

# **WILDWOOD CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



Prepared by:  
Fire Chief Ernie Troiano III  
Deputy Fire Chief Daniel M. Dunn  
Captain Matthew Johnson  
Fire Official William Cripps

Released: February 16, 2022

## **Executive Summary**

2021 was a very busy year for the Wildwood City Fire Department. WFD members responded to 4,409 emergency incidents, which is the highest one year total in our Department's history. Members completed 5,020 fire safety inspections and continued to expand our community outreach programs. Although still in the COVID-19 pandemic, we began to have a return of some normalcy with many special events taking place throughout the year. 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**

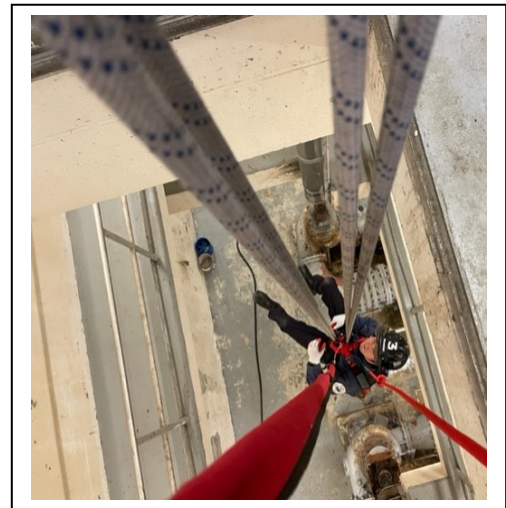
Being able to provide a variety of specialized services, not customary to most fire departments, is what sets our department apart from others within our county.

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 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, 2021 the team responded to 9 emergency incidents. The team completed 72 hours of monthly-based core discipline training in various technical rescue disciplines as well as additional training.

### **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.



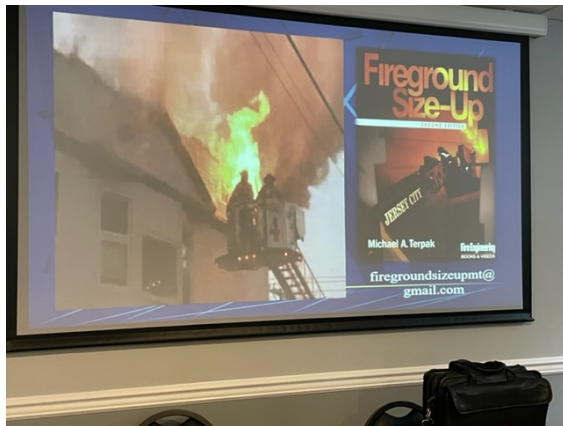
# Wildwood City Fire Department

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During the 2021 calendar year the department conducted several in-house training programs to maintain skills in various certification disciplines including but not limited to;

- Fire Officer 1 Pro-Board Certification course
- Fireground Size-Up by Jersey City FD Deputy Chief (Ret.) Mike Terpak
- Open Water Rescue
- Pride & Ownership and Sweating the Small Stuff by Chief Rick Lasky (Ret.) Lewisville, TX

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

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## **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, and the Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo (Joey D) Foundation grant.

In 2021, the Wildwood City Fire Department applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighter Grant. Since 2001, the AFG grant program has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. The Wildwood City Fire Department has been very fortunate over the years in being awarded several AFG grants. In 2021, we were extremely fortunate to be awarded this grant.

The grant awarded was for \$230,000.00, which was for the purchase of new, firefighter friendly, all-band radios. These radios are specifically designed for the rigors of firefighting and incorporate the latest technology. These radios will greatly enhance our communications with our mutual aid partners and provide for a greater degree of safety for our members.

In addition, in 2021 the Department applied for a Leary Firefighter's Foundation grant to fund the purchase of a new turnout gear washer/extractor. We were very humbled to be notified that we had been chosen to receive a grant and are expecting to take delivery of the new washer sometime in 2022.

