



Winter 2018 ISSUE
December | Volume 2 Issue 4

The Fire Bell

* March • June • September • December *

*A Quarterly Publication of the
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department*

A Message from

GREENSBURG FIRE CHIEF

This time of year everyone needs to understand the importance of Carbon Monoxide Detectors.

Carbon monoxide is a tasteless odorless gas that is produced by burning gasoline, wood, propane, charcoal, or other fossil fuel in the home. Improperly ventilated appliances like hot water tanks, fireplaces, furnaces, and stoves, particularly in an enclosed space, may allow carbon monoxide to accumulate to dangerous levels.

Carbon monoxide poisoning occurs when carbon monoxide builds up in your bloodstream. When there is too much CO in the air, your body replaces the oxygen in your red blood cells with Carbon Monoxide. This can lead to serious tissue damage or even death. Symptoms of poisoning may include a dull headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision and a loss of consciousness.

This is why, this time of the year, there are more incidents involving CO than any other time of the year. WHY? Because of furnaces and homes being closed up due to winter.

How can you prevent this? Carbon Monoxide detectors in the sleeping areas or at least, in the hallways of each sleeping area, check the batteries twice a year just like your smoke detectors, and if they do go off, get out of the house and call 9-1-1 immediately. Have all fossil fuel appliances checked yearly such as furnaces, hot water tanks, and chimneys. Power vented furnaces, keep the snow clear of the piping outside and always check for animals possibly building nests in them during the summer when not in use.

When the Fire Departments get a call for possible Carbon Monoxide, we check the entire home with a CO Monitoring device, clear all occupants if CO is detected and make sure to notify the Natural Gas Company in your area to have a representative to respond to that location. Natural Gas is their product. We never-ever clear a scene unless we have the gas company representative on scene.

Understanding Carbon Monoxide and its effects and having detection will keep everyone safe this winter season. If you are not sure and you think you may have an issue, always call 9-1-1 as a precaution. As first responders, we will be glad to come and make sure you are safe. ~Tom



SAFETY - SAFETY - SAFETY

**Reminder, If Working in Traffic - Wear A Vest
If you are Running A Chain Saw - Wear Chaps
And LASTLY....If you are Responding to an Alarm
WEAR YOUR Bunker Gear!!!!**

Please keep in mind the materials used in a building. The Sidewalk that surrounds a burning structure is considered a "HOT ZONE". Cyanide is used in building materials. You may not see smoke, but studies have determined that high level of toxins are five to twenty feet from the front door of a burning structure. The sidewalk is no place for spectators or firefighters not wearing SCBA.



Welcome Back Seton Hill Students

**If you are serious about being involved in the
Volunteer Fire Service - It takes a commitment
.... What is Life without a commitment?**

Chief Establishes Federal Grant Committee

Chief Tom Bell has appointed Rick Steele as the new Federal Grant Coordinator to work with the third-party grant writer. The new committee will be comprised of the Chief, Rick Steele, and Assistant Chiefs Rick Hoyle and Lou Battistella. The 2018 AFG has been submitted.



WEST PENN POWER

HIGH VOLTAGE AWARENESS SAFETY

The Demonstration Class conducted by West Penn Power was well received by our members hosted by the Youngwood Fire Department for all area Fire Departments in October. The Demonstration opened up many eyes and instilled a renewed respect when we are faced with dealing with downed wires and tangled trees and the danger with dealing with the various factors involving the power lines how serious injury and even death can quickly occur if proper safety protocols are not followed. The GVFD is hoping to host the same program in 2019 for those that didn't get a chance to be part of this very important training.



“There aren’t Great Men...there are just great challenges that ordinary men like you and me are forced by circumstances to meet”

~ Fleet Admiral William F. “Bull” Halsey, Jr.

Chief’s Staff & Appointments

Name Area of Responsibility

Assistant Chiefs

Rick Hoyle C-2	Chief Training Officer
Tony Manley C-3	Structures
Lou Battistella C-4	Administration/Teams
Chet Bell C-5	EVOT Officer Fire Investigation
Kim Houser C-6	Advanced Training Legal
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	Dept. Safety Officer
Mark Seighman 748	Incident Safety Officer
Chris Tantlinger 240	Public Information Officer
George McFarland 824	Captain—Dive/Swift Water

Committee Chairmen

Rob Giles	Recruitment & Jr. Program
Rick Steele	Youth & Community Programs
Justin Calisti	PA State Instructor / Paging Systems
Bud Mertz	Public Safety / Legislative Affairs

IT IS PROVEN... VOLUNTEERS CAN LEARN IT & PRACTICE IT!

KIM HOUSER | The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department is being taught and is being accepted elsewhere in the Fire Community of our great Commonwealth. The GVFD Command Protocols that we are NOW presently using are being taught at the Bradford (PA) Fire School and is considered a State-wide Pilot Curricula. As a member of the Greensburg Fire Department, you can hold your head up high that Greensburg has shown the State of Pennsylvania “Volunteers can learn it and practice it”. Every member of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department deserves a pat on the back!

*Author GVFD KIM HOUSER | ASSISTANT CHIEF -
ADVANCE TRAINING & LEGAL*



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

Editor For "The Fire Bell" | Lou Battistella

THE STANDARD OF FIREFIGHTING

CHRIS TANTLINGER | The standard for firefighting requires that your actions are efficient and without reproach. A routine call that you treat as routine and just go through the motions can become a folly for not only you but for the whole agency. A good rule of thumb is to think of yourself as a link in a chain. Each link is only as strong as the chain as a whole. If you create slack, it can give a false sense of what holds things together, and if a critical thing happens, the chain can snap because you created the slack by not holding your weight. Sure, we get lucky most of the time and the chain is strong. But we never know what can happen. Stay safe and along with your actions on scene remember you can't waiver from the part you play in the strength of the incident scene. Finally, information is gold at an incident. Be sure everyone you serve beside knows what you know and that the public deserves to know what you may know to make them feel safe and that you are there to help them see the best outcome possible by being helpful and attentive to their questions. Do all you can to show them that the chain of the incident has been made as strong as possible. In service and in safety respectfully.

