

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer
Fire Company



570-384-4746

www.SOVFC.com

900 Center Street | PO Box 275
Sheppton, PA 18248

 Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company

WELCOME

Welcome to the annual report of the Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company. The purpose of this report is to give our community an insight into the operations of our organization. You will find information about the types of calls we respond to, the type of training we receive, our partnership with our community and other aspects of our company.

MISSION

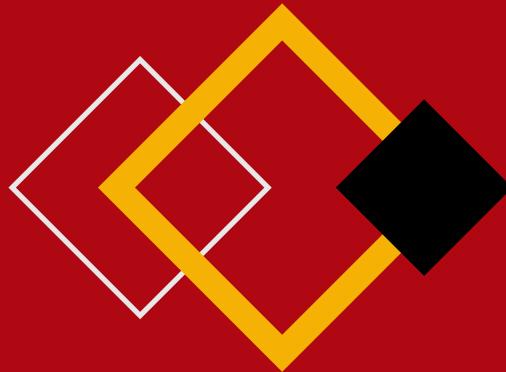
The mission of the Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company is to systematically and professionally protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of East Union Township and surrounding areas. This is accomplished by providing the highest quality fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to anyone in need, through the dedication of highly trained volunteers, using the best equipment and resources available. We have a mindset towards training, fire prevention, safety, service, and progression.



COMPANY PROFILE

Organized in 1933, the Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company (SOVFC) provides 100% Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Medical services to East Union Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. SOVFC provides mutual and automatic aid to neighboring municipalities in Schuylkill, Luzerne and Carbon Counties. Our company is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as a Quick Response Service that provides emergency medical care prior to the arrival of an ambulance. SOVFC operates three frontline pieces of apparatus and two support pieces of apparatus.

- Engine 9-10: 2010 KME Engine/Rescue
- Tanker 9-30: 2016 KME Tanker
- Squad 9-70: 2015 Ford Light Rescue / QRS
- Utility 9-60: 1985 Chevrolet
- UTV 9: 2023 Can-Am



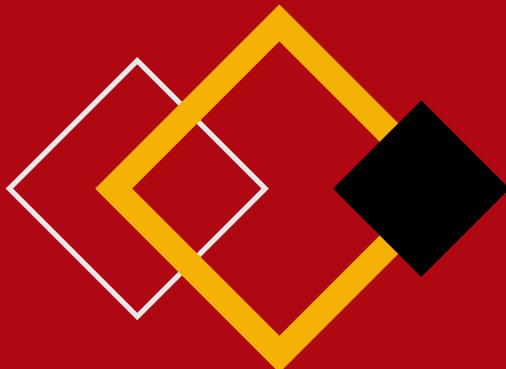
COMPANY OFFICERS

2025 Line Officers

- Fire Chief: JC Kriesher
- Deputy Chief: Tom Rentschler Sr.
- Rescue Captain: Ryan Singley
- QRS Captain: William Singley
- Safety Officer: Amanda Kriesher
- Chief Engineer: Steve Singley

2025 Executive Officers

- President: Robert Gabardi
- Vice President: James Yurick Sr.
- Secretary: Amanda Morrison
- Treasurer: Michael Gaizick
- Financial Secretary: Bruce Barrese
- Trustees:
 - Jeff Rupert
 - Robert Fellin
 - Amanda Kriesher



ACHIEVEMENTS & GOALS

The Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company experienced a productive and eventful year in 2025. This report reflects on key accomplishments from the past year while also outlining goals and priorities for 2026.

2025 Accomplishments

- Successfully completed Pennsylvania Department of Health recertification of our Quick Response Service and expanded QRS certification to Engine 9-10
- Implemented iPads on the Engine and Squad to improve response efficiency, documentation timeliness, and access to critical incident information
- Sponsored and hosted multiple state and local-level training programs for members and neighboring companies
- Held a member appreciation summer picnic to recognize volunteer commitment and service
- Hosted Hazardous Materials Awareness Pro Board certification testing
- Presented awards to top responders at annual Christmas Party
- Organized member appreciation trip to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins Game

2025 Goals: How Did We Do?

Setting clear goals helps prevent complacency by giving direction and purpose, while regular check-ins keep us accountable and focused on continuous improvement. By reviewing how we performed against those goals, we can recognize successes, identify gaps, and adjust to keep moving forward.

