

Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report



Proudly serving Whitemarsh Township and the Surrounding Communities since 1915

BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – 2021 Year in Review

The Officers and Members of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company are honored to present to our Community stakeholders a review of our Organization's service to Whitemarsh Township and the surrounding communities in 2021. The commitment of our volunteers has never waived and continues to build in strength. We are humbled by the support from our Community and look forward to serving Whitemarsh Township and the surrounding Communities in 2022; our 107th year of service.



We continued to navigate through the COVID 19 Pandemic in 2021. These unique challenges were difficult obstacles to conquer but our volunteer's dedication to assuring a fire safe community never waived. We were able to restore some fire prevention activities including school & day care center visits, community block parties and our annual Regional Fire Prevention Expo. We look forward to continuing to restore our Fire Prevention and Community Engagement activities to pre-pandemic participation.

As you will see in this annual report, the members of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company conduct ourselves in a manner consistent with our core values. We are honored to uphold the traditions of the Fire Service and the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company; maintaining our focus on our Community's Fire & Rescue service needs.

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Mission Statement

The mission of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company is to provide Fire and Rescue services to Whitemarsh Township and surrounding communities in a safe, effective, efficient and professional manner.

MISSION

The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company participates in Fire Prevention education programs and provides support to the other local emergency service organizations.



The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company will conduct ourselves in a manner to remain invested in our Community.

VISION

The vision of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company is to maintain our commitment to provide professional Fire & Rescue services to Whitemarsh Township and the surrounding communities, while evolving with the ever-changing physical and technological demands of the Fire Service in a humble, proud and transparent manner.

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Core Values



Pride

The opportunity to be part of and uphold the legacy of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company and the Fire Service

Courage

Strength to be a Volunteer for our Community and face opposition head on in our daily operations and service to the Community

Honor

Adherence to what is right, honesty and respect in our actions and behaviors at all times in our service to the Community

Integrity

Being honest and possessing strong moral principles; doing what is right even when no one is looking

Service

Performance and Duty, regardless of day or night, and without question to our Community

Tradition

Upholding the legacy, beliefs and ideals of those that came before us; who cleared the path for success

Respect

Accepting our Community, our Volunteers and our Staff for who they are, what we represent and the unique talents each has to offer

Accountability

Maintaining the high moral, ethical and operational standards and expectations of our Community and the Fire Service

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – 2021 Statistics

2021 Statistics

Calls for Service	547
Weekly Training Exercises	49
Special Services	84
Fire Police Callouts	32
Fire Officer Investigations	8
Company Business Meetings	12
Board of Trustee Meetings	12



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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – 2021 Calls for Service

Members are dispatched through the Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Center in Eagleville, Pennsylvania. Both 10 digit and 911 calls are received into the Dispatch Center and the resources are then deployed.

Members carry various electronic means of communication that alert them to the Dispatch. Some personnel use an audible / voice pager, some personnel use digital alphanumeric pagers and some use an application on their cellular telephone devices. In addition to electronic means of notification, our house siren also provides audible Community based alert so that our volunteers may respond for a dispatched emergency call for service. Regardless of how the alert is received, members stop what they are doing to respond to our Community's emergency call for service.



2021

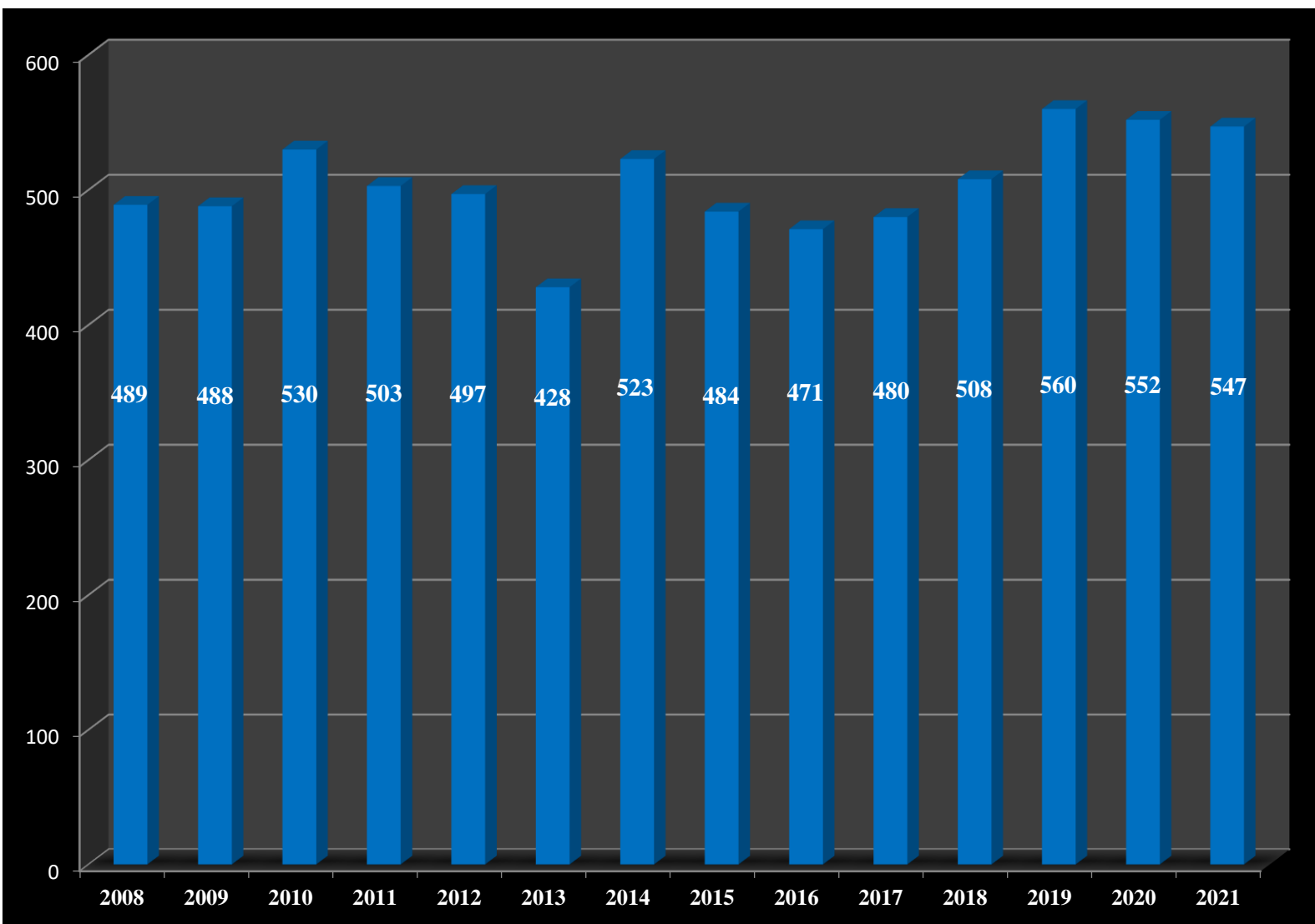
Five Hundred, Forty-Seven (547) Calls for Service

