



BETHEL PARK  
VOLUNTEER FIRE  
COMPANY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A summary of the actions and achievements of some of the finest men and women who volunteer to serve the Municipality of Bethel Park.

Presented By:  
Tom Kelton  
Assistant Chief



# BETHEL PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

5213 BRIGHTWOOD ROAD • BETHEL PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 15102

## A Message from the Volunteer Fire Chief of Bethel Park



On behalf of the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company (“BPVFC”), I am proud to present the 2025 Annual Fire Report. This report summarizes our responses and accomplishments over the past year and outlines our goals for 2026. Throughout 2025, our members faced a variety of challenges and continued to provide dedicated, professional service to protect our community.

This year will mark a leadership transition within the fire company. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to outgoing Fire Chief Dave Gerber for his years of service and commitment to the BPVFC and the Bethel Park community. His leadership has made a lasting impact on our organization.

We were pleased to welcome six new members in 2025. These probationary members are currently completing extensive training and, upon certification, will become fully qualified firefighters. While this growth is encouraging, recruiting and retaining volunteers remains an ongoing priority.

The continued success of the BPVFC is made possible through the support of our municipal leadership, partner agencies, and—most importantly—our members and their families. I extend my deepest appreciation to all who contribute to our mission.

Thank you for your continued support of the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company.

Sincerely,

*Russ Beeson*

Russ Beeson  
Fire Chief

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### **BETHEL PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY MISSION STATEMENT**

Believing it to be our duty to aid in the protection of the lives and property of our fellow citizens from the ravages of fire, and believing that our exertions to that end can be best directed and accomplished by organized and purposeful effort, we therefore accept and subscribe to the organization of the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company, for the purpose of selecting capable leaders, establishing rules, establishing proper training, and establishing a cohesive organization founded upon esprit de corps providing efforts to give our community a successful and efficient organization for fire fighting and any other emergencies. To this end, it is our duty to assist and advance the interests of the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company.

## OVERVIEW

The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company (“BPVFC”) is a 100% volunteer fire company providing around-the-clock services to the community. Since we are a strictly volunteer organization, none of our stations are staffed and we rely on available members to respond to the stations when notified.

<b>Area Protected:</b>	12 sq miles
<b>Population Protected:</b>	33,500
<b>Number of Stations:</b>	3
<b>ISO Classification:</b>	4

**Apparatus**

Engines	3
Aerial Trucks	2
Rescue Pumpers	1
Utility Vehicles	3
Equipment Trailers	1
Command Vehicles	2

**Services We Provide:**

- Fire Suppression
- Vehicle Rescue Services
- Specialized Rescue Services
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Storm Management Services
- Public Education
- Fire Inspections

**How we Respond:**

1. When a call is placed to 9-1-1 and the dispatcher determines you need the BPVFC to respond, they activate our pagers and provide a voice message telling us the location and nature of the emergency. They also send out a notification to our phones via an application called Active 911. The Active 911 application identifies how many and which of our firefighters are responding to the call, and to which of our three stations each firefighter will respond. This allows our fire company officers to assess whether we have enough responders or if we need to call for more assistance. This application also provides us with a map of the address, nearby hydrants, and other useful information.

2. After we receive notification, any available volunteers will begin to respond. Our chief officers may respond to the scene while other line officers and firefighters will respond to a station. Depending on the severity of the emergency, some volunteers may use blue courtesy emergency lights in their vehicles to ask other cars to move to the side so they can pass and get to the station quicker.

3. Once at the station, our firefighters will put on their gear, get in the trucks, and respond to the scene. We won't always use the lights and sirens; it just depends on the severity and urgency of the emergency.

