



# ***CITY OF PERTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT***



## ***Annual Report For the Year 2022***





2022 was a very busy and productive year for the Perth Amboy Fire Department. The PAFD responded to 2,251 emergency incidents including 204 fires of which 10 were a multiple alarm fire. The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted a record setting 5,776 fire inspections. The Training Division completed over 5,700 hours of firefighter training. Two new fire engines were ordered to replace our two frontline pumpers. The fabrication and construction of the new fireboat began. The Department partnered up with the Red Cross to bring back the Sound the Alarm Event where over 200 smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were installed in homes. Fire Safety education in all of the schools resumed this October where thousands of children were able to learn and interact with our firefighters. And, 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.



2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm Fire @ 459 Penn 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 72 members including the Fire Chief, 6 Battalion Chiefs, 17 Captains and 48 Firefighters. Each shift has 17 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 2023, the department plans on filling 5 vacancies and adding 8 additional firefighters in order to staff a second ladder company 24/7.

A swearing in and promotional ceremony was held on August 3, 2022 at Fire Headquarters. Battalion Chief Robert Bunten, Captains Thomas Macri, Eric Lewis, Kevin Metz and Jay Fedor were promoted. Captain Macri was been assigned to Engine 1 on Battalion 2, Captain Lewis was assigned to Rescue 1 on Battalion 3, Captain Fedor was assigned to Rescue 1 on Battalion 1 and Captain Metz has been and will continue to run the Fire Prevention Bureau as the Fire Official. Probationary Firefighter Gregory Perez and Manuel Garabito were also sworn in during this ceremony.



Fire Department Swearing In & Promotional Ceremony on 8/3/22

Several acts were recognized for life saving actions this year. On June 2, 2021 units responded to a building fire at 409 Brace Avenue. During initial operations, a male was found on the first floor in cardiac arrest. He was removed by firefighters who immediately began CPR on the front porch. Captain Arroyo, Firefighter Clark, Firefighter Matusewicz and Firefighter Sepelyak were able to successfully regain a pulse on the victim, who was then transported to the medical center. This individual survived due to the actions of responding firefighters.



**PFANJ Valor Award Recipients**

On January 12, 2022 units responded to an apartment building fire at 104 State Street. Upon arrival a well involved first floor apartment fire was found with occupants trapped at the third floor window. Captain Arroyo, Firefighter Matusewicz and Firefighter Sepelyak were able to raise the bucket of Truck 2 to the window and safely remove the trapped civilians.



**St. Barnabas Valor Award Recipients**

### **Fire Prevention:**

The Bureau of Fire Prevention continues to make the City safer every day by inspecting one building at a time. In 2020, the Bureau completed over 5,776 fire inspections under Fire Official Kevin Metz. In 2022, the City approved the use of \$250,000 in ARPA funds to assist property owners in installing monitored alarm systems in windowless basements, which is a common violation that the Bureau has found. 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 2022, a total of 916 Life Hazard Use inspections were completed, 3,284 Non-Life Hazard Use inspections were completed, 359 Uniform Fire Code Compliances were completed, and 196 Fire Safety Permits were issued. Additionally, 299 fire safety certificates for Life Hazard Uses and 722 fire safety certificates for Non-Life Hazard uses were issued to properties that fully abated all Uniform Fire Code Violations.

