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Volume III, 2008 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



2008 Career Firefighter of the Year Technician Michael L. Frames
(see related story on page three)



Ronald L. Mastin

“I realize that change is difficult, but it is also one of the things that puts our organization out front.”

From The Fire Chief . . .

For many the big question is where do we go from here? The framework for our new EMS design has been out for almost a month now, and while there is still much to do before going live, I am pleased and excited with what lies ahead. It took almost a year to gather your input, hear your concerns, and evaluate the many recommendations that were presented. I want to commend and thank everyone for your interest in this major component of our mission. The recommendations varied greatly in many cases, but the one thing that was always at the center of each was to continue providing the best possible service to our community. To know that all models supported our core values and mission clearly demonstrates why we are in the fire and EMS business.

I want to personally thank Deputy Chief Christine Louder for her dedicated effort to lead the work group that researched many service delivery models and provided critical information along the way. The published framework is the result of many long meetings, staff input from all levels of the organization, employee groups, and county leaders. Now the real work begins as we move toward implementation. This will be yet another challenge given the current budget climate and how it will impact the Fire and Rescue Department, but again, I am fully confident in your dedication and determination to make this a successful transition.

There are a number of critical points that went into the final recommendation that I would like to highlight, as they may have been missed during the many presentations that were made. First, our service to those that call on us is second to none, but our ability to support our current staffing model has been a challenge in the past and will continue into the foreseeable future. Second is the fact that the majority of you have consistently asked for a system that

provides flexibility in our system that will provide opportunities for professional growth in all areas of our organization. Third was the desire to maintain officers as part of our ALS delivery model and to not reduce pay for any of our ALS providers. While there were a number of our issues we considered, these represent some of the more significant ones. The service delivery component was obviously paramount in all discussions and models presented with the bottom line being our continued ability to meet and exceed service delivery demands.

There was also a great deal of discussion about going to a “one on one” model and what this means to our dedicated EMS providers that have spent years building our system. Rest assured, this was not taken lightly, but as the issue was viewed in totality the proposed model addresses our current and future challenges. I have the utmost confidence in our providers and battalion leadership that this will be successful. This is also a shared view by Dr. Weir, our OMD, who supports this concept. One important point regarding this change is the fact that the system design does not eliminate positions and adjustments can be made should we find a negative impact on patient outcomes.

We are currently positioning the organization to move forward with implementing the plan. As noted earlier, there is still much to be done prior to full implementation, but nothing is more critical than your input and support. I encourage you to continue sending in your questions and comments so we can address them in our weekly update to the FAQs posted on the intranet. I realize that change is difficult, but it is also one of the things that puts our organization out front.

I look forward to your continued support and encourage everyone to focus your energy towards making this yet another successful and model program. ❖

Ronald L. Mastin, *Fire Chief*
Dan Schmidt, *Editor*
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Scotty Boatright, *Staff Photographer*

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Fire and Rescue Department
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Firefighter of the Year; Involvement and Dedication

By Captain I Barry Rathbone
Fire and Rescue Station 39, A-Shift

When the Information Bulletin came out that the awards committee was accepting nominations for Firefighter of the Year, one name stood alone and that was Technician Mike Frames. After 26 years of service, his involvement and dedication to the department is unsurpassed. Technician Frames serves as the Battalion Training Officer for Battalion 1, A-Shift, he is a member of the Swift Water Committee, serves as both Swift Water and Swift Water Boat Operator Instructor, and recently became certified as an Ice Rescue Instructor.

As I began to prepare the nomination, listing Mike's many certifications and showing Mike's involvement and dedication to the department was the easy part. What I found to be difficult, was putting into words what a true asset he is to Fire and Rescue Station 39, Battalion 1, and the Department as a whole. So today, I would like to recognize the indelible qualities that make Mike such an asset to this department.

Mike is the consummate team player. I served as Mike's supervisor for five years at Fire and Rescue Station 39. He is the most experienced member of the shift and the other members look up to him and recognize him as the informal leader.

Mike uses his status as the informal leader of the shift, not to promote himself, but to establish company pride and support the goals of the shift with his lead by example, attitude, and experience. Mike is probably the most humble member of the shift. So humble in fact, that when Fire Chief Ronald Mastin called to congratulate him on being selected as Firefighter of the Year, he didn't think it was the Chief and truthfully thought someone was pulling a prank on him.

Mike Frames is without question the best firefighter in Battalion 1, A-Shift. He is such an asset with his knowledge of the streets and buildings in Battalion 1 because he has worked

in Battalion 1 his entire career. It is routine to run third and fourth due assignments from Fire and Rescue Station 39, and Mike will know the exact address and give you details about hydrant locations and system connections. Mike has been assigned to Rescue 439 since the unit was put in service with the opening of Fire and Rescue Station 39. Rescue Companies are typically staffed with more experienced veterans because you can be called upon to perform on incidents that are usually very dynamic in nature. This is where Mike is at his best. I ran many vehicle extrications with Mike over the years and time and time again, he would perform at a very high level and devise a practical solution to very complex and dynamic incidents. As an officer, I always felt a little more comfortable with Mike in that right bucket of Rescue 439, knowing that we could handle any incident dispatched at the highest level of efficiency.

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125th Recruit School



*Firefighter Medic
Robert D. Anderson, Jr.
Station 25, A-Shift*



*Firefighter Medic
Charles G. Arntson
Station 22, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Joel N. Atagwe
Station 38, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Fidel A. Blanco
Station 30, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Eduardo J. Borgenarguello
Station 8, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Jason L. Branham
Station 13, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Roberto M. Da Silva
Station 11, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Timothy A. Fairchild
Station 8, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Brian D. Foster
Station 31, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Erin J. Gardner
Station 29, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Steven E. Gaunter
Station 15, B-Shift*



*Firefighter Medic
Matthew R. Guillaume
Station 15, C-Shift*



*Firefighter Medic
Matthew C. Helmuth
Station 24, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Akilah N. Hughley
Station 25, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Michelle L. Latsha
Station 38, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Isreal Lopez Velez
Relief Battalion 2, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Andres F. Martinez
Station 23, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Anis M. Benhaj Mohamed
Station 11, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Clyde B. Monroe, III
Station 22, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Joshua M. Morrison
Station 30, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Andrew J. Neuhaus
Station 19, B-Shift*



*Firefighter
Kevin T. Ngo
Station 40, A-Shift*



*Firefighter
Brian D. Passmore
Station 8, C-Shift*



*Firefighter
Elizabeth K. Planchak
Station 37, C-Shift*

(Continued from page 3)



Technician Michael L. Frames and his family attend the ceremony for the 2008 Career Firefighter of the Year (left to right): brother Bill and his wife Carolyn; wife Erica, son Eric (front); daughter Michaela (front); Technician Michael L. Frames; mother Margaret and father Kenneth; and nephews Will and Chris.



Firefighter
Jason Reisch
Relief Battalion 7, B-Shift



Firefighter
Rajah J. Rose
Station 18, C-Shift



Firefighter
Placido Sanchez
Station 10, A-Shift



Firefighter
Ryan E. Scanlan
Station 41, C-Shift



Firefighter Medic
Adam D. Scheetz
Station 36, B-Shift



Firefighter
William A. Smith, II
Station 17, C-Shift



Firefighter
Katherine S. Stoner
Station 1, A-Shift



Firefighter
Rodney D. Washington
Station 11, A-Shift



Firefighter
Gregory W. Wood
Station 29, C-Shift

As you all know, this job entails a camaraderie that you don't find in other professions. Whenever a coworker was in a time of need with an ill family member, or something as simple as needing help to move furniture, Mike would always be the first to step up. As I look around this room, there are many of you here that can attest to this and have experienced this first hand. I have observed Mike come to the aid of a fellow brother or sister firefighter on countless occasions often times canceling his own plans and putting the needs of others ahead of his own.

Mike is just one of those guys that if you asked anyone with over 15 years of experience in this department, they would have nothing but good things to say about him, not to mention he is the best cook in the fire department. Simply put, Mike Frames is the best firefighter that I have worked with in my career. His dedication to the department and professionalism is unmatched.

