



### Chief's Corner

#### Change Is In The Wind

Hello, and welcome to the New Year! I hope you had a great holiday season and are ready for 2015. This year is shaping up to be another good one for the Fire Department and I know we will continue to provide great service to our citizens. This year is going to be packed with change, so I want to use this month's corner to review a few of the more important items you will see in the near future. So, let's take a look at what's coming.

The first change is one that will affect everyone and it involves the City's new financial system called dot net (or .net). This is the new system that will replace the old AS400 IBM system that we have been using for a long time. This new program will change how we handle payroll, as well as the entire financial/accounting process. The part that will impact each employee involves the entering of hours worked by the employees and the whole "time sheet" process. Each employee will have to enter their hours via computer and will be responsible for tracking the vacation and sick hours they take. The supervisors will still have to approve the "time sheets," but the employee will have to enter the information themselves. This change is scheduled to go live in February, but employees are not scheduled to start entering hours until later this spring or early summer.

This new procedure will be very different from our current process and is placing more responsibility on employees to "track" their hours, etc. There will be a learning curve associated with this process and I am sure there will be some glitches, but we will get it worked out. If you have any questions about how this system will work, there will be some training forthcoming. So hold on for a while and we should have the answers.

Another area where there are changes coming is in the way we attack structure fires. The Training Division is in the process of rolling out some information and training on Fireground Dynamics. Captains Ronnie Coleman and John Ripley have developed a program to deliver this training to the department. Along with your battalion chiefs, Captains Coleman and Ripley will be presenting this "new approach" to suppression beginning very soon. To some department veterans this training will sound very familiar, but to most newer employees it will be very different. Pay attention and embrace this training. It is a proven concept and will certainly help our department be more effective in our suppression operations.

As most of you already know, there have been some recent promotions, as well as some movement in the officer ranks within the department. The newly promoted captains and master firefighters have assumed their assignments and some veteran officers have new responsibilities.

Battalion Chief Jason Campbell has been assigned to the Training Division as the Training Chief, while Battalion Chief Greg

Wormser has been assigned as Acting Deputy Chief of Operations. They both will function in these positions for the next several months. (Captain Allen Carwile has returned to his duties as the Fire Training Captain, while Captain Matt Millner has been assigned to Station 1-B Shift.) Battalion Chief Thomas Goode has been assigned to the position of Fire Marshal and Captain Thomas Mack has returned to his duties as Deputy Fire Marshal of Inspections. Battalion Chief Heather Childress has been assigned as the EMS Battalion Chief, and Michael Thomas has been assigned as the Acting Battalion Chief for Battalion 2-C Shift. Join me in congratulating these employees on their new assignments and wishing them success in these endeavors.

There have also been changes to equipment, with new vehicles placed in service, as well as some changes in our access to the drug boxes. The new Engines 1 and 2 have been placed in service and are doing well and all of the assigned employees have completed the required EVOX training. The new Truck 1 and Medic 1 have also been put in service. All of these vehicles have improved our fleet and enhanced our ability to provide service. In addition, the former front line equipment is now in reserve status and provides the department with excellent back-up units. Thanks to the Fire Department Shop and Fleet Services for all of their hard work obtaining and equipping these vehicles. The new CompX lock system has also been installed and is ready to be implemented. This system will enhance our ability to track drug box access and increase security. It will take some getting used to but will really enhance our overall operation.



New Lynchburg Fire Department Apparatus

That wraps it up for this month. Remember the fire season is upon us and the weather is going to be really cold. Wrap up and protect yourselves on the emergency scene and be careful in whatever you do. I hope you have a great new year blessed with health and happiness. Keep up the great work and let's make 2015 another exciting year.

Until next time, stay safe and never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift."

Chief

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- Chief's Corner
- Years of Service
- Congratulations
- Certifications
- 60 Second Safety
- Reminder
- Promotions
- Department Presents Check to M.A.A.M.
- Through-The-Lock Training
- Lynchburg Is Growing Structurally
- Training News
- Members Attend VA Public Safety Memorial Dedication
- LFD Throws Available



## LFD Years of Service

### 7 Years

Jason Boteler  
Brandon Brown  
Candace Brown  
Dane Phelps

### 2 Years

Tim Greenway

## Congratulations

### Retirements

- Congratulations to Captain Dennis Dodson who retired effective January 1, 2015, with 36 years, 9 months of service.\*
- Congratulations to Battalion Chief Ninette Heath who retired effective January 1, 2015, with 30 years, 5 months of service.\*

Thanks to both of them for their many years of service to the department and the citizens and best wishes!

