WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #1

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome!

On behalf of our dedicated and professional men and women of the Washington Township Fire District, I would like to present to you our 2016 annual report. As Fire Chief, it is my responsibility to ensure that we are providing quality service in a fiscally responsible manner. One of my goals in 2016 was to identify key areas where we could save money without impacting our fire protection to our community. Working with a dedicated Board of Fire Commissioners, we developed strategies and involved all levels of the department in the budget planning process. We were able to enter into several cooperative purchasing opportunities, we received several small grants, applied for and received federal reimbursements and built partnerships to aid in saving money. This year we will continue to secure alternate funding opportunities and seek grant opportunities.

Our department is one of the busiest departments in South Jersey. In 2016 we responded to approximately 1,300 incidents. There were 50 Fire Investigations completed and nearly 3,400 Fire Code Inspections completed as well. There were approximately 125 public education programs delivered, over 100 smoke detectors or CO detectors distributed, and thousands of hours of fire / rescue training completed by our department. We also conduct our own apparatus / equipment maintenance which is a significant cost savings to our tax payers.

The Washington Township Fire Department is part of the community. You will always find the men and women of this fine department at many community functions. In addition to the above, our department participated in many events in 2016 such as: Super Saturday, National Night Out, Sports tournaments and parades, July 4th Fireworks, New Business Openings, First Day of School, Health and Career Fairs, WTHS Club /Sport Car Wash Events, Birthday Parties, Trick or Treat Safe Corners, Military Welcome Home Escorts, Benefit Walks in the Park, Safety events, Food Drives, Santa, the annual coat drive and many more. Our success is directly related to our relationship with our community and businesses.

In 2016, our department continued with their passion to train in many facets of emergency response including, specialized training in Active Shooter Response (Fire Department Support to Law Enforcement), Lost / Missing person search and water rescue / Boat Operations. We implemented a new Radio System which has become the standard throughout the country and we upgraded some aging firefighter and rescue equipment. We also received a new Fire Engine that replaced one that was over 20 years old.

We created new initiatives for volunteer recruitment and retention which included Community Open Houses. Our department continues to find alternate and creative way to get our community involved.

All of this hard work truly paid off in 2016 as 28 firefighters from this department were recognized at the Gloucester County Fire Chief's and Fire Officer's Association Awards Dinner for several Unit Citations and Life Saving awards. In addition, several more will be recognized at our annual awards night for other awards and accomplishments for service and educational achievements.

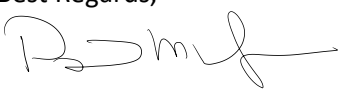
I hope you are as proud as I am to have such passionate, well trained, humble, dedicated, competent, and hard-working firefighters protecting our community. Most of these men and women do it for nothing. No matter day or night, we are there committed to protect you.

As we move forward into 2017, we will continue to work diligently to challenge ourselves to improve. We have begun a Department Strategic Planning process and will continue by involving both internal and external stakeholders. We are in need of replacing a nearly 20-year-old Rescue Truck that carries critical rescue equipment. This requires us to place a special question on the 2017 Ballot and ask for you to support this project. The time required to research and specify a new truck takes a considerable amount of time. With your support for our budget, we will continue to provide unparalleled service to our community, create new opportunities to achieve organizational improvement and continue with the excellent programs we have to offer.

Our proposed budget for 2017 will be slightly less than last year. The total proposed budget is $6.6 million of which $5.8 million is to be generated by taxation. The budget carries a 13.8-cent tax rate, down from 13.9-cent in 2016. This remains one of the lowest rates in the region. Our Management team along with our 2016 Board of Fire Commissioners made this slight decrease possible.

We look forward to seeing you come out to support our budget on Saturday, February 18, 2017. Voting will be open from 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Fire Administration Building, located at #213 E. Holly Ave.

Best Regards,



Patrick M. Dolgos

Fire Chief

INTRODUCTION

This report, prepared and issued by the Washington Township Fire District is intended to familiarize the residents and business owners of Washington Township with the organization, operation, and goals of the fire district.

