

# LINE COPY

Volume III, 2011 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



Fire Chief Ronald L. Mastin presents the 2011 Firefighter of the Year leather helmet to Lieutenant Marc S. Davidson, Fire and Rescue Academy, July 20, 2011, in the A-Level Conference Center, Massey Building. Lieutenant Davidson is the 26th recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award. (Photo by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)



Ronald L. Mastin

*“The time spent in New York talking with many retired and active members that responded that day really made one appreciate the tremendous sacrifices that all first responders endured.”*

## From The Fire Chief . . .

The ten year anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, will have passed when this edition is published, but I think it only fitting as a number of us return from the recent World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) held in New York City to reflect on our recent visit. The theme of the WPFG: “Honor, Remembrance, and Gratitude” set the tone for the games and the candlelight vigil that followed at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine on the evening of September 5, 2011.

I had the distinct privilege to talk with many members of public safety organizations from more than 70 countries, and while Hurricane Irene dampened the start of the games, it did not dampen the spirit of the first responders. Our public safety personnel were there to compete in various sporting events, but more importantly, they gathered to honor those that made the ultimate sacrifice ten years ago. Throughout the games, these athletes and their families made their way to Ground Zero to witness the remnants of the Twin Towers and the Freedom Tower under construction. They could also be seen stopping by Station 10, located in view of the Twin Towers, to admire the engraved scenes of that tragic day. This may have been the most photographed tribute to the events of 9/11/01.

The time spent in New York talking with many retired and active members that responded that day really made one appreciate the tremendous sacrifices that all first responders endured. The collective pride of first responders from all

around the world was clearly visible and moving as all of us were charged with the same important responsibility in our respective communities.



I want to thank the athletes who participated in the games, and the staff that attended countless meetings and events to learn how we can best manage this event when it comes to Fairfax in 2015. This seems like a date in the distant future, but planning has been ongoing for the past two years, and the next four years will be extremely busy and challenging. Captain Jerome Williams, Lieutenant Craig Luecke, and Lieutenant Blechel from the Police Department, have been detailed to this project for the next four years to ensure the games go on as planned and become a huge success in 2015. They are extremely dedicated to this event as demonstrated by their commitment during our visit to New York. With over 60 events, there will be something for everyone, so sharpen your game and prepare for the most prestigious athletic and networking event for public safety personnel in the world. v

Ronald L. Mastin, *Fire Chief*  
Dan Schmidt, *Editor*  
Cathy Jo Richards, *Layout and Design*

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Firefighter of the Year Award recipient Lieutenant Marc Davidson, pictured with his wife, Denise, his daughter, Victoria Marie, and son, Marc Daniel. (Photo by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)



Captain II Charles Pullen, President, Progressive Firefighters, Inc., presents Krizia-Ivana Udquim, a senior at Lake Braddock High School, with their 2011 Annual Scholarship award of \$500 on August 9, 2011. Pictured from left to right is Captain I Chris Thompson, Mother, Liz Udquim, Father, Jose Udquim, Krizia-Ivana Udquim, and Captain II Charles Pullen. (Photo by Ensberg Udquim)

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# Thirty-Third Annual Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards



*Members of Virginia Task Force 1 responded to the Haiti earthquake, January 12, 2010.*

## Haiti Earthquake Response SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

In January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. Initial reports suggested a high number of casualties and widespread damage with an urgent need for search and rescue. The Fairfax County, Virginia, Urban Search and Rescue team mobilized immediately, with the initial team of 72 search, rescue and medical personnel and six canines on the ground in the affected area within 24 hours of the disaster's onset. A second Fairfax County USAR team consisting of 42 personnel and one canine deployed two days later, merging with the first team.

USAR team USA-1 conducted search and rescue operations in and around Port au Prince. The team was able to make 16 rescues; 12 of which were made within the first 48 hours; and assisted with humanitarian aid.

Two particular situations illustrate the difficul-

ties and dangers faced by the Urban Search and Rescue Team:

- A large, five-story hotel, full of tourists and government workers before the earthquake, had completely collapsed. The team arrived at the site and entered into a chaotic and politically charged environment with multiple international teams operating on the same work site, under extremely hazardous conditions. By breaching and breaking concrete and tunneling through unstable areas, team members were able to reach many of those entombed by the structure, making or assisting in eight rescues at the site.
- At the University of Port au Prince, a five-story college campus building had undergone a "pancake" collapse. After many live victims were found and no other rescue assets were

available, USA-1 entered the scene and found that there were possibly five victims trapped in the rubble and started rescue operations. They were able to extricate all five victims within 33 hours, despite having to move amongst dozens of deceased and some of the most tenuous structures without a true ability to shore the building.

While Urban Search and Rescue is one of the most hazardous undertakings in the arena of public safety, the mission to Haiti contained some of the most dangerous, yet successful, operations to date. During the mission, members were exposed to unstable collapsed buildings, blood and other biohazards, a confused and needy populace, and extended work periods. Despite the challenges, the professionalism, courage, compassion, and fortitude of the members of USA-1 demonstrate the highest traditions of the United States Fire Service and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. v



*Pictured left to right: Firefighter Heather J. Lefever, Captain I Larry E. Jenkins, Firefighter Mark E. Huehn and Master Technician John L. Capps. Not pictured: Technician Davin E. Bridges.*

### Fatal House Fire

#### SILVER & BRONZE MEDALS OF VALOR

Upon arrival at an extensive house fire, the 4th and 5th Battalions were advised that two civilians were still inside the structure. With little regard for their own safety, they deployed into the first floor and the basement to suppress the fire and rescue the trapped occupants. Engine 422's crew had made it only 15 feet inside the basement when the kitchen floor

above them collapsed leaving them trapped in the burning basement.

Truck 422's crew immediately retrieved two chain saws and cut through the flooring that had blocked access through the rear door. Engine 408's crew operated a hose line to cool the basement and help control the ever increasing fire.

Engine 408 and Truck 422's crews functioned, and succeeded as a team. The collective and individual efforts determined the outcome. Captain Jenkins maintained constant contact with Engine 422's crew directing them to the rescue access points, keeping them calm, focusing the rescue efforts, and providing excellent updates to command.

Technician Bridges and Firefighter Lefever both maintained an effective attack position for continued control of the fire. Without their attack presence, the crew inside, whose protective hose line was compromised and unusable, would have faced certain burn injuries.

Master Technician Capps and Firefighter Huehn both received a Silver Medal. Technician Bridges, Captain I Jenkins, and Firefighter Lefever each received a Bronze Medal of Valor for their heroic and selfless roles in this incident. v



#### Captain II Anthony L. Jackson BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR

Captain II Anthony Jackson was traveling in his private vehicle when he came upon the scene of a three-vehicle accident. Captain Jackson noticed that there was fire under the most severely damaged vehicle. A

*(Continued on Page 6)*

(Continued from Page 5)

citizen informed him that the vehicle was occupied. Neither of the two front seat passengers was conscious. Captain Jackson cut the passenger's seat belt and carried her to the side of the road. The driver became conscious and removed himself from the vehicle.

Captain Jackson returned to the car and was told that there were children trapped in the rear of the vehicle. He climbed through the front of the car to access the children, while fire units began cutting open the rear. Captain Jackson was able to remove one child from his car seat and the other child was removed by fire units.

Captain Jackson's responsive, skilled, and selfless actions saved these people's lives and protected them from further harm. v



**Battalion Chief William A. Garrett**  
**LIFESAVING AWARD**

Station 16 was celebrating the retirement of their longtime Station Captain. During the dinner, the Station Captain began choking on a piece of meat. Chief Garrett recognized the Captain was in distress and asked if he was choking. Chief Garrett positioned himself to provide aid to the Captain. He dislodged the obstruction, and the Captain began normal breathing. While providing aid to victims is an everyday occurrence for Fire and Rescue employees, the level of anxiety and stress is amplified when a fellow employee requires aid. Battalion Chief Garrett used his training and expertise in a quick and professional manner, thereby saving a life. v



*Pictured left to right: Technician G. Brian Mayhugh, Firefighter Keith Baughan, Firefighter B. Wayne Talbert, and Technician Ryan S. Fletcher. Not pictured: Lieutenant Marc S. Davidson and Technician Richard N. Mitchell.*

### **Potomac River Rescue** **LIFESAVING AWARD**

Engine Company, Medic, and Fire Boat 420 responded with Fairfax One for a report of three people in the water near Pohick Bay Marina. The victims had been canoeing in the bay when their canoe capsized. The current was headed out to the Potomac River making it nearly impossible for the victims to swim to shore. Civilians could hear the people screaming, but they could not see them because the victims were too far off-shore.

