

# **WILDWOOD CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



**Prepared by:**  
**Fire Chief Ernie Troiano III**  
**Deputy Fire Chief Daniel M. Dunn**  
**Fire Official David Bannon**

**Released: February 19, 2025**

## **Executive Summary**

During 2024, members of the department responded to 3,790 emergency calls. Members completed 7,918 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.

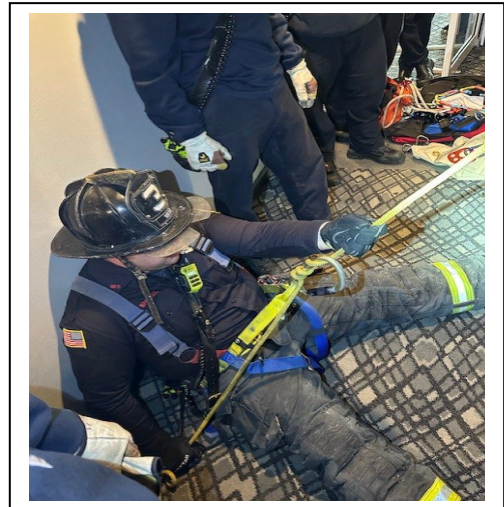
The Wildwood City Fire Department continues to offer open water rescue responses during the “shoulder season” for our island community when the beach patrol is no longer in service. We also continue to support the A.L.E.R.T. (After-hours Lifeguard Emergency Response Team) in conjunction with the Wildwood 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 2024, team members completed monthly-based core discipline 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 officer development classes and tactical courses. Training and being prepared for the unknown is always at the forefront of our department.

During the 2024 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

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- Open Water Rescue
- Elevator Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication
- 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

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## **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 2024, our department received notification that we were awarded the American Rescue Plan Firefighters grant in the amount of \$52,000 through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs that we applied for in 2023. This grant was applied for to replace the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) on our first due apparatus, Squad Co. 3. The new SCBA (Air Packs) were purchased and placed in service in 2024. In addition, in 2024 we applied for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of two automatic chest compression devices (Lucas Devices) and ten new Automated External Defibrillators (AED's). We received notice in August that we were awarded the grant for \$51,182.85. The equipment was purchased and placed in service on our front-line vehicles. We also applied for another Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of powered stair chairs for our ambulances. We await notification on the status of that grant in 2025.

Also in 2024, the Wildwood City Fire Department applied for a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant for the hiring of four additional full-time firefighters. In September we were notified that our department was fortunate enough to be selected for this highly competitive grant. The grant award is for over \$1.5 million and will cover the salaries and benefits for three full years of four new full-time firefighters who will be hired in 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

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## **Former President Donald J. Trump Rally May 11, 2024**

The City of Wildwood hosted Former President Donald J. Trump on our world-famous beach for a campaign rally on Saturday May 11, 2024. The event brought well over 100,000 people to the island over the course of the weekend. The Wildwood City Fire Department, working in conjunction with our local, state, and federal partners, helped to provide a safe and secure site for the large rally. The members of the Wildwood City Fire Department proudly staffed this large event. There were only 5 minor medical incidents during the event that were rapidly handled by WFD personnel. Once again, as was the case in January, 2020, when the city hosted, then, President Trump for a campaign rally, the City of Wildwood showed that it can effectively, efficiently, and most importantly safely host large events within the city.



Aerial View of Crowd Inside Event Venue



President Trump on Stage at Rally



View From Rear of Stage

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **Barefoot Country Music Festival June 20-23, 2024**

Once again, the largest special event staffed by WFD members during 2024 was the Barefoot Country Music Festival. This was the fourth year for the four-day event that featured some of country music's hottest and talented artists with over 40 musical acts performing. Headliners for the show included Old Dominion, Jake Owen, Scotty McCreery, Keith Urban, Kane Brown, Bailey Zimmerman and Luke Bryan. The event was once again a huge success and a great event that benefited businesses throughout the island. During the four-days, Wildwood Firefighters had 197 patient contacts, the majority of which were for minor cuts and scrapes requiring bandages. Fifteen (15) patients required transport to the hospital over the four days. This event once again displayed all that the City of Wildwood has to offer in a safe, family-oriented venue.

View of Crowd at BCMF 6/22/24





View of USAF Flyover at BCMF 6/21/24





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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. Our core values of **Teamwork, Integrity, and Excellence** is not only instilled in our personnel, but should be expected by the public. The City of Wildwood Fire Department proudly provides Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) coverage for the numerous special events that occur throughout the many venues the city has to offer. Although the department responded to fewer calls for service than the previous two years, this does not take away from the intense nature of calls in which we responded to and the fact that lives were saved as a result of the efforts put forth by the men and woman of our department.

The fire department administration continues to recognize societal changes and the growing needs of our communities. In our ongoing commitment to providing the highest level of service to our residents and visitors, we continue to seek funding sources and remain persistent in the grant seeking process. As a result, we were fortunate enough to receive a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (S.A.F.E.R.) Grant affording us the opportunity to hire four new full-time Firefighter/EMTs in 2025. Of course, none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our Public Safety Commissioner, Steve Mikulski, Commissioner Krista McConnell, and Mayor Ernie Troiano Jr. Another goal of ours was to continue strengthening the bonds and working relationships between our mutual aid companies. The relationships with our brothers and sisters protecting our neighboring communities have greatly improved. Thus, allowing all of us to provide a much higher level of service.

