

Upper Darby Township Fire Department

Monthly Incident Report



January 2026

Introduction

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department is a combination fire department that consists of both career and volunteer firefighters who have the responsibility of protecting a population that numbers approximately 85,000 residents within a large municipality of approximately seven point six two (7.62) square miles.

The Fire Department is led by Nicholas Martin, who was appointed as Fire Chief in August of 2025. Chief Martins command staff consists of (4) Deputy Chiefs; William Norris, Dennis Gallagher, Mark Morrissey, and John Calamia.

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department is a multidisciplinary organization. We have members who are specially trained in many fields including special operations rescue, hazardous material response, fire investigation, fire inspections, and community risk reduction.



NERIS

In 2026, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is leading a national effort to develop and launch a new interoperable fire information and innovative analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS).

NERIS will empower the fire and emergency services community by equipping them with an empirical basis for decision-making. It will provide the community with reliable predictive analytics to support enhanced preparedness and response to all-hazard incidents, wildland urban interface events, community risk reduction efforts and associated resilience and mitigation efforts, and future pandemic emergency response resource preparedness.

We will be providing you with the most important results that impact our community every month.



Incident Types

The incident types that the fire department responds to are separated into (7) Primary Incident categories. **Fire, Hazardous Situation, Medical, Public Service, Rescue, No Emergency, Law Enforcement.**

Each Primary Incident Type is then broken down into sub-groups.

Fire

Outside fire

Special Fire

Structure Fire

Transportation Fire

Hazardous Situation

Hazard Non-Chemical

Hazardous Materials

Overpressure

Investigation

Medical

Illness

Injury Trauma

Medical Other

Public Service

Citizen Assist

Alarms Non-Medical

Disaster Weather

Public Service (Other)

Rescue

Outside Rescue

Structure Rescue

Transportation Rescue

Water Rescue

No Emergency

False Alarm

Good Intent

Cancelled

Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement Support

Incident Types

In January 2026, the Upper Darby Township Fire Department responded to **314 incidents**. The incident types that the department responded to are broken down in the categories below.

Fire	29
<i>Outside fire</i>	11
<i>Special Fire</i>	0
<i>Structure Fire</i>	18
<i>Transportation Fire</i>	0
Hazardous Situation	49
<i>Hazard Non-Chemical</i>	12
<i>Hazardous Materials</i>	28
<i>Overpressure</i>	2
<i>Investigation</i>	7
Medical	72
<i>Illness</i>	42
<i>Injury Trauma</i>	30
<i>Medical Other</i>	0
Public Service	102
<i>Citizen Assist</i>	31
<i>Alarms Non-Medical</i>	70
<i>Disaster Weather</i>	0
<i>Public Service (Other)</i>	1
Rescue	2
<i>Outside Rescue</i>	2
<i>Structure Rescue</i>	0
<i>Transportation Rescue</i>	0
<i>Water Rescue</i>	0
No Emergency	56
<i>False Alarm</i>	30
<i>Good Intent</i>	16
<i>Cancelled</i>	10
Law Enforcement	4
<i>Law Enforcement Support</i>	4

