



SPRING 2017 ISSUE
March

The Fire Bell

* March • June • September • December *

A Quarterly Publication of the
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

•TOM BELL• GREENSBURG'S 12th FIRE CHIEF

Chief Tom Bell conducted his first Department Meeting on November 29, 2016. This forum was formerly referred to as the Officers Meeting. Every last Tuesday of the month is the set schedule for all members of the department. The purpose of the meetings are to have everyone including Company Staff, Members, and Chief's Command Staff come together and voice opinions and talk about anything pertaining to the Fire Department. Happenings of the prior month, upcoming drills, things coming to the City, new buildings, developments, student housing. Robert's Rules of Order will apply to the meeting and a standard agenda has been set to include: Call to Order; Minutes Approval; Chief's Report; Assistant Chief and Deputy Assistant Chiefs' Reports; Team Reports; Company Line Staff Reports; Chief's Committee Chairmen Reports; Old Business; New Business, Good of the Organization; and Adjournment. Meetings will begin at 7:00 PM and conclude at 8:00 PM. Meetings thus far have been conducted at Station 1 primarily for access and parking. Margie Morrison has been designated Minute Recorder and all minutes are typed and distributed by email to a Department Email List. November, December, and January's attendance was 41, 43, and 50 respectively.



Automatic Fire Alarms

Incoming automatic fire alarms are going to be allowed to play out. From experience we know 95% are false but, we must investigate each and every one. No call will be called until a unit arrives on scene and the incident is fully investigated. It will be up to the highest ranking officer on scene, be it the Chief, Captain, Line Officer, or Engine Driver to determine an alarm is to be cleared. Chief Bell stresses that all units to use common sense and drive accordingly when responding and to automatically back it down upon a report that a unit is on scene with nothing showing. Please everyone use your heads.

Driver's Training

Assistant Chief Chet Bell is the new Drivers Training Officer. There have been new guidelines implemented and all Company Captains have been advised of their responsibility. Documentation of Training is important. EVOC Certification will continue under Chet's area of responsibility.

Safety

Ken Bacha has been designated as the Safety Officer for the Department. Ken has selected a committee to review and oversee safety as it is one of the most important areas of concern for us as a Department. Safety review will be conducted each month at the Department Meeting. At each fire scene, a safety officer will be designated to ensure that helmets are worn, ladders are positioned correctly, and so on. Remember that even though a Safety Officer is designated by the incident commander, each and everyone needs to look out for each other. We are all responsible for Safety.

Training

Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle has been designated as the Department Training Officer along with being appointed as the Equipment Quartermaster as designated by the Relief Association. Renewed emphasis will be again placed on "Hands On" coordinated Department Training. The topics will be subjects that are unique to GVFD incidents and how we conduct ourselves in fire ground and rescue operations. Other training will focus on Pump Operations, Gas Meter Monitoring and Building Tours. Training will be conducted at least once a month and will be scheduled in advance. Rick has appointed a training committee consisting of Jeff Henry, Rob Giles, Justin Calisti, Bob Mattes, and Bill Miller.

Below is a list of scheduled future dates:

DATE	LOCATION (INSTRUCTOR)	TOPIC
March 20, 2017	Station 2/Guiddy	CPR Certification
March 27, 2017	Station 1/Mattes	Powerline Awareness
April 24, 2017	Drill Twr/Miller	Ladders
May 22, 2017*	Drill Tower Henry/Calisti	SCBA/PPE
June 26, 2017	Drill Twr/Hoyle	Hose/Appliances
July 31, 2017	Drill Tower Spencer/McFarland	Ropes/Knots
August 28, 2017	City Garage/Hoyle	Nozzles
September 25, 2017	Drill Tower/Krulac	Detection Meters
October 30, 2017	Drill Tower Wright/Miller	PPV
November 27, 2017	Station 1/ Wian	Vehicle Rescue Tools
December 18, 2017*	Station 7 T. Bell/Steele	Forcible Entry

**All Training will begin at 18:30 Hrs.
Unless noted otherwise**



Buildings

Assistant Chief Tony Manley has taken on the responsibility to coordinate Building Tours and Pre-Planning. He is also working with the Chief and Code Enforcement in the identification of hazardous vacant structures to ensure fire responders safety. Buildings identified will be marked with a red "X". Lists will change from time to time and all members of the department will be notified at each monthly meeting. As tours are conducted and pre-planning details are collection, information will then be transferred to ECM²

Advanced Training

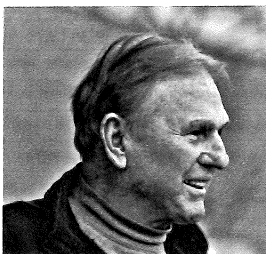
Assistant Chief Kim Houser will handle all Advanced Training such as Essentials, FF1 & FF 2; Certified Hazmat Full Course; Structural Burn Training; and other professional developmental training. Schedules will be updated and handed out at the Department Meeting as well as posted on the ECM² Calendar.

