



March 15, 2014

# Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department





Richard R. Bowers, Jr.

forward the Fairfax Way, to focus on each other and job! our residents. Please work together and be ments assoa mentor!" ciated with

# From The Fire Chief.

The year 2013 has proved to be successful and challenging for the department. There are a number of huge milestones that we worked together on and made something positive happen.

The most important accomplish-"As we move ments are the incredible daily work and efforts by the men and women of the department both uniformed and civilian. One of the amazing it is important accomplishments is the troops have successfully rescued seven residents from structure fires as well as numertaking care of ous four-legged ones too! Awesome

> I would like to highlight some of our continued

accomplish-

our Five-Year

Strategic Plan:

We were

successful in

operationalizing Wolftrap our overall strategic plan to provide ALS service from all of our front line apparatus. The Board of Supervisors will be considering a second Safer Grant for 2013.

The department has also implemented dedicated ALS service on Rescue 426 and will be placing additional ALS capable rescues in service consistent with the Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan.

The department has conducted a successful ALS Hazardous Materials School to augment the implementation of ALS providers riding on TROT and Haz Mat Rescues. A TROT course was also delivered with

18 ALS candidates successfully completing the required certifications.

The department graduated Recruit Class 135 and 136 A and B recruit schools have started. They will provide staffing

**Fire Station** 442 with the Engine 442 being placed in service October 1, 2013. Fire Station 442 will be fully operational in July 2014, with Medic 442, EMS402, and Tanker 442

being placed in service at the station. We received confirmation that we were awarded a 2012 Safer Grant for 19 firefighters. This will enable the department to place a fourth firefighter paramedic on five ladder trucks later this year. This is part of

for Fire Station 442 and our Safer Grant for the ladder trucks.

Another major accomplishment is the implementation of a third 24-hour shift Safety Officer. The addition of the third Safety Officer will improve response times to incidents, collisions, and investigative matters. The department's Shift Safety Officers are the ears, eyes, and advocates for our personnel!

Richard R. Bowers, Jr., Fire Chief Dan Schmidt, Editor Cathy Jo Richards, Layout and Design

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# Fire Chief's Expectations

- Be ready, be safe, be fit and healthy!
- Be kind and respectful!
- Embrace diversity and mentor!
- Execute the basics perfectly!
- Train, train, train!
- Work together!
- **Community outreach!**

# Gear Removal Training Begins-Hands-On and Video



Crews from Fire and Rescue Station 12, Great Falls, and Fire and Rescue Station 39, North Point, participate in gear removal training February, 25, 2014, at the North Point Fire and Rescue Station.

Tiller trucks will be incorporated into the Fire and Rescue Department fleet. The Tillers will provide operational and tactical advantages for our personnel. The Tillers will come equipped with state of the art extrication equipment and have roto-rays installed on them.

The World Police and Fire Games are less than 14 months away. We need to continue our focus and ensure that the Fairfax 2015 WPFG are a perfect experience for the athletes, their families, the county and our department. Failure is not an option, and we need everyone in our department to step up and work together to make this a huge success!

As part of my Front Lines message, I want to speak about one of my Fire Chief's Expectations each issue: Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Fit and Healthy!

Being ready means coming with your A game all the time! Everyone needs to be prepared and ready to step up and perform—all the time! Being safe means constantly maintaining situational awareness and making sure everyone goes home—all the time! Being fit and healthy means participating in some level of fitness training and eating healthy foods, snacks, and meals—all the time!

As we move forward the Fairfax Way, it is important to focus on taking care of each other

and our residents. Please work together and be a mentor!

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Fire Chief! 

# This Issue ...

From The Fire Chief2
What Does the Apparatus Selection Process Involve?
Understanding the "Why and Benefits of
Stress Exposure Training"
Health and Safety
National Association of EMS Physicians 2014 Meeting
Says Small Stuff Effects Outcomes10
Lieutenant Cory Key Promoted to Gunnery Sergeant
Bailey's X-Roads Fire & Rescue Station Near Completion12
Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company
Provides Santa a Sleigh
<i>Letter of Appreciation</i> 13
Letters of Appreciation
<i>Hot Shots</i> 16
Facebook Feedback
The Admin Team Asks "Did You Know?"18
Large Loss Fire Investigations
Top 10 Activity Report20
Birth Announcements20
Community Outreach Program Highlights21
Awards & Presentations
"Taking Up"24
Backstep Kudos
Retirements, Anniversaries, & New Hires31
Station Profile, Fire & Rescue Station 2832

# What Does the Apparatus Selection Process Involve?

By Captain II Glenn A. Mason Support Services Division, Apparatus Section

The process of selecting apparatus is a complex system with many parts. This article will explain the process and the decision making factors used in ensuring the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FXFRD) has the best possible apparatus now, and moving forward.

Selection of a manufacturer is based upon several key factors. We will examine each one of the factors individually.

### Performance

The performance factor is determined by combining not only the operation of the vehicle, but also the life-cycle cost.

# Safety

The safety factor includes safety systems engineered as part of the vehicle as well as crashtesting data. Safety systems include side-roll protection, frontal air bags, and independent front suspension.

# Reliability

The reliability factor is a combination of outof-service time, repair costs, and total length of service time; the demonstration of a proven history to manufacture dependable and reliable apparatus to the fire service.

# Service and Parts

The service and parts factor is a combination of the manufacturer-dedicated service team as well as a dedicated parts team and sufficient parts inventory to service the FXFRD.

# Warranty

The warranty factor is a combination of warranties offered not only as standard with the product, but also the availability of extended warranties to reduce life-cycle costs. Execution of said warranties is also measured as part of this factor.

# Manufacturer Infrastructure

The manufacturer infrastructure factor is based on the financial health of the company, dedicated engineering staff, dedicated research and development staff, sufficient manufacturing resources and sole source responsibility of the completed apparatus.

# Local Service Infrastructure

The local service factor is a combination of service facilities in close proximity to Fairfax County, number of facilities, Automotive Service Excellence and Emergency Vehicle Technician certified, capability of service facilities, road service availability, and the capability of emergency road service 24/7.

# Local Parts Inventory

The local parts inventory factor is based upon the availability and amount of parts stocked locally and a dedicated parts team to service the FXFRD.

# Training

The training factor is a combination of manufacturer-certified trainers available for apparatus operation and maintenance of apparatus.

# **Customer Service**

The customer service factor is based upon a dedicated customer service team both at the manufacturer and the local level to assist with all facets of apparatus issues.

# Working Partnership

The working partnership factor is based upon the willingness of both the manufacturer and local dealership to have open and honest dialogue to assist the FXFRD with new concepts and resolution to current and past apparatus issues.

Several common questions are frequently asked regarding apparatus chassis and pumper design.

The cab design and configuration was determined to give all occupants of the cab sufficient room to safely operate and respond to emergencies. Since 2007, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engine regulations and other engine regulations were implemented, much has changed under the cab. The engine and components have increased in width, which adversely affects the interior room in a 96" wide

cab such as the Dash chassis used in the fleet. The decision was made to migrate to the 100" wide velocity cab to prevent the narrowing of the seating areas for the driver, officer, and rearfacing crew seats. The design of the velocity cab allows all seating areas to benefit in increased leg room due to the location of the engine moving slightly forward in the chassis. If you have the opportunity to sit in a current 96" cab officer's seat, I am sure you will feel a little snug. Other Council of Government agencies are also following our decision and migrating to the wider Velocity cab. Additional forward-facing crew cab seat configurations are being evaluated for implementation at this time.

The decision to use independent front suspension on apparatus is based upon increased safety as the system reduces braking distances and improves cornering. Independent suspension allows the tires to firmly be planted on all road surfaces/elevations or while cornering on Virginia's high-centered crowned roads. An additional benefit is increased ride quality which also increases safety and lessens road shock damage to apparatus components. Independent front suspension also reduces the cramp angle which equates to a shorter turning radius versus straight-axle configurations.

The Detroit Diesel 13L engine was chosen because of Detroit's proven reliability and a long-term partnership between Fairfax County, Department of Vehicle Services, FXFRD, and the Detroit Diesel Service Center, Western Branch Diesel.

Apparatus length is determined by the operational equipment load required (body length) and also by the addition of EPA mandated diesel exhaust filter and selective catalyst reduction canisters. Take a peek under the new apparatus and you will see two large stainless steel canisters. The required canisters complicate packaging of apparatus components and quite often add additional wheelbase to the apparatus. The engine wheelbase has been reduced in recent purchases by nine inches.

