



The Connection



Alarm & Reality Checks

By: Battalion Chief Mike Neely

A few weeks ago the Dekalb County Fire Department made national news and unfortunately, it was not for a spectacular rescue or for a call highlighting public safety heroism. The call which involved a routine response for a possible structure fire turned horribly bad with the death of the home owner, the termination of 4 firefighters, and the resignation of the Chief of the Department. The background for the story is this; The 911 dispatch center received a call from a female who indicated that her oxygen concentrator had caught fire. The Fire Department responded with an engine and a command vehicle. Upon arriving at the address and not viewing any obvious smoke and or flame from their location on the street, they proceeded to drive around the cul-de-sac and then cancel from the call. No one attempted to make any further contact with the caller nor did the firefighters attempt to investigate the physical residence which had been identified by a numerical address. Approximately 4 hours later, the fire department was dispatched to a confirmed structure fire at the same address. The elderly resident had tried to escape from her home but was trapped inside the garage when the garage door became disabled from the fire. A woman lost her life, a family lost their loved one, 4 public servants lost their jobs and are now facing possible criminal charges. How could this have happened?

Last week I listened to one of our crews respond to an “alarm check” call that came into the RECC from an alarm company. The crew responding in their med was joined by a regional volunteer who drove an engine to the call. Upon arriving at the residence, command was established and an investigation ensued. The crew reported almost immediately, that “nothing” was showing and that there were no obvious signs of smoke and or fire. They further noted that the house which was surrounded by a fenced yard had 3 large dogs that appeared to be unfriendly. However, the crew continued with their investigation and obtained information from the alarm company as well as the responsible party and resident. After carefully negotiating the canine security, the responders successfully entered the home through a back door. Upon opening the door, the responders were met by a haze of light gray smoke and the sound of an active smoke alarm.

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Fire District Inspections *By: Asst. Chief Steve Moya*

According to New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 10.25.10.7 A. a certified fire department means a fire department that has been certified pursuant to paragraph 10.25.10.11 of this rule. As such the fire departments are subject to 10.25.10.10 Periodic Requirements: Each fire department shall complete a monthly fire report. This report shall be filed with the State Fire Marshal's Office by the 10th day of each month following the month for which the report is prepared. (e.g., the report for January is due by February 10th). Each fire department receiving FPF monies shall submit any other reports the Fire Marshal shall, from time to time, require and deem necessary. Each fire department receiving FPF monies shall cooperate during any inspection deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal. Each local government that receives FPF monies shall have in place an accounting system that clearly delineates FPF transactions and, upon request by the Fire Marshal, make available all records regarding FPF transactions. During the past few weeks the State Fire Marshal, with the assistance and guidance of *Asst. Chief Moya* and *Regional Chief Velarde*, have been inspecting the Fire Districts of Santa Fe County Fire Department to ensure the requirements are being met. Santa Fe County is just the start of the State Fire Marshal's goal to complete inspections throughout the state.

So what are the criteria? This code pertains to establishing new departments as well as maintaining departments for Fire Protection Funding. According to NMAC 10.25.10.11 Criteria for the establishment, certification and funding of new departments: To achieve an Operational/Functional Status the department shall have sufficient membership to ensure the response of at least four members to fires in structures. To meet this minimum number, the department should have at least 12 adults willing and able to volunteer their services as firefighters.

The local government shall identify water sources within the proposed response area. Ideally, all single point water sources should have a minimum of 30,000 gallons of water usable for suppression. The local government shall obtain written permission from property owners in which they agree to allow the fire department to use private water sources. The local government shall submit to the Fire Marshal two copies of the resolution along with two clear and concise maps depicting the boundaries of the response area. The maps should be of a scale that clearly depicts the district and identifies the range and township. The preferred scale is one (1) inch equals two (2) miles. The district boundaries should be clearly outlined. All sources of water for firefighting within the boundaries shall be clearly indicated on the map.

The local government shall obtain essential firefighting equipment and personal protective equipment. As a minimum, the local government shall obtain an operational apparatus meeting the general criteria for an initial attack or pumper apparatus, according to NFPA. The apparatus shall be housed to provide adequate protection. The structure should be owned or leased to the local government. The department shall have an alarm notification system in place. This system shall be designed so that there is no delay in the receipt of alarms and the dispatch of firefighters.

As a minimum the following records shall be on file with the fire department: Response records that indicate the date, times (alarm to return to service), location and type of response and the number and names of responders; Training records that indicate the date, times (start to end), location and description of training, and the number and names of attendees; Minutes of department business meetings; Maintenance records of equipment and apparatus; Up-to-date roster of fire department members. A description of the alarm system; A complete itemized inventory of firefighting equipment and apparatus. A roster of firefighters names, addresses and telephone numbers.

A fire department that fails to comply with any portion of the certification requirements shall remain on probation until such time that all requirements are met. All subsequent annual funding shall be based on the department's ISO classification and number of approved main and substations. This is how the inspections have been misnamed pre-ISO Inspections. However, the inspections are important and crucial to continued certification and funding.



Insurance Services Office (ISO) is an independent statistical, rating, and advisory organization that has served the property/casualty insurance industry for over 30 years. ISO collects information on a community's public fire protection and analyzes the data using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). ISO then assigns a Public Protection Classification used by insurers.

