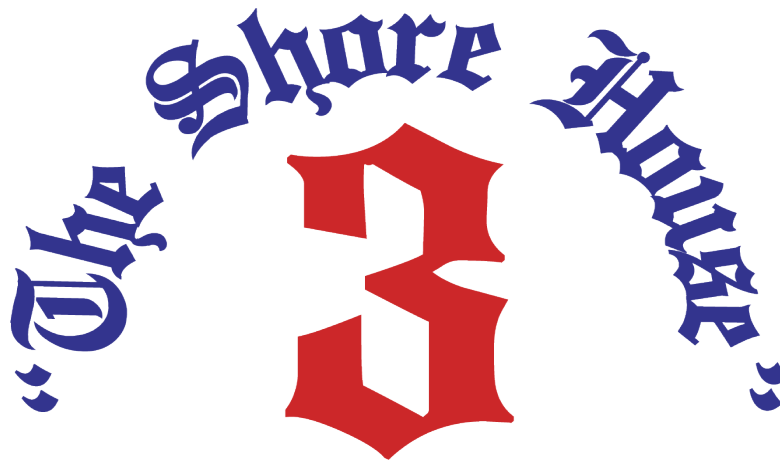


WILDWOOD CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Wildwood City Fire Department

Prepared by:
Fire Chief Ernie Troiano III
Deputy Fire Chief Daniel M. Dunn
Fire Official Jacob Spiegel

Released: February 19, 2026

Executive Summary

During 2025, members of the department responded to 4,051 emergency calls. Members completed 8,607 fire safety and housing inspections and continued to expand our community outreach programs. The department continues to look forward to providing the very best in Fire, Rescue and EMS services to our municipality while being fiscally responsible to the people we serve. We will continue to live out our mission, vision, and core values on a daily basis to ensure that we do just that.

Services Provided

Being able to provide a variety of specialized services, not customary to most fire departments, is what sets our department apart from others within our county.

The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to offer open water rescue responses during the “shoulder season” for our island community when the beach patrol is no longer in service. We also continue to support the A.L.E.R.T. (After-hours Lifeguard Emergency Response Team) in conjunction with the Wildwood Beach Patrol’s unit in the summer evening hours when the beaches are closed.

The Wildwood City Fire Department is the co-lead agency for the Cape May County Regional Urban Search & Rescue team. This team specializes in Structural Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, High-Angle Rope Rescue, Surface Ice and Water Rescue and Trench Rescue. In 2025, team members completed training in various technical rescue disciplines to maintain their skills.

Training

The Officers and Firefighters of the Wildwood City Fire Department continuously further their education through professional development classes and tactical courses. Training and preparing for the unknown are always at the forefront of our department.

During the 2025 calendar year the department conducted several in-house training programs to maintain skills in various certification disciplines including but not limited to:



Wildwood City Fire Department

- Open Water Rescue
- Surface Ice Rescue
- Rope Rescue
- Fire Suppression Operations Live-Fire Training

In addition to the classes held in-house, members spent hundreds of hours participating in fire, rescue, and emergency medical training throughout the year.



Wildwood City Fire Department

Equipment and Funding Opportunities

Through our Community Risk Assessments, the Wildwood City Fire Department continues to try and be well equipped and trained in order to provide the very best in emergency services for our residents and visitors. Being an urban city on an island with a tremendous tourist base in the busy summer season makes our municipality vulnerable.

The Wildwood City Fire Department has been very fortunate over the past several years to receive numerous grants that have helped us successfully fulfill our mission. These include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response grants (SAFER), Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Impact Initiative for Purchase of Fire Equipment grant, the Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo (Joey D) Foundation grant, South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant, Atlantic City Electric First Responder grant, and a New Jersey Department of Community Affairs American Rescue Plan Firefighters Grant.

In 2025, our department received notification that we were awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of four (4) powered stair chairs in the amount of \$38,790.40. These powered stair chairs enhance the safety of our personnel, as well as the residents and visitors we protect. The equipment was purchased and placed in service on our four BLS ambulances in late 2025.

Our Department continues to actively seek and aggressively pursue any available grant funding that saves money for our taxpayers while at the same time improving the overall health and safety of our members. This also results in our Department having the most technologically advanced equipment available which increases our efficiency and abilities to respond as an All-Hazards emergency response organization. Since 2020, our Department has received grant funding totaling over \$2 million.



Wildwood City Fire Department

Barefoot Country Music Festival June 19-22, 2025

Once again, the largest special event staffed by WFD members during 2025 was the Barefoot Country Music Festival. This was the 5-year anniversary for the four-day event that featured some of country's hottest and talented artists with over 40 musical acts performing. Headliners for the show included Megan Moroney, Rascal Flatts, Warren Zeiders, Chris Janson, Boyz II Men, Jason Aldean, Ella Langley, Jordan Davis, and Jelly Roll. Over the past 5 years this event has grown to be one of the nation's premier country music festivals. During the four days, Wildwood Firefighters handled 271 patient contacts, the majority of which were for minor cuts and scrapes requiring bandages. Only three (3) patients required transport to the hospital over the four days. This event, once again, demonstrated the fact that Wildwood is a world-class tourist and event destination.



View of Crowd at BCMF 6/21/25



View of Crowd at BCMF 6/22/25



Wildwood City Fire Department



The poster features a vibrant background with a blue sky, white clouds, and a sunset gradient. At the top center is the 'BAREFOOT Country MUSIC FEST' logo in a red-bordered sign. Below the logo, the line-up is organized into four columns for Thursday (June 19), Friday (June 20), Saturday (June 21), and Sunday (June 22). Each column lists two stages: 'Coors LIGHT STAGE' and 'PATRÓN. STAGE'. The 'PATRÓN. STAGE' is noted as being 'Powered by Southern String Hat Co.'. The bottom of the poster shows silhouettes of a guitar, a roller coaster, and a Ferris wheel against a sunset sky, with the event dates and location 'JUNE 19-22, 2025 | ON THE BEACH IN WILDWOOD, NJ' at the very bottom.

BAREFOOT Country MUSIC FEST

THURSDAY JUNE 19

Coors LIGHT STAGE
RASCAL FLATTS
MEGAN MORONEY
COLT FORD
TIGIRLILY GOLD
MARA JUSTINE
DJ SLIM MCGRAW

PATRÓN. STAGE
Powered by Southern String Hat Co.
NOT LEAVING SOBER
TWELVE OC

FRIDAY JUNE 20

Coors LIGHT STAGE
LAINEY WILSON
WARREN ZEIDERS
SAM BARBER
GEORGE BIRGE
AVERY ANNA
GILLIAN SMITH

PATRÓN. STAGE
LANCO
KAITLIN BUTTS
LAUREN DAVIDSON
SAMANTHA SPANO

PATRÓN. STAGE
Powered by Southern String Hat Co.
WHEY JENNINGS
MEGHAN PATRICK

SATURDAY JUNE 21

Coors LIGHT STAGE
JASON ALDEAN
CHRIS JANSON
BOYZ II MEN
LARRY FLEET
WILLOW AVALON
BOWMAN

PATRÓN. STAGE
CHRIS CAGLE
DON LOUIS
KEVIN SMILEY
HOLDYN BARDER

PATRÓN. STAGE
Powered by Southern String Hat Co.
LAKEVIEW
AUSTIN WILLIAMS

SUNDAY JUNE 22

Coors LIGHT STAGE
JELLY ROLL
JORDAN DAVIS
ELLA LANGLEY
BAYKER BLANKENSHIP
DAVISSON BROTHERS BAND
MYLES MORGAN

PATRÓN. STAGE
CHAYCE BECKHAM
LANIE GARDNER
MEGAN KNIGHT
NATHAN MEROVICH

PATRÓN. STAGE
Powered by Southern String Hat Co.
THOMAS EDWARDS
THE JACK WHARFF BAND

JUNE 19-22, 2025 | ON THE BEACH IN WILDWOOD, NJ

2025 BCMF Line-Up

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Fire Department Mission Statement:

The Wildwood City Fire Department is committed to prevent or minimize the loss of life, damage to the environment, and loss of property from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and hazardous conditions by providing the highest level of emergency services for our community since 1912.

Fire Department Vision Statement:

- We will strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession
- We will be accountable to those we serve, each other, and any fire service organization we interact with
- We are committed to providing the best public service through training, education, and equipment to the best of our abilities
- We are committed to our mission, values, and dedicated to our fire service profession

Fire Department Core Values:

Teamwork: Working together to achieve common goals

Integrity: Committed to the highest standard of moral and ethical conduct

Excellence: Demanding the best from ourselves and others



Message from the Chief

The City of Wildwood Fire Department remains committed to providing the highest level of professional services to the public by protecting lives, property, and the environment. It is important for our stakeholders, both internally and externally, to understand this. The purpose of this report is to provide that insight and the accomplishments of the fire department during the past year and to highlight the many services and activities that support our community.

Responding to all calls for service remains the priority of our department and our core values of **Teamwork, Integrity, and Excellence** are instilled in our personnel. The City of Wildwood Fire Department also provides Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) coverage for the numerous special events that occur throughout the many venues the city has to offer. In 2025 the department saw an increase in calls for service from the previous year and as expected, the men and women of the Wildwood Fire Department rose to the occasion, saving lives and property.

