



**SUMMER 2019 ISSUE**  
June | Volume 3 Issue 2

# 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

### THE LONELINESS OF LEADERSHIP

Statistically, there are fewer leaders today due to many reasons. What those who choose not to lead often fail to realize is this.

Those who step up and lead are not perfect. Those who choose the lead are not better than anyone else or think more of themselves. In fact, they often struggle with insecurity and up, more than you know. Those who lead are often maligned slandered and posed by those who would rather criticize then do the hard work of resolving long-standing issues that leaders tackle head on. Those who choose to lead suffer from depression as they often wonder if their efforts are worth it. Many leaders fail to see the fruit of their labor in their own lifetime, yet they keep working.

Those who choose to lead are often the first to suffer from political personal and spiritual attacks because the devil doesn't come after the complacent. Those who choose to care enough to fulfill the calling of their own heart have a smaller bag account but have dividends paid to them by the lives they impact. Those who step in front of adversity and take the brunt of a punishment of a wrong that was not their own, understand that they were made to shield those in their influence. Those that spend sleepless nights on projects in plans and praying fervently for a change in a world that often rejects them will not be forgotten.



## 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.

Those that love what others hate and withhold harsh words in the face of those who spit anger at them are stronger than we realize. Those who lift up the broken only do so because they know that they too were once lifted up by someone.

In closing, if you know a leader who work fervently know that you only see a portion of their efforts, in reality they never stop. So the next time you feel like criticizing the leaders around you, take a moment and consider these words mentioned here. Consider that they care about the mission and the people so much, they're willing to endure such hardship not for recognition but for the sake of an outcome that only God and they can see. Support your leaders, pray for them, and their families. Take a moment and look around you. The things you enjoy currently may have been bought and paid for by a lifetime of personal sacrifice. Let us not destroy our future by attacking those who work to improve it.

This is not about me or just the fire service, it's about all leaders. Read it again and if you don't get it, then you never will.

Stay Safe!

*"Tom"*



## FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY AWARENESS

| By Assistant Chief Chet Bell

Assaults against First Responders have been on the rise with no end in sight. Assessing scene safety is a priority on EVERY call for service. Remember, there is no such thing as a 'Routine' call. Establishing scene safety is the first thing we must do before entering the scene. We are used to looking for hazards, (wires down, fuel spill, etc..) but are we forgetting indicators of violence or criminal activity?

When approaching the scene, pay attention to detail. Communicate with dispatch, obtain as much information as possible. Stop, look and listen. Look at the layout of the scene. Do you see anything out of place, broken windows, drug use, weapons or blood? Do you hear a verbal altercation? Do you smell alcohol, drugs, chemicals, smoke?

Here are some brief tips to consider:

- Set up a staging area, call for the resources you need in an orderly fashion.
- Knock and Announce 'FIRE DEPARTMENT' before entering. Keep announcing until contact is made. Remember, someone inside might think you are an intruder.
- Scan the scene for potential weapons. Anything can be used as a weapon, not just conventional guns, knives, etc.
- Look for escape routes, safe areas, cover/concealment.
- Do not overcrowd the area of the event. You may hinder a quick escape if required.
- Continually scan the scene, be careful to avoid tunnel vision.
- If something doesn't feel right, BACK OUT! There is no shame in waiting for police to secure the scene.
- If no exigent circumstances exist, time and distance are your friend. Don't rush in.
- Never turn your back on the threat.
- When it comes to your safety, anything goes. These tips can be used at any event we respond to as the Greensburg Fire Department.
- Stay safe, see you there

## Chief's Staff & Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
<b>Assistant Chiefs</b>	
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 Investigator
Kim Houser C-6	Advanced Training   Legal
Les Harvey 58	Emergency Management
<b>Deputy Assistant Chiefs</b>	
David Klingler 41	Truck Company Operations
Richard Johnson 42	Hazardous Materials
Bob Baker 43	Rescue Operations
Calvin Kier 45	Firefighter Health
<b>Command Staff Special Officers</b>	
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
Kristi Steele 790	Department Medical Officer
<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>	
Rob Giles 69	Recruitment & Jr. Program
Rick Steele 794	Youth & Community Programs
Justin Calisti 26	PA State Instructor
Bud Mertz 200	Legislative/Public Safety
Jeff Henry 843	SAFER Grant

## DRIVERS

### STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLES

If you are the driver of an ENGINE, RESCUE or Any Other Primary Piece of Apparatus, you must stay with your vehicle while on scene.

The ONLY EXCEPTION WOULD BE A LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION - Also, if you are the Driver with only a Junior Member on Board, You will call in service as DRIVER ONLY!



### 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

## ENGINE EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION



By Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle

It must be reinforced, on the fireground, the GVFD operates as one Department - not six individual companies. To ensure speed and efficiency when operating at any incident, it is important to standardize tools and equipment. Any GVFD member familiar with his own company engine should be able to work off any of the other Engines in the GVFD Fleet. This includes cross-lay configuration, and location of gas meters, vent fan, and tools just to mention a few necessary important items to consider. (Continued)

**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!

## Situational Awareness

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

## KNOX BOX KEYS

Assistant & Deputy Assist. Chiefs, and Captains are issued a Key for the City Knox Box System. Those who are issued keys are personally responsible for their key and the key must be carried by only the person who signed for the key. At no time, due to liability to the Fire Department & the City of Greensburg, shall a Knox Box key be placed on City Fire Apparatus. Missing keys shall be investigated.

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

### Engine Equipment Standardization (continued)

This month, all hose carried on the Engines was tested. Directives were issued to each Engine Company, noting tool and appliance necessary re-arrangement requirements. All hose after testing, was repacked to standardize each Engine. Inspection of each Engine was also done to determine to ensure that all are in compliant with the directive to have each Engine set-up similarly in as many regards as possible. This includes equipment location and mounting, hose loads, nozzle selections, and overall uniformity.

