



## From the Hill



in the

Greetings everyone, I hope everyone had a great summer. With school starting and vacations winding down, Fire and EMS is rounding out the year by finalizing some initiatives the organization has been working on this past year. The proposal for a new station in Carson will be going before the Board of Supervisors on September 9<sup>th</sup> for approval. Renovations are winding down on Disputanta's station and the process will move to Burrowsville's station to begin renovations before the end of this calendar year. The spec's have been finalized for Prince George and Disputanta's Tanker/Pumpers. Also included

proposal set to go to the Board of Supervisors in November is a Medic Unit and some loose equipment for the units. Replacement has begun with some of the departments small vehicles which will include new vehicles in Fire and EMS Administration, Company 1, Company 5, and the Emergency Crew. The contract for turnout gear will be up for renewal in December, so work needs to be done to get a good contract in place.

The SAFER Grant positions have all been filled and staff has been working with the leaders at Company 5 and the Carson Sub-Station to develop a solid dual function process. Current staffing levels have shown to im-

prove response times and capabilities. Fire and EMS Administration is working with the Chief of the Emergency Crew on a staffing program to help get a medic unit staffed in our rural service area.

Over the next few months I will be visiting each station to discuss the new Fire and EMS ordinance and what a coordinated system means. The last Chiefs meeting was held on August 21<sup>st</sup> and the first PGFEMS Advisory Board will hold its first meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm in the EOC.

We have a lot of work ahead of us, but as always the knowledge and abilities of our members will continue to be the driving force in providing the best level of service to the citizens, visitors, and workers in our great County!

### Inside this issue:

Volunteer Spotlight	2
Upcoming Training	3
Pub. Ed. Events	3
The Hot-Mic	4
Breaking The Ground for Company 3	5-6
Safety Tip	7

# THE BRASS AXE

## Mission

To provide quality services through the dedication of our people.

“Neighbors helping neighbors”

### 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.

# The Spotlight



## THE BRASS AXE



**Name:** David Huff

**Hometown:** Prince George, Virginia

**Current City:** Prince George, Virginia

**Age:** 35

**Member of what department:** Jefferson Park VFD

**Position at the Fire Department:** Lieutenant

**Time in the department:** 15 years

**Favorite Quote:** "When a man becomes a fireman, his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that, is all in the line of work." -Edward F. Croker

**Jobs outside the Fire Department:** Senior Production Ops Coordinator at Capital One

**What is your favorite part about working for Prince George Fire and**

**EMS:** Being able to help the citizens of Prince George County in their time of need

**Where do you see yourself 5 years from now:** Still volunteering for the County and potentially working as a career firefighter

**How would your co-workers describe you:** Compassionate, easy-going, understanding.

**What is your proudest accomplishment while volunteering for PGFEMS:** Being able to teach and train others in the department from my experience and training

**What advice would you give to someone new to the fire department:** Take advantage of the education being offered to you or available to you as much as possible



## Upcoming Events

Cornerstone Ministries Family Day: 8/30	Dig Deep 5k Race: 10/4
Remembering September 11, 2001: 9/11	PG Christian Church Station Tour (3yro): 10/9 @ CO. 1
Budget Training: 9/2014	PG Christian Church Station Tour (4yro): 10/10 @ CO. 1
Youth Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Event @ Tar Bay Hunt Club: 9/21 2pm-4:30pm	Waverly Rescue 50th (Life Safety House): 10/11
Expanded Farmers Market: 9/27	Prince George Fire and EMS Formal Awards Program: 10/12 2pm-4pm @ Prince George High School
Survivor Day: 9/27 8am-Noon	Community CPR: 10/29
Safety Fair with Boy Scout Troop 900 @ Tractor Supply: 9/27 9am-2pm	ICS Training: 11/2014
Fire Prevention Week: 10/5-10/11	Fire Academy: 1/5/2015

**THE BRASS AXE**

## Hunger Action Month

---

September is quickly approaching! Fire Administration will be collecting food donations again this year. Boxes will be placed in each station as well as the Administration building. The office/station with the most food collected will win an ice cream social. All food will be collected from each station on September 26th. If you have any questions, please call Becka Franchok at 722-8623.

## Attention Volunteers!

---

Enrollment for EMS\*Aid for all volunteers begins November 1st and will end January 31st. Applications can be found online or the Fire and EMS Administration office. This is free for volunteers and any members in their household. Please contact Becka Franchok if you have any questions at 722-8623. EMS\*Aid is also available to the public who are not associated with fire and EMS for \$59.00 per year.



