

WILDWOOD CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:
Fire Chief Ernie Troiano III
Deputy Fire Chief Daniel M. Dunn
Fire Official William Cripps

Released: March 17, 2023

Executive Summary

During 2022, members of the department responded to 4,578 emergency calls. This surpassed 2021's total of 4,409 calls, making 2022 our busiest year on record. Members completed 5,145 fire safety inspections and continued to expand our community outreach programs. The department continues to look forward to providing the very best in Fire, Rescue and EMS services to our municipality while being fiscally responsible to the people we serve. We will continue to live out our mission, vision, and core values on a daily basis to ensure that we do just that.

Services Provided

Being able to provide a variety of specialized services, not customary to most fire departments, is what sets our department apart from others within our county.

The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to offer open water rescue responses during the "shoulder season" for our island community when the beach patrol is no longer in service. We also continue to support the A.L.E.R.T. (After-hours Lifeguard Emergency Response Team) in conjunction with the Wildwood Beach Patrol's unit in the summer evening hours when the beaches are closed.

The Wildwood City Fire Department is the lead agency for the Cape May County Regional Urban Search & Rescue team. This team specializes in Structural Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, High-Angle Rope Rescue, Surface Ice and Water Rescue and Trench Rescue. In 2022, the team completed 80 hours of monthly-based core discipline training in various technical rescue disciplines as well as additional training.

Training

The Officers and Firefighters of the Wildwood City Fire Department continuously further their education through officer development classes and tactical courses. Training and being prepared for the unknown is always at the forefront of our department.

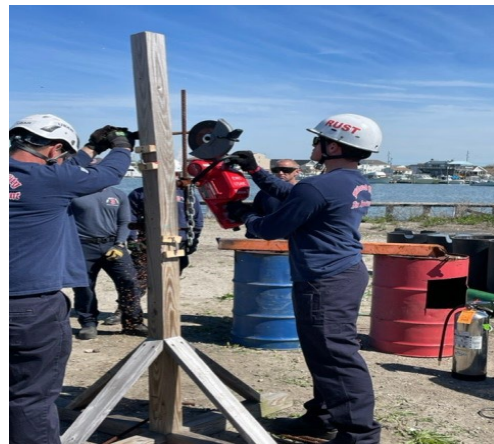
During the 2022 calendar year the department conducted several in-house training programs to maintain skills in various certification disciplines including but not limited to;



Wildwood City Fire Department

- New Jersey Fire Official certification course
- Surface Ice Rescue Operations
- Open Water Rescue
- Trench Rescue Operations

In addition to the classes held in-house members spent hundreds of hours participating in fire, rescue and emergency medical training throughout the year.



Wildwood City Fire Department

Equipment and Funding Opportunities

Through our Community Risk Assessments, the Wildwood City Fire Department continues to try and be well equipped and trained in order to provide the very best in emergency services for our residents and visitors. Being an urban city on an island with a tremendous tourist base in the busy summer season makes our municipality vulnerable.

The Wildwood City Fire Department has been very fortunate over the past several years to receive numerous grants that have helped us successfully fulfill our mission. These include two Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Impact Initiative for Purchase of Fire Equipment grant, and the Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo (Joey D) Foundation grant.

In 2022, our department applied for an American Rescue Plan Firefighters grant through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. We were fortunate to be awarded this grant in the amount of \$49,000.00. This funding will allow us to purchase new personal protective equipment for our personnel, as well as new respiratory protection testing equipment. We are very grateful for being chosen to receive this grant award.

Also in 2022, the Wildwood City Fire Department applied for two FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants. One was for the hiring of four additional full-time firefighters and the other to support our volunteer duty program. Unfortunately, our department was not selected for these grant awards. We also applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of a new pumper apparatus to replace our 27 year old Engine Co. 3. Unfortunately, we were not selected for this grant either. These grants are highly competitive each year and we will continue to aggressively pursue them to help us increase our abilities to carry out our daily mission.

Our Department continues to actively seek and aggressively pursue any available grant funding that saves money for our taxpayers while at the same time improving the overall health and safety of our members. This also results in our Department having the most technologically advanced equipment available which increases our efficiency and abilities to respond as an All-Hazards emergency response organization.

Wildwood City Fire Department

New Vehicle Delivery

In November, the Wildwood City Fire Department was very fortunate to take delivery of a new Basic Life Support Ambulance. This unit replaced a 2014 ambulance with high mileage. This ambulance was purchased with CARES (The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funding at no cost to the City's taxpayers. This unit was purchased from VCI Emergency Vehicle Specialists from Berlin, New Jersey. The WFD has been purchasing our ambulances from VCI for many years. The quality and service they provide are unmatched and top notch. This new ambulance, designated as Ambulance 3-2, has many modern features that enhances the safety of our residents and visitors, as well as our firefighters.



Barefoot Country Music Festival June 16-19, 2022

The largest special event staffed by WFD members during 2022 was the Barefoot County Music Festival. This was the second year for the four-day event that featured some of country music's hottest and talented artists. Headliners for the show included Eric Church, Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean, and Cole Swindell. The event was a huge success and a great event that benefited businesses throughout the island. During the four-days, Wildwood Firefighters had 294 patient contacts, the majority of which were for minor cuts and scrapes requiring bandages. Only 14 patients required transport to the hospital over the four days. This event once again showcased all that the City of Wildwood has to offer in a safe, family oriented venue.

View of Crowd at BCMF 2022



Wildwood City Fire Department



View of Crowd at BCMF 2022



View of Crowd at BCMF 2022

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Fire Department Mission Statement:

The Wildwood City Fire Department is committed to prevent or minimize the loss of life, damage to the environment and loss of property from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, natural disasters and hazardous conditions by providing the highest level of emergency services for our community since 1912.

Fire Department Vision Statement:

- We will strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession
- We will be accountable to those we serve, each other and any fire service organization we interact with
- We are committed to providing the best public service through training, education and equipment to the best of our abilities
- We are committed to our mission, values and dedicated to our fire service profession

Fire Department Core Values:

Teamwork: Working together to achieve common goals

Integrity: Committed to the highest standard of moral and ethical conduct

Excellence: Demanding the best from ourselves and others



Message from the Chief

The City of Wildwood Fire Department remains committed to providing the highest level of professional services to the public by protecting lives, property, and the environment. It is important for our stakeholders, both internally and externally, to understand this. The purpose of this report is to provide that insight and the accomplishments of the fire department during the past year and to highlight the many services and activities that support our community.

Responding to emergencies remains our core mission. However, the City of Wildwood Fire Department assumes the responsibility of providing Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) coverage for the numerous special events that occur throughout the many venues the city has to offer. For the second year in a row, the department responded to the largest number of calls in our department's history. In the calendar year 2022, the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 4,578 emergency calls for service. Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls accounted for 2,530 of those responses. Fire type calls accounted for 2,048 of the emergencies handled. We attribute this to an increase in the year-round population and the full return of special events. Many of these events are large in nature and draw people from all over the country.

