

FRONT LINES

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

June 2016



38th Annual Valor Award Recipients Recognized by the Chamber of Commerce





Richard R. Bowers, Jr.

From The Fire Chief

“As we move forward please continue to be positive and focus on our 2016 priorities: wellness, safety and health, customer service, and technical competencies to include sets and reps!”

This year to date has proven to be challenging for our members. However, there are a number of outstanding things that have also occurred. It is hard to believe that it was less than a year ago that Fairfax County hosted the highly successful 2015 World Police and Fire Games! Please always keep in your daily thoughts and prayers Officer Silva, who unfortunately lost his life during a cycling race.

The women and men of this department have weathered a brutal late winter surge with frigid temperatures and a mountain of snow. Everyone trudged through the winter conditions and served the residents during very dangerous conditions. I appreciate the incredible hard work and efforts by the troops, command staff, Office of Emergency Management staffing, and our DPSC, Sheriff, and Police brother and sisters!

We have had two recruit classes in session with over 80 recruits being trained by our basic EMS and fire staff. Thirty plus recruits graduated from Recruit Class 139 in April 2016 and the remaining Recruit Class 140 will graduate on September 2.

On the horizon, we have a major project that is underway with a total replacement and transition of the 4.5 SCOTT SCBA units to 5.5 capacity. The new 5.5 SCBA units have light weight and lower profile cylinders, enhanced firefighter safety features, new air compressors, new Thermal Imaging Cameras and RIT paks. A comprehensive training program has been established and implemented with a target date to fully transition and implement the SCBA units in August 2016.

There are lots of new initiatives on the landscape to support the personnel on the front lines. We are going to order

FIRE CHIEF EXPECTATIONS

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

Richard R. Bowers, Jr., *Fire Chief*
Ashley Hildebrandt, *Editor*
Cathy Jo Richards, *Layout and Design*

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Fire and Rescue Department
4100 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
703-246-3801

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The Mayor of Ofunato City, Japan, visited our department today to express their sincere gratitude for the aid of our VA-TF1 team during the 2011 tsunami that devastated Japan. (Certificate of Appreciation Presentation Photo (on right) from left to right: Ashley Hildebrandt, Eddie Thurston, Robert Shoenberger, Battalion Chief Chris Schaff, Assistant Chief Reggie Johnson, Mayor Kimiaki Toda of Ofunato City, Japan, Bruce Neuhaus, Michael DiAmico, Scott Schermerhorn)

a new "urban type" pumper that will match the resource to the response environment and will be placed in service at Fire Station 10. Additionally, we are examining the possibility of transitioning our current EMS unit platform to possibly an F550 chassis.

I ask that everyone continues to remember and respect Firefighter/Paramedic Nicole Mittendorff and her family. Her loss is huge and we will always remember Nicole.

As we move forward please continue to be positive and focus on our 2016 priorities: wellness, safety and health, customer service, and technical competencies to include sets and reps!

Respectfully,

Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers



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38th Annual Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards



Technician
Ryland W. Chapman



Lieutenant
Lawrence G. Mullin

Gold Medal of Valor

Incident: Nepal Earthquake

Technician Chapman and Lieutenant Mullin were working as part of a team that had been deployed to Nepal following a devastating earthquake. On May 12, 2015, while the team was in the capital city of Kathmandu, another earthquake struck the region. The team received numerous reports of people trapped in collapsed structures within the city and major damage in the towns and villages in the mountains surrounding

the Kathmandu valley. Chapman and Mullin raced to a collapsed building to search for signs of life. They finally found a survivor in the building. A woman was sandwiched between the ground floor of the building and part of the building that had flipped over on top of her. Throughout the entire operation, significant aftershocks occurred every few minutes causing further damage and landslides. The rescue operation took over three and a half hours and they were forced to use a sparse assortment of tools to perform a complex rescue in a very unstable situation. Both Technician Chapman and Lieutenant Mullin acted without regard to their personal safety under extremely hazardous conditions to save two lives. Without their efforts to rescue the victims, the outcome may not have ended successfully.