Moving forward in 2025, we look to continuing and improving our working relationships, not only with our mutual aid partners, but the Wildwood Police Department and our City officials. The City of 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.

It is my honor to present the 2024 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

## 2024 Personnel Milestones

### **Retirements:**

On June 1, 2024, Firefighter/Fire Inspector Mark Allen retired after 25 years of dedicated service with the City of Wildwood Fire Department. Firefighter Allen served as a Senior Firefighter on shift until being assigned as a Fire Inspector in the Fire Prevention Bureau in 2016. Firefighter Allen also served as the Department's Incident Safety Officer. Firefighter Allen received several commendations and citations throughout his career. We wish Firefighter Allen good health and happiness in his next chapter!



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **Appointments:**

On January 18, 2024, Probationary Firefighter Joseph McCauley was hired as a career firefighter. Joe served as a Volunteer Duty Crew Firefighter from 2020 to 2021 and has served as a part-time Firefighter/EMT for the department since 2022. Joe has been assigned to the D Platoon under the command of Capt. Aldo Sacco for his probationary period.



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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On May 1, 2024, Probationary Firefighter Michael Drennen was hired as a career firefighter. Mike served as a part-time Firefighter/EMT for the department since 2022. Mike also served in the USCG TRACEN Fire Dept. in Cape May as an Active-Duty USCG member. Mike now serves as a reservist with the USCG Atlantic Strike Team. Mike has been assigned to the B Platoon under the command of Capt. Matt Johnson for his probationary period.



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **Administration:**

### **Fire Chief**

Ernie Troiano III

### **Deputy Fire Chief**

Daniel Dunn

### **Administrative Assistants**

Kelly Sweger & Amelia Ianiro

## **Fire Prevention Bureau:**

### **Fire Official**

David Bannon

### **Fire Inspector (Ret. 6/1/24)**

Mark Allen

### **Fire Inspector**

Jake Spiegel

### **Part-time Fire Inspectors**

Sean McDevitt

Ray Conover

Julio Rivera

Jim Munda

## **Operations:**

### **A Platoon**

Captain Robert Feltwell

Firefighter Rich Harron

Firefighter Rayquan Walker

Firefighter Dave Spiegel

Firefighter Kevin Kelly

### **B Platoon**

Captain Matt Johnson

Firefighter Gerry Vessels

Firefighter Brendan Phillips

Firefighter John Sharp

Firefighter Will Gaskill

Prob. Firefighter Michael Drennen

### **C Platoon**

Captain Ryan Troiano

Firefighter Darrick Kobierowski

Firefighter Tina Sacco

Firefighter John Snyder

Firefighter Hunter John

### **D Platoon**

Captain Aldo Sacco

Firefighter Adam Feltwell

Firefighter Nick Palmer

Firefighter Chad Alvarado

Prob. Firefighter Joseph McCauley

## **Part-time Firefighters**

Ryan Bannon

Jeremy Embs

Zachary Lex

Jared Sweeten

Seamus Carey

Nick Englebert

Mark Nelson

Dom Troiano

Gabe Dalbow

Aiden Kelly

Gavin Rosenello



**2024 Department Photo**



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **In Memorium:**

During 2024, our Department lost two life members of the Department. Though gone, they are not forgotten and we honor them for their loyal and dedicated service to the community:

- Firefighter Robert J. Scully- Holly Beach Fire Co.
- Firefighter James Troiano- Holly Beach Fire Co.



**Firefighter Robert J. Scully**  
6/15/1933-3/1/2024



**Firefighter James Troiano**  
9/19/1956-7/15/2024



## **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 4-5 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 2024, the City of Wildwood responded to nearly 3,800 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 maintains 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

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## 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 maintains 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 3,790 CALLS FOR SERVICE
- 21 CAREER PERSONNEL ACROSS 4 PLATOONS
- 2,033 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL INCIDENTS
- 1,757 – SQUAD/ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES

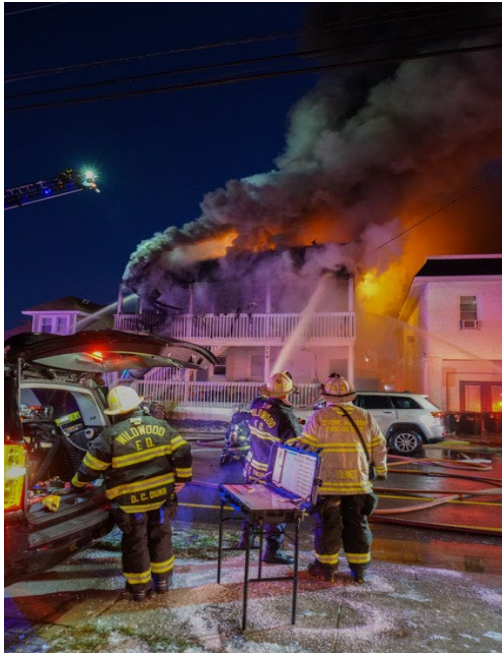
# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **2024 Fire Responses**