## PERSONNEL

### OPERATIONS BRANCH

#### Fire Chief

Russ Beeson

#### Deputy Chief

Rob Uselman (L)

#### Assistant Chief

Thomas Kelton

#### Captains

Jon Mark – Captain-1  
Mike Innocenti – Captain-2

#### Lieutenants

Steve McGough – Lieutenant-1  
Adam Betzler – Lieutenant-2

### Fire Police Officers

#### Captain

Al Wright

#### Lieutenant

Brian Wright

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

#### President

Jeff Pritchard (L)

#### Vice President

Bob Clark (L)

#### Treasurer

AJ Mastascusa

#### Financial Secretary

Jeff Ferencic (L)

#### Recording Secretary

Ed Schmidt (L)

#### Board of Directors

Dante Bongiorni (L)

Joe Hartung

David Henney (L)

Paul Hoppe

Michael Pauline

Mark Stabryla (L)

Every December we have elections for our line officers, executive officers, and board of directors. Our Chief, President, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary are two-year terms and this year the President and Treasurer were up for election. These positions, as well as our board of directors positions, are longer terms to help with continuity of business. All of the line officer positions have some qualification requirements such as call and training attendance. Members can self-nominate if eligible and all regular and life members are able to vote at the election. After 25 years of service, our members reach a life membership status where they are exempt from regular membership requirements.

All Officers of the Operations and Executive Branches are a Regular Member unless indicated by an (L) for Life Member.

**Regular Members**

Joseph Campion  
Henry Capozzi  
David DeLallo  
Barry DeLuca  
David Gerber  
Chris Gioia  
Nicholas Grady

Daniel Grzybek  
Dean Huwe  
Braden Karolak  
David Lahickey  
Tonya Lahickey  
Brad Lynch  
Christopher O’Sullivan

Eva Parker  
Donald Roose  
Max Siegert  
Thorin Trypus  
Luke Valecko  
Gavin Wagenheim  
Eric Yarina

**Life Members**

Brian Allsopp  
David Aubele  
Joseph Aubele  
David Britton  
Robert Brown  
Michael Dvorsky  
Edwin Galambas  
Robert Galambas

Jeffrey Gothe  
Joseph Heyl  
Brent Kimberland  
Kevin Kubala  
Roger McCuean  
Robert McFeaters  
Ronald McKenna  
Gregory Pohodich

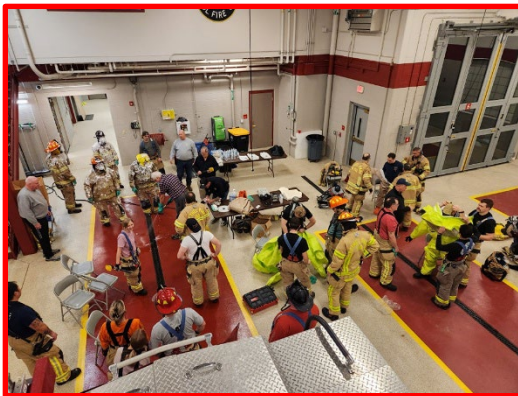
Jeffrey Pritchard  
James Sell Sr.  
Phillip Steigner  
James Thomas  
Bruce Tracy  
Guerrino Virgili  
William Wiles  
Joe Witkowski

**Probationary Members**

Kevin Abbott  
Steven Britton  
John Courter  
Natalie Daniels

Brad Floom  
Corey Gerber  
Ronin Lanning  
Brad Lynch Jr.

