



Summer 2020 ISSUE
June | Volume 4 Issue 2

The Fire Bell

* March • June • September • December *

*A Quarterly Publication of the
Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department*

A Message from

GREENSBURG FIRE CHIEF | Thomas M. Bell

As I sit here and write my message to all of you for the June Issue of The Fire Bell, never did it cross my mind that I would ever experience something like what we are going through today with the COVID-19, when I was elected Chief.

My first order of business and commitment was to make safety a #1 priority when I was elected in November 2016. Now, in March of 2020, this was going to be a huge task starting then, but as for now, we must continue to do what we are doing for the unforeseeable future.

I first want to take this time to thank every member in this department that has put their mask on and has not missed a beat since this started almost 2 months ago. Each and every one that has continued doing the job, knowing the risk that is out there, but put that aside and continued doing what they love to do and shall I mention, VOLUNTEER!

That's right, no paycheck, no salary, no compensation other than the simple thank you, or I feel safe knowing you come when called! That's payment enough for most of us.

All of you, after four years of me as Chief, still amaze the hell out of me for how the dedication never stops. I



can't type enough words, praise, or thanks to all of you for what you do.

This battle has not been easy on any of us. It has taken a toll on all of us physically and mentally. It has taken a toll on our country, state, and our own city.

Nothing will be "as usual" for a long time, and we all will need to stick together and take one day at a time and we will certainly prevail as we have always, for we are GVFD STRONG no matter the task at hand.

In closing, let's not let our guard down, stick to the COVID-19 protocols we have been following to keep us safe, and take ONE DAY AT A TIME!

Stay Safe EVERYONE!

Tom

SAFETY - SAFETY - SAFETY

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

WEAR YOUR Bunker Gear!!!!

Please Use Common Sense.



Happy Birthday

GVFD Drill Tower

May 1st marked the 60th Birthday of the Department's Drill Tower. The Drill Tower became the main focal of the continual GVFD Training Program in 1960, eight years after Chief J. Edward Hutchinson took over leadership of the department. The five-story training tower incorporated several unique features such as a thermostat alarm system; many different types of windows, doors of various types, and good representation of the various types of building materials used in construction. The tower was built so the firemen of Greensburg and other nearby departments could have a suitable locally located place to practice all phases of firefighting with realistic conditions. At that time, there were various course topics available and taken by many of the firemen. These topics included the use of "Gas" masks; ladder evolutions; hose laying; salvage operations, first aid and rescue; ventilation, radio procedure, firemanship, nomenclature of equipment, and pump operations. New members were required to take all of the courses in an eight week training program - three hours per week. The entire department had a drill once each month and during the winter months, lectures are held and demonstrations are conducted by specialists in the field of firefighting. *Continued on Page 16*



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

Asst. Chief Emeritus - Active/Retired

Fred Beehner 44	
Keith Hutchinson 53	Kevin Hutchinson 531
Don Kundrick 49	Robert Romagnoli 572
Albert Rosatti 56	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

Please remember from time to time to ensure your address and your beneficiary designee are correct on file with the

**Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department
Relief Association**

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!

DRIVER'S TRAINING



The GVFD requires drivers of the department to take the driver's training refresher annually. If a driver does not participate in the refresher, they cannot drive. If one misses the annual training refresher, one must then take the 16-hour EVOC Training Course to be authorized to drive a city vehicle. New this year, instruction will be introduced covering CDL rules that are **NOT EXEMPT** for Fire Apparatus. The Engines and Truck fall under CDL by weight and are subject to pre and post checks. Another topic will include in-station maintenance which will be stressed.

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.**

Assistant Chief Bill Anderson - 79-54



With much sadness, we had to say goodbye to one of our great members and long-time Assistant Chief, William Anderson. Bill passed away April 17, 2020 at the age of 78 in his home. Bill joined the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department on March 10, 1960 and was a life member of Hose Company No. 1. Bill was a very dedicated educator and innovator for the GVFD. Some of his accomplishments were as one of the original members to go to Florida for smoke divers training. During the 1970's he was a training officer. He was a key member of the dive team and an instructor in Fire Science at both Allegheny and Westmoreland Community Colleges. He authored many articles for a number of the fire service magazines. One of the most popular was for Fire House Magazine entitled "ALCOHOL & FIRE TRUCKS DON'T MIX" published May 1, 1998. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department was not able to hold a memorial service and Bill's service was private. Our condolences go out to his friends and family.

REST IN PEACE Chief Bill Anderson



DRIVERS - PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE!

Take Care and Drive Always with Caution
PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE

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	To Be Rescheduled							
Mar 30	New Ambulances & Gas Meters	To Be Rescheduled							
Apr 27	Fire Extinguishers Search Techniques	To Be Rescheduled							
May 18	Vehicle Extrication	To Be Rescheduled							
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



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



While our community kids and parents were staying at home amidst the Covid 19 pandemic, we could not allow our kids to be deprived of the joy of the season's EASTER BUNNY.



In the usual find-a-way style the GVFD escorted the Easter Bunny with the help of the City of Greensburg's Recreation Department and traveled the Wards throughout the two days just before Easter Sunday. It was much more than us, the GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, bringing the Easter Bunny to the community. It was a sense of normalcy in an unsettling time. It was the smiles on their faces that warmed OUR hearts. It was the "Thank You" that reminds us what we do is important to everyone we serve. No matter what is going on in this crazy world, you can guarantee the GVFD will always be there for you.

