



Right jolly

After Santa arrived by fire truck at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion, he entertained dozens of children, among them Lauren Lochus, who looked focused as she told him what is on her Christmas list this year.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Niskey

(continued from page 1)

in 120 people receive some degree of medical attention for burn injuries per year.

"We've been seeing a decline in injuries," said Dillard, who has been with BPF for 11 years. "They have declined not only in number, but severity too."

House fires tend to be the exception to this statistic, said Dillard. "It appears to be tied to non-operating smoke detectors. People are not being as attentive to checking batteries as they should be." Studies show that more than 30 percent of smoke detectors are not functioning due to missing or dead batteries, he said.

Last year the BPF taught more than 42,000 children in more than 80 school districts how to prevent

burns, but has not had programs in the Back Mountain. Niskey hopes they will be able to do work in Dallas and Lake-Lehman.

One of the main learning tools for the organization is the Fire Safety House. These are two-story mobile homes equipped with doors that get hot and that fill with non-toxic smoke. The realistic setting helps to show people how to respond in a house fire situation. Also, a fire fighter in full gear with a noisy breathing apparatus is present to familiarize children with the sometimes scary appearance of the fire fighters. "We want them to know this isn't someone they need to be afraid of," said Niskey.

BPF offers its services to cities that own such homes. "The city of

"Every time I read a case history it makes me grit my teeth to get more information out there."

Jay Niskey
Dallas

Wilkes-Barre fire department purchased a fire safety house and we have offered to provide our service for them," said Dillard.

Niskey said he hopes a fire safety house might be bought for the Back Mountain and Wyoming County areas. He said BPF is in the process of moving more into the area.

Niskey, who has been with BPF for 10 years, said, "Every time I read a case history it makes me grit my teeth to get more information out there."

Not only does BPF school children on how to prevent burn injuries, they teach them how to deal with someone who is recovering from a severe burn. "We work with training the students who will have a classmate with burns. We prepare them for when this child comes back and has on pressure garments," said Niskey. The burn victim is not only healing physically, but also psychologically, he said. "This is a many faceted program."

To learn more about the BPF and its programs call 610-481-9810.



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Office hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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The Dallas Post (USPS 147-720)
Published weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc. \$18 per year in Luzerne and Wyoming counties (PA); \$20 elsewhere in PA, NY or NJ; \$22 all other states. Periodicals postage paid at Dallas PA.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612.

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