



SUMMER 2017 ISSUE

June

The Fire Bell

* March • June • September • December *

A Quarterly Publication of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

•TOM BELL•

GREENSBURG FIRE CHIEF

It can be said the transition was not easy but all-in-all, the Department has been operating smoothly, efficiently, and professionally. All Duty Chiefs have been taking care of the rotating schedule in the evenings which is a nice change, getting necessary experience and giving a break to all from having to be afraid to leave the house. We have had a couple fires that saw good turnouts. Our monthly Command Staff Meetings and Department Meetings have had consistently good attendance. It shows that there is a high degree of interest and for that I am extremely appreciative. Please use common sense in everything you do. The safety of you and the safety of your fellow firefighter is paramount. The goal is for everyone to go home safe and sound from everything we do, whether it be a drill or an actual incident. Your input is important. Our monthly meetings are for you. I hope the rest of your summer is a fun one and a memorable one with your family and friends. I am available anytime to everyone. Please be safe.



City Building Tours & Pre-Planning

In the last few months, we have been continuing our building tours which includes pre-plans for each building we tour. The information that Assistant Chief Tony Manley and his committee assembles is distributed to each of the Companies and is entered in the Fire House Software and ECM² Software. In April we toured the Greensburg Middle School which is a complex building inside. In May we toured the Gbg. Salem Sr. High, and in June we conducted a tour of the Redstone Highlands Complex and also conducted a Redstone required Drill for the staff. There were actually two-parts to the Redstone Drill - One Drill was conducted in the Health Care Area and the other was conducted in the Personal Care Area. Both drills were conducted concurrently. All Walk-Throughs will be suspended for July and August due to vacations and will resume in September with either Seton Hill or Westmoreland Hospital. Walk-throughs will generally be scheduled on the third Monday of the Month.

“HOT ZONE” PROTOCOL

All Personnel on the Fire Ground are to be wearing Gear to include: COAT, HELMET, LONG PANTS, BUNKER PANTS, PROTECTED FOOTWEAR. If it is deemed that you are unsafe, you will be asked to leave the HOT ZONE, as well as all civilians and media.

Safety - Over Dose Calls

Remember that even though a Safety Officer is designated, each and everyone of us need to look out for each other. We are all responsible for Safety. Not only is the fire ground a concern for us today, the drug overdose assist calls requires us to be more vigilant than ever. All overdose calls must be responded to in the required dress: Bunker Suit or Long Sleeves, Long Pants (NO SHORTS), Facemask (N-95) and NITRILE Gloves (BLUE). If you are not appropriately suited, do not enter the area. An information hand-out on Fentanyl has been issued to each company and everyone on the Dept. Mtg. E-Mail list.

Training

Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle Training Officer/Quartermaster is conducting our on-going Department Training once a month. Rick along with his appointed training committee consisting of Jeff Henry, Rob Giles, Justin Calisti, Bob Mattes, and Bill Miller continues to refine the training on an on-going basis. Training is generally scheduled for the last Monday of the Month at a designated location. The training continues to be topics that are germane to our mission serving as new to some and as a refresher for others, along with affording an opportunity for the entire department to train together as a department. (List Updated 5-22-17)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
June 26	Drill Tower Hoyle	Hose/Appliances
July 31	Drill Tower Spencer/McFarland	Ropes/Knots
August 28	City Garage Hoyle	Nozzles
September 25	Drill Tower Krulac	Detection Meters
Sept 30 & Oct 1	Safety & Survival Training LLC	Fire Ground Tactics
October 28	Drill Tower Wright/Miller	PPV
November 27	Station 1 Wian	Vehicle Rescue Tools
December 18	Station 1 Mattes	Power Line Awareness

*All Training will begin at 18:30 Hrs. Unless noted otherwise
Check ECM² Calendar for Updates*



Radio Lapel Microphones

Although Lapel Mics are useful, they too can be a hindrance in operations. For a while, there were quite a few open mics that blocked the air-waves preventing anyone else from talking. During an emergency, this could prove to be dangerous. We have been asking for all hands to be careful with their mics, especially if you don't want others to hear what you are talking about. In most cases, the radios did not have an associated identifier and therefore we cannot even call the individual on their cell phone to let them know they are "ON THE AIR". In the past few weeks there has been an improvement. If there is an OPEN MIC and you cannot identify the source, get on ECM² and Text "OPEN MIC" *In the future, as radios go in for service, they will be checked for a proper identifier.*

The Greensburg Fire Department Has a Zero-Tolerance Policy

When It Comes To

Human Relations & Hostile Work Environments

Captains' Helmets

All Company Captains were issued New "RED" Helmets to allow for quick identification on the Fire-Ground. Helmet colors are important. Greensburg's Color Index is: White—Chief & Assistants; Red - Captains; Yellow - Line Officers/Firefighters; Blue - Juniors. Any other color is not acceptable.

Safety

All Bunker Gear involved in actual fire incidents shall undergo on-scene gross decontamination. All stations, if not already, shall have washing machines available for their members. Wash your gear regularly in accordance with the instructions that have been provided to the Captains and Companies. All personnel are responsible for their own gear.

Everyone should have two (2) Accountability Tags. There will be a collection ring on each Engine on the driver's door. If the collection ring has yet to be installed, put the tag on the driver's seat.

Be cognizant of Heat Stress Issues for Summer
Support 610 is dispatched on all
GVFD Working Fire Calls
and available at all other times as needed.

