



CHIEF'S CORNER

Fire Department News Flash!

Hello everyone, and welcome to the March edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you are doing well and looking forward to the spring weather that should be just around the corner.

This month I want to bring everyone up-to-date on some things around the department and keep all employees in the loop. I am just going to call this edition the "FD News Flash." So, here we go.

ISO Rating

The first item I want to comment on is the recent change in the department's ISO rating and why this is important. In January, I was notified that the Insurance Service Office (ISO) had completed its review of our "application" and had issued an ISO Class 2 rating for our department. Prior to this we had been rated as an ISO 3. This change means that we have improved in a number of areas since our last review and have made improvements to our ability to provide fire suppression services. Most insurance companies use this rating to help set their premiums for fire insurance. The better your ISO rating the lower the rates. This rating means that Lynchburg is one of only eight departments in the State of Virginia with a Class 2. (There are no Class 1 departments in the State, according to the ISO website.) For additional details, please see Battalion Chief Keith Johnson's article on our new rating on page 2 of this newsletter. Keith's hard work was instrumental in our department receiving this great rating. Thanks Keith!

Generators

Another item that should be of interest to everyone is the replacement of the emergency generators at stations 1 and 7. We now have a timetable for the installation of the new generators at these stations. The concrete pads should be poured starting in March and finished by sometime in April. The electrical equipment needed will be installed in April/June and the new generators will ship in June as well. These should be "set" in late June, with all of the work completed and accepted by July.

These generators will definitely enhance our department's ability to operate in severe weather situations. The new generators will be much bigger than the current ones and will be capable of powering the entire stations. When we experience a loss of electrical service at these stations, after the upgrade, it should not present a major problem. The new equipment will allow the stations to operate normally and power all systems. As an added bonus, the current generator located at station 7 will be moved to the shop and installed with an automatic transfer switch. This will allow for continued operation at the shop during loss of electrical service situations. (Public Works Administration is also getting a new back-up generator as part

of this project.) We plan to equip two additional stations each year, as resources allow, until we have all stations completed.

Budget

I also wanted to comment on the budget process and where we are with FY15. City Manager Kim Payne is preparing to present his proposed budget to City Council on March 11th. As of now, everything looks pretty good and I feel like the department will fair well in this process. There is not going to be much "drama" in this budget and I don't think there will be positions hanging in the balance this year. Of course City Council will have to approve everything and they have the final say on the budget, but I feel good about it right now. I also want to thank Ellen Davidson-Martin and Peggy Coleman for all of their work on this year's budget submission. They did a great job and we will benefit from it. (I also want to give a shout out to Kim, Bonnie and the staff in the budget office for all of their effort on this task. It's a thankless job most of the time and we should let them know we appreciate their work!)

Hiring Process/Recruit School

The last topic I want to mention is the hiring process and the upcoming recruit school. Acting Battalion Chief Carwile and his panel just finished the candidate interviews several days ago and he is tabulating the scores to produce a final list. In discussions with Allen, he feels like we have some excellent prospects and we should get some good employees out of this group. The Recruit School should start in mid-April after we complete the vetting of the candidates and do the actual hiring. The recruits should graduate in late spring and we should be at full staff before the busy vacation time rolls around. If you know any of the applicants and want to provide any input, don't hesitate to contact Acting Battalion Chief Carwile. We want to hire the best people we can and we need your help.

Well, that wraps it up for this month's edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope everyone has a great month and let's hope the warmer weather gets here soon. (I heard one weather reporter state that it was not going to warm up until late March or early April. I sure hope he is wrong!)

Take care and keep up the great work. We are doing good things as a department and I know the best is yet to come. 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
- Anniversaries
- Certifications
- LFD Receives Improved ISO Rating
- Second Annual Construction Build
- Guthrie Saves Family of Six
- Recruit Academy #13 To Begin
- New Health & Safety Officer
- Retiree Reconnect
- MDA Recognizes Department & Local
- Upcoming Events
- Museum News & Upcoming Events



ANNIVERSARIES

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

36 Years

Dennis Dodson

17 Years

Jimmy Mitchell
Lewis Thomas
Colao Lombre

2 Years

Michelle Kuhn

1 Year

Ruth Anne Phillips
Andrew White
Dana Stillman
Rudy Pierre
William Heywood
Courtney Hall
Colt Freeman
Robert Barkley
Travis Calloway
Chris Coleman
Jeff DeGoede
Colby Felton
Donnie Smith
John Thompson
Robert Tucker
Adam Wagner

CERTIFICATIONS

Paramedic

Roger Irvin
Dane Phelps
Jeremy Pillow



LFD RECEIVES IMPROVED RATING WITH THE INSURANCE SERVICE OFFICE (ISO)

By: Battalion Chief Keith Johnson

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments and insurance regulators, informing them about risks associated with structural suppression. Generally a community with a lower rating will receive lower insurance premiums. ISO examines relevant data and assigns a rating from one to ten, with one being exemplary and ten not meeting minimum criteria.