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

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## **New Vehicle Delivery**

During 2021, the Wildwood City Fire Department was very fortunate to place a new Polaris UTV in service. This unit replaced a 2007 model that was reassigned to the City's Beach Patrol. This unit, along with the ASAP UTV, which was placed in service in 2020, greatly enhances our beach operations and ability to cover the multitude of beach events that we staff each year.



## **Barefoot Country Music Festival August 19-22, 2021**

The largest special event staffed by WFD members during 2021 was the inaugural Barefoot County Music Festival. This four-day event featured some of country music's hottest and talented artists. Headliners for the show included Lee Brice, Dan + Shay, Carrie Underwood, and the Zac Brown Band. The event was a huge success and a great event that benefited businesses throughout the island. During the four-days, Wildwood Firefighters had 195 patient contacts, the majority of which were for minor cuts and scrapes requiring bandages. Only 5 patients required transport to the hospital over the four days. This event once again showcased all that the City of Wildwood has to offer in a safe, family oriented venue.



View of Crowd at BCMF 2021



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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View of Crowd at BCMF 2021



Ambulances Staged at BCMF



Main Stage BCMF 2021

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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Carrie Underwood Performing on the Main Stage 8/21/21



WFD and NJAHIMT Staff with American Battle of Benghazi Hero Mark "Oz" Geist at BCMF  
8/21/21



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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**

It is our department's commitment to provide 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.

2021, was yet another challenging year for the Wildwood City Fire Department as we continued to navigate through a global pandemic while responding to the largest call volume in the department's history. As businesses reopened and restrictions lessened, the City saw an increase in tourism and the return of most special events previously held in the city. In addition to returning events, the City hosted several new ones including the Barefoot Country Music Fest, which drew well over 100,000 people, from all over, to our great City over a four-day period. The Wildwood City Fire Department played an instrumental role in the success of this event as we staffed and coordinated all Emergency Medical and Fire Services during the event.

Responding to emergencies remains our core mission. The department responded to the largest number of calls in our department's history. In the calendar year 2021, the Wildwood City Fire Department responded to 4,409 emergency calls for service. Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls accounted for 2,597 of those responses. Fire type calls accounted for 1,812 of the emergencies handled. Customer service is our number one goal, and no matter the interaction, all of our members strive to provide the highest level of service possible.

Through a continued and aggressive campaign toward grant funding and other funding opportunities, our department was able to secure (3) grants worth over \$348,000.00 in 2021. However, these grants and the high level of service that we are able to provide to our citizens, visitors, and neighbors would not be possible without the continued commitment and support of our governing body and our community. I would like to thank Commissioner of Public Safety, Steve Mikulski for his unwavering support for our department along with Mayor Pete Byron, Commissioner Krista Fitzsimons, and our incredible community, who make the city worth serving.

The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to be a service driven recognized leader in providing emergency services with our resources and a healthy, highly trained and motivated workforce. However, understanding that there is more to the fire service than responding to emergencies, the department continues to remain heavily engaged in the community and has developed a strong working relationship with our school district and youth organizations to help guide and prepare our youth under the concept that **"Failure is not an option"**! As we look forward, our aim is to continue growing and exceed your expectations.

It is my honor to present the 2021 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

## 2021 Personnel Milestones



**Probationary Period Completed:** On May 6, 2021, Probationary Firefighter Kevin Kelly completed his one-year probationary period. He was subsequently presented with his black helmet frontal to replace his orange probationary one. We wish Firefighter Kelly the best for a long, healthy, and prosperous career with the WFD.





# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **Administration:**

**Fire Chief**  
Ernie Troiano III

**Deputy Fire Chief**  
Daniel Dunn

**Secretary**  
Mary Peer

## **Fire Prevention Bureau:**

**Fire Official**  
William Cripps

**Fire Inspector**  
Mark Allen

**Secretary**  
Kelly Sweger

**Part-time Fire Inspectors**  
Sean McDevitt

## **Operations:**

### **A Platoon**

Captain Robert Feltwell  
Firefighter Dave Bannon  
Firefighter Tina Sacco  
Firefighter Brendan Phillips  
Firefighter Chad Alvarado

### **B Platoon**

Captain Matt Johnson  
Firefighter Ryan Troiano  
Firefighter Nick Palmer  
Firefighter Rayquan Walker  
Firefighter John Snyder

### **C Platoon**

Captain James Grauel  
Firefighter Adam Feltwell  
Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski  
Firefighter John Sharp  
Firefighter Jake Spiegel

### **D Platoon**

Captain Aldo Sacco  
Firefighter Gerry Vessels  
Firefighter Rich Harron  
Firefighter Dave Spiegel  
Firefighter Kevin Kelly

## **Part-time Firefighters**

Aaron Carter  
Jeremy Embs  
Will Gaskill  
Hunter John  
Brett O'Connell

Ray Conover  
Tyler Ely  
Mark Gose  
Jackson Longnecker  
Joseph Schardien

Michael Drennen  
Paul Fallon  
Jesse Harris  
Francis McClain

## **Volunteer Duty Crew Firefighters:**

Mike Brown III  
Cornelius Maxwell  
Mike Wiel

Mike Johnson  
Joe McCauley

Rick Mascio  
Julio Rivera

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **In Memorium:**

During 2021, our Department lost several life members of the Department. Though gone they are not forgotten and we honor them for their service to the community:

- Firefighter Frank DelCorio- Holly Beach Fire Co. # 1
- Firefighter William Markee Jr.- Wildwood Fire Co. # 1
- Lieutenant Jack Gallagher Jr.- Wildwood Fire Co. #1
- Firefighter Anthony Becica Jr.- Holly Beach Fire Co. # 1



FF Frank DelCorio



FF William Markee Jr



Lt. Jack Gallagher Jr.

## **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 a volunteer duty-crew member and also part-time seasonal staff to increase staffing levels during the busy summer season. 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. The Volunteer Battalion Chief is the highest ranking volunteer officer responsible for both companies. 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 material 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 and 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 2021, the City of Wildwood responded to over 4,400 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 that cover responses for the city although Station's 3-1 and 3-2 are currently not operating for fire responses.

### **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)  
Two – BLS Transport Ambulance (reserve/special events)



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## 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 departments' 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 4,409 CALLS FOR SERVICE
- 20 CAREER PERSONNEL ACROSS 4 PLATOONS
- 2,597 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL INCIDENTS
- 1,812 – SQUAD/ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES

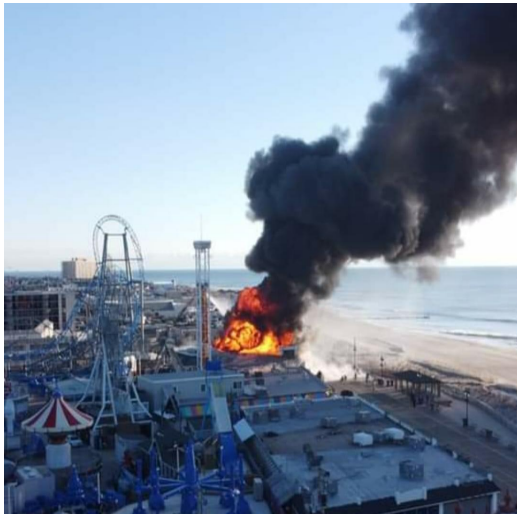
## **2021 Fire Responses**

Building/Structure Fires	20
Cooking Fires	13
Trash/Rubbish/Dumpster Fires	16
Brush/Grass/Mulch Fires	7
Other Fires (Vehicles, Equipment, etc.)	10
Assist EMS	699
Motor Vehicle Crashes	81
Water Rescues	17
Elevator Rescues	14
Technical Rescues	6
Gas Leaks	85
Power Lines Down	25
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	19
Electrical Wiring, Equipment Problems	25
Landing Zone Assignments (MedEvac)	13
Carbon Monoxide Incidents	8
Water or Steam Leaks	6
Assist Police Department	20
Public Service	37
Assist Physically Disabled	27
Smoke Scares, Odor of Smoke	21
No Incident Found on Arrival	11
Activated Fire Alarms	305
False Carbon Monoxide Alarms	9
Sprinkler Activations	5
Hazardous Materials Responses	16
Building Collapses, Weakened Structure	5
Animal Rescues	2
BLS Engine Treats	68
Dispatched & Cancelled Enroute	106
Miscellaneous Incidents	116
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>1,812</b>



