emergencies / Wires down / Tree Limb Removal

First Responder/ EMT

Confined Space Rescue

Dive Team / Swift Water Rescue

Hazardous Material Response

Vehicle Extrication

Auto-accidents / Spill Cleanups / Battery Disconnects

Building Collapse/Entrapments

Electrical Emergencies

Chemical Spills / Leaks

Carbon Monoxide

Elevator Rescue

Utility Emergencies

Gas Leaks (Natural Gas or LPG)

Rope Rescue / High and Low Angle

Fire Prevention Services:

Building inspections

Code enforcement

Plan review

Public fire safety education

THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

MAYOR AND COUNCIL 2017

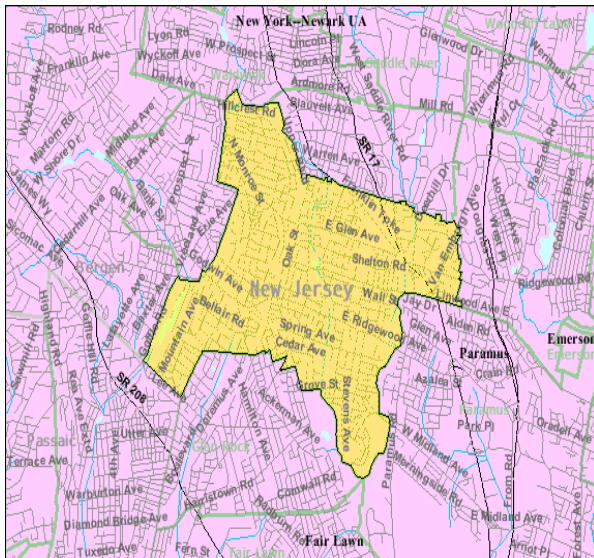
Mayor Susan Knudsen

Deputy Mayor Michael Sedon Councilman Ramon Hache

Councilman Jeff Voigt Councilwoman Bernadette Walsh

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

THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD



The Village of Ridgewood is located in Bergen County, New Jersey. It is primarily a residential community with a thriving business district. The district contains over 1,100 businesses including one major lumberyard, three major grocery chain stores, thirty-five restaurants, a four-screen movie theater, twenty houses of worship, twenty-five schools, a large natural pool, and a YMCA/YWCA facility. In addition to the almost 9,000 single-family homes, the community has sixty-eight apartment complexes with over 1,090 apartments, a regional medical center that has 451 beds, two nursing homes, and two senior citizen apartment complexes. We have a population density of 4,339 residents per square mile, and an

overall population of 25,533 within a 5.79 square mile land area. The population density is significantly higher than the Bergen County average of 3,775.

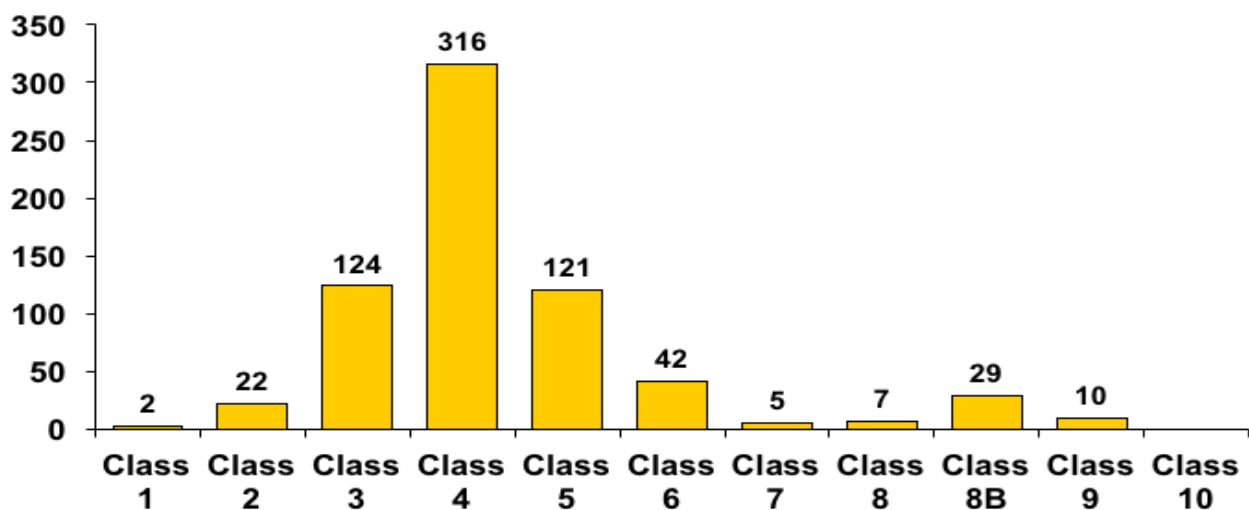
PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

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

Insurance Service Organization (ISO) collects information on municipal fire-protection in communities throughout the United States. Insurance companies to establish fair premiums on fire insurance for homeowners and commercial properties use the information. ISO evaluated 44,672 communities countrywide, only 1,393 are rated as Class 2 and 270 received a Class 1. Out of 678 communities in New Jersey, only 22 communities received a Class 2, and 2 communities received a Class 1 rating. This accomplishment has placed the Ridgewood Fire Department as one of the top twenty-four 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.

