

LINE COPY

Volume I, 2006 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



Firefighters responded to a house fire located at 13018 Farthingale Drive in the Frying Pan area. Upon arrival firefighters saw heavy fire from the garage of the two-story split-foyer home. There were no injuries and damage was estimated at \$300,000.



Michael P. Neuhard

“Change occurs both as an evolution of happenstances, but also as a result of consideration and planning. History has proven this over, and over again.”

From The Fire Chief . . .

We’ve all heard it before – “Change is a constant in today’s world”, or “If nothing changes, nothing changes”, or “Change is inevitable”.

I would ask each of you to consider how your lives, professionally and personally, are today as compared to 10 or 20 years ago. Then consider how your surroundings are today as compared to 10 or 20 years ago. Change occurs both as an evolution of happenstances, but also as a result of consideration and planning. History has proven this over, and over again.

The challenge of this department is to continually prepare for, and adapt to change – changes not only within our own organization, but also those changes naturally brought about by the areas and the people that we serve. A recently published report, *Anticipating the Future: A Discussion of Trends in Fairfax County*, predicts the county’s minority population will be 45 percent in 2010 as compared to 38 percent in 2003, and 6.8 percent in 1970. The county’s median age will be 39 years old by 2010, with ‘baby boomers’ turning 50 years old every seven seconds. By 2020, the report projects the county’s population of residents 65 plus years old will be approximately 138,600 as compared to 85,600 in 2004. Increased residential and commercial development and alternative building design will continually test

our capabilities to serve safely and effectively. Simply put, change is upon us whether we’re looking for it or not.

I have spoken frequently in the last few years about this department’s strategic planning, and the many successes we’ve enjoyed as a result of that planning. Below are just a few of the areas that I envision will require our focused attention over the months and years ahead.

- Changing organization
- Diverse organization
- Inclusiveness
- Competitive market position
- Safety culture
- Training / Quality Management
- Broader technical roles for members
- All ALS transport system
- Four-Person minimums
- Adequate staffing for routine vacancies
- Organization partitioned differently
- Flexible Buildings

Additionally, rapidly advancing technologies, diverse populations and expectations, and various economic considerations will steer us in directions that will require innovative training methodologies. We will have to be creative in our delivery of training and diligent in our management of the quality and effectiveness of it as well.

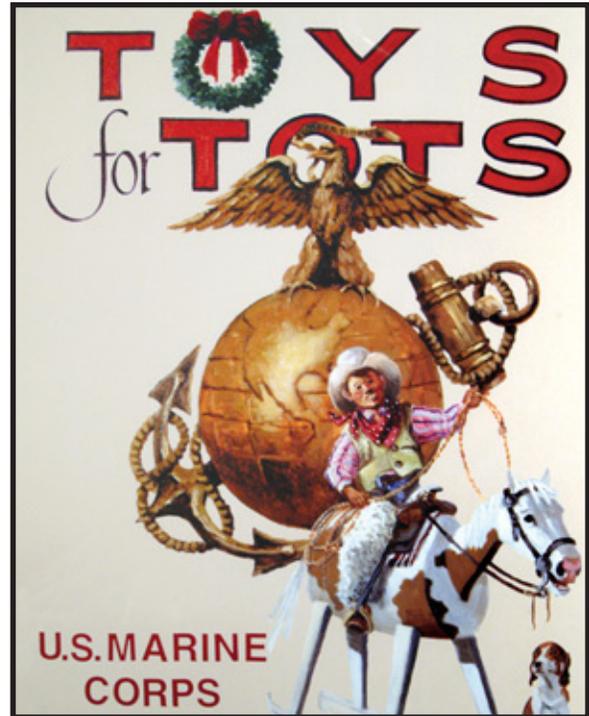
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LINE COPY is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and is published by the Department’s Public Information and Life Safety Education Section. Questions regarding deadlines or publication schedule should be addressed to Jackie Pitkin at 703-246-3801. All submissions should be sent to the Public Information and Life Safety Education Section, marked “Attn: Editor, LINE COPY.”

The continued success of the Fire and Rescue Department will largely depend on our forward thinking, collaboration, partnering, planning, and willingness to examine and prepare for change. I have heard you, and agree that change is difficult. It takes time, energy, change is often stressful, and sometimes confusing. But as the saying goes – it is inevitable. The harshness of that reality can be softened somewhat by embracing and engaging in the process. Participate in shaping our future, your future, and the Department’s vision:

Being the best community-focused fire and rescue department working as a team to ensure a safe and secure environment for all those entrusted to our care. Our ability to embrace change will be the key to providing our customers, the residents and visitors to Fairfax County, as well as ourselves, the best possible service available. ❖



The Toys for Tots campaign for 2005 was the best year ever for desroing children during the holiday season. Master Technician Willie F. Bailey, Toys for Tots coordinator, and all members of Fire and Rescue Station 24, B-Shift, were instrumental in making both regional and local toy drives an overwhelming success. The Department collected over 35,000 toys in the regional toy drive. The region as a whole collected 64,000 toys. The above plague was presented by the Marine Corps Reserve and signifies the outstanding contributions made by firefighters within the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.



Line Copy can be viewed on the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department web site.
 Our web site address is:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire>

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28th Annual Valor Awards

Bronze Medal



Firefighter

Justin D. Childs

Fire and Rescue Station 36, A- Shift

At approximately 11 a.m., Sunday, October 31, 2004, Firefighter Justin Childs, his wife, Victoria Childs, RN, EMT, and their two-year-old child were driving north on Belmont Ridge Road in Loudoun County when they came upon a multi-vehicle accident.

When Firefighter Childs and his family arrived on the scene, it was evident that the accident had just occurred; no fire or EMS personnel had yet arrived. The accident involved a large-sized sport utility vehicle (SUV) and a small sedan. The front of the SUV struck the sedan at a high rate of speed on the driver's side impacting both the driver and passenger doors.

Firefighter Childs quickly assessed for scene safety. Checking the incident scene for hazards, Firefighter Childs found large amounts of broken glass, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, and other sharp objects. Firefighter Childs performed a patient triage to identify the severity and number of victims, while his wife assisted with the medical evaluations of the patients.

The SUV sustained minimal frontal damage, and contained two adults and three children with no visible injuries. The other car, a sedan, sustained heavy side damage with body intrusion to the front, rear doors, and driver's

side. The sedan had six adult victims; three trapped, two in the front seat and one in the rear seat. One front passenger was determined to be dead on arrival by medical personnel, and the other front trapped victim was semi-conscious and trapped under the dashboard. The one rear passenger was unconscious, unresponsive, and trapped inside the vehicle. He was pinned behind the driver, and the three remaining individuals in the backseat were slightly injured, but required assistance in getting out of the car.

In an attempt to extricate the two pinned passengers, Firefighter Childs went to his personal vehicle for his battery-operated reciprocating saw from his tool box. He then proceeded to extricate some of the victims by cutting the frame of the roof and doors while his wife assisted with general patient care to those pinned in the vehicle. Upon arrival of Loudoun County Rescue Engine 606 and multiple EMS units, Firefighter Childs identified himself as a Firefighter/EMT, and his wife a trained emergency medical provider.

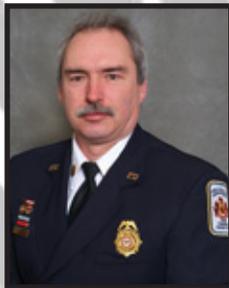
Firefighter Justin Childs and his wife identified themselves to the incident commander, provided him with the initial accident report. The Loudoun County Officer-in-Charge requested Justin and Victoria continue to assist them with the extrication and patient care they had already initiated.

No one in the sedan spoke English. Victoria Childs, who also speaks Spanish, was instrumental in assisting with language interpretation as she performed essential emergency medical skills, patient care, and spinal immobilization to those pinned in the vehicle.

According to Loudoun County officials, the initial rescue engine assigned to this area was out-of-service at the Training Academy; the second-due, Rescue Squad 13 from Leesburg, Virginia, had arrived on the scene significantly later than the first arriving units, and two transport helicopters were requested to air lift the two trapped victims.

