



CHIEF'S CORNER

Taking It To The Edge

Hello, and welcome to the April edition of the Chief's Corner. As I write this, I am sitting at my desk looking out of the window at the snow falling and wondering if we are going to have a "white Easter." This winter has been one to remember, but I am ready to forget it and move on to some warmer weather and sunshine. It's hard to believe that Spring began last week.

This month I want to discuss the benefits of EDGE training and why the City is investing in this training for its employees.

I recently attended the last class required in the foundational courses and have completed the requirements for my EDGE certificate. As I reflected on the classes in this program, I began to think about the information I had learned and how I was better informed about the operations of the City and what being a City Employee was all about. The topics ranged from employee benefits to Civics and ICS courses, as well as a discussion about the City's values. Most of the classes were approximately two hours in length and were easy to follow. I feel that the time invested in these classes is time well spent and I encourage everyone who has not completed the certificate to get started and get them done. Here is a short list of some of the classes and an explanation of the content. Feel free to contact Human Resources (or me) if you have any questions.

HR Director Margaret Schmitt teaches the session on employee evaluation and provides a great deal of insight on the process and benefits. The class discusses how to involve the employee in the process and the proper way to provide feedback to employees. Everyone gets an opportunity to practice during the class and you also learn a lot from the other students about their experiences dealing with problem employees. The class was both informative and enjoyable. You can take away some helpful information if you get involved in the session and network with the other attendees.

The session on Employee Benefits is instructed by the City's Benefits Coordinator, James Lowe. James provides essential information on health and life insurance, as well as options on the retirement plans offered by the City and VRS. This class is great for both long-term employees as well as newcomers. I have been with the City for 38 years and I learned some new things about the drug plan and health insurance during this session. (See, you can teach an old dog new tricks if he will pay attention.) James is very knowledgeable about the benefits package and will explain them in detail if you have questions. He also has some good handouts explaining each aspect of the benefits package. This information is very valuable and helps all employees get the most out of the benefits the City offers.

I also enjoyed the session on Civics. While there was not a great deal of information that I had not heard, it was a good review and helped to remind me how local, state, and federal government work together (or in some cases don't work together). We also reviewed the members of the governing bodies who represent Lynchburg and how laws get made and changed. We discussed City Council and how it functions and the ward members, as well as the at-large members who are up for election this May. This is all good information to know when you work for local government.

Another session that I enjoyed very much was the one on Ethics, taught by the City Attorney Walter Erwin. Walter did a great job with this information and kept it entertaining as well as informative. He has a good sense of humor and kept the entire class smiling. However, while we were being entertained we also discussed doing "the right thing" and why being ethical in your work and personal life is so important. It is a fundamental requirement when you work in public service and the citizens deserve nothing less.

While completing the EDGE requirement, I also learned about diversity in the workplace and how appreciating differences makes for a much better, more productive environment. We all know the world is changing and we must change with it or get left behind. We discussed how to get along with people who are different from ourselves and keep an open mind about our co-workers. This type of training is a must and is beneficial for the entire workforce.

The ICS courses also help prepare all employees to assist during times when the City is facing an emergency and needs all hands on deck. While most Fire Department employees take this training for granted, most of the City's employees are not exposed to this information except through the EDGE courses. It helps everyone to know what to do when the need arises.

That wraps it up for the summary of EDGE and the Certificate for Public Professionals. I encourage everyone to finish these requirements and complete your classes (the deadline for completion is by the end of April 2014). It's good fundamental training and helps us be better prepared and better employees.

Until next month, take care and keep up the great work you do everyday. I know we are providing great service and it makes me proud to come to work everyday. However, never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift."

Chief

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ANNIVERSARIES

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

21 Years

Troy Burns

18 Years

Jody Mayberry
Harvey Morgan

17 Years

Oscar Harmon

13 Years

Tammy Sage

12 Years

Nick Thomas
Scott Stanley
Steve Ripley
Stuart Massie
Van Johnson
Tim Jackson
Scott Hargis
David Cox

11 Years

Michelle Drake

7 Years

Ellen Davidson-Martin

CERTIFICATIONS

Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning For Higher Education

Thomas Goode
Thomas Mack

NFA Executive Development

Heather Childress

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Chad and Brittany Reeves on the birth of their daughter, Laynie Grey Elizabeth Reeves. She was born March 16, 2014 and weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz.

GUNS 'N HOSES

Calling All Players!

The 2014 Guns 'N Hoses softball game between the Lynchburg Fire Department and Police Department will be held on Sunday, August 10, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

If you are interested in playing on this year's team to "hose" the Police Department, contact Ricky Davis (Station 3B).