MISSION STATEMENT

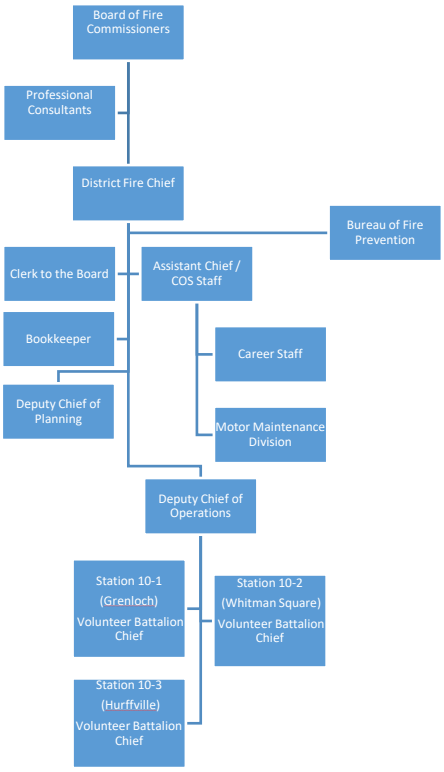
The mission of the Washington Township Fire District is to provide a professional level of community fire protection and rescue services to the citizens and property within Washington Township in order to prevent or minimize the loss of life, pain and suffering, and property damage as a result of fire or other emergency.

The Fire District's mission will be accomplished by the effective use of its volunteer, career, and physical resources, in cooperation with other public agencies, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, innovative techniques, and available technology to provide a high level of cost efficient, quality service.

ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, AND OPERATION

On August 23, 1972, the governing body of the Township of Washington adopted an ordinance creating the Washington Township Fire District No. 1. The territorial jurisdiction of the fire district encompasses the entire Township of Washington.

The Fire District organizational chart appears below. As you can see, the Board of Fire Commissioners oversees all aspects of the Fire District. The District Fire Chief is in charge of the daily operations and management of the Fire District. The Bureau of Fire Prevention is responsible for the prevention, fire safety education, fire investigation, and code enforcement. The Maintenance Division's responsibilities include the repair, testing, and preventive maintenance of all fire district owned and contracted agency's vehicles and equipment. The Training Division is responsible for the coordination, development and delivery of fire / rescue related training and education for all Career and Volunteer personnel.



The district's three volunteer fire companies; Grenloch, Whitman Square, and Hurffville, supported by the paid staff, are primarily responsible for the fire and rescue operations in the township. All active members of these fire companies are volunteer. Our career staff currently works Monday through Friday during the daytime hours. They are encouraged and permitted to come back for calls after hours to help with staffing. We respond to all types of emergencies, including but not limited to; Fires, Motor Vehicle Crashes, Water and Ice Rescue, Animal Rescues, Fuel Spills, Hazardous Materials incidents, certain medical calls, Carbon Monoxide incidents, and technical rescue incidents.

All fire districts in the State of New Jersey are governed by state statute. Fire district statutes are generally located in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70 et seq. These statutes give fire districts taxing authority, regulate when and how fire district elections are to be conducted, and regulate their fiscal responsibilities, among other things. The Board of Fire Commissioners serves as the Fire District's governing body. The length of a fire commissioner's term of office is three years, and these terms are staggered so that no more than two terms expire in any given year. An annual public election for fire commissioners, as well as approval of the proposed annual budget, is conducted on the third Saturday in February, as mandated by New Jersey statues.

The Fire District develops its own budget, has taxing power, and owns buildings and equipment.

The Fire District owns all of the fire stations in Washington Township except the Whitman Square Fire station on Johnson Road.

Fire District operates the following vehicles:

- 5 Structural Response Engines / Pumpers
- 2 Rescue Engines / Pumpers
- 1 75’ Ladder
- 1 100’ Ladder Tower
- 1 Heavy Rescue Truck
- 2 Utility Trucks
- 1 Brush Truck
- 2 Inflatable Rescue Boats
- 1 Fire Investigation Unit
- 2 Multi-purpose 4x4 pick-up trucks with snow plows and trailer towing capabilities
- 1 Fire Safety Education Trailer
- 1 Technical Rescue Trailer
- 1 Mobile Training Unit Trailer
- 1 Utility Trailer
- 10 Staff vehicles (Chiefs / Fire Marshall / Support / etc.)

All portable equipment required for emergency operations including, fire hose, ladders, protective clothing, rescue tools, breathing apparatus, radios, etc. are owned by the fire district. Last year, the district replaced all of its radios due to communication interoperability. In addition, the FCC set new frequencies for public safety requiring agencies to switch. Both the County and the Fire District funded this project.

EMERGENCY REPSONSES

The following were some of the incidents that the Washington Township Fire Department responded to during 2016.

123 Delsea Drive 1/23/2016

The WTFD was dispatched for a Building fire at 1230 am during the height of a snowstorm with significant accumulating snow. Crews battled the blaze despite the weather issues.