ISO evaluations are done upon request, when major improvements warrant an evaluation in hopes to improve ratings or when a department is failing and facing possible de-certification by local state officials. ISO measures four major elements of the County's fire suppression system. The ISO Classification number is a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 representing less than the minimum recognized protection. In order to be a classification higher than a 10 the following facilities must be provided: Organization, Membership, Training, Alarm Notification, Apparatus, and Housing. ISO evaluates three main areas of protection -- namely **Fire Communications**, **Fire Department**, and **Water Supply**.

Concerning **Fire Communications**, total credit is 10.00 and the review includes:

- the communications center facilities
- number of operators at the center
- telephone service, number of telephone lines coming into the center, and the listing of emergency numbers in the telephone book
- dispatch circuits and how the center notifies firefighters about the location of the emergency.

Regarding the **Fire Department**, total credit is 50.00+ and the review includes:

- distribution of fire companies throughout the area.
- fire apparatus and equipment
- fire-company records to determine the type and extent of training provided to fire-company personnel, number of people who participate in training, firefighter response to emergencies, maintenance, and testing of the fire department's equipment.



For **Water Supply**, total credit is 40.00 and the review includes:

- pumps, storage, and filtration.
- fire-flow tests at representative locations in the community to determine the rate of flow the water mains provide.
- distribution of fire hydrants up to 1,000 feet from representative properties.
- size, type, and installation of hydrants; hydrant maintenance; and hydrant condition.

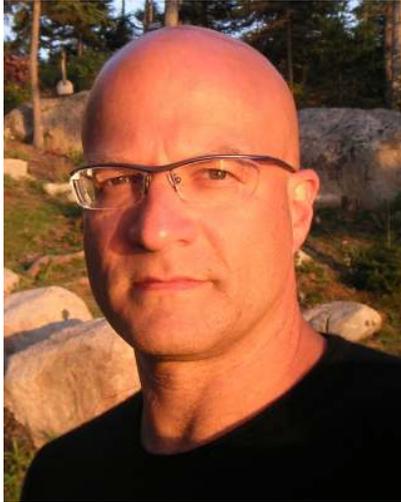
You can also earn Divergence Credit by adjusting for the difference in credit between Fire Department and Water Supply (ability to provide a water shuttle operation is an example). The Classification varies directly with the total credit. In other words, Class 5 is 50.00% to 59.99%, Class 4 is 40.00% to 49.00% and so on. Santa Fe County Fire Department District's are rated independently and range from an ISO 4 to ISO 9.

Santa Fe County Records are available in the Library of Emergency Reporting. Each Volunteer Fire District has a Category with ISO files. The forms include ISO- Pre-Survey, Water, Fire Department and either Improvement Statements or Summary Report given by ISO based on their latest evaluation. Each District also has a form for each type of apparatus that is based on ISO and NFPA. These forms will be completed using the information from the State Fire Marshal's Inspections.

Improvements need to be made in record keeping. Emergency Reporting is the repository for all districts to keep required records. These include Business Meeting and District Training Events under the Events Tab; Apparatus, Hose and Pump Testing under the Maintenance Tab; Supplies under the Inventory Tab; Hydrants and Inspections under Hydrants Tab, etc.



Meet the New Medical Director



It is with great humility that I begin my work with the Santa Fe County Fire Department. I officially began my tenure on January 1st. Since then, I have had the privilege of meeting and working with Chief Holden, Deputy Chief Sperling, Asst. Chief Holland and Captain Mestas.

This past week, I was fortunate to have been present at the graduation of newly minted Paramedics (James Smith for SF County) who completed their training at the Santa Fe Community College Emergency Medical Services Institute. Their graduation marked the beginning of a career built upon a process of continual learning and improvement.

My interest in Emergency Medical services can be traced to an incident that occurred in 1984. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa and a young woman had fallen down a well, breaking her leg. We arranged transport from her village to the nearest clinic, which was 15 miles away. Her mode of transport – a cart pulled by a donkey! When I returned to the US, I began working for International Aid Organizations including the US Agency for International and UNICEF. My work focused on building Disaster Relief and essential health-care infrastructure in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

There are many parallels between West Africa and New Mexico. Communities are mostly rural and patients are often reluctant to seek health care; when they do, their access is often limited to centers far from their homes. There are language barriers (Spanish, local Native American dialects) and cultural barriers that exist; transport times to hospitals are often lengthy.

Fortunately, we no longer rely on donkey-carts to transport the sick. But despite our well-equipped rigs and readily available helicopter services from Careflight and PHI, the backbone of our EMS system is our dedicated EMT providers. As an Emergency Medicine Physician, I can tell you that when lives are saved, it is in pre-hospital setting – way before the gurney rolls into the Emergency Department. For these reasons, having a talented and well-trained cadre of Emergency Medical Providers is essential.

My philosophy is as follows:

- Focus on training - in the months ahead, in collaboration with the Santa Fe Community College and St. Vincent's Hospital, we hope to initiate a monthly Case Conference where we can review interesting and challenging medical and trauma cases. To this end, I will need your input into which cases and topics you think are essential to maintaining and improving your skills and knowledge base.
- Focus on quality improvement – we regularly review cases such as medical codes and level-one trauma cases. Reviewing such cases gives us an opportunity to provide direct feedback to our EMT's and tailor our future training activities to identified needs. Our goal is not to find fault with the way things were done, but to identify cases that will help us improve.
- Focus on communication. It is my goal to tour the county in the months to come and to meet as many providers as possible. For units that transport to St. Vincent's, I have fairly regular contact. In the past several weeks, I have begun to solicit feedback on how to improve our system. Over time, many of these suggestions will be incorporated into our protocols.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all in the months to come.

