Carlisle Fire Department
53 W. South Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

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Carlisle Fire Department: Two Fire Companies, One Mission

The Carlisle Fire Department serves the Borough of Carlisle. The Department consists of two volunteer fire companies: Carlisle Fire and Rescue Services and Union Fire Company.

The two companies are coordinated and united through the Department's guidelines. Borough Council appropriates operational funds, and volunteers of the two companies raise additional funds. Each company is responsible for its own day-to-day operations. Volunteers and paid employees in each company are responsible for Department fire and rescue apparatus, administrative and fundraising operations.

The Department's primary purpose is to provide fire fighting to minimize the loss of life and property when fire, sudden illness, or accidents occur in the Borough of Carlisle. The Department's main areas of focus include (1) Fire Suppression, (2) Fire Prevention and (3) Training.

To supply these services, the companies maintain a collective membership roll of approximately 120 active volunteers. Each station employs full-time and part-time operators to man at least one piece of apparatus. Four pieces of apparatus are owned by the Borough of Carlisle, while another ten pieces of apparatus and two boats are owned by the individual companies.

SPRING FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

- Clean up yard debris. Cut back dead limbs and grasses.
- Get your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage.
- Keep 100' of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.
- Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals.
- Check fuel containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- Have all power equipment cleaned, serviced and readied for use.

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Junior Firefighter Learns Life Skills

training, and spending time going on fire calls to gain experience, Tyler is very busy. But this Carlisle High School student has a ton of support from his parents and sister – who drop him off and bring him home from the Union Fire Company nearly every day – as well as the senior members at the firehouse and his training instructors and classmates.

Tyler appreciates that his friends see how cool it is that he is a Junior Firefighter, since a lot of hard work and dedication goes into the title. He hopes to go to college and perhaps become a career firefighter/paramedic when he gets older and is doing an excellent job to set up a successful future. To those who are considering joining the Carlisle Fire Department, Tyler suggests, "You have to be willing to learn new things, and you'll see soon enough that the benefits are awesome."

carlisle fire department

Our Pride • Our Passion • Our Privilege

A Special Edition Newsletter

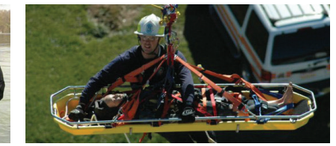
SPRING 2013

Did You Know?

- Volunteer firefighters comprise 70 percent (or just under 800,000) of all American firefighters.*
- The number of volunteer firefighters in the U.S. has declined 5-10% since 1983.*
- The cost to train and equip a firefighter is approximately $4,500.*
- Each year, fire takes the lives of more Americans than all natural disasters combined.*

* National Volunteer Fire Council

Carlisle Fire Department Launches Volunteer Recruitment Program



In 2013, the Carlisle Fire Department (CFD) kicks off a new volunteer recruitment and retention program aimed at reinforcing the ranks of the CFD. Under a federal grant from the Federal Emergency Management Association, the Department will conduct an aggressive, three-year campaign that will ultimately improve firefighter safety and quicker response to emergencies.

Like many volunteer fire companies across the nation, the CFD has seen declining community participation. Fewer firefighters strain the ability of the CFD to meet quality fire fighting standards, putting firefighters and the community at greater risk.

"If we could increase our 'on-duty' staffing by two persons per day," says CFD Chief Tom Murray, "we would be able to contribute the value of two fully funded positions (an estimated $140,000) while reducing community risk, reducing the risk to firefighters and reducing the costs of injuries and property loss."

The outreach campaign has three key goals: 1) to build awareness with the community about the volunteer opportunities within the CFD, 2) to help current members welcome and mentor new volunteers, and 3) to recognize the efforts of volunteers with meaningful rewards.

"We're not just looking for active firefighters," notes Chief Murray. "We have a serious need for educators and community volunteers to assist with fire safety and prevention programs to schools and other community groups. We could use help with vehicle maintenance and minor repairs, grant writing, and many administrative functions like paying bills, providing legal advice, and fund raising events. There's really something for everyone."

Stay tuned for announcements of upcoming presentations and events. Check out *www.CarlisleFire.net* for more information on volunteer opportunities.

FEMA

This newsletter is part of a volunteer recruitment campaign funded by the SAFER Grant awarded to the CFD from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

CARLISLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

53 W. South Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
Phone: 717-240-6909
Fax: 717-240-6615
Email: tmurray@carlislepa.org
Web: www.CarlisleFire.net

Spectrum of Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities span a wide range of talents and skills. Volunteer categories include:

- Firefighting & Junior Firefighting
- Live-In Firefighting
- Rescue Services
- Wildland/Brush Firefighting
- Administration (finances, membership, legal advice)
- Education & Outreach (public & school presentations/volunteer training)
- Development (fund raising/special events)
- Equipment & Maintenance

Specialized rescue operation.

You may have a knack for one of these volunteer positions.

For more information, visit www.CarlisleFire.net or call 717-240-6909.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Woman Makes CFD A Family Affair

Amy Hershey
Volunteer Firefighter

When Amy Hershey was a young woman attending Shippensburg High School, she never envisioned running into burning buildings. Amy was involved in band and other extracurricular activities but didn't have an emergency services background in her family. In 2008, Amy married Keith Hershey. Keith's family has a long history in the fire departments of Franklin County.