RELAY FOR LIFE

By: Firefighter Ricky Davis

Whether it is a father, mother, sibling(s), close relatives, or close friends, each of us can think of someone in our life who has been affected by cancer. Some of us are involved in the fight directly; helping our loved ones as they fight the relentless, yet courageous battle against this disease that knows no prejudice. Involved directly or not, we are all on the sidelines, watching the scenario play out, helpless to change the outcome...or are we?

As firefighters, given the chance to save a life, we respond unconditionally and without question. We are bound by our inner morality to treat and assist those who are wounded, sick, and helpless. Brothers and sisters, this calling is no different! We have an opportunity to affect the outcome for those currently battling cancer, and those yet to begin the battle.

Since 1985, Relay for Life has been the signature event for fundraising for the American Cancer Society. An estimated \$5 billion has been raised since the inception of Relay for Life. These monies contributed directly to cancer research, which has in turn contributed to an increase in cancer survivability rates, a decrease in cancer contraction, and an increase in quality of life for those afflicted with this disease.

The Lynchburg Fire Department has an official team in this year's Relay for Life event! As LFD's character has shown in the past, when there is a need, we "turn out" and provide assistance...fittingly, our team name is "This Is How We Turn Out!" I ask that every person reading this article join the LFD Relay for Life team and directly contribute to the fight against cancer! Together, we can FINISH THE FIGHT! With this in mind, we have two main goals with this event: (1) Have a STRONG team presence; and (2) Raise more than \$1,000 in donations. So, we are asking everyone at LFD to join the team and join the fight!

TO JOIN THE TEAM:

1. In your web browser, go to www.relayforlife.org
2. Under the "Sign Up for An Event" box, type in your zip code and click "Search"
3. Find the event titled "Relay For Life Lynchburg - Lynchburg, VA" (Heritage High School) and click on the "Sign Up" link
4. On the right side of the page, click on "Join A Team"
5. In the drop down box, find our team name, "This Is How We Turn Out." Select it and click "Next" and follow the instructions as listed.

**If you would prefer to sign up using a paper form (instead of on line), contact Natalie Darling (941-1899) or myself (426-5776) to obtain a team registration form.

Additional Information

- When you join the team as described above, you are committing to a fee of \$10. This \$10 fee goes towards our team goal of \$1,000! When you join the LFD Team you also receive a LFD Team T-Shirt.
- Once you join the team, you will have your own website and you can send emails to invite your friends and family to donate to this worthy cause also.
- We would like every team member to raise a minimum of \$100 (coincidentally, \$100 in donations gets you a 2014 Relay for Life t-shirt).
- The 2014 Relay for Life event is being held at Heritage High School on Friday, May 30, 2014 (B-Shift). Although it is highly encouraged, it is NOT mandatory that each team member be present during the event.
- If you are not comfortable joining the team, simply donate!

For information on joining the LFD Relay for Life Team, contact:

Natalie Darling
natalie.darling@lynchburgva.gov
(434) 941-1899

Ricky Davis
ricky.davis@lynchburgva.gov
(434) 426-5776

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following department members who were promoted to the rank of Captain, effective April 9, 2014.



Captain Abbey Johnston

Abbey Johnston joined the department on July 12, 2004. She has served at Station 6 (B Shift) for the past eight years.

Captain Johnston will now be assigned to the Training Division and will serve as the department's EMS Training Captain.



Captain Matt Millner

Matt Miller joined the department on July 12, 2004. Over the past year he has served as the Acting Captain of EMS Training.

Captain Millner will be assigned to the Training Division and will now serve as the department's Fire Training Captain.



BREMS REGIONAL AWARDS

Nominations Sought

BREMS will hold its Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, June 13, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. at the James River Conference Center (400 Court Street). The Awards Ceremony is free and there will be a dance following the Awards Ceremony from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

The BREMS Awards Ceremony will recognize individuals and agencies for their outstanding efforts during the past year. Nominations are now being accepted in the 11 categories listed below:

- Outstanding Contribution in EMS for Children
- Outstanding EMS Administrator
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health & Safety
- Outstanding Nurse with Contribution to EMS
- Outstanding EMS Dispatcher
- Outstanding EMS Physician
- Outstanding EMS Pre-Hospital Provider
- Outstanding EMS Agency
- Outstanding EMS Pre-Hospital Educator
- 2014 Linda Boon Educational Award (\$2,000 High School Scholarship)
- Regional Award for EXCELLENCE IN EMS

For further information, please contact the BREMS Council at 947-5934 or email mkallen@vaems.org. For information regarding nomination criteria for each category, please visit the BREMS website at www.blueridge.vaems.org. You may also obtain nomination forms from the website.

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, May 16, 2014.

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.

Firefighter III Marshall Shuff

25 Years of Service
(January 16, 1976 to January 1, 2001)



Firefighter III
Marshall Shuff

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

My fondest memory is how we converted a beer truck into a rescue vehicle. Below is a timeline/history of 724.

