

2015  
ANNUAL REPORT  
*of the*  
EAST BRANDYWINE  
FIRE COMPANY



# Dear Friends,

As we move into 2016 I am pleased to share with you the 2015 Annual Report, highlighting the successes we have experienced as an organization.

During this past year East Brandywine Fire Company volunteers responded to 714 Fire and EMS emergencies. During these incidents volunteers not only provided high quality emergency service but also their compassionate care touched countless lives, helping to begin the process of restoration to normalcy.

East Brandywine Fire Company volunteers also continue to train weekly to be better prepared to handle all types of emergencies. We train to create habits that will make us successful under the most difficult situations. Not only does your life depend on the quality of our training but also our volunteer's life depends on it as well.

In addition to emergency responses and training, once again East Brandywine Fire Company volunteers have participated in over 20 Community events ranging from Township Community Days, to neighborhood block parties.

Again this year East Brandywine's Fire Prevention Program provided education for over 2,500 kids from 4 Elementary Schools and 2 Pre-schools. East Brandywine's Fire Prevention Program is one of the most robust programs in the State actively engaging participants in life-saving lessons.

Despite all the good that our volunteers do in the Community the volunteer fire service is in jeopardy. This is a result of a long history of Municipal Government underfunding or undervaluing the emergency services being provided. This problem is not unique to our local area; it is a problem being dealt with across the State and throughout the Nation.

Continued...

The New York Times reports that volunteers leave the Fire Service at an alarming rate as a result of time commitment to fundraise and the increased training requirements.

The State of Pennsylvania Township Newsletters and the Officer of the State Fire Commissioner reports that the volunteer fire service save Pennsylvanians 6 billion dollars a year. However it is also reported that the number of volunteers in the State as decreased to 50,000 people from over 300,000 over the last several years.

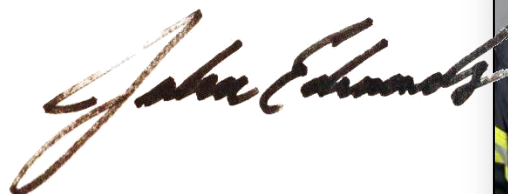
Unfortunately , the time has come that it is no longer possible that a volunteer fire company sustain itself on fundraisers. It not only takes up a volunteer's precious time that could be better spent training or readying equipment for service, but also the monies raised don't come close to what is needed to survive.

As we move into 2016 the Fire Company, local Municipalities, and the Community have got to work together collaboratively to develop a "sustainable funding" model if we are going to preserve the volunteer fire system.

With your help and support East Brandywine Fire Company's future is very bright! On behalf of all the volunteer professionals who serve the Community, I want to thank-you for your support of our Company.

Best Regards,

John

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "John Edwards".

# Operations Leadership

<b>John Edwards,</b>	<i>Fire Chief</i>
<b>Joe Edwards</b>	<i>Deputy Chief</i>
<b>Vincent D'Amico</b>	<i>Assistant Chief</i>
<b>Jim Witmer</b>	<i>Chief Emeritus</i>
<b>Joe Monestere</b>	<i>Captain</i>
<b>Greg Pilotti</b>	<i>Lieutenant</i>
<b>Craig Muller</b>	<i>Lieutenant</i>
<b>PJ Groff</b>	<i>Lieutenant</i>
<b>Kevin Shaffer</b>	<i>Chief's Aide</i>
<b>Robert Zynn</b>	<i>Chief Engineer</i>
<b>John Needles</b>	<i>Asst Chief Engineer</i>
<b>Bruce Anderson</b>	<i>Safety Officer</i>
<b>Chris Keen</b>	<i>Training Officer</i>
<b>Dr. Craig Herring, MD</b>	<i>Medical Director</i>
<b>Cathy Rawlings</b>	<i>EMS Director</i>
<b>Collin Miller</b>	<i>EMS Captain</i>
<b>Kevin Pilotti</b>	<i>EMS Lieutenant</i>