~Chris

Author GVFD CHRIS TANTLINGER | PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Situational Awareness

The Ability to perceive what is happening around you
& the understanding of what is happening
Around you

Strive to Be the Best

by Being Informed



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



A Final Farewell to the City of Jeannette Fire Chief
James A Carasella, Sr



IT'S RAINING TRAINING

RICK HOYLE | Training is the backbone of a great fire department. Training creates a well-prepared force, that through repetition, increases the speed of an operation and enhances proper execution while reducing injuries. A firefighter who arrives at an emergency unprepared can be faced with life-and-death situations and will find themselves under extreme stress to perform his or her duties.

Training benefits everyone: the firefighter, the company officer, the fire chief, the fire department, and the community we serve. Quality training prepares our members, and our department to control major emergencies.

Through training, our firefighters improve their skills. They experience less fumbling and fewer errors. They are able to gain confidence in themselves and one another since they can perform their job at a higher level. They develop pride in themselves, the company, and in their department. Training allows for continuous growth in their ability and prepares them to assume more responsibility while grooming themselves for promotions.

When Tom Bell was elected as Fire Chief, and he assembled his Command Staff, one of the priorities he wanted to establish was to meet once a month, as a department, to conduct training. We all bought in that if we train as a team, and not individual companies, we will perform well as a team when called upon to do so.

Continued on Page 5

REMEMBER....WE cannot work together efficiently if WE 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!



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 O.I.C., we need to find out
for ourselves as nobody else is going to
do it for us

**RUN THE TRUCKS
LET'S FIND OUT**

STAY CONNECTED TO THE GVFD

All events that occur with the Department can be found on our
TEAM-UP Calendar

This Calendar can be found directly at

<https://teamup.com/ksm8v5frr4hvn19ek>

On the Department Website | www.gbgbfire.org or by downloading
the app and entering the participation code. The app can be down-
loaded onto any smart device. After launching the app you will be
asked to enter an email address or participation code. In either case
you will enter: **ksm8v5frr4hvn19ek**. If you have any questions,
contact Rick Steele (724) 454-9519.

The **GVFD Website: www.gbgbfire.com** has taken on an all new
look and now features a **GVFD STORE** where you will find many
new items offered by the Department. The Event Calendars are fea-
tured as well. Connect and Check it OUT!



THE COLLAPSE

ZONE
IS **1.5 times the**
Height of the
Structure

2018 DEPARTMENT TRAINING TURN-OUT STATISTICS

		COMPANIES							
Date	Topic	1	2	3	6	7	8	R/J	Total
1/19	Bleeding	4	12	7	4	11	13		52
1/15	G1 Mask	7	14	4	8	12	13		58
1/27	Veh Ext	0	1	1	1	4	5		12
2/5	Palace	8	15	3	4	9	13		52
2/17	Table Top	4	9	1	4	9	12		35
2/19	Hampton	2	13	2	3	8	13		41
2/26	Acc Scene	1	10	2	7	10	15		51
3/19	Bair Bldg	4	10	1	1	3	11		30
3/26	EMS Assts	8	12	4	3	9	14		50
4/16	Cmwth Bk	8	16	4	4	10	15		57
5/19	Sit. Awrns	1	7	0	1	6	10		25
5/21	Veh. Resc	6	7	3	6	7	13	1	43
6/18	Verizon	3	10	0	0	9	5		27
6/22	Hi Rise FF	10	10	0	9	11	22		62
6/25	Water Sp	4	11	1	4	4	13	R-1	38
7/29	EVOC	3	3	3	5	8	4	0	26
7/30	Ladders	4	14	1	1	6	13	R-1	40
8/2	EVOC	4	3	2	7	10	10	R-1	36
8/27	RIT	3	12	5	4	9	11	R-1	45
9/17	Courthse	0	12	3	3	3	14	R-1	37
10/1	Fire Dyn	3	11	3	3	7	11	R-1	39
10/22	Ct Hs Anx	2	10	1	3	6	9	J-5	36
10/29	Meters	5	13	2	1	5	11	J-5	42
11/26	Fire Presv	5	9	5	4	11	10	J-6	50
Averages		4	10	2	4	8	12		41

TRAINING COMING UP FOR 2019

CPR Cert/AED | G-1 SCBA Review | TIC - Review
Reading Smoke | Salvage Ops
Firefighting and Cancer



It's Raining Training....continued

For two years now, we have maintained that mission. A diversity of subjects had been covered, all of which are part of what we do as a fire department. From CPR and EMS assists, to vehicle extrication and accident scene safety, ground ladder placement, and controlling the flow path. Through the support of our Relief Association, in each of the two years we have brought in contracted instructors to train us on high-rise firefighting, situational awareness, and firefighter survival.

As we move forward there is much more training for us to do. But, as we look back and see how we have advanced, we all have to agree that we have gained confidence in one another, and we are fumbling less with fewer mistakes because we continue to train as one group.

Author GVFD RICK HOYLE | ASSISTANT CHIEF & TRAINING OFFICER

Some Dates to Remember

Monday, November 26 | Fire Scene Investigation Station 7

Wednesday Nights - Bingo

Station 7 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 1

Station 6 Holiday Party

Saturday, December 8

Station 8 Captain's Party

For a Complete Listing Check the WEBSITE

www.gbgsfire.com

PARADE UNIFORMS • PARADE UNIFORMS

Commander Tony Manley is requesting, if you are not going to Parade any longer, to please turn in your uniform so others may use it. There are many that want to parade, but do not have a uniform. According to the list, it is apparent there are many that have uniforms that have not paraded for a long time.

Your Cooperation would be Greatly Appreciated.



