Township of Lower Merion
Fire Department

2009 Annual Report
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Our Mission

It is the mission of the Fire Department to provide the highest level of fire protection coordination necessary to minimize life and property losses through stringent regulations, fire prevention and improved suppression capabilities.

Our Creed

- It is our DUTY to train ourselves to be the best we can be in order to protect life and property.

- It is an HONOR to be able to give back to our communities and to serve you.

- We understand and accept the sacrifices and time constraints we must make in order to perform our duties, up to and including the ultimate, supreme SACRIFICE.
A Letter from the Chief Fire Officer

Douglas S. Cleland,
Township Manager

Dear Mr. Cleland,

It is my pleasure to present you with the Lower Merion Fire Department’s 2009 Annual Report, which provides a detailed account of the past year’s accomplishments and highlights. This report is dedicated to the memory of Mary Seligman, our long time Fire Department secretary who passed away in March of 2009.

2009 was a challenging year as we responded to several fires and severe storms with damaging floods that put our fire service to the test. An increase in incidents and building fires was witnessed, with the seven volunteer fire companies serving our Township along with the Lower Merion Fire Department office responding to a total of 1,931 incidents. Of these, 1,648 incidents occurred in the Township of Lower Merion, 47 in the Borough of Narberth, 207 in Radnor Township, and an additional 31 calls in surrounding municipalities. Contained within this total were 35 building fires with a property value of $88.6 million dollars. Because of our firefighters’ heroic responses, the resulting property value loss of $3.96 million dollars was far less than the potential for loss.

Far more valuable than bricks and mortar is human life. While responding to and working at the aforementioned emergency scenes, 11 civilian injuries and 7 firefighter injuries occurred. It is with regret that I must also report that fire took a tragic toll when emergency personnel responded to a call on the 10th floor of the 191 Presidential Condominiums in Bala Cynwyd. This manpower-intensive operation required not only the involvement of all Lower Merion fire companies but also additional units from outside of the Township. The firefighters’ efforts did indeed result in a resident’s rescue from the building; however, she later succumbed to her injuries at the hospital. Despite the loss of a life, the unified and professional response by Fire, Police and EMS restored order and safety to the high-rise building in an efficient manner, and their efforts are to be commended. Our investigation revealed that the cause of the fire was smoking.

Fire prevention is an ongoing focus of the Fire Department Office, and in 2009 we conducted 879 building inspections. These labor-intensive, but necessary reviews took 257 hours to complete and resulted in 328 violation notices. In addition, 82 plan reviews took place, 24 land development meetings were attended, and staff participated in 45 code consultations with the Township’s Building and Planning Department. Members of the Fire Department Office visited both public and private schools in the Township to encourage fire prevention, and working with the schools, were able to conduct 123 fire drills Township-wide.

The members of the Fire Department Office continue to be recognized and in 2009 our Deputy Fire Marshals were awarded the Lower Merion Township Outstanding Work Team Award at the annual Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony. Professional training continues to be a critical element of Fire Department Operations, with the State Fire Commissioner presenting the Office with a silver certificate for obtaining National Professional Qualifications Standards. Various programs at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland were attended and I was privileged to be accepted into the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy, beginning my first year of a four-year commitment to a program recognized nationally as one of the top Chief Officer programs in the nation. The Fire Department Office continued ongoing training with the National Incident Management System, the Uniform Construction Code, various fire investigation and arson courses, fire alarm and plan review and other fire related courses and certifications. Training on our fire department database also continues to enable staff to better utilize the system.
A Letter from the Chief Fire Officer

The Fire Prevention Trailer continues to be a great asset to our fire prevention program, not only in Township schools, but also with the general public. Fire Department staff presented 50 fire safety programs to over 1000 students and day campers, and another 62 civilian training classes with approximately 1,100 attendees. Work to secure several grants toward the 800 MHz radio project were unfortunately rejected; however, efforts will continue to secure grant funding.

Renovation of the fire training tower was completed, with the training grounds reopened on August 5, 2009. Our fire companies were once again able to participate in live fire training evolutions, allowing them to enhance their firefighting skills in a controlled atmosphere – a crucial function of our fire service. Deputy Fire Marshals prepared and participated in 40 supervised firefighter-training sessions with 1,115 firefighters in attendance, averaging approximately 28 firefighters per training session. Once again, the Department was afforded the opportunity to conduct extensive training as a result of the acquisition of four dwellings slated for demolition. The use of these properties enabled our fire companies to perform more realistic drills as well as to participate in multi-company training.

