



# the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

## Improvements in vehicle safety force rescue tool upgrades

Technological advances in automobile design and manufacturing have significantly improved performance and driver safety. Some of these changes are more noticeable to drivers than others. Airbags, back up cameras, and proximity warnings are features that drivers experience from inside their vehicles. But the most significant change in car safety that has occurred over the past 10 years is structural: how the vehicle's frame is designed and the material used to create it.

High strength steel is now the material of choice among automakers. It's lighter to enhance fuel economy, more rigid to withstand greater impact, and better at dissipating the energy of an impact. Another feature of high strength steel is its exceptional hardness. All these qualities make it very useful in current vehicle frame construction, which utilizes a ring design, surrounding the passenger compartment in a seamless

"cage" of laser welded and hot pressed high strength steel.

The durability of high strength steel is clearly an asset for enhancing driver



Rescuers need the enhanced power of the latest generation extrication tools to cut through high strength steel used in late model vehicle frames.

survivability but it can also be a liability if rescuers don't have the tools required to cut through it quickly.

<i>In This Issue</i>	
Recycle Right	2
Tame your backyard flames	3
9-1-1 Report: dryer fire	4
What you need to know about EMS transport billing	4
Hydrants must be visible and accessible	5
Only rain in storm drains	5
Refurbishment saves big over replacement	5
Safety education/Poster contest	6
Safety education/Fire station open house	7

Extrication tools are hydraulically powered and designed with singular functions such as cutting, spreading and lifting. While the functions of extrication tools haven't changed, the power and design requirements needed to breach high strength steel certainly have.

Continued on page 3

## Land purchased for future fire station

Dublin continues to grow, both in population and area. Development in the northernmost region within the City limits is well underway and with it, a growing demand from residents and businesses for fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services.

Currently, Washington Township Fire Department maintains four fire stations, which are located in the southern and central parts of its service territory.

"We aim for an average response time of under eight minutes 90% of the time. That's the kind of service our

residents appreciate and the kind we are committed to provide, said Chief Alec O'Connell."

But, as Dublin's boundaries expand, it will gradually become difficult for the fire department to perform to this level of service when answering calls in the northernmost part of its district.

Continued on page 2

Land purchase *continued from page 1*

One option for addressing this issue is to build a fifth fire station within close proximity to the areas where response times consistently exceed eight minutes.

To plan for this future fire station, the Township purchased two land parcels totaling 3.58 acres at the corner of McKittrick Drive and Jerome Road. The

Trustees chose these parcels for their location, size, and access to main roads.

“We feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to purchase this land when we did. It’s difficult to find available land central to new growth, and especially land that is suitable for a fire station,” said Trustee Denise Franz King. “Until response time is an

issue in the north, which is at least five years away, we won’t need another fire station. But when we do, we’ll be able to proceed without delay.”

The Township will post signs on this property to inform current and future residents of the land’s owner, contact information, and anticipated use.

## Recycle Right

In theory, a lot of different materials can be recycled: glass, aluminum, paper, cardboard, and plastic, just to name a few. However, not all forms of these materials are accepted for recycling in our community. Why not? It all comes down to dollars and cents.

For recycling efforts to be successful, the items that residents put in their recycling bins must find their way into new products. Manufacturers who make products using recyclables create the demand for recyclable materials to be collected, processed, and marketed. Manufacturers need a clean (free of contamination), consistent supply of recyclable material that meets their requirements, and comes at a cost that will allow them to make a profit.

As a result, residential recycling collection programs have become more selective, accepting only those items for which there is a strong market, an ample supply, and for which the collection and processing is financially feasible. By doing this, recycling programs can achieve higher recycling rates, higher and more consistent

participation, and lower processing costs. In addition, simplifying the number of items that are sorted at processing facilities also results in fewer repairs to sorting equipment and safer working conditions for employees.

Recycling can be very costly. However, the investment dedicated to diverting as much waste as possible from landfills provides long-term benefits to communities that landfills cannot.

Recycling preserves natural resources and helps reduce the never-ending burden of managing, monitoring and mitigating the impacts of landfills and pollution. But, we have a long way to go. Even with Franklin County’s current recycling efforts, there are still over one million tons of waste

being dumped into Franklin County’s landfill each year.