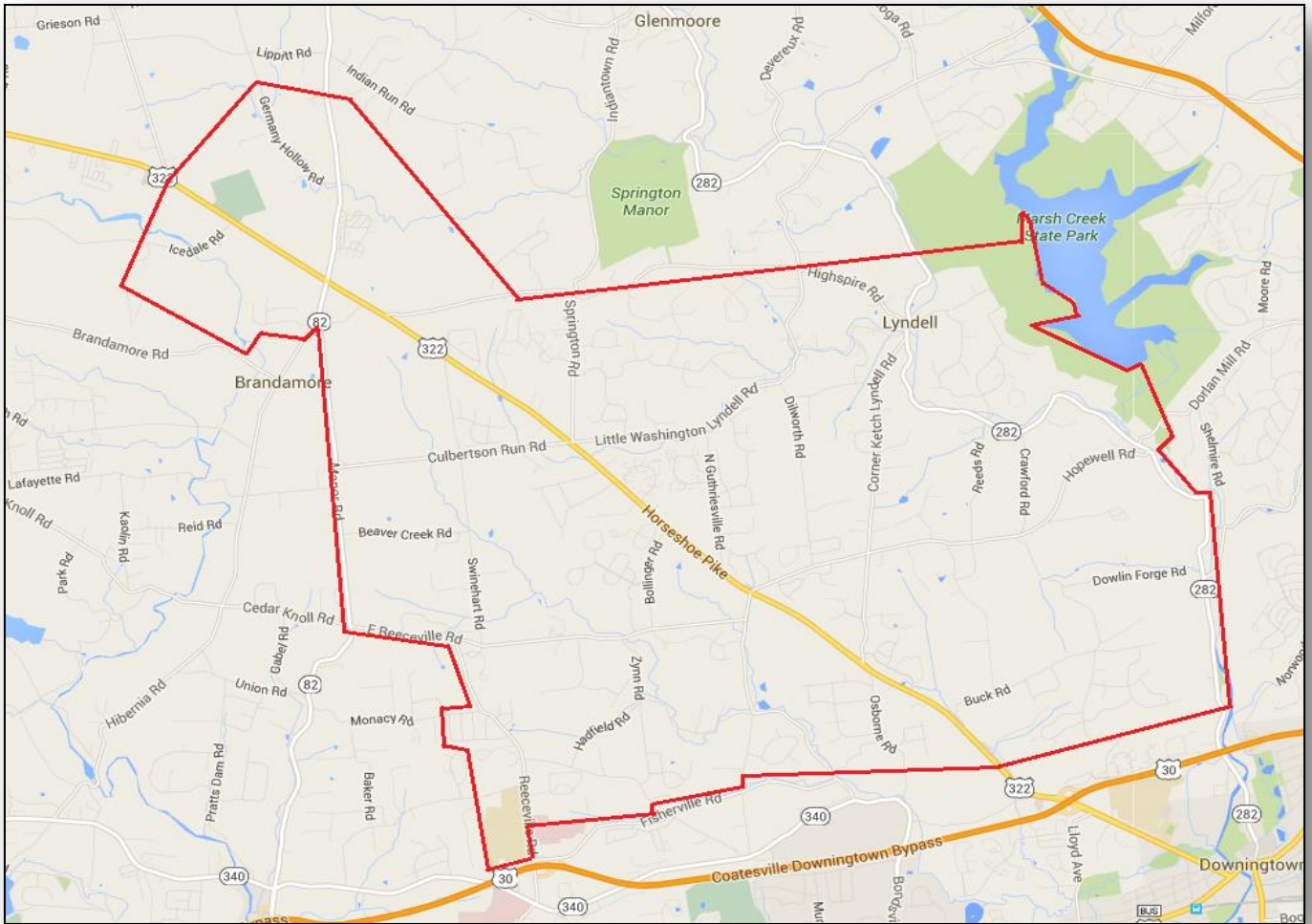
**2015**

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## Executive Leadership

<b>Leslie Edwards</b>	<i>President</i>
<b>John Needles</b>	<i>Vice President</i>
<b>Cathie Rawlings</b>	<i>Secretary</i>
<b>Scott Piersol</b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>Joe Monestere</b>	<i>Membership Sec.</i>
<b>Bill Rees</b>	<i>Trustee</i>
<b>Vince D'Amico</b>	<i>Trustee</i>
<b>Joe Edwards</b>	<i>Trustee</i>

