



**CHIEF'S CORNER**

**Another Day on the River**

Welcome to the May edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you and yours are well and starting to enjoy this warm spring weather. I really like this time of the year when the plants are blooming and everything is starting to turn green. (I don't enjoy cutting the grass but hey, its better than shoveling snow!) As you can probably guess, the topic for this month is the recent train derailment and the department's initial response. I won't talk about the recovery phase because we are just entering that aspect of the operation as I write this. So, here are a few of my initial thoughts.

The events of the last few days reinforce the concept that the Fire Department is an all-hazards response agency. Over the last few days we have had calls ranging from structural collapse issues, industrial accidents, our usual medical calls, and then a train derailment with haz-mat involvement and fire/explosion. Some would say that this is just another day at the office, but I am glad that is not the case. While we do respond to these large scale incidents on occasion, I am happy they do not happen very often. These incidents tax our resources and place a strain on the department's ability to answer all of the remaining calls we receive from the public. Keeping the resources necessary to answer the calls for service we receive in addition to the "big one" is of utmost importance. However, that's a topic for another day and I want to discuss our initial response to the derailment.

The initial call from Lyn-Comm was dispatched as a vehicle fire to N.B. Handy at 65 10<sup>th</sup> Street. As I heard all of the units being sent, I wondered what kind of burning vehicle would need all of this equipment? Chief Smith was returning to the office and heard the initial dispatch. He saw a large column of black smoke and proceeded to the river. As he approached, it became apparent that this was no ordinary vehicle fire, as he was being meet by a large number of citizens running away from the scene. Once Chief Smith was able to determine the true nature of the event, he asked Lyn-Comm to dispatch two additional engines and another ladder truck. (That was the first real indication that the afternoon was going to be very busy.) Battalion 1 arrived seconds later and established command in the area of the Depot Grille. As the Fire Department units began to arrive, Command was getting a handle on the scope of the



incident and started placing units where they were needed to protect the citizens and began to determine how to "attack" the situation. Evacuation distances were determined and the Police Department began to go through the buildings to get the people out. It didn't take long to determine that the initial command post was too close to the incident and it was moved to the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Streets.

Part of the initial size-up was to determine what the product was and whether we should try to put the fire out or let it burn. Once the Haz-Mat team identified the product as crude oil (placard #1267), it was determined to let the oil burn off. Next, it had to be determined if there was flame impingement on railcars that had not ruptured and if a possible BLEVE (boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion) situation existed. Department members were able to scout the scene from across the river and view all of the railcars and felt confident that impingement was not an issue. Once the decision was made to let the product burn off, "large diameter lines" were deployed with unmanned nozzles as a precaution. Some hand lines were used to cool the railcars adjacent to the fire, but the department did not want to put a large amount of water on the fire if it was not necessary; we didn't want to increase the potential run off (a major environmental concern). As the product burned, the fire began to diminish and the event began to stabilize. Command began to feel like we were getting a handle on things and we were in a "wait and see" mode. Eventually, the crude burned off and the remaining flames were extinguished. At this point most of the department members involved were able to breathe a sigh of relief and think about what needed to be done next.

Everyone involved was aware of the devastating potential of this incident and we were fortunate that there were no serious injuries and no major property damage. In retrospect, our response to this event was textbook and we should be very proud of our efforts. We spend a great deal of time and money preparing for situations like this and it is gratifying when our efforts pay off. Our members can be proud of their work and so should the community. We have received many positive comments from our citizens and public officials as well. Our task now is to remain diligent, study the lessons learned, and prepare for the next event.

Well, that wraps it up! I hope we don't have as much excitement for a while and we can go about our "regular" duties. However, I'm sure something will happen when we least expect it and once again we'll become an "All Hazards Response Agency." But, that's the nature of what we do! Until next month, keep up the great work. However, never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift!"

