

Township of Bloomfield Fire Department



2021 Annual Report

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Message from the Chief

The Bloomfield Fire Department is dedicated to protecting our community from all hazards with professionalism and bravery. Every day our department members adapt and overcome an ever-changing environment. We seek to continually improve our services, which enables us to meet our community's needs. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to prove challenging, it has also created opportunities to further fulfill our mission of being an all hazards department. We are always prepared to operate in difficult scenarios and our highly skilled and motivated members continue to meet the demands of our time. For these reasons and more, I am proud of our department. Your hard work and efforts exceed any challenges that come our way. Thank you for your dedication to our mission and to the people we serve.

I am honored to present the 2021 annual report, which illustrates our commitment to the residents of Bloomfield. The Bloomfield Fire Department continues to be a service-driven, emergency services leader and we will strive to build upon our accomplishments. For the past 138 years we have exemplified a long tradition of providing a high level of customer service. Our department will continue to provide exceptional service to our great township as professionals with accountability, integrity, and respect.

Sincerely,

Louis Venezia; Fire Chief



Mission Statement

The Bloomfield Fire Department exists to provide the highest level of public safety services to the great community that we serve. We are dedicated to saving lives and property through fire suppression, emergency medical response, disaster management, hazardous material response, fire prevention and education. Our members are committed to excellence, providing the highest level of service to those that we serve, treating everyone with respect regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, life style, nation origin or economic status.



Vision Statement

The vision of the Bloomfield Fire Department is to become a leader in the fire service. We will attain this vision by continuing to provide the community we serve with the tools, programs and services necessary to create and ensure the highest standards of safety.

We will provide continuing educational opportunities to our members, seek accreditation from the industry and nation's most respected accrediting agency, increase efficiency of services we provide as well as enhancing those services to include emergency medical response.

We will also continue creating a high reliability organization by establishing an internal risk management program and maintain fiscal responsibility while upholding standards of excellence through a creative and carefully planned equipment replacement program.

Core Values

The core values of the Bloomfield Fire Department establish a foundation of expectations for its members. Members of the Bloomfield Fire Department react instantly, unselfishly, compassionately and professionally in mitigating a wide array of emergency calls.

Integrity– Maintain the highest level of ethical standards. Instill community trust by demonstrating honesty and fairness on all our actions and decisions.

Citizenship– We advocate collaborative relationships with other governmental agencies. We maintain community through professional behaviors and open communication.

Respect– We honor the rights, beliefs and differences of all our members and those within the community we serve. We value diversity in our department and within the township.

Teamwork— We are a team of dedicated and hard– working individuals that believe in professional development, continual improvement and working together towards common goals.



Grants

The Bloomfield Fire Department was awarded a Leary Firefighters Foundation Grant for a Gear Washer Extractor and Dryer for Headquarters. After this installation all Bloomfield Firehouses will be equipped with their own machines.

These machines ensure that firefighter turnout gear is properly washed and decontaminated after any incident that causes personnel to be exposed to byproducts of combustion or hazardous materials. Exposure of these toxins increases the chance of personnel of developing cancer. The availability and use will help limit that exposure and in turn keep the members of the Bloomfield Fire Department healthier.

The Department was also awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant by FEMA to buy PPE for COVID related responses. The following items were purchased with the grant monies: protective eye equipment, isolation gowns, coveralls and footwear covers, N95's and surgical masks. These items allowed the Bloomfield Fire Department to continue to help the community while protecting its own members.



Fleet Operations



In 2021, a comprehensive maintenance schedule, following industry best practices was implemented. This ensures that all apparatus and vehicles within the department's fleet is on a preventative maintenance schedule. The execution of this will ensure that the Bloomfield Fire Department is fully equipped with working equipment at all times to ensure the safety of the community we serve.

Bloomfield Fire Department fleet is currently comprised of 6 Engines, 2 Trucks, 1 Rescue, and 6 SUVs. The Department is currently awaiting the delivery of a new Truck for a total of 16 vehicles.



Personnel

Bloomfield Fire Department had a promotion ceremony on July 15, 2021. The following members received promotion and recognition for the dedication to the department.



