

The Spanner



Winter 2006

Issue 10

Lingohocken Fire Company • Post Office Box 102 • Wycombe, PA 18980 • Telephone 215-598-3500
Contributors: Cheryl Gorski • Greg Jakubowski • Wayne Murphy • Chester Pogonowski • George Rowe • Pat Scanlon

FIREPLACES, WOOD STOVES AND CARBON MONOXIDE

This is the season when winter's chill can be pushed back with the warmth and beauty of a log fire in the fireplace or woodstove. But it also is the season when carelessness or inexperience can cause death or serious injury. For many inexperienced fireplace users, we offer these cautions:

- Always use a screen to prevent embers from popping out onto carpets or flooring
- Use seasoned hardwood, and avoid pine, spruce or hemlock logs since they have lots of resin that builds up as creosote in the flue
- Never use newspaper to start the fire. Loose paper can be drawn up the chimney and fuel a chimney fire.
- When leaving the fire, spread the logs apart, and leave the damper open to vent carbon monoxide.
- If you dispose of the ashes, allow at least 72

hours to pass before taking them out of the fireplace. It takes at least that long for them to cool safely.

- Always place the ashes in a metal can – NEVER IN A CARDBOARD BOX OR GROCERY BAG!

Carbon monoxide is a very toxic, colorless, odorless product of combustion, and it can cause symptoms over time in even low concentrations. Recently a local family found that their investment in a carbon monoxide detector (CO detector) came from a very good decision since it sounded while they were asleep to alert them to a build-up of CO that already was causing symptoms of headache, and could have caused an even worse outcome.

Windows and doors were opened to bring in fresh air and to dissipate the gas, and in short order they were able to return to their home safely.

KATRINA RELIEF

The Lingohocken Fire Company was proud during the year to donate our 1973 Hahn pumper to Waveland, Mississippi – a community devastated by Hurricane Katrina. After 30 years of use, we took this vehicle out of service and it replaced it. The

engine was loaded up with firefighting equipment from numerous other fire companies from the area. It was trailered to Mississippi to provide interim fire protection until the fire company there is able to restore or replace its damaged apparatus.

FROM THE CHIEF

For those of you who have donated to our much-needed Fund Drive in the past, we thank you so very much. The monies enable us to protect your families and ours from the ravaging effects of fire, flood, vehicular accidents and more.

To help us protect your home and property in a more direct way - be sure to install smoke and CO detectors in your home. Once installed, maintain good working order by replacing the batteries with the changing of clocks for Daylight time. Dust and vacuum detectors often to ensure proper operation.

If your home is equipped with a Residential Fire Alarm System PLEASE perform yearly maintenance. In 2005, some 60% of all of our dispatches were false alarm system calls. Many of these calls may have been avoided if routine maintenance had occurred. Contact your alarm

company for this critical service. Our firefighters are highly trained and always at the ready, but no matter how good we are we cannot be in two places at once – a false alarm could keep us from an actual emergency. Don't take us away from a neighbor in need – maintain your alarm systems. As reported last year, it would cost taxpayers \$37.2 billion dollars annually if all volunteer fire companies nationwide were replaced with paid crews. In Pennsylvania alone, it would cost approximately \$6 billion or one-sixth of the total national cost! Your contributions along with grant monies make it possible for us to remain a volunteer organization. We will continue to protect our community – please continue your critically important support.

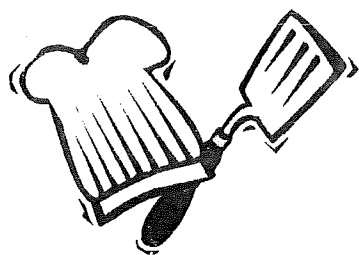
Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Chief Wayne G. Murphy Jr

WHAT ABOUT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES?