Average # of Attendees: 12.03 personnel per response

Estimated Total # of Calls for Service Hours: 6,582 Volunteer Hours

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Calls for Service (2008-2021)

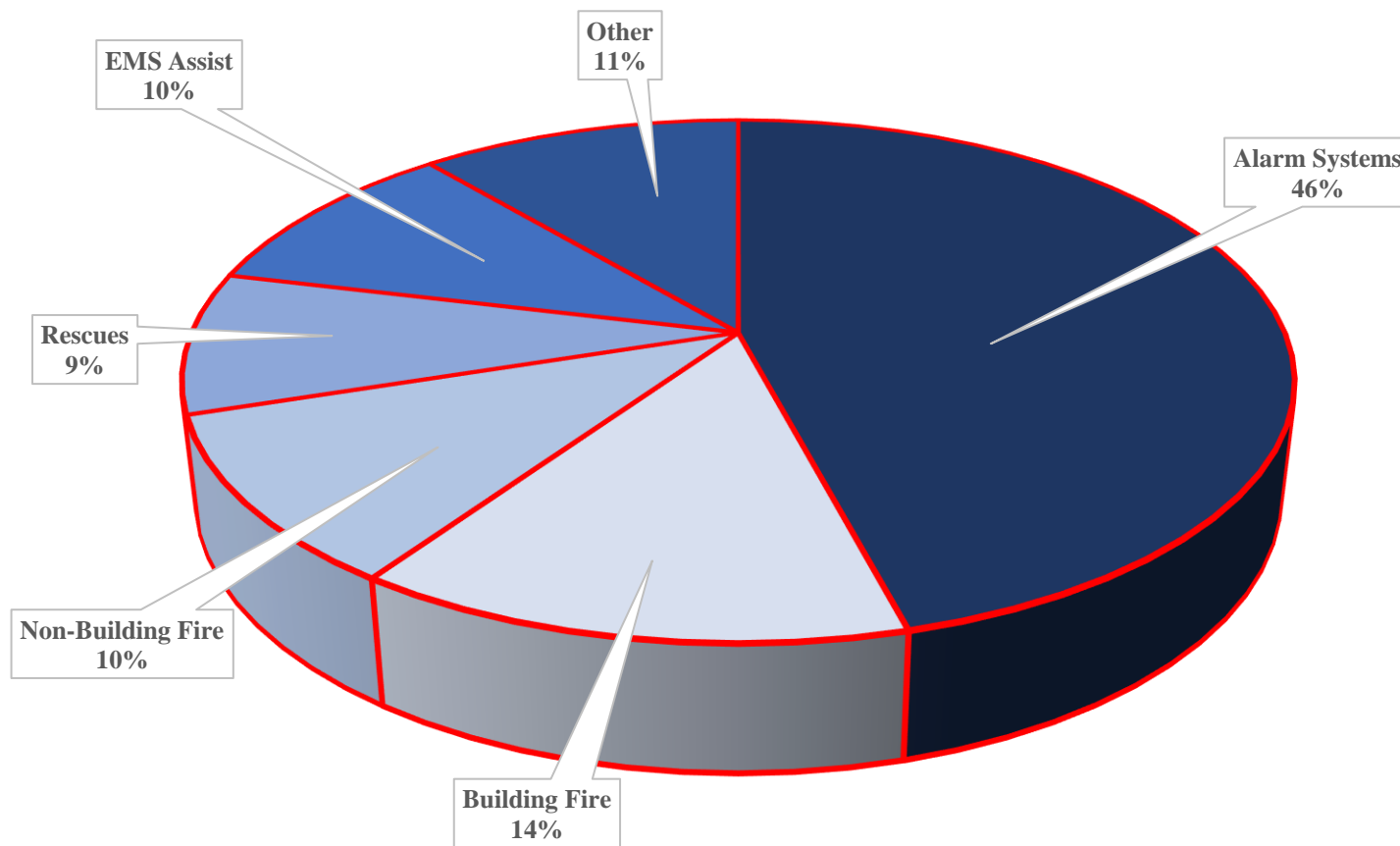


The chart to the left shows the number of emergency calls for service that BHVFC has responded to annually since 2008.

