



Spring 2020 ISSUE
March | Volume 4 Issue 1

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

Wanna be a firefighter?

So, I hear you're looking for a job as a firefighter. Do you really know what it's like? Just what do those women and men do every day, anyway? Read on and I'll try to shed some light on what really happens behind the doors of the fire station. Volunteers do the same as career, just receive no pay.



In fire departments that use paid firefighter/EMTs, someone is on-duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. *Note: This may not be the case in volunteer fire departments, but many volunteer fire departments today have firefighters or firefighter/EMTs on-duty, in the station, 24/7. Check out your local fire department to learn how they do it.

At the beginning of the shift, the first thing that happens is to relieve the firefighter/EMT that you are replacing so s/he can go home. When you relieve that firefighter/EMT, you want to know what they did during their shift. Ask 'em. What types of emergency calls did they respond to? What equipment did they use/break/lose? Is the fire truck ready to go? Do you need to replace any equipment? Do you need to get fuel for the vehicle? Did they do any inspections? If so, what did they see? Is there any important information about the buildings they inspected that would be useful to you — maybe even save your life some day?

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.

Get the idea? Relieve the other firefighter/EMT and learn as much as you can about the apparatus (the fire truck) and what they did. Remember that when the firefighter/EMT you are replacing is relieved, it's your vehicle and equipment and you are responsible for it. No excuses. You must be ready for the day — whatever it brings.

After you have relieved the other firefighter/EMT, it's time for you to put all of your personal protective equipment (PPE) on the apparatus so you are ready to go.

Most people do this at the same time you are relieving the other firefighter/EMT. They inspect the apparatus. Do it thoroughly (remember, it's your responsibility now!). Look at all the equipment — you have to know how everything (everything!) works and be proficient with it. Look in every compartment where equipment is stored, including in the cab of the vehicle, on top, where the hose is stored, everywhere. Don't be complacent about "checking your rig." First thing, every day, give it a good look so you are ready to serve the citizens of your community (remember, you work for them!). (Continued Page 24)



News from Station 1

- Received a grant for 3 G1 MSA SCBA's
- Purchased some new equipment for the engine and rescue including an additional blow hard fan, side-winders, battery powered window cutters, hose roller, 2 ton Jack, and some new hooks.



RESPONDING IN A POV

By Assistant Chief Chet Bell

When responding to an emergency in a private vehicle, all applicable PA Motor Vehicle Laws shall be strictly followed. Privately owned vehicles are not granted any exemptions that apply to Emergency Vehicles as defined in the PA Vehicle Code.

Emergency calls create a stressful environment to everyone by its nature. Operating your vehicle in a safe manner helps to ensure your safety and the safety of others. We depend on you arriving at the scene where your help is truly needed. We cannot afford to create ourselves another emergency scene that will divide or divert apparatus and personnel.

Additionally, you may be held criminally and civilly liable if an accident were to occur and you are found to be at fault. The Fire Dept. and City of Greensburg may also be brought into a lawsuit.

When parking at the scene, keep your vehicle as far away as reasonably possible and in a safe position; preferably off or to the side of the street.

Remember that you are representing the Greensburg Fire Department. Drawing attention to yourself when violating vehicle codes impacts public perception in a negative way.

Let's strive to create a proficient, responsible and safe GFD so we can truly help those in need.

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department is serious about safety and will vigorously ensure safety is observed at all times. Those that disregard safety in failure to drive in a safe manner will have their driving privileges suspended or permanently revoked.

Chief's Staff & Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Assistant Chiefs	
Rick Hoyle C-2	Chief Training Officer
Tony Manley C-3	Structures
Lou Battistella C-4	Administration/Bloodhound Team
Chet Bell C-5	EVOT Officer/Fire Investigator
Kim Houser C-6	Advanced Training Legal
Dick Johnson C-7	Hazmat Operation Officer
Dave Klingler C-8	Truck Co. Ops Meter Specialist
Jeff Heater C-9	Truck Co. Ops Small Engines
Les Harvey 79-58	Emergency Management
Assistant Chiefs Emeritus - Active	
Bob Baker 43	Rescue Operations
Calvin Kier 45	Firefighter Health
Deputy Assistant Chiefs	
Ron Spisso 41	Fire Ground Equipment SCBA
Jeff Swartz 42	Rescue Ops & Equipment
Ken Bacha 46	Dept. Safety & Health Officer
Department Officers	
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 Dept. Grant Coordinator
Justin Calisti 26	PA State Instructor
Bud Mertz 200	Legislative/Public Safety
Jeff Henry 843	SAFER Grant
Asst. Chief Emeritus –Active/Retired	
William Anderson 54	Robert Romagnoli 572
Fred Beehner 44	Albert Rosatti 56
Keith Hutchinson 53	Kevin Hutchinson 531
Don Kundrick 49	William A. Wright 52

COMMAND STAFF MEETING

JAN | APR | JUL | OCT
3rd Tuesday | 18:45 | Station 8

DEPARTMENT MEETING

Last Tuesday Every Month 19:00 | Station 1



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.**

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** – located 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.

Best Wishes

"In your Retirement - We will Miss You"



**City of Greensburg Chief of Police
Chad Zucco**



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/ksm8v5frr4hvnv19ek>

On the Department Website | www.gbgbfire.org or by downloading
the app and entering the participation code. The app can be down-
loaded onto any smart device. After launching the app you will be
asked to enter an email address or participation code. In either case
you will enter: [ksm8v5frr4hvnv19ek](https://teamup.com/ksm8v5frr4hvnv19ek). If you have any questions,
contact Rick Steele (724) 454-9519.