The fire department administration recognizes the growing needs in order to continue providing the highest level of service. Therefore, we remain vigilant in seeking grant funding, as well as other funding opportunities. The department was fortunate enough to secure the American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant, offered by the DCA, in the amount of \$49,000.00. This would not be possible without the unwavering support from the Commissioner of Public Safety, Steve Mikulski. I would also like to thank Commissioner Krista Fitzsimons and Mayor Pete Byron, along with our entire community.

The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to be a service driven recognized leader in providing emergency services with our resources and a healthy, highly trained and motivated workforce. However, understanding that there is more to the fire service than responding to emergencies, the department continues to remain heavily engaged in the community and has developed a strong working relationship with our school district and youth organizations to help guide and prepare our youth under the concept that **"Failure is not an option"**! As we look forward, our aim is to continue growing and exceed your expectations.

It is my honor to present the 2022 annual report, which reflects our dedication and commitment to the citizens of the City of Wildwood as well as our visitors and neighbors. We welcome your concerns and feedback and ask that you please contact us whenever you may have an issue, questions or a concern. **We work for you!**

Yours in service,


Ernie Troiano III, CPM
Chief of Department

2022 Personnel Milestones



Retirement: On March 1, 2022 Administrative Assistant Mary Peer retired from the City of Wildwood Fire Department. Mary provided many years of loyal, dedicated service to the City of Wildwood Fire Department and the City of Wildwood. Mary went above and beyond to make sure everyone was taken care of. We wish Mary a long, healthy, and happy retirement!



Wildwood City Fire Department

Administration:

Fire Chief

Ernie Troiano III

Deputy Fire Chief

Daniel Dunn

Secretary

Amelia Ianiro

Fire Prevention Bureau:

Fire Official

William Cripps

Fire Inspector

Mark Allen

Secretary

Kelly Sweger

Part-time Fire Inspectors

Sean McDevitt

Operations:

A Platoon

Captain Robert Feltwell

Firefighter Dave Bannon

Firefighter Tina Sacco

Firefighter Brendan Phillips

Firefighter Chad Alvarado

B Platoon

Captain Matt Johnson

Firefighter Ryan Troiano

Firefighter Nick Palmer

Firefighter Rayquan Walker

Firefighter John Snyder

C Platoon

Captain James Grauel

Firefighter Adam Feltwell

Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski

Firefighter John Sharp

Firefighter Jake Spiegel

D Platoon

Captain Aldo Sacco

Firefighter Gerry Vessels

Firefighter Rich Harron

Firefighter Dave Spiegel

Firefighter Kevin Kelly

Part-time Firefighters

Ray Conover

Jeremy Embs

Mark Gose

Joseph McCauley

Michael Drennen

Tyler Ely

Hunter John

Francis McClain

Matthew Earle

Will Gaskill

Jackson Longnecker

Gavin Rosenello

Volunteer Duty Crew Firefighters:

Mike Brown III

Mike Wiel

Mike Johnson

Wildwood City Fire Department

In Memorium:

During 2022, our Department lost two life members of the Department. Though gone they are not forgotten and we honor them for their service to the community:

- Firefighter Dominic Romeo Sr. – Wildwood Fire Co. # 1
- Firefighter Warren White- Holly Beach Fire Co. # 1



FF Dominic Romeo Sr.



FF Warren White



About Us

The City of Wildwood is a 1.3 square mile seashore resort City that is a popular summer tourist destination for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. As of the 2020 census the City has a population of 5,157 which can swell to 250,000 or more during the peak summer season. The City is famous for its large boardwalk with numerous shops, restaurants, amusement piers and waterparks and for being home to the World's largest, finest, and safest bathing beach. The City is home to many hotels/motels, apartment/rooming houses, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, bars/nightclubs, as well as many condos and single family residences.

The City of Wildwood has a combination-type Fire Department consisting of a career division and a volunteer division. The Department is led by the Career Fire Chief who has overall responsibility for the administration of the Department. In addition to the Fire Chief there is a Deputy Fire Chief, who along with the Fire Chief, handles administrative and operational duties. The career division consists of 4 platoons with a Captain and 4 firefighters assigned to each platoon. In addition, the career division is supplemented by part-time seasonal staff to increase staffing levels during the busy summer season. The Fire Prevention Bureau is headed by the Fire Official and has one full-time and one part-time fire inspector assigned. The Volunteer Division consists of the Holly Beach Fire Company # 1 and the Wildwood Fire Company # 1. Although the volunteer companies are no longer operational for emergency responses, they continue to support the fire department in many ways. The City of Wildwood Fire Department is an all-hazards response organization providing fire suppression, emergency medical services (Basic-Life Support Transport), technical/heavy rescue (high-angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, vehicle extrication, open water rescue, surface ice rescue, hazardous material and trench rescue response), fire prevention, code enforcement and emergency management services.

The City of Wildwood Fire Department protects the municipality with 1-Squad Company, 1-Quint Company, 1-Rescue Company and 1-Engine Company, 4 BLS Ambulances and several support vehicles including a water rescue/utility vehicle for the beach and several 5 ton high-water vehicles. In 2021, the City of Wildwood responded to over 4,400 emergency incidents.

The City of Wildwood Fire Department is proud to have an ISO Class 3 designation and we continuously strive to better that classification.

Facilities and Apparatus

The City of Wildwood Fire Department maintains facilities and apparatus to ensure timely and efficient responses to emergencies. The department has three stations. However, Fire Headquarters is the only operating station for emergency responses and Station's 3-1 and 3-2 are currently used for storage of additional and reserve apparatus.

Fire Stations:

Fire Headquarters – 4400 New Jersey Avenue

Headquarters is located within the City Hall building, between City Hall and the Police Department. The offices of the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and the Fire Prevention Bureau are all located on the second floor of Headquarters. Administrative staff for the Fire Chief's Office and the Fire Prevention Bureau are located here as well. The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is also located at Fire Headquarters.

