



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED AT TOWNSHIP MEETING FOR WINNING STATE FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AWARD

ABINGTON – The Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) was recognized by the Township Board of Commissioners Nov. 10 for receiving the 2011 Chief Robert W. Little Jr. Memorial Fire Safety Education Award given out by the Firemen’s Association of the State of Pennsylvania (FASP).

Jerry Poland, Director for the Firemen’s Association, attended the meeting to present ATFD representatives with a plaque and to recognize the department for the many efforts it has made to educate the community and prevent fires. Mr. Poland said the ATFD’s nomination stood out from the many others submitted, particularly because it is clear that the department weaves fire prevention and safety education into everything it does.

The Fire Safety Education Award is presented to the top nine fire companies or departments (three per division) 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 are awarded an engraved plaque and \$800, which the ATFD received when it attended the annual FASP conference in September.

In order to be considered for the award, participants had to submit a three-ring binder with materials to substantiate the contestant’s efforts to promote fire safety, as well as a 250-word essay describing related programs.

The ATFD has a comprehensive fire safety education program that includes regular observances of Fire Prevention Week during which visitors can receive valuable fire safety education information; annual visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities as well as public, private and parochial schools; and participation in annual community events like National Pre-Night Out and NAACP Unity Day, where ATFD tents are set up to include educational materials and other props designed to teach visitors about fire safety.

One of the most innovative fire safety education initiatives the department completed was the production of five public service announcement videos that can be viewed on the township cable channel or the ATFD website (AbingtonFD.org). These announcements were original productions that featured the on-camera talents of volunteer firefighters delivering seasonal messages about fire safety in the winter, fall and summer months, as well as important safety lessons on home escape plans and fire hazards in the home.

The ATFD is an all-volunteer force made up of five fire companies all operating within Abington Township. The five companies that form the ATFD are Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, and Roslyn. The service area is made up of approximately 15 square miles of Abington Township and is comprised of residential, commercial, educational, medical, light industrial, and other suburban properties. The ATFD serves approximately 55,000 residents. The ATFD headquarters is located at 1176 Old York Road in Abington. For more information, call (267) 536-1055 or visit AbingtonFD.org.