



HOT TOPICS

- Thanksgiving Day
- Charleston Fire Department recognition Dinner
- Rapid Intervention Team Training

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Back In Quarters Charleston Fire Department Newsletter

www.charlestonfire.com



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November 2011

2011 Firefighter and EMS Workers of the Year



Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Lively and Captain Brian Stiltner (Photo by Chip Ellis)

For 13 years BB&T Carson Insurance Services has sponsored our Firefighter / EMS Worker of the Year Award and this year's presentation took place at a news conference on November 4, 2011 at Charleston Fire Station #2.

The award for the Fire Fighter of the Year and the EMS Worker of the Year are selected from the nominations of the members of the department. To receive one of these awards is an honor, as they have been selected as leaders in the Charleston Fire Department by those that they serve with.

(Read more about our Fire Fighter & EMS Worker of the Year on Page 2)

Happy Thanksgiving!

2011 Firefighter and EMS Workers of the Year

EMS WORKER OF THE YEAR 2011 Nomination Letter-

This year was especially difficult to choose an EMS Worker of the Year. We had several great nominations to choose from and many of them included someone's life being saved in our community.

One individual rose to the top- Firefighter Paramedic Matthew Lively, not only for the particular emergency calls he was nominated for, but for the professionalism that he displays on a daily basis in representing the best in Emergency Services delivery for the City of Charleston.

Matt is passionate and proficient in his job duties and loves Emergency Medicine. He is a very aggressive paramedic and someone who would make a great preceptor for all new paramedics and EMTs that we hire. Most recently within the last couple of months, Matt has been on several cardiac arrests and he has shown excellent competencies and aggressive treatments that has had positive results.

One of these people who had a cardiac arrest was discharged from the hospital after about a week with no deficits. This was a different type of cardiac arrest from a few the past couple months, because this person was found unresponsive by bystanders on the sidewalk, and was in full cardiac arrest upon arrival of the Charleston Fire Department crew. This person was NOT a witnessed cardiac arrest, which are typically easier to resuscitate.

Matt is proactive in his approach to his duties and enjoys both firefighting and Emergency Medical Services alike. He is an advocate of continual training to keep his skills sharp and up to date. We have several deserving individuals like Matt who are employed here, but I believe all things considered Matt rises above the others in his Attitude, Competencies, and Emergency Response Aggressiveness. I can say without a doubt, that if I get injured or my family was to get injured; it would make me feel at ease if I saw Matt Lively show up to take care of us.

Matt is someone that is truly concerned about the best patient care and competent enough to perform those tasks. For his professional attitude and care that he provides to his patients, the Charleston Fire Department EMS Worker of the Year 2011 is Firefighter Paramedic Matthew Lively.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2011 Nominations Letter -

The award for Fire Fighter of the Year is being awarded to Captain Brian Stiltner an individual who constantly strives for more training and knowledge. He has demonstrated to his peers his quest to be the best at his chosen profession. Captain Stiltner received multiple nominations for this award.

In daily operations, Capt. Stiltner supervises our firefighters at station 1, our busiest Engine Company in the city of Charleston. He is also one of our leaders of the West Virginia Regional Response Team for Hazardous Materials Emergencies inside and outside of Charleston. He coordinates Hazardous Material Training for the rest of our Regional Response Team.

Brian's leadership style demonstrates appreciation and respect toward his fellow firefighters. He leads by example and strives to learn as much as possible about his profession, constantly training to improve physically and mentally.

Brian has spent a tremendous amount of personal time on researching new Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) and updating our fire department rules and regulations. Many of these Standard Operating Guidelines are measures we use to protect ourselves and save lives more efficiently, so these are extremely valuable to our fire service.

He is very well respected throughout the Charleston Fire Department and has done an outstanding job training new "Rookie" firefighters.

Brian always projects an attitude of wanting to make the Charleston Fire Department the Best it can be. For his day to day efforts and for his fire department leadership, I am proud to recognize the 2011 Firefighter of the Year, Captain Brain Stiltner.

Past Firefighter of the Year-

1999 Capt. Jerry Tucker, 2000 Asst. Chief Raymond Griffith, 2001 Capt. Fred Dunbar, 2002 Capt. Adrian Gillespie, 2003 Asst. Chief Larry Smith, 2004 Capt. James Peterson, 2005 Capt. Jeff Tincher, 2006 Capt. Kenneth Hackney, 2007 Capt. Walter Johnson, 2008 FF Jeffrey Showalter, 2009 Capt. David Basham, 2010 Capt. Chad Jones.

