



# HAMPDEN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

*"Proudly Serving Hampden Township  
and Surrounding Communities since 1954"*

295 S. Sporting Hill Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

## CITIZENS' FIRE ACADEMY 2009

Oct. 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 6:30 to 9 p.m.

**"As a youngster you wanted to be a firefighter.  
Now is your chance to experience that dream."**

Through classroom presentation and hands on exercises, citizens will achieve a greater understanding of the inner workings of the Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company. In order to provide a quality program, the academy will consist of no more than 15 students. Applicants must be 18 years of age and currently reside in Hampden Township. Participants are encouraged to participate in all practical demonstrations. However, because of the voluntary nature of the program, physical limitations of applicants will not be considered a reason for exclusion from the academy. The academy will be four weeks in length, one night per week (Thursdays) from 6:30 until 9:00 p.m. All classes will be conducted at Fire Station 1 at 1200 Good Hope Road.

## Goals and Objectives of the Academy

- ✓ To provide residents a basic understanding of the tactics and strategies of firefighting and rescue operations and to serve as a method of recruiting new members.
- ✓ To provide a greater understanding of the services the Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company is able to provide.
- ✓ To encourage academy participants to return to their families and neighborhoods and share their experiences. This will provide more safety conscious and informed citizens.
- ✓ To provide an enjoyable, interactive atmosphere in which fire company members and citizens can share information and concerns.



## Citizens' Fire Academy Curriculum

### Thursday, Oct. 8 — Week One

- ◆ Introduction to the Fire Service / Firefighter Safety
- ◆ Firefighting Equipment / Protective Clothing and Breathing Apparatus

### Thursday, Oct. 15 — Week Two

- ◆ Fire Extinguishers
- ◆ Fire Attack Methods / Fire Streams / Foam
- ◆ Ropes and Ladders

### Thursday, Oct. 22 — Week Three

- ◆ Vehicle Rescue and Hazardous Materials

### Thursday October 29 — Week Four

- ◆ Firefighting Scenarios / Search and Rescue
- ◆ Fire Academy Graduation

*For information and an application please contact:  
Deputy Chief Jerry Ozog at 497-5306*

## What HTVFC has done for us —

# *A local family's experience*

Jill Manley never expected the call that came around lunchtime just before Easter: Your house is on fire. As she rushed home, she called her husband, Wade, who immediately also headed for Hampden Township.

Their home at 1340 Armitage Way was fully engulfed by the time the 911 call went to the Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company. The firefighters quickly and efficiently went to work, knocking down the fire and keeping most of the damage to the second story of the home.

"Never having had this experience before, we didn't know what to expect," said Jill Manley, who is living with her husband and three young children across the street while their home is being rebuilt. What the Manleys discovered from their loss, however, was a community of people who were there for them in their time of need.

"We were in shock and didn't know what to do," she said. "The most meaningful thing to me and my family was what the firefighters did. After first putting out the fire, they carried out soggy wet items, salvaging family photos and antiques that had been in the family for years. What they brought out, they carried with such great care. They were incredibly supportive."

Wade Manley recalled that as the firefighters were bringing the blaze under control, a neighbor told him that she had tried to rescue the family cat, Maisey, from under their son's bed. "I grabbed the first fireman I saw and told him about the cat. He didn't hesitate. He immediately went into the house even though there were still flames and tons of smoke coming out of the building. What seemed like only seconds later, he came out with the cat. Believe me, after everything else that had happened, I didn't want to have to explain to my children why we lost their pet."

Wade Manley said while he and his wife were still reeling from the shock of seeing their home in flames, firefighters formed a brigade to bring out their belongings. "They grabbed plastic garbage bags and stuffed them full with items. They saved about 85 percent of our personal belongings. Person-



(Photo by Doug Bell)

**Assistant Chief Jim Rodkey**

ally, I don't consider that part of their job but obviously they do. The firefighters went above and beyond."

"They have been with us every step of the way, literally from the time we arrived to the burning house to jump starting the recovery process... helping even with the little things," Wade Manley continued.

"There are worse things that can happen to families, believe me," Jill Manley said, adding no one was in the house when the fire broke out. "Had the firefighters not been on the scene so quickly, we would have lost everything."

"It is comforting to know we have these type of people working for us in Hampden Township. I honestly cannot believe they're volunteers. They are a testament to the township. They are awesome," Wade Manley added.

