

FALL 2019 ISSUE September | Volume 3 Issue 3

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

ARE YOU in Command at the SCENE?

Incident Command, some like it, some don't. Are we getting it? Slowly. Are we there yet? I would have hoped in 3 years we would have a good grip on it, but it seems we are taking a few steps backwards on Incident Command.



First arriving personnel, YOUR MAIN objective is basically to let all know what you see. For example: "89 is on scene. I have a visual strobe activating and we have evacuation in progress, nothing showing from side alpha, going in to investigate."

Now 89 just stated what he sees and that's it. He CANNOT have command for he is going in to find out what's going on. The next arriving officer or highest ranking person at that time, should take command.

"C-2 is on scene, I will have 4th St. Command" Now you have 89 inside investigating and a command has been established. Now there should be no contacting 911 for anything. All radio transmissions go to the command on the scene and him ONLY. 89 will give his report of what's happening inside to Command and NOT DISPATCH.

All 5 Engines and the Truck are the ONLY ONES that need to be recognized in service. Rescues, Utilities, and any other vehicle need not call in service. Command will ask for a specialty piece when needed. Those units can respond and park **OUT OF THE WAY.**

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**.

All 5 Engines and the Truck are the ONLY ONES that need to be recognized in service. Rescues, Utilities, and any other vehicles need not call in service. Command will ask for a specialty piece when needed. Those units can respond and park **OUT OF THE WAY**.

Once we establish command and we have an interior person, radio traffic needs to be at a minimum! The Engines and the Truck are the ONLY ONES that need to be on the radio to request assignment from command. The first 2 Engines into the front of the building, DO NOT BLOCK the roadway, leave room for the truck, next engine find a plug a block or so away and stand by.

4th and 5th Engine, the same. Stand by a block away. Let command know you're staging in case you are needed by command. The 2 Engines should be thinking of equipment for possible RIT. Have your crews stay with the trucks and be ready if needed once summoned by command.

Stay OFF the radio when possible during events. This will help command and the interior get what they need quickly to the resolve of any issue.

Stay Safe!

"7om"





SEPTEMBER is

National Preparedness Month

By Public Information Officer Chris Tantlinger

September is National Preparedness month and the slogan this year is 30 days/30 ways to prepare challenge from FEMA and PEMA.

FEMA and PEMA's link to the 30 day challenge: https://www.ready.pa.gov/Beinvolved/Pages/30-Days-30-Ways.aspx

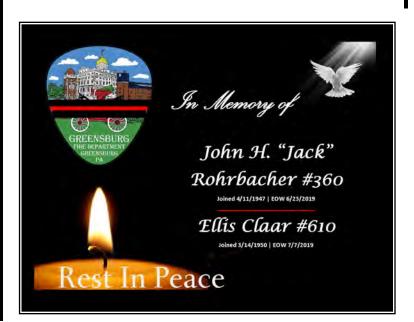
Football season has kicked off and the weeks of preparedness and football camp have prepared the players for the games. They have run the plays in the playbook hundreds of times and are ready to go out and fight to win.

Firefighters have a playbook also, and need to practice and be ready to the fires and save lives safely.

I would challenge each member to do 30 "plays" along with the preparedness challenge of walking 30 minutes each day, or doing 30 push ups and sit ups a day for physical fitness preparedness and along find or read 30 training and safety article or videos (YouTube has thousands).

That way along with 30 days/30ways, you can make 30 plays to be a better firefighter. Here is a start: http://youtu.be/QINXcB4 l-g.

Stay Safe..... Chris



Chief's Staff & Appointments

<u>Name</u>	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 Investigator		
Kim Houser C-6	Advanced Training Legal		
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 St	aff 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		
Kristi Steele 790	Department Medical Officer		
Committee Chairpersons			
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 EXECEPTION 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!



The Fire Bell

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, serves as a Department Record of Accomplishment and further documents our Training.

