



PENNSYLVANIA'S 1ST REGIONAL COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT



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YAUFR DEPARTMENT TRAINING



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

Welcome to the third edition of the YAUFRR Newsletter for 2020.



It sure seems like this year has flown by so far and here we are getting ready to head into the final quarter with cooler temperatures, fire prevention and the holidays. It has been a year of challenges for many of us - personal and professional – some related to the pandemic and others being just the hand that has been dealt us.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome FF Lyle Cosner back to the states. We are pleased that he has made it home safely and will be rejoining the department in early October. FF Cosner, thank you for your service.

Our volunteers have done a great job of continuing to support us during this year, as in the past. However, this year has been a strain on them also with reduced activities and being restricted from the stations. We want to be sure this group realizes their importance to our mission and how much they are appreciated.

Most of our employees know, but not all the volunteers and public are aware, of our FEMA Grant Award for the replacement of our SCBA. We applied for a \$410,450 grant to replace our SCBA and were awarded a grant of \$373,136. As usual our charter townships stepped up and took action to contribute the remaining balance so that we can make this project a total success. We are finalizing the evaluation process and expect to be creating the request for proposal (RFP) soon that will help us decide on which brand of SCBA our firefighters will be using for the foreseeable future. We are extremely grateful to FEMA and our townships and everyone that has had a hand in this project thus far. Teamwork really does make the dream work!

Again, this year we held our annual 9/11 Cookout at Station 894. This is an opportunity to not only let all of our personnel know that they are valued, but also provides a chance for remembrance and fellowship to make sure that none of us forgets that day and the sacrifice of so many. Although this years cookout was scaled back due to COVID-19, everyone who attended had a good time of fellowship and no one left hungry. Thanks for everyone's helping in making this a successful annual event.

We are now looking forward to fire prevention and the challenges we will face in getting our messages conveyed through other methods due to the pandemic. The holidays will then follow and before you know it the end of the year and we will be looking forward to what lies ahead in the new year.

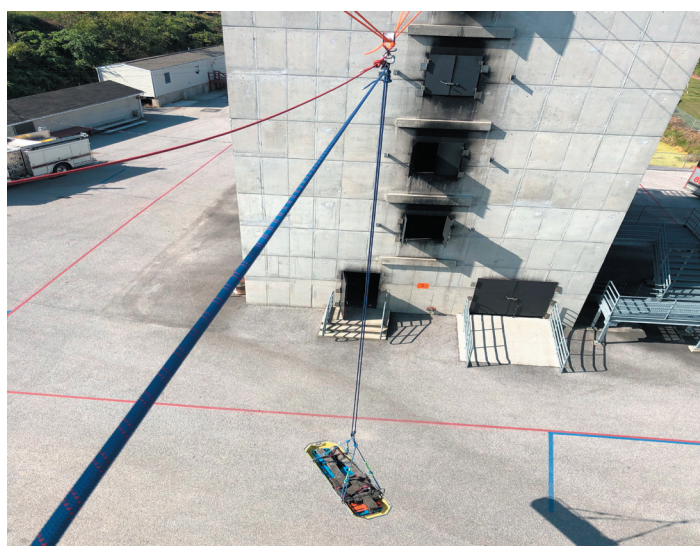
As always, thank you to our personnel for their support and continued hard work, to the townships for the financial support and to the community for the ability to serve them.

Stay Safe and Take Care of One Another,

Chief Hoff

TRAINING

- YAUFRR members completed a total of 10,1608.41 training hours year to date for 2020.
- In the third quarter crews honed their skills in the area of vehicle rescue operations (vehicle anatomy, stabilization, air bags and lifting, and heavy truck and bus evolutions), engine company operations (master streams, hydrant operations, multi-line drills, foam operations and drafting), and rope rescue operations (general equipment review, basic ropes and knots, patient packaging, high and low angle operations).
- Special thanks to Mike Walls from Mike's Towing for assisting us with a large-scale heavy rescue drill at the conclusion of our vehicle rescue month. Crews had the opportunity to work along side and integrate the use of Mike's heavy wrecker to assist with mitigating several challenging scenarios!
- Annual Haz-Mat Refreshers were completed in the 3rd quarter.
- Fall burn refreshers have been schedule for November 4th, 11th, and 18th.
- 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.

