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# BUCKS COUNTY FIRE NEWS

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April 2018

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A PUBLICATION OF THE BUCKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' & FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

<http://www.buckscandff.com> Hot Line for Help: 267-893-5400

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The next meeting of the Chiefs' & Firefighters' Association will be held at Station 46, New Hope Eagle Fire Co. on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

7 PM Food

7:45 PM Meeting Start

Andrew Poulsen

Regional Channel Manager – Motorola (NJ, PA, DE & OH)

Public Sector - FirstNet Program will speak.

First responders, AT&T and the First Responder Network Authority have come together to build FirstNet, a dedicated communications tool created for and by public safety.

FirstNet is the nationwide public safety broadband network, services and solutions that are dedicated to First Responders and those that support them.

The May meeting will be held at Station 35, Lingohocken on May 21st.

## Highlights of the March Meeting:

There was a presentation on F-500 encapsulation agent. F-500 EA has an ability to cool a fire and surrounding structures, with the ability to absorb 6-10 times more heat

energy than plain water.

Instead of scalding steam, F-500 EA releases a warm vapor. Secondly, F-500 EA encapsulates fuels forming micelles or “chemical cocoons” that render the fuel nonflammable and nonignitable. Finally, F-500 EA interrupts the free radical chain reaction. Free radicals are unburned gases produced during the combustion process that turn into smoke and soot. Inhibiting the chain reaction results in less smoke and toxins and increases visibility.

Rapid cooling, Encapsulates the fuel, Interrupts the free radical chain reaction. These unique properties make F-500 Encapsulator Agent the most versatile firefighting agent available. Where foam has to form and maintain a perfect blanket to separate a fire from oxygen, F-500 EA merely needs to contact the fuel and vapors. F-500 EA is perfect for three-dimensional fires, plus F-500 EA is recommended for Class A, Class B (polar and nonpolar), Class K and Class D fires. There's no need to inventory Class A, AFFF and AR-

AFFF foams and specialized agents for Class D fires. F-500 EA can do it all. Doesn't use aeration, it is not a foam. It can be batch mixed in a booster tank or educted. For more information Ron Lowrey, Hazard Control Technologies, Inc. [rlowrey@hct-world.com](mailto:rlowrey@hct-world.com) or 724-612-3210

Lithium Batteries have created the need for a new Class L extinguisher.

Fran Hufnell will join the Training Committee.

Dave Hathaway is interested in hearing from anyone who may be interested in joining the Honor Guard.

[ffhathaway@msn.com](mailto:ffhathaway@msn.com)

Bob Grunmeier reported on the following Fire School topics.

The College has moved to the latest edition of NFPA 1002 2017 Edition Professional Qualifications for Driver Operator. The 2017 edition has removed the prerequisite certification of Firefighter 1 in accordance with NFPA 1002 for Driver Operator Pumper and Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply. To certify to Driver Operator Pumper, candidates will need the following training

courses: Pump 1; Pump 2; Apparatus Maintenance Course or equivalent driver operator experience; EVDT (Emergency Vehicle Driver Training).

To certify to Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply, candidates will need the following training courses: Rural Fire Ground Water Movement; Apparatus Maintenance Course or equivalent driver operator experience; EVDT (Emergency Vehicle Driver Training).

The College is also transitioning to the 2017 edition of NFPA 1006 Professional Qualification for the Technical Rescuer. Bob reported that the fire service will have two options for vehicle rescue training. One option would be through the Department of Health and the other option would be for professional certification through the Pro Board and the College.

The current DOH Vehicle Rescue Awareness and Operations course is 44hrs. The Pro Board certification course through the College is also 44hrs. The new Vehicle Rescue standard is aligned with NFPA 1670 and has three levels: Awareness, Operations, and Technician. The awareness level is required for operations and technician. The operations level involves extrication

from passenger vehicles and the technician level involves extrication from commercial vehicles.

Bob provided an update for the new NFPA 1072 Standard for Hazardous Materials & WMD. The College will be adding NFPA 1072 to their accreditation program by the end of 2018. Adding the new standard will not change course hours or skills requirements. The College will continue to maintain NFPA 472 accreditation, at this time.

The College has scheduled Firefighter 2 modules throughout the year so people can take the modules that they need to challenge Firefighter 2. Since most of the Firefighter 2 challengers do not meet the required educational levels, this format was implemented to provide training and certification testing opportunities for those firefighters seeking Firefighter 2 in accordance with NFPA 1001.