Wojciech Masiak to Deputy Chief
Joseph Coletta to Deputy Chief
Timothy McCulloch to Captain
Joseph Calleros to Captain
Brian Griffin to Captain

Two retirements from the Bloomfield Fire Department occurred in 2021.

Deputy Chief Clifford McCulloch on September 1st

Captain Patrick Grady on December 1st



On August 24, 2021 four new members were added to the Bloomfield Fire Department: Joshua Grady, Matthew Doherty, Albin Okuniczwich, and Stephanie Orgueira-Aponte. Bloomfield Fire Department is pleased to enhance its commitment to diversity with the hire of our first female recruit.

Firefighter of the Year



The criteria for Firefighter of the Year is based upon one or more of the following categories: Valor, Customer Service, Dedication to Duty, Loyalty, Productivity, Professionalism, and/or Commitment to Excellence.

This year's recipient excels in all of those categories. I congratulate Captain Jeff Roberts on this recognition.

Over the past few years, Captain Roberts has made a difference in our department, responsibly providing thoughtful leadership through many organizational changes.

Captain Roberts demonstrates the qualities and attributes one looks for in a Firefighter. From his near-perfect attendance and reliable punctuality to his steadfast work ethic, he is an example for all of us.

We are constantly impressed by his performance and ability to improve this department.

Captain Roberts improves the department and his crew each and every time he works a shift. He looks to train, drill, and educate his crew and seeks to improve processes and policies to enhance our department's effectiveness. In turn, our department is a safer place to work and our community a safer place to live.

On behalf of the Bloomfield Fire Department, thank you, Captain Jeff Roberts, for your commitment and dedication to this department and to the community.

I would like this time to also recognize the recipients of prior years:

Firefighter Brian Griffin- 2020

Captain Richard Rannou- 2019

Firefighter Gennaro Ilaria-2018



Accreditation

In 2020, The Bloomfield Fire Department began the process of becoming accredited. Agency accreditation is a voluntary process it requires a true investment in agency staff time and learning what you do not know about our organization. This department has dedicated its resources in reaching this goal.

Accreditation is an international recognition of achievement. It shows to our community that the department continually self-assesses, looks for opportunities for improvement, and is transparent and accountable through third party verification and validation.

Accreditation will benefit the Bloomfield Fire Department internally by fostering pride amongst our members, community leaders, and citizens, and will also benefit the department externally through the support of and networking with other accredited agencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to take the committee members who are dedicating their time toward this department goal. This process is long, but valuable towards improving our department.



NFIRS Reporting Through Quality Assurance

The Bloomfield Fire Department contracted Battalion 1 Consultants, an organization that combine years of experience in policy development, labor relations, training program management, and budgetary requirements that deliver robust, proven courses of action that achieve organizational goals.

Battalion 1 Consultants performed a Quality Assurance review of all of the incident reports between the dates of June 1 and August 31, 2021. The team reviewed a total of 1,211 incidents including the NFIRS codes, the narrative, and current department policies.

Quality Assurance/ Quality Inspection team also provided classes, two technical and one administrative classes to the department Company Officers and Senior Leadership.

A thorough report of Battalion 1 Consultants findings was submitted at the end of September. The discrepancies located through the review have been a catalyst for the department's focus for future trainings, workshops and policy review. As a department we strive to be self-aware pushing the limits and boundaries to ensure that the Bloomfield Fire Department is a leaders in the industry.



Training

- In 2021, Bloomfield Fire Department, Station 3 has become a certified Blue Card Command Training Center. There are only a handful of these in the Northeast. A major objective of the Blue Card training program is for individual departments or regions to quickly manage the certification and evaluation program themselves, while customizing the system to the local needs, resource levels, and SOPs. The Bloomfield Fire Department had 3 members certified as Train the Trainer for the Blue Card Command Course; Deputy Chief Masiak, Deputy Chief Coletta and Deputy Chief McDade.