Editor For "The Fire Bell" | Lou Battistella

ENGINE EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION - Reminder



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 ensure that all are in compliance 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 <u>COMMON SENSE</u>

IF 9-1-1 ANNOUNCES an AFA as Burned Food Turn Your Lights off and PROCEED

The Call is <u>NEVER</u> <u>OVER</u> 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/ksm8v5frr4hvnp19ek

On the Department Website | www.gbgfire.org or by downloading the app and entering the participation code. The app can be downloaded 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: ksm8v5frr4hvnp19ek. If you have any questions, contact Rick Steele (724) 454-9519.

The C taken on an all new look a ere you will find many new i ent Calendars are featured

GVFD Website: www.gbgfire.	.com has
and now features a GVFD STC	ORE when
items offered by the Department	t. The Eve
as well. Connect and Check it C	UT!
	<u>ΓΗΕ (</u>

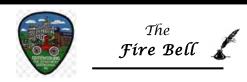
COLLAPSE **ZONE** 5 times the eight of the tructure

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	Bdlg 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	Bdlg Tour Museum of Art	7	10	2	0	7	16	2	44
3/30-31	Flashover Recognition & Survival Simula- tor	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	0	12	0	3	13	14	1	43
7/29	Ground Ladders	4	13	0	2	9	15		43
8/26	RIT	1	10	0	1	15	14		44
9/14	Hazmat Refresher								
9/23	Obstacle Course								
10/28	Vehicle Extrication								
11/25	Small Engines & Pumps								
December - No Scheduled Training									



Averages

2019 TRAINING IN THE PIPE LINE WPP FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

The GVFD SOG's are being updated to include Engine/Hi-Rise Pack Hose & Nozzle Standards, Preconnect Hose & Nozzle Standards, Radio Manufacturer Standards, & Battery Power Tool Platform Standards.

These standards are being updated for Safety Reasons, ensuring each and every Greensburg Fireman is properly afforded equipment that is considered to be the best possible choice for their safety consideration.

Along with the Equipment Standards, a new revised safety protocol will be included in the SOG's when the department responds to a possible Natural Gas Leak.

HYDRO TESTING

This year's hydro testing has been completed. There have been some issues created when not all stations timely respond to requests regarding air mask servicing which adds costs to the process. The Chief has requested that each Captain approving a bottle/mask person to be the single point liaison between the station and the chief. This should improve the ability to respond quickly to service requirements.

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. Please

GVFD-FIRS

Emergency Reporting

By Assistant Chief Lou Battistella

The GVFD Fire Incident Reporting Sysem (GVFD-FIRS) is now entering its fourth month on the new Emergency Reporting Software platform. All stations are now on board and station input is now the best ever.

The GVFD no longer has contractual arrangement with FIREHOUSE, but all the data that was entered into FIREHOUSE over the years, now resides on a computer as "READ-ONLY" Data. We are able to retrieve a great deal of information should a need arise.

The Penn FIRS or Emergency Reporting software basic module is provided to Pennsylvania Fire Departments courtesy of the PA State Fire Commissioner which represents a great savings to the GVFD. More and more departments not only across Pennsylvania, but across the United States as well, are switching and utilizing EMERGENCY REPORTING as their preferred vendor.

Once those that were used to FIREHOUSE spends a little time, they are finding it much more user-friendly. Those who were never involved with FIRE-HOUSE are finding it easy to catch on to. It is important that our National Fire Incident Reports (NFIRS) are accurate and up to date. The information is used for both Federal and State Grant qualifying criteria and for ISO Audits.

The Emergency Reporting System keeps track of our training is able to be used for all levels of training, from company drills and meetings to ProBoard and State Certifications. Actual Certificates can be uploaded and made part of personnel records.

The GVFD has created another database to maintain health records and other information that was once kept intermingled on Firehouse to keep the NFIRS and Actual Data pertaining to Fire Operations separate in clean and orderly format.