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



THE COLLAPSE ZONE

IS 1.5 times the
Height of the
Structure

2020 DEPARTMENT TRAINING TURN-OUT STATISTICS

		COMPANIES							
Date	Topic	1	2	3	6	7	8	R/J	Total
Feb 8	Haz-Mat Refresher 6 hrs	3	6	1	2	5	3	1	21
Feb 17	Tirib Review Bldg Tour	7	17	0	1	9	18	0	52
Feb 24	Incident Cmnd Refresher	4	8	0	1	12	20	0	45
Mar 27/28	Rapid Intervention S & ST								
Mar 30	New Ambulances & Gas Meters								
Apr 27	Fire Extinguishers Search Techniques								
May 18	Vehicle Extrication								
Jun 29	New Nozzles & Calibration								
Jul 27	Veh Fire Ops								
Aug 31	Salvage Ops								
Sep 28	Structural Burn 8 hrs								
Oct 26	FF Obstacle Course								
Nov 30	Forcible Entry								
Dec	NO Training								
Averages		4	10	.3	1	8	13		39



2020 TRAINING IN THE PIPE LINE

Understand LNG|Hybrid Vehicles
Fire Pump Operations
Fire Ground Safety
Chimney Fires | Construction
Social Media | Firefighter Laws



READING SMOKE FOR DUMMIES

By Chief 800 Chris Tantlinger—79-240

The tones drop for a structure fire and we head out the door. You head around the corner and, yep, there it is..."smoke showing". What does that really mean? Well it means a lot of things. Actually, it can mean life or death.

Let's say there is someone trapped in the structure. Depending on where the smoke is, what color, whether it's pushing, puffing, or pulling you can start to understand whether the person trapped is in a survivable or unviable atmosphere. Whether you are first on scene or in the first wave of the engine company the smoke will continue to tell a story. It also is the big picture of heat, oxygen, and ignition at a specific moment in time.

If it is early on in the fire timeline from ignition you will see the obvious little puffs or light haze. As the fire grows and a chugging choking smoke darker in color starts to show, your window of a viable survivor begins to close. That is why being ready to enter and search and/or find the source or seat of the fire demands that you are ready to go with your SCBA properly donned. Remember that the smoke that is beginning to smolder and build and roll and blow out the window is a toxic cloud of particulates and death trap.

Conditions and location of the smoke can help you understand that if there is viability of a rescue, you can make your move if you know what stage the fire has progressed from a quick size up of the smoke, not just flames of the fire.

Training on hose and nozzle tactics along with ventilation techniques are not just for putting out the fire, they are a way to control the smoke and inevitably control the fire. The next time the call goes out for a structure fire, take a few seconds while you're pulling your gloves on and reaching around your air pack to crank the valve to go on air, focus on the fire smoke and you will gain some solid perspective of the conditions on the foreground.

Just the Basic Fundamentals

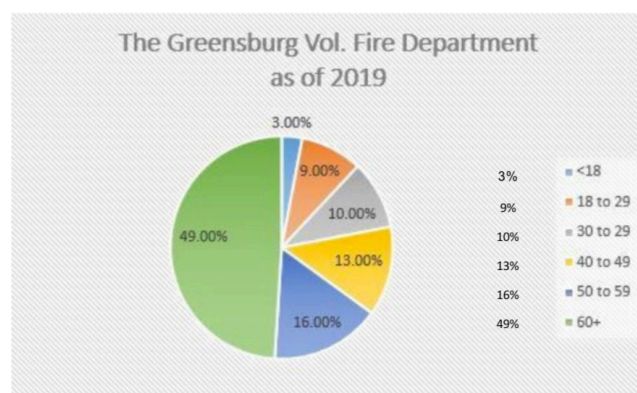
Battalion Chief (Ret.) Dave Dodson

1. Stop watching the fire. The first big barrier to learning to read smoke is that our eyes are naturally drawn to light and movement, both of which are exhibited by fire. "The fire is the endgame," Dodson says. "An experienced fire officer looks away from the light."
2. Know the four characteristics of smoke: volume, color, velocity, density. More importantly, know how to look at smoke and quickly identify it in terms of these characteristics.
3. Thin, black, fast smoke indicates a well-ventilated fire is nearby.
4. Slow, white, dissipating smoke (first thick but thinning quickly) is a sign of steam, and indicates early stage heating.
5. Brown smoke indicates unfinished wood burning. In light-weight construction, this can be a warning sign for building collapse.

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 send your email to lbattistella@greensburgpa.org

"Fire Trucks ARE GODLIKE VEHICLES THAT SHOULD ALWAYS BE OVER MAINTAINED AS A LABOR OF LOVE—PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY - SO THEY CAN PROTECT GOOD AND FIGHT EVIL"

A.V. Brunacini



Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

Is Governed by the

The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Board of Control

2020

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

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

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



A Dedicated Crew From Station 8
Stand-by at Sutersville VFD
for
Matt Smelser's Memorial Service
January 10, 2020





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.