You can help turn your unwanted recyclables into usable raw materials by following SWACO’s *Recycle Right* guidelines:

- Only put items approved for recycling in Franklin County into your recycling container (see below).
- Do not put recyclables in bags.
- Make sure the items you put in your bin are empty and free from food and liquids.
- Support the recycling economy by purchasing products that contain recycled material.

For more information, go to [swaco.org](http://swaco.org)

Recycle			Recycle Right MAKE A DIFFERENCE		Not Accepted	
						
<b>Paper &amp; Cardboard</b> <i>Please flatten</i>	<b>Plastic Bottles &amp; Jugs</b> <i>Lids and labels accepted</i>	<b>Glass Bottles &amp; Jars</b> <i>All colors accepted</i>	<b>No Plastic or Foam Food Containers</b>	<b>No Tangles</b> <i>Hoses, wires, chains, clothing, or electronics</i>		
						
<b>Metal Cans</b> <i>Remove aerosol tips</i>	<b>Cartons</b> <i>Rinse and remove lids</i>	<b>Keep them loose</b> <i>Don't bag items</i>	<b>No Plastic Bags</b> <i>Return to retailer</i>	<b>No Cups</b> <i>Coffee, Yogurt, or Party</i>		

Rescue tools *continued from page 1*

Since vehicles in Dublin are an average of three years old, Washington Township firefighters are encountering more vehicles constructed of high strength steel during emergency extrications.

Currently, five of the fire department's emergency response trucks carry a complement of extrication tools including a cutter, spreader, and ram (for lifting). The cost to replace these tools with ones powerful enough to work on high strength steel is approximately \$30,000.

These new generation tools are battery operated, so they offer faster and more flexible access at emergency scenes than the old style tools. In addition, maintenance costs are expected to be less as the new tools have fluid systems that are sealed and don't require periodic changing. Their lithium ion batteries don't require conditioning or cycling, and don't experience any degradation of power in high heat environments.

The fire department plans to purchase one set of tools by the end of the year. The current equipment will be maintained as back up equipment until it is no longer useful.

**Don't forget: When you move your clocks back one hour on November 4, install fresh smoke alarm batteries!**

## Tame your backyard flames

The evening air will soon be cool and crisp, a perfect backdrop for a backyard fire. Whether it's part of a celebration or an excuse to break out the marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers, backyard fires are permissible in Dublin and the unincorporated Township, as long as they comply with Ohio Fire Code and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines:

1. Recreational "small" fires must be confined to an approved outdoor container if the open burn is within 50 feet of a structure.
2. The container keeps the size of the fire to less than three feet in width and no higher than two feet.
3. The fire is controlled by the burn container, which reduces the fire exposure risk to nearby structures.
4. The fire pit or approved container must be at least 15 feet away from any structure or combustible surface. This minimal distance is per national, state and local fire code requirements for open burning in approved containers.

When it comes time to use your fire pit or chiminea:

- Check your home insurance policy to ensure that you're properly covered when using an approved outdoor fire container.
- Avoid windy conditions that can blow hot embers onto combustible surfaces. It's possible that conditions in Ohio could prompt burn bans, depending on dry weather conditions.
- Remove leaves and other combustible materials around the pit to ensure the fire doesn't accidentally spread.
- Always have a container of water nearby and a garden hose on standby before starting the fire.
- Do not use lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline to start a fire because of the risks of severe burn injury. Instead, place



a crumpled piece of paper or cardboard and cover with kindling. As the wood catches fire, add larger pieces until you're able to add a dry seasoned log or two.

- Keep children and pets a minimum of three feet from the open burn.
- Extinguish a fire by spreading the ashes over a larger surface area to cool. Then, pour water over the ashes to make sure they are completely extinguished, as ashes can re-ignite.
- If you have a fire that escapes your fire pit and moves into a nearby pile of kindling or a combustible surface, call 9-1-1 immediately, then apply water if it's available.

