

**TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH WHITEHALL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

September 12, 2022

A Public Meeting of the South Whitehall Township Public Safety Commission was held on the above date in the Township Municipal Building located at 4444 Walbert Avenue, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Members attending were:

Thomas Yezerski, Chairman
Richard Snyder, Vice Chairman
Glen Dorney, Chief, Police Department
Andrew Garger, Chief, Greenawalds Fire Department
Jay Heicklen, Chief, Cetronia Fire Department
Jeff Kelly, Emergency Management Coordinator
Robert Mateff, Chief Executive Officer, Cetronia Ambulance Corp.
Dr. Tony Naradko, Parkland School District
Barry Search, Chief, Woodlawn Fire Department
Michael Smith, At Large Member

Board of Commissioner Members attending were:

Monica Hodges
Diane Kelly
David Kennedy

Others attending were:

Ricardo Diaz, Deputy Chief, Cetronia Fire Company
Thomas Williams, Assistant Chief, Cetronia Fire Company

Township Staff attending were:

Herb Bender, Director of Township Operations
John Frantz, Fire Marshal
Jason Grozier, Sergeant, Police Department
Thomas Petrucci, Township Manager

AGENDA ITEM #1 - CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 1, 2022 were approved with a correction.

AGENDA ITEM #3 - OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Yezerski inquired if the Commission's comments concerning the configuration of Church Road west of Hausman Road had been reported.

Mr. Frantz indicated that the comments were conveyed to the Community Development Director and Planner.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Thomas Petrucci was introduced to the members of the Commission by Commissioner Kennedy. He has assumed the role of Township Manager for South Whitehall Township.

Mrs. Kathryn Gowka-Weiss commented to the Commission concerning open burning in the Township. She resides at 2042 Whitehall Avenue.

She is affected by smoke and the odor of smoke from open burning near her house. This burning involves unseasoned and rotten wood which releases smoke containing mold and bacteria. Some fires are maintained under trees.

Mr. Robert Weiss commented to the Commission concerning open burning in the Township. He resides at 2042 Whitehall Avenue.

He is affected by smoke and the odor of smoke from open burning near his house and believes that this is an issue that negatively effects his quality of life. The use of rotten wood as a fuel source adds to the smoke and odor produced by these fires. He believes that the amount of open burning is increasing. This burning has resulted in he and his wife not being able to open the windows of their house due to the odor produced by the fires, sometimes all night long.

Mr. Frantz indicated that the Township staff was advised earlier this year by the Township Solicitor's office that when the adoption of the 2015 International Fire Code occurred, the open burning requirements in it replaced the open burning requirements that had been in effect in the Township since the 1960's. This

allowed open burning using wood as a fuel when it had been previously prohibited.

The Township is in the process of writing the ordinance to adopt the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code. Two options for open burning will be presented to the Commissioners as part of this ordinance. The first option is similar to what had been in effect since the 1960's, prohibiting wood as a fuel source. The second option would allow fires using wood as a fuel source. These two options will be discussed at a Board of Commissioners Workshop to be held on Wednesday September 14, 2022.

The fire chiefs commented that they have experienced fires involving the improper disposal of ashes from dwelling indoor fireplaces much more than fires from outdoor fires. They do not see the proposed change to the ordinance as a significant safety issue that would negatively impact the safety of the community as long as the containment for the fires is maintained and the fires are monitored.

The Commission recommended that the two options for open burning related to the 2018 International Fire Code should be presented to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

AGENDA ITEM #5 - NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners expressed that the Get Prepared South Whitehall event was a big success. They received many positive comments regarding the event. They wish to thank all personnel involved in the event for making it a big success.

B. Fire Companies Report

Chief Heicklen submitted the response report for Cetronia for the month of August 2022. It is included as an attachment to these minutes. Cetronia responded to seventy calls for the month of August 2022.

The fire departments responded to a motor vehicle accident that evolved into a mass casualty incident requiring a large number of resources.

One of the departments firefighters suffered a fire in his house, outside of the Township. Much support has been received to assist his family in recovering from the fire.