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



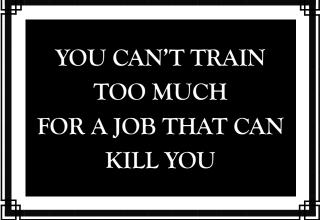
Sitting: Jimmy Fontana, Ken Bacha, Bill Wright, Glenn Thomas, Rev. Robert McKie, Mike Korba, Rick Hoyle

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

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





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

<u>Sitting</u>

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

Please Don't Forget to Keep Your Turn-Out Gear Clean. All Turn Out Gear regardless of whether it saw fire or not, at least once a year must be processed at our designated contract facility

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

Remember, Every time you put on a dirty, contaminated bunker suit, you're re-exposing yourself and exposing possibly your family, your loved ones and everyone around you who comes into contact with or near your exposed gear. At the Fire Scene, Gross Decontamination can be accomplished with the portable showers that are available on the Engines. This is help to get you home safely, but nothing replaces having the Bunker Suit Professionally Cleaned.

We Have Provided
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ENSURE IT HAPPENS

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 I 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



The Fire Bell

2019 Station Line Officers			
Station 1 Engine/Rescue	Bob Rhody Rob Mattes Tony Rendulich JP. Moroney Dave Dorko Christian Koury	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant Sergeant	
Station 2 Truck Co Air & Foam Truck	Perre DeFelice Bill Miller Jeff Guiddy Justin Calisti Ron Spisso Bob Price Bill Krulac	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant Sergeant Safety Officer	
Station 3 Engine/Hvy Rescue	Ken McFadden Andrew Strezo	Captain 1st Lieutenant	
Station 6 Engine	Rob Giles Nat Winter Mike Sheffler Mike Rosensteel Jeremy Danko	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant	
Station 7 Engine/Rescue	Duane Spencer Rob Baker Jim Fontana	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant	
Station 8 Engine/Salvage	David Jackson Jeff Peterinelli Derek Manley Rob Cameron Mike Hartung	Captain 1st Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Lieutenant Sergeant	

2019 Teams				
Bloodhound Team	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		
Dive & Swift Water Team	George McFarland Duane Spencer Jim Rule Jeff Guiddy 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 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

Patrick Dean Station 8

Trevor Turin Station 8



Parades For 2019

Mt. Pleasant Glass Festival

September 28-2 PM

Fort Ligonier Days

October 12 - 11 AM

Greensburg Holiday Parade

November 23—12 Noon

Holiday Parade Class B Uniforms

ALL MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

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 5

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

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

$\textit{GVFD JUSTIN CALISTI} \mid \textit{PA STATE INSTRUCTOR}$

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

Email: justincalisti@yahoo.com



The Fire Bell

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



GVFD CHALLENGE COINS AVAILABLE



\$10.00 (See Website for Details) **CLASS B BLACK JACKETS** Orders are now being taken by the Company Board of Control Representatives. These jackets, provided by the Board of Control, will be ordered at the end of September.

The second order for **WHITE UNIFORM SHIRTS** also provided by the Board of Control have been placed. Along with this order was a **BADGE** order for those who did not get one originally. The cost of the Badge is the responsibility of either the company or the individual, whichever way this was worked out on the company level.

All of this information was made available to the Companies through the Board of Control Representatives to carry it back to the individual companies.

All inquiries should be made to your COMPANY BOC REPRESENTATIVE

Chief J. Edward Hutchinson

DVD's for Sale

Photos & Memorial Program

Only \$ 5.00

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





PROUD OF OUR OWN

On June 28, 2019, as a man was laying lifeless on the floor at the Greensburg PENN DOT Driving Test Center, Assistant Chief Tony Manley and Firefighter Rick Steele administered the AED and CPR until Paramedics arrived, which attributed to saving the man's life On August 13th, at a Banquet and Awards Presentation, part of the Western PA. Firemen's Association Convention, both Tony and Rick were each presented the **J. EDWARD SALIBA VALOR AWARD** by Chief Ed Saliba, the son of the late Chief J. Edward Saliba.

