

Trafford Emergency Services



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Fire Chief's Report for Borough Council

7/11/2023

Trafford Borough Officials,

The following is a brief summary of Trafford Emergency Services activities for **2nd QTR 2023**, and our projected activity for next few months; also included are specific Public Safety concerns and other information you should be aware of.

Fire Department: Responded to **34** alarms in the 2nd QTR of 2023; attached you will find a complete breakdown of these incidents and other important statistics.

EMS Division: Provided **328** Non-Emergency Medical Transports in the 2nd QTR of 2023.

Coming in 2023:

Hoagie Sale	September (TBD)
Annual Hose Testing	September 16 th
Fire Prevention Week	October 8 th – 14 th
Halloween Safety Detail	October 31 st
200 Club Fundraiser	November 11 th
Holiday Happenings	December 2 nd

Fire & Life Safety:

For more than 3 years now (since September of 2019), I have been including the following statement with my Fire Chief's report.

*"Trafford has numerous structures and groups of buildings that are uninspected (or under inspected) and are operating virtually unregulated. Many of the processes and products used in these buildings are hazardous to life and the environment. The International Fire Code (IFC) and Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) offer guidance and regulations authored by industry experts; if adopted and enforced, these tools can help create a safer workplace, protect our citizens, and the environment. The **revenue** related to the Permits and Processes included within these texts can significantly offset the costs associated with inspections and enforcement. May I remind you that I included several pages with my July 2020 report (and again in July 2022) regarding the Operational Permits that are available to us, should we adopt the International Fire Code. Trafford may not have ALL of these types of activity in progress today... however; you would be shocked to know just how many of these potentially hazardous processes are already happening in our Borough. The increased level of protection and overall safety of our citizens and first responders should be **YOUR** first priority". [BL]*

Vacant & Dangerous Structures:

I have previously reported to Borough Officials that vacant or dangerous structures continue to present a hazard to neighboring properties and the general public; however, for more than 3 years, there has been no meeting or conversation between the Fire Chief and Public Officials to address these concerns. The following structures continue to be in dangerous condition and present a special hazard to firefighters:

- **534 Brinton Ave – Trafford Manor:** 10 Story Residential Building for persons on Social Security; I have observed the “self-closing safety feature” for the door leading from numerous apartments to the common hallways have been disabled. This is a Code Required safety feature to protect the Path of Egress in case of fire. These apartments are “not exempt” from change of occupant inspections; however, none are performed by Borough Code Officials.
- **213 Cavitt Ave** – 1 story Commercial - Former Dry Cleaners – Roof/Floor Damage – Vacant over 15 Years
- **235 Cavitt Ave** – 2 Story Multi-Occupancy Commercial Building – High Pile Storage, inadequate emergency egress lighting, exits, and exit access, electrical safety concerns. Significant Life Safety Risk during live performances with audiences of over 100 in attendance.
- **438 Cavitt Ave** – 3 story Residential over Commercial building – Fire Escapes removed, significant interior alterations, many of them unfinished. Open to weather through the roof and missing windows – Vacant over 10 years.
- **90 First Street** – 2 story Residential with an accessory structure – vacant over 20 years Open to weather through the roof and missing windows. Apartment constructed over garage without permits (no fire partition). Building is unsecure.
- **8 Forbes Rd** – 2 story Residential with accessory structures - vacant over 15 years – possibly unlawfully occupied and a dog locked inside – also being used to store building materials and other combustible debris.
- **106 Shady Lane** – 1 story Residence – damaged by flooding – Vacant over 10 years Building is unsecure and open to weather through the roof and open windows.
- **1 Stewart Station Drive** – 150,000 Sq Ft Former Westinghouse Printing Division factory & office spaces – Building is unsecure and open to weather through the roof and open windows. Vacant over 20 years
- **1000 Commerce Circle** – 1,000,000 Sq Ft Warehouse and Industrial Complex. The Fire Suppression (Sprinkler) System is significantly degraded; numerous alarms and system failures over the last several months. Many risers, exits, and other fire safety components are blocked. High pile storage with significant quantities of PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) and other hazardous commodities stored indoors without fire partitions. Painting, Welding and other “hot-work” processes in progress daily without regulation.

Fighting Fires is inherently dangerous in any structure. These dangers are significantly increased when dealing with structures that have sat vacant for several years and may contain weakened structural components. ***“I continue to offer to work with Council and Code Enforcement to identify and placard these structures to warn Firefighters and the general public. I am again requesting a meeting with the Borough Council decision makers as soon as possible to expedite this process.” [BL]***

I have included the list of Operational Permits that could be used to address and mitigate many of these hazards should Trafford Borough Council adopt the International Fire Code.

Yours in fire safety,


Brian Lindbloom – Chief

Trafford Emergency Services