2020 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

**THE RELIEF ASSOCIATION IS
A MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT
THAT IS OFTEN
MISTAKENLY NOT CONSIDERED
A BENEFIT**

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

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



2020 Station Line Officers		
Station 1 <i>Engine/Rescue</i>	Brian Turpin	Captain
	Roy Koury	1st Lieutenant
	Tony Rendulich	2nd Lieutenant
	Dave Dorko	2nd Lieutenant
Station 2 <i>Truck Co</i> <i>Air & Foam</i> <i>Truck</i>	Perre DeFelice	Captain
	Rob Eicher	1st Lieutenant
	Jeff Guiddy	2nd Lieutenant
	Justin Calisti	2nd Lieutenant
	Bob Price	Sergeant
	Dan Mertz	Sergeant
	Bill Krulac	Safety Officer
Station 3 <i>Engine/Rescue</i>	Ken McFadden	Captain
	Dave Price	1st Lieutenant
	Andrew Strezo	2nd Lieutenant
Station 6 <i>Engine</i>	Rob Giles	Captain
	Nat Winter	1st Lieutenant
	Mike Sheffler	2nd Lieutenant
Station 7 <i>Engine/Rescue</i>	Duane Spencer	Captain
	Rob Baker	1st Lieutenant
	Don Fencil	2nd Lieutenant
Station 8 <i>Engine/Salvage</i>	David Jackson	Captain
	Derek Manley	1st Lieutenant
	Jeff Peterinelli	2nd Lieutenant
	Rob Cameron	2nd Lieutenant
	Mike Hartung	Sergeant
	Christian Lake	Sergeant

2020 Teams		
 Bloodhound Team 	Lou Battistella	Commander
	Bud Mertz	Captain
	Dave Klingler	2nd Lieutenant
	Rob Cameron	2nd Lieutenant
	Elysia Battistella	Training Coordinator & Handler
	Dave Jackson	Handler
	Dave Burnfield	Handler
	Doug Fordyce	Handler
	Greg Saunders	Handler
	Greg Saunders II	Handler
 Dive & Swift Water Team 	George McFarland	Captain/Diver
	Duane Spencer	Lieutenant/Swift Water
	Jim Rule	Lieutenant/Swift Water/Sonar
	Jeff Guiddy	Lieutenant/Diver
	John Welsh	Lieutenant/Diver
	Rob Baker	Diver
	Duane Spencer	Diver
	Kyle Joseph	Diver
	Joe Mangini	Diver
	Marcus Wisneski	Diver
	Roman Lamberski	Diver
	Bob Wright	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.

Faternal Order of GBHT Bloodhounds

MINUTES

A Special Meeting was held in White Oak, PA on February 27, 2020. Not overwhelmingly, a motion was passed to approve of Sassy to be a probationary member of the GBHT. No Quorum Needed. Darcy gave full support while Delphie was less than enthused, but after two growls the motion was unanimous which officially named Sassy as a member of the Team.

WELCOME | New Members

 			
Juniors & 420 Members			
Gabriel Grant	Jan	Station 2	
Julia Grippo	Jan	Station 2	



Special Meeting
WHITE OAK, PA | February 27, 2022
Delphie & Darcy Accepting
Sassy as a member of the GBHT



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**

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






**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 surround-
ing 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

Things are HAPPENING at STATION 4 - GVFD Museum. Since the first of the year they have had 4 Open Houses and 5 scheduled tours. Baltimore Pike Historical Society wants a tracking were the museum visitors are coming from to qualify for Grant Opportunities. The Museum just acquired the Department's 1965 Seagrave Fire Pump and now has it on display in beautiful condition. Come take a look, the place is ever changing

CLASS B BLACK JACKETS Jackets were provided by the Board of Control.

The second order for **WHITE UNIFORM SHIRTS** also provided by the Board of Control has been received. 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

To be 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 Shirt with Badge; Black Tie; Black Dress Pants (no cargos); Black Belt; Black Socks & Black Shoes with Black Soles
Class C	Blue Dept. Issued T-Shirt; Blue Cargo Pants; Black Shoes or Boots
Class C - ALT	Command Staff may wear Issued Blue Polo Embroidered Polo Shirt - Discretionary

GVFD CHALLENGE COINS AVAILABLE



\$10.00
(See Website for Details)



There's A New Member in the Station

By Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle

We in the GFD have been fortunate in that we have had an influx of new members joining our ranks. As we observe the new faces interacting at drills, alarms, and meetings, one can't help but wonder how serious the "Probies" are about the job they've signed on to do. Some are seen occasionally, others more often. The ones who show a true interest are the ones who we want to encourage, and to better prepare them for all that we do.

Any new member to our department is required to take the Essentials of Firefighting training, with the minimum of Modules 1 and 2. Upon successful completion the entry level firefighter shall be able to identify and utilize basic knowledge, skills, and abilities as they relate to exterior fire ground operations. For some this is all that they intend on pursuing. However, there are some that are inspired to complete Mod 4 of the Essentials course, which is designed to offer additional education for the new firefighter on interior fire ground operation by training in SCBA, rescue, ventilation, fire suppression, salvage, and firefighter survival.

The job as a firefighter is experience driven. We gain our experience both on the fireground and in training. As a rule, we should try to limit our learning on the fireground, but rather develop and practice our skill sets on the training grounds. If all of our learning occurred on the fireground, we would not be very good at our job. To quote the deceased Tom Brennan, a highly respected and decorated FDNY Captain, "it's not how many fires you go to; it is what you do with the ones you have."

For the New Members of the GFD who are interested, and are serious about being the best firefighter you can be, continue to train and educate yourself. Don't settle for just an Essentials Certificate. Educate by reading the many fire service publications that are available at any of our fire stations, or read online where there are thousands of articles and videos that pertain to all that we do. Train by attending, and participating in department and company drills. Sign-up for classes beyond what is offered within the GFD. Challenge yourself to become Firefighter I certified.

The fire service has a rich history of mentoring our own. To continue that tradition, we all need to realize the importance of the fire house learning environment.

Unlike the experiences that will be gained on the fireground and in training, engage talk, and question the senior members and your peers. The tips, suggestions, hints, and recommendations they can offer will build into your experiences by making sense of things that may not be completely understood, and will tend to make things easier.

