

Columbia Borough Fire Department



When a man or
firefighter their

has been accomplished.

woman becomes a
greatest act of bravery

What they do after that is all in the line of work.

Edward F. Croker

2016

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

2017

Administration Officers:

President	Mark A. Fritz
Vice President	George M. Mann
Secretary	Lisa M. Splain
Assistant Secretary	Jean C. Rummel
Treasurer	Sue M. Fritz
Assistant Treasurer	Regina A. Fisher
Trustee – 5 year	William H. Keyser
Trustee – 4 year	Mathew T. Phillips
Trustee – 3 year	Joseph S. Felus
Trustee – 2 Year	John K. Klinestever
Trustee – 1 Year	Mike S. Anderson
Member At Large	

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. Reifsnnyder
Engineer	Pat A. Hilgert
Engineer	Robert J. Hetter
Fire Police Captain	Michael Rhodes
Fire Police Lieutenant	Ronald L. Manley
Fire Police Lieutenant	Jack W. Evans

Columbia Borough Fire Department

Emergency Responders

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
Lester R. Schoelkopf, Sr.	51
Jerry F. Stark	37
Keith A. Fritz	35
Jack W. Evans	35
Eugene V. Schmitt	34
Mark A. Fritz	31
Joseph S. Felus	30
J. Michael Zercher	30
Robert J. Hetter	30
Todd M. Boyles	30
Lester R. Schoelkopf, Jr.	29
Douglas J. Kemmerly	29
Jason S. Fisher	28
Ken M. Falcon	27
Pat A. Hilgert	27
Ronald L. Manley	26
Garry L. Wiseman	26
Mike S. Anderson	25
Scott K. Ryno	24
Bryan E. Keyser	24
Kevin A. Keyser	23
Brent M. Keyser	19
John A. Lightcap	18
John E. Torbert	16
Jared R. Barninger	16
Michael D. Stock	16
Brett A. Graham	16
Todd M. Lightcap, Sr.	16
Justin S. Misal	15
Ricky W. Anderson	15
Percy N. Wise	13
Robert M. Reifsnyder	11
Denny P. Hershey	9

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
Sean M. Montgomery	9
Simon L. Veach	9
Kyle N. Fritz	9
Michael A. Splain	9
Todd M. Lightcap, Jr.	8
William L. Meyers	8
Nikki R. Anderson	7
Adam M. Hetter	7
Brian K. Menter	7
Devon M. Anderson	7
Nick D. Martin	6
Justin M. Warner	5
Lauren A. Fritz	5
Michael E. Rhodes	5
Jared D. Mosteller	5
Deborah L. Torbert	5
Ryan M. Kuhn	5
Michael S. McCord	4
Michael P. Arnold	3
James A. Peters	3
Hannah J. Reese	2
Lorenzo C. Gomez	2
Alexis M. Feltenberger	1
Jake M. Hank	1
Pauline M. Torbert	1
Ryan J. Gardill	1
Charles M. McClair	>1
Carson M. Frick	>1
Jordan M. Goodman	>1
Emily M. Braungard	>1
Misty R. Musser	>1
Kylee A. Lachapelle	>1

- Average years of service for our members is 15.95 years.
- Average age of our members is 38.30 years old.

Headquarters

The Columbia Borough Fire Department (CBFD) was organized in August 2015 when the Columbia #1 Fire Department and the Susquehanna Fire & Rescue Co. #4 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.
- 1st floor holds our 1948 American LaFrance antique fire engine.
- 2nd 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 us, the hall is rented out to our citizens for dances, weddings, and parties.
- Full kitchen for use in the community hall.



- 1st floor holds our apparatus, maintenance rooms, bathrooms, storage, and personal protective gear racks.
- 2nd floor there is 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.
- 3rd 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
- 1st 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.
- 2nd 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.
- 4th arriving unit to all structure fires and 1st 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 2nd boat to respond on incidents on the Susquehanna River. This unit provides a safety 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 1st boat to respond on incidents on the Susquehanna River. This unit also provides a safety 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 2nd 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.