The fire department administration continues to recognize the men and women who proudly respond to all types of calls for service, whether it is an emergency or nonemergency. Whether it is a fire inspection or simply visiting one of our local schools. These men and women are truly the heart and soul of the Wildwood Fire Department. As administration, we pride ourselves on obtaining and providing the necessary tools and education that allows our firefighters to grow and improve in order to provide the highest level of service and maintain what we call the “Wildwood Way.” Our city officials continue to support the fire department and as a result, we not only hired four new Firefighter/EMTs through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (S.A.F.E.R.) Grant, but an additional three full-time Firefighter/EMTs to fulfill vacant positions. The increased staffing levels have been instrumental in the level of service we provide.

Moving forward in 2026, we remain goal oriented and mission driven and will continue to seek new ways to grow and improve as a department. The Wildwood Fire Department will continue to focus on our community far beyond the scope of firefighting. Understanding that it takes a village to raise a child, we remain partnered with the Wildwood Public School District and youth organizations throughout the island. Our goal is to assist these organizations in their efforts to provide our youth, the future of our community, with the guidance and support they need to grow into successful adults. As Chief of Department, it remains a true honor to work for the men and women of the Wildwood Fire Department, the Mayor and Commissioners, and the residents and visitors in the City of Wildwood, as well as our neighboring municipalities.

On behalf of the City of Wildwood Fire Department, I proudly present the 2025 annual report, which reflects our dedication and commitment to the citizens of the City of Wildwood as well as our visitors and neighbors. We welcome your concerns and feedback and ask that you please contact us whenever you may have an issue, questions, or a concern. **We work for you!**

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernie Troiano III".

Ernie Troiano III, CPM
Chief of Department

2025 Personnel Milestones

Retirements:

On July 1, 2025, Fire Official David Bannon retired after 25 years of dedicated service with the City of Wildwood. Firefighter Bannon served as a Senior Firefighter on shift until being assigned as the Fire Official in the Fire Prevention Bureau in 2024. Fire Official Bannon received several commendations and citations throughout his career, including “Firefighter of the Year”. We wish Fire Official Bannon good health and happiness in his next chapter!

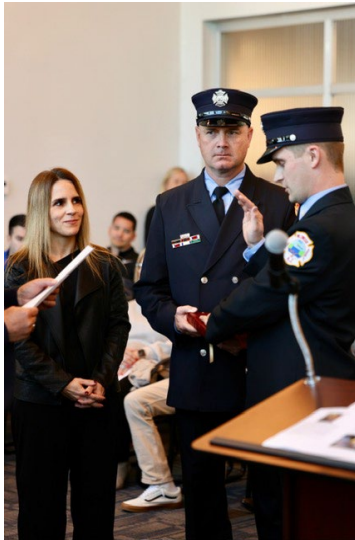


Wildwood City Fire Department

Appointments:

2025 was a historical year in the City of Wildwood Fire Department. Over the course of the year seven (7) new career firefighters were appointed. This is the largest number in a single year in the Department's history. Four of the positions are funded through a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Services Grant (SAFER) that the department was awarded in 2024. This grant, totaling over \$1.5 million, covers the salaries and benefits for the four positions for three years. This is a huge cost savings to our taxpayers and at the same time provides critically needed staffing for our department in an attempt to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

On March 2, 2025, Probationary Firefighters Ryan Bannon and Domenico Troiano, both Wildwood natives, were hired as career firefighters. Both of these Probationary Firefighters proudly follow in their families' footsteps. Probationary Firefighter Bannon is the son of now retired Fire Official Dave Bannon and Probationary Firefighter Domenico Troiano is the son of Chief of Department Ernest Troiano III. Probationary Firefighter Troiano's great-grandfather, grandfather, uncles, and cousins have all served or serve with the department. Prob. FF Bannon has been assigned to the C Platoon under the command of Capt. Ryan Troiano and Prob. FF Troiano to the B Platoon under the command of Capt. Matt Johnson.



Prob. FF R. Bannon



Prob. FFs Bannon & Troiano



Prob. FF D. Troiano

Wildwood City Fire Department

On July 19, 2025, Probationary Firefighter Mark Nelson (below) was hired as a career firefighter. Mark worked as a part-time Firefighter/EMT for the WFD since 2024. He is a member of the Cape May Beach Patrol and was previously a volunteer with the City of Cape May Fire Department. Mark follows in the footsteps of his older brother, who serves as a volunteer firefighter. Probationary Firefighter Nelson has been assigned to the B Platoon under the command of Capt. Matt Johnson.



On September 27, 2025, four new career firefighters were hired. Due to a delay in the NJ Civil Service Commission hiring process, Probationary FF Nelson was formally sworn-in along with these four new members.

Probationary Firefighter Townsend Godfrey (below), who is an Ocean City native and served four years Active Duty with the United States Coast Guard, was appointed and assigned to the D Platoon under the command of Capt. Aldo Sacco. Prob. FF Godfrey continues to serve as a reservist with the USCG.

Wildwood City Fire Department



Prob. FF Townsend Godfrey

Probationary Firefighter Anthony Famiano, a Lower Township native, previously served as a Part-Time Firefighter/EMT with the North Wildwood Fire Department and as volunteer Firefighter in the Cape May Point Vol. Fire Department. He follows in the footsteps of his father, who is the Deputy Fire Chief of the Cape May Point Vol. Fire Dept. Anthony also previously worked as a full-time Fire Inspector in Lower Township, where he continues to work part-time. Probationary Firefighter Famiano has been assigned to the A Platoon, under the command of Capt. Rob Feltwell.



Wildwood City Fire Department



Prob. FF Anthony Famiano

Probationary Firefighter Blake Horton, a Lower Township native, joined the Villas Volunteer Fire Department where he continues to serve. Blake follows in the public safety footsteps of his father, John, who is a NJDOC Corrections Officer and his uncle who is a firefighter in the Houston, TX Fire Department. Prob. FF Horton has been assigned to the A Platoon under the command of Capt. Rob Feltwell.



Prob. FF Blake Horton

Wildwood City Fire Department

Probationary Firefighter Chase Hunzinger, a native of Arizona, previously served as a career firefighter for the Peoria, AZ Fire & Medical Department prior to moving to New Jersey. Prob. FF Hunzinger is driven to serve and is a welcomed addition to the WFD family. Chase has been assigned to the C Platoon under the command of Capt. Ryan Troiano.



Prob. FF Chase Hunzinger



Wildwood City Fire Department

Administration:

Fire Chief

Ernie Troiano III

Deputy Fire Chief

Daniel Dunn

Administrative Assistants

Kelly Sweger & Amelia Ianiro

Fire Prevention Bureau:

Fire Official (Ret. 7/1/25)

David Bannon

Fire Official

Jacob Spiegel

Fire Inspector

Darrick Kobierowski

Part-time Fire Inspectors

Sean McDevitt

Julio Rivera

Jim Munda

Operations:

A Platoon

Captain Robert Feltwell

Firefighter Tina Sacco

Firefighter Nick Palmer

Firefighter Chad Alavarado

Firefighter Hunter John

Prob. Firefighter Anthony Famiano

Prob. Firefighter Blake Horton

B Platoon

Captain Matt Johnson

Firefighter Adam Feltwell

Firefighter RayQuan Walker

Firefighter John Sharp

Prob. Firefighter Domenico Troiano

Prob. Firefighter Mark Nelson

C Platoon

Captain Ryan Troiano

Firefighter Rich Harron

Firefighter Brendan Phillips

Firefighter Kevin Kelly

Prob. Firefighter Ryan Bannon

Prob. Firefighter Chase Hunzinger

D Platoon

Captain Aldo Sacco

Firefighter Gerry Vessels

Firefighter Dave Speigel

Firefighter John Snyder

Firefighter Will Gaskill

Prob. Firefighter Townsend Godfrey

Part-time Firefighters:

Victoria Adamucci

Jeremy Embs

Gavin Rosenello

Seamus Carey

Aiden Kelly

Jared Sweeten

Gabe Dalbow

Zachary Lex

Wildwood City Fire Department



2025 Department Photo

Wildwood City Fire Department

In Memorium:

During 2025, our Department lost two life members of the Department. We learned of Firefighter James Chadwick's death during 2025, although he passed at the end of 2024. Though gone, they are not forgotten and we honor them for their loyal and dedicated service to the community:

- Firefighter James Chadwick- Wildwood Fire Co. (Pine Ave.)
- Firefighter Joseph Kalazinskas- Wildwood Fire Co. (Pine Ave.)



Firefighter James Chadwick
2/6/1927-12/28/2024



Firefighter Joseph Kalazinskas
11/6/1942-6/2/2025



About Us

The City of Wildwood is a 1.3 square mile seashore resort City that is a popular summer tourist destination for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. As of the 2020 census, the city has a population of 5,157 which can swell to 250,000 or more during the peak summer season. The city is famous for its large boardwalk with numerous shops, restaurants, amusement piers and waterparks, and for being home to the World's largest, finest, and safest bathing beach. The city is home to many hotels/motels, apartment/rooming houses, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, bars/nightclubs, as well as many condos and single-family residences.

The City of Wildwood has a combination-type Fire Department consisting of a career division and a volunteer division. The Department is led by the Career Fire Chief who has overall responsibility for the administration of the Department. In addition to the Fire Chief there is a Deputy Fire Chief, who along with the Fire Chief, handles administrative and operational duties. The career division consists of 4 platoons with a Captain and 6-7 firefighters assigned to each platoon. In addition, the career division is supplemented by part-time staff to increase staffing levels during the busy summer season and backfill career personnel when they are off. The Fire Prevention Bureau is headed by the Fire Official and has one full-time and three part-time fire inspectors assigned. The Volunteer Division consists of the Holly Beach Fire Company # 1 and the Wildwood Fire Company # 1. Although the volunteer companies are no longer operational for emergency responses, they continue to support the fire department in many ways. The City of Wildwood Fire Department is an all-hazards response organization providing fire suppression, emergency medical services (Basic-Life Support Transport), technical/heavy rescue (high-angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, vehicle extrication, open water rescue, surface ice rescue, hazardous materials, and trench rescue response), fire prevention, code enforcement, and emergency management services.