314 Incidents Responded to in January 2026

Incident Types

Count of Incidents
314

Percent of Fire Calls
9.2%

Count of Fire Calls
29

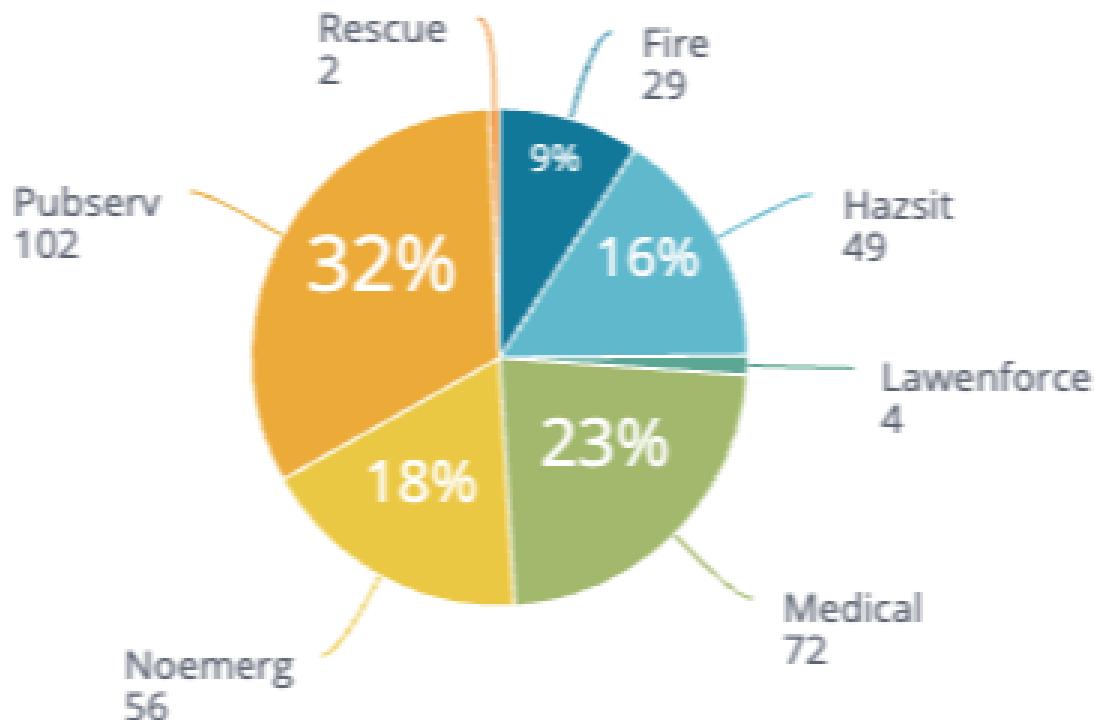
Percent of EMS Calls
22.9%

Count of EMS Calls
72

Percent of Other Calls
67.8%

Count of Other Calls
213

Percentage of Incident Type Categories



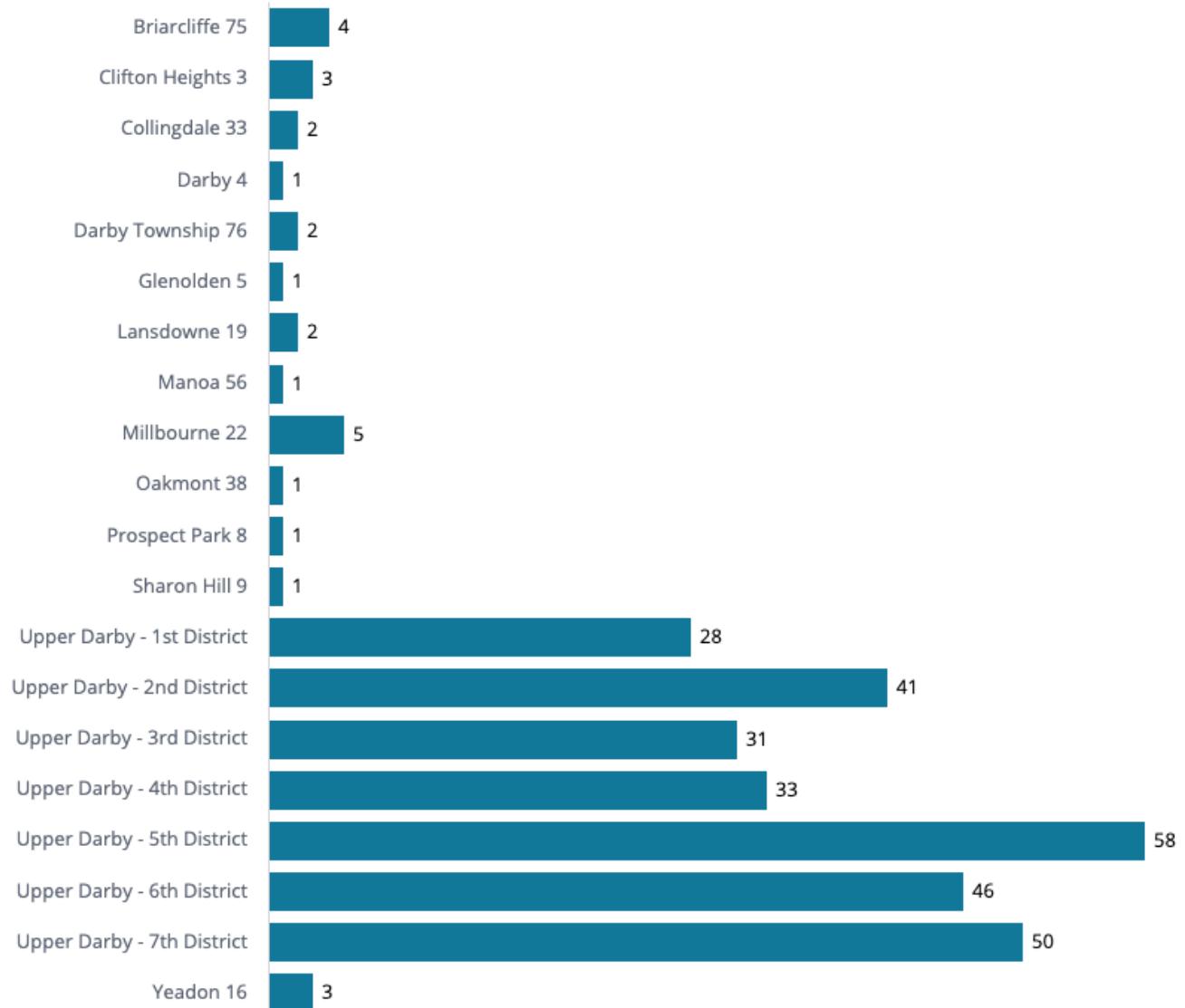
Incident by District

Starting in 2026, with the implementation of the NERIS data, the Upper Darby Township Fire Department started to break down their response to incidents by districts. The district system is the same layout as you would find for Upper Darby Council District ([found here](#)). The districts are **District 1**, **District 2**, **District 3**, **District 4**, **District 5**, **District 6**, **District 7**. If the fire department responds to a jurisdiction out of town, then we will list the jurisdiction that we responded to.