Chief's Staff & Appointments

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 Inves-
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

Duty Chiefs

An adjustment has been made regarding the rotation schedule of the 6pm to 6am Duty Chief's Schedule. Instead of the rotation schedule as being weekly, the schedule now rotates on a nightly basis and is distributed among all 11 Assistant Chiefs and Deputy Assistant Chiefs. Each night on or about 6pm, the scheduled Duty Chief will announce on ECM² and on the radio that he is "on-the-air" for the evening. The Duty Chief's primary responsibility is to respond to ordinary calls throughout the night, but should there be an actual incident, all available "hands on deck" is expected.

Radio Repair- Reminder

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 radios are returned to the Motorola factory for repair. Turn-a-round now is a lot longer. Let there be no surprises.



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

Community Days

There was a good turnout by the Department. Special thanks to Rick Steele for the fireground props for the kids which was a huge success; along with Dave Jackson for having his Bloodhound Lucy there to greet all the folks, and to all the Greensburg Department Members who came to make OUR COMMUNITY DAYS A SUCCESS.

Grant - Equipment

We received a \$22,000.00 Grant from Scott Electric which has provided us with portable generators, lighting equipment, battery power and hand tools. Each company received a nice "care package" which included stand lights with charger.

NEW LEL GAS METERS

(Lower Explosive Limit)

Have been received and issued to all Companies.

Department Training

The effort in providing Departmental Training has been widely received from the evidence of attendance. To date there have been 11 Department Training Events with an Average of 35 Departmental Members. That in itself is OUTSTANDING and something you should all be proud of.

Minitors

New Minitors have been received and issued. Cost Share Amount is \$100.00. Please see your Captain for issuance.

New Bunker Gear

From the Captains' submissions, 20 sets of Bunker Gear have been ordered by the Quartermaster for 2017

Alarm Investigation

On all alarms...our protocol is simply - **"GO"**
Especially at night, do not wait for the Duty Chief, we need to find out for ourselves as nobody else is going to do it for us

**RUN THE TRUCKS
LETS FIND OUT**

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. If you are not receiving Emails, we don't have a valid email for you. Let C-4 know.

UNITY TOWNSHIP JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER Academy

Captain Rob Giles attended Unity Township Jr. Firefighter Academy with 3 of our Junior Members who received a graduation certificate. It was well organized and run. Greensburg has again been invited to attend next year. The Program is going to be enhanced and is going to be extended to other departments. Rob is pursuing the Gbg Salem Emergency Services Club idea and hopes to establish a program for this coming school year.

Advanced Training

Assistant Chief Kim Houser oversees all Advanced Training such as Essentials, FF1 & FF2; 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.

AED Calls - OVERDOSES

Carfential 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 Nitrile 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. And lastly, if it is indeed an OVERDOSE CALL, assume the worst that Fentanyl is involved and if no police or ambulance is on scene, WAIT! Be very careful, watch what you are doing, and make sure someone is with you.

**Remember to be Professional on the Radio
Speaks Volumes for OUR Department's
INTEGRITY**



COURTESY AND PROFESSIONALISM

When answering the Station Phone, answer the phone using the standard established protocol that was put into effect many...many years ago.

Identify your Station and State your name...simple

And always identify yourself when addressing Dispatch, especially when clearing a scene: ***"Dispatch - CI, All Units Clearing the Scene...times and numbers please."***

Drug Overdose Response Protocol

HEROIN - FENTANYL - CARFENTINAL

- Scene assessment: Stop at a safe distance, observe the scene, look for sign of drugs (powder) and/or paraphernalia
- Use minimum personnel. If you only need one or two people to do the job then keep the others out of the immediate area.
- If there is product on the patient, it most likely will be on their hands or nose.
- Wear nitrile gloves (latex provides less protection, long sleeves, long pants, dust particulate masks (N95 or similar), safety glasses or goggles.
- Do not touch or move anything that you don't have to. Moving things that may have drugs on it can make it become airborne.
- Do not touch or handle any drug packets such as stamp bags, plastic bags, "trash cans" (*these are tiny plastic containers about the size of a pencil eraser*), spoons, syringes, or any powdery substances.
- Skin Exposure is possible but it also is the least efficient mechanism for the drug to enter your body versus inhalation, snorting, ingestion or injection.
- If there is possible contact with a powder on your gloves; Do NOT touch your face or eyes. Go to the closest water source (sink). Have someone else turn the water on low. Rinse glove while they are still on your hands. Remove the gloves slowly by turning them inside out as you remove them.
- Have Naloxone (Narcan) available for accidental exposure to responders.
- Large quantities of powder may need to be handled by higher trained personnel, hazmat teams, or drug lab response teams. **WHEN IN DOUBT • BACK OUT!**

Health

Have water available in the jump seats on the Engines and Trucks. It is advisable to get ahead of the need for hydration and drink water before you get there.

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• !!!

•NEW• **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

WELCOME

CHRIS TANTLINGER

Chris has been assigned the duty of being media spokesperson for the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. In the event that Chris is not on scene, the only persons THAT ARE AUTHORIZED shall either be the Chief or the designated Incident Commander. No other personnel are permitted to converse with the media regarding incident situational conditions or findings.

Department Patches

We are in the process of purchasing a supply of Official Department Patches - the very same patch that is on the Parade Uniform Shirt. They will be made to be readily available. This patch is the only patch recognized by the GVFD.

Safety is #1 GOAL

MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS THERE

Make Sure
EVERYONE GOES HOME!