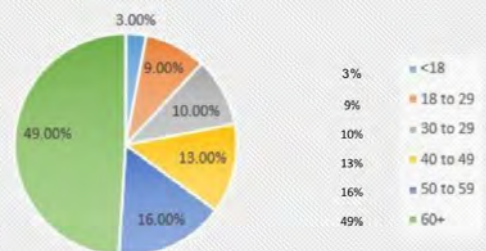
GVFD PROUD
GVFD STRONG



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.

The Greensburg Vol. Fire Department
as of 2019



? 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**



**In The Midst of a
PANDEMIC**

Staying Safe

So We Are

THERE FOR YOU





The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association

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



2020 GVFD Relief Association Officers

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

**THE RELIEF ASSOCIATION IS
A MEMBERSHIP 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 demand dictates.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were restricted from face-to-face meetings, hall functions, and drills. Many took part in various video-conference training sessions provided by the Public Safety Training Center and we were able to communicate via on-line meetings with staff and department. We spent the time being separated from each other, and only coming into contact when answering alarms while practicing all the suggested protection protocols to keep us and our families safe. Things will be different in the world we live in from now on—no doubt. We have experienced something that most of us have never experienced before. All in all, it truly makes us humble and makes us truly thankful for what we have.

SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE GVFD

Sam's Club; Shop N Save; Dollar Tree; Walmart; Rite-Aid
and a bunch more individuals who donated supplies for
use, which included masks, gloves, and sanitizer.

It was ALL certainly a godsend.



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

CLASS B WEAR

The Board of Control will be re-ordering Shirts,
Jackets, and Badges in late July or early August

All inquiries should be made to your
COMPANY BOC REPRESENTATIVE

The Parade Season for us is not looking good for this
year so now is the time to get your uniform out and
cleaned and pressed in preparation for the next parade
when it occurs.

GVFD Walk-thru Drills will be on hold until we get the
all clear. In the meantime, should you see a building
that we should look at and preplan, let C3 know.

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.gbgfire.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.



Goudville 1925



Putnam 1905



*Located
BEHIND
CITY HALL
416 S. MAIN STREET*

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

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 track-
ing where 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.

GVFD CHALLENGE COINS AVAILABLE



\$10.00
(See Website for Details)



NEW PERSONAL GEAR *For Safety!*

One of the Goals of the GVFD is to be able to supply every responding active firefighter with one of the new personal thermal imaging cameras. The department last year, through a grant, purchased several and they were distributed to some of the assistant chiefs and the bloodhound team. Just recently through a generous donation from Miele Manufacturing, 7 more firefighters have been equipped with SEEK brand personal thermal imaging cameras. These compact units, which can be attached to your outer gear on a retractable tether, are designed to see through smoke to help rescue a person who is trapped or can be used to detect the temperature of an object that may be getting ready to combust. The GVFD is grateful for the generosity shown by Mr. Daniel Rumsey at Municipal Emergency Services. As more funding becomes available, more of these devices that help to save lives and property will be obtained and distributed.



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.

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



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"

Welcome New Members

David Noonan - Probationary - Station 6

Levi Bryner - Junior Member - Station 6

Lance Davis - 420 Member - Station 6

Samara Molans - 420 Member - Station 6

Gavin Swartz - 420 Member - Station 1

JUNIORS & 420's | The GVFD is fortunate to have 12 - Juniors & 6 - 420 Members

Station 1	Junior: Trevor Swartz, Zack Long	420: Gavin Swartz
Station 2	Junior: Ryan Heater, Julia Grippo	420: Gabriel Grant
Station 6	Junior: Levi Bryner	420: Evan Miles, Masin Miles, Lance Davis, Samara Molans
Station 7	Junior: Colten Houser, Sara Schall, Brett Steele, Brennan Laskoski, Leah Royer, Dante Keener	
Station 8	Junior: Sam Clark	

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.

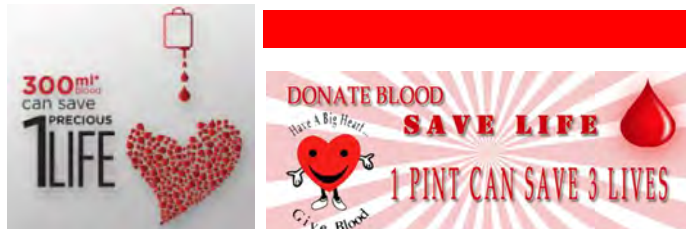


GVFD



2020 GVFD Blood Drive

By Kristi Steele, RN, GVFD Medical Officer 790



We initially had a goal to have 100 donors but then Covid-19 hit and we had to adapt. Advertising wasn't as much as last year but we were very pleased with the results:

- 46 donors registered to donate
- 37 donors made whole blood donations
- 4 donors made Power Red donations (8 units)
- 45 total units of blood was collected
- 14 donors – WERE 1st TIME DONORS!
- **With your contributions we were able to save 135 lives- let that sink in!**

Why is it so important to donate? Let me tell you!

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.

CANCER PATIENTS- certain cancers and cancer treatments prevents patients from producing their own platelets-how can you help? **Make a PLATELET DONATION!**

Ideal Blood Type for CANCER PATIENTS:

- A positive, A negative, B positive, O positive, AB positive and AB negative

TRAUMA PATIENTS- Red blood cells carry oxygen throughout the body. In trauma patients they are rapidly losing their own blood supply. How can you help? **Make a POWER RED DONATION!**

AB Plasma is needed to stop the bleeding. How can you help? **Make an AB ELITE PLASMA DONATION!**

Ideal Blood Type for TRAUMA PATIENTS:

- **For Power Red:** O positive, O negative, B negative, A negative
- **For AB Elite:** AB positive, AB negative

BURN PATIENTS:- plasma is greatly needed in burn patients. It helps maintain their blood pressure and other vital functions for survival. How can you help?

