

Falls Township

Director of Emergency Services

Office of the Fire Marshal

2020 Year End Report



Falls Township Fire Marshal's Office (FMO)



The Fire Marshal's Office consists of (5) full-time employees.

- Director of Emergency Services & Fire Marshal
- (3) Fire Inspectors
- Fire Marshal's Clerk



Responsibilities of the Director of Emergency Services

Include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Conduct all fire investigations to determine origin & cause
 - ▶ Fire Investigations conducted: **33**
- ▶ Conduct all plans reviews of fire alarm, sprinkler system, suppression system installations and other fire and life/safety requirements for new buildings and any building under construction
- ▶ Supervision of FMO staff including distribution of assignments
- ▶ Annual budget preparation for the department
- ▶ Responding to fire/emergency call during the day to supplement the local volunteer departments



Fire Inspector's Responsibilities

Include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Conducting Annual Fire Inspections for every Business, School, Hotel/Motel, Hospital and Daycare in Falls Township.
 - ▶ Re-Inspection Fees were instituted due to the number of follow-ups at some locations, however this fee is only used for reoccurring offenders and is rarely used.
 - ▶ Annual Fire Inspections: **962**
 - ▶ An increase of 11% from 2019
 - ▶ Note: *Annual Fire Inspections normally include more than (1) visit to a facility to ensure fire/life safety code compliance*
- ▶ Following-up on fire/emergency calls from the previous day or overnight
- ▶ Responding to fire/emergency calls during the day to supplement the volunteer fire companies



Follow-Ups on Fire Company Responses

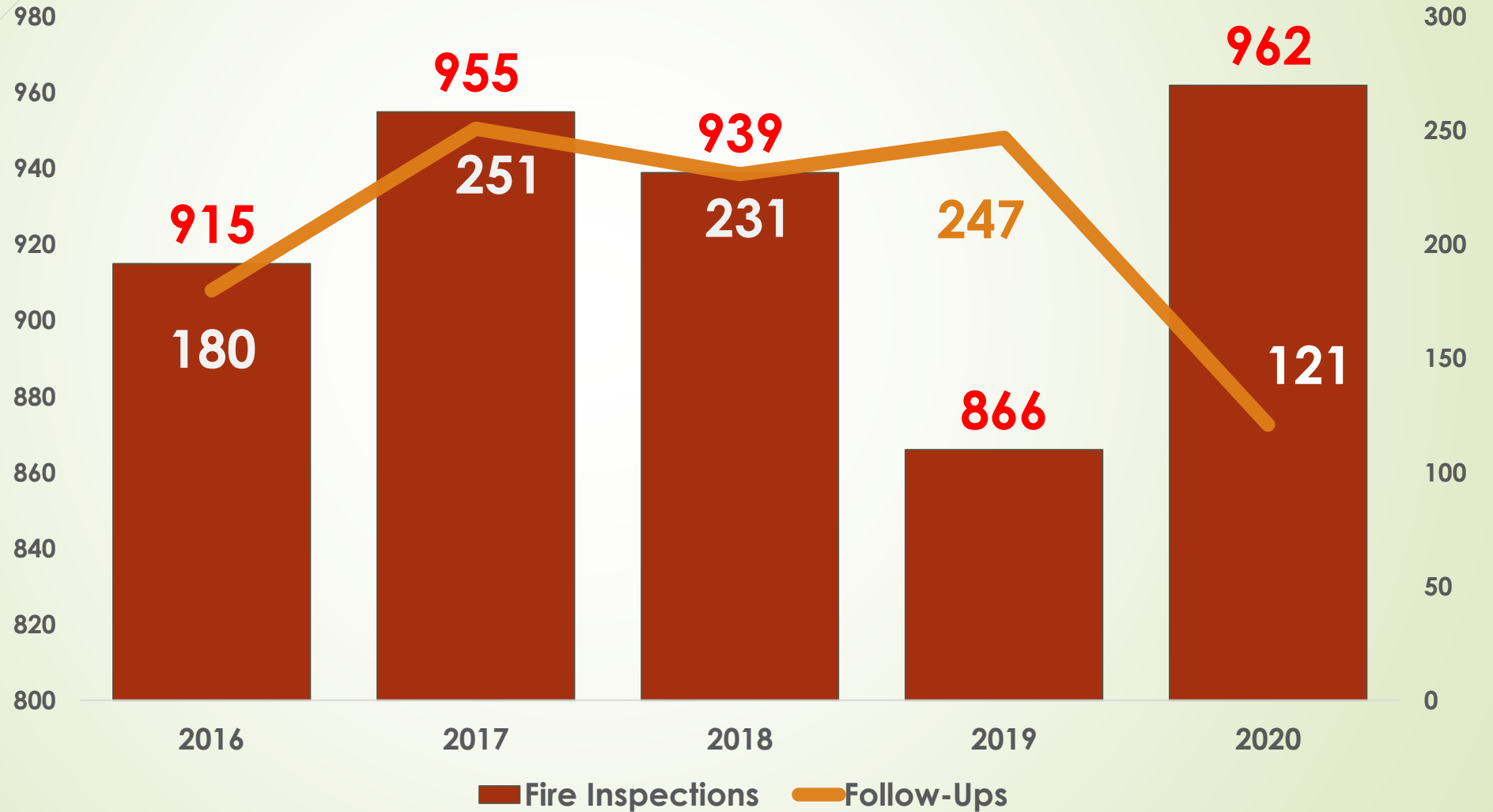
As part of the day-to-day operations, the FMO follows-up on fire company responses as necessary to ensure problems encountered are resolved, fire detection and protection systems are fully operational as well as to reduce reoccurring false alarm activations

