Chamber Recognizes, Honors Heroes

June 15, 2014
From The Fire Chief...

We have experienced crazy weather patterns over the winter and early spring. The weather conditions have challenged our core mission with several different snow, ice, wind, rain events, frigid temperatures and lately torrential rain storms.

The latest rains of Spring 2014 resulted with flash flooding and numerous swift water incidents. Everyone has done a tremendous job under these severe weather conditions and I am so proud of all of you for your efforts!

As we continue to move forward as a department we have accomplished a number of items by working together.

- Compensation for the men and women of the department was our priority and it was accomplished with the Board of Supervisors approval on April 29, 2014.
- We placed Safety 403 in service and response times for our safety officers have improved with the third safety officer being in service. Safety 403 was a strong priority and we were able to accomplish this initiative.
- The Five-Year Public Safety Staffing Plan was developed by the Fire and Rescue Department. I presented the staffing plan to the Board of Supervisors on April 1, 2014, and it was well received. Our highest staffing priority is the fourth person on ladder trucks. The Board of Supervisors approved a 2012 and 2013 SAFER grant that will enable the department to implement the ladder staffing initiative with the fourth position being a firefighter/paramedic.
- We implemented the Wellness In Our Community program (WIOC) that focuses on our older adult population with updating or completing a FILE OF LIFE (FOL). The men and women of the department have made countless FOL presentations at older adult recreation and living facilities in their first due areas with thousands of FOLs being updated and or completed. Incredible! The Safety In Our Community (SIOC) program continues to be a huge success because of the tremendous work and efforts of the men and women of the department. Because of their efforts, we have several documented cases where our troops installed smoke alarms during SIOC in a residential structure that did not have a working alarm. Subsequently, a fire occurred in the home shortly thereafter and the occupants were alerted and safely exited the home. There could have been a much different outcome without the SIOC program and the troops installing a working smoke alarm.
- We have two new engines that will be delivered to the Training Academy to train our recruits. These two engines will match our apparatus to our training and operational environment. This is a key step to standardization for the department with respect to focusing on “One Department, One Way!” Our firefighters and paramedics are saving lives!
- The department is in the final stages of our Insurance Services Offices (ISO) evaluation. The last ISO evaluation was completed in the 1980s and our present ratings are a three in the urban-suburban areas and a nine in our rural areas of the county. I anticipate that our nine rating will be adjusted because of the investments the county has made in station openings, staffing, initiatives, training programs, placing tankers in service and call-dispatching processes. The ISO evaluation will validate what improvements our department has made and possibly some areas we can improve our fire suppression capabilities and response. We should receive a rating report by the end of calendar year 2014.

As a continued part of my Front Lines message, I want to speak about another one of my Fire Chief’s Expectations for this issue: Be kind and respectful.

Being kind and nice does not cost a penny as my mom always reminded me. Even after your tenth response for the shift and third incident at 2 a.m., I expect you to always be kind and nice. Being respectful means treating others with respect at all times. Treat others like you wish to be treated. Treat them fairly and as an equal.

Please remember to embrace the 2015 World Police and Fire Games. They are here and we need to be prepared. Failure is not an option!

June 15, 2014

From: George N.
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 1:36:00 PM
To: Chairman Email
Subject: Rescued By 911/FXFD

Madam Chairman:
I just want to tell you how pleased I am with the response that I received when I called 911 this morning when the elevator that I was on shut down completely and I could not get out of it! I live in the Palladium in McLean and at 6AM, I got in the elevator, the doors shut but THEN NOTHING happened! I did initially push the emergency button in the elevator and they told me it would be a couple of hours before a technician could be dispatched. I then dialed 911 and it was immediately answered and the response from McLean station 401 was less than 10 minutes. They did a superb job of getting me out of the nonfunctioning elevator.

The McLean Fire and Rescue Team has my gratitude and many thanks.

George N.

Stay focused, maintain your situational awareness and help each other out everyday.”

March 30, 2014

From The Fire Chief...

A special note of thanks to our civilian sta...
propane tanks. This placed the personnel within 40 feet of the fire and exposed cylinders. Battalion Chief Walsh arrived on the scene and positioned his vehicle to assume command of the incident operation and gain accountability of all of the personnel in the hazard area. He assumed command and control of the dynamic incident situation in the midst of the exploding cylinders.

During the initial hose advancement, two 100-pound cylinders exploded, launching metal shrapnel over 50 feet away in several directions. As the fire intensified, more pressure relief devices failed, causing the propane to ignite and cause the cylinders to wildly spin and rocket around the yard.

Based on the conditions found and the amount of propane involved, the recommended safe evacuation distance is more than 1 mile in all directions. Had the personnel chose a standby approach and let the tanks burn, the incident would have had a more disastrous outcome. The damage to the surrounding area would have been on a scale never before seen in Fairfax County.