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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Ocean City Boardwalk 1/30/21



Ocean City Boardwalk 1/30/21



Otten's Harbor 5/1/21



5011 New Jersey Ave. 5/23/21



St. John's Ave. Villas 7/23/21



222 E. Schellenger Ave. 8/24/21



## **2021 EMS Responses**

Alcohol, drugs, overdose, toxins	237
Cardiac, chest pains, hypotension, hypertension	99
Bleeding, trauma, injuries, assaults	372
Weakness, malaise, sickness, dizziness, pain	703
Respiratory, shortness of breath, dyspnea	122
Seizure, stroke, neurological, unconscious, syncopal episodes, diabetic, hypoglycemic, altered mental status	257
Behavioral, depression, suicidal, anxiety, hallucination	148
General (DOA, fever, dehydration, allergic reaction, OB/Gyn.)	659
<b>Total Emergency Medical Service Responses</b>	<b>2,597</b>



# Wildwood City Fire Department

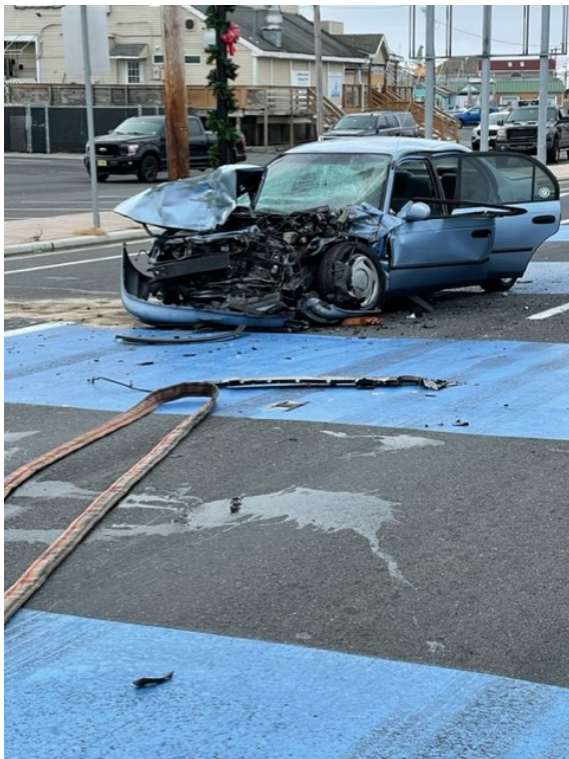
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Wildwood and Park Blvd. 2/16/21



Rio Grande and Atlantic Ave. 10/19/21



500 W. Rio Grande Ave. 12/30/21



500 W. Rio Grande Ave. 12/30/21



## **Fire Prevention Bureau**



The Bureau of Fire Prevention is headed by Fire Official William Cripps. 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 Bureau is currently short one season inspector. 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 oversees NJ State Housing Inspections.