The Lynchburg Fire Department has been evaluated and notified that there will be an improved ISO rating. On May 1, 2014, the Lynchburg Fire Department will move from a previous Public Protection Classification rating of three to a rating two. The ISO utilizes a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule to develop these ratings for over 48,000 communities. Our new rating is among the country's most efficient. There are only 715 departments with a rating of two or lower. That puts Lynchburg in the top 1.5 percent of the most efficient structural suppression capabilities in the country.

This recent re-evaluation by ISO for the structural suppression capability was likely initiated by semi-annual outreach reports that we have provided for the past 12 years. Each year we see increased responses, but we have also made improvements with equipment and communications capabilities. We have also witnessed growth in the community. The comprehensive ISO study was completed several months ago. This in-depth process evaluates the Fire Department (50%), water supply (40%), and communications capability (10%). This holistic approach is even more comprehensive when compared to our previous rating because the scoring methods now have similar components with the accreditation process. The Fire Department scoring component is broken down in 10 separate categories alone.

Our Public Protection Classification (PPC) by ISO plays an important role in the underwriting process for insurance companies. Most insurance providers, including the largest ones, use this rating as part of their decision-making process regarding coverages and prices to charge for residential, commercial, and industrial property insurance. It also provides us a valuable tool when planning, budgeting, and justifying our structural suppression improvements.

While the Lynchburg Fire Department is recognized quite often for our efficient Emergency Medical Service system, it has once again proven to be among the countries best fire suppression capable organizations too. We should all be proud of our new ISO rating.

SECOND ANNUAL CANSTRUCTION BUILD DAY

Canstruction is a competition designed to creatively raise food, funds, and awareness to help people struggling with hunger. The project will bring together the City's architects, engineers, designers, contractors, students, and others in the community to build artistic structures with canned food. All food and funds raised will be donated to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. Last year, Canstruction Lynchburg helped raise over 19,000 pounds of canned food for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank – that equates to almost 16,000 meals!

A team of City employees has volunteered to build a structure based on the this year's theme of Superheroes: Defeating Hunger One Can at a Time! Employees are asked to bring donations of cans with white labels to one of the drop off locations (listed below) by Thursday, March 27th. Cash donations are also encouraged to help with the purchase of cans and building supplies and can be given to department heads or City Canstruction Team members: Heather Brown & Margaret Schmitt [HR], Valeria Chambers [City Manager's Office], Aldo Gonzalez & JoAnn Martin [Communications & Marketing], Gaynelle Hart [Public Works], David Owen [Parks & Rec.], Adam Pavao [Human Services], Stephanie Suter & Donna Witt [Finance], Kyna Thomas [Parking Management/City Manager's Office], and Kent White [Community Development]. Drop off locations include:

Parks & Recreation Administration (2704 Concord Turnpike)
City Hall (900 Church Street)
Main Library (2315 Memorial Avenue)
Downtown Library (900 Church Street)
Public Works (1700 Memorial Avenue)
Information Technology (3550 Young Place)

Parks & Recreation Community Centers:

College Hill	Daniel's Hill
Diamond Hill	Fairview
Jefferson Park	Templeton
Jackson Heights	Yoder

Police Department (905 Court Street)
Emergency Operation Center (3621 Candler's Mountain Road)
Social Services (99 Ninth Street)
Water Resources (601 Taylor Street)
Fleet Administrative Offices (1650 Memorial Avenue)

Fire Stations:

Clay Street	Grace Street
Fort Avenue	Birch Street
Boonsboro Road	Miller Park
Lakeside Drive	Old Graves Mill Road

GUTHRIE SAVES FAMILY OF SIX

Lynchburg Fire Department member Travis Guthrie responds to calls every shift; however, on the morning of February 9, 2014, his response was somewhat different.