Personnel from Fire Station 420 rapidly placed the fire boat in service. Fairfax One rapidly located the first victim and guided FB420 to his location. Firefighter Baughan entered the water from the fire boat and rescued the victim. After retrieving the victim from the water they immediately started to treat the cold and wet victim while continuing the search for the second victim. Fairfax One located the second victim and guided FB420 to his location. Firefighter Baughan entered the water again and rescued the second victim.

It took less than 19 minutes from the time of dispatch to remove both victims from the frigid waters. Under poor conditions, cold water, rapid current, and a pitch black night, the skill and rapid actions of the personnel assigned to FB420 saved these victims from serious injury, and possibly death. v



**Technician Anthony D. Shockley  
LIFESAVING AWARD**

A request was made over the PA for a doctor or a nurse to assist when a citizen suffered a medical emergency in the terminal of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Technician Anthony Shockley, waiting for a flight, proceeded to the area to assist. He saw a person on the ground, checked for signs of life, and finding none, immediately began CPR. Using an AED, he delivered a shock and continued CPR immediately following defibrillation. After several minutes, the patient began to breathe. Technician Shockley utilized his training and skills in a quick and professional manner without regard for his own safety. In doing so, he provided this man with a chance at recovery from a serious medical emergency. ▽

*(\*All valor award photos taken by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)*

## Community Outreach



*Fire Station 410, B-Shift provided a show and tell to Parkland Elementary during their summer program, July 14, 2011.*

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



*Construction progress continues with the new Fire and Rescue Station 12, Great Falls. (Photo By Volunteer Chief Homer Johns)*



# 131st Recruit School



*Firefighter Medic  
Adam S. Bartman*



*Firefighter  
Paul G. Beasley, Jr.*



*Firefighter  
Richard J. Beatty*



*Firefighter Medic  
Trevor A. Billingsley*



*Firefighter Medic  
James L. Campbell*



*Firefighter Medic  
Nathan S. Cheon*



*Firefighter  
Todd E. Clist*



*Firefighter  
Justin C. Cuffee*



*Firefighter  
Rachel A. Defibaugh*



*Firefighter  
Daniel G. Delboy*



*Firefighter Medic  
Sergey Fedorovskiy*



*Firefighter Medic  
Jeremy L. Fox*



*Firefighter Medic  
Thomas E. Hill III*



*Firefighter  
Daniel V. Holton, Jr.*



*Firefighter Medic  
Christopher R. Lindsey*



*Firefighter  
Ashlyn F. Meerholz*



*Firefighter  
Kevin E. Nishiyama*



*Firefighter  
Sean A. O'Neill*



*Firefighter Medic  
Alisha A. Reakoff*



*Firefighter Medic  
Eric W. Schlueter*



*Firefighter  
Jonathan D. Schmelz*



*Firefighter Medic  
Andrew W. Snell*



*Firefighter Medic  
Adam G. Wiesler*





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June 17, 2011

Deputy Chief Keith Morrison  
EMS Administration, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

The Police Unity Tour – Chapter IV would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Captain Jerome Williams, Doctor Scott Weir, and Medics Joshua Allen, Karl Gorza, and Justin Parrock for their dedication and assistance to this year's inaugural ride.

We had an incredible experience this year due to the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers and support staff who worked diligently to ensure all of the riders remained safe and healthy throughout the 3-day ride. Your medical staff remained enthusiastic, attentive, and focused on the safety of all members, providing care when necessary. They also volunteered to remain available after-hours at the hotels for any medical concerns that arose.

Their dedication and professionalism to our members became even more evident when we had a rider crash during the last leg of the ride on day one. Your medical team assessed for potential injuries, and based on the injury complaint encouraged the rider to have a hospital conduct a further and complete examination. Your personnel stayed with that rider at the hospital providing support and acting as a liaison with the hospital medical staff from that jurisdiction. That same night another rider started having an asthma attack and again your personnel provided the necessary medical treatment needed staying with the rider until the attack subsided.

Equally important, the attitude, cooperation, and camaraderie displayed by your medical staff with our members made everyone feel at ease both during the actual ride and in the evening hours when we had down time to recover. I received comments from many members, some of whom came from states all over the country, how wonderful our medics were and how great the relationship seemed to be between police and fire in our jurisdiction. I can think of no higher compliment to receive.

I thought I would also let you know that the Police Unity Tour donated \$1.5 million dollars this year to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Fund. Chapter IV was one of seven chapters who contributed to that remarkable and record breaking donation. Each and every member that participated this year, including your medics, played an important part in that accomplishment.

Chapter IV greatly appreciates the dedication and support you provided to the Police Unity Tour, and we continue to value the exceptional partnership between our police officers, fire fighters, and medics.

Fraternally,

Maggie A. DeBoard  
President, Police Unity Tour – Chapter IV  
Deputy Chief, Fairfax County Police Department

**Proud Sponsors of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial**

"WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO DIED"

# Stroke Care Advancement Benefits Patients, Providers Continue to Evolve with Education and New Tools

By Scott Weir, MD

Operational Medical Director

## Saving Brains

Stroke remains the third leading cause of death in the United States and is the leading cause of serious long-term disability. An estimated 795,000 people suffer a stroke annually in the U.S.

The majority of strokes are ischemic events which account for about 80 percent, while only 20 percent are hemorrhagic events caused by bleeding into or around the brain. Although less common, the hemorrhagic events tend to be more dramatic and more deadly. The majority of stroke system development was built most closely around ischemic stroke not hemorrhagic events.

### Types of Stroke

Ischemic stroke..... 87%

Hemorrhagic stroke (ICH) 10%

Subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) 3%

Source: strokecenter.org

## The System of Care

Stroke care has evolved significantly over the past five years nationally, regionally, and locally. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department was among the first to utilize a validated prehospital stroke screening tool, to implement primary transport to stroke centers and to communicate stroke alerts from the field. We were among the first to extend the window for primary transport to 4.5 hours, following evidence that TPA (Tissue Plasminogen Activator) can be used to treat select patients beyond the initial 3 hour rule. We continue to follow the emerging evidence. We are working closely with our system partners from neuro-

logy, neurosurgery, neurointerventional specialists and others to refine our management of ischemic stroke, and intracranial bleeds.

The availability of stroke centers has grown, along with a formal credentialing method by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) certification.

It is important to recognize however that these *primary stroke centers* are primarily designed around the care of acute ischemic strokes – not bleeds (i.e. – hemorrhagic CVA [ICH]) or subarachnoid hemorrhages). While comprehensive stroke centers have neurosurgical and/or neurointerventional capability, some primary stroke centers do not. Others still are working to develop and define their capabilities. Some patients with high suspicion of ICH/SAH may be transported directly to neurosurgical capable facilities. Decisions in the field are based on identification, stability, transport distances, and the field provider's on scene decision-making. Physician on-line medical direction is always available and may help identify transport destination in complex or unclear cases. If necessary, a strategy of identification at a primary stroke center and secondary transfer is reasonable. Identification of candidates for neurosurgical intervention is complex. The window for intervention is wider for hemorrhagic events than ischemic events – generally within 12 hours for intracerebral hemorrhage. Early treatment of aneurysm, to reduce the incidence of rebleeding, seems to be within 24 hours based on American Stroke Association guidelines for ICH and SAH (Stroke 2007 and Stroke 2009).

## JCAHO certified primary stroke centers

### Virginia

- HCA Reston Hospital
- INOVA Alexandria Hospital
- INOVA Fairfax Hospital
- INOVA Loudoun Hospital - Landsdowne
- INOVA Loudoun Hospital - Cornwall
- INOVA Mount Vernon
- Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington

### Washington DC & MD

- Suburban Hospital
- George Washington
- Georgetown
- Washington Hospital Center

Source: [Qualitycheck.org](http://Qualitycheck.org) and [Regional Stroke Plan](#)

## Refining Our Systems of Stroke Care

We will also be adding to our stroke education and patient assessment. We currently use the Cincinnati Stroke Scale. It is one of the two stroke screening tools designed and validated for use in the prehospital setting. It primarily identifies anterior circulation ischemic events. It does not identify posterior circulation events quite as well, nor does it distinguishing hemorrhagic events from ischemic events. We plan to include

recognition of the major stroke syndromes, as well as integrate the Miami Emergency Neurologic Deficit exam (MEND exam) with the 2011 EMS manual. While our hospital-based partners use the NIH Stroke Scale, it is cumbersome and neither intended nor validated for prehospital use. We will also be working with our regional partners to integrate ASA recommendations for identifying patients with ICH/SAH and provide more formal guidance as part of our 2011 EMS manual.

