

Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company

424 Route 106, Greenfield Township, PA 18407



2006 Annual Report

January 1, 2007



**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
2006 Annual Report**

Greenfield Township Board of Supervisors
424 Route 106
Greenfield Township, PA 18407

January 1, 2007

I am pleased to provide you with the following report of the Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company activities for the year 2006.

Response Experience

During 2006, we experienced 8 percent increase in responses from the previous year, resulting in 393 calls for assistance. This represents a 36.9% increase in call volume from the year 1996.

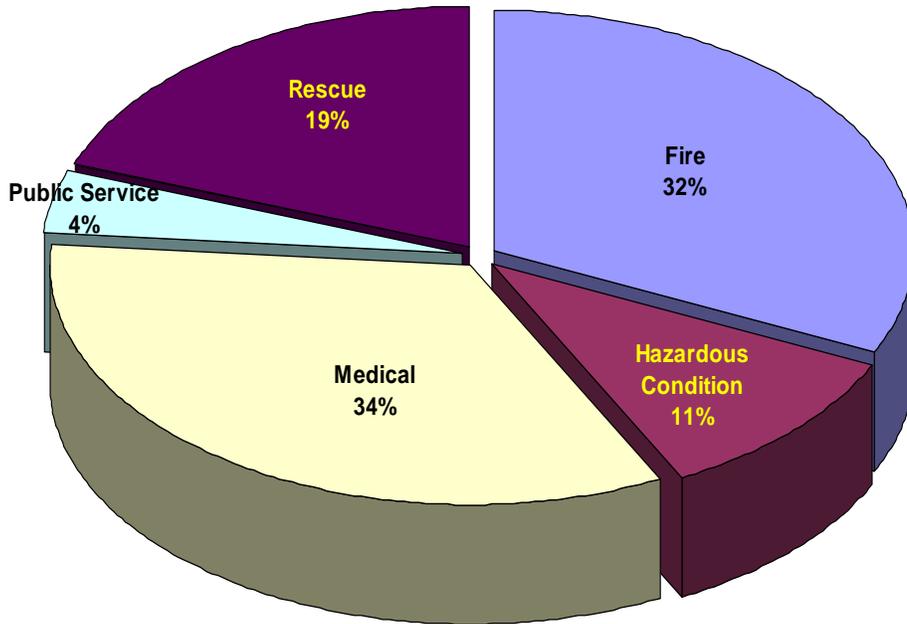
The responses for 2006 are summarized as follows:

Type	Count	Percent	Type	Count	Percent
Fire			Hazardous Condition		
Brush/Grass/Trash	10	2.5%	Carbon monoxide incident	2	0.5%
Building	42	10.7%	Chemical hazard	9	2.3%
Chimney or Furnace	7	1.8%	Flammable Liquid or LPG leak/spill	4	1.0%
False Alarm	37	9.4%	Flood assessment	10	2.5%
Mutual Aid Drill	12	3.1%	Power line down	10	2.5%
Vehicle	17	4.3%	Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	7	1.8%
Sub Total	125	31.8%	Sub Total	42	10.7%
Medical			Public Service		
Medical Emergency	106	27.0%	Assist police or governmental agency	5	1.3%
Standby, Non-emergency	27	6.9%	Public service	5	1.3%
Sub Total	133	33.8	Water Removal	7	1.8%
Rescue			Sub Total	17	4.3%
Animal rescue	2	0.5%			
Lock-out/In Vehicle	1	0.3%			
Missing Person Search	1	0.3%			
Motor vehicle accident	71	18.1%			
Water Related Rescue	1	0.3%			
Sub Total	76	19.3			



Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 2006 Annual Report

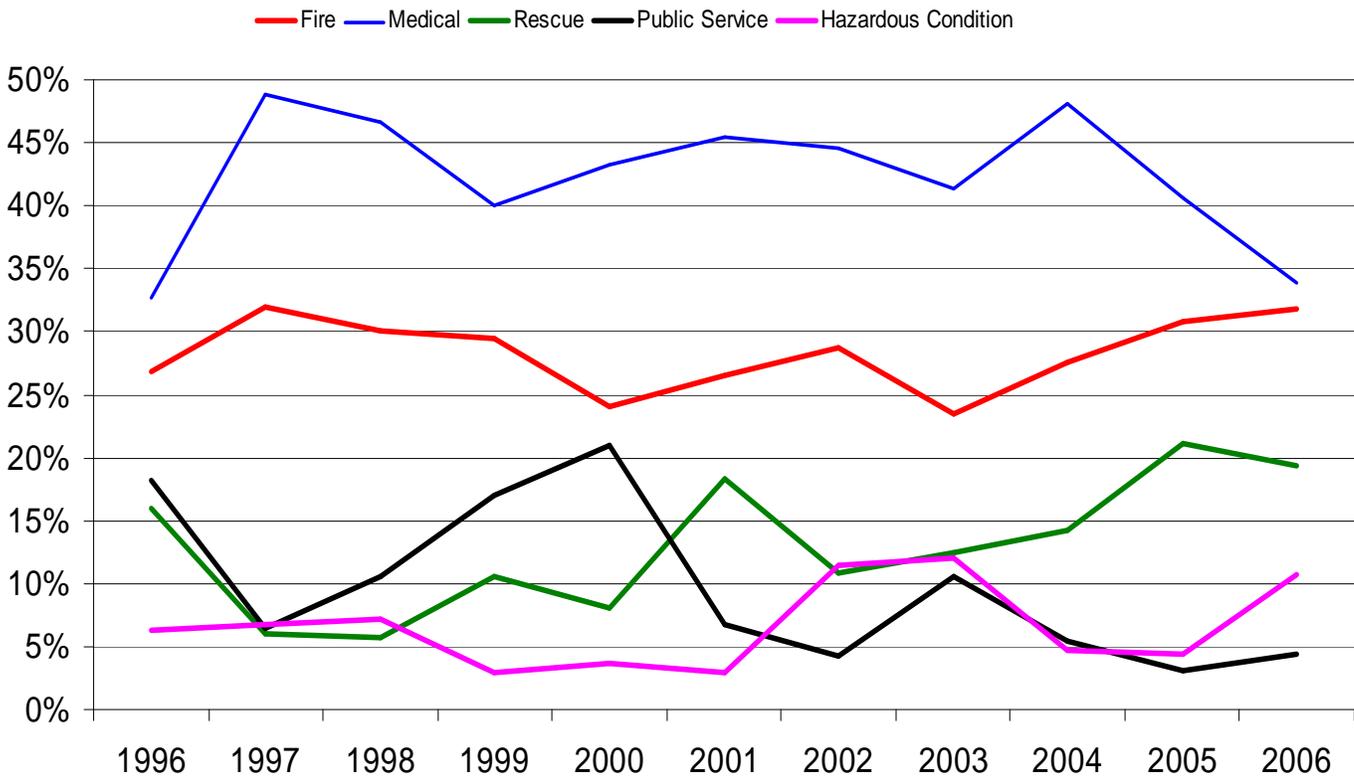
2006 Incidents by Major Type



Several notable trends have developed over the last 3 to 4 years, including a gradual decrease in the percentage Medical calls (i.e., non-accident related).

While the total number department responses have increased the percentage of calls by major type, (i.e. Rescue, Public Service, etc.) have shifted.

10 year Incident Trend, by Major Category





**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
2006 Annual Report**

Mutual Aid

We continue to work closely with surrounding fire departments to share resources and maximize the service provided to the public. By pooling resources, we have been able to maintain a high level of service while minimizing operational expenses. Because of these strong working relationships, 52.7% of our responses are outside of the Township.

