



**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



# **2025 Annual Report**

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## Message from the Chief

The Bloomfield Fire Department remains unwavering in our mission to protect and serve this community. Every day, our dedicated team demonstrates exceptional professionalism, courage, and compassion, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

The 2025 Annual Report reflects not only our operational achievements, but also our resilience as an organization. This past year, though we faced moments that sought to distract from the important work we do, we remained mission-focused, steadfast to our duty, committed to our values, and most importantly, unwaveringly dedicated to serving the people of Bloomfield. Challenges do not weaken us, they strengthen our unity and reinforce our purpose.

As we move forward, we do so with a spirit of healing and shared progress. Our members continue to invest more time in training and professional development than at any point in our history. In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department achieved the highest number of advanced certifications ever held by our personnel. This growth directly enhances our readiness, our capabilities, and the level of service we provide to the community.

Our foundation remains rooted in excellence. The CFAI Accreditation we earned continues to guide our improvement efforts, shaping our approach to training, apparatus, equipment, facilities, and community engagement. Every advancement we make is driven by our commitment to data-supported decision-making and community-focused service.

Looking ahead, 2026 will mark another major step forward for our department. We will begin providing Basic Life Support (BLS) transport service an expansion that will significantly enhance public safety for Bloomfield residents. This initiative reflects our ongoing dedication to meeting the evolving needs of the community with professionalism, preparedness, and compassion.

For over 142 years, the Bloomfield Fire Department has embodied “service above self.” The trust and support of our residents remain our greatest motivation. As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2025 and prepare for the opportunities ahead, we do so with clarity, unity, and determination.

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2025 Annual Report. Together, we will continue to strengthen our department, support one another, and ensure the safety and well-being of the Township of Bloomfield.

Sincerely,

*Louis Venezia*

Louis Venezia; Fire Chief



## **Mission Statement**

The Bloomfield Fire Department exists to provide the highest level of public safety and emergency services to the community that we serve. Our members are committed to excellence, treating everyone with respect, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, lifestyle, national origin, or economic status.

## **Vision Statement**

The vision of the Bloomfield Fire Department is to be a leading and trusted fire department committed to serving our community with unwavering dedication, expertise, and compassionate care. We envision a future where all stakeholders feel safe and secure, where fire prevention, fire safety education and response are paramount and where our department is recognized for professionalism, innovation, and commitment to saving lives and property.

## **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 in 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-** A team of dedicated and hard-working individuals that believe in professional development and working together toward common goals in public service.

## Personnel

The Bloomfield Fire Department is comprised of a highly skilled and dedicated workforce committed to protecting the residents, businesses, and visitors of our community. In 2025, the Department was staffed by 78 career firefighters, supported by 17 volunteer firefighters and 7 civilian administrative employees. Together, these teams form a unified organization focused on operational excellence, community service, and continuous improvement.

Our career personnel operate within two primary divisions: Operations and Administration.

### Operations Division

The Operations Division is structured into four platoons, each staffed with up to 19 members, ensuring 24/7 emergency response coverage. These firefighters respond to fires, medical emergencies, hazardous conditions, technical rescues, and a wide range of community needs. Their readiness, training, and professionalism form the backbone of the Department's emergency services.

In 2025, the Department increased the number of Battalion Chiefs to four, allowing each shift to be led by its own Battalion Chief. This enhancement strengthened shift leadership, improved incident command consistency, and provided clearer oversight of daily operations.

### Administration Division

The Administration Division consists of three uniformed officers and seven civilian employees who work Monday through Friday during regular business hours. This team manages fire prevention, inspections, investigations, training coordination, logistics, communications, and administrative support functions. Their work ensures that the Department remains compliant with state and local regulations, maintains operational readiness, and continues to advance strategic goals.

The addition of a fourth Battalion Chief allowed the Department's two Deputy Chiefs to transition fully into administrative roles. This shift increased their availability to all shifts and strengthened oversight of critical areas such as training, central communications, apparatus maintenance, equipment testing, and personal protective equipment management.

### Volunteers

The Department is further supported by its dedicated Volunteer Rescue Company, whose members respond on an on-call basis to emergency incidents and assist during planned community events. Their service enhances operational capacity and reinforces the Department's longstanding tradition of community partnership.



## **Promotions and Hiring**

On September 29, 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department proudly held a promotional ceremony marking significant milestones in the growth and development of our team. These promotions strengthen our leadership structure and support our continued commitment to excellence.

Promoted Members:

- Battalion Chief David Duda
- Battalion Chief Robert Griffin
- Captain Erik Arquiza
- Captain Stephen Cowen
- Captain Jarrett Francisco
- Captain Oscar Morales
- Captain Bobby E.G. Baker

These individuals have demonstrated exceptional skill, leadership, and dedication to the Department and the community. Their promotions reflect their hard work and the trust placed in them by their peers and superiors.

In August, the Department also welcomed a new firefighter:

- Firefighter Christopher Gamba

New personnel bring fresh energy, new perspectives, and a strong commitment to serving and protecting the residents of Bloomfield. The achievements of our promoted members and the addition of new talent exemplify the values and mission of the Bloomfield Fire Department. We look forward to their continued contributions and leadership in the years ahead.

## **Retirements**

In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department honored the retirement of five distinguished members whose careers have left a lasting impact on the organization and the community. Their decades of service, leadership, and professionalism have strengthened the Department and set a high standard for future generations of firefighters.

We extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes to:

- Deputy Chief Joseph Coletta
- Battalion Chief Steven Zurlo
- Fire Official Ronald Fusaro
- Captain Richard Rannou
- Captain Daren McCoy

Their contributions will be remembered with respect and appreciation, and we thank them for their unwavering commitment to the Township of Bloomfield.