The City of Wildwood Fire Department protects the municipality with 1-Squad Company, 1-Quint Company, 1-Rescue Company, 1-Engine Company, 4 BLS Ambulances and several support vehicles including a water rescue/utility vehicle for the beach and several 5-ton high-water vehicles. In 2025, the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to over 4,000 emergency incidents.

The City of Wildwood Fire Department is proud to have an ISO Class 3 designation, and we continuously strive to better that classification.

Facilities and Apparatus

The City of Wildwood Fire Department maintains facilities and apparatus to ensure timely and efficient responses to emergencies. The department has three stations. However, Fire Headquarters is the only operating station for emergency responses and Station's 3-1 and 3-2 are currently used for storage of additional and reserve apparatus.

Fire Stations:

Fire Headquarters – 4400 New Jersey Avenue

Headquarters is located within the City Hall building, between City Hall and the Police Department. The offices of the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and the Fire Prevention Bureau are all located on the second floor of Headquarters. Administrative staff for the Fire Chief's Office and the Fire Prevention Bureau are located here as well. The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is also located at Fire Headquarters.

The Career Division firefighters are located in Headquarters on the first floor. The on-duty platoon handles all emergencies called into the City of Wildwood Fire Department with the following apparatus being assigned to Headquarters:

2017 – 2000 GPM Pierce Squad (first due apparatus)
2014 – 2000 GPM E-One Quint
2020 – Ferrera Heavy Rescue
2007 – Dodge Ram 2500 (beach response apparatus)
Two – BLS Transport Ambulances (first due)
2020 – Medstat ASAP UTV (special event EMS unit)

Station 3-1 – 4310 Washington Avenue (Holly Beach)

Station 3-1 is located directly across from Fire Headquarters and houses the volunteer division of the department. Although we currently do not utilize this building for fire responses it still houses reserve equipment. The company members of this station still hold their monthly meetings and maintain the charter of the company which was organized in 1884. The station currently houses the following apparatus:

2002 – Chevy utility vehicle (Fire Police)
2010 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-fire suppression)
2009 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-fire suppression)
2010 – Army cargo 5-ton vehicle (flood responses-evacuations)

Wildwood City Fire Department

Station 3-2 – 111 East Pine Avenue (Pine Avenue)

Station 3-2 is located in the northern end of the city and houses the volunteer division of the department. Although we currently do not utilize this building for fire responses it still houses reserve equipment. The company members of this station still hold their monthly meetings and maintain the charter of the company which was organized in 1896. The station currently houses the following apparatus:

1996 – 1500 GPM Pierce Engine (reserve)

2021 – Polaris UTV (special event EMS unit)



Quint Company 3



Rescue Company 3



Squad Company 3



Engine Company 3



Operations

The fire department operations division is managed by Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn. Operations is the largest division of the fire department. Operations personnel respond to all requests for service.

In addition, personnel also continually conduct mandatory training requirements, assist in public education, conduct fire prevention inspections supporting the inspection bureau, and maintain the fire stations and apparatus.

The ability to improve our service is generated through many ideas and initiatives that originate from the operational members. Their values, energy, commitment, and compassion drive many of the department's functions, programs, and activities throughout the year. The operations personnel are faced daily with accomplishing our mission to provide extraordinary service to the community.

OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- RESPONDED TO 4,051 CALLS FOR SERVICE
- 25 CAREER PERSONNEL ACROSS 4 PLATOONS
- 2,154 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL INCIDENTS
- 1,897 – SQUAD/ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES

Wildwood City Fire Department

2025 Fire Responses

Building/Structure Fires	15
Cooking Fires	16
Trash/Rubbish/Dumpster Fires	4
Brush/Grass/Mulch Fires	9
Other Fires (Vehicles, Equipment, etc.)	8
Assist EMS	679
Motor Vehicle Crashes	71
Water Rescues	17
Elevator Rescues	21
Gas Leaks	60
Power Lines Down	47
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	17
Electrical Wiring, Equipment Problems	40
Landing Zone Assignments (MedEvac)	31
Carbon Monoxide Incidents	8
Water or Steam Leaks	23
Assist Police Department	34
Public Service	58
Assist Physically Disabled	48
Smoke Scares, Odor of Smoke	20
No Incident Found on Arrival	17
Activated Fire Alarms	440
False Carbon Monoxide Alarms	16
Sprinkler Activations	4
Hazardous Materials Responses	9
Building Collapses, Weakened Structure	1
Dispatched & Cancelled Enroute	129
Miscellaneous Incidents	55
Total Fire Responses	1,897

2025 Fire Responses



4900 Ocean Ave. 2/22/25



200 W. 24th Ave. 5/22/24



100 E. Cresse Ave. 7/25/25

Wildwood City Fire Department



300 W. Glenwood Ave. 8/12/25



200 W. Wildwood Ave. 8/30/25



300 E. Montgomery Ave. 9/2/25

Wildwood City Fire Department



600 W. Spruce Ave. 9/18/25



1900 Boardwalk 11/22/25



700 W. Montgomery Ave. 12/15/25

2025 EMS Responses

Alcohol, drugs, overdose, toxins	125
Cardiac, chest pains, hypotension, hypertension	114
Bleeding, trauma, injuries, assaults	374
Weakness, malaise, sickness, dizziness, pain	621
Respiratory, shortness of breath, dyspnea	140
Seizure, stroke, neurological, unconscious, syncopal episodes, diabetic, hypoglycemic, altered mental status	198
Behavioral, depression, suicidal, anxiety, hallucination	117
General (DOA, fever, dehydration, allergic reaction, OB/Gyn.)	465
Total Emergency Medical Service Responses	2,154



Wildwood City Fire Department



Roof Collapse 3500 Boardwalk 6/2/2025



Multi-Motor Vehicle Collision 300 E. Youngs Ave. 8/6/25

Fire Prevention Bureau



The Bureau of Fire Prevention is headed by Fire Official Jacob Spiegel who also serves as the Fire-Subcode Official for the City. Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski is detailed to the bureau as a Fire Inspector. During the busy summer season 3 part-time Fire Inspectors are hired to assist with the inspection work load. The personnel of the Bureau focus on all aspects of life safety. Their primary objective is to reduce preventable deaths, injuries, and property loss through public education programs, fire inspections of all commercial and non-owner occupied occupancies, and through enforcement of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. The office also conducts and oversees NJ State Housing Inspections of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings.

The Bureau educates building owners and tenants while conducting fire safety inspections. This helps to gain voluntary compliance, as well as limit the number of repeat violations in the future. The fire inspectors conduct annual fire safety inspections of existing commercial properties each year which may result in follow-up inspections to ensure compliance.



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Fire Inspection Bureau Activities for 2025

New Jersey Uniform Fire Code Inspections

Periodic Initial Inspections:	4,174
Reinspections:	2,039
Complaints:	138
Follow-Ups:	250
Other Inspection Activities:	1,012
Total Fire Inspections:	7,613

State DCA Housing Inspections

Total # of Housing Units Inspected: 994

Total Inspections: 8,607

Training & Education

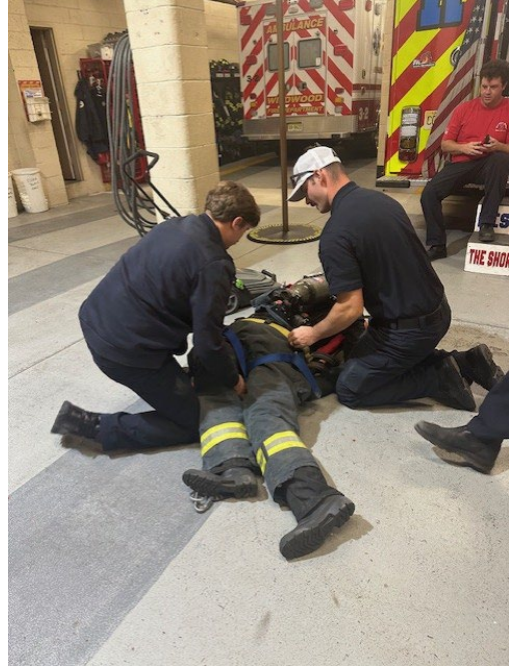
The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to maintain a high level of commitment and dedication to training. The city presents a unique geographic make-up with a number of high community risks to include high-rise buildings, confined spaces, amusement rides, and open bodies of water. Over the years, the fire service has evolved into an “all hazards” approach agency with the Wildwood City Fire Department being no exception. Firefighters are the initial responders to all water related emergencies to include, but not limited to, the bay, the beach during periods that the Lifeguards are off-duty, tidal flooding, and natural disasters.

Since the Wildwood City Fire Department embraces the “all hazards” approach our firefighters are highly trained to not only respond to the community’s needs but to mitigate the hazards that are present. Members of the department spent well over 800 hours of on-duty company-level training sessions in 2025, which equates to over 20,000 person-hours of training.