There are also endovascular treatment options (i.e. - snaking the drain) for select patients with ischemic stroke in whom intravenous TPA alone is not as effective or not an option. These patients include large, proximal, anterior occlusions with large clots, as well as some posterior circulation events. The therapeutic window for endovascular intervention is less clearly defined. While earlier is likely better, endovascular intervention in anterior events may extend to 8 hours, and in some posterior circulation events as long as 24 hours.

Stroke care has advanced greatly over the past ten years and will continue to advance. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is proud to work with our partners and be a part of advancing stroke care locally and regionally. v

## Fire and EMS Safety, Health, and Survival Week Proclamation



*The Board of Supervisors designated June 19-25, 2011, as Fire and EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week in Fairfax County. Members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance lifesaving skills. Chairman Sharon Bulova presents the proclamation to Battalion Chief Danny Gray, Safety and Personnel Services. (Photo by Lisa Connors, Office of Public Affairs)*

# Observations on Medical Refusals: Thought Provoking Assessments, Outcomes, and Successes

by Beth Adams  
EMS Administration

Imagine that the worst nightmare of your life as an ALS provider has become reality and you've been called to testify on your own behalf regarding a patient refusal that regrettably ended with a bad outcome for the patient. How well does your ePCR reflect the situation you found, as well as the assessment and care you provided? Was the care you provided consistent with the Fire and Rescue Department's (FRD) current medical protocols? If it wasn't, did you consult online medical direction (OLMD) before initiating a nonprotocol intervention? Does your documentation of this event create a convincing picture that your patient was mentally competent to refuse and fully understood your recommendations and the risks of refusal?

If you were able to answer "yes" to all of the preceding questions, excellent! If not, you may be putting yourself and the FRD unnecessarily at risk. Unfortunately 76.6% of the ePCRs reviewed for the Q1-2011 patient refusal study failed to answer the "refusal questions" to establish the patient's capacity to refuse care. Andrew Seltzer states that "the legal ramifications of patient non-transport have become increasingly important in recent years, as they have been shown to constitute 50-90% of lawsuits against both EMS agencies and personnel." This figure represents both patient and provider initiated refusals.<sup>1</sup>

In the March 2004 edition of *EMS Insider*, Winnie Maggiore, JD, NREMT-P, recounted a suit from Louisiana (James Kyser v. Metro Ambulance, 764 So. 2d 215 [La. App. 2000]) where the plaintiff suffered a severe stroke after refusing care. The contention was that the EMS crew was grossly negligent for having left him in the care of his girlfriend. In her summary of the case, Ms. Maggiore noted that the crew's compliance with procedure, thorough documentation of their assessment/recommendations for treatment and consultation with OLMD contributed to the courts finding in favor of the EMS providers.<sup>2</sup>

One goal of an EMS system is to assess and treat patients and transport them to the appropriate facility for further evaluation by a physician. While it is certainly true that mentally competent adult patients have the right to refuse treatment and/or transportation, likewise parents who meet the same criteria have the right to refuse on behalf of their minor children. It is important that whatever decision the patient makes is an informed one. Equally important is the complete and accurate documentation of the situation as you found it, your assessment, interventions and an explanation of the recommended treatment as well as the risks of refusal. Suffice to say, the recommendation should never be merely "eat" and the risks are never "none." Unlike the Star Trek medical team, we do not have a tricorder that allows us to accurately identify everything that is medically going on with our patients, so we must advocate in our patient's best interests. That advocacy should be evident in the care we give and the guidance we provide, as well as our documentation of same. v

## References

1. Seltzer, Andrew et al. "Outcome Study of Minors after Parental Refusal of Paramedic Transport." *Prehospital Emergency Care*, July/September 2001, Volume 5, Number 3, pages 278-283.
2. Maggiore, W. Ann. "Patient Refusals Can Pose Legal Danger" *EMS Insider*. Volume 31, Number 3. March 2004.

## Best Practice Tip:

If the patient is unable to sign his/her name, under NO circumstance should the provider performing the assessment, documenting the care and counsel regarding risks/benefits/alternatives sign a refusal on behalf of the patient.

# Medical Refusals, Gaining Perspective and Feedback

by Beth Adams  
EMS Administration

As part of ongoing clinical quality assessment the Quality Management Section periodically reviews a sample of all refusals in order to garner a better understanding of the nature and treatments of patients who refuse care.

In Q1-2011 there were 1,918 patients encountered who refused care, approximately 13% of all patients encountered. In order to achieve statistical confidence in the results a sample of 252 refusals was randomly selected for manual review.

Gender		
Male	127	50.4%
Female	123	48.8%
Unknown	2	0.8%

Treatments/Interventions Performed		
Yes	68	27%
No	184	73%

### Types of emergencies

- 37% of the refusals were of patients that had experienced a traumatic injury (MVA's, falls, assaults and a burn)
- 63% were refusals from a medical complaint (including but not limited to diabetes, trouble breathing, allergic reaction, syncope, and sick person)

Patients were identified with 21 different types of emergencies:

Type	#	%
MVA	41	16.3%
Fall	37	14.7%
Other	29	11.5%
Diabetic	27	10.7%
Allergic reaction	14	5.6%
Respiratory distress	14	5.6%
Sick person	13	5.2%
Syncope	13	5.2%
Assault	11	4.4%
Seizure	11	4.4%
Chest Pain	8	3.2%
Abdominal Pain	7	2.8%
Pain	7	2.8%
Dizzy	6	2.4%
Hit Head	3	1.2%
Nose bleed	3	1.2%
Overdose	3	1.2%
Choking	2	0.8%
Burns	1	0.4%
Headache	1	0.4%
OB/GYN	1	0.4%

### Treatments, Interventions and Assessments

27% of the patients who refused care received a treatment or intervention

- 20 were given something for his/her diabetic emergency (13 dextrose, 5 oral glucose, 1 glucagon, 1 given food)
- 9 were administered supplemental oxygen
- An assessment tool was used for 25 patients including 12-lead EKG, c-spine assessment and diagnostic monitoring
- 14 injuries were dressed, bandaged, irrigated or had ice applied

### Obtaining the Refusal

The ePCR has a specific intervention that should be used to document the refusal questions. The refusal questions specifically relate to the patient's ability to make an informed decision concerning his or her medical care. This review included assessment of the use of the refusal protocol and overall documentation of a patient refusal.

#### ePCR Refusal Questions

- Closed Head Injury? (y/n)
- Drugs or Alcohol? (y/n)
- Language Barrier (y/n)
- Risks Explained (y/n)
- Treatment Recommended? (y/n)
- Patient released to? (Alone, in care of parent, relative or friend, with law enforcement)

	#	%
Treatment recommended	131	52 %
Risks explained	54	21 %
Mentation assessed thru GCS	190	75.4%

The patient refusal questions were NOT documented in the ePCR in 76.6% of the patients reviewed in the sample.

Providers noted portions of the refusal questions in the narratives, specifically if treatment was recommended or if risks were explained. Although level of consciousness is not a requirement in the ePCR refusal questions, for the purposes of this review, the provider assessment of GCS was used as an indicator to determine if patient mentation was checked.

Determination of whether providers assessed for a head injury, drugs or alcohol, or if a language barrier was present was more difficult to quantify. In conclusion, these observations show that better documentation is needed when obtaining a patient refusal. In addition, please note that when administering glucagon transportation by ambulance is indicated per protocol and food as an alternative to medication should be discussed with online medical direction.

# Hot Shots



Fireboat 420 pumped and relayed water from the Potomac River to an awaiting engine providing a much needed water supply to the house fire at 10606 Belmont Boulevard, August 6, 2011. Crews from B-Shift were challenged in several ways upon their arrival; the nearest hydrant was over a mile from the fire, the road leading to the home was extremely narrow, and the heat and high humidity made it difficult to fight the fire. Approximately half of the home sustained fire and water damage, with extensive smoke damage throughout the structure. Three adults and three children were displaced, and one firefighter was transported to INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital for a non-life threatening injury and later released. Damage was estimated at \$237,000. The fire is under investigation.



Firefighters from Fire and Rescue Station 40, Fairfax Center, and Rescue Squad 401 from Fire and Rescue Station 1, McLean, extricate an adult female driver involved in a two-car wreck, June 10, 2011, at the intersection of Legato Road and Post Forest Drive. The adult female driver was transported to INOVA Fairfax Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. (Photo by Lieutenant Thomas J. Griffin, Fire and Rescue Academy)



Technician Matt Guillaume and Firefighter Rodney Gray, Fire and Rescue Station 34, C-Shift, respond to a vehicle fire, August 13, 2011, on I-66 at Nutley Street. (Photo by Captain I Ronald A. Gemsheim, Fire and Rescue Station 34, C-Shift)



Firefighters from B-Shift contend with a tractor-trailer fire on I-66, mid-afternoon on July 5, 2011. The trailer, carrying a large load of hay, was uncoupled from the tractor. The hay fire resulted in a major highway incident and snarled traffic for several hours. Tankers were dispatched to bring the fire under control. There were no injuries.