O n March 6, 2013, off-duty Lieutenant Antonio Trammell witnessed a vehicle accident in Prince George’s County, Maryland. When he arrived at the vehicle, he realized that the engine compartment was on fire and the driver was still in the car that was filling with smoke. Lieutenant Trammell found the door jammed and used a rock to smash the window to get to the unconscious driver. When he attempted to get into the car, he was met with smoke. He backed away to get a fresh breath of air and returned to remove the patient through the window. Once the patient was out of the car, he found the victim to be unconscious but breathing. Concerned about another occupant, Lieutenant Trammell returned to the vehicle to complete a search. When he returned, fire was coming through the dashboard into the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Lieutenant Trammell could not see into the car so he searched the interior with his hands and found no other occupants. When the Prince George’s County Fire Department arrived on scene the vehicle was completely involved in fire.

L ieutenant Pelletier was working at the Washington Navy Yard on September 16, 2013. That morning, Brian was called by one of their fellow co-workers to say that several of the victims from the shooting in Building 197 were being taken to Building 201. Knowing that Brian and one of his co-workers are active volunteer firefighters in their communities and certified Emergency Medical Technicians, it was requested that they render care. They quickly gathered the minimal first aid supplies available at their desks and proceeded to Building 201. At the direction and under the cover of law enforcement, they crossed between Buildings 176 and 201. Upon arriving in Building 201, they triaged and treated several patients. When it was determined that the condition of one of the victims was beginning to deteriorate, efforts were made to obtain an EMS transport unit. Brian, despite the fact that at this time the scene outside of Building 201 had not been declared safe by law enforcement, made the necessary preparations to escort both the victims across the Navy Yard to the EMS units. During the movement of the patients across the Yard, they were assisted by a police vehicle where they were transported without further incident.
On November 8, 2013, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue units were dispatched for a fire in a high-rise building. The first engine crew began stretching a hose line from the stairwell as Truck 410 and Rescue 418 arrived at the apartment that was on fire. While the hose line was still being stretched, Truck 410 and Rescue 418 entered and went to search for occupants. The smoke was so thick that the personnel were unable to see. The hose line was still not ready to be used for their protection as they progressed into the apartment that was on fire. Rescue 418's crew made their way into the bedroom. The bed was covered with a large pile of clothes where a victim was found, barely breathing. While Rescue 418 was beginning to remove the victim, Truck 410's crew found the seat of the fire in the apartment. The victim was carried out of the apartment to awaiting EMS resources.

On May 8, 2013, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requested Virginia Task Force 1's human remains canine team to assist the military which had suffered the loss of a KC-135 refueling aircraft in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The team arrived in Kyrgyzstan at the crash site on May 12, 2013. The crash site was at the base of a mountain and spread over approximately six square miles. The team searched the area over two days in 90-degree heat and assisted the military in locating the third crew member. The debris was spread over an area covered thick in thorn bushes that prevented entry and was laced with jet fuel creating a hazardous environment. In addition, this area of the world can be very dangerous and required constant oversight by the military partners the team was assisting.

While USAR members are expected to be ready at a moment’s notice and travel to difficult areas, this mission was unique and placed each handler and canine in extreme risk and danger.

Bronze Medal of Valor

Certificate of Valor

Lifesaving Award
Managing Flow Paths Both Inside & Out of Structures

By Lieutenant Jason R. Abitboul
Fire and Rescue Academy

O

 ver the last several years, with the help of UL, NIST and a number of well-respected SMEs, tactical fireground decision making and tactics have dramatically changed for the better. More so, our tactical decision making has begun to match the modern day fire behavior. As we already know, the synthetics used today produce a greater rate of heat release and increased amounts of unspent fuel (smoke), ultimately leading to more volatile conditions. The fire service has begun to develop a solid grasp around identifying when ventilation limited conditions exist, coordinating the removal of heated gases and understanding when door control is needed to reduce potential flow paths. It is imperative to understand that coordinated ventilation does not occur when we “think” the hose line is in place, rather when water is flowing and the need for ventilation is clearly communicated.

As we continue to put the puzzle pieces together and convert the science into strategy, we need to not only concentrate on our actions when we arrive, but also how we can manage conditions from the interior and throughout the incident as well. As we dive deeper into options to control the flow of heated gases, we need to first understand the flow dynamics. When we think about flow paths, we tend to imagine currents of air moving throughout the structure. These currents can be either bi-directional, which means fresh air moves in through the bottom of the opening and hot gases move out through the top of the same opening. Or the flow path could be uni-directional which means fresh air enters through one opening and superheated gases flow out a completely separate opening. The one thing that is required to create uni-directional flow is a separate intake and exhaust which ultimately allows heated gases to move unimpeded throughout the structure. When discussing uni-directional flow paths, it is imperative to understand that this flow is very dangerous and potentially places the firefighter and residents directly in the path of the convective heat. As past LODDs and close calls have proven, the amount of heat moving throughout this uni-directional flow is far too many BTUs to be converted with an 1 ¾” hand-line. Therefore, figuratively speaking, we have brought a knife to a gun fight when placed in this situation.

