

To: Borough Council

From: Michael Ciocco, Fire Marshal

Subject: Year in review report (2020)

Date: January 2, 2021

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 was extremely difficult in continuing to build 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 2021, 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 "Safety in the Kitchen". See attachment on Cooking Safety

The response of the public's willingness to adopt Fire Safety in their daily lives is always a challenge. There were fifty-five (55) incidents this year. This is down from sixty-three (63) last year. This was a 8.7 % decrease in incidents. Analysis of investigations revealed AFA's (automatic fire alarms), storms, workmen and faulty devices. The Summit was one location with an increase in false alarms. These included pull station activations, elevator entrapment and faulty sprinkler equipment.

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

Review of Fiscal 2021 foresees some additional expenses or disbursements for the Fire Marshal's office. These expenses are earmarked for Fire Safety Public Awareness, office supplies, dues, and subscriptions. A total of \$1000.00 is requested for FY 2021.

The latest Fire Statistics are as follows:

1. Forty-Nine percent (49%) of home fires start in the kitchen. The main reason is unattended cooking
2. Fifteen (15%) of home fires are attributed to heating. This includes main house heaters, fireplaces, and space heaters.
3. Ten percent (10%) of home fires were credited to electrical. These include electrical outlets, small appliances, and lighting fixtures.
4. Five percent (5%) of home fires are charged to smoking. These include cigarettes, cigars, and inhaling devices.
5. Two (2%) of home fires result in candle burning. The Bedroom is the area most associated with candle burning.

Throughout the year, I have worked closely with the Chester Heights Fire Company. A close relationship with the Fire Chief provides quick and concise communication. I have arranged and coordinated all pre inspections of new commercial buildings. Familiarization of properties becomes incalculable when incidents arise.

Chester Heights has become a safer community under the tutelage of our Emergency Manager, Fire Chiefs, Building inspectors and Fire Marshal.

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.