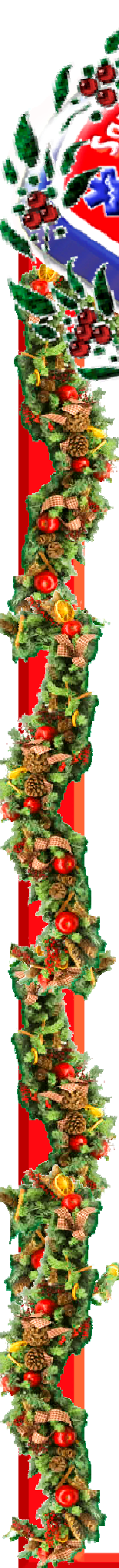




The Connection



County Fire Tax Defeated



You may have read my comments in the newspapers regarding the recent defeat of our County Fire Protection Excise Tax. If not, here's my take....we were caught in a political 'perfect storm' where the economy, the special election/voter turnout and the opposition all came together perfectly to capsize our renewal efforts. Let me explain further. We all know the status of the economy and its impact locally, at the state and national levels. Even with huge expenditures of stimulus funds (which appear to have their own sluggish trickle down problems) the economy remains in the depths of a recession and thus because people have no money the subsequent lack of spending continues to be our biggest obstacle to recovery at all levels. Jobs are scarce, unemployment is growing and spending across the board is down....which for us translates into fewer tax revenues. Part one of the perfect storm, the economy.

The course of action we took to renew our tax, the 'special' election....which simply means an election that is scheduled outside the normal date of a primary or general election...was one we knew could be troublesome from a voter turnout perspective. However, given our past experience of support we moved forward with this course because doing otherwise would have resulted in an even longer delay than what we had already endured. Part two of the perfect storm, voter turnout.

Then with a couple of weeks left before the election, the local Republican Party chairman writes an op-ed piece asking people to oppose the tax and takes further action by sending mailers to party members and uses auto-dialer messages typical of political campaigns to encourage people to get out and vote no on this tax increase. In short the fire department was 'tea-partied'. To my knowledge this was a first in Santa Fe County and politically a first for the state of New Mexico where-in a political party had taken on a fire department related issue as though it were a political candidate. Frankly I was blindsided by this action. In the end it was a carefully constructed campaign with a defined timeline which prevented any functional operational response on our behalf, coming at a time of national and state economic turmoil, with a special election with extremely low voter turnout, and the result is now, in retrospect, predictable. My congratulations to the Republican Party on their well constructed and orchestrated political campaign. Part three of the perfect storm, political campaigning.

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Fire Tax Defeated - continued from page 1

Now that we are aware of what we are up against in future initiatives we will proceed with full knowledge and understanding of what tools the opposition will bring to bear and plan and react accordingly. As a fire department, a government agency, we still have to conduct ourselves in accordance with state election laws, meaning we cannot respond as a political candidate might to such opposition. Additionally, we will not make the mistake of asking voters to renew the tax as part of a special election; knowing the advantage a low voter turnout will give the opposition. Finally, because we must now wait at least a year before again seeking citizen approval hopefully the economy will have returned to a more normal and stable state. So, between now and a future, yet-to-be-determined renewal effort sure to come within the statutory defined timeline, what are we to do?

First, I have met with the Santa Fe County Republican Chair, Mr. Jim Bohlander. That same afternoon I met with the County Finance Director and following that meeting I will meet with the County Manager. We discussed a budget maintenance strategy and began preparation discussions for the next renewal request. Make no mistake, as I stated in the newspaper articles, the defeat of this tax will equate to decreased firefighter safety and reduced response capability. The inability to purchase replacement fire apparatus, firefighter PPE and fire-fighting equipment will have an impact on all of us in the short term. As a result, beginning immediately, all capitalized purchases over \$2,000.00, regardless of revenue source, must be approved (signed off) by the district chief for fire district purchases (or an assistant chief for regional purchases) and myself based on a revised capital plan intended to ensure continuity of operations between now and the tax renewal. This will no doubt create some internal issues for all of us to deal with; however, now unlike any other time in the history of the department, we must make absolutely sure that the purchases we make are tied directly and prioritized according to the services we provide to the public, first and foremost.

If you have ideas or suggestions you would like to share please email them to me or schedule an appointment so we can discuss your ideas.

We will regroup, develop a better plan of action and push forward. Toward that end I ask for your patience and understanding. Decisions will have to be made that will be trying and difficult to accept by some. We must now be more focused than ever before on our mission and our purchases must be reflective of that mission. I appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Stan Holden, Chief

Training Update

By: Lt. Jim Lovell

Greetings Everyone,

SFCFD Training Division completed a Basic Extrication course October 20th thru the 25th, with 15 volunteers from the La Cienega, Agua Fria and La Puebla Fire Districts. We tore up a lot of cars and had some fun while we were at it. Thanks to all those who participated and gave up their valuable weekends to attend the course. The Training Division would like to thank Anaya's Wrecker Service for supplying the cars, and the Agua Fria Fire District for use of Station 1 as well as the La Cienega Fire District for the use of their rescue and tools.

Individuals who successfully completed the course are: *John Bitsura, Jared Francisco, Justine Francisco, Carl Fisher, Efren Galindo, Marcos Gonzales, Gilbert Gonzales, Charles Harrison, Mark Herrera, Adam Martinez, Danielle Martinez, Michael Martinez, Dennis Miramontes, Leslie Tapia, Fredrico Velazquez.* Congratulations one and all!

