Diamond Beach fire insurance skyrocket

Climbs after change in protection rating

By MARY LINDEN

Served in the air and on land

VILLAS — The owner of four pet snakes, including a red-tailed boa constrictor that escaped in late July, surrendered the remainder of his menagerie to animal-control officials last week.

Erma Fire Company and Lower Township officials, officers from Shore Animal Control, officers from the Lower Township Police Department and Lower Township Police Detective Brian Zartner undertook the effort in late July.

Information Officer Lauren Suit said the transfer of reptiles and other animals occurred during a phone interview Aug. 25.

“Agility is pretty much the key to that,” Lower Township Public Safety Officer Matt Zartner said.

Smaller animals such as birds and reptiles are kept in a kennel in the rear of the station.

“Crows are always a handful,” Zartner added.

Suit said the transfer was voluntary.

“The transfer is, pretty much, going on right now,” Lower Township Public Safety Officer Matt Zartner said.

The county zoo does not typically have an animal control contractor.

According to Lower Township officials, this is the second such transfer in as many months.

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Three snakes surrendered; boa still loose

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In conjunction with the township’s assistance of Lower Township police and fire officials, officers from Shore Animal Control made the transfer of three snakes from the private owner to the Cape May County Zoo. The reptiles were surrendered to the zoo.

The boa still loose

The boa, which was surrendered; still loose.

The boa, which was surrendered, will remain in the care of Lower Township police and fire officials.

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