



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

**Richard A. Hoppes**  
Fire Chief

**John W. Tull**  
Deputy Fire Chief

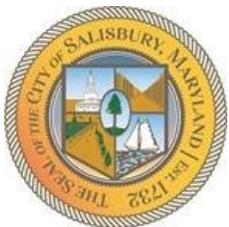
**E. Lee Smith**  
Deputy Fire Chief

**W. Darrin Scott**  
Deputy Fire Chief

Fire Headquarters  
325 Cypress Street  
410.548.3120  
Fax 410.548.3121

Visit us on the Web  
SalisburyFD.com

Follow us on



# Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter

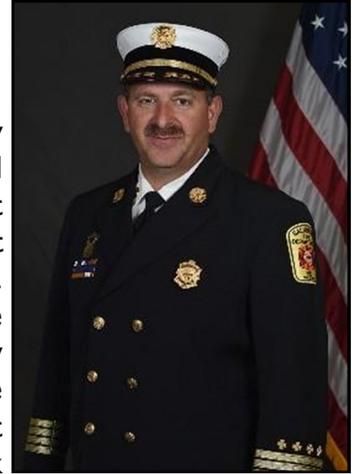
Volume V, Issue IV

4th Quarter - 2018

## From the Desk of the Chief

### “New Beginnings.....”

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and fun-filled July 4th celebration with family, barbecues, and fireworks displays. As I sit and write this article, it not only marks the end of fiscal year 2018, but also the end of a career for Fire Chief Richard A. Hoppes, who dedicated 33 years of service to the City of Salisbury. During his time, he oversaw many initiatives and accomplishments that made the Salisbury Fire Department one of the finest Fire Departments around. I want to again thank him personally for his unselfish dedication to our profession and for assisting me with the professional development I needed to succeed.

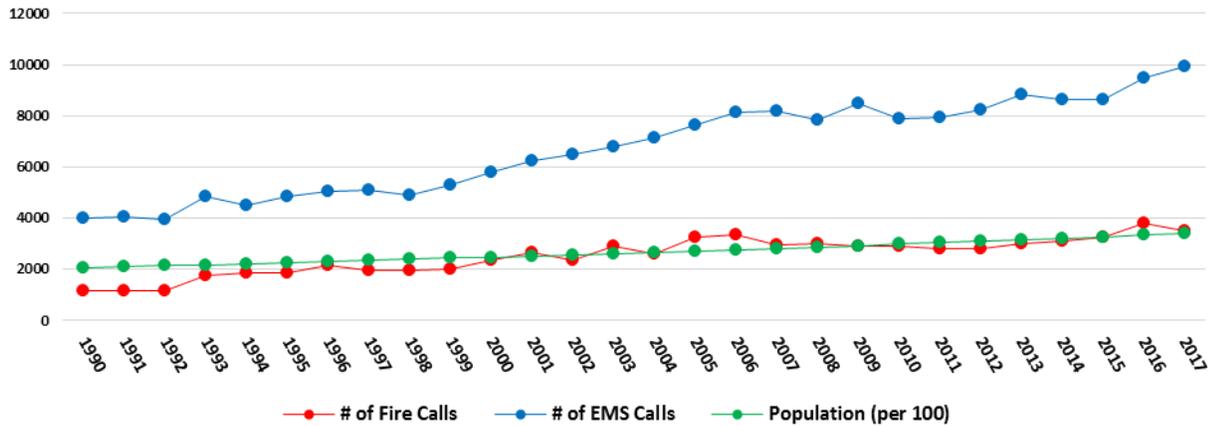


As the title suggests, it is the start of a new beginning. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as the next Fire Chief of this **GREAT** organization; it is truly an honor beyond measure! I would like to thank the Mayor, City Administration, City Council and members of the Department for their unwavering support and belief in me. In the book *It's Your Ship*, the author describes what I believe is essential to my success as the Fire Chief and that is “my job is to create the climate that enable people to unleash their potential. Given the right environment, there are few limits to what people can achieve”. I have prepared myself for this opportunity and plan to do everything I can to help the organization move forward by investing in the future..... our greatest asset, **the people!**

It is exciting to start this new chapter and work with the tremendous men and women within the Department to continue providing the highest possible level of public safety to our community. The Department's accomplishments, with the resources that are provided to us by our elected officials on behalf of our citizens, is absolutely amazing!

