

**LITTLE FALLS  
FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

**2017**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



**FIRE CHIEF  
JACK SWEEZY Jr.**

# LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**December 19, 2017**

Herein contains the annual report of the Little Falls Fire Department for the 2017 fire year. Included in this report are the following:

Proposed Capital Improvements 2018  
Accomplishments 2017  
Goals/Objectives 2018  
Fire Alarm Statistics Report 2017  
Little Falls Fire Department Fire Alarm Maintenance Report 2017  
Montclair State University Response Report 2017

The Little Falls Fire Department responded to a total of 532 alarms and the EMS Department responded to a total of 1246 calls for assistance.

A total of 1778 emergency calls were handled through the Little Falls Fire Alarm dispatch in addition to the many non emergency business calls for the fire department. The volume of calls handled by the fire alarm dispatch center reaffirms the need to continue this vital service within our department in our continued efforts to save lives, protect property and provide an organized Emergency Incident Command system.

During 2017 the Township of Little Falls experienced the following incidents where the Fire Department worked for an extended time period to mitigate the emergency:

Williams Hall, MSU	Kitchen fire	March 13, 2017
515 Main Street	Structure fire	March 21, 2017
16 Jacobus Avenue	Kitchen fire	May 11, 2017
123 Rt. 23 South	Kitchen fire/commercial	June 8, 2017
131 Rt. 23 South	Basement fire/commercial	July 22, 2017
22 Riverview Circle	Basement fire	October 28, 2017

As always, I continue to be extremely proud and honored to be working with our officers and our members through all of these incidents. The above emergencies are the highlighted events that occurred throughout the year however our membership stands prepared and rises to the occasion whenever called upon.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2018

- Secure funding for the replacement of Engine #4 at a cost of \$725,000. Engine #4 is beginning its 27th year of service.
- Rescue One (Truck) has completed 17 years of service. In 2019, this apparatus will be due for replacement. Accruals for this purchase to begin in 2017 at a rate of \$85,000 per year.
- The LFFD dispatch purchase of C.A.D system along with two Z-Tron work dispatch stations and a Digitizer - \$95,500.
- Proposing the construction of a 50' x 50' Morton structure located at the Township DPW site to be used for fire department equipment storage, meeting room and indoor training facility. The cost for this project is estimated at \$48,500.
- Replacement of 2011 Chevy Tahoe (Chief Vehicle) Township owned \$47,500
- Ladder #4 has completed 10 years of service and should be replaced in 2022. Accruals for this purchase to begin in 2018 at a rate of \$60,000 per year.

In the year 2018 The Little Falls Fire Department will be pursuing the opportunity of grants for the Township of Little Falls. If we are successful in acquiring the grants, this would be of great assistance to the Township in offsetting costs for the equipment and programs we are looking to have in place for 2018/2019.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2017

- Secured funding for the replacement of two (2) Township Ambulance units 842 & 843, at a cost of \$375,000. We reviewed all options and agreed to a joint purchase along with The Paterson Fire Department with a substantial savings to the Township of Little Falls.
- Proposed and secured funding for the construction of a 50' x 50' Morton structure located at the Township DPW site to be used for fire department equipment storage, meeting room and indoor training facility. The cost for this project is estimated at \$70,000.
- All EMT's within The Little Falls Fire Department Emergency Medical Service have completed CPAP, Narcan and Epi certification training.
- We have continued to provide a yearly clothing allowance in the amount of \$400.00 for qualifying members for 2017.
- Continued to work with New Jersey American Water Company for upgrading water supply throughout the Township of Little Falls.
- Successful completion of the Firefighter One Course offered at Passaic County Public Safety Academy by six (6) of our members.
- Successful completion of the Firefighter Two Course for three (3) of our members.
- Engine, Ladder Truck and Rescue training was conducted on Company levels to enhance effective and safe fire ground procedures.
- The RAPID ENTRY SYSTEM, (Knox Box) program has continued to expand on a commercial and residential level. We have increased our participation in this program. This program is a vital role in rapid entry and ensuring the safety for both our firefighters and the residents of the Township of Little Falls.
- As part of Operation Graduation; a joint demonstration with The Little Falls Police and Fire Departments along with the NJ State Police North Star, Medi-Vac helicopter is held annually on Hopson Avenue for Passaic Valley High School senior students. The demonstration consists of a reenactment of a severe traffic accident as a result of drunk driving. The students observe the exercise and are reminded of the dangers of drinking and driving.

