



The Connection



Chief Holden Retires

In March of this year Chief Stan Holden announced his retirement from the Santa Fe County Fire Department/ Chief Holden has served as the our Chief since February 2 of 1997, leading the department as it's first and only Chief at the time of his retirement.

Some of his numerous accomplishments include the implementation of the Regional Staff which placed paid EMS-firefighter positions in all four regions of the County, the unification of 15 semi-autonomous fire districts into one unified team, and the purchase of the Santa Fe County Fire Training Facility located in Stanley. All this in addition to being the visionary force behind the development of the Santa Fe Regional Communications Center for which he was recognized by the National Association of Counties in 2001, and founder of the Quad-County Emergencies Services Group which coordinated the efforts of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe and Tarrant Counties.

Serving on numerous state and local emergency services committees lead to his appointment on the State Fire Marshal's Blue Ribbon Task Force and the State E-911 Local Advisory Committee.

In 2006 Chief Holden was honored as the recipient of the State's highest recognition for EMS service leadership, the prestigious Robert Sabin Award.

We could easily fill this issue of the Connection with the many accomplishments of Chief Holden and we all wish him the best of luck as he moves on to East Texas and takes on EMS services as CEO of a 9 County Emergency Services District.

We honor the retirement of Fire Chief Stan Holden and recognize his services to the citizens of Santa Fe County and the great State of New Mexico and thank him from the bottom of our hearts.



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AGUA FRIA & HONDO DISTRICT GET NEW ENGINES



Agua Fria District received a 2010 Pierce Saber-all wheel drive Engine with 1000 gallon tank and 1500 gpm pump in May. The Engine cost \$478,654 and included additional NFPA required equipment.



Hondo District received a 2010 Pierce Saber-all wheel drive Engine with 1000 gallon tank and 1500 gpm pump and on board Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) with 30 gallon foam tank in March 2011. The Engine cost \$458,406.



Asst. Chief Steve Moya, Regional Chief Charlie Velarde, Fleet Manager Dennis Patty, and Asst. District Chief Bruce Wollens traveled to Wisconsin for the pre-delivery inspection on both trucks in February.

Santuario de Chimayo By: Asst. Chief Martin Vigil



This year's event had a familiar pattern of public safety issues. Approximately 60 patients were seen at the first aid stations and approximately 10 EMS responses were dispatched into the crowds. An equal amount of law enforcement responses were also observed. The majority of walkers observed were on the Highway 503 side. Porta-potties saw constant use along the route. Many walkers were observed ignoring safety messages by dressing in dark clothing and walking in inappropriate foot wear. This year's pilgrimage was shadowed by threats of a mass shooting. There was a noticeable increase in law enforcement presence to include New Mexico State Police helicopter 606 making overhead observations of the event. The Santa Fe County Fire Department deployed mass casualty incident assets to include an MCI trailer, MCI bus and an MCI plan. A unified command post was maintained between Santa Fe County and Rio Arriba County Emergency Management offices. Tesuque Volunteer Fire District deployed staffed apparatus at both the north and south Tesuque exits. Pojoaque Volunteer Fire District staffed a rescue unit at Station 2 on Highway 503. This year, additional county volunteers assisted Pojoaque from La Cienega, Hondo and Galisteo. La Puebla Volunteer Fire District provided a first aid station and staffed an EMS all terrain vehicle on the Highway 76 side along with all of their apparatus. The Chimayo Volunteer Fire District staffed all of their apparatus as well as a fire all terrain vehicle. A regional paramedic ambulance maintained stand-by coverage out of the Chimayo fire station and also staffed an ALS all terrain vehicle. As in years past, the New Mexico Medical Reserve Corps provided first aid services at the Santuario. The Santa Fe County Mobile Health Van, as well as the Santa Fe Community College campus Emergency Response Team, deployed for their first time to assist in this event. The Incident Management System required the coordination of over 22 separate agencies. **Commissioner Danny Mayfield** did a ride along and observed first hand the logistical requirements to provide public safety to this venue. New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Secretary Duvall and Deputy Secretary Martinez also paid a visit to the Unified Command Post.



This event continues to be used as a model for the state in intergovernmental working relationships. State, County and Tribal jurisdictions worked together to make this a success. I would like to thank many individuals behind the scenes who contribute to making this entire effort possible.