### Directives included:

- **Gas Detection Meters** – To be located in the cab, preferably behind the driver's seat if there is room, if not behind the Officer's seat, and all meters should be grouped in a single carrying case. (This would include Truck 2).
- **Halligan Bar / Flat Head Axe / K-Tool** – To be located in the cab, and mounted on the tool board. (This would include Truck 2).
- **Blowhard Fan, (battery operated)** – location should be in the Officer's side, rear lower compartment, accessible from the curb side door. (Engine 6 is excluded because of cord reel – rather the fan is located on Officer's side, rear lower compartment).
- **3.00" Hose Clamp** – located above the pump panel, on the Driver's side.
- **2.50" Double Male and Double Female Adapters** – one of each to be located in both of the pump panel compartments, which is the first compartments rear of the cab.
- **4.00" X 5.00" Storz Adapters** – one each to be located in the pump panel compartments.
- **Distributor Nozzle(s)** – located in the Officer's side pump panel compartment.
- **2.50" Nozzle** – locate in the Officer's side pump panel compartment.
- **High-Rise Hose Packs (2)** – located in the Officer's side, rear upper compartment.
- **20# Dry Chemical Extinguisher** – mounted exterior on the rear face of the Driver's side, high compartment.
- **Tool Bag** – (containing screw drivers, pliers, Allen wrenches, adjustable wrench, vice grips, etc.) – located in the Officer's side, rear upper compartment.
- **Decontamination equipment** – 5-gallon bucket, garden hose w / nozzle, scrub brush(s), 1.50" x garden hose adapter, and shower head connection located in the driver's side lower rear compartment.
- **Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Pack** – located in driver's side upper compartment.





## 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/ksm8v5frr4hvnpl9ek>

On the Department Website | [www.gbgbfire.org](http://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: **ksm8v5frr4hvnpl9ek**. If you have any questions,  
contact Rick Steele (724) 454-9519.

The **GVFD Website: [www.gbgbfire.com](http://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**

2019 DEPARTMENT TRAINING TURN-OUT STATISTICS									
		COMPANIES							
Date	Topic	1	2	3	6	7	8	R/J	Total
1/12	Veh. Extrication	5	4	4	4	6	6	2	31
1/28	CPR/AED	5	18	5	5	12	21	2	68
2/16	Man vs Mach.	4	1	1	3	4	4	2	19
2/17	Man vs Mach	5	1	1	6	4	4	3	24
2/18	Bldg Tour 140 S Main	3	13	2	5	6	15	2	46
2/25	FF Cancer Awareness	5	12	0	6	6	17	2	48
3/9	Hazmat Refresher	3	2	3	2	5	2	0	17
3/18	Bldg Tour Museum of Art	7	10	2	0	7	16	2	44
3/30-31	Flashover Recognition & Survival Simulator	3	5	2	7	6	8	0	31
4/15	Meth Lab Awareness	5	15	5	3	11	13	2	54
4/29	SCBA/TIC Review	4	14	1	2	13	11	2	47
5/14	Bldg Tour Aquinas Acad	1	5	0	1	4	6	2	19
5/20	Hose Lays Attack Line	14	12	4	1	12	13	3	49
6/24	Ropes & Knots								
7/29	Ground Ladders								
8/26	RIT								
9/14	Hazmat Refresher								
9/23	Obstacle Course								
10/28	Vehicle Extrication								
11/25	Small Engines & Pumps								
December - No Scheduled Training									
Averages		5	9	2	3	7	10	2	38



**2019 TRAINING  
IN THE PIPE LINE**  
WPP FIRST RESPONDER SAFE-  
TY  
GVFD EVOC  
FIRE PUMP OPERATIONS  
FIRE GROUND SAFETY





## **Some Dates to Remember**

### **Wednesday Nights - Bingo**

Station 7 at 6:30 PM

### **Station 8 Burger Sales**

Fri Jun 7 • 4pm | Fri Jul 12 • 4pm | Fri Aug 9 • 4pm

Sat Sept 7 • 11 am | Sat Oct 5 • 11am

### **Greensburg Community Days**

May 23, 24, & 25

### **Saturday, June 8 | 9 am to 2 pm**

2nd Annual J.Edward Hutchinson Jr. Emergency Services Day

Lynch Field

### **Saturday, June 22**

Department Picnic - 3pm to 9pm

Mt. Odin

### **Monday, July 22**

PSP Westmoreland Camp Cadet

Pitt-Greensburg 6:30

Bloodhound Team • Truck 2 • Engine 8

### **Saturday, August 7**

C-SAY National Nigh Out

Northmoreland Park

Bloodhound Demonstration 5PM

*For a Complete Listing Check the WEBSITE*

*TEAM UP CALENDAR*

*[www.gbgsfire.com](http://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**

## **? 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*, then more than likely **WE DO NOT**.

## **Times and Numbers ... please!**

[By Assistant Chief Lou Battistella

After a couple of months of preliminary work, the NEW GVFD Fire Incident Reporting System is up and running. The Department realized there was a better way to keep track of incidents and training. In order to better comply with the Officer of the State Fire Commissioner and the Federal Government with NFIRS, it was determined that we needed to switch software vendors with a more updated and friendlier system. We are now with Emergency Reporting or Penn FIRS.

The GVFD is on the end of the Insurance Safety Office (ISO) audit and it has been emphasized that we need to be as accurate as we can be on reporting our incident response times. It is no longer acceptable to record one set of times for a full Station 79 response.