603 Whitman Drive 03/13/2016

On Sunday afternoon around 1300, WTFD units were dispatched for a dwelling fire. Engine 1021 arrived to find a one-story rancher with heavy smoke coming from the eaves and gable vents. Engine 1021 secured their own water supply and went in service with a 1.75" hose line. Chief Zemski arrived and assumed command. Fire was found in kitchen area and attic above the kitchen. The ceiling in kitchen was opened up and fire was extinguished quickly. Engine 1012 assumed ladder company responsibilities and ventilated roof. The fire was placed under control at 1334 hours by command.

221 Champion Way 04/04/16

At 2110 hours, the fire department was dispatched to a reported dwelling fire at 221 Champion Way. Engine 1012 arrived on location with a 2 story dwelling with fire showing from second floor bedroom on Division A. Engine 1012 went in service with a 1.75" hose line and established their own water supply. Fire was contained to bedroom of origin with smoke and heat damage throughout the second floor.

14 Quasar Court 04/19/16

At 0222, fire department units were sent to a working dwelling fire. Chief Dolgos arrived on location with a 2 story twin and had fire showing from the right side of the dwelling. Police on location reported that all occupants were out of the house and were accounted for. Engine 1032 went in service with 1.75” hose line while Ladder 1026 ventilated the dwelling. First arriving crews attempted to make access to the second floor, however were delayed due to the fire burning through the floor. Secondary searched were completed with negative results. The fire was placed under control at 0254. Crews remained on location for several hours conducting salvage and overhaul.

5 Quasar Court 05/01/16

The fire department was dispatched to 5 Quasar Court around 7:00 AM. Initial reports from county communication reported that there was a fire in an exhaust fan in the bathroom. Whitman Square Chief, Jay Reisenwitz arrived and found a smoke condition inside the dwelling, further investigation revealed an active fire in the bathroom. Ladder 1026 arrived and extinguished the fire quickly. The fire was contained to the bathroom.

16 Stonehenge Drive 05/15/16

Dispatched for a reported house fire. Caller advised 9-1-1 that a second floor office was on fire and that there were flames and smoke from a 2nd floor window. While enroute, county communications advised that police on scene were reporting a working fire. The assignment was upgraded to "All Hands". An “All Hands fire brings every available resource from the WTFD to the scene and places cover companies from other jurisdictions in our stations to protect the rest of our community. Engine 1011 arrived first due at the 7 min mark and reported a 2 story single family dwelling with fire and smoke showing from the 2nd floor. Chief Dolgos arrived at the same time as Engine 1011 and assumed command. (2) 1 3/4" hose lines were deployed and primary searches were initiated with negative results. Crews were able to place the fire under control within the first few minutes after fire attack was made.

20 Tamwood Lane 07/04/16

At 1609 on the 4th of July, the fire department was dispatched for a dwelling fire. Chief Reisenwitz arrived on location with smoke and fire showing from the garage area. There was no one home at the residence at the time of the fire. Washington Twp. Police Department forced entry and removed a dog from the residence. Police officers made an attack on the fire with portable fire extinguishers and knocked down the bulk of the fire. Engine 1032 stretched a 1.75" hose line to extinguish the remaining fire. Dwelling was checked for further extension and ventilated.

5241 Black Horse Pike 07/10/16

Around 2000 hours firefighters were dispatched to Pep Boys for a water flow alarm. Upon arrival water was flowing from the garage doors in the service area of the building. Further investigation revealed black smoke in all garage door windows. Bat. Chief Reisenwitz upgraded the assignment to the "All Hands" working building fire assignment. Engine 1021 was first on location and forced entry into the service area and advanced a 1 ¾" hose line into shop. Interior crews reported a vehicle inside the shop was on fire and the sprinkler system had activated. The fire was extinguished quickly. The shop area sustained smoke and water damage and remained closed for a few days. The main store was able to open for business the next afternoon.

25 Thornfield Circle 07/12/16

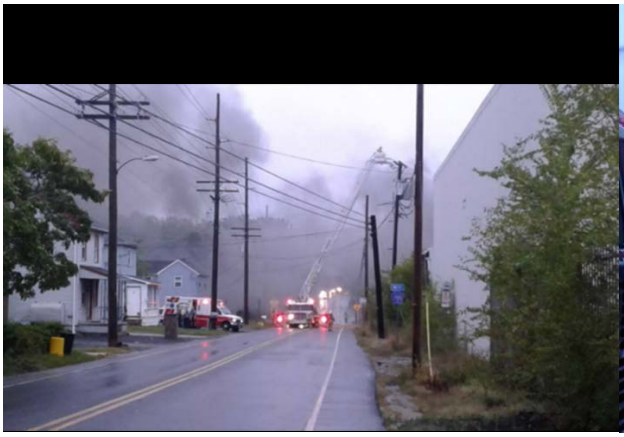
On the evening July 12, 2016 firefighters were dispatched to a dwelling fire. Chief Weitzman and Engine 1032 arrived on location with a 2 story dwelling with smoke coming from the front of the house. Firefighters quickly went into service and advanced a hose line to the area of the fire. The fire was contained to the kitchen, however the majority of the house sustained heavy smoke damage.