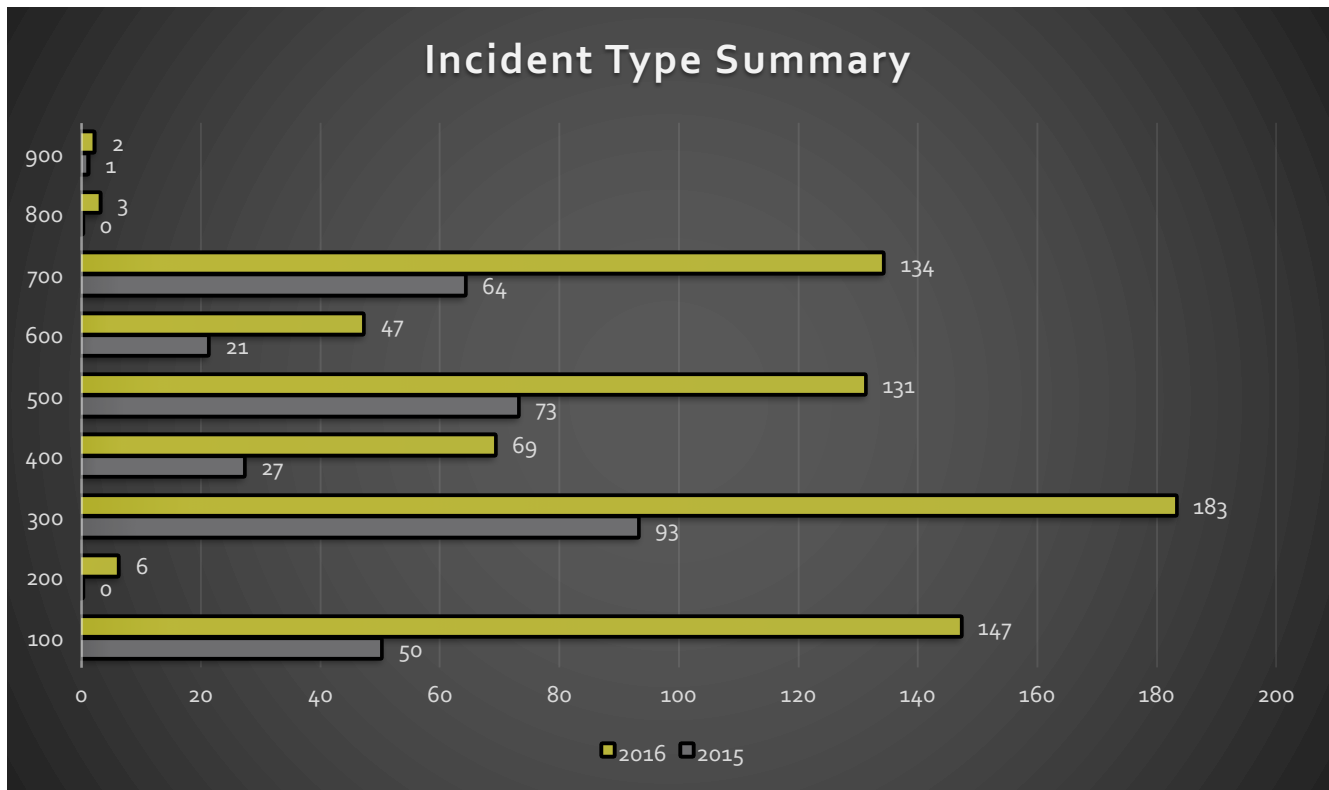


Fire Police 80

- 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.

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 the graph. On this graph, the fiscal year 2015 is only a five month time frame (8/1/15 to 12/31/15) of when we consolidated into one fire department. Fiscal year 2016 is the first full year of data that our fire department has collected.