**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"

JUNIORS & 420's | The GVFD is fortunate to have 11- Juniors & 3 - 420 Members

JUNIOR MEMBERS 14 -17 YEAR OLD

Trevor Swartz - Station 1

Ryan Heater— Station 2

Zack Long - Station 3

Colten Houser - Station 7

Sara Schall - Station 7

Brett Steele - Station 7

Brennan Laskoski - Station 7

Sam Clark—Station 8

Julia Grippo—Station 2

Leah Royer—Station 7

Dante Keener—Station 7

420 MEMBERS 12 - 13 YEAR OLD

Evan Miles - Station 6

Masin Miles - Station 6

Gabriel Grant—Station 2

Many of the Junior Members are regulars at the local Bloodhound Training Drills. They help as both Trail Layers and Support for the team all while learning how the Greensburg Fire Department utilizes the Bloodhounds it has been using for over fifty years. These young men and women are greatly appreciated for their help.



GVFD



**GVFD Blood Drive is Saturday May 9th from 9:00 – 2:30!
Event is hosted at Hose Company #7**

To schedule your donation time go to www.redcrossblood.org
Sponsor code: gbg

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation.

Did you know?

- Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.
- Nearly 7,000 units of platelets and 10,000 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.
- Nearly 21 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 units.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O.
- Sickle cell disease affects 90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. About 1,000 babies are born with the disease each year. Sickle cell patients can require blood transfusions throughout their lives.
- According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1.8 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2020. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatments.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.





3rd Annual

Chief John Edward Hutchinson Emergency Services Youth Camp



Greensburg Police



Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department



Mutual Aid Ambulance

Saturday, June 6, 2020 (Rain or Shine)
@ Lynch Field Complex (Greensburg)
8:00am until 2:00pm

*(sign-in begins 7:30am near the Fire Department Drill Tower &
FREE Lunch is included for all participants)*

FREE & Open to all Children Ages 11 -17

Greensburg Dive Team

Greensburg Fire Engine

Westmoreland County 911 Command Post

Greensburg Foam Truck

Firefighter Challenge

Greensburg Police Drug Dog

Mutual Aid Ambulance

Basic CPR, AED, & First Aid Training

All activities are interactive and some may be difficult or strenuous. Students have the choice to participate in each individual activity. Please wear comfortable clothing appropriate for summer weather and physical activity (no sandals).

For more Information Call: (724) 454 – 9519 or

Email: greensburgfire@comcast.net



**3rd Annual J. Edward Hutchinson
Emergency Services Youth Camp (Ages 11 -17)**
Saturday, June 6, 2019 - 8:00am until 2:00pm @ Lynch Field Complex

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Child's Date of Birth _____ Child's Sex Male Female

Child's Tee Shirt Size (Adult Sizes) S M L XL XXL

Any Known Allergies or Food Allergies _____

Any Known Medical Conditions _____

Parent / Guardian Name _____

Parent's Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Parent / Guardian Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Parent / Guardian Email _____

Emergency Contact Name (Adult) _____

Emergency Contact Cell Phone _____

ACTIVITY DISCLAIMER / PHOTO WAIVER

In consideration of my child's participation in the Greensburg Emergency Services Camp, I hereby waive and relinquish any and all claims, demands, and/or causes of action whatsoever for any injuries and/or damages. I understand no fee is being charged for my child's participation, and that I agree to release and hold harmless, and covenant not to sue the City of Greensburg, the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department (and any of its 6 individual fire companies) or Mutual Aid Ambulance including its employees, officers, agents, and volunteers (Released Parties) for any personal injury or property damage I or my child may suffer. As part of the consideration for providing this camp, and allowing my child to participate, I agree to defend and indemnify the Released Parties against any claims whatsoever that may arise by virtue of my child's participation in the camp. I hereby give my permission to the agencies conducting this camp to use the above Name(s) and any photos of my child for the use in print or social media ads for the purpose of marketing, publicity, or recruitment. I have read this document carefully, and understand it. I am signing this freely and without reservation or condition. (If you have any questions about this document do not sign it. Contact an attorney to assist you).

Parent / Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

RETURN APPLICATION to: Rick Steele, 625 E. Pittsburgh St, Greensburg, PA 15601
For Questions Call or Email: (724) 454 - 9519 or greensburgfire@comcast.net



INCIDENT NARRATIVES

Every Incident the Greensburg Fire Department responds to, can be subject to scrutiny and can become a liability for both the Fire Department and the City of Greensburg, not to forget to mention ourselves as members of the department as well.

Documentation in this day and age is a MUST. The world is not what we all remember even a short time back. Every officer and fireman must be responsible to take the time, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING during an incident or if you take a specific Action, you need to fill out an incident narrative form and attach it to the Run Sheet.

REMEMBER

F I R E S

F	First Observation/Findings
I	Investigation/Initial Actions
R	Response to Actions
E	Evaluation
S	Special Statements

First Observation/Findings: From the time the alert is sounded, data begins to be gathered and evaluated. What information was given at dispatch? What were the weather conditions? Were you given any additional information, such as people trapped or multiple calls while in route to the scene? Once on scene, what was your brief initial report? Did you take or pass command? What other observations did you make about the initial views of the scene? This sets the foundation of the report and helps you recall some of the details that might have seemed insignificant at the time but later turn out to be valuable. For example, all of us are ingrained to look for cars in the driveway indicating that there may be someone home; however, noting the number of vehicles in the driveway on your arrival may be an important fact

when questions about the number of people home at the time of the fire are raised at a later date. This process should take place on every incident to help us perform this task on every incident. Keep in mind that when things go awry for us, we always resort back to our basic level of training, so if this process becomes second nature to us we can ensure we are accomplishing this task on every incident.

