
BUCKS COUNTY FIRE NEWS

March 2016 [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 in Richlandtown on Monday, March 22nd. It will be held at Benner Hall, 1260 East Cherry Rd. (go north from Station 36 on main street, make the 2nd left on to Cherry St. Go a quarter mile it's on the left)

7 PM Food

7:45 PM Meeting Start

There will be a presentation on a proposed new county wide Fire Safety initiative.

The April meeting will be held at Telford Fire Co., Montgomery County

History Books – Total books sold or given to County Companies has reached 614. To date, eight (8) county companies have purchased books (90, 70, 30, 25, 20, 10, 6, 5) for their members for a total of 256 books or 42% of the books sold. Anyone who is planning a company purchase (save the tax) should e-mail me at edpfeiffer44@gmail.com.

Invoices to companies can be provided from the

association. Books used as gifts by the company and paid by check from an invoice are tax exempt. Help celebrate our history and meet our expenses by buying books. Books may also be purchased and shipped for a \$4.50 shipping and handling charge at

[Http://www.buckscountyfireservice.org](http://www.buckscountyfireservice.org).

Goggles, Eye Protection & Cancer - Goggles are far superior for eye protection than face shields and flip-downs. No firefighter should be without goggles that meet American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) Z87.1, American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices. They are crucial for activities that do not require an SCBA face piece. By the way, the SCBA face piece provides excellent eye and full-face protection. However, there is an inherent cancer risk if the goggles are attached to the helmet. When stowed on the helmet, they are subject to all the carcinogens found in the

firefighting environment. Then, when needed, they are applied directly to skin of the firefighter. It is known that the head area is the most vulnerable place for carcinogens to enter the body. To underscore this risk, the third statement of the 11 states: "Use Wet-Nap or baby wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms, and hands immediately and while still on the scene." In addition, when attached to the helmet, they are subject to scratches and abrasions in the fire environment as well as during other routine activities such as the simple task of removing the helmet in and out of a locker or other place of storage. NFPA 1971 also states that "Goggles shall be permitted to be unattached, not assembled to the helmet." Storing goggles in a place other than the helmet is compliant with NFPA. It is my opinion that goggles should never be stored on the helmet. At best, this is an afterthought attachment that adds to the helmet's weight and overall profile.

Face Shields

NFPA 1971 requires that if a face shield is used-there has to be a face shield, goggles, or both-it “shall be attached to the helmet.” There are several negative aspects of current face shields. They provide only partial protection. However, “partial” protection should never be allowed in an NFPA PPE standard. How does partial face protection protect your eyes when a pressurized hydraulic line ruptures? I understand limited protection because all elements have their limits. They also add unnecessary weight and increase the helmet’s profile. They adversely impact the helmet’s center of gravity and create the “bobblehead” effect. They are rarely maintained or replaced when damaged. In addition, NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program, chapter 7.18.1.3 states: “The helmet face shield alone shall not be used as primary eye protection.”

Flip-Downs

Let’s be honest-flip-downs are for appearance only. They also add weight, provide only partial protection, are rarely maintained or replaced when damaged, and are almost never used. I spoke with a retired officer of a very large fire department that has used flip-downs for decades. This officer said the flip-downs

were never used and, if they were needed, could not be because it was impossible to see through them. He was frank in stating it was a cultural issue.

Lawsuits

My recommendation is to forget the faceshields and flip-downs. Purchase ANSI-compliant goggles and keep them stored where they are accessible and protected from damage. Despite the confusing/conflicting shortcomings of NFPA 1971, you will be compliant. Hopefully, the hot mess of NFPA requirements will be sorted out in the near future. NFPA 1971 is currently open for public comment. More on this topic next month. Robert Tutterow, Fire Apparatus & Emergency Equipment Mag.

History – In the fire service “horse drawn era” the horses required daily exercise. In Detroit, if there were no alarms within the past 24 hours, their three wide team would be hooked up to an exercise buggy and driven around the local area. If an alarm was received during this time, the bell was rung and the team returned to the station.

A new unloading facility for ethanol has opened at one of the Philadelphia refineries. With fewer trains of crude oil

traveling between Yardley and Trevese because of the reduced price for crude oil worldwide, there will be an increase in 100 car trains of ethanol. UN1987 (alcohol). Crude oil is 1287. Typically loaded trains operate southbound. Empty trains don’t normally go north. They go south to Baltimore before going west.

