

WILDWOOD CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:
Fire Chief Ernie Troiano III
Deputy Fire Chief Daniel M. Dunn
Fire Official David Bannon

Released: February 15, 2024

Executive Summary

During 2023, members of the department responded to 4,179 emergency calls. Members completed 5,378 fire safety and housing inspections and continued to expand our community outreach programs. The department continues to look forward to providing the very best in Fire, Rescue and EMS services to our municipality while being fiscally responsible to the people we serve. We will continue to live out our mission, vision, and core values on a daily basis to ensure that we do just that.

Services Provided

Being able to provide a variety of specialized services, not customary to most fire departments, is what sets our department apart from others within our county.

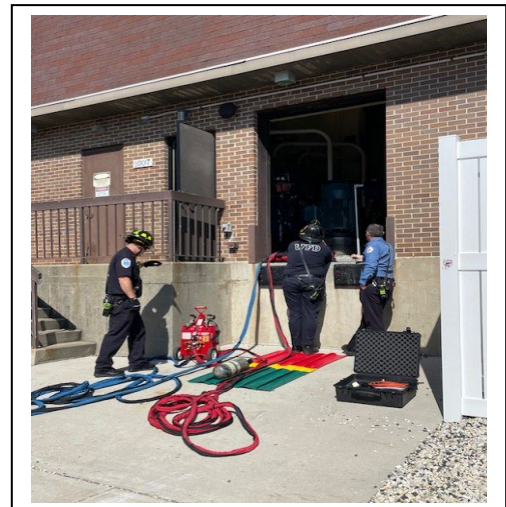
The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to offer open water rescue responses during the “shoulder season” for our island community when the beach patrol is no longer in service. We also continue to support the A.L.E.R.T. (After-hours Lifeguard Emergency Response Team) in conjunction with the Wildwood Beach Patrol’s unit in the summer evening hours when the beaches are closed.

The Wildwood City Fire Department is the co-lead agency for the Cape May County Regional Urban Search & Rescue team. This team specializes in Structural Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, High-Angle Rope Rescue, Surface Ice and Water Rescue and Trench Rescue. In 2023, team members completed monthly-based core discipline training in various technical rescue disciplines to maintain their skills.

Training

The Officers and Firefighters of the Wildwood City Fire Department continuously further their education through officer development classes and tactical courses. Training and being prepared for the unknown is always at the forefront of our department.

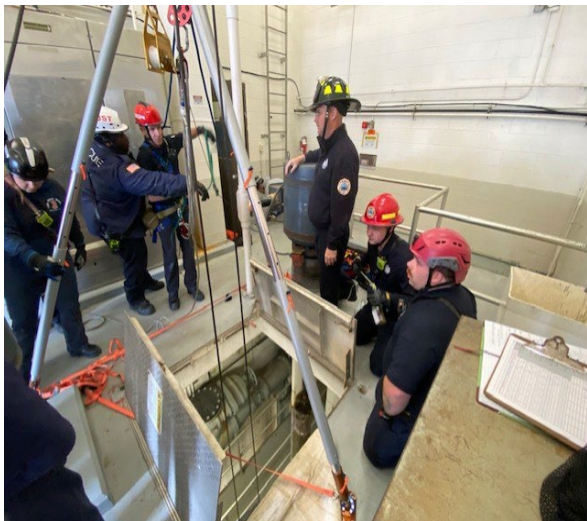
During the 2023 calendar year the department conducted several in-house training programs to maintain skills in various certification disciplines including but not limited to;



Wildwood City Fire Department

- Open Water Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue Operations
- Fire Suppression Operations Live-Fire Training

In addition to the classes held in-house, members spent hundreds of hours participating in fire, rescue, and emergency medical training throughout the year.



Wildwood City Fire Department

On December 8, 2023, Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. The National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program is the pinnacle of the United States Fire Administration's (USFA) commitment to support the needs of fire and EMS agencies in preparing executive officers to meet the ever-changing demands of the dynamic communities in which they serve. It is the flagship program of the National Fire Academy (NFA). The EFO Program is structured to empower executive officers to develop, maintain, and expand the following proficiencies throughout their careers:

- Demonstrate social responsibility within self, organization, and community.
- Enhance personal and organizational ethics, integrity, accountability, and performance to secure public trust.
- Apply effective communication skills and information technologies to express vision, strategy, policy, resource, and incident-related determinations.
- Strategically plan to foster a safe, healthy, prepared, and resilient community.
- Incorporate diversity, equality, equity, and inclusiveness to build organizational and community strength.
- Prioritize personal and organizational growth through the pursuit and creation of education, mentorship, and other learning opportunities.
- Exercise leadership to meet the technical and adaptive challenges within the organization and community.
- Employ political/strategic foresight and research-based analytical skills to propose, influence, adopt, implement, and evaluate public policy.

The program is a minimum of a two-year commitment to complete the requirements. The program culminates in the completion of a major Capstone Research Project to demonstrate bold and imaginative solutions to critical issues cultivated by the executive throughout the program.

The EFO Program began in 1985, approximately 38 years ago, and to date just over 4,700 fire and emergency service executive leaders have graduated from the program. This includes 42 fire and emergency services leaders from other countries. New Jersey has just 55 executive officers that have completed the program.

Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department

Equipment and Funding Opportunities

Through our Community Risk Assessments, the Wildwood City Fire Department continues to try and be well equipped and trained in order to provide the very best in emergency services for our residents and visitors. Being an urban city on an island with a tremendous tourist base in the busy summer season makes our municipality vulnerable.

The Wildwood City Fire Department has been very fortunate over the past several years to receive numerous grants that have helped us successfully fulfill our mission. These include two Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Impact Initiative for Purchase of Fire Equipment grant, the Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo (Joey D) Foundation grant, and a New Jersey Department of Community Affairs American Rescue Plan Firefighters Grant.

