

PAFPA Newsletter

November 2025

**Want something in
the newsletter?**

Send us pictures,
stories, and any
news events you
would like to
include. If you have
an event that has a
flyer, please
forward it to us:

pafirepoliceassn@
gmail.com

Please include an
email and a phone
number so we may
contact you if needed.

PA. Fire Police Association

SAFETY



THIS IS HAPPENING TOO MUCH!

In 2025 so far 28 Emergency Responders have lost their lives while helping others. These are just the ones that are no longer with us! 9 of these lives have been lost in the past month. And there are plenty more that have been struck and injured, along with the millions of dollars apparatus damaged. We must do better. We need to watch each other's backs and stay aware while on the roads and highways. Has you and your department taken a TIM's class lately? It is one way to get out of being complacent while on the roads.

NEW GRANT APPLICATION

The new grant that the association is sponsoring will be posted on the website this month. There are 3- \$1000.00 grants available to county associations. Please check the website for the application. The applications will be due by March 31, 2026.

NEW FOR PA. FIRST RESPONDERS

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PA. GOVERNOR

The trauma that firefighters and our first responders experience in the line of duty can be devastating — but we're guaranteeing they can access the care and coverage they deserve. As of this week, Post Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI) is officially covered under workers' comp for firefighters and other first responders across the Commonwealth. To every Pennsylvanian running towards danger to keep us safe: We've got your back.

From the Responder Safety.com

Caption Here

New Helmet Standard Specifically for Roadway Responses Published

The Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI), a committee of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association, heralds the publication of ASTM E3422/E3422M-24, Standard Specification for Protective Helmets Worn by Pedestrian Roadway Workers as a game changer in the fight to reduce struck-by incidents, deaths, and injuries to our nation's first responders. It is the first standard to specify the requirements for a helmet designed to mitigate the hazards of impacts at roadway incident responses. Its publication is the culmination of years advocacy to address the unique struck-by hazards of working roadway incidents with PPE designed specifically for those hazards. The new standard is appropriate for all responders and roadway workers, including public safety (fire service, emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire police, special traffic units), road and highway construction and maintenance, towing and recovery, departments of transportation, and safety service patrols.

The ERSI is deeply grateful to ASTM and to all the members of the ASTM E54 Protective Helmets Worn by Pedestrian Roadway Workers task group who developed this groundbreaking standard. We recognize the sacrifice of the many emergency responders who died and were injured in struck-by incidents that became part of the rallying cry to develop this standard. Twenty-five years ago, the deaths of Capt. Joseph Kroboth, Jr. (The Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway, MD) and FF Dave Good (Lionville Fire Company, PA) in separate incidents two months apart led to founding the Emergency Responder Safety Institute. Since then, the ERSI has consistently advocated for a purpose-designed roadway incident response helmet that all responding organizations could use and that would protect against the unique hazards of vehicle and object impacts to responders' heads while working on the roadway yet still permit the field-of-view and dexterity needed to do their jobs. This new standard is a critical milestone in this work.

It has been 4 years since the City of Lubbock, TX lost two public safety personnel in a catastrophic struck-by-vehicle incident while emergency personnel were working at a previous crash scene. Lubbock Fire Rescue Lieutenant Eric Hill and Lubbock Police Department Officer Nicholas Renya were killed at the scene.

Lubbock Fire rescue Firefighter Matt Dawson was also struck by the same vehicle and suffered a significant traumatic brain injury along with many other injuries but initially survived that crash on Jan. 11th, 2020. FF Dawson unfortunately passed away in November of 2023. His death was classified as line-of-duty death (LODD). Both Lt. Hill and FF Dawson were wearing their structural firefighting helmets at the time of the incident, but their helmets failed them. The force of the impact knocked their helmets off their heads, thereby providing zero protection.

