



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

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Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter

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From the Desk of the Deputy Chief

Fire Prevention & Public Education

The Salisbury Fire Department continues its busy schedule of public education and community service events. The lull in activity during certain months of the year no longer exists and requests for educational and community service events continue to pour in. There are few days during a given week when the SFD does not receive at least one request for an apparatus display, safety talk, or some other kind of public education opportunity. Add these to the everyday

requirements of training, station and apparatus maintenance, call volume, and the myriad of other daily duties members of the department handle and it's a wonder the SFD is able to manage it all. The fact that it all does find a way to be managed is a testament to the character and quality of the personnel the SFD has on its roster.



The quarter encompassing 1 April 2019 through 30 June 2019 has been a very busy time period. During the timeframe, the SFD managed numerous requests for service including multiple Fire Chiefs for the Day, a multitude of field trips and station tours, and a Touch a Truck event at Tractor Supply. Members provided safety recommendations to local home health care providers to ensure the safety and well-being of elderly members of our community who cannot live alone but do not wish to be placed in eldercare facilities.



From the Desk of the Deputy Chief (continued)

The SFD provided resources and assisted with delivering a most important message to our local young adults relating to driving under the influence at two mock crashes this in April; one at Wi Hi and an additional one at Bennett. The SFD provided bike medics to the Salisbury Marathon, participated heavily in the Hero Truck Pull Challenge to raise money for Special Olympics, and members paid their respects to Wicomico County fallen servicemen and women at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center.

Perhaps the largest and most logistically challenging event was the SFD's second annual Junior Fire Academy. The week-long event took place 17 June through 21 June and saw an increase in attendees from last year's 19 to 39 this year. The young people who attended learned a great deal about the fire service, discipline, respect, physical fitness, and values. Many of the children in attendance found that they were capable of doing tasks they never thought possible. A great deal of gratitude is due to all who assisted during the week but the week would not have been possible without the Herculean efforts of FFEMTB Rachel Snyder and Captain Ben Waples. Coryn Dietz and Natalie Tull also deserve a shout out for preparing lunches throughout the week for everyone involved. The week was a huge success and attendance is expected to grow again, next year.

For the quarter, based on data obtained from Firehouse Software, the SFD managed 47 events. One After the Fire event took place with two smoke alarms installed. Managing all this required 520 staff hours and the next quarter is already shaping up to be just as busy!



Hot Shots



Training Corner

Captain David L. Haines

The Importance of good training

The importance of training cannot be overstated in the world of emergency services. Where life safety is at risk, competence of the responders should be paramount. When the citizens in our community call for help, they expect *and deserve*, they very best from us when we respond.

In order to provide the best services to our community, we must first understand what it is that we do. For the Salisbury Fire Department, that starts with the Mission Statement.

“The Salisbury Fire Department exists to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our community by providing prevention and mitigation of fire and life safety hazards in an efficient and effective manner.”

This broad statement of what we do helps us meet the expectations of our community and sets the tone for the department. Our training must help us meet and support this mission statement.

The purpose of our training is to ensure we are able to provide the very best service possible to our community. We accomplish this by doing consistent, relevant and quality training of our personnel. Our overall goal in training should be to support the services our members provide through a safe and effective training program. This helps them provide those services in a safe, efficient and effective manner. In order to ensure the Salisbury Fire Department provides the highest level of service to our community, we must provide training that consistently maintains and enhances the knowledge, skills and abilities of our members.

The Salisbury Fire Department does a good job with Company Level Training. This means the bulk of the training is handled at the shift or workgroup level by the Company Officers and is driven by needs determined through operations. Simply put, the types of incidents that we respond to guide the training that we do. Working closely with their personnel, the company officers ensure the training that we do is relevant. Training must meet the needs of *our personnel at the operational level*. This is where the “rubber meets the road” and you will see the results.

Principles to Train By

There are several factors that should be incorporated into the training that we do. These factors are Safety, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Relevance and Training to Standard. These principles will help ensure that we provide the very best training for our personnel. This is not to say that we aren’t doing good training. See the above statement, we are doing a good job with company level training. We also incorporate most of these principles into our training already. But how much do we think about these principles as we develop our training? The key is to understand why they are important and ensure we build on the good training we already do by ensuring we incorporate these principles. This will help us take the good training we are already doing and improve it.

Training Corner (Continued)

Safety

Safety as a factor in training is important for obvious reasons. The job we do is dangerous, some of the training we do also has an element of danger built into it. It is one thing to have an injury occur on the scene during operations where the environment is not a controlled situation. It is quite another to have it occur during training. On the scene, there will always be an unexpected factor that we cannot control. During training, we *must* ensure that it is as controlled an environment as possible. Ensuring a safe training environment is a top priority for those conducting the training. During training, our goal should be realism that is tempered with an element of control to ensure safety.

Our focus during training should be mastery of the skills and techniques that our personnel are performing. This requires company officers to be familiar with the skills and performance levels of their personnel. Company training should work to maintain those skills and allow for them to improve. Scenarios must be realistic enough to allow the students to think through the problem, apply their skills and learn from what they are doing. This will give them the competency to perform effectively and safely during the real incident where the element of danger cannot be eliminated completely. The evolutions they perform should challenge them but not hurt them.