Hosebed height is determined by several factors in apparatus design. The first factor is tank size (750 gallons) followed by tank configuration (T or L-style), available body space (length), and accessories consuming tank volume (intake/ discharge piping and foam cells). As discussed previously, one of the common requests is a shorter apparatus. As you shorten the apparatus and available tank length, you raise the height to maintain volume. A recent trend has been to adopt the L-style water tank. While at first glance this appears to be a great idea, there are considerable trade-offs involved. The forward section of the tank is raised to the height of the body to lower the rear of the tank and resulting hosebed. This increases the center of gravity of the vehicle and adversely affects handling. While this option does decrease the height of the hosebed floor, it also shortens the length of the hosebed to 65 to 70 inches in length. This creates a taller preconnect handline stack and supply hose loaded height that is equal or taller than a conventional T-tank hosebed. Dividers are typically 34 to 36 inches tall which requires an extension tool to repack preconnected handlines. To gain the full benefit of the low hosebed height, one or both of the large diameter intake/ discharges would be required to be relocated outside the tank or eliminated.

Considerable time and resources have been invested to ensure our apparatus has a reduced out-of-service time and to lessen the switching to reserve apparatus for common service and repairs. The Apparatus Section, Apparatus Committee, and our manufacturing partners have been working behind the scenes to evaluate every component for life-cycle repair costs. We have also made an effort to relocate high-repair components to easily accessible locations and added additional access panels for components that cannot be relocated. Examples of these changes would be the relocation of the pump primer to the rear of the battery box on the passenger side, and the addition of an access panel for the hydraulic pump for the ladder rack. A continuous evaluation of component suppliers is ongoing and recent changes in pump valve manufacturers have been made due to high failure of components, excessively high life-cycle

(Continued on Page 11)

# Understanding the "Why and the Benefits of Stress Exposure Training"

By Lieutenant Scott Kraut Fire and Rescue Station 40, Fairfax Center

In the fire service we tend to put a lot of stock in our equipment. Rightfully so, but how much stock do we put in knowing its limitations, strengths and weaknesses, and then using that equipment to its fullest potential?

Knowing our equipment makes us truly stewards of the profession and will keep us safe. Understanding which bar or hook is right for which application is synonymous with a butcher choosing the right knife for the cut of meat or a plumber using the right wrench. It's important we know how to use our personal protective gear, our portable radios, SCBA, as it's our first line of defense in staying safe. However, there are many more intangible items that will save us not only in an emergency, but possibly in our everyday lives. I think we all understand the importance of training and exercise to improve our overall performance; however, there is less emphasis on how we train mentally for fireground operations.

Before you turn the page thinking this is simply some psycho-babble nonsense, consider the following scenario that we can all relate to. You're at the firehouse and have just put your head on the pillow after the 13th run of the day. Before you get a chance to get into deep sleep, the bells ring for a structure fire in you first due. While bounding from your rack, you try to make sense of your surroundings and process the dispatch information: address, type of structure, people trapped, and more. You begin to dress out, ensuring that your gear is tightened up correctly, as the apparatus door rises and you hop in the right front seat, you notice a blanket of snow on the ground making this event more hazardous. All of this has occurred in less than two minutes and there is even more to process

as you weave your way to the incident scene. Have we prepared our officers and firefighters to adequately process this information and make sound decisions? If the answer is "yes, because we have a well-developed incident simulation program," then I would argue that it is without the mental, physical, and environmental stressors that we face individually.

We have spent hours discussing the curvature of the forks on halligan bar and the department has invested countless dollars on props for forcible entry and all to better train members in the task of forcible entry. This is a very important part of our job, but only one small component of the bigger picture; however, we spend so much time and effort training for it. How much time do we invest in our mental preparedness or discuss ways to train our mind and body to work together? I would venture to say most of us don't expend much effort, if we even think about it at all. From the physiology side of things, our brain controls every single action or inaction that our body carries out and is part of the central nervous system for a reason. How then can we ignore this critical component in our training regimen? This may sound daunting at first, but think about how the fire service has adopted a wellness initiative that most of us adhere to and how it sat with us at first. We have only a few more items that fall under the wellness initiative to incorporate into our training programs for us to be complete. What's left is the mental preparation, the training that goes along with it, and finally the brain and body health to support it. Let's take a look at how all this comes together.

The fire service has come a long way towards recognizing the correlation between physical fitness and our performance on the fireground. If you look at the tasks we perform on the fireground, you can rightfully refer to us as industrial athletes. We must determine what it is that makes an athlete so successful in their sport. Athletes spend countless hours just as we do training for big events; however, most successful athletes see a distinct contrast between themselves and the others they compete against—the missing link is mental preparation. Lanny Bassham, an olympic shooter, states in his book: "The top five percent of professional athletes agree that elite performance is 90 percent mental." So is it possible then to train firefighters to not only physically, but mentally prepare for the fireground as athletes prepare for a "big game?"

With the support of the Fire Chief, we have

developed a creative and proven approach to train firefighters in a way that prepares them mentally and provides them the tools and motivation to stay prepared. The key to our success is reps and sets. Most of us are familiar with a typical bodybuilding or workout routine that revolves around sets and repetitions. Sets are the number of times that a series of repetitions will be performed to complete an exercise and the reps are the amount of times that an individual movement will take place during one

set. This has been a standard for bodybuilders for decades and is a proven model we adopted for our training program with some variance. Repetitions are done with an understanding of muscle fiber types in mind. More repetitions are used to develop Type I muscle fibers (slow twitch) that are endurance based and slow to fatigue. Think of how many times you drive back to the firehouse and how the trip back is routine. You have driven that route so often that it becomes muscle. We have committed not only the route, but every action involved in getting there to memory and it becomes second nature. The same is true for reps in our training, but it must be performed over and over until the skill is mastered and then practiced routinely. Now we are ready for the SETS.

The next step in the formula is to take the reps and apply them to SETS with one exception, in training for SETS, we don't follow the bodybuilding or workout definition. SETS stands for Stress Exposure Training Scenarios and is what will prepare firefighters mentally for the incident.

We all understand that everyone has experienced stress to some extent in their lives. Without getting too deep into the psychology and physiology of stress, let's take a look at what it means to us as firefighters. Stress carries with



it a negative connotation, but is actually a normal and even healthy response to a stressor, as it triggers the brain to release chemicals to prepare the body for an attack. A simple example would be that feeling you might have when an animal or person jumps into the road in front of you as you are driving. Once the event is over, you feel like your heart sank into your stomach, but what actually happened in a matter of seconds is your body prepared you for the impact by dilating your eyes to

see more, and releasing the chemicals cortisol, epinephrine (adrenaline), and norepinephrine into the body. Instantly, the heart beats faster, blood pressure increases, senses sharpen, a rise in glucose invigorates us and we are ready to go. The feeling after the fact is a feeling of exhaustion due to those chemicals dumping. Depending on each firefighter's exposure to certain aspects of the job, the event described above happens on some level to every person at every incident. The

(Continued on Page 14)



# Health & Safety

(Information Included for Each Front Lines Issue)



reetings from Safety Section; we are planning to have a safety related article in each edition of our Front Lines. If there are specific items or ideas that you would like to be covered, please talk to a safety officer.

# **Recapping 2013**

Good luck to recently retired Captain Rick Smith and Captain Chris "Smoke" Thompson; they will surely be missed. Captain Matt Burns returned to Operations and Captains Matt Ryan, Michael W. Whetsell, and Mike Davis joined the safety officer team.

- BC Daniel Gray was promoted to Deputy Chief of Safety and Personnel Services, and BC Sam Gray was promoted to take his place as the BC of Safety.
- Sandy Harrington was promoted out of the department and left her long-time position as Light Duty Coordinator.

# 2014

### Safety 403

A third safety officer will be added in the early part of this year. Safety 403 will be located at Station 413. The three new safety officers will be at the rank of Captain II. This additional level of rank allows for an advanced level of command awareness and internal advancement for increased experience and longevity within the section. Most importantly, studies have shown that the third safety officer will significantly decrease response times for quicker on-scene arrivals.

Our current system is comprised of two safety officers. Safety 401, currently based out of station 435, is responsible for the geographic coverage and administrative responsibility of Battalions 4, 5, 6, and 7. Safety 402, currently based out of station 415, is responsible for the geographic coverage and administrative coverage of Battalions 1, 2, and 3. Safety 402 is also responsible for HQ, Academy, and Fire Prevention personnel. Safety officer responsibilities include administrative support for all accidents, injuries, and exposures.

With the move of EMS402 to Station 442, this leaves an administrative/operational vacancy in the middle of one of the busiest areas in the county, Station 413. Safety 403 will occupy this office and create a more advantageous position for geographic and population coverage for the safety program. The addition will change the administrative coverage as well:

- Safety 401 FS435, Battalions 5, 6, 7.
- Safety 402 FS415, Battalions 1, 3, HQ, Prevention, FRA.
- Safety 403 FS413, Battalions 2, 4.

