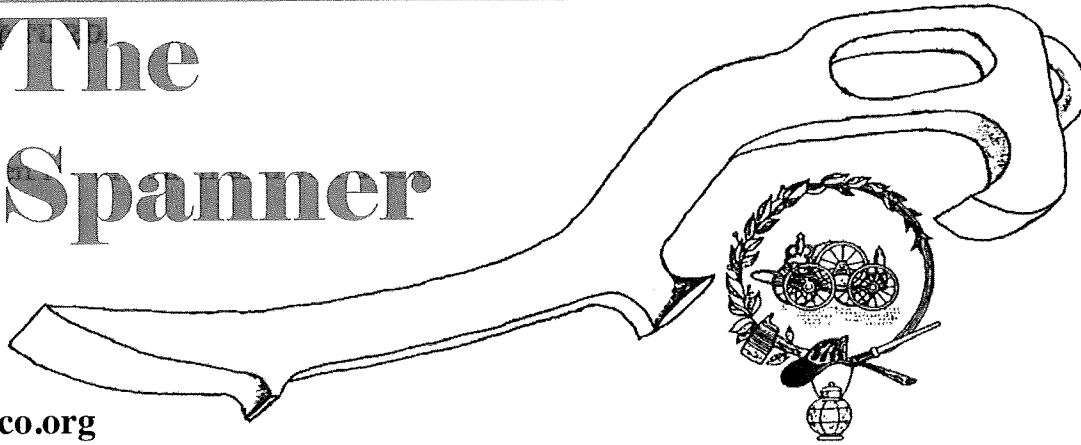


# The Spanner



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## **LINGOHOCKEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST IN FLOODWATER RESCUES**

The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee visited the Wycombe area overnight on September 7 and 8, 2011 with about 3 inches of rain, just over 10 days after Irene dumped more than seven inches of rain on the area. This resulted in flash flooding throughout the area.

Unfortunately, several motorists in our area (and many across the region) failed to heed the warnings of emergency managers to "Turn Around, Don't Drown." Our firefighters responded to a motorist stuck in swift water raging across the top of the bridge on New Hope Road near Creek Road in Buckingham Township at around 6:45 am, and arrived to find a man standing on the downstream side of his vehicle in waist-chest deep water that was continuing to rise. Firefighters fanned out along the creek banks, and downstream in case the victim or rescuer(s) were swept

downstream. Based on reports that rescue boats were still six to eight minutes away, it was decided to utilize a Buckingham Township Public Works front end loader. It had arrived on scene, operated by a firefighter and former Chief of the Midway Fire Company, to make the rescue. Lingohocken Assistant Chief Dave James donned water rescue gear and entered the bucket of the loader. The loader was maneuvered out to the patient, and Assistant Chief James was able to pull the victim into the loader and be removed safely back to higher ground. This rescue was completed in approximately 20 minutes from dispatch, and was performed at great personal risk to the rescuers. The Lingohocken Fire Company would like to thank the rapid assistance from both Buckingham Township Public Works for helping to rescue this victim.

**Greg Jakubowski, Chief**

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## **THE GRANGE FAIR AND OTHER DONATED TIME**

Each year around the third weekend in August the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds come alive with farm animals, rides, roasted chicken, and 4-H projects. Whatever the draw, most visitors arrive in cars that need parking. This year, along with the Newtown Fire Association, we handled all five days of fair parking.

Lingohocken covered three days while Newtown covered the remaining two days. Next year this work-share will be reversed. There was a rainstorm on Thursday that made a muddy mess. However, as we share a portion of the Grange's parking intake, it is worth the effort. This project is one of our largest money-raising events and we look forward to it each year.

During the eleven months of 2011, the members of the Lingohocken Fire Company

have given at least 3,536 man-hours to firefighting, training, fund raising and work details – all at no cost to the community.

What is the motivation behind these numbers? Altruism may be a part of the answer; the comradery of shared risks and interests is a part; and a chance for excitement may also be a small part.

Each of us has our own personal reasons for doing this work, and each of us derives a sense of satisfaction from it.

Back in 1913, when the Fire Company was being formed, the motivation came from the farmers and businessmen of the community who wanted to better protect their properties. This is still a factor. Better training, more sophisticated equipment, and greater understanding of fire behavior have come from those early years; and who knows what lies ahead?

**George Rowe**

## HAMILL FAMILY STORY CONTINUES

In last year's Spanner I wrote about the training my son and I received in 2010 for our Firefighter 1 class and how becoming a volunteer Firefighter has fulfilled a lifelong dream for me. Well, 2011 has been another full year of training and working with the leadership of the Fire Company. I was elected to the position of Vice President and I work with the leadership on developing the annual budget and periodically report our actual revenue and expenses compared to the budget during the year.