## **Firefighter of the Year**

The Firefighter of the Year Award honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional performance across key areas, including valor, customer service, dedication to duty, loyalty, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence. Fire Captain Oscar Morales exemplifies these qualities and is a deserving recipient of the 2025 Firefighter of the Year Award.

Captain Morales is one of the department's most highly trained technical rescuers, holding certifications as a Swiftwater, Confined Space, Trench Rescue, and Rope Rescue Technician. His advanced skillset ensures Bloomfield is prepared for the most complex and high-risk emergencies. He was also among the department's first certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, reinforcing his long-standing dedication to community safety and public education.

Beyond his operational expertise, Captain Morales plays a vital role in supporting the emotional well-being of both the public and his fellow firefighters. He was a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, participating in Rutgers' Call Center Peer Support program, and has completed Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) resiliency training, all of which strengthen the department's capacity to navigate high-stress incidents with professionalism and compassion.

What truly sets Captain Morales apart is his humility and the deep empathy he brings to every interaction. Whether assisting a resident during a crisis or mentoring a young firefighter, he treats every person with respect, patience, and genuine care. His exceptional physical conditioning further enhances his effectiveness on the fireground, allowing him to perform at the highest level during demanding operations.

Captain Morales consistently takes on additional responsibilities and executes them with professionalism and pride. His commitment to the department's mission is evident in his support of operations, training, and crew development. He leads by example, fostering growth, readiness, and confidence in those around him.

The Bloomfield Fire Department proudly recognizes Fire Captain Oscar Morales for his outstanding service, exceptional leadership, and unwavering dedication to the community. His contributions have strengthened our department, enhanced public safety, and upheld the highest traditions of the fire service.

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

Deputy Chief Joseph Coletta –2024	Captain Frank Durantino– 2023
Captain Robert Griffin– 2022	Captain Jeffrey Roberts –2021
Firefighter Brian Griffin- 2020	Captain Richard Rannou- 2019
Firefighter Gennaro Ilaria-2018	

## **CFAI Accreditation and Continuous Improvement**

In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department continued to strengthen and refine the high standards established through our accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). While accreditation was a major milestone when first achieved in 2024, this year's focus centered on maintaining that status and using the accreditation model as a framework for ongoing improvement across every area of the department.

CFAI accreditation is not a one-time achievement, it is a commitment to continuous self-assessment, data-driven decision-making, and transparent evaluation of our operations, training, community risk reduction, and administrative practices. Throughout 2025, our team worked diligently to uphold these expectations, ensuring that our policies, performance measures, and strategic goals remain aligned with national best practices.

This commitment to excellence is also reflected in our current ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating of Class 2, a distinction earned by only a small percentage of fire departments nationwide. Maintaining CFAI accreditation strengthens our operational discipline and positions us to pursue the next major benchmark: achieving a Class 1 ISO rating. This goal will require continued investment in training, staffing, water supply coordination, emergency communications, and community risk reduction, areas where our accreditation process provides clear guidance and measurable pathways for advancement.

We extend our appreciation to all members of the department who contribute to this ongoing work, and we recognize Accreditation Manager Captain Carl Mercado for his continued leadership in managing our accreditation files, documentation, and compliance efforts. His dedication ensures that our department remains not only accredited, but actively improving through the accreditation model.

As we move forward, the Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to leveraging CFAI accreditation as a catalyst for growth, innovation, and operational excellence. By maintaining these standards and striving toward a Class 1 ISO rating, we reaffirm our promise to provide the highest level of fire and emergency services to the residents of Bloomfield today and for generations to come.



# Revenue Report

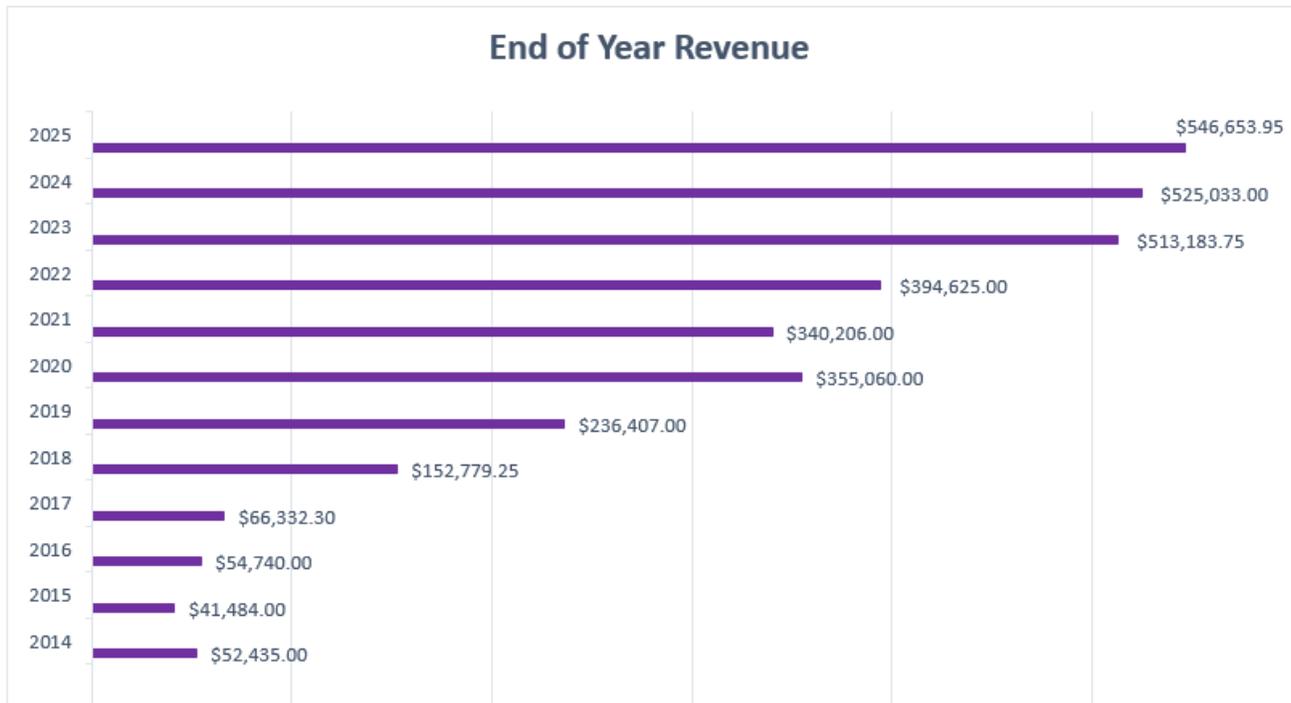
In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department continued its strong financial performance, generating sustained revenue growth driven by the expansion and professionalization of our inspection programs. Building on the record-breaking \$523,000 achieved in 2024, this year’s revenue reflects the continued success of our operational improvements, increased inspection volume, and the efficiency of our administrative processes.

