



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

John W. Tull
Fire Chief

James E. Gladwell
Deputy Fire Chief

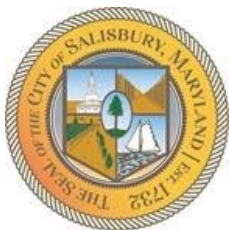
W. Darrin Scott
Deputy Fire Chief

E. Lee Smith
Deputy Fire Chief

Fire Headquarters
325 Cypress Street
410.548.3120
Fax 410.548.3121

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Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter

Volume VII, Issue I

1st Quarter - 2020

Volunteer Corner

Captain Ben Waples

It has been a very busy summer for the Salisbury Fire Department's volunteer members. Between responding for calls for service, we have attended many public displays and provided fire safety education to countless residents and visitors of the Salisbury area. Members provided a crew to standby Delmarva Shorebirds games for each of the fireworks displays they had. We also assisted with the Red, White, and Boom celebration on the 4th of July. Members helped with the National Folk Festival in the beginning of September.

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed sixteen new members. We currently have members enrolled in the following classes: Firefighter I, Emergency Vehicle Operator, Swiftwater Rescue Technician, Fire Officer 4, Fire Department Incident Safety Officer, as well as others. As we move in to the winter months, please remember to change your batteries for smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, have your furnaces serviced, and wood burning stoves and chimneys cleaned before using them. We hope you had a great summer and have a warm wonderful winter.

If you or a family member are interested in joining the Salisbury Fire Department, please visit our website: www.salisburyfd.com to learn more about us. You can stop by the Department's Administrative Office at 325 Cypress St. to fill out an application or call 410-548-3120 with questions.



Emergency Medical Services

Captain Chris Truitt

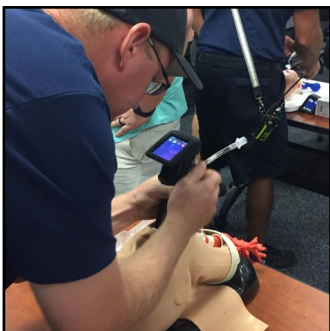
The summer months saw an increase in our emergency medical services (EMS) responses. Your Department responded to 2,707 calls for service last quarter, with almost 2,000 of those being transported to the local emergency department. Pain was the primary impression faced by your clinicians, with traumatic injuries and general illness rounding out the top three complaints to EMS.

The third quarter was busy for EMS training as well, with the Department adding ten additional internally trained cyclists to the roster. These new cyclists assisted in delivering quick access to services for the National Folk Festival, along with clinicians on mobile response units. The Department was also able to train all paramedics in the use of video intubation equipment supplied by AirTraq™ which will increase your clinicians' ability to secure a patient's airway in the most expeditious and efficient manner.

Clinicians across the Department were also trained in the use of the HandTevy™ application. This app takes the stress out of attempting to calculate medication math by providing the appropriate amount of medication to administer at the click of a button. The app has all medication concentrations carried on the EMS units preprogrammed in conjunction with the most up to date State protocols. This application will ease the stress associated with the treatment of pediatric patients primarily, however, it will also be used for adult calculations as well. So if you see a clinician on the scene holding their phone, rest assured they are actively calculating and documenting medications and procedures vital to the treatment plan of the patient.

The third quarter was just as productive for the Salisbury Wicomico Integrated Firstcare Team (SWIFT). The program enrolled ten new patients who have utilized 9-1-1 five or more times in the six previous months. The team has already made sixteen referrals for these individuals to various health services, food banks, and transportation utilities. 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 fall and if you have questions about your EMS clinicians contact Fire Headquarters at 410-548-3120.