1. In 1987, the idea of converting a beer truck was conceived by Commanders James Pearce and James Cothran.
2. In 1988, the Lynchburg Fire Department purchased a 1988 Chevrolet C70 truck (minus a body). (454 engine was gas). The 1988 Chevy truck was taken to Hackney, Inc., in Washington, North Carolina where they were to install a modified body that resembled a beer truck with roll up doors (minus the beer!), and also have adjustable shelves.
3. Once the body was installed, we visited the Hackney plant and returned with our vision. On the way back, we stopped at Eagle Air Plant in Greensboro, NC. We discovered the cascade system they had for field filling of air bottles. We did not have an explosive cage for air bottles. We asked if a large filling station could be reduced in size to fit the 724. Within 45 minutes, the engineering department said yes! The problem was solved...another first for 724.
4. Commander Pearce found a 12 KW Diesel generator in a crate at a bargain price.
5. Since the C70 Chevy had a 454 gas engine, now our problem was having a gas truck and a diesel generator. Thanks to Mike Hagar (and City Hall), our problem was solved. Mike made a saddle tank for diesel fuel. We now had the first truck that used both fuels!
6. Mike Hagar installed the generator and tank in the truck. Myself and Rod Smith installed carpet in compartments for aesthetics and sound displacements.
7. Once we had electricity it was time to distribute. Some electrical features included a 100 amp electrical panel, telescoping lights at the rear, electric wire reels, two spider boxes with multi outlets on GFI circuits, and electric lights and 12 volt lights in compartments. Now the 724 was ready for service!
8. Commander Pearce called me to say that Hackney wanted to see the vehicle. I smelled a rat! I told Commander Pearce that we needed to put a patent on the truck but were informed by the City Attorney that the patent would belong to the City (Goodbye beach cottage LOL) Several months later, Hackney advertised a beer truck for rescue!

I would like to thank the Lynchburg Fire Department for the opportunity to have a job!

What do you miss the most about the department?

I really miss the challenge!

You can contact Marshall by email at gocavs@comcast.net

UPCOMING EVENTS/REMINDERS

Communications Meeting

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

Appointments Available With ICMA Representative

Date: April 7, 2014
Place: Human Resources Office
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Call Tamika Stamps at 455-4206 to make an appointment with Trey Sizemore, ICMA Representative, to enroll, discuss your investment selections, learn how to navigate the ICMA website, Roth IRA conversion or ask any other questions.

Retiree Breakfast

Date: April 14, 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.

Recruit Academy #13 to begin!

The next recruit academy will begin April 14, 2014. There will be eight Lynchburg Fire Department recruits participating in the Recruit Academy.

Bus Trip to Fire Museums

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.

Patches

Don't forget to get your old LFD patches while supplies last! The patch depicts the old LFD logo and are available now for \$5 each. These are a perfect keepsakes or gifts for patch collectors and firefighters. To purchase, contact Tammy Sage at 455-6341.

REMINDER!

Please help us keep your contact information up-to-date! Remember to notify Fire Administration whenever you have changes to your contact information such as:

- Change in your mailing address
- Changes in home phone number (this includes disconnecting)
- Changes in cell phone number

60 SECOND SAFETY

By: Battalion Chief Ricky Bomar

Lightweight building construction techniques have been used since the early 1970s. This type of construction can be found in both residential and commercial structures. Wooden I beams, TGI trusses, steel bar joist, aluminum wall studs, lightweight metal hangers, gusset plates, and unprotected steel are all common items found in lightweight construction.

It is important to remember that heat and direct flame impingement on lightweight construction members can cause structural failure as early as FIVE minutes into the fire event. Each firefighter should review and familiarize themselves on the dangers of lightweight construction. Remember the importance of the Vital Building Information and the 360 evaluation during scene size-up to deploy the proper strategy and tactics for this type of structure.

(In an effort to improve firefighter health and safety, we are working on a series of "60 Second Safety" Messages to include each month in this newsletter. If you have ideas for future messages, please forward them to Captain Tom McCrickard.)



Above is an example of a collapse involving lightweight construction. This occurred approximately 10 minutes after the arrival of first due units.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LEGACY BOOK UNDERWAY

The Lynchburg Fire Department's first "Legacy Book" (yearbook) is underway! 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.

The first step in this Legacy Book is to photograph all current and retired Fire Department personnel. Photographers from Peachtree Portraits will be at Fire Administration during the week of April 21-25, 2014 to photograph everyone. In addition, during these days, Peachtree Portraits will also be taking photographs of fire stations, apparatus, and other subjects that will be included in the book.

More information regarding scheduled times for portraits will be distributed soon.