This growth is especially notable when compared to 2017, when annual revenue averaged just \$55,000. The dramatic increase over the past several years is the direct result of fully operationalizing a wide range of inspection types—including Transfer of Property Title, Rental Property Registration, Life Hazard and Non-Life Hazard inspections, Visual Lead Paint inspections, and Vacant/Foreclosed Property oversight. Our shared services agreement with the Borough of Glen Ridge has further contributed to this upward trend.

The department’s financial success is more than a revenue figure, it represents our commitment to community safety, regulatory compliance, and responsible fiscal stewardship. By strengthening our inspection programs, investing in staff training, and modernizing our processes, we have created a sustainable model that enhances public safety while reducing the financial burden on taxpayers.

As we move forward, the Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to maintaining this momentum, improving service delivery, and ensuring that our operations continue to support both the safety and the financial well-being of the Township of Bloomfield.

## Bloomfield Fire Department Revenue Report



## Inspections

The Fire Prevention Bureau, under the leadership of the Fire Official, continues to oversee a broad and expanding range of inspections that support public safety, code compliance, and community well-being. In 2025, the Bureau further strengthened its role as a critical component of the Township’s safety by enhancing inspector training and expanding services through shared partnerships.

The Bloomfield Fire Department is responsible for a comprehensive portfolio of inspection types, each designed to reduce risk, ensure safe occupancy, and maintain compliance with state and local regulations. These include:

- Transfer of Property Title (TOP) Inspections – Conducted whenever a property changes ownership to ensure that smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and other life-safety requirements are in place before transfer.
- Rental Property Registration (RPR) Inspections – Required for all rental units to verify compliance with fire and housing codes, ensuring safe living conditions for tenants.
- Bureau of Housing Inspections – Focused on multi-family dwellings and other regulated occupancies to ensure adherence to state housing standards.
- Visual Lead Paint Inspections – Mandated by the State of New Jersey for all rental properties built prior to 1978. These inspections identify deteriorated paint surfaces that may pose lead hazards, protecting children and families from exposure.
- Vacant and Foreclosed Property Inspections – Conducted to ensure that unoccupied structures are secured, maintained, and monitored. Through our partnership with VPR Solutions, these properties are registered and tracked, providing up-to-date contact information for emergency response.
- Life Hazard and Non-Life Hazard Use Inspections – Annual inspections of commercial, industrial, and institutional occupancies to ensure compliance with the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. These inspections are essential for identifying fire hazards, verifying suppression and detection systems, and maintaining safe operations.

<b>Fire Prevention Inspections</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Bureau of Housing Inspections	413	642	209	175
Life Hazard Use Inspections	578	699	799	206
TOP Inspections	463	436	548	594
RPR Inspections	1314	1216	2580	2785
Lead Paint Inspections	371	736	613	N/A
Vacant/ Foreclosed Property Ins.	1582	1395	790	N/A

## **Pre-Plans**

Pre-incident plans remain essential to the Bloomfield Fire Department's readiness and community risk-reduction efforts.

Pre-incident plans provide responders with critical information like building layouts, construction types, fire protection systems, hazards, access points, and water supply considerations allowing for safer and more efficient operations during emergencies.

This year, the department continued modernizing these efforts through the First Due RMS, which improves accuracy, accessibility, and real-time updates for both inspections and pre-plans. Deputy Chief Masiak played a key role in overseeing this program and ensuring that our documentation remains current, consistent, and aligned with best practices.

These combined efforts strengthen our preparedness and enhance our ability to protect life and property across the community.

## **Hydrants**

Hydrant flushing is a critical component of the Township's water system maintenance and is mandated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Under these requirements, every hydrant must be flushed annually to ensure water quality and system reliability. Flushing removes sediment, rust, and mineral buildup that naturally accumulate in underground mains, helping maintain clear water flow and reducing the risk of obstruction during firefighting operations.

This work also ensures compliance with NFPA 291, which outlines national standards for hydrant inspection, testing, marking, and maintenance. Adhering to these standards is essential for confirming that hydrants remain fully operational and capable of delivering the water volumes needed for effective fire suppression. Reliable water supply is one of the most important factors in controlling and extinguishing fires, making proper inspection, testing, and documentation of the hydrant system a core public safety responsibility.

As part of the 2025 flushing schedule, the Bloomfield Fire Department continued the systematic process of flow testing all township hydrants, a requirement of NFPA every five years. Flow testing provides precise data on hydrant performance, including static pressure, residual pressure, and available gallons per minute. This information helps identify changes in the water distribution system such as pipe deterioration, valve issues, or system upgrades that may affect hydrant output during emergencies.

The annual flushing and testing program also plays a vital role in identifying maintenance needs early. During this year's cycle, several hydrants were found to be out of service, damaged, or outdated. These findings allow the Township to prioritize repairs and replacements, ensuring that the hydrant network remains dependable and capable of supporting firefighting operations across all neighborhoods.