Just a reminder now that cooler weather is upon us, it is still important to stay hydrated and monitor yourselves for exposure problems and driving conditions. Chimney fires are another call we need to update ourselves on, review the procedure on fighting these types of fires. And as always contact the Training Division for any training issues or needs anytime, contact Lt. Lovell at 505-992-3078 or 505-780-1178. Until next time take care and be safe.



Earlier this year the Fire Prevention Division was contacted by Commissioner Montoya's office inquiring about the possibility of getting a Fire Danger Sign in the Chupadero-Rio en Medio area. It seems there was a constituent in the area that was very concerned about the fire danger level for the area and the community not being informed. We contacted **District Chief Damron** and discussed whether it would be possible for Tesuque Volunteer Fire District to purchase one of the signs. After reviewing his budget, District Chief Damron gave the Prevention Division authorization to purchase the sign.

After reviewing the area we decided to post the sign at the intersection of NM 592 and County Road 74. This gives us the opportunity to inform not only the Chupadero and Rio en Medio communities, but also Vista Redonda, Rancho Encantado and all the subdivisions on County Road 74.

We would like to thank **District Chief Damron** and the Tesuque Volunteer Fire District for purchasing the sign and helping us to address constituent concerns for their area.

If you are interested in purchasing a Fire Danger Sign for your district, please contact Victoria at the Fire Prevention Division.



Welcome Back Charlie!!!

The Department is pleased to welcome back **Charlie Velarde**. Charlie is returning as the Regional Chief for the Western Region after several years of absence.

Chief Velarde recently retired from the City of Santa Fe Fire Department. He has had a distinguished fire service career with both the City and County Fire Departments. He began his professional firefighting career with SFFD in September 1987 and worked himself through the ranks, serving as a Firefighter EMT, Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, and Battalion Chief. He spent the final three years prior to his retirement this past April as the Assistant Chief of Support Services, with responsibilities for fleet management, facilities, and fire and EMS training functions. Prior to hiring on with the City, Chief Velarde had already spent seven years with the La Cienega Volunteer Fire Department, beginning his service in 1980. He was elevated to the rank of Captain and then Chief in 1986, a position he held until 1995 following the completion of the La Cienega Main Station off Highway 14, and the purchase of Santa Fe County's first Class A Pumper. Charlie then took a short leave of absence to pursue other interests, but found he couldn't be away for long. He returned in 1998 and resumed his role as District Chief, a position he retained until 2006 when he took another leave of absence to accept the Assistant Chief's badge.



Chief Velarde is well recognized for his knowledge of the fire service and the broad range of skills he brings to the job. It is hoped that in his role as Regional Chief in the West, he will provide assistance and guidance to the Department's busiest volunteer members, and will serve as a resource during emergency and non-emergency activities. His previous experience serving in a variety of career and volunteer roles positions him well to serve as a mentor to career and volunteer staff alike. We're looking forward to his re-involvement with the Santa Fe County Fire Department.



The first seconds on the scene of a working structure fire are always critical. This is because the officer must always make a life or death rescue decision. This decision regulates the degree of risk that firefighters may be exposed to.

If a confirmed search is needed, the operation will be in the rescue mode, and every effort to quickly save the occupants will be made in a calculated manner. If no rescue is required, efforts can be focused on aggressively attacking the fire, since aggressiveness is a requirement of effective firefighting; however, it should also be safely initiated with the goal of minimizing risk.

Every trained firefighter is aware that the quicker a rescue is conducted, the greater the chance of bringing someone out alive. However, firefighters often forget, it is also one of the most dangerous times during the course of a structure fire.

This is simply because firefighters are called upon to multi-task within a very dangerous environment and time frame. During these life or death events, firefighters on many occasions and without the advantage of a thermal imaging camera, work feverishly in totally unfamiliar surroundings, often in zero visibility conditions, focusing on feeling for a human form as they cover every square foot of the structure. And they try to effectively accomplish this task within the limited time provided by the air in their tank. They also need to consider if it would be safe to ventilate by opening any windows they come across during the search procedure. During this frantic process firefighters also try to maintain their bearings, in zero visibility conditions, by following a right- or left-hand turn search pattern.

However, while concentrating on the search effort, sweeping under beds and in closets, firefighters can easily overlook signs of an imminent flashover. Signs of imminent flashover include "rollover" which is the ignition of fire gases along the ceiling. An imminent flashover can also be roughly described as a painfully "hot and heavy" combination of smoke and heat conditions.

Another relatively common and tragic scenario involves first arriving firefighters, well trained in the search and rescue procedure, and convinced that a rapid primary search is urgently needed, suddenly falling through a fire-weakened floor and into an involved basement. These preventable yet horrendous incidents have been occurring in the fire service for decades.

Firefighters are also frequently hampered by unbelievable clutter in the structure, often waist deep, which can trip and slow a firefighter's emergency evacuation, occasionally resulting in firefighter fatalities. In addition, due to the excitement and subsequent tunnel vision which typically occurs during rescue emergencies, the critical need to simultaneously and aggressively locate and attack the fire may be seriously overlooked. This particular omission has resulted in numerous line-of-duty deaths, as firefighters attempted to help someone in need. Since firefighters are trained to consider the need to conduct a primary search as the first tactical priority and to immediately initiate one, when information received suggests one is needed, or when initial size-up factors strongly indicate a search is warranted, firefighters are often exposed to danger needlessly when in fact there is no one in the structure to be rescued. Numerous well intentioned firefighters have lost their lives during these types of unnecessary search scenarios.

