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# *The Bulldog Bulletin* ®

***Greenfield Township  
Volunteer Fire Company  
(GTVFC)  
Fire/EMS Station 24  
Volume No. 1 Issue No. 9 March 2006***



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# **2005 GTVFC Activities Report**

By F. M. Bales, CFPS—Fire Chief / EMT / Fire Inspector

I am pleased to provide you with the following activities report of the Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company for the year 2005.

## **Response Experience**

During 2005, we experienced an incidental (less than 1%) decrease in responses from the previous year, resulting in **364** calls for assistance. In looking at our 10-year average, this represents an overall 5% increase from our 10-year average. The responses for 2005 are summarized as follows:

Type	Count	Percent	Type	Count	Percent
<b><u>Fire</u></b>			<b><u>Hazardous Condition</u></b>		
Brush/Grass/Trash	14	3.8	Carbon Monoxide	3	0.8
Building fire	38	10.4	Gas Leak	3	0.8
Chimney or Furnace	9	2.5	Oil or Flammable Liquid Spill	2	0.5
Controlled Burn	2	0.5	Chemical Spill or Leak	5	1.4
Relocate/Cover Area	6	1.6	Power line down	3	0.8
Vehicle	8	2.2	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Mutual Aid/Disaster Drill	3	0.8			
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>22.0</b>			

<b><u>Public Service</u></b>			<b><u>False Alarm</u></b>		
Assist Resident	1	0.3	False/Malicious Call	14	3.8
Assist Police	5	1.4	Steam/Dust/Other	4	1.1
Water Removal	3	0.8	System Malfunction	10	2.7
Other Public Service	2	0.5	Wrong Location	4	1.1
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8.8</b>

<b><u>Rescue</u></b>			<b><u>Medical</u></b>		
From Structure	1	0.3	Medical Emergency	111	30.5
Locked Out/In Vehicle	1	0.3	Standby/Cover Calls	37	10.2
Vehicle Accident	75	20.6	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>40.7</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>21.2</b>			

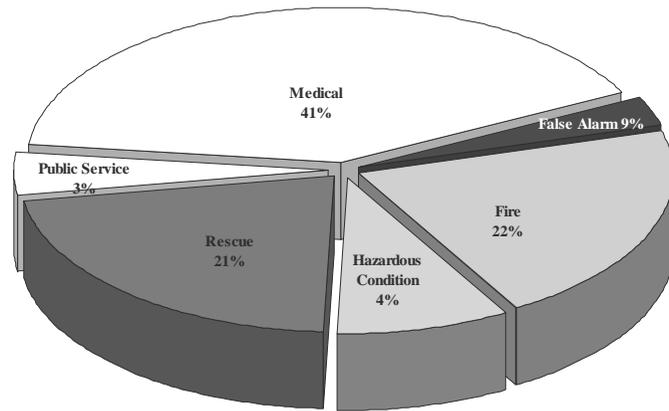
### **Fire Hall Breakfasts**

The last Sunday of every month from 8:00AM to 12:00 Noon. Everyone is welcome! Bring the whole family.

### **The 2006 GTVFC Fund Drive is on!**

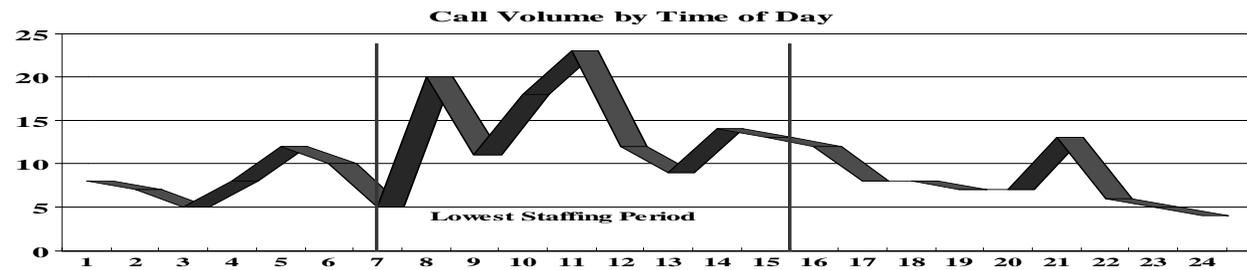
Please support YOUR Fire Co. Remember, YOUR donation is tax deductible!

# 2005 GTVFC Activities Report



Overall, we had a slight (less than 1%) decrease, from last year, in the number of responses. However, we did see a shift toward an increased number of **Rescue** related calls.

In reviewing occupancy classes of our response volume, we find that 43% of our responses are to residential locations. The classification of “Other” groups nine different occupancy types together for simplicity of reporting. In reviewing the 2005 experience, we find that the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) has the highest frequency of responses. However, that includes public service calls and planned events. When non-emergency responses are removed from the data, Tuesday becomes the heaviest call day. 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 1<sup>st</sup> shift period.



## Training/Certifications

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 **2,408 hours** of training during 2005. Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company has long been an advocate of emergency responder certification.

We are exceptionally pleased to report that 9 of our members collectively achieved 26 national certifications this past year. Currently members of the company maintain certifications in the following areas: Many members hold multiple certifications in the following listed areas.

## 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).

NFPA 1001, Fire fighter—Level 1,2; NFPA 1002, Driver/Operator—Pumper, Tanker; NFPA 1006, Rescue technician—Vehicle and Machinery, Confined Space; NFPA 1021, Fire Officer—Levels 1 and 2; NFPA 1041, Fire Service Officer—Levels 1, 2, and 3; NFPA 472, Responder to Hazardous Materials Incidents—Awareness, Operations and Technician; NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector—Levels 1 and 2; NFPA 1521, Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Officer.

## National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

The NFPA provides recognition and certification of professionals involved in fire protections 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.

Certified Fire Protection Specialist Board (CFPS); Certified Fire Inspector

## 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.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician; Emergency Medical Technician—Paramedic (EMT-P)

## 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 events.

Radiological Monitor; Radiological Monitoring Officer

## Membership and Recruitment

One of the greatest challenges facing the emergency services is the declining volunteer base. **The members donated 12,141 hours** of their time to provide services to the residents of Greenfield Township during 2005. By comparison, no other civic organization gives as many or as difficult hours as the members of our company. **This is equal to 6 full time equivalent employees.** Based on the average wage and benefit rate for the fire service these members have saved the community approximately **\$280,000.**

The commitment of these 30 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. Recruitment of additional members needs to be a critical objective for the Township! Without an influx of new members, for both administrative and tactical duties, the fire company will not be able to keep pace with the increasing demand for services. **New members needed specifically: (5) administrative and fund raising, including working the monthly breakfasts regularly; (5) drivers, fire equipment and ambulances; (5) interior fire fighters** (recruiting this type of person is challenging due to the amount of time require for training and the simple fact that it is dangerous work).