



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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CHIEF'S CORNER
- TRAINING
- EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
- FIREWORKS REMINDER
- FIRE PREVENTION
- PLAYGROUND SAFETY
- EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Daniel J. Hoff**  
Fire Chief

**John Woods**  
Battalion Chief

**Brett Graham**  
Battalion Chief

**Curvin Wolfgang**  
Battalion Chief

**Matt Arnold**  
Battalion Chief

**Joe Matzlan**  
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)



**YAUFR DEPARTMENT TRAINING**



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

## FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER



### *Welcome to the second edition of the YAUFRR Newsletter for 2020.*

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the year already. It is also hard to believe the numerous challenges 2020 has presented to so many within the department and within our community. What is not hard to believe is the manner in which our department has met those challenges – with class and sincere concern for our citizens. And for that I express my utmost appreciation.

At the height of the pandemic, firefighters changed vacation plans to make sure if we did have an outbreak, we were not left shorthanded. Union officers met and communicated with command staff to share ideas and ensure that our planning and preparation did not miss a beat. We handled every call that came our way, regardless of the additional information or personal risk to firefighters. Even though you were still able to come to work, you were basically locked down once you arrived, except for emergency response. Every one of you handled the mask and temperature taking issues well and continue to handle preventive measures as professionals to this day. Unfortunately, the **Green Phase** is not the end of this story so we must be prepared for a resurgence later this year. And we will handle it with the same professionalism we have shown thus far.

So, what else can we expect in 2020? Hopefully, a return to some sense of normalcy with our operations and continued preparation and readiness for whatever the world around us presents. In July we will begin our budget preparation for 2021. We will continue with equipment and PPE evaluations and look forward to receiving feedback from all personnel at the conclusion of these trials. Now that we are into **Green**, we look forward to restarting the pre-planning process very soon. We look forward to having in-person meetings once more and are hopeful to catch up on recognitions, retirements and swearings-in at our July meeting. We are currently re-scheduled for portraits in July. Please contact the office to schedule time on either July 9th or 21st. We will be hosting a YAUFRR Safety Camp for youth ages 11-16 in July and look for assistance to make that a success. Our annual Citizens Fire Academy will run once more in September. Fall burn sessions are scheduled for November. All of these events will be here before you know it.

We continue to keep FF Cosner in our thoughts during his deployment. We welcome and congratulate Sean Montgomery after completion of a challenging fire academy situation. We welcome Justin Poole as he begins his full-time status with the department, and Matt Ulsh for his temporary full-time move up to cover for FF Cosner. We are thrilled to have each of these men on our team.

We wish our YAUFRR family and our community a safe and happy summer. We hope your vacation plans have not been adversely affected by the pandemic, or other situations, and that you are able to enjoy the family time that we all need and deserve.

*Stay Safe and Take Care of One Another,*

*Chief Hoff*

## TRAINING

- YAUFRR members completed a total of 7,185.85 training hours year to date for 2020.
- During the second quarter, crews honed their skills in the area of truck company operations (ground ladders, ventilation, overhaul and search and rescue), engine company operations (pump operations and hose-line deployment), tactical considerations for high risk facilities, and firefighter rescue operations (Self rescue, SCBA operations, Mayday drills and RIT evolutions).
- Crews on all shifts completed company level burns in the month of June. The evolutions focused on initial engine and truck company operations for a fire on the 3rd floor of a residential building.
- Annual Haz-Mat Refreshers scheduled for April 26th, 29th and 30th were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and will be rescheduled as things begin to open back up. An announcement will be made when the make-up dates have been selected.
- During the second quarter, all scheduling and documentation of training transitioned from Target Solutions to our Emergency Reporting RMS. This transition provides for more accurate reporting and allows for continuity of training across all shifts.
- 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.
- Please forward copies of training certificates that you receive so we can keep your training records current.

