



# ATFD *RESPONDING*

AbingtonFD.org

## 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

Director of Fire  
& Emergency  
Management  
Services:  
Thomas P. McAneney

Fire Department  
Secretary:  
Lisa Scholly

### Administrative Support Team

Computer  
Network  
Administrator:

John Bothwell  
Mike Ratka  
(Assistant)

Fire Training  
Coordinator:

Larry Siefken  
Michael Jones  
(Assistant)

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## A Change in A.T.F.D. Administration

### David Schramm Has Retired After 18 Jam-Packed Years



**David Schramm has retired after 18 years.**

After nearly two decades as Abington Township Fire Department Fire Services Administrator, David Schramm has retired. His former duties are now those of Thomas McAneney, who will also work with the township's Police Department as Director of Fire and Emergency Management Services.

Dave, a former Weldon Fire Company chief who remains an active volunteer, began his Abington Township Fire Department (A.T.F.D.) administrative career in 2004 – the same year he retired as an Abington Junior High School assistant principal. His first focus was leading the A.T.F.D. toward accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). It was a huge undertaking, requiring the establishment of new programs and the collection of data to confirm A.T.F.D.'s excellence in fire suppression, fire training, strategic planning, finances, education, physical and human resources, and firefighter safety. A.T.F.D. achieved accreditation in 2014, was re-accredited in 2019, and is Pennsylvania's only all-volunteer department to be CFAI certified.

Dave drew upon his experience as a fire chief and firefighter when instituting a free annual firefighter

physical program, investing in the Firefighter Training Facility, establishing a successful grant writing initiative, and creating a robust volunteer recruitment and retention program. During a period when most volunteer fire companies lost membership, the A.T.F.D. has maintained a roster of at least 220 active volunteers.

He also drew upon his experience as an educator to strengthen the relationship between the A.T.F.D. and the school district and its students. He promoted the junior firefighter program, supported the high school's junior firefighter club, and ensured the A.T.F.D. took an active role in the Mock Crash, 24-hour Relay, and Service Learning Day.

"He's really been the driving force in making us one fire department with common guidelines and common operations, not just five fire companies that all happen to be in Abington Township. I think that's a huge accomplishment," said Tom, his successor. "I will be continuing the work he has done to keep the ball moving forward so we remain a strong volunteer department into the future."

### Thomas McAneney Brings Fire & Law Enforcement Experience to a New Position

Tom is an Edge Hill Fire Company volunteer and deputy chief. Before assuming his new role early this year, he served as Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township and Penn State Abington. He was previously the director of a large ambulance company and a Montgomery County Assistant District attorney.

"It is rare to find one person with experience in law enforcement, emergency management and fire suppression. Tom has all of that and more," said Dave. "Our township is very fortunate to have him in his new role, and I am thrilled to have someone so capable serving our fire companies."



**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.**



## Returning to a Pre-Pandemic Normal



**A.T.F.D. and our five fire companies have returned to hands-on, in person training and drills at our Training Facility.**

In-person firefighting and rescue practice drills have resumed at Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, and Roslyn fire companies. On August 1, a new group of

future firefighters will begin their Firefighter 1 class at our Training Facility. And everyone at Abington Township Fire Department (A.T.F.D.) is very hopeful that this October, we will open our bay doors to welcome everyone to our first Fire

Prevention Open House since 2019.

With the number of vaccinated firefighters approaching 90% and vaccinations on the rise and COVID cases falling in the community, The A.T.F.D. is returning to our pre-pandemic normal.

It is great to have reached this point, and also wonderful to report that even during the worst of the pandemic, A.T.F.D. volunteers responded to all emergencies. Just as incredible: We continued to welcome new volunteers. In fact, 24 members of the community joined our fire companies in 2020!



## Gear Up. Get in the Action. **VOLUNTEER!**

The Abington Township Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization. It's your neighbors who – after receiving state-of-the-art training – respond to fires, accidents, and other emergencies, protecting lives and property in our community. They need YOU to join them! Don't let anything keep you from making a difference and having the experience of a lifetime! To learn more or fill out a volunteer inquiry form, visit [AbingtonFD.org](http://AbingtonFD.org)

## A.T.F.D. Launches a New Website

The Abington Township Fire Department recently launched a new website that provides a clearinghouse of department information for the community and our firefighters.

We kept the same address – [www.AbingtonFD.org](http://www.AbingtonFD.org) – but added new and updated information, photos, and videos to teach the public about who we are, what we do, and the various volunteer roles available.

We also re-organized and added new information to the password-protected portion of the website that our firefighters use.



## Check Out Our Recruitment Postcard!

The Abington Township Fire Department printed this oversized postcard to let our neighbors know their help is needed here and give them an at-a-glance flavor of volunteer firefighting.



## A Snapshot of A.T.F.D.'s 2020 Service to Abington Township

**Emergency Responses:**

**1,712**

**Hours spent responding to emergencies:**

**7,508**

**Hours spent in training:**

**6,584**

**Community & administrative service hours:**

**3,673**

**Total volunteer hours provided**

**17,765**