Through consistent flushing, flow testing, and targeted system improvements, the Bloomfield Fire Department continues to strengthen the reliability of the community's water supply and enhance overall emergency readiness. This proactive approach ensures that firefighters have the water they need when and where they need it to protect life and property.

## Fleet Operations

In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department made significant investments to ensure the strength and reliability of our fleet. Recognizing the critical role our apparatus play in safeguarding the community, we dedicated substantial resources to repairs and upgrades across all vehicles. This commitment reflects our proactive approach to fleet management and our determination to keep every unit in peak condition.

Our apparatus continue to follow a comprehensive maintenance schedule aligned with industry best practices. This preventative regimen ensures that each vehicle operates safely, efficiently, and reliably, minimizing downtime and maximizing readiness. By prioritizing repairs and maintenance, we reinforce our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies.

The department's fleet currently comprises of six engines, two trucks, seven SUV's, one rescue, one ambulance and one boat.

We also maintain and regularly update our 15-year apparatus replacement plan, in accordance with NFPA 1901 standards. This plan ensures our fleet remains modern, functional, and capable of meeting the evolving demands of fire and emergency services. Through regular review and updates, we place each apparatus on a schedule that promotes optimal performance and safety.

A special acknowledgment is extended to Deputy Chief Masiak for his leadership in overseeing fleet maintenance. His dedication has been instrumental in ensuring that our vehicles remain dependable assets to the department and the community.

These vehicles are the backbone of our operations, enabling us to protect lives and property with professionalism and pride. By investing in repairs and maintaining a disciplined schedule, we strengthen our readiness and uphold the trust placed in us by the residents of Bloomfield.



## **Equipment Upgrades**

In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department continued its commitment to protecting both our firefighters and the community by investing in critical equipment upgrades. These improvements ensure that our personnel have the safest, most reliable tools available and remain fully prepared to meet the evolving challenges of modern emergency response.

To address the growing concern surrounding lithium-ion battery fires, the department purchased CellSafe pails designed for the safe handling and disposal of compromised batteries. This investment enhances our ability to mitigate a rapidly emerging hazard and protect both responders and residents.

The department also completed a comprehensive update of our radio communications system, including firmware upgrades, repairs, battery replacements, and the procurement of new units where needed. Maintaining dependable communication is essential to operational safety, and these enhancements ensure every member can communicate clearly and effectively during emergencies.

At Station 2, the SCBA cylinder recharging station was fully replaced. This upgrade to the breathing-air purification system reinforces our commitment to firefighter health by ensuring clean, reliable air for all SCBA operations.

All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) underwent thorough annual inspection and repair by Firefighter Equipment of NY, a trusted industry partner specializing in NFPA-compliant gear maintenance. They conducted detailed evaluations of each member's PPE, checking for thermal damage, wear, compromised stitching, and any signs of degradation that could impact safety during emergency operations. When deficiencies were identified, repairs were completed promptly to restore each item to full compliance with NFPA 1851 standards. Their expertise ensures that every piece of gear remains reliable, functional, and ready for frontline use.

This proactive approach reduces risk, extends the service life of equipment, and ensures that all members are protected by gear that meets the highest standards of safety and compliance.

Finally, the department purchased new iPads integrated with First Due, improving access to pre-plans, mapping, hydrant data, and incident information while en route. This upgrade enhances situational awareness and supports more efficient, informed decision-making on the fireground.

Through these targeted investments, the Bloomfield Fire Department continues to strengthen operational readiness, enhance firefighter safety, and ensure the highest level of service to the community.

## Emergency Response



	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Emergency Incidents	3912	3916	3660	3670	4174
Vehicle/ House Lock Outs	370	402	398	376	458
Natural Gas Emergencies	165	168	146	153	156
Fires in Structures	32	16	24	129	130
EMS Assists	806	726	747	949	554
Motor Vehicle Extrications	9	19	23	3	5
Motor Vehicle Fires	21	17	19	21	18
Elevator Rescues	24	26	42	10	19

In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department continued its strong commitment to regional cooperation by providing mutual and automatic aid on 109 occasions to neighboring communities. These responses supported Belleville, Clifton, East Orange, Glen Ridge, Irvington, Maplewood, Millburn, Montclair, Newark, Nutley, Orange, Paterson, and West Orange during a wide range of emergency incidents.

Our assistance was requested for major structure fires, vehicle fires, and fire station coverage assignments while neighboring departments managed their own active incidents. These responses ensured uninterrupted protection for surrounding communities and reinforced the shared responsibility that underpins the regional fire service.

The department’s readiness to assist reflects the professionalism, capability, and reliability of our members. Mutual aid remains a critical component of public safety, and Bloomfield’s consistent support strengthens operational resilience across the region while ensuring that residents throughout Essex County and beyond receive timely, effective emergency response.



## **Annual Physicals**

The Bloomfield Fire Department remains firmly committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of its firefighters, consistent with the expectations outlined in NFPA 1500. Annual occupational medical evaluations continue to be strongly encouraged as an essential component of maintaining fitness for duty and ensuring long-term wellness.

These evaluations include comprehensive medical assessments such as bloodwork, cardiovascular stress testing, and targeted screenings. This proactive approach supports early detection of potential health concerns and helps members manage risks before they impact their ability to serve.

While participation is voluntary, the department recommends that all members complete these evaluations at least every two years. In 2025, 12 members took advantage of this important benefit. Their commitment to personal health not only enhances their own safety but also strengthens the department's overall operational readiness. The Bloomfield Fire Department remains dedicated to supporting its firefighters through these critical medical evaluations, ensuring they are prepared to meet the demands of the job and continue serving the community effectively.

