

BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



2025

Annual Report

PRIDE ~ HONOR ~ COURAGE ~ INTEGRITY ~ SERVICE ~ TRADITION ~ RESPECT ~ ACCOUNTABILITY

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Annual Report

The members of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company are pleased to offer our 2025 Annual Report. Our volunteers take pride in the service they provide to our Whitemarsh Township Community and beyond. In 2025, the Fire Company celebrated its 110th Anniversary, and just like every year before, service, dedication, and commitment never wavered.

There are many benefits to being a volunteer at the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company. These include property tax credits, free training, free gear, and most importantly.... A lifelong opportunity to serve your neighbors and your community. Will you consider joining our family?

Our volunteers remain focused on the future of the fire service in Whitemarsh. There is so much excitement on the horizon as we continue to advance professionally, for you, Whitemarsh! We are thankful for your continuing support for our Volunteers. We look forward to our ongoing partnership to make Whitemarsh a fire-safe place to live, work, and play!



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

A Message from the President



The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company will celebrate its 111th year of serving Whitemarsh Township in 2026. I am honored to have served as the longest-tenured President for the past 12 years. Thank you to the Board of Trustees and members of the fire company who have supported me over the years.

I would like to thank the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors for its continued support of the Emergency Services and for allowing us to serve the Whitemarsh Township community.

I appreciate the residents of Whitemarsh for supporting our annual fund drive and our Reaching New Heights campaign for our new Tower Ladder truck, which will be coming to Whitemarsh later this year.

I hope everyone has a safe, happy 2026.

Renard Rose - President

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

A Message from the Fire Chief



111 years ago, not far from where the Firehouse is located, visionaries met to create the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company in response to a barn fire in the community. Today, our leadership team remains focused on the future, evaluating today's service, and envisioning the future fire service for our residents.

We are in a positive operational position, constantly challenging members to achieve new successes, expanding support services for our EMS partners, and demanding that we maintain our professional image at all times, at all costs.

We will not waver. Our commitment to serving OUR Whitemarsh Township Community remains steadfast. There is something special at Barren Hill. Consider stopping by to check us out, join our team; guaranteed, there will be no regrets. We have a place for everyone!

Wishing a healthy, happy, and fire-safe 2026

Chris Schwartz ~ Fire Chief

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

A Message from the Board of Trustees



*On Behalf of the Board of Trustees
Shel Klein – Board of Trustees, Chair*

The Board of Trustees is the fiscal steward of the fire company, maintaining a fiscally conservative balance with the daily operational requirements of managing the organization's business. With more than 120 years of service to Whitemarsh Township, these volunteers ensure that the short- and long-range plans are funded responsibly.

This responsibility is not taken lightly, as our Board of Trustees recognizes that our financial support and funding is because of you; OUR Friends, OUR Neighbors, OUR Community.

The cost of operating a fire company has increased exponentially in the last decade. Check out our Reaching New Heights Campaign later in this report for just one example of the increased expenses that we are plagued with.

The Whitemarsh Township Fire Tax and Municipal allocation do not fully fund the fire service. Annually, we rely on grants, rental income from our property and our hall, and your generosity to meet our budgetary obligations.

*Your financial support and generosity are paramount to meeting our financial goals.
THANK YOU, Whitemarsh!*

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What Volunteering Looks Like...



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Mission & Vision

Mission

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.

Vision

The vision of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company is to maintain our commitment to providing 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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Our Core Values

These core values are the principles and characteristics that our volunteers demonstrate, not just in their volunteering, but in their daily lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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2025 Operations Officers



Fire Chief Chris Schwartz



Deputy Chief Renard Rose



Assistant Chief Scott Yoder



Battalion Chief Bucky Swider



Captain Jamie Viall



Captain Shaun Maher



Safety Officer Tim Tygh



Fire Police Captain Scott Rotenbury

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2026 Operations Leadership Team

Fire Chief Chris Schwartz has led the operations team since 2008. The team has remained largely the same throughout the tenure. The leadership team has a combined 255 years of service to Whitemarsh Township and the surrounding Communities.



Fire Chief Chris Schwartz	28 Years of Service
Deputy Chief Renard Rose	27 Years of Service
Assistant Chief Scott Yoder	31 Years of Service
Battalion Chief Joseph “Bucky” Swider	29 Years of Service
Captain Jamie Viall	23 Years of Service
Captain Shaun Maher	26 Years of Service
Lieutenant Jon Walker*	5 Years of Service
Lieutenant Derek Hines	5 Years of Service
Lieutenant (Officer Development Position – Rotating)	
Safety Officer Tim Tygh*	24 Years of Service
Chief Engineer Jake Frye*	6 Years of Service
Fire Police Captain Scott Rotenbury	51 Years of Service

(*Decades of additional fire service experience with other agencies)

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2025 Administrative Officers



President Renard Rose



Vice President Bucky Swider



Mike Gaffney - Trustee



Shel Klein - Chair



Scott Yoder - Trustee



Jon Walker - Trustee



Shaun Maher - Trustee



Treasurer Cameron Smith



Secretary Semeion Hall



Prakash Bhuyan - Trustee



Jamie Viall - Trustee

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2026 Administrative Leadership Team



Administrative Officers

President

Renard Rose

27 Years of Service

Vice President

Joseph "Bucky" Swider

29 Years of Service

Secretary

Grant Atherholt

4 Years of Service

Treasurer

Cameron Smith

35 Years of Service

Board of Trustees

Chairman Shel Klein

35 Years of Service

Prakash Bhuyan

11 Years of Service

Mike Gaffney

27 Years of Service

Shaun Maher

26 Years of Service

Jamie Viall

23 Years of Service

Jon Walker

*5 Years of Service**

Scott Yoder

31 Years of Service

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Volunteer with Us!



SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES...

Firefighters, Fire Police Officers,
Fundraising, Rescue Technicians,
Junior Firefighters (14-17yoa),
Photographer, Administrative Members,
Community Events

The only decision.....Why not YOU!



GET INVOLVED
SCAN HERE!



barrenhill.com/volunteer



JOIN OUR FAMILY

Our doors are open.
There is room at our table.
The only thing missing is YOU!



GET INVOLVED
SCAN HERE!

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Welcome to the Family!

*2025 brought 12 new members to our family. From all walks of life, young and experienced, and from all different neighborhoods. Our new volunteers are willing and eager to serve their community. All of the new members of our family share the same character trait: **a strong desire to volunteer.***

Check out www.barrenhill.com/volunteer for more information on joining our family!

Gilbert Benjamin (FIRE POLICE)

Zaire Daniels (FIREFIGHTER)

Brad Green (FIREFIGHTER)

Jack Henry (FIREFIGHTER)

Ricky Hicks (FIRE POLICE)

Brett Keenan (FIREFIGHTER)



Fran McCusker (FIREFIGHTER)

Cassius Robinson (JR FIREFIGHTER)

Hamza Robinson (FIREFIGHTER)

Chris Rosanova (JR FIREFIGHTER)

Robert Schiantabasti (FIRE POLICE)

Jim Williamson (FIREFIGHTER)

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Run Statistics

Calls for Service	604
Midnight Calls	66
Weekly Training Exercises	50
Special Services	105
Fire Police Callouts	44
Fire Officer Investigations	16
Company Business Meetings	12
Board of Trustees Meetings	12

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What Volunteering Looks Like...

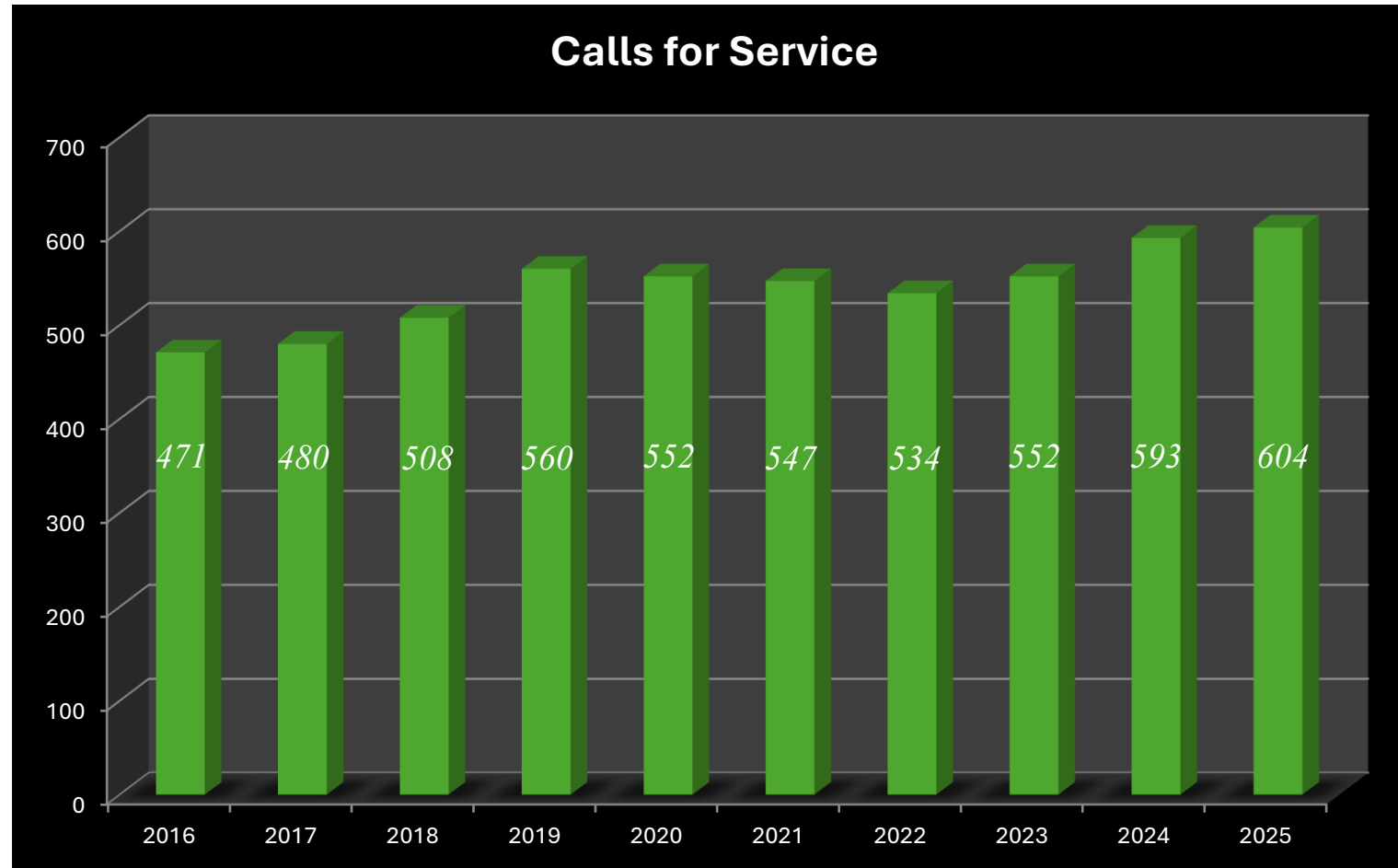


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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Calls for Service



10-Year Comparison of Calls for Service at BHVFC

Volunteers responded to 604 calls for service in 2025. This represents a 1.8% increase in call volume from the prior year. We attribute the increase to our community's growing needs.

