Newport Township Fire Protection District

39010 Caroline Avenue
Wadsworth, Illinois 60083

Emergency - 911 or (847) 623-2161 • Fire Station (847) 336-1080 • Fax (847) 336-1097 • mail@newportfire.org

Mark Kirschhoffer - Fire Chief

Craig Johnson **Joe Stanonik** **Doug Reno**

Trustees

Who Are We?

- We are your local fire department protecting Newport Township, the Villages of Wadsworth and Old Mill Creek, and a part of the Village of Beach Park, 33 square miles
- We provide both fire and ambulance service
- We have two fire stations: downtown Wadsworth and northwest Newport Township
- We provide 24/7 full support including paramedic capability known as Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") every day of the year including all holidays
- Our firefighters are trained to the standards of the Office of the State Fire Marshall
- Our EMS personnel are trained to standards of the Illinois State Department of Health
- In addition to paid staff, we utilize part-timers for efficiency and cost management

What Have We Done for You Lately?

- Last year, we responded to a whopping 806 EMS calls saving countless lives
- Last year, we responded to over 400 fire related calls in our 33 mile district
- We extinguish, on the average, more than two residential and commercial fires monthly
- We once again improved our Town Class rating with the Insurance Service Organization which lowered your homeowner's insurance premiums significantly
- We set a goal to reach your house within six minutes of a 911 call
- We provided educational programs for senior citizens and school districts
- We perform periodic inspections to help protect the public safety

What Kind of Calls Do We Respond To?

We respond to all 911 calls, including, but not limited, to:

- Residential and commercial fires
- Explosions
- Automobile accidents on village, township, county, state, and Federal roads
- Personal injuries such as falls, burns, heart attacks, and other medical emergencies
- Confined space issues
- Hazmat issues, such as chemical spills, gasoline and oil spills, and other toxic substances
- Pet and other animal emergencies

How Are We Funded?

- Property taxes provide most of the revenue, but there are some problems:
    - We all know our property values have declined, decreasing our revenue
    - The total assessed valuation of the property in our district suffers because new construction is stagnant thereby adding little to that assessed valuation
    - More property is taken off the tax rolls because of Forest Preserve purchases which now account for almost 25% of all Newport Township property
    - The last referendum for a tax increase was 1993, some 23 years ago

- Ambulance billing provides the second source of revenue, but that is declining, as well:
    - Changes in health care laws and plans have significantly reduced our insurance reimbursements even though we continue to provide the same, or higher, level of support
    - Medicare and Medicaid have reduced their reimbursements
    - For accidents occurring on a state highway or the tollway, if the driver is uninsured or underinsured, we receive no reimbursement from the state or tollway authority

    Our mission is to protect the public and enhance overall safety. We respond to all situations whether there will be reimbursement or not.

In Summary

Our firefighters are well trained and at this moment we can continue to provide excellent coverage but are behind the curve on required prevention and life saving equipment, including trucks. Very soon we will fall behind because of increased governmental regulations, equipment which will be out of date with MANDATED replacements required, and a workforce falling way behind in terms of comparable compensation. As you know, our area has no public water infrastructure so we must rely on tanker trucks, another major expense. Clearly, your fire protection district will need a modest increase in annual revenue in order to continue to provide the excellent coverage you have enjoyed for so many years.

The Newport Township Fire Protection District was formed in 1945 by a group of citizens concerned about the lack of fire protection in the area. From those early days as a volunteer fire department, it has grown into a first-class fire department protecting the people and properties of Newport Township.