The Career Division firefighters are located in Headquarters on the first floor. The on-duty platoon handles all emergencies called into the City of Wildwood Fire Department with the following apparatus being assigned to Headquarters:

2017 – 2000 GPM Pierce Squad (first due apparatus)
2014 – 2000 GPM E-One Quint
2020 – Ferrera Heavy Rescue
2007 – Dodge Ram 2500 (beach response apparatus)
Two – BLS Transport Ambulances (first due)
2020 – Medstat ASAP UTV (special event EMS unit)

Station 3-1 – 4310 Washington Avenue (Holly Beach)

Station 3-1 is located directly across from Fire Headquarters and houses the volunteer division of the department. Although we currently do not utilize this building for fire responses it still houses reserve equipment. The company members of this station still hold their monthly meetings and maintains the charter of the company which was organized in 1884. The station currently houses the following apparatus:

2002 – Chevy utility vehicle (Fire Police)
2010 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-fire suppression)
2009 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-fire suppression)
2010 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-evacuations)

Wildwood City Fire Department

Station 3-2 – 111 East Pine Avenue (Pine Avenue)

Station 3-2 is located in the northern-end of the city and houses the volunteer division of the department. Although we currently do not utilize this building for fire responses it still houses reserve equipment. The company members of this station still hold their monthly meetings and maintains the charter of the company which was organized in 1896. The station currently houses the following apparatus:

1996 – 1500 GPM Pierce Engine (reserve)

2021 – Polaris UTV (special event EMS unit)



Quint Company 3



Rescue Company 3



Squad Company 3



Engine Company 3



Operations

The fire department operations division is managed by Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn. Operations is the largest division of the fire department. Operations personnel respond to all requests for service.

In addition, personnel also continually conduct mandatory training requirements, assist in public education, conduct fire prevention inspections supporting the inspection bureau and maintain the fire stations and apparatus.

The ability to improve our service is generated through many ideas and initiatives that originate from the operational members. Their values, energy, commitment and compassion drive many of the departments' functions, programs and activities throughout the year. The operations personnel are faced daily with accomplishing our mission to provide extraordinary service to the community.

OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- RESPONDED TO 4,578 CALLS FOR SERVICE
- 20 CAREER PERSONNEL ACROSS 4 PLATOONS
- 2,530 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL INCIDENTS
- 2,048 – SQUAD/ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES

2022 Fire Responses

Building/Structure Fires	48
Cooking Fires	13
Trash/Rubbish/Dumpster Fires	21
Brush/Grass/Mulch Fires	11
Other Fires (Vehicles, Equipment, etc.)	6
Assist EMS	797
Motor Vehicle Crashes	75
Water Rescues	19
Elevator Rescues	9
Technical Rescues	2
Gas Leaks	83
Power Lines Down	36
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	26
Electrical Wiring, Equipment Problems	38
Landing Zone Assignments (MedEvac)	15
Carbon Monoxide Incidents	6
Water or Steam Leaks	22
Assist Police Department	26
Public Service	44
Assist Physically Disabled	64
Smoke Scares, Odor of Smoke	15
No Incident Found on Arrival	9
Activated Fire Alarms	350
False Carbon Monoxide Alarms	8
Sprinkler Activations	3
Hazardous Materials Responses	8
Building Collapses, Weakened Structure	2
Animal Rescues	3
Dispatched & Cancelled Enroute	155
Miscellaneous Incidents	
Total Fire Responses	2,048

2022 Fire Responses



8501 New Jersey Ave. 2/7/22



123 E. Davis Ave. 2/13/22



400 W. Leaming Ave. 4/16/22



6901 New Jersey Ave. 4/23/22

Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood and Park Blvd. 4/30/22



6401 Ocean Ave. 5/22/22



204 W. Maple Ave. 5/28/22



5201 Ocean Ave. 6/14/22



1012 Ocean Ave. 7/29/22



4209 New Jersey Ave. 10/20/22

2022 EMS Responses

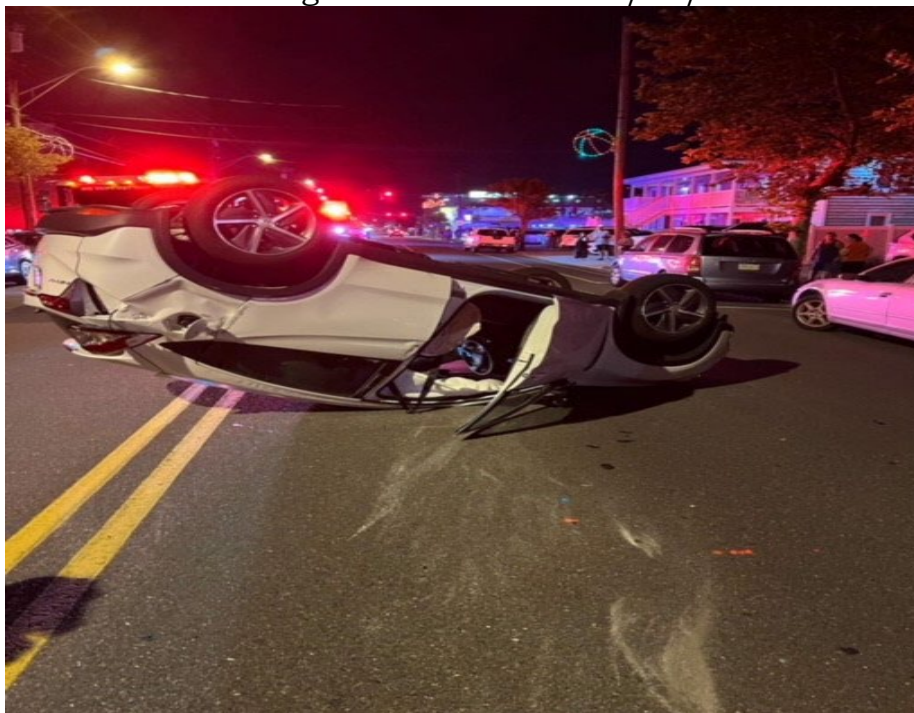
Alcohol, drugs, overdose, toxins	224
Cardiac, chest pains, hypotension, hypertension	88
Bleeding, trauma, injuries, assaults	389
Weakness, malaise, sickness, dizziness, pain	698
Respiratory, shortness of breath, dyspnea	141
Seizure, stroke, neurological, unconscious, syncopal episodes, diabetic, hypoglycemic, altered mental status	255
Behavioral, depression, suicidal, anxiety, hallucination	140
General (DOA, fever, dehydration, allergic reaction, OB/Gyn.)	595
Total Emergency Medical Service Responses	2,530



Wildwood City Fire Department



Leaming and Atlantic Ave. 5/28/22



Leaming and Atlantic Ave. 7/4/22

Fire Prevention Bureau



The Bureau of Fire Prevention is headed by Fire Official William Cripps. Firefighter Mark Allen is detailed to the bureau as a Fire Inspector. During the busy summer season 2 part-time Fire Inspectors are hired to assist with the inspection work load. The Bureau is currently short one seasonal inspector. The personnel of the Bureau focus on all aspects of life safety. Their primary objective is to reduce preventable deaths, injuries and property loss through public education programs, fire inspections of all commercial and non-owner occupied occupancies and through enforcement of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. The office also conducts and oversees NJ State Housing Inspections of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings.

The Bureau educates building owners and tenants while conducting fire safety inspections. This helps to gain voluntary compliance, as well as limit the number of repeat violations in the future. The fire inspectors conduct annual fire safety inspections of existing commercial properties each year which may result in follow-up inspections to ensure compliance.