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Calls for Service (2008-2021)

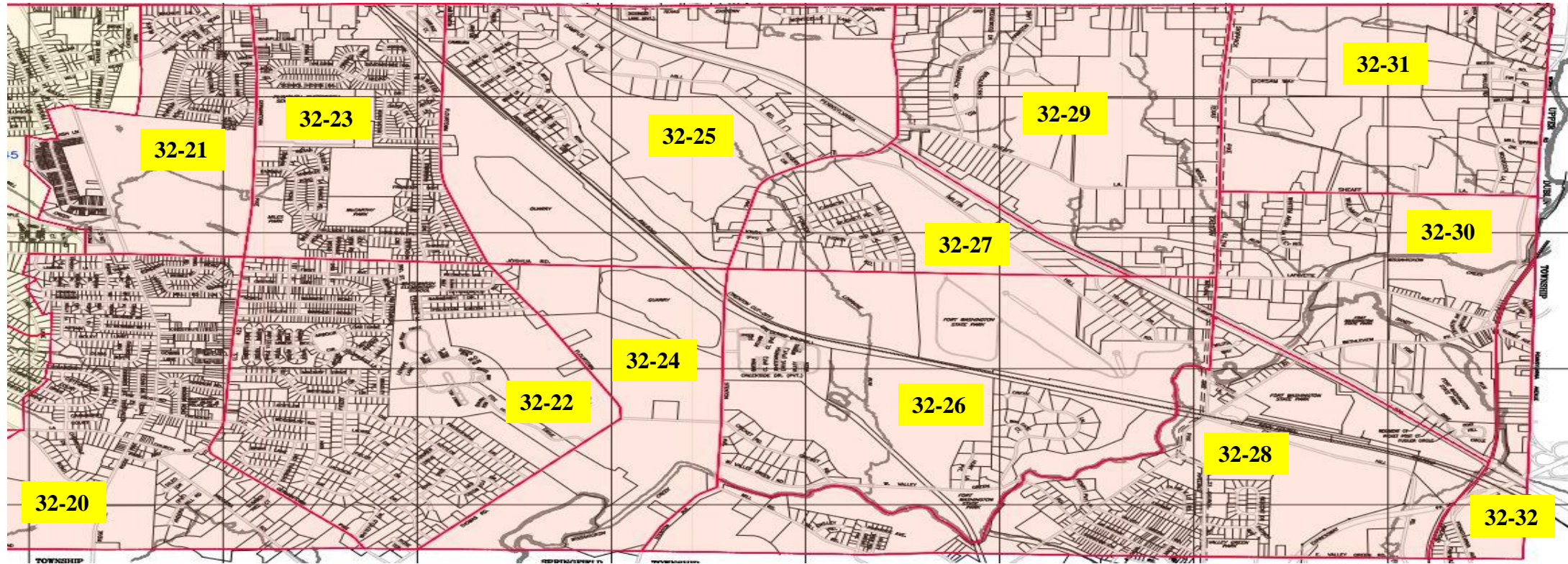
Type of Emergency Calls for Service



The chart to the left breaks down the various all types that the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company responded to in 2021.

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – BHVFC Response Districts (Boxes)



The Township is broken up into sections that are called “Boxes”. Our response District contains thirteen(13) boxes. The purpose of the box system is to assure that the closest available resources are dispatched and utilized throughout our response District.

