



FALL 2017 ISSUE
September

The Fire Bell

* March • June • September • December *

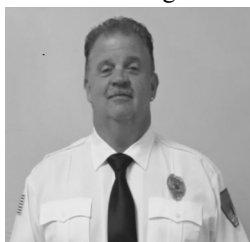
A Quarterly Publication of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

•TOM BELL•

GREENSBURG FIRE CHIEF

I am proud to report the enthusiasm, response numbers, and the increase in training interests continues on a rising curve.

The attendance at our department meetings continued to be outstanding even during the summer vacation months. You all are clearly sending a message that you are indeed dedicated to our department, its mission and obligation to the City of Greensburg. The attendance for our regular department



training is seeing an increase in attendance. Not only are we giving out necessary information to our younger members, but the training is also well received by those who are veterans of the department; sharpening skills and recalling tactics and tools that may have become foggy to the memory. Please continue to use common sense in everything you do especially in your responses to all types of incidents. The safety of you, the safety to your fellow firefighter, and the safety to our residents is paramount. The goal is for everyone to go home safe and sound. Your input continues to provide us with assistance. Our monthly meetings are for you and it is an opportunity to keep you all in the loop. Each month is short and all the fire department activity does not allow for a lot of free time. We recognize and commend all those that are dedicated, who rarely miss the meetings and training exercises. Feel free to contact me any time should you have a question or concern.

City Building Tours & Pre-Planning

Building Tours were suspended for the summer months. The Pre-Planning Committee however continued to work in the development for tours to begin in October. We are updating the Seton Hill Slide Presentation which will be released to all members of the department as an attachment to the minutes of a department meeting. The documentation will be released in conjunction with a grounds tour. Further information will be release that will deal with more in depth information. Seton Hill is a very large complex. Our concentration will be on building orientation and alarm panel location in this two part release of information. We will also be visiting Pershing Square and Westmoreland Hospital over the next couple of months. Stay tune. Remember that Building Tours will be general scheduled for the third Monday of the Month.

REMINDER 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 8-29-17)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u> <u>INSTRUCTOR(S)</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Sept 12	WESTMORELAND HOSPITAL	Building Tour
Sept 25	Station 2	Elevator Emergencies
Sept 30/Oct 1	TBD	Fire Ground Tactics
Oct 28	Drill Tower Wright/Miller	PPV
Nov 27	Drill Tower Krulac	Gas Meters
Dec 18	Station 1 Mattes	Power Lines

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



DUTY OFFICERS

Starting in September, in agreement with the Company Captains, I have included the Company Captains in the rotating Duty Officer schedule. By including more fire department officers and affording them an opportunity to be initial responders, it will afford these officers an opportunity to develop skills that are needed in the fire service. I am hoping that Captains will build enthusiasm within their own companies and promote participation by having a crew or at the very least a driver to join him with the night of assignment. Ideally, it is not only important for someone to respond in either a POV or duty officer's vehicle; my anticipated hope is that we will see companies respond with equipment that can provide the incident with the necessary proper equipment.

The Greensburg Fire Department Has a Zero-Tolerance Policy

When It Comes To

Human Relations & Hostile Work Environments

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.

"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

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
Chris Tantlinger 240	Public Information 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

DRILL TOWER

The drill tower has recently been cleaned up inside and hosed down. The city's Electric Department has restored lights inside and the repair committee has begun to identify and fix doors, windows, and stair treads. The drill tower will remain locked at all times when not in use. There will no longer be a key at the Aerobic Center Desk. All Assistant and Deputy Assistant Chiefs and Greensburg Companies will have a key. Remember, there will be absolutely NO LIVE BURING permitted. Please use smoke bombs, fusee flares, or fog machine. Outside departments who regularly use the drill tower are still permitted to use it, however, they must coordinate use with Tony Manley for the key. Companies are requested to direct outside department requests to Tony. Do not give your key out or have copies made. Thank you to Dave Klingler, Doc Kier, Rick Hoyle, Dick Johnson, and Tony Manley for taking charge of the drill tower clean up project.



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

RADIO PROTOCOL

Everyone is doing well, we are definitely seeing less chatter, allowing for air space for necessary information. We need for those who are transmitting information, no matter who, to use your radio number during each and every transmission so everyone knows who is talking. We need you to remember, we are on a repeater, and if you do not allow for the repeater to open, your i.d. or message is truncated and the information that you are reporting on is useless. You are being reminded to push the transmit button, take a breath, and then give your number, and then your message. The problem of the open lapel mikes is still evident, but it is definitely better. Thank you for your cooperation.

FUTURE DRILLS

Future drills will be conducted with specific pre-planned coordinated company assignments. Drills that are conducted for facility certification will be planned to suit all companies as to not conflict with specific company obligations and events. Command on all drills will be conducted by the Chief Command Staff and Incident Safety Officers will be on hand to ensure accountability protocols are practiced. All Companies need to participate with full crews.