# Coverage Area



Protecting over 10,000 residents of all ages in 20 square miles of scenic Chester County Pennsylvania, East Brandywine Fire Company's primary service area includes 3 Townships:

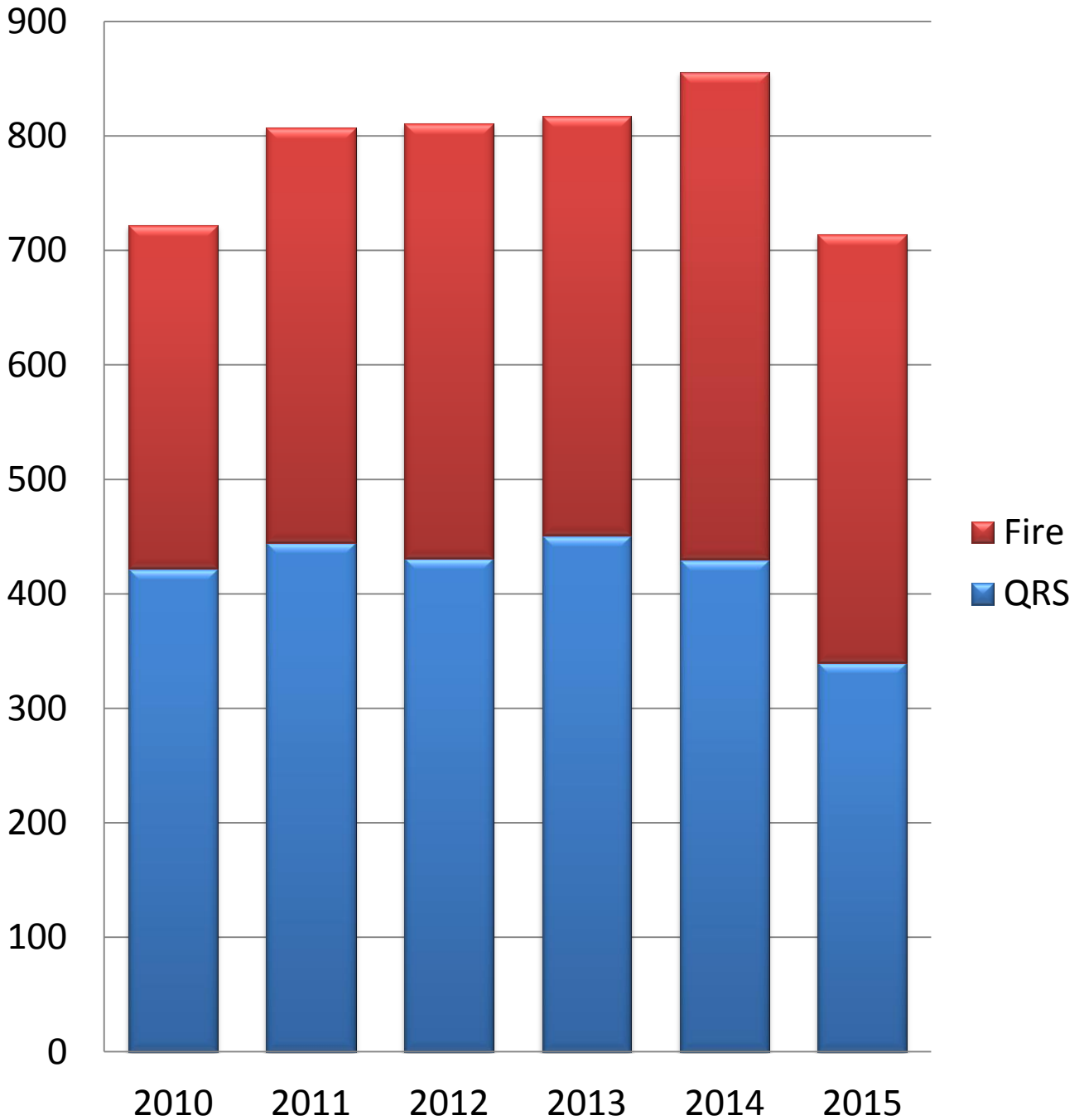
- East Brandywine Township – 100%
- West Brandywine Township – 60%
- Upper Uwchlan Township – 15%