David Rosen, MD, MPH, FAAEM
Medical Director
Santa Fe County Fire Department

La Cienega, Med 60 & Care Flight Team-up for Training



MVA Scenario at the Downs

By: Karen Donovan EMS Captain La Cienega

On December 12th 2009, La Cienega Fire District and Medic 60 crew Reed Shelton and Daisy Kelley teamed up with Care Flight for a multi-patient MVA scenario at the Downs Race Track. The scene was a two car MVA with an unknown number of patients. La Cienega District personnel were tasked with establishing command, giving a scene size-up, rapidly triaging patients, treat and preparing them for transport. Shortly into the scenario it was discovered that the number of patients outnumbered the available resources. Care Flight was launched and a mock page went out for Med 61 and a Turquoise Trail Fire District Med unit. Patient count was 5 including one DOA, an ICP head injury patient, a failing respiratory patient, a dislocated shoulder patient, and a patient complaining of neck pain.



Valuable lessons were learned throughout the exercise, such as how difficult it is for the person performing triage to leave patients in order to complete triaging the remaining patients, obtaining an accurate patient count and maintaining crew accountability and patient care for all patients. Also evident was the importance of radio communications and remaining diligent to not overlook or neglect any patients no matter the extent of injury. Some equipment concerns were also recognized, such as keeping items located within the Thomas Packs organized in the most efficient manner. We were very grateful for the warm weather and calm winds for this December training. We were also very grateful to see how many enthusiastic the La Cienega District, Med 60, and Care Flight crew members participated in a weekend training to improve our proficiency as emergency responders. Thank you also to the spouses who volunteered to help out and to everyone for participating!



Group Photo (above) left to right: *Dham Khalsa (CareFlight), Reed (Med 60), Omar Suarez, Carl Fischer, Freddie Velazquez, Phillip Montoya, Dennis Miramontes, Marcus Gonzales, Mike Barnes, Gilbert Gonzales.* Middle: *Justine Francisco, Danielle Martinez, Efren Galindo.* Front: *John Maher, Mike Small, Tom Cislo (CareFlight), Karen Donovan, Daisy Kelley.*

The patients (pictured above) left to right: *John Maher, Justine Francisco, Melisa Galindo, Rebecca Larranaga, Mike Barnes.*





Equipment and Cold Weather

Submitted by: Lt. Lovell

During these cold months not only do we need to take care of and protect ourselves, but we also take into consideration the state of equipment and apparatus.

During extreme cold weather the equipment we use can suffer too. Freezing pumps and other components are considerations we need to think about. Engines on scene that are not used for firefighting operations, even if the pump is drained, can still get damaged just sitting and being exposed to the cold temperatures. Liquid filled gauges, interior pump seals and valves and valve springs as well as plastic exterior handles, knobs etc., can break, freeze, or otherwise become damaged with exposure to the cold weather. Also we need to take into consideration our water supply, not only in the tank but residual water that may be left inside small lines and valves on the pump itself.

Leaking o-rings on hoses and discharges can create a severe slip hazard as well as possibly freeze a hose or something literally to the ground or a metal surface. Connections can be frozen closed and other parts frozen open until the apparatus is back in the station and allowed to thaw out.

Think about when you have that MVA or EMS call during cold weather and an engine, brush truck, or tender is responding. Having this type of apparatus exposed to the cold weather while enroute or sitting on a scene when not used has caused damage that can be avoided.

When engines and tenders are used for traffic control or otherwise parked and not being utilized it may be wise to consider sending them back to the station to avoid any possible damage(s). While traffic control and maintaining a safe scene is essential, water carrying vehicles such as engines provide visibility and scene protection if placed correctly in a “fend off” position, but if other apparatus is available and utilizing other equipment for visibility such as flares (no flammable materials present) or traffic cones/signs should be used if possible.



If heavy apparatus is needed for protection draining the pump may help a little, but the chances of damage occurring will still be present. The apparatus should be released as possible. Placing the pump in gear is really not the solution according to Fleet Manager **Dennis Patty** and fleet mechanic **Clyde Hill**; internal and external damages can still occur. Recirculation may not stop damages from occurring.

Of course, if an apparatus is being used or is at level 1 or 2 staging for possible deployment, all we can do is the best we can do. Monitoring is encouraged during this type of situation. And if the driver is needed for manpower on a scene, and not the apparatus, all attempts should be made to have the apparatus returned to the station.

If apparatus has been exposed to long periods of cold weather, whether responding to a call (mutual aid for example) or sitting awaiting assignment, an inspection of the pump, including intakes, discharges, tank and tank connections should be performed to identify any problems soon as possible. If an issue is found contact fleet mechanics as to schedule a more complete inspection and repair. We expect of our equipment to take care of us, but equipment depends on us to take care of it. We are in the process of developing an SOP regarding cold weather fire operations for use county wide. So until then just use your common sense and training to address this type of situation, so that you don't have a vital piece of apparatus go down due to a problem of a vital pump part freezing or breaking. Take care and be safe.....and stay warm, too.