Firefighter
Travis Guthrie

While driving down Perrymont Avenue on his way to work at fire station 3, he noticed something strange. "It just seemed like something wasn't right, and so I backed up," said Guthrie. That's when he saw the fire.

After calling 911 at 6:42 a.m., Travis began banging on the front door of the house and yelling in an attempt to wake the residents. Luckily, someone was in the front room and heard him. Together, they got the family — two adults and four children — out of the house. Fire crews were on the scene within five minutes of the call, and the fire was under control by 7:10 a.m.

Had the fire, which began outside the home, progressed before the occupants were made aware of it, they may have had trouble getting out of the house, said Captain Russell Ayscue.

Travis said that he leaves for work early so he can take a different route to learn his response territory for the neighborhood he serves. It's a tip he learned from another firefighter.

Travis was praised at the City Council meeting on February 11, 2014 for his heroic response. Councilman Turner Perrow said, "I think great accolades are owed to our fire department and to that fire fighter."

Some excerpts were taken from News Advance

RECRUIT ACADEMY #13 TO BEGIN SOON!

The next recruit academy is anticipated to begin in mid-April. The Training Division is currently working to finalize the recruit academy schedule based on the results and anticipated timeline of the current hiring process.

NEW HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

By: Acting Battalion Chief Allen Carwile



Captain
Tom McCrickard

Health & Safety Officer

Captain Tom McCrickard has assumed the role of the Health & Safety Officer, effective February 27, 2014. Captain McCrickard brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of fire department operations to this position.

Captain McCrickard will continue the work of his predecessors while continuing to expand the role of the Health and Safety Officer to provide for the safety of all department employees.

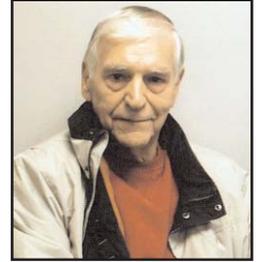
The staff would like to thank Captain John Ripley for his service as the Health and Safety Officer for the past three years. Captain Ripley has served the department well in this position, while also helping the Training Division during numerous recruit academies and daily operations. Captain Ripley has been assigned to Station 6 on "A" shift.

RETIREE RECONNECT

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

Deputy Chief Earl Taylor

36 Years of Service
(June 1, 1960 to July 1, 1996)



Retired Deputy Chief
Earl Taylor

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

I was sent to Station 6 on B Shift to begin my tour as a Firefighter on Engine 6. I had some basic fire training in the Air Force and as a volunteer in the Phoebus Fire Department (Hampton, VA). I knew a lot of firefighters, as I lived behind Station 4 (Rivermont Avenue). Many of my neighbors were firefighters; however, they have all passed away, except for Captain Jessie Ware, who is the department's oldest living retiree.

I have many fond memories of my career. My first being basic training in the South Boston State Fire School with Les Davidson, Preston Hatcher, Fred Casey, George Tomlin, and our senior escort, Captain James Gunter. There were pranks galore every day and night. Captain Gunter issued many warnings that only increased the issues. Also increased was my desire for training, as five years later I became a State Instructor and was involved in training the rest of my career.

I was transferred to the Fire Prevention Bureau and placed in charge upon the retirement of Captain Eugene Smoot. I had the opportunity to revamp the entire operation, thanks to Chief William Anderson, to what is known today as the Fire Marshal's Office. Soon thereafter, the office received a federal grant to set up a Regional Arson Squad and to hire three additional Fire Marshals (Linda Eagle, Ron Sanders, and Richard Bass). Fire Marshals attended the Police Academy to become law enforcement officers. With the assistance of Fire Marshal Office staff (Charlie Mosby, Ray New, Wayne Saunders, John Jennings, and myself), we made changes in code enforcement and completely changed the Fire Code from an outdated AiA Code to the Building Officials Code of America (BOCA).

I was also a member of the Lynchburg Life Saving Crew for over 20 years. My last years in the Lynchburg Fire Department included work in administration, operations, and training.

What do you miss the most about the department?

I really miss the people and the good times!

What advice would you give to someone just starting their career with LFD?

Take advantage of all of the education you can obtain and place your goal for the Chief's position.