Hot Shots



Historical Corner

Assistant Chief Bryan W. Records

We Can See Clearly Now

The fire service has always had its share of new tools, gadgets and innovations that are offered as the Newest and Greatest. The last twenty years have seen advances in technologies for firefighters being produced at incredible rates. One of those technologies is the Thermal Imaging Camera. Today firefighters use them every day and just assume they have been around forever, just like the leather helmet or Halligan tool. The T.I.C. as it's known, actually came out in the Mid 90's as prototypes and were refined to meet the needs of the firefighting world. Today these modern marvels are far less expensive than their predecessors and available on practically every apparatus.

Salisbury would not always be as fortunate as we are today. Just like a lot of other cities, it would take a tragedy to show a need. The late 90's were some pretty lean years for the fire department's budgets. Leaders of the department were aware of the thermal imaging cameras, but the cost was considered a luxury in tough economic times. At the time the cameras were selling for around \$25,000.00 each.

February 23, 1999 would prove to be a game-changer for the Salisbury Fire Department. Just before noon, Station 2 was dispatched for a bed on fire at 302 Hammond Street. Engine 10 arrived to find heavy smoke and fire conditions throughout the house. The call was upgraded to bring Engine 4 from Headquarters and volunteer crews from both stations. Crews frantically searched for a young child that was reported still inside the house. The search took an abnormally long time due to clutter and lingering smoke conditions. Firefighters finally located the lifeless three year old child some ten minutes into the fire and quickly transported him to PRMC. Firefighters stated during a critique that they knew they had to have crawled over the child several times, but just couldn't see him. Leaving the question "What if?"



Historical Corner (continued)

The next few weeks and months were filled with critiques, meetings and opportunities for the department to take a hard look at how we do business. Salisbury took great pride in its firefighting and search and rescue skills. This fire had taken the life of a young child with some of Salisbury's best searching that day. There was much discussion about ventilation techniques, but the availability of a Thermal Imaging Camera was number one on the list of corrective actions for the future. The cause of the fire was determined to be a child playing with matches.

This tragedy nor the efforts of the Salisbury Fire Department went unnoticed. Fortunately, Salisbury has always had some of the most generous philanthropists in our region. Behind the scenes, three of Salisbury's most prominent philanthropists had come together to assure a tragedy like this would hopefully never happen again. Within a short few months the Salisbury Fire Department received three new Thermal Imaging Cameras. One camera for each first run unit at Headquarters, Station 1 and Station 2. As one of the firefighters searching that day, I was incredibly grateful for this wonderful donation.

It wasn't until some years later that I learned the names of the three philanthropists who so graciously donated funding for the new cameras. These three men were no strangers as they were pillars of our great city. The three men were Robert P. Cannon, Richard Henson and Richard Hazel. Robert P. Cannon was a former State legislator, local real estate broker and son of a firefighter who fought the Great Salisbury Fire of 1886. Richard Henson was a pioneer of aviation in Salisbury and owner of Henson Aviation. Richard Hazel was the owner of Salisbury Pepsi Cola Bottling Company. Their generous donation has undoubtedly helped save the lives of countless citizens while aiding in the safety of our firefighters. So the next time you complete your daily check of the T.I.C. or use it in a search, take a second and reflect on its history in Salisbury. The tragedy of that day on February 23, 1999 should never be forgotten. This profession teaches us that we can never change what happens before we arrive, but our training and our equipment may have a direct impact on the final outcome.



Fire Prevention & Education

Deputy Chief James E. Gladwell

With school out and summer in full swing, one may think requests for community service and public education from the Salisbury Fire Department might slow down. That has certainly not been the case over the last quarter encompassing July, August, and September. The requests simply keep coming.

July started off with a literal bang as the SFD provided assets to the annual Red, White, and Boom! 4th of July event. Tower 16 flew Old Glory proudly during Salisbury's fireworks presentation while other members of the department provided suppression coverage at both the Salisbury event and the Delmarva Shorebirds fireworks presentation. It was a great way for the department to interact with its constituents while also celebrating the birth of our nation. Volunteer members also provided suppression coverage throughout the entire summer at numerous Shorebirds fireworks displays donating countless hours of their time to ensure those in attendance could enjoy those shows.

