



ATFD Responding

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AbingtonFD.org

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ATFD Staff:

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

Fire Marshal:

Kenneth Clark

Asst. Fire Marshal:

John Rohrer

Community

Service Specialist:

Jeff Glynn

Fire Department

Secretary:

Lisa Scholly

Administrative Support Team

Fire Services

Administrator:

David Schramm

Computer Network

Administrator:

John Bothwell

Mike Ratka (Assistant)

Fire Training

Coordinator:

Larry Siefken

Michael Jones (Assistant)

Greg Breyer (Assistant)

Operations:

Support

Tom McAneny

Joe Dougherty

Chris Mc Loone

Ed Wurster

ATFD Recognized For Community Contributions

The month of May has become one of the busiest months of the year for community service events for the ATFD. This May, in addition to establishing its presence at several community events, the ATFD was recognized for its outstanding efforts as well.

The Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) was honored with the prestigious Community Star Award at the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Business and Community Awards ceremony held May 14 at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club.

The celebration recognizes individuals, businesses, and organizations that have made significant contributions to the community. ATFD was selected because of its outstanding accomplishments in this area.

With help from the Abington Police Department, Second Alarmers Rescue Squad, and the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, a mock crash is staged by the ATFD every May prior to Abington Senior High School's prom to drive home the potential consequences of careless driving. Abington students who belong to Student Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and other school groups are invited to be the "actors" in the scene, which involves a simulated crash caused by a drunk driver. ATFD fire trucks arrive to rescue



Members of the ATFD gather after the five chiefs accepted the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Community Star Award.

and extract the victims from the mangled cars, and the "deceased" are placed in body bags and removed from the area by a coroner. The impact of the crash and rescue was not lost on the students as they were respectfully silent as the action unfolded.

The mock crash also provides an opportunity for students to see what the members of their volunteer fire departments do. High school students who are Junior Firefighters also participated in the event.

Following the demonstration, Abington Senior High School

Principal Dr. Fecher honored the memory of Richard Scaffidi, a Deputy Fire Marshal who played a big role in carrying out the mock crash prior to his death in 2008. Dr. Fecher presented a plaque to Mr. Scaffidi's wife, Linda. A plaque was also presented to Ken Clark, Fire Marshal, recognizing the ATFD's commitment and participation in the annual mock crash event.

The department also participated in Student Involvement Day on May 15.

Less than a week later, ATFD personnel were out in force again



"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."

for the high school's Service Learning Day.

In an effort to show young people what it is like to be a firefighter today, the ATFD outfitted 30 Abington Senior High School students with turnout gear to crawl through smoke, operate hoses, and participate in other related activities at the ATFD Public Safety Training Facility.

Service Learning Day also presents an opportunity for the ATFD to recruit young people who will help continue the legacy of the five volunteer fire companies that make up the ATFD.

This is the third year students visited the ATFD's training facility to learn about the volunteer fire companies that comprise the ATFD and what they do to prevent and fight fires. Prior to holding the event at the training facility, students who were interested in learning about firefighting fulfilled Service Learning Day at their local fire companies.

Rounding out what has become a busy month for the department for community

service events, the ATFD participated in the 24-Hour Relay Challenge at Memorial Field on May 30.

The ATFD set up a tent at Memorial Field, and Relay Challenge participants and other visitors were invited to stop by to try on helmets, boots, jackets, and other firefighting gear, as well as visit with department members.

Also on hand at the event were vehicles operated by the ATFD's five fire companies.

With the May events and the school year complete, the ATFD looks forward to its Junior Firefighters being able to give more time to each company. The rules change when school is not in session and the students have more time to devote to firefighting activities.

With the culmination of three busy months, the department engaged in various July 4th celebrations in the form of parades and the annual fireworks event. During all these events, the ATFD remained in service to serve the needs of its customers.

Training Notes

- The *Basics and Beyond* program is underway. The next classes are July 23 and August 27. Member feedback is a welcome and valued component of this program.
- The next 146-hour Firefighting I class begins on September 1 and will run until November 21.
- Several ATFD members recently completed two classes: Firefighter Safety and Survival and Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue.



Clockwise from top: Student Involvement Day, 24-Hour Relay Challenge, Service Learning Day, Mock Crash, Service Learning Day



Statistics: January 1—June 30, 2009

Total Number of Incidents (Fires):876

Total Fire Training Hours: 3,227

Total Number of Volunteer Firefighters Responding to Incidents: 15,441

Total Administrative Activity Hours: 4,014

Total Incident Hours:8,337

Total Hours of Community Service for January 1– June 30: 15,578