Each piece of apparatus must be accounted for when responding to an alarm. This includes: Time Dispatched, Time Enroute; Time on Scene, and Time Cleared; and if applicable Time cancelled.

The department was able to obtain from County Dispatch a daily report of the 'time-set' for each piece of apparatus for each incident on a daily basis.

The data reported is only accurate if proper radio protocols are followed. All radio transmissions must be clear and understandable and all radio transmissions must be acknowledged by the receiver of the transmission.. Please speak up and clearly when ever you transmit and make sure you receive an acknowledgment to ensure that your message was received. It is critical that this happens with all radio transmissions.

Always practice good sound radio protocols—speak up and be clear, and with wait for an acknowledgment so you know that you have been received and always acknowledge when you you receive a rmessage. You never know when that next radio transmission is going to be a matter of life or death.



## The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

*Is Governed by the*

### The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Board of Control

2019

President - Rick Steele • Vice President - Jimmy Fontana • Secretary - Justin Calisti • Treasurer Tony Manley  
Financial Secretary - Ken Bacha



Sitting: Jimmy Fontana, Ken Bacha, Bill Wright, Glenn Thomas, Rev. Robert McKie, Mike Korba, Rick Hoyle  
1st Row Standing: Rick Steele, Rich Baur, Tony Manley, Dale Hutchinson. LeRoy Atkinson, Jim Buscaglia  
2nd Row Standing: Mike Sheffler, Dave Klingler, Tom Bell, Rob Giles, Rich Fry

#### The Board of Control is comprised of Three Elected Members from Each Station & The Fire Chief

<b>Station 1</b>	Jim Buscaglio, Rich Bauer, Mike Korba
<b>Station 2</b>	Bill Wright, Dave Klingler, Justin Calisti
<b>Station 3</b>	Glenn Thomas, Dale Hutchinson, Leroy Atkinson
<b>Station 6</b>	Rob Giles, Mike Sheffler, Angelo Rosetti
<b>Station 7</b>	Rich Fry, Jimmy Fontana, Rick Steele
<b>Station 8</b>	Tony Manley, Rick Hoyle, Ken Bacha
<b>Fire Chief</b>	Thomas M. Bell

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



## The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association

Back in 1736 in Philadelphia, Ben Franklin encouraged the formation of the Union Fire Company and since then, Volunteer Emergency Service Organizations have been providing much-needed fire protection and lifesaving services to communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Relief Association of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department is a complete separate entity of the Fire Department. It serves as an Association to handle proceeds generated from distributed PA State Funds from a 2% tax on property insurance premiums from Insurance Companies that are not Pennsylvania Insurance Companies. Funds are annually distributed to municipalities based on formula of size and population. Use of the Foreign Fire Insurance premium tax monies generated is restricted and can only be spent by the Commonwealth Fire Departments for health, safety, member death benefits and training. Relief Associations in the Commonwealth are subject to the Rules of the Pennsylvania State Auditor General, and must adhere to rigorous accounting and inventory controls or face the consequences of being disqualified to receive annual allocated state funds. The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association is comprised of three elected members by and from each station, the Fire Chief, and three Fire Chief Appointed representatives. In addition, the GVFD Relief Association Board is supplemented with a Quartermaster, charged with inventory and purchasing, and a Fire Department Attorney. RA Officers are elected by the Relief Association Board.



2019

### Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association

#### Sitting

Bill Wright, Larry Weimer, Clyde Snyder, Rick Hoyle, Kim Houser, Doc Kier, Tony Manley

#### Standing

Jim Buscaglio, Rich Bauer, Les Harvey, Mike Sheffler, Tom Bell, Don Kundrick, Bud Mertz  
Mike Answine, Rob Giles, Lou Battistella, Jon Hillwig, Vince Fontana

Missing From Photo - Jeremy Danko, Frank Blatney, Denny Blank, Keith Hutchinson, & Kevin Hutchinson

## BEING CLEAN • IS BEING SAFE

January each year from now on will begin our annual campaign on Bunker Suit Cleaning. Interior Firefighters must take their suits after each exposure, however there are members that don't necessarily go inside regularly and there are some suits that never see fire. But we require each and every bunker suit be cleaned at least once a year. We designate Jan thru Jun and give each company a monthly assignment which is as follows:

**Jan • Station 1 | Feb • Station 2 | Mar • Station 3  
Apr • Station 6 | May • Station 7 | Jun • Station 8**

*When your Station Month Comes Up, if you have not had your  
suit cleaned within the last 12 months, get it to NU-WAY*

**NOW IN OUR FINAL MONTH!**

## A MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT THAT IS OFTEN MISTAKENLY NOT CONSIDERED A BENEFIT

### 2019 GVFD Relief Association Officers

President	Dr. Calvin Kier
Vice President	Clyde Snyder
Secretary	Lou Battistella
Treasurer	Larry Weimer
Financial Secretary	Jon Hillwig
Membership Secretary	Vince Fontana

### Board Members

Station 1	Jim Buscaglio, Rich Bauer, Mike Answine
Station 2	Bill Wright, Don Kundrick, Bud Mertz
Station 3	Denny Blank, Keith Hutchinson, Kevin Hutchinson
Station 6	Mike Sheffler, Rob Giles, Jeremy Danko
Station 7	Frank Blatney, Vince Fontana, Larry Weimer
Station 8	Tony Manley, Jon Hillwig, Clyde Snyder
Fire Chief	Thomas M. Bell
Chief's Appointments	Doc Kier, Les Harvey, Lou Battistella
Quartermaster	Rick Hoyle
Attorney	Kim Houser





