

THE FIRELINE NEWSLETTER

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**FAUQUIER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE RESCUE
& EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

Phone: 540-422-8800
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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF THOMAS M. BILLINGTON

Incident Management is something more than what we say...

As some of you can relate, sometimes we listen to an incident on our radios and come to the conclusion that the call sounds like it is being run terribly or sounds like a well-run operation. However, sometimes when you get on scene you may find the opposite of your initial assumption. That's because some incident managers are good at radio talk but not operational management and vice-versa. I recurrently was listening to a combination structure/wild land fire in our county. The fire was being mitigated by a mix of volunteer and career personnel from multiple Fauquier County Fire and Rescue Companies. The first arrival report was very specific (painted a clear picture) and operational objectives were verbally set for what the initial attack would be and what the incoming units should anticipate. Command was established, an attack group, staging, man-power and rapid intervention all initiated. Our 911 center was confirming assignments, and forwarding the perfect amount of information. As I moseyed to the scene I saw a decent plume of smoke but all on scene sounded calm and normal. The better news is that when I arrived, I was met by the staging officer, with his staging situation board updated. I walked to the command post in which a full operational command board was being used and being updated by a command aide. The Incident Manager was at the Command Post. There was an accountability officer retrieving passports and tracking assignments. At the main fire area itself I witnessed everybody in full protective gear operating in pre-established teams.

In Fauquier County, Incident Management is something we communicate well, and execute even better. Great job all.

Chief Billington

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BY: SARA MAKELY

Does your emergency kit and emergency plan include your pets? Pets can't take care of themselves. During major disasters, pets often become separated from their owners. Avoid that heartbreak by making an emergency plan for your pet.

- Prepare a pet disaster supply kit. Include at least three day's food and water; food and water bowls; an extra leash and collar with identification tag; a few days' worth of medication; current photos of you with your pet; blankets or towels for bedding and warmth; cat litter/pan; your vet's name and phone number; treats. Store items in a sturdy container that can be carried easily.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and up-to-date identification tags. Consider permanent identification for your pet such as a microchip or tattoo.
- Purchase a pet carrier and label it with emergency contact information.
- Don't leave your pet behind. If you have to evacuate, where will you go that accepts pets? Ask friends or relatives outside your area whether they could shelter you and your pet in an emergency. Find a hotel or motel outside your area that accepts pets.

For more about making an emergency plan for your pet, go to <http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/pets>



-  Name tags and leash
-  Medications and first-aid kit
-  Recent pictures of you with your pet
-  Snacks
-  Vet contact info
-  Pet carrier
-  Litter box
-  Toys

Download the Ready Virginia app



Available on the App Store

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If you haven't done so already, sign up for CodeRED and CodeRED Weather Warning to receive the latest updates about closings, delays, and other weather alerts.

Click on the logo below.





Happy Birthday!

4/15 Eric Neese

4/21 Deputy Chief Kight

4/23 Battalion Chief Arft

4/28 Michael Gillam

INSIDE BATTALION 1

BY: BATTALION CHIEF ARFT

Thirteen years ago when I first started with the county, we had only six Technicians and three Lieutenants working in the field. We were working 40 hour weeks from 6 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday with “half pay-half work” Fridays (those of you that have been here awhile know what I’m talking about). I was first stationed in the “Northern end” and went 28 days without transporting a person to the hospital, and 31 days without a fire incident.

Looking back at my time as a career member of this organization all I can say is, my how the times have changed. On March 14th we graduated our 3rd Recruit School and our current work force is at 75 people. We have transitioned from staffing three stations eight hours a day, Monday through Friday only to staffing three stations 12 hours a day five days a week and four stations 24 hours a day every day.

As we continue to add more staff and provide a better service to our citizens, I feel that it is important to never forget where we all came from. At one time we were all rookies, we were all scared, but we had that one guy or gal that took us under their wing to guide us down the right path. It time for all of us to be that person for someone else. Take these new individuals and show them the ropes, the right way to do things, and be their mentor. With that being said, I want to say congratulations to Recruit School 2013-03, be safe and have fun.

MEDIC 1

BY: TECHNICIAN MYERS

Medic 1 and the Central Battalion would like to welcome the 11 new recruits that have recently graduated from class 13-03. Everyone is excited to meet the new Technicians and help them with learning the system. Technician Bankston and I were assigned Technician Peppe Troilo to our shift here at Medic 1. Troilo is a new EMT-E and is eager to learn from Technician II Bankston who is precepting him. Troilo has gotten some good experience riding on the Medic unit, including a fly-out in Marshall and some other medical emergencies. We hope everyone out of 13-03 has a long and fulfilling career here in Fauquier County.



TRAINING

BY: LIEUTENANT HART

The EMT class is going well. We just went to visit the dispatch center. A BIG "thank you" goes out to the Dispatch Center for allowing us to come in for the visit. Also, we wanted to say "thank you" to Detectives Jim Jones and Kevin Jacobs for their presentation to the class. The pictures below were taken from the first "A" CEU weekend. They were faced with a blindfold challenge to perform some skills. They were taught to focus on whatever skill they were performing. We all have a tendency to get involved on what may be going on around us and be side tracked from the task at hand. This was a fun way to learn to concentrate on the task at hand. Lieutenant Russell Baker reports that now that the recruit class is over, focus has been on the daytime high school Firefighter I class. Lieutenant Matthew Shields reports that the Firefighter II program is coming to a close at the end of this month with the class conducting final burns on April 27th.



THE SOUTHERN VOICE

BY: BATTALION CHIEF LICHTY

The Southern Battalion welcomed Technicians Bryant, Dodson, Latimer, and Reneau this past month. They have completed a long journey through Recruit School and are now starting their time in the field. Their time will be focused on completing precepting and driver release. If you get a chance, please stop by to say hello and welcome them to the South. I am pleased to say that the Southern Battalion had a GREAT presence at the Recruit Graduation. Thank you to all who attended.

Although many of us are thinking of the summer months and wondering if winter is ever going to leave, we are also working hard to help the new recruits learn as much as possible about the south. A little vehicle extrication training took place at Co. 2 to help with the familiarization of equipment (see pictures below). Thank you to Mr. Wright for assisting with obtaining a vehicle for us to use.

As March comes to a quick close, the Southern Battalion is looking forward to a little warmer weather. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind people to stay hydrated as the heat of summer is just around the corner!



RECRUIT 2013-03 GRADUATION

Congratulations to the 11 new career members of Fauquier County Fire Rescue. Check out the pictures below of their last Recruit Burn on March 11th, the Flag Presentation on March 14th, as well as the Graduation Ceremony that followed later that evening.



RECRUIT 2013-03 GRADUATION





FIGHT FIRES. SAVE LIVES.
Be more than you were yesterday

firejobs@fauquiercounty.gov



COURAGE



HONOR



TEAMWORK



FAUQUIER COUNTY
FIRE RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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and EMTs are needed
throughout Fauquier
County.**

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