- Focus on recruitment and retention to increase membership of active firefighters
 - **SUCCESS:** Recruited two firefighters with training and experience at other agencies. Recruited one new member who successfully completed all basic firefighter training. Recruited one new member with PHRN certification.
- Upgrade mobile equipment and optimize apparatus to be ready for all types of incidents
 - **SUCCESS:** Implemented iPads into Engine and Squad. Upgraded all battery-powered hand tools.
- Revitalize Annual Fund Drive to maximize proceeds
 - **SUCCESS:** New fund drive design coordinated and distributed to community with successful returns
- Update Company Bylaws
 - **PARTIAL ACHIEVEMENT:** While there were some updates to the bylaws, the entire document was not updated
- Improve property in/around our Station
 - **SUCCESS:** Replaced aging roof with metal roof
- Increase focus on training and certifications
 - **SUCCESS:** Multiple members passed Hazmat Awareness Pro-Board. Held regular in-house training sessions. Hosted multiple State Certified training classes
- Create/update pre-plans for businesses and high hazard occupancies
 - **SUCCESS:** Completed pre-plans for majority of industrial buildings
- Continue to work closely with neighboring companies
 - **SUCCESS:** Held training with neighboring agencies throughout the year. Participated in other events with Nuremberg-Weston Fire Company

ACHIEVEMENTS & GOALS

2026 Goals

- Recruit and retain volunteer members through improved outreach and engagement efforts
- Develop new apparatus operators and provide ongoing training for existing operators
- Expand access to local training programs that enhance operational readiness
- Evaluate and upgrade the department's equipment cache to meet operational and safety needs
- Upgrade Utility Truck into Brush Truck
- Review and update company bylaws to reflect current operational and administrative practices
- Increase average staffing levels on emergency incident responses
- Conduct regular multi-agency training to strengthen coordination and interoperability
- Strengthen morale and camaraderie through social, non-operational company events



NEWS

New Engine Purchase

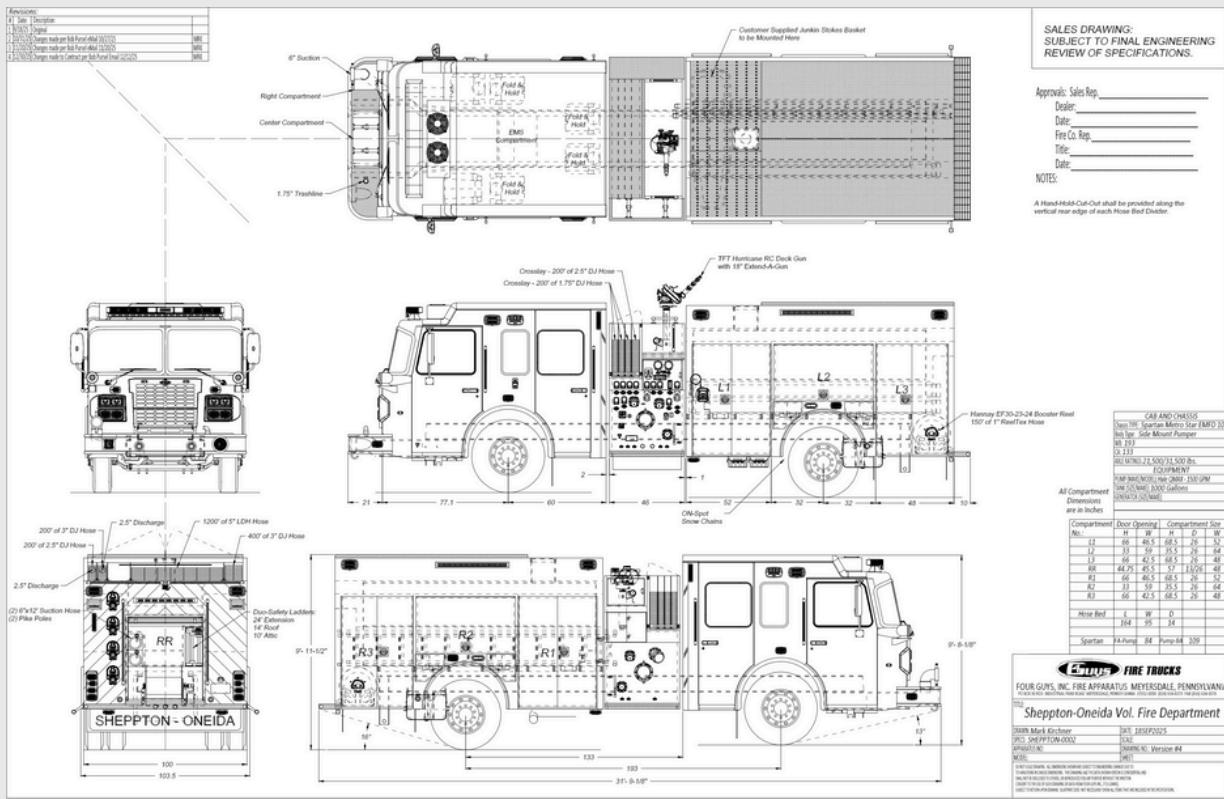
The Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company is pleased to announce that we have officially signed a contract for the purchase of a new fire engine, which will replace our current Engine 9-10. This significant investment represents a continued commitment to providing reliable, modern fire protection services to the communities we serve.