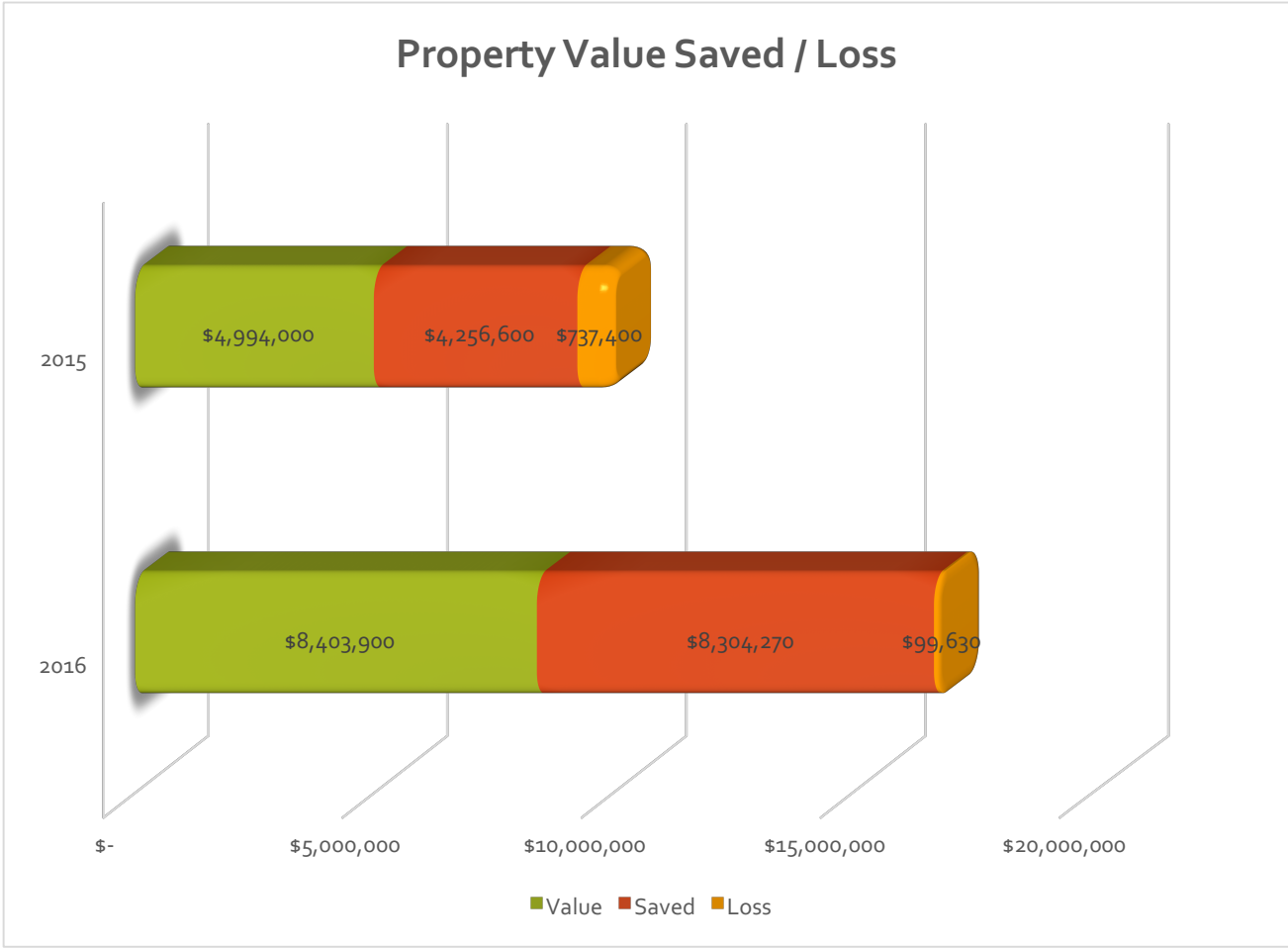
KEY - Incident Type

- 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 combustibile 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.**