Make an AB ELITE donation!

Ideal Blood Type:

- AB positive, AB negative. Type AB, the universal plasma donor's blood can be given to any patient needing plasma. Make an even greater impact for patients in need by giving an AB Elite plasma donation.

SICKLE CELL PATIENTS - Whole blood, especially from African-American donors, because sickle patients require multiple transfusions and must be very closely matched to the donor's blood type, usually from the same racial and ethnic group. How can you help? **DONATE BLOOD!**

Ideal Blood Type

- negative, especially from African American Donors

CHRONIC DISEASE - A single whole blood donation can help more than one person. How can you help? **DONATE BLOOD!**

Ideal Blood Type:

All blood types are needed- **SO BE A HERO AND DONATE!**

Every one of you have made the decision to volunteer to save lives

Donating blood is no different

I challenge every one of you to donate blood next year at our 3rd annual blood drive



GREENSBURG ESSENTIALS PROGRAM RESUMES

Greensburg Fire Essentials Program



Pa State Fire Academy Instructor: Justin Calisti (724) 875-2393

ELEF 52 hrs(Can only miss 10 hours) Must BE CLEAN SHAVEN FOR ALL DATES Age 14+				
6/16/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	Fire Extinguishers (Lecture/skill) - Sta 1	
6/18/20	Thuesday	1830-2230	Forcible Entry & Fire Stream(Lecture) - Sta 1	
6/20/20	Saturday	0800-1600	Ladders (Lecture)/Forcible Entry (Skills) - Sta 1	
6/23/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	Ladders (Skills)	
6/25/20	Thuesday	1830-2230	Ladders (Skills)	
6/28/20	Sunday	0800-1600	Ladders/Hose Line Advancement(Skills)	
6/30/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	Fire Stream and Hose Line advancement(skills)	
7/2/20	Thuesday	1830-2230	Fire Stream and Hose Line advancement(skills)	
7/7/20	Tuesdayay	1830-2230	Review test/ Fire Stream and Hose Line advancement(skills) - Sta 1	
HMO 24 Hrs(Can only miss 5 hours) Must be clean shaven for all Age 16+				
7/14/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	Orientation Lecture - Sta 1	
7/16/20	Thuesday	1830-2230	Lecture - Sta 1	
7/19/20	Sunday	0800-1600	Skills- product control, turnout gear scba, victim rescue	
7/21/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	Foam application, metering, Vapor disperstion/supression, Dilution	
7/23/20	Thuesday	1830-2230	Scenario/ review test - Sta 1	
ELIF 40 HRS (Can only Miss 8 hours) Must be Clean Shaven for All dates Age 18 +				
7/28/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	SCBA, Rescue/Firefighter Survival, Orgin and Cause (Lecture) - Sta 1	
7/30/20	Thursday	1830-2230	Rescue Procedures/Firefighter Survival (Skills)	
8/4/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	Ventilation/Utility Control (Lecture) - Sta 1	
8/6/20	Thursday	1830-2230	Loss Control/Fire Control (Supression) (Lecture) - Sta 1	
8/9/20	Sunday	0800-1600	Ventilation/Origin of Cause (Skills) SCBA and Turnout Gear inspection	
8/11/20	Tuesday	1830-2230	Loss Control (skills)	
8/13/20	Thursday	1830-2230	Fire and Utility Control	
8/16/20	Sunday	0800-1600	Fire Control(Supression Skills)	
Live Burns- Must be clean shaven				
6/16/20	Fire Extinguisher Will Need SCBA and full turnout gear			
8/13/20	Car Fire and Dumpster Fire Will need SCBA and full turnout gear			WCPSTC Smithton
8/16/20	Live Fire- SCBA spare cylindar and turnout gear			WCPSTC Smithton
FF-1 Prep				
7/1/20	1830-2200	Orientation Skill Reiview, SCBA Knots - Sta 1		
7/8/20	1830-2200	Scba checks, Knots Pump/ Hydrant Review - Sta 1		
7/15/20	1830-2200	SCBA donning, dauphing and breathing technicues, Knots, Sprinkler		
7/22/20	1830-2200	Knots, Ladders/ Rescue roof Cutting		
7/29/20	1830-2200	Advancing Hose Lines In buildings, Up ladders Primary Search		
7/29/20	1830-2200	Fire extinguisher review, Live Fire attack, Salvage, utility Control		
8/5/20	1830-2200	Salvage, Utility Control, Asscending.Descending appartas		
8/12/20	1830-2200	A@WPSTC pratcie skills a-m		
8/19/20	1830-2230	a=@WPSTc Practice Skills N-AA		
PROBoards				
Hazmat Operations	Written	7/25/20	Practical	7/25/20 Practical at HEMA Building
Fire Fighter 1		8/21/20		8/22/20 Practical at WCPSTC
All written portion of Proboards will be held at the HEMA builing				



COMPANY DRILLS... If you prepare, they will come

By Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle

Because of the current state-of-affairs that we find ourselves in, it may be some time before we can come together for a Department Drill, given the fact that we average 45-50 members for each. However, training is a critical element of a firefighter's job where we should be training regularly to learn new skills, and once a new skill is acquired, we should practice until the skill is mastered.

Now, more than at any time in recent years, the Companies should be picking up the slack by conducting company drills. With proper preparation and practice delivery, a company officer can make any drill great. All they need to do is care, and give it effort. The more company drills that officers perform, the better they will get, and the better the drills will become. The resulting reward will be increased attendance by the members, and the company will become better by learning the skills of firefighting.

We are fortunate in that we have our own training facility at Lynch Field. There have been several upgrades made recently to enhance the learning experience, and where several other changes are being planned. If you haven't been to the Drill Tower in the last month or so, as a member of the GFD you owe it to yourself to drop in to see what has transpired.