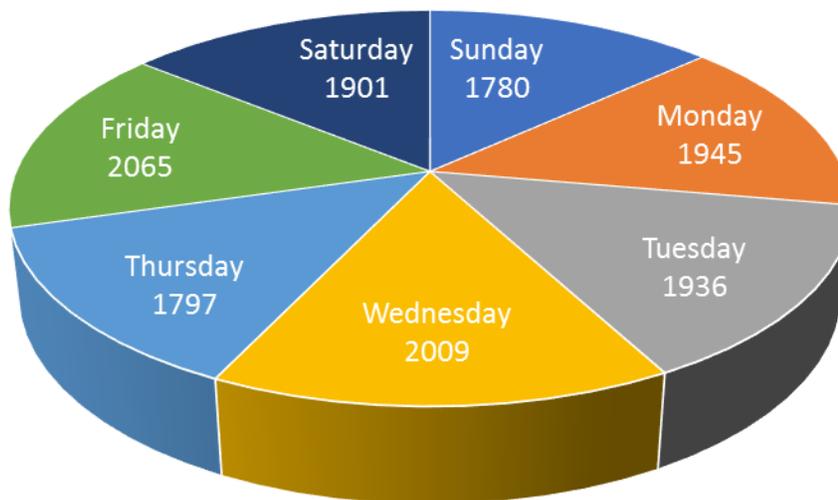
# From the Desk of the Chief (continued)

Successful planning for the future requires that we know where we are today and that we have a good understanding of our past. The Department continues to see a modest increase in call volume with each passing year. The following graph illustrates our call volume since 1990.



The total number of responses for Fiscal year 2017 was 13,433. To the casual observer it would seem that the SFD is busiest during the insurgence of people into our boundaries during the workweek for work related visitation. However, statistically this is not the case. Graph I indicates that the SFD is a consistently busy Department seven (7) days a week.

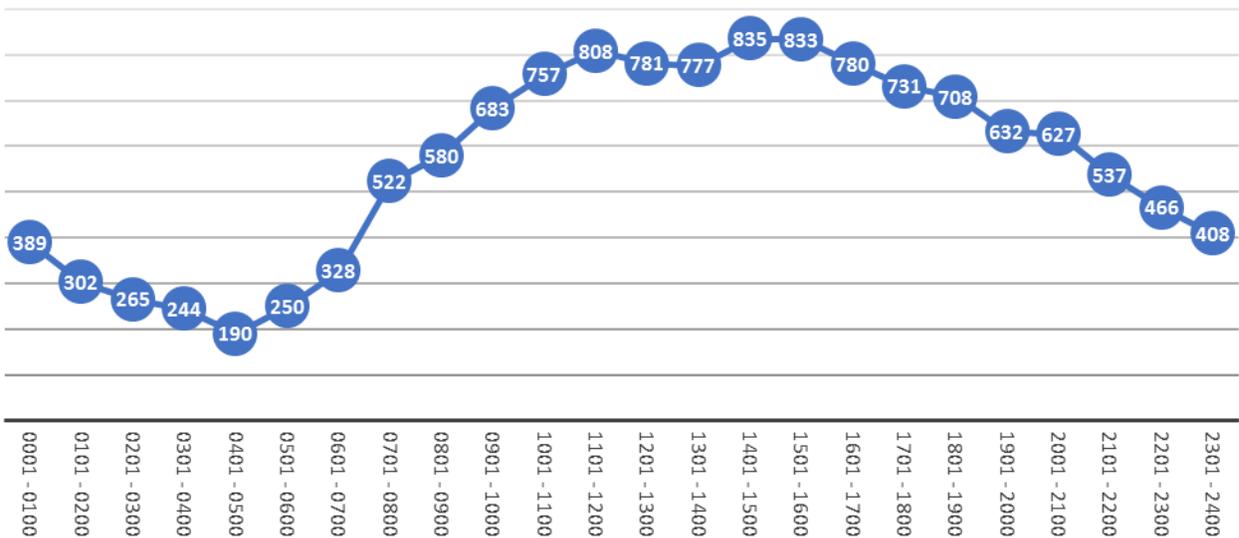
Graph I: Calls by Day of the Week



## From the Desk of the Chief (continued)

A look at the number of calls by hour of the day demonstrates when units are busiest at any given hour of the day. Graph 2 shows this information for Fiscal year 2017.

Graph 2: Calls by Time of Day



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 their behalf thank you for your continued support. If you'd like to comment on or inquire about any of the services that we provide, please feel free to contact me at 410.548.3120 or by e-mail at [jtull@salisbury.md](mailto:jtull@salisbury.md).

