

King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company



2008 Annual Report

***...for 58 years, providing Community Care
Services When Needed Most!***



KING OF PRUSSIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
170 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406
610-265-1063 Allendale Road Station
610-337-8230 West Beidler Road Station
610-265-3205 FAX
610-265-5635 Social Hall
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Web www.kpafc.com

June 1, 2009

Thank you for taking the time to review this Annual Report which outlines the activities of the **King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company** for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Once again during this year, the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company has been working earnestly to keep pace with the ever-changing complexion of our community. We have attempted to move forward progressively, always mindful of the needs of our community.

As an all volunteer organization, we could not achieve these accomplishments without the commitment, dedication, professionalism and service of all our members, along with their families; to whom we owe our gratitude.

We are proud to have been of assistance to our citizens in their times of need. Certainly, we look forward to continue serving our community. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time, if we can be of service to you.

Yours truly in the fire service,

William C. Daywalt Jr.

William C Daywalt Jr., CFOD
Fire Chief

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania sits just a few short miles north and west of the City of Philadelphia, serving as one of its major suburbs. Our community has since grown to significant size and complexity.

While often noted for having one of the country's largest shopping complexes (the Court and Plaza at King of Prussia), with 3,000,000 square feet of retail shopping space; the community also boasts one of the largest privately owned convention centers on the East Coast (The Valley Forge Convention Center) and is also home of the Valley Forge National Park. King of Prussia is actually part of Upper Merion Township with community population of approximately 30,000 and coverage of 15 square miles. In addition, some 24 miles of interstate highway, over 1,500 businesses and 15 hotels claim a spot in King of Prussia.

The King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company was founded in 1950 and currently operates an all-volunteer fire department out of two fire stations located at 170 Allendale Road and at 300 West Beidler Road. The fire company currently has 93 active volunteer members and a fleet of 10 pieces of apparatus.

The goal of the fire company is to constantly provide the best possible fire and rescue services to the citizens of Upper Merion Township. We are here to protect and serve our community. One of the fire company's greatest assets is the membership; these members are the true foundation of this organization.

Fire Company members may be either active firefighters or active members who support the Company and contribute volunteer time and talents to further the mission of the organization.

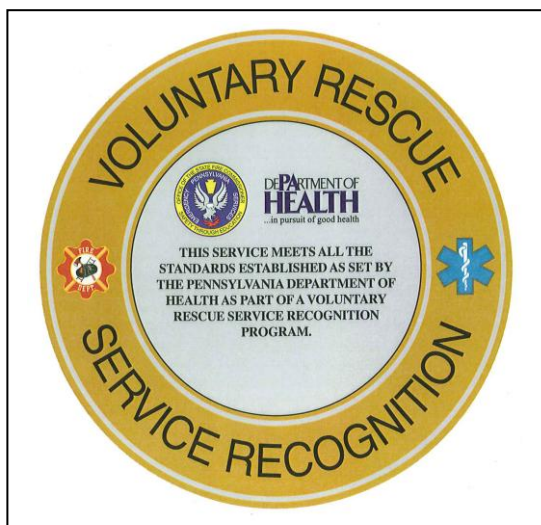
***“Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale.
And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds;
it changes the odds.” – President Bill Clinton***

Professional Recognition and Accomplishments.



King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. The fire company is the first volunteer department to receive this recognition and was originally accredited in 2000 and re-accredited in 2005.

The 75% of the members of the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company are recognized by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner of Pennsylvania for meeting accomplishments in training and education, which meets or exceeds nationally recognized standards.



The King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Montgomery County Department of Public Safety for meeting training and equipment standards for the Advanced Level for Vehicle Rescue Operations.

Fire Company Administration

The Administration Officers of the fire company are comprised of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, a Recording secretary and nine members who serve as the Board of Trustees. The President of the fire company is Dr. William Jenaway and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is Michael Mandes.

These officers are responsible for all fire company owned property and general management operations to ensure the fire company is operating responsibly and is financially responsible to our members and to our community.

