



Chester Township Fire Rescue 2024 Annual Report

Dear Chester Township residents,

On behalf of Chester Township Fire Rescue, I am honored to provide the 2024 annual report of department activity. This report is a summary of activity for the three main areas of the fire department – operations, training, and fire prevention.

In 2024 we responded to 1,689 calls for assistance which is a 12% increase from 2023. The total calls do not include approximately 60 calls associated with the tornado that struck the community on August 6th that dealt with wires down and other minor incidents. This was done to achieve consistent reporting from previous years. Documenting every incident would have skewed the annual responses thus making comparisons to past or future annual incident totals difficult. EMS incidents (1,152) accounted for 68% of department responses. Fire related incidents (537) accounted for 32% of department responses. Comparatively, EMS incidents increased 9.4% in 2024 while fire incidents increased 18.5%.

Nationally, the fire service is challenged with staffing issues. Chester Township utilizes a combination of full-time and part-time personnel to provide service. As with many NE Ohio combination full-time/part-time fire departments, personnel changes occur during the year. Chester Township Fire Rescue experienced less personnel changeover compared to past years. There was 1 full-time resignation (hired elsewhere) offset by the hiring of 2 full-time personnel. In the part-time ranks there were 4 resignations – 1 hired full-time elsewhere, 2 needed more family time and 1 was terminated. These part-time vacancies were filled with 4 hires which kept the roster stable.

Emergency medical services (EMS) account for many of our calls for service. As in years past, most of our patients seen were 65 years old or greater, female and transported to Hillcrest hospital. The department also is prepared for fires which are a more dangerous threat to both people and property. Unfortunately, 5 members of our community suffered significant fire losses in 2024 that totaled an estimated \$272,500 in damages. When compared to the

estimated value of property potentially impacted by those fires (\$2,741,000), the loss value (\$272,500) represents about a 10% loss rate.

As the demands of the fire service increase, so does the need to continually train for the challenges that lie ahead. In 2024, department members accomplished 3,494 hours of training, most of which were completed on duty at no additional cost to the Township.

Modern day fire departments are more than response agencies. While we are better known for fighting fires with water, our preferred method of fighting the hazards of fire is through prevention. Fire prevention activity again increased in 2024. There was a total of 684 inspections completed in 2024.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Fire Chief this year and lead the members of Chester Township Fire Rescue. The dedication and professionalism of our staff is shown every day in all they do for you and our community. I am proud of our organization and the commitment to serve you.

In 2025, the department will have a new Fire Chief. After almost 40 years in the fire service, I will retire in March. In my career, I have been Fire Chief of 3 departments including Chester Township. By far, serving as the leader of Chester Township Fire Rescue has been one of the highlights of my career. Your firefighters are a professional, compassionate and loyal group of individuals who strive to do what is best to keep the community safe. I am extremely proud of them and grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them.

Our department could not accomplish what we do without the support of the Trustees and more importantly you, our community. I feel very fortunate to have experienced the level of community support that exists in Chester Township which is not evident in all the communities for which I have worked. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to be involved in such a tight knit, supportive community as Chester Township. Thank you!

Yours in safety,

William J. Shaw, Fire Chief

PERSONNEL

The strength of any emergency organization is the people that deliver the services and Chester Township Fire Rescue is no different. We are proud of the people who serve our community and provide the emergency services you rely on.

You are protected by a combination of full-time and part-time personnel. The full-time personnel work the traditional firefighter shift – 24 hours on duty followed by 48 hours off duty. Part-time personnel work as they are able on 12-hours work shifts. Many of our part-time personnel are full-time paramedic/firefighters with other communities in the area.

In February 2024, part-time Assistant Chief Andy Nagy was promoted to full-time Assistant Chief. The Trustees were supportive of the department's succession plan and for that we are grateful. AC Nagy began his career with Chester Township Fire Rescue as an Explorer and was hired in February 1999. He has served in many positions over his career and focused on fire prevention, training and department administration.

