



**A Tradition of
Excellence
in Public Safety
Since 1872**

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Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter

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4th Quarter - 2017

From the Desk of the Chief

“State of the Department...Update on Progress”

We have finished FY17 and eagerly anticipate the FY18 opportunities that lie ahead. I must share with you several things that will be new for this year and how the department is poised to move into the future because of strong communications within the department and without.

This year, under the continued leadership of Mayor Jake Day, the budget process was more collaborative and informative for all department directors. The same challenges existed, closing a significant budget shortfall. With a large deficit looming the Mayor, City Administration, and department directors came together to determine how to tackle the challenge of balancing the budget. While the process was painful for all, it was enlightening and provided each participant an opportunity to see the other departments' struggles and cohesively work through prioritizing projects and requests to reach the goal of balancing the budget. I can testify that each department felt the impact of this exercise and that each presented their needs professionally. Additionally, the Mayor proposed significant changes in the operational structure of the City. The goal was to bring the City's operational framework into a streamlined, operationally efficient organization where both city workers and citizens can more easily navigate their individual needs. In the end, the creation of the Mayor's proposed budget was completed in a unified and positive way which allowed the Mayor to present a balanced and responsive budget to Council.



There are projects in queue and some that will be starting soon. The new engines projects are in assembly with an expected delivery of November 2017. These new units are a great example of what can happen when a group of people work together to reach a common goal. The work of creating and specifying these units fell on Apparatus Specifications Committee, chaired by Capt. Chris Twilley. Capt. Twilley and his workgroup solicited input from the members of the department to create units that met our operational needs and to build in efficiencies that ultimately make our jobs easier.

The FY18 Capital Improvement Plan included a couple of important projects. One is the replacement of the asphalt paving in the rear driveway for station 16. The other is the Mobile Data Terminal project that will upgrade/replace our current MDTs. Both will be started soon to be completed in FY18.

From the Desk of the Chief (continued)

The FY18 budget includes several department initiatives that provide many administrative and operational efficiencies to improve our abilities in caring for our citizens. In all, the department asked for five (5) new initiatives, Mobile Integrated Healthcare, Merit Increases, Promotions, Fleet Mechanic, Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement. Four (4) of the five (5) requests were funded.

The new volunteer response model which was kicked off in January 2017 has proven to be very beneficial of staffing the department and ultimately improving public safety outcomes. In a very broad sense, the volunteers have provided 8,332.5 hours of operational time in the first six months of 2017. We will be sending out a more specific statistical report soon and I am confident that we will continue to improve as we evaluate and adjust our operational response metrics. I want to express my sincere thank you to everyone for your continued efforts.

There is a lot going on!! What is listed here is small portion of ALL the good work the SFD continues to complete daily. I continue to be amazed at the efforts of our dedicated members. My confidence is high in the men and women of the department and their dedication to excellence. At times when moments of reflection take place, I am truly amazed at all we have accomplished. Certainly, the members of the Salisbury Fire Department deserve all the credit for our short-term achievements and successes.

In closing, the men and women of the Salisbury Fire Department are proud to provide a tradition of excellent public safety service to the residents of the Salisbury Fire District. On behalf of the citizens we are sworn to protect, I thank them for their continued support and want them to know that their service is valued and much appreciated. As we look forward to another great year, we will continue to remain focused on the mission, core values, and vision for our department. I look forward, with great confidence that we will ultimately be a truly integrated combination fire service that provides the very best in public safety.

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Richard A. Hoppes

Richard A. Hoppes, BS
Chief of the Department



Emergency Medical Services

Lieutenant Chris Truitt

What is CODE STAT??

One of the most significant calls for emergency medical services (EMS) is when a person is in cardiac arrest. This could happen for a variety of reasons, however the result is the same: the person's heart is no longer circulating blood to the body. Unfortunately this occurs over 350,000 times annually in the United States, with roughly 10% of these patients surviving. This can be from a variety of reasons, however the building block for cardiac arrest management remains early use of CPR (chest compressions).

The American Heart Association has listed key items for adult CPR success, such as: chest compression rate of 100-120 per minute, limit pauses in chest compressions to less than 10 seconds, and assisting the patient's breathing adequately BUT not too fast. There are other items EMS providers must incorporate into patient care, however these basic life support items serve as the foundation for proper cardiac arrest management.

The Salisbury Fire Department strives to provide the very best EMS care for every patient, including cardiac arrest management. We have some of the newest heart monitors and tools at our disposal, now including CODE STAT- a computer program that allows for post incident review of cardiac arrests. This software analyzes the events that occur while the heart monitor is on the patient, and gives us a report we can use to critique the incident and emphasize the positive patient care that was provided. The CODE-STAT report shows how many pauses in CPR over 10 seconds, the number of times chest compressions were performed, how many times the providers assisted with the patient's breathing, as well as more in depth data.

