



Spring 2018 ISSUE
March

The Fire Bell

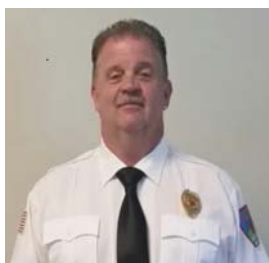
* March • June • September • December *

A Quarterly Publication of the
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

A Message from

GREENSBURG FIRE CHIEF
Thomas M. Bell

As we look into the start of 2018, our training is in high gear. The table top scenario of a rail incident was truly an educational experience for all participants and observers. Thank you to all who made this possible and who participated. The feed back from this training was very positive and very informative.



Our tours are also another great training tool we have. This makes our job a little easier during a incident at these locations when we know where things are like gas shutoffs, electrical disconnects, air handlers, heat and ac units. This helps from minor incidents from turning into major incidents.

Going forward in the new year, change is still happening throughout the Dept. Everyone in each Company has been doing their part to make these changes go smoothly. I want to make sure that everyone in this Dept. understands that they have a voice in this dept. Our Dept meetings is the place to be heard. If you rather not, and you have something you need to talk about, I'm always available to listen.

One last thing, we all need to work on is "Scene size up". Investigate, report what you see. Investigate more, report what more you see. Being first on scene and giving a informative size up helps th OIC make decisions on what equipment is needed, where to place them, and also pushes personnel. Thank you all, for the outstanding job you do. We stand together **GFD PROUD!**

Attendance Performance Dept. Training

Attendance at the Monthly Department Training is outstanding which demonstrates that we have a department charged with a high desire to participate and want to be part of one of the finest Volunteer Departments in the State. Thank you is hardly enough! In 2017, we had 27 Department Training sessions with an average of 32 members. So far in 2018, there were two with an average of 53 members. High-Rise training is scheduled for this year. There are new subjects scheduled for this year, along with a few repeats on highly important topics that were covered in 2017. In December, there was an Electrical Awareness Class facilitated by member Rob Mattes. After the class was held, the Fire Department coincidentally assisted in four incidents, and successful thwarted a potential for serious injuries as a result of the training that was conducted just a week or so prior.

New Emergency Response System

The GVFD will be updating to Spotted Dog Technologies ROVER MOBILE APP. It is a Real-Time Volunteer Emergency Response System. It will replace ECM. The decision to switch was predicated on features, ease of use, less steps to maintain, only one application, no options to buy, unlimited number of users, and less cost. We will lose no features, but we gain much. All devices of users, once activated by initially responding to a call, can be tracked in real-time on everybody's device. Steps are being taken presently, transferring our information to the database by Spotted Dog Technologies, once the system is ready, the Chief's committee will review the functionality, the system will then go live, and then there will be a special meeting for everyone presenting the system which will be conducted by Spotted Dog by video conference.

You may view a you-tube demonstration using this link:
<https://youtu.be/2YuR5zE0yis>

Announcements

- Chief Tom Bell has asked Dave Klingler to head up a detail in collecting **old or unused equipment** (No Bunker Suits) from the Captains of each Company. This equipment will then be put up on Munci-Bid to try and get some money for the Department.
- The **Vehicle Replacement Committee** (Tom Bell & Rick Hoyle) has started discussions on Department Future Needs.
- Please Note "**Greensburg Community Days**" is now only three days (Thursday, Friday, & Saturday) beginning May 24th and ending May 26th.
- **New Applications** for New Members, Company Transfers, and Juniors are now available at the City Administrators Office.
- Our **Walk-Thru familiarization tours** for 2018 has begun and tours have been set up on a monthly basis. So far we have been to the New Apartments located upstairs of the Palace Theater, and Hampton Inn.
- **Updates around the city** include, a new 3-story 150-bed fully sprinkler dorm building at Seton Hill; the demolition of the "Red Ball" building in Ludwig; and a new wing on the rear of Redstone Highland near the loading dock.
- **Ethanol-Free Gas** for pumps, generators, and saws is now available at the City Garage. Use only this gas in these types of equipment. You must get this from the City Garage during normal work days Monday thru Friday.



Inventories

Inventories are very important, specifically Relief Association assets, but equally important is radio inventory. The State requires equipment purchased by the Relief Association to be accounted for annually. In some cases, this has been an arduous task apparently for some companies.