Fire Inspection Bureau Activities for 2022

New Jersey Uniform Fire Code Inspections

Periodic Initial Inspections:	3,921
Reinspections:	1,122
Complaints:	13
Follow-Ups:	13
Other Inspections:	76
Total Fire Inspections:	5,145

State DCA Housing Inspections

Total # of Housing Units Inspected: 1,309

Total Inspections: 6,454

Training & Education

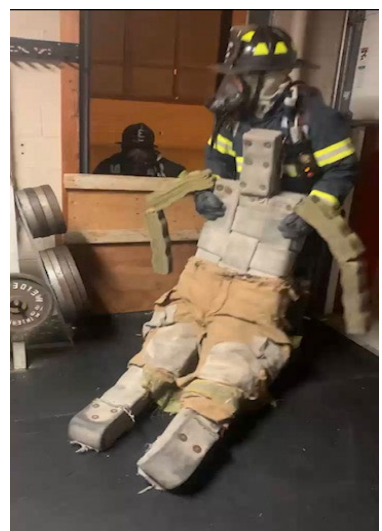
The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to maintain a high level of commitment and dedication to training. The city presents a unique geographic make-up with a number of high community risks to include high-rise buildings, confined spaces, amusement rides and open bodies of water. Over the years, the fire service has evolved into an “all hazards” approach agency with the Wildwood City Fire Department being no exception. Firefighters are the initial responders to all water related emergencies to include, but not limited to, the bay, the beach during periods that the Lifeguards are off-duty, tidal flooding and natural disasters.

Since the Wildwood City Fire Department embraces the “all hazards” approach our firefighters are highly trained to not only respond to the community’s needs but to mitigate the hazards that are present. Members of the department spent well over 4,000 hours in over 100 topics in education in 2022.

Training Courses Completed 2022:

NJ Division of Fire Safety- Drill Ground Instructor
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Air Consumption
Rapid Intervention Crew Operations
Open-Water Rescue Operations
Rescue Company Operations
Vehicle Extrication
Engine Company Operations
Truck Company Operations
Fire Behavior, Dynamics, and the Effect of Ventilation
Elevator Emergencies
Apparatus Driver Training
Fire Inspector
Fire Official
Fire Officer
Fireground Size Up
Live Burn training
Active Threat Integrated Response
FAST Board Training
Arizona Vortex Training
Vent Enter Isolate Search
Fireground Survival/Emergency Escape Training
Hazardous Materials Operations

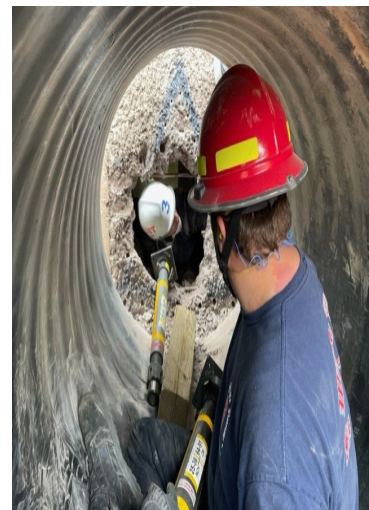
Wildwood City Fire Department



Special Units

Cape May County Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team

The Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team (CMC USAR) is a highly specialized team of fire department members trained in structural collapse rescue, confined space rescue, high-angle rope rescue, surface ice/water rescue and trench rescue. The team is a county asset that responds to any such emergencies in Cape May County. The team also responds mutual aid to other Southern New Jersey counties as requested. The team is led by WFD Capt. Matthew Johnson who serves as the Cape May County ESF-9 Search & Rescue Coordinator. In 2022, the team completed over 80 hours of monthly-based core discipline training in the areas of confined space rescue, rope rescue, collapse rescue, trench rescue and water rescue. In addition to the monthly training, the team conducted an in-house Structural Collapse Technician Level 1 training course, hosted a Confined Space Operations and Technician course taught by Safety and Survival, LLC, and a Trench Rescue Operations course taught by RPI International for new members of the team.



Wildwood City Fire Department



Special Units - continued

Honor Guard

In 2022, the Honor Guard was privileged to be able to present the colors during the following events:

- At the North Wildwood St. Patrick's Day parade and ceremony.
- At the Wildwood High School Boys' Varsity Military Appreciation baseball game in May.
- At the WFD Swearing In and Medal Day ceremonies in May.
- At the Flags of Liberty ceremony at the North Wildwood Community Center in July.
- During the Veteran's Sunrise Flag Service in honor of AWO3 Michael J. Vecchio, US Navy, who passed away in 2017 and his Gold Star parents, Carol and Michael in July.
- During the Annual Wildwood 9/11 Memorial Service held at Byrne Plaza.



Wildwood City Fire Department



Special Units - continued

Awards Committee

Fortunately, after missing two years due the pandemic, the WFD was once again able to hold our Medal Day ceremony. In 2022 we recognized actions taken during 2019, 2020, and 2021. “Medal Day” is a tradition in the fire service where a department honors the men and women for their exceptional actions during the course of their normal duties. These events range from community involvement and administrative recognition to Lifesaving awards and Citations for Bravery. In 2022 we recognized members for actions taken during 2019, 2020, and 2021. In addition, in conjunction with Medal Day, we were finally able to hold a swearing-in ceremony for Chief Ernest Troiano III, Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn, and Captain Feltwell who were all promoted in 2020 and Firefighter Kevin Kelly who was hired in 2020. The list of awards from Medal Day can be found in the Appendix of this report.



Fire Chief Troiano Swearing In

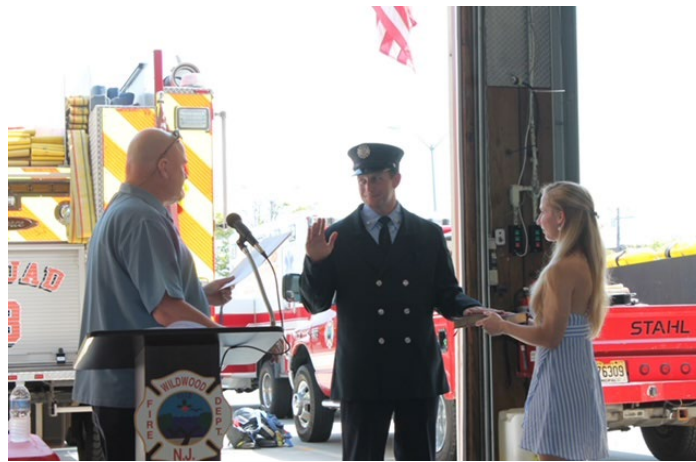


Deputy Fire Chief Dunn Swearing In

Wildwood City Fire Department



Captain Feltwell Swearing In



Firefighter Kevin Kelly Swearing In



2022 Department Photo at Medal Day

Office of Emergency Management



Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn heads the Office of Emergency Management (O.E.M.) for the City of Wildwood. The mission of the Emergency Management Division is to develop plans and procedures that provide effective responses to all threats facing the City of Wildwood. By developing and exercising the all-hazards plans we strive to minimize the impacts of an emergency or disaster on our citizens, visitors, property, the environment and the City of Wildwood.

