

# Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association News



## Over 80 Years of Experience

### "Neighbors Protecting Neighbors Since 1922"

#### Mohegan Welcomes a New Chief

The Mohegan Volunteer Fire Service welcomes its new Chief, William Hecker.

A 40-year resident of the area, Chief Hecker has served on the Mohegan Fire Department for over 16 years.

He lives in the Shrub Oak area with his wife, Anita, and their two children who attend school in the Lakeland School District. He works for the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services.

He has served as a fire-matic officer for eleven of

the sixteen years he has been a member of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association. He has held the positions of Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Assistant Chief



**Chief William Hecker**

and now, Chief. "Mohegan is a great department" said Hecker, "as always, we will be focusing our energy toward safety and prevention."

In addition to Bill's extensive practical experience in the fire service, he is certified by New York State for countless programs that include Hazmat, Fire

Command, Incident Command System, Wildland Fires, Structural Design & Fire Service Law. He is also a certified OSHA Trainer.

Bill has received several citations during his time with the Mohegan Fire Dept. He commands the following team of Officers:

**1st Assistant Chief: Ray Stretz**

**2nd Assistant Chief: George Keesler**

**Captain: Joseph Mayer**

**1st Lieutenant: Seth Porter**

**2nd Lieutenant: Neil Boddie**

**3rd Lieutenant: Adam Cerrato**

The Mohegan Fire District serves Shrub Oak, Jefferson Valley, Mohegan Lake, Crompond, Cortland Manor and parts of Yorktown. It covers 42 square miles and has over 30,000 residents. It also has 2 major malls, numerous commercial strips, 1 hospital center, 4 nursing homes, and 13 schools.

January-June 2003

Volume 1, Issue2

#### Inside This Issue:

MVFA Welcomes Chief Hecker	1
Alarms in the first half of 2003	1
MVFA Line of Duty Deaths	2
What is the F.A.S. Team?	2
Saving You Tax Dollars	3
Fund Drive	3
Become a Volunteer Firefighter	3
Fire Prevention Program	4



**Safety Tip:** Take the time to install fire alarms in your home. It is estimated that over 39 percent of residential fires and 52 percent of residential fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms.



#### **Alarms Received in First Half of 2003**

In the first half of 2003, the Mohegan Fire Department and Ambulance

Corps answered a total of 1,208 alarms. The following is a breakdown of the alarms:  
**Ambulance Calls**— 721  
**Fire Calls**— 487

#### **Breakdown of Fire Calls:**

**Structure Fire**-27

**Vehicle Fire**-12

**Brush Fire**-8

**Refuse Fire** -5

**Rescue Calls** (emergencies including auto accidents, building collapse, etc)-133

**False Alarms**-137

**Hazardous Condition** (wires down, etc)-77

**Service Calls** (no immediate life safety hazard but some FD assistance is given, i.e. oil burner malfunctions)-40  
**Good Intent** (unfounded calls, i.e. smell of gas with no source)-39

**Mutual Aid** (other Depts.)-8  
**Misc** -1

# The Ultimate Sacrifice

## Three Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters Have Died in the Line of Duty

Firefighting is always a dangerous business. No matter how cautious and careful a firefighter is, there are always underlying dangers associated with his or her duties.

We, the citizens of Mohegan, Cortland Manor, Crompond, Jefferson Valley, Shrub Oak and Yorktown owe a debt of gratitude to three Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters who

gave their lives in service to their community.

**Richard E. Gleason** Died on July 9, 1993 at a brush fire on Route 6 at the Taconic State Parkway. He was a construction supervisor and a U.S. Air Force veteran. Dick was a 25 year member of the Volunteer Fire Association as well as its 28th President. He lived in Cortland Manor for nearly thirty years with his wife Lorraine and their two sons.



Mohegan Volunteer Firefighter Richard E. Gleason. Died in the Line of Duty July 9, 1993

**Raymond Cauxx** Died on April 19, 1963 at a vehicle fire. He was a member of the MVFA Fire Police. He was a television repairman who lived on Lo-

cust Avenue with his wife who was a school teacher for what was the Shrub Oak School District which became the Lakeland School District.

**Donald Ambler** Died on March 24, 1955 while responding to a structure fire on Locust Avenue. The thirteenth President of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association, he was very active in the department. He was an insurance agent who was very popular in Shrub Oak neighborhood in which he lived.

“The most acceptable service to God is doing good to man.”

-Benjamin Franklin, American Patriot, Founding Father and Volunteer Firefighter

## What Is The F.A.S. Team?

Simply put, F.A.S. Teams are firefighters who rescue other firefighters. “F.A.S. Team” stands for Firefighter Assist and Search Team. It is used to rescue trapped, injured or missing firefighters. These teams receive extensive training in the areas of search and rescue under the most extreme conditions.

Members of the F.A.S. Team serve as firefighters in Mohegan Fire District. In addition to these duties, they respond to the most serious structure fires *in neighboring fire districts*. There they wait near the scene in full gear, *but they do not fight the fire*. They are there to ensure protection for the firefighters who

are battling the blaze. With the F.A.S. Team at the call, the local department can dedicate all of it's resources to the fire; knowing that there is a highly trained team ready to enter the building to rescue them should the worst happen.



Members of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association's F.A.S. Team after a blaze.