Chief

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Chief's Corner
- Anniversaries
- Congratulations
- Certifications
- Strive For 5
- Second Power Shift Implemented
- 60 Second Safety
- Relay For Life Events
- Upcoming Events/Reminders
- Retiree Reconnect
- Arson Awareness Week
- Department Recognized by AHA
- Meet the Recruits



## ANNIVERSARIES

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

### 34 Years

Kent Ferguson

### 20 Years

Chris Adams

### 9 Years

Mike Mitchell

### 4 Years

Bobby Caughey

### 3 Years

Jennie Mayberry

### 2 Years

Stuart Clark

## CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Will & Elizabeth Copes on the birth of their son, Laethan Todd Copes. He was born April 14, 2014 and weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz.
- Congratulations to Neil & Sarah Patterson on the birth of their daughter, Caroline Campbell Patterson. She was born April 21, 2014 and weighed 2 lbs. 8 oz. She was born prematurely and was transported to UVA where she continues to improve. Donations are being accepted to help Neil and Sarah with medical and travel expenses associated with their stay in Charlottesville. Donations can be given to Battalion Chiefs, Ann Jenkins (Admin.) or online at [www.gofundme.com/sweet-caroline](http://www.gofundme.com/sweet-caroline). (Neil and Sarah will have direct access to the funds donated through this site.)

## CERTIFICATIONS

### Paramedic

Marty Misjuns

## STRIVE FOR 5

The City's Wellness Committee is excited to endorse the Strive for 5 program. The goal is to help participants "get in 30" minutes on as many days as possible between April 7, 2014 and June 15, 2014.

1. Stive for Five is all about YOU!
2. It's simple!
3. Spend at least 30 minutes a day 5 times a week doing activity that gets you moving.
4. Log your activity on [LiveHealthyLynchburg.com](http://LiveHealthyLynchburg.com)
5. Help yourself and the City win the bragging rights!

To register, visit:  
[www.livehealthylynchburg.com/the-challenge](http://www.livehealthylynchburg.com/the-challenge)

## SECOND POWER SHIFT IMPLEMENTED

By: Acting Battalion Chief Heather Childress

The constantly increasing number of calls is making it extremely difficult to keep units in service and available. On April 14, 2014, Medic 2 was placed in service as the second power shift to provide additional assistance with answering EMS calls during the day.

Based on the number and distribution of calls, we feel like Medic 2 will help ease the overall workload on the medic units during the day. We will evaluate the overall effect of placing the truck in service after 8-10 weeks to determine how much of an impact it makes on daily operations and the ability to answer calls. During this evaluation period, Medic 8's schedule will not be affected. At the end of the evaluation period, adjustments will be made to the schedules for both Medic 2 and Medic 8. Below are the current schedules for the two power shifts.

	<b>Power Shift 1 (Medic 8)</b>	<b>Power Shift 2 (Medic 2)</b>
Days:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Monday thru Friday
Hours:	9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Staff:	Oscar Harmon Stephanie McLane	Holly Shackelford Natasha Williams

## 60 SECOND SAFETY

### Be Susicious -- Look for HCN

By: Battalion Chief Ricky Bomar

Hydrogen Cyanide is a known systemic asphyxiant which attacks the body at the cellular level. Although cyanide is found with low non-toxic levels within the body, exposure to this compound can cause detrimental problems if they are not addressed and/or treated. At low levels this compound has been known to have cumulative effects on the body if not addressed early. Hydrogen cyanide is produced through the plastic production process known as polymerization. Polymers are utilized in a number of chemical processes that include case hardening of iron and steel, electroplating, and fumigation.



This was a slightly melted plastic spoon that occurred at Station 7. The HCN monitor alarmed upon entering the kitchen door with readings as high as 20 parts per million.

Firefighters come in contact with this deadly gas in many ways. Cyanide can be produced from multiple types of fires, including incomplete combustion when a plastic, metal, or any product containing the cyanide compound is exposed to heat. It is paramount that we maintain a high level of suspicion during all fire-related incidents including smoke or unusual odor responses. At emergency medical responses, we should be suspicious of unexplained syncopal episodes. Cyanide is often detected during the overhaul stages on the fire scene and it has been known to off gas from contaminated firefighting turn-out gear. Remember to perform detection and monitoring in rooms adjacent to the seat of the fire and maintain properly cared for turn-out gear. For these reasons, our department has outlined parameters for air monitoring and self-contained breathing apparatus usage within the Personal Protective Equipment Policy.

## RELAY FOR LIFE EVENTS

### Relay For Life Bowling Tournament

The LFD Relay For Life Bowling Tournament will take place May 14, 2014 at noon! Space is limited, so make sure you sign your team up as soon as possible! The bowling format is "captain's choice." There will be prizes, raffles, and team trophies for the first place team!