Some other highlights included ongoing production of the Fire Department’s “Hometown Heroes” television program. This well-received government access program is cablecast on LMTV (Comcast Comcast Channel 7/Verizon Channel 37) and raises awareness to the work of our local firefighters, highlights the endeavors of the fire companies, provides important public safety information and, in general, educates the public about our fire service.

The Bring It On! Firefighters Challenge competition was once again successful, with the Penn Wynne Fire Company taking first place, with Belmont Hills and Bryn Mawr Fire Companies placing 2nd and 3rd, respectively. The competition was followed by a family picnic at the Baldwin School that was enjoyed by all.

As part of the Township’s Apparatus Replacement Program, the Gladwyne Fire Company and Union Fire Association both received new Engines and a new air/light truck was purchased for the fire service that will be housed at the Gladwyne Fire Company. A major initiative of the Fire Department in 2009 was to conduct a Building Conditions Assessment Study of our fire stations using Pennoni Associates, Inc. The Study looked at current conditions, identified areas of repair and offered recommendations to restore and maintain the buildings.

The Annual Business Persons Fire Prevention Luncheon was well attended and Jim and Kathy Karney of John Henry’s Pub were honored for their support of Fire Prevention efforts. Guest speaker Dave Wurtzel, who is a Lower Merion volunteer firefighter, raised awareness about his non-profit organization, the “First Twenty,” which is dedicated to the health of the American Firefighter.

What follows is a detailed account of Fire Department accomplishments in 2009. Clearly, the secret to the success of the Lower Merion Township Fire Department is our firefighters and administrative staff, both career and volunteer. We also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Board of Commissioners, members of Township staff, and to our citizens for their continued support, as well as to you, our Township Manager, for your leadership and commitment to the fire service in Lower Merion which enables us to continue to provide a first-class fire service.

Respectfully,

Charles J. McGarvey, Sr.
Charles J. McGarvey, Sr., M.S.
Chief Fire Officer / Fire Marshal
The Fire Department of Lower Merion Township

Station 21
Penn Wynne/Overbrook Hills Fire Company
Manoa and Rock Glen Roads
Wynnewood, PA 19096
(610) 642-9688
Chief: John T. Fallon
President: John P. Derham

Station 22
Belmont Hills Fire Company
4 S. Washington Avenue
Belmont Hills, PA 19004
(610) 525-7702
Chief: Patrick Fusaro
President: Rocco J. Burdo

Station 23
Bryn Mawr Fire Company
901 Lancaster Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
(610) 525-7702
Chief: William Gallagher
President: Charley Dolan

Station 24
Gladwyne Fire Company
1044 Black Rock Road
Gladwyne, PA 19035
(610) 642-9586
Chief: Andrew J. Block
President: Thomas Z. Zug, Jr.

Station 25
Merion Fire Company of Ardmore
35 Greenfield Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
(610) 642-9580
Chief: Thomas C. Hayden, Jr.
President: Larry M. Conroy

Station 26
Narberth Fire Company
100 Conway Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072
(610) 664-9278
Chief: William R. Henderson
President: William J. Henderson

Station 28
Union Fire Association of Lower Merion
149 Montgomery Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 664-9112
Chief: James Hornung
President: Samuel W. Rennix

www.lowermerion.org
2009 Apparatus Complement

The total apparatus and emergency response complement of the Lower Merion Fire Department is 30. Below is a breakdown of this complement.

Station 21 – Penn Wynne / Overbrook Hills Fire Company
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 1 Heavy Rescue Truck
- 1 Engine
- 1 Utility Truck
- 1 Incident Support Unit

Station 22 – Belmont Hills Fire Company
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 1 Heavy Rescue Truck
- 1 Squad Engine
- 1 Utility Truck

Station 23 – Bryn Mawr Fire Company
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 1 Squad Engine
- 1 Engine
- 1 Incident Support Unit

Station 24 – Gladwyne Fire Company
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 2 Engines
- 1 Utility Truck
- 1 Air/Light Truck
- 2 Boats

Station 25 – Merion Fire Company of Ardmore
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 2 Engines