A Lubbock Fire Rescue colleague, Lt. Brady Robinette, resolved to do something about the fact that no helmet on the market at that time was designed for the hazards encountered when working near moving traffic. Firefighting helmets and construction type hardhats were the most popular type of helmet worn, but many roadway responders didn't wear any helmet at all. Hardhats and structural firefighting helmets were designed to protect workers from a falling object to the top of the head, not side or rear impacts and not impacts where the body was in motion and the helmet could fall off. While they are better than no head protection, much better protection was needed for the most important organ in the body — the brain.

Lt. Robinette looked to helmets in other industries and found that they were available for virtually every activity or sport where there is a danger of a head injury. Additionally, virtually all of these helmets are designed to meet a helmet standard that addresses the hazards specific to that activity. He did his own research to identify an available helmet that was best suited to struck-by hazards, while he continued to work for a standard specifically for roadway workers. A series of personal connections with other responders who were affected by struck by incidents eventually led to support from the NIST Standards Coordination Office and from ASTM to create a new standard.

For the past two years, a task group of individuals from helmet testing laboratories, helmet manufacturers, academia, and responder end users (fire service, EMS, law enforcement, towing and recovery, and state and federal DOTs) worked to develop a helmet standard for personnel who work near moving traffic. ASTM published the *Specification for Protective Helmets Worn by Pedestrian Roadway Workers* in July 2024.

Today, we celebrate this victory at a vital first step, but there is much work to be done. There are no helmets on the market that have been certified/verified to this new standard. The Emergency Responder Safety Institute encourages manufacturers to design and develop a helmet that meets this new standard and go through the process of getting the helmet certified/verified to the new standard. We encourage responders, their departments, and leadership to contact helmet manufacturers and express your

interest in purchasing a helmet that meets this new standard. We call on all national organizations to express their support for this standard and put the weight of their organizations behind the effort to get this standard adopted nationwide. We ask local, state, and federal governments to support this standard with appropriate legislative and funding action.

251 emergency responders lost their lives while performing their jobs at roadway incidents from 2019 to 2023. Additionally, there were 225 highway worker struck-by fatalities from 2019 to 2022. Statistics on the number of injuries and near misses are not known but it is generally accepted that they are considerably higher than the number of fatalities. Additionally, the number — and cost — of ambulances, fire trucks, police cruisers, and other roadway response vehicles that are struck and damaged is not known. The Emergency Responder Safety Institute is currently trying to better define these statistics and contributing factors by collecting voluntary struck-by reports at ReportStruckBy.com.

Helmets work when properly worn. They are designed to absorb energy during an impact. Any energy absorbed by the helmet is energy not transferred to the head. This saves lives, reduces the severity of injuries, and — in the best-case scenario — prevents or mitigates a head injury. An appropriate helmet is a basic piece of PPE that all responders who work on the roadway must wear. Until new helmets certified to ASTM E3422 hit the market, wear whatever helmet you have with its chinstrap secured and nape adjustment tightened when working around moving traffic.

ASTM E3422/E3422M be accessed using this link: [E3422/E3422M](https://www.astm.org/E3422/E3422M) [Standard Specification for Protective Helmets Worn by Pedestrian Roadway Workers \(astm.org\)](https://www.astm.org/E3422/E3422M). There is a nominal cost to purchase the full document.

DO YOU WEAR A HELMET?

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

ISN'T OUR LIVES WORTH IT?

Contact Us

Company Name

PA. Fire Police Association

Street Address

P.O. Box 586

City, ST Zip Code

Effort, PA., 18330

Phone

717-329-6118

Email

President –

wfspaeth@gmail.com

Incoming President

Jim Hoerner

jhoerner3691@gmail.com

Website

pafirepolice.org

Have you checked out our new website?

Q. Question

Do you have any ideas to help improve our website?

Q. Question

Do you have any events or news for our website?

