



Newsletter

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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 April the Fort Washington Fire Company responded to 65 Alarms, averaging 19.2 responders per call, totaling 467 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.



Recent Calls Keep Fort Members Busy

By Eric Clauson

The Fire Company has been kept busy over the past few weeks with several serious incidents. On the morning of March 29th, FWFC was dispatched to a serious accident in the 800 block of Welsh Road. Upper Dublin Police arrived and reported a vehicle up on an embankment with the driver heavily trapped. FWFC arrived and immediately began efforts to stabilize the vehicle and extricate the driver, who was suffering from serious injuries. The roof of the vehicle had to be removed and it was then determined that the driver was partially trapped under the dashboard. FWFC members then performed what is known as a "front end push" or "front end displacement" which involves using hydraulic rams to push the dash assembly off of the patient. Once this was completed FWFC personnel assisted Ambler Ambulance with removing the patient so they could be transported to Abington Memorial Hospital.

Just after midnight on April 8th, numerous calls came into the Montgomery County 911 center reporting a house on fire in 400 block of Stuart Lane with people possibly trapped inside. FWFC with 37 members and neighboring Wissahickon Fire Co. responded and immediately went into action. The crew from Engine 88 arrived and rapidly placed a hose line in service to begin attacking the fire. The ladder truck from Wissahickon was instructed to conduct a search for any occupants. Due to an aggressive interior attack and an excellent job by the crew on Engine 88, the fire was extinguished rapidly and the majority of the home was salvaged. Luckily, the searches did not locate anyone inside and it was learned that the occupants were not home.

During the morning of April 13th, FWFC was dispatched to a vehicle rescue in the 1600 block of Twining Road. A vehicle flipped on its side along the "S" bend and the driver was trapped inside. FWFC arrived and stabilized the vehicle using struts. The delicate extrication then began, which had to be done slowly because of the nature of injuries to the driver and his position in the vehicle. After approximately 35 minutes, the patient was extricated. Due to the extent of his injuries, EMS personnel chose to have him airlifted to a trauma center in Philadelphia. A JeffStat helicopter landed at the nearby Prudential Home Office and transported the patient.



Visit our Website www.FortWashingtonFC.org

Fire Safety for Seniors By Howard Schmuckler

Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is particularly important for older adults!

At age 65 and older, people are twice as likely to be killed or injured by a fire compared to those younger. Some older adults have diminished hearing, diminished sense to smell, memory lapses, or slower reaction time. For that reason, it is extremely important to understand and practice fire prevention and fire safety.

Be prepared in case of a fire. If you don't live in an apartment building, consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escape easier. Make sure that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping room and outside all sleeping areas. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency. When looking for an apartment or high-rise home, look for one with an automatic sprinkler system. Sprinklers can extinguish a home fire in less time that it takes for the fire department to arrive.

The majority of fatal fires occur when people are sleeping, and because smoke can put you into a deeper sleep rather than waking you, it is extremely important to have an early warning of a fire, to ensure that you wake up. If anyone in your household is deaf or has diminished hearing, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light to alert them to a fire emergency. Remember to check and clean smoke alarms monthly, and change the batteries twice a year.

Prepare an emergency escape plan. Conduct your own, or if you live in an apartment, participate in a preplanned drill designed for all of the residents in the building. Regular fire drills are very important to make sure you know what to do in the event of a home fire, and for you to learn not to panic if there is an emergency. If you or someone you live with cannot escape alone, designate a member of the family to assist, and decide on backups in case the one designated isn't home. Fire drills are also a good opportunity to make sure that everyone is able to hear and respond to smoke alarms.

Make sure that you are able to open all doors and windows in your home so that they can be used as a way to escape if there is a fire. However, to prevent someone from falling out of the window, some apartments and high rise buildings have windows designed not to open. Check to be sure that windows have not been sealed shut with paint or nailed shut. If they have, arrange for someone to break the paint seals all around your home. If the windows were nailed shut for security reasons, remove the nails and install security bars that have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened easily.

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!

FWFC 2010 Softball Season By Tom McDonald

A long tradition for many fire companies is to field a softball team which allows the members to come together for activities that are not firefighting related. Last year, the Fort Washington Fire Company formed its first a team in many years to play pickup games against other local fire companies. The team, with over 25 members on the roster, went 5 and 2 in 2009.

In 2010, things are getting a little more serious. Barren Hill Fire Company invited "The Fort" to play in the Emergency Services Softball League's inaugural season. The spring league, which started on April 18th, is a recreational league and is geared to gain interest in a more competitive league starting in July. There are seven teams signed up for the spring league and six signed up so far for the summer league.