Respectfully Yours in Service,

*John W. Tull*

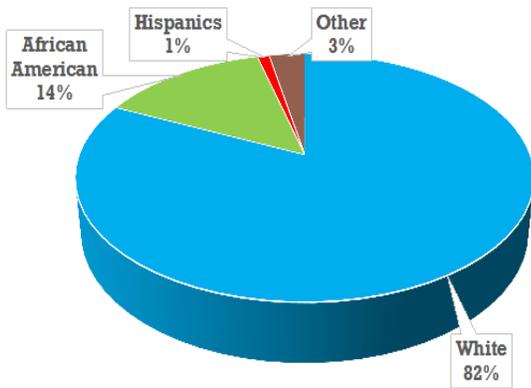
John W. Tull, BS - Chief of the Department

# Why Is Diversity Important To Us?

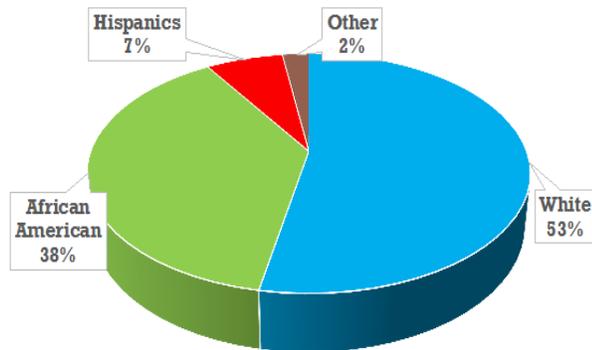
- Improves relationships within our community
- Helps to be reactive to community needs – community feels like part of the organization
- Builds stronger teams
- Develops a better understanding of “different” points of views
- Earns community trust

## What Diversity Looks Like to Us.....

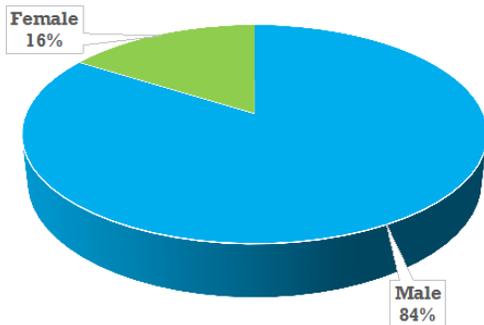
Salisbury Fire Department



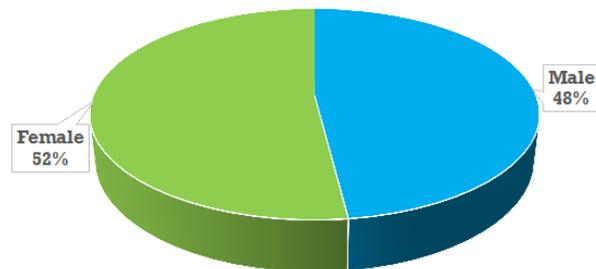
City of Salisbury



Salisbury Fire Department



City of Salisbury



## Emergency Medical Services

Lieutenant Chris Truitt

Snap shot of the first half of 2018 for Emergency Medical Service providers

We are 181 days into the year, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, and already our emergency medical service (EMS) providers have been busy. So far the Salisbury Fire Department has responded to 5,005 calls for service, with the majority of those being handled by our three staffed transport units. To put that in simple numbers, each day our EMS providers respond to roughly 28 calls for service.

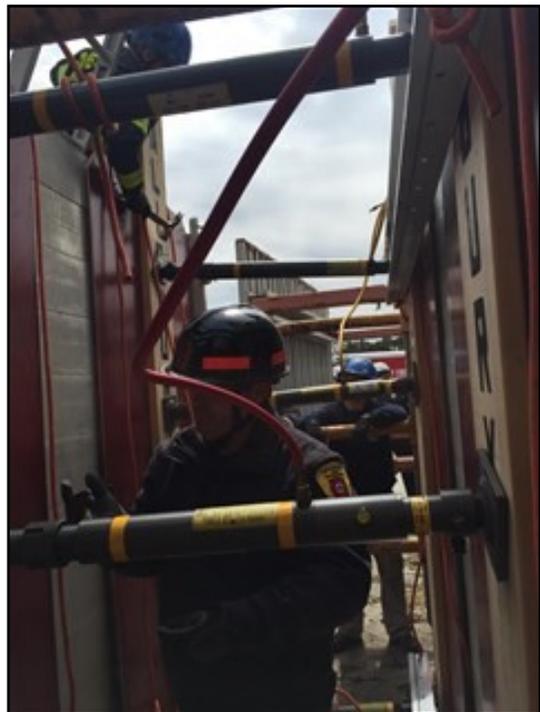
The first half of the year saw our EMS providers moving to a new patient care reporting software, called "Elite," along with the rest of the State of Maryland. This new software allows for thorough documentation as well as working with our heart monitors to transmit the patient's vital signs and heart rhythm directly to the report! Once the report is completed it allows for a comprehensive picture of the patient's health from EMS through their care at the hospital.