PROMOTIONS = CONGRATULATIONS *By: Asst Chief Holland*



It is with great pleasure that I announce the promotion of five of our field staff. Two Lieutenants have been promoted to Battalion Chief and three firefighters have been promoted to Lieutenant. Lts. **Shane Todd** and **Bobby Montoya** were sworn in as Battalion Chiefs on January 5th, along with firefighters **Brandon Smith**, **Jason Noble** and **Jeff Carroll** who were sworn in as Lieutenants.



Battalion Chief Shane Todd is a native New Mexican. He started his firefighter career as a volunteer with Bernalillo County Fire Department in 1985. He began his Santa Fe County Fire Department career as a volunteer in 1988. He was also one of the first firefighters to be hired with SFCFD. He graduated from University of New Mexico, Emergency Medical Services Academy paramedic program in 1999. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2006. He is married to Laura Todd and has two children: Taylor and Tiffany. BC Todd is assigned to B Shift.

Battalion Chief Bobby Montoya started his career as a volunteer with Chimayo Volunteer Fire District in 1999. He took his EMT-Basic class in 2000. He was hired by Espanola Emergency Services in early 2001. He soon completed his EMT-I course at Santa Fe Community College. In 2002 BC Montoya was hired as a career firefighter by Santa Fe County Fire Department. Since then, he has worked at various regional stations. In the fall of 2007 he successfully completed paramedic school with Santa Fe Community College's first ever paramedic class. In 2008, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Station 61 (Agua Fria) until his promotion to Battalion Chief. BC Montoya is married to Linda and they have three children: Tyson, Jimmy, and Chantelle. BC Montoya is assigned to C Shift.



Lieutenant Jason Noble started his fire/EMS career in 1990 as a Volunteer in the Pojoaque District. In 1993 he completed his EMT-Basic class and was hired as a paid firefighter in 1996. He became an EMT-I in 1998. Lt. Noble has also worked part-time at Espanola Emergency Services since 2001. He is married to Carmen Noble and they have 3 sons: Isaac, Mark, and Andres. Lt. Noble is assigned to A-Shift at Station 61

Lieutenant Brandon Smith began his fire/EMS career in 1995 as a volunteer in Valencia County. He quickly got his EMT-Basic and moved on to paramedic in 2000. He came to Santa Fe County Fire Department in 2004. Lt. Smith is married to Nancy Smith and they have a daughter, Alexis. Lt. Smith is assigned to B-Shift at Station 61.

Lieutenant Jeffery Carroll moved from Wisconsin to Madrid in 2005. He joined Madrid Fire District soon after arriving. He graduated from the 2007 Fire Academy and has been assigned to Station 70 since then. Lt. Carroll lives with Stephanie Coulthard who is also a Madrid Volunteer. Lt. Carroll is assigned to B-Shift at Station 70.

Please join us in congratulating each of the newly promoted staff as they embark on the next step of their fire/EMS careers.



Left to Right : **BC Montoya, BC Todd, BC Neely, Chief Holden, Lt. Noble, Lt. Carroll and Lt. Smith.** Congratulations!!!!!!



On January 15, 2010 Santa Fe County Fire Department submitted two applications to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant-Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Services (SAFER). The grant has two programs: Hiring or Rehiring Firefighters and Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters. The following are excerpts from the submitted application narratives.

Hiring or rehiring of Firefighters Program:

Santa Fe County Fire Department is requesting funding through SAFER for thirteen (13) firefighters. Nine (9) would be 48/96 shift work firefighters assigned to regional stations split between three shifts. Four (4) would be forty-hour per week firefighters assigned to wildland operations. Our goal is to create a guaranteed response of trained firefighters according to NFPA 1720-Rural Standards.

The department should strive to develop and maintain a sufficient number of trained firefighter and EMS responders – career and volunteer – to meet the NFPA 1720 standards and to insure that a standard minimum compliment of firefighters respond to each structure fire. Wherever possible, the department should co-locate a minimum of four (4) career firefighters in the same location and form them into an on-duty team with an immediate supervisor. Our staffing plan would include 4-5 personnel in five regional stations throughout the County. The staffing would be subject to change through careful trends monitoring utilizing our electronic reporting system following NFIRS, NMESIS, NFPA 1720 and ISO. It will also be subject to change based on the number of active trained volunteer firefighters located at each of the volunteer districts.

We have essentially created regional staff. Our department is defined by four geographic regions with 3 or 4 districts per region. In each region we house a career staff of at least two personnel with one being a paramedic. Some stations have as many as five staff, depending on call volumes. Leadership is provided by a Lieutenant. Personnel at each regional station are expected to respond the appropriate apparatus for the call dispatched. We provide ALS medical transport so most of the time an engine is responding with only one firefighter. Our overall goal would be 6 career staff at each regional station to staff two on the Medic Unit and four on the Engine; this requested staffing would allow us to get closer to that goal as we can staff each region with adequate personnel.

This grant has a two-year period of performance with no match; however, there is required commitment to continue the positions for one year after the period of performance. The total for this grant request is \$1,150,861.

Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Program:

Our request through this grant is to hire a full-time Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. We currently have a term-contract employee in this position; however, we do not have the current funding to keep him in place. In the last year that he was in this experimental position we have seen 119 volunteers' applications through his campaign media. We have consolidated all membership records in one location to ensure compliance with membership standards, training, certifications, etc. He developed new and innovative programs designed to enhance our abilities to meet NFPA 1720 with the use of auxiliary and junior membership.

Attracting, hiring and retaining good firefighters is essential to building a solid combination fire and EMS force. The provision of fire and emergency medical services is labor intensive. The force must be properly trained, equipped, and supervised to ensure that all field personnel are deployed efficiently and have the resources and guidance they need to succeed. Safety in deployment and operations must be continuously stressed.

Integration strategies are intended to meld volunteer and career staff into one team. These strategies stress consistency and teamwork and can positively influence emergency response activities, improve customer service, and bolster morale.

Increased membership of trained, certified and qualified volunteers will enhance our abilities to meet NFPA 1720-Rural and respond to fire events and begin suppression activities within 14 minutes of 911 calls 99% of the time through district and regional volunteer memberships.

This portion of the application includes the salary and benefits for the Coordinator as well as a vehicle at for a total request of \$379,000.00 over 4 years .

2010 SAFER Grants - continued



The second component of the grant request is to fund retention activities.

Retention/Recruitment by Reward: Programs that will effectively recognize and reward the department's volunteers for their invaluable services to their communities and the County. These programs will include a annual award for Most Active from each district, EMT of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Years of Service Awards to celebrate years and time in service. We project this cost to be \$50.00 per award with up to 80 awards annually for a total of \$4500.00.

Retention/Recruitment by Communication include: Familiarizing all volunteers with available benefits such as the P.E.R.A. Retirement Act and requirements, Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Accidental D&D Policy, Federal Accidental Death & Disability benefits, determining what improvements or changes can be made from the volunteer's perspective, and developing and implementing improvements in communication channels. We project the cost to be \$20 per member for approximately 360 current members for a total of \$7200 with approximate \$2000 annual recurrence.

Retention/Recruitment by Training and Advancement include: Training and fostering of new recruits, the development of volunteer officer and manager training programs, professional skills development programs, communication and leadership skills, and the implementation of clear and consistent criteria for advancement within the volunteer ranks. We believe this to be minimal costs as we can provide these services in-house and through on-line applications. The projected costs will be \$100.00 and our goal is to train 5 personnel from each of the 15 districts for a total of \$7500.00 annual.

The third component is to fund recruitment activities.

Prospective Member Informational Packets: Provide prospective members with up to date printed handouts, brochures and newsletters. Cost projected to be approximately \$2000.00 annual.

Action Media: Actively recruit locally by means of newspaper, radio, television, and big-screen advertisements at movie theaters, as well as through the use of signage, posters, and station banners. Projected costs projected to be approximately \$20,000.00 annually.

This grant has a four year period of performance with no match. The total for this project is \$528,200. These grants will be awarded throughout 2010 with the first announcements by mid-March 2010.

Newlyweds & New Arrivals *By: Karen Griego*

Kimberly and Salvatore Caputo

January 1, 2010

Lorie (Mullings) and Travis Schonrock

January 15, 2010

Sofia and Jeffrey Matchison

February 6, 2010

Chief Holden has a new Grand-daughter

Born: 2/9/10 @ 7:16pm 7 lbs. 14 oz. 20 1/2"

Welcome—Ava Lilly Wamboldt!





New Partners in Fire Prevention By: Victoria DeVargas

Lowe's Safety Saturday, Espanola:

In the Fire Prevention Division we are always looking for new partners to work with to get the word out on Fire Safety, this year we were contacted by Lowe's Home Improvement Store in Espanola. As affiliates of the Home Safety Council, Lowe's was putting together an event called "Safety Saturday". This event was scheduled for the last weekend of September as an introduction to Fire Prevention Month. This was their first event and they contacted various programs in the area, but had heard about a home safety simulation trailer and wanted it for this event. Event Coordinator, John Waters, contacted us and submitted a written request stating how important this learning tool was to the area (which includes residents from the Northern portion of Santa Fe County, City of Espanola and Southern Rio Arriba County).

On "Safety Saturday" Santa Fe County showed up in full force. We had the Fire Safety House and La Puebla Volunteer Fire District used this as a training opportunity in Public Education and took some trucks for display. We sat along side Dixon and Santa Clara Pueblo Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Rio Arriba EMS and DWI Programs.



Out of all the events we have done in the area, this was definitely the most successful. At the end of the day we completed eight presentations in the Fire Safety House (which included approximately 75 kids and adults) and people visited with each of the participating districts and learned about the different types of apparatus and equipment that were present. Thanks to Lowe's we even had a real tree for our *Safe Meeting Place*.



Needless to say, Lowe's was very happy (and impressed) with the positive response and participation they had from the communities. In fact, it looks like this will become an annual event and next year Lowe's is looking at the possibility of including food (always a bonus). Mr. Water's was very appreciative for Santa Fe County Fire Department's participation.