Keep in mind that outdoor fires can cause smoke scares if the source of the smoke is not readily apparent. These 9-1-1 calls are treated as potential fires, which commit firefighters and equipment until the source of the smoke is identified. Consider notifying your neighbors of your intent to have backyard fires so they are aware of the source of any smoke they may see or smell.

## 9-1-1 Report: dryer fire

This past June, Washington Township answered a call from a home in Dublin for a reported fire. The fire originated in the family's clothes dryer.

Fortunately, someone was home when the fire occurred and working smoke alarms alerted the family to look in the basement.

The family had a fire extinguisher, but heavy smoke prevented them from using it. Even though the fire department responded in just under seven and a half minutes, the fire had time to do enough damage to warrant the family vacating their home while repairs were made.



What surprised the homeowner the most was the extent of the smoke damage. Fortunately, the homeowner had received training on responding to fire emergencies, through his employer, so he knew that closing doors could help contain the fire. This also helped contain the smoke to some extent.

Dryer fires are difficult to predict, but you can reduce your risk if you:

- Keep the exhaust hose and lint trap clean. Use a brush designed for cleaning dryers to remove the lint from the trap screen, the dryer hose connection, and the entire length of the exhaust hose.
- Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Have a fire extinguisher near the washer/dryer. Make sure it is not expired and members of your family know how and when to use it.
- Use your clothes dryer only when you are home.

## What you need to know about EMS transport billing

EMS transport billing, as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code Section 3901.71, requires that all Ohio health insurance companies include in Ohio policy holder premiums an amount dedicated for EMS transport services. The amount is approximately 1-2% of the premium that policyholders pay. This amount cannot be eliminated from any policy, nor is it dependent on whether the policyholder ever uses EMS transport services.

It is this mandated Ohio insurance policy component that allows EMS transport providers like Washington Township Fire Department to bill its patients' health insurance provider for EMS transport services used.

As a service provider, Washington Township has the option of implementing one of two billing methods: hard billing or soft billing. Hard billing requires payment in full for services rendered, which means that patients are responsible to pay for any amount not covered by their insurance policy.

Soft billing does not require resident patients to pay for the portion of their bill that is not covered by their health insurance policy. Washington Township Trustees opted to implement soft billing beginning January 2017. This means that Washington Township accepts the payment it receives from residents' health insurance providers as full payment.

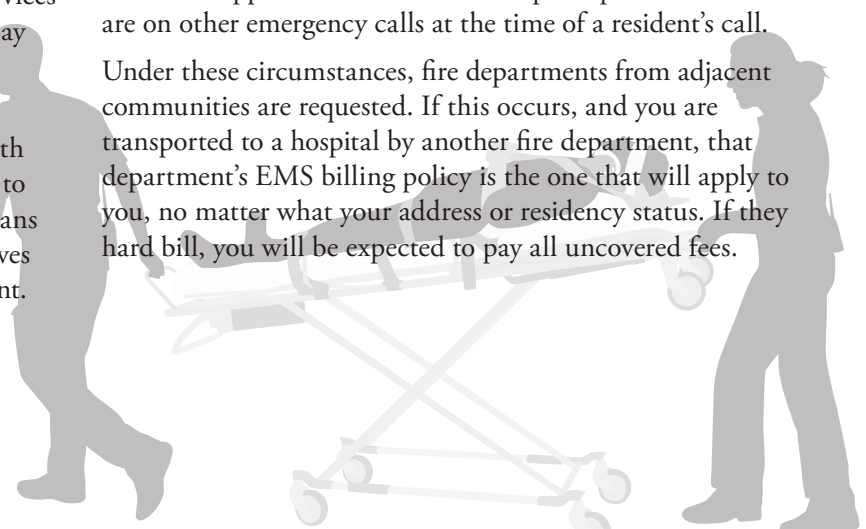
If you are transported to a hospital by Washington Township, you may receive a *Statement of Benefits* from

your health insurance provider. Customers often mistake this statement for a bill. Be sure to read thoroughly all correspondence from your health insurance provider to determine if you have received a *Statement of Benefits* or an invoice. You may also receive a *Request for Information* if your health insurance information was not available at the time of transport.

Non-residents will receive a bill for uncovered expenses from the billing company, Change Healthcare, with whom Washington Township contracts to collect these payments.