Administration Officers

Dr. William Jenaway	President
Kevin Katarynick	Vice President
Gary Grayshaw	Treasurer
Jenifer Daywalt	Recording Secretary

Board of Trustees

Michael Mandes,Chair	Steve Geltman
Chris MacVaugh	Carl Pinto
Rich Rogasch	Joseph Bartlett
Robert Rudzinski	Joe Morris
Mark Shepperd	

The fire company is an accredited agency with the Public Safety Excellence, Inc. for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program.

King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company is the first volunteer fire company to receive this recognition and was originally accredited in 2000.

This award demonstrates the commitment of the agency to provide the highest quality of service to our community. This achievement was accomplished by the hard work and dedication of all the members of the fire company. Attaining and retaining accreditation requires real team effort from all members. Without the members' support, we would not have received, nor hold, this recognition. The accreditation process helps us stay in touch with the community and meet citizens' needs. The accreditation status with CFAI was renewed in 2006 after an extensive re-evaluation and review of the fire company. The current accreditation is valid until 2011.

Budget

The operating budget of the fire company for 2008 was \$349,250.00. Funding is generated from four primary sources; Upper Merion Township allocations, Pennsylvania Act 84 contributions (Pennsylvania Firemen's Relief Act), contract services, and direct contributions to the annual fund drive. The fire company self-generates 45% of its operating income and is a non-profit organization with tax exempt status per the IRS guidelines.

Gary Grayshaw serves as Treasurer of the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company. Clairmont, Pacillio and Company, CPA, PC of King of Prussia prepares auditing and annual financial summaries.

Summary of Revenues:

- Upper Merion Township Allocation 40%
- Residential / Industrial Fund Drive 22%
- Upper Merion Fireman's Relief Association 15%
- Service Contracts 2%
- Other Revenue Source include Fundraising Activities 21%

Summary of Expenses:

- Firefighting Operations 15%
- Facility Maintenance 12%
- Utilities 15%
- Engineering Expense 12%
- Administration Expense 8%
- Capital Loan Expenses 28%
- Other Incidentals 10%

Fire Company Operations

The Fire Officer Command staff for 2008 consisted of the following personnel:

- William C. Daywalt Jr. Fire Chief
- Robert Rudzinski Sr. Deputy Chief
- James Gallagher Assistant Chief Engine Co. Operations.
- Mark Ross Assistant Chief of Ladder Co. Operations
- Marty Menago Assistant Chief of Rescue Co. Operations
- Michael Pontician Assistant Chief of Haz Mat Operations
- Mark Thomas Lieutenant of Engine Co. Operations
- Rickey Martin Lieutenant of Ladder Co. Operations
- Matt Keszczyk Lieutenant of Rescue Co. Operations
- Michael Bralski Lieutenant of Haz Mat Operations
- Robin Ross Safety Officer
- Christopher Santillo Chief Engineer
- Wayne Thim Fire Police Captain
- Paul Fickenscher Lieutenant for Fire Police

In 2008, the fire company received several professional recognitions:

- The fire company rescue operations were evaluated for the completeness, competency and capabilities and were recognized as an Advanced Level Rescue Company jointly by the PA Department of Health and the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety.
- The fire company was recognized by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner of Pennsylvania for meeting accomplishments in training and education, which meets or exceeds nationally recognized standards and for having 75% of the membership meeting these training standards.
- The annual Accreditation Report for 2008 to the Public Safety Excellence, Inc. was accepted by the organization without comments and re-affirms the professional commitment of the fire company and its members to provide quality fire and rescue services to the citizens of Upper Merion Township.

The operational control of the fire company is under the direction of the Fire Chief and Chief Fire Officers. In 2008, the fire company responded to 624 incidents. This is a decrease of 7% over the previous year totals.