New Jersey



5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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

The programs and goals for the next five years are:

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

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

FIRE STATIONS: HISTORY AND LOCATION

Fire Headquarters:

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

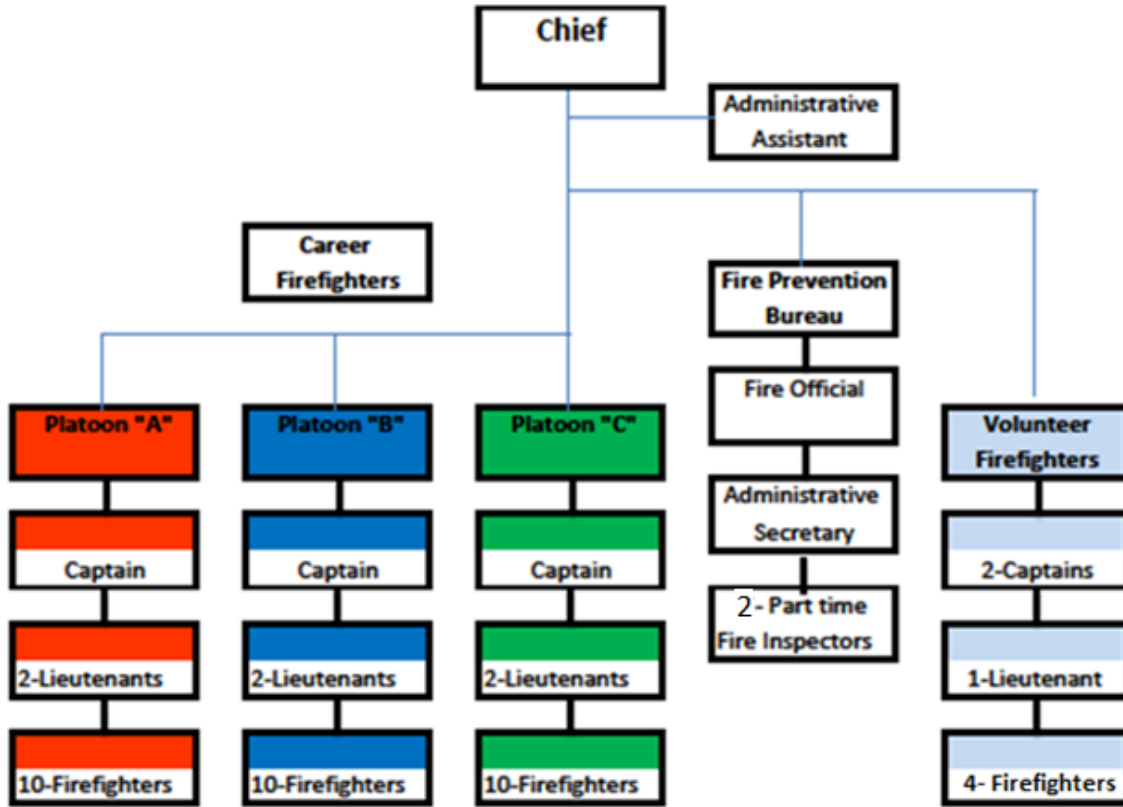


Engine Company 31:

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



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CAREER PERSONNEL

Administration: Chief James Van Goor

Administrative Assistant Patti Herman

Fire Officers:

Captain Chris DuFlocq
Captain Greg Hillerman
Captain Scott Schmidt
Lt. Brendan Corcoran
Lt. John Judge
Lt. Michael Kakolewski
Lt. Justin O'Connor
Lt. Jordan Zales

Fire Prevention

Lt./Fire Official John Young
Admin. Dolores Tomei

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



“Mark Cassidy Firefighter of the Year” award was presented to FF Shelby Taylor

Firefighters:

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

Appointments:

Prob. FF Dane Knudsen
Prob. FF Shelby Taylor
Prob. FF Ryan Romaro

Retirements

FF. John Baughman
Lt. Joseph Koonce

COMMENDATIONS

Child Birth

Engine 35 was dispatched to a report of a woman having a baby in the garage of her house. Upon arrival, found that the woman had just given birth but was still in need of help. Engine 35 personnel assisted with the after birth treatment and transported her to Valley Hospital.

The Ridgewood Fire Department would like recognize:

Sr. Firefighter Engineer Paul Brennan

Sr. Firefighter Engineer Dan Steen

Sr. Firefighter Engineer Michael Ferraro

CPR/Narcan

Engine 35 was dispatched to a reported unresponsive male party slumped over the steering wheel of his car in the middle of the street. Upon arrival, Engine 35 personnel worked with the Ridgewood police performing CPR and applying the AED on the individual. Police found heroin in his car so narcan was administered. All members performed seamlessly together with the police, BLS and ALS. Thankfully, for the efforts of these men, this individual was also able to leave the hospital alive.

