



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

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Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter

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1st Quarter - 2017

From the Desk of the Chief **“New Beginnings”**

Fire some time now, we have been moving towards a couple of “new beginnings” for our department. Each “new beginning” has in its concept and its potential to significantly impact the department for many years to come. I am speaking about two specific “new beginnings”. The first is the construction and opening of a new fire station and the other a new way of doing our business from an operational volunteer response perspective.



The new Fire Station #2 replaces the old building that served the community for 86 years. The new building is located directly across the street from the old building and is a state of the art facility designed to meet the demands that a full service, all risks fire department. The old building was approximately 8,800 square feet and lacked the amenities needed for a building that is occupied 24 hours per day by members and employees of the department. The new building is approximately 14,700 square feet and is a state of the art facility. This “new beginning” provides a place and an opportunity for our members to assemble and staff apparatus with a renewed commitment to excellence in public safety and service. I am proud of the efforts put forth by all members in assisting the department in this endeavor. I am particularly proud to be the Chief of this great department and rebuilding the long standing legacy of service at Fire Station # 2 where I began my fire service career as a volunteer so many years ago.

The second “new beginning” positions the department to improve our operational delivery across all areas by changing the way we respond to emergencies. Since 1872 the volunteer section of our department has responded to alarms by responding, from wherever their location, to the fire station. Once there the members would jump onto apparatus to begin the actual response to an emergency. Many things have change since 1872. Incidents have dramatically increased. Travel barriers to the station have delayed response. Living and working proximity to the fire stations have caused delays, just to name a few. In all cases, the things that hamper our ability to respond have increased to the point where change is needed to continue the tradition of excellence all citizens expect and deserve from its fire department.

From the Desk of the Chief (continued)

Beginning now the department is transitioning to a different response model for our volunteers. The “new beginning” is one where our volunteer members will staff the stations and apparatus on an on-going basis so that the barriers for response are negated and in-station crews are poised to respond in a moment’s notice. This new model allows the department to staff units and stations with a combination of career and volunteer members, thus building on the strength of a combination system and fostering a more cohesive team environment. I am excited for this “new beginning” because of the value added benefit of in-station staffing and for the ability of the department to increase our services to the community.

All “new beginnings” require change and change brings uncertainty and uncomfortableness. However, change brings forth opportunities for growth. There are a still lot more things going on in the SFD and I am happy to report that there is still work to do as we progress to becoming a best in class emergency services organization. I continue to be amazed at the efforts of our dedicated members. My confidence is high in the men and women of the department and their dedication to excellence. As we work toward our goals, I can state with unwavering certainty that the members of the Salisbury Fire Department deserve all of the credit for our achievements and successes.

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 behalf of the citizens we are sworn to protect, I thank them for their continued support and want them to know that their service is valued and much appreciated. We will continue to remain focused on the mission, core values, and vision for our department. I look forward, with great confidence that we will ultimately be a truly integrated combination fire service that provides the very best in public safety.

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Richard A. Hoppes

Richard A. Hoppes, BS
Chief of the Department



Emergency Medical Services


Acting Lieutenant Chris Truitt

Don't Fall into Fall!

Fall, or Autumn, is here (finally) and the Salisbury Fire Department would like to remind our citizens of the need for fall safety. While most falls do not result in injury, one in every five does lead to some type of broken bone or head injury. It is estimated that almost 3 million falls occur annually in the United States that require being seen at an emergency room. Now we know that not all falls can be eliminated, but we encourage everyone to take steps to avoid any unnecessary risks. Below are some tips from the CDC to prevent falls in and around the home.

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist to review your medicines to see if any might make you dizzy or sleepy. This should include prescription medicines and over-the counter medicines.
- Do Strength and Balance Exercises, especially those that strengthen your legs
- Have Your Eyes Checked annually. If you have bifocal or progressive lenses, you may want to get a pair of glasses with only your distance prescription for outdoor activities, such as walking.
- Get rid of things you could trip over, such as loose rugs or unneeded extension cords
- Add grab bars inside and outside your tub or shower and next to the toilet.
- Put railings on both sides of stairs.
- Make sure your home has lots of light by adding more or brighter light bulbs.
- And make sure your steps are clear of debris, including ice or snow

We hope these tips help to make your fall a safer, more enjoyable time of year. Remember: you are the first step in injury prevention! Take care and we hope you enjoy the season. For more information, check out the CDC's website on falls for adults at www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalsafety/falls/adultfalls.html.