It is important to note that not all fire departments use soft billing. This is important to our residents because, while rare, it is possible that another fire department may answer a 9-1-1 call in the Washington Township/Dublin service territory. This can happen if/when the Township's response vehicles are on other emergency calls at the time of a resident's call.

Under these circumstances, fire departments from adjacent communities are requested. If this occurs, and you are transported to a hospital by another fire department, that department's EMS billing policy is the one that will apply to you, no matter what your address or residency status. If they hard bill, you will be expected to pay all uncovered fees.



## Hydrants must be visible and accessible

The Township flushes the City's 3,138 public water hydrants in the spring and pumps the hydrant barrels clear of water in the fall in preparation for freezing temperatures.

It's often during hydrant maintenance that firefighters find hydrants blocked from view by overgrown vegetation or landscaping. If you live near a hydrant, please make sure it is clearly visible from the street and has clearance of at least three feet around it so it complies with the Ohio Fire Code.

The three-foot clearance gives firefighters the room they need to open and close them in emergencies and to provide maintenance. The fire department maintains the City's

public hydrants, which have green bases and green caps. Hydrants with white bases and green caps are privately owned, and are, therefore, the responsibility of the association that owns the hydrant(s).

If you have questions about fire hydrant maintenance or would like to make us aware of a hydrant that is blocked from street view, please call Fire Marshal Mike Altomare at 614-652-3934.

Fall hydrant pumping will take place from September 13 through November 2.

## Only rain in storm drains

While they may sometimes be referred to as storm sewers, storm drains are not sewers at all. The storm drain system is a network of pipes designed to prevent flooding by carrying away rainwater that would otherwise accumulate on impermeable surfaces like paved roads and sidewalks. Whatever travels through storm drains is discharged, untreated, directly into local streams, rivers and other surface water bodies (i.e. ponds and lakes).

Contaminated storm water contaminates the bodies of water into which it flows, affecting all life that depends on it to survive. Please help

keep our streams, rivers, and lakes clean by making sure only rain goes into storm drains.

- Dispose of unwanted motor oil, paint, and household chemicals at recyclers or during household hazardous waste collection events. The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio operates a drop off site at 645 E. 8th Ave. that is open Wednesdays and Fridays, 12-6 pm and Thursdays, 9am-5 pm.
- Minimize or eliminate the use of herbicides and or pesticides.
- Rake leaves to the curb rather than into the street. Grass clippings and leaves can clog drains and create conditions that aquatic life cannot tolerate (reduced available oxygen, excess nitrogen and phosphorus) as they decompose.

## Refurbishment saves big over replacement

Buy or refurbish? That is the question Chief Alec O'Connell is faced with as emergency response vehicles age. Such is the case for the fire department's fourth medic, Medic 94, a 2007 model that serves as a backup when one of the department's front line medics is taken out of service for maintenance or refurbishment.

Age and mileage are among the factors staff consider when evaluating trucks for refurbishment vs. replacement. Refurbishment helps control maintenance costs and conserves the equipment budget, while maintaining a truck's reliability for another ten years.

Medic 94 refurbishment will include separating the patient treatment area from the 2007 chassis and placing it on a new chassis. The cost to replace this medic with a new one would have been \$325,000. So while the \$180,000 refurbishment price tag is significant, it will save the township \$145,000.





**Who?** Third graders enrolled in Dublin City Schools, Washington Elementary (Hilliard Schools), St. Brigid's, Tree of Life, or homeschooled in Dublin or Washington Township.

**What?** Create a poster which includes the following message, "Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere." Posters will be evaluated based on: (1) creativity incorporating the theme into the poster design, (2) effectiveness at catching the readers's attention.

**Why?** Enter because it's fun and because prizes will be awarded for the first place and runner up entries from each school and from among all homeschooled students. Award recipients and their family members will be invited to an awards ceremony.

**How?** Use one 12" X 18" sheet of paper and any medium you desire (pencils, crayons, paint, chalk, etc.) to create a cool, one-of-a-kind poster design that attracts attention and conveys your message. Supply your own paper or get some from your third grade teacher or at 6200 Eiterman Road beginning Sept. 14, 2018.