Firefighter Childs, without any personal protective equipment, and without regard to his own safety, initiated critical life-saving actions by positioning his vehicle closest to the accident scene, gaining access to the damaged vehicle through broken glass, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, and other sharp metal objects. He exposed himself to blood, body fluids, and various chemicals from the vehicle while performing a triage assessment of several patients. He continued to assist with patient care, spinal immobilization to those pinned in the vehicle. Firefighter Childs also stabilized, prepared, and packaged at least eight patients.

Firefighter Childs performed these activities with minimal protection and significant personal risk to ensure the injured victims would have the best possible opportunity for immediate treatment and transport to the hospital. This motor vehicle crash totaled 11 injured patients with one fatality and two air transports of critical patients.



**Lieutenant
Gary C. Dize**

Fire and Rescue Station 10, B- Shift

On the evening of Monday, August 9, 2004, Lieutenant Gary C. Dize was at home when he heard the constant blaring of a vehicle horn coming from a wooded area near his residence. Compton Road runs through a portion of that wooded area as it leads to Bull Run Park. The road is not well lit and has been the scene of several vehicle accidents in past years. Thinking this may be another accident and with his knowledge as a paramedic for the Department, Lieutenant Dize set out to investigate the situation and determine if any assistance was needed.

As he approached the area in question, he did

not observe any vehicles or sign of an accident. As he was preparing to return home, he heard a woman screaming in the woods. He determined the sound was coming from a dead-end gravel road that leads to a power transformer. He proceeded in the direction of the gravel road, but prior to going down the road he was able to flag down a motorist on Compton Road and enlisted her assistance. He quickly apprised her of the situation and asked that she wait at the entrance to the gravel road while he investigated the situation. She would provide an information relay for Lieutenant Dize and help direct personnel to his location should further assistance be required.

While proceeding down the gravel road, Lieutenant Dize used his personal cell phone to contact the Fairfax County Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) and request police assistance as the screams of the woman could still be heard. As Lieutenant Dize approached the area, he heard a male voice shouting something in Spanish. He noticed a male and female visibly arguing outside a parked van. He called out and identified himself and asked the woman if she was okay. She ran towards him at which time he instructed her to sit beside him. He noticed that she was very upset with no visible injuries. He then turned his attention to the male subject who was very upset and acting very chaotic by alternately grabbing his chest and head. During his many years with the fire department, Lieutenant Dize knew the importance of providing calm but strong oversight in order to deescalate domestic incidents, but was also keenly aware these incidents can prove unpredictable. He instructed the male subject to sit next to him and quickly checked him for weapons. He then proceeded to evaluate him for any injuries. Lieutenant Dize advised DPSC to dispatch an engine and medic unit for assistance with a possible medical situation and to ensure additional personnel were present should the incident escalate again. Lieutenant Dize requested DPSC to invoke the language line and allowed the woman to use his cell to call DPSC in order to understand the dynamics of the situation. The police arrived several minutes later and Lieutenant Dize

identified himself as an off-duty firefighter and provided a report to Sergeant Sterling regarding his observations and actions. He remained on the scene to further assist the police and fire department units as they arrived.

Through the use of the language line it was determined the woman had been abducted from her Manassas home by her ex-husband and driven to this secluded place. Both parties had agreed to meet that evening at her home so she could obtain the title to her vehicle. The male grabbed his ex-wife and pulled her into the vehicle as she attempted to retrieve the car title from him. He drove off with her in the van, finally stopping near the end of the gravel road. The police report denotes the female was subjected to verbal assaults and physical restraint during the time she was in the vehicle. In addition, she was physically assaulted after he stopped the van. During the assault the woman sounded the horn for help. The noise was effective as it alerted Lieutenant Dize to a potential dangerous situation. She was then able to wrestle herself away from her ex-husband and escaped the vehicle. Had it not been for Lieutenant Dize's intervention, it is uncertain what may have happened.

He is recognized for his willingness to get involved and investigate a potentially dangerous situation, which unknowingly placed him in harms way.



Firefighter

James P. Hobgood

Fire and Rescue Station 25, C-Shift

At approximately 7 p.m., Sunday, November 14, 2004, Truck 425 and other fire and rescue units were dispatched for a reported garden apartment fire

at 1430 Northgate Square in the Reston area of Fairfax County. Supplemental information on the mobile communications terminal (MCT) indicated that there was a working fire and a baby had already been dropped from a window to bystanders, a woman had already jumped from the third floor, and several people were still trapped and threatening to jump from the third floor.

Truck 425 arrived on the scene and found heavy fire venting from the basement window with fire extending up the interior stairway of the building, with one person lying on the ground next to the building and three people hanging out of a smoke filled window on the third floor. Engine 425's crew began treating the woman who jumped and was lying on the ground, while Truck 425's crew began placing ground ladders to rescue the three victims hanging from the window.

Upon placing a ground ladder to the third-floor window, Firefighter Hobgood climbed the ladder and found three people, two women and a younger man, in severe respiratory distress with soot covering their faces crowded into the third-floor window. They were coughing and unable to breath due to the thick acrid smoke that was pushing out of the window.

Without hesitation, Firefighter Hobgood removed his face mask, the only means of breathing fresh air in a toxic environment and began giving fresh air to the victims. Respiratory protection for firefighters at emergency scenes is mission critical. A facepiece improves firefighter safety and survival from the toxic inhalation.

His calm professional demeanor during this stressful and harmful environment, his comforting words, and life giving fresh air calmed the frightened victims, and enabled the younger man and woman to step back into the smoke filled apartment so he could make room to first remove the elderly woman. He assisted the elderly woman safely down the ladder to waiting emergency personnel while the other two were descending the ladder behind him with verbal assistance. Firefighter Hobgood's actions placed him at great personal risk without concern for his own safety.

His unselfish actions saved three lives by removing his self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) face-mask; providing clean air to the victims that were being exposed to the toxic smoke, exposing himself to overwhelming toxic smoke and heated gases, and risking his own life.

Firefighter Hobgood's unselfish actions, and without regard for his own personal safety, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the fire service and reflects great credit upon the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. His selfless dedication and professionalism is a great example for all to follow.



**Captain II
Lorenzo M. Thrower**
EMS 3, C-Shift

On Saturday, March 19, 2005, Captain II Lorenzo Thrower was on his way home, traveling on Loisdale Road in the Springfield area of Fairfax County when he heard tires squealing and metal crashing along the Interstate 95 sound barrier. Pieces of concrete from the sound barrier were coming onto the roadway in front of him. Captain Thrower parked his vehicle and headed toward the large hole in the sound barrier of north bound Interstate 95. As he peered through the hole in the barrier, he could tell that a serious accident had occurred and obvious injuries were visible.

Captain Thrower went through the hole in the barrier and saw a box truck on its side with several automobiles severely damaged. The box truck was leaking diesel fuel onto one of the vehicles from the saddle tank. The driver of the box truck was still inside and unable to move due to injuries sustained to one of his legs. Captain Thrower helped remove the patient from the truck, which was now resting in a large pool of diesel fuel. After rescuing the driver from the

truck, Captain Thrower went to the mini van to assist the injured passengers trapped inside.

Captain Thrower used his cell phone to call the Uniformed Fire Officer (UFO) at the 911 call center to report the multiple vehicle crash with multiple injuries, allowing the UFO to dispatch additional equipment which helped ensure the quick, safe extrication and transport of the trapped victims. When Captain Thrower finished briefing the Uniformed Fire Officer, he returned to help stabilize the truck driver's broken leg and assisted the EMS Supervisor with patient care. Captain Thrower's actions undoubtedly helped reduce the extent of injuries to the truck driver, along with providing assistance to the personnel working the incident.

Captain Thrower's quick actions with little or no protection from oncoming traffic on an interstate highway, and exposure to hazardous materials, diesel fuel, antifreeze, gasoline, and no personal protection equipment (PPE) while attending to injured victims helped lessen the magnitude of this incident.