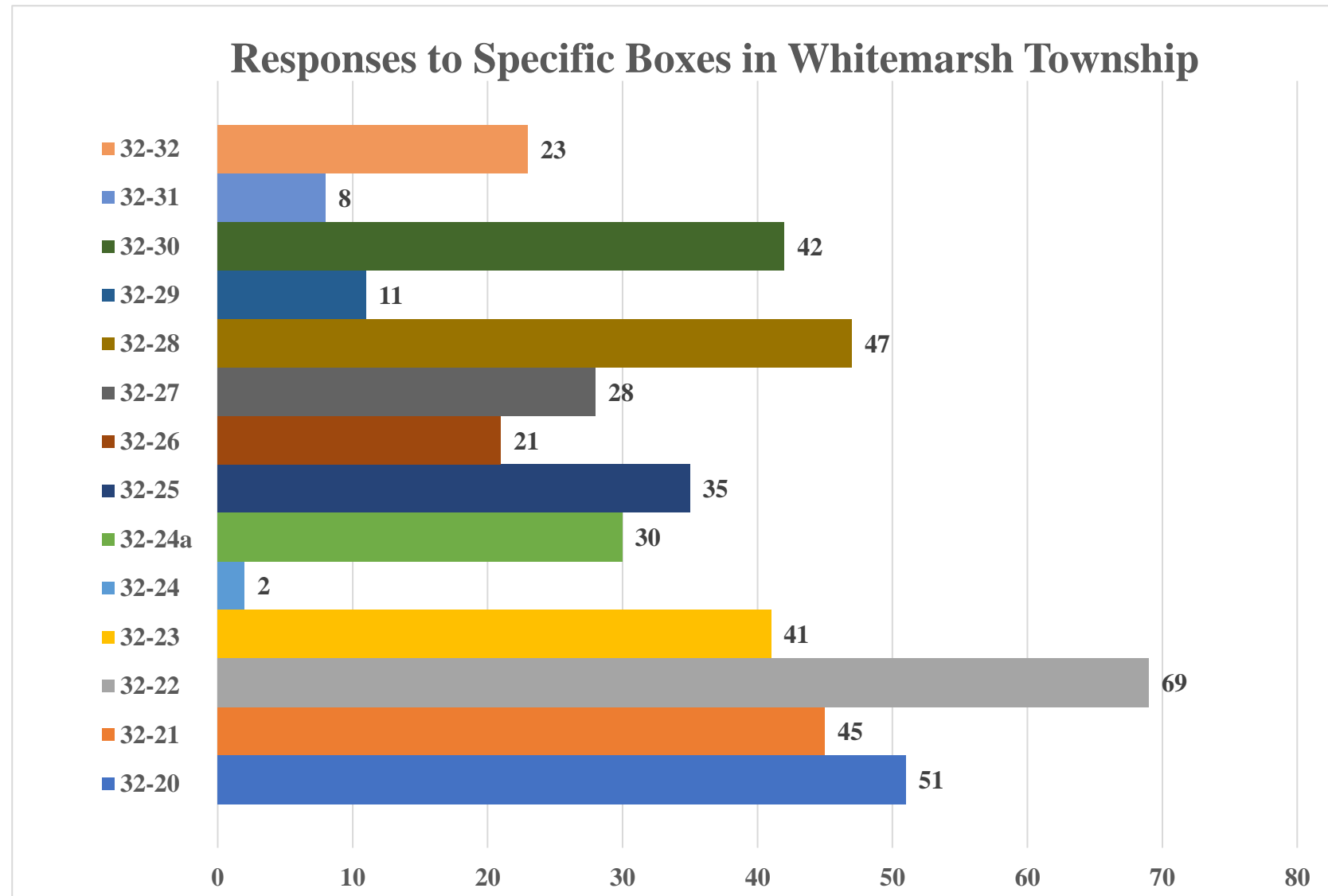
When relying on our Mutual Aid partners, our Community in the Fort Washington section of the Township sees different partnerships than our Community in the Lafayette Hill section of the Township. Regardless of location, the closest resources are being utilized to provide the best, fastest and most efficient fire and rescue services.

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Responses to Specific Boxes

The chart to the right breaks down BHVFC's responses to particular boxes / locations within Whitemarsh Township.

Note: Box 32-24a is identified on this chart due to the frequency of responses. A box number with a letter following it represents a target hazard which calls for special dispatch procedures.

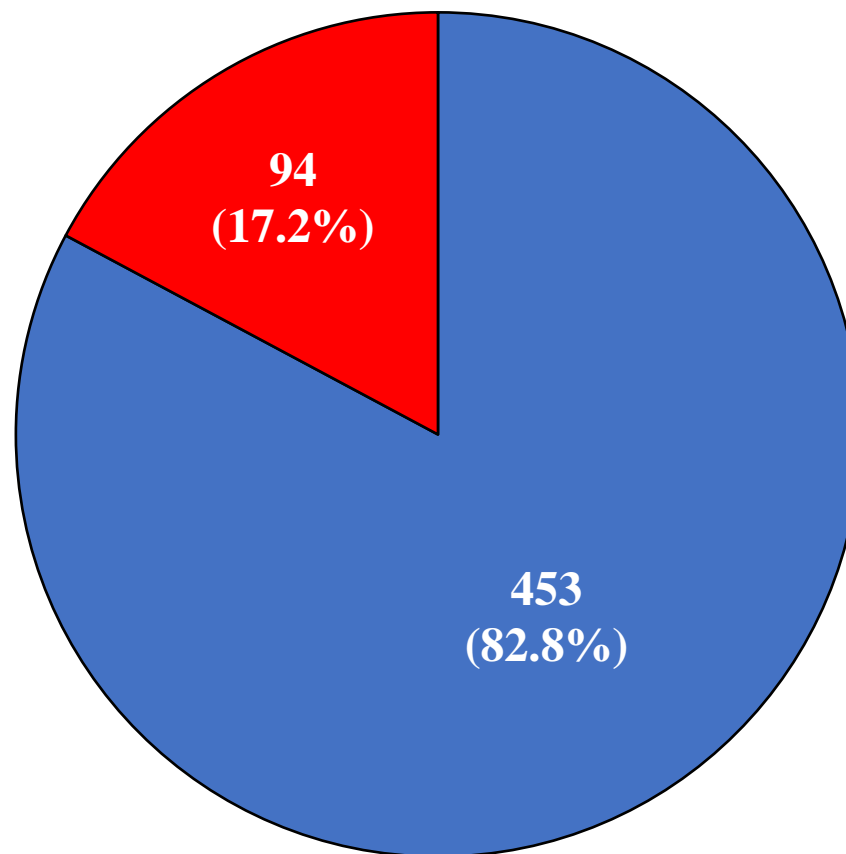


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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report

29 Fire District Dispatches vs Mutual Aid Dispatches

- 29 Fire District Dispatches
- Mutual Aid Dispatches



The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company responded to 547 calls for service in 2021.

This chart represents the total responses for the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company in 2021 broken down to primary response district in Whitemarsh Township versus mutual aid responses.

