



RESPONDER

Annual Newsletter of the Point Pleasant Fire Company #1 • November 2021

All volunteer fire and rescue services since 1924 - Serving portions of Plumstead, Solebury & Tinicum Townships

BEING A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Did you know that Point Pleasant Fire Company is an ALL VOLUNTEER organization? The Line Officers, Administrative Officers, Firefighters, every single member.... ALL VOLUNTEERS! Many people are quite taken by surprise when they hear this, especially residents who are new to the area. In fact, Pennsylvania has approximately 2,448 fire departments and of those departments nearly 2,354 of them are all VOLUNTEER! Pennsylvania has more volunteer firefighters than any other state in the country. Officials estimate it saves state and local governments about \$6 billion! (Source 6abc.com) Most of us may not give much thought to these facts until an emergency situation arises that personally affects us.

In order to be a volunteer firefighter, our members are required to take a minimum of 200 hours of training through the Bucks County Fire School to receive their firefighting certificate. Additionally, the members train every Tuesday evening and occasional weekends. Point Pleasant is a bit of a unique department. Not only are the members trained in firefighting, vehicle rescues, and domestic rescues, the company's proximity to High Rocks and the Delaware River makes it imperative for our members to be trained for cliff rescues and river rescues as well. The company officers and members teach most of the training drills at the firehouse and try to duplicate possible scenarios that may be encountered on an emergency scene. This added training helps keep their skills sharp for the next emergency call.



The recent September hurricane, Storm Ida, had our crews out for nearly 3 days straight! There were many water rescues with occupied vehicles being swept away by the fast moving currents of the flash flooding. Residents in the Carversville area were hit especially hard as the flood waters were rising quickly. In the midst of Tornado Warnings, while many of us were heading to our basements to stay safe and dry, our volunteers answered each and every call, braving the pouring rain and driving wind, with the determination to keep everyone else safe and to help them out of dire situations. These volunteer men and women leave the safety of their own homes, leave their families and/or work and do what needs to be done to save lives. Each of our members takes great pride in their ability to assess any situation and quickly work together to help those in need and they do it all for **FREE**.

Any time, day or night, our volunteers are ready, willing and able to answer the call. Are you? If you'd like more information on becoming a member of this amazing team, contact us at 215-297-5167 OR visit the firehouse any Tuesday evening at 7pm. Please remember, there are many other volunteer opportunities within the Fire Company that require less training hours or none at all. If running into burning buildings, scaling cliffs and raging storm waters aren't your cup of tea, you can still help with administrative duties, fundraising, and much more. Membership applications can be obtained from any company member.



Our Fund Drive

This year more than ever we are extremely grateful for the generous donations that we receive from you, our neighbors. Our annual fund drive, along with our additional fundraising efforts, allow us to maintain our operations and support the improvements needed to meet the ever-changing fire and rescue needs of our community. The pandemic has affected all of us, the fire company is no exception. You may have noticed, we were not able to do our bake sales or any other community generated fundraising in 2020 or 2021.

Your monetary contributions enable our all-volunteer fire company to protect and serve our wonderful community. We hope you will continue to give us your financial support. Thank you!

An Urgent Reminder That Needs Repeating

We can't help you if we can't find you!! As much as everyone loves a decorative house number plate...pretty isn't always practical. Please make sure your house number is visible from the road coming from BOTH directions and is clearly visible at night! Most of the local hardware stores sell the green address signs with contrasting numbers (as pictured). Follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Numbers should be 4" in height and ideally should face the street. IF your driveway is long, post your house number on both sides of the mailbox or sign pole at the end of the driveway near the road.
- ✓ Put the numbers under lighting and use numbers with a contrasting background so they are visible at night.
- ✓ Keep numbers visible by trimming back trees and bushes.
- ✓ Always use the 9-1-1 address for the property.



Please Maintain Your Trees and Driveways

Rescue apparatus cannot access a driveway if the trees are hanging too low. It's important to ensure your driveway is accessible before you have an emergency. Please double check that trees and brush are maintained along your driveway. At a minimum, fire engines need 12' wide and 13' high clearance.

Low hanging wires can also be a hazard and restrict access. By law, all utility lines (electric, phone and internet) must be 14' 6" high or higher. If you have low hanging utility lines, PLEASE contact your service provider immediately. Thank you!

