



**Chief's Corner**

**Helping Our Neighbor Out**

Welcome to the March edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you and yours are doing well and getting ready for some warmer weather as spring approaches. I, for one, am ready to get outside and do some hiking or camping. Spring is always a great time as everything turns green and the flowers start to bloom. I know I'm ready!

Speaking of weather, I want to use this month's Chief's Corner to discuss the recent events in Appomattox and the Fire Department's response to assist them in their emergency.

By now you know what happened in Appomattox County on Wednesday afternoon, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Battalion Chief Childress and I were leaving the BREMS office after visiting with Connie Purvis and her staff at the open house for Connie's retirement. As we left the parking lot around 1530 hours, a weather alert came over the radio and said that a tornado had been "sighted" on radar and there was a suspected touchdown in Appomattox. We were discussing the event and commented that we hoped no one was injured and nothing got damaged. However, by the time we made it back to Fire Administration, the department was already receiving calls for assistance.

As a member of the State of Virginia's Technical Rescue Team group, we were deployed to Appomattox to help provide search and rescue assistance. The on-duty shift TRT members (A shift) were sent first and we began to call in some off-duty members to provide additional manpower. Deputy Chief Wormser also responded to help with coordination and assess the overall situation. Once our members arrived at staging, we learned that there had actually been two "touchdowns" several miles apart. This meant that resources would have to be sent to both locations. The decision was made to send the on-duty A shift group to one location and have Acting Battalion Chief Bob Mays take responsibility for their operation. As the off-duty personnel started to arrive, they were directed to the second location and Battalion Chief Sean Regan was responsible for that operation. In all, that evening and night, the Lynchburg Fire Department had over 30 members conducting and assisting with search and rescue operations.

The initial phase of the operation consisted of a primary search for any persons who were trapped in their homes or other debris, as well as looking for missing persons. This primary phase was also used to help assess the damage to structures and determine their structural stability. This can be a very slow and laborious process but the teams moved through the area with a purpose and made good progress. As darkness fell the task became more difficult, but the portable scene lights and helmet-mounted lights were very helpful and progress continued. By midnight, all of the damaged structures in the designated areas had been searched (primary search) and the one missing individual had been located. The team and

command had a high level of confidence that no one had been missed and the operation began to wind down for the night. All of the TRT members of the LFD returned to Lynchburg for the night and plans were made regarding how to proceed the following morning.

As daylight returned on Thursday morning, the on-duty TRT members (12 B shift-station one employees) went back to Appomattox to conduct a secondary search of the area and also complete damage assessment reports. Each of the structures involved had to be evaluated and a determination had to be made about the stability and safety. This phase required most of the day and the task was completed that afternoon. The Fire Department TRT members returned to their station just before dinner and the "emergency" phase of this incident was considered over.

That evening the Appomattox community began to shift to the cleanup and recovery phase that will last for at least several months. They are dealing with numerous issues and it will take time for these to be resolved; but, they are well prepared for the challenge and are a resilient community. I have no doubt that they will come out of this incident stronger and more prepared than ever.

The Lynchburg Fire Department was very pleased to help with this devastating event in any way that we could. It provided our department with a chance to help a neighboring community and also test our own readiness. It allowed the Lynchburg Fire Department TRT members to hone their skills and evaluate equipment. Helping others is a large part of being a firefighter and we are always happy to assist. If we are unfortunate enough to experience another such emergency in the Central Virginia area, the Lynchburg Fire Department stands ready to assist in anyway we can.

Well, that about wraps it up for this month's Chief's Corner. I hope you have a great month and get to enjoy the improving weather. Spring is just around the corner.

Keep up the great work and continue to provide the citizens with the excellent service they deserve. However, never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift!"

Chief

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## 60 Second Safety

By: Acting Captain Nathan Chapman  
**Personal Physical Health**

Over the years, we all lose the physical ability to complete the tasks of being a firefighter. This is a natural process of aging; but, it can also happen when we stop working out on a regular basis. It can sneak up on each of us, and then one day while walking up one flight of stairs you find yourself out of breath. This is when it becomes apparent, and you say to yourself, "I AM OUT OF SHAPE!"

