



PORT WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON | FIRE DEPARTMENT & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Mark Mitchell, Fire Chief

April 10, 2023

Police and Fire Commissioners
Mayor Neitzke
Common Council Members

On behalf of the members of the Port Washington Fire Department, I am pleased to present the Fire Department's Annual Report for 2022. The Department celebrated its 170th Anniversary in 2022 and is one of the oldest fire departments in the State of Wisconsin. The P.W.F.D. saw an increase in total calls again, when we responded to 1,827 emergency requests for service, which was an increase of 121 responses from the 1,706 emergency responses in 2021. Of these 1,827 requests, 342 were fire responses and 1,485 were for Emergency Medical Services.

The Department responded to three significant incidents in 2022, all of which were structure fires located in the Town of Port Washington. These, when combined with additional fires, resulted in an estimated property and content loss of \$1,859,850 in 2022. This compares to an estimated \$560,200 loss in 2021.

On a positive note, the Department was the recipient of \$80,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID-19 relief funding from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health. These funds are being used to purchase specialty EMS equipment that the Department would not normally be able to obtain due to budget constraints. The equipment includes: a LUCAS CPR device, a portable Ultrasound unit to assist in diagnosing cardiac issues, an IV infusion pump machine, and two Combi-Carrier specialized spine boards.

Perhaps the best news of 2022 came when the City applied for and received an Ozaukee County grant to fund two additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedics positions. These positions, when combined with our other full-time positions, now give the Department four full-time Firefighter/Paramedics. The County dedicated \$5 million in their ARPA funding to assist Ozaukee County fire departments in hiring personnel.

The members of the Port Washington Fire Department, who I might add have 553 combined years of service to the City and the Department, are committed to serving our citizens. They willingly give their time and effort to make our city a better and safer place to live. The fire and EMS personnel of the Port Washington Fire Department are as dedicated as can be. We look forward to serving the citizens of Port Washington in 2023 and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Mitchell

Mark Mitchell, Fire Chief

Mailing Address: 100 West Grand Avenue • P.O. Box 307 • Port Washington, WI 53074
Fire Station: 104 W. Washington St.
Phone: (262) 284-2891 • Fax (262) 284-3962
Email: mmitchell@ci.port-washington.wi.us
www.pwfd.org

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Cover photo: The Port Washington Fire Department started 2022 on January 1st like every year, on stand-by for the annual Polar Bear Plunge at South Beach. Pictured on the cover of this report are the Department’s rescue dive team and fire personnel in various cold weather gear. Fortunately, there were no incidents during the Plunge, that saw around a hundred participants who braved Lake Michigan’s inviting waters in below zero air temperatures.



This is what greeted Port Washington Firefighters, just after dinner on November 18. A 9-1-1 call reported a small tractor on fire inside a barn on River Lane in the Town of Port. By the time units arrived, the entire barn was on fire. Unfortunately, this fire resulted in almost 30 head of cattle being lost.

I. 2022 FIRE RESPONSES

The Port Washington Fire Department participates in the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). This system is a uniform reporting system that categorizes fire responses into the categories listed. To aid in the gathering of data, the Department utilizes *FIREHOUSE Software™*. Fire reports are sent monthly electronically to the National Fire Administration.

A. FIRE RESPONSE BY INCIDENT TYPE

<u>1. FIRES / 2. EXPLOSION (None)</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>EST. DOLLAR LOSS</u>
BUILDING	14	\$ 1,818,250.00
VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT	7	\$ 41,600.00
TRASH	1	\$ 0
BRUSH/GRASS	6	\$ 0
TOTAL FIRE	28	\$ 1,859,850.00

3. RESCUE

ASSIST EMS CREW	106
BLUFF RESCUE	1
ELEVATOR RESCUE	7
WATER RELATED RESCUE	5
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	14
TOTAL RESCUE	133

4. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

FLAMMABLE/COMBUSTIBLE LEAK/SPILL	12
CHEMICAL LEAK	1
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) INCIDENT	6
BIOHAZARD CLEAN-UP	3
EXCESSIVE HEAT	1
ELECTRICAL HAZARD	10
TOTAL HAZARD	33