Both Rick and Tony were totally surprised as they actually had to be hijacked to attend. Afterwards, they managed to express their true feelings by explaining, when you think of a firefighter, most people think of heroic men and women who run into a burning building to extinguish flames, not the vehicle accidents, not the search of a missing child, not the rescue or recovery of a drowned victim, or not the one who administered the lifesaving Narcan to an overdosed victim. Wonder if they think of them when a loved one lies clinging to life and in need of CPR?

Outside of dashing into a burning building, these are just a few other acts of heroism done by OUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS daily, making personal sacrifices in doing so.

In receiving this award, Tony and Rick both being humble men, rather would not have the recognition. They do what they do, not for recognition, but to serve their community and help those in need.

Congratulations to both Tony and Rick, this is well deserved





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.





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 Firefighters along with regular members, the Greensburg Rotary, with contributions from West Point, Hempfield #2, Forbes Road, Hannastown, South Greensburg, SW Greensburg, Fort Allen, Bovard, and Carbon Fire Departments distributed almost 400 hygiene kits during the Salvation Army's Back to School Bash. These kits were given to children from preschool thru high school.





GVFD Emergency Vehicle Operations Refresher

Assistant Chief Chet Bell

The Greensburg Fire Department 'EVOT" Emergency Vehicle Driver's Training Competency Course for 2019 is wrapping up. 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 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 timeS including weekdays & weekends, daytime and evening to accommodate personal schedules of the GFD members. As a reminder, 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 questions or concerns at 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 side 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, <u>no matter how minor</u>, 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.



Preventing Hypoxia on Potential Overdoses

By Daniel Mertz M.H.A., EMT-P



Firefighters have become the true definition of a first responder. With the increase in opioid related AED calls it is important to educate yourself to a potential threat to the patient you may not have considered. We do well with applying AED and administering Narcan, but we may be forgetting to treat for hypoxia.

What is Hypoxia?

The brain depends on oxygen to perform even the most basic functions. Without it, the brain quickly ceases to function. And if oxygen deprivation continues, death or permanent brain damage take just a *few minutes*. Hypoxia is the deprivation of oxygen to the brain, and is one of the deadliest injuries. Even people who survive hypoxia may experience lifelong aftereffects.

A FEW MINUTES is something we do not have when we arrive to calls when our patients are not breathing adequately. That time is spoken for already from the time the caller dials 911 until the first arriving AED. Once we recognize the patient has a pulse and this is a potential overdose situation, we must then prepare the Narcan for administration and ventilate our patients. All City medical bags come equipped with a Bag Valve Mask (BVM), and an O2 cylinder.

Why Is this important?

Brain damage can begin within a minute or two of total oxygen deprivation. At the five-minute mark, death of brain cells -- and the severe brain damage that accompanies it -- becomes inevitable. Most people will die within 10 minutes of total oxygen deprivation. Those in poor health often die much sooner. Some people may suffer other medical catastrophes, such as a heart attack, in response to oxygen deprivation.

How to Ventilate?

While the rescuer positioned at the crown of the patient's head maintains airway position and mask seal with two hands, a second rescuer should encircle the bag with two hands and provide steady, regular ventilations. The ventilation should last approximately one second and be provided every five seconds for a target rate of 10 ventilations per minute. Both rescuers should watch the chest for adequate rise, and a third rescuer should periodically auscultate the lungs to ensure adequate ventilation. Provide high-flow supplemental oxygen, if available, to the reservoir bag.

It is important that the OIC assigns these tasks to capable rescuers until the EMS unit arrives. Please use your paramedics and EMT's first as they are trained thoroughly in this scope of practice. Please identify yourselves to the OIC so he can make that determination.