The Ridgewood Fire Department would like recognize:

Captain Greg Hillerman

Sr. Firefighter Engineer Michael Ferraro

Firefighter Matt Musicant

Firefighter Tim Bombace

VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL

Fire Officers:

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

Firefighters:

FF. David Azzopardi
FF. Jeffrey Creegan
FF. Trevor Fetkowitz
FF. Dennis Johnson
FF. Anthony Monton



PERSONNEL TRAINING

Career Personnel

The Members of the Career Department conducted training in 2017 covering the following subjects:

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

Volunteer Personnel

The Members of the Volunteer Department conducted training in 2017 covering the following subjects:

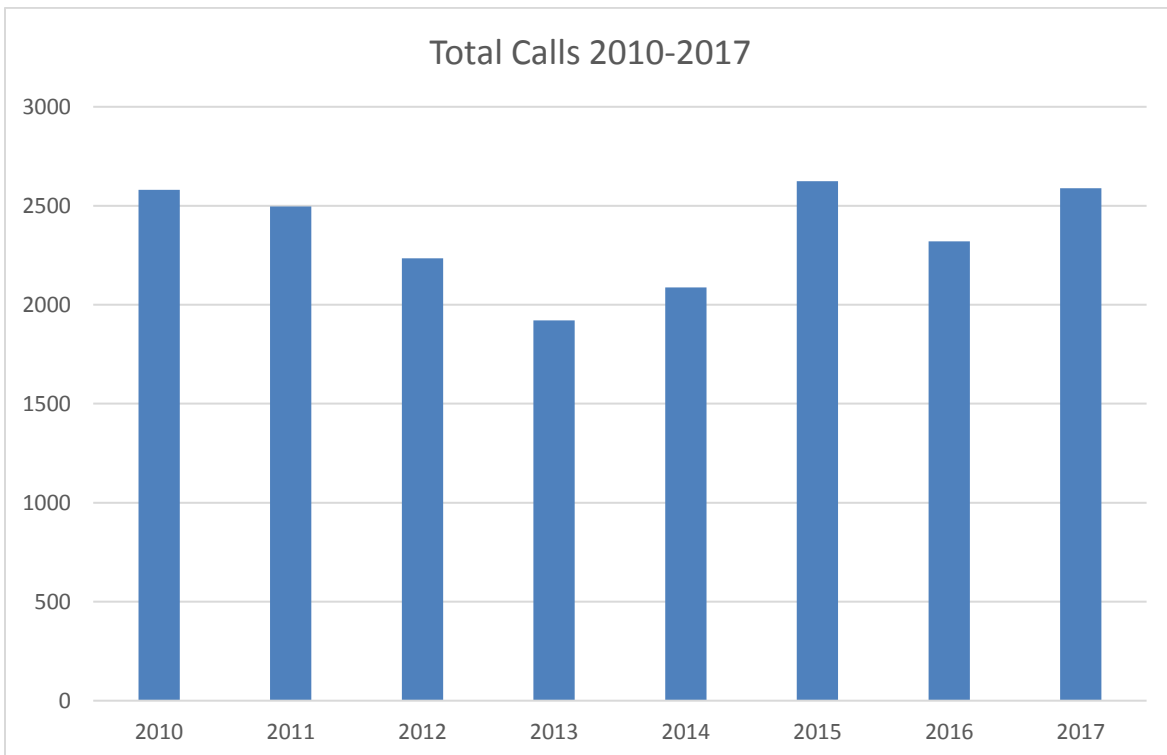
Blood Borne Pathogens	Fire Behavior	Building Construction
Structural Firefighting	Portable Fire Extinguishers	Right to Know
Search & Rescue	Ropes & Knots	Mass Decontamination
Personal Protective Equip.	Natural Gas Emergencies	Confined Space Rescue
Rescue Tools	Personnel Accountability – Safety	Self Contained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

"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)

FIRE CALL VOLUME MONTH/YEAR

RESPONSES BY MONTH - 2017

JANUARY	166
FEBRUARY	182
MARCH	189
APRIL	192
MAY	229
JUNE	221
JULY	220
AUGUST	246
SEPTEMBER	229
OCTOBER	263
NOVEMBER	238
DECEMBER	209
TOTAL ALARMS	2,588



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Received call for an Activated Fire Alarm - Response Time: 3:25

Upon arrival, found an un-occupied residence with the fire alarm sounding. Firefighters gained entry with the use of specialized tools without causing any damage. Once in the residence we discovered an active water leak that caused the alarm activation. The water was shut off stopping any further damage. The standing water was removed with pumps and wet vacuums. The resident returned home and was advised to call a plumber and an alarm company.

Elevator Rescue - Response Time: 5:10

Upon arrival, found two occupants stuck in the elevator on the basement floor. The power to the elevator was shut down and two wheel chair bound occupants were removed unharmed using rescue tools. The building's Engineer was advised to contact an elevator service contractor before operating the elevator again.

Assist Resident with Smoke Detector - Response Time: 2:00

Upon arrival, found a 93-year-old woman who was having trouble with her smoke detector. She had replaced the batteries and it was still chirping and beeping. The detector was determined to be out of date and defective. Fire personnel provided her with two new detectors and installed them for her in the appropriate locations.

Motor Vehicle Rollover - Response Time: 2:30

Upon arrival, found a vehicle lying on its driver's side up against a parked car still running and in drive. The driver was still behind the wheel complaining of injuries, and the parked car was unoccupied. Fire personnel stabilized the car, put the car in park and shut it off before first aid could begin. The patient was removed from the vehicle and transported to Valley Hospital.