Our website

“buckscountyfiresafehomes.com” has been hacked and is not functioning. It will be rebuilt soon with more safeguards.

Station 49, Ottsville, has ordered a Pierce Custom 107’ Ascendant aerial ladder. The truck will be built on a Pierce Enforcer single axle custom chassis with a 10” flat roof, powered by a Cummins ISL 450hp engine with an Allison EVS3000 automatic transmission. Seating for six (6) firefighters, side roll and front impact protection. The truck will have a steel ladder and aluminum body with roll up doors. 500-gallon Poly Tank, Pierce PUC single stage 1500 gpm pump, Husky foam system with CAFS capabilities, 20 gal foam tank, 10Kw Harrison hydraulic generator.

The NJFSAB/Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 and the NJ

Fire Sprinkler Coalition is pleased to announce our **2016 FREE** training program. Feel free to register directly through me if you feel any of these classes are a good fit for you. In addition to the robust training program you will see an attachment for a side by side burn demonstration grant. This is a great tool for fire department to use during their open houses. Myself or someone from the NJFSAB will assist your department every step of the way.

April 19th, 2016- Rough and Final Inspection for Fire Sprinkler Systems Millburn, NJ

May 10th, 2016- One and Two Family Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Systems Toms River, NJ

May 11th, 2016- One and Two Family Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Systems Mahwah, NJ

June 16th, 2016- Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances Millburn, NJ

September 20th, 2016- Standpipe Systems and NFPA 14 Millburn, NJ

September 21st, 2016- Rough and Final Inspection for Fire Sprinkler Systems Toms River, NJ

November 3rd, 2016- NFPA 25 ITM of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Millburn, NJ

David Kurasz, [866-226-6006](tel:866-226-6006)
www.njfsab.org

Croydon - TRANSCAER®
(Transportation Community

Awareness and Emergency Response) Training Tours will be hosting training in Pennsylvania and New Jersey on April 18-May 19

Safety Train: Track 1 – Two hour Basic Program (0800-1000 hrs) that includes responding to Toxic by Inhalation Materials and Flammable Gas Incidents and a General Overview/walking tour of the other training modules offered. Safety Train: Track 2 – Six hour hands on Advanced Level training (0800-1500 hrs with lunch provided) that includes: Rail Car Anatomy, Tank Truck Emergencies, Crude By Rail Emergencies, Rail Car Capping Kits “C & Midland”, Leak Mitigation and Response, & Chlorine Capping Kits “A & B.”

For more information or to register
<http://www.transcaer.com/events.aspx>. or Sam Simon (SamSimon@dow.com) 1-215-781-4303.

The Harry W. Fawkes Community Service Scholarship, it was established by the friends and colleagues of Harry W. Fawkes as a tribute to his many years of service to the community, this scholarship provides financial assistance to graduates of Bucks County high schools, who reside in Bucks County, Pa. who

attend or plan on attending Bucks County Community College.

You can find additional information about the scholarship on the Bucks County Community College website. From the home page select "About Bucks" then "Foundation/Alumni" then "Scholarships" to get information and fill out the online application.

Direct link to application and additional information: <http://apps.bucks.edu/bucksac/apps/scholarship/listing/credit/apply/harry-w-fawkes-community-service-scholarship/>

Passenger rail raining -
Course Title: Passenger Train Emergency Response (PTER)
Instructed By: Brian McDonough, AMTRAK Regional Emergency Manager Region III (PA, OH)
Office: 215-349-2070 Cell: 215-360-8338 Email: Brian.McDonough@amtrak.com

This one-day (4 hour class) will be given by Security and Safety Professionals from AMTRAK instituted for the safety of Firefighters, Law Enforcement, Coroners, OEM's and Dispatchers who may respond to or be involved in Amtrak Emergencies. This training complies with 49CFR239.

A new video produced by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) highlights Maryland fire service and sprinkler advocates fighting a legislative bill aimed at weakening Maryland's sprinkler requirement.

The video features key players in this push, including Maryland State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci; Ron Siarnicki, NFFF's executive director and member of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition; and Sher Grogg, who lost her brother, sister-in-law, and three nieces and nephew in a catastrophic Maryland home fire in 2015. Fire officials also tackled the issue of installation costs, particularly in rural areas. Maryland legislators held a recent hearing on the new bill that was well-attended by the fire service. Please watch and share this important video, titled "Sprinklers Save Lives: A Maryland Story," using the social media buttons below.