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 2021**

### **New Jersey Uniform Fire Code Inspections**

<b>Periodic Initial Inspections:</b>	<b>3,854</b>
<b>Reinspections:</b>	<b>1,077</b>
<b>Complaints:</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Follow-Ups:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Other Inspections:</b>	<b>49</b>

**Total Fire Inspections: 5,020**

### **State DCA Housing Inspections**

**Total # of Housing Units Inspected: 1,056**

**Total Inspections: 6,076**



## **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.

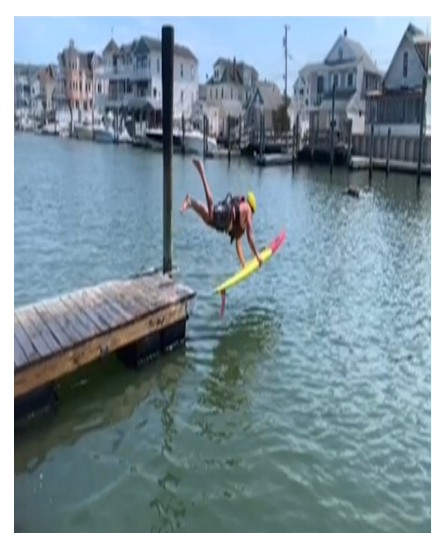
Since the Wildwood City Fire Department embraces the “all hazards” approach our firefighters are highly trained to not only respond to the community’s needs but to mitigate the hazards that are present. Members of the department spent well over 3,000 hours in over 100 topics in education in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the training courses were offered virtually which our members took advantage of. Our members adapted and overcame to ensure that our training and education didn’t miss a beat throughout the year.

### **Training Courses Completed 2021:**

NJ Division of Fire Safety- Drill Ground Instructor  
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Air Consumption  
Rapid Intervention Crew Operations  
Open-Water Rescue Operations  
Swimming Techniques  
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 I Certification Course  
Fireground Size Up  
Live Burn training  
Active Threat Integrated Response  
FAST Board Training  
Arizona Vortex Training  
Vent Enter Isolate Search  
Fireground Survival/Emergency Escape Training  
Hazardous Materials Operations

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **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. In 2021, the team completed 72 hours of monthly-based core discipline training in the areas of confined space rescue, rope rescue, collapse rescue, and water rescue. In addition to the monthly training, the team was fortunate enough to bring in third party instructors to conduct trench rescue refresher training and training on the Arizona Vortex, which is a new piece of equipment the team, placed in service for rope and confined space rescue operations.



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## Wildwood City Fire Department

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Along with the busy training schedule, the team responded to 9 emergency incidents throughout the County and State during the year. Incidents included vehicles into buildings, commercial building fires, and confined space incidents.



Vehicle into Building- Cape May 1/23/21



Commercial Building Fire- Ocean City 1/30/21



Vehicle into Dwelling- Villas 6/7/21



Commerical Fishing Vessel Fire/Confined Space- Maurice River Twp. 9/28/21



## Wildwood City Fire Department

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The most notable and significant response for the team occurred on September 1-2, 2021 during Hurricane Ida. On September 1<sup>st</sup> the team was dispatched to Mullica Hill where a tornado resulted in several collapsed structures. The team responded and staged but were later released as all occupants of the homes had been accounted for. The team was then notified to respond to Mercer County for a swiftwater flood rescue assignment. Team members deployed and operated in Mercer and Somerset Counties for over 24 hours. The locations included Lawrenceville in Mercer County and Manville in Somerset County which were some of the hardest hit areas by the historic flooding. During this time, team members conducted 264 rescues and evacuations and also assisted 42 pets.



CMC USAR Operating in Lawrenceville, NJ 9/2/21

## Wildwood City Fire Department

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Flooded Homes- Manville, NJ 9/2/21



CMC USAR members operating in Manville, NJ 9/2/21



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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Flooded Street- Manville



Flooded Motel- Lawrenceville



CMC USAR Members removing a family from their flooded home 9/2/21

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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CMC USAR Members with NJTF-1 in Somerset County 9/2/21



CMC USAR Members changing shifts in Manville, NJ 9/2/21



## **Notable Response**

Captain Matthew Johnson, who heads the CMC USAR team, is also a member of the State of New Jersey Urban Search and Rescue team, New Jersey Task Force 1 (NJ-TF1). As a member of NJ-TF1, Captain Johnson was deployed with the team to the disastrous Surfside, Florida condo building collapse that occurred on June 24, 2021. Capt. Johnson, along with his NJ-TF1 teammates worked at the site searching the rubble pile for two weeks. Unfortunately, no additional survivors were found. 98 people lost their lives and 11 more were injured in this tragedy. The Cape May County Board of Commissioners subsequently honored Capt. Johnson for his response to this disaster. The officers and members of the Wildwood City Fire Department commend Capt. Johnson for his dedication to serve not just only Wildwood and Cape May County but our entire country and beyond. WFD Firefighter Rich Harron also serves as a member of NJ-TF1 and responded with the team for Hurricane Ida.