Our Relief Association Quartermaster – Rick Hoyle has been charged with compliance is requesting full cooperation and timely submissions from all companies.

Our radio inventory is another subject that is in a state of disaster in some cases. Each company has been asked to complete a form and account for all radios and who has what, regardless if they are the property of the Relief Association, The City, The Fire Department, The Companies, or privately owned-but authorized and operated on behalf of the Fire Department. Radios are to be encoded with the user's three-digit badge number, not officer radio number. When radios are exchanged between users, the three-digit number must first be changed and the exchange must be logged. If radios are designated as apparatus portables, they must be coded with the truck code and portable number such as 1080-1, -2, -3, etc....

The completed radio inventories are to be submitted to Lou no later than March 30, and he will copy Bill Wright to enable FireHouse to be updated, and the list will also be submitted to Les. Les will submit the updated list to BEAR-COM and if any radio subsequent the submitted update (April) shows up at BEAR-COM for repair or recoded that is not on the list, the radio will not be worked on under the City of Greensburg's Service Contract. Radio's not on the list will be turned back over to Les.

REMEMBER.... You cannot work together efficiently, if you don't train together. This past year's effort in Department Training has been OUTSTANDING. The Citizens of our City should be proud of the dedication you have all exhibited!

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

**The Greensburg Fire Department
Has a Zero-Tolerance Policy**

When It Comes To

**Human Relations
Hostile Work Environments
Driving Under the Influence**

**FIRE | POLICE | EMS DAY
Lynch Field - 9 am to 4 pm | June 9, 2018
Open to all Youth 11 to 17 Year-olds**

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 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

Command Staff Special Officers

Ken Bacha 46	Safety Officer
Mark Seighman	Incident Safety Officer
Chris Tantlinger 240	Public Information Officer
George McFarland 824	Captain—Dive\Swift Water

Committee Chairman

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

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. You may also tag in with a Command Officer

“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



Why.....The Fire Bell ?

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

GREENSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT 2018 Department Training & Tour Schedule

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Upcoming Training and Tours: **Mar 19** – Bair Building Tour; **Mar 26** – EMS Assists – Sta 1 MAAS; **Apr 30** – Vehicle Rescue Review – Company Captains; **May 19** – Situational Awareness – Richard Gasaway; **May 21** – SCBA/TIC Review – Drill Tower – Tom Bell; **Jun 25** – Water Supply|GFD Tactics – Drill Tower – Rick Hoyle; **Jul 30** – Fire Ground Ladder Placement – Drill Tower – Pierre DeFelice; **Aug 27** – Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) – Drill Tower – Kim Houser; **Sept 24** – Salvage Operations – Drill Tower – J. Henry/R. Johnson; **Oct 29** – Gas Meter Review – Drill Tower – Bill Krulac; **Nov 26** – Fire Scene Preservation – Station 1 – Chet Bell; **December** – NO TRAINING SCHEDULED | ALSO IN THE SYSTEM LOOKING FOR A DATE: CPR Certification; Reading Smoke; EVOC Review; and High-Rise Firefighting – June 23, 24, 25.

New SCBA Units

The Fire Department received the New MSA G-1 SCBA's with built-in TIC Technology; a greater field of view; SCBA Mounted Voice Amp; position adjustable waist belt; and rechargeable battery. Training was offered and Companies were issued their masks on January 15, 2018. Along with safety, each Company and each Bloodhound Handler were issued training and tourniquets in a Stop the Bleed Training session. In the near future, all firefighters will be eventually issued tourniquets that just may help in saving their life or the life of someone else. There are many injuries that can occur and be life threatening and chances of survival can greatly be improved with a tourniquet and a little training.

Dress White Uniform Shirts

Dress White Shirts have been distributed, and the Department will purchase a short sleeve shirt for any new member. Badge orders from almost all the companies have been turned in and are being processed. Dress shirts and Black trousers will be standard attire for formal department gatherings and funeral details. Badges are optional, but most companies have demonstrated a serious interest in completing the official look and have ordered badges for their active firemen.