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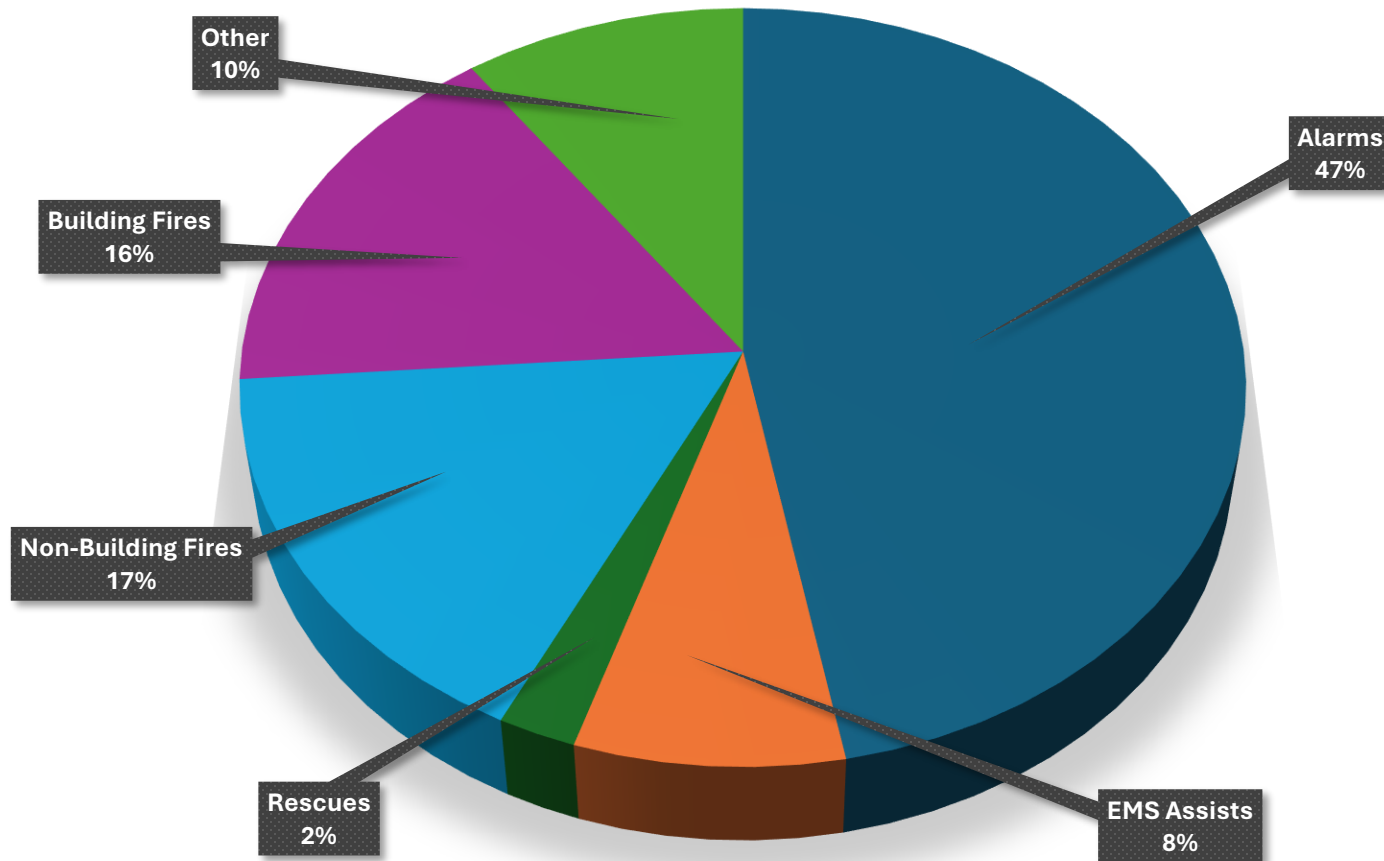
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Calls by Dispatched Incident Type



Calls for service are broken down into six (6) categories. Building Fires, Non-Building Fires, Rescues, EMS Assists, Alarm Systems, and all Others. Alarm system responses account for the highest percentage.

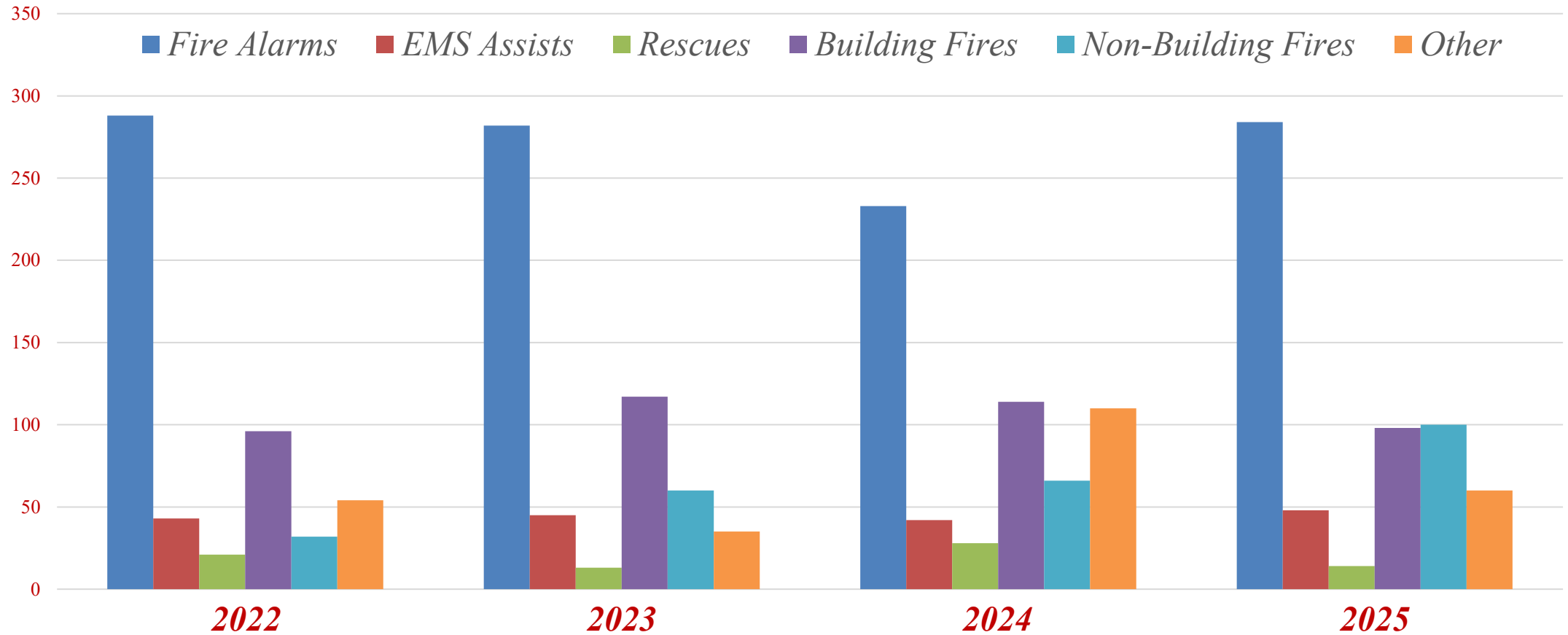
Fire alarms may be activated for legitimate reasons, such as smoke from various sources, or non-legitimate reasons, such as a system malfunction. Like most utility and mechanical systems in a residence or business, it is a good practice to have your alarm system serviced annually.

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4-Year Comparison – Incident Type



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What Volunteering Looks Like...



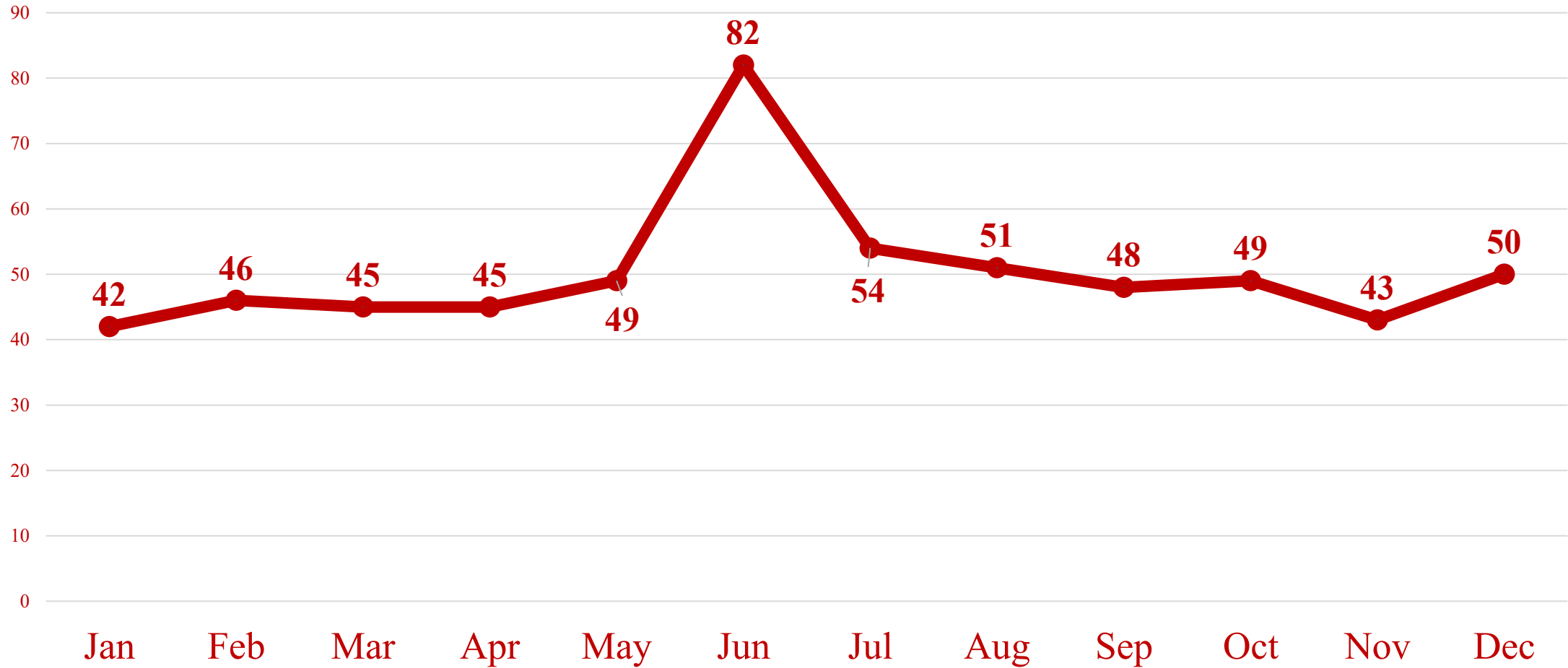
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Responses by Month



