



Newsletter

Proudly Serving Upper Dublin Since 1908

July, 2010

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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 64 Alarms, averaging 17.7 responders per call, totaling 501 responder hours.

For All of 2009 the Fort Washington Fire Company responded to 622 Alarms, averaging 19.5 responders per call and totaling 5699 responder hours For a multi-year comparison visit our website under Activities/Statistics.

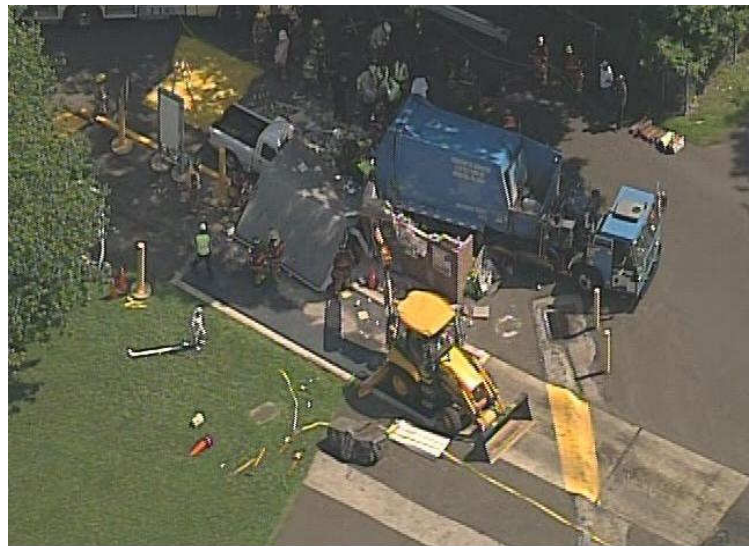


Vehicle Rescue Involved Many

By Andy Rathfon

On June 4, 2010 around 10:15 AM the Fort Washington Fire Company was dispatched to the Abington Trash Transfer Facility, located at 995 Fitzwatertown Road, in Upper Dublin Township, for the report of a vehicle accident standby.

While en route, Montgomery County Dispatch upgraded the call to a vehicle rescue, indicating that a subject was stuck between a trash truck and the building. The dispatch Center also advised that there was a partial building collapse.



Lieutenant 88-1 Zach Velivis responded directly to the scene and established incident command. Velivis reported that the subject was trapped underneath the trash truck and debris from a collapsed guard shack that once stood at the weigh station near the entrance of the complex. Velivis also added that the patient was conscious and alert, but heavily entrapped.

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Captain 88 Andrew Rathfon, who was responding on Squad 88, requested that County add a rescue company from Abington to the assignment.

Rescue 300, Weldon Fire Company, was dispatched as a result. Upon arrival, Captain 88 assumed incident command. Velivis worked with medics from Second Alarmers Rescue Squad to devise a plan for extrication.

Command added an engine from Horsham Fire Company, 15A, for manpower. Special requests were made for Roslyn Fire Company's Technical Rescue Trailer and Fort Washington Fire Company's Trench Rescue Trailer to respond to the scene.

Heavy Paratech struts, cribbing, and air bags were used to stabilize the trash truck, while hydraulic rams were used to lift debris from the patient. A front end loader, sent by Upper Dublin Township, was also utilized to support a leaning brick wall during operations. Extrication was complete in less than 40 minutes from dispatch.

The status of the patient, who was conscious and alert throughout, is unknown. Upper Dublin Police Department and the Abington Police Department are actively investigating the cause of the accident.



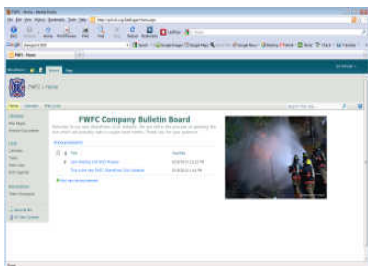
Member Milestones By Andrew Krimmel

Eric and Keely Clauson welcomed Brett Ryan Clauson into their lives on Wednesday, June 2nd. Brett weighed in at 6lbs., 14ozs., and is 20in long at Abington Memorial Hospital. All the Clauson's are doing well.

We will be expecting Brett to start attending drills on Monday, June 2nd 2026.



SharePoint Expertise Needed



The Fort Washington Fire Company has just launched its new SharePoint 2010 Website where members can be in constant touch with the Company's events, activities, training, fire reports and other needed information from anywhere they have access to the Internet.

In order to maintain the SharePoint site we would like a local volunteer familiar with SharePoint 2010 to be a resource when we need additional expertise. Anyone that has this experience is encouraged to email their contact information to eschuler@fwfc.org.

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 and crowd control at emergency scenes as well as at 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.

Our Newest Members

By Tim Evard

The Fort Washington Fire Company would like to welcome Sarah Carroll and Mathew Williams as our newest members.

Sarah became interested in fire fighting through her family. Not only are her uncles, cousins and grandfather all firefighters, her dad Bill is a life active member of the FWFC. Sarah is a student at Upper Dublin High School and lifeguards for the Germantown Cricket Club in the summer. When asked what being a volunteer means to her, she says it means being able to help others at any time, with no reward expected, other than the reward of helping others.