Silver Medal of Valor

Incident: Nepal Earthquake

The USA-1 /VA-TF1 Urban Search and Rescue Team had been deployed to Nepal following a devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake on April 25, 2015. While there, the team responded to numerous reports of damage and devastation. USA-1 of Fairfax County was transported by US Marine Corps aircraft to towns and villages that were inaccessible by vehicle due to landslides. All of the towns and villages in the Kathmandu valley are located in extremely steep mountains; nearly all buildings and roadways are on steeply terraced terrain. Veteran military officials describe it as among the roughest terrain in the world. USA-1 worked to investigate collapsed buildings, landslides, and other devastation in the area. Additionally, due to the harsh terrain, they had limited success contacting US air controllers for assistance. To compound their difficulties, the aftershocks of the earthquakes were triggering landslides that the team members could hear but could not see due to the darkness. The members of USA-1 acted without regard to their personal safety under extremely hazardous conditions. They demonstrated courage, dedication, and determination.



Captain I
Carlos R. Carrillo



Lieutenant
Daniel P. Gajewski



Master Technician
Rolando E. Contreras



Master Technician
Timothy J. Pais

Incident: Apartment Fire

Captain I Carrillo, Lieutenant Gajewski, Master Technician Contreras, and Master Technician Pais responded to a house fire at a two-story, single-family dwelling and were immediately confronted by a frantic occupant who had escaped. She stated there was another occupant trapped inside. After attempting to enter from the ground, the crew made a critical decision to enter the second floor from a ladder. Under high heat, zero visibility, and without the protection of a hose line, they searched for the victim. They located the victim and quickly removed him from the home. The team acted without regard to their personal safety under extremely hazardous conditions to save this person's life. Without their efforts to rescue the patient, the outcome may have not ended successfully. They demonstrated courage, dedication, and determination.

Bronze Medal of Valor

Incident: House Fire



Master Technician
Glenn W. Dressler

Master Technician Dressler was dispatched with his company to a fire in a local garden apartment building. Upon arrival, the team spotted victims on a top floor balcony. After setting up a ladder to attempt to reach the victims, Master Technician Dressler climbed to the top and began assisting the victims including the family's dog and young victim. Instantly the second victim collapsed from smoke inhalation. Without hesitation, Master Technician Dressler then removed his breathing mask face piece and placed it on the victim reviving her enough that she could assist in her own rescue.

Master Technician Dressler acted without regard to his personal safety under extremely hazardous conditions to save this person's life. Without his efforts to rescue the patient, the outcome may not have ended successfully. Master Technician Dressler demonstrated courage, dedication, and determination.





*Captain I
Reginald L. Wadley*



*Technician
Travis L. Franks*



*Technician
Jorge M. Martinez*



*Firefighter/Medic
R.L. Radam, III*

Incident: House Fire

Captain I Wadley, Technician Franks, Technician Martinez, and Firefighter/Medic Radam responded to a house fire at a two-story, single-family dwelling and were immediately confronted by a frantic occupant who had escaped. She stated there was another occupant trapped inside. After attempting to enter from the ground, the crew made a critical decision to enter the second floor from a ladder. Under high heat, zero visibility, and without the protection of a hose line, they searched for the victim. They located the victim and quickly removed him from the home. The team acted without regard to their personal safety under extremely hazardous conditions to save this person's life. Without their efforts to rescue the patient, the outcome may have not ended successfully. They demonstrated courage, dedication, and determination.



*Lieutenant
Joshua T. Allison*



*Master Technician
Robert G. Ritchie*



*Master Technician
Beverly L. Studds*



*Firefighter
Delfin Reyes*

Incident: Townhouse Fire

Lieutenant Allison, Master Technician Ritchie, Master Technician Studds, and Firefighter Reyes were dispatched to a townhouse fire where two occupants were possibly trapped inside. Upon arrival, part of the team ascended a ground ladder on the front of the townhouse to a closed second floor window to enter and search for victims. Other team members entered through the front door. Both victims were found unconscious and unresponsive but breathing and were quickly removed for treatment. The crews of Rescue 439 and Truck 425 acted without regard to their personal safety under extremely hazardous conditions to save two lives. Without the combined efforts to rescue the victims, the outcome may not have ended successfully. They demonstrated courage, dedication, and determination.