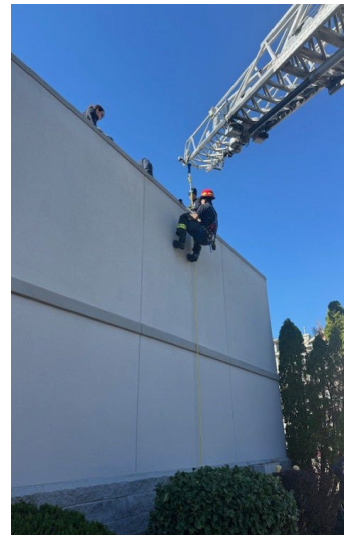
Training Courses Completed 2025:

NJ Division of Fire Safety- Drill Ground Instructor
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Air Consumption
Rapid Intervention Crew Operations
Open-Water Rescue Operations
Rescue Company Operations
Vehicle Extrication
Engine Company Operations
Truck Company Operations
Modern Fire Behavior
Elevator Emergencies
Apparatus Driver Training
Fire Inspector
Fire Official
Fire Officer
Fire Investigation
Fireground Size-Up
Live Burn Training
Active Threat Response
FAST Board Training
Arizona Vortex Training
Vent Enter Isolate Search
Fireground Survival/Emergency Escape Training
Hazardous Materials Operations
Combat Ready Firefighting
First Alarm Strategy & Tactics
Natural Gas Emergencies

Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department



Notable Training Accomplishments

Full-Scale Exercise with South Jersey Gas October 8, 2025:

One of the things our department prides ourselves upon and continuously strives to improve is our working relationship with our emergency response partners. To that end, in 2025, we partnered with South Jersey Gas Company to host a full-scale exercise in the City of Wildwood. This exercise simulated a natural gas emergency that escalated into a multiple alarm, mass-casualty incident. Despite the rainy conditions on the day of the exercise, members of the Wildwood City Fire Department, North Wildwood Fire Department, Wildwood Police Department, and South Jersey Gas representatives were able to conduct a successful exercise. Lessons learned from the exercise were then shared among all involved in order to continuously improve our responses to such emergencies. Thank you to our friends at South Jersey Gas for selecting the City of Wildwood to host the exercise. We look forward to our continued great working relationship in protecting our residents and visitors.



Wildwood City Firefighter Rich Harron Receives International Association of Arson Investigators Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) Credential:

In January 2025, Firefighter Rich Harron Jr., who serves as the Senior Firefighter on the C Platoon, received his Certified Fire Investigator credential from the International Association of Arson Investigators. The IAAI-CFI® qualification is a standardized evaluation of a fire investigator's training and expertise. Investigators applying for IAAI-CFI® certification must complete an extensive application requiring documentation, earn sufficient points for their achievements in education, training, and experience, and pass a comprehensive examination. This is no easy task. Firefighter Harron has served as a Deputy Fire Marshal for the Cape May County Fire Marshal's Office for 20 years. He has conducted thousands of fire investigations over the course of his career. In addition to serving Cape May County, Rich serves on the WFD Fire Investigation Unit and works part-time for NEFCO Fire Investigations.



Four Wildwood City Fire Department Members Receive IFSAC Fire Officer 3 Certification:

In October 2025, Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn, Captain Robert Feltwell, and Firefighter Rich Harron Jr. attended the Fire Officer 3 certification course at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. This certification is the third out of four levels of fire officer certification offered. Fire Officer 3 is the Chief Fire Officer level. The 50-hour certification course focuses on leadership, human resource management, legal issues, intergovernmental relations, budget and finance issues, strategic planning, emergency management, community risk reduction and incident management. These personnel received their State of New Jersey Fire Officer 3 certification in addition to certification through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).



DFC Dunn



Capt. Feltwell



FF R. Harron



Special Units

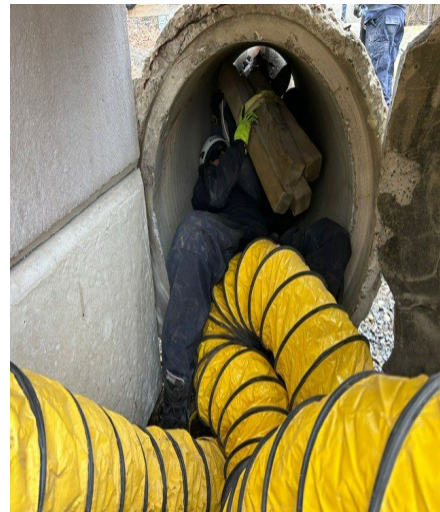
Cape May County Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team

The Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team (CMC USAR) is a highly specialized team of fire department members trained in structural collapse rescue, confined space rescue, high-angle rope rescue, surface ice/water rescue, and trench rescue. The team is a county asset that responds to any such emergencies in Cape May County. The team also responds mutual aid to other Southern New Jersey counties as requested. The two sponsoring and lead agencies of the team are the Wildwood City Fire Department and Ocean City Fire Department. Team members also come from the North Wildwood Fire Department, Cape May City Fire Department, Stone Harbor Fire Department, Town Bank Fire Company, and West Cape May Fire Company.

During 2025, team members conducted several training sessions to maintain competency in the various technical rescue disciplines we provide.



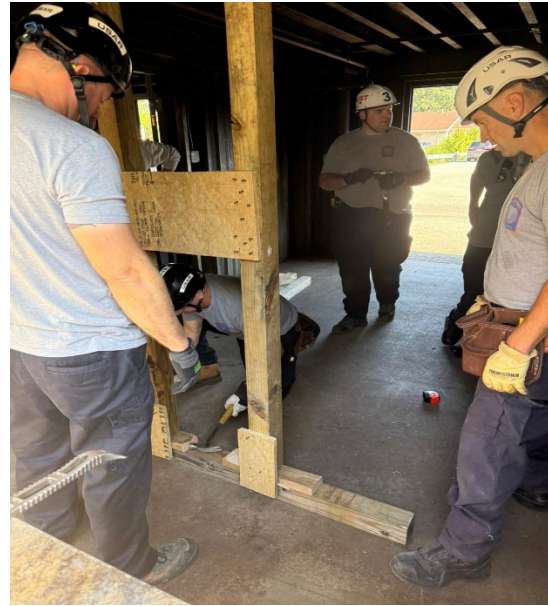
Confined Space/Breaking & Breaching Drill 3/28/25



Trench Rescue Drill 6/30/25



Wildwood City Fire Department



Structural Shoring Drill 9/22/25



Heavy Vehicle Rescue Drill 11/20/25

Special Units - continued

Honor Guard

In 2025, the Honor Guard was privileged to be able to present the colors during the following events:

- North Wildwood St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Wildwood American Legion Post #184 Memorial Day ceremony
- Greater Wildwood Elks Flags of Liberty Veteran Flag Ceremony at the Wildwood Convention Center
- Barefoot Country Music Fest
- Annual Wildwood 9/11 Memorial Service held at Byrne Plaza
- 148th New Jersey State Firemen's Association Convention, Memorial Service



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department



Special Units - continued

Awards Committee

The department's "MEDAL DAY" was held in October to recognize employees of the Wildwood City Fire Department who often perform in a manner that deserves special recognition. The city and command staff identifies and recognizes these individuals because of their various achievements for the years 2022-2024. The ceremony was held on October 18, 2025, and a list of the award recipients is listed below:

- Firefighter Response Awards
Captain Ryan Troiano 2022
Captain Ryan Troiano 2023
Firefighter Rich Harron 2024
- EMS Response Awards
Firefighter Will Gaskill 2022
Firefighter Will Gaskill 2023
Firefighter Mark Nelson 2024
- Administrative Awards
Firefighter Tina Sacco
Firefighter Chad Alvarado
Firefighter John Sharp
- Exceptional Duty Awards
Firefighter Nick Palmer
Firefighter Brendan Phillips
- EMS Lifesaving Awards
Captain Ryan Troiano, Firefighters Darrick Kobierowski, Tina Sacco, Nick Palmer, RayQuan Walker, Dave Speigel, John Snyder, Chad Alvarado, and Hunter John
- Lifesaving Commendation
Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn, Captain Ryan Troiano, Fire Official (Ret.) Dave Bannon, Firefighter Tina Sacco
- EMS Unit Citation Awards
Captains Aldo Sacco, Ryan Troiano, Firefighters Adam Feltwell, Darrick Kobierowski, Rich Harron, Tina Sacco, Dave Speigel, John Snyder, Hunter John
- Fire Unit Citation Awards
Captains Aldo Sacco, Matt Johnson, Rob Feltwell, Ryan Troiano, Fire Official Jacob Spiegel, Firefighters Gerry Vessels, Adam Feltwell, Nick Palmer, Brendan Phillips, RayQuan Walker, John Snyder, and Chad Alvarado

See appendix A for detailed information on the above.

Wildwood City Fire Department



Medal Day 2025



Wildwood City Fire Department

Special Recognition:

On December 10, 2025, at the City of Wildwood Board of Commissioners meeting, three Wildwood City Firefighters were formally recognized and honored for actions that they performed while off duty.

In February 2023, while flying his daughter down to Florida for a college visit, Firefighter Gerard Vessels was alerted to a male passenger reportedly not breathing on the plane. Around the same time, the pilot made the announcement that they would be landing at the Fort Lauderdale airport in 50 minutes. Off-duty Firefighter Vessels immediately went over to the man and found him unconscious in his seat. Firefighter Vessels performed a rapid assessment of the passenger and confirmed that he had a pulse but was in fact not breathing. Firefighter Vessels gave a quick thump to the passenger's chest followed by a sternum rub in an effort to stimulate the passenger enough for him to begin breathing again. His efforts proved to be successful, as the man began breathing on his own before regaining consciousness. The flight was able to continue to its original destination, therefore avoiding having to make an emergency landing.