Out of Township Response Profile**

Community	% of Responses	Community	% of Responses
Clifford/Lenox Township	23.2	Carbondale City	4.3
Scott Township	11.7	Carbondale Township	3.1
Fell Twp.	2.8	Other*	7.6

*represents responses to 18 other communities

**percentage of total responses

Greenfield Township Response Profile**

District	% of Responses	District	% of Responses
South of Hickory Ridge	15.5	Newton/Crystal Lake	16.3
North of Hickory Ridge	7.9	Finch Hill	7.6

**percentage of total responses

While Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company does use its resources to support other communities, they in turn support our citizens. With the decline in volunteers over the last decade, communities must join forces, to provide service. The following is a list of the organizations routinely responding to assist Greenfield in 2006; this list is not all-inclusive.

- Carbondale City Fire Department
- Clifford Fire Co
- Community Life Support
- Cottage Hose Co (ALS)
- Fell Township Fire Department
- Fleetville Fire Company
- Forest City Fire Department
- Harford Fire Company
- Justus Fire Department

- Lackawanna Ambulance (ALS)
- LIFE FLIGHT
- Mayfield Fire Dept
- Meredith Hose Company
- Network Ambulance (ALS)
- PA State Police
- Scott Township
- Uniondale Fire Company
- William Walker Hose Co

Response Profile

In reviewing occupancy classes of our response volume, we find that 40.5% of our responses are to residential locations. The remaining responses are outside properties (i.e., streets, roads, fields,) 35.4%; Assembly Occupancies 9.2%; Storage occupancy 4.8%; and all others being 10.1%

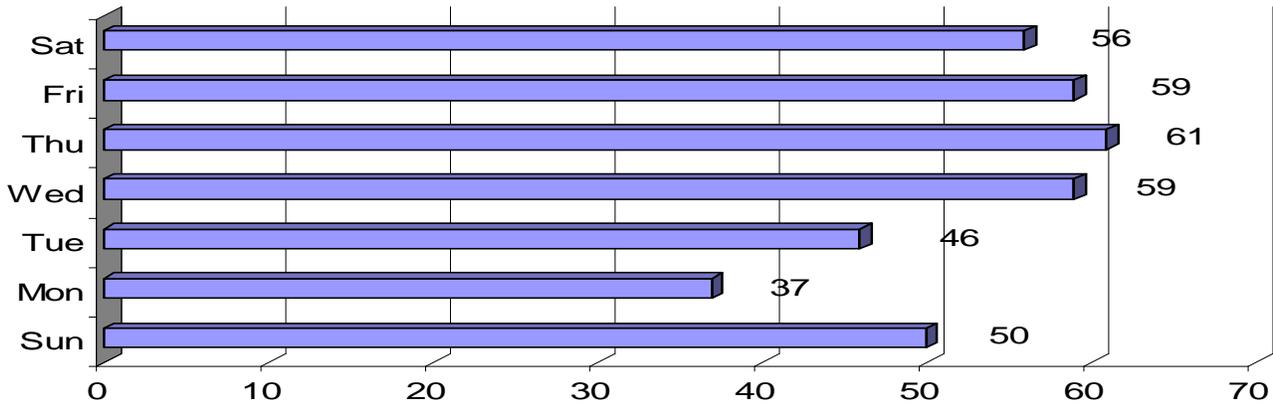
Call Distribution

In reviewing the 2006 experience, we find that the Friday has the highest frequency of responses, followed by Thursday; then Wednesday and Saturday. However, that includes public service calls and planned events. When non-emergency responses are removed from the data, Tuesday becomes the heaviest call day.



Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 2006 Annual Report

**Incidents Responses (%) by Day of Week,
Non Emergency Standbys removed.**



Further, the greatest call volume occurs during the day light hours (7am through 4pm). This period represents a significant challenge in that the lowest staffing period for the volunteer fire service is the traditional 1st shift period.

