



CITY OF PERTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Annual Report For the Year 2021





2021 was a very busy and productive year for the Perth Amboy Fire Department. The PAFD responded to 2,232 emergency incidents including 183 fires of which 10 were a multiple alarm fire. The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted a record setting 4,578 fire inspections. The Training Division completed over 7,000 hours of firefighter training. FEMA awarded a Port Security Grant for the maintenance of Marine 5 and for the purchase of additional SCUBA dive equipment. As in the past years, millions and millions of dollars in taxpayer property was saved through the hard work of the fire department and civilian lives were saved. The Perth Amboy Fire Department remains ready, staffed, trained and equipped for any type of emergency 24/7 365 days a year.



All Hands Fire @ 518-520 State Street

Career Division:

The career division of the fire department is staffed 24/7 365 to ensure a quick and adequate response to all City emergencies. Two engine companies (Engine 1 & Engine 2), one ladder company (Truck 2), one rescue company (Rescue 1) and the incident command vehicle (Car 5) are all staffed 24/7 in compliance with NFPA 1710. The career division is made up of 73 members including the Fire Chief, 6 Battalion Chiefs, 12 Captains, 52 Firefighters and the Fire Official. Each shift has 17-18 members assigned, with 4 members assigned to administration (Fire Chief, Training Chief, Operations Chief and Fire Official). While everyone is assigned to fire suppression, members also wear multiple hats and make up the Bureau of Fire Prevention,

Special Operations Team, Marine Division, Dive Team, Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program and Honor Guard. There are no other fire departments in New Jersey that offer all of the fire & rescue services that the Perth Amboy is able to offer and that is something to be extremely proud of. In 2022, the department plans on filling 6 vacancies and applying for a SAFER Grant to hire 16 additional firefighter to staff a second ladder company 24/7.

A small promotional ceremony was held on December 16, 2021 at City Hall. Captains Thomas Macri and Eric Lewis were promoted. Captain Macri has been assigned to Engine 1 on Battalion 2 and Captain Lewis has been assigned to Rescue 1 on Battalion 3. A formal swearing in ceremony will take place later in the spring of 2022.



Out of the 2,232 incidents in 2021, there were several deserving of special recognition throughout the year. On June 2, 2021, the fire department responded to an early morning at 409 Brace Avenue. Units arrived to find heavy fire conditions throughout the second floor and attic of the single family dwelling. During search and rescue operations, an unconscious male was found in cardiac arrest on the first floor. Firefighters immediately removed him to the front porch and began CPR. Within minutes, the victim regained a pulse and was transported to the medical center. This individual survived and is alive today because of the actions of our firefighters.

On September 1, 2021, the State of New Jersey saw record breaking rainfall that caused flash flooding in areas all over. During this storm, members of the Fire Department rescued dozens of people from stranded cars and structures. Several members responded into Colonia

with water rescue suits and our inflatable zodiac boat. Here they rescued occupants that were trapped in waters over 8' deep and operated over 5 hours to ensure no lives were lost.



Second Alarm Fire @ 409 Brace Avenue with Victim Rescued on 6/02/2021

Fire Prevention:

In 2019, the Bureau of Fire Prevention was moved to the Fire Department and Firefighter Kevin Metz took on the position of Fire Official. Additionally, 15 firefighters obtained their NJ DFS Fire Inspector Certification and work for the Fire Prevention Bureau on their days off. This division of the department is responsible for the Uniform Fire Code Enforcement throughout the City. Life Hazard Inspections, Non-Life Hazard Inspections, Code Compliances, Permits and Complaints are all handled by the Bureau. The Bureau also assists with fire investigations and the juvenile fire setter intervention program. The entire Bureau of Fire Prevention operates with the revenue generated through the Uniform Fire Code and has no cost to the City's Operating budget so it is completely self-sufficient. In 2021, a total of 791 Life Hazard Use inspections were completed, 3,194 Non-Life Hazard Use inspections were completed, 410 Uniform Fire Code Compliances were completed, and 181 Fire Safety Permits were issued. That is up from 348 Life Hazard Use inspections, 540 Non-Life Hazard Use Inspections, 331 Uniform Fire Code Compliances and 100 Fire Safety Permits in 2020. Additionally, 316 fire safety certificates for Life Hazard Uses and 744 fire safety certificates for Non-Life Hazard uses were issued to properties that fully abated all Uniform Fire Code Violations.