Salisbury EMS also participated in the action plan of the first Salisbury Marathon in May with assistance from our EMS neighbors in Allen and Fruitland, Salisbury University's athletic trainers, and the staff at PRMC. EMS crews were on hand to direct any minor complaints to the PRMC treatment tents and assist with any transport needs. All of the various team members worked well together, and there were even a couple of EMS providers running the half marathon!

The Salisbury Fire Department stands ready to meet the demands of the second half of 2018 with our knowledgeable, capable, and accountable EMS providers. Take care and have a great remainder of your summer.



# Hot Shots



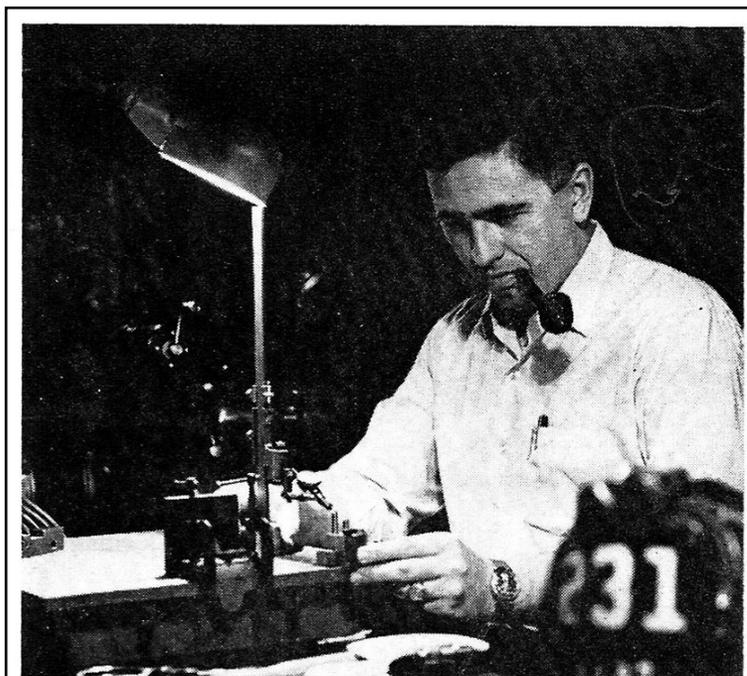
## Historical Corner

Assistant Chief Bryan W. Records

### The Bourke Eyeshield

The fire service has long been as problem solver of most every type of situation thrown at it. Firefighters are notorious for being problem solvers and very creative when it comes to a solution. One of the most common items of today's protective envelope is often perceived as having always been around. The modern fire helmet comes with a wide variety of eye protection designs, but one has stood the test of time. The Bourke Eyeshield turns 50 years old this July.

Lester T. Bourke was an eight-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department who had always seen the need for eye protection. In 1964 he was knocked unconscious by a steel beam which barely missed destroying his left eye. He woke up to find he couldn't see because of blood in his eye. It was during his recuperation that he decided to design a shield that could prevent eye injuries and at the same time be easy to maintain and use. Bourke was accustomed to spending quite a bit of time working on inventions in his basement. He experimented with many of the eyeshields on the market as well as his own designs, before deciding on one particular design. Bourke experimented with everything from Army driving goggles to a welders shield before deciding on one particular design. As many as 13 working models were created before Bourke found a version that satisfied him.



**Fire Fighter Bourke** sets up another job in his home workshop where he developed his safety eyeshield.

## Historical Corner (continued)

Once the model was chosen, Bourke attached it to his helmet and put it to the test where it counted – in the field fighting fires. From tenements to rubbish fires to the Training Academy at Welfare Island, the eyeshield passed its toughest critic. The man who invented it, Bourke continuously reflected back on a company drill at the Training Academy when a Lieutenant asked to see his helmet. After seeing his invention, he stated he wished he had had these eyeshields a few years back. The Lieutenant had lost sight in one eye during a firefighting incident. Bourke stated, “It all had to do with that Lieutenant on Welfare Island”. It was too late for him, but not for thousands of others. Maybe someone would put the eyeshield into commercial production if they saw how well it worked.

The next move was the U.S. Patent office and from there to manufacturers of fire equipment. It was at that time that Bourke came into contact with Cairns and Brothers, whose name was inside the shell of his fire helmet. Cairns studied Bourke’s eyeshield, put it through a vigorous testing program, made some minor changes to make production less complicated and began to manufacture it. Today the Bourke eyeshield is as popular as ever and has stood the test of time. The fireman from Engine 231 in Brooklyn had seen a problem and used his creative skills to save the eyesight of generations of firefighters to come. So the next time you’re in the heat of battle and flip down your eyeshields, just remember Lester T. Bourke; a pioneer in fire service eye protection.