# The Hot Mic- Signal Codes



## THE BRASS AXE

### FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND RADIO COMMUNICATION

There are many important strategies and tactics on the fire ground, but how do the operations run smoothly? Communication! It is vital to learn effective radio communication. How is that so? When there is a person entrapped in a vehicle or a home is fully involved, it is chaotic and personnel are constantly on the radio where important information can be missed. Do you know Prince George County's policies and procedures? Training is key and practice does make perfect. [This article](#) by Curt Varone describes the importance of radio communication under fire. The PGFEMS policies and procedures can be found [here](#).





# Breaking the Ground

## PGFEMS Welcomes Dual Function Roles for Paid Personnel

**THE BRASS AXE**



Prince George County is without doubt an advancing community, and the department of Fire and EMS is no different. May 1, 2014 began the transition from paid EMS providers to a dual function capacity into firefighting as well. There are now two staffed medics 24 hours a day at both Jefferson Park Volunteer Fire Department as well as Carson Volunteer Fire Department. There is a second “peak shift” medic staffed at Jefferson Park from 9am-9pm. The volunteers at both stations have been welcoming and supportive of the paid staff assisting with fire and EMS services. The 12 hour “peak shift” covers first out EMS calls, while the 24 hour shift runs second out EMS calls as well as fire calls. As Prince George Fire and EMS continues to grow, stations will be updated and renovated to meet the demands of a growing department; Carson Volunteer Fire Department and Disputanta Volunteer Fire Department are currently undergoing renovations. The proposal to build a new, 12,000 square foot Fire/EMS station has been passed. The new Carson Fire Department, which includes a Community Center, will break ground on the former Carson Elementary School lot and is expected to be completed by fall of 2015.



# THE BRASS AXE

## The Future of Carson VFD

There have been many changes over the last few years with the Prince George Fire and EMS system. Among those changes are renovations to each fire/EMS station within the County. In speaking with Chief Scott Campbell of Carson Volunteer Fire Department, he feels as though the department as a whole has been moving in the right direction and he has big plans for the future.

Chief Campbell has been in the fire service for twenty-nine years; according to him, the biggest changes that he's seen in that time is the demand that comes with being a volunteer. He said that the call load has significantly increased as well as the training requirements to become a volunteer. He adds that Prince George County is fortunate to be moving in the right direction by hiring career staff to supplement the volunteer staff for EMS calls as well as career staff with dual function capabilities to assist with fire calls.

Chief Campbell is hoping that the Carson station construction and renovations will be completed by late fall of 2015. Ideally, he would like to see an ambulance housed at the new station, whether it is staffed by volunteers or career staff. To accommodate the members, he would like to have shower room and other facilities as they staff a potential ambulance and other fire apparatus.

Another big plan that Chief Campbell would like to see is a community center. For this center, he hopes to hold meetings, classes, department training, and public events and classes as well. He believes this initiative will get the community more involved with the department and vice versa.

As for Prince George Fire and EMS, Chief Campbell would like to see more career staff hired that have the dual function capabilities to continue supplementing the volunteer fire and EMS system. He hopes that the department will continue "striding towards excelling" and begin to train together as a whole. He would like to see the department provide the same level of service and care across the County in regards to response times and to resolve issues with ISO ratings for citizens.

Chief Campbell complimented Director Brad Owens on his strong work as Director of Fire and EMS in Prince George County. He adds that the past five years, he has seen the department move forward and he hopes to see it continue to move in that same direction.

Article by Fire/Medic Ashley Aleshire



# Safety

## PPE Training Guide



This Training Guide should be mandatory reading for every firefighter. The information is of unparalleled importance. If a firefighter does not understand the limitations of his/her personal protective equipment, then he/she is at tremendous risk and places his/her entire company at tremendous risk. Understanding the limitations and capabilities of personal protective equipment should be the first field-oriented training a firefighter receives. J. Randall Lawson does an outstanding job describing the effect that heat has on gear and how the unprepared and uneducated firefighter can be burned. The care and maintenance of gear is critical to its performance.

Every firefighter should understand and be able to do a basic inspection of his/her gear and should be required to perform the inspection regularly. Gear should be routinely cleaned, inspected, and repaired when necessary. Mitch Lopez provides an excellent explanation of the NFPA 1851 standard and how to make that standard a reality for your organization.

The purchase of personal protective clothing is arguably one of the most critical functions an officer can be responsible for. Knowing how gear works, the different layers of gear, and the types of layers on the market requires diligent and comprehensive research. Many factors come into play in the selection of the appropriate gear, and Andrew Pompe provides the direction every officer needs who is delegated this incredibly important function. For more information go to, [www.fireengineering.com](http://www.fireengineering.com).

**Prince George Office of Fire and EMS**

**6602 Courts Drive**

**Prince George, Virginia 23875**

**Office number: 804-722-8614**

**THE BRASS AXE**