In August, the SFD again participated in the annual National Night Out event in the park. The SFD has been a part of this event since its inception in Salisbury. Volunteer, career, and members of the Ladies Auxiliary attended the event to provide an apparatus display, distribute important fire prevention materials, and set up the ever-popular mini combat challenge for the children who attended. This event was another huge success with an estimated 5,000 people attending.

The largest event of the quarter was the National Folk Festival. This year's NFF took place in downtown Salisbury from Friday 6 September through Sunday 8 September and data indicate approximately 153,000 people in attendance this year. The weather was great and the event had a phenomenal economic impact on our region. No event such as this can be a success without the support of every department within the City. The SFD's bike medics were out in full force and numerous members of the department served as part of the command and operational staff overseeing the safety of all those in attendance. No event such as the NFF could hope to have such huge success without quality planning well in advance. Every department within the City was deeply involved in the planning process of the NFF but there are some members of the SFD who should be recognized for their outstanding individual efforts referencing the planning and setup of the NFF event. Chief Tull had a key role in the development of the entire overall operational plan for the entire festival. His knowledge of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) was on display via the written plan developed by him and adopted by the event and his leadership during the planning process was a keystone for the success of the event.

Fire Prevention & Education Continued

Deputy Chief Scott had the arduous task of developing the SFD's individual operational plan and was responsible for ensuring all ICS position were filled appropriately. This is no easy task when one is attempting to fill nearly a dozen positions for four operational periods over a three-day time period that also encompasses outside mutual aid. And all this while also having to ensure the appropriate everyday resources needed by the SFD were appropriately filled. Captains Truitt and Twilley should also be recognized for their part in getting the staffing coverage necessary to deploy the SFD bike medics and ensuring each was properly equipped.

Each member who stepped up to either participate directly in the event's footprint or who assisted by backfilling staffing on SFD EMS and fire units to ensure staffing levels remained in accordance with the SFD's mission and policies is to be commended for their effort. Each is certainly appreciated.

Beyond the 4th of July, National Night Out, and NFF events, the Department continued its busy schedule of providing community service and public education to its constituents. Two After the Fire programs took place with over a dozen new smoke alarms installed. A Hazardous Materials: Operations level class took place at Station 16 providing the SFD and those it protects several new Hazmat Ops first responders. Apparatus displays were provided at several venues including Dove Pointe for mentally and physically challenged children, several fire safety talks to local entities were provided, numerous groups visited our fire stations for tours, we provided dive displays, covered the boat docking contest at Brew River, we filled water barrels for the NFF, we rescued ducklings from storm drains and yes, we even rescued a cat from a tree.

For the quarter encompassing 1 July 2019 – 30 September 2019, our members have addressed 24 requests for public education/community service. Two After the Fire programs and three home safety checks were completed which led to the installation of over a dozen smoke alarms. It took nearly 600 staff hours to manage the menagerie of events.

It is truly amazing what our department accomplishes throughout a given year considering the ever-increasing call volume, training requirements, station and apparatus maintenance, and the myriad of other items it is presented on a daily basis. This is a direct reflection of the dedication of the Department's membership and belief in the mission. The Salisbury Fire Department may not be the best in the nation but no one does it better!

From The Training Officer

Captain David L. Haines

In the third quarter of 2019 (July 1st through September 30th) 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 261 individual training sessions which included 494.75 hours of training time. The total man hours for all personnel attending this training was 3,358.25 hours.

During this quarter, monthly training focused on Firefighter Safety, Emergency Medical Services and Engine Company Operations. In July, personnel reviewed safe operating practices at fire and emergency incidents and discussed scenarios where these safe practices could be employed and in what manner. In August, EMS training focused on burn patients and treatment of these injuries in the pre-hospital setting. For September, crews took advantage of the cooler weather to practice advancing the 2 ½" hose line. This is a larger hand line that can be deployed quickly and flow 250 gallons of water per minute to knock down a larger fire.