**Safety eyeshield** is worn by a fire officer in the protective (down) position on his helmet.

# Fire Prevention & Public Education

Assistant Chief James E. Gladwell

The last quarter of a given fiscal year is generally slower for the SFD. Schools are winding down and folks seem to be more in tune with getting their summer vacations and activities moving. The SFD continues to put out its regular safety messages on its website and social media outlets with emphasis on topics such as water/pool safety, heat emergencies and how to avoid them, grilling safety, and other various topics.

The beginning of the next fiscal year brings with it many new opportunities for the SFD. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, National Night Out, beach safety, and back to school messages will all be addressed and provide the Department with ample opportunities to interact with our community and pass along numerous safety messages/tips to our constituents. This time of year also allows us to implement new goals for FY19. The SFD has repeatedly blown away the annual strategic goals set for interaction with members of its community. FY19 has set new, lofty goals for population interaction numbers with the new goal being to make contact with 45%, or more, of our population. This goal will certainly elevate the bar, but with the continued hard work and dedication of the SFD's membership, I am positive we can reach high enough to attain it.

For the FY18 quarter encompassing 1 April 2018-30 June 2018, and as documented in Firehouse Software, the SFD participated in 24 Public Education/Community Service Events. We expended 36.25 hours completing the various tasks and installed nine (9) smoke alarms.

After examining FY18 as a whole, it becomes demonstratively clear as to the amount of hard work and dedication the members of the SFD truly are when it comes to Pub Ed/Community Service. There are certainly annual events such as Fire Prevention Week, National Night Out, the Salisbury Festival, Blazing a Trail for Literacy, and others that provide us with the opportunities to deliver our safety messages. However, there are a myriad of other smaller events and general requests that each shift and the volunteers handle A' la carte. From Fire Chief for the Day, to station tours, to local business safety day requests; you guys do it all. And the numbers are impressive!!



## Fire Prevention & Public Education (continued)

For FY18, as documented in Firehouse Software, the SFD managed nearly 150 different Public Education/Community Service events. That's 41% of our year having at least one public service event on our schedule, or nearly one event handled every other day! Quite amazing, considering all the other tasks managed by the work groups and volunteers. The Department provided 11 Home Safety Fire Checks as requested by members of our community. We provided 15 After the Fire programs. We read to students at every elementary school in our district. We installed 49 smoke alarms in our community and distributed scores more.

Some additional truly significant numbers: In the course of addressing our community's needs, we reached 6,508 adults and 8,410 children. That's 14,918 positive interactions with our constituents. And, we expended 3,074.5 hours getting the job done. What a testament to the dedication, commitment, and diligence of Salisbury Fire Department personnel!!! I am extremely proud of everyone who had a part in helping to make the SFD such a valuable and important safety resource to the citizens of Salisbury and Wicomico County served by the Department.

The strategic goal relating to Public Education/Community Service outlined in the FY19 budget reads "To respond to all requests for public education and outreach and make contact with 45%, or more, of the population served by the department." The numbers listed above place us right at 45%. Through your continued dedication and strong work ethic, I am 100% sure we can reach the mark, and wouldn't be a bit surprised to see us exceed it.