Station 26 – Narberth Fire Company
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 3 Engines

Station 28 – Union Fire Association of Lower Merion
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 1 Engine
- 1 Utility Truck
## 2009 Consolidated Statistical Report

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# Incident Type Summary by District

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**Total**

- 766
- 170
- 310
- 184
- 10
- 161
- 38
- 3
- 0
- 1648

21 = Penn Wynne Overbrook Hills Fire Company
22 = Belmont Hills Fire Company
23 = Bryn Mawr Fire Company
24 = Gladwyne Fire Company
25 = Merion Fire Company of Ardmore
26 = Narberth Fire Company
28 = Union Fire Association of Lower Merion
### Thirty Year Statistics
1979—2009 (All Townships)

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<tr>
<td>Vehicle Fires</td>
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<td>47</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>Total Fires</td>
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<td>226</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>289</td>
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<td>1590</td>
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<td>Out of Town</td>
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<td>355</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>278</td>
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<td>1919</td>
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<td>759</td>
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### Incident Type Summary by District – All Types

**Alarm Date Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Overpressure</th>
<th>Rescue</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Special</th>
<th>Weather</th>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>184</strong></td>
<td><strong>297</strong></td>
<td><strong>186</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>194</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>1694</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **MC35** = Conshohocken Fire Company #1, Montgomery County
- **MC36** = Conshohocken Fire Company #2, Montgomery County
- **MC39** = George Clay Fire Company, Montgomery County
- **MC48** = Swedeland Fire Company, Montgomery County
- **DC15** = Radnor Fire Company, Delaware County
- **DC26** = Upper Darby Fire Company, Delaware County
- **DC38** = Oakmont Fire Company, Delaware County
- **CC02** = Berwyn Fire Company, Chester County
Incident Type Summary
Alarm Date Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009

Type of Calls

False Alarm & False Call
Fire
Rescue & Explosion
Rupture
Overpressure
(No fire)
Hazardous Conditions
Good Intent Call
Fire
False Alarm

Number of Calls
## Building Fires by Alarm Date/Time
(In Lower Merion Township ONLY)
### Alarm Date Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident #</th>
<th>Alarm Date</th>
<th>Alarm Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0902419-000</td>
<td>02/02/09</td>
<td>11:17:18</td>
<td>191 Presidential Blvd./ Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0903194-000</td>
<td>02/12/09</td>
<td>17:19:41</td>
<td>220 Valley Rd./ Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0903516-000</td>
<td>02/17/09</td>
<td>11:35:17</td>
<td>75 E. Ardmore Ave./Ardmore, PA 19003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0904629-000</td>
<td>03/05/09</td>
<td>16:50:56</td>
<td>620 Montgomery Ave/ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0905010-000</td>
<td>03/10/09</td>
<td>08:23:05</td>
<td>1943 Countyline Rd./ Villanova, PA 19085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0906217-000</td>
<td>03/27/09</td>
<td>23:06:57</td>
<td>120 E. Lancaster Ave. / Ardmore, PA 19003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0906427-000</td>
<td>03/28/09</td>
<td>14:21:00</td>
<td>153 Stoneway Lane / Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0908298-000</td>
<td>03/30/09</td>
<td>13:53:32</td>
<td>312 Hathaway Lane / Wynnewood, PA 19096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0911563-000</td>
<td>03/05/09</td>
<td>14:17:53</td>
<td>1315 Bobarn Drive / Penn Valley, PA 19072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0912078-000</td>
<td>03/06/09</td>
<td>16:01:52</td>
<td>467 Brookhurst Ave. / Penn Valley, PA 19072</td>
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<tr>
<td>0913037-000</td>
<td>03/27/09</td>
<td>14:12:51</td>
<td>191 Presidential Blvd./ Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0914598-000</td>
<td>04/03/09</td>
<td>17:25:04</td>
<td>1341 W. Montgomery Ave. / Rosemont, PA 19010</td>
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<td>0916376-000</td>
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<td>549 Foxglove Lane / Wynnewood PA 19096</td>
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<tr>
<td>0917173-000</td>
<td>04/08/09</td>
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<td>100 E. Wynnewood Rd. / Wynnewood, PA 19096</td>
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<td>0917328-000</td>
<td>04/08/09</td>
<td>22:06:15</td>
<td>619 Fairview Rd. / Penn Valley, Pa 19072</td>
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<td>0918469-000</td>
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<td>724 Cambridge Rd. / Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004</td>
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<td>111 Llanfair Rd. / Ardmore, PA 19003</td>
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<td>092013-000</td>
<td>05/10/09</td>
<td>00:04:28</td>
<td>102 Union Ave. / Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004</td>
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<tr>
<td>0920707-000</td>
<td>05/14/09</td>
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<td>13:59:44</td>
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<td>0924476-000</td>
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<td>16:05:05</td>
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<td>0926424-000</td>
<td>07/10/09</td>
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<td>125 Cheswold Lane / Ardmore, PA 19003</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>0928042-000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 29