Keep FALLS

Out of your AUTUMN

Fall injuries are a serious threat to health and quality of life

Accidental Falls: No Laughing Matter!

Among those over age 65, accidental falls are:

- The leading cause of injury death,
- The most common cause of nonfatal injury; and
- The number one reason for hospital admission for trauma

Each year:

- 1 in 3 adults over age 65 will suffer an accidental fall; and
- 2 million will be treated in emergency rooms for fall-related injuries

Accidental falls can result in:

- Hip fractures,
- Traumatic brain injuries (TBI); and
- Loss of mobility and independence

Call 9-1-1 for falls, especially if you strike your head

Take Action to Prevent Fall Injuries

Get some exercise. Lack of exercise can lead to weak legs and this increases the chances of falling. Exercise programs like Tai Chi can increase strength and improve balance, making falls much less likely.

Be mindful of medications. Some medicines—or combinations of medicines—can have side effects like dizziness or drowsiness. This can make falling more likely. Having a doctor or pharmacist review all medications can help reduce the chance of risky side effects and drug interactions.

Keep your vision sharp. Poor vision can make it harder to get around safely. To help make sure you're seeing clearly, older adults should have their eyes checked every year and wear glasses or contact lenses with the right prescription strength.

Eliminate hazards at home. About half of all falls happen at home. Identify potential fall hazards in the home that need to be removed or changed, like tripping hazards, clutter, and poor lighting.

Most Accidental Falls are Preventable

Checklist for Home Safety

- ☐ Remove things you can trip over (like papers, books, clothes, and shoes) from stairs and places where you walk.
- ☐ Install handrails and lights on all staircases.
- ☐ Remove small throw rugs or use double-sided tape to keep the rugs from slipping.
- ☐ Keep items you use often in cabinets you can reach easily without using a step stool.
- ☐ Put grab bars inside and next to the tub or shower and next to your toilet.
- ☐ Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors.
- ☐ Improve the lighting in your home. As you get older, you need brighter lights to see well. Hang light-weight curtains or shades to reduce glare.
- ☐ Wear shoes both inside and outside the house. Avoid going barefoot or wearing slippers.

IF YOU SUFFER A FALL

- **Call 9-1-1 Immediately:** Even apparently minor falls can result in serious injuries
- **Prevent Further Injury:** Limit your movement until help arrives, especially your back and neck
- **Hidden Injuries:** Falls can result in serious head injuries, even though you may feel fine



Hot Shots



Historical Corner

Assistant Chief Bryan W. Records

Polan's 5 & 10 Fire



Large fires in the city's Downtown District are well documented over the years. Fires such as Benjamin's, Kinnerly and Mitchell and the Great Fire of 1886 are three that quickly come to mind. All of which occurred on the East side of the Wicomico River. On February 16, 1963, a fire broke out that would eventually destroy the better portion of a City block. At 2:30 p.m. a commercial fire alarm was sounded for a fire at the corner of West Main and Lake Street. Arriving firefighters were met with a well advanced fire that involved several buildings and businesses. The tightly connected brick structures housed Polan's 5 & 10, Ritz Theater, Blue Moon Night Club, The Spot Tavern, Melvin's restaurant and a small beauty parlor. Forty patrons were quickly evacuated from the dance hall down a fire escape and fortunately the theater was not open at the time of the fire.