So how do we control this flow path? We can start by controlling the front door and minimize the air intake. This tactic will greatly reduce the fire growth rate and cut off the potential flow path originating from the front door. Whenever a crew is unsupported by a hose line, it is imperative to control the front door until water is ready to be applied. This could mean positioning on the outside and moving in with the hose line, or if the officer feels there is a viable person inside and chooses to enter, than closing the door behind them to control the fire’s growth rate. Our natural tendency makes us think twice about crawling into potential danger and closing the door behind us. What we must come to terms with is, when fresh air is introduced into the fire environment and there are no means to absorb the energy, the fire will grow. But not only will fire growth occur if an opening is created opposite that door, a unidirectional flow path will also be created. If orientation is a concern, simply bringing the door down onto a non-essential tool allows that crew to maintain orientation and can reduce the amount of air intake by over 90 percent. But the question still exists, what if I have a hose line and I have a way to control the environment? If door control is as effective as it is, tends to be forgotten after the first line makes the threshold. The first line proceeds in, but now the door firefighter is needed inside. The second line makes its way in, the truck first, and then the rescue, and next thing you know we have a revolving door. As for the engine company, deciding whether or not to leave your back-up firefighter at the door the air intake needs to be a decision based not only on what UL and NIST recommend but also considering a few important factors. First, do the conditions at the front door tell you this fire is vent limited? If so, the door left open will quickly allow ignition of those heated gases. Second, is the wind at your back? Door control is a must when dealing with wind on the exterior side of the structure. Lastly, how deep seated is this fire? Can your crew control the compartments with water, and get to the seat without the need to control the door? Also important to take into consideration is: Can the first engine utilize personnel from another crew to manage that door while they make a push? If you have the ability to control the heat aggressively and proceed with a purpose. If you do not have the ability to control the heat (no hose line) then you must control the air.

If the front door is allowed to stay open, how can the crews on the inside control potential flow paths? As mentioned before, ventilation occurs when a window or a door is removed or opened, not to mention, windows giving way under the heat. There are even times when the homeowner opens the window in an effort to “assist” the fire department with smoke removal. No matter what the cause of the ventilation, without a way to absorb the energy (application of water), the newly introduced air will affect the fire environment and ultimately change the flow path. This means that “reducing the ventilation profile” from the inside is just as important as controlling the door on the outside.

We tend to place a significant level of importance on external door control, and rightfully so. However, as we search and move about the structure, we need to hold a similar level of importance on closing interior doors and removing rooms from the ventilation profile. It becomes imperative that we get into the habit of searching the room for a smoking window, open door, or a room that is filled with smoke. Once isolated, it does not matter what happens on the exterior of that compartment, it will not affect the environment you are operating in. Also, by shutting down all the potential exhaust ports, you keep yourself out of the potential flow path. Think of open interior doorways as arteries throughout the house. When the front door is open, the heated gases and fire will travel from high pressure to low pressure and move throughout those arteries. An effective well trained crew quickly searching the structure can reduce the ventilation profile down to a few common areas and a hallway by simply being aware of where potential flow paths exist and isolating the compartments as they search. On that same note, identifying where the seat of the fire is, and isolating that compartment, has been proven to immediately limit fire spread and substantially decrease heat inside that compartment within seconds. After containing the fire compartment, whatever happens on the outside of that room, i.e., window starts or is taken, will have no effect on the flow path and/or the rest of the interior environment. We cannot, and should not, deny the fact that water puts fire out. The goal of every engine company stretching the line should be to deploy with precision and purpose, control the environment as they make the push, and put the fire out.

As we continue to put the puzzle pieces together and convert the science into strategy, we need to not only concentrate on our actions when we arrive, but also how we can manage conditions from the interior and throughout the incident as well. As we dive deeper into options to control the flow of heated gases, we need to first understand the flow dynamics. When we think about flow paths, we tend to imagine currents of air moving throughout the structure. These currents can be either bi-directional, which means fresh air moves in through the bottom of the opening and hot gases move out through the top of the same opening. Or the flow path could be uni-directional which means fresh air enters through one opening and superheated gases flow out a completely separate opening. The one thing that is required to create uni-directional flow is a separate intake and exhaust which ultimately allows heated gases to move unimpeded through-out the structure. When discussing uni-directional flow paths, it is imperative to understand that this flow is very dangerous and potentially places the firefighter and residents directly in the path of the convective heat. As past LODDs and close calls have proven, the amount of heat mov-
Get Lucky? ... Or Get Ready...?

