

DSFS Newsletter

July 2016



STAFF

Planning and Evaluation Meeting: *The Fire School staff held its annual Planning and Evaluation meetings last week to discuss and plan the classes and scheduling for 2017. The staff reviews all current and proposed programs and improvements, using feedback received from you and what Staff has researched and found, to improve its programs and facilities in the coming months and years.*

EMS UPDATES

The Delaware State Fire Commission voted to update the Educational Requirements for BLS prehospital personnel. The updated Educational Standards and Guidelines were accepted at the Fire Prevention Commission meeting on May 17, 2016. This including changes to hours for the EMR and EMT Delaware Refresher Courses. A regulation change proposal was also to require possessing a National Registration of EMT certification for Delaware EMT re-certification.

NEW PROGRAMS

Beginning on April 5th, the New Castle Division has been hosting a pilot Fire Academy for the fire companies in the New Castle County area. Normally we host the Wilmington Fire Department for these types of academies but the Director and Program Manager Jerry Brennan worked with local leadership to help make this happen. Twenty-eight students from several fire companies attended regular, regimented classes, eventually earning their national Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations certifications. The class included calisthenics and team work exercises to help the class work as a team, just as a municipal fire, police, or paramedic academy would. Students are required to wear fire company uniforms and be disciplined in their attitudes and work. Graduation is on July 6th @ 1900 hours at Cranston Heights Fire Company.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

We have rewritten our Home Fire Safety Program. This program is used throughout the State and presented to new hires at Nursing, Assisted Living, and Medical Care Facilities.

Summer is a busy time for Public Events. The 18th Annual Safe Summer Day was held by Kent County Levy Court, at Brecknock Park in Camden on June 11th and was very successful with an estimated two thousand attendees. Sussex Safe Kids Day was held on June 25th, at Lowes in Lewes, and had possibly the largest attendance ever, with over one thousand attendees.

We look forward to having our booth at the Delaware State Fair. Stop by and see us, July 21-30, 2016.

The National Fire Protection Association has announced the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2016 (October 9th - 15th) "Don't wait, check the date" will promote replacing smoke alarms every ten years.

RESOURCES

NEW CASTLE DIVISION UPGRADE: *The New Castle Division is now preparing for new construction. The current classroom 1 is now out of service and construction will begin as soon as permits are released from New Castle County. This new construction will add another classroom that will be attached to the current classroom 1 and can be made into 2 separate classrooms with a folding wall in between or one big classroom as we have at the Dover Division. The addition will also give us two office areas and a receptionist area. This construction should be completed in early 2017.*

PHASE V BURN PROP: *The Delaware State Fire School was notified that we were awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. This AFG grant is in the amount of \$304,673 and will be used to purchase a Phase V burn prop with flashover capability to be placed at our Kent Training Center in Dover, and a car fire prop for the Sussex Division. We will have one year to complete the purchase and installation of these props.*

CAR FIRE PROP: *The props are in-service at the Kent Training Center and the New Castle Division that gives us the ability to train on vehicle fires. We have received an AFG Grant for the Sussex Division as well and should be installed for next year.*

FIRE ENGINE: *Our new 2016 Pierce Saber engine has been delivered and is in service here at DSFS, available for assisting with our training programs and Fire Prevention/Public Education events.*

IN-SERVICE TRAINING: *Drillgrounds reopen for training September 1, 2016. All Divisions!*

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