Back In Quarters
Charleston Fire Department Newsletter

www.charlestonfire.com

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6 August 2011

HOT TOPICS

- Local 317 Officer Elections August 2nd
- Back to School for Kanawha County August 19th
- CPR Training for the general public last Tuesday of the month.
- TriData Report
- Fire Station 9

Inside this issue:

TriData Fire Department Optimization Study

The City of Charleston requested an independent analysis of the operations, staffing levels, and asset deployment of the Charleston Fire Department. The assessment goal was to identify and present the best strategies to serve the citizens while addressing safety concerns of the fire personnel and the need for adequate and affordable resources.

The study is here and can be read (all 110 pages) on our website at www.charlestonfire.com

Consultants Pat Simpson and Markus Weisner; who studied the operations of Charleston's Fire Department, explained their controversial report and answered questions from City Council members.

Some of the suggestions included eliminating the "Kelley Day" system and/or paying an annual

stipend for working on holidays. The city also could save money by closing and/or combining some fire stations, Weisner said. "The goal is all parts of the city can be reached in a reasonable amount of time and the busiest areas can be reached by two units in a reasonable amount of time." He listed several recommendations: Transfer Station 9 (Corridor G Southridge behind the Applebees Restaurant) to South Charleston; move Station 3 (Oakwood Road) closer to No. 9; move Station 7 (Cora Street) to the training center on Lee Street West; move Station 6 (Kanawha City) closer to downtown; add a fifth ambulance; and evaluate closing Station 5 (Bridge Road).

Councilwoman Mary Jean Davis, who chaired the meeting, said nothing's been decided.

"I hope it's opened communications between this committee and the Fire Department and firemen," she said.

Mayor Danny Jones has now asked the Charleston Fire Department Administration to make recommendation based on this study. We are reviewing the study and will be working with the City to make changes were necessary. Our main goal is to make sure the Citizens of Charleston receive the best emergency services possible within the resources we are provide with.

CFD Training News

Training Topic For August - Water Rescue

The training division will be conducting water rescue training in the month of August. The drills will be directed towards individual companies and will cover both in-water operations as well as land based operations. Evolutions will include surface rescues using throw bags and rescue disks, line tending for dive operations, boat operations, including deployment, operating, maintenance, fire suppression and water supply.

Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) Class

The EMS Training Division has been conducting the PEPP class for department Paramedics. PEPP represents a comprehensive source of pre-hospital medical information for the emergent care of infants and children. It will teach pre-hospital professionals how to better assess and manage ill or injured children.

- Child Development: Applying the Triangle
- Respiratory Emergencies
- Children with Special Healthcare Needs
- Trauma
- Medical Emergencies
- Child Maltreatment
- Cardiovascular Emergencies
- Emergency Delivery and Newborn Stabilization
- Toxic Exposures
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Apparent Life-Threatening Event (ALTE)

The class has been a challenge for the staff having to work around vacations and department schedules. Training should conclude this month.

Incident Safety Officer Class

In July, John Smoot from RESA 3 began an Incident Safety Officer Class for the Captains on all 3 shifts. Incident Safety Officer incorporates topics specifically focused on further developing and improving existing safety programs. Fundamental coverage of job functions for successful handling of incidents involving hazardous materials, technical rescue, wildland fire, and other disasters is accompanied by explanations of the critical skills required to be a proficient Safety Officer, including the processes of reading smoke, anticipating risk, predicting building collapse, and improving firefighter rehabilitation. The class will conclude in August with the final sessions being conducted on August 8th, 9th and 10th.

CPR Class for City Employees

Authorized Provider of CPR and ECC Courses
American Heart Association.
Learn and Live.

In April the training staff conducted hands-only CPR and AED training for over 600 city employees. As a result, the training staff will hold a complete CPR class for some of the city employees at the Training Center on August 24th and 25th. Both classes start at 9am and will have 11 city employees in each. The EMS Training Staff also provides CPR Classes for the general public for $15 on the last Tuesday of each Month and will be providing the training for the Civic Center Staff on August 31st.

Boating Safety Online Safety Course

http://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/WestVirginia.asp

We want everyone (especially those who operate Fire Boat 411, 412 and 413 on a regular basis) to complete the Boat US Foundation's Online Boating Safety Course as part of our August Training assignments.

In West Virginia, all persons born after December 31, 1986 must complete a boating education course before operating a motorboat or personal watercraft. These operators shall show the certificate on demand of any West Virginia Conservation Officer or other law enforcement officer authorized to enforce West Virginia boating laws.

The certificate must have been obtained by satisfactorily completing a course of instruction in boating safety education approved by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources or by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). The BoatU.S. Boating Safety Certificate is recognized by West Virginia, NASBLA and the U.S. Coast Guard.

As an added bonus you may be able to use this certificate to receive a discount on your boat insurance.

The Boat US Foundation's Online Course is the only free Online Boating Safety Course approved by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

The Boat US Foundation's West Virginia Boating course consists of 6 lessons and a Final Exam. Each lesson has a 10-question quiz at the end. The Final exam is 75 questions and you must pass with a score of 80% or better.