## Company Officers 2009

The administrative and line officers of the HTVFC are elected by the membership at the December meeting. The HTVFC relief association elects officers at the July meeting. The following members serve as line officers:

### ◆ FIRE COMPANY

President - Mike Starvaggi  
Vice President - Steve Wirth  
Secretary - Kim Kenawell-Hoffecker  
Treasurer - Jean Starvaggi  
Financial Secretary - Patty Bridy  
Trustee - W.G. Dunlevy  
Trustee - Scott McCabe  
Trustee/Fire Commissioner - Don McCallin

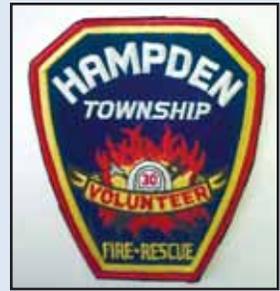
### ◆ RELIEF ASSOCIATION

President - Mark Cekovich  
Vice President - Frank Lentz  
Secretary - Kim Kenawell-Hoffecker  
Treasurer - Jack Urling  
Trustee - Michael Moyer  
Trustee - Jerry Ozog  
Trustee - Scott McCabe

### ◆ FIRE LINE OFFICERS

Fire Chief - John Rausch III  
Deputy Chief - Jerry Ozog  
Assistant Chiefs - Tom Hoffecker, Jim Rodkey  
Hampden Township Fire Administrative Officer - Captain Doug Gochenaur  
Captain - Scott McCabe  
Fire Police Captain - Denny Browne Sr.  
Lieutenants - Mike Taylor, Rick Flinn III, Jason McBride, Mike Moyer  
Fire Police Lieutenant - Mike Ury  
Safety Officers - Steve Wirth, Mark Richter, Tom Koestner

# VOLUNTEER MEMBER PROFILES



## John Rausch III, Fire Chief

John has been a member of HTVFC for the past 27 years rising through the ranks as Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief and today as Fire Chief. As Chief he is responsible for all fire company operations. John is extremely active in fire company operations running 53% of the calls as of June 30. John's passion is training. He has attended classes at the HACC Public Safety Center, the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, and the National Fire Academy. John stated "the best thing about being a volunteer firefighter is the personal satisfaction of saving a life or protecting someone's property." John works as a full time mechanic for a local heavy equipment shop.



paratus training. Steve is a founding partner of a Hampden Township based nationally recognized law firm - Page, Wolfberg and Wirth. Steve graduated cum laude from Duquesne University School of Law. In addition to his law degree, Steve has a Masters Degree in Health Services Administration from Gannon University in Erie, PA.

## Jason McBride, Lieutenant

Jason joined HTVFC in 2004 and has attended fire training courses at the HACC Public Safety Center and the National Fire Academy. Serving as a Lieutenant, Jason is responsible for initial emergency scene size up and action. He also is responsible for ensuring Engine 130 is ready for service by completing equipment checks and operational testing. Jason is a graduate of Camp Hill High School and the Cumberland Perry Vocational Technical School. Jason works full time as Vice President and Safety Manager for Herre Bros., a local mechanical and electrical contractor.



## Steve Wirth, Vice President

Steve has been a member of HTVFC since 1999. He currently serves as the Safety Officer, Driver / Operator, and Vice President. Steve has 30 years of experience as an EMT, paramedic, flight paramedic, EMS instructor, fire officer, and EMS administrator. Steve's passion is apparatus driver safety. He has worked with company members to ensure effective fire ap-



## Kim Kenewell-Hoffecker, Board Secretary

Kim has been a member of HTVFC since 1991 and serves as Board Secretary for the Fire Company and as Board Secretary for the Fire Company Relief Association. In addition to her board responsibilities, Kim also serves as the Chairperson for Ways and Means Committee as well as the Budget Committee. These two committees have the most weight in developing fundraising campaigns, reviewing expenses and budget requests, setting investment strategy and actively reviewing all insurance policies for the company which all help to insure HTVFC's longevity. Kim's business skills have helped the fire company maintain a solid financial outlook. She is a graduate of both Cumberland Valley High School and Pennsylvania State University. In addition to her formal education, she has successfully completed many Fire and EMS certification courses. Kim is currently a Vice President for Merrill Lynch where she serves as the Complex Sales Manager, Senior Financial Advisor and as a PIA Program Portfolio Manager.



## Fire Prevention

HTVFC has an active fire prevention program that is conducted in October. Hampden Township Fire Administrative Officer Doug Gochenaur is responsible for coordinating the events. Our members



conducted eighteen fire prevention events. A total of 617 daycare and elementary school students were touched by HTVFC's fire prevention programs. Over 100 community members attended our annual open house that was held on Oct. 4, 2008.