Farmer's Insurance, Santa Fe:

In mid-October I was contacted by Cristi Martinez with Farmer's Insurance inquiring about the Fire Prevention Presentations being done at Turquoise Trail Elementary. It turns out her kids go to school there and she was assisting at the Fall Carnival with a new fire safety program Farmer's is sponsoring. The program is called FireFacts.org Interactive Learning System, a disk with all kinds of fire prevention tips, information and games. The best part about it is that the kids can take it home and work on it with their parents and its bilingual. She asked if she could join me for my presentation at the school and discuss the program. Of course, I said, "Sure". On the day of the presentation not only was Cristi there, but also the region representative Matt Hoffman out of Albuquerque. It turns out our department was one of a couple that actually responded back to them about reviewing the FireFacts program and gave them feed back. Only Cristi and Mr. Hoffman sat through all the presentations we did that day and were excited to see the material and information that we give out to the kids. One of the things that impressed them the most was the fact that each presentation is directed at a specific age group.

The FireFacts program is a really good program and works in conjunction with the programs we do at the schools. The games and information on the disk just reiterate the information we present to the kids.

After the presentations I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Hoffman in more detail and discuss some of the other programs the Santa Fe County Fire Prevention Division has such as the Senior Citizen Fire Safety and Adult/Parent presentations.

The outcome of our visit was very positive in that Mr. Hoffman and Farmer's Insurance would like to work together to help educate homeowners about taking a proactive approach to preparing and hopefully preventing a fire emergency in their homes.

We look forward to working with Lowe's Home Improvement Store and Farmer's Insurance in the future to continue "Spreading the Word" about Fire Safety.



2010 begins both a career and volunteer academy beginning at the same time. The career academy consists of 7 cadets including one individual moving from volunteer to paid status; a trend which continues from the past 3 academies. The Volunteer Fire Academy (VFA) consists of more than 40 individuals participating in at least some part of the curriculum.

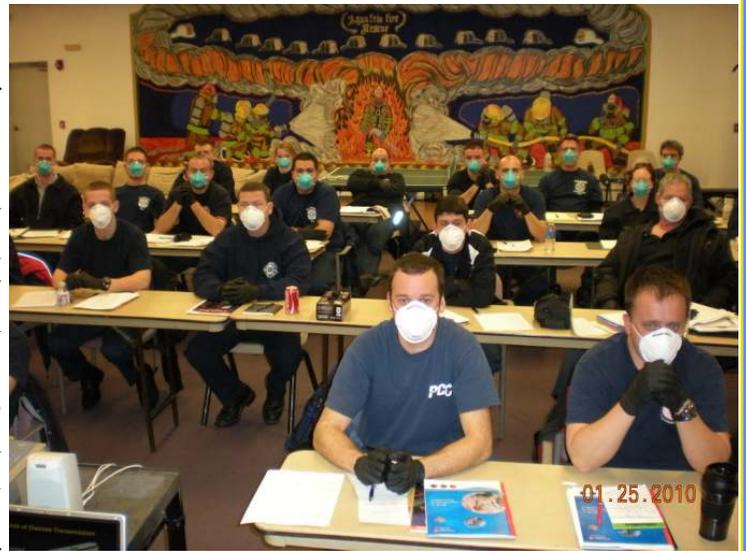
The VFA is a new concept to the volunteers of Santa Fe County combining the following courses and allowing for individuals to participate in as many classes as their schedules will allow. Courses taught over a 13 week schedule include County Fire Department Orientation, S130/190, HazMat Awareness and

Operations, Firefighter First Aid/CPR and SFCFD Firefighter I. Individual members were able to sign up for any classes they choose or the entire academy if their schedule would allow. Once an individual completes all the VFA classes they will be issued a Santa Fe County Fire Department Firefighter I certificate and be qualified to perform interior structural firefighting.

Until an individual completes all the courses required he or she can still attend meetings and assist with exterior support functions with approval of Chief Holden.

The good thing is that if someone can fit the entire schedule into their life, they can graduate with everything they need to hit the streets. With the intense classroom and hands on training individuals can rest assured that they have the training and skills needed to mitigate a situation effectively and safely.

We are also proud to announce that we are including instructors from both the paid and volunteer ranks in both academies. We are confident that this new approach will be the best way to get people trained and out in the streets fast and trained compliant to NFPA 1001. So keep your eyes open to the web site and the "Connection" for updates and announcements for this and upcoming academies.



The training division is committed to assisting all SFCFD Fire Districts with their training needs. Feel free to contact Lt. Lovell or Captain Ehl at any time. We will be glad to do whatever we can to make your trainings successful. Until next time, take care and be safe.





From: CHRISTUS ST. Vincent Trauma Service
 455 St. Michaels Drive, Santa Fe NM 87505
 To: All Emergency Medical Providers in Region I

Revision "Trauma STAT" Criteria

Recent evidence in the trauma literature, as well as principles set forth in the American College of Surgeons Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) program and its handbook, "Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient," have prompted CHRISTUS St. Vincent Trauma service to modify its Trauma STAT criteria, and encourage a closer communication between the pre-hospital provider and Medical Control Emergency Physician (MCEP) in regards to those cases where questions arise pertaining to activation of the Trauma Team. The revised "streamlined criteria are as follows:

Trauma STAT Criteria:

- Hypotension to include no palpable radial pulse, or documented SBP less than 90mmHg.
- Altered mental status attributable to trauma, to include Glasgow Coma Score less than 14.
- Altered respirations to include respiratory rate less than 10 or greater than 25, apnea or compromised airway requiring field airway intervention or endotracheal intubation.
- Penetrating torso trauma to include, gunshot wounds, stabbings, or impalements.