Type of incidents responded to in 2008 included:

- 165 Fire Protection System Troubleshooting
- 49 Community Care/Public Service Calls
- 115 Structure Fires
- 39 Vehicle Fires

- 39 Hazardous Materials Incidents
- 72 Rescues
- 37 Air Medical Evacuations
- 25 Field/Brush Fires
- 48 Assist fire companies outside the township
- 35 Stand-by/assist EMS, other Twp Fire Co. & UM Police

On the next page are charts showing the types of responses and the number of responses by month.

Note these facts about responses:

- The busiest day of the week and time for the fire company to be dispatched to an incident was Wednesday (110 emergency responses = 16% of total emergency responses) at 5:00 p.m. (55 emergency responses = 9% of total emergency responses).
- The average arrival time to be on location at an emergency scene was within 8.2 minutes.
- The average firefighter turnout per incident was 14.
- The fire company documented 251 emergency responses to residential type occupancies which represents 40% of the total emergency responses. A residential unit is defined as 1 or 2 family dwellings, multifamily dwellings and commercial hotels or motels.

Facts and Comments about the types and causes of fire operations incidents:

- Malfunctioning fire protection systems accounted for 26% of the emergency responses. Property owners: routine maintenance of these fire protection systems could have reduced the frequency of this type of emergency response.
- Contractor negligence accounted for 6% of the fire protection system troubleshooting responses. When a contractor is working within your home or a commercial building have them notify your alarm monitoring company before starting work to help prevent unnecessary fire responses. Most of the time, these responses can be eliminated by the notifying the alarm company.
- Vehicle accidents with injuries accounted for 12% of the total of emergency responses. Some tips to safe driving: do not operate your cell phone while you are operating your vehicle, staying alert, always wear seat belts, obey the speed limits and always have control of your motor vehicle will help protect you, your family, your personal property and the immediate surrounding public from harm.

- The frequency of cooking fires incidents increased in 2008 and accounted for 6% of the fire responses. Unattended food in the oven and stove were the nature of most of these incidents. Please pay attention when you are cooking to keep your dinner and everything else from getting burned.

Training Division

The fire company training program is coordinated under the direction of Deputy Chief Robert Rudzinski Sr. The Deputy Chief is responsible for implementing the fire company's annual training plan as developed with input from the Fire Officer Command Staff, as listed immediately above. Each officer has a specific area of responsibility for leading and attaining superior performance in fire company operations and training evolutions.

The fire company has received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the Silver recognition for meeting Training Standards in Pennsylvania by having over 75% of our active members perform to State and National Training Standards. This accomplishment is primarily due to the hard work and dedication from our members.

Every Tuesday night, our members participate in scheduled training sessions, primarily between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. At these training sessions members continue to practice their skills in engine, ladder, rescue and hazardous materials response operations to ensure that they are ready to respond to any emergency incident a moment's notice. These training sessions also educate our new members in each of operations and allow the members to check all equipment carried on the apparatus to ensure the equipment is operating properly.

Remember that we are a 100% all volunteer fire and rescue company, so not every member can attend every Tuesday. However, we ensure the training is shared and repeated as necessary. The average membership turnout for a weekly company training session in 2008 was 24.

During other week nights and for various weekend days our members demonstrate their commitment to strive for excellence as fire service professionals by attending training classes at County Fire Training Academies in Montgomery, Bucks and Delaware counties. They also participate in programs conducted by the Pennsylvania State and National Fire Academies. In 2008, the members attended and completed 139 training classes at a certified educational or training institute and over 5,424 hours was documented. This statistics show the significance of the membership to excel within their profession.

Engineering Division

Our Engineering Division consists of ten members and operates under the direction of Chief Engineer Christopher Santillo. The Engineering Division is responsible for

maintaining and servicing our fleet of ten pieces of apparatus to ensure that each is always operational and available for call response.

In addition to the engineering staff, the fire company utilizes a certified emergency vehicle mechanic service. This service helps the engineering staff with more complicated repairs to the apparatus. Just like your personal automobile, there are more complex computerized units in each piece of apparatus which require specialized assistance for repair.

Each year, we also engage independent third parties to test and assure the proper functioning of all pumps, hose and aerial equipment.

