



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

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Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter

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3rd Quarter - 2020

EMS Corner

Captain Christopher L. Truitt

Happy New Year! 2020 has seen our clinicians respond to 2,507 calls for service already, with 1,733 transports to Peninsula Regional Medical Center. General pain, shortness of breath, and chest pains were the top three symptoms for EMS calls. Ambulance A-16 was the busiest unit, with 852 responses! EMS clinicians responded to 20 out of hospital cardiac arrests and 8 of those patients were admitted to the hospital with a spontaneous return of circulation!!



The end of the first quarter has brought a new challenge to the entire health care community- COVID-19. This aggressive virus has caused many changes and updates to prehospital care and treatment modalities, as well as impacting the lives of our community at large. EMS clinicians have increased their use of personal protective equipment on each call above the old "normal" of gloves for each encounter. These measures are just another step taken to "flatten the curve" and keep our clinicians healthy and ready to continue to deliver competent and compassionate care. All departmental members begin their day with a temperature check and yes/no questions regarding signs and symptoms to ensure they are ready for work.

The Salisbury Fire Department urges everyone to continue to practice social distancing and if you do have to go into public you should wear a mask or a similar product to cover your mouth and nose. 9-1-1 use should still be reserved for life-threatening emergencies, however, should you have questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 please contact the hotline set up by PRMC and the Health Department at either 2-1-1 or 410-912-6889. We all hope that the "shelter in place" can be lifted soon so that we can enjoy the nicer weather that is just around the corner, but we must ensure that the danger of exposure has diminished.

I hope you have a safe and healthy start to 2020! If you have questions about your EMS clinicians contact Fire Headquarters at 410-548-3120 or email ctrutt@salisbury.md

Cadet Corner

Captain Benjamin Waples

Over the past six month the cadets of the Department have been very busy! We had two members in the Firefighter I program and three members start the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic program. As of the end of the last grading term our cadets had an average GPA of 3.1 for the last term and a 3.2 for the year. We are extremely proud of their hard work of going to school, taking classes for the Department, and riding.

Over the past three months our cadets have been riding on fire and EMS apparatus for a total close to 440 hours! Additionally, in the previous three months we have brought in two new cadet members and have an additional two members finishing our intake process. This will bring out total cadet membership up to 13 members.

To learn more about our intake process, go to the Volunteer Membership article where we describe it. If you are interested in becoming a cadet, please stop by any of the stations and our members will be happy to help explain the process and get you in touch with the right people to help you with the process! We are always looking for new members!



Volunteer Corner

Captain Benjamin Waples

It has been a busy time since we last reported about the volunteer members' activities for the Department. Since our last report, we have brought 11 new volunteer members in to the Department that have already started taking classes, with nine more people going through the final process to become members. In order to help explain the process to become a member, please continue reading about our new member intake process. The membership process starts by submitting an application either online or in person at Fire Headquarters on Cypress St. This application is sent to a group of individuals that comprise the Personnel Committee. These members review the applications, call references, and then interview the candidates to see if they will fit with our Department and membership. After the interviews the committee discusses the candidates and makes the determination to pass them along or to remove them from the process. If the member continues the process, they will be contacted by the Department's Administrative office to schedule their background check and physical. When we get these reports back with a clean background and clean bill of health, the member is sent a welcome letter and asked to complete some paperwork. They are then given contact information to contact the volunteer leadership to help get them registered for classes, get gear and uniform items, and help with some of the basics of life in the firehouse. If the candidate does not pass the background check or the physical requirements they will be notified of that in writing from the Department Administration. If a candidate has any question throughout the process, they can contact the Administrative office and ask about their status.

We would like to congratulate Assistant Chief Billy Lewis, who was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief and is now responsible for Fire Station 2. Chief Lewis has been a member of the Department for close to 15 years. Chief Lewis has been very active and has already increased the membership presence and activity of station 2 in the three short months he's been there. Congratulations Chief! Keep up the great work!

We have had five members complete the latest Firefighter I class, we had 11 complete a hazardous materials response course, and close to 20 sign-up and start to take Emergency Medical Technician-Basic when the class was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are extremely proud of these members and all the great work they are doing! To our membership: Keep taking classes and improving yourself. It makes you stronger and it makes our Department stronger!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer member of the Department, please stop by any of our stations. We would be happy to help you start your process to become a member! We are always looking for new members that are interested in riding fire trucks, ambulances, and helping their community.

Hot Shots



From The Training Officer

Captain David L. Haines

In the quarter of 2020 (January 1st through March 31st) 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 237 individual training sessions which included 444.83 hours of training time. The total man hours for all personnel attending this training was 2,798.99 hours.

During this quarter, monthly training focused on Emergency Medical Services, Rescue Company Operations, Truck Company Operations and Engine Company Operations. Personnel trained on Rapid Intervention techniques, forced entry wall breaching and standpipe operations. Crews also completed their Annual CPR Recertification. In February and March, personnel also completed Annual Recertification Training in some of the Special Operations Disciplines.