This location was no stranger to working fires. The fire on February 16th would be the fourth in twenty years at this location. Each time the owners would restore their businesses after the fires. Subfreezing temperatures would set the tone for the day and additional help was requested. Mutual Aid was received from Hebron, Fruitland, Delmar and Parsonsburg to join forces with 100 members of the Salisbury Fire Department. A huge column of smoke could be seen for miles and the newly constructed Salisbury Parkway was filled with passing motorists looking to get an unobstructed view of the action. A thick coating of ice quickly formed on every surface as hose lines and the aerials Master Stream attacked the fire. The fire boat Fred Grier supplied water from the Wicomico River at the West Main Street bridge to multiple fire apparatus. The fire was finally brought under control after 5 p.m. One civilian was transported to the hospital after slipping on the ice and one firefighter received frostbite on his face. The fire was so serious that the fire bell was also sounded in addition to the horn system located at the old Headquarters station.

Historical Corner (continued)

The cause of the fire was believed to have originated from a heating plant under the stairwell of Polan's 5 & 10. Fire Marshal Fred A. Grier estimated the damage to be around \$200,000.00. Sadly the owners never rebuilt after the devastating fire and it began what would be a steady decline of the commercial district on the City's West side. Today only a vacant lot and parking area stand where this fire occurred. So as you view the attached photos you can get a glimpse of Salisbury's past and one of the greater alarm fires that marked our city's history.



Fire Prevention & Public Education

Assistant Chief James E. Gladwell

Wow! What a busy summer season! The SFD handled numerous events during the hot time of the year, but three events came to the forefront: Red, White, and BOOM!, National Night Out and the annual SFD Open House.

The annual Red, White, and BOOM! event was its usual huge success. The fireworks were great, as was the participation of the SFD. Members of the SFD provided suppression protection, crowd control, EMS, and ensured Old Glory was proudly displayed along Civic Avenue. It is truly an awesome sight to watch the SFD's garrison flag flying high from Tower 16 during the fireworks presentation. Many THANKS! to all the volunteer and career members who helped make this event such a success.

The annual National Night Out event took place on Tuesday 3 August 2016 with the SFD utilizing the safety trailer loaned to us by the Willards Vol Fire Dept. The trailer is an interactive, educational gem whereby children and adults can learn about fire safety and prevention principles along with the proper use of the 9-1-1 system and exit/escape routes out of their homes in the event of a fire. Volunteers from all three stations, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary assisted with apparatus displays and the distribution of Fire Prevention information and "goodies" for the children. It is estimated that over 1000 civilians attended the event, with approximately 275 taking advantage of the safety trailer tours.



Fire Prevention & Public Education (continued)

Right on the heels of National Night Out came the SFD's annual Open House event. Chief Donaway and the crew of B Shift, along with the assistance of the Ladies Auxiliary and other members, provided an outstanding opportunity for the community we serve to visit Station 16 on Saturday 13 August 2016 to learn what it is their fire department does for their community. Numerous exhibitions were offered, including a HAZMAT incident, rappelling demonstration, fire extinguisher demo, EMS demo, face painting for the little ones in attendance, and numerous others. The Ladies kept everyone fed and hydrated during the extreme heat. The safety trailer was on hand, as well as a bounce house and dunking booth staffed by DC Tull and his son, Justin. Over 300 members of our community attended the Open House.

New to this year was a 5K Walk/Run event held prior to the Open House event. Approximately 50 participants braved the heat and humidity to complete the event, which was free of charge to this year's participants. KUDOS to A/L Dennis and FFEMTB Andrews for all their hard work getting this event off the ground. It's expected that next year's 5K will be even larger!

For the quarter encompassing 1 July 2016 through 30 September 2016 and based on data entered in our Firehouse Software program, the SFD handled 50 Public Education/Community Service/Fire Prevention events requiring over 800 staff hours. 26 smoke alarms were distributed. 2,336 adults and 1,154 children (3,490 total!!) received a positive, productive, and educational experience from our organization. Strong work by everyone involved!!

Events requesting our services continue to inundate my email and the front office ladies' phones. Getting as many as possible covered requires the continued participation of all members of the department! The positive PR the Department receives from these events is immeasurable. Please assist when you can.

Thanks, again, to each of you who do participate. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to making the Salisbury Fire Department's Fire Prevention/Public Education section second to none!! Stay safe!