Investigation/Initial Actions: Although not every incident is a working fire, such determination can only be made after the first-arriving company completes an investigation. Whether it is a 360-degree walk around of the building or looking in the windows during an automatic fire alarm response, a determination of what is happening must be conducted. If there were an incident where a door was forced in a commercial multiple occupancy retail establishment during a fire alarm sounding response, significant damage was done to the door and a complaint was lodged with the local jurisdiction, by the time the investigation of the complaint made it down to the company level, several weeks might have passed. The narrative of the report containing no information about the reasons used to make the decision to force entry into the store will provide no justification to the forced entry. The days of saying, "We forced entry because the alarm was sounding," are dwindling rapidly. Fire officers must be able to articulate their reasoning behind a decision or face enhanced scrutiny from their superiors.

Response to Actions: This portion of the narrative becomes the meat and potatoes of exactly what you did throughout the incident. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and such circumstances need to be documented. Did you make a rescue or lead occupants to safety? Was suppression of the fire achieved with the handline that you selected? What happened to the smoke conditions once ventilation was established?

These are just a sampling of the questions that the narrative should answer. If questions arise at a later time, the details of your actions may be the only trigger to get accurate information about the incident. Don't ever underestimate when this inquiry into the incident may happen. When providers are approached and asked for details about prior incidents, the most common answer is, "I don't remember."



NARRATIVES (Continue)

The reports written during these incidents consisted of single paragraphs with the units that responded and the number of personnel. To say they were lacking details would be an understatement.

Evaluation: An evaluation of the incident scene and the final outcome is your next step. Exposure building information should be included here. Exposures become equally important to the overall scene. A fire in a garden-style apartment easily results in two, five, or 10 additional exposures that drive the dollar loss substantially higher. We must capture the basic information for this damage. Simply including address, occupants, owner, and a brief description of the damage is sufficient. External factors also have an impact on the final outcome. Did you encounter a hydrant that failed to function (severe weather or damage)? Were there parking or access issues, crowd control, hydrants across six lanes of busy traffic? The list goes on. Noting these external items that affected the mitigation of the incident not only describes the incident but creates a historical reference for issues encountered that require code or legislative changes. When your legislative body is being told by a construction lobbyist, "It was an anomaly," your response of, "I remember it happening more than once," carries substantially greater weight with written documentation.

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Note: You may use the attached template form and leave with your run sheet for your Station Input Supervisor, or compose in a word doc and email it to me, L.battistella@greensburgpa.org, and I will slip it into the report narrative section. Narrative Forms can be found next to each Run Sheet Station in the Stations or ask your Captain or any Line Officer for one.

THIRD PARTY - TRAINING

Assistant Chief Chet Bell has been Appointed as the Department Training Coordinator

Chet will act as the "GO-BETWEEN" for the Members, the Department, and The Training Facility

Chet will assist the member class candidate with Paperwork, Procedure, & Finance

DEPARTMENT TRAINING FORMS

Are Available on the
GBGFIRE.ORG Website

The forms include:

REQUEST TO ATTEND FORM
TRAINING AUTHORIZATION FORM
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

The Relief Association Cannot make advances
and cannot reimburse without a
Certificate of Completion



REVISED DISPATCH PROCEDURES

Fire dispatching for the **City of Greensburg Fire Department** differs slightly from that done for the rest of Westmoreland County. Some of the basic dispatch techniques used on County Fire also apply to **GREENSBURG FIRE**.

Initial dispatch forms used on CITY FIRE are the same as those used on County Fire with few exceptions. The use of the term **“STRUCTURE FIRE”** is discouraged unless it is impossible to obtain further details. The Center’s Telecommunications Officer or T.C.O. shall relay all information to the Chief or Officer-In-Charge (OIC) using the **EXACT WORDS THE CALLER USED**. Brevity and professionalism are still to be used on City Fire dispatches, but EXACT information relay takes priority to these techniques.

In the last issue of THE FIRE BELL, the new gas leak standard was described. In this issue, the revised dispatch procedures that have been reworked by both the Department and the Westmoreland Department of Public Safety Dispatch Center.

All the stations were given a copy of the Dispatch Procedures, but it is important to really understand the Main Three Types of Responses that involve Fire Responses. There are only three levels of response. 1) An “AFA” Response; 2) “Structure” Response; 3) “IF FIRE” Response

“AFA” Response: Any type of Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) assignment will be All Greensburg Companies & Station 24 Response. No Other Outside Companies.

Equipment Placement: 1st Engine & 1st Ladder Truck (2 OR 24) in Front of Structure; All other apparatus lay back one (1) Block from Scene until given further orders. Crews to stay off of Radio except to report on scene, stating location i.e.: “corner of Westminster and Stanton” – Do not ask for orders.

“STRUCTURE” Response: “Cause Notification” for example “Smoke in the Structure”, “Smell of Smoke”, “We see Fire – Flames Visible” The Dispatch will be All Greensburg Companies, Station 24 and Recommended per CAD, 2 additional Engines to the scene.

Equipment Placement: First two Engines and first Aerial in front of the Structure. Third Engine pick up hydrant. All others stay back 1 block, **REPORT ON SCENE** giving location (x-streets) to Dispatch, **DO NOT ASK FOR ORDERS**. Wait for instructions of support, either equipment or manpower.

(Continued Next Page)



REVISED DISPATCH PROCEDURES (Continued)

“IF FIRE” RESPONSE: “Confirmed Working Structure Fire” Dispatch will be: All Greensburg Companies, Station 24, the two CAD Recommended Engines as described in the “Structure Response”, **and** Stations 34 and 104 for RIT and Support 610; **and** the T.C.O will dispatch the GVFD Station Stand-By Assignments: **Engine 87** and **Truck 112** into Station 79-2; **Engine 91** into Station 79-7; and **Rescue 26** into Station 79-8

If 2nd Alarm is declared and requested by the OIC, the T.C.O. will activate the City Fire Minor Tones and direct ALL IN-STATION Stand-By’s to move to the scene and Dispatch an additional CAD recommended 100” Aerial Truck to the scene.