Assist Police in Search for Children - Run Time: 5:22

Upon arrival, found Police on scene of two missing children. We were briefed on the children's description and information and began searching a specified area for them. After a short period of time, the children showed up on their own, unharmed.

Mutual Aid Response to Glen Rock - Run Time: 2:40

Upon arrival, found a 40' trailer, which was parked under multiple high voltage wires, on fire in between other trailers. Due to the excessive heat, two of the wires had already fallen to the ground around the trailer and were still live. The situation did not allow us to flow water on the fire, however, we provided a secondary water supply and waited for the power to be cut off. We stretched a hand line to protect the adjacent exposures.

Smoking Sump Pump - Response Time: 4:33

Upon arrival, found the sump pump in the basement on fire. The pump was extinguished with an extinguisher, and that electric circuit was shut down. Due to the quick response, the fire was contained to the pump. The pump was disconnected and the house ventilated. The occupant was advised to call a plumber and an electrician.

Vehicle Fire - Response Time: 3:39

Responded on a report of a vehicle fire on Route 17 North. Upon arrival, found an SUV on fire in the shoulder of the highway. Engine 35 and Rescue 42 personnel extinguished the fire. Due to extreme fire damage to the vehicle and the asphalt underneath, Car 38 had DOT respond to scene to evaluate the highway and remove excess debris.

Structure Fire–Mutual-Aid to Glen Rock - Response Time 5:12

Responded to a structure fire that re-kindled the next morning from a previous closet fire the night before. A small fire in a laundry basket existed and there was a heavy smoke condition throughout the house. Engine 35 personnel assisted with extinguishment and overhaul and assisted with ventilation to the structure.

Tree into House - Response Time: 3:29

Responded to a call for a tree that had crashed into the roof of a house. Upon arrival, Car 38 confirmed that all occupants were safely out of house and not injured. Fire personnel assessed structural damage and checked all utilities. The electrical service was compromised and PSE&G was requested to respond as well as the Village Building Official. PSE&G cut power to the home and Fire department personnel secured the gas shut off at the meter. The house was determined to be in habitable by the Building Official.



Structure Fire - Response Time: 3:18

Responded to a report of a structure fire. Upon arrival, found a smoke condition on the second floor coming from a bedroom. The cause of smoke was from a Vape / E-cigarette burning underneath the bed. Fire personnel removed the item and used a thermal imaging camera to check the floor and surrounding area for extension. Due to the quick response, the fire was contained to a small area and the smoke was removed using a fire dept. smoke ejector fan.

Garbage Truck Fire - Response Time: 2:25

Upon arrival, found a working fire in the rear compactor area of a Village Garbage Truck. We secured a primary water supply and stretched a 1 ¾" hose line. We then had the sanitation workers dump the garbage load in the street by the truck power. This exposed the concealed fire inside that was then extinguished in the street. All debris was overhauled and checked for pockets of fire, and the Street Department was called to remove all the garbage from the roadway. The Garbage truck sustained no damage from the fire.

Kitchen Fire in Nursing Home - Response Time: 2:37

Upon arrival, found a kitchen fire with a heavy smoke condition. Fire department personnel extinguished the fire, which started with plastic left on a hot plate. The fire was contained to the kitchen so no residence had to be evacuated. Fire personnel ventilated the area to remove all smoke and used multi-gas meters to check for proper air quality.

Oven Fire - Response Time: 1:42

Upon arrival, found a heavy smoke condition in the kitchen with a fire within the oven. The fire was extinguished and ventilation of the home was done. Fire personnel disconnected the stove and pulled it out. All walls and adjacent areas were checked for heat with the thermal imaging cameras. Melted plastic containers were found in the oven, which was the cause of the fire. The occupant was advised not to use the stove until an appliance repair contractor evaluates it.

Vehicle Lockout - Response Time: 4:07

Responded to a call for a vehicle that was running with a small child locked inside. One member kept the child's attention away from the vehicle controls, while the rest of the crew used vehicle lock out tools to gain entry. No damage was done to the vehicle and the child was removed unharmed.

Vehicle Rollover - Response Time: 2:39

Upon arrival, found a vehicle lying on its driver's side up against a telephone pole. The driver was able to get out, but the passenger was still inside. Fire Personnel were able to shut of the car and put it in park. The vehicle was stabilized with cribbing before removing the passenger and treating for minor injuries. Fire personnel spread speedi-dri on the fluid spills in the roadway.

Dryer Fire- Run Time: 1:29

Upon arrival, found clothes dryer in the basement on fire. Fire department personnel extinguished the fire and shut off the gas and electric to the dryer. The dryer was overhauled in place, and disconnected. All adjacent areas were checked for fire extension. The dryer was removed from the residence and placed outside.

Oil Burner Malfunction - Response Time: 3:00

Apparatus responded to a reported working fire. Upon arrival, found heavy smoke coming from a boiler room. Entry was made into the room and a severely malfunctioning oil burner was found. Heavy smoke was encountered along with over 500 parts per million of CO in the structure. The oil supply to the unit was secured and the unit shut down. The boiler room was vented of all smoke and CO. The occupants were allowed to return back into the building.