By Dan B. Anstreih, MD FACEP
Associate Medical Director
Office of the Occupational Medical Director

There is an old adage commonly tossed around in medicine as a humble way of deflecting a compliment – “It’s better to be lucky than good.” Now, there is no doubt that luck plays a part in all types of success, and definitely in emergency medical services. We had just done a walk-through of that restaurant. The call came in at shift change so we had extra resources. There was an off-duty police officer in the restaurant that immediately started CPR. I have an uncle that suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while visiting a national park out West. A single ambulance covered the approximately 400 square mile area – and it just happened to be driving by that parking lot when my aunt called 911. He was quickly defibrillated and survived neurologically intact. But, even in my uncle’s situation, luck was only part of the equation. Yes, it was very, very serendipitous that this ambulance was out and near him, but it was staffed by a crew that was well-trained and had the right equipment to quickly treat his lethal arrhythmia. General George Patton once said “There is no such thing as luck, merely opportunity meeting preparedness.” And while we could debate the existence of good fortune, there is no arguing that we own the preparedness part. It may be lucky that a patient collapsed in front of a neighbor that knew CPR, but we make his luck by being quick out of the station, focusing on immediate defibrillation, and providing high quality, minimally uninterrupted CPR. Having an intubation go smoothly isn’t just luck when you are maximizing your chance of success with a video laryngoscope and bougie. And it’s not just bad luck (or bad anatomy) when you miss it.

It shouldn’t be luck that the STEMI patient who went into V-fib was converted with an immediate single shock. We should have been waiting to hit that home run from the second the pitch was thrown. At the same time, another provider catching a medication dose error isn’t lucky (for the patient or you) – it’s why we have these checks in place. You can be lucky in any single hand of poker, but if you play every day for a year, your winnings become a reflection of your skill at the game. In other words, you make your luck. We are making our citizens’ luck with every drill, with rapid extrication, with heightened vigilance in the restaurant that immediately started CPR. I have an uncle that suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while visiting a restaurant that immediately started CPR. I have an uncle that suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while visiting a national park out West. A single ambulance covered the approximately 400 square mile area – and it just happened to be driving by that parking lot when my aunt called 911. He was quickly defibrillated and survived neurologically intact. But, even in my uncle’s situation, luck was only part of the equation. Yes, it was very, very serendipitous that this ambulance was out and near him, but it was staffed by a crew that was well-trained and had the right equipment to quickly treat his lethal arrhythmia.

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Firefighters wear camouflage t-shirts to pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their Nation, May 23-28. Firefighters honored all military who gave their lives for our freedom and the freedoms of others. Our humble salute provides us the opportunity to say thank you from a “grateful department.”
Crews from the 7th Battalion responded to a major vehicle crash March 4, 2014, at Ox Road and Robert Carter Drive. One patient was extricated and then transported with life-threatening injuries to INOVA Fairfax Hospital. (Photo by Battalion Chief Keith Ludeman)

VATF-1 Dogs and Handlers Return Home…………Firefighter Medic Sally Dickinson, canine Fielder; Elizabeth Chaney, canine Hugo; Teresa MacPherson, canine Bayou; all return after their 12-day deployment in Oso, Washington, looking for survivors in the aftermath of the deadly mudslide. The dogs and handlers are seasoned members of VATF-1 and joined several other FEMA canine teams during the search over a several week period. (Photo by Renee Stilwell)

Firefighters responded to a two-story house fire with heavy fire showing from the attic and roof, April 21, 2014, at 3712 Abbey Oak Drive, Vienna. No one was home when the fire broke out. Damage was estimated at $300,000 and is under investigation. (Photos by Technician Giovanni Vasquez)

Fairfax County and Fairfax City firefighters battle a large garden apartment fire March 3, 2014, on Bob Court in the City of Fairfax. Units from Merrifield, Oakton, and Fairfax Center assisted in fighting the fire. (Photos by Pat Evinger, DPWES, Stormwater Management)

Crews from Fire and Rescue Station 11, Penn Daw, 28, Seven Corners, 30, Merrifield, 12, Great Falls, and 39, North Point, participate in a rural area water supply training scenario, including the collection, drafting, and shuttling of water to another site. The operation was conducted February 22, 2014, at Wolf Trap Park and is part of the testing for Insurance Services Office, Inc. One of the requirements of the ISO testing is for the water source to be more than 1,000 feet away and be performed without laying a supply line from the water source. (Photos by Brian Mening)

Firefighters responded to a house fire March 23, 2014, at 5338 Jennifer Drive in the Fairview area. All six occupants escaped unharmed prior to units arriving on scene. Improperly discarded smoking materials on the rear deck caused an estimated $50,000 in damages.