## **Fitness**

The Bloomfield Fire Department continues to prioritize physical fitness as a core element of firefighter readiness. Our holistic fitness program emphasizes strength training, cardiovascular conditioning, flexibility, and proper nutrition, recognizing that each plays a vital role in supporting the physical demands of emergency response.

Members are encouraged to engage in regular strength-building exercises to maintain the muscular endurance required for firefighting tasks. Cardiovascular workouts are promoted to enhance stamina and heart health, both essential during high intensity operations. Flexibility training is incorporated to improve mobility and reduce the likelihood of injury on the fireground.

Proper nutrition remains a key focus, supporting sustained energy, recovery, and overall wellness. All firehouses are equipped with a range of exercise equipment designed to support strength, cardio, and flexibility training, ensuring that members have the tools they need to maintain fitness while on shift.

The department encourages all personnel to make consistent use of these resources. This commitment to physical fitness reflects our broader mission to protect the health of our firefighters and ensure they are always prepared to serve the community at their highest level.

## **Training**

The Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to continuous training and professional development, recognizing that preparedness is the foundation of both firefighter safety and effective service to the community. In 2025, members participated in a wide range of training opportunities designed to strengthen operational readiness, reinforce core skills, and expand specialized capabilities.

Throughout the year, firefighters engaged in hands-on drills, classroom instruction, and multi-agency exercises that reflected real-world scenarios and emerging challenges. These trainings ensured that members remained proficient in essential firefighting tactics, rescue operations, emergency medical response, and incident command.

Some of the key training opportunities offered in 2025 included:

- National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer - Joseph Vallo
- National Fire Academy Health and Safety Program Manager – Joseph Vallo
- Principal of Building Construction Series - Joseph Vallo
- CPR Recertification - Battalion 1 Consultants
- Live Burn Training at Bergen County Fire Academy and Middlesex County Fire Academy
- Vehicle Extrication Training - All Hands Training
- Rope Refresher - All Hands Training
- 25 Things a Firefighter Should Know –Frank Viscuso
- 25 Things an Officer Should Know –Frank Viscuso
- Resilience Training - Valor and Grace
- Through the Lock Forcible Entry Training - Coire Williams

In preparation of the implementation of the Ambulance the following BLS Transport classes were given by Battalion 1 Consultants. These courses were all taken by the department's junior members.

- Introduction and Transition
- Documentation Lecture
- Patient Assessment and Movement Lecture
- Medications Lecture
- Medical Emergencies and Transport Considerations
- Ambulance Familiarization and Equipment Check
- Mass Casualty Incidents

- Man vs. Machine - This training focuses on situations involving emergencies with machines such as meat grinders, crushing, and impalement.

Captain Richard Rannou

Captain Michael Nicosia

Firefighter Duncan Arlett

Firefighter Albin Okuniewicz

Firefighter Claudia Astudillo

Firefighter Charles Pierce

- Pump Operations - This training teaches how to ensure proper water flow is achieved through hoses during emergencies with hands on simulations.

Firefighter Mark Rosetti

Firefighter Matthew Doherty

Firefighter Duncan Arlett

Firefighter Albin Okuniewicz

Firefighter Charles Pierce

Firefighter Kevin Negrón

Firefighter Dylan Estelle

Firefighter Nicholas Conforti

- Emergency Bail Out Harness Train the Trainer

Captain Richard Rannou

Captain Joseph Critchley

Captain Jeffery Roberts

Captain Timothy McCulloch

Captain Kevin Hilaire

Captain Erick Stone

Captain Michael Elias

Firefighter Robert Powell

Firefighter Oscar Morales

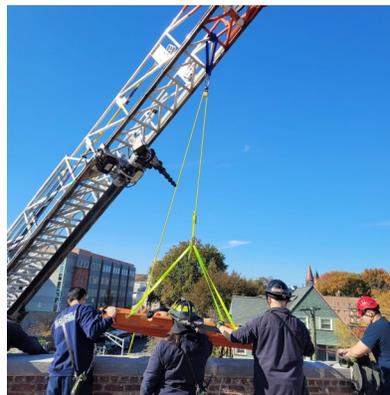
Firefighter Alexander Nieves

Firefighter Christopher Caldarella

Firefighter Joshua Grady

- Swift Water Technician
  - Captain Oscar Morales
  - Firefighter Kenneth Hall
  - Firefighter Joshua Grady
  - Firefighter Liam Penberthy
  - Firefighter Addison Valencia
  - Firefighter Matthew Doherty
  - Firefighter Duncan Arlett
  - Firefighter Christopher Caldarella
  - Firefighter Albin Okuniewicz
  - Firefighter Stephanie Orgueria-Aponte
  - Firefighter Dylan Estelle
  - Firefighter Wilfredo Ruiz
  - Firefighter Charles Pierce
  - Firefighter Kevin Negron

These training initiatives reflect the department’s dedication to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, safety, and service. By investing in continuous education, the Bloomfield Fire Department ensures that its members remain prepared to meet any challenge and uphold the trust placed in them by the Bloomfield community.



## Certifications

In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department continued to advance its culture of professional growth, with many members earning new certifications across a wide range of disciplines. These achievements reflect the department's unwavering commitment to continuous learning, operational excellence, and the highest standards of service.

Each certification earned strengthens our collective capability enhancing technical proficiency, expanding specialized skill sets, and ensuring our team remains fully prepared to meet the complex challenges of modern fire and emergency services. From advanced firefighting techniques to specialized rescue, incident command, emergency medical training, and leadership development, these accomplishments demonstrate the dedication and drive of our members.

The department's ongoing investment in training and certification underscores our belief that a highly skilled workforce is essential to both firefighter safety and community protection. By supporting these opportunities, we ensure that every member has the tools, knowledge, and confidence to perform at their best.