Firefighters from B-Shift attack a house fire at 3901 Hummer Road, July 1, 2011. Firefighters were initially called for an outside fire; however, upon arrival the two-story home was on fire and received approximately \$225,000 of damage. Three occupants were displaced. Two firefighters were transported with non-life threatening injuries to INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Fire investigators ruled the fire as accidental. An outside electrical panel caused the fire.



Fairfax County units responded to a fire in a commercial strip center July 31, 2011, at 45999 Old Ox Road in Loudoun County. Engine 404 arrived first on scene, Truck 425 quickly followed along with TL 619 conducting extensive roof operations. Units operated on scene for more than two hours. The cause of the fire is under investigation. (Photo by Lieutenant Raymond Foster, Fire and Rescue Station 25, C-Shift)



Fire and Rescue Station 38, West Centreville, is the latest approved station patch. Currently, 33 of 37 stations have patches.



2011 **NEW YORK**  
WORLD POLICE & FIRE GAMES

Technician Brian Roberts, Fire and Rescue Station 24, Woodlawn, moves the puck around several Phoenix Police hockey players during the 2011 World Police and Fire Games held in New York City in August. Phoenix won the match 7-4. (Photo provided by the World Police and Fire Games)



Members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Hockey Team pose for a photo at the 2011 World Police and Fire Games. Front row (left to right): Firefighter Chris Herbolzheimer, Technician Brian Roberts, Captain I Jimmy Johnson, Captain II Patrick Kelly, Lieutenant Keith Cerzullo, Deputy Chief Chuck Ryan, and Firefighter Heather LeFever. Back row (left to right): Capt. I Pete Masters, Technician Steve Urban, Captain I Bob Banasik, Technician Dan Keyes, Firefighter Billy Harrington, Technician Chris Zach, and Firefighter Adam Thomes. (Photo by Supervisor Pat Herry, Springfield District)

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department hockey team takes a break between periods during their game with Phoenix Police at the 2011 World Police and Fire Games.





*Lieutenant (Retired) Doug Shaw swims one of the legs of the medley relay race at the 2011 World Police and Fire Games.*

*The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Paintball Team, the "Krusherz," won Silver Medals at the 2011 World Police and Fire Games competition held in New York City. Front Row (left to right): Lieutenant Tim Barb, Technician Andy Choi, Firefighter Andrew Neuhaus, Technician Chaz Takacs, Captain I Todd Barb, and Coach Samuel Haynes, Nephew of Captain II Mike Garcia. Back Row (left to right): Master Police Officer Lincoln Kieffer, Fairfax County Police Department, and Firefighter Travis Nguyen.*



*Members of the various departments and agencies observe the closing ceremonies concluding the 2011 World Police and Fire Games, September 4, 2011, held in New York City.*



## 2011 World Police & Fire Games

### Ice Hockey Participants

Name	Rank	Work Location/Shift
Robert Banasik	Captain I	31-B
Keith Cerzullo	Lieutenant	FTO-C
William Harrington	Firefighter	28-C
Christopher Herbolzheimer	Firefighter	28-C
James Johnson	Captain I	5-B
Patrick Kelly	Captain II	30-C
Daniel Keyes	Acting Technician-EMS	36-C
Heather LeFever	Firefighter	8-A
Pete Masters	Captain I	Safety & Personnel Services
Brian Roberts	Technician- EMS	24-C
Charles Ryan	Deputy Fire Chief	OPS-B
Jennifer Sherman	Firefighter Medic	4-C
Adam Thomes	Technician-EMS	37-C
Stephen Urban	Technician-EMS	34-A
Christopher Zach	Technician-EMS	34-A

### "Krusherz" Paintball Team

Name	Rank	Work Location/Shift
Todd Barb (Team Captain)	Captain I	22 - C
Tim Barb	Lieutenant	14 - B
Andrew Choi	Technician	35 - B
Andrew Neuhaus	Firefighter	35 - B
Travis Nguyen	Firefighter	1 - A
Bruce Stark	Master Technician	1 - C
Chaz Takacs	Technician	35 - B

### Individual & Paired Competitors

Name	Rank	Work Location/Shift	Event(s) / Sport(s)
Ariel Banagan	Firefighter	5-B	Bench Press
Randal Bittinger	Lieutenant	39-B	Cross Country 5k
Tie Burtlow	Lieutenant	30-C	1. Track & Field / Discus 2. Shot Put 3. Toughest Competitor Alive
Hugh (Caldwell) Clarke	Lieutenant	22-B	1. Stair Race 2. Road Race 21.1k
Neil Daniel	Firefighter	35-A	1. Men's Senior B 1500m Race 2. Men's Senior B 5000m Race
Andrew Devlin	Lieutenant	22-B	Triathlon
Samuel Gray	Captain II	Academy	Motocross
Michael Kovach	Technician	18-C	Triathlon
Romulo Maciel	Firefighter	31-C	1. Table Tennis 2. Surfing
Angel Melendez	Master Technician	29-C	Bodybuilding - Individual & Mixed Pairs
Holly Owings	Technician	34-B	Bodybuilding - Individual & Mixed Pairs
Ralph Pisani	Captain I	8-A	Bodybuilding
Andrew Reedy	Acting Technician	12-C	1. Swimming - 50 Fly 2. Triathlon 3. Swimming - 100 IM & 50 Back
Scott Schermerhorn	Master Technician	12-C	Triathlon
Dan Shaw	Captain II	8-C	Cycling - Time Trial Cycling - Road Race
William Smith	Firefighter	38-C	Men's 100m Race Men's 200m Race Men's Long Jump
Raymond Tricarico paired with Dennis Duff	Firefighter Captain I - Retired	38-B Retiree	Golf
Gregory Wood	Firefighter	29-C	Toughest Competitor Alive - Men's Senior A

# Why the treatment? What's the problem?

By Dan Avstreich, MD, FACEP  
Associate Operational Medical Director

It troubles me to think back to all the cardiac arrest patients I've had over the years that didn't have the best possible outcome because "A" and "B" happen to come before "C" in the alphabet. That tube I was so eager to get as a 20 year-old medic probably didn't help many of those patients who needed a minute of high-quality CPR and early defibrillation. I know many of our seasoned personnel are nodding their heads in agreement, thinking back to all of the prolonged CPR pauses that helped us see cords, but didn't help us save lives.

I feel like now we are in a new era of emergency care where we are peeling back to layers of our old assumptions and asking the right questions (and doing the right research) so that our treatments and protocols are based on the simplest but most important question: What's the problem?

Getting two large bore IV's in penetrating trauma patients sounded like a good idea until we realized that we were only able to give saline through them, and all that was doing was displacing perfectly good blood out of uncontrolled sites. A classic study in L.A. showed penetrating trauma patients "dropped off" (e.g. thrown out) at the ED by private vehicle had a better survival rate than those coming by EMS...probably because of the time it took on scene to get those two 14's.

There are calls where starting interventions early and transporting late is the right approach. The 55 year-old witnessed cardiac arrest at Exxon Mobil's headquarters should be worked on-scene until ROSC because the two minutes spent dragging him across the street to Inova Fairfax reduces his survivability at least 20%. At the same time, that stab wound in the abdomen (or any other patient with non-compressible bleeding - the ruptured AAA, the ectopic preg-

nancy) needs blood products and the OR, neither of which we can deliver in the field at this time. So we should offer them the best thing we can: a rapid assessment and the safe but forceful application of diesel fuel.

When we think about the *problem* we are treating, our medical plans of attack flow naturally. Getting that CPAP on early makes sense for that bad COPDer, but then we know that following it with lots of albuterol is the next step for fixing the problem deep in the airways. We know that the door-to-balloon time is the single most important part of treating a STEMI, so we should be pushing hard to get a 12-lead as soon as we get on scene and calling in the alert, but worrying much less about getting the nitro onboard (since it has never been shown to have a marked survival benefit and has the definite potential to dig holes in our Inferior/Posterior/Right-sided patients). Backboard straps are unlikely to save lives, but rapid identification of significant traumatic injuries is, and this is something we need to remember to best prioritize our actions on accident scenes.