Certificate of Valor

Lifesaving Award



*Lieutenant
David E. Myers*



*Lieutenant
Scott F. Primrose*



*Public Safety Communicator
Robert McGhee*



*Technician
Eric C. Villman*

February 3, 2016

To the Men and Women of The McLean Volunteer Fire Department:

I want to extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude for the remarkable job you all did in attending to my medical emergency on Saturday afternoon, January 23, 2016. In the midst of one of the worst blizzards this area had ever experienced, I was stricken with severe abdominal pain, and my wife was advised on the telephone by a triage nurse that I should get to a hospital ASAP. The roads were impassible for regular vehicles, and she called 911.

Shortly thereafter, one of your firetrucks broke the way for a 4-wheel drive rescue vehicle to get through our only partially cleared street (Beacon Lane in Falls Church), allowing EMT's to come into our home and assist me first to the 4-wheel drive vehicle, which transported me to the ambulance waiting at the end of our street (where Beacon Lane runs into Westmoreland Street). From there I was attended to by a most capable woman paramedic, who did all she could to make me as comfortable as possible while gathering data to provide to hospital ER staff. With most roads and ramps impassible, the ambulance driver had to creatively navigate a maze of roadblocks, downed trees, blocked roads and ramps, snow drifts, and even enlisted snow plow escorts. My wife and I were delivered safely to Fairfax Inova Hospital.

Throughout the adventurous hour-long trip, all the emergency personnel remained calm, attentive to my medical needs, good-humored and gracious. Although I was experiencing a lot of pain, it was so comforting to have these professionals in charge of my care. An amazing thing was the fact that these personnel were volunteers putting themselves at risk in extremely bad weather conditions!

For their information, I was diagnosed at the ER with a lodged kidney stone, which was surgically removed, and I am now recovering at home. I am feeling much better, and I am tremendously grateful to those emergency personnel who so capably attended to my emergency and who got me and my wife safely to the hospital under the most challenging driving conditions that could be imagined.

Sincerely and very gratefull yours,

P. David F.

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

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



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Station Profile West Centreville Fire and Rescue Station 38

Captain II
John W. Morris
Station Commander



Station constructed: 1995

Station specialty: Community involvement with numerous civic groups and organizations in the Centreville area.

Square miles in first due area: 18

Specific hazardous/target areas: Forest Glen Retirement Apartment complex, Luck Stone Quarry, natural and liquefied gas transcontinental pipelines, rural non-hydrant areas with large equestrian centers, and Fairfax National Country Club and Fairfax National Estates.

Equipment assigned to station: Engine, Truck, Medic, Mobile Command Post.

Total calls in 2015: 4,693

Station personnel: **A-Shift: Captain II John W. Morris**, Lieutenant Jeffrey F. Klopp, Lieutenant Kenneth M. Laverock, Master Technician Mark G. Briskey, Master Technician Michael E. Duffy, Technician Brent M. Schnupp, Technician John M. Smith III, Firefighter Matthew G. Gambino, Firefighter Joshua D. Imlay, Firefighter Julie C. Sehnal **B-Shift: Captain I Kenneth A. Wildman**, Lieutenant James A. Flynn, Master Technician Philip C. Devereaux, Master Technician Linda J. Post, Master Technician John M. Stetter, Technician Jason C. Menifee, Firefighter Gary J. Butler, Firefighter Steven T. Ellis, Firefighter Danielle N. Kuhn, Firefighter Curtis J. Majors, Firefighter Alexander H. McKenna **C-Shift: Captain I Jennifer L. Svites**, Lieutenant Jeffrey R. Allen, Master Technician Reid V. Lottchea, Technician Holly M. Melendez, Technician Hao T. Sevener, Firefighter Wayne R. Champagne, Jr., Firefighter Ha S. Chon, Firefighter Adam M. Ellis, Firefighter Merneptah V. Funn, Firefighter Richard C. Jones, Firefighter Jordan M. Linhart

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