Fire Investigation

The Perth Amboy Fire Department continues to investigate all fires in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code under the direction of the Fire Chief and Fire Official. The Fire Investigation Unit works diligently for hours after a fire is extinguished and sometimes for days after to best determine the origin and cause of a fire. They are able to assist the property owners and their insurance companies so that they can rebuild and bring their lives back to normal as quickly as possible. All suspicious fires are investigated by the Fire Investigation Unit in conjunction with the Perth Amboy Police Department. Members of the Fire Investigation Unit all complete annual training and are all State or Nationally Certified Fire & Arson Investigators.



Members of the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) conducting Origin & Cause Investigations

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, building collapse rescue and man vs machine type rescues. In 2021, Rescue Company 1 had the most company responses in the Department, turning out 1,185 times. Rescue 1 also

responded to mutual aid calls for various rescue incidents. In 2022, the Special Operations Team Operations Team will be purchasing a collapse rescue trailer that will have all of the wood necessary on wheels for trench rescues and building collapse incidents. This will be towed with a new Car 10 which is set to be ordered in March 2022. Also in 2021, five new members of the department were added to the team.



Members of the Special Operations Team Conducting High Angle Rope Rescue Training

Marine Division:

In 2021, Marine 5 responded to 14 emergency incidents and rescued people from sinking boats that were sinking or in distress. Marine 5 also responded to a large fire in Port Newark and stood by as buildings were demolished at the former Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne. In March 2022, the new Marine 5 will be ordered, thanks to a \$900,000 Port Security Grant Award and matching fund donation that was built into the redevelopment agreement for E-Port Phase II. The New Marine 5 will be expected to be completed in the Spring of 2023 and will have the flow capacity of around 10,000gpm and be a major water based asset for the not only Perth Amboy, but the whole Southern Part of the Port of New York and New Jersey. 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.



Marine 5 operating with FDNY Marine 9 at a Fire in Port Newark

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention:

The Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program was currently consists of 10 members of the department that completed specialist I training in addition to 2 members that 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.

Dive Team:

The Dive Team remains ready for response 24/7 365. There are currently 16 PADI certified rescue & recovery SCUBA divers and 12 dive tenders. In 2021, the PAFD was awarded another Port Security Grant to be able to fund 6 additional divers, with training and equipment to always ensure there are enough SCUBA divers on duty for a rescue operation. Three is the minimum safe operation level to initiate a dive. In 2022, the Port Security Grant will also fund a Dive Medic class, training the entire team on how to handle medical emergencies that SCUBA divers can experience during operation. There will also be training in evidence recovery and ice dive operations.

Volunteer Division:

The volunteer division currently has 4 active certified volunteer firefighters and 2 active fire police officers. In 2021 the Volunteer Division completed 594 hours of participation. Within the department, they respond as an additional crew to working fires in Car 9, a dedicated response vehicle that has air packs, radios and hand tools. The Volunteer Division also takes care of the Fire Department's Museum. There are there every Tuesday night at 6pm to work on the antique fire truck, maintain & organize the museum and give any tours for the public. The volunteer division is where a majority of the career firefighters in the department began their fire service career.



Members of the Department @ the Covid 19 Victim Memorial Program in March

Training Division:

The training division, under the command of Battalion Chief Gonzalez, oversaw over 7,000 hours of training in 2021. Additionally over 2,000 hours of Emergency Medical Technician training was completed in June & July for 11 members of the department. This was funded through a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant.

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 continues to complete annual training at these facilities. In April 2020, the department took delivery of a 4,000 gallon foam tender that will be part of our industrial fire response. With this fire apparatus, the PAFD can immediately attack a fire involving flammable liquids without having to wait for mutual aid departments that have these specialty apparatus from around the state. Also, the entire department continues to train with Kinder Morgan’s Carteret Emergency Response Team to be able to utilize them for assistance while responding to industrial emergencies in our city.

National Fire Incident Reporting Data:

The fire department responded to a total of 2,232 incidents in 2021. Throughout the year, the department responded to 183 fires, of which 51 were structural fires, including 10 that were a

multiple alarm fire. The total call volume was up over 10% from 2020 with an increase of 226 incidents.

