

THE RESPONDER

— Dedicated to Our Community, Our Profession and Each Other —

FALL 2015

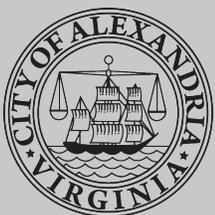


IN THIS EDITION

Community Engagement.....2
 Training News.....5
 Fire Prevention & Life Safety Tips.....8
 Fire Loss Report.....10
 Station 201 Commemoration.....9
 Statistics.....11

Alexandria Fire Department
 900 Second Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314
 703.746.5200
www.alexandriava.gov/Fire

This newsletter is written
 and compiled by the
 Alexandria Fire Department's
 Community Services Unit



Photos: Top Left: City Manager Mark B. Jinks, Fire Chief Robert Dubé, and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne at Ivy Hill; Top Right: Bill Kehoe holds trumpet with roses representing recently deceased AFD members and those who died in the line of duty; Middle Left: AFD Honor Guard presents the colors during the singing of the National Anthem; Middle Right: Asst. Chief Dwayne Bonnette & Fire Chief Dubé greet attendees; Bottom Left: Retired AFD Employee Callie Terrell singing the National Anthem; Bottom Right: Retired AFD members at the Ivy Hill ceremony honoring AFD's departed.

Ivy Hill Memorial Service and Wreath Laying

The Alexandria Fire Department observed National Fire Prevention Week on Friday, October 9, with a Memorial Service and Wreath Laying. The solemn ceremony is held each year at Ivy Hill Cemetery to honor those who have died in the line of duty and to mark the passing of those members of the Department who died during the preceding 12 months.

Community Engagement

AFD Hosts Annual Open House

By: Shawn Gore

Every year during the week of October 9, fire departments across the country observe Fire Prevention Week. Members of the department remind citizens to test smoke alarms and prepare and practice family escape plans. They also teach children pertinent fire and life safety messages like “stop, drop and roll” and “stay low and go.”

AFD participated in this week by opening its doors to the public with the annual Open House event on Saturday, October 10. Visitors got a first-hand look at how the Department operates.

Attendees met city firefighters and paramedics while learning about fire and life safety and prevention. AFD employees at each of the ten stations got creative with demonstrations, performances, and tours that provided visitors with basic knowledge of the roles and requirements of firefighters and paramedics. The open house event included opportunities for children to extinguish a pretend fire with a real fire hose, tour apparatus, learn how to call 911, and more.



AFD firefighters at Fire Station 204 are all smiles as they wait to greet guests.

National Fire Prevention Month

By: Shawn Gore

In observance of 2015's fire safety campaign, city firefighters and paramedics discussed fire safety and prevention with fourth grade students in Alexandria elementary schools' throughout the entire month of October. The curriculum focused on firefighter job duties, smoke alarms, home escape planning, 911 calls, and the common types of fires.

The Alexandria Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) want to remind local residents to “hear the beep where you sleep” by having a working smoke alarm in every bedroom. The key message of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. According to the NFPA, working smoke alarms cut in half the risk of dying in home fires. Fire Prevention Month reminds us of all of the serious fire hazards present in all communities, homes and workplace and teaches how to prevent them from starting.



AFD firefighters and medics show ACPS students their apparatus.

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Information

3224 Colvin Street, Alexandria, VA

Monday & Saturday **ONLY**

7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Acceptable Household Hazardous Waste Items

Antifreeze	Battery Acid	Gasoline	Motor oil	Auto Cleaning Products
Car Batteries	Fluorescent Light Bulbs	Oil-based Paints*	Lacquers	Spray can Paint
Thinners	Fire Extinguishers	Household Cleaning Products	Flammable Waxes & Abrasives	Driveway Sealer
Household Batteries**	Drain Cleaner	Flammable Caulks & Adhesives	Varnishes	Mineral Spirits
Mercury thermostats & thermometers	Lawn Care Products	Garden Products	Herbicides	Pesticides
Ant Bait or Traps	Rodent Control Products	Insect Spray Cans	Pet Supplies	Photographic Chemicals

* Latex (waterbased) paint is not considered hazardous material. Dried out cans of latex paint can be disposed of in the regular trash.

