



CITY OF PERTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Annual Report For the Year 2018





2018 was a very busy year for the Perth Amboy Fire Department. The PAFD responded to 2,519 emergency incidents including 173 fires of which 21 were a multiple alarm fire. FEMA Grants that were awarded in 2017 were executed in 2018, including air packs and scuba dive equipment. Staffing levels have put the department in compliance with NFPA 1710, the national standard for career fire departments. Progress has been made toward the addition of a second fire station and millions of dollars in taxpayer property was saved through the hard work of the fire department. 7,749 hours of training were also logged between all members of the department. Community fire education expanded greatly, going door to door throughout all areas of the city in addition to high risk occupancies and all schools. The department remains ready and staffed for any emergency 24/7 365 days a year.

Federal Grants:

In 2018, the department was able to purchase and place in service equipment that was awarded with Federal Grants that were awarded in 2017. Thanks to an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for \$177,000.00, brand new NFPA Compliant air packs were purchased. The Perth Amboy Fire Department is one of the first in Middlesex County to upgrade to the 5.5 (5500psi) breathing air systems. Additionally, thanks to a Port Security Grant in 2017, the side-scan sonar and SCUBA dive rescue equipment was purchased and placed into service.

The department has received nearly \$2,300,000.00 within the past 5. In 2019, the department plans on applying for another Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant and another Port Security Grant.



September 11th Memorial Ceremony

Career Division:

The career division of the fire department is made up of 67 members including the fire chief, 5 battalion chiefs, 9 captains and 52 firefighters. This staffing meets the national standard for minimum staffing requirements for fire response. Five new career firefighters completed their basic training in May 2018 and were assigned to shifts. On March 31, 2018, Captain Raymond Estrada retired from the department. He was an Army Veteran who began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter, moving all the way up to the rank of career fire captain, serving as the Captain of Battalion 4. Captain Estrada received multiple valor awards throughout his career rescuing individuals from different fires.

On April 12, 2018 a swearing in and promotional ceremony was held. Captain Brian Lopazanski was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief and Gregory Diaz III, Brad Selby, Robert Torres, Michael Arocho and Matthews Dominguez were sworn in as Firefighters after they completed nearly 6 months of basic training.

On December 21, 2018, Firefighters Daniel Arroyo, Davis Vazquez and Frank Rezes were promoted to the rank of Captain, filling open shift vacancies and filling department's chain of command. The promotional ceremony will be scheduled in 2019.



Swearing In & Promotional Ceremony on April 12, 2018



Probationary Firefighter completing their Rope Rescue Training

All probationary firefighters receive the following training prior to being assigned to a shift: Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Emergency Medical Technician, Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations, Basic & Advanced Motor Vehicle Extrication, High Angle Rope Rescue Operations, Confined Space Operations, Surface Water Rescue Operations, Driver Training & CEVO Emergency Vehicle Operator, as well as numerous in-house training topics.



Probationary Firefighters completing their Water Rescue Training

Several actions of the department were recognized for life saving actions in 2018.

On January 4, 2018, the Fire and Police Departments were dispatched to 185 Fayette Street for the report of several unconscious people inside a third floor apartment. Upon arrival, 6 people were found unresponsive, with several in cardiac arrest due to a carbon monoxide incident. Firefighter Ramos, Firefighter Cannamela Jr., Captain Gonzalez and Captain Bunten assisted in rescuing these victims, initiating CPR and doing CPR all the way to the hospital. Four of the six victims survived, but unfortunately two passed away.

On June 7, 2018, the Fire Department was dispatched to a reported fire at 401 Hidden Village Drive. Upon arrival, a second alarm was transmitted for a fire in a first floor apartment. While fire crews worked on extinguishing the fire, five people were found trapped on their balconies on the second and third floors. Firefighters Wilhelm, A. Bonilla, K. Gregory and O'Shea deployed ground ladders, to safely rescue and remove all occupants without any injury.

On July 25, 2018, the Fire Department was dispatched to a reported fire at 304 Elm Street. Upon arrival, a second & third alarm were transmitted for fire in a commercial occupancy with attached exposures. While fire crews worked on extinguishing the fire, Captain Kayser, Firefighter Arroyo and Firefighter K. Gregory started a search of the attached apartments. They found one victim on the third floor that did not know the building was on fire. This individual was brought safely down a ground ladder without any injury.