Again, I would like to congratulate Technician Frames on receiving this prestigious award. It is well deserved Mike, and you represent the department well through your actions both on and off duty. I am proud to have a part in presenting this award to you, and I am honored to have the privilege to know you as a brother, firefighter, and friend. ❖ *Editor's Note: These remarks were delivered at the Firefighter of the Year ceremony August 7, 2008.*

Volunteer Resource Officer Calls On Volunteers For Help

*By Pete Kirby
Fire Commissioner*

For more than a decade, the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) has been supported by a single point of contact capable of mustering the resources of Fairfax County's twelve independent volunteer fire companies on short notice. That single point of contact? The Volunteer Resource Officer (VRO). The VRO is appointed by the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, to which all volunteer fire companies belong. Commonly a volunteer company officer, the VRO is on call 24/7 during their tour of duty. While senior administrative officers can serve in this role, the VRO is most commonly a volunteer command officer or a volunteer unit officer. When serving as the VRO, they serve as the "one-stop shop" to permit key FRD leaders, including the on-duty Uniformed Fire Officer (UFO), the duty Shift deputy chief, or the Staff Duty Officer, the ability to quickly muster additional companies or units for surge support, to put into service apparatus for an urgent mission, or to activate facilities for emergency operations support.

Recently, the policy citing the role of the VRO (General Order 2008-031) was updated to reflect the FRD stance of leaning forward for events that could escalate or become emergent with short notice, as well as promoting the use of volunteer resources when surge support is needed, either due to a major emergency, or multiple emergencies that threaten to deplete fire and emergency medical service resources. The VRO may be dispatched to a Department Operations Center, if activated, to support the planning and deployment of resources requested by an incident commander through the Emergency Operations Center for long term events, but may also respond to a request for surge support from anywhere within the jurisdiction of the

Metropolitan Washington, DC Council of Governments. The VRO has communications capabilities to permit rapid response to any activation.

The new General Order empowers the UFO serving with the Department of Public Safety Communications to be proactive in activating the VRO. A number of triggers were developed to promote effective use of this resource, and they include, but are not limited to:

- Implementation of response Conditions 2 or 3
- The issuance of severe weather watches by the National Weather Service for Fairfax County
- The issuance of severe weather warnings for jurisdictions contiguous to Fairfax County, when such conditions are expected to occur next in Fairfax County
- Any condition that results in the commitment of half or more of all on-duty department resources (e.g., single large incident or multiple incidents).

The General Order also encourages the VRO to be proactive in anticipating the onset of conditions which indicate that additional resources should be activated. The VRO may also alert volunteer resources when anticipating the onset of conditions for which additional resources may be needed. This helps reduce reaction time when a surge begins, and helps reduce service delays by making additional resources available when needed.

The VRO is intended to support FRD response to major challenges. Members of the battalion management teams requiring localized support still reach out to volunteer companies under their supervision, maintaining relationships and encouraging teamwork to meet needs such as:

- Drill support
- Near-term staffing requirements
- Providing meeting space for post-incident response critiques or critical incident stress debriefing.

Typically, the VRO is activated in two scenarios. In the first, the UFO will provide requirements (in terms of number and types of additional units needed, duration for staffing to meet the surge if anticipated, or the number and type of personnel, equipment, or facilities that may be needed in an emergency) to the VRO. The VRO then canvasses the twelve volunteer fire departments to determine if the requested resources are available to meet those requirements, and when they can answer the call. In the second scenario, the Operations Bureau activates the VRO to assist with staffing to fulfill emergency operations plans for short-notice incidents, such as snow and ice storms, hurricanes, and Red Flag wildfire weather conditions. Usually, in 30 minutes or less, the VRO can report back on the results of this canvass, with volunteers mustering to offset committed units, fill empty fire stations, or relieve filling units to minimize the impact of an incident and help to stabilize the level of resources available to answer emergency calls.

Volunteers have also provided other resources based on requests to the VRO, such as:

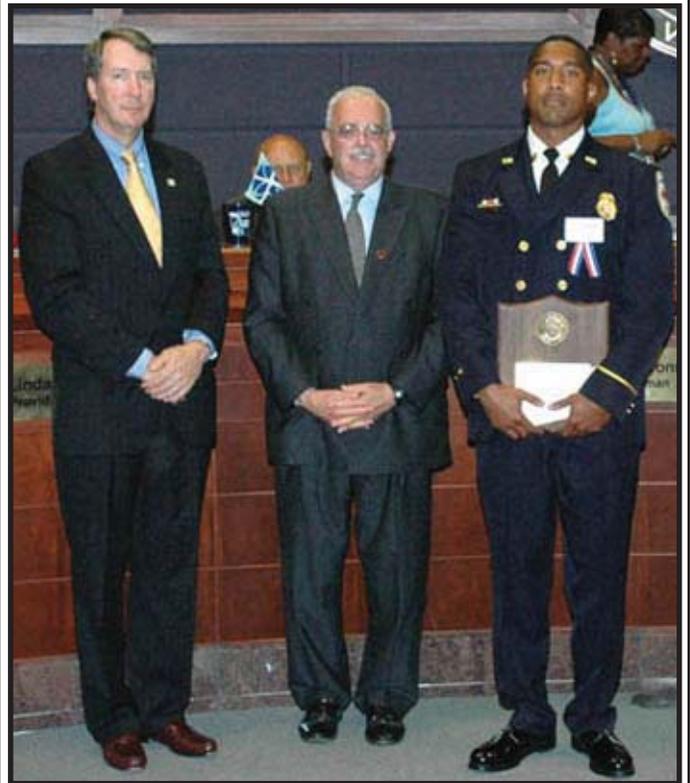
- Paramedics to meet unexpected shortages that threaten to place units out of service
- Specialized apparatus, such as high capacity pumpers when domestic water supply systems have failed, or
- Facilities, opening their firehouses as temporary shelters for stranded motorists in severe winter storms or to collect flood evacuees.

Depending upon time of day and day of the week, volunteers may be able to partially meet a need, fully meet a need, or may provide more than ample response to a VRO request for resources.

Already in 2008, the VRO has been activated to support the FRD response to ice storms and other severe weather threats, to staff vacated engines

when crews re-deployed to foam units, provided mutual aid to the District of Columbia, to provide EMS surge for the Papal Visit in Washington, DC, and to staff additional units due to several multiple alarm fires. Having a VRO has enabled the FRD to manage the effective deployment of enough volunteer resources to offset the equivalent of a one alarm assignment on at least one occasion. The VRO helps the FRD optimize its ability to deliver sufficient and effective fire fighting and emergency medical services and serves as a critical point of contact when surge demands challenge that ability. ❖

Lieutenant Willie F. Bailey Receives the A. Heath Onthank Award



Lieutenant Willie F. Bailey received the A. Heath Onthank Award, the highest honor Fairfax County bestows on its employees. Led by Lieutenant Bailey, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue collected and distributed approximately 30,000 toys to deserving children in the Washington Metropolitan Area by assisting the U.S. Marine Corps. He directly distributed approximately 2,500 toys to children in Northern Virginia. He also provided 500 school backpacks with supplies to school children. Additionally, he bought over 100 bicycles and several dozen winter coats with donated money from local businesses. Left to right: Anthony Griffin, County Executive; Gerald F. Connolly, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; and Lieutenant Willie F. Bailey, Public Affairs and Life Safety Education.

Crisis Response Teams: Making it Automatic

*By Bill Prassad, Behavioral Health Coordinator
Safety and Personnel Services*

There is an automatic response when many first responders are asked if they want a Crisis Response Team sent to their station. This question can be comparable to asking a firefighter if he or she would like a root canal. "No," is the resounding one syllable word that bounces off the walls and silences the need for help.

Crisis Response Teams respond when firefighters are involved in powerful traumatic events that initiate the crisis response. If used properly, the teams can reduce firefighter stress and decrease the chance of acute stress responses in the future. Our team is peer based and provides psychological first aid that can be temporary, but is active and supportive during times of high stress. Different intervention tools are used for individuals and groups. The teams have been used for more than a decade, but a great deal of misunderstanding and controversy continues to surround team use and tactics.