District	Incidents in January	Incidents for 2026
District 1	28	28
District 2	41	41
District 3	31	31
District 4	33	33
District 5	58	58
District 6	46	46
District 7	50	50
Briarcliffe	4	4
Clifton	3	3
Collingdale	2	2
Darby	1	1
Darby Township	2	2
Glenolden	1	1
Lansdowne	2	2
Manoa	1	1
Millbourne	5	5
Oakmont	1	1
Propsect Park	1	1
Sharon Hill	1	1
Yeadon	3	3

Incident by District

Incidents by District

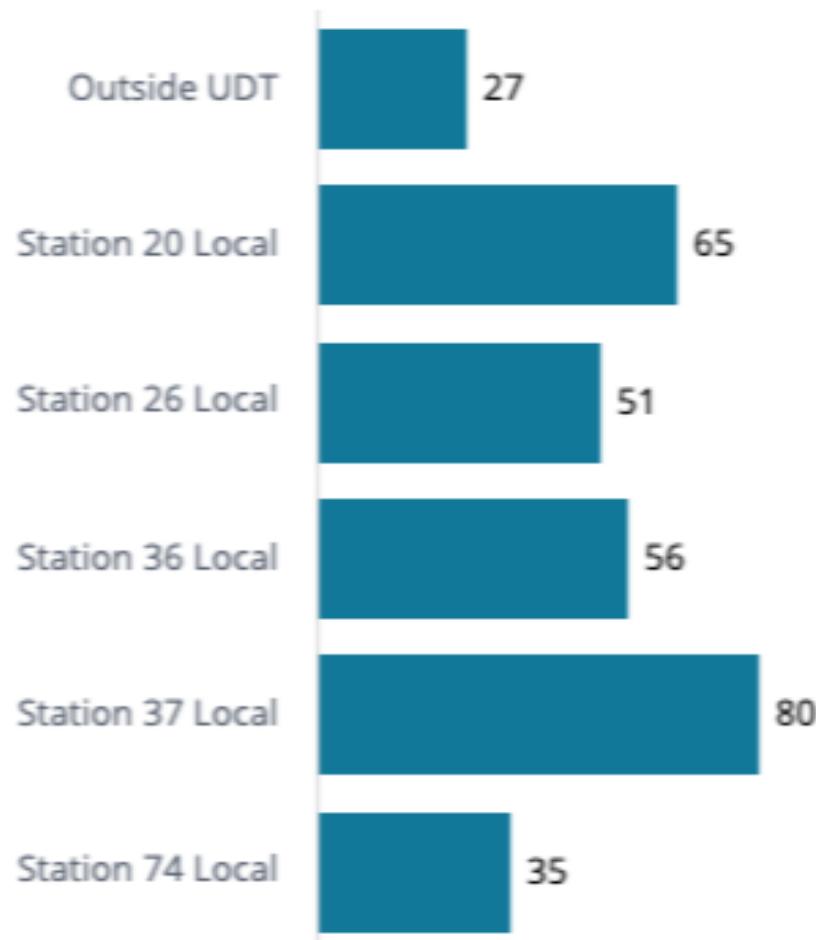


Incident by Zone

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department has (5) fire stations with their own “local” or zone. The zones are as follows. **Station 20 (Garrettford Drexel Hill)**, **Station 26 (Highland Park)**, **Station 36 (Cardington Stonehurst)**, **Station 37 (Upper Darby)**, **Station 74 (Primos Secane Westbrook Park)**. If the fire department responds to an incident outside of our jurisdiction, then the zone is marked as **Outside of UDT**.

Zone	Incidents in January	Incidents for 2026
Station 20 Local	65	65
Station 26 Local	51	51
Station 36 Local	56	56
Station 37 Local	80	80
Station 74 Local	35	35
Outside of UDT	27	27

