



## **OPEN HOUSE AT WELDON FIRE COMPANY OCT. 13 DRAWS MANY FAMILIES OUT FOR EVENING OF CAMRADERIE AND FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION**

ABINGTON – 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 tour the Safety House trailer. 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 important 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.”

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.

In addition to Weldon, Abington, Edge Hill, McKinley and Roslyn fire companies also held open houses the week of Oct. 10 and Oct. 14, educating thousands of families about the many ways they can protect themselves from fires and other accidents.

Fire Prevention Week is a national campaign that has been observed since 1922 on the Sunday through Saturday period in which Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> falls. It is held during this time to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed more than 250 people. Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) establishes a different educational theme for Fire Prevention Week.

For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). For more information about the ATFD, call (267) 536-1055 or visit [www.AbingtonFD.org](http://www.AbingtonFD.org).