- More members are now certified EMT's than at any time in the 138 year history of our department. This number will continue to rise in the next year as well.
- Fifteen members completed Fire Officer 1 Course. This is a 40 hour program designed to give a company officer a comprehensive view of their role and define their responsibility to the department, the public and municipal management.
- Fifteen members completed Firefighter Safety and Survival Course. The three day course covers current techniques and procedures in rapid intervention company operations as well as firefighter safety and survival skills. This course meets and exceeds the state's guidelines for rapid intervention crews.
- Expanded the number of Firefighter 2 certifications by 12 members; this certification is another level of progression increasing a firefighters knowledge, skills and abilities.

- Bloomfield Fire Department provided all members with the following trainings:
 - Swift Water Awareness training – shows water search and rescue, scene safety, assessment and management, activation of the Emergency Response System, training and resources needed to perform water operations, and rescue vs. recovery operations. The course content meets NFPA 1670 Standard
 - Resilience Training— helps educate the department and first responders on ways to deal with underlying stress and psychological trauma caused by responding to the emergencies within their community. The class is designed to help the first responders understand resilience and ways to implement positive coping strategies and tactics to deal with stress and trauma.
 - Rope rescue awareness- Rope I is the level, to familiarize the student with the techniques necessary to save themselves from harm by escaping from a hazardous environment. This class meets and exceeds Awareness Level training as outlined in NFPA 1670 1998 edition.
 - Structural Collapse Awareness - a course that describes the various activities, roles, and responsibilities of the Structural Collapse team members. This 3 hour lecture reviews the basic information for agencies that may respond to collapse rescues. Meets requirements of NFPA 1670 Standard.
 - Confined Space Awareness- lecture program provides safety information regarding OSHA 1910.146 Permit- Required Confined Spaces. This course trains responders to identify the most common confined space hazards and take the necessary steps to avoid those hazards.
 - Firefighter Success workshop “10 Biggest Mistakes Firefighters Make With Their Fitness,” help firefighters boost their motivation, navigate sensible nutrition & hydration, and take a practical approach to their functional fitness. Blending classroom discussion and hands-on fitness exercises, firefighters learn a comprehensive approach to improving their fire ground performance and career longevity.



- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training - a 14-hour training and certification course focusing on building and growing a workforce that includes different races, religions, ages, genders and sexual orientations and persons with disabilities was completed by Chief Lou Venezia, Deputy Chief Brian McDade, Deputy Chief Wojciech Masiak and Deputy Chief Joseph Coletta.
- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training is a firefighter training of interactive, hands-on incident resolution exercises. Learning to coordinate response activities and optimize operations is vital to responding effectively in the field and to building a unified national practice on incident management. The goal of the New Jersey TIM Training is to provide first responders a shared understanding of the requirements for safe, quick clearance of traffic incident scenes; prompt, reliable and open communication; and motorist and responder safety.
- In 2021, Bloomfield Fire Department , had 35 members trained and certified as Incident Safety Officers. This course, developed by the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland, examines the safety officers' role in emergency responses. Additionally, it focuses on operations within an incident command system as a safety officer and emphasizes response to all hazard types of situations. This is a 16-hour course with a final exam. This class was held in Bloomfield, as the department is an approved NJ Division of Fire Safety eligible organization, meaning they can host certification classes.



Multi- Agency Hazmat Drill

In the autumn of 2021, The Bloomfield Fire Department took place in a multi-agency Hazardous Materials/ Mass Decontamination Drill with Emergency Responders from Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union counties at MetLife Stadium. The companies worked together during four days of operations. They worked on agency interoperability and incident command roles while practicing mass decontamination . The focus was on the set-up, operation with PPE, mass decontamination utilizing apparatus and other equipment. Opportunities to train with other area departments ensure that Bloomfield and the surrounding areas will be prepared in the event such an operation is needed.



Inspections

The Bureau of Housing Inspection, administers the New Jersey Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law (N.J.S.A. 55:13A-1 et seq.) The Bureau is responsible for ensuring that multiple-family buildings of three or more dwelling units operating within the State of New Jersey are properly maintained and do not pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of their residents, nor the community in general. The Bureau of Housing conducts a five year cyclical inspection of these properties. The Bureau has thereby been given the authority to enforce the New Jersey Regulations for the Maintenance of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings and, where applicable, Subchapter 4 of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code, by issuing citations for the violation of these requirements. The Bloomfield Fire Department conducts these inspections for the State. The State pays the Fire Department the majority or the fee collected.