The Greensburg Bloodhound Team represented by Lou Battistella, Elysia Battistella, and David Jackson along with Bloodhounds Delphie and Darcy will be appearing on KDKA-TV's Pittsburgh Today Live hosted by News Anchor and

TV Personality Heather Abraham. Lou spoke on the history of the team, the basics in the utilization of scent-discriminating Bloodhounds in Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue; how the team is financed and how the team fits into the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department family. Heather is a native of Pittsburgh, attended Shaler High, a graduate of WVU, and married to Frank Trabucco, a firefighter for the City of Pittsburgh. She worked in Brooklyn, NY for four years as a reporter and fill-in News Anchor before coming back to Pittsburgh and KDKA-TV. | *Date of Airing - December 3, 2018 - 9 AM (Live Broadcast)*

Looking Seriously At the Next Generation

The Lifeblood of the Continuation of the Department lies primarily with the Junior Program consisting of 420 Members (Ages 12 and 13) and Junior Members (Ages 14 thru 17). The GVFD is fortunate to host a group of fine young men and women, who have shown desire and dedication. We can thank many individuals who have dedicated their time to mentor these youngsters, making them feel part of the Greensburg Fire Department Family. A special thanks to Rick Steele, Justin Calisti, Rob Giles, and Kim Houser along with the Captains, Line Officers, and Committee personnel.

It is important to remember, there are rules that must be followed when it comes to our younger members. 420 members can do drills, walk-throughs, help at functions, etc... They are NOT covered under Worker's Compensation, but they are on the Department roster. They are identified by a special 4 digit number. They are not members of the Relief Association. Our 420 members are covered by the Provident Insurance Policy. 420 members are only permitted to ride on GVFD Vehicles when proceeding Non-Emergency. Basically they are observers. They may participate in training, but on a very limited basis. No Ladders, No Power Tools – nothing that would put them into harm's way. 420's will be provided an I.D. Card and wear a blue lanyard while in station or on the training ground. 420's will be issued and wear a blue helmet.

Junior Members (ages 14-17) are on the GVFD Roster and they are considered a member of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. Juniors do not have to be a member of a company per se unless permitted by by-laws of a particular company. If a junior is not issued a Company Number, he/she will still use the issued 420/Junior number until they turn an age to be voted into a Company. Junior Members are covered under Workers Compensation. A Junior Member must have "Working Papers" on file with the City of Greensburg. A Junior member of the GVFD is entitled to the benefits provided by the GVFD Relief Association. Junior members are permitted to ride on GVFD vehicles when proceeding EMERGENCY to alarms. Junior members will wear a blue helmet.

Participation, rules, and regulations for both the 420's and Juniors must be in compliance with the Pennsylvania Junior Emergency Service Program Compliance Manual. A link is provided on the GVFD Website.

Welcome New Applicants & Members

Joshua Crusan - Station 3 | Joseph W. Wagner, Jr - Station 2 |

Kristi Steele - Station 7 | Brian Turpin - Station 1

420 Member Isaiah Derry - Station 6 | Frank Zumba - Station 7

Mario Bertoni - Station 2 | Christopher Gaia - Station 8



"NEW" GVFD WEBSITE

Thanks to Rick Steele and several others, after several writhed attempts with a GVFD Website, with new energy and with the support of the Board of Control, we now have a Website the Department can actually edit and control. Leading the charge, Rick Steele, has spent a great deal of time in collecting information off of the old Site and transferring the information and gathering new information to have the Website take on a never-ending evolving story to share with the public either just for information or for recruitment purposes. The GVFD has a huge story to tell and this is one way to tell it, along with our Museum. There is a Members-ONLY section with specific information that pertains to only the members of the Department. The Username and Password was sent out in an email. If you didn't get this information, please either contact Rick Steele at greensburg794@comcast.net or Lou Battistella at lbattistella@greensburgpa.org. Rick is asking for help to write a history of the GVFD Marching Unit. If you can help him out, please contact him at (724) 454-9519. If there is anything that needs updating, corrected, or added, please contact Rick. Our New Website is: www.gbfire.com.

DEPARTMENT POLICY STANDARD

"Life Safety Equipment Company Purchases"

In a course change in attempting to alleviate or lessen the extent of a liable situation for Chief Bell, the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department, and the City of Greensburg, the Chief has adopted a Department Policy Standard with regard to Life Safety Equipment Purchases. Every year, companies make purchasing decisions for necessary equipment above and beyond what is provided by the Department, mostly through the Department's Relief Association that involve Grants and other sources of funding. In most cases, the company has their choice of vendor, manufacturer, and equipment. But when it comes to equipment that are considered critical to LIFE SAFETY, the Chief found it necessary to mandate a Department Standard. The items in particular are: Turn-Out Gear; Helmets; Radios & Minitors; and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. An item in this Category Group involves Radios and Minitors. Radios are almost at the top of the list of being critical, when dealing with Life Safety. The Vendor, Motorola, has been used by the Department exclusively since the beginning of time. Today, the radio systems used in the field must be 100% compatible with the radio systems used in our County Dispatch Center. Software Updates are constantly released by the Manufacturer and we need to ensure our radios are fully capable of being able to be updated when needed. Our County Dispatch Center is based on a Motorola Platform, and the GVFD must not compromise itself by having some radios that might not be able to be updated in a timely manner. To avoid compatibility conflict if it would happen to occur, the Chief has rolled out the following Department Policy Standard that involves all items utilized by the department that are considered to be Life-Safety related:

All Purchases by Individual Companies that pertain to the following Life Safety Equipment, are to be restricted to the following manufacturers:

- **Turn Out Gear—GLOBE**
- **Hood & Gloves - Dept. Discretion**
- **Radio – Motorola**
- **SCBA—MSA**

No other manufacturers within the above categories are to be considered or will be permitted to be used within the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department.

If Companies decide to purchase Motorola Communication products through grant funding or through some other source of funds, all batteries replacements, repairs and replacement insurance coverage shall be provided by the department for Company purchased Motorola Radio Equipment, providing all documentation and warranty information for each individual radio is provided to the department's designee at the time of purchase.