5. SERVICE / 6. GOOD INTENT

SMOKE/ODOR/STEAM INVESTIGATIONS	16
ASSIST POLICE/ CORONER	4
MUTUAL AID	10
WATER PROBLEM	1
UNAUTHORIZED BURNING/CONTROLLED BURNING	4
ANIMAL RESCUE	2
OTHER	8
TOTAL SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	45

7. FALSE ALARMS

MALICIOUS	10
SYSTEM MALFUNCTION	34
UNINTENTIONAL	45
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS (No CO)	14
TOTAL FALSE ALARMS	103

TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES - INCIDENT TYPE = 342

TOTAL ESTIMATED DOLLAR LOSS BY LOCATION

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON	\$ 20,850.00
TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON	\$ 1,839,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED DOLLAR LOSS IN 2022	\$ 1,859,850.00

B. FIRE RESPONSES BY PROPERTY TYPE

100. ASSEMBLY

CHURCHES	3
PLAYGROUND	2
LIBRARY	2
RESTAURANT / BAR / TAVERN	6
TOTAL ASSEMBLY	13

200. EDUCATIONAL

DAY CARE	1
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1
MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL	3
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL	5

300. HEALTH CARE

ASSISTED LIVING	29
TOTAL HEALTH CARE	29

400. RESIDENTIAL

1 OR 2 FAMILY DWELLINGS	81
MULTI FAMILY DWELLING	88
HOTEL	7
CBRF (COMMUNITY BASED RESIDENTIAL FACILITY)	10
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL	186

500. MERCHANTILE / BUSINESS

BANK	2
RETAIL STORE	12
VEHICLE REPAIR	3
BUSINESS OFFICE	2
TOTAL MERCHANTILE / BUSINESS	19

600. INDUSTRIAL / 700. MANUFACTURING

MANUFACTURING / PROCESSING	19
TOTAL INDUSTRIAL / MANUFACTURING	19

800. STORAGE

GARAGE	1
AGRICULTURE STORAGE	5
WAREHOUSE	12
FIRE STATION (MUTUAL AID)	2
TOTAL STORAGE	20

900. OUTSIDE & SPECIAL PROPERTY

OPEN LAND / FIELD / BLUFF	4
CONSTRUCTION SITE	1
CAMPSITE	1
WATER AREA	8
RAILROAD / UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY	5
PARKING AREA	3
DIVIDED HIGHWAY	10
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL STREETS	19
TOTAL OUTSIDE & SPECIAL	51

TOTAL RESPONSES BY PROPERTY TYPE = 342

C. FIRE RESPONSES BY MONTH

JANUARY	24
FEBRUARY	33
MARCH	29
APRIL	31
MAY	32
JUNE	26
JULY	28
AUGUST	28
SEPTEMBER	29
OCTOBER	31
NOVEMBER	23
DECEMBER	28
TOTAL	342

D. FIRE RESPONSES BY DAY

SUNDAY	53
MONDAY	39
TUESDAY	48
WEDNESDAY	47
THURSDAY	43
FRIDAY	53
SATURDAY	59
TOTAL	342

E. FIRE RESPONSES BY HOUR

MIDNIGHT – 6:00 a.m.	37	11%
6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	83	24%
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	143	42%
6:00 p.m. – MIDNIGHT	79	23%
TOTAL	342	100%

F. FIRE RESPONSES BY AREA

CITY of PORT WASHINGTON	285
TOWN of PORT WASHINGTON	39
VILLAGE/TOWN of BELGIUM	5
CITY OF CEDARBURG	2
VILLAGE/TOWN of GRAFTON	3
CITY of MEQUON	3
VILLAGE OF NEWBURG	1
VILLAGE/TOWN of SAUKVILLE	4
TOTAL	342

G. FIRE RESPONSES BY FIRE SQUAD

CHIEF OFFICER ONLY	44
FIRE SQUAD 1	9
FIRE SQUAD 2	10
FIRE SQUAD 3	8
ENTIRE DEPARTMENT	271
TOTAL	342

II. 2022 AMBULANCE RESPONSES

The City of Port Washington contracts with *Andres Medical Billing Associates LLC*, an ambulance billing, and data management service. To further aid in the gathering of data, the Department also utilizes both *Image Trend™* and *FIREHOUSE Software™*. The data listed below is a culmination of data from all sources. The Department transmits patient data to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health, through the statewide data collection program, *WARDS, Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System*.

A. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY NATURE

CARDIAC & RESPIRATORY ISSUES	318
MEDICAL RELATED	616
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	21
TRAUMA RELATED & (*FALLS)	431 (*337)
OVERDOSE / POISONING / ALCOHOL	41
MEDICAL ALERT ALARMS	23
OTHER	35
TOTAL	1,485

B. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY MONTH

JANUARY	118
FEBRUARY	125
MARCH	133
APRIL	102
MAY	127
JUNE	135
JULY	137
AUGUST	117
SEPTEMBER	124
OCTOBER	119
NOVEMBER	136
DECEMBER	112
TOTAL	1,485

C. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY DAY

SUNDAY	190
MONDAY	217
TUESDAY	252
WEDNESDAY	201
THURSDAY	236
FRIDAY	188
SATURDAY	201
TOTAL	1,485

D. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY HOUR

MIDNIGHT – 6:00 a.m.	218
6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	435
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	471
6:00 p.m. – MIDNIGHT	361
TOTAL	1,485

E. HOSPITALS RECEIVING PATIENTS

AURORA - GRAFTON	783
ASCENSION COLUMBIA ST. MARY'S – MEQUON	168
FROEDERT – WEST BEND	1
FROEDERT – WAUWATOSA	3
FROEDERT – MEQUON	10
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - WAUWATOSA	5
AURORA - SHEBOYGAN	1
V.A. – MILWAUKEE	1
TOTAL PATIENTS TRANSPORTED	972
TOTAL NON-TRANSPORTS	513

F. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY LOCATION TYPE

1. ASSEMBLY	15
2. EDUCATIONAL	13
3. HEALTH CARE / INSTITUTIONAL	383
4. RESIDENTIAL	904
5. MERCHANTILE / BUSINESS	40
6. INDUSTRIAL / 7. MANUFACTURING	17
8. STORGE	3
9. OUTSIDE / SPECIAL PROPERTY	110
TOTAL	1,485

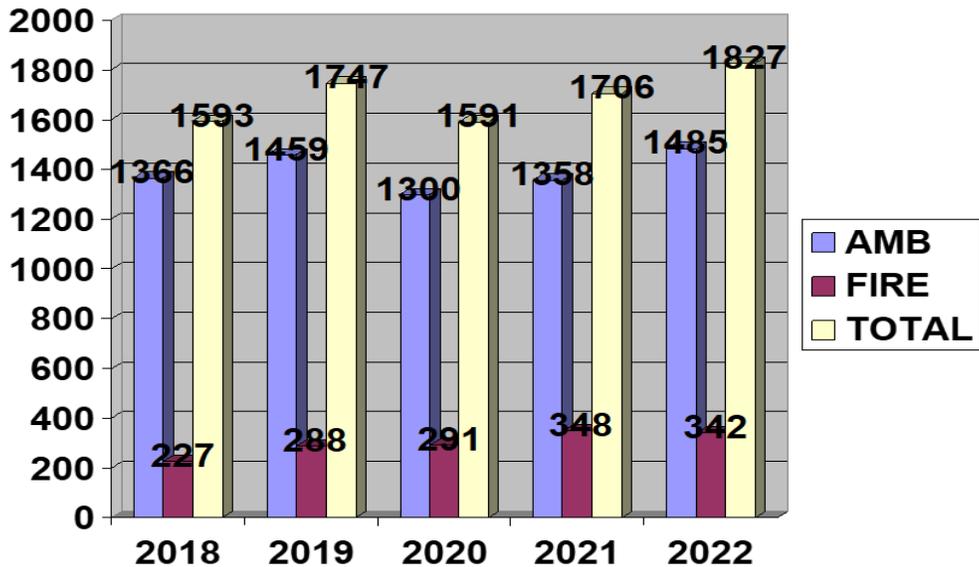
G. AMBULANCE OR INTERCEPT RESPONSES BY AREA

CITY of PORT WASHINGTON	1,174
TOWN of PORT WASHINGTON	69
VILLAGE / TOWN of BELGIUM	95
VILLAGE of FREDONIA	89
NEWBURG F.D. AMBULANCE AREA	2
RANDOM LAKE AMBULANCE AREA	5
VILLAGE / TOWN of SAUKVILLE	18
WAUBEKA F.D. AMBULANCE AREA	33
TOTAL	1,485

H. PATIENTS BY AGE & GENDER

0-9 y/o	31	FEMALE =	739
10-19 y/o	50	MALE =	746
20-29 y/o	79		
30-39 y/o	117		
40-49 y/o	94		
50-59 y/o	147		
60-69 y/o	226		
70-79 y/o	301		
80-89 y/o	287		
90-99 y/o	150		
100+ y/o	3		
TOTAL	1,485		1,485

5 YEAR COMPARISION



III. FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

The most important non-emergency function a Fire Department can do for its community is to promote fire prevention. Fire prevention activities are divided between fire inspections, fire investigations, and public fire safety education.