The price of the AHA First Aid cards increased to \$25.00 per card. CPR cards will remain at \$10.00 per card. Bob reminded fire officers to have their members preregister for courses. Course cancellations are based on the number of preregistered students. If people do not preregister,

course will be cancelled due to low enrollment.

Bob asked that people with issues or concerns with fire school policies, staff, or events contact him directly, instead of venting through social media without supported facts. Direct communications are the best means to express concerns and to acquire assistance or resolution.

The Hero Scholarship Fund Annual Golf Tournament will be held on August 27<sup>th</sup>, Details to follow.

Scott Forster announced that his department is nearing competition of a Drone program (lots of policy & procedures). They have two drones that can help with search & rescue, overflight of a fire, take pictures, has a thermal camera and will have the ability to down load to a Command Post. A demonstration will be scheduled at a future meeting. Frank Costner is in charge of the Website.

[frank@pidcockagency.com](mailto:frank@pidcockagency.com)

**Proposed Legislation - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA SENATE BILL No. 1079 Session of 2018. MARCH 15, 2018 the Office of the State Fire Commissioner shall establish guidelines for the use of money deposited into the Online Training Educator**

and Training Reimbursement Account and dedicated for the purposes of developing, delivering and sustaining training programs for firefighters. The guidelines shall provide that the money be used for online training for volunteer and career firefighters.

**I**n December, Congress passed the most sweeping tax reform legislation since 1986. Included in this legislation (P.L. 115-97) are two provisions that will greatly incentivize the installation of fire sprinklers. The National Fire Sprinkler Association appreciates the efforts and work that happened for 14+ years prior to this passage that allowed fire sprinklers to be included. Previously sprinkler systems in commercial structures were depreciated over a 39-year time horizon and residential structures over 27.5 years. Under the new law any sprinkler system installed after September 27, 2017 in either a commercial or residential structure until December 31, 2022 will be able to be fully expensed. Therefore, the property owner will be able to immediately write off the full cost of the sprinkler system.

**A**bout 452,000 Kidde models PI2010 and PI9010

smoke detectors sold at Home Depot, Walmart and other stores nationwide are being recalled after the company discovered the device may fail to alert consumers of smoke, the company said Wednesday. A yellow cap was left on some alarms, possibly preventing the device from working. The yellow cap covers one of two smoke sensors, the company said. If the sensors are affected, homeowners may not be alerted to a fire.

You can call 833-551-7739 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The potentially defective alarms were sold September 2016 through January 2018, the company said.

**W**ireless Interconnected Smoke Detectors – The new **10-year battery Wireless** detectors have a quick programming feature. A plastic tab is provided with each detector to be used as a screwdriver to turn ON the battery switch (10-year life begins). With all detectors turned ON, push and hold the button in the center of one detector (until you hear two deep beeps). They will communicate with each other and choose a frequency. Push same detector for 2 deep

beeps again when the “sonar” ping occurs) and they will announce “the number of detectors that have been connected”. If you add an additional detector after the first group is programmed, turn ON the new detector and push the center button on one of the original detectors and repeat above. The voice will state the total number of detectors that have been programmed. Good confirmation that all detectors are working together.

**UL** has released more than 250 technical changes to the smoke alarm standards, UL 217 UL 268. Revisions reflect updates to keep pace with technological advancements of smoke alarms and smoke detectors as well as to respond to new fire conditions. They include criteria to reduce nuisance alarms and address smoke characteristics between a fast moving and smoldering polyurethane foam fires. An 800-square-foot Smoke Detection Test Laboratory is now open for testing.

**T**he NFPA has reported that if you have a fire in a one- or two-family home, you are more likely to die in that fire today than you were in 1980. This is an incredibly powerful statement. Part of

why that fact is surprising is because so often all we hear and talk about is the incredible progress we have made against fires in homes, which encompass one- and two-family dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, row houses, and townhouses. And indeed, the trends have been incredibly positive. In 1980 there were about 734,000 home fires in the U.S. In 2016, there were about 352,000. The number of home fire deaths has also fallen, from about 5,200 in 1980 to 2,735 in 2016. The decline is attributed to widespread use of consumer smoke alarms, codes and code enforcement, safer products, and the impact of public education.

Even as the total number of fires and deaths has fallen, the number of fire deaths per 1,000 fires in one- and two-family homes has remained consistent, and in some years has even increased slightly. In 1980, the death rate per 1,000 reported fires in one- and two-family homes was 7.1. In 2016, the rate was nine deaths per 1,000 fires. By comparison, the fatality rate per 1,000 fires in apartment dwellings has decreased over that period, illustrating the effectiveness of code requirements in multifamily homes, which are subject to

stricter regulation than one- and two-family homes.