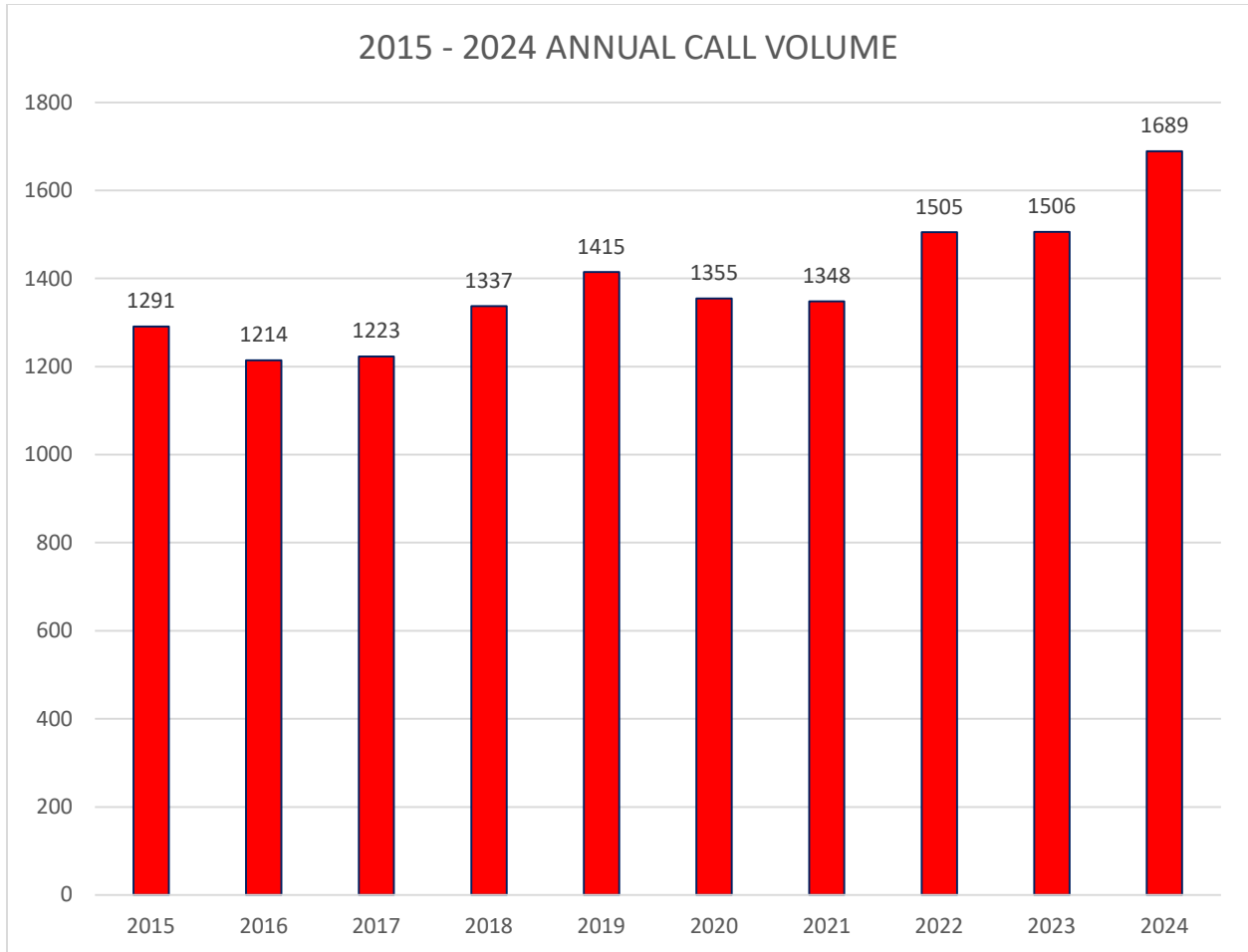
Just as important as having the proper staff available for incidents, training must be conducted to ensure the competency of those serving the community. While many of our part-time staff receive training at their full-time fire jobs, it is still important for all Chester Township Fire Rescue staff to train on our equipment, medical protocols, and operational policies so we achieve the safety and efficiency desired.