82.8% of BHVFC's calls for service were in Whitemarsh Township

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report

The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company provides mutual aid responses to Fire Companies in many of our surrounding municipalities.

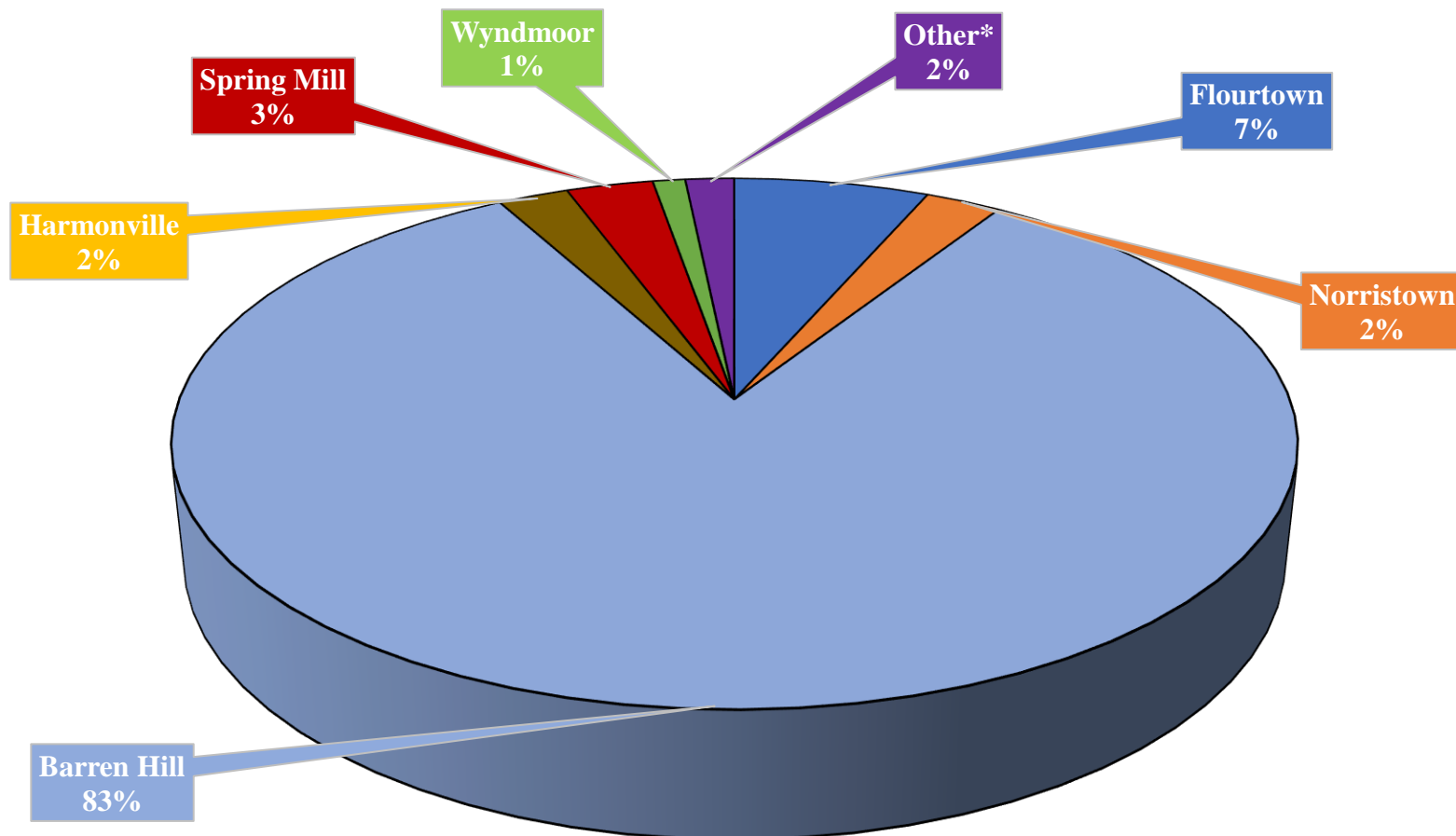
17% of responses (93 Calls for Service) in 2021 were in support of our Mutual Aid partners in the surrounding municipalities.

83% of responses in 2021 were in BHVFC's primary response district in Whitemarsh Township.

** "Other" includes the following Fire Companies: Centre Square, Conshohocken, Plymouth, Upper Merion, East Norriton & Bridgeport*



Dispatches – Mutual Aid vs. Primary Response District



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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – 2021 Weekly Training Exercises

Members meet each Monday night from 6:45pm until approximately 9:45pm to refine their skills in all aspects of Fire & Rescue services. Weekly training exercises are prepared by the Training Chief (Assistant Chief Scott Yoder) and are delivered by other Operational line officers, other subject matter experts or through outside educational institutions.

On a yearly basis, members are trained in a mix of annual qualifications and standards, hands on operations and classroom lectures.

Weekly training exercises help to not only keep our Volunteers operationally ready, but it allows our members to train with each other; recognizing the strengths within our membership and building on our weaknesses.