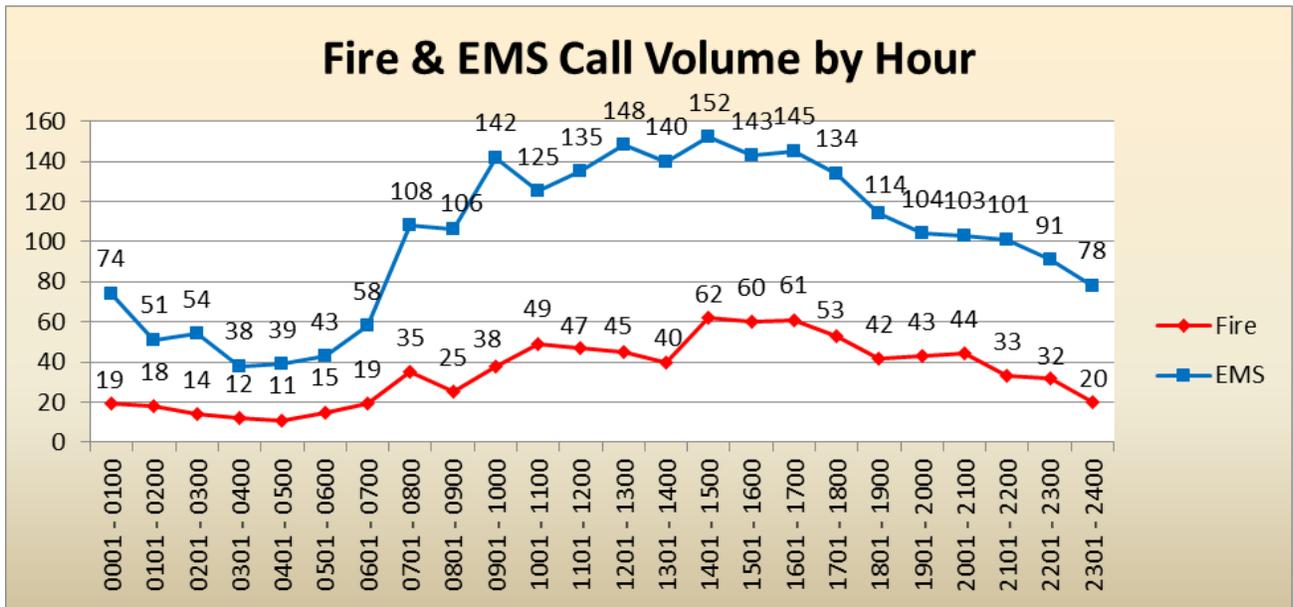
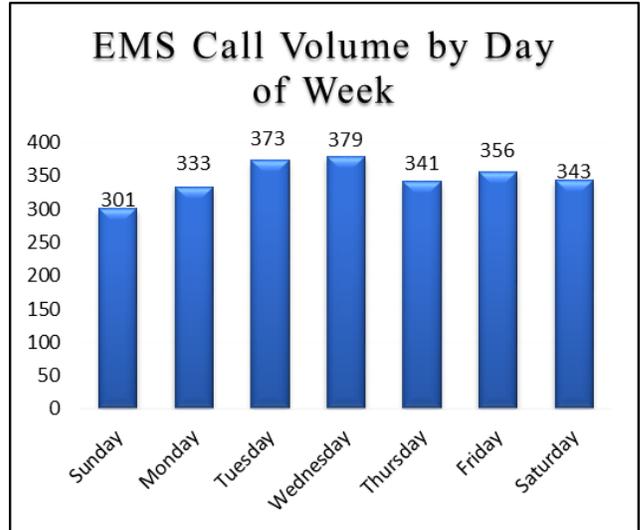
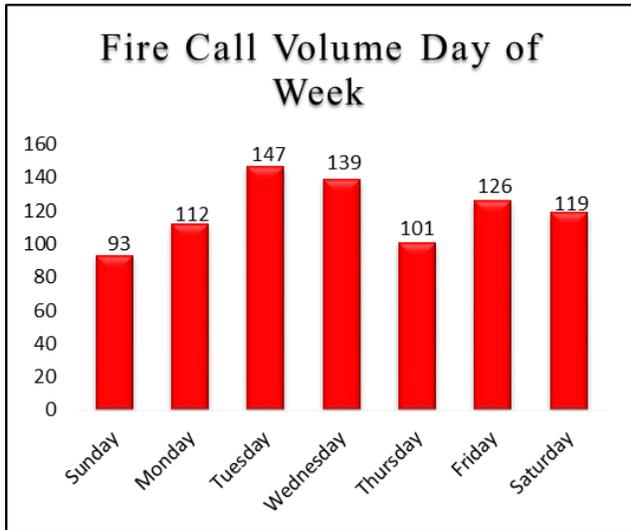
Thanks to each of you who play a part in making the SFD such a valuable resource to our community. Please be sure to document any event you may handle in Firehouse Software. While the number of events and hours associated with them is outstanding, I know there are some events that aren't being documented. Please give yourselves credit for the hard work you are accomplishing!!

Thanks, again!

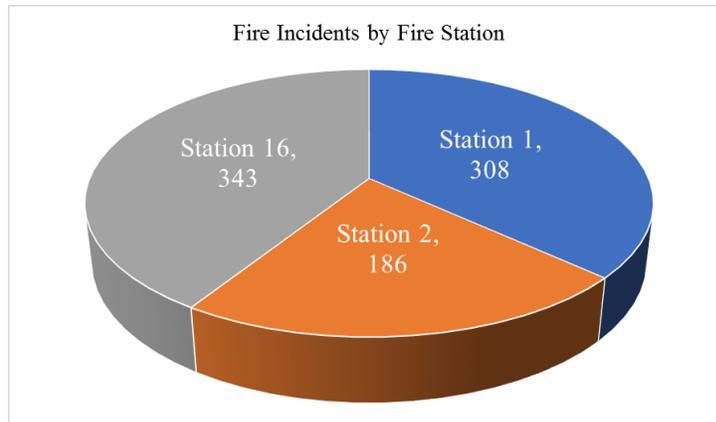
Stay safe!