Ben May  
Kamden Miller  
Caroline Peary

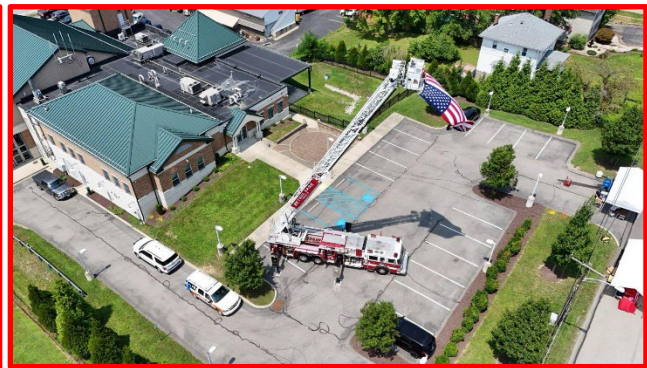


## 2025 DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Navigated the transition to Allegheny County 911 dispatch with shared county radio channels.
- Upgraded our portable scene lighting to a new battery-operated model to provide more portability and better lighting for harder to reach areas.
- Created an online tip board fundraising program. This has raised several thousand dollars, which allows us to continue to upgrade necessary equipment to protect our community and its citizens.
- Renewed our pursuit of available grants, applying for 8 grants and being awarded 3, totaling approximately \$35,000.

## 2026 DEPARTMENT GOALS

- Place into service a new fire engine which will be placed at the Milford Fire Station. We will also need to schedule out future apparatus replacement plans as long lead times and high costs continue to plague the fire apparatus industry.
- A continued focus on recruitment and retention to maintain and increase our number of active firefighters.
- Facilitate a complete migration of our records and fire reporting to a new state-mandated software system.
- Develop and launch a citizens fire academy to educate and engage the citizens of Bethel Park on the basics of firefighting, including fire suppression and rescue.



## Volunteer Recruitment Update

Over the past year, we have welcomed several new members who are enjoying the training, camaraderie, and fulfillment that come with serving others in our community. The pride and sense of accomplishment that accompany being a volunteer firefighter are experiences few will ever know. Here in Bethel Park, we remain 100% volunteer thanks to exceptional individuals who feel the spark and step up to serve. While we were fortunate to have six new members join us this past year, the need for additional volunteers continues to grow. From 2011 to 2015, we averaged 408 calls for service each year. Over the last five years, that number has increased to an average of 599 calls annually. This rising call volume underscores the ongoing need for more volunteers. The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company takes great pride in remaining a 100% volunteer organization, and we are committed to continuing that tradition into the future. If you're looking for a rewarding, exciting way to give back, we invite you to learn more by visiting our website.

### Membership Incentives:

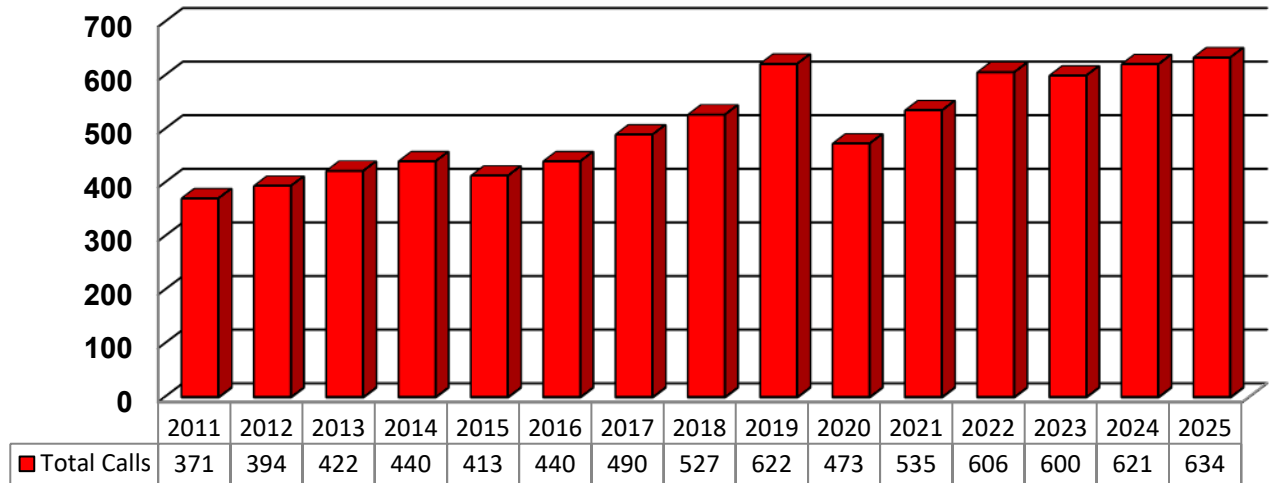
- Free nationally recognized initial and ongoing training
- Allegheny County Property Tax Incentive
- Free 24/7 gym access
- Quiet workspace in our stations if you work remotely
- Access to 100% free scholarship opportunities at CCAC
- Life insurance
- Social events
- Resume builder