61 Bryant Road 09/03/16

Fire department units were dispatched around 1000 for a dwelling fire. Duty crew was staffing the Greentree Road Station and responded quickly. Upon arrival, heavy smoke and fire were coming from the front of the dwelling. Crews went in service and found fire in the living room. Fire had also extended into the attic area. The fire was placed under control at 1025. The house sustained damage throughout.

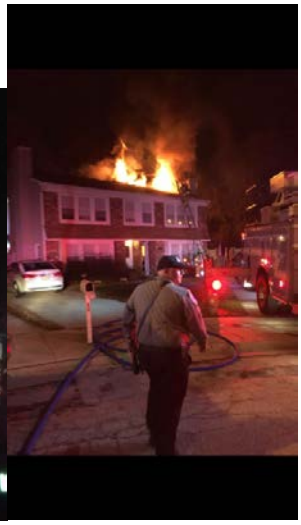
641 Black Horse Pike 09/30/16

On the evening of September 30, 2016 units were dispatched to the Black Horse Pike and Woodbury -Turnersville Road for a reported building fire. The building was formerly Watsons Turkey Products. A large column of smoke could be seen from the distance and the assignment was upgraded to “All Hands”. Units arrived to find a large vacant building, approximately 300’ x 400’ with fire coming from the roof. Several ladder trucks were placed in service with master streams from three sides of the building. The incident was defense until crews knocked the bulk of the fire down and determined it was safe to place firefighters on the roof to extinguish any remaining fire. A second alarm was struck for additional resources. A crew also entered the building from the first floor to check for extension which was negative. Gloucester County HazMat was requested to sample ten 50 gallon drums of unknown contents.



15 Corvas Court 11/18/16

Washington Township Fire Department was dispatched for a report dwelling fire. After resources signed on radio county communications advised of a chimney fire. WTARA Ambulance 1091 arrived and reported "active chimney fire". Engine 1032 arrived first due and confirmed report with extension. Engine 1032 and Ladder 1026 both went into service with crews stretching a hose line. Upon Chief Dolgos' arrival, the situation was upgraded to the "All Hands" due to heavy fire conditions in the attic and along the roof line. Assisted was requested by neighboring departments to cover the rest of our township, should another emergency arise. Glassboro's Engine 2611 was dispatched and responded as our Rapid Intervention Crew. Multiple 1 3/4" hose lines and one 2 1/2" hose line were placed in service. No civilian injuries. One minor firefighter injury (nail puncture to right thumb) requiring transport to Kennedy Hospital for injury evaluation.



103 Sewell Road 11/19/16

At approximately 2143, fire department units were dispatched to a building fire. Chief Zemski arrived to find a 15'x30' detached shed/garage with smoke showing from the front of the structure. Engine 1033 deployed a 1.75" hose line to extinguish the fire. Tender 2214 special called by Chief Dolgos due to water supply issues. Tender 2214 supplied Engine 1033. The fire was placed under control quickly and turned over to the Fire Investigation Unit.

17 Hartford Road 11/21/16

While units were operating at an incident on Fries Mill Road, County Communications advised that our fire department was being sent to a dwelling fire on Hartford Road. Assistant Chief Sumek arrived to find smoke coming from the rear of the dwelling. Fire was determined to be an exterior brush fire that extended to the structure. Crews quickly knocked the fire down. The interior of the dwelling was checked to make sure the fire had not extended inside.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We feel it is important to let our community know what goes on besides answering the alarms. You will find that our department is involved with out community. The following pictures are a snap shot of some of the community events the Washington Township Fire Department particpated in.

SUPPORT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT!!! VOTE FEBRUARY 18TH,2017

#213 E. Holly Avenue (2pm to 9 pm)

We do more than just put out fires……

Block Parties, Birthday events, Awareness and memorial walks in the park, Halloween events, Safe corners for trick or treat and welcoming home a soldier, the firefighters of your community are there for you!!!

Did you know that our department is comprised of mostly volunteer firefighters? Want to help? Join today……

OUR FIREFIGHTERS SUPPORT YOU!!

The Holiday food drive and Coat collections help those in need. This event is not Possible without Our Fire Explorer Program and our Firefighters.