Everyone GOES Home Video Series

Safety Officer Ken Bacha wants to remind everyone of the Website produced by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation that has a series of videos that you can view at your leisure on-line. It can found at www.everyonegoeshome.com

Chief Emeritus Status

Retired Chief J. Edward Hutchinson after 63 years of service to the City of Greensburg's Volunteer Fire Department was granted the status of Emeritus Chief by the GVFD Board of Control along with Assistant Chiefs: Keith Hutchinson, Kevin Hutchison, Don Kundrick, Al Rosatti, Bob Romagnoli. These Emeritus Members will be joining Emeritus members Bill Anderson, and Fred Beehner. We thank all these men who gave their time, talent, and dedication to the Department, the City of Greensburg, and the community as a whole. We are in your debt. Chief Ed Hutchinson joined the Greensburg Fire Department in 1939 at the age of 18 and retired at the age of 95. Long may the Chief live to enjoy Retirement!



Call Sign "CAR 100" Officially Retired
November 14th, 2016

New Safety Officer

Ken Bacha has reported that he is thrilled to be part of the new administration of the Greensburg Fire Department. There are old concepts that have not been used in 20+ years. Ken, now with his committee have determined that there are five top thing to get under control and started: RIT Teams; Rehab; Protective Gear Enforcement; Accountability, and Incident Command. On down the road, we will address SOG's; Respiratory Protection; and FIT testing for SCBA. Safety Reviews will be conducted for injuries and illnesses to determin how to prevent them from happening again. New Firefighters will undergo safety orientation.

Chief's Staff & Appointments

The is a list of Chief Tom Bell's Command Staff & Committees:

Name Area of Responsibility

Assistant Chiefs

Rick Hoyle C-2	Training
Tony Manley C-3	Structures
Lou Battistella C-4	Administration/Teams
Chet Bell C-5	Driver Training/Fire Investigation
Kim Houser C-6	Advanced Training
Bill Wright 52	Records
Les Harvey 58	Emergency Management

Deputy Assistant Chiefs

David Klingler 41	Truck Company Operations
Richard Johnson 42	Hazardous Materials
Bob Baker 43	Rescue Operations
Calvin Kier 45	Firefighter Health
Ken Bacha 46	Safety Officer

Committee Chairman

Rick Hoyle	Training Committee
Rob Giles	Recruitment & Jr. Program
Bob Baker	Grant Committee
Les Harvey	Communications
Chet Bell	Driver's Training
Ken Bacha	Safety
Justin Calisti	ECM ² & Website

Radio Repair

Anyone needing Radio repairs, Take your Radio to City Hall to the City Administrator's window. Fill out the appropriate tag with Name, Phone Number and what the problem is. Les Harvey will then pick the radio up to take to the radio vendor. There is no work done on the radios in Greensburg anymore. All High-Band radios are taken to Pittsburgh, and all 800 Radio are returned to the Motorola factory for repair. Turn-a-round now is a lot longer. Let there be no surprises.

Vehicle/Property Accidents

Make sure you have a police report, NO MATTER HOW MINOR. The Police Department is aware of this requirement

REMEMBER THE TRUCK

Deputy Assistant Dave Klingler wants everyone to be reminded to keep room for the Truck when arriving on scene.

**CO Detectors will now be tested by
Deputy Assistant Klingler**



Why.....The Fire Bell ?