## Statistics - April Through June 2018



## Statistics - April Through June 2018



Fire Incident Type	2nd Qtr.	Fire Prevention Summary		2nd Qtr.	
		Structure Fires	9	Fire Inspections/Preplans	114
Cooking fire	14	Plan Reviews	37		
Vehicle Fires	6	Smoke Alarms Distributed	21		
Natural Cover/Brush	27	Smoke Alarms Installed	6		
Trash/Dumpster	11	Training		Classes	At-tendees
Fire, Other	5	Administrative	42	168	294.55
Medical	340	Engine Co. Ops	20	110	200.5
Vehicle Accidents	122	EMS	44	183	366.5
Rescue Calls	16	Driver Operator	32	89	143.5
Hazardous Conditions	50	General	49	225	522.74
Service Calls	45	Incident Command	7	18	69.75
Good Intent Calls	73	Rescue Company Ops	12	70	140.5
False Alarms	118	Special Ops	16	97	311.5
Other Incident Type	1	Truck Company Ops	23	114	203.25
<b>Totals</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>Totals – 2nd Quarter</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1074</b>	<b>2252.79</b>
		Department Aid Summary		2nd Qtr.	
		Mutual Aid Given	20		
		Mutual Aid Received	35		

## Statistics - April Through June 2018

### Top 10 Disposition Breakdown

Disposition	Calls
Treated, Transported by This Unit	1759 (72.5%)
No Patient Found	150 (6.2%)
Patient Refused Care - Not Transported	85 (3.5%)
Cancelled en Route/On Arrival	67 (2.8%)
Operational Support Provided Only	43 (1.8%)
Standby Only - No Patient Contacts	33 (1.4%)
No Treatment Required	23 (0.9%)
Assist Other Agency	25 (1.0%)
Treated and Released	19 (0.8%)
Dead at Scene (With and Without Interventions)	14 (0.6%)

### Top 10 Impressions

Impression	Calls
Pain	254 (10.5%)
Traumatic Injury	154 (6.3%)
No Apparent Illness/Injury	123 (5.1%)
General Malaise/Sick	122 (5.0%)
Weakness	109 (4.5%)
Chest Pain/Discomfort	108 (4.5%)
Abdominal Pain/Problems	100 (4.1%)
Respiratory Distress	92 (3.8%)
Behavioral/Psychiatric Disorder	68 (2.8%)
Altered Level of Consciousness	29 (1.2%)

## Hazardous Materials

Acting Lieutenant Ronald H. Wismer

There seems to be a running theme in the emergency response community. We spread myths that seem like they should make some sort of sense. All of us in the hazmat world have heard the myth that if we run out of air in our Level A suit, we can breathe the air in the suit. While attending a class at the IAFC hazmat conference this year, a discussion came up to challenge this idea.

So what is the truth? The only way to find out was to do some quasi scientific testing, at the firehouse. To test what actually happens when we go into Level A, I dressed out in the full ensemble and took a gas meter with me in the suit. For this experiment I limited my time in the suit to 10 minutes and light activity, talking and walking only. The background O<sub>2</sub> level outside of the suit was around 20.5%. The temperature in the engine bay was a balmy 90 degrees Fahrenheit so it was a hot one.

Almost immediately, within less than 30 seconds of being sealed in the suit the oxygen level dropped down to 19.5%. After the first minute the atmosphere was 18.5% oxygen. 2 minutes and 30 seconds in the suit and it was down to 18% oxygen. At 5 minutes the oxygen level was down to 17.5%. After 10 minutes the oxygen level was down to 17.3% oxygen. At the 10 minute mark, I had the suit opened up and a second meter placed into the environment, which confirmed that the atmosphere inside the suit was around 17.5% oxygen at this point.

So what can we learn from this experiment? Obviously, this is just one data set, but I think the data is pretty telling. OSHA defines an IDLH environment as anything less than 19.5% oxygen. From some cursory searching on the internet, I found this chart from Air Products:

- **19% Oxygen:** Some adverse physiological effects occur, but they may not be noticeable.
- **15%–19% Oxygen:** Impaired thinking and attention. Increased pulse and breathing rate. Reduced coordination. Decreased ability to work strenuously. Reduced physical and intellectual performance without awareness.
- **12%–15% Oxygen:** Poor judgment. Faulty coordination. Abnormal fatigue upon exertion. Emotional upset.
- **10%–12% Oxygen:** Very poor judgment and coordination. Impaired respiration that may cause permanent heart damage. Possibility of fainting within a few minutes without warning. Nausea and vomiting.