Certificate of Valor



**Lieutenant
David P. Conrad**
Fire and Rescue Station 18, A-Shift

At approximately 5 a.m., Sunday, February 26, 2005, Lieutenant David Conrad was traveling north on Interstate 95 in Prince William County when he noticed a vehicle on its left side on the southbound lanes of I-95. Lieutenant Conrad pulled his vehicle over and stopped to render assistance. He then ran across the interstate lanes and asked the bystanders if there were

people inside the car. He was told that two people were inside the car. Lieutenant Conrad directed bystanders to call 911 and report the accident. Lieutenant Conrad went inside the vehicle through the driver's side and found two adult males. He cut the seat belts with a knife borrowed from a bystander and extricated the driver by sliding him out of the vehicle. The patient was unconscious, unresponsive, pale, without pulses, and had lost a large amount of blood. Lieutenant Conrad attempted several times to open the airway without success. He felt the patient was dead on arrival (DOA) and that his efforts now should be directed to the passenger.

Lieutenant Conrad went back under the vehicle and assisted the passenger who was unconscious and bleeding severely from the face and mouth. The victim did not speak English. Lieutenant Conrad was able to maintain a patent airway and cervical stabilization until emergency personnel arrived and then turned the patients care over to emergency personnel. He then provided the officer-in-charge with the patient's report.

Lieutenant Conrad, with minimum personal protective equipment, and without regard for his own safety, went inside an unstable vehicle on its side that had crashed to assist two victims, one person was DOA, the second victim was semi-conscious with major body trauma and critical facial injuries, and bleeding profusely from the face and mouth. Lieutenant Conrad exposed himself to body fluids, broken glass, sharp metal, and hazardous fluids from the accident. Lieutenant Conrad performed critical life-saving actions by gaining quick access to the patient, maintaining a patent airway, and cervical immobilization to one of the victims.



Firefighter
Lawrence L. Ellison
Fire Station 30, B-Shift

At approximately 3:30 a.m., Sunday, July 24, 2005, Firefighter Lawrence Ellison was sleeping at his sister's house in Alexandria, Virginia. He awoke to some noises that sounded like firecrackers outside the residence. A moment passed and there was a knock at the door. It was a friend of Firefighter Ellison yelling and screaming that his sister wanted him because someone had been shot. He immediately started to the scene and inquired if 911 had been called yet. He sent a friend upstairs for some towels and told him to meet him at the victim. He arrived on the scene and found a bystander comforting the victim, so he intervened and had the victim lay on his back. He then instructed the bystander to keep a C-spine immobilization on the victim. At this time his friend had arrived with the towels. He removed the victim's shirt, located the gunshot wounds, and applied direct pressure to the wounds. He continued to check the victim's airway, breathing, and circulation as well as talking to the victim to keep him conscious.

At this time, City of Alexandria Police Department officers arrived and Firefighter Ellison identified himself as a firefighter/EMT who worked for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. He continued to assess the victim and continued maintaining an open airway, C-spine immobilization, stopping the bleeding, and obtaining essential medical history and a statement from the wounded individual.

Moments later, City of Alexandria Fire Department personnel arrived, and asked Firefighter Ellison to continue to assist the patient by holding direct pressure to the wounds by using trauma dressings that were given to him

by the engine crew. At this time, the Alexandria Advanced Medic Unit (AMU) arrived on the scene, and took over the patient's care. Once again, Firefighter Ellison was asked by the medic crew to assist them by obtaining medical supplies from the EMS unit, including a backboard, straps, a cervical-collar, and bandages, as well as setting up an Intra-Venous (IV) line.

If Firefighter Lawrence Ellison had not intervened and assisted this patient after suffering gunshot wounds, the outcome may have been deadly. His quick thinking and ability using his EMT skills in a unique and stressful situation without question aided this patient in a positive manner.



Firefighter

Kimberly A. Schoppa
Fire Station 22, C-Shift



Technician

Jeffrey S. Seabright
Fire Station 22, C-Shift

At approximately 3:45 p.m., Friday, July 8, 2005, Truck 422 from the Springfield Fire and Rescue Station 22, was dispatched for a water rescue emergency at Hooes Road and Rolling Oak Lane in the Springfield area of Fairfax County. Upon arrival at the scene, Truck 422 gathered the necessary water rescue equipment, safety rope, personal floatation devices, and portable radios. The crew then proceeded down a foot path along a flood swollen creek through heavy underbrush consisting of thorns, vines, poison ivy, and a muddy forest floor, approximately 1,600 feet down, where the children were located.

A nine-year-old girl (patient #1) was standing on the bank, waiting for emergency personnel. A ten-year-old boy (patient #2) was in the water approximately eight feet from the bank, the water level was up to his torso and holding onto a tree

limb with his arms over his head. A third child, an eleven-year-old boy (patient #3) was also in the water at approximately the same location. This child was held in place by the rushing water to his front, and the debris that had collected in the creek to his back.

At this time Captain Kathleen Stanley, an off-duty firefighter who was on the opposite side of the creek, yelled to the firefighters that the children had been in the water for over 20 minutes and had difficulty holding on to their positions, she felt they could not hold on much longer.

Technician Jeffrey Seabright entered the fast moving water by climbing out onto a tree that extended over the creek and was able to grab patient #2, with the assistance of probationary Firefighter Kimberly Schoppa. The child was able to be removed from the water and turned over to Master Technician Bookwalter, who performed a medical assessment.

Without hesitation and still operating as the only unit at the immediate location, the crew of Truck 422 moved down the stream for patient #3, the eleven-year-old boy who was about eight feet from the bank.

The three children were hypothermic, frightened, and fatigued after being in the water for over 20 minutes. They were walked back to the foot path where they were turned over to paramedics for further evaluation and transportation to the medical facility.

Technician Seabright and probationary Firefighter Kimberly Schoppa were faced with treacherous conditions and very little time to make quick and tough decisions that would affect the lives of the victims and themselves. They recognized the urgency of the situation and put themselves at great risk of being swept downstream. Technician Seabright and probationary Firefighter Kimberly Schoppa entered the fast moving waters twice to successfully rescue two children who became stuck while playing in an area of high water and were unable to return to shore unassisted.



**Captain II
Clayton Thompson, Jr.**
Fire Station 37, A-Shift



**Lieutenant
Chester E. Waters**
Fire and Rescue Academy

At approximately 3 p.m., Saturday, July 23, 2005, Captain II Clayton Thompson and Lieutenant Chester Waters were traveling south to Richmond, Virginia, on Route 301, several miles north of Fort A. P. Hill they noticed a tractor-trailer and two other vehicles that stopped partially on the right lane and shoulder of the road. Two adult males were attempting to remove a limp body from the driver's seat of one of the vehicles that was just behind the tractor-trailer.

Captain Thompson and Lieutenant Waters parked their car, walked over to the rear of the tractor-trailer and found two men standing next to an unconscious male lying on the ground. Captain Thompson knelt down next to unconscious victim to assess for responsiveness, opening of the airway, checking for a pulse and respirations. After verifying the patient had no pulse and no spontaneous respirations, Captain Thompson and Lieutenant Waters initiated Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and instructed the bystanders to call 911 for assistance.

Captain Thompson began chest compressions; Lieutenant Waters used the patient's shirt as a barrier to perform mouth-to-mouth respirations on the unconscious victim. The movement of traffic created a dangerous situation to all bystanders, as they performed CPR on the side of the road.

After approximately 10 minutes of performing CPR, Captain Thompson, was relieved by the tractor-trailer driver, and few minutes later, a young lady relieved Lieutenant Waters of

performing mouth-to-mouth respirations on the victim.

Once relieved, Lieutenant Waters assisted the tractor-trailer driver in setting up traffic deflectors on the road. At that time, two Caroline County Sheriff vehicles arrived to assist with the situation.

The young lady assisting with respirations also was in need of relief in performing mouth-to-mouth respirations, and asked Lieutenant Waters to take over. Lieutenant Waters relieved her and began giving mouth-to-mouth respirations to the unconscious patient again. Moments later, two EMS units arrived, and took over patient care. Lieutenant Waters provided the EMS crew with the patient report, and assisted them by retrieving a back-board, straps, and a cervical collar from the medic unit, setting up the suction unit, and assisted with loading the patient into the ambulance.