# 2015 Accomplishments

- Participated in developing a TV pilot which will be presented to The Discovery Channel and other networks
- Training Certifications:
  - 22 Members – National Haz-Mat Operations Level
  - 5 Members – National Registry EMT
  - 4 Members – National Firefighter One
- EMS Division achieved recertification of our Quick Response Service
- EMS Division researched, developed specifications, and ordered a new QRS unit which is expected in the Spring/Summer 2016
- Enhanced communications with compressive radio training and 17 new portable radios to operate on the new P25 Chester County Radio System
- Implemented a new Fire & EMS reporting system to improve data collection

# Total Dispatches

Chart Title



# Dispatched by Type

- 82 - Vehicle Accidents
- 70 - Assists to Others
- 69 - Automatic Fire Alarms
- 32 - Structure Fires
  - 13 - Fields / Brush / Woods
  - 5 - Dwelling Fires
  - 4 - Vehicle Fires
  - 4 - Chimney Fires
  - 3 - Commercial Building
  - 1 - Outbuilding Fire
  - 1 - Electrical Fire
  - 1 - Appliance Fire
- 28 - Other
- 26 - Ambulance Assists
- 16 - Wires / Poles / Transformers
- 14 - Relocate / Standby
- 12 - Smoke Investigations
- 12 - CO Detector Activations
- 11 - Gas Leaks
  - 1 - Nursing Facility Incident
  - 1 - Debris Clean Up



374 Fire Emergencies  
340 EMS Emergencies  
714 Total Emergency Responses

Over  
5,300 Volunteer Hours of Service





# Membership Overview

- 55 Volunteer Firefighters (18 dual certified as EMT's)
- 6 Volunteer EMS only Members
- 150 Social Members

## 2015 Highlights

### 17 New Members

- 13 Firefighters
- 2 EMS Members
- 2 Social Members



# Top Responders

Kevin Shaffer:	257
Nick Proko:	255
John Edwards:	231
Tristan Gledhill:	218
Skip Vanlew:	214
Joe Edwards:	213
Kevin Pilotti:	208
Bobby Zynn:	191
Aidan Raymond:	172
John Needles:	165
Deb Fairheller:	157
PJ Groff:	148
Ben Mucha:	146
Greg Kohlmaier:	143
Greg Pilotti:	132
Bruce Anderson:	132
Tyler Smith:	125
Joe Monestere:	121
Vince D'Amico:	115

Nineteen  
Volunteers  
Responded to  
over 100 Fire  
Calls



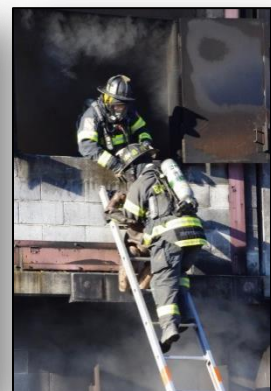
An average of **26** Volunteers routinely attend the 2 hour weekly training sessions



➤ Topics Covered:

Fire Suppression, Vehicle Rescue, CPR & First Aid, Hazardous Material Awareness & Operations, SCBA Breathing Apparatus, Firefighter Survival, Rapid Intervention Training, Hose Line Tactics & Advancement, Ladder Utilization & Deployment, Driver Training & Certification, Ventilation, Salvage & Overhaul, Incident Management, Personnel Accountability System and Forcible Entry, Communications & Reporting Training.

