



Chester Township Fire Rescue 2023 Annual Report

Dear Chester Township residents,

On behalf of Chester Township Fire Rescue, it is my pleasure to provide the 2023 annual report of department activity. This report is a summary of activity for the three main areas of the fire department – operations, training, and fire prevention.

In 2023 we answered one more incident than in 2022 (1506 total). The department saw an increase in EMS runs (+4.36%) but a decrease in fire runs (-9.49%).

As with many NE Ohio combination full-time/part-time fire departments, personnel changes occur during the year. Chester Township Fire Rescue experienced less personnel changeover compared to past years. There was 1 full-time resignation offset by the hiring of 2 full-time personnel. In the part-time ranks there were 6 resignations offset by the hiring of 9 personnel. Most of the part-time resignations were due to the employee not having enough time to devote to the department.

Emergency medical services (EMS) account for many of our calls for service. As in years past, most of our patients seen were 65 years old or greater, female and transported to Hillcrest hospital. The department also is prepared for fires which are a more dangerous threat to both people and property. Unfortunately, there were 3 significant fire losses in 2023 that totaled an estimated \$815,000 in damages. This amount represents 48.95% of the value of the property that suffered fire incidents. The amount of property saved was approximately \$849,900 dollars.

As the demands of the fire service increase, so does the need to continually train for the challenges that lie ahead. In 2023, department members accomplished 2,943.5 hours of training, most of which were completed on duty at no additional cost to the Township.

Modern day fire departments are more than response agencies. While we are better known for fighting fires with water, our preferred method of fighting the hazards of fire is through

prevention. Our fire prevention activity more than doubled in 2023. There was a total of 353 inspections compared to 118 in 2022.

In 2023 we were also successful on election day with the passage of two levies renewed on a continual basis. The measures passed with a 75% approval rate. The members of the department are humbled by the support shown by the community, and we thank all of those for their support.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Fire Chief this year and lead the members of Chester Township Fire Rescue. The dedication and professionalism of our staff is shown every day in all they do for you and our community. I am proud of our organization and the commitment to serve you.

Yours in safety,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Shaw". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William J. Shaw, Fire Chief

PERSONNEL

The strength of any emergency organization is the people that deliver the services and Chester Township Fire Rescue is no different. We are proud of the people who serve our community and provide the emergency services you rely on.

You are protected by a combination of full-time and part-time personnel. The full-time personnel work the traditional firefighter shift – 24 hours on duty followed by 48 hours off duty. Part-time personnel work as they are able on 12-hours work shifts. Many of our part-time personnel are full-time paramedic/firefighters with other communities in the area.

Full-time personnel worked 18,092.55 hours, a 1.32% decrease from 2022 and part-time personnel worked 21,824.75 hours, a 5.66% reduction from 2022. The hours worked by our staff ensured we had personnel at the fire station 24 hours/day every day of the year.

Lt. Andy Nagy was promoted to Assistant Chief in September 2023. This important position had been vacant since June 2022. AC Nagy began his career with Chester Township Fire Rescue as an Explorer and was hired in February 1999. He has served in many positions over his career and will focus on fire prevention, training and overall department administration.

Just as important as having the proper staff available for incidents, training must be conducted to ensure the competency of those serving the community. While many of our part-time staff receive training at their full-time fire jobs, it is still important for all Chester Township Fire Rescue staff to train on our equipment, medical protocols, and operational policies so we achieve the safety and efficiency desired.

Our full-time staff logged 1,338 hours of training, much of which was to earn certifications. Part-time members logged 1,482 hours of training. Training highlights for 2023 include:

- ✘ Lt. Osborn, Lt. Scalese, Lt. Neary and Lt. Nagy completed the Maxwell Leadership program offered by the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association.
- ✘ PM/FF Collins, PM/FF Angie and PM/FF Green completed Fire Officer 1 & 2.
- ✘ Lt. Nagy completed Fire Officer 3 & 4.
- ✘ PM/FF Giroski achieved the certified fire safety inspector course from the State of Ohio.
- ✘ PM/FF Collins became a State of Ohio certified Fire Instructor.
- ✘ Lt. Nagy and Lt. Neary completed Basic Cause and Origin and joined the Geauga County Fire Investigation Unit.
- ✘ Lt. Neary, PM/FF Collins, Giroski, Valvoda, Sanvido and Way became certified CPR Instructors through the American Heart Association.

