**The North East Fire Department is Looking for 'neighborhood heroes' in Adopt-A-Hydrant Campaign**

*In an emergency, every second counts! Volunteer to adopt-a-hydrant, keep it clear of snow for first responders.  Free your inner superhero status while helping to ensure your street is safer if a fire occurs.*

The North East Fire Department is encouraging capable residents to be neighborhood heroes by adopting a fire hydrant on their street or road, keeping it clear of snow and ice during the winter months, and also keeping it clear of grass and other debris year-round.

"When we are dispatched for a call, it takes time for crews to arrive, perform their size up, hook up to the hydrant and deploy hose lines in the instance of a fire.  If firefighters have to clear ice and snow from the hydrant, that will take extra time, delaying our response to the actual emergency," says **XXXXX of XXXXX.**Firefighters say a fire doubles in size every minute you are not applying water for extinguishment.

On Thursday, January 27 firefighters were faced with this exact challenge when they responded to a fire on Belle Road in Harborcreek Township and had to dig out the fire hydrant.  “Seconds count in any emergency. We had a fire with entrapment, meaning that someone was trapped in the structure. We had to sacrifice precious time digging out the hydrant to make sure that we would have access to water beyond what we have in our tanks,” said Charles Ramsey, Harborcreek Fire Chief.  “Every second counts; if I don’t have to dig out a hydrant, that’s another one or two-minute improvement in our response to the emergency at-hand."

Fire departments across the U.S. regularly roll out the Adopt-a-Hydrant program to remind residents to keep hydrants on their property clear, as well as on their street.  "The residents of North East have always proven to be eager and willing to help their community, and the Adopt a Hydrant program is a great way for us to proactively show our support for our first responders" said Borough Councilman Ryan McGregor. Residents that are interested in 'adopting' a hydrant can send an email to Borough Councilman Ryan McGregor at rmcgregor@northeastborough.com.

Firefighters continue to urge you to make sure that the nearest fire hydrant to your home is dug out three feet all around any time that it snows.  Although the nearest hydrant may be on someone else’s lawn, it protects that entire street area and, essentially, is your hydrant", **XXXX** added.  “By simply donating your time and effort, you can help ensure your street is safer in the event of a fire,” **XXXXX** said. “We also ask residents to keep an eye out for people on their street who may not be able to do this themselves, that’s why we call them neighborhood heroes."  And there’s plenty of opportunities to free your inner superhero, the Borough of North East has 117 fire hydrants and North East Township has 261.

“Beyond fires we also encourage keeping walkways clear for arriving crews. That ensures the safe transport of patients during an Emergency Medical Service call, quicker arrival of emergency responders and can help prevent residents of that home from having dangerous falls.”

Residents that are interested in 'adopting' a hydrant can send an email to Borough Councilman Ryan McGregor at rmcgregor@northeastborough.com. If you want to have a little fun while you’re clearing your hydrant and encourage others to do likewise, snap a selfie with your cleared hydrant and tag it #AdoptAHydrant in your social media post. Be sure to tag Fuller Hose Company #1 and Crescent Hose Compnay #2 on Facebook,@fullerhosecompany and @crescenthosecompany.