Total Annual Follow-Ups: **121**

Follow-Ups by Staff Member

- Rich Dippolito: **15**
- Ed Pullen: **35**
- John Weiss: **44**
- Tony Montonario: **27**

Annual Fire Inspection & Follow-Up Totals



Township Volunteer Fire Companies

Annual Fire Response Statistics

- Falls Township Fire Company, Station 30

629 Responses

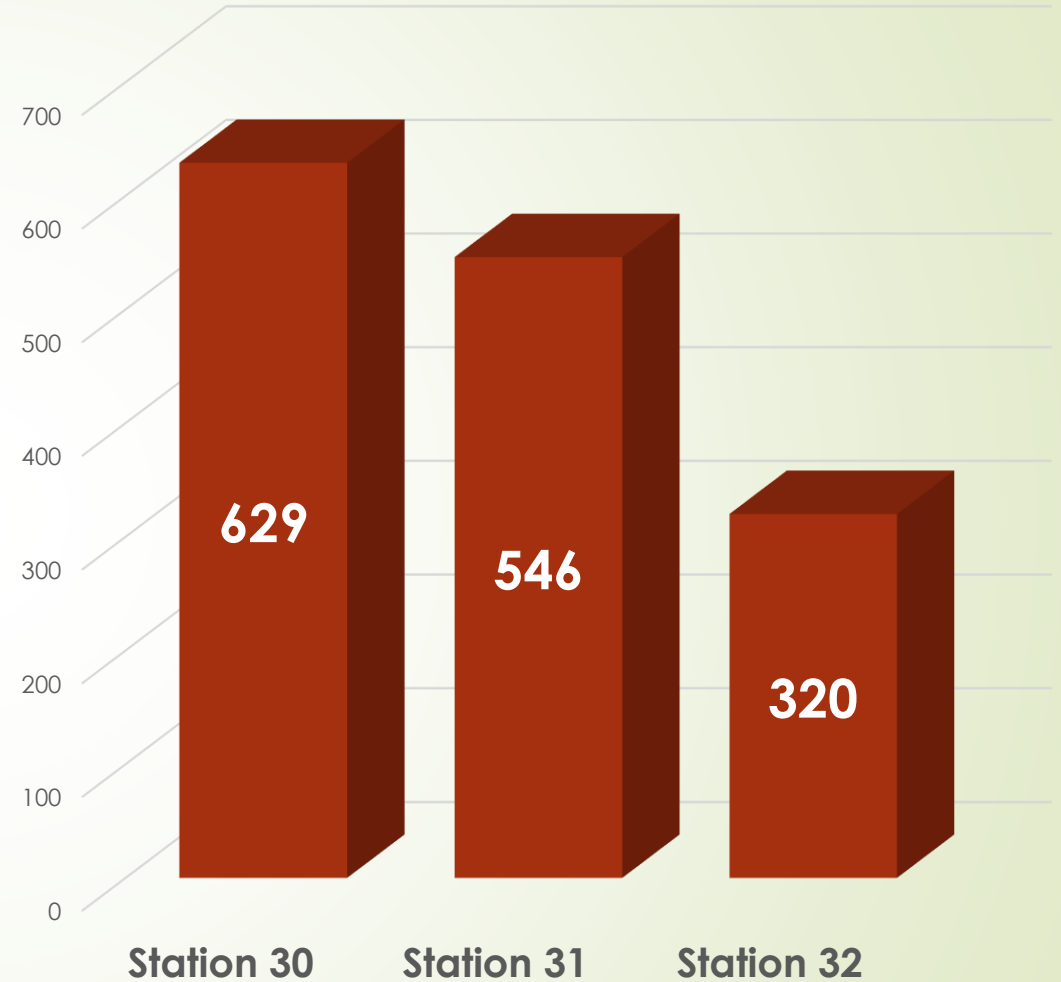
- Fairless Hills Fire Company, Station 31