At this point, Captain Thompson spoke to the two Caroline County Sheriff Deputies to inquire about the appropriate steps to take within their jurisdiction regards to their exposure to biohazards, body fluids of saliva, and vomitus.

Captain Thompson and Lieutenant Chester Waters took great personal risk in performing CPR on the side of a busy interstate with no protection from oncoming traffic. They rendered medical assistance to an unconscious, pulseless, and apneic patient without any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for approximately 25 minutes. They exposed themselves to pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood which can cause potentially infectious disease in humans when becoming in contact with a patient's saliva and vomitus. Unfortunately, efforts made by Captain Thompson, Lieutenant Waters, and the bystanders were unsuccessful. The victim was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Life Saving Award



**Technician
Cliff E. Sweeney**
Fire Station 10, C-Shift

On October 16, 2005, while off duty, Technician Cliff Sweeney came upon a serious motor vehicle accident. The roadway was a two-lane highway with no median in rural southern Maryland. Three vehicles were involved in a high-speed rear-end collision.

Without the benefit of personal protective equipment, Technician Sweeney accessed the

most damaged vehicle by climbing through broken glass and squeezing between the trunk lid and the top of the window, approximately a one foot opening. Once inside the vehicle, Technician Sweeney found an adult female driver with an altered level of consciousness; the patient was leaning against the passenger side front door, and complaining of head and chest pains.

While verifying her airway was patent, he supported her cervical spine, and while he waited for emergency personnel to arrive, he was able to gather some vital information. Due to her reduced level of consciousness, she was extremely worried about her child which she thought was in the accident with her. Once local emergency personnel arrived, Technician Sweeney was able to assist them with the removal of the patient, who was then flown to a Baltimore Trauma Center.

Technician Cliff Sweeney's quick actions possibly saved the life of the patient who suffered serious head and chest injuries during this high speed collision. ❖

2005 Fourth Quarter Promotions



Department personnel promoted at the Fourth Quarter Promotional Ceremony on Monday, December 19, 2005, include: Left to Right: Technician Eric J. Doffermyre, Fire and Rescue Station 25, A-Shift; Captain I Arthur D. Cox, Fire and Rescue Station 34, B-Shift; Captain II Gavin D. Bourjaily, Fire and Rescue Station 1, C-Shift; Lieutenant Michael D. Allen, Fire and Rescue Station 29, A-Shift; and Captain I Peter M. Graham, Fire and Rescue Station 38, B-Shift. Second Row: Captain I James J. Masiello, Academy; Captain I George O. Gonzalez, Fire and Rescue Station 32, C-Shift; and Captain II Michael R. Smith, Fire and Rescue Station 12, B-Shift.



Source: www.firefighternearmiss.com

Near Miss, Close Call, or Direct Hit?

By Battalion Chief John M. Gleske
Safety and Personnel Services

Let's talk about near-miss reporting and the three types of investigations conducted by the Safety Section of the Safety and Personnel Services Division. The Safety Section refers to the battalion chief in-charge, the three shift safety officers,

and the pool of relief safety officers which consist of field personnel or personnel in other sections of the Department used for back-fill of the shift safety officers and special projects. There are three types of investigations conducted by the Safety Section. They are in order of least to most severe.

- **Close Call/Hazard.** This report is for situations where firefighters (meaning all ranks, career and volunteer) come close to being seriously injured or killed; however, no injury was sustained.
- **Close Call/Injury.** This report is for situations where a firefighter comes close to being seriously injured or killed, and does sustain a non-life threatening injury.
- **Significant Injury Investigation.** This report is for situations where a firefighter sustains a serious life threatening injury, or has been killed (or dies) in the line of duty. The acronym for this report is SIIT, Significant Injury Investigation Team.

The two Close Call Reports (Hazard and Injury) are handled in the same manner with the only real difference being whether one or some of our members were injured or not. For the purposes of this article, we will group those together for ease of understanding.

The Close Call and SIIT reports are based on investigations of job-related duties and hazards associated with the occupation of firefighting and emergency medical services (EMS). These may occur on the incident scene, during training, or before or after a response. However, these reports do not include routine duties unrelated to the occupation. An example of unrelated duty would be when a firefighter receives a serious hand injury while cutting potatoes in preparation for dinner. Those situations are captured as part of normal injury reporting and documented on a smaller scale.

The primary purpose of investigation reports is to prevent any future injury or death to Department members. It is advocated that the reports are used to correct system problems, policies, procedures and best practices, and change individual behavior with the objective of weaving the fabric of safety into the organization.

The decision to conduct a formal investigation of an injury rests with the staff duty officer. The staff duty officer may consult with other senior chief officers or the Fire Chief prior to making the decision (Close Call or SIIT). Once the decision is made, the Safety Battalion Chief is notified and the investigation begins. Sometimes an investigation starts out as a SIIT but is downgraded to a Close Call because the injury is determined to be non-life threatening.

A request to have the Safety Section conduct an investigation of a Close Call in which there is no injury may come from a deputy chief or above, the Safety Battalion Chief, or a safety officer. It may also come from a bystander or someone involved in a significant event in which no one gets hurt. An example could be the partial collapse of a structure in an area where firefighters were working, or a vehicle responding into an accident scene almost striking a member. The request must be approved by the Deputy Chief of Safety and Personnel Services before the investigation is started.

The sequence of events for various investigations include:

- **Close Call Hazard or Injury**

Notification is made to the Safety Section to conduct an investigation. The officer-in-charge of the Safety Section becomes the investigation team leader and assembles members of the team.

The preferred method of investigation is to assemble the team at one location for a planning meeting. The purpose of the assembly is to review facts, conjecture, and vital information. A list of questions, needed evidence, and witnesses are compiled. Team members are given specific assignments and then go to work conducting interviews, gathering more evidence, and other pertinent information.

An alternate method may be necessary because of circumstances. This alternate method involves the team leader reviewing the facts, conjecture, other information, and then making assignments to team members via phone. Team members go directly to their assignments (the scene, fire station, etc.) without a planning meeting.

In either case, completion of assignments may only take several hours or may take several days or even weeks. During the investigation the team leader is kept constantly informed of all developments. The team leader and members may identify other witnesses to be interviewed or facts to be gathered.

Once it appears that all the assignments have been completed, the team is reassembled and begins to piece together what happened and come up with a comprehensive report. It is sometimes apparent that more people need to be interviewed or more information needs to be gathered. The draft report now begins to take shape. The report is separated into findings, discussion of the findings, and recommendations.

If there were violations of policy, procedures, or best practices, a meeting is scheduled between the team leader and the division or operational deputy chief, whichever is appropriate. The facts and alleged violations are presented to the deputy chief for disposition. Actions may involve discipline of an individual or revision of a policy, procedure, or best practice. The investigation team leader (a member of the Safety Section), is not involved

in any disciplinary action. Discipline or related action rests solely with the deputy chief and the chain-of-command and is not discussed with the investigation team leader.

Once the draft report of the investigation is complete, the report is reviewed by the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chiefs. Upon completion of the review, the report is posted on the department's Intranet. To view a close call report, go to the intranet, click on Special Reports and then click on Close Call/Hazard Reports.

- **Significant Injury Investigation**

Notification is made to the Safety Section to conduct an investigation. The officer-in-charge of the Safety Section becomes the investigation team leader and assembles the investigation team. Specialties outside of the Safety Section may be requested based on the situation (haz mat, technical rescue, accident reconstruction, etc.). If possible, the investigation team is immediately detailed out of their normal work assignment and their work hours are based on the needs and direction of the investigation until the report is complete. A member of senior staff is assigned as the investigation coordinator and is responsible for keeping key members of senior staff informed of the status of the investigation. The investigation team leader gives regular updates to the investigation coordinator.

As mentioned earlier, this type of investigation involves life threatening injury or death to a member. Legal aspects may take priority over the SIIT investigation on special occasions. These may include but are not limited to fire investigators, law enforcement (County Police, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms [ATF], State Police, etc.), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA). If other agencies are required to be involved, the SIIT will act in a support role and provide resources as requested.