### Relay For Life Team Walk

The LFD Relay For Life walk will take place on May 30th. There is still room on the LFD team! To sign up, refer to last month's Flashpoint, or contact Ricky Davis or Natalie Darling. ALL paid team members will receive an official team t-shirt. For help signing up, or for more information, contact Ricky Davis at 426-5776 or Natalie Darling at 941-1899.



LFD Relay For Life  
T-Shirt Design

## REMINDERS

### Retiree Breakfast (Current & Retired Members Welcome!)

Date: May 12, 2014  
 Time: 8:00 a.m.  
 Place: Cracker Barrel Restaurant  
 Contact: Sheffie Brizendine at 540-296-0734.

### LFD Relay For Life Bowling Tournament

Date: May 14, 2014  
 Time: Noon  
 Place: Fort Hill Bowling Center  
 For more information, contact Ricky Davis or Natalie Darling (Station 3 - B Shift).

### Employee Appreciation Event

Date: May 14, 2014  
 Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 Place: City Stadium

### EMS Week

National EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." National EMS week is May 18-24, 2014. This year's theme is "EMS: Dedicated For Life."



### City Observes Memorial Day Holiday

All City offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014 in observance of Memorial Day.

### Relay For Life

Date: May 30, 2014  
 Time: 6:00 p.m.  
 Place: Heritage High School  
 Contact Ricky Davis or Natalie Darling (Station 3—B Shift).

### Communications Meeting

June 5, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at Fire Administration

### BREMS Awards

Date: June 13, 2014  
 Time: 6:30 p.m.  
 Place: James River Conference Center (400 Court St.).  
 The Awards Ceremony is free and there will be a dance following the Awards Ceremony from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

### Patches and Coins

Don't forget LFD patches and coins are still available while supplies last! Patches are \$5 each; coins are \$10 each. These are perfect keepsakes or gifts for patch collectors and firefighters. To purchase, contact Tammy Sage at 455-6341.

### Legacy Book — We Need Your Help!

LFD's first Legacy Book is in the works! Now that individual photos have been taken, we are entering the next phase to compile the remaining contents! Your help is needed to:

- Submit photos and/or newspaper clippings for consideration for inclusion in the book. Email to [tammy.sage@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:tammy.sage@lynchburgva.gov)
- Submit "old stories" (current or retired firefighters) for consideration for inclusion in the book to retiree Carl Davis. Email to [donnalynnndavis2@aol.com](mailto:donnalynnndavis2@aol.com)
- If you are interested in helping compile information for the book, email Jonathan Wright or Tammy Sage.

## 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.

### Thomas "Wayne" Ring Administrative Service Officer/Commander III

29 Years of Service  
 (March 30, 1964 to July 1, 1993)



Administrative Service Officer/  
 Commander III  
 Wayne Ring

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

I was assigned to the Treasure Island Bridge between Lynchburg and Treasure Island in 1985. The bridge collapsed and everyone escaped the collapse with no injuries! This was during the flood of 1985.

### What do you miss the most about the department?

I miss the friends that I made while employed with the Fire Department.

### What advice would you give to someone just starting their career with the department?

Be physically fit, and stay that way! Use the available exercise equipment provided and always wear SCBA.

You can contact Wayne by email at [pringbab@gmail.com](mailto:pringbab@gmail.com).

## ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

By: Jennifer Mayberry, Public Education Specialist  
 Arson Awareness Week is May 4-10, 2014. This year's theme is Vehicle Arson - A Combustible Crime.

Every year there are hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and over \$169 million in property damages due to vehicular arson fires. According to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), most vehicle arsons occur from dusk till dawn in the warm late spring to early fall months with July being the most active month because of fireworks misuse. The reasons behind most arsons have been: concealing another crime (homicide, burglary, suicide, other crimes where evidence is left in the burning vehicle), curiosity (usually juveniles), excitement (pyromaniacs wanting to see fires, fire trucks, and firefighters), insurance fraud, or vandalism/vengeance. NFIRS also reports most vehicle arsons start in the vehicle occupancy area due to the flammability of the upholstery. Passenger vehicles were by far the most common vehicle set on fire by arsonists by 86.1%.

So, how can we prevent falling victim to these crimes?

