



ATFD RESPONDING

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ATFD STAFF

ATFD Fire Chiefs

Abington Fire Co.
Chief Michael Jones

McKinley Fire Co.
Chief Shawn Philipson

Weldon Fire Co.
Chief Bud Gerhard

Edge Hill Fire Co.
Chief Frank Schuck

Roslyn Fire Co.
Chief Michael Ratka

Fire Marshal:
John Rohrer

Fire Services
Administrator:
David 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 Siefken
Michael Jones
(Assistant)

A Change of Chiefs at Roslyn Fire Company

After 10 years as Chief of Roslyn Fire Company, Dale Jonas has turned the reins over to his former deputy, Michael Ratka.

Thank You, Chief Jonas, for 24 Years and Counting

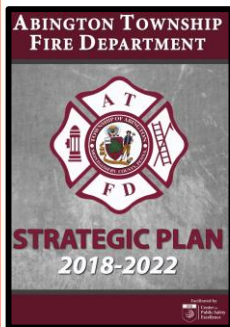
Jonas will continue his 24-years-and-counting as an active Roslyn firefighter. "The people I have met over my volunteer career are just incredible, and I'm looking out for my neighborhood, my community, the place where my kids live," he said.

Jonas took off his white chief's hat to spend more time with those kids, Miguel, and Ava, and his wife, Michele, and also so that other Roslyn firefighters could move up in rank. "That's important for the future of the company," he added. "I know I'm not going to do this forever."



Considering his dad, Dale Jonas Sr., just celebrated 60 years with Roslyn, the Abington Township Fire Department is hopeful the former chief will serve the community for years to come. *Continued on page 2*

New Strategic Plan Goals Map The Abington Township Fire Department's Continued Commitment to Excellence in Fire Service



The Abington Township Fire Department, its five member companies, and their 220-plus volunteers have always been dedicated to providing professional fire suppression and prevention services that meet the specific needs of the township and its residents. But this goal is not a static target. Abington Township continues to evolve. The materials used to build structures change, as does construction type and density. The challenges of operating and funding a large volunteer organization and finding and keeping enough volunteers to do so successfully also change. This is why the fire department has developed a new five-year strategic plan.

After a series of workshops to gather feedback from people who live and work in Abington as well as members of our five fire companies, the ATFD developed six strategic goals for the period from 2018 through 2022:

- Create an awareness program to better inform the community about fire department operations.
- Enhance firefighter health and safety programs.
- Implement new recruitment and retention programs to ensure adequate personnel to accomplish our mission.
- Improve physical resources and facilities, including fire stations and our fire training facility, to meet the expectations of the community.
- Continue to improve our programs and facilities in order to support our successful culture of training.
- Update all ATFD documents and operating guidelines.

These ideas are not brand-new concepts to the ATFD. The organization's achievements in these areas and more are evidenced by its status as the only volunteer fire department in Pennsylvania to achieve Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) accreditation. Developing a new five-year plan is just one CFAI requirement for re-accreditation, which ATFD will seek this year. To learn more, please see the full Abington Township Fire Department Strategic Plan at www.AbingtonFD.org.



Our Mission: The Abington Township Fire Department is a dedicated team of volunteer firefighters comprised of five individual fire companies unified as one department with a mission to provide excellent fire, rescue, fire prevention, and public education services to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.



A Change of Chiefs at Roslyn Fire Company *(continued from page 1)*

Thank You, Chief Ratka, for Taking on This New Challenge

Ratka became a volunteer firefighter in Jenkintown, his hometown, in 1978. He moved to Abington Township and joined Roslyn Fire Company after marrying his wife, Jane, in 1986. They have three children: Ashley, Kelly, and Michael. Prior to serving as deputy chief, Ratka was assistant chief, captain, and lieutenant.

Part of Ratka's new role is to encourage more people to volunteer. Roslyn, and all ATFD's fire companies, need more volunteers who fight fires and respond to accidents and other emergencies. However, they also need people to fill non-emergency roles "We are still a business in that we have to keep the heat on, the electric on, we have to do paperwork and accounting – and that is all done by us, too," Ratka explained.

Why should someone volunteer? "I can't explain the joy that it will give you when you go out there and you help somebody," he said. "It's a great feeling."

Learn more or sign up at www.AbingtonFD.org.



John Rohrer Named Abington Township Fire Marshal After Retirement of Ken Clark



John Rohrer

After 49 years of serving the citizens of Abington Township, Ken Clark has retired from his fire marshal post. New Fire Marshal John Rohrer has been promoted to the position after serving as assistant fire marshal.

The fire marshal and his team determine the cause and the origin of fires. They conduct fire safety inspections, review and issue permits for fire protection systems, and provide fire prevention and education services to the community.

The Abington Township Fire Department appreciates and thanks Ken Clark for his fine service. ATFD looks forward to working with John Rohrer and congratulates him on this well-earned promotion.



Ken Clark

McKinley Fire Company Has a New Special Services Truck



McKinley Fire Company recently added a new special services truck to its service fleet. Check out the 2017 Ford F350 crew cab, a four-wheel drive with a utility truck body. This truck will prove a valuable addition to McKinley's fleet, helping the company get firefighters and equipment to the scene of a fire or other emergency.

ATFD Volunteers Donated Over 28,000 Hours of Service to the Township in 2017

Here's a snapshot of some of the many ways volunteers from the Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, and Roslyn fire companies served township residents in 2017.

Emergency responses:

1,576

Hours spent responding to emergencies:

9,851

Hours spent in training:

9,840

Community & administrative service hours:

8,506

Total volunteer hours provided:

28,197

