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Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company (GTVFC)

Fire/EMS Station 24 Volume No. 1 Issue No. 13 March 2007



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2006 Response Report

By F. M. Bales, CFPS, CFI—Fire Chief / EMT

During 2006, we experienced 8 percent increase in responses from the previous year, resulting in 393 calls for assistance. This represents a 36.9% increase in call volume from the year 1996. The responses for 2006 are summarized as follows:

TYPE	COUNT	PERCENT
Fire		
Brush/Grass/Trash	10	2.5%
Building	42	10.7%
Chimney or Furnace	7	1.8%
False Alarm	37	9.4 %
Mutual Aid Drill	12	3.1%
Vehicle	17	4.3%
Sub Total	125	31.8%

Medical		
Medical Emergency	106	27.0%
Standby, Non-emergency	27	6.9%
Sub Total	133	33.9%

Rescue		
Animal Rescue	2	0.5%
Lock-out/In Vehicle	1	0.3%
Missing Person Search	1	0.3%
Motor Vehicle Accident	71	18.1%
Water Related Rescue	1	0.3%
Sub Total	76	19.5%

Hazardous Condition		
Carbon Monoxide Incident	2	0.5%
Chemical Hazard	9	2.3%
Flammable Liquid/LPG		
Leak/Spill	4	1.0%
Flood Assessment	10	2.5%
Power Line Down	10	2.5%
Wind Storm/Tornado/		
Hurricane Assessment	7	1.8%
Sub Total	42	10.6%

Public Service		
Assist Police or		
Governmental Agency	5	1.3%
Public Service	5	1.3%
Water Removal	7	1.8%
Sub Total	17	4.4%

**For the complete report visit our web site
www.greenfieldtownship.org**

Indoor Air Pollution

By M. Nicoteri—Administrative Member

We wait all winter for the arrival of spring; the warmer weather, the longer daylight, the blooming flowers. I find myself wanting to be outside as much as possible and I want to open my windows and doors to let all the fresh air inside. The fresh air can do wonders on your house, your mental health and also your physical health!

I've been looking at the Environmental Protection Agency's website lately and was surprised to learn that the air in our homes can actually be more polluted than the air in our largest cities! They attribute these pollutants to various factors such as fumes from combustible fuels, cleaning products, and pesticides; animal dander, tobacco smoke, mildew, dust, and bacteria. Effects can include irritation of eyes, nose and throat, headaches, dizziness and even as serious as respiratory diseases, heart diseases and cancer. Furthermore, the people who are exposed to these indoor pollutants most often are also the people who are most susceptible to their effects including the very young, the elderly, and the ill.

There are two broad areas to remember when improving your indoor air quality: limit the source, and improve ventilation. When doing your spring cleaning, remember to read the cleaning product labels to limit the exposure to fumes. Make sure all furnaces and heaters are regularly checked to avoid exposure to fuels and carbon monoxide fumes. You may also want to consider testing your home for harmful radon gas exposure. Molds and mildews should be eliminated through regular cleaning and disinfecting of areas where there is moisture including basements and appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, and dehumidifiers.

Ventilation is a big part of improving air quality by both minimizing those fumes and also by getting fresher, dryer air to those problem moisture areas. The EPA advises that much of the pollutants are maximized by poor ventilation since many of our homes today are so well insulated and tightly sealed that airborne pollutants remain in our homes instead of escaping and we breathe the same contaminants over and over.

Unfortunately, nothing is perfect. I've found that letting in all that wonderful fresh air into my home also lets and the new pollen in as well. I'm sure I don't have to tell you that pollen is an additional air pollutant that affects our health. Try to create a good balance of improving your indoor air quality by limiting your exposure to additional contaminants and improving the ventilation in your home by opening your windows on lower pollen count days. You can find more information and many helpful tips yourself on the EPA Website which is www.epa.gov.

ICE-In Case of Emergency

By P. Apostolakes—Administrative Member

I.C.E. is a nationwide grassroots program that educates cell phone users to program "ICE" phone numbers into their cellular phones in the event they become incapacitated. Emergency responders and hospital personnel are beginning to look for these numbers that allow them to call designated emergency contacts to assist in medical decisions. By designating ICE in directories, this eliminates time consuming searches for phone numbers listed in a cell phone directory, which is costly in emergency situations.

The program is the brainchild of Bob Brotchie, a paramedic from an ambulance service based in Cambridge, England. He struggled to get information from shocked and injured patients. "Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with ICE, we'd know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of their medical history." said Brotchie, a paramedic for 13 years (quoted in the Norman, OK transcript).

When programming contacts in your directory, list a close friend or family member (or members) under the listing, ICE. (e.g., ICE Mary Smith, area code if necessary, 123-1234). You should designate a few contacts so emergency responders can find someone quickly who knows you and your medical history. Inputting multiple ICE contacts can be programmed as simply as ICE1, ICE2, etc. Having identification in your wallet or purse may not be enough if close family or friends do not reside at the same phone number as you.