Radios sold by any manufacturer other than Motorola that are either on order, have been purchased or in-use by any Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Company, it is to be distinctly understood that the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and/or City of Greensburg will not assume any financial obligation or financial assistance for any programming, repair, purchasing of accessories or parts, or maintenance of, for the life of said unauthorized equipment.

All Companies must adhere to these purchase restrictions when considering purchases at the company level.

When making purchasing decisions regarding any of the items on the above list with the exception to Communication Equipment at the company level, purchase price requests, ordering, and purchase shall be coordinated through the quartermaster (Asst. Chief Rick Hoyle). Communication Equipment shall be exclusively coordinated with Asst. Chief Les Harvey.

Policy Date: November 27, 2018

**YOU CAN'T TRAIN
TOO MUCH
FOR A JOB THAT CAN
KILL YOU**



POST FIRE GROSS DECON

RICK HOYLE | In a Continuing proactive effort to establish an effective practice for removing toxic substances and particulates from personnel, equipment, and the fire protective ensemble after exposure to the products of combustion, the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department has established a Standard Operating Guideline for conducting Post Fire Gross Decontamination. This past year, the GVFD took a prioritized aggressive position on behalf of its members' health and well-being. The recommended NFPA 1851 Standard was placed on the top of a priority list of set goals for this past year. NFPA 1851 establishes a Standard on selection, care, and maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting. Chief Tom Bell stated, "In order for the program to work and be successful, the department had to keep the program simple and convenient."

Contamination is the exposure to chemicals (to include carcinogens), and/or materials on personnel or physical material (equipment, structures, vehicles, etc.). Contamination occurs when a foreign substance gets on, or in, clothing, equipment or the body via absorption, ingestion, or inhalation. Contamination implies these substances should be avoided because of their potential negative health effects. When personnel are exposed to environments that can potentially contaminate their clothing, equipment or person, the presumption should be that they have been contaminated. Some examples of hazardous environments or considerations are:

- Interior operations in environments where any amount of smoke is present
- This includes ANY duration of time. The smell of products of combustion indicates an exposure
- Personnel should be cognizant that an exposure to products of combustion does not require visible smoke. Inhalation and absorption of low doses have a potential carcinogenic effect.
- Exposures can, and are likely to occur during exterior operations when in proximity to products of combustion such as:
 - Vehicle fires
 - Brush fires or rubbish fire where unknowns may be present such as tires, fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides.
 - Trash/Dumpster fires
 - Driver/Engineer performing pumping operations
 - Incident Commanders / Safety Officers performing Incident Command functions
 - Crews assigned to an exterior working in the "hot zone"
 - Unintended exposure of any personnel due to significant wind shift, scene dynamics, or other complications

After the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department established the Standard Operating Guideline, DECON kits were assembled and placed on each of the attack vehicles, (5 engines and ladder truck). These kits consisted of the following items:

- 1 – 5-gallon, plastic bucket.
- 1 - 25' length of garden hose with attached spray nozzle.
- 1 – 1.5" NST X garden hose thread adapter.
- 2 – hard bristle brushes
- 1 – quart sprayer filled with a mild, liquid detergent

Once it has been determined that Post Fire Gross Decontamination is necessary, one of the attack vehicles is assigned the duty to establish decontamination. All members requiring the "wash-down" are then directed there. The company assigned this duty connects the garden hose adapter to one of the discharge outlets on the pump, where the 25' length of hose is then connected. The bucket is filled with water for use in immersing the brushes. As personnel are tended to, they are sprayed with the detergent, brushed down, then hosed off. After returning to quarters, all personnel requiring Post Fire Gross Decontamination must have their gear washed as per NFPA guidelines described below.

Continued on Page 8



Post Fire Gross Decon (Continued from Page 7)

With concern for members conducting the decontamination of being exposed to contaminants, and who were using the garden hose, a better method for conducting the wash-down was explored. A portable shower was developed. This is assembled by using 1/2" piping with a regular shower head, a male garden hose adapter on the inlet of the pipe assembly, a flexible braided steel washing machine hose, and the 1 1/2" garden hose adapter. To attach the shower in-place required mounting a few brackets to the rear of the crew cab. To employ the shower the same fitting is used on the pump discharge, then connect the washing machine hose to the inlet of the piping, and secure it to the brackets. The shower is arranged high enough that the water cascades effectively over personnel to completely rinse from the top of the helmet, thus reducing cross contamination by the member who would have been operating the garden hose.

The shower assembly can also be used when hand-held. This may be an alternative when concerns for the water runoff, next to the apparatus, would be an issue such as during weather where temperatures are below freezing and the build-up of ice would be present.

After the firefighters return to the station from a fire incident, all firefighters who were exposed to contaminants, simply seal their suit ensemble in a special provided plastic bag, tag it with personal identification and drop their suit off at a designated commercial laundry under contract with the Fire Department to be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized with a specialty commercial washer set up with cycles that conform with the turn-out gear's manufacturer's specifications. After a pre-set temperature water fill, the detergent and additives are electronically measured out and infused into the wash cycle. The Commercial 60 lbs. Washer/Extractor and Drying Cabinet were purchased and are owned by the Department's Firefighter's Relief Association. After the suit is washed, the suit is dried in a special drying cabinet. After the suit is dried, it is inspected by the trained staff, re-assembled and bagged for user pick up within 24-48 hours after being dropped off. *Authored GVFD RICK HOYLE | ASSISTANT CHIEF & TRAINING OFFICER*

EDITOR'S NOTE: To give credit to the GVFD in taking a pro-active approach on this subject, Rick Hoyle and Lou Battistella co-wrote two Articles for Fire Engineering and Fire House Magazines. We are hoping to see the articles in these two nationally acclaimed magazines in the coming future.