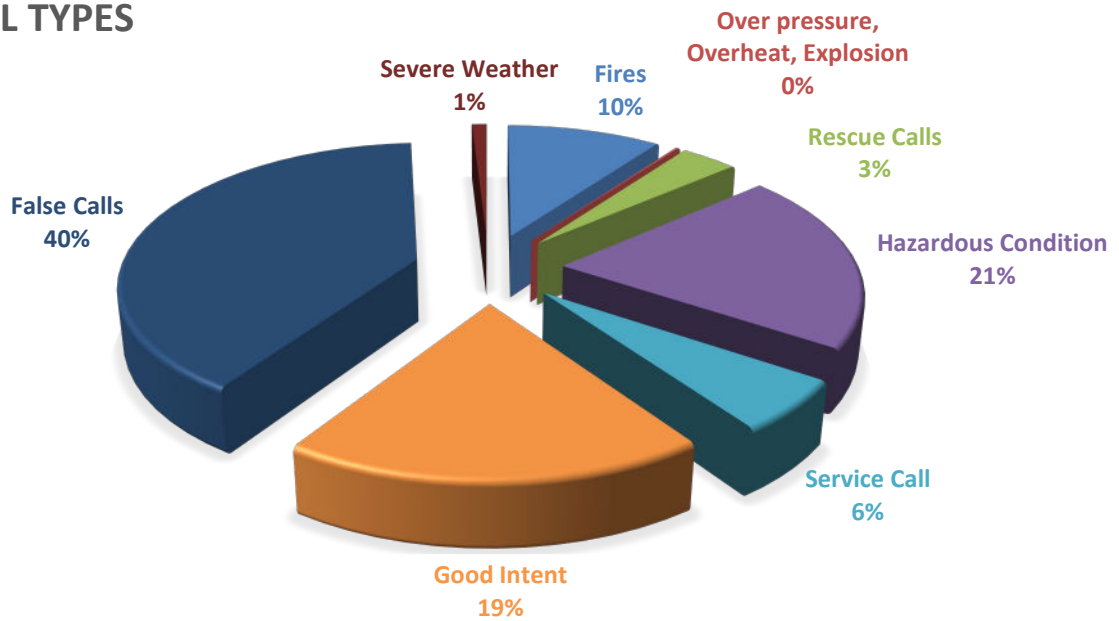
### 2025 STATISTICS

The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company responded to 634 calls in 2025.