\*Note that the years of service printed in the December edition of Flashpoint were incorrect.

## Certifications

### Structural Collapse Technician

Adam Wagner

### Surface Water Level I

Donnie Smith

### Gang Activity Awareness

Thomas Goode  
Thomas Mack  
Matt O'Daniel

## 60 Second Safety

By: Battalion Chief Ricky Bomar  
With the Winter season upon us, now is a good time to review our ONSPOT tire chains.

The ONSPOT website provides an excellent video on ONSPOT chain operations. Please take time to review this video at [www.onspot.com](http://www.onspot.com) and click on "videos," and "operations."

## REMINDER

City offices will be closed  
on  
January 19, 2015 in  
observance of  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## Promotions

Congratulations to the following department members who have been promoted\*. A promotional ceremony will be held on January 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Information Technology Building to recognize these individuals.

### BATTALION CHIEFS



Heather Childress  
Battalion Chief of EMS



Thomas Goode  
Fire Marshal



Michael Thomas  
Acting Battalion Chief\*



Ed Fletcher  
Captain



Kevin Snead  
Captain

### CAPTAINS

### MASTER FIRE FIGHTERS



Wayne Casto



Earl Copes



David Cox



Scott Hargis



David Kidd



Eric Maschal



Marty Misjuns



Adam Morton



Charlie Shealy

*Congratulations!*

## Department Presents Check to Centra Foundation — M.A.A.M.

For the past five years, the Lynchburg Fire Department has conducted the "Live • Fight • Dream" Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. Monies raised from the sale of t-shirts benefit the Centra Foundation's Mammograms Annually A Must (M.A.A.M.) Fund. The 2014 "Live • Fight • Dream" Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign included the sale of t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts.



(L-R): E. W. Tibbs, Centra CEO, Dr. Kathryn Pumphrey, Centra Foundation Executive Vice President, and Fire Chief Brad Ferguson

On December 17, 2014, Fire Chief Brad Ferguson presented a check for \$12,500 to Centra CEO, E. W. Tibbs and Centra Foundation's Executive Vice President, Dr. Kathryn Pumphrey. The money helps provide free mammograms, diagnostic testing services, awareness campaigns, and support services that remain in the Central Virginia area.

Dr. Pumphrey noted that over the past 12 years, M.A.A.M. has provided approximately 3,800 free mammograms. Furthermore, 330 of those mammograms were provided in the past year and resulted in numerous early detections. Dr. Pumphrey said, "The Lynchburg Fire Department has played a huge role in helping us provide these mammograms and help save the lives of mothers, wives, and daughters."

Special thanks to the sponsors for providing the support needed to make this campaign a success.

## Through-The-Lock Training

By: Master Fire Fighter Earl Copes

Forcible entry is an essential skill for every firefighter regardless of their daily riding assignment.

Last year, the Lynchburg Fire Department purchased a forcible entry door simulator to help sharpen forcible entry skills. During the month of December 2014, the department provided "Forcible Entry Through-the-Lock" Class for members. In addition, through-the-lock tool bags were purchased and placed on Truck 1, Truck 2, and Rescue 1 at the conclusion of the training.

Master Firefighters Earl Copes and Steve Ripley were the instructors for this intense training which was conducted for 12 days (8 hours each day). The training was completed by 150 members who gained extensive knowledge of the anatomy of numerous locks, how to attack them, and how to best use tools on their apparatus. The hands-on approach allowed each participant to force and manipulate most all of the common locks that may be encountered when responding to any given call.

This training was a big success and results in better trained members, less property damage, and a more professional image for the department.

## Lynchburg is Growing Structurally!!!

By: Battalion Chief Thomas Goode

As you are conducting territory training and thinking of how you would conduct fire ground operations throughout the city, be aware of new and renovated construction that has taken place (and continues to take place). Below is a listing of examples from each of the eight response zones that occupy the City of Lynchburg:

- Station #1 Bluff Walk downtown – new construction and remodeling of warehouses – residential and commercial
- Station #2 Tri-Tech Labs (1000 Robins Road) – 3000 square foot addition in the rear
- Station #3 Liberty University (1971 University Boulevard) – New high rise dorms – Phase I and II – new construction
- Station #4 Rivermont Presbyterian Evangelical Church (2424 Rivermont Avenue) – expanding classrooms and adding additional parking with a canopy in the rear - renovations
- Station #5 Residential development subdivision at the corner of Rivermont Avenue and Link Road (formerly the Oakwood Country Club 18 round golf course).
- Station #6 Beacon Credit Union (2134 Langhorne Road) – new construction
- Station #7 Hanwha Azdel with a 82,780 square foot plant addition off of Enterprise Drive
- Station #8 Greenview Drive residential and commercial development – new construction subdivision

More developments are being "round tabled" as Lynchburg continues to structurally grow. Remember to stay abreast of these changes!