ESSENTIALS CLASS

JUSTIN CALISTI | The GVFD Essentials Class started on October 8, 2018. As of November 14th, all members of the Essential Class will be complete with the 2nd Module. On February 2 Module 3 will begin at the Pleasant Unity Fire Department. The GVFD has 6 members that have completed Module 1 and 5 and now on their way to complete Module 2. Anyone needing module 3 & 4 are encouraged to pre-register for the class. You can register for the class in January. The class will end in April with two burn sessions at WCCC Public Safety Training Center. All members who complete this class will be eligible at the end to take Fighter I. If you would like more information on Modules 3 and 4, please contact Justin at (724) 875-2393. Schedules for all Essential Classes were emailed to all members attached to the GVFD Department Minutes. Should you desire another copy, please email Lou at lbattistella@greensburgpa.org.

Note: Free Tuition for SAFER Approved Individuals; Non-SAFER as Posted at Stations. - Covered by GVFD Relief Association.. Ages 14 and up.

Must Comply with RA submittal procedures.
Direct all Inquiries to your Company Captain.

Course Schedule

<u>Title</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u># Days/ Hours</u>	<u>Min Age</u>
Intro Fire Service	10/8/18	4/16hrs	14
Haz. Mat. Awareness	10/23/18	1/4hrs	14
Fireground Support	10/25/18	7/32hrs	14
Exterior Firefighting	2/4/19	11/52hrs	14
Haz. Mat. Operations	3/16/19	3/24hrs	16
Interior Firefighter	3/26/19	9/44hrs	18
First Aid/CPR	1/5/19	1/8hrs	14
Radio Protocol	1/21/19	1/4hrs	14
Live Burn	4/18/19	3/16hrs	18

"We Are Proud of Our Essential Class Now in Progress"

PRESENT GVFD ENROLLMENT

Dave Ross • Roman Lamberski • Sara Schall
Colten Houser • Jake Alwine

Author GVFD JUSTIN CALISTI | PA STATE INSTRUCTOR
Essentials/FF-1 & FF-2 Coordinator (724) 875-2393
Email: justincalisti@yahoo.com



To be a Department....

we must look like a Department

CLASS A	White Parade Uniform consisting of White Pants, Jacket, & Hat; White Uniform Shirt; Black Tie, White Socks, Black Shoes
Class B	White Uniform with Badge; Black Tie; Black Dress Pants (no cargos); Black Socks & Black Shoes
Class C	Blue Dept. Issued T-Shirt; Blue Cargo Pants; Black Shoes or Boots
Class C - ALT	Command Staff may wear Issued Blue Polo Embroidered Polo Shirt - Discretionary



GVFD CHALLENGE COINS AVAILABLE



**Station 2 has a "New" Patch
\$4.00 Each**



Hempfield-Greensburg

Fire Prevention Day

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

WESTMORELAND MALL

ADAM EIDEMILLER INC. Since 1925

THE RESCUE STORE

the Balloon shoppe

pepsi

THE SALVATION ARMY

sears

Charley Family SHOP 'n SAVE

WEBB'S SERVICE CENTER, INC.

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

Short Sleeve Shirts

Small, Medium, Large, & X-Large - \$14.00

XX-Large - \$16.00

XXX-Large - \$17.00

XXXX-Large - \$17.00

Long Sleeve Shirts

Small, Medium, Large, & X-Large - \$17.00

XX-Large - \$19.00

XXX-Large - \$20.00

XXXX-Large - \$20.00

Hooded Sweatshirts

Small, Medium, Large, & X-Large - \$22.00

XX-Large - \$25.00

XXX-Large - \$28.00

XXXX-Large - \$28.00

Baseball Hat - \$15.00

Tossle Hat - \$15.00

GVFD/Greensburg Police Sticker - \$7.00

GVFD Coins - \$10.00



The Greensburg Fire Department Has a **Zero-Tolerance Policy** When It Comes To Human Relations



GVFD HEALTH FAIR
OCTOBER 6, 2018
101 Members Participated - 34 %
Plus 65 Spouses and City Employees





*The Chief Hitting the Streets For the Future of the GVFD
Talking with a Scout Group*

CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, shall lead by example for all. Each member shall demonstrate self-restraint and be constantly mindful of their demeanor when speaking. When representing the GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, members shall avoid bringing discredit to the department by speaking poorly about one another or the department. All members are expected to be professional, courteous, and respectful at all times including conversations in a public setting and/or social media.

*Special Thanks to Seton Hill for hosting
a Free Concert - Donations
Benefit for the GVFD!*

THUNDER

Presented by the Seton Hill Commercial Music Ensemble

Can't make it out to see us?
Check out our Facebook livestream video on the
2018 Commercial Music Ensemble
Facebook event page!

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Donations Benefit the
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 10 | 7:30PM**

Seton Hill Performing Arts Center 100 Harrison Ave

Seton Hill
UNIVERSITY

Chief J. Edward Hutchinson
DVD's for Sale
Photos & Memorial Program
Only \$ 5.00
All Proceeds Go to the Museum Fund
Contact Dave Klingler for more information



**Rang This Many
Times
In
2018**

The Greensburg Fire Bell

Jan	202	July	158
Feb	166	Aug	202
Mar	129	Sept	225
Apr	145	Oct	217
May	140	Nov	92 as of 11/16
June	181	Dec	

*In the Next Issue of The Fire Bell March 2019 - a feature on the
GVFD Museum. Please Remember to Send in any Events or News |
Deadline February 15th.*



WANTED

Stations to Host Socials

You Pick the Time & Date

February - OPEN

April - OPEN

June - Station 7

August - OPEN

October - Open

December—Station 6

(Contact Rick Steele to Coordinate)



Eagle Scout Project 2018



Fire Dynamics Training 2018

Christmas is right around the corner... and GVFD "SWAG" makes a perfect Christmas Gift. Lots of Size both in Black and Gray along with hats, flag stickers, and Challenge Coins.....