You can contact Earl by email at molly3t@gmail.com

MDA RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENT

During the February 5, 2014 Communications Meeting, MDA Representatives presented a plaque to the Lynchburg Fire Department recognizing the department and the IAFF for its contribution to the 2013 MDA campaign. They also presented a trophy for Station 3 (B Shift), recognizing them as the "top collecting station." Station 7 also received "Honorable Mention" for its collection efforts.

Since 1954, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has helped raise donations for the MDA. The donations collected go to the efforts of eradicating more than 40 neuromuscular diseases. As well as finding a cure, these contributions are used to send children stricken with these diseases to summer camp, professional and public health education, and other programs locally.

The representatives expressed appreciation for the department's efforts to raise money for MDA, noting that last year Lynchburg firefighters raised \$31,642, one of the largest totals in the State of Virginia.



MDA Representative presents Fire Chief Brad Ferguson with plaque from MDA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Eyes of Freedom Memorial

Dates: March 7 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 March 8-12 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 March 13 10:00 a.m. to 2 :00 p.m.
 Place: 1023 Commerce Street

Eyes of Freedom is a traveling art memorial that serves as a visual reminder of the great price men & women are willing to pay for their country. Plan to attend this moving event. Admission is FREE.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Date: March 17, 2014
 Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 Place: O'Charley's Restaurant (Wards Road)
 Tickets are \$20 and include appetizers/two beverages/mug. Contact your Shift Vice President to purchase your ticket/mug. (You must bring your pre-ordered mug for admission to the event)

A Shift Vice President	Eric Maschal (Station 1)
B Shift Vice President	Allen Marston (Station 7)
C Shift Vice President	Kenny Turner (Station 3)



Daylight Saving Time

Change Your Clock/Change Your Battery!

Daylight Saving Time begins March 9th! Don't forget to "spring forward" and set your clocks ahead one hour. This is also a great time to change the batteries in smoke detectors. Additionally, smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.



Retiree Breakfast

Date: March 10, 2014
 Place: Cracker Barrel Restaurant
 Time: 8:00 a.m.

Many of the Lynchburg Fire Department retirees gather on the second Monday of each month at the Cracker Barrel restaurant to have breakfast and a time of fellowship. They would like to invite all retirees or current fire personnel who would like to attend to join them. If you have any questions, contact Sheffie Brizendine at 540-296-0734.

Communications Meeting

Date: April 3, 2014
 Place: Fire Administration Training Room
 Time: 8:30 a.m.



LYNCHBURG FIRE DEPT. MUSEUM, INC., NEWS

The Lynchburg Fire Department Museum, Inc. is working on several exciting fundraisers! Proceeds will benefit the Museum.

Patches

Patches depicting the old LFD logo are available for \$5 each. These are a perfect keepsakes or gifts for patch collectors and firefighters. To purchase, contact Tammy Sage at 455-6341.

Bus Trip

The Museum Board is excited to offer a one-day bus trip to the Baltimore Fire Museum AND the Maryland State Firefighter Museum! The trip will take place on May 16, 2014. Tickets are \$65 for children (ages 6-12) and \$85 for adults. The cost includes bus fare, lunch, and admission into BOTH museums! (**NOTE:** Adult tickets purchased by April 16th will receive an Early Bird Discounted price of \$80! Registration & payment must be received by April 16th to be eligible for the discount. No discount applies to children's tickets.) Space is limited, so register today! To register contact Tammy Sage at 455-6341. The final deadline to register is May 12, 2014.

Year Book

Preliminary plans are underway to produce a Lynchburg Fire Department yearbook. This book will feature current and retired department personnel photos, apparatus, facilities, historical photos, and more! It will pay tribute to the men and women whose dedication have made this organization one of tremendous pride and honor.

Retired LFD Captain Carl Davis and his wife, Donnalynn, will be assisting the Museum Fundraising Committee with this project. They hope to compile "old stories" from past and present members of the Lynchburg Fire Department for inclusion in the yearbook. All of the stories collected will be compiled and as many as possible will be included in the yearbook. All of the stories will be preserved for inclusion as an exhibit in the Museum.

Many members have commented that there are many stories and memories that need to be captured in some way before they are forever lost. Anyone who would like to submit an "old story" for inclusion is encouraged to do so! The stories can be about incidents they were involved in, be funny or serious, or even unusual things that happened around the station. If you are interested in submitting a story, please contact Carl & Donnalynn at 434-376-4567, or e-mail ddaviswriter@aol.com.

More information about the availability of these yearbooks will be forthcoming as the project progresses.