
BUCKS COUNTY FIRE NEWS

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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 46, New Hope Eagle on May 16th.

7 PM Food

7:45 PM Meeting Start

The June meeting will be held at the Station 5, Midway.

Highlights of the April – Background checks to meet the Gerry Sandusky inspired abuse checks continue to create lots of discussion.

The Department of Interior does not recognize Fire Police as Firefighters and will not pay the Federal death benefit. No FF training, No benefit.

The formation of the County Wide Honor Guard continues. Dave Hathaway showed off the new uniform patches. If interested, contact Dave - ffhathaway@msn.com

The Perkasio Fire Apparatus Muster will be held at the Pennridge High School on July 9th.

Work continues on the Recruiting & Retention Grant Application.

The new members of the Communications Advisory

Board are for District 1, Dave Worthington; District 3 is Kevin McKenney and the new board chairman is Glenn Baun.

Montgomery County Fire Station 75, Telford, is unique. Although Station 75 is located in Montgomery County, Telford Borough is separated by County Line Rd. with 51% of the residents living in Montco and the balance living in Bucks County. They have a "first due" area in both counties.

History – Telford Volunteer Fire Co. began in 1903 with a used 1855 John Agnew double deck end stroke hand (as opposed to side-stroke) pumper. Double Deck – means that one group of firefighters manned the pump bars while standing on the ground while a second group stood on fold out platforms on top of the tub to man the upper pump bars. A full compliment on the bars was 16 men. They required changing approximately every 10 minutes.

This engine was purchased originally by Philadelphia Volunteer Engine 27 (Good

Intent Fire Co.). Engine 27 transitioned to become Engine 6 on March 15, 1871 when the paid department began. This piece exists today in excellent restored and operating condition. It has a brake mechanism for stopping, but once it gets rolling the 3000 pound machine doesn't like to stop.

Sprinkler Systems that contain Anti-freeze.

Background

Following reports of a fire incident involving a sprinkler system that contained a high concentration antifreeze solution, research and standards development activities were begun to address concerns raised by the combustibility of antifreeze solutions in residential sprinkler systems.

Existing NFPA13D (one & two family residential) systems (systems installed before September 30, 2012) must be tested annually by a qualified individual. NFPA 13D provides two alternative test procedures. In the first alternative, the system is drained and two solution samples are taken, one near the beginning and one near

the end of the draining process. In the second alternative, the system is not drained and two solution samples are taken, one at the highest practical elevation and one at the lowest practical elevation of the system.

- The two samples collected using either alternative procedure are then tested to verify that the specific gravity of both samples is similar. If the specific gravity of both samples is similar and if the system is found to contain factory premixed antifreeze solutions of either glycerin at a maximum concentration of 50% by volume or propylene glycol at a maximum concentration of 40% by volume, then the existing solution is allowed to remain in service. If these conditions are not met, the existing solution must be replaced with a premixed antifreeze solution of either glycerin at a maximum concentration of 50% by volume or propylene glycol at a maximum concentration of 40% by volume (or other solutions listed specifically for use in fire protection systems).
- The concentration of antifreeze solutions shall be limited to the minimum necessary for the anticipated minimum temperature.

Existing NFPA 13 and NFPA 13R Sprinkler Systems

The testing and maintenance provisions for NFPA 13 and 13R (low rise residential occupancies) antifreeze systems are governed by NFPA 25. NFPA 25 provides that, **by September 2022**, existing systems (systems installed after September 30, 2012), like new systems, will be required to use only listed antifreeze solutions. Until then, traditional antifreeze solutions may continue to be used where certain conditions, confirmed by annual testing, have been met, summarized as follows. Until a listed non-combustible solution is introduced into the system, antifreeze solutions in existing systems must be tested annually, prior to the onset of freezing weather.

- If it is determined, based on records, tests or other reliable information that the solution found in the system is no longer permitted or if the type of anti-freeze cannot be reliably determined, the system must be drained and replaced with an acceptable factory premixed solution.
- If the initial review indicates that the solution type is acceptable, test samples must be taken at the top and bottom of each system (in some cases an

additional sample must be taken).