Mathew grew up in upstate New York where he became a volunteer fire fighter with his local fire company at the age of 16. Ever since seeing the impact firefighting has on his community, he has been eager to help in any way possible. When he moved to the area in December, 2009, he looked up who the local company was and how to become a member. Mathew comes to us with many years of experience and we are proud to welcome him to the family.



Microsoft Give Camp

By Ed Schuler

Each year Microsoft's Great Valley Office gathers together experienced computer code writers from the tri-state area for a weekend of helping non-profit organizations create Websites or other computer programming activities that would ordinarily cost the non-profit a lot of money they may not have in their budgets. They call this event Give Camp. This year, ninety volunteer computer gurus helped 15 nonprofit organizations with their programming needs over a 3 day weekend June 4,5 and 6.



Above- One of several rooms at the Microsoft Great Valley facility, where teams worked together to do coding for area non-profits at the 3 day give camp.

FWFC took advantage of the Microsoft offer when we heard about while attending the SharePoint Saturday program given at DeVry University in May. A team of 5 people took our request and upgraded our existing

SharePoint site to the new SharePoint 2010 software and wrote code to improve on our existing site.



Above- Our own volunteer network consultant, Alex Raginsky (left) works with Lance Wulfers and Tom Daly who were part of the team assigned to upgrade our SharePoint website.

The SharePoint site is important to the Company as it provides remote access to the important documents and other information necessary for the day-to-day operation of the Fire Company and its events. Members are able to see this information from anywhere they may be as long as it has Internet Access.



Station A

220 Summit Ave



Station B

Susquehanna and Twining Roads



**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

Visit our Website www.FortWashingtonFC.org

Fire Safety for People with Disabilities

By Howard Schmuckler

Most Americans will, at some time in their lives, have a temporary or permanent disability (or multiple disabilities). This may be a difficulty with mobility, with sight, or with hearing. Disabilities vary in degree from person to person, but they all present an element of challenge in escaping during an emergency evacuation. However, **everyone needs to have a plan in place**, to be able to evacuate a building, regardless of his or her physical condition/limitations. A plan should be developed for where a person lives, works, visits, goes to for shopping, restaurants, vacation, every place possible.

The evacuation plan needs to include a means for everyone to be notified that there is an emergency that warrants everyone to evacuate the area and/or the building.

The plan must include at least two ways out that the individual with a disability can utilize. Is the person going to be able to evacuate on their own, will they need to use a device to help them, will they require assistance from others? If they will need help from others, what type of help? Will the person need to be carried down stairs in the case where elevators cannot be used, such as when there is a fire. Several strong individuals may be needed in this case. Are there enough qualified individuals in the area of the individual with the disability who are willing to assist? Is there training available to give to those who

will assist in the evacuation, information on the best methods to utilize in the evacuation that will be the safest for the disabled individual as well as those who assist, and also be the fastest method? This may seem like an extreme situation to you, but this may occur at any time. Another example: are there strobe lights present that will activate in an emergency to alert a person who is deaf? There are many situations that could exist, depending on a person's disability.

If you are an individual with a disability, you need to give your evacuation plans a lot of thought. Do as much of the planning that you can, and if needed seek assistance from others. Consult with experts that are most familiar with your disability (doctors, therapists, organizations that specialize in your disability, websites, etc.); as well as your police department, fire department, and emergency medical personnel. These people may provide you with ideas that you have not thought of. Ask your family, friend, co-workers for suggestions; and ask them for their consent to assist you in case of an emergency.

If you are not a person with a disability, look around you, is there someone who might need assistance in case of an emergency? If it is a person who lives with you, or who is very close to you, you might do this automatically. But if it is a person who works with you, or goes to school with you, or attends meet-

ings with you, you may not have given this much thought. Please consult with that person and ask them if they would require help to evacuate if there were an emergency. Discuss with them what they would need, and if they already have an emergency plan in place. If they do have a plan, ask if there is any way that you could assist. If there is no plan in place, work with them to develop a plan, and look for others to assist. Consider that one day, you may become a person with a disability (short or long term), and you may need the assistance of someone else in order to evacuate a building in the event of an emergency.

This article speaks in general terms, regardless of the type of disability. In future articles, we will discuss specific things to consider for specific disabilities.

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.

3rd Quarter Training Schedule Announced

By Eric Clauson

July 5-Oreland Parade and NO DRILL!
July 10 (Saturday)-BVR Ops Practical @ Training Grounds
July 12- Modern Vehicle Restraint Systems with ESI
July 19- Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician @ 88-A/Tower 88 Familiarization & Hoseline Deployment @ 1050 Virginia Drive
July 26- Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician @ 88-A/Hybrid Electric Vehicles @88-B with ESI
July 31 (Saturday)-BVR (Basic Vehicle Rescue) Technician Practical @ Training Grounds
August 2-Work Night & Active Workers Meeting
August 9-Practical RIT (Rapid Insertion Team) Review Part II
August 16-Hoseline Advancement Competition
August 23- "Rocket Fights" Hoseline handling contests with neighboring companies
August 30- Water Rescue-Familiarization with Boats/Equipment
September 6-NO DRILL for Labor Day
September 13-Work Night and Active Workers Meeting
September 20-Burn Drill at Fire Academy (Residential Section)
September 27-FWFC Fire Prevention Expo

Visit our Website www.FortWashingtonFC.org