



Winter 2020 ISSUE  
December | Volume 4 Issue 4

# 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

**2020 has not been the kind of year that anyone wants to have to relive any time soon.**

The COVID 19 virus has changed our everyday way of life and seems as though it's going to get worse before it gets better.

I feel we have done everything humanly possible to try and keep all of our personnel safe whether it be at the fire halls, on the trucks and down to the incidents we go on. Let's remember, this is no time to let our guard down. Some have had it, experienced mild symptoms, and recovered without any time spent at the hospital. In March and April when this really started, we again were lucky.

We did not see or experience too much of it. Now, it's everywhere, we know people that's has had it or has it and the hospital here in our own town, is being plagued by many cases of it.

We did not see that 8-months ago.

With that being said, we need to again, not let our guard down. We need to make sure when we are at the fire halls, in our apparatus, on scene, we all need to have masks on, PERIOD. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Limit your time at stations, no gathering of more than 2 to 3 at a time. Do what needs done, in a timely fashion and keep social distance between yourself and others.



Absolutely no Captains' parties, or other gatherings, hall rentals, meetings or drills until further notice. Meetings can be done virtual or not at all. The Presidents and Boards can figure how to keep company business going what is necessary. It really sucks this time of year, and I'm sorry I have to make these decisions. It's all about trying to keep each of our members safe. I feel that what we have been doing again, is working. Lets hope this starts to calm down in the next month or

so and we can slowly start to find light at the end of the tunnel and be normal again.

If you need gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, let me know. Please, keep those masks on, social distance, stay at home and support your local restaurant is with takeout. Be Safe Everyone

Merry Christmas to You and Your Family! | C1

## SAFETY - SAFETY - SAFETY

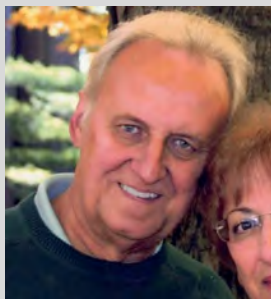
**Reminder, If Working in Traffic - Wear A Vest  
If you are Running A Chain Saw - Wear Chaps  
And LASTLY....If you are Responding to an  
Alarm**

**WEAR YOUR Bunker Gear!!!!**

Please Use Common Sense.



## In Honor of Our Dearly Departed Brothers



### THOMAS F. LEASURE

Badge 79- 212

Joined October 12, 1970

E.O.W October 15, 2020

**50 Years + 3 Days of Service**

Thomas F. Leasure, 78, of Greensburg, died Thursday, October 15, 2020 in Excelsior

Health Westmoreland Hospital, Greensburg. He was born September 8, 1942 in South Greensburg, a son of the late John and Elsie (Lopes) Leasure. He was a graduate of Greensburg Salem High School and prior to retirement, had been employed by ABB, South Greensburg. He was an Army veteran. Thomas was a member of Valley Green Golf and Country Club and Champion Club Member of USGA. He golfed with many league members, especially his golf buddies, Vince Miscovich, Lee Prince, Bill Rader, and Tom Orsinger. He was a life member of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Truck Co. No 2, and a member of the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association and the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association. Thomas was an avid model train collector and also recorded stats in the press box with Wally Ziewacz for the Greensburg Salem football games. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents; paternal grandparents; and special uncle, Walter Leasure. He is survived by Loraine Pandolf, of Greensburg; special nieces and nephews, Rick and Nancy Hughes, Alisa and Doug Summy, Kristin and Vince Zaccaria, Jan and John Kulcsar, and Karen Harper; and numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins, including special cousin, Laura Lydic.

**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

Name Area of Responsibility

### 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	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

Calvin Kier 45

### 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	Team Cmdr - 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 or Wednesday | 18:30 | 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 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.**

## **COVID ALERT**

On December 3rd, at 15:00 hrs. in order to try to keep GVFD Firefighters and others safe, Chief Tom Bell ordered there be absolutely no gatherings at the firehalls other than for fire calls and use face coverings at all times, everywhere when around others. Companies are ordered to cancel meetings or use virtual methods. Routine maintenance is to be limited to 1 or 2 persons to keep things in order.

Please make sure you follow up with your Primary Care Physician or the GVFD Physician (Dr Plundo) for your annual wellness check, laboratory tests, and vaccinations. Please forward any new/updated vaccination documentation to **Kristi Steele** at [steelehouse265@comcast.net](mailto:steelehouse265@comcast.net) so we can update your health record.

## **PARADES**

**From Department Commander Tony Manley**

The Parade Season never got kicked off this YEAR!  
Don't Get Discouraged, we will just look forward to next year with more enthusiasm than ever! If you are not going to parade anymore, it is asked that you turn in your uniform in order that another member can wear it. If you do not have a uniform and want to parade, please wear your Class "B" Uniform as described on Page 9 and Join US....

**BE PART OF A LONGSTANDING & PROUD TRADITION!**



## 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/ksm8v5frr4hvn19ek>

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

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



## THE COLLAPSE ZONE

IS 1.5 times the  
Height of the  
Structure



## 2021 TRAINING IN THE PIPE LINE

Understanding LNG/  
Hybrid Vehicles  
Fire Ground Safety  
Construction

Fire Pump  
Operations  
Chimney Fires  
Social Media

## 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	Trib 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	To Be Rescheduled							
Jul 27	Veh Fire Ops	To Be Rescheduled							
Aug 11	Vehicle Rescue	12	3	0	5	11	5	-	36
Aug 31	Salvage / OH Ops	4	15	1	5	8	18	-	51
Sep 20	Hose Laying Competition	12	11	0	9	5	22	-	59
Sep 26	Structural Burn	5	4	0	4	3	10		26
Sep 28	Roof Simulator Ladders	8	13	0	2	11	18		52
Sep 29	Narcan	11	11	0	6	15	14		57
Oct 26	FF Obstacle Course	5	12	0	5	4	13		39
Training for November & December Suspended due to COVID Class on Forcible Entry schedule for Nov 30th was Cancelled									
Averages		7	10	1	4	8	14		44





## GVFD—2020 NEW MEMBERS - 19 for the YEAR!

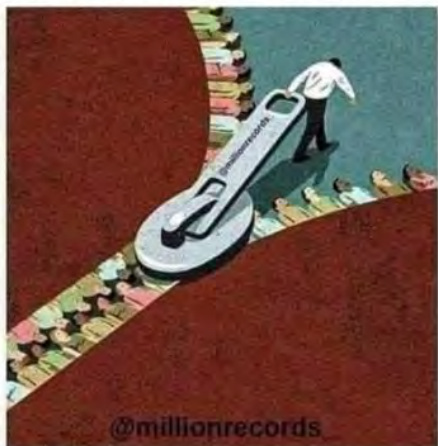
### ACTIVE & JUNIOR MEMBERS

197	Richard J Smith	658	Carolyn A Campbell
198	Deanna L. Turpin	842 (J)	Zachary Nowakowski
225	Joshua E Dispennett	845	Cole Cogden
271 (J)	Julia A Grippio	901 (R-BHT)	Jim Gregg
657	Matthew D Sladky	908 (R-DT)	Mike Recklein

### JUNIOR 420 MEMBERS

1401	Gavon Swartz	2414	Benjamin King
1416	Nathan DiPasquale	6412	Lance Davis
1417	Quentin Turpin	7407	Dante Keener
2410	Gabriel Grant	7413	Giovanni Scalzo

**A TRUE LEADER DOESN'T  
CREATE SEPARATION**



**A TRUE LEADER BRINGS  
PEOPLE TOGETHER**

### ? 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](mailto: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 - Mike Sheffler • 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**

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

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



**In The Midst of a  
PANDEMIC**

**Staying Safe**

**WE ARE STILL**

**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

<b>Station 1</b> <i>Engine/Rescue</i>	Brian Turpin	Captain
	Roy Koury	1st Lieutenant
	Tony Rendulich	2nd Lieutenant
	Dave Dorko	2nd Lieutenant
<b>Station 2</b> <i>Truck Co</i> <i>Air &amp; 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
<b>Station 3</b> <i>Engine/Rescue</i>	Dave Price	Captain
<b>Station 6</b> <i>Engine</i>	Rob Giles	Captain
	Nat Winter	1st Lieutenant
	Mike Sheffler	2nd Lieutenant
<b>Station 7</b> <i>Engine/Rescue</i>	Duane Spencer	Captain
	Rob Baker	1st Lieutenant
	Don Fencil	2nd Lieutenant
<b>Station 8</b> <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

