



# Abington Township Fire Department

Volunteers Proudly Serving Our Community for over 100 Years

[AbingtonFD.org](http://AbingtonFD.org)

## Volunteer Firefighters Meet Professional Standards to Serve Our Township

The all-volunteer **Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD)** has been part of this great community since 1889. Currently, 230 volunteer firefighters serving our five fire companies – Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, and Roslyn – proudly protect the same place they and their families call home.

Our members are volunteers, but they are well-trained professional firefighters whose mission is to provide excellent fire, rescue, fire prevention, and public education services to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.



Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International

In 2014, the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) recognized that professionalism by granting accreditation to ATFD – the only all-volunteer department in Pennsylvania to hold this prestigious designation. A long process of applications, assessment, and planning led to our CFAI designation. That effort became a road map to continuous improvement for five already excellent fire companies. ATFD measured up to CFAI standards in more than 300 criteria in areas such as fire suppression, fire training, strategic planning, fire prevention education programs, finances, physical and human resources, emergency management, and firefighter safety.

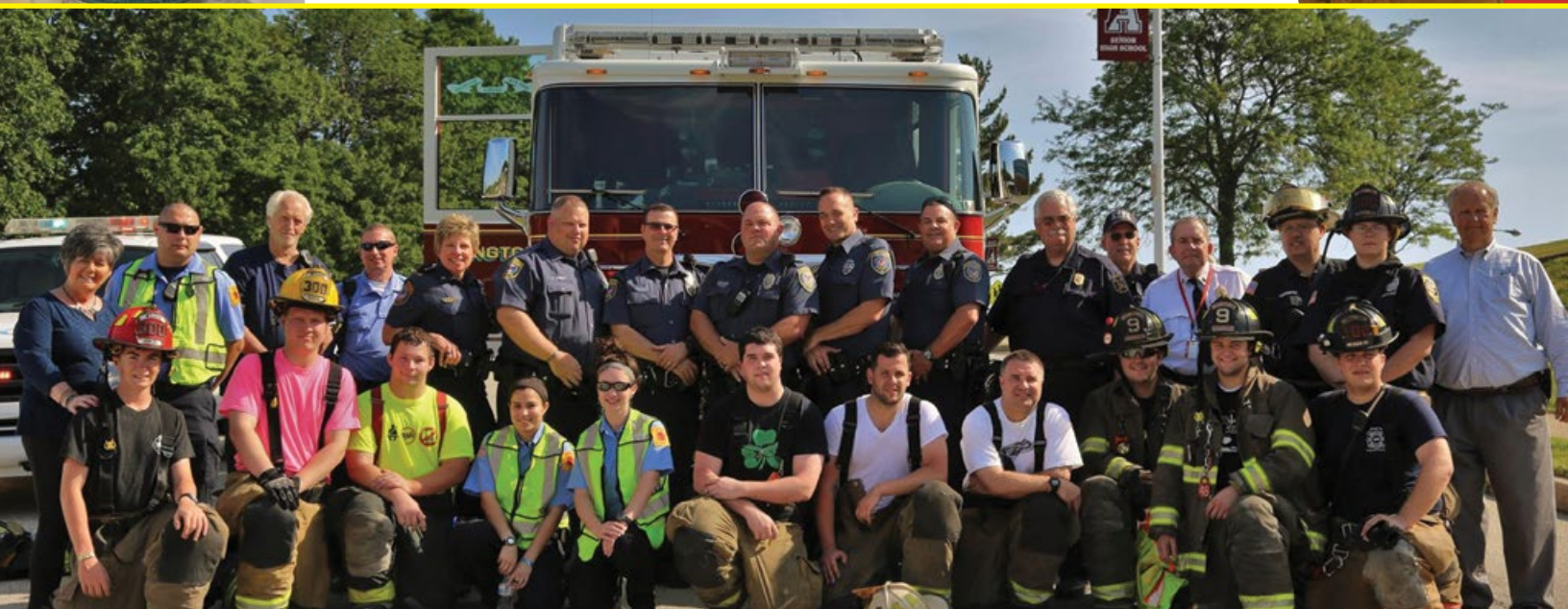
There is nothing subtle about a fire truck or rescue vehicle rushing to help with lights and sirens blaring. Here are some ways ATFD supports our core mission that you may not know about:

**Community Events:** ATFD volunteers regularly participate in community events such as Pre-National Night Out and the Willow Grove NAACP's Unity Day Celebration.

**Open Houses:** Every October, all five ATFD fire companies host Fire Prevention Week open houses that allow kids and adults to learn fire prevention techniques, see demonstrations of firefighter skills, and tour the stations and apparatus.