The Vice President also is very much involved in preparing grant applications. We submitted a very important grant this fall to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund a planned purchase in 2012 for new breathing apparatus for our volunteer firefighters that will cost approximately \$225,000. Our existing breathing apparatus is approximately 12 years old and out of date. It needs to be replaced since our lives depend on these breathing units!

We also were part of a Regional grant application to help fund the cost for new radios that need to be purchased in 2012 resulting from a mandate by the Federal Communications Commission to Bucks County to change the existing radio frequencies. The new radio equipment will cost in excess of \$175,000 in 2012. Finally, we submitted a grant application to the Office

of the State Fire Commissioner in Pennsylvania for repair work performed earlier this year at our Buckingham sub-station. The sub-station work cost approximately \$22,000. Hopefully you can understand how important it is for the fire company to identify funding sources for these very important expenditures.

In addition to helping the fire company on the business side, I've also continued my firefighter training. My son is an active junior firefighter and will continue his training when he is age eligible. Fortunately, we are situated close to the county fire school. The school is administered by Bucks County Community College and offers numerous training classes. Having successfully passed written and skill tests and specific training this year, I can now assist on calls involving vehicle extrications, administer aid when needed as a First Responder, and I've achieved Firefighter II certification.

This year, I also qualified as a driver on two of our fire engines (a dream come true for me!). Next year, I plan to continue my training and continue to help the Company.

Lingohocken has several father and son members as well as a long history of family members belonging to the Company. We all may not be related through blood, but be assured everyone is family in our fire house. We rely on each other and when we go on calls; our lives depend on our firefighter brothers and sisters.

**John Hamill**

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## WINTER HOME SAFETY TIPS

### Portable Generator Hazards

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed but they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using generators are carbon monoxide poisoning, fire and electric shock or electrocution. The U. S. Fire Administration suggests that you always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. Generators should never be used in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas even if those areas are ventilated.

Always follow manufacturer's instructions and plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin. Never plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice,

known as back feeding, can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer. Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite. Always store fuel outside of living areas and make sure to install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Follow manufactures instructions for correct placement and mounting height.

### Hot Ash Disposal

Improper ash removal from fireplaces and wood burning stoves cause thousands of fires every year according to the NFPA. Never empty ashes into a paper or plastic bag, cardboard box or similar container. The best means of ash storage is a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Do not store your metal container on your deck, in a garage or near your home.

**Ted Middleman, Wrightstown Twp. Fire Marshal**

## NEW ADDITION TO THE COMPANY

In December 2010, the fire company purchased a used pumper truck (engine) for expansion of services to the community. The new to us truck was put into service in early 2011, and is housed at the Wrightstown Township Public Works building during the week and at the main station in Wycombe on the weekends. The company looked at new and used vehicles for about six months before purchasing this slightly used truck. We feel that we spent about 60% of the cost of a new, similar vehicle.

The truck is a 2005 Freightliner and had 5,000 miles on it when we purchased it. The truck's features 1,250-gpm waterous pump,

1,000-gallon poly water tank, 20-gallon foam tank, and a 6,000-watt hydraulic generator. It is all wheel drive for off road capabilities and use during winter storms. The truck carries a combination of firefighting equipment and rescue tools. The truck was built by Montana Fire Works in Montana, and purchased through Brindlee Mountain, an apparatus dealer in Alabama.

Weekdays, the truck is manned by one part time and four full time Wrightstown Township employees who are also firefighters. The township provided a garage bay at the public works building to house the new truck. This has dramatically cut down weekday response times for emergency calls.

**Steve Kraiss**

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## HOLIDAY ELECTRICAL SAFETY

It can happen anytime of the year, but it seems to happen most frequently around the holidays – the electrical outlets begin to put on additional weight!

Outlets that normally carry a single plug for a light are now fed by multiple extension cords and surge protectors to power the ten strings of lights for the tree, electric candles, CD player for holiday music, etc.

Overloaded outlets do cause fires, an estimated 5,300 annually and almost 2,000 occur during the holidays.

Just how many things can you plug into an electrical outlet before it will catch fire? It helps if you have a basic understanding of electricity. Most homes have 120 volts flowing through it at any given time. Somewhere in your home there is an electrical panel box containing either circuit breakers or fuses found in older homes.

Circuit breakers and fuses act as a failsafe in the event of an electrical overload and they regulate the current. The current is expressed in amperes (amps) and most circuit breakers and fuses regulate at either 15 to 20 amps. If too much current is drawn from the circuit the circuit breaker or fuse blows, breaking the circuit to prevent an overload.