2021

Forty-Nine (49) Weekly Training Exercises

Average # of Attendees: 20.69 Volunteers

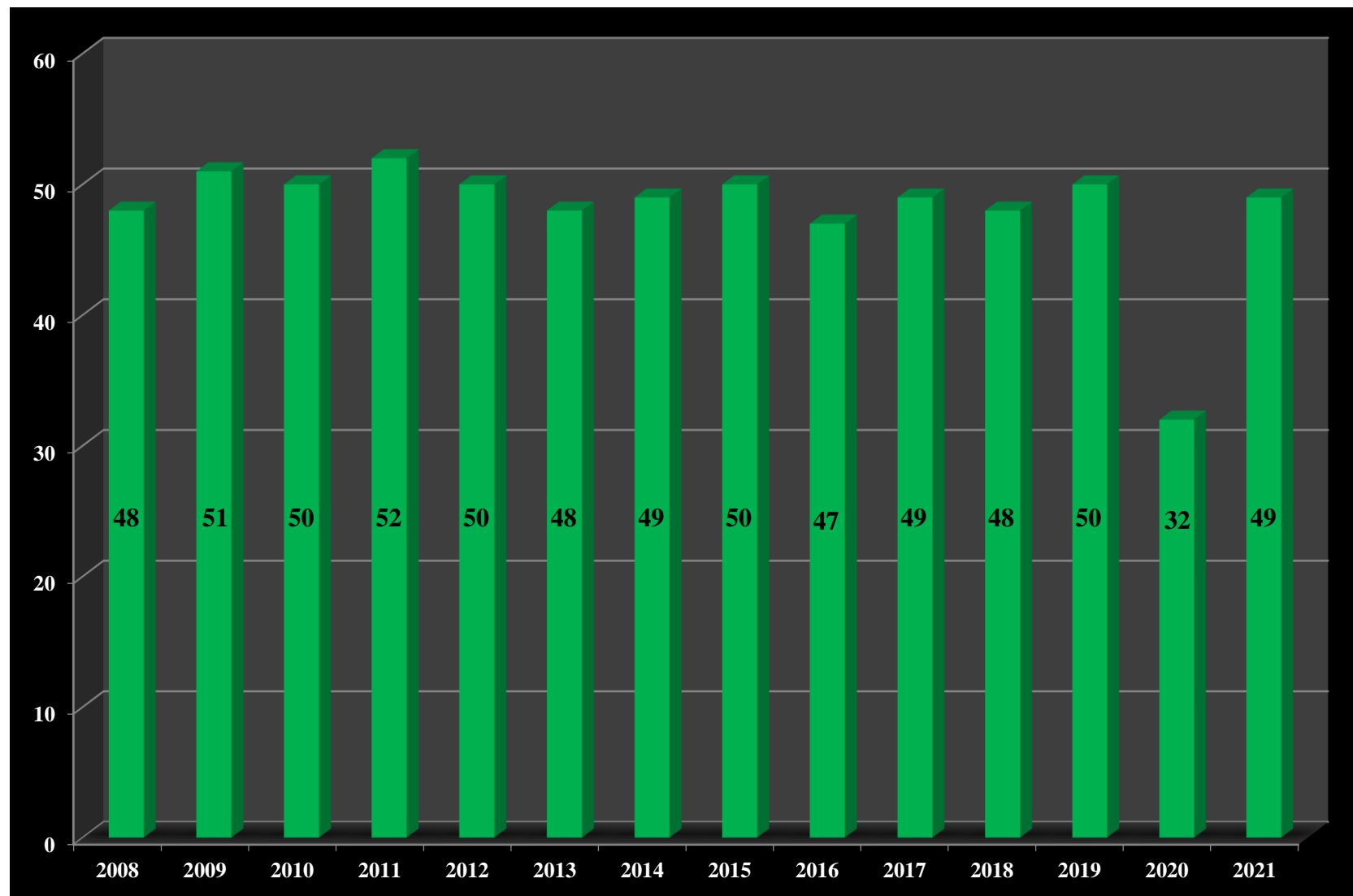
Estimated Total # of Weekly Training Hours: 3,042 Volunteer Hours

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Weekly Training (2008-2021)

The chart to the right shows the number of weekly training exercises that have taken place annually since 2008.

The small deviation to the numbers are due to Holidays or weather related cancellations that are out of the control of the Fire Company.



