



**FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PERDIX FIRE
COMPANY NO. 1, ALREADY INCORPORATED, TOWNSHIP OF PENN, PERRY
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

HEREIN REFERRED TO AS:

PERDIX VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION

PERRY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2008



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BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, Act of June 11, 1968, (P.L. 149, No. 84), as amended, 53 P.S. § 8501 et seq. (commonly referred to as Act 84), the Department of the Auditor General's duty is to audit the accounts and records of every volunteer firefighters' relief association to determine that funds received under the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution Law, Act of December 18, 1984, (P.L. 1005, No. 205), as amended 53 P.S. § 895.701 et seq. (commonly referred to as Act 205), are properly expended.

The Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association is a charitable organization that was formed primarily to afford financial protection to volunteer firefighters and to encourage individuals to participate in volunteer fire service.

Act 84 governs the overall operation of the volunteer firefighters' relief association. The relief association's bylaws define the specific operational procedures by which the volunteer firefighters' relief association conducts business. To fulfill its primary purpose, Act 84 authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by Act 84, it is the responsibility of the volunteer firefighters' relief association to choose investments in a proper and prudent manner.

Volunteer firefighters' relief associations receive public tax monies, and the association officers therefore have a responsibility to the public to conduct the association's financial affairs in a businesslike manner and to maintain sufficient financial records to support the propriety of all association transactions. Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are also responsible for ensuring that the association operates in accordance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Act 205 sets forth the computation of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution paid to each applicable municipality throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The amount of the distribution is based upon the population of each municipality and the market value of real estate within the municipality. Upon receipt of this distribution, the municipality must allocate the funds to the volunteer firefighters' relief association of the fire service organization or fire service organizations, which is or are recognized as providing the service to the municipality. The Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association was allocated state aid from the following municipality:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Penn Township	Perry	\$9,291	\$9,272	\$9,551

BACKGROUND (Continued)

The volunteer firefighters' relief association and the affiliated fire service organization are separate, legal entities. The Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association is affiliated with the following fire service organization:

Perdix Fire Company No. 1

Mr. Shade Reidlinger, President
PERDIX VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS'
RELIEF ASSOCIATION
Perry County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and mandated by the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, Act of June 11, 1968, (P.L. 149, No. 84), as amended, 53 P.S. § 8501 et seq. (commonly referred to as Act 84), for the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008.

We conducted this compliance audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our audit results and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our audit results and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if the volunteer firefighters' relief association took appropriate corrective action to address the findings contained in our prior audit report; and
2. To determine if the volunteer firefighters' relief association received and expended state aid and accumulated relief funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objectives identified above.

Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's administration of state aid and accumulated funds complies with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures including the safeguarding of assets. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of the volunteer firefighters' relief association's internal controls as they relate to the association's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of the audit objectives, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Our audit procedures also included tests of documentary evidence supporting the Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's recorded financial transactions, tests of the physical existence of inventories, interviews of selected officials and direct confirmation of the Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2008, with the custodians of the funds, debtors, creditors, and financial institutions to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives. Additionally, we performed procedures to provide a reasonable assurance of detecting instances of violations of legal and regulatory requirements or violations of provisions of contracts that are significant within the context of the audit objectives.

The results of our audit for the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008, found, in all significant respects, the Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association received and expended funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures, except as noted in the following findings discussed later in this report. The results of our tests indicated the Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association expended funds as presented in the accompanying information and as of December 31, 2008, had a cash balance of \$35,991 and no investments.

Finding No. 1 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –
Failure to Maintain Officer's Bond Coverage

Finding No. 2 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –
Failure to Maintain a Federal Tax Identification Number

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

June 25, 2009

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

PERDIX VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

COMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

The Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association has complied with the following prior audit finding and recommendation:

- Undocumented Expenditure

By providing adequate documentation to determine the validity of the undocumented expenditure that was made in the prior audit period and by ensuring that supporting documentation was maintained for all expenditures made during the current audit period.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association has not complied with several prior audit findings. These issues are further discussed in the following findings noted in the Findings and Recommendations section of this report:

- Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –
Failure to Maintain Officer's Bond Coverage
- Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –
Failure to Maintain a Federal Tax Identification Number

We are concerned with the volunteer firefighters' relief association's failure to correct the previously reported audit findings. The association management should strive to implement the recommendations and corrective actions noted in this audit report.