Capt. Johnson (right) working at site of Surfside, FL Building Collapse



NJ-TF1 Members Working at Surfside, FL Building Collapse



Capt. Johnson being recognized by Cape May County Board of Commissioners



## **Special Units - continued**

### **Honor Guard**

In 2021, the Honor Guard was still limited in our activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we were privileged to be able to present the colors during the following:

- At the Wildwood American Legion Post #184 Memorial Day service.
- During the Veteran's Sunrise Flag Service in honor of Major Charles J. Koch, USMC who passed away in 2013 and his Gold Star mother, Carol, in July.
- At the Wildwoods Baby Parade on the Wildwood Boardwalk.
- During the Annual Wildwood 9/11 Memorial Service held at Byrne Plaza.
- At the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Nicholas Cripps, WFD intern and son of Fire Official Bill Cripps



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **Special Units - continued**



### **Awards Committee**

Unfortunately, because of the ongoing pandemic, our Annual Medal Day ceremony had to be postponed for 2021. The Department looks forward to holding Medal Day in 2022 to honor and recognize our personnel for their achievements for 2019, 2020, and 2021. “Medal Day” is a tradition in the fire service where a department honors the men and women for their exceptional actions during the course of their normal duties. These events range from community involvement and administrative recognition to Lifesaving awards and Citations for Bravery.



## **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 2021, the Wildwood City Office of Emergency Management completed a partial update 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. The updated plan was submitted to the Cape May County OEM and State of New Jersey OEM for approval.

Another major undertaking, started in 2020, was the 5-year update to the City of Wildwood's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The plan identifies mitigation strategies that the City plans to utilize or develop to mitigate the effects of various natural and manmade hazards. The City's OEM worked closely with the Cape May County OEM and Tetra Tech who was contracted to assist in the plan update process. The draft plan was finalized and formally adopted by the City of Wildwood Board of Commissioners on June 9, 2021.





# Wildwood City Fire Department

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The Office of Emergency Management administers the CodeRed 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 2021, the OEM had to send out 7 emergency notifications for 5 significant weather events that included coastal tidal flooding and storms. Two general notifications were also sent out regarding community COVID-19 vaccination sites.

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 2021, despite the many restrictions and limitations with the COVID-19 pandemic, our Department continued our strong community presence. Fortunately, we were once again able to host and conduct our Annual Summer Cadet Firefighter Program in August after missing it in 2020 due to the pandemic.

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

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# Wildwood City Fire Department

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In 2021 we also continued our Adpot-A-School program activities. One event that returned was the Wildwood High School Homecoming parade. Our platoons partnered with each of the four classes at WHS to help construct their class floats for the parade. This was a great time again for all involved. Many members of the department also volunteered their time to participate in the parade and tow the floats.



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WFD members also assisted with a Community Easter Egg Hunt that was organized by WHS freshmen students. Members helped the students deliver and hide eggs across the community for children to find.





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WFD members also, as always, supported many of our local charities throughout the year including the Lunch with Lynch Foundation, the Step Back Foundation, and many more. Most of these organizations support our local school students and youth athletes.



WFD members and their families at the Step Back Foundation 5K Beach Run, August 7, 2021.

Additionally, many of our members competed and took part in many local community charitable races including 5K races, rowing races, and paddleboard races. These events support our community while also helping us maintain peak physical condition for the rigors of our job.