Check out the store on our website

www.gbfire.com



The Fire Bell is Pleased to Announce the Appointment of Colten Houser as Staff Reporter. Colten has demonstrated his writing skills to sufficiently warrant his Appointment and We Applaud his Enthusiasm and Dedication to the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department



EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS TRAINING

CHET BELL | Greensburg Fire Dept. 'EVOT' for the year has been concluded. To date 98 Greensburg Fire Fighters successfully completed the GFD Emergency Vehicle Drivers Training Competency Course. This course, based on Appendix 'A' of NFPA 1002, is designed to measure driver proficiency in handling emergency vehicles. The course is part of our own 'In House Training' and will be conducted annually for all drivers as ordered by Fire Chief BELL. This is only a portion of training required to be recognized as a certified Emergency Vehicle Driver for the GFD.

The GFD offered this course on seven different dates and times to include weekdays, weekends, daytime and evening to accommodate the personal schedules of GFD Members. I will continue to ensure this training is available on a case by case basis to members that are new drivers, or experienced drivers unable to attend training thus far. As a reminder, if you operated a piece of equipment during training, does not automatically make you a driver. Contact you company Captain or Drivers Training Officer to continue education.

~ Stay Safe, C5.

Author GVFD CHET BELL | ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF - FIRE INVESTIGATOR & EVOT OFFICER

REMINDERS FROM THE CHIEF...

- Any accident or injury involving City Equipment and/or general public property, no matter how minor, must have a City PD Incident & Accident Report filed.
- Keep the Jabber on the radio off the airwaves, only transmit what absolutely needs to be communicated especially during an incident.
- Please email Lou any Company Event information so it may be included in the Fire Bell.
- The GVFD does not fill swimming pools
- Please request an incident number each and every time you are out of station for fire department activities. This includes Company Drills. This is for insurance purposes.
- Please remember the Provident Insurance Policy

FIBER OPTIC COMMUNICATION UPDATE...UPDATE

LES HARVEY | Just a short note to let everyone know where our new radio communications up- date stands. This has turned out to be a very complex project. What I thought would be a three- or four-month project has now almost been a year. However, I now see the light at the end of the tunnel. All the fiber optic cable installations have been completed including the run from North Main Street to our tower site at West Penn Power Cabin Hill. As of this past week DQE has now powered up all our links. All new radio equipment has been placed at all our tower sites and Bear- Com. Communication will now begin to power up the equipment and balance the new system. Once that is complete then we will set up a cut over date to the new fiber system. This should be a very dependable network and our interruptions should be a lot less as well as the audio quality should be greatly improved. I am sure there will be some bugs along the way but be patient the future looks good. By the way Merry Christmas to all and to all a good year. "58"

Author GVFD ASSISTANT CHIEF LES HARVEY | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER



On Behalf of the Assistant Chiefs, Deputies, and Committee Chairman, I want to wish each one of you and your Families a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Prosperous, and above all Safe New Year!

Tom Bell, Chief - Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department



Why Not Using SCBA will Kill Firefighters

MARK SEIGHMAN | SCBA is the most important piece of PPE, and the reasons for not using it are no longer valid.

One of the greatest innovations in the fire service is the self-contained breathing apparatus. It has allowed firefighters to be more effective while providing a high level of respiratory protection.

We are able to gain deeper access into burning structures to perform rescue functions, locate and suppress the fire and prevent further property damage. It has become a basic piece of our equipment.

The respiratory system is both the biggest system and the easiest to compromise. One quick breath of toxic air can make the difference between life and death. What we inhale affects the whole body.

Because we don't always know the contaminants that are present within the environment that will harm us, we must always wear SCBA if we are in any kind of immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environment.

Cheap to Use | SCBAs are expensive to purchase and maintain, but they are relatively cheap to use. The only commodity used when in full operation is breathing air and refilling the tanks with regular breathing air is very inexpensive.

The units also have personal safety alarms and heads-up displays that require batteries to operate — often AA batteries. These, too, are inexpensive.

No excuses | We still have firefighters responding to different types of calls where an IDLH environment is present who won't wear their SCBA. It is not because there are no SCBAs available. It is not because the SCBA don't perform well and it is not because it is costly to use.

There are plenty of SCBAs to go around and they are tested and checked to make sure they work when they are needed.

So long as there is smoke or carbon monoxide in the operating area you should have your SCBA on and using its air. The toxic particles in the smoke and the cumulative effect of the carbon monoxide are both hazardous to your health.



Stay Healthy, Stay Safe
~ISO748

Author GVFD MARK SEIGHMAN | INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER



JUNIOR RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

ROB GILES | On Wednesday, November 14, 2018, during the 40-minute Enrichment Period at the Greensburg Salem Middle School, Captain Rob Giles, GVFD Firefighter Noah Burda, and Junior FF Colten Houser spoke to a group of approximately 60 students who showed great interest in the GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT by coming to a scheduled discussion about the Department. A Slide-Show put together by Colten Houser was presented and a discussion ensued "What it means Volunteer" along with a brief overview of the department, our many duties, tasks, and specialized teams that we offer was presented by Captain Giles. Noah Burda (a former Greensburg Salem Student) discussed how he went from a Junior Firefighter, to an active Firefighter, to now pursuing a career as a result of the training and experience gained from his participation through volunteerism. Following a brief questions and answer session, requests for more information and applications were requested. It was reported the turn-out was a lot more than what was anticipated. Almost all of the students who came to the meeting weemed genuinely interested in joining. This was a very good recruiting event and we are already trying to schedule another time possibly over the lunch periods. To get back to the Middle School in about a month.

Author GVFD CAPTAIN ROB GILES |
RECRUITMENT & JUNIOR PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

PRESENT GVFD JUNIOR PROGRAM 2018

420 Members (12-13 age)

Brett Steele • Isaiah Derry

Junior Members (14-17 age)

Colten Houser • Sara Schall • Zack Long • Darrian Conway
Trevor Swartz • Ryan Heater • Cole Willcox



TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT

In an attempt to eliminate confusion on training procedures, we are hereby going to review the reimbursement process.

