

PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #1

59 Main Street – PO Box 267, New Egypt, NJ 08533

609-758-2350
Richard Byrne
Fire Chief

609-758-2350
Robert M. Krohn
Fire Captain

609-758-5455
Jodi Byrne
EMS Captain

609-758-3920
Mitchell Remig
Fire Marshal

Captain's Operations & Progress Report Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting – August 17, 2026 Submitted by: Captain Robert M. Krohn #3950

Dear Board of Fire Commissioners,

Please accept the following report for tonight's meeting. I wanted to provide the Board with an update on the progress, projects, equipment improvements, training initiatives, and operational activities that have been completed or are currently underway over the past several weeks.

Communications & Radio Equipment

- Portable radio batteries have been ordered and received. I have also been reconditioning the batteries monthly to extend their usable service life. We recently had approximately three to four batteries removed from service after exceeding their expected service life.
 - I maintain a spreadsheet documenting the serial number and assigned location of each portable radio battery for inventory and replacement tracking.
 - All portable and mobile radios have now been programmed with the appropriate **New Jersey Interoperability Communications System (NJICS) mutual-aid channels**.
 - This programming also better prepares the district for the future addition of Manchester Township radio channels when Manchester transitions to the State radio system.
 - I submitted a written request to Monmouth County seeking either access to its radio system or the issuance of six portable radios to the district. Currently, I have received no response from Monmouth County.
 - Approximately **50 District radios** were programmed internally. Based upon an estimated State Contract/local vendor cost of approximately **\$90 per radio**, this represents an estimated **\$4,500 in avoided outside programming costs**.
 - I installed a mobile radio removed from former Ambulance 305 into **3902**.
 - Kevin and I installed a mobile radio removed from former Ambulance 308 into **3911**.
 - Commercial removal and installation of these radios would have cost approximately \$400–\$500 per vehicle, plus approximately \$200 for removal from the former ambulances. Completing this work internally resulted in approximately **\$1,200 in additional estimated savings to the district**.
- Estimated communications-related cost avoidance: approximately \$5,700.**

Equipment, Apparatus & Facility Improvements

- I replaced the defective rear emergency lights on **Ambulance 306**.
- Replacement lights have also been obtained for **Ambulance 307**, but installation was postponed while the ambulance remains out of service.
- The replacement lighting was supplied under warranty at **no cost to the Fire District**.
- Seven PAC TOOL mounting components in **3902** were identified as broken. I contacted the manufacturer and submitted a warranty claim to have all seven replaced at no cost.

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- I installed the repaired Knox Box back into **3902**.
- The FirstNet modem utilized in the apparatus bays to maintain Wi-Fi connectivity for the Knox Box reporting system became inoperable. The modem was replaced under warranty at **no cost to the district**.
- All broken Survivor flashlights have been repaired. Dead batteries in the box lights were also replaced
- Blood pressure cuffs were replaced on all Fire Department apparatus. We also received enough sets for the EMS vehicles. These were **donated at no cost to the district**.
- All expired AED pads identified during equipment inspections have been replaced.
- All apparatus coolers have been replaced. Each cooler was stenciled with the respective apparatus number and **PTFD** identification.
- A tax-exempt account was established with Lowe's Home Improvement. The apparatus coolers were purchased utilizing the account, and future qualifying purchases can now be completed tax-exempt.
- I assisted the Volunteer Fire Company with repairs to **3901** in preparation for the 100th Anniversary Parade.

New 3900 Project

- All customer-supplied equipment and components have been delivered to Elite Vehicle Solutions for the new **3900**.
- I am currently awaiting the graphics mock-up.
- My understanding is that the vehicle is scheduled for work toward the beginning of September.
- The goal remains to have the vehicle completed, if possible, before Wildwood weekend.

Rescue Equipment

- At the request of the Chief, I obtained pricing from **TASC Fire Equipment** for new rescue tools.
- The equipment being evaluated consists of demonstration tools similar to the equipment purchased during our previous rescue-tool acquisition.
- The Day Staff and I reviewed the list, comparing it to our previous tools, and identified ones that would meet our current and future needs.