**When?** Entries must be submitted at the entrant's school or at 6200 Eiterman Road by 4 p.m. **Sept. 27, 2018.** All entries must have the following legible information on the poster's reverse side in order to be eligible: Student's first and last name, school name (or home address, if homeschooled), teacher's name (or parent's name, if homeschooled).

### Red Cross Babysitting

Students will learn the skills needed to safely and responsibly provide care for children and infants. Course topics include leadership skills, considerations for starting your own babysitting business, personal and child safety, and techniques for encouraging youth cooperation and contentment.

Ages: 11-15  
Date: Saturday, November 3 *Register by October 26*  
Monday, January 21 *Register by January 14*  
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Township Administration, 6200 Eiterman Road  
Fee: \$45 (Township/Dublin residents)  
\$50 (non-residents)

### Family Fishing with Firefighters

Grab a cane pole and bait (provided) and see how many Bluegill, Bass, and Sunfish you can catch in the Dublin Recreation Center pond. Please dress for the weather and wear closed toe shoes. Parent participation is required.

Register at [www.dublinohiousa.gov/recreation](http://www.dublinohiousa.gov/recreation)

Date: Monday, October 1  
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$10 per family

### Infant CPR for Expecting & New Parents/Grandparents

If you are expecting or adopting a child, have a newborn at home, or will be babysitting your new grandchild, this class is for you! React quickly with the knowledge and skills that can help a baby if they are choking or need CPR. Our certified car seat technician will offer tips on securing your child's car seat.

Ages: 18 & older  
Date: Tuesday, October 16 *Register by October 9*  
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Township Administration, 6200 Eiterman Road  
Fee: \$10 (Township/Dublin residents)  
\$15 (non-residents)

### Firefighters 4 Kids Toy Drive

December 1-22

We're collecting new, unwrapped toys for *Firefighters 4 Kids* at all four of our fire stations. Drop them off any time.

December 15th, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Station 91 is hosting a special Toy Drive-Thru event. Stop by with your new, unwrapped toy donations and grab a holiday treat!

## download the app **PulsePoint**

Are you trained to administer CPR and willing to help someone suffering from cardiac arrest?

Download the free PulsePoint app to receive notification if/when a person (within 1/4 mile of your location and in a public place) is in cardiac arrest.

### Until Help Arrives

If you are ever involved in or witness a traumatic accident, will you know what to do until the ambulance arrives? Would you be prepared to help save someone's life? This course will walk you through each step: how to recognize that there is a problem, how to assess the surroundings so you can act safely, what information is most important to share on your 911 call, and the care you can administer until law enforcement and or fire/EMS arrive. Washington Township Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike Riebel and 911 emergency dispatcher (for Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center) Stephanie Skipworth present this class in a format that includes lecture, demonstrations and hands-on skills practice.

Ages: 13 & older (Parent/guardian must register and attend with 13-16 year olds)  
Date: Tuesday, October 9  
*Register by October 2*  
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Location: 6200 Eiterman Rd.  
Fee: \$5



# FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE

OCT. 7, 2018 | 1-4 PM

**FIRE TRUCKS • FIRE STATION TOURS  
DEMONSTRATIONS • ACTIVITIES**



**STATION 91**  
6255 SHIER RINGS RD

**STATION 92**  
4497 HARD RD

**STATION 93**  
5825 BRAND RD

**STATION 95**  
5750 BLAZER PKWY

**S.U.D.S. COLLECTION DRIVE TO BENEFIT WELCOME WAREHOUSE**  
Accepting donations of new Socks, Underwear, Deodorant, Shampoo

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

## Board of Trustees

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## Administration

6200 Eiterman Road

Dublin, Ohio 43016

(614) 652-3920

Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Eric Richter, Administrator

Alec O'Connell, Fire Chief

Bill Lynn, Assistant Fire Chief

Leslie Dybiec, Communications Manager

Catherine Grossman, HR Manager

## Fire Stations

Station 91: 6255 Shier Rings Road

Station 92: 4497 Hard Road

Station 93: 5825 Brand Road

Station 95: 5750 Blazer Parkway