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Firefighters from the 7th Battalion responded to a major vehicle accident at the Fairfax County Parkway and Huntsman Boulevard February 25, 2014, during inclement weather. After a lengthy extrication, both occupants were transported with non-life threatening injuries. (Photo by Battalion Chief Keith Ludeman)

Firefighters responded to a house fire March 23, 2014, at 5338 Jennifer Drive in the Fairview area. All six occupants escaped unharmed prior to units arriving on scene. Improperly discarded smoking materials on the rear deck caused an estimated $50,000 in damages.

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From: “Turrell, Elizabeth”
Date: April 3, 2014 at 4:25:19 PM EDT
To: “Schauff, Michael”
Subject: Following up with a Thank You

Date: 2/3/2014
Box: 27-03
Address: 7647 Tiverton Drive
Type: Residential
Cause: Accidental
Value: $300,000
Loss: $50,000
Status: Closed

Date: 2/6/2014
Box: 39-01
Address: 907D Seneca Road
Type: Residential
Cause: Accidental
Value: $374,000
Loss: $100,000
Status: Closed

Date: 2/13/2014
Box: 17-07
Address: 13292 Scotch Run Court
Type: Residential
Cause: Incendiary
Value: $639,540
Loss: $110,000
Status: Closed

Date: 2/14/2014
Box: 13-05
Address: 2251 Richelieu Drive
Type: Residential
Cause: Accidental
Value: $449,130
Loss: $339,000
Status: Closed

Date: 3/9/2014
Box: 39-00
Address: 7607 Allman Drive #101
Type: Residential
Cause: Undetermined
Value: $474,225
Loss: $150,000
Status: Open

Date: 3/11/2014
Box: 05-94
Address: 6913 Sydenstricker Road
Type: Residential
Cause: Accidental
Value: $426,540
Loss: $80,000
Status: Closed

Date: 4/3/2014
Box: 27-10
Address: 8550 Wyngate Manor Court
Type: Residential
Cause: Accidental
Value: $386,880
Loss: $50,000
Status: Closed

Date: 4/11/2014
Box: 24-00
Address: 5338 Jennifer Drive
Type: Residential
Cause: Accidental
Value: $468,000
Loss: $50,000
Status: Closed

Date: 4/12/2014
Box: 08-10
Address: 7407 Jayhawk Street
Type: Residential
Cause: Accidental
Value: $354,000
Loss: $100,000
Status: Closed

Date: 4/14/2014
Box: 11-00
Address: Marybaldwin Drive/Kenyon Drive
Type: Residential
Cause: Under Investigation
Value: $90,000
Loss: $75,000
Status: Open

Date: 4/17/2014
Box: 09-43
Address: 7806 Eagle Avenue
Type: Residential
Cause: Under Investigation
Value: $624,000
Loss: $62,000
Status: Open

Date: 4/21/2014
Box: 42-11
Address: 1712 Abbey Oak Drive
Type: Residential
Cause: Under Investigation
Value: $862,215
Loss: $300,000
Status: Open

Date: 4/23/2014
Box: 15-04
Address: 13303 Hollinger Avenue
Type: Residential
Cause: Under Investigation
Value: $253,485
Loss: $65,000
Status: Closed

Date: 4/26/2014
Box: 24-00
Address: 5209 Remington Drive
Type: Residential
Cause: Under Investigation
Value: $455,000
Loss: $50,000
Status: Open

Did you know you can sign up for emergency alerts from the county? This system delivers important emergency alerts, notifications, and updates to you on all your devices:
• e-mail account (work, home, other)
• cell phone (text message costs may apply - see FAQs)
• pager
• wireless PDA

County employees can sign up for an account using the Employee Alert Network (EAN) at http://ean.fairfaxcounty.gov/index.php?CCheck=1. For more information on the EAN, go to http://ean.fairfaxcounty.gov/faq.php.
Birth Announcements

Firefighter Roger Perdomo Cortes (Fire and Rescue Station 2, Vienna) and his wife, Susan Stolpe, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter on March 16, 2014.

Congratulations!

Top 10 Activity Report

January - March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Unit Calls</th>
<th>Engine Company</th>
<th>Unit Calls</th>
<th>Rescue Squad</th>
<th>Unit Calls</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A422E</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>E410</td>
<td>790</td>
<td></td>
<td>R426</td>
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<tr>
<td>A417E</td>
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<td>E409</td>
<td>782</td>
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<td>R411</td>
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<td>E413</td>
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Medic

- M422 622
- M430 581
- M410 579
- M413 554
- M405 544
- M425 539
- M410B 530
- M426 523
- M408 520
- M429 514

Ladder Company

- T/TL429 547
- T/TL425 523
- T/TL410 478
- T/TL440 464
- T/TL436 451
- T/TL430 439
- T/TL411 378
- T/TL422 347
- T/TL408 346
- T/TL401 304

Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains

- EMS405 403
- EMS404 359
- EMS403 307
- EMS402 262
- EMS406 262
- EMS401 250
- EMS407 225
- BC403 205
- BC404 202
- BC402 172

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 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.