Call Volume by Time of Day

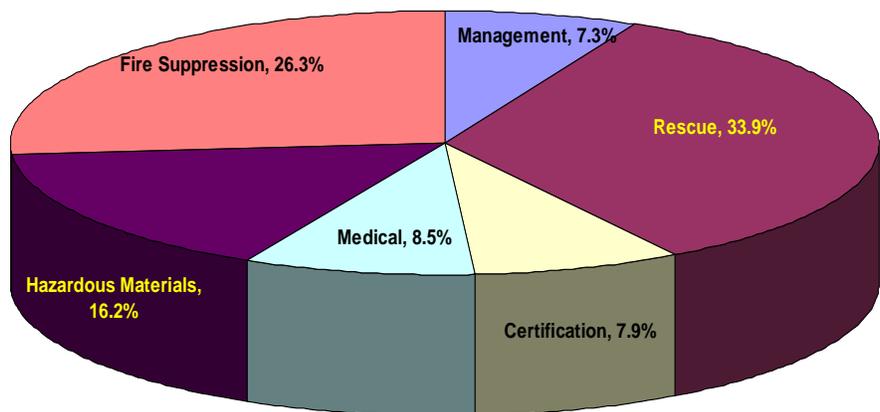


Training

Our training was focused on sharpening skills in fire suppression, management, and rescue. Our members participated in a wide variety of programs, each designed to enhance the response capabilities of the Township.

These efforts resulted in membership completing 1,322 hours of training during 2006.

2006 Training





**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
2006 Annual Report**

Certifications

Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company has long been an advocate of emergency responder certification. We are exceptionally pleased to report that our members collectively achieved 26 national certifications to date, including:

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ)

The NBFSPQ provides recognition and certification of fire fighters and other related emergency responders. Certification shows that the fire fighter has demonstrated proficiency and an ability to do the job in accordance with nationally recognized standards published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Certification	# of Members*
NFPA 1001, Fire Fighter - Level 1	20
Fire Fighter - Level 2	19
NFPA 1002: Driver/Operator - Pumper	7
Driver/Operator - Tanker	3
NFPA 1006, Rescue Technician - Vehicle and Machinery	12
Rescue Technician - Confined Space	12
NFPA 1021: Fire Officer - Level 1	2
Fire Officer - Level 2	2
Fire Officer - Level 3	1
NFPA 1041: Fire Service Instructor - Level 1	5
Fire Service Instructor - Level 2	5
Fire Service Instructor - Level 3	1
NFPA 472: Responder to Hazardous Materials Incidents - Awareness	30
Responder to Hazardous Materials Incidents - Operations	20
Responder to Hazardous Materials Incidents - Technician	3
NFPA 1031, Fire Inspector - Level 1	1
Fire Inspector - Level 2	1
NFPA 1521, Incident Safety Officer	2
Health and Safety Officer	2

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

The NFPA provides recognition and certification of professionals involved in fire protection and inspection through certification programs. Certification shows that the fire service professional has demonstrated advanced proficiency, knowledge, and skills in the field of fire protection and prevention.

Certification	# of Members*
Certified Fire Protection Specialist Board (CFPS)	1
Certified Fire Inspector (CFI)	1

International Codes Council (ICC)

The ICC provides recognition and certification of professionals involved in fire protection and inspection through certification programs. Certification shows that the fire service professional has demonstrated advanced proficiency, knowledge, and skills in the field of fire protection and prevention.

Certification	# of Members*
Fire Inspector I	1
Fire Inspector II	1



**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
2006 Annual Report**

Pennsylvania Department of Health - Emergency Medical Services

The Department of Health is the lead agency for emergency medical services (EMS) providing training and certification of emergency medical service providers. Certification shows that the fire service professional has demonstrated proficiency, knowledge, and skills in pre-hospital emergency care.

Certification	# of Members*
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	14
Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician	10
Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic (EMT-P)	2

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

PEMA is the lead agency for emergency response to the release of radiological materials, providing training and certification of responders. Certification shows that the responder has demonstrated proficiency, knowledge, and skills for responding to radiological incidents.

Certification	# of Members*
Radiological Monitor	7
Radiological Monitoring Officer	3

* Many members hold multiple certifications, thus total do not reflect the total number of active company members.

Equipment

In November, we replaced our outmoded radios with new units that will allow us to communicate effectively over the multiple counties and frequency ranges we need to operate. This project was funded by a grant of slightly more than \$21,000 from the federal government. Without government funding, the fire company would not have had sufficient funds available to complete the project for nearly 5 years. Additionally, the federal aid, freed up monies that have now been used to replace pagers that no longer were repairable.