**High School Partnership:** ATFD fosters a close relationship with Abington Senior High School students through its Volunteer Firefighters Club and special events such as the 24-Hour Relay Challenge, Student Government Day, and Service Learning Day.

**Read on to learn more.**



# Keeping ATFD Strong Saves Taxpayers Millions Annually Township and Community Support Required

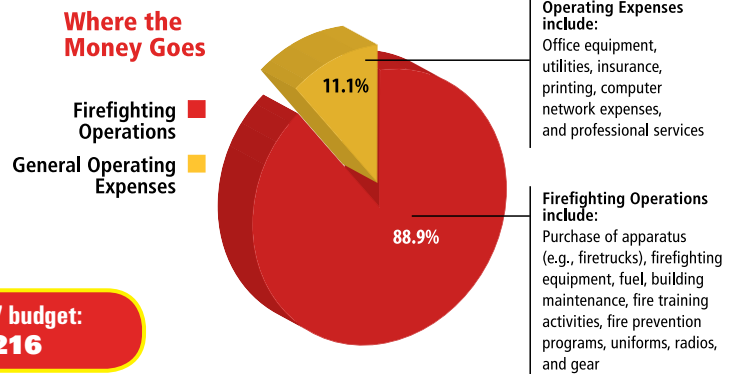
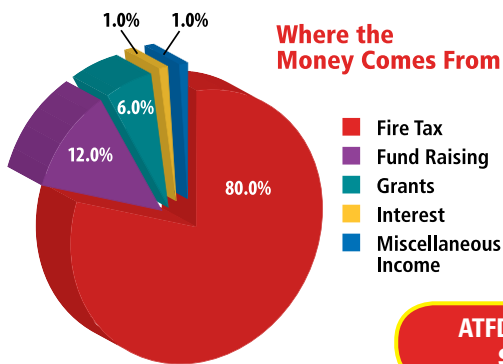
Saving lives and property is our mission. However, did you know Abington Township Fire Department and its five fire companies also save township taxpayers millions of dollars every year?

By law, the township must ensure residents have adequate emergency services. Without ATFD's volunteer firefighters, Abington would have to fund a paid fire department to provide these vital services. Replacing just one volunteer with a paid firefighter would cost about \$100,000 in salary and benefits – and ATFD has 230 active volunteers!

While volunteers don't draw salaries, fire houses, fire trucks, equipment, and gear all have considerable cost.

ATFD and its five fire companies cover these costs largely through money generated by a small fire tax, along with grants and fundraising. Grants are important, but they cannot be counted on. Volunteers who not only respond to and train for emergencies, but also have full-time jobs and families, have limited time for fundraising activities. This is why the ATFD must seek municipal funding each year.

The bottom line: By adequately supporting our 100 percent volunteer fire department, Abington Township Commissioners save taxpayers millions of dollars annually that would otherwise be needed to pay the salaries and benefits of paid firefighters. Please let your commissioners know you support adequate funding of the ATFD.



## Equipping a Single Abington Township Volunteer Firefighter Costs \$15,159





“ **ATFD did a great job. We're glad you're there for us!** ”

“ **We feel that the ATFD were very respectful of our house. Spoke to us very politely and speedily dealt with our emergency. They were great.** ”

“ **Hope we don't need you again, but if we do, we know we are in good hands. Thank you to all.** ”

## Our Volunteers at a Glance

- Our 100 percent volunteer fire department consists of 230 members across five fire companies.



- At a time when the ranks of volunteer firefighters are shrinking, our numbers are stable.
- Average years of service: 18
- ATFD has 76 Life Members who each have more than 20 years of active service!
- ATFD's thriving junior firefighter program lets the next generation of volunteers get started at age 16. We currently have 10 juniors.