In 2023, our department applied for another American Rescue Plan Firefighters grant through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. This grant was applied for to replace the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) on Squad Co. 3. We await word on this grant opportunity. In addition, in 2023 we applied for the South Jersey Gas Company's First Responder Grant Program. We have applied for this highly competitive grant for several years and we are very thankful to have been awarded this grant in 2023. This grant award will fund the purchase of a new, state-of-the-art multi-gas meter that will assist our firefighters in detecting various hazardous materials situations.

Also in 2023, the Wildwood City Fire Department applied for a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant for the hiring of four additional full-time firefighters. Unfortunately, our department was not selected for this highly competitive grant. We also applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of a new pumper apparatus to replace our 27-year-old Engine Co. 3. Unfortunately, we were not selected for this grant either. These grants are highly competitive each year and we will continue to aggressively pursue them to help us increase our abilities to carry out our daily mission.

Our Department continues to actively seek and aggressively pursue any available grant funding that saves money for our taxpayers while at the same time improving the overall health and safety of our members. This also results in our Department having the most technologically advanced equipment available which increases our efficiency and abilities to respond as an All-Hazards emergency response organization.

Wildwood City Fire Department

Barefoot Country Music Festival June 15-18, 2023

Once again, the largest special event staffed by WFD members during 2023 was the Barefoot County Music Festival. This was the third year for the four-day event that featured some of country music's hottest and talented artists. Headliners for the show included Blake Shelton, Kid Rock, Darius Rucker, Hardy, and Jon Pardi. The event was a huge success and a great event that benefited businesses throughout the island. During the four-days, Wildwood Firefighters had 197 patient contacts, the majority of which were for minor cuts and scrapes requiring bandages. Only six patients required transport to the hospital over the four days. This event once again displayed all that the City of Wildwood has to offer in a safe, family oriented venue.

View of Crowd at BCMF 6/17/23





View of Crowd at BCMF 6/16/23





BCMF Drone Show 6/18/23

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Fire Department Mission Statement:

The Wildwood City Fire Department is committed to prevent or minimize the loss of life, damage to the environment, and loss of property from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and hazardous conditions by providing the highest level of emergency services for our community since 1912.

Fire Department Vision Statement:

- We will strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession
- We will be accountable to those we serve, each other, and any fire service organization we interact with
- We are committed to providing the best public service through training, education, and equipment to the best of our abilities
- We are committed to our mission, values, and dedicated to our fire service profession

Fire Department Core Values:

Teamwork: Working together to achieve common goals

Integrity: Committed to the highest standard of moral and ethical conduct

Excellence: Demanding the best from ourselves and others



Message from the Chief

The City of Wildwood Fire Department remains committed to providing the highest level of professional services to the public by protecting lives, property, and the environment. It is important for our stakeholders, both internally and externally, to understand this. The purpose of this report is to provide that insight and the accomplishments of the fire department during the past year and to highlight the many services and activities that support our community.

Responding to all calls for service remains the priority of our department. Our core values of **Teamwork, Integrity, and Excellence** is not only instilled in our personnel, but should be expected by the public. The City of Wildwood Fire Department proudly provides Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) coverage for the numerous special events that occur throughout the many venues the city has to offer. Although the department responded to fewer calls for service than the previous two years, this does not take away from the intense nature of calls in which we responded to and the fact that lives were saved as a result of the efforts put forth by the men and woman of our department.

The fire department administration recognizes the growing needs in order to continue providing the highest level of service. Understanding that staffing is not only a local issue for many, but also a nation-wide issue, we made it a priority to improve the working relationships with our neighboring communities. In doing so, we have developed stronger bonds and relationships that have and will continue to benefit those we serve. The department's administration remains vigilant in seeking grant funding, as well as other funding opportunities. The department was fortunate enough to be the recipient of a grant awarded by the South Jersey Gas Company, which allowed us to purchase a new multi-gas monitor. Due to the generosity of Atlantic City Electric, the department was able to purchase the Turtle Fire System, which will greatly benefit our firefighters during electric vehicle fires and beyond. I would like to thank Public Safety Commissioner, Steve Mikulski, for his unwavering support for our department. I look forward to working with Commissioner Mikulski, Commissioner Krista Fitzsimons, and Mayor Ernie Troiano Jr. in 2024.

The City of Wildwood Fire Department remains committed to our community far beyond the scope of firefighting. Understanding that it takes a village to raise a child, we remain partnered with the Wildwood Public School District and youth organizations throughout the island. Our goal is to assist these organizations in their efforts to provide our youth, the future of our community, with the guidance and support they need to grow into successful adults.

It is my honor to present the 2023 annual report, which reflects our dedication and commitment to the citizens of the City of Wildwood as well as our visitors and neighbors. We welcome your concerns and feedback and ask that you please contact us whenever you may have an issue, questions or a concern. **We work for you!**

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernie Troiano III".

Ernie Troiano III, CPM
Chief of Department

2023 Personnel Milestones

Retirements:



On May 1, 2023, Captain James Grauel retired with over 25 years of service with the Wildwood City Fire Department. Captain Grauel was instrumental in establishing the department's health and wellness program, becoming a certified peer fitness trainer, and serving as the department's health and safety officer. Captain Grauel also helped to improve and increase the department's community outreach programs, which we are very proud of.



Wildwood City Fire Department



On June 1, 2023, Fire Official William Cripps retired with over 25 years of service with the Wildwood City Fire Department. Fire Official Cripps served as the City's Fire Official for the last 5 years of his career overseeing the Fire Prevention Bureau. He was instrumental in establishing the department's Fire Investigation Unit and spearheaded the department's very successful Summer Cadet Program that we host each summer.



