
BUCKS COUNTY FIRE NEWS

June 2018 [BucksCountyFireSafeHomes.com](http://www.buckscountyfiresafehomes.com)

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 Station 42, Reiglesville on Monday, June 18th.
7:00 PM Food
7:45 PM Meeting Start

Mike Patrick, Agency Development Manager for Colonial Life Insurance, will present a new concept in Recruiting & Retention benefits. Firefighters will earn College Tuition Credits for their children or grandchildren.

The July meeting will be at Station 25/53, Bristol, on July 16th.

Highlights from the May meeting:

Vinay Setty, Assistant Director of Certification & Curriculum, reported on the following Fire School topics: The College is currently going through the ProBoard Reaccreditation process. We are in the final stages of putting the final touches on the testing materials and documents for all certification levels. ProBoard met on May 16, 2018 and we will be receiving notification

shortly of when their site visit will be held.

Currently, there are 27 people registered for the Summer Firefighter 1 program that is going to be held at the Bucks County Public Safety Training Center in Doylestown.

Due to the limited number of enrollments for Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Hazardous Materials Operations Challenge weekend that is scheduled for June, they may be a chance it will be cancelled. If anyone is interested in participating in the Challenge weekend, they are highly encouraged to submit a registration form.

The College is looking for an alternative solution for 2019 to minimize the risk of having challenge weekends cancelled.

Ottsville Fire Department will be hosting Firefighter 2 in the spring of 2019. Any department's that are interested in hosting a Firefighter 1 class in 2019 are encouraged to contact the College.

The College was approved by ProBoard for the NFPA 1006-2017 Vehicle Rescue Awareness, Operations, and

Technicians and the NFPA 1002-2017 Driver Operator Pumper standards have been updated.

The College is running the Vehicle Rescue Pilots IAW NFPA 2017 Edition Update in the following areas:

- BCPSTC – VR 1 & 2 – 14 students - Completed
- Station 71 – VR 1 – 28 students – In Progress
- Station 65 – VR 1 – 22 students – Completed
- Horsham Fire Company (Montgomery County) – VR 1 – 29 students – In Progress

Bucks County Community College – Public Safety Training Center will be conducting Retest nights every month for anyone who is unable to come in for a retest during our daytime office hours. The dates for these retests are as follows:

- Wednesday June 13th @ Doylestown PSTC – 7pm
- Thursday July 19th @ Lower Bucks PSTC – 7pm
- Tuesday August 14th @ Doylestown PSTC – 7pm

If anyone is interested in attending a retest night, please contact either Kimberly Walsh, Specialized

Support at 215-340-8422 or Kimberly.walsh@bucks.edu or Vinay Setty, Asst. Director of Certification at 215-340-8401 or vinay.setty@bucks.edu.

Once approved by either Kim or Vinay, students will need to report to the designated location by 7pm. Students must bring their Photo ID and the Letter that was issued to them to the testing.

May 21--An explosion during an auto parts plant fire that ultimately stopped production of the Ford F-150 was so violent that it threw a worker through the air into a door jamb. Vehicles in the parking lot caught fire and were damaged by flying debris. A fire "detector did not alert occupants."

The explosion and a subsequent blast early on the morning of May 2 at the Meridian Magnesium factory in Eaton Rapids occurred because the fire suppression system at the plant added water to molten magnesium. Experts said that is like arming a bomb.

PA Child Labor Laws Up-date -

The following is the Bureau's interpretation of Section 7 (6) ii of the Child Labor Act (CLA) relating to Minors

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serving in volunteer emergency service organizations.

For your reference, the applicable section is copied below.

(a) General rule. --An individual who is 14 years of age or older who is a member of a volunteer emergency service organization may participate in training and emergency service activities except as follows:

(1) A minor may not operate a truck, ambulance or other official fire vehicle.

(2) A minor may not operate an aerial ladder, aerial platform or hydraulic jack.

(3) A minor may not use rubber electrical gloves, insulated wire gloves, insulated wire cutters, life nets or acetylene cutting units.