I am proud to be a Greensburg Firefighter because we continually rise to the task of what is asked from us. With the early reorganization of hypoxia and proper ventilation techniques we can ensure a successful outcome for patients who rely on us in their time of need.



Juniors On a J-Town Tour

Members of the City of Greensburg Fire Department 420/Junior Program visited the Johnstown Fire Department Fire Stations and Training Facility. The group loved the trip and it was not only a fun-day, but it was an educational day. Special thanks to Johnstown/Greensburg Firefighters Anthony Henry and Noah Burda for helping out with this event. To show appreciation for hosting the GFD Juniors, the GFD took the guys from Johnstown Fire Department to lunch at the Coney Island Hot Dog Shop ... where there were "Sundowners" for EVERYONE. Awesome Day with BROTHERHOOD.



















The Fire Bell

Cooperative Community Public Safety Program

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

Greensburg Police Department Fire Prevention & Public Safety Education

Selection Form (Check Your Selection Below

Your Orga	nization:
Contact I	nformation
Name:	Phone No:
Email:	Date Request:
A. Fire D	rill Exercise Church/Synagogue Congregation Services
	Fire Alarm Activation & Evacuation Practice
	Optional - Pre or Post Exercise Group Briefings
B. Fire A	larm & 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 Greenshure VED Dive Team Stony - "Search Pescue Peroveni"

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

The Greensburg VFD Bloodhound Team Story- "Searching for a Lost Person"

- ☐ Fire Safety Orientation
- ☐ Youth Fire Safety Summer Camp Program

Please Visit Our Websites

Greensburg Police Department | www.greensburgpa.org & Greensburg Vol. Fire Dept. | 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

Police Captain Robert Stafford (724) 834-3800 | 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
Kids Tee-Shirt	\$15.00
Tossle Hat	\$15.00
Onesie (6,12,18 & 24 Mo.)	\$14.00
1/4 Zip	\$40 .00 - \$45.00

Visit the GVFD Website at www.gbgfire.org For Pictures and Complete Details



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!





"We Don't Do Rekindles"

by Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle

Something you may have heard me say, half-jokingly, while conducting overhaul operations is, "we don't do re-kindles".

A rekindle is every chief officer's fear. Remember that the people who called for our help are expecting us to be professional. We need to act as if the resident of the fire scene was someone very close to us. Treat the fire scene as you would expect your own house to be treated. This includes being thorough, methodical, and to take the time to ensure that ALL fire has been extinguished. To be called back to the fire scene to extinguish a rekindle reflects the lack of professionalism, and should be felt as an embarrassment to each member who operated at the fire incident.

Overhauling is not the glamorous side of firefighting. Once the fire has been knocked down by the attack crew, and the adrenaline rush is over, the tendency is for the crew to clear themselves before the mundane work of post-fire overhaul commences. Post-fire overhaul begins immediately after the fire has be declared under-control.

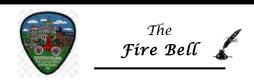
Overhaul consists of opening up areas where the fire may have extended beginning from where the fire was most intense, and working outward toward the "clean" area. Key points in conducting overhaul would include the following;

- Maintain at least one Engine on scene with a charged hose line in place. Depending on the severity of the fire, this may involve hours after the fire has been declared out.
- Be unhurried, systematic, and detailed.
- Opening up locations such as ceilings, walls, partitions, floor boards, base boards, pipe recesses, wall switches, wall receptacles, door trim, and window trim.
- When hot spots are found, or an area of fire extension, wash down the area with a good amount of water.
- Complete removal of all cellulose insulation from attic and stud spaces.
- Find that perfect balance between thoroughness and excessive damage.

The Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) is a great tool, and it certainly has its place in the fire service. However, the TIC is designed to pick-up heat, and if used in a room that was just involved with fire, it will read hot. There are times when a TIC is not a substitute for doing things the old-fashioned way, by feeling for hot spots, or looking for wisps of smoke coming from logical locations where fire may have extended.