Using the Drill Tower as a platform for companies to conduct training, a few suggestions for planning your drills would be:

Standpipe Operations – the old standpipe was removed due to deterioration. The new system provides the choice of two connections for supplying the FDC with either 2 – 3.00" lines, or a 5.00" LDH. There are now standpipe hose connections on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

Drill scenario; lay in from the hydrant, supply the standpipe, take a high-rise pack to the 3rd floor, connect to the hose connection, and advance the line to the 4th floor. A simple but basic high-rise evolution.

Sprinkler Operations – along with the standpipe, a new, single sprinkler head was installed on the ground floor.

Drill scenario; supply the standpipe, and by opening the windows, allow members to observe the sprinkler head in operation, then practice stopping the flowing head by using any one of several methods to do so.

Double-hung Windows – on the pitched roof section, double-hung windows have been installed in the window openings.

Drill scenario; ladder the window(s) and have members practice enter / exit the open window.

SCBA Maze – a permanent, double-decked maze has been installed on the 5th floor. The maze contains several obstacles intended to provide a realistic experience while building confidence for members using SCBA.

Continued on Page 21



WESTCOFIRE | Safer Grant 2015

Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response



In 2015 the fire departments within Westmoreland County conducted a survey to gauge the need for federal funding. According to the survey, more than 62% of participating departments' annual budgets comes from fundraising. Two departments in the survey receive no municipal funding and rely solely on their own fundraising to cover their budgets. Volunteer fire department officials cited the time commitment, lack of awareness of the need and budgetary constraints as the main factors responsible for the declining number of volunteers.

Since the 1980s, the traditional blue-collar economic base of coal mining and heavy industry in western Pennsylvania has faded, and some fire departments report having no members who work within their coverage areas. Firefighters who work in the Pittsburgh area but live in Westmoreland County spend a disproportionate amount of time commuting to and from work, and are less able to leave work for an emergency call than in years past.

Volunteer fire departments also report that many of their members hold two jobs, and many have spouses who work full time. The survey found that this factor has resulted in a 16 percent drop in the number of firefighters through the past decade. The survey also found that 80 percent of the county's fire departments do not consistently meet National Fire Prevention Association standards for staffing and response.

As a result of this process, 83 of the county's fire stations agreed to participate in a 2016 regional SAFER grant application hosted by the Hempfield Bureau of Fire.

On September 1, 2017 FEMA announced a \$4.3 million SAFER Grant to fund recruitment and training of 300 additional volunteer firefighters for the participating fire departments located across Westmoreland County.

WestCoFire is the result of the SAFER Grant. The grant is administered by Hempfield Bureau of Fire under the authority of The Township of Hempfield, for the benefit of 60 volunteer fire departments representing 84 fire stations throughout the County of Westmoreland, PA.

The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department *As of JUNE 1st, 2020*

Requested Benefits to Date \$ 65,314.63.00

- Response Stipend \$ 30,800.00
- Physicals \$ 8,523.00 - Physical Qualifies for Bunker Suit*
- Training \$ 5,991.63
- PPE Bunkers Suits \$20,000.00 - Total of 8 at \$2,500.00 ea

⇒ GVFD has Received Benefits of \$52,816.00

⇒ GVFD has \$12,611.00 in Process for Reimbursement

GVFD Relief Association handles all financial transactions

Special Thanks to those who contributed articles and information for this issue of The Fire Bell

Tom Bell, Chet Bell, Rick Steele, Tony Manley, Al Rosatti, Kristi Steele, Kim Houser, Justin Calisti

Chris Tantlinger, Rick Hoyle, Colten Houser, Brian Turpin



The Drill Tower (continued from Page 2)

Members of the original Drill Tower building committee was chaired by Edward Gunter and members included William Deniker, John Maxwell, and Robert Mahoney. The GVFD Fire Department officers at that time included J. Edward Hutchinson, Chief; and Assistant Chiefs L.D. Hayden, Louis Shuey, Harry Smith, and Luther Silvis.

The Drill Tower Building committee today includes Tom Bell, Chief, Board of Control President Rick Steele; and Assistant Chiefs Rick Hoyle and Tony Manley who all have been busy overseeing with both time and labor along with many members, re-pointing and block replacement; new lighting; clean-up and wash-down; a new sprinkler system with a standpipe on the first and second divisions; annex roof replacement; preparation of a new roof simulator, and a mask-maze on the 5th division along with a lot of miscellaneous detail fixing. The committee is exploring a new feature, a free-standing burn simulator to be added very soon.

COVID-19

PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR GUARD

Now that things are easing up, please don't let your guard down. Please continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands often, use your masks when in close contact with friends, family, and victims, use hand sanitizer when it is not convenient to use soap and water, don't shake hands, don't hug friends or strangers, and practice sound

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



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



NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION with this in mind along with our foundation and training to improvise, adapt and overcome, moved us to having to make due during the trying times brought on by a virus with the likes we've never seen. After spending the last four years interacting closely with each other, by staying in touch through our drills and meetings and events, we found ourselves in a void. Chief Tom Bell asked about introducing the department to the world of video teleconferencing. It was a little rocky at first, but we successfully conducted a department meeting with 60 members in attendance. Training actually continued for quite a few of our members through the Community Colleges Public Safety Training Center's no-charge on-line course, subjects such as:

ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLES

4 HOURS

JUNIORS FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

LEGAL ASPECTS OF COMMAND|LEGAL ISSUES| DUTIES & ETHICS

4 HOURS

CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATOR - VEHICLE FIRES

4 HOURS

RAPID EXTRICATION

1 HOUR

PUMP HYDRAULIC REVIEW

4 HOURS

RETENTION & RECRUITMENT

4 HOURS

INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER

8 HOURS (4 & 4 HRS)

ORIENTATION TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL

10 HOURS

PREPLANNING

3 HOURS

ISO COMMUNITY SURVEY

3 HOURS

READING SMOKE

4 HOURS

The Public Safety Training Center's On-line courses were very well received and there were many requests for more classes to be conducted through this medium even after an aspect of normalcy returns. All of the courses during the pandemic were free of charge. Cost for future classes would either be free or presented for a minimum charge of maybe \$5.00 if there is an instructor related cost.