Incidents by Zone

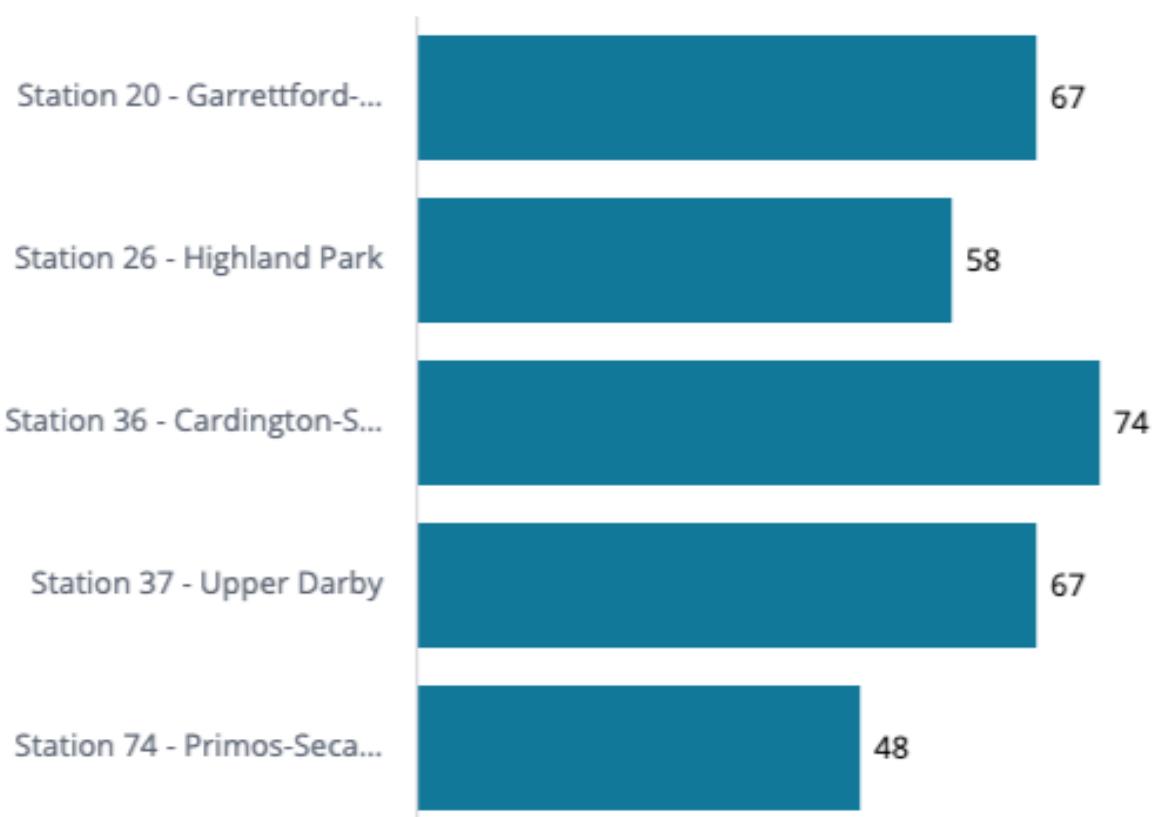


Incident by Station

Incidents responded to by station is different data than incident by zone. If the apparatus for a local is out on another incident when a second emergency is dispatched, or if the apparatus that handled the incident is different than the station whose zone it is in, then the station information will show different data than what the zone data will display. Therefore, we track the data separately. The station information is as follows; **Station 20 (Garrettford Drexel Hill)**, **Station 26 (Highland Park)**, **Station 36 (Cardington Stonehurst)**, **Station 37 (Upper Darby)**, **Station 74 (Primos Secane Westbrook Park)**.

Station	Incidents in January	Incidents for 2026
Station 20	67	67
Station 26	58	58
Station 36	74	74
Station 37	67	67
Station 74	48	48

Incidents by Station

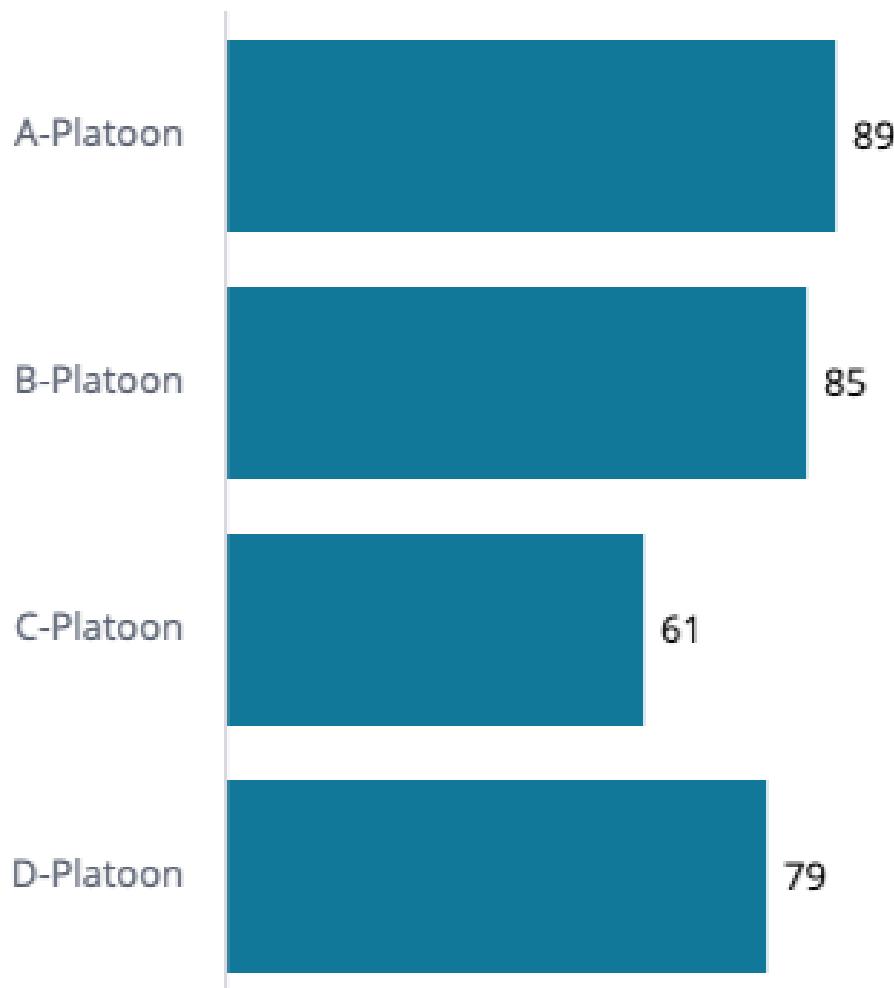


Incident by Shift / Platoon

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department works 24 hours on duty, 72 hours off duty, four platoon (A-B-C-D) system. With our fire incident data reporting system, we track how many incidents occur during each platoon.