Chief Garger submitted the response report via email for Greenawalds for the month of August 2022. It is included as an attachment to these minutes. Greenawalds responded to fifty-seven calls for the month of August 2022.

Chief Neas submitted the response reports via email for Tri-Clover for the month of August 2022 and year-to-date 2022. They are included as attachments to these minutes. Tri-Clover responded to twenty-four calls for the month of August 2022 and two-hundred and four calls year-to-date 2022.

Chief Search submitted the response report for Woodlawn for the month of August 2022. It is included as an attachment to these minutes. Woodlawn responded to seventy-eight calls for the month of August 2022.

C. Fire Commissioner Report

None.

D. Emergency Management Team Report

Coordinator Kelly reported that a meeting was held with GEO Specialty Chemicals personnel in June 2022 regarding their emergency response protocols. The next meeting will be held in October 2022. They have changed their emergency response procedures to provide two levels of severity for emergency incidents. The first level does not require outside resources while the second level does bring in outside emergency response resources.

The quarterly Emergency Management Team meeting was held on September 8, 2022.

Coordinator Kelly thanked all the personnel that helped to make the Get Prepared South Whitehall event a success. It is anticipated that this event may move between other Township parks in the future.

There have been many accidents at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard. The Township is attempting to get a grant from the Commonwealth for traffic light improvements at the intersection. The signs on the Hamilton Boulevard center median on the east side of the intersection will be looked at to see if they pose a sight obstruction to vehicles.

It was advised that large public events held by the Township should have Emergency Action Plans prepared for the events. A sample copy will be sent by Coordinator Kelly.

E. Police Report

Sergeant Grozier reported that the Police responded to one thousand, one hundred and fifty-one calls, had eighty-three reported crimes, and made forty-six arrests for the month of August 2022.

Chief Dorney indicated that the department is evaluating and looking for ways to address vehicle speeding on Trexler Boulevard, Hillview Road, and Lapp Road. The information received concerning Trexler Boulevard indicates that people are exceeding the speed limit. There is additional information that has been gathered using equipment from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, the report on this information has not been received as of the date of this meeting. The logistics of speed timing on Trexler Boulevard as difficult due to the equipment used by the Police and the configuration of the road. Speed boards will be placed on Hillview Road and Lapp Road in the future.

The Lehigh County Chief of Police Association Consortium will be offering their police officer testing in October 2022. The deadline for to apply for the exam process is September 23, 2022.

Grubhub and DoorDash drivers have been parking their vehicle on the Tilghman Street Bridge over Interstate 476. By doing so, they receive a higher pay rate for their services. The police have been moving drivers from that location and Penndot will posting increased no parking signage in the future.

Police Captain Michael Sorrentino was recognized for his thirty-three years of service to the Township. He retired from the Township in September 2022.

F. Emergency Medical Services Report

Due to a technical issue with the online streaming of the meeting, Chief Executive Officer Mateff's report for Cetronia was not available.

G. Parkland School District Report

Dr. Naradko thanked the police and emergency services personnel for their assistance with several issues over the summer of 2022. Included in

this was a threat to the Orefield Middle School. The investigation of that incident is ongoing.

Approximately eight-hundred teachers have been training in the “run, hide, fight” response to emergency situations. The training will be continuing for all other school district staff members.

Additional School Resource Officers have been added at District schools.

A reminder was given to be aware of school buses as they travel their routes throughout the area.

H. Subdivision Review

1. Eck Road Outdoor Storage – Major Plan 2022-109

The Commission made no recommendations to the plan.

2. PSD New Operations Center – Major Plan 2022-108

The Commission made no recommendations to the plan.

I. Address Assignments

None.