It is a personal responsibility that we owe to ourselves, our families, and our co-workers to maintain a certain degree of physical conditioning. If this is happening to you, it is important to realize it and do something to reverse the effects.

I encourage every member of the Lynchburg Fire Department to start, or continue, working towards improving your conditioning. You can begin by walking, running, swimming, biking, or picking up some other form of physical activity to improve both cardiovascular and muscular strength. Remember, something is better than nothing! So start today and establish healthy patterns and make fitness a priority.

## Certifications

### Fire Officer I

Jason Boteler	Candace Brown
Earl Copes	Will Copes
Zach Foster	Joey Kilgore
David Kidd	Ryan Lee
Eric Maschal	Jason Marston
Eric Mendel	Josh Phillips
Mary Shumate	

### National Fire Academy:

- Applications of Community Risk Reduction
- Transitional Safety Leadership
- Shaping the Future

Abbey Johnston

## Congratulations

- Congratulations to Marty and Melinda Misjuns on the birth of their son, Maxwell Jon. He was born February 5, 2016, and weighed 8 lbs., 4 ounces.
- Congratulations to Charlie Cox who retired March 1, 2016 with 25 years, 5 months of service. Thank you for your service to the department and citizens.

## Chapman, Turner Take on Administrative Roles

By: Deputy Chief Jason Campbell  
 Master Firefighter Nathan Chapman has been selected to serve as the Acting Captain of Health & Safety. The appointment became effective on February 24, 2016.

Master Firefighter Rob Turner has been selected as the Acting Captain of EMS Training. Rob's appointment will become effective on March 23, 2016.

Nathan and Rob's lengthy tenure and experiences in fire and EMS, along with unique military backgrounds, have prepared both of them for their new roles and responsibilities. Please congratulate Nathan and Rob on their appointments.



Nathan Chapman



Rob Turner

Captain Tom McCrickard served as the Captain of Health & Safety for two years and has been reassigned to Station 7 C-shift. Captain Abbey Johnston has served as the Captain of EMS Training for \_\_ years and will be reassigned to Station 2 C-shift.

## Department Policy Review Workgroup Established

In an effort to continuously ensure appropriateness of our organizational policies, a policy review workgroup has been established. The workgroup will begin by reviewing and understanding the purpose and necessity to have well-organized policies and guidelines.

A review of current policies and practices will be conducted, along with a needs assessment of other areas that should be incorporated into our policy system. From that point, the revision of current policies and the development of necessary additional policies will begin to take place.

This workgroup's efforts will be ongoing and a conscious effort will be made to rotate members of the workgroup and bring in new members to allow for fresh ideas and perspectives. The members of the workgroup include:

Firefighter Josh Phillips  
 Firefighter Travis Guthrie  
 Master Firefighter Scott Hudson  
 Captain David Jackson  
 Deputy Chief Jason Campbell

Firefighter Mary Shumate  
 Firefighter Andrew White  
 Captain John Norman  
 Battalion Chief Heather Childress

## Local to Host St. Patrick's Day Event



Design on back of t-shirt

The Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association (Local 1146) will host its annual St. Patty's Day event on March 17, 2016 at O'Charley's Restaurant on Wards Road. The event will be held from from 6:00-9:00 p.m.. Admission prices are \$20 per person (includes a short sleeve t-shirt, two beverage tickets, and appetizers) OR \$25 per person (includes a long sleeve t-shirt, two beverage tickets, and appetizers). If you are unable to attend the event, but would like to purchase a t-shirt, contact Carey Orange at Station 3 (A Shift).

## Traffic Incident Management For First Responders

By: Captain Ronnie Coleman

During the month of April, the Training Division, along with partners from the Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Virginia Department of Fire Programs, will present a course titled, "Traffic Incident Management System for our First Responders." This course will be conducted for Lynchburg Fire and Police Department employees, as well as our local wrecker-tow/recovery service operators who would like to attend.