Communication is paramount for any Organization that needs to be successful. Minutes are provided after all department meetings, and *The Fire Bell* simply recaps three months as a reminder

ECM² & Website

ECM² is unfolding to be a very important tool for this Department. Besides as an incident notification device, many other features are starting to be utilized with regularity. The calendar function is very important now that we are more active with training. The calendar feature allows us to plan and avoid conflict with other company and department events. It is important when planning fundraising, Company and Department Training, Meetings, and Special Events, before you set a date, you should always refer to the ECM² calendar to avoid a conflict collision. If you have question regarding the use of the ECM² system, please contact the ECM² system administrator Justin Calisti or one of his committee members which include Anthony Henry and Mark Seighman. Justin is also updating the Website regularly now, contact Justin to include your company events or fundraisers. We understand there may be plans to link to a Department Facebook Page. For recruitment, we have updated the Fire Department Application which is being place on the website: www.gbgfire.org as well. For more information or for assistance contact Justin at justincaлисти@yahoo.com

By having your information out there for all to read, especially your fund-raisers, the advertising cost benefit can't be beat

Radio Chatter

Over the last several months, the unnecessary radio chatter has really been cleaned up. Please keep radio transmissions limited, brief, and concise. If you are the first to arrive on scene, no matter who you are, whether you are in your POV or a Department Unit, Size up the situation, make decisions, be calm, and speak clearly. Remember to push the talk button and wait and then speak so your transmission is not cut off in the beginning. Remember to talk directly into the radio microphone or directly into the lapel mike. Avoid talking over or away from the mike - it makes it very hard to understand you. When the airwaves are tied up with unnecessary chatter, opportunity to transmit a vital lifesaving message may be compromised. On Department Alarms, once the incident commander clears the scene and requests times and numbers, there is absolutely no reason to report that you are returning or back in station as it is not necessary to acknowledge a return when cancelled in route. Company calls are different. Here it is necessary, to notify you are returning and to notify when you in service - in station. We hope we can count on your continued cooperation. Additionally, if you end up being the last unit left on scene for final mop up operations as instructed by the incident commander, kindly notify "Dispatch" that you are the last unit leaving, you are clearing the scene and request times and numbers.

Personnel Information

Much needed Email and Contact Information is being assembled as a result of each department meeting. There will always be two sign in sheets. If your name is already on the check off sheet, you have been updated - all you have to do is place a check beside your name. If your name does not appear, then write your name, Co. Number, Cell Number, and Email address on the second sign in sheet. We are attempting to maintain an updated email list so we can send you meeting minutes and department related information.

Bunker Suits and other PPE

There is a committee working on a policy on how to adequately handle Bunker Suit replacement and be cost effective. The new policy has yet to be formally adopted. Rick Hoyle has been appointed as the new RA Quartermaster and he is presently reviewing procedures. All equipment requests should be directed to Rick. Safety Officer Vests (2 per Company will be ordered and are to be placed in Company Vehicles. Remember to work as a team, you must look like a team - outfitted the same. Helmets Color consistent—White (Chief/Chief's Assistants) Red (Captains) Yellow (Line Officers/Firefighters) Blue (Juniors)

Duty Chief Officer

The Chief needs a break every now and then. A schedule has been adopted to designate a nightly Duty Chief that is primarily responsible for calls between 6pm and 6am. The shift schedule begins each Saturday and goes for 7 nights. All Assistant Chiefs and Deputy Assistant Chiefs are in a scheduled rotation and noted on the ECM2 Calendar. The designated Assistant must secure a replacement in the event he cannot cover his schedule. The Chief will normally be around, but will not always get on the radio to intercede. This promotes practice and enhances skill-level of the assistants by allowing them to accept a more of an active level of participation.

AED Calls - OVERDOSES

Carfentanyl and Fentanyl - Exposure Protection. It's here and not going away. You have to understand it and prepare yourself. When you arrive on an overdose call scene. You need to be aware. When you get on scene, make sure it's safe to enter. Send in a minimum of personnel. Don't touch anything you don't have to. Wear Nitro or Latex Gloves; long sleeves - long pants. Don't handle trash cans. Skin exposure possible (Inhalation, snorting, ingesting, injection the best). Don't touch eyes or face with gloves. Go to nearest water source and have someone else turn on spigot. Rinse gloves then carefully remove the gloves by slowly turning them inside out while removing. Use respiratory protection - surgical mask.

