

# COLUMBIA BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT



"What makes firefighters courageous in my eyes isn't what they do day in and day out,

It's what they are willing to do at any given moment."

Frank Viscuso

## 2017

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Columbia Borough Fire Department shall be to protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of the Borough of Columbia and neighboring communities from fire and other related emergencies or natural disasters. This public safety goal shall be achieved by providing professionally trained personnel educated in the areas of fire prevention, suppression, and tactical operations from the adverse effects of fire and rescue situations, or exposure to other hazardous conditions. The Department shall provide an adequate number of competently trained personnel, the necessary equipment and resources to accomplish the department's mission in order to reduce the incidents of fire and injury through public safety education, fire prevention programs and applicable codes. The Department shall also manage its affairs in a fiscally responsible, professional, and cost-effective manner at all times.

## Vision

- Provide excellent customer service and exceed the expectations of the people we serve, both internally and externally.
- Be responsive to the changing needs of our community and customers.
- Be an organization of highly trained and motivated professional volunteers.
- Be an organization highly respected by our peers.

## Values

### **Integrity:**

We understand the trust placed in us by the public and our colleagues is integral to the performance of our duties. We are committed to honest, ethical behavior and hold ourselves accountable to these values.

### **Professional Excellence:**

We believe the pursuit of excellence and demonstrating high professional standards are both critical to our work. We ensure the best possible service for our community. We support continuous training and encourage professional development. We respect diversity of our community by providing compassionate and quality service to all in need.

### **Community Service:**

We are committed to fulfilling our responsibility and deepening our involvement in the community we serve.

### **Teamwork and Leadership:**

A well-functioning team of people is more effective than individuals who are working separately; lives depend on it. Individuals have the capacity to lead our organization at all levels but teamwork is integral to our organizational success.

# Columbia Borough Fire Department Officers

2018

## Administration Officers:

President	Mark A. Fritz
Vice President	George M. Mann
Secretary	Lisa M. Splain
Assistant Secretary	Jean C. Rummel
Treasurer	Sandy L. Keyser
Assistant Treasurer	Regina A. Fisher
Trustee – 5 year	Dave W. Mosteller
Trustee – 4 year	William H. Keyser
Trustee – 3 year	Mathew T. Phillips
Trustee – 2 Year	J. Michael Zercher
Trustee – 1 Year	John K. Klinestever
Member At Large	Justin S. Misal

## Fire Line Officers:

Fire Chief	Douglas J. Kemmerly
Deputy Fire Chief	Denny P. Hershey
Assistant Chief 1	Michael D. Stock
Assistant Chief 2	Ricky W. Anderson
Captain	Kevin A. Keyser
Captain	Bryan E. Keyser
Lieutenant	Sean M. Montgomery
Lieutenant	J. Michael Zercher
Lieutenant	Nick D. Martin
Lieutenant	Michael A. Splain
Safety Officer	Robert M. Reifsnyder
Engineer	Pat A. Hilgert
Fire Police Captain	Michael E. Rhodes
Fire Police Lieutenant	Ronald L. Manley
Fire Police Lieutenant	John E. Torbert

# Columbia Borough Fire Department

## Emergency Responders

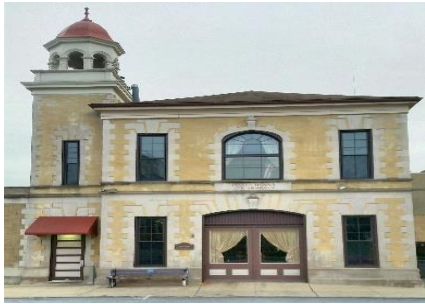
NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
Lester R. Schoelkoph, Sr.	52
Keith A. Fritz	35
Eugene V. Schmitt	35
Mark A. Fritz	32
Joseph S. Felus	31
J. Michael Zercher	31
Robert J. Hetter	31
Todd M. Boyles	31
Lester R. Schoelkoph, Jr.	30
Douglas J. Kemmerly	30
Jason S. Fisher	29
Pat A. Hilgert	28
Ronald L. Manley	27
Garry L. Wiseman	27
Mike S. Anderson	26
Scott K. Ryno	26
Bryan E. Keyser	25
Kevin A. Keyser	24
John M. Shaeffer	22
Brent M. Keyser	20
John A. Lightcap	19
John E. Torbert	17
Jared R. Barninger	17
Michael D. Stock	17
Brett A. Graham	17
Todd M. Lightcap, Sr.	17
Justin S. Misal	16
Ricky W. Anderson	16
Robert M. Reifsnyder	12
Austin E. Peters	12
Denny P. Hershey	10

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
Sean M. Montgomery	10
Kyle N. Fritz	10
Michael A. Splain	10
Todd M. Lightcap, Jr.	9
William L. Meyers	9
Adam M. Hetter	8
Brian K. Mentzer	8
Nick D. Martin	7
Justin M. Warner	6
Crystal A. Shaeffer	6
Lauren A. Fritz	6
Michael E. Rhodes	6
Jared D. Mosteller	6
Deborah L. Torbert	6
Freda L. Shoemaker	6
Ryan M. Kuhn	6
Michael P. Arnold	4
Hannah J. Reese	3
Lorenzo C. Gomez	3
Carson M. Frick	1
Jordan M. Goodman	1
Emily M. Braungard	1
Misty R. Musser	1
Ryan J. Hinkle	<1
David P. Hershey	<1
Cody B. Smith	<1
Gary M. Small	<1
John R. Coppenhaver	<1
Paul R. Paulsen	<1
Krystal A. Fritz	<1

- Average years of service for our members is 15.06 years.
- Average age of our members is 36.18 years old.

# Headquarters

The Columbia Borough Fire Department (CBFD) was organized in August 2015 when the Columbia #1 Fire Department, Susquehanna Fire & Rescue Co. #4 and the Columbia Fire Police merged to put our resources into one unified fire department. The CBFD operates out of one station located at 726 Manor Street, Columbia, Pennsylvania. Our original station started as a single bay but has grown with 3 additions throughout the years. Details are below of what each addition is used for today allowing us to provide fire service to our citizens.



- Basement holds our social club with revenue being returned to the Fire Department and community.
- 1<sup>st</sup> floor holds our 1948 American LaFrance antique fire engine.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor has our training / meeting room, sleeping quarters, fire prevention closet.



- This addition has men's and women's bathrooms for the use of guests in our community hall.
- The main entrance to our social club.
- Janitor's closet and additional storage.



- This addition is our community hall which is used for our fundraising efforts. When not being used by the fire department, the hall is rented out to our citizens for dances, weddings, and parties.
- A full commercial kitchen is available for use when community hall is rented.



- 1<sup>st</sup> floor holds our apparatus, maintenance rooms, bathrooms, storage, and personal protective gear racks.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor holds a lounge and kitchen for our firefighters. A main office for all Officers to use along with the Fire Chief's Office.

# Apparatus



## Engine 801

- Is a 2008 KME Predator.
- Has two main purposes:
  1. Serves as a back up to Engine 802.
  2. Has capabilities to rescue people trapped at vehicle accidents.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> arriving fire truck at all structure fires in Columbia.



## Engine 802

- Is a 2002 American LaFrance.
- Has two main purposes:
  1. Serves as a back up to Engine 801.
  2. Extinguish all fires in Columbia Borough
- 1<sup>st</sup> arriving fire truck at all structure fires in Columbia Borough.



### Truck 80

- Is a 2012 Ferrara Ember.
- Has two purposes:
  1. Reach elevated heights.
  2. Bring ground ladders for rescue of occupants from fire.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> arriving fire truck at all structure fires in Columbia Borough.



### Rescue 80

- Is a 1997 Simon Duplex.
- Purpose is to rescue victims from vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, confined spaces, high angle incidents, and residential incidents.
- 4<sup>th</sup> arriving unit to all structure fires and 1<sup>st</sup> arriving unit to all rescue type incidents in Columbia Borough.





### Squad 801

- Is a 2011 Ford F-350.
- This unit serves multiple purposes but primary is to pull one of our boat trailers to water rescue incidents.



### Boat 801

- Is a 2004 18' aluminum Semi "V".
- This boat serves as our 2<sup>nd</sup> boat to respond to incidents on the Susquehanna River. This unit provides a backup for the initial boat from the Columbia Borough Fire Department.



### Boat 802

- Is a 2012 Quicksilver Inflatable.
- This boat serves as our Swiftwater Urban rescue boat. This boat responds to all emergencies where flooding has occurred on roadways or land.



### Boat 803

- Is a 2004 War Eagle aluminum modified "V" hull.
- This boat serves as our 1<sup>st</sup> boat to respond to incidents on the Susquehanna River. This unit also provides a backup to Boat 801 when the units are working together on any incident.