Chester Township Fire Rescue 2023 Roster

FULL-TIME PERSONNEL

<u>RANK</u>		<u>HIRE DATE</u>
CHIEF	Shaw, William	9/1/2021
LT/PM	Osborn, Eon	8/2/1996
LT/PM	Scalese, Jeremy	2/11/2010
LT/PM	Neary, Martin	7/20/2020
FF/PM	Collins, Matt	8/30/2021
FF/PM	Giroski, Austin	5/27/2022
FF/PM	Angie, Nick	12/26/2022
FF/PM	Valvoda, Jim	5/22/2023

PART-TIME PERSONNEL

<u>RANK</u>		<u>HIRE DATE</u>
ASST. CH.	Nagy, Andrew	2/22/1999
LT/PM	Billson, John	3/23/2010
FF/EMT-B	Kerr, Kyle	7/2/1999
FF/EMT-A	Sipos, Tom	2/4/2002
FF/PM	Sanvido, Nick	6/23/2004
FF/PM	Niton, John	1/30/2009
FF/PM	Sherriff, Marc	6/27/2011
FF/PM	Pezzente, John	2/7/2012
FF/PM	Lee, Kevin	1/8/2013
FF/PM	Heppert, Chandler	8/22/2014
FF/PM	Desler, Brian	8/11/2015
FF/PM	Pavilonis, Joseph	8/13/2015
FF/PM	Way, Adam	9/23/2015
FF/PM	Straka, Kevin	8/28/2019
FF/PM	Fowler, Ryan	10/21/2021
FF/PM	Federico, Jeff	2/9/2022
FF/PM	Pierce, Jasmine	5/1/2022
FF/PM	Havel, Jon	6/3/2022
FF/PM	Puskar, Josh	6/30/2022
FF/PM	Gibson, Mike	6/30/2022
FF/PM	Kanner, Keith	8/26/2022
FF/PM	Green, Daniel	9/8/2022
FF/EMT-B	King, Mitchell	3/5/2023
FF/EMT-B	Mariola, Anthony	3/5/2023
FF/EMT-B	Baden, Ryan	12/7/2023

