

Pleasant Unity VFD

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Summer 2014

Newsletter



(Above) PUVFD firefighter Justin Bohon and (Below) PUVFD firefighters Matt Slater and Matt Bacha at structural burn class



OUR YOUNGEST PUVFD FIREFIGHTERS SPEND A GREAT AMOUNT OF TIME TRAINING

Three of Pleasant Unity Volunteer Fire Department's youngest members recently spent countless hours of training over the last year to complete their "essentials of firefighting" classes. Firefighter Matt Bacha, Firefighter Justin Bohon and Firefighter Matt Slater finished their series of classes with a structural burn session held at the Westmoreland County Public Safety Training Center near Smithton. The series of classes included "Intro to the Fire Service", "Fireground Support", "Exterior Firefighting", "First Aid", "AED/CPR", "Hazardous Materials Operations Level", "Interior Firefighter" and "Structural Burn Session" comprising of approximately 188 hours of instruction. Classes were held at PUVFD over the last 9 months two or sometimes three days a week. These young men sacrificed a great amount of time to obtain this training. Please thank them for their commitment to their community service.

PLEASANT UNITY VFD FIREFIGHTERS COMPLETE STATE AND NATIONAL PRO-BOARD FIREFIGHTER 1 CERTIFICATION TESTING AT INDIANA FIRE ACADEMY

Five PUVFD firefighters completed a 24 hour prep class and took a written and practical physical skills test to be certified under the Commonwealth of PA and National Pro-Board standards as a Firefighter 1. Newly trained Firefighters Matt Bacha, Justin Bohon and Matt Slater were joined by veterans Assistant Chief Chad Henschel and Fire Chief John Bacha to be certified as a "Firefighter 1". This voluntary certification program benefits the department with additional grant funding. The newly certified members join Firefighters Alex and Lea Frye and Captain Tyler Riel who previously completed the voluntary certification program. Congratulations to these members for completing the certification testing.



(L to R) PUVFD Firefighters Justin Bohon, Matt Slater, Assistant Chief Chad Henschel, Firefighter Matt Bacha and Fire Chief John Bacha at Indiana County Fire Academy certified testing center

PUVFD HELPS LOWER YOUR HOMEOWNER INSURANCE

The Insurance Service Office recently re-rated Unity Township Fire Departments capabilities resulting in a one point rating jump which will result in lower insurance rates for you. The rating looks at many items including trucks, equipment, training, equipment testing and manpower. Fire department leaders across the township have been working together focusing on specific items to make this happen.

INFORMATION VIA WEBSITE

The updated PUVFD website is a user friendly media that contains loads of new information, current news items, recent calls and upcoming events in addition to an apparatus gallery, pictures, guestbook and much more. The website has seen approximately 300 to 500 different users logging on and viewing between 2000 to 2500 pages on the website each and every month. We are happy to see so many people are using this source for happenings at your department and community. If you have not yet, please take a few minutes to check out all the sections of the website and don't forget to enter your email address in the "Newsletter" section down the left margin so you will receive news updates directly to your email. The only emails you will receive are updates and announcements from PUVFD—we will NOT provide email addresses to any third party.

WWW.PUVFD.ORG



(above) Home page of the PUVFD website.



(right) Santa Claus & PUVFD Firefighters deliver treats to local children

PUVFD PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN

PUVFD firefighters have patrolled the streets of our home fire district for many years on trick or treat night in the township helping to keep our children safe. Firefighters also drive Santa Claus around these same streets on the back of a fire truck just prior to Christmas, passing out treats to our local children. Watch our website for information on dates and times this happens each year. The local children love to see Santa on the firetruck and of course many photos are taken.

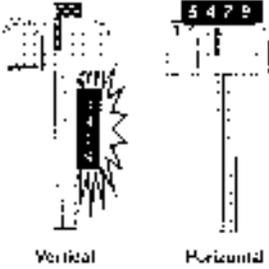
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SMOKE DETECTORS

It is imperative that you check your smoke detectors operation regularly. If you can't remember the last time you changed the battery it is likely time for a change. We have had many incidents where smoke detectors made a difference between life and death.

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PUVFD CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH HOW THESE SIMPLE ADDRESS MARKERS SAVE VALUABLE TIME AT TIME OF AN EMERGENCY

These simple address marker signs that cost a mere \$15.00 each make the world of difference when firefighters, police and emergency medical responders are trying to locate your home. We cannot stress enough how important it is to have these reflective address markers in front of your house or business.

