



PENNSYLVANIA'S 1ST REGIONAL COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



@YAUFRChief



/YorkAreaUnitedFireandRescue

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

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



This past year has been one of many challenges, successes and first-time experiences. Who would have ever thought we would spend a year living in circumstances straight out of some Hollywood movie such as Contagion or Motaba or resembling books we were required to read back in high school – anyone remember George Orwell's book 1984 ?

We have definitely seen things I never thought I would see in my lifetime, but the good news is we have conquered these circumstances thus far and I have every confidence that we will continue to do so – together. Many positives have come our way this year - grant money, new employees and new resources, to name a few - and I am looking forward to 2021 and a new start, as well as a continuation of all the good that we have in this department.

The accreditation process we have embarked on will set the stage for the future of this department, identifying strengths and weaknesses that will steer the department and provide the footprint for a program of quality improvement that should endure beyond our time in the department. Participation by every member of our department is not only encouraged, but critical to the success of this process.

As most of you know, we have made the decision to purchase Scott breathing apparatus through our AFG Grant Award and we look forward to that purchase being finalized by Spring of 2021. The department is extremely appreciative of the interest our personnel took in providing feedback that is making this acquisition possible. Hopefully, we can receive that same degree of dedication to our turnout gear testing to ensure our PPE ensembles are the best they can be.

We ask that you all continue to play the role of community leader and take precautions necessary to remain healthy and reduce the spread of the COVID virus. We know there are plenty of opinions out there, but as first responders and figures in the community, we are obligated to take the approach that ensures safety for all. Our members have done a tremendous job of this so far and we would expect no less moving into the new year.

I am extremely grateful for the dedication and hard work by line and staff personnel alike throughout the year and look forward to our continued pursuit of excellence in 2021.

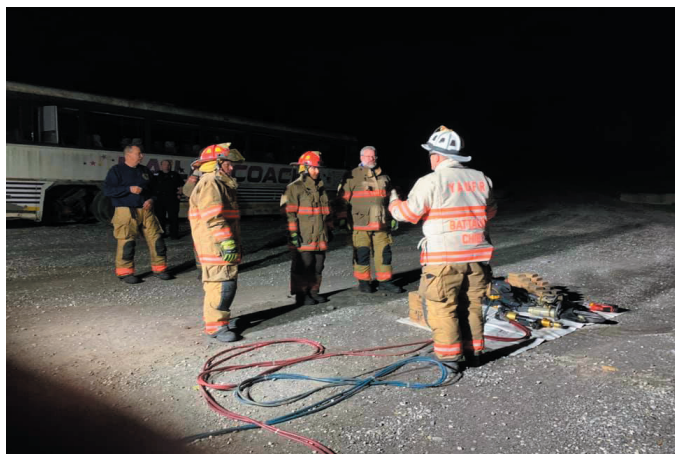
I would like to wish each and every one of you and your family members, the Merriest and Safest Christmas possible.

Stay Safe and Take Care of One Another,

Chief Hoff

TRAINING

- YAUFRR members completed a total of 14,838.24 training hours year to date for 2020.
- In the 4th quarter crews honed their skills in the area of fireground operations (single family residential fires, multi-unit residential fires, basement fires, flammable liquids/gas fires, heating emergencies), engine company operations, Fire Behavior (thermal imager applications, reading smoke, flow path control) and Inclement weather operations (inclement weather driving review and cold weather pump operations).
- Bi-annual CPR re-certification was completed in November for 1st Battalion personnel.
- Fall burn refreshers were completed in November, with crews focused on initial company operations with multiple scenarios requiring the use of leader line operations.
- 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.



Thank You Commission Members Lisa Wingert, Austin Hunt and Steve Hovis for your participation during the Falls Burns.



