

Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters in Action

Newsletter of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association

"Neighbors Protecting Neighbors Since 1922"



Neighborhood Watch

In addition to providing protection from fire and other emergencies, the Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters perform another protective service for the community; that of an informal neighborhood watch. The MVFA has over 150 members living in every corner of the community. These members respond to an average of three calls every day. As a result, there are dozens of firefighters driving through the community at various times of the day and night (driving to and from calls), who are alert to suspicious activity in the neighborhoods that make up the fire district.

"Many members of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association are also members of law-enforcement," says Chris Gravius Sr., President of the MVFA and

a retired New York City Police Officer, "They know the kind of unusual activity that should be phoned in to the police. They routinely share this knowledge with the other [non-law enforcement] firefighters."



MVFA President Chris Gravius Sr.

Dozens of Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters serve on (or are retired from) various law enforcement entities such as State Police, Yorktown Police, NYPD, Westchester County Police, State Courts, DEC Police and Federal Agencies.

Some of the unusual activities that arouse suspicion are cars or homes with broken windows, ladders leaning against houses at night, activity around closed

stores, people moving furniture and other household items at night.

"This is the age of cell phones," says Gravius "and we drive through the community at all hours of the day and night while responding to fire calls. We encourage our members to stay alert and keep an eye on the neighborhood whenever they're out. If they see anything they can call the police immediately. We work very closely with the New York State, Westchester County and Yorktown Police Departments on fire calls, and they are always glad to have extra sets of eyes out there. Our members live here and raise our families here, so we want to do our part to make sure that our neighborhoods remain a safe place to live. Being observant is just another way that the MVFA protects the community at no cost to the taxpayer."

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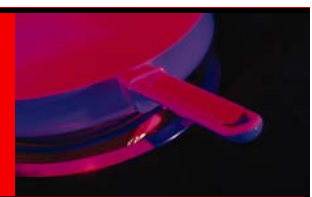
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Safety Tip: Keep children and pets away from cooking areas by creating a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the stove. Turn pot handles inward so they can't be bumped and children can't grab them.



Family Spotlight

The desire to serve and protect one's community often has its roots in that person's upbringing. The values that

are taught by parents to their children remain with children into adulthood.

Evidence of this can be found in the number of families who are members of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association. Several families are included in the

MVFA's nearly 200 members.

This section is dedicated to the members of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association who consider service of their community to be a "family business."



Brian & Bob Landsman;
Son and Father



Roger & Jen Lussier;
Father and Daughter



The Alimonti Family;
Andy Jr., Carol & Andy Sr.



The Grexa Brothers;
Ed, Rudy & Bill

"I believe...that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another."

-Thomas Jefferson, American President, Founding Father and Volunteer Firefighter

Calls Received in 2004

In 2004, the Mohegan Fire Department and Ambulance Corps answered a total of 3,625 alarms. The following is a breakdown of the alarms:

Ambulance Calls– 2,533
Fire Calls– 1,092

Breakdown of Fire Calls:

Structure Fire-23
Vehicle Fire-22
Brush Fire-13
Refuse Fire-9
Misc Fire (chimney, oil burner, etc)-55
Rescue Calls (emergencies including auto accidents, building collapse, etc)-243
Automatic Alarms (False)-320

Hazardous Condition (wires down, etc)-113

Service Calls (no immediate life safety hazard but some FD assistance is given, i.e. oil burner malfunctions)-110

Good Intent (unfounded calls, i.e. smell of gas with no source)-106

Mutual Aid (to other Depts.)-27
Misc -51

Did You Know? *Back in the early days of the fire service, most of the fire apparatus was horse-drawn. Dalmatians originally served to guard firehouses and direct the horses. They are still commonly considered mascots of modern fire departments.*



Mohegan Volunteers at a House Fire



... at a Car Fire



Hazmat Operations

Mohegan Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Expands Prevention Program



The Mohegan Volunteer Ambulance Corps expanded its injury prevention program this year. It is designed around a national program to promote safety in various aspects of daily life especially at home and while driving.

The program is currently geared toward children," says Greg Grimaldi, who sits on the VAC Board of Directors, "but as we develop it, we will be able to address more complex issues for adults and seniors."

The program is not unlike the MVFA's Fire Prevention Program, which is recog-

nized as being one of the best in New York State. While that program focuses largely on fire safety, the VAC Injury Prevention Program concentrates on areas such as bicycle safety including helmets, car seats and proper buckling, poison awareness and fall injuries. They recently purchased "Andy the Ambulance" which is a robotic, talking ambu-



The MVFA VAC Injury Prevention Team at Yorktown Town Day

lance used to deliver their message to children. Children across the community listen with delight while "Andy" gives them safety tips.

"Nothing upsets us more than being called to help an injured child," says Grimaldi, "If just one child avoids a serious injury because of what we have taught them, the program is a success."

If you are interested in having the Mohegan VAC Injury Prevention Team come to your school or organization, give Erica a call at (914) 526-1005.



Safety First: The warm weather is here! Check your child's bicycle helmets and make sure that they are still in good condition (including the straps). Knee & elbow pads can also prevent serious injury!

Announcements

Cub Scout Pack 144

Toddville is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Cub Scouting. They will be earning their 75th Anniversary patches at their functions this year. The MVFA is proud to be the Charter Organization (sponsor) of Pack 144.



- We have completely rebuilt our website. Please log on to www.moheganfire.com to see upcoming community events.
- The MVFA sponsored little league team, **The Met Juniors**, wrapped up their season in early June. They'll be practicing in the off-season and will be ready to get back to the **Cortlandt**

American Little League next year.

- The MVFA received donations from 3,000 households last year (2004). Words cannot describe our gratitude for this overwhelming support from the community. Thank you, and we look forward to serving you in the upcoming year!

FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY 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.

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



Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association

PROUDLY SERVING SINCE 1922

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Check out our new website!

www.moheganfire.com



Fire Prevention Program

Through the generous support of local businesses and individuals, The Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association's award-winning Fire Prevention Team purchased a 2003 Ford F-350 Crew Cab Truck which will be used to transport Mobile Concepts Fire Prevention Trailer. The Mobile Concepts trailer is a mock-up of an average suburban home. 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

risers and how crawling offers greater sight distance and clear air.

In 2004, the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association's Fire Prevention Team made demonstrations before thousands of members of the

community. They could be seen at *Van Cortlandtville, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson Elementary Schools, Jefferson Valley Mall, WalMart, Field*

Child Care, Strawberry Learning Center, Flying Goose Nursery, Yorktown Parks & Recreation, Philipstown Junior Fire-fighter Camp, Kiddie Kottage, Pound Ridge FD, Putnam Valley FD, and several groups of Girl Scouts & Cub Scouts.



MVFA's New Fire Prevention Truck

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.



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The Spirit of Volunteerism lives on in America.