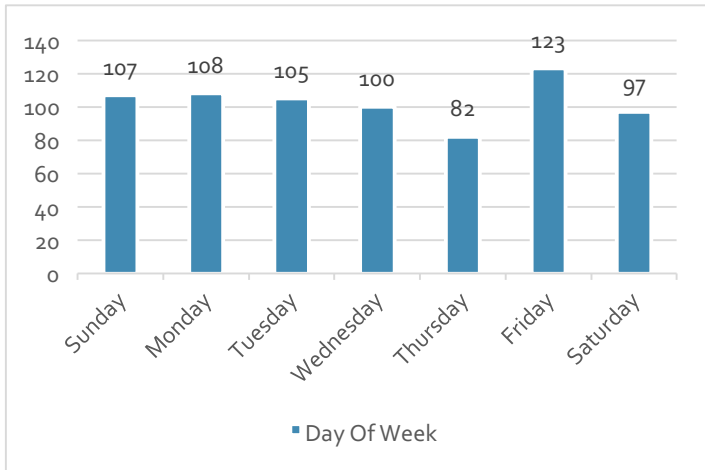
Property Value Saved / Loss

2016 had 55 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 \$8,304,270.00 with the total property lost being \$99,630.00. Percentage of property saved in Columbia Borough in 2016 was 98.8% saved with only 1.2% lost.

- Thirteen incidents are listed as residential structure fires with different causes with an accumulated loss of \$69,855.00.
- Twelve incidents were caused by cooking fires in the home with losses of \$1,825.00.
- Eight fires in motor vehicles had a total loss of \$16,300.00.
- Twenty-two other incidents caused \$11,650.00 in fire loss.



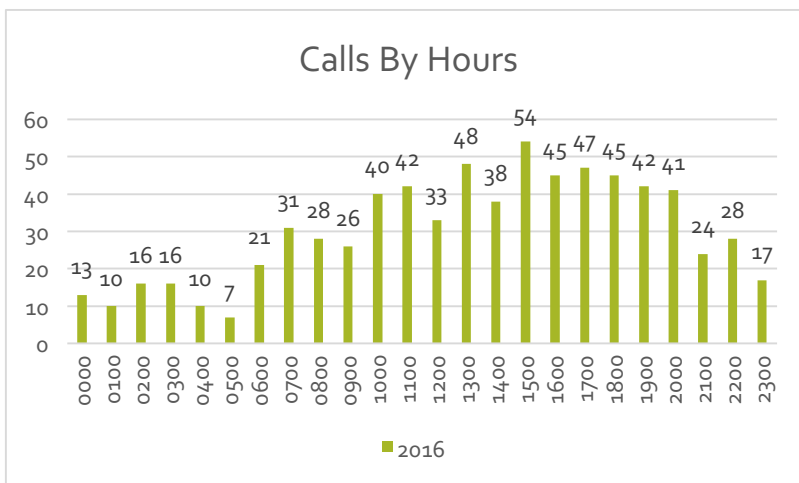
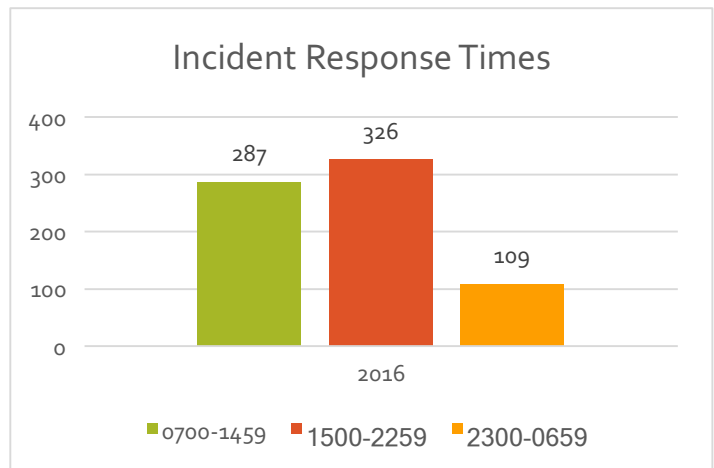
Incident Statistics



- Friday was our busiest day for fire incidents with a total of 123.
- Thursday was our slowest day for fire incidents with a total of 82.

