



Chief's Corner

T-Shirts and Other Tidbits!

Welcome to the November edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you had a great Halloween and had lots of fun with the kids coming by to trick or treat. The weather has certainly been beautiful for the last several weeks. It's been exactly what Fall is supposed to be...warm days with plenty of sunshine and cool nights. The trees are full of color and the leaves are falling. What I would call perfect. For this month's Chief's Corner I would like to discuss several subjects. I'll start with the recent T-Shirt sales.

As you know, the department just finished the annual Cancer Awareness T-Shirt Campaign and it was another huge success. In addition to the shirts for Fire Department employees, we sold over \$32,000 worth of shirts to the public. That's a lot of shirts! It looks like this year's sale is going to set another record. When all is said and done, the Fire Department and the Fire Foundation will donate around \$14,000 to the Centra Foundation's M.A.A.M. Fund and the Alan B. Pearson Patient Support Fund. I continue to be amazed at the support this event receives from the public and citizens of Lynchburg. Over the past six years (2011 to 2016) that we have been doing the t-shirts, we have donated a total of \$75,000 to Centra Foundation's funds to be used to support cancer patients or provide mammograms. These campaigns each year also help to raise awareness of not only breast cancer but all forms of cancer. I believe that it is important to help raise awareness because every family, in one way or another, is eventually touched by this terrible disease and anything we can do is worth the effort. Thanks to everyone who helped with this year's campaign. Great work by everyone involved!

The next thing that I want to discuss is the upcoming 2017 Firefighter Calendar sale. This "new" edition is being sponsored by the Fire Foundation and proceeds are going towards a newly established benevolent fund that will be used to support firefighters and their families who are effected by cancer. This is a great idea and certainly deserves our support. A special thanks to Sam Young for putting this project together and don't forget to say thanks to all who participated and appear in the calendar. It's not easy sometimes to put yourself "out there" and take the good natured ribbing that goes along with the exposure. (Pun intended.) These calendars will make great Christmas gifts and the proceeds are going to a worthy cause.

Another issue that I would like to mention this month is the renovation of Station 6. As you know, the work on the station has been going on for a number of months and it's almost over. By the time I am writing the Chief's Corner for the December issue of Flashpoint we should be back in the station. It's been longer that we wanted but the wait is going to be worth the results. The "new" Station 6 is going to be a showpiece for the department. The area on the third floor is really going to get a

lot of use. With all of the training equipment and classroom area, I can foresee many requests from other departments and city hall. The whole main floor has been redone and it is a combination of the old and the new. We tried to retain as much of the history and charm of the old girl and combine it with modern conveniences. The bedroom has been redone and the bathrooms are much nicer. The crew area has also undergone a makeover and we are putting all new furniture in the station.

The apparatus floor has also been spruced up with a new paint job and a partial re-pour. A new locker area has been added and the bathroom has been moved. It is no longer "open" to the public. The first item you notice when you walk in is the new stairs in the hose tower. They are much easier to climb than the old spiral staircase and a lot wider as well. This should make it much easier to take larger items to the living area and also provides a second means of access. The total cost for all of this work is going to be around \$1 million but the station should serve the department well for many years to come.

The last topic that I want to discuss this month falls into the category of "I told you so." If you remember my Chief's Corner from several months ago, I discussed the fact that Fire Department employees are always on-duty and what happens away from work will have an effect on the department. Last week we had such an occurrence and my prediction proved to be true. The headlines read: "Lynchburg firefighter..." even though the Lynchburg Fire Department had nothing to do with this incident. As we already know, working for the City brings additional responsibilities and interest by the media. Sometimes extra media interest is good, but not very often. Most of the time it means that something less than positive has happened. In this world of social media and smart phones, word and photos travel fast. At the speed of light actually. So, be forewarned again. You really are always on duty!

That wraps it up for this month's Chief's Corner. I hope you got some useful information and enjoyed the updates. I hope you and yours have a great Thanksgiving and that you get to spend some quality time with your family.

Until next month, keep up the great work and continue to deliver outstanding service to our citizens. Be safe, but never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift!"

Chief

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Chief Ferguson Receives Leadership in Fire Service Award

By: Battalion Chief Jonathan Wright
Fire Chief Brad Ferguson recently received the Excellence in Central Virginia's Fire Service Management Award. The award was presented at the Central Virginia Firefighters Association (CVFA) Annual Awards Ceremony on October 20, 2016. Kenny Kirby, President of CVFA, noted his appreciation for Chief Ferguson's leadership and commitment to the area fire service and for his continued support to the Central Virginia Regional Fire Training Center. Be sure to congratulate Chief Ferguson on his well-deserved award.



Brad Ferguson
Fire Chief

Lynchburg Welcomes Firefighters From Sister City in Germany



As part of the Lynchburg Sister City-Plus Program, Lynchburg welcomed four firefighters (pictured left) from our sister city in Glauchau, Germany from October 9 – 23.