The Emergency Management Division works closely with public and private sector partners to ensure we are able to coordinate during an emergency or disaster. This coordination requires planning and close relationships with local, county, state and federal partners.

During 2022, the Wildwood City Office of Emergency Management completed a review of the City's Emergency Operations Plan. Constant review and updating of this plan allows the City to be ready in the event of a disaster or emergency that requires the implementation and activation of various emergency support functions.



Wildwood City Fire Department

The Office of Emergency Management administers the CodeRed community notification program. This program enables residents and visitors to sign up to receive a phone call or text message in the event of an emergency or natural disaster such as hurricanes, flooding, snow storms or nor'easters. In 2022, the OEM had to send out 9 emergency notifications for 7 significant weather events that included 5 coastal flooding/storm events and 2 winter storms.

With much of the city being low-lying areas, any time there is the possibility for flooding this system allows city officials to immediately contact those who have signed up for the notifications to be briefed on the latest projections of approaching storms.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for this notification by visiting the City of Wildwood's website under Departments, Public Safety, Emergency Management or by typing the link below into your browser:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/5A633ADA497E>



Community Relations and Outreach

The Wildwood City Fire Department has always been very active within the community with our members belonging to many community and civic organizations promoting the betterment of the city.

We also continuously research and implement new initiatives delivering important fire and life safety messages through various outlets to the citizens, visitors and our business community.

In 2022, we are back to normal, after having many activities curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Our firefighters were able to get back to attending several events that had to be cancelled the previous two years. One of the highlights of the year was hosting the Summer Cadet Firefighter program once again.

The Summer Cadet Firefighter program is open to children 10-17 years of age. This weeklong summer camp teaches kids the various aspects of firefighting and emergency medical services. The children learned about Engine Company, Truck Company, Rescue Company operations, EMS and water rescue. The event continues to expand and is looked forward to by not only the children who attend but also the many firefighters who volunteer their time during the weeklong program.



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department





In addition to the Summer Cadet program, WFD personnel participated in many community events throughout the year including our Adopt-A-School program, Special Olympics of NJ Polar Bear Plunge, community parades and festivals, National Night Out, community barbeques, and so much more. Our personnel frequently work with other local charitable organizations, including the Lunch with Lynch Foundation and the Step Back Foundation to support efforts that benefit the children of our community.



Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge



National Night Out

Wildwood City Fire Department



WHS Egg Hunt



WHS Egg Hunt



End of School Community BBQ- Wildwood Housing Authority

Wildwood City Fire Department



Read Across America at Glenwood Ave. Elementary School



Wildwood City Fire Department



Christmas in July Golf Cart Parade





City of Wildwood Trunk or Treat (1st Place)



Halloween 2022

Wildwood City Fire Department



Adopt-A-School Program Activities



Wildwood City Fire Department



2022 Run for the Fallen



Wildwood City Fire Department



Greater Wildwood Jaycees Christmas Parade 2022



Wildwood City Fire Department

September 11th is always remembered by the members of the fire department with the effect it had on our country and the fire service as a whole. In addition to working with the Business Improvement District (B.I.D) in 2022 to host the 6th Annual September 11th memorial service at the Byrne Plaza, Captain James Grauel coordinated the 6th annual Wildwood September 11th Memorial Stair Climb. Each participant pays tribute to a FDNY firefighter by climbing or walking the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. In 2022, the climb was held at Sandman Towers. Due to the pandemic, we could not hold the climb at this location for the past two years. 2022's climb raised money for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The event raised over \$13,000.00 for the foundation. This foundation, created in memory of FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller who was killed in the line of duty on 9/11/01, supports the families of fallen first responders and veterans, as well as those catastrophically injured in the line of duty.



Wildwood City Fire Department



2022 6th Annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

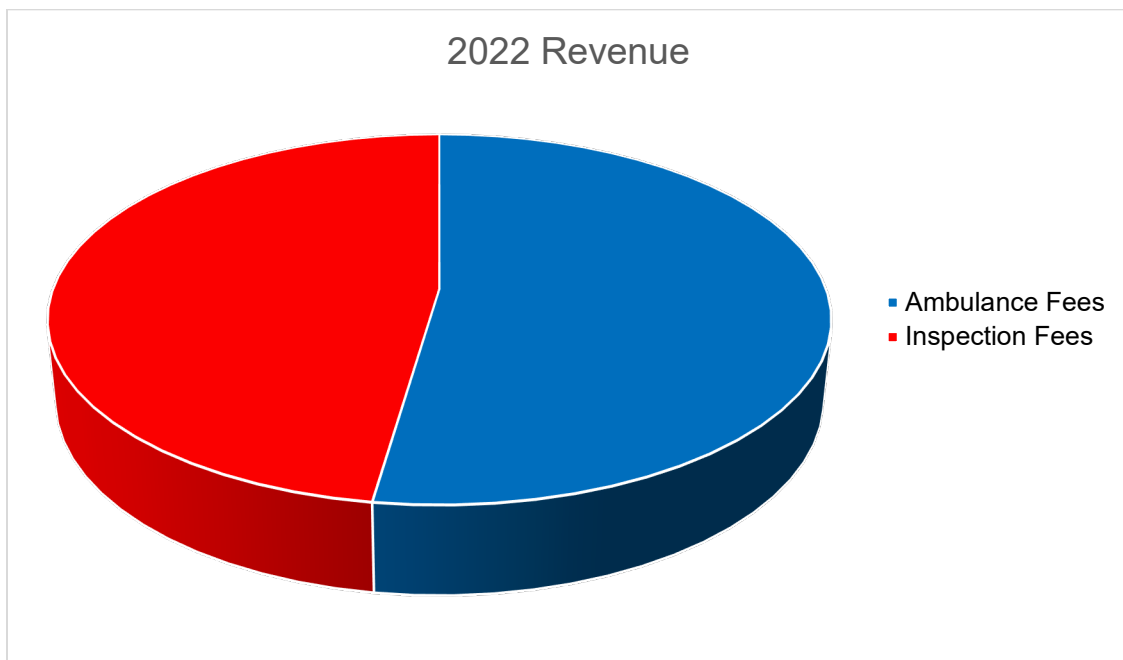


2022 Revenue

The Wildwood City Fire Department offsets many of the costs associated with the services we provide through various fees and permits. The department contracts with a billing agency to administer the fee collection associated with ambulance services.

The fire prevention fees are collected “in-house” with our administrative support staff located in Fire Headquarters.

In 2022, the Wildwood City Fire Department collected a total of **\$784,347.72**.