Our full-time staff logged 2,024 hours of training, much of which was to earn certifications. Part-time members logged 1,415 hours of training. Training highlights for 2024 include:

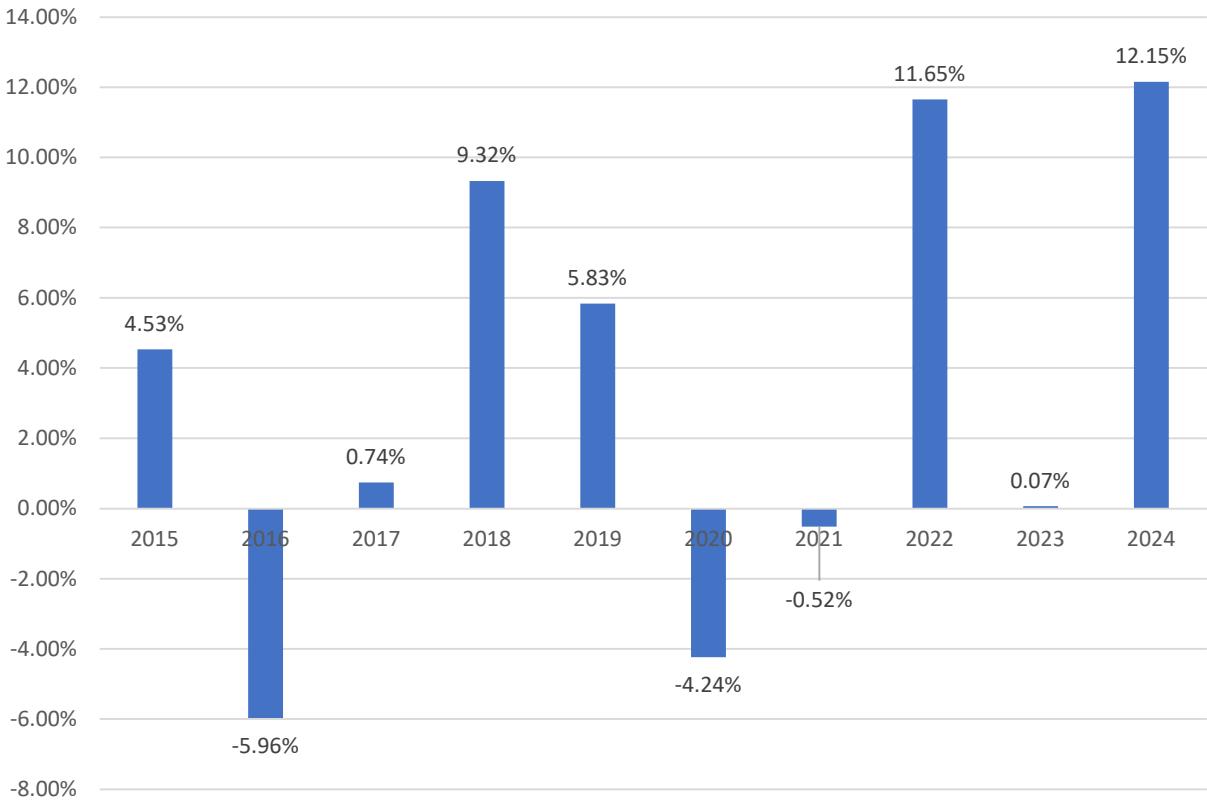
- ✘ Asst. Chief Nagy began the Ohio Fire Executive program offered by the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association. This is a 2 ½ year management focused program.
- ✘ PM/FF Collins and Lt. Neary were certified as Fire/EMS instructors.
- ✘ PM/FF Angie completed Fire Officer 3 & 4.
- ✘ Asst. Chief Nagy and Lt. Neary received training in Peer Support offered by the International Association of Firefighters. Peer Support training focuses on mental health wellness for firefighters.

INCIDENTS

Chester Township Fire Rescue's incident volume increased approximately 12% in 2024.