Ways To Prevent Unnecessary Searches

Too many firefighters are dying in the line of duty at structures fires and every possible way to prevent it must be attempted. One way this can be accomplished is through training. Simple unnecessary search prevention training is needed nationwide for everyone, from the incident commander to the firefighter, from the emergency call taker, to every citizen in the community. If citizens can learn to dial 9-1-1 to report a fire, they should be



instructed of the importance of dialing 9-1-1 to let dispatchers know when "Everyone is out" of the structure..

With cell phones in the hands of almost every man, woman and child in the country, citizens will be more than willing to return a life saving favor to firefighters by calling the dispatch office or by walking up to a firefighter on the scene to inform them when everyone is out of the structure. This urgent message, when received by either a dispatch call taker, or any Firefighter on the scene, must immediately be relayed to the incident commander by radio or a face-to-face so that firefighters are not required to conduct a dangerous primary search. If, however, one is in progress, firefighters can be ordered to evacuate the structure if conditions are excessively hazardous.

Another way to prevent an unnecessary search is for the first arriving officer to carefully obtain reliable information pertaining to the need to conduct a primary search. This involves closely considering the reliability of the source. For example, a total stranger may yell at you, stating that somebody might, may or could still be inside a well-involved structure. However, what the bystander does not fully understand, is that the structure is completely untenable, unfortunately not only for anyone still in the structure, but for fully bunkered firefighters as well.

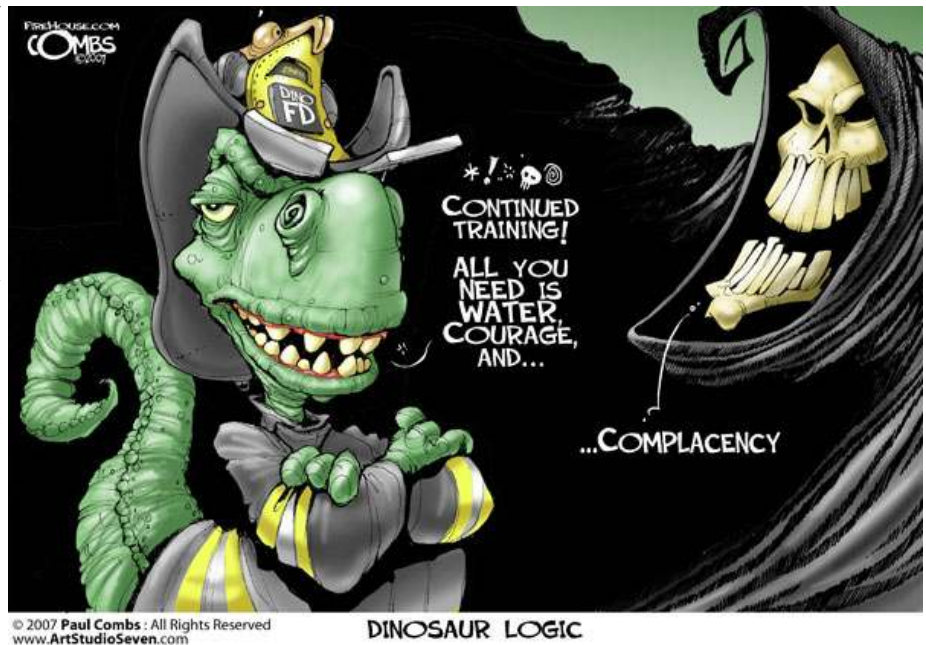
On many occasions entry is simply not possible. On the other hand, should a person approach you with signs of having been in the structure, such as a soot covered face, singed hair or suffering from burns or difficulty breathing, their information should be considered more reliable.

And if informed that someone is still in the structure, the exact last known location of the victim should be obtained. Based on this key information, a coordinated positive pressure ventilation effort must be quickly initiated, followed by a primary search that incorporates use of thermal imaging cameras, used within limitations. But most importantly, simultaneous use of charged handlines to aggressively attack the fire must be made as the fire yields to no one including firefighters trying to help others.

Conclusion

Many primary searches are necessary, however far too many are tragically unnecessary. With available technology, simple public education and simple training, we can minimize unnecessary searches and the fatalities they cause. By taking the initiative to make everyone aware of the problem we can make a difference. The call for assistance may be added to the fire safety and prevention message or by the use of public safety announcements that encourage citizens to use their cell phones to immediately advise the fire dispatch office when they positively know that everyone is out of a burning structure.

Citizens can also prevent the loss of a firefighter by applying the objectives of unnecessary search training that encourages them to approach and inform any firefighter on the scene when everyone has exited the structured. All in all, a very small training investment in an unnecessary search prevention effort may very well result in a significant return in the prevention of firefighter fatalities.





2010 Fire Academy Hiring Process Very Successful By: Asst. Chief Holland

The hiring process for the 2010 Fire Academy is complete. By most accounts it was the most successful process we have experienced at SFCFD. Human Resources received over 300 applications. Each application was reviewed for minimal qualifications. Almost 300 individuals met the qualifications and were approved for the testing process. Approximately 250 applicants participated in the written civil service exam. 108 passed the written exam and participated in the physical ability tests. Of those, 86 passed the physical agility. In comparison, our first academy in 2007 had just over 100 applicants and only 30 passed the written and physical ability tests. Such a significant increase of candidates created logistical challenges we had never faced before.