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Congratulations!

Community Outreach Program Highlights

Several dozen children participated in the consolidated Public Safety "Bring Your Kids to Work Day" event, April 24, 2014. Kids were exposed to a multitude of interesting demonstrations. The half-day was capped off with lunch and participation certificates. (Left photo by Technician Shawn Crisp and right photo by Captain I Billy Moreland)

“The Fairfax Way, Moving Forward.”

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<td>A417E</td>
<td>84</td>
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<td>E413</td>
<td>651</td>
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Medic

- M422 622
- M430 581
- M410 579
- M413 554
- M405 544
- M425 539
- M410B 530
- M426 523
- M408 520
- M429 514

Ladder Company

- T/TL429 547
- T/TL425 523
- T/TL410 478
- T/TL440 464
- T/TL436 451
- T/TL430 439
- T/TL411 378
- T/TL422 347
- T/TL408 346
- T/TL401 304

Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains

- EMS405 403
- EMS404 359
- EMS403 307
- EMS402 262
- EMS406 262
- EMS401 250
- EMS407 225
- BC403 205
- BC404 202
- BC402 172

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 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.

Birth Announcements

Firefighter Roger Perdomo Cortes (Fire and Rescue Station 2, Vienna) and his wife, Susan Stolpe, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter on March 16, 2014.

Congratulations!

Community Outreach Program Highlights

Several dozen children participated in the consolidated Public Safety "Bring Your Kids to Work Day" event, April 24, 2014. Kids were exposed to a multitude of interesting demonstrations. The half-day was capped off with lunch and participation certificates. (Left photo by Technician Shawn Crisp and right photo by Captain I Billy Moreland)

“The Fairfax Way, Moving Forward.”
From: Michele S.

David C. Phillips, Inspector II

Firefighters came to our house and asked us about key safety elements in the home. I was excited to say I had a brand new “talking” fire and carbon monoxide alarm – upstairs. Then I realized my downstairs alarm was missing. Yikes. It was on my mental To Do list but I hadn’t done anything about it for months. The firefighters gave me a new alarm and were coming in to install it when they got an urgent call.

What a great program – bringing safety to the homes in Fairfax. Need an alarm? They’ve got it. Need it installed? They can do it.

Very smart to enhance safety so directly and effectively.

Thank you!

Michele S.
showing-up; performance is what counts.
• If you do not believe your shift, station, battalion, and department are the best, ask yourself, “What have I done to make it better?” Don’t just criticize and complain; seek to improve and be a part of the “best.” Otherwise, consider another career choice.
• “Execute” the duties of the position you hold in a manner that is competent and well-rehearsed. “Mentor” those around you. Be a “student” of the position to which you aspire. Everyday fulfill each challenge in some way.
• Your reach should always exceed your grasp; challenge yourself so you may feel the exhilaration of accomplishment.
• Don’t just promote yourself and your career. Focus. There are enough of those around already. Be better than that; give back to the department and to those you serve, internally and externally.
• Condemn “entitlement attitudes”, special interest “me” groups, and a system that allows them to exist and propagate. These items weaken morale, our mission, our stated core values, and our organization.
• If you rely on the rank of your position, intimidation, bullying, or fear of retaliation, you are not exercising true leadership – look in the mirror and re-evaluate yourself. You are not a true leader. Seek counseling. If you think this may apply to you, then it probably does.

Plans for the future?
• Your reach should always exceed your grasp; challenge yourself so you may feel the exhilaration of accomplishment.

Words of wisdom:
• Regardless of how you came to this career and your position. Whether it was a life-long dream or strong recruiting. If you are here, embrace the department and your position. There are no trophies for simply being able to serve those in a time of need. Being the calm in an emergency scene or time of chaos. The feeling of being part of a successful team. Seeing members achieve things beyond their original conception. The kitchen table talks. I have had a blessed career; truly love the job.

Will miss about the fire department:
The comradery. The constant challenges and learning. Being able to serve those in a time of need. Being the calm in an emergency scene or time of chaos. The feeling of being part of a successful team. Seeing members achieve things beyond their original conception. The kitchen table talks. I have had a blessed career; truly love the job.

A soon-to-be cooked goose?