Building/Structure Fires	17
Cooking Fires	17
Trash/Rubbish/Dumpster Fires	9
Brush/Grass/Mulch Fires	13
Other Fires (Vehicles, Equipment, etc.)	7
Assist EMS	617
Motor Vehicle Crashes	74
Water Rescues	12
Elevator Rescues	19
Technical Rescues	2
Gas Leaks	58
Power Lines Down	38
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	16
Electrical Wiring, Equipment Problems	35
Landing Zone Assignments (MedEvac)	24
Carbon Monoxide Incidents	9
Water or Steam Leaks	12
Assist Police Department	22
Public Service	39
Assist Physically Disabled	48
Smoke Scares, Odor of Smoke	14
No Incident Found on Arrival	5
Activated Fire Alarms	395
False Carbon Monoxide Alarms	8
Sprinkler Activations	6
Hazardous Materials Responses	10
Building Collapses, Weakened Structure	6
Dispatched & Cancelled Enroute	166
Miscellaneous Incidents	59
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>1,757</b>

## **2024 Fire Responses**



320 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. 1/22/24



134 E. Roberts Ave. 5/22/24



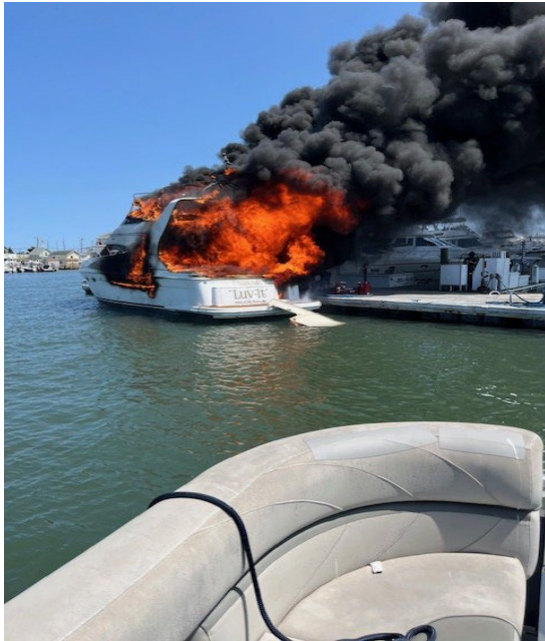
128 Maryland Ave. Villas 6/20/24



13 Arrowwood Rd. Cold Spring 7/10/24

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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5100 Lake Rd. 8/22/24



119 E. Garfield Ave. 9/5/24



435 W. Andrews Ave. 11/22/24



224 W. Wildwood Ave. 12/5/24



## **2024 EMS Responses**

Alcohol, drugs, overdose, toxins	132
Cardiac, chest pains, hypotension, hypertension	96
Bleeding, trauma, injuries, assaults	385
Weakness, malaise, sickness, dizziness, pain	502
Respiratory, shortness of breath, dyspnea	117
Seizure, stroke, neurological, unconscious, syncopal episodes, diabetic, hypoglycemic, altered mental status	223
Behavioral, depression, suicidal, anxiety, hallucination	84
General (DOA, fever, dehydration, allergic reaction, OB/Gyn.)	494
<b>Total Emergency Medical Service Responses</b>	<b>2,033</b>

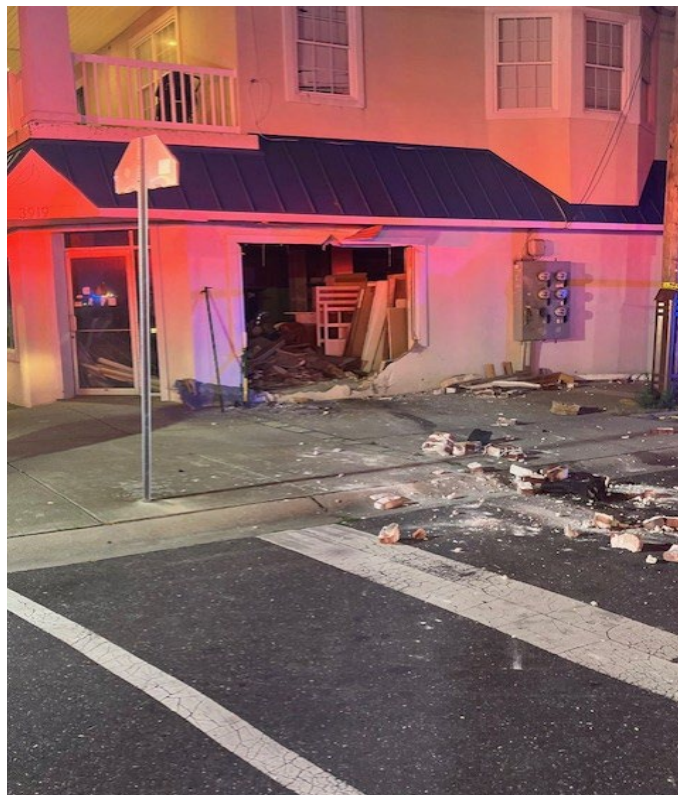


# Wildwood City Fire Department

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Spencer and Pacific Ave. 6/7/24  
Vehicle vs. Two Buildings and Numerous Other Vehicles & Objects



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## **Notable Incident: Boat/Marina Fire August 22, 2024**