## GOALS / OBJECTIVES 2018

- Replacement of Engine #4 - secure funding and obtain final approval
- Establish location and plan construction for the 50' x 50' Morton structure to be used for fire department equipment storage, meeting room and indoor training facility. The cost for this project is estimated at \$70,000.
- Remodeling and upgrading Fire Alarm Dispatch room.
- Begin Accruals for Rescue One and Ladder #4 replacement in 2019
- Continue with further improvement of water supply with NJ American Water.
  - Relining of water mains is scheduled for 2017 on Ridge, Lincoln, First, Second, Third, Fourth Avenues, Wilmore Rd., Prospect, Stanley, Crane, Frances and Elm Streets and Park Lane.
  - Extending a 16" water main east on Main St. from Paterson Avenue to Browertown Rd.
- Continue to review and improve our ISO records for training & equipment, call volume, General Orders and preplan procedures.
- Develop a recruitment program in conjunction with Passaic Valley High School to start in January 2018
- 2018 training classes will consist of the following:
  - Fire Alarm Operations- Dispatch class
  - Truck training program
  - Blood-borne Pathogen (offered from Clifton Health Dept)
  - Water rescue/Vehicle Extrication training
  - Drafting Drill and Pump Operations
  - Officers Training Class

The following classes will be offered by LFFD training officer James Hearney:

- Right To Know
- Hazmat Awareness
- Fire ground Safety Class

Board of Fire Officers meetings will be held for the review and recommended revisions to Township ordinances involving the Little Falls Fire Division. President Burke will be establishing a bi-law committee to review and propose recommended revisions to existing bi-laws.

Enrollment of three (3) new members of The Little Falls Fire Department in the Firefighter One classes offered at Passaic County Public Safety/Fire Academy beginning July 2018. Enrollment of one (1) EMT to begin in January of 2018.

Continue working with our Mayor, Business Administrator and Town Council members on matters pertaining to the Fire Department budget, expenditures and capital improvements including the future construction and development projects throughout the township.

Continue to work closely with the Fire Official, Assistant Chief James DiMaria, Fire Inspectors and Building Inspector to insure code enforcement for the safety and well being of our residents and firefighters.

Continue to maintain full compliance of all OSHA and PEOSH standards and regulations.

To the **Class of 2017**, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to all of our members that attended and successfully completed the Firefighter One Courses:

**Firefighter One**

**Ahmad Awawdeh**

**Mario Divjaka**

**Jack McGowan**

**Robert Poloniak**

**Sarah Ramos**

**Thomas Spadafora**

**Firefighter Two**

**Ed Farnon**

**Karen Garcia**

**Orlando Lopez**

**EMT Certification**

**Jeff Altonjy**

**Sergio Castaneda**

**We are very proud of each and every one of you for your commitment and continued dedication to your community and we look forward to working with all of you in the future.**

On June 23, 2017, the Knights of Columbus of Little Falls recognized Ken Cichy Sr. of Great Notch Fire Co #4 as Firefighter of the Year. In looking to recognize an EMT to be honored this year, it became apparent that all of the employees and volunteers had given so much of themselves to the start-up of this new program, it was impossible to select just one. The award and the honor belongs to each and every one of them together. I would like to congratulate Ken Cichy Sr. and the entire EMS Division of The Little Falls Fire Department for their dedicated years of service and commitment.