Fork Lift Fire - Response Time: 2:58

Car 38 and Engine 31 responded to assist as Mutual Aid in Glen Rock for a reported forklift on fire in the garage of a commercial building. Glen Rock Police initially attacked the fire with a dry chemical extinguisher. Engine 31's crew extinguished the remaining fire and removed the battery, while also assisting Glen Rock with smoke removal and monitoring inside the warehouse for CO conditions. Command was transferred to the Glen Rock Fire Chief upon his arrival and soon after Ridgewood Fire was released from scene.

Un-attended Pot on Stove & Natural Gas Leak - Response Time: 2:40

Responded to a report of an alarm sounding. No one was home and entry was gained to the residence finding a burning pot on the stove with the burner still on. A smoke condition was found in the residence. During the search for occupants of the residence, the owner's dog was found and removed to the outside. The cabinets above the stove were also checked for any extension and the house was monitored with a multi-gas meter.

Carbon Monoxide Incident - Response Time: 2:30

Received a direct call to Fire Headquarters from a resident reporting that her carbon monoxide alarms had activated last night. Upon arrival, elevated readings of CO were found throughout the house especially in the utility room in the basement. Fire personnel shut down the electric and gas to the boiler, the forced air system, and the hot water heater. PSE&G was notified to respond. The residence was ventilated until there was no CO readings. The homeowner was advised to never hesitate to call the Fire department.

Smoke Entering through Heating Vents in a Commercial Building - Response Time: 3:36

Upon arrival, found smoke flowing into his business through the ceiling heating vents. Fire personnel accessed the roof and found a HVAC unit with an overheating motor. Power was shutoff to the unit and the manager of the building was advised to have a contractor respond for repairs. Fire dept. fans were used to clear the store of smoke and carbon monoxide allowing the business to remain open.

Vehicle Fire - Response Time: 4:05

Upon arrival, Fire personnel found a car fire with no occupants inside. The main body of fire extinguished with a hose line from Engine 35. The car was over hauled to search for hidden pockets of fire, which were extinguished. After the fire hazard was mitigated, the car was turned back over to the owner for removal.



Pedestrian Struck by Vehicle - Response Time: 4:02

Upon arrival, found a patient struck by a car at the intersection of Broad St. and E. Ridgewood Avenue. The patient was complaining of difficulty breathing and pain from trauma injuries. The patient was splinted to a backboard for safety and then transported to the Valley Hospital for further treatment.

Vehicle Lock-Out - Response Time: 3:00

Upon arrival, found a person locked out of his vehicle with a dog locked inside. We used our vehicle lock-out kit and gained access to the vehicle without causing any damage. The dog was released unharmed.

Garage Fire - Response Time: 3:36

Upon arrival, Car 38 confirmed a working garage fire and established command. Engine 31 established a water supply to the hydrant and began stretching a hose line to the fire. The main body of fire was extinguished while operating safely from the exterior to a large amount of fire and limited access. Engine 35 established a backup hose line to protect Engine 31 as they entered the structure to continue extinguishing the remaining fire inaccessible from the exterior. The garage doors were opened and thermal imaging cameras were used to find any remaining fire or hot spots. Any burned contents were removed from the structure to the driveway where they could be washed down. After the fire was fully extinguished and overhauled, the property was returned to the homeowners.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPARISON 2015-2017

<u>FIRES (100 CODE)</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
STRUCTURE FIRES (111-123A)	55	45	37
VEHICLE FIRES (131-138)	6	7	6
TREES, BRUSH & GRASS FIRES (140-143)	19	14	13
REFUSE FIRES (150-155)	4	3	6
SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE (160-173)	5	0	0
TOTAL CODE 100	89	69	62
<u>OVERPRESSURE, RUPTURE, EXPLOSION - (200 CODE)</u>			
STEAM, AIR & GAS RUPTURES (200-251)	12	10	8
TOTAL CODE 200	12	10	8
<u>RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES (300 CODE)</u>			
EMT CALLS (321D)	886	972	1245
EMT MUTUAL AID CALLS (321M)	2	0	0
SEARCH, RESCUE, EXTRICATION (322-381)	32	32	26
TOTAL CODE 300	920	1004	1271
<u>HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (CODE 400)</u>			
COMBUSTIBLE SPILLS & LEAKS (400-413)	106	124	102
CHEMICAL HAZARD/Carbon Monoxide (420-431)	35	45	44
ELECTRICAL WIRING/EQUIPMENT (440-445A)	148	148	186
VEHICLE ACCIDENT/STRUCTURE COLLAPSE (451-482)	15	16	29
TOTAL CODE 400	289	333	361
<u>SERVICE CALLS (500 CODE)</u>			
SERVICE CALL PERSON IN DISTRESS (500-512)	100	75	77
WATER PROBLEM (520-522)	17	49	52
SMOKE REMOVAL/INVESTIGATION (531-531A)	141	121	107
OTHER ASSISTANCE (540-571)	336	111	112
TOTAL CODE 500	594	356	348
<u>GOOD INTENT CALL (600 CODE)</u>			
GOOD INTENT CALL (600-641)	41	43	66
SMOKE SCARE/INVESTIGATION (650-661)	23	25	24
HAZMAT RELEASE INVESTIGATION (671-672)	4	2	4
TOTAL CODE 600	68	70	94

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPARISON (2015 - 2017) CON'T

ALARM ACTIVATIONS (700 CODE)

