



CHIEF'S CORNER
Emergency Medical Services - Moving Forward

Greetings everyone and welcome to the Chief's Corner for March 2013. It is hard to believe that we are already in the third month of the year, but time flies it seems. Soon the spring weather will be here and we can get outside and enjoy the flowers and sunshine. I for one am tired of the cold and ready for some warmer temperatures. As you can tell from the title of this corner, I am going to talk about emergency medical services and some of the new things coming to the pre-hospital arena.



Telemedicine

The first new item that you may have heard about is the "telemedicine" project we are getting ready to start. This project will consist of mobile devices that will be running a software package (called E-Net messenger) that allows the medics in the field to send photographs and video over an internet connection to the emergency room. The patient's information and chief complaint can be transmitted to the ER and a video of the exam will accompany it. The ER Physician can see what the medic sees and will get a "first hand" look at the patient. You will also be able to send pictures and/or video of the mechanism of injury for trauma related patients. This project should allow the ER to assist you in deciding on the treatment options and let the doctors know what is really coming to them. I think this is going to really help the ER staff see the things we are faced with in the field and give them a better understanding of the difficulties we face on occasion. As you know, it is a lot harder to start an IV on someone who is pinned in a vehicle, upside down in a ditch than it is when they are laying on a stretcher in a well-lit bay at the emergency room.

Community Paramedic Program

Another project that may integrate well with the telemedicine project is the "Community Paramedic Program." Currently, we are researching this idea and exploring how best to proceed. The idea is to place Fire Department paramedics on a response vehicle (not a medic unit) and have them provide regular wellness checks on the patients recently discharged from the hospital, as well as other citizens in the neighborhoods who have on-going medical problems. Hopefully, we will be able to resolve issues with these patients' care before they require transport and treatment at the hospital. Several questions remain regarding this program and we are slowly working our way through them. We still have to determine what the skill level of the paramedic providers should be and how much additional training they should receive, as well as what additional equipment they should carry. Should these "medics" be able to write prescriptions for some medications (example: antibiotics for a strep throat), or should they refer the patient to another care facility such as Johnson Health Center? There is also the question of how to fund this program. I don't see this type of program being funded by the City with tax revenue, but in the long run it has the potential to reduce the overall cost of healthcare. Should Centra help fund this or do we seek grant funding? A lot of questions still remain, but just the idea of a program of this nature in Lynchburg is very exciting!

Advanced Paramedic Skills

Another item that is moving the department forward in emergency medical services are the advanced practice skills that some of the paramedics are performing. These skills and the treatments the patients receive were unheard of just a few years ago. To say that we are on the cutting edge would be an understatement. The use of the Lucas 2 devices and the rapid cooling of patients who have suffered a cardiac event, along with the "pit crew" CPR are

making a difference. These treatments and the rapid response times are leading to some of the best resuscitation rates in the country. The pre-hospital 12 lead program, combined with the rapid door-to-catheterization times at Lynchburg General are helping many patients survive sudden cardiac arrest. These citizens are returning to a normal, productive life and our service is making it possible. We are saving lives here and that is the bottom line.

These are just a few of the many things the department is doing to move the provision of emergency medical services to another level and the future will bring even more changes. As medical research and technology continue at an even greater pace who knows what we may be doing in the field in a few years. One thing you can be sure of, it will be exciting and the Fire Department will have an integral part in it.

Until next month, take care and keep up the great work on both the fire scene and with emergency medical patients. The public is counting on us and I know we will deliver. However, whatever you do, don't forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift!"

Chief

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MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members who celebrate anniversaries with the department in March:

35 Years

Dennis Dodson

25 Years

Bryan Barber

16 Years

Colao Lombre
Lewis Thomas
Jimmy Mitchell

1 Year

Michelle Kuhn

WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome aboard to the following employees who transitioned from part-time to full-time employment, effective February 27, 2013.

Buford Arnn (Beau)
Heather Bowen
Tucker Driskill
Jason Marston
Sam Young

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jonathan and Tiffani Wright, and big sister Macie, on the birth of their daughter (and sister), Colbie Brooke. She was born February 22nd and weighed 5.6 lbs.