By utilizing CODE-STAT reports and analyzing trends in cardiac arrest management, Salisbury Fire is working to provide constant quality improvement to our EMS delivery. Cardiac arrest incidents are reviewed with the providers to look for areas of improvement as well as reinforcing the positive aspects of care. This type of consistent and routine call review ties into the goal of the American Heart Association's goal to improve cardiac arrest management out of the hospital. So rest assured, our EMS providers are always striving to provide the very best care that our community can receive each and every day.



Hot Shots



Historical Corner

Assistant Chief Bryan W. Records

The Civic Center Fire - 40th Anniversary

June 27, 1977 is a date that will forever be marked in the history of Salisbury, Maryland and its fire department. On that day the city experienced the Grand Daddy of all fires when the Wicomico County Youth and Civic Center was destroyed by fire. Just after noon multiple callers reported a fire in the Civic Center. As the first units turned out on the street it was evident that they were in for a long day as the eastern sky was filled with black smoke. The smoke was so dark and thick that it blocked the sun like a solar eclipse. As the first units arrived they were met by a wall of flames from front to back that threatened to burn the Manhattan Shirt Factory to the rear. It was obvious that nothing would stop the fire in the main section of the Civic Center and all efforts shifted to saving the shirt factory and the new attached section of the Civic Center. Fire departments from all over Wicomico County responded to help with this massive blaze. Miles of hose were stretched from draft sites in the nearby City Park and available hydrants in the area. Hundreds of citizens had gathered to watch in disbelief as this community landmark went up in flames. The building had hosted concerts, home shows, tennis tournaments, graduations and any large gathering that involved the community. When it was constructed in 1959 it was not required to have sprinklers. By that afternoon the main section of the bow-string arched building stood in ruins; leaving seasoned firefighters and a community with a memory that stands clear to this day.



Historical Corner (continued)

Two facts often get lost in the events of that historic day. The first is the cause of this massive fire, which was preventable. Earlier that day a fire crew from Station 2 responded to the Civic Center for a malfunctioning floor buffer. Maintenance personnel were stripping and waxing the hard wood floors when an electrical problem was noticed in the buffer. In what appeared to be a routine low level call; the fire officer advised maintenance personnel not to use the buffer until it was repaired. Assistant Chief Lee Maczis (retired) stated that his crew had just returned to the station for lunch when the alarm for the Civic Center came in. For reasons unknown, the maintenance personnel had spread wax stripper across the floor and used the same buffer. A spark ignited the vapors and there was a fast spreading fire within the large arena. We may never know why they chose to use the defective buffer or if a sprinkler system would have saved the main arena. We do know that because of the efforts of firefighters and a sprinkler system that the newer wing of the building was saved that day, as well as the Manhattan Shirt Factory behind the building.

The second fact that gets lost in the events of that day could have been the largest loss of life in the city's history and front-page news around the country. At the time of the fire there were numerous children attending a summer arts and crafts program inside. One of the photos (right) clearly shows a group of children running for their lives with a wall of flames behind them. Many firefighters experienced heat exhaustion that day, but there were no serious injuries reported otherwise. Out of the ashes rose a new Civic Center by 1980 that still serves the community today. Some say it was a blessing in disguise as the community had quickly outgrown the old Civic Center built in 1959. One thing is for sure, it is unlikely that there will ever be a fire of that magnitude in the city again. Modern fire protection systems dominate today's codes. But this fire will forever live as The Grand Daddy of all fires.



Fire Prevention & Public Education

Assistant Chief James E. Gladwell

The last fiscal quarter of the year proved to be quite busy as it relates to Fire Prevention/Public Education. Several After the Fire programs, numerous requests by the public for tours of Station 16, a number of Fire Chiefs for the Day, and the return of the Salisbury Festival in June kept the department busy.

Perhaps the most prominent event of the quarter was the return of the Salisbury Festival. After a several year hiatus, the event returned to the downtown area and the SFD provided both dedicated EMS and marine operations during the three-day festival. Fortunately, no significant injuries were reported and no one fell into the drink!