The Bloomfield Fire Department is proud of the progress made in 2025 and remains committed to fostering a learning-focused environment where professional development is encouraged, supported, and celebrated. This dedication strengthens not only our department but the safety and well-being of the entire Bloomfield community.

### **ICS 300**

Captain Kevin Villegas

Captain Jeffrey Roberts

Captain Joseph Calleros

Captain Timothy McCulloch

Captain Patrick Fazzini

Captain Carl Mercado

Captain Adam Miick

Captain Robert Lee

Captain Michael Nicosia

Captain Kevin Hilaire

Captain Michael Elias

### **Fire Instructor**

Captain Kevin Hilaire

Firefighter Alexander Nieves

### **Fire Officer 1**

Firefighter Michael Searls

Firefighter Brian Shaw

### **Fire Officer 2**

Deputy Chief Wojciech Masiak

### **Rope Rescue Technician**

Captain Joseph Critchley

Captain Erick Stone

Captain Stephen Cowen

Captain Oscar Morales

Firefighter Claudia Astudillo

### **Fire Inspector**

Firefighter Stephanie Aponte– Orgueria



## Policies and Procedures

The Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to maintaining clear, current, and high-quality policies that support safe, consistent, and professional operations. Since launching our Policy and Procedure platform (KMS through Lexipol) in August 2022, the department has continued to strengthen and refine our policy framework. By 2024, the system was fully implemented, with all members having reviewed and acknowledged every department policy and procedure.

Lexipol provides ongoing updates to ensure our policies remain aligned with state and national laws, industry standards, and emerging best practices. The platform also delivers monthly Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs), which incorporate current events, recent court decisions, and operational insights. These bulletins help our members stay informed and reinforce the practical application of policy in day-to-day operations, enhancing safety, reducing risk, and supporting consistent service delivery.

In 2025, the department advanced its policy program even further. We implemented nearly 40 new EMS policies to ensure full compliance with New Jersey Department of Health requirements as we prepare for the launch of BLS transport service. This significant update reflects our commitment to operational readiness, regulatory compliance, and high-quality patient care.

Last year, the department was also honored through the Lexipol Connect Recognition Program, earning:

- Gold Level Recognition for Excellence in Fire Policy Management
- Silver Level Recognition for Excellence in Online Training Management

These awards reflect outstanding performance across key metrics, including policy issuance, acknowledgments, updates, and DTB completion. They also highlight the dedication of our personnel, whose consistent engagement with KMS and commitment to ongoing training make these achievements possible.

The Bloomfield Fire Department will continue to prioritize strong policy management and comprehensive training as essential components of our mission to serve the Township of Bloomfield with professionalism, accountability, and excellence.



## Facilities Update

The Bloomfield Fire Department continues to take a proactive approach to maintaining and improving our four firehouses, each of which carries significant historical and operational importance. Our facilities range from 50 to 95 years old, and they remain in exceptional condition thanks to the long-standing pride and commitment of our members. Their hands-on care and attention ensure our buildings remain safe, functional, and ready to support the needs of both our personnel and the community.

In 2025, the department advanced several key maintenance and improvement projects across all stations. These efforts focused on strengthening building systems, addressing aging infrastructure, and enhancing the overall safety and reliability of our facilities. The work completed this year reflects our ongoing commitment to preserving the integrity of our firehouses while ensuring they continue to meet modern operational demands.

This culture of stewardship shared by generations of Bloomfield firefighters remains one of our greatest strengths. By investing in our facilities and maintaining them with pride, we ensure that our firehouses will continue to serve the community effectively for decades to come.





## Community Outreach

The Bloomfield Fire Department remained deeply engaged with the community throughout 2025, strengthening relationships, promoting safety, and embodying the department's core values of Citizenship, Integrity, and Respect. Community outreach continues to be a vital part of our mission, allowing members to connect with residents in meaningful and accessible ways.

Firefighters were a familiar presence at neighborhood block parties, the Bloomfield Community Farmer's Market, the Town-Wide Community Clean-Up, and numerous Girl Scout and Boy Scout activities, along with other township-sponsored events. These gatherings provided valuable opportunities to share fire-safety information, answer questions, and build trust with residents of all ages.

The department also maintained a strong partnership with the Bloomfield Children's Library, participating in events throughout the year. During the summer, Firefighter Friday remained a highlight giving children the chance to read with firefighters, explore equipment, and learn essential fire-safety lessons in a fun and engaging environment.

Public firehouse visits continued to be encouraged and easily scheduled online. These visits offer residents a firsthand look at our apparatus and equipment while giving firefighters the chance to explain their roles, demonstrate tools, and address any questions. These interactions help demystify the fire service and foster a welcoming, approachable connection between the department and the community.

Through consistent participation in local events, educational programs, and open-house opportunities, the Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to serving not only in times of emergency but as an active, visible, and trusted partner in the community every day.