In early 2019, the department expects to have the land set and architectural design completed for the new Northeast Station 2. This will provide fire protection and first responder emergency medical response to the North and East sides of the City. With the addition of this station, the department will be able to meet the NFPA 1710 standard of a citywide 4 minute or less response time. Engine 1, Rescue 1 and a Foam Tender are set to be stationed at this firehouse along with 7 career firefighters 24/7.



Building Fire on November 18, 2018 @ 454 State Street

Fire Investigation

The Perth Amboy Fire Department investigates all fires in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. In 2018, the Department expanded its fire investigation unit and formed its own Arson Task Force in association with several select members of the Perth Amboy Police Department. This task force led to several arrests for intentionally set fires. Additionally, the fire investigation unit is able to assist the property owners and their insurance companies in identifying the area and cause of fires, so that they can rebuild and bring their lives back to normal.



Building Fire on April 3, 2018 @ Bertrand Avenue



Members of Special Operations Conducting High Angle Rescue Training

Special Operations:

The Special Operations Division continues to train monthly in the fields of water rescue, ice rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rope rescue, motor vehicle extrication, trench rescue and building collapse rescue. In 2018, the division appointed team leaders on each of the four tours. Team leaders took their training to new heights taking “rescue from heights” at the Hunterdon County Fire and Emergency Training Center. This involved rope rescue scenarios from antennae towers and water towers, which the city has both of. The team also sent members to train with the Newark Fire Department in Confined Space Technician at their Orange Street USAR training facility. 16 members of Special Operations were also trained to the Ice Rescue Operational Level early in 2018.



Members of Special Operations Conducting Ice Rescue Operations



Marine 5 out on the water for the City's 300th Anniversary of Government Celebration

Marine Division:

The Marine Division is part of the New Jersey Regional Fireboat Task Force. This task force is made up of 12 New Jersey Fire Departments that have marine assets including: Perth Amboy, Newark, Jersey City, North Hudson, Kearny, Carteret, Linden, Elizabeth, Secaucus, Bayonne, Hoboken, and Edgewater. The Task Force is supported by the FDNY and United States Coast Guard as well. The main purpose of this Task Force is to have an organized marine response to all incidents within the Port of New York and New Jersey, which begins in Perth Amboy. In 2019, the department plans on applying for a Port Security Grant to replace Marine 5, which will be going on 14 years of continuous services and at the end of its service life.



New Jersey Regional Fireboat Task Force Blessing on May 2, 2018

Dive Team:

The Dive Team completed their PADI SCUBA Dive Rescue Certification in the summer of 2018. In total, 26 members make up the team. 11 firefighters and 5 police officers are trained to the SCUBA Rescue Certification and 10 firefighters were trained to the dive tender level. The Dive Team response trailer was purchased in the fall of 2018 and in January 2019, the trailer will be outfitted so that the Dive Team can begin responding to emergencies. Since its inception, the Dive Team has completed 1,683.5 hours of training in less than two years.



Members of the Dive Team completing monthly training at the Marina

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention:

The Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Program was currently consists of 10 members of the department that completed specialist I training. Additionally 2 members completed the specialist level II training, which is a management level course so the coordinators of the program ensure it follows all applicable laws. Each of the 4 shifts has members trained so that in the event of an issue, the problem can be immediately addressed. The program exists to prevent youth fire tragedy through education, intervention, and mental health support. By forming unique partnerships and offering support to agencies dedicated to providing intervention services to fire involved youth, such as the Middlesex County Fire-setter Intervention Program, Social Services, Prosecutors Office, Police and as well as the Board of Education. An emphasis on following up with troubled youth and ensuring fire prevention education is followed has been priority this year. A continued effort will ensure the message of the program is brought to all levels of educators throughout Perth Amboy.

Volunteer Division:

The volunteer division currently has 10 active certified volunteer firefighters and 6 fire police officers. In 2018 the Volunteer Division completed 2,681 hours of participation. They respond as an additional crew to working fires in Car 9, a dedicated response vehicle that has air packs, radios and hand tools. Additionally volunteer firefighters can gain additional experience through the in-station duty program. This program allows members to spend 4 hour blocks of “on duty” time in the firehouse to respond with the initial responding apparatus to alarms, providing for additional manpower on emergency incident. The In-Station Duty Program also serves to foster a cohesive working relationship between members of the Career and Volunteer Divisions.



