



Chief's Corner

Planning and Data

Planning is something that we all do every day in a variety of contexts. Maybe we plan for dinner, maybe we are planning for a trip or large event; but no matter the reason, we are planning to be prepared for whatever comes our way. Planning is a natural action that many of us do subconsciously, it is when planning becomes deliberate that the most questions arise. Deliberate planning often generates the who, what, when, where, and why questions. These questions not only come from those that are planning to prepare their efforts, but also from external stakeholders who may not understand the need. Take my daughter planning for college as an example. We have been planning for this for some time; by we, I don't really mean her. I think she was planning on me frankly. Her thought process; "it's not my responsibility to plan, I am responsible for learning." The reality is that we are all responsible for planning.

To develop a plan we must be able to understand what questions to ask. As many of you already know, we are currently in the process of planning for the future of our department. This process is centered around using data collected as a catalyst for determining facts about our service delivery. So now we have a bunch of data, we have to determine what to do with it. Some questions we are asking include: what are the call types for specific census tracts,? what is our response time for specific call types,? how much time are we spending providing emergency response to our citizens? There are thousands of data points that we are evaluating and it takes time to collect, analyze, and interpret the data. Over the next several months this undertaking, unlike any we have done in recent memory, will provide our organization with the necessary plan for moving forward.

I recently attended a training program where the presenter talked about performance measurement. For those of you who are not aware, we provide performance measurement in a variety of ways throughout the year. We measure performance in an evaluation of our employees; however, as an organization we are often asked about performance measurement as part of the budget process as well. This typically includes metrics as part of our overall budget document. The measurements are designed to show either how we have improved as an organization or based on specific data, how we will get better as an organization.

So how does all this process begin? As the presenter Lou O'Boyle pointed out, this is part one of the planning process; what should I measure? She describes a five step process that begins with asking the right question. Often times this is what people would call a research question; what do you want to know more about? Her discussion point here was to look at key performance indicators (KPI's). These are pieces of information that are part of the larger construct you are creating or reporting on. Her example was: when you go to a doctor for a check-up, your KPI's are; height, measurement, weight, and blood pressure, just to name a few. These KPI's help your doctor to determine what questions to ask next. If you have gained or lost weight, why? What are the performance issues that are causing the change? Once the question about performance is understood, it is then necessary to develop data to either prove or disprove the question. This is where data collectors have to be careful to ensure a thorough analysis of data that is complete and not skewed. I am often reminding people that data is only as good as the person who provides it because the end user should also measure data at its face value against the question. This is similar to calling 9-1-1 and we receive incorrect information and want to "blame" the dispatcher. Generally the point of data failure is with the person giving information to the call taker, again data is only as good as the person who provides it.

Remember that planning is an evolution not a revolution. This is to say that planning should be a methodical process that has clear goals, clear expectations, and a strong question about what you intend to accomplish. In your workgroups, think about how you measure performance, this is a useful exercise as we transition to a new performance management system. Make a plan for how you are going to collect data and ask yourself what can you do to improve outcomes?

As I close this edition, I want to mention two employees who are going through some health related issues. I realize that many of us at any given time are struggling in some manner, many of us will never know those struggles. Tim Staton and Scott Hutcherson need our continued support in the coming weeks and I want to personally thank those of you who have offered assistance and have reached out to them. I am proud of the great work you do for our community and each other when help is needed and I am honored to work with such a great group of men and women!

Remember to be the kind of public servant you want showing up at your home!

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Fire Prevention Week/Month

By: Jennifer Mayberry

Why is it so important?

It's that time of year again! As summer winds down, we start preparing for fall and the busiest time of year for the Lynchburg Fire Department, Fire Prevention Month! Public Education isn't new to our department, as we do it year round; but, during the summer months we start preparing for the beginning of the school year and requests from teachers. Due to the numerous public education requests the Lynchburg Fire Department receives, we observe the month of October as Fire Prevention Month.

Why October? In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that October 9th be known as National Fire Prevention Day in honor of the devastatingly horrific fires our country had suffered 40 years earlier. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge went further making a proclamation that the first full week of October (which contained the date October 9th) as being National Fire Prevention Week.