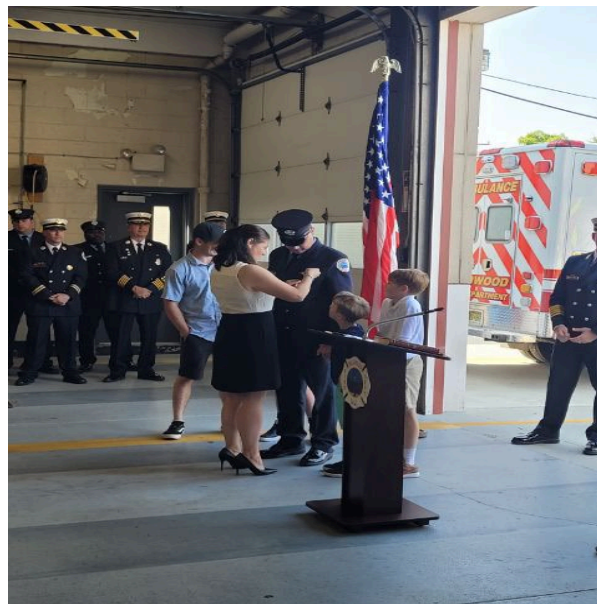
Wildwood City Fire Department

Promotions:

On May 27, 2023, Firefighter Ryan Troiano was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain upon the retirement of Captain James Grauel. Captain Troiano was hired as a career firefighter in the department on September 4, 2009 and was assigned as the supervisor of C Platoon upon his promotion.



On May 27, 2023, Firefighter David Bannon was promoted to the rank of Fire Official upon the retirement of Fire Official William Cripps. Fire Official Bannon was hired as a career firefighter in July 2014 and will now supervise the department's Fire Prevention Bureau, which serves as the Local Enforcing Agency of the State of New Jersey Uniform Fire Code.



Wildwood City Fire Department

Appointments:

On May 27, 2023, Probationary Firefighter Will Gaskill was hired as a career firefighter. Will served as a part-time Firefighter/EMT for the department since 2019. Will has been assigned to the B Platoon under the command of Capt. Matt Johnson for his probationary period.



On May 27, 2023, Probationary Firefighter Hunter John was hired as a career firefighter. Hunter served as a part-time Firefighter/EMT for the department since 2020. Hunter has been assigned to the C Platoon under the command of Capt. Ryan Troiano for his probationary period.



Wildwood City Fire Department

Administration:

Fire Chief

Ernie Troiano III

Deputy Fire Chief

Daniel Dunn

Secretary

Amelia Ianiro

Fire Prevention Bureau:

Fire Official

David Bannon

Fire Inspector

Mark Allen

Secretary

Kelly Sweger

Part-time Fire Inspectors

Sean McDevitt Ray Conover

Operations:

A Platoon

Captain Robert Feltwell
Firefighter Rich Harron
Firefighter Rayquan Walker
Firefighter Dave Spiegel
Firefighter Kevin Kelly

B Platoon

Captain Matt Johnson
Firefighter Gerry Vessels
Firefighter Brendan Phillips
Firefighter John Sharp
Prob. Firefighter Will Gaskill

C Platoon

Captain Ryan Troiano
Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski
Firefighter Tina Sacco
Firefighter John Snyder
Prob. Firefighter Hunter John

D Platoon

Captain Aldo Sacco
Firefighter Adam Feltwell
Firefighter Nick Palmer
Firefighter Jake Spiegel
Firefighter Chad Alvarado

Part-time Firefighters

Michael Chew

Jackson Longnecker

Gavin Rosenello

Michael Drennen

Joseph McCauley

Steve Zabinski

Jeremy Embs

Mark Nelson



Wildwood City Fire Department

In Memorium:

During 2023, our Department lost four life members of the Department. Though gone, they are not forgotten and we honor them for their loyal and dedicated service to the community:

- Chief Floyd Speigel – Municipal Fire Division and Wildwood Fire Co. # 1
- Firefighter Robert Fehn- Municipal Fire Division
- Firefighter Wilbur Ostrander- Holly Beach Fire Co.
- Firefighter Robert Hoffnagle- Wildwood Fire Co. # 1



Chief Floyd Speigel
9/21/1934-1/11/2023



Firefighter Robert J. Fehn
2/15/1957-1/12/2023



Wildwood City Fire Department



Firefighter Wilbur Ostrander
11/22/1924-7/8/2023



Firefighter Robert C. Hoffnagle
10/29/1928-9/27/2023



About Us

The City of Wildwood is a 1.3 square mile seashore resort City that is a popular summer tourist destination for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. As of the 2020 census the City has a population of 5,157 which can swell to 250,000 or more during the peak summer season. The City is famous for its large boardwalk with numerous shops, restaurants, amusement piers and waterparks, and for being home to the World's largest, finest, and safest bathing beach. The City is home to many hotels/motels, apartment/rooming houses, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, bars/nightclubs, as well as many condos and single family residences.

The City of Wildwood has a combination-type Fire Department consisting of a career division and a volunteer division. The Department is led by the Career Fire Chief who has overall responsibility for the administration of the Department. In addition to the Fire Chief there is a Deputy Fire Chief, who along with the Fire Chief, handles administrative and operational duties. The career division consists of 4 platoons with a Captain and 4 firefighters assigned to each platoon. In addition, the career division is supplemented by part-time staff to increase staffing levels during the busy summer season and backfill career personnel when they are off. The Fire Prevention Bureau is headed by the Fire Official and has one full-time and one part-time fire inspector assigned. The Volunteer Division consists of the Holly Beach Fire Company # 1 and the Wildwood Fire Company # 1. Although the volunteer companies are no longer operational for emergency responses, they continue to support the fire department in many ways. The City of Wildwood Fire Department is an all-hazards response organization providing fire suppression, emergency medical services (Basic-Life Support Transport), technical/heavy rescue (high-angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, vehicle extrication, open water rescue, surface ice rescue, hazardous materials, and trench rescue response), fire prevention, code enforcement, and emergency management services.

The City of Wildwood Fire Department protects the municipality with 1-Squad Company, 1-Quint Company, 1-Rescue Company, 1-Engine Company, 4 BLS Ambulances and several support vehicles including a water rescue/utility vehicle for the beach and several 5-ton high-water vehicles. In 2023, the City of Wildwood responded to over 4,100 emergency incidents.

The City of Wildwood Fire Department is proud to have an ISO Class 3 designation and we continuously strive to better that classification.