We had a recent life threatening emergency call where it took us extra valuable minutes to locate the proper house because the resident had no number posted. The next door neighbor had numbers on their mailbox across the street but several numbers had screws missing and the numbers were hanging upside down making it almost impossible to read in an emergency situation.

Please be certain that your address numbers are on a post IN FRONT of your residence and NOT on your mailbox post across the street. Placing the number across the street only confuses responders as all streets now have the even numbers on one side of the road and the odd numbers on the opposite side.

A local Unity Township ordinance also requires you to place your number properly. PUVFD continues to sell these markers and make little profit doing so—we just want to see one in front of every house and business. An order form is available at www.puvfd.org or stop by the station, Country Café or Gaut-Bacha Funeral Home to get an order form, call Mark at 724-771-5321 or by email at addressmarkers@puvfd.org.

WE NEED HELP! CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

Pleasant Unity VFD has a good group of hard-working firefighters but we continue to grow older. For the first time in over 20 years we have no members in our Junior Firefighter group and we are always looking for men and women at least 18 years old to join our Regular Active Firefighter roster. PUVFD will provide new members with firefighting gear and pay for all training classes. If you might be interested in becoming a firefighter with PUVFD please check out the information on our website and complete an application. Non-active memberships are also available for persons who may be unable to perform as an active firefighter but may be able to assist in other ways with business skills or fundraising. You can usually find someone at the fire station Monday evenings or email chief@puvfd.org.

COUNTY CHANGES DISPATCH SYSTEM WHICH REQUIRES US TO REPLACE ALL ALERTING PAGERS CARRIED BY FIREFIGHTERS

Our county 911 dispatch center is in the process of changing from a low band radio dispatch system to a high band system as parts for the antiquated low band system become very hard to obtain. This change started earlier in 2014 and all fire departments are required to change to the new high band system by January of 2015. This change requires us to replace ALL alerting pagers carried by firefighters at a cost of \$395 each—a necessary item for alerting firefighters but an expensive endeavor for our small department to tackle. New units are ordered and this costly project forced us to dig into some cherished savings to accomplish. Fund drive responses have never been more important as we struggle to make this important change in equipment. Those with programmable scanners can program frequency 155.040 for fire dispatches.



New Alerting Pagers Purchased For Alerting Firefighters Of Emergency Calls On New Countywide Dispatch System

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Spring Tractor/Lawn Equipment Ticket:

Tickets are being sold for a chance to win a brand new 2014 Cub Cadet Z Force Turn tractor, push mower and garden cart along with a chainsaw, weed wacker and leaf blower, a 6X10 trailer to haul the equipment and a \$100 gas card. The winning number will go off on the PA Lottery Saturday, June 21st.

Fall Gun Bash:

PUVFD holds a Spring and Fall gun bash each year as fundraising events. The Spring gun bash was held Saturday, March 1st and again was a successful event. This year's Fall gun bash being held Saturday, September 13th will again be a 1000 ticket event like last fall. All guns on this special ticket are made by Browning and a 2014 Polaris Camo ATV will also be given away from the ticket. Tickets for the fall fun bash event will be available late June.

Bonanza XXIX Elimination Dinner & Drawing Ticket:

The longest running fundraiser event held by our department is the Bonanza Elimination Dinner & Drawing which will be celebrating its 29th anniversary this fall with the dinner scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2014. For a \$100.00 donation per ticket you get a chance to win \$9,050.00 in cash prizes, receive dinner for the ticketholder and a guest, an open bar and all the fun you can handle. We only sell 175 tickets for this event and after a fine dinner we begin drawing numbers and giving away cash prizes to every 10th number drawn. When we are down to the last 5 people remaining they are invited to our "champagne table" to decide whether to split the grand prize of \$6,500.00 or continue on until one person wins it all. It is an exciting event with many people of the residential and business community who attend. Please consider trying out this event—you won't be sorry. For more information please contact any PUVFD firefighter or chairman Mark at bonanza@puvfd.org or 724-771-5321.

Social Hall Rental:

The PUVFD social hall is available for rent for almost any type event. Call Bernie at 724-454-6849 for information and scheduling.