To get your West Virginia Boating Safety Certificate, you will follow these 3 simple steps:

You will view a short video on how to navigate the online course

You will create an account and enroll yourself in the West Virginia Boating Safety Course from the Course Catalog.

When you pass the course you will be able to print out your certificate of completion free - it's absolutely free to take the course and print your certificate, or you can have Boat US mail you a certificate for $5.

After you print you certificate, please bring it to the training division to add to your training file.

Thank You Notes and Compliments…

We want to say a special thank you for working with us to hose down our parking garages. I know it took a lot of work coordinating our schedules but I want you to know how much we appreciate the "new and improved" look of Shanklin and Summers Street garages!

When I came in the morning after Summers was cleaned it looked like a whole new building! Ditto on Shanklin. It is amazing what can accumulate in these garages over the course of the winter months. While I know this is not your regular assignment, your efforts to work with us speak volumes about your dedication and commitment to making our community and City and better place to live, work and play.

It is nice for our visitors coming to town to see that our structures are clean and well maintained. I often say, our garages are sometimes the very first impression our guests see of our City and we want them to know what a great place Charleston is and thanks to you we just "spruced" up our face.

Thanks, again. You guys are awesome!!!

Alana W. Minear

Parking System Director

I want to thank the firefighters at Fire Station #5 Bridge Road for taking the time to give my son a tour of the fire station and the fire engine. He really enjoyed it.

Brent Burton
Charleston City Councilman Ward 20

Safety Tip of the Month

August in Charleston is typically hot and humid, having temperatures in the 90's with heat indexes well over 100. In order to stay safe during these times please follow some of the recommendations below.

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities. Circulating air can cool the body by increasing the perspiration rate of evaporation.
- Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- Drink plenty of water. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.

Know the Difference Between Heat Stroke and Heat Exhaustion

As summers continue to get hotter and hotter each year, and as more people decide to work and play outside, the incidents of heat stroke and heat exhaustion are becoming more prevalent. Do you know the key differences between heat exhaustion and heat stroke?

Heat Exhaustion

Heat Exhaustion comes from dehydration and can lead to the potentially fatal heat stroke. When you get too hot the body's reaction is to sweat for temperature control. Not replenishing these lost fluids properly can lead to more extreme heat exhaustion or even heat stroke.

- Signs of Heat Exhaustion:
- Thirst
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Pale moist cool skin
- Rapid breathing, panting
- Weakness
- Lightheadedness
- Headache
- Profuse sweating
- Muscle cramps

If you suspect someone has heat exhaustion have them get into the shade or into an air conditioned location and elevate their feet a bit. Try to cool them down via cool compresses, especially on neck and armpits. Replenishing water without gorging is the key so have them drink cup water every 15 minutes. If they continue to show signs of heat exhaustion and aren't improving, seek a doctor's help.

Heat Stroke

Heat Stroke is where the body's ability to cool itself by sweating is shut down. All temperature control is removed and the body overheats. Much like a car overheating the body can not work properly without a proper cooling system. Heat stroke can be fatal, and can make its sufferer slip into a coma if not treated speedily.

- Signs of Heat Stroke
- Fever
- Irritability
- Dry hot red skin
- Confusion
- No longer sweating
- Fainting
- Rapid but shallow breathing
- Rapid but weak pulse
- Seizures

If you suspect that someone has heat stroke and not just heat exhaustion, call 911 immediately. Follow the steps of treatment for heat exhaustion while the person is conscious and while you wait for emergency personnel to get there. Begin by having them get into the shade or into an air conditioned location and elevate their feet a bit. Try to cool them down via cool compresses on their neck, armpits and groin.

Charleston Professional Firefighters Local 317

At our last regular meeting we accepted nominations for officers and trustees of our Local. The Election of the Executive Board of our Local 317 was held on August 2nd. Here are the results.

President
Myron Boggess II *unopposed*

Vice President
William Gill II *unopposed*
(Chad Soice withdrew his nomination)

Secretary Treasurer
Danny Anderson *Unopposed*

Sergeant of Arms
Ben Bush

Trustee Chair
Eddie Moore *Unopposed*

Trustee
Jimmie Gainer *Unopposed*
Michael Rhodes *Unopposed*

Credit Union News

Rate on share saving is 3%.

Thanks everyone for submitting your change of address, so far I've only received a couple of statements back for wrong address. This saved the credit union money not having to re-mail statements.

If you need to change your address or phone let me know either by coming in or leave a voice mail with new information.

Change of hours starting August 1, 2011:

Monday	8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Answering machine will be checked on other days and Shawn Monk is on "C" shift, when Credit Union is not open and he's on duty he may be able to assist you pending his schedule.

If you're thinking of a new car or used car, have dealer fax (304) 345-9791 deal over so we can give you a rate.

The rate on share saving is 3% and if you've check around different banks we're still the highest rate around, calculated at a daily rate, with no penalty on withdrawals.