AGENDA ITEM #6 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ADOPTED THIS DATE:

ATTEST:

Secretary

Chairman

Greenawalds Fire Company

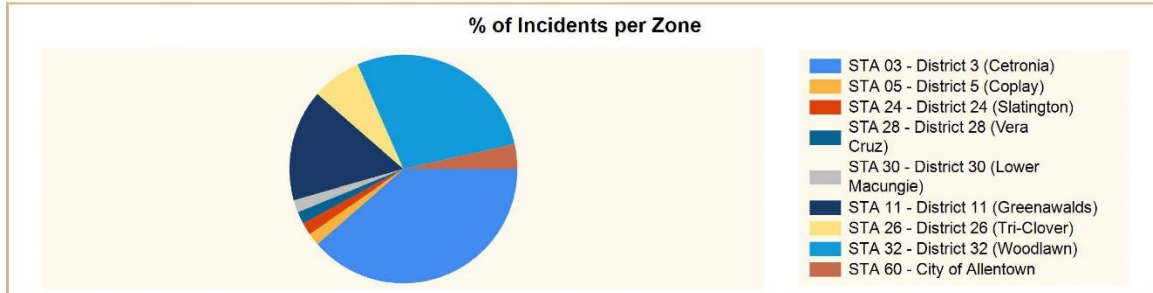
Allentown, PA

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Count of Incidents by Incident Type per Zone

Incident Status: All | Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022



INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
STA 03 - District 3 (Cetronia)		
111 - Building fire	2	3.51%
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	3	5.26%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1	1.75%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	16	28.07%
Zone: STA 03 - District 3 (Cetronia) Total Incident:	22	38.60%
STA 05 - District 5 (Coplay)		
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1	1.75%
Zone: STA 05 - District 5 (Coplay) Total Incident:	1	1.75%
STA 11 - District 11 (Greenawalds)		
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2	3.51%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1	1.75%
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1	1.75%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	2	3.51%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	1.75%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	2	3.51%
Zone: STA 11 - District 11 (Greenawalds) Total Incident:	9	15.79%
STA 24 - District 24 (Slatington)		
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1	1.75%
Zone: STA 24 - District 24 (Slatington) Total Incident:	1	1.75%
STA 26 - District 26 (Tri-Clover)		
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	1.75%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1	1.75%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1	1.75%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1	1.75%
Zone: STA 26 - District 26 (Tri-Clover) Total Incident:	4	7.02%

Report shows count of incidents for Status selected.

EMERGENCY REPORTING
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INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
STA 28 - District 28 (Vera Cruz)		
111 - Building fire	1	1.75%
Zone: STA 28 - District 28 (Vera Cruz) Total Incident:	1	1.75%
STA 30 - District 30 (Lower Macungie)		
111 - Building fire	1	1.75%
Zone: STA 30 - District 30 (Lower Macungie) Total Incident:	1	1.75%
STA 32 - District 32 (Woodlawn)		
111 - Building fire	2	3.51%
150 - Outside rubbish fire, other	1	1.75%
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	1	1.75%
531 - Smoke or odor removal	2	3.51%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1	1.75%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	9	15.79%
Zone: STA 32 - District 32 (Woodlawn) Total Incident:	16	28.07%
STA 60 - City of Allentown		
111 - Building fire	1	1.75%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	1.75%
Zone: STA 60 - City of Allentown Total Incident:	2	3.51%
TOTAL INCIDENTS FOR ALL ZONES:	57	100%

Report shows count of incidents for Status selected.

