
BUCKS COUNTY FIRE NEWS

February 2018

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

<http://www.buckscandff.com> WWW.BUCKSFIRE.ORG

The next meeting of the Chiefs' & Firefighters' Association will be held at Training Center on February 19th. at Station 33, Tullytown.
Dinner: 7:00
7:45 PM Meeting Start

The February meeting will be held at Station 27, Sellersville on March 19th. Come learn how to put the latest in firefighting technology to work for you at the March meeting at 19:00 hrs. In a world that is ever evolving, where new fire hazards seem to be presenting themselves daily, changes have also come to the agents used to fight these fires. F-500 Encapsulator Agent is the next generation in firefighting, with faster knockdowns and superior burn back resistance. F-500 EA works on three aspects of the fire tetrahedron simultaneously; cooling, fuel encapsulation and the interruption of free radical coalescence. The combination of these actions has amazing effects on Class A, B, C and D fires. Whereas foams separate the fuel from the oxygen, F-500

EA doesn't smother the fire. Instead, it works on a molecular level. Like a wetting agent, F-500 EA reduces the surface tension of the water. This creates smaller droplets of water. F-500 EA has a large, amphipathic molecule, with both a polar and a nonpolar end. The polar head attaches to the water droplets, eventually surrounding each droplet. These larger molecules look like pin cushions with nonpolar tails protruding in every direction. The nonpolar tails of the F-500 EA molecules seek hydrocarbon molecules, and attach themselves. Once a hydrocarbon vapor molecule has been enveloped, a micelle or cocoon is formed. This permanently prevents the hydrocarbon from re-igniting.

Foams, wetting agents and water release some of the heat from a fire in the form of steam. Then, the foam blankets the remaining heat, keeping the temperature of the fuel at dangerous, re-ignition levels. F-500 EA is amazing at drawing the heat from the fire into the protected water droplets.

Finally, the micelles interrupt the free radical chain reaction which results in less toxic smoke and improved visibility. Tests show most of the toxins are removed, including cancer-causing toxins.

Come find out for yourself how F-500 can extinguish your next fire faster and safer than you could ever imagine.

Highlights of the January Meeting –

The organization is incorporated as a 501 C(3) corporation.

President Pearl is looking for more participation at monthly meeting from companies who have not been attending. He is also looking to start a fund raiser to offset the continuing decline in our savings. Most of this is due to funding the five annual scholarships.

Jerry Barton & Jim Mulholland offered to help with this.

President Pearl threw out the idea of an annual Banquet. He would like to see the scholarships and other awards given out at a banquet.

A question was asked, “What is considered an Interior Firefighter”? Discussion will begin next month.

Hewlett Packard has recalled about 50,000 Lithium-ion batteries for HP notebook computers and mobile workstations

Hazard: The lithium-ion batteries can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards. HP has received eight reports of battery packs overheating, melting, or charring, including three reports of property damage totaling \$4,500 with one report of a minor injury involving a first degree burn to the hand.

You may be familiar with this eye-catching fire timeline created by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC). This visual is a great accompaniment to any public education outing featuring home fire sprinkler or for social media sharing. Now, HFSC has animated the timeline, and in the process has created something even more compelling.

<https://community.nfpa.org/community/home-fire-sprinkler-initiative/blog/2018/01/16/new-home-fire-timeline-by-the-home-fire-sprinkler-coalition-comes-to-life>

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Wilderness Rescue Training has partnered with Upper Makefield Fire Company to offer a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) course at Station 71 in March. The WFR is an in-depth look at patient assessment, traumatic injuries, environmental topics, and medical emergencies. Learn more, and enroll, here: <https://www.wildernessrescuetraining.com/wfr/>

Why a WFR is good training for Firefighters:

- Train on how to respond when the EMS system is overwhelmed, such as after a major terrorist attack or natural disaster.
- Practice making high consequence decisions under time pressure in realistic scenarios.
- Build your understanding of human anatomy and common injuries and illnesses.

Why a WFR is good training for EMTs:

- Turns an EMT into a Wilderness EMT.
- Grants 70 hours of EMT CEUs.
- Learn more about environmental topics such as submersion, hypothermia, and heat stroke by professional wilderness guides who have managed these conditions in the field.

Why a WFR is good training for your college-aged kid:

- Get an introduction to the world of EMS during Spring Break.
- Build your resume with a professional certification. Earn 3 hours of easily transferrable college credit from the University of Utah.
- Open up job opportunities in outdoor recreation, guiding, SAR, and ski patrol.

