

The Command Post

Volume 3, Issue 1 - A Publication of the Little Rock Fire Department

January 2012

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From the Chief's Desk



In the book titled "It's Your Ship," author Captain D. Michael Abrashoff speaks about going beyond standard procedure - "*Innovation and progress are achieved only by those who venture beyond standard operating procedures. You have to think imaginatively, but realistically, about what may lie ahead, and prepare to meet it. You have to look for new ways to handle old tasks and fresh approaches to new problems.*"

Let's be very specific - SOPs/SOGs are very much appropriate on the fire ground and in our daily fire service activities; however, as we come to the end of 2011 and look back on the year, there are numerous people within this organization who played a key role in our accomplishments for the year. Your imagination, focus and leadership are appreciated.

- Successfully established Airport Division Chief Position
- Successfully established EMS bicycle team
- Successfully completed Spanish Immersion Class for SW stations
- Increased technical knowledge with Swift Water Training
- Established employee Medical Evaluations in partnership with Arkansas Heart Hospital
- Initiated IAFF-supported minimum standards for Engineers and Captains
- Completed 2nd annual Citizens Fire Academy
- Completed 2nd annual "Fire Safety Day"
- Graduated 27 recruits
- Began construction of WLR Fire Station
- Purchased three apparatus
- Established Social Networking Policy
- Received \$26,631 Fire Prevention Grant
- Received \$266,895 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for Driving Simulator
- Through increased Fire Prevention efforts, recognized a 40 percent reduction in fire deaths, with only two fire deaths for 2011
- Received \$175,000 in grant funds from Homeland Security to replace the fire boat

As we continue to move this organization from "Good to Great," I encourage you to take an active role as a member of the Little Rock Fire Department, whether it be by serving on one of our numerous committees or just by continuing to give 110 percent in your current rank or role. Know that as your Fire Chief, I appreciate your efforts greatly.

Thank you and I look forward to a Great 2012!

LRFD 24/7

Operationally Speaking

Contributed by Assistant Chief Doug Coney



As I sit down to write my contribution to the newsletter, I cannot believe how fast this year has gone!

I want to thank each of you for helping to get the sales tax passed and let

you know that there is no grass growing under our feet!

We have been to E-One and done our pre-construction on the fire trucks! The committee chose to go with E-One over the other vendors, and we feel that the apparatus will serve us well. We are going to get our first Top-Mount Engines that will be equipped with an automatic deck gun, A & B foam tanks, low hose beds, and other features that I believe will be beneficial to our department! The Aerial Truck will be almost identical to Truck 9, with a few minor suggested changes from the aerial committee and members of Truck 9. The Engines will replace Engine 8 and Engine 9, and those existing units will be re-distributed. The Aerial Truck will replace Truck 11, and it will go either into reserve or possibly replace Truck 21. If all goes as planned, the department will order another Engine early in the year. I would like to thank the members of both the Engine Committee and the Truck Committee, along with the members of Truck 9, for their many hours of hard work and dedication on the design of our new apparatus. In addition to the new apparatus, we are also going to have a new Fire Boat in a couple of months that will be equipped with a 500 GPM pre-piped fire pump and other features that should allow us to be responsive