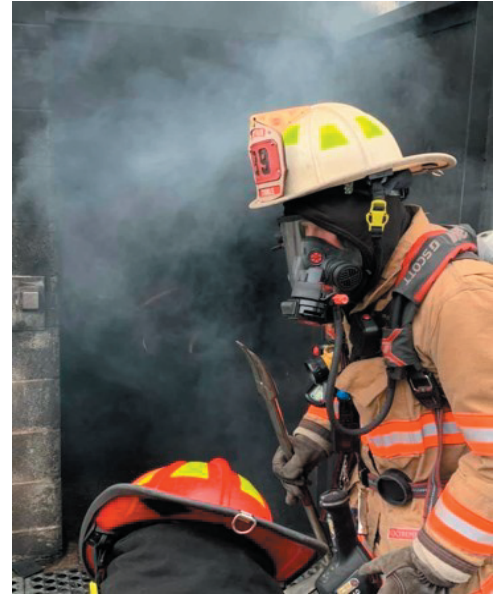


EQUIPMENT EVALUATION

Department SCBA Evaluation

When Firefighters respond to an emergency it is expected that personnel responding are well trained and well equipped to handle the emergency. Thousands of hours are spent every year training for these emergencies making sure all personnel are ready to respond. Firefighters rely on their training and their equipment to perform their jobs. Along with training they also need be sure that they have the best and most reliable tools to do those jobs. No tool is more important to a firefighter than their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus also called an SCBA. An SCBA is the only item that a firefighter has to breath safely in environments where survival without it would only be seconds.

An SCBA is constantly checked and tested for proper function. Every morning the SCBA assigned to each firefighter is personally checked by them knowing truly their life may depend on it. As with any tool or life safety equipment there is limitations and a certain lifespan that an SCBA can safely be used. In general, fire departments replace their SCBA every 10-15 years. There are many reasons for this but most importantly is that technology evolves, and improvements are developed to increase the safety and reliability of these devices.



When the time comes for a fire department to replace their SCBA a process is used to evaluate the performance and reliability of SCBA being offered on the market. Firefighters will evaluate the SCBA using simulated situations that they will encounter throughout their careers. This includes live fire suppression activities in high heat and toxic smoke environments, rescuing victims and each other along with numerous other tests. The process can take months and each manufacturer is involved in the process providing support and education.

Over the last several months our personnel were part of this testing process as we approach the time when we will need to replace our SCBA. Over fifty personnel committing hundreds of hours have worked hard testing the latest SCBA technology and systems on the market. The feedback and testing results from these evaluations are invaluable not only to us but also to the manufacturers of these products.

2020 FALL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

YAUFR Seeks Community Participation for its Strategic Plan Development

As you may be aware, YAUFR is a Registered Agency with the Center for Public Safety Excellence's Commission on Fire Accreditation International, 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 pursuing according to industry best practices, as judged by a thorough external peer review. An important part of this process is the creation and continuous update of a strategic plan. Strategic planning is a systematic, formal process that sets priorities to ensure an organization evolves to meet the needs of its customers. An agency's strategic plan provides a road map for where it is heading and how it gets there.

However, a fire department's strategic plan is only truly effective when it is developed with community input. The residents and businesses of the community are our customers, and we strive to meet their needs and expectations. Therefore, YAUFR is seeking assistance from residents and business owners or managers in Manchester, Springettsbury, and Spring Garden Townships interested in participating in the strategic planning process. No prerequisite fire service knowledge or skills are required. Participants will first be provided with an introduction to the fire service to better understand the services we provide. After this orientation, participants will be asked to participate in up to seven planning sessions over the course of six months. We only ask that you come with an open mind. If you would like to be considered for participation, send an email to Fire Chief Hoff at daniel.hoff@yaufr.com. In your email, provide the following:

- Contact information (name, address, and phone number)
- Are you a resident or business owner/manager?
- In which Township do you live or work?
- How long have you lived or worked in one of our Townships?

Committee selection will begin in early 2021. The Strategic planning process is expected to last up to six months. We thank you in advance for considering becoming a part of this important planning and improvement process.