RECRUIT ACADEMY

On March 4, 2013, the Training Division will begin the Lynchburg Fire Department's 12th Recruit Academy. The Academy will be 17 weeks in duration and will focus on the basic development of our new employees. Below are the names of the 24 recruits:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| William Heywood | Brian Stinnette |
| Rudy Pierre | Donald Smith |
| Roy Martin | Robert Tucker |
| Robert Barkley | Marquis Owens |
| Ruth Anne Phillips | Chris Coleman |
| Jeffrey Degoede | Courtney Hall |
| Dana Stillman | John Bowling |
| Chad Hogan | Joshua Granger |
| Colby Felton | Colt Freeman |
| Andrew White | Tyler Harrison |
| John Thompson | Eric Smith |
| Travis Calloway | Adam Wagner |

Graduation is tentatively set for June 27, 2013. Watch for next month's newsletter to "meet the recruits."



NEW SOFTWARE AIMED AT STAFFING EFFICIENCY

By: Battalion Chief Jason Campbell

In an effort to improve the efficiency of the department's daily staffing processes, the department will begin utilizing CallBack Staffing in March.

CallBack Staffing is a web-based program that is aimed to provide the right people with the right skills for the right positions in the daily staffing schematic, all while providing department members with wide-access to the daily schedule, computerizing leave requests and tracking, and automating the process of selecting individuals to fill vacancies.

All members of the department are entered into the system, along with their rank, EMS level of certification, and specialty certifications and skill sets. Based upon the daily vacancies, Battalion Chiefs can notify specific groups and subsets of members via automated phone calls and texting in order to fill vacancies. Members can respond to the automated system to accept or decline overtime opportunities. Currently, the process to fill vacancies can take several hours to complete, while making multiple individual phone calls to members.

From any internet capable device, members can also check the daily schedule and determine if there are opportunities to request leave. Entering a leave request is simple and quick, then automatically notifying the appropriate Battalion Chiefs for authorization to utilize earned leave.

Overall, the system will assist the organization in maintaining compliance with the department's overtime policy and staffing objectives. In the end, CallBack Staffing will also offer the opportunity to help manage departmental overtime expenditures and could result in some cost-savings for the organization.

OFFICERS COMPLETE COMMAND AND CONTROL

By: Battalion Chief Robert Lipscomb

As part of the department's Officer Development Program, the Training Division recently hosted a field offering of the National Fire Academy's Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards.

This class was taught by Retired Deputy Chief Jim Smith and Retired Deputy Chief William Shouldis of the Philadelphia Fire Department. During this six-day course officers studied how to command incidents in high-risk areas. As part of this course they were confronted with a number of fire and rescue incidents that included high life hazard, multiple exposure, and unusual occupancy risk considerations.

Topics covered included operational applications in the Incident Command System (ICS), command and control, decision making, strategic and tactical considerations, pre-incident preparation, documentation, and post incident analysis. Several simulations and case studies were used to depict and review incidents in various types of target hazards. Some examples of these are penal institutions, bulk oil-storage facilities, nursing homes, colleges and chemical/agricultural manufacturing plants.

SMOKE DETECTORS

In an effort to save money, the Fire Marshal's Office installs the majority of smoke detectors requested by citizens. However, periodically there are instances when station personnel respond to a residence and observe the need for a smoke detector and they have the opportunity to install one.

In order to track installations and maintain an adequate inventory, it is important for personnel who install smoke detectors to complete the "Smoke Detector Form." (This form is available on the G drive in the Fire Marshal's folder under Operation Smoke Detectors.) When completing this form, you will also notice that information is now available identifying citizens/addresses where a smoke detector has already been received. This information should help to avoid duplications.

Stations needing smoke detectors should contact Jennifer Mayberry in the Fire Marshal's Office.

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE...

By: Master Firefighter Abbey Johnston

During the week of February 19, 2013, I had the honor of representing the Lynchburg Fire Department, Local 1146, and the Medal of Valor Review Board at the Medal of Valor Award ceremony at the White House. I can't begin to explain how emotional the nomination review process was, as we receive between 150-200 nominations annually for this award. Most of the stories are intense, heart wrenching, and make me so proud to be a member of the public safety community. Meeting the Medal recipients and the families of those awarded posthumously was undoubtedly the highest honor I've ever been afforded.