A. FIRE INSPECTIONS

There are about 700 addresses, or properties, that are inspected by the Port Washington Fire Department twice each year. These include buildings in the City and Town of Port Washington, except for single family and two-family dwellings. Many of the buildings have multiple addresses due to mixed occupancies. A total of 1,210 fire inspections were done during the year with 377 apparent violations noted.

Another branch of fire inspection is the testing and inspection of new fire suppression systems and new fire alarm systems. Owners of the buildings where these systems are located must furnish the fire department with plans of the systems for review. Once the plans for each system have been approved, installation will take place and upon completion, testing witnessed by the fire department must be complete before occupancy is given. In 2022, tests for ten new fire alarm or fire suppression systems were witnessed.

B. PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention Week school visits in October continued in 2022 after a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 cases in the schools. 521 students in 3K, 4K, K5, 1st and 2nd grades, from Lincoln and Dunwiddie Elementary Schools, as well as students in those grades at St. John XXIII – Port Catholic School, received in person fire prevention programs from eight department members.

The Department members also participated in Safety Town for incoming K5 students in June, and the Department held its annual open house in October. A total of 185 hours were spent by Department members during these events, which saw over 600 attendees between the two. Below are two shots from the open house.



C. FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

The cause and origin of fourteen structure fires was investigated in 2022. The causes of those structure fires were as follows: (4) careless cooking, (2) building exposed to a vehicle fire, (2) heat from operating equipment, (1) rekindle, (1) poor chimney maintenance, (1) electrical, (1) building exposed to open flame, and (2) went undetermined. There was an approximate dollar loss of \$1,818,250 for these 14 fires.

IV. A BUSY YEAR FOR THE P.W.F.D.

The Port Washington Fire Department celebrated its 170th anniversary in 2022, and it was one of the department's busier years when it came to fighting fires in structures. Shown below are some photos from two of those structure fires.

FEBRUARY 2, 2022 – 12:33 P.M. – 4885 HWY LL – TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON



This fire occurred at the Iron Hog Saloon, on the corner of Hwy LL & Hwy P. A passer-by saw smoke coming from the unoccupied building and called 9-1-1. Upon arrival, Chief Mitchell reported a working fire in the basement. The first-in crews conducted an aggressive attack, but after 20 minutes trying to extinguish the fire, it was reported that the fire was extending to the first floor and subsequently to a second-floor apartment. At this point, all personnel were pulled out of the building for safety reasons and fought the fire from the exterior. This fire required four additional alarms which brought sixteen additional fire department to the scene or to stand by at the Port Washington fire station.

OCTOBER 21, 2022 – 4:02 P.M. – 740 LAKE DR. – TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON



Assistant Fire Chief Steve Schmidt (left photo) was on the northside of the City when he saw a column of black smoke east of the City. He immediately notified Ozaukee Co. Dispatch to page the department. Following the smoke, he encountered a single-family dwelling fully involved in fire. While checking for occupants, AC Schmidt met up with the home's renter, who was working down the street. Together, they assisted her dog in getting out of the lower level that was not on fire. This fire took an additional three alarms to get under control.

V. PERSONNEL - TRAINING - SPECIAL TEAMS

A. PERSONNEL

The Port Washington Fire Department had fifty-two personnel as of December 31, 2022. The following personnel were hired in 2022: FF Jason Borchert, EMP-P Taylor Green, Rescue Diver Michael Kiener, EMT-B Jacob Krueger, EMT-P Jordan Laboy, Ambulance Driver David Luft, A-EMT Tim Lund, EMT-B Allsun Molenda, and EMT-B Garrit Taleck. The following personnel left the department in 2022: FF Cole Adam, FF/EMT-P Luke Altman, EMS Lt. Maribeth Barbuch, EMT-B Lars Bland, EMT-P Grace Boylan, FF Dennis Brede, EMT-P Jonathon Dishinger, EMT-B McKenna Ferry, A-EMT Robin Gillund, A-EMT Jessica Henckel, FF/EMT-P Chris Kueker, A-EMT Melanie Clausing-Miles FF/EMT-B Adam Mundt, FF William Varline, and FF/EMT-P Connor Walsh.

