



Cheltenham Township Fire Services Plan

December 2020



OBJECTIVES

- Improve fire protection services to the residents, businesses and visitors of Cheltenham Township.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility in providing high level of fire service and protection for the community.



BACKGROUND

- By ordinance, fire service in Cheltenham Township is delivered by five(5) independent fire companies, all of which make up the Cheltenham Township Fire Department (CTFD)
 - Glenside – District 1
 - La Mott – District 2
 - Elkins Park – District 3
 - Cheltenham – District 4
 - Ogontz – District 5
- Every CTFD Fire Company is required to have a Qualified Chief and maintain an active volunteer force capable of responding in force to Fire Calls



BACKGROUND

- In November 2020, President of Ogontz Fire Company presented to Fire Board the options that they had for appointing a Chief
- Options were reviewed and denied by a majority of the Fire Chiefs that voted*

*per ordinance, only fire chiefs are eligible to vote



BACKGROUND

- Cheltenham Township Codes and Ordinances, Chapter 22 FIRE DEPARTMENT, section 22-2 Membership states: Each volunteer fire company which is a member of the Department shall maintain an active firefighting force of at least 20 members and shall be subject to the control and jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. All active members of the fire companies who are 16 years of age or older shall be members of the Fire Department.
- Ogontz Fire Company, for the whole calendar year of 2020 and independent of COVID-19, has failed to maintain a minimum level of staffing required to continue its accreditation.



BACKGROUND

- CTFD Policies and Guidelines # 100.002 Active Firefighter, approved by Fire Board 9/1/11 states: The member must have documented response to at least 15% of the total dispatched company responses for the period between January 1 and December 31 of the preceding calendar year.



BACKGROUND

Personnel Response Data for 2018 and 2019

Ogontz Fire Company		
Total number of calls that Ogontz was dispatched in 2018	518	
Total Number of active members that responded to more than 15% of calls	11/17	5/11
DW	478	92.28%
PW	436	84.17%
KL	391	75.48%
CF	360	69.50%
JW	336	64.86%
CL	255	49.23%
SW	224	43.24%
RB	146	28.19%
AG	139	26.83%
KM	100	19.31%
MF	88	16.99%
RZ	51	9.85%
BF	33	6.37%
MP	23	4.44%
QG	11	2.12%
JD	3	0.58%
JB	1	0.19%

Ogontz Fire Company		
Total number of calls that Ogontz was dispatched in 2019	517	
Total Number of active members that responded to more than 15% of calls	9/17	6/9
PW	465	89.94%
DW	421	81.43%
CF	413	79.88%
KL	412	79.69%
JW	339	65.57%
CL	325	62.86%
SW	179	34.62%
AG	153	29.59%
RB	137	26.50%
KM	50	9.67%
RZ	33	6.38%
RP	14	2.71%
BF	13	2.51%
CP	7	1.35%
JD	5	0.97%
MF	5	0.97%
QG	2	0.39%

Data collected from the CTFD Emergency Reporting System
 Grey = members at or above 15% required
 Orange = members at 50% or more



BACKGROUND

Personnel Response Data for 2020 *as of 11/30/2020

Ogontz Fire Company		
Total number of calls that Ogontz was dispatched (as of 11/30/2020)	337	
Total Number of active members that responded to more than 15% of calls	7/17	5/7
PW	311	92.28%
DW	305	90.50%
KL	301	89.32%
CL	257	76.26%
AG	204	60.53%
CF	85	25.22%
RB	80	23.74%
CP	34	10.09%
BF	28	8.31%
MP	21	6.23%
KM	11	3.26%
RZ	9	2.67%
RP	3	0.89%
JD	2	0.59%
MF	1	0.30%
JW	1	0.30%
SW	1	0.30%

Data collected from the CTFD Emergency Reporting System

Grey = members at or above 15% required

Orange = members at 50% or more



BACKGROUND

- The current Chief serving for the Ogontz Fire Company is ALSO the Acting Chief of La Mott Fire Company. This Chief has requested, and has been approved by Fire Board, to laterally transfer to La Mott, effective 1/1/2021, and will serve as Chief for La Mott
- The current staffing levels at Ogontz Fire Company do not meet the requirements of the CTFD Policy
- The current staffing levels have been supplemented by other Township Fire Companies
- The current staffing level is unsafe and unsustainable



RESPONSE

- Fire Board will meet and discuss the response coverage of the 5th fire district (Ogontz Fire Co.) for the Township
- Response times will not be affected. In most cases improved with additional trained volunteers
- At no time during this process will there be a lapse in fire protection