On Friday August 22, 2024 at approximately 12:45 hours, Squad Co. 3 and North Wildwood FD Ladder Co. 2 were dispatched to 5100 Lake Rd. at the Schooner Island Marina for a reported fire on the fuel dock. Erma Fire Company Station 62 was also dispatched as the marina is located in their jurisdiction. Upon arrival, first arriving WFD crews found a 42' pleasure vessel heavily involved in fire moored to the fuel dock. The incident was quickly upgraded to a 1<sup>st</sup> alarm assignment bringing off-duty Wildwood City firefighters, Wildwood Crest FD, and Rio Grande FD to the scene. Squad Co. 3 began an aggressive attack on the fire which had extended to a shed building on the dock as well as to the dock itself. Fire boats also responded from the North Wildwood FD and Stone Harbor FD. The vessel involved eventually sank due to the large amount of water being used to extinguish the fire. There was a subsequent fuel fire on the water that was contained utilizing foam. The fire was placed under control within 40 minutes. A 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm was subsequently transmitted for additional manpower to rotate operating fire crews bringing Stone Harbor FD and Villas FD to the scene. Four marina employees were evaluated on scene for smoke inhalation by Wildwood Crest EMS. Crews operated on the scene for about 3.5 hours. This incident proved very challenging as it occurred during the very busy summer season in a densely populated marina with numerous exposures. The Wildwood City Fire Department thanks all of our automatic and mutual aid partners for their assistance during this incident, as well as the Wildwood and Lower Township Police Departments, New Jersey State Police, United States Coast Guard, and Sea Tow Cape May for their assistance and resources during the incident. We also thank the Middle Township Ambulance Corps for providing firefighter rehabilitation at the scene

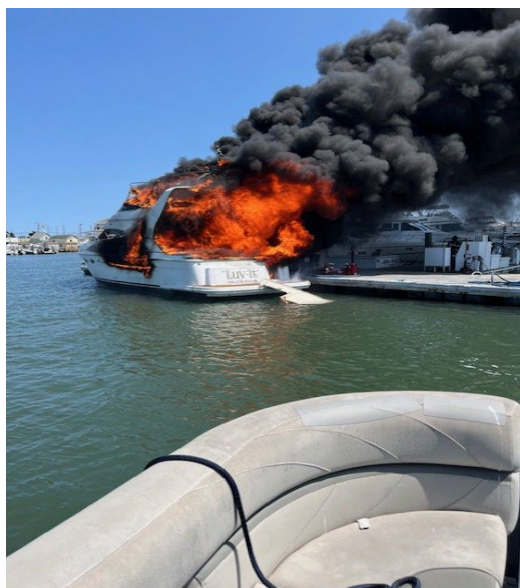


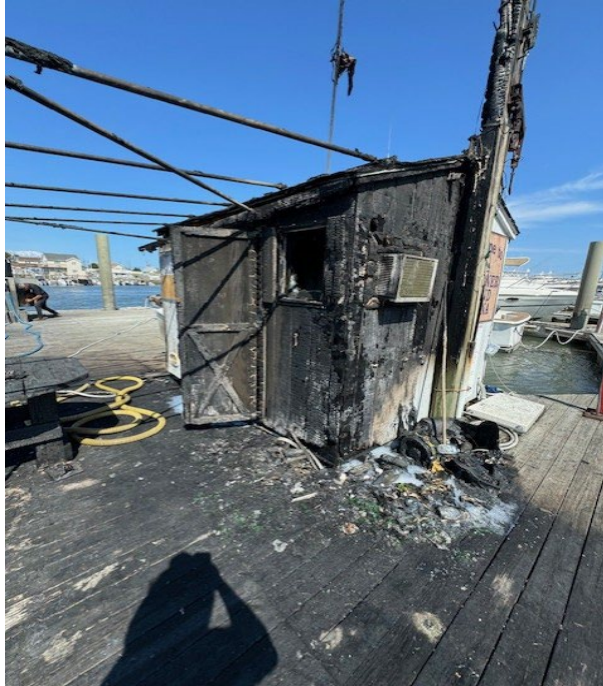
Photo Taken Shortly After Fire Department Arrival



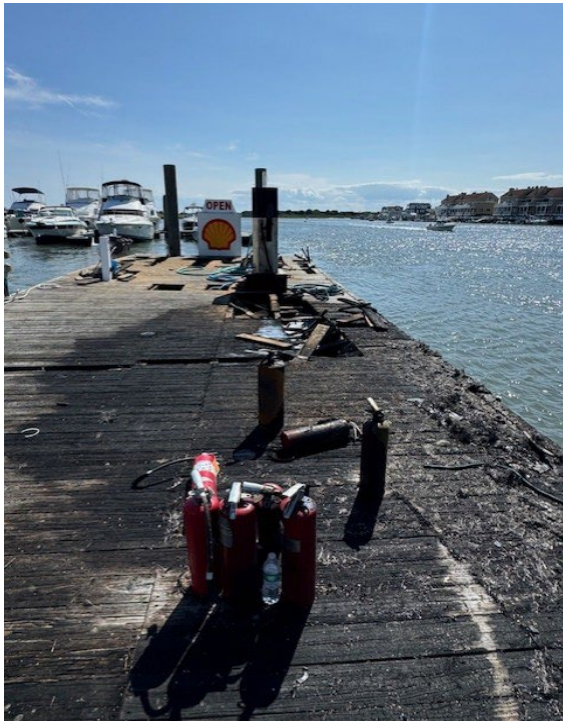
Stone Harbor Fire Boat 13 in Operation



Firefighters Conducting Fire Suppression of Fuel Fire on Water



Shed on Fuel Dock Damaged in Fire



Fire Damage to Fuel Dock



View from Area of George Redding Bridge

## Fire Prevention Bureau



The Bureau of Fire Prevention is headed by Fire Official Dave Bannon. Firefighter Jake Spiegel is detailed to the bureau as a Fire Inspector and also serves as the Fire-Subcode Official for the City. 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.