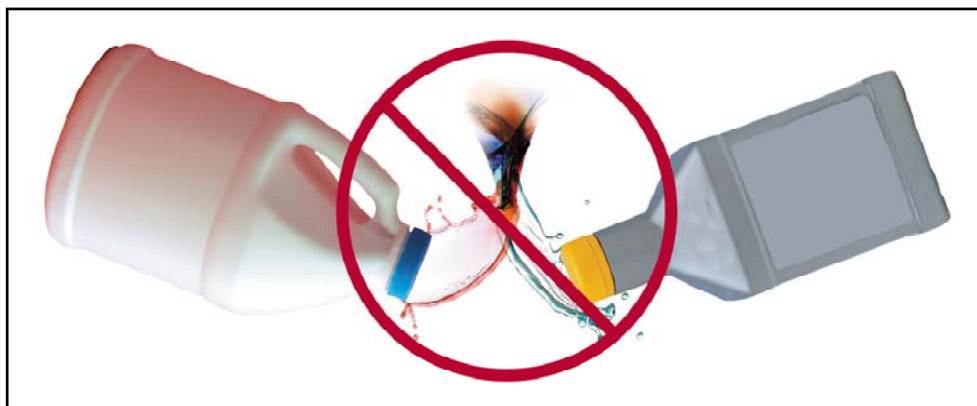
Hazardous Materials

Acting Lieutenant Ron Wismer

How many of us take note of the warning signs on our household cleaning products? I'll bet not many. However, household cleaning chemicals account for 11% of the cases of poisoning called into the American poison control centers. These chemicals while useful can be very dangerous. Therefore, safe storage and use of these products is paramount.

The most obvious and most important note is, follow the manufactures recommendations. All chemicals should be stored in their original container and clearly labeled. Removal of labeling can cause unfortunate accidents so should be avoided at all costs. Chemicals should be stored in a safe and secure environment. Chemicals should be kept out of the reach of children or stored in a locked cabinet. Over 90% of poison center call ins are for children under the age of 6.

The last concern for chemicals is mixing them. Every year you hear of people who mix household chemicals and then are sent to the hospital for inhaling the fumes. The classic example of this is ammonia and chlorine. These two chemicals should never be mixed. More importantly it is a better idea to not mix any chemicals. If the chemical you are using is not working for the task at hand, use a different chemical. Do not try to mix up chemicals. This can lead to very unfortunate incidents.



Salisbury Fire Department Quarterly Report July - September 2016

Fire Incident Type	1st Qtr.	FY17 YTD	% of Quarter
Structure Fires	17	17	2%
Cooking fire	8	8	1%
Vehicle Fires	5	5	1%
Natural Cover/Brush	14	14	1%
Trash/Dumpster	7	7	1%
Fire, Other	10	10	1%
Medical	380	380	41%
Vehicle Accidents	142	142	15%
Rescue Calls	9	9	1%
Hazardous Conditions	45	45	5%
Service Calls	67	67	7%
Good Intent Calls	95	95	10%
False Alarms	122	122	13%
Other Incident Type	17	17	2%
Totals	938	938	

Workers Compensation Summary	1st Qtr.	FY17 YTD
2 - CO exposure, 6 - chlorine exposure, 1 - neck, 1 - eye, 1 - back	11	11
Hours lost due to Injuries	44	44

Fire Incidents by Fire Station	1st Qtr.	FY17 YTD	% of Quarter
Station 1	241	241	26%
Station 2	236	236	25%
Station 16	461	461	49%

Fire Loss Data	1st Qtr.	FY17 YTD	% of Quarter
Property Value	\$45,478,052	\$45,478,052	N/A
Property Destroyed	\$967,439	\$967,439	2%
Property Saved	\$44,510,613	\$44,510,613	98%

