



Bellmawr Fire Department

P.O Box 368

Bellmawr New Jersey 08031

District 3

2019 Fire Department Statistics/Update

Total Fire Calls 1003
Total EMS Calls 3258

NFPA 1720 is the Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments; it states that we should be at 10 minutes 80% of the time. **In 2019 our average response time (arrival of first unit from time of dispatch) was 7 minutes 31 seconds**, for 100% of the calls. *(It should be noted that in 2015 our arrival time was 10 mins.)* Not taking into fact that we have an automatic reduce speed policy; meaning we respond no lights or sirens to certain calls, such as Cover assignments, basement pump outs, CO alarms, accident clean ups, ect. Other incidents that would add time to our arrivals would be a response to a fire alarm and while responding we are advised that it was accidental, we would go at reduced speed for the investigation, thus adding to our arrival time.

Incident type breakdown Using NJ NFIRS

100 series Fires	85	8.47%
200 series Over pressure/Explosions	7	0.69%
300 series Rescue/FDEMS Incidents	305	30.40%
400 series Hazardous Conditions	67	6.68%
500 series Service Calls	100	9.97%
600 series Good Intent	330	32.90%
700 series False Alarm, False Calls	104	10.36%
800 series Severe Weather & Natural Disaster Other	4	0.39%
900 series Special Type Incident	1	0.09%

Total 1003 100%

The status of the Fire Department is as follows: Bellmawr has been dealing with a decline in active firefighters along with an increase of emergency calls. Due to declining membership and the ability to respond to calls with properly staffed

apparatus, all fire department operations have been combined into the Lewis Avenue station. This action was taken in 2015 to address the reduction of volunteer staffing and to consolidate the resources for effective deployment. Consolidating into one station has increased the Department's ability to provide a better, consistent coverage along with reducing the operational cost resulting in less impact to the taxpayers. As indicated above, our arrival time of the first piece of properly staffed apparatus was 7 minutes 31 seconds which is well below the national average and the lowest that it has ever been in our community.

Consolidating fire stations and lack of volunteers is not new for our region as several departments around us have gone through the same issues over the years.

The Officer staff would not be able to maintain the quality of services we provide without the continued support of Mayor and Council. Ultimately the Fire Department Officer staff would like to be able to re-utilize the Essex Avenue station for responses. However operationally we cannot do so until we are able to effectively respond to calls on a continuous basis 24 hours a day.

The members take great pride in providing a quality service to our community, spending countless hours at the firehouse training, maintaining the building and equipment, overnight duty crews, administrative paperwork. We continue to struggle with the increased demands that we all face some of which we listed below:

Retention and Recruitment Root Causes and Challenging Contributing Factors

Time Demands • the two-income family and working multiple jobs • increased training time demands • higher emergency call volume • additional demands within department (fundraising, administrative)

Training Requirements • higher training standards and new federal requirements • more time demands • greater public expectation of fire department's response capabilities (broader range of services such as EMS, Hazmat, technical rescue, etc.) • additional training demands to provide broader range of services • recertification demands

Increasing Call Volume • fire department assuming wider response roles (EMS, Hazmat, technical rescue) • increasing emergency medical call volume • increase in number of automatic fire alarms, Construction

Changes In the "Nature of the Business" • less of an emphasis on social aspects of volunteering
Changes In Sociological Conditions (In Urban And Suburban Areas) • transience • less of an interest or time for volunteering • two-income family and time demands • "me" generation

Changes in Sociological Conditions • employers less willing to let employees off to run calls • time demand • "me" generation

Failure to manage change Federal Legislation and Regulations • Fair Labor Standards Act interpretation • "2 in, 2 out" ruling requiring four firefighters on scene before entering hazardous environment • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) live-fire burn limitations. PEOSHA requirements, Insurance Company Requirements.

To address the aging of the fire service and foster the next generation of firefighters and EMS personnel, the Bellmawr Fire Department is always looking for new members. One proven way is that we maintain a Junior Firefighter Program. The goal is to get more youth involved in the fire service while they are young, thus fostering a lifelong connection with the emergency services where they can continue to serve as volunteer or career firefighters or community supporters of the fire service throughout their adulthood, all while providing a possible career path in Emergency services for them as they grow. We will continue to work closely with the Mayor and Council to create incentives to attract more volunteers.

Rest assure we will continue to strive to provide a quality service, maintaining National Standards, doing our best to ensure everyone goes home safe, all while being fiscally responsible.

Wishing you and your families a safe 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the Fire Department, you can contact Chief Jim Burleigh at 856-933-1286.