Puppy Sassy is growing fast. On May 9th, she participated in field team training running two great trails with the trail layer hiding in buildings. Sassy and Brett were scheduled to attend NPBA training at the end of April in Maryland, but the week-long training was cancelled. The training administrators are excited about being able to host Brett and Sassy at this fall's training in North Carolina. The NPBA was founded in 1962 and the Bloodhound Team has been part of the NPBA since 1969. They look at Brett as the future that has arose out of a legacy to carry the reputation of a close knit group of accomplished handlers of outstanding NPBA trained Man-trailing scent discriminating Bloodhounds.



WOW

.... 2020 HAS BEEN CHALLENGING
SO FAR !?

We all know our Famous Shuey burger sales have been canceled, Bingos canceled, Meadows Fundraiser canceled, Community Days canceled. With all of these cancelations how do we raise funds to continue to provide for the community? Well, we get creative! And so we did...

As most of you know we have been doing raffles on Facebook. Once all tickets are sold for the item being raffled, we announce the winner on Facebook live.

The GVFD has raffled the following so far:

- 5- 75" SAMSUNG Smart TV's
- 1- Grill with all accessories and \$200 gift card to Bardine's
- 1- Yeti Cooler with \$300 gift card to Giant Eagle
- 1- Mt. Odin Golf package with carts and a \$300 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods and \$100 to Jablonski's Distributing

The Bloodhound Team has raffled the following so far:

- Fabrique Nationale 12 Gauge (SLP)
- Ruger American Compact

Please continue to follow the GVFD and Bloodhound Team's Facebook pages for raffles. We will also send out a spotted dog reminder for those of you not on Facebook



Congratulations

Justin R Chobirko

Greensburg Hose Company No. 6



Issued May 14, 2020 - # 227714

Justin has recently received his Nationally Registered Advanced – EMT Certification [NRAEMT]. An AEMT is provider of prehospital emergency medical services. This is a significant step up from the EMT-Intermediate technician level. The AEMT is not intended to deliver definitive medical care in most cases, but rather augment prehospital critical care and provide rapid on-scene treatment. An AEMT is authorized to provide limited advanced life support, which is beyond the scope of an EMT.



OPERATING ON ROADWAY & Highway Incidents

By Chet Bell | GVFD Assistant Chief | Pennsylvania State Police Fire Investigator

During the course of the recent Covid19 stay home request, I was reading some articles posted by the U.S Fire Administration. (SOURCE: The International Association of Fire Chiefs Jan 13, 2020) This information caught my eye as it is a simple reminder of safety tips for highway events.

As a Pennsylvania State Trooper, these things are always in the back of my mind having personally experienced several close calls. Additionally, I observed firsthand the pain and recovery of a good friend and fellow Trooper nearly losing his life after being struck on a State Highway in October 2014.

Ten tips for responding and operating on roadway and highway incidents.

- **Dispatch the appropriate apparatus.** (Use what it takes to handle the event and provide scene safety, blocking and advanced warning.)
 - **Train for on-scene positioning** (blocking, safe positioning). Park at an angle if scene involves multiple lanes. Protect the pump operator at fire scenes. First large vehicle arrivals should not pull up too close to the scene in case it gets hit from behind. Driver should position wheels away from scene.
 - **Conduct on-scene size-up report.** (type of incident, location, any hazards.)
 - **Scene Safety.** (Set up lights for scene safety. ensure emergency lights are set up for scene safety. Turn off forward-facing white lights if not needed for operations. illuminate the work area as well as the area surrounding the apparatus roadway while not creating glare hazards for other motorists.)
 - **Follow protocols for temporary traffic controls (TTC).** (Advance warning for those approaching the emergency scene is critical. Follow your agency protocols for deploying flares and/or traffic cones upstream of the unit.)
 - **Wear appropriate PPE upon arrival.** (PPE for the conditions on arrival; NFPA-compliant bunker gear for fire incidents or high-visibility gear if they are not potentially exposed to fire, heat, flame or hazardous materials.)
 - **Establish Incident Command and/or Unified Command.** (Work together)
 - **Monitor and adjust TTC.** (Things change, traffic volume, weather etc., keep on it.)
 - **Manage non-involved personnel.** (Direct non-involved personnel to a safe area past the incident or behind a barrier, and restrict movement around the scene.)
 - **Incident scene demobilization.** (Demobilization time is very dangerous and must be managed appropriately to prevent secondary incidents. Any temporary traffic-control devices need to be removed in an organized manner. Advance warning should be the last to leave.)
-



Continued from Page 14

Hose Advancement – the door frames have been repaired by removing the rusted portions of the frames to reduce the risk of damaging hose as it is being advanced.

Drill scenario; pull a pre-connected attack line from the pumper and have a crew advance it to any one of the upper floors, having an emphasis for making the hose stretch with speed and efficiency.

Ground Ladders – there are several windows, balcony's, and a pitched roof that can be used for drilling.