** Household, alkaline batteries can be thrown away in the regular trash.

Unacceptable Hazardous Waste Items

Explosives	Biological waste
Unknown substances	Helium Tanks
Ammunition	Radioactive materials
Unlabeled substances	Propane, oxygen or acetylene Tanks (please return to the supplier)

Acceptable Appliances include

Refrigerators	Freezers	Air Conditioning Units
Dehumidifiers	Any items containing refrigerant	

These items contain either chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants or hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerants depending on their date of manufacture.

These items are not acceptable as regular trash nor can they be disposed of at the Covanta Energy Facility on Eisenhower Ave. Disposal options for these items include:

- Have your contractor or delivery service exchange your old appliance at time of delivery.
- Call the Solid Waste Division at 703.746.4410 to arrange for a special appliance pickup
- Note: a \$20.00 service fee may apply for large appliances
- Residents may deliver their appliance at no cost to the HHW & Electronics Recycling Center located at 3224 Colvin St

Eligible Participants

The City of Alexandria provides weekly household hazardous waste and electronics recycling collection for City residents **ONLY** (i.e. those living in the following zip codes: 22301, 22302, 22304, 22305, 22311, 22312, and 22314). Proof of residency is required.

Public Access AED Program

By: Lisa Simba

In the early 2000's, in partnership with other City agencies, AFD began the Public Access AED program. AEDs were placed in several different locations within Alexandria in an effort to have early defibrillation available to the city staff, residents, and visitors. There are currently 14 AED's throughout the city. These locations include Mental Health, Recreation Department Youth Sports, Deputy Sheriffs' cruisers, City Hall, Torpedo Factory, the city detoxification facility, Beatley Library, and Human Services. The AEDs are serviced yearly by AFD personnel.



Q&A with AFD Volunteer Everett "Willie" Squires

By: Hilary Gates

AFD Volunteer Everett "Willie" Squires started participating in fire department activities as an Explorer back in 1966. From early days at Firehouse 202, to holding the positions of Vice President and Treasurer, to responding to calls in the support unit, Squires has witnessed huge changes in the city and in the department. Below is a question and answer with the long-time volunteer.

Q: How did you get started in the fire department?

A: I started out in Explorer post #803. My neighbor was Leo Moore and his dad was a Lieutenant in AFD. In 1966, three of us joined the explorer post. We then became volunteers at Firehouse 2. I just went because my neighbor did. Back then, we got first aid training. We would go to the Christmas tree burning to get nozzle time. Trash trucks would pick up all the trees and take them to Cora Kelly School and light them up and do a bonfire. This was in the late 60s and early 70s.

Q: What types of calls did you run back then?

A: Station 2 at that time had an engine company and a truck company as well as an ambulance. We also responded from home when there was a call. There was a shooting of a teen that caused civil disturbance in the City. We would get calls for box alarms at Reed and Commonwealth Ave. and the firefighters on duty encouraged us to use trash can lids from the old metal trash cans at the station so we could use them as shields. People sometimes threw rocks and bottles at us when responding to that area.

Q: What changes have you seen to the volunteer corps?

A: At one point [in the mid-80s], Fire Chief Charles Rule thought we weren't sufficiently trained. He wanted certifications for us and put us out of the stations. There were several court cases [to fight this], which we never won. Nothing changed until city council changed and we reached an agreement that resulted in the current Administrative Regulation.

A training program was established and set up for us. There were three classes of volunteers: A, B, and C. 13 of us were in the first volunteer class. We trained two nights a week and weekends. You had to have Firefighter 1 class to get into the stations, Firefighter 2 to upgrade, then FF3. To be class A, you had to have EMT certification.

Now, I'm a life member of the department. I ride on Support 202, still trying to work a 12-hour shift at least once a month, as well as participate in other events. My last big event was the I-395 fatality, with the wrong way driver this year. We respond to anything in M202's first due, run calls with the safety officer, conduct traffic control. We work in support of the medic unit or the rehab unit.

We are having difficulties getting firefighters, since most people want to be EMTs. They are having problems getting training. The City doesn't have the time to train volunteers as firefighters.

Q: What should the AFD community know about its volunteers?

A: Basically, we have to have the same training and evaluations. If you see a volunteer, we are competent and we have been trained. Accept us. We have lots of people on the rolls and around 25 are active.

Assistant Chief [Byron] Andrews has helped us a lot. I used to ride with him at 202 with the HazMat team. I went out on my own and took hazmat training classes in addition to because I thought it was important. I also have Public Fire & Life Safety Educator I (NFPA 1035) that I took in 2012. Battalion Chief Michael Cross is our liaison.