➤ Conducted 2 “Live Structural Burn” sessions at the WC Training Center



# Training



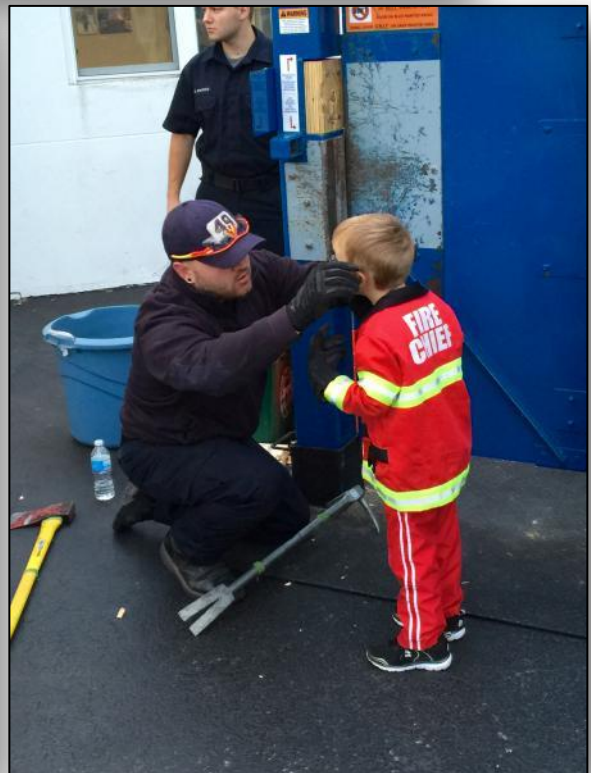
# Training

Additions to training area with converted containers continue to enhance in-house training capabilities



# Fire Prevention Activities

- ❖ Over 500 families at our Annual Fire Prevention Open House
- ❖ Educated over 2,500 children during Elementary and Pre-School Fire Prevention Programs
- ❖ Participated in 20 Community Events including Township Open Houses, Community Days and Block Parties



# Connect to Purpose



On Labor Day 2015, EBFC Firefighters were notified of a house fire on Hopewell Road. The following are excerpts from the presentation by Nancy and Bruce Doane, the residents of the home of which EBFC responded to save that day.

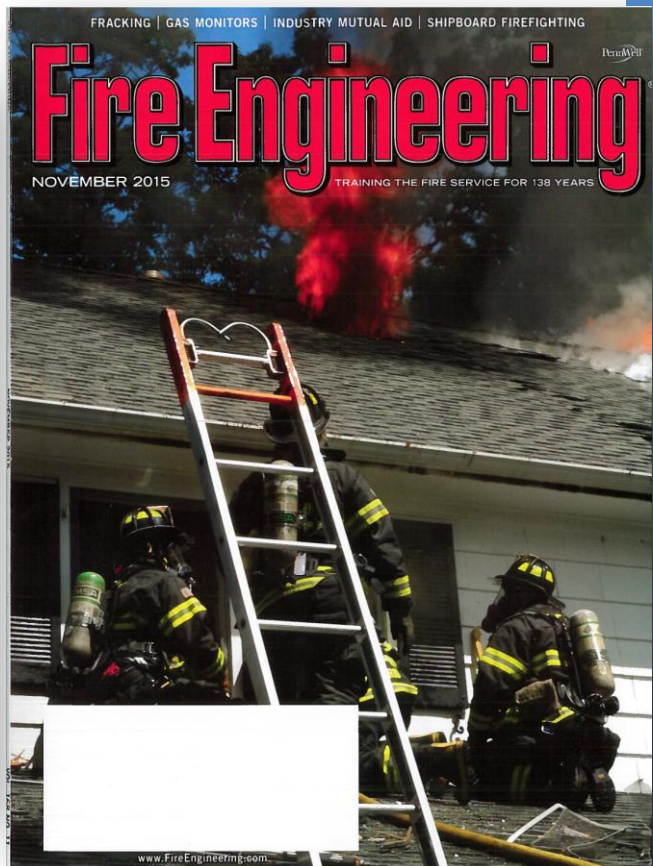
*I pulled a firefighter aside and said there is one thing that is most valuable to me in that home...they went back in and within a few minutes had returned with my family pictures...*



*The service that you provide to the community... doing all you can to preserve what is important to others... is a selfless act. Thank you!*

# Member's Work Receives Nationally Recognition

- ❖ Firefighter Deb Fearheller 1<sup>st</sup> Study was published on Blood Pressure in Novembers edition
- ❖ FF Fearheller is a PhD and Assistant Professor in Health and Exercise Physiology at Ursinus College
- ❖ Cardiovascular death continues to be the leading cause of death among FF's (2015 – of 71 deaths 46 were stress and overexertion per NIOSH)
- ❖ 17 East Brandywine FF's are currently enrolled in FF Fearheller's newest study





# EBFC in Action







## Operations Leadership



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**2016**

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*Thank you  
for your continuous support.*



**John Edwards, Fire Chief**  
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