It took a lot of preparation and planning to process the 300 applications, through qualifying, written test, physical test, panel interviews and Chief's interviews, all within a two week period of time. **Karen Griego** coordinated the testing with Santa Fe Community College and then scheduled all candidate testing, written and physical ability. **Assistant Chief Steve Moya** headed up the interview panel.

Even with all the challenges we faced with the number of applicants and the bad weather, this was one of the smoothest processes we have experienced. Anytime you have 80 plus qualified applicants you are doing pretty well.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the process; **HR: Justin Salazar, Loreen Mendiola, Andria Duran; Fire Department: Karen Griego, Lori Mullings, Bett Clark, FF Frank Gallegos, FF Joshua Boies, FF Esteban Ornelas, FF Greg Bobick, FF Pedro Mandino, FF Fritz Fuchs, FF Jeff Matchison, FF Kris Karlin, FF Alan Hamilton, FF Kyle Gregory, FF Jeff Carroll, FF/Paramedic JJ Arnold, Cadet Ramon Vilario, Lt. Tony Ruscetti, Lt. Dewey Holliday, Lt. Robert Herrera, FF/Paramedic Victor Montoya, FF Steve Vogel, Lt. Jim Lovell, Capt. Karl Ehl, Capt. Mike Mestas, Capt. Mike Jaffa, Capt. Greg Gallegos, and Battalion Chief Mike Neely.**

Without their efforts we could not have pulled off such a successful process. At the time of this printing we are making the final selections and making the job offers. We look forward to welcoming the new recruits at their academy scheduled to begin January 11th.

Another Successful Prevention Month By: Victoria DeVargas

It's that time of year again and Fire Prevention Month has come and gone. One of the greatest successes we have had this season is getting back into Agua Fria Elementary. We were contacted by teachers for the Kindergarten, Second and Fourth Grade for individual class presentations. Hopefully this will open the door for us next year to present to the whole school. We are also scheduled to do a presentation for the Agua Fria Elementary Parent/Teacher Committee.

One of the greatest successes we have had this season is getting back into Agua Fria Elementary.

Other schools we have done presentations for include: the Nye Beginning Education Center and Ramirez-Thomas Headstart; Pablo Roybal Elementary (K thru 3rd); the Trio Montessori School (pre-school); Chimayo Elementary (K thru 6th); Presbyterian Medical Services-Nambe and Arroyo



Seco Headstarts; and Mission Viejo School (K thru 6th); Tesuque Pueblo Headstart; Pojoaque Intermediate School (4th and 5th grade); Tony Quintana Elementary (1st thru 6th grade); Turquoise Trail Elementary (K thru 6th) and the Children's Garden Montessori School (pre-school). Pending presentations include the Mariposa Headstart program, and the Presbyterian Medical Services-Chimayo Headstart. The total number of kids we have presented to during the month comes out to approximately 2,018 throughout the County. There are still about 2-3 schools we have not heard back from, but will continue trying to schedule some time.

Another Successful Prevention Month - continued



We continue to receive positive feedback from teachers and staff at the schools. They really like the “age specific” programs and the student interaction with each presentation.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the following Districts and Volunteers:



Chief Marty Maley, Asst. Chief Annie Scovel, Stephen Baca, and Danny Trujillo with Pojoaque; **Efrin Galindo and Carl Prather** with La Cienega; **Julian Sandoval Jr. and Melissa Trujillo** with Chimayo; **Chief Joseph Sandoval, Asst. Chief Joe Schwaegal, Mick Montoya, Mark Herrera, Amber Lovato, John Wickersham, and Andrew Ulibarri** with La Puebla; **Patrick Durr** with Agua Fria; **Tim Gilmore** for helping in Hondo; **Kern Hicks and Jeffrey Kosberg** with Tesuque; and **Kris, Kyle and Corey Nystrom** with Turquoise Trail.



I've said it before and I will say it again, “The Santa Fe County Fire Prevention Public Education programs would not be as successful without your participation. Thank you for all you do!”

Prescribed Burn with National Park Service By: Krys Nystrom

After a lot of hard work and back and forth legal negotiations an agreement was established with the Park Service to allow our crew and district volunteers to participate in a hazard mitigation burn at the Pecos National Monument.

We took our fuels crew's engine staffed with *Nestor Garcia* and *Walter Dasheno*, *Krys Nystrom* and *Kevin Barrows* from Turquoise Trail VFD and *Kurt Lermuseaux* from Stanley VFD. We also had Hondo Engine 6 with Hondo firefighters *Bruce Wollens*, *Bob Jones*, *Adam Stively*, and *Mike Feulner* from Edgewood VFD. We found that setting fires is a whole lot different from putting them out.

On day 1 both engines were assigned to holding and making sure the fire didn't get beyond the line established by the burn plan. All went fairly well, with only a couple slop-overs occurring. We were burning in patchy grasses and some stretches of masticated materials, and the masticated stuff tended to be in very dry piles which burned hot and fast.

Towards the end of the day several of us got the opportunity to ignite with drip torches. Since setting fire to stuff is generally considered somewhat of a big no-no for us it was a pretty cool opportunity. We worked with Forest Service and Park Service personnel performing a broadcast burn using staggered lines and eventually covering about 100 acres. All in all that day we burned 400 acres.