MUTUAL AIDE

- The closest CTFD company will be dispatched with the closest mutual aid company, when necessary
- The closest mutual aid resource dispatched, may arrive first on scene based on the location of the incident
 - *Current Operating Procedure
- Through a mutual agreement with the surrounding municipalities, mutual aid is automatically provided to/by Abington Township, Springfield Township, as well as the Boroughs of Jenkintown and Rockledge



CERTIFICATIONS

- The remaining CTFD fire companies will continue to adhere to the Firefighter Training Requirements set forth by Fire Board in the CTFD Policies # 200.006 and maintain NIMS Certifications, Hazardous Materials Operations Level and continue training with the Pro Board Accreditation program



SPECIALIZED RESCUE

- This service will not be disrupted. Cheltenham Fire Company will respond with their Squad (Rescue/Pumper) to all vehicle accidents with entrapment East of Washington Lane with an additional Certified Rescue Company from Wyndmoor (Springfield Township), Weldon (Abington Township) and/or Rockledge (Rockledge Borough), depending on the location of the incident
- If necessary, CTFD will be supported by the Montgomery County Technical Rescue and Hazardous Material Response Team



SPECIALIZED RESCUE

- Members of the Glenside, La Mott, Elkins Park & Cheltenham Fire Companies continue to cross train in various Specialized Rescue Training including, Vehicle Rescue, Water Rescue and Technical Rescue
- Even after the members of the remaining fire companies receive the specific training and become certified, an additional Certified Rescue Company will be dispatched on all rescue calls to ensure the victims involved receive the best possible care



COLLABORATION

- The remaining CTFD Fire Companies continue to maintain standard fire suppression capabilities to protect Cheltenham Township
- The remaining CTFD Fire Companies maintain all appropriate equipment within each company
- The remaining CTFD Fire Companies continue to work and train together
- The remaining CTFD Fire Companies continue to development Standard Operating Guidelines Compliance



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The remaining CTFD fire companies will continue to participate in community events
- The remaining CTFD fire companies will jointly participate in Township newsletters and social media outreach to promote volunteering and fire company's activities.



MEMBERSHIP CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

- The CTFD continues to follow the CTFD Firefighter Training Requirements Policy 200.006 set forth by Fire Board and all new applicants will be required to submit to the Entry Level Physical
- The CTFD continues to require that all new members submit a child abuse clearance and criminal history clearance prior to admittance into each fire company, and submit abovementioned clearances every five (5) years
- Any current member, in good standing, of the Ogoontz Fire Company that wishes to join any of the remaining CTFD Fire Companies can submit a request to Fire Board to be reviewed under the Lateral Station Transfer Policy 100.003



FINANCIAL

- Maintain disbursement to the remaining CTFD Fire Companies, in order to provide improved fire protection
- Create a Capital Fire Account for future purchases of equipment and apparatus
- Requests for funds will be reviewed by the Cheltenham Township Fire Board for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners



GRANTS

- The remaining CTFD fire companies continue to research and apply for local, state and federal grants that will benefit the individual company, department and the Township



PROCESS

- Board of Commissioners adopt the new Fire Service Plan at scheduled December 16, 2020 Board Meeting
- Immediately following Board of Commissioners decision, the new Fire Service Plan will immediately take effect and the Ogontz Fire Company will no longer be recognized as an operating Fire Protection entity of Cheltenham Township
- The Fire Marshal and the Emergency Management Coordinator meet with Officials from Montgomery County Department of Public Safety following Fire Board's recommendations of changes to the CTFD dispatch procedures



PROCESS

- Board of Commissioners amend Chapter 22, FIRE DEPARTMENT of the Cheltenham Township Code, section 22-1, Establishment of Fire Department at a future meeting



CLOSEOUT

- It is the responsibility of the Government of Cheltenham Township to protect the residents, businesses and visitors, which includes fire protection
- Personnel response data shows that the responding members of Ogontz Fire Company has diminished over the last couple of years, as demonstrated on slides 6 & 7
- The same statistics show that the same 4-7 members consistently respond to calls with an average of 3 personnel per call



CLOSEOUT

- In the past OFC, and it's members have helped to support the Elkins Park and La Mott Fire Companies as they rebuild membership
- Currently, the majority of the CTFD are not willing to support OFC because their current or future leadership candidates



CLOSEOUT

- At no time during this process will there be a lapse in fire protection. The current dispatch procedures will automatically dispatch the next closest listed resource, until such time that Fire Board implements future responses