The reasons for the higher fatality rate in one- and two-family homes during fires are well known among the fire service and others and are being discussed more widely among public educators. Modern design and construction features such as unprotected lightweight construction, open floor plans, and synthetic furnishings can combine to make today's homes burn much faster than they used to.

Today, residents could have as little as two or three minutes to escape a home fire, which is down considerably from about eight minutes in the 1980s.

We are warning the public about these kinds of issues, just as we talk about how the majority of fire deaths happens in homes, the place people feel safest, and about the critical need to address the home fire problem. The fact that the risk of death during a fire is higher now than in the 1980s is an additional important piece of information that we have not yet added to our messaging—but we should. It's the kind of statistic that clearly illustrates the problem and shows why the solutions we advocate for are so critical. Without

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adequate smoke alarms, the life-saving benefit of home fire sprinklers, and a public educated about these facts, we cannot hope to change the trend anytime soon.

As we deal with a largely complacent public that believes it will somehow never be affected by fire, or with policymakers who are too easily swayed by special interests that seek to weaken codes, we are constantly looking for information that will shock and resonate with our audiences and prompt them to take action to better protect the public and our first responders. The fact that you are more likely to die in a home fire today than you were nearly 40 years ago will hopefully spur them to act.

**B**oth La Vegas, NV and Rockford, IL have passed residential sprinkler requirements for all new homes.

**S**aturday, May 19, 2018 is HomeFireSprinklerDay. The vast majority of fire deaths in North America happen at home. The time has come to bring attention to this problem--and its solution.

**N**FPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative, the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, and the

Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition-Canada are initiating Home Fire Sprinkler Day. This project tasks fire sprinkler advocates across North America with hosting events on the same day that promote home fire sprinklers. These events are aimed at raising awareness of this life-saving technology while breaking down the myths and legislative barriers to its use. The goal is to have safety advocates host at least one sprinkler-related event in all 50 states and in some Canadian provinces and territories.

**F**ree TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) Hazmat Training on Dow Chemical's Safety Train; Training to be held on April 27th and or April 28th at the Lower Bucks Public Safety Training Center. Two separate training tracks are offered each day (attendees only need to attend one day): One 3-hour program for Police / Emergency Managers and One 6-hour program for Fire and Hazmat Responders; Attendees are urged to pre-register for these classes as space is limited. (Directions on how to register found on flyer)  
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/sam+simon/16264c8ec82fcd95?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

**A** bipartisan measure authored by Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-08) to provide a boost of education aid for the children of fallen law enforcement and first responders who have died in the line of duty has been signed into law.

**C**ancer Prevention - Decontamination after a structure fire is a critical issue and the culture is changing rapidly. The idea is not going away as increasingly firefighters are realizing the way we did things in the past when it relates to exposures is not the way to go now and in the future.

**I**f you are negligent in doing your job, you can (and should) be held to some level of accountability, but why does the same not hold true if you are negligent in maintaining your physical conditioning and job readiness? The answer is simple: We don't want to offend people and tell them that they are just as much of a danger to our safety as the burning building we are about to enter.

**S**tation 63, Haycock. Some additional info on their new order that was reported in a prior update: 2018 Ferrara Cinder, 4-door pumper-tanker, with raised cab,

1500/3000 side and rear dumps, 3000 gallon folda tank bracket, 2 crosslays, deck gun, rollup doors, 3 hard sleeves, Cummins L9, 450HP, due in July.

**S**tation 0, Yardley Makefield, Their 2005 Pierce Dash, 2000/750/50 engine left on 4/7 for its new home in Pennsburg (Montgomery County, PA)

**S**tation 48, Delaware Valley, Their 1997 KME Renegade MFD, 1250/1000 engine left on 3/6 for its new home at the Aurora Rural FPD (Lawrence County, MO).

**S**tation 16, Union of Cornwells has ordered a Pierce Arrow XT recue-engine, 4-door eight-man cab with a 10" raised roof, Detroit DD13, 525HP engine with a Allison EVS4000 transmission, 1500/500, 184" aluminum rescue body with lap doors and a low hose bed.

**S**tation 46, New Hope, has ordered a Ford F550/Pierce mini-pumper, seating for five (5) firefighters, aluminum body with painted Gortite roll-up doors, 300-gallon poly water tank, Waterous 1000 GPM pump.