Along with handling emergencies in the City of Perth Amboy the department also responded to 41 mutual aid incidents in surrounding municipalities including: Sayreville, Woodbridge, Carteret, Port Reading, Fords, Hopelawn, Newark, Bayonne, South Amboy, Avenel and Iselin. In 2021, there was a total of 40 mutual aid responses from other municipalities into the city of Perth Amboy so there was a clear balance of mutual aid for the first time ever. Listed below is the incident breakdown for 2021:

Total Fires	183
100 Fire, Other	1
111 Building fire	50
112 Fires in structure other than a building	1
113 Cooking fire, confined to container	48
114 Chimney or flue fire, confined	0
116 Fuel burner / Boiler Fire	1
118 Trash or rubbish fire, contained	3
1181 Dryer Fire contained	5
131 Passenger vehicle fire	22
132 Road freight or transport vehicle fire	3
134 Water vehicle/boat fire	0
138 Off-road Vehicle or Heavy Equipment fire	0
142 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	4
142M Mulch Fire	16
150 Outside rubbish fire, other	6
151 Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	11
154 Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	8
160 Special outside fire	0
161 Outside storage fire	0
162 Outside equipment fire	4
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)	4
200 Overpressure rupture, explosion	2
212 Overpressure rupture of a steam boiler	1
243 Fireworks explosion	1
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	683
300 Rescue, EMS, other incident	2
311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew	202
320 Emergency medical service, other	9

321 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	169
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	167
323 Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	55
324 Motor Vehicle Accident with no injuries	33
331 Lock-in	8
341 Search for person on land	0
342 Search for person in water	1
350 Extrication, rescue, other	0
351 Extrication of victim(s)	2
352 Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	6
353 Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	13
354 Trench/below-grade rescue	0
356 High Angle Rescue	2
357 Extrication of a victim from machinery	0
360 Water & ice related rescue	1
361 Swimming water areas rescue	1
362 Ice rescue	0
363 Swift water rescue	1
364 Surf rescue	1
365 Watercraft rescue	9
381 Rescue or EMS standby	1

Hazardous Condition (No Fire) 406

400 Hazardous condition, other	5
4002 Hazardous Condition Reported-Unfounded Problem	4
410 Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition	2
411 Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	10
412 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	86
413 Oil or other combustible liquid spill	4
420 Toxic condition, other	0
421 Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	2
422 Chemical spill or leak	4
424 Carbon monoxide incident	57
440 Electrical wiring/equipment problem, Other	15
441 Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	5
442 Overheated motor	2
443 Breakdown of light ballast	0
444 Power line down	30
4441 Cable or phone line down	135
445 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	22

451 Biological Hazard	8
460 Accident, other	4
461 Building or structure weakened or collapsed	4
462 Aircraft standby	3
463 Vehicle Accident general cleanup	2
471 Explosive, Bomb Removal	1
481 Attempt to Burn	1

Service Call 194

500 Service Call, other	1
510 Person in distress, Other	0
511 Lock-out	27
520 Water problem, other	2
5201 Secure open hydrant	0
521 Water evacuation	1
522 Water or steam leak	27
531 Smoke or odor removal	15
541 Animal problem	3
542 Animal rescue	6
550 Public service assistance, Other	3
551 Assist police or other governmental agency	27
552 Police matter	0
553 Public service	27
554 Assist invalid	3
555 Defective elevator, no occupants	24
561 Unauthorized burning	9
571 Cover assignment, standby, move up	19

Good Intent Call 123

600 Good intent call, Other	6
611 Dispatched & cancelled en route	48
621 Wrong location	0
622 No Incident found on arrival at dispatch address	21
631 Authorized controlled burning	0
632 Prescribed fire	0
650 Steam mistaken for fire, other	3
651 Smoke scare, odor of smoke	32
652 Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	3
653 Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	2
671 HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	8

False Alarm & False Call

625

700 False alarm or false call, Other	19
710 Malicious false call, other	4
711 Municipal alarm, malicious false alarm	1
714 Central station, malicious false alarm	17
715 Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	0
721 Bomb scare, no bomb	0
730 System malfunction, Other	2
731 Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	6
732 Extinguishing System activation due to malfunction	1
733 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	83
734 Heat detector activation due to malfunction	4
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	165
736 CO detector activation due to malfunction	14
740 Unintentional transmission of alarm, Other	8
741 Sprinkler activation, no fire	6
742 Extinguishing system activation	0
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	103
744 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	17
745 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	167
746 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	8