### **In-station Training**

The Safety Section is assisting with the upcoming administration of the "emergency gear removal for the injured firefighter" training. Safety officers will also be visiting stations to give injury and accident reporting training and provide information on improving safety administrative duties. Health and Safety will be bringing nutrition and physical training programs to you using peer fitness trainers, the department nutritionist, and daily intranet tips.

### Safety Officer Training

Training will be given more frequently and centered on relevant issues to promote a well-rounded relief pool of safety officers. The current *Safety Officer Manual* will be updated to a new *Safety Officer Guidelines*, outlining all the information you need about the position and its processes. Additionally, a training database for the safety officers and the relief safety officers has been established

and is maintained by the academy's records management staff.

### **Safety Initiatives**

Safety and the hazardous materials team will begin an in-depth study on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in post-fire environments. The Safety Section will also be testing video driver monitoring system for possible future field implementation.

Please take the time to invite your safety officer to your in-station training or just to have dinner some time. Use the opportunity to get some insight about how they can help your shift go home safely every morning and enjoy a prosperous retirement.  $\clubsuit$ 

					201	3 OSHA Reco	ordable Injuries				
Battalion	Shift	Total	At CPAT Facility	Emergency Medical	Fire Station	Location Unknown (Other)	Non-Structural Fire Suppression	Physical Fitness Exercises	Responding to or Returning from Alarm	Structural Fire Suppression	Training
1	A	15		3	3	2		3	2		2
1	В	16		6	5	1	1	1			2
1	С	11		2	3	1	1		1	1	2
2	А	8		2	1	1		2			2
2	В	18		6	4	2		2		1	3
2	С	10			6	1		1		1	1
3	Α	15	1	4	1		1			7	1
3	В	6			2	1		1			2
3	С	9		1	1		1	2	1	1	2
4	Α	21	1	3	3	4		1	3	2	4
4	В	19		5	2	2	1	1	3	1	4
4	С	11		2	3					2	4
5	Α	11		3	2	1	1		1	2	1
5	В	14		3	3	2		2	1		3
5	С	9		4	1			1	1	1	1
6	Α	1		1							
6	В	24		7	2	1	1	4		4	5
6	С	14		2			2	3	1	2	4
7	Α	15		1	5	1		1		4	3
7	В	7				2		3	1		1
7	С	6		3		1				1	1
TA	Α	1									1
TA	D	12		1		1		2			8
HQ	D	12		2		7		2			1
	Total	285	2	61	47	31	9	32	15	30	58

2013 Vehicle Accidents by Battalion					BAT	TAL	ION			
Class	Total	UNK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	HQ
0 - Not Classed	8	2	1	2		1	1	1		
1 - Employee at fault with no contributing factors	34		8	2	3	7	2	2	3	7
2 - Employee at fault with contributing factor	25		9	1	3	3		5	1	3
3 - Employee not at fault, but could have used										
better judgment to prevent the accident	12			2	3	1	2	1	3	
4 - Employee not at fault and did all he or she										
reasonably could do to prevent the accident	36		4	7	2	2	2	4	4	11
5 - Involved unit parked without a driver or had no										
driver assigned	13	1	1	3	1	1	5		1	
Total	128	3	23	17	12	15	12	13	12	21

2013 Vehicle Accidents by Shift					SHIFT			
Class	Total	UNK	А	В	С	v	D	0
0 - Not Classed	8		3	1	1	1		2
1 - Employee at fault with no contributing factors	34		7	7	9	3	8	
2 - Employee at fault with contributing factor	25		5	11	5		3	1
3 - Employee not at fault, but could have used better judgment to prevent the accident	12		1	9	2			
4 - Employee not at fault and did all he or she reasonably could do to prevent the accident	36		7	12	6		9	2
5 - Involved unit parked without a driver or had no driver assigned	13	1	4	4	4			
Total	128	1	27	44	27	4	20	5

<sup>&</sup>quot;The Fairfax Way, Moving Forward."

# National Association of EMS Physicians 2014 Meeting Says Small Stuff Effects Outcomes

By Dan Avstreih, M.D. Associate Operational Medical Director

ou are probably reading this right around the time of year when New Year's resolutions are starting to die, or at least transitioning to hospice and get their affairs in order. No doubt countless people in this country vow to decrease their stress level, worry less, "don't sweat the small stuff." For some of us, that isn't all that hard. It's hard to be really precise when pulling ceiling with a 12-foot pike pole. It would be pure luck if anyone's estimate of blood lost onto a roadway from an injured cyclist was within 50cc, much less five, and it doesn't particularly change our approach in the trauma bay. I, for one, was not born a precise person, as I'm certain any of my former teachers would gladly attest. A lot of ER docs probably have a similar backstory.

However, over the years (and the medical literature), I have learned there are certain times - often when patients are the sickest - that sweating the small stuff is absolutely critical to a good outcome. No where are the details more important than the rate of BVM ventilation. Sure, the consequences of too little are obvious. No oxygen, no life. However, over-ventilation is equally catastrophic. Blow off even a little too much carbon dioxide and the vessels flowing to the brain constrict, decreasing bloodflow and causing tissue ischemia. The increased pressure in the chest can impede venous blood return, trapping blood away from the heart, where it's as useless as if it was on the pavement. Add on the potential for causing accidental pneumothorax from overbagging, it becomes clear: Sweating the small stuff is

crucial.

At the 2014 National Association of EMS Physicians meeting in January, talk after talk was on the effects of really small stuff. Like the nearly 10 percent reduction in survival if peri-shock pauses in CPR were 20 seconds instead of less than 10 seconds. Ten seconds! We were talking about the negative effects of "leaning" in chest compression – inadvertent, subconscious failure to allow complete recoil of the chest wall. Real, measurable, and very negative effects on survival.

Honestly, it's kind of surprising. I always thought emergency medicine would be all cowboy - quick, decisive, and kinda improvised "It was ugly, but we got it done." The detailobsessed Type-A's could spend hours with their MRIs and plan their intricate operations – "I'll be over here saving lives." Well, turns out, in order to save those lives, I need to be detail-obsessed too. It's a not an easy lift – this kind of precision during the adrenaline surge of a cardiac arrest. It's like rolling up on a fully involved house fire and having to watch your water use down to the single gallon. But, if there is one thing that's true about the fire service, it is that we rise to the occasion. Precision might not come naturally to all of us – it doesn't to me – but we do what we need to get the job done right.

So, when things get really hot for the patient keep the compressions hard and fast and watch your recoil. Keep your pauses really short. Don't over bag, don't under bag, and pay attention to all of it. Seem like a lot? It is. But if that's what it takes to save a life, then we can do it.

# Front Lines can be viewed at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr

# Lieutenant Cory Key Promoted to Gunnery Sergeant

By Captain I Michael J. Fischer Fire and Rescue Station 9, C-Shift

'n response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Cory Key joined the United States Marine Corps. He began his military career in March 2003 at boot camp on Paris Island, South Carolina, where he was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class after graduation from Recruit Basic Training. Cory continued his training with combat training in North Carolina, and then to Marine Artillery Scout Observer Course, graduating at the top of his class, and receiving a certificate of commendation. He later trained at Coronado, California, attending Close-Air Support School, where he again graduated at top of his class, receiving another certificate of commendation and was subsequently promoted to Lance Corporal. After several various assignments, he was assigned to Richmond, Virginia, and received a meritorious promotion to Corporal.

In December 2005, Corporal Key was called to active duty as a scout observer and deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was stationed in Fallujah, Iraq, and assigned to Close-Air Support and Artillery Fire Operations. While there, he was assigned various other duties such as vehicle commander, quick reaction force team leader, and radio operator. He was responsible for 167 Marines that conducted intelligence gathering, securing high value targets, and maintaining civil order in Fallujah. He was promoted to Sergeant while in Iraq.

After serving in Iraq, Cory was assigned to Ma-

(Continued from Page 5)

costs, and increased out-of-service time.

The Apparatus Section and Apparatus Committee continue to focus on providing proven technologies for apparatus safety and performance for our critical mission to the citizens and visitors of Fairfax County.

Personnel with any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding apparatus design and specifications may call Captain Glenn Mason rine Corps Warfighting Lab-Experimental Division-Field Testing Branch, Quantico, Virginia. He was subsequently assigned as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller Liaison.

The unwavering support of his family allowed him to concentrate on serving and protecting this great country, and to assist others in need. Without a doubt, Cory's patriotism, dedication to duty, and the United States of America and its people, led to his distinguished promotion to Marine Gunnery Sergeant. Congratulations "Gunny" and thanks for your service. ◆



Firefighters from Mount Vernon, Franconia, and the Academy visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia, Dec. 17, 2013. They joined Fire Lieutenant Cory Key, wife Cathy, children John and Lena, and proud parents Ted and Robbie Key, to witness the promotion of Cory Key to United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant. The ceremony was conducted by Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Berry. (Photo by Becky Fischer)

at 703-246-3977, or contact the Apparatus Committee members directly by phone or via email to FIRE-ApparatusCommittee@ fairfaxcounty.gov. The Apparatus Committee roster and committee charter can be found on the department's Intranet by accessing the following link: https://firenet/ffire/docs/cmts/pdf/2013-004. CMT.pdf. ◆

<sup>&</sup>quot;The Fairfax Way, Moving Forward."

