

# "Back in Quarters"

Charleston Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

www.charlestonfire.com

May 2011



**Happy Mother's Day!**  
May 8th



## American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Update Information

The NEW sequence of CPR for Healthcare Providers is C-A-B or:

- C- Compressions 1<sup>st</sup>
- A-Airway 2<sup>nd</sup>
- B-Breathing 3<sup>rd</sup>

This can be found on the "Shares" drive on our fire department computer server at:

\\Cfddc\Shares\CPR American Heart Association  
Inside there is a video file called:  
**Hs-sequence-option1.wmv**

You can watch this video to see the basic update to Healthcare Provider CPR. ❖

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## The West Virginia Public Safety Expo

The West Virginia Public Safety EXPO for 2011 has been scheduled for May 18-22, 2011 at the Charleston Civic Center. The West Virginia Public Safety EXPO is a conference that is offered to all Public Safety Officials in West Virginia and surrounding States. Those in attendance include Law Enforcement, Fire Service, Emergency Managers, 911 Telecommunicators and EMS personnel. The EXPO was started by Kanawha County officials who saw a need for training for all public safety officials. Each year the EXPO continues to grow with an attendance last year exceeding 300 persons. The EXPO will provide an Exhibit Hall for participants to visit during breaks from actual conference sessions.

You must fill out a registration form to schedule Fire & EMS Classes to attend. You can mail this in yourself or bring it to me (**filled out**) and I will submit your registration for you.

The Charleston Fire Department is a sponsor of this event and your registration is already paid. All you need to do is fill out the registration form and write "Paid by the Charleston Fire Department" to register for classes.

We will send as many people as we can on duty each day, but unfortunately we realize everyone will not be able to attend. Please contact your assigned Shift Asst Fire Chief if you want to schedule a class on duty and we will do our best to accommodate you.

With your registration, there is a paid dinner for you and your family at the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday May 18 from 1900-2100. The guest speaker will be FDNY Asst. Fire Chief Richard Picciotto, the highest-ranking firefighter to survive the World Trade Center Collapse, and the last firefighter to escape the devastation.

Bob Sharp  
Asst. Fire Chief ❖

## HOT TOPICS

### LADDER TESTING

Annual ladder testing and certification of all ground and aerial ladders will be conducted by American Test Center on May 11th and 12th .

### WV PUBLIC SAFETY EXPO

The WV Public Safety Expo will be held at the Charleston Civic Center on May 18th through May 22nd.

### LIFESAFE MEETING

The monthly LifeSafe meeting will be held on May 10th at 8:30am.

# Safety Tip of the Month

*May is National Electrical Safety Month*

Hundreds of electrical fires happen each year resulting in countless painful injuries and thousands of dollars of lost property, but by following these simple electrical safety tips at home, many hazardous situations can be avoided.

## Extension Cords

- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- Extension cords should be for temporary use only. They are not intended to replace permanent household wiring.
- Cords should be discarded if they are cracked or frayed
- Cords should be used according to their ratings (indoor or outdoor use) and according to the power needs of the appliance that is being plugged in
- Never nail or staple cords or use cords that are coiled or bent.
- If the cord is hot to the touch then it should be replaced with a cord that has a higher wattage capacity.
- Always unplug the cord by pulling on the plug and not the cord.
- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.

## Outside

- Keep trees pruned and away from power lines overhead as well as where the power lines approach the house.
- Do not fly kites, model aircraft or balloons near power lines.
- When using a ladder, carefully inspect the surrounding area to be sure it is free from power lines.
- Do not swim or play in water during an electrical storm, even if it is not raining.
- Do not approach a downed power line to see if it is live - it may give no signs that can be easily observed, but it is just as deadly. Contact the authorities immediately about downed lines.
- Call Dig-Safe at 1-888-344-7233 before any digging or excavation work to prevent any electrical danger.