ICE will not affect your cellular phone. There is no cost associated with this program. You may wish to list your contacts twice, as ICE and/or by name only, just as you would normally call someone. This will allow you to continue your usual dialing routines without changing, while participating in this program.

Participants are urged to keep their lists current with appropriate phone numbers, etc. However people are still encouraged to carry identification and wear medical bracelets if needed. This program is an additional means to insure prompt medical attention when injured.

For more information contact the Lackawanna County Department of Emergency Services at 570-963-6700 or visit their web site at www.lackawannacounty.org.

NEW STATE WIPER LAW

If it rains, you have to shine. The headlight law took effect Jan. 29, 2007 which states, WIPERS ON EITHER CONTINUOUS OR INTERMITTENT, LIGHTS ON! Fines, fees and costs could amount to \$100 per incident.

CO - Invisible Killer

By A. F. Karolyi—Administrative Member

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas soluble in water, alcohol and benzene. It can burn resulting in carbon dioxide. A sufficient amount in a home can kill you and your loved ones without you even realizing its happening.

CO is the result of incomplete oxidation during combustion of carbon based fuels normally used to heat our homes, cook our meals and car exhaust. Un-vented heaters fueled by gas or kerosene; improperly adjusted or poorly maintained home heating boilers or furnaces; leaking chimneys; fireplaces; gas cooking stoves; water heaters; exhaust from attached garages etc; all are a source of CO. Think of it, the items providing us comfort can be an instrument of our death.

Regardless of concentration, CO affects our bodies by inhibiting blood oxygen intake. Lower concentrations cause fatigue and can cause chest pains for those with heart disease. With increasing concentrations, flu-like symptoms appear. Dizziness, headache, confusion, nausea, impaired vision and reduced brain function are also possible. Some symptoms may be disregarded as they may disappear upon leaving the home. Higher concentrations can cause death, for instance, if the concentrations build up during the night when everyone is asleep. No oxygen, no life!

Preventing CO is not difficult; but a continuous process. I mean it's not a one time thing and should be kept in mind when using any fuel burning appliance or system. Make sure proper fuel is used and all appliances are properly adjusted by professional service personnel. If you are considering a supplemental heater, consider electric or a vented space heater. Open flues when fireplaces or fireplace inserts are used. Only purchase wood stoves certified to meet EPA emission standards. Have your chimney professionally certified tight and sound. Never close a flue while glowing embers are present and never idle your vehicle in a closed garage.

Although CO detector development is not as advanced as smoke detectors, they are still a valuable asset in your home. The best locations for CO detectors are, as with smoke detectors, one in each level of your home, including the sleeping areas. All detection devices should carry the Underwriters Laboratories seal. Since both types of detectors emit the same type of alarm, it is best to determine which alarm has gone off. If it is the CO detector, awaken all members of the household to check if anyone has any of the above symptoms. If so, get them out of the house immediately and seek medical attention. If no one has symptoms, ventilate the house and turn off all potential sources of CO. Additional information can be obtained at www.epa.gov/iaq/co.html.

New Look For Fund Drive

By A. F. Karolyi—Administrative Member

This year's fund drive, which begins with this issue of *The Bulldog Bulletin*, has a different look than previous years. In an effort to reduce costs, the large mailing envelope and the large return envelope has been eliminated and replaced by a smaller return envelope. The newsletter itself will be the mailing vehicle for the fund drive. It will appear the same as in previous years when it was inserted into the larger mailing envelope and after a resident made a donation, was mailed separately by itself.

This year the newsletter will contain a smaller request slip and smaller return envelope. Of course we hope the donations will be larger and more of them.

Support your fire company as your fire company responds to your needs and supports you!

SEEN OUR NEW ADV. SUPPLEMENT?

If you are interested in placing an advertisement, call Dean Cerra at 282-4576 or e-mail Alex Karolyi at amkarolyi@earthlink.net and a newsletter staff member will get back to you. Cut off date for our next issue in June is May 18, 2007. Your ad is sent to every residence in Greenfield Township.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS NEEDED

Do you have a good story or information you would like to share with the community? *The Bulldog Bulletin* is available to publish your article as long as it is in good taste and/or of an informative nature. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any article that is deemed objectionable from a community point of view. Call Alex Karolyi at 254-9686 for information.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

This year's breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be held on Sunday, April 1st. Pictures with Easter Bunny will be available All are welcome!

NEW WEBSITE NAME

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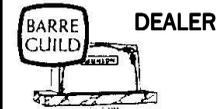
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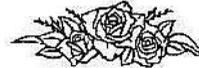
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