# **Bailey's Crossroads Fire & Rescue Station Near Completion**



Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Station is a new 16,000 square foot 4-bay fire station that will replace the original fire station that was severely damaged when its apparatus bay roof collapsed during the blizzard of February 2010. Rising up from the rubble, the new fire station is being constructed on the existing station site and will provide 20 bunks, living and dining accommodations, 4 apparatus bays (with 2 drive-thru bays), administrative offices, a physical training room, a training classroom, and a dualpurpose tower for hose drying and training.

The tight 1.2 acre site presents numerous challenges. The design is restricted by an existing 130' tall communications monopole and associated support structures that must remain intact and operational throughout the course of design and construction. Additionally, a major underground utility corridor combines with significant yard setbacks and landscape buffers to constrict all edges of the property and reduce the buildable area by nearly half to .69 acre.





The building is targeting LEED Silver Certification. Sustainable design strategies include: site selection, water use reduction, regional materials, recycled content materials, high solar-reflectance roofing materials, and low VOC interior finishes.

"The Fairfax Way, Moving Forward."

# Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company Provides Santa a Sleigh





On Saturday, December 14, 2013, volunteers from the Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company (FOVFR) teamed with members of the Arlington-Fairfax chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) to provide a Christmas celebration and meal for 53 children and their families. Hosted at the IWLA facility on Mount Olive Road in Centreville, this is the 11th year that the FOVFR has co-hosted this event. Pictured top left: Santa is delivered to the children and families on an engine from the Fair Oaks station. Pictured bottom left: The waiting crowd is delighted. Santa receives lots of hugs from the kids and smiles from the parents as FOVFR volunteers enjoy the show. Pictured top right: Members of the FOVFR purchase fire department related toys and other gifts through their personal donations, such as the ladder truck above.

From: Malone, Sue Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2014 4:55 PM To: DPSC-AllStaff; 'michael.wood@vdot.virginia.gov'; Ryan, Chuck; Masters, Pete; Hawkins, Charles R.; Jenkins, Jason R.; Boswell, Karrie L.; Cornell, Wendell Subject: Thank You!

Good afternoon everyone

Now that the food is gone and the pots and pans are thoroughly scrubbed, I wanted to say a HUGE thank you for taking the time to eat/contribute to the Bernese Dog Foundation established by LT. Rick Trudeau and his wife. Because of your generosity, a donation will be made in the amount of \$550 with the agencies of DPSC, Fairfax County FRD and VDOT as the donors. As I'm working until 2300 this evening, I'll make the donation either late tonight or first thing Thursday morning before my shift starts.

Chief Jenkins, if you could please forward this email to "Fire" so that all of the individuals who attended today will know just how much their contribution helped in the total raised.

There is never a shortage of generosity for a good cause.

Once again, I humbly thank you for participating in the luncheon.

Sincerely,

Susan B Days

# (Continued from Page 7)

key to training is to understand that it's going to happen and learn how to deal with it so it doesn't cause disruption in the thought process leading to bad decision-making. In order to adopt this form of preparation into a training program that already exists, there has to be a tiered system that guides firefighters to success. A simple approach would look like this:

Levels	Task (Conventional one/man forcible entry)	Stress Involvement
1	Lecture and hands on explaining the tools and how and why they work.	No stress
2	Instruction at a door prop and/or or actual door	No stress
3	Work the door in structural gear, SCBA, and gloves on (full PPE)	Lo-Stress
4	Work the door in full PPE, but tighten the area to simulate a basement walkout and add theatrical smoke.	Moderate Stress
5	Work the door as above, but add the pressure of a hose team and potential victims trapped. Increase the distractors by adding noise and frustration.	High Stress

The goal is to master the fundamentals and successfully complete each level prior to advancing. We must be careful when pushing people to the limit as there is no room in this type of training environment for failure, but that isn't to say it's a "no child left behind approach." The firefighters will understand that it is our duty as fire service instructors to ensure that the firefighter is completely prepared to move forward because when the stressors begin to appear, there will be no instruction, only positive reinforcement and a reminder that they have the tools, both mentally and physically, to accomplish the task at hand. Throughout the SETS, the firefighter achieves the reps or muscle memory component resulting in the mastery of that area of performance. This type of training must continue on a regular basis to ensure mastery, and is an excellent foundation for each task that we will perform on the fireground.

The forcible entry example is but one small

component of the possibilities with SETS and reps training as we have expanded this to firefighter safety and survival and eventually to command competency training. Understanding how the brain works, and how individually we respond to the stressors in our environment allows us to stimulate firefighters to perform well under stress. The key is an awareness that the stress is normal and to be expected, but the real pay-off is when you know how to control it and use it to your advantage.

With the different disciplines that we are expected to be proficient in, there is a need to be proficient and to explain to our members the coping mechanisms in each discipline. As we know, firefighting and associated duties are not only almost always different, but each one could be the last, and when we aren't mentally prepared to deal with them-- there is a lot more at stake than simply winning a game. Stay tuned for more on brain health.  $\diamond$ 

#### March 15, 2014

# Partners Contracting, Inc.

December 03, 2013

Deputy Fire Chief Michael T. Reilly Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department 4100 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax, VA 22030

Re: NRA Hydro

Dear Deputy Fire Chief Reilly,

I wanted to acknowledge what an outstanding job that your office did on the NRA project. My vendor was having a difficult time obtaining their permit on a very time sensitive job and Captain Victor M. Miller, Jr. was able to help mitigate the time crunch by scheduling an overtime hydro the very day that they received their permit.

Had it not been for the diligent work performed by your office and Captain Miller's efforts, I very well may have lost a client of over 25 years. I am a small business owner who relies on relationships that were formed years ago and maintained as result of doing the very thing that Captain Miller did...exceptional service.

Once again, your office and Captain Miller should be commended for being problem solvers and not merely being content with status quo. He could have very well have ignored my pleads for action and chosen not to and for that am very grateful to have persevered a long term client.

I felt compelled to bring this to your attention, so as his supervisor, you have a better understanding of who is going above and beyond the call of duty.

Respectfully,

Peter Viscardi President

100 Executive Drive Suite 2A + Sterling, VA 20166 + (703) 689-2966 + (703) 689-9595 Fax



Firefighters deal with the snow. The station commander at Fire and Rescue Station 31, Fox Mill, runs a snowblower to clear the way for apparatus to respond to emergencies.

# Letters of Appreciation



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Office of the Fire Marshal 10700 Page Ave Fairfax, VA 22030

Attention: Chief Brad Cochrane

Re: Carl Sandburg Middle School Renovation Job Number: G12.0281.1200

Dear Chief Cochrane,

My name is Keith Meacham and I am the Project Manager for Grunley Construction at the Carl Sandburg Middle School Renovation.

January 2nd, 2014

I wanted to take a moment to recognize the efforts of a few of your inspectors: Howard Bailey, Mike Felczak and Mike Haynes. Without their sacrifice, understanding of the circumstances and willingness to accommodate our needs I would not be successfully turning over approx. 70,000 sqft. of classroom space on time (before children return from break).

Our schedule had gotten as tight and close to the holidays as possible. Our window for success was one or two days from being shut. Without these gentlemen postponing their vacations, working with our team and performing inspections on Saturday, 12/21, the project would have been at a standstill for two weeks and a successful turnover would be impossible.

Again, I just wanted to share the importance and direct results of their actions with you, as all of us working down here at Sandburg greatly appreciate them.

Sincerely,

GRUNLEY CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Macham

Keith Meacham Project Manager KeithMeacham@grunley.com (240) 399-4178

15020 Shady Grove Road, Suite 500 | Rockville, MD 20850





Lieutenant Thomas Griffin, Fire and Rescue Station 40, Fairfax Center, explains to Leadership Fairfax participants the capabilities of various apparatus, and the hazardous materials mission of the station, November 21, 2013. The Fire Chief also spoke about the SIOC program at the luncheon.



Firefighters from Fire and Rescue Station 39, North Point, received recognition from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Fire Chief, for the successful save of Cola, an eight-month old Great Dane (center), November 29, 2013, during a house fire at 717 Forest Park Road in the Great Falls area.



Firefighters battle an early morning townhouse fire at 1605 Apricot Court in the Reston area, November 26, 2013. Firefighters encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from the roof of the two-story home arrival. Both occupants escaped unharmed due to a neighbor alerting them to the fire. The occupants were displaced.