The second day was more of the same although the weather did not cooperate as well – a bit too humid for a while. We held line and some more of us got the opportunity to ignite.

The Park Service was appreciative of the help, and now the door is open for us to do more of this type of thing. We all have a lot to learn, and these types of burns provide a great place to work on task books, hone skills, and gain experience.





2009 is quickly coming to a close and it's time to once again begin the EMT license renewal process. There are a couple of new changes for the renewal process and bureau requirements. First off the NM State EMS Bureau is not requiring applicants to send in a copy of each individual CE certificate. Instead they would like the applicants to list all of their attained CE's in a list something similar to this example:

CONTINUING EDUCATION DOCUMENTATION FORM

COURSE/ WORKSHOP TITLE	DATE OF COMPLE- TION	CE CATEGORY	HOURS	LOCATION	EMSB AP- PROVAL #

Licensure rule 7.27.210 NMAC requires that all licensure levels must complete a set number of Continuing Education hours in order to renew a license. The original CE certificates DO NOT need to be sent in. The Bureau will be auditing 10-20% of all applicants. If an individual is selected for audit he/she will then be required to submit copies of all certificates listed on the CE Documentation form. This form may also be obtained on the website at www.nmems.org.

In order to help with this process, I will cover the necessary format for ease of application, signatures and payment, step by step, but remember, you are ultimately responsible for maintaining your licensure. The Santa Fe County Fire Department will do all it can to help with the process. So here goes:

Step one: Obtain a copy of the New Mexico State 2009-2010 EMS Provider Renewal Application from Captain Mestas at SF County Fire Administration, or you can download the application online at www.nmems.org, just click on the renewal tab on the top of the home page. Fill this form out completely with the sections that pertain to your level of licensure.

Step two: Turn the completed application into my office (form only) at SFCFD Administration c/o EMS Captain no later than **December 31, 2009**. I do not want your CE's documentation form attached at this time. ALL applications must come through my office first, I only need the forms for the Medical Director signature. Dr. Lee will not sign any applications without the consent of SFCFD Administration. The State license is required by the County, but if you would like to maintain your National Registry, I can obtain the signatures for you at the same time. *Reminder, you are responsible for the fees associated with the National application.

Step three: Once signed by the Medical Director, I will return applications no later than **January 31, 2009** to District Chiefs and BCs unless I receive further direction by you that you would like to come in personally and pick up your form. I know this can be an inconvenience, but you are also minimizing the chances of your application getting misplaced.

Step four: I have started a group Purchase Request for career members. If you would like the County to cover the fees just let me know. If you choose, you can pay the cost yourself to avoid any possible delays in the process but you will not be reimbursed after the fact. SFCFD will cover the initial fees for the State Application for career staff only. You will be responsible for any late fees incurred by March submittal or reinstatement fees thereafter. It is at the discretion of districts to choose to cover the fees for their respective members. See the table below for fees schedule:

CATEGORY	NORMAL FEE	*MARCH FEE	REINSTATEMENT FEE
Emergency Medical Dispatch Inst.	\$25	\$75	\$150
Emergency Medical Dispatcher	\$20	\$60	\$120
Emergency Medical First Responder	\$20	\$60	\$120
EMT- Basic	\$30	\$90	\$180
EMT-Intermediate	\$40	\$120	\$240
EMT-Paramedic	\$50	\$150	\$300

2010 EMS Relicense Renewal - continued



Step five: Attach the “*Continuing Education Documentation Form*” that lists all of your CE’s e.g. date, class and hours received. This will help streamline the review process at the bureau and minimize paper waste. All EMT’s need to include a copy of current BLS (CPR) approved course card. Paramedics are required to include a copy of their ACLS or approved equivalent to the advanced cardiac life support for emergency care with their CPR card.

Step six: Mail the completed renewal packet to:

EMS Bureau
Attn: Tess Pino
1301 Siler Road, Building F
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Reminders:

Renewal requirements must be completed no later than **December 31, 2009.**

You have until March to renew at the normal fee, March is the last month to renew but the fees triple in March; and after that time you will need to follow the reinstatement guidelines and the fee doubles yet again. So on that note, I encourage you to submit prior to March and avoid the additional incurred fees which you are responsible for!

I strongly encourage you to make a complete copy of your packet prior to mailing in to the Bureau

I also encourage you to send your renewal packet to the Bureau by certified mail, return receipt requested!

Any questions please contact me at: mmestas@santafecounty.org or by phone 505-992-3075

Have a safe and prosperous New Year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!





As the weather is cooling down and we start preparing for winter, there are a few things you can do around your home to prevent or prepare for a home fire emergency.

If you use a wood-burning heat source (wood stove or fire place), have a professional clean any buildup in your chimney and ensure that it is in good working order.

Most chimney fires are caused by buildup of creosote.

Check the fire brick in your stoves and fireplaces for cracks and replace them.

If you install your own wood-burning heat source, read the Manufacturer's Recommendations. If you still have questions you should contact a certified/licensed installer and review Mechanical Code requirements regarding wood stove requirements.

If you have a lot of vegetation around your home, it is a good idea to install a spark arrestor on your chimney to keep sparks and embers from landing in dead or dormant vegetation causing a brush fire. This can be as simple as wrapping a fine wire mesh screen over the chimney opening.

To prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, have all gas appliances (stoves, water heaters, furnaces and dryers) checked by a professional annually to ensure that the appliances are receiving enough combustion air. You can find a listing of professionals in your local Yellow Pages.