We don't always know what the problem is, and on many of our calls we won't. This holds true in the ED as well as the street, and we have a lot more diagnostic tools in the ED. But, more and more, when we think about the process that's actually going on...not just the complaint, but the real *problem*...our approach gets efficient, effective and research-supported. And if there is one thing, brothers and sisters, that the fire-rescue service has a long tradition of, it's solving problems! v



# Letters of Thanks

**From:** McNeal, Megan  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:35 PM  
**To:** fire-rescue.PA-LSE  
**Cc:** Griffin, Anthony H.; Mastin, Ron  
**Subject:** Thank You Fire and Rescue Workers!

Hi,

I am one of the residents whose townhouse was affected by the fire at 2402 Misty Dawn Ct on July 4th. I just wanted to send a sincere and very meaningful **THANK YOU** to all the Fairfax Fire and Rescue workers who contained the fire and prevented damage to our house next door, we are displaced right now but the damage is not as extensive as it could have been. We are very grateful and we are very lucky to live in a county where the Emergency Response is outstanding. Please let all the Fire/ Rescue workers who responded to that call know how grateful we are to have people like them. You all did and do an amazing job.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Megan McNeal

**From:** Sara-Ann Determan  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 25, 2011 10:09 AM  
**To:** Galvez, Ramiro  
**Subject:** Thank You

I don't have an adequate vocabulary to tell you about the extraordinary competence, speed and efficiency of the four members of Engine Crew 410 who saved my life on Thursday, June 23. Jin Lee, Edward Payne, Ryan E. Scanlan and Carlo Solomon responded to my urgent 911 call after I had been stung by 15 or 20 wasps and was no longer able to do anything but crawl to the telephone. By the time they arrived, with amazing speed, I was barely conscious, but I knew even in that state that I was in the hands of exceptional public servants who knew exactly what to do. Their competence was merged with kindness and concern.

Please be sure that this message becomes part of the personnel file for each of these fine officers and the persons who trained them.

But for them, I would no longer be among the living. And, of course, there's no adequate way to say thank you for such a massive gift.

*Virginia Task Force 1 prep and account for their equipment prior to deployment to North Carolina, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, August 26, 2011. (Photo by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)*



**To:** Chief Ronald L. Mastin – Fairfax County Fire/Rescue

6-23-2011

**From:** Fred W. Russell – Retired F/F PM-Flight Medic  
Palm Beach County, Florida



**Re:** Medical Assistance Rendered. Call # E111621247

Chief Mastin,

I was visiting your area on 6-11-2011 in order to attend a graduation ceremony for a relative at the Patriot Center. Post graduation, outside the Center, I suddenly felt myself in need of emergency medical assistance.

The personnel from Station 32 responded and were on scene in a matter of minutes. 3 minutes according to the report. (Outstanding response!)

The medical condition I encountered required ALS Treatment and it was administered by Unit M432 which was staffed by **Paige Smith** and **Mark Butler**. Also, I understand that an Engine unit also responded that was staffed with **Officer Bruley, D.O. Cornett, F/F Mitchell** and **F/F Wallis**.

I was transported to INOVA Fairfax Hospital, evaluated and admitted for observation and released the next day.

After having served 31 years in the fire service, I find it quite gratifying to see that there are still professionals in the brotherhood and sisterhood of Firefighting and EMS who are willing to serve their community. I feel I was given the finest quality care that any person could be provided.

I would like take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the crew that made "The Difference". Their knowledge and professionalism was certainly noticed by my family and the observing public.

Chief, If these people are an example of Fairfax Fire Rescue, you should be proud of them. Your Department is well represented. I think it would be appropriate if the above mentioned personnel were to receive a "Letter of Accommodation" added to their service records.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred W. Russell".

Fred W. Russell



*The crew from Engine 431 prepares to moves in to knock down a stubborn transformer fire at Sunrise Valley Drive and Reston Parkway, May 31, 2011. (Photo by Battalion Chief Mark Rohr, retired)*

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

## Large Loss Fire Investigations

**Date:** 5/5/2011 **Box:** 25-00 **Address:** 1702 Putter Lane **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$652,680 **Loss:** \$75,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 5/6/2011 **Box:** 23-00 **Address:** 4041 Taylor Drive **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$333,780 **Loss:** \$75,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 5/30/2011 **Box:** 11-00 **Address:** 7000 Canterbury Lane **Type:**  
Commercial **Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$217,320 **Loss:** \$87,440 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 6/19/2011 **Box:** 13-02 **Address:** 8129 Larkin Lane **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$450,000 **Loss:** \$75,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 7/1/2011 **Box:** 08-04 **Address:** 3901 Hummer Road **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$433,035 **Loss:** \$225,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 7/4/2011 **Box:** 36-02 **Address:** 2402 Misty Dawn Court **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$302,025 **Loss:** \$70,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 7/7/2011 **Box:** 22-13 **Address:** 7701 Southern Drive A **Type:** Vehicle  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$59,895 **Loss:** \$59,895 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 7/10/2011 **Box:** 09-43 **Address:** 7803 Belford Drive **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$370,000 **Loss:** \$270,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 7/27/2011 **Box:** 23-03 **Address:** 9203 Alyssum Way **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$560,100 **Loss:** \$75,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 7/29/2011 **Box:** 09-00 **Address:** 7816 Ridgcrest Drive **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Accidental **Value:** \$431,680 **Loss:** \$50,000 **Status:** Closed

**Date:** 7/30/2011 **Box:** 17-00 **Address:** 14458 Cool Oak Lane **Type:** Residential  
**Cause:** Incendiary **Value:** \$139,935 **Loss:** \$121,645 **Status:** Under Investigation

## Vienna Volunteer Recognized for 70 Years of Service



*Simone "Sam" Savia was recognized by the Board of Supervisors September 13, 2011 for his continued and selfless service of 70 years to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. He joined the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department as a teenager in November 1941, serving as a volunteer firefighter for many years. His many leadership positions within Vienna VFD include: president, vice president, secretary, lieutenant, and several terms as a member of the Board of Directors. A lifetime member, he still actively serves as an administrative member since retiring from operational duties. In July of this year, in recognition of his sustained service, the Vienna VFD named the apparatus bay in his honor.*

# Community Outreach Program Highlights



The county's Government Center was a site for backpack and school supply drop-off point for the Fire and Rescue Department's (FRD) annual "Backpack and School Supply Drive," August 18, 2011. The Department of Human Resources partnered with the FRD to collect backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, and paper. Pictured left to right: Sherry Ali, Department of Finance, Captain I Willie Bailey, Fire and Rescue Department, Technician Laura Huggins, Fire and Rescue Station 40, C-Shift, Technician Brian Jenkins, Fire and Rescue Station 40, C-Shift, Lorraine Yake, Department of Finance, Valarie Benn, Department of Human Resources, and Carol Schultz, Department of Human Resources. Not pictured: Betty Marshall, Department of Human Resources. (Photo by Lisa Connors, Office of Public Affairs)



Over 2,000 backpacks and mounds of school supplies were distributed to deserving school children for the new school year. (Photo by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)



Crews from Fire and Rescue Station 25, Reston, and senior leadership from KIDSRFIRST unload school supplies to stuff backpacks for needy school children. (Photo by Renée Stilwell, Public Affairs and Life Safety Education)



Technician Craig White, Fire and Rescue Station 9, Mount Vernon, B-Shift, (left photo), and Gary Bailey (right photo), brother of Captain I Willie Bailey, Public Affairs and Life Safety Education, an Alexandria barber, were two of ten barbers who provided free haircuts to over 100 school children, August 29, 2011, at Gum Springs Recreation Center, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Department members, the Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax County, Inc., and WKYS 93.9 FM sponsored the popular and first-time event. (Photo by Jeanne Theismann, Connection Newspapers)

# Awards & Presentations

## Unit Citations

### *Lilting Lane Brush Fire*

#### **Engine 432**

Captain I Edward D. Bowman  
Technician David L. Wallis  
Technician Michael W. Conover  
Firefighter Jeremy J. Godines

### *Vehicle Accident*

#### **Engine 436**

Captain II Kerwin A. McNamara  
Technician Paul T. Marria  
Firefighter Keith F. Bresnahan  
Firefighter Crystal M. Plasters

### **Tower 436**

Lieutenant Brian C. Edmonston  
Master Technician Ronald W. Swarthout, Jr.  
Technician Kevin D. Makely

### *Prince George's County Brush Fire*

#### **Engine 411**

Captain I Steven D. Norris  
Technician Randall K. Schwartz  
Technician Kerri S. Bouse  
Technician William F. Ward



Chief Ronald L. Mastin administers the oath to Captain II Michael J. Garcia, during the promotional ceremony July 13, 2011, in the A-Level Conference Center. (Photo by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)

### *Prince William County Brush Fire*

#### **Engine 417**

Captain I James R. Stricklen  
Lieutenant Jon S. Stern  
Technician Joseph K. Cox  
Firefighter Peter M. Perez  
Volunteer Firefighter John Yang