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	36.50
Emergency Medical Services	196.00
FADO/Drivers Training	43.00
Fire	157.25
Rescue	29.00
Special Operations	33.00
Total	494.75

Working with local industry

Salisbury Fire Department personnel attended tours and a walk through of the Perdue facility here in Salisbury in late August. This was done to familiarize our responders about the chemicals and materials that are stored on site. Perdue corporate members requested these tours in response to a July fire at the Accomack County Perdue plant. This gives our personnel the knowledge to handle a complex incident involving these chemicals if it were to occur here in Salisbury.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
Perdue Facility Tours	67	95

Training Continued

EMS Training

Several Salisbury EMS personnel completed Bike Training in August. This was a scaled-down version of Public Safety Cyclist Training that was done in-house led by Sgt Ron Wismer and FF/PM Rob Hull. This training ensures that department personnel are ready to staff bikes with EMS equipment during special events such as the National Folk Festival. In large crowds or in areas with limited vehicle access due to these large scale events, our personnel respond on bikes and can be at a patient's side quickly in the event of a medical emergency.

The Salisbury Fire Department also trained 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.

Familiarization Training

Topic	Personnel	Hours
HandTevy App Training	49	49
Bike Training	17	114



Training Continued

Honing extrication skills

After obtaining some vehicles from a local tow company, crews were able to train on extrication techniques. Vehicle accidents occur throughout the year, but in the summer months traffic definitely increases and so does the likelihood of our personnel responding to a rescue. Having these vehicles allows our personnel to keep up their skills in automotive extrication so they can quickly remove a trapped patient and rapidly transport them to definitive care.

Topic	Personnel	Hours
Vehicle Extrication Training	77	153.50



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.

Correspondence From The Community

Thank you!

We had a wonderful time
learning about how you are
a community helper. Thank

you for taking the time to speak
with us.

Sincerely,

AVA
M. SA
Mrs. Leonard
Christopher
Arielle Morckel
Cans
Jazlyn
Jonathan

202
Abyan
Mrs. Craft
Abil

Liam Rae'ana Rowley

Thanks to much
for all you did
for our students
and families!



A-Shift
Jack Eagle
Jenny Layden
Haley Nelson
Jael Riky

Dear Chief Duce,

On 8-21-19 I awoke to the sound
of my smoke alarm going off. Needless to
say, it was a very frightening experience.
I smelled no smoke and saw no fire.

I called station 1. They were so
helpful and came out to my home within
a few minutes to help me resolve the
problem. They replaced the battery on the
alarm and stayed until they were sure it
was working properly. They also suggested
that I might want to replace it.

The members of the team were
very professional, kind, and helpful. I
cannot say enough good things about
each & everyone of them.

I would like to express my
appreciation for their professionalism
and kindness shown to me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Phillips
1112 Cathlamet
Salsbery, MD 21804



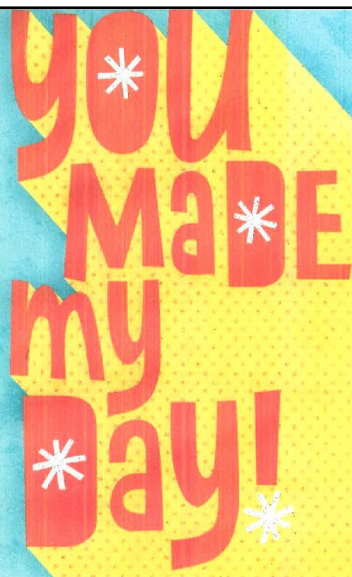
Chief O'Bansky,

Just a note to
thank you again for
an awesome day
exploring a day as
a chief. I really
enjoyed it and hope
I can do it again
sometime!

Here are a copy
of the pics. Hope
you can find a spot
and hang one up in
your office.