(4) A minor may not operate the pump of a fire vehicle while at the scene of a fire.

(5) A minor may not enter a burning structure under any circumstance including a training exercise.

(6) A minor may not engage in firefighting activities unless all of the following apply:

(i) The minor is 16 years of age or older.

(ii) The minor has successfully completed a course of training equal to

the standards for basic firefighting established by the State Fire Commissioner and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

(iii) The minor is under the direct supervision and control of the fire chief, an experienced line officer or a designated forest fire warden.

Language contained within the CLA implies that a minors' participation in any firefighting activity is conditional under (6) i. ii. iii.

More specifically under item (6) ii, the CLA requires completion of courses in both Basic Firefighting established by the State Fire Commission and Basic Firefighting established by DCNR before a minor can participate in any emergency activities.

Accordingly, a minor could not perform exterior duties at a structure fire without the basic firefighting training approved by DCNR.

The answer to your second question is tied in to the answer of the first question. A minor without the required training would be prohibited from participating in any firefighting activities which

would include all activities surrounding the scene of a fire emergency.

Please let me know if you should need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Randy Liddle | Administrative Officer
Bureau of Labor Law Compliance
Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
651 Boas Street Room 1301 | Harrisburg, PA. 17121
Phone: 814.371.5567 | Fax: 814.371.6621
rliddle@pa.gov

Update - Fluorine Free Foam (F3)

New York State now has introduced a Senate bill banning PFOS, PFOA and four PFAS compounds in AFFF firefighting foam and turnout gear. As of 2020, the state of Washington will no longer allow Fire Department to use or train with AFFF, fluorinated firefighting agents. In fact, some European entities and two Australian states have banned PFAS (AFFF) firefighting agents as well. If your State or county follows these trends, National Foam is already there with an effective fluorine free (F3) replacement.

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The attached Foam Lines piece has your company name and website address in the footer of each page. The plan is to have our stocking dealers with some inventory for FD testing and evaluation. When called, we will steer the inquiries to those who bought in.

The best vehicle for show and tell is the TFT PRO/Pak set at 3% using the mid-X attachment. Quarter life is remarkable, four times longer than U-Gold which is best in the business...

Fire sprinklers might not be required in all of Hawaii's residences, but certain residents have started demanding them.

Following a fire last year at the Marco Polo complex that killed four people and caused more than \$100 million in damage, condo owners voted in favor of installing fire sprinklers there, reports the Associated Press.

Don Jolley, fire chief and the first vice president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia stated that fire sprinkler naysayers have been inadvertently promoting the need for home fire sprinklers. "Overtly they are stating to elected officials and the public that speed is

everything," he states.

"Subliminally, though, they are validating for fire sprinklers in a strong manner. There will never be a quicker response than a fire sprinkler head activating in response to a fire in the incipient, or other early stages.

Five children lost their lives during a Greensboro, North Carolina, residential fire this month. News reports state that the two boys and three girls, ranging in age from 18 months to nine years old, were refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The fire started in the kitchen, and the home did not have working smoke alarms, according to a CBS affiliate that obtained this information from the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

"People tell me all the time that, 'I know my way out. I know my house,'" Greensboro Fire Department Timothy Henshaw told a local Fox station. "Even in a house that you live in and when that smoke is on the floor, the toxic gases are so hot. They become super-heated. You become unaware of what's going on."

According to NFPA, you may have as little as one to two minutes from the time a smoke alarm sounds to safely escape a fire. Per NFPA's

research, three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

In a separate fire incident this month in Asheville, North Carolina, NFPA has received a report that a kitchen fire was controlled by a single fire sprinkler. A family was displaced, but the activation resulted in no injuries or deaths.

NFPA research confirms the live-saving abilities of working smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers; according to NFPA's most recent "U.S. Experience with Sprinklers" report, the home fire death rate was 90 percent lower when fire sprinklers and hardwired smoke alarms were present.