#### Total Calls Over the Last 15 Years



#### 2025 FIRE CALL TYPES



### Calls by Nature of Incident for 2025

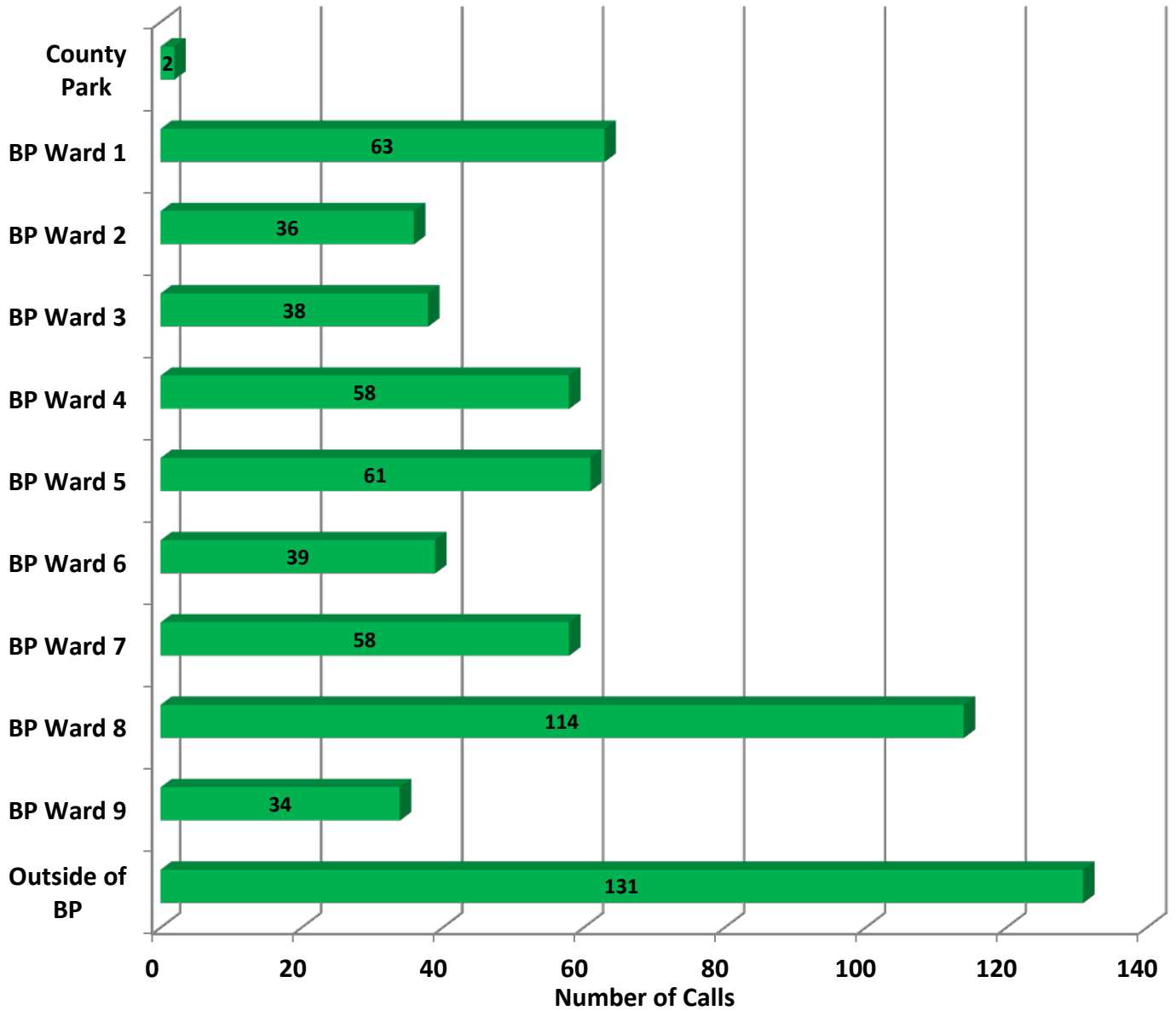
<b>Fires</b>		<b>63 Total</b>
Building Fire		36
Cooking fire, confined to container		6
Trash or rubbish fire, contained		1
Passenger vehicle fire		3
Road freight or transport vehicle fire		2
Natural vegetation fire, other		2
Forest, woods or wildland fire		1
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire		8
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire		1
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire		1
Special outside fire, other		1
Outside equipment fire		1
<b>Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)</b>		<b>1 Total</b>
Overpressure, rupture, explosion, overheat		1
<b>Rescue / Medical Call</b>		<b>23 Total</b>
Medical assist, assist EMS crew		5
Motor vehicle accident with injuries		6
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)		1
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.		4
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure		1
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle		2
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator		4
<b>Hazardous Condition</b>		<b>131 Total</b>
Hazardous condition, other		3
Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other		1
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill		3
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)		35
Carbon monoxide incident		5
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other		15
Overheated motor		2
Power line down		37
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment		20
Accident, potential accident, other		1
Building or structure weakened or collapsed		4
Aircraft standby		1
Vehicle accident, general cleanup		4