As GFD members, what we must do at every operation is be as thorough and as conscientious as we can. If there is any doubt, open it up and check.

The motto that was instilled in me by past members of our department is that, "We Don't Do Rekindles".



THE GREENSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVE TEAM

| By Kris Peters, YMCA Aquatics Coordinator

Have you been in our main pool on a Sunday afternoon lately? Noticed a handful of men practicing their SCUBA and RESCUE skills? If you haven't met these guys, you are missing out! They are the eight members of a specialized VOLUNTEER unit, located right here in Greensburg, firefighters who choose to not only risk their lives on land, but also in the water.

Before the Scuba (Dive) Team was started, grappling hooks drug along the bottom of a body of water were used in victim recovery. Chief Ed Hutchinson knew there had to be a more compassionate and dignified way to recover victims, so in 1958 the Dive Team was created. Over the years, this team has completed more than 1,000 recoveries, including drowning victims, vehicles, stolen property and weapons. They use state of the art sonar and camera equipment, have a boathouse full of watercraft and specialized emergency response vehicles.

Although their equipment is impressive, it can't be fully utilized without years of training, honing skills that take constant practice both in and out of the water, and a commitment to their team as well as the fire department. A normal week for them included 10 hours of physical trailing, 16 hours of pool and skill work, department activities, emergency calls ... then add on full-time jobs and most importantly, families.

Their personal equipment runs between \$7,000 and \$8,000. This is not a hobby for them, it's a commitment! I asked their Dive Captain, George McFarland, if a firefighter makes a better diver, he was quick to respond that "a diver makes a better firefighter". George has been a member of the team since 1968, and if you are lucky enough to talk to him, you can tell immediately how devoted to the program he is. I asked him why it's important to him to work with these divers and his answer was simple "we are giving back to the community and we are teaching them an art". He wants to pass on his knowledge and experiences to the next generation of divers, and thankfully, he and his assistants are doing that every day. So if you get the chance, stop in and say hello to Roman or Andrew. Watch Joey and Duane lead the team in some really cool underwater drills. Just remember, these divers are in it for the long haul, every time they receive a call, it's real life, and they need to be ready in a moment to face some unbelievable and oftentimes tragic situations, risking their lives for someone else.

The reason I'm recommending them for "Outstanding Volunteers" is because of their willingness to help whenever needed. Every time they are here, they check the pool for us. They inspect the drains and make any underwater repairs that are needed, using their own tools and equipment. They rotate out our lane lines as part of their drills, making sure that all ratchets and connections are safe for our swimmers. I have watched our members using the pool go from not "wanting to swim with them because they blow bubbles" to "when is the dive team coming so we can watch them". They are courteous and friendly to everyone (both patrons and staff) and are willing to answer questions and explain their mission, with the hope of educating the public about water safety. Captain George was the diver who repaired the main pool leak this past May. Without his knowledge, tools and dedication, we would have been in serious trouble. He not only offered initial advice on the phone, but left his full time job early to be here to dive when the plumber was available with the camera system. He came up with the idea on how to temporarily fix the leaks, and also guided the camera so we could get an accurate layout of the drainage system, enabling us to make plans for permanent fix in the future. They have agreed to assist us with these repairs as soon as we are ready. Please consider the GVFD lead by Captain George McFarland for "Outstanding Volunteer".



JUST PLAIN GOOD INFORMATION

By: Colten Houser | Jr. Member & Editorial Staff - "The Fire Bell"

Radios | APX SERIES

In the City of Greensburg, multiple people have a Motorola APX series radio. These are the dual band radios recently given to the chief officers and a few people on the chief's staff. We use the same radios for county HazMat, the District 3 Police Department, some Mutual Aid Staff, and more. These radios have a lot of functions, many of which people don't know about. In this article, we will focus on one function that was recently introduced to my dad, which he used at the Bean and Baguette fire. This function is the noise-cancelling option. The test was done by a YouTube channel at which they tested the noise cancelling feature while shooting 16 rounds from a gun while talking into an APX-Style. Using this feature, they were able to talk clearly and be heard clearly. The full video can be viewed at https://youtu.be/uTdVK797EJs

A Reason to NOT STAND In Front of the hydrant When Charging it.