As you set your clocks to "fall back", change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This is a good opportunity to review and practice your home fire-escape plan with the entire family.

If you plan on doing any yard clearing or burning of dead vegetation, you will need to obtain an Open Burn Permit from your local fire department.

Go through your home and check for any water piping that may be exposed and freeze in the winter. Your local home improvement store has various types of insulation for water pipes.

Change the filters on your furnace regularly.

Check your clothes dryers for buildup of lint in the receptacle and also behind the dryer where the exhaust hose is connected.

It is a good idea to install Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors in your home. There are even some that detect smoke and CO.

Early signs and symptoms of CO poisoning are headaches, sleepiness, nausea, and dizziness. If you or anyone else in the residence are experiencing these symptoms, leave the residence and call your local fire department.

If a CO detector alarms, do not panic. Find out if anyone is experiencing any symptoms, if not, open some doors and windows and contact a professional to check your appliances.

If your detector continues to alarm (will not reset) leave your residence and contact 911 from a neighbor's home.

For more information on Carbon Monoxide detectors go to http://www.santafecounty.org/fire/fire_protection_systems.php or contact your local fire department.

Note: Carbon monoxide can kill or cause long lasting health problems. It can be especially dangerous for children, pregnant women, people with heart disease, and the elderly.

If you use space heaters (gas or electric), keep a minimum distance of 3 feet or the Manufacturer's Recommended distance, from combustible items such as furniture, curtains and toys.

If you use a wood-burning heat source (wood stove or fire place) please remember to dispose of ash in a metal container with a lid and wet it down.

Be careful not to dispose of ash in heavily weeded areas or near wood decks.

If your water pipes freeze, do not use an open flame source (such as a torch) to thaw the pipe. Contact a licensed plumber or a local home improvement store for suggestions on defrosting your pipes.





With the holidays upon us it is more important than ever to check you home for fire hazards and make sure your family and guests know what to do in case of a fire emergency during your holiday event.

Christmas:

If you use a live Christmas tree, keep it fresh and watered daily. Shedding needles is a sign of a dry tree. Make sure artificial trees are flame-retardant.



- Never smoke around the tree or flammable decorations.
- Keep trees away from direct sources of heat.
- Never place trees where they may block an exit.
- Only buy electric lights that are UL listed and rated for indoor or outdoor use.
- Always unplug lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- Never run electrical cords through doorways or under rugs.
- Keep candles in sturdy holders and never place them near combustible materials or decorations.
- Never leave the house or go to bed with candles lit.
- Avoid hanging stockings near an open flame.

Never burn paper in the fireplace. This is a major cause of chimney fires.

If you have outdoor Christmas lights that were left out through the summer, you may want to replace them. The summer sun and weather can cause damage to the cords causing electrical shorts.

New Years:

If you attend a party at a local establishment or someone else's home, look for and know where the exits are located.

Appoint or volunteer to be the designated driver. Never let friends drink and drive.

Check under furniture and between cushions for smoldering cigarettes.

If using fireworks, keep a bucket filled with water to put spent fireworks in to make sure they are out. Only shoot fireworks in a clear area, free of dead or dormant vegetation.

Keep a water hose handy in the event of a fire. Check local laws to see if fireworks are allowed.

The Santa Fe County Fire Prevention Division wishes you and your families a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!
¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!



Continuing Education Schedule - Spring 2010

Santa Fe Community College

Emergency Medical Services Institute

Date	Time	CE Category	Topic	Instructor
February Monday 22	6-9pm	Medical	Obstetrics	Mike Barnes
March Monday 29	6-9pm	Medical	Stroke	Dr. Rosen
April Monday 19	6-9pm	Pediatric	Peds. Pain Mngmt	Eve Kwiatowski
May Monday 10	6-9pm	Operations	Mass Casualty Incident	TBA

Classes are held at SFCC. Cost is \$10.00 per class.

EMSI CE Coordinator Catherine Hyde 505-660-2080

Email: sfcatsmook@aol.com



Emergency Reporting FAQ's

By: Bett Clark

I have been compiling the ER Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and answering them weekly. You can review the FAQs and ER Instructions in the Library Module of ER or on www.sfcfire.net.

I thought I would review some of the FAQs in this CONNECTION.

Emergency Reporting is the official record of all SFCFD emergency responses. As such, it is necessary that data be complete, correct and as detailed as possible. Data will be exported to NFIRS, New Mexico EMS Bureau (NMSTARS) and to the billing office. Reports must contain all necessary data to support all legal requirements for compliance, protocol, policy and patient billing.

IC on scene, whether Fire or EMS call, is responsible for entering or designating personnel to enter the primary report within the shift period. Reports are to be entered in their entirety, with accuracy to detail. PCR is to be completed and locked by providing EMTs.

Mutual Aid Responses to Calls - Per the State Fire Marshal's Office and NM EMS Bureau: Districts that provide automatic/mutual aid MUST submit a separate report for the response in order to receive credit. Aid can only be documented, by each district providing aid, by entering a separate report. Santa Fe County Fire Department is one department that oversees 15 separate districts. Each district has its own unique FDID number and EMS Agency number. If you are reporting as a mutual aid provider, add the last two digits of your FDID to the end of the dispatch number. For example, if Agua Fria was dispatched to automatic aid La Cienega, the correct dispatch number would be 020900123404. The dispatch number ...02 is designation for County; 09 is the year; 001234 is this call specific dispatch number; 04 is the last four digits of Agua Fria FDID.

