

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2015 YEAR END REPORT

2016 OPERATING PROJECTION

This report has been prepared by the Fire Chief and President of Delaware Township Volunteer Fire Company for the Delaware Township Board of Supervisors as a summary of the activities of the company across the previous year and to provide an overview of the fire company's strategic goals for the coming year. Overall the Fire Company remains strong and committed to the protection of the residents and businesses in the Township. However, we continue to face challenges common to all of the volunteer emergency service organizations both in the Commonwealth and across the nation. Accordingly, this report also seeks to make the Supervisors aware of these challenges and our plans to keep our company viable and effective. We look forward to the opportunity to enlist your continued support and that of the citizens we are sworn to protect.

- The Delaware Township Volunteer Fire Company responded to 176 events in 2015 for a total of 6533 personnel hours. Breakdown as follows:
 - Structure fires(includes Chimney as dispatched) - 18* 1 fatality
 - Vehicle Fires - 2
 - Brush/ Outside Fires(includes illegal burning) - 13
 - Motor Vehicle Accidents(with or without extrication) - 28
 - Environmental Rescues(wildland) - 8
 - CO/ LPG gas leak - 10
 - Fuel spills -2
 - Utility wires/ trees down - 10
 - False alarms/ system malfunctions - 20
 - Assistance to EMS - 13
 - Medevac Landing - 3
 - Mutual Aid/ Standby - 3
 - Public service(includes Fire Prevention) - 9
 - Company drills/Training - 17
 - Work Details(equipment/facility maint) - 20
- Comparison of recent previous years reflects a decrease in the number of actual working structure fires while the number of motor vehicle accidents and environmental rescues continue to rise. Environmental rescues within the boundaries of the DWGNRA are often extremely time consuming and personnel dependent. False or nuisance alarms, primarily for malfunctions of residential fire alarms (some multiple times at same location) also continue to rise and strain resources. Trends will continue to be monitored to help assess both equipment needs and response protocols.

In 2015, the department retired a 15 year old pumper and purchased a new custom apparatus from KME Fire Apparatus of Nesquehoning after a yearlong design, specification and bid process involving all of the officers of the company. The new pumper, Engine 1, has a 1250 gallon on board water tank and a 1500 GPM pump and meets all current NFPA and industry requirement. Funding for the approximately \$300,000 apparatus was accomplished through use of the Tax Millage specifically allocated for the purchase of new fire trucks in a prescribed replacement cycle.

Plans are currently underway to specify and a bid a new Tanker for delivery in late 2016 or 2017.

With increased number of environmental rescues, the department purchased a new enclosed trailer to carry our UTV. This will also allow additional support equipment for these type of calls to be consolidated for easier deployment when needed - particularly with reduced personnel availability.

As part of 2015 objectives, we revived our Fire Prevention Open House for the public. This was well received and provided home fire prevention information, tours of facilities and equipment and demonstrations of fire department operations. This event will be held again in 2016 at a date TBD.

Current Fire Company membership stands at 40 for all "classes", with approximately 2/3 active firefighters or fire police. 6 members resigned during 2015 due to relocation or health reasons, but this was offset by the recruitment of 4 new personnel. However, it will take time for the new staff to gain the level of knowledge and experience that was lost in the resignations. One of the newest members attended a recruit training program totaling over 170 hours across 5 months resulting in Firefighter 1 designation.

To help improve recruitment the Department is actively participating in the Countywide initiative sponsored by the Pike County Commissioners- "Be 1 of the Ones" a multimedia campaign with no cost to the company or the Township. The effectiveness of this program is still being evaluated. For 2016 and beyond recruitment, retention and increased training requirements will be a major challenge facing the DTVFC. It is our intention to seek a meeting with the Supervisors later this year to discuss support for "incentives" to increase new membership and retain current members.

While specific goals are still being considered for the current year, "strategic" plans will be developed for 1, 3 and 5 years with a focus on the "infrastructure" of the DTVFC:

- Both of our buildings and all physical plant systems, with the Main Firehouse now 25 years old and the Substation over 35 years.
 - Identification of those projects that should be considered "capital" in nature and methods to accomplish same; in house or contracted
- Necessary equipment and apparatus replacement to meet "service life" considerations, new standards and regulatory requirements and evolving "missions" and responses
 - Research into the availability of grants, awards, etc. at a state and federal level to support the above needs
- Re-establishment of DTVFC based "social" activity fundraisers for the community to increase interaction between members and the public in a non- emergency environment and create opportunities for networking, recruitment while raising funds

- Events that may be considered include golf outing, turkey shoot, 5K walk/run, holiday parties/dances, Firefighters Field day

As the Delaware Township Volunteer Fire Company continues into its 60th year of service to residents and visitors to our community, we remain committed to the purpose of our charter and our founding members, prepared for the challenges we face and ready to respond when called to protect life and property.

We thank the Board of Supervisors for your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together.

Respectfully,

BJ Williams - Chief of Department

George F. Beodeker - President, DTVFC