The History of the Bourke Eye Shield In the early 1960s, eye protection was not widely used among firefighters. That changed after a New York City firefighter, Lester (Les) Bourke, was hit in the face with a piece of angle iron during a fire. Les was working the hose line inside a burning auto repair garage, when the hose spray hit a piece of angle iron that was attached to the ceiling with a single bolt. The angle iron started swinging, and the end of it hit Les in the forehead— right under the brim of his MSA Cairns® New Yorker N5A® leather fire helmet. The force knocked Les to the ground and left him momentarily blinded. Although the cut healed over time, Les was determined to find a way to protect his eyes from dangerous objects

encountered while firefighting. The original Bourke Eye Shield was the result of his efforts.

WET PUMP PROS AND CONS

PROS:

Priming the fire pump before use may not be necessary.

The mechanical seals or packing remain in water keeping them pliable and minimize the chances of calcium build up since they are not subjected to atmospheric conditions.

There is a reduced chance of dry run conditions on the mechanical seals and/or packing mating surfaces during initial pump start up. It is strongly recommended to exercise the system 10 to 20 minutes a month even when not regularly used.

Cons:

The chances of damage to the fire pump and its components increase if the pump is not engaged and water isn't properly circulated when exposed to freezing conditions.

The chances of damage to the fire pump and its components increase if the pump is not engaged and water isn't properly circulated when exposed to freezing conditions.

The chances of the fire pump and its components freezing increases with excessive response distances and

increased road speeds. Not to forget that the colder it is, the faster things will freeze!

The potential for repair costs increases when running a "wet" pump due to the potential for damage to the fire pump and its accessories as a result of freeze up.

Station 7/77, William Penn, has ordered a Mini Pumper from Pierce on an F550 Ford. 330 HP Power Stroke, 6-speed Auto, 300-gallon tank, 1000 GPM Waterous.

Station 37, Union, has ordered a Pierce Saber Pumper, 525 HP, 2000 GPM, 500-gallon tank,

NFPA praises the recent passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which offers significant incentives for fire sprinkler installation. "Our research time and again stresses the life-saving importance of fire sprinkler protection," says NFPA President Jim Pauley. "The financial incentives allowed by this act will undoubtedly lead to safer establishments throughout the U.S."

Under the new act, small businesses can expense building improvement purchases tied to fire protection systems, including fire sprinkler retrofits, up to \$1 million in each year of the

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expense. Moreover, sprinkler installations in commercial settings and other larger buildings can be fully expensed until 2022. After 2022, the amount allowed to be expensed gradually declines. Retrofits for residential high-rises owned by a business would qualify for the incentive.

Research continually supports the necessity of fire sprinklers. According to NFPA's 2017 "U.S. Experience with Sprinklers" report:

- the civilian fire death rate per 1,000 reported fires was 87 percent lower in properties with sprinklers than in properties with no automatic extinguishing systems
- the average firefighter fireground injury per 1,000 reported fires was 67 percent lower where sprinklers were present than in fires with no automatic extinguishing systems
- sprinklers were effective at controlling the fire in 96 percent of fires in which they operated

The new act does not offer incentives for sprinklering new, one- and two-family homes.

PA CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM STANDARDS ACT - ENACTMENT

Act of Dec. 18, 2013, P.L. 1229, No. 121

Residential building. Upon the sale of a residential building, the seller shall disclose information regarding the installation of carbon monoxide detectors on the property disclosure statement required by 68 Pa.C.S. Ch. 73 (relating to seller disclosures).

Oakland's "Ghost Ship Fire" has caused cities across the country to look for fire code violations in similar undocumented repurposed buildings. Many have been shut down and others have been given a time limit to meet the fire code.

In a related survey, 86% of U.S. adults felt confident that if they bought a new home, it would meet it would meet the most up to date fire and electrical codes. In PA your new home may be built to codes that are 10 years out of date. It took PA 65 months to adopt the 2008 National Electrical Code, with no updates since.

There was an average of 45,120 residential fires caused by electrical issues between 2010 and 2014. These resulted in an average of 420 deaths and 1,370 injuries. States that neglect the prompt adoption of code

updates will stymie progress in reducing fire deaths.

As ride sharing services like Uber and Lyft grow, people are using them to get from point A to the emergency room. The numbers suggest that ride-sharing services may be able to play a role in a broader community health care model by reducing unneeded hospital transports by emergency medical services.

10 – 40% of annual EMS transports low-acuity ailments.