We like to do a lot of community outreach in the Del Ray area because most of us grew up at Station 2. The core of the volunteers have gone back to 2. We call it "The Alamo."



First Volunteer FF Class after State Certification testing.



Squires in Firefighter 1 Class 1986.

Photos courtesy of E. Squires.

TRAINING/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Code Development and Fire Fighter Safety

By: Jim Sullivan

Over the years, there have been several seminars and promotions to involve the firefighter community in the Building Code process. Many of our members have rolled their eyes and thought, "What does the Building Code have to do with me? Code Administration is responsible for that!" While it is true that the Code Administration is responsible for the enforcement of the codes that are adopted by the State of Virginia, in the event of an emergency, these codes actually have a direct impact on the safety and the survivability of members of this department. Who writes these codes? AFD is a governmental member of the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC is a member-focused association whose vision and mission are stated below:

Vision: Protect the health, safety and welfare of people by creating safe buildings and communities.

Mission: To provide the highest quality codes, standards, products and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment.

The codes that affect life safety in our work environment come directly from the ICC. The process to develop codes includes input from governmental members such as the AFD. Many other organizations have input as well: Home Builders Associations, Architect Associations, Engineering Associations, Fair Housing Groups, Entertainment Associations and others who may have a stake in the built environment where emergencies occur. Many of the proponents of code changes have little knowledge of how their proposals may affect responder safety.

So what are we doing about it? The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division has established the Code Development Committee (CDC). This committee is made up of Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors. The CDC is now registered with the ICC and the members of the committee have voting rights on proposed changes to the codes. It is the mission of this committee to be actively involved in the code development process.

How does this code development process work? The ICC publishes a series of codes every three years. These include: The International Building Code, the International Fire Code, the International Property Maintenance Code and many more. The State of Virginia recently adopted (with amendments) the 2012 series of codes developed by the ICC. The ICC is now working on the development of the 2018 codes. In the three-year cycle of code development, there are public code proposals, public review and commentary, and finally, a

vote by the governmental membership. It is possible for anyone to effect change in the codes and by having the CDC committee, AFD will have a voice.

Want to get involved? Contact the CDC with concerns and possible proposals. The contact for the committee is Deputy Fire Marshal Jim Sullivan. Email: jim.sullivan@alexandriava.gov Phone: (703) 746-4253. Your participation and questions are welcome. Stay safe!

Annual Safety Forum

Members of the Health, Safety & Risk Management section recently attended the Fire Department Safety Officers Association- Annual Safety Forum in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The 3-day conference covered a variety of fire service health and safety topics. In addition to the conference, Deputy Chief Jeff Merryman successfully completed a 2-day class to maintain his Health and Safety Officer program manager certification in accordance with the newly updated 2015- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1521: Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications.



FDSOA Board of Directors at installation ceremony. Deputy Chief Merryman (second from left) begins his second year as the Eastern Regional Director of the FDSOA.



Deputy Chief Jeff Merryman, Captain Wayne Bryant, Captain Jack Hoffman and Captain Sam Reyes attend annual safety forum.

State Office of EMS Invites AFD Members to Present at Symposium

By: Hilary Gates

Five members of the AFD will be teaching seminars at the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services's (VAOEMS) annual EMS Symposium. Held from Nov. 11-15 in Norfolk, Virginia, the symposium is billed as "An Education for Life." Several other AFD members will attend to take classes. Faculty were required to propose their ideas about one year in advance to be approved for a slot. Below are the details of faculty presentations.

Presenter: Medic Charlie Curia



Topic: "It's Just a Flesh Wound...How Much Blood Is It? (Estimated Blood Loss)"

Goals: To give providers a way to accurately estimate patients' blood loss. Curia said that this generally is a difficult task for providers.

"When my patients come out of the OR, I am always told their EBL," he said.

Preparation: Curia is gathering supplies necessary to demonstrate these concepts.

History: The course was originally taught to AFD medics during their continuing medical education.

Notes: Curia was motivated to teach this after an actual call. "The straw that broke the camel's back was when I had a woman with bleeding hemorrhoids," he said. "Her apartment looked like a crime scene."

Presenter: EMS Operations Manager Brian Hricik



Topic: "Understanding Heart Blocks"

Goals: to pass on an interesting technique to remember the different types of heart blocks. Hricik wants to remind students of the cardiac anatomy, electrical impulses, and pathophysiology, in order to discuss the abnormalities of heart blocks.

