



ATFD Responding

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AbingtonFD.org

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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

Abington Township Fire Department Conducts Recruitment Events

The Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) recently completed several recruitment events. Held in conjunction with other Abington Senior High School events, these recruitment programs gave attendees a taste of what it is to be a firefighter as well as information on how to join their local fire company.

The first event took place on May 19, 2007, and was held in conjunction with the community's 24-Hour Relay Challenge. Representatives from all five fire companies enthusiastically and energetically participated in the community event by representing the department as a first-class organization to students, teachers and other school district personnel, parents, township officials, politicians, and other community leaders.

Prospective members donned self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), searched a smoke-filled tent, operated a charged hoseline to hit a target, and dragged training manikins across the lawn. A static display of department fire apparatus and equipment was also featured at the event.

Abington Senior High School's annual pre-prom event has evolved into an ATFD recruitment session as 2,000 students gathered to view a



Participants leave the ATFD Smoke Tent while others prepare to enter at the 24 Hour Relay Challenge.

simulated vehicle extrication. Members of the fire department (including Abington Senior High School students) demonstrated how students would be extricated from their vehicles should they get into an accident after drinking and driving. Many graduates of the school are now members of the ATFD, some of whom had watched the demonstration as students.

Finally, on May 25, 2007, the ATFD hosted 12 Abington Senior High School Service Learning students at the ATFD's training facility

concurrently with the school's Service Learning Day. The students, along with their teacher, Ms. Lori Hansen, had the opportunity for hands-on firefighting experiences.

This program served as a "recruitment camp" for the ATFD as well as the school's Emergency Action Team as these students spent five hours wearing SCBA crawling through a darkened maze, working with hose and water, and learning about the tools and equipment used in firefighting.



"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 Wins Recruitment/Retention Award

The ATFD has been selected as the recipient of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania's 2007 Recruitment and Retention Award.

Established in 2005, the Provident Award for Recruitment and Retention is presented to the fire company or department, which in the opinion of the Awards Committee, has done an outstanding job in developing and implementing a program of recruitment and retention of members in its company/department. The winning entry must send a representative to the convention to present a fifteen minute presentation covering the successful program.

The winning entry receives an engraved plaque from Provident Insurance Agency and a stipend of \$500 from the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania.

The award recognizes the Abington Township Fire Department for its outstanding commitment to the improvement of the fire service by developing programs for the recruitment and retention of members.

Representatives from the ATFD will accept the award at the Annual Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania in York, PA on Friday, September 21, 2007.

ATFD Participates in Annual Community Event

On August 6, members from all five ATFD fire companies converged on the Target parking lot to participate in the seventh annual National Pre Night Out Block Party.

This annual event draws hundreds, young and old, for an evening of fun, games, and information gathering.

The ATFD provides fire apparatus, "Boots," the department's 10-ft. tall costumed firefighter, for meeting and greeting, the department's "smoke house," and its new fire safety house where residents can learn about fire safety.

The event not only allows ATFD personnel's friends and neighbors the opportunity to see the impressive array of equipment the department uses daily to respond to emergency incidents, but it also allows the public to converse with the ATFD's firefighters to learn more about the department as a whole.

To that end, personnel are on hand to answer any questions about joining the department and provide ATFD recruitment brochures with comprehensive information on fire company membership.

ATFD Fire Prevention Week Events

McKinley Fire Company Open House: October 9, 7:00-9:00 PM

Roslyn Fire Company Open House: October 10, 7:00-9:00 PM

Abington Fire Company Open House: October 11, 7:00-9:00 PM

Weldon Fire Company Open House: October 11, 6:30-8:30 PM

Edge Hill Fire Company Open House: October 12, 6:00-9:00 PM



These high school students participated in Abington Senior High School's Service Learning Day. The students had the opportunity for hands-on firefighting experiences.

Did you know that the ATFD brings nationally recognized training to its members? Through an agreement with the Bucks County Fire Academy, the ATFD Fire Training Center is used to train ATFD members to nationally recognized standards, easing the time requirements for today's training standards.

ATFD 2007 Statistics Through August

Number of Emergency Responses: 1224

**Total Number of Volunteer Firefighters
Responding to Incidents: 18,806**

**Total Incident Hours in Service
for all Firefighters Responding:..... 11,672**

Total Fire Training Hours: 6,191

Total Administrative Hours: 4,310

**Total Hours of Community Service
January 1 through August 31, 2007: ... 22,173**

Abington Township Fire Department: AbingtonFD.org