

MINUTES
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Richland Township and Richland Volunteer Fire Department
November 12, 2025

Richland Township representatives and the Volunteer Fire Department representatives met at the Richland Township Administrative Offices on November 12, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., for their monthly Safety Committee meeting.

PRESENT

Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director

Kimberly D. Stayrook, Administrative Assistant

Kevin Gaudlip, Police Department Representative – via cellular phone

Wesley Meyers, Richland Fire Department – via cellular phone

Brandon Rozich, Road Department Representative – via cellular phone

ABSENT

Todd Shaffer, Road Department Representative

William Lehmann, Richland Fire Department

Scott Conahan, Police Department Representative

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES – October 8, 2025

- Mr. Meyers moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2025 as distributed, seconded by Mr. Gaudlip. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Fourth Quarter 2025 Safety Inspections

The Fire Department submitted their quarterly inspection report which was conducted at the Richland Fire station on Scalp Avenue. There was one issue reported, which was a vacant handrail for the steps in the new building area at the rear exit. The fire department is to have the railing installed within the next two weeks.

All Site Safety Inspections are due at the next meeting, specifically, police, administration, and the public works departments.

NEW INCIDENTS OR NEAR MISS REPORTS

On October 11, 2025 at approximately 7:45 a.m., the fire department was dispatched for a cardiac arrest on Lawrence Street. The alleged heart attack victim was in the bathroom, which was in a small area. The firefighter assisted with chest compressions for an extended period, while the other EMTs and firefighters were doing other tasks. When the firefighter was relieved from doing chest compressions by another firefighter, he stood up and went outside for air. While he was outside, he did not feel well and passed out. He was transported by ambulance to the hospital for evaluation and later released without incident.

The root cause of this incident traced back to applying repeated chest compressions in a small area. The firefighter, coupled with the anxiety of the situation, the temperature inside, and the physical exertion with compressions, became overcome.

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The Corrective Actions, as discussed with Wes Meyers - Fire Chief, are to remain calm as possible in these situations, even though there are high anxiety and stress trying to save an individual's life. In addition, perform less compressions before taking a break and asking for assistance from other first responders present. Also, the firefighter could have stepped out of the small room or outside to get fresh air before doing the next round of compressions.

NEW BUSINESS

None

SAFETY CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Rozich suggesting that when the Township's trucks are plowing in wintry conditions, motorists need to maintain safe distances from the trucks to ensure safety. In addition, motorists and pedestrians need to be mindful and observant when trucks may be turning or backing up when visibility is compromised or blind spots exist to avoid potential accidents.

Mr. Beppler stated he would provide the 2026 meeting schedule for the December meeting.

The next meeting is December 10, 2025 at the municipal building at 11:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Mr. Meyers moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rozich. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly D. Stayrook
Administrative Assistant*