
BUCKS COUNTY FIRE NEWS

May 2018 Hot Line for Help: 267-893-5400

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 35, Lingohocken on May 21st.

Adam K. Thiel
Philadelphia Fire
Commissioner will be the guest speaker.

6:30 PM Food

7:45 PM Meeting Start (If this changes, I will get an e-mail out on Monday)

The June meeting will be held at the Station 42, Reiglesville on June 18th.

Highlights of the April Meeting:

A presentation was made by First Net. They provide priority Cell services on the AT&T Network. Any qualifying emergency services organization will always have "priority" on the network, called pre-emptive access. The network already exists. A modular cell tower on a truck can be moved in to an area devastated by a storm or other natural disaster.

A vote was approved to lower the number of annual scholarships from 5 to 4.

Rob Kay Sr. reported the costs on maintaining three

websites. All 3 will be combined into one site. Send your website info to

Rakay@co.bucks.pa.us

A change in the meeting starting time was approved for Adam Thiel's visit next month.

A \$400. Was approved for the Jim Lee Jr. program in September.

It was reported that there are currently 17 dispatcher vacancies. Depending on retirements and promotions there may be as many as 21.

The current class of 8 is nearing competition.

A request has been made to split the North Band.

Ron Doster is back on the Communications Advisory board.

A search is on for phones that provide a separate tone for fire and EMS calls.

Audrey Kenny will return as Director of Communications. Assistant Cad Administrator, Jon Stoughton has 46 years of service.

10-year battery smoke detectors can't be turn off once the switch is activated.

The Bucks County Fire Chiefs & Firefighters

Association is proud to announce the Scholarship Award Program for 2018. This program is an excellent recruitment and retention tool for members of all Bucks County Fire Companies. It will provide financial assistance on a competitive basis to members of the association. Copies of the rules for the program, along with a copy of the application can be reviewed on our website:

www.buckscandff.com. Feel free to make copies of these documents and distribute them to members of members' family, who are pursuing post-secondary education.

As of June 1, 2018, four (4) \$1000.00 scholarships will be provided by the Association - Three (3) \$1,000.00 scholarship awards to individuals pursuing "college level degrees" and one (1) specifically to a Fire Science degree program. All applications must be submitted by September 1, 2018.

A recent fire at New York City's Trump Tower claimed the life of 67-year-old Todd

Brassner and injured six firefighters, reports ABC News. The 50th-floor residence had no working smoke alarms or fire sprinklers. The fire's cause is believed to be accidental.

Completed in 1983, the building was constructed prior to the passage of a 1999 city law requiring sprinklers in new, residential buildings with four or more units. The law also applies to existing residential buildings that "undergo renovations costing 50 percent or more of the building's value," reports ABC.

Smoke alarms that know the difference between burning food and burning furniture will soon be the standard. They will comply with the 2020 NFPA Standard update. "This is a life safety game changer," said Barb Guthrie, public safety officer at UL. "What we are now able to place in people's homes is a smart device that can recognize all of these atmospheric conditions around the smoke alarm and sound faster with a degree of accuracy that we never had before."

The significance extends well beyond solving a longtime annoyance—it also has important ramifications for life safety. Even though few

faux pas in the fire and life safety world are as maligned as messing with a smoke alarm, plenty of people continue to do so, sometimes with tragic consequences. NFPA statistics show that the majority of the roughly 2,700 people who die annually in residential fires in the United States live in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Many of the alarms, studies have found, didn't work because they were disabled by residents annoyed by their squawking and were never put back in working order.

Nuisance alarms have also taken their toll on fire departments. In 2014, U.S. fire departments responded to almost 2.5 million false alarms, about twice the total number of reported fires and five times the number of structure fires, according to an NFPA analysis. Most were triggered by commercial monitored connections, including residential buildings such as apartment buildings, hotels, and dormitories.

Billy G - "I never gave much thought to residential fire sprinklers until, in the late 80's, I woke up and realized that I owned some level of responsibility when people got hurt or died in fires that occurred in my jurisdiction".

BUCKS CO. FIRE NEWS

A new book "From Horses to Horsepower: A History of Philadelphia's Fire Apparatus 1871 to 2017" by Jack Wright is now available for \$45.00. The book will be released in July, but you can pre-order now.