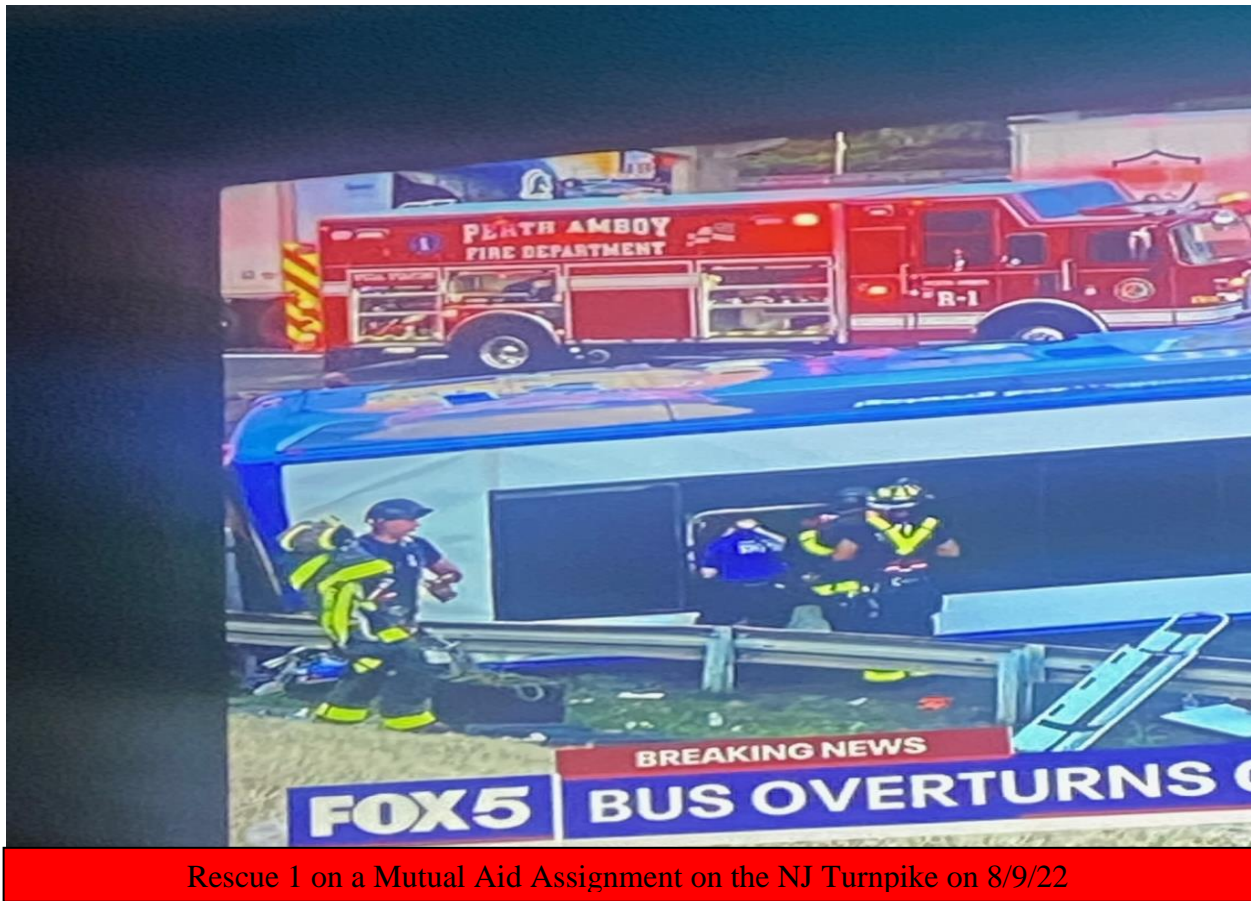
### **Fire Investigation Unit**

The Perth Amboy Fire Department continues to investigate all fires in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code with its Fire Investigation Unit. The Fire Investigation Unit works diligently for hours after a fire is extinguished and sometimes for days after to 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.

In 2023, the Department plans on purchasing a Fire Investigation Vehicle that will carry all of the fire and arson investigation tools and equipment needed for this purpose with the revenue it has brought in conducting fire inspections.

### **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 2022, Rescue Company 1 responded to 1,115 incidents. Rescue 1 also responded to mutual aid calls for various rescue incidents. In 2023, 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.



Rescue 1 on a Mutual Aid Assignment on the NJ Turnpike on 8/9/22

**Marine Division:**

In 2022, Marine 5 responded to 12 emergency incidents including a boat fire and a barge fire and rescued people from sinking boats that were sinking or in distress. The new Marine 5 is currently under construction with all of the metal being cut for fabrication. Depending on the delivery of the engines, jets, fire pumps and generator, the new boat may be completed by the end of 2023, with spring of 2024 the latest. This purchase was possible 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 Marine Division is part of the New Jersey Regional Fireboat Task Force. This task force is made up of 13 New Jersey Fire Departments that have marine assets including: Perth Amboy, Newark, Jersey City, North Hudson, Kearny, Carteret, Port Reading, 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 Extinguished a Boat Fire at the Keyport Marina on 11/28/22

**Juvenile Firesetter Intervention:**

The Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program 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 with Rescue 2 and the Dive Trailer. There are currently 16 PADI certified rescue & recovery SCUBA divers and 12 dive tenders. In 2021, the PAFD was awarded a 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. Due to supply chain issues, those dive suits are still not delivered, but they should be in 2023. That is when the 6 new divers will be trained. In 2023, the Port Security Grant will also fund an Ice Diving class in February training as well as an underwater evidence recovery class.



