

For immediate release
Contact: Duane Hagelgans
dhagelgans@comcast.net
717-413-8890

Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Launch County-wide Volunteer Recruitment Campaign Could YOU Be Our Next Volunteer?

Lancaster County, PA...To attract more volunteers to its 67 fire companies, the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association has launched a multi-pronged recruitment campaign with the theme, "Put out the fire, ignite the passion to protect Lancaster County."

Connections will also be made through Facebook. The website www.BecomeaFirefighter.org serves as an online hub for prospective volunteers to learn more or sign up to volunteer. Those who prefer can instead call 888-914-JOIN. Connections can also be made through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/becomeafirefighter.org/>

Volunteers of all experience levels and most ages are welcome. Members' training costs are covered by the fire companies. This training allows volunteers to fight fires and rescue people who need help. Senior firefighters must be at least 18 years old. Additionally, many Lancaster County fire companies have junior or cadet programs for teenage volunteers. There are also important roles for people who want to join the fire company without entering a burning building or provide aid at an accident scene. Fire police are needed to direct traffic and manage incident scenes. Other volunteers are needed to help teach fire safety and prevention to children and adults, assist with community programs, assist with fundraising or handle administrative or maintenance-related tasks.

The need for more volunteer firefighters is national, but very acute close to home. Here in Pennsylvania, 97.1 percent of fire companies were all- or mostly volunteer last year, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. While the state boasted about 300,000 volunteers in 1977, that number has dwindled to around 50,000 today. Lancaster County has experienced a similar decline over recent years. The Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association is confident that once word of the tremendous need for more volunteers gets out, the men and women who live here will step forward to help.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities in your community, visit www.BecomeaFirefighter.org or call 888-914-JOIN

--

The Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association is a collaborative association of current and past chief officers of 67 fire departments throughout Lancaster County, Pa. Our firefighters provide the community with fire suppression, rescue, and other emergency services. We also provide fire prevention and safety education and information to Lancaster County residents of all ages.