Lastly, we purchased a used air compressor from a regional fire department. This compressor is being used to fill our in house breathing air cascade. On average, we are running the system 10 hours per month. Having our own air system has not only been a great time saver for our department, we have been able to aide our sister departments by filling their mobile air sources.

Apparatus Responses

Greenfield Township equipment responded to calls for assistance as follows:

Unit	Total Responses	Total Hours	Total Miles
Ambulance 24-9	207	262	2,005
Ambulance 24-8	42	712	242
Engine 24	196	264	1,725
Tanker 24	65	81	581
Decon 24	10	33	282
Car 24	22	40	281

Several significant changes to the fleet have occurred or are in process.

Ambulance 24-8

The first being a decision to retire Ambulance 24-8 from service. This unit was originally part of a three-ambulance fleet that was needed due to our obligations to Hurricane Hills Motocross Track. In the past, we



Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 2006 Annual Report

provided ambulance service to the motocross track. Providing that service meant keeping two ambulances at the track during a race and an ambulance in-service to respond to Township emergencies. Last year (2005), we determined that we lack sufficient staff to provide the motocross track service and remain available for emergencies in the township. Simply, put there was more work than we could provide staff for.

Thus, we had to step away from the motocross track service and allow a paid ambulance service to take over coverage of that facility. Sadly, the loss of revenue from the motocross track will significantly hamper the ambulance service. That decision resulted in one ambulance being sold in the spring of 2006. In November, after several weeks of study, the membership agreed that we lacked sufficient staff and call volume to warrant maintaining a second ambulance, and that unit (Ambulance 24-8) is to be sold also. That will return the department to a single Ambulance, which is more than sufficient to meet the call volume. (See the 10-year trend chart on Page 2)

Tanker 24

Tanker 24 is undergoing a pump upgrade that should be completed in January of 2007. This upgrade is part of a change in the way we shall deliver service. Currently Greenfield is operating a 1995 tanker with a 500-gpm pump. Our normal operational mode is for the engine to lay into the fire from a cross street, and the tanker to provide a nurse. In many circumstance the 500-gpm delivery rate is sufficient to control and extinguish the fire. However, when larger flows are required, or greater application time is required, a full tanker dumpsite must be erected. This requires the tanker to be shut down and moved out, folding ponds to be placed and an additional engine put in place to supply water.

Experience has show that when this occurs up to 10 mins of time is lost. This loss of water often results in a fire that was well under control, regaining a lead while the water supply is interrupted. While the 1995 tanker is in outstanding shape, the small pump is not sufficient for the demand we face. Upgrading the pump to 1,500 gpm, will allow the tanker to remain in place during a nurse operational and rapidly set up a tanker dumpsite, with the tanker acting as the supply. This eliminates one engine from the scene and only requires a tanker to be added to the alarm to cover for the loss of ours.

Decon 24

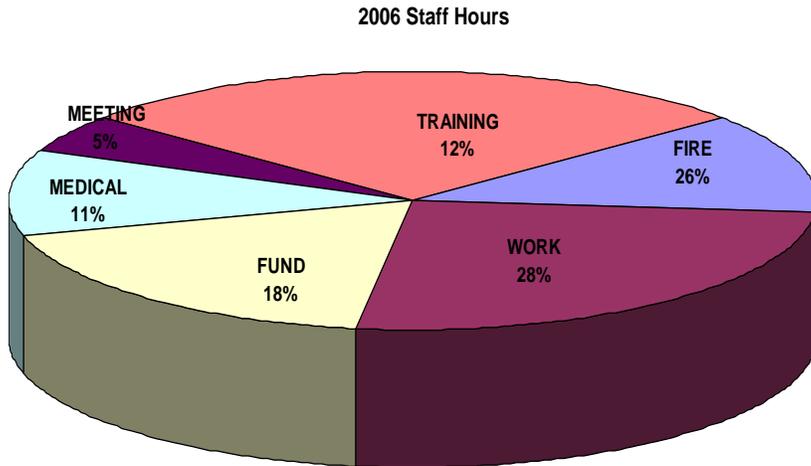
Over the last several years, the number of responses to hazardous materials incidents has grown significantly (See the 10-year Trend Chart on Page 2). The bulk of this growth has been in the area of decontamination services. While, this service is not a significant concern for Township Residents, our commitment to the region goes back to 1999 when we placed the first decontamination unit (prior to our unit there were no decon services available in a an 8 county area) in service. Since that time, we have transitioned though two different trailers, each time out growing the space available.