Effective

For training to be effective, it must focus on the needs of the department and its personnel. The department must be able to *effectively* serve its community. This means our personnel must be able to *effectively* provide the services our citizens need. As a department we must ensure training is done that supports the services we provide.

We must also make the training effective for our personnel. It must be focused on them, not just their needs but their existing skill levels. If their existing skills are not maintained and then improved upon, the training has not been effective. If the citizens don't see the members of our department performing effectively on the scene, our training has not served its purpose.

Efficiency

Training must be done in an efficient manner. This simply means keeping it focused enough to be manageable and meeting a stated objective. There are only so many hours in the day, and training has to fit in with many other duties that we have to perform. Longer, elaborate training drills require more planning and can be scheduled appropriately but the bulk of our training should address a particular skill or objective. We have to break our training up and focus on what we can effectively accomplish in small drills.

Training Corner (Continued)

Relevance

The training we do must be relevant. This means it must support what we do and meet our operational needs. The calls that we respond to will dictate what items we train on. They will reveal our needs, as those types of calls will dictate required proficiency. They will also show where we have weaknesses and a need for improvement.

The knowledge, skills and abilities on which we train must be related to the jobs we do on the street as closely as possible. The relevance can best be measured by how our training can make us safer, more effective and efficient at the jobs we do.

Training to Standard

This can carry a dual meaning. The first part of this is that we must train to meet the applicable standards where they exist. The NFPA, OSHA and other standards exist for a reason. In fire or rescue training, the skills and evolutions we do should meet the applicable standard. In EMS training we must meet the applicable standards and ensure we meet criteria established under medical protocol.

The second part of this is simple; ensure your training meets a high standard. Don't set a low standard or low example for your personnel. Ensure that when you train, you train towards a purpose and set high expectations. Do not waste your people's time with poor training.

Summary

"Our department makes 1,120 calls every day. Do you know how many of those calls the public expects perfection on? 1,120. Nobody calls the fire department and says, 'Send me two dumb firemen in a pickup truck'. In three minutes they want five brain-surgeon decathlon champions to come out and solve all their problems."

~Chief John Eversole - Chicago Fire Department

This statement says a lot. We exist to serve our communities. While we may never reach the stellar level of brain surgeon decathlon champions, we should never accept the mediocre level of two untrained dummies in a pickup. We should strive to be the very best that we can be and train to ensure we are competent when we respond.

The public has a right to expect our very best when we respond to their call. It is up to us to ensure that we are up to the task. The purpose of our training is to ensure we are able to provide the very best service possible to our community. We must strive to make our training safe, effective, efficient, relevant and ensure we train to standard. In order to ensure the Salisbury Fire Department provides the highest level of service to our community, we must provide training that consistently maintains and enhances the knowledge, skills and abilities of our members.

Statistics - April Through June 2019

Training

In the fourth quarter of FY 2019 the personnel of the Salisbury Fire Department have put in many hours of training. The training they do covers a variety of topics and includes classroom sessions as well as hands on training evolutions. There was a combined total of 321 individual training sessions which included 524.25 hours of training time. The total man hours for all personnel attending this training was 2,567 hours.

For the personnel of the SFD, this training is necessary to sustain and enhance existing skills, learn new skills and techniques, obtain new certifications and maintain existing certifications. All of this training is done in addition to responding to emergency calls, community service events and station and household duties. For the volunteer personnel, this is also done in addition to work and family commitments.

The Salisbury Fire Department maintains its readiness to serve you through regular, consistent training. We never know what the call may entail, but training in a variety of disciplines helps us be ready for anything. Keeping our personnel trained in this way ensures that when you call, we will be ready to respond.

A breakdown of the training topics is below.

Topic	Hours
Administrative	44
Emergency Medical Services	49
FADO/Drivers Training	77.75
Fire	233.75
Rescue	66.50
Special Operations	53.25
Total	524.25

The Salisbury Fire Department also placed different hose loads on its engines in this quarter. This was done to better accommodate a fire attack in a building where we were unable to get close enough with our apparatus to use the pre-connected lines that we had. The attack lines on the rear of the apparatus were lengthened to 350' and placed in a different configuration in the hose bed. This required the members of the SFD to train on these new hand lines to ensure familiarity with them. Members completed training with these attack lines to better be able to deploy them and repack them correctly.

Familiarization Training

Topic	Personnel	Hours
Hose line Management	71	161

Hazardous Materials

Captain David L. Haines

Recently, the Salisbury Fire Department hosted a Hazardous Materials Technician course. The department with the assistance of the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute held a two week course that included lecture and practical skills. At the end of the two weeks the new hazardous materials technicians became the newest member of our hazardous material response team. They studied extensively the laws, regulations and standards that help them keep our community safe. The students engaged in practical exercises designed to prepare them for responding to real world emergencies.