### Squad 802

- Is a 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe.
- Squad 2 is a back up to Squad 801 and tows our 2<sup>nd</sup> boat to incidents on the Susquehanna River.



### UTV 80

- Is a 2009 Polaris Ranger.
- The Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) provides transportation for rescue personnel along with victims from difficult terrain.



### Trailer 80

- Is a 2009 Utility Trailer.
- The Utility trailer provides a way to transport the UTV 80 to incident locations.

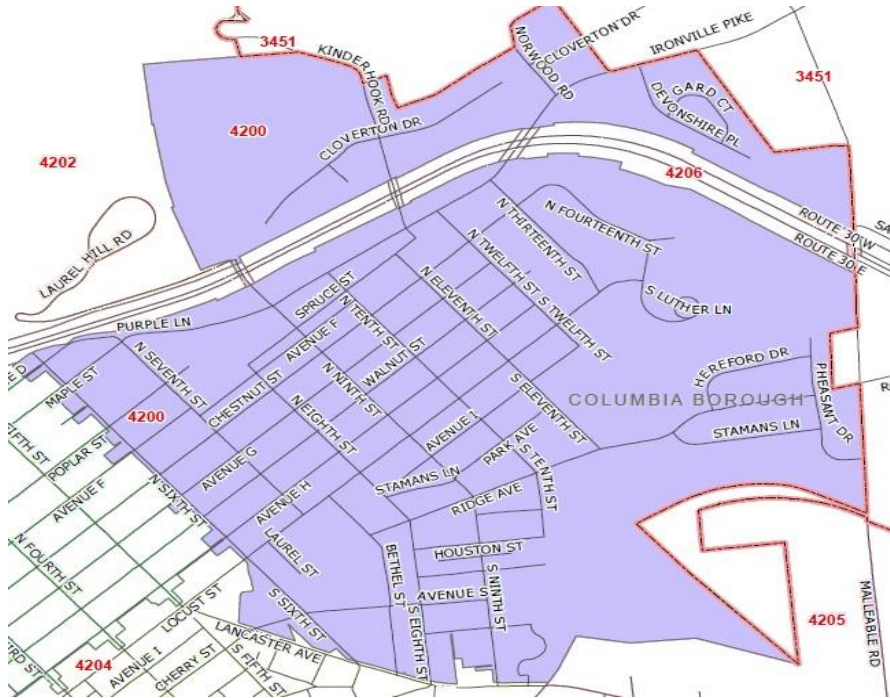


### Fire Police 80

- Is a 1999 Ford F-450.
- Purpose is to direct traffic around incidents that occur on or near the roadway making the incident safer for our personnel.

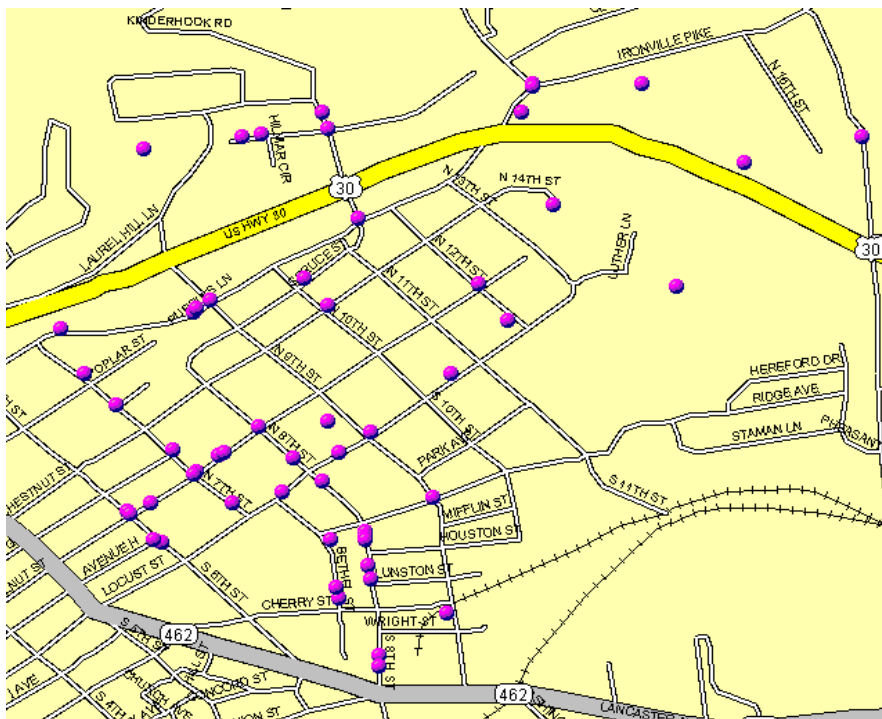
## Columbia Borough Statistics by District

### Northeast Box 4200

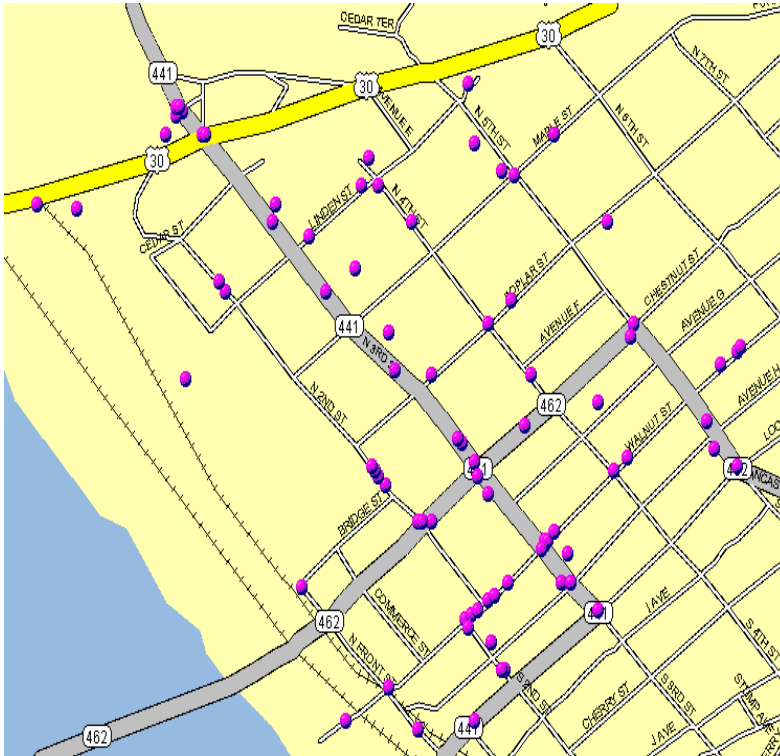


- 78 responses.
- 11.4 average personnel responding.
- 33.05 hours of company in service time.

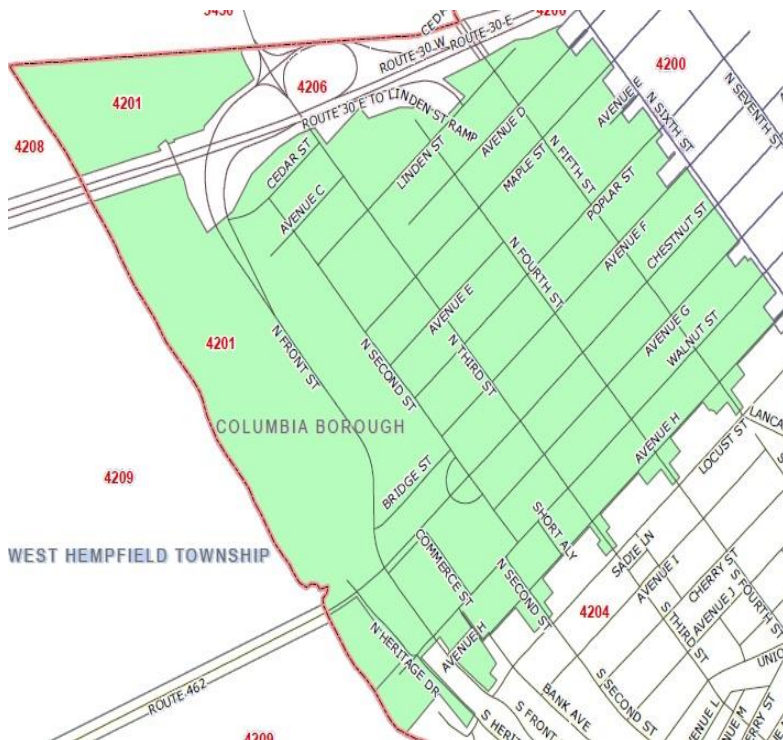
- 377 man-hours.
- 5 civilian injuries.
- 5 civilian deaths.
- \$553,000.00 of property saved.
- \$51,300.00 of property lost.
- Investigations most dispatched with 17.
  - 7 minutes 42 seconds emergency response time.
- Busiest day was Sunday with 17 incidents.