Last year (2005) we also became concerned that as the volume of responses increased, so too would the risks associated with towing a trailer. Thus, we choose to move into a delivery truck to provide more space, a reduced rollout time, and a place for the staff to ride and dress. That unit went in service during August of this year and has already responded to two incidents.



Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 2006 Annual Report

Membership



One of the greatest challenges facing the emergency services is the declining volunteer base. The members donated 10,693 hours of their time to provide services to the residents of Greenfield Township during 2006. By comparison, no other civic organization gives as many or as difficult hours as the members of our company. This is equal to five full time equivalent employees. Based on the average wage and benefit rate for the fire service these members have saved the community approximately \$230,000.

The commitment of these 28 people to the community is outstanding, but they are severely overtaxed. As we look to the growth of the Township, our single greatest challenge will be people. The current membership is over extended, and needs to be supplemented, with additional people.

The burden of fund raising has placed a strain on the membership. Collectively fund raisings efforts consume more time than training does. This leads to emergency workers being burned out from over work. Several studies have shown that young people who are asked to train and provide a service to their community are more likely to do so if they are not required to raise money. In a similar fashion, the drop rate in volunteer departments increases proportionately with the volume of fund raising events, and not the volume of emergency calls.

As we move forward, the department and the Supervisors need to re-evaluate the methods by which the service is being funded and look for more cost effective measures to provide for and maintain services. Clearly, the hours being spent on generation of funds, could be better placed into use for training.

Targeted Goals for 2007

We have several goals for 2007, all of which are focused on providing continued service to the Township and our surrounding communities. They are:

Recruitment

Recruitment of additional members needs to be a critical objective for the Township. Without an influx of new members, both for administrative and tactical duties, the fire company will not be able to keep pace with the increasing demand for services (an average of 3.6% increase in call volume each year). We need to recruit at least 12 new members, while retaining existing staff. Specifically we need 5 new members to volunteer for fund raising work, including people who will commit to working the monthly breakfast regularly, 5 new members as drivers for both the fire equipment and the ambulances, 7 new members as interior fire fighters. Recruiting this type of person is challenging due to the amount of time that is required for training and the simple fact that it is dangerous work.



Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 2006 Annual Report

Training

Our training focus for 2007 will be at development of the new recruits and national certification for existing members. As always, we will continue to maintain our professional certifications in Hazardous Materials and Emergency Medical Care. We will be placing a significant amount of resources toward internal training programs designed to teach our members some of the concepts concepts that are more complex related to fire protection engineering.

Closing

The biggest challenge over the next year will be to recruit, train and retain members. It has become increasingly more difficult to recruit members and even harder to retain them. We need every citizen to step forward now, and give a little of his or her time.

We have had a year of transition. We shifted from a heavy ambulance fleet to a more manageable fleet for the available resources and service demand. We moved from a small limited decon trailer, to a fully functional box truck. Lastly, we will see this transitional concepts carry over in to 2007, with a upgrade to the tanker, and some restructuring of the internal workings of the department, with an desire to reduce redundancy, increase our staffing, and reduce overall operational expenses.

The members and officers are grateful that we have enjoyed a strong relationship with the Township Supervisors. In closing, I would like to thank you for the support, trust and encouragement that you have given to the Fire Company.

Respectfully submitted

Fred M. Bales, CFPS, CFI
Chief – Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company.