WE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR WEBSITE WITH THE HELP OF
w3nerds.com

Email: pafirepoliceassn@gmail.com

HERE THE INSURANCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

The Association death benefit is two times your yearly membership dues, times

your years of consecutive service. If you have missed any years, that would not

be considered continuous service. You can buy them back. (Call the office at 717-329-6118) for what we are showing as your service years.

Association Accidental Death Benefit: \$10,000 (WHILE ON DUTY ONLY). This is the extra \$4.00 you have paid on top of the member dues of \$6.00 This will now be for all members starting in 2026 with the dues being \$10.00 a year for all.

American Life: \$3,000 (Accidental death benefit 24/7 on or off duty)

This insurance is free for all members provided by American Life. In return they get to mail each member twice a year to see if we are interested in other insurance. **These are mailed by our office. The insurance company does not have our information.**

COMMITTEES

PAFPA COMMITTEES

Are you interested in serving on a committee? This is one of the ways things get done. Help is needed. Here is a list of the committees:

Registration

Zoom/Technology

Insurance

Fire Police Store

Membership

By-Law

Publicity/Website/Facebook

FASP/PFESI/SWAB/CVVFFA

Training (Internal)

Training (External)

Fire Police reporting

Finance

Audit

Convention/Bi-Monthly meetings

(Check the website soon for descriptions of the committees and contact Jim Horner @ jhoerner3691@gmail.com if interested or come to our next meeting in November.)

OBITUARY

If you would like to submit the passing of a Fire Police Officer for the newsletter, please send us the information to:

pafirepoliceassn@gmail.com

Since we have no obituaries to post please take a moment for those Emergency Responders that have lost their lives on the roads this year.

FIRE POLICE PRAYER

Almighty God our savior, whenever I am dispatched to serve my fellow man in times of need, I ask you,

To give me the strength and guidance to be ever alert and to be consistent within the discharge of my duties,

To be ever mindful of the welfare and safety of all I have been sworn to protect and serve,

To be fair and impartial in the treatment of all persons with whom I come in contact,

To be courteous and never be profane in words or deeds while on duty,

To strive to always be proficient with the talents which you have given me, and to always have the willingness to serve.

And, if during my service to others in times of need, it is your will that I lay down my life, bless always, with your love and guidance, my family and those I leave behind.

Amen

A FEW WORDS FROM THE

PRESIDENT BILL SPAETH

As my time is short as serving as President of the Association, I want to thank those that have attended our meetings and getting involved. Also, thanks to the service of our Board members. Time has flown by the past two years, so to not disappoint you it does not look like I will be going away too soon. I will still be serving on the Board along with the committees I am on. I believe the incoming President Jim Hoerner has plans for me. I am honored to have served all these past years. I remember my first meeting which I believe was in Matamoras, PA. and never even thought of being your President.

Please give Jim you're backing and I am sure he will take in any suggestions. It takes us all to make the organization great.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Bill Spaeth

ARE YOU TRAINING?

WE ARE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO UPDATE OUR TRAINING PAGE WITH THE CALENDAR. IF YOU HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME TRYING TO FIND TRAINING YOU CAN LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE AND IF YOU DO NOT SEE ANYTHING THAT HELPS, WE HAVE A TRAINING ASSISTANCE FORM. FILL THE FORM OUT AND BRIAN WILL GET BACK TO YOU PROMPTLY.

Congratulations to those persons that were elected at the September meeting!

1st VP: Kevin Burton (Warren County)

2nd VP: Eugene Bartlett (Butler County)

And Thanks to all that were willing to serve on the Board.

We are truly grateful!

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting Details

- **Date:** November 16, 2025
- **Time:** Lunch at Noon. Meeting at 1:00 PM.
- **Location:**
Montgomery County
Ft. Washington Fire Company
1245 Fort Washington Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034

JOIN ONLINE

If you can't attend in person, join the meeting on Zoom

at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83701437896?pwd=aNYczK1kpgcKa6brWy35UbYKTB6QBk.1>

Zoom number: 8370 143 7896

Passcode: 658479