In 2008, the various pieces of apparatus responded a combined 2,439 times. Below is a breakdown of the total for apparatus responses.

- Engine / Fire Suppression 1,067 Responses
- Tower Ladder 250 Responses
- Rescue 145 Responses
- Hazardous Materials 94 Responses
- Fire Police 160 Responses
- Command Vehicles 723 Responses

Such demand warrants an engineering division to provide both preventive maintenance and repair. We must assure the equipment is not only “ready to roll” but also is safe for our responding firefighters.

Fire Prevention and Public Education Division

Our members are extremely proud of the active role they provide in public education. The Fire Prevention and Public Education program is under the direction of Safety Officer Robin Ross. Fire Prevention and Public Education are the process of teaching others to keep fires and related emergencies from occurring, and taking direct action to prevent fires and related emergencies.

The young are most impressionable, and therefore we always are ready for the individual or group of youngsters who want to learn more about the firefighters. Children of all ages stop in and see the apparatus. Whether scouts, nursery school students, a class field trip, a child with a parent or grandparent, or an inquisitive citizen, we are prepared to discuss the fire company, its operations, equipment and facility. This activity always includes a message on how to prevent fires, evacuate buildings, call the fire department, etc. We welcome visits.

There is an annual effort through the school system to educate student and parent alike. In 2008, the fire company visited each elementary school in the Upper Merion Area School District. The fire company conducted safety education seminars in each elementary school and Mother of Divine Providence (K-8). These visits included

apparatus displays, demonstrations, and explanations of fire and injury prevention tools and techniques. Upon request, many sessions were also held for day cares, nursery schools, scout troops, adult groups, and even for birthday parties.

Typical content for sessions includes demonstrations of smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector applications, fire extinguisher use, and fire-fighting equipment. Child education sessions on STOP-DROP-and-ROLL also helped children had better understand what to do if their clothes caught fire. Calling 911 for help, home escape routes, candle safety, smoking safety, testing smoke detectors and the “Friendly Monster” routine (where a firefighter dons all of their protective clothing and equipment and saves children) are basic training for any youth group.

During October, our Annual Fire Prevention Week resulted in at least one appearance per day, involving over 1,000 hours of firefighter time, over 75 hours of apparatus use, and contacting numerous men, women, and children from the community to help prevent injury and damage related to fires.

The fire company also participated in numerous parades and block parties during 2008, including our annual Fourth of July visit to the Canon Run neighborhood and Fireworks activities at the Upper Merion Township Building. Assistance also was provided to a number of neighboring fire companies with their fire prevention demonstrations.

The support to community-based events continues to be a consistent element of the fire-safety commitment. Members provided fire prevention information at the annual Community Day Fair, held each September at the Township Building Community Park. These events provide an opportunity to interact with the public and teach fire prevention. And to “test” our prior training techniques when we interact with the many children and families met during the events. That is, we seek to confirm that children have retained fire-safety training from past sessions.

In 2008, the fire company documented that over 100,000 people contacts were made and the fire personnel document over 4,500 hours toward the program.

The Suburban Courier Newspaper again has played a pivotal role in the fire prevention efforts. Their continual efforts in publishing the “Fire Safety Tip of the Week” weekly fire prevention messages, written by our Fire Prevention Director / Safety Officer, in the newspaper assist us in communicating fire and injury prevention information, tips and techniques to a wide range of our community.

Again in 2008, the fire company continued their partnership with a local real estate agent to provide fire safety inspections for newly posted or purchased homes within Upper Merion Township. Our members have installed a working smoke detector within these homes when needed to ensure that the newly purchased property has a working smoke detector. A total of 25 new households were visited and a working smoke detector was installed.

In September of 2008, the fire company's fire prevention program received a First place award from the Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania. This is the 12th consecutive year the Robert Little Memorial Fire Safety Education Award has been given to the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company. This award is presented to the top six fire companies or departments who, in the opinion of the Firemen's Association of Pennsylvania, have done an outstanding job in providing Fire Safety Education Programs to the citizens of their community.