### 2019 Station Line Officers

<b>Station 1</b> Engine/Rescue	Bob Rhody Rob Mattes Tony Rendulich J.P. Moroney Dave Dorko Christian Koury	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant Sergeant
<b>Station 2</b> Truck Co Air & Foam Truck	Perre DeFelice Bill Miller Jeff Guidy Justin Calisti Ron Spisso Bob Price Bill Krulac	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant Sergeant Safety Officer
<b>Station 3</b> Engine/Hvy Rescue	Jeff Swartz Ken McFadden Andrew Stezo	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant
<b>Station 6</b> Engine	Rob Giles Nat Winter Mike Sheffler Mike Rosensteel Jeremy Danko	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant
<b>Station 7</b> Engine/Rescue	Duane Spencer Rob Baker Jim Fontana	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant
<b>Station 8</b> Engine/Salvage	David Jackson Jeff Peterinelli Rob Cameron Mike Hartung Mike Baker	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant Sergeant

### 2019 Teams

 <b>Bloodhound Team</b>	Lou Battistella Bud Mertz Dave Klingler Rob Cameron Elysia Battistella Dave Jackson Dave Burnfield Doug Fordyce Greg Saunders Greg Saunders II	Commander 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Training Coordinator & Handler Handler Handler Handler Handler Handler
 <b>Dive &amp; Swift Water Team</b>	George McFarland Duane Spencer Jim Rule Jeff Guidy John Welsh Rob Baker Duane Spencer Kyle Joseph Joe Mangini Marcus Wisneski Roman Lamberski Bob Wright	Captain/Diver Lieutenant/Swift Water Lieutenant/Swift Water/Sonar Lieutenant/Diver Lieutenant/Diver Diver Diver Diver Diver Diver Diver Sonar

*In addition to the listed members of the Bloodhound Team are support members who respond with the team on deployments. For training, there are firefighter probationary team members and Juniors who do not respond on calls. These individuals play a very important part in the training of the team. Firefighters (probationary) may be cleared for Response at some point in the future as demands dictates.*



## WELCOME

### New Members

Brian Gladora	Station 7
Daniel Grant	Station 7
Austin Wentzel	Station 8
Dante Keener	420 Station 7

## REMEMBER TO REGISTER

16 HOUR • 3 Days

### STRUCTURE BURN SESSION

Course Code: 19FL PPRC 7703 P01

Tuesday • October 1 & Thursday • October 3

6:30 PM to 10:30 PM | GVFD Station 1

Saturday • October 4

8:00 AM to 10:30 PM | Smithton Training Center

Saturday

Minimum Age 18

Prerequisites: ELIF, EBM, or Equivalent

Must Bring Notebook & Pen/Pencil • TOG • SCBA & Spare Cylinder

Register 724-925-4201

**PRE-REGISTER DEADLINE | SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

Electronic Registration Available at the Westmoreland PSTC Website

**Walk-Ins May Not Be Possible**

**Class Limited to First 30 Students**

**GVFD JUSTIN CALISTI | PA STATE INSTRUCTOR**

Essentials/FF-1 & FF-2 Coordinator (724) 875-2393

Email: justincalisti@yahoo.com





**The  
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department  
Museum Committee**

**Has been putting a lot of effort in  
Museum Improvements**

**The Committee Has Stepped Forward  
Established Scheduled Open Times**

**Every Second Tuesday • 6pm - 8pm  
Every Fourth Saturday • 9am - 12 Noon**



**"New" Model Display | GVFD Museum  
Located behind  
City Hall • 416 South Main Street**

Visit **Greensburg**  
VOLUNTEER FIRE  
DEPARTMENT MUSEUM

**NOW OPEN**  
*To the Public Every Month*  
Second Tuesday 6 pm to 8 pm  
Fourth Saturday 9 am to 12 Noon  
*Starting March 2019*

Other times by Appointment  
(724) 832-7904  
[www.gbfire.org](http://www.gbfire.org)



Goodwill 1825



Pat Lyons 1805

**GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM**

The Museum houses artifacts from the long history of fire fighting in Western Pennsylvania.

Displays Include:  
Photos of major fires in Greensburg and surrounding areas, antique fire trucks, equipment, alarms and fire extinguishers, plus parade uniforms, as well as uniform patches from around the country. We also have a large toy and model fire truck collection as well as other memorabilia.



**Located  
BEHIND  
CITY HALL  
416 S. MAIN STREET**

## MUSEUM NEWS

by Deputy Asst. Chief Dick Johnson

With the Fire Bell reaching so many members of our department we felt this was a great opportunity to let everyone know of the changes that have taken place this year at the Fire Museum.

The picture included in this article will hopefully entice you to come and visit if you have not done so in a couple of years. *(continued)*

### *Museum News Continued*

We have added some new Items to our displays, plus we have had a major donation to the Museum from one of our longtime acquaintances who attended local parades as well as the annual State Fireman's Conventions. Charlie Horan from Fayette County unfortunately pass away suddenly. However, he had a very large collection of toy fire trucks and fire memorabilia that he wanted to donate to our Museum. It has taken several months of work and we have renovated one large room to display this outstanding collection.

We are now offering two days a month where no appointment is needed come in and visit the Museum. The Second Tuesday and Fourth Saturday every month is our Open to the Public events. Tuesday is from 6:00 till 8:00 and Saturday from 9:00 till 12:00. With the Pat Lyon and Goodwill hand pumpers and the 49 Seagrave we have some beautiful static displays. Please take the time to stop by and visit the Museum and bring your families and friends. Pass the word on to everyone and to organizations you may belong to and encourage them to visit or set up an appointment. To set up and appointment call 724-832-7904.



