



**HAN-LE-CO VOLUNTEER FIRE-RESCUE**  
**1001 POSTAL ROAD**  
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**For Immediate Release: April 24, 2020**

## **Re: Community Relation Events**

Since March 16, 2020 Han-Le-Co Fire Company has been practicing a modified level of activity due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Essentially, all activities apart from emergencies and other mandatory support activities that are critical to the overall efficiency of our operation has ceased. Activities that have been temporarily ceased include but not limited to training, public relations, public education, non-priority maintenance, fund raising, general meetings and committee meetings.

Your firefighters are committed to continuing to be ready to assist during this time of adversity. Unfortunately, like many others in our community, we have also been impacted by the effects of COVID-19. Most recently these effects have not only affected Han-Le-Co Fire Company, but other mutual aid agencies both within the Township and in surrounding communities. For us to continue to provide exceptional service, we must remain healthy and not have our members in quarantine due to exposure. The only way to limit potential exposure is via social distancing and following Governor Tom Wolf's Stay at Home Order.

Recently we have received multiple requests to participate in "drive-by" celebrations, or parades of vehicles waving to wish someone a happy birthday or congratulate them on another type of celebratory event. We have recognize the same type of activity on social media and it seems to be expanding. Recognizable to us on many of these drive-byes is that vehicles are stopping, very briefly, and folks are handing off gifts or chatting, creating some congregation in certain cases.

Though these gestures are so very kind in nature, it totally contradicts the intent of the social distancing strategy and stay at home order. We are firm believers in community support and never want to disappoint. The happiness of the youth and neighbors in our community during important life events is as important to us as it is to you. However, the joy of a fire truck driving by does not outweigh the importance of keeping the community and our firefighters healthy. The only way for us to accomplish this is to limit our exposure to only necessary emergency responses.

We hope this explains why Han-Le-Co Fire Company will not be participating in any public relations events or community parades until such time that the Pandemic has ceased. Han-Le-Co is always willing to come by on special occasions and show a fire truck or conduct a free fire prevention demonstration. We also welcome visits to the fire station.

Please contact us after the pandemic and we will gladly do our best to accommodate your requests.

Any questions or concerns can be forward to [chief@hanlecofire.org](mailto:chief@hanlecofire.org)

**Garren Knoll, Fire Chief**