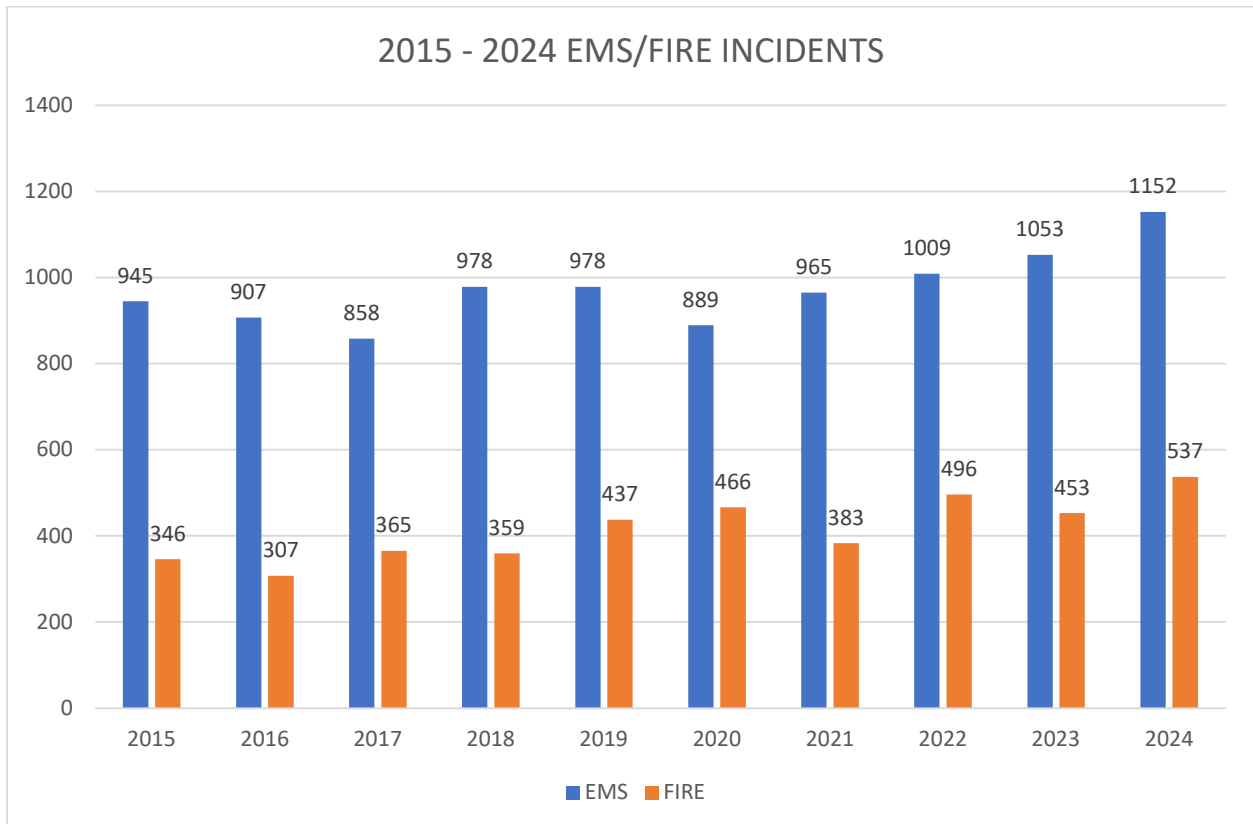


10 YR. INCIDENT INCREASE/DECREASE %



FIRE/EMS INCIDENT COMPARISON

As in years past, the calls for paramedic EMS service make up most of our incidents. Even though fires make up a smaller amount of our call volume, fire remains a concern due to the potential loss of life and property.