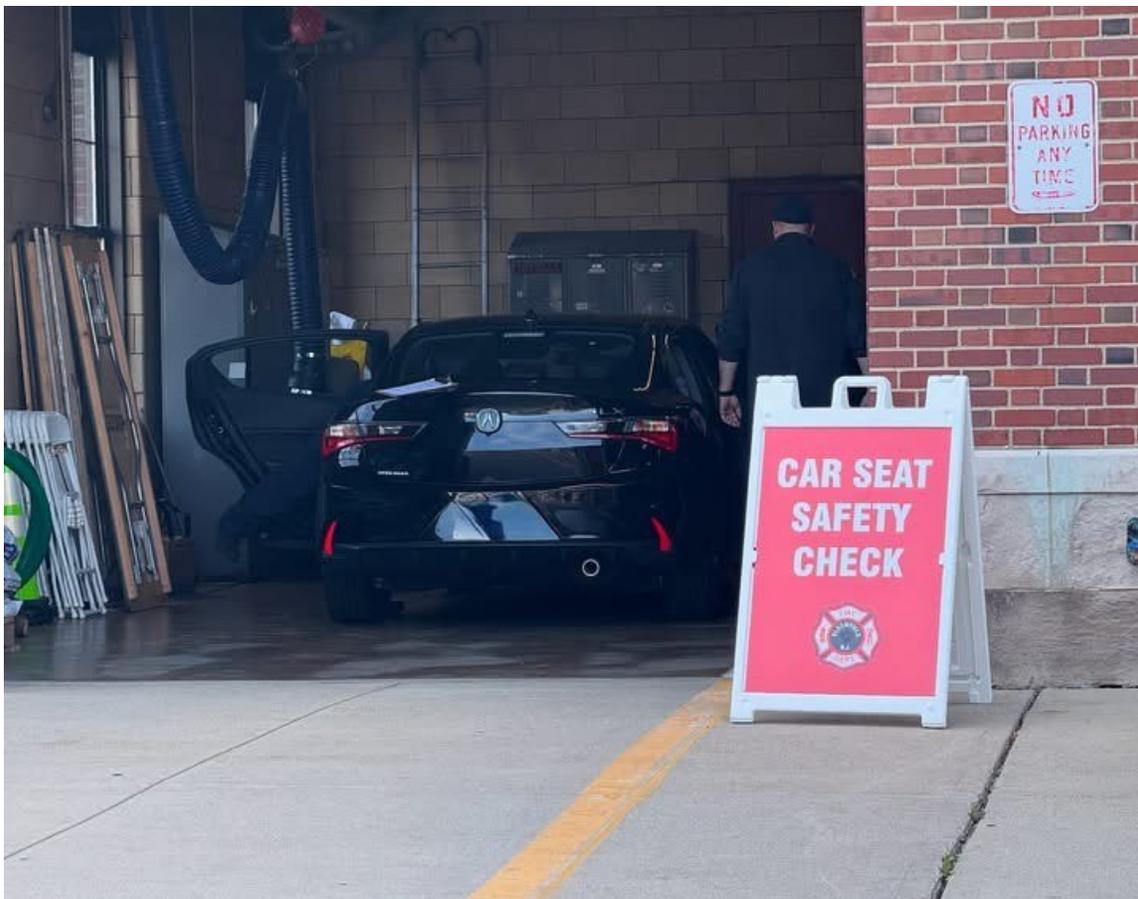
## Car Seat Safety Program

The Bloomfield Fire Department offers comprehensive car seat safety checks and installations to ensure the protection of our youngest community members. Our program is supported by 19 certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, all trained through the National Certification Program of Safe Kids Worldwide. This rigorous 32-hour course combines classroom instruction with hands-on practical training, ensuring our members are fully equipped to properly inspect, adjust, and install car seats.

In 2025, the department installed 152 car seats, providing parents and caregivers with confidence and peace of mind while contributing to the overall safety of children throughout our community. On the first Saturday of each month, we host public installation events where families can meet with our certified technicians to verify that their car seats meet safety standards and are installed correctly. These sessions continue to be a trusted resource for residents seeking guidance and support.

This program would not be possible without the dedication of our certified technicians, whose commitment to child passenger safety is evident in every interaction. A special thank-you is extended to Firefighter Okuniewicz, whose leadership, expertise, and consistent involvement have been instrumental in the continued success and growth of this program.

The Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to promoting child passenger safety and providing essential, high-quality services to the families we serve.



## Community CPR Courses

In 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department strengthened its commitment to building a safer and more resilient community by continuing to host CPR training courses for residents. These classes served a wide range of groups including the Township's Senior Citizen community, Little League volunteers, church organizations, and local Scout troops ensuring that lifesaving skills reached individuals across all ages and backgrounds.

This initiative is led by three dedicated certified instructors: Deputy Chief Brian McDade, Firefighter Albin Okuniewicz, and Firefighter Claudia Astudillo. Their professionalism, patience, and expertise ensure that every participant receives high quality instruction rooted in real world experience. Through hands-on practice and clear guidance, community members gain the confidence and capability to respond effectively during cardiac emergencies, when every second matters.

By expanding access to CPR education, the Bloomfield Fire Department continues to empower residents with the tools needed to protect one another. This program not only enhances individual preparedness but also strengthens the collective safety and well-being of the entire township.

The department remains committed to offering these courses in the years ahead and encourages broad participation as part of our ongoing effort to build a more informed, capable, and resilient community.



## Open House

On October 25, 2025, during Fire Prevention Month, the Bloomfield Fire Department held our annual Open House, inviting the community to meet our members and learn more about the important work we do for Bloomfield. This event provided a meaningful opportunity for residents to engage with our team, gain insight into our services, and enjoy a fun filled day with their families.

We offered a series of informative demonstrations showcasing the wide range of services provided by the department, including CPR workshops, Girls on Fire Camp programming, fire safety education, first aid instruction, and emergency preparedness guidance.

The event also featured activities designed especially for children such as a bounce house and hands-on crafts ensuring our youngest visitors had an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Attendees were able to interact directly with our firefighters, explore our apparatus, and learn about the tools and equipment used in our daily operations. These interactions help strengthen community trust and deepen understanding of the department's mission.

This Open House was more than just an event; it was a celebration of community spirit and a testament to our ongoing commitment to serving and protecting the residents of Bloomfield. We are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to making the day a success.

A special thank-you is extended to Firefighters Astudillo, Okuniewicz, and Rosetti, as well as Battalion Chiefs Zurlo and Parsons, for their exceptional leadership, coordination, and hands on support. Their efforts along with the many members who volunteered their time were instrumental in ensuring the event ran smoothly and reflected the professionalism and pride of the Bloomfield Fire Department.