Members of the Department Training in High Angle Rescue from a Crane at NAA

### *Training Division:*

The training division, under the command of Captain Daniel Arroyo, oversaw over 5,723 hours of training in 2022. This includes over 180 different classes throughout the year which provided department wide uniform training. This training includes everything firefighting related from driver training, engine, truck & rescue company operations, SCUBA dive rescue &



recovery, confined space rescue, high angle rope rescue, building & trench collapse, water & ice rescue & recovery, officer development, and emergency medical care just to name a few. Five probationary firefighters successfully completed the Morris County Fire Academy in 2022. Prior to academy there is an intense pre-academy program to ensure our recruits are successful. Historically 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the fire academy class does not pass, yet ours have never failed as we strive to have the best firefighters to protect our city.



Probationary Firefighters Garabito & Perez at Fire Academy Graduation with Mayor Caba

**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.



The Foam Tender Participating in a large flow exercise at Buckeye Port Reading on 10/18/22

**National Fire Incident Reporting Data:**

The fire department responded to a total of 2,251 incidents in 2022. Throughout the year, the department responded to 204 fires, of which 50 were structural fires, including 10 that were a multiple alarm fire. The total call volume was slightly up over from 2021 with an increase of 19 incidents.

Along with handling emergencies in the City of Perth Amboy the department also responded to 33 mutual aid incidents in surrounding municipalities including: Colonia, Sayreville, Port Reading, Woodbridge, Carteret, Avenel and Fords. In 2022, there was a total of 36 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 2022:

<b>Total Fires</b>	204
100 Fire, Other	2
111 Building fire	50

112 Fires in structure other than a building	0
113 Cooking fire, confined to container	44
114 Chimney or flue fire, confined	0
116 Fuel burner / Boiler Fire	6
118 Trash or rubbish fire, contained	9
1181 Dryer Fire contained	7
131 Passenger vehicle fire	13
132 Road freight or transport vehicle fire	0
134 Water vehicle/boat fire	2
138 Off-road Vehicle or Heavy Equipment fire	1
142 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	15
142M Mulch Fire	11
150 Outside rubbish fire, other	4
151 Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	29
154 Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	5
160 Special outside fire	1
161 Outside storage fire	0
162 Outside equipment fire	0

**Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire) 8**

200 Overpressure rupture, explosion	0
211 Overpressure rupture of steam pipe	2
212 Overpressure rupture of steam boiler	2
243 Fireworks explosion (no fire)	3
251 Excessive heat, scorch burns	1

**Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident 699**

300 Rescue, EMS, other incident	2
311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew	165
320 Emergency medical service, other	16
321 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	186
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	170
323 Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	65
324 Motor Vehicle Accident with no injuries	38
331 Lock-in	19
341 Search for person on land	0
342 Search for person in water	4
350 Extrication, rescue, other	0
351 Extrication of victim(s)	0
352 Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	8
353 Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	14

354 Trench/below-grade rescue	1
356 High Angle Rescue	0
357 Extrication of a victim from machinery	1
360 Water & ice related rescue	3
361 Swimming water areas rescue	1
362 Ice rescue	0
363 Swift water rescue	2
364 Surf rescue	0
365 Watercraft rescue	4
381 Rescue or EMS standby	0

**Hazardous Condition (No Fire) 344**

400 Hazardous condition, other	4
4002 Hazardous Condition Reported-Unfounded Problem	0
410 Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition	1
411 Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	10
412 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	64
413 Oil or other combustible liquid spill	2
420 Toxic condition, other	2
421 Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	4
422 Chemical spill or leak	9
424 Carbon monoxide incident	42
440 Electrical wiring/equipment problem, Other	14
441 Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	5
442 Overheated motor	3
443 Breakdown of light ballast	2
444 Power line down	27
4441 Cable or phone line down	114
445 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	21
451 Biological Hazard	2
460 Accident, other	0
461 Building or structure weakened or collapsed	8
462 Aircraft standby	7
463 Vehicle Accident general cleanup	3
471 Explosive, Bomb Removal	0
481 Attempt to Burn	0