Life Hazard Use is defined as the use of a building or structure that may constitute a potential risk to human life, public welfare or firefighters. The program registers high rise and life hazard use buildings and businesses to inspect and enforce the Uniform Fire Safety Act. The inspections enforce the Uniform Fire Code and Regulations. The types of businesses included under Life Hazard are restaurants, bars, gas stations, repair shops, dry cleaners, medical facilities, retail stores, child care facilities, schools, dorms, group homes, and warehouses. The Bloomfield Fire Department conducts these inspections for the State. The State pays the Fire Department the majority or the fee collected.

	2021	2020
Bureau of Housing Inspections	214	325
Life Hazard Use Inspections	165	206
Non- Life Hazard Inspections	58	51
Company Inspections Non -LHU	1168	743

The Certificate of Continued Occupancy (CCO) ensures that a general inspection of the visible parts of a building are made, there are no violations of the current codes, and no unsafe conditions have been found prior to the transfer of title for the property. This certificate shall also serve as the CSDCMAC as required in 5:70-2.3 with regard to smoke and carbon monoxide detectors also includes fire extinguishers.

The Certificate of Habitability (COH) requires that the owner of a rental unit has it inspected every three years or upon a change in tenant. The inspection ensures the property is in compliance of Property Maintenance Code, Uniform Construction Code, Uniform Fire Code, and the International Property Maintenance Code.

	2021	2020
CCO Inspections	413	460
COH Inspections	1980	2737



Emergency Response



	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Emergency Incidents	4174	4213	5702	3583
Vehicle/ House Lock Outs	458	452	493	400
Natural Gas Emergencies	156	131	164	171
Fires in Structures	120	130	118	114
EMS Assists	554	1134	2324	62
Motor Vehicle Extrications	5	2	26	29
Motor Vehicle Fires	18	19	20	25
Elevator Rescues	19	16	16	14

In November 2021, Bloomfield Fire Department implemented an Automatic Aid Agreement with Belleville and Nutley Fire Departments. Automatic aid response of apparatus and personnel to certain first alarm response assignments. This agreement has many positive affects to all three Townships and departments. Most notably, this deployment will increase firefighter safety and provide enhanced protection on civilian life and property.

Hydrants



2021	
Fire Hydrants Inspected and Flushed	1226
Hydrant Flow Tested	26
Hydrant Replaced	13
Hydrant Repaired	50

Hydrant flushing is a requirement of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, every hydrant in their system has to be flushed yearly. It ensures that sediment and rust that accumulate in the water system pipes over time are flushed out of the system. It also allows the Fire Department to be NFPA 291 compliant and ensure all hydrants are operational for firefighting purposes.

In conjunction with the Department of Public Works and Engineering, Bloomfield Fire Department has been ensuring all hydrants are in proper working order and replacing the units when needed due to obsolete equipment. In the coming year, 38 more hydrants are scheduled to be replaced.

At a minimum two hydrants per month, during the spring, summer and fall, are to be flow tested using a hydrant test kit. This testing ensures that there is sufficient flow incase it is needed for emergency fire fighting purposes.

Tropical Storm Ida

On September 1, 2021 Tropical Storm Ida caused major flooding throughout Bloomfield. The Bloomfield Fire Department responded to multiple emergencies related to Ida during the storm and in the days after.

During the intense storm there was a house fire that was fought by the Department. This fire presented many challenges due to flooding. The entire basement, driveway and backyard were chest high deep in water. Another notable incident of the evening occurred when Engine 3 crew noticed multiple vehicles floating on JFK Drive. The members took it upon themselves to investigate the vehicles to ensure they were not still occupied. During this investigation, the crew noticed civilians climbing out of rapidly rising flood waters under the James Street Bridge. The crew realized a third vehicle was stuck in the water with at least one passenger trapped inside. By the time the vehicle was noticed it was only 6 inches from being totally submerged. The crew, consisting of Captain Parsons, FF Laiacona, and FF Nicolaou reacted quickly and were able to perform a water rescue saving the occupant of the vehicle. Truck 1 personnel, Captain McCullouch, FF Roman, FF Lind cut the fence of the bridge and were able to lower a 35 foot ladder so everyone could climb to safety from the rising waters. The actions of all individuals that worked that night was nothing short of heroic. I am so proud of your dedication and valor.