Master Fire Fighter Steve Ripley provides Through-The-Lock training



Master Fire Fighter Earl Copes provides Firefighter Stephanie McLane hands-on experience during Through-The-Lock training

## Training News

By: Battalion Chief Jason Campbell

### Training Needs Assessment Survey

The Training Division is conducting a needs assessment survey to determine the types of educational program department members are interested in. Additionally, the survey will assist in ensuring department members training records are up-to-date. A link to survey has been emailed to all uniformed personnel's email address. Each member should complete the survey by Monday, January 19, 2015.

### Monthly Mandatory Training

Beginning February 2015, the Training Division will be conducting mandatory Fire/EMS training on a monthly basis for all uniformed personnel. We have created small groups comprised of 2-3 pieces of apparatus for each two-hour time slot in an effort to maintain adequate service delivery. Having a schedule will make it easy for everyone to know what date/time to report for training each month and station activities such as company training, VBI's, etc. can be scheduled accordingly. Regularly scheduled training such as CPR, EVOC, etc., will be worked into this new training rotation in the same time frames as we've offered them in the past. We will be conducting approximately one hour of EMS and one hour of fire training at each session. We will make adjustments periodically to allow more practical practice when weather permits.

Consideration was given to Haz-Mat and TRT training when the schedule was created and no training has been scheduled on Fridays.

There will be occasions when members are unable to attend training because of Department physicals, classes at CVCC, etc.; however, all other personnel are expected to attend as scheduled unless call volume prohibits. By keeping classes small and offering two per training day, we will be conducting these training sessions over several weeks each month. This does not allow us to offer make-up sessions.

Many of you are probably wondering why we are making a change to the way we deliver training to the Department. The motivation behind this change is simple: we all have room for improvement and we owe it to ourselves, one another, and the public to be the best at what we do. This is an excellent way to deliver a higher volume of training while interrupting service delivery as little as possible.

Please be on time for your scheduled time slot and be sure you have all of your regular PPE (turnout gear, helmets, eye & ear protection, gloves, etc.).

### National Registry Affiliation with the LFD

Attention National Registry Certified Providers: If you have not already done so, log on to the National Registry website (nremt.org) and submit an affiliation request to be affiliated with the Lynchburg Fire Department. There are only a handful of providers who have done this. Once you are affiliated, the Training Division can give you credit for large classes we conduct, such as PALS, EVOC, etc., which will reduce the number of hours you have to enter when it is time for you to recertify.

## Members Attend Virginia Public Safety Memorial Dedication

On Saturday December 6, 2014, Deputy Chief Anthony Smith, Battalion Chief Robert Lipscomb, Captain Jonathan Wright, and Firefighter Donnie Smith attended the dedication of the Commonwealth of Virginia Public Safety Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.



Deputy Chief Anthony Smith viewing the Memorial Wall.

This memorial was built to remember members of the Fire Service, Law Enforcement, EMS, and the Virginia National Guard who have made the supreme sacrifice for the Commonwealth of Virginia and its localities. Of the 870 names listed on the memorial, 22 are the Line of Duty deaths from our department.

The event was attended by members of the public safety community, the Virginia National Guard, dignitaries, and family members of those who were listed on the wall.

## Fire Department Throw Blankets Available

The Police and Fire Departments are conducting a joint fundraiser and are selling custom throw blankets.

The throw blanket is 48" x 70" and the cost is \$40. Proceeds from each Fire Department throw sold will go to The Fire Foundation. Proceeds from each Police Department throw sold will go to the Lynchburg Police Helping Hands Foundation.

If you would like to purchase a throw(s), contact Tammy Sage. The deadline to order is January 23, 2015.

If you would like to see a sample of the throw, you can stop by the Chief's Office to view. It is a nice quality product and is 100% cotton/made in the USA.

