



ATFD Responding

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ATFD's Roslyn Fire Co. Honored at Unity Day

The Roslyn Fire Company was honored with community service awards from the Willow Grove branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Pennsylvania State Senate, and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives at the annual Unity Day celebration held in Abington Township on September 11, 2010.

To celebrate the company's commitment to Unity Day and its service to all residents of the township, the Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP presented members of the fire company with a plaque. The recognition came on a fitting day as the nation reflected on the heroic efforts and sacrifices made by firefighters and emergency personnel responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

"It is important to give an award like this to the ATFD because they have attended this event for many years and are so responsive to serving and respecting our citizens," said Valerie Ward, Unity Day coordinator. "They always come when called. You can count on them."

In addition to receiving an award from the NAACP, Roslyn accepted citations from Senator LeAnna Washington (State Senate), and Rep. Josh



Seen here are members of the Roslyn Fire Company accepting an award from the members of the Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP at Unity Day on Sept. 11th.

Shapiro (State House of Representatives).

"It is always exciting when one of our member companies is honored for its contributions to community safety, and we congratulate the members of the Roslyn Fire Company on these accomplishments," said David Schramm, Fire Services Administrator for the ATFD.

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:

John Bothwell
Mike Ratka (Assistant)

Fire Training Coordinator:

Larry Stiefen
Michael Jones (Assistant)

Operations Support:

Joe Dougherty
Tom McAneny
Chris Mc Loone
Ed Wurster



Videographer Dave Thomas, left, films McKinley Fire Company member Walt Blasy.

Fifth Public Service Announcement Focuses on Fall Fire Safety

The Abington Township Fire Department concluded filming its series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in late summer with an episode designed to teach residents safety tips for the fall season.

McKinley Fire Company's Walt Blasy and his son Kyle provided some of the narration for the PSA, which instructs residents to schedule routine maintenance for their heating systems, to keep gutters and windows clear from leaves and debris, and to beware of safety issues involved with Halloween costumes and decorations.

This fifth PSA has been airing on township cable channels (Comcast Channel 43 and Verizon Channel 24).



"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 Reaches Out to Students at Mock Crash, Service Learning Day

Thirty-one Abington Senior High School students had the opportunity to become firefighters for a day when they participated in Service Learning Day at Abington Township Fire Department's (ATFD) training facility May 28th. Seen below are those who participated in the event, which gives teens a chance to operate hoses, crawl through a burning building, extinguish grill fires, and learn about firefighting.



ATFD members cut away the side of a car during the mock crash held at Abington Senior High School May 26th. The mock crash is held annually prior to the senior prom to teach students about the dangers of impaired driving.

Fire Companies Welcome Residents for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3-9

Nearly 3,000 township residents visited Abington Township Fire Department's five fire companies as part of Fire Prevention Week, which was observed Oct. 3-9.

The ATFD's all-volunteer companies – Abington, Edge Hill, McKinley, Roslyn and Weldon – invited families to stop by their firehouses throughout the week to collect fire safety information, climb into fire trucks, extinguish grill fires, meet firefighters, and participate in plenty of other activities designed to educate young and old alike about fire prevention.

“Not only is this important for Weldon, but it's important for the community as well,” said Captain Chris Mc Loone at Weldon Fire Company's open house on Oct. 7th. “We hand out a tremendous amount of fire safety information. This event has a real educational feel to it.”

Edge Hill Fire Company Captain Tom McAnaney agreed, noting how important it is to teach fire safety to youngsters.

“We try to teach kids how to properly deal with fire so it becomes ingrained,” he said.

Capt. Mc Loone estimated that during Weldon's Fire Prevention Week programs



During Fire Prevention Week, Weldon Fire Company member Ben Melissen signs activity cards for youngsters who attended the Oct. 7th Fire Prevention Week event.

between 1,000 and 1,200 community members were exposed to that valuable fire safety information. In addition to educating families, the event was also an opportunity to recruit possible members.

“Every time we have one of these events, there's interest,” said Capt. Mc Loone. “Whether they are junior firefighters or active firefighters, we usually get a few people who decide to join us.”

“Even those who are too young to join could be possible recruits some day,” added Edge Hill Fire Company member Mike Plewinski.

“We have guys in the department who remember coming to these events,” he said.

In addition to serving educational and recruitment purposes, the open houses are also a way for community members to meet the firefighters who volunteer their time and to learn how critical community support of fire companies can be. Capt. Mc Loone noted that Weldon recently purchased a new engine and had asked the community to contribute toward the cost. The new truck was on display Oct. 7th.

“This event gives people an opportunity to see some of the things they have helped us purchase,” said Capt. Mc Loone. “They can see where their money is going and we can say ‘thank you.’”

Fire Prevention Week is a national campaign that has been observed since 1922 during the Sunday-through-Saturday period in which Oct. 9th falls. It is held during this time to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.