If there is no legal requirement for outside agencies to be involved in the investigation, the Safety Section is the primary investigator. The investigation takes place in a similar manner as a close call except the team is deployed immediately because of the

(Continued on Page 18)

Hot Shots



Firefighters aggressively fight the fire at this home on Brook Valley Lane. Estimated damage was \$5 million. The cause of the fire was accidental. Fireplace ashes too close to combustibles caused the fire.



Firefighters saw heavy fire and smoke coming from the garage and roof of the large two-story home located at 1101 Brook Valley Lane in the McLean area. Over 100 firefighters and 30 pieces of equipment fought the fire for almost five hours before the fire was brought under control. One firefighter received burns to his hand and was transported to the Washington Hospital Burn Center.



The adult male occupant from the Barnard Court townhouse fire on January 9, 2006, (above) is taken to the helicopter for transport to the Washington Hospital Burn Center.



A two-alarm, three-story townhouse fire located at 3132 Barnard Court in the Merrifield area brought over 60 emergency personnel to the scene. Two occupants were at home at the time of the fire, one of the occupants was located by a thermal imaging device and rescued. Both occupants were flown to the Washington Hospital Burn Center. Damage was estimated at \$300,000.



Arriving units reported a tractor-trailer fully involved at a Safeway store located at 7397 Lee Highway in the Merrifield area. A second alarm was requested and firefighters conducted an aggressive attack and brought the fire under control in 20 minutes. No injuries were reported and damage was estimated at \$150,000.



Below-grade rescue, January 10, 2006, in the McLean area.



Three-alarm fire . . . firefighters reported heavy fire from the three-story Vienna Parks Apartments located at 150 Patrick Street-South East. The fire damaged five units and displaced 18 residents. One firefighter was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Damages were estimated at \$300,000. It was determined that a plumbers torch accidentally started the fire.



Lieutenant Oscar L. Beasley and Firefighter Craig S. Furneisen, Fire and Rescue Station 25, B-Shift, performed overhaul at the scene of a two-alarm townhouse fire located at 708 Birch Court in the Town of Herndon. Three adults were at home when the fire started. An adult female was transport to Reston Hospital for minor burns and smoke inhalation. Damage was estimated at \$200,000. The fire was determined to be accidental.



116th Recruit School



*Firefighter
Iman Achhal Kadmiri
Station 11, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Nicholas L. Basil
Station 5, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Mario A. Board
Station 28, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Robin S. Clement II
Station 35, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Anthony M. Demeo
Station 10, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Rodney E. Gray
Station 34, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Ivan W. Holmes Jr.
Station 25, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
David M. Kerns
Station 11, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Kristopher R. Keyser
Station 27, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Bryan C. Knupp
Station 8, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Michael D. Lee
Station 30, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Angel L. Medina
Station 10, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Jonathan C. Neureuther
Station 4, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Catherine E. Newsome
Station 34, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Jeffrey T. Pfeifer
Station 21, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Johnny Price
Station 15, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Peter M. Read
Station 22, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Jeffrey M. Repine
Station 25, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Delfin R. Iraola
Station 25, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Tyrone Roberts, Jr.
Station 5, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Michael W. Rochon
Station 30, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Bobbie J. Sachs
Station 36, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Hakim Smith
Station 22, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
James M. Taber
Station 2, B-Shift*



Firefighter
Douglas M. Washington
Station 2, C-Shift



Firefighter
Stephanie K. White
Station 4, B-Shift



Firefighter
Jeffrey M. Williams
Station 30, B-Shift



Firefighter
Christopher A. Zach
Station 17, A-Shift



Community Program Highlights

Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Jennifer Daugherty, a member of Girl Scout Troop 3114, has successfully completed her Gold Award Project with the assistance of firefighters from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Miss Daugherty's community project consisted of making 200 fleece Comfort Teddy Bears. To meet her goal Jennifer coordinated three workshops with her troop members, friends, family, and the moms of Boy Scout Troop 160 volunteered to help Jennifer meet her goal. The bears were distributed to all 36 fire and rescue stations in Fairfax County to be used as an aid in calming children involved in fire and rescue incident responses. Jennifer hopes that the Comfort Teddy Bears will give these children a sense of support, comfort, and ease.



Pictured from left to right: Lieutenant David M. Bryant, Fire and Rescue Station 15, C-Shift; Captain II Craig N. Buckley, Fire and Rescue Station 11, A-Shift; Alice Cease, Senior Troop 3114 Gold Award Advisor; Acting Technician Joel J. Kobersteen, Fire and Rescue Station 22, C-Shift; Senior Scout Jennifer Daugherty, Technician Richard A. Mungo, Fire and Rescue Station 15, C-Shift; Jackie Brannan, Senior Troop 3114 Gold Award Advisor; Firefighter Frederick V. Augustine, Fire and Rescue Station 15, C-Shift; and Technician Mark D. Ebersole, Fire and Rescue Station 15, C-Shift.

(Continued from Page 13)

severity of the situation. This may require units to be placed out-of-service for interviews. It may require personnel to be held over to complete interviews. It may also require personnel to be detailed out of their normal assignments or placed on administrative leave for several days in order for the team to have full access. It may also require the scene to be secured until evidence can be processed. Evidence collection becomes formal and bound by a "chain-of-custody." The evidence technician from the Fire Investigations Branch may be requested for evidence processing and handling.

Once all of the evidence and interviews are complete, the entire team assembles to put together a timeline and chain of events. Much like the close call investigations, the focus of the report is separated into findings, discussion, and recommendations. The primary purpose of the report is to prevent the incident or circumstances relating to the injury or death from reoccurring. Secondly, it documents what happened and creates an official report and is held for 30 years post-retirement.

Once a draft of the report is complete, it is submitted for executive review. Once the executive review is complete, the report is prepared for public posting on the Intranet.

After the final report has been posted, the Fire Chief appoints a Recommendation Implementation Committee. The ad hoc committee is comprised of various ranks and individuals within the department and is responsible for implementing the recommendations. The selection of the committee is based on recommendations. For example, a finding concerning a problem with radios and a recommendation to fix that problem would have a member of the Communications Section assigned to the committee. This may include policy changes, equipment changes, and procedural changes. Once the recommendation of the report is implemented, a final disposition report is produced by the committee and is included with the SIIT report.

Near-Miss Reporting

A near-miss event is defined as an unintentional, unsafe, occurrence that could have resulted in an injury, fatality, or property damage. Only a fortunate break on the chain of events prevented an

injury, fatality, or damage. Situations that qualify as near misses are determined by the opinion of the reporter. If you are involved in or witness an event and you believe it is a near miss, you are encouraged to submit a report. Go to www.firefighternearmiss.com for more information.

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System is a voluntary, confidential, non-punitive, and secure reporting system with the goal of improving firefighter safety. By collecting and analyzing information on near-miss events, improvements can be made in command, education, operations, and training. Firefighters can use submitted reports as educational tools. Analyzed data will be used to identify trends which can assist in formulating strategies to reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities. Depending on the urgency, information will be presented to the fire service community through program reports, press releases, and email alerts. The email alerts are received by the Battalion Chief of the Safety Section and sent to "FIRE" Outlook email. In the future you will be able to subscribe to the email alerts.

Reporting your event to the national system can help prevent injuries and save lives of other firefighters. Firefighter fatalities and injuries have been occurring at a near steady rate for the last 15 years despite improvements in PPE, equipment, apparatus, and a decrease in structure fires. Near-miss reporting systems in other industries, especially aviation, credit near-miss reporting with saving lives. Since near-miss reporting has worked so effectively in other industries, the natural conclusion is that it will have similar positive outcomes for the fire service.

The Safety Section is in the process of designing its own near-miss reporting system. It is believed that members should learn about the near misses within our own organization. It personalizes it for us. Rather than read something and think that it may not happen to us, these would be reports right here at home that have happened to us. It is the motivation for the current close call reporting system, except we want it to be reported by the members.