NAME		RANK	YR	NAME		RANK	YR.
Borchert	Jason	FF	-	Kropidlowski	Morgan	EMT-B	3
Borghenhagen	Andrew	Engineer	1	Krueger	Jacob	EMT-B	-
Castner	Nick	EMT-B	1	Kultgen	Richard	Captain / Rescue Diver	16
Cehanovich	Dan	EMT-B	20	Laboy	Jordan	EMT-P	-
Cehanovich	Rachelle	A-EMT	17	Langford	James	Deputy Chief	29
Chaloupka	Roland	Rescue Diver	41	Lanser	Adam	FF	16
DeBoer	Joseph	Deputy Chief / EMT-P	18	Lathrop	Rick	FF	12
Dicker	Todd	EMT-P	10	Leasum, IV	Charles	Lieutenant / Rescue Diver	10
Didier	Michael	Engineer	29	Lorge	Sam	EMS Lieutenant EMT-P Rescue Diver	1
Dodson	Dylan	EMT-B	1	Luft	David	Ambulance Driver	-
Eibs	Amanda	Admin. Asst.	1	Lund	Tim	A-EMT	-
Eibs	Eric	EMT-B	23	Miotke	Chris	FF/Rescue Diver	1
Eibs	Mike	EMT-B	10	Mitchell	Mark	Fire Chief	18
Ellmauer	Kurt	Engineer	3	Molenda	Allsun	EMT-B	-
Foote	Cody	EMT-B	6	Petrov	Viktor	FF / EMT-B	6
Godersky	Joanne	A-EMT	8	Poggemann	Eric	Rescue Diver	10
Green	Taylor	EMT-P	-	Riley	Kevin	EMS Lieutenant / A-EMT	8
Gregozeski	Brandon	FF	3	Schmidt	Steven	Assistant Chief	42
Gremonprez	Andrea	EMT-B	1	Schmitt	Andre	FF/EMT-P	1
Grittner	Michael	Lieutenant	9	Sharbuno	Thomas	Deputy Chief	40
Hill	Eric	FF/Rescue Diver	14	Taleck	Garrit	EMT-B	-
Hodorff	Jacob	FF	1	Tietyen	Jeffrey	Engineer	36
Jajtner	Michael	Rescue Diver / Team Leader	23	Ulm	Stephen	Captain	24
Karstaedt	Cameron	FF / EMT-B	1	Van Natta	Josh	EMT-P	7
Kiener	Michael	Rescue Diver	-	Weis	Jason	Captain	8
Klopp	Andrew	Engineer	14	Zeigler	Scott	Deputy Chief / EMT-B	10

EMT-B = Emergency Medical Technician-Basic

A-EMT= Emergency Medical Technician-Advanced

EMT-P = Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic

FF = Firefighter

B. TRAINING

Department personnel logged 4,628 hours of training in 2022. A minimum of 60 hours per year of fire training is required of each firefighter. EMS personnel are required to attend a minimum of 6 EMS training sessions per year, and depending on their EMT license level, log so many on-line hours of training through an on-line training service called FOAMfrat™. The Department's Rescue Dive Team holds two practices per month. Most of the Dive Team practices are actual "in-water" drills.

The following training hours were recorded in 2022:

Fire and Engineer –2059 hours. Rescue Dive Team - 729 hours. Bluff Rescue Team – 70 hours.
EMS –1636 hours. Rescue Task Force - 92 hours. Officer Training – 72 hours.

The following specialized training was completed in 2022:

CERTIFIED FIRE FIGHTER II (42 hours): Jacob Hodorff and Sam Lorge.

CERTIFIED DRIVER/OPERATOR-PUMPER (66 hours): Jacob Hodorff, Rick Lathrop, and Andre Schmitt.

CERTIFIED DRIVER/OPERATOR-AERIAL (66 hours): Andrew Borgenhagen and Kurt Ellmauer

C. RESCUE DIVE TEAM

The Department's Rescue Dive Team is coordinated by Team Leader Mike Jajtner and currently has nine members. The team logged 729 hours in training in 2022, most of it underwater.