### *Police Event*

#### **Engine 430**

Captain I Steven T. O'Brien  
Lieutenant Randall J. Allen  
Technician Sean M. Fensterwald  
Acting Technician Katherine S. Stoner

### **Medic 430**

Firefighter Joshua M. Morrison  
Lieutenant Haywood P. Marshall

## Team Performance Awards

### *CPR Event*

#### **Engine 440**

Lieutenant James R. Bookwalter, Jr.  
Technician Jeffrey J. Werth  
Firefighter Anthony R. Butler  
Firefighter Rodney E. Gray

### **Medic 421**

Lieutenant Anthony D. Mullins  
Firefighter Medic Andrea N. Burich

### *Pedestrian Struck*

#### **Engine 415**

Lieutenant Kenneth M. Laverock  
Master Technician Michael R. Zdunski  
Technician Christopher A. Zach  
Firefighter Julie C. Sehnal

### **M415**

Lieutenant James T. Martin  
Firefighter Medic Anthony S. Martinez

### *Rope Rescue*

#### **Rescue 439**

Captain I Michael J. Marks  
Technician Eric D. McLaughlin  
Technician Peter C. Kehne  
Technician Michael T. King

### **Rescue 421**

Lieutenant Robert M. Garza  
Technician Duane N. Black, III  
Technician Herbert M. Knerr, Jr.  
Acting Technician Andrew T. Reedy



Chief Ronald L. Mastin presents Certificates of Promotion to Lieutenant Tracey M. Reed, Captain I Michael J. Marks, Battalion Chief Keith M. Ludeman, and Captain II Michael J. Istvan, June 8, 2011, in the A-Level Conference Center. (Photo by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)

*Capsized Boat, Belmont Bay*

**Engine 420**

Captain I Leroy L. Butler, Jr.  
Master Technician Gregory D. Washenko  
Technician Travis D. Traynham  
Firefighter Edward F. Imperato

*CPR Event*

**Engine 411**

Captain I Steven D. Norris  
Technician Johnathan H. MacQuilliam  
Technician Randall K. Schwartz  
Firefighter Medic Richard L. Forte

**Medic 409**

Lieutenant Jessica P. Spear  
Firefighter Medic Daniel K. Platzek

*Single-Family Dwelling Fire*

12441 Popes Head Road

**Engine 417**

Captain I Michael B. Davis  
Lieutenant David A. Winter  
Master Technician Deborah G. Sparrer  
Firefighter Joel N. Atagwe

**Engine 432**

Captain I Barry J. Rathbone  
Master Technician David J. Higgins  
Technician Michael S. Lee  
Firefighter Charles K. Botchwey

**M440**

Technician Aleksandra O. Kazmar  
Technician Alyssa J. Vance

*Multi-Agency Training Exercise*

Battalion Chief Tyrone J. Harrington  
Captain II Jerome I. Williams

*VRE Drill*

Battalion Chief Kenny J. Wolfrey  
Captain II George Harley  
Lieutenant Timothy O. Barb

**Career Achievement Award**

Battalion Chief Michael C. Schaff  
Captain II Robert A. Konczal  
Captain I Richard C. Smith  
Kirsten J. Schneider,  
Administrative Assistant IV

**3-Year Safe Driving**

Lieutenant Eric S. Craven  
Technician Davin E. Bridges  
Technician Shawn R. Fisher  
Technician Adam C. Heming  
Technician Kelly D. Johnston  
Technician Albert R. Kerns  
Technician Bryan C. Knupp



Chief Ronald L. Mastin presents Certificates of Promotion to (left to right) Fire Inspector III Timothy D. Schwarting, Technician William M. Schnaekel, Lieutenant Richard L. Merrell, Technician Jose C. Chavez Paredes, Technician Ian R. Brill, Technician Laura B. Huggins, Lieutenant Randall J. Allen, and Captain I Mervin E. Barrera, August 10, 2011, in the A-Level Conference Center. (Photo by Angela Ballard, Fire and Rescue Academy)

Technician Jeffrey E. Loach  
Technician Angel L. Medina  
Technician Lawrence G. Mullin  
Technician Johnny Price  
Technician Tara D. Richards  
Technician Travis D. Traynham  
Firefighter Lawrence N. Basil  
Firefighter Charles K. Botchwey  
Firefighter Kalyan A. Bruce  
Firefighter Andrew G. Dubinsky  
Firefighter Brendan M. Downing  
Firefighter Benjamin E. Jenkins  
Firefighter Isagani M. Matias II  
Firefighter David W. Prohaska  
Firefighter Brian M. Snyder  
Firefighter Peter Torres  
Firefighter Elizabeth K. Wagner

**6-Year Safe Driving**

Lieutenant David A. Hessler  
Technician Michael W. Adams  
Technician Michael R. Boub, Jr.  
Technician Brian M. Chinn  
Technician Mark J. Deyneka  
Technician Kristopher W. Johnson  
Technician Vernon Johnson  
Technician Mark C. Killion  
Technician Kevin J. Steinhilber  
Technician Susan V. Tomczak  
Technician Robert J. Williams  
Firefighter Tracey Y. Chittenden  
Firefighter Walter A. Covert, Jr.  
Firefighter Won C. Lee

**9-Year Safe Driving**

Master Technician Carlos R. Carillo  
Master Technician Randal A. Leatherman  
Technician Gerald D. Butler

Technician Rolando E. Contreras  
Technician James M. Furman  
Technician Mark B. Gauntner  
Technician James P. Korb  
Technician Robin M. Lotz  
Technician Alfred O. Mann  
Technician Timothy J. Pais  
Technician Robert E. Pickel, Jr.  
Technician Samuel L. Poles, Jr.  
Technician Shannon G. Reed  
Technician Eric A. Russell  
Technician Elton L. Short  
Technician Eric M. Wyatt  
Firefighter Jorge F. Arias  
Firefighter Clinton A. Brown  
Firefighter Donald W. Rohr

**15-Year Safe Driving**

Master Technician Brian A. Bonifas  
Technician Warren H. Artis  
Technician Rickie L. Atkins  
Master Technician John P. McDonell  
Master Technician Robert L. Upchurch  
Master Technician Thomas C. Williams  
Technician James B. McKendree  
Technician David A. Neilan  
Technician Todd D. Price  
Firefighter Hugh S. Boyle  
Firefighter Kenneth W. Clark





A wreath was placed in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Sunday May 29, 2011, in commemoration of Memorial Day. Representing VATF-1 for the response to the Earthquake/Tsunami in Japan, at a memorial for the Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service. Pictured left to right: Lieutenant Rex Strickland, Captain Rory Suzuki, USN, and a member of the Old Guard. (Photo by Deputy Chief Keith Johnson)

# Top 10 Activity Report

## April - June 2011

Ambulance		Engine Company		Rescue Squad	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
A 411	431	E 410	769	R 421	347
A 408	390	E 408	695	R 426	340
A 410	372	E 409	694	R 418	319
A 409	371	E 430	691	R 411	294
A 422 E	119	E 429	636	R 401	273
A 414 E	96	E 417	633	R 414	229
A 402 E	54	E 422	627	R 419	205
A 421 E	51	E 411	617	R 439	202
A 413 E	39	E 413	598		
A 401	24	E 404	565		

  

Medic		Ladder Company		Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
M 410	585	T 410	443	EMS 402	438
M 430	573	T 429	425	EMS 404	421
M 422	551	T 425	411	EMS 405	372
M 408	549	TL 430	385	EMS 403	306
M 428	544	T 422	350	EMS 401	288
M 409	537	TL 440	343	EMS 406	266
M 411	533	T 411	297	EMS 407	222
M 425	520	TL 401	291	BC 404	207
M 429	517	TL 436	284	BC 403	197
M 417	511	TL 438	259	BC 402	150

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.

### Line Copy Deadline

The deadline for the remaining 2011 issue of Line Copy is no later than November 15. Please submit articles or text to Dan Schmidt at [Dan.Schmidt@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dan.Schmidt@fairfaxcounty.gov) or Cathy Richards at [Cathy.Richards@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Cathy.Richards@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## Letter of Thanks

Dear Chief, Station 12  
 On Monday, June 13 at 8:00am I had trouble breathing. My husband, Gene, put me in the car to take me to my doctor. At the house farm on Arnon I passed out. Driving fast to the fire station, Gene pulled in off Walker with horn blowing. With blazing speed the rescue team pulled me out of the car onto the ground and started CPR. Paddles were at the ready. They took me to Reston ER where doctors brought the heart back.

