



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

**John W. Tull**  
*Fire Chief*

**James E. Gladwell**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**W. Darrin Scott**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**E. Lee Smith**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

Fire Headquarters  
325 Cypress Street  
410.548.3120  
Fax 410.548.3121

Visit us on the Web  
[SalisburyFD.com](http://SalisburyFD.com)

Follow us on



# *Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter*

**Volume VII, Issue II**

**2nd Quarter - 2020**

## **Historical Corner**

Assistant Chief Bryan W. Records

### **The Majestic Hotel Fire 1945** **A Game Changer**

The history of devastating fires in Salisbury's downtown district are well documented as far back as 1860. There are some that stand out above the rest like The Great Fire of 1886 and the Ulman Theater Fire of 1963. The fires in the heart of the commercial district always brought out large crowds of spectators and newspaper photographers who documented the fire department's every move for future generations to read about and visualize. They did a pretty good job for the most part, but there is one tragic fire that slipped through the cracks until recently. The downtown district of Salisbury has undergone a major facelift over the past few years with major renovations of its streets, infrastructure, and buildings. Two buildings located at 206 and 212 East Main Street were recently purchased and renovated by SVN Miller. During the renovations the scorched bricks of the masonry walls revealed a story from the past. The building located at then 308 and 310 East Main Street was the location of a well-documented fire on November 1, 1946 in which the Hubert R. White Hardware store was seriously damaged by fire. The building known as the Wimbrow Building housed two insurance companies on the second floor with Hubert R. White Hardware on the first. The fire started around 1:30 p.m. when workers using an acetylene torch accidentally started a fire in a bale of oakum rope. The fire burned from the rear at Market Street throughout the building to Main Street until it was brought under control several hours later. Mutual aid was received from Hebron, Parsonsburg, Pittsville, Delmar, Princess Anne, and the fireboat from Salisbury's Marine Division. The fire loss was estimated between \$75,000 and \$100,000.



## Historical Corner (continued)

The Hubert R. White Hardware fire had made its mark in history, but a fire just 18 months earlier at then 312 and 314 East Main Street would change the course of history for fire prevention in Salisbury. On February 12, 1945 a fire broke out on the second floor in the Majestic Hotel at 314 East Main Street. The sixteen-room hotel occupied the second floor and a liquor dispensary and wholesale candy distributor split the first. The fire was discovered just after 1 a.m. by a cook working at the English Grill across the street. He and other citizens raced across the street to help after notifying the fire department. Two female occupants; Miss Emily Coffin of Snow Hill and Mrs. Josie Foskey of Salisbury died in the fire and six were burned or injured. One occupant slid to safety down tied bed sheets and firefighters rescued two girls from the roof. The building was saved with some water damage to the first floor businesses. The city council immediately set up a committee to investigate the possible revision of the City's 20-year old building code. Those appointed were Mayor Virgil Hitchens, Building Inspector Harry Hastings, and City Solicitor Charles Potts. Two days later the Maryland General Assembly introduced legislation to appoint a seven-person committee to investigate the cause of numerous devastating fires, the fire department's operations, and ways to eliminate future tragic fires. It passed unanimously. The committee chairman was Judge Levin Bailey, assisted by Graham Gunby, Ralph Grier, Avery W. Hall, Samuel Feldman, Henry S. Todd Jr., and Rollie Hastings.



## Historical Corner (continued)

Salisbury had been no stranger to major fires and the 1940's were particularly hard due to a manpower shortage during World War II. Twenty three members of the department had been deployed on active duty; leaving many older members to fill their roles. During the 1940's, Salisbury had a fire rate twice that of Baltimore City. The accumulation of trash and debris throughout the city was also found to be a major cause of the fires. It was not possible to enforce clean up, since the city had no related ordinance. The most important piece of corrective action was the need for a new building code. The committee recommended the adoption of the National Fire Underwriters Code of 1942, along with city ordinances to promote and enforce trash and rubbish clean up. Fortunately the war ended and much needed manpower returned to the fire department. With the adoption of a new building code came recommendations from the Insurance Underwriters. They recommended a full-time chief and twelve firefighters to assure a ready firefighting force 24 hours per day. In addition, the underwriters recommended a municipal fire alarm system to alert volunteer members for calls. The city and fire department took it a step further when they appointed the city's first Fire Marshall in 1946. Past Chief Fred Grier, Jr. was appointed to the position and immediately went to work promoting and enforcing much needed clean-up throughout the city. The city's fire losses dramatically improved after the much needed changes were put in place.

