



PENNSYLVANIA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> REGIONAL COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CHIEF'S CORNER
- TRAINING
- NEXTDOOR
- FIRE PREVENTION
- EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT
- FIREFIGHTER TRIVIA

**Daniel J. Hoff**  
Fire Chief

**John Woods**  
Battalion Chief

**Brett Graham**  
Battalion Chief

**Curvin Wolfgang**  
Battalion Chief

**Matt Arnold**  
Battalion Chief

**Joe Madzellan**  
Battalion Chief

Headquarters  
50 Commons Drive  
York, PA 17402

Office: 717-718-2383

Office Hours :  
Mon. thru Fri. - 7:00 to 3:00

Operation Hours : 24/7

[www.YAUFR.com](http://www.YAUFR.com)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

## **FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER**

*Welcome to the first edition of the YAUFRR Newsletter for 2020.*

It is hard to believe that we are into March and the first day of Spring has already occurred. Our “rookie” class keeps getting smaller and smaller as our young firefighters continue to excel and finish up their rookie books. Congratulations to all of our newest firefighters for the milestones you are tackling and for the effort you are putting in. Thank you and congratulations to all of our senior men and women who are participating in their development and providing not only skill direction but also providing the history and institutional knowledge, the importance of which cannot be overstated.



These are unique times that we are experiencing together, folks. I ask for your continued commitment and focus as we navigate a period in time like nothing we have ever experienced or probably imagined. The challenge for all of us is discerning good information from bad, making decisions based on that information and above all else erring on the side of caution to ensure our employees and all of our families are as secure and protected as we can make them. I have the utmost confidence that we will continue to pull together, have an open dialogue and come out of this stronger and more united because of working through this together.

It is my hope that temporary restrictions by the department and for all Americans will be effective and in a relatively short period of time we can get back to business as usual. Until that time, we continue to encourage discussion, information sharing and the exercise of added caution to ensure we are doing our part to reduce exposure and spread.

We are still looking forward to FF Sean Montgomery completing his required probationary certifications and being sworn in at the May Commission meeting. We look forward to honoring FF Mount's service and retirement at the same meeting. We are proud of FF Rich Godfrey's current activity with the Task Force in Philadelphia and we continue to keep FF Cosner in our thoughts and prayers during his deployment.


Thank you all for your continued dedication and being the best at what you do. Hopefully by the time we get to the second quarter newsletter for 2020, we will be able to look back at the current state of affairs as just a memory.

*Stay Safe and YAUFRR Strong!*

*Chief Hoff*

## TRAINING

- YAUFRR members completed a total of 3,786 training hours for the first quarter of 2020.
- In February, all shifts completed the “Special needs for special people: An understanding of Autism in emergency services” program. Special thanks to Alicia Moyer for taking the time to educate our personnel on this important topic.
- Annual respiratory training and FIT testing has been completed by all shifts.
- Any volunteers who have not complete the required training should contact BC Graham.
- Spring company burns are rescheduled for June 10th, 17th and 24th. The evolutions will focus on initial engine and truck company operations.
- Annual Haz-Mat Refreshers have been scheduled for April 26th, 29th and 30th.
- Remember to check your EMT con-ed status. Personnel are reminded to ensure all required con-ed is submitted and the recertification application is completed in a timely manner to avoid any issues before your certification expires.
- Don’t forget to enter all your daily training in Target Solutions. Check your training tracker to monitor your required ISO training hours for the year.
- Please forward copies of training certificates that you receive so we can keep your training records current.



2020 Year To Date  
Number of Incidents - 534  
Station 891 YTD - 164  
Station 892 YTD - 76  
Station 893 YTD - 53  
Station 894 YTD - 89  
Station 895 YTD - 152  
Year To Date Fire Loss - \$173,560  
Year To Date Property Saved - \$6,487,519  
Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:34  
Response To 1st Arrival Time - 06:19

## YAUFR IS NOW ON NEXTDOOR

*YAUFR is pleased to announce it has joined the community on Nextdoor.*

In February, Nextdoor announced a new product called Nextdoor for Public Agencies. Through the Nextdoor app, YAUFR will be able to connect directly with verified residents of our neighborhoods, providing announcements, safety information, and most importantly, emergency alerts. The app provides the ability to target specific neighborhoods, issuing alerts to only those areas that may be affected, without disturbing unaffected areas. Nextdoor replaces the Nixle communications system, which was discontinued at the end of 2019.