Drill scenario; place the 35' ladder to the A-side balcony and have members ascend and descend in full PPE, including SCBA.

Smoke Generator – although burning of any kind is prohibited in the Drill Tower, we do have a smoke generator that is available should it be desired to use smoke for training. This generator can be made available by calling C-2.

Another improvement that has been made to the Drill Tower, and should be mentioned, is that the lighting and electrical service has been upgraded. The exterior lighting was changed and is now LED lights. There are now electrical outlets on each level except the 5th floor, which will be beneficial when operating the smoke generator without having to run extension cords.

It was on May 1, 1960, that our Drill Tower was dedicated, 60 years ago, and is the Crowned Jewel of the GFD. Just like we were given this facility by those who came before us to use in mastering our skills as firefighters, we have an obligation to preserve it for the next generation by being respectful, and by caring for it in every way possible. The “Tower” is intended to be used but not in a way that is destructive.

Command Quiz by Assistant Chief Kim Houser

After an OIC gives a solid size up, a critical action of the following must be completed:

- A) Radio for Mandatory after action plan meeting B) Establish a federal liaison officer
C) Wait for the Department Chief to arrive on scene D) Complete and report 360 scouting of scene

The 360 scene scouting occurs for purposes of reporting what of the following circumstances and/or conditions:

- A) Reporting building sites and conditions showing of each B) Report likely extensions of Hazard
C) Report life hazards on each building side D) Report alternate entry/accesses
E) Report potential exterior vent openings F) All the above
-



EMERGENCY REPORTING

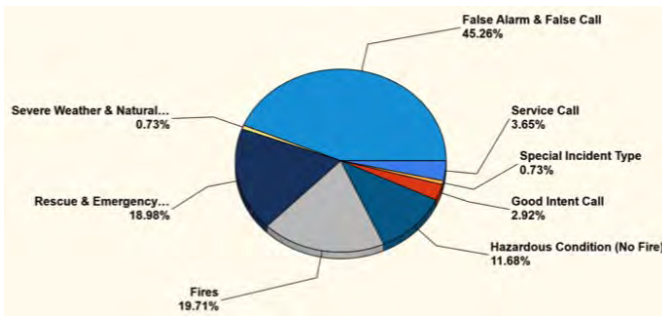
GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESPONSE BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR INCIDENT

March | April | May 2020

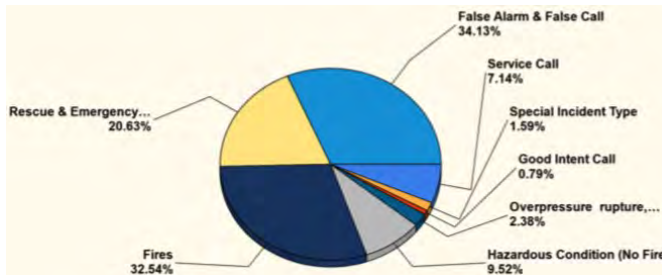


March 2020



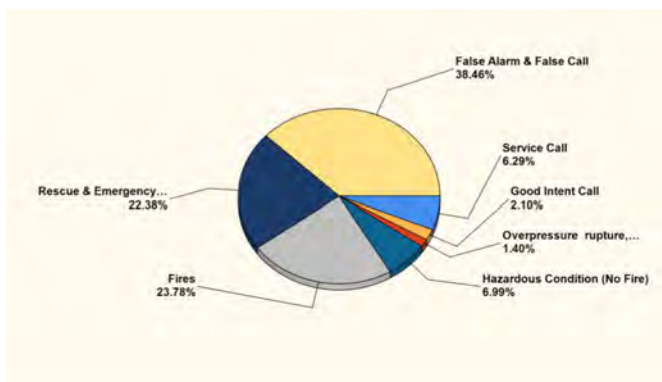
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	27	19.71%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	26	18.98%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	16	11.68%
Service Call	5	3.65%
Good Intent Call	4	2.92%
False Alarm & False Call	62	45.26%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.73%
Special Incident Type	1	0.73%
TOTAL	142	100.00%

April 2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	41	32.54%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	3	2.38%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	26	20.63%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	12	9.52%
Service Call	9	7.14%
Good Intent Call	1	0.79%
False Alarm & False Call	43	34.13%
Special Incident Type	2	1.59%
TOTAL	137	100.00%

May 2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	34	23.78%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	2	1.40%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	32	22.38%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	10	6.99%
Service Call	9	6.29%
Good Intent Call	3	2.10%
False Alarm & False Call	55	38.46%
TOTAL	145	100.00%



This is our only Paycheck

Hello! I would like to thank your department so much for the very kind, thoughtful gesture of the "mini" Easter Parade that went through my apartment complex (Eastmont Estate, Greensburg) on Saturday, April 11th, 2020. We heard a lot of "honking" outside and peaked out to see a three vehicle parade, complete with a waving Easter Bunny, from the Greensburg Fire Department. That was so sweet, it made me cry, and brings tears to my eyes thinking about that day. As you all always do all year long, you were there for the community you so unselfishly serve. You really cheered us up. So, THANK YOU - now + always. You are there for us - 24/7 and don't get nearly enough gratitude for your brave service. Once Again - A Gigantic Thank You - & "A round of Applause" to you all.