On August 17, 2024, while attending a school reunion, Firefighter Vessels encountered yet another medical emergency while off duty. This time a fellow classmate informed off-duty Firefighter Vessels that someone had "dropped out." Firefighter Vessels looked over in the direction in which the reporting party mentioned and found a male classmate face down. Firefighter Vessels quickly ran over and rolled the man onto his back as he performed a rapid assessment. The man was unconscious/unresponsive and in cardiac arrest. Firefighter Vessels began doing chest compressions on the man while an off-duty Philadelphia Firefighter and an off-duty Philadelphia Police Officer assisted. Firefighter Vessels quick actions caused the man to regain a pulse before losing it again. Firefighter Vessels once again began chest compressions until his classmate regained and maintained a pulse. The North Wildwood Fire Department arrived along with AtlantiCare paramedics at which time patient care was turned over to them. The man was transported to the hospital and made a full recovery.

On the night of July 28, 2023, at approximately 11:00 pm, while returning home from a family vacation in Lake George, New York, Firefighter John Sharp witnessed two New York State Troopers in a physical altercation with a suspect on Interstate 87 in Albany, NY. John immediately recognized that something was wrong and without hesitation pulled over and asked the Troopers if they needed help, in which case they quickly stated yes. John ran over and helped subdue a combative male subject that had already been tazed, but to no effect. Once the suspect was placed in custody and the situation was under control, Off-duty Firefighter John Sharp simply got back in his vehicle and continued driving home.

Wildwood City Fire Department

On November 6, 2025, Firefighter Nick Palmer was on a flight returning from a family vacation. According to witnesses, Off-duty Firefighter Palmer immediately responded when flight attendants requested medical assistance for a passenger in distress. Without hesitation, Firefighter Palmer immediately stepped forward. Demonstrating calm professionalism and decisive leadership, he took control of the situation and led the effort to stabilize the individual until the flight landed safely. Due to Firefighter Palmer's quick and effective actions, an emergency landing was averted.

Excellent work by Firefighter Vessels, Firefighter Palmer, and Firefighter Sharp for demonstrating the high standards that our department expects of our personnel, both on and off duty.



L to R: Firefighter Nick Palmer, Firefighter John Sharp, Firefighter Gerry Vessels

Office of Emergency Management



Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn heads the Office of Emergency Management (O.E.M.) for the City of Wildwood. The mission of the Emergency Management Division is to develop plans and procedures that provide effective responses to all threats facing the City of Wildwood. By developing and exercising the all-hazards plans, we strive to minimize the impacts of an emergency or disaster on our citizens, visitors, property, the environment, and the City of Wildwood.

The Emergency Management Division works closely with public and private sector partners to ensure we are able to coordinate during an emergency or disaster. This coordination requires planning and close relationships with local, county, state and federal partners.

During 2025, the Wildwood City Office of Emergency Management finalized the revision process of the City's Emergency Operations Plan which was approved by the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. In addition, the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan was updated and will be formally adopted in early 2026. The plans are cyclically updated for approval by FEMA and the State of New Jersey. Constant review and updating of these plans allow the city to be ready in the event of a disaster or emergency that requires the implementation and activation of various emergency support functions.



Community Relations and Outreach

The Wildwood City Fire Department has always been very active within the community with our members belonging to many community and civic organizations promoting the betterment of the city.

We also continuously research and implement new initiatives delivering important fire and life safety messages through various outlets to the citizens, visitors, and our business community.

In 2025, we once again hosted the annual Summer Cadet Firefighter program. Firefighter Nick Palmer heads up this awesome program, and he did a phenomenal job with the camp once again this year.

The Summer Cadet Firefighter program is open to children 10-17 years of age. This four-day summer camp teaches kids the various aspects of firefighting and emergency medical services. The children learned about Engine Company, Truck Company, Rescue Company operations, EMS, and water rescue. The event continues to expand and is looked forward to by not only the children who attend, but also the many firefighters who volunteer their time during the program.



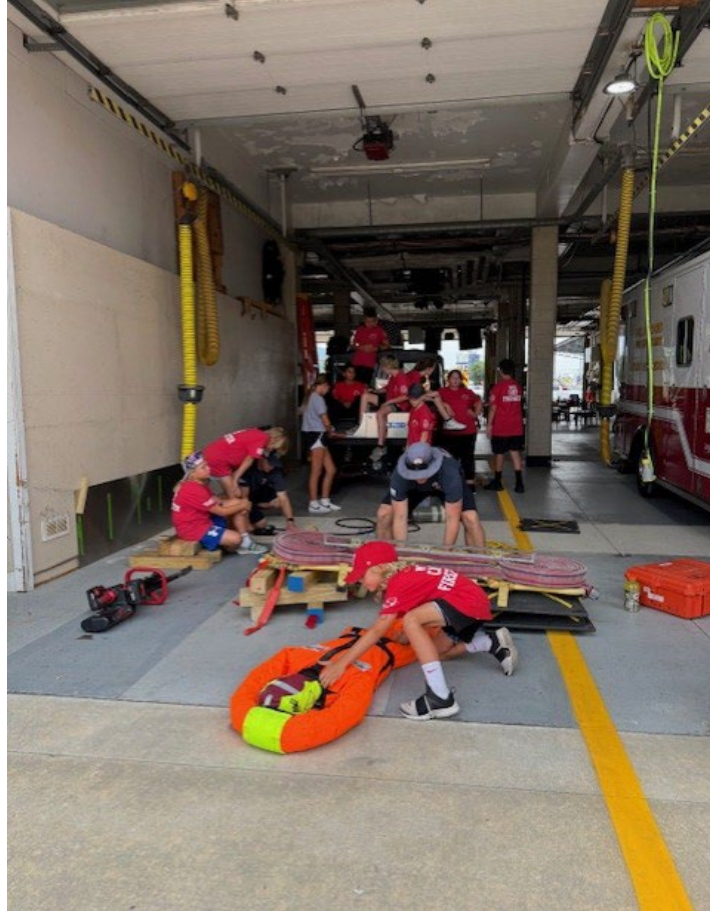
Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood City Fire Department

As always, in addition to the Summer Cadet program, WFD personnel participated in many community events throughout the year including our Adopt-A-School program, Special Olympics of NJ Polar Bear Plunge, community parades and festivals, National Night Out, community barbeques, and so much more. Our personnel frequently work with other local charitable organizations, including the Lunch with Lynch Foundation and the Step Back Foundation to support efforts that benefit the children of our community.



Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge



WCHS Fundraiser



No Limits Youth Boxing Academy



Adopt-A-School-Glenwood Ave. E.S.

Wildwood City Fire Department



Adopt-A-School Program- Wildwood Middle School



Middle Twp. Elementary School 2nd Grade Field Trip

Wildwood City Fire Department



Wildwood National Night Out



Wildwood City Fire Department



2025 Run for the Fallen



Wildwood City Fire Department



2025 Fire Prevention Month Activities



Wildwood City Fire Department



Packing & Delivering Christmas Stockings for Local Schools



Wildwood City Fire Department

September 11th is always remembered by the members of the fire department with the effect it had on our country and the fire service as a whole. In addition to working with the Business Improvement District (B.I.D) in 2025 to host the Annual September 11th memorial service at the Byrne Plaza, Firefighter Kevin Kelly coordinated the 9th Annual Wildwood September 11th Memorial Stair Climb. Each participant pays tribute to a FDNY firefighter by climbing or walking the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. In 2025, the climb was once again held at the Wildwoods Convention Center. 2025's climb raised money for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The event raised over \$5,000.00 for the foundation. This foundation, created in memory of FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller who was killed in the line of duty on 9/11/01, supports the families of fallen first responders and veterans, as well as those catastrophically injured in the line of duty.



Wildwood City Fire Department



2025 9th Annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

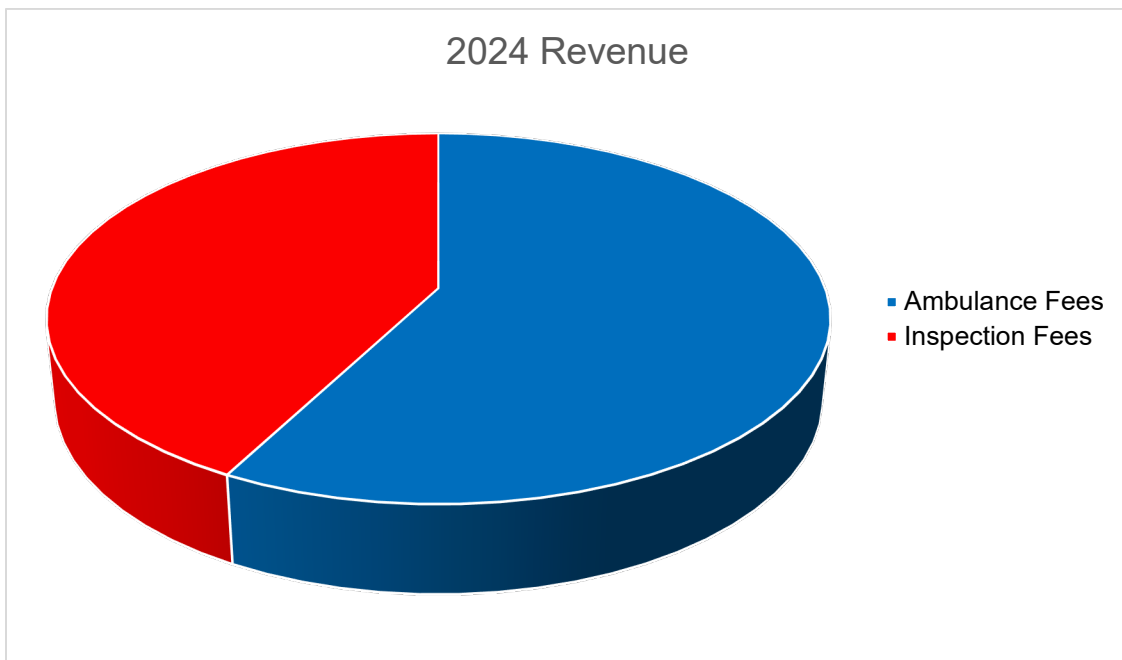


2025 Revenue

The Wildwood City Fire Department offsets many of the costs associated with the services we provide through various fees and permits. The department contracts with a billing agency to administer the fee collection associated with ambulance services.

