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# *Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter*

**Volume IV, Issue III**

**3rd Quarter - 2017**

## **Fire Prevention & Public Education**

**Assistant Chief James E. Gladwell**

The Department stayed busy through the winter months with regard to community service and public education. This is the time of year when Chief Donaway's annual Blazing a Trail for Literacy program has volunteer and career members visiting local elementary school second grade classrooms reading to hundreds of students. Students are challenged to read various books for at least 20 minutes per day, away from school. The students' teachers choose first, second, and third place "winners" from each class who receive prizes ranging from new backpacks to gift cards to Barnes and Noble. While the three "top" winners are recognized by their respective schools, all who participate gain valuable reading skills. Teachers, students, school administrators, and the SFD all end up being winners!



The annual Wicomico County Career Day was again held at Salisbury University on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. A HUGE "Thank you!" to FF/ EMT-B Nate Thompson for spending eight hours of his day as an ambassador/recruiter to nearly 140 local high school students who showed interest in the Salisbury Fire Department, as either a future volunteer or career member. Strong work, Nate!

Chief Gladwell and a mixture of career/volunteer personnel participated in the annual Read Across America event held at the Wicomico County Free Library; Downtown Branch on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 children and 80+ parents attended the reading of Dr Seuss books, followed by tours of Engine 16. It was a fun morning full of positive interaction with the community.

## Fire Prevention & Public Education (continued)

For the quarter encompassing 1 January 2017 through 31 March 2017, and based on data input obtained from Firehouse Software, the Department participated in 34 community service/public service events. Three “After the Fire” programs were completed and 30 smoke alarms were distributed/installed by SFD personnel. The Department had positive interaction with 1,208 adults and 1,389 children (2,597 souls!!) and spent approximately 156 hours getting the job done.

As always, strong work by all involved!!!



## Emergency Medical Services

Lieutenant Chris Truitt

### Snap shot of Salisbury EMS in 2016

2016 was another busy year for Salisbury Fire Department's emergency medical services (EMS). Crews responded to 9,525 calls for service (roughly 26 calls per day), and the majority of those calls were handled by our three staffed transport units. Of those calls, 6,941 patients were transported to the hospital for further care or evaluation.

Salisbury EMS also added some new units and technology to our fleet, including three new transport units with the newest heart monitors and devices to assist with cardiac arrests. Speaking of cardiac arrests, Salisbury EMS responded to 145 patients last year without a heartbeat or adequate breathing, and 22 of those patients were delivered to the hospital with a heartbeat! That is a 15% rate of survival for out of hospital cardiac arrest, almost double the national average of 8% (heart.org). A big part of this increased survival can be attributed to bystander CPR, which 20 patients received before Salisbury EMS arrived on location.

As you can see, 2016 was a busy, productive year for Salisbury EMS. 2017 is shaping up to be just as demanding, as well as adding opportunities for Salisbury EMS to adapt our delivery model to meet the needs of all of our patients. Rest assured that we are ready to deliver the high level of service our citizens deserve twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.





## Hot Shots



# Hazardous Materials

Acting Lieutenant Ron Wismer

The world of Hazardous Materials is inexorably tied to special operations in the fire service. On a larger scale it is tied to the idea of disaster preparedness. Our job is to be the boots on the ground responders in a large chain of federal, state, and local resources. The lowest level of this chain however is the ordinary citizen. In that vein I want to go over some resources that you can do to make yourself more prepared for when disaster strikes.

The best resource for most people is <https://www.ready.gov/>. This federal website is full of resources and guides for the ordinary citizen to prepare. There is no expectation that every person is going to be a doomsday prepper and bury a bunker in their backyard. That being said, it is a good idea for everyone to have some plans for natural disasters. Living on the Eastern Shore we are exposed to blizzards, floods and hurricanes. We can also face the occasional earthquake and tornado. The federal website covers everything to include chemical attacks and hazardous material incidents. Knowing all that, you and your family should have a plan.

Most of these plans include having an emergency preparedness kit. The federal government kit includes hand crank radio, flashlights and a supply of water and food. I personally would recommend that everyone should have a small first aid kit in their home. Not only is this useful for disasters but also for everyday minor emergencies that pop up. In your kit you should also include a list of you and your families' prescribed medications. This can be helpful to aid workers when you report to a shelter.

The time to prepare is now, not when an emergency happens. Take the time to explore the resources that government has made available to you. In a disaster every bit of preparedness will help.



# Correspondence from the Community

## THANKS!

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

SINCERELY, *Jamie*

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 + Kris

To: Station # 16

You have done so much. When my wife (True) had an accident, you were on the scene. You sent flowers, you called & kept check on us...

And then when my (chaplain Tyrone) father died some weeks later you still checked on us sent flowers to the church. That's love & caring. Thanks so much.

On behalf of the PTF of Salisbury Christian School please accept our thanks for the donation you made to our 2017 Gala. The Fire Chief for a day was a great addition to our silent auction, and was well received. With your help we were able to raise \$40,000 for Enhancement to the school.

Blessings,  
The 2017 Gala  
Committee

Dear James and Crew,

Thank you so very much for volunteering to read and attend the Salisbury Jaycees Read Across America Event at the library. You touched the lives of 95 children, and that will never be forgotten. We look forward to seeing you next year!

The 2017 Salisbury  
Jaycees