Past EMS Worker of the Year -

2007 FFM Ryan Vaughn, 2008 FFM Robert Mace, 2009 FFM David Hodges, 2010 FFM Ralph Staton

2011 Charleston Fire Department Recognition Dinner

Charleston Fire Department Recognition Dinner 2011
 Our 1st Annual Charleston Fire Department Recognition Dinner took place on Friday November 4, 2011 at Emmanuel Baptist Church. The event was sponsored by BB&T Carson Insurance, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Southridge Church, and the Charleston Professional Firefighters Association Local 317 and many others!
 If you missed it, here are some of the highlights from the event:

- ◆ 130 Firefighters, Family and Friends Attended
 - ◆ Jazz Music was performed by the Little Big Band Trio-Ray Griffith, Margaret Finney and David Painter
 - ◆ \$1500 in Door Prizes were given away!
 - ◆ Nation Anthem- (Danny Anderson, Will Gill, Wesley Smith and Rodney Winter)
 - ◆ Dinner-Smoked Grilled Chicken and/or Spiral Ham
 - ◆ Fire Chief Chuck Overstreet Remarks
 - ◆ **Service Award Recognition**
 - ◆ **15 Years of Seniority this Year:** Steve Bennett, John Dearnell, John Droddy, Anthony Green, Chad Jones, Matt Lanham, Shawn Little, Shane McComas, Steve Osborne, Rob Sloan, Shawn Wanner,
 - ◆ **20 Years of Seniority this Year:** Dewayne Brooks, Norris Brooks, Brett Caldwell, Will Edwards, Scott Fisher, Tim Griffith, Wes Hill, Chuck Overstreet, Calvin Pierson, Scott Shaffer, James Wilcox, Ed Woods
 - ◆ **25 Years of Seniority this Year:** Bruce Gentry, Owen Hawk, Rob Kinser, Robert Sharp, Barry Walker
 - ◆ **Retiree Recognition 2011-**Asst. Chief Tim Belcher, FF Medic Pat Calendar, Capt. Adrian Gillespie, FF Medic Tim McKown, Lt. Cam Monroe, Fire Chief Randy Stanley, FF Medic James Willis, Asst. Chief Rodney Winter
 - ◆ **Retiree Recognition-** Everyone & widows.
 - ◆ **Past Year Memorial Tribute-**
- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Capt. Richard Blackshire | 10/2/2010 |
| Capt. Johnny Brotherton | 6/17/2011 |
| Lt. TA Horton | 12/23/2010 |
| Capt. David Monk | 4/29/2011 |
| Capt. Delbert Roush | 5/26/2011 |
| Lt. Robert Silman | 11/2/2010 |
| Asst. Chief Larry Tincher | 4/3/2011 |
| Capt. Bill Truman | 2/14/2011 |
| Capt. Steve Unger | 1/30/2011 |
| Lt. Paul Witlock | 12/31/2010 |

- ◆ **Journeyman Firefighter Graduation:** Ben Bush, Stephen Conrad, Jeremy Haile, Josh Henderson, Brandon Mealey, Bente Simerman
- ◆ **Promotions**
- ◆ **Lieutenants:** Erik Daley, Tim Hartwell, Brandon Jones, Paul Niedbalski, Keith Witters
- ◆ **Captains:** Steve Bennett, Craig Matthews, Mike Shank, Ken Tyree,
- ◆ **Assistant Chiefs:** Owen Hawk, Bob Sharp, John Wilcox,
- ◆ **Fire Chief:** Charles Overstreet
- ◆ **Special Recognitions**
- ◆ **"Back in Quarters" Newsletter-** Darin Virag
- ◆ **Paramedic Certification-**Wyatt Derr
- ◆ **Past Year Saves & Certificate of Merit Awards:** Danny Anderson, Katie Berg, Ben Bush, Kenny Cline, Ron Cobb, Jonathan Coleman, Stephen Conrad, Erik Dailey, Wyatt Derr, Scott Harper, Allen Holder, Chad Jones, Eddie Moore, Ryan Pennington, Lydia Pottorff, Mike Rhodes, Mike Robinson, Philip Shaffer, Austin Smith, Ralph Staton, Mark Strickland, Andrew White
- ◆ **Firefighter & EMS Worker of the Year Presentations**
 (Allan McVey– BB&T Carson Insurance Services)
- ◆ **EMS WORKER OF THE YEAR- Firefighter Paramedic Matthew Lively**
- ◆ **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR –Captain Brian Stiltner**

Our date for next year's Charleston Fire Department Recognition Dinner is October 19, 2012

If you have any ideas or suggestions for next year, please let us know!