Washington Township Firefighters helping motorists.

Smoke detector installation programs will increase in the upcoming year.

Washington Township firefighters help support school club and sports programs by stopping by car washes at our High School.

2016 WTFD EXPLORER POST

Year End Summary

The Explorer Post held 23 regularly scheduled meetings/training sessions throughout the year. Topics included everything from colorguard training to CPR certification, as well as traditional firefighting skills. Five of the Post's Explorers have been cleared to begin participating as crewmembers (in a limited capacity) with the department's regular firefighting duty crews. The Post was treated to a behind the scenes tour of the Atlantic City International Airport courtesy of the airport fire department. Stops on the tour included the firehouse, the Coast Guard Air Station, and the 177th Fighter Wing. The Post participated in several community events including Super Saturday, National Night Out, and the fire department's Halloween event. The Post finished 2016 out with three service projects; 2 food drives and a coat drive. In a joint effort with the WTPD Explorer post, the Explorers collected approximately 12 shopping carts full of food and enough cash donations to provide a total of 32 meals for local families in November and December. For the 2nd year in a row, the Post's "Coats for Santa" coat drive collected 1,200 coats for those in need.

The WTFD Explorer Post is open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 18 and who have completed the 8th grade. If interested, please contact FF Erik Wolf at ewolf@wtfd10.org.

EQUIPMENT

700 mhz Radio
$3,600.00

Firefighter PPE
$2,500.00

Thermal Camera
$12,000.00

Breathing Apparatus
$7,800.00

Flashlight $150.00

Firefighting tools
$150-$400

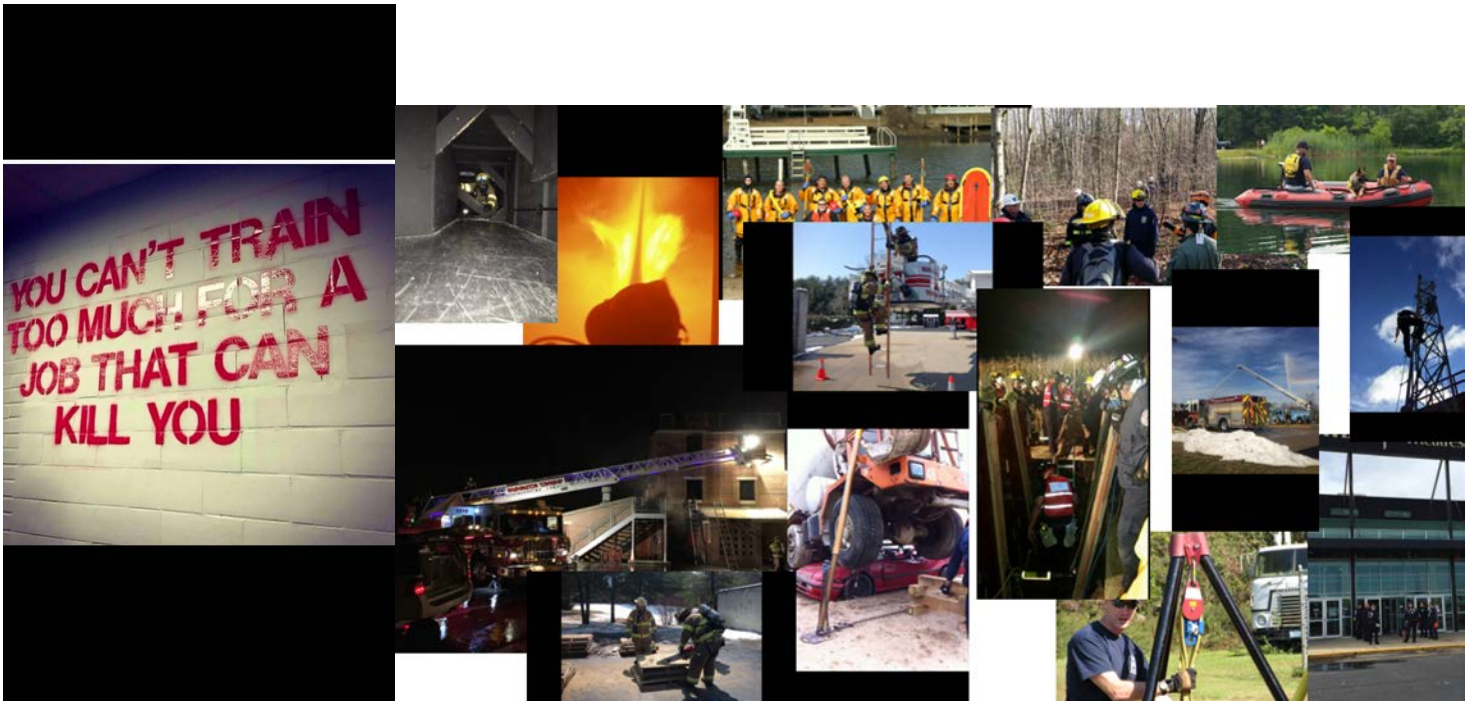
Our budget supports the purchase and maintnenace of firefighting equipment. As you can see in the above graphic, the equipment that is needed is costly. The firefighter pictured above is carry 75 lbs of extra weight.