## Abington Township Fire Department by the Numbers



**Volunteers:** 230

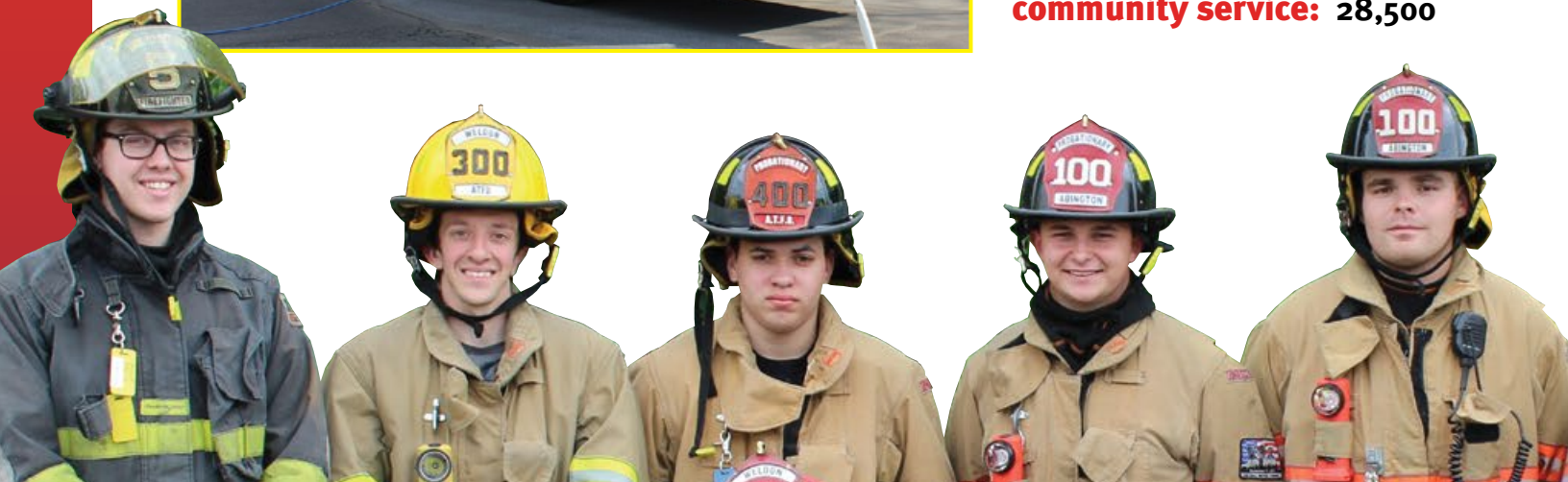
**Fire companies:** Five

**Residents served:** 55,000

**Service area:** 15 square miles

**Annual emergency calls:** 1,580

**Annual combined hours of community service:** 28,500



“ Thank you very much! You did a great job and I will be grateful forever. ”

“ You were fabulous! Thank you all very much.  
We were so impressed by the wonderful service we received. ”

## ATFD Volunteers: Prepared to Respond

Abington Township Fire Department's volunteers spend more than 8,000 hours per year, combined, in training for an ever-growing list of situations they may face as first responders.

The great majority of this training takes place at ATFD's own training facility, built in 1958 and updated over the years to allow training in a variety of skills that has evolved along with the township's needs and the circumstances of an ever-changing world.

Every firefighter in Pennsylvania must complete Firefighter I — a 200-hour course of classroom and hands-on training designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to safely perform essential firefighting tasks. ATFD offers this course annually.

To move beyond the basics, ATFD leaders analyze data to track changes in township land use and in the types of emergency

calls received.

They also consider broader state and national trends, good and bad, that could influence the types of skills ATFD volunteers may need. All of this shapes the training courses ATFD offers.

This data steered the department toward the recent purchase of the Special Operations Training Prop and helped to determine the Prop's design. The Prop allows Department volunteers to learn and practice confined space and structural collapse skills that enable them to rescue people from small spaces, such as a manhole, or within a damaged or fallen structure.



The training facility includes a special tower where fires can be set for live burn drills. Other key training topics include firefighter safety, first aid including CPR and AED use, proper use of ropes and knots, and lessons on building construction that familiarize firefighters with typical materials and building layouts they will encounter in emergencies.

Learning these skills in safe simulated circumstances boosts our firefighters' confidence that they can handle the same circumstances in a real-life situation.





“ Care was taken with our belongings.  
Thank you! ”

“ Appreciated that the fire  
chief called the next day to see how  
we were doing. ”





# There's Something for Everyone at Abington Township Fire Department



Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) always needs more volunteer firefighters. However, it takes much more than fighting fires to run a successful fire company. ATFD and our five fire companies also have non-emergency volunteer roles in finance, record keeping, building maintenance, and fire prevention education, to name a few.

Whatever your skill set, whatever your interests, whatever time you can invest, ATFD needs YOU to become part of our volunteer family.

To learn more about joining ATFD as a firefighter or non-emergency volunteer, visit [www.AbingtonFD.org](http://www.AbingtonFD.org) or call 267-536-1055.



## Abington Township Fire Department

1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001 • [AbingtonFD.org](http://AbingtonFD.org)



**Abington  
Fire Company**  
Station 100  
1920 Horace Avenue  
Abington, PA  
215-572-0312



**McKinley  
Fire Company**  
Station 200  
893 Jenkintown Road  
Elkins Park, PA  
215-572-6096



**Weldon  
Fire Company**  
Station 300  
412 North Easton Road  
Glenside, PA  
215-886-2373



**Edge Hill  
Fire Company**  
Station 400  
2843 Limekiln Pike  
North Hills, PA  
215-885-7178



**Roslyn  
Fire Company**  
Station 500  
1128 Bradfield Road  
Roslyn, PA  
215-885-4490