Facilities and Apparatus

The City of Wildwood Fire Department maintains facilities and apparatus to ensure timely and efficient responses to emergencies. The department has three stations. However, Fire Headquarters is the only operating station for emergency responses and Station's 3-1 and 3-2 are currently used for storage of additional and reserve apparatus.

Fire Stations:

Fire Headquarters – 4400 New Jersey Avenue

Headquarters is located within the City Hall building, between City Hall and the Police Department. The offices of the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and the Fire Prevention Bureau are all located on the second floor of Headquarters. Administrative staff for the Fire Chief's Office and the Fire Prevention Bureau are located here as well. The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is also located at Fire Headquarters.

The Career Division firefighters are located in Headquarters on the first floor. The on-duty platoon handles all emergencies called into the City of Wildwood Fire Department with the following apparatus being assigned to Headquarters:

2017 – 2000 GPM Pierce Squad (first due apparatus)
2014 – 2000 GPM E-One Quint
2020 – Ferrera Heavy Rescue
2007 – Dodge Ram 2500 (beach response apparatus)
Two – BLS Transport Ambulances (first due)
2020 – Medstat ASAP UTV (special event EMS unit)

Station 3-1 – 4310 Washington Avenue (Holly Beach)

Station 3-1 is located directly across from Fire Headquarters and houses the volunteer division of the department. Although we currently do not utilize this building for fire responses it still houses reserve equipment. The company members of this station still hold their monthly meetings and maintains the charter of the company which was organized in 1884. The station currently houses the following apparatus:

2002 – Chevy utility vehicle (Fire Police)
2010 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-fire suppression)
2009 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-fire suppression)
2010 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-evacuations)

Wildwood City Fire Department

Station 3-2 – 111 East Pine Avenue (Pine Avenue)

Station 3-2 is located in the northern-end of the city and houses the volunteer division of the department. Although we currently do not utilize this building for fire responses it still houses reserve equipment. The company members of this station still hold their monthly meetings and maintains the charter of the company which was organized in 1896. The station currently houses the following apparatus:

1996 – 1500 GPM Pierce Engine (reserve)

2021 – Polaris UTV (special event EMS unit)



Quint Company 3



Rescue Company 3



Squad Company 3



Engine Company 3



Operations

The fire department operations division is managed by Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn. Operations is the largest division of the fire department. Operations personnel respond to all requests for service.

In addition, personnel also continually conduct mandatory training requirements, assist in public education, conduct fire prevention inspections supporting the inspection bureau, and maintain the fire stations and apparatus.

The ability to improve our service is generated through many ideas and initiatives that originate from the operational members. Their values, energy, commitment, and compassion drive many of the department's functions, programs, and activities throughout the year. The operations personnel are faced daily with accomplishing our mission to provide extraordinary service to the community.

OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- RESPONDED TO 4,179 CALLS FOR SERVICE
- 20 CAREER PERSONNEL ACROSS 4 PLATOONS
- 2,230 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL INCIDENTS
- 1,949 – SQUAD/ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES

2023 Fire Responses

Building/Structure Fires	12
Cooking Fires	14
Trash/Rubbish/Dumpster Fires	6
Brush/Grass/Mulch Fires	8
Other Fires (Vehicles, Equipment, etc.)	6
Assist EMS	738
Motor Vehicle Crashes	53
Water Rescues	18
Elevator Rescues	17
Technical Rescues	4
Gas Leaks	62
Power Lines Down	38
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	21
Electrical Wiring, Equipment Problems	26
Landing Zone Assignments (MedEvac)	25
Carbon Monoxide Incidents	8
Water or Steam Leaks	12
Assist Police Department	14
Public Service	46
Assist Physically Disabled	83
Smoke Scares, Odor of Smoke	22
No Incident Found on Arrival	16
Activated Fire Alarms	402
False Carbon Monoxide Alarms	16
Sprinkler Activations	6
Hazardous Materials Responses	6
Building Collapses, Weakened Structure	1
Animal Rescues	7
Dispatched & Cancelled Enroute	197
Miscellaneous Incidents	65
Total Fire Responses	1,949

2023 Fire Responses



700 W. Montgomery Ave. 4/17/23



233 E. Youngs Ave. 7/5/23



2203 New York Ave. 7/6/23



505 W. Oak Ave. 7/7/23

2023 EMS Responses

Alcohol, drugs, overdose, toxins	166
Cardiac, chest pains, hypotension, hypertension	97
Bleeding, trauma, injuries, assaults	315
Weakness, malaise, sickness, dizziness, pain	631
Respiratory, shortness of breath, dyspnea	132
Seizure, stroke, neurological, unconscious, syncopal episodes, diabetic, hypoglycemic, altered mental status	259
Behavioral, depression, suicidal, anxiety, hallucination	119
General (DOA, fever, dehydration, allergic reaction, OB/Gyn.)	511
Total Emergency Medical Service Responses	2,230



Wildwood City Fire Department



Roberts and New Jersey Ave. 5/27/23



Cresse and Pacific Ave. 10/7/23

Major Incident: Electric Substation Fire July 7, 2023

On Friday July 7, 2023 just after noon, Squad Co. 3 and North Wildwood FD Ladder Co. 2 were dispatched to 505 W. Oak Ave. for a reported fire at the Atlantic City Electric Wildwood Substation. Deputy Chief Dunn (Deputy 3) arrived on scene and reported a working fire in the substation upon arrival. There were several small explosions heard coming from within the structure. The incident was quickly upgraded to a 1st alarm assignment. Responding off-duty Wildwood firefighters were directed into the scene while other responding 1st alarm companies were directed to begin covering the island for multiple incidents resulting from the associated power outage on the island including occupied stalled elevators and activated fire alarms. A 2nd alarm was subsequently transmitted to assist with these additional incidents. After approximately 20 minutes after arrival, Atlantic City Electric advised that the complex had been de-energized and firefighter could safely enter to begin fire extinguishment. The fire was knocked down using multiple dry chemical fire extinguishers after approximately 30 minutes. Units operated on the scene on this hot July day for nearly 5 hours before clearing. The subsequent power outages persisted over the weekend with rolling power outages after that as Atlantic City Electric worked to install temporary infrastructure. This incident proved very challenging as it occurred during the very busy summer season. The Wildwood City Fire Department thanks all of our automatic and mutual aid partners for their assistance during this incident, as well as the Wildwood Police Department and Wildwood Public Works Department for their assistance. We also thank Atlantic City Electric for their professional response to this incident and the continued long-standing working relationship that we have with their company.