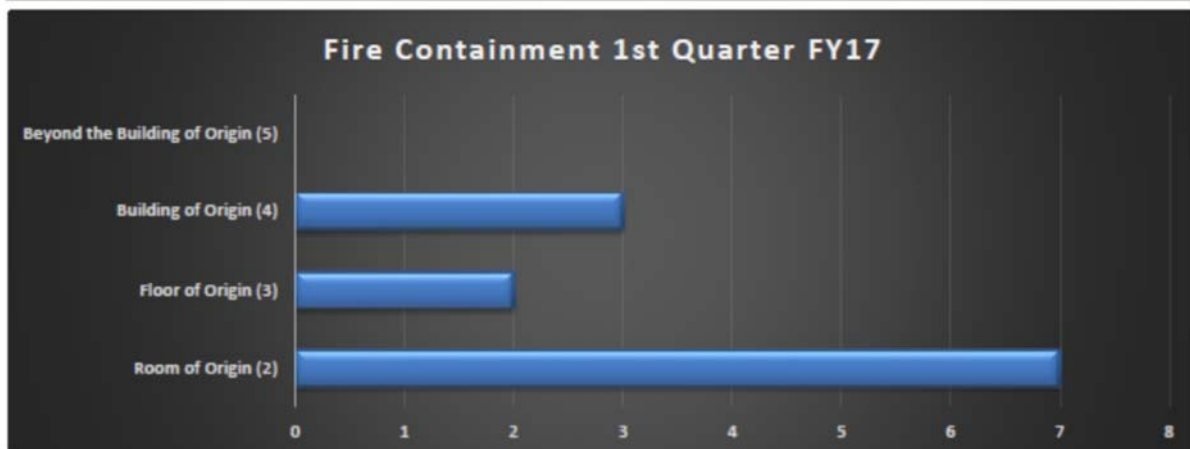
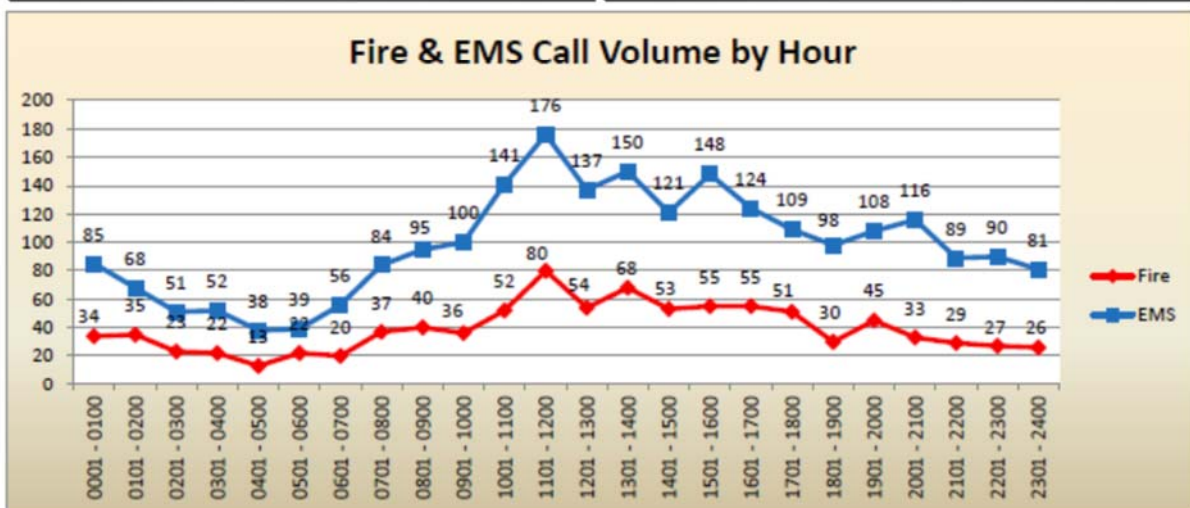
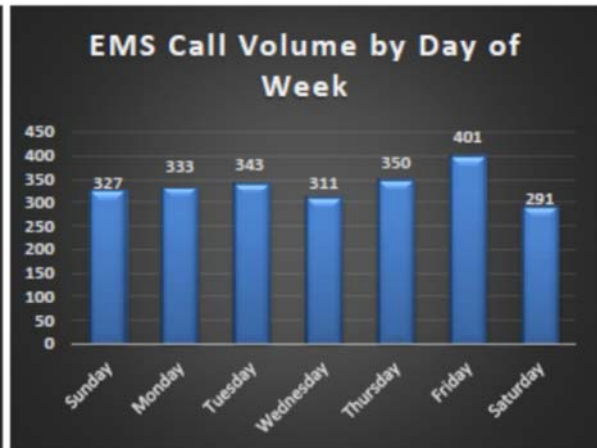
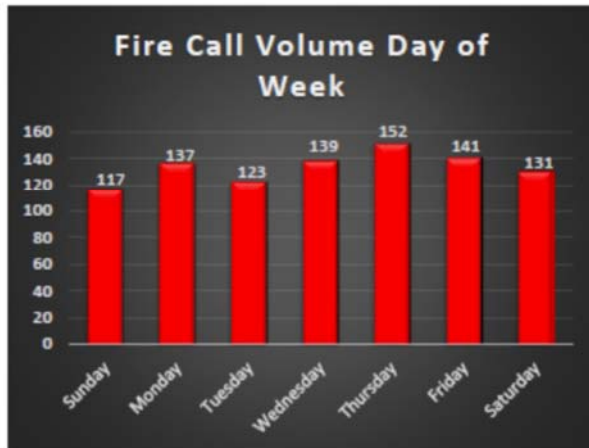
Fire Prevention Summary	1st Qtr.	FY17 YTD
Fire Inspections/Preplans	8	8
Plan Reviews	3	3
Smoke Alarms Distributed	62	62
Smoke Alarms Installed	8	8
Public Education Events		
a. Adults in Attendance	2336	2336
b. Children in Attendance	1154	1154