Sun & Sand 5K Race 7/17/21



Tim Kerr Charities  
Islandman Triathlon 6/27/21

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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The Murph Challenge 2021- C Platoon



The Murph Challenge 2021- D Platoon



Around the Island Row 2021



Around the Cape Paddle 6/27/21



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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September 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2021 to host the 5th Annual September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial service at the Byrne Plaza, Captain James Grauel coordinated the 5th annual Wildwood September 11<sup>th</sup> 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. The stair climb was held at Sandman Towers in previous years. However, once again, due to the pandemic we had to adapt and overcome. The stair climb was held with climbers being able to climb at various locations. Many of the WFD members completed the event on the bleachers at Maxwell Field. Some members completed the climb at Morey's Raging Waters on Mariners Landing Pier. Capt. Jim Grauel and Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski completed a 24-hour continuous stair climb to raise money for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The event raised over \$15,000.00 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.



9/11 Memorial Stair Climb 24 Hour Climbers  
WFD Capt. Grauel (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and FF Kobierowski (5<sup>th</sup> from left)



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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A Platoon 9/11 Memorial Climb Maxwell Field



B Platoon 9/11 Memorial Climb Maxwell Field

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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C Platoon 9/11 Memorial Climb Morey's Raging Waters



D Platoon Memorial Climb Wildwood City Hall



## Wildwood City Fire Department

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Fortunately, in 2021 the WFD was able to be back inside for our annual Santa Claus visit to our local schools. Members also assisted with the Lynch Who Stole Christmas from the Grynych Toy Drive and delivered toys to local families in need on Christmas Eve. No matter the current situation in the world, our residents can always rely on the members of the Wildwood City Fire Department to be out there supporting our community and youth in every way possible. Our firefighters pride themselves on being integral, contributing members of the community.



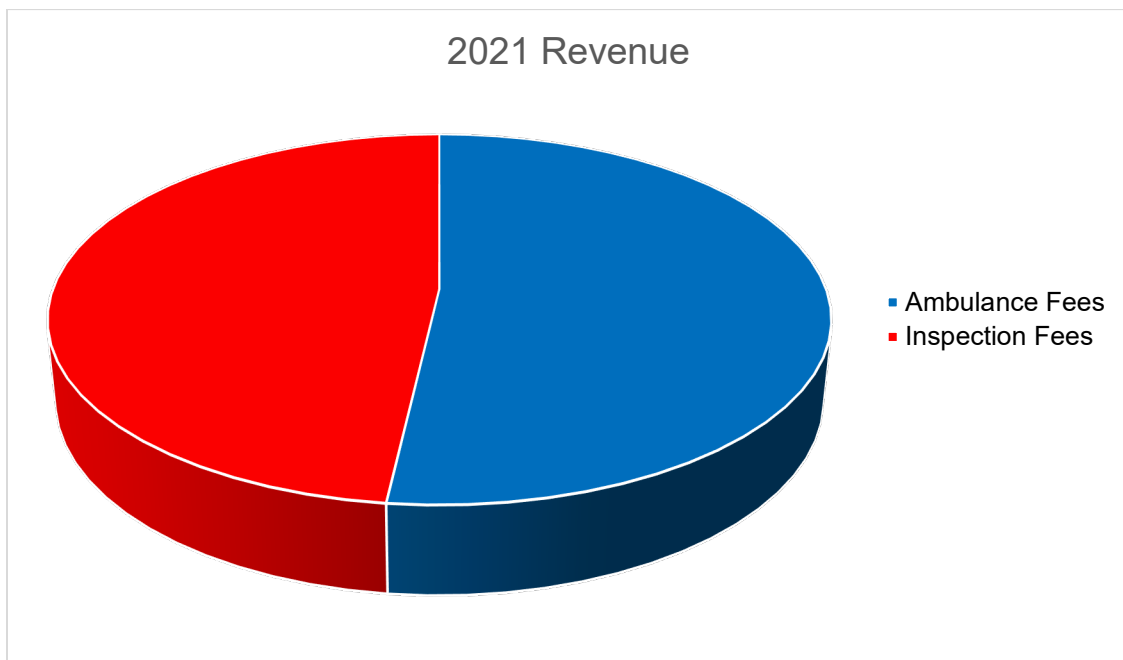


## **2021 Revenue**

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 2021, the Wildwood City Fire Department collected a total of **\$770,228.95**.