MALICIOUS CALL (700-729)	13	7	14
MALFUNCTION OF ALARM (730-736)	208	159	189
GENERAL ACTIVATION (740-746)	217	228	235
TOTAL CODE 700	438	394	438

SEVERE WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTER (800 CODE)

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

SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE (900 CODE)

SPECIAL TYPE (900-911)	210	82	2
TOTAL CODE 900	210	82	2

2015 TOTAL INCIDENTS	2625		
2016 TOTAL INCIDENTS		2321	
2017 TOTAL INCIDENTS			2588



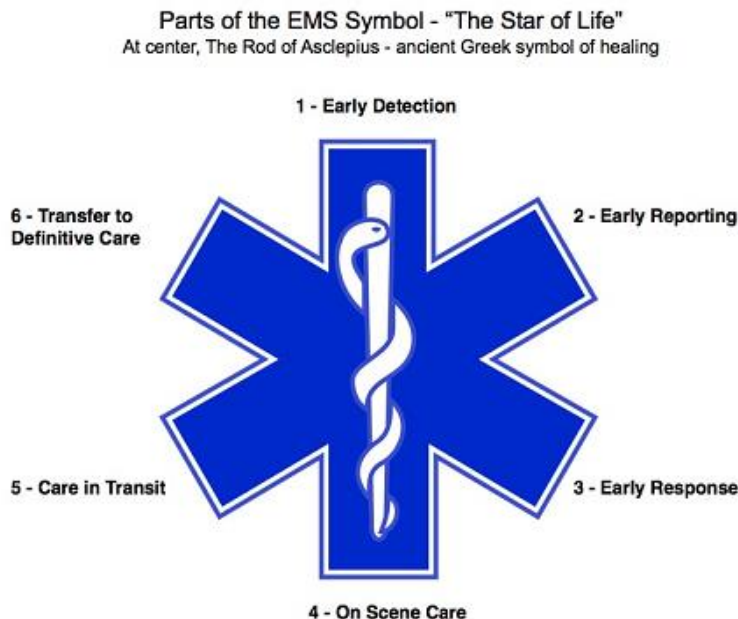


EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

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

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 three firefighter/EMT's and provide First Responder capabilities upon arriving at the scene quickly. Engine Company #35 and Engine Company #31 are both equipped with Medical bags, oxygen units, a defibrillator, narcan (naloxone), glucose, and Epipens.

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



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

There are twenty-seven Firefighters, six Lieutenants, one Captain, and the Chief that have completed the extensive Emergency Medical Technician training course and have become certified. In addition, one Lieutenant is a trained Paramedic.

Fire Department Firefighter/EMT

Chief James Van Goor

Captain Scott Schmidt

Lieutenant/Paramedic John Judge

Lieutenant/EMT Brendan Corcoran

Lieutenant/EMT Michael Kakolewski

Lieutenant/EMT Justin O'Connor

Lieutenant/EMT John Young

Lieutenant/EMT Jordan Zales

Firefighter/EMT John Baughman

Firefighter/EMT Matthew Bombace

Firefighter/EMT Tim Bombace

Firefighter/EMT Paul Brennan

Firefighter/EMT Gregory Corcoran

Firefighter/EMT Scott Cornell

Firefighter/EMT Anthony Dinice

Firefighter/EMT Chris Eidschun

Firefighter/EMT Michael Ferraro

Firefighter/EMT Joseph Ferraro

Firefighter/EMT Kurt Harba

Firefighter/EMT Jason Jacoby

Firefighter/EMT James Kakolewski

Firefighter/EMT Jason Kane

Firefighter/EMT Brian Kelly

Firefighter/EMT David Kelly

Firefighter/EMT Daniel Kostro

Firefighter/EMT Oscar Martinez

Firefighter/EMT Michael McLaughlin

Firefighter/EMT Matthew Musicant

Firefighter/EMT Brian Peacock

Firefighter/EMT Matthew Ramge

Firefighter/EMT Michael Rohrman

Firefighter/EMT Thomas Shortway

Firefighter/EMT Dan Steen

Firefighter/EMT Henry VanWageningen

Firefighter/EMT Chris Wolfstirn



SWIFT WATER/ RESCUE DIVE TEAM

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

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

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors certifies the following personnel:

Lieutenant Brendan Corcoran	
Lieutenant EMT John Judge	Firefighter/EMT Matt Bombace
Lieutenant Mike Kakolewski	Firefighter/EMT Greg Corcoran
Lieutenant Joseph Koonce	Firefighter/EMT Joseph Ferraro
Lieutenant Justin O'Connor	Firefighter/EMT Kurt Harba
Lieutenant Harvey Weber	Firefighter/EMT Jim Kakolewski
Lieutenant / Fire Official John Young	Firefighter/EMT Brian Kelly
SFFE/EMT Michael McLaughlin	Firefighter/EMT Matthew Musicant
SFFE/EMT Matt Ramge	Firefighter/EMT Chris Wolfstirn

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Prevention Bureau

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

Staff

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

Fire Official Kevin McGuire

Fire Official Jack Wolfstirn

Fire Prevention Administrative Secretary, Dolores Tomei

There are 36 Fire Inspection Districts in the Village that include Valley Hospital and Nursing Homes, all Village Owned Buildings, Public and Private Schools, Day Care Centers, Multi-Family Dwellings, and all Commercial Buildings. In 2017, there were 191 Life Hazard Uses, and 1,231 periodic Fire Safety Inspections conducted. A total of 516 occupancies were re-inspected for the 1,223 violations issued. At times, these inspections are shared with the on-duty shifts and double as a building familiarization drills for all Firefighters.

