

ADAMS AREA FIRE DISTRICT

**BUTLER COUNTY, PA
STATION 42**



**2019
Annual Report**

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The Adams Area Fire District is an **ALL-Volunteer** emergency response organization that provides round-the-clock service to the communities we serve.

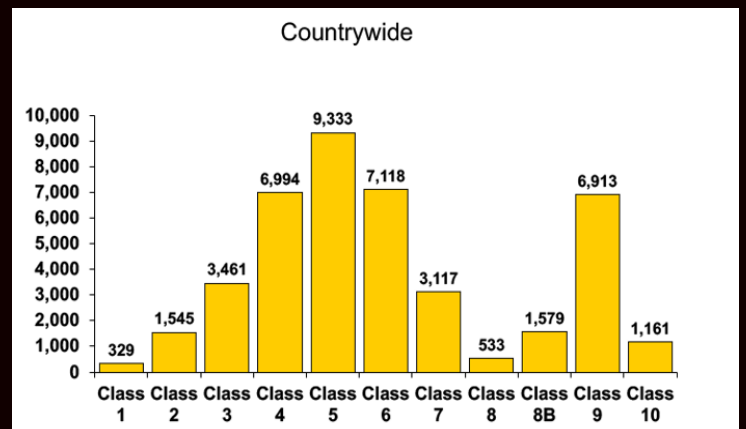
- Adams Township
- Mars Borough
- Seven Fields Borough
- Valencia Borough

The AAFD considers itself to be an 'all-hazards' response organization. In addition to traditional fire suppression activities, the organization also provides first responder (QRS) services, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, and fire prevention/public outreach programs.



AAFD - an ISO Rated Class 3 Fire Department!

- Prior to 2018, AAFD was rated Class 5.
- A company called the ISO (Insurance Services Office) creates ratings for fire departments and their surrounding communities.
- The ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in that community.
- The ISO provides this score to homeowners insurance companies.
- The insurers then use it to help set homeowners insurance rates.
- The more well-equipped your fire department is to put out a fire, the less likely your house is to burn down.
- That makes your home less risky, and therefore less expensive, to insure.



Tax Dollars are Being Well Spent!

Highlights from 2019

AAFD's culture of individual empowerment and improvement allows members to find their niche and to become involved in projects of their choice — enabling greater personal success and fulfillment.

Combining this engagement model with goal-oriented oversight has allowed AAFD's volunteers to build a fire department that fits their personal lifestyles while maintaining a '*Beyond Minimum Standards*' attitude towards service delivery.



New R42 Put Into Service

- Total cost to acquire and equip - approx. \$1.1 million.
- Approximately 800 man-hours spent in research, layout, design, site/plant visits & equipment placement and adjustment PRIOR to the vehicle's first emergency run.
- Offers 'first-response' technical rescue services - high angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, swift and surface-water rescue, vehicle and machinery entrapment, hazardous materials response, rapid intervention team services (firefighter rescue), and building/structural collapse response.
- Statistics: 38' Long. 108" wide. Seats 7 FFs. 177' of ground ladders. Equipped with a 16' inflatable Zodiac boat with a 30-horsepower pump-jet motor.

Daily Staffing Incentive Program Started

- Provides a nominal financial incentive for volunteers to staff the Fire Headquarters Monday through Friday between 7am – 5 pm.
- Significantly increased response capability during weekday, day-time hours.
- Decreased apparatus response and personnel turnout times.

Going Places!

