



Newsletter

Proudly Serving Upper Dublin Since 1908

February, 2009

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This is one of a series of newsletters from the Fort Washington Fire Company No.1 in an effort to keep the citizens and taxpayers of Upper Dublin informed about the many and varied activities carried out by our organization. Anyone may opt out of receiving these e-mailed newsletters by clicking on the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this Newsletter. In each newsletter we will endeavor to provide information that is informative, useful and even entertaining.

This Month Around The Fire House

In January the Fort Washington Fire Company responded to 56 Alarms, averaging 22.4 responders per call, totaling 462 responder hours.

For All of 2008 the Fort Washington Fire Company responded to 627 Alarms, averaging 18 responders per call and totaling 466.2 responder hours

For a multi-year comparison visit our website under Activities/Statistics.



Profile Of The Month — Jung Yim

By Andy Rathfon

Each month we profile one of the many Volunteers that make up the Fort Washington Fire Company.

Born May 10th, 1991 in Abington, PA, Jung Yim resided with his parents on Timber Lane in the Dresher section of Upper Dublin Township. While living on Timber Lane Jung attended the Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School. After Jung graduated from the third grade, the Yim family relocated to Honey Run Road, in the Ambler section of Upper Dublin Township. Here Jung and his younger brother attended the Maple Glen Elementary School. Jung's mother owns and operates a small tailor shop in Flourtown, while his father works as a grocer in Jung's grandparent's grocery store in Philadelphia.

Jung, who is currently a senior at Upper Dublin High School, has aspirations to attend college next fall. He is anxiously awaiting the results of eight applications to various universities. Some of these institutions include: West Chester, Penn State, and Temple. Yim wishes to pursue his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice, a program he feels will prepare him for a fu-



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Visit our Website www.FortWashingtonFC.org

Profile, Continued

ture in law enforcement as a police officer.

It was Jung's fascination with the emergency services industry that propelled him to join the Fort Washington Fire Company No.1 in 2007. As a junior firefighter Jung has completed his State Exterior Firefighting certification course at the Montgomery County Fire Academy. His commitment to the company and the citizens of Upper Dublin is also exhibited by his ability to respond to emergency calls during the school day and maintain his academic marks.

While Jung has ridden his favorite truck, Engine 88, to many calls, several incidents are burned into his memory. Jim's first working fire turned out to be a fatal house fire in Roslyn, Abington Township, on the Upper Dublin border. However, Jung's most memorable call was a shed fire on the property of Germantown Academy in which the flames were

impinging upon a large propane tank. Fortunately, Jung and his fellow firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze before the tank became hot enough to erupt.

During his young career with the Fort Washington Fire Company No.1 Jung has made many friends. When asked: What is your favorite part about being a firefighter with the Fort? He replied, "The people". Jung, who is one of approximately ten junior firefighters, has shown astounding interest and dedication in his few years as a firefighter. The fire company and the citizens of Upper Dublin Township are fortunate to have young eager volunteers such as Jung. These members help to ensure that the Fort Washington Fire Company No.1 will continue to provide the most professional volunteer service possible. The Fort Washington Fire Company No.1 wishes Jung success in his future academic and professional endeavors.

Join Us — Become A Volunteer

The Fort Washington Fire Company is a 100% volunteer organization and is always seeking new members. We have several types of membership, which do not all involve fire fighting. All training and equipment is provided by the fire company.

Junior Members-Age 16-17.

Go through regular training and provide fire ground support functions, but are not permitted to operate in hazardous environments until they reach the age of 18. Many of our current members started as junior members.

Firefighters-Age 18 and up.

Respond to fire calls and undergo extensive training at one of the local fire academies as well as in-house training through the fire company.

Fire Police- Provide traffic control and crowd control at emergency scenes as well as special events such as parades and carnivals.

Associate Members- Provide administrative support to the fire company. These administrative functions include, but are not limited to, accounting, clerical, computer networking and programming, facility management, etc

Do a Home Fire Safety Survey

By Howard Schmuckler

February, **right now**, would be a great time to conduct a Fire Safety Inspection of your home. There is a checklist at the end of this newsletter that you can print out and begin the survey. It is important to get everyone in the household involved as Fire Safety is everyone's job. Especially get the kids involved.



Your home is loaded with plenty of Fire Safety hazards, many that you normally don't think about. Do you have a smoke alarm **AND** a carbon Monoxide Alarm. Have you replaced the batteries lately? Where do you store the gasoline for your lawn mower? Is it in safe place? Do you have a fire extinguisher near the kitchen? Does everyone know how to use it?

Fire safety is something that everyone needs to be aware of 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. *Do not wait until it is too late, practice fire safety every day!* If you have any questions or comments about this article, or any other fire safety subject, please feel free to call the Fire Company at 215-646-2555 or stop into either fire station any Monday night. The Fire Prevention Committee is available to present programs upon request. Visit the Fort Washington Fire Company on the Internet at www.fortwashingtonfc.org.