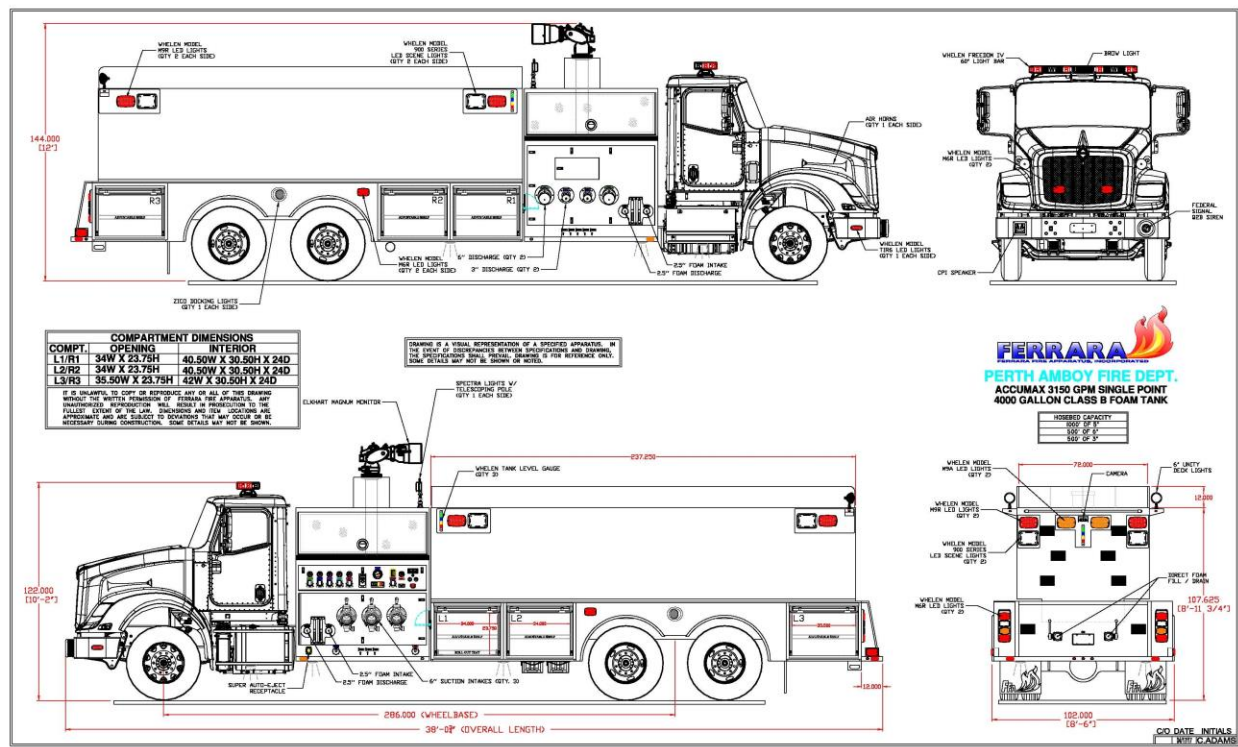
Members of the Department Participated in the 17th Annual 9/11/ Remembrance Ceremony

Training Division:

The training division, under the command of Captain Gonzalez, oversaw over 7,749 hours of training in 2018. Each new career firefighter receives over 400 hours each of basic training including Firefighter I, Firefighter II, CEVO, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Extrication and Emergency Medical Technician training. Additionally over 4,575 hours of shift training was completed throughout the year. Special operations completed over 670 hours in technical rescue training and the marine division completed over 445 hours of marine water based training. The newly established dive team completed 1091 hours of training and the fire officers completed 125 of officer specific training. The volunteer division completed 180 hours of training in 2018.

Industry:

In addition to all of the residential and commercial properties throughout the City of Perth Amboy, there are 3 major petroleum terminals. The department completes annual training at these facilities and is in process of specifying additional apparatus in order to handle emergencies at these terminals. In January 2019, the department will be purchasing a 4,000 gallon foam tender that will be part of our industrial fire response. With this fire, the PAFD could immediately attack a fire involving flammable liquids without having to wait for mutual aid departments that have these specialty apparatus from around the state. Additional industrial training in 2018 included sending 2 members to TEEX foam firefighting school in Texas in December where the most realistic industrial firefighting skills can be learned. Also, the entire department trained with Kinder Morgan's Carteret Emergency Response Team to be able to utilize them for assistance while responding to industrial emergencies in our city.



Drawing Specifications of the New Foam Tender

National Fire Incident Reporting Data:

The fire department responded to a total of 2,519 incidents in 2018, an average of 7 incidents per day. This is a 27% increase in responses from 2017 and the highest amount in recent department history. Utilizing data and definitions compiled by the National Fire Incident Reporting System, a department response to a “Fire” incident includes any response generated by the fire department to an open flame in need of extinguishment.