Fire Safety & Housing Inspection:	\$371,000.40
Emergency Medical Services:	<u>\$399,228.55</u>

<b>Total Revenue for 2021:</b>	<b>\$770,228.95</b>
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## **Achievements: 2021**

- Applied for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) funds to purchase new all-band portable radios for all of our personnel. Awarded grant for \$230,000.
- Applied for a Leary Firefighters Foundation grant for a new turnout gear washer/extractor. Awarded grant for the purchase.
- Implemented new ESO Fire Reporting software for recording National Fire Incident (NFIRS) data.
- Implemented a comprehensive pre-planning program utilizing new software, ESO Properties to increase pre-fire and emergency intelligence for all personnel.
- Implemented a new Fire Officer Development program for all personnel.
- Implemented a Firefighter Cancer Prevention Program within the department.
- Conducted in-house Pro-Board Fire Officer 1 certification course.
- Continued and expanded all of our community outreach programs including the Adopt-A-School program.
- Completed a swim training program for all personnel as established by Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski.
- Acquired many new technical rescue tools and equipment through the CMC USAR team.
- Successfully staffed the Barefoot County Music Festival
- FMBA Local # 50 partnered with VFW to support the construction of a Gold Star Families monument to be constructed in North Wildwood.

## **Goals/Objectives: 2022**

- Aggressively pursue any and all grant funding opportunities to continue to expand our mission capabilities.
- Apply for FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants for additional career staffing and volunteer recruitment and retention for Volunteer Duty Crew program.
- Continue and expand all of our community outreach programs.
- Conduct in-house training and certification courses including New Jersey State Fire Official.
- Place new radios, acquired through FEMA AFG grant, into service.
- Take delivery of new four-wheel drive Ambulance, purchased through CARES act funding.
- Review and update Departmental policies and procedures manual.
- Start development of a written Strategic Plan for the Department.



## **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://wildwoodfirerescue.com/>**



**[@TheShoreHouse38](#)**



**[https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodCityFD/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodCityFD/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)**



**Instagram**

**[@wildwoodfiredept.](#)**

## **Contact Information**

### **Administration:**

Chief Ernie Troiano III - <a href="mailto:etroiano3@wildwoodnj.org">etroiano3@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2061
Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn - <a href="mailto:d.dunn@wildwoodnj.org">d.dunn@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2038
Mary Peer - <a href="mailto:mpeer@wildwoodnj.org">mpeer@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2028
Administrations Fax # -	609-522-4965

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### **Fire Prevention Bureau:**

Fire Official William Cripps - <a href="mailto:wcripps@wildwoodnj.org">wcripps@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2033
Fire Inspector Mark Allen - <a href="mailto:mallen@wildwoodnj.org">mallen@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2031
Kelly Sweger - <a href="mailto:ksweger@wildwoodnj.org">ksweger@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2030

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### **Fire Stations:**

Headquarters Phone (non-emergency) -	609-522-1110
A Platoon - Captain Robert Feltwell - B Platoon - Captain Matt Johnson - C Platoon - Captain James Grauel - D Platoon - Captain Aldo Sacco -	<a href="mailto:rfeltwell@wildwoodnj.org">rfeltwell@wildwoodnj.org</a> <a href="mailto:mjohnson@wildwoodnj.org">mjohnson@wildwoodnj.org</a> <a href="mailto:jgrauel@wildwoodnj.org">jgrauel@wildwoodnj.org</a> <a href="mailto:asacco@wildwoodnj.org">asacco@wildwoodnj.org</a>
Headquarters Fax # -	609-729-7206
Station 3-1 - (4310 Washington Avenue)	609-522-0005
Station 3-2 - (111 E. Pine Ave.)	609-522-2654