Not so.............this goose stands its ground as it lays on a manhole cover watching the big, bad, wolf. The wolf cutout apparently wasn’t enough to intimidate this brave goose to vacate its spot at VDOT Headquarters, May 1, 2014. (Photo by Deputy Chief Keith Johnson)
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 backstepkudos@gmail.com.

“To Captain Dave Barlow and Lieutenants Tom Carver, Jason Abitz, and Ray Johnson for the relentless dedication and true passion for keeping us SAFE through TRAINING. From Lieutenant Scott Kraut.

“To Battalion Chief Fred Brandell for taking the time to perform SIQC at a residence in which the Operations Bureau had received a request to visit by an out of town family member due to fire safety concerns. Rather than pass this information on to one of his stations, Chief Brandell chose to visit the residence himself, replacing 2 smoke detectors and replacing 1 battery. Thank you for your professionalism. From Captain II Tom Arnold.

“To FF Josh Morrison - We would like to welcome the newest member of our family to the world, Lila Jacquelyn Morrison! Congratulations Catherine and Josh on a beautiful baby girl. From Fire Station 30-A Shift.

“To 1st Battalion stations 412 and 439 C-Shift for no personal injuries during the 1st quarter of 2014. From Mike Marks, Safety 402-C.

“To 3rd Battalion stations 415, 417, 421, 434, and 440 C-Shift for no personal injuries during the 1st quarter of 2014. From Mike Marks, Safety 402-C.

“To 1st Battalion stations 404, 412, 425, 431, 436, and 439 and Battalion 401 and EMS 401 C-Shift for no vehicle accidents during the 1st quarter of 2014. From Mike Marks, Safety 402-C.

“To 3rd Battalion stations 415, 417, 434, 438, 440, and Battalion 403 C-Shift for no vehicle accidents during the 1st quarter of 2014. From Mike Marks, Safety 402-C.

“To the administrative staff of the Training Academy: Jacki Tinsley, An Trinh, and Roberta Kast - Thank you for always going above and beyond! A person or team is only as good as the support they have and you’ve been a huge part of our successes. So, our success is yours as well! From the Basic Training Staff: Captain Chester Waters, Lieutenant Marc Davidson, Lieutenant Angel Medina, Lieutenant Josh Allen, Technician MaryKate Costello, Master Technician Greg Bishop, and Technician Jermaine Jones.

“To Firefighter Keith Baughn (FS20-A) - For your courage, vast knowledge, and daring aboard Fireboat 420 during maritime operations. From Apparatus Technician Miguel Obleas.

“To Cave In Technician Michael Moore (FS39-C) for stepping up and delivering your amazing taco salad from the Dragon Savers at Fire Station 12-C.

“To the crew of E421 (Lt. Chris Williams, George Hahn, Chris Yotty, and Cory Parry) for stopping to assist a motorist with a flat tire on Route 50...ME! Thank you! From Deputy Chief Reilly.

“To Technician Steve Shapiro FS 416-B, for stopping on the scene of an vehicle accident while off duty and rendering aid to a jury patient. This accident took place on an ice/snow covered back road in Clifton in which 7th Battalion C-shift units could not access the scene. Technician Shapiro transported the patient in his pov, navigating through ice and snow covered roads, to the FRD staging location. From BC Keith Ludeman.

“To Firefighter of the Year Anthony Del Vecchio from Fire Station 30-A Shift.

“To 4th Battalion stations 416-B, 425, 431, 436, and 439 and Battalion 401 and EMS 401 C-Shift for no vehicle accidents during the 1st quarter of 2014. From Mike Marks, Safety 402-C.

“To Firefighter Keith Baughn (FS20-A) - For your courage, vast knowledge, and daring aboard Fireboat 420 during maritime operations. From Apparatus Technician Miguel Obleas.

“To Firefighter Keith Baughn (FS20-A) - For your courage, vast knowledge, and daring aboard Fireboat 420 during maritime operations. From Apparatus Technician Miguel Obleas.

“To Nabeel Waseem (FMO Plans Review) - For earning your Professional Engineering License in the State of Virginia. Thank you and the rest of the members of the Engineering Plans Review Branch for your hard work behind the scenes to keep the citizens and firefighters of the county safe every day. From BC Brad Cochrane.

“To Cathy Perry (FMO) - For her assistance in developing a composite sketch of a person of interest in a number of fires in the Centreville area. From BC Kerwin McNamara and all of FHMS.

“To Eddie Price, Rich Gundert, and Tim Palmer (FHMS) - For your recent graduation from the Police Academy. As mentioned by Fire Chief Bowers, “For six grueling months these three men and their families pushed through another recruit training academy! They did so with great leadership, effort, work and demonstration of camaraderie!” From DC Reilly, BC Cochrane, and BC McNamara.