Keep up the great
work helping our
community! You're
a hero!

Thanks
Again
Cadet Noah Jackson



From The Office Of The Fire Marshal

Eric E. Cramer

Legislative Items

The office has been busy this quarter working with the City administration on legislative items to help ensure public safety. Ordinance 2556 was passed on August 12th. The substance of the ordinance is to require a favorable inspection by the City Fire Marshal prior to the issuance of any new or renewed City license. This will ensure that all City business are kept in compliance with the City Fire Prevention Code protecting our residents, business partners, and first responders.

Ordinance 2546 was passed on June 24th. This ordinance requires all hotels to apply for and receive a license from the City to operate. Additionally it requires an inspection and approval by the Fire Marshal prior to the issuance of the license. This new law will help us protect visitors to our City at the time when they are most vulnerable to injury from fire.

At the State level, on October 7th the latest revision to the State Fire Prevention Code went in to effect. The revised code adopts NFPA 101 & I, 2018 editions, with state amendments.

Permitting & Inspections

Total Inspections Completed	93
Plans Reviewed	24
Permits Issued	46

Fire Safety

As I write this article we are in the middle of a busy fire prevention week. Even while our fire prevention task force and on-duty personnel work tirelessly to spread the fire safety message to our school aged population, hopefully laying a ground work of fire safety that will last their entire lives, I am reminded that fire does not discriminate. I'd like to encourage every one of you to speak with your family, friends, and neighbors, young and old, about home fire safety. The unified fire prevention message this year is "Plan and Practice your Escape". As I read the message that accompanies this year's theme, it was hard for me to grasp the idea that you may have less than two minutes to escape a burning home once the smoke alarm sounds. I immediately thought about my own family, would they know what to do? I was pretty sure my children would wait on me for guidance if the alarm sounded. Would there be time...or opportunity? With all that said, I found myself having a fire safety talk with my family for the first time...ever. I am almost ashamed to admit that I've been a father for twelve years, heavily involved in the fire service for 27 years, participated in countless fire safety talks and education events and never brought any of it home. So I gathered my wife and kids, we talked about the importance of responding quickly to a fire alarm, we talked about how to respond, we practiced opening windows and deploying escape ladders. I slept a little better that night. Again, please take the time to spread the fire safety message and practice fire safety with your families.

Cadet Corner

Captain Ben Waples

As summer comes to a close, we start to look forward to the upcoming school year. We are starting the school year with 10 cadets, of which five are new members. We are fortunate to have five cadets returning from last year. This year we have one (1) senior, five (5) juniors, three (3) sophomores, and one (1) freshman. Two of members are currently enrolled in Firefighter I, which is the introductory course where members are taught everything from learning about the gear firefighters wear to culminating in combined evolutions with live fire extinguishment.

Some of our members are also enrolled in and will be starting the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program in December. EMT teaches the basics of treating and transporting sick and injured patients as well as emergency operations of ambulances. Over the next school year these fine young men and women will be attending school, participating in school related after school activities, attending meetings, trainings and participating with Fire Department activities. The Department is incredibly proud of their hard work and look forward to an exciting year.

