

# Back In Quarters

## Charleston Fire Department Newsletter

www.charlestonfire.com



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JUNE 2011

### HOT TOPICS

- Father's Day  
Sunday, June  
19th
- Target Safety  
online classes are  
due June 1st.
- 12 lead EKG  
Class June 13th,  
14th & 15th

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Fire Service

## CFD Welcomes New Fire Chief

In May 2011 the Charleston Fire Department welcomed new Fire Chief Charles Overstreet Jr.

Chief Overstreet has 20 years of experience with the Charleston Fire Department, where his devotion to the department and community has helped him promote through the ranks beginning at the position of Fire Fighter in 1991. He is an EMT and has held many different positions in the fire department including; Chief of Operations, Battalion Chief of C-Shift, Fire Department Chaplain, Training Officer, and Recruitment Officer. Through his continued education, he has a thorough understanding and appreciation of the political and legal complexities necessary to run a City Department. He also possesses strong characteristics

of leadership and has earned a great deal of respect from the members of the Charleston Fire Department.

Born and raised in Charleston, Chief Overstreet still resides in Charleston. He attended schools on the West Side -- Tiskelwah,



Chief Charles Overstreet Jr. Made history by earning the highest score on the Fire Chiefs Exam and becoming the first African-American Fire Chief in city history.

Wilson and Stonewall Jackson High School. He earned an Associate Degree in Electronics and a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from West Virginia State University. He is also a member of Grace Baptist Church and involved in several church activities including; choir, mentoring and bus ministry. Chief Overstreet has been married for 23 years and has five daughters.

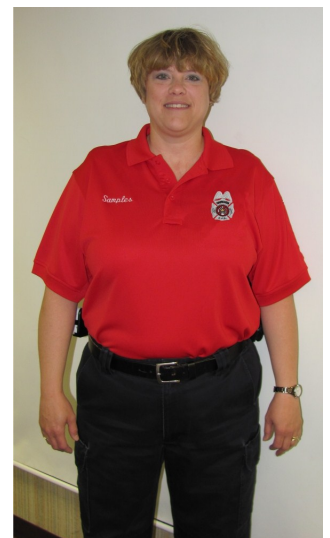
Chief Overstreet became the 19th Fire Chief of the department since 1893 and became the first African-American Fire Chief in city history.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Chief Overstreet and wish him the best in his new position.

## New Look for CFD Personnel

The CFD Administration is looking at possibly making a change in our current duty uniforms. The proposed change is to wear red polo shirts in place of our navy blue job shirts. This change would make our personnel easily identified as fire department personnel as well as more visible and comfortable while performing our duties. The shirt would

have the name on the right side of the chest and the badge on the left side. Let us know your thoughts, please send an e-mail to Asst. Chief Sharp at [robert.sharp@charlestonfire.com](mailto:robert.sharp@charlestonfire.com).



# West Virginia Public Safety EXPO



Rescue 1 and crew participating in the Heavy Extrication Class.

The West Virginia Public Safety EXPO was held on May 18-21 at the Charleston Civic Center. Classes for Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and Emergency Dispatchers were conducted and attended by over 400 emergency services personnel. The Fire Department was one of the sponsors of the event and all members could attend classes at no charge.

CFD Instructors were on hand conducting Heavy Vehicle Extrication and Tactical First Aid classes. The Heavy Vehicle Extrication

class comprised of 20 hours of instruction covering topics in lifting, rigging, vehicle stabilization and advanced extrication techniques. Several scenarios involving busses, road tractors and trailers, farm equipment and passenger vehicles were encountered.

The Tactical First Aid class taught law enforcement personnel how to care for a downed police officer. The class included classroom instruction and scenarios that placed the officers in real-life

situations. These included low-light, simulated noises, active threats and thanks to the Capital High School Drama Club, "live" victims.



Occlusive dressing being applied to the chest.

The sun is strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Plan outside events early, use the main part of the day for other activities, then go back outside later in the afternoon.