Nextdoor is a new social platform designed for “trusted connections and the exchange of helpful information, goods, and services.” Unlike many other social media platforms, Nextdoor requires that users create an account using their real names, and users must provide verification of their address to join a neighborhood.

**You can sign up for Nextdoor at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).**



## CFAI REGISTERED AGENCY

*YAUFR Becomes a CFAI Registered Agency*

At the end of February, YAUFR officially became a Registered Agency with the Center for Public Safety Excellence’s Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Registered Agency status is the first step in the voluntary agency accreditation process. Agency accreditation is about continuous self-assessment and quality improvement of every aspect of the department’s operation. CPSE accreditation is an international recognition that YAUFR is performing according to industry best practices, as judged by a thorough external peer review.

Battalion Chief Joe Madzellan will serve as the Accreditation Manager, assisted by Battalion Chief Brett Graham. The initial accreditation process is expected to take 3-5 years to complete. It will require thousands of hours of research, operational review, assessment, and planning, involving a majority of the department’s personnel, as well as external stakeholders, including members of the community, local elected officials, the business community, and other response agencies.



## FIRE PREVENTION



Like most of the U.S. population, you are probably spending more time at home than ever—whether it’s working from home, taking care of children that are now learning from home, or just doing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19. With this new reality of extended home stay, sometimes for days at a time, it is the perfect opportunity to prepare for emergencies such as fires.

For those that have children in the home, it is important to practice fire drills just like they would if they were back in their normal classroom. School age children practice fire drills numerous times throughout the school year and are really good at getting out of a building in an orderly and fast fashion. They can and should be just as efficient if there would be an emergency at home, which will take practice for them and you.

**Take a few moments to review some fire safety tips with everyone in your home!**

### FAMILY MEETING PLACE

- Do you have a family meeting place? If not, now is a great time to pick one. Having a designated meeting place will ensure that if you need to leave your home in the event of a fire that everyone goes to the same place. This will make you feel more secure in knowing everyone is safe, and it will provide us with essential information.

### GET OUT, STAY OUT!

- Once you are safely out of your home, do not go back inside. We use the phrase “Get Out, Stay Out”. Once you are safely out of your home, stay outside and wait for us to arrive. Going back into a fire can be deadly.

### KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

- Most home fires occur in the kitchen. Do not leave food unattended on the stovetop, and keep flammables away from the stove.

### CLOSE BEFORE YOU DOZE

- When you go to sleep at night, close the door to your bedroom. Fires grow very rapidly, and you can very quickly be overcome with smoke even in your sleep!

### WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

- Make sure that you have a WORKING smoke alarm on every level in your home, in each bedroom, and outside of each sleeping area. You don’t know if they work if you don’t test them!!



# FIRE PREVENTION

The following is a simple home fire safety checklist provided by the U.S. Fire Administration. Along with this checklist, we are always here as a resource for any questions about keeping your home safe from fire. Please feel free to reach out to us anytime, and we would be more than happy to assist you.

## Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters

If there is a fire, you may have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home. Talk about what you should do to be safe. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

### Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.



**Test your alarm regularly.**  
Your smoke alarm is working if it makes a noise when you press the "test" button.

### Cooking Safety

- The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- Pot handles are always turned toward the back of the stove.

### Escape Plan

- There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- Everyone living in the house practices the escape plan 2 times a year.

### Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

### Electrical and Appliance Safety

- All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when you touch them. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

### Candle Safety

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- Adults blow out all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Candles are kept out of reach from children and pets.



**Children are sometimes curious about fire.**  
If you have children in your home, lock up any items that can start a fire (matches, lighters, cigarettes, etc.) and make sure children cannot reach candles.



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our employee spotlight for this edition of YAUFRR Newsletter will focus on  
Firefighter Celeste Jones and Firefighter Nicholas Willcox

**1. How long have you worked for the fire department?** 15 years.

**2. Before working for the fire department what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?** I only had three jobs and all were in Customer Service.

**3. How or why did you become involved in the fire service?**

My husband became a volunteer in 1997 and he wanted me to join as an EMT. Chief Bean told me I should take Fire Essentials to ride the rescue and the rest is history.

**4. What is your proudest fire service moment?** The time we were able to extricate NYRPD Officer Groff and his passenger in time to save them both with heavy entrapment.

**5. If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who should be cast to play you?**

Sandra Bullock

**6. What is your favorite travel or vacation spot?** The Poconos, it is close and peaceful along the Delaware River where we have a time share.