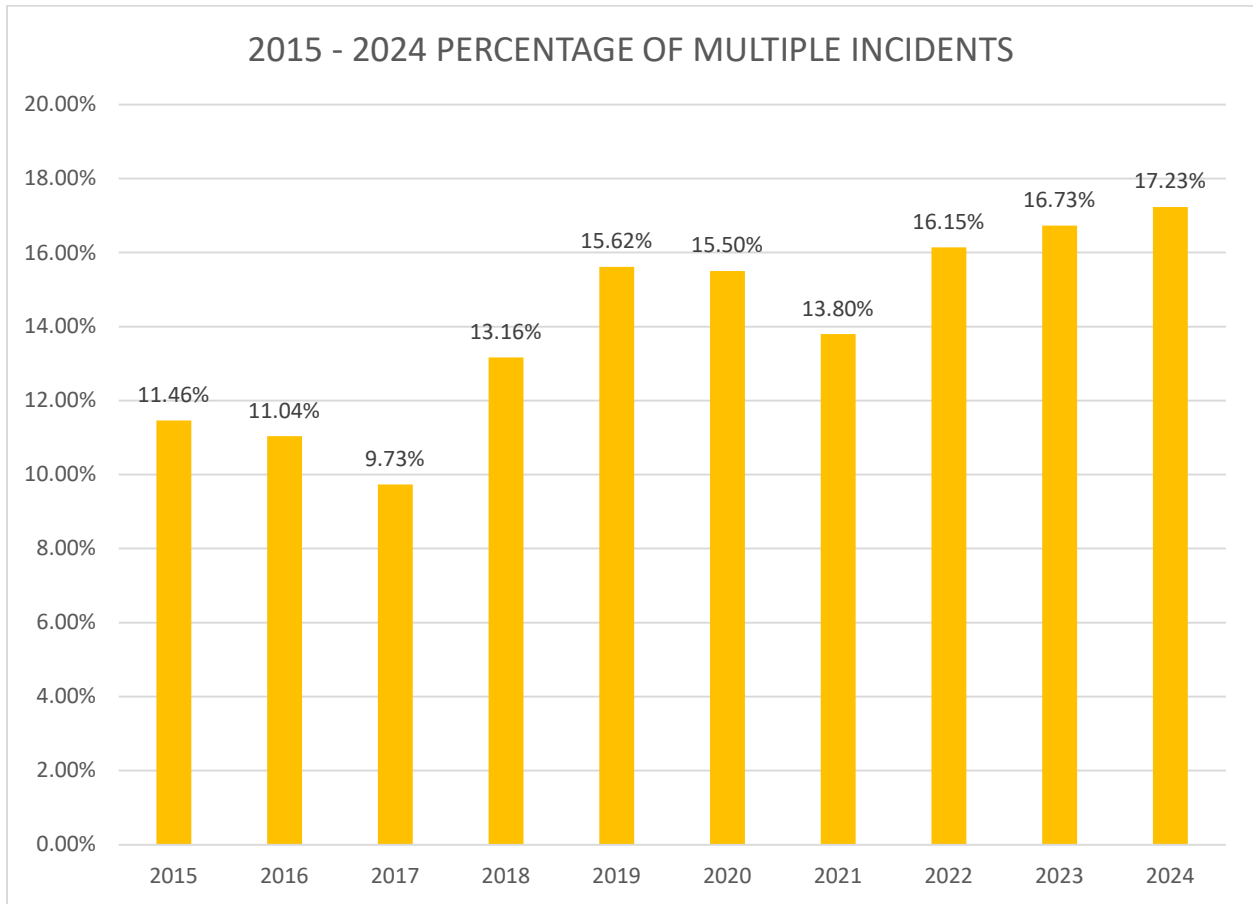
PROPERTY LOSS FROM FIRE

Property loss from fire is one of the most devastating events that can happen to a family. While fires are not a common occurrence in Chester Twp., there were two significant fires in residential buildings this year. Despite our best efforts under trying conditions, the losses were substantial. The Fire Department recommends installing a smoke detector in your garage as well as strategic locations in the house. This simple device will provide early warning which allows a faster response, thus reducing damage.



MULTIPLE INCIDENTS

Emergency services would be much more manageable if the incidents were scheduled. Unfortunately, life does not work that way. This graph shows the percentage of incidents that occurred simultaneously with others. Multiple calls may range from 2 at the same time up to as many as 5 or 6 at the same time. Most frequently it is 2 at the same time. With our staffing levels, 2 simultaneous incidents sometimes challenge our on-duty personnel to provide service.

