



From the Hill



As Prince George Fire and EMS moves forward with the mission of providing quality services through the dedication of our people, Station 5 (Jefferson Park) and Station 6 (Carson Sub-Station) have asked for better utilization of career staff on fire and emergency scenes to help meet the needs of the citizens. In order to accommodate this request, Fire and EMS Administration has revised the dual function process. Essentially, the County employees will continue to supplement the volunteer workforce. Therefore, a Fire and/or EMS response from those two stations could po-

tentially have a combination of paid and volunteer staff on the unit. For fire incidents if no volunteers arrive at the station and are responding within the 4 minute reactivation time, the career staff at that station (if available) will have the ability to mark up a fire unit and respond. For EMS incidents the career personnel would respond with an ambulance to the incident as they do now.

Fire and EMS staff has worked diligently with the leadership of both Carson and Jefferson Park to ensure this program will only enhance the response capabilities. No changes are

being made to run areas or how other Fire/EMS Companies staffs units conduct their operations.

As this new revised process evolves, teamwork is essential for effective outcomes at properly managed incidents. Every member of the Fire and EMS Department has the same goal and mission and it's important to remember that when providing outstanding customer service to the citizens of this great County. Teamwork and leadership are the foundation of any organization; it begins with training together in preparation of an emergency, down to operating many different types of equipment that require more than one person.

Stay Safe!
Brad Owens,
Director of Fire and EMS

Inside this issue:

Volunteer Spotlight/ Training/Events	2
SAFER Grant	3
Survivor Day/SLICERS Acronym	4-5
BetterMed/County FEMS Ordinance / Grants	6-7
Apparatus Replacement/Station Renova-	8
Tornado Drill/Active911	9-10
Safety Tip	11

VALUES

Honor – we believe in honesty, fairness, and integrity.

Respect – we will embrace the diversity of others and be courteous.

Accountability – we will hold ourselves and all members of the organization, responsible for our actions.

Integrity – we will conduct ourselves in a manner that will not bring discredit to the organization.

Trust – we will earn the trust of each other and to all we serve by fulfilling our obligations.

Compassion – we will be understanding to others feelings, needs, and concerns, and strive to alleviate others distress.

Quality Customer Service – we will do everything in our ability to meet the needs of and accommodate the citizens, patrons, and visitors of Prince George County.

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Mission

To provide quality services through the dedication of our people.

“Neighbors helping neighbors”

The Spotlight



Blake Gilliam

Firefighter



Hometown: Prince George, Virginia

Current City: Prince George Virginia

Age: 21

Member of what department: Carson Volunteer Fire Department

Position at the Fire Department: Assistant Chief

Time in the department: Six years with Carson Volunteer Fire Department

Favorite Quote: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant." -Robert Stevenson

Jobs outside the Fire Department: College student preparing to graduate with a degree in engineering from Old Dominion University. Also works at an engineering firm.

What is your favorite part about working for Prince George Fire and EMS: "I enjoy the positive feedback from the community and being able to help someone out in their time of need hoping they will do the same for you if you need it."

Where do you see yourself 5 years from now: Married with kids.

How would your co-workers describe you: Willing to help.

What is your proudest accomplishment while working for PGFEMS: Being awarded Volunteer of the Year twice with the latest being 2010.

What advice would you give to someone new to the fire department: Don't burn yourself out; don't dive in headfirst, give your 100% and not someone else's also.

Upcoming Training

PHTLS	4/19 & 4/20
Community CPR	4/23
Tech Rescue Mod II	5/10-5/11
Fireground Command Class	5/16-5/17
Community CPR	7/31
Community CPR	10/29

County Events

- 4/12: Kite Festival
- 4/19: Clean Community Day
- 4/25: Employee Appreciation Picnic
- 4/26: Drug Take Back Day
- 4/28: TRIAD Health Fair
- 5/3: Women's Club Community Day
- 5/17: Relay for Life
- 6/5: Torch Run
- 6/28: PG Founder's Day

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The Hot Mic—When speaking into a microphone use a loud, clear and controlled voice — avoid shouting. When excited, our speech is often both louder and faster. When this happens, our radio transmissions can be unintelligible and may require the IC to ask for a rebroadcast, and thus more radio traffic on the channel. If your intended receiver is consistently asking you to repeat radio communication, you probably need to work on this. Please click [here](#) to read full FireRescue1 article.