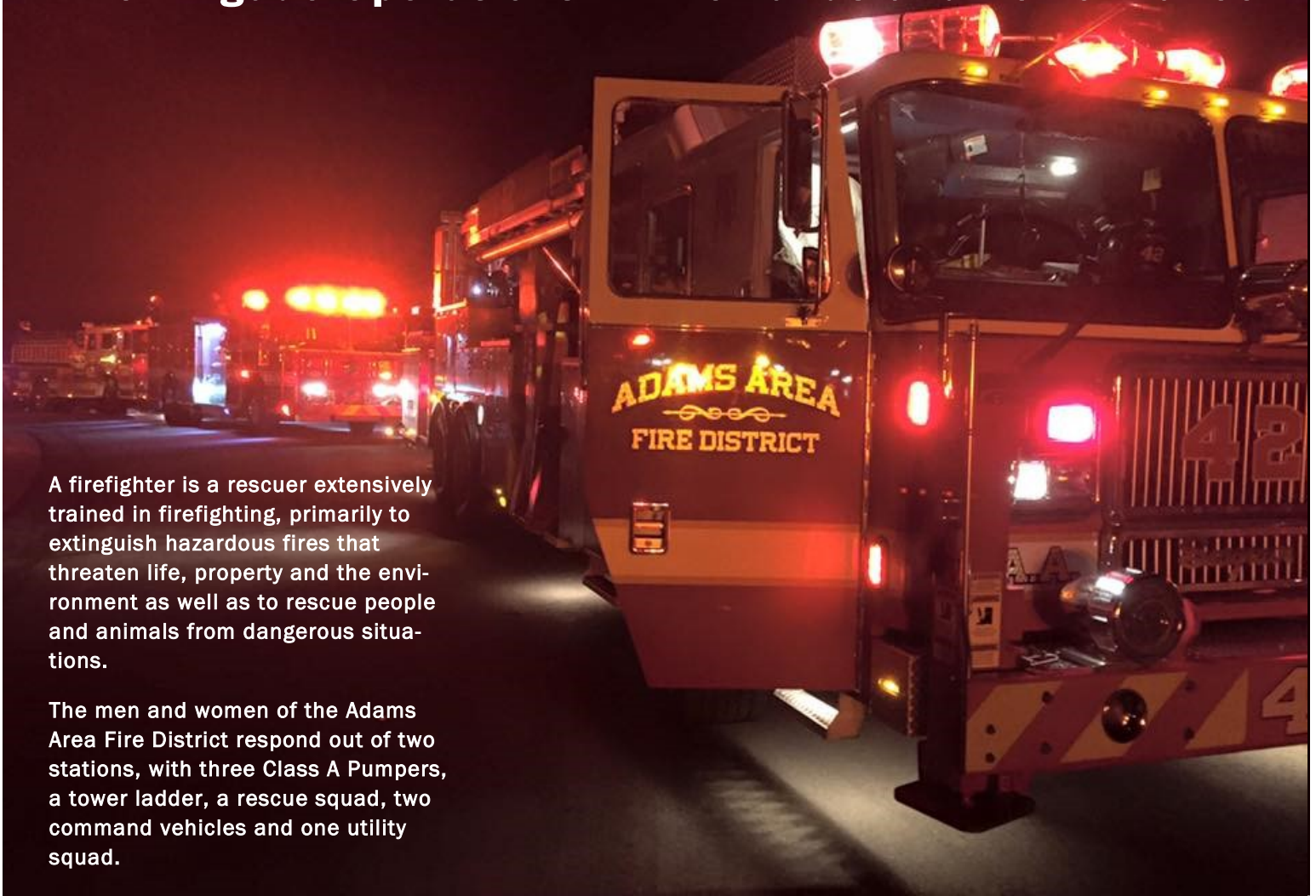
- May 9, 2019 — Etna Borough
 - 10 personnel in 3 apparatus responded to a large warehouse fire in Etna.
 - 18.8 road miles from the HQ- 32-minute response time.
 - Provided RIT on Side Charlie for 4.5 hours.
- April 10, 2019 — McCandless Twp.
 - 5 AAFD personnel in 2 apparatus responded initially to cover calls at Berkley Hills Station 247 while they operated at a large apartment fire in McCandless
 - Due to personnel shortages, 42 was diverted to the scene to assist with overhaul of the third floor, apartments 5-10.

New Radios

- Received and placed into service 39 Motorola portable, 8 Motorola mobile and 1 Motorola base-station radios.
 - The County and Municipality funded program cost \$168,000 to implement.
 - This radio system has an expected service life of 10 years

It's an exciting time to be part of the AAFD!