Photo Taken Shortly After Fire Department Arrival

Wildwood City Fire Department



Firefighters Preparing for Operations



Firefighters Conducting Fire Suppression in Sublevel

Wildwood City Fire Department

Notable EMS Incident- Baby Delivery June 28, 2023

On June 28, 2023 Squad Co. 3 (C Platoon) was dispatched to a maternity at a local hotel. North Wildwood Fire Department Ambulance 2 was dispatched mutual aid as our ambulance was on another incident. Upon arrival of Squad Co. 3, Capt. Ryan Troiano, Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski, and Firefighter Tina Sacco found a female patient, pregnant with twins, who was going into labor. Ambulance 2 with Firefighter Matt Capone and Part-Time Firefighter Zergani arrived on scene. Due to the potential imminent birth, Firefighter Tina Sacco joined Ambulance 2's crew for transport to the hospital. While enroute to the hospital the crew had to pull over and delivered a baby boy, Jasaad, on the side of the Garden State Parkway. The crew continued transport to the hospital. Baby Jasaad was joined by his twin brother, Musaad, about a half hour or so later in the hospital. Mom and baby were all reported in good condition at the hospital. Firefighter Sacco and NWFD Firefighter Capone were reunited with Mom and the babies on July 2nd. Great teamwork by all involved and congratulations to all!



Fire Prevention Bureau



The Bureau of Fire Prevention is headed by Fire Official Dave Bannon. Firefighter Mark Allen is detailed to the bureau as a Fire Inspector. During the busy summer season 2 part-time Fire Inspectors are hired to assist with the inspection work load. The personnel of the Bureau focus on all aspects of life safety. Their primary objective is to reduce preventable deaths, injuries, and property loss through public education programs, fire inspections of all commercial and non-owner occupied occupancies, and through enforcement of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. The office also conducts and oversees NJ State Housing Inspections of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings.

The Bureau educates building owners and tenants while conducting fire safety inspections. This helps to gain voluntary compliance, as well as limit the number of repeat violations in the future. The fire inspectors conduct annual fire safety inspections of existing commercial properties each year which may result in follow-up inspections to ensure compliance.



Fire Inspection Bureau Activities for 2023

New Jersey Uniform Fire Code Inspections

Periodic Initial Inspections:	4,000
Reinspections:	566
Complaints:	7
Follow-Ups:	4
Other Inspections:	32

Total Fire Inspections: 4,609

State DCA Housing Inspections

Total # of Housing Units Inspected: 769

Total Inspections: 5,378

Wildwood City Fire Department

In addition to conducting fire safety and housing inspections, the Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with heading the department's public education and outreach program. On May 9, 2023, the bureau partnered with the City of North Wildwood Fire Prevention Bureau to sponsor the "After the Fire" educational program for the junior and senior classes at Wildwood High School. This program is presented by Alvaro Llanos and Shawn Simons who survived the Seton Hall Dormitory arson fire in South Orange, New Jersey on January 19, 2000. Alvaro and Shawn both sustained critical, life altering burn injuries in the fire. They speak to high school and college students across the country as advocates for fire safety and fire prevention. Their presentation is very moving and incredibly inspiring. We are grateful for the opportunity to have hosted Alvaro and Shawn locally and plan on having them back in the future.



Training & Education

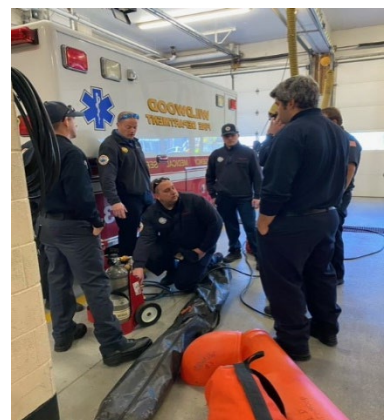
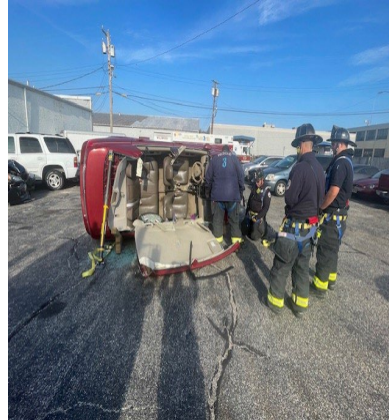
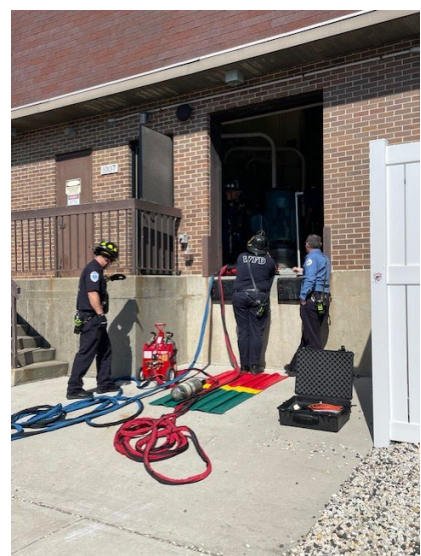
The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to maintain a high level of commitment and dedication to training. The city presents a unique geographic make-up with a number of high community risks to include high-rise buildings, confined spaces, amusement rides, and open bodies of water. Over the years, the fire service has evolved into an “all hazards” approach agency with the Wildwood City Fire Department being no exception. Firefighters are the initial responders to all water related emergencies to include, but not limited to, the bay, the beach during periods that the Lifeguards are off-duty, tidal flooding, and natural disasters.

