

# Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters in Action

## Newsletter of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association



**"Neighbors Protecting Neighbors Since 1922"**

### President's Corner

The holiday season is a time when families get together to share meals, gifts and each other's company.

For those in the fire service, it is, unfortunately, "the busy season." The vast majority of the structure fires that we fight each year occur from late November through February. There are a variety of causes for house fires in the winter months.

Four of the main causes are *candles, space heaters (gas, electric & propane), chimney fires and overloading electrical outlets to support holiday lights and decorations.* This time of year, most of us are

so busy that it is easy to forget these dangers.



MVFA President Chris Gravius Sr.

Here are a few tips to follow to help make your holidays a bit safer.

- *Have your chimney cleaned*
- *Keep a 2-3 foot "circle of safety" around fireplaces, space heaters and candles (no clutter, kids or pets)*
- *Do not overload electrical outlets!*

- *Change the batteries in your smoke alarms!*

We look forward to seeing you at the **Mohegan Volunteer Firefighter's Annual Candy Cane Run.** We will be bringing Santa around the communities we serve (Shrub Oak, Jefferson Village, Cortlandt, Mohegan Lake, and Yorktown) on Saturday December 3rd and Sunday December 4th. If you have any questions about the streets to which we will bring Santa, please call 914-526-0823 and leave a message. We'll get back to you.

**We at the MVFA wish you a happy and safe holiday season!**

November 2005

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**Did You Know?:** While the number of house fires have dropped 50% from 1980 to 1998, the number of house fires caused by candles has increased by 31.4% over the same period. Please be extremely cautious if you use candles this holiday season!

### Alarms Received in the First Half of 2005

In the first half of 2005, the Mohegan Fire Department and Ambulance Corps

answered a total of 1,504 alarms. The following is a breakdown of the alarms by month:

*Breakdown of Calls:*

**January– 243**  
**February– 225**  
**March-262**  
**April-239**  
**May– 263**  
**June-272**

**Mohegan Firefighters and VAC Members Recognized for Life Saving Actions**

On August 25th, several Mohegan firefighters and VAC personnel received awards from the Westchester EMS Council. Each year, the Council recognizes several agencies and individuals for the saving of human lives. The ceremony, which took place at Rye Playland, was attended by hundreds of people from Westchester and the surrounding areas.

The incident for which they were recognized transpired as follows:

“At approximately 1:30 P.M. on 10/30/04 New York State Police, Lake Mohegan Fire District First Responders, Cortlandt Regional Paramedics and the Mohegan Volunteer Ambulance were dispatched to the parking lot of the Home Depot in the Cortlandt Town Center for a report of a “man down” with CPR in progress.

On the arrival of LMFD first responders (EMT Firefighters Kenny Beck and Jeff Argo) patient was found with

CPR in progress by two citizens who witnessed the patient collapse and started CPR immediately.

At about the same time NYS Trooper Brian Landsman who is also an EMT member of the MVFA and VAC, and Anthony Milo another EMT member of the MVFA VAC who works in Home Depot arrived and took over CPR while the EMT firefighters set up their defibrillator and found the patient was in ventricular fibrillation (a fatal rhythm).

They defibrillated the patient once without success when the Mohegan Ambulance arrived with Paramedic John Dillon and LMFD Fire Commissioner Steven Yagoda on board. Paramedic Dillon inserted an oral airway and maintained ventilation while CPR continued. Paramedic Dillon defibrillated the patient a second time without success.

At this time, EMT Firefighters Argo and Beck set up and placed the patient on the *Revivant Automatic Chest Com-*

*pression Device* and initiated mechanical chest compressions. At this point Cortlandt Paramedic Chris Beyrer who is also a member of Mohegan Volunteer Fire and VAC arrived and prepared to secure an advanced airway by intubating the patient while paramedic Dillon secured an I.V. line for administration of cardiac arrest drugs.

After about one minute of CPR with the mechanical device, the patient’s rhythm returned to a fatal rhythm and the patient was defibrillated a third time. After the third defibrillation, the patient’s heart rhythm converted to a stable rate of 150-180, with return of spontaneous circulation and respiration.