PGFEMS Awarded SAFER Grant



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Prince George County Fire and EMS received \$655,000 from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant to hire six Firefighter-Medics. The SAFER grant was submitted to FEMA by the Department of Fire and EMS last year to help add personnel that will enhance on-scene operations at emergency incidents. The goal of the grant is to reduce response times to emergency incidents and add to the total number of personnel on scene to adequately combat fires. Prince George Fire and

Emergency Medical Services has been working hard with County volunteers to help meet the citizen's demands. The two stations that currently have career Firefighter-Medics assigned to them have asked for additional help. Those two stations (Jefferson Park and Carson Sub-Station) are in the most densely populated areas of the County and have the highest number of Fire and EMS calls generated closest to those stations. PGFEMS's is working hard with the volunteer system to reduce the response times to

Fire and EMS calls County wide. the highest number of Fire and EMS calls generated closest to those stations. PGFEMS's is working hard with the volunteer system to reduce the response times to Fire and EMS calls County wide. The additional staffing will help in the high call volume areas as well as provide back up to the other volunteer fire stations in the County when they get a big incident. PGFEMS has begun the hiring process and will have the new positions filled by May 1, 2014. The grant covers the salaries

and benefits for two year period. After the two year period the County will be fully funding the positions.

New Employees:

Full Time

Chris Allin—FF/EMT-I
Justin Bulifant FF/EMT-B
Kellie Estes FF/EMT-B
Cliff Crawford FF/EMT-B
Kent Davis FF/EMT-P
Jeremy Bottoms FF/EMT-I

Part Time

Rick Rosier EMT-P
Jerry Hayes FF/EMT-I
Jeff McPhearson EMT-P



Survivor Day: United in Crisis– Are U Ready?

The Prince George Local Emergency Planning Committee is sponsoring a series of community preparedness workshops for the County. The first Survivor Day workshop, “United in Crisis-Are U Ready?” was held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Prince George Community Center. Welcoming statements were made by: Chairman Bill Robertson on behalf of the Prince George County Board of Supervisors, Brad Owens, Director of Prince George County Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Adrienne Wallace, Chairperson of the Prince George LEPC.

The more than 50 attendees were treated to a myriad of presentations. The presentations included: the Prince George LEPC Disaster Plan by Deborah Whitacre; Fire Safety by Deputy Chief Jim Ninnis; Caring for Animals during a Disaster by Scott Reiter; Building a Disaster Kit for an Individual as well as a Family by Deborah Kent; and First Aid by Fire/Medic Gregory Simms. In addition to the presentations, door prizes were donated from several entities were given away through drawings. Various displays were setup around the room and represented several County departments and private partners. The departments within that participated included: Crater Medical Reserve Corps , the Fire and EMS Department, the Police Department, the Sheriff’s Department, the Prince George LEPC, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Private partners included: the American Red Cross, Farm Bureau Insurance, Sam’s Club, and Tractor Supply.

At the end of Survivor Day, attendees received a survivor kit for each household to get them started on disaster preparedness. The first Survivor Day was a great success! We are partnering with the Central Virginia Emergency Management Alliance to make additional Survivor Day events available to citizens of Prince George. Citizens can register at www.survivorday.com to be notified of upcoming Survivor Day events. Currently, the next Survivor Day for the general public will be on Saturday, September 27th. Additional Survivor Day workshops include: Business Survivor Day on June 12th and a Survivor Day for Individuals with Disabilities with a date to be decided.

We would like to thank the members of the Prince George LEPC who made this event possible for Prince George County.

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New SLICERS Acronym

The desire to incorporate best practices and accurate information into training programs is nothing new. The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and UL are producing reports based on scientific analysis of fire in the structural firefighting environment. Millions of dollars are spent, and voluminous reports are generated. *The problem:* Research is slow to reach the drill ground and department standard operating procedures (SOPs).

In a bold move, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) published a position statement calling for radical change. This is a call to action to springboard research-based intelligence into fire service training and operations. The ISFSI position statement encourages fire departments "to adjust their tactical plans and training programs to incorporate [NIST & UL] research into their emergency response operations." With that in mind, in this article, we address just how this call can translate into action for you and your fire department.

SLICERS Basics

At the heart of this training evolution is an updated operational acronym, SLICERS, which drives us to consider the importance of an awareness of flow path and cooling during fire attack. SLICERS directs us to conduct the following sequential activities:

- Size up all scenes
- Locate the fire
- Identify & control the flow path (if possible)
- Cool the heated space from a safe location
- Extinguish the fire
- Rescue and Salvage are actions of opportunity that may occur at any time

But before we delve into SLICERS and how it can improve fireground operations, let's first remember how research has driven changes in the past.

History Meets Innovation

The primary assumption we must first accept: Research is not an attack on tradition, nor is it a statement that we've been doing it wrong. Legacy fire service tactics and training techniques are not suddenly obsolete based on new information. Our existing firefighting tactics and best practices must be assessed. We should keep what works, discard what doesn't, and modify others to increase their effectiveness.