Our first game against the league host, Barren Hill, will hopefully set the tone for the season. "The Fort" hit the

scoreboard early and often racking up 18 runs by the end of the game. Barren Hill started slow but then started chipping away at the lead. Fortunately, they ran out of innings. The final score 18-9.

The play of the day went to Jimmy Schwader, Sr. with an inside the park homerun which scored a total of 3 runs.

Forget about the Phillies and Mets, the big game of the spring will be Upper Dublin's own Bravest v. Finest softball game. The Upper Dublin Police have challenged "The Fort" for Township bragging rights. The game will be on June 6th starting at 1pm and will be played at Mondauk Common. The game is designed to bring the Township's two largest emergency services families together for a fun afternoon. Everyone is welcome to come out and support the men and women who give so much to the community.

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.

Preparing For a Natural Disaster Emergency

By Howard Schmuckler

We all have seen the results of a natural disaster on television, in the newspapers, or on the internet. A natural disaster (such as a severe summer storm, severe winter storm, hurricane, tornado, wildfire or earthquake) can have very serious results. While we have been fortunate in Upper Dublin Township, to escape a serious natural disaster, it can occur at any time. Some events have occurred in areas that are not far from Upper Dublin. There can be widespread damage and significant number of injuries that it may take a while for emergency responders to reach everyone in need of assistance. You and your family need to be ready ALL of the time, as you may not be able to obtain supplies once the disaster strikes. If there is someone in your home who has a disability, is elderly, or is very young, remember to consider their special needs. And, don't forget about your pets.

You need to create a plan, and make sure that everyone in your home knows and understands it (including children who are old enough). Keep the plan as simple as possible, so that it is easy to remember, and if necessary to put into action. Review the plan at least every six months, so that everyone will remember what to do.

Family members may become separated during an emergency. Have a plan how everyone in your family can reach each other (in person and by phone). Do not rely on cell phones alone, as they may not function as a result of the emergency. Identify a relative or a friend who is located out of the area, who could be contacted and coordinate information about each family member who has been affected. The location of this person could also be used as a meeting place for the family.

Prepare three emergency supplies kits, and have them ready for use at all times, as a disaster can occur suddenly and without much warning. One kit should contain items to have if you need to evacuate, a second kit should contain supplies that will be needed if you "shelter in place", and the third kit should be stored in your vehicle in case a disaster should happen while you are away from your home. The evacuation kits should include such items as:

WATER

Plan for a three day supply, one gallon of water per person per day of commercially bottled water.



FOOD

Have at least a three day supply of non-perishable canned foods and drinks that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. Include high energy foods--peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix. Be sure to include foods for infants, elderly persons or persons with special dietary needs, vitamins.



FIRST AID — MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Include Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes and shapes, sterile gauze pads (4-6), adhesive tape, scissors, tweezers, moistened towelettes, antiseptic, thermometer, latex gloves, Prescription & Non-prescription drugs (aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever, antacid), eye-glasses, insulin, and any other items that your family uses.



SANITATION SUPPLIES

Toilet paper, paper cups, paper plates, plastic utensils, soap, liquid detergent, personal hygiene items, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags & ties, disinfectant, household chlorine bleach



BLANKETS

CLOTHING

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Battery-operated radio or television and extra batteries, flashlights and extra batteries, nonelectric can opener, utility knife, fire extinguisher (type ABC), pliers, screw drivers, tape, wrench (to turn off household gas and water), hammer, adjustable wrenches, roll of

plastic sheeting, matches in a waterproof container, aluminum foil, plastic storage containers, paper, pencil, pen, whistle.



OTHER ITEMS stored in a waterproof portable container)

Cash, traveler's checks, change, wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, photo IDs, passports, social security cards, immunization records, bank account records, credit card accounts information, inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers, medical information, family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).

Do not forget to plan for a disaster if you travel to another area for business or pleasure. You may not be as familiar with the area, so you will need to plan ahead. Know what the evacuation routes are, where shelters are located. Also, learn what the evacuation plan is where you work and live (if you live in an apartment building, dormitory or other multi unit building).

Remember to remain as calm as possible, especially if children are present. Children will react as an adult acts. If you remain calm, the child will as well. But if you act afraid, scared, or confused, the child will respond that way as well. If a disaster occurs, there will be many things to do, quickly and precisely. It will be much easier if you have prepared yourself and your family by planning, and review the plan regularly.

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.