*This is Why
We Do What We Do!*



An Example of Why to not take AFA (Automatic Fire Alarms) for Granted

Dispatch Center:

13:42 Hrs. AFA 1st Floor | Public Housing Facility

What was found upon arrival:

One story-single family (Care Center) | two adults/one caregiver | Division 1 Smoke Detector | Oil on stove ignited - Extinguished prior to arrival | Ventilation required System reset | *Dispatched: 13:42 Enroute: 13:43 Arrived 13:45 Cleared & Available 13:52*

Still some would contend, "Oh-just another AFA"

GVFD SOG is to GO NO MATTER WHAT! This is just not another FALSE alarm and shall not be classified as such. This is a fire and if this would not have been brought under control and extinguished this could have been a full-blown structure fire. Just about 50% of the calls for GVFD used to be classified as AFA's and now that number has been reevaluated and reduced by about 10 to 15% due to the call type reclassification. This could have been trouble if gone unchecked by detection and quick response.

Code + Code Enforcement + Automatic Fire Alarms = DO SAVE LIVES

S
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SAVE
LIVES



Dispatch Center:

18:08 Hrs. Downed tree on unoccupied vehicle

What was found upon arrival:

Tree limbs cut from tree removed from car - moved limbs across street to a safe area. | *Dispatched: 18:08 Enroute: 18:14 Arrived 18:15 Cleared & Available 18:37*



Volunteering as a Volunteer Firefighter provides an opportunity to learn skills safely while being a valuable contributor to the community at large. The friendships gained and having a sense of belonging can not be matched in any other activity in the world. Please tell others about the experiences you have and they too can share.

THERE IS NO TIME BETTER THAN NOW FOR AGES 12 AND UP!

Please Visit Our Webpage

www.gbgsfire.org

Visit us on FACEBOOK

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department



EARLY
SALES

some Exciting Things are coming!

The GVFD will be releasing a different design on all GVFD Swag. We will be having a **Clearance Sale** all remaining GVFD merchandise!

This will allow us to make room for the NEW GVFD SWAG.
A Sale will be held at one of the Stations

Date to be determined

Sizes are already limited in Current Stock

Don't Delay... Get yours TODAY!



Why Juniors?

By Colten Houser | GVFD Junior Firefighter

The City of Greensburg Fire Department has many juniors on the roster. But why? Why do we have this program? What does this program do for us? What do we get out of it? I found an excerpt from an article that I would like to share with the department as a whole. The article is entitled, “Why have a junior firefighter program?” and it highlights why we have junior firefighters. The two sections focus on how having the program can enhance department training and how it can improve public relations.

Enhancing Departmental Training

Having junior firefighters hanging around the station has the added benefit of enhancing departmental training. In my department, we found that after junior firefighters finished their assigned duties such as cleaning and odd jobs around the station, they began to entice senior firefighters to lend their knowledge.

Juniors ask for help with the basics such as apparatus familiarity, small equipment operation, and even hose lays. This single event has snowballed into regular shift training, because most firefighters can never just sit back and watch. It usually takes only one person to dedicate time to a junior before the entire shift becomes involved.

This is a two-fold benefit in that it motivates great training plus battles complacency by fostering teamwork in a can-do atmosphere.

There is no denying this past decade has brought its fair share of government scrutiny. The fire service usually fairs well during these times, as we are in the business of helping people; however, we still experience obstacles at times.

These obstacles are usually small issues, such as taking our apparatus to restaurants, buying what the public perceives as unneeded equipment, or questions of what firefighters are doing when they are not running emergency calls.

Improving Public Relations

By opening the doors to young men and women to join our roster as junior firefighters, we are also opening the doors to their entire families and friends. It is a misperception to think these young recruits are not going home to tell anyone who will listen of how their time is spent at the fire station.

It's an awesome experience to have someone who only knows you as a firefighter tell you how proud they are of your department because of everything being done to support these young adults. These conversations usually lead to their recently acquired knowledge of our day-to-day operations and training, then end with a newfound support of our department.

Some would consider this an "out of the park" homerun for their department. This kind of public relations is free and simply happens from having a junior firefighter program.

There is a great difference between the 1960s' generation to those of the 1980s and 1990s, but the difference to the Millennial generation (people born from the early 1980s to early 2000s) is monumental. We have no choice but to adapt to these differences in the fire service, and what better way than to start while our future firefighters are young enough to mentor and mold.



Continued next page



This is yet another benefit that is two-fold. The beginning career of a junior firefighter can be difficult, but once a working relationship establishes, you will find that everyone benefits. Young firefighters will learn a new respect for the traditions and chain of command within the fire service, while the older members are often persuaded to accept change as the new generation starts bringing in new ideas.

It's a known fact that often firefighters do not like change or to start a new program. Don't expect every member to be on board with a youth program in the beginning.

Often it is their involvement with the junior firefighter program once it is established that finally gives them an understanding of the many benefits.



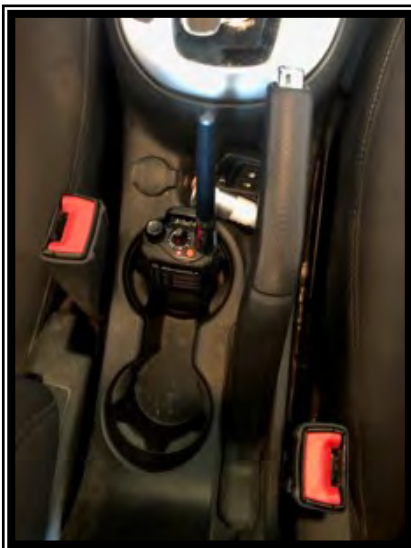
Talking on the repeater.....

By Cool Cat Colten



Lots of communications get missed. It happens. But here are some tips to make sure your engine or truck gets marked as on the road!

1. Once you push the button, wait 2-3 seconds before speaking to ensure that you hit the repeater (some radios, such as the APX8000, play a beep 2-3 seconds after you push the button)
2. When using lapel mics, make sure they are properly attached, or your radio will cut in and out, even if you are hearing other people
3. If you have a monitor or scanner near you, make sure the radio is off to avoid radio clicking
4. When in the car or truck, your radio is better when it's in the cup holder or your gear, than on your belt. That way, the button won't bump against the seat or other objects and accidentally key.