One must first understand that crisis response is not psychotherapy. The goal is not to force a firefighter to reveal his feelings or spill his emotions on the floor in front of his peers. Asking, "How do you feel?" is not only therapeutically inappropriate in this type of group setting, it is also not the clinician's business. In group crisis interventions it is made clear that no one is forced to speak and no one is probed to make uncomfortable revelations.

Another reason Crisis Response Teams have gotten a bad reputation deals directly with bad training and tactics. One of the more effective approaches to group crisis interventions is working with smaller sized groups, limited to 15 people. This reflects our current mode of operation. Size isn't the only concern. In other situations, non-homeogenous groups were combined with disastrous results. For example,

civilians were mixed with police or police were mixed with firefighters. After an hour of finger pointing and blaming, both groups agreed on one item, that they would never use a Crisis Response Team again.

A good team keeps groups small and homogenous. A well trained team focuses on assessing the needs of first responders, provides them with education, suggests some remedies for difficulties and provides them with resources on how they can get help, should they need further assistance. For example, let's imagine that a crew has just returned from a fire where a child was killed. The team would meet with officers and firefighters separately (homeogenous groups). My first question might be, "What do you need?" In some cases, a firefighter who is a parent may want to call home or be placed out of service. The education stage of this group may involve telling any firefighter parents that in the next few days they may feel over protective of their children, that this is a normal response. The team may encourage the firefighter parent to check-in with his or her partner to gauge if he or she is over reacting to the situation. Finally, members of the Crisis Response Team would provide the group with their phone numbers, in case further assistance is necessary. Following the group meeting the team would stand-by in case any one-on-one sessions were necessary.

Deployment of a team should be automatic in the following situations:

- Line of duty death
- Suicide of a colleague
- Serious line of duty injury
- Disaster or multi-casualty event, especially if there is news media attention
- Extreme threat to work crews
- Death of a child

Automatic deployment means that the supervisor would automatically call the Crisis Response Team to discuss the situation. In these six situations, it is hoped that the supervisor would then go to his or her firefighters to tell them a Crisis Response Team is coming, and then would inquire if anyone has any serious reservations. Asking them if they want a team will, once again, be the same as asking them if they want a root canal.

By sending in a team, a supervisor can demonstrate that the well-being of the crew is paramount and they are being supported. By putting a team in front of your people, you have put them in contact with resources and faces they can attach to behavioral health. They may not need help now, but this contact could pave the way for them to reach out in the future should

they face other difficulties. The appearance of a team today might make that future call to behavioral health easy and automatic. ❖

Proudly We Serve



Lieutenant Cory Key, Academy, presents Chief Ronald Mastin and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department with an American Flag that was flown over Camp Fallujah, Iraq, on July 4, 2006. Serving in the U.S. Marine Corp as a Sergeant, he was deployed from December 1, 2005, to November 30, 2006, and saw action in Al Asad, Ar Ramadi, Najaf, Syra, Jordan, Baghdad, Al Tikrit, and other locations.

Top 10 Activity Report

May - July 2008

Ambulance		Engine Company		Rescue Squad	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
A 408	509	E 410	799	R 401	329
A 413	493	E 408	729	R 426	325
A 411	466	E 422	726	R 418	314
A 430	459	E 401	699	R 411	308
A 409	458	E 411	698	R 419	266
A 410	453	E 413	679	R 439	209
A 428	415	E 404	673	R 414	181
A 414	341	E 429	666	R 421B	11
A 431	324	E 430	661		
A 436	323	E 425	633		

Medic		Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains		Ladder Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
M 418	776	EMS 404	539	T 429	504
M 425	673	EMS 402	394	T 425	469
M 404	669	EMS 405	370	T 410	434
M 408	666	EMS 403	332	T 422	411
M 422	656	EMS 401	309	TL 430	375
M 429	644	EMS 406	307	TL 401	357
M 410	634	EMS 407	186	T 411	339
M 409	628	BC 404	175	T 403	325
M 411	620	BC 402	161	TL 436	318
M 426	602	BC 405	155	T 438	280

Line Copy Deadline

The deadline for the next Line Copy is no later than November 15, 2008. Please submit articles or text to Dan Schmidt at Dan.Schmidt@fairfaxcounty.gov or Jackie Pitkin, Jacqueline.Pitkin@fairfaxcounty.gov

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.



Station and Specialty Patches: A Morale Builder

By Dan Schmidt

Public Affairs and Life Safety Education



Station and specialty patches are alive and well. More and more of our stations are designing and submitting patches for approval—we now even have 29 station patches in the Department, having just added stations 5 and 25.

Allow me to share a brief history of patches that grew

from the United States Army during the Civil War.

A mistake in identification by a general early in the Civil War started the system of shoulder patches that now is common in the United States Army. The use of these distinctive unit emblems to identify soldiers as members of organizations with proud traditions all started when General Philip Kearny, in the summer of 1862, mistook some officers for stragglers from his own command.

As described by General E.B. Townsend: “The officers listened in silence, respectfully standing in the ‘position of a soldier’ until he had finished, when one of them, raising his hand to his cap, quietly suggested that the general had possibly made a mistake, as none of them belonged to his command. With his usual courtesy, Kearny exclaimed ‘Pardon me; I will take steps to know how to recognize my own men hereafter.’”

The result was an order that officers of his command should thereafter wear “on the front of their caps a round piece of red cloth to designate them.” Thus was born the famous “Kearny Patch.” Although Kearny had designated the patch to distinguish his officers, enlisted men of his command very soon adopted the red patch, often cutting up their overcoat red lining to make them. The men thought highly of Kearny and were anxious to identify

themselves as members of his command. The practice is said to have reduced straggling—even the Confederates are reputed to have given special attention to wounded and dead wearing the patch because they recognized the valor of Kearny’s troops.

Another story relating to patches is told this way: One day a soldier in the corps of Major General John Logan in 1863 was asked where his corps patch was. Clapping his hand on his cartridge box, he said “Forty Rounds. Can you show me a better one?” Shortly thereafter, General Logan issued General Order Number 10 prescribing that the badge for the Fifteenth Corps should be “a miniature cartridge box and above the box will be inscribed the words ‘Forty Rounds.’”

The badge of the Fourteenth Army Corps also told a story. Members had often referred to themselves as “acorn boys” because at one time when rations were scanty, the men roasted and ate acorns. In 1864, their badge was designated in the form of an acorn.

As I share these stories, the Department continues to compile station and specialty patches that have been approved over the years. The idea is to consolidate all patches and publish them for all to see and share.

I’m sure that the symbolism of unit and station patches has helped members communicate a special pride in belonging to an organization. The resulting esprit de corps and morale building that has occurred and continues to be worthy of the time and effort put into creating them. ❖

Line Copy can be viewed at
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire>

Volunteer EMS Bike Team Formed

By Joseph Peralis

Centreville Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Commissioner



Emergency medical technicians Terrie Callahan (left) and Chemeika Woods (right), Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire Department, provided medical assistance to visitors attending Celebrate Fairfax.

As the population of Fairfax County has grown, so has the number of participants at community events. This growth has led to the development of the Emergency Medical Services Bike Team. The concept of this team is to provide rapid emergency medical care during events in which the traffic, crowd congestion or obscure locations would make normal modes of getting emergency care to the patient unsafe or inefficient.

The Fairfax Fair (now known as Celebrate Fairfax) served as the impetus for the creation of a bicycle-based EMS delivery service. Spread over a wide area on the campus of the George Mason University in the past, it became quickly apparent that the crowd and display areas were too congested to move ambulances in to locate, treat, and retrieve patients, and that sending EMS care teams afoot frequently caused an excessive delay in beginning definitive care.

A logical solution was to put the EMT on a bicycle, where space requirements could easily be accommodated and on which a rapid intervention and care could begin in a timely fashion. Although informal at first, the Bike Team was officially formed in 2000 by volunteer members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

Department. With no budget, the members used their own bikes and ad-hoc medical kits of their own innovation at the outset, but they sought out grant money to develop a more uniform capability using proper equipment. Bikes, modified for EMS delivery, were purchased utilizing the county sheriff's contract, and soon the team was providing rapid responses to medical emergencies during special events.

The concept of providing rapid response to medical emergencies has proven effective beyond the original team members' expectations. Today, the Bike Team provides its services to several special events each year. These events range from Celebrate Fairfax at the Fairfax County Government Center, to the Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, the Vintage Virginia Wine Festival at Bull Run Regional Park, and local bike races, to name a few.