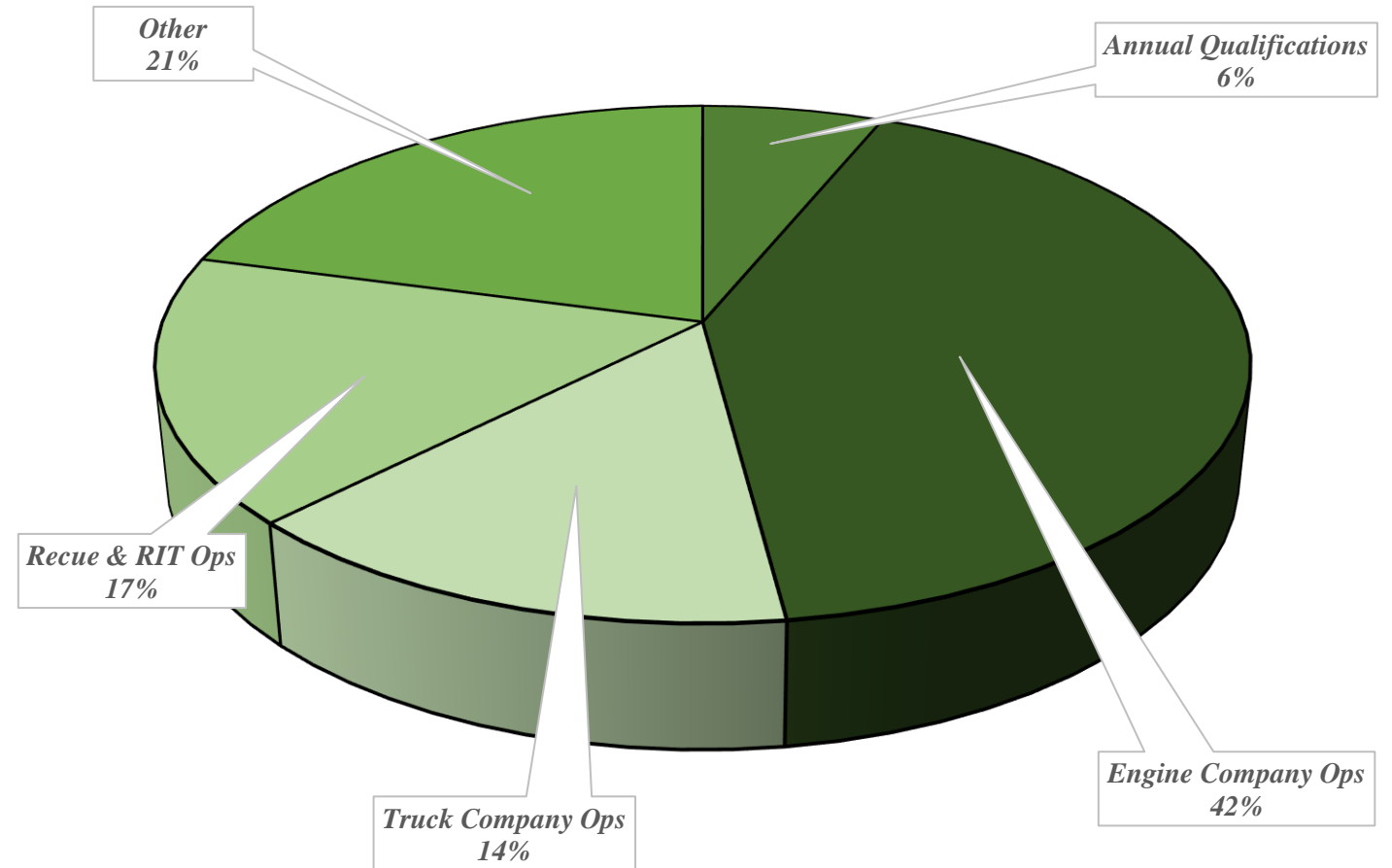
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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – 2021 Weekly Training Exercises



Training exercises are categorized into the five topics to the right. While the main training topics are displayed in the chart, the majority of training exercises include more than one discipline. (Ex. Engine & Ladder Co Training)

2021 Weekly Training Topics



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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – 2021 Special Services

Special Services are events outside of training and calls for service where volunteers support fire prevention activities, station maintenance activities and other community type events. In 2021, our members participated in 84 Special Services representing 1,350 hours of service. Our special Services are broken down into five (5) categories:



Smoke Detector Evaluation / Installation

Community Engagement Activities

Station Maintenance / Supplemental Training Activities

Fire Prevention Activities

Funeral Details

2021

Eight-Four (84) Special Services

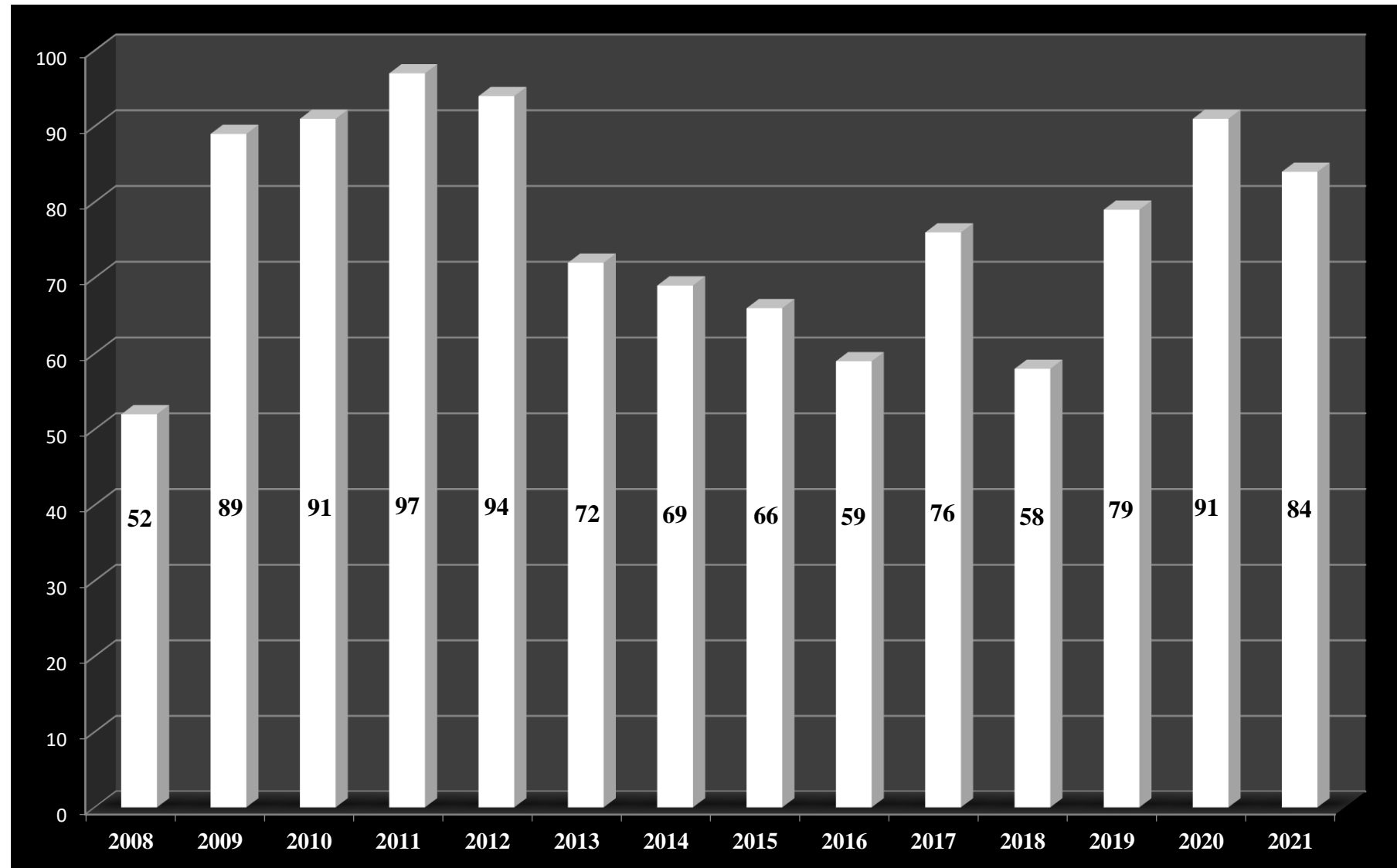
Average # of Attendees: 6.43 Volunteers per Special Service