## PROUD OF OUR OWN

By Captain Rob Giles | Hose Company No. 6

### Congratulations to Station 6 Firefighters Noah Burda & Trevor Love

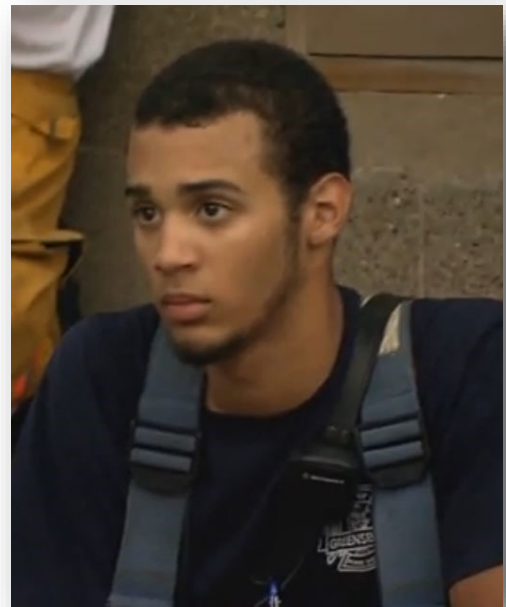
Noah has offered and accepted a full-time firefighter position with the City of Johnstown,. While we at Station 6 will be short a talented firefighter, know we are proud of Noah and we know Johnstown is getting one of our BEST young Firefighters.

We are just as proud of **Firefighter Trevor Love** for completing his EMT Class and National Registry Trevor has accepted a position with Mutual Aid Ambulance Service

## WELL DONE



Noah Burda



Trevor Love

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

## 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 GVFD, 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 on social media.





# GVFD NEXT GENERATION

Just having our Juniors in Station is actually giving some much needed drive to renew our commitment and jump start our training routines again, giving purpose to hang out together. You may say that we inspire our Juniors and the Juniors inspire us! We are no longer acting like six separate companies, we are NOW one Department. We are ...

*"Dedicated Teamwork. Six Companies. One Community. One Vision"*

## JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER ACTIVITY

The GVFD Junior Firefighter had a vision. They wanted to help the less fortunate. They wanted to be proactive in making a difference instead of being reactive during a tragedy. They volunteered to cleaned up the parklet in downtown Greensburg located on Pennsylvania Ave. They cleaned up the dirt, debris, garbage and dead foliage. They raised the money to replace the benches and garbage cans. With the help of a few of the GVFD Firemen, they were able to get the benches installed. Money was also raised to have food pantry boxes installed so that those who are able to provide for the less fortunate can. .





## GVFD Emergency Vehicle Operations Refresher

| By Assistant Chief Chet Bell

The Greensburg Fire Department 'EVOT' Emergency Vehicle Driver's Training Competency Course for 2019 is underway. This course, based on Appex "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 is conducted annually for all drivers as ordered by Chief Thomas Bell. This is only a portion of training required to be recognized as a certified Emergency Vehicle Driver for the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department.

This course will be offered several different dates and time including weekdays & weekends, daytime and evening to accommodate personal schedules of the GFD members. As a reminders, if you operate a piece of equipment during training, it does NOT automatically make you a driver. Contact your Company Captain or drivers training officer to continue education. Please contact me for comments or concerns st 724-217-0906. Stay Safe | C5

## LEARN THE STREETS

All of us that drive fire apparatus in the city, one time or another have drawn a blank on a location when responding to an alarm. Spotted Dog, which is in all the engines and in an application on almost everyone's smartphone device gives turn-by-turn audio directions. When doing driver's training, learn the streets! When driving your personal car around the city, pay attention, especially if you are a fire department driver, and LEARN the streets. There should be absolutely no excuse to end up on the opposite of town when responding to an alarm, if you are a driver. You have a responsibility. If you are not sure, ask Dispatch for cross-streets or directions. If you are lost, TURN YOUR EMERGENCY LIGHTS OFF. Hopefully it will never come to this.

## VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Our fire apparatus are not considered commercial vehicles, but they do fall under commercial vehicle rules when being driven non-emergency, such as a fuel run, driver's training, or picking up equipment. Our fire trucks are exempt from Vehicle Safety Inspections when responding to an emergency. But the moment the truck leaves the station non-emergency, there needs to be a record of a recent vehicle safety inspection. You, as the driver, are responsible for ensuring this procedure is done. Report forms are available from the City Garage.

## 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
- Social Media/Press Releases - Do not answer questions pertaining to GVFD Codes/Laws or Programs. Refer to the Chief
- Be Aware of all hazards. Never do "blind-barehanded" searches for keys and the like.





## Out with the dogs and still at it after 50 Years!

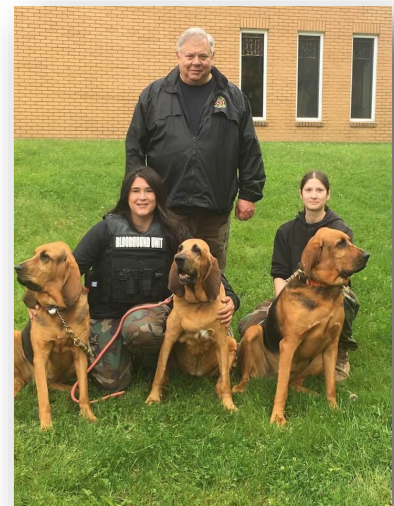


Greensburg Salem Middle School | Camp Soles 2019

By Lou Battistella | Bloodhound Team Commander

The Bloodhound Team no sooner returned from Spring Training in Maryland and then embarked on a month-long demonstration excursion tour. Visits included Garrett County (MD) High Schools Emergency Service Club; Baggaley Elementary; Slickville Community Event; Latrobe Elementary School; Camp Soles for the Greensburg Salem Middle School 6th Graders; Mt. Pleasant Cub Scout Pack # 135; and Fort Allen Elementary School.