The fire prevention fees are collected “in-house” with our administrative support staff located in Fire Headquarters.

In 2025, the Wildwood City Fire Department collected a total of **\$931,830.05**.



Fire Safety & Housing Inspection:	\$482,218.08
Emergency Medical Services:	<u>\$537,838.53</u>

Total Revenue for 2025: \$931,830.05

Achievements: 2025

- Hired seven new career firefighters, Ryan Bannon, Domenico Troiano, Mark Nelson, Townsend Godfrey, Blake Horton, Anthony Famiano, and Chase Hunzinger. Four of the positions are new positions funded through a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for three years, while the remaining three filled vacancies in the department.
- Applied for and awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of four (4) powered stair chairs for the department's four BLS ambulances.
- Created new Department Committees including Training, Strategic Planning, Apparatus, and Research & Development.
- Began development of joint mission-specific Standard Operating Procedures with the North Wildwood Fire Department.
- Conducted a full-scale emergency response exercise with the South Jersey Gas Company, North Wildwood Fire Department, and Wildwood Police Department.
- Upgraded EMS equipment with capital funding provided by the city.
- Conducted Active Threat Response training with the Wildwood Police Department, North Wildwood Fire Department, and Wildwood Crest EMS.
- Completed numerous professional development and certification courses for department personnel.
- Successfully staffed the Barefoot County Music Festival.
- Continued and expanded all our community outreach programs including the Adopt-A-School program.

Goals/Objectives: 2026

- Implement new Joint Operating Policies in conjunction with the North Wildwood Fire Department and conduct regular training on them.
- Continue and expand, when possible, all our community outreach programs.
- Produce a final written strategic with the assistance of the strategic planning committee.
- Develop individual professional development plans for all personnel, providing a roadmap for professional growth.
- Complete a review and update of all WFD Operational guidelines.
- Expand training opportunities with our automatic and mutual aid partners.
- Finalize the specifications for a new engine and place order for same.

A Final Word

The Wildwood City Fire Department is dedicated to serving the residents, visitors and community of the City of Wildwood.

The Fire Department continues to explore methods to enhance and improve our services. We always welcome comments from our citizens.

For additional information on the department and the services we provide please visit our social media outlets:



City of Wildwood Website:

www.wildwoodnj.org



Department Website:

<http://wildwoodfiredept.com/>



[@TheShoreHouse38](https://twitter.com/TheShoreHouse38)



https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodCityFD/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel



Instagram

[@wildwoodfiredept.](https://www.instagram.com/wildwoodfiredept)

Contact Information

Administration:

Chief Ernie Troiano III - 609-846-2061
etroiano3@wildwoodnj.gov

Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn - 609-846-2038
d.dunn@wildwoodnj.gov

Administrations Fax # - 609-522-4965

Fire Prevention Bureau:

Fire Official Jacob Spiegel - 609-846-2031
jspiegel@wildwoodnj.gov

Fire Inspector Darrick Kobierowski - 609-846-2033
dkobierowski@wildwoodnj.gov

Admin. Assistant Amelia Ianiro - 609-846-2030
aianiro@wildwoodnj.gov

Fire Stations:

Headquarters Phone (Non-Emergency) - 609-522-1110

A Platoon - Captain Robert Feltwell - rfeltwell@wildwoodnj.gov
B Platoon - Captain Matt Johnson - mjohnson@wildwoodnj.gov
C Platoon - Captain Ryan Troiano - rtroiano@wildwoodnj.gov
D Platoon - Captain Aldo Sacco - asacco@wildwoodnj.gov

Headquarters Fax # - 609-729-7206

Station 3-1 - 609-522-0005
(4310 Washington Avenue)

Station 3-2 - 609-522-2654
(111 E. Pine Ave.)

Appendix A – Awards

Firefighter Response Commendations

Criteria: This is awarded annually to the firefighter who responded to the highest number of fire related incidents during the year.

During 2022 the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 2,044 fire related incidents. These vary from activated fire alarms, motor vehicle crashes to dwelling or building fires.

The 2022 Recipient of the Firefighter Response Award is Captain Ryan Troiano who responded to 417 fire related calls during the year. Capt. Troiano was hired in December 2009 and was promoted to Captain in July 2023.

During 2023 the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 1,949 fire related incidents.

The 2023 Recipient of the Firefighter Response Award is Captain Ryan Troiano who responded to 446 fire related calls during the year. Captain Troiano also received this award for 2022.

During 2024 the City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 1,757 fire related incidents.

The 2024 Recipient of the Firefighter Response Award is Firefighter Richard Harron Jr. who responded to 385 fire related calls during the year. Firefighter Harron was hired full-time in June 2015 and is the Senior Firefighter on the C Platoon.

EMS Response Commendations

Criteria: This is awarded annually to the firefighter who responded to the highest number of EMS related incidents during the year.

During 2022 The City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 2,537 EMS related incidents.

The 2022 Recipient of the EMS Response Award is Firefighter Will Gaskill who responded to 477 medical calls. Firefighter Gaskill was hired part-time in April 2019 and full-time in May 2023. He is currently assigned to the Delta Platoon.

During 2023 The City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 2,231 EMS related incidents.

The 2023 Recipient of the EMS Response Award is Firefighter Will Gaskill who responded to 495 medical calls. Firefighter Gaskill also received this award for 2022.

During 2024 The City of Wildwood Fire Department responded to 2,033 EMS related incidents.

The 2024 Recipient of the EMS Response Award is Firefighter Mark Nelson who responded to 409 medical calls. Firefighter Nelson was hired part-time in May 2023 and full-time in July 2025. He is currently assigned to the B Platoon.

Wildwood City Fire Department

Administrative Commendations

Criteria: This is awarded to a member of the department who has contributed an excessive amount of time and effort into increasing the efficiency of the department.

The Firefighter receiving this commendation has been assigned the responsibility of hose, pump, and ladder testing for the department. She spends countless hours scheduling annual testing, maintaining records, and recommending replacement equipment to the Fire Department Administration.

The Recipient of the Administrative Award is Firefighter Tina Sacco. Firefighter Sacco was the WFD's first female career firefighter hired on June 1, 2016. Firefighter Sacco is currently assigned as the Senior Firefighter of A Platoon.

The Firefighter receiving this commendation has been assigned the responsibility of maintaining the department's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This requires countless hours both on and off duty to handle. The SCBA's are a critical component of our PPE, and this firefighter has done an exceptional job of making sure they are inspected, tested, and maintained according to national standards.

The Recipient of the Administrative Award is Firefighter Chad Alvarado. Firefighter Alvarado was hired in July 2019 and is currently assigned to the A Platoon.

The Firefighter receiving this commendation has been assigned the responsibility of maintaining the department's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This requires countless hours both on and off duty to handle. The SCBA's are a critical component of our PPE, and this firefighter has done an exceptional job of making sure they are inspected, tested, and maintained according to national standards.

The Recipient of the Administrative Award is Firefighter Chad Alvarado. Firefighter Alvarado was hired in July 2019 and is currently assigned to the A Platoon.

The Firefighter receiving this commendation has been assigned the responsibility of maintaining the department's EMS equipment and medical supplies inventory. He has spent countless hours of time both on and off duty to handle these duties. In addition, he has been instrumental in the purchase of various new equipment, supplies, and technologies that have enhanced our capabilities in treating our patients, providing the highest level of care possible.

The Recipient of the Administrative Award is Firefighter John Sharp. Firefighter Sharp was hired in January 2018. Firefighter Sharp is currently assigned to the B Platoon.

Wildwood City Fire Department

Exceptional Duty Commendations

Criteria: This is awarded to a member of the department for the highly credible accomplishment of bringing public acclaim to the department or fire service as a result of devotion to duty.

The WFD Summer Cadet Firefighter Program, started in 2017, has been a huge success. Retired Fire Official William Cripps was at the helm and instrumental in running the program. He turned the reigns over to Firefighter Nick Palmer in 2023. FF Palmer has taken this responsibility seriously and has expanded the program ensuring its continued success each summer. This requires countless hours of his time both on and off duty. The WFD is recognized by many other fire departments for the success of our Cadet Firefighter Program.

The Recipient of the Exceptional Duty Award is Firefighter Nick Palmer. Firefighter Palmer was hired in November 2016. Firefighter Palmer is currently assigned to the A Platoon.

The recipient of this award has taken numerous training and certification courses related to Active Threat and Active Shooter incidents. He has obtained certifications as an Active Shooter Incident Management Instructor, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Instructor, and Rescue Task Force Instructor. He has in turn, developed and delivered training programs for not only the WFD, but the WPD, NWF, NRPD, and other public safety and community agencies and organizations, many on his own time.