TOTAL PROPERTY AT RISK - $88,600,540

TOTAL ACTUAL LOSSES - $3,096,000
### Firerun Breakdown by One Hour Time Frames

**Alarm Date Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.M.</th>
<th></th>
<th>P.M.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>01:00 - 01:59</td>
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<td>13:00 - 13:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>02:00 - 02:59</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>05:00 - 05:59</td>
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<td>17:00 - 17:59</td>
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<td>06:00 - 06:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:00 - 07:59</td>
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<td>19:00 - 19:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:00 - 08:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 - 09:59</td>
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<td>21:00 - 21:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:59</td>
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<td>22:00 - 22:59</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:59</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>23:00 - 23:59</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL RUNS CALCULATED: 1926**
Incidents By Alarm Hour

Count of Incidents by Alarm Hour

Alarm Date Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009
Incident Responses by Day of Week
Alarm Date Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009

Day of the Week

Sun
Mon
Tue
Wed
Thu
Fri
Sat

Number of Responses

0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350

Incident Responses by Day of Week
Training Information

STAFF SUPERVISED TRAINING

Total Training/Drills 40
Number of Firefighters Attending 1115
Average Firefighter per session 28
Average Length per Drill 2.5 Hrs.

SUPERVISED DRILLS PER COMPANY

*The Tower was shut down from Jan.-July for reconstruction

Station 21 Penn Wynne/Overbrook Hills — 5
Station 22 Belmont Hills — 4
Station 23 Bryn Mawr — 5
Station 24 Gladwyne — 6
Station 25 Merion of Ardmore — 4
Station 26 Narberth — 9
Station 28 Union Fire Association — 5
Station 313 Volunteer Medical Service Corps — 1

TYPES OF TRAINING

Power/Hand Tools  Extinguishers
Hose Evolutions  Ventilation
Ladders  Search and Rescue
Problem Solving  Building Construction
Water Supply  Tactics and Strategy
Evacuation Drills  Fast Teams
Driver/Operator  Forcible Entry
SCBA  Master Streams
Special Rescue  Vehicle Incidents/Rescue
Communications  Salvage/Overhaul
Medical/CPR  SOP Review
Special Equipment  Ropes/Knots
Thermal Imaging  Incident Command
Haz-Mat Refresher  A.E.D. Training

TRAINING DRILLS BY INDIVIDUAL COMPANY

(The tower was taken out of service due to unsafe conditions within building)

Station 21 — 43  Station 24 — 50
Station 22 — 1    Station 25 — 23
Station 23 — 43  Station 26 — 27
Station 28 — 52
Training Information

CIVILIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS

88 Fire Safety Training Classes were presented to the following

Day Care Centers    Postal Employees
Resident Groups (Condo’s)    Nursing & Security Staff at institutions
School Staff    Surgical Centers

Approximately 1100 people participated in the training classes.

SCHOOL / FIRE SAFETY TRAILER PROGRAMS

Fire Department staff presented over 50 Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Programs to students, Community groups and campers in our Elementary and Middle Schools on forty-six separate occasions. Over 1000 students, residents and day campers were present for these presentations.

The department conducted eleven (11) Home Safety Inspections requested by the residents. The department also delivered and installed smoke detectors to (4) residents. The department conducted (123) fire drills in schools and medical facilities.

TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTRY FIRE ACADEMY AND OTHER OUTSIDE AGENCIES THROUGH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE

High Rise Operations    Command & Control
Firefighter I and 2 Certification Classes    FDIC
Exterior Evolutions    Sprinkler System Training
EVOC Emergency Vehicle Operators Course    CPR
Haz-Mat R & I    Haz-Mat Operations
NIMS    Fire Scene Management
Fire Alarm Training    Highway Responder Safety

The Township Fire Department acquired the use of four (4) structures in 2009 to be used for specialized training before the homes were demolished. These sites provided us with the opportunity to teach hands-on classes in overhaul, forcible entry, ventilation and search and rescue techniques. During this training our firefighters practiced the proper use of hand tools such as axes, pry bars and ceiling hooks. These tools are commonly used during the overhauling process required at all building fires.
Training Information

LOWER MERION FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF TRAINING

- Fire Alarm Systems
- Water & Flood Rescue
- Arson Investigation Refresher Training
- Response to Terrorism
- Firefighter Safety and Survival
- PAAI Annual Seminar
- Plan Review & Inspections
- Kinesics Interviewing and Interrogation
- Hands on Electrical Fire/Arson Investigations
- Accessibility of Residential Areas
- Fire Service Instructor
- Emergency Program Manager
- EOC Management and Operations
- Emergency Coordinator Training
- Principles of Building Construction
- Ethics and the Fire Investigator
- Traffic Laws
- Haz-Mat Operations
- Haz-Mat Technician Refresher
- A.E.D. Training and CPR Training
- Fire Inspection
- NFPA 921
- Automatic Sprinkler Systems
- Residential Sprinkler Systems
- Fire Prevention Initiative
- Fire Officer I
- Fire Officer II
- Arson for Profit
- Juvenile Fire Setting
- Safe Kids Recertification
- Fire Marshal Awareness
- Fire Pattern Certification

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY COURSES

- Executive Fire Officer Course — Executive Development
- Fire Protection Systems for the Built Environment
- Testing and Evaluation of Water Supplies for Fire Protection
- National Fire Incident Reporting Systems, 5.0
- Command and Control

FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE COURSES

- Operational Concerns for Church Fires
- Effective Media Strategies for the Fire Service
- Thermal Imaging
- Routine Emergencies Can be Deadly
- Quality Training for Volunteers Firefighter Stress
- Private Dwelling Fires
- Scene Safety
- Air Management
- Arson

CONFERENCE/SEMINARS 2009

Does Not Include Any Fire Academy or Refresher Training at Fire Stations

- PAAI Annual Seminar
- Fire Alarm Seminar
- Investigation Training Program
- Montgomery County Chiefs Seminar
- Emergency Disaster Incident Training Symposium
2009 Photo Highlights

Deputy Fire Marshals Maguire, Hand and McCoy of the township Fire Department Office were awarded the Lower Merion Township Work Team award at the Township’s annual Employee Recognition Awards ceremony in April. The Fire Department Office was also recognized by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, with a silver certificate for obtaining National Professional Qualifications Standards.

Deputy Fire Marshal Frank Hand, from the Township’s Fire Department Office, is an active volunteer with Safe Kids and also a Child Safety Seat Technician. DFM Hand implemented a new Child Safety Seat Program for the Township in October 2009 to ensure that child seats were installed correctly. DFM Hand also checks for any recalls that might have occurred since the time of purchase. DFM Hand will continue these inspections on an appointment only basis through the Fire Department Office.
On Wednesday, August 5, 2009, the Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners officially opened the newly renovated fire training tower with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Fire Department Office conducted demonstrations using the fire prevention trailer and the Bullex Fire Extinguisher trainer. In addition, the Gladwyne and Bryn Mawr Fire companies also performed a live fire training demonstration.
2009 was not without some serious challenges putting our firefighters to the test with several fires and severe storms knocking down trees.
Township of Lower Merion
Fire Department
75 E. Lancaster Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
(610) 645-6190
www.lowermerion.org

Charles J. McGarvey, Sr.
Chief Fire Officer/Fire Marshal

Albert Brown
Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Matthew Maguire
Deputy Fire Marshal

James McCoy
Deputy Fire Marshal

Frank Hand
Deputy Fire Marshal

Carole Taylor
Administrative Assistant

“Fighting Fires...Saving Lives”

The Township of Lower Merion

Merion of Ardmore
Belmont Hills
Bryn Mawr
Gladwyne
Narberth
Penn Wynne
Union Fire Association

Salutes Volunteer Firefighters:
Our Hometown Heroes