We continue to provide a home for Central Bucks Ambulance and Rescue Unit – Squad 135. They lease the “old” portion of the Wycombe station – facing Mill Creek Road – from us. We believe it is vital to have an emergency medical services presence in this area and felt this partnership is the best way to accomplish this.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Over 750 community members attended our pancake breakfast in April. We received generous donations of services or good things to eat and drink from the Wawa on Trenton Road (managed by

Wrightstown resident Greg Soto), Hometown Deli (Warren and Denise Gormley), Fairview Farm (Sharon Ruth), and Geerlings Nurseries. Be sure to stop by and thank these folks for their continued community support. Surplus milk and juice from the breakfast were donated to the Bethanna Home in Southampton.

We held a very successful open house at the station for Fire Prevention Week in October. A fire prevention contest was held with awards given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place along with honorable mentions for each grade from K – 6. John Myers of J-Vac Maintenance donated prizes. Our members stand ready to come speak to your community group on safety and fire safety topics that may be appropriate to you – just contact us through our website or at 215-598-3500.

Associate Member Christine Lloyd has put a lot of effort into updating and further developing our website, including fun things for kids to do in our Prevention section.

Check us out at www.lfco.org

FAQs

Do your firefighters get paid?

NO – all of our firefighters are volunteers, receiving no compensation for serving their communities.

So what happens when I call for help?

When you dial 9-1-1, calls are answered by the Bucks County Dispatch Center in Doylestown. They obtain the information, and send the correct units for the type of call. They will activate the voice pagers our members carry and our firehouse siren in Wycombe. Our members respond to our two stations to get the apparatus to respond to the location. Generally, our chief officers will respond directly to the scene in their vehicles. We will bring the right equipment for the type of emergency, based on the information the caller provides. If we arrive and find we need more help, or specialized equipment, we simply can request it via the County dispatch center.

What areas do you cover?

All of Wrightstown Township and portions of Buckingham and Upper Makefield Townships.

Why do you cover portions of townships?

Generally, coverage area is determined by the closest fire company (measured from the main station). Our response area is divided midway between our Wycombe Station and the main station of our mutual aid companies.

Why the name Lingohocken?

The Leni Lenape Indians occupied this area, and in their language Lingohocken meant “pleasant land”. One of our founding members, Wilmer Twining, owned the Lingohocken Farm, on what is now Washington Avenue. When the village began to form, it was to be called Lingohocken. At the time, however, the postal service and the Reading Railroad had the Wingohocking station in Philadelphia so they would not allow it. The village became

Wycombe, but the fire company, took the name of the original village.

Do you provide emergency medical services?

Our fire company provides first response to some medical emergencies, when qualified personnel are available. We also provide extrication service for victims trapped in automobile accidents, domestic accidents, industrial accidents and similar situations. The Central Bucks Ambulance and Rescue Unit or the Newtown Ambulance provides ambulance services in our coverage area, both highly qualified services with good response times. We maintain a close working relationship with both organizations and will work together to remove victims from entrapment situations. We provide space in our station in Wycombe for a Central Bucks ambulance.

Do you work with other fire companies?

Certainly. Based on the type and location of the call, you may see apparatus from two or three companies arrive to work with us. We work closely, including training, with our neighboring fire companies: Doylestown, Midway, Newtown, Northampton, Upper Makefield and Warwick. We sometimes need special equipment from them – such as aerial ladder apparatus. In turn, they may need special equipment from us such as our 3,500-gallon water tanker. The Bucks County dispatch center is set up to automatically send the proper equipment from the closest station to an emergency.

Are there female firefighters?

Absolutely, there are several active female firefighters and others are always welcome.

How do I find out more about Lingohocken?

Check out our website at www.lfco.org.

TRAINING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The Fire Company participated in several days of live training during home burn drills with Upper Makefield Fire Company. A home was donated for this purpose.

Our members upgraded their hazardous materials response capabilities during the year by completing a six-night Hazmat Operations Training program. With this training our

members are better prepared to handle chemical and spill emergencies.