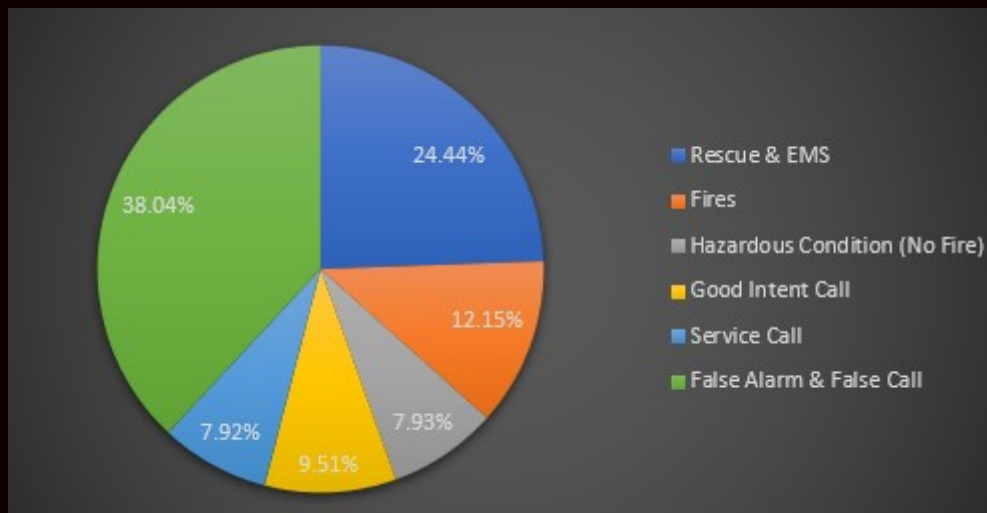
Fire Brigade Operations — Demands and Performance



A firefighter is a rescuer extensively trained in firefighting, primarily to extinguish hazardous fires that threaten life, property and the environment as well as to rescue people and animals from dangerous situations.

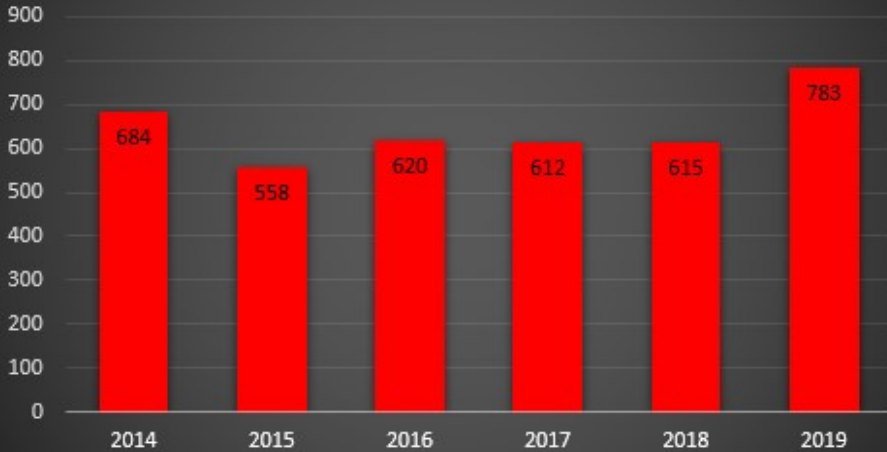
The men and women of the Adams Area Fire District respond out of two stations, with three Class A Pumpers, a tower ladder, a rescue squad, two command vehicles and one utility squad.

Percentage of Calls by Incident Type



Call Volume on the Rise

Incident Responses 2014 - 2019



- In 2020, the AAFD saw a 27.3% increase in total responses over the previous 5 year average.
- Nearly 170 more calls than in 2018.