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	72.50
Emergency Medical Services	59.00
FADO/Drivers Training	48.00
Fire	166.33
Rescue	31.50
Special Operations	67.50
Total	444.83

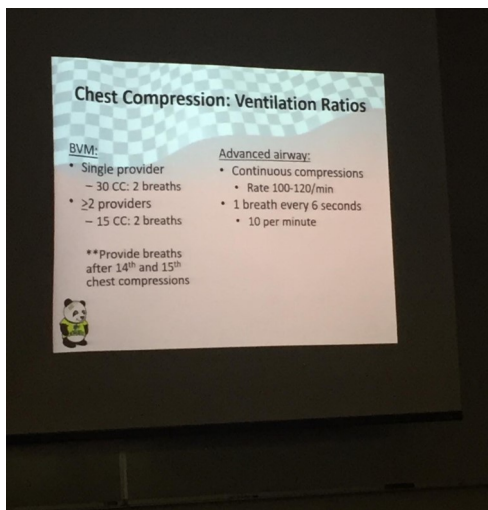
EMS Training

The Salisbury Fire Department personnel completed their annual CPR Recertification training in February. This training is done every year and is required for all of our members. Our personnel performed basic CPR but also focused on High Performance CPR which is done by the crews when they respond to this type of call. Being proficient in these methods allows our personnel to act rapidly and perform CPR with minimal interruptions and near seamless transitions when switching out personnel performing compressions. These techniques help give a patient the best possible chance at survival.

Training Continued

CPR Training

Topic	Personnel	Hours
CPR Recertification	87	248



Special Operations Recertification Training

Salisbury Fire Department personnel completed their annual recertification training for Hazardous Materials and Confined Space in February and March. This training is required for all members that are part of the HazMat or Confined Space Rescue Teams.

The HazMat training consisted of a classroom session involving research of a hazardous materials incident and was followed by some challenging hands on training using a special leak/spill prop from the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. Personnel were given a scenario of a leak from a cargo container and had to don specialized gear to safely enter the area and mitigate the hazard.

The Confined Space Training was done using an underground vault at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute Training Center in Princess Anne. Crews had to safely enter the below grade atmosphere while wearing specialized personal protective equipment and using a rope system. While in the vault, they packaged a patient for removal and then brought the patient out using the rope hauling system.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
HazMat Recertification	34	272
Confined Space Recertification	14	112

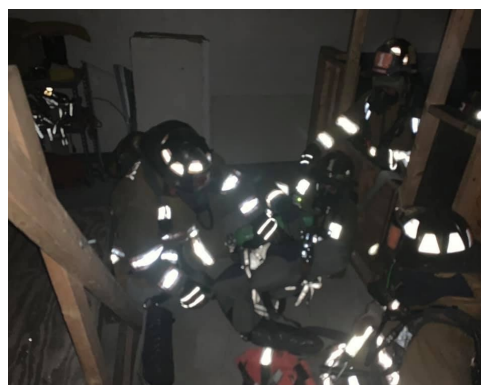
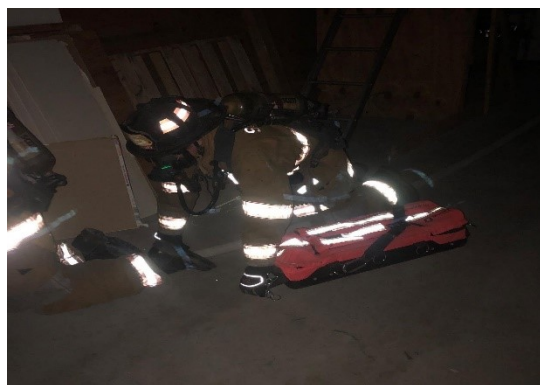
Training Continued



R.I.T Training

Personnel completed training on R.I.T (Rapid Intervention Team) techniques. This training prepares our crews for the situation of having to rescue a downed firefighter. The crews went over the basic RIT equipment and concepts. They were then given a scenario of a firefighter who became lost while operating inside a structure fire and became caught in a collapse. Personnel deployed as a RIT Team and had to quickly locate, packaged and remove the downed firefighter.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
RIT Team Drills	76	168



Training Continued

Wall Breaching Drill

The SFD personnel completed training on wall breaching. This training required them to breach through an interior wall and then pass themselves through the opening between the wall studs. In the event that a firefighter needed to quickly escape an untenable area inside a fire and get to a safe area or to quickly gain access to an area where a known victim was located, being able to quickly breach through a wall could mean the difference between life and death.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
Wall Breaching Drill	68	126

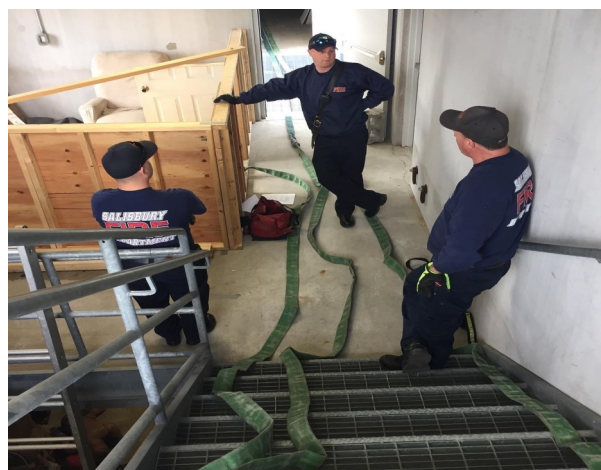


Training Continued

Standpipe Operation Training

Personnel practiced with techniques they would use when operating in buildings equipped with a standpipe system. For firefighters operating in these buildings during a fire, it is important to be able to quickly supply the standpipe with water from the engine and connect our high rise hose bundles to the standpipe fitting in the stairwell to start our fire attack.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
Standpipe Drill	62	124



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.