**S**tation 49, Ottsville's 2000 Pierce Dash 2000, 4-door

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cab, 105 ft rear-mount steel aerial ladder was sold to - Sainte Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier Fire – of the Quebec Province

**S**tation 24, Plumsteadville took delivery on 3/16 of their new Rosenbauer tanker. Their 1988 Mack MC/4-Guys, canopy tilt-COE, 1250/3000, elliptical stainless steel tandem axle tanker was sold on 3/15 to Doon (Lyon County, IA).

**S**tation 40, Springtown were at Pierce on March 15th for final inspection of their new Pierce PUC rescue pumper.

**S**tation 34, Chalfont, their new 107 Ascendant ladder has been delivered and is presently being lettered by Danz.

**S**tation 93, Hartsville, has sold their 1998 Pierce Saber to Command Fire Apparatus of Lancaster.

**N**ew Housing - With help from a giant 3D printer called "The Vulcan," a basic three-room, one-story concrete home can be built in a single day — and for a cost of only \$4,000.

The printer applies concrete layer by layer until the walls are up, and then windows and

the roof are added via conventional construction methods. Built out of lightweight aluminum, it includes a backup generator.

**S**ellersville Borough Council adopted Ordinance 717 at the Monday, March 12, 2018 Council meeting .Ordinance 717 adopts the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; and the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures in the Borough of Sellersville; providing for the issuance of permits and collections of fees therefor; and all other ordinances and parts of the ordinances in conflict therewith.

**A**ny Departments that currently have an "ACT 172 - Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program" Ordinance in place with their Municipality, please contact Chief 26, Dave Worthington, at

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buckschief26@gmail.com. Municipal stipend program information for recruitment and retention is also sought.

**O**n Wednesday night, Sept 5th, 2018 a very special presentation will be held at the performing arts center at the Bucks County Community College. The guest for the evening will be Jim Lee, Jr.

Jim Lee, Jr., grow up in the fire service, starting with the Willow Grove Fire Co. in 1989, and also worked at Second Alarmers Rescue Squad and Ambler Ambulance. He then went on from a live-in firefighter while going to college in Prince George's County, Maryland, to a full-time position with the Washington, D.C., Fire, and eventually to his dream job with the FDNY. He worked hard and trained hard his entire career. Before too long, Jim found himself assigned to the best of the best—Special Operations Command working at Rescue 1 in Manhattan. Jim was very recently promoted to lieutenant and is now the father of three young children. In October, 2016, Jim made a heroic rope rescue off of the roof of a 5-story multiple dwelling on fire in Manhattan.

For his extraordinary efforts and under extreme personal risk, FF James P Lee, Jr, was awarded the James Gordon Bennett Medal and NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal.”

In addition to the prestigious FDNY awards, Jim was also awarded the following national honors: 2017 Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award. (Fire Engineering Magazine), 2016 Michael O. McNamee Award of Valor. (Firehouse Magazine)

**F**ire Safety - *Whenever a 1 or 2 family home is sold in Massachusetts*, the smoke detector law requires that the local fire department issue a certification that the smoke detectors are working properly and are in the correct location. The new smoke detector regulations went into effect on Dec. 1, 2016. The regulations require that certain properties be equipped with the latest photoelectric smoke detectors which are not as prone to false alarms as older ionization-based detectors.

**H**ow Do I Know if my Smoke Alarm is more than 10 Years Old or Expired? The manufacturer’s date is located on the back of the smoke alarm. Carefully remove the alarm from its

mounting bracket to check the date. If there is no date marked, then the alarm is more than 10 years old. If the date indicates it was manufactured more than 10 years ago, replace it with a new alarm that meets the requirements identified in this guide.

**T**he Firemen’s Hall Museum on Second St. in Philadelphia is also known as the Philadelphia Fire Museum. The museum presents historical programs on a wide variety of topics. The two most recent presentations were on “Multiply Alarm Fires in the 1970’s” and the “Formation of the PFD Hazmat Team”. The Hazmat need began in 1954 after the explosion at the Berg Chemical Co. Killed 10 firefighters. If you are interested in supporting the museum the membership application is attached. You will also receive event notifications.

**If your detectors are not connected, your home is not protected.**

**This is your newsletter and it needs your input to be successful. Please send your news to [EdPfeiffer44@gmail.com](mailto:EdPfeiffer44@gmail.com) anytime during the month.**