Firefighters raise a ladder to the two-story duplex fire at 7035 Stanford Drive, January 14, 2014. Firefighters quickly extinguished the kitchen fire. Unattended food on the stove caused \$20,000 in damages. There were no injuries. (Photo by Technician Benjamin Jenkins)



Firefighters use a pet oxygen mask to help revive Cola, a Labrador/Dane mix puppy, after he was rescued from a house fire, November 29, 2013, in Great Falls. One other dog escaped unharmed. There were no other injuries. Damage to the house was estimated at \$300,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation.





Firefighters and paramedics adjust the pet oxygen mask on a rescued dog at the townhouse fire, January 27, 2014, in the 8500 block of Towne Manor Court, Alexandria. An adult male was rescued from a third floor window using a ground ladder and then flown to the Washington Hospital Burn Center with life-threatening injuries. Damage is estimated at \$100,000. Personnel rescued four dogs in the three-story townhouse. One dog perished from the fire.

# Facebook Feedback

Karen W. commented on a link Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Karen wrote: "Thank you for a job well done. I live in the house next door to the one that caught fire! We will be displaced for a couple months but are so thankful that we got out safely."

Shaan Z. commented on a link Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Shaan wrote: "You are the guardian angels flying over us!!!"

*Laura G. commented on Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's photo. Laura wrote: "That's wonderful you were able to save the women's life and two of the animals."* 

Arielle M. commented on Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's photo. Arielle wrote: "Glad you could get most of the pups out."

Yvonne B. commented on a link Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Yvonne wrote: "I never knew this about 9-volt batteries. And I bet a lot other folks do not know either and have them loosely stored in drawers or other places."

*DeAnne J. commented on Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's photo. DeAnne wrote: "Thank you so much for caring to help our four legged family members!!!!"* 

Holly T. commented on Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's photo. Holly wrote: "My heartfelt thanks to the entire staff....what a wonderful thing you did for these beautiful dogs. From an owner of 2 (4 in my life) Bernese Mountain Dogs and a dog lover in general...Thank you. Thank you...true unsung heroes...this picture says it all."

*Erin D. commented on Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's photo. Erin wrote: "As a resident of Towne Manor Court and a dog owner and lover, thank you so much for your quick response and for treating the four legged family members so well!"* 

*Linda T. commented on a photo Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Linda wrote: "Thank you Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. We appreciate the information you post to keep us safe."* 

Alicia W. commented on a status Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Alicia wrote: "Thank you Fairfax County Fire and Rescue!! You have been through our neighborhood making sure we all have smoke detector/ fire alarms and if someone didn't, you made sure you put one in for them! You have transported my 11/2 yr old a few times and most surely saved his life on at least one occasion, by getting him to the hospital in a timely manner during an asthma attack. Please remind people how dangerous some electrical strips can be. The wrong one or an overloaded strip can surely catch on fire in an instant. Thanks for all you do!"

Linda B. commented on a photo Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Linda wrote: "Thanks for posting, both of my nephews are in your fire service and they live in the Fredericksburg & Stafford area so appreciate you keeping me informed because I am in Sebring Highlands County Florida"

# The Admin Team Asks "Did You Know?"...

To better organize your received emails, change the subject line to a title more appropriate to the message. Many times we receive emails with generic subject lines such as "a quick question" or "thank you" or "meeting." When you try to find a specific email, you may have to read through a chain of messages with the same subject line. One way to avoid that is to open your email, then change the subject line to a title that makes more sense to you such as "yearly leadership team meeting" then save it. Hoping this helps.

# Large Loss Fire Investigations

Date: 11/6/2013 Box: 13-02 Address: 8141 Larkin Lane Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$320,000 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed
Date: 11/7/2013 Box: 11-22 Address: 6902 Deer Run Drive Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$349,605 Loss: \$349,605 Status: Closed
Date: 11/8/2013 Box: 22-13 Address: 7207 Evanston Road Type: Residential Cause: Undetermined Value: \$265,200 Loss: \$200,000 Status: Inactive
Date: 11/14/2013 Box: 32-00 Address: 5704 Captain Jones Court Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$363,590 Loss: \$203,500 Status: Closed
Date: 11/15/2013 Box: 24-02 Address: 7922 Grimsley Street Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$340,755 Loss: \$200,000 Status: Closed
Date: 11/20/2013 Box: 24-02 Address: 8131 Keeler Street Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$279,000 Loss: \$75,000 Status: Closed
Date: 11/26/2013 Box: 25-00 Address: 1605 Apricot Court Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$427,920 Loss: \$150,000 Status: Closed
Date: 11/29/2013 Box: 12-00 Address: 717 Forest Park Road Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$454,950 Loss: \$300,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/10/2013 Box: 39-00 Address: 11410 Summer House Court Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$480,000 Loss: \$260,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/18/2013 Box: 15-06 Address: 4700 Stonecroft Boulevard Type: Vehicle Cause: Accidental Value: \$160,000 Loss: \$160,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/19/2013 Box: 05-00 Address: 6533 Gildar Street Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$366,690 Loss: \$75,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/20/2013 Box: 01-91 Address: 2142 Haycock Road Type: Residential Cause: Under Investigation Value: \$1,137,20 Loss: \$800,000 Status: Open
Date: 12/26/2013 Box: 01-43 Address: 1903 Westmoreland Street Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$224,520 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed
Date: 12/28/2013 Box: 17-16 Address: 14361 Cedar Key Landing Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$345,285 Loss: \$150,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/2/2014 Box: 24-33 Address: 8201 Russell Road #301 Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$233,000 Loss: \$60,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/3/2014 Box: 18-30 Address: 7234 Arlington Boulevard Type: Commercial Cause: Accidental Value: \$4,100,000 Loss: \$100,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/3/2014 Box: 32-03 Address: 10330 Hampshire Green Avenue Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$309,000 Loss: \$155,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/5/2014 Box: 29-15 Address: 8328 Georgetown Pike Type: Commercial Cause: Accidental Value: \$665,500 Loss: \$665,500 Status: Closed
Date: 1/7/2014 Box: 37-06 Address: 8584 Enochs Drive Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$275,000 Loss: \$60,000 Status: Closed
Date: 1/27/2014 Box: 24-01 Address: 8556 Towne Manor Court Type: Residential Cause: Accidental Value: \$300,000 Loss: \$100,000 Status: Closed

"The Fairfax Way, Moving Forward."



Major General Jeffrey Buchanan, Commander, Joint Force Headquarters, National Capital Region, presents Fire Chief Richard Bowers, a plaque for the department's support of the multi-jurisdictional Capital Shield 2014 exercise, December 2, 2013, in the Massey Building. The Army also recognized the department for their long standing support of other exercises in the past. Captain I David Conrad (left), Fire and Rescue Station 14, Burke, and Battalion Chief Paul Ruwe, Special Operations, were also on hand.

# **Top 10 Activity Report**

# Section Birth Section Birth Section Announcements

Fire and Rescue Station 11, Penn Daw, A-Shift, would like to congratulate Technician Mark Killion and his wife Anna on the birth of their twin girls, Harper Violet and Marley Rose, on December 23, 2013.

Firefighter Brian McNew, Fire and Rescue 17, Centreville, B-Shift, and his wife welcomed their son, Nolan Keith, into the world on January 15, 2014.



#### January - December 2013 Ambulance **Engine Company Rescue Squad** Unit Calls <u>Unit</u> Calls Unit Calls A 4 2 2 E 573 E409 3,110 R426 1,586 E410 3,032 A 4 0 2 E 390 R421 1,370 2,819 A 4 2 1 E 354 E411 R411 1,360 A 4 1 4 E 257 E430 2,798 $R\,4\,1\,8$ 1,219 E408 2,773 A 4 0 5 E 211 R401 1,130 E429 A 4 1 3 E 194 2,706 R 4 1 9 1,001 A 4 1 7 E 142E422 2,622 R414 895 A 4 0 1 E 99 E413 2,571 R439 844A 4 3 8 E 93 E404 2,466 2,387 A 4 1 2 E 83 E417 Medic Ladder Company **Battalion Chiefs & EMS** Captains Unit Calls Calls Unit Unit Calls M 4 2 2 2,446 T/TL429 1,865 E M S 4 0 5 1,696 2,413 1,758 E M S 4 0 4 1,634 M410T/TL410 M430 2,401 T/TL425 1,755 E M S 4 0 3 1,422 2,273 1,597 M 4 2 9 T/TL430 E M S 4 0 2 1,232 M413 2,233 T/TL408 1,458 E M S 4 0 6 1,157 2,216 M426 T/TL440 1,446 EMS401 1,154 M4042,201 T/TL411 1,400 EMS407 927 M421 2,187 T/TL436 1,323 BC404 859 BC403 M 4 2 5 2,158 836 T/TL422 1,264 2,114 T/TL405 1,159 BC402 691 M 4 1 0 B

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.