 <b>Bloodhound</b> <b>Team</b> 	Lou Battistella	Team Commander
	Bud Mertz	Team Asst. Commander
	Dave Klingler	Lieutenant
	Rob Cameron	Lieutenant
	Elysia Battistella	Training Coordinator & Handler
	Dave Jackson	Handler
	Dave Burnfield	Handler
	Doug Fordyce	Handler
	Greg Saunders	Handler
	Greg Saunders II	Handler
	Brett Steele	Jr. Handler
 <b>Dive &amp;</b> <b>Swift Water</b> <b>Team</b> 	George McFarland	Team Commander
	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
	Mike Recklein	Diver
	Bob Wright	Sonar

*In addition to team members listed above, there are many in the department who serve as important support to both teams. Those who respond to call outs are selected by the Team Commanders. These can vary from call to call, based on circumstances of the call out.*

# The AEROBIC CENTER at Lynch Field

The Aerobic Center was built by the Greensburg Fire Department for the benefit of the Fire department. It is not only the right thing to do for the benefit of YOUR health, but by belonging as a member of the GVFD, you are helping to support the Aerobic Center. All GVFD Firefighters ages 14 and up can belong as a GVFD Benefit - Free-of-charge. GVFD Firefighters' spouses can too benefit and take advantage of a substantial membership savings. Firefighters that train at the Aerobic Center as a GVFD Firefighter receives "Training Hour Credit" recorded each and every month.

As the one that made this all possible used to say.....

"Yours in Good Health"

J. Edward Hutchinson, Chief  
1953-2016





## 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.gbgsfire.org](http://www.gbgsfire.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 surrounding areas, antique fire trucks, equipment, alarms and fire extinguishers, plus parade uniforms, as well as uniform patches from around the country. We also have a large toy and model fire truck collection as well as other memorabilia.



*Goodwill 1925*



*Put Lyons 1905*



Located  
BEHIND  
CITY HALL  
416 S. MAIN STREET

## ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM THE COMMANDER

### CLASS B WEAR

All inquiries should be made to your  
COMPANY BOC REPRESENTATIVE

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.

## To be a Department....

we must look like a Department

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

## GVFD CHALLENGE COINS AVAILABLE



\$10.00  
(See Website for Details)

Things are ALWAYS HAPPENING at  
STATION 4 - GVFD Museum.

Come take a look!

**The place is 'Ever-Changing'**

NEW CONTRIBUTIONS COMING IN  
ALL THE TIME

And don't forget...

**YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE ITEMS TOO!**



## *In Honor of Our Dearly Departed Brothers*



### **PATRICK S. "Rooloo" CRIBBS**

Badge 79– 318  
Joined January 14, 1969  
E.O.W November 17, 2020  
**51 Years of Service**



Patrick S. "Rooloo" Cribbs, 69, of Greensburg, died Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020, at his home. He was born Jan. 7, 1951, in Greensburg, a son of the late James H. and E. Blanche (Patterson) Cribbs. Prior to retirement, he had been the electrician with the City of Greensburg. He was a life member of Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Hose Co. No. 3 and member of the PA State and Westmoreland County Firemen's Associations. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Edward Cribbs, and two brothers-in-law, Robert Cox and Scott Adamson. He is survived by his wife, Deborah L. (Adamson) Cribbs, two daughters, Nicole and Michele Cribbs, of Greensburg, his sister, Carole Cox, of Greensburg, a brother, Michael Cribbs and wife, Jane, of Greensburg, two sisters-in-law, Louise Cribbs and Susan Adamson, and several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

## **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 GVFD logo insignia shirt you wear and the GVFD plate on your car, identifies you and the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. You are expected to conduct yourself accordingly.

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





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.

**Being a PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER results from ...**

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

## Welcome 2020 GVFD Members

Badge	Name	Classification	Badge	Name	Classification
197	Richard J. Smith	Probationary	908	Mike Recklein	Diver
198	Deanna L. Turpin	Probationary	1401	Gavon Swartz	420 Member
225	Joshua Dispennett	Probationary	1416	Nathan DiPasquale	420 Member
271	Julie Grippo	Probationary - Jr	1417	Quentin Turpin	420 Member
657	Matthew Sladky	Probationary	2410	Gabriel Grant	420 Member
658	Carolyn Campbell	Probationary	2414	Benjamin King	420 Member
842	Zach Nowakowski	Probationary - Jr	6412	Lance Davis	420 Member
845	Cole Congden	Probationary	7407	Dante Keener	420 Member
901	Jim Gregg	BHT Training Ofc	7413	Giovanni Scalzo	420 Member

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**



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## **HARD WORK PAYS OFF | In 2020**

**Article by Rick Steele**

On January 12, 2021 the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department will be celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> birthday. 2020 was a strange, but productive year for the Department.

The following is a list of achievements our Department incurred this year:

- Received a grant from **Fire House Subs** for the purchase of 20 Seek personal Thermal Imaging Cameras
- Received a donation from **Seton Hill University** to construct an SCBA competency maze in the Drill Tower
- Received a grant from **Scott Electric** to purchase DeWalt Flex-volt equipment with peripherals distributed to all stations to be placed on Engines, Rescues, Truck and Salvage.
- Received a grant from **Scott Electric** to purchase new Department tee shirts.
- Received a grant from **Pennsylvania Skill** for 6 Seek personal Thermal Imaging Cameras.
- Installed Exhaust Evacuation Systems in Stations 2,3,6, & 8.
- **Advance Fire** donated and Installed new LDH fire department connection and standpipe system in the drill tower.
- Upgrade the drill tower annex with new structural members, windows, and roof.
- Received grants from the **Buncher, Robertshaw, and Greensburg Foundations** to purchase new forcible entry prop.
- Designed and installed a new roof/wall simulator at the drill tower.
- Designed and installed a new live smoke training chamber at the drill tower.
- Purchased and installed 8 new picnic tables in the firefighter's pavilion at Lynch Field.
- Painted and installed new metal for a storage facility in the pavilion at the drill tower.
- Received a grant from the **Allegheny Foundation** to purchase 2 new battery powered spreaders, 1 battery powered cutter and 1 battery powered ram.
- Received a grant from the **Baughman Foundation** to purchase 6 new ballistic vests.
- Received a grant from the **Peoples Gas** to purchase 4 new ballistic vests.
- Donated \$1500 to Westmoreland Walks Pink Angel Fund through the sale of Breast Cancer Awareness shirts.
- Coordinated an effort to bring Thanksgiving dinners to over 80 needy families in the Greater Greensburg Area.
- Repurposed space at Station 8 for Quartermaster and BOC storage areas.
- Coordinated an effort to bring Christmas dinners to over 80 needy families in the Greater Greensburg Area.

This list is very impressive and took a great effort by many people to achieve. Thanks to everyone who helped make these achievements possible. **Here's to an even better 2021!**

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# Greensburg Fire Department

## | Tentative Department Training - 2020

Because of the Pandemic, and having no certainty on when we may assemble once again as a group, a tentative Department Training Scheduled has been arranged.

Notes worth mentioning;

- There will be no scheduled training in January with hopes that we can resume the monthly schedule in February.
- There is a weekend training scheduled in March with Fire Force Inc. and will involve forcible entry instruction. This class will involve 8 hours, and be limited to 20 members each day, members will choose only one day. Sign-up sheets will be distributed to each station sometime in February.
- The Rapid Intervention Training that was scheduled in 2020, and had to be cancelled, is going to be re-scheduled. The date for which has not yet been determined.
- Plans are not yet formalized for the next Essentials to Firefighting Training class.
- Likewise, plans have not been formalized for Firefighter I and Firefighter II classes.