546 Responses

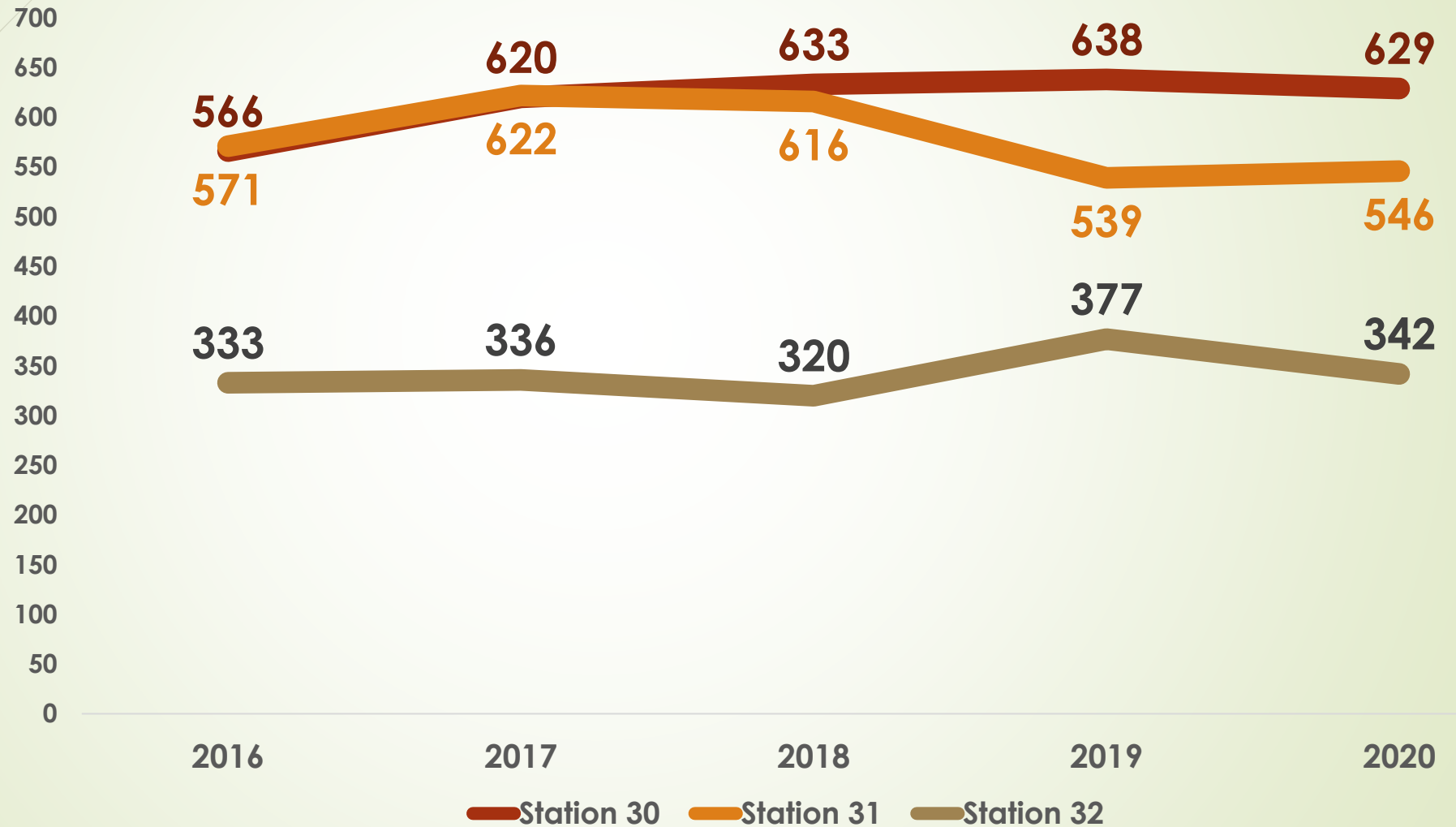
- Levittown Fire Company #1, Station 32

342 Responses

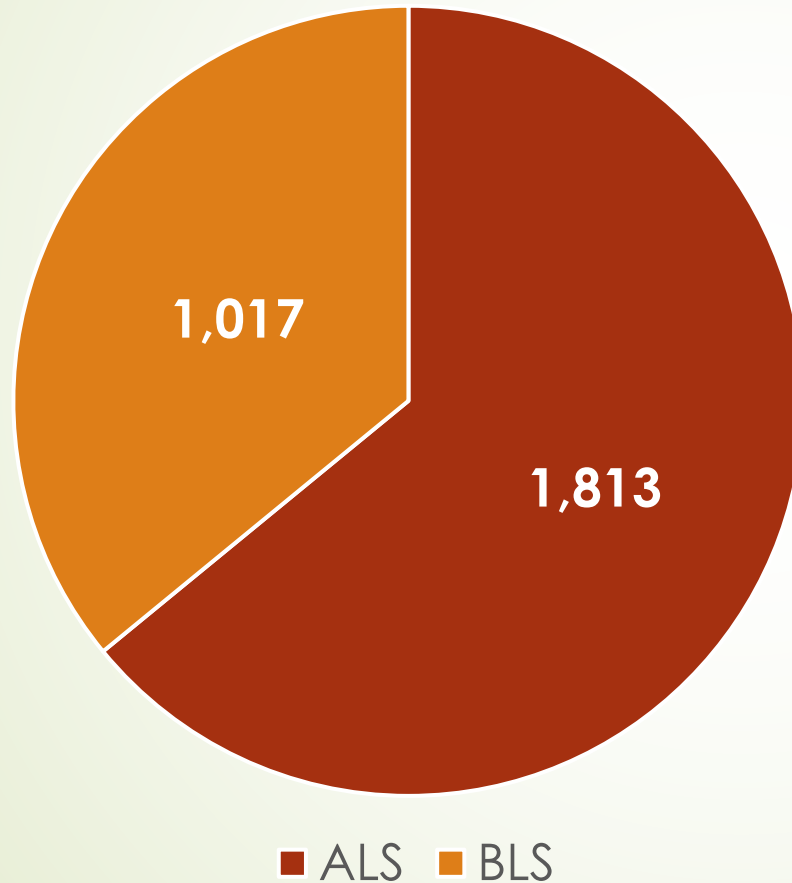
Falls Township Fire Companies Responses



Township Fire Company Annual Responses



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Statistics



EMS Responses within Falls Township

- Advanced Life Support (ALS): **1,813**
- Basic Life Support (BLS): **1,017**
- Total EMS Responses: **2,830**

Note: Statistics listed include actual data from January through November. December is based on an average as actual data was still be analyzed at the time this report was prepared.