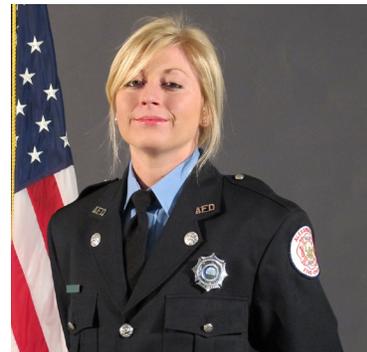
"I learned a neat technique a long time ago on how to recognize heart blocks and I never forgot it," said Hricik. "It has to do with a married couple."

Preparation: Hricik has been developing his presentation by focusing on high-quality, clear pictures of EKG rhythms so that his audience can interpret them.

History: This is Hricik's eighth time presenting at Symposium.

Notes: "My personal belief about the Virginia EMS symposium is that it is one of the best state-sponsored seminars," he said. "You get instructors from the Commonwealth alongside nationally-recognized speakers."

Presenter: Firefighter Medic Julia Jordano



Topic: "BLS Medical Emergencies" and "BLS Pediatric Emergencies"

Goals: To help recertify BLS providers. These presentations are part of the BLS Academy at Symposium.

“The state asked me to do these courses, so I didn’t have much of a choice on topics,” said Jordano. “But I will try my hardest to spice it up.”

Preparation: Jordano focuses on interactive teaching and usage of video clips to enhance learning and create experiences that are as life-like as possible.

History: Previously, Jordano taught a Symposium class about the trends in cardiac arrest and the way of the future for CPR.

Notes: “I hope to incorporate some of the EMT practices of AFD and pass on the amazing attitude and skill level of our providers,” said Jordano.

Presenter: Deputy Chief Jeff Merryman



Topic: “Line of Duty Death (LODD) Presentation of Paramedic Joshua Weissman”

Goals: To present the circumstances regarding a roadway/ highway line-of-duty-death so that others will not allow this to happen.

“Unfortunately, this topic is self-fulfilling and all emergency service personnel should all be compelled to share LODD tragedies,” Merryman said.

Preparation: The preparation has been an ongoing process since the tragedy occurred. To research the issue, Merryman used numerous criteria found within the Fire Service, OSHA, NIOSH, NFFF, FF- Near Miss, those who have suffered and investigated their own LODDs, and COG Health and Safety Sub-Committee criteria.

History: Merryman has presented this topic both internally and externally since AFD Chief Robert Dubé

cleared the report for publication in June 2014.

Notes: “Dubé provided direction so that the lessons learned be shared on a continual basis and as widespread as possible,” Merryman said.

Presenter: EMS Supervisor Ray Whatley



Topic: “Using Simulation to Evaluate Your EMS Interns”

Goals: to show how simulation can be used to teach and evaluate students, interns, and employees. Simulation can be broken down into role-playing, and low to high fidelity-type manikins, from CPR manikins to ones that can mimic breathing, lungs sounds and even bleeding. Some invasive procedures can be performed on these manikins that could not otherwise be done on role players.

“The process to ensure our providers are ready to begin independent practice has always been a challenge,” said Whatley. “Using simulation is just another way to help achieve this goal.”

Preparation: Whatley has conducted a great deal of research to prepare for the course. He has spoken to other agencies and hospitals that are using sim labs and read research about how sim labs have been validated for training.

History: Presented at the Symposium for several years

Notes: EMS Operations Manager Brian Hricik will bring insight from the administrative standpoint as a co-teacher with Whatley.

FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY TIPS

Fall Fire Safety Tips

Smoke Alarms

Get in the habit of changing the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors every fall and spring when changing the clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

Space Heater Tips

- Make sure that any space heaters are surrounded by at least three feet of empty space.
- Never place clothing or any other objects on a space heater to dry.
- Do not place space heaters near furniture or drapery.
- Turn space heaters off when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Avoid storing any combustible items near heaters.

Fireplace Tips

- Get your chimney inspected each year to make sure that it is safe.
- Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney every fall.
- Repair any cracks in fireplaces.
- Use fireplace screens to keep sparks and fire debris inside the fireplace.
- Do not every use gasoline to start a fire in the fireplace.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure that combustible materials are not stored within three feet of your fireplace.
- For natural gas fireplaces, get all connections and lines inspected before use each season.
- Remember that outdoor fireplaces can be just as dangerous as indoor units, and observe all safety precautions when using them.