Each year since 1927, the NFPA selects a new theme for the week. The theme for 2019 is, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan & Practice Your Escape!" This year's theme is to promote the importance of a home escape plan in case of fires. Emphasizing such things as working smoke alarms, knowing two ways out of every room, having a safe meeting place outside the home, and practicing your escape plan is essential for life-safety. Stressing these is important to fire prevention and safety.



What Happened on October 8, 1871?

Chicago, Illinois - The Great Chicago Fire - A fire started one night around 9:00 p.m. in a barn on DeKoven Street. The close proximity of the buildings, strong warm winds that day, and the long drought they had endured that summer helped in the spread of the fire. The majority of the city's structures were made of wood and were balloon framed. Sidewalks and streets were made of wood or covered with shavings to keep dust down when the wagons and horses rode on them. Embers from one building would blow in the wind to another nearby structure setting it ablaze. With the fire continuously growing, the air was becoming superheated and winds got stronger. When this superheated air mixed with cooler atmospheric air then a meteorological phenomenon occurred called a fire whirl, sometimes referred to as a fire tornado due to its vortex or tornado like appearance. These fire whirls are the likely cause of the rapid spread of the embers which would cause the fires to other buildings and structures. At the time, the Chicago Fire Department only had 185 firefighters and 17 horse-drawn steam engines. The resources were quickly exhausted and the mayor requested assistance from neighboring towns and the evacuation of buildings including the release of the prisoners in jail.

On October 10th, the fire was extinguished with help from the rain which had started the evening before. In the almost two days, the fire burned 2,112 acres, 17,500 buildings, left more than 100,000 people homeless, and killed between 250-300 people. The coroner could not speculate an accurate count of dead because of the people who may have drowned in the river attempting to escape the fire, and the number of bodies that had incinerated and their remains were unable to be found. The monetary damage to Chicago in 1871 was \$222 million which is equivalent to \$4.593 billion today.

Peshtigo, Wisconsin - The Peshtigo Fire - The deadliest fire in American history that killed between 1,200 – 2,500 people and burned 1.5 million acres, and 16 towns. Much like the Chicago fire, the fire storm that erupted earlier that day created fire whirls and fire tornados that swept through the dry drought ridden land and forests. Because the fire had burned the telegraph lines, getting the much needed help to fight the fires was made impossible. Whereas in the Chicago Fire, other cities and areas were made aware of the fire fairly quickly, the Peshtigo Fire didn't have that advantage and people didn't find out about the horrendous fire until weeks later and by that time it was foreshadowed by the Chicago Fire.

Other Fires - Other lesser known fires occurred at the same time throughout Michigan such as the Great Michigan Fire and Port Huron Fire. Between the two fires, it was an estimated 200 deaths and 1.2 million acres that had burned in Michigan.

Lessons Learned

We've all heard about the "light at the end of the tunnel," or "every cloud has a silver lining." The devastating consequences from the October 8 – 10, 1871 fires are no different. From them, better building codes are constantly being developed and enforced, there is better firefighter and law enforcement training for such outbreaks, and better equipment and apparatus to handle these specific fires.

Themes from previous year's Fire Prevention Week and other articles from these fires in 1871 can be found on the NFPA website, Google, or Wikipedia.

2020 Training Plan Coming Soon!

By: Battalion Chief Danny Williams

The Training Division has been working diligently to develop a training plan that will outline a comprehensive Annual Training Plan for the Lynchburg Fire Department. The structure and content of this plan has been developed to meet the dynamic needs of the organization and its personnel.

The goal of this plan will be to provide personnel with the best possible preparatory knowledge, skills, and abilities while subsequently establishing the Lynchburg Fire Department as a recognized authority on the safe, efficient, and effective delivery of all-hazards emergency responses. Doing so will ensure fulfillment of our organizational mission, as we strive to be a leading agency within the Commonwealth and strive to reach ISO 1 classification. This is done through providing an all-hazards organization where we strive to be First in Safety, First in Community, and First in Service in order to ensure the citizens and visitors of Lynchburg are provided a safe and efficient response service delivery. Furthermore, the safety and effectiveness of our personnel and emergency scene operations will be enhanced through the provision of these diverse training opportunities developed in accordance with established federal, state, and local requirements as well as the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. Watch for more information soon!