Hazardous Materials Operations Course-June 2008



# Significant 2008 Fire Company Projects



## New Drager Air Packs

Assistant Chief Tom Hoffecker chaired and led a 10-person Evaluation Committee tasked with identifying and selecting the safest, most technologically advanced, and best engineered self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to serve HTVFC firefighters for a minimum of the next 10 years. The apparatus was purchased at a cost of \$305,000. Besides Chairman Hoffecker, the Committee consisted of Chief John Rausch, Deputy Jerry Ozog, Assistant Chief Jim Rodkey, Captain Scott McCabe, Lt. Mike Taylor, Lt. Rick Flinn III, Lt. Jason McBride, Firefighter Kevin Nelson, and Firefighter Mark Cekovich. The evaluation process started in early May 2008 and culminated with a manufacturer selection and equipment list recommendation issued to the HTVFC Relief Committee in December 2008. The Evaluation Committee considered SCBA equipment manufactured by MSA, Scott, and Drager. All equipment was required as a minimum to comply with NFPA 1981 – 2007 Standards. Each manufacturer vendor representative introduced their equipment in a timed two-hour presentation. Numerous scenarios utilizing each breathing apparatus in realistic



fire situations were held at HACC and each Committee Member participated in the exercises. Upon completion of the scenarios, each Committee Member completed a 20-item evaluation form utilizing a maximum 5-point scoring system for each item. The scores were tabulated and Drager, with its state-of-the-art PSS 7000 system, was identified by the Evaluation Committee as the clear winner.

## Firefly Golf Tournament

Fire Board and Relief Secretary Kim Kenawell-Hoffecker and Assistant Chief Tom Hoffecker again coordinated and managed our annual Firefly night golf tournament for its tenth consecutive year. The 2008 fundraising event held at Armitage Golf Course was a sellout for its 10th year in a row. With a new pro at Armitage this season, HTVFC was permitted to play the back nine holes for the first time which in essence provided the opportunity to double the number of players in the tournament. Doubling the number of players also doubled the amount of effort to stage the tournament but the efforts were well worth it as the Fire Company raised a record \$6,584. Through the generosity of a corporate sponsor an additional \$2,200 was contributed directly to the tournament which resulted in a grand total profit of \$8,784. The proceeds were supplied to the Fire Company for the purchase of new fire gear and/or equipment. The 11th annual tournament will be held on Oct. 3. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring the event please contact Tom Hoffecker at 773-5362.



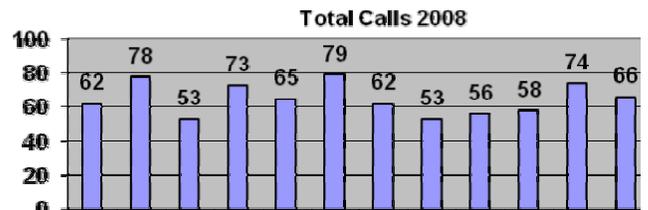
## WIDE VIGILANCE 2 REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL

HTVFC participates in the South Central Task Force as a decontamination engine company. On Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, four members of the company under the direction of Lt. Mike Taylor responded to a simulated natural disaster at the HACC Public Safety Training Center.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008, Assistant Chief Tom Hoffecker and Firefighter George Lazorchick participated in a simulated aircraft crash disaster drill at the Lancaster County Airport as part of the Cumberland County Technical Operation and Rescue Team (TROT – Company 500). They assisted in not only demonstrating specialized rescue techniques but also the Team's capabilities of responding to a mass casualty event and the ability to work with multiple agencies during the resolution of a tragic event. HTVFC participates as one of the six member Fire Companies comprising the Team and benefits not only through the receipt of specialized training but also from the use and possession of specialized rescue tools and equipment.

## QUICK FACTS

HTVFC responded to 801 calls for assistance in 2008.



HTVFC has 25 active volunteer firefighters, five active fire police officers and five junior firefighters. 15 of the active firefighters are nationally certified to the Firefighter 1 level. Active is defined as responding to at least 10% of emergency calls per year. All firefighting members are required to complete the 160-hour Pennsylvania Essentials of Firefighting (NFPA 1001), 24-hour HAZMAT Operations, 48-hour Basic Vehicle Rescue and 4-hour CPR / First Aid courses within one year of membership.