In the following days, the Fire Department helped the community by dewatering basements so the residents could safely start the task of cleaning up the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Ida.



The severity of the storm has our department adapting to address issues like this in the future. We are in the process of purchasing a boat and water rescue equipment. All members have now been trained in Swift Water Awareness. In 2022, about 20 members will become Swift Water Operational Level Certified.

Partnering with the Community

The Bloomfield Fire Department offers free inspection and car seat installations. We have eight members that are currently certified through National CPS Certification Training, a program of Safe Kids Worldwide. This past year, Oscar Morales, Kenneth Hall, Robert Powell, Peter Carrara, Albin Okuniczwick, Stephanie Orguerira-Aponte, Joshua Grady and Matthew Doherty became certified. Thanks to them the Bloomfield Fire Department has installed 53 child car seats.

The department also is active and present for all school fire drills, this allows all Fire Department members to establish a relationship with key stakeholders at each school. It also allows the members of the department to ensure the drill is efficient and positive by using the time to interact with the teachers and students all while teaching them fire safety tips.

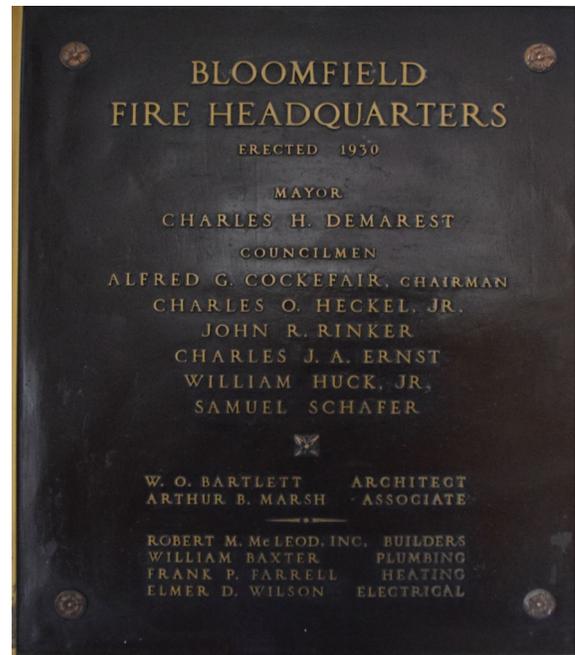
The Bloomfield Fire Department participated in many community events this year. These type of events are a pinnacle part in the department's daily objective to meet the core values of Citizenship, Integrity and Respect. Throughout the year you often saw members at Block Parties, Farmer's Market, Community Clean-up, Girl Scout/ Boy Scout events, and other township sponsored events. The purpose of Fire Department participation in community outreach is to educate fire safety. It is an excellent opportunity for the department to connect with the public and offer fire safety education. All members of the department understand the importance of these events and ensure they are acting in the most professional manner at all times.

Overall, the Bloomfield Fire Department strives to make Bloomfield and the citizens that reside, visit and work within its boundaries as safe as possible.