Since the Wildwood City Fire Department embraces the “all hazards” approach our firefighters are highly trained to not only respond to the community’s needs but to mitigate the hazards that are present. Members of the department spent well over 2,500 hours in over 50 topics in education in 2023. This includes nearly 500 hours of on-duty company-level training sessions, which equates to over 2,477 person-hours of training.

Training Courses Completed 2023:

NJ Division of Fire Safety- Drill Ground Instructor
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Air Consumption
Rapid Intervention Crew Operations
Open-Water Rescue Operations
Rescue Company Operations
Vehicle Extrication
Engine Company Operations
Truck Company Operations
Fire Behavior, Dynamics, and the Effect of Ventilation
Elevator Emergencies
Apparatus Driver Training
Fire Inspector
Fire Official
Fire Officer
Fire Investigation
Fireground Size Up
Live Burn training
Active Threat Response
FAST Board Training
Arizona Vortex Training
Vent Enter Isolate Search
Fireground Survival/Emergency Escape Training
Hazardous Materials Operations

Wildwood City Fire Department



Special Units

Cape May County Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team

The Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team (CMC USAR) is a highly specialized team of fire department members trained in structural collapse rescue, confined space rescue, high-angle rope rescue, surface ice/water rescue, and trench rescue. The team is a county asset that responds to any such emergencies in Cape May County. The team also responds mutual aid to other Southern New Jersey counties as requested. The team is led by WFD Capt. Matthew Johnson who serves as the Cape May County ESF-9 Search & Rescue Coordinator. On February 24, 2023, the team was dispatched to Sea Isle City for a reported balcony collapse. Crews encountered an approximately 30 foot concrete balcony on the eighth floor that had collapsed onto the balcony below trapping a construction worker who was working on the balcony below at the time. Unfortunately, the construction worker was deceased, but team members still had the daunting task of safely removing his body. This challenging operation was successfully completed in about 8 hours. This incident again highlighted the need for specialized technical rescue capabilities within Cape May County for these low frequency, high risk events.





Sea Isle City Balcony Collapse February 24, 2023



Special Units - continued

Honor Guard

In 2023, the Honor Guard was privileged to be able to present the colors during the following events:

- At the Wildwood American Legion Post #184 Memorial Day ceremony.
- At the North Wildwood Flags of Liberty ceremony honoring our Veteran's on July 4th weekend on the North Wildwood Seawall with the Cape May County Emerald Society Honor Guard.
- During the Parents Day Sunrise Flag Service honoring Gold Star Families. This year's service honored Tech Sgt. Nicholas P. Murgalo, United States Air Force, who passed away in 2018, and his Gold Star mother, Patricia and family members in July.
- During the Annual Wildwood 9/11 Memorial Service held at Byrne Plaza.





Office of Emergency Management



Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn heads the Office of Emergency Management (O.E.M.) for the City of Wildwood. The mission of the Emergency Management Division is to develop plans and procedures that provide effective responses to all threats facing the City of Wildwood. By developing and exercising the all-hazards plans, we strive to minimize the impacts of an emergency or disaster on our citizens, visitors, property, the environment, and the City of Wildwood.

The Emergency Management Division works closely with public and private sector partners to ensure we are able to coordinate during an emergency or disaster. This coordination requires planning and close relationships with local, county, state and federal partners.

During 2023, the Wildwood City Office of Emergency Management completed an annual review of the City's Emergency Operations Plan. Constant review and updating of this plan allows the City to be ready in the event of a disaster or emergency that requires the implementation and activation of various emergency support functions.



Wildwood City Fire Department

The Office of Emergency Management administers the Code Red community notification program. This program enables residents and visitors to sign up to receive a phone call or text message in the event of an emergency or natural disaster such as hurricanes, flooding, snow storms or nor'easters. In 2023, the OEM had to send out six emergency notifications for five significant weather events, all of which were coastal flooding/storm events.

With much of the city being low-lying areas, any time there is the possibility for flooding this system allows city officials to immediately contact those who have signed up for the notifications to be briefed on the latest projections of approaching storms.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for this notification by visiting the City of Wildwood's website under Departments, Public Safety, Emergency Management or by typing the link below into your browser:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/5A633ADA497E>



Community Relations and Outreach

The Wildwood City Fire Department has always been very active within the community with our members belonging to many community and civic organizations promoting the betterment of the city.

We also continuously research and implement new initiatives delivering important fire and life safety messages through various outlets to the citizens, visitors, and our business community.

In 2023, we once again hosted the annual Summer Cadet Firefighter program. With the retirement of Fire Official Bill Cripps, Firefighter Nick Palmer has taken over heading up the program and he did a phenomenal job with the camp this year.

The Summer Cadet Firefighter program is open to children 10-17 years of age. This weeklong summer camp teaches kids the various aspects of firefighting and emergency medical services. The children learned about Engine Company, Truck Company, Rescue Company operations, EMS, and water rescue. The event continues to expand and is looked forward to by not only the children who attend but also the many firefighters who volunteer their time during the weeklong program.



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department







In addition to the Summer Cadet program, WFD personnel participated in many community events throughout the year including our Adopt-A-School program, Special Olympics of NJ Polar Bear Plunge, community parades and festivals, National Night Out, community barbeques, and so much more. Our personnel frequently work with other local charitable organizations, including the Lunch with Lynch Foundation and the Step Back Foundation to support efforts that benefit the children of our community.

