

# Your Volunteer Voices

Here is where your local volunteer fire company members will answer questions, provide event dates, offer ways to get involved, and most importantly, reconnect with your community.

## TEAMWORK IN EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP

**Mutual Aid** is a system where neighboring fire companies work together to help each other during emergency calls. This occurs when the nature of the emergency is larger or more complex than can be handled by an individual company. The four ELT fire companies embrace this practice, since it allows them to better serve their communities by providing additional resources during emergencies.



In addition to working together within the township, all four companies also provide and receive mutual aid to surrounding communities and municipalities. Large commercial or agricultural fires can require up to a dozen or more fire companies.

### There are many benefits to **Mutual Aid**, including:

- **Increased Capabilities:** Working together and sharing resources provides a higher level of service for the public. It provides the personnel, apparatus, and equipment to deal with larger or more complex emergencies.
- **Increased Safety:** By working together and sharing expertise and resources, we can better protect our personnel and the public during emergencies. The additional manpower on scene increases the opportunities to improve outcomes for victims and property.
- **Professional Development:** Mutual aid provides opportunities for our volunteers to learn from one another, share best practices, and improve skills.
- **Cost Savings:** By sharing our equipment and volunteers, our fire companies can reduce expenses and maximize the use of resources. Each company has the apparatus needed to extinguish fires on routine calls, but in addition, each company also has specialized apparatus and equipment. For example, **Lafayette** provides a ladder truck, **Ronks** provides a rescue truck for vehicle accidents and other rescue situations, **Witmer** and **Bird-in-Hand** provide large tankers for water supply. This specialization, rather than duplication, proves stewardship and value to the public.
- **Increased Expertise:** While all four fire companies are well trained in all of the fundamentals of firefighting, the specialized apparatus and equipment that each company has requires additional training. By working together, the four fire companies bring a high level of experience and expertise to all aspects of emergency calls.



**IN THE END, IT'S ALL ABOUT PROVIDING THE BEST PROTECTION POSSIBLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!**

One of the largest challenges of suburban and rural firefighting is getting enough water to the scene of the fire. In urban areas this is done with a public water system. In more rural areas, water needs to be transported from streams and ponds by tankers and hose relays. This requires a large amount of mutual aid and coordination.



**Witmer Fire Protective Association**  
455 Mt. Sidney Rd, Lancaster  
witmerfire.com  
717-393-1259



**Hand-in-Hand Fire Co.**  
313 Enterprise Dr, Bird-in-Hand  
bihfire.com  
Station: 717-392-0112  
Paul Fisher: 717-380-1109



**Ronks Fire Co**  
134 North Ronks Road, Ronks  
ronksfirerescueinfo@gmail.com  
Steve Gribble: 717-368-5585



**Lafayette Fire Co.**  
63 Lafayette Way, Lancaster  
lafayettefire.com  
717-392-5097



# TEAM WORK ON A 2 ALARM

Just before noon on January 10th, Lancaster County 911 received calls reporting flames and black smoke visible on the back of the Hershey Farm Restaurant. This would escalate to a 2-alarm fire, bringing in many emergency assets from the surrounding area.

Among those assets were all four East Lampeter Township fire departments.

On January 10th, Hershey Farm experienced a devastating fire, which completely destroyed the restaurant and gift shop. Fortunately, no one was hurt, and we are so thankful for all of the firefighters and first responders who spent all day trying to minimize the damage.

Hershey Farm Restaurant & Inn, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hersheyfarm), 27 Jan. 2023, [facebook.com/hersheyfarm](https://www.facebook.com/hersheyfarm).



## Reflections from the responders



### Engine 62-2, Fire Police 62

*We were dispatched for the tanker and we responded with a crew of 4.*

*I was able to assist with the roof crew. We helped with water supply. Our engine ran a few loads of water. You do not question what task you are assigned to. Everyone did what they were supposed to. - Firefighter Hoak*



### Truck 63, Fire Police 63

*I am always proud of the work we do while assisting others as mutual aid.*

*Mutual aid brings additional equipment and manpower together to mitigate an incident. Everyone typically struggles with daytime staffing. We were fortunate that day to have 4-5 of us that actually were at the station that had not yet left from a previous call, so we were able to get out for the call quickly. - Chief Keens*



### Engine 41-1, Tanker 41, Squad 41-2

*Some of us were here before, so a lot of thoughts race through your head as you hear the dispatch. - Firefighter Hoerner*

*You are part of a team. The only way that our people can continue to take on bad experiences is because they go into it as a team. For example, no person could handle multiple events alone, the only reason people can keep responding is because it is done as a team. - Chief Stoltzfus*



### Engine 48-2

*We responded with the engine and a crew of 6. The emotion gets put aside when you are on scene. As an officer, as a Chief, you have to keep your composure because the way you conduct yourself is how your scene will run. The part that hurts me the most is to know that this is someone's livelihood. The building is replaceable, but this will impact these people's lives. - Chief Gribble*

### Emergency Units Dispatched

ENGINES	TRUCKS	TANKERS
ENGINE 201	TRUCK 05	TANKER 05
ENGINE 204	TRUCK 50	TANKER 29
<b>ENGINE 41-1</b>	<b>TRUCK 63</b>	TANKER 35
ENGINE 43-1	<b>RESCUES</b>	<b>TANKER 41</b>
ENGINE 44-1	RESCUE 05	TANKER 44
ENGINE 44-2	RESCUE 47	TANKER 45
ENGINE 45-2	<b>SQUADS</b>	TANKER 51
ENGINE 47-2	<b>SQUAD 41-2</b>	TANKER 52
<b>ENGINE 48-2</b>	SQUAD 51-1	TANKER 53
ENGINE 502	SQUAD 54-1	TANKER 55
ENGINE 54-2	SQUAD 55-1	TANKER 57
ENGINE 54-3	SQUAD 57-2	TANKER 58
ENGINE 55	<b>TRAFFIC CONTROL</b>	TANKER 59
ENGINE 59-2	FIRE POLICE 51	TANKER 60
ENGINE 60	<b>FIRE POLICE 62</b>	TANKER 903
<b>ENGINE 62-2</b>	<b>FIRE POLICE 63</b>	<b>MEDICAL</b>
<b>ENGINE 63-1</b>	TRAFFIC 50	AMB 56-12
<b>SPECIALIZED</b>	TRAFFIC 59	MEDIC 56-6
AIR 39	<b>EMERGENCY MGMT</b>	QRS 56-6
TAC 05	DUTY OFFICER 99	

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
Tuesday, August 1st 6-8pm  
at the Shops at Rockvale.



**WITMER OX ROAST**  
Saturday, October 21st 11am  
at Witmer Fire Protection Association



**BIRD-IN-HAND  
HALF MARATHON,  
5K & KIDS FUN RUN**  
Saturday, Sept. 8 & 9  
[bihhalfmarathon.com](http://bihhalfmarathon.com)



**EVENTS**

If you have questions about this information, or are interested in volunteering, please contact one of the fire companies listed here.