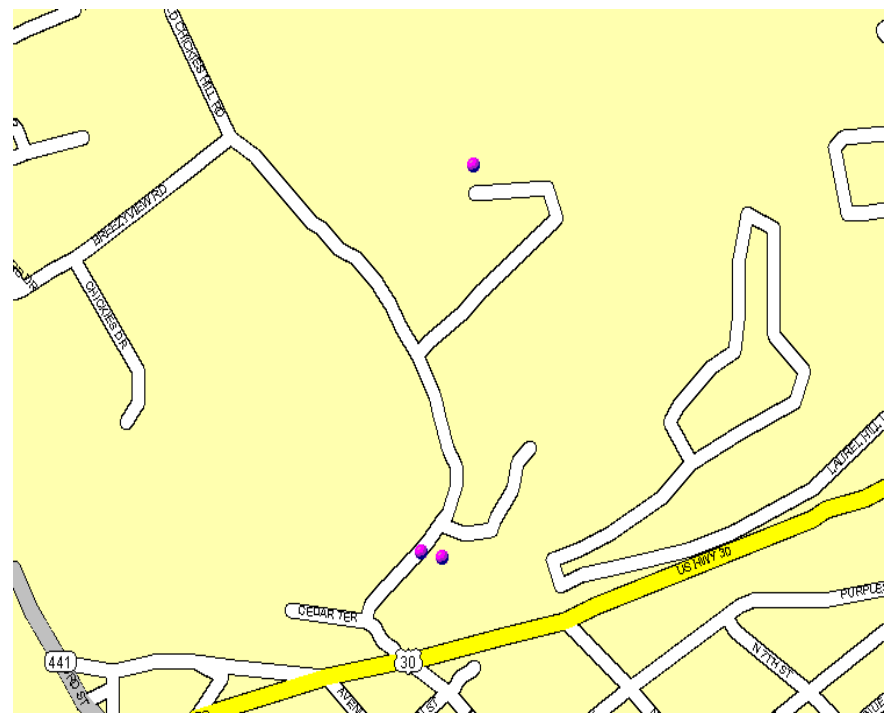
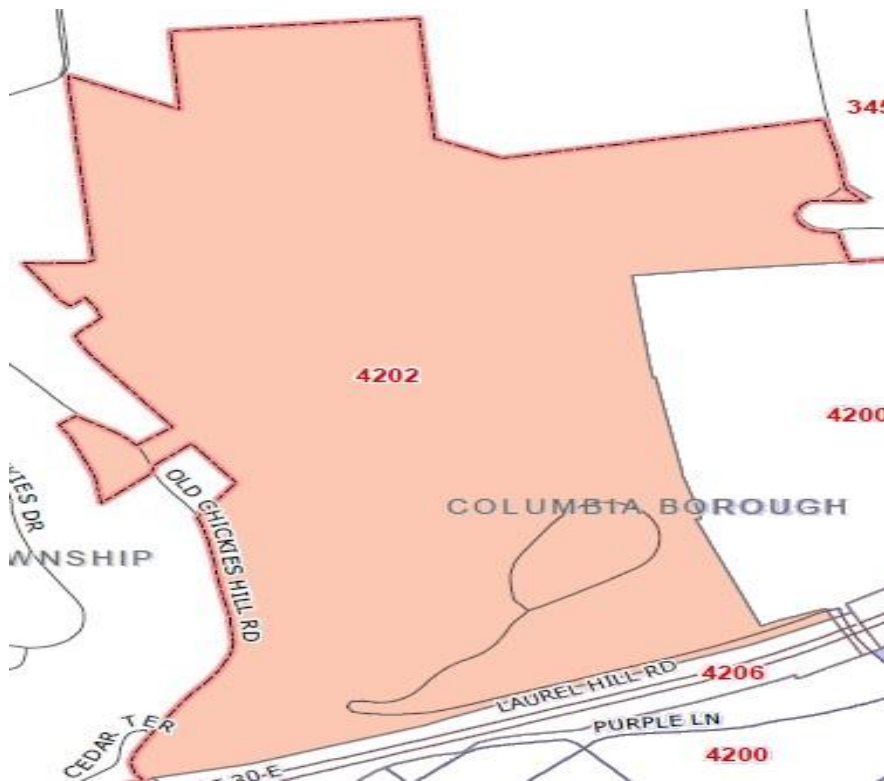
# Northwest Box 4201



- 98 responses.
- 12.5 average personnel responding.
- 43 hours of company in service time.
- 617 man-hours.
- 10 civilian injuries.
- 2 civilian deaths.
- \$1,200,000.00 of property saved.
- 200,000.00 of property lost.
- Vehicle Accident most dispatched with 23.
- 5 minutes 54 seconds emergency response time.
- Busiest day was Saturday with 23 incidents.

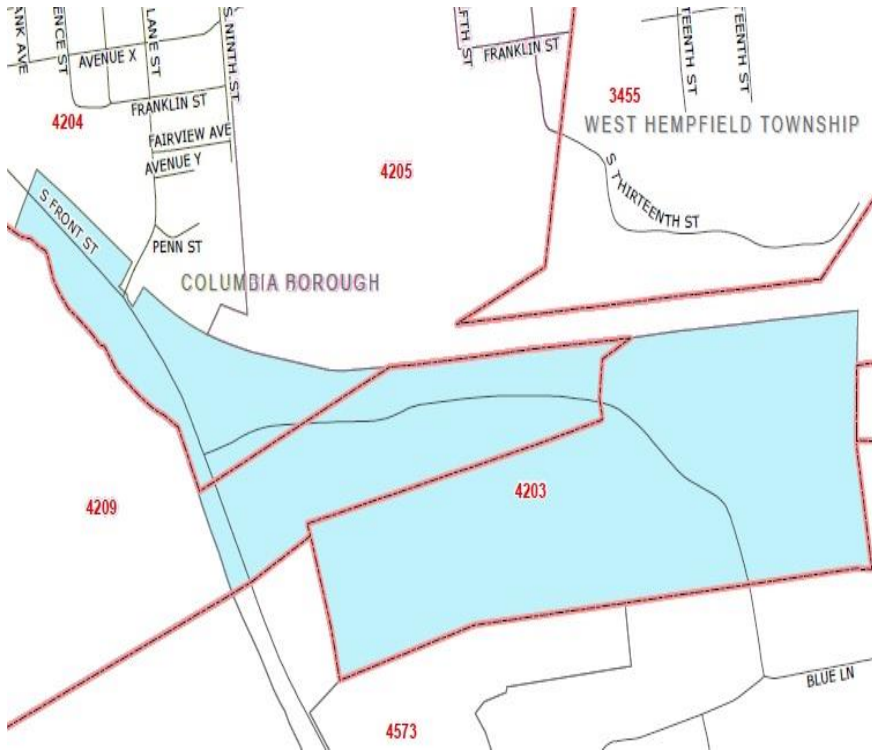


## North Box Non-Hydrant 4202

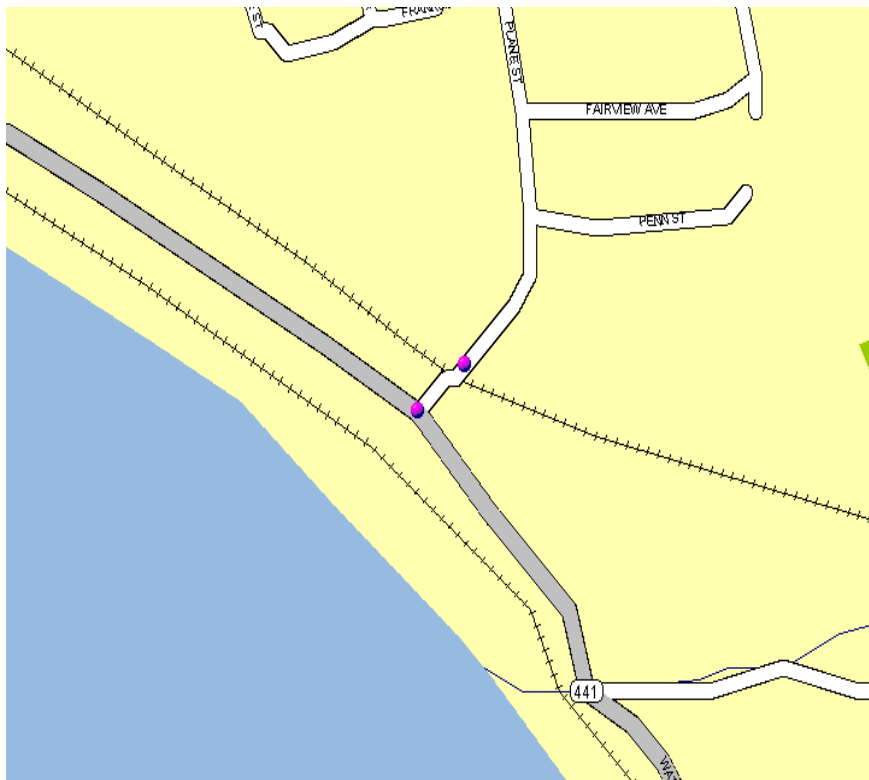


- 6 responses.
- 7.3 average personnel responding.
- 9.8 hours of company in service time.
- 112 man-hours.
- 0 civilian injuries.
- 0 civilian deaths.
- \$0.00 of property saved.
- \$0.00 of property lost.
- Fire Alarms most dispatched with 3.
  - 9 minutes 01 second emergency response time.
- Busiest days were Monday & Friday with 2 incidents.