The Trauma Service strongly encourages EMS to make every effort to communicate directly with Medical Control. In those cases where Trauma STAT criteria are met, the trauma team can be more quickly notified and mobilized, while questionable cases may be reviewed by the ED physician, and a decision made regarding trauma team activation.

We are confident that these simplified criteria, along with the closer communication, will improve our care of critically injured patient, while conserving vital resources. Your question and comments are encouraged and appreciated. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the patient.

J.D Wassner, M.D., FACS Trauma Medical Director CSVRMC	Brenda Stewart, R.N. Clinical E.D. Manager CSVRMC	Yvonne Ortiz Trauma Prevention Coordinator CSVRMC
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New & Improved Fire Officer I Course By: Captain Ehl

Thanks to a collaborative effort here at Fire Administration, we have developed a new and improved County Fire Officer Training Course. We have built two course formats that will satisfy the growing demands of the Department. Format 1 is a lecture course in a classroom setting. This course utilizes in-house instructors teaching the IFSTA curriculum, Fire and Emergency Service Company Officer. This format ends with a two day class of Santa Fe County specific material relevant to a County Fire Officer. Format 2 is an on-line course utilizing the Jones and Bartlett curriculum, and also concludes with a two day class covering Santa Fe County specific material. After successful completion of either of these two formats, the Chief will issue graduates a course completion certificate.

As with any position in the Fire Department, the individual is only as effective as the tools they have at their disposal. And we believe that these formats will greatly increase the capacity of the officer's ability to effectively manage their position.

We are currently working on developing new policy and formats for County Fire Instructor similar to the County Fire Officer course. It is one of the goals in the Training Division to have a solid instructor cadre throughout the County. We look forward to rolling both of these out to you all.



As indicated by the responsible party, the home was unoccupied at the time, however the stove and the oven were both on which resulted in the burning of some food left in a pot. After turning off the range oven and ventilating the house, the responders secured the home and returned to service.

Both of these calls could have ended up with the same result. I applaud our department responders for the job they did and the fact that they didn't look for a shortcut or an easy way out. They followed the basic principles of a thorough investigation which resulted in the mitigation of a potential home loss.

Lessons and considerations for the future:

1. Take ALL alarm checks seriously. It is amazing that when a tone goes out for a structure fire we seem to have very little trouble getting department members to respond. Contrary to this, on alarm calls and checks we become somewhat challenged in getting an adequate response.

2. Respond with the right equipment and PPE. An individual should not be tasked with going POV to an alarm check. At the very minimum, a staffed engine should be first out and backed up by a secondary unit. If we respond to a structure fire in PPE, why don't we respond to alarm calls in PPE? Showing up prepared to engage the situation saves time and possibly life and property

3. Take command. I am very proud to say that this is one of the strongest attributes within our department. Keep in mind; if you take command, you incur the added responsibility of documenting the call and possibly representing the department if the end results are challenged.



4. Investigate and Investigate. The devil is in the details....Have you made contact with an RP? Take your time and make sure you've given your best efforts before ending the call.

5. Attitude check. There is nothing more frustrating then going to the same address time after time for that "false" alarm. Utilizing fire prevention as a conduit to the alarm company and property owner is your best bet. Don't forget, our mission is to provide the highest quality service and care to the people of Santa Fe County.

Fire Station Construction Updates

Edgewood Station: We are still short financing and researching multiple funding opportunities.

Rancho Viejo Station: Contract was awarded to RVC of Espanola. Construction is scheduled to begin soon with an estimated completion in 18 months.

La Puebla Station: 99% complete with Certificate of Occupancy expected in February 2010.

Pojoaque Station and La Tierra Station: Construction bid has been advertised. Awards and construction expected in Late April-early May 2010.

Training Center: Purchase has been approved and the earnest money has been paid. Environmental testing results came back without any issues. We will still have to do some remodel and maintenance work before we can schedule the facility.



CBRNE RESPONSE TEAM

By: Asst. Chief Martin Vigil

The Santa Fe County Fire Department CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive) Response Team, a multi-year project, will soon start a selective recruiting process for team members.

Volunteer members who have their Firefighter I, Haz-Mat Operations, and have completed the Department's National Incident Management System Training requirements as well as independent study WMD for Emergency Responders and Radiological Emergency Response will qualify for initial team membership. During the first six months team members will focus on Personal Protective Equipment Competencies, Victim Rescue in Weapons of Mass Destruction Environments, and Mass Decontamination Operations. This program is one of seven National Target Capability List projects the Santa Fe County Office of Emergency Management has been developing over the past several years. The International Association of Fire Chiefs has led the way since the events of 9/11 in encouraging our Nations Fire Services achieve a terrorism response capability. On February 3, 2010 the Washington Director of National Intelligence, Dennis Blair, and CIA Director Leon Panetta told lawmakers that al-Qaida remains at the center of the extremist threat against the United States. "My greatest concern and what keeps me awake at night is that al-Qaida and its terrorist allies and affiliates could very well attack the United States in our homeland," Panetta told Senators (source Global Security). The initial meeting date and times will be communicated via department e-mail.



The initial meeting date and times will be communicated via department e-mail.