Our volunteers responded to a total of 722 fire incidents in 2016. Here is a breakdown of when the incidents were dispatched.

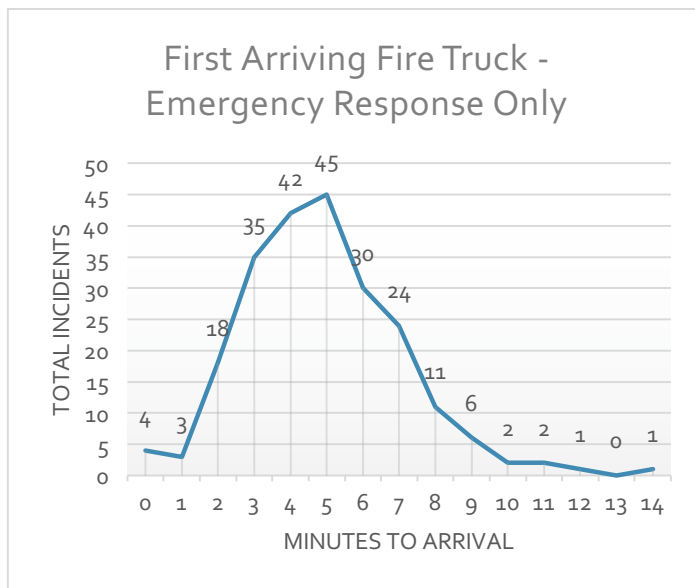
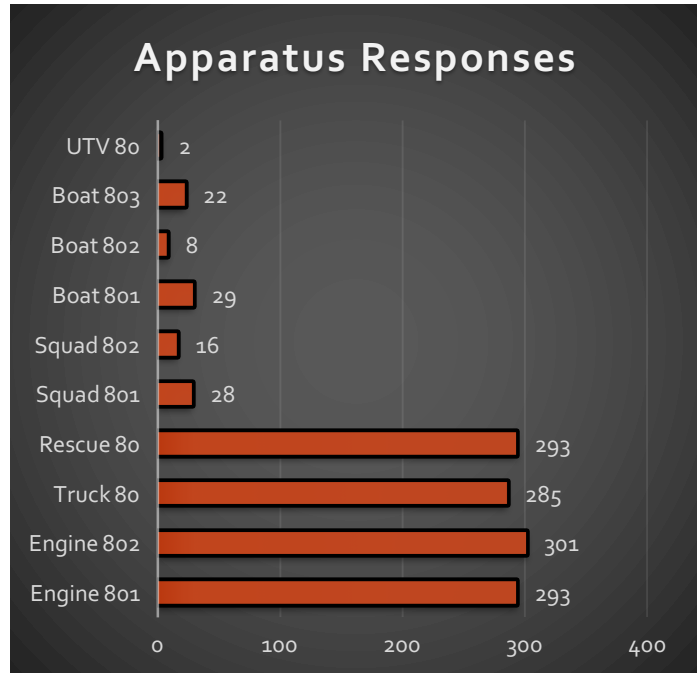
- 0700-1459 hours 287
- 1500-2259 hours 326
- 2300-0659 hours 109



- 3:00pm was our busiest time for incidents with 54.
- 5:00am was our slowest time for incidents with only 7.