Woodlawn Fire Department

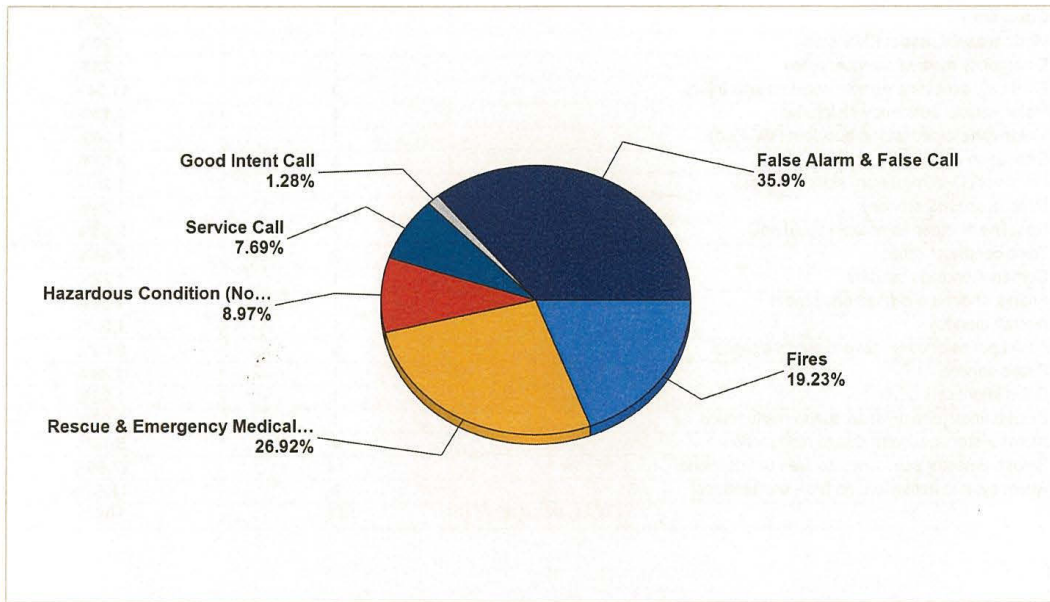
Allentown, PA

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	15	19.23%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	21	26.92%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	7	8.97%
Service Call	6	7.69%
Good Intent Call	1	1.28%
False Alarm & False Call	28	35.9%
TOTAL	78	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.



Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	9	11.54%
112 - Fires in structure other than in a building	2	2.56%
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	1	1.28%
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	1.28%
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1	1.28%
143 - Grass fire	1	1.28%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	1.28%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	1.28%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	9	11.54%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	4	5.13%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1	1.28%
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	3	3.85%
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	1	1.28%
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	1	1.28%
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	2	2.56%
420 - Toxic condition, other	2	2.56%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1	1.28%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1	1.28%
462 - Aircraft standby	1	1.28%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	5	6.41%
553 - Public service	1	1.28%
600 - Good intent call, other	1	1.28%
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1	1.28%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	4	5.13%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	14	17.95%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	9	11.54%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	78	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.



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Cetronia Fire Dept.