- FACT: The time donated by volunteer firefighters saves localities across the country an estimated $139.8 billion per year. (NVFC)

TRAINING

Firefighters in Washinton Township log thousands of hours of training each year. Our dedeciated men and women train at the firehouses, attend classes and seminars and conduct on-line training sessions. Some of the training is funded through the Federal Government, but most of the training cost money. Training is critical to our operations. Some of the training topics the WTFD particpates in includes:

Fire Suppression	OSHA related compliance Training	Haz-Mat
Vehicle Extrication	Weapons of Mass Destruction	Confined Space
Missing Person Search	Supervision / Management	Fire Code related Training
Building Construction	Fire Behavior	Fire Investigation
Firefighting Foam	Workplace compliance (Harassment, etc)	CPR / AED
EMT Training	Active Shooter Response	Strucutral Collapse
Trench Rescue	Ice and Water Rescue	Small Boat Operations
Fire Education	Fire Service Instructor classes	Incident Management



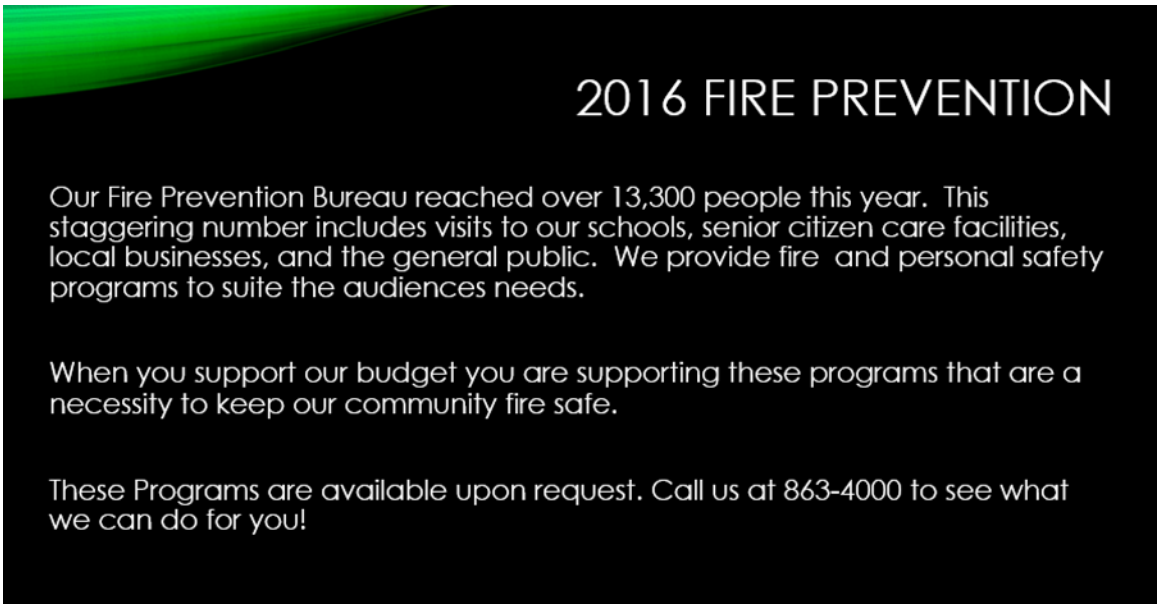
FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

