



ATFD Responding

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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 Frank Schuck

Roslyn Fire Co.

Chief Dale Jonas

Fire Marshal:

Kenneth Clark

Asst. Fire Marshal:

John Rohrer

Fire Services Administrator:

Dave Schramm

Community Service Specialist:

Jeff Glynn

Fire Department Secretary:

Lisa Scholly

Administrative Support Team

Computer Network Administrator:

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Mike Ratka (Assistant)

Fire Training Coordinator:

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Michael Jones (Assistant)

Operations Support:

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Chris McLoone
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ATFD Honored at Sept. 11th Ceremony

During a special 10th anniversary ceremony to remember and reflect upon the events of Sept. 11th, members of the Abington Township community took a moment to thank the first responders who give their time and sacrificed their safety to keep others out of harm's way.

The anniversary of the terrorist attacks, which claimed the lives of over 300 emergency responders, seemed like a fitting time to honor the commitment and dedication of the firefighters, police, and EMTs who protect the community. Among those who were honored at Our Lady Help of Christians Church were the five companies that are a part of the Abington

Township Fire Department (ATFD), Jenkintown's Independent and Pioneer Fire Companies, and the Rockledge Fire Company. Certificates of Commendation were awarded to firefighters in recognition of their decades-long commitment to providing fire rescue, fire prevention, and public education services to Abington and surrounding communities.

Approximately 80 volunteer firefighters attended wearing their Class A uniforms. While each person who was alive that day likely remembers where he or she was when they learned of the terrorist attacks, for firefighters the Sept. 11th memories hit a little

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Abington Township Fire Department members gather to listen to the Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums at the township's September 11th Reflection and Renewal Ceremony.



Roslyn Fire Company member Ben Walker met with community members during the NAACP Unity Day celebration Sept. 10th.

ATFD Provides Smoke Detectors to Residents at Unity Day

Abington Township Fire Department gave away smoke detectors and provided community members with some valuable fire safety tips during the Sept. 10th Unity Day celebration, an event held at Crestmont Park and sponsored by the Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP.

Members of the ATFD's Roslyn Fire Company attended the event to present community members with smoke detectors, fire safety tips, and information about becoming

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"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 Presented with Fire Safety Award

The Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) was awarded the 2011 Chief Robert W. Little, Jr. Memorial Fire Safety Education Award September 23 during the Annual Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Fire Safety Education Award is presented to the top nine fire companies or departments who have done an outstanding job of providing fire safety education programs to their residents. The ATFD won first place in Division A, which is for departments serving a population of 10,000 or more. First prize recipients received an engraved plaque and \$800. Participants had to submit a three-ring binder with materials to substantiate fire safety efforts, as well as an essay.

"The ATFD is strongly committed to fire safety education and each year makes many efforts to reach out to citizens of all ages to make sure they understand what they can do to prevent or escape from emergency situations. It is gratifying to know that our efforts have been recognized by our peers," said Jeff Glynn, Community Service and Public Education Specialist.

Fire Prevention Week Draws Hundreds Out to Firehouses

Hundreds of families toured Weldon Fire Company and learned valuable safety tips Oct 13 as part of Abington Township Fire Department's observance of Fire Prevention Week.

Large crowds turned out despite the soggy weather and delighted as their children climbed up into fire trucks, donned plastic firefighter hats and took turns learning how to extinguish grill fires and toured the Fire Safety House. Firefighters

greeted residents and encouraged those interested in volunteering to serve the department.

"Fire Prevention Night is very important because we can show the public exactly how essential it is for people to know what to do when there is a fire," said Catherine Henninger, a Fire Police Lieutenant with Weldon. "There are a lot of activities for kids to help them understand fire safety."

ATFD Honored at Sept. 11 Ceremony

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closer to home given the sacrifices made by so many emergency responders.

"What it means to us is we lost 343 of our fellow firefighters that day," said Augie Falbo, President of the Abington Fire Company. "We were affected to the point that we wanted to hop into our trucks and drive there."

Chief Engineer Norman Bauer of Edge Hill Fire Company agreed. He recalled watching TV news coverage of the aftermath of the attacks with other non-firefighter colleagues who were commenting on the firefighters who were filmed going into the damaged skyscrapers.

"The people I was watching with said, 'Those firefighters are absolutely courageous going in there like that.' And I said, 'Looking at it from this vantage point, they shouldn't be going in; but if I was there, I'd be doing the same thing,'" he said.

Chief Chris Bors of McKinley Fire Company agreed, saying, "Any firefighter would have done the same thing."

The images and news that followed the attacks highlighted the sacrifices made by so many firefighters and called the public's attention to the bravery of these public servants, explained Chief Bors.

"When people discuss your job with you, Sept. 11th invariably comes up," he said. "I don't know that it's changed the

Abington Fire Co. Gets New Engine



Squad 100 is a 2011 Pierce Arrow Rescue Pumper featuring a 1500 GPM pump with a foam system and a 10 KW generator.

(Continued from page 1) **ATFD Gives Out Smoke Detectors** ing a volunteer firefighter. In addition to promoting fire safety education, the event represented a chance for residents to get to know their local firefighters and look at the ATFD's equipment and apparatus.

Ben Walker, a fire policeman, said attending public events gives firefighters the opportunity to interact with residents in a non-emergency situation.

"Events like this bring out awareness of what we do and offer us the chance to talk with people under good circumstances," he said.

Assistant Engineer Chris Strange said hosting an open house during Fire Prevention Week is valuable not only to the community but to firefighters as well. While most community members understand that firefighters are there to help in an emergency, the work that they do to prevent emergencies is just as important.

"One of the most rewarding things for us is being at events like these," he said.

public's perception about firefighters, but it certainly increased awareness."

Mr. Bauer agreed, saying that in the days following Sept. 11th, he recalled people saluting ATFD trucks and clapping for volunteers when they responded to calls. Even recently, he said a member of the public reserved a parking spot for him, and thanked him for his service.

Events like the one held on Sept. 11th in Abington represent opportunities to remind people of the many others who are called into service when there is a public emergency, said Mr. Falbo.

"It's important to keep the community aware of what the armed services do, and what the police and firefighters do," he said.