<https://www.facebook.com/firemanshall/>

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.

Never say "Never" - The fire alarm sounded during a fire tactics class being attended by multiple fire companies at the Upper Perkiomen High School. Upon further investigation by the attendees, an active fire was found in the wood shop. The wood shop was severely damaged and most of the school suffered smoke damage.

Station 40, Springtown has taken delivery of a Pierce PUC rescue pumper. Their 1981 Pierce Arrow canopy-cab, 1500/1000 was sold to two company members

Station 7, William Penn, has placed their 2017 Ford F550/Pierce, 1000/300 tac unit in service.

An 1838 -1840 Hand Pumper built in Philadelphia by Joel Bates is undergoing a complete restoration. This hand-drawn vehicle is a double decked-end stroked hand engine constructed primarily from oak, ash, tulip polar, iron, and brass. The box body is a frame and panel construction set upon un-sprung running gear. The axles are made from solid iron whose ends are threaded to accept square nuts to secure the wheels. The flush panels are finished and decorated with applied rails and stiles which have their interior edges chamfered. The main body panels are painted a light aqua blue-green, and the rails and stiles are painted a medium red; which in turn are decorated with oil gilt foliate forms in the four corners. The pump handles are made from a thick rolled iron plate with some evidence of hand forging. The handles which are joined side to side with threaded iron rods and secured with square nuts. The primary pump handles are fitted with four pair of turned wooden handles which fold out to allow, for up, to sixteen men to assist in operating the primary pumps.

The top of body is also fitted with two boards which fold out to allow firefighters to stand in an elevated position to operate the middle set of secondary pump handles on both sides of the pumper body. The secondary wooden pump handles and wooden platforms are meant to be folded and stowed during transportation.

A "Housing" is being planned to welcome this piece of Philadelphia history back to Philly and to the Firemen's Hall Museum.

The California Energy Commission voted to make solar electricity standard on virtually every new home built in the Golden State starting in 2020.

They also require residential fire sprinklers in all new homes.

Warminster Township Municipal Authority has announced that they will file a law suit against the manufactures of AFFF firefighting foam.

The sprinkler system that protects the building that houses the historic Perkasio carousel has "recalled" sprinkler heads and "sludge" clogged pipes. The building's opening will be delayed until

the system is repaired or replaced.

Improving fire detection capabilities in consumer appliances

USFA and the CPSC, along with the Naval Research Laboratory, worked on a project to determine if wireless fire and smoke alarm technology can be used in homes to further reduce the threat of loss of life in residential fires.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This effort has shown that incorporating a flame detection system in an appliance will cause a wireless smoke alarm to sound almost immediately to a flaming fire in the appliance.

The reduction in alarm times due to the wireless smoke alarm and the flame detection system should increase reaction times to fires of this nature and allow additional egress time for building occupants.

Midway Fire Co., Station 5 has a 1992 E-One Rescue for sale. Asking \$59,900. Will discuss any reasonable offer. Contact Chief Hugh

4

Hager at
c5@midwayvfc.com.

Proposed legislation by PA
Sen. Patrick M. Browne

Requiring Pennsylvania
Licenses for Fire Equipment
Technicians

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will require any business, partnership, organization, association, corporation or individual in the business of installing, altering, inspecting, repairing, recharging, servicing, maintaining or testing fire suppression systems or in the business of inspecting, repairing, recharging, servicing, maintaining or testing portable fire extinguishers or special hazard fire suppression systems to obtain a license from the State Fire Commissioner. This legislation would also require the State Fire Commissioner's office to maintain a list of state certified and licensed fire equipment technicians on its website so individuals, families and business owners can be assured the technician testing, installing or replacing their fire equipment is properly licensed in Pennsylvania.

There have been documented cases of individuals or

BUCKS CO. FIRE NEWS

news to
EdPfeiffer44@gmail.com
anytime during the month.

businesses improperly testing equipment or not testing it at all. In some instances, stickers are just placed on fire equipment certifying that said equipment has been tested or replaced. The safety of our citizens and their property is too important not to ensure that fire equipment, if needed during an emergency, will work as intended because it has been correctly installed and tested. This legislation is similar to license requirements for fire equipment technicians in other states.

SMOKE, Natures Pre-Fire Warning.

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