Medical Chief Complaints	1st Qtr.	FY17 YTD	% of Quarter
Abdominal Pain/GI Problem	143	143	6.07%
Allergic Reaction/Bites/Stings	12	12	0.51%
Altered Level of Consciousness	48	48	2.04%
Behavioral/Psychiatric	52	52	2.21%
Breathing Problem	36	36	1.53%
Burns/Smoke Inhalation	4	4	0.17%
Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest/DOA	33	33	1.40%
Cardiac Problems	149	149	6.32%
Choking/Airway Obstruction	3	3	0.13%
Diabetic Problem	60	60	2.55%
Drug/Alcohol	113	113	4.80%
Nausea/Vomiting	41	41	1.74%
No Apparent Injury	108	108	4.58%
OB/GYN/Pregnancy/Childbirth	18	18	0.76%
Other	977	977	41.47%
Respiratory Distress	66	66	2.80%
Seizure/Convulsions	74	74	3.14%
Sick Person/Flu-like	85	85	3.61%
Stroke/CVA/TIA	27	27	1.15%
Syncope/Fainting	48	48	2.04%
Traumatic Injury	158	158	6.71%
Unconscious	23	23	0.98%
Weakness	78	78	3.31%
Totals	2356	2356	

Training	Classes	Attendees	Hours
Administrative	34	91	172.5
Engine Co. Ops	6	42	93.5
EMS	23	124	207
Driver Operator	29	90	139.17
General	45	185	284.25
Incident Command	4	22	44
Rescue Company Ops	25	133	200
Special Ops	38	175	261
Truck Company Ops	27	125	212.5
Totals - 1st Quarter	231	987	1613.92
FY17 YTD Totals	231	987	1613.92

Department Aid Summary	1st Qtr.	FY17 YTD
Mutual Aid Given	17	17
Mutual Aid Received	44	44

Salisbury Fire Department Quarterly Report July - September 2016



Correspondence from the Community

Thank you for the gift
of your time and talents.

From: your friends
at Halo

8-19-16

To Whom It May Concern:

On Monday, June 13, 2016, I was transported to PRMC via ambulance with Andrew Merrill and Stephen Mizell. In this world of negativity against law enforcement, EMS, etc., I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank these gentlemen for their professional service and expert care.

Thank you Salisbury EMS for all that you do and for putting your lives in jeopardy every day and night.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rhonda Brumley

Salisbury Fire Dept., Sta 16

Thank you for the beautiful fruit basket you sent for the birth of our son, Luke. It is great to work with an awesome organization that values family as you all do. The fruit was wonderful!