Response

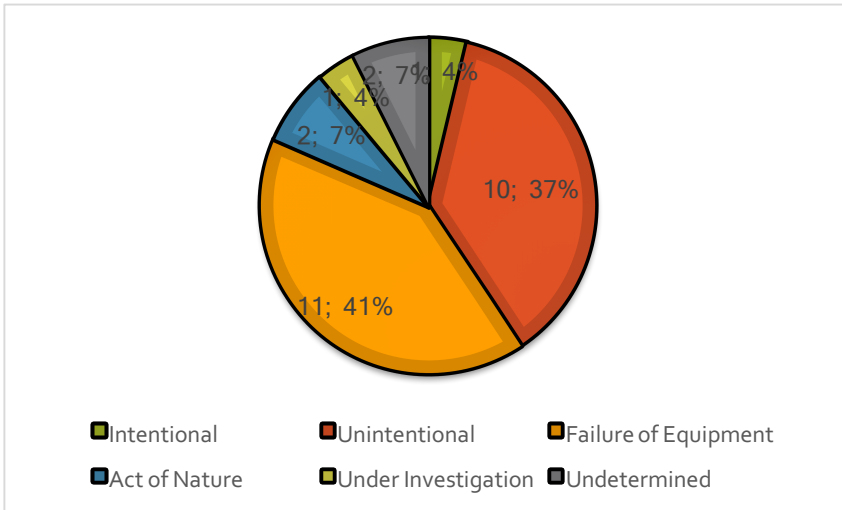
This graph show the total responses by our apparatus. If Engine 801, 802, Truck 80, and Rescue 80 all respond to a structure fire, then each unit has one response.



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 our fire gear, drive the fire truck to the address, and then arrives on the scene.

Cause of Ignition



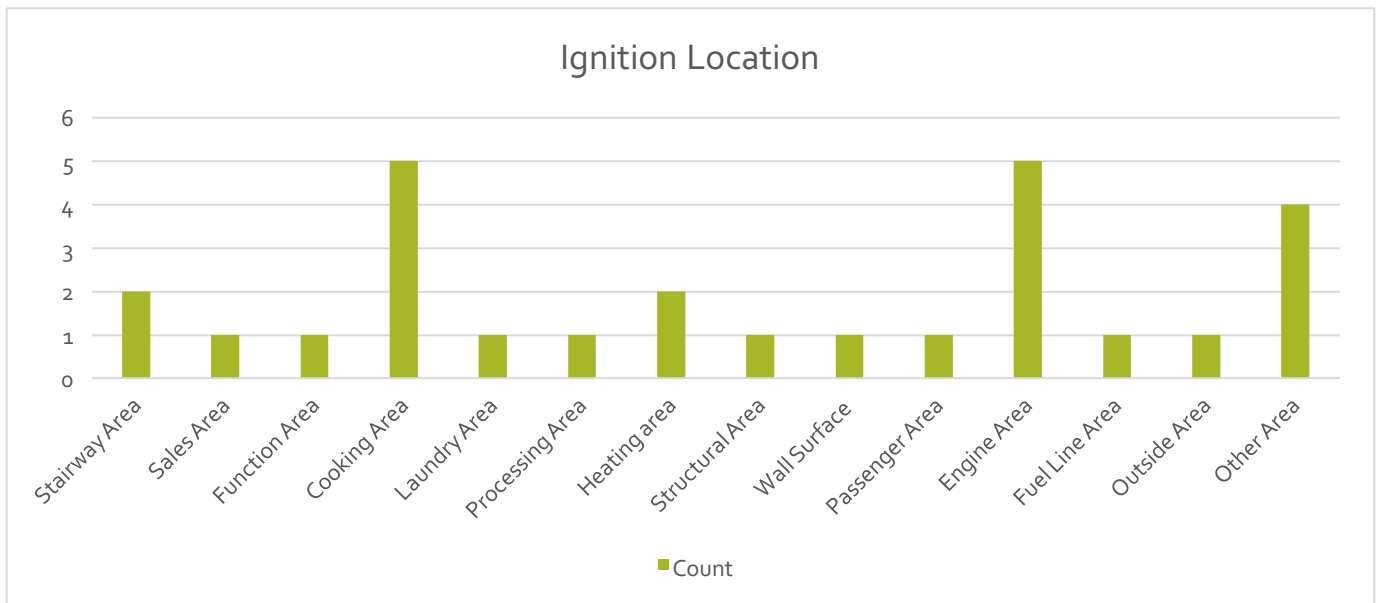
2016 showed 27 incidents where a cause of ignition has been identified. Our two largest categories are:

- **Failure of equipment** which can include electrical issues, heating equipment and mechanical issues.
- **Unintentional** which can include unattended cooking or open flame too close to combustibles.

Two incidents were ruled undetermined after investigation. As fire burns it consumes evidence and during our investigation we could not rule out an

accidental or a possible intentional cause to these incidents are listed as undetermined.

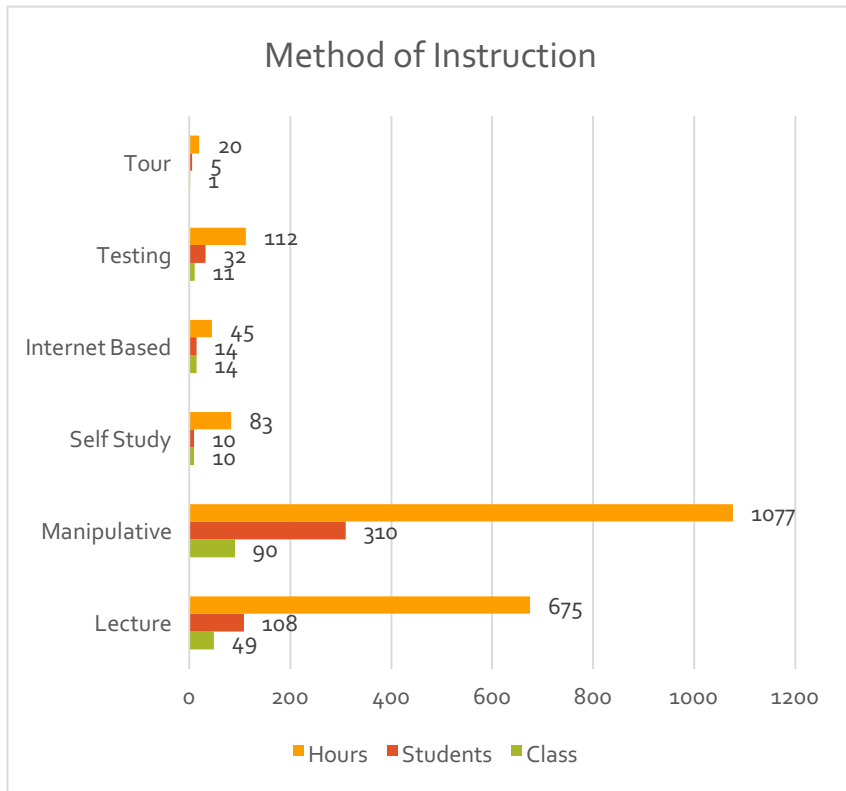
One incident in Columbia Borough for 2016 has been ruled intentionally set.



The graph above shows the ignition location break down. Our two highest locations were cooking areas and engine compartment areas.

- Cooking areas were all located in residential home setting. This type of incident is a continual problem not just for Columbia Borough but all throughout this Country.
- Engine compartment fires were all located in passenger type vehicles. This type of incident contributes to our highest percentage of fire loss since the vehicle is usually totaled by the insurance company.

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.

8 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 standard. Below are our members that completed a particular skill level:

Adam M. Hetter	NFPA 1001 Firefighter 2
Jared R. Barninger	NFPA 1002 Driver Operator Aerial
Bryan E. Keyser	NFPA 1002 Driver Operator Aerial
J. Michael Zercher	NFPA 1002 Driver Operator Aerial
J. Michael Zercher	NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 1
Douglas J. Kemmerly	NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 3
Brett A. Graham	NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 4
Brett A. Graham	NFPA 1521 Incident Safety Officer

Training Hours by Staff

NAME	Training Hours
Anderson, Devon M.	8
Anderson, Mike S.	6
Anderson, Nikki R.	31
Anderson, Ricky W.	9
Arnold, Michael P.	40
Barninger, Jared R.	47
Boyles, Todd M.	30
Braugard, Emily M.	3
Evans, Jack W.	8
Falcon, Ken M.	7
Felus, Joseph S.	7
Fisher, Jason S.	4
Frick, Carson M.	2
Fritz, Keith A.	10
Fritz, Kyle N.	18
Fritz, Lauren A.	27
Fritz, Mark A.	28
Gardill, Ryan J.	161
Gomez, Lorenzo C.	19
Goodman, Jordan M.	3
Graham, Brett A.	55
Hershey, Denny P.	34
Hetter, Adam M.	168
Hetter, Robert J.	46
Hilgert, Pat A.	18
Horn, Ed	4
Kemmerly, Douglas J.	136
Keyser, Brent M.	15
Keyser, Bryan E.	82
Keyser, Kevin A.	72
Kuhn, Ryan M.	47

NAME	Training Hours
Lightcap, John A.	4
Lightcap, Sr., Todd M	27
Lightcap, Jr., Todd M.	32
Manley, Ronald L.	4
Martin, Nick D.	12
McCauley, Edward J.	6
McClair, Charles M.	9
McCord, Michael S.	1
Mentzer, Brian K.	80
Meyers, William L.	66
Misal, Justin S.	23
Montgomery, Sean M.	37
Mosteller, Jared D.	96
Reese, Hannah J.	36
Reifsnnyder, Robert M.	14
Rhodes, Michael E.	29
Ryno, Scott K.	62
Schmitt, Eugene V.	13
Schoelkopf, Sr., Lester R.	4
Schoelkopf, Jr., Lester R.	9
Splain, Michael A.	7
Stark, Jerry F.	4
Stock, Michael D.	30
Torbert, Deborah L.	8
Torbert, John E.	8
Veach, Simon L.	33
Warner, Justin M.	18
Wise, Percy N.	3
Wiseman, Garry L.	7
Zercher, J. Michael	157

Fire Prevention / Risk Watch



2016 had our Fire Safety Specialists busy visiting elementary schools doing our fire prevention skits. Like always, we were assisted by our friends from Sesame Street. Our friends went over topics such as stop, drop and roll, smoke detectors, and exit drills in the home. We visited Park Elementary School, Our Lady of the Angels School, and multiple day care centers throughout Columbia Borough.

For the older children in Columbia Borough we brought in the Lancaster County Fireman's Association fire safety house. In the house, we went over fire safety issues in the living room, kitchen, and bedroom. Then the children had to exit the smoke filled home crawling below the smoke to exit.



- Our education specialist shared our knowledge with 180 adults and 858 children.
- We also installed 17 free smoke detectors in 5 homes in Columbia Borough.
- 9 child safety seats we installed in automobiles, free of charge to anyone in need.
- 3 Carbon Monoxide detectors were installed in 2 homes in Columbia Borough.
- 2 Fire extinguisher programs were presented to local facilities.

Fundraising



- Our bingo programs allow us to raise much needed funds for our 100% volunteer fire department. Last year alone we had 825 volunteers work our bingo program to make it a success. These volunteers put in over 3,700 hours to ensure we had funding to provide the best equipment, training, and the facilities that our citizens deserve.
- Other fundraising events throughout 2016 included our shrimp feed and chicken bar-b-q's. These two fundraisers had 97 volunteers and 580 man-hours to make these programs a success.