Evolution of this kind is not new for the fire service. Passive Rapid Intervention Teams (RITs) have evolved into proactive RITs. This evolution was driven by research, primarily out of the Phoenix Fire Department following the 2001 death of Bret Tarver, and the extensive research published by the department. The realization that RIT isn't actually rapid, and a two-person team simply isn't enough, grew from research. Today we accept this new paradigm. We've adjusted our SOPs, tactics and our training for RITs. This is a shining example of how research can, and should, translate into improved firefighting operations.

A shift in paradigm is now needed in engine company operations based on the UL and NIST research. The engine company objectives are unchanged in the new paradigm; we still locate, confine and extinguish fires. In recruit school, many of us learned to vent early and vent often to support fire attack crews. On the attack line, we were taught to "crash, dash and splash." Now we are discovering the strategic importance of ventilation, and in some cases anti-ventilation.

Our firefighting forefathers talked of controlling "draft" to control a fire. With the evolution of PPE and breathing apparatus, we aggressively engaged interior attack at the seat of the fire. Most of us grew up with the familiar RECEO VS. On every fireground, the following need to occur in priority order: Rescue, Exposure, Confinement, Extinguish and Overhaul. Ventilation and Salvage are to be completed when appropriate to support RECEO.

Today we know from clear research the importance of controlling ventilation. We must evolve our training and tactics to incorporate lessons learned from research.

Read full article by Firefighter Nation [here](#).



Proposed Fire and EMS Ordinance

On February 11, 2014 County Administrator Percy Ashcraft presented a draft proposal that would centralize leadership and responsibility for the Fire & EMS system, yet preserve the integrity of the volunteer operations without losing the identity of their individual companies. Under this proposed coordinated system, a Fire and EMS Chief appointed by County Administration would manage and supervise the duties and responsibilities of department employees and oversee county volunteers.

The Current Chiefs Management Committee would be replaced under the proposed ordinance by a more formal Fire and EMS Board. The PGFEMS Board would be comprised of the highest ranking individual from each volunteer organization and the County Fire and EMS Chief. The County Fire and EMS Chief would serve as the Chairman of the Board. Responsibilities of the PGFEMS Board would be to advise the Fire & EMS Chief on the delivery of fire, rescue and emergency medical services; facilitate communication & collaboration between the volunteer and career personnel; communicate issues of importance to the Fire & EMS Chief concerning individual volunteer organizations; review all proposed policies, provide input on budgets; develop a grievance procedures for volunteers; and provide an annual report.

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PG Welcomes New Urgent Care Facility BetterMed



Prince George welcomed a new urgent care facility, BetterMed, at 4600 Puddledock Road. According to the website for BetterMed, the facility states, “here you’ll find a better alternative to other “doc-in-a-box” facilities around town. Every physician at BetterMed is trained and Board Certified in Emergency Medicine, so you get a superior standard of care. And you’ll always see a physician, no matter what your issue is. Plus, our patients are in and out in 45 minutes on average.” BetterMed prides itself in exceptional service comparable to that of an emergency room with significantly shorter waiting times. The facility is open 365 days a year, open Monday through Friday 8am to 9pm and weekends from 8am to 8pm. BetterMed states that it does accept most insurance with the exception of Medicaid. In the event of an emergency, always dial 911 for an ambulance.



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Grants

PGFEMS Awarded OEMS Grant

Prince George Fire and EMS submitted a grant to the Virginia Office of EMS for sixteen iPads that would replace the Toughbooks currently being used for patient care reporting. The department was awarded ten iPads that will be placed on EMS units. The iPads are due to arrive the first week of April.

PGFEMS Submits RSAF Grant for New Medic

The Rescue Squad Assistance Fund is a "multi-million dollar grant program for Virginia non-profit EMS agencies and organizations. Items eligible for funding include EMS equipment and vehicles, computers, EMS management programs, courses/classes and projects benefiting the recruitment and retention of EMS members." Prince George Fire and EMS submitted a grant to this program for a new medic unit; the proposed medic unit is a Ford-150 2-wheeled drive with the same configuration as the current medic units within the County. This grant is a 50/50 grant where an amount is awarded from the Financial Assistance for Emergency Medical Services; all submitted grants are collected, averaged, and that is the amount that was awarded. Prince George was awarded approximately half of \$185,000 to which the County will supplement the second half of that amount.