So after 10 minutes of light activity we were already in the impaired thinking zone. This is a very dangerous position to be in while in a Level A suit. Since the oxygen level is only going to drop the longer we are in the suit, this is an assumption I am making because the longer we are in the suit, the more carbon dioxide that will replace the oxygen in the suit, the longer we are in the suit the more dangerous the environment will be for a hazmat responder.

I am forced to conclude that this myth is 100% false. A hazmat responder can not rely on the air in their suit to survive. We have to rely on getting out of the suit with a safe buffer before our air in the SCBA runs out. Be safe out there and engineer your Level A entries to be safer.



## Junior Fire Academy

Firefighter/EMT-B Rachel Snyder

### A Splendid Start to a Program for Years to Come

I have always been passionate about kids. In recent years, I have realized I am also passionate about the safety of my community and those within it. Combine those two very important topics and there lies the birth of the Junior Fire Academy.

What started as an idea grew into a program that I hope will support the interests of children for years to come. For one week this past June, the Junior Fire Academy hosted fourteen children between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade every morning at Station 16 for a camp that was geared toward developing critical fire safety knowledge and educating our youth about fire department operations.

The children were given opportunities to engage in a series of tasks including a physical challenge, a scientific fire experiment, donning protective equipment, daily checks, and an all-inclusive skills test called the **Junior Fire Academy Challenge**. Every day the children arrived prepared with enthusiasm and proved their dedication as they learned about fire safety rules. They finished their week at the firehouse with a graduation ceremony in which each child was awarded for their perseverance and commitment to the program in front of their peers, family, and friends.

During the ceremony the children presented a self-guided project they completed through the week which introduced a fire safety rule of their choice. Following the ceremony, the Salisbury Fire Department hosted the ceremony attendees for a barbecue lunch in the engine bay. After overwhelmingly positive feedback from the children, their parents, and all parties involved in the development of this program, I can certainly say there will be another Junior Fire Academy in the coming summer.

In an effort to keep my successful 2018 Junior Fire Academy graduates engaged in the rewarding field of firefighting, there will be options for growth within this summer program. Look to the department website during Fire Prevention Week in October for more information about our Junior Fire Academy 2019.



## Cadet Corner

Captain Ben Waples

I have recently been tasked with the revitalization of the Cadet Program. I started my time in the fire service at the age of 16, a cadet, in the local fire department where I grew up. For me, it is truly an honor to be named to the position and help recruit, mentor, and mold the future of the fire service, and the future of the Salisbury Fire Department.

When I started to review the membership roster for the cadets, we had three members on the list and two of those were no longer eligible to be cadets in the program. Since the program didn't have a formal leader the applications for cadets were accepted but placed on hold until a new program coordinator was identified.

After being named the Cadet Program Coordinator, I contacted all the applicants and invited them to an informational meeting. During the meeting expectations for cadets and program were explained, the upcoming steps for physicals and final membership requirements were explained, and upcoming training opportunities were discussed. At the conclusion of the meeting, we welcomed 12 new cadet members to the Department.

Since then we are working to get all the new members their physicals, and are in the process of getting them registered for classes. We are currently in the process of setting up cadet training times and a plan for future training opportunities. I, and the department, are very excited to see this program back up and running and to see how our new cadets do.

We still have spots available in the Cadet Program. If you are interested in joining the program, please call the Salisbury Fire Department at 410-548-3120. Cadet Membership applications are also available at the Main Office, 325 Cypress St. Salisbury, MD. Eligibility for cadet membership are for high school students from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade living in the response area of the Salisbury Fire Department.

The Salisbury Fire Department is also always accepting new applications for new volunteer membership. Please contact the department at the phone number or address above.



# Correspondence from the Community



Chief Richard A. Hoppes,

Every day, first responders all over the country answer the call.

We appreciate what you brave men and women do on a daily basis.

Verizon, will continue to ensure those calls are answered.

Thank you for your dedication.

Kindest Regards,

Sean Christenson



Thank you so much for the lovely fruit basket.

Sincerely,  
 Grace

Your kindness is appreciated.

Salisbury Fire Dept,

Thank you so much for the fruit basket you sent for the birth of our baby girl. The fruit came in very handy to have something quick and healthy to eat!

Sincerely,  
 Jason + Kara Hamington