To improve its value and standing in the community, increase public safety, and to prevent unnecessary cycling injuries, the Bike Team plans to participate in public education activities such as bicycle rodeos, bicycle inspection events, educating riders in proper helmet fit, developing improved riding techniques, and promoting traffic safety. Bicycle helmet give-a-way programs will also be a large part of this educational activity.

Currently, the team has four black Trek® Bicycles, marked FIRE AND RESCUE, in inventory that are fully outfitted with all of the basic life support EMS equipment. This team was conceived with the vision of creating a combined career and volunteer service offering, and it is the hope of the founders that one day, budget will permit this vision to become a reality.

If your station is responsible for providing EMS at a special event in your community at a location that would be unsafe for moving apparatus, consider requesting the assistance of the EMS Bike Team. For more information, please contact Joseph Peralis at Joseph.Peralis@fairfaxcounty.gov. ❖

Morbidity and Mortality Due to STEMI Can Be Reduced Significantly

By Beth Adams, Technician Brian C. Edmonston,
and Laurie E. Varnau
Emergency Medical Services

In the first quarter of 2008, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department identified 56 ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) events. The American Heart Association (AHA) has estimated that there are 500,000 STEMI events per year. Although the number of STEMI events responded to by our department is small in comparison to national statistics, the role that EMS plays is undeniable in garnering a successful patient outcome. "Morbidity and mortality due to STEMI can be reduced significantly if patients and bystanders recognize symptoms early, activate the EMS system, and thereby shorten the time to definitive treatment" (ACC/AHA Guidelines, 1999)

Criteria: Adult patients presenting with chest pain, "heart problem" or "palpitations" (dysrhythmias) found to have ST elevation myocardial infarction.

Process: Data was gathered through manual review of documentation on the FRD-207, Pre-hospital Patient Care Report. The database was set up using a binomial methodology.

Limitations: No presumptions about service delivery were made in the absence of documentation to affirm that an indicator had been met.

Quality Indicators: User developed by consensus, based on current standard of care. The AHA continues to emphasize the need for patients experiencing symptoms related to STEMI (chest discomfort with or without radiation, shortness of breath; weakness;

diaphoresis; nausea; lightheadedness) to be transported by ambulance to the nearest hospital (ACC/AHA Guidelines, 1999). Simple medical interventions, such as morphine, oxygen, nitroglycerin, and aspirin (MONA) continue to be a vital early first step in the treatment of STEMI events. The next priority is transport to a facility capable of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA). If the "Chain of Survival" is optimized, it is likely that a patient experiencing a STEMI event can recover and ultimately return to a relatively unimpaired lifestyle.

Number of STEMI calls: 56 (11 percent) of 499 Acute Coronary Syndrome calls

Number of Code 1 interfacility transports for STEMI: 0

Assessment	Percent
• Previous Cardiac history noted	39
• Time of symptom onset documented	98
• Physical exam	100
• 12 Lead documented	100
• ST elevation documented	100

Treatment	Percent
• Oxygen	100
• Aspirin	89
• Nitro	79
• Morphine	13
• Transported to PTCA capable facility	91

Discussion:

- Aspirin not given due to administration prior to arrival of EMS
- NTG and/or Morphine not given due to administration prior to arrival of EMS and/or pain relieved

Gender	Age Distribution	Percent
Male - 68 percent	18 – 25 years	2
Female - 32 percent	26 – 35 years	5
	36 – 45 years	5
	46 – 55 years	20
	56 – 65 years	29
	> 65 years	34

Destination Facilities	Percent
Inova Alexandria Hospital.....59 (PTCA Capable Facility)	
Inova Fairfax Hospital.....4580 (PTCA Capable Facility)	
Inova Fair Oaks Hospital24	
Reston Hospital Center35	
Virginia Hospital Center -Arlington ..12 (PTCA Capable Facility)	

On Scene Times for STEMI.....	Percent
5 minutes	1730
5-10 minutes.....	2952
10-15 minutes.....	59
15- 20 minutes.....	35
> 20 minutes.....	00
Times Unavailable.....	24
Average On Scene Time	6:57 minutes

The national treatment goal for STEMI is a door-to-balloon time of 90 minutes. Our continued vigilance toward the early identification of those acute coronary syndrome patients presenting with STEMI and subsequent early hospital notification helps the receiving PTCA centers in this region achieve that goal. ❖

Retired Firefighters Meet In Florida



Front row (left to right): Clark Martin, Jim Irwin, Joe Allison, and Larry Kelly. Back row (left to right): Chuck Jarrell, Tommy Hamilton, Jeff Jenkins, Richard Cronin, Konrad Kurtz, and Randy Fullford

First Mother/Daughter Career Firefighter Combination in Virginia



The first mother/daughter career firefighter combination within Virginia took place on August 1, 2008, at the 125th Recruit School Graduation ceremony. Lieutenant Pamela J. Dailey (right) presents a fire helmet to Erin J. Gardner, her daughter, along with Fire Chief Ronald Mastin. There are only two other mother/daughter combinations – one in the Knoxville Fire Department, Tennessee, and Wales, the United Kingdom.

30 Year Service Award



Deputy Chief Michael T. Reilly, Operations, B-Shift, presents Battalion Chief Tyrone J. Harrington, Battalion 7, B-Shift, with his 30-Year Service Award.

Hot Shots



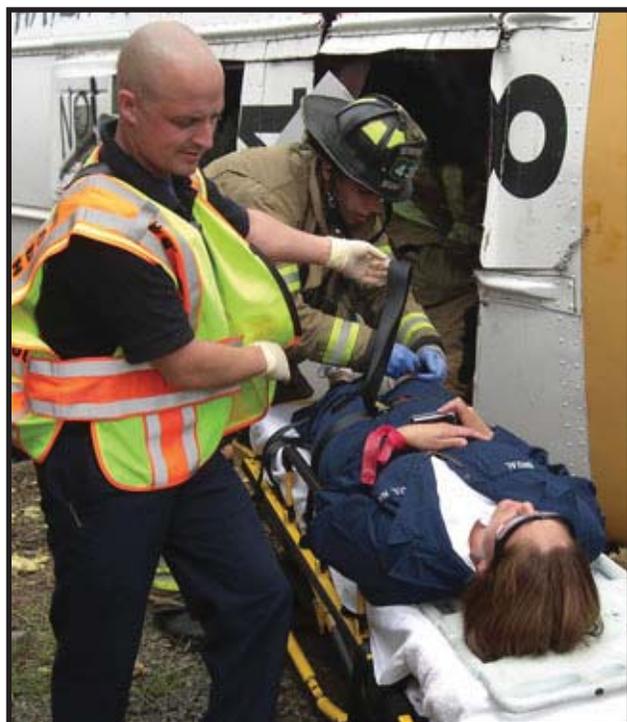
Firefighters arrived on the scene of a two-alarm commercial building fire, Squire Rockwell's restaurant, 8700 Little River Turnpike, in the Annandale area. The fire was called in by a Uniformed Fire Officer on break at the Department of Public Safety Communications center. Damage was estimated at \$1 million.



Firefighters arrived on the scene with fire coming from the front and sides of the two-story townhouse located at 9829 Hagel Circle in the Lorton area. Occupants were alerted by a smoke alarm and escaped unharmed. A child playing with a lighter caused the fire.



Improper disposal of smoking materials was the accidental cause of this fire on the balcony of unit 2310, a high-rise condominium, located at 2705 South George Mason Drive in the Bailey's Crossroads area. Firefighters encountered fire on the balconies of units 2310, 2410, 2510, and 2610; of the 26-story, Skyline Plaza Condominiums. Damage was estimated at \$10,000.



Firefighter Jason D. Schmidt, Fire and Rescue Station 13, A-Shift, participates in a Mass Casualty Multi-Unit Drill, August 4, 2008. Units from Fire and Rescue Stations 13 and 30 perform extrications of multiple patients from an overturned school bus. Photo by Lieutenant Thomas J. Griffin.