The City of Madison Fire Department in Wisconsin posted on their Facebook page on April 22nd about a fire on Vernon Street where Engine 14 hit a hydrant with LDH, much like the Greensburg Fire Department does. When the water was turned on, the threads of the outlet blew right out of the hydrant. Fortunately, no one was injured.



City of Madison, Wisconsin Fire Department Hydrant

















DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT STANDARD | For SAFETY!

By Rick Hoyle, Assistant Chief

In an attempt to Standardize Equipment used in conjunction with the Apparatus Operated by the Greensburg Fire Department and to promote the benefit of standardized training with equipment used by the department, the list presented below is a standard that is to be utilized by all companies of the Greensburg Fire Department keeping safety first and foremost in mind for the members of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department.

As a department with six (6) fire companies, five (5) Engines and one (1) Truck, it only makes good tactical sense that each of the companies are all using the same hose and nozzles. These items should be purchased, not based necessarily on the least expensive, but rather factors such as durability, materials used, and water flow. At the end of the day, all hose and nozzles are not equal.

Although not completely scientific, one must understand that this is the first time in modern history where the GFD has conducted any testing for the reason of evaluating fire hose and nozzles. It is hoped that this information will be used when considering what hose and nozzles should be used by the department moving forward.

For the information presented on nozzles, both fixed gallonage and automatic nozzles were evaluated. To achieve 150 GPM at the lower Pump Discharge Pressure (PDP), which reflects less reaction force at the nozzle, the fixed gallonage nozzles demonstrated by both Akron and TFT proved that the 150 @ 50 psi met the target with less than 100 psi PDP when flowing the Mercedes hose. As it was mentioned by the nozzleman in both fixed nozzle demos, the hose lines were very easy to manage. However, in the case where the 150 @ 50 nozzle may be over-pumped, the nozzle reaction would grow proportionately, making the hose line difficult to manage, and require that the nozzleman throttle back on the shutoff, which would then lower the 150 GPM flow from the nozzle. The fixed gallonage may not be the best choice, should it be that the pump operator would unintentionally increase the PDP, causing the nozzleman to reduce flow, and the 150 GPM flow would not be achieved.

When reviewing the automatic nozzles, by design, they are engineered to discharge any volume of water supplied within the volume rating. If the pump operator increases the PDP, the nozzle will automatically enlarge the discharge opening, which in turn discharges more water.

This assists in limiting nozzle reaction for as long as the nozzle is operated within the rating. And, should the pump operator continue to over-pump the nozzle beyond the designed setting, nozzle reaction then becomes a factor.

The TFT, Mid-Matic, 70 - 200 GPM @ 75 psi achieved the 150 GPM flow at 110 Pump Discharge Pressure (PDP). As the nozzleman all reported, the hose line was very manageable. Additionally, of all the nozzles were evaluated and this was their nozzle of choice.

EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

Hose Standard: Preconnects: 1.75" Mercedes KrakenExo

Hi-Rise 1.75" Carry Lite 600 Supply 3.00" KrakenExo

LDH 5.00: Megaflo Breather 300 lbs. Service Pressure

Nozzle: Task Force Tip TFT | Mid-Matic 70-200 GPM @70 psi

Radios: All Radios for Interior Use shall be MOTOROLA - No Exception

XPR 3000 (VHF) | APEX 4000 (800) | APEX 8000 (Dual Band)



GVFD BREAST CANCER AWARENESS | Month of October

This year, the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department's goal is to sell 200 T-Shirts. As October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our drive is to raise money for the Pink Angel Fund. In 2013 Westmoreland Walks, Inc. started "The Pink Angel Fund" which is for families experiencing hardships due to breast cancer. Money from the Pink Angel Fund is used to pay for groceries and meals when patients are too sick to care for their families. It has also been used to help with insurance co-pays and payment on items such as lymphedema sleeves that cannot be met by women and men needing supplies. Our shirts are 50/50 blend and are sized S-5x. Cost is \$20.00 and all profits go to the "The Pink Angel Fund". Please contact Kristi Steele at **Steelehouse265@comcast.net** to pre-order. Last day to order is September 12, 2019.









