**Floyd Township Volunteer Fire Department**

For many years, fire protection for Floyd Township in northeastern Putnam County was handled by Bainbridge and Fillmore Volunteer Fire Departments. Bainbridge responded to the northern half of the township and Heritage Lake, and Fillmore took the southern portions. Because of the distance between those departments and the growing township population, especially around the lake, residents became increasingly concerned about their fire protection. With approximately 4000 people living in the township, it was time to have a more centrally located department. After much discussion, area residents decided to form a fire protection district that would pay for a volunteer fire department to be housed in Floyd Township.

The Heritage Lake Property Owners Association donated land for a new firehouse to be constructed at 6901 East County Road 380 North, centrally located with easy access to Heritage Drive, which surrounds the lake. The 4800-square foot firehouse, including an upstairs area and large meeting room, was completed in 2003. The department began operations on January 1, 2004.

To start operations, the Fire District purchased a brand-new Pierce Pumper with a 1250-gpm pump and 1000-gallon water tank as the primary fire truck; from Roachdale Volunteer Fire Department a 1993 Ford rescue truck to carry extrication and medical gear; and a 1998 Chevrolet 4 x 4 pick-up, along with a 250-gallon water tank and pump, for grass fires. Newly equipped, the township would still be assisted in the north by Bainbridge VFD for calls along State Road 36.

When the township faced a structure fire, it requested assistance from Bainbridge, Fillmore, Danville, Amo, and Coatesville, all several minutes away. Consequently, in 2008, the district purchased a 1982 American LaFrance tanker with a 1500-gpm pump and a 3000-gallon water tank from the fire department in Magnolia Bend, Texas. Due to the size of the rescue and brush truck, the department was forced to construct an annex building to house it and a 2007 fire-rescue boat that had been purchased to use on the lake. Completed in 2008, this 1500-square foot building was located on the same property as the firehouse.

Currently, the department has seven apparatus that cover the 36-square mile township. The department made significant upgrades with a new E-One 4000-gallon tanker in 2018 and in 2021, a new tactical rescue truck complete with battery-powered extrication tools and 400 gallons of water on board.