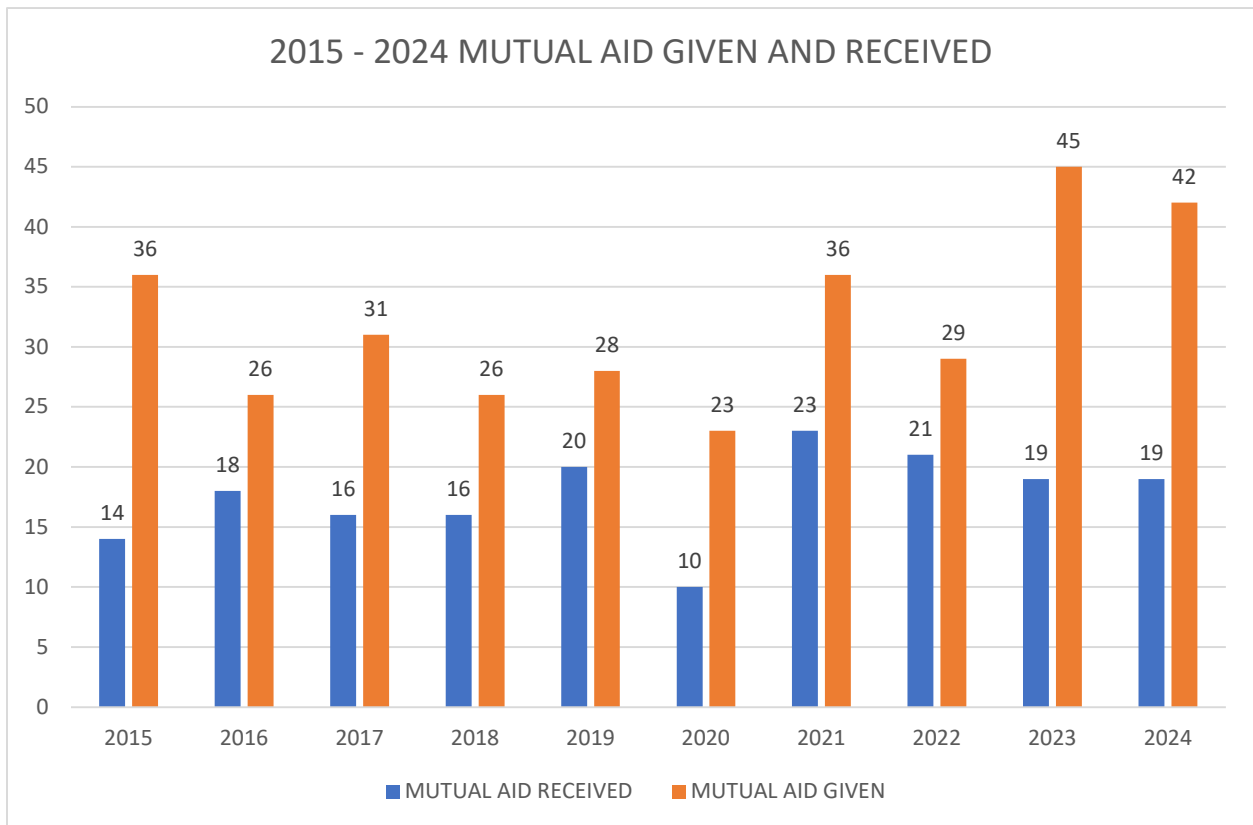


MUTUAL AID

It is not financially possible for a community to protect 100% of the residents 100% of the time from 100% of emergency situations. Occasionally, assistance is required from other surrounding communities. We are thankful for the strong working relationships with our neighbors.

The graphs below show the number of incidents Chester Township Fire Rescue provided to and/or received mutual aid from other fire departments. Because of our location, we can be called upon to assist departments in Geauga, Lake, or Cuyahoga counties. The need for mutual aid is determined by the Incident Commander usually after arriving at the scene and determined by what is actually occurring.