The above is only a brief example of the numerous events and education services that are provided by the members of the fire company. This accurately explains the commitment to the community to provide valued public safety education program.

Pre-Planning Division

Whether fire or rescue oriented, planning is an important part of the process to assure the proper resources are available when needed. A variety of activities are conducted on a regular basis with Deputy Chief working in concert with the Upper Merion Township Fire Marshall's Office to better understand the hazards being faced in the fire district.

The King of Prussia area of the township has notable re-development along several Route 202 – West DeKalb Pike properties, the reconstruction and lane-widening project of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and the start of development and construction at the Valley Forge Golf course, now known as the Village at Valley Forge.

The Fire Chief regularly receives from the Township and shares with all firefighters, information about construction and remodeling projects. This helps ensure everyone responding to a service call knows the current status of those dynamic situations.

Fire and Rescue Service Board

The fire company actively participates in the Fire and Rescue Service Board (FRSB). Our liaison to the FRSB is our Company President, Dr. William Jenaway. The FRSB mission is to maintain for Upper Merion Township an effective emergency response capability to natural and man-made emergencies through planning and the efficient use of manpower and equipment.

The Fire and Rescue Services Board makes recommendations to the Township Board of Supervisors, through the Township Manager, in such matters as these: township apparatus specifications, township apparatus purchases, township major equipment purchases, financial allocations and/or loans, uniform division policies and procedures, running schedules, safety, training and non-personnel grievances.

Fire Company Personnel

This fire company cannot survive without our volunteer firefighters. It is the one element of service that is most flexible, but also most fragile. From our company alone there were over 19,000 hours of volunteer fire services work devoted to our community in 2008. This time is classified as: emergency response, administration, training, fire prevention / public education, engineering and support.

This time is given in our work for Emergency Response, Administration, Fire Prevention and Public Education, Engineering and Support, and Training. The major groupings of volunteer time were recorded:

These statistics, along with our receipt of fire company recognition awards, help prove that the members of the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company are committed to serving their community and will perform their duties with professionalism and care for their fellow neighbors in a time of need.

Volunteers are always needed. We experience turnover and voids because our members are real people with real personal commitments, just like you. Moving from leaving the community and becoming consumed with other personal time activities such as family life, work, etc. are the primary reasons our need for volunteers is constant.

We encourage everyone to volunteer with our organization. This helps us continue the tradition of volunteerism within our township. To help recognize the commitments of time and service given by our members, the fire company provides a variety of incentives to all members. The incentives have been developed through our own creative thinking, modeling after best-practices implemented by other fire companies nationwide, and through the Township.

Notable incentives available for our members include discounted college education through a learning partnership with an accredited on-line university, membership with a local credit union, employee assistance programs, an annual award and appreciation banquet, a summer appreciation picnic, free training and training recognition incentives, a life insurance policy and educational scholarships.

In addition, by joining our volunteer fire company you will experience exciting new challenges and adventures daily, become part of a winning team which serves the betterment of our community, experience a place to network and to build lasting relationships for a lifetime, and increase your inner personal values and self-esteem.

To volunteer with the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company, please visit our station located at 170 Allendale Road on any Tuesday night after 6:30 p.m., or visit our website at www.kpvfc.com, or call 610-265-1063 and leave a message with the Fire Chief.