The new apparatus will be a 2027 4Guys Rescue Engine, built on a Spartan chassis and equipped with a 1,500 GPM pump, 1,000-gallon water tank, and seating for six firefighters. The engine was purchased through Bob Pursel at Commonwealth Fire Equipment, with delivery anticipated in early 2028.

The design of the new engine reflects careful planning and long-term operational needs. Our Engine Committee spent the better part of 2025 working closely with manufacturers and vendors to design an apparatus that enhances safety, efficiency, and response capabilities for both fire suppression and rescue operations.

Funding for this purchase was made possible through the outstanding support of the community. Proceeds from bingo events, online raffles, sportsman raffles, the annual food truck festival, calendar sales, fund drives, and other fundraising efforts played a critical role in bringing this project to fruition.

The Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company extends its sincere gratitude to the community for its continued support. This new engine will serve the department and surrounding communities for many years to come and stands as a testament to what can be accomplished through partnership, dedication, and community involvement.

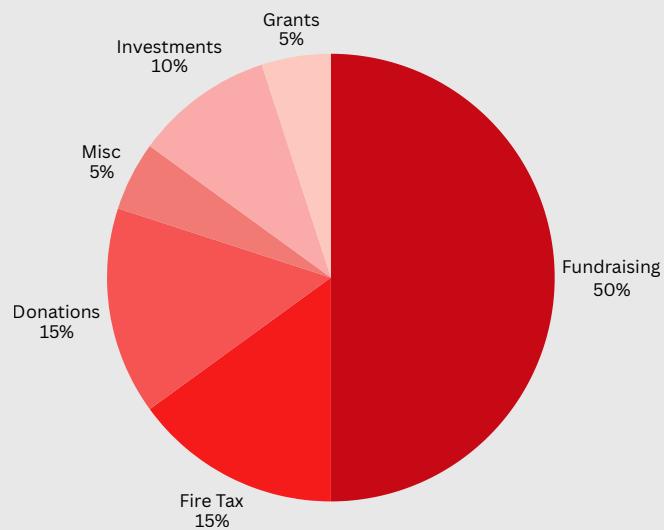


FUNDING REVIEW

The Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company receives funding from a variety of sources including fundraising, donations, grants and a fire tax levied by East Union Township. Because of the variety of sources and the generous support of our community, the company is able to consistently upgrade equipment and keep our firefighters equipped with the safest, most up to date equipment available.

Year 2025

2025 could be described as a year of increased funding, driven largely by the return of online raffles. Overall revenue exceeded prior years as all funding sources performed as expected, with online raffles providing a notable boost. The accompanying pie chart illustrates the breakdown of our funding sources. These funds support all aspects of operating the company, including fuel, firefighting turnout gear, vehicle insurance, and routine station and equipment supplies.



Fundraisers

Throughout 2025 our Volunteers dedicated a large number of hours toward fundraising. These fundraising hours are in addition to the many hours of training and emergency response the volunteers routinely encounter.