The T.C.O. will then Dispatch CAD recommended replacement Stand-by Companies:

Station 79-2 | 100’ Aerial; Station 79-7 | Engine/Rescue; Station 79-8 | Engine.

NEW “TFT” NOZZLES purchased through a grant were recently distributed to the Greensburg Companies. The new nozzles will be placed on on the “FRONT CROSS-LAY” Preconnects. The new hose that was ordered with the Nozzles won’t be shipped until June. Tests were performed on Engine 8 last fall using the TFT, Mid-Matic Nozzle to achieve a flow of 150 GPM, the Pump Discharge Pressure (PDP) was calibrated at 110 PSI. Engine 1 since it carries 200’ hose loads on the crosslays unlike the other Engines with 150’, in order to overcome the additional friction loss, until calibration can be performed, the recommended PDP will be 130 PSI.

PERSONAL VEHICLES Please be careful going to alarms in your personal vehicle. You do not have the right to go through red lights and stop signs. You have no right to disobey the law. You must follow the law when you’re in your personal vehicle. You are in charge, your safety and the safety of everyone around you is in your hands.

SAFER GRANT We are finally seeing some money coming our way out of the grant. This year and last we received \$30,800.00 for the Stipend Benefit. In 2018, 31 GVFD Firefighters each received \$550.00 and in 2019, 24 each received \$550.00 by responding to at least 15% of the incidents the GVFD responded to. As of February 26th, the department has in addition received another \$5,921.00 which covered four NFPA 1582 physicals. We have submitted reimbursement requests for 10 physicals; 12 requests for \$2,500.00 ea to help defray the costs of new bunker suits; and training for 69 Firefighters which included FF1, FF2, Basic Vehicle Rescue Awareness, Basic Vehicle Rescue Operations Advanced Firefighting, Essentials and Essential Books in the amount of \$6,96.10. Total in the first four years of this Regional Safer Grant, so far we have requested \$57,903.10 to date.



New Bloodhound Team Member NOT A PERSON.....A Bloodhound Named “SASSY”

GVFD
NEXT
GENERATION



Brett's Mentor-Captain David Jackson



2020

Greensburg Fire Department's Junior Fireman, 14-year-old Brett Steele picked out his future Bloodhound Partner, a four-week old female now named "Sassy". Brett, a student at Penn Trafford, spends more than his fair share of free time with the GVFD and Bloodhound Team. Not old enough to go on BLOODHOUND calls, but spent 129 hours in 2019, and 67 hours in 2018 Training with the Team. When Brett turns 18 he will hit the trail with a fully trained seasoned 4-year-old Bloodhound.

Sassy is owned by Junior Firefighter Brett Steele. Neither Brett or Sassy will be going on Team Call Outs for at least 4 years. But, when that time comes Brett and Sassy should be one of the best in Bloodhound Man-Trailing. The name Sassy was bestowed upon the GVFD-BHT's third Bloodhound, who served the team from 1971 until 1979 passing away at the age of 8. The original Sassy was a pup from the original two Bloodhounds Jen and Troop that started the team with Deputy Dale Eicher. Dale's Sassy as a pup, suffered and her front two legs were casted for most of her puppyhood due to rickets, a skeletal disorder that's caused by a lack of vitamin D, calcium, or phosphate. She turned out to be small in stature, an excellent man-trailer, and one of the sweetest dispositioned Bloodhounds of the Team, she went everywhere with both handlers Dale Eicher or P.J. Fiori. The photo above was taken the day Brett and Sassy first met. Sassy was only three weeks old. Sassy is now part of the Steele Household and has already started her training and making personal appearances representing the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and the Greensburg Bloodhound Team.



Fire Chief Tom Bell honors Greensburg Firefighters and Police Officers



Award Certificates were presented by Mayor Robb Bell to 10 police officers and firefighters February 10th for the saving of a man's life on January 29th at the Autumn Brook Apartments. The call came in as unconscious. First arriving police officers used an automated external defibrillator to keep him alive. After arriving on scene shortly thereafter, the firefighters took their turn doing CPR while they waited for the MEDICS to arrive. The man still alive, was transported to the hospital and the MEDICS attributed the efforts of the on-scene police and firefighters as being what save the man's life. Unfortunately, the man died several days later in the hospital. Chief Tom Bell, praising the group, assembled in the City Hall Council Chambers during the Regular Council Meeting said "The city is no doubt very fortunate to have two such great departments who work so hard every day to protect each and every citizen of this great city." Chief Bell continued, "Some say these guys are just doing their job, and they are, but sometimes it's nice to let them know just doing their job is well appreciated by all." Those who received the awards included, Assistant Chief Ken Bacha; Police Officer Don Cole; Police Officer Brad Grabiak; Fire First Lieutenants Derek Manley and Mike Sheppler; Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Swartz; Police Officer Elliott Fejes and Fire Captains Brian Turpin and Rob Giles.



After Action Review

Every time wheels roll ...
Ask yourself these Five Questions



What was our Mission ?

Had we Planned for this event?
Were there gaps in our planning/

What went well ?

Did we have the resources to Deal with the incident?

Did we do all we could for a successful outcome?

What could have gone Better ?

Did we address unsafe activities/behaviors?

Were we properly trained for this incident?

What might we have done Differently ?

If we ran the same incident again, what would we do better?

Who needs to know ?

Who will benefit by sharing the information?