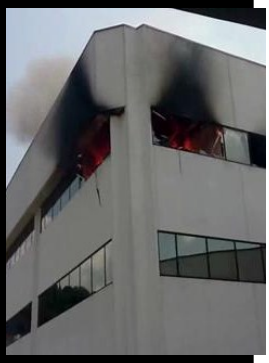
Charleston Fire Department Website

The website is a work in-progress and is constantly evolving. Links to the CFD Newsletter, both past and present, are available out there as well as other information pertinent to the department. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let Assistant Chief Sharp know. Please stop by and check it out at www.charlestonfire.com.

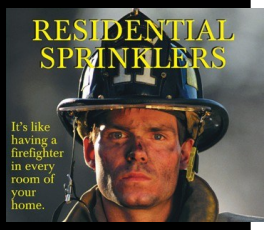
Retired Firefighter Breakfast

Retired Charleston Firefighters meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 8AM for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant- 5720 Maccorkle Ave SE in Kanawha City. Feel free to drop by, have breakfast and keep in touch with our retired brother firefighters.

Automatic Sprinkler Systems



Heavy smoke and flames showing from the fifth floor of the Medical Arts Building in Asheville, NC.



Residential Sprinklers, like having a firefighter in every room of your home.

In light of the July 28th death of Captain Jeffrey Bowen of the Asheboro Fire Department in an unsprinklered building, the editorial topic of the month is Automated Sprinkler Systems.

History

Sprinklers were invented by an American, Henry S. Parmalee, in 1874 to protect his piano factory.

Until the 1940s and 1950s, sprinklers were installed almost exclusively for the protection of buildings, especially warehouses and factories. Insurance savings, which could pay back the cost of the system in a few years time, were the major incentives.

Following fires with large losses of life (Coconut Grove Nightclub, Boston 1942-492 dead; LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, 1946-61 dead; Winecoff Hotel, Atlanta 1946-119 dead) fire and building officials searched for a means to provide life safety for building occupants. They found that factories and other buildings equipped with automatic sprinklers had an amazingly good life safety record compared with similar unsprinklered buildings.

Operation

Automatic fire sprinklers are individually heat-activated, and tied into a network of piping with water under pressure. When the heat of a fire raises the sprinkler temperature to its operating point (usually 165ºF), a solder link will melt or a liquid-filled glass bulb will shatter to open that single sprinkler, releasing water directly over the source of the heat.

Sprinklers operate automatically in the area of fire origin, preventing a fire from growing undetected to a dangerous size, while simultaneously sounding an alarm.

Automatic fire sprinklers keep fires small. The majority of fires in sprinklered buildings are handled by one or two sprinklers.

Sprinklers do not rely upon human factors such as familiarity with escape routes or emergency assistance. They go to work immediately to reduce the danger.

Sprinklers prevent the fast developing fires of intense heat which are capable of trapping and killing dozens of building occupants.

Smoke

Smoke, a by-product of fire, is generally the cause of death to building occupants. Although smoke is produced as sprinklers extinguish a fire, such quantities of smoke are less than those which would be produced by an unsprinklered fire permitted to grow.

A basic premise of proper sprinkler protection is that sprinklers be installed throughout all building areas. Partial sprinkler protection is a game of chance, since a fire originating in an unsprinklered area can overpower sprinklers given a head start.

What is the life safety record for fully sprinklered buildings?

Aside from fire fighting and explosion fatalities, there has never been a multiple loss of life in a fully sprinklered building due to fire or smoke. Individual lives have been lost when the victim or his clothing or immediate surroundings became the source of the fire.

A National Fire Protection Association study for the years 1971-1975 found that approximately 20 lives are lost each year in this country in sprinklered buildings, as compared to approximately 4,000 per year in unsprinklered buildings. Some 68% of the lives lost in sprinklered buildings were due to explosions, and an additional 18% were due to the fact that the fire originated in an unsprinklered area of the building.

Sprinklers may be the most reliable fire protection system known. Detailed fire records for Australia and New Zealand (where fire must be reported) for the years 1886 through 1968 showed that 99.76% of all fires were extinguished or controlled by the sprinklers. Fire records in this country are less dependable due to lack of full reporting, especially for small fires where the sprinklers are successful. Nevertheless, the range includes a 96.2% success record reported by the National Fire Protection Association for the years 1925 through 1969, 98.4% success record for New York city high-rise buildings between 1969 and 1978, and a 98.2% success record for U.S. Department of Energy facilities between 1952 and 1980.

Water Damage

Loss records of Factory Mutual Research indicate that the probability of a standard response spray sprinkler discharging accidentally due to a manufacturing defect is only 1 in 16,000,000 sprinklers per year in service.

Reports of water damage due to fires in sprinklered buildings are often exaggerated due to comparisons with the small fire loss which occurs thanks to the sprinklers.

The amount of water which is put on a fire by fire department hoses in an unsprinklered building fire is nearly always tens to hundreds of times more than that which sprinklers would have discharged. During a fire, only those sprinklers closest to the fire activate, limiting the total amount of water needed. The fire damage, as reflected by insurance claims, is also many times greater.

There have been hundreds of multiple-death (three or more people killed) building fires in the United States since fire sprinklers were invented. These fires, all in unsprinklered buildings, have killed thousands of people, not to mention the property damage.

Information courtesy of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. For more information about fire sprinklers please visit the NFSA home page at www.nfsa.org.