The addition of these new technicians better prepares for the department to respond to emergencies across the region. Every hazmat incident is labor intensive and many of the roles and responsibilities must be handled by certified hazmat technician.



Emergency Medical Services

Captain Christopher L. Truitt

The second quarter of calendar year 2019 was a busy one for our department's emergency medical services units. Two-thousand four-hundred and forty-eight (2,448) calls for service were handled by the three primary staffed transport units!! Another one-hundred and thirty-four (134) were covered by our secondary transport units, suppression pieces, and even two by our bike teams. No single day stood out as the "busiest" day and the majority of calls, seventy-four percent (74%), occurred between the hours of eight in the morning and ten at night.

Pain and traumatic injuries were the two most prevalent patient complaints and overall one-thousand eight-hundred and twenty-six (1,826) patients were transported by Salisbury EMS to Peninsula Regional Medical Center for further care. Speaking of further care, the Department responded to twenty-four (24) viable patients in cardiac arrest and crews were able to resuscitate nine (9) of these patients, that's thirty-seven and one-half percent (37.5%)!

In addition to these emergency responses, the Department's mobile integrated healthcare coordinator and his team, SWIFT, made close to two-hundred (200) phone and personal visits to alleviate the use of 9-1-1 and the emergency room by patients enrolled in the program.

I hope you have a happy and safe summer, and if you have questions about your EMS clinicians contact Fire Headquarters at 410-548-3120



Historical Corner

Assistant Chief Bryan W. Records

Engine 9 - Class Of '57

There have been quite a few apparatus purchased over the years by SFD, but some stand out above the rest. Some because of their unique nature and some for the work load they performed during their life span. Engine 9 would be special for many reasons. The department became motorized in 1916 and purchased engines through the twenties and thirties before World War II. After the war, a new ladder truck was purchased in 1947 and new engines in '49 and '50. Engine 9 was shipped by freight car from Elmira, NY on July 12, 1957 after passing its Underwriter's Test on July 9, 1957. It featured a 6 cylinder Continental engine with a 750 GPM pump, 500 gallon tank and American LaFrance serial number N-272. This marked the first time that the pump panel would be located on the left side of the vehicle in the department's history. The panel was also a first, having all controls and gauges in one location on the vehicle. Engine 9 was placed in service at Headquarters Company and would be the first run engine from 1957-1972. During that time it would respond to some of the biggest fires in the city's history. Two new 1972 American LaFrance pumpers were delivered in the Fall of 1972 and Engine 9's career in Salisbury would be over.

However, there was a new job waiting in the newly formed Allen VFD just a few miles down the road. Chief Fred Williams and the city donated the veteran engine to help get Allen started. Engine 9 continued to serve flawlessly for several years after, until Allen purchased their first new apparatus. Even then it remained in service as second run.

Today Engine 9 rests peacefully in storage in the village of Allen, MD with the Salisbury markings still under the Allen FD sign on the side of the cab. Listed below are some of the notable alarms that Engine 9 responded to during her outstanding career.

- Watson Shirt Factory - January 18, 1960 - 5 Alarms, located at Baker and Barkley Streets.
- Tank Explosion State Highway Commission – March 7, 1961 - 4,000 gallon tank filled with road tar exploded and threw four firefighters 20 feet, causing burns.



Historical Corner (Continued)

- Homestead Dairy Farm – January 29, 1966 - 6 Alarm fire. Seven barns destroyed during a blizzard and sub-freezing temperatures.
- Ulman Theater – December 29, 1963 - 6 Alarm fire. W. Main Street near Camden Street
- Ritz Theater – February 16, 1963 - General Alarm fire destroyed the entire block. Included Polan's 5 & 10 and the Blue Moon Dance Hall.
- Nathan Reed Fire – February 9, 1966 - 655 West Main Street 5 dead in house fire. Worst loss of life in city's history.
- Moore's Lumber Yard – February 18, 1967 - 6 Alarm fire located at South Boulevard and Kendall Street (now Eastern Shore Drive) Fire fought in sub-freezing temperatures and a snow storm.
- Marvel Packing Co. – April 6, 1967 - Hebron, Md. All 12 Wicomico County fire departments fought the \$1,000,000 blaze for 6 hours.
- Essco Supply Co. – May 19, 1967 - Edgemore Avenue. 5 Alarm fire in 40 mph winds destroyed a large poultry supply warehouse.
- Excelsior Shirt Factory – October 14, 1974 - The first time Allen VFD would respond to Salisbury on mutual aid with Engine 9. 6 Alarm fire in a garment factory located at Jenkins Lane (just off S. Division Street) Fire fought by 125 men and 17 pieces of apparatus.



Fire Marshal's Corner

Fire Marshal Eric E. Cramer

With all the new construction and remodeling going on in the City of Salisbury, the Fire Marshal's office has been busy this past quarter with 57 Fire sprinkler system permits issued, 25 Fire alarm detection system permits issued, 23 plan reviews completed, and 77 Fire safety inspections completed on businesses and multi-family homes.

Moving into the summer months The Fire Marshal's office reminds residents to continue to be fire safe.

Fire Safety