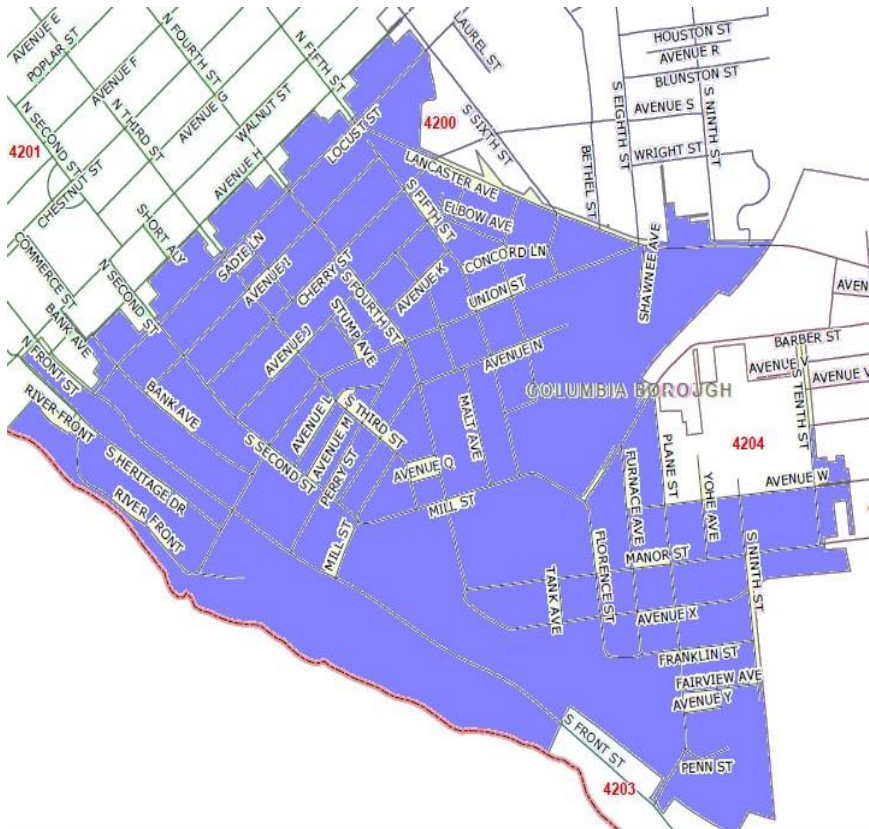
## South Box Non-Hydrant 4203



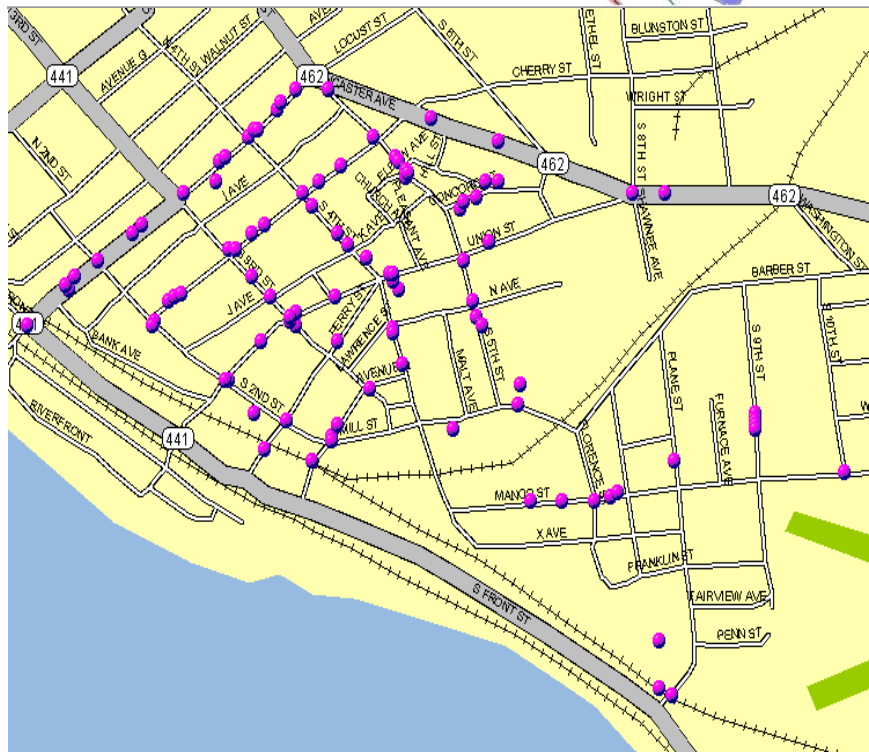
- 2 responses.
- 20.0 average personnel responding.
- 1.4 hours of company in service time.
- 18.5 man-hours.
- 0 civilian injuries.
- 0 civilian deaths.
- \$0.00 of property saved.
- \$0.00 of property lost.
- Public Service & Fire Police most dispatched with 1.
- No emergency response time.
- Busiest days were Monday & Tuesday with 1 incident each.



# Southwest Box 4204



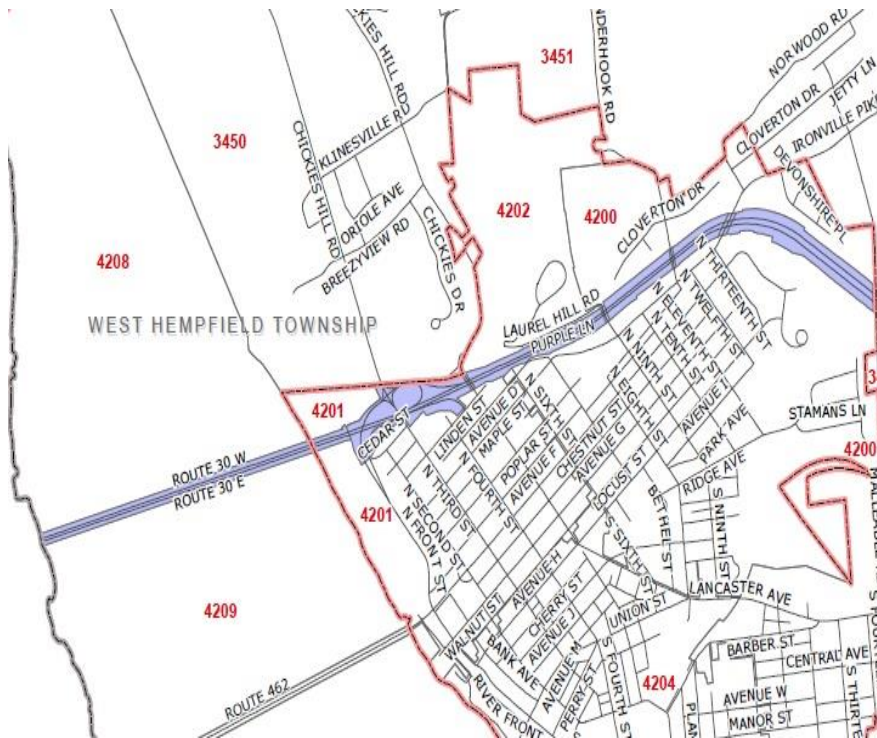
- 142 responses.
- 10.7 average personnel responding.
- 77.6 hours of company in service time.
- 1265.3 man-hours.
- 2 civilian injuries.
- 8 civilian deaths.
- \$4,992,100.00 of property saved.
- \$394,225.00 of property lost.
- Investigations were most dispatched with 25.
  - 5 minutes 12 seconds emergency response time.
- Busiest days were Thursday & Saturday with 27 incidents.