Mobile Training Unit Ready To Go



The Mobile Training Unit (MTU) was purchased with EMS grant funding and built by Matthew's Specialty Vehicles of Greensboro, North Carolina. The MTU was designed to provide EMS training to field providers in a mobile format. Features include 10 individual work stations with CAT6 and 110 volt power to each station; an overhead projector with electronic screen DVD and VCR capability, and a wireless microphone system. A medic unit simulation area is equipped with a closed circuit camera system capable of both recording and transmitting live to the overhead, and an observation room equipped with one-way glass and computer connection hardware. The exterior of the vehicle is finished in a fire and rescue department design that highlights services provided by the department and transmits an active recruitment message. The exterior is also equipped with an automatic awning and a wheelchair lift.

2008 4th of July Parade Participants in Fairfax City



The Wonderful World of Fire Prevention

*Deputy Chief Dereck A. Baker
Fire Prevention Division*

In May 2007, the Fire Prevention Division moved out of the Massey Building into the William J. Burkholder Building, a two-story building located on Page Avenue. The Burkholder Building has allowed Fire Prevention to have some much needed expansion.

The Fire Prevention Division staff recently had the opportunity to sponsor the second annual "Employees Appreciation Cookout" on the Burkholder Building patio. With approximately 100 employees in the division, employees now have elbow-room and some much deserved comfort in performing their daily jobs.

Saving lives and protecting property is a constant focus for Fire Prevention Division personnel. Last year there were seven fire related fatalities, and to date this year, there have been five fire fatalities within the county. The county also had twenty-eight fire injuries and an estimated \$37.5 million dollar fire loss for 2007.

Fortunately, the county had no injuries this year on July 4. As summer continues to move along, please use caution while grilling. We recommend the grill be at least 15 feet from every home.

In September 2008, we will be sending 12 voting representatives to Minnesota to the International Code Council Code Hearings, and the hot topic is "residential sprinklers." Residential sprinklers have been a challenge with the home builders because of the cost factor that would be added to building a home. However, without a doubt, residential sprinklers will save occupants and firefighters lives as well as property. My staff and I believe that residential sprinklers will pass the legislature this year, and mark another important milestone within the fire service.

The Fire Prevention Division has a senior staff that oversees all daily operations of the division. Staff has made customer service a priority, it's



Fire Prevention senior staff (left to right) Deputy Chief Michael T. Reilly, Investigations and Hazardous Materials Enforcement; Nell Rose Jarvis, Administration; Battalion Keith H. Johnson, Systems and Inspections; Deputy Chief Dereck A. Baker, Division Chief; Captain II Manuel A. Barrero, Jr., Fire Systems; David J. Thomas, Plans Review; Margaret A. Carroll, Revenue; Captain II James A. Sobota, Investigations; and Captain II John S. Price, Jr., Inspections. Not pictured is Paula E. Woodrum, Hazardous Materials.

customer friendly for residents, contractors, and everyone conducting business within Fire Prevention on a daily basis for permits, FOIA's, plans review, and other business support.

The Fire Prevention Division web page, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention, includes information on: fire safety tips, neighborhood concerns, permit processes, and much more. Staff from Fire Prevention and the entire department are ambassadors to fire safety for the residents of Fairfax County. We encourage everyone to visit the Fire Prevention Division web page for more information.

Listed below is a breakdown of the Fire Prevention sections, branches, units, and responsibilities:

- The Fire Inspections Branch is the backbone of the Fire Prevention Division. The branch performs occupancy inspections of commercial buildings and performs routine and special inspections when a Fire Prevention Code Permit is required. Additionally, staff provides support to the Office for Children by performing fire prevention inspections for home day care centers, participates on the county Hoarding Task Force that addresses hoarding conditions within the community, and assists businesses with the development of Building Evacuation Plans.
- The Fire Protection Systems Branch, Acceptance Testing Unit, witnesses the testing of fire protection systems in new construction and tenant retrofits, i.e., sprinkler hydro systems, fire alarm systems, fire pumps, standpipes, trip tests, etc., to ensure system performance.
- The Fire Protection Systems Branch, Retesting Unit, witnesses the testing of established fire protection systems to ensure system performance.
- The Engineering Plans Review Branch is responsible for ensuring code compliance for site plans, building plans, clean agents, door locks, fire protection systems, hood system installations, and plans associated with Fire Prevention Code Permits. Review of architectural plans-related items is accomplished by Fire Prevention Division staff located on the third floor of the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia. In addition, staff provides plans review of architectural and fire protection system plans for the Town of Herndon and site plans for the Town of Vienna.
- The Revenue and Records Branch is responsible for the collection of fees for services as outlined in Chapter 61, Chapter 62, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Additionally, staff maintains records pertaining to fire inspections and is the point of contact for all FOIA requests for fire protection systems, fire prevention code permits, building fire inspections, tanks, and hazardous materials.
- The Fire Investigations Branch is responsible for determining the origin and cause of fires in an effort to prevent future occurrences. The types of fires investigated include: large loss fires, fires of suspicious nature, fires involving personal injury, and explosions that occur within Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna. The Fire Investigations Branch is also the home of an Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives certified Accelerant Detection Canine Team.
- The Hazardous Materials Technical Support Branch manages, maintains, and administers the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response and Contingency Planning Program, Legislative and Regulatory Oversight Program, Significant Hazards Surveillance Program, and provides staff support to the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee. In addition, the branch maintains and operates LAB-401, the mobile fire and hazmat investigations lab, and is responsible for maintaining and administering hazardous materials contracts for the purpose of emergency response, analysis, site cleanup, and chemical disposal. Technical support staff also acts as the Fire and Rescue Department's liaison with the major hazardous liquids and natural gas pipeline transmission companies having pipelines traversing Fairfax County.

(Continued on page 25)

South Korea Is A Trip to Remember

By Technician Michael S. Lee
Fire and Rescue Station 4, A-Shift

In April, delegations of Korean-American firefighters were invited to South Korea to participate in the first Ethnic Korean Firefighter Invitation Program. This delegation consisted of

four Korean-American firefighters from Fairfax County; Technician Michael S. Lee, Fire and Rescue Station 4, A-Shift; Firefighter Michael Lee, Fire and Rescue Station 10, B-Shift; Firefighter Won C. Lee, Fire and Rescue Station

31, A-Shift; and Firefighter Tae K. Pak, Fire and Rescue Station 22, B-Shift. Additional invitees were firefighters Michael and Robert Caviness (brothers) of the Burlington City Fire Department, North Carolina; Firefighter Don Sarubbi, North Main Fire Department, Illinois; and Firefighter Joe Brignall, Galesburg Fire Department, Illinois.

The program had three purposes: Korean-American firefighters along with their Korean firefighter counterparts would visit various aspects of the Korean Fire Service; second, a contingent of American speakers would present various fire and EMS topics at the fifth-annual International Fire and Safety Expo in Daegu, South Korea; third, and most importantly, Korean and Korean-American firefighters would

exchange ideas and build fellowship between the Korean and American Fire Services.

As mentioned, one purpose of the trip was to make a presentation at the Fire and Safety Expo and accompanying the eight firefighters were four American presenters. The first presenter was Holly Frost, coordinator for the delegation, and Assistant Dean of the Emergency Medical Technology Program at Northern Virginia Community College. Ms. Frost lectured on the history of U.S. fire and EMS

and its impact on the firefighter/paramedic of today. Also lecturing were Captain II Jeffrey S. Lewis, EMS Battalion 2, A-Shift, spoke about the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) response to the Pentagon on 9/11 with an emphasis on our own US&R Task Force, Battalion Chief Donald Frazier, Los Angeles City Fire Department, spoke about fire department fleet management; and Captain Danny Neal, Loudoun County Department of Fire and EMS lectured about expanded triage in mass casualty events.