Today the City of Salisbury features a modern fire department with a certified Fire Marshal who works closely with building code enforcement officers. The City is undergoing a renaissance and the buildings of the past are coming to life with a new look and purpose. Building and Fire Codes are in place to make the transition safer than ever. Looking back 75 years, the mistakes of the Majestic Hotel Fire seem so obvious and preventable. Fortunately the leaders of the past took a huge step forward to prevent the tragic fires that plagued the city for years. The size of the Majestic Hotel Fire or its publicity may not have been the most notable in history, but it certainly had the most impact on public safety. It is just another example of how history continuously comes full circle to remind us of our past and lead us toward the future.





## Emergency Medical Services

Captain Chris Truitt

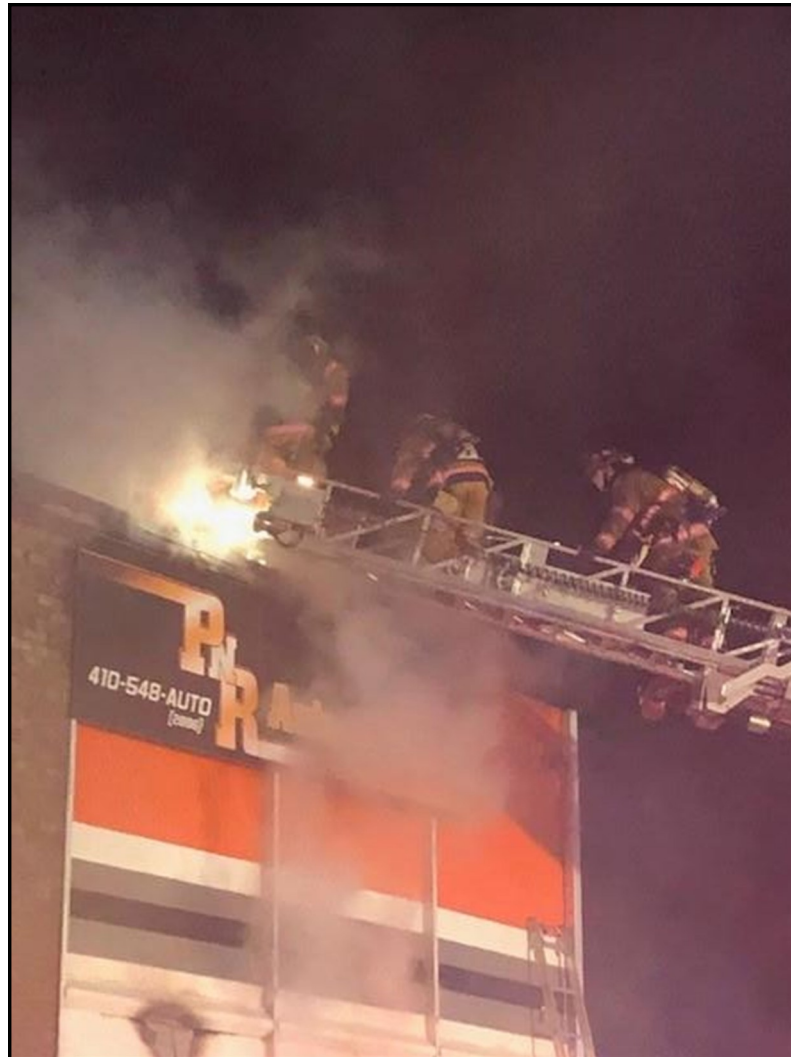
With the cooler temperatures, the SFD responded to two-thousand six hundred and eight (2,608) calls for service last quarter, with over seventeen hundred (1,700) of those being transported to the local emergency department. Overall, the department responded to over ten-thousand and three-hundred calls for EMS in 2019. Traumatic injuries, pain, and general illness were the top three complaints to EMS in the fourth quarter. Ambulance A-16 was the busiest unit, with almost nine-hundred (900) calls for service alone. EMS clinicians responded to twenty-four (24) medical patients without a pulse and were able to get a return of circulation in nine (9) of these patients prior to arrival at the hospital. Three of our clinicians are currently enrolled in advanced life support classes through the local community colleges. These individuals have begun their field internships and are now applying their lessons in the “real world” under oversight of senior EMS clinicians on shift.