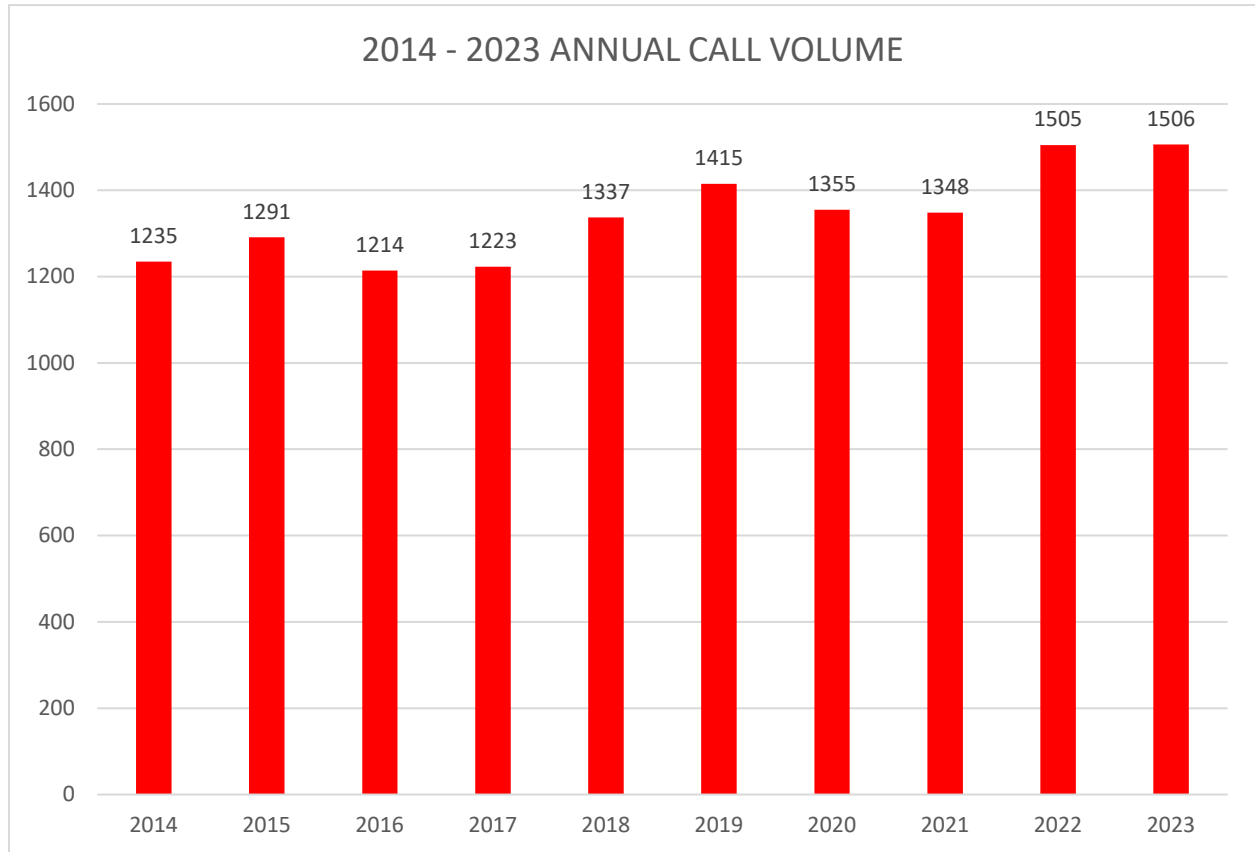
RESIGNATIONS

<u>FULL-TIME</u>		<u>HIRE DATE</u>	<u>RESIGN DATE</u>
FF/PM	Meaney, Sam	9/7/2021	1/18/2023

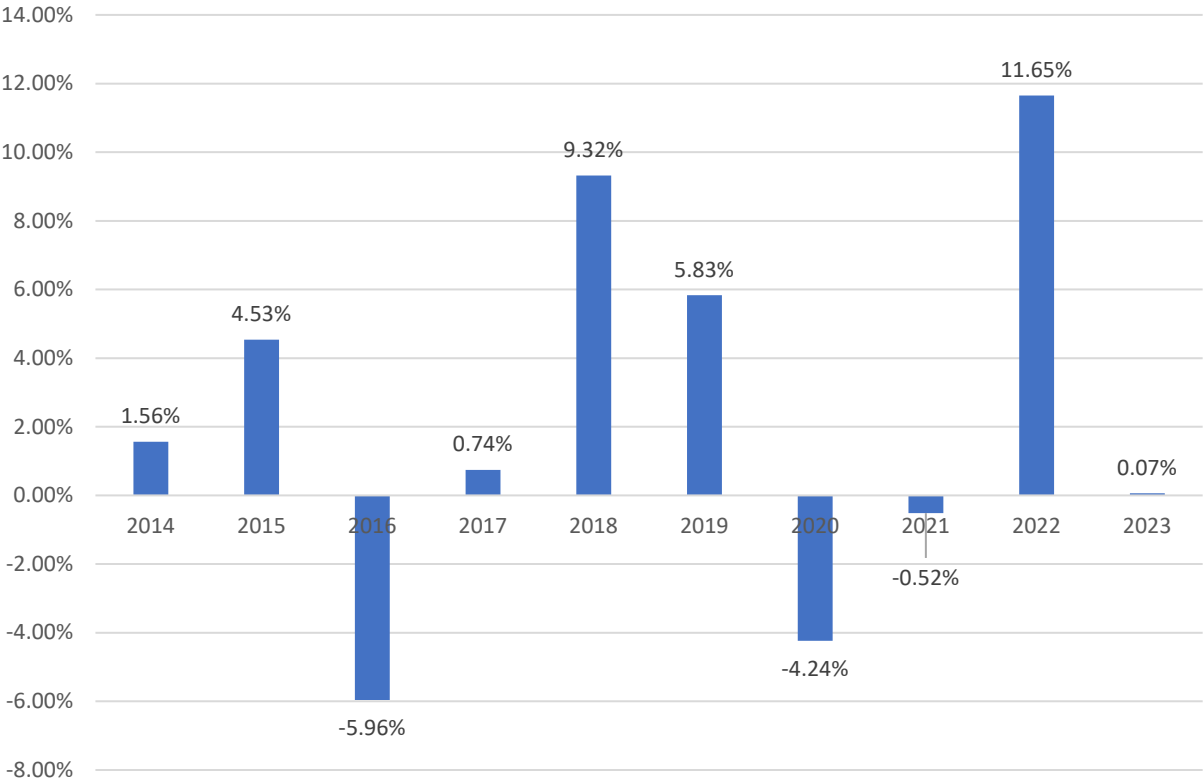
<u>PART-TIME</u>		<u>HIRE DATE</u>	<u>RESIGN DATE</u>
FF/PM	Bittner, Curtis	3/16/2010	8/2/2023
FF/PM	Meek, Leonard	2/24/2022	7/6/2023
FF/PM	O'Neill, Sean	7/15/2022	3/31/2023
FF/PM	Harb, Eric	8/26/2022	3/26/2023
FF/PM	Hann, Bryan	6/1/2023	10/12/2023
FF/PM	Smith, Cody	6/29/2023	9/16/2023