Wildwood City Fire Department



Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge



National Night Out



Wildwood Baby Parade

Wildwood City Fire Department



Glenwood Ave. Elementary School Recreation Day



Cape Assist Youth Resiliency Beach Day

Wildwood City Fire Department

City of Wildwood Trunk or Treat (1st Place)



Halloween 2023





Adopt-A-School Program Activities



Wildwood City Fire Department



2023 Run for the Fallen



Wildwood City Fire Department



Middle Township Elementary School 2nd Grade Field Trip

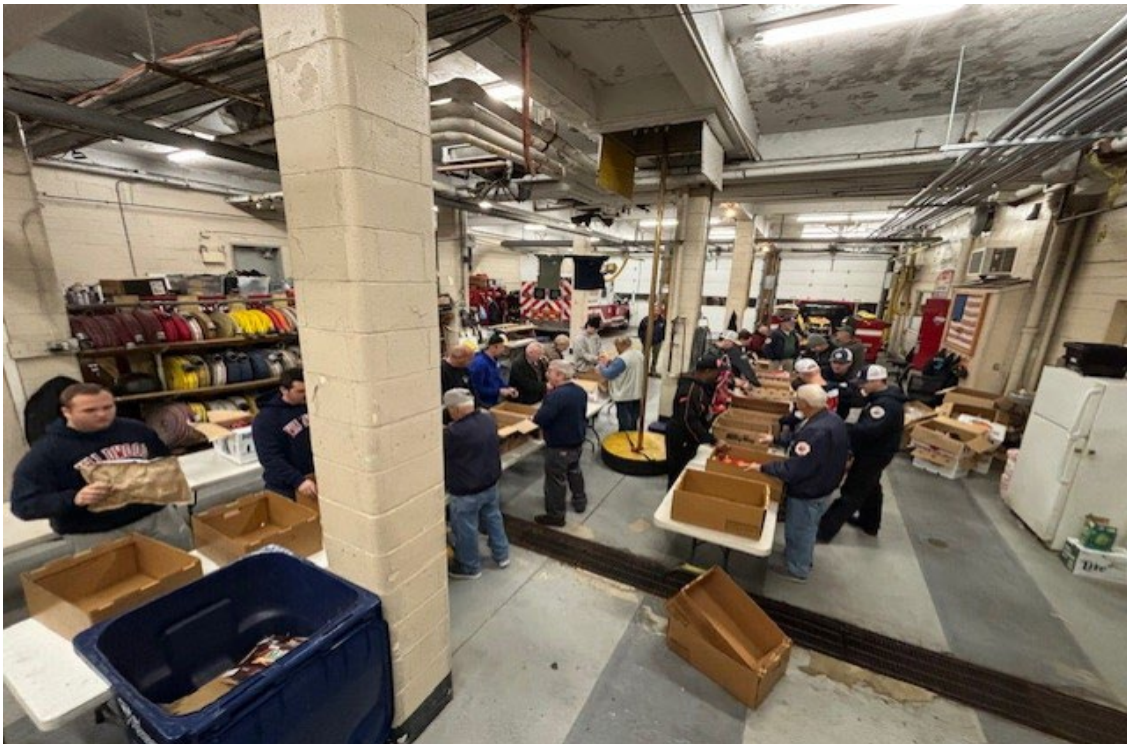


Wildwood City Fire Department

Christmas Activities



Winter Wonderland at Holly Beach Park w/ Wildwood Parks & Recreation Dept.



Packing Stockings for Local Schools

Wildwood City Fire Department

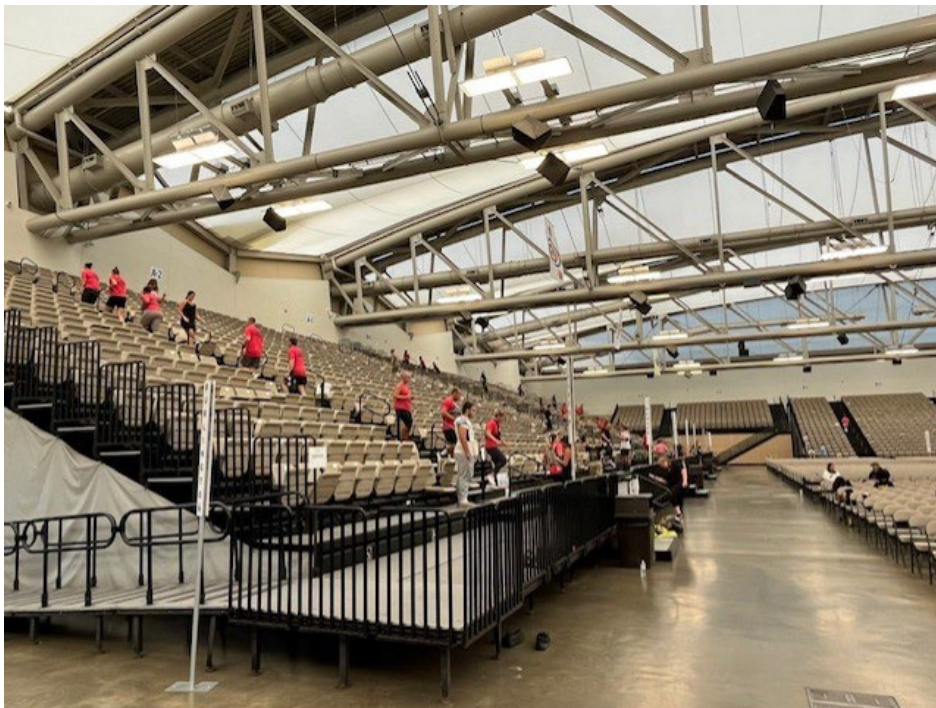
September 11th is always remembered by the members of the fire department with the effect it had on our country and the fire service as a whole. In addition to working with the Business Improvement District (B.I.D) in 2023 to host the Annual September 11th memorial service at the Byrne Plaza, Firefighter Kevin Kelly coordinated the 7th Annual Wildwood September 11th Memorial Stair Climb. Each participant pays tribute to a FDNY firefighter by climbing or walking the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. In 2023, the climb was held at the Wildwoods Convention Center. 2023's climb raised money for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The event raised over \$5,000.00 for the foundation. This foundation, created in memory of FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller who was killed in the line of duty on 9/11/01, supports the families of fallen first responders and veterans, as well as those catastrophically injured in the line of duty.