Fire Safety & Housing Inspection:	\$373,988.08
Emergency Medical Services:	<u>\$410,359.64</u>

Total Revenue for 2022:	\$784,347.72
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Achievements: 2022

- Applied for an American Rescue Plan Firefighters Grant through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. Awarded grant in the amount of \$49,000.00 for the purchase of firefighter personal protective equipment.
- Took delivery of new Ambulance 3-2, purchased through CARES Act funding and placed unit in service.
- Place new turnout gear extractor in service that was awarded through a Leary Firefighters Foundation grant.
- Placed new portable radios awarded from a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant in service.
- Developed an Island-Wide Mass-Casualty Incident Response Committee, spearheaded by Firefighter Brendan Phillips.
- Conducted in-house New Jersey Fire Official certification course.
- Continued and expanded all of our community outreach programs including the Adopt-A-School program.
- Successfully staffed the Barefoot County Music Festival.
- Reviewed and updated several policies and procedures.

Goals/Objectives: 2023

- Apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant to replace our 27-year old Engine Co. 3.
- Apply for FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants for the hiring of four additional career firefighters.
- Continue and expand all of our community outreach programs.
- Purchase personal protective equipment awarded through American Rescue Plan Firefighters grant and place same in service.
- Review and update Departmental policies and procedures manual.
- Start development of a written Strategic Plan for the Department.
- Implement an Island-Wide Mass Casualty Incident response guideline and conduct related training.

A Final Word

The Wildwood City Fire Department is dedicated to serving the residents, visitors and community of the City of Wildwood.

The Fire Department continues to explore methods to enhance and improve our services. We always welcome comments from our citizens.

For additional information on the department and the services we provide please visit our social media outlets:



City of Wildwood Website:

<http://wildwoodnj.org/wp/>



Department Website:

<http://wildwoodfiredept.com/>



[@TheShoreHouse38](#)



https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodCityFD/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel



Instagram

[@wildwoodfiredept.](#)

Contact Information

Administration:

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Amelia Ianiro - aianiro@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2028
Administrations Fax # -	609-522-4965

Fire Prevention Bureau:

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Fire Inspector Mark Allen - mallen@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2031
Kelly Sweger - ksweger@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2030

Fire Stations:

Headquarters Phone (non-emergency) -	609-522-1110
A Platoon - Captain Robert Feltwell - B Platoon - Captain Matt Johnson - C Platoon - Captain James Grauel - D Platoon - Captain Aldo Sacco -	rfeltwell@wildwoodnj.org mjohnson@wildwoodnj.org jgrauel@wildwoodnj.org asacco@wildwoodnj.org
Headquarters Fax # -	609-729-7206
Station 3-1 - (4310 Washington Avenue)	609-522-0005
Station 3-2 - (111 E. Pine Ave.)	609-522-2654

Appendix

Firefighter Response Commendation

Criteria: This is awarded annually to the firefighter who responded to the highest number of fire related incidents during the year.

During 2019 the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 1604 fire related incidents. These vary from activated fire alarms, motor vehicle crashes to dwelling or building fires.

The 2019 Recipient of the Firefighter Response Award is DFC Daniel Dunn who responded to 369 fire related calls during the year. DFC Dunn began his career as a part-time Firefighter in 1999, was hired full-time in January, 2004, was promoted to Captain in November 2016, and Deputy Chief in April 2020. DFC Dunn also received this award for the years 2017 and 2018.

During 2020 the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 1722 fire related incidents.

The 2020 Recipient of the Firefighter Response Award is Captain Robert Feltwell who responded to 377 fire related calls during the year. Captain Feltwell began his career as a part-time Firefighter in 2003, hired full-time in June 2005, and was promoted to Captain in May 2020.

During 2021 the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 1812 fire related incidents.

The 2021 Recipient of the Firefighter Response Award is Firefighter Joseph McCauley who responded to 497 fire related calls during the year. Firefighter McCauley joined the Volunteer Duty Crew program in 2021 and became a part-time Firefighter/EMT in May, 2022.

EMS Response Commendation

Criteria: This is awarded annually to the firefighter who responded to the highest number of EMS related incidents during the year.

During 2019 The City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 2224 EMS related incidents.

The 2019 Recipient of the EMS Response Award is Firefighter David Speigel who responded to 343 medical calls. Firefighter Speigel began his career in November 2016 and is currently assigned to the Delta Platoon.

During 2020 The City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 2303 EMS related incidents.

The 2020 Recipient of the EMS Response Award is Firefighter Chad Alvarado who responded to 366 medical calls. Firefighter Alvarado began his career as a part-time Firefighter/EMT in May 2017 and was hired full-time in January 2019. Firefighter Alvarado is currently assigned to the Alpha Platoon.

During 2021 The City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 2597 EMS related incidents.

The 2021 Recipient of the EMS Response Award is Part-Time Firefighter/EMT Hunter John who responded to 520 medical calls. Firefighter John was hired as a part-time Firefighter/EMT in May 2020 and is currently assigned to the B Platoon.

Wildwood City Fire Department

Administrative Commendation

Criteria: This is awarded to a member of the department who has contributed an excessive amount of time and effort into increasing the efficiency of the department.

Communications are a critical link in public safety. This member has been handling the City's radio maintenance program for several years. This individual has sought out ways to increase the efficiency and operational capacity of our local public safety communication system. This work has saved the City taxpayers thousands of dollars in expenses over the years.

The Recipient of the Administrative Award is Captain Aldo Sacco Jr. Captain Sacco was hired in May 1995 and was promoted to Captain in August 2011.

Criteria: This is awarded to a member of the department who has contributed an excessive amount of time and effort into increasing the efficiency of the department.

Our apparatus and vehicle fleet is another critical part of our operations and vital to carrying out our daily mission. Without well maintained apparatus and vehicles we would not be able to function at the level that we do. This member has been tasked with handling our fleet maintenance program for the past three years. He brings his experience and expertise as a certified auto mechanic which allows him to excel in this role. This individual has saved City taxpayers thousands of dollars and has greatly increased the efficiency of our fleet maintenance program.

The Recipient of the Administrative Award is Firefighter John Snyder. Firefighter Snyder was hired in January 2018 and is currently assigned to the Bravo Platoon.

Exceptional Duty Commendation

Criteria: This is awarded to a member of the department for the highly credible accomplishment of bringing public acclaim to the department or fire service as a result of devotion to duty.

The recipient of this award has taken his years of experience as an ocean lifeguard to take our Department's and island water rescue training program to the next level. He has devoted countless hours of his own time to developing training programs for our local Fire, EMS, Police, and Beach Patrols. His dedication to this program has undoubtedly resulted in numerous civilian lives being saved by our local first responders due to the high caliber training received.