Now that we are successfully exporting to NMEMSTARS based on Incident Type we do not need to do PCRs on cancellations without patient contact. You must do PCRs when there is patient contact, patient refusal is obtained or transport. If you are cancelled while enroute to a call and there is no patient contact, then no PCR needs to be completed. This is a change from the original instruction sheet.

When printing reports for billing purposes, go to the print tab and select "Apparatus" "Personnel" and "Patient Information" then print. When printing for multiple patients, go to the print tab and select "Apparatus" "Personnel" and "Patient Information" for each patient separately and print for each patient separately. If you select "All" you will print the entire event with multiple patients listed rather than a PCR and event for each billable patient.

ER exports all incidents to National Fire Incident Reporting Standard (NFIRS) and all EMS related incidents are exported to NM Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (NMEMSTARS). All districts utilizing ER are compliant with the reporting requirements and the information was exported and confirmed on November 13, 2009. This included all incidents for 2009 which were reviewed.

The CAD interface to populate all dispatch information including times began the testing phase the last week of November. We should be going live with real-time data in December.

Keep using the program and sending your questions to bclark@santafecounty.org.

Ken Martinez named 2009 Director of the Year

By: M. Mangino



During the fall conference of the New Mexico Chapters of Associated Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and National Emergency Number Association (NENA) held October 13 – 16, 2009 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, **Ken R. Martinez** of the Santa Fe Regional Emergency Communications Center was presented with the Director of the Year 2009 award. Ken was selected as Director of the Year after review of several nominations of other directors throughout the state. Numerous letters of commendation along with noted accomplishments came from all levels of personnel at RECC which aided the selection committee in making their decision.

Congratulations to Ken Martinez from a very proud Santa Fe Regional Emergency Communications Center!



Over the summer the Fire Prevention Division “inherited” a new program called PlaySafe!BeSafe!. This program is directed at preschool aged kids-2 to 5 years old. It’s a four week (1 hour a week) program that introduces kids to fire safety on a more one-on-one format rather than as an assembly presentation. The program consists of the following 4 lessons: 1) “My Friend the Fire-fighter,” which teaches kids that fire fighters are their friends and are there to help them even though they may look, sound and feel different with all their gear on; 2) “Stop, Drop and Roll,” teaches kids



not to play with matches, lighters or anything with an open flame, and what to do if their clothes should ever catch on fire; 3) “Crawl Low Under Smoke,” we discuss what smoke looks like, what causes smoke and that smoke is not good to breathe. With interactive games we show kids what smoke detectors are and how they work and how to crawl low under the smoke and get to clean air outside; 4) the final lesson is “Safe to Play, Keep Away,” where kids learn about toys that are safe to play with and adult tools that they should keep away from. Along with this lesson the kids receive a certificate of completion and a fire hat to take home to their parents.



In the first lesson the kids also make a dalmation sock puppet and they receive certificates to take home to their parents with lessons 2 and 3. There are also a couple of coloring assignments that we leave with the kids to complete and turn in the next week. Each lesson is followed by a parent letter the teachers send home telling parents what their child has learned that week and to practice at home.

This started off as a pilot program at the Santa Fe Community College Early Childhood Center, but by word of mouth has extended into the schools. We recently completed our second session at the Mission Viejo Little Learners PreSchool.

We have received excellent feed back on the program about how great it is to introduce the children to each subject individually rather than all at once, because that can sometimes overwhelm them at this age. The games and activites keep the children’s attention and the hour time frame is just about right.

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS!!!

Congratulations to the following individuals who have taken on new leadership roles in their respective Districts.

Congratulations go out to:

Jane McSweeney new District Chief—Glorieta Pass

Kevin Barrows new District Chief—Turquoise Trail

Tem Mitchell new District Chief—Stanley

Nick Martinez new District Chief—Pojoaque

Also a huge THANK YOU to:

District Chief Marty Maley—Pojoaque

District Chief Ray Valdez—Glorieta Pass

District Chief Herman Sena—Stanley

District Chief Tom Macdonell—Turquoise Trail

for their years of tireless work on behalf of their Districts, the Santa Fe County Fire Department and the citizens of Santa Fe County.



Worcester December 3, 1999

Like most significant incidents or history making disasters, many of us will recall what we were doing or where we were on any given date. Do you recall the night 10 years ago when six firefighters ultimately gave their lives by entering the fortress-like Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Storage Co. in search of a reported homeless couple. The tragic irony of this loss of life is that the individuals that they were searching for were reported to be the ones that started the fire, then left the building without reporting the fire and went to a record store to stay warm. What began as a 'routine' fire was extinguished six days later. Eight days later after digging by hand and heavy equipment the last of the fallen firefighters was carefully removed from the smoking shell of the huge building.

I was told the story of the fire and the aftermath in the same tones as Ground Zero. The person that was relaying it had a difficult time of it, but he wanted to make sure that their story wasn't forgotten.

Space keeps me from re-telling the story of that fire here, so if you don't know it by now, or in case you have forgotten the details or were not a Firefighter in 1999...here is a link that has everything you would need to learn and never forget: <http://www.telegram.com/static/fire/pulitzer/index.html>

But I do want to remind all of us again that this day is the anniversary of the horrible loss of WFD members Paul A. Brotherton, 41; Joseph T. McGuirk, 38; James F. Lyons III, 34; Lt. Thomas E. Spencer, 42; Timothy P. Jackson, 51, and Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38.