Planning Committee for this year's event was: Danny Anderson, John Dearnell, Scott Fisher, Chuck Overstreet, Alisha Samples, Bob Sharp, Carrie Sloan, Rob Sloan, Wes Smith and Ken Tyree.



“New” Mentoring Program

The Charleston Fire Department Mentoring Program will offer additional assistance to apprentice firefighters during their 3 year U.S. Department of Labor Journeyman Firefighter Apprenticeship Program. The program will also assist Captains by empowering senior firefighters to lead apprentice firefighters during their 3 year apprenticeship.

The purpose of the Mentor Program is to provide apprentices with the appropriate support needed to become knowledgeable and productive member of the Charleston Fire Department. This program will help identify the needs of the apprentices and provide the necessary mentorship to get there.

There are often times when an apprentice may feel awkward asking the station Captain for help. The assigned Mentor will be able to assist the apprentice with training that can be performed without the direct involvement of the station Captain. This program will encourage senior firefighters to be leaders of their peers. Secondly, this program will help the Captains delegate duties and responsibilities so that they can perform their function more efficiently.

Objectives of the Mentor Program:

- To make communication to all members more effective.
- To increase the participation of senior firefighters.
- Strengthen the Department’s ability to retain members.
- Create a positive environment for all members.
- Increase morale.
- Support teambuilding and teamwork.
- Encourage utilization of the “chain of command”.
- Proper utilization of the training division to assist with the training of all members.
- Manage stress that comes from being a new apprentice and CFD employee.
- Reduces clique behavior.
- Reinforces responsibility for personal and professional development.

Mentors will be designated by the Charleston Professional Fire Fighters Apprenticeship Board-Journeyman Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC). Mentors will be assigned an apprentice working in conjunction with the training division and Captains as a team to keep their apprentice on track to complete the Journeyman program within the three year time frame.

Mentor Qualifications:

It is recommended that the Mentor Candidate has completed their 3 year apprenticeship and successfully passed the 3 year practical and written journeyman test.

Must not have any disciplinary actions on record with the Department.

Must be a pro-active member of the Department.

Has the ability to follow the directions and requests of their station officers.

Has the ability to work as a leader of a small group of people.

Has the ability to communicate frequently through e-mail, phone and text with their apprentice and Captains.

Exercises good judgment on and off the fire ground.

Mentor Expectations Include:

Communicate with Captains and JATC board monthly to ensure their apprentice is on the correct path to accomplish goals and objectives.

Keep in touch weekly with assigned apprentice.

Promote positive attitude within the station and department.

Promote Safety and Teamwork.

Ability to assess strengths and weaknesses for themselves and assigned apprentice.

Assists in choosing accurate and measurable goals for their apprentice, and works closely with the Captains to keep them on track towards accomplishing these goals within an appropriate time frame

Conduct monthly progress reports with Captains and the JATC board Demonstrates a proficiency in leadership, followership, healthy communication and general knowledge of appropriate level of firefighting knowledge

Report to the JATC board on:

- Issues that come from the firefighters
- Personnel issues
- Needs of the firefighters
- Training desires or complications
- Recommendations for awards, reprimands, etc.
- Other duties as assigned.

Apprentice Expectations Include:

Being open and receptive to mentor feedback and coaching.

Ability to assess own strength and weaknesses and establish clear goals.

Desire to accomplish all apprenticeship requirements within 3 years.

Communicate with their mentor.



Rapid Intervention Team Training

Let's face it, you never know when or how a firefighter emergency will happen! In fact, when you least expect it — expect it. Responding as part of a rapid intervention team (RIT) to a known firefighter MAYDAY will be one of the most stressful situations you'll ever encounter as a firefighter. Commanding a RIT operation will be the one of the most difficult situations you'll ever command. As an individual your ability to calmly deal with the situation will be your most difficult obstacle. As part of a team faced with rescuing a firefighter—teamwork, communication and focus will be the most difficult factors to control.