Fire Safety Training



The FMO offers fire safety training to township businesses when requested. These training sessions include fire safety lectures, hands-on fire extinguisher operations and specific training based on the site's business needs. Due to the COVID pandemic, these trainings were not held in 2020. The FMO team looks forward to continuing this training in the near future.

Falls Township Employees

Falls Township Public Works employees, in addition to the FMO staff, respond to the Township's fire companies to supplement the volunteers. This critical assistance helps the fire companies respond with the minimum manpower needed to complete their assignments as dispatched. This is especially important as call volumes are high during times when most volunteers are working their full-time jobs.



Fire Call Response Statistics

- ▶ Rich Dippolito, Station 31, responded to **118** fire calls
 - ❖ (Responds directly to scene based on nature of incident)
- ▶ Ed Pullen, Station 32, responded to **51** fire calls
- ▶ John Weiss, Station 30 & 31, responded to **130** fire calls
- ▶ Tony Montonario, Station 31, responded to **108** fire calls
- ▶ James Bray, Station 32, responded to **103** fire calls
- ▶ Brian Wert, Station 31 & 32, responded to **35** fire calls
- ▶ Jason McAnulty, Station 31, responded to **111** fire calls
- ▶ Bob Whitfield, Station 31, responded to **62** fire calls

Fire Prevention



During Fire Prevention week, in October of each year, the FMO visits schools and other establishments within Falls Township upon request to educate their affiliates on fire safety and prevention. The FMO also observes fire prevention drills to understand the schools respective procedures and makes suggestions for improvement when needed. The FMO team is requested by daycares during fire prevention week to help educate their children on what we do and proper practices. This also allows the children to see the fire apparatus and personnel in uniform to lessen fears the children may have. Unfortunately these visits were not held in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. We look forward to continuing in the near future.



Smoke Trailer Fire Prevention

The FMO utilizes the “Smoke Trailer” to educate children on the art of most efficiently evacuating a structure in the event of a fire. The Smoke Trailer has visited and educated children all over Lower Bucks County in the past several years. The Smoke Trailer is a well-received tool, that receives many requests for its presence every year at a variety of different special events. The trailer has a smoke-like, non hazardous material that is pushed into the trailer to simulate a smoky fire condition to teach the children how to quickly navigate through a residential-like area and exit through a window.

Smoke Trailer



Unfortunately this year due to the COVID pandemic the FMO staff did not display the Smoke Trailer at any events. The FMO team looks forward to returning to educating children on fire safety with the Smoke Trailer in the very near future.