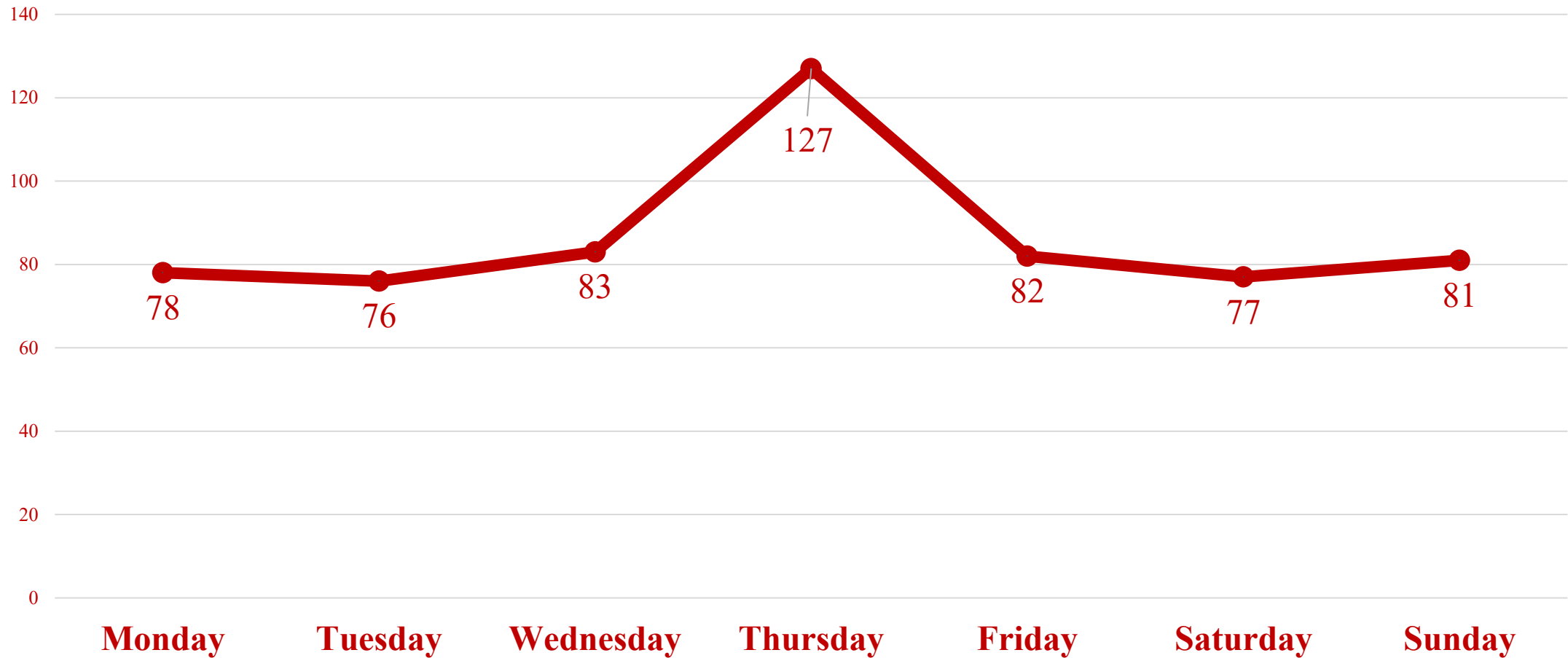
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Responses by Day of the Week



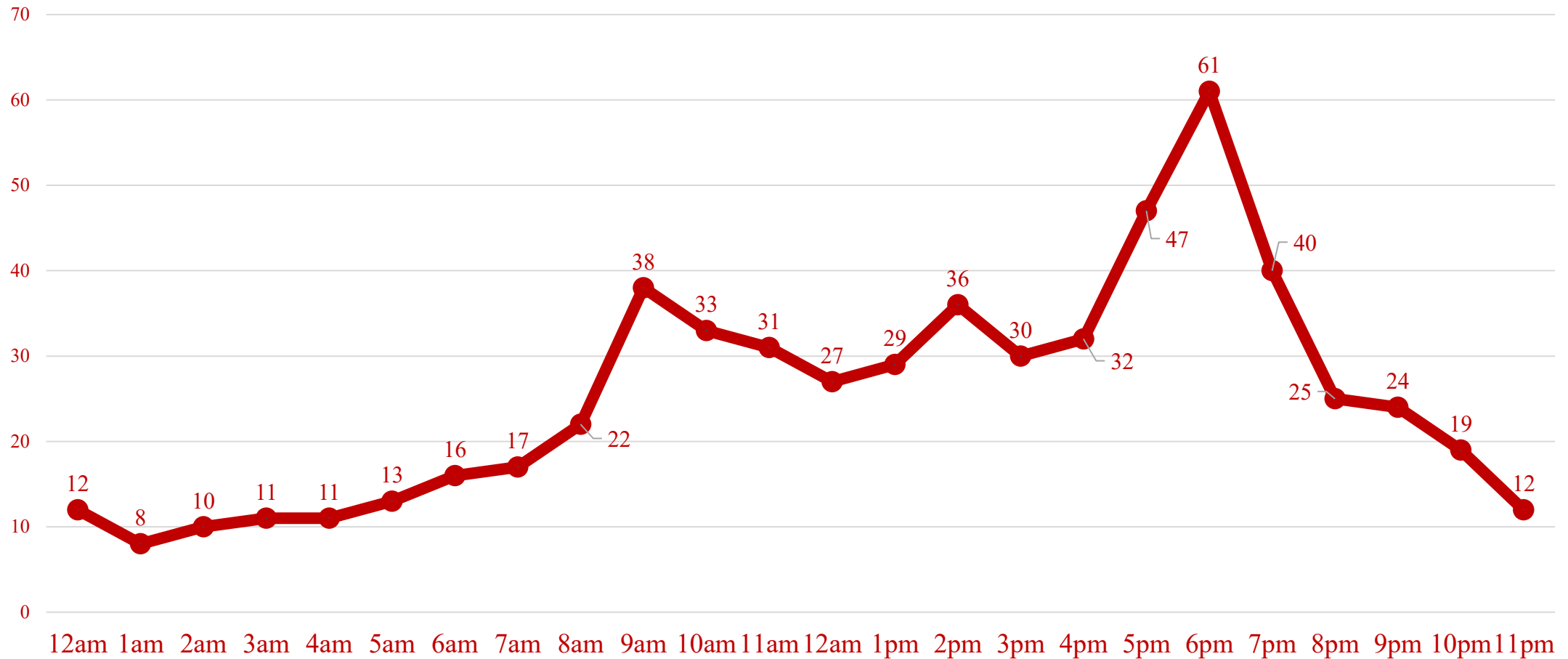
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Responses by Hour of the Day



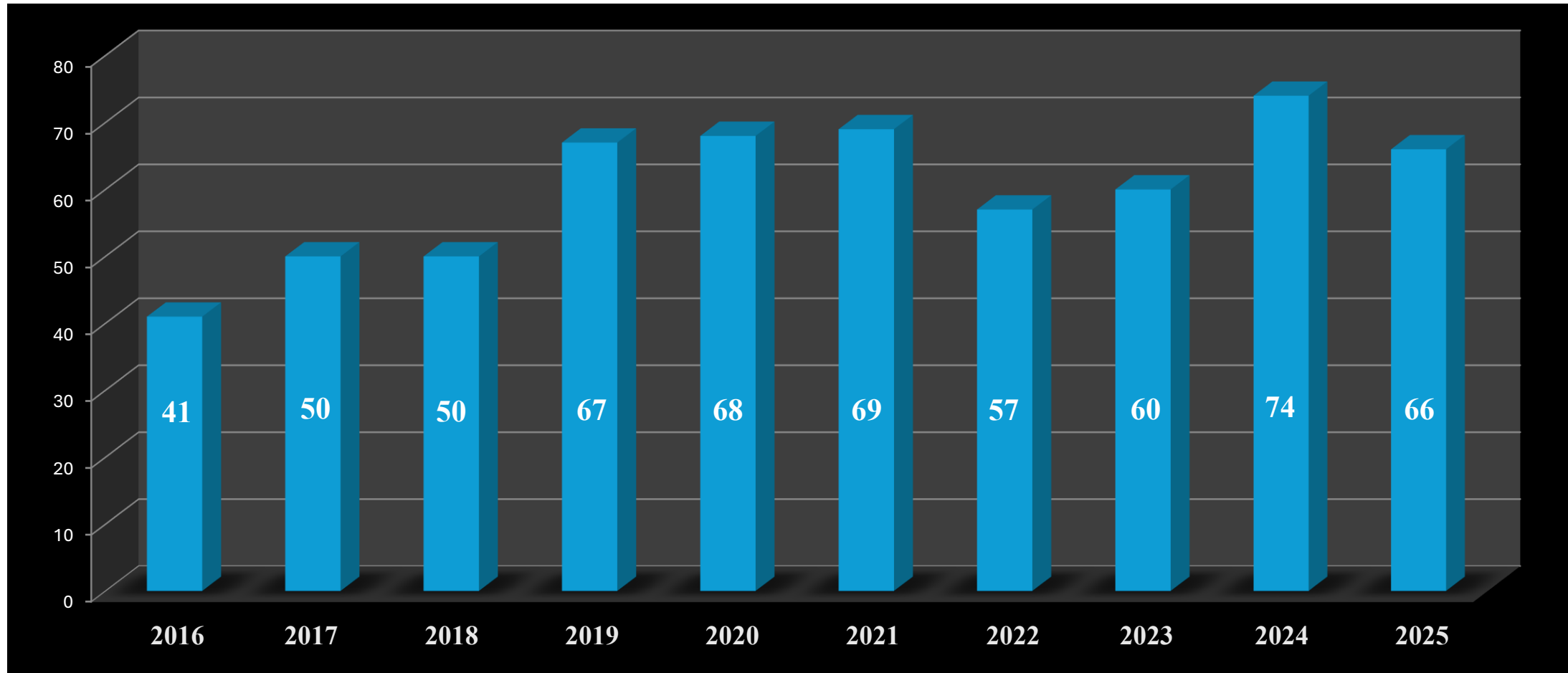
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Midnight (12a-6p) Calls for Service – 10 Year Comparison