The problem is that circuit breakers and fuses aren't always 100% reliable!

Another potential hazard occurs when more than one outlet is wired into a single circuit. If you check your electrical panel you may see a single circuit labeled "Heater" or "Washer/Dryer" and "AC Unit". You may also find that all of the outlets in a single room are connected to a single circuit! What this means is that you don't necessarily have to overload a single outlet to cause a fire!

So back to the original question – "Just how many things can you plug into an electrical outlet?" The formula is ...  $p/e=i$  (wattage divided by volts equals amps).

If you're using 2,000 watts of power for your holiday electrical load you divide that number by the volts in your house (usually 120) and you come up with 16.6 amps of current your using. With a 20 amp circuit outlet you're using around 80% of the available current, which is the most you really should be using per circuit. Check your specific appliances to determine just how many watts or amps are being drawn – it's usually found on the Under-Writers UL listing label.

To be sure that your home is safe, invest in a visit from a licensed electrician to insure all your home's circuits are properly identified in the electrical panel and to check for circuit overloads.

**John Kernan, Upper Makefield Twp. Fire Marshal**



**ANNUAL LINGOHOCKEN FIRE COMPANY SANTA CLAUS RUN  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011**

On Saturday, December 1, Santa will rely on his helpers from the Lingohocken Fire Company to get him around to the children of the community. He will start around 2:00PM and finish his rounds at just about 6:00PM. Listen for the siren and you'll know when he's in your neighborhood!

**Engine 95**

**2:00PM - 2:20 PM**

Townhouses at Heritage Center

**2:20PM - 3:00PM**

Devonshire Estates:

Oxfordshire Rd.  
Phase 1 Gazebo  
Playground  
Phase 2 Gazebo  
Phase 3 Gazebo  
Buckinghamshire Rd.

**3:15PM - 4:30PM**

Buckingham Forest:

Powder Horn Dr and Trotters Lane  
Powder Horn and Green Ridge S  
Green Ridge S:  
Hedgerow Lane  
Forest Hill  
Powder Horn and Green Ridge N  
Green Ridge N:  
Deer Meadow  
Wheatfield Lane  
Powder Horn and Spring Hollow

Windsor Square

Springtown Road and  
Winterbridge Lane

Upper Mountain Rd

Edge Hill Rd

**4:45PM - 6:00PM**

Buckingham Springs:

Spring Meadow Blvd.  
Community Center

**Rescue 35**

**2:00PM - 2:45PM**

Buckingham Valley Nursing Home

**3:00PM - 3:30PM**

Fox Hill Drive @ Martindell Drive  
Warner Meadows

**3:45PM - 4:45PM**

Alexanders Court  
Skoures Lane  
Jericho Valley Drive:  
Warner Way  
Fire Creek  
Fire Thorn  
Hunters Woods  
Ridge Ave.

Williams Ave:

Ridge Ave.  
Woodland Ave.  
Ranch

**5:00PM - 6:30PM**

Wrenwood Way  
J. Chapman Drive E/W  
Hampton Court  
White Gate  
Buckman Dr. and Maher Ln.  
Neshaminy Cliffs  
Hallowell Dr and Wooley Run Rd.  
Brownsburg Rd.  
Colts Neck  
Matthews Lane  
Hayhurst and Keith Lanes  
Thompson Mill Road

**Engine 35**

**2:00PM - 2:30PM**

Estates of Balamore  
Swamp Rd @ Mega Way  
Swamp Rd and Apple Hill  
Smith Rd. between. Forest Grove  
and Swamp

**2:45PM - 3:45PM**

Creamery Rd.  
Dark Hollow Rd:  
MacClesfield Rd  
Camelot  
Mozart Rd  
Lower Mountain Rd:  
Franklyn Dr.  
Devonshire Dr.  
Lookaway Ct.  
Creek Rd. to New Hope Rd.

No Name Ln.  
Holicong Rd.  
Holicong Rd and New Rd.  
Ridge Rd and Towerview Circle

**4:00PM - 5:00PM**

Street Rd:  
Windy Hollow  
Lurgan Rd.  
Eastburn Dr.  
Buckmanville Rd  
Pineville Rd.  
Pine Lane

**5:10PM - 6:00PM**

Township Line Rd:  
Brian Lane  
Cherry Lane:  
Benjamin Lane  
Park Ave. to Durham Rd  
Perry Lane  
Cherry Lane:  
Washington Ave.  
Wycombe Post Office  
Cedar Lane  
Penns Park and Cedar  
2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pub  
Penns Park Church