If you have questions, contact me at john.gleske@fairfacounty.gov. As the old saying goes, "be safe" and "see you on the big one." ❖

Humanitarian Trip To Uganda, Africa

July 13 - 22, 2005

The Temple Baptist Church, Herndon, and the Serera Baptist Church sponsored a medical humanitarian trip to Uganda, Africa, July 13 - 22, 2005. The 12-member team included doctors, physician assistants, paramedics, nurses, and clergy. Captain I Michael Schaff, Fire Chief's Office, and his wife Lisa, participated in the two-week long humanitarian effort.

The medical team flew into Kampala then traveled to Soroti, Wera, and Serera. The team treated over 2,300 patients, 1,500 in one village alone. Most of the children were orphans whose parents had been killed by rebels. Medical camps were set up in three different villages. Patients were treated for second and third degree burns, general sickness, malaria, worms, chronic infections, and other related trauma illnesses. Most of the patients seen by medical professionals on the trip had never before been seen by a doctor. (Photos submitted by Captain I Michael C. Schaff, Fire Chief's Office.)



As a reward, children were given candy after medical treatment. These three orphans are waiting for candy after being examined for malaria and worms. This was their first taste of candy.



The medical team poses for a photograph with orphans who were being tested for AIDS. The parents of the orphans were killed by rebels.



Villagers are waiting in triage prior to being seen. Some villagers waited up to eight hours to be seen by a member of the medical team.



The medical team acquainted themselves with the villagers prior to setting up medical camp in Serera.



The medical team arrived in Wera to find over 500 villagers waiting to be seen by a doctor.

Large Loss Fire Investigations

Date: 12/1/2005 Box: 03-00 Address: 5115 Brookridge Place Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Fireplace Value: \$500,000 Loss: \$500,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/15/2005 Box: 14-09 Address: 6105 Rockwell Court Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Pyrolytic Action Value: \$678,000 Loss: \$300,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/18/2005 Box: 32-09 Address: 10619 Sandy Run Trail Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Heater Value: \$1,350,000 Loss: \$150,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/24/2005 Box: 18-11 Address: 7397 Lee Highway Type: Vehicle Cause: Accidental - Smoking Value: \$708,230 Loss: \$130,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/24/2005 Box: 14-04 Address: 5813 Banning Place Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Kitchen Value: \$329,580 Loss: \$150,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/25/2005 Box: 18-11 Address: 2932 Irvington Road Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Christmas Lights Value: \$315,000 Loss: \$150,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/1/2006 Box: 36-03 Address: 13018 Farthingale Drive Type: Residential Cause: Undetermined Value: \$345,000 Loss: \$345,000 Status: Inactive
Date: 1/2/2006 Box: 29-14 Address: 1101 Brook Valley Lane Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Combustibles Value: \$5,000,000 Loss: \$5,000,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/9/2006 Box: 30-07 Address: 3132 Barnard Court Type: Residential Cause: Under Investigation Value: \$450,000 Loss: \$300,000 Status: Open
Date: 1/11/2006 Box: 11-38 Address: 2809 Fort Drive Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Heater Value: \$600,000 Loss: \$205,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/12/2006 Box: 04-04 Address: 706 Birch Court Type: Residential Cause: Under Investigation Value: \$350,000 Loss: \$200,000 Status: Open
Date: 1/17/2006 Box: 42-05 Address: 150 Patrick Street SE Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Torch Value: \$600,000 Loss: \$300,000 Status: Closed
Date: 2/7/2006 Box: 17-00 Address: 14006 Adolphus Drive Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Electrical Value: \$346,635 Loss: \$119,000 Status: Closed
Date: 2/12/2006 Box: 21-26 Address: 11712 Saddle Crescent Circle Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Fireplace Value: \$900,000 Loss: \$150,000 Status: Closed
Date: 2/14/2006 Box: 14-00 Address: 9534 Burning Branch Road Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Combustibles Value: \$320,000 Loss: \$170,000 Status: Closed
Date: 2/26/2006 Box: 25-05 Address: 2238 Cedar Cove Court Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Combustibles Value: \$2,365,350 Loss: \$1,545,580 Status: Closed
Date: 3/8/2006 Box: 08-03 Address: 6536 Renwood Lane Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Smoking Value: \$626,000 Loss: \$300,000 Status: Closed
Date: 3/19/2006 Box: 22-01 Address: 7314 Charlotte Street Type: Residential Cause: Accidental - Open Flame Value: \$600,000 Loss: \$600,000 Status: Closed



A World Market store official in Seven Corners donated \$1,500 for community outreach to Captain II Larry Everett, Fire and Rescue Station 28, B-Shift, to be used in the first due areas of Fire and Rescue Stations 18 and 28.



Susan Herbert Receives Don Smith Award

Susan Herbert, Management Analyst III in Administrative Services, was honored for her work as a facilitator and guiding force for strategic planning efforts throughout the county. She was instrumental in assisting the Employee Advisory Council (EAC) develop its recent strategic plan.

The Don Smith Award was established by the EAC to honor Donald D. Smith, a long time employee of the Office of Comprehensive Planning, who was a mainstay of the EAC for 16 years until his retirement in 1990. The award recognizes employees of the county government and school system who have made outstanding contributions to the well being of their fellow employees.



Personnel from the Springfield Fire and Rescue Station 22, A-Shift, recognizes the Greenspring Village staff for their continuing support.



Left: Deputy Chief David M. McKernan, Fire Prevention, presents Lieutenant George Robbins (right) Investigations, with his badge after graduating from the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy, 48th session, February 21, 2006. Lieutenant Robbins is assigned as a fire investigator within the Fire Prevention Division.

Sisters Provide Early Warning for Lifesaving Rescue

On Saturday, September 3, 2005, at approximately 11:50 a.m., Heidi, 11, and Rachel, 10, sisters, were outside their home playing when they heard a person in the Potomac River screaming for help. Immediately realizing the seriousness of the emergency, Heidi and Rachel notified their father, Captain I Larry A. Jenkins, Fire and Rescue Station 8, A-Shift, to call 911 to report an emergency.

With the assistance of Captain Jenkins and other fire and rescue personnel, they helped rescue one person from the Potomac River. The sole survivor was taken to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital for observation and later released.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department recognized Rachel and Heidi Jenkins, February 17, 2006, at Waynewood Elementary School for their lifesaving actions during an emergency incident.

For their extraordinary actions, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department presented Heidi and Rachel Jenkins with a Lifesaving Award.



Rachel and Heidi Jenkins received their Lifesaving Award at Waynewood Elementary School. Attending the Lifesaving Award ceremony are: (left to right) Richard Pollio, Assistant Principal; Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District Supervisor; Captain I Larry Jenkins, Fire and Rescue Station 8, A-Shift; Mrs. Judi Jenkins, Rachel Jenkins, Heidi Jenkins; Battalion Chief Floyd Ellmore, Battalion 6, B-Shift; and Dr. Calanthia Tucker, Assistant Superintendent for Cluster IV, Fairfax County Public Schools.

Top 10 Activity Report

2005 Year End Totals

Ambulance		Engine Company		Rescue Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
A 413	2,286	E 422	3,088	R 421	1,753
A 408	2,046	E 410	3,045	R 418	1,481
A 430	1,958	E 408	2,957	R 426	1,474
A 409	1,951	E 409	2,906	R 401	1,315
A 411	1,615	E 421	2,819	R 411	1,219
A 414	1,615	E 429	2,735	R 419	1,073
A 410	1,552	E 401	2,729	R 414	921
A 438	1,548	E 404	2,651	R 439	817
A 434	1,535	E 425	2,635		
A 436	1,484	E 413	2,601		
Medic		Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains		Ladder Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
M 418	3,251	EMS 404	2,387	T 429	1,846
M 422	2,979	EMS 402	1,819	T 425	1,823
M 426	2,825	EMS 405	1,786	T 410	1,808
M 421	2,697	EMS 403	1,560	T 422	1,427
M 429	2,695	EMS 406	1,505	TL 436	1,371
M 408	2,671	EMS 401	1,442	TL 408	1,244
M 410	2,579	BC 404	879	TL 430	1,213
M 425	2,564	BC 403	846	T 438	1,125
M 404	2,547	BC 402	695	TL 405	1,027
M 415	2,484	BC 406	634	T 411	1,018

Unit activity is compiled from the event history file. A unit must be dispatched to a call or added on to be counted. Mutual aid dispatches are included in the activity report.