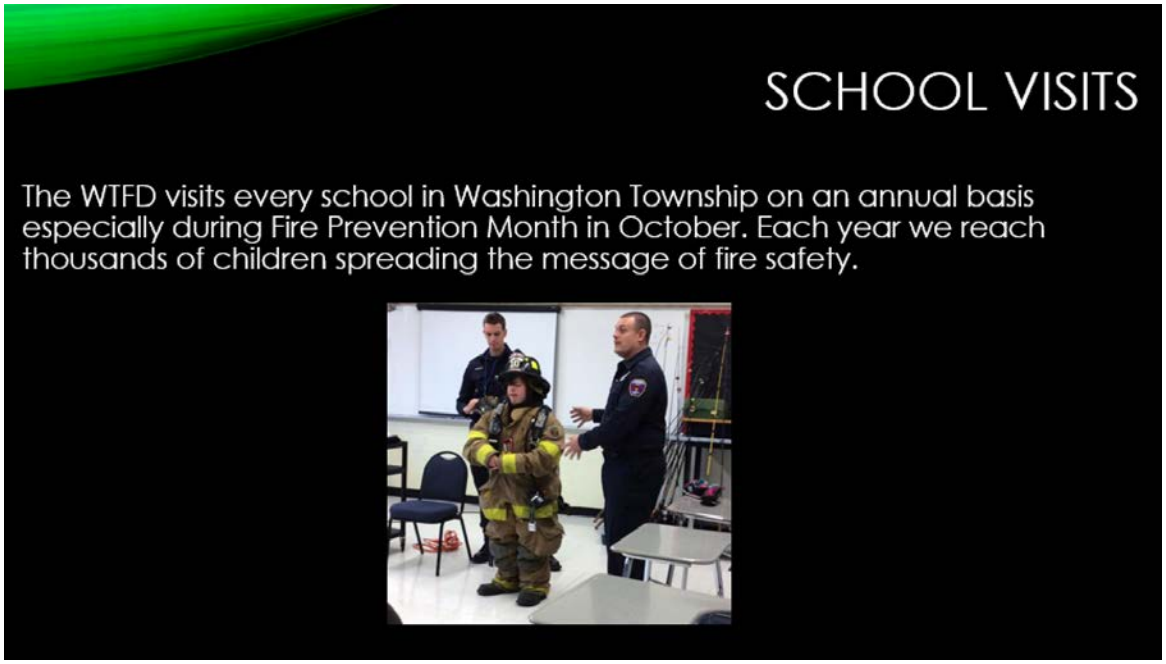
Part of the duties of the Bureau of Fire Prevention is to ensure that all fires that occur within Washington Township are investigated to try to determine the cause of the fire. By determining the cause of a fire, measures can be taken to hopefully prevent future fires of the same cause from happening again. The Washington Township Fire Investigation Unit is comprised of five full-time investigators and one part-time investigator. There is an investigator from the investigation unit on call 24/7 in rotating shifts. The Duty Fire Investigator is assigned vehicle #1061, which is a 2015 Ford F-250 Pick-up. This vehicle contains all of the equipment and gear necessary to perform a fire investigation. Vehicle #1064 is a 2016 Ford Explorer and is assigned to the Fire Marshal and is also equipped to perform a fire investigation. In 2016 the fire investigation unit performed 50 fire investigations with an estimated dollar loss of $1,164,700.00 total. Unfortunately, a fatal fire that occurred in March 2016 in which the female resident lost her life due to injuries she sustained from a fire in her dwelling. The fire investigation unit works closely with the Washington Twp. Police Department, Gloucester County Fire Marshal's Office, Gloucester County Prosecutors Office, Gloucester County Sheriff Department K-9 Unit, N.J. State Fire Marshal's Office and the ATF on fires that may involve a criminal act or resulted in an injury.

Bureau of Fire Prevention

The Washington Township Bureau of Fire Prevention was established in 1985 in response to the State of New Jersey mandating that certain buildings and occupancy types should be inspected for fire and life safety violations. Since its inception, the Bureau of Fire Prevention has grown due to the increased inspection responsibilities attributed to continued growth in Washington Township. In 2016 the Bureau of Fire Prevention conducted just over 3,300 inspections. These inspection duties are tasked to the three career staffed stations.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention has undertaken an aggressive fire prevention program aimed at stopping fires before they start. This includes a visit to every school at least once during the year and many of the schools are visited multiple times during the year. The Bureau of Fire Prevention also provide fire prevention education to many organizations within Washington Township. In 2016 we conducted over 112 public fire prevention / education programs and or events with the combined effort of the career staff and the volunteer staff. We also handed out / installed over 100 smoke detectors to residents that needed them.

