



**Chief's Corner**

**Taking Ownership...Building Relationships**

Hello everyone and welcome to the August edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you and your family are having a great summer and enjoying some vacation time. I know it has been super hot but, it's August. Before you know it, we will be complaining about the snow and ice. Oh well, at least the air conditioning has been working and it stays light until late so you can get things done outside.

This month I want to discuss a subject that I feel is important for our community. The subject is: Taking ownership of a problem when you see one and working it through until the issue is resolved. Now don't get me wrong, I think we already do a good job of this, but with the right relationships and some cooperation, we could really take this to the next level. Let me give you an example of how this process works and the way it helps our citizens.

Several days ago an employee from the City's Human Resources Department noticed a citizen who appeared to be living on the street in the downtown area. This employee made several calls regarding help for the citizen and didn't get any results. Then the employee decided to call Fire Administration and speak to a friend. The employee explained the issue and asked if the Fire Department could help. The Fire Department employee said, "let me see what I can do," and proceeded to phone a friend who works in Adult Protective Services (APS) in the Department of Human Services.

Within 15 minutes, the employee from APS met with Fire Department personnel on Main Street and they found the citizen in need. After talking with the citizen, he explained that he had been evicted from his apartment and had nowhere else to go.



The Fire Department personnel took the citizen for some breakfast while the APS employee began to make some calls to the citizen's case worker. Within a short period of time temporary housing was arranged and the citizen started getting the assistance he needed.

However, the story doesn't end here. The Fire Department personnel followed up with the citizen's case worker and APS to make sure everything was going as it was supposed to. They also purchased some clothes and shoes for the citizen. (Some of the clothes came from a family member of the employee.) These "new" clothes were taken to the citizen and he was provided with some personal items as well. Now I'm not saying that all of this citizen's problems have been solved, but he is certainly in a better place than he was several days ago. This event illustrates what can happen when someone sees a

problem and takes ownership. They don't waste time trying to "give it" to someone else, they "fix it."

This citizen had been "living" on the street downtown for several weeks and lots of people had seen him. Many people had noticed, but no one had decided to get involved. When you take ownership, things get done. However, knowing what services other City Departments offer and having relationships with members of these departments is the real key to getting things done. As the old saying goes, "It's not what you know, it's who you know." In order to develop relationships with other city employees and members of other departments, you have to make an effort to get involved in City activities. Go to the City sponsored events and participate in the many activities offered on a regular basis. Take time to visit other departments and in turn, welcome other City employees when they come to a station. Remember, we are all here for the same reason, to provide services to our citizens.

Now, I'm not just using this example to point out the good work done by departmental personnel, I'm making a point that taking ownership of an issue goes a long way towards solving that issue. And, knowing who to call can make solving any issue so much easier. (But I would like to say that this is a great example of the type of work the Fire Department does on a regular basis!)

To wrap this up, I think there are two points to make:

1. Taking ownership of any issue goes a long way toward solving that issue.
2. Take the time and make the effort to build relationships with other City employees and members of the community. You never know when it will pay off but you can bet it will!

That's a wrap for this month's Chief's Corner. I hope you have a great rest of the summer and get to enjoy outdoor activities with your family and friends. Keep up the good work and remember: it is your efforts that make Lynchburg a great place to work, live and play.

Until next time, be safe but never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift!"

Chief

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Chief's Corner
- 9/11 Stairclimb
- Upcoming Events
- Food Trucks and the Fire Service
- 60 Second Safety
- Fallen Firefighter Memorial Renovations Planned
- Upcoming Training Opportunities





## 9/11 Stairclimb

By: Firefighter Neil Patterson  
The third annual Lynchburg, Virginia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb will be held on September 11, 2016. This is a memorial event to remember the fallen heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, as well as a fundraiser to support both local and national charities that honor, serve, and protect the men and women of the fire service and survivors of tragedy.

The stair climb is open to anyone who would like to participate. It is organized as a cooperative effort between The Fire Foundation, Inc., of Lynchburg, VA, the Central Virginia Fire Fighters Association, and The National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation. This even is a 110 story climb that is achieved by climbing (five and a half times) the 20 story Bank of the James building on Main Street in downtown Lynchburg.

You can register online at [www.lynchburg911stairclimb.com](http://www.lynchburg911stairclimb.com) or you can register the day of the event. On event day, registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the opening ceremony will begin at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee is \$25.

Plan to attend and help honor these fallen heroes.

## Upcoming Events

### Guns & Hoses

Date: August 14, 2016  
Time: 1:45 p.m.  
Place: Lynchburg City Stadium  
To purchase tickets, contact Greg Wormser, Tammy Sage, or Ann Jenkins (455-6340).



### Recruit Graduation

Date: August 23, 2016  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Place: The Miller Center

### Communications Meetings

Date: September 1, 2016  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Fire Administration Trg. Room

### City Observes Labor Day

City offices will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2016 in observance of Labor Day.

### MDA Fill the Boot

The 2016 MDA Fill the Boot Campaign will take place from October 3-9, 2016. More details are forthcoming.