I would also like to congratulate Chris Seibel who recently achieved the rank of Captain within Orange NJ Fire Department. Chris is currently an active member within Enterprise Fire Co #2.

Congratulations to Lou Raccanelli of Great Notch Co #4 for his recent hiring as Police Officer within the Township.

Congratulations to Thomas Jacobus and Paul Wendling who were recently hired as firefighters within the City of Clifton.

Congratulations to Devon McGowan for his recent hiring as a firefighter within the City of Paterson.

These career achievements are considered a great compliment to our department and we wish them continued success and safety in their careers.

**To all of our members:**

Training is one of the most important elements of the fire service and should always be considered a top priority at all times. The commitment displayed throughout the department is commendable and we look forward to being able to provide top quality education and training for our firefighters on an ongoing basis.

The recruiting and retaining of new members has increased over the past years and I attribute a large part of that success to the commitment and dedication of our Company Officers. Thank you for your continued support and for working together to improve this department each and every year.

I would like to extend a very sincere thanks to all of the members both present and past of Eagle Hose Co #1 and our Volunteer EMS service. For over 113 years this team has provided an invaluable service to the people of this township as well as surrounding towns in which they provided mutual aid when needed. Although the ever changing world demands that we move ahead with innovation and change, these changes should in no way ever diminish the accomplishments of the past.

I would like to thank all of the officers and the members of the Little Falls Fire Department, our mutual aid towns for their support throughout the year; The Little Falls Police Department, The Little Falls Department of Public Works, The Office of Emergency Management, Fire Dept. Secretary Toni Bertino, Cynthia Kraus, Marlene Simone and Pamela Cannataro for their continued support.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Joe Macones who recently retired after serving 12 years as Building Inspector in the Township of Little Falls. We wish Joe a happy healthy retirement and thank him for his service.

I would also like to thank Mayor James Damiano, Business Administrator Charles Cuccia and the Township Council for their continued support towards our department. I look forward to continuing our work on future initiatives for the Fire Department.

During 2017 we were saddened by the loss of Steve (Bobo) Sardinsky of Singac Fire Company #3. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. We are thankful for his years of dedicated service and the contribution he made to our department.



On September 11, 2017 the Fire department held a memorial service in Memorial Park marking the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terror attacks. A wreath was placed at the memorial in recognition of all those firefighters and first responders for giving the ultimate sacrifice for the people they serve.

Firefighter Robert Cordice, a member of FDNY who lost his life that day will always be remembered in our prayers. His mother Carolyn has chosen this location as his resting place. May all those who gave their lives in the line of duty along with all the victims of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, never be forgotten.

In October 2017, Holy Angels Church and Deacon Joseph Sisco (Little Falls Fire Department Chaplain) held a special mass for the widows of our fallen firefighters. At this time I would like to thank Father Mark and Deacon Joseph Sisco, along with Holy Angels Church for the continued support of our Firefighters and their families.


In closing I would like to thank all the officers and the members of The Little Falls Fire Department for their commitment and dedication this past year. 2017 was another busy year in which demands were placed on both the department members and their families.

Your commitment is always well recognized and very much appreciated.

Tonight concludes the completion of Eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) year as your Department Chief. Over past years I have strived to improve our department and hopefully have consistently met your expectations. It is truly a privilege and an honor to serve with the members of The Little Falls Fire Department and I hope to have shown the level of leadership and dedication for the office of Chief. I am looking forward to working with all of you in 2018.