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is awarded by the President to public safety officers cited by the Attorney General and recommended by the Medal of Valor Review Board. The board, which comprises representatives of the public safety community and the general public, reviews the nominations and recommends individuals for recognition. Public safety officers must have exhibited exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness, presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her own personal safety, in an attempt to save or protect human life, where the act is deemed to be above and beyond the call of duty. Below are pictures and bios on a few of the recipients who were recognized at the ceremony. I will be sharing all of the recipients' stories over the next few months in the Flashpoint.

Corrections Officer Reeshamah Taylor



On June 22, 2009, Officer Reeshamah Taylor was assigned to the Medical Unit of the Osceola County Jail. While performing her duties, she was confronted by a high-risk inmate who had taken one officer hostage and changed into that officer's uniform. The inmate placed a fully loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun to Officer Taylor's head as she walked into the room

where the inmate and the captive officer were located. This inmate had a history of violent felony charges and was already serving three consecutive life sentences with no possibility of parole within the Florida Department of Corrections. The inmate was being held at the Osceola County Jail pending trial for a violent armed robbery. The inmate was also a well-known member of the "Los 27" and "La Nieta" gangs domiciled out of Puerto Rico, who are notorious for their violent acts against law enforcement personnel. Through the subsequent criminal investigation of this attempted escape, it was determined that this inmate planned to walk out of the jail dressed as a corrections officer. The gun was factored into his plan and would be used if someone attempted to stop him or intervene.

During Officer Taylor's face-to-face confrontation with the inmate, a struggle took place for the weapon. While the weapon was pointed at Officer Taylor, she immediately grabbed the weapon with both hands, diverting it from her direction, and delivered a knee spike to the inmate's groin. The inmate dropped to the floor, dislodging the weapon from his hand. The gun dropped several feet away from Officer Taylor and the inmate. Officer Taylor placed herself on top of the inmate, with one arm around his head to fashion a headlock, and her legs scissoring his lower body, to keep him on the floor and away from the gun. With her free hand, she utilized her portable radio to announce the code and summon assistance. Officer Taylor engaged an inmate that was far superior in size, strength, motivation, and intention. She successfully subdued this inmate through sheer determination, instincts, will, and courage. Her efforts, in the face of imminent death, saved the lives of many.

Wildlife Officer Michael Neal, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission



On May 20, 2010, Officer Neal answered a call for assistance after two West Memphis Police officers had been shot and killed during a traffic stop along Interstate 40, and engaged two suspects in the Walmart parking lot. The two suspects were engaged in a firefight with Sheriff Dick Busby and Chief Deputy W. A. Wren. The Sheriff and Deputy, armed with only handguns, were taking fire from an

AK-47 assault rifle and a handgun. Officer Neal used his truck to ram the suspects' van to prevent them from being mobile and possibly harming innocent bystanders, and to divert their attention away from the Sheriff and Deputy. Once Officer Neal rammed the suspects' van, the suspects opened fire on Officer Neal's truck, firing several rounds through his windshield. Officer Neal avoided being hit by the AK-47 rounds and returned fire with his issued AR-15. He disabled the driver and possibly the passenger before putting his truck in reverse and backing out of the line of fire so other officers could continue the firefight. Both suspects were pronounced dead at the scene. By putting himself in harm's way, Officer Neal's actions undoubtedly saved the lives of Sheriff Busby and Deputy Wren, both of whom were injured by the suspects. Officer Neal was only slightly injured.

Fallen Trooper Joshua Miller & Trooper Robert Lombardo



Trooper Miller



Trooper Lombardo

On June 7, 2009, a subject arrived at his estranged wife's residence in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. After threatening her with a handgun, he abducted his 9-year-old son and fled the scene with his son seated in the right front passenger seat. The Nazareth Borough Police Department became involved in a