Firefighter rescue involves assisting and/or removing a firefighter from a troubled location or situation on the fireground. The rescue may be as simple as guiding the firefighter to the outside (safety) or as complicated as extricating the firefighter from a collapse or entanglement, securing his air supply with a new source, and removing him from the structure. Sometimes the complexity is based on the situation and sometimes it's based on a lack of preparation.

The RIT presence on the fireground is the firefighter's 911 system. When a firefighter

needs emergency assistance while operating on the fireground one or more RITs will be utilized to solve the firefighter's problem.

In a best-case scenario, firefighters in the immediate area of the distressed firefighter will be able to quickly solve the problem — but that isn't always the case and is dependent on the firefighter's problem and the fire conditions in the structure.

We will be dedicating our training efforts to Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Training in the months of November through January 2012. Here are the procedures we will be covering:

- ◆ RIT Dispatch Protocols
- ◆ Establishing/Assuming the RIT Sector
- ◆ Initial Actions when a MAYDAY is transmitted
- ◆ RIT Tools
- ◆ RIT Positions and Assignments
- ◆ RIT Staging
- ◆ Proactive Actions of the RIT Sector
- ◆ RIT Benchmarks
- ◆ Fireground Communications during RIT Operations
- ◆ Interior RIT Operations

Incident Command Class

We are bringing several Incident Command Classes that will train Captains in the decision making process during emergency incidents. These will be especially helpful to those that occasionally step up to the 450 position to cover for the Battalion Chiefs when needed. Here are the classes that we have scheduled:

Interactive Onscreen Command and Control- Incident Command for Chiefs 16 Hour Course:

This course will be at the CFD Training Center and RESA will issue certificates to those that complete the class.. Monday November 14 from 9AM-5PM (C-shift On Duty) and Friday November 18 from 9AM-5PM (A-shift On Duty)

This RESA class will be a great pre-course for the **Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations (DMICO)** National Fire Academy Course that we will be having at the Civic Center February 13-18, 2012 which retired Philadelphia Deputy Chief Bill Shouldis (also a Fire Engineering author/editor) will be teaching.

More Command Classes will be coming if you miss these!



Thanksgiving Safety Tips

According to the United States Fire Administration, each year on Thanksgiving Day there are more than 4,000 fires in homes across the country. The number of cooking fires that occur on Thanksgiving is more than double the number of fires that occurs on an average day.

- The following fire safety tips will help keep you safe and prevent a home fire on Thanksgiving and throughout the year.
- Do not wear clothes that are very loose or have long flowing sleeves. The safest clothing to wear while cooking should fit well and have short sleeves.
- Keep food storage wraps and containers, pot holders and kitchen towels at least three feet away from stove burners and other sources of heat while you are cooking.
- Keep pot handles turned inward when they are on the stove to avoid the possibility of spills causing flash fires or burns.
- Never leave the stove unattended while you are cooking. If you must leave the room have someone watch the stove or turn off the burners. A pan of cooking oil can ignite in just a few seconds.
- Never put water on a stovetop grease fire. Water causes a grease fire to expand. Instead keep a matching cover to the pan nearby and if a fire should erupt, use the lid to smother it.
- Keep children away from the stove while you are cooking. Make it a practice to keep a safe zone of three feet around the stove that is child free.
- Keep a fire extinguisher within 10 feet of the stove. Place it on the side of the room with the exit.
- Never leave candles burning unattended. Make sure to check that all candles are extinguished before going out or going to bed.
- Keep lit candles away from materials that are combustible



Smoke Detectors and Daylight Savings Time

When you turn your clocks back for the end of daylight saving time on Sunday November 6th, you should have also spent a few short minutes changing the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Whether you live in a house, condo or apartment, it's all the same when it comes to smoke alarms – use the twice-annual time change for daylight saving time to make sure your alarms work.

Like a reminder string placed on one's finger, the time change is an opportunity to remember to change the batteries on your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Firefighters know that worn or missing batteries are the most common cause of non-working smoke detectors leading to injuries and fatalities in residential fires.

We also advise homeowners to replace smoke alarms every ten years.

25th Anniversary of Life Safe Program

On October 11, 2011 the 25th Anniversary of the Life Safe Program was celebrated at the annual participant recognition luncheon at the Charleston Civic Center. Sterling Lewis, West Virginia State Fire Marshall and County Commissioner Kent Carper were the event speakers.

Life Safe is a recognition program that encourages the building owner/manager to properly prepare employees/tenants, visitors/customers to safely evacuate themselves and others from the facility, or to shelter-in-place in an emergency and seeks to improve the safety of our citizens and prevent the loss of life.