Severe Weather & Natural Disaster

14

800 Severe weather or natural disaster, other	0
812 Flood Assessment	12
813 Wind storm, hurricane assessment	2

Special Incident Type

0

900 Special type of incident, Other	0
9001 Training evolution	0
911 Citizen complaint	0

Public Outreach and Fire Education:

The PAFD has maintained a continual partnership with the Red Cross in a public smoke detector installation campaign. In the past five years, over 1,200 free smoke alarms have been installed throughout the City of Perth Amboy, of which have resulted in the lives of multiple families saved, and property preserved. The Red Cross maintains a stock of 10 year maintenance free smoke detectors with the department so we can install them in homes that cannot afford to buy them on their own. The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety also supplies the Department with 10 year maintenance free smoke detectors.

During one incident, members of the PAFD noticed there were no working smoke alarms in a home. After communicating with a family member, we found out the resident was deaf. We contacted the Red Cross and they were able to send us a bed-shaking smoke alarm. Captain Diaz was instructed how to correctly install this alarm and we were able to provide this life-saving device, free of charge to the resident.



Members installing a bed-shaking smoke alarm for a hearing impaired resident

In 2022, our smoke detector program will expand to include combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. The PAFD was just awarded a \$3998 grant from FM Global to purchase the first 80 combination detectors. Through the Fire Prevention Bureau, the PAFD will also purchase hundreds more of these combination alarms so that each family can have a working 10 year, maintenance free smoke alarm on each floor, with one of the floors having a combination co/smoke alarm.

On October 8, 2021 the Fire Department held its annual Fire Prevention Open House. Several hundred City residents attended this free event at fire headquarters. Members of Special Operations performed an extrication demo, Sparky walked around and took selfies with everyone, the Middlesex County Fire Academy showed a sprinkler/live fire demonstration, kids were able to slide down a fire truck inflatable slide and sit in all of our fire apparatus and members of the fire department were able to teach about fire safety and how to reduce fires at home.



Members of the PAFD doing an extrication demo at the Open House

Thanks to Kinder Morgan and Target Corporation for donating carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguishers that were raffled off to families at the end of the night. Throughout the month of October, members of the PAFD also conducted Fire Safety Education at over 20 educational facilities throughout the City. We were unable to do this in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic and it was great to have firefighters interact with the classrooms again.

Also in 2021, Univision reporter Damaris Diaz highlighted a Day in the Life of a Perth Amboy Firefighter. Univision broadcasted live segments from Fire Headquarters following Firefighter Luigi Gonzalez in his daily routine at work and Damaris was trained as a firefighter for the day. This was a great public relations event that highlighted First Responders all across the world.



Live on La Vida on Univision from the Perth Amboy Fire Department



Damaris Diaz with FF Gonzalez, his family, Mayor Caba and Fire Chief Mullen

In 2021, the Department participated in several first responder and healthcare worker sport tournaments. While the PAFD won the First Annual Thomas Shanahan Memorial First Responders vs Healthcare Workers volleyball tournament, we did not win the dodgeball tournament.



PAFD wins the First Responders vs Healthcare Workers Volleyball Tournament

Outlook for 2022:

In 2021, the Perth Amboy Fire Department continued to maintain the highest level of services to all City Residents as well as any municipality that may call for assistance. In 2021 over 2,200 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 has been contracted to purchase for the new Northside Fire Station. In 2022, the Department plans to demolish the property purchase for the land, complete construction plans for the Fire Station and prepare for construction bids. It is anticipated that in 2024 the ground breaking for the construction of the fire station will take place with an opening date of 2025. This much needed station will put the Department in NFPA 1710 compliance for a 4 minute or less citywide response time and greatly enhance public safety in the Northside of the City.