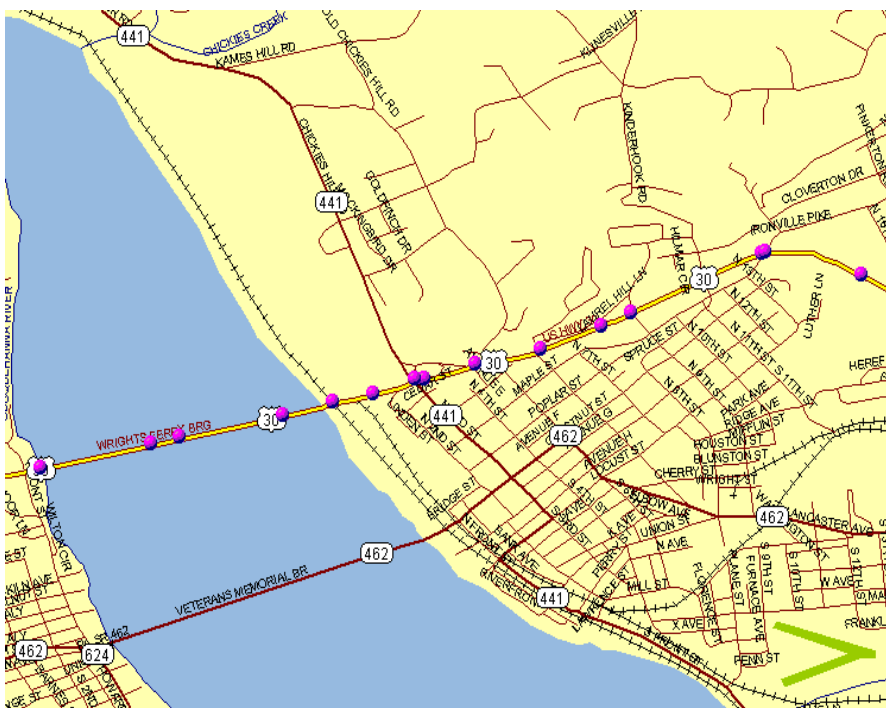




## Route 30 Box 4206

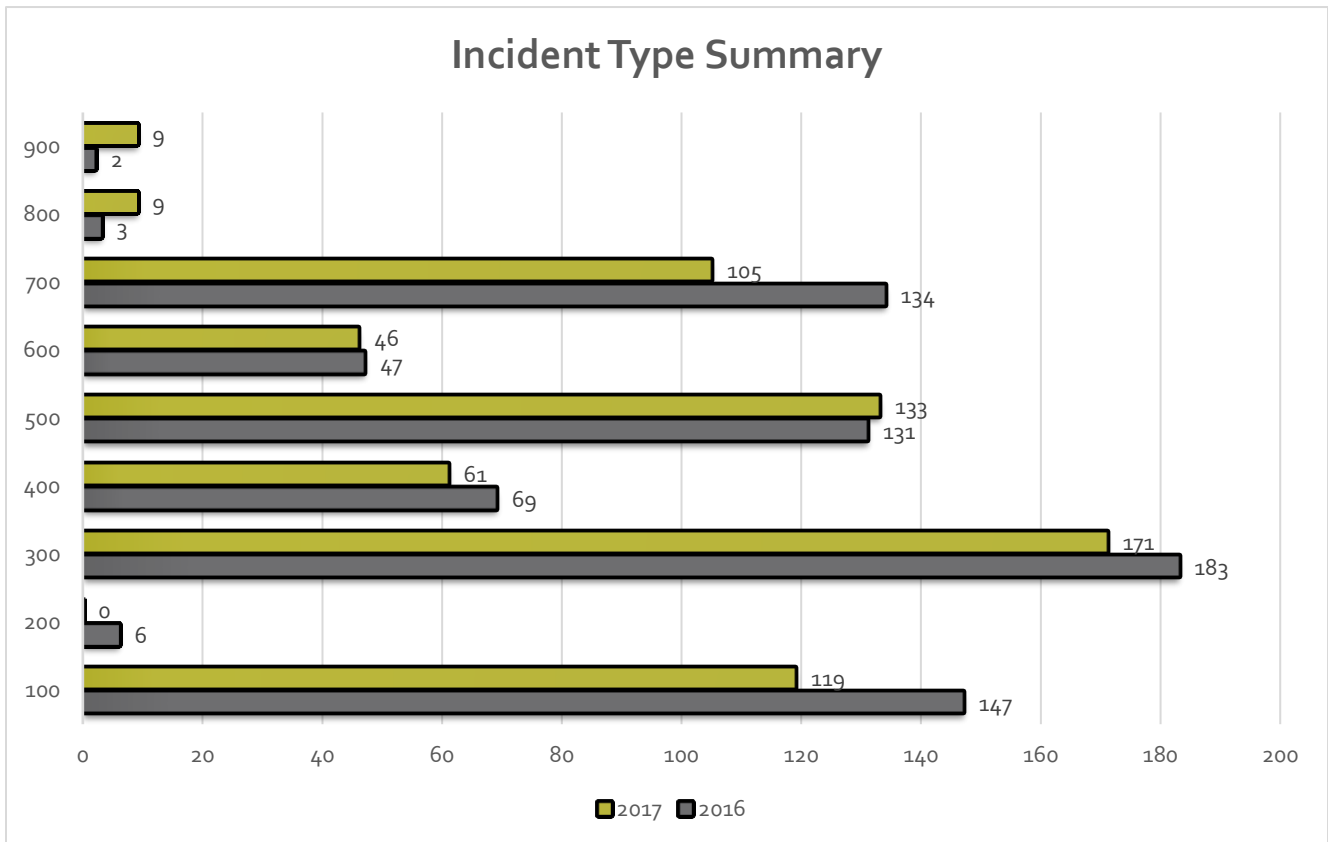


- 16 responses.
- 13.0 average personnel responding.
- 17.1 hours of company in service time.
- 214.5 man-hours.
- 4 civilian injuries.
- 1 civilian deaths.
- \$0.00 of property saved.
- \$0.00 of property lost.
- Vehicle Accidents most dispatched with 11.
  - 5 minutes 09 seconds emergency response time.
- Busiest day was Wednesday with 4 incidents.



# Incident Type Summary

The incident type summary report is an overview of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) used by United States fire departments. Fire departments report fires and other incidents to which we respond to and maintain records of these incidents in a uniform manner. The break down and explanation of the categories is shown below in the graph. 2017 has shown a decrease of emergency incidents by 9% or 69 less calls than 2016.



### KEY - Incident Type

- 100 Fire Incidents including structures, mobile properties, vegetation and rubbish.**
- 200 Over pressurized Incidents (No Fire) including boiler, pipelines, and process vessels.**
- 300 Rescue/EMS Incidents including vehicle accidents, water rescue, searches, and industrial rescues.**
- 400 Hazardous Materials Incidents including combustible spills, radioactive, biological, and electrical issues.**
- 500 Service Incidents including water removal, smoke/odor issue, animal issue, and public service.**
- 600 Good Intent Incidents including unknown type of alarms, controlled burns, and steam mistaken for smoke.**
- 700 False Alarm Incidents including unintentional fire alarms.**
- 800 False Alarm Incidents including malicious alarms, bomb scares.**
- 900 Special Incidents including citizen complaints, special types and miscellaneous incidents.**

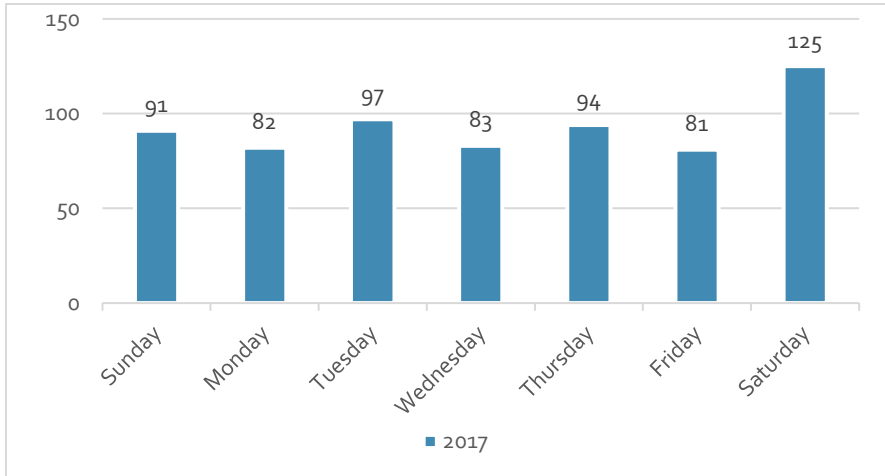
## Property Value Saved / Loss

2017 had 41 fire incidents that had the potential to cause some type of property damage in Columbia Borough. Total property saved from the effects of fire was \$7,281,045.00 and the total property lost was \$679,055.00. Percentage of property saved in Columbia Borough in 2017 was 91.4%.

