

Chapter 16

Fire Companies

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of West Earl 5-27-2003 by Ord. No. 166. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 16-1. Definitions and word usage.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

FIRE COMPANY — West Earl Fire Company No. 1 or the relief association or auxiliary of West Earl Fire Company No. 1 or the Farmersville Fire Company or the relief association or auxiliary of Farmersville Fire Company.

FIRE COMPANIES — West Earl Fire Company No. 1, Farmersville Fire Company or the relief associations or auxiliaries of said Fire Companies.

TOWNSHIP — The Township of West Earl, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

§ 16-2. Fire Companies recognized and territory assigned.

West Earl Fire Company No. 1 and Farmersville Fire Company are hereby designated as officially recognized volunteer fire companies to provide first due response for a portion of the Township of West Earl, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Each Fire Company shall be assigned first due response territory by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

§ 16-3. Authorized activities of the Fire Companies.

The Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Fire Companies to perform the following activities and services:

- A. To provide such services as may be necessary for the protection of property and persons situate in the Township, which include, by way of example and not of limitation, the extinguishment of fires and the prevention of loss of life and property from fire, automobile accidents, medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents and other dangerous situations.
- B. To provide nonemergency and public services such as, by way of example and not of limitation, removing water from property after storms, assisting in the removal, abatement and prevention of damage or injury to persons or property, whether through natural causes or man-made situations, and directing traffic and parking at local events as requested.
- C. To conduct and participate in such training activities and drills, either within or outside of the Township, as may be deemed necessary by the officers of the Fire Companies to maintain proficiency in providing services.

- D. To respond to calls and provide services to municipalities outside the Township when so requested by such municipality or another fire company or when directed to so respond by Lancaster County Communications.
- E. To request aid and services from the Township Police Department, Pennsylvania State Police, other police departments, other fire companies and/or other emergency service providers when responding to emergencies within the Township.

§ 16-4. Authorized activities of members of the Fire Companies.

The Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the members of the Fire Companies to perform the following activities and services when so requested by an officer of a Fire Company:

- A. To engage in any type of drill, training, ceremony, practice, test or parade.
- B. To engage in fund-raising activities for the Fire Company. Such fund-raising activities may include, but are not limited to, auctions, festivals, bingo, banquets, carnivals, barbecues, breakfasts, dinners, sub and sandwich sales and sale of refreshments at auctions or other events.
- C. To engage in the performance of any other duty or activity which contributes to the mission of the Fire Company.

§ 16-5. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to recognize the Fire Companies as official first due response fire companies within the Township and to state additional authorized activities for members of the Fire Companies for workers' compensation and governmental immunity purposes. It is the additional purpose of this chapter to enable the families of members of the Fire Companies to be eligible for benefits under the Act of June 24, 1976, P.L. 424, No. 101, as amended, 53 P.S. § 891 et seq., commonly known as the "Pennsylvania State Death Benefit Act," and the Police Officer, Firefighter, Correction Employee and National Guard Member Child Beneficiary Education Act, Act 129 of 1998, to the extent allowed by law.

§ 16-6. Assistance from other volunteer fire companies and emergency responders.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes that other volunteer fire companies and other emergency responders, including but not limited to ambulance services and EMS, provide assistance to the Fire Companies in responding to emergencies within the Township. The Board of Supervisors additionally recognizes that in certain instances a volunteer fire company other than the Fire Companies may arrive first at an emergency scene because the Fire Companies are responding to other emergencies, encounter traffic problems or as a result of geography. To the extent required or permitted by law, the Township acknowledges the assistance of all other volunteer fire companies and other emergency responders, including but not limited to ambulance services and EMS, within Lancaster County, Berks County and Chester County which provide assistance to the Fire Companies and authorize such other volunteer fire companies and other emergency

responders, including but not limited to ambulance services and EMS, within Lancaster County, Berks County and Chester County to provide such services within the Township and to the Fire Companies.