The Recipient of the Exceptional Duty Award is Firefighter Brendan Phillips. Firefighter Phillips was hired in November 2016. Firefighter Phillips is currently assigned to the C Platoon.

Lifesaving Commendations

Criteria: To receive the Lifesaving Medal, the firefighter(s) must be a member of the department who is principally involved in saving the life of another person and whose personal actions were directly responsible for saving that life. (non-EMS)

On October 20, 2022, at 5:41 p.m. the WFD was dispatched to 4209 New Jersey Ave. for a reported building fire. Arriving firefighters encountered heavy fire from several windows of a second-floor apartment, with a tenant trapped in an adjacent apartment. The tenant's only means of egress was cut off by the fire and heavy smoke began filling his apartment. Off-Duty Mount Laurel FF Mike Blair quickly raised a ground ladder while Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn donned his PPE. FF Blair passed a cat out of the window to DFC Dunn who brought the cat down. FF Blair then exited the ladder and Captain Ryan Troiano and DFC Dunn ascended the ladder. Capt. Troiano entered the window and helped guide the occupant onto the ladder where DFC Dunn was located. DFC Dunn then guided the subject to safety. Firefighters Dave Bannon and Tina Sacco then ascended the now two ladders. Capt. Troiano lifted the tenant's very large dog out the window to Firefighter's Bannon and Sacco who brought the animal down to safety.

The following individuals are awarded the Lifesaving Medal for their personal actions in saving this victim's life:

Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Dunn
Captain Ryan Troiano
Fire Official (Ret.) Dave Bannon
Firefighter Tina Sacco

Wildwood City Fire Department

Lifesaving Commendations continued

On October 25, 2023, at 7:25 p.m., Wildwood City Firefighters were dispatched to the area of Poplar & the Bay in West Wildwood for a water rescue assignment. Upon arrival, Firefighters could hear people yelling for help in the darkness. At this time Firefighter's John Sharp & Will Gaskill entered the water on rescue boards in search of the victims. FF Sharp & Gaskill were able to locate the 1st victim who was clinging to the top of a capsized waverunner. They assisted him onto NWFN's Rescue Board with FF Quinton Brown. FF Sharp & Gaskill continued searching and located the second victim who was brought to shore on a Good Samaritan boat.

The following individuals are awarded the Lifesaving Medal for their personal actions in saving these victims' lives:

Firefighter John Sharp
Firefighter Will Gaskill

EMS Lifesaving Awards

Criteria: To receive the EMS lifesaving commendation, the firefighter(s) must be a member of the department who are principally involved in saving the life of another person and whose personal actions were directly responsible for saving that life.

On July 28, 2023, at 2:44 p.m. Ambulance 3-2 and Squad Co. 3 (Charlie Platoon) were dispatched to Schellenger's Restaurant located at 3516 Atlantic Ave. for the report of an unconscious and unresponsive person with bystanders preparing to do CPR. Ambulance 3-2's crew quickly arrived and found a 68-year-old male patient with agonal breathing and no palpable pulse. Bystanders also reported that the patient had cardiac history and suffered a heart attack in 2020. Members of the C Platoon immediately began CPR. The patient was shocked with an (AED) 5 times prior to the arrival of AtlantiCare paramedics. A pulse was briefly felt but quickly lost, therefore members continued performing CPR. The patient was shocked for a sixth time as medics got onboard. Primary patient care was taken over by the paramedics while Ambulance 3-2's crew continued to assist. While enroute to Cape Regional Medical Center, crews found that the patient had regained a pulse, one that was strong enough and consistent enough to have a Medevac requested to land at the National Guard Armory in Cape May Court House. Ambulance 3-2 and Medic 9 diverted to the landing zone where patient care was then transferred to the crew of JeffStat 4. The patient was flown to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus. The patient was able to make a full recovery and had later stopped by fire headquarters to reunite with the crew that saved his life.

The Citation for EMS Lifesaving is being awarded to Firefighters, Hunter John, Tina Sacco, Darrick Kobierowski, and Capt. Ryan Troiano

Wildwood City Fire Department

EMS Lifesaving Awards continued

On January 31, 2024, at 6:11 p.m. Ambulance 3 and Squad Co. 3 (Charlie Platoon) responded to Acme located at 5300 Park Blvd. for the report of someone having a seizure inside their vehicle. Upon arrival crews found an 82-year-old male partially in the driver's seat of his vehicle. Bystanders and family stated they believed he may be having a stroke and advised that he had suffered a stroke about a year earlier. They also told crews that the patient stated that he did not feel well just prior to collapsing. A primary assessment was performed, and the patient was placed onto the stretcher and into that back of the ambulance where he was given high flow oxygen. As the crew began to obtain a set of vitals and perform a secondary assessment, the patient went into cardiac arrest. AtlantiCare Paramedics arrived on location and began performing their assessment while WFD members performed CPR. As Medic 5's crew attempted to intubate the patient he suddenly began to gag. Crews immediately stopped CPR and checked the patient for a pulse. The patient had a pulse of 117bpm. The patient then became verbal and even stated that he was cold. A medevac was requested and the patient was transported, with Medic 5 on board, to the landing zone at Maxwell Field. The patient was flown to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus by JeffStat 4. The patient went on to recover and returned home.

The Citation for EMS Lifesaving is awarded to Firefighters Hunter John, John Snyder, Tina Sacco, Darrick Kobierowski, and Capt. Ryan Troiano

On June 24, 2024, at 11:39 a.m. Ambulance 3 (Alpha Platoon) responded mutual aid to North Wildwood Fire Department's Headquarters for a walk-in medical. Ambulance 3 arrived on location and found a 57-year-old female sitting in her boyfriend's vehicle conscious, alert, and oriented speaking with members of the NWF. Ambulance 3's crew made patient contact and found the patient complaining of chest pain and numbness beginning in both of her arms. The patient was placed on the stretcher and into the back of Ambulance 3 for transport. AtlantiCare Paramedics (Medic 9) arrived on scene. Medics began taking Advanced Life Support (ALS) measures and quickly determined the patient was having a STEMI and requested a medevac to the National Guard Armory. Ambulance 3's crew continued providing Basic Life Support (BLS) and administered 324mg of baby aspirin to help alleviate the patient's chest pain. Approximately 5 minutes later the patient stated that she was feeling really weird and went into Ventricular Fibrillation (V-Fib) before losing a pulse. Ambulance 3's crew immediately began CPR and applied an AED. After administering 1 shock with the AED the patient regained a pulse. The patient was transported to the landing zone with Medic 9 in stable condition before being air lifted to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus by JeffStat 4's crew. The 57-year-old female recovered and was able to return home.

The Citation for EMS Lifesaving is being awarded to Firefighters Dave Spiegel and RayQuan Walker

Wildwood City Fire Department

EMS Lifesaving Awards continued

On July 8, 2024, at 7:31 p.m. Squad Co. 3 (Charlie Platoon) responded to 122 E. Glenwood Ave. for a possible overdose. Squad Co. 3 arrived and found a 56-year-old male unconscious and unresponsive. A WPD officer administered Narcan prior to the FD's arrival. The patient was not breathing and had a rapid heart rate before losing a pulse. Squad Co. 3's crew began CPR and applied the AED. 1 shock was delivered, but the patient remained pulseless. Ambulance 3-1's crew was able to clear a prior call and arrived on scene. Once on scene Ambulance 3-1's crew assumed patient care and continued with CPR before delivering a second shock. The patient regained a pulse after the second shock. Members then loaded the patient onto the Reeves litter and carried him down to the stretcher where he was secured and placed in the ambulance for transport. AtlantiCare Paramedics (Medic 9) arrived on scene and began Advanced Life Support (ALS) while Ambulance 3-1's crew continued with Basic Life Support (BLS). A medevac was requested but denied due to weather conditions. Ambulance 3-1 and Medic 9 drove to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus where patient care was turned over to the hospital staff. The patient recovered and was released from the hospital.

The Citation for EMS Lifesaving is being awarded to Firefighters Hunter John, John Snyder, Tina Sacco, Darrick Kobierowski, and Capt. Ryan Troiano

On September 20, 2024, at 7:17 p.m. Ambulance 3 (Delta Platoon) responded to the Heart of Wildwood Motel for the report of a sick person. Upon arrival Ambulance 3's crew was directed to an upper-level motel room where they found a 62-year-old male conscious, alert, and oriented. The patient stated that he was experiencing chest discomfort, abdominal pain and fatigue for the past hour and that he took a prescribed nitroglycerin tablet approximately 20 minutes before calling 911. The patient also stated that he had never felt that way before and just wanted his vital checked. Ambulance 3's crew obtained a set of vitals and advised the patient that it would be in his best interest to go to the hospital for further evaluation. The patient was reluctant to go. While obtaining the patient's demographics a second set of vitals were taken. Ambulance 3's crew once again expressed their concern and advised the patient that he should be seen by a doctor at the hospital. The patient remained reluctant to go, but the crew remained persistent and the patient finally agreed to go, but only if he walked down the stairs and his family took him. The crew assisted the patient down the stairs to the street level at which time the patient stated that he wanted to go by way of ambulance. While assisting the patient to the ambulance, he suddenly collapsed. The patient was now in cardiac arrest with agonal breathing. Ambulance 3's crew began CPR and requested assistance from Squad Co. 3 as well as paramedics. Ambulance 3's crew continued performing CPR while delivering shock with the AED. After numerous rounds of CPR and 4 shocks with the AED, the patient regained a steady pulse. Capt. Sacco requested a medevac unit to land at Maxwell Field. AtlantiCare Paramedics (Medic 5) arrived on scene, were given a report, and began Advanced Life Support (ALS) measures. The patient, along with medics, were transported to the landing zone where he was transferred to JeffStat 4's crew and flown to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus. The patient has since made a full recovery and remains in contact with members of the WFD who saved his life that day.