PERDIX VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 1 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –
Failure to Maintain Officer's Bond Coverage

Condition: In the prior audit report, we noted that the relief association neglected to maintain sufficient bond coverage on the disbursing officer. During the current audit period, the relief association's bond coverage remained insufficient due to the association's failure to increase the coverage amount. In addition, the relief association did not renew its bond policy upon expiration on July 13, 2007 and, thus, the policy lapsed.

Criteria: Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8505(c) states, in part, that:

. . . the disbursing officer, whether designated treasurer, comptroller, financial secretary, or otherwise, shall be bonded by corporate surety for the faithful performance of his duties. The amount of such bond shall be at least as great as the maximum cash balance in current funds of the association at any time during the fiscal year, and the premium on such bond shall be a proper charge against the funds of the association.

Cause: While notified of this condition in the prior audit report, relief association officials neglected to follow the Act 84 provisions regarding the maintenance of officer's bond coverage.

Effect: As a result of the disbursing officer of the relief association not being bonded, the relief association's cash assets were not adequately safeguarded.

However, subsequent to the audit period, on May 13, 2009, the relief association obtained an officer's bond policy in the amount of \$50,000.

Recommendation: We again recommend the relief association continue to maintain officer's bond coverage in an amount greater than the maximum cash balance, as required by Act 84. For further guidance, please refer to the Auditor General's publication, MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

Management's Response: Relief association management agreed with the finding as presented at the audit exit conference and indicated they will take action to comply with the recommendation.

PERDIX VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 2 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –
Failure to Maintain a Federal Tax Identification Number

Condition: As cited in the prior audit report, the volunteer firefighters' relief association failed to comply with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act by not maintaining a federal tax identification number. The relief association is currently using an inactive federal tax identification number.

Criteria: All businesses, both profit and nonprofit, are required to obtain a federal tax identification number and provide this number to any financial institution where funds are earning interest. If their tax identification number is not provided, the financial institution is required to withhold 31 percent of interest earned and transmit these funds to the Internal Revenue Service, representing federal income taxes.

Cause: While notified of this condition in the prior audit report, the relief association neglected to reactivate its federal tax identification number.

Effect: Failure to comply with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act could cause the relief association to be penalized by the Internal Revenue Service, resulting in the loss of funds otherwise available for general operating expenditures or for investment purposes.

Recommendation: We again recommend the relief association immediately reactivate its federal tax identification number through the Internal Revenue Service and furnish this number to its financial institutions. The relief association should also consider applying to the Internal Revenue Service for tax exempt status as a nonprofit corporation under Internal Revenue Code 501(c). For further guidance, please refer to the Auditor General's publication, MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

Management's Response: Relief association management agreed with the finding as presented at the audit exit conference and indicated they will take action to comply with the recommendation.

PERDIX VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
 ACCOMPANYING EXPENDITURE INFORMATION
 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2008

Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8502(1) states, in part, that:

A volunteer firefighters' relief association is an organization formed primarily for the purpose of affording financial protection to volunteer firefighters against the consequences of misfortune suffered as a result of their participation in the fire service. Such an association may also serve other purposes, . . . provided only that adequate provisions be first made to serve its primary purpose. . . .

Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8506, authorizes the investment of relief association funds and outlines the types of benefits and services that can be provided with volunteer firefighters' relief association funds. All expenditures must be properly authorized as prescribed in the volunteer firefighters' relief association bylaws and approved at an association meeting.

USES OF FUNDS:

Benefit Services:	
Insurance premiums	\$ 2,755
Death benefits	100
Total Benefit Services	\$ 2,855
Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 845
Equipment maintenance	3,854
Training expenses	95
Total Fire Services	\$ 4,794
Other Expenditures:	
Principal payments on lease-financing	\$ 2,259
Interest payments on lease-financing	221
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 2,480

PERDIX VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Perdix Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Governing Body:

Mr. Shade Reidlinger, President

Mr. Keith Szada, Vice President

Ms. Jodi Rissinger, Secretary

Mr. Monte Supko, Treasurer

Reports were also distributed to each municipality, which allocated foreign fire insurance tax monies to this relief association.

Ms. Helen Klinepeter, Secretary
Penn Township

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.