Public Education

Deputy Chief James E. Gladwell

The COVID-19/Coronavirus issue has certainly curtailed the Salisbury Fire Department's ability to reach out in-person to our community. However, the SFD continues to fulfill its Mission regarding fire prevention and public education through various social media venues. While we are all asked to stay at home to help reduce the pandemic's influence, this is an excellent opportunity for each of us to take some good housekeeping steps to ensure our homes remain safe from fire!

Take some time to check your smoke alarms to ensure each is working as it should. Test the alarm, change batteries (if applicable), and blow any dust out of the unit. If you've purchased smoke alarms and have yet to install them, now is a great time to address that very simple project. According to the National Safety Council (NSC) three out of every five fire deaths in the United States results from fires in homes with no smoke alarms.

While you're checking your smoke alarms, also check your carbon monoxide (CO) detector, if applicable. Anything that burns fuel can potentially become a source of carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that can kill. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each bedroom and on every level of the home. The safety tips for CO detectors mirror those of smoke alarms: change the batteries, test them and interconnect them, if possible. Also, make sure vents for your gas appliances (fireplace, dryer, stove and furnace) are free and clear of snow or debris.

Spring has sprung! Look around your residence and cut back or remove any brush, tree limbs, or any other debris that may be against your home to remove any possible fuel. With all the recent wind, this could prove to be an invaluable decision.

If you haven't already done so, use some of this down time to develop and/or review your family escape plan. This is especially important if small children or the elderly are staying in your home. Educate any such individuals in your home by having them draw an overview of your home and determine multiple ways out of each room. Designate a meeting place outside, away from where first responders will arrive in the event of a true emergency, and be creative by having your own fire drill to practice and reinforce what everyone has learned. While you're at it, review the proper use of 9-1-1 for everyone in the home. Know what is/isn't a true emergency and when to actually dial 9-1-1. Teach everyone that dispatchers are their first contact point and will ask relevant questions in an effort to ensure the correct resources are sent. Keep calm.



Public Education Continued

Hurricane season is not far off. The time to develop an emergency plan in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event is not when that event is taking place. All of us should have a plan developed well before any such incident that can be implemented during/after the incident occurs. Create home and car emergency kits that contain survival items such as one gallon of water per person for each day, a three-day supply of food (preferably items that do not require refrigeration!), flashlights/batteries, first-aid kit, blankets, sheets, duct tape, tarps/rolls of plastic, and any medicines required. Develop both shelter-in-place plans as well as getaway plans with multiple destinations and routes to each as roadways could be blocked or damaged. Having a generator is a good idea but remember to never run a generator inside of any structure!

All the extra home time may lead to some pretty extensive cleaning around the house. Be sure to read all directions and warning labels to ensure the proper use of any cleaning chemicals you may be using. Also ensure plenty of ventilation and avoid the mixing of cleaning chemicals as this can create serious respiratory hazards, especially in enclosed areas.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/spring>

Please visit the SFD's Facebook page and be on the lookout for a new reading program being developed and presented by the Department. The new Fired Up for Reading program will have members of the SFD reading children's books on Facebook Live on Thursday's beginning at 1030. We are very much looking forward to this new and exciting program where we hope to not only read to children but to also teach and answer questions relating to all things safety-related. Visit us and leave a comment and let us know what you think!

Remember: Take care of yourself and address your physical, mental, and emotional needs! Do not feel ashamed or that you are alone. Reach out if you need assistance. We are all in this together!

Stay safe!



Correspondence From The Community

Dear Firefighters,

Thank you so much.
I stopped by last week to ask for two smoke detectors. Without hesitation you invited me in. You made me feel very welcome. The team instructed me how to install and maintain it. I feel so thankful and appreciative for what you have done for our family.
Always grateful,
Thomas and Deborah Long

Thank you! for
keeping us to raise our
American flag at the
Winicono Cemetery.
Post 194 VFW
David/Barbara

FRIDAY the 28th/2020
of February

Dear Chief,
just leaving Station 46 to come back too France,
Stephanie and Julien join me to say a big MERCI
(thanks).

You have a wonderful people to work and to command.
Everybody has been given to us an amazing welcome.
The schedule that Bryan RECORDS made for us was a pleasant one and we discovered a lot of techniques and protocols but, before all, we appreciated the brotherhood between your crews and us.

We wish to your Fire Department to keep going with humanity on the calls as so as efficiently.

Above all, our wish for a safe and professional service.

Stephanie

Julien

Friendly, Eric