**List of Our Hometown Heroes –
Active Firefighter / Fire Police and Active Members**

Darryl Bacchi	Ray Barkmeyer	Joe Bartlett
Kathryn Biscotti	Dan Blank	Jason Bohot
Mike Bralski	Stash Bralski	Sarah Bretz
Steven Bretz	Ben Burchard	Dave Camarda
Andy Culp	Andre Davis	Carroll Davis
Jenifer Daywalt	William Daywalt Jr.	Dave Deal
Julie DeOrzio	Vince DiSanto	Greg Draayer
Larry Durland	William Elder	Paul Fickenscher
Mark Forster	Tim Fox	Dave Gallagher
Jim Gallagher	John Gallagher	Matt Gallagher
Steve Geltman	Elliott Grace	Gary Grayshaw
Robbie Griffith	Rob Griffith	Joe Groff
Walt Gutkowski	Kevin Haney	Tom Henry
Jim Iacavino	William Jenaway	Joe Johnson
Kevin Katarynick	Ted Kavanagh	Matt Keszczyk
Mike Kiczula	Bob Littlewood	Ken Lytle
Chris MacVaugh	Mike MacVaugh	Mike Mandes
Dave Marsh	Rick Martin	Zach Mateja
Vince Mazzotta	Mike McCarty	Chris McElhenny
Lisa Menago	Marty Menago	Debbie Mohn
Fred Mohn	Branden Moone	Joe Morris
Jon Murray	Carl Pinto	Mike Pontician
Sean Ralph	Fred Reigel	Debbie Reigh
Dee Dee Reigh	Dennis Rizzo	Rich Rogasch
Charles Ross	Mark Ross	Robin Ross
Bob Rudzinski Sr.	Tyler Sandlin	Chris Santillo
Mike Santillo	Dan Sargent	Steve Shepard
Mark Shepperd	Mike Sherlock	Bob Smull
Nicole Stiefel	Wayne Thim	Mark Thomas
Gary Touchton	William Vanderslice	Steve Volpi
Dale Wilson	John Wright	Kyle Zelli

Personal Recognition & Awards

In November 2008, at the annual fire company banquet and awards ceremony, the following personnel received individual recognition for specific and unique performance.

- **Engineer Mike Kiczula and Assistant Chief Mark Ross received the fire company's Attendance Award.** Each responded to over 40% of the alarms in the previous year.
- **Firefighter Vince Mazzotta received the Memorial Donald Beck Presidents Award,** which recognizes the accomplishments of a key individual, who supports the business and/or overall operations of the fire company.
- **Dee Dee Reigh received the Rankin Taylor Memorial Service Award,** which recognizes an individual who has performed a dedicated service for significant period.
- **Firefighter Branden Moone received the Junior Firefighter of the Year Award,** which recognizes a member in the 15 to 18 years of age bracket, who, in the eyes of the officers, exemplifies solid performance that other junior fire fighters should emulate.
- **Firefighter Andy Culp received the Rookie of the Year Award,** which recognizes an individual in their first full year of service and is of 18 years of age that has made a significant development in personal capability or contribution to make the organization stronger. Their performance is considered model-like for others to follow.
- **Engineers Vince Di Santo, Mike Kiczula and Stash Bralski received the John Costello Memorial Chief Engineer's Award,** which recognizes an individual who has provided significant support to the Chief Engineer in maintaining the operational efficiency of the apparatus and the portable equipment.
- **Fire Patrolman Dale Wilson received the Fire Police of the Year Award,** which recognizes an individual who has provided significant support to the Fire Police operations.
- **Firefighter Sean Ralph received the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company Scholarship Award.** In 2000, the Company established an endowment fund with the assistance of the King of Prussia Rotary Club. The Club's generous contribution served to create a program where one individual per year receives assistance with their post-high school education initiatives.
- **Fire Chief William Daywalt received the Fire Safety Education Award,** which recognizes an individual who has contributed to help make the company's fire prevention activities successful within the community. The Fire Prevention Committee presents this award.
- **Lieutenant Rick Martin received the Chaplin's Award,** which recognizes an individual, who in the eyes of the fire company Chaplin, Monsignor John

Conway, provided unselfish, compassionate service and actions of public interest.

- **Assistant Chief Mark Ross received the Clarence Silcox Memorial Fire Fighter of the Year Award**, which recognizes an individual whose consistent performance marks him as a valued contributor to the organization.
- **Lieutenant Larry Durland received the Fire Chief's Award**, which recognizes an individual whose contribution during the past year was of special significance and exceptional value in the eyes of the Fire Chief.

Thank you again, for taking the time and interest in reviewing our annual report for 2008.