## **Fire Inspection Bureau Activities for 2024**

### **New Jersey Uniform Fire Code Inspections**

<b>Periodic Initial Inspections:</b>	<b>4,117</b>
<b>Reinspections:</b>	<b>1,282</b>
<b>Complaints:</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Follow-Ups:</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Other Inspection Activities:</b>	<b>779</b>
<b>Total Fire Inspections:</b>	<b>6,469</b>

### **State DCA Housing Inspections**

**Total # of Housing Units Inspected: 1,449**

**Total Inspections: 7,918**

## **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 3,500 hours in over 50 topics in training & education in 2024. This includes over 500 hours of on-duty company-level training sessions, which equates to over 3,537 person-hours of training.

### **Training Courses Completed 2024:**

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  
Fire Behavior, Dynamics, and the Effect of Ventilation  
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



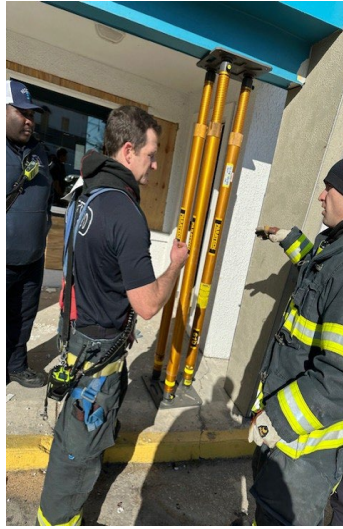
# Wildwood City Fire Department

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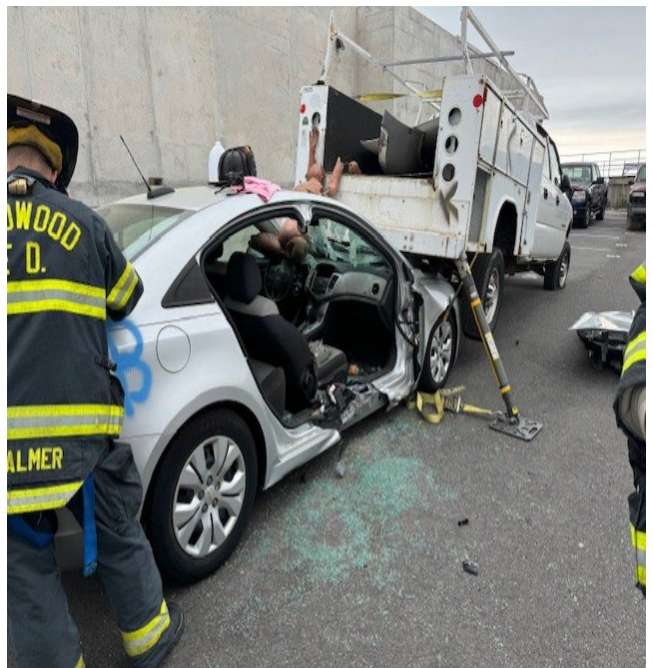
# Wildwood City Fire Department

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# Wildwood City Fire Department

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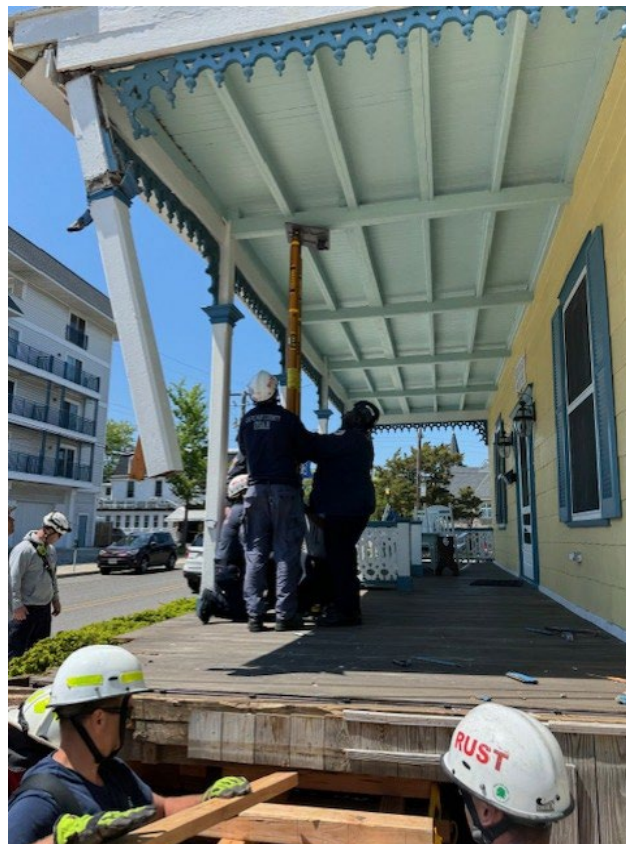