Our members participated in an evening drill focused on handling flammable gas emergencies at the Bucks County Public Safety Training Center in

Doylestown. This drill was designed around information brought back by Lingohocken Battalion Chief Jeff Burns, who attended a week-long U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored training program in 2004 in Reno, Nevada. The Reno program is designed to train officers in rural fire departments to handle major flammable gas emergencies. Various pipelines that handle flammable gas, storage tanks and delivery vehicles cross our coverage areas.

Our members also learned how to handle horses in emergency situations - such as incidents at farms or involving horse trailers - thanks to the Stahl family of Laurel Ridge Farm on Pineville Road. This training better prepares us to respond to the many equestrian facilities in our area, and focused on safety for our firefighters and for the horses.

Other training we completed during the year focused on tactics needed to handle emergencies at key target hazards in our area, such as the quarries, some local apartment and office buildings as well as the Rushland Industrial Complex.

MEMBER NEWS

The Lingohocken Fire Company is proud to honor and thank these members for their extraordinary length of service:

Fran Gorski, Wrightstown - Life member 45 years

Ben Smith, Buckingham - Life member 40 years

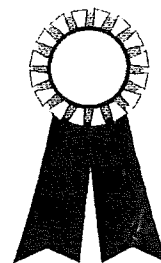
John Bailey, Buckingham - Life member 25 years

Chief Wayne Murphy - Life member 25 years

Recruitment and retention of members is key to long-range planning. Several members passed their certification for Firefighter I during the year - Brian Janson, Cody Miller and Charles McHenry. Jeff Choi passed his certification as an Emergency

Medical Technician. Alex Biggs, passed his Firefighter I for Juniors. We congratulate these individuals for their hard work and dedication.

Many other members also have completed various training courses during the year, with an average of over 250 man-hours per month of training completed. Our membership has shown a gain of nine firefighters, one fire police officer and five new Associates.



IN MEMORIAM - J. EDWARD SAMSEL

On Friday, November 18, 2005, Lingohocken Fire Company lost its oldest and longest serving member, Ed Samsel. Ed was born on February 7, 1909 and died peacefully in his sleep at age 96 at the Buckingham Valley Nursing Center in Pineville.

Ed joined the Fire Company in March 1941 after a serious fatal fire in which five children died. Since the Fire Company had no breathing apparatus, rescue was all but impossible. Ed joined as an advocate for progress and raised funds new equipment.

Ed was company President in 1950 when the

firehouse moved to Mill Creek Road. He was President of the Bucks County and Pennsylvania State Fire Police Associations. He served Lingohocken as an active volunteer for 62 years. Well into his 90s, Ed continued to direct traffic during emergencies.

He is survived by his wife, Frances, 8 children, 19 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren.

In the fraternity of firefighters, Ed was respected for his integrity and devotion to duty. Our community has lost a dedicated servant. The members of Lingohocken Fire Company have lost a dear friend.

MAKING YOUR UNITED WAY DOLLARS COUNT

While the Fire Company does not automatically receive contributions from the United Way, we have been recognized by United Way to receive contributions through its designated recipient program. If you would like to assign all or a portion of your United Way contribution to the Fire Company, please contact your employer for an authorization form. Please keep us in mind when you make your United Way Pledge for 2007.



CHRISTMAS EVE SANTA CLAUS TOUR!

Santa Claus will once again visit the Lingohocken Fire Company on Christmas Eve. Seated high atop a Fire Truck he will come to visit all the good little boys and girls in our area. – Santa's estimated schedule is as follows, but weather, balky reindeer, or an emergency may delay him, so be patient if he's slightly off schedule. There are more and more children to visit every year! If you notice Santa at several locations at once, it's the magic of the Holiday Season.

