

Borough of Chester Heights 2018 Annual Fire Marshal Report

- “In accordance with Chester Heights Fire Code #153, section 106.1 the Fire Marshal shall render a report to Borough Council on or before the February meeting of each year. This report contains a record of all proceedings under the Fire Code during the preceding year.

- As Fire Marshal, this past year I have continued building a network of communication with the residents and businesses of Chester Heights. I continue to work with Homeowner’s organizations at Darlington Woods, Village of Valleybrook, Rolling Heights Estates, Madison and the Hollow @ Fox Valley. I have worked with the Fire Chief coordinating drills to familiarize the fire company with new buildings and locations. For 2018, I will continue to author articles for our newsletter with fire safety tips for in and around the home. This year’s safety theme is “Check dates on Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors and replace if over 10 years old.”

- The response of the public’s willingness to adopt Fire Safety in their daily lives is always a challenge. There were Sixty-four (64) incidents this year. This is up from forty-seven (47) last year. This 36 % increase in incidents can be traced to storms, workmen and faulty devices. Pathways was one location with a slight increase in false alarms. From a low of 4 fire related incidents to 6. I attribute this to new residents. Each resident is allowed up to 24 months of assistance. New residents will require fire safety training classes in 2018.

- Budgetary guidelines were met this year. The main expenditures were dues to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

- Review of Fiscal 2018 foresees some additional expenses or disbursements for the Fire Marshal’s office. These are for updating the ICC fire Codes.

- The year in general was full of various activities. The listing of these is as follows:

- There were Sixty-four (64) non-fatal fires or incidents requiring investigation. There was one (1) moderate electrical house fire

from a faulty electric lamp. This fire's damage was around \$25,000.

- There were Twenty-four (24) fire alarms ranging from faulty detection devices to smoke from cooking, workmen's dust debris, spraying of aerosols, dust, and resident's smoking. Defective/outdated smoke alarms caused several false calls.
 - There were Six (6) weather related incidents. Downed trees resulted in shorted electrical wires/ transformers. Fire Alarm Technicians working in homes and businesses caused Two (2) alarms.
 - There were Six (6) carbon monoxide alarms. These CO activations were the result of faulty flu pipes & unopened flu dampers on gas fireplaces.
 - There was one (1) Pull Station activation at Saint Thomas the Apostle.
 - There were Four (4) Natural Gas Leak calls.
 - There were Four (4) Water Flow alarms from Sprinkler Systems. All of these were from defective water flow sensors.
 - There were Fourteen (14) miscellaneous incidents ranging from hazmat fuel spills, repairmen working on fire alarm systems, smoke in area calls, fire pits, natural gas smells, & brush wood fires
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- I performed a fire safety check throughout the Borough several times a month to spot potential problems and write Fire Safety concerns for the CH News Letter.
 - I assisted many Chester Heights residents in the aftermath of their losses.
 - As a first responder, I attend monthly classes with surrounding Township Fire Marshals. The first class of the new year starts in January of 2018.
 - Throughout the year, I coordinate training sessions with the Chester Heights Fire Company.
 - I have worked with developers in placement of fire hydrants, addresses and emergency access roads in six (6) new developments.
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- **Mission Statement**

- The Chester Heights Fire Marshal's Office is committed to protecting the safety of Chester Heights' residents and their property through fire prevention, education, codes enforcement, regulations and law enforcement".