The firefighters spent one week with the Lynchburg Fire Department and enjoyed life in our fire station, learning about apparatus, touring various facilities, and they even spent a day hiking Cold Mountain.

Certifications

Fire Instructor I – NFPA 1041-12

Travis Calloway	Jeffrey Degoede
Colt Freeman	Tim Greenway
Courtney Hall	Shaun Riley
Holly Shackelford	

Introduction to Technical Rescue Module 2; Vehicle Rescue Level 2

Travis Calloway

Public Fire & Life Safety Educator I

Dylan Alvis	Brandon Bergeron
Ronnie Coleman	Ashley Howard
Brennen Lawson	Allen Marston
Chris Mabes	John Norman
Matt O'Daniel	Thomas Rothwell
Jimmy Seay	Holly Shackelford
Chaz Smith	Brian Summers
Rob Turner	

Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations (STICO)

Josh Phillips

Structural Collapse Technician Squad Leaders Course

Burke Konen	Adam Wagner
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USNWC Swiftwater Rescue I & II

Tucker Driskill	Todd Glass
Scott Hargis	Andrew Jenks
Trey Martin	Eric Mendel
Steve Ripley	Roger Rozell

Fire Department Members Recognized by Apple Ford of Lynchburg

By: Deputy Chief Greg Wormser
Two Lynchburg Fire Department employees were recently recognized by a local business as local heroes. Apple Ford of Lynchburg selected Master Firefighter Zach Foster and Firefighter Joy Byrnes as individuals who exemplify what it means to be local heroes.

These two individuals are representative of the many people within our organization who do great things and provide excellent service to our community. Apple Ford developed this award as a way to give back to those who often give of themselves unselfishly. Apple Ford believes that both Zach and Joy maintain professional readiness to answer the call to duty and are great role models for many as both service-oriented and community-minded servants.

Zach received recognition in the month of October, while Joy will be recognized during the month of November for all they do for our community and our country. Congratulations Zach and Joy!



Master Firefighter
Zach Foster



Firefighter
Joy Byrnes

Congratulations

Retirement

Congratulations to Mike Richardson who retired on November 1, 2016 with 25 years of service.

Births

- Congratulations to Joseph and Nicole Watts who welcomed their son, Joseph Charles Watts, III (Jace), October 11, 2016. He weighed 6 lb. 11 oz.
- Congratulations to David and Kristen Kidd who welcomed their daughter, Elizabeth Ann Kidd, October 13, 2016. She weighed 4 lbs, 14 oz.
- Congratulations to Dane and Tiffany Phelps who welcomed their son, Pierce Edward Phelps, October 28, 2016. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Reminders

City Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed November 24-25 in observance of Thanksgiving.

2017 Pocket Shift Calendars

Pocket-sized shift calendars have been distributed to all fire stations for employees (two cards per employee).

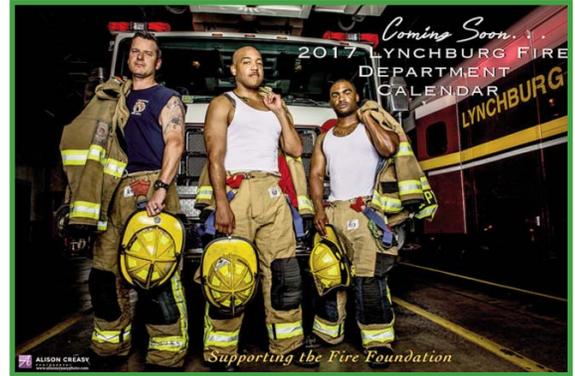
If you need additional cards, contact Tammy Sage at ext. 6341 (while supplies last).

2017 Firefighter Calendar!

By: Firefighter Heather Bowen

The Fire Foundation is pleased to offer the 2017 Lynchburg Fire Department Firefighter Calendar! This calendar features 12 of the many brave firefighters of the Lynchburg Fire Department. Proceeds from the calendar sales will support the newly established Benevolent Fund which will support our firefighters in the event of a cancer diagnosis as a result of their efforts in helping the citizens of Lynchburg.

The 2017 calendar is professionally photographed and the participants donated their time so that all net proceeds could benefit their fellow brothers and sisters in the fire service. According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, cancer is the leading cause of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in the United States. Research shows that most firefighter cancers are caused by the toxins and gases these men and women are working in when fighting fires. While all efforts to protect firefighters against exposure are taken, there are situations where it's not always enough. Your purchase of this calendar will provide funding needed to support these brave men and women, and their families, in one of the most difficult times of their lives. To purchase your calendar, visit www.lynchburgfirefoundation.org



Robert E. White Scholarship

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation awards an annual scholarship for continuing education. The scholarship was established in 2002 in memory of Robert E. White, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia who donated his money towards the betterment of the fire service throughout the state.

The scholarship assists individuals desiring to further their academic education through a variety of opportunities such as college classes, National Fire Academy classes, VFCA events, and other fire and EMS classes or conferences. Individual scholarship awards range from \$250 to \$2,500 and can be utilized for any direct expenses such as registration, tuition, books, meals, lodging, or transportation.