The patient was then transported to Hudson Valley Hospital E.R. by Mohegan Ambulance. The patient was stabilized at Hudson Valley and transferred to the Westchester Medical Center where he was treated and then released to home a few days later with no impairment”

This call demonstrates great teamwork by many people including bystanders and several emergency agencies.



**Firefighter/ Paramedic John Dillon**



**EMT Anthony Milo**



**NYS Trooper & Mohegan Volunteer Firefighter Brian Landsman**



**Fire Commissioner Steve Yagoda**

**“Waste Neither Time Nor Money, But Make the Best Use of Both”**

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



**Mohegan Volunteers at a Locust Ave Fire**



**... at a car extrication on East Main Street**



**...establishing a landing zone**



**... at the State Police/ Mohegan Volunteer Fire Assn. Picnic**

## Katrina Boot Drive

On Saturday September 3rd, 2005, Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters conducted a "Boot Drive" to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the Southern United States. Firefighters were out in full force in front of Mohegan Headquarters holding fire boots and fire helmets while traffic passed through the intersection of Route 6 and Lexington Avenue.

Citizens of the community opened their hearts and donated money to those who were devastated by the hurricane. Almost everyone

gave something, from large bills to loose change in their pockets. One child told her mother that she wanted to give the money they were going to spend on ice cream that day. On that day, our community donated over \$10,000 for the cause!

All of the money raised has been sent to the victims of the hurricane on behalf of the Mohegan Lake, Shrub Oak, Cortlandt, and Yorktown communities. During the 9/11 tragedies, many citizens

in the southern United States raised large amounts of money to help New York. The Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters were proud to work with the community to assist other Americans in their time of need.

If you would like to donate and did not get a chance to pass by, please contact the American Red Cross by going to their website

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call them at 1-800-HELPNOW.

**The Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters thank you for your support!**

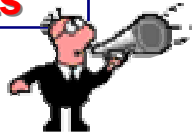


MVFA Boot Drive

**Safety Tip: Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire. It can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.**

## Announcements

- The Mohegan Volunteer Firefighter's Annual Candy Cane Run will take place on Saturday December 3rd and Sunday December 4th. If you have any questions, please call 914-526-0823 and leave a message.



- The MVFA congratulates **Cub Scout Pack 144 Toddville** as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their establishment. Many of the members of the MVFA are former Cub Scouts from Pack 144. The MVFA is proud to be the Charter Organization (sponsor) of the Pack.
- We have completely rebuilt our

website. Please log on to [www.moheganfire.com](http://www.moheganfire.com) to see upcoming community events.

- The MVFA received donations from 2,500 households this year. We are so grateful for the overwhelming support from the community. Thank you, and we look forward to serving you in the upcoming year!

*Thank you from all of us!*

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

## 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 who are caring, com-

munity-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

PROUDLY SERVING SINCE 1922

**P.O. Box 162**

**Mohegan Lake, NY 10547**

**Phone: 914-526-0823**

**president@moheganfire.com**

**We're on the web**

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

### Meet The Line Officers

The Mohegan Fire Department responds to over 1,000 calls each year. These calls include structure fires, brush fires, auto accidents, smoke investigations, hazardous conditions, automatic alarms, mutual aid to other departments and hazardous material spills- just to name a few. A department that responds to such a broad range of calls requires highly trained and organized leadership.

The Mohegan Lake Fire Department has seven Line Officers (Officers who command fire/ emergency scenes) from Chief of the Department to Third Lieutenant.

These individuals are among

the most experienced in the department and are required to have at least five years of experience before becoming eligible to become an officer and generally serve in each position before moving up to the next level.

In addition to at least five years experience, they are required to undergo intense training and obtain many levels of New York State Firematic Officer Certification.

They routinely conduct rigorous training drills with the firefighters of the Mohegan Fire Department as well as neighboring fire departments. As volunteers, they do this all on their "own time" at minimal cost to our community's taxpayers.



**The Mohegan Lake Fire Department Line Officers (clockwise from top) Chiefs aide: Dave Gonzalez, Chief: Raymond J Stretz, 1st Assistant Chief: George Keesler, 2nd Assistant Chief: Joey (Francis) Mayer, Captain: Cornelius Boddie, 1st Lieutenant: Adam Cerrato, 2nd Lieutenant: Thomas Stretz, 3rd Lieutenant: Kenny Hartmann**



*1776– 2005*

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

