

Middle Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

This year marks the 105th Anniversary of community service for Fire District No. 1 – Cape May Court House. Started by 34 volunteers, Cape May Court House Fire Company opened its doors to serving the community on March 11, 1904. After a brief decline in active participation due to the demands of World War I, the fire service revived itself on March 16, 1922 in the form of Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 of Middle Township.

Over the last several decades Middle Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 has grown to its current membership of 48 firefighters. It is estimated that during these years nearly 325 men and women selflessly served their community, dedicating thousands of volunteer hours to securing the safety of their families, friends, and fellow residents.

As the Middle Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's responsibilities continued to increase from its early years of service, so too did its capabilities. From the mid-1920's well in to the 1930's, the fire company worked on upgrading their equipment to address the challenges of their expanding service area. By 1937 the fire company became one of the first in the nation to adopt a new large tank truck to deal with the rural areas outside the reach of the district's water main and hydrant system.

The end of World War II brought a resurgence of membership to the fire company as its ranks swelled to new levels. With this growth came the necessity to adequately equip the members with the most up to date tools and apparatus available. For the next several years Middle Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 continued to improve its fire fighting capabilities with a variety of tankers, engines, and aerials. Improvements also took place in the form of a new fire station in 1970; large enough to house all of the existing fire trucks in service with room to add more. Mounting the original fire alarm, a locomotive wheel rim, in their new house, the fire company never failed to honor the character and strength of its earliest volunteers.

Middle Township Fire Company No. 1 joined the Pierce family in 1986 with its purchase of a new 105-foot Pierce Arrow aerial ladder truck outfitted with a 1,250 GPM pump. Since this time the fire company has purchased nine more Pierce apparatus, including Lance pumpers and rescue-pumper, a Dash truck, and a Quantum Tanker. Middle Township's most recent acquisition has been a 2009 Pierce Arrow XT Rescue Pumper, once again making the fire company a truly valued member of New Jersey's Pierce fire truck community.

Foresight and adaptability have carried Middle Township Fire Company No. 1 through the last 105 years of fire service. Fire and Safety Services congratulates the fire company on this proud anniversary and wishes Middle Township Fire Company another century of honored service to its community.