**Service Call 256**

500 Service Call, other	5
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510 Person in distress, Other	0
511 Lock-out	34
520 Water problem, other	4
5201 Secure open hydrant	0
521 Water evacuation	0
522 Water or steam leak	67
531 Smoke or odor removal	20
541 Animal problem	1
542 Animal rescue	8
550 Public service assistance, Other	3
551 Assist police or other governmental agency	27
552 Police matter	6
553 Public service	30
554 Assist invalid	2
555 Defective elevator, no occupants	27
561 Unauthorized burning	6
571 Cover assignment, standby, move up	16

**Good Intent Call** 130

600 Good intent call, Other	4
611 Dispatched & cancelled en route	32
621 Wrong location	0
622 No Incident found on arrival at dispatch address	23
631 Authorized controlled burning	0
632 Prescribed fire	0
641 Vicinity Alarm	1
650 Steam mistaken for fire, other	2
651 Smoke scare, odor of smoke	41
652 Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	8
653 Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1
671 HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	18

**False Alarm & False Call** 608

700 False alarm or false call, Other	2
710 Malicious false call, other	3
711 Municipal alarm, malicious false alarm	1
714 Central station, malicious false alarm	24
715 Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1
721 Bomb scare, no bomb	0
730 System malfunction, Other	11
731 Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	6

732 Extinguishing System activation due to malfunction	3
733 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	75
734 Heat detector activation due to malfunction	2
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	148
736 CO detector activation due to malfunction	21
740 Unintentional transmission of alarm, Other	8
741 Sprinkler activation, no fire	5
742 Extinguishing system activation	1
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	91
744 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	12
745 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	182
746 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	12

**Severe Weather & Natural Disaster** 1

800 Severe weather or natural disaster, other	0
812 Flood Assessment	1
813 Wind storm, hurricane assessment	0

**Special Incident Type** 1

900 Special type of incident, Other	1
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 eight years, over 1,500 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.

On September 24, 2022, the Red Cross returned to Perth Amboy for a Sound the Alarm Event. On this day over 200 residents were met with in the Gateway Neighborhood to discuss fire safety and 147 installations smoke and CO alarm installations were completed. Perth Amboy was the location of the Red Cross' first Sound the Alarm Event back in 2014 and this was the first event since the Covid 19 pandemic hit the world.



Red Cross Sound the Alarm Smoke & CO Alarm Installation Event on 9/24/22

On October 14, 2022 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, civilians were educated in how to use a fire extinguisher, the community was able to interact with all of our firefighters, 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.



Fire Prevention Open House @ Fire Headquarters on 10/14/22

In 2022, the Department participated in several first responder and healthcare worker sport tournaments. This included a City Department basketball tournament where the Fire Department won First Place taking down the Department of Public Works, Police Department and the Recreation Department. In the Summer the PAFD participated in the Second Annual Battle on the Beach First Responders and Healthcare workers volleyball tournament. The PAFD was able to hold onto its crown and win again.





**PAFD wins the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Battle on the Beach Volleyball Tournament**

**Outlook for 2023:**

In 2022, 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 2022 over 2,250 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.