The Mohegan F.A.S. Team was formed after a Mohegan Firefighter became trapped in a ceiling collapse during a structure fire. Thankfully, the firefighter escaped unharmed, but it was decided that the Mohegan Fire Department should create an elite unit that has as it's sole function the protection of

other firefighters.

Asst. Chief George Keesler researched the process and filed the necessary papers to establish such a team. Twenty of Mohegan's best interior firefighters answered the call and after a year of intense training, the team went into service in June of 1999. The Mohegan F.A.S. Team responded to their first call in July of 1999 in Croton. Since that time, Chiefs Keesler and Stretz have assisted in the development and training of F.A.S. Teams in Westchester including Croton, Yorktown, and Bedford Hills Fire Departments who now, in turn, support Mohegan Firefighters in this district.

**Did You Know?** *In the early days of this country's development, every citizen was called upon to serve as a firefighter. Most communities had laws requiring that every home have buckets, ladders and ropes ready to fight fires.*



Mohegan Volunteers at a Lake Peekskill Fire



... at a car fire on Red Mill Road



Search & Rescue Drill

# Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Save You Tax Dollars

As your friends and neighbors, we understand the growing concerns about taxes in our community.

The countless hours of service that are rendered by our volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps. save our community *millions of dollars in taxes each year*. This savings can amount to **THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS PER HOUSEHOLD!**



The costs associated with not having volunteers can make living in *any* area prohibitively expensive, especially for retirees and other residents who receive fixed or moderate incomes.

In times where state and federal funding is scarce, the protection provided by the volunteer fire service has become

even more important to communities that have tremendously strained budgets. As volunteers, we not only protect the lives and property of the community we serve, but we protect the affordability of the community as well.

*We are your neighbors, and we care!*



## Help Us To Help You:

**When we're called to your home, we need to find you! Please post 4-6 inch house numbers clearly on your home or mailbox.**



## Fund Drive

As of late August, the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association has received over 2,600 donations from the community for its annual fund drive.

This constitutes nearly *one out of every three households in the district!*

As always, we are so grateful for your support and appreciation. Your donations help us to obtain



**THANK YOU!**

much needed gear, equipment, and supplies. It also helps us to support and grow our award-winning Fire Prevention Program with which we educate our community's children about the importance of fire safety.

*Thank you from all of us!*

**FIRE LINE DO NOT CROSS FIRE LINE DO NOT CROSS FIRE LINE**

**FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY**

## Become a Volunteer—Join the Mohegan Fire Dept. or Ambulance Corps.



...or both.

The Mohegan Fire Department consists of Firefighters and Ambulance Corps members, each performing a specialized task in an emergency. As a member, you receive expert training in a variety of these tasks.

As a Firefighter, you will receive hands-on training with the Mohegan Fire Department and at the Westchester County Fire Training Center. If you are interested in the emergency medical field, we also provide specialized training in First Aid, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT). Both areas offer

thousands of dollars in highly specialized training, free to you as a volunteer.

As a member, you are also eligible to reap the benefits of the NY State LOSAP Pension Plan that will entitle you to a specific monetary amount when you reach retirement age.

### So what does it take?

- Men and women age 16 and older, who are caring, community-oriented people.
- You must be a U.S. citizen, and reside in the Lake Mohegan Fire District.
- You must provide a note from your physician stating that you are in good physical health

- Background checks will be conducted on all applicants.
- Percentage of alarms and training attendance are required.

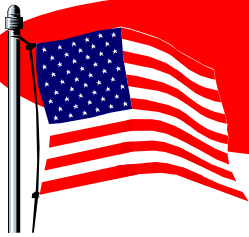
**Call for more information**

**914-526-0823**

**Or visit our website**

**[www.moheganfire.com](http://www.moheganfire.com)**





## Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association

**P.O. Box 162**

**Mohegan Lake, NY 10547**

**Phone: 914-526-0823**

**president@moheganfire.com**

**We're on the web**  
**www.moheganfire.com**

## Fire Prevention Program



MVFA's New Fire Prevention Trailer

This year, through the generous support of local businesses and individuals, The Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association's award-winning Fire Prevention Team acquired a 2003 Mobile

Concepts Fire Prevention Trailer. The Mobile Concepts trailer is a mock-up of an average suburban home. "This is one of the most advanced pieces of fire safety equipment in the world at this time." says Assistant Chief Ray Stretz, who is the Chairman of the Fire Prevention Committee, "This is really going to allow the kids in our community to practice emergency procedures in a safe, controlled environment."

The trailer not only simulates fire situations with hot doors and fire alarms, but it can introduce theatrical smoke to a room giving occupants the experience of being in a structure fire. Students learn first hand how smoke rises and how crawling offers greater sight distance and clear air.

The "weather-smart" package

teaches children how to act during hurricanes. Simulations include "lightning" flashes, moving blinds and surround-sound storm noises.

Parents and teachers can watch on a closed-circuit TV as the children learn what to say and how to dial 911 on the mock-up phone system. Children can speak to a "real" 911 operator who asks them questions similar to those that they would be asked in the event of a real emergency.

Last year, the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association received the Fire Prevention Award of the Year given by the NY State Association of Fire Chiefs.

*If you are interested in having the Mohegan Fire Safety Team come to your school or organization, give us a call at (914) 526-0823.*



**1776-2003**

**The Spirit of Volunteerism lives on in America.**