The purpose of this Virginia-specific course is to make first responders aware of safe, quick clearance strategies for Traffic Incident Management (TIM). It gives detailed instruction and examples that involve clearing an incident scene as soon as practical to restore normal traffic flow. Being aware of TIM's strategies and how they pertain to various Virginia agencies is also important. This course addresses all TIM disciplines and their role in incident management/response on the roads of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## 2016 Hiring Process

By: Deputy Chief Jason Campbell

The department kicked off a hiring process on March 1<sup>st</sup> aimed at establishing a pool of candidates for a late 2016 recruit academy. Applications will be accepted until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Below is a list of important points of interest about this year's process:

- This process is establishing a pool of candidates for anticipated openings throughout 2016. The exact hire/recruit academy start date has not yet been established.
- A recruitment website has been established and you are asked to direct interested individuals to visit [www.becomealynchburgfirefighter.com](http://www.becomealynchburgfirefighter.com). This website includes information about the minimum requirements, salary & benefits, and the selection process. It also includes a link to the City's Human Resources Department website for the application.
- In conjunction with the police department, emergency services, human resources, and public works, the fire department will be hosting four recruitment fairs throughout the month of March. The dates/times/locations are listed below. If you are available to assist interested individuals with completing the application, the personal history statement, or simply answering questions about our profession, please contact Deputy Chief Campbell.
  - March 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Fire Station 5
  - March 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Jubilee Family Development Center
  - March 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at River Ridge Mall Regal Cinemas
  - March 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Fire Station 7
  - Department representatives will also conduct a recruitment presentation to the public EMT course currently underway at Fire Administration, the EMS program students at CVCC, and the paramedic and fire science program students at the Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke.
- Because of the uncertainty of the exact date of hire, we are allowing individuals who are at least 20 years of age and who are not currently certified as an EMT-Basic to participate in the hiring process, with the understanding that they must be 21 years of age and certified as an EMT-Basic by the date that the department extends an official offer of employment.
- Applicants will utilize the National Firefighter Selection Inventory exam by I/O Solutions for the entrance exam. This exam is designed to test important cognitive abilities and personality attributes that are imperative for firefighters and EMS providers.
- Applicants will submit personal history statements at the time of the written entrance exam in order to better prepare the department for the background investigation.
- The department is currently negotiating with a local professional to conduct psychological evaluations of the final candidates.
- Following the physical exam and drug screening, final candidates will participate in a physical fitness assessment coordinated through the Captain of Health & Safety.



**LYNCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**  
**March 1, 2016 THRU April 1, 2016**

**TO APPLY, VISIT [WWW.BECOMEALYNCHBURGFIREFIGHTER.COM](http://WWW.BECOMEALYNCHBURGFIREFIGHTER.COM)**

The Lynchburg Fire Department provides fire suppression and prevention services, emergency medical services, technical rescue, haz-mat, and confined space emergency response. Excellent benefits and career advancement. Some of the benefits include:

Vacation & Sick Leave	Paid Holidays	Health and Dental Insurance
VRS Retirement	Education	In-service training

**WE'VE GOT A SPOT FOR YOU!**

The poster features a top image of fire trucks and a vintage fire engine at night. The bottom image shows a row of red fire lockers with yellow and black firefighting gear hanging inside, including helmets and jackets with 'LYNCHBURG FIRE DEPT' and names like 'T. STYL' and 'A. E.' visible.

## After the Fire...



By: Captain John Norman

After nearly 19 years in the field, I felt that I had a good idea about the services we provide as a department to the citizens who rely on us to assist them during some of the worst moments of their lives. They call, we respond, we mitigate the situation, offer support and encouragement, repack equipment, clean tools, write reports, notify appropriate department personnel and agencies, done! We are very good at performing the necessary field operations to keep families and individuals safe and out of harm's way, but what happens after we leave the scene? What happens after everything is clean and put away, after all the reports are done, after everyone is safe and warm? What happens after the fire?