- Park in a well lit area.
- If you have to leave your vehicle for an extended amount of time, try to park in a secure lot.
- Make sure all of your windows are rolled up and the vehicle from the doors to trunk is locked up tight.
- Don't leave valuables within sight and don't leave your keys in the ignition.
- Use anti-theft devices on your vehicle.

For more information on vehicle fires and arsons go to the following sites: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) or [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED BY AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

By: Acting Battalion Chief Heather Childress



The Lynchburg Fire Department was recently notified that it was one of only four agencies being recognized as a Silver Mission: Lifeline EMS Agency. This is the first year of the American Heart Association's (AHA) EMS Recognition Awards. The awards were developed by the AHA to acknowledge that EMS plays an integral role in the identification and treatment of the STEMI patient. An effective EMS system is essential to positive patient outcomes. The award is based on several criteria. (The third criteria does not apply because LFD transports patients exclusively to Lynchburg General Hospital, a STEMI receiving center.)

1. Percentage of patients with non-traumatic chest pain > 35 years of age, treated and transported by EMS who receive a pre-hospital 12 lead EKG
2. Percentage of STEMI patients transported to a STEMI receiving center, with pre-hospital first medical contact to device time of less than 90 minutes
3. Percentage of STEMI patients transported to a STEMI referring center with arrival (to referring center) to fibrinolytic therapy administration of less than 30 minutes

LFD received the highest award level possible in the inaugural year. Requirements for the Silver award are:

- The agency achieve a minimum of 75% compliance for each required measure in all four quarters of the previous calendar year.
- The agency treats at least two patients in each of the four calendar quarters and at least eight patients in the calendar year.

LFD treated and transported approximately 185 patients in EACH quarter that should have received a 12 lead based on the criteria, and achieved a compliance rate of 90% in each quarter. LFD didn't just meet the criteria, we exceeded them by a substantial margin! This is an achievement of which we can all be proud. It demonstrates LFD's commitment to provide the absolute highest level of care possible to the citizens and visitors of Lynchburg. There is little doubt that the department will qualify for the Gold level award next year! Congratulations and thank you to each of you.



### MEET THE 2014 LFD RECRUITS!

On April 14, 2014 the Lynchburg Fire Department Recruit Academy began. During the 15 week Academy, the recruits will complete Firefighter I & II, EVOC, Haz-Mat Ops, Mayday! Firefighter Down, Child Safety Seat Technician, and an EMT-Basic refresher course.

This year we also have two full-time employees from Campbell County Public Safety who will be attending the Academy. This is the first time we have had career members from another area department participating in our Academy. We are excited about this partnership with Campbell County and hope to expand it further in the future!



#### **Rob Bremer — EMT-B**

Rob Bremer is from Hampton Roads. He has served his country as a member of the U.S. Army for the past eight years and was previously employed by Suffolk Fire Department.



#### **Steven Davis — EMT-I**

Steven Davis is from Amherst and volunteers with the Amherst Rescue Squad. Steven is an EMT-Intermediate and is completing his Paramedic at CVCC in conjunction with attending the Recruit Academy.



#### **Casey Hodge — EMT-E**

Casey Hodge is from Lynchburg and is attending CVCC completing her EMT-Intermediate. Casey was previously employed by MedExpress and is excited to begin her new journey with the Lynchburg Fire Department.



#### **Scott Hutcherson — EMT-B**

Scott Hutcherson comes to the department from Pittsylvania County where he has volunteered with the Renan Volunteer Fire Department for the past 25 years. Scott is an EMT-Basic and was previously employed by Sonny Merryman.



#### **Sean McCleese — EMT-E**

Sean McCleese is from Appomattox and volunteers with the Pamplin Fire Department. Sean is an EMT-Enhanced and was previously employed with Amherst County Public Safety.



#### **Rudy Morris — EMT-B**

Rudy Morris is from Philadelphia. He has been in Lynchburg for the past three years and was employed by Liberty University where he served as an EMT-Basic with their Emergency Services Team.



#### **Les Powell — EMT-P**

Les Powell is from South Boston. He is a graduate of the Jefferson College of Health Sciences and is a Nationally Registered EMT-Paramedic. Les was previously employed with Mecklenburg County Rescue Squad and South Boston Fire Department.



#### **Roger Rozell — EMT-P**

Roger Rozell is from Battle Creek, Michigan. Roger is a Paramedic and previously worked with LifeCare Ambulance Service and Deltan Fire Department in Michigan.