1:45-2:45 PM

Buckingham Valley Nursing Home

2:00-2:45 PM

Devonshire Estates: Oxfordshire Rd, Phase I Gazebo, Playground, Phase II Gazebo, Buckingham Shire Rd
Buckingham Valley Nursing Home

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Buckingham Forest: Powderhorn Dr & Green Ridge Rd, Green Ridge Rd & Hedgrow La, Powderhorn Dr & Spring Hollow Dr
Forest Grove Church, Upper Mountain & Edgehill Rds, Smith

Rd btwn Forest Grove & Swamp Rds, Rushland PO, Swamp Rd & Mega Way, Swamp Rd & Apple Hill
Fox Hill Dr at Martindell Dr ; Anchor Crossing Shopping Center

3:45-4:45 PM

Buckingham Springs: Springmeadow Blvd, short stop at Community Cntr
Dark Hollow Rd at MacClesfield, Camelot; Mozart Rd, L. Mountain Rd, Franklyn Dr, Devonshire Dr & Lookaway Ct, No Name Ln, Holicong Rd, New Hope Rd, New Rd; Ridge Rd, Towerview Cr
Wrenwood Way, Hampton Ct, Buckman Dr, Maher Ln, Estates Ct, Neshaminy Cliffs, Hallowell Dr, Wooly Run, 2nd Street Pub (Penns Park Tavern)

5:00-6:00 pm

Street Rd at Windy Hollow, Lurgan Rd, Eastburn Dr, Buckmanville Rd, Pineville Rd, Pine Ln, Pineville Tavern
Township Line Rd, Brian Ln, Cherry Ln, Benjamin Ln; Penns Park Methodist Church; Penns Park Rd & Cedar Ln
Alexander Ct, Skoures Ln, Jericho Valley Dr, Fire Creek Rd, Fire Thorn Rd
Hunters Wood Dr, Ridge Ave, Williams Ave, Woodland, Ranch, Brownsburg Rd, Colts Neck

7:00 PM

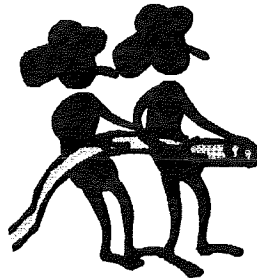
Community Carol Sing at Wycombe Train Station



JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

Not everyone wants to be a firefighter, but for a community such as ours, volunteers are important people. Among our firefighters is a group of five young people who have volunteered to be Junior Firefighters. These are people 14 to 18 years old who train and learn the elements and discipline of firefighting alongside our active volunteers, and in weekend classes at the Bucks County Public Service Training Center in Edison.

The Juniors operate under regulations set down by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and the Child Labor laws. They must obtain Employment Certificates from their school in order to complete the membership application. There are limits on the number of hours Juniors may be at the fire station on school nights and on the number of days they may work. The restrictions vary by age,



however, no one under the age of 18 may enter a burning building or a recently extinguished one.

When they are 16 they may respond on the trucks to calls within our district with their activity restricted to outside work – air bottles for the interior firefighters, light set up and ladders, hoses, etc. It's invaluable support and great training.

An important segment of our leadership has come through the ranks of the Juniors including four past chiefs, our current chief and a company president.

Junior firefighters training is based on skill development, cooperation with others and service to others. For more information, visit us at www.lfco.org. This just may be the something for which your son or daughter has been looking.

Wrightstown ISO Rating

The Lingohocken Fire Company is proud of its 2005 accomplishments. A major accomplishment is the completion of the documentation toward improving the *Insurance Services Organization (ISO)* rating for Wrightstown Township. While some insurance companies give credit for ponds and swimming pools adjacent to a residence and for residential sprinklers, with no public water supply, Wrightstown's ISO rating is 9 on a scale of 1-10. We believe our tanker and large diameter hose capabilities provide fire protection levels equivalent to communities with public water. In order to change the ISO rating extensive documentation is required.

In third quarter 2005, a 3-inch binder of material compiled over a two-year period was submitted to ISO for consideration. ISO indicated that this submittal is one of the best alternative water supply submittals it has ever seen. Several additional submissions were requested. This information is being compiled currently. We hope to complete the evaluation process in early 2006. If we are successful, this will result in fire insurance savings for many of the residents and business owners in Wrightstown. Note that ISO rates areas by political jurisdiction, not necessarily fire department coverage area.