Every Team • Every Time

So Everyone Goes Home



Please
Adopt
Me!!!



www.gbgbfire.org





GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

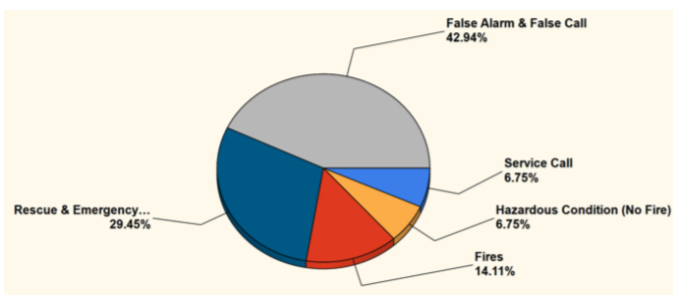
Greensburg, PA

RESPONSE BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR INCIDENT

December 2019 | January & February 2020

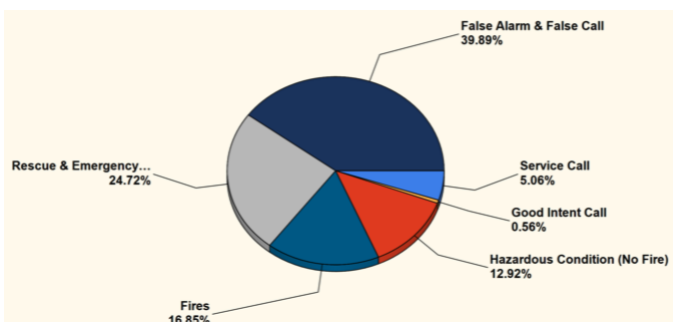


December 2019



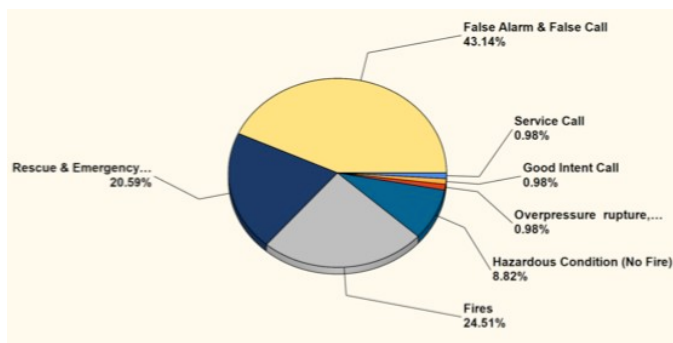
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	23	14.11%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	48	29.45%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	11	6.75%
Service Call	11	6.75%
False Alarm & False Call	70	42.94%
TOTAL	163	100.00%

January 2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	30	16.85%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	44	24.72%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	23	12.92%
Service Call	9	5.06%
Good Intent Call	1	0.56%
False Alarm & False Call	71	39.89%
TOTAL	178	100.00%

February 2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	30	21.43%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	1	0.71%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	28	20.00%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	10	7.14%
Service Call	3	2.14%
Good Intent Call	2	1.43%
False Alarm & False Call	66	47.14%
TOTAL	140	100.00%



HOSE & NOZZLE PURCHASE | January 4, 2020

The following is a breakdown for how each of the GVFD Fire Companies will receive items purchased using the acquired grant funds, and has been earmarked for upgrading the hose and nozzles so that all attack apparatus will have uniformity.

ENGINE 1

Eight, (8), 50' sections, 1.75", Mercedes, KrakenExo, fire hose.

Two, (2), TFT Mid-Matic, 70-200 GPM @75 PSI, nozzle tips.

Two, (2), TFT, detent valves.

One, (1), Akron gate valve.

TRUCK 2

Four, (4), 50' sections, 1.75", Mercedes, CARRY LITE 600, fire hose.

Two, (2), TFT Mid-Matic, 70-200 GPM @75 PSI, nozzle tips.

Two, (2), TFT, detent valves.

ENGINE 3

Six, (6), 50' sections, 1.75", Mercedes, KrakenExo, fire hose.

Two, (2), TFT Mid-Matic, 70-200 GPM @75 PSI, nozzle tips.

Two, (2), TFT, detent valves.

One, (1), Akron gate valve.

ENGINE 6

Six, (6), 50' sections, 1.75", Mercedes, KrakenExo, fire hose.

Two, (2), TFT Mid-Matic, 70-200 GPM @75 PSI, nozzle tips.

Two, (2), TFT, detent valves.

One, (1), Akron gate valve.

ENGINE 7

Four, (4), 50' sections, 1.75", Mercedes, CARRY LITE 600, fire hose.

Two, (2), TFT Mid-Matic, 70-200 GPM @75 PSI, nozzle tips.

Two, (2), TFT, detent valves.

One, (1), Akron gate valve.

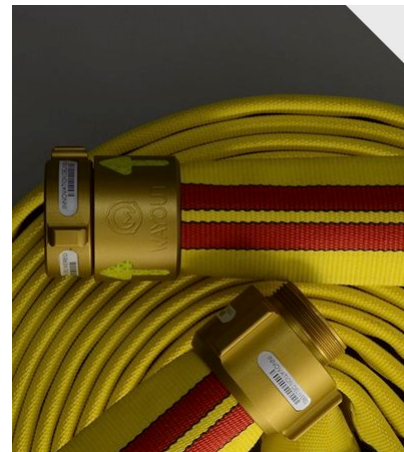
ENGINE 8

Four, (4), 50' sections, 1.75", Mercedes, CARRY LITE 600, fire hose.

Two, (2), TFT Mid-Matic, 70-200 GPM @75 PSI, nozzle tips.

Two, (2), TFT, detent valves.

One, (1), Akron gate valve.