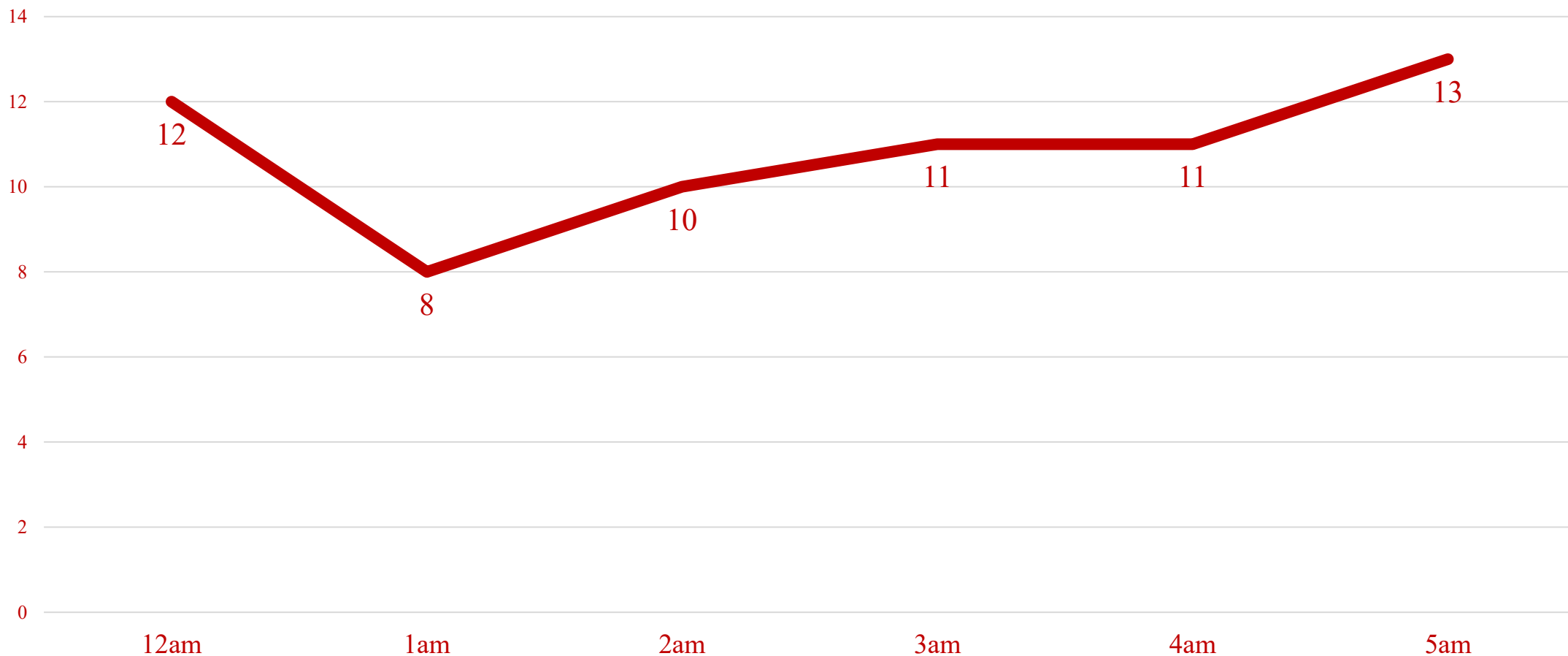
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Midnight (12a-6p) Calls for Service by Hour



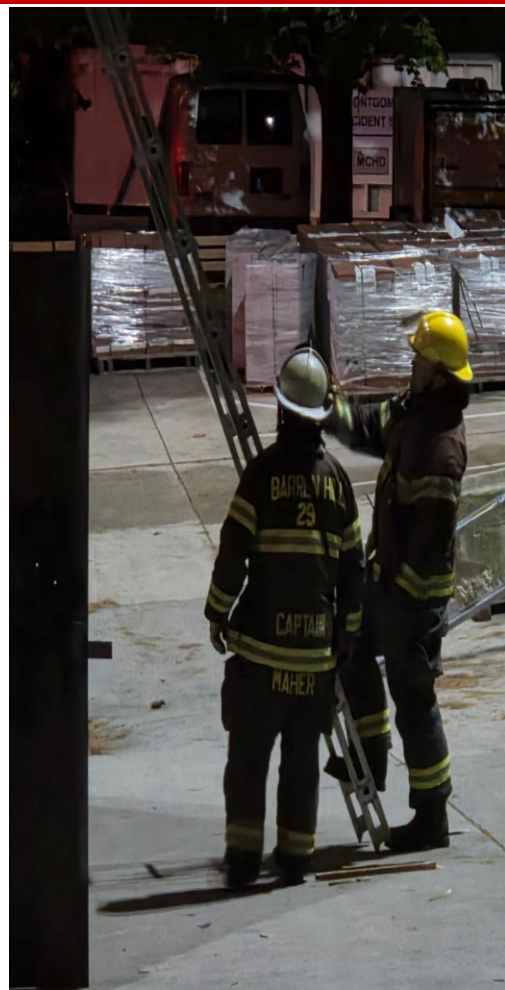
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What Volunteering Looks Like



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BHVFC Fire Police Unit



Fire Police provide traffic and crowd control on emergency scenes or special events. BHVFC's Fire Police not only participate in local events but also provide support to many of the area's Fire Police Units.

No experience is required. We will train you, provide safety equipment, and make you a part of our team... all at no cost to you!



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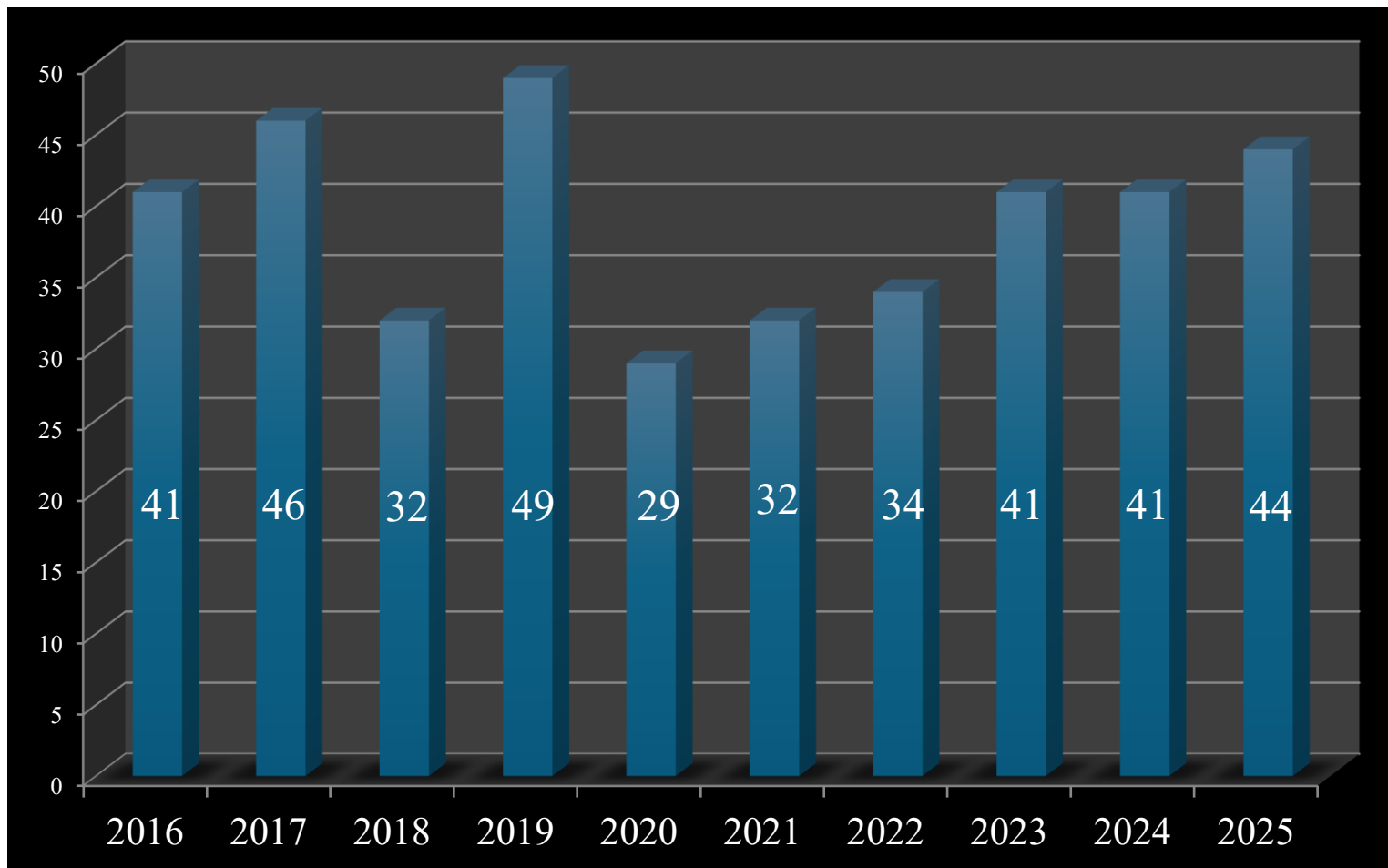
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Fire Police Responses – 10 Year Comparison



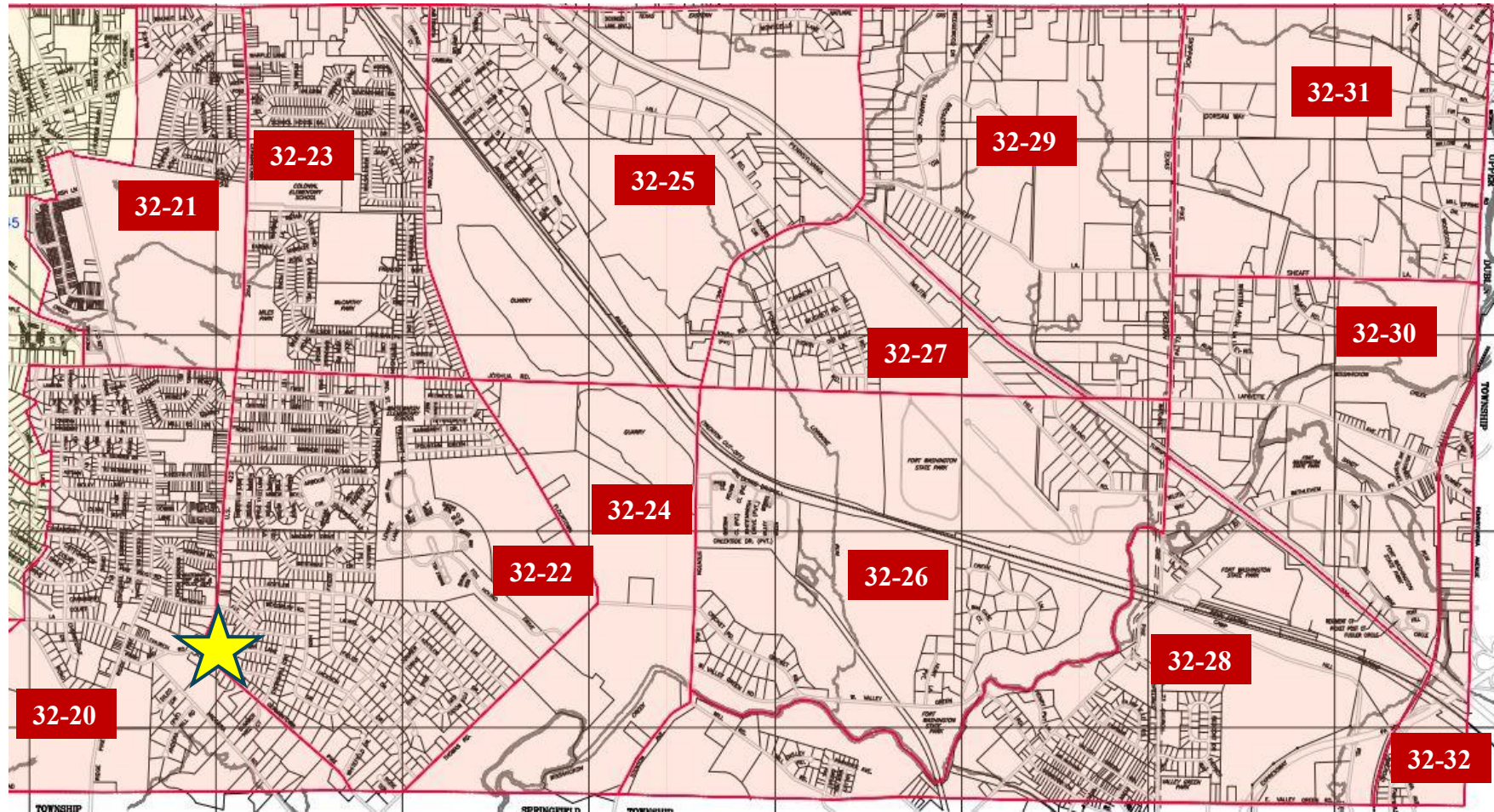
The Fire Police Unit is dispatched with the fire company on all calls for service. However, there are times when they are dispatched independently or attend a Fire Police ONLY event in which the rest of the fire company does not participate. This chart shows the annual number of events to which the Fire Police are called without a full fire company response.