Continued on the next page

<b>Service Calls</b>		<b>37 Total</b>
	Service Call, other	1
	Person in distress, other	2
	Lock-out	3
	Water problem, other	2
	Water evacuation	2
	Water or steam leak	2
	Smoke or odor removal	7
	Animal rescue	3
	Public service assistance, other	1
	Assist police or other governmental agency	7
	Public service	2
	Unauthorized burning	1
	Cover assignment, standby, move up	4
<b>Good Intent Calls</b>		<b>121 Total</b>
	Good intent call, other	10
	Dispatched & cancelled en route	84
	No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	2
	Smoke scare, odor of smoke	21
	Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	1
	Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1
	HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	2
<b>False Calls</b>		<b>252 Total</b>
	Malicious, mischievous false alarm	7
	System or detector malfunction. Includes improper performance of fire alarm system that is not a result of a proper system response to environmental stimuli such as smoke or high heat conditions.	104
	Unintentional system or detector operation (no fire). Includes tripping an interior device accidentally.	122
	Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	19
<b>Severe Weather &amp; Natural Disasters</b>		<b>6 Total</b>
	Windstorm, tornado/hurricane assessment	5
	Severe weather or natural disaster standby	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>634</b>



### Call Volume by Location



## 2025 RESPONSE STATISTICS

- **Calls:** The BPVFC responded to 634 incidents ranging from false alarms to structure fires. This is up from the previous year and a 71% increase from fifteen years ago. On 30 different occasions we were challenged with handling multiple calls at the same time.
- **Response Times:** Our average response time for the first fire company official on scene in Bethel Park was 8 minutes and 7 seconds. This average includes non-emergency responses which take longer. The fire company spent an average of 31 minutes on scene, and the longest incident was over 3 hours long.
- **Personnel:** The BPVFC had an average of 13 volunteer personnel responding per call. This is up from the average of 12 personnel responding during 2024. During the daytime hours this number is typically lower as the majority of our members are working.
- **Structure Fires:** The BPVFC responded to 42 structure fires in 2025. Structure fires are any incident where there is some type of fire inside a building at that address.
- **Response Area:** We have many mutual aid agreements with local departments. When necessary, we will respond into other communities to provide additional manpower and to support larger incidents. These same departments will often respond into Bethel Park to provide the same level of assistance to us when needed. In 2025, we responded to a total of 131 calls in 9 different communities outside of Bethel Park. In return, we had 11 calls where we requested mutual aid assistance during 2025.

## FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

### Fire Prevention and Community Outreach

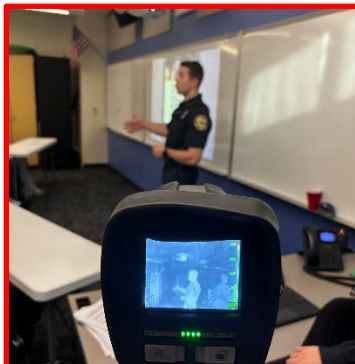
This year we participated in dozens of block parties, neighborhood parades, station tours, and daycare/school visits. These are great opportunities for us to connect with and educate our youth on not only fire safety tips, but also how to become a volunteer firefighter when they are old enough. We also participated in dozens of community events and events at local businesses and organizations. Some of the highlights this year were participating in the Bethel Park Summer Fireworks, and Bethel Park Community Day. We are always looking for opportunities to educate the public about what our organization does and what our needs are. We also appreciated all the support and encouragement we received while at these events.

### Open House

The Fire Company usually hosts an annual open house in October. This year we were again able to hold our open house and opened our doors to hundreds of citizens to come tour our main fire station on Brightwood Road and learn about who we are and what we do. During the open house, we had displays and activities for adults and children.