SAFER GRANT | Benefits - Per Call Stipend

In August, \$17,500.00 was distributed among 32 GVFD Firefighters (\$550.00 ea.) for making 15% of the NFIRS Calls for the period December 1, 2017 thru November 30, 2018. This was based on 2,099 Total NFIRS Incidents. Again for the Period of December 1, 2018 thru November 30, 2019, the stipend program is expected to continue. The 15% is derived from information from the NFIRS Reporting System. This information is NOT predicated on Run Sheets. In addition to the Per Call Stipend, SAFER funds are realized in training reimbursements, physicals, bunker suits, and recruitment media products. For more information, please contact Jeff Henry, Chairman of the Chief's SAFER Grant Committee.

GVFD HEALTH FAIR | October 5, 2019 - Station 2 - Beginning 6:30 AM

Reminder Cards will soon be mailed out. The Department's administration staff are updating mailing and contact information for all members. PLEASE, if you are not getting our emails, then we don't have your email address. We have a lot of information missing or outdated on our members. We sent out information forms via email and received some back with only the first and last name. Please fill out the forms so we can ensure that we have your information. We are updating all records pertaining to our members, it is a very time consuming project. We are asking everyone for their cooperation. Thank You!



GVFD Drivers | For 2019 - Completion of the Annual Refresher

Special Thanks to All 84 Drivers who Participated - CONGRATULATIONS

Fontana, James Koury, Christian Ross, Dave Bacha, Ken Baker, Robert A Fontana, Henry, Jr Krulac, William Ross, Galen Baker, Robert O Giles, Robert Lake, Christian Rule, James Battistella, Elysia Gladora, Brian Ludwig, Jason Seighman, Mark Sheffler, Mike Battistella, Lou Guiddy, Jeff Manley, Derek Bell, Chet Harvey, Les Manley, Mahlon Silvis, Fred Bell, Tom Hayden, John T. Sr. Mattes, Rob Snyder, Clyde Burnfield, Dave Heater, Jeff McFadden, Ken Solochier, John Buscaglio, Jim Henry, Jeff Medved, Chad Spencer, Duane Calisti, Justin Hession, Bradley Mertz, Daniel Spisso, Ron Cameron, Rob Hillwig, Jon Mertz, Gregory Steele Richard Chobirko, Justin Houser, Kim Mertz, Roland Stezo, Andrew Church, Paul Miller, Bill Hoyle, Rick Swarta, Jeffery Cycak, Paul M Molans, Matt Swartz, Trevor Izzo, Vince Moroney, John Paul Tantlinger, Chirs Danko, Jeremy Jackson, David DeFelice, Pierre, Sr John, Joseph Nusselt, Leo Tosh, David Dorko, David Johnson, Richard Price, Bob Wagner, Joe Randolph, Brent Eicher, Robert Kempert, Ryan Weimer, Larry Eisaman, Karl Kier, Clvin Rendulich, Anthony Wright, Bill Fencil, Donald Klingler, David Rhodes, Jeffrey Fick, Brandon Rhody, Robert Knesh, Dave

"NEW" GVFD Drivers | For 2019 - Completion 16 Hour EVOC Course

Special Thanks and CONGRATULATIONS

Chris Demorist
Daniel Grant
Danielle Grosser
Roman Lamberski
Dave Ross
William Yurt
Noah Burda