2025 Fundraisers:

- Monthly Bingo
- Bi-Annual Sportsman Raffle
- Food Truck Festival
- 52 Week Sportsman Ticket
- Online Raffles

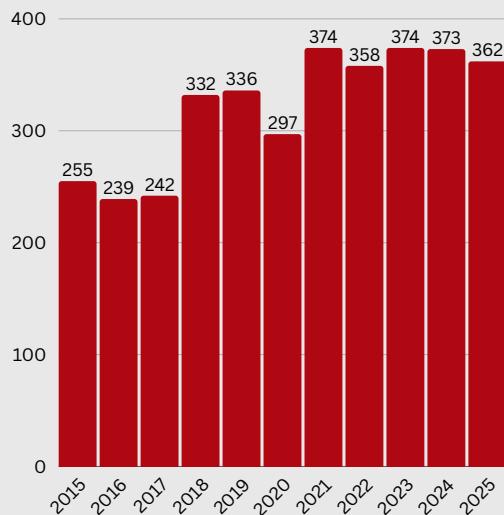
*Monthly lottery calendar sales were discontinued at end of 2024 due to lack of sufficient sellers

INCIDENT RESPONSE

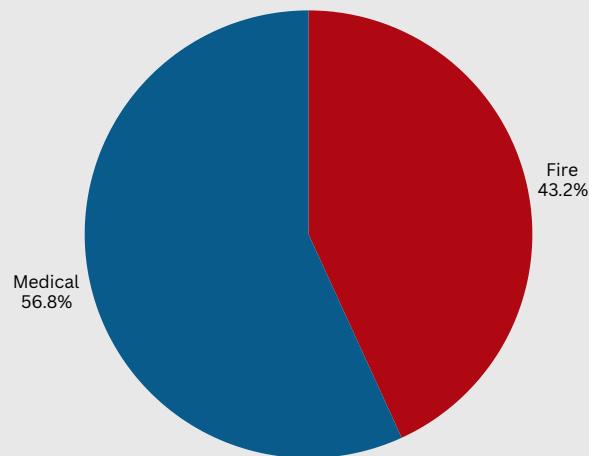
The Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company is the primary provider of fire, rescue, and quick response medical service (QRS) for the 26 square miles of East Union Township which includes Sheppton, Oneida, Brandonville, Phineyville, along with portions of The Cove, Eagle Rock and The Humboldt Industrial Park. SOVFC also provides QRS to the Hazle Twp., Luzerne County, section of Eagle Rock.

There are no organizations in our area that are able to handle all types of incidents without the assistance of neighboring organizations based on equipment and manpower needs. Because of this fact, we regularly work with Nuremberg-Weston, Hazle Township and Rington Valley Fire Companies among others on many types of incidents. We lend our services to their areas and they lend their services to our area.