### *2020 Year To Date*

*Number of Incidents - 1252*

*Station 891 YTD - 377*

*Station 892 YTD - 147*

*Station 893 YTD - 153*

*Station 894 YTD - 220*

*Station 895 YTD - 323*

*Year To Date Fire Loss - \$301,210*

*Year To Date Property Saved - \$8,377,226*

*Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:30*

*Response To 1st Arrival Time - 04:27*

### *2019 Year To Date*

*Number of Incidents - 1587*

*Station 891 YTD - 396*

*Station 892 YTD - 217*

*Station 893 YTD - 202*

*Station 894 YTD - 300*

*Station 895 YTD - 467*

*Year To Date Fire Loss - \$1,777,600*

*Year To Date Property Saved - \$25,730,750*

*Dispatch to Enroute Time - 02:04*

*Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:04*

## EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Throughout the year, when not responding to emergencies, our personnel spend their time preparing to respond to those emergencies. While many hours are spent training and honing the skills required for fire and rescue responses, a large portion of this time is spent maintaining our equipment and fire apparatus. Throughout the year there are over 2,000 items that need to be inspected, tested and maintained as part of our routine maintenance testing program, using guidelines and recommendations from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), OSHA and the manufacturers of the products we use.

A few examples of the maintenance we perform throughout the year are:

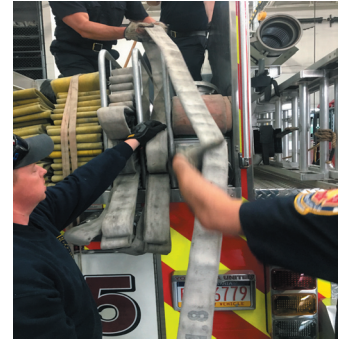
**Fire Hose Testing:** each piece of the 30,000 feet of fire hose in our inventory must pass a visual and pressure test annually. Each hose is pressure tested and inspected to verify there are no leaks and the fittings operate smoothly.

**Ladder inspection and testing:** each of our 60 portable ladders receive a monthly cleaning and visual inspection. Annually each ladder is independently tested to hold a minimum of 750 lbs.

**Breathing Apparatus Testing:** every morning each of our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is visually inspected and verified it is ready for use. Every week a detailed inspection is performed along with any preventative maintenance that may be required. Along with the daily and weekly inspections, all SCBA are independently tested and certified annually to meet all the required respiratory protection standards recommended by OSHA and NFPA.

**Fire Apparatus:** probably receive the most maintenance, inspection and testing of any item in a firehouse. Every morning, operators conduct a more than 40-point inspection of their assigned apparatus, including basic items like tire pressures and oil levels, to more advanced items like pump systems and aerial ladder operations. Each apparatus is also on a scheduled preventative maintenance program to catch any mechanical issues that may not be noticed during our routine inspections and to also ensure a long life for these very crucial vehicles. Just like the items listed above, our fire apparatus also receive certain required annual testing. For fire engines, the pumps must be tested to their full rated capacities and aerials are load tested, up to 1,000 lbs in some cases, to their fullest operational limits.

These are just a few examples of what our folks do every day and if you ever see us out flowing water in the air, having lots of hose laying in our parking lots or a firetruck sitting with its cap tilted, this is just part of their daily work.



## FIREWORKS REMINDER

The following information is taken from <https://www.psp.pa.gov/public-safety/Pages/fireworks-safety.aspx> and is provided as a reminder that Fireworks are still regulated and not all fireworks use is permitted.

**Q:** Which fireworks are Pennsylvania residents now allowed to purchase and use?

Consumers can now purchase and use “Class C” or “consumer-grade” fireworks that include firecrackers, Roman candles, bottle rockets, and similar fireworks that contain a maximum of 50 milligrams of explosive material. The expansion includes those fireworks that were previously only available to out-of-state residents.



“Display fireworks,” which are classified as including salutes that contain more than two grains or 130 milligrams of explosive materials, and professional-grade aerial shells containing more than 60 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, are still only to be used by professionals with a permit from the municipality where the display will take place.

**Q:** Who can purchase fireworks?

Anyone 18 years of age or older can purchase them. **Fireworks are not toys and should not be handled by anyone under the age of 18.**

**Q:** Where can the fireworks be purchased?

Airborne fireworks, including Roman candles and bottle rockets may only be purchased at brick-and-mortar stores.

**Q:** What are the restrictions on where they can be used?

- They cannot be ignited or discharged on a public or private property without express permission of the property owner. **This also makes the property owner responsible for any complaints due to the use of fireworks.**
- They cannot be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged within 150 feet of an occupied structure, whether or not a person is actually present. **This means that it is illegal to ignite fireworks in practically every residential development in our participating municipalities due to this distance requirement.**
- They cannot be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug. **This means that any function - party, cookout, etc. where alcohol is available should not be including fireworks as part of the entertainment.**
- Also, it is recommended that you check with your local municipality, as you may also be subject to applicable local ordinances.
- Although not part of the law, we also urge residents to be considerate of neighbors who have small children and/or pets, veterans with PTSD or people who have to work the next day when choosing fireworks for entertainment. Fireworks also distribute debris onto homes and vehicles and can cause unintentional damage to other property. Save the money, keep yourself and your guests safe this summer - and let the professionals put on the fireworks display.