In 2018, the department responded to 173 fires, of which 56 were structural fires including 21 that were a multiple alarm fire. A “Building Fire” is classified as any fire within a building with the exception of confined fires involving cooking with no extension from the cooking container, a fire confined to a chimney or flue, incinerator or trash compactor or fuel/oil burner with no flame extension outside of the heating unit. The department responded to 55 building fires last year and 767 rescue incidents, which was a mayor increase over 2017.

Along with handling emergencies in the City of Perth Amboy the department also responded to 22 mutual aid incidents in surrounding municipalities including: Carteret, Keasbey, Woodbridge, South Amboy and Port Reading. In 2018, there was a total of 108 mutual aid responses from other municipalities into the city of Perth Amboy. Listed below is the incident breakdown for 2018:

Total Fires	173
100 Fire, Other	1
111 Building fire	55
112 Fires in structure other than a building	1
113 Cooking fire, confined to container	43
116 Fuel burner / Boiler Fire	7
118 Trash or rubbish fire, contained	5
1181 Dryer Fire contained	4
131 Passenger vehicle fire	18
132 Road freight or transport vehicle fire	2
134 Water vehicle fire	1
142 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	6
142M Mulch Fire	8
151 Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	14
154 Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	4
160 Special outside fire	1
162 Outside equipment fire	3

Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)	3
211 Overpressure rupture of a steam pipe	1
222 Overpressure rupture of a boiler	1
251 Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1

Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident 767

311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew	92
320 Emergency medical service, other	13
321 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	257
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	240
323 Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	65
324 Motor Vehicle Accident with no injuries	33
331 Lock-in	16
341 Search for person on land	1
352 Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	6
353 Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	29
356 High Angle Rescue	1
357 Extrication of a victim from machinery	1
363 Swift water rescue	1
364 Surf rescue	2
365 Watercraft rescue	10

Hazardous Condition (No Fire) 636

4002 Hazardous Condition Reported-Unfounded Problem	1
411 Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	16
412 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	115
413 Oil or other combustible liquid spill	11
420 Toxic condition, other	1
421 Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	1
422 Chemical spill or leak	5
424 Carbon monoxide incident	96
440 Electrical wiring/equipment problem, Other	3
441 Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	9
442 Overheated motor	8
443 Breakdown of light ballast	1
444 Power line down	122
4441 Cable or phone line down	194
445 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	38
451 Biological Hazard	5
460 Accident, other	1
461 Building or structure weakened or collapsed	5
462 Aircraft standby	4

Service Call 175

500 Service Call, other	1
510 Person in distress, Other	1
511 Lock-out	28
520 Water problem, other	1
521 Water evacuation	1
522 Water or steam leak	42
531 Smoke or odor removal	11
541 Animal problem	2
542 Animal rescue	5
550 Public service assistance, Other	1
551 Assist police or other governmental agency	30
552 Police matter	2
553 Public service	16
554 Assist invalid	2
555 Defective elevator, no occupants	15
561 Unauthorized burning	3
571 Cover assignment, standby, move up	14

Good Intent Call 176

600 Good intent call, Other	5
611 Dispatched & cancelled en route	67
621 Wrong location	1
622 No Incident found on arrival at dispatch address	20
651 Smoke scare, odor of smoke	58
652 Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	10
653 Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	2
671 HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	13

False Alarm & False Call 580

700 False alarm or false call, Other	2
713 Telephone, malicious false alarm	2
714 Central station, malicious false alarm	12
715 Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	2
721 Bomb scare, no bomb	1
730 System malfunction, Other	5
731 Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	11
733 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	117
734 Heat detector activation due to malfunction	6
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	129
736 CO detector activation due to malfunction	33

740 Unintentional transmission of alarm, Other	3
741 Sprinkler activation, no fire	4
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	74
744 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	31
745 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	132
746 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	16

Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3
812 Flood Assessment	3

Special Incident Type	6
900 Special type of incident, Other	3
911 Citizen complaint	3

Public Outreach and Fire Education:

The PAFD has maintained a partnership with the Red Cross in a public smoke detector installation campaign. In addition to a City based Fire Safety Initiative, the Red Cross runs multiple Sound the Alarm Events each year. In the past two years alone, nearly 1,000 free smoke alarms have been installed throughout the City of Perth Amboy, of which at least one resulted in the lives of multiple families saved, and property preserved.