PHASE 1 ANNEXATION UPDATE

By: Deputy Chief Dave Sperling

Late in 2009, the City of Santa Fe completed Phase One of their Annexation Plan. Phase one includes annexation into the City of a number of small 'donut hole' parcels of county land clearly within the City limits, as well as annexation of the Interstate 25 corridor. The highway corridor annexation includes the Old Pecos Trail interchange and the highway right-of-way south to the intersection with New Mexico 599. The 'donut hole' annexations do not impact Santa Fe County Fire Department, as these areas were previously covered for emergency response by the City. However, the annexation of Interstate 25 does require a change in the Department's emergency response activities, as these were areas that were previously covered entirely by Santa Fe County and now lie within the City's jurisdiction.

During a meeting with the City Fire Department, it was determined that both agencies would maintain a shared response to the Interstate. This is in recognition of several important considerations which impact which agency can more quickly respond to different sections of the highway corridor. Both County and City Fire Department representatives were particularly concerned about those areas where access is limited by the Rail Runner tracks that run through the highway median from NM 599 to Saint Francis Drive. It is virtually impossible and hazardous to cross the tracks in emergency apparatus, in essence creating the need for different response configurations for the north and south bound lanes.

It was agreed that the highway corridor would be divided into three separate map reference areas. A different emergency response was configured for each area based upon which fire department fields the closest fire and EMS resources. At the north end, the north and south bound lanes from Old Pecos Trail to Saint Francis Drive reverts to SFFD Station 4, with back up provided by the Hondo District and Medic 80. The middle section of the corridor, from Saint Francis Drive to Cerrillos Road, is split between Station 4 providing response for the southbound lanes, and the La Cienega District and Medic 60 covering the northbound lanes. Backup response for this section is also split between City and County resources in the event that the first in units are busy. And finally, both north and southbound lanes of the corridor from Cerrillos Road to NM 599 will remain in the grasps of La Cienega and Medic 60.



Prerequisites—SFCC requires you to be EMT Intermediate

Application process—SFCC will require you to formally apply, to include a letter of support from your service, a written exam based on foundations of EMT Intermediate level, and informal interview. The application process should start next month, in March, including the written exam. Start hitting the books!

SFCFD Selection process—For those who successfully pass the SFCC written exam a SFCFD matrix will be used in determining who will be allowed to fill the class slots designated for SFCFD. The matrix will include the results of the SFCC written exam, SFCFD Interview and seniority. At the current time we expect approximately 4-6 slots will be available for SFCFD personnel.

Start date—June 7th 2010

Class content and daily routine— Class will be 9 am to 5 pm Monday –Friday;

By week four the class will be Monday -Thursday and one clinical rotation shift accomplished during Friday-Sunday.

Dress code, SFCFD uniform? - Uniform is not required during class while attending the program, and you will receive a student polo shirt for clinical and field rotations. You will be expected to conduct yourself and dress appropriately in accordance with SFCC/SFCFD guidelines and dress code. This policy will be outlined in your student handbook.

Books: text, workbook, cardiac, A&P etc.—SFCC will be using a new text for this class “McGraw Hill” Paramedic text, single volume book replacing the Brady 5 volume set.

Field and Clinical internship—Scheduling will be conducted through the Fisdap online scheduler as used for the Intermediate class rotations. Most of your internship will be done at a different service such as SFCFD students riding with SF City Fire or Sandoval County. Clinical rotations will be with CHRISTUS St. Vincent and Espanola Hospital.

Meet your lead instructor - Eve Kwiatkowski is the EMSI Program Director and Dave Huckabee (former SF City Fire Chief) will be the lead ALS Instructor.

National Registry testing (written and skills) - The State of New Mexico recognizes the NREMT as appropriate evaluation, once you have successfully completed the SFCC course you will be scheduled for NREMT testing

Are we going to be paid? - YES, you will be paid as normal but will be expected to pick up a shift every two weeks (48 hour per month) to meet your 56 hour work week.

All SFC Fire Department EMT Intermediates with an interest are strongly encouraged to apply regardless if you attended the meeting. If you have any further questions please contact me at 505-670-6408

Or contact SF Community College EMSI at 505-428-1820

EL RANCHO STRUCTURE FIRE By: Battalion Chief Bobby Montoya

On the evening of January 18th, a structure fire was paged for the Northern Region. Pojoaque Engine arrived on-scene to find a double wide mobile home with smoke and flame around the center of the structure. Assistant Chief Martin Vigil assumed command, and Volunteer Regional Chief Charlie Velarde was placed in role of Operations.

All units involved worked quickly and efficiently to extinguish the flame. As the members of Pojoaque, Tesuque, La Puebla, Chimayo and Squad 62 worked diligently, it seemed as though smoke would continue to progress. With further investigation, it was found that there was a secondary roof that had been built onto this mobile home. With this valuable information, two teams were assigned to penetrate the roof from both above and below via piercing nozzle. With team effort and good communication, all 38 members (both paid and volunteer) played a large role in accomplishing our mission!

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

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JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER COMMITTEE FORMING

We would like to start a committee to look at our Cadet (Junior Firefighter – ages 14 to 17) Program with the intent of developing policies and procedures which would enable all SFCFD Districts to operate their programs safely and to the benefit of the youth members as well as the Department.

The committee will focus on the safety of the youth members and adult mentors in the development of a comprehensive, well documented program.

Individuals interested in serving on this committee should contact me no later than March 31st, 2010. I look forward to working on this important team with you.

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