We departed on April 21 and arrived in Seoul, South Korea after a 14-hour non-stop flight from Dulles International Airport. Despite an arduous flight, we were eager to take in as much from our trip to the motherland as possible. Many of us had never visited South Korea before and



Technician Michael S. Lee, Fire and Rescue Station 4, A-Shift; Firefighter Michael Lee, Fire and Rescue Station 10, B-Shift; Firefighter Won C. Lee, Fire and Rescue Station 31, A-Shift; and Firefighter Tae K. Pak, Fire and Rescue Station 22, B-Shift, visit the South Korean Fire and Safety Expo in April 2008.

those of us who left South Korea as youngsters marveled at how much had changed. We spent a total of five days with our Korean counterparts, visiting various cultural sites and Korean fire facilities. The highlight of the trip was when we visited the Seoul Metro Fire Headquarters. This massive building housed their 411 communication center (Our 911 Department of Public Safety Communication equivalent) and the administrative facilities for the Seoul Metro fire district. Seoul is a city of 12 million people and all of us were impressed with their high tech dispatch system, GPS enabled response guidance system, and closed-circuit camera system designed to monitor any fire/EMS related events in the Seoul City proper.

We also visited the South Korean US&R headquarters and is similar to our own VATF-1. The South Korean team deploys internationally. All of their members were hand picked; we were impressed with their dedication and professionalism. A surprise to all of us was the Fairfax County Class-A uniform on display at the South Korean US&R headquarters. As it turns out, it was the uniform of retired Fire Chief Michael P. Neuhard. The South Korean US&R vice-commander also told us that he also knew our retired Battalion Chief Dewey H. Perks. What a small world we live in.

Fulfilling the most important aspect of our trip, we forged a lasting relationship with our Korean firefighter counterparts. They openly shared their love for the job, just like all of us who went on the trip. The Korean firefighters asked about our fire ground tactics/strategies and we came away realizing just how similarly we operate on the fire ground. The biggest differences were in the realm of EMS as the Korean fire service still uses a predominantly BLS approach. According to the personnel we met, the Korean Fire service also could benefit from increased staffing for better coverage in their rural response areas. Staffing seems to be an issue that affects all fire services regardless of where they are. Sadly, the South Korean Fire Service lost one of its firefighters just prior to our visit and our Korean colleagues mentioned staffing levels as their primary reason for his untimely demise.

All of us received honorary Korean Firefighter's

In Memoriam



Assistant Chief Sonny Flynn
1934 - 2008

Fifty-Seventh career firefighter hired by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Sonny worked from 1961 to 1987 and retired at the rank of Assistant Chief.

certificates and plaques from the South Korean Fire Minister to commemorate our visit. We were extremely grateful for the hospitality and to show our appreciation we presented the South Korean government with a ceremonial gold plated fire axe.

The resounding success of this program cannot be fully put into words and we all appreciate the efforts of Fairfax County, from the County Executive, the Fire Chief, and the management of the Department. Future plans include additional personnel exchanges and I hope to see personnel from Fairfax County taking advantage of this wonderful program. In closing, I would like to thank all the line officers and chief officers who were responsible for making this possible for all of us who proudly represented the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Thank you once again. ❖

Community Program Highlights



Please extend a special thanks to Technician Keith E. Curriden and Firefighter Kyle L. Turner, Station 22, C-Shift; and Captain Troy H. Dean, Station 8, B-Shift.

Today the Tornquist family expressed how much they appreciated Truck 422 stopping by to visit Harold Tornquist at his home in my neighborhood. Harold was diagnosed with Leukemia and has one to six months to live. Harold's wife told Cathy that she couldn't remember when she smiled last. The family including the son, daughter, and grandchildren were all very impressed with the crew's professionalism and

interest in Harold's career as a District of Columbia firefighter. In addressing the crew before they left, Harold stated that this was a special day for him. I truly believe there is no other wish that could have been granted to this family.

We can be assured that this gesture will never be forgotten by the Tornquist family and Harold.

Job well done,
John

Large Loss Fire Investigations

Date: 5/9/2008 **Box:** 30-01 **Address:** Providence Forest Drive/Gallows Road **Type:** Vehicle
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$62,000 **Loss:** \$58,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 5/24/2008 **Box:** 05-29 **Address:** 7161 Silver Lake Boulevard **Type:** Residential
Cause: Undetermined **Value:** \$3,000,000 **Loss:** \$75,000 **Status:** Inactive

Date: 5/29/2008 **Box:** 10-00 **Address:** 6129 Columbia Pike **Type:** Commercial
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$575,000 **Loss:** \$250,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 6/5/2008 **Box:** 17-16 **Address:** 14614 Compton Road **Type:** Commercial
Cause: Accidental-Transformer **Value:** \$1,500,000 **Loss:** \$1,500,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 6/6/2008 **Box:** 18-30 **Address:** 6255 Parkwood Court #304 **Type:** Residential
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$130,000 **Loss:** \$80,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 6/6/2008 **Box:** 29-09 **Address:** 1008 Kimberwicke Road **Type:** Residential
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$808,575 **Loss:** \$60,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 6/7/2008 **Box:** 22-07 **Address:** 7209 Neuman Street **Type:** Residential
Cause: Under Investigation **Value:** \$337,230 **Loss:** \$75,000 **Status:** Open

Date: 6/9/2008 **Box:** 01-12 **Address:** 7050 Arbor Lane **Type:** Residential
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$845,745 **Loss:** \$100,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 6/10/2008 **Box:** 08-15 **Address:** 7154 Beverly Street **Type:** Structure
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$579,935 **Loss:** \$52,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 6/10/2008 **Box:** 23-05 **Address:** 4920 Wakefield Chapel Road **Type:** Residential
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$462,465 **Loss:** \$150,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 6/13/2008 **Box:** 42-12 **Address:** 308 Plum Street SW **Type:** Residential
Cause: Undetermined **Value:** \$299,370 **Loss:** \$125,000 **Status:** Inactive

Date: 7/8/2008 **Box:** 09-43 **Address:** 7807 Bedford Drive 301 **Type:** Residential
Cause: Accidental-Kitchen **Value:** \$7,346,355 **Loss:** \$110,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 7/14/2008 **Box:** 04-07 **Address:** 1108 Jeff Ryan Drive **Type:** Residential
Cause: Accidental-Kitchen **Value:** \$361,095 **Loss:** \$100,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 7/16/2008 **Box:** 40-09 **Address:** 4618 West Ox Road **Type:** Vehicle
Cause: Accidental **Value:** \$75,000 **Loss:** \$75,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 7/29/2008 **Box:** 23-02 **Address:** 8700 Little River Turnpike **Type:** Commercial
Cause: Under Investigation **Value:** \$1,327,020 **Loss:** \$1,000,000 **Status:** Open

Quality Management, EMS Division Stroke (Cerebrovascular Accident) Q2-2008

By Beth Adams and Maura Ardike
Emergency Medical Services

Introduction: Strokes affect approximately 780,000 people annually (American Heart Association/American Stroke Association 2008 update statistics). Many who are afflicted with the symptoms of a stroke are first treated by personnel within the prehospital environment. It is the duty of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, as a public safety agency that delivers emergency medical care, to deliver the highest quality care to those presenting with stroke-like symptoms through timely assessment, proper treatment, and appropriate transport destination. The goal of this review is to assess the quality of care provided to all patients presenting with stroke/stroke-like symptoms within a specified time period.

Methods: Data was collected retrospectively from all EMS calls in April, May, and June of 2008. All patient care reports (FRD-207s) were manually reviewed for inclusion into the data set. All patient care reports with documented patient presentation of stroke-like symptoms were entered into a database for subsequent analysis (presentations of severe headache, focal deficits, or chief complaints relating to stroke were included).

Design: The Northern Virginia EMS Council (NVEMSC) Performance Improvement Committee identified dichotomous variables (quality indicators) indicative of quality care for stroke patients. See table below:

Data Element: Time of symptom onset
Definition: Documentation of a specific time of symptom onset, for example 0800 hours or 15 minutes prior to EMS arrival.

Data Element: Use of stroke assessment tool
Definition: Documentation of stroke assessment (Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Assessment).

Data Element: Blood glucose assessment
Definition: Documentation that blood sugar was checked during the initial assessment.

Data Element: Hypoxia assessment
Definition: Documentation of assessment of oxygen saturation.

Data Element: Hypotension assessment
Definition: Documentation of blood pressure monitoring.

Data Element: Transportation to Stroke Center
Definition: Transportation to designated stroke center, including Inova Fairfax, Inova Alexandria, and Virginia Hospital Center - Arlington.