Platoon	Incidents in January	Incidents for 2026
A	89	89
B	85	85
C	61	61
D	79	79

Incidents by Shift

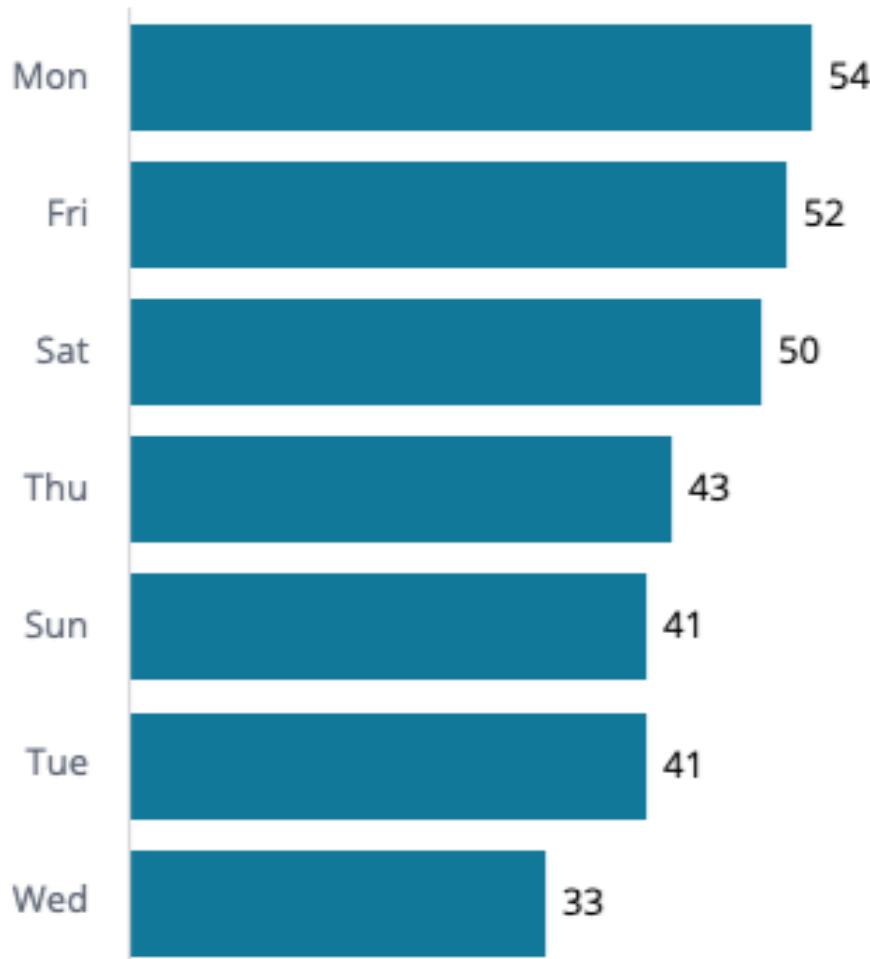


Incident by Day of the Week

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department tracks incidents by day of the week because it can turn raw fire incident data into actionable decisions. It can assist the department in our community risk reduction decisions when looking into prevention. It can also allow us to see possible patterns.

Day of Week	Incidents in January	Incidents for 2026
Sun	41	41
Mon	54	54
Tues	41	41
Wed	33	33
Thurs	43	43
Fri	52	52
Sat	50	50

Incident Count by Day of Week



Incident by Time of Day

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department tracks fire incident data by hour of the day because it shows when risk happens. Response, prevention, and safety line up with reality instead of tradition. Call volume isn't flat across 24 hours. Structure fires often peak in the early evening (cooking, heating, electrical use). Overnight hours bring fewer calls but higher-risk fires (sleeping occupants, delayed detection). Understanding when fires and injuries occur helps reduce them: Smoke alarm installs before high-risk seasons/hours. Public messaging timed to behavior (cooking, heating, nightlife). Focused outreach to vulnerable populations during high-risk times.

Time of Day	Incidents in January	Incidents for 2026
0:00	10	10
1:00	6	6
2:00	3	3
3:00	8	8
4:00	8	8
5:00	8	8
6:00	9	9
7:00	8	8
8:00	9	9
9:00	11	11
10:00	14	14
11:00	17	17
12:00	25	25
13:00	19	19
14:00	11	11
15:00	11	11
16:00	19	19
17:00	21	21
18:00	15	15
19:00	17	17
20:00	15	15
21:00	24	24
22:00	13	13
23:00	13	13

Incident by Time of Day

Incident Count by Hour of Day



First Arriving Unit Compliance

This measures whether the first unit arrived within the department's established response time standard. Typically measured as, Dispatch time → arrival on scene, Compared against a standard (ex: 6 minutes 30 seconds for first engine)

Turnout Time: Dispatched to En Route

This is a dispatch-process performance metric, slightly different from turnout. Dispatch acknowledgment + crew mobilization efficiency.

Clock starts:

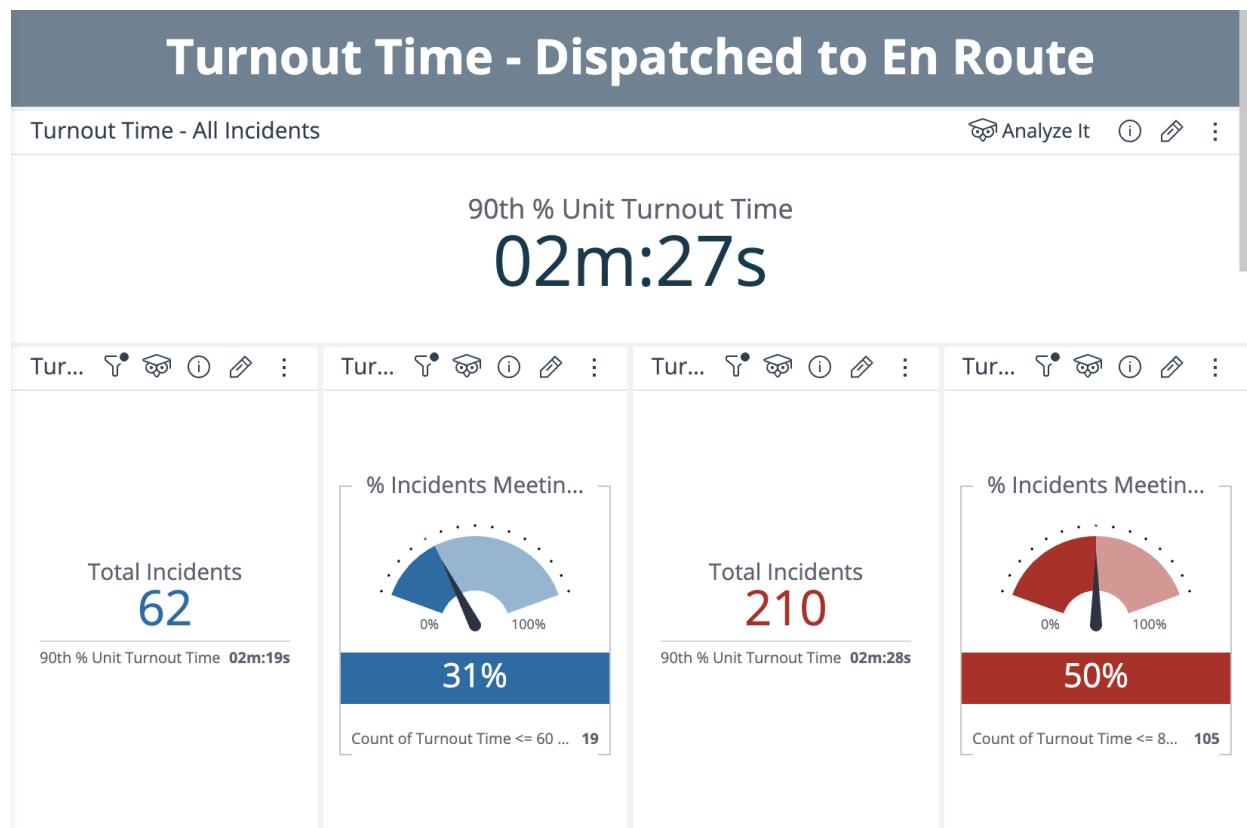
- Call is dispatched by communications

Clock stops:

- Unit is marked en route

Includes:

- CAD processing
- Radio notification
- Crew acknowledgment
- Apparatus movement



First Arriving Unit Compliance

Travel Time: En Route to Arrival

Time spent actually moving from dispatch to arrival.

Calculated as:

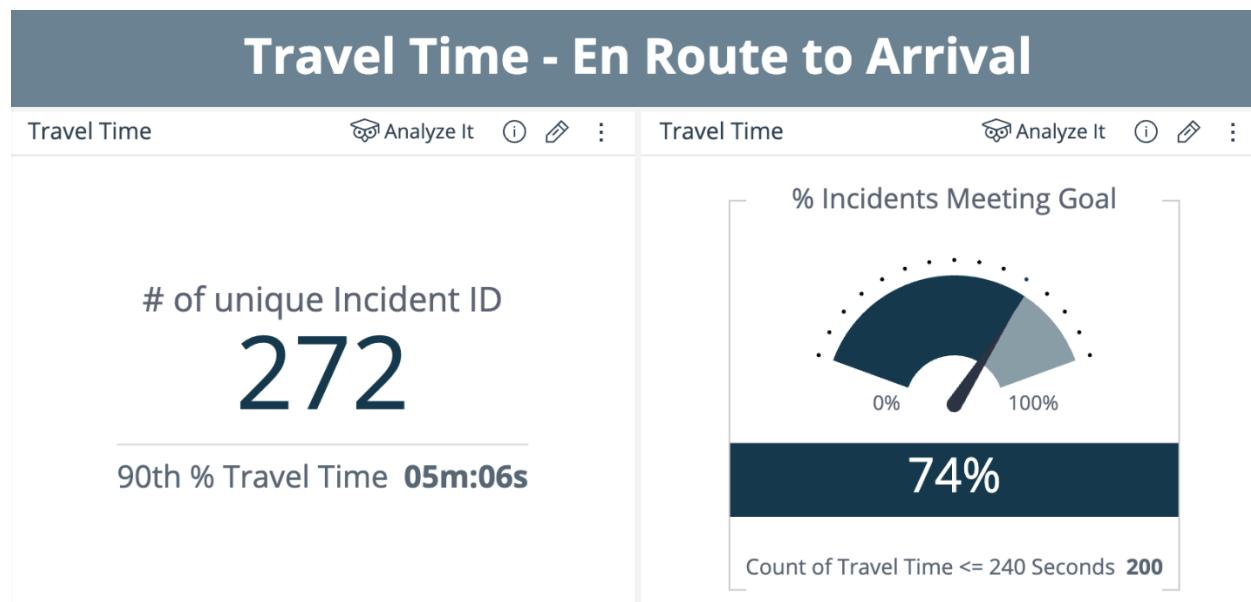
Travel Time = Arrival Time – En Route Time

What it reflects:

- Road network and station location
- Traffic conditions
- Route selection
- Weather conditions

Does NOT include:

- Call processing
- Turnout time



First Arriving Unit Compliance

Unit Response Time: Dispatch to Arrival

The total elapsed time from when a unit is dispatched by the communications center to when the first responding unit arrives on scene and marks arrival.

