



Pennsylvania Department of the

# AUDITOR GENERAL

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## News for Immediate Release

Aug. 1, 2018

### Auditor General DePasquale Releases Audits for Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Associations in 18 Counties

**HARRISBURG** – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today announced the release of audit reports for volunteer firefighters' relief associations in Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Butler, Chester, Columbia, Crawford, Erie, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Somerset, Sullivan, Washington and York counties.

"Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Associations are essential in helping our communities receive life-saving equipment, critical training and insurance for thousands of volunteer firefighters and emergency service providers," DePasquale said. "My audits help ensure that money is spent appropriately."

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's with findings are available online using the links provided below; others are available online at: [www.PaAuditor.gov/audit-reports](http://www.PaAuditor.gov/audit-reports).

#### **Allegheny County**

[Cochran Hose Company VFRA](#) – No findings

[Coulter VFRA](#) – No findings

[Hilltop Hose Co. No. 3 VFRA](#) – No findings

#### **Beaver County**

[Beaver Falls VFRA](#) – No findings

#### **Bedford County**

[Breezewood Fire and Relief Co. No. 1 VFRA](#) – No findings

#### **Butler County**

[Slippery Rock 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: unauthorized expenditures.

#### **Chester County**

[Keystone Valley 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 seven findings: related party situation, failure to obtain a Pennsylvania state sales tax exemption number, failure to deposit proportionate proceeds from the sale of jointly purchased vehicle and noncompliance with prior audit recommendations for inadequate minutes of meetings, inadequate relief association bylaws, failure to maintain bond coverage and inadequate signatory authority for the disbursement of funds.

[Longwood VFRA](#) – No findings

[West Chester VFRA](#) – No findings

### **Columbia County**

[Bloomsburg VFRA](#) – No findings

[Orangeville VFRA](#) – No findings

### **Crawford County**

[Springboro VFRA](#) – No findings

### **Erie County**

[Lake City 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: unsecured loan and noncompliance with prior audit recommendation for undocumented expenditures.

### **Indiana County**

[Homer City VFRA](#) – No findings

### **Lackawanna County**

[Covington Independent VFRA](#) – No findings

[Taylor Hose and Engine Co. No. 1](#) – No findings

### **Lancaster County**

[Adamstown VFRA](#) – No findings

[Ephrata 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: unauthorized expenditure and failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster.

### **Montgomery County**

[Empire Hook and Ladder Company VFRA](#) – No findings

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

### **Northampton County**

[Williams Township VFRA](#) – No findings

### **Pike County**

[Promised Land VFRA](#) – No findings

**Somerset County**

[Confluence VFRA](#) – No findings

**Sullivan County**

[Dushore 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: unauthorized expenditure and inadequate signatory authority for the disbursement of funds.

**Washington County**

[Slovan VFRA](#) – No findings

**York County**

[Strinestown 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: inappropriate ownership of rescue vehicle.

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