***I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year.***

Firematically Yours,

  
Jack Sweezy Jr., Chief  
Little Falls Fire Department

## Little Falls Fire Statistics

### Fire Year 2017

Incident Type	Count	%
Assist PD	1	0.19%
Basement Fire	2	0.38%
Blown Transformer	2	0.38%
Boiler Issue	9	1.69%
Brush Fire	5	0.94%
Car Fire	7	1.32%
CO Alarm	27	5.08%
Drill	1	0.19%
Electrical Issue	2	0.38%
Elevator Entrapment	7	1.32%
Fire Alarm	168	31.58%
First Responder	99	18.61%
Fluid Spill	7	1.32%
Force Entry	11	2.07%
Gas Leak	2	0.38%
Grill Fire	1	0.19%
Hazmat	1	0.19%
Kitchen Fire	2	0.38%
Master Box	1	0.19%
Minor Fire	2	0.38%
Mutual Aid	43	8.08%
MVA	24	4.51%
Odor of Gas	30	5.64%
Open Burn	11	2.07%
Overheated Vehicle	4	0.75%
Poss Fire	2	0.38%
Poss Garage Fire	1	0.19%
Poss Hazmat	1	0.19%
Smell of Smoke	34	6.39%
Special Detail	1	0.19%
Transformer Fire	7	1.32%
Water Condition	3	0.56%
Water Flow	3	0.56%
Wires Down	10	1.88%
Working Fire	1	0.19%
	532	

### 2017 Incidents

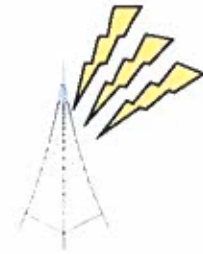
131 Rt 23	7/22/2017	Basement Fire
22 Riverview Cr	10/28/2017	Basement Fire
Williams Hall	3/13/2017	Kitchen Fire
16 Jacobus Ave	5/11/2017	Kitchen Fire
123 Rt 23	6/8/2017	Minor Fire
Rt 46 W	8/28/2017	Minor Fire
515 Main St	3/21/2017	Working Fire

### Mutual Aid Breakdown

Clifton	8
Passaic	6
Paterson	22
Totowa	4
Wayne	3
Woodland Park	1



## **Little Falls Fire Department Fire Alarm Control Center**



Chief Jack Sweezy Jr  
Little Falls Fire Department

Dear Chief Sweezy,

Please accept the following as the 2017 yearend report for the Township of Little Falls Municipal Fire Alarm System.

Various fire alarm system maintenance tasks were performed throughout the year. These tasks included repainting and refurbishing street boxes, transferring our lines to new poles Public Service has placed throughout the town, and performing regular voltage monitoring of all three circuits.

There have been a series of new poles installed by Public Service on Long Hill Rd and Ridge Rd that we hope to have our equipment transferred to in the upcoming months.

We have worked with NJ DOT and State contracted vendors for relocation of Fire Alarm wires underground as required in the Clove Rd, Rt. 46 road construction project.

The Digitize System 3505 alarm monitoring computer in Fire Headquarters is need of replacement.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Stratthaus  
Fire Alarm Superintendent

## MSU Breakdown

300 Clove Rd	2
Basie Hall	1
Basilone Hall	1
Blanton Hall	1
School of Business	2
Calcia Hall	1
Car Parc Diem	1
Child Care Center	2
Clove Rd Bridge	2
Dickson Hall	1
Fenwick Hall	4
Floyd Hall	1
Gibson Hall	1
Gordon Hall	1
Life Hall	3
Lot 27	1
Parker Hall	2
Paul Hall	4
Rec Center	2
Red Hawk Diner	2
Schmidt Hall	1
Sinatra Hall	3
Student Center	1
Transit Deck	1
University Hall	2
Webster Hall	3
Williams Hall	10
Yogi Berra Museum	1
Yogi Berra Dr	1
	58

# Little Falls Response Report to MSU

## November 2016

### 7 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
11/1	17-3	9:21	Dickson Hall	Fire Alarm
11/3	17-13	17:29	Parker Hall	Odor of Gas
11/4	17-15	22:28	Sinatra Hall	Elevator Entrapment
11/5	17-16	13:26	Fenwick Hall	Fire Alarm
11/5	17-17	17:13	Williams Hall	Fire Alarm
11/19	17-38	4:35	Paul Hall	Fire Alarm
11/29	17-54	10:24	Sinatra Hall	Fire Alarm