This year the Greensburg Bloodhound Team is celebrating it's 50th Year of Service. Early June, The Amen Corner and the Pittsburgh Metro F.O.O.L.S recognized the Bloodhound Team for their 50 years of service to the Community. The AMEN Corner is a Prestigious Pittsburgh organization founded in 1870. The Pittsburgh chapter of the Metro Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society (FOOLS) represents the honor and traditional values of the fire service.







## TRADITION AT STATION 3

*Congratulations | Another Battle of the Barrel Win!*



A Greensburg Community Days Event...  
True Traditions celebrated by the  
**GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**





## Cooperative Community Public Safety Program



### Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

### Greensburg Police Department Fire Prevention & Public Safety Education



Selection Form  
(Check Your Selection Below)

Your Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Request: \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. Fire Drill Exercise Church/Synagogue Congregation Services

- ☐ Fire Alarm Activation & Evacuation Practice
- ☐ Optional - Pre or Post Exercise Group Briefings

#### B. Fire Alarm & Emergency Facility

- ☐ Alarm System Activation (with Fire or Weather Event, EE Action Discussions)

#### C. Group Presentation

- ☐ Multiple Shooter—Multiple Victim Briefing
- ☐ Stop the Bleed, CPR and AED Applications
- ☐ Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department | Organization Presentation
- ☐ City of Greensburg Knox Box Program
- ☐ GVFD Fire Museum Tour | 100+ Years of History
- ☐ The 9-1-1 Call - "The Most Important Call of Your Life" - Fire/Police/EMS
- ☐ The Greensburg VFD Dive Team Story - "Search-Rescue-Recovery"
- ☐ The Greensburg VFD Bloodhound Team Story- "Searching for a Lost Person"

#### D. Children and Youth Safety Program

- ☐ Car Seat Checks/Installation
- ☐ School Visit - Fire Truck and Firefighter Presentation
- ☐ School or Group Visit - Meet the Greensburg Fire Department Bloodhounds
- ☐ Fire Safety Orientation
- ☐ Youth Fire Safety Summer Camp Program

Please Visit Our Websites

Greensburg Police Department | [www.greensburgpa.org](http://www.greensburgpa.org) & Greensburg Vol. Fire Dept. | [www.gbgfire.org](http://www.gbgfire.org)

GVFD is a NON-PROFIT 501 (c) (3)

TO SCHEDULE ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS

Contact Asst. Fire Chief Kim Houser (724) 640-0906 | [attyfire@earthlink.net](mailto:attyfire@earthlink.net)  
Or

Police Captain Robert Stafford (724) 834-3800 | [rstafford@greensburgpa.org](mailto:rstafford@greensburgpa.org)

THESE PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED AT NO CHARGE

## GVFD APPAREL FOR SALE

Baseball Hats	\$15.00
Challenge Coins	\$10.00
Window Stickers	\$7.00
Hoodie	\$30.00 - \$32.00
Long Sleeve Shirt	\$25.00 - \$27.00
Tee-Shirt	\$20.00 - \$22.00
Tossle Hat	\$15.00

Visit the GVFD Website at [www.gbgfire.org](http://www.gbgfire.org)

For Pictures and Complete Details

## 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**  
**NEXT**  
GENERATION

## 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!*







## **“Knowing the Hose Loads”** | *by Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle*

It has been said that the most important life-saving tactic performed at the scene of a fire is stretching and operating an attack line to extinguish the fire. But this basic fire ground operation is often taken lightly and performed poorly.

As we keep with our mission to operate as one department, one important element we need to have an understanding of is our hose loads. Since the recent hose testing was accomplished, the time was opportune to make the hose loads on each of the GFD engines universal. This means that it does not matter which engine company you belong to the hose compartments are all set-up the same;

- The pre-connected attack lines are all arranged in the **“Minuteman”** configuration. Each one affords 100’ to be deployed from the rig and shoulder loaded.
- The 3.00” hose compartment has 600’ on each engine. It should be pointed out to each member that this is NOT to be used as the first selection when laying out from a hydrant. The male coupling, and no longer female, is the leading coupling. The 3.00” will be considered for use as a large caliber hand-line, to supply ground monitors, or to supply between pumpers when offering booster tank water.
- The LDH is to be the hose of choice when operations warrant laying a supply line from a hydrant, and in some cases for supplying an aerial device. Our LDH hose is hodge-podge, whereby some of our engines carry supply, and others attack / supply, which has all to do with what pressures can be operated through each safely, it is important to know which you run with. Plans are being formalized to see that all GFD engines will one day be outfitted with 5.00”, LDH, specific for operating as attack / supply.

An important part of preparing to use any of the hose carried, is for the companies to conduct drills. As hose is deployed, members gain knowledge and understanding for how best to remove the hose from the apparatus. Likewise, they become proficient at reloading the hose the correct way.

Each engine, except Engine 1, has 150’ of 1.75” hose loaded in the front cross lays, and all engines have 200’ hose loads on the rear pre-connects. Because of their first-due area includes buildings with a larger set-back, Engine 1 carries more. The 150’ hose load was chosen because, when deployed correctly, it can be advanced up a vertical stairwell 5 floors with a 50’ building set-back. This reduces the need for having an excess amount of hose, either outside or in the building, that contributes to kinking which then risks losing pressure at the nozzle. In a time when the initial on-scene personnel may be limited, there may not be anyone to play-out the extra hose.

Company members **NEED** to have an understanding that there are several options available when determining where the nozzle is to go to effect fire attack. If there is question that the 150’ load may come up short, choose a rear pre-connect at 200’. Finally, there are two, (2), 100’ “High-rise” packs on each engine. This is another go-to option for extending a hand-line.