Welcome Brenda Mares By: Asst. Chief Martin Vigil

I am pleased to announce the hiring of **Brenda Mares** for the Emergency Management Coordinator position. This position will have initial responsibilities of managing the County Emergency Operations Center and assisting in all aspects of the Emergency Management Program. Brenda has been a member of the Tesuque Volunteer Fire District for the past 10 years. She has credentials in structural and wildland firefighting as well as EMS at the EMT- Basic level. She formerly worked with the NM Governor's Office of Homeland Security as the Budget and Operations Director with a significant role in border security issues. Her first day on the job was spent at the Santuario de Chimayo pilgrimage. Brenda brings a significant portfolio in the Homeland Security arena.





Communications Upgrade Project By: Asst. Chief Steve Moya

In 2008 the department financed a Santa Fe County Communications Interoperability Needs Analysis Study. The objective of the analysis was to assess the current operational performance of the county-wide radio communications systems. The needs identified are consistent within the Interoperability Continuum Technology Category. The identified shortfalls were placed into three categories: Coverage, Interference, and Congestion but also include the need for fallback or backup redundancy operations. We are taking a systems-wide area communications solution.

The department has identified an overall solution for the coverage, interface and congestion issues that exist in the current conventional radio network and is broken down into two main objectives. The first objective is an expansion and modification of the conventional radio network and includes: Replacing an existing VHF control station at the Edgewood site with a new VHF conventional Quantar repeater; A new VHF conventional Quantar repeater and antenna kit at the Gold Mine site; Expanding the RECC console system by adding Base Station Modules to provide dispatch wireline control of the new Quantars; and Expanding the RECC console system to provide dispatch wireline control of the existing repeater at Tesuque Peak.

The second objective is to provide a point-to-point microwave system which operates in the unlicensed 5.4 and 5.8 GHz bands and offers aggregate throughput up to 300 Mbps depending on the terrain, antenna height and other potential microwave path characteristics of the rural and topographical diverse areas of the county and includes: Five (5) individual PTP600 links; Ten (10) solid parabolic microwave antennas of varying size and gain depending on the characteristics of the individual wirelink (terrain, path-loss, etc.); and Six (6) switches (one per site) for the purpose of providing connectivity among microwave links, as well as providing connectivity for the conventional repeaters at Edgewood, Tesuque Park and Goldmine. We are striving to provide extended 4-wire E&M, T-1, and Ethernet connections to areas where wireline or fiber-optic facilities may not be available for interface for future and additional types of network connectivity. This will allow for better reporting and documentation as we use software based systems in all fire districts.

The project is designed to provide and install wireless connectivity between RECC and communications sites. The network will provide four-wire E&M connectivity between dispatch consoles and communications base stations, utilizing existing sites and towers. State Corrections Tower will act as the hub of the 5.8 GHz wireless point-to-point network, providing wireless T1/four-wire E&M keying connectivity between the existing dispatch console at the RECC and the RF repeater base stations located at their respective remote sites.

The Project has partial funding and Advanced Communications was awarded the contract.

Updates in progress as of May 20, 2011 are as follows::

- Tesuque Peak – All equipment has been installed. We are having interference issues on one of the channels, and are currently working to resolve this issue.
- Radio Link for San Miguel County Fire (Tesuque) – Equipment is installed. Still waiting on FCC coordination for frequency.
- Edgewood – Tower and Equipment installation complete.
- Nambe – Tower Installation complete. Equipment installation should be completed by close of business today. FCC License pending. Still need to decommission old tower (See attachment). Waiting on approval from County for the fence to be installed around new tower.
- Goldmine – Tower construction started this week. Radio equipment scheduled for staging next week at Advanced Communications facility. Waiting on approval for fence.



Radio Tips By: Debra Witt, Training Coord. - RECC



Fire Season is and has been in full swing for quite some time now. Summer is near and calls will be picking up as will the radio traffic. Below are some radio tips that may aid both Dispatch and Responders when there is a high volume of radio traffic.