Print and fill out the checklist at the end of this newsletter and take corrective actions.



Training Update

By Eric Clauson

The start of a new year means another 12 months of training for the members of the FWFC. On January 12th, members participated in the annual SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) refresher drill. This important drill reinforces knowledge of our SCBA and their safety features. Members were also timed in donning their SCBA with the goal of breathing air in 60 seconds or less. The SCBA is a one of the most important tools we have and it is vital that all fire fighters are intimately familiar with this vital piece of equipment.

On January 19, Lt. Brian Adams conducted a training session on vehicle air bags and hybrid vehicles. As vehicles become safer, the challenge of freeing trapped occupants involved in accidents becomes more hazardous for fire fighters and rescue personnel due to the fact the air bags are now being

found in more places than ever. Cutting into an airbag sensor during a rescue can cause serious injuries to rescuers and the patients. The increase in hybrid vehicles on the road also means that our personnel must undergo training, since these vehicles create additional hazards that rescuers must be aware of.

On January 26, member and certified instructor Jerry Smith, Jr. also a firefighter in Baltimore City, conducted a drill on strategy and tactics. The interactive drill discussed safety concerns, tactical considerations and general issues that we face at fires. We also looked at case studies and introduced members to the concept of "riding responsibilities"- meaning that every member on the truck has a responsibility and must ensure that they have the proper tools to do the job they are assigned.



Station A
220 Summit Ave
Fort Washington PA
19034



Station B
Susquehanna and
Twining Roads
Dresher PA 19025



Fire Training Grounds
Twining Road

We Hold drills each
Monday Night at 7 PM

Our Business Meetings
are held the 2nd
Thursday of each
month at 7:30 PM

Contact Information
220 Summit Avenue
Fort Washington PA
19034

215-646-2555

Member Milestones

By Tim Evard

The members of the FWFC would like to congratulate Ryan Duntzee as the newest addition to the Abington Township Police Department. Ryan joined the FWFC as a Junior Firefighter.



He was awarded the Junior Firefighter of the Year Award in 2006 and he later graduated from Penn State. We wish him a long, successful and safe career.

Best wishes to John Woodward who began a two year deployment at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany this month. John joined the Fire Company in 2007. Prior to graduation from the Wissahickon High School in



2008, John enlisted in the Air Force. We wish him all our best and commend him for his service to our country.

Congratulations to Assistant Chief Mike Bodo and his wife Dena on the birth of their daughter Jessica Danyel Bodo on January 7, 2009.

Mike is a Senior Member who joined the Fire Company in 1990 at the age of 16 and has worked his way up to Assistant Chief.

We welcome this beautiful addition to the Bodo family and wish them all our best.



HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECK LIST

Every "yes" answer indicates a positive fire safety situation. However, **every "no" answer points to a fire hazard that needs to be corrected immediately.**

YES NO

- Do you know how to turn in a fire alarm?
- Does everyone in your family know the telephone number of your fire department and how to se 911?
- Is there a fire extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen?
- Do you know how and when to use a fire extinguisher?
- Do you have an escape plan with at least two ways out of every room in your home, and a meeting place outside for the entire family?
- Have you practiced that escape plan by holding fire drills on a regular basis in your home?
- Do you extinguish candles when you leave the area where the candles are burning?
- Do you use sturdy noncombustible containers to set candles on?
- Do you make sure that there are no flammable objects within three feet of burning candles?
- Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment lugs and long extension cords?
- When you buy electrical equipment and appliances, do you always look for the UL label of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.?
- Do you have adequate wiring and circuit breakers for the equipment used in your home?
- Are all extension cords of the right size, in the open and not under rugs or through partitions or openings and are they for temporary use only?
- Do you have qualified electricians install or repair your wiring?
- Do you keep matches and lighters away from sources of heat?
- Do you keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children?
- Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them?
- Do you have plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays in every room?
- Are you careful never to leave children alone in a room with a portable heater or wood stove?
- Do you always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- Do you keep all pot handles turned away from the edge of the stove/range?
- Does your child stay at least three feet away from the stove/range at all times?
- Have you installed smoke alarms on every level of your home and near every sleeping area?

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HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECK LIST

- Do you test your smoke alarms once a month to make sure they are working, and replace the batteries twice a year?
- Have you installed a UL-listed carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in the hallway near bedrooms in your home?
- Do you store gasoline in a locked garage or shed, out of the reach of children, and always in a container made for gasoline?
- Are you careful to only use gasoline as a motor fuel and to never bring gasoline indoors, even in small amounts?
- Are you careful to never use a barbecue grill or generator in your garage?
- Do you have a trained expert inspect, clean and tune-up your central heating system before the heating season each year?
- Do you have an expert sweep and inspect your chimneys once a year and clean them if needed?
- Do you keep things that can burn away from your fireplace and keep a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace?
- Do you constantly supervise children around all types of heating equipment and keep children away from fireplaces?
- Are you careful to never burn trash or paper in your fireplace?