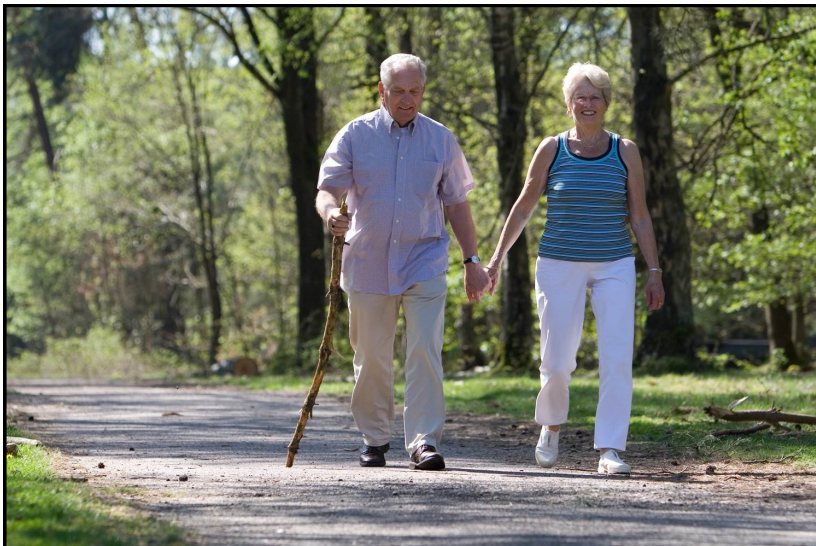
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Health Tip

Are you looking for easy ways to get active and burn more calories on a daily basis? Try taking a 10 minute walk after every meal of the day! Studies have shown that taking a walk for 30 minutes a day can burn up to 250-300 calories! Walking 10 minutes after 3 meals a day will achieve that goal very easily.

Walking after eating can also promote, and aid in digestion, decreasing the "crash" that you could experience after eating a meal. It is also a chance to get outdoors if you work in an office setting. Give it a try today!



Hazardous Materials

Sergeant Ronald Wismer

The Salisbury Hazmat team has noticed an uptick in response to Ammonia emergencies. With this in mind it is probably a good time to do a review of ammonia and its properties and how we can safely respond.

Ammonia is a colorless gas with a pungent, suffocating odor. Remember Ammonia is shipped as a compressed liquid since it compresses easily under pressure. It is found mostly for refrigeration or for wastewater treatment, but can also be found in other industrial sites as a neutralizer.

According to NIOSH Ammonia (NH₃); has an IDLH of 300 ppm, a Boiling Point of -28 degrees Fahrenheit, a Freezing point of -108 degrees, a solubility of 34%, Vapor Pressure of 8.5 atm, an Ionization Potential of 10.18 eV, UEL of 28% and LEL of 15%. Ammonia is a weak base with a pH around 11.

So what does this all mean to us? Well clearly with an IDLH as low as 300 ppm, ammonia is a nasty character. Ammonia is listed as non-flammable but still has a listed LEL and UEL. This means that in confined spaces that Ammonia can be explosive. On September 17th, 1984 two Hazmat team members in Shreveport, Louisiana were critically injured when the forklift they were using to maneuver around inside a cold storage building while trying to isolate a leak. The ammonia had been contained in the building and reached its LEL mixture, a spark caused by the forklift caused an explosion. Ultimately, Captain Percy R. Johnson would succumb to injuries caused by the explosion.

So, not only do we have the dangers of the chemical we also have to deal with the explosive nature of the gas when left in a confined space. So how do we begin to deal with this customer? First, let us discuss monitoring techniques. While yes, we do have a gas meter that will read ammonia, we have to decide what we are metering for. If our goal is to confirm the presence of ammonia in a building with an active ammonia leak, then there is no reason to put a meter in service. The presence of ammonia can cause damage to our meters and ultimately render them unserviceable. The meters should be used to establish our work zones. We should have a metering strategy that defines our public safety actions. This would have to include a discussion of the site map and the wind direction. When it comes to making an actual entry, we need to make every effort to shut down power sources and any other ignition sources. Remember, our last step to a mitigation plan is to put people in suits and turn valves off. If we can turn off the leak remotely that should be our first option. Use site experts and discuss with them strategies for mitigating the leak, before placing our members in harm's way downrange.

Our best PPE option is a full Level A ensemble. Even with the explosive risks, the chemical composition of ammonia and the fact that it is an aggressive vapor means we must be wearing a level A ensemble. Ammonia vapors will easily mix with water, but remember if we are using water to control the vapors we need to consider what we will be doing to contain the ammonia hydroxide and water solution.