## 2021 - Schedule for Department Training - Updated 12/9/2020

*Classes are held the last Monday of each month and are to begin at 1830 hours, unless noted otherwise \**

**February 22** – New Ambulances / Gas Meters – Location TBD – Guiddy / Krulac

**\* March 20 / 21** – Fire Department Forcible Entry – Fire Force, Inc.

**March 29** – Social Media & Firefighter Laws – Location TBD – Houser

**April 26** – Haz-Mat Decontamination – Training Complex – Tantlinger

**\* May 24** – Fire Extinguishers / Search Techniques – Training Complex – Giles / Henry

**June 28** – Nozzles / Pump Calibrations – Training Complex – Hoyle

**July 26** – Swift Water Awareness – Location TBD – McFarland / Spencer

**August 30** – Vehicle Extrication – Location TBD – Swartz

**\* September 25** – GFD Obstacle Course – Training Complex

**September 27** – GFD Obstacle Course – Training Complex

**October 25** – Roof Cutting / Ladder Practices – Heater / DeFelice

**November 29** – Understanding Chimney Fires – Location TBD

**December** – NO SCHEDULED TRAINING

Hoping that our lives get back to normal and that we will see everyone at the February drill.

Sincerely,

**Rick Hoyle** | Assistant Chief | Department Training Officer



## **BUILDING CONSTRUCTION | “Balloon - Frame” Construction**

By GVFD Assistant Chief W. Calvin Kier

Most of our routine calls involve wood-frame building known as Class V Construction. Initially, the fire starts as a “room and contents” fire that extends throughout the structure.

Homeowners have a habit of creating holes in the wood lath and plaster walls allowing the entry of fire into the walls and ceiling. There tends to be a lot of re-modeling performed in these structures. If the original wood lath and horsehair plaster has not been breached, the room will hold a lot of fire.

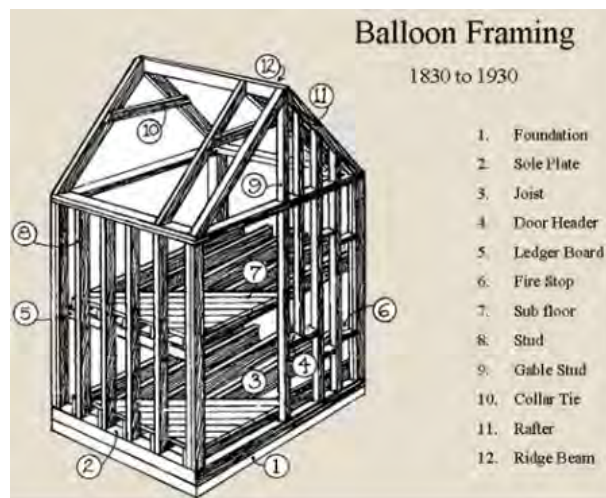
Homeowners tend to place a lot of poke holes in the walls or ceiling. Checking for extension is important and is required in this structure. Veneer and esthetic covering of the exterior wood walls vary greatly. Most are combustible.

The Balloon-Frame construction building is of utmost concern for the firefighter. Inside the walls are basically a four sided wood chimney that runs from the basement of the structure to the attic. Fire stopping is non-existent. These “wood chimney” studs have rough sawn lumber that is capable of catching embers as they pass by supporting fire propagation. The saying is “a fire in the basement - is a fire in the attic”.

Another problem that exists is that the floor joists are supported by a ribbon board, this creates a void that allows the fire to extend horizontally as well as vertically. This is especially important on a windy day, the fire can be blown across the floor void to the other side of the structure. Firefighters need to be assigned to each floor and adjacent rooms to check for extension.

There is a reasonable amount of this type of construction in our area. A lot of the “coal patch” houses from the coal mining era are abundant in central Westmoreland County. The City of Greensburg has its share of Balloon-frame construction house in the older sections of the city. The voids that exist allow a buildup of combustible gasses that can support flashover or backdraft. We tend to get comfortable with this type of fire, but it can bite back.

**Don’t get complacent. Be Careful .....so we can all go HOME!**





## **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 December 7, 2020*

Requested Benefits to Date                      \$ 102,282.35

- Response Stipend    \$ 49,500.00 (15% Response to Calls)
- Physicals                \$ 15,333.00 - Physical Qualifies for Bunker Suit\*
- Training                \$ 7,449.35
- PPE Bunkers Suits    \$ 30,000.00 - Total of 12 at \$2,500.00 ea

⇒ GVFD has Received Benefits of \$65,427.63

⇒ GVFD has submitted \$ 36,967.72 that is presently being processed 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, Doc Kier, Rick Steele, Chris Tantlinger, Brian Turpin, Jeff Swartz, Colten Houser, Kristi Steele, Rick Hoyle,*

*and*





Have you got SWAG? Our new GVFD merchandise is here! We have a great new design on t-shirts, crewnecks, hoodies, ¼ zips, masks, and a vast selection of hats! Due to COVID, I am unsure of when our next SWAG sale will be. If you are interested in purchasing anything contact

**Kristi Steele | [steelehouse265@comcast.net](mailto:steelehouse265@comcast.net)**



Fundraising was a little different for the GVFD this year. Everything was canceled, leaving us to get creative to try to raise money. We had approximately 30 Facebook raffles, generating about **\$15,000 in profit**. Some of our raffles were TV's, iPhones, iPads, MacBooks, grills, snow blowers and the list goes on.....

We appreciate those of you who purchased tickets. You can also help by just simply sharing our raffle posts on Facebook. The more posts you share, the more people who see it!





## NEW RECRUIT/CANDIDATE APPLICATION/PHYSICAL PROTOCOL

by Kristi Steele - RN/GVFD Health Officer - Administration

*Discovered during the GVFD involvement with SAFER Grant, the Physical Protocol used by the SAFER Grant is based on the NFPA 1582 model. Those that were part of the PPE procurement of the Grant, had to have an NFPA 1582 physical. The physical is basically not that much different than what our own physical process has been with a few additions.*

The Medical Evaluation exam components of the NFPA 1582 are:

1. Health Questionnaire and OSHA Questionnaire
2. Drug Screening
3. Immunizations
  - Screening for protection again Hepatitis A-B-C; Polio; HIV; measles; mumps, rubella; tuberculosis, tetanus/diphtheria; and Chicken Pox will be performed. Screening and needed boosters/titers will be conducted and administered as needed.
  - Influenza Vaccinations are provided annually
4. Hands-On Physical will include Vital Signs including Blood Pressure; Pulse; Respiratory rate; Temperature; Height/Weight. Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat will be checked. Audiology Screening. General evaluation of the neck. Musculoskeletal general range of motion. Skin Exam. Body composition evaluation.

There are other tests that include XRAYs; EKG; and Pulmonary Function along with other various tests. But these tests shall be determined if needed, by the Fire Department Physician after a review of the HANDS-ON physical and type and severity of any condition. If these tests are deemed necessary by the Fire Department Physician, the Department will first be informed and will need to approve any further testing.

Should the candidate/recruit pass the basic four (4) components of the NFPA 1582, the Fire Department Physician will sign the Official Fit for Duty Form. This form will be used both for Department and SAFER Grant Purposes. After the SAFER Grant Expires, this process for the GVFD will continue.

For New Recruits/Candidates. An application packet will be available at the Stations and City Hall. The Packet, including the application, may be returned to the Station or City Hall. If the application is dropped at a Station, it is the Station's responsibility to get a copy to the Board of Control. Likewise, if the Board of Control gets the application directly from City Hall, the Board of Control must provide a copy to the station of interest immediately.