# Front Lines Deadlines

The remaining 2014 deadlines are May 15, August 15, and November 15. Please submit articles or text to Dan Schmidt at Dan.Schmidt@ fairfaxcounty.gov or Cathy Richards, Cathy.Richards@ fairfaxcounty.gov.



# **Community Outreach Program Highlights**



Firefighters, civilians, and retired members come together to distribute several thousand toys for children December 17, 2013, at Fire and Rescue Station 11, Penn Daw. The festive occasion lasted several hours to ensure toys and gifts could be distributed by age and gender.



*Crews from Fire and Rescue Station 39, North Point, pose with SIOC supplies as the department winds down the fall SIOC program. SIOC will start again in the spring.* 



Virginia Task Force 1 members and firefighters from Fire and Rescue Station 21, Fair Oaks, provided Thanksgiving food baskets for less fortunate families in Fairfax County. Firefighters delivered the baskets in their apparatus and provided a much appreciated show and tell of their equipment, November 26, 2013.

# Awards & Presentations

#### Career Achievement Awards

Master Technician Dale W. Dommel Master Technician Thomas C. Williams

#### 15-Year Safe Driving

Master Technician Matthew T. Groff Master Technician Christopher W. Ouellette

#### 10-Year Safe Driving

Master Technician Brian P. Jenkins Master Technician Jeffrey L. Smith Master Technician Hector J. Rivera Flores Master Technician Robert D. Rodriguez Master Technician Richard C. Vannoy Master Technician Clifford A. Watson Master Technician Michael R. Zdunsky Technician Robert A. Adeleke Technician Smith T. Banks II Technician Alfred M. Doughty Technician James T. Franklin Technician Dovel C. Gilmore Technician Ivan W. Holmes, Jr. Technician Lillie Allen-Peyton Firefighter Michael J. Buckley Firefighter Adriean L. Lipscomb Firefighter James M. Taber Firefighter Jason D. Updegraff

#### 5-Year Safe Driving

Master Technician Mark C. Johnson Master Technician Gregory A. Keppley Master Technician John C. Manvell

Master Technician James T. Morris, Jr. Master Technician Britt M. Phelps Master Technician Daniel R. Thompson Master Technician Richard C. Vannoy Technician Benjamin D. Andreson Technician Clarence B. Dickens II Technician Scott R. Fickes Technician Kyung S. Ha Technician Craig L. Robertson Technician Christian H. Waelder Technician Travis W. Woolever Firefighter Craig S. Lazisky Firefighter Catherine E. Leary Firefighter Clevis R. Hooker Firefighter Alessandra C. Hurtado Firefighter Stephen J. Painter Firefighter Kyle L. Turner Firefighter Carlton L. Yancey

December 12, 2013

Dear Station 28,

I am writing to thank you for saving my father's life. Martin F. suffered a cardiac arrest at home on Thursday, October 10, 2013. Your station responded to the call, and he was unconscious when you arrived, Your crew's quick action stabilized him enough to take him to Virginia Hospital Center. He was in the 1CU for several days, then had a de-fibrillator installed and was released from the hospital a week later. Even though no one could be sure how long he had been unconscious, he has suffered no apparent brain damage, which is undoubtedly due to your prompt response and proper actions,

I do not know who responded to the call. I would like to thank them personally, but under the circumstances my mother was understandably not focused on the names of the crew that responded. The call was at Juniper Lane, Falls Church, 22044 at approximately 1200; I hope your records will allow you to pass my thanks along to the crew that responded.

My family and I are profoundly grateful for your service.

M. Fage

PS I apologize that it has taken me so long to write. Life has been busy since my dad recovered, but the holidays have reminded me of all the things I have to be thankful for. Merry Christmas to you all.



Technician Thomas Barnes (center), Fire and Rescue Station 12, Great Falls, received the Reston Chamber of Commerce Firefighter of the Quarter Award, December 10, 2013, at the North County Governmental Center. Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (second from left) also participated in the ceremony.



The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) presented Lieutenant Edward DeCarlo (second from left) with the EMS Medal, and Captain II Ramiro Galvez (third from left) with the Fire Safety Medal, for excellence of service, December 5, 2013, at Fire and Rescue Station 30, Merrifield. Deputy Chief Robert Zoldos, (left), A-shift, and Bill Price, (right), President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter of SAR presented the awards.

2013 Governor's Fire Service Award for Excellence

**Excellence in Virginia Public Fire and Life Safety Education** Renée F. Stilwell

Excellence in Virginia Fire Prevention Captain II George A. Hollingsworth

# 2014 Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award

Captain II Willie F. Bailey

The Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award honors an individual for his or her outstanding accomplishments in the areas of public service employment or service on a public board, authority, or commission, and for lasting contributions to the quality of life in the community.

Technician Sharron L. Cayere, Station 34, A-Shift, received an honorable mention for the Don Smith Awards at the award presentations on January 28, 2014.

Chief Bowers,

My 17 year old daughter was one of several drivers that sustained flat tires last Friday evening on Rt. 50. One of your crews (Capt. Brian Edmonston, Joel Atagwe, Kathleen Vorbau, and Ryan Filipkoski) were on the scene and not only ensured my daughter and her friend were safe but they also changed the tire on her vehicle. It is so easy to take these actions for granted. As a fellow member of the public safety community and a parent I wanted to bring to your attention the great work of your employees. They represented your organization and the profession in the highest and proudest tradition. Thanks to each of them and to you and your department. Hopefully this can be shared with each of the employees and their chain of command.

Submitted By: Rob M.

23

is to serve the citizens.

fire department.

What got you interested in the fire service? Friends within the

Who or what made an influence in your career? Clayton Thomp-

Taylor, Phillip Tricarico, Len Mur-

ray, Christopher Peterson, Chris-

Thompson, Matthew Malof, Eric

son, Duane Dodwell, Rogers

topher Peterson, Christopher

Britton, Todd Hall, Carl Drew, Rodney Colbert, Danny Gray.





**Carlton Chatmon** Lieutenant

Entry Date: May 27, 1986 **Retirement Date:** January 14, 2014

**Robert D. Hicks** Technician

Entry Date: May 4, 1981 Retirement Date: December 29, 2013 **Recruit School Number**: 54th

Recruit School Number: 66th Assignments: 29, 13, 02, 23, 28, 05

Likes about the fire department: Working with people from different backgrounds to achieve common goals.

Will miss about the fire department: My co-workers within the fire department.

Plans for the future? Take a period of time off and then get back to work.

Words of wisdom: Always remember your most important job

Assignments: 24, 28, 13, 23, 09, 08, 05, 37, 34, 02, 11, 20

Likes about the fire department: People I work with, well 98% of them, the job was fun. Will miss about the fire depart**ment:** The entertainment and joy of doing EMS all 32 years of my time. Will miss the shifts I've been on over the years. Plans for the future? Keep loving and enjoy each day I wake up alive.

Words of wisdom: Longevity = PT (and remember you only control you). Let others be who they are, don't trip on how others act or what they say.

What got you interested in the fire service? Money.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Every person I ever met. People I work with as well as patients and hospital employees.



**Richard Johnson** Lieutenant

Entry Date: January 24, 1983 Retirement Date: June 5, 2013 Recruit School Number: 58th Assignments: 08, 21, 31, 18, 10, 15, Medic 49, 21, 01

Likes about the fire department: The friendships that were created over the years, the excitement and adrenaline rush, getting up at 2 a.m., messing with my friends, stirring stuff, always messing with Joe. The interesting people you meet on calls, I enjoyed trauma calls, riding in open cabs, fires where there were more yellow hats instead of white ones......delivering 37 babies..... never was given a stork pin..... having a second family that you always knew would be there for you.

Will miss about the fire depart**ment:** Getting up at 2 a.m....yeah right... 66 traffic....nope.....messing with Joe .... cold steaks and leftover miss the friends I hope to keep up with, running the interesting calls, making people smile at difficult times, the kitchen table discussions, talking with the vets on calls, milkshakes. The Fire Department is my family, a lot of ties are broken after you leave, I hope we keep in touch, but I will remember you all.....and truly miss it.