Jonathan Alderson received his Lifesaving Award at West Potomac High School. Attending the Lifesaving Award ceremony are: (left to right) Dick Alderson, Deb Alderson, Lieutenant Miranda Lambermond, Fire and Rescue Station 22, B-Shift; Dr. Calanthia Tucker, Assistant Superintendent for Cluster IV, Fairfax County Public Schools; Technician James M. Hayes, Fire and Rescue Station 11, B-Shift; Mrs. Rima Vesilind, Principal, West Potomac High School; Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District Supervisor, Rachel Jenkins, Heidi Jenkins, Battalion Chief Floyd Ellmore, Battalion 6, B-Shift; Jonathan Alderson, Deputy Chief Dereck A. Baker, B-Shift; Technician John D. Leary, Fire and Rescue Station 11, B-Shift; Captain I Larry Jenkins, Fire and Rescue Station 8, A-Shift; and Judi Jenkins.

High School Student Receives Lifesaving Award

Jonathan Alderson, a student of West Potomac High School, was recognized by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, February 17, 2006, for lifesaving actions during an emergency incident.

On Saturday, September 3, 2005, at approximately 11:50 a.m., Jonathan Alderson, 14, and his mother were on their way home when they noticed Fairfax County firefighters along with off-duty firefighter Captain Larry Jenkins standing outside their home requesting the use of their boat for rescue operations for a person needing help in the Potomac River. Immediately, John lowered the boat from the boat rack into the water and assisted Captain Jenkins and other personnel with the water rescue.

Alderson expertly navigated the boat and assisted the firefighters with the water rescue. Two people were rescued from the water. One person survived and was taken to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital for observation and later released. Tragically, the second person drowned.

For his quick actions and selfless service, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department presented Jonathan Alderson with a Lifesaving Award.



Top 10 Activity Report

January - February 2006

Ambulance		Engine Company		Rescue Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
A 413	377	E 422	501	R 426	222
A 409	319	E 410	498	R 421	221
A 430	312	E 408	468	R 401	203
A 408	292	E 421	452	R 418	197
A 410	259	E 401	447	R 411	171
A 434	249	E 409	444	R 419	153
A 411	241	E 430	411	R 414	142
A 414	241	E 411	409	R 439	132
A 431	238	E 426	408		
A 428	215	E 404	406		

Medic		Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains		Ladder Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
M 418	516	EMS 404	372	T 410	277
M 422	484	EMS 402	261	T 429	258
M 426	442	EMS 405	255	T 422	231
M 408	438	EMS 406	238	T 425	231
M 410	423	EMS 403	223	TL 408	208
M 421	419	EMS 401	222	T 438	184
M 429	404	BC 404	120	TL 430	172
M 425	388	BC 403	114	TL 401	167
M 401	383	BC 402	107	T 411	159
M 404	368	BC 401	105	TL 405	151

Unit activity is compiled from the event history file. A unit must be dispatched to a call or added on to be counted. Mutual aid dispatches are included in the activity report.

Awards & Presentations

Unit Citation

Hooes Road and Rolling Oak Lane
Truck 422

Technician James R. Bookwalter
Firefighter Kimberly A. Schoppa
Technician Jeffery S. Seabright

7779 Dove Drive

Ambulance 409

Technician Christopher T. Bell
Technician Richard M. Trudeau

4223 Petal Court

Engine 421

Technician Kurt A. Hoffman
Captain II Joseph M. Kaleda
Technician Jessica P. Spear
Technician David W. Walker

Medic 421

Lieutenant Brian E. Moravitz
Technician Susan J. Varholy

Career Achievement Award

Technician Smith T. Banks
Technician Joseph P. Gorman
Technician Mark A. Nash
Master Technician Lawrence J. Ricciardi
Technician Hector J. Rivera-Flores
Master Technician David K. Sellers
Technician Jeffrey L. Smith
Lieutenant Jeffrey A. Tolle
Battalion Chief Thomas V. Wolfe

Team Performance Award

12425 Wendell Holmes Road

Engine 431

Firefighter Keith F. Bresnahan
Captain I Gary B. Bunch
Technician Philip C. Devereaux
Firefighter Anthony D. Mullins

Ambulance 431

Technician Robert D. Rodriguez
EMS 401 Captain II William R. Kingdon
Firefighter Scott I. Zugner

6021 Marilyn Drive

Medic 405

Lieutenant Mervin E. Barrera
Firefighter Stefan S. Dedes
Lieutenant Marcus D. Williams

Tower 405

Captain I Frank W. Geiger
Master Technician Kenneth M. Laverock
Firefighter James E. Pfister

Logistical Projects

Robert F. Arrington
Firefighter Eugene W. Beach
Ashley Bull
Paul E. Carlin
Steven E. Gauntner
Michael Keeler
Robert L. Knupp
Nathan R. Larkin
Ryan O'Conner
Kenton Rambo
Frederick R. Reddington
Technician William G. Roberts

140 S Maple Avenue

Rescue 418

Technician Anthony E. Doran
Lieutenant Elton P. Polen
Master Technician Rex E. Strickland

Station 24 Asbestos Abatement Team

Amin Aziz
Firefighter Eugene W. Beach
Captain II Steven D. Clark
Captain I Rodney V. Colbert
Captain I Keith A. Cross
Yvonne M. Dabney
Teri Flynn
Battalion Chief John M. Gleske
Robert A. Johnson
Rex Kim
Captain II John R. Niemiec
Lieutenant Gerald Nye
Captain I John S. Price
Robert Pumphrey
Captain II Scott M. Smith

Fire Prevention Division

Liliana Avila
Howard Bailey
Steve Beebe
Dianne Crump
Mathew Davis
Captain Lionel G. Duckwitz
Master Technician Douglas P. Emerson
Dave Feiring
Barry Hall
Frank Hall
William Haynes
Stacy Harman
James Hartnett
Jackie Haynes

Monique Joseph

Lieutenant Michael W. Landstreet
Master Technician David M. Lauler
Captain I Kerwin A. McNamara
Lieutenant Timothy J. Miscovich
John Moore
Marlene Moran
William Mueller
Ralph Phillips
Jordan Pulley
Lenny Smoot
Captain II Anne L. Tennant
Captain I Christopher Tilles
Richard Watts
Battalion Chief John S. White

Placing of Truck 410 in service

Master Technician Keith W. Cerzullo
Firefighter Scott E. Herbert
Lieutenant Scott L. Kraut
Master Technician Michael C. Lewis
Lieutenant Todd M. Marshall
Lieutenant Ronnie A. Rodriguez
Technician Cliff E. Sweeney

Mason Neck Park

Engine 420

Technician Kenneth J. Athing
Firefighter Duane R. Breisch
Captain II James A. Chinn
Firefighter Robert E. Potter

Medic 419

Captain I Sheryl L. Hemmingway
Fire Medic Robert C. Schoenberger

*The National Association of
Police Organizations*

Honorable Mention

Tops Cops Award

Captain I William B. Harlowe

*Firefighter Combat Challenge
National Championship*

State of Virginia Championship

Over 60 Category

Technician John P. McGee

"Taking Up"



**Captain I
Ronald A. Gemsheim**

Entry Date: December 10, 1984
Retirement Date: March 3, 2006
Recruit School Number: 62
Assignments: 10, 8, 23, 5, & 30

Likes about the Fire

Department: The family atmosphere and the great friends I have made over the years.

Will miss about the Fire

Department: The family atmosphere and the great friends I have made over the years.

Plans for the future: Work as the assistant chief of health and safety for the Clearwater, Florida, Fire Department and spend as much time as possible enjoying the beautiful weather, golfing, and hanging out at the beach.

Words of wisdom: Try to take advantage of the different opportunities the fire department offers you. You never know what doors they may open for you, I'm a prime example.