## Special Units

### **Cape May County Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team**

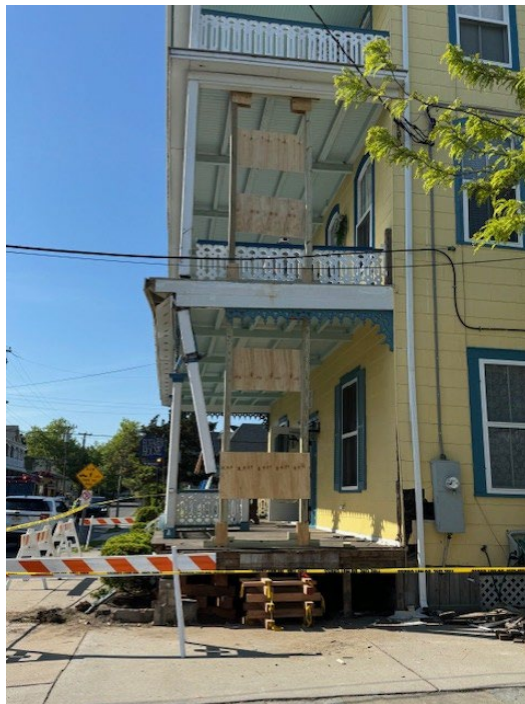
The Regional Urban Search & Rescue Team (CMC USAR) is a highly specialized team of fire department members trained in structural collapse rescue, confined space rescue, high-angle rope rescue, surface ice/water rescue, and trench rescue. The team is a county asset that responds to any such emergencies 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 the West Cape May Fire Company.

On May 13, 2024, CMC USAR personnel responded to the City of Cape May for a trash truck that struck the front of a multi-family dwelling. The structural integrity of the front of the building was compromised and CMC USAR personnel constructed shoring to stabilize the structure until permanent repairs could be made. This incident again highlights the need for specialized technical rescue capabilities within Cape May County for these low frequency, high risk events.



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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Cape May City Trash Truck vs. Building May 13, 2024

## **Special Units - continued**

### **Honor Guard**

In 2024, the Honor Guard was privileged to be able to present the colors during the following events:

- North Wildwood St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Greater Wildwood Little League Opening Day
- Wildwood American Legion Post #184 Memorial Day ceremony
- Greater Wildwood Elks Flags of Liberty Veteran Flag Ceremony on the North Wildwood Seawall
- Barefoot Country Music Fest during Red, White, and Blue Theme Night
- Annual Wildwood 9/11 Memorial Service held at Byrne Plaza
- 147<sup>th</sup> New Jersey State Firemen's Association Convention, Memorial Service



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## 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 2024, the Wildwood City Office of Emergency Management began the revision process of both the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which will both be finalized and adopted during 2025. 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.



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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The Office of Emergency Management administers the Code Red community notification program. This program enables residents and visitors to sign up to receive a phone call or text message in the event of an emergency or natural disaster such as hurricanes, flooding, snow storms or nor'easters. In 2024, the OEM had to send out eleven (11) emergency notifications for nine significant weather events, all of which were coastal flooding/storm events and one (1) for two major water main breaks.

With much of the city being low-lying areas, any time there is the possibility for flooding this system allows city officials to immediately contact those who have signed up for the notifications to be briefed on the latest projections of approaching storms.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for this notification by visiting the City of Wildwood's website under Departments, Public Safety, Emergency Management or by typing the link below into your browser:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/5A633ADA497E>



## **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.

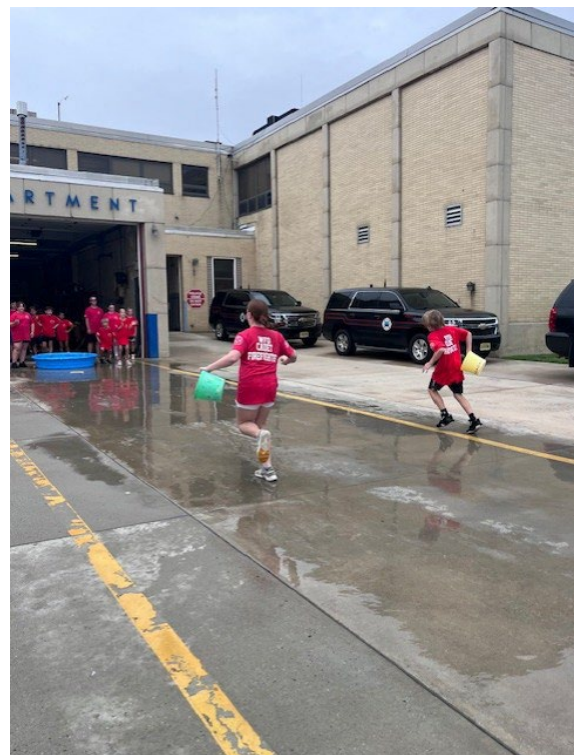
In 2024, we once again hosted the annual Summer Cadet Firefighter program. Firefighter Nick Palmer heads up this awesome program and he did a phenomenal job with the camp again this year.