INCIDENTS

Chester Township Fire Rescue's incident volume was basically the same as 2023. There were 1,505 incidents in 2022 and 1,506 incidents in 2023.

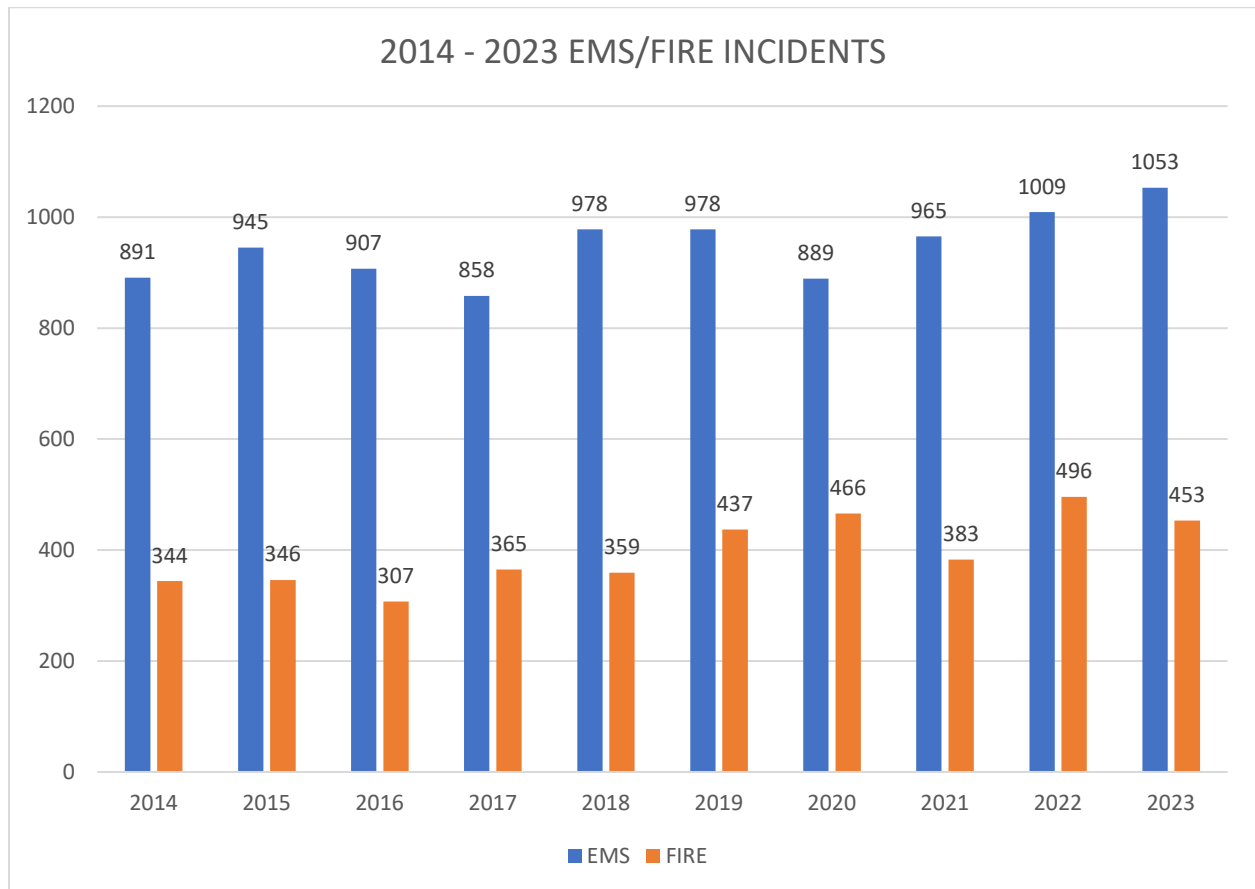


10 YR. INCIDENT INCREASE/DECREASE %



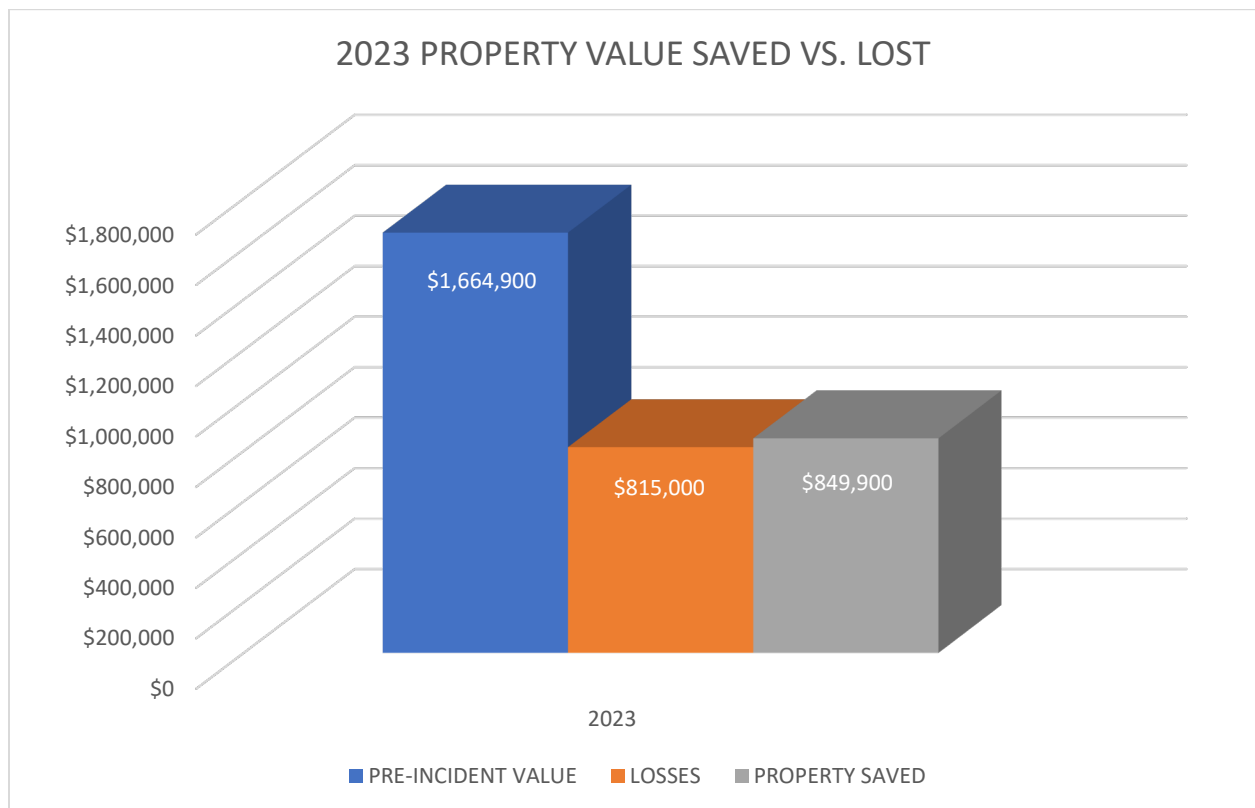
FIRE/EMS INCIDENT COMPARISON

As in years past, the calls for paramedic EMS service make up most of our incidents. Even though fires make up a smaller amount of our call volume, fire remains a concern due to the potential loss of life and property.