**Remember to be Professional on the Radio
Speaks Volumes of the Department's (OUR) Integrity!**



ECM² Calendar

Mar-Apr-May

Mar 1 Mar 1 - 3 • Duty Chief Houser Board of Control Meeting No 2 Golf Bash Prep (Mar 1 - 4)	Apr 15 Apr 15 - 21 • Duty Chief Manley Apr 17 No. 2 & 8 Company Drill Apr 18 No. 7 Company Meeting Apr 19 Relief Meeting Apr 20 No. 8 Company Meeting Apr 22 Apr 22 - 28 • Duty Chief Battistella Apr 24 Department Drill Apr 25 No. 2 Truck Cleaning Radio Drill & Department Meeting Apr 29 Apr 29 • May 5 • Duty Chief C. Bell May 1 No. 2 & 8 Company Drill May 6 May 6 - 12 • Duty Chief Houser May 8 No 1 & 2 Company Meeting No 7 & 8 Company Drill May 13 May 13 - 29 • Duty Chief Wright May 14 No 6 Company Meeting May 15 No 2 & 8 Company Drill May 16 No 7 Company Meeting May 17 Relief Meeting May 18 No 8 Company Meeting May 20 Apr 20 - 26 • Duty Chief Harvey Essentials Live Burn - Johnstown May 21 Essentials Live Burn - Johnstown May 22 Department Drill May 24 Dog Demo - Camp Soles GSMS Chief's Command Staff Meeting May 25 Community Days Begins May 26 Dog Demo - Camp Soles GSMS Community Days May 27 May 27 - Jun 2 • Duty Chief Johnson May 30 Radio Drill - Department Meeting
Mar 4 Mar 4 - 10 • Duty Chief Wright No. 8 Purse Bash Mar 5 No. 2 Golf Bash Mar 6 No. 2 & 8 Company Drill Mar 7 Mod 4 Essentials Training Mar 9 Mod 4 Essentials Training Mar 11 Mar 11 - 17 • Duty Chief Harvey Mar 12 No. 6 Company Meeting Mar 13 No. 1 & 2 Company Meeting No. 7 & 8 Company Drill Mar 14 No. 3 Company Meeting Mod 4 Essentials Mar 15 Relief Meeting Mar 16 No. 8 Company Meeting Mod 4 Essentials Mar 17 County Chief's Meeting Mar 18 Mar 18 - 24 • Duty Chief Johnson Mar 20 No. 2 & 8 Company Drill Mar 21 No. 7 Company Meeting Mar 22 Chief's Command Staff Meeting Mar 25 Mar 25 - 31 • Duty Chief Baker Mar 27 Department Drill Mar 28 Radio Drill & Department Meeting No 2 Truck Cleaning Mod 4 Essentials Apr 1 No. 7 Gun Bash Apr 1 - 7 • Duty Chief Kier Apr 3 No 2 & 8 Company Drill Apr 5 Board of Control Meeting Apr 8 No. 8 Burger Bash Apr 8 - 14 • Duty Chief Hoyle Apr 9 No. 6 Company Meeting Apr 10 No. 7 & 8 Company Drill No. 1 & 2 Company Mtg Apr 11 No 2 Truck Cleaning No. 3 Company Meeting	

Check the ECM² APPLICATION
Regularly **FOR NEW UPDATES**

!!! WELL DONE !!!

Rob Eicher

It is only fitting that Our Department Recognize Truck Company No. 2 Member Rob Eicher for his life saving AED efforts of January 6th, 2017 of an unconscious man who suffered a CVA at Rob's place of employment, Daniels & Miller. Rob was assisted by Greensburg Police Officer Pete Sandberg and Daniels & Miller employee Mr. Dunn. They all worked together until the patient could be transported to the hospital.

It has been reported the patient has been release from the hospital and is doing well

DRIVERS - PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE!

Take Care and Drive Always with Caution
PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE

IF 9-1-1 ANNOUNCES an AFA as Burned Food
Turn Your Lights off and PROCEED

The Call is **NEVER OVER** until someone from the Greensburg Fire Department physically checks out the Alarm

**NEVER TAKE THE WORD OF THE
RESIDENT OR OCCUPANT
!!! • INVESTIGATE • !!!**

Chief Bell's Comments

"We worked hard to put everything together for this new administration. The full transition isn't all going to happen in the first month or even the first six months. Change is tough. We are not going to try to reinvent the wheel, but we are headed in a different direction of style. We hope a Great Direction, and we hope that everything we have come up with, everyone can join in and this department will become even better than what it was. Hang in there! There is a long road ahead and we hope to look back a year from now and say "We're Getting There". We need everyone's support and cooperation. The Great Turnouts at the Department Meetings touches home."

WE NEED TO WORK AS A TEAM.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU 24/7

Safety is #1 GOAL

**Make Sure Everyone gets there, and Make Sure Everyone
GOES HOME!**