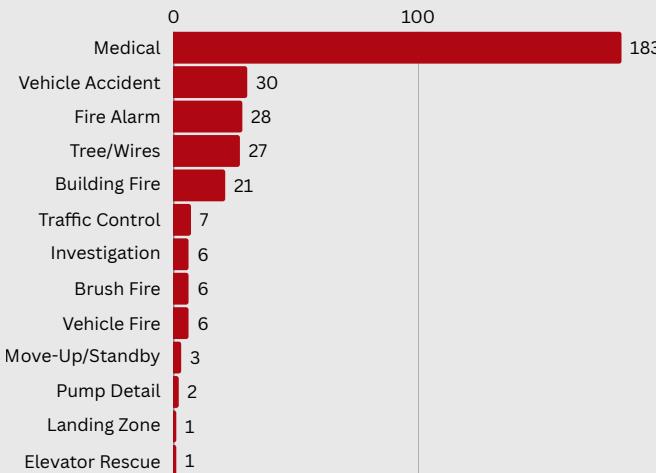
Dispatch Statistics



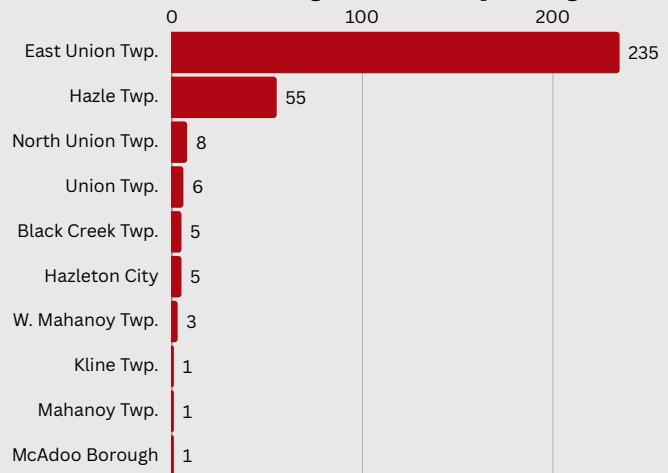
Response Type



Nature of Incidents



Incidents by Municipality



INCIDENT RESPONSE

Busiest Day of the Week



Avg. # Personnel per Fire Call



Automatic/Mutual Aid Given

53

Busiest Time of Day



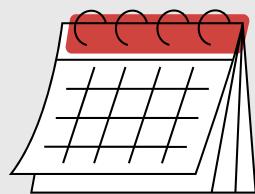
Avg. # Personnel per Medical Call



Automatic/Mutual Aid Received

21

Busiest Month: July



Average Time On Scene: 27 min, 25 secs



Failure to Respond:

- **1 Mutual Aid 2nd Alarm Building Fire**

Staffing challenges continue to affect the volunteer fire service in Schuylkill County, Northeast Pennsylvania and nationwide, and our organization is no exception. Volunteers are balancing increasing demands from training requirements, emergency responses, work, and family responsibilities. While we missed only one fire response during the year, maintaining adequate staffing remains an ongoing concern. Our average response staffing was four personnel, with responses ranging from as few as two members to, at times, nearly ten. This underscores both the dedication of our volunteers and the continued need for additional members.

TRAINING

SOVFC Volunteers consistently train to prepare themselves for any emergency that may arise. 2025 was a standard year for training as members trained amongst themselves in the station, with other companies, at State Fire Academy classes and more.

The SOVFC hosted a handful of certified training courses including Incident Safety Officer, Arson Awareness and CPR. We had members attend courses such a Large Area Search, essentials of firefighting, confined space and more at various locations. We also partnered with Orwigsburg FD and West End Fire (Mahanoy City) to sponsor an Autism Awareness event for first responders.

SOVFC had two members become certified Emergency Medical Technicians during 2025.

2025 Training Hours: 1,146.0



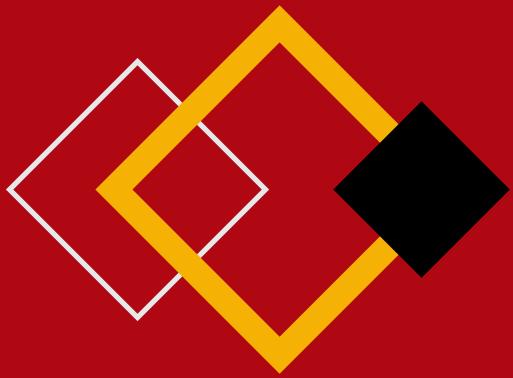
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company and its members pride ourselves as a strong community partner. We feel that even when we are not responding to incidents we should still be providing service to our community. 2025 was filled with events the SOVFC either assisted with or hosted.

- Earth Day Road Clean-Up
- Smoke Alarm Distribution
- Catholic Charities Community Cafe
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Halloween Trick-or-Treat Safety Crossing
- Quarterly Blood Drive at SOVFC
- Hazleton City Blue Mass
- East Union Twp. Santa Arrival / Tree Lighting
- Partnership to host River Mountain Chapel Youth Group



LOOKING FORWARD



As a fire company, we are an “all hazards” response agency. To meet the evolving challenges of our work, our members will continue to train and grow their skills. Our company will continue to engage with our community and grow our relationships with those we serve.

The coming years are not without their challenges. Increased training and responses require a greater commitment from our volunteers in addition to the need for constant fundraising. Compounded with dwindling numbers of volunteers, this increased demand highlights an alarming need for more volunteers.

We are always in need of new members and have a role for anyone that wishes to volunteer. If you are curious about becoming a firefighter, please contact us or talk to one of our members about joining our team. All training and equipment is provided by the fire company. Time, effort, and a commitment to be involved are what we ask of you.

If you would like to help but don’t wish to respond to emergencies, we accept members who simply want to help with our fundraising and community service events. We welcome your involvement if have the interest.

Contact Us

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