The fall was just as productive for the Salisbury Wicomico Integrated First care Team (SWIFT). Paramedic Phippin completed a rigorous forty-hour (40) training program in Baltimore focused solely on mobile-integrated healthcare and patient centric care. The SWIFT program enrolled seven new patients who have utilized 9-1-1 five or more times in the six previous months. The team has already made referrals for these individuals to various health services, including ensuring seven (7) of these patients now have a primary care physician to visit. Paramedic David Phippin and his team will continue to work with these patients to ensure they receive the care and follow ups needed to decrease their dependency on emergency services.

I hope you have a happy and safe winter and if you have questions about your EMS clinicians contact Fire Headquarters at 410-548-3120 or email [ctrutt@salisbury.md](mailto:ctrutt@salisbury.md).



## Hot Shots



## From The Training Officer

Captain David L. Haines

In this quarter, 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 238 individual training sessions which included 458.50 hours of training time. The total personnel-hours for all members attending this training was 3,216.25 hours.

During this quarter, monthly training focused on Emergency Medical Services, Rescue Company Operations, Truck Company Operations and Engine Company Operations. In October, personnel trained on Pediatric High Performance CPR for EMS Training and Search and Rescue for Rescue Company Training. In November, crews did their Annual FADO (Fire Apparatus Driver Operator) Recertification Training and also completed ground ladder training for their Truck Company training. For December, crews completed Airway Management training for EMS, Foam training for their Engine Company training and an SCBA Familiarization drill.

Personnel also conducted shift level training in a variety of other topics throughout the quarter. This training is done at the discretion of the company officers and allows flexibility in what training they do based on operational needs.

A breakdown of the training topics is below.

Topic	Hours
Administrative	17.00
Emergency Medical Services	133.75
FADO/Drivers Training	89.50
Fire	175.25
Rescue	29.00
Special Operations	13.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>458.50</b>

### EMS Training

The Salisbury Fire Department continued training with the new HandTevy App which makes working cardiac arrests on pediatric and adult patients a much smoother operation. This enhances our clinician's ability to handle these complex calls in a more precise way by quickly providing readily accessible information on medications, procedures and dosages. Personnel continued reviewing this new application in October and crews ran Pediatric High Performance CPR scenarios to prepare for an incident if needed. Salisbury personnel also assisted with training using this new app in the Ocean City Fire Department. EMS Captain Chris Truitt and Sergeant Ron Wismer both helped provide the training to our neighbors down at the beach.

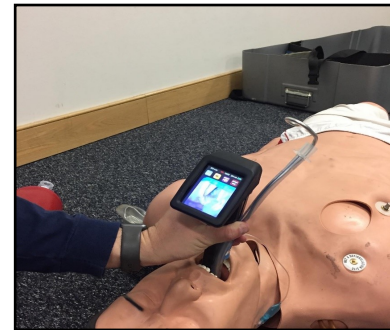
In October, Advanced Life Support certified personnel with the Salisbury Fire Department attended annual Paramedic Refresher training to maintain their Paramedic certification. This training was conducted every week throughout the month of October, and each week covered a different topic or skill. These included sessions on advanced airway management, pediatric care, cardiology, medical and trauma patient care.

In December, crews trained on airway management techniques. Personnel reviewed both BLS and ALS level airway skills and practiced the techniques. These procedures are essential for our clinicians to be able to provide proper care for a patient who is a serious medical or trauma patient and needs to have a patent airway maintained in the pre-hospital setting.

## Training Continued

### EMS Training

Topic	Personnel	Hours
Pediatric HPCPR	66	99
Airway Management	61	84.50
OCEMS Training	2	16
Paramedic Refresher	83	623



### FADO Recertification Training

Salisbury Fire Department personnel completed their annual driver operator recertification training in November. For all SFD personnel that drive fire department vehicles, this is mandatory training that helps ensure our drivers operate vehicles in a safe manner and are proficient in operating the fire apparatus on emergency incidents.

