

To: Borough Council

From: Michael Ciocco, Fire Marshal

Subject: Year in review report (2022)

Date: January 1, 2023

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 am rebuilding 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, Merrill Gardens 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 2023, 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 "Update Alarms" both your Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Detector.

The response of the public's willingness to adopt Fire Safety in their daily lives is always a challenge. There were fifty-one (51) incidents this year. This is down from sixty-one (61) last year. This was an 11.9 % decrease in incidents. Analysis of investigations revealed fire losses causing both property and personal possessions expenses far exceeded the previous year.

Pathways was one location with an actual fire which resulted in damage to their kitchen and equipment. Their Automatic Sprinkler System worked as required.

Madison Apartments experienced a Kitchen fire which damaged the stove and microwave. Smoke damage was throughout the apartment.

The Hollow at Fox Valley experienced a fire in the Hot Water Heater closet due to a very large bee hive. The sprinkler system activated causing tens of thousands of dollars in damages to three condos.

The Village of Valleybrook had a fire causing damage to the exterior of the building along with the AC condenser unit.

Wawa Corporate experienced a frozen sprinkler pipe which burst causing excessive water damage to the ceiling and room contents.

Darlington Woods homeowner had a fireplace incident resulting in a smoke filled house. The damper was in the wrong position.

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

***Review of Fiscal 2023 foresees no additional expenses or disbursements for the Fire Marshal's office. Expenses are earmarked for Fire Safety Public Awareness, office supplies, dues and subscriptions. A total of \$1000.00 is requested for FY 2023.***

The year in general mirrored national averages.

1. Forty-Four percent (44%) of home fires start in the kitchen. The main reason is unattended cooking
2. Twenty-Seven percent (27%) of home fires are attributed to heating. This includes main house heaters, fireplaces, and space heaters.
3. Seventeen percent (17%) 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 from 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. I have arranged and coordinated all pre inspections of 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.