30 – 50% of EMS transports to emergency departments are described as inappropriate or unnecessary.

There are an estimated 28 million EMS transports in the U.S. annually.

In a nutshell, why are firehouses such hazardous environments? NFPA

Any incident that involves smoke also includes exposure to carcinogens and toxic chemicals. Any equipment and clothing taken into service in response to those calls is exposed to those contaminants. Unless a thorough decontamination process occurs on the scene, those contaminants are then conveyed back to the station. Unless you carefully and thoroughly decontaminate all the clothing, all the

equipment, all the apparatus, and even your bodies by taking a shower, you are potentially allowing those contaminants to be spread within the station itself.

Lima Peru is a city of 8.9 million people, which is entirely protected by highly dedicated volunteer firefighters. Lima Volunteer Fire Station No. 4, has 125 members to staff the station around the clock.

Dr. Meredith McQuerry of Florida State University. FSU is conducting a project for the NFPA Research Foundation on what firefighters wear under their turnouts and would like your input.

The purpose of this study is to determine current firefighter use of both certified NFPA 1975 and non-certified station wear garments in relation to firefighter burn and heat injury while worn under a certified NFPA 1971 garment.

Bruce Trego has been appointed acting PA State Fire Commissioner. He was most recently the Administrator of the PA State Fire Academy in Lewistown.

The CPSC has recalled about 5000 Sunny CS (cribside) nursery space heaters. A broken motor mount can allow the electric heating element to come in contact with the interior plastic materials and ignite, posing fire and burn hazards.

Vornado has received five reports of the electric heaters catching on fire. No injuries or property damage have been reported.

Sold At: Bed Bath & Beyond, buybuy Baby and other stores nationwide and online at Amazon.com, Target.com, Vornado.com and other websites from October 2017 through December 2017 for about \$100.

For the 2018 Spring Training Semester the PECO Fire Academy will be offering weekend, daytime and evening training sessions that will be opened to all of the companies in our service territory combined. The emergency services training program, "Handling Natural Gas and Electrical Emergencies", consists of classroom and practical training sessions for emergency response to natural gas, carbon monoxide, and electrical systems incidents. The program commences

promptly at the time noted on the attachment at the PECO Energy Fire Academy, 300 Front St., West Conshohocken, PA.

Students should come prepared with notepad, pencils, and full turnout gear. S.C.B.A. is not required. Instruct your members to bring a lunch as the staff requests that students not leave the training facility during the thirty-minute lunch break.

A maximum of 3 members from your organization can register to attend each of the programs. Unregistered personnel will not be accepted. They need to be a member of your organization and at least 16 years of age. If you have additional members that you would like to send please include them in-case of class openings or student cancelations. We ask if you know that you are not going to make the training session you let us know so we can give someone else the opportunity to attend.

There is also a new class being offered "Not a Routine Odor Response". Requirements are age 18, Full turnout gear and completed PECO Electric and Gas Training. We will be confirming prerequisites.

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See schedule attached to this newsletter.

Effective 2/1/2018, please send your specific inquiry to the following individuals listed:
Box Card & FRL changes
Robert Walter
rbwalter@buckscounty.org &
Bob Barnes
rbbarnes@buckscounty.org

Pennfirs
Robert Walter
rbwalter@buckscounty.org -
Kraig Herman
krherman@pa.gov

Fire Call Text Messages
Robert Walter
rbwalter@buckscounty.org -
Jon Stoughton
jrstoughton@buckscounty.org

Department File Updates
Robert Walter
rbwalter@buckscounty.org

Secom Usage Report
Todd Neumann
tpneumann@buckscounty.org

Radio System Concerns
Todd Neumann
tpneumann@buckscounty.org

Complaints
Contact the center for the
Squad Coordinator

Premise History Warnings
Tom Spicer
tjspicer@buckscounty.org

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Business Listing Updates
Tom Spicer
tjspicer@buckscounty.org

GIS/Mapping
Nick Dow
ncdow@buckscounty.org

Geo/Street listing changes
Jon Stoughton
jrstoughton@buckscounty.org

Funeral/Meeting
Announcements Scott
Warren
smwarren@buckscounty.org
& Scott Molle
samolle@buckscounty.org

Records & Tape Requests
911records@buckscounty.org

Station 48, Delaware Valley, has ordered a KME Predator 6 man, 1500 gpm Waterous single stage pump, around the pump foam system, 750 gallon water tank and 20 gallon foam tank.

