



Newsletter

Proudly Serving Upper Dublin Since 1908

July, 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 June the Fort Washington Fire Company responded to 46 Alarms, averaging 20.1 responders per call, totaling 362 responder hours.

For All of 2008 the Fort Washington Fire Company responded to 627 Alarms, averaging 18 responders per call and totaling 4662 responder hours

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



Training News

By Eric Clauson

Fort Washington members have been kept very busy with training. On June 8th, members traveled to the Montgomery County Fire Academy to conclude our high rise fire fighting class. Members were divided into groups and assigned the task of search & rescue or fire suppression in the high rise section of the county burn building. Our members now have more of an appreciation for the challenged faced in fighting fires in high rise or mid rise buildings. Thanks to FWFC member and Montgom-



FWFC members gather to discuss the tactics they will use to attack the fire and search for victims.

ery County instructor Roy Nuss for coordinating this class. **Continued on page 2**



Training News Continued

On June 15th, our members went to the "field of dreams" adjacent to the township building to train on various ways to deploy hose lines. There are several ways to load hose and all have their advantages and disadvantages. Members were given an opportunity to see this first hand. Rapid deployment of hose is a "bread and butter" operation and proficiency is key for a successful engine company.

On June 22nd, retired Philadelphia Battalion Chief Bob Drennen led FWFC members in a tour of 500 Office Center Drive. The purpose of this tour was to review some of the issues discussed in our recent high rise class and to provoke discussion on some of the strategies and tactics to be employed in the event of a fire in a building of this type. Special thanks to Marie Williams and Brandywine Realty Trust for allowing FWFC to utilize their building for training.

On June 29th, FWFC members utilized the propane fire simulator at our training grounds. One of the many excellent training props built by members of the fire company, the propane simulator is designed to train fire fighters on using hose lines to displace the burning gas and allow access the shut off valves to stop the flow. A real-life scenario might involve a vehicle driving into piping on the outside of a building, which could cause a gas leak and fire. When dealing with fires involving an active gas leak, it is always preferred to shut off the supply of gas, rather than extinguish the fire, the exception being an immediate life hazard. Why, you might ask? When the fire is allowed to burn, it certainly looks impressive, but all operating personnel are aware of the source of the problem and can isolate the area. If the fire were to be extinguished without stopping the flow of gas, the gas could then travel into low lying or remote areas and ignite unexpectedly.



The ignition of the propane



Members using two 1.75" hose lines to move in on the fire and allow access to shut off



Firefighters shutting valves

Congratulations to Chris Haggard and Mike McSpadden. Both have recently passed their Firefighter I test and are now nationally certified fire fighters. They join an extensive list of FWFC members who are certified in a variety of disciplines.



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.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary assists the Fire Company, by promoting sociability among members and aiding the financial and general well being of the fire company.

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

Campfire Safety

By Howard Schmuckler



Camping outdoors is a fun activity during the warmer months, whether it is with your family, friends or scouting. Often, a fire is started for cooking or for heat on cooler evenings. Extreme care must be taken to prevent the fire from getting out of control and causing injury and damage (to the landscape and buildings). Camping should be a safe and fun experience for everyone. Here are some suggestions for maintaining a safe campfire:

CHECK FOR GOOD WEATHER CONDITIONS

Do not build a campfire when there has been very dry weather, or when there are strong winds. Always find out if there are warnings / restrictions in effect that prohibit campfires. If there are, always obey the warnings. Failure to obey may result in a fire that cannot be controlled, risking injury and property loss.

PICK A GOOD SPOT FOR THE CAMPFIRE

Find out if there are existing fire rings or fire pits available to use. If there are, they should be used, as they are placed in a safe area and maintained for that purpose. If there are none available, do not start a campfire too close to a building, trees, bushes, or anything else that might catch on fire. All tents must be upwind and at least 15-20 feet away from the campfire. Always check overhead to make sure there are no low hanging branches that could catch fire.