Fire Investigations

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

Open House

In October 2017, a very successful Open House was held at Fire Headquarters supporting Fire Prevention Week. Demonstrations on cooking safety, repelling, fire extinguishers, exit drills, and stop, drop, and roll were all well attended. There were tours of the Fire House and Fire Department apparatus were on display. A car fire was simulated and extinguished by firefighters and a demonstration on how the jaws of life are used at a motor vehicle accident.

Public Education

The Fire Prevention Bureau is very involved in Public Fire Safety Education. In 2017, there were 16 School Visitations, 15 Visitations to Fire Headquarters, and 6 Special Programs, reaching over 2,687 children and 635 adults. Also, the Fire Department conducted fire drills at all the Public Schools, Church Sunday Schools, and various locations as requested for 4,575 children and adults.



Annual Report of the Fire Prevention Bureau

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

General Business	856
Gas Station and Auto Repair Shops	13
Restaurants	61
Retail Food Stores	5
Lumber Yards	1
Multi Family Buildings	43
Institutional Buildings	23
Public and/or Private Schools	33
Church and/or Sunday School Buildings	24
Municipal-Owned Buildings	22
Life Hazard Use - Annual	95
Life Hazard Use – Quarterly	20
Fire Prevention NE/INL	58
Smoke Detector Certification Inspections	630

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

Fireplace/Chimneys	31
Furnace Installation – Gas	43
Furnace Installation – Oil	3
Other Gas Appliances	86
Oil Tank Installations	8
Fuel Tank Installations	0
Fuel Pump Installations	0
Abandonment of Underground Tanks	0
Removal of Underground Tanks	189
Removal of Interior/Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks	39
Chimney Liner Installation	89
Other	1

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

Fire Sub-Code Permits Issued	525
Building Permits Issued/Fire Inspector Inspects	14
U.C.C. NE/INL	7
C.C.O. Permits Issued	12

C.C.O. Inspections of Commercial Occupancies	14
Progress Inspections	5
Fire Sub-Code Related Duties	218
Blueprints Checked	139
Review of Site Plan Locations	10
Smoke Detector - Placement/Installations	237

NOTICES ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS

Fire Sub-Code Violations	200
Fire Prevention Bureau Violations	891
Re-Inspections to Assure Correction	467
Summons Issued	8
Letters Sent	173
Municipal Court Appearances	4
Construction Board of Appeals Appearances	0
Fire Prevention Permits Issued	34
Fire Prevention Permit Inspections	27
Fire Prevention Penalties Issued	55

FIRE PREVENTION ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

S/D Certification Fees (Ordinance #3288)	\$37,775.00
Inspection Fees Local	\$80,770.00
Fire Prevention Permit Fees	\$ 924.00
Fire Prevention Penalties	\$3,795.00
Life Hazard Use Inspection Fees (State)	\$22,417.12
Fire Sub-Code Fees (Building Department)	\$61,496.00
Fire Alarm Registration Fees	\$40,274.00
C.C.O. Fees	\$0.00

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

With Building Department	10
With Other Village Departments	0
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	1
With Board of Education Personnel	1
With Valley Hospital Personnel	12

NOTIFICATION TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF CODE VIOLATIONS:

To Building Department	9
To Other Village Departments	3

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

With Building Department	229
With Other Village Departments	2
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	1

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED:

Hazardous Condition	8
Blocking Exit Ways	4
Improper Trash Storage and/or Collection	1
Re-Inspections to Assure Corrections	12

MISCELLANEOUS:

Fire Safety Education/Training Program	3
Prep. and Maintenance of Reports/Inspection Schedules	238
Respond to Fire Incidents	6
Investigate Fire Incidents	4
Meetings and Schools Attended	10
Check for Safety at Public Affairs	7
OPRA Requests Completed	95



ADOPT A HYDRANT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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



APPARATUS

Car # 30:

2017 Chief's Chevy Tahoe

Car #40:

2003 Ford Explorer

Eng. # 31:

2012 1250 gpm Pierce Saber

Eng. # 32:

1994 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Eng. # 33:

2003 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Eng. # 35:

2017 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Tower # 36:

2012 Pierce Mid-Mount Platform ladder

Eng. # 37:

2000 1250 gpm Pierce Pumper

Car #38:

2015 Chevy Tahoe

Car #39:

2006 Ford Expedition Fire Prevention

Car #41:

2010 Ford Escape XLT

Rescue #42:

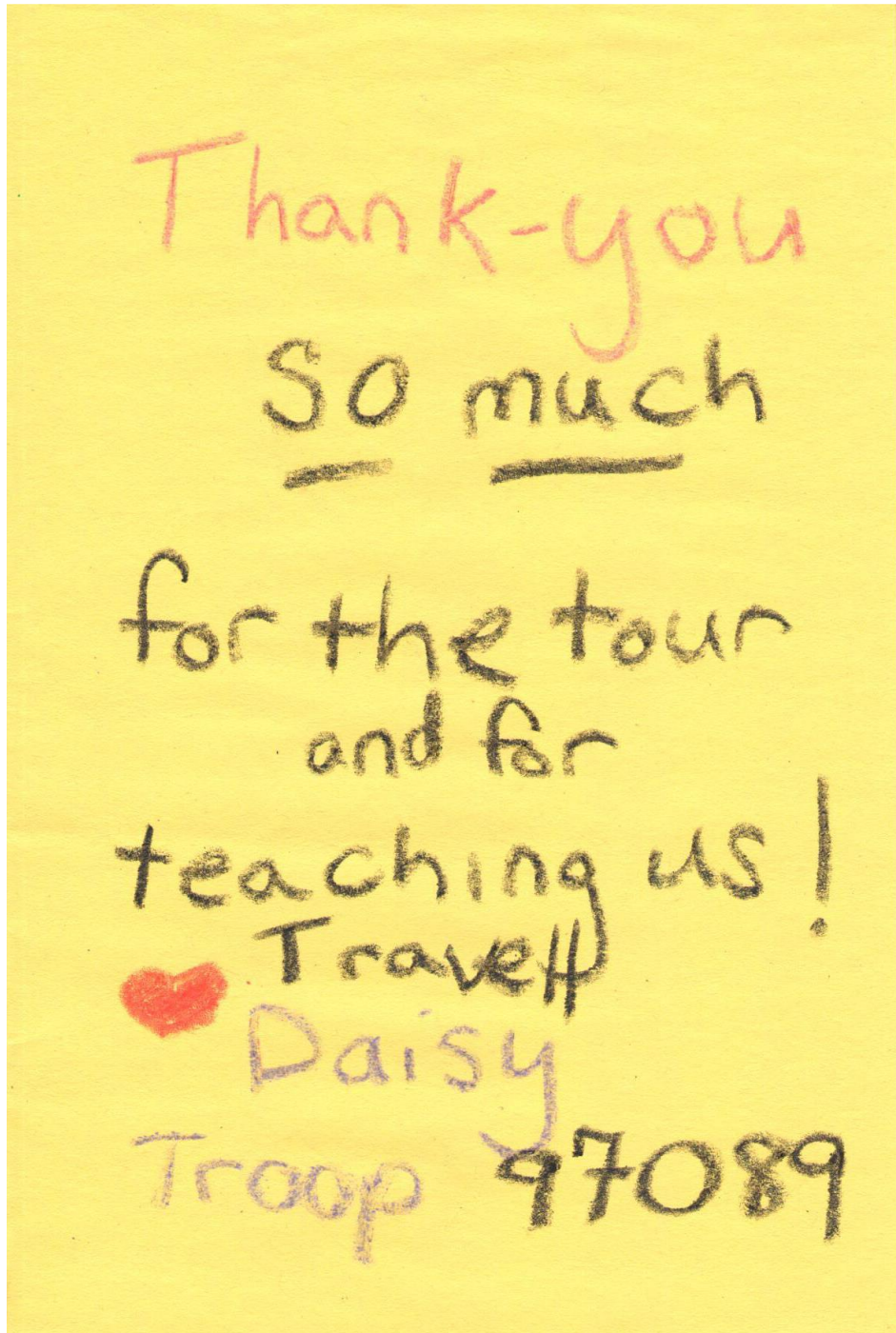
1998 International E-ONE

Car #43:

2014 Ford F250/Plow



LETTERS OF COMMENDATION



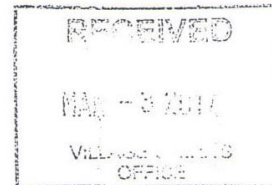


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

BOROUGH OF GLEN ROCK
BERGEN COUNTY
NEW JERSEY

February 27, 2017

Mayor Susan Knudsen
Village of Ridgewood
131 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450



Dear Mayor Knudsen:

I want to convey my, and the Borough's, appreciation for the incredible support that we received from Ridgewood's first responders, for the Prospect Street fire, here in Glen Rock this past week. I hope that your firefighters are recovering well and please know that their selfless efforts to assist another town are so greatly appreciated.

I realize that our units don't hesitate to assist one another whenever the need arises and I extend my, and the Borough's, gratitude for all past and future incidents where our first responders have been, and will continue to be, there for one another.

Please pass this along to the many individuals who were there for us that evening.

Bruce J Packer
Mayor, Borough of Glen Rock

cc: Heather Mailander, Interim Village Manager

Boy Scout Troop 5 Ridgewood, New Jersey


September 29, 2017

Ridgewood Fire Headquarters
201 East Glen Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Dear Chief Van Goor:

I am writing to thank you for sending a representative to the Troop 5 Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Monday. Thank you for your continued support of our troop and for your recognition of the scouts' achievement and hard work.

Yours truly,



Kimberly Perez
Troop 5 Advancement Chair

374 Chesterfield Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
201-446-8570

Ridgewood Fire Department,

2017

Thank you - Thank you!!

Healthy Kids Day at the Ridgewood
YMCA was a blast and your support
of the event every year is greatly
appreciated. The kids love touring
the trucks, seeing your equipment &
of course chatting with a fireman.

Best,
Megan Heller
Ridgewood YMCA Staff