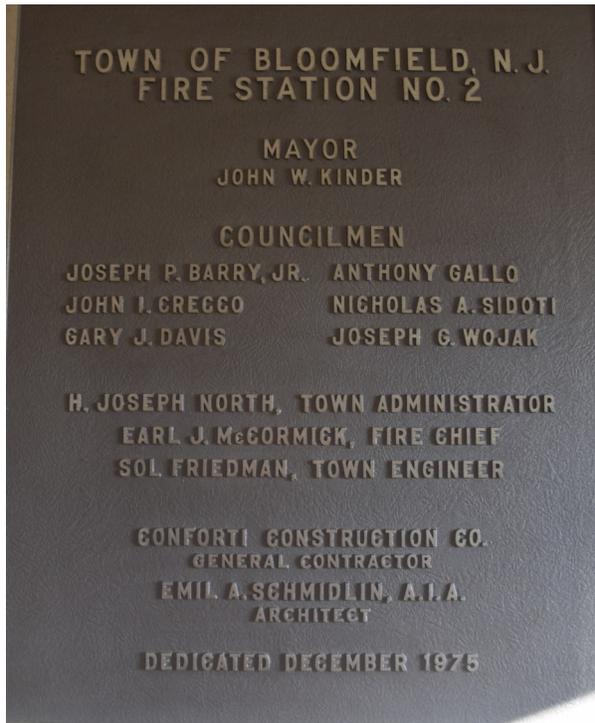
Stations



Bloomfield Fire Department
Headquarters
375 Franklin Street
Established 1930



Headquarters is the home of Car 30, Truck 1, Engine 1, Car 6, Car 34 and 36, as well as the department's administrative offices. The Fire Prevention Bureau, which maintains responsibility over New Jersey Fire Code enforcement and Fire Safety Education, resides on the second floor.

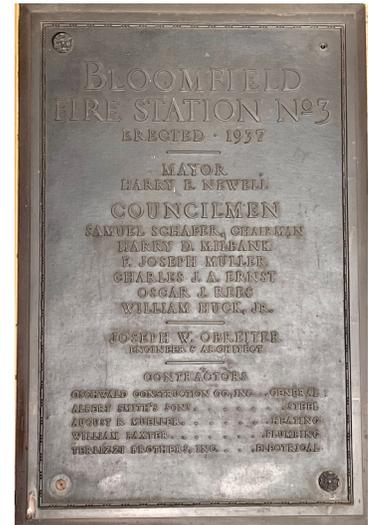


Bloomfield Fire Station 2
90 Watsessing Avenue
Established 1975

Station 2 is the home of Engine 2, Spare Truck 2 and our utility pick-up truck. This station covers the southern section of Bloomfield, this area used to have numerous industrial structures but in recent years those spaces have transitioned into large apartment buildings.



Bloomfield Fire Station 3
144 East Passaic Avenue
Established 1937



Station 3 is the home for Engine 3 and Rescue 1. There is a classroom on the second floor that is used for most of our training classes. In the rear of the property is a flat and peaked roof simulator prop and a firefighter survival maze.



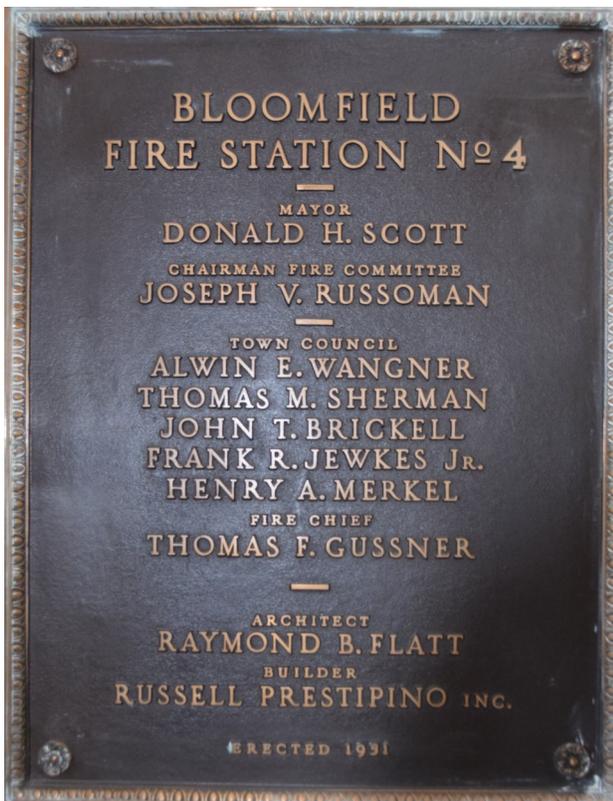
Roof Simulator Prop



Survival maze



Bloomfield Fire Station 4
1233 Broad Street
Established 1931



Station 4 is the home of Engine 4, Spare Engine 5, Spare Engine 6 and Car 35. This station covers the largest response area for the department.