The Recipient of the Exceptional Duty Award is Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski. Firefighter Kobierowski began his career as a part-time Firefighter/EMT in 2012 and was hired full-time in July 2014. Firefighter Kobierowski is currently assigned to the C Platoon.

Wildwood City Fire Department

Lifesaving Commendation

Criteria: To receive the Lifesaving Medal, the firefighter(s) must be a member of the department who is principally involved in saving the life of another person and whose personal actions were directly responsible for saving that life. (Non-EMS)

On September 14, 2019 just after shift change at 6:00 p.m. a major deck collapse occurred at 222 E. Baker Ave. The 2nd floor deck collapsed resulting in a pancake collapse of all decks down to the ground. There were several people on those decks when the collapse occurred. The members of D Platoon who were working including Firefighter Gerard Vessels who was the Officer-in-charge arrived quickly and began immediate rescue efforts for those trapped in the rubble pile. Additional personnel arrived and assisted with this effort which included setting up and air bag lifting operation to lift the decks off of one victim who was trapped beneath and in critical condition. The members worked together as a cohesive team and were able to remove the trapped victim within 15 minutes of arrival. The victim was flown by Medevac to a Trauma Center and survived the incident. Without these members quick actions the outcome for this victim could have been tragic.

The following individuals are awarded the Lifesaving Medal for their personal actions in saving this victim's life:

Firefighter William Cripps
Firefighter Gerard Vessels
Firefighter Ryan Troiano
Firefighter Richard Harron Jr.
Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski
Firefighter Nick Palmer
Firefighter Brendan Phillips
Firefighter Rayquan Walker
Firefighter David Spiegel
Firefighter Jacob Spiegel
Firefighter Will Gaskill
Firefighter Michael Brown III

Lifesaving Commendation

Criteria: To receive the Lifesaving Medal, the firefighter(s) must be a member of the department who is principally involved in saving the life of another person and whose personal actions were directly responsible for saving that life. (Non-EMS)

On July 21, 2020 as WFD personnel were on their way to the beach for water rescue training, they were dispatched to Cresse Ave. and the Beach for a water rescue. Upon arrival personnel saw two people in the water in distress. One female victim had already been pushed to safety by her father who was unable to get himself out. A bystander, Mr. Aaron McCoy, commandeered a boogie board in an attempt to rescue the father. However, the Good Samaritan became a victim himself. Firefighter Brendan Phillips, Firefighter John Snyder, and Firefighter Kevin Kelly entered the water and successfully rescued the two victims from the ocean. Thanks to their quick actions no lives were lost in an incident that easily could have been tragic.

The following individuals are awarded the Lifesaving Medal for their personal actions in saving these victims lives:

Firefighter Brendan Phillips
Firefighter John Snyder
Firefighter Kevin Kelly

Wildwood City Fire Department

Commendation Citation

Criteria: The Commendation Citation medal is presented to a group of firefighters who act as a team in supporting a lifesaving rescue operation involving human life.

On September 14, 2019 just after shift change at 6:00 p.m. a major deck collapse occurred at 222 E. Baker Ave. The 2nd floor deck collapsed resulting in a pancake collapse of the decks down to the ground. There were several people on those decks when the collapse occurred. The members of D Platoon who were working including Firefighter Gerard Vessels who was the Officer-in-charge arrived quickly and began immediate rescue efforts for those trapped in the rubble pile. Additional personnel arrived and assisted with this effort which included setting up and air bag lifting operation to lift the decks off of one victim who was trapped beneath and in critical condition. The members worked together as a cohesive team and were able to remove the trapped victim within 15 minutes of arrival. The victim was flown by Medevac to a Trauma Center and survived the incident. Without these members quick actions the outcome for this victim could have been tragic.

The following individuals are awarded the Commendation Citation for their actions taken at this incident:

Chief Daniel Speigel (ret.)
Chief Ernest Troiano III
Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn
Battalion Chief Ernest Troiano Jr.
Captain Aldo Sacco Jr.
Captain Matthew Johnson
Captain Robert Feltwell
Firefighter Adam Feltwell
Firefighter David Bannon
Firefighter Tina Sacco
Firefighter John Snyder
Firefighter John Sharp
Firefighter Chad Alvarado
Firefighter Jeremy Embs

EMS Lifesaving Award

Criteria: To receive the EMS lifesaving commendation, the firefighter(s) must be a member of the department who are principally involved in saving the life of another person and whose personal actions were directly responsible for saving that life.

On October 6, 2018 the WFD was dispatched to the area of Spencer and the Beach for the report of a motorized paraglider aircraft down. Upon arrival personnel found the victim in very critical condition. The members worked as a team to quickly package the patient and begin transport to the Trauma Center in Atlantic City. During transport the victim suffered cardiac arrest but was successfully resuscitated and ultimately survived the incident.

The Citation for EMS Lifesaving is being awarded to Firefighters Tina Sacco and John Sharp. This is the first EMS Lifesaving Medal for Firefighters Sacco and Sharp.

Wildwood City Fire Department

EMS Unit Citation

Criteria: The EMS Unit Citation medal is presented to a group of firefighters or EMT's who act as a team in effecting a rescue involving human life during an emergency medical call.

On October 6, 2018 the WFD was dispatched to the area of Spencer and the Beach for the report of a motorized paraglider aircraft down. Upon arrival personnel found the victim unconscious and in very critical condition. Arriving members cut the harness and parachute away from the victim. They conducted a rapid trauma assessment and quickly packaged the patient for transport. The patient was transported to the street end where Firefighters Tina Sacco and John Sharp were waiting with ALS to transport the patient to the trauma center. Although the patient suffered cardiac arrest during transport, the patient was resuscitated and survived the incident.

The EMS Unit Citation is being awarded to the following members for their quick actions at the scene of the crash on the beach. Without their actions the outcome for this victim could have been tragic:

Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn

Captain Aldo Sacco Jr.

Firefighter Brendan Phillips

Firefighter Jacob Spiegel

Fire Inspector Sean McDevitt

EMS Lifesaving Award

Criteria: To receive the EMS lifesaving commendation, the firefighter(s) must be a member of the department who are principally involved in saving the life of another person and whose personal actions were directly responsible for saving that life.

On March 28, 2019 members of the C-Platoon were just completing a fire safety inspection at the Rio Grande Avenue Wawa when crew members overheard a patron asking the cashier to call 9-1-1 because there was someone passed out in the bathroom.

Firefighters Gerry Vessels and Sean Stanton immediately went to the bathroom finding the subject in a locked bathroom stall. Firefighter Vessels radioed for the ambulance, which was out front of the store, of his findings and to bring in medical equipment. Firefighter Vessels then climbed over the stall wall to gain access, unlocked the door, and pulled the 80 year old patient out. A quick evaluation determined the patient was in cardiac arrest. CPR was initiated by Firefighters Vessels and Stanton. Firefighters Rich Harron and Brendan Phillips arrived and applied an AED. A total of two shocks were delivered restoring the patient's pulses who then began to breathe on his own.