The Citation for EMS Lifesaving is being awarded to Firefighters Nick Palmer and Chad Alvarado

Wildwood City Fire Department

EMS Unit Citations

Criteria: The EMS Unit Citation medal is presented to a group of firefighters or EMTs who act as a team in effecting a rescue involving human life during an emergency medical call.

On September 24, 2022, the City of Wildwood was overrun by an illegal car rally called H20i. At approximately 9:18 p.m., the WFD was dispatched to the area of Rio & Park Blvd. for a MVC reported as vehicle vs. low-speed vehicle. Upon arrival firefighters found the driver of the LSV who had been ejected, laying face down in the street. The patient suffered multiple critical traumatic injuries. The patient was rapidly packaged and transported to a landing zone at Maxwell Field where he was transported to ACRM City Division Trauma Center. The patient went on to recover from his injuries.

While preparing to clear from this incident, the WFD was dispatched to the 4600 block of Atlantic Ave. with reported multiple injuries and a vehicle into a building. Upon arrival, units found one patient DOA on the sidewalk, with two occupants trapped in a vehicle, and another patient in the middle of the street. Squad Co. 3 began extrication of the two victims in the car, both of whom were critically injured. Squad Co. 3 and Ladder Co. 2 extricated the victims from the vehicle. One of the patients was flown via medevac helicopter to ACRM City Division Trauma Center and the driver was ground transported and later airlifted to the Trauma Center. The driver recovered from her injuries, but the passenger unfortunately succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

The EMS Unit Citation is awarded to Captain Aldo Sacco, Firefighters Rich Harron, Tina Sacco, and David Speigel for their actions taken at both of these incidents. Their actions prevented further loss of life during this tragic unsanctioned event.

On July 9, 2024, at 10:50 p.m. while returning from an incident, Squad Co. 3 (C Platoon) overheard WPD being dispatched for a shooting in the area of Cattle & Clover at 3817 Pacific Ave. Without hesitation, Squad Co. 3 immediately responded to the scene. They found a female victim with a gunshot wound to the head. And began immediate patient care. Ambulance 3-1 arrived on scene, and the patient was loaded to the ambulance. Due to the weather at the time, a medevac helicopter could not fly, and the patient was transported to ACRM City Division Trauma Center. The patient was subsequently released and was able to return to her home county of Lithuania and has made a remarkable recovery.

The EMS Unit Citation is awarded to Captain Ryan Troiano, Firefighters Darrick Kobierowski, Rich Harron, John Snyder and Hunter John. Their actions and treatment of this patient ensured that this incident did not result in a tragic outcome.

Wildwood City Fire Department

EMS Unit Citations continued

On September 20, 2024, at 7:17 p.m. Ambulance 3 (Delta Platoon) responded to the Heart of Wildwood Motel for the report of a sick person. Upon arrival Ambulance 3's crew was directed to an upper-level motel room where they found a 62-year-old male conscious, alert, and oriented. The patient stated that he was experiencing chest discomfort, abdominal pain and fatigue for the past hour and that he took a prescribed nitroglycerin tablet approximately 20 minutes before calling 911. The patient also stated that he had never felt that way before and just wanted his vital checked. Ambulance 3's crew obtained a set of vitals and advised the patient that it would be in his best interest to go to the hospital for further evaluation. The patient was reluctant to go. While obtaining the patient's demographics a second set of vitals were taken. Ambulance 3's crew once again expressed their concern and advised the patient that he should be seen by a doctor at the hospital. The patient remained reluctant to go, but the crew remained persistent and the patient finally agreed to go, but only if he walked down the stairs and his family took him. The crew assisted the patient down the stairs to the street level at which time the patient stated that he wanted to go by way of ambulance. While assisting the patient to the ambulance, he suddenly collapsed. The patient was now in cardiac arrest with agonal breathing. Ambulance 3's crew began CPR and requested assistance from Squad Co. 3 as well as paramedics. Ambulance 3's crew continued performing CPR while delivering shock with the AED. After numerous rounds of CPR and 4 shocks with the AED, the patient regained a steady pulse. Capt. Sacco requested a medevac unit to land at Maxwell Field. AtlantiCare Paramedics (Medic 5) arrived on scene, were given a report, and began Advanced Life Support (ALS) measures. The patient, along with medics, were transported to the landing zone where he was transferred to JeffStat 4's crew and flown to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus. The patient has since made a full recovery and remains in contact with members of the WFD who saved his life that day.

The EMS Unit Citation is awarded to Captain Aldo Sacco, Firefighters Adam Feltwell, and Rich Harron for their teamwork in assisting Firefighters Palmer and Alvarado on this incident.

Fire Unit Citations

Criteria: The Fire Unit Citation medal is presented to a group of firefighters who act as a team in effecting a rescue involving human life on a fire or rescue operation or whose actions prevented a substantial loss to critical infrastructure or property.

On October 20, 2022, at 5:41 p.m., the WFD was dispatched to 4209 New Jersey Ave. for a reported building fire. Arriving firefighters encountered heavy fire from several windows of a second-floor apartment, with a tenant trapped in an adjacent apartment. While a ground ladder window rescue operation was underway, Squad Co. 3 (A Platoon) quickly stretched a 1-3/4" attack hoseline to the fire apartment on the second floor and began an aggressive interior attack, quickly knocking down the heavy fire conditions.

The Fire Unit Citation is being award to Captain Robert Feltwell, Firefighters Nick Palmer, RayQuan Walker, John Snyder, and Chad Alvarado for their quick and aggressive actions which placed a hoseline between the fire and trapped victim while the rescue operation was underway.

Wildwood City Fire Department

Fire Unit Citations continued

On July 7, 2023, at 12:03 p.m., Squad Co. 3 (D Platoon) and Ladder Co. 2 were dispatched to 505 W. Oak Ave., the Atlantic City Electric Wildwood Substation for a reported fire. Upon arrival, Deputy 3 reported a working fire in the building at the substation. The incident was quickly upgraded to a 1st alarm assignment bringing Quint 3 to the scene. The crew formulated a plan to attack the fire using multiple dry chemical extinguishers along with positive pressure ventilation. This attack was successful and prevented additional damage from occurring to the substation which feeds the entire island of the Wildwoods.

The Fire Unit Citation is awarded to Captain Aldo Sacco, Captain Ryan Troiano, Firefighters Adam Feltwell, Nick Palmer, Brendan Phillips, RayQuan Walker, John Snyder, Jake Spiegel, Chad Alvarado, and Hunter John for their actions taken to prevent significant damage to critical infrastructure.

On October 25, 2023, at 7:25 p.m., Wildwood City Firefighters were dispatched to the area of Poplar & the Bay in West Wildwood for a water rescue assignment. Upon arrival, Firefighters could hear people yelling for help in the darkness. At this time Firefighter's John Sharp & Will Gaskill entered the water on rescue boards in search of the victims. FF Sharp & Gaskill were able to locate the 1st victim who was clinging to the top of a capsized waverunner. They assisted him onto NWF's Rescue Board with FF Quinton Brown. FF Sharp & Gaskill continued searching and located the second victim who was brought to shore on a Good Samaritan boat. Squad Co. 3 (B Platoon) set up ladders to remove the victims from the water and supported the rescue operation.

The Fire Unit Citation is awarded to Captain Matthew Johnson, Firefighters Gerry Vessels and Brendan Phillips for their actions taken in support of this successful rescue operation.

On February 11, 2024, at 5:02 a.m. Squad Co. 3 (D Platoon) was dispatched to the 400 W. block of 26th Ave. for a barricaded subject with a strong odor of gas. The barricaded subject had turned all gas appliances on in the home with the intent of causing an explosion. Firefighter Nick Palmer donned a ballistic vest and helmet and under cover by SWAT personnel, approached the dwelling and successfully turned the gas service off at the meter. The rest of the crew was at the ready to back up Firefighter Palmer if need be.

The Fire Unit Citation is awarded to Captain Aldo Sacco, Firefighters Adam Feltwell, Nick Palmer, and Chad Alvarado for their actions taken to prevent a possible catastrophic explosion and loss of human life.

Wildwood City Fire Department

The Stork Commendation

Criteria: To receive the Stork Commendation the member(s) of the department must deliver a newborn baby in the field prior to arrival at the ER.

On June 28, 2023, at 11:01 p.m. Squad Co. 3 (C Platoon) responded to 4610 Ocean Ave., the Days Inn Motel for a woman in labor. NWFD Ambulance 2 responded mutual aid as WFD's ambulance was committed on another incident. Upon arrival, firefighters found a female patient in active labor. The patient was pregnant with twins. She was loaded into the ambulance for transport. Firefighter Tina Sacco boarded the ambulance to assist with patient care during transport. While enroute to the hospital, the ambulance had to pull over as one of the babies' head started presenting. At this time, Firefighter Sacco successfully delivered the first baby, which was a boy. Transport was continued and the baby's twin brother was born in the hospital shortly after arrival.

The Stork Commendation is awarded to Firefighter Tina Sacco for the successful delivery of a healthy baby boy in the field prior to arrival at the hospital.