The Summer Cadet Firefighter program is open to children 10-17 years of age. This weeklong 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 weeklong program.



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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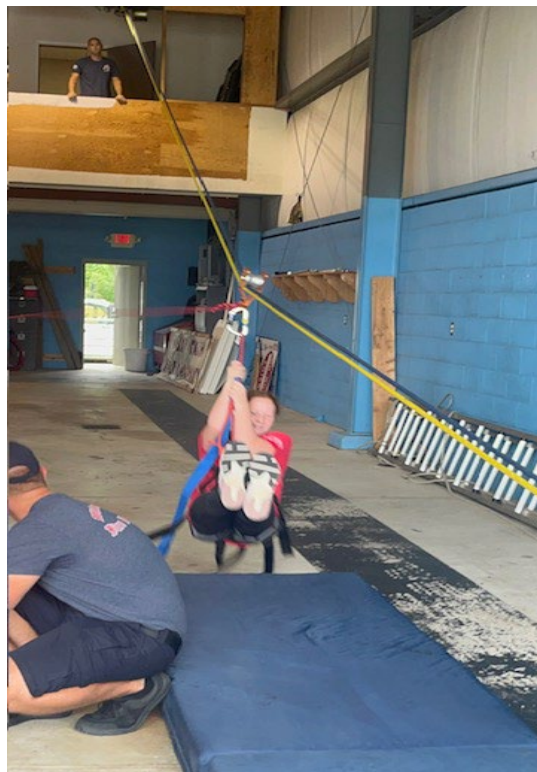




# Wildwood City Fire Department

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# Wildwood City Fire Department

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# Wildwood City Fire Department

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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.



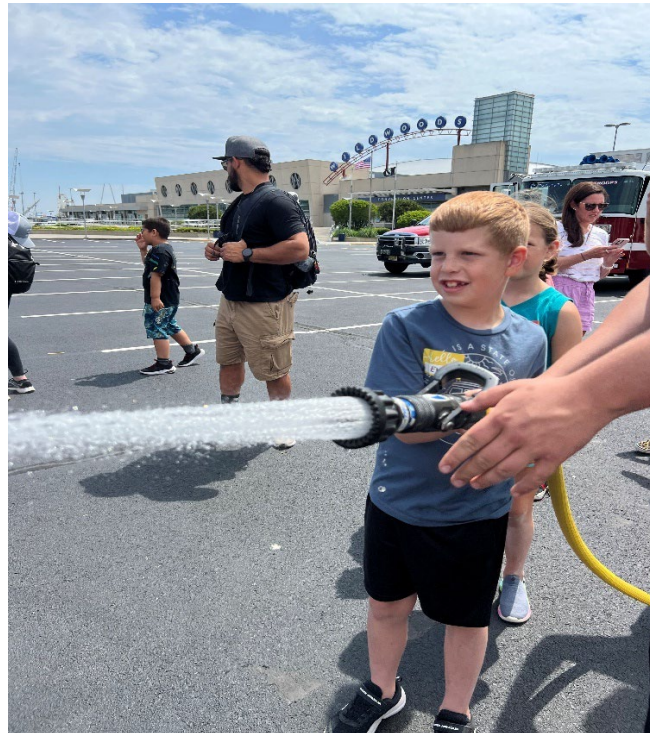
Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge



Flags of Liberty Ceremony



Middle Township Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Wildwood



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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Middle Twp. Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip



Wildwood Community Back to School BBQ and Backpack Giveaway

# Wildwood City Fire Department

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City of Wildwood Trunk or Treat Halloween 2024



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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Adopt-A-School Program Activities



# Wildwood City Fire Department

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2024 Run for the Fallen





Packing Christmas Stockings for Local Schools

September 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2024 to host the Annual September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial service at the Byrne Plaza, Firefighter Kevin Kelly coordinated the 8th Annual Wildwood September 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2024, the climb was once again held at the Wildwoods Convention Center. 2024'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

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# Wildwood City Fire Department

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## 2024 8<sup>th</sup> Annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb



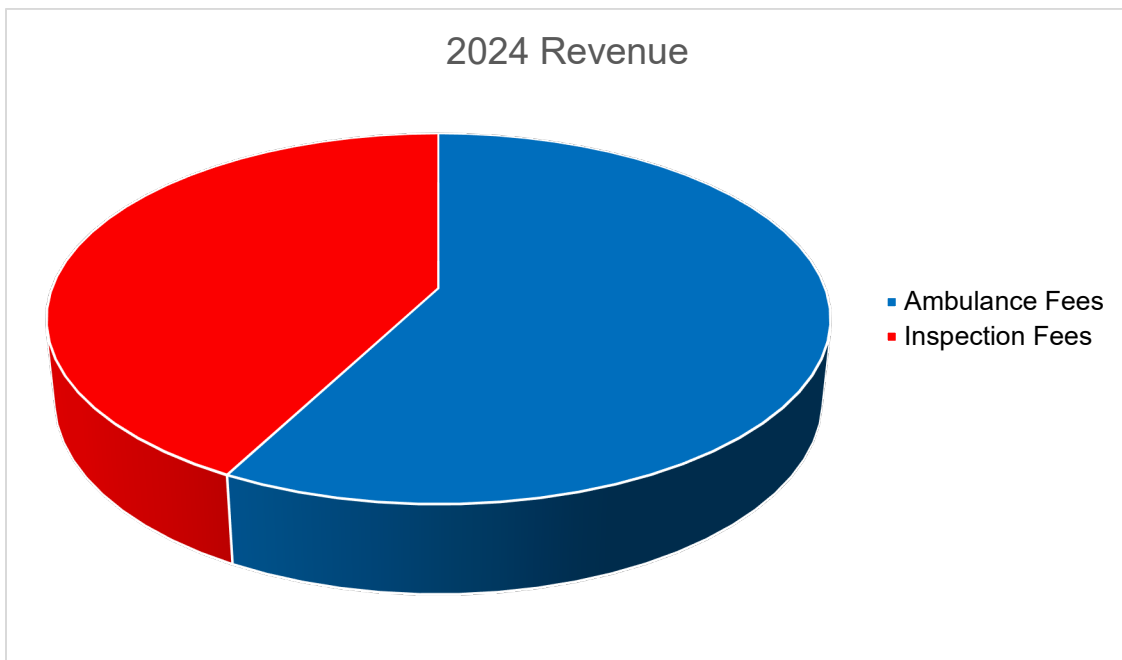


## 2024 Revenue

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 2024, the Wildwood City Fire Department collected a total of **\$931,830.05**.



Fire Safety & Housing Inspection:	\$393,991.52
Emergency Medical Services:	<u>\$537,838.53</u>

**Total Revenue for 2024: \$931,830.05**

## **Achievements: 2024**

- Applied for and awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of two (2) automatic chest compression devices and ten (10) new AEDs for department apparatus.
- Applied for and awarded a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants for the hiring of four additional career firefighters.
- Hired two new career firefighters, Joseph McCauley and Michael Drennen, to replace members retiring and to fill vacancies.
- Awarded a NJDCA American Rescue Plan Firefighter's Grant for the purchase of six (6) new SCBA's for Squad Co. 3 (first due suppression apparatus). The new air packs were purchased and placed in service.
- Applied for a FEMA AFG grant for the purchase of four (4) Powered Stair Chairs.
- Conducted in-house Cancer Screenings of all personnel through NDS.
- Completed Fire Service Occupational Culture of Safety (FOCUS) Survey 3.0 through the FIRST Center at Drexel University.
- Applied for Congressional Direct Funding grants for the purchase of a new Engine.
- Continued research activities for the development of a strategic plan for the department.
- Continued and expanded all of our community outreach programs including the Adopt-A-School program.
- Successfully staffed the Barefoot County Music Festival

## **Goals/Objectives: 2025**

- Hire four (4) new career firefighters with the FEMA SAFER grant awarded in 2024.
- Continue and expand, when possible, all of our community outreach programs.
- Form Department Committees to assist with the Department's progression into the future. Committees to include Apparatus, Research & Development, Training, and Strategic Planning.
- Review and update Departmental policies and procedures manual, as well as, develop new mission specific Operational Guidelines.
- Continue development of a strategic plan for the department through the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee.
- Conduct active threat/mass casualty training in conjunction with the Wildwood Police Department and our automatic and mutual aid partners.
- Continue to pursue all training and professional development opportunities.
- Conduct training with our automatic and mutual aid partners and continue to build cooperative relationships.

## 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](http://www.wildwoodnj.org)



**Department Website:**

<http://wildwoodfiredept.com/>



**@TheShoreHouse38**



[https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodCityFD/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodCityFD/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)



**Instagram**

**@wildwoodfiredept.**

## **Contact Information**

### **Administration:**

Chief Ernie Troiano III - <a href="mailto:etroiano3@wildwoodnj.org">etroiano3@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2061
Deputy Chief Daniel Dunn - <a href="mailto:d.dunn@wildwoodnj.org">d.dunn@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2038
Amelia Ianiro - <a href="mailto:aianiro@wildwoodnj.org">aianiro@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2028
Administrations Fax # -	609-522-4965

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### **Fire Prevention Bureau:**

Fire Official David Bannon - <a href="mailto:dbannon@wildwoodnj.org">dbannon@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2033
Fire Inspector Jacob Spiegel - <a href="mailto:jspiegel@wildwoodnj.org">jspiegel@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2031
Kelly Sweger - <a href="mailto:ksweger@wildwoodnj.org">ksweger@wildwoodnj.org</a>	609-846-2030

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### **Fire Stations:**

Headquarters Phone (Non-Emergency) -	609-522-1110
A Platoon - Captain Robert Feltwell - B Platoon - Captain Matt Johnson - C Platoon - Captain Ryan Troiano - D Platoon - Captain Aldo Sacco -	<a href="mailto:rfeltwell@wildwoodnj.org">rfeltwell@wildwoodnj.org</a> <a href="mailto:mjohnson@wildwoodnj.org">mjohnson@wildwoodnj.org</a> <a href="mailto:rtroiano@wildwoodnj.org">rtroiano@wildwoodnj.org</a> <a href="mailto:asacco@wildwoodnj.org">asacco@wildwoodnj.org</a>
Headquarters Fax # -	609-729-7206
Station 3-1 - (4310 Washington Avenue)	609-522-0005
Station 3-2 - (111 E. Pine Ave.)	609-522-2654

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