What got you interested in the fire service? My dad was a volunteer chief in Dale City and I started hanging around the firehouse at a young age.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Joe Shifflett, Bobby Rhea, Pat Morrison, Bonzo Mullins, and many others in many different ways.



**Master Technician
Frederick M. Ferraro**

Entry Date: January 12, 1981
Retirement Date: January 19, 2006
Recruit School Number: 53
Assignments: 12, 31, 8, 28, 10, 29, and 27

Likes about the Fire

Department: Truck Companies

Will miss about the Fire

Department: Truck companies, because if I break anything now I have to pay for it.

Plans for the future: Stay healthy and go see a Steelers home game.

Words of wisdom: Be safe and take care of your children.

What got you interested in the fire service? Jandling Hose Company #1.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Dave Guszick, Fire Department of New York.



**Technician
George E. Lewis, Jr.**

Entry Date: September 22, 1980
Retirement Date: March 17, 2006
Recruit School Number: 52
Assignments: 29 and 12

Likes about the Fire Department:

The unusual calls that we ran and always working with a great shift.

Will miss about the Fire Department: The second family I've come to know and love.

Plans for the future: I'll be teaching, traveling- more than ever during the warm weather months, and taxidermy during the winter, and working on the farm all of the days in between.

Words of wisdom: Do a good job, put forth the extra effort, and the county will reward you.

What got you interested in the fire service? The greatest man I every knew, my father.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Earl Rice, Mike Kephart, Len Murry, John Loss, Mike Walker (mom), Bart Wheatley (whom I worked side by side with for 23 years) and the rest of my brothers at Fire and Rescue Station 12, B-Shift.

Anniversaries

5 Years

Walter M. McKendree
 Technician Thomas G. Arnold
 Firefighter Jimmie Backus
 Technician Thomas E. Biller
 Technician Nicole Y. Ciarrocca
 Technician Derrick O. Colden
 Firefighter Rolando E. Contreras
 Jennifer A. Coughlin
 Technician Glenn W. Dressler
 Firefighter Craig S. Furneisen, Jr.
 Firefighter Richard D. Gundert
 Lieutenant Miranda Lambermond
 Firefighter Katja H. Lancing
 Firefighter George E. Loayza
 Firefighter Reid V. Lottchea
 Technician Steven T. Onufrey
 Firefighter Robert E. Pickel, Jr.
 Firefighter Linda J. Post
 Acting Technician Shannon G. Reed
 Patrick S. Reid
 Technician Kevin F. Reyes
 Vickie R. Shorts
 Technician Deborah G. Sparrer
 Firefighter Ryan J. Ward

10 Years

Firefighter Jorge F. Arias
 Technician Gerald A. Barnes
 Technician Jack W. Billhimer
 Master Technician Adam C. Brock
 Lieutenant Michael W. Engelhardt
 Master Technician Edward W. Gramling
 Master Technician George E. Hahn
 Lieutenant Kit R. Hessel
 Firefighter Clevis R. Hooker
 Master Technician Kenny M. McGee
 Technician Raul F. Perla
 Technician Karl D. Roche
 Technician Jeffery S. Seabright
 Technician Cliff E. Sweeney
 Firefighter Jason D. Triplett
 Master Technician Richard C. Vannoy
 Firefighter Erich H. Williams
 Michael O. Forgy
 Thomas E. Olander

20 Years

Master Technician William F. Bundy, Jr.
 Lieutenant Leroy L. Butler, Jr.
 Technician Edward T. Deskins, Jr.
 Captain II John L. Everett
 Technician John P. Jones
 Captain I James E. Lee, Jr.
 Lieutenant Michael J. Marks
 Lieutenant Bruce A. Neuhaus
 Technician Joseph A. Oleksia
 Firefighter George N. Pancione, Jr.
 Technician Samuel L. Poles, Jr.
 Lieutenant Kendall Thompson

25 Years

Battalion Chief Dean W. Cox
 Captain I Keith A. Cross
 Lieutenant Gary C. Dize
 Technician Wesley L. Gallahan
 Battalion Chief John M. Gleske
 Lieutenant Gregg M. Hayre
 Captain I Gregory L. Hedrick
 Technician Andrew J. Hubert
 Technician Wade F. Mahaffey, Jr.
 Battalion Chief Alfred E. Mullins
 Lieutenant Patrick R. Raffert
 Captain I Timothy W. Riffe
 Captain II Jeffrey B. Sager
 Master Technician Michael J. Stone
 Master Technician Kent E. Watts
 Lieutenant John M. Yadlosky

34 Years

Master Technician Walter L. Baughman, Jr.
 Captain I Stuart E. Supinger
 Captain I Curtis G. Thomas

36 Years

Captain II Gary W. Winemiller

Retirements

Technician

James M. Blackburn

January 12, 1981 - January 20, 2006

Captain I

Karen A. Brinkley

December 10, 1984 - December 31, 2005

Captain I

Lionel G. Duckwitz

June 6, 1973 - March 31, 2006

Captain II

Steve A. Edwards

February 28, 1977 - March 17, 2006

Master Technician Frederick M. Ferraro

January 12, 1981 - January 19, 2006

Captain I

Ronald A. Gemsheim

December 10, 1984 - March 3, 2006

Captain I

Robert Lynch

July 17, 1978 - February 17, 2006

Lieutenant

Timothy A. Sparrow

June 2, 1980 - January 7, 2006

Marty Smith

Administrative Assistant V

July 10, 1978 - February 22, 2006

Captain I

Curtis G. Thomas

February 22, 1972 - March 31, 2006

New Hires

Daniel P. Barker

Kristi L. Bartlett

Alexis L. Battista

Beau B. Bevan

Anthony R. Butler

Brian L. Casson

James H. Chapman

Vicki L. Clary

Michael J. Felczak

Raymond Figueroa

Larry A. Frelow, Jr.

Michael E. Garvin

Brian Gross

Francis G. Hall

Benjamin E. Jenkins

Christopher M. Kroboth

Jin S. Lee

Jeffrey E. Loach

Dawn R. MacAllister

Romulo O. Maciel Filho

Brendon Miller

Johnny O. Moretz

Myron J. Parker

Victor F. Popovich

David W. Prohaska

Bruce J. Stark

Chaz Z. Takacs

Richard M. Tamillow

Terry L. Tewalt

Aleksandra O. Tereshchuk

Kyle L. Turner

Samuel C. Wilson, III

Kasim Yilmaz



Station Profile

North Point Fire and Rescue Station #39

Captain II
James T. Harrison
Station Commander



Station constructed: Opened in April, 2001.

Station specialty: Swift Water

Square miles in first due area: 15.6

Specific hazardous/target areas: Large non-hydrant areas, corbalis water treatment plant, underground AT&T facility.

Total calls in 2005: 3,452

Equipment assigned to station: Medic, brush, engine, rescue, and inflatable boat.

Station personnel: **A-Shift: Captain I Jaime T. Herbert**, Lieutenant Michael D. Hendershot, Lieutenant William R. Hitchings, Lieutenant Barry J. Rathbone, Master Technician Patrick J. Keenan, Master Technician Karl C. Sallberg, Technician Frank A. Erwin, Firefighter Michael L. Frames, Firefighter Stephen J. Hurst, Firefighter Ginny M. Lewis, and Firefighter George W. Weaver. **B-Shift: Captain II James T. Harrison**, Lieutenant Pete J. Bendo, Lieutenant John N. Oudekerk, Master Technician Robert W. Gusa, Technician Patrick Sheehan, Technician William E. Teal, Firefighter Lloyd W. Coburn, Firefighter Blake C. Myers, Firefighter Janet T. Norko, Acting Technician Ronald S. Seghetti, and Firefighter Eric T. Thieman. **C-Shift: Captain I Richard J. Hanson**, Lieutenant George L. Diaz, Lieutenant Charles D. Mills, Lieutenant Ronald C. Sacra, Master Technician Jean E. Thorsell, Technician John P. Jones, Technician Carol A. Laymon, Firefighter Keith Baughan, Firefighter Carol A. Keyes, Firefighter George N. Pancione, and Firefighter William A. Sutphin.



A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Attn: Public Information and Life Safety Education

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