Purpose:

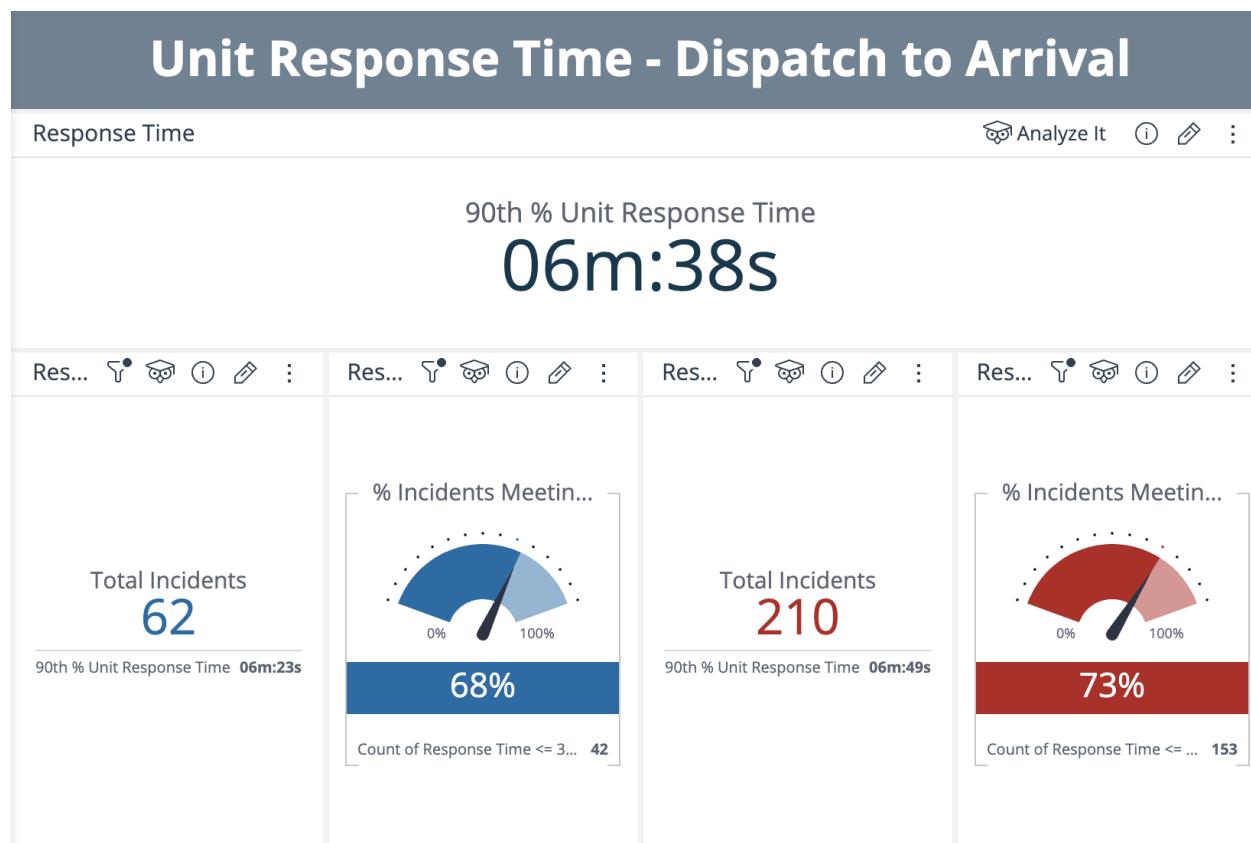
Used to measure compliance with adopted response-time standards for the first arriving unit based on incident type.

Includes:

- Call handling completed / unit dispatched
- Turnout time
- Travel time

Does Not Include:

- Pre-dispatch call processing (unless specifically defined by policy)



Working Fires

The following data is the how many working fires the department responded to during 2026. In fire service terms, a “working fire” is an active, confirmed fire that requires fire suppression operations, not just investigation or a routine response.

A commonly accepted fire department definition is:

Working Fire: A fire that has been confirmed on arrival or through reliable reports, requiring the deployment of hose lines, suppression efforts, and additional resources beyond the initial response.

What typically makes a fire “working”

- Visible fire, smoke, or heat on arrival
- Fire attack initiated (handlines, master streams, etc.)
- Extension present or likely (into walls, attic, adjacent units)
- Life safety or property exposure issues
- Command requests additional alarms or resources

What is *not* usually a working fire

- Burnt food or minor smoke with no active fire
- Alarm activations with no fire found
- Overheated equipment with no flame or extension
- Incidents handled with a fire extinguisher only (in many departments)

Address	Date	District
100 block Nyack Ave	1/6/2026	Outside UDT
Unit block Victory Ave	1/7/2026	District 5
6800 Market	1/8/2026	District 6
100 block Jackson Ave	1/12/2026	Outside UDT
1100 block Edmonds Ave	1/23/2026	District 3
Unit block Ogden Street	1/25/2026	Outside UDT
100 block Hamden Rd	1/29/2026	District 7

Fire Investigation Unit (FIU)

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department has their own Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) which consists of the Fire Marshal and Fire Investigators.

Fire Marshal - The Fire Marshal focuses on fire investigations, fire prevention, inspections, and community safety.

The Fire Marshal's responsibilities include:

- Inspecting businesses, schools, apartments, and public buildings for fire and life-safety compliance
- Enforcing fire codes and local ordinances
- Investigating fire incidents
- Reviewing building plans and fire protection systems
- Educating residents and business owners on fire safety

The Fire Marshal's goal is simple: prevent fires before they happen and keep the community safe.