A smoke alarm's age can be determined by looking on the back or side of the smoke alarm, where the date of manufacture can be found. Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from that date (not the date of purchase or installation).

The correct address to send website information to Rob Kay is buckscandff@gmail.com

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An article by Robert Tutterow on Page 43 of the June 2018 issue of Fire Apparatus & Emergency Equipment speaks about the "Slow Killer". He speaks about an "organizational" disease. It develops slowly by not seeking training and knowledge outside the shadow of your own fire department.

Annual Medical Physicals: The Risk Is Real; So Is the Solution

Station 65, Nottingham, has a 2004 American LaFrance 100' Ladder for Sale. Contact Chief Ron Harris at 215-768-7569 or Rharris2769@comcast.net

Pennsylvania is one a course to match the all-time PA fire death rate of 175. 56% of all deaths so far this year were people 55 years of age or older.

It is reported in the May 2018 issue of the PA Fireman that the SWIF (state workman's compensation insurance) has taken in over \$100 million in the past few years while paying out the less than \$20 million. The money goes into the PA Treasury. The SWIF premiums are 600% more than the fire service paid

prior to the Cancer legislation.

If we are going to be leaders, we are going to make mistakes. Why? Because good leaders are not afraid to make mistakes and good leaders are out there every day working to make themselves and those that work with them better.

Station 4, Trevoise, has received a Safer Grant to provide funding to staff their station 24/7/365. \$70./12 hour shift. If interested you must have these requirements: IFSAC/ProBoard FF1, Hazmat Ops, PA/DOH BVR or VRT. EMT is a plus. Contact Chief Ed Frydlewicz at efrydlewicz@trevoisefireco.com or text at 215-416-8082

A new all wood 80-story building is being proposed in Chicago. Many other wooden buildings are planned, but an 18-story dormitory recently opened at the University of British Columbia.

FEMA is streamlining its mission to focus on coordination with state and local stakeholders before disasters even strike in order to shorten disaster recovery times.

Why the changes? 2017 was particularly full of disasters -- there were 16 events that exceeded \$1 billion in total damage. An estimated \$306 billion in losses made 2017 the most expensive year ever for natural disasters. Three hurricanes in succession in August and September combined with the Western wildfires greatly stressed FEMA's capacity to support these response and recovery operations.

Station 93, Hartsville will be holding their annual Firefighter Camp July 11, 18, 25 & Aug 1st. at the Station 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Anyone 14 years of age or older who wants to learn about being a firefighter is encouraged to attend. Free T-Shirt to all attendees. To register contact president93@hartsvillefc.org.

On 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., grew 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)

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Station 33 Tullytown, has received a 2018 Ford F150 XLT 4-door 4x4 with a utility cap Chief's car.

Station 14, Third District, is converting their 2004 Ford F-350 Super-Duty XL 4x4 crew cab pickup into a field truck. All work is being done in-house by the members.

The Cradle of Liberty Chapter of SPAAMFAA (Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Fire Apparatus in America) will host the Summer National Convention in Cherry Hill, NJ August 1-4, 2018. The Muster will be held on Saturday August 4th in Cooper River Park, Pennsauken, NJ. www.CLAFAA.org for more information.

Recent federal tax reform legislation includes incentives that make it more affordable for small business owners to install fire sprinklers.

Station 57, Milford Township Volunteer Fire Company will be having our annual Carnival. Tuesday June 19th to Saturday June 23rd. Thursday night Ferris from the Iron Pigs. Friday night Philly Phanatic and fireworks

Gordon Graham is doing a no cost webinar about fire department background checks-and it will be well worth your, your HR departments, your fire department leadership or perhaps your probation officers time ...to register.

MONDAY JUNE 18- 1300

Hours Eastern

REGISTRATION HERE:

<https://info.lexipol.com/webinar-background-investigations>

Smoke detection is essential for *FIRE* prevention

This is your newsletter and it needs your input to be successful. Please send your news to

**EdPfeiffer44@gmail.com
anytime during the month.**