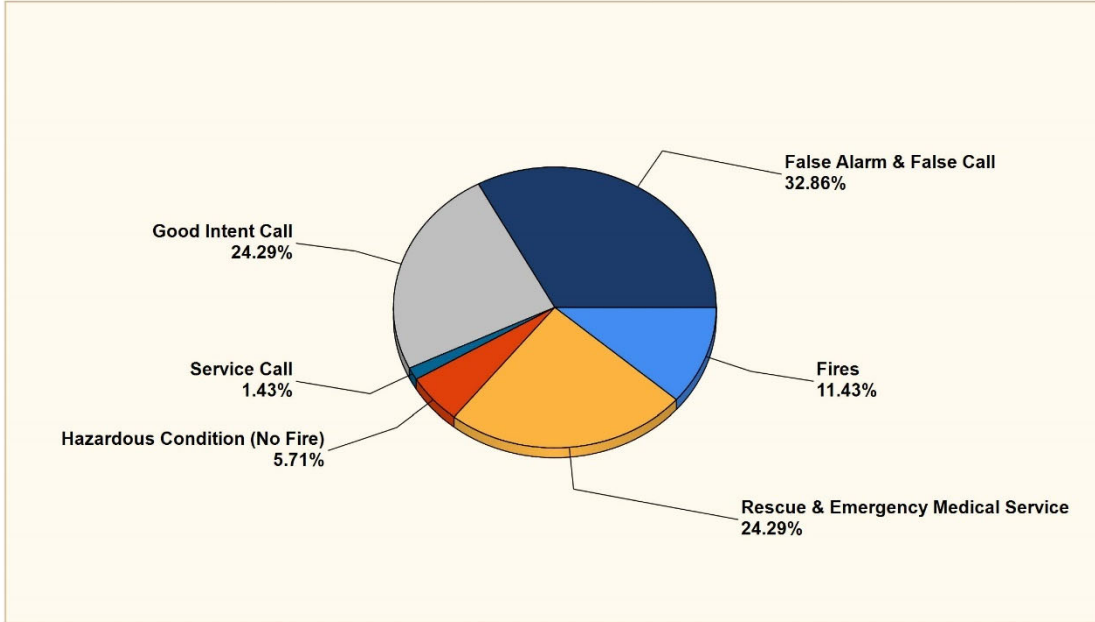
Allentown, PA

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	8	11.43%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	17	24.29%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4	5.71%
Service Call	1	1.43%
Good Intent Call	17	24.29%
False Alarm & False Call	23	32.86%
TOTAL	70	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.



Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	1	1.43%
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	3	4.29%
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	2	2.86%
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	1.43%
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1	1.43%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	10	14.29%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	3	4.29%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1	1.43%
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	2	2.86%
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	1	1.43%
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	2	2.86%
444 - Power line down	1	1.43%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1	1.43%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	1.43%
600 - Good intent call, other	2	2.86%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	13	18.57%
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1	1.43%
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	1	1.43%
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	1	1.43%
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1	1.43%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	1.43%
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	2	2.86%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	7	10%
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	7	10%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	4	5.71%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	70	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.

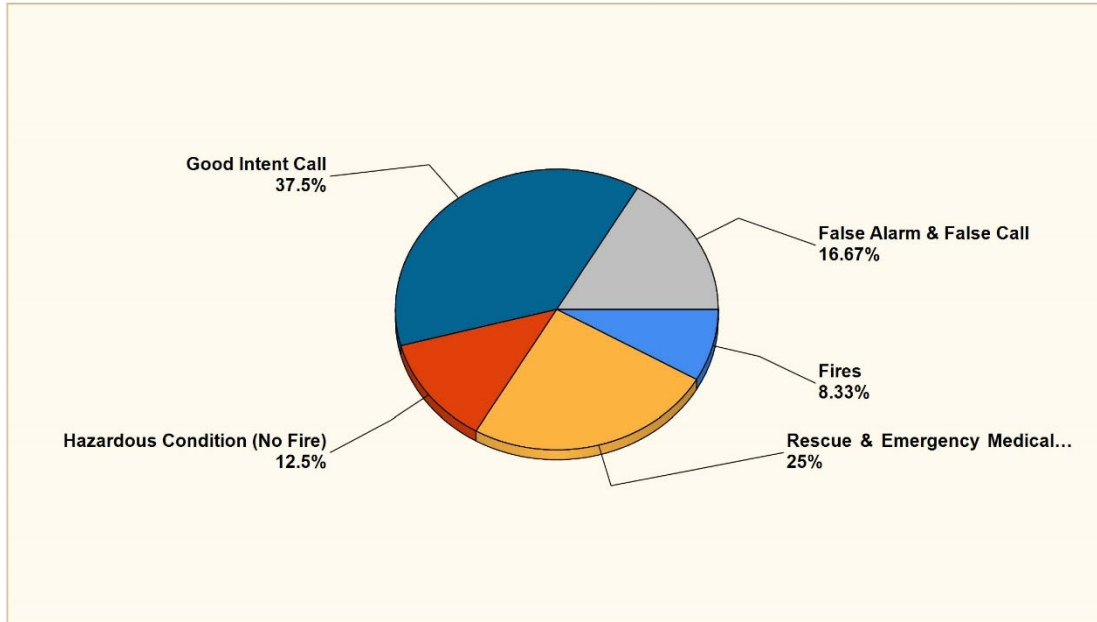
Tri Clover Fire Company

Orefield, PA

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	2	8.33%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	6	25%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	3	12.5%
Good Intent Call	9	37.5%
False Alarm & False Call	4	16.67%
TOTAL	24	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	1	4.17%
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	4.17%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2	8.33%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1	4.17%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2	8.33%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1	4.17%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1	4.17%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1	4.17%
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1	4.17%
600 - Good intent call, other	1	4.17%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	7	29.17%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	1	4.17%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	4.17%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	2	8.33%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	4.17%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	24	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.

