



CHIEF'S CORNER

Tis' The Season

Hello everyone and welcome to the Christmas edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you and yours are getting ready for the holidays and will get to spend some time with friends and family.

As I write this, it is the week of Thanksgiving and I just finished a day of Christmas shopping, so the "spirit" level is high. So, to keep with the theme, for this month's corner, I want to talk about the holiday spirit and why this time of the year is so special.

For members of the Fire Department, this time of the year is about doing things for others and serving the community. Every year the department helps families in need and makes a special effort to keep our citizens safe. A big part of what makes this possible is the caring and gracious attitude our members display during the holidays. Sometimes this is hard to do when the weather is cold and windy and the patients are in a bad mood, or you are standing in a yard of someone's house with ice all around from the frozen hose lines, trying to save someone's home and save their Christmas as well. These are the situations where the positive attitude displayed by our members really shines. So, the question to ponder is: how do we nurture this type of positive behavior?

I think it all starts with making the department a great place to work and by encouraging members to develop a sense of service. We all know that the big fires and the exciting rescue calls produce the headlines, but helping an elderly citizen back into their bed when they have fallen is just as important. It may be a small thing to a firefighter, but the citizen will never forget. Public service is a calling and something that not everyone is suited for. Most firefighters and medics are caring people and enjoy doing for others. They remember the little things that help citizens and go out of their way to assist and be kind in all respects. There is not a week that goes by that I don't get a call from a citizen expressing their gratitude for the work that we do. Most of these acts of kindness don't make the news but the people we help will always remember.

One recent example involves a patient from the Emergency Room who was sent home after his visit with medication he had to "take" twice a day for five days. The patient was not able to administer the meds himself, so arrangements were made for Fire Department personnel to go to his residence and give him his "shots" twice a day for the duration. This saved the patient a five day stay in the hospital and certainly generated a great deal of good-will from the patient and the staff from the Emergency Room. The fact that all involved parties were glad to help shows what serving the community is all about. I see this type of willing and caring attitude every day and it does not happen by accident. It takes employees who work at helping others and people who enjoy what they do.

Over the last 30 years the Fire Department has evolved into an all hazards operation and we get called for anything that seems remotely dangerous or related to an emergency. Because of this, we are viewed by the public as "problem solvers" and when we respond with a great, helpful attitude it makes a positive impression. The citizens really support the Fire Department and we need to continue to earn their support by doing a great job and demonstrating a true sense of public service. Doing so will not only make our jobs enjoyable but the people we help will benefit as well.

That wraps it up for this month and for another year; 2013 has certainly been one to remember and I wish the best for you and your family for 2014.



The Fire Department had a successful year with no serious injuries and we were able to answer all of the requests for assistance and keep serving our citizens. I hope next year will be just as successful and the department will continue to be held in high esteem by the people we serve. Our standing in the community is no accident and it is due to the hard work and dedication of our employees. Let's keep it up and have another great year.

Thanks again for all you do and remember that attitude does make a big difference. But, never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift!"

Chief

REMINDERS...

Christmas Parade

December 8, 2013 at 5 p.m. (Downtown Lynchburg)
Sponsored by Retail Merchants Association

EMSAT

December 18, 2013 @ 7 p.m.
Topic: Treating the Overdose Patient

Upcoming Holiday Observances

City offices will be closed on the following dates:
December 24-25, 2013 (Christmas)
January 1, 2014
(New Year's Day)

Communications Meeting

January 2, 2014 at
8:30 a.m. (Fire Admin.
Training Room)

2014 Pocket Shift Calendars

Extra calendars are still available, while quantities last, in the Chief's Office.

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ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members who celebrate anniversaries with the department in December.

25 Years

Eugene Penick

18 Years

Wayne Casto

CONGRATULATIONS

Birth Announcements

— Congratulations to Stephen and Ashleigh Schrader on the birth of their daughter, Adelyn Marie. She was born November 9th and weighed 7lbs. 11oz.