BEFORE the New Recruit or Candidate can be voted on by a company, the official physical must be done. **The New Recruit or Candidate must be vetted thoroughly by the Board of Control and the Company before the Department's Health Officer will authorize a physical.** All physicals for the GVFD will be performed by **Dr. Larry Plundo** and will be paid for by the City of Greensburg. The New Recruit or Candidate must call 724-832-2570 to arrange for an appointment once authorized to do so. The physical shall be the LAST STEP in the Application Process. All Bloodwork will be performed by **PA MED LAB** at 207 Clay Ave, Jeannette. All Vaccination information will be transferred to the new GVFD Health Data Base kept by the Department's Health Officer. Once the physical, Bloodwork, and Vaccinations and the "Fit for Duty" form have been completed, the physical packet will be returned to Kristi Steele. Due to HIPAA, the Fire Department does NOT GET A COPY of the Physical or Bloodwork, only the FIT For Duty form and the record of Vaccinations. *On page 18, you will find the GVFD Physical Protocol Form.*



## SAFER GRANT PHYSICAL PROTOCOL

1. You must have completed Mod 1 and 2 of Essentials to qualify
2. Approval must be given by your Captain to proceed with Safer Grant
3. Once criteria is met contact Kristi Steele
  - a. Packet will be given to Firefighter to obtain physical

### PHYSICAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All Safer Grant Physicals are **ONLY** performed by **Dr. Larry Plundo**
  - a. Call 724-832-2570 to make an appointment  
His office is located at 518 Pellis Road
  - b. Once you have an appointment notify Kristi Steele of appointment date
2. Complete as much information as you can on the Physical Form
  - a. Take the packet with you to Dr Plundo's office
  - b. Dr Plundo will complete the physical and fill out the rest of the physical form
  - c. Dr Plundo will bill the GVFD for services
3. Laboratory Testing
  - a. Bloodwork will be ordered- Give Dr. Plundo the laboratory request form that is in the packet. He will fill this out and you will take it to PA Med Lab.
  - b. Bloodwork is to be done at **PA MED LAB ONLY** (206 Clay Ave Jeannette)
    - i. You will take the Lab requisition form with you to have your bloodwork done
    - ii. PA MED LAB will bill the GVFD for your bloodwork
4. Vaccinations
  - a. If vaccinations are warranted, Dr Plundo will administer these
  - b. Make sure you obtain a copy of vaccinations and place in the packet
5. FIT FOR DUTY FORM (Physician's Medical Clearance) **This must be signed by Dr Plundo and Chief Bell**
6. Once physical, bloodwork and vaccinations, and Fit for Duty form have been completed – return packet with all completed documentation to Kristi Steele (due to HIPAA, I do not get a copy of your bloodwork or physical)



## CHAIN-UP .... It's Snowing | by Assistant Chief Rick Hoyle

“Chain-up” is a term that is used when it is snowing, the streets are covering, and the need arises to place tire chains on the rear drive tires of the fire apparatus to insure a more positive grip with the road surface.

Except for the 4-wheel drive vehicles, all of the GFD apparatus are equipped with Roto-Grip, Rud, Automatic tire chains. Prior to the automatics, the only means for navigating through the snow was by wrapping “conventional” tire chains on the rear drive tires.

Because we haven’t experienced a heavy snow in recent years, and because of the efficiency of the Public Works Department for treating the roadways, we haven’t had the need to revert to using conventional chains in several years. However, because of limitations with the automatics the need for having conventional chains available for each vehicle is a must. All vehicles in the GFD, (except for those with 4WD), should have a set of conventional chains available, and should be sized for the tires that they are to be used for.

The automatic chains are attached to the axle at all times, during all seasons, and are controlled by a switch on the dash. The product information for the Rud chains reads: *Automatic tire chains were designed to give you traction on ice and snowpack at the flip of a switch. The speed of the vehicle causes the chains on the chain wheel to lift by centrifugal force; the weight of the chain determines the speed at which they lift and go under the tire. The chain wheels use a smaller chain which will lift at 3 to 4 MPH, and up to speeds of 30 MPH. The wheel has a flat surface that contacts the drive tire so that it has more surface area for less slippage. The chain wheel touches the drive tire around 4 inches above the ground; thus, if the snow is less than 4 inches, they will perform as they should. **If the snow depth is greater than 4 inches, the snow will stop the chains from lifting and going under the tire.** Automatic chain systems will correctly function if the snow is light and powdery, but if the snow is heavy and wet, it may stop the chains from lifting and going under the tire.*

In cases where it may be snowing heavily and the road crews cannot efficiently clear the streets, and where the snow is deeper than 4.00”, the need for wrapping the rear tires with conventional chains come into play. This process is involved and requires knowhow. If the chains are not placed properly on the tires, and the slack is not taken -up with spreaders, the result could be damaging.

### WHAT SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE THE SNOW ARRIVES:

- Exercise the automatic chains by working the switch, (with the vehicle running, park brake set, and wheel chocks in place ahead and rear), to ensure that the chains pneumatically drop in position and make contact with the inside of the tire.
- Check to make sure that there is a set of conventional tire chains for all vehicles that would require them.
  - Inspect the chains to make certain they do not have worn, or broken cross chains, or side chains.
  - Make sure the side chain fasteners are in working order.
  - Have spider tire chain adjuster, tire chain spreaders, or rubber tie-down straps available to tighten the outside, side chain tightly against the tire. This will avoid damaging the body compartment that is in proximity to the tire as it travels on the road.
- Make certain the conventional chains are sized for the tires of the vehicle they will be placed on. Example; Truck 2 chains will not fit the Air Tuck; Engine 8 chains will not fit Salvage 8.

By being better prepared and having the tire chains at the ready should not delay our response when the snow does arrive. Let’s hope for another winter where we are not directed to “CHAIN-UP”



## VICTIM RESCUE by Chris Tantlinger 79-240/Chief 800 HazMat

Firefighting and rescue are inherently dangerous and one must understand that the personal journey of training and readiness can bring you to a moment in which you're faced with rescuing a victim that will require you or your crews' efforts to save a life.

As you are well aware, training only goes so far. Seldom, if ever, has a live patient in a life or death situation been carried out a window and down a ladder, pulled from rubble piles, or involve removing patients from under a burning vehicle on training night. Our training provides for muscle and mental situational memory to prepare us in a ready state to face hazards we may see on the fireground or rescue situations.

Adrenaline, personal situational awareness, weather conditions, hazardous spills, post explosion debris, noise, fire, dismemberment, multiple patients in peril, or even your own crew members all factor into a first responder faced with effectuating victim rescue. You have seen the videos of dramatic rescues that have gone well but then there are the tragic deadly fails that have occurred that have only caused more tragedy because the rescuer was consumed by the hazard.

One has to remember that you can be a statistic within a statistic. Your training can help you make decisions to save lives and go home but you need to consider several things before a rescue attempt. It is important also to envision for every rescue victim, the rescue automatically doubles the victim count if it goes wrong, if not worse. Imprint these into your mental image of victim rescue.

- Assess the victim's location and are they in your line of sight or hidden?
- How many victims?
- What are the obstacles between you and them?
- How long has the victim been there?
- Can you coach them or assist them in self-preservation?
- What are the hazards? Fire, drowning, contamination, flammable/explosive, O2 deficiency, etc.
- Does your PPE, TOG, respiratory protection match the hazard? Water, fire, hazardous material?
- Will you need specialized rescue personnel or equipment? When will it arrive?
- How will you get in? How will you get out?

What is important is that you understand the gravity of your decisions. Rescuing is an art, an understanding, that needs to be visualized and not conducted with reckless abandon. Remember, it is not your fault that the victim is in the situation. Do not become the situation either. Attempting a rescue will be faced with emotion, environments, hazards, conditions and unknowns that can injure and kill you without warning.

Here's a story about Jim Lee, a friend, a firefighter, who trained for this moment, and what seconds and minutes mean to save a life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Apfrxb-kePg>





## NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN | By Deputy Assistant Chief Jeff Swartz

On December 9, 2020, I received a phone call from a neighbor asking if I could come investigate a “fish smell” in her residence. She stated that the smell has come and gone before in the last few days, but today it was seemingly stronger than ever.

The neighbor also stated that her boyfriend had googled “A Fish Smell In The House”. According to the GOOGLE, Electrical Shielding, Wires, and Plastic Components emit a Fish or Urine smell when exposed to high heat.

As I entered the front foyer, there seemed to be a light fish odor present. Upon entering the family room the smell was more distinct. At this point I turned on my GVFD Issued SEEK (personal Thermal Imaging Camera) funded by grant from FIREHOUSE SUBS, and started scanning the room up and down, all four walls.

On the last wall that I scanned, my SEEK picked up on a Wall receptacle that was showing around 150°F, so it was time to take a further look.

I removed the wall plate to find that the top left side of the duplex receptacle was burning, the SEEK was now showing a temperature of 380°F. At this point, we shut the breaker off and removed the receptacle...and yes dumb ass me, I got shocked before the breaker was shut-off!

