



# ATFD RESPONDING

Volume 15, Issue 2 – September 2019

## Abington Township Fire Department Wins Statewide Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Award

The Firemen’s Association of the State of Pennsylvania awarded its 2019 Provident Recruitment & Retention Award to the Abington Township Fire Department (A.T.F.D.).

“Congratulations!” wrote Sandy Waybrant of the Awards Committee in an August 1 letter announcing this achievement. “The program you were responsible for resulted in an increase in membership sustained over two years.”

It is extremely rare for a township the size of Abington to have a 100% volunteer fire department. The A.T.F.D. has added 95 new members since Jan. 1, 2013 – including seven new members in 2019! - and currently has 220 active members.

At a time when a decrease in volunteer firefighters has reached critical levels in Pennsylvania, this stability says a lot about the dedication and commitment of each one of the A.T.F.D.’s volunteers, experienced and new. This award is for them.

### ATFD STAFF

#### ATFD Fire Chiefs

Abington Fire Co.  
Chief Michael Jones

McKinley Fire Co.  
Chief Shawn Philippen

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

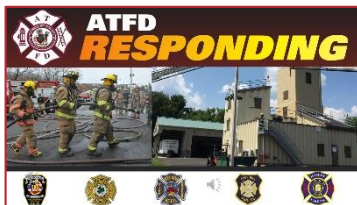
#### Administrative Support Team

Computer  
Network  
Administrator:  
John Bothwell  
Mike Ratka  
(Assistant)

Fire Training  
Coordinator:  
Larry Siefken  
Michael Jones  
(Assistant)

### Introducing Ladder 100!

Abington Fire Company recently took delivery of this new 2019 Pierce Arrow XT. Now known as Ladder 100, the truck has a 107-foot ladder, can store 500 gallons of water in an on-board tank, and can pump 1,500 gallons per minute.



### Coming Soon: Video Snapshots of the A.T.F.D.

The Abington Township Fire Department is producing a series of short videos designed to give township residents and officials a better understanding of what we do and how we do it.



The first of these video snapshots features our state-of-the-art training facility. Having our own training area – which is unusual for a volunteer fire department – means our volunteers can learn to fight fires and keep their skills current close to home. That’s a huge time savings!



Established in 1958 and regularly updated, our facility includes a live burn tower where firefighters practice by fighting actual fires and a rescue prop that simulates rescues from confined spaces and collapsed structures, along with classroom space.

The training facility video will be shown during a township meeting. Two other A.T.F.D. videos, one on the ways we collect and use data and another featuring the story of one of our volunteer firefighters, will follow.



**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.T.F.D. With Our Community

Abington Township Fire Department volunteers love taking part in community activities, particularly with the next generation. Some recent highlights include participating in the Mock Crash and 24-hour Relay Challenge at Abington High School, inviting local high school students to learn about the fire department during Service Learning Day, and accompanying the high school's Firefighter Club on a visit with the Philadelphia Fire Department.



## You're Invited: October 2019 Fire Prevention Open House Schedule Announced

The Abington Township Fire Department and the Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, and Roslyn fire companies are happy to announce our 2019 Fire Prevention Open House schedule. Township residents of all ages are invited to tour our fire houses, meet firefighters, see live demonstrations, sit in our fire trucks, and participate in hands-on activities designed to teach essential fire prevention and safety skills. It's a series of fun evenings, and there will even be snacks!



## 2019 Fire Prevention Open House Schedule 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Station	Address	Day/Date
Abington	1920 Horace Avenue, Abington	Monday, October 7
Weldon	412 North Easton Road, Glenside	Thursday, October 10
Edge Hill	2843 Limekiln Pike, North Hills	Friday, October 11
McKinley	893 Jenkintown Road, Elkins Park	Tuesday, October 15
Roslyn	1128 Bradfield Road, Roslyn	Wednesday, October 16