2019 Incident Responses

Building Fire	50
Fire in Structure Other Than Building	3
Cooking Fire, Contained	13
Chimney Fire	5
Trash Fire	3
Vehicle, Trailer Fire	5
Brush & Grass Fire	8
Overpressure, Explosion, Other	2
Excessive Heat, Scorch, No Ignition	2
Medical Assist—QRS	116
Motor Vehicle Accident—With Injuries	34
Motor Vehicle VS Pedestrian	2
Motor Vehicle Accident—No Injuries	28
Elevator Rescue	2
Trench/Below Grade Rescue	1
Ice Rescue	1
Swift Water Rescue	1
Gas Leak (Natural or LPG)	23
Chemical Hazard (No Spill)	2
Carbon Monoxide Incident	6
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem	21
Power Line Down	7
Service Call/Other	15
Lock Out	2
Ring or Jewelry Removal	1
Animal Rescue	1
Assist Police or Other Agency	11
Cover, Standby, Move-Up	2
Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute	72
False Alarm/False Call	288

Total — 783

Fire Brigade Operations — Demands and Performance

Incident Count by Municipality

Adams - Adams Township 393

Mars - AAFD 84

Seven Fields - AAFD 51

Valencia - AAFD 38

Adams Township Northwest - Callery Area 8

Callery - Callery Borough 3

Cranberry - Cranberry Township 87

Evans City - Evans City Borough 10

Forward - Evans City Fire 3

Harmony - Harmony FD 2

Jackson Township - Harmony FD 13

Marshall - Marshall Township 4

Middlesex - Middlesex Township 16

Other Areas in Allegheny County 9

Other Areas in Butler County 1

Pine Township—Wexford Fire 31

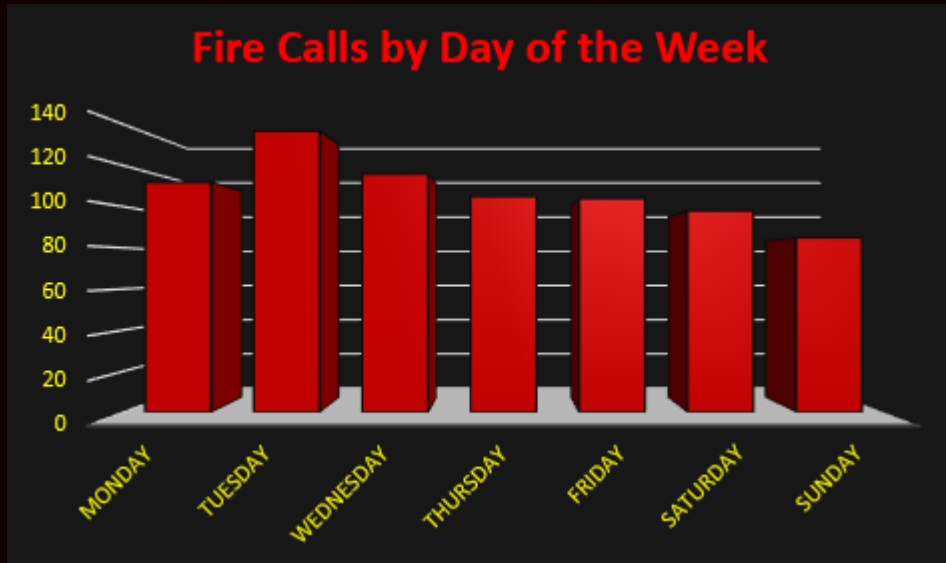
Richland Township 22

Zelienople - Harmony FD 9

Incident Overlap

129 times (16.71 % of all calls) there were multiple incidents during the same time period.

Fire Brigade Operations — Demands and Performance



STAFFING / THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS ON EACH INCIDENT WAS 5.

BUSIEST DAYS OF THE WEEK / MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY.

AVERAGE TURNOUT TIMES
(DISPATCH TO ENROUTE)