Plans for the future? My plans are to be able to enjoy my wonderful wife Terri, and be with all my family more, to catch up on neglected projects, work with my gardens and Koi Ponds, get more organized, do more traveling, fish

meals to warm up.....but I will

and continually thank God for the many blessings he has given me through the years. Words of wisdom: To be thankful for the privilege of having this as your career. It's not just a job. Learn and know your job and don't take it for granted, be the best you can be, and advance when you are ready, not just for the money, you are responsible for yourself and the lives of your crew and others. EMS was my career; I had a lot of pride in my treatment and care I gave my patients. All need to realize how important it is that most fire departments have turned into a EMS based system. The system worked better when we did not run the wheels off the engines by

chasing medic units, had three on the units and had ambulances, our skills were kept better since we used them more, and there was more pride in what we did, back then it was never for the money......yes the increase in pay was nice, but those true to EMS would have done it any way..... Big point to always consider, 24 hour shifts keep you away from your first family, over your career, don't forget to take care of issues, thank your wife or husband for dealing with the issues while you are gone.....overtime is nice but family needs should come first.....live within your means. Treat the public with respect, that doesn't mean you have to take stuff though, be able to hold a

hand when there is a need, make a bowl of soup, be willing to take time, and just talk to someone in need at 2 a.m., realize some people just need a little tender care, and always treat your shift as family......always mess with them and laugh a lot. What got you interested in the fire service? Working with my uncle Raymond in the Forestry Department, Sperryville Fire Department, Joe Kratchovil and Bernie LeSuer. Who or what made an influence in your career? Don Montague, Steve Miller, Joe Kieler, Fred Nicholson, Jim Dundas, John Kessel, Randy Kennedy, Jimmy Ault, John Carr, Ron Deskins.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tamara B. Ballou, Principal Connie Dineen, Assistant Principal

# Graham Road Elementary School

2831 Graham Road Falls Church, VA 22042 Office: 571.226.2700 🛛 Fax: 571.226.2797 www.fcps.edu/GrahamRoadES/

Dear Richard Bowers,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Fire Department Coat Drive. It's because of you that several of our students are able to stay warm during the cold seasons and are able to have great confidence in being able to wear a NEW jacket.

Thanks again,

dea

Andrea Garris School Counselor Graham Road Elementary School



Submission to Backstep Kudos is simple. Three items of information are needed to submit a kudo: "To," "For," and "From." Submissions should be one or two sentences—maximum. Backstep Kudos do not have to follow the chain of command. All Kudo submissions must be sent to <u>backstepkudos@gmail.com</u>.

\*To Probationary Firefighter Nick Crabtree (FS30-A) - Welcome to beautiful downtown Merrifield! From Captain Todd O'Brien and the members of Fire Station 30, A-Shift.

\*To DFC Chuck Ryan, Captain II George Gonzalez and the Special Operations Division for the communication, collaboration, and coordination with DFC Rick Roatch, DFC Andrew Duke, and the Office of Emergency Management in preparation for the November 14-15, Chaos 2013 Drill. Thank you for the participation, performance and professionalism of the following units and personnel who served at the incident site in Lorton, the Unified Command Post at the AEOC, and the EOC at PSTOC for the 2013 Chaos Drill: C-Shift - Lorton incident scene: E435, E409, T440, TL405, HM440, HMS440, R411, M411B, M436, M430, M408, M432, BC401, EMS407, SAFO402, and Captain II Dave Gruendel. AEOC, EOC:, BFC Sam Gray, Captain II Jamie Lee, DFC Anthony Barrero, BFC Keith Morrison, DFC Rick Roatch, DFC Keith Johnson, Captain I Jack Walmer, Captain II Bill Betz, Captain II Kim Hood, BFC Joe Knerr, Lieutenant Easton Peterson, Captain I Jennifer Svites, Captain II Kendall Thompson, BFC Don Bowers, Kimberly Panzer, Cathi Schultz-Rinehart, BFC Marty Ranck, DFC William Garrett, BFC Reggie Johnson, Captain I Chris Sampl, Captain I Wes Rogers,

Captain Billy Moreland, Captain II Tony Kostecka, Lieutenant Robert Wells, Captain I Bill Vannoy, Lieutenant Steve Singer, and Captain I Chris Brown. **From AFC John Caussin**.

\*To BFC Kerwin McNamara, Trice Burgess, and Paula Woodrum - your assistance provided us a wealth of information and gave us some great creative ideas. From Captain James E. Paul, Prince William Department of Fire and Rescue, Fire Marshal's Office, Code Compliance Team.

**\*To Engineer III Nabeel Waseem**, for passing the Professional Engineering Exam and also earning your Masters Degree from the University of Maryland. **From BFC Brad Cochrane and Engineer IV Bill Aceto.** 

\*To Lieutenant Dave Bender, for notifying the FM of a serious safety issue with regard to the sprinkler systems in several buildings in the Spring Village complex. Your actions resulted in a serious life safety issue being corrected immediately. From BFC Brad Cochrane and Captain II Corey Matthews.

\*To Inspectors Ryan Kelly, Bill Mueller, Tim Cannon, Gene Jacob, Tim Schwarting, Steve Edwards, and Captain Corey Matthews for your diligent service in the month of January, 2014, and for providing technical guidance and code enforcement while responding to an extraordinarily high number of calls for broken pipe incidents in the County. **From Captain I Marlin Hood.** 

\*To Ray Figueroa (FMO/DCC) - after investigating a hoarding complaint, Inspector Figueroa ensured that a house was outfitted with smoke alarms after finding out that they had none. The week before Christmas, the house caught fire while the homeowner was sleeping. Ray later received a message from the homeowner thanking him for saving her life, as she was awakened by the smoke alarms that had just been installed. She was able to escape the house without injury although there was significant damage to the house itself. Thank You Ray! From Jeff Blackford (DCC), DFC Mike Reilly, and BFC Brad Cochrane.

**\*To Chris Malone (FMO)** for managing the schedule of thousands of buildings for our Fire Protection Systems/Retesting Branch - **From Inspector III Tim Schwarting.** 

\*To all Retesting Lead Inspectors -For helping me train our new inspectors to become future lead Inspectors - From Inspector III Tim Schwarting. \*To the Basic Training Staff - For always setting the example with their hard work and true dedication. I appreciate all that you do! From Captain I Chester Waters, Jr. \*To Master Technician Rolf Lenzsch and the leadership of Fire Prevention - For being a hometown security partner during your daily duties. The nation, Virginia, and Fairfax County appreciates the partnership, and for fully employing Suspicious Activity Reporting. From Captain I Jared Goff, Regional Fire/EMS/Health Liaison, Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center.

\*To Captain I Jennifer Svites, for working so hard to outfit, track, and repair the department's uniforms and personal protective equipment. Thank you for your professionalism and dedication to your job and employees. From Captain I Jared Goff.

**\*To FF/Med Chris Martin**, for developing an awesome "street tutor" computer program which has vastly improved the quality of the street drills at Fire Station 30. Thanks for helping all of us become more familiar with beautiful downtown

Merrifield! From the members of Fire Station 30.

\*To E414, M414, and EMS407 - C Shift: For your work on a call for a CPR at Nativity Catholic Church - Units from 414 arrived on scene to find a Fairfax PD Officer doing CPR; 414 units took over patient care on arrival and continued CPR and aggressive ALS care, along with the prompt application of the Lucas compression device. Once transferred to M414, the patient began to breathe on his own. A patient assessment was performed with a good pulse and BP and shallow respiratory effort. Pt. was transferred to Fairfax ER with good vitals. From BFC Keith Ludeman.

**\*To Diana Imlay**, for being an advocate for Fire Station 21 during the construction, and especially for getting us portable heaters during the "Polar Vortex" when we had no heat at the station. **From Lieutenant Todd Young and 21-B Shift.** 

**\*To Lieutenant Rick Trudeau** - For your efforts to raise funds for the four dogs that were saved in the townhouse fire on The Highway. Rick's efforts have raised close to \$30,000 dollars to help out with the vet bills for these dogs. **From Paul Smith.** 

\*To Joey and Michelle Breslin -Fire Station 30-A Shift would like to welcome the newest member of our family, Caroline Josephine Breslin! Congratulations to Michelle and Joey on a beautiful baby girl. From Fire Station 30-A Shift.

**\*To Lieutenant David Weand** (FRA), for maintaining an excellent database, ensuring all CEU's are filed with the state in a timely manner, and for ensuring that our recertifications occur without a hitch. From Lieutenant Duane Tenney.

A Funny Thing Happened When Firefighters Were About to Attack the Fire...