- Thirteen incidents are listed as residential structure fires with different causes with an accumulated loss of \$541,100.00.
- Six incidents were caused by cooking fires in the home with losses of \$3,000.00.
- Three fires in motor vehicles had a total loss of \$4,100.00.
- Nineteen other incidents caused \$130,855.00 in losses.



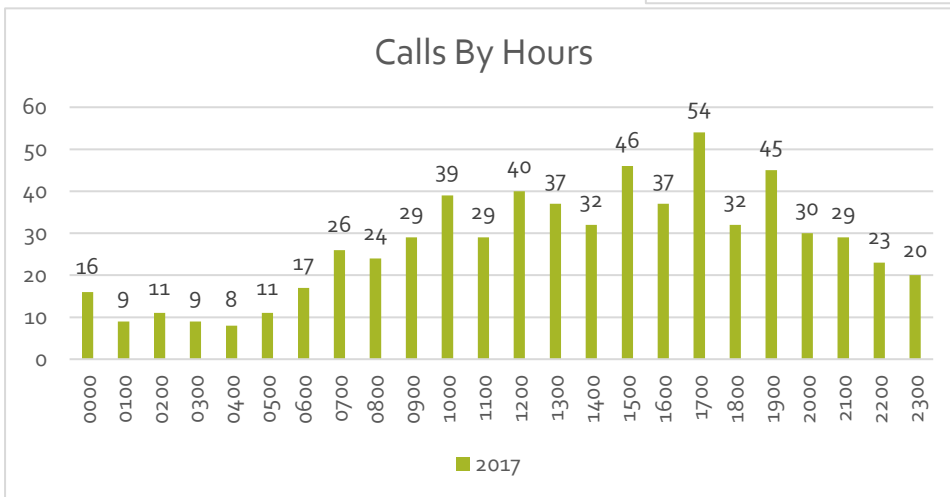
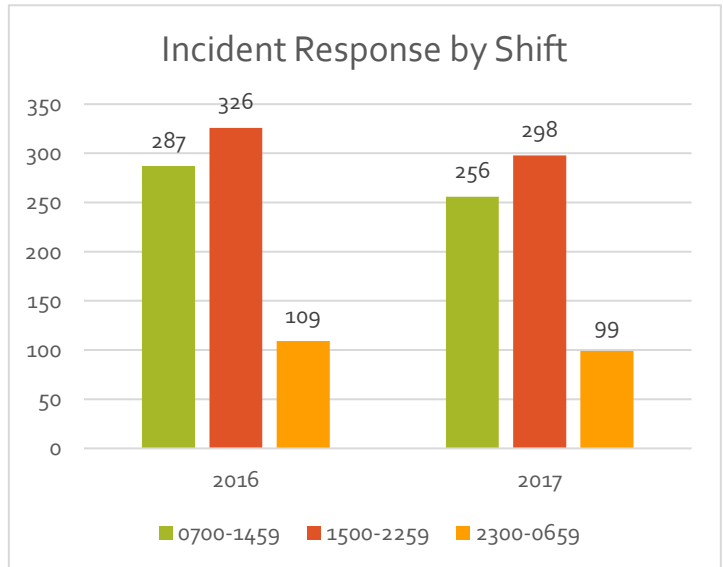
## Incident Statistics



- Saturday was our busiest day for fire incidents with a total of 125.
- Friday was our slowest day for fire incidents with a total of 81.

Our volunteers responded to a total of 653 fire incidents in 2017. Here is a breakdown of incident response by shift.

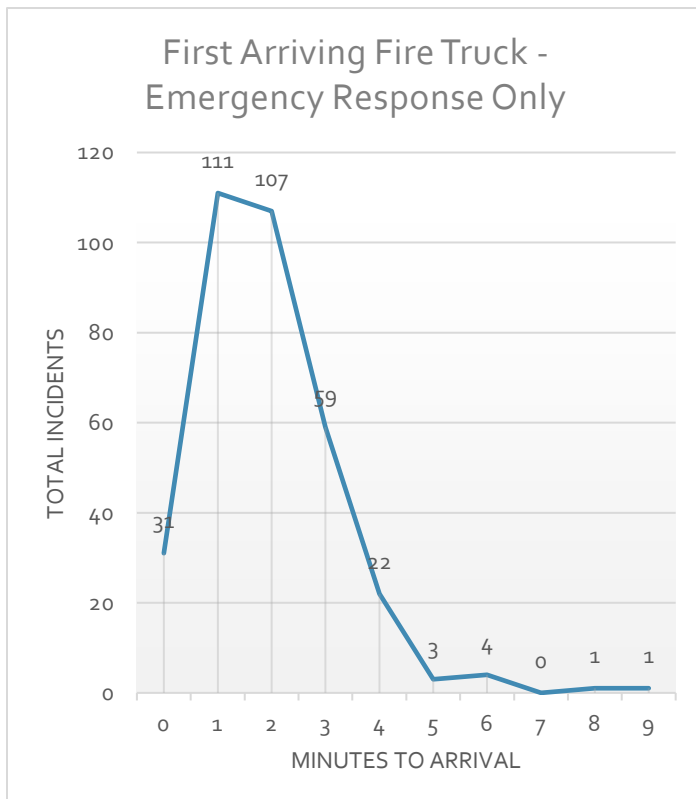
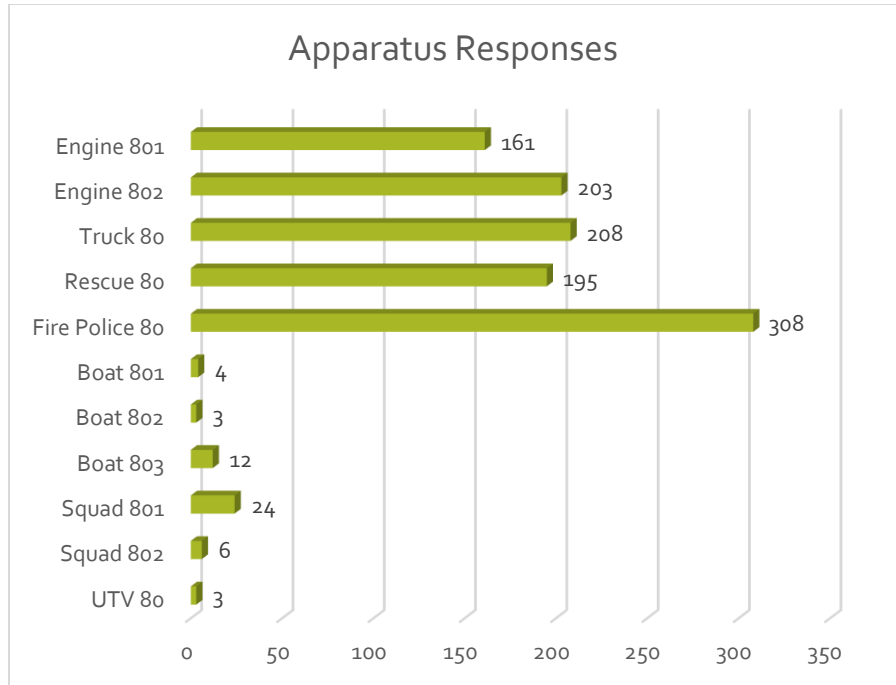
- 0700-1459 hours 256
- 1500-2259 hours 298
- 2300-0659 hours 99



- 5:00pm was our busiest time for incidents with 54.
- 4:00am was our slowest time for incidents with only 8.