- Almost all training reimbursement in the GVFD is handled by the Relief Association. However, there maybe certain items that may not qualify as a Relief Expenditure, which can be handled under certain circumstances by the Board of Control.
- There are three (3) Forms involved in the process of Training Reimbursement. There are two (2) forms for the Relief Association and three (3) forms necessary for the Board of Control
- Two (2) of the Forms|

1. Request to Attend Training Form

2. Expense Reimbursement Form

are used for **both** the Relief Association and the Board of Control submissions. The third Form: **CHECK REIMBURSEMENT FORM** is used for the Board of Control ONLY!

REMEMBER. In either case, regardless as to whether this involves the Relief Association or the Board of Control you must acquire approval, signatures, and submit the Request to Attend Training Form **PRIOR** to your attendance - NOT AFTER THE FACT and when submitting your expense summary (Expense Reimbursement Form) and in the case of the Board of Control, plus the "Check Reimbursement Form", you must attach a copy of the Certificate of Completion as evidence that you have satisfactorily completed the course objectives.

These forms are all available to you on the GVFD Website: www.gbgfire.com website in the "MEMBERS ONLY" Section. Print the form out , completed, acquire the signatures, and submit it.

Please Note

Asst. Chief Lou Battistella does not Use an AOL Email
Please Use Email
Lbattistella@greensburgpa.org

RAILROAD EMERGENCIES

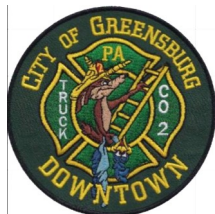
DICK JOHNSON | With the Mainline of Norfolk Southern Railroad passing through the center of Greensburg, we need to take our railroad training seriously. There are several ways to do this. One way would be taking a few minutes to sign up for a free monthly newsletter called N S OAR. This newsletter produced by Norfolk Southern has many articles in it, also monthly gives you the ability to watch a series of short training videos. This month there were twenty-three of these short videos. OAR stands for Operation, Awareness, and Response. The website to get the newsletter is [HTTP://www.joinnsoar.com](http://www.joinnsoar.com). There are also some great APPS for your phone available. One such APP is ASKRAIL. Should we have a railroad emergency involving a fire, spill or derailment this APP gives you the ability to enter a train car ID number and find out its contents, and also will list all of the other train cars in that train. Another important APP would be WISER. It gives you the ability to look up a chemical and receive all the important info including emergency procedures. Please take the newsletter and APPs seriously. It is not a question of will we have a railroad emergency, but when. Happy Holidays to you and your family and stay safe.

Author GVFD RICHARD JOHNSON |
DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF & HAZMAT SPECIALIST

RUMOR SQUASHED HERE

BILL WRIGHT | The rumor that I was intending to step down from entering incidents is not true. I do need help at the Company Level. Data on Company Calls is only available at each station, such as personnel, units, and time. Timely input of data such as: Time|Units|Personnel within no more than a weeks time by all of the Stations, allows us to supply accurate reports to the Chief, to the City, to the County, to the State, and to the Federal Government. Accurate information to the State and Federal Government is crucial and is used in grant allocations. The Information from Spotted Dog has afforded us improved information immediately.

Any questions contact 52 at (724) 396-1595 or
bwright@greensburgpa.org.



FOR SALE
STATION 2 Patch
\$4.00 Each



Merry Christmas
From The
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department



BLOODHOUND DEPLOYMENT

LOU BATTISTELLA | Monday morning at 3 AM, November 19, 2018, the Greensburg Bloodhound Team, responded to an assist call by the PA State Police – Fayette County & Greene County Barracks to aid in the search of an autistic teen missing for 12 hours in Greene County near the West Virginia border. The Greensburg Bloodhound Team, founded by the late Chief J. Edward Hutchinson in 1969, has been assisting the State and Local Police and Fire Departments throughout Western Pennsylvania and has responded to searches in the tri-state area of Ohio, West Virginia, and Maryland for the past 49 years. The team today, since 1969, carries on with the traditions and standards and receives its training and certification provided by the National Police Bloodhound Association, a non-profit, founded by the Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York State Police 56 years ago comprised of over 200 law enforcement agencies that utilize scent discriminating man-trailing Bloodhound in searches for missing adults and children and fleeing felons. The Bloodhound follows a human trail by picking up the scent of shed skin cells that humans leave behind. With a good source material containing the individual's scent, commonly called a scent article, exemplified by a worn piece of clothing, a toothbrush, or handkerchief, the Bloodhound's 300 million scent receptors in his nose can sort out everything else that will lead the magnificent animal to the person he seeks. After almost an hour trip to the Dillner, PA area, the Greensburg Bloodhound Team, was able to focus the on-scene Fire Department First Responders, utilizing the trailing efforts of two veteran Bloodhounds, 8-year-old Sophy and 5-year-old Lucy which greatly reduced the task of searching the immediate 40 acres of rural area on a 40° night. Within 27 minutes the youth was located by ground searchers. After suffering a minor injury and taking shelter in a horse trailer sitting in the middle of a field, the missing youth was not able to get back to the house that was a little over 100 yards away. Although the Team has had its share of "walk-up finds" over its 49-year existence, if the scent article is reliable and, in most instances, the team can be of assistance by establishing a search effort direction that others on foot or on off-road vehicles can focus on. The tradition of the 49-year-old team is a legacy of the late Chief Hutchinson who served as the City's Fire Chief for 63 years. The present 7 Bloodhounds that are now serving the department have taken the spots that were once held by the 21 deceased Bloodhound predecessors who served the Greensburg Fire Department gallantly, are all laid to rest in the Pet Haven Cemetery in Hempfield Township. Most Bloodhounds have a life-span of 8 to 10 years.

The Greensburg Fire Department has gotten a great deal of exposure as a result of the specialty teams' activity which helps in the on-going recruitment efforts of the Department. The more the Department is recognized the more people want to become involved.



GVFD BLOOD DRIVE

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday April 6, 2019

The GVFD will be hosting the RED CROSS at Station 7

From 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

There is Huge Shortage of Blood and the Greensburg Fire

Department always came through as a major

Red Cross Host Sponsor

Together We Can Make a Difference—Lets Do It Again!