- If all the test samples indicate a concentration of glycerin not greater than 38% by volume or propylene glycol not greater than 30% by volume, then the solution is permitted and may remain in the system.
 - Where the test samples indicate that the solution is between 38% and 50% glycerin or 30% and 40% propylene glycol, the solution may remain in the system pending the approval of a deterministic risk assessment (see NFPA 25: 5.3.4.2.1(3)).
 - If any of the samples indicate a concentration in excess of 50% glycerin or 40% propylene glycol, the system must be emptied and refilled with an acceptable solution or an alternate method of freeze protection must be employed. An acceptable solution would be a solution that contains less than 38% glycerin or 30% propylene glycol or a solution that has been approved by the AHJ based on a deterministic risk assessment.
 - All traditional antifreeze solutions must be replaced by listed antifreeze solutions, or alternative freeze protection methods, by September 2022.
- NOTE: At this time, listed antifreeze solutions do not yet appear to be available.

Until listed antifreeze solutions become available, many systems will not be able to utilize antifreeze.

NFPA Further Recommends

Since no listed solutions currently exist, other freeze protection design approaches must be employed for new systems. For existing systems where traditional antifreeze solutions remain an option, consideration should still be given to alternatives to the use of antifreeze. It is important to remember that, while NFPA sprinkler standards allow the limited use of antifreeze in existing systems as an option to address freeze potential, they do not require the use of antifreeze in sprinkler systems. Both in designing new NFPA 13D systems and evaluating existing systems, owners and contractors are encouraged to investigate other methods of maintaining wet pipe systems in environments where freezing of pipes may be a concern. Several alternative design options exist including the use of insulation, heating areas where sprinkler piping is run, or the use of dry pipe and preaction systems in areas subject to freezing.

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is

seeking to fill two positions of Local Coordinator in Philadelphia and New Jersey. This 25 hour per week, part-time position offers lots of flexibility and opportunity for growth. These positions require a person with a go-getter attitude and a desire to bring stakeholders (fire and building officials, building owners, builders and developers, elected officials, fire sprinkler contractors, and citizens) together to support the concept of fire sprinklers. Call 845-878-4200 for more information or go to www.nfsa.org and click on "Team Jobs" to submit your cover letter and resume to team@nfsa.org. Fire Sprinklers Save. People. Pets. Property. Firefighters. Environment. & more!

Billy Goldfeder's new book "Pass It On 2nd Alarm" is highly recommended reading for all firefighters. A few quotes:

"Fire Prevention. Now, it might seem contrary to the vim and vigor firemen exhibit upon joining the fire department, eager for the fight with the Devil. But it is not. There will be plenty of fires to be fought. With proper planning and implementation, we can kick that beast right in the crotch before he embarks on his nefarious deeds. During my career as a firefighter and

since I have dedicated by life to this concept, if firefighters do their job in this regard, they will save innumerable lives and properties." Chief Edward Franklin Croker, FDNY, 1863-1951 as told by Gary Urbanowski Honorary Asst. Chief FDNY.

"To keep yourself safe and become proficient, you should internalize the three elements of training:

1. Read everything you can about the fundamentals of the profession.
2. Understand that, to keep yourself safe, it is your obligation to yourself and your family, to take company drill periods as the most important building blocks of your own hands-on experience.
3. To be quiet in the fire house, especially that first year, and to be respectful of the experiences and stories of the first whips, and the senior members. Remember what their experiences teach you, for their experiences will bring you to a safe building of a career of your own experiences." Dennis Smith, FDNY

History Books – Total books sold or given to County Companies has reached 685. 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).

Books are available at all Monthly meetings.

Thank you to Dave Shapp for restoring our BucksCountyFireSafeHomes.com website.

Firefighter Death Benefits **FEDERAL**

The amount of the PSOB benefit is **\$339,881.00** for eligible deaths and disabilities occurring on or after October 1, 2015. The amount of the PSOB educational assistance benefit for one month of full-time attendance on or after October 1, 2015 is \$1,021.00. Found at <https://www.psob.gov/>

BUCKS CO. FIRE NEWS

STATE

The Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act provides for a one-time payment of death benefits to the surviving spouse, minor children, or parents of firefighters killed in the performance of their duties. It is adjusted annually. If no spouse, then payment goes to children under age 21; if no children, then to parents. Benefit covers deaths that occurred as a result of the performance of duties. For 2013-2014, the benefit is **\$123,277.64**. Found at <http://www.firehero.org/resources/family-resources/benefits/local/pa/>

EDUCATION BENEFIT – CHILDREN

Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program provides waiver of tuition, fees, and room and board to children of firefighters who died after January 1, 1976, as the direct result of performing their official duties.