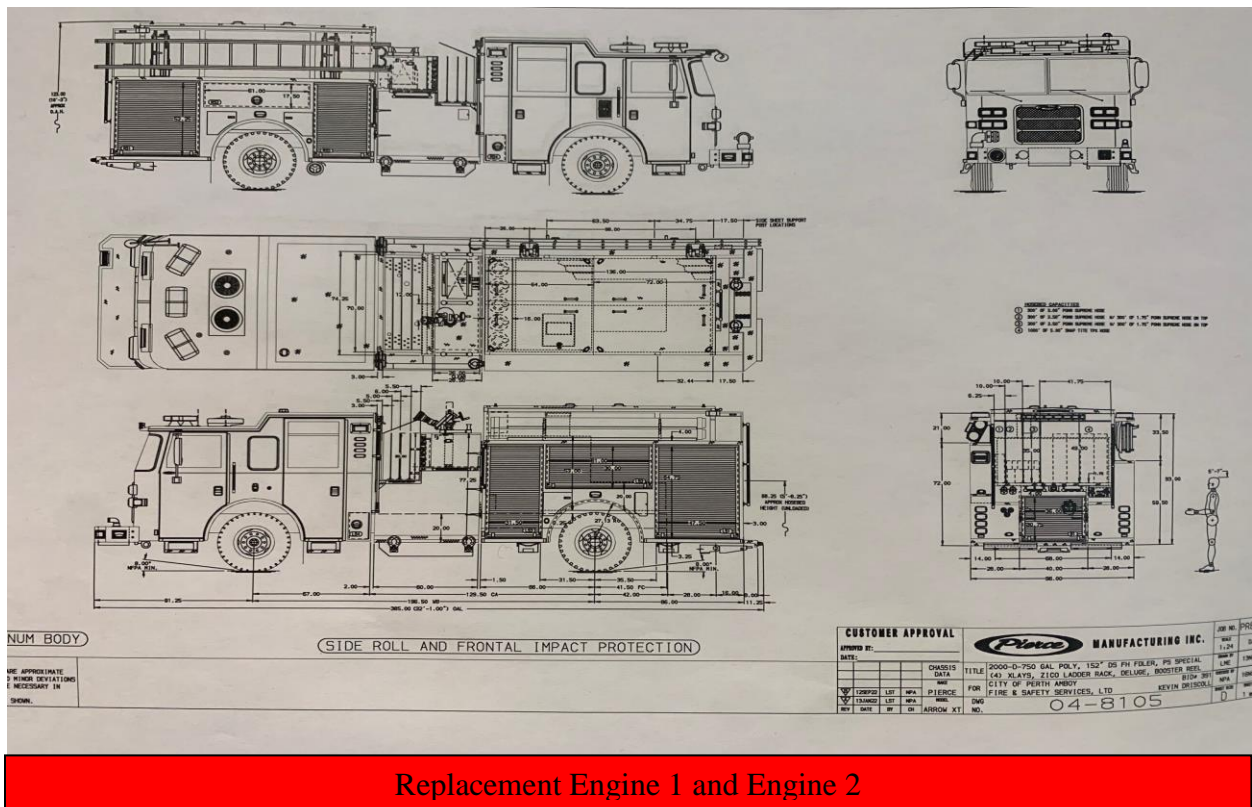
The focus on 2023 will be to increase staffing and supervision on each shift once the NJ Civil Service Commission releases the new entry level firefighter list and Captains list. In 2021 and 2022, the Department worked with the NJ DCA’s Local Government Services to fully evaluate its operations and as a result the Department is looking to implement their recommendations across the next few years. This also includes opening a second fire station and adding an additional engine and ladder company in service 24/7 to match the needs of the City and to decrease response times Citywide in accordance with national standards.

In 2023 the Fire Prevention Bureau will conduct over 5,000 fire inspections and purchase a fire investigation van for fire scene investigations. The Bureau also purchased a fire