PREPARING THE CAMPFIRE SITE

Clear an area 10 feet in diameter of all debris (leaves, branches, twigs, grass), down to the soil. Use rocks to create a fire ring, or use a metal fire ring. Place all of your firewood upwind and away from the fire. Always have a bucket of water and shovels near the fire in case of an emergency and when for use when you are finished using the fire. Shovels can be used to dig soil that can be used to extinguish the fire. **NEVER LEAVE A CAMPFIRE UNATTENDED.**

BUILDING A CAMPFIRE

Start by making a small pile with small pieces of dry wood (twigs and small branches) in the center of the 10 foot clearing. Never cut branches from a living tree. Ignite the branches with a match or a lighter. Add larger pieces of wood to keep the fire going, increasing the size of the pieces as the fire catches. **KEEP THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.** Do not allow the fire to get too large. Keep first aid supplies and emergency telephone numbers accessible at all times. Know where the nearest telephone or ranger station is located, and carry a cell phone if possible.

FINISHED WITH THE CAMPFIRE?

Allow the wood to burn down to a fine ash. Pour water on the ashes, stirring the ashes and embers with a shovel until everything is wet and cold to the touch. If you don't have water, use soil. Before leaving the area double check the campfire to ensure it is out cold. It is YOUR responsibility to completely extinguish the fire before you leave the area.

IF CHILDREN ARE IN YOUR GROUP

Never leave any children near a campfire unless they are supervised by a responsible adult. Set a safety zone around the camp fire where all can sit and relax around the fire. Designate a play area to keep bikes and other toys out of the safety zone. Be sure all matches and lighters are out of reach and sight of children. Matches and lighters should be stored in a secured location to prohibit access by children.

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.



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

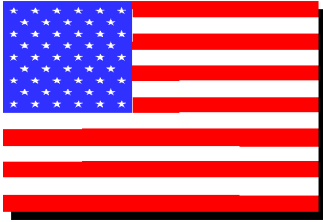
Our Business Meetings
are held the 2nd
Thursday of each
month at 7:30 PM

Contact Information
220 Summit Avenue
Fort Washington PA
19034

215-646-2555

Independence Day Parade

By Eric Clauson



On July 4th, FWFC will be participating in the annual Oreland 4th of July parade at 10AM. As always, all of our trucks will be washed and looking their best and our members will be wearing their dress uniforms. A large portion of this parade winds through the streets of Upper Dublin, so come out, watch a great parade and show your support to the FWFC!



FWFC Softball

By 'Mr. 700' — Tom McDonald



On Sunday, June 14th, members of the Fort Washington Fire Company got together to play a pick-up softball game at Mondauk Commons. Although they played with a little rust in the beginning, enthusiasm and effort took over. There were some outstanding plays such as Jerry "the Vacuum" Smith's diving catch and roll followed by the strong hitting of Joe "Batman" Scheswohl. There were also some poor plays like... probably shouldn't use his real name so I will just call him Chief, where simple ground balls were booted and pop flies were lost in the sun on a cloudy day.

After the game, the members were left with one question – Where do we go from here?

The answer – Fort Softball is Back!

Led by Commish 88, Manager Slow Moe and Coach Clyde S. Dale, the team consists of a 25 plus roster and a pink bat (not sure where it came from but it appears to be the preferred weapon). The team includes players like Eric "Splinters" Clauson, Sean "Pine Tar" Keenan, Will "Socks" Frick, and Andrew "The Pilot" Krimmel.

Notice has been issued to local fire companies that the "Fort" is willing to take on all challengers. Abington Fire Company, Station 100, was the first to respond and Barren Hill, Station 29, was right behind them. Other companies have expressed interest and are working on putting teams together.

Come and support the 2009 FWFC Softball Team!

July 5 – Start 6pm – Mondauk – Barren Hill

July 12 – Start 6pm – Mondauk – Abington

July 19 – Start 6pm – Mondauk – TBD

July 26 – Start 6pm – Mondauk – TBD