## FIRE PREVENTION

*Many of us enjoy firing up the grill and having a summer BBQ with friends and family. Here are some tips to keep you fire safe while enjoying those tastes of summer:*

- Keep your grill at LEAST 10 feet from your home.
- Be sure that a drip cup is attached to the bottom of your grill to catch the hot grease that may escape while cooking.
- If using a charcoal grill, ALWAYS properly dispose of the ashes. Never bring them into the home or put them into a trash can while warm.
- Do not leave the grill unattended while cooking, even if burning off old food items.
- Follow the manufacturers instructions for lighting, and never leave the gas on for more than a few attempts to light the burners.
- If the flames get out of control, turn off the gas if you can safely do so and call 911.

*Outdoor fireplaces are another fun way to spend a nice evening outside.*

Please review the township codes for how they can be used and follow all of the manufacturer's safety recommendations.

- Fire code requires that these be placed at least 15 feet from any structure or combustible material.
- Should you choose to have a small campfire (in a vessel other than one available commercially), these must be done at least 25 feet from any structure or combustible material.
- A recreational fire should be constantly attended at ALL times and have a fire-extinguishing agent (fire extinguisher, garden hose, sand, dirt, etc.) available for immediate utilization.



More details are available on the FAQ section of our website, or directly located at <http://www.yaufr.com/Portals/0/Documents/Open-Fire-Code.pdf>.

## FIRE PREVENTION

*Please remember to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.*

We always suggest changing the batteries in your detectors when you change your clocks for daylight savings time in the spring and fall.

Should you find that any of your detectors are over 10 years old, they can be purchased at any hardware store. If you need assistance with installation, obtaining a detector, or if you have any other questions relating to smoke detectors, CO, or fire safety – please contact our office at 717-718-2383.

**ONLY WORKING DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!**



## Fire Extinguisher Training

York Area United Fire & Rescue offers Fire Extinguisher Training for your organization. We can come to your location with our self-contained demonstration trailer, and provide the following services to your staff:

- Fire Extinguisher Operation
- Classifications of Fire
- Types of Fire Extinguishers
- Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Operation with a propane-based fire

For details on pricing and scheduling, please contact [PublicEducation@Yauftr.com](mailto:PublicEducation@Yauftr.com) or 717-718-2383.

# PLAYGROUND SAFETY

*Every year York Area United Fire and Rescue respond to incidents involving children injured while playing on playground equipment, at home and in public parks.*

While most of these injuries are minor, it is important for parents to be aware of the dangers associated with playground equipment. This is especially true when the equipment is in poor maintenance or used improperly. In recent years, our crews have responded to incidents from simple falls to extricating teenagers from swings meant for toddlers. According to the Centers for Disease Control each year in the United States, emergency departments treat more than 200,000 children ages 14 and younger for playground-related injuries. These injuries range from blister, broken bones, chipped teeth, concussions, and other, sometimes, serious injuries. There are numerous resources available from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/outdoors/playgrounds>, to assist you and children with making playground not only fun but safe.

## DEFEAT THE VILLAINS OF PLAYGROUND SAFETY!

**THE STRANGLER**  
Never attach ropes, jump ropes, pet leashes or strings to playground equipment; children can strangle on these as well as loose strings on clothing.

**HARDHEAD**  
Make sure there is shock-absorbing material under the play set as falls are the biggest risk to children on the playground.

**THE FIREBALL**  
Don't let kids play on slides/surfaces that are hot. If it feels hot to your hand, it may be too hot for a child's bare skin.

**DISTRACTATRON**  
Always supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they are safe.

**NSN**  
NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY NETWORK  
A PARTNER OF THE YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

**CPSC**  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
EST. 1972



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our employee spotlight for this edition of YAUFRR Newsletter will focus on Firefighter Sean Montgomery and Firefighter Les Rhoads.

**1. How long have you worked for the fire department?** January of this year.

**2. Before working for the fire department what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?** The only job I had was an Anesthesia Tech at Hershey Medical.

**3. How or why did you become involved in the fire service?** My father volunteered and everyone I grew up with were firefighters.