## December 2016

### 9 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
12/4	17-60	14:34	Basie Hall	Fire Alarm
12/5	17-61	4:18	Rec Center	Odor of Gas
12/6	17-64	13:38	Webster Hall	Fire Alarm
12/6	17-65	16:52	Clove Rd Bridge	Fluid Spill
12/7	17-66	9:09	Webster Hall	Odor of Gas
12/7	17-67	18:01	Rec Center	Odor of Gas
12/18	17-79	15:33	Gordon Hall	Smell of Smoke
12/20	17-82	9:16	Clove Rd Bridge	Fluid Spill
12/22	17-85	12:16	Life Hall	Water Flow Alarm

## January 2017

### 2 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
1/30/17	17-137	13:22	300 Clove Rd	Cooking
1/30/17	17-138	16:22	Sinatra Hall	Elevator Entrapment

February 2017  
2 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
2/13/17	17-155	10:03	Williams Hall	Elevator Entrapment
2/23/17	17-166	22:42	Transit Deck	Alarm

March 2017

1 Call

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
3/13/17	17-185	21:02	Williams Hall	Kitchen Fire

April 2017

4 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
4/4	17-208	12:39	Life Hall	Water Flow Alarm
4/8	17-213	14:47	Student Center	Fire Alarm
4/26	17-247	11:38	Paul Hall	Smoke Condition
4/28	17-252	19:11	Paul Hall	Fire Alarm

May 2017

3 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
5/13	17-269	20:01	Life Hall	Fire Alarm
5/16	17-272	21:11	300 Clove Rd	Fire Alarm
5/25	17-282	00:30	Fenwick Hall	Fire Alarm

## June 2017

### 3 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
6/1	17-293	23:49	Fenwick Hall	Fire Alarm
6/5	17-298	7:45	School of Business	Fire Alarm
6/20	17-333	22:49	Gibson Hall	Fire Alarm

## July 2017

### 3 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
7/7	17-365	11:13	Car Parc	Fire Alarm
7/14	17-375	11:17	Yogi Berra Dr	MVA
7/31	17-391	13:28	Red Hawk Diner	Fire Alarm

## August 2017

### 6 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
8/5	17-400	3:16	Williams Hall	Fire Alarm
8/8	17-403	18:45	Williams Hall	Fire Alarm
8/9	17-404	00:08	Yogi Berra Museum	Smoke Condition
8/10	17-408	13:22	Webster Hall	Fire Alarm
8/14	17-414	14:58	Williams Hall	Fire Alarm
8/23	17-426	21:45	Paul Hall	Fire Alarm



## September 2017

### 14 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
9/1	17-437	11:39	University Hall	Fire Alarm
9/3	17-439	13:29	Floyd Hall	Fire Alarm
9/4	17-440	15:06	Red Hawk Diner	Fire Alarm
9/5	17-443	14:54	Williams Hall	Fire Alarm
9/7	17-447	21:45	Blanton Hall	Fire Alarm
9/8	17-448	08:09	Lot 27	Fuel Spill
9/12	17-454	11:05	Schmidt Hall	Fire Alarm
9/14	17-457	22:03	Williams Hall	Elevator Entrapment
9/19	17-459	11:54	Williams Hall	Fire Alarm
9/19	17-461	11:51	Child Care Center	Smell of Smoke
9/19	17-465	20:16	Fenwick Hall	Fire Alarm
9/26	17-476	12:04	Williams Hall	Fire Alarm
9/27	17-477	05:15	Basilone Hall	Fire Alarm
9/30	17-482	11:39	Parker Hall	Fire Alarm

## October 2017

### 4 Calls

<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Problem</b>
10/27	17-520	10:10	University Hall	Fire Alarm
10/30	17-526	9:14	Childrens Center	Fire Alarm
10/30	17-528	10:58	Calcia Hall	Fire Alarm
10/31	17-530	00:08	School of Business	Elevator Entrapment