The drivers training consisted of an obstacle course set up using cones. This course gives drivers a chance to practice basic vehicle maneuvering in a controlled setting. The course includes a serpentine section (done forwards and backwards), lane change, an alley dock/backing station, a diminishing lane obstacle and a vehicle turnaround station.

The pumping scenario for this year's recertification included a relay pumping scenario. In this scenario, fire engines would be in a rural setting with a longer distance hose lay to deliver water between fire apparatus. This could be used in the outlying areas where Salisbury responds to assist other agencies. Drivers had to calculate the pump discharge pressures needed to send the proper amount of water forward to the fire ground using the relay.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
FADO Recertification	119	357



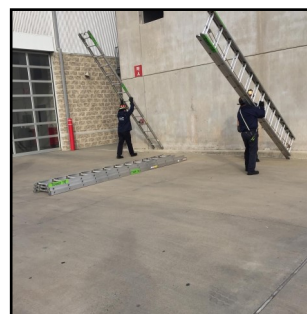
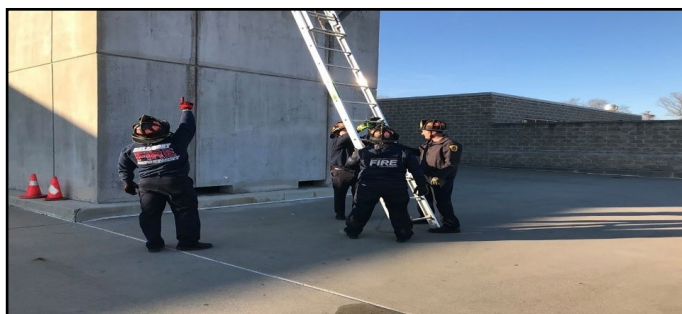


## Training Continued

### Ground Ladder Training

Personnel reviewed ground ladders. The crews went over the basic parts and uses of ground ladders and practiced ground ladder carries, throws and raises. Regular training on these techniques ensures that when ladders are needed on the fire-ground, they can be quickly placed and ready for use. If a firefighter needs the ladder for escape or rescue of a trapped occupant, they will be there. The Salisbury Fire Department makes it a habit of ensuring ladders are placed on the buildings we operate on at fires.

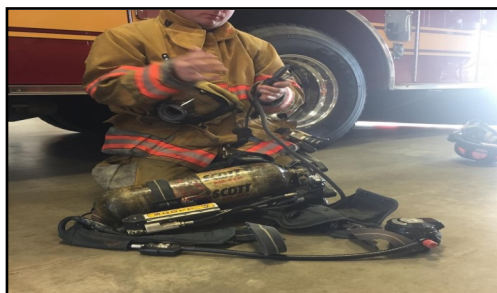
Topic	Personnel	Hours
Ground Ladder Training	63	112



### SCBA Drill

The SFD personnel completed training wearing their full personal protective ensemble (turnout gear) including their SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). This training required them to navigate a small course set up in the engine bay while wearing their SCBA. They navigated this course in zero visibility conditions and practiced following the hose lines to maintain their orientation.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
SCBA Familiarization Drill	50	64





## Training Continued

### Foam Equipment Familiarization

Personnel reviewed the firefighting foam and its related equipment in December. This training helps our members maintain proficiency with equipment that we don't often use. The Salisbury Fire Department has Class A Foam for use on ordinary combustible materials and Class B Foam for use on flammable liquids. Class A foam is used as a wetting agent which helps water soak into the burning material more easily to facilitate extinguishment. Class B Foams provide a blanket over a flammable liquid to separate the fuel from the surrounding oxygen.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
Foam Operations Training Drill	65	95

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.

### Year in Review

In all of 2019 (January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>) the personnel of the Salisbury Fire Department had a busy year when it came to training. The combined total included 1,194 individual training sessions which included a total of 2,192.67 hours of training time. There were a total of 13,146.80 personnel-hours for all members attending this training.

Topic	Hours
Administrative	171.33
Emergency Medical Services	563.25
FADO/Drivers Training	306.50
Fire	747.59
Rescue	201.25
Special Operations	202.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,192.67</b>

## Correspondence From The Community