Retirement

— Congratulations to Bryan Barber who retires effective January 1, 2014 with 25 years, 10 months of service. Thanks for your many years of service to the department and the citizens and best wishes!

CERTIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Science-Liberty University Business Admin. – Public Admin.

Abbey Johnston

Basic Rigging for Large Animal Rescue

Kenny Bunch
Lewis Thomas
Earl Copes

Driver/Operator Pumper

Jason Boteler
Joy Boteler
Toby Bouyea
Natalie Darling
Ricky Davis
Zach Foster
Travis Guthrie
Andrew Jenks
Patrick Madigan
Jason Marston
Jeannie O'Brien
Dane Phelps
Josh Phillips
Greg Pyton
Sam Young

Rope Rescue 1

Adam Wagner

Structural Collapse Technician

Kenny Bunch

Wide Area Search

William Copes
Todd Glass
Kent Hancock
Scott Hargis
Andrew Jenks
Eric Maschal
Tom McCrickard
Eric Mendel
Jeannie O'Brien
Charlie Shealy

AGRIUM SERVICES DONATES TO FIRE FOUNDATION

By: Battalion Chief Keith Johnson

The Fire Department recently participated in an emergency preparedness drill with Agrium Services on Mayflower Drive. The drill included our responders removing a simulated patient from a precarious position nearly three stories above ground from one of their product loading towers. Consultants evaluated how the situation was handled, as well as how the Lynchburg facility is prepared holistically.



L-R: Agrium representative, Firefighter Adam Wagner, Captain Frankie Campbell, Battalion Chief Keith Johnson, and Agrium supervisor Wayne Kendrick.

Agrium graciously made a donation to The Fire Foundation to help purchase equipment for each ladder truck. Both ladder trucks will now be equipped with new chimney fire nozzles and associated equipment for these responses. The Fire Department has also been invited to come back and use their facility for future training. The relationship and support from Agrium truly exemplifies what a responsible company Agrium Services is for the community.



LFD PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY

By: Acting Captain Matt Millner

On December 14, 2013, members of the Lynchburg Fire Department (LFD) will take part in the Riverfront Challenge Frost Footrace. This event, formerly known as Footrace Frenzy, is a unique run/walk with a twist of ice cream in the middle!

The LFD, along with local agencies for the special needs community, are excited to partner with Riverfront Challenge to share the fun of this event with those who could not otherwise complete this Challenge on their own. This year, one LFD member will partner with one special needs challenger and they will work together to complete the Frosty Footrace Challenge!

The event will take place on the Percival's Island trail. Fire Department members will assist a special needs challenger in the race, which is a two mile walk/run down Blackwater Creek trail. The participants will eat ice cream and then return on the two mile walk/run back to the finish line.

Approximately 18 firefighters have signed up to participate; however, more are needed! If you would like more information, contact Matt Millner at 455-6359.

RETIREE RECONNECT

The purpose of this segment is to allow department members to "reconnect" with our retired members! It will also introduce new department members to our retirees who served for many years and share some of their valuable knowledge.

Firefighter Charles E. Carwile, III "Chick"

38 Years of Service

(January 1, 1970 to January 1, 2008)

(Pictured right: Chick Carwile)



Share a memory or experience(s) that you were a part of during your service with the department.

— Getting to work with many of the members from the 1940s and 50s and hearing their stories and historical information. When I first came to the LFD, I rode Old Engine 4 - the 1946 Seagrave. The engine went out of service in 1970. It was replaced by the first diesel fire truck. The new Engine 4 had 1,500 gpm pumper, the first in the LFD, and was a 1970 American LaFrance.

What do you miss the most about the department and what advice would you give to someone just starting their career with LFD?

I miss the daily station humor. I would tell new employees to be proactive in station duty and learn everything you can. Read, take classes, and get a degree.