I really think field personnel are the heartbeat of this department. You are the faces and attitudes that people see and remember. When citizens of Lynchburg think of the Lynchburg Fire Department, they think of you. They don't think of administration, training, safety, fire marshals or billing. They think of you! Then, when the smoke has cleared and the morning comes, they meet the people working behind the scene, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO).

Generally, after the 911 dispatch, engines, trucks and medic units arrive at a fire scene, do a quick risk versus benefits analysis, establish command, assignments are given, the work gets done, the fire is put out, overhaul and clean-up is accomplished, an engine company officer and/or an on-shift investigator determines origin and cause, unless there is a fatality or an arson is involved (in which case the FMO is contacted), reports are written, the on-shift investigator sends their report, pictures and finding to the FMO.

Investigations after the fire progress in a methodical pattern using the scientific method. Fire does not lie; it travels in a predictable pattern every time. This allows investigators to move from the least amount of damage to the most, which puts us in the area of origin. Slowly working through debris enables the investigator to move closer to a point of origin. Once the point of origin is found, the investigation will determine the cause of the fire by eliminating all possibilities, i.e., electrical short, candle, cigarette butt, etc. The origin and cause of a lot of fires are easily discoverable. A fire from "food on the stove" can easily be determined and the need for an on-shift investigator to respond to the scene from their assigned station is eliminated. The NFIRS report narrative should contain a sentence or two stating the origin and cause. In this case, the need for an investigation report is removed.

Some "after the fire" scenes are a little more complicated and require an on-shift investigator to respond from the station and at times, one of the FMO on-call personnel to respond to the scene. When the investigation of a fire involves one of the department's 1033 Investigator certified investigators, an investigation report has to be done and submitted to the FMO so an investigation's file can be created.

The captain of investigations reviews all fire reports, assembles hard copy files, adding pictures, NFIRS reports, investigation reports, chain of custody paper work for evidence taken to the state lab, police reports and lab results. All investigative reports are kept under a secure redundant lock system. Arson files are distinguished by the color of folder it is

assembled in. It is usually around this time of the investigation that the insurance companies, owners, renters, property management firms and any other parties involved start asking for copies of files. While the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) mandates that some parts of the files be available for copying, not everything is discoverable if it is under investigation or until requested through a court of law. Discernment of file information is required to determine which material can be copied and to whom it should or should not be released.

Most people have not dealt with fire damage and what they as the owner or renter should do next. The FMO will usually meet these families at the scene of the incident or a day or two afterwards. As they walk through the process of recuperating fire damage losses and dealing with insurance companies and their adjusters, we are there with them. Often, personnel from the FMO will be on the scene for hours with an adjuster as they work through the scene and keep families apprised of their findings and progress of the process itself.

After the fire and investigation, we forward needed information to the proper authorities. Once fire has occurred and the investigation has been completed, the Building Official's office and other proper authorities will be notified by the Fire Marshal's Office to allow for their work to begin, such as permits, allowances, etc. Permits will be required to allow re-occupation of the structure. That time may vary depending on the extent of the damage.

There are many facets to the fire scene. The opportunity to describe a little of what happens "after the fire" has been a great chance for field personnel to get an idea of what goes on in the Fire Marshal's Office and how the fire prevention and investigation division tries to build on the great impression the citizens of Lynchburg get from the front-line fire fighters of the Lynchburg Fire Department. Thanks, everyone, for all you do!

## Daylight Saving Time

### Change Your Clock/Change Your Battery!



Daylight Saving Time begins March 13<sup>th</sup>! 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. Also, as a reminder, smoke detectors should also be replaced every 10 years.

## 2016 Promotional Processes for Captain and Master Firefighter

### The process registration period is April 1 – April 8

In preparation for the upcoming Captain and Master Firefighter promotional processes there will be two orientation/information sessions to discuss changes to the policies, the timelines, and the various components of the processes.

Your attendance is optional and you can choose to attend either of the sessions. You should schedule your attendance while you are off-duty. Both sessions will be held at Fire Administration. The dates and times are listed below:

- Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.