Life Safe Specific Goals include:

- ◆ Educating participants to recognize a safe environment.
- ◆ Raise their level of awareness of Fire Safety (at work and at home).
- ◆ Encourage them to be proactive not reactive during emergency situations.
- ◆ Instruct them on when and how to safely evacuate a facility.
- ◆ Teach them when and how to safely shelter-in-place (stay inside).
- ◆ To Improve safety standards at business/community/living locations.

Over the past 25 years the Life Safe Program has adjusted its program and training seminars to meet emerging issues and society's changing needs, i.e:

- ◆ Shelter-in-place
- ◆ Homeland Security
- ◆ Bomb threats
- ◆ Methamphetamine production
- ◆ Workplace safety
- ◆ First-aid
- ◆ Flu epidemics, and more.

Life Safe costs absolutely no money to participate, but could save participants thousands of dollars, or more, in the loss of life and property. In the past, our annual luncheon, training seminars and other expenses have been sponsored by BB&T, WV American Water, Charleston Jobs Corps, Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, Charleston Newspapers, the Kanawha County Commission and business leaders throughout Kanawha Valley. Today the only funding is thru donations – monetary and in-kind. These pay for

mailings, copying, and the annual October luncheon where participants are honored and certificates presented. This is how volunteers have maintained this vital program at no cost to participants.

The program continues to exist 25 years later because of the generous support of the above businesses and organizations, and especially because of the committee members who provide information, training, coordination, mailings, one-on-one contact, and plain hard work. Committee members represent our local professional fire departments-Charleston, South Charleston, St. Albans and Dunbar, the State Fire Marshal's office, community business leaders, other county and city officials and first responders. Although no one is paid to work for Life Safe, everyone is very dedicated and we always welcome new ideas, members, and opportunities. Committee members also help participants prepare evacuation plans, or revise/improve their current ones. Their work is never-ending; but they are dedicated.

Building Participants must meet four criteria to become part of the Life Safe Program:

Designate fire wardens throughout the facility who will assist with evacuation; and provide a minimum of two hours of annual training for each.

Perform two annual fire/emergency drills; and maintain records.

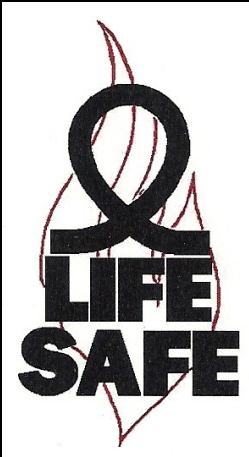
The property manager shall provide an evacuation plan. Escape routes must be posted throughout the building.

A current fire safety inspection must be conducted by the appropriate fire department. We do not certify that each building meets every fire code.

Life Safe is a continuing commitment; participants must go through the process every year. Life Safe also acknowledges that participants have undergone a current fire inspection and two annual fire drills.

For More Information on becoming a member or supporting Life Safe contact:

Charleston Fire Prevention Bureau 304-348-8098.



Rate on share saving is 3%.



Credit Union News

Just a reminder to everyone Local 317 IAFF Credit Union is a privilege to being a member in good standing of Local 317 Union. What this means is if someone decides to not be a member of the Local then you cannot belong to the Credit Union. This was in the by laws when the Credit Union was established in 1939 and has not changed to date.

Also when you leave the job (not retirement) your signature loan must be paid in full or use the proceeds from your pension, this is why you sign a termination agreement each time you take out a signature loan.

Please remember when you're changing insurance company's to add Local 317 IAFF Credit Union as you're loss payee, if your loan is with us, tell new insurance company you have a loan on the vehicle, ATV, etc. and they should ask for the name of credit union.

If you have questions regarding the policy and by law of Local 317 IAFF Credit Union you are urged to call any board member or the office.

Thank You Notes and Compliments...

I want to say Thank You to Captain Tim Robinson who came up with a great idea to install a Knox Box at the Charleston Marina for Fireboat 411. The magnetic swipe card will be placed in the box so that all Charleston Fire Department units will have access to the Fireboat.

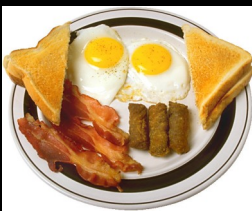
Bob Sharp
Chief of Operations

Promotions, Transfers and Retirements

Captain Craig Matthews transferred to "A" Shift on October 19, 2011

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.