**4. What is your proudest fire service moment?** Being offered a position for the greatest job in the world!

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

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

**7. What is your favorite past time?** Sitting around a campfire with good friends and some good drinks!

**8. What are the top two items on your bucket list?** Deep sea diving and sky diving

**9. If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?** Cocoa Beach, Florida. Luxury of the Florida shores but still has that small town vibe.

**10. Tell us one thing about you that would surprise most people.** Don't let my quietness fool you. I'm the most outgoing person in the room.

**11. Anything else you might want people to know about you.** I'll be a daddy at the beginning of August!



Firefighter  
**Sean Montgomery**  
895 C Shift



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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

I have worked for the department for 15-1/2 years.

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

I was a printing pressman and I was able to reprint several iconic prints (depictions of the Wright' Ferry bridge burning and multiple TF Hermansader prints).

**3. How or why did you become involved in the fire service?** My father worked with several non-profits while I was growing up and I felt I needed to give back to my community in some way. I found the fire service most rewarding.

**4. What is your proudest fire service moment?** Some of my proudest moments came while working as a team with my partner or partners to save lives. However, my proudest moments come from the feedback from the parents of children I have had a positive an lasting impact on.

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

Telle Savalas or Bruce Willis.

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

Anywhere I can spend quality time with my family (mountain adventures, relax on the beach, ski mountain).

**7. What is your favorite past time?** Riding my motorcycle, skiing and spending quality time with my family.

**8. What are the top two items on your bucket list?** Ride iconic highways of the United States on my motorcycle. Ski more of the Rocky Mountains.

**9. If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?** Right here in Central PA. It has all the seasons and is centrally located to some great places.

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

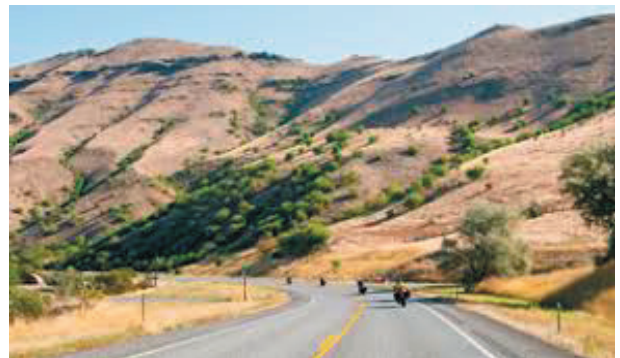
At one time I had very long hair.

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

My young grandson has Leukemia. Many people have asked what they can do to help. The best thing anyone can do is donating blood.



Firefighter  
**Les Rhoads**  
891 C Shift



**DONATE  
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As many Pennsylvanians began to look forward to resuming business operations near the end of May, YAUFRR felt it was important to reach out to the business community and offer assistance where possible. Our interest was and remains in helping our community and area businesses to re-open and maintain safety features such as proper number and points of egress, effective and unrestricted sprinkler systems, fire lane access and unobstructed utility areas, that could be affected by added precautions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. To assist us in conveying our concerns to all those we serve, YAUFRR recently sent the letter below to all of the businesses in our database to encourage a “safety partnership” during the transition periods that lie ahead. We urge all of our community partners to contact us for any help in maintaining fire code requirements while maintaining a safe and usable space for your employees and clientele.



## YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE

### *Office of the Fire Chief*

Daniel J. Hoff, Fire Chief

May 21, 2020

Dear Business or Building Owner,

Our world continues to endure challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While some businesses continue to operate, many were forced to close or limit operations. As the situation continues to evolve, we understand many businesses are looking toward a return to operation, as allowed under the Commonwealth's reopening plan.

As Fire Chief, I want you to know that York Area United Fire and Rescue, your fire department, stands ready to assist as it relates to fire code issues/best practices during your reopening process. We recognize that, as a part of your reopening, you may be considering changes to provide a level of comfort to your customers or comply with new government health recommendations. Your fire department takes no stance regarding when a business chooses to reopen. However, we want to ensure that you are able to open safely and that any changes made do not inadvertently impact the fire and life safety features of your business.

As you move forward, our Command Staff stands ready to assist with any questions or concerns you may have related to any fire issues. This would include occupant load, paths of egress, and making sure new contact barriers do not interfere with fire alarm or sprinklers. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with ANY questions. Please contact Battalion Chief Joe Madzellan at 717-718-2383 or [joe.madzellan@yaufr.com](mailto:joe.madzellan@yaufr.com) for assistance.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Hoff  
Fire Chief