



ATFD Responding

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Accreditation Manager:

Dave Schramm

Administrative Support Team

Computer Network Administrator:

John Bothwell
Mike Ratka (Assistant)

Fire Training Coordinator:

Larry Siefken
Greg Breyer (Assistant)

Recruitment & Retention:

Tom McAneney
Bob Muller
Chris Mc Loone
(Newsletter Editor)

Abington Township Fire Department Chiefs:

Abington Fire Co.
John Bothwell

McKinley Fire Co.
Chris Bors

Weldon Fire Co.
Bud Gerhard

Edge Hill Fire Co.
Charlie Rohrer

Roslyn Fire Co.
Dale Jonas

ATFD Recognized for Training Excellence

Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Edward Mann recognized the Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) as a participant in the Pennsylvania Fire Service Certification Program. To receive special recognition as a program participant, a fire department must certify that 50 percent of its members meet National Professional Qualifications Standards. The ATFD boasts 126 (80 percent) volunteer firefighters certified to such standards and is one of 48 departments statewide that meets the 75 percent mark.

The purpose of this program is to identify and recognize emergency service personnel whose accomplishments in training and education meet or exceed nationally recognized standards. The NFPA standards for Fire Service Professional Qualifications identify the minimum requirements for a person at a particular level of progression. A person certified to one of the Fire Service Professional levels will have demonstrated competency in the knowledge and skills required to perform at a particular level.



(l-r): ATFD Training Coordinator, Larry Siefken; Assistant Chief Gerry Gerhard, Weldon Fire Co.; Chief Ed Wurster, Roslyn Fire Co.; Chief John Bothwell, Abington Fire Co.; Chief Mark Maxwell, McKinley Fire Co.; Dave Schramm, ATFD Accreditation Manager

Organizations that have 50, 75, or 100 percent of their “active” members certified receive special recognition. All organizations recognized receive a certificate for public display and large decals for their apparatus.

Upon presenting representatives from the ATFD’s five fire companies with certificates, Mann stated, “The residents and local government officials should be confident in knowing that the overwhelming majority of the active firefighters in Abington Township have

voluntarily proven they are capable and qualified to perform, based on a national standard. The firefighters have proven they have the necessary knowledge and have shown their ability to perform and meet a nationally accepted standard. In other words, not only do they talk the walk, they walk the walk as well.”

The award presentation took place before the township’s Public Safety Meeting where Accreditation Manager David Schramm reviewed the 2007 goals for the ATFD’s Accreditation Department.



“We will strive to invigorate and fortify the spirit of volunteerism in the Abington Township Fire Department by allowing each of our five fire companies to maintain its individual identity that complements our organizational goal of continuous self improvement.”

ATFD Accreditation Progress Report

Since establishing the accreditation program in 2003, the ATFD has achieved steady growth in almost every aspect of its operations. By establishing attainable goals each year, the Department has (1) streamlined its record keeping via Firehouse Software under the direction of John Bothwell and Mike Ratka; (2) created 25 operating guidelines at the township level thanks to the work of Bob Mueller; (3) created a member handbook due to the efforts of Tom McAneney; and (4) achieved state recognition for its training program thanks to the dedication of the ATFD's membership. In 2006, the ATFD's accreditation program was able to achieve all its goals for the year (see "ATFD 2006 Goals" sidebar). Below is a tally of the call volume experienced by the ATFD during 2006. Statistics like these are not easy to come by and are generated by Firehouse Software.

What follows is the list of goals approved by the five fire chiefs for next year. The new program proposal cited at the end of the list has already been approved and is part of the ATFD's 2007 operating budget.

The department has also

appointed a public information officer to communicate with the community by issuing press releases as necessary to highlight department achievements. The first press release promoted the training achievement, which is highlighted on page one of this newsletter.

2007 Goals:

1. Information Services: Analyze our NFIRS incident reporting data and establish performance standards.
2. Establish and maintain a preventive maintenance program record keeping system.
3. Fire Training: Complete our 2006/2007 Capital Improvement Project to add an additional one-story burn building to our existing fire training tower.
4. Establish a process to enter fire training records into our Firehouse Software program.
5. To ensure diligence in our pursuit of external funding sources, continue our grant writing incentive program.
6. Complete a risk assess-

ment of our target institutions using the VISION software program that is endorsed by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

7. Using the data from the VISION software program, develop an informed and credible Standard of Response Coverage plan to maximize the use of our resources.
8. In order to ensure that fire apparatus and equipment are serviced and maintained to keep them in safe operating condition and are ready for response at all times, a formal preventative maintenance program, which includes required annual testing, must be established in accordance with NFPA 1500 and NFPA 1915.

New Program Proposal: Establish and manage a formal program for preventive maintenance to apparatus and equipment that is consistent with appropriate NFPA standards.

ATFD 2006 Goals

- ✓ Established a computer network to facilitate the collection and compilation of response data from all fire five companies.
- ✓ Created and published a fire department newsletter.
- ✓ Selected a reporting system for all five fire companies to utilize for incident reporting.
- ✓ Established a fire department Web site.
- ✓ Brought the ATFD training facilities into compliance with the intent of NFPA standards.
- ✓ Compiled operational guidelines and job descriptions.
- ✓ Created an ATFD recruitment brochure.

Keep track of what's happening around the ATFD. Visit each fire company's Web site.

Abington Fire Company:
<http://www.abingtonfire.net>

McKinley Fire Company:
<http://www.mckinleyfire.org>

Weldon Fire Company:
<http://www.weldonfireco.com>

Edge Hill Fire Company:
<http://www.edgehillfire.com>

Roslyn Fire Company:
<http://www.roslynfireco.com>

ATFD 2006 Year End Run Statistics

Number of Incidents: 1,769

Number of Volunteer
Firefighters Responding: 26,681

Total Hours in Service
(for all firefighters responding): 11,504

Total Training Hours: 7,635

Overlapping Incidents
(More than one fire call
occurring at the same time): 190

Total Hours of Community Service: 19,139