



ATFD RESPONDING

AbingtonFD.org

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ATFD STAFF

ATFD Fire Chiefs

Abington Fire Co.
Chief Michael Jones

McKinley Fire Co.
Chief Shawn Philippsen

Weldon Fire Co.
Chief Bud Gerhard

Edge Hill Fire Co.
Chief Frank Schuck

Roslyn Fire Co.
Chief Michael Ratka

Fire Marshal:
John Rohrer

Director of Fire
& Emergency
Management
Services:
Thomas P. McAneney

Fire Department
Secretary:
Lisa Scholly

Administrative Support Team

Computer
Network
Administrator:
John Bothwell
Mike Ratka
(Assistant)

Fire Training
Coordinator:

Larry Siefken
Michael Jones
(Assistant)

Meet Abington Township Fire Department Volunteer Josh Rice



Fire Lieutenant Josh Rice

It's dark inside a fire, said Roslyn Fire Lieutenant Josh Rice. "You can't see anything. You go with your other senses – you can feel where the heat is. You use your thermal imaging camera to cut through the smoke. You rely on your training and your team."

Donning his turnout gear, riding a firetruck with sirens blaring, and using his skills to put out a fire never stops being exciting, Josh said, and there's nothing as rewarding as helping his neighbors.

"I have been able to help put out fires before they spread, so that peoples' homes weren't too damaged," he said. "People are always so thankful."

At just 25 years old, Josh is already a fire company lieutenant with 11 years of volunteer experience.

"I started out as an Explorer with Roslyn as soon as I turned 14, then was a Junior Firefighter from 16 to 18, when I became a full firefighter," said Josh.

Explorers learn about firefighting by watching firefighters train and participating in age-appropriate ways. Juniors gain even more hands-on experience, training with full firefighters and assisting them on many calls.

Josh started going to the firehouse long before he turned 14. His father, Mike, volunteered with Roslyn for many years and all five Abington Township Fire Department (A.T.F.D.) fire companies are family-friendly places. "I really grew up going to the firehouse. I saw what my dad was doing and it interested me, so once I was old enough, I volunteered, too."

Hardly anyone walks through the big bay doors of the Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, or Roslyn fire companies knowing how to be a firefighter. The training required to rescue people from burning buildings, extinguish fires, extricate people who are trapped in vehicles, and so much more, is provided to volunteers at no cost. It's important to train, and also a lot of fun, Josh said - especially when the A.T.F.D. has its own cutting-edge training facility right here in Abington Township.

"I've learned everything that I have learned from being able to go that training facility," said Josh, who works for the Upper Moreland Township Public Works Department. "It's something I'm proud of," he said. "I wasn't always the best school student, and the fire department gave me structure and helped me mature. Being in the fire company helps you develop self confidence."

Josh said anyone looking for a meaningful way to help the community should consider joining the A.T.F.D. "It's a life-changing experience, and you also make friends for a lifetime," he said.



Our Mission: The Abington Township Fire Department is a dedicated team of volunteer firefighters comprised of five individual fire companies unified as one department with a mission to provide excellent fire, rescue, fire prevention, and public education services to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.



A.T.F.D. Fire Companies Welcome Community Back At Fire Safety Open Houses

This October, Abington Township Fire Department fire companies Abington, Roslyn, Weldon, and Edge Hill welcomed the community to their fire houses for a fun night of learning how to prevent fires, watching firefighters display their skills, and of course, exploring the fire trucks. Kids got to use a fire hose or extinguisher to put out a real fire, and there was even a special appearance by the JeffSTAT helicopter. It was the first time in more than a year that the community could visit our stations, and our firefighters were so happy to see them!



Edge Hill Fire Company Junior Teague Dougherty with other members of his fire fighting family. **Chief Frank Schuck, James Dougherty (cousin), Owen Dougherty (cousin), Riley Dougherty (Teague's sister); Teague Dougherty, Jimmy Dougherty (James & Owen's Father), Joe Dougherty (Teague's Father)**

volunteers who receive training designed especially for someone new to fire and emergency services. They also participate in training drills with older firefighters. While state regulations do not allow juniors to enter a burning building, they perform essential

Teens on a Mission: Junior Firefighters Needed!

Teenagers looking for an important and exciting way to make a difference should consider gearing up and getting in the action as an Abington Township Fire Department junior firefighter.

Junior firefighters are 16- and 17-year-old

firefighting duties, including establishing the water supply with a hydrant connection or portable water source, running hoses, and firefighting from outside the building. The free training and experience prepares junior firefighters to take the Firefighter 1 course and become full firefighters at age 18. "I know young people want meaningful ways to make a difference, and what could be more meaningful than helping to save the lives and property of their neighbors?" asks Thomas P. McAneney, Abington's Director of Fire & Emergency Management Services.

Becoming a junior firefighter builds confidence and friendships. It may launch a career in first response or public service. It helps teens stand out on job or college applications.

All five A.T.F.D. fire companies – Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill, and Roslyn – have junior programs and need more junior volunteers. Roslyn has an additional program for even younger teens to learn about the fire service.

Interested? Visit abingtonfd.org/volunteer to learn more, ask a question, or start your volunteer journey.

Congratulations to ATFD's Ten Newly Certified Firefighters

Ten Abington Township Fire Department volunteers recently completed their National Firefighter 1 (NFPA 1001) certification training. During this rigorous training, they learned essential concepts of fire suppression, first aid, ladder and hose techniques and more and passed an exam testing their skills. They are now certified to serve the residents of Abington Township. Congratulations, and thank you.



Abington Fire Company
Michael Franchetti (Junior FF)
Joseph Cardosi



Weldon Fire Company
Sean Rocks



Roslyn Fire Company
Justin Ehly



McKinley Fire Company
Nathan English
Evan Metz
Brendan Tracey



Edge Hill Fire Company
Teague Dougherty (Junior FF)
Zachary Fee
Charles Scherer