"Strive to Be the Best - by Being Informed"

ADVANCED TRAINING CONGRATULATIONS

Firefighter Noah Burda
FFI & FFII CERTIFICATION

through

The Department of Defense
&

Firefighter Justin Chobirko

SPECIAL VEHICLE RESCUE TECHNICIAN

WCCC and Department of Health

There will be a structural-burn class on the evenings of May 1st and 3rd with a life burn in Johnstown on Saturday May 5th. All Captains are reminded to make sure FFI and FFII and SBS Certificates are on file and updated at each station for easy reference.

Both the **Bloodhound and Dive Teams** have been training and constantly honing their skills for when the requests for assistance comes.

The **Bloodhound Team** has been training on a weekly basis and has had 6 call-outs since the beginning of 2018. There are quite a few demonstrations already lined up; New Kensington Fire and Police Department; Pennsylvania State Police Troop D – Butler – featured presenter at their command

CHAIN SAW SAFETY

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS, Bunker Suites are not appropriate safety equipment TO HAVE ON, when operating a Chain Saw, if you do not have chaps on, if you do not have the provided hard-hat with ear protection and face shield on, if you do not have eye protection on, if you do not have appropriate foot protection (NO TENNIS SHOES OR SANDLES), DO NOT TOUCH A CHAIN SAW. PERIOD!

“SITUATIONAL AWARENESS MATTERS”

Don't forget to sign up for the “Situational Awareness Matters” Class **May 19** from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. The maximum number is 90. You can register on the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Website. Once the attendance is reached, that is it. First Come, First Served. Program will be held at the Seton Hill University Boyle Science Building.

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

OUR RADIO IS NOT A CB
MAKE ONLY NECESSARY TRANSMISSIONS
AND DON'T PLUG UP THE AIRWAVES



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• !!!

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

MODEL CITY 2018 EXERCISE

On Saturday February 17, 2018, Assistant Chief Les Harvey and the City of Greensburg’s Department of Emergency Management held a Table Top Exercise involving two trains involved in an accident within the City limits.

At approximately 10:45am on a Wednesday morning, a freight train derailed between the train station and Mutual Aid. Two tanker cars were damaged and a leak occurred, one loaded with Crude Oil and the other loaded with Butane.

At the same time, a passenger train traveling in the other direction collided with the derailed cars of the freight train and there were numerous injuries and possible fatalities. As a result of the derailment, a structure near the tracks was structurally compromised by the impact of the derailed freight cars and partially collapsed creating entrapment.

The exercised required first responders which initially included, the police and then the fire department to provide initial size up of the incident and were then required to initiate immediate action of multiple agencies which included local, county, state, and federal. At the end, a “HOT WASH” of the incident took place that involved all the participants. This event was considered to be a 4-Hour NIMS-ICS Disaster Table-Top Exercise facilitated & conducted by Staff Instructor Michael Krzeminski of the Allegheny County Police Fire Academy hosted by the City of Greensburg | Department of Emergency Management. Those that attended received a Certificate of Participation.

Participants included: Seton Hill University; GVFD Command & Line Officers; City of Greensburg Officials and Administrative Staff; City of Greensburg Police Department; Westmoreland County Community College; Unity Township EMA; Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety; St. Anne’s Home; Sisters of Charity; Greensburg Salem School District; Excelsa Health; Arnold Palmer Airport; Westmoreland County Hazmat; Norfolk/Sothern Railroad; Forbes Road Fire Department; Penn Towers; Pennsylvania State Police; South Greensburg Fire Department; Southwest Greensburg Fire Department; North Hempfield Fire Department; Mutual-Aid Ambulance; Westmoreland County Park Police; Westmoreland County Coroner; and Bovard Fire Department. A video of the exercise and the Hot-Wash at the end of the exercise was produced by High School Student Matt Wicker who did an outstanding job of covering the event.. There was a total of 93 in attendance and 34 were members of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department!

Safety is #1 GOAL

MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS THERE

Make Sure
EVERYONE GOES HOME!

NEW EXTRICATION TRAINING CLASS OFFERING

OCTOBER 28 OR 29, 2018



CRASH COURSE VILLAGE & WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Crash Course Village and Westmoreland County Community College
are coming together to offer a traveling “Crash Course”.

This class will be a one day session having a total of 5 rotating stations. It will be offered on October 28 or October 29. Station 1 is a T-Bone crash with 3 victims. Station 2 is car on side. Station 3 is car on top. Station 4 is slope evacuation. Station 5 is an under ride. Call or email us for pricing. **We look forward to seeing you in October!**



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