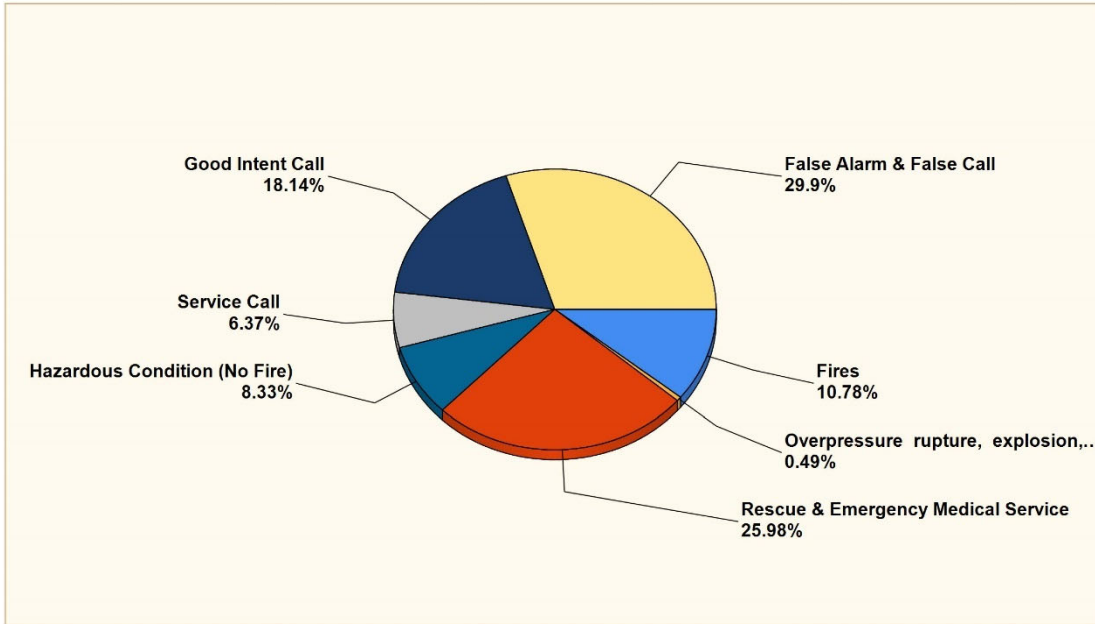
Tri Clover Fire Company

Orefield, PA

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 01/01/2022 | End Date: 12/31/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	22	10.78%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	1	0.49%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	53	25.98%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	17	8.33%
Service Call	13	6.37%
Good Intent Call	37	18.14%
False Alarm & False Call	61	29.9%
TOTAL	204	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.



Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
100 - Fire, other	1	0.49%
111 - Building fire	12	5.88%
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	2	0.98%
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	2	0.98%
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	0.49%
140 - Natural vegetation fire, other	1	0.49%
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1	0.49%
160 - Special outside fire, other	1	0.49%
162 - Outside equipment fire	1	0.49%
251 - Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1	0.49%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	18	8.82%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	8	3.92%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	20	9.8%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	2	0.98%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	2	0.98%
350 - Extrication, rescue, other	1	0.49%
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	1	0.49%
363 - Swift water rescue	1	0.49%
400 - Hazardous condition, other	1	0.49%
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	2	0.98%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1	0.49%
413 - Oil or other combustible liquid spill	2	0.98%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1	0.49%
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1	0.49%
441 - Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1	0.49%
444 - Power line down	2	0.98%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1	0.49%
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	5	2.45%
520 - Water problem, other	1	0.49%
542 - Animal rescue	2	0.98%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	7	3.43%
561 - Unauthorized burning	2	0.98%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	0.49%
600 - Good intent call, other	1	0.49%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	26	12.75%
621 - Wrong location	1	0.49%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	6	2.94%
650 - Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	1	0.49%
652 - Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	2	0.98%
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	2	0.98%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	26	12.75%
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	4	1.96%
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	3	1.47%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	25	12.25%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	0.49%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	204	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.