### 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

Date: October 8-9, 2016  
Place: Emmitsburg, Maryland  
For details, visit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation website at <http://www.firehero.org/events/memorial-weekend>



## Food Trucks and the Fire Service

By: Matt O'Daniel

In recent years, the popularity of food trucks has grown throughout the nation. Lynchburg is no different! We have our own local selection of food trucks from BBQ, to donuts, to Mexican food.

As the food truck population has grown, so too have the questions with regard to who regulates them. Do they need a permit? Do they get an annual inspection? Does VDOT regulate them? Also with this growth have come several deadly incidents involving food trucks, most notably in Philadelphia where a mother and daughter were killed when the food truck they were working in exploded. The investigation revealed that a propane leak caused the explosion. (The video can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/NGGldddd0>).

These are just a few examples of questions the Fire Marshal's Office has received, along with a few complaints. As we researched how other jurisdictions in Virginia were handling food trucks, it became clear that no one had an exact answer. So, this past spring one of the training topics at the Virginia Fire Prevention Association Conference was Food Truck Regulations. While this training was very informative, it became apparent that there are no specific codes directly related to food trucks. However, the NFPA is currently working to develop such codes. So basically, with a business license and an inspection from the Health Department you can operate a food truck!

While the new codes are being developed specifically for food trucks, the Fire Marshal's Office can use codes that we normally apply to brick and mortar restaurants. In addition, we are also working on our own Standard Operating Guidelines and procedures for handling food trucks in the City of Lynchburg.

## 60 Second Safety

### Eye Injury Prevention

By: Nathan Chapman, Health & Safety Officer



The United States has about 2,000 workplace eye injuries that occur every day. Almost 70 percent of accidents happen because of flying or falling objects, and most of the objects are smaller than the head of a pin.

Most eye injuries occur where safety eyewear isn't required, or left up to the individual to decide if they'll wear it. Many of those injured on the job didn't think they needed to wear safety glasses or protective gear, or were wearing eyewear that didn't provide adequate protection.

Follow the department's policy (listed below) on eye protection and don't become an eye injury statistic.

#### Eye Protection

*Firefighters shall wear eye protection (provided by the department) while operating power tools or equipment that pose a risk of injury from flying debris. This includes, but is not limited to, operations on fire and EMS scenes, within fire stations, and fire station grounds maintenance.*

# Fallen Firefighter Memorial Renovations Planned

By: Deputy Chief Jason Campbell

Since 1883, twenty-four firefighters in Lynchburg have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line-of-duty, serving fellow man, saving lives, and protecting property. In the City's Miller Park stands a memorial fountain in honor of these individuals, ensuring that our community will never forget the sacrifices each of them made. That very fountain is in need of significant improvements and we are respectfully asking for your assistance in this worthy and noble restoration effort.



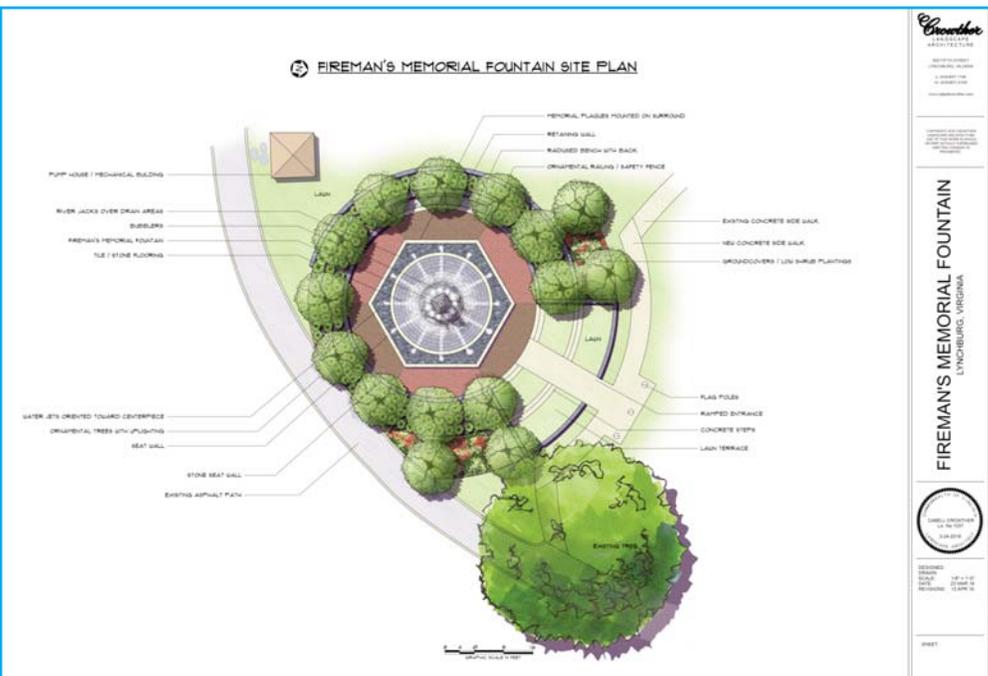
Renovation designs are the work of Cabell Crowther of Crowther Landscape Architecture of Lynchburg. The renovations will include new electrical and plumbing systems; raised seating walls around the memorial; a new water collection, retention, and cleaning system; all new landscaping, including a terraced lawn for seating; new lighting surrounding the memorial; new signage and memorial plaques; and new flag poles.