To qualify, child must be a state resident, attend a state institution full-time, be age 25 or under, and be enrolled in an academic program leading to an associate or bachelor's degree. To be eligible for this benefit, the child must have applied for other available scholarships, including state and federal grants. Adopted children are

also covered under this benefit.

Station 12, Newportville, has ordered a Pierce Impel PUC engine, with a 10" raised roof, powered by a Cummins ISL 450HP engine with an Allison EVS3000 automatic transmission, seating for eight (8) firefighters, roll up doors, hydraulic ladder rack, 750 gallon poly tank with a 30 gallon class A foam tank, Pierce Husky 3 foam system with a 140 cfm Hercules CAFS compressor, Pierce PUC 1500 gpm single stage pump, 15KW Harrison hydraulic generator and two (2)

Station 31, Fairless Hills, has sold their 1996 Seagrave engine to the Newington Volunteer Fire Department (Rockingham County, NH)

Station 99, DOW Chemical Co., Bristol, their new Chemical 99 into is a 1999 KME EXCEL Foam Pumper with a 2000 GPM, 750 Gallons of AR-AFFF and 300 gallons of Water, Detroit Series 60, automatic, Foam Pro Hypro foam system, Onan 6KW generator, seating for 6, a remote controlled light tower, and 2000 GPM TFT remote control deck gun. Hose lines include, 2 – 200' 1 ¾ cross-lay with a rear hose load of 800' of 5", 300' 1 ¾,

150' of 3" dead lay, and 200' of 3" into a portable deck gun. This apparatus was a custom purchase for the DOW Freeport Texas site located SE of Houston. This unit replaces a 1990 National Foam Custom Foam Pumper.

National Statistics - In 2014, only 4% of all fire department responses were to fires. Almost two-thirds (64%) were medical aid or rescue responses. Fire departments responded to 3.5 times as many medical aid or rescue calls in 2014 as in 1984.

While total reported fires have continued to decline over the past 15 years, this is primarily due to a drop in the number of vehicle fires and outside and unclassified fires. The decline in structure fires has been much smaller. In 2014, structure fires accounted for 38% of reported fires, with home structure fires representing 28% of the total. Home structure fires caused 84% of all civilian fire deaths, 75% of civilian fire injuries, and 59% of total direct property damage. Vehicle fires accounted for 15% of the reported fires. Almost half (47%) of the reported fires were outside, non-structure, non-vehicle fires or other unclassified fires.

BUCKS CO. FIRE NEWS

Meyer Way from the new Wawa.

The Bucks County Fire Marshals put on their second smoke detector class for the Bucks County Board of Realtors. In addition to a chair burning timeline and temperature video, and power point presentation, the actual section of the burned baseboard, carpet section and damaged extension cord at the point of failure were shown from the Wrightstown babysitter fire. Showing the initial point of fire ignition was a great visual for non-fire people to help educate them on the need for interconnected smoke detectors.

An insurance claim for a fire that occurred in a rental property without a U&O was denied by the insurance company for not complying with the Warrington Twp. Use & Occupancy requirement.

In a second fire incident a claim was again denied because the owner of record did not reside at the residence. The owner's parents and his children did, but he did not live there. It stated on his policy that the home will be his primary residence. His primary residence was out of state.

Station 10, Edgley, has been nominated by State Rep. Tina Davis as a Bucks County Hero First Responder award for their valiant effort at the silo collapse and recovery in the Riverside Industrial Complex. Edgley, with the assistance of other companies, worked in shifts for nearly 100 hours over four days at temperatures as low as minus five degrees.

Station 65, Nottingham Assistant Chief John Izak, has been nominated for the Bucks County Hero First Responder award for his CPR effort that saved a teenager's life on a Lacrosse field. John has become the force to require AED's at all sporting events.

The Keystone Firefighter Conference will be held on July 15, 16 & 17, 2016 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, Pa.

According to OSHA, following proper lockout-tagout procedures prevents and estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year.

Warwick Township has awarded a contract to construct a single bay EMS Station on Meyer Way at York Rd. This is across

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If your detectors are not connected, your home is not protected!

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