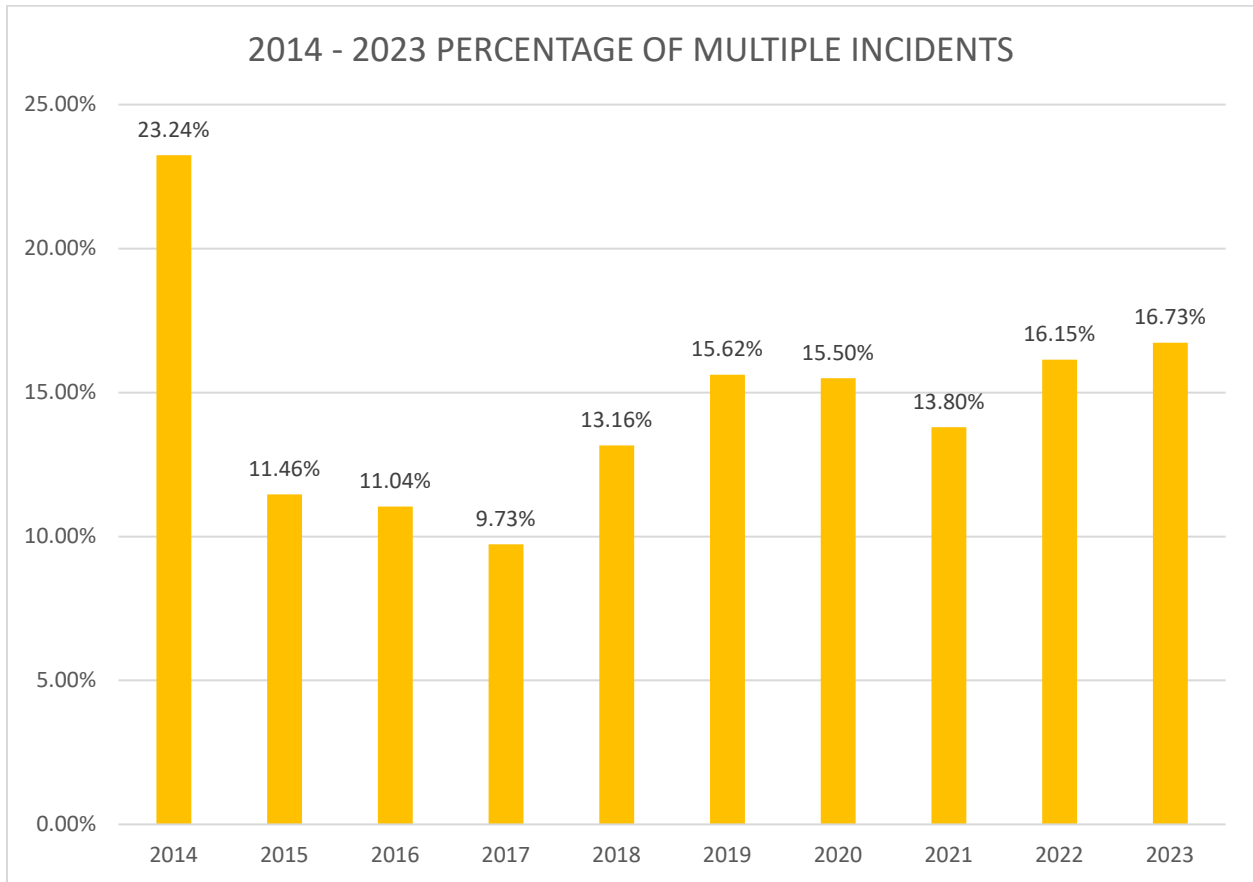
PROPERTY LOSS FROM FIRE

Property loss from fire is one of the most devastating events that can happen to a family. While fires are not a common occurrence in Chester Twp., there were two significant fires in residential buildings this year. Despite our best efforts under trying conditions, the losses were substantial. The Fire Department recommends installing a smoke detector in your garage as well as strategic locations in the house. This simple device will provide early warning which allows a faster response, thus reducing damage.



