

# Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association News

*Over 80 Years of Experience*



## "Neighbors Protecting Neighbors Since 1922"

### About Us

The Mohegan Volunteer Fire Service is made up of nearly 200 men and women from Mohegan Lake, Shrub Oak, Cortlandt, Jefferson Valley, & Crompond. We live down the block from you, we wait next to you on line at the supermarket, we sit next to you in church, our children go to school together.

We are electricians, teachers, mechanics, students and engineers. We are law enforcement officers on the federal, state and local levels. We are mothers and fathers. We are civil servants, business owners, union members and corporate America.

We come from all walks of life and live on every end of the district. Our common denominator is our love of our community and desire to protect our families and neighbors. When the alarm sounds, we drop everything and become Firefighters, EMT's, Rescue Personnel, and Fire Police. We know the importance of the work that we do for the safety of our community. We also know the value of this work because of the tax dollars it saves us all.

The Mohegan Fire District covers 42 square miles and has over 30,000 residents. It also has 2 major malls, numerous commercial strips, 1 hospital center, 4 nursing homes, and 13 schools.

Fire Headquarters is on Route 6 near Lexington Avenue and we have three sub-stations

in the different corners of the district. Command of all response scenes is the responsibility of seven volunteer officers from the Chief to the 3rd Lieutenant.

In addition to the 200 volunteer firefighters, the officers also command a small staff of paid firefighters. These individuals have as their primary function the task of dispatching calls, getting the fire apparatus to the scene, then operating the pumps and equipment when they arrive. When they are available to do so, they assist the volunteers other firefighting activities.

So, next time you pass the Mohegan fire stations, remember that they represent nearly a century of proud tradition.

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**Safety Tip:** If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, you should dig it out after snowstorms. It could save time and save lives.

## Calls in 2002

In 2002, the Mohegan Fire Department and Ambulance Corps answered a total of 3,355 alarms. The following is a breakdown of the alarms:

**Ambulance Calls**— 2,145  
**Fire Calls**— 1210

### *Breakdown of Fire Calls:*

**Structure Fire**-27  
**Vehicle Fire**-23  
**Brush Fire**-17  
**Refuse Fire** -12  
**Rescue Calls** (emergencies including auto accidents, building collapse, etc)-297  
**False Alarms**-305

**Hazardous Condition** (wires down, etc)-176

**Service Calls** (no immediate life safety hazard but some FD assistance is given, i.e. oil burner malfunctions)-101

**Good Intent** (unfounded calls, i.e. smell of gas with no source)-134

**Mutual Aid** (other Depts.)-115  
**Misc Fire**-3

In addition to these, we also make the "good calls" including our annual candy cane run, representing the community in parades and visiting the homes of senior citizens to check their smoke detectors and change the batteries when needed.

# MVFD Training

Prior to their acceptance to the Fire Dept., each Mohegan Volunteer Firefighter must first pass a background investigation to ensure good character. Once in, they must take four months of in-house training before they are permitted to respond to their first call. This training includes the uses of turnout gear, hose-line operations, Scott Air Pak, search and rescue, ladders, ventilation, small engines, hand tools, vehicle rescue and extrication, live fire training, first aid and CPR.

Upon completion of the in-

house training, the new firefighter may now respond to alarms. Their progress is carefully monitored by the senior firefighters as they learn the practical aspects of fire/rescue. During their first year the new member must also take the NYS basic fire fighter certification course totaling over 150 hours of training. Over the next three years they must complete two more levels of NY State and supplementary training involving hundreds of hours in classrooms and at the Westchester Fire Training Center.



Mohegan Volunteers Practicing a High Angle Rescue

In addition, the MVFA conducted 40 separate training drills in 2002 including; search and rescue, firefighter survival training, rescue air bags, thermal imaging cameras, live fire training, rope rescue drill, forcible entry, flash-over training and heavy truck extrication.

The most important training received by new members is that which they receive on a daily and weekly basis at each scene while working hands-on with the senior firefighters and officers. This is the experience that converts classroom training into practical knowledge.

**Did You Know?** *During Revolutionary War times, the famous American volunteer soldiers were called "The Minutemen." They received this nickname because of their ability to react to invasion at a moments notice. Many of the Minutemen were also volunteer firemen- which is where they practiced staging and organizational skills they used to carry out the campaign for independence.*

## Fire Prevention Program in 2002



If you went out in the area during Fire Safety month (October), you may have noticed the award-winning Fire Prevention Team at your favorite store. Originally exclusive to local schools, this dedicated team of volunteers now appear at stores, scouting events, and other fire houses— wherever kids can be found. This year, they appeared before over a thousand of the community's chil-

dren, teaching the importance of fire safety.