Applications are currently being accepted. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2016. For more information, visit www.vfca.us.

2016 Christmas Ornaments



Once again, New Life Laser Engraving is offering Lynchburg Fire Department Christmas ornaments. This year, the ornament features the emblem on the front of old Station 4, located at 1210 Rivermont Avenue (pictured below).

The price of the ornament is \$10. For each ornament sold, New Life Laser

Engraving will donate \$1 to The Lynchburg Fire Department Museum, Inc. A sample of the ornament is available for viewing at Fire Administration in the Chief's Office. The deadline to order is November 14th.



LIBERTY VS. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN



Saturday, Nov. 12 | 3:30 p.m. | Williams Stadium | Military Appreciation

LYNCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT DAY



AT LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Two FREE General Admission tickets for each fire department employee

Join us for a pregame tailgate dinner from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on the Liberty Baseball Stadium right field patio.

Free parking is available around the baseball stadium on a first come, first served basis.

TO RESERVE TICKETS, CONTACT DEPUTY CHIEF WORMSER OR ANN JENKINS.

TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL TICKETS, call Ryan Kindt at (434) 592-5015 and mention Lynchburg Fire Department Day. Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 10. Ticket promotion not available on game day.



60 Second Safety

Hand and Power Tools

By: Nathan Chapman, Health & Safety Officer

Firefighters use hand and power tools during most emergency situations. They are such a common part of our everyday lives and are present in nearly every industry, especially the fire service. These tools help us to easily perform tasks that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to perform. However, these tools can be hazardous and have the potential for causing severe injuries when used or maintained improperly. Special attention toward hand and power tool safety is necessary in order to reduce or eliminate the hazards associated with their use. Follow safe practices while using hand and power tools, read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations, and have a safe month.



Line of Duty Deaths

By: Captain John Norman

I recently read an article written by Scott Goodwin that cited recent line-of-duty death statistics and some key points that can help reduce those numbers. I can't make it any simpler than he does in the article. While we do a great job in most of these areas, it doesn't hurt to revisit them. Here is his article in its entirety:

It is with heavy Heart that I write this issue of the SGA Newsletter. In the past few weeks we have lost several brothers in Blue. As a matter of fact this year we have lost almost 200 Firefighters, Police Officers and EMS personnel in the line of duty. This is heartbreaking and unacceptable for emergency responders. The majority of these line of duty deaths can be attributed to a breakdown of situational awareness. With complete understanding of situational awareness most of these responders would not have taken the actions that contributed to their deaths. Let's be clear dying in the line of duty is NOT a heroic act it is a tragedy.

Here are some key points to remember when dealing with any emergency response to help maintain situational awareness. Remember an incident should not be an emergency to us, this is what we do. With that being said, we should do everything in our power to make every emergency response as routine as possible. If it is routine, then everyone will keep calm, cool, collected and professional.

Situational Awareness Management Adapted from the Military Model

1. Predetermine crew roles

This is done in our daily routines, why not on an incident scene. Firefighter cleans the heads, Engineer checks the rig, Captain drinks the coffee!!!

2. Develop a plan and assign responsibilities

This plan should be based on Facts, Probabilities, Possibilities and your own situation.

3. Solicit input from all crew members

Just because you are in charge does not give you a monopoly on good ideas. Make sure the crew understands and supports the plan. This will improve the chances of success.

4. Rotate attention

Do not get tunnel vision. The crew is task focused and should concentrate on the task at hand. The Officer is responsible to protect the crew so keep that head on a swivel, observing everything that can hurt them.

5. Monitor & evaluate current status

This means being aware of events that are occurring around you. Are the actions or events going to affect your or your crew's situation?

6. Project ahead & consider contingencies

Always have a "Plan B" and if you implement "Plan B" create a "Plan C." Do not wait for something unexpected to occur before you react to it.

7. Focus on the details & scan the big picture

The details matter when it comes to safety, Micro management is frowned upon from a leader but detail focus in high risk operations is mandatory. This is why our span of control is reduced for the more dangerous tasks.

8. Create visual and/or verbal reminders of interrupted tasks

Things happen to distract us during incidents. Create a system to refocus after the distraction occurs. Mine was to place the second chock block on the driver's seat when the first chock block is used. I never drove away without picking up the chock blocks. I made plenty of other mistakes but chock blocks was not one of them.

9. Watch for clues of degraded situational awareness

These clues can be as simple as lack of understanding of expectations or poor communications. The thing you will regret is when something goes wrong is being told "I thought you knew." Continuously evaluate situational awareness.

10. Speak up when you see situational awareness breaking down

See something Say something will protect the lives and safety of yourself and your crew.

Following these tips may save a life. 200 lives in 10 months is way too many. As always, be safe out there and TRAIN LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT BECAUSE IT DOES!!!

(Scott Goodwin, 2016)

Happy Thanksgiving