In cooperation with the Fire Department and the Lynchburg Department of Public Works, the Lynchburg Fire Foundation is trying to raise \$50,000 in order to match a dollar-for-dollar grant through the Lynchburg Parks & Recreation Department. Our plan is to reach this goal by October 31, 2016. Upon reaching our goal, the restoration project will commence with an anticipated re-dedication of the firefighter memorial in the Spring of 2017.

Here's how you can assist:

Cash Donation	A direct cash contribution to the campaign ensures a true dollar-for-dollar match of your contribution and allows the Foundation to apply 100% of your contribution to the restoration project.
Buy-A-Brick Program	Through our Buy-a-Brick Program, you can be a part of an enduring piece of the firefighter memorial restoration program. For just \$125 or \$250, you can choose a message to be laser engraved on one of the bricks paving the perimeter of the memorial. We are offering two sizes of bricks for our project: 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" laser engraved bricks. You can choose to recognize a special person in your life, honor, or commemorate a special occasion – the possibilities are endless.
In-Kind Donations	The project will require hours of labor and thousands of dollars' worth of sand, rock, stone, and landscaping products. If you would like to contribute any of these products, please contact the Foundation directly for more information.

To make a donation or to buy a brick, please visit [www.gofundme.com/ffmemorial](http://www.gofundme.com/ffmemorial). Only through the generous contributions of individuals like you will we be able to reach our goal of \$50,000 and earn the matching grant award. Please consider honoring the men who have given their lives while protecting and serving our community. For more information, contact Deputy Chief Jason Campbell at 455/6363.



## Highlights of the Renovations:

- New electrical and plumbing
- Raised seating walls around the memorial
- A new water collection, retention, and cleaning system
- All new landscaping, including a terraced lawn for seating
- New lighting surrounding the memorial
- New signage and memorial plaques
- New flag poles

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

By: Battalion Chief Jonathan Wright



In an effort to assist members in planning for future training events, the Training Division has prepared a Planning Calendar of upcoming training from August 2016 through March 2017. All members are encouraged to attend courses correlating with the Professional Development Handbook guidelines. Once final details are available for each course, official Training Announcements will be distributed to all members. These courses represent a combination of funded programs from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) and those that will be funded through the department's efforts.

Please remember that when courses are announced, Training Requests must be submitted to the Training Division. Please contact a member of the Training Division should you have any questions.

AUGUST 2016	SEPTEMBER 2016	OCTOBER 2016	NOVEMBER 2016
<p>IAFC Fire-Rescue International (FRI) San Antonio, TX</p> <p>Child Safety Seat Installation Course</p> <p>NFPA 1035 Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I</p> <p>VFMA Communicating With Children</p> <p>VDFP HTR Module II</p> <p>VDFP Vehicle Rescue I</p> <p>VDFP Instructor I</p> <p><u>CPR Recertification</u></p>	<p>VA Hazardous Materials Conference Virginia Beach, VA</p> <p><u>HR Sessions: Creating A High Performance Team</u> Dr. Chad Starks</p> <p><u>New Officer Orientation</u></p>	<p>2016 EMS World Expo New Orleans, LA</p> <p>Firehouse Expo 2016 Nashville, TN</p> <p>VDFP Driver/Operator - Pumper</p> <p>VDFP Fire Officer I</p> <p>Nozzle Forward</p>	<p>Virginia EMS Symposium Norfolk, VA</p> <p><u>Facilities Training - Modern Fire Dynamics Refresher, Flashover Simulator, Live Fire Evolutions, Burn Building</u></p>
DECEMBER 2016	JANUARY 2017	FEBRUARY 2017	MARCH 2017
<p><u>EVOG Refresher - Annual Driver Training Program</u></p> <p><u>Annual Blood Borne Pathogens Refresher</u></p> <p><u>Advanced Practice Paramedic</u></p>	<p><u>Incident Management System Review and Building Construction</u></p> <p>NFA ICS 300: ICS for Expanding Incidents</p> <p>NFA ICS 400: Advanced ICS</p>	<p>VFCA Fire-Rescue Conference</p> <p>VDFP Fire Instructor I</p>	<p><u>Dept. Officer Development</u></p> <p>NFA: ICS for High Rise Operations (12 hours)</p> <p>VDFP Instructor I (42 hours)</p> <p>Confined Space 1 (16 hours) or Confined Space 2 (16 hours)</p> <p>Child Safety Seat Installation Course</p> <p>NFPA 1035 Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I</p> <p>VFMA Communicating With Children</p> <p>VDFP HTR Module II</p>

Green = Conferences

Red = Recruit School (open to everyone)

Underlined = Required Training

**Train as if your life depends on it. Because it does...**