Amy decided it might be a good way to serve her community and spend quality time with her husband if she would try some fire training classes. She had already been helping out with the administrative needs around the fire station; becoming a firefighter seemed like the next logical step in her service.

During 2011, Amy completed training and became certified nationally as a Firefighter 1. This involves a rigorous written and practical skills examination which verifies that a person has learned the duties necessary to function safely and efficiently as a firefighter.

"Becoming a firefighter was a big commitment," says Amy. "But I felt a huge sense of accomplishment at the end of my initial training classes."

Amy was rewarded for her hard work during the Carlisle Fire & Rescue Services awards banquet in March 2011 when she received the Fire Chief's Award. "Amy Hershey has exhibited the kind of dedication to learning and training that transcends gender," said Chief John Heberling. "She is a hard-working, enthusiastic woman who will only improve her skills over time."

If you don't think you have the skills needed to become a firefighter, please reconsider. There are many duties and skill sets that are useful on the scene of emergencies, and you might possess some of them. You might surprise yourself, just as Amy did.

All protective gear is provided free of charge to volunteers.

Rewards Take Many Forms

Volunteers with the Carlisle Fire Department give of themselves in many ways to protect their community. So why do they do it? For some, volunteering in a local fire department is in their blood, a family tradition. For others, it's an opportunity to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Whatever the reason, there are many benefits to joining the CFD including:

- No cost to volunteers for training.
- No cost to volunteers for all personal protective equipment.
- An incentive program that provides quarterly $50 gift cards from Lowes, Sheetz or Giant and free admission for an annual family trip to Hershey Park or other such facilities.
- Free fitness membership at local facilities.
- Life Insurance policy.
- Live In Program - opportunity to live at a fire station rent free.
- Opportunity to gain education, training and experience for career opportunities in emergency services.
- Short commute to local colleges, such as Harrsiburg Area Community College, Penn State Harrisburg, Shippensburg University, Dickinson College and Law School, and numerous area business and technical schools.
- Recognition events, such as the annual awards banquet.

Less measurable are those rewards that make a person want to keep volunteering — gaining social opportunities with members; the desire for achievement, personal growth and development; or simply wanting to share skills or talents for the good of the community.

Having fun is part of the team building experience in the CFD.

Above Right: Fire training day.
Above Left: Union Fire Company Softball Team.
Below Left: Hanging out at the fire station.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Volunteer Firefighters

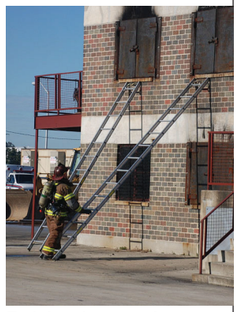
Training is an important expectation of all volunteer firefighters.

Firefighting is skilled work. Combating and preventing fires, responding to hazardous materials incidents, and providing emergency medical assistance during special rescue situations requires hours of training. And for good reason.

"When you go into a burning structure, you need to have that training," says Dave Weaver, a volunteer firefighter for 33 years and, until recently, Chief of the Union Fire Company. "It is time consuming."

Like many firefighters, however, Weaver says the commitment is well worth it. "Being a firefighter has been a lot of fun," says Weaver. "I've made a lot of friends. It's like a second family. You stick together and help each other out. And it's good to give back to the community."

Volunteer firefighters are required to learn how to operate apparatus and perform hazardous tasks under emergency conditions, which may require strenuous exertion under such handicaps as smoke, fire, heat and cramped surroundings. Although firefighting and rescue work constitutes the primary and most responsible areas of work, the volunteer will also drill two or three times a month. The drills develop and maintain the skills required when dealing with various aspects of firefighting and rescue operations.



Training day exercise.

And not unlike a family, time spent at the fire station may include studying, cleaning up and a variety of maintenance duties associated with fire company facilities, apparatus and equipment.

"Being a firefighter has been a lot of fun. I've made a lot of friends. It's like a second family. You stick together and help each other out."

Dave Weaver
Union Fire Company

Photo Credit: The Sentinel

Meet Junior Firefighter
Tyler Rexroth

Becoming a volunteer firefighter takes a lot of work, which is something Junior Firefighter, Tyler Rexroth, knows very well. But the rewards of being a member of the Carlisle Fire Department are also great.

Tyler joined the Union Fire Company when he was 14 years old. He is now one year into his junior membership, which will last until he is 18 years old and able to complete the final module of his training. Since joining the fire department, Tyler has made several new friends, completed his introductory training session, and continues to grow with his "second family" on his path to becoming a certified firefighter.

"The training and just being around the other members has taught me incredible skills," Tyler says. "Not only do you pick up training for firefighting, but you also learn life skills. You learn to talk to people and how to be respectful and nice to them even in difficult situations."

Tyler spends several afternoons at the fire station per week or whatever free time he can afford. He says that the main difficulty of being a junior firefighter is managing time. Between schoolwork, keeping his grades up while playing ice hockey,

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JUNIOR FIREFIGHER PROGRAM
The average age of volunteer firefighters is increasing. In response, the National Volunteer Fire Council launched the Junior Firefighter Program in 2007 to get youth interested in the fire service and foster the next generation of firefighters and emergency medical personnel. About 20 young adults have participted in the CFD Junior Firefighter Program since its inception.