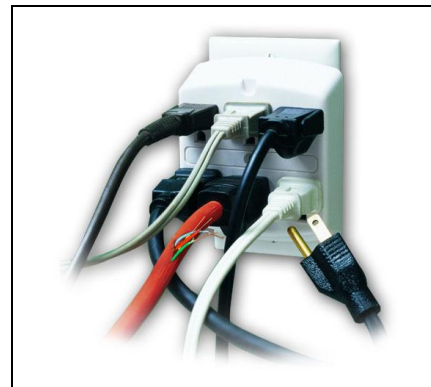
## Light Bulbs

- Check the lamps wattage and use the appropriate watt light bulb.
- Make sure that light bulbs are screwed in securely to prevent overheating.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn.
- If you smell a faint burning or rubbery smell from a lamp

then the wattage level of the light bulb is too high for the lamp and it should be replaced with the appropriate bulb.

## Appliances

- Make sure that all appliances have been tested by an independent research laboratory and be sure to follow all manufactures instructions carefully
- Appliances that take a lot of power to operate, such as space heaters and halogen lamps, should be plugged directly into an outlet. These appliances should not be plugged into extension cords.
- **One Outlet One Plug!** Don't overload electric outlets with several plugs. If multiple appliances must share one outlet, be sure to use only one appliance at a time.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers **Water and appliances don't mix!**
- Don't leave appliances plugged in where they may come into contact with water.
- If an appliance falls into water DO NOT reach in to pull it out. First turn off the power and unplug the appliance.
- Don't use electric appliances or take showers or baths during an electric storm. Using electricity during an electric storm increases your risk of getting an electric shock



Keep an eye out for these warning signs. If any of these are present in your home there could be a risk of an electric fire or electrocution.

- Frequent power outages or blown fuses. This may indicate that your home wiring needs to be updated or repaired. Contact a licensed electrician.
- Dim or flickering lights
- Sparks or sizzling sounds in outlets or walls
- Overheated plugs, cords or switches
- Smells of something burning or rubbery smells
- Feeling a mild shock or tingle when you plug in an appliance.❖

# Letters from the Community

We would like to thank our members for performing above and beyond the call of duty and giving a little extra to assist members of the community in their time of need. The following are a few of the letters written by those who our firefighters have assisted in their time of need.

A big thank you to all Charleston Fire Dept. Firefighters. Me and my son were so fortunate that the firefighters were able to save our home on Ravina Road. Even more so, we are thankful that they made the extra effort to save our photos. There were so many memories of my son's father and other invaluable memories saved. I can't thank you enough. God Bless You!

Pat & Nolan Curry  
1549 Ravina Road

Just a brief note to express our sincere thanks for the quick response to our call for help on the afternoon of April 18. My wife thought that she detected the smell of natural gas at the high window in our basement. I considered this to be a likely event since the gas meter is located adjacent to the window. Those who responded included Blasingim, Droddy, Hackworth and Kessler. There were others but I did not get their names. All were courteous and helpful and grateful they did not detect any gas leakage from the meter or in the house. All are to be commended for their prompt, professional and courteous actions.

Sincerely,  
Betty Sue & Clyde Neely  
1302 Mount Vernon Place

PS. We are strong supporters of maintaining the Bridge Road Station. Please let me know if there is anything I or my neighbors can do to help prevent it being closed.

## Charleston firefighters great public servants

Letter to the Editor:

The recent storms that rocked Kanawha County and other areas of West Virginia severely impacted our home. An extremely large tree, probably 50 feet (and at least 70 years old), fell on our house. We were not home at the time, but received a phone call from a neighbor.

Upon arriving home, I was amazed to see a fire truck and several firefighters in front of the house. Immediately, I was approached by a firefighter who identified himself as Capt. Greg Morris. If ever there was a "take charge" guy, Capt. Morris is this person. His first concern was safety. The first thing he did was turn off all major power switches to the house. He would not let me enter the house, but asked for specific directions to various doors and hallways. He and his men climbed through the tree, entered the house and found the back door to give them better access to the house.

Capt. Morris and his men then found their way into the garage, and Capt. Morris climbed a ladder and entered a very small crawl space. He proceeded to inspect the house/roof for damage and leaks.

Upon locating the immediate damage that had to be protected from the elements, he and his men climbed on the roof and placed tarpaulins over the major problem areas. Only then did he allow me to enter the house (with him) to retrieve a few essentials, as we would not be able to live in the house for a few days.