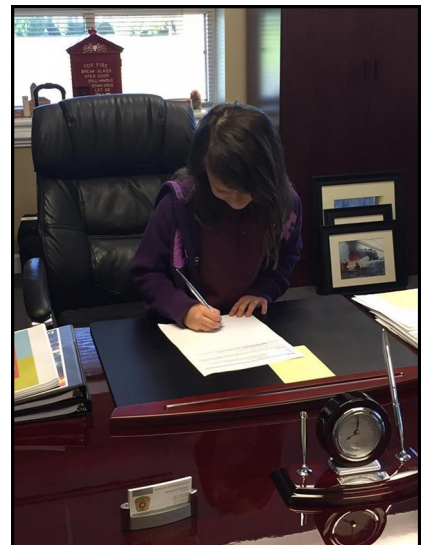
The Fire Chief for the Day program continues to be one of the more entertaining events the SFD takes part in. Winners "report for duty" early in the day, "sign some important documents", are given a tour of the Station 16 facility, and then transported via Engine 16 to their appropriate school where their peers greet them as they exit the engine to attend school for the day. The excitement exhibited by the youngsters, and their families, has proven to be second to none.

Three After the Fire programs put the SFD out in different neighborhoods educating residents about the importance of smoke alarms and fire safety. This program continues to prove its worth through the discovery of homes where smoke alarms either don't work, or are nonexistent. Each time a crew installs a smoke alarm, another family is provided with early fire detection that may certainly save their lives. It is truly one of the most important practices the SFD is involved in.

For the quarter, based on data input in the Firehouse Reporting System, the SFD participated in 40 Community Service/Public Education events. Three After the Fire events yielded 14 installed smoke alarms and it took members 328.5 hours to get the job done. We had the opportunity to make positive contact with 2,881 adults and 2,769 children. That's another 5,650 individuals who have seen your hard work in a constructive, upbeat manner.

Keep up the great work and please continue to appropriately document your goings on in FH. Thank you for all your dedication and for doing your best to accommodate all the public's requests.

Stay Safe!!



Statistics - April through June 2017

Fire Incident Type	4th Qtr.	FY16 YTD	% of Quarter
Structure Fires	21	69	2%
Cooking fire	2	21	0%
Vehicle Fires	6	22	1%
Natural Cover/Brush	35	79	4%
Trash/Dumpster	15	45	2%
Fire, Other	7	36	1%
Medical	387	1541	44%
Vehicle Accidents	145	534	16%
Rescue Calls	10	37	1%
Hazardous Conditions	37	160	4%
Service Calls	43	199	5%
Good Intent Calls	70	332	8%
False Alarms	100	453	11%
Other Incident Type	4	26	0%
Totals	882	3554	

Workers Compensation Summary	4th Qtr.	FY16 YTD
2 - shoulder injury	2	17
Hours lost due to Injuries	69	181.5

Fire Incidents by Fire Station	4th Qtr.	FY16 YTD	% of Quarter
Station 1	280	967	32%
Station 2	230	864	26%
Station 16	372	1723	42%

Fire Loss Data	4th Qtr.	FY16 YTD	% of Quarter
Property Value	\$6,035,212	\$103,233,442	N/A
Property Destroyed	\$384,736	\$3,042,623	6%
Property Saved	\$5,650,476	\$100,190,819	94%

Fire Prevention Summary	4th Qtr.	FY16 YTD
Fire Inspections/Preplans	10	44
Plan Reviews	2	15
Smoke Alarms Distributed	38	263
Smoke Alarms Installed	0	14
Public Education Events		
a. Adults in Attendance	2881	8025
b. Children in Attendance	2769	8643

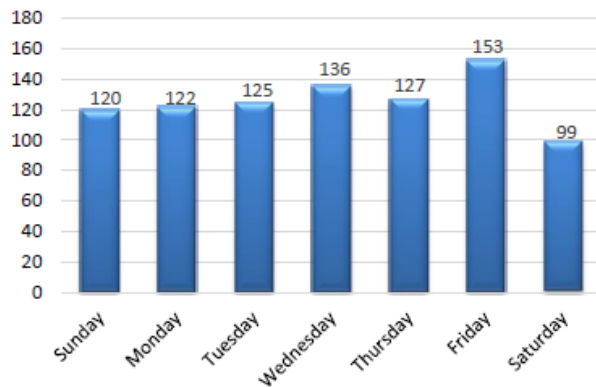
Medical Chief Complaints	4th Qtr.	FY16 YTD	% of Quarter
Abdominal Pain/GI Problem	121	532	4.83%
Allergic Reaction/Bites/Stings	10	48	0.40%
Altered Level of Consciousness	43	197	1.72%
Behavioral/Psychiatric	44	202	1.76%
Breathing Problem	49	198	1.96%
Burns/Smoke Inhalation	4	12	0.16%
Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest/DOA	43	145	1.72%
Cardiac Problems	181	653	7.23%
Choking/Airway Obstruction	1	7	0.04%
Diabetic Problem	59	224	2.36%
Drug/Alcohol	58	314	2.32%
Nausea/Vomiting	48	188	1.92%
No Apparent Injury	109	436	4.35%
OB/GYN/Pregnancy/Childbirth	16	65	0.64%
Other	1149	4049	45.90%
Respiratory Distress	73	301	2.92%
Seizure/Convulsions	70	285	2.80%
Sick Person/Flu-like	72	390	2.88%
Stroke/CVA/TIA	28	132	1.12%
Syncope/Fainting	51	194	2.04%
Traumatic Injury	130	558	5.19%
Unconscious	25	86	1.00%
Weakness	119	424	4.75%
Totals	2503	9640	

