

EAST MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

FIRE SERVICE: WHY THE TOWNSHIP IS MOVING TO ONE PRIMARY PROVIDER

A resident guide to the proposed withdrawal from Eagle Fire Company and the Township's approach to reliable fire protection

East Manchester Township's responsibility is to make sure residents have dependable fire protection and that public funds are used responsibly. After approximately 20 years of attempts to consolidate the two fire services, the Township has not achieved a lasting solution. The Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution on **November 10, 2026**, to withdraw from Eagle Fire Company's fire services. If adopted, the resolution decertifying Eagle from responding to calls within East Manchester Township will become effective January 1, 2027. The Township will continue to use mutual aid and partner with other stable organizations when additional resources are needed.

WHY IS THE TOWNSHIP CONSIDERING THIS CHANGE?

Township records identify continuing operational, administrative and accountability concerns with Eagle Fire Company. These include:

- A reported call fail rate of 6.3% for East Manchester Township calls in the current year, with the year not yet complete (21 failed calls reported YTD).
- Eagle Fire Company's proposed budgets indicate a significant deficit for both 2026 and 2027, despite Township funding.
- Fundraising-license and compliance concerns, including expired licenses identified in State records.
- Equipment-maintenance concerns observed during training and operations.
- Late or missing financial reports despite the Township's need to review the use of public funds it provides.
- Instances documented by Township personnel in which Eagle was dispatched or arrived without staffing or without the dispatched apparatus.

UNION FIRE COMPANY AS THE PRIMARY PROVIDER

Union Fire Company would become the Township's primary fire-service provider. According to information provided to the Township, Union already responds to 100% of East Manchester Township calls unless it is turned away. Township records also reflect:

RESPONSE RELIABILITY

A reported 0% fail rate for East Manchester Township calls.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

A balanced budget, according to financial information provided to the Township.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Detailed, consistent reporting to the Township.

LEADERSHIP

Union Fire's Chief has served as the Township-appointed Fire Chief for more than 14 years.

Neither Union Fire Company nor Eagle Fire Company is located within East Manchester Township; each is based in its own borough. The Township's focus is on which organization can serve Township residents, not simply where a fire station is located.

WHAT DOES "DE-CERTIFICATION" MEAN?

"Decertification" means the Township withdraws its recognition and designation of Eagle Fire Company as a provider of fire protection services for East Manchester Township.

Eagle Fire Company would generally continue to exist as a separate nonprofit corporation; however, it would no longer be recognized by the Township for primary fire protection purposes, effective January 1, 2027.

**THIS CHANGE DOES NOT MEAN THE TOWNSHIP WILL STOP PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION.
It means the Township is changing how that protection is organized and supported.**

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WHY PUT OUR RESOURCES BEHIND ONE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT?

Concentrating Township support under one primary provider can reduce duplication and allow available resources to be focused on staffing, training, equipment, apparatus maintenance, facilities, communications and administration.

ONE FOCUS Township resources and oversight can be concentrated on one primary provider.	STAFFING A more unified pool of personnel can help support dependable response coverage.
EQUIPMENT Funding can be focused on maintaining and replacing the apparatus and equipment actually needed.	TRAINING Training, procedures and operational expectations can be coordinated through one primary organization.
ACCOUNTABILITY Financial and operational reporting can be monitored through one primary Township relationship.	PARTNERSHIPS Mutual aid and additional stable fire-service partners remain available when an incident requires more resources.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RESIDENTS

Reliable fire protection remains the priority. The Township's goal is to ensure residents receive dependable fire-service coverage, regardless of their mailing address or location within East Manchester Township.

- Some residents may be concerned that Union Fire Company is approximately one mile farther away than Eagle Fire Company. However, the Township's decision is based on reliable service, not simply the distance between a fire station and a residence. The Township's concerns include Eagle's documented response history and the need to ensure that a fire company is available and able to respond when called. A closer station does not provide an advantage if it does not reliably respond.
- Depending on the incident, availability of personnel and equipment, and York County dispatch procedures, other departments are dispatched through automatic aid. Potential resources may include York Area United Fire & Rescue (YAUFR) and other neighboring fire departments. Your mailing address does not change the Township's commitment to your safety.

The Township intends to rely on Union Fire Company as its primary fire-service provider while maintaining the ability to request mutual aid and additional resources when needed. All residents should call 911 for emergencies.

This information explains the Township's reasoning and proposed direction. It is not a finding that every member, volunteer or incident involving Eagle Fire Company is deficient. The Township recognizes the volunteers who have served the community and appreciates the importance of maintaining strong volunteer fire service.