high speed pursuit of the subject. Troopers Joshua D. Miller and Robert K. Lombardo, as well as other Swiftwater Station members and local police department officers, assisted in the pursuit. The pursuit went on for some 40 miles, when Trooper Miller employed the PIT maneuver to bring the vehicle to a stop. The PIT maneuver is a method by which the pursuit car forces the other vehicle to abruptly turn sideways towards the direction of travel. This causes the driver to lose control and stop. Recognizing that the child was in extreme peril, Troopers Miller and Lombardo immediately approached the driver's side of the vehicle in an attempt to arrest the subject and rescue the child. Both troopers used their collapsible batons to shatter the driver's side window. The subject then fired three shots from a 9mm Taurus, striking Trooper Lombardo once in the left shoulder, and Trooper Miller in the right thigh and neck. Troopers Miller and Lombardo returned fire, striking the assailant eight times. The force of the impact of being shot spun Trooper Lombardo to his left. Despite knowing Trooper Miller was wounded and his own left arm was now paralyzed, Trooper Lombardo did not seek cover. Trooper Lombardo chose to continue to engage the assailant with one arm. Only after the threat was neutralized did Trooper Lombardo seek treatment for his wounds. The suspect's son was rescued uninjured. Trooper Miller was subsequently flown to Lehigh Valley Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Trooper Lombardo was taken to Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he was treated for his wounds. Trooper Lombardo recently returned to duty. Trooper Miller gave his life and Trooper Lombardo risked his life to rescue the 9-year-old boy. They were/are dedicated officers of the law, committed to serving the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

LFD IN THE NEWS...

A once in a career rescue; two Lynchburg firefighters say the Valentine's Day call they responded to turned into a Valentine's miracle. They pulled a woman from her burning home, just in time and are thankful the woman is still alive.



Firefighter Adam Morton
Photo courtesy of WSET

Captain Kenny Turner said had the crew arrived any later, the outcome could have been very different. "You get these structure fires on a routine basis and a lot of times these structure fires turn into fatalities" said Captain Kenny Turner.

Valentine's Day, a home on Ardmore Drive was consumed with fire and thick, dark smoke. Captain Turner said, "The victim's husband met us in the driveway and said that his wife was still inside, that the house was on fire, and that he had made numerous attempts to get her but just could not get through the front door because of the smoke." Captain Turner and Firefighter Adam Morton rushed inside. Smoke consumed the home. Morton, on hands and knees, unable to see, felt his way into a bedroom and located the victim. Together they took the unconscious victim outside and she was rushed to the hospital.

"It's just real fulfilling to be a part of that. This particular day, you got to see just what you worked for" said Morton. "It's the holy grail of what a fireman wants to do; they want to save a life from a burning building" said Turner.

The fire was started by an unattended candle.

Excerpts taken from story aired on WSET

BREMS AWARDS

Nominations Sought

BREMS will hold its Annual Awards Banquet on May 23, 2013, at the City of Lynchburg Information Technology Building (3550 Young Place) to recognize individuals and agencies for their outstanding efforts during the past year.

Nominations are now being accepted in the eleven categories listed below.

- Excellence In Emergency Medical Services
- Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider
- Outstanding EMS Physician
- Outstanding EMS Pre-Hospital Educator
- Nurse With Outstanding Contribution to EMS
- Outstanding EMS Administrator
- Outstanding EMS Agency
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS for Children
- Outstanding EMS Telecommunications Dispatcher
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior

For criteria information for each category please read over the Regional Award Guidelines posted on the BREMS website. Also, you may obtain the nomination forms on the BREMS website. The deadline to submit nominations is April 26th.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Recruit Academy Begins

Date: March 4
Contact: Training Division Staff

Daylight Savings Time Begins — March 10th

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 10th as Daylight Savings Time begins. This is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detector!

City Manager Webcast

Date: March 12
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: View via computer, satellite location, or in City Council Chambers

Confined Space Rescue II Class

Date(s): March 16-17
Contact: Training Division Staff
(Available on a first come-first served basis)

EMSAT

Date(s): March 20
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Topic: Basic Management of Ingested Toxins in Pediatric Patients
Contact: Matt Millner, Training Division, ext. 6359

Communications Meeting

Date: April 4
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Fire Administration Training Room

REMINDERS

Pool Cars

To save money and to increase the utilization of other city vehicles, the downtown motor pool, currently coordinated by Communications and Marketing, was discontinued effective February 1, 2013.

A loaner vehicle for out-of-town travel can be scheduled for short-term rental for trips that do not exceed a week in duration. To schedule, contact Roberta Wright at Fleet Services by calling 455-4425.

City Manager Webcast

The City Manager will conduct his annual budget webcast for employees on Tuesday, March 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

The City Manager will make a presentation and will then open the floor for questions. You have several viewing options; you can:

- Attend the webcast in person at City Council Chambers,
- View the webcast from your desktop computer; or
- View the webcast from the usual specified locations.

Employees may submit questions real time to the City Manager at any of these locations.