Results
The manual review identified 227 patients as meeting the stroke criteria. Demographics for age and gender distribution below:

Gender	
Male	46.3 percent
Female	51.5 percent
Not specified	2.2 percent

Age Distribution	
Age Group	Number of patients
Pediatric*	0.4 percent
19-29	0.8 percent
30-39	3.5 percent
40-49	6.2 percent
50-59	9.3 percent
60-69	20.3 percent
70-79	20.7 percent
80-89	29.5 percent
90-99	7.5 percent
100+	1.3 percent
Not specified.....	0.4 percent

*Pediatric patient, 10 year old with history of stroke.

The percent of each data element considered independently is as follows:

Data Element	Result
Time of symptom onset documented	59.0 percent
Stroke assessment tool documented	98.2 percent
Blood glucose assessment	80.6 percent
Hypoxia assessment	93.0 percent
Hypotension assessment	99.5 percent
Transportation to Stroke Center	86.8 percent

Considering all data elements cumulatively, providers performed all the identified quality indicators in 93 patients, yielding an overall compliance of 41 percent.

Although not identified by the NVEMSC as a quality indicator, time in which a stroke patient is treated and transported is of noted importance within the Fairfax County protocols. Data was further collected to identify which patients were seen by prehospital personnel within three hours of symptom onset. Considering all patients, 48 percent patients were initially assessed by EMS less than three hours from symptom onset, 18.5 percent patients were initially assessed by EMS personnel over three hours after symptom onset, and 33.5 percent patients had an unknown time of symptom onset.

Discussion

The results from the data collected demonstrate that when a patient is presenting with stroke-like symptoms providers consistently utilize the stroke assessment tool and monitor blood pressure. Hypoxia assessment and blood glucose monitoring were not as consistently performed. The documentation of time of symptom onset was inconsistently documented and has noted room for improvement. As EMS agencies strive to perform high quality care, improvement benchmarks for quality indicators such as "documented time of onset" should be defined and necessary steps to inform the providers of such inconsistencies should be taken.

Limitations

Although measures were taken to eliminate human error, potential for error exists given the nature of a manual review of patient care reports.

Fill the Boot Campaign Kick-Off



Fire Chief Ronald Mastin; Supervisor Sharon Bulova, Braddock District; and John R. Niemiec, President, Local 2068; kick-off the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's "Fill The Boot" Campaign at Fairfax Center Fire and Rescue Station 40, on August 27, 2008.

In addition, data is reliant on the provider's documentation of a specific task, rather than observation of the real-time patient assessment. The use of quantifiable data elements are representative of the quality of care, however, quality care involves more than whether or not a task was documented.

Conclusion

System providers utilize the stroke assessment tool and need to improve documentation of the time of symptom onset. System providers show the need for significant improvement given overall compliance with the identified quality indicators was less than 50 percent. Additionally, the findings yielded by this review should spur subsequent research into the treatment of patients presenting with stroke like symptoms, including follow up on patient outcomes, ascertaining the appropriateness of transport destination for those taken to stroke centers and for those who were not, as well as assessing the appropriateness of any additional interventions prehospital providers may have performed. Other studies may result in further insight into the true quality of care provided to patients. ❖

Second Quarter Promotions



Individuals promoted at the Second Quarter Promotional Ceremony. Front Row, (left to right): Technician Rolf F. Lenzsch Jr., Captain I Robert L. Burlingame, Captain I Gary C. Dize, Captain I James R. Stricklen, Captain I Joseph Palau III, Captain II Arthur D. Cox, Captain II Fred H. Brandell Jr., Battalion Chief David L. Warner, and Captain II Reginald T. Johnson. Back Row (left to right): Captain I Thomas G. Arnold, Lieutenant Kevin R. Coen, Lieutenant Thomas J. Griffin, Lieutenant David S. Gaertner, Lieutenant Mark D. Ebersole, Lieutenant David G. Bentley, Lieutenant Patrick Sheehan, and Lieutenant Felicia N. Johnson.

2007 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Awards



2007 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Awards. Front row (left to right): **Administrative Officer (Tie):** Patrick J. Decker, Franconia Volunteer Fire Department; **Special Recognition:** Alan M. Woolf, Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department; **Volunteer Canteen Member:** James W. Jordan, Centreville Volunteer Fire Department; **Administrative Officer (Tie):** Susan A. Orsini, Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department; **Volunteer ALS Provider:** Deborah Volker, Franconia Volunteer Fire Department; **Chairman** Gerald E. Connolly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; **Volunteer Firefighter:** Keith A. Edgemon, Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department; **Special Recognition:** Virginia Burke, Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department; and **Volunteer Rookie:** Jeffrey A. Snow, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Second row (left to right): **Administrative Member:** Marva E. Williams, Centreville Volunteer Fire Department; **Volunteer Operations Officer:** Thomas K. Warnock, Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department; **Special Recognition:** Robert J. Mizer, Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department; and **Fire Chief's Award:** Gerald B. Strider, Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department. Not pictured: **Volunteer BLS Provider:** Camilla M. Hollenbeck, Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company; and **Special Recognition:** Robert Burke, Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department.

(Continued on page 17)

- Hazardous Materials Services Branch supports the daily operation of the HMIS section and incorporates the administrative function of the LEPC. Manages the budget and oversight of the entire Fire Prevention Division. Also provides legislative and policy review for the division. Provides technical outreach and liaison to federal and state entities dealing with Prevention issues.

Significant accomplishments during the past year include:

- The completion of the Fairfax Inspections Database Online (FIDO) program. A multi-agency licensing and permitting system which captures all of the code information needed for plans review, permits, inspections, and tests in a database shared by the Fire Prevention Division and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and Health Department.
- The \$99,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant received to complete the Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System Training Lab. A course curriculum will be designed to educate firefighters, fire marshals, and property managers throughout the region with fire protection system operations.
- All evidence collected from incidents investigated by the Office of the Fire Marshal, Investigations Branch, will be kept in the Evidence Room at Oakton Fire and Rescue Station 34.
- Plans review and inspection services fees were increased from \$96 to \$128 an hour.
- Restitution in the amount of \$94,000 from an incident in Centreville involving illegal explosives.

The Fire Prevention Division welcomes all employees to visit the Burkholder Building. We hope that many of you will consider the possibility of working in the Fire Prevention Division sometime in the future. Everyone on staff is more than happy to provide you a tour and answer any of your questions. Everyone is welcome to visit anytime. ❖

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July 10, 2008

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 ANTHONY J. ROMANELLO, ICMA-CM

Mr. Anthony H. Griffin
 County Executive
 Government Center
 12000 Government Center Parkway
 Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Fire Chief Ronald L. Mastin
 Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department
 4100 Chain Bridge Road
 Fairfax, Virginia 22030

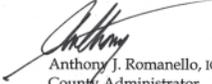
Subject: Tornado Recovery

Dear Gentlemen:

On behalf of Stafford County, this is a long overdue thank you to you both for the resources provided during our response and recovery to the May 8th tornado. Fairfax County's immediate and generous response was critical in Stafford's efforts to help the 160 families affected by the tornado.

While I would never wish a natural disaster on any community, we do look forward to returning the favor at some point in the near future.

Thanks to you and your fine staff.

Sincerely,

 Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM
 County Administrator

AJR:wam

cc: Board of Supervisors
 Mike Neuhard
 Chief Rob Brown

Community Service at It's Best



Daniel V. Gray, Secretary/Treasurer Local 2068, Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerald W. Hyland, John R. Niemiec, President, Local 2068; and Mount Vernon Fire and Rescue Station 9 personnel stand near a newly placed Adopt A Highway sign. Personnel have pledged to keep the Sherwood Hall Lane area free of litter.

"Taking Up"



**Battalion Chief
Dewey H. Perks**

Entry Date: June 26, 1972

Retirement Date: August 15, 2008

Recruit School Number: 23

Assignments: Too many to list, ended in Urban Search and Rescue

Likes about the Fire

Department: Everything; the challenges and opportunities presented; lending assistance to the public; making friends; cussing management; and always honored to say I was from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

Will miss about the Fire

Department: Everything, especially our marvelous civilian staff. I think often that these men and women are overlooked and unappreciated. I encourage all uniforms to remember our civilians make a difference each day.

Plans for the future: Continue working in the international realm; starting work soon with the United States Agency for International Development.