Training	Classes	Attendees	Hours
Administrative	41	170	242.25
Engine Co. Ops	29	138	259.5
EMS	64	267	1322.75
Driver Operator	59	137	167
General	66	310	497.5
Incident Command	7	34	52.5
Rescue Company Ops	16	84	129.75
Special Ops	26	92	155.5
Truck Company Ops	48	232	353.65
Totals - 4th Quarter	356	1464	3180.4
FY16 YTD Totals	1153	4638	9693.61

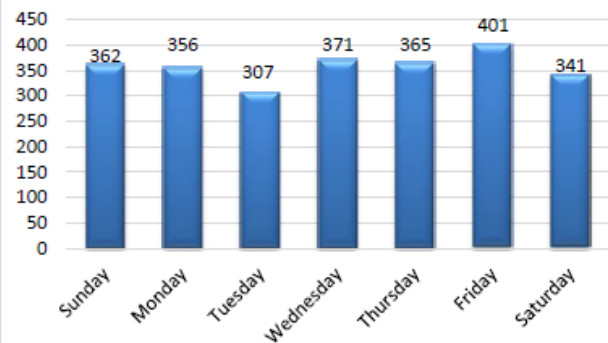
Department Aid Summary	4th Qtr.	FY16 YTD
Mutual Aid Given	15	73
Mutual Aid Received	25	169

Statistics - April through June 2017

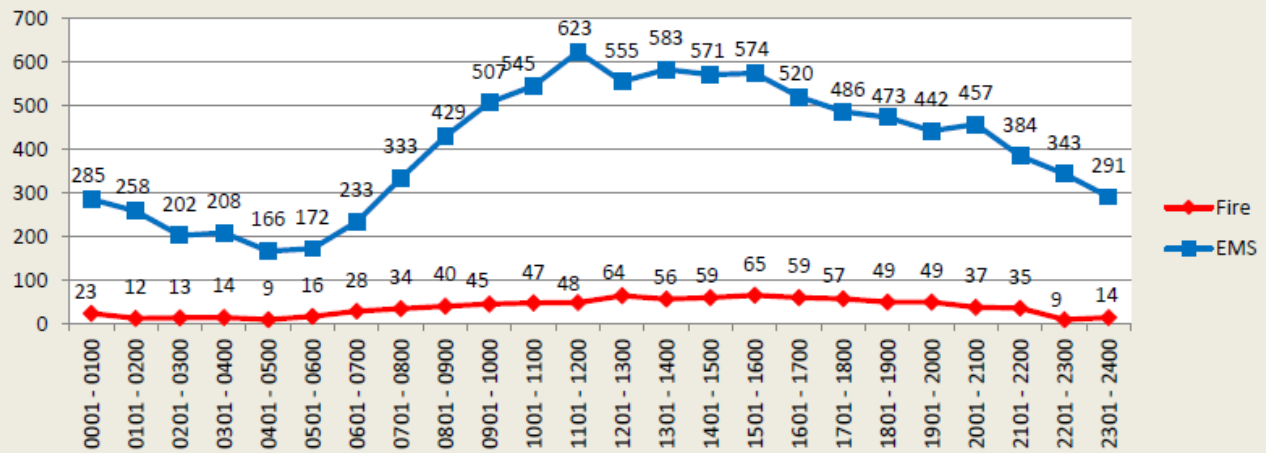
Fire Call Volume Day of Week



EMS Call Volume by Day of Week



Fire & EMS Call Volume by Hour



Correspondence from the Community

Salisbury Fire Dept.
(Chiefs Office)

Thank you all very much for the beautiful flower you sent for the loss of Rob's Mom. The fire dept. family has shown Rob so much love + support during this difficult time and our family is forever grateful. We are truly humbled. God Bless + Thank you - Rob, Pam, Courtney + Chris

THANKS!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP WITH
NEW YEARS EVE BALLOON 2017 IN
DOWNTOWN SALISBURY!

SINCERELY, *Jamie*

Thank you so much for bringing your firetruck to our Father's Day event at Oak Ridge Baptist Church! We are so grateful for the time you gave to Dad's & their Kids to make the day special. We are also appreciative of the cool fire hats you handed out to the boys and girls - they simply loved every minute of it! And above all - thank you for what you do in our community keeping us safe!

Warm regards -
Stacy Siers
& Oak Ridge Baptist Church