## June Safety Tip

### Avoiding Sunburn

- Use a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15.
- Some types are waterproof, but even so, you should reapply the sunscreen every two hours.
- Use sunscreen on cloudy days, too.
- It may be slightly uncomfortable in the heat, but you should wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants.
- Also put on a hat with a large brim and sunglasses.
- If you have a choice, stay in the shade. Beach umbrellas will protect you from some of the sun exposure. They are actually very comfortable on sunny days.
- Remember that children's skin is even more sensitive than yours. They can start wearing sunscreen by the

- time they are six months old. Even so, minimize their exposure.
- Avoid tanning parlors.

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## Credit Union News

### Local 317 Credit Union

Dividends will be paid July 1, 2011, please make sure you have your correct mailing address on file. We also have a new phone and have been unable to put a personalized message on the machine. However we do check messages regularly, so please leave us a message if we miss your call.

As always we are open to suggestions, and welcome any comments.

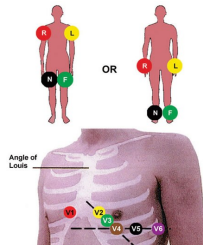
Phone: 304-345-9790 e-mail: CU317@aol.com



Dividends will be paid July 1, 2011

# 12 Lead EKG Class

John Dearnell, EMS Training Division



**Bob Page will present the 12 lead EKG class on June 13th, 14th and 15th.**

We are sponsoring a 12 Lead ECG Interpretation Workshop to be held at the Civic Center June 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. The class will be a one day class from 08:00 – 17:00. It will be the same class each day. There will also be a Capnography Class on Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> following the 12 Lead Class from 17:00- 21:00. The Instructor for all of the

classes will Bob Page. For anyone that doesn't know who Bob Page is, he's an internationally known speaker, instructor, author and paramedic. He has presented seminars across the United States, Canada, Mexico and in Europe. He is recognized for his energetic, humorous and motivational style. Bob takes ordinarily dry and hard to teach topics and transforms them into a fun, learning experience. Bob was the Director of Emergency Care Education at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri for 18 years. He was the lead instructor for the paramedic program and has taught at all levels of EMS and nursing. He has earned a faculty appointment at the University

of Maryland, Baltimore County and also is a guest instructor at Southwest Baptist University's College of Nursing. He is also adjunct faculty at Oklahoma City Community College.

This class is not only for Paramedics, but would also be a good class for EMT's as well. These classes will free of charge to all CFD personnel. Those people that will be attending this excellent educational opportunity please fill out the attached registration form and email it back to me as soon as you can, so that we can get an idea of the number of people that will be attending. This class is also open to outside agencies as well.

## Paramedic Class

Captain Rob Sloan, EMS Training Division

We are looking for EMT's who are interested in taking the paramedic program at West Virginia State University starting in August. If you are interested or have additional questions then call or email me.

Currently we have 33 paramedics that provide coverage for our ambulances, which at times is not enough. To maintain our ALS level of care for the citizens of Charleston we need to work harder to recruit and train new paramedics. I strongly feel that Chief Overstreet is working hard to improve paramedic working conditions in the future. To do this,

we need to hire and recruit more people willing to become paramedics.

Please let me know what type of incentives it would take for you to become a paramedic. We are losing paramedics to other organizations which have better incentives. I think it is important that we take a hard look at how our salaries and incentives compare to other organizations.

"I strongly feel that Chief Overstreet is working hard to improve paramedic working conditions in the future. "

Captain Rob Sloan



## Upcoming EMS Training

We have several things planned in the training department this summer. Several people need certain classes for their re-cert. We are going to have PHTLS and AMLS topics review classes along with a PEPP class. These classes will help fulfill some of the requirements for paramedic re-cert. Another EMT Re-cert class is scheduled for the month of September for those EMT's expiring at the end of this year that were not in the February class. New guidelines for re-cert require EVERYONE (EMT and Medic) to have at least a hazmat awareness class during their re-cert period. It doesn't matter if you are a hazmat tech, the state

still requires this course during the re-cert period. If you haven't had this class since your last re-cert you can get it on the internet at [www.saferesponse.com](http://www.saferesponse.com). This class is completed online and you can print a certificate after completing the course. Once completed bring the certificate to Lt. Samples to be added to your training file. It takes about 35-45 minutes to complete and this takes care of the Hazmat requirement. We also plan on having a Mass Casualty class and would like to start implementing some scenarios into the classes. As you can see the training department is going to be busy. If you

have any ideas for classes that you would like to see, feel free to send an email to anyone in the training department. Be Safe Out There!



