



Pennsylvania Department of the

AUDITOR GENERAL

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News for Immediate Release

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Auditor General DePasquale Releases Audits for Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Associations in 20 Counties

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today announced the release of audit reports for volunteer firefighters' relief associations in Allegheny, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Clearfield, Columbia, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill, Somerset, Susquehanna, Washington and Wayne counties.

“My oversight of volunteer firefighters' relief associations helps emergency-services volunteers protect our citizens and communities,” DePasquale said. “I want to make sure the funding is used efficiently and effectively to help purchase life-saving equipment, training and insurance for thousands of first-responders.”

The Department of the Auditor General examines volunteer firefighters' relief associations, which receive state aid from a 2 percent state tax on fire insurance premiums purchased by Pennsylvania residents from out-of-state casualty insurance companies.

In 2017, 2,521 municipalities received \$60.6 million in fire relief association funding for distribution to local volunteer firefighters' relief associations to provide training, purchase equipment and insurance, and pay for death benefits for volunteer firefighters.

The full audit reports for VFRA with findings are available online using the links provided below; others are available online at: www.PaAuditor.gov/audit-reports.

Allegheny County

[Bunola VFRA](#) – No findings

[Jefferson VFRA](#) – No findings

[West Elizabeth VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: insufficient bond coverage.

Bedford County

[Everett Fire Co. No. 1 VFRA](#) – No findings

Berks County

[Virginville VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for five findings: undocumented loans, failure to deposit state aid, untimely deposit of state aid, duplicate payments and failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster.

Bucks County

[Chalfont VFRA](#) – No findings

Carbon County

[Lehighon VFRA](#) – No findings

Clearfield County

[Goshen Township VFRA](#) – No findings

Columbia County

[Conyngham Township VFRA](#) – No findings

Dauphin County

[Lower Swatara Township VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for two findings: inadequate minutes of meetings and noncompliance with prior audit recommendation for failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster.

[Wiconisco VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for two findings: inadequate relief association bylaws (discretionary benefits) and noncompliance with prior audit recommendation for unauthorized expenditures.

Lackawanna County

[Dalton VFRA](#) – No findings

Lancaster County

[Salisbury Township Fire Co. No. 1 VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for one finding: inadequate relief association bylaws.

[West Willow VFRA](#) – No findings

[Witmer VFRA](#) – No findings

Lebanon County

[Neversink VFRA](#) – No findings

[Perseverance VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for two findings: untimely receipt and deposit of state aid and noncompliance with prior audit recommendation for failure to maintain bond coverage.

Luzerne County

[Harding VFRA](#) – No findings

[Lake Silkworth VFRA](#) – No findings

Mifflin County

[McVeytown VFRA](#) – No findings

Montgomery County

[Whitemarsh VFRA](#) – No findings

[Ogontz VFRA](#) – No findings

Northampton County

[Dewey Fire Co. No. 1 VFRA](#) – No findings

[North Catasauqua VFRA](#) – No findings

Schuylkill County

[Ringtown VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for two findings: inadequate relief association bylaws and failure to maintain minutes of meetings and inadequate relief association bylaws.

Somerset County

[Somerset VFRA](#) – No findings

Susquehanna County

[Susquehanna VFRA](#) – No findings

Washington County

[Claysville VFRA](#) – No findings

Wayne County

[Texas Township VFRA](#)

Complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds, except for four findings: undocumented expenditures, failure to maintain bond coverage, failure to secure ownership interest in a jointly purchased vehicle and noncompliance with prior audit recommendation for failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster.

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