



ATFD RESPONDING

Volume 13, Issue 2

October 2017

ATFD STAFF

ATFD Fire Chiefs

Abington Fire Co.
Chief Michael Jones

McKinley Fire Co.
Chief Shawn Philipsen

Weldon Fire Co.
Chief Bud Gerhard

Edge Hill Fire Co.
Chief Frank Schuck

Roslyn Fire Co.
Chief Dale Jonas

Fire Marshal:
Kenneth Clark

Assistant Fire Marshal:
John Rohrer

Fire Services Administrator:
David Schramm

Community Service Specialist:
Jeff Glynn

Fire Department Secretary:
Lisa Scholly

Administrative Support Team

Computer Network Administrator:

John Bothwell
Mike Ratka
(Assistant)

Fire Training Coordinator:

Larry Siefken
Michael Jones
(Assistant)

ATFD Received the PA Firemen's Association 2017 Recruitment and Retention Award

Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) received the 2017 Provident Recruitment and Retention Award by the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania at FASP's September 22 conference in Pittsburgh. ATFD also received the award in 2007 and 2015.



The Provident Award recognizes ATFD for growing and maintaining a robust roster of 230 active members - an incredible achievement that greatly benefits all of Abington Township.

Across the state and nation, there has been a dramatic drop in the number of volunteer firefighters. For a township the size of Abington to continue to be served by a 100% volunteer fire department is rare. In addition to providing essential emergency services, the volunteers at our five fire companies – Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, and Roslyn – donate time for training, community events, fundraising, administrative tasks, and more. Most also work full-time jobs and have families. These men and women are to be commended!

The service they provide not only keeps Abington Township safe, it saves taxpayers the millions of dollars per year it would cost to operate a paid fire department or contract outside of the township for those services.

Want to join the ATFD team of amazing volunteers? Learn more or sign up at AbingtonFD.org.

Continuing the ATFD Partnership with Abington Senior High School



One of the best ways in which Abington Township Fire Department reaches young people is through our partnership with Abington Senior High School.

Abington Senior High School has a Junior Firefighters' Club, and Club Advisor Gary Wiley is himself a volunteer firefighter in a nearby community. ATFD supports the club, participating in events designed to both educate young people and attract them to the fire service. Club members often become junior firefighters at one of our five fire companies, and many of those juniors become full firefighters at age 18.

ATFD invites Abington students to our training facility each year during Student Government Day, in which high school students visit as part of an overall tour of township facilities. On Service Learning Day, high school students interested in volunteering come to our training facility to experience what it is like to be a firefighter. ATFD is proud to help Abington students make the annual mock crash as realistic as possible. This event is held prior to the prom each year to drive home the sometimes serious consequences of poor decisions.



"We will strive to invigorate and fortify the spirit of volunteerism in the Abington Township Fire Department by allowing each of our five fire companies to maintain its individual identity that complements our organizational goal of continuous self improvement."

ATFD and Abington Township Support Firefighter Wellness with Comprehensive Physical

Abington Township volunteer firefighters received comprehensive physical exams and wellness advice this summer through Abington Township Fire Department's Firefighter Physicals and Wellness program. These physicals are generally more comprehensive than what members receive from their personal physicians. They are compliant with National Fire Protection Association Guideline 1582, which means they test heart, lungs, eyes, ears, and other physical systems that need to function well so firefighters can safely respond to emergencies. Other tests include blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose readings. Firefighters receive specific advice on actions they can take to improve their results.



All results are confidential; the fire chiefs are only told whether or not a member is fit for duty. Only a handful of firefighters have been taken off active duty over the five years the program has been offered. Most issues were easily corrected by something as simple as new eye glasses. All firefighters were able to return to active duty, some with specific restrictions.

The \$50,000 cost of this important program is shared by ATFD and Abington Township. Both organizations agree the peace of mind it provides the firefighters, their families, and our community is well worth the cost!



ATFD All Around Abington

ATFD participates in many events to support the community that has been so supportive of ATFD. This year's events included the July 4 parade, Pre-National Night Out, and the Willow Grove branch of the NAACP's Unity Day.



Check out the New ATFD Awareness Brochure!

Want to learn more about what ATFD's volunteers do? Check out the new brochure! Printed copies will be handed out at this year's Fire Prevention Week Open Houses.



Please Come to an ATFD Fire Prevention Week Open House in October

"Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out" is the 2017 National Fire Prevention Week theme, and it's an important one. Learn how to make an emergency plan and other important safety skills, see fire-fighting demonstrations, tour a fire truck, meet our volunteers, and enjoy light refreshments at one of our October open houses.



Station	Address	Day/Date
Abington	1920 Horace Avenue, Abington	Monday, October 9
McKinley	893 Jenkintown Road, Elkins Park	Tuesday, October 10
Roslyn	1128 Bradfield Road, Roslyn	Wednesday, October 11
Weldon	412 North Easton Road, Glenside	Thursday, October 12
Edge Hill	2843 Limekiln Pike, North Hills	Friday, October 13

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