Without these firefighters being at this location performing their duties at this exact time along with their quick actions gaining access to the patient behind the locked stall door the outcome could have been grave.

Prior to transport the patient was conscious, oriented, and speaking to those who had just saved his life. The patient was transported to Atlantic City Medical Center- Mainland Campus where he was eventually released.

The Citation for EMS Lifesaving is being awarded to the following members for their actions in saving the life of this cardiac arrest victim. This is the first EMS Lifesaving Award for Firefighter Phillips and the second award for Firefighters Vessels and Harron. Firefighter

Wildwood City Fire Department

Stanton is now full-time with the North Wildwood Fire Department.

Firefighter Gerard Vessels
Firefighter Richard Harron Jr.
Firefighter Brendan Phillips
Firefighter Sean Stanton

Disaster Commendation

Criteria: To receive the Disaster Commendation the member(s) of the department must be on duty serving the public during any natural disaster recognized by the Department or City.

On June 24, 2021 at approximately 1:22 a.m. the 12-story high rise, Champlain Towers in Surfside, FL suddenly collapsed. It was unknown how many people were possibly trapped in the large rubble pile. On July 1, 2021 New Jersey State Urban Search & Rescue Team, NJ-TF1 was activated to respond to assist with searching the debris pile. Captain Matthew Johnson responded as a member of NJ-TF 1 and worked at the site until returning to New Jersey on July 17, 2021. 98 residents were killed in the collapse and another 11 were injured.

The Disaster Commendation is awarded to Captain Matthew Johnson for his response to this disaster in service to not only the State of New Jersey but our entire country.

Disaster Commendation

Criteria: To receive the Disaster Commendation the member(s) of the department must be on duty serving the public during any natural disaster recognized by the Department or City.

On August 27, 2021 New Jersey State Urban Search & Rescue, NJ-TF 1 was activated to respond to the State of Louisiana in response to Hurricane Ida. Captain Matthew Jonson and Firefighter Richard Harron Jr. were deployed with the team. NJ-TF 1 arrived and staged in Fairfax County, VA but their resources ultimately were not required. They were directed to return to New Jersey where then post-tropical cyclone Ida wreaked havoc causing tornadoes and record flooding. Firefighter Harron was sent to the City of Elizabeth where he conducted search and rescue operations in flooded homes and apartments. Captain Johnson was sent to Wall Township where he supported the operations with logistics. Hurricane Ida became the 4th costliest Atlantic Hurricane in the United States history with 87 deaths, including 29 in the State of New Jersey.

The Disaster Commendation is awarded to Captain Matthew Johnson and Firefighter Richard Harron Jr. for their response to this disaster in service to not only the State of New Jersey but our entire country.

Wildwood City Fire Department

Disaster Commendation

Criteria: To receive the Disaster Commendation the member(s) of the department must be on duty serving the public during any natural disaster recognized by the Department or City.

On September 1, 2021 the Cape May County Urban Search & Rescue Team (CMC USAR) was requested to respond mutual aid to Somerset County, New Jersey to assist with swiftwater flood rescues as a result of record flooding taking place due to the heavy rains from post-tropical cyclone Ida. While enroute to Somerset County the responding team members encountered a victim trapped on the roof of his car in fast moving flood waters. The crew assisted Trenton FD with rescuing the trapped victim. The team then was requested to assist with evacuating a motel in Lawrenceville that was being overtaken by flood waters. The crew rescued multiple occupants of the motel and got them to safety. The team then continued their response to Somerset County where they arrived and were deployed into the Borough of Manville to conduct flood water search and rescue operations. The Borough of Manville was hit particularly hard by the record flooding. Team members began operations in Manville around 10:00 a.m. the morning of September 2, 2021. The initial crew continued operating until about 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. The relief crew arrived and continued operations until after 9:00 p.m. The members of the CMC USAR team rescued 271 people and 43 pets during the operation and completed searches of 75 homes in Manville and the motel in Lawrenceville.

The Disaster Commendation is being awarded to the following members of the department who responded as members of the Cape May County Urban Search & Rescue Team for their response and actions to this disaster:

Chief Ernest Troiano III
Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn
Captain Robert Feltwell
Firefighter William Cripps
Firefighter Ryan Troiano
Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski
Firefighter Nicholas Palmer
Firefighter John Snyder

The Civilian Lifesaving Award

Criteria: To receive the Civilian Lifesaving Award, the recipient may not be an active member of the department, but whose actions taken at a fire, rescue, or emergency medical incident resulted in human lives being saved by their direct actions.

On September 14, 2019 a major deck collapse occurred at 222 E. Baker Ave. in the City of Wildwood. This incident took place during the New Jersey State Firefighters Convention and several visiting firefighters were in the building and on the decks when the collapse occurred. On the second floor deck there was a 3 year old girl. Mr. Ryan Healy, a volunteer firefighter from the Branchville, NJ Fire Dept., was in the building when he heard the noise of the collapsing decks. He saw the child and quickly grabbed her and pulled her inside seconds before the 3rd floor deck came crashing down. His quick thinking and heroic actions definitely saved the little girl from serious injury or even worse. His actions are extremely commendable and speak to his character.

The recipient of the Civilian Lifesaving Award is presented to Mr. Ryan Healy of the Branchville Hose Company # 1 in Branchville, N.J.

Wildwood City Fire Department

The Civilian Service Award

Criteria: To receive the Civilian Service Award, the recipient may not be an active member of the department, but volunteered his or her own time to help serve the department in a non-operational roll and assist the department in a highly commendable manner. This person has also made a positive impact on the community through their countless effort, dedication, and kind acts.

This young woman has volunteered her time to sing our great National Anthem at many of our Department Events and community events. Not only is she a talented vocalist but an upstanding young member of the local community and an Honors student at Wildwood High School. Monica is a WHS Cheerleader and a member of the Track and Field team. Monica holds the title of Miss South Shores Outstanding Teen and is currently competing for the title of Miss New Jersey Teen.

The recipient of the Civilian Service Award is presented to Ms. Monica Kobierowski. Monica is the daughter of Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski and his wife Lisa.

The Civilian Service Award

Criteria: To receive the Civilian Service Award, the recipient may not be an active member of the department, but volunteered his or her own time to help serve the department in a non-operational roll and assist the department in a highly commendable manner. This person has also made a positive impact on the community through their countless effort, dedication, and kind acts.

This individual has spent countless hours volunteering her time to serve as the Chairperson for the New Jersey Critical Incident Stress Management Team. In this role, she has responded numerous times to conduct critical incident stress debriefings for our department after serious incidents. Her dedication, care, and compassion are unmatched.

The recipient of the Civilian Service Award is presented to Mrs. Diana Brunell. Diana is a retired WCPD Dispatcher and former Wildwood Crest EMT.