The future location of the Perth Amboy Fire Department's Memorial Station 2

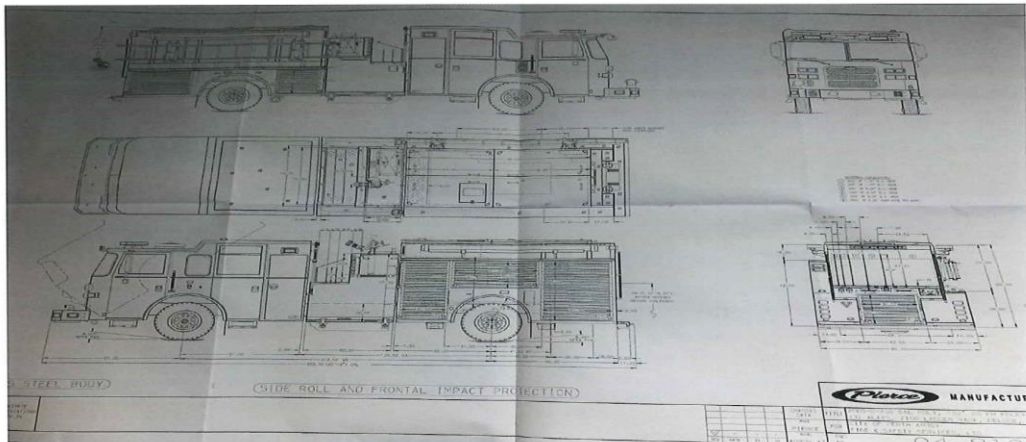
In 2022 the Fire Prevention Bureau will conduct over 5,000 fire inspections and complete the purchase of its entire fleet of fire inspector vehicles. The Bureau also plans on purchasing \$10,000 worth of carbon monoxide alarms to install free of charge to 1 and 2 family owner occupied buildings that do not have them. The Bureau also plans on purchasing a fire extinguisher training prop that will be taken to community events to show the public how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

The PAFD will also be applying for major FEMA Grants in 2022. In January, an Assistance to Firefighter Grant will be submitted, requesting an Air/Light truck that will be able to fill SCBA air bottles on fire scenes. The PAFD does not have this capability and it is direly needed. Also, a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant will be applied for to hire 16 additional firefighters to staff Truck Company 1. This will greater protect the City and provide for safer staffing levels within the PAFD.

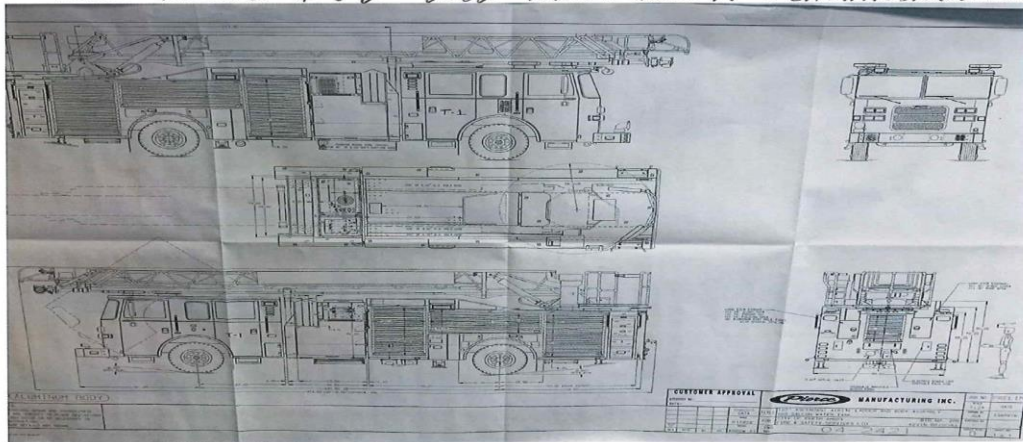
A Port Security Grant was awarded in 2020 to replace Marine 5, our 16 year old fireboat. The new boat will have nearly 4 times the water flow capacity as the existing one, providing all waterfront properties and areas of the City with a secondary water source in the event of a large

scale emergency. This boat should be ordered in the March 2022 and delivered in the spring of 2023.

Two new replacement engines are also set to be ordered in 2022, with an estimated delivery of summer 2023. These two engines will replace a 1988 and 1999 engine, of which both failed annual pump testing. The current Engine 1 and Engine 2 will become reserve apparatus as they are both nearing 50,000 miles of frontline service. In 2023-2024, funding will also be requested in the capital improvement plan for the replacement of Truck 1.



NEW ENGINE 1 & 2 2022 DIESEL ARROW XT - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT 2021/2022



NEW TRUCK 1 2023 DIESEL ARROW XT - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT 2023

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. Once the carbon monoxide alarms are purchased, this hotline will be for those as well.

We look forward towards keeping all of the people and property of the City of Perth Amboy safe throughout 2022 and promise to be ready whenever and wherever they may be an emergency. Thank you for your continued support.