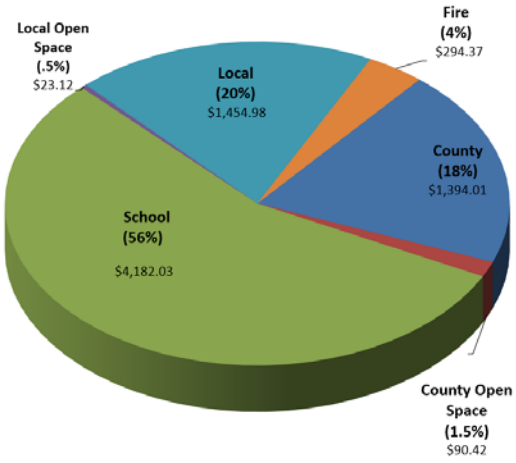




ABOUT YOUR WASHNGTON TOWNSHIP TAXES

2016 TAX RATE

$3.538 PER $100.00 OF ASSESSED VALUE



Based on the average assessed value of $210,258

2016 TOTAL TAX BILLED $7,438.93

2017 FIRE DISTRICT TAX INFORMATION

The Proposed budget for the Washington Township fire District as outline on the next page will have a fire district tax rate of 13.8 cents per $100 of assessed valuation. **This is slightly LOWER than 2016!!** For the homeowner in Washington Township with a home valued at $210,605, they would see a decrease of apx. $2.10 in their fire taxes.

Please support our budget and vote on Saturday, February 18,2017 from 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

#213 E. Holly Aveneue (WTFD Fire Adminstration Building)

Visit our website to view the complete proposed 2017 Budget

2017 Budget Summary

Washington Township Fire District No.1
Gloucester

	2017 Proposed Budget	*2016 Adopted Budget*	*$ Increase (Decrease) Proposed vs. Adopted*	*% Increase (Decrease) Proposed vs. Adopted*
REVENUES AND FUND BALANCE UTILIZED				
Total Fund Balance Utilized	$ 410,000	$ 356,000	$ 54,000	15.2%
Total Miscellaneous Anticipated Revenues	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Total Sale of Assets	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Total Interest on Investments & Deposits	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
Total Other Revenue	185,000	147,000	38,000	25.9%
Total Operating Grant Revenue	16,419	16,419	-	0.0%
Total Revenues Offset with Appropriations	143,663	147,438	(3,775)	-2.6%
Total Revenues and Fund Balance Utilized	756,082	667,857	88,225	13.2%
Amount to be Raised by Taxation to Support Budget	5,893,235	5,897,716	(4,481)	-0.1%
Total Anticipated Revenues	6,649,317	6,565,573	83,744	1.3%
APPROPRIATIONS				
Total Administration	458,176	445,807	12,369	2.8%
Total Cost of Operations & Maintenance	4,601,788	4,745,051	(143,263)	-3.0%
Total Appropriations Offset with Revenue	143,663	147,438	(3,775)	-2.6%
Total Appropriated for Duly Incorporated First Aid/Rescue Squad	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Total Deferred Charges	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Cash Deficit, Preceeding Year (N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.6)	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Contribution (P.L.1997,c.388)	465,000	465,000	-	0.0%
Total Capital Appropriations	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Total Principal Payments on Debt Service	863,990	643,176	220,814	34.3%
Total Interest Payments on Debt	116,700	119,101	(2,401)	-2.0%
Total Appropriations	6,649,317	6,565,573	83,744	1.3%
ANTICIPATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	$ -	$ -	$ -	#DIV/0!

HELP PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

JOIN TODAY!!!!

Benefits of Joining our team:

- Sense of accomplishment by giving back to your community
- Complete training for all firefighting duties
- Retirement / Life Insurance Program
- Comprehensive Annual Physical Exams
- Training and Educational Programs paid completely by the Fire District
- Tuition Credit Program for Local Community Colleges
- Dress and Work Uniforms
- Workers Compensation Insurance
- Additional Accident and Health Benefits
- Additional Death Benefit through the New Jersey State Fireman's Association
- Awards and Recognition Program

Fill out an application on line at www.WTFD10.com

THANK YOU!!!!

2016 Washington Township Board of Fire Commisisoners

Frank Stella

Dave Vicente

Larry Kennie

William Robertson

Robert Matteo

2016 Fire Department Leadership

Department Chief Patrick Dolgos

Asst. Chief / Chief of Staff Richard Sumek

Deputy Chief of Operations Gregory Godish

Deputy Chief of Plannning / Administration Edwin Weitzman

Battalion Chief Grenloch Fire Company Jospeh Mason

Battalion Chief Whitman Square Fire Company Jay Reisenwitz

Battlaion Chief Hurffville Fire Company Matthew Zemski

Fire Official Captain Stephen Finn

WTFD / Grenloch Fire Company Volunteer Frank Fisher is currently deployed in Iraq. Thank you Frank for serving both our community and our Country

WTFD Firefighters Memorial at Washington Lake Park

9-11 Memorial located at the Washington Township Fire Department Administration Building at 213 E. Holly Ave.

www.WTFD10.com