2020 Year To Date

Number of Incidents - 2311

Station 891 YTD - 678

Station 892 YTD - 234

Station 893 YTD - 293

Station 894 YTD - 372

Station 895 YTD - 570

Year To Date Fire Loss - \$861,070

Year To Date Property Saved - \$70,101,056

Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:21

Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:55

2019 Year To Date

Number of Incidents - 2595

Station 891 YTD - 664

Station 892 YTD - 367

Station 893 YTD - 345

Station 894 YTD - 470

Station 895 YTD - 749

Year To Date Fire Loss - \$1,989,700

Year To Date Property Saved - \$26,852,050

Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:53

Response To 1st Arrival Time - 04:53

FIRE PREVENTION

“Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen”

National Fire Prevention week is October 4th – 10th. Our focus during this week, and the entire month of October, will be to spread the word on fire safety. This year, the theme of our message will be **“Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen”**. As in previous years, this is in line with the theme endorsed by the Nation Fire Protection Association, and fire departments across the United States. Watch for videos and posts on our social media throughout the month of October on not only kitchen fire safety, but a variety of topics to help keep you safe!

Did you know that National Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health observance event in the United States? It has been an official national event since 1925, thanks to President Calvin Coolidge.

Please remember to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

As always, please remember to check the batteries in your 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!

Do you have an upcoming event in your neighborhood, at your office, or in the community that you would be interested in having our staff attend to present fire safety information? Our department is happy to assist you FREE of charge. To schedule, please contact PublicEducation@Yaufr.com or 717-718-2381.



EMPLOYEE ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

For this edition of the YAUFRR Newsletter, we are going to take a break from the typical employee spotlight. Instead, we have asked FF Travis Ort to tell us a story about a once in a lifetime fishing experience for Captain Russ and himself.

The narrative that follows is FF Ort's account of their adventure.



Each year in the beginning of August there is a tournament that takes place in Ocean City, Maryland called the White Marlin Open. This tournament was started in 1974 and has been run every year since then. During the first year of the tournament there were 56 registered boats and 250 anglers that participated. The first year there was a \$20,000 prize purse. Every year since then it has grown into what is now referred to as “The World’s Largest and Richest Billfish Tournament”. Fast forward to 2020 there was a record 433 registered boats and a staggering prize purse of \$6.7 million dollars. The WMO has Calcutta’s for multiple different types of fish including Marlin, Tuna, Mahi Mahi, Shark and Wahoo. Normally, the WMO is held for 5 days but due to a tropical storm this year it was extended to 7 days.

During the 2019 WMO, Captain Russ and I were avidly watching the live stream of all the weigh-ins online and talking to each other about it. While growing up as a child, I was lucky enough to have grandparents that had a place in OCMD and spent most of my summers there. With that being said, I would see the WMO occur every year and always thought that was something I wanted to do one time just to say I fished in that tournament. Captain Russ and myself alike, would go home while the 2019 WMO was going on and tell our spouses what was happening with the tournament. We quickly figured out that we were both seriously interested in fishing that tournament sometime, kind of like knocking a bucket item off our list of things to do in life.

Firefighter Tiffani Russ who is Captain Russ’s wife approached me in November 2019 about the WMO. She said that she wanted to get him a trip to the 2020 WMO as a surprise for Christmas and wanted to know if I was interested in going along. So, after some quick consideration I said absolutely yes, and she had already found the boat that had availability. I called the captain and had my seat reserved right away. The hardest part was keeping the secret until Christmas time to talk to him about it! Once he found out we were going and both of us were on the same boat, that’s pretty much all we talked about for the next 7 months.

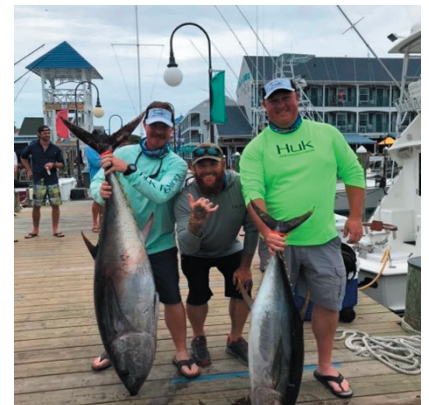
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About a week out from the WMO kicking off for 2020 there was a tropical storm that was projected to hit OCMD on Tuesday, the second day of the tournament. Our boat Captain had decided on Sunday that we needed to get out and fish on Monday, the first day. We were told that it was going to be rough due to the storm being so close. Around 5 o'clock Monday morning costal reports were saying it was going to be 8 to 12-foot seas. As we headed, all the anglers on the boat were trying to figure out what order we were going to fish in. It was decided that we were going to pick cards and that would randomly determine the order that we took turns to go. Captain Russ picked a card that allowed him to fish first and my pick was to go second.