Knowing your hose loads, and how to effectively and efficiently stretch them can only come **through practice**.





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## EACH ONE OF US MUST BE A LEADER © 2019

| By Assistant Chief Kim R. Houser

The magic of leadership is a 'culture' of many developing leaders, not one. WE must make every effort to develop leaders.

In an organization with a 'culture of leadership,' every person supports leadership and shares in the the leadership culture development.

[Leaders are each of us.] As leaders, we must make what we do exciting. We must make (manufacture even) the magic of esprit de corps (working as a team for mission and group purpose).

Volunteer Firefighters do what we do because it is our gift to our community, to our families, and to humanity. The Greensburg Fire Department is founded upon the core value of developing professional skills for our Firefighters. Developing leaders is one of these professional skills. We must be humble for the privilege that our community grants us, as our neighbors grant us, a special privilege to serve them. We must be God-fearing.

Leaders are human. We must admit mistakes and hate them when we commit them. We also know that when the troops make mistakes, or they fail, it is our fault ... the leader. When they succeed, it is their success.

Real leader do not live to score points to demean other potential leaders. We live to coach and cheer for their progress.

As leaders, we must have the troops taste team, taste and smell success ... no matter how small or large.

Leaders remind us that our mission is bigger than our lives — that each mission response or activity is the alarm of our lifetime.

Leaders aspire and inspire not for themselves, but for the excitement of the team and the excitement of servicing the community and protecting our families.

Leaders teach us how to be personally validated when serving the community and each other. Every response is a life mission and a part of our life's story. As an example, we takes pictures and tell stories to celebrate our team, our team legacy, and our myth.

Leaders push us to work as a team and execure as a team. The organization of leaders loves the Fire Department family and finds ways to serve their community and families.

Leaders always speak with moral perspective and honest candor at appropriate moments. As we all know, leaders and each of us are really coaches, parents, priests, reverends, and friends.

So, in short, leaders (each of us) have a vision of mission ... where we get it done. We breathe life into 'mission' for our team. We make it exciting. We make it important to ourselves, others, and citizens. We become validated in our lives through our actions.

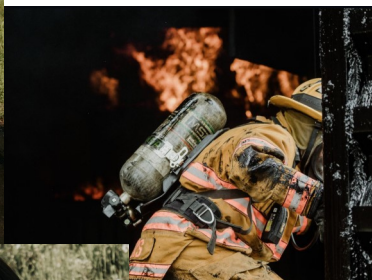
Leaders make us special -- uniquely special, uniformly special, both as a team and within our mission. We all, each as leaders in our organization, must feel, taste, smell, see, and live the vision of mission. We must approach each of these qualities with lifelong dedication and ferocity. Each of you ... all of you ... are special ... you are the team....the GFD.

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# PHOTO GALLERY

## FACES of the GVFD



## Battle of the Barrel







## GVFD 112th Firefighter Memorial Service

May 18, 2019

## 63rd Annual Fire Department Banquet & Awards Ceremony

The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department's 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Firemen's Memorial Service honored three of its members Saturday evening, May 18, 2019, at the Department's 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fire Department Banquet. Departed long-time serving members' lives were remembered for their service to the Department and the Community to which the department serves. Over 100 department members and family members of the dearly departed gathered and honored Active Life Member Firefighter – Hose Company No. 6, Joseph T. Suarez – born August 27, 1948, died September 26, 2019 after having served for 45 years; Firefighter Active Life Member Gary Vincent Bell, born August 12, 1955, died

March 28, 2019, first joining Hose Company No. 6 in 1973, later transferring to Hempfield VFD #2, and then serving for almost 14 with Hose Company No. 7; and Active Life Firefighter Member Raymond D. Shaffer, born February 11, 1928, died August 15, 2018, a faithful member of Hose Company No. 8 who joined May 17, 1953, and served for 66 years. The evening's event, catered by Rizzo's Banquet & Catering, honored those who attained 25 years of department service, marking their Life Membership status. These included: Timothy Wian of Hose Company No. 3; Galen Ross, Hose Company No. 6; and David Romagnoli, Hose Company No. 7. Honored for 50 years of Service were: Patrick Cribbs, Hose Company No. 3; Thomas Jablonsky, Hose Company No. 6; and Rocco D'Astolfo and David Yurko, both of Hose Company No. 7. Citations and Commendations were provided for their Dedicated Service from both PA State Senator Kim Ward and PA State Representative Eric Nelson.

Fire Chief Thomas M. Bell presented Firefighter of the Year Awards to: Company 1 – Christian Koury; Company 2 – Jeff Heater; Company 3 – Andrew Strezo; Company 6 – Rob Giles; Company 7 – Don Fencil; and Company 8 – Roman Lamberski. Junior Firefighter Zachery Long from Hose Company 3 received the Junior Firefighter of the Year Award for Exceptional Contributions to the Department.

The Fire Department's Safety Officer and Westmoreland County Coroner Ken Bacha, presented this year's Humanitarian of the Year Award to Glenn Thomas, the Fire Department's Former Long-time Board of Control Secretary. The "Commemorative Axe" Humanitarian of the Year Award is made possible by a gift of the Family of the late Leo M. Bacha, former long-time President of the Department's Board of Control and former long-time Westmoreland County Coroner.

Invited Dignitaries included Greensburg Mayor Robb Bell; Greensburg Council Members Cheryl Lennert and Greg Mertz, a Greensburg Firemen; and Greensburg Fire Department Honorary Members Dr. Roderick Booker and former Latrobe Fire Chief "Johnny O" Orzechowski; along with Greensburg Fire Department Reserve Members Bovard Fire Chief/Greensburg Bloodhound Handler Greg Saunders; and Crabtree Fireman/Greensburg Dive Team Member Joseph Mangini.





