

Fire Service in Plumstead Township

Plumstead fire service is primarily served by two all-volunteer fire companies; Point Pleasant Fire Company (PPFC) and Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC). There are no paid personnel at either fire company.

Even though Plumstead's firefighters are volunteers, they are as well trained and experienced as career paid firefighters. Since the 1970's, Pennsylvania has seen a dramatic 90% decline in the number of volunteer firefighters. Back then, PA had over 300,000 volunteers. Today, that number has dropped to around 30,000.

There are many reasons for this decline in volunteers which affects volunteer fire companies:

- No interest
- Busier lifestyles
- Not working in the municipality thereby making it tougher to respond to calls – especially during working hours
- Can't afford to live in the municipality
- Many residents are not aware that the municipality is served by volunteer firefighters
- Intensive training which takes a long time to complete
- Senior volunteers are retiring or limiting their participation

Plumstead's fire companies are handling the drop in volunteer numbers in different ways. PPFC has been able to keep up with their current group of volunteers. PVFC, like many volunteer departments these days, is facing some challenges, especially during weekday work hours. At a Board of Supervisors meeting in May 2025, they let the township know they don't always have enough people available during the day to respond to calls. To make sure residents are still covered, those daytime calls are now being handled by PPFC or nearby departments like Doylestown and Dublin. It's a good example of local fire companies working together to keep everyone safe.

The decline in the number of volunteer firefighters is a priority issue that is actively being addressed. Not only this current issue but the future of the fire service in Plumstead. There are several options available, and each is being investigated for the best course of action for now and in the future. This is not a funding issue, i.e., increasing funding to the fire companies will not increase the number of volunteers. There is a team in place to examine all options and present the best one to the Board of Supervisors.