Fire Investigators - Fire Investigators determine how and why fires happen.

When a fire occurs, Fire Investigators are specially trained to examine the scene and identify:

- Where the fire started
- What caused it (accidental, electrical, mechanical, or intentional)
- Whether any safety issues or code violations contributed

Their work helps:

- Prevent future fires
- Improve building and life-safety practices
- Support insurance claims and, when necessary, criminal investigations

Fire Investigators often work behind the scenes after crews leave, sometimes for hours or days, ensuring the cause is accurately determined.

Fire Investigation Data

In January, there was a total of (4) fires that needed to be investigated.

- **Incident Types**
 - (1) *Trash/Rubbish*
 - (1) *Room and Contents*
 - (1) *Chimney Fire*
 - (1) *Building Fire*
- **Property Use**
 - (1) *Energy facility / infrastructure*
 - (1) *Apartment / condo*
 - (1) *Single family dwelling*
 - (1) *Row home / middle*
- **Origin**
 - (1) *Exterior of the building, porta-toilet*
 - (1) *Living room*
 - (1) *Chimney*
 - (1) *Basement*
- **Heat Source**
 - (2) *Lighter*
 - (1) *Open flame*
 - (1) *Electrical*
- **Cause**
 - (2) *Incendiary*
 - (2) *Accidental*
- **Item First Ignited**
 - (2) *Wood*
 - (1) *Gasoline*
 - (1) *Undetermined*
- **Type of Material**
 - (2) *Wood*
 - (1) *Flammable Liquid*
 - (1) *Undetermined*

Estimated Property Value - **\$4,668,000.000**

Estimated Property Loss - **\$180,000.00**

Estimated Content Loss - **\$65,000.00**

Property Saved - **\$4,423,000.000**

Smoke Alarm Program

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department is proud to offer a Free Smoke Alarm Program to help keep our residents safe. Working smoke alarms save lives — and we're here to make sure every home in Upper Darby Township has them.

If you live in Upper Darby Township and need a smoke alarm, we will provide and install one at no cost to you.

What the Program Includes

- ✓ Free smoke alarms
- ✓ Free installation by trained fire department personnel
- ✓ No income requirements
- ✓ No hidden fees

To request a free smoke alarm, click ([HERE](#))

Month	Homes	Smoke Alarms	Combination Detectors	Dist. 1	Dist. 2	Dist. 3	Dist. 4	Dist. 5	Dist. 6	Dist. 7
Jan	10	17	8	2		2		1	5	
Feb										
Mar										
Apr										
May										
Jun										
Jul										
Aug										
Sep										
Oct										
Nov										
Dec										
Total										



Commercial Fire Safety Inspection Program

The Upper Darby Township Fire Department has certified fire inspectors throughout their ranks that perform commercial fire safety inspections on Apartment Complexes, Day Cares, Schools, and other places of business. Our commercial fire safety inspection program is a systematic process to ensure that commercial properties meet fire safety regulations and standards. This program involves regular inspections of various systems such as fire alarm and sprinkler systems, exits, evacuation protocols, emergency exit lights and signs, extinguishers, and hazardous chemical storage. The goal is to identify and correct any hazards that could cause a fire or contribute to its spread, as well as to ensure the safe egress of occupants in case of an emergency. The program is not just about compliance with codes; it is about creating a safer environment for everyone who enters the property. By conducting these inspections, the fire department aims to protect lives and property, and to prevent potential disasters that could have severe consequences.

In January 2026, (1) property failed their follow-up inspection with multiple violations, and citations have been issued to the owner/property management.



Fire Department Training and Activities

Every day, fire crews from each station have many daily responsibilities. Whether it is daily training, fire prevention education with the public, fire inspections in commercial buildings, smoke alarm installations in residences, physical fitness routines, or working on the many committees that they are a part of that keeps the department running smooth.

Below is just an idea of what the department was involved in last month.

- Physical Fitness
- Engine company training assignments, securing a water supply, and deployment of various hose packs used within the fire department
- Engine company hoseline deployment training
- Aerial training
- Ice rescue awareness
- Engine company training on split lays and basement fire tactics and considerations.
- Estimating hose stretches and deploying hoselines
- Building familiarization @ Bishop Hill Apartments.
- Driver/Operator training.
- Engine Company Riding Positions Overview and Radio Procedures
- Rope rescue training
- Thermal imaging camera training
- Portable ground ladders
- 6700 Marshall, Marshall Woods apartments complex familiarization.
- MSA Meter Training
- Ice Rescue Training at the YMCA
- RIT pack training
- Reviewed building construction types and vertical ventilation considerations with building types. Anderson Roof Rope bag operations were reviewed. Thermal Imaging camera review of the FLIR k55 and SEEK fire pro.
- Confined space equipment training
- Trident security doors training
- Building familiarization of Minerva Court. Tactics discussed for apartment building and mixed-use occupancies on Garrett Road.
- Members reviewed sprinkler types and features. Identified valves, alarms and shutoffs associated with each. Identified buildings in the township that have different systems and where their shut offs are located.
- Black Sunday Lessons and Review
- Building walk through and familiarization of 26 Park Ave, Highland Hall.
- Flow path training

Fire Department Training Recognition

In January 2026, fifteen more members of the Upper Darby Township Fire Department received certification in Ice Rescue Training. With this most recent addition of certified members, the total number of certified Swiftwater Rescue Technicians is now 24 in our fire department.



Thank You