If you shop for your Team's gear at NFLShop.com you can save an additional 10% by completing the short form for First Responders at the bottom of the page. The discount comes off just before the Payment is needed.

In honor of the Charleston 9 a study of change following the tragedy will be presented by Dr. Davis Griffin on April

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28, 2018 at the Upper Perk High School, 2 Walt Rd., Pennsburg, Pa. 18073. \$50. per person
events@greenlanefirerescue.org

On June 18, 2007, nine firefighters perished in a warehouse fire in Charleston, SC. What was initially dispatched as a trash fire escalated into one of the most scrutinized events in national fire service history. David had the unfortunate experience of being the engineer on the first due engine that day. As he operated on the fireground, he witnessed things that he will never forget.

FREE to Built for Life Fire Departments -

HFSC's new fire sprinkler prop is now available AT NO COST to Built for Life Fire Departments. The sturdy storage box contains a pendent sprinkler with educational information about home fire sprinklers.

The prop is a compelling story-telling tool. It will help you deliver the life-saving home fire sprinkler message while dispelling common myths.

Any Built for Life Fire Department can get one just by committing to using it at least five times to educate

consumers, media, home builders, real estate professional or others.

Not yet a Built for Life Fire Department. It's easy to sign up and it's free. Click here to order yours today.

Recruitment & Retention

This course is the final segment of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania's SAFER project to develop effective recruitment and retention programs for use in the state. This program consists of a presentation on project findings and results, including known success/failures in recruitment and retention. The second portion will offer time for attendees to discuss local tools, techniques, and programs specific to the use and needs of the audience. NO COST

Space is limited so registration is limited to 2 per department

Wednesday, March 21:
Montgomery County Fire Academy, 1175 Conshohocken Rd, Conshohocken, PA 19428

Class Times
7:00pm – 9:30pm
Email to dgentzler@vfis.com

Every day, seven people die from U.S. home fires. The time has come to bring

attention to this problem and its solution on a national scale.

NFPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition are initiating **Home Fire Sprinkler Day on Saturday, May 19, 2018**. This project tasks fire sprinkler advocates across America with hosting simultaneous events that promote home fire sprinklers. These events are aimed at drawing awareness to 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.

How to protect your family and home from a fire.

Not all fire causes are apparent or predictable. There is, however, a basic truism about fires: They are always preceded by smoke. Not knowing at the first possible moment that there's smoke in the house can quickly put you, your family and your property at risk. People who have been injured or killed in their homes didn't know there was a fire until it was too late to escape.

Smoke must have a clear path to reach a detector. The living room, dining room and kitchen normally share a common ceiling and can be protected by a single detector. Where stairs are present, the top of the stairs is the best location for another detector. But in rooms that can be closed off by doors, a detector is needed in each room (excluding bathrooms and closets). Every bedroom requires a smoke detector for two reasons: first, so that smoke can be detected; and second, to ensure that every sleeping person can hear the detector's alarm. Smoke rises because it's always warmer than room temperature—place each detector on the ceiling.

Detectors must be interconnected. Without the interconnect feature you may not hear the alarm if it sounds from another area of your home. A traditional, non-interconnected detector may detect the presence of smoke too late, or not make a loud enough noise to get your attention when you're sleeping. This is the reason that most deadly fires occur at night.

Detecting the presence of smoke as early as possible provides the maximum escape time. It may also provide the time to find the

source of smoke and take action. When in doubt, call the Fire Department. However, you may find that you only need to unplug a faulty appliance or turn off the stove or oven, or use a fire extinguisher to solve the problem.

Here are two questions to ask yourself when you evaluate the fire safety of your home:

1-Do I have enough smoke detectors to sense the earliest presence of smoke everywhere in my home?

2-Can I hear all of my smoke detectors from anywhere in my home, especially from bedrooms when my family and I are asleep?

In order to answer "Yes" to these two questions, your smoke detectors must be interconnected with hardwired or wireless detectors, or a combination of both. "Wireless" detectors are battery-powered and send signals to each other. They are an ideal upgrade to older homes. New homes are constructed with complete detector systems that are connected by wires, or "hardwired." They must be in every room with a door (except bathrooms and closets)—this includes bedrooms, basement rooms, garages, etc. And they must

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be on every level of your home.

Except for a sprinkler system, a complete, interconnected smoke detector system is the best investment you'll ever make. Your safety and the safety of your family depend on it.

This is your newsletter and it needs your input to be successful. Please send your news to EdPfeiffer44@gmail.com anytime during the month.

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