FIRE: 2 MINUTES 51 SECONDS
EMS: 2 MINUTES 41 SECONDS
AVERAGE: 2 MINUTES 49 SECONDS

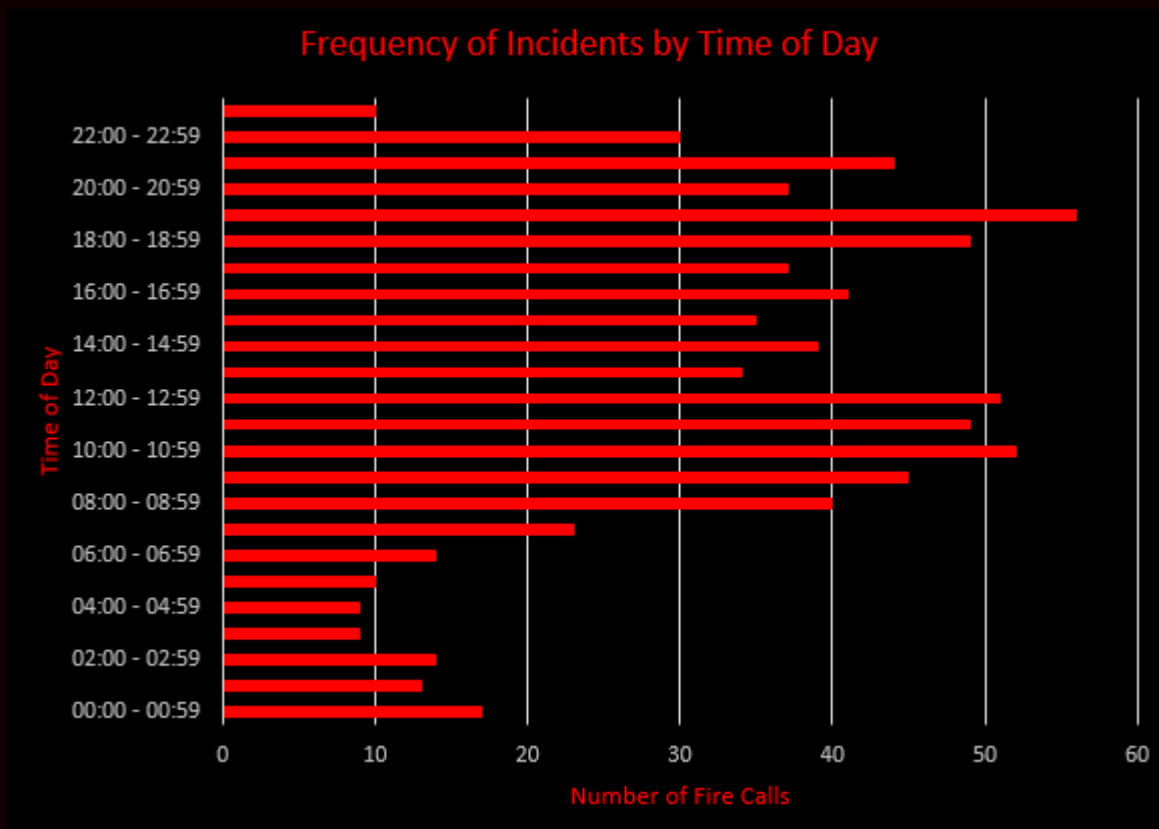
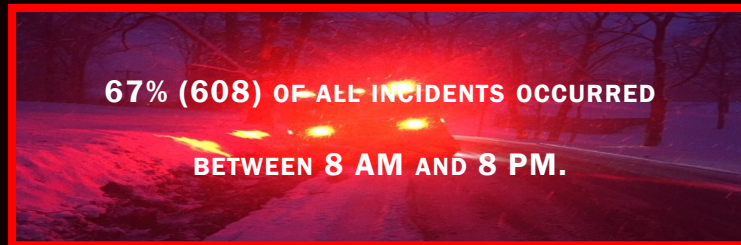
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES
(DISPATCH TO ON SCENE)

FIRE: 9 MINUTES 1 SECONDS
EMS: 6 MINUTES 59 SECONDS
AVERAGE: 8 MINUTES 26 SECONDS

Fire Brigade Operations – Demands and Performance

TIME SPENT ON-SCENE / THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT ON EACH INCIDENT WAS 33 MINUTES.

BUSIEST TIMES OF DAY / 10 AM TO 1 PM - AND - 6 PM TO 8 PM
/ 257 CALLS (33%) OCCURRED DURING THESE TIMES.