Capt. Morris and his valuable crew were in complete control of what could have been an even worse situation. We are deeply appreciative of what the men of Fire House No. 9 did and how much they were so comforting to us. Charleston is very fortunate to have public servants of their caliber who let all of us sleep better at night, knowing they are waiting to serve and protect us.

Floralee and Don Cohen  
Charleston❖

## Junior Firefighter Camp

WVU Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp  
Weston, WV

The Junior Fire Fighter Camp will be held at the WVU Fire Extension Service at Jackson's Mill on June 25th through June 30th.. This camp is for teenagers between the ages of 14-17. Classroom and practical, hands-on training will further participants' knowledge, skills, and abilities in firefighting and emergency operations for certification in NFPA 1001, Standard on Firefighter Professional Qualifications. The cost of the camp is \$250 which includes meals and lodging. Scholarships will be offered to a select few. Please contact Mark Doty at the WV Fire Extension in Jackson Mills at 304-269-0875 for details on how to qualify for a scholarship.

### Goals of this camp include:

- Allowing youth to gain insight and interest in becoming long term members of emergency services.
- Increasing awareness among youth about volunteering and supporting the fire and emergency services.
- Providing departments with additional help in accomplishing non-firefighting or non-emergency tasks.
- Developing leadership for America's youth, who are tomorrow's leaders.
- Educating parents and mentors on the importance of encouraging volunteerism.

### Some instructional topics to be covered include:

- Aircraft Rescue
- Firefighting
- Fire Apparatus
- Forcible Entry
- Hose Evolutions
- Leadership and Team Building
- Live Fire Training
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Urban/Rural Water Supply
- Ventilation❖

# Local 317 IAFF Credit Union News

Local 317 IAFF Credit Union had the annual meeting March 5, 2011 at the Local Hall on Keystone Drive there was 23 members in attendance.

Shawn Monk was elected 2nd VP Board of Directors and he will also be working in the Credit Union and Eddie Woods has elected to the Supervisory Board.

July thru December 2010 rate on share saving was 3.25% New rate will be determined June 30,2011 and statement will be sent out July 1, 2011. If you have a new mailing address, please stop by or call credit union with your new address.

## Cash Deposits

When making cash deposit, I can only take up to \$500 cash, I can't leave to make deposit and holding a large amount of cash here all day is not ideal.

Members please remember the only way the Credit Union has to make money is from lending. When you consider you're receiving 3.25 on your money and you want a vehicle loan or collateral loan and we give you a rate of 6 or above you're really only paying the difference between the two rates. If we can't lend, we'll be like all the other credit unions/banks and can't pay a high dividend on your money.

## Credit Union Hours

Our hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10-4. Emergency calling means just that, "emergency" not convenience. With the gas prices as they are, we can't drive in just because you forgot to get money, however, if you truly have an emergency, driving to the credit union to help you is not a problem.

If you have any suggestions regarding the operation of the Credit Union please feel free to let us know.

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tom Waugh        | President                   |
| Myron Boggess    | 1st VP                      |
| Shawn Monk       | 2nd VP                      |
| Eugene Perry     | Treasurer                   |
| Danny Anderson   | Secretary                   |
| Shawn Little     | Supervisory Board President |
| Eddie Woods      | Supervisory Board           |
| Richard Cottrell | Supervisory Board           |

## Special Rates for May 2011

On New cars \$25,000 and up. 72 months 4.50%, 84 months 5.25% must have a credit score of 650 and over. ❖

# Dive Team Training

Jeff Showalter  
Dive Master

Here are the upcoming dates for dive training. Our dive team spots have become limited, so I can't add new members unless someone leaves. I am NOT trying to force anyone off of the team but I do need to know who is in and who is out.

If you are planning to stay on the team then please try to show up for training or let me know that you can't make it. If you no longer wish to be on the team then please let me know that also.

There is a lot of you that I haven't heard from yet. If I haven't heard anything from you by July 1st, then I will take it that you have decided to quit the Water Rescue Team and will offer the spot to someone else.