RECOGNIZE WHEN BACKDRAFT CONDITIONS EXIST | *CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE*

Submitted by Assistant Chief Kim Houser

A backdraft is an air-driven event, unlike a flashover, which is thermally driven. Backdraft is usually defined as a deflagration resulting from the sudden introduction of oxygen into a ventilation-limited space containing unburned fuel and gases. When the air combines with the unburned fuel, rapid ignition can occur with devastating force. The normal oxygen level in air is approximately 21 percent. Below 14 percent, visible flame is reduced. When these fuels mix with air they ignite and burn quickly resulting in overpressure.

Indications of a backdraft

Conditions for backdraft might include:

- Black smoke becoming dense, greyish yellow without visible flames. The smoke color is indicating incomplete combustion. Usually the darker the smoke the more incomplete the combustion.
- A well-sealed building might indicate air confinement and excessive heat buildup.
- High concentrations of flammable carbon monoxide could be present as a result of incomplete combustion.
- Little or no visible flame. If flames are present, they may be blue in color. Another indicator, might be flames in smoke exiting the structure, especially in eaves of the structure.
- Smoke leaving the building in puffs and being drawn back in. Fire is trying to find oxygen, and this is the appearance of smoke pulling in under doors or through cracks.
- Smoke stained windows, brown in color, with visible cracking and/or rattling.
- Sudden, rapid movement of air and smoke inward when an opening is made.

FIREGROUND SIZE-UP AND HOW TO READ SMOKE

Situational awareness and defensive steps to protect yourself and your crew

- Perform a 360-degree size-up prior to opening-up wearing full personal protective equipment.
- Create vertical ventilation prior to making entry.
- Operate from a position of safety. Always plan an escape route.
- Pencil the ceiling with a straight stream, without disrupting the thermal layer, to cool gases below their ignition temperature.

REMEMBER: NEVER rely on one indicator • Backdraft can be more likely in energy-efficient buildings with good insulation and sealed windows (double or triple glazed) • A developing fire may consume the available oxygen before it's able to flashover, or it may rapidly decline due to insufficient oxygen and the increasing volume of combustion products • Have a tactical ventilation plan to remove, confine, or dilute the accumulated fuel.

Article from USFA NFA Bulletin



*Sadly We Paid our Final Respects
to*

Life Member William "Billy" Bickel, Jr

Joined Hose Co. No. 7 February 15, 1977

Badge Number 79-754 - 43 Years of Service

Born 3-27-1957 | EOW 5-26-2020

Our Sympathy Goes to Family and Friends

Billy will be missed by all

May He Rest in Peace



A JUNE Happy Birthday "Shout Out"
To the Following GVFD Members



Jun 1	Elysia Battistella	Jun 10	Dave Ross	Jun 27	Dave Dorko
	Paul Stillitano	Jun 12	Terry Kalna		Miranda Wright
Jun 2	John Paul Moroney	Jun 13	Ed Haines	Jun 29	Jacob Cholock
Jun 3	Patrick Dean	Jun 14	Rick Steele	Jun 30	Tom Jablonsky
	Dale Hutchinson Sr	Jun 15	Bud Mertz		
	Masin Miles	Jun 19	Brad Hession		
Jun 4	Roman Lamberski		Dave Romagnoli		
Jun 7	Jason Ludwig	Jun 21	Jim Buscaglio		
	Bob Mattes	Jun 23	Karl Eisaman		
Jun 8	Marty Altman		Mahlon Manley		
	Keith Hutchinson	Jun 25	Ken Bacha		
	Trevor Turin	Jun 26	Jeremy Garris		
Jun 10	Darrian Conway	Jun 27	Vince Brasco		





How Much is 500 PSI Worth to You?

By Brian Turpin BA, EMT-B, Captain - Hose Company No. 1

The “quarter service” alarm has just activated on my SCBA, how much time do I have to escape? Well that all depends on several things. How much work was I doing to cause it to activate? Will I have to do work to get out? How “in shape” am I? There are several other things to consider as well. This is something every firefighter should be thinking about each time we put on and SCBA. It IS your lifeline; you are expected to know everything about it. Train for the worst. I have been a fire service instructor for over 10 years now, and many firefighters still think that a 4500psi cylinder will last you 45 minutes. It will, right? Don’t count on it. It may last you that long if you are sitting in a chair for 45 minutes. Think about the extra work you are doing while fighting a fire. Every time you swing an axe, pry a door, poke a ceiling, vent a roof, or drag a victim to safety. When you overexert yourself, you tend to breathe heavier, deeper, and more quickly. All of these together make that 45 minutes of air you think you have, drastically be reduced. Now don’t get me wrong, there are some firefighters that can make a cylinder last longer than 45 minutes.

The quarter service alarm is designed to activate when you have roughly a quarter of that cylinder remaining. That could mean 5 minutes or 10 minutes? You control those numbers. How many breath’s does that equate to? Let’s just think about just 500psi for right now. This something you all can try in your stations. Try to figure out just how many normal breathes it takes to drain 500psi of your SCBA. I bet you will get somewhere around 55. That 500psi could be the difference in you getting out safely.

Something else to think about is, when we fill SCBA cylinders too fast, it may appear we have a full cylinder. But when it cools down, we lose some of that breathing air. For those of us that fill cylinders, keep this in the back of your mind. It’s not FULL until it’s cold and Full! So, what is 500psi worth to you?



Good



Good enough?