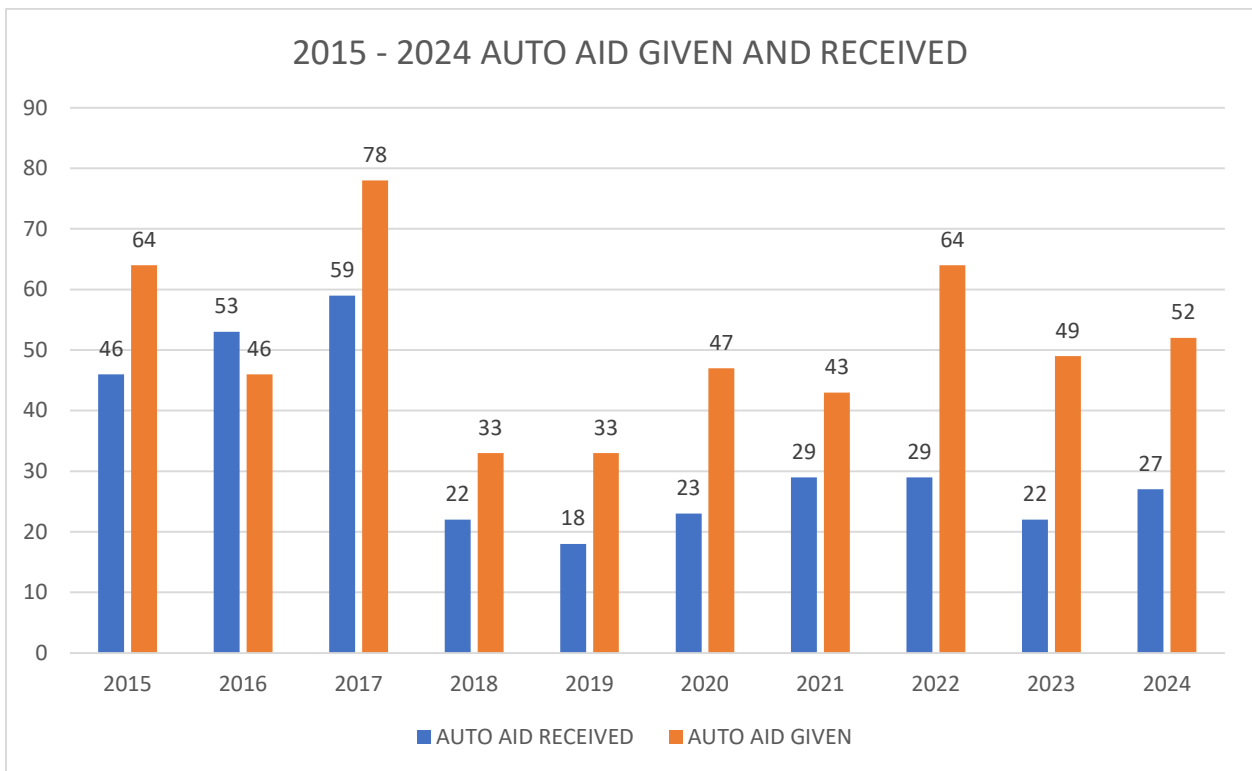
The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue provided mutual aid to neighboring departments accounted for approximately 2.5% of our total calls. The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue received mutual aid from neighboring departments was 1.1% of our total calls.



AUTO AID

The difference between mutual aid and auto aid is that auto aid units are dispatched simultaneously prior to the arrival of any emergency responders. This is used for incidents that have the potential for high severity such as nursing homes and large commercial buildings.

The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue provided auto aid to neighboring departments accounted for approximately 3.1% of our total calls. The number of incidents that Chester Township Fire Rescue received auto aid from neighboring departments was 1.6% of our total calls.



Chester Township Fire Rescue is proud to provide you, our residents, with a safe community in which to live. We hope 2024 is healthy and safe for you and your family, but if not, we will be ready to help you.