“To Captain Jennifer Svites (Logistics) - for going above and beyond to get the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Firefighter of the Year award. Thanks to Technician John Guy, a.k.a. “the squad father” for all the hard work on the New Rescue 411 and working on the Cribbing Project. From Captain II Danny Cox.

“From Mike Marks, Safety 402-C.

“Congratulations to Technician John Guy - for his 30 year Length of Service Award and for getting the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Firefighter of the Year award. Thanks to Technician John Guy, a.k.a. “the squad father” for all the hard work on the New Rescue 411 and working on the Cribbing Project. From Captain II Danny Cox.

“I want to personally thank you for taking good care of my 80 year old mother, she had a hip replacement less than a year ago. Her mobility isn’t the greatest and you were there to watch over her.

“From Sharon Y.

“From Mike Marks, Safety 402-C.

“From Fire Station 30-A Shift.

“From Captain Jennifer Svites (Logistics) - for going above and beyond to help out with gear issues, Class A uniforms, etc. especially in the days preceding Jimmy Breslin’s funeral. From Lieutenant David Wright (57-A).
Facebook Feedback

Fierce Sonia commented on a photo Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Fierce wrote: “Thank you for your help with the Huntington residents this morning.”

UCM of Alexandria commented on a photo Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. UCM of Alexandria wrote: “Thank you to all for your service!”

Eva A. commented on a photo Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department shared. Eva wrote: “My first Job in US for Fairfax County Fire And Rescue department. I love them. I proud them. God bless all of them. They are the best!”

American Red Cross

Dear Member,

In honor of National EMS Week, the American Red Cross would like to thank you for your support!

For nearly a century, the American Red Cross has partnered with EMS, healthcare and public safety professionals to prepare for and respond to numerous disasters and medical emergencies.

As partners, you’ve helped us respond to over 70,000 local disasters each year. Plus, you’ve helped us train over 4 million people in CPR and first aid annually, saving countless lives.

As a leader in disaster response and a trusted training provider who understands the environment you work in, we’re proud to provide you with a strong and growing portfolio of courses designed to help serve you best.

For your relentless support of the American Red Cross, we thank you!

Regards,

American Red Cross Preparedness, Health and Safety

Apple Blossom Firefighters’ Parade

Several Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department retirees ride in an “antique Maxim ladder truck” in the Winchester Apple Blossom Firefighters’ Parade, Friday, May 2, 2014. (Photo by Paul Carlin)

3rd Citizens Fire & Rescue Academy Class

The third iteration of the Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy spent the evening learning about hazardous materials and about the responsibilities of the safety officer, April 24, 2014, at Fire and Rescue Station 40, Fairfax Center.

Anniversaries

35 Years
Lieutenant David M. Bryant

34 Years
Captain II Richard A. McKinney

31 Years
Captain II Joseph M. Kalela
Lieutenant Thomas J. Griffin
Lieutenant David M. Lauler

30 Years
Captain II George O. Gonzalez, Jr.
Captain II Charles E. Pullen, Jr.
Captain I Clyde M. Buchanan
Captain I Wayne A. Richardson II

Retirements

Technician Robert Arnone
5/27/86 - 4/20/14

Captain I Oscar L. Beasley, Jr.
8/6/84 - 5/19/2014

Battalion Chief Craig N. Buckley
9/24/79 - 3/09/14

Lieutenant Thomas F. Chittenden
5/27/86 - 6/1/14

Lieutenant Craig S. Luecke
1/20/87 - 4/22/14

Technician Samuel L. Poles
3/17/86 - 3/10/14

Technician Chris M. Matsos
10/15/85 - 3/18/14

Battalion Chief Jerome A. Rousillon
3/8/82 - 7/14/14

Captain II Michael R. Smith
3/16/85 - 5/17/14

New Hires

Gary C. Dize, MA II
5/27/86 - 4/20/14

Safety and Personnel Services

Ronald N. Klus, Engineer III
5/27/86 - 4/20/14

Fire Prevention

Kyle Knox, MMS III
5/27/86 - 4/20/14

Urban Search and Rescue

Jeffrey D. Sargent, Inspector I
5/27/86 - 4/20/14

Fire Prevention

Daniel B. Willham, Engineer III
5/27/86 - 4/20/14

Fire Prevention

Shelby D. Zelonis, GISA II
5/27/86 - 4/20/14

Information Technology

The “Safety Team” now has three safety officers on duty, per shift.
Station Profile
Tysons Corner
Fire and Rescue
Station 29

Captain II
Gregory W. Hunter
Station Commander

Station constructed: 1978
Square miles in first due area: 6.7
Equipment assigned to station: Engine, Truck, Medic, and Battalion Chief
Total calls in 2013: 7,548

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Follow us on twitter at https://twitter.com/ffxfirerescue