



ATFD Responding

Volume 5, Issue 1

AbingtonFD.org

March, 2009

Fire Services

Administrator:

Dave Schramm

Administrative Support Team

Computer Network Administrator:

John Bothwell
Mike Ratka (Assistant)

Fire Training Coordinator:

Larry Siefken
Greg Breyer (Assistant)
Michael Jones (Assistant)

Operations Support

Tom McAneney
Joe Dougherty
Chris McLoone
(Newsletter Editor)
Ed Wurster

Abington Township Fire Department Chiefs:

Abington Fire Co.
Chief John Bothwell

McKinley Fire Co.
Chief Chris Bors

Weldon Fire Co.
Chief Bud Gerhard

Edge Hill Fire Co.
Chief Charlie Rohrer

Roslyn Fire Co.
Chief Dale Jonas

ATFD Starts 2009 with Commendation Ceremony

Beginning in spring 2008, the ATFD again hosted two Firefighting I classes for ATFD members and surrounding fire companies. These 146-hour courses feature classroom instruction and culminate with the students going through various skill stations to demonstrate what they have learned. On February 4, 2009, the ATFD held its first commendation ceremony for the 21 firefighters who completed the class. The ceremony took place during the Public Safety Meeting and included remarks from Jeff Glynn, Community Service Specialist for the ATFD; Dave Schramm, Fire Services Administrator for the ATFD; and Ken Clark, Jr, Abington Township Fire Marshal.

The Firefighter I national certification course provides instruction to the students in basic firefighting skills which are necessary to function as a responding member of a fire department. This program has become the baseline for training all new members who join the department whether they are junior members or active firefighters. During the past four years, more than 200 members have come through the program, some of whom were veteran firefighters working to attain the same level of national certification as incoming members. This is an example of how seriously ATFD members take fire training.

Graduates recognized at the February Public Safety Meeting are:



Community Service Specialist Jeff Glynn and the recent graduates of the ATFD's Firefighting I Program.

- Christopher M. Platz, Station 100
- Walter Blasy, Station 200
- Gerard Clark, Station 200
- Ron Creighton, Station 200
- Ian McLaughlin, Station 200
- Gerald McLaughlin, Station 200
- Gregory Phinney, Station 300
- Ben Walker, Station 300
- Christian Wiley, Station 300
- Zachery Able, Station 300
- Robert Green, Jr, Station 400
- Frank J. Schuck, Jr, Station 400
- Sean V. Maguire, Station 400
- Alex M. Bender, Station 500
- Michael R. Vitelli, Jr, Station 500
- Elantra E. Bell, Station 500
- Michael D. Caffrey, Station 500
- Michael J Dalton, Station 500
- Jack F. Guntz, Station 500
- Matthew Orzechowski, Station 500
- Devon Dorr, Station 500

Larry Siefken, ATFD Fire Training Coordinator, assisted with the awarding of the Certificates of Commendation.

For 2009 the following schools are planned: a Firefighter II certification program, a daytime fire training program, a "Basics and Beyond" program, a firefighter safety and survival class, a driver/engineering workshop, and opportunities for ATFD members to attend refresher training on bloodborne pathogens, CPR, AED, and first aid.



"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 Sets Goals for 2009

Every year, the ATFD identifies goals it wishes to achieve during the year. During 2008, it embarked on a strategic planning process which not only identified long-term goals and ways to achieve them but also short-term goals. This year's goals were derived directly from the ATFD's Strategic Plan.

Although the strategic plan identified more than five goals, the ATFD has been very successful in meeting its goals by selecting achievable targets prior to a new year then working to ensure that the goals are met. Each goal for 2009 includes objectives to help meet the goal. A summary of this year's goals include:

Goal #1: To maintain and expand the current membership to ensure adequate personnel to accomplish our mission.

Objective: To increase the availability of staffing for fire calls.

Objective: To broaden the department's scope of recruitment and retention.

Goal #2: To ensure programs are in place that provide for the safety of all personnel and reduce injuries at all incidents.

Objective: Improve and enhance the existing township-wide firefighter safety program.

Objective: Establish a user-friendly emergency incident accountability program.

Goal #3: To have open discussions internally and externally to ensure that the department is capable of providing a high quality of service.

Objective: Continue direct dialogue with surrounding mutual and automatic aid resources by each ATFD fire company.

Goal #4: To establish high quality marketing and public information programs to improve our community's understanding, awareness, and perception of the Abington Township Fire Department.

Objective: To establish a marketing and public information program.

Objective: To inform and educate the community about the ATFD.

Goal #5: To establish a central storage facility for the efficient location and access to necessary specialized tools and equipment to more effectively accomplish our mission.

Objective: To perform a structural, equipment, and needs analysis.



2008 Goals Met

- ✓ **Finalized Our Capital Improvement Project – Addition to the Fire Training Tower**
- ✓ **Completed a Risk Assessment for Many of Our Target Institutions**
- ✓ **Continued Working Towards Developing a Credible Standard of Response Coverage Plan**
- ✓ **Established and Managed a Common Independent Auditor Project**
- ✓ **Piloted a Mobile Data Computer (MDC) Project for Our Fire Apparatus**
- ✓ **Completed the Strategic Planning Process for the Abington Township Fire Department**

Statistics: January 1-31, 2009

Total Number of Incidents (Fires):	155	Total Fire Training Hours:	269
Total Number of Volunteer Firefighters Responding to Fires:	2,847	Total Administrative Support Hours:	386
Total Firefighter Hours at Fires:	1,340	Total Hours of Community Service for January, 2009	1,995

2008 Total Activity and Response Statistics

Total Number of Incidents (Fires):	1,761	Total Fire Training Hours:	6,425
Total Number of Volunteer Firefighters Responding to Fires:	31,171	Total Administrative Support Hours:	8,791
Total Firefighter Hours at Fires	16,808	Total Hours of Volunteer Community Service for the Year 2008:	35,818