Shown below left, is a shot of the team practicing a victim recovery operation using a vehicle training "prop", on the right. This is a full-size car that is submerged with a mannequin inside.



D. RESCUE TASK FORCE

Established in 2017, the Department's Rescue Task Force (RTF) is made up of both fire and EMS personnel. Their mission is to back up law enforcement at an active shooter situation by providing rapid medical response to shooting victims. In 2022, the RTF members participated in 92 hours of training. Currently, the team is made up of 18 department personnel.

E. BLUFF RESCUE TEAM

In 2020, the PWFD's Bluff Rescue Team partnered with the Grafton and Mequon teams to create a joint response to bluff rescue situations along the shores of Lake Michigan in Ozaukee County. Each Department has had their individual situations over the years, but the idea arose to train together and respond to each other's rescues to become more proficient in dealing with these events as more and more access to the bluff areas become available to the public. The PWFD team logged 70 hours of training during 2022.

VI. APPARATUS

The Port Washington Fire Department's apparatus fleet is maintained under the direction of Assistant Chief Steve Schmidt. The staff consists of five Engineers, all of whom do a superb job to make sure all the fire and EMS vehicles are ready to respond in the event of an emergency. The Department has a separate training night for Engineers and any Department member interested in the driving and operation of the Department's vehicles.

Missing on this year's roster is Engine 462, our former 1993 Pierce reserve pumper. That apparatus was sold to Firefighters Crossing Borders, an organization that obtains used fire trucks and fire department equipment. Their mission is to donate or sell the equipment, at a fraction of what it's worth, to foreign fire departments in need. Engine 462 is now serving an area outside of Mexico City.

<u>UNIT #</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MAKE & MODEL</u>	<u>2022 RESPONSES</u>	<u>TOTAL MILEAGE</u>	<u>2022 MILEAGE</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>
450	AMBULANCE	2008	FORD/MEDTEC	4	70,374	175	GOOD
451	AMBULANCE	2018	FORD/LIFELINE	153	45,966	2,262	EXCELLENT
452	AMBULANCE	2021	FORD/LIFELINE	1,023	17,930	14,860	EXCELLENT
453	HEAVY RESCUE	2014	PIERCE ARROW XT	24	3,980	225	EXCELLENT
454	ALL TERRAIN	2005	POLARIS 6x6	6	187.0 hrs.	5.0 hrs.	VERY GOOD
455	PARAMEDIC INTERCEPT	2014	CHEVY SUBURBAN	305	57,750	6,029	GOOD
456	COMMAND	2013	CHEVY SUBURBAN	164	82,535	5,947	GOOD
457	BRUSH TRUCK	1992	CHEVY 4x4	6	14,286	61	GOOD
458	UTILITY PICK UP	2020	CHEVY 2500 4x4	34	9,331	2,431	EXCELLENT
460	AERIAL TOWER	1997	PIERCE LANCE	7	13,802	527	GOOD
463	ENGINE	2008	PIERCE DASH	16	9,770	1,160	VERY GOOD
464	ENGINE	1999	PIERCE SABER	8	15,788	808	GOOD
465	ENGINE	2006	PIERCE DASH	104	20,445	1,424	VERY GOOD
467	TANKER	2019	KENWORTH/UST	11	4,067	537	EXCELLENT
468	DIVE RESCUE BOAT	2013	JP MARINE 17'	7			VERY GOOD
469	FIRE BOAT	2010	BOSTON WHALER 25'	6	298 hrs.	26 hrs.	VERY GOOD



Shown here, are some attendees at the 2022 Fire Department Open House checking out all the equipment on Heavy Rescue Squad 453. This unit carries a variety of specialized tools to assist in vehicle extrication, bluff, confined space, and trench collapse situations, as well as most of the Rescue Dive Team's equipment.

On the next page are photos of the current fleet of the Port Washington Fire Department.



Ambulance 450



Ambulance 451



Ambulance 452



Heavy Rescue 453



All-Terrain Vehicle 454



Medic 455



Command 456



Brush Truck 457



Aerial Tower 460



Engine 463



Engine 464



Engine 465



Tanker 467



Marine 469



Utility 458



Marine 468