Wanna be a firefighter? | Continued from Page 1)

Once that is done and you are sure you are ready for the day's emergencies and other activities, it's time to meet with your supervisor and the rest of your crew. In the fire service, a supervisor's title is usually "Lieutenant" or "Captain." Some places refer to those ranks as the "company officer." The company officer will let you know what is planned for that day. Do you have any scheduled training? Are there meetings to attend? What building inspections are you going to do? When will you clean the fire station?

Don't think that all you will do is go on emergency calls all day and night. There are a lot of "regular," day-to-day activities that happen every day at the fire station, just like any other job. These types of tasks are usually termed "administrative" work (rather than "emergency" work). Nope, they're not glamorous or exciting and they won't get you on the 6 o'clock news. But they are a necessary and important part of your job as a firefighter/EMT.

As I mentioned, most crews will spend time in the morning cleaning the fire station. If you're the newest firefighter/EMT, your job will be to clean the bathroom.

Yep, wipe up the sinks, clean the toilet bowls and urinals, clean the showers, mop the floors, and any other activity associated with cleaning restrooms. If you are not cleaning the bathroom, you might be assigned to wash the apparatus, mop the floor in the garage, clean the kitchen, wash the dishes, vacuum the carpets, wash the windows, mow the lawn or any other job that helps to keep the fire station clean and well-maintained.

Wait a minute — when is all the fun stuff? When do I get fight fires and save lives?

Hey, the alarm just went off. Let's go! Time to be a firefighter/EMT and do what I was trained to do — help citizens in need!

As mentioned above, you are a firefighter/EMT. Let's focus on the EMT aspect for a moment. Just about every fire department today responds to emergency medical calls — for some fire departments, emergency medical calls make up 65%, 70%, even 80% of their responses. These calls entail picking up someone who fell out of bed and putting them back. Maybe someone had a seizure. It might be a cardiac arrest (time to do CPR!), an asthma attack, a diabetic emergency, a broken arm or a broken leg.

Maybe you will be going to a car accident (will someone have to be extricated)? Emergency medical responses happen a lot, a LOT, more than fires. They are about blood, vomit, and smells.

If you don't like emergency medical calls, then today's fire service isn't for you!

This call might be a fire alarm sounding. Is it a false alarm? Is it really a fire? You won't know until you get there so you have to be prepared for the worst. The reality, though, is that about 98% of the fire alarms that go off do so by mistake. Some firefighter/EMTs call these types of emergency responses "smells & bells." They're not really emergencies.

Maybe this is a "HAZMAT" (hazardous materials) emergency. You will have to learn about chemicals (ugh, I hated chemistry in high school!).

Could this be a "tech rescue" response? Will we have to use ropes, go into water, enter a confined space? Gosh, there's a lot to learn!

Stay Safe..... Tom



THIS AND THAT FOR SAFETY by Jr. Firefighter “Cool Cat” Colten Houser *Contributing Columnist | The Fire Bell*

It has always amazed me as to how people get into their cars and do some of the strangest, not smart, and upright dumbest things. I saw a video of where the second arriving engine had laid a 5 inch (LDH) into their quint for water supply. However, the hydrant was across the road from the house. New plan. Lay directly across the street, and traffic will see the flashing lights and the hose and stop or go the other way, right? **Wrong.** If you’ve ever directed traffic, or seen people do it, you know how people will simply do anything to keep going to their destination. Circling back, the drivers were obviously confused as to why the fire department had just laid this “cobra” in the road and made a giant obstacle. Meanwhile, firefighters made an attack on the fire, and were going at it. Another crew had just entered the second floor via ladder (their department’s protocol) and was making an attack on the house, as it was a balloon frame house. Traffic was at a standstill, and the crew was making a good knock on the fire. Command was happy that everything was going well for the crew and the exterior firefighters. Traffic just simply had enough waiting. They had begun to drive over the LDH as it was charged fully. One car, then two, then five, then suddenly, the 6th car got a huge bath on the underside. The hose gave out, and started blasting out through the top. That’s ok though, traffic got to their destination. They’re ok. Due to the large loss of water and pressure, the two crews had to back out of the structure. They began to use a defensive attack. They called for more units, more tankers, and more water. By the time the next tanker got there, the house was deemed a complete loss. The 2 take-a-ways from this: Have someone stay at the hydrant; and Never drive over fire hose.

On a recent traffic accident, Rescue 7 was sent to assist station 84 (Bovard), and our assignment was traffic control. It was dark out and rainy, so it wasn’t the best conditions. All members were given a flashlight or traffic wand, and a reflective vest. We all know that these conditions don’t always work well, especially together. People panic, and if you have ever done traffic, you know this. About 15 minutes into the incident, a driver had not listened to what the member had said, and kept driving. Luckily, the member was able to make it out of the way. The traffic wand was not so lucky. The traffic wand ended up getting smashed, and broke into 6 different pieces. This makes me wonder what it would have been like had that been the firefighter’s arm or leg. Always have situational awareness, and never turn your back on traffic. You never know what they may do next.

Nothing new for us, but the public is urged to not plug space heaters into power strips. The electrical current needed to supply space heaters cause the strip to melt, and in prolonged periods, cause the strips to catch fire. This is an example of how bad these fires can be. Luckily, this was caught early. ‘ “The weather is getting colder, and people are pulling out their space heaters. We just wanted to remind you that you should NEVER plug a heater into a power strip,” the fire department wrote on its Facebook page. “These units are not designed to handle the high current flow needed for a space heater and can overheat or even catch fire due to the added energy flow. Please share and stay safe this Winter season.’

The Electrical Safety Foundation International says heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the U.S. with more than 65,000 fires being attributed to them each year. The ESFI reports the fire result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.”