Events/Reminders

Cancer Awareness Shirts Deadline

Don't forget the pre-order deadline to order your 2019 Cancer Awareness shirts is September 6th! Order online at www.lfdmuseum.org.

Lynchburg Fire Department members will wear the shirts during the week of October 6-12, 2019. The color of the shirts is pink. This year is the 10th year of conducting the campaign and the design features components from the previous nine years.



11th Annual Get Downtown Street Festival

Date: September 6, 2019
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

A wide variety of local vendors, food trucks, performance stages and five area colleges are scheduled to participate in this Main Street event that attracts thousands of people each year. Come enjoy stilt walkers, the Ninja Tron, the Kinetix booth, axe throwing, Karaoke, trivia and prizes, Lynchburg City Schools' City Strings, music by the Red Shoes, Poetic Truth, Spectrum Arts Society, The Dundies, craft beers, visit the booths of downtown businesses and non-profit organizations, and much more.

Retirees' Breakfast

Lynchburg Fire Department retirees meet on the second Monday of each month at Cracker Barrel for breakfast. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome. The next breakfast is scheduled for September 9th at 8:00 a.m.

September 11th

...in memory of all who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001...
We will NEVER FORGET!



"Over The Edge" For HumanKind

Once he reaches his \$1,000 fundraising goal, Fire Chief Greg Wormser will go "Over the Edge" for HumanKind on September 13, 2019. He will rappel down the Bank of the James Building in full fire department turnout gear. To donate visit: <https://support.humankind.org/fundraiser/2186311>

MDA Fill the Boot

Lynchburg Firefighters will "Fill the Boot" during the week of September 14-20, 2019.



Virginia 10 Miler

Date: September 28, 2019
Place: E. C. Glass High School
Web: www.virginiatenmiler.com

38th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Date: October 5-6, 2019
Place: Emmitsburg, Maryland
Web: <https://www.firehero.org/events/memorial-weekend>

Lynchburg Out of the Darkness Community Walk

Date: October 5, 2019
Place: Riverfront Park from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Info: Joan Rosin & Deanne Adams — 434-426-3751

Employee Wellness Champions Miniature Golf Event

Date: October 5, 2019
Place: Putt Putt Fun Center (Timberlake Road)
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Employees and their family members are welcome to participate. Fees for playing both courses will be discounted to \$7. Prizes will be awarded. Show off your putting skills or just come play for the fun of it.
Register by September 20th at <http://bit.ly/2Hh2o1V>

Fire Prevention Week

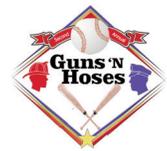
October 6-12, 2019

LFD Annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service

Date: October 13, 2019
Place: Miller Park — Fallen Firefighters Fountain
Time: 2:00 p.m.

Guns Defeat Hoses

The 2019 Guns and Hoses game was held on September 2, 2019 where the Lynchburg Police Department (Guns) defeated the Lynchburg Fire Department (Hoses) with a final score of 30-14!



Congratulations to the Guns! We look forward to next year's matchup!

Lynchburg Fire Department Memorabilia Still Available

The following items are still available (while supplies last) for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Lynchburg Fire Department Museum (LFDMM).

To purchase any of these items see Tammy Jones in the Chief's Office.



LFD Hats
\$15 each



LFD Challenge Coins
\$10 each



LFD Patches
\$5 each



8 x 10 photos of the
1911 Academy Theatre Fire
\$10 each

60 Second Safety

Lightening Storm Safety

By: Captain Jennifer Collins

Lightning injures/kills people more often than hurricanes, tornados, and earthquakes. One big issue with lightning is not knowing when and where it will occur. Even scientists don't have an effective way of determining where lightning will hit. However, there are factors that increase the probability of a strike and there are some precautions we can take to protect ourselves.

First, here is a brief explanation of what is happening during a lightning strike. Lightning comes from negatively charged particles in a cloud that travel in a zig-zag motion through a column of ionized air molecules to the ground. This part is called the "stepped leader." As the stepped leader approaches the ground, it is met by streamers, or "upward leaders" that come up from the ground to complete the circuit. According to recent research, it is possible for lightning to travel 60 miles or more away from an actual storm. Lightning heats the air to five times that of the sun's surface and discharges 30,000 amperes of electricity. (An interesting fact about lightning is that most strikes occur on Sundays.)