## | PPE USE

By Mark Seighman, Department Incident Safety Officer

In a study conducted by Drexel University, firefighters were asked why they sometimes refrain from using PPE in dangerous situations. In response, firefighters said they feel pressured to do so in order to maintain the image of being a daredevil.

Jennifer Taylor, PhD, associate professor in Drexel's Dornsife School of Public Health and her team, used data from 123 firefighters interviews across the country to conduct the study.

"Our society has a romanticized notion of what firefighters do, which is kill themselves," Anthony, a firefighter of 20-plus years, said in the study. "And we do everything we can in the fire service to reinforce that."

**Perception over safety** | Popular culture certainly falls in line with that view of firefighters. The film "Backdraft" featured a Kurt Russell character who increasingly put himself into dangerous situations, such as charging through a burning house without support — or an SCBA. In FX's "Rescue Me," Dennis Leary's character followed suit.

"If firefighters feel that the public expects them to take risks to save other lives and property, firefighters may internalize the belief that getting injured on the job or dying in the line of duty is an expected outcome of work," Taylor explained.

One firefighter in the study with more than 30 years of experience described the second floor rescue of a woman that he once witnessed.

"He removes his SCBA while he's in the smoky environment and then proceeds to give her air, which, on TV, looks like this sensationally heroic act. Really, it's pure foolishness," the firefighter said. "Even when you're in an aircraft they tell you [to] get yourself oxygen before you help someone else. But because it would look good in the press, he takes his SCBA off ... Now both of them have been exposed exceedingly long compared to how quickly they would have both made it out [had he not wasted his time and air]."

**Goal Seduction** | The desire to achieve goals or finish tasks is a strong factor in the use of safety equipment, the researchers found. Termed "goal seduction," personal protective equipment is often viewed as a detriment to it.

Overhaul is the period when the main fire is extinguished but more work needs to be done to prevent fire hidden in walls or other areas from spreading. Many firefighters don't use their breathing apparatus at that point, even though smoke and other carcinogens remain in the air. This can be the result of peer pressure but also out of a desire to finish the task unimpeded.

Firefighters told the Drexel team that wearing packs during overhaul is hot and cumbersome, so they often take it off. One firefighter also described never wearing the chinstrap for his helmet.

"It's easier for me to pull my helmet off and ... look up or whatever," said Xavier, a 20-plus year veteran of the fire service.

**Safety gear proponents** | Ultimately, Taylor and the other researchers determined that two factors worked in favor of using the safety equipment: individual will and organizational solidarity.

Between training and personal knowledge of the injury or illness that could arise from not using the right equipment, some firefighters had the wherewithal to refuse peer pressure against using the safety equipment.

"If you're going to make fun of me, you're going to make fun of me," said Kate, a 33-year-old firefighter with less than 10 years on the job. "But I'm not going to use an inhaler later on in life."

Leading by example was particularly effective, according to the interviews. When use of safety equipment became a team-wide commitment, it made the interviewed firefighters more cognizant of properly using it and less likely to feel out-of-place.

"Organizational solidarity can do a lot to help recruits follow protective equipment standard operating procedures," Taylor said. "If the overall goal of the group is to protect themselves from the known hazards of the job, then most people in the group will follow that behavior."

**In Conclusion** | There are no excuses for not using PPE. This includes the overhaul phase. Until the atmosphere has been monitored and deemed safe, all PPE, including the SCBA should remain in place. Even after the CO levels have been deemed safe, the particles in the smoke still contain the carcinogens. Keep yourself safe!





## | THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 360 SIZE UP

By Ken Bacha, Department Safety Officer

February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentines Day and sticks firmly in my memory as the day three Firefighters from the City of Pittsburgh died in the line of duty at the Bricelyn Street Fire. The LODD involved Capt. Thomas A. Brooks, FF Patricia A. Conroy and FF Mark R. Kolenda.

Although the final report indicated several items that contributed to the fatalities, one item in particular stands out to me. The structure was a 1 ½ story single family frame building as it appears from the street. Entry was made into the structure on the alpha side, division 1. The team advanced the hand-line down the stairs to the basement (sub-division 1). Fire erupted behind the Firefighters burning through the hose line and collapsing the stairs. Attempts to break out windows with hand tools and their helmets were unsuccessful due to heavy plastic added to each window.

Calls for help on the radio indicated that they were in the basement. Unknown to the trapped Firefighters, there was an additional level below sub-division 1. Firefighters on the outside acted as expected and entered the basement (sub-division 2) from the “C” side of the structure to attempt a rescue. Unfortunately, the attempted rescue was conducted on sub-division 2, the true basement, and the three trapped Firefighters were on sub-division 1 one floor up. During this operation, another Firefighter was trapped and rescued leaving the rescuers falsely believing that everyone was rescued and accounted for.

Lessons learned: An initial 360 survey would have quickly identified the structure as having 1 ½ stories up from the front of the building and two additional floors below street level. Accountability would have helped identified those missing and facilitated additional search and rescue.

All three Firefighters died as a result of smoke inhalation due to running out of breathing air in the SCBA.

This is written not to find fault but to “Live and Learn”. Rest in peace Tom, Patty and Mark.



## 2019 Parade Schedule

As of June 7, 2019



Date	Location	Time
June 5	Fairmont Hahntown	3:00 PM
June 25	Mt. Pleasant	7:00 PM
July 4	Latrobe	10:30 AM
July 11	Bolivar	7:00 PM
August 9	Slickville	7:00 PM

*Have a  
Safe  
Summer!*