If anyone would like to contribute an article for any future newsletter, please contact Assistant Chief Bob Sharp.

MGM Grand Fire



The MGM Grand fire occurred on November 21, 1980 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino (now Bally's Las Vegas) in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. The fire killed 85 people, most through smoke inhalation. The tragedy remains the worst disaster in Nevada history, and the third-worst hotel fire in modern U.S. history, after the 1946 Winecoff Hotel fire in Atlanta that killed 119 people and the Dupont Plaza Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico fire on December 31, 1986, in which 97 perished.

At the time of the fire, approximately 5,000 people were in the hotel and casino, a 26-story luxury resort with more than 2,000 hotel rooms. Just after 7:00 on the morning of November 21, 1980, a fire broke out in a restaurant known as The Deli. The Clark County Fire Department was the first agency to respond. Other agencies that responded included the North Las Vegas Fire Department, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue and the Henderson Fire Department. UH-1N (Huey) and CH-3E (Jolly Green Giant) helicopters from the 1st Special Operations Wing out of Hurlburt Field, FL (which were deployed to Nellis AFB to participate in Red Flag '80) were the main part of a helicopter rescue effort that pulled 1000 people from the roof of the MGM Grand. Smoke and fire spread through the building, killing 84 people and injuring 650, including guests, employees and 14 firefighters. While the fire primarily damaged the second floor casino and adjacent restaurants, most of the deaths were on the upper floors of the hotel, and were caused by smoke inhalation. Openings in vertical shafts (elevators and stairwells) and seismic joints allowed toxic smoke to spread to the top floor.

The disaster led to the general publicizing of the fact that during a building fire, smoke inhalation is a more serious threat than flames. Seventy-five people died from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning, four from smoke inhalation alone, three from burns and smoke inhalation, only one person died from burns alone, and one person died from massive skull trauma, caused by jumping from a high window.

The fire was caused by an electrical ground fault inside a wall soffit. The wiring inside the wall was used to power a refrigeration unit for a food display cabinet in the deli. The vibration of the machine caused the wires to rub against each other, and the friction-damaged wires arced and caused a fire, which was detected hours later by a hotel employee. The fire spread to the lobby, fed by wallpaper, PVC piping, glue, and plastic mirrors, racing through the casino floor at a rate of 15–19 ft (4.6–5.8 m) per second until a massive fireball blew out the main entrance along The Strip. Seven people died in the casino. The burning material created toxic fumes and smoke, which caused the majority of the deaths.

Due to faulty smoke dampers within the ventilation duct network, the toxic fumes circulated throughout the hotel's air circulation system, accelerating the spread of the poisonous air.

Most deaths occurred in the stairwells, where the doors locked behind each person as the only open doors in the stairwell were on the roof and on the ground floor. Most of the victims died from smoke inhalation, many of them in their sleep.

The fire was confined to the casino and restaurant areas. The hotel was equipped with a fire sprinkler system that performed properly by keeping the fire out of that section of the building. The area with the most fire prevention was in the money counting area, not in individual rooms or on the casino floor. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) studies show that in this fire the hotel occupants did not exhibit panic behavior. Instead, many took rational steps to preserve their lives. Examples of this include putting towels around doors (to block out smoke), notifying other occupants, offering refuge in their rooms, and using wet towels for their faces.

The casino and restaurants were not protected by a fire sprinkler system because they were exempt from rules requiring fire sprinklers in areas occupied 24 hours per day. A Clark County building inspector granted the exemption—despite the opposition of fire marshals—reasoning that a fire would be quickly noticed by occupants and contained with portable fire extinguishers. When the fire broke out in The Deli the restaurant, no longer open 24 hours per day, was closed and unoccupied.

The hotel was repaired and improved, including the addition of fire sprinklers and an automatic fire alarm system throughout the property, and sold to Bally's Entertainment, which changed the name to Bally's Las Vegas. Similar upgrades were also made to the nearly identical property (now the Grand Sierra Resort) in Reno, Nevada. The tower in which 85 people died is still operating as part of the hotel today. A second tower, unaffected by the fire, opened in 1981. The present MGM Grand hotel-casino was built just to the south, near the northeast corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Tropicana Avenue.

On February 10, 1981, just 90 days after the MGM fire, another fire broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton. Because of the two incidents, there was a major reformation of fire safety guidelines and codes.