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Box System



Box System

A “BOX SYSTEM” is a dispatch method that is designed to allow the closest available resources to respond to an emergency scene. Each “box” has a unique dispatch list of the closest resources, selected based on distance and response needs. BHVFC’s response district contains thirteen (13) boxes. Within each box, certain addresses are identified as “target hazards.” A target hazard is a location that requires special considerations for firefighting operations due to occupancy, hazardous materials, or other similar factors.

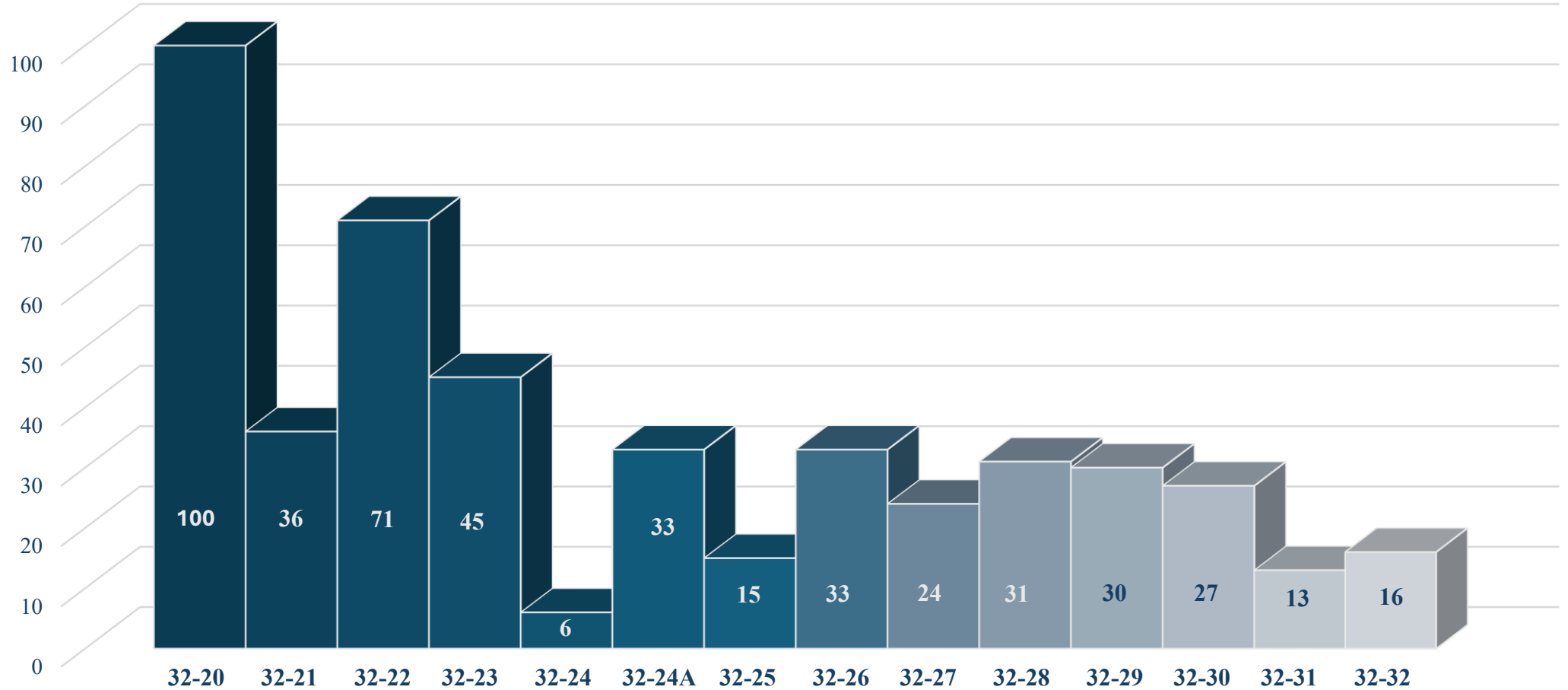
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2025 Calls for Service by Response Zone



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Mutual Aid



To ensure the proper number of firefighters respond to a dispatched emergency, the fire service relies on mutual aid assistance from nearby fire companies and communities. BHVFC's response district regularly relies on mutual aid fire companies from Conshohocken Borough, Plymouth Township, Whitpain Township, Ambler Borough, Upper Dublin Township, and Springfield Township.

Any agency may request mutual aid assistance, and BHVFC responds wherever we are called. BHVFC regularly provides RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM service to Norristown and was dispatched as far away as Warrington Township, Bucks County, in 2024.



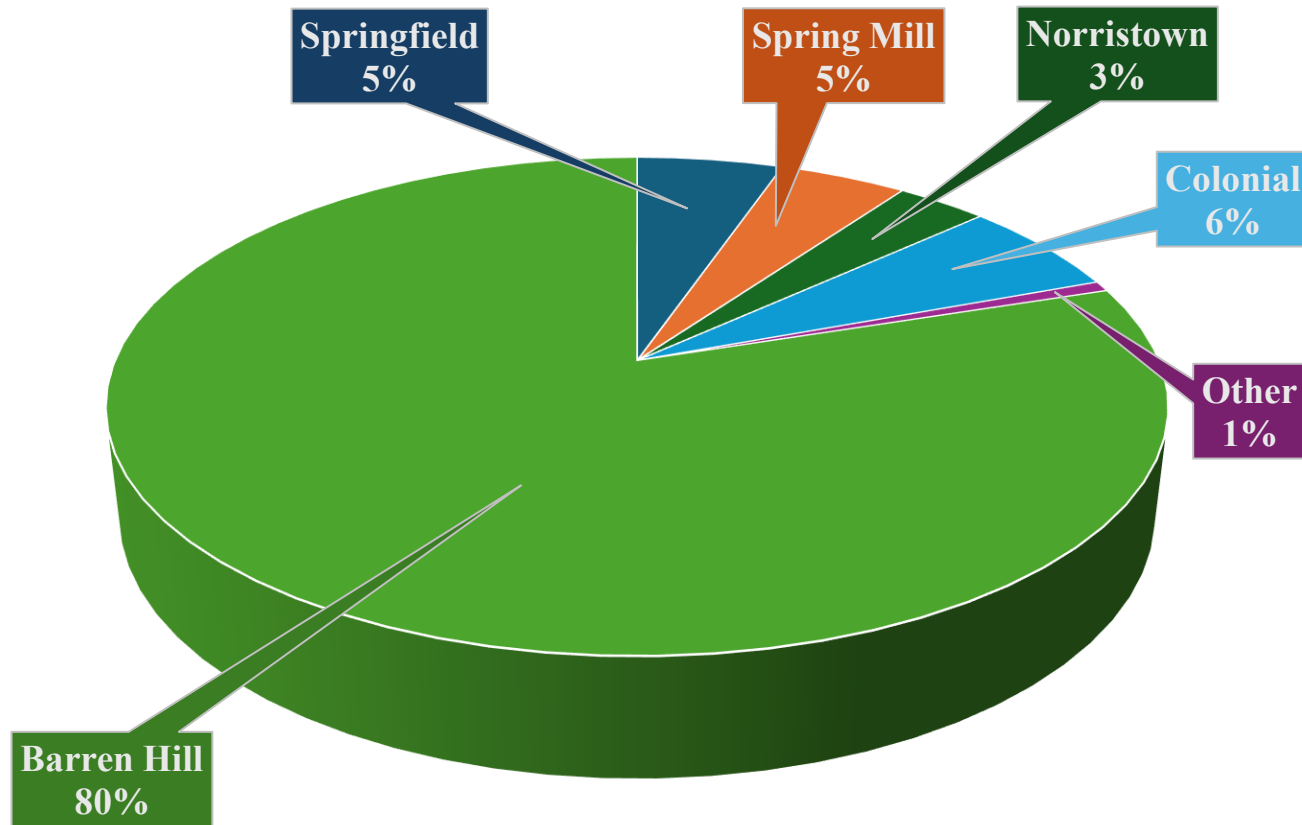
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Calls for Service by District



The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company provides mutual aid responses in many surrounding municipalities.

20% of responses (121 Calls for Service) were in support of our Mutual Aid partners.

80% of responses were in BHVFC's primary response district in Whitemarsh Township.

(A closer evaluation of response areas where BHVFC is the primary responder, including the panhandle of Springfield Township, increases BHVFC's response area to 85% of responses.)

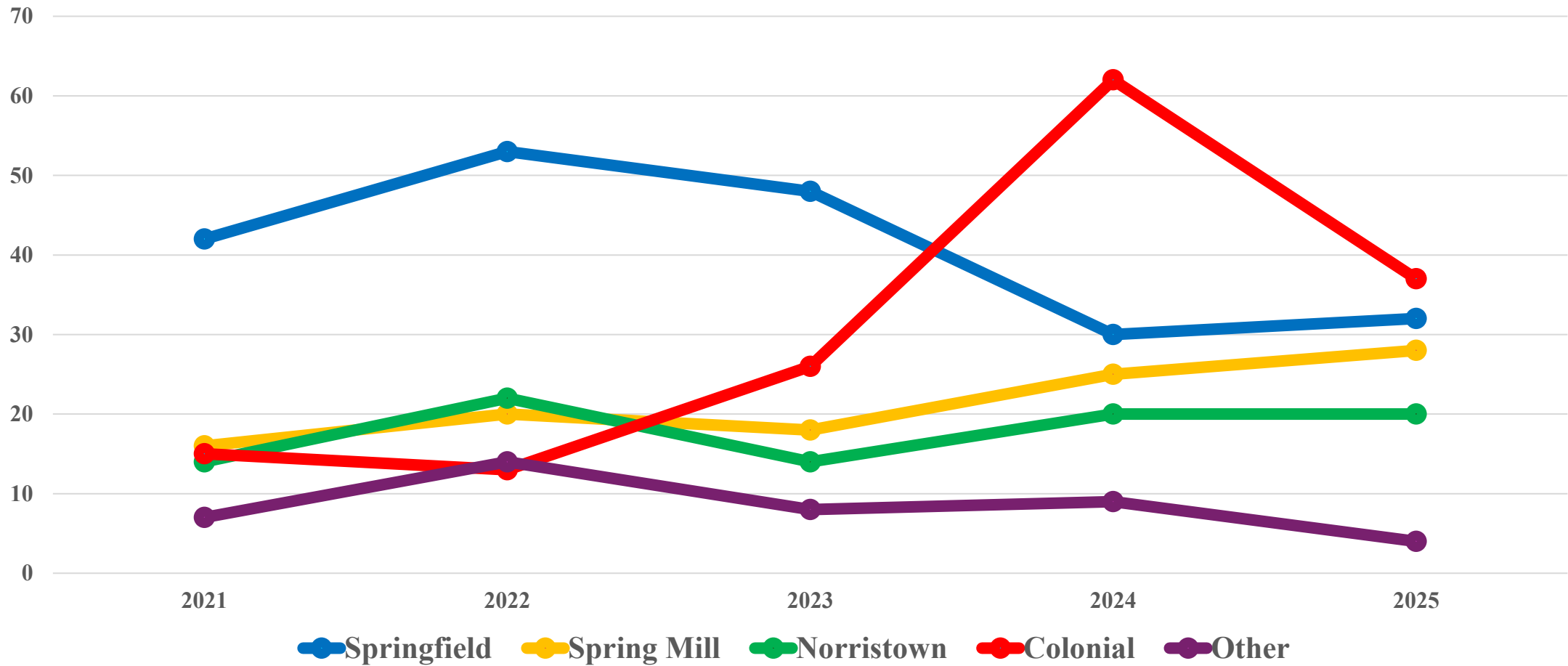
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Mutual Aid Response – 5 Year Comparison



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Weekly Training Exercises



*Assistant Chief / Training Chief
Scott Yoder*

"Training" is at the heart of what we do at Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company. Throughout the year, our volunteers participate in weekly classroom and hands-on training to prepare firefighters to serve the Whitemarsh Township community safely and efficiently. Each realistic scenario is specifically designed to replicate real-world situations our volunteers may face. Regardless of whether the temperature is 10 or 110 degrees, and whether it is sunny, snowing, or raining, our volunteers are focused on sharpening their skills, coordination, and teamwork. Their commitment to continuous improvement ensures the fire company remains dependable and prepared to respond to the many types of emergencies our community depends on us to handle.