May 26th, Thurs, B Shift  
8am-12noon  
Kanawha River  
Meet at Station 1 at 8am

June 23rd, Thurs, C Shift  
8am-12noon  
Kanawha River  
Meet at Station 1 at 8am

July 6th, Wed, A Shift  
8am-8pm  
Summersville Lake  
Meet at Station 1 at 8am

Aug 24th, Wed, B Shift  
8am-8pm  
Summersville Lake  
Meet at Station 1 at 8am ❖



## After the fire

Timothy Robinson  
Captain

The call came in for a structure fire in our immediate territory. Our response was less than four minutes from initial dispatch and yet we arrived to find no smoke or other signs of fire except one of the homeowners standing in the driveway waving. She yelled, "The fire's out"; a case of knowledgeable users putting in to practice what they knew about portable fire extinguishers.

Most people have some cursory idea of what to do with a fire extinguisher because they have watched it on television. When they buy one to comply with the terms of their fire insurance they take the suggestions of whomever they buy it from and end up with a 2A 10BC (or smaller) dry powder extinguisher. It will handle many things at their beginning as this example amply supports and dry powder bottles of one size or another hang in more kitchens than any of the other possibilities. Only adequate smoke detectors surpass them in importance for the conscientious property owner.

These particular homeowners had a considerable quantity of amateur radio equipment and one particularly heavy and expensive unit developed a fault, overheated and caught fire. It was only by chance that the gentleman was on the same floor, smelled it and caught it immediately with his DP. He had already extinguished the fire, unplugged the offending appliance and opened the doors and windows to begin ventilating with outside air. Our job consisted mostly of removing the equipment to the outside, checking for any possible extension and furthering the ventilation via positive pressure fan. Aside from the ubiquitous fire report we were done...but what comes next?

As I went about my job my next view of Mr. C was during his diligent use of an upright vacuum cleaner to begin cleaning up the mess left by his timely intervention. This got me to thinking and so I began to educate him a little on how he might proceed. I have many times warned occupants of the dangers of post fire mold developing and the need to get everything clean and dry as soon as possible but never in twenty-plus years of department experience had I thought of educating people about the "what's next" of fire extinguisher use. When one of these wonderful devices is discharged something bad has already happened: Timely advice can prevent further injury or other problems from causing a bad situation to drag on.

I have not seen any statistics on health problems associated with breathing dry chemical powder, but what the powder is designed to do is to break the chemical chain reaction of fire by removing or displacing the available oxygen from the immediate area. It does this by means of chemical formulas called *Monoammonium Phosphate*, *Calcium Carbonate*, *Magnesium Aluminum Silicate (Attapulgit Clay or Fuller's Earth)*, *Mica*, *Muscovite*, *Methyl Hydrogen Polysiloxane*, and *Amorphous Silica* (these taken directly from a manufacturer's MSDS. While the words "not expected" occur in the long term respiratory effects toxicology section of the MSDSs and "This product has not been tested for toxicological effects. Product is treated as a nuisance dust" occurs on another sheet. It is admitted that chronic fibrosis of the lung, and pneumoconiosis can occur in cases of massive or prolonged exposure. The common risk identified, however is irritation

of the respiratory tract and lungs. In a confined space, a very small blast from a DP will put out a considerable volume of fire. What could a small amount do to the confined space of the human respiratory system?

Mr. C, a long time local government figure has an interest in emergency services so he knew the proper use of extinguishers. Though he agreed with me that a CO2 or halon (both of which can injure or kill you if used badly in the wrong place) would be a better choice for use around a bunch of expensive electronics, he used what was immediately at hand. While everything was coated with a thin yellow film, the rest of his costly components will probably not suffer any long term effects from the fire. His lungs, however, may be a different story.

The products of combustion were only the first round of assaults on his lung tissue (No 'real' person keeps an SCBA on hand just in case their house catches fire.) The next was the initial discharge of dry-powder. The third will be six months or more of trace amounts of that chemical cocktail pervading everything his family eats drinks or breathes. He had the first step right with vacuuming but that night, it occurred to me to suggest that he change his furnace filter several times in the coming weeks: A HEPA filter on the vacuum would also be a good move. I suggested as well that he bring in an air purifier with removable or washable filter elements to trap other stray particles. DP is not a particularly fine dust but does hang in the air when stirred up.