Smoke Detectors

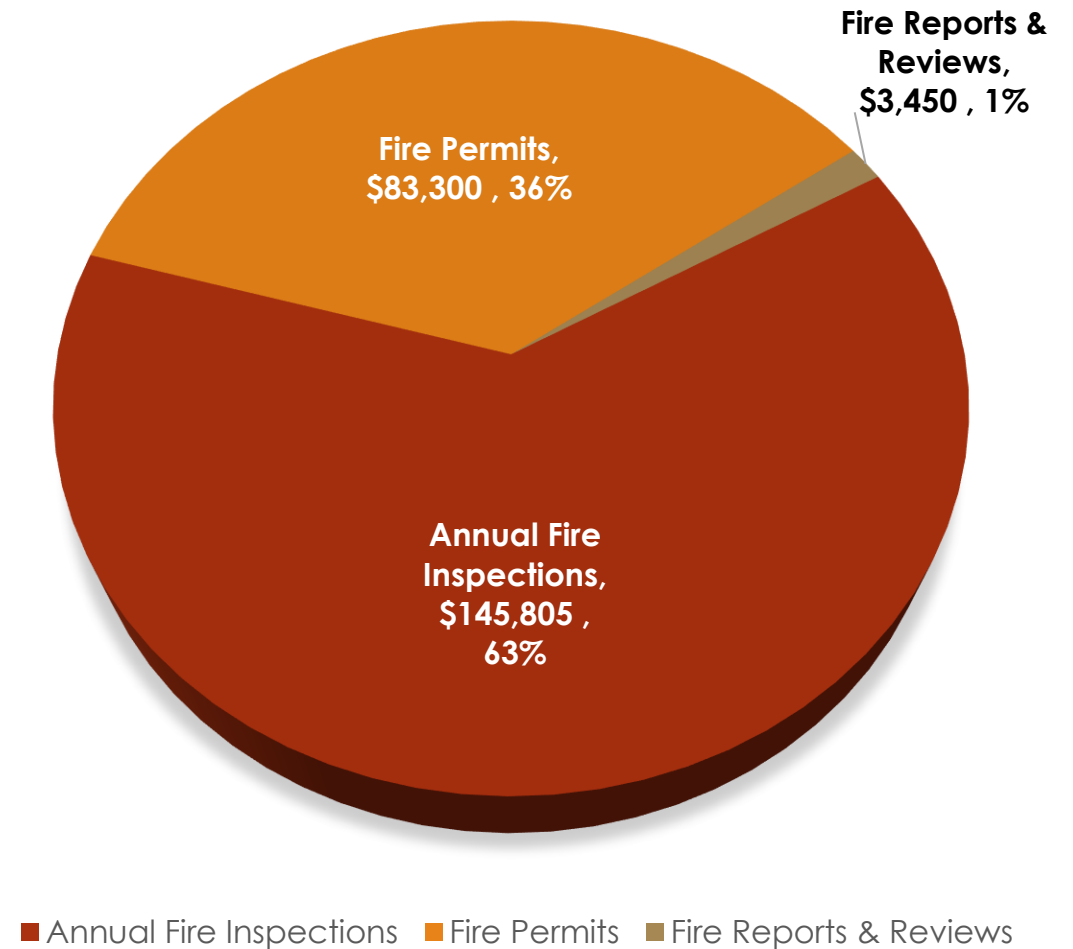
The FMO offers free smoke detectors and installation for residents of Falls Township. These detectors are received as part of Channel 6's Save a Life program which the FMO participates in annually. This year the FMO staff installed **26** new smoke detectors and **38** new batteries in existing smoke detectors in **12** Falls Township homes.



Department Revenue

Through fees collected from Annual Fire Inspections, Fire Permits, Fire Reports and Fire Review Fees, the FMO brought in approximately **\$232,554** this year. These funds help supplement the day-to-day expenses of operating this department.

Department Revenue by Type





Food Drive

The FMO successfully operated a year-long food drive. The team picked up food donations from generous residents and various organizations throughout the Falls Township area. We estimate we delivered **15,000 lbs.** of food to local food banks!!



Accomplishments

- ▶ Improvements to Building Security & Safety
 - ▶ Panic buttons installed at all Finance Department desks
 - ▶ Panic Buttons installed at all locations on the Supervisor's Dais
 - ▶ Key FOB readers installed at multiple doors throughout the building to restrict access
 - ▶ Employee ID cards with key access issued
 - ▶ Township Building doors keyed alike for convenience & accountability purposes
 - ▶ Alpha Numeric First Responder door identification system instituted
 - ▶ Installed safety glass at Code Enforcement customer service counter
 - ▶ (3) New AED purchased with remaining money from budget to outfit all FM vehicles



Accomplishments

- Improvements at Township Parks
 - Security Cameras, electric, new LED lights installed at Von Hoffman Park
 - WiFi installed at Falls Community Park
 - Quotes are being received for surveillance cameras in the Community Park.
- Infrastructure Improvements
 - Installed new Communication Antennas to improve First Responder radio coverage
 - Organized & cleaned the 2nd floor spaces for future use and/or rent opportunities
- COVID-19 Policies created & implemented
- Operated a year-long food drive
- Began utilizing a grant writer: Applied for several and received a grant for the Blazemark Incident Pre-Planning Software



Projects Underway

- ❑ Surveillance cameras being installed at Community Park
- ❑ Planning and designing for future building renovations
- ❑ Began creating new policies and revising existing policies as necessary



Food Drive: Schedule a Food Donation Pick Up

Email: FallsFoodBank@FallsTwp.com

Call: (215) 949-9000 Ext. 255



Smoke Detectors: Schedule Installations & Inspections

Call: (215) 949-9000 ext. 255



Are there any questions?