In addition to our extensive in-house training program, our volunteers attend outside classes at county fire training academies to remain current with best practices and national requirements. Initial firefighter training requires members to complete more than 200 hours to obtain their national certification. We look forward to our ten newest members finishing the final block of their initial training and becoming Nationally Certified Firefighter 1 responders in 2026.

The strong dedication of our members made this year's training program a success. It ensured that the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company remains an elite emergency response organization with nationally certified responders that Whitemarsh Township deserves.

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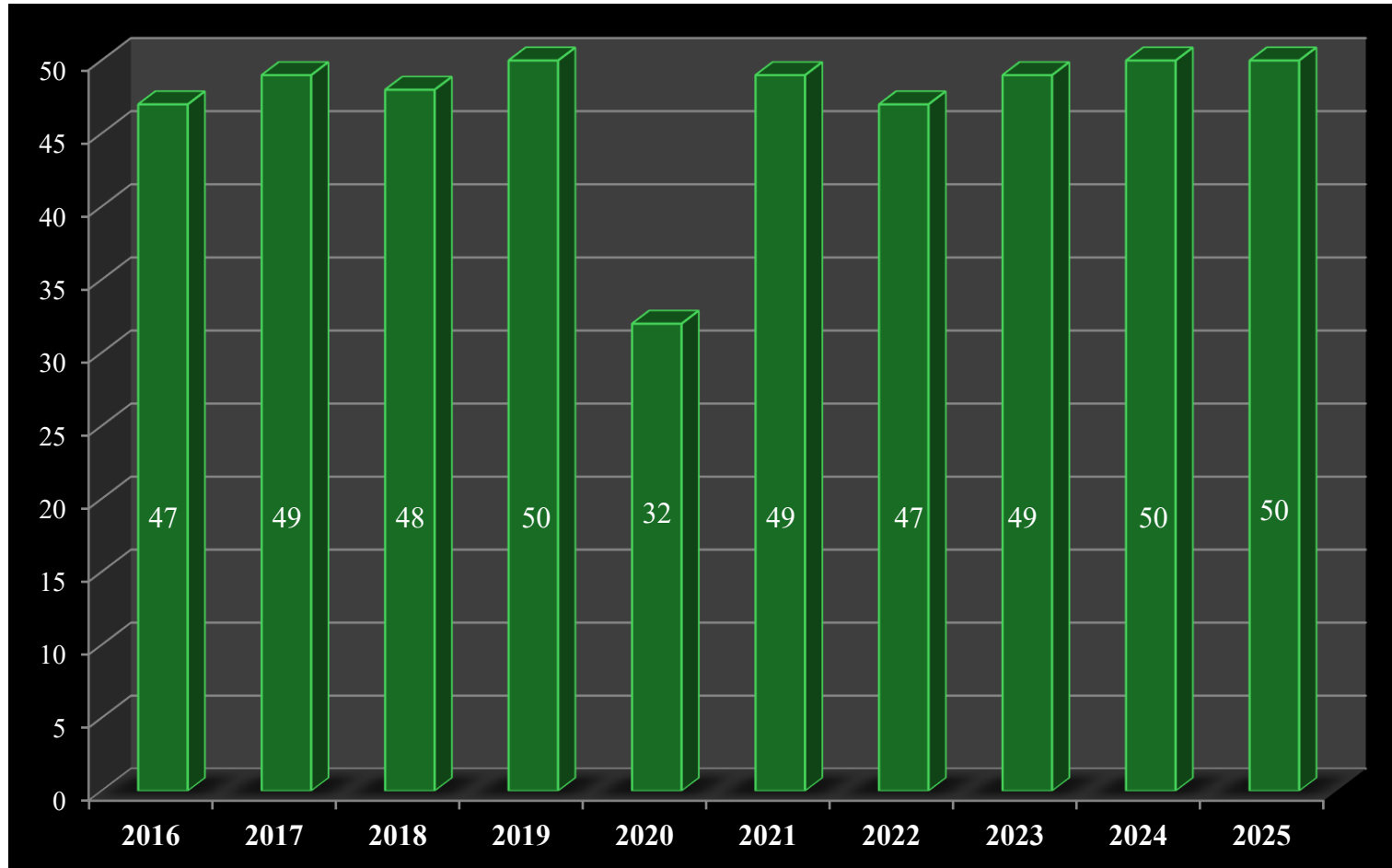
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Weekly Training – 10 Year Comparison



50

**Monday Night Training
Exercises**

1,274

Personnel Participating

25.48

Volunteers per night

3,822

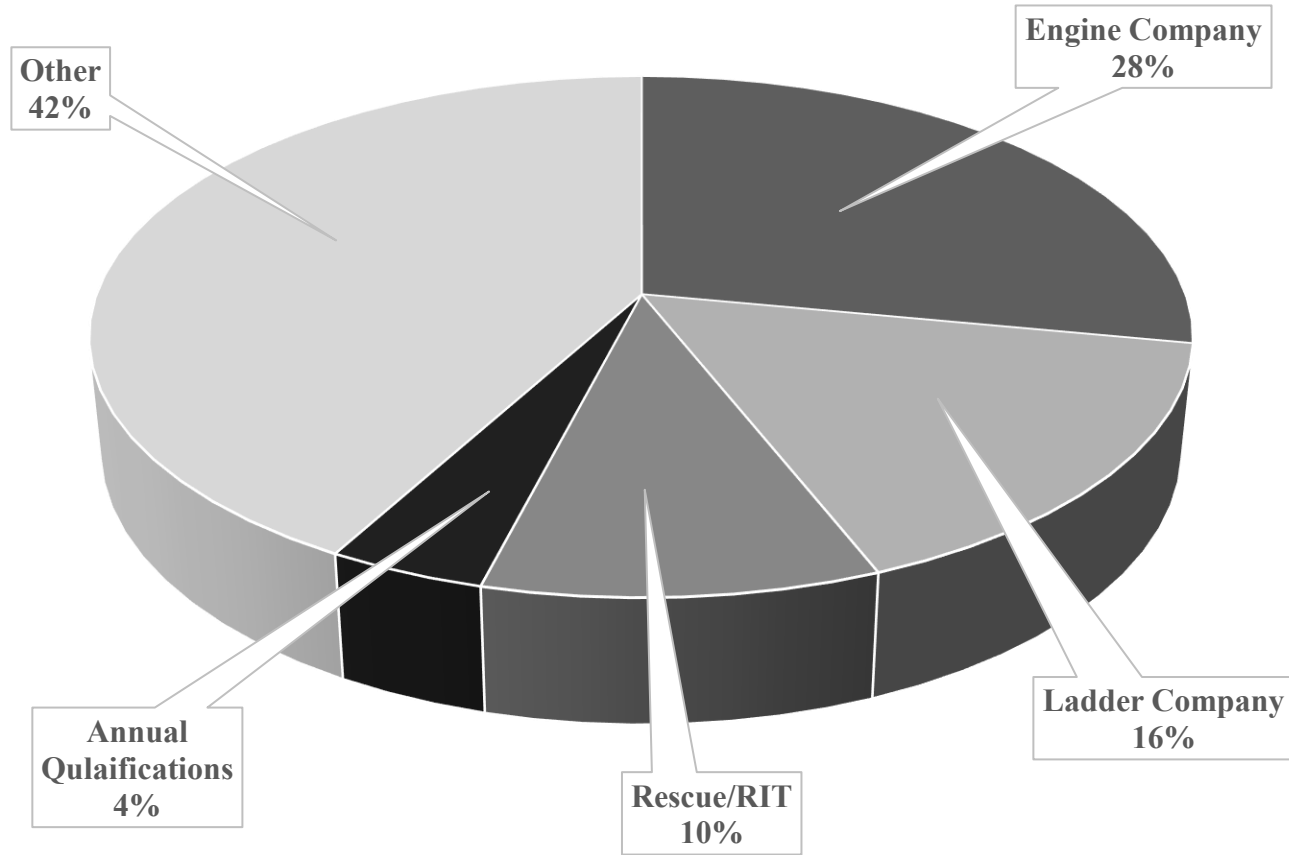
Volunteer Training Hours

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Weekly Training Exercise Topics



The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company trains on Monday nights beginning at 6:45 pm. During these exercises, members have the opportunity to work with other volunteers, learning each other's capabilities and the tools of our trade. Many Monday night training exercises bring us together with our mutual aid partners to train, learn, and grow together. Training never stops, and members, from the newest to the most experienced, constantly hone their skills to ensure our mission readiness is never in doubt.

While the chart shows a breakdown of five general categories of training each week, the reality is that the majority of the exercises encompass more than one discipline

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Firefighter I Training



In 2025, members from the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company, Spring Mill Fire Company, Harmonville Fire Company, and the Flourtown Fire Company began their Firefighter I basic training.

The program includes more than 180 hours of classroom and hands-on training to perform basic firefighting operations. These members have completed three of four modules on their journey to certification.

By the end of Spring 2026, more than a dozen newly certified firefighters will be serving the region

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Training



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What Volunteering Looks Like...



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

We Need You!

We have a NEED for YOU!

*Our members are from all walks of
life, from different professions, all
age brackets, and all
neighborhoods.*



WE WANT YOU!

What can you do? Stop by and see us.

Check out www.barrenhill.com/volunteer

DON'T WAIT! STOP BY AND SEE US, TODAY!