Holiday Tips

- Do not use candles in Halloween jack-o-lanterns. Flashlights are much safer.
- Make sure that children's costumes are made with fire retardant materials.

- Use only fire retardant holiday decorations.
- Verify that all holiday lights and extension cords have been tested by an organization such as Factory Mutual or Underwriters Laboratory.

Fire Safety Tips

- Teach your kids how to respond in the event of a fire.
- Make sure young children know how to dial 911.
- Establish and practice a fire escape plan with your family that includes a designated meeting area outside the home.
- Practice stop, drop and roll with your children.
- Teach everyone in your family multiple ways to escape from every room in the event of a fire.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Do not leave candles burning when you go to sleep.
- Don't leave cooking food unattended on the stove.
- Keep flammable material away from your stove.
- Make sure all flammable substances are properly stored & away from children.
- Clear your roof and gutters of unnecessary buildup of debris
- Get your central heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified HVAC (heating, venting and air conditioning) contractor.
- If you have a gas heater, make sure that you have a sufficient quantity of fully functioning carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home.



Emergency Preparedness Safety Tips

By: Aaron Hope

The holidays are always a great opportunity to spend time with family, friends, and enjoy the outdoors. As you prepare for the gatherings and festivities, take a moment to stock up on the items you need to keep you and your family safe in case of a large snow storm, power outage, or other critical incident. During a disaster, it is recommended that everyone have enough food, water, and supplies for at least 72 hours. Some things to consider for your emergency kit:

- Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlights
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA weather radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/ lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

Please review the City of Alexandria Office of Emergency Management website (www.alexandriava.gov/EmergencyManagement) for more information on how you can stay informed, make a plan, build a kit, and get involved.

Be sure to subscribe to Alexandria eNews to receive emergency alerts and other notifications about happenings in the City.

Station 201 Commemoration

By: Cameron Hall

The Alexandria Fire Department celebrated 100 years of dedicated service from Fire Station 201 on October 10. AFD Station 201 began as the Relief Society Company Number 1 and was formed in 1788. The company was originally housed in the building next to its current location. It was the Civil War that facilitated the move to 317 Prince Street. The City Council directed the construction of the new building, which was completed in 1915. The building is still used today, with little change to the original structure.



Asst. Chief Dwayne Bonnette serves as the Master of Ceremony at the 100 year Commemoration of Station 201.



AFD Amoskeag Steamer Engine on display at the 100 year Commemoration of Station 201.

QUARTER 3 FIRE LOSS REPORTS

July 2015

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE	CAUSE	VALUE	**LOSS**	STATUS
07/13/2015	20512	333 John Carlyle Drive	High-Rise Residential	Accidental	\$52,050,500	\$170,000.00	Closed
07/30/2015	20120	725 King Street	Commercial / Restaurant	Accidental	\$1,400,000	\$30,000	Closed

August 2015

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE	CAUSE	VALUE	**LOSS**	STATUS
08/21/2015	20511	19A Sunset Drive	Duplex	Accidental	\$793,203	\$3,000	Closed

September 2015

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE	CAUSE	VALUE	**LOSS**	STATUS
09/02/2015	20872	5160 Brawn-er Place	Townhouse	Accidental	\$307,281	\$15,000	Closed
09/09/2015	20412	400 Madison Street	Residential High-Rise	Accidental	\$23,600,958	\$100,000	Closed

*****Loss values include contents of structure*****

FALL 2015 RUN STATISTICS

(JUNE, JULY & AUGUST)

	UNIT	MEDICAL	FIRE SUPPRESSION	2015 YTD	2014
Station 201	E201	169	223		
	Total			1011	1376
Station 202	M202	478	159		
	U202	0	0		
	Total			1509	1966
Station 203	E203	205	222		
	T203	46	183		
	Total			1749	2313
Station 204	E204	154	227		
	T204	37	375		
	Total			2498	4486
Station 205	E205	218	329		
	M205	549	178		
	Total			3132	4645
Station 206	E206	249	276		
	M206	508	164		
	RS206	62	159		
Station 207	Total			3709	5627
	E207	192	289		
	M207	464	147		
Station 208	Total			2663	4005
	E208	369	374		
	M208	546	179		
Station 209	T208	138	302		
	Total			4772	7291
	E209	189	220		
Station 210	H209	0	0		
	U209	0	0		
	Total		9	1030	1636
Station 210	M210	253	88	579	0
	Total				

Total: 22,652 2014 Total: 33,345