Our hearts should go out to all the friends and families of these men, as well as to the members of the WFD on the anniversary of their loss. Don't let the members of this Fire Department forget the Worcester Cold Storage building fire on Franklin Street... and the "common bond" with the WFD 6 who were killed on 12-3-99 doing the job that you do.

"Men went into burning buildings, stood firm against a force of nature—against the fundamental element of the entire universe—only because they knew they would not die.

"Sure, they talked about the danger.

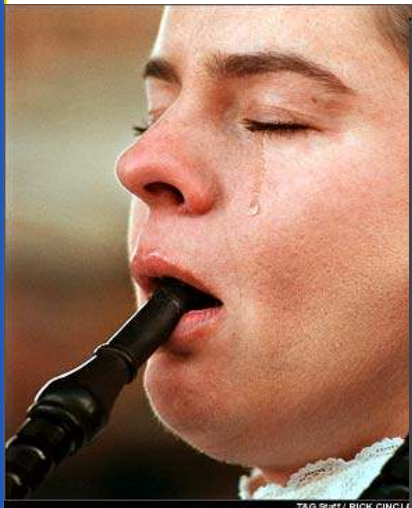
"They recited romantic drivel about how every alarm could be their last and they shellacked 'The Firemen's Prayer' to pieces of oak they hung in their half baths off their kitchens and they told women in bars that they wanted to die with their boots on like real American cowboys and they chiseled the name of every old retiree who finally dropped dead at 87 into granite monuments surrounded by petunias and geraniums.

"But none of that was real.

"None of them believed it, not in his soul.

"No man would go to work if he expected to die before sunrise."

—From "3000 Degrees," by Sean Flynn.



T&G Staff / RICK CINCL





New County JPAs

The State is proposing new JPAs and the biggest difference will be how personnel and equipment will be reimbursed. Everything else is the same but for those that respond to a mutual aid fire that are trained and qualified and the engine that they respond in is RMP ready will get reimbursed RMP rates. What does this mean? Instead of \$11/hr a trained and qualified Engine Boss will get \$22.64/hr.

A list of qualified and trained personnel will go out to NM State Forestry by April 1st of 2010 so be sure to get the wildland refresher/pack test completed before then.

RMP Equipment Inspections and other RMP related stuff

In order to keep from being turned away from an assignment the Wildland Division at the beginning of next season will inspect those engines that are on the RMP. Keep in mind engines will get re-inspected once on assignment but this will help avoid problems that could come up.

When on an RMP assignment please notify Steve or myself of any changes especially if you change to a different fire. We will work it on this end so payment doesn't get delayed.

The state will be looking at everything so keep your receipts while on an RMP assignment.

Engine Boss Refresher and Pack Test date

The date for the Engine Boss Refresher and Pack Test has been set for 1/09/2010, 0900-1600, at Eldorado Station 1. Pack Test to follow that same day. After this the Engine Bosses will set their schedule for pack test/refreshers for the rest of the county.

Type II Initial Attack crew and Type III Team

Working with the City of Santa Fe Fire Department we will be putting a Type II Initial Attack crew together. This crew will be a joint city/county venture and will be available for RMP assignments. In April of next year we will conduct a city/county training for this Type II crew to get familiar with each other as a group before we get sent out on an assignment. On the same note we will also be working with the city to staff our own Type III team. Those that are interested or want to find out more info give me a ring.

Agreements, Appropriate Management Response fires (AMRs), and detail opportunities

With help from *Adam Stively* we were able to get an agreement in place with the US Forest Service. This agreement allows us to assist the USFS on prescribed fires in the local area. This is on a volunteer basis and is a great opportunity to get experience and work on task books.

Next year there will be opportunities to get on fires with the Bandelier National Park fire use module. The first opportunity will be as an AD on an AMR fire. This is a paid opportunity and if they need help they will call us and we will put out the word to those who are available. The second opportunity will be as a temporary employee of Bandelier and for three weeks you will be a member of the fire use module writing burns plans, prepping the burn unit, and implementing the burn. This usually takes place early spring and is another great opportunity to get some experience and work on task books. This will be a paid/competitive opportunity so if you're interested let me know. (As a side note Hondo Engine 6 and County Engine 561 participated in the Park Service Pasture RX on 11/10 and 11/13. Everyone got some good experience and had an opportunity to put fire on the ground. There will be more opportunities.)

Training

The State is really clamping down on training and the opportunity to go to training locally will become more and more difficult. Take advantage of training opportunities once they become available.

Be sure to look at www.sfcfire-wildland.com for an up to date training schedule.

Next Wildland Meeting

The next wildland meeting is scheduled for March 5th, 1800-2000, Hondo Station 2.

**Santa Fe County Fire Department
35 Camino Justicia
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508-8501**

PRESORTED STANDARD
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PERMIT No. 37



The Connection

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SANTA FE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
35 Camino Justicia, Santa Fe, NM 87508 (505) 992-3070

Baby News

By: Karen Griego

We'd like to welcome the newest members of the
Santa Fe County Fire Department Family!

Zoey McCoy Serino!

September 23rd

7lbs 20oz

Parents: Stacy & Paul Serino

Nathan Martinez

October 30th

5 lbs 15 oz.

Parents: Ryan & Vanessa Martinez

Phoenix Camp Shelton

October 31st

8 lbs 2 oz.

Parents: Genevieve David & Reed Shelton