Words of wisdom: Be nice to one another; be able to look in the mirror each day and say you made a difference.

What got you interested in the fire service? Growing up in a small town in West Virginia;

joined the local volunteer fire department in 1968. Learned how rewarding it can be to help someone in need.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Too many to list - most no one would know or remember. My mother was a nurse, so that is what started it. James Mountjoy, Freeland Young, Warren Isman, Glenn Gaines, Ed Stinnette, Mike Neuhard, and Ron Mastin. Marty Smith, Brenda Call (Tincher), Yvonne Dabney, Jeanne Dargush, Glenn Benarick, Virgil Weber, Tom Wealand, Dave Taylor, Mayuri Middough, Kelly Lehman, Brenda Bauman, Garrett Dyer, Sunnie Cardwell, Edie Beitzel, Scotty Boatright, Dave Carpenter, Dan Bickham, Don Booth, Bob Dube, Ralph Dulaney, Marge Porter, Vicki Dawson, Liz Rhodes (Beckner), Tom Wolfe, Phil Tricarico, Jim Swiggett, Chris Raabe, Jack Akre, Sonny Flynn, Chuck Jarrell, Bergie Frazier, Carroll Groff, Dallas Slempp, Bill Bullock, Dave Brooks, Paul Brooks, Bill Kingdon, Richard Slepetz and the list goes on. Tomorrow I will remember someone else that was critical to me and I apologize for that - suffice to say that everyone I have ever met has influenced me.



**Master Technician
Michael "Hammer" J. Stone**

Entry Date: January 21, 1981

Retirement Date: July 21, 2008

Recruit School Number: 53

Assignments: 17, 30, and 18

Likes about the Fire

Department: "Everything." The people, you get the opportunity to work in the field, running emergency calls and helping people in their time of need, getting to "play" with so many nice toys (such as the ones on the rescue squad.) Being part of a shift - it's like having a second family. My fire department career has been everything I dreamed it to be and so much more. I hope yours will be too.

Will miss about the Fire

Department: Everything I just said in "Likes about the Fire Department."

Plans for the future: Take it one day at a time . . . get my shoulder fixed (it's killing me) spend more time with family, work around the house, go fishing more often, and work part time (but only if I feel like it.) I hope the man upstairs gives me a few more good years to enjoy this wonderful life.

Words of wisdom: If you are in this career for the money - do the people you work with and the people you serve a big favor and look for another job. You are in the wrong one. This career is about so much more - you do this job for the love for it and for helping others. Respect - you have to earn it. There is no test you can take and you can't demand it. Treat people the way you would like to be treated and you will do fine. Please don't pass judgement on people because of what others

tell you about them. Meet the person yourself and make your own decision. I think you all know what I mean. The most important – always give 110 percent. Never stop learning on the job. Remember your family always comes first. This career can take a big toll on the home front if you let it. Finding that happy medium can be very difficult sometimes but always keep that in mind.

What got you interested in the fire service? It was a child's dream. I have always wanted to be a firefighter. My Uncle Sidney Bishop was a Deputy Chief in the D.C. Fire Department with 34 years of service. I think he had a lot to do with me choosing this career.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Each and everyone of you . . . stay safe and look after each other. It's very important in this career. When it comes down to it, each other is all we have. P.S. I would like to thank the Fairfax County Fire

Fond Farewell



Anne P. Reynolds
Photo Specialist

and Rescue Department (all of you) for the best years of my life. It has been an honor working for the department.

Retirements

Technician
Kenneth J. Athing
June 2, 1980 - August 4, 2008

Lieutenant
Edward G. Dodson
August 18, 1975 - August 19, 2008

Master Technician
Claire O. Ducker
May 17, 1971 - August 5, 2008

Lieutenant
Gregg M. Hayre
January 12, 1981 - August 3, 2008

Deputy Chief
Kevin L. Kincaid
September 24, 1979 - July 22, 2008

Lieutenant
Dale Moxley
January 24, 1983 - July 31, 2008

Battalion Chief
Dewey H. Perks
June 26, 1972 - August 15, 2008

Master Technician
Mark S. Pullman
August 3, 1981 - August 15, 2008

Captain I
Michael L. Runnels
June 2, 1980 - August 29, 2008

Master Technician
Michael J. Stone
January 12, 1981 - July 21, 2008

New Hires

Barry J. Hall
Kirk J. Speier
La Tycia S. Tank

Anniversaries

5 Years

Technician Hugh C. Clarke
Acting Technician Mark J. Deyneka
Technician Michael E. Duffy
Stanley E. Earl, Management Analyst II
Firefighter Lawrence L. Ellison
Lieutenant Jeanette Hannibal
Lieutenant Yolanda Hartwell
Lieutenant Felicia N. Johnson
Acting Technician Joel J. Kobersteen
Lieutenant Mark E. Kordalski
Donald H. Layman, Auto. Parts Specialist II
Technician Michael S. Lee
Acting Technician Luis A. Mata
Technician Douglas L. Miller
John E. Moore, Fire Inspector III
Firefighter Miguel Obleas
Firefighter Stephen J. Painter
Kathy N. Pham, Programmer Analyst III
Firefighter James S. Pinkney II
Technician Christopher Sampl
Technician Daniel M. Sova
Firefighter Spencer L. Spinner
Scott Weir, Disaster Assistance Specialist II
Technician Robert E. Wells

20 Years

Lieutenant George L. Diaz
Firefighter Mark D. Franklin
Captain II Anthony L. Jackson

25 Years

Lieutenant Pete J. Bendo
Captain II Gavin D. Bourjaily
Technician Robert M. Downing
Battalion Chief Charles R. Hawkins
Battalion Chief James L. Hedrick
Technician George M. Hoff
Captain I Michael B. Keys
Lieutenant Joseph M. Kratochvil
Lieutenant Matthew P. Malof
Master Technician John C. Mayers, Jr.
Firefighter Michael R. Ortmann
Captain II Milton L. Painter
Captain I Richard C. Smith
Firefighter Dennis Thompson
Captain I Glenn F. Tschann
Lieutenant Gary W. Vozzola
Captain I Paul L. White

35 Years

Battalion Chief Dewey H. Perks

36 Years

Master Technician Clair O. Ducker, Jr.

40 Years

James J. Jordan, Fire Apparatus Mechanic

Station Profile

Franconia Fire and Rescue Station 5

Captain II
Fred H. Brandell, Jr.
Station Commander

Volunteer Chief
Timothy G. Fleming



Station constructed: 1967

Station specialty: Tower, Medic, Brush Unit

Square miles in first due area: 8

Specific hazardous/target areas: CSX Railroad, Virginia Railway Express Train Station, US Route 495, Large warehouse complexes including a large cold storage warehouse, and Springfield Hospital.

Total calls in 2007: 6,020

Equipment assigned to station: Tower 405, Engine 405, Medic 405, VC405, Brush 405, Utility, Reserve Engine, Reserve Ambulance

Station personnel: **A-Shift:** Captain I Christopher Thompson, Lieutenant Nicholas Weresnick III, Jr., Lieutenant Timothy C. Walker, Master Technician David J. May, Technician John C. Manvell, Firefighter Nicholas L. Basil, Firefighter Kenneth W. Clark, Firefighter Joshua E. Destefano, Firefighter Toussaint M. Holland, Firefighter Bryan C. Knupp, and Firefighter Hyun J. Lee. **B-Shift:** Captain I James B. Johnson, Lieutenant Carlton Chatmon, Lieutenant James D. Wilson, Master Technician Sean D. Hodgson, Technician Frances J. Webb, Acting Technician Victor F. Popovich, Firefighter Ariel R. Banagan, Firefighter Eric S. Britton, Firefighter Marlon K. Charles, Firefighter Christopher P. Murray, and Firefighter Marcus D. Wilson. **C-Shift:** Captain II Fred H. Brandell, Jr., Lieutenant Matthew D. Black, Lieutenant Matthew P. Malof, Technician Michael D. Macario, Technician Jason M. Roberts, Firefighter Medic Paul M. Corso, Firefighter Medic Austin Bigdely, Firefighter Nathan R. Larkin, Firefighter Robert C. Young, and Firefighter Kyle L. Turner.

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

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