Disputanta VFD Station Renovations



Station renovations at the Disputanta Volunteer Fire Department are currently underway. Thus far, the bay doors have been widened as well as the concrete bay floors for half of the station. Workers are currently finishing the rest of the concrete bay floors which is expected to take a few more weeks. Some of the station windows have been replaced upstairs as well as two lights on the outside of the building. Contractors will be in the first week of April to install new airlines in the bays. A washer and dryer were also purchased for the station. At this time, there is no definite expected completion date. When all renovations are completed in Disputanta, Burrowsville Volunteer Fire Department is next in line on the station renovation list.

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Proposed Apparatus Replacement

At the October 2013 Apparatus Replacement Committee Meeting, Director Owens advised that Prince George County will need to issue debt in order to purchase two tanker pumpers, one for company one and a second for company two, and one medic unit. All members of the committee agreed that if the County is unable to issue debt for the proposed apparatus replacement, the medic unit should be a priority due to the current conditions of the ambulances.

To read the full notes from the meeting, please click [here](#).



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Prince George Participates in Statewide Tornado Drill

Article by Emergency Management Intern Sarah Campbell

On March 11, the County of Prince George continued its annual participation in Virginia's Statewide Tornado Drill. Tornadoes can strike at any time and it is vital to know: the difference between a tornado warning and a tornado watch, tornado warning signs, and what to do in the event of a tornado so people can act quickly. When you hear that a tornado watch has been issued, this means that a tornado is possible in your area and you should monitor your weather-alert radio as well as local TV and radio stations. A tornado warning means that a tornado has been indicated by the National Weather Service Doppler radar or one has been sighted in the area. When a tornado warning has been issued, you need to seek shelter and take cover immediately.

Warning signs of a tornado include: persistent rotations at the base of a cloud, a loud and continuous rumble that does not fade, and heavy rain or hail followed by either a dead calm or an intense wind shift. In the event of a tornado, take shelter in the lowest level of a sturdy building and protect your head by covering it with your arms. If you are in your vehicle, take shelter inside of a sturdy building immediately. If you are unable to reach a sturdy building in time, get out of your vehicle and lie face down in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your arms. If you are in a mobile home, leave immediately and seek shelter inside of a sturdy building; however, if you are unable to do so, lie face down in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.

Active911 Project

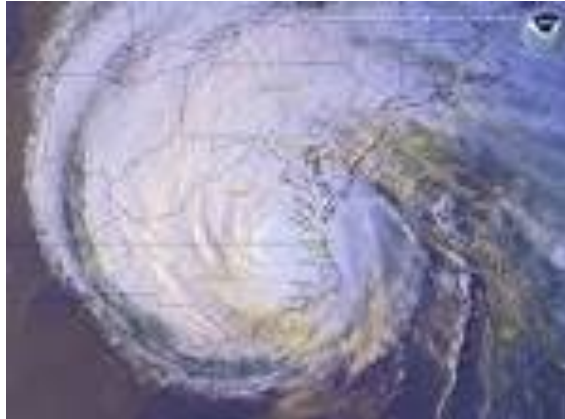
Article by Fire/Medic Chris A. Taylor



In December of 2013 the department invested into a program called Active911. This program allows members access to call information sent out by the ECC via an app on smartphones, cellphones, and tablets. This program replaces the older CAD-Page system that used to be in place. With Active911, all members have access to call information and also it contains a mapping system so that each member can see exactly where the incident is located, with GPS turn-by-turn directions available on most phones. The next phase of the project will be to install this program on iPads mounted on the units. To set up an account email your name, phone number, email address, and type of device (IOS/Android/Cell) to Active911@pgfems.org



Hurricane Season



Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th. Virginia is familiar with tropical storms and hurricanes due to the fact that many have impacted the Commonwealth and Prince George County. The County was lucky to have a mild hurricane season in 2013; however, residents should not assume that this will be the case for the 2014 hurricane season. It is imperative that residents, employees, and visitors to Prince George be prepared, take the necessary protective actions, and understand the differences between a watch and a warning.

- Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area. This alert is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated on-set.
- Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area. This alert is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated on-set.
- Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area within the next 36 hours.
- Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical storm conditions are possible within the next 48 hours.

The Virginia Hurricane Evacuation Guide details the evacuation routes, preparation steps, what to include in your emergency kit, and much more! You can pick up the guide in the Fire Administration office or download it from www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stayinformed/hurricanes. May 25th through May 31st marks the Virginia Hurricane Sales Tax Holiday. During this week, residents are able to stock up on supplies to aid in protecting your family, home, and business from disasters. For a complete list of eligible tax-free items visit: www.tax.virginia.gov/salestaxholiday. Please visit www.ready.gov for additional preparedness information. Remember, get a kit; make a plan; and stay informed.

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