MULTIPLE INCIDENTS

Emergency services would be much more manageable if the incidents were scheduled. Unfortunately, life does not work that way. This graph shows the percentage of incidents that occurred simultaneously with others. Multiple calls may range from 2 at the same time up to as many as 5 or 6 at the same time. Most frequently it is 2 at the same time. With our staffing levels, 2 simultaneous incidents sometimes challenge our on-duty personnel to provide service.

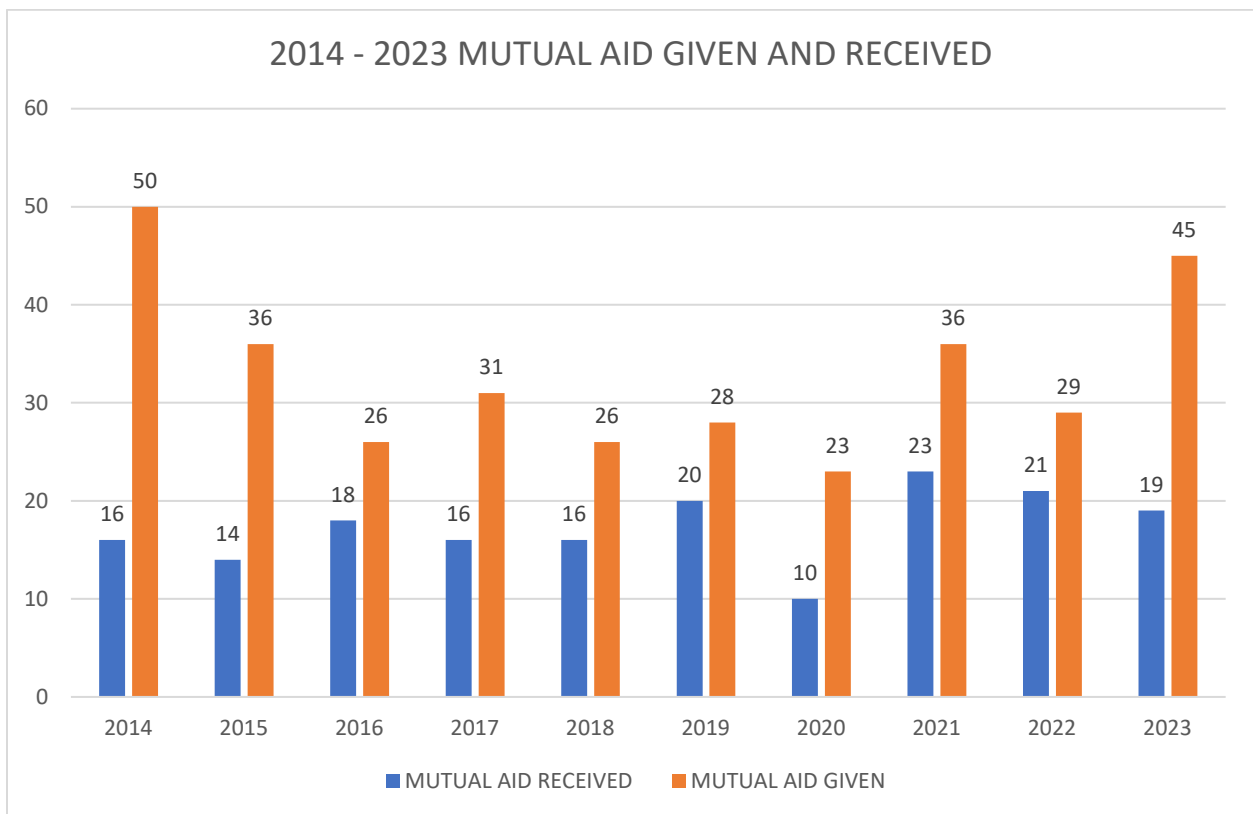


MUTUAL AID

No community can afford to protect 100% of the residents 100% of the time from 100% of emergency situations. Occasionally, assistance is required from other surrounding communities. We are thankful for the strong working relationships with our neighbors.