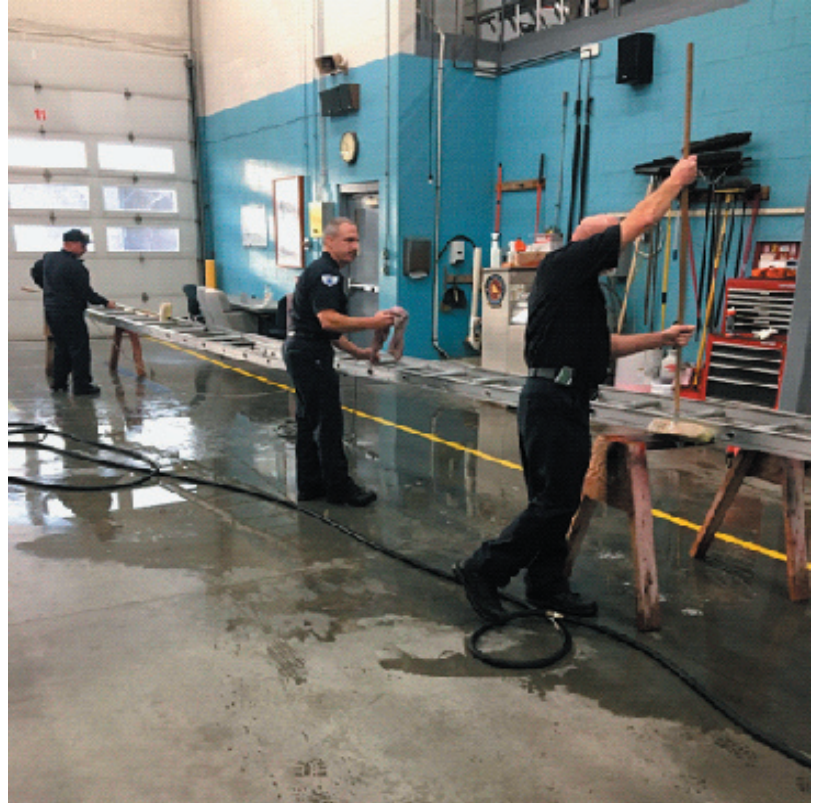
BC Wolfgang going over important instruction during Fall Burns with Lisa Wingert and Victoria Woods.



ANNUAL LADDER TESTING

Ladders are essential to the fire department.

Ladders are essential to any fire department. They are sometimes the only tool we have to gain access to the upper floors to reach a fire or perform a rescue. Portable ladders are specifically designed for fire service use and are built to hold two to three times the weight of a hardware store style ladder. Portable fire service ladders are inspected annually for structural integrity and must pass several tests. Each rung is visually inspected and checked for damage and cracking. Main beams are also inspected for similar issues. The most difficult test a ground ladder must pass is the weight test. This test is completed by fully extending the ladder and placing it horizontally on stands. Weight is slowly added until a total of 750lbs is being held by the ladder. The ladder must not only hold this load but return to its original straightness after the load is removed. While this is generally done annually, we also perform these types of tests after any significant exposure to heat or physical damage. Along with annual inspections, our ground ladders are routinely cleaned, inspected, and lubricated to maintain their performance.



Interesting fact: The best lubricant for an aluminum fire service ladder is carnauba car wax; it helps clean and lubricate aluminum while not leaving a sticky film that would attract dirt and debris.



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Still looking for a few additional residents for the Strategic Planning Committee

We are still looking for a few additional residents to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee, particularly residents from Manchester Township. 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 several planning sessions. Prior emergency service experience is not required, 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@yauftr.com. In your email, provide the following:

- Contact information (name, address, and phone number)
- In which Township do you live?
- How long have you lived in one of our Townships?

Committee selection will begin in early 2021, with committee meetings starting around late-March. 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



WINTER PREPAREDNESS

It's hard to believe that another year has passed, and winter is here again!

Since we have experienced our first winter storm of the season, we would like to remind you of some important information to prepare for possible winter storms. At home, make sure that after a snowstorm, you clear a path to your house from the road. This will help people, including emergency responders, reach you safely. If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, make sure snow is cleared at least 36" all the way around it. Businesses should also make sure that fire hydrants and sprinkler system connections are kept clear of snow and ice. This information is particularly important to keep in mind when plowing snow from parking lots and driveways.