GRANTS

We received \$24,000 in grants to purchase extrication suites for the department. We also have received \$2,400 from the Westmoreland Hospital Employees Foundation for the purchase of gloves and hoods for inventory. We have 12 pending grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$60,000 on the department level.

SAFETY OFFICER CLASS

Was a great class and was well attended

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**

FIRE PREVENTION – WESTMORELAND MALL

Tuesday October 10 will be the 23rd Annual Hempfield/Greensburg Fire Prevention Night at Westmoreland Mall. Companies and Teams are requested to be in place by 5:45 pm for line up. Companies 1, 3, and 7 are going to be crewed to cover. Companies going out of town will need two engines on standby and crew for a couple of hours. Greensburg and Hempfield Township will be coordinating recruitment efforts for the evening. There will be two tents with materials from both at each. We are pleased that we see cooperation in this effort. We will be obtaining a supply of fire hats, coloring books for the kids that will have GVFD imprinted.

BLOODHOUND TEAM

The Bloodhound Team responded to Collinsburg for an assist in locating a 95 year-old-man with dementia who had been missing for about 5 hours. In twenty minutes the team found the missing resident safe and sound. The family was very happy and donated a check to the Bloodhound Team for its appreciated efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

JUSTIN CALISTI & DUANE SPENCER

Justin just recently completed his Pro Board Fire Officer 1 Studies and Duane was the first Greensburg Firefighter to pass his Firefighter Pro Board Certification. Dedication, commitment, and hard work pays big dividends and builds pride.

FIRE TRAINING FACILITY

We are continuing to work on this project and are exploring several different options. It is hoped that we will be able to have a facility to do structural fire trainings with facilities for live burns for continued training. Although there is a facility associated with Westmoreland County Community College, the accessibility is burdensome to do regular training without having to incur extended travel time and use scheduling obstacles. Stay tuned for further.

GREENSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT HEALTH FAIR AND FLU SHOTS

will be held on October 7, 2017

EVOC CLASS

Will be held October 31st at the Westmoreland County Community College Training Center in Smithton. This will be a PA FIRE ACADEMY 8 Hour Class

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



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• !!!**

UNIFORM DRESS SHIRTS

The Board of Control has approved the purchase of new dress white Uniform Shirts. These shirts will replace the many shirts that have signs of age and afford those without uniforms, to be able to look the part when attending special functions, memorial calls, and even banquets. Please let your Captains know what your neck size is if you are interested. We will also be having Mark from the Army Navy Store in Latrobe come in on a Monday – TBD to measure and bring sample sizes to try on. Shirts will need to be sized in order to allow for the wearing of a tie. - SHIRT SIZE MUST BE BY NECK SIZE

CONGRATULATION TO DIVE/SWIFT WATER RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS

The following members received their First Responder Certifications for Water Rescue:

John Ackerman; Robert A. Baker; Brandon Fick; Les Harvey; Dave Knesh; Robert Rhody; Duane Spencer; Ken Bacha; Rob Cameron; Henry Fontana; Bradley Hessian; Chad Medved; John Seighman; Jerry Vernail; Michael Baker; Dave Dorko; Robert Giles; Kim Houser; Brandon Perfetta; Tim Smith; Robert A. Wright.

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-around now is a lot longer. Let there be no surprises.

FIREFIGHTER 1 CANDIDATES

Candidates taking Firefighter 1 this round: Tom Bell; Mark Seighman, Jeff Henry, Rob Cameron, Scott Fick, Brandon Fick, Nate Winters, Chad Medved, Zack Stumpf, and Curtis Peck.

RETURNING BACK IN SERVICE

For Greensburg Companies, when Command requests TIMES AND NUMBERS, the incident is over. PERIOD! There is no need to report that you are "IN SERVICE RETURNING" or you never need to report "BACK IN STATION". The only exception if you had to go for fuel or get bottles filled. For mutual aid assist calls, you report "BACK IN SERVICE RETURNING" and you report "BACK IN STATION". This should all be done on City Fire. We have sent notification to mutual aid companies that assists us, and we have requested that they refrain from reporting back in service on City Fire and to simply switch to their Zone Command Channel and report their status. We are not concerned with their status once we clear them from an incident. This whole thing is to reduce unnecessary chatter from the air waves. We appreciate everyone's cooperation.

RECRUITMENT & RESPECT

Rob Giles and his committee, are putting a lot of effort in the Junior Program and he is continuing to work towards cooperative efforts with the middle schools and the senior high. The Department is improving relations with our surrounding departments in efforts to form alliances that will help fortify all of us in these days of declining responses from our older members and the lack of enough younger members standing in the wings to fill the gaps. Daytime responses are a concern, especially with specialty rescue resources. We manage but it does cause concern. It is important that we show each other mutual respect and show our neighboring companies that assist us, respect as well. We are all in this for the same reasons, so it is important for us to help one another. We are volunteers, we all have another life, not just the fire department, and sometimes it becomes hard to juggle all the activities that drive us through this world of ours. Be Safe and enjoy the FALL!

Safety is #1 GOAL

MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS THERE

***Make Sure
EVERYONE GOES HOME!***