## **Girls on Fire Youth Camp**

The Bloomfield Fire Department hosted its third annual Girls on Fire Youth Camp in August 2025, continuing to build on the success and momentum of this growing initiative. Designed for fifth and sixth grade girls, the camp provides a unique opportunity to experience the fire service firsthand and learn what it takes to become a firefighter.

Participation in the program nearly doubled compared to the previous year, reflecting strong community interest and the positive impact the camp has had on local youth. This growth was further supported by a grant awarded to the department by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), which helped expand resources, enhance programming, and strengthen outreach efforts.

The two-day camp featured a variety of hands-on exercises and drills, including navigating a firefighter maze, and trying on turnout gear. These activities allowed participants to experience realistic firefighting scenarios and gain practical insight into the skills, teamwork, and problem-solving required in the profession.

The continued success of Girls on Fire is due in large part to the leadership and dedication of Firefighter Claudia Astudillo, who has been the primary organizer and driving force behind the program since its inception. Claudia's vision, planning, and hands-on instruction have shaped the camp into a signature youth initiative for the department. Her commitment to mentorship, confidence building, and representation has created an environment where young girls feel empowered to challenge themselves and explore new possibilities.

Firefighter Stephanie Orgueria-Aponte provided strong support throughout the program, contributing to instruction, mentorship, and participant engagement. The camp also benefited from the involvement of female firefighters from neighboring departments and returning Girls on Fire alumni, who served as role models and reinforced the importance of representation within the profession.

The Girls on Fire Youth Camp aims to inspire young girls to consider firefighting as a future career path by providing meaningful exposure, hands-on experience, and supportive mentorship. The program reflects the department's commitment to fostering diversity, broadening access to the fire service, and empowering the next generation of leaders.

So many of our members played a meaningful role in making this effort successful. Whether through hands-on help, thoughtful input, or simply showing up when needed, their contributions demonstrate the pride and commitment that define this department.

The Bloomfield Fire Department is proud to continue offering this impactful program and remains dedicated to encouraging young women to explore opportunities within the fire service and beyond.



## Partnering with our Schools

Throughout 2025, the Bloomfield Fire Department strengthened its partnership with local schools by participating in a wide range of educational programs and safety initiatives. These efforts help ensure that children across the township are familiar with our personnel, equipment, and emergency procedures which all helps build trust, reducing fear, and reinforcing lifelong fire-safety habits.

Department members visited elementary schools, daycares, and preschools to teach age-appropriate fire-safety lessons. Children had the opportunity to explore our apparatus, hear sirens, and see firefighters in full gear, helping them understand what to expect during an emergency and encouraging them to view firefighters as helpers they can rely on.

This year's Fire Safety Poster Contest centered on the theme "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home." The contest highlighted the growing risks associated with lithium-ion batteries when improperly used or stored. Students learned practical safety tips while expressing their creativity, helping raise awareness of this emerging hazard within the community.

The Department also remained actively involved in school fire drills across the district. Our presence at these drills allowed firefighters to collaborate with school administrators, ensure compliance with safety protocols, and provide real-time guidance to staff and students. These interactions help reinforce effective evacuation procedures and strengthen relationships with school stakeholders.

In addition, the Bloomfield Fire Department continued its participation in the summer internship program, offering two Bloomfield students the opportunity to work alongside our personnel. These interns gained firsthand experience in fire department operations, learning about training, emergency response, inspections, and the responsibilities of a modern fire service. Programs like this help inspire future public-safety professionals and deepen community engagement.

The Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to supporting the safety and education of our township's youth. Through ongoing outreach, hands-on learning, and strong partnerships with our schools, we continue to build a safer and more informed community for residents, visitors, and workers alike.



## Senior Class

Each year, as Bloomfield High School seniors prepare to take their next steps into adulthood, the Bloomfield Fire Department delivers a series of impactful risk-reduction programs designed to educate, empower, and protect students as they transition into new environments and responsibilities. These initiatives have become a valued tradition in the community and reflect the Department's commitment to youth safety and public education.

One of the cornerstone programs is "After The Fire," a powerful presentation focused on dormitory fire safety. This program recounts the tragic Seton Hall University fire and features two survivors who were critically burned in the incident. Their firsthand stories, combined with a compelling message about awareness and preparedness, leave a lasting impression on students as they prepare for college life. The presentation reinforces essential fire-safety practices and highlights how informed decisions can save lives.

In addition, the Department conducts an annual drunk driving awareness and auto extrication demonstration ahead of prom and Memorial Day weekend, times when young drivers face heightened risks. This event simulates a serious motor vehicle accident caused by impaired driving, allowing students to witness the full emergency response, including vehicle stabilization, extrication, and patient care. The realism of the demonstration delivers a sobering reminder of the consequences of impaired or reckless driving. Special thanks to Firefighter Okuniewicz for organizing this program, ensuring its continued success and the preservation of this important partnership with the school.

These programs are designed not only to inform but to resonate deeply with students, helping them understand the real-world impact of their choices. By combining education, lived experience, and realistic demonstrations, the Bloomfield Fire Department remains committed to preparing young adults for safer futures and strengthening its longstanding connection with the youth of our community.







## **Special Thanks**

The Bloomfield Fire Department expresses gratitude to the Bloomfield Township Administration, Mayor, and Council members for their ongoing support and dedication as we strive to improve service to the community at the highest standard.

### **Township of Bloomfield Town Council**

**Jenny Mundell**, Mayor

**Rosalee Gonzalez**, First Ward Councilwoman

**Nicholas Joanow**, Second Ward Councilman

**Sarah Cruz**, Third Ward Councilwoman

**Monica Charris Tabares**, Councilwoman at-Large

**Jill Fischman**, Councilwoman at-Large

**Tracy Toler-Phillips**, Councilwoman at-Large

### **Administration**

**Anthony G. DeZenzo**, Town Administrator





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