I was completely out of it, breathing tubes in throat and tied to the bed in the ICU for 2 days. Over the next 2 weeks

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 I had a cardiac catheterization with 1 stent, a pacemaker-defibrillator inserted, and an aneurysm repaired. I was finally released in good shape on June 26. Many people in Great Falls, Reston Hospital, and Arby's (Gene's an Arby) now know my story.

We owe a lot of thanks to the quick action of the rescue team. Without them I could have died. We hope it might be possible for them to receive a county award for their work.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 Eugene & Linda Vesali

## Taiwanese Counsel General Recounts VATF-1's Help 10 Years Later

On June 17, 2011, the Counsel General of Taiwan, Jeffrey Wang presented a \$20,000 check to help with the rebuilding of Glade Spring, Virginia. Wang told the story of when his country of Taiwan suffered an earthquake 10 years ago. He recounted that "a rescue team from Fairfax County, Virginia, (VATF-1) came halfway around the world to aid Taiwan's people. Now, in Virginia's time of need, his country wanted to offer something back." He went on to say, "although it is a modest contribution to the relief effort, I just want to be here to extend our care and also our sympathy and our compassion toward the people that were affected here. I am here as a gesture of friendship and reciprocity from our nation, to show our appreciation and our care for your people here," Wang said.

Early on April 28, 2011, an EF3 tornado ripped through parts of Washington and Smyth counties, leveling much of the Glade Spring area and resulting in the death of four people.

(Editor's Note: Taken from the June 17, 2011 Bristol Herald Courier newspaper)

# "Taking Up"



**Master Technician  
Ravinder S. Mashiana**

**Entry Date:** April 30, 1986  
**Retirement Date:** June 2, 2011  
**Recruit School Number:** 74  
**Assignments:** 35, 14, 22, 27, 20,  
 Fire Marshals Office, 41, and 16.  
**Likes about the Fire Depart-**

**ment:** Camaraderie, brotherhood, newness of every day, opportunity for personal and professional growth.

**Will miss about the Fire Department:** Being on time, working out, running calls, firehouse dinners, and helping people knowing that you made a difference in someone's life.

**Plans for the future:** Move to Alaska to join my wife and my kids. Work for State of Alaska. Enjoy the life in the Bush Alaska.

**Words of wisdom:** Be safe. Watch out for each other's back and go home to your families.

Zest for knowledge.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** Job security, new challenges and desire to be of service to the citizens of this great country and mankind in general.

**Who or what had an influence in your career?** Firefighter Imperato, Captain Ricky Pray, Captain Kenneth Hunsberger, Technician Bob Downing, Firefighter Dennis Thompson, Captain Joe Kaleda, Technician Jim Tolson, and Firefighter Greg Morton.



**Battalion Chief  
Mark S. Rohr**

**Entry Date:** February 28, 1977  
**Retirement Date:** July 17, 2011  
**Recruit School Number:** 40  
**Assignments:** 1, 4, 18, 11, 24,  
 26, 34, 25, PSCC, 30, 4, 25, FMO,  
 BAT402, OEM, BAT401.

**Likes about the Fire Department:** There is so much to like about the job. I was able to actually help others instead of just talking about it. We have so many opportunities to take advantage of including getting the chance to meet and work with some of the best and brightest in the business here and across the nation.

**Will miss about the Fire Department:** I will never forget the really busy days. I was never in a slow company until I made chief because I always liked to be on the road training or running calls anytime of the day or night.

**Plans for the future:** Play with the grandkids, golf, and work as the Program Manager for the National Capital Region Incident Management Team.

**Words of wisdom:** Don't get caught up in gossip and things that are not of any concern to you and your company. Make it your personal goal that every member goes home uninjured, smarter, and stronger at the end of your shift. Don't just talk about it, BE SAFE!

**What got you interested in the fire service?** My dad bought us a scanner so we could listen to public safety radio and I had a neighbor that joined the VFD.

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** My good friend Brad Curry, who encouraged me to join the Vienna VFD in late 1972. Many of the career guys that worked at FS02 back then, Charlie Wilkerson, Bill Fowler, Jim Strickland, Carl Maurice, Jeff Donaldson, Glenn Benarick, my brothers Dave and Don, Dan Bickham, Jim Swiggett, Chris Raabe, Jeff Sager, and so many other great members that have either already retired or are still on the job today. A special thanks to all of the members of BAT401-C who made it real easy for me to come to work each day. Thanks to all of you!



**Lieutenant  
Timothy C. Walker**

**Entry Date:** March 8, 1982

**Retirement Date:** August 25, 2011

**Recruit School Number:** 56

**Assignments:** 17, 8, 9, 19, 24, 5.

**Likes about the Fire Depart-**

**ment:** The familial bond, unquestioning trust, pride, integrity, and GUTS.

**Will miss about the Fire Department:** See above. There is no substitute.

**Plans for the future:** Ten-inch wheels and two-stroke smoke!

**Words of wisdom:** Hello rookies. Welcome to Fairfax County. It's hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It's big and wet and crowded. At the outside, rookies, you've got about 30 years here. There's only one

rule I know of, rookies--you've got to be kind. (with apologies to Kurt Vonnegut).

**What got you interested in the fire service?** They told me I was too short. Then the fight was on.

**Who or what had an influence in your career?** Bill Bullock, Dave Collins, Jim Alderton, Craig DeAtley, and Matthew Malof as the medic I always strived to be.



**Captain I  
Thomas J. Wealand**

**Entry Date:** December 10, 1973

**Retirement Date:** July 4, 2011

**Recruit School Number:** 30

**Assignments:** 13, 10, 22, 18, Field Training, 10, 28, 29, 28.

**Likes about the Fire Department:** What's not to like! It's the best job in the world! No two days are the same; no two calls are the same. The people. Firefighters are the best and will do anything to help you out. Get them in a group and there is nothing they can't do or won't try. The people that you meet on the street every day. A few of them still think we can walk on water! Running calls. The excitement of getting to the call and the challenge of using your training and experience to deal

with a myriad of situations. Firehouse life. The conversations around the kitchen table. It's amazing the things that you will hear and learn. Helping someone we don't know and will probably never see again. We have the best of everything; apparatus, equipment, facilities, services. Many fire departments can only dream about having things that we have. **Will miss about the Fire Department:** I will miss it all. My friends and co-workers. Through the fire department, I've made so many good friends along the way. Eating dinner with the shift. The stories . . . so many stories! Running calls and riding on Engine 28. It's been my second home for a long time.

**Plans for the future:** Enjoy retirement. I've been told that it's great. Catch up on my sleep. Catch up on my chores and complete a few projects around the house that have been on hold too long. Maybe do some traveling. Go fishing with my

son, Bobby. Continue to volunteer.

**Words of wisdom:** Have a role model. Someone that you admire and respect who strives to be the best at what they do. The ones who always do the right thing, on and off the job. I was so fortunate in my career to have worked with people who set a good example and pointed me in the right direction. Train every day; it could save your life. There is so much information available and you can never learn too much about your trade. Get out of the station and learn your area. Respect your shift members. You live together and everything we do, we do as a team. Your life could be in their hands. Respect the people you encounter on calls and during your daily activities outside of the firehouse. They are the reason that you have a job. You never know who you might meet on the street. Officers, you won't know it all and you don't

*(Continued on Page 30)*

(Continued from Page 29)

have to do everything yourself. Use the knowledge and experience of that senior firefighter or technician. It will make your job a lot easier. Be consistent. Don't get complacent. Always check the attic and the basement. Take care of yourselves, your family, and each other. Start early to plan for your retirement. It will be here before you know it.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** My brother Jim

started taking me to the fire house in our home town, Middletown, Pennsylvania, when I was 13 or 14 and I got hooked. He has been involved with the fire service for as long as I can remember. He and I went through recruit school together. In a lot of ways I grew up at the firehouse.

**Who or what had an influence in your career?** My brother, Jim, my rookie assignment to Company 13, Buddy Allen, Gary Mesaris, Jack Brown, Jim

Anderson, Carl Plaugher, John Kimball, Chuck Gibbs, Harry Johnston, Bob Evans, Hugh Wood, Sunnie Cardwell, Dave Brooks, Ricky Riley, Pete Lund, Wesley Gerald, and so many others. I have been so fortunate to have worked with, and for, the best, and I could fill the page with names. Sadly, some of them are no longer with us. I like to think that I've learned something from everyone that I've worked with over the years.