There are different ways a person can be injured from lightning other than just a direct strike. Other methods include touching an energized object or being shocked from current traveling a greater distance across the ground to look for a proper conductor. The factors that increase the probability of a lightning strike and what we need to be mindful of are: the height of the object, the isolation of the object, the narrowness of the object closest to the sky, proximity to water, and the holding of metal or pointed objects. Obviously, this includes many of our tools, being on rooftops, touching ladders and apparatus, and touching water or water pipes. As a matter of fact, the only sure way to be safe is to not go outside.

Below are some tips on how to protect ourselves:

1. The first step in avoiding an incident comes when Lyn-Comm notifies us there is a storm predicted to be heading our way through information from the National Weather Service.
2. "My Lightning Tracker" is an app available that shows you real time lightning strike locations. It shows lightning strikes on the map and gives the time of the strike and how far away it was from your location.
3. All non-emergency outside activities should be discontinued when visible lightning appears to be in the general area or a weather notification is given.
4. Ladder/roof operations should be halted on the fireground.
5. Always measure risk vs. benefit and use the least amount of personnel for any outside operations. All personnel not engaged in operations, including pump operators and R.I.T., should remain inside apparatus cabs.
6. Staying inside an enclosed cab of a fire truck is the safest place to be when firefighters cannot stay indoors. Standing next to apparatus or leaning against it is far more dangerous.
7. Look for lightning rods. Buildings, power poles, and some traffic-control systems are protected from lightning strikes through the use of a lightning rod. Theoretically, this provides a 45 degree cone of protection over the site. The higher the rod, the further protection it may provide.

Cited: "Developing Guidelines for Lightning Safety for Firefighters" by John L. Preston

Three Lefts Don't Make A Right

Streets and Roads

By: Master Firefighter Zach Foster

Ever wonder why you park in a driveway and drive on a parkway? Ok, maybe not. But I actually have thought about this many times. Usually when I am headed to an address on Langhorne Road or Langhorne

Square or Langhorne Avenue or Langhorne Lane. Yeah, I guess I've got nothing better to do with my time. Point being, for years, I have wondered why there are so many types of pavement: boulevard, way, lane, terrace, place and the list goes on (esplanade anybody??).

I finally decided to do a little digging, and while there are exceptions (no surprise when it comes to territory) to all of the definitions and "rules" of these terms, they typically do mean something and can offer us clues when responding to incidents.

While knowing that a road typically connects two points isn't that useful, knowing that a boulevard is typically wide, and may have multiple lanes and a divider might prove helpful. Lane indicates a narrow road, which is definitely what I think of when I respond to Park Lane or Hutters Lane. Drive indicates a longer, winding road (Sandusky Drive or Long Meadows Drive). Place typically signifies a road that has no throughway, usually a dead end (if you look on a map of Boonsboro you will find quite a few of these). Although streets and avenues usually share the same characteristics (buildings and trees on both sides), it is helpful to know that they often run perpendicular to each other.

Maybe this is helpful to you. Maybe it's something you will never give another thought. It definitely might surface again in your mind when you respond to Randolph Lane or Randolph Place or Randolph Street. Oh, and back to why we park in a driveway but drive on a parkway. Apparently the terms pre-date the automobile and the original purposes were quite different than they are today. Parkway originally were roads through parks that people drove their carriages on and driveways were more like access roads onto private property for loading and unloading items, making them ideal for parking a vehicle when the automobile came around. Who knew?

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Firefighter Payden Ludwick and his wife on the birth of their son, Willard Remington Ludwick. He was born August 15, 2019 and weighed 7 lbs.
- Congratulations to Firefighter Megan Floyd and her husband on the birth of their son, Rhett Lewis Floyd. He was born August 29, 2019 and weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz..

2020 Pocket Shift Calendars

Pocket-sizes shift calendars for 2020 will be distributed soon to all fire stations. Employees will receive two pocket calendars per employee.

Additional cards are available if needed (while supplies last) by contacting Tammy Jones in the Chief's Office at extension 6341.

Lynchburg Fire Department
Grace Warnock, Fire Chief
2020
A-SHIFT - B-SHIFT - C-SHIFT

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
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MARCH							APRIL						
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JULY							AUGUST						
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NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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