

# THE YELLOW ALERT

Newsletter from your Polk Township Fire Department

April 2008

Visit us online at: <http://www.polkfire.com>

Issue #5

## Welcome

Welcome to our Yellow Alert newsletter! *YELLOW* is highly visible and the color of our fire trucks. We want to keep you informed about your fire department and *ALERT* you of many important facts and practices to prepare you in case of an emergency.

## Past, Present, Future

Polk Township Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1977 to provide fire protection for the 42 square mile township. The original fire station was built in Tyner using the old Tyner High School Bus Garage. In 1979, a substation; Station 2 was built in Teegarden. Then in 1980, a new four bay Fire Station 1 was built next door to the existing station. The old station was connected to the new building and now serves as the Polk Township Community Building. In 2007, we completed a 2 bay addition with new offices, meeting room and restrooms.

The founding firefighters joined together with limited protective gear, fire trucks and training to serve their community. Today's firefighter must meet many more State requirements. Mandatory training courses, Hazardous Materials Response, First Aid and CPR are just a few of the many skills required. There are currently 18 dedicated firefighters volunteering many long hours protecting your family and property.

## Meet your firefighters

Here are the volunteers that give freely of their time and expertise to protect your family and property:

### OFFICERS

Joe Clady	-	Chief
Pat Grossman	-	Assistant Chief
Dale Pritchard	-	Captain
Dave McCallum	-	Captain
Brian Jankowski	-	Lieutenant
Rich Pranger	-	Lieutenant

### FIREFIGHTERS

Mark Shafer	John Einhorn
Kevin Kunnen	Ray Platz
Jesse Whitmer	Jason Wolff
Greg Frazier	Tony Bogard
Matt Haskins	Chris Oginsky
Jeff Mencl	Aaron Cashen

### DISPATCHERS

Shelley Jankowski

## Heavy Rescue in Service

In September 2007, we received a beautiful 1992 E-One Heavy Rescue truck. The custom cab has room for 6 firefighters. The body of the truck has a raised command station with plenty of storage space. A 19 foot telescoping 6000 watt light tower can be

rotated and tilted to provide maximum lighting on night scenes. This new Rescue carries all of our existing equipment like vehicle extrication tools. We'd like to thank our Trustee and Advisor Board for their continued support for such a nice truck.

## Are your house numbers up?

If you have an emergency, could we find your house? Are your address numbers visible from the road? Precious minutes will be lost if we can't locate your house. Please take the time to install numbers that are 3" or larger. You never know, we might need to find you next!

## Safe Grilling!

With spring finally here, it's time to break out your gas grill for some delectable dinners. But before you fire up, check up! Many of the fires and explosions involving gas grills occur when the grill is used for the first time since being 'put away' or just after refilling and reattaching the LP tank. Take a few minutes to follow these simple safety guidelines:

- Check tubes that lead to the burner for blockage by insects, spiders or grease.
- Check grill gas hose for cracks, replace if needed.
- Clean out remains of last years grilling.
- Keep spare tanks away from your grill.
- NEVER use a grill indoors.
- Use grill at least 10 feet away from your house.
- Don't grill in garage, in breezeway or under surface that may catch fire
- See more tips at: <http://www.polkfire.com/grill.htm>

## New Cascade Filling System

We recently installed a new cascade system. This system will fill our SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) bottles that we wear when we enter a burning building or for other smoke hazards. This system will also fill our on-board cascade system on the Rescue truck and is also capable of filling two smaller bottles at the same time. In the past after every structure fire, we had to make a trip to Plymouth Fire Dept. to fill our on-board cascade system. Now we can fill in-station which reduces fuel costs and the amount of time putting our equipment back in service for the next call.

## Have fun at our Casino Night!

Come join us and have a great time at our Annual Casino Night on Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy a great steak dinner with beer and pop provided. Serving is from 5-7 p.m. but NO Minors Allowed. You can try your luck at the dice or blackjack tables. Your \$20 ticket enters you into the \$1500 prize drawing and you need not be present to win! All proceeds go to purchase of new equipment

# Use 911!

Dial 911.  
Marshall County's  
E911 system has  
been servicing the  
public since 1992!

## Quicker Response

Ok, so it's not Yellow, but you might have seen our maroon medical response Tahoe on it's way to medical calls. We purchased a 2002 Chevy Tahoe from Tri-County Ambulance to act as our primary medical quick response vehicle. It carries all the necessary medical gear, oxygen, an AED and supplies for our first responders to assist the EMTs and Paramedics once they arrive on the scene. It's a great asset for our township!

## Lawnmower Safety

The grass is getting greener and we'll soon be mowing again. Make sure to give your mower a safety tune-up. It only takes one

careless mishap to turn an everyday chore into a tragic preventable accident. Make sure all guards are in place. Tighten loose belts and covers. Check for cracked gas lines or power cords. Replace any worn or broken parts yourself or take it to a qualified repair shop. Handle gas and oil with care:

- Fill your gas tank BEFORE you start while engine is cold.
- Don't spill when you fill.
- Fill in a well-ventilated area.
- Use only approved gasoline containers.
- NEVER smoke around gasoline!
- See more tips at: <http://www.polkfire.com/lawn.htm>

## Accepting Applications

You too can be a member in the exciting and fulfilling service of volunteer firefighting. Contact Dave McCallum at 586-9086 or John Einhorn at 936-7444 for an application.

**Polk Township Volunteer Fire Dept.**  
**P.O. Box 135**  
**Tyner, IN 46572**

# Smoke Detectors Save Lives.

The Polk Township Fire Department is staffed by dedicated *unpaid* volunteers. These firefighters donate their time and talents to provide our community with fire protection. Maintaining a well equipped and well-trained **ALL VOLUNTEER** department greatly reduces the tax burden on the residents of our township. As you can see, supporting the fire department is good for the entire community. In order to maintain our high level of service and meet the increasing fire protection demands of our growing community, we ask for your help. Please take a minute to consider the importance of this request, then mail your tax deductible donation today!

Enter amount of contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate a change of address.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE DON'T SEND CASH

Make Check Payable to:

Polk Township Fire Department

P.O. Box 135

Tyner, IN 46572

**We Thank you for your support! Retain for your records.**