- Please keep in mind that as busy as the radio is, dispatch and responders are twice as busy. There are two dispatchers dedicated to dispatching Santa Fe City/Santa Fe County Fire Departments/Taking Emergency Medical calls and required to take routine and emergency calls for Law Enforcement & Fire/EMS.
- If you need additional resources or apparatus, please contact command to request this from dispatch. We will be listening and speaking directly with command on the scene for resources needed. i.e. 15 minute time checks, size up, resources needed, staging,
- When arriving on scene please move to the channels designated by command and please keep non essential traffic (staging, tanker shuttle, and placement) on the tactical channel. Do not inundate County Fire Main with non essential radio traffic that could be moved to County Fire 2 or County Fire 3.
- Key up for a second or two before you start talking to avoid cutting off our transmission. Pay attention to the volume of your voice, pitch, and speed. Be aware of the placement of the microphone against your uniform or mouth when transmitting, as it will come across muffled and you may be asked to repeat your transmission if it is not clear.
- Please make sure your radios are secure when carrying them on or off duty. There are times when someone keys up and they are not aware that they are transmitting. This will lock up the channel and NO ONE will be able to transmit. We are not able to track who is keyed up and this becomes a big hindrance if there are several calls working.



Let's be mindful of each other and our shared dedication to accomplishing our tasks, whether it be working dispatch, taking calls, fighting a fire, or handling a medical scene. Our focus is on working together to better serve the residents of Santa Fe County.

Advertising Campaign Aims to Recruit



Starting on May 1st a new advertising campaign for recruiting volunteers to the Santa Fe County Fire Department began on KOB-TV 4. We will be running 30 second ads during both the morning and evening news casts. Along with the TV ads is an ad on the KOB web site. When someone clicks on the ad it takes them to the Santa Fe County Fire Department web site with more information on becoming a member of the department. In the near future we will also be starting an advertising campaign with the Dream Catcher Theatre in the northern end of the County.

With all this advertising going on everyone needs to remember that the best recruiting tool is YOU. Word of mouth and showing our collective professionalism is what draws the most people to our department.



The Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center trauma team has initiated updated guidelines for activating the Trauma team. The new guidelines will go into effect April 2011. The trauma criteria is broken down into three categories; Trauma STAT I, Trauma STAT II or Trauma Evaluation by hospital staff. The earlier the appropriate classification can be made, the earlier the appropriate response can be made to ensure the best possible patient care. Trauma STAT triage may change as your patient condition changes or deteriorates. Please advise the hospital of these changes prior to EMS arrival when possible.

Trauma Stat I

Physiologic Criteria	Anatomical Criteria
GCS 13 or less, not thought to be solely due to drugs or alcohol	Penetrating injuries to the head, neck, torso and extremities proximal to the knee or elbow
LOC greater than 5 minutes, OR	Two or more long bone fractures
LOC with deteriorating GCS	Flail Chest
Adult systolic BP < 90 or HR > 120	Crushed, degloved or mangled extremity or amputation proximal to the wrist or ankle.
Age 7 to 14—BP < 80 or HR > 120	Pelvic Fractures
Under age 7—BP < 70 or HR > 130	Open or depressed skull fractures
Respiratory Rate < 10 or > 29	Trauma with 2nd or 3rd degree burns with > 15% BSA, or any facial or airway involvement.
	Transfer from another facility who meet Trauma Stat criteria and DID NOT receive an evaluation from a trauma surgeon.

Trauma Stat II

Mechanism	Co Morbidities
Ejected or thrown from an animal	Age 5 years of younger
Ejected from vehicle	Age greater than 55 years
High risk auto crash: Intrusion > 12" on occupant site or > 18" on any site.	Pregnancy > 20 weeks
Death in the same occupant compartment	Anticoagulation and bleeding disorders
Extrication time > 20 minutes	Time sensitive extremity injury
Rollover without seatbelt	Burn without other mechanism
Fall > 20' for an adult, or > 2 to 3 times the height of a child	Transfer from another facility who meet Trauma Stat criteria and DID NOT receive an evaluation from a trauma surgeon.
Auto vs. pedestrian or bicyclist thrown or hit at a speed > 20 MPH	

Trauma Stat III

Isolated Injuries

Isolated Injury requiring evaluation by a trauma surgeon, orthopedic surgeon, or neurosurgeon.