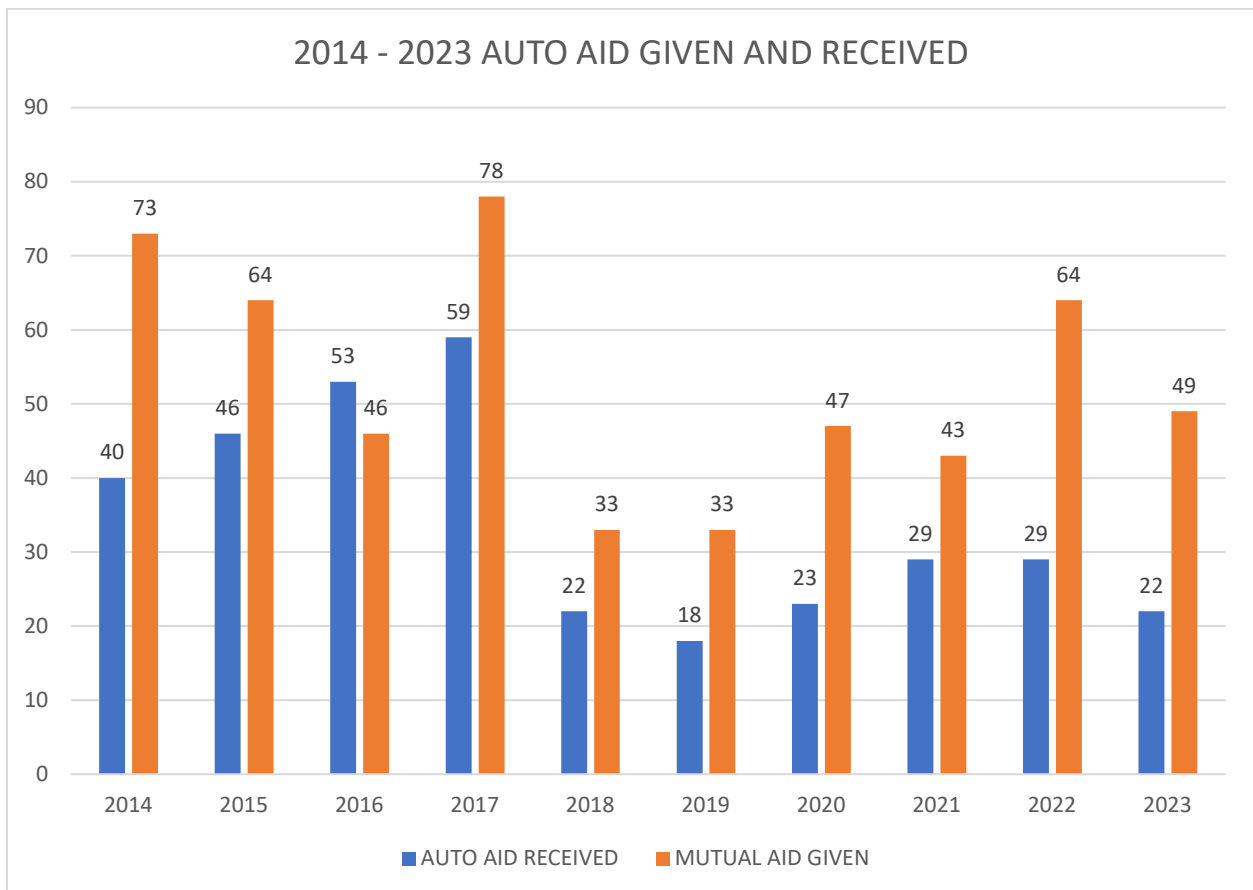
The graphs below show the number of incidents Chester Township Fire Rescue provided and received mutual aid to other fire departments. Because of our location, we can be called upon to assist departments in Geauga, Lake, or Cuyahoga counties. The need for mutual aid is determined by the Incident Commander usually after arriving at the scene and determined by what is actually occurring.

The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue provided mutual aid to neighboring departments accounted for approximately 3% of our total calls. The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue received mutual aid from neighboring departments was 1.3% of our total calls.



The difference between mutual aid and auto aid is that auto aid units are dispatched simultaneously prior to the arrival of any emergency responders. This is used for incidents that have the potential for high severity such as nursing homes and large commercial buildings.

The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue provided auto aid to neighboring departments accounted for approximately 3.3% of our total calls. The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue received auto aid from neighboring departments was 1.5% of our total calls.



Chester Township Fire Rescue is proud to provide you, our residents, with a safe community in which to live. We hope 2024 is healthy and safe for you and your family, but if not, we will be ready to help you.