# Yeager Airport Drill

Assistant Chief Bob Sharp, Chief of Operations



On May 2, 2011 the Charleston Fire Department; along with several other agencies, came together to participate in the Yeager Airport Triennial Drill.

I will be sending out the After Action Report "Lesson's

Learned" and the Predetermined Response Guide for all fire personnel to review.

I believe we are serving Yeager Airport better than ever and hope to continue to have a great working relationship with them and the Air National Guard.

I want to thank all Charleston Fire Department Personnel that participated. The drill was on B-shift and many evaluators from Yeager Airport, Air National Guard and the Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Council (KPEPC) noted this was the best drill that has been conducted at the airport.

## Summary of Events

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires airports to conduct a full scale emergency plan exercise at least once every three years. The airport and the 130th Airlift Wing (130th AW) agreed to jointly hold this drill to meet the FAA and Air National Guard's Major Accident Response Exercise (MARE) requirements. Several planning meetings were held in the months leading up to the drill. A tabletop exercise was held approximately one week before the drill. 250 people participated in the drill with several issues facing them including: Commercial aircraft accident, firefighting, large number of patients, large influx of patients to area hospitals, possible criminal activity, traffic control, site security and communication capabilities.

The scenario developed called for a Boeing 757 flying from Washington to

Los Angeles with 53 passengers on board declares an emergency due to smoke in the cabin. The pilots choose to divert to Yeager with a 25 minute estimated time of arrival. Upon notification from the Air Traffic Control Tower, the 130th AW Fire Department declares an Alert 2 Large and notifies Metro 911. As assets are staging the aircraft crashes approximately 25 minutes later on the airfield. An Alert Level 3 Large is then declared while firefighting and rescue operations commence. A security element was placed in the scenario unbeknownst to most participants. Several "victims" were instructed by the airport director to say there was a passenger acting suspiciously aboard the aircraft. The suspicious passenger exited the restroom just before smoke was seen emanating from that location. The security element worked well as victims informed paramedics who quickly passed the information to the police. Reviews by evaluators and participants indicate the drill was very successful and probably went better than any prior drills.



# Thank You Notes and Compliments

## Submitted by: Bob Sharp Chief of Operations

I would like to compliment Capt. Michael Shank and everyone who responded to a call to Lone Star Steakhouse in Kanawha City on May 3, 2011 at 18:03 for "Preventing a Fire"!

They found several problems above the drop ceiling in the very back of the building. This area is used for food preparation and storage. It is also directly behind the open flame grill. The duct work for the hood over the grill comes straight back then vents through the roof. When they opened the ceiling tiles in this area they found a large "blob" of goo laying on the ceiling tile. It appeared to them that the ductwork was leaking grease onto the electrical cable going to the lights and actually melted the metal

jacket around the electrical cable. They suggested that the ductwork and electrical circuit be repaired before the manager opened for business again.

The manager took their advice and evacuated the building and they secured the breaker for that circuit.

Good Job "A" Shift!

## Submitted by: Dreama White

On March 1, 2011 I was transported to CAMC Memorial Hospital by the Charleston Fire Department. It was my very 1st Ambulance ride. I don't remember the names of the two Paramedics that came, but I wanted to tell you that they were very Calm and Professional. I was also very surprised that Paramedic Chad Jones came to check on me at the hospital. Thank you so much for all you do.