## New Hires

Renee Breeding,  
Administrative Assistant II

Brian C. Bundy,  
Truck Driver

Cecelia A. Corbitt,  
Life Safety Education Specialist

Timothy J. Cannon,  
Inspector II

Lionel G. Duckwitz,  
Inspector II

Matthew B. Duckwitz,  
Inspector II

Michael S. Ferrell,  
Instrument Technician II

Carolyn E. Ford,  
Administrative Assistant IV

Willie D. Gilliam,  
Instrument Technician II

Michael E. Haynes,  
Inspector II

Eugene E. Jacob,  
Inspector I

John P. Jones,  
Vehicle Coordinator

Angela L. Johnson,  
HR Generalist II

Forrest H. Johnson,  
Apparatus Mechanic

Joseph R. Konczal,  
Materials Management Assistant

Jesse D. Kruse,  
Materials Management Driver

Michael B. Long,  
Inspector II

Christine M. Malone,  
Inspector II

George G. Martin,  
Inspector II

William J. Mueller,  
Inspector II

Michael A. Paruti,  
Inspector II

Ricky D. Pray,  
Inspector II

Shiela A. Pulliam,  
Inspector II

Lisa D. Reddington,  
Administrative Assistant II

Kim Renfro,  
Materials Management Specialist I

Matthew W. Smith,  
Inspector II

Lavanda G. Sykes,  
Materials Management Specialist I

Jennifer E. Taylor,  
Life Safety Education Specialist

Kathy S. Thompson,  
Administrative Assistant III

Luis A. Vitela-Escobar,  
Inspector II

Victoria R. Mazzoli,  
Administrative Assistant II

### CORRECTION:

The following names were inadvertently left off of the anniversaries in Line Copy, Vol. II, 2011:

#### 25 Years

Captain I Todd S. Hall  
Lieutenant Glenn C. Jackson

#### 5 Years

Technician Cheryl T. McWilliams

# Retirements

Gary L. Buckley, Engineer III September 20, 2003 - July 18, 2011	Master Technician Ravinder S. Mashiana April 30, 1986 - June 2, 2011	Battalion Chief Mark A. Rohr February 28, 1977 - July 18, 2011
Captain II Michael J. Ciarrocchi April 12, 1976 - August 14, 2011	Firefighter Stephen J. Meyer June 2, 1980 - September 9, 2011	Master Technician Jean E. Thorsell May 31, 1983 - July 31, 2011
Master Technician William V. Hedrick May 21, 1979 - July 31, 2011	Captain II Richard K. Moxley December 10, 1984 - June 17, 2011	Captain I Thomas J. Wealand December 10, 1973 - July 4, 2011
Technician Andrew J. Hubert January 12, 1981 - July 9, 2011	Technician Todd D. Price September 21, 1987 - July 29, 2011	Lieutenant Robert E. Wheeler, Jr. April 29, 1985 - June 17, 2011
Technician John P. Jones March 17, 1986 - May 6, 2011		Lieutenant Timothy C. Walker March 8, 1982 - August 25, 2011

# Anniversaries

<b>36 Years</b> Captain I Steven J. Blount Technician Thomas P. Feehan	<b>15 Years</b> Captain I Michael D. Allen Technician Lloyd W. Coburn III Captain I Kevin P. Edwards Captain I Marlin J. Hood Lieutenant Christopher L. Johnson Technician Peter C. Kehne Master Technician James P. Kotwicki Master Technician Joseph M. Laun Captain I Joseph D. Merritt, Jr. Lieutenant William S. Moreland Firefighter Gregory A. Morton Technician John R. Mudge Lieutenant Vitor M. Rocha Captain I William T. Schellhammer Technician Brent M. Schnupp Captain I David Schwarzmann Lieutenant Patricia A. Tomasello Lieutenant James H. Williams	Master Technician Reginald L. Wadley Technician Frances J. Webb
<b>34 Years</b> Master Technician Michael D. Macario	<b>10 Years</b> Captain I Calvin M. Alexander Robert F. Arrington III, Materials Management Specialist III Lieutenant Pedro P. Benavidez Firefighter Keith F. Bresnahan Firefighter Clinton A. Brown Cathy C. Caniford, Administrative Assistant III Brian K. Cannon, Fire Apparatus Mechanic Lieutenant Eric S. Craven Lieutenant Michael P. D'Amico Technician Daniel T. Hahn Master Technician Michael E. Klump Technician Garner Marshall Lieutenant Stephen P. McCay Richard M. Mock, Fire Apparatus Mechanic Master Technician Alexander C. Obert Technician Clemente R. Rivera Technician William E. Thurston	<b>5 Years</b> Firefighter Gustavo Cambronero-Vargas Technician Latasha Faulk-Collins Technician Michael D. Guck Firefighter Chris J. Herbolzheimer Technician Jennifer A. Hoeck Technician Albert R. Kearns Technician Michael T. Kovach Firefighter Nathan R. Larkin Firefighter Heather J. Lefever Firefighter Man Y. Li Firefighter Roy A. Lockhart Michael R. McElroy, IT Program Manager I Technician Ryan P. McGill Technician Christopher W. Ouellette Alfred J. Pacifico, Nurse Practitioner Firefighter Roger A. Perdomo-Cortes Firefighter Peter M. Perez Firefighter Ashley P. Pope Firefighter Jason G. Pryor Firefighter Matthew C. Quigley Firefighter Roxroy W. Reid Sandra Y. Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant III Firefighter Javier A. Santa Gadea Technician Brian R. Steele Laurel A. Stone, Management Analyst III LaTycia S. Tanks, Fire Inspector II Jeffrey S. Thomas, Fire Inspector II Firefighter Edgar Torres, Jr. Technician Jason W. Trautman Technician David L. Wallis Firefighter Adam R. Wright
<b>33 Years</b> Battalion Chief Tyrone J. Harrington		
<b>32 Years</b> Battalion Chief Craig N. Buckley Assistant Chief John A. Burke Captain I Terrence L. Jenkins Captain II William R. Kingdon Captain I David G. Lange		
<b>31 Years</b> Lieutenant Kevin A. Edmondson Battalion Chief John S. Price, Jr. Technician John M. Smith III		
<b>30 Years</b> Lieutenant Charles F. Adams, Jr. Master Technician Eric D. Moore Master Technician Uwe B. Reins Captain II Richard J. Yuras		
<b>25 Years</b> Lieutenant Jeffrey R. Allen Captain I Robynn M. Berquist Technician Kenneth W. Cornett, Sr. Assistant Chief Garrett L. Dyer Technician Mark B. Gauntner Technician Barrett E. Gibbs Captain I Raymond E. Griffin, Sr. Technician Jerold R. Manuel Captain II John R. Niemiec Firefighter Benjamin A. Rice Captain II Scott M. Smith Captain II Donald L. Vaught		

## Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Attn: Public Affairs and Life Safety Education  
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Fairfax, Virginia 22030

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## Station Profile

### Jefferson Fire and Rescue Station 18

Captain II  
Joseph E. Knerr  
Station Commander



**Station constructed:** October 15, 1955

**Station specialty:** Technical Rescue Operations

**Square miles in first due area:** 7.1

**Specific hazardous/target areas:** INOVA Fairfax Hospital, Northern Virginia

Mental Health, Exxon/Mobil Headquarters, Marriott Hotel, Northrop Grumman, Falls Church High School

**Total calls in 2010:** 3,902

**Equipment assigned to station:** Engine, Medic, Rescue, EMS Supervisor, Technical Rescue Unit, Technical Rescue Support Unit, and Swift-Water Boat

**Station personnel:** **A-Shift:** **Captain II Joseph E. Knerr**, Lieutenant Rodney S. Vaughan, Master Technician Carlos R. Carrillo, Master Technician Anthony E. Doran, Master Technician Timothy M. Kelly, Master Technician Michael J. McQuade, Technician Davin E. Bridges, Technician Mark J. Deyneka, Technician Lawrence G. Mullin, Technician Christopher H. Williams, Firefighter Stephanie A. Leland, Firefighter Donald W. Rohr **B-Shift:** **Captain I Donald P. Montague**, Lieutenant Evan J. Lewis, Lieutenant Diron D. Powell, Master Technician George E. Hahn, Technician George L. Carpenter, Technician Daryl T. Casey, Technician Timothy A. Fairchild, Technician Brian P. Gillingham, Technician William J. Lamont III, Technician James A. Potter, Technician Kevin F. Reyes, Technician Stephen M. Shapiro **C-Shift:** **Captain I Robert W. Kitchen**, Lieutenant Thomas R. Carver, Lieutenant Patrick Sheehan, Master Technician Glenn B. Mooneyham, Technician Kevin R. Dabney, Technician Evans G. Edwards, Technician John B. Haywood, Technician Michael T. Kovach, Technician Jorge H. Ochaita, Acting Technician Jeffrey T. Pfeifer, Acting Technician Kathy A. Averys, Firefighter Roberto M. Da Silva.