Firefighters from Fire and Rescue Stations 2, Vienna, and 30, Merrifield, responded to a reported townhouse fire, February 20, at approximately 12:30 p.m., at 211 Locust Street SE, in the Vienna area. Upon entering the unoccupied smoke filled townhouse, firefighters tracked down the origin of the fire. Using fire investigative skills, they determined the bathroom ceiling fan caught fire, burned the surrounding drywall, then fell into the toilet, breaking the toilet, with the water-filled commode extinguishing the fire. Job well done. (Photo by Captain II Dan Shaw)

27



*The women from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department gather for a photo at the Annual Retirement Dinner, February 8, 2014. (Photo by Gary Dize)* 



A first.....a big congratulations to the first all Advanced Life Support (ALS)/Hazardous Materials Technician School that graduated January, 17, 2014, at Fire and Rescue Station 40, Fairfax Center. The 30 new graduates will increase staffing capability for the Hazardous Materials Rescue Companies within the department by having a paramedic ALS provider riding the heavy rescue apparatus. Technician Jonathan A. Wright (422-C), Technician John W. Wright (411-A), Technician Christopher M. Welch (434-B), Acting Technician Katherine S. Stoner (401-A), Master Technician Brian R. Steele (422-B), Technician Thomas H. Sittinger (439-A), Master Technician Kevin M. Roose (OPS 406-C), Technician Johnny Price (435-C), Technician Bob W. Pope, Jr. (419-C), Technician Alexander M. Paal (435-A), Technician Jonathaniel R. Moore (426-A), Firefighter Medic Christopher F. Martin (430-C), Master Technician Garner T. Marshall (438-B), Technician Jonathan J. Kurzinger (408-C), Lieutenant Christopher M. Kroboth (Academy), Acting Technician Jason J. Kim (401-A), Technician William L. Kendall (432-B), Master Technician Aleksandra Kazmar (440-A), Technician Jennifer A. Hoeck (423-C), Technician Antwaun L. Hawkins (427-B), Technician William A. Harrington (427-C), Technician Michael D. Guck (423-C), Technician Richard L. Forte (419-C), Technician Andres Collado (411-B), Technician Webster F. Brown II (434-A), Firefighter Medic Seth A. Bowie (404-C), Technician Kerri S. Bouse (411-C), Technician Sean P. Berg (431-B), Acting Technician Brian J. Bender (426-C), Technician Fredrick V. Agustin (434-C). (Photo By Captain I William Moreland)

# In Remembrance of Captain Will Seng



Members of Station 430 from all three shifts celebrated life remembrance of Captain William Seng. Captain Seng was assigned to station 430 when he lost his life to pancreatic cancer. His family and friends were grateful for the continued support that has been shown to them over the last 10 years from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Every year approximately 38,460 Americans die from pancreatic cancer. It is now the fourth leading cause of cancer death and will soon to move to the second leading cause of cancer death by the year 2015. Pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate out of all the cancers with a 94 percent fatality rate within five years of diagnosis.



*Congressman Gerry Connolly visits with firefighters from Fire and Rescue 40, Fairfax Center, and the Fire Chief, November 26, 2013. He also toured the Academy that is under major renovation.* 

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7602 Heming Court Springfield, Virginia 22151
January 14, 2014	
Dear 2013 Toy Drive Support	ters,
On behalf of North Springfiel Springfield, Virginia, we wan your incredible generosity du	t to thank all of you for
We were able to share the bea families and eighteen children holiday.	• • •
Thank you again for helping	our community.
Leve mathien	
Tere Mathieu Parent Liaison North Springfield Elementary	y School

Chief Officers and Senior Staff pose for a photo following the Fire Chief's Leadership and Management Class, January 13, 2014, in the A-Level, Conference Center, Massey Building. (Photo by Captain I Matthew Ryan).

# Anniversaries

#### <u>37 Years</u>

Captain I Robert M. Mohler

#### 35 Years

Captain I Paul A. Masiello

#### 34 Years

Battalion Chief Thomas W. Graling Captain II Robert A. Konczal

#### 33 Years

Captain II Keith A. Cross

#### <u>32 Years</u>

Captain I David P. Conrad Technician Michael L. Frames Captain II Mark Guditus Captain II James J. Istvan Captain II Michael A. Istvan Captain I Gerard J. Morrison Battalion Chief Jerome A. Roussillon

### <u>31 Years</u>

Battaion Chief Edward M. Brinkley Master Technician David J. May Captain I Mark A. Nash Captain II Gary D. Pemberton Captain I James A. Sobota Technician Leo T. Sullivan

### 25 Years

Lieutenant John R. Brinkerhoff Captain I Jon P. Bruley Wayne T. Burgess, Jr., Code Specialist II Technician Daryl T. Casey Lieutenant Robert W. Dickerson, Jr. Captain I Tim E. Fowler Lieutenant Thomas C. Meloy Lieutenant Daniel C. Mitchell Battalion Chief Keith D. Morrison Battalion Chief Michael C. Schaff Master Technician James E. Wilkerson

#### 20 Years

Master Technician John G. Adams Technician Kevin W. Bell Captain I Derek A. Edwards Captain II Sean T. Evans Captain II Ramiro H. Galvez Technician Dovel C. Gilmore Battalion Chief Samuel L. Grav Master Technician Matthew T. Groff Captain I Trenton L. Houghton Master Technician Mark C. Johnson Master Technician Patrick J. Keenan Technician Christopher H. Kempton Captain II Ryland B. Kendrick Captain II Jeffrey S. Lewis Lieutenant Anthony L. Liddell Master Technician John C. Manvell Captain II Glenn A. Mason Lieutenant Glenn B. Mooneyham Captain II Dennis Passmore Lieutenant Mark J. Plunkett Deputy Chief Charles W. Ryan Lieutenant Dwan D. Starks Renée H. Stilwell, **Communications Specialist II** Battalion Chief Cheri E. Stroup Master Technician David H. Stroup

Battalion Chief David L. Warner Technician Davine M. Williams

#### 15 Years

Captain I William J. Atwell Lieutenant David G. Bentley Master Technician Mark R. Butler Technician Scott R. Fickes Master Technician James J. Galvin Lieutenant Robert M. Garza Master Technician Sean D. Hodgson Lieutenant Stephen J. Hurst Master Technician Brian P. Jenkins Captain I Robert W. Kitchen Lieutenant Daniel J. Kwiatkowski Captain I Barry W. Maham Lieutenant Haywood P. Marshall Technician Blake C. Myers Lieutenant Edward L. Payne III Master Technician Britt M. Phelps Lieutenant Christopher A. Pittman Master Technician Gary S. Reuter Captain I Patrick Sheehan Master Technician Michael L. Skeele Firefighter Alex E. Stewart Captain I William D. Vance

#### 10 Years

Steven M. Dennis, N/T Analyst III

#### 5 Years

Katherine L. Obrien, Engineering Technician I Donna M. Speakes Nurse Practitioner

# Retirements

Captain I Edward D. Bowman 1/24/89 -12/15/13

Lieutenant Richard E. Bright 2/12/79 - 12/26/13

Lieutenant Carlton Chatmon May 27, 1986 - January 13, 2014

Captain I Keith M. Dubetsky 5/31/83 - 12/30/13 Lieutenant Eric G. Erlendson 5/31/83 - 12/30/13

Technician Robert D. Hicks 5/4/81 - 12/29/13

Technician Joseph M. Jones, Jr. 4/29/85 - 2/22/14

# **New Hires**

Jennifer L. Dennis, HR Generalist I

Ian P. Gregoire, Emergency Mgmt. Specialist III

> Keith E. Ruby Engeneer III

Ashley A. Stevens, Administrative Assistant III

# Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Attn: Public Affairs and Life Safety Education 4100 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax, Virginia 22030



A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia



### Station constructed: 1976

**Station specialty:** Firehouse is built on the grounds of the Civil War fortification, Fort Buffalo, which was used by Union troops from 1861 to 1864. Home of the 'Seven Corners,' an intersection containing Route 50 (Arlington Blvd), Route 7 (Leesburg Pike), Hillwood Avenue, Sleepy Hollow Road, and Wilson Blvd., creating the seven corners.

### Square miles in first due area: 3.3

**Specific hazardous/target areas:** 1st due to large portion of Arlington County & City of Falls Church area, Eden Center Mall, garden apartments, commercial and

residential highrises, strip malls, hotels, and numerous styles and types of single family dwellings, The Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, and Dominion Psychiatric Hospital.

Equipment assigned to station: Engine Company, Medic Unit.

Total calls in 2013: 3,783

Station personnel: A-Shift: Captain I Raymond E. Griffin, Sr., Master Technician Joseph A. Morell, Jr., Technician Anthony S. Martinez, Technician Amy L. Olson, Firefighter Eduardo J. Borgenarguello, Firefighter Joshua D. Imlay, Firefighter Jose A. Turcios B-Shift: Captain II Daniel D. Shaw, Master Technician Mark O. Thompson, Technician Shane A. Brillhart, Acting Technician Corey S. Graham, Firefighter Charles A. Cubbage, Firefighter Brittany A. Pressey C-Shift: Captain I Calvin M. Alexander, Jr., Technician Jason G. Pryor, Technician Peter G. Zagorites, Acting Technician Jennifer A. Hiner, Firefighter Ryan H. Chinn, Firefighter Hyun W. Kang, Firefighter Joseph A. Wright.



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# Station Profile Seven Corners Fire and Rescue Station 28

Captain II Daniel D. Shaw Station Commander

