

**The citizens and businesses of Uniontown need to hear the facts about the city's paid firefighters.**

We come to work! We rarely have a call off. We work sick, we work tired, we work hurt... but WE WORK!

Until 2008 we had never filed a grievance with the city. We have never gone to arbitration over a contract as of yet.

We have made sacrifices during our contract negotiations over the years to help the city out.

To ease the burden on the city's finances, we keep the overtime down to a minimum. We often work out shift trades, or work for compensation time rather than put in for overtime.

During the whole financial crisis of 2008 - 2009, we have had to fill shifts due to the layoffs. Our personnel have NOT submitted for one cent of overtime! We have arranged trades, comp time, or whatever it takes. But we have NOT cost this city an extra dime!

Our compensation claims have been very minimal over the years. If one of our personnel are injured, it is checked by a doctor, and followed up on by a specialist. Personnel receive quick treatment, and rehab if needed. And all have returned to work as promptly as possible! *No one has ever stayed off work!*

If it's broke... we fix it! If it needs built... we build it! Crews often fix problems "in house" on their trucks, equipment, and station. Only if the problem is complex do we have outside mechanics or repairmen do the work.

Paid crews on duty and volunteer members have remodeled, built additions, and built items within the 2 fire stations themselves. Career crews have even raised their own money, along with help from our volunteers, to conduct these projects! It is all a team effort for the city's paid and volunteer firefighters.

We don't have a janitor... we clean our own stations! We shovel our own sidewalks when it snows. We do as many repairs to our buildings as we can. We take care of ourselves!

Unlike some combination fire departments in areas of the country, the rapport between the paid and volunteer firemen is excellent! We work as a team, with no dissention.

While on duty, we don't just sit around playing cards or watching TV like some people have said we do! Our day consists, AT A MINIMUM, of a daily meeting, a top to bottom check of a designated firetruck and all of it's equipment each shift, a shift training session, checking and cleaning bathroom facilities, a daily "house" chore such as cutting grass, cleaning windows, etc..., taking phone calls and interacting with the public, and completely sweeping and mopping fire station floors at the end of the day. All of this along with responding to fires or emergencies!

IN ADDITION to our minimum daily chores, on duty crews direct the daily functions of the fire department. We often do special assignments such as conducting station tours for groups, or conduct fire safety classes for groups of all ages. We do public service assistance ranging from hanging Christmas lights to hosing down bridges or streets, to just about anything.

We are involved in the city's inspection and code enforcement process. We have personnel who review building plans ("blueprints"), do on site inspections at construction sites, do new occupancy inspections, do annual safety and compliance inspections and witness fire drills, enforce property maintenance codes, and also conduct courtesy inspections as well. Being involved in code enforcement enables the City of Uniontown to be an "opt in" community under the PA Uniform Construction Code, and have the ability to do most everything "in house".

We offer a full range of services! In addition to fire suppression (fire fighting), we are involved heavily into prevention and inspections. We are involved in the code enforcement process. We offer rescue services in a number of different aspects, with all career personnel trained in automobile extrication, and a number of personnel trained in special rescue such as high angle or confined space rescue. We offer first responder service and assist ambulance crews at times. All career personnel are PA First Responder certified, with many being E.M.T. certified, and 2 certified as Paramedics. The PA Department of Health has designated a city fire engine as a certified first responder unit. All career personnel are trained in Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) response. We offer public fire education and fire prevention programs to groups of all ages. We also have a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention program. We assist E.M.A. personnel at times of disaster or severe weather incidents as well.

Career personnel are well trained! All have completed the PA Essentials of Firefighting or the Fundamentals of Firefighting course, and have taken several courses beyond. Career personnel are trained in fire apparatus operations in the area of both pumping apparatus and aerial apparatus. Personnel hold a number of various Professional Qualifications Board certifications, some holding certification as Firefighter, Instructor, Rescue Technician, or Driver/Operator. There are 2 career personnel who are accredited and certified instructors through the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. There are 5 career personnel who are professional qualifications board testing evaluators.

The loss of the city's paid firefighters would mean some of the above listed work projects and services would not get done. The loss of paid firefighters would also mean a change in the city's Insurance Services Office (I.S.O.)

Public Protection Classification rating. This WILL result in major increases in fire insurance rates for all city residents and businesses. *The cost of roughly \$180.00 out of your taxes that you pay each year to maintain the current staffing might be a fraction of what you will pay extra on your new insurance premium, if this happens!*

With the current cut of 3 firefighters, and the proposed cut of more, the fire department would not be able to meet a number of national staffing standards set forth by I.S.O., the National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) as set forth in standard # 1710, and the International City Managers Association (I.C.M.A.) guidelines for number of staffed firefighters per population of cities. *But most of all, this is a safety issue to our firefighters!* Safety standards, such as the "2 in 2 out" rule, and standards set forth by the N.F.P.A. will not be able to be met! NOT ONLY IS IT A SAFETY ISSUE TO OUR DEPARTMENT... IT IS A SAFETY ISSUE TO YOU, THE CITIZEN, AS WELL!

Besides... how can we offer you, our citizens, workers, or business owners, the current level of services we offer if our numbers are cut? We need all of our personnel back to efficiently do that!

PLEASE LET CITY COUNCIL KNOW YOU WON'T STAND FOR THIS! COME OUT AND HELP OUR FIREFIGHTERS HELP YOU! YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED BEYOND BELIEF! THANK YOU!



UNIONTOWN CITY FIREFIGHTERS