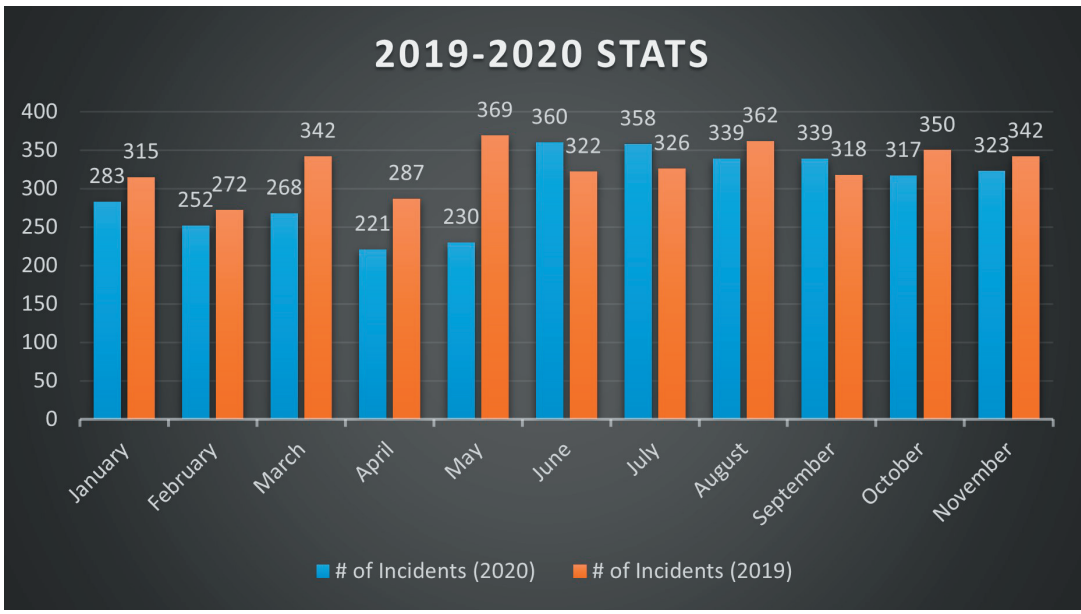


Also make sure you are prepared with any supplies that might be needed in case you can't leave the house. Supplies should be enough to last up to 3 days. If you operate a generator during power outages, make sure to keep the exhaust away from any windows, doors, or vents, to avoid carbon monoxide from entering the building. Never operate a generator inside a building, and never try to refuel a generator while it is running!

COMPANY STATISTICS

2020 Year To Date
Number of Incidents - 3243
Station 891 YTD - 931
Station 892 YTD - 359
Station 893 YTD - 410
Station 894 YTD - 491
Station 895 YTD - 799
Year To Date Fire Loss - \$1,270,320
Year To Date Property Saved - \$119,402,476
Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:22
Response To 1st Arrival Time - 05:18

2019 Year To Date
Number of Incidents - 3605
Station 891 YTD - 907
Station 892 YTD - 562
Station 893 YTD - 484
Station 894 YTD - 618
Station 895 YTD - 1036
Year To Date Fire Loss - \$3,912,250
Year To Date Property Saved - \$104,334,345
Dispatch to Enroute Time - 01:47
Response To 1st Arrival Time - 04:52



FIRE PREVENTION

Please remember to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

You recently changed time on all of your clocks, so that means you should have changed the batteries in your smoke detectors. If not, it isn't too late. Should you find that your alarm is not working, or is out of date, 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 or fire safety – please contact our office at 717-718-2381. WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!



FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Did you know that 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:

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

For details on pricing and scheduling, please contact PublicEducation@Yaufr.com or 717-718-2381.



WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Now that winter is upon us, we wanted to share some safety tips to help keep you and your family safe this winter!

- If you have a fireplace, please make sure that you have the flu and chimney cleaned regularly. When you burn wood in your fireplace, a natural byproduct of this process is “creosote”. When your chimney is cold, this product of combustion will stick to the inside of your flu and build up over time. Creosote is highly flammable and can cause a fire that burns at a high temperature, potentially cracking the chimney liner and endangering your home!
- Many of our homes have appliances that are powered by natural gas. This may include a hot water heater, oven, or even your furnace. When these appliances do not burn their fuel cleanly, carbon monoxide is created. Unfortunately, “CO” is colorless, odorless and tasteless. This means that if there were a problem in your home you may not know it until it was too late. A simple meter can be purchased that measures the amount of CO in your home and will alert you if levels reach a point where you should evacuate. If you need assistance with where to find a detector, and how/where to install it in your home please contact us at 717-718-2383.
- Use caution when running small gasoline engines near your home. The small engines (snow blowers, generators, etc.) also produce carbon monoxide which can be propelled into your home through exhaust. This same can be said of warming up your car in the garage! Always run gasoline engines in an area away from your home.
- This winter has already given us our first significant snow in quite some time. Always remember that when you are out shoveling to take frequent breaks, lift with your knees (not your back!), and stay hydrated.
- Many of us love the sight of holiday lights and fresh fallen snow. However, please use caution on the roads during inclement weather. Leave extra space between you and other vehicles, plan ahead for braking, reduce your speed, and if at all possible, just stay home. We love our residents, but we don’t want to see any of you in an unscheduled fashion!



From our Family to Yours, We Wish You A Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!



COMMAND STAFF

LEFT TO RIGHT

*JOHN WOODS (BC A-SHIFT), BRETT GRAHAM (BC B-SHIFT),
CURVIN WOLFGANG (BC C-SHIFT), DANIEL HOFF (FIRE CHIEF), BC JOE MADZELAN,
SOCTT RYNO (PART-TIME BC), BC MATT ARNOLD, KURT HOLLOWAY (PART-TIME BC)*



ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
LISA EINSIG



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
LAURIE NOEL