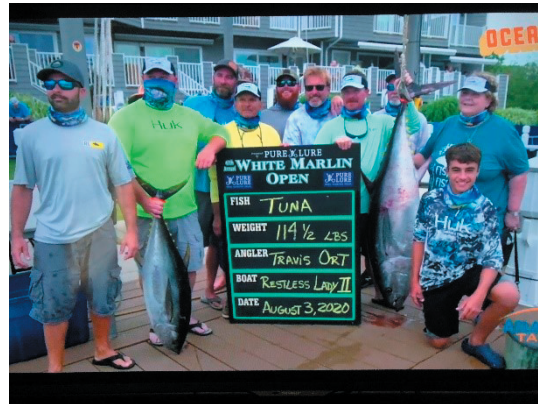
At 0830 in the morning the lines were dropped in the water to start the hunt for tuna. Within 5 minutes we were hooked up. Matt reeled in a 46.5 lb. yellow fin tuna which took about 25 minutes. 10 minutes later we were hooked up again and it was Travis's turn for the fight. As we approached the half hour mark and saw the leader come and go from the boat, we knew we had something big on the line. As 1 hour turned into 2, the fight continued. At one point, Travis was enveloped in a wave which crashed off the back of the boat however he kept reeling while standing in knee deep water. As the 3-hour mark approached, Travis began to tire out. He took a seat and strapped in the rod to finish off the fight. At the 3 and half hour mark, the fish finally had enough and showed itself. The mates grabbed the leader and brought the fish to the side of the boat where it was gaffed 3 times to lift the lunker over the side and into the boat. At this time, everyone was ecstatic and yelling with excitement. It was decided that it would be best to return to the dock and get to the scales as soon as possible. We were the first boat to the scales of the WMO 2020 and were placed at number 1 with a 114.5 lb. blue fin tuna.

As the excitement of the tournament increased and the hurricane approached, the rest of the week got very stressful. No boats fished Tuesday due to the storm and only a handful of boats fished Wednesday. We left at 0400 on Thursday to fish for marlin and try to reel in another big one to get on the leaderboard in that category. Our boat caught 2 white marlin but nothing big enough to take back to the scales. While returning to the dock, we overheard that a big tuna was heading to the scales. Once we finally had reception, we watched the scales as they weighed in a 121 lb. big eye tuna which bumped us out of first place. Many of us were a little disappointed until we were told that the number 1 tuna did not play all of the Calcutta's. That means that our \$980,000 first place tuna was now worth \$900,000 and that we were still in the running for some serious money. As the week went on, we watched the scales religiously until they closed every night. We watched them at our rental, while eating dinner at the restaurants, and while walking around Ocean City. Sunday morning arrived and we were leaving again at 0400 for marlin as no other larger tuna were caught. One white marlin was caught on Sunday by Matt's father in-law but was too small to qualify.

When we returned to the dock Sunday evening, the whole boat crew met at M.R. Ducks for dinner and drinks and to watch the scales close once again. You could tell everyone was getting exciting. Once the scales closed, the entire bar went wild and everyone had a great time to be able to finally relax and be stress free. This is when we found out that half of the allotted money for the blue marlin category would go towards our prize bringing the total to \$1,414,000. We also had the heaviest fish for Monday and were the leaders for the payday category for the entire tournament. Travis was still stressed as he now would have to undergo a polygraph test to confirm that we abided by the rules of the tournament. Once he was able to complete the polygraph, we returned to the dock to meet up with the boat crew and then headed to the awards ceremony where we received 2 trophies and the giant check.



Never in our minds did we think we would win like that as this was our first-time fishing in this tournament. It truly was a dream come true and a bucket list item for the both of us. We will surely be back again next year in hopes of history repeating itself.



COMING SOON!

COMING SOON TO A WEB BROWSER NEAR YOU!!!

Our department website has undergone a facelift and will be live in the very near future. The new and improved website will provide more information on the services that we offer, our staff, important documents, and more!

MISSION
The Mission of York Area United Fire and Rescue is to provide the highest level of proactive, professional service to the citizens and businesses of our participating municipalities, through the provision of regional fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical services, disaster planning and public education.

OUR SERVICE AREA
YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE
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Office: 717-718-2383
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OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

MON 21	York County Fire Chiefs and FF's Assoc. September 21 @ 7:00 pm
OCT 01	Alert Fire Company Meeting October 1 @ 7:00 pm
OCT 02	Grantley Fire Company Meeting October 2 @ 7:00 pm