Training & Documentation

- I created an **online Drill Attendance Documentation Form** for both Career and Volunteer personnel.
- I created an **online SCBA Weekly Inspection Form**.
- The SCBA inspection process will eventually transition into a monthly comprehensive inspection, while individual apparatus crews continue inspecting the SCBA packs and cylinders assigned to their respective apparatus during regular truck checks.
- I created an **Open Burning Response reference handout** for Career and Volunteer personnel responding to open-burning complaints within Plumsted Township. Copies have been placed in folders on each apparatus to help ensure consistent information and enforcement guidance is provided regardless of which personnel respond.
- I continue working with the Career staff during the day to improve familiarity with District equipment, operational standards, SOGs, apparatus, and overall training.

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- As temperatures begin to cool over the coming months, I would like to begin constructing additional training props behind the firehouse and at the Squad building to further enhance our ability to conduct realistic in-house training.

Fire Billing

- On **August 14, 2026**, I was provided access to the system utilized to submit claims to the District's fire-response billing company.
- I will now begin reviewing eligible incidents and submitting the appropriate documentation for potential insurance reimbursement.

NERIS / Reporting

- I continue to maintain and complete the district's required **NERIS incident reporting**.
- I am also working with ESO to develop a report that will better identify and document Volunteer participation percentages.
- I have a quote from FirstDue; I am just waiting on an answer as to what direction we are going with it.

Township / PILOT Funding

- I have still not received a formal response from the Township regarding funding associated with the **Lenar PILOT Program**.
- The only information received to date has been a verbal indication that the Township is **"still looking into it."**
- I will continue following up on this matter.

Career / Volunteer Coordination

- I have continued communicating information from the day shift to the Volunteer Officers whenever there are significant incidents, equipment issues, operational changes, or other information they should be aware of.
- I have also maintained regular communication with the Volunteer Officers to help ensure both the Career and Volunteer sides remain informed and operating from the same information.

Significant Incidents

The Career Day crews have responded to several significant incidents over the past few weeks and have done an excellent job managing each assignment.

July 29 – Structure Fire, Upper Freehold Township

Career personnel responded on mutual aid and assisted with fireground operations.

July 31 – Motor Vehicle Crash, Vehicle vs. Pole

Fire Department personnel provided patient care while awaiting the arrival of mutual-aid BLS resources.

August 3 – Overtaken Tandem Dump Truck, Monmouth Road

Crews assisted with patient care and remained on scene while the heavy-duty towing company uprighted

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and removed the vehicle. Personnel monitored the operation for potential fuel or hazardous-material releases and confirmed that no significant release occurred.

Lawn Tractor Fire with Extension to Pickup Truck and Brush

Crews arrived quickly and extinguished a well-involved lawn tractor fire that had extended to a nearby pickup truck and surrounding brush. Their actions prevented additional fire spread and property damage. The homeowner sustained minor burns but declined medical treatment.

Motor Vehicle Crash / Hazardous Materials Incident – Pinehurst Road & Lakewood Road

Crews identified and contained a chemical release within the scope of their training and capabilities and subsequently assisted the Berkeley Township and Lakewood Township Hazardous Materials Units with mitigation operations.

I would like to specifically recognize the Career personnel involved in these incidents for their professionalism and performance.

Community Relations

- Several Career staff members attended **National Night Out** representing both the Fire District and FMBA Local 89.
- Their participation helped maintain a positive Fire District presence within the community.

Summary of Cost Savings / Cost Avoidance

Several projects completed during this reporting period resulted in direct savings or avoided vendor expenses:

- Radio re-programming: approximately **\$4,500**
- Mobile radio removal/installations: approximately **\$1,200**
- Ambulance emergency lighting Repairs: **completed in-house under warranty**
- FirstNet modem replacement: **completed under warranty**
- PAC TOOL mounts: **warranty replacement requested**
- Blood pressure cuffs: **donated**
- Various equipment repairs completed internally rather than through outside vendors

Based on the items for which a reasonable vendor estimate is available, the district has realized at least **\$5,700 in identifiable cost avoidance**, exclusive of the additional value of donated equipment, warranty replacements, and internally completed repairs.

I will continue working to improve equipment readiness, documentation, interoperability, training, communication between Career and Volunteer personnel, and overall operational efficiency.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Captain Robert M. Krohn #3950