

INDEPENDENT FIRE CO. NO. 1, INC.

ORGANIZED 1884

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CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

LOCATION:
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RANSON, WV 25438

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21 March, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

Another year is upon us and with that Independent Fire Company is in its 127th year of service to this community. With each passing year the need for our services have grown and unfortunately so has the need for additional funds in order to continue operating. Individually all of us are suffering from the ever increasing cost of living from day to day and the difficulty in trying to keep our heads above water. The fact that we are a volunteer based organization provides a tremendous savings to the community. If it were tallied this savings would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars county wide. Although we are able to save by not having to provide salaries, every other aspect of our service comes at a price.

This year like last we are making every effort to be as frugal as we can with the funding received from the community during these hard times. In 2009 Independent's members logged 5,000 hours performing fund raising events in order to generate additional operating capital to serve you. Our major fund raising activity is a weekly bingo which in recent years has seen a sharp decrease in attendance and consequently a severe decrease in money collected. In fact, bingo and other activities are projected to account for only 11.86% of our income. In addition to that, contributions from state, county and municipal governments combined will account for only 15.44% of our income which will most likely decrease even further than projected.

If not for your generous contributions in past years we would not have been able to provide this much needed emergency service. Unlike many other important services in the county fire, rescue, and ems services exist to protect life and property. The services we provide are a necessity, not an option! Please consider making an investment by donating to Independent Fire Company.

Sincerely,



James E. Watson, III
President

Please detach the top of this letter and return with your Donation.

We **do not** do door to door or telephone solicitations so please report anyone representing us attempting this method.
This mailing is done at Independent by your volunteers, to save on the cost.