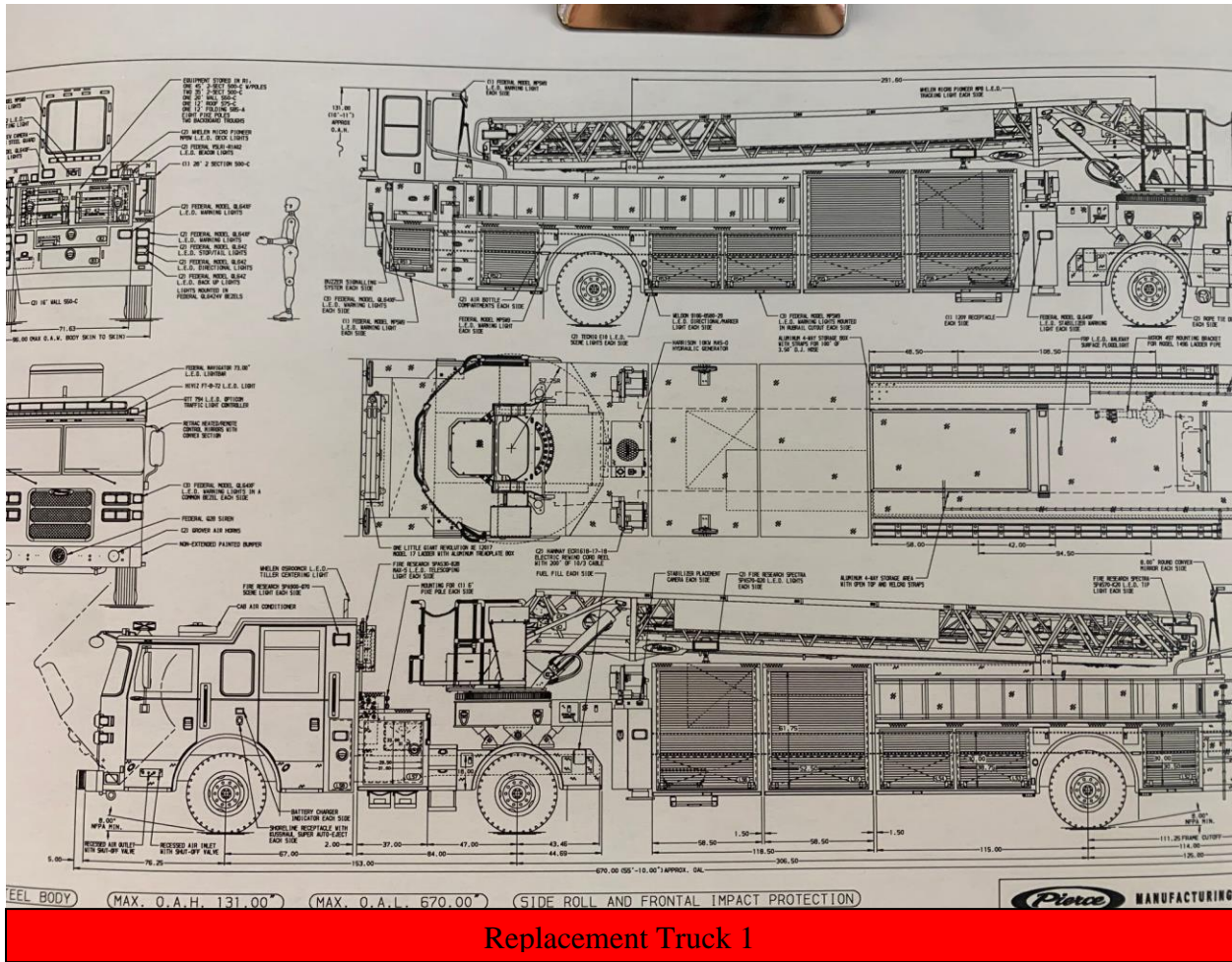
extinguisher training system that will be used to educate the public on how to properly use a fire extinguisher without making a mess.

The new Marine 5 should be delivered by the end of 2023 which was purchased with a 2020 Port Security Grant PAFD will also be applying for FEMA Grants in 2023. In January, an Assistance to Firefighter Grant will be submitted, requesting a EMT certification training for 18 firefighters, including all hires from 2022 and 2023.

Two new replacement engines were ordered on October 28, 2022 which are estimated to be delivered in October of 2025. Upon delivery of these two new engines, the current Engine 1 and Engine 2 will become reserve Engine 3 and Engine 4. The current Engine 3 (1988) and Engine 5 (1999) will be retired from service. In 2023, 2024 and 2025 funding has been requested in the capital improvement plan for the replacement of Truck 1 which would be delivered in 2027, the replacement of Truck 2 which would be delivered in 2028 and the replacement of Rescue 1 which would be delivered in 2029. Due to supply chain issues and the fire apparatus manufacturing business being backlogged, these apparatus need to be ordered 3-4 years in advance, which also holds the current pricing and will save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.



Replacement Engine 1 and Engine 2



We look forward towards keeping all of the people and property of the City of Perth Amboy safe throughout 2023 and promise to be ready whenever and wherever they may be an emergency. Thank you for your continued support.