**7. What is your favorite past time?** I like to be outdoors running, biking, hiking, or kayaking when it is warm.

**8. What are the top two items on your bucket list?**

I want to see the Northern Lights and do an Ironman 70.3

**9. If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?**

Hawaii, we have visited Oahu twice and the weather is perfect all year.

**10. Tell us one thing about you that would surprise most people.**

I like to play Pokemon Go. I gave it up for Lent though but played every day for over three years before that.

**11. Anything else you might want people to know about you.**

I have four beautiful grandchildren.



Firefighter  
**Celeste Jones**  
895 B Shift



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**1. How long have you worked for the fire department?**

Total 5 years, 1 year part time, 4 years full time.

**2. Before working for the fire department what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?**

In college I worked at Hershey Park as a rides operator.

**3. How or why did you become involved in the fire service?** When I was a kid my parents had a fire scanner in our kitchen. Listening to all the calls dispatched in the county, I always wanted to know what the firemen were doing and where they were going.

**4. What is your proudest fire service moment?** August 28, 2013 - I received a Life Saving Award from the Susquehanna Township Public Safety Advisory Committee, for rescuing two victims from a house fire next-door to the fire station I lived in when I was in college. If you ever see me in the street or visit the fire house, ask about the full story, it is something that I will cherish forever.

**5. If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who should be cast to play you?**

There's not enough money out there to pay someone to play that role.

**6. What is your favorite travel or vacation spot?**

Outer Banks, NC

**7. What is your favorite past time?** Hunting and enjoying time outside with friends and family.

**8. What are the top two items on your bucket list?**

Traveling the United States and fishing the White Marlin Open.

**9. If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?** I can't give that away, I don't want anyone to steal my location until I can get there.

**10. Tell us one thing about you that would surprise most people.**

I've known my wife since Elementary School.

**11. Anything else you might want people to know about you.**

I've been married since 2016, my wife and I have a 2-year-old yellow lab named Molly, an 18-month-old daughter named Grace. We are also expecting a baby in late September.



Firefighter  
**Nicholas Willcox**  
892 C Shift





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE JAY VAN PELT



During our holiday luncheon in December our department honored Battalion Chief Jay Van Pelt during his last shift of working before his official retirement. Many family members and retired members stopped in to wish him well. BC Van Pelt officially retired from the department on March 4, 2020 after more than 30 years of service. We hope to be able to recognize BC Van Pelt at our May 2020 Commission meeting.

## EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS



Curvin Wolfgang was promoted to Battalion Chief on January 11, 2020. He was officially sworn into his position at the February 18, 2020 YAUFRR Commission Meeting. Congratulations BC Wolfgang on achieving this well-deserved milestone.



Matthew Brown was promoted to Captain at the end of January 2020. He was officially sworn in to his position at the February 18, 2020 YAUFRR Commission Meeting. Congratulations Captain Brown on achieving this well-deserved milestone.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

*Please join us in congratulating all of these men on their accomplishments and awards.*



### ***FIRE CHIEF'S AWARD***

Captain Todd Heilman was presented with the Fire Chief's award, recognizing his tireless work in fire prevention and public education.



### ***BATTALION CHIEF'S AWARD***

Firefighter Nick Willcox was presented with the Battalion Chief's award, recognizing his commitment to the department through his attitude and actions, and for being a positive ambassador for the department.



### ***CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION***

Firefighter Aaron Eckert was issued a Certificate of Commendation for his efforts in helping to save the life of a motorist while on his way home from shift on February 13th.



On behalf of the Commission Members, Command Staff, Administrative Staff and firefighters of York Area United Fire and Rescue, we would like to thank all of the businesses and organizations who have donated so generously to our department during the last few weeks. It warms our hearts to know that at difficult times, our citizens know we are at the ready to answer their call for help. We ask you all to stay safe and healthy, adhere to the recommendations from the CDC and DOH and above all - continue to take care of one another!

## **FIREFIGHTER TRIVIA !**

1. A column of water 60 feet tall exerts \_\_\_\_\_ psi of pressure at the base.
2. What is the proper climbing angle of a 28 ft. ground ladder?
3. In building construction, where is draft stopping likely to be found?
4. In reference to fire chemistry, what is “flash point” ?
5. Name 3 methods of heat transfer.

ANSWERS:  
(1) 26.4, (2) 75.5 degrees, (3) In the truss loft,  
(4) the minimum liquid temperature at which enough vapors are present above the liquid to ignite or flash but does not continue to burn.  
(5) Conduction, convection and radiation