- See more at:
http://sprinkler.blog.nfpa.org/2016/02/legislation-jeopardizing-marylands-sprinkler-law-and-the-advocates-fighting-it-highlighted-in-new-video.html?order_src=C240#sthash.dnJO5MgC.dpuf

Why Automobile Safety is Greatly Overrated

Gregg Cleveland (A number of states have enacted laws preventing their municipalities from passing ordinances requiring residential sprinklers. Chief Cleveland has an opinion, Ed)

For those that don't remember, Ralph Nader was a formidable political activist in the 1960s and '70s. He put considerable pressure on the auto industry to make safety improvements to automobiles, thus reducing the number of highway deaths. He was successful in convincing the auto industry to make cars safer for the American public.

Unfortunately, Nader had it all wrong.

Many have compared the requirements or use of automatic fire sprinklers in residential properties to the auto industry's development of safety features, specifically airbags. With the rising costs of vehicles, the auto industry should take note of the debate over residential fire sprinklers in Wisconsin and across the United States.

Probably the biggest reason that state legislatures pass laws prohibiting residential fire sprinklers is cost. The cost of residential sprinklers increases the building costs of homes or apartments, no longer making them affordable, say sprinkler opponents mainly from the home building industry.

Laws prohibiting residential sprinklers, they add, lower the cost of homes and rental properties and make them more affordable. It's an economic stimulus package, so says the predominantly Republican legislatures in Wisconsin and across America.

What can the auto industry learn from this economic stimulus package? If the auto industry eliminated air bags, back up cameras, safety glass, ABS brakes, traction controls, and other safety-related features the cost of autos and trucks would fall dramatically. The auto industry would see a dramatic increase in sales because vehicles would become more affordable. More people will be able to afford new vehicles. Detroit could hire more auto workers which would stimulate the country's economy. With the increase in vehicle sales, GM may decide to reopen their Janesville plant and bring hundreds of jobs back to that community.

Obviously there would be a potential increase in injuries and deaths, but those losses would be offset by the increased economic stimulus. Hospitals and other medical facilities, intensive care units, and physical therapy personnel would see an increase in patients, creating a demand for skilled health

care workers. Colleges, universities, and technical colleges across America would flourish from the demand. With this entire economic stimulus our unemployment rates in states should fall correspondingly. State legislatures could pass legislation prohibiting vehicles to include additional safety improvements in vehicles, thus holding down the cost of vehicles and making them even more affordable.

The Republican lead legislature in Wisconsin is taking another step towards their economic stimulus package with Assembly Bill 568. Representative Brooks and Senator Lasee want to eliminate local sprinkler ordinances such as the City of Fitchburg's ordinance. An apartment house was recently sold and the new owner is required to retrofit the building with an automatic fire sprinkler system. As a result of Fitchburg standing firm and not repealing their ordinance, the owner has now taken his grievance to Senator Lasee and Representative Brooks who want to repeal any and all such ordinances in Wisconsin.

While I attended the public hearing and testified in opposition to the repealing of sprinkler ordinances, I am now rethinking my stance.

Fewer sprinklers mean more fires; more full-time, part-time, and volunteer firefighters, more fire stations, and more apparatus. The increase in local property taxes would be offset by the increase in building activity and construction trades employment. Levy limits would no longer be an issue for local communities.

I finally understand what Republican-dominated legislatures in Wisconsin and across the country already know. While I have dedicated my 37-year career to protecting lives and properties in several communities in Wisconsin, I finally realize I had it wrong just like Ralph Nader.

The Public Safety Program at MBIT is in need of a Pair of good condition Men's Size 15 Fire boots for a student in Public Safety that is enrolled in the Basic Fire Academy class. They can contact Mr. John Fala at jfala@mbit.org to drop off the boots at MBIT in Jamison, Pa.

Station 98, Morrisville, has (2) command vehicles for sale. First is a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe LT – 33,000 miles, Whelen lighting, Havis console, & Carba command box. Second vehicle is a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe LT – 26,000 miles, Whelen

lighting, Havis console, & Carba command box. Both vehicles are in great condition and will be available by May 15th. If interested please contact Matt Wiedenhaefer at 267-278-5113 or matt@morrisville98.com. (2) 2016 Chevrolet Tahoes have been placed in service.

The Union Historical Fire Society will be holding their annual Spring Melt Sunday, April 24th at the Agri-Plex at Allentown Fairground, 302 N. 17th Street, Allentown. 300 vendors selling fire memorabilia. There is an auction on Saturday, April 23rd.