A critical incident is any event that has an impact sufficient to overwhelm the usually effective emotional coping skills of either an individual or a group of individuals. Critical incidents are usually sudden, unexpected events outside the range of normal human experience. For this reason, they can have a strong emotional effect even on trained, experienced individuals. If the incident is extreme, it has the potential to cause post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), violent incidents or crises may be interpersonal as in homicide, suicide, or domestic violence; crisis may be human caused, as in vehicle crashes; and lastly, crisis may arise from natural disasters such as tornadoes, explosions or fires.

The NM Crisis Support Team (CST) is a team of volunteer mental health professionals, clergy and peer support personnel who have received special training to intervene with individuals who have experienced a critical incident or traumatic event. The team operates on a 24-7, on-call basis statewide; through the use of the Santa Fe Control Dispatch Center. Santa Fe Control will take the initial call and contact the on-call CST dispatcher. The dispatcher will put together an appropriate team to lead the intervention. Team members have served in local, state and national crisis.

Per Section 24-10B-4, NMSA 1978 the EMS Bureau is designated as the lead agency for the emergency medical services system. As that lead agency, the Bureau has been tasked with the operation of a critical incident stress management program for emergency providers utilizing specifically trained volunteers who shall be considered as public employees for the purposes of the Tort Claims Act [41-4-1 to 41-4-27NMSA 1978] when called upon to perform their duties.

It is important to realize that the crisis intervention is NOT psychotherapy or a substitution for mental health or counseling. Rather, the intervention is aimed at intervening at the moment where support services are most valuable and exploring the potential for prevention initiatives.

Although the CST team usually works with emergency responders (fire, law enforcement, EMS, Search and Rescue, etc.), the team does work with and assist other teams formed to serve the needs of industries, schools, etc.

The NMCST recognizes that some communities have extensive capacity for response and can manage most of their own incidents through victim assistance coordinators, school-based programs or mental health centers. Some areas may lack this capacity and will need support. NMCST provides the statewide network of support resources that can be mobilized for both response and prevention.

- CISM was developed for work groups and individuals who were secondary victims of a critical incident; not primary victims, but the responders to the incident.
- CISM groups should include only those individuals who were directly involved in the incident.
- Psychological debriefings and other formal interventions should be reserved for significant events that appear to impact personnel.
- CISM interventions are structured to provide psychological support and stress education and are not intended to serve as any type of therapy.
- A psychological debriefing is a confidential group process.
- CISM interventions are practical peer support services.
- CISM assumes that the individual in the group are healthy (normal) individuals. who are experiencing normal reactions.
- During disaster situations, CST / CISM personnel provide psychological first aid focused on immediate needs and assist with problem solving (Think Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs).
- Personnel are encouraged to use or continue to use their existing support systems--families, friends, and co-workers.
- Personnel are encouraged to use formal and informal support services and systems within their organization; ie: EAP, organization psychologist, chaplains, or other services.
- Personnel are referred to qualified mental health professionals as needed and appropriate.

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Burn Restrictions & Use of Fireworks Update

The Board of County Commissioners has approved another 30 day extension of our open burning ban. All open burning is prohibited. Please contact law enforcement if you encounter illegal burning.

The Board also approved a 30 day ban on the sale and use of certain fireworks. This ban will take us through the fourth of July and includes all fireworks that shoot into the air such as bottle rockets, roman candles and helicopters, as well as ground audible fireworks such as firecrackers. However, we are prohibited by state law from banning **all** fireworks; those that remain permissible include sparklers, ground spinners, and cone fountains. Their use is limited to areas that are paved or barren and not covered with grass, shrubs, or brush. Law enforcement should be contacted for illegal firework enforcement. Also, we have notified the tribes regarding our actions, however we have no authority on tribal properties.

I recommend that you avoid all consumer fireworks this year, and I hope you pass this recommendation along to your friends, family, and neighbors. Ask them to seek out other ways to enjoy the holiday, or consider attending a public fireworks display.

Dave Sperling
Interim Fire Chief

Copies of the burn ban ordinance and fireworks resolution can be accessed through the following links.

http://www.santafecounty.org/fire/fire_prevention/fireworkban

http://www.santafecounty.org/ordinances_and_resolutions

