

Young Farmers Sponsor Fire Drill

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) The Manheim Young Farmer Chapter sponsored a 911 Fire and Rescue Drill for their September meeting.

The Chapter cooperated with the Mastersonville Fire Company in staging a shop and machine shed fire on the David Groff Farm. The drill began with Groff actually making the emergency call to 911. The members of the chapter were able to hear the actual questions asked by the dispatcher at the time an emergency is reported. The group then waited anxiously for the engines and emergency equipment to arrive.

When the fire department arrived, Chief Larry Snavely handed the officer in charge, Jeff Martin, a list of the simulated conditions. First priority was the entrapment of one of the Groff children in the shop building. After several minutes, the firemen successfully carried Jonathan

Groff from the building. Paramedics attended to him, going through a complete medic drill and eventually moving him on a backboard to the ambulance.

Mastersonville was assisted by Manheim, Penryn, and Lawn Fire Companies as they set up a relay to bring water from a neighboring pond. Those watching the drill were impressed with the organization and the work that is involved in responding to an emergency situation such as a barn fire.

After the drill at the farm, the group moved to the Mastersonville Fire Hall for a time of questions and answers with the Fire Chiefs. Chief Snavely outlined several things that are of key importance at the scene of a fire. At the time of dispatch of the fire company, the building is under the complete control of the officer in charge at the scene. It is very helpful if the owner of the property or a representative for the owner is at



Paramedics work on Jonathan Groff after being rescued from the burning shop building.

the command post to assist in answering questions and locating potential hazardous materials.

Potential hazards such as manure pits, pesticide storage, acid-treated hay, and fuel tanks need to be identified for the safety of all. Water sources need to be accessible to within 20 feet to provide maximum usage.

Deputy Chief Larry Groff urged the group to call, even for the smallest incident. "It is much easier to respond to the small fire than to wait until it is fully involved."

Chief Snavely encouraged the group to establish a prefire plan. He said in the majority of cases, the wife is the one that will place

the 911 call. It is helpful to have the information posted at the phone to assist in giving complete information to the dispatcher. He also indicated the fire company would be very happy to work with farmers to help establish a prefire plan, including identification of

hazards, evacuation routes, and water sources.

The demonstration gave a new appreciation for the local fire departments for their dedication in giving of their time and expertise in protecting our communities.



Mastersonville Fire Chief Larry Snavely gives instructions to the group during the simulated fire call at the David Groff Farm.


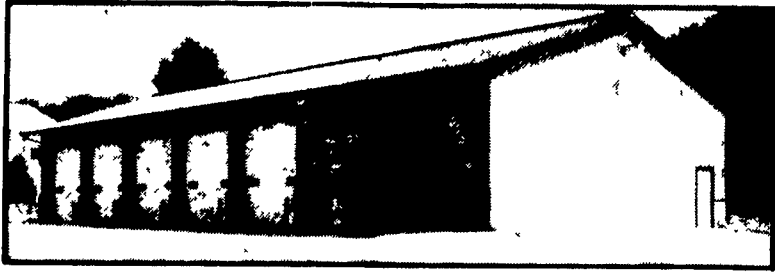



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