One of the many Red Cross Sound the Alarm Events in 2018

The Fire Department partners with organizations both in the public and private sectors. Some of our public sector partnerships are with our own police and recreation departments. Some of the events we have assisted in were the national night out celebration, walk your child to school day, family fun day, the team tsunami swim meet, bring your child to work day, the trunk or treat event at the waterfront and many more. We strongly believe forming long lasting bonds with the community which was emphasized in the third annual “Bravest vs Breakers” seniors’ billiard tournament; where the firefighters made bonds with seniors at the same time having fun with them. Additionally, the fire department made a visit to every school, and many of the day care facilities to teach about fire safety during our “Fire Prevention Month.”



Women of the Perth Amboy Police and Fire Departments Honored by the Board of Education

This year, female police officers and our first female career firefighter went to several schools to speak to younger female students to encourage them to show them they can do anything. This was very empowering to prove that no matter if you are male or female, you can do whatever you want. This informational session included a question and answer period where the children asked questions and the public safety personnel responded. This event single handedly could have the potential to recruiting the next generation of female first responders.

The members of the department also participated in the annual feed the community dinner in December, finishing up a 3 month long program that took place every Sunday. This was done in conjunction with Mayor Diaz and Supremo Supermarket to bring the community together with different organizations such as the Firefighter and Fire Officer’s Unions at the Jankowski Center right before the holiday season.



Members Participating in the Annual Feed the Community Dinner on 12/9/18



The 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness T-Shirt Worn in October



Annual Read Across America with Firefighters

On October 12, 2018, the department held its annual fire prevention open house. Every Year, hundreds of residents have an open invitation to the firehouse to learn about the fire department and fire safety and to meet the members of the fire department. Sparky the Fire Dog was present to hand out fire safety hands outs, members taught children about stop, drop and roll and also how to get out in the event of a fire, the special operations division conducted a high angle rope demonstration and the Middlesex County Fire Marshall's Office brought the fire safety trailer and completed a sprinkler demonstration. Buckeye Partners and Kinder Morgan donated over \$1,500 worth of carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguishers that were all raffled off to families in attendance.



Rope Rescue Demonstration at the 2018 Annual Open House

Outlook for 2019:

In 2019, the Perth Amboy Fire Department plans on maintaining the highest level of services to all City Residents as well as any municipality that may call for assistance. In 2018 over 2,500 emergency incidents were handled by the Perth Amboy Fire Department. This number is only going to get busier as the city grows. The department will continue to expand and be ready for any emergency 24/7 with the best staff, equipment, training and apparatus.

The land is set to be acquired and the request for professional services for a fire station architect ready to go for the new Fire Station 2 that will hopefully open in late 2020. This much needed station will put the Department in NFPA 1710 compliance for a 4 minute citywide response time and greatly enhance public safety in the Northeast section of the City.

The Foam Tender is set to be ordered in early 2019, which will fill a major gap in our industrial fire protection response and give the capabilities to immediately extinguish flammable liquid fires at the large terminals within the city as well as any roadways that could have an incident. This unit will carry 4,000 gallons of foam and be able to suppress large tank fires.

The Department is also set to order a new Heavy Rescue Truck early in 2019. This unit will replace two smaller units and will be staffed and in service 24/7 to respond to all emergencies in the city, greatly enhancing our immediate operational capacities at fire and rescue incidents. This unit will carry all of the extrication equipment, rope rescue equipment, confined space rescue equipment, water & ice rescue equipment and all the technical rescue tools needed to carry out our mission of protecting lives and property.

The Dive Team will be fully operational and ready to respond early in 2019 as well. The response trailer and team will be ready when called for. The capabilities will be expanded in 2019 when the next level of training is completed where the dive team will then be able to operate out into the major waterways and able to conduct dive operations from the fireboat.

A Port Security Grant for 2019 is also being planned to replace Marine 5, our 14 year old fireboat. The new boat will have 3 times the water flow capacity as the existing one, providing all waterfront properties and areas of the City with a secondary water source in the event of a large scale emergency.

Fire safety initiatives will continue with our smoke detector hotline and Red Cross Sound the Alarm Events. 732-376-5419 is the number that all city residents can call and the fire department will install, free of charge, smoke detectors for single and two family houses that need them. Additionally we plan on going door to door throughout the year to teach about fire safety and install free smoke alarms.



In memory of Firefighter Douglas C. Ambrozewycz



PERTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT



"Always vigilant · planning for the future."