His expensive equipment will need to be cleaned and blown out with compressed air. This should be done OUTSIDE wearing a particle filter (preferably a canister) mask. An easy and effective way to lessen loose dust would be to steam clean the carpet in the immediate area. This would trap the particulate matter in suspension allowing it to be pulled into the cleaner and not just stirred around.

Our basic job as firefighters was completed when we eliminated and rendered safe the immediate hazards that the C family faced that night but helping them to know how to be safe and comfortable in that house afterwards is being a good neighbor and a decent human being.



## Firefighter Maltese Cross

"Symbol of Honor, Courage, and Dedication"

*Bob Sharp*

*Asst. Fire Chief*

The Maltese Cross (eight-pointed Cross) is used throughout the Fire Service in the United States and Internationally as a symbol of our willingness to make great sacrifices in order to protect others from the ravages of fire. It is a badge of honor, courage and dedication.

But, where did it come from and how did it transform into the symbol of the Firefighter?

According to many sources, we need to go back to 1113 AD.

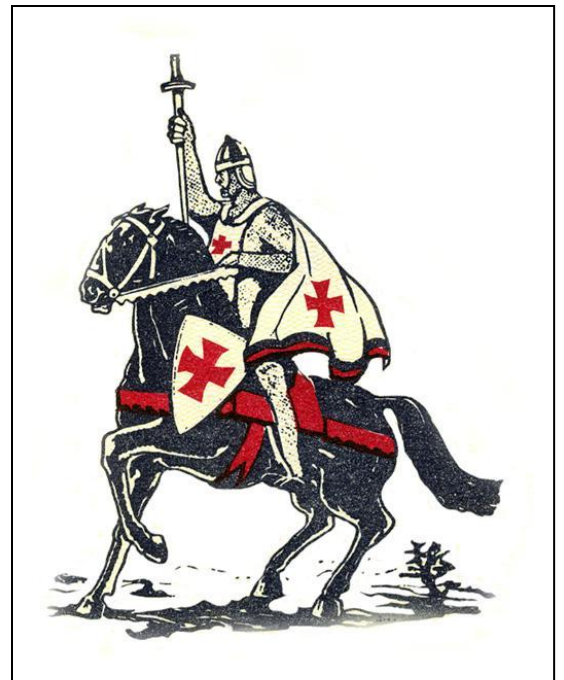
This is when a special group of Knights were founded in Jerusalem by a Benedictine monk. These eleventh century knights who were serving in a Jerusalem hospital, became known as the Order of Knights Hospitaller and later became the Knights of St. John.

This charitable organization shared the compassion as do today's Firefighters by caring for the ill with great compassion. Later they assisted the Knights of Crusaders in their effort to win back the Holy Land. As the Knights of St. John and Knights of Crusaders defended the city walls, their fierce opponents who were called, the Saracens, staged an aggressive attack and hurled glass fire bombs containing highly flammable liquids and then torches.

Many knights were severely burned, some suffering agonizing deaths. Risking horrible death, those knights who were able struggled desperately to help their burning comrades, beating out the flames and dragging them to safety. The Knights were later recognized for their bravery during the epic battle located on the Island of Malta. In acknowledgment of their heroic deeds of rescuing fellow knights and fighting fires, the cross which they wore was decorated and inscribed.

As a result of their valiant efforts in 1530 the Island of Malta was given to the courageous knights. The symbol on their flag, the eight-point cross, became known as the Maltese Cross, which had originally helped the knights distinguish between friend and foe, became the ultimate symbol of heroism and service.

The eight points on the cross have various meanings is considered sacred, represents the principles of charity, loyalty, chivalry, gallantry, generosity to friend and foe, protection of the weak and dexterity in service. However, the most widely accepted principles reflect **The Eight Beatitudes** as written in **Mathew 5:3-10 (New International Version)** entitled the **"Sermon on the Mount"**. ❖



**If anyone is interested in contributing an article for next month's newsletter, or has any topics they would like to see included, please contact Assistant Chief Bob Sharp.**