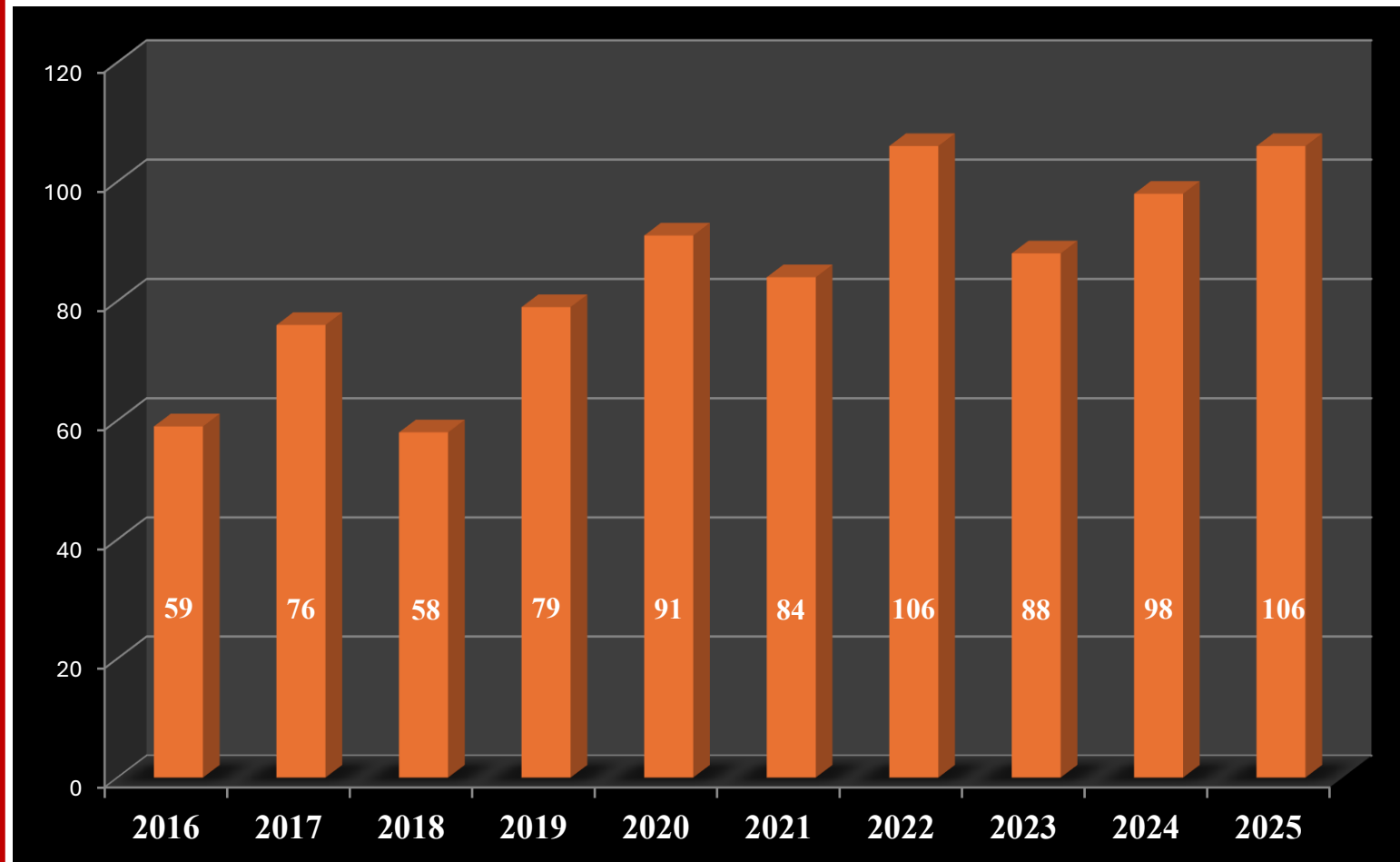
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Special Services – 10 Year Comparison



Special Services are events outside of training and calls for service in which volunteers support fire prevention activities, station maintenance, and other community events.

This chart shows the annual Fire Company Special Service events for the last 10 years.

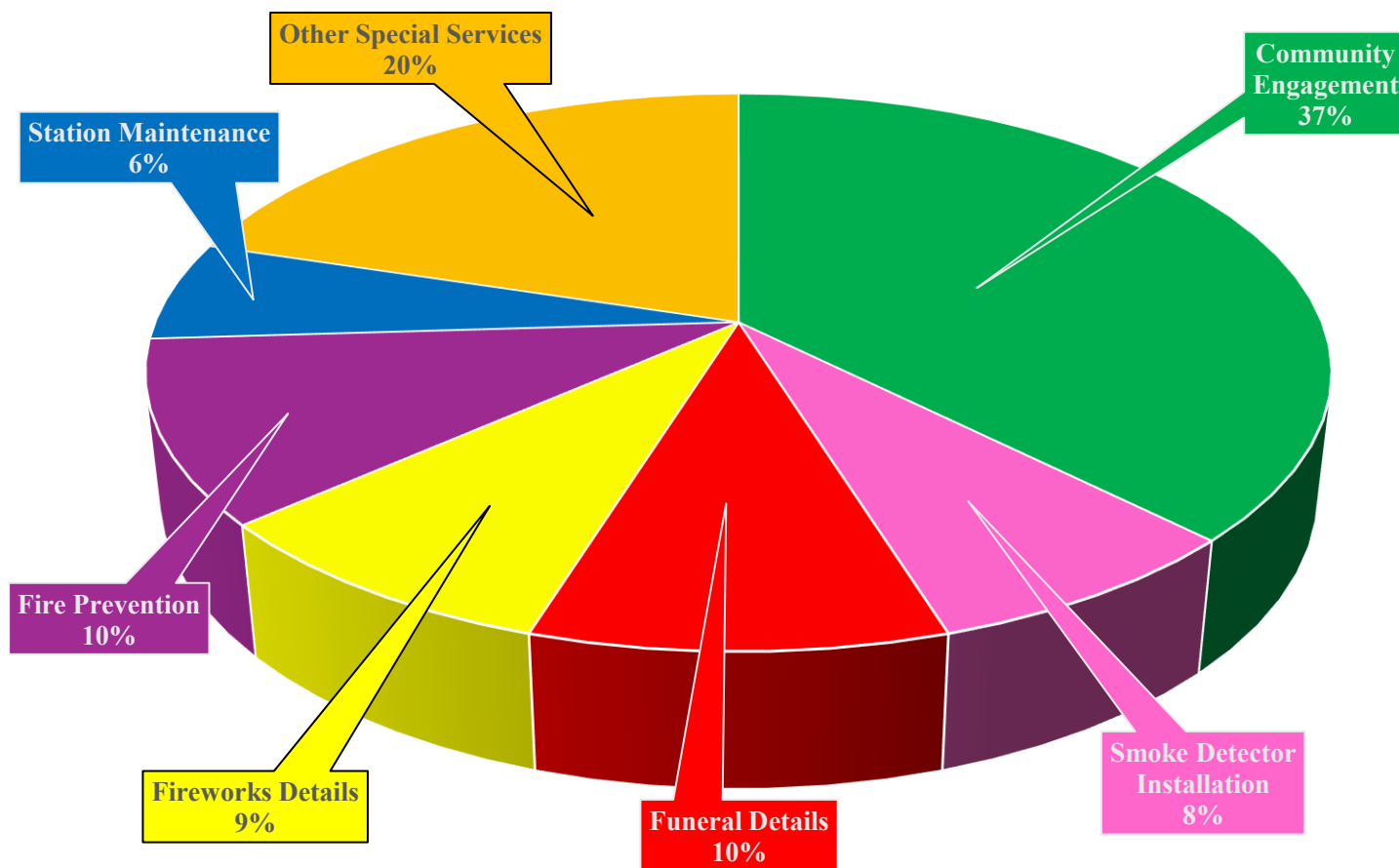
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Special Services by Type



In 2025, our members participated in 105 Special Services, representing 2,992.5 hours of service. Our special Services are broken down into seven (7) categories:

Smoke Detector Installation – 8%

Community Engagement – 37%

Station Maintenance – 6%

Fireworks Details – 9%

Fire Prevention Activities – 10%

Funeral Details – 10%

Other Special Services – 20%

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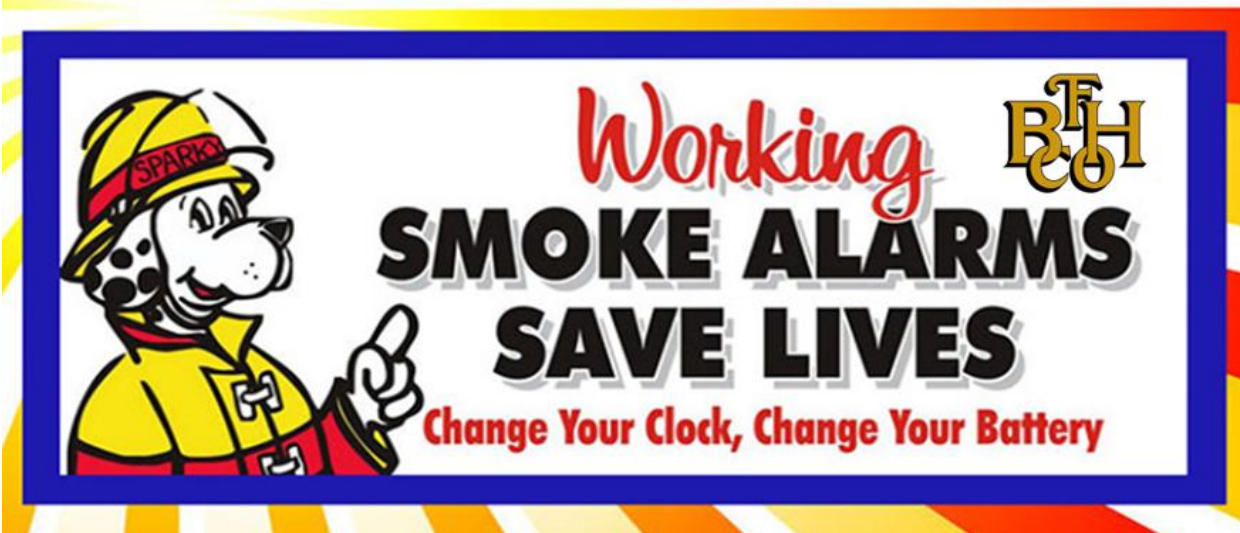
BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

The career staff at the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company can evaluate the smoke detectors in your home.

To have your smoke detectors evaluated, please call 610-825-2250 or the Township Fire Marshal's Office.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Volunteer Hours

The total number of volunteer hours reflects estimates of the time that our Volunteers have given to support the administration and operations of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company. These conservative estimates do not include the hundreds of hours of training outside our weekly training exercises, time spent maintaining the firehouse, apparatus, and equipment, or Municipal and County Fire Service meetings.

*604 Calls For Service
50 Training Nights
105 Special Services
12 Business Meetings
12 Board Meetings*

783

***Requests for VOLUNTEERS
2.15 Times PER DAY***

Calls for Service	6,639 hours
Weekly Training Exercises	3,702 hours
Special Services	2,992.5 hours
Fire Police Callouts	480 hours
Fire Officer Investigations	38 hours
Board of Trustees Meetings	330 hours
Monthly Company Meetings	888 hours
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	15,069.5 hours (627.9 Days)

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What Volunteering Looks Like...



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

In Memoriam



Donald Thomas

*October 14, 1937 – May 10, 2025
69 - Year Life Member*



Calvin Bonenberger Sr.