With all this being said, I have been a firefighter for 30 years now, and this is the first electrical situation I have come across as a smell of FISH!

As I have been told before, by someone who I look up to, “You are never too old to Learn!”



THANKS FOR GIVING THIS A READ! Be Safe



### INFORMATION

#### ON THE

#### SEEK THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiwLagCHbz0>



## EMERGENCY REPORTING

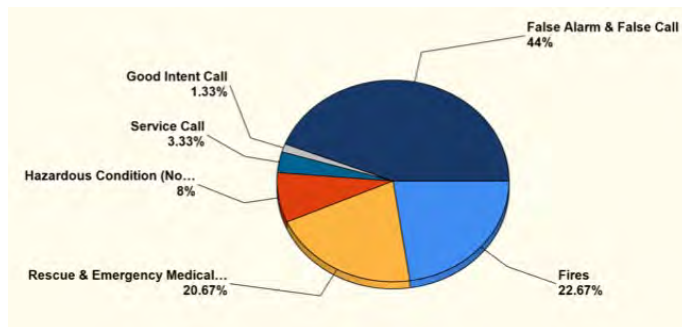
# GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## RESPONSE BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR INCIDENT

September | October | November 2020

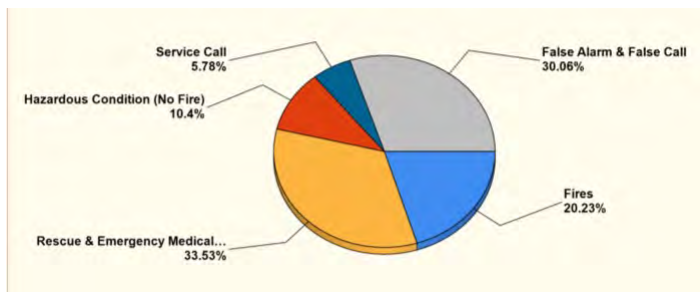


### September 2020



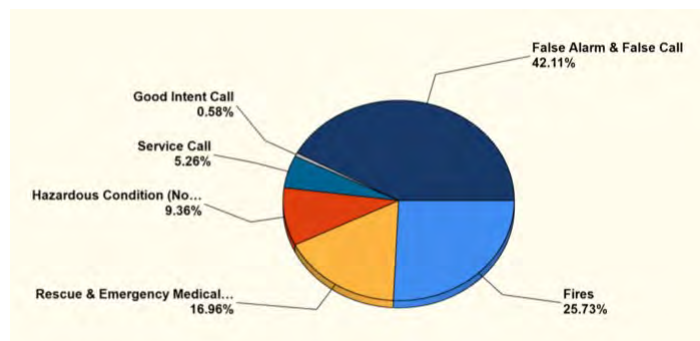
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	34	22.67%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	31	20.67%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	12	8%
Service Call	5	3.33%
Good Intent Call	2	1.33%
False Alarm & False Call	66	44%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

### October 2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	35	20.23%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	58	33.53%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	18	10.4%
Service Call	10	5.78%
False Alarm & False Call	52	30.06%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100%</b>

### November 2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	44	25.73%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	29	16.96%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	16	9.36%
Service Call	9	5.26%
Good Intent Call	1	0.58%
False Alarm & False Call	72	42.11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100%</b>



## From the Commander's Corner

Tony Manley | Ken Bacha | Rich Bauer

- First and foremost, we want everyone to know we hope to get into our Parading next Year. The Greensburg Fire Department has always showed Pride in our Marching Unit and we need to keep it moving forward.
- With the addition of a good number of new 420 and Juniors, we need to encourage them into getting involved in Parading. If you are not interested or can not march any more, please turn your uniform in. We are also looking for new people to help us with our Drum and Bell line.
- Thank you to all the members for showing up at our Department Memorial Calls for our Departed Brothers and Sisters. It is very gratifying to the families when we show up with a large turn-out.
- **Shirts, Jackets, and Badges** | Shirts and Jackets are paid by the Department. The cost of the Badges is that of the member or the company. We are only going to be ordering these items once each year, normally July or August.

Thank you and Be Safe!

**AGAIN... CONGRATULATIONS** to All Our Members Who Have Recently Completed  
MODS 3 & 4 OF ESSENTIALS FOR 2020

**SPECIAL SALUTE TO THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED  
FIREFIGHTER I**



**The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department  
now has....**

**49 - Firefighter I & 9 - Firefighter II Certified Firefighters**

Anyone Interested in getting on board by either taking the Firefighting I Class or upgrading their Certification and go on to sit for the Firefighting II Class, please contact Training Officer Rick Hoyle

Please Check Out the Firefighter I & II Incentive Program Provided by the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department



## PHYSICAL FITNESS |

By Tom Merrill, Chief - Snyder Fire Department | Amherst NY

**Fire Engineering**



Volunteer firefighters come from all walks of Life. Indeed, our ranks are filled with volunteers of shapes and sizes. However, when the alarm bell rings, and our citizens are in need, it is expected that those answering the call are not only technically competent and prepared to help, but physically capable as well. Being a volunteer firefighter affords no excuse for not being physically up to the task, the professional volunteer firefighter should recognize his and strive to take care of themselves through proper physical conditioning.

Firefighters should need no extra motivation to get started or continue on with some type of regular workout routine. Look at the statistics and get a reality check; the number of firefighters passing away from sudden cardiac events is alarming. Firefighters face a multitude of dangers. Every day, their health and safety is threatened by toxic smoke, high heat, and chaotic work environments. But heart attacks continue to be one of the leading causes of firefighter line of duty deaths. Hopefully, by focusing on physical fitness and trying to take just a little better care of ourselves, we can get this number to come down.

**STOP WAITING FOR THE SPARK** | Firefighters can have many hours of sedentary activity. In the volunteer ranks, firefighter can go long periods of time between calls. Our work and family obligations can make it difficult to respond for extended periods of time. This time off and lack of physical activity can be as hazardous as fighting a fire. When we finally do respond to a call, it may turn into a labor intensive operation. Or, we find ourselves getting out of bed in the middle of the night, placing huge demands on our system. The sudden, intense energy demand that is needed to fight a fire or handle an emergency puts a firefighter who is not in good physical condition in grave danger. In my opinion, a firefighter's lack of physical fitness can be viewed as a matter of public safety as well as a threat to one's individual health.

Now, anyone who knows me certainly understands I am not the poster child for the big, brawny, strapping firefighter. I have always had to work extra hard to be able to keep up with those firefighters who, because their sheer size and strength, excel on the fire ground. But, I have always felt that as long as I am a certified structural, interior firefighter, I will be prepared technically AND physically, no matter what is asked of me on the fireground. That's certainly what our citizens expect from the professional firefighter.

Most firefighters I know are sports fans. So, I like to point out that coaches and athletes have long understood the role regular exercise plays in injury prevention and on-field performance. So, firefighters need to understand that this is not limited to just athletes. We must adopt the philosophy that regular exercise and physical activity are important to our overall well being.

What can we do? The first step is to recognize that taking better care of ourselves regularly is just as important as attending and participating in regular drills and training activities. Develop the mindset that you will do this. There are a variety of activities and ways to do so.

*Continued Next Page*

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.gbgfire.org](http://www.gbgfire.org)

Visit us on FACEBOOK

**Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department**





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## Continued - Physical Fitness

Work physical fitness into some of your regular drills. I see nothing wrong with a fun “gym night” involving some physical activity. One of our local departments emptied out the apparatus bay and played dodge ball while wearing turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus! Develop your own combat challenge, simulating a variety of fireground firefighting tasks and physical demands for firefighters such as climbing, hoisting, chopping, and dragging. Our current chief embraced this idea several years ago., and it has been accepted readily by our membership. These drills are also great team building exercises.

Fire department leaders and officers should lead by example and embrace physical fitness as well. They cannot use the excuse that they are too busy and do not have the time. When new members join, tell them physical fitness is important to the job, and encourage them to participate.