### Bethel Park High School DECA Program

This year we had two students help the BPVFC with our social media outreach and volunteer recruitment as part of their DECA project. As part of that partnership, one of our members gave presentations to several classes of students about the benefits of joining the BPVFC, specifically focused on CCAC's FireVest program, which provides full tuition scholarships for associate degrees or certificates at the Community College of Allegheny County to Allegheny County volunteer firefighters.



## TRAINING

The BPVFC makes training a top priority and we ensure that we offer our volunteers the same opportunities and training that would take place in a large-scale paid city fire department. Our members are trained in many different aspects of firefighting and rescue specialties including structural firefighting, trench rescue, aircraft crash rescue, structural collapse, large animal rescue, and swift water rescue to name just a few.

The BPVFC holds training drills on Monday evenings. Along with this training, the members of the BPVFC are encouraged to attend state-sponsored training classes at the numerous fire training academies throughout the state and beyond. In 2025, the BPVFC members participated in classroom and hands-on training totaling over 2,600 combined hours.

## CERTIFICATIONS

The BPVFC requires all our members to become certified at the nationally accredited Fire Fighter 1 level prior to coming off probation. Many volunteers then go on to take classes to receive additional certifications. We have members that are on the Allegheny County Hazardous Materials Team, certified as EMT's, and Vehicle Rescue Technicians. Some of these are international certifications that are transferable around the world. Below is a list of how many members have some of the more notable certifications.

<b>STATE AND PRO BOARD CERTIFICATION COUNTS</b>					
Fire Fighter 1	41	Fire Officer 1	8	EMT	12
Fire Fighter 2	23	Fire Officer 2	3	Paramedic	2
Fire Instructor 1	11	Fire Inspector 1	4	Hazmat Technician	4
Fire Instructor 2	3	Fire Inspector 2	2	Vehicle Rescue Technician	30



## ADMINISTRATION

The BPVFC is a large organization and has a lot of behind-the-scenes work being done every day. In 2025, our volunteers contributed over 6,000 combined hours to running the fire company. These hours are in addition to the hours spent training and responding to fires. Some of these tasks include fundraising, recruitment, fire reports, grant writing, finances, equipment and vehicle maintenance, and all the other paperwork that comes with any large organization.

## FINANCES and FUNDRAISING

We are very fortunate in Bethel Park to have the stability of the municipal fire tax, which pays for our three fire stations, including utilities, maintenance, and repairs to the buildings. While this item costs the taxpayers of Bethel Park \$860,000 a year, having a 100% volunteer department saves an estimated \$2.94 million every year, or about \$198 per household. While the labor the department provides is free, we rely on your donations to pay for everything inside these stations: the purchase, repair and maintenance of vehicles, protective gear, masks and air cylinders, firefighting and rescue tools, plus the training and classes needed to use all of these items. Just to outfit a single firefighter with all of the necessary safety gear costs roughly \$15,000. Simply put, without your support we could not afford the vehicles, tools and equipment needed to deliver the quality of fire protection you deserve and have grown to expect. Running any large organization such as ours also has the usual expenses such as IT equipment, administrative supplies, and insurance.

The members of the BPVFC would like to acknowledge and thank all those who donate to our fund drives. The ongoing support that our community shows is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue to deliver exceptional fire protection to Bethel Park. We recognize that everyone's financial situation is different and appreciate donations in any amount. The fact that you have given financially to support your 100% volunteer fire company makes us appreciate you even more!



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank the following organizations for their ongoing support and partnership to ensure the best possible fire protection available for the citizens of Bethel Park

Bethel Park Municipality

Bethel Park Police

Bethel Park Municipal Council

Tri-Community South EMS

Bethel Park Public Works

Citizens and Business owners of Bethel Park

Bethel Park Community Foundation

Bethel Park School District

South Hills Area Council of Governments

The Salvation Army

Mutual Aid Fire Departments

American Red Cross

Allegheny County Emergency Services