# Response

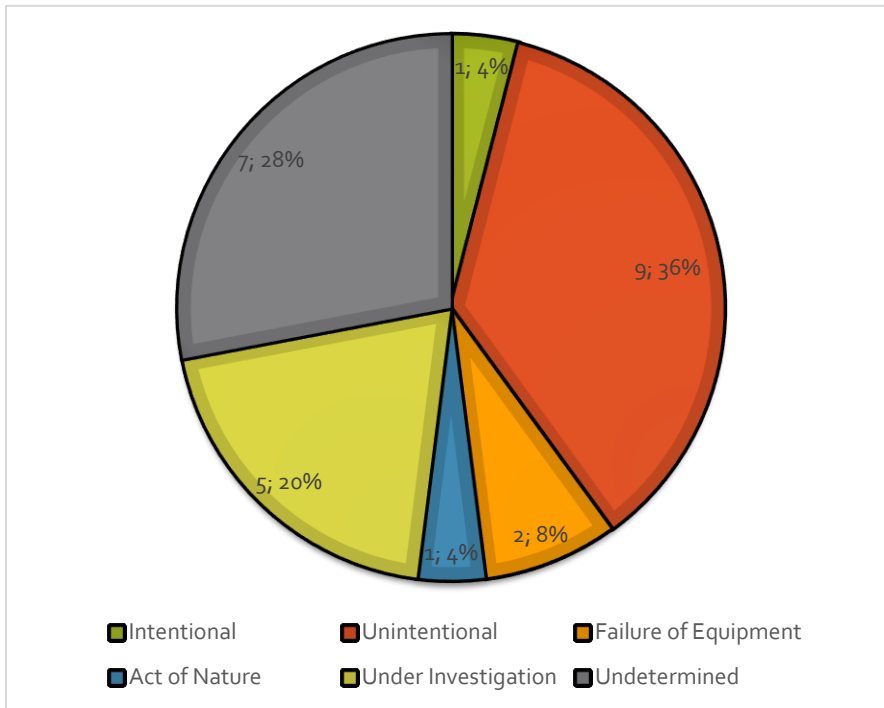
This graph shows the total responses by our apparatus. If Engine 801, 802, Truck 80, and Rescue 80 all respond to a structure fire, then each unit has one response.



This graph shows the arrival time of the first fire truck when it responds emergency rate (red lights and sirens) in Columbia Borough only.

The time is started when 911 dispatches the Columbia Borough Fire Department for an incident. Our volunteers respond from home to the station, put on fire gear, drive the fire truck to the address, and then notifies Lancaster County Wide Communications of arrival on the scene.

## Cause of Ignition



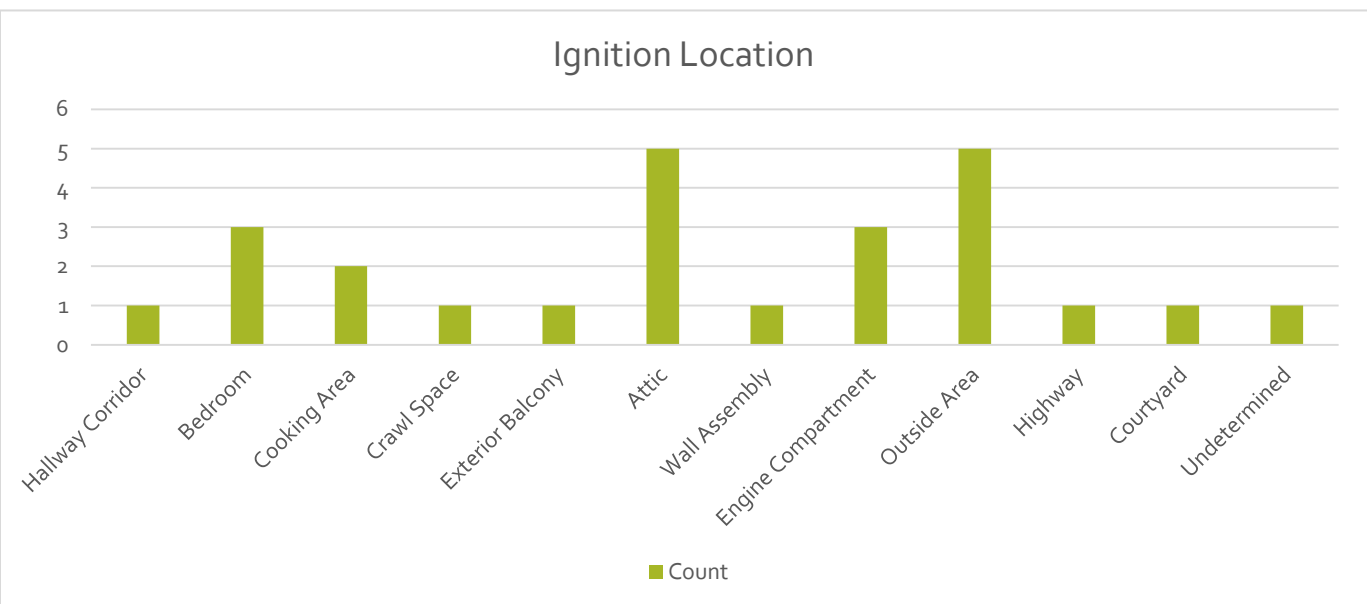
2017 showed 25 incidents where a cause of ignition has been identified. Our two largest categories are:

- **Unintentional** which can include unattended cooking or open flame too close to combustibles. This category had 9 incidents in 2017.

- **Undetermined** which can include fires where a clear determination of why the fire started cannot be found. It may also have multiple possibilities of why a fire would have started.

- One intentionally set fire was started in 2017.