How to Contact Us



www.engine41.com

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box #1
Point Pleasant, PA 18950



[pointpleasantfireco](#)



[Point Pleasant Vol. Fire Co.](#)

Street Address:
6500 Point Pleasant Pike
New Hope, PA 18938

Emergencies: Dial 9-1-1

Non-emergency: (215)297-5167



After a snowfall, remember to clear a 3-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.



WATCH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR INFORMATION ON OUR UPCOMING SPRING 2022 CLOTHING DRIVE FUNDRAISER!

JAMES MARTIN - 2021 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This year's recipient of the Firefighter of the Year award goes to a man who has dedicated his life to the fire service. As a young man, he entered the Fire Department of New York until his retirement. With retirement came many changes and the next chapter of his journey would bring him to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

After getting to know his new neighbors, James met one of our members who mentioned he should, "stop by the Station some time." Well...he stopped by and we didn't let him go!

Since joining our Company in October of 2019, James has been a team player. Always willing to step in and help out with whatever is needed. As a result, James currently holds the position of Vice President and Trustee. When it comes to working calls, he is an Engineer/Operator, Firefighter and Boat Operator. He is ready, willing and able to do whatever is needed to get the job done as safely and efficiently as possible. Whether it is a tactical rescue, high angle rescue, fire rescue or water rescue, he is a helping hand, no matter the task.



In addition to holding administrative positions and being an active firefighter, during the Covid-19 shut downs, James saw a need within the Company to keep our members fit and healthy. Since our members were not able to go to their usual gyms to keep in shape, James approached the membership about forming a committee to look into turning unused space in our building into a gym for the members. James chaired the committee, eagerly took on the task and within a few months the Company had a full blown workout room that rivals the best available!

New York's loss is truly our gain. The Officers and Members of the Point Pleasant Fire Co. #1 proudly present James Martin as our 2021 Firefighter of the Year! Thank you and Congratulations James!

FIRE SAFETY TIP-DISCARD FIREPLACE ASHES PROPERLY

Every year fire departments in the Bucks County area respond to house fires caused by improperly discarded fireplace ashes. Our personnel have responded to multiple fires over the past few winters caused by improperly discarded fireplace ashes. Many people don't realize the length of time required for ashes to cool enough for disposal. Coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to reignite and start a fire for many days after the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc.

Follow these simple fire safety tips:

- ✓ Clean and inspect your chimney at least once a year and again after every cord of wood burned.
- ✓ Treat ALL ashes and coals as **HOT** ashes, even when you think they've had time to cool.
- ✓ Do not discard your ashes into any combustible container such as a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can.
- ✓ Do not place ash containers on decks, porches or in garages.
- ✓ Put ashes into a non-combustible metal container with a lid.
- ✓ Pour water into the container to make sure the ashes are cool.
- ✓ Keep your can **OUTSIDE** the home, away from your fireplace or stove and anything combustible.
- ✓ Teach all family members to be safe with ashes from your fireplace or wood stove.



IF YOU HAVE A LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE, BE SURE TO KEEP IT WATERED AND AWAY FROM HEAT SOURCES

Keeping Our Skills Current and Close to Home

Due to the extensive amount of training hours required to become a volunteer firefighter and to maintain skills, Point Pleasant Fire Company approached the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors with a request to build a training building on the fire company grounds. After notifying local neighbors of this request and having various meetings with the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board, the Company received the final approvals and permits to proceed with the construction of the building.

The new training building will allow our members to train/drill on-site without having to wait for classes to become available at the Bucks County Fire School. Having the building on-site will also allow our members to stay in the local emergency calling area during training instead of being out of the area for hours at a time. This will benefit the fire company, the community and our members by allowing certified training in a more timely fashion.

The building will be located on the current fire company training grounds and ground breaking has begun. The new training building is slated for completion in the Spring of 2022.

Our New Boat Has Arrived!



In our 2019 newsletter, we reported that the company had made the decision to purchase a new rescue boat from Rockproof Boats. We are happy to report that our new rescue boat, formally known as Marine 41-2, was delivered and put into service in 2021. After facing several delays due to supply constraints as a result of COVID-19, we received our boat in March. Upon arrival, the boat was fitted with lights, lettering was added, and various pieces of communication equipment were installed. Since being put into service, Marine 41-2 has been used on a number of emergency calls including numerous rescues during Storm Ida and the days that followed.