March 15, 1875 was the day that the Philadelphia Fire Dept. began with 22 Engines (1 – 22) and 5 Ladders (A, B, C, D & E). On the previous day there were 82 volunteer fire companies serving the city.

The German American Firefighters Assoc. will hold their 34th Annual Muster on Sunday August 14, 2016 at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge, 130 Davisville Rd., Warminster, from 10 AM til 3 PM. Free admission, German Food & Drink.

Northampton Township in conjunction with (Station 3)

Northampton Twp. Vol. Fire Co. is seeking applicants for the position of Firefighter. Applicants must possess valid certifications in FF1 & FF2, Haz-Mat Operations level, basic vehicle rescue, EMT, must be a minimum of 21 year of age prior to 7/1/16 and possess a valid driver's license. Application accepted at the Northampton Twp. Building, 55 Township Rd., Richboro, Pa. 18954 until Friday, April 15th, 2016. Applications are available at www.northamptontownship.com. Resume required Northampton Twp. is an EOE.

Franks Fueling Systems has recalled about 9000 of their Gas station hose/swivel fitting sets. They can separate from the hose, causing fuel to leak, posing a fire and explosion hazard. This recall involves gas station hose and swivel fitting sets used with gas station nozzles to dispense or transfer refined fuels such as gasoline, diesel, ethanol blends and biodiesel blends. The sets are made of at least one metal swivel fitting attached to ¾-inch or 1-inch FLEX-ING™ brand FLEX-ON™ Hardwall, Marina and Softwall hoses. The attached hoses were sold in varying lengths. The size in inches and millimeters, and part number 559N or 559NMP are

printed on the sidewall of the hoses.

Hardwall hoses were sold in the colors black, blue, green, red and yellow, and have "FLEX-ING FLEX-ON HW FR PREMIUM FUEL HOSE BY FRANKLIN FUELING SYSTEMS" printed on the sidewall.

Marina hoses were sold in the color green and have "2 BD. STYLE BC MARINA GASOLINE" on the sidewall. Softwall hoses were sold in the color black and have "FLEX-ING FLEX-ON SILVER SW PREMIUM FUEL HOSE BY FRANKLIN FUELING SYSTEMS" on the sidewall.

Bucks County is planning to upgrade their dispatch software. Over the next three months, we will be hosting *educational CAD* demonstrations. The goal is to give all of you an opportunity to see what the latest and most modern CAD systems capabilities include and it will allow all of us to start to formulate our needs and wants for our new system.

The demonstrations are by no means a final list of potential vendors that may ultimately bid on the Bucks County system, but they are some of the bigger companies that have systems of similar size around the country. You may find to have some interesting

features that we will look for in the development of an RFP for our CAD system in the next year.

Please plan to take good notes of your experiences and what you see in the demonstrations and share those with me so we can begin to compile the documentation that we will need for our consulting team when that award is made later this year. Lastly, please let me know if you plan to attend one or more of these sessions. You aren't obligated to attend all of these sessions, but please feel free to attend as many as you can. Your help on this project will be a major success factor for all of us later. Thanks!

4/2 - 18:30 to 2100, TriTech, EOC (Ivyland)

4/20 - 18:30 to 2100, Intergraph, EOC

5/3 - 18:30 to 2100, Sungard, EOC

5/18 - 18:30 to 2100, Motorola, EOC

6/2 - 18:30 to 2100, New World, EOC

Sparky the Fire Dog turned 65 on March 18th. He has no plans to retire.

A proposed revision of the 2017 National Electrical Code requires all one- and two- family homes to have a service disconnecting means,

or a way to operate the service disconnecting means, on the exterior of the home.

Members of the NFPA and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition attended a booth at the International Home Builders Show in Las Vegas in January. “It was refreshing to see participants leave our exhibit with a new, fact based perspective on home fire sprinklers”.

The Technical Committee on Firefighter Professional Qualifications, which oversees NFPA 1001, Firefighter Professional Qualifications is considering a proposed revision for the 2018 edition. The standard would recognize a basic or support firefighter who is trained and certified but could only operate outside the structure during a dwelling fire.

In case you are wondering why the interest in switching to Natural gas from diesel consider this: as of February, 1 million BTU worth of energy from natural gas cost \$2.13, while the equivalent amount of diesel energy, about seven gallons, costs \$14. at the pump.

Real Fire ----- Prevention depends on early smoke detection.

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

Please send your news to EdPfeiffer44@gmail.com anytime during the month.