*June 12, 1938 – February 11, 2025
59 – Year Life Member
Past Fire Chief & President*



Joseph Tobin

*November 27, 1942 – July 31, 2025
23 – Year Member*

***We are forever grateful for their dedicated service to the Community and to our Fire Company.
Their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten! May they rest in eternal peace!***

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Community Engagement Team



The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company is committed to serving the Whitemarsh community beyond emergency response. This past year, our Community Engagement Team led a series of successful outreach initiatives designed to connect with our neighbors. Key highlights included the continuation of our new-resident program delivering welcome bags, our signature 'Sprinklers in the Park' family event at Miles Park and providing a presence sharing information and giveaways at township events such as the 4th of July Parade, Township Day, and Touch-a-Truck.



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Property Tax Credits for Volunteering

Active Volunteers receive significant tax breaks in recognition of service

Whitemarsh Township Property Tax
Up To 100%



Montgomery County Property Tax
Up To 100%



Colonial School District Property Tax
Up To \$500.00



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Years of Service Recognition



10 Years @ BH – Paul Stanish

40 Years – Nancy Lee Walter

25 Years – Mike Gaffney
Renard Rose

50 Years – Scott Rotenbury

30 Years – Sherri Klein



5 Years @ BH – Jake Frye

30 Years – Tom Lyons
Scott Yoder

10 Years – Prakash Bhuyan

35 Years – John Ward

20 Years – Dave Cox

50 Years – Andrew Shecktor

25 Years – Shaun Maher
Ed Swift

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2025 Annual Awards Recognitions



Assistant Chief Scott Yoder, Captain Jamie Viall, Captain Shaun Maher, and administrative member Nancy Lee Walter achieved life members status in 2025, reaching 20 years of active service at BHVFC

Firefighter of the Year



BHVFC presents two annual awards for Firefighter of the Year. One award is chosen by the members, and the other by the Fire Brigade Officers.

Jon Walker was chosen by the Fire Brigade officers as the Firefighter of the Year for his dedication to the mission of the fire company, his commitment to the Community, and for how he gives of himself for the greater good of BHVFC.

Scott Yoder was chosen by the Fire Company members as the Firefighter of the Year for his dedication, commitment, sacrifice, and service to the Community. He demonstrates the professionalism and candor of a volunteer. All of which is in line with the standards and mission of BHVFC.

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Fire Brigade Officers Achieve State Credentialing



Fire Chief Chris Schwartz



Deputy Chief Renard Rose



Assistant Chief Scott Yoder



Battalion Chief Bucky Swider



Captain Jamie Viall



Captain Shaun Maher

The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company Fire Brigade Officers have achieved successful credentialing in the Pennsylvania Fire Service Credentialing Program.

In the credentialing process, our officers were evaluated on:

Core Leadership Competencies

Management Skills

Team-Building Skills

Interpersonal Skills

Professional Leadership Expectations (Confidence, Focus, Positivity, Stability)

Mentorship and Professional Growth

Pennsylvania Chief Officer Credentialing

Fire Chief Chris Schwartz, Deputy Chief Renard Rose, Assistant Chief Scott Yoder, Captain Shaun Maher

Pennsylvania Fire Officer Credentialing

Battalion Chief Bucky Swider, Captain Jamie Viall

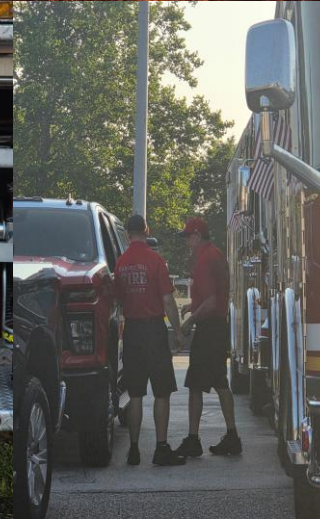
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

What Volunteering Looks Like...



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Fundraising Committee



The fundraising committee plans and hosts events at the firehouse to raise money for specific fire company projects. Events such as Quizzo nights, Raffles, Gift Card Bingo, Craft Fairs, and Breakfast with Santa are among the fundraising activities.

Follow us on social media for upcoming events.



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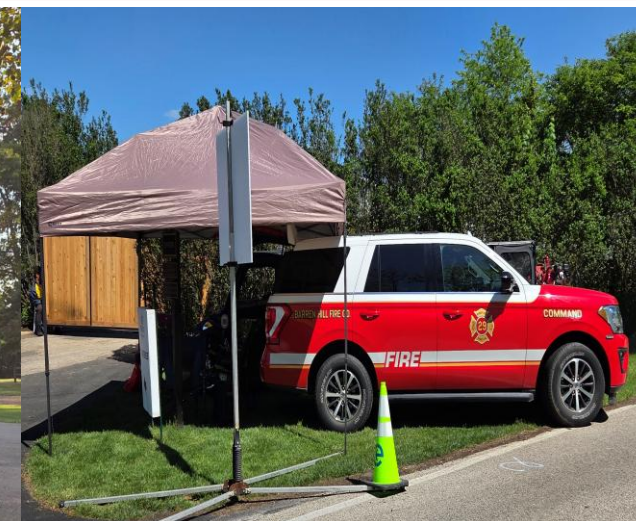
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Apparatus

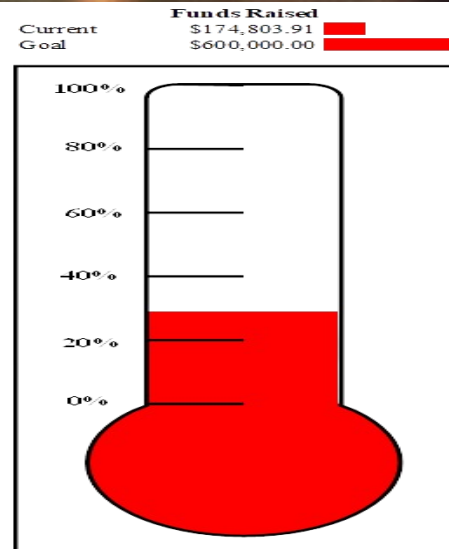


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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Reaching New Heights Campaign



\$600,000 - Campaign Goal

\$174,803.91 - Raised to Date

29.1% of Campaign Goal

9.2% of Total Cost

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Meet the Fulltime Career Staff



David Kemmerer

Hired: May 2023

Home Volunteer Fire Company:

Lower Saucon Fire & Rescue

Northampton County – Station 16



James McCann III

Hired: August 1996

Home Volunteer Fire Company:

Cheltenham Hook & Ladder Co

Montgomery County – Station 4

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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The BHVFC Team, a.k.a. the BHVFC Family



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Join our Family – There are Opportunities for Everyone



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Join our Family – It's Easy, Our Doors are Open & We have Space for You!



Enter Here



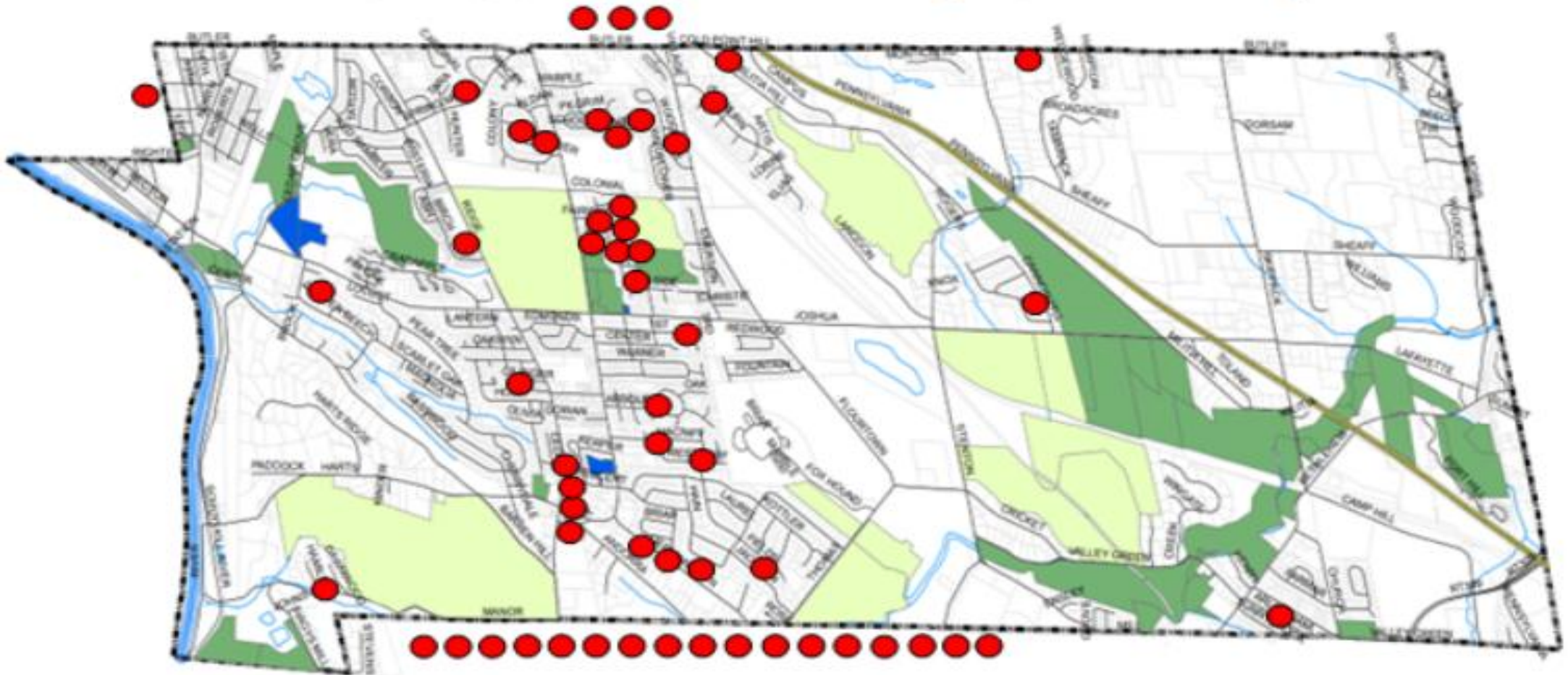
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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Join our Family - Our Volunteers are YOUR Neighbors!



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Join our Family – The Cost to Join is \$0.00 – The Return Value is High



Willingness to Apply	\$0.00
Application Fee	\$0.00
Firefighting PPE	\$0.00
Firefighting Equipment	\$0.00
Training	\$0.00
Friends for a Lifetime	\$0.00
Keeping Neighbors Safe	\$0.00
Serving your Community	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00

BHVFC VOLUNTEER - PRICELESS

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What Volunteering Looks Like...

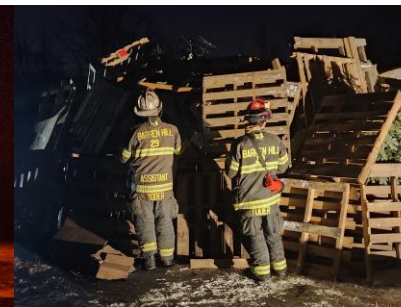


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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

THANK YOU, WHITEMARSH!



*Thank You,
Whitemarsh*



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



TO JOIN

www.barrenhill.com/volunteer



TO DONATE

www.barrenhill.com/donate



*Barren Hill
General
Donation*



PayPal



*Reaching New
Heights
Campaign*



VENMO

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