



Abington Township Fire Department

***Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) Participates
in May 22, 2013 Mock Accident that Reinforces
the Dangers of Reckless Behavior***

ABINGTON — From a distance, the scene could be confused for a real car accident, but the blood, crashed cars and injured teenagers were part of the May 22 mock crash responded to by the Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD). The event demonstrated what could go terribly wrong when Abington Senior High School seniors mix alcohol and dangerous decisions with their prom plans.

The mock crash is staged every May shortly before Abington Senior High School's prom to reinforce the potential consequences of drinking and driving. Student actors, who are typically members of Student Council or Students Against Destructive Decisions, portrayed the accident victims of a side impact collision caused by a drunken driver. During the demonstration, fire trucks from ATFD's Abington and Weldon Fire companies arrived at the scene to rescue and extract the victims from the wrecked vehicles, while paramedics from the Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad treated those who were injured in the accident. The "deceased" were placed in body bags and removed from the area by a local funeral director.

Abington Fire Company Lt. Michael Jones Jr. said the mock crash helps students fully comprehend the gravity of drunken driving and reckless decisions because they are able to see the consequences of those actions right before them.

"In the blink of an eye, your entire life can change because of one wrong choice," Jones said. "We are here to help students to understand it does not have to be that way — they have the power to make informed, educated decisions."



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Weldon Fire Company Lt. Jon Gerhard concurred with Jones' sentiments, adding often when students encounter car accidents, it does not have much gravity because they do not know the people involved personally. What the mock crash does is places their friends in real life, dramatic situations to show what could occur as a result of poor judgments.

Abington Senior High School teacher Gary Wiley said that educators plan the mock crash several days before the prom because they want event's critical meaning to be on the forefront of students' minds as they head to the celebration.

"You can teach lessons from books and videos, but the mock crash powerfully shows in an instant what those teaching tools can't," Wiley added.

The ATFD headquarters is located at 1176 Old York Road in Abington. For more information, call 267-536-1055 or visit www.AbingtonFD.org.