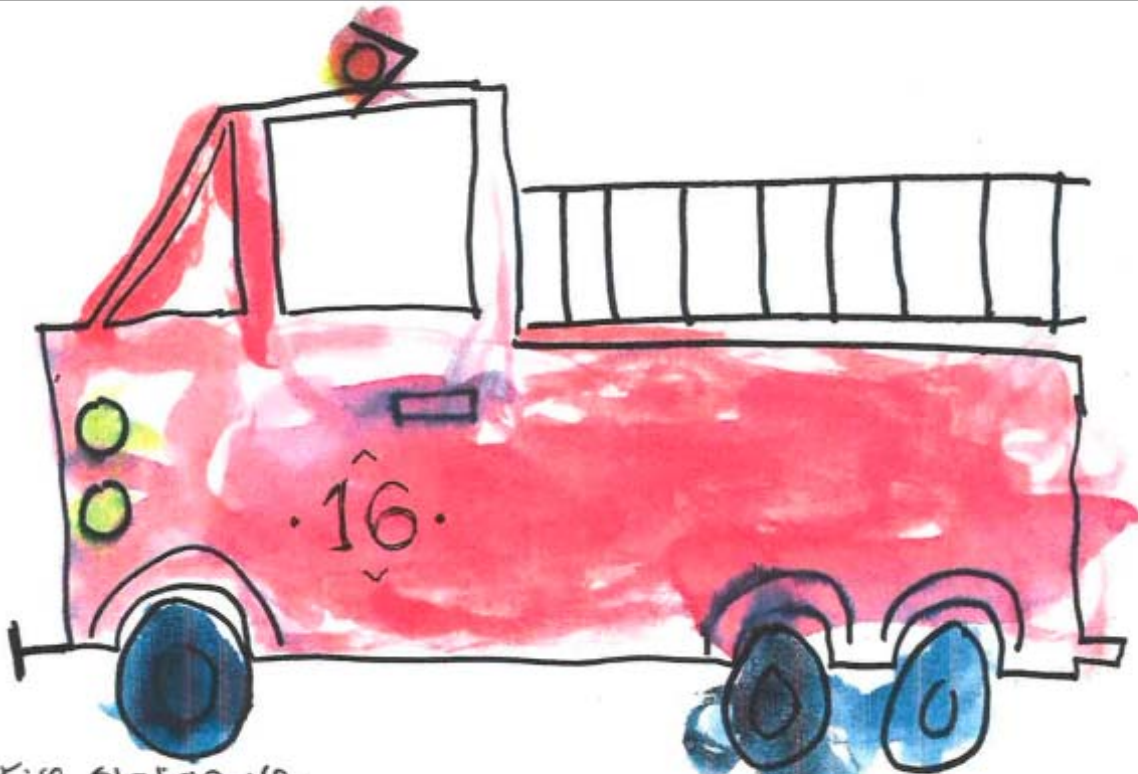
Sincerely,
Jason, Kara & Luke Hamington

Dear Mr. Moore, Mr. Tunell,

Thank you for everything that you did for me Thursday night and taking me to the hospital. I want you to know how deeply sorry I am for putting you both in that situation. You saved my life and I'm sincerely grateful for what you both did for me. I hope this never happens again.

Thank you sincerely,
Matthew Stidner

Correspondence from the Community



Dear Fire Station 16,

Thank you so much for opening the station for us to explore! My 2 sons had so much fun. They loved climbing on the trucks & the hats & the tour. The lady that gave us the tour was incredible with small children. My ^{older} son ran up and down the hallways excitedly looking at all the pictures. He especially was in awe of the beds & counter in the kitchen.

WHERE THERE IS
GREAT KINDNESS,
THERE IS GREAT
GRATITUDE.

THANK YOU FOR
THE BEAUTIFUL
TRIBUTE.

THE LECATES FAMILY

10/2/16

THANK YOU FOR RESCUING
US FROM THE STORM FLOOD ON
THURSDAY MORNING. WE WILL
NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS!

GIBSON AND BONNIE
PORTER

"D" SHIFT