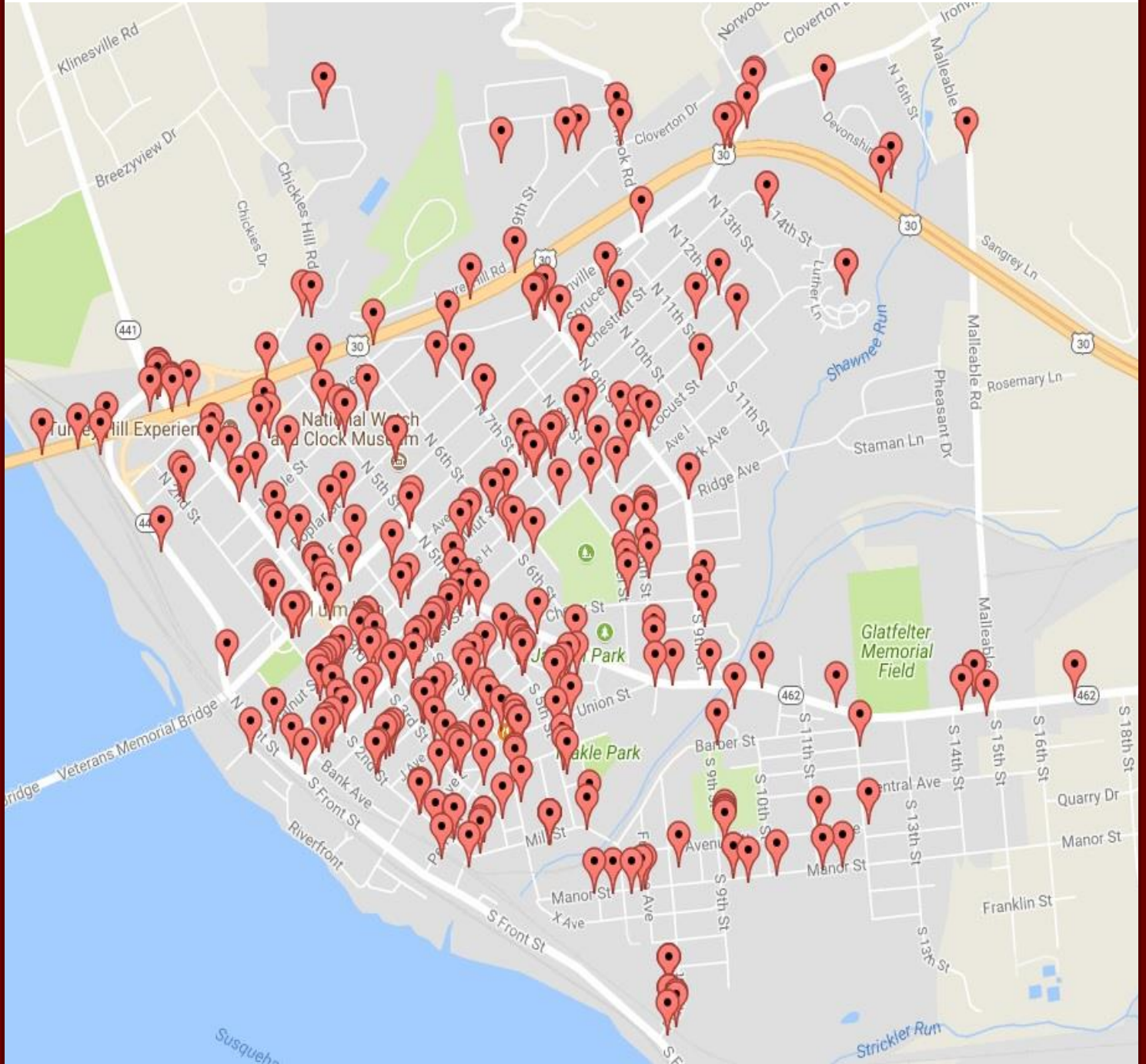
## Ignition Location



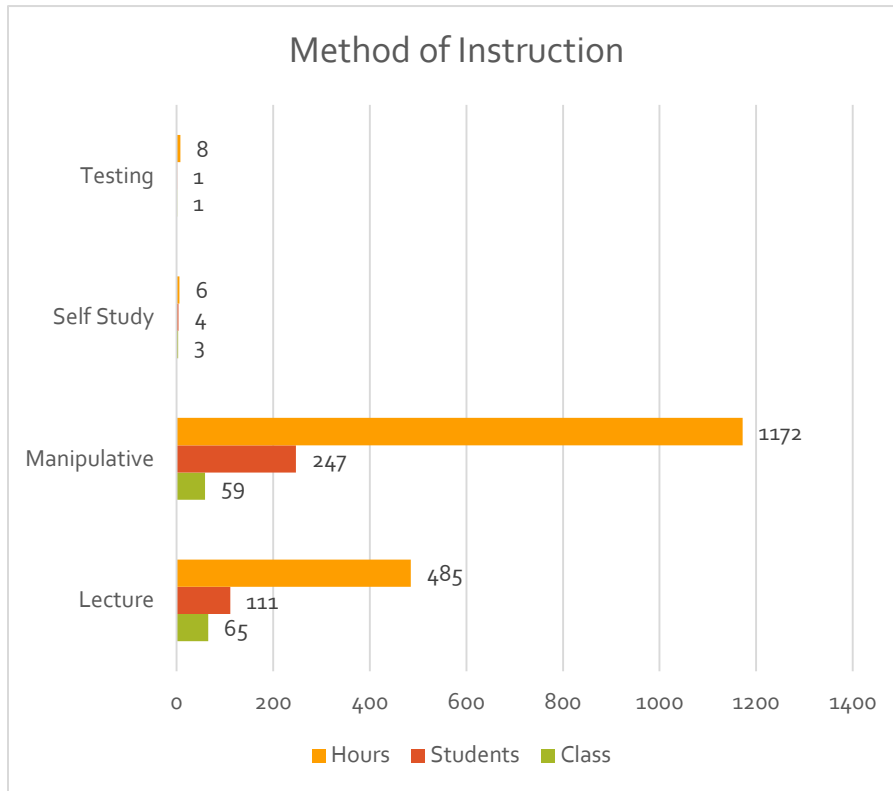
The graph above shows the ignition location break down. Our two highest locations were attic areas and outside areas.

- Attic areas were all located in residential setting with common void spaces above the living area. This number is due to two incidents which occurred in row homes. These two fires spread to a total of 5 homes.
- Engine compartment fires were all located in passenger type vehicles.

# GPS Incident Plots – Columbia Borough



# Training



- Members attended training at local colleges which include Harrisburg Area Community College and Bucks County Community College.
- Members also attended training from the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.
- Members attended trainings at National Fire Academy.

3 members received certification from the National Fire Service Professional Qualification System. These members are tested cognitively and kinesthetically to determine their knowledge to a particular National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard. Below are our members that completed a particular skill level:

Kevin A. Keyser	NFPA 472 Haz-Mat Operations
William L. Meyers	NFPA 1001 Firefighter 1
Kevin A. Keyser	NFPA 1001 Firefighter 2
J. Michael Zercher	NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 1



## 2017 Training Hours by Staff

NAME	Training Hours
Anderson, Mike S.	7
Anderson, Ricky W.	17
Arnold, Michael P.	9
Barninger, Jared R.	17
Boyles, Todd M.	14
Braungard, Emily M.	36
Felus, Joseph S.	0
Fisher, Jason S.	7
Frick, Carson M.	7
Fritz, Keith A.	7
Fritz, Krystal A.	5
Fritz, Kyle N.	39
Fritz, Lauren A.	9
Fritz, Mark A.	7
Gomez, Lorenzo C.	12
Goodman, Jordan M.	27
Graham, Brett A.	1
Hershey, Denny P.	28
Hetter, Adam M.	43
Hetter, Robert J.	33
Hilgert, Pat A.	7
Kemmerly, Douglas J.	106
Keyser, Brent M.	10
Keyser, Bryan E.	21
Keyser, Kevin A.	514
Kuhn, Ryan M.	11

NAME	Training Hours
Lightcap, John A.	4
Lightcap, Sr., Todd M	11
Lightcap, Jr., Todd M.	7
Manley, Ronald L.	15
Martin, Nick D.	31
Mentzer, Brian K.	11
Meyers, William L.	94
Misal, Justin S.	16
Montgomery, Sean M.	14
Mosteller, Jared D.	38
Reese, Hannah J.	74
Reifsnnyder, Robert M.	86
Rhodes, Michael E.	25
Ryno, Scott K.	10
Schmitt, Eugene V.	7
Schoelkoph, Sr., Lester R.	10
Schoelkoph, Jr., Lester R.	7
Shaeffer, Crystal A.	9
Shaeffer, John M.	9
Splain, Michael A.	13
Stock, Michael D.	20
Torbert, Deborah L.	7
Torbert, John E.	7
Warner, Justin M.	8
Wiseman, Garry L.	7
Zercher, J. Michael	20

## Fire Prevention / Risk Watch



2017 had our Fire Safety Specialists busy installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, installing child safety seats, and doing fire extinguisher programs. Public safety events included our annual open house at the station, prom promise at Columbia High School, texting and driving event, National night out, National trail day event, and the bicycle rodeo event.

**CHILD PASSENGER  
SAFETY TECHNICIAN**




American Red Cross

Join our home fire preparedness campaign team

**7** times a day, someone in this country dies in a home fire. The American Red Cross is aiming to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent over the next five years.

We're joining fire departments and community groups nationwide to install smoke alarms and deliver fire prevention information in places we know have high numbers of fires.



You can help by volunteering as a:

- ✓ Smoke Alarm Installer  
Conduct home visits, test existing smoke alarms, replace batteries and install smoke alarms.
- ✓ Disaster Safety Instructor  
Educate residents on the importance of fire safety and assist them in creating home fire escape plans.
- ✓ Reporter  
Document resident information, including what services were provided during the visit. Complete the acknowledgement forms and reports used for campaign tracking.

Our next event in Lancaster County:

Friday, May 19, 2017, 9a.m. to 1p.m.

 Columbia, PA



The Thomas A. and Georgina T. Russo Foundation

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Smoke Detector Donation to our department from Impact Disaster Services!



- Our volunteers installed 235 smoke detectors in Columbia Borough. On May 19, 2017 a joint install was held with the American Red Cross and the Columbia Borough Fire Department.
- 7 Carbon Monoxide detectors were installed in Columbia Borough.
- 19 child safety seats we installed in automobiles in 2017.
- 3 Fire extinguisher programs were presented to local facilities in 2017.
- 16 Public Safety education programs held in Columbia Borough.
  - 501 adults educated
  - 980 children educated
- 7 fire inspections were completed in 2017.

## Fundraising

COLUMBIA BOROUGH FIRE DEPT.  
Tenth & Manor Streets – Columbia, PA

.....  
**Chicken Bar- B-Q**  
11:00 A.M. Till 3:00 P.M.

Columbia Borough Fire Department  
10<sup>th</sup> & Manor Streets, Columbia, PA  
small games of chance #201297  
**SHRIMP FEED**  
Steamed & Fried

Saturday  
Hours O  
Feed  
\$25



- Our bingo programs allow us to raise much needed funds for our 100% volunteer fire department. Last year alone we had 566 volunteers work our bingo program to make it a success. These volunteers put in over 2,344 hours to ensure we had funding to provide the best equipment, training, and the facilities that our citizens deserve.
- Other fundraising events throughout 2017 included our shrimp feed and chicken bar-b-q's. These three fundraisers involved 55 volunteers and 330 man-hours to make these programs a success.

## West Hempfield Township – Statistics & GPS Incident Plots



- 136 incidents where Columbia Borough responded into West Hempfield Township.
  - 75 incidents in West Hempfield Township Fire Department first due.
  - 49 incidents in Mountville Fire Department first due.
  - 11 incidents in Columbia Borough first due.
  - 1 incident in Hempfield Fire Departments first due.
- 1,486 volunteers responding to provide services into West Hempfield Township.
- 10.9 firefighters were averaged at all calls in West Hempfield Township.
- 93.14 hours were volunteered on incidents in West Hempfield Township by Columbia Borough members.
- 1,127.70 man hours were volunteered on incidents in West Hempfield Township by Columbia Borough firefighters.
- No injuries reported by our firefighters while operating in West Hempfield Township.
- No property damage in our first due in West Hempfield Township.
- Average response time (dispatch to arrival) to all incidents (emergency and non-emergency) in West Hempfield Township for a fire truck from Columbia was 8 minutes 11 seconds.
- Vehicle accidents were most dispatched incident with 42.
- Thursday was the busiest day in West Hempfield Township with 27 incidents.