Some firefighter might not like me saying this, but I really believe we need to take it easy on the pre and post drill, post-meeting, and post—do anything meals. Firefighters love to eat, and seem to have to have food after every activity. We always seem to reward our members with food. In many cases, we find ourselves eating a meal at 9:30 or 10 o'clock at night, and it is usually the second dinner of the night for us. In my locality, it often involves very heavy and fatty foods like pizza and wings. (heck, I am from Buffalo after all). Is this necessary? If we must eat following a drill or meeting, maybe we should strive to incorporate more health meals into the mix.

Proper hydration is important to our overall health. It is especially true when fighting fires. Studies have shown that being properly hydrated while fighting a fire can reduce the chance of a cardiac event. I know of department that place bottles of water in the cabs of the rigs so firefighter can hydrate on the way to an incident. I also know of firefighter who keep water in their personal vehicles so they can do the same thing.

One last thought: if one of your firefighters complains of not feeling well at or shortly after an incident, do not let them leave! Direct them to receive immediate medical attention so they can be properly and thoroughly evaluated. We are hearing way too many stories about firefighter complain of not feeling well and being sent home. On their way home or after arriving home they suffer a cardiac event and often times nobody's there to help them. And, sadly, often times it's too late to help them.

Firefighters are expected to be well trained, competent, and ready to respond to their communities' calls for help. Just like their departments, they need to enact policies and programs focusing on health and wellness; firefighters have a duty and an obligation to embrace physical fitness to ensure they are capable of performing up to the level for which they are certified. That's what the public expects. It's what we should expect of each other as a professional volunteer.

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*In the Greensburg Fire Department, we are so fortunate to have had Chief J. Edward Hutchinson provide us with the sound foundation and philosophy on Health and Fitness in the Fire Service. Hutch recognized the importance and was the driving force that founded a Fitness Center that not only benefitted his Command, but also the provided smart fitness for the entire community of Greensburg. All Greensburg Firefighters are eligible to received a full-membership by virtue of a benefit provided by the Greensburg Fire Department Relief Association. Any firefighter member who utilizes his or her membership, their spouse is afforded a membership at the Aerobic Center at greatly reduced membership rate. Any Greensburg firefighter who uses the Aerobic Center Facility receives a one-hour of Health Fitness Training Credit for each visit, which is added to his or her training record. Chief Tom Merrill in the above article speaks about firefighter fitness in common sense terms. However, he is not able to tell us anything we haven't already been told before, he simply has reminded us.*

***How about a 2021 Renewed Resolution to Fitness, hell we might even be able to play dodge ball again.***

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# The Real Problem ... The Lack of Mentoring

By Colten Houser | GVFD Junior Firefighter

It is easy for those of us who have earned our spot to sit back and say, “That rookie is stupid, send him home” or “that rookie isn’t worth my time, she doesn’t love the job.” But have we ever sat back and thought to ourselves that *we* were the problem? The words we chose to describe them – **millennial**, kid, idiot: Do we call them that because of their skill sets, or is it because we haven’t done our job teaching them those skills?

The lack of **mentoring** is what is killing the fire service today. When we were rookies, those old heads were saying the same thing about us. I promise. The difference is that they would complain – and then bring us to the floor and drill until we couldn’t see straight. They would make us smart, make us worth their time, make us a firefighter, and make us love the job.

There was no choice. They had a job to do as senior members, and they did it. That’s the tradition we **MUST** keep alive today. More than ever to be honest.

## TEACH THE LOVE OF THE JOB

Everything has changed in this world, and we must change, too. We must understand that some of these kids are coming to us with no real life experience. Some have never folded clothes, mowed the yard, worked a real job. That’s not our fault, but it is our problem; it is our job to teach them, grow them and show them the ropes. I developed a “Teach the Love of the Job” test for myself to keep me motivated, keep me working hard and keep me mentoring other firefighters. It’s pretty simple:

1. Make them proud
2. Ask about their life
3. Ask them how they learn
4. Love them
5. Do your job

Following this process, I have seen a difference in how I approach a rookie hitting the station. Let’s go through each item.

**Make them proud:** Right at the start of shift, after they introduce themselves and put their ice cream in the fridge and the cake on the counter, I make them get their helmet with that fresh wax job from delivery and the fresh orange probie front piece, and sit them on the front bumper. I tell them what it means to be a firefighter, to sit on the front bumper, the stories that have been told, the shoulders that have been leaned on and the gear that has used it as a resting place.

I make them sit tall and take a picture with their helmet. I then explain to them that they do not sit on that bumper again until the crew gives them the right to because they haven’t earned it yet. This starts the shift off right, gives them a piece of history to grab on to, and shows them right off the bat how much **YOU** love the job and the history of the job.

*Continued Page 33*



## GVFD NEXT GENERATION



### OBSERVATIONS

By “Cool Cat” Colten Houser, Jr FF

**This is something I see far too often in many department apparatus or garages, or even on personal radios.** So it didn't surprise me when one of the antennas on a radio snapped on Engine 7. We sent it to BearCom to be repaired—no big deal, right? Wrong. That night was a large fire in Hempfield Township in which we needed the 800 capabilities on a portable unit. That didn't happen. All because of this. This is an article I “creatively borrowed” from PinTheQ Productions website and Facebook:

The article reads: “This happens far too often and needs to be addressed. **Radios are your lifeline** and is everyone's responsibility. This is where I have to call it what it is, laziness! Put the radios back into the chargers correctly and ensure the red charging light comes on. If the light doesn't come on....figure out why and tell a boss. Radio maintenance is a must, antennas, collar mics, and internal speakers. Be part of the solution and not part of the problem. For the love of God, please stop clipping the mics to the Antennas!...”



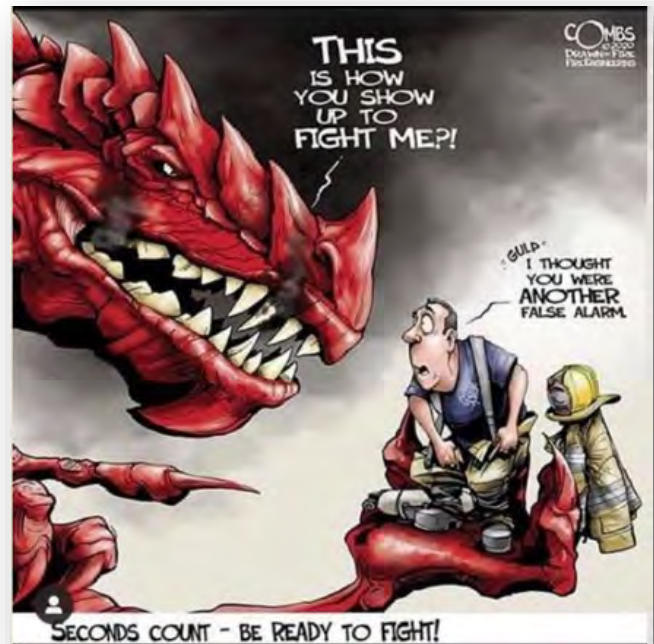
This article goes **hand in hand** with the thought that radios should NEVER be pulled out of the charging cradle by their antennas. Remember this: would you want someone dragging **you** out of bed by **your** antenna?

## That's not what I meant!

**We've all had that one moment...** where we got on the radio and either were too excited or completely distracted. I can personally say I've heard it from everyone, at every agency, at every county. But, I'll pick on me. When it was our shift to bell ring last year, the fire alarm went off in the apartment building right next to Bortz's. My dad went upstairs to investigate, and came back down for Knox keys. He said to advise C-1 that incense set off the alarm. I relayed that to Tom and thought I did ok. All these texts started blowing up on my phone, and I took a glance at one. I later went back into my radio archives and pulled up what I said. Instead of incense, I had said INSEST! (Whoops.) But the best part about that is, it happens and you learn. When someone makes a goof on the radio, it's OUR fault for them not knowing how, and it's OUR fault for not teaching them the right way. Remember that young officers, juniors and Firefighters are learning. There's no need to cause a commotion, just suggest to that person something along the lines of, “next time we're approaching scene, remember to say we're driver only, that way township command knows we're driver only.”



## HUMOR with a Message !



## Running the Turnpike | with GVFD Apparatus

### Orders of the Chief

### EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

December 14, 2020

Whenever a GVFD Apparatus is responding to an alarm outside of the city, and the quickest and safest route to the scene is via a section of the actual PA Turnpike or any of the other toll roads operated by the PA Turnpike Commission such as the Amos K. Hutchinson By-Pass, upon going enroute, please contact County Dispatch and request a 4-Digit Pin Number from the Turnpike Administration.