Using props such as "the hazard house" model, they demonstrate where dangers might exist in every home. "Freddie" the talking fire truck works interactively to show them what to do in the event of a fire as well as how to remain calm in a dangerous situation.

This year, the team visited each of the following organizations on one or more occasions:  
*Flying Goose Nursery School, Field Home Nursery School, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, George Washington Elementary School,*

*Home Depot in the Cortlandt Town Center, Putnam Valley Fire Department, Bedford Hills Fire Department, Walter Panas High School Pre-School, Kiddie Cottage, Strawberry Learning Center, Furnace Woods Elementary, Metro North Train Yard, Lakeland High Pre-School, Old Yorktown Village, Wal-Mart, Morning Star Day Care, Benjamin Franklin, St Elizabeth Ann Seaton, Barnes and Noble, Boy Scout Group at Headquarters.*

If you are interested in having the Mohegan Fire Safety Team come to your school or organization, give us a call at **(914) 526-0823**.

**Did You know?: 85% of the Firefighters in America are Volunteers**



Mohegan Volunteers at Ground Zero



... at the scene of a car fire



A hose-line attack at a structure fire



# Volunteer Ambulance Corps

The Volunteer Ambulance Corps (VAC), which operates out of the MVFA Fire

Headquarters on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake, originated in the 1920's as the "Mohegan Ambulance Committee." It started with a single Ford Model-T ambulance with the sole purpose of bringing injured firefighters from a fire scene to the nearest medical facility. Over time it developed into a fully equipped,

modern Ambulance Corps. Called the Mohegan Rescue Squad through the 80's and 90's, it became known as the MVFA VAC in 1999. A title by which it is still known today.

The VAC has three fully equipped, New York State Certified ambulances. Each ambulance carries a crew of 2-4 emergency medical personnel— a driver, a NYS Certified EMT and up to two attendants.



The men and women of the VAC respond to thousands of rescue and emergency medical calls each year. These calls range from such causes as heart attacks, strokes, broken bones and automobile accidents just to name a few.

The consensus among the VAC personnel is that the rewards of providing life-saving benefits to the community are beyond words.



## Help Us To Help You:

**When you see a car with flashing blue lights, please move out of its way quickly and let it pass. We might be trying to get to your house!**



## Fireplace Safety



- Check your fireplace and chimney often. Keep them clean and in good repair.
- Always be sure that a good

fire screen is in front of the fireplace

- Keep the damper set so the draft (flow of air ) will remove all smoke and gases when the fireplace is on. Remember, too much air flow might let the fire get out of control.

- Keep the area near the fireplace clear of materials like papers, books, toys, etc
- Make sure that the fire is completely out before going to bed or if you plan to leave the house.

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

**FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY**

## 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.

As a member, you are also eligible to reap the benefits of the NY State LOSAP Pension Plan that will entitle you to a specific monetary amount when you reach retirement age.

### So what does it take?

- Men and women age 16 and older, who are caring, community-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.

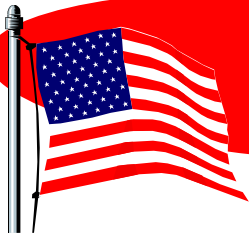
**Call for more information**

**914-526-0823**

**Or visit our website**

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





## Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association

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**We're on the web  
www.moheganfire.com**

## Mohegan FD Receives NY State Fire Prevention Award of the Year



On May 4, 2002 the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs presented

The Mohegan Fire Department with the New York State Fire Prevention Award of the Year 2001. The ceremony was held at the Annual Public Education Conference at Montour Falls, NY. Second Assistant Chief Ray Stretz and Deputy Chief Don McCoskey accepted the award as the administrators of the department's

Fire Safety Program. Along with the award, they have been given the title of "Fire Prevention Educators of the Year."

Every year, the members of the MVFA's Fire Prevention & Public Education Program visit dozens of schools and speak to hundreds of our children *entirely on their own time*. They do this on their days off and are even known to use their personal time from work to come out and teach the kids.

The team then attended the New York

State Fire Exposition in Syracuse



"We try to help children to be more aware of fire safety and give them the ability to remain calm and handle themselves in a crisis," says Chief Stretz, "this is what saves lives."

to share their wealth of information with representatives from fire departments throughout the state who are building fire prevention programs of their own.

Our community is very generous with their contributions during the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association's Annual Fund Drive." said Deputy Chief

McCoskey in an interview for Cortlandt Magazine, "This is one way to see where those dollars are going."



### 1776– 2003

## The Spirit of Volunteerism lives on in America.