## Submitted by: Bob Sharp Chief of Operations on behalf of the 130th AW Fire Emergency Services

Immediately following the Yeager Airport Triennial Drill on May 2, 2011 we had a review session of everything that had transpired. During this discussion Captain Rob Kinser was recognized for doing an exceptional job as the Staging Officer at the Emergency Access Entry Point by Steven T. Carver, SMSgt., WVANG Base Fire Chief/ Paramedic of the 130th AW Fire Emergency Services. Captain Kinser had a daunting task of keeping track of staging everyone and communicating with the Incident Commander, etc.. I appreciate the job well done by Capt. Kinser.

# Dalmatians in the Fire Service

How did that spotty black and white dog known as a Dalmatian come to be associated with fire fighting? Dalmatians have been around for about 600 years. So, to understand how the Dalmatian became the number-one firehouse mascot in England and the United States, we must take a long look back in history.



The exact time and location of the dog's origin are unknown. However, because Dalmatians appear in an Italian wall painting dated about 1360 A.D. and because these spotted dogs were named after Dalmatia, an Adriatic coastal region, one may assume that they originated somewhere in this area. But, it wasn't until 1780 when the name "Dalmatian" was used in the English language.

Weighing 25 to 55 pounds (11 kg to 52 kg) and standing 19 to 23 inches (450 mm to 377 mm) high, the Dalmatian was the perfect size to serve as a coach dog. (In fact, in Great Britain, Dalmatians are still nicknamed "English coach dogs" and "plum pudding dogs.")

The Dalmatian is a very physical breed, with a strong, muscular body, and able to run great distances without tiring. The Dalmatian also has what seems to be a natural calming effect on horses. This trait about the breed was seen very early on, and soon the Dalmatian was identified with horses. Possibly horse mounted warriors or hunters first used the breed in their activities. During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries when the mode of travel was by horse or by carriage, the Dalmatians became a society dog, and trained to run along side women's carriages. They became known as Coach dogs or Ladies dogs because of this. In fact, the term coaching is referring to how the Dalmatian will take up position just off the side and towards the rear of a horse and run with them.

In the 1700's, Dalmatians were used to protect horses that pulled English stagecoaches. Typically two Dalmatians would run next to the horses as they pulled the coach. When other dogs tried to run out and scare the horses, the Dalmatian team would chase them away. Over the years, Dalmatians formed a close bond with horses.

During this time, horse theft was very common. Because of the potential for theft, stagecoach drivers would typically sleep in a hammock strung between two stalls where they would watch for thieves. However, because of the bond between the Dalmatians and the horses, the driver could sleep in a hotel or house if he owned a Dalmatian. Why? Because the Dalmatians would sleep with the horses and guard against horse theft.

It is during the era of horse drawn fire apparatus that the Dalmatian becomes forever tied to the Fire Service. These fire house horses were required to spend hours at a time at a fire scene, or hours inside the fire house waiting for a call, and despite many misbeliefs, these fire house horses were not broken down old hags, but fine spirited horses. The Dalmatian became the horses pet as it were, to help keep them calm. There are many reports and stories of seeing a fire team rushing to the scene of a call, with a Dalmatian or two running between the horse teams. Once on the scene of the call, the Dalmatian took over as guard dog, insuring that nothing was stolen from the apparatus. The Dalmatian is a very loyal breed to its owners, and an admirable foe when challenged.

Because of the dog/horse bond, the Dalmatian easily adapted to the firehouse in the days of horse-drawn fire wagons. Since every firehouse had a set of fast horses to pull the pumper, it became common for each group of firefighters to keep a Dalmatian in the firehouse to guard the firehouse and horses. When the alarm came in, the Dalmatian led the way for the horse-drawn pumper. In this way, the Dalmatian became the firefighters' companion and a symbol of the fire service. Today, Dalmatians are still found in many firehouses in England, Canada, and the United States.

Because of this loyalty, the Dalmatian continued in the Fire Service once the horses were replaced with mechanical apparatus. Today, in many large cities, the Dalmatian is the guard dog of the fire truck while at the scene of fires and rescues. In its long history in the Fire Service, there are also reports of how the Dalmatian has rescued trapped firefighters or victims. Overall, the Dalmatian is a brave and valiant dog.