THE FUTURE OF THE GVFD A Dependency to Insure the FUTURE

***We Are So Fortunate for the Boys & Girls who are
dedicating their time and talents
We ask that they grow old with US!***





PSFA | FLASHOVER RECOGNITION AND SURVIVAL TRAINING 2019

RICK HOYLE | On Saturday and Sunday, March 30 & 31st, 2019, the GVFD will host its annual in depth training program as it has for the last two years. This year the topic will be: **PSFA, FLASHOVER RECOGNITION AND SURVIVAL**. This course is designed to provide the fire service with a safe and secure method of flashover training. Firefighter are taught to recognize the signs of an impending flashover, provide techniques for possibly escaping an impending flashover, with the goal of saving firefighters from injury and death. Class will be limited to 18 students per day. Firefighters must apply for the class and demonstrate they have the prerequisites and a FEMA SID #.

GVFD LAUNDRY REPORT

Chief Tom Bell and Quartermaster Rick Hoyle reports all is going well. Since the inception of the program on September 25th, there have been 16 suits cleaned through the end of October. Companies are reminded of the schedule for REQUIRED ANNUAL CLEANING of PPE beginning in January. This will be for ALL GFD MEMBERS who have not had their gear cleaned within the last twelve (12) months, and is to include any member who possesses a suit that is NOT NORMALLY worn in contaminated environments. The Schedule will be: January – Station 1; February – Station 2; March – Station 3; April – Station 6; May – Station 7; June – Station 8. This cleaning is mandatory

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Residential fires during the holiday season are more frequent, costlier, and deadlier than at any other time of the year. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) reports more than double the number open-flame fires on Christmas Day than on an average day, and about twice as many on New Year's Day. And when those fires occur, they do more damage. Property loss during a holiday fire is 34% greater than in an average fire, and the number of fatalities per thousand fires is nearly 70% higher. When the source of the fire is a highly flammable Christmas tree, the toll in property and lives is even greater. To keep your household from becoming a holiday fire statistic, here are some safety tips to follow:

COOKING | Is the top cause of holiday fires, according to the USFA. The most common culprit is food that's left unattended. It's easy to get distracted; take a pot holder with you when you leave the kitchen as a reminder that you have something on the stove. Make sure to keep a kitchen fire extinguisher that's rated for all types of fires, and check that smoke detectors are working. If you are planning to deep-fry your holiday turkey, do it OUTSIDE, on a flat, level surface at least 10 feet from the house.

CANDLES | The incidence of candle fires is four-times higher during December than during other months. According to the National Fire Protection Association, four of the five most dangerous days of the year for residential candle fires are Christmas/Christmas Eve and New Year's/New Year's Eve. (The fifth is Halloween.) To reduce the danger, maintain about a foot of space between the candle and anything that can burn. Set candles on sturdy bases or cover with hurricane globes. Never leave flames unattended. Before bed, walk through each room to make sure candles are blown out. For atmosphere without worry, consider flameless LED candles.

CHRISTMAS TREES | It takes less than 30 seconds for a DRY tree to engulf a room in flames, according to the Building and Fire Research Laboratory of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE for STANDARDS and TECHNOLOGY. Turpentine is made out of pine trees – a Christmas tree is almost explosive when it goes. To minimize risk, buy a fresh tree with intact needles, get a fresh cut on the trunk, and water it every day. A well-watered tree is almost impossible to ignite. Keep the tree away from heat sources such as a fireplace or radiator, and out of traffic patterns. If you are using live garlands and other greenery, keep them at least three feet away from heating sources.

DECORATIVE LIGHTS | Inspect light strings, and throw out any with frayed or cracked wires or broken sockets. When decorating, don't run more than three strings of lights end to end. Stacking the plugs is much safer when you are using a large quantity of lights. Extension cords should be in good condition and UL rated for indoor or outdoor use. Check outdoor receptacles to make sure the ground fault interrupters don't trip. If they trip repeatedly, that is a sign that they need to be replaced.

FIREPLACES | Soot can harden on chimney walls as flammable creosote, so before the fireplace season begins, have your chimney inspected to see if it needs cleaning. Screen the fireplace to prevent embers from popping out onto the floor or carpet, and never use flammable liquids to start a fire in the fireplace. Only burn seasoned wood – no wrapping paper. When cleaning out the fireplace, put embers in a metal container and set them outside to cool for 24 hours before disposal.

Information from
2018 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

? DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ?

If you or a fellow member are NOT getting Email Messages that includes Meeting Minutes, Training Advisories, or *The Fire Bell*, than more than likely WE DO NOT. Please send your email to lbattistella@greensburgpa.org



FROM THE NEWS DESK OF | *The Fire Bell*
Staff Reporter Colten Houser

The City of Greensburg Holiday Parade



Another successful parade in the City of Greensburg! The Greensburg Holiday Parade has been a tradition for many years. The holiday parade had many members attend, including members from the Bloodhound Team, and the GFD Marching Unit. The apparatus in the parade included Truck 2, Engine 7, Special Operations, the Duty car, and the Chiefs truck. It also featured the 1949 Seagrave, from the Greensburg Fire Museum, and Greensburg Number 8's old '78 Seagrave.



2018 TURKEY TROT RACE

This year's turkey Trot marks the 27th year this race has been happening in the City of Greensburg. This annual event is a chance for runners to run a 5k around the City of Greensburg. The Greensburg Fire Department does traffic control directed by assistant chief Tony Manley. The race was led by Station 8's Jeff Peterinelli in the Fire Department Duty Car. All city stations attended including outside companies: South Greensburg (32), Bovard (84), and Southwest Greensburg (24). Another



Pictured Left to Right: Sara Schall; Brett Steele; Colten Houser; Darian Conway; Gavin Swartz; Isaiah Derry; Trevor Swartz

Not in Picture: Ryan Heater, Zach Long & Cole Willcox



GVFD

2018 Junior Program



Training Experiences

