

Upper Makefield *Township*

1076 Eagle Road | Newtown, PA 18940 | *p* 215.968.3340 | *f* 215.968.9 228 | www.uppermakefield.org

October 2025

TO: Township Manager
CC: BOS, P&Z, Engineer & Solicitor
FR: John C. Kernan - Chief Fire Marshal FM-272
RE: Monthly Update

Investigations

- Investigating and followed-up on all township-wide fire alarm calls dispatched by Bucks Radio Room
- Reported “Wires Burning Inside” Timber Ridge Road – On-Going
- Reported “Truck Fire” Sol Feinstone Farm Property – On-Going
- Reported “Dwelling Fire” Thompson Mill Road – Lightning Strike

Projects / Initiatives / Training

- Developed and distributed “Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Safety” article for Sol Feinstone & Co-Op Nursery, local media, township website, cable channel & homeowner’s associations
- Monitoring Sunoco / Energy Transfer daily reviews of abatement logistics Mt. Eyre Community
- IAAI-CFI Trainer: “NFPA #1033 Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator” 4 hrs TESTED
- Week-long in class presentations for Fire Prevention Week 700+ township households impacted
- PA International Association of Fire Investigators 16 hours TESTED training “Explosion Dynamics: Fuel and Air Explosions” / “Advanced Methods in Natural Gas and Propane Explosion Investigations” / “Advanced Arson for Profit” / “GenAI Tool for Fire Investigators”
- 2025 Fire Prevention Week “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” programs and presentations for local schools and HOA’s

Inspections & Reviews

- Sol Feinstone School
- Energy Transfer equipment staging in Mt. Eyre neighborhood and emergency vehicle egress
- Plan Review: Hammer Sub Division
- Plan Review: Tents at Belamour Drive
- Plan Review: Tents Eagle Road
- Plan Review: Sunoco Wells Spencer Drive
- Plan Review: HM Equestrian Horse Farm
- Plan Review: Catalano Sub Division
- Plan Review: Colonial Farms outdoor parking lot temporary refrigerated storage containers
- Reported PECO pole down and transformer Buckmanville Road
- Cinco-de-Mayo restaurant
- Francisco’s Tent
- Embarkation Building - final permit

COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOL FEINSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1090 EAGLE ROAD
NEWTOWN, BUCKS CO., PA 18940-2825

JOHN HARLAN
PRINCIPAL

PHONE: 215-944-2400
FAX: 215-944-2497

October 8, 2025

Dear Fire Marshall Kernan,

I wanted to thank you for your planning and dedication to the Fire Prevention Week grade level programs you presented at Sol Feinstone Elementary during the week of October 7th. These programs have positively influenced our 669 students and households. Our students, parents and my teaching staff always enjoy this time of year due to your expertise and knowledge about Fire Prevention.

I also want to commend you for your 35 years of service to our Sol Feinstone Elementary community. Your one-on-one approach to individual classroom instruction has now impacted over 30,000 students (many who are now parents themselves) and families since 1990. I know you continue to make such an impression on so many of the young students you work with yearly.

Fire Marshall Kernan, as always, I feel strongly that your fire safety message has been effectively communicated to our entire SFE school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Harlan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Harlan, Principal

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

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