Wildwood City Fire Department



2023 7th Annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

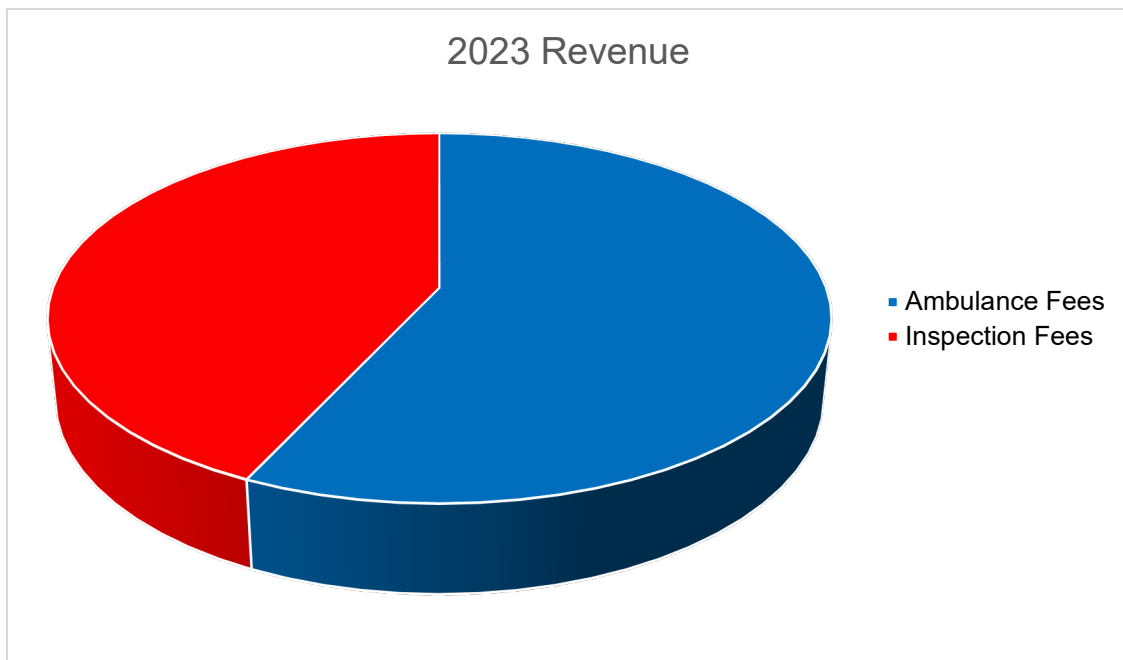


2023 Revenue

The Wildwood City Fire Department offsets many of the costs associated with the services we provide through various fees and permits. The department contracts with a billing agency to administer the fee collection associated with ambulance services.

The fire prevention fees are collected “in-house” with our administrative support staff located in Fire Headquarters.

In 2023, the Wildwood City Fire Department collected a total of **\$799,494.02**.



Fire Safety & Housing Inspection:	\$344,100.42
Emergency Medical Services:	<u>\$455,393.60</u>

Total Revenue for 2023:	\$799,494.02
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Achievements: 2023

- Purchased new Personal Protective Equipment including new structural firefighting boots, gloves, hoods, and SCBA masks for all personnel as well as a new Respiratory Fit Test Machine with funding awarded through the New Jersey Department Community Affairs American Rescue Plan Firefighters Grant Program.
- Applied for and awarded a South Jersey Gas First Responder Grant for the purchase of a new, state-of-the-art, multi-gas meter.
- Hired two new firefighters and promoted a new Fire Captain and Fire Official to replace members who retired during the year.
- Placed new portable radios awarded from a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant in service.
- Developed an Island-Wide Mass-Casualty Incident Response Guideline.
- Began initial stages of developing a strategic plan for the department.
- Continued and expanded all of our community outreach programs including the Adopt-A-School program.
- Successfully staffed the Barefoot County Music Festival.
- Hosted the “After the Fire” program in partnership with the North Wildwood Fire Prevention Bureau at Wildwood High School.
- Applied for a NJDCA American Rescue Plan Firefighter’s Grant for the purchase of new SCBA’s for Squad Co. 3 (first due suppression apparatus).

Goals/Objectives: 2024

- Apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant to purchase automatic chest compression (CPR) devices and new Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's).
- Apply for FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants for the hiring of additional career firefighters.
- Continue and expand all of our community outreach programs.
- Purchase new gas meter awarded through the South Jersey Gas Company First Responder Grant program.
- Review and update Departmental policies and procedures manual.
- Continue development of a strategic plan for the department.
- Conduct active threat/mass casualty training in conjunction with the Wildwood Police Department and our automatic and mutual aid partners.
- Continue to pursue all training and professional development opportunities.
- Conduct training with our automatic and mutual aid partners and continue to build cooperative relationships.

A Final Word

The Wildwood City Fire Department is dedicated to serving the residents, visitors and community of the City of Wildwood.

The Fire Department continues to explore methods to enhance and improve our services. We always welcome comments from our citizens.

For additional information on the department and the services we provide please visit our social media outlets:



City of Wildwood Website:

<http://wildwoodnj.org/wp/>



Department Website:

<http://wildwoodfiredept.com/>



[@TheShoreHouse38](#)



https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodCityFD/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel



Instagram

[@wildwoodfiredept.](#)

Contact Information

Administration:

Chief Ernie Troiano III - etroiano3@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2061
Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn - d.dunn@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2038
Amelia Ianiro - aianiro@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2028
Administrations Fax # -	609-522-4965

Fire Prevention Bureau:

Fire Official David Bannon - dbannon@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2033
Fire Inspector Mark Allen - mallen@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2031
Kelly Sweger - ksweger@wildwoodnj.org	609-846-2030

Fire Stations:

Headquarters Phone (non-emergency) -	609-522-1110
A Platoon - Captain Robert Feltwell - B Platoon - Captain Matt Johnson - C Platoon - Captain Ryan Troiano - D Platoon - Captain Aldo Sacco -	rfeltwell@wildwoodnj.org mjohnson@wildwoodnj.org rtroiano@wildwoodnj.org asacco@wildwoodnj.org
Headquarters Fax # -	609-729-7206
Station 3-1 - (4310 Washington Avenue)	609-522-0005
Station 3-2 - (111 E. Pine Ave.)	609-522-2654