Estimated Total # of Special Service Hours: 1,350 Volunteer Hours

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Special Services (2008 – 2021)

The chart to the right shows the number of Special Services that BHVFC has participated in annually since 2008.



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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Smoke Detector Installation

The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company honorably participates in the Operation 6 Save-A-Life Smoke Detector Installation program. In conjunction with the Township Fire Marshal's Office, our career staff installed nearly one hundred (100) smoke detectors in Whitemarsh Township residences in 2021. To have your smoke detectors evaluated, please call our career staff (Firefighter Jim & Firefighter Chris) at 610-825-2250 or the Township Fire Marshal's Office.



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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – 2021 In Memoriam



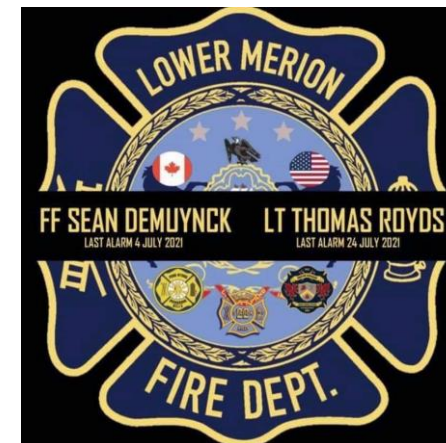
The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company lost two life members in 2021:

*George Russell McKee – July 25, 1929 – September 8, 2021
61 Year Life Member*

*Sandra Byerly – October 11, 1942 – August 15, 2021
60 Year Life Active Member*



In July of 2021, the Lower Merion Fire Department suffered two (2) Line of Duty Deaths. These line of duty deaths, one in a house fire and one while operating at a traffic crash, struck close to home. These were the first two Line of Duty Deaths that many of our volunteers have experienced. While we may not have known Firefighter Sean DeMuynek or Firefighter Thomas Royds personally, they were part of our family in the fire service. May they Rest in Eternal Peace.



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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Estimated # of Volunteer Hours



<i>Calls for Service</i>	<i>6,582hrs</i>
<i>Weekly Training Exercises</i>	<i>3,042hrs</i>
<i>Special Services</i>	<i>1,350hrs</i>
<i>Fire Police Callouts</i>	<i>190hrs</i>
<i>Fire Officer Investigations</i>	<i>13hrs</i>
<i>Board of Trustees Meetings</i>	<i>330hrs</i>
<i>Monthly Company Meetings</i>	<i>926hrs</i>
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	12,433hrs

The total number of volunteer hours reflects estimates of time that our Volunteers have given to support the administration and operations of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company. These conservative estimations reflect both the actual participation time and the travel time to and from the Station.

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Volunteering



According to a 2019 report published by the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, the number of volunteers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is on a downward trend. The number of Volunteers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have drastically declined from approximately 300,000 in the 1970's to a mere 38,000 in 2018. Whitemarsh Township is not immune from this downward trend.

The alternative to a Volunteer Fire Company supplemented with career staff is a Paid Fire Department possibly supplemented by Volunteers. There is a distinct difference between the two. While minimal tax money is needed to support a Volunteer Fire Company supported by career staff, a Paid Fire Department would require a significant increase in tax money to support the Paid Fire Department.

What can you do? Stop by and see us. Check out www.barrenhill.com/volunteer.

We have a NEED for YOU! Our members are from all walks of life, from many different professions, from all age brackets and neighborhoods. Don't wait, stop by and see us today!

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BHVFC - 2021 Annual Report – Special Services (2008 – 2021)

The Officers and Members of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company look forward to serving our neighbors and our Community of Whitemarsh Township. We appreciate the continued support and look forward to a Happy, Healthy and Fire Safe 2022!



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