



S.C.F.R. Reporter

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Special points of interest:

- Newest firefighter at SCFR
- TT Accident shuts down I81
- Wholesome Foods Fire
- Promotions at SCFR
- Significant Saves
- Notes from the Chief

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How to become a Firefighter Do you have what it takes?



With lots of studying and hard work, Robyn Kane was promoted to Fire Fighter recently. So what does it take to become a firefighter?

Firefighter Level One requires 160 hours of training, some of which include Fire Service History, Communication, Safety and Health topics, Ropes and Knots, Lighting, Extrication, Fire Origin and much, much more.

Firefighter Level Two requires successful completion of Fire Fighter One, plus 57 more training hours to include Hoses, Fire Streams, Fire Determination, and more! Candidates must also complete a 48 hour class on Hazardous Material Operations, and 16 hours of training in

Liquid Petroleum Gas Emergencies.

Firefighter/EMT Kane's basic training was facilitated by Warren County Fire and Rescue Services, where she remains affiliated as a volunteer firefighter as well.

For more information on becoming a volunteer please go to the SCFR website:
<http://shenandoahcountyva.us/fire-rescue/>

The Lucas Automated CPR Device

If you have never seen the Lucas in action, it is amazing. This device does the chest compressions during CPR so that the providers can concentrate on airway, IV's, and other injuries at the same time. For information and a video of how this device works, please visit: <http://www.lucas-cpr.com/>



Tractor Trailer Accident on I-81



Firefighters and EMT's worked to extricate occupants from a tractor trailer accident at the 272.3 south bound mile marker on January 13th, 2015. Mount Jackson Rescue & Fire, New Market Fire & Rescue, Strasburg Fire, Woodstock Fire, AirCare, and Shenandoah County Fire & Rescue were on the scene for about 3.5 hours. One patient was flown to UVA and one was ground transported to Rockingham Memorial Hospital. To see more of these photos, please visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsk7ArCGA>

Wholesome Foods, Inc. Fire

On the evening of January 14th, 2015, around 8:24pm, crews from Edinburg Volunteer Fire, Toms Brook Volunteer Fire, Mount Jackson Rescue & Fire, Woodstock Volunteer Fire, Conicville Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Orkney Springs Fire & Rescue, Woodstock Rescue Squad, Strasburg Volunteer Rescue and Shenandoah County Fire & Rescue responded to the scene of a structure fire at Wholesome Foods, Inc. This fire was the largest in Shenandoah County since the Alms House fire in Maurertown in April 2014. The crews did a great job preventing the fire from spreading to the other buildings, and Wholesome Foods was open for business the next day. The building is a total loss but Wholesome Foods plans on rebuilding it. Crews were on the scene for about 4 hours. No civilians were injured and one EMS personnel was taken to the hospital for minor injuries.



Shenandoah County Fire & Rescue Promotions



Lt. Ralph Crabill



Lt. Jordan Highland



Lt. Travis Hilliard

We have three new Lieutenants here at SCFR! Congratulations to Lt. Crabill, Lt. Highland and Lt. Hilliard. The process of going through the testing for promotions involves quite a few steps. There are also some prerequisites that must be met. The candidates must have at least one year of service with SCFR, completed their probationary period and not received a written or higher disciplinary action during the past year. They must also have at least: FFII, EMT-B, leadership courses and several other training classes. The candidates must then complete and submit a letter of intent and resume to the Fire Chief. Then the testing starts on three subject matters: Personnel counseling, written administrative test, and an operation exercise. There is also a survey that their peers take to see who they think have the best values for a supervisor. Once all those point values are tallied, the top 10 are asked to participate in a homework assignment along with an oral interview that is done in front a panel. The panel will ask the potential candidates questions then decide who the top candidates should be promoted. the promotion is then offered to the candidates.

CONGRATULATIONS Lieutenants!

For more pictures from the ceremony please visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsk8zkHMX>



Significant Saves and call volume for Jan-March

One of the big things that really get to our providers is when they know for a fact that they saved someone's life. Not all calls are like what you see on TV or in the movies, but some are. Here is a brief listing of the significant saves for Jan-March, 2015.

Jan 23: Call for a patient with difficulty breathing that went into cardiac arrest within minutes of EMS arriving at their side. The patient was breathing and had a heartbeat upon arrival to the ER.

Jan 30: Call for an unresponsive person, EMS was on the scene within ONE minute of dispatch, and patient was in cardiac arrest. CPR and the Lucas Device (an automated device to give chest compressions) were used and patient had a pulse prior to transportation to hospital began.

Feb 26: Call for a patient with chest pain, Medic read the 12 lead and diagnosed an acute MI. Patient was immediately transported to the hospital and directed straight to the cath lab.

Feb 26: Call for a patient with a high heart rate, patient was shocked one time and their heart went back into normal rhythm. The patient was stable upon arrival to the ER.

Mar 7: Call for a patient in cardiac arrest. Volunteer firefighters on the scene started CPR prior to EMS arrival. Patient regained pulse with gasping respirations.

Mar 22: Call for a patient with symptoms of a heart attack. EMS arrived and a 12 lead was conducted and confirmed the patient was having a heart attack. Patient was transported to the ER.

Shenandoah County Call Volume (Career and Volunteer):

January 623 February 620 March 616

Notes from Chief Yew



Origin of the Maltese Cross

The Fire and EMS service holds onto many traditions, one of which is the use of the Maltese Cross as a symbol of protection. I am confident most everyone has seen this cross on fire apparatus but not aware of its significance to the system; I would bet few firefighters are aware of the history of the Maltese Cross.

When a courageous band of crusaders known as the Knights of St. John fought the Saracens for possession of the holy land they encountered a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a horrible device of war; it wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave fighters for the cross. The Saracen's weapon was fire.

As the crusaders advanced on the walls of the city they were struck by glass bombs containing naphtha. When they became saturated with the highly flammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming torch into their midst. Hundreds of the knights were burned alive; others risked their lives to save their brothers-in-arms from dying painful, fiery deaths.

Thus, these men became our first firefighter and the first of a long list of courageous firefighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders who awarded each here a badge of honor – a cross similar to the one firefighter's wear today. Since the Knights of St. John lived for close to four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea named Malta, the cross came to be known as the Maltese Cross.

The Maltese Cross represents your symbol of protection. It means that the firefighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down his life for you just as the crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago. The Maltese Cross is a firefighter's badge of honor, signifying that he or she works in courage.