



ATFD Responding

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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

ATFD Paves Path to its Future

Beginning June 2, the Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) embarked upon what may be the most significant project in its more than 100 year history-developing a strategic plan that would map out its future during the next three years. A grueling process, external and internal stakeholders met six times during June and generated new Mission, Values, and Vision statements, goals for the next three years, and objectives to help achieve each goal. No simple task, internal stakeholders of all ranks joined together during this time to complete a document that was recently adopted by the ATFD and presented to the Abington Township Public Safety Committee. To say that the Department has the full support of this committee is an understatement.

The ATFD Plan

Strategic planning is a continuous and systematic process where the guiding members of an organization make decisions about its future, develop the necessary procedures and operations to achieve that future, and determine how success is to be measured.

A strategic plan:

- Provides short-term direction;
- Builds a shared vision;
- Sets goals and objectives;
- Optimizes use of resources.

External stakeholders included residents, business owners, and



Internal stakeholders gather outside at the Police and Firefighter Memorial at the Abington Township Municipal Building.

township officials-essentially the ATFD's customer base. Together, this group provided valuable feedback for internal stakeholders to consider as they built the strategic plan. A sampling of customer expectations includes:

- Fast immediate response with adequate manpower and equipment;
- Safety advice and inspections without charge;
- Teamwork in the organization and with other agencies; and
- High visibility at local community events.

This is clearly a group of dedicated individuals which takes their safety and the safety of the public very seriously.

Other comments include, "the department is excellent," and "we have the finest fire department in Montgomery County and, with this process, it will only get better." Already it was clear the internal stakeholders were working from a position of strength.

After the external stakeholders meeting, internal stakeholders spent the subsequent three weeks completing work sessions that



"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."

reviewed and discussed the ATFD's approach to community-centered strategic planning. The work sessions focused on the ATFD's Mission, Vision, and Values. It also established goals:

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

Goal 2: To ensure that programs are in place that provide for the safety of all personnel.

Goal 3: To have open liaisons internally and externally to ensure that the department is capable of

providing a high quality of service.

Goal 4: To establish high-quality marketing, information, and educational programs taking full advantage of all outlets to improve our community's understanding, awareness, and perception of the ATFD.

Goal 5: To establish central facilities for the efficient location and access to necessary specialized tools and equipment to more efficiently accomplish our mission.

OUR MISSION

The Abington Township Fire Department is a dedicated team of volunteer firefighters comprised of five individual fire companies unified as one department with a mission to provide excellent fire, rescue, fire prevention, and public education services to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

OUR VALUES

TEAMWORK

We value teamwork and will provide professional services by five individual fire companies working together as a unified department.

COMPETENCE

We value competence and will demonstrate to our community that adequate resources are available and utilized effectively.

RESPECT

We value respect to our fellow firefighters and the community by compassionately caring for their needs.

EXCELLENCE

We value commitment to excellence that demonstrates itself through consistent professionalism, pride, and a positive attitude.

OUR VISION

The Abington Township Fire Department will continue to be recognized by our residents, local businesses, schools, and regional fire agencies as five professional, well trained, community-centered volunteer companies, unified as one fire department which places a high premium on excellent service.

Our organizational culture will reflect a compassionate, respectful team atmosphere that is nurtured by open communication processes which guide the decisions of our people. Our mission will be accomplished by a physically fit volunteer work force that is proficient in a multitude of specialized skills and empowered with a high level of involvement in our success. We will strive to maintain a consistent and fresh recruitment program for the replenishment of our ranks by providing quality marketing, educational, and informational programs about our department and our members.

We will honor our community's trust by providing the most effective, efficient, and fiscally-responsible service possible to all communities and population groups in our township. By improving as necessary our fleet of modern apparatus, equipment and facilities, fire prevention programs and services, our township community will receive quality service with our intent to meet or exceed our customers' expectations. We believe in actively interacting with our community and will expand our community information and education initiatives so that our priorities, philosophy, and operations are clearly understood.

By continually improving our internal and external relationships, we will explore all opportunities for quality fire and rescue service delivery while expending time and energy toward developing the best strategies for continued improvement.

We will be driven to meet best practices ensuring that Abington Township is served by a fire department that is a responsible, dedicated, quality volunteer organization.

2008 Year-to-Date Response Statistics

Total Number of Incidents: 1,344	Total Fire Training Hours: 6,425
Total Number of Volunteer Firefighters Responding to Incidents: 24,016	Total Administrative Activity Hours: 7,459
Total Incident Hours (Fires): 22,641	Total Hours of Community Service for the Year 2008 (YTD): 36,525

Abington Township Fire Department: AbingtonFD.org