Dispatch will log the issued 4-Digit Pin Number within the Spotted Dog Cad Narrative for later use by the City's Fiscal Department. GVFD vehicles are not equipped with EZ-Pass devices. The toll booths are now unattended. Any vehicle passing through a toll booth and not equipped with an EZ-PASS will have the vehicle's registration plate photographed by the PA Turnpike and, the City will ultimately receive an invoice for the unpaid toll. In order to be exonerated from the charge, the City will return the invoice with the 4-digit pin attached.

The operator of the vehicle is responsible for the 4-digit pin request. Failure to request will fall into the lap of the vehicle operator, who will then be responsible for the payment of the toll.





# Best Wishes

## To Our GFD Brothers & Sisters

January | February | March

### January

1	Tom Kubinec	14	Trevor Swartz	19	John Mangini	25	Larry Weimer
	Andrew Strezo		Bob Wright		Chad Medved	26	Cole Congden
2	Steven Rossi	15	Pierre DeFelice, Jr	20	Will Gladora		Shawn Heacox
3	Jeffrey Rhodes	17	George Pomaibo		Gregory Saunders	27	Dante Keener
5	Frank Romagnoli		Garan Warren	21	Mike Korba	29	Bob Baker
8	Chet Bell		Robert Good		David McArdle	30	Frank Blatney
	Doug Fordyce	18	James McAdams	22	Jim Fontana	31	Joseph John
10	Jack Pyle		Mark Seighman		Scott Kundrick		

### February

1	John Ackerman	9	Ed Cox	16	Roy Mowearly	23	Dan Bell
3	Chris Tantlinger	10	Eric Waugaman		Randy Sterrett		Randy Finfrock
4	Randy John	11	John Shuey	18	Patsy Musa	25	Nick Mirolli
	James Liberini	13	Rudy Kolbosky III	19	Nicholas Fontana	26	Tony Jioio
5	Dale Hutchinson Jr	15	Julius Claypool	20	Matt Iezzi		Joe Niedzalkoski
8	Gene Zulisky	16	Jeffrey Guiddy	21	Zach Nowakowski	28	Jeff Heater

### March

1	Mike DiCriscio Jr	8	Patrick Krajc	22	John W. Seighman	30	Jeff Henry
3	Gabriel Olenick	12	Scott Hirst	24	Rob Giles		Aaron Marshall
4	Dick Johnson	15	Ryan Heater		Christian Lake	31	David Price
5	Greg Saunders	18	Jerry Chellman	25	Tracy Miller		
6	Sam Wian		Jeff Swartz		Robin Ross		
7	Paul Cycak	19	Justin Calisti	27	William Bickel		



## **GREENSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT | Bloodhound Team**

By Team Commander Lou Battistella



### **Responses/Call Outs**

The Bloodhound Team responded to 29 Calls this year. Last year, we had 26 Calls. Assists with the Pennsylvania State Police totaled 12 from the Greensburg, Kiski and Uniontown Barracks; assisted Greensburg PD, Murrysville PD, Rostraver PD, Ambridge PD, Allegheny Township PD, Ligonier PD, Lower Burrell PD, Dormont PD, Gilpin Twp PD, Indiana Twp; and helped both the West Newton and Chestnut Ridge Fire Departments.

### **Training**

There were 19 Group Training Sessions conducted at various locations both in Westmoreland and Allegheny County. The Bloodhounds collectively logged 262 Bloodhound Hours and the humans logged a total of 694 man-hours - (a total of 33 different personnel at various training sessions).

### **Training/Certification**

Due to COVID, both the Spring 2020 McHenry MD & and the Fall 2020 Matthews, NC certification seminars were cancelled. The 40 Hour Training & Certification Seminars hosted by the National Police Bloodhound Association are attended by the Greensburg Bloodhound Team Handlers and their Hounds exclusively.

### **Support Team Members**

The Bloodhound Team heavily depends on its support members for training and for calls. Not all support members go on calls. More senior team members after demonstrating their interest and have garnered the confidence with the Handlers on the Team as well as that of the Commander, will be told if they will be needed on a call. Fitness, and ability to follow orders is paramount. Those who are members of the Department wanting to help train as trail-layers are almost always welcome to do so. This is where you get to be known.

### **Our Bloodhounds**

Doug Fordyce's Bloodhound Fancy is officially retired now at the age of 11 with some health issues; Sophy (Fancy's sister) is semi-retired with some health issues but still works from time to time. Elysia has started working Darcy (one of Lou's dogs - age 6) and Dave Burnfield is working Lou's other dogs, Delphie—age 7) Greg Saunders, Sr.'s dog - Eddie is still working as well as Gregory Saunder's dog - Sadie, both 7 years-old. David Jackson's dog - Lucy is working very well at the age of 8. Sassy, Brett Steele, Jr. Firefighter and handler, is training right along side the other dogs and is really pounding the trail hard. Sassy is one-year old. She should have been certified this past fall, but that didn't happen under the COVID shut-down. If David Jackson needed a spare dog, Sassy would be a perfect temporary choice for David. We have more dogs than we need at this time. The trouble in having so many dogs, they all don't get a chance to work, and to a Bloodhound, training and working are two different trailing situations, training is all for fun to them, but working an actual trail under the influence of the handler being stressed, the experience is totally different. The Greensburg Bloodhound Team has had over 24 dogs in its 51-years of existence. On the average, our dogs only lived for 8 to 10 years.



# TALK ABOUT IT

**Bobby Tanyer | Behavioral Health Adult Program Specialist**

BY KRISTI STEELE, RN/GVFD Medical Officer

## Did you know?

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and is a significant public health problem. Suicide has also become a major concern among firefighters with rates for suicidal ideation and attempts in firefighters two to three times higher than rates in the general population. Firefighter suicide and mental health are major issues facing firefighters.

The GVFD takes your mental health seriously. As firefighters, we see a lot of disturbing situations. It is not healthy to bottle it up inside. You need to TALK ABOUT IT! Whether it is in a support group amongst fellow firefighters, a friend, myself, or a behavioral health specialist, there is ALWAYS someone to talk to. Never feel that you are alone, most likely someone else is feeling the same way too.

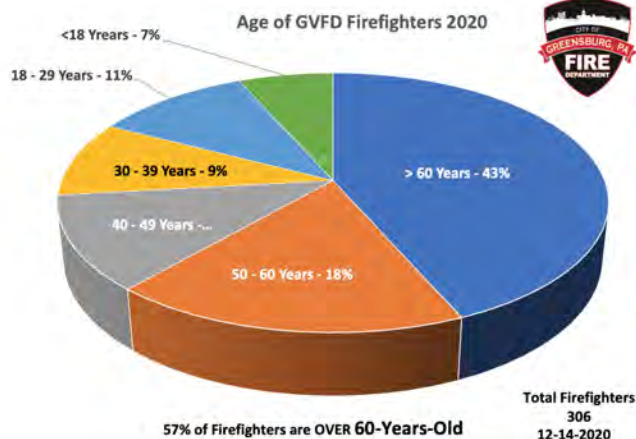
DCORT (Disaster, Crisis & Outreach Referral Program) and CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management Team) is a FREE service that is available to you. If you are struggling, feeling hopeless, or just not feeling yourself, please reach out for help.

**Westmoreland County BHDS Office**

The GVFD outreach is **40 North Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 110**  
**724-830-3904**

## GVFD STATISTICS | as of 12-14-2020

- Incidents (1-1-20 to 11-30-20 - 11 mos.) **1,718 Incidents**
- 5% Response of Total Incidents **86/Year or 7/Month**
- Total No. of GVFD FF's (Roster) **306**
- No. of FF's Respond to at least 5% of Alarms **68 (22% of Roster)**
- No. of FF's Earned a Minimum of 11 hrs  
Of Training from 1-1-20 to 11-30-20 **127 (42%)**
- No. of FF's (same period) did not  
Participate in any Training **154 (50%)**

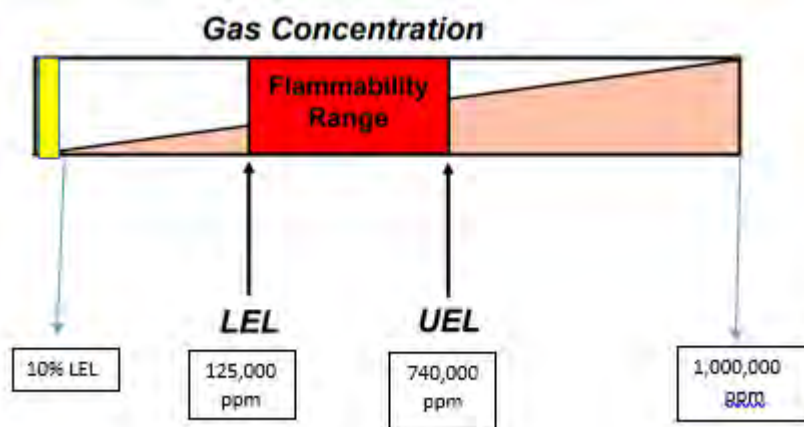




## Is CARBON MONOXIDE .... Flammable ???

Submitted by Brian E. Turpin, Captain | Hose Company No. 1

Actuality NO, there are no levels of CO that are high enough to be flammable in our area that we would ever see. The steel industry is a different story. If you have ever taken a Hazardous Material class, you know that every gas has a Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) and an Upper Explosive Limit (UEL) assigned to it by NIOSH. Below the LEL is said to be too lean to maintain combustion or have a fire. Above the UEL is said to be too rich to have a fire or explosion. For CO, for example, the LEL is 125,000ppm and the UEL is 740,000ppm. If the range of CO that you detect is between those 2 numbers, then yes, it would be flammable. There are not many gas monitors out there that will read that high anyway. How high will our Sensit instruments read for CO?



Which brings me to my next topic, how do we search for CO leaks on incidents? What are things we can look at? First, ensure you do not have any Natural Gas (methane) leaking in the house. If you do, then get out, shut off the gas, and call the gas company if not already done by the OIC. Typically, the first thing we look at is the furnace. Turn up the heat on the thermostat, wait for the furnace to kick on and check the furnace area and vents throughout the house or business for any readings. Check the stove. Were the residents cooking when the CO alarm went off? Remember, as a oven fires up, it will give off some CO. Next, run some hot water so the hot water tank kicks on. Check around it as well as the flue area. You may find the flu is blocked, pushing all that CO gas back down the pipe into the house or business. Even though it sound obvious, check the garage for a running car. You would probably already have your gas meter in alarm when you walk in the door, but a lot of homes are sealed up pretty good these days. Check that garage area for those pesky running cars regardless if the resident says it is off! Take a look at gas dryers, again, vents can be blocks, or they can be found not burning correctly. In businesses and homes there are plenty of other things to investigate. Over the years I've found kilns, ceramic welding, and believe it or not, a natural gas fired refrigerator! The old fridge was found to not be burning at the right BTU, causing CO. There are many other things that may cause odors such as sewage, drains, batteries off gassing, and most recently an Oil storage facility. Be thorough in your investigations and remember, all gas meters have a sample response time before they will detect the actual reading, so you can't just waive around your meter and expect it find anything. Most importantly, turn on your gas meter outside in fresh air. Never turn it on standing next to the exhaust of a truck or inside the house/business. Thanks for reading.





## Continued from Page 26 | **The Problem**

**Ask about their life:** After morning checkoffs of the rig, I sit them down in my office. I tell them about my life and my career – what got me to where I am and what it takes to be successful.

Next is their turn. I ask them about their life, what experiences they have, what hobbies they have, how many jobs have they had. This is very important. This is where I get involved in their life. You must learn your people, you must be engaged in them, you must be there physically, mentally, emotionally. You must show them that this is the best job in the world. While they talk, you should be writing, taking notes, remembering the high points of the conversation.

I will warn you that this step usually brings up some awkward moments, but if it's important to that rookie, then it's important to you. Ask them for their birthday, their family members' birthdays (partner, kids), ask them for an emergency contact number for you to have.

The best thing is that you are doing all these things, and that kid just thinks it's because you're the boss, but that's not true, is it? No, it's not! What you're doing is setting their foundation to allow them to love the job and be engaged. It is key to their success. Without taking the time to understand their back story, you do not truly know what you have to work with.

**Ask them how they learn:** This is one of the most crucial parts. This is what will make that kid succeed or fail. Yes, there are certain aspects of the job that you can only teach one way, but if you know *how* they learn, then you can adapt that style to the one way of teaching a certain aspect. What gets their clock ticking – hands on, Power-Point, reading, something else? If you can pass on the knowledge in a way they can pick up, then they will have a better chance to succeed.

Of course, there's way too much more to go on, but to get more, type "**are millennials really the problem Jacob Johnson**" into google, and it comes right up.

## **Behind the hydrant!**

One thing that is never emphasized enough is to stand behind the hydrant.

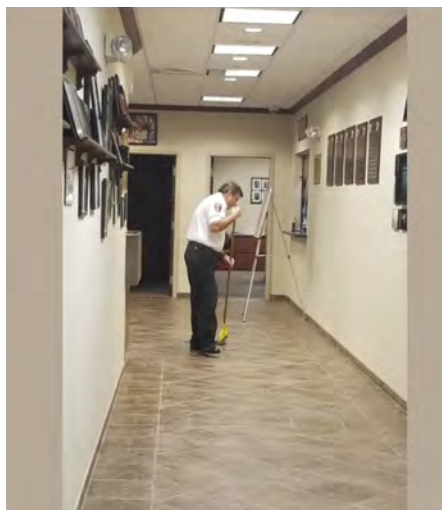
Here is a great example of why:



## **Some Closing Food for Thought**

This guy with 40+ years in the Fire Service. Runs an acclaimed Fire Department, Balances the Budget, and Provides services above the norm.

He still mops the floor as his chores. A Great Example of Leadership





# WestCoFire Regional SAFER Grant



## Call/Alarm Response Stipend 2020

This is the third year of GVFD's participation in the Response Stipend, a component of the Regional SAFER Grant. This is for firefighters who have attended a minimum of 15% of the calls/alarms, he/she was eligible to attend during this time frame. Firefighters are only eligible for Call/Alarm Stipends after they turn 18. If they turn 18 during this time frame; they're eligible for alls/alarms attended on/after their respective birth-date.

Accurate records of total calls/alarms for the department, total response from each eligible firefighter, percentage of responses from each eligible firefighter and correlating dollar amount to a maximum \$550

110 Max Calls x \$5 per Call = \$550.00, must be submitted to FEMA.

**YEAR 3 was based on Calls attended**

**From December 1, 2019 to October 32, 2020 - (11 Months)**

The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department is proud of this year's stipend recipients' accomplishment. The GVFD treasurers you for you dedication and extraordinary effort in your response numbers. Special Recognition goes to the following **35 members** of the Department:

*Dave Dorko | William Koker | Christian Koury | Jeff Swartz | Brian Turpin | Pierre DeFelice, Sr  
| Daniel Grant | Jeff Heater | Dave Klingler | Don Kundrick | Bob Price | Ron Spisso | Joe Wag-  
ner | Rob Giles | Galen Ross | Chet Bell | Tom Bell | Don Fencil | Will Gladora | Kim Houser |  
Duane Spencer | Rick Steele | Travis Berry | Patrick Dean | Chris Gaia | Jeff Henry | Rick Hoyle  
| David Jackson | Dick Johnson | Christian Lake | Derek Manley | Tony Manley | Trevor Turin |  
Austin Wentzel*

## *Congratulations To All!*

**These firefighters will each received a**

**SAFER GRANT STIPEND of \$550.00 | Total Stipend: \$19,250.00**

### Number of Recipients per Station

Station 1 - 5 Firefighters

Station 2 - 8 Firefighters

Station 3 - None

Station 6 - 2 Firefighters

Station 7 - 8 Firefighters

Station 8 - 12 Firefighters



## PHOTO GALLERY



*"When many People  
In many Little Places  
Do many Little Things;  
Then the  
Whole World  
Changes!"*

May You and Your Family Have a  
Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