Performance: Fire Suppression

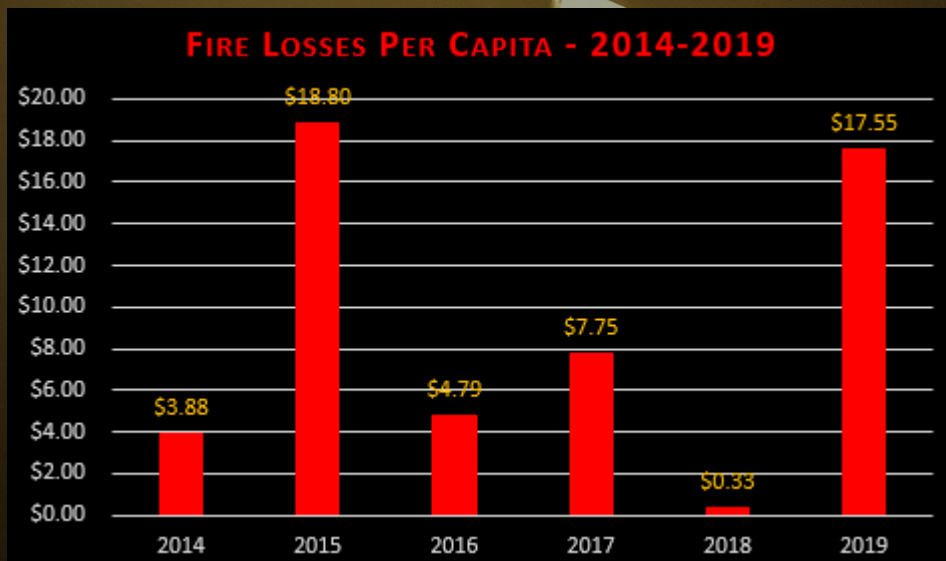
Fire Confinement

- AAFD's benchmark is to respond quickly enough, and with enough resources to contain 50% of fires to the compartment of origin.
- In 2019, the number of fires confined to the compartment of origin was 34 out of 73 fires (47%).

Community Losses Due to Fires

- National Fire Loss per Capita = \$44
- AAFD's 2019 fire loss estimate is 60% less than the national average.
- AAFD's Current five-year per capita fire loss average is \$9.84 - 78% less than the national average.

The Adams Area Fire District communities are very safe place to live!



Performance: Fire Suppression Assistance

- The AAFD is a founding partner in the Southern Butler County SAFER Group of Departments.
- SAFER is an acronym: Standard Actions For Efficient Responses
- To make dispatching more efficient, the 5 SAFER Departments are dispatched together as Station 90.

⇒ **AAFD gave mutual aid to our neighbors 216 times (28% of calls).**

⇒ **AAFD received aid from neighboring fire departments 186 times (25% of calls).**

⇒ **47% of calls, AAFD handled the incident without assistance.**

Performance: Personnel

In 2019, the AAFD began an aggressive station staffing campaign. Our success was driven by the ideas and concepts that started with previous leadership and member input.

With improved customer service as our guiding principle, our motto quickly became:

“Staffed Stations Matter”



TOP 5 INCIDENT RESPONDERS:

Capt. Doug Mellinger	280	(37%)
FF Andrew Blaney	258	(34%)
FF Gary McCormick	243	(32%)
Lt. Andrew Bell	231	(31%)
Lt. Tyler Cuadrado	194	(26%)

Station Staffing Hours

The AAFD accumulates Station Staffing Hours in various ways. This volunteer time allows for quicker turnout and response times—and allows for faster and improved customer service delivery.

Duty Officer: 1106
Incentive Shifts: 4291
Volunteer Staffing: 8006
Live-In Hours: 903

- Total Station Staffing — 14,306 hours
- Equivalent to 1,788 eight-hour days —or— **FIVE** firefighters, **24** hours a day, *every day of the YEAR.*
- **100% VOLUNTEER**

Focus: Personnel

Member Spotlight: [Lt. Xavier Jimenez](#)

Xavier Jimenez has been a Live-in member of the Adams Area Fire District since June 2019 and he currently serves as Lieutenant 42-3.

Xavier is currently attending the University of Pittsburgh and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering while he serves as a member of the AAFD.

A native of Guayaquil, Ecuador, Xavier started his firefighting service long before moving to the USA to attend Penn State University. Like many in our AAFD family, Xavier grew up in a firehouse. His father, now a retired Battalion Chief, was a firefighter in Guayaquil.

At Penn State, Xavier obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2017. While there, he also served as a live-in firefighter at the Alpha Fire Company in State College; and rose through the ranks of firefighter, quartermaster and Lieutenant. Xavier also worked for Penn State Ambulance Services as an EMT, Logistics Officer and Event Supervisor.



The Sense and Feeling of FAMILY is STRONG at the AAFD!



Focus: Personnel



Member Spotlight: [Training Officer Tony Zoroya](#)

I joined the Munhall Fire Department in the fall of 1993. When I turned 16, some friends of mine joined. They asked me to hang out there with them and one thing led to another. I felt at home because, growing up a block from the station, as a little kid I would run outside and watch the trucks pull out when the whistle blew. In fact, the Munhall Fire Chief lived across the street from me and could remember when I stood there in diapers – waving at the fire trucks. That’s the way most volunteer departments were. Members joined by having friends of friends, or simply by walking in. While a junior, I went through the usual Essentials of Firefighting training (which was just 66 hours at the time) and EMT school. Over the years I continued to grow and take classes and serve in increasing executive and operational rolls as an officer.

Fast forward to 2019 and I was the Assistant Chief, a local level suppression instructor, and an Adjunct Instructor for the PA State Fire Academy. I met my wife and we were soon buying a home and I found myself moving out of my hometown – moving almost 20 miles away. It was safe to assume that not only was responding to Munhall from my new home in Hampton not an option, but the other Department responsibilities I had such as running training, applying for grant funding, and other administrative-level tasks would no longer be feasible for me. So, looking forward to a new adventure with my wife, I decided to resign as Assistant Chief and move on.

After a few months of settling in, I felt the urge to volunteer again (after 26 years the desire to be a firefighter never really goes away!). I looked around for a good fit. Some departments were close, others a little farther away, some I liked more than others. And that is when I found the Adams Area Fire District. I had a few friends and colleagues who were members and I reached out and then stopped by the station. What I found, I believe, sets the mold of the future of the volunteer fire service. I was surprised to see an eclectic mix of members. There were junior firefighters, older members, young officers, seasoned veterans—who not only were career firefighters, but experts with local Fire Rescue and Task Force organizations. And, there were others like me, folks who lived outside of the community, but had a strong desire to help out. Despite their differences, everyone had the same passion to put the community and mission of the department first. I found a very professional organization. AAFD has set high standards for its membership, and any professional organization should do that - especially in public safety, where firefighters are tasked with providing an elite service to our communities in their worst time of need, 24/7 and 365.

“Adams had another unique quality that attracted me. They put family first.”

Adams had another unique quality that attracted me. They put family first. While standards and requirements are high, they know that family comes first, and that life does have its way of getting in the way. The Chiefs and Officers have open-door policies. And, while there are volunteer shifts, other details and daily duty requirements, everything is done to make sure that members understand that they can take time away when they need it, and back-up coverage is always taken care of. For me, personally, responding from home is not much an option due to how far away I live. But I do my part and take shifts at the station when I can. And, when something comes up with work or at home, I know I have my AAFD family that can and will back me up. And I strive to do the same for them. At the end of the day, it works out. I found everything I was looking for in the new non-typical service at Adams Area. In the short time I have been here, they have made a huge impact on my life and professional development. I hope I do the same to them and live up to their standards.

Performance: Public Outreach



Fire Safety and Education at the Adams Area Fire District is an ever-evolving piece in the very diverse service the Fire District provides. At Adams Area, we value our time interacting and working with the people who live and work in our communities, embracing each opportunity to do so. Very often, we are contacted by the community members who are interested in touring the fire station or setting up a fire safety education session for not only the little ones of our community, but the adults as well. From young to old, everybody enjoys seeing the fire trucks!

With smiles from ear to ear, visitors to the Fire HQ leave delighted after practicing fire drills, 'driving' our fire trucks and sitting in the seats, putting on the gear, putting pretend fires out with our fire hoses—and most importantly, zipping down our big yellow slide! We often get call backs from parents telling us that the little ones are boasting to everybody about their time spent at the 'Big Red' fire station! Even the adults are known to have fun going down the slide!

Fire safety and education for employees seems to be becoming more popular as well as many businesses throughout the District are requesting education on workplace fire safety. Unfortunately, there is no sliding board on these types of visits—but workers are collectively able to do their job more safely with the knowledge on how to recognize and mitigate workplace fire safety concerns after our brief presentation and hands on extinguisher training.



Quick Stats:

- 10 neighborhoods visited with 'Santa Claus on the Fire Truck' - over 500 children!
- 28 fire station tours
- 8 employee fire safety education sessions
- 350+ MASD Kindergarten students (all classes) visited the HQ over 3 days in April
- 11 contacts and 5 Knox Boxes (secure key boxes) installed on commercial properties
- 4 birthday parties; 5 touch-a-truck events; 4 block party events; 5 community events
- 100% VOLUNTEER

Performance: Training

A comprehensive training program is a vital component of a fire department's operational plan. The Adams Area Fire District is no different. Ensuring competence through the use of "scenario based" training evolutions, taught by highly trained and motivated officers and experienced instructors, is at the core of our training program's design.

Base skills in the areas of fire suppression, rescue tactics and operational support and leadership are taught on an ongoing and escalating basis. Specific skills and practices are evaluated during trainings to ensure each member is able to perform flawlessly when required. State level and nationally accredited classes are provided in our advanced training center. We are proud to provide such a comprehensive program to our members.

Performance: Training

Training Statistics

- 51 Tuesday evening & alternate day in-house training events
- 70 personnel completed 2870 hours of in-house training
- 6 personnel completed the PSFA Rope Rescue Training Series
- 5 personnel completed trench rescue training
- 9 personnel participated in 4 out of 5 total classes in swift & surface water rescue
- 6 personnel completed the 48-hour Pennsylvania State Fire Academy's Vehicle and Machinery course
- 9 AAFD members are accredited PA State Fire Academy local-level instructors



2020 Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives are developed annually to direct the priorities of AAFD's operational programs. These are consistent with District-wide strategic and capital improvement plans.

Continued progress with the AAFD 'Shield' Testing Program: Refinement of blue and black shield tests; introduction and roll-out of yellow shield (driver) proficiency tests for all large apparatus.

Establish a formal AAFD Duty Chief Program.

Schedule and complete Commercial Occupancy Pre-Plan visits to 100% of commercial occupancies in Adams Township.

Certify 75% of current Line Officers to Level 4 & 5 Blue Card Command and Pro-Board Fire Officer I.

Continue to market and promote AAFD's Live-In and Associate Membership programs.

Apply for and obtain grant funding opportunities for personnel and equipment as well as to support current operations programs as discovered.

Increase the number of mask qualified Firefighters certified to NFPA 1001 Firefighter II to 75%.

Increased utilization of EmergencyReporting.com for paper-free record-keeping and asset management:

- Commercial Occupancies
 - Weekly/Daily Apparatus equipment & function inspections
 - Personnel timekeeping – volunteer & staffing hours
-

Create and implement an officer development program for FFs to ensure consistent leadership in the future (ODS - Officer Development School).



Acknowledgements



Our successes can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of our members. They would not be possible without the support of the municipalities, individuals, and organizations that support us in meeting our mission:

- Adams Township
- Mars Borough
- Seven Fields Borough
- Valencia Borough
- Quality EMS
- Cranberry EMS
- Butler County Emergency Services
- Allegheny County Emergency Services
- Butler County Community College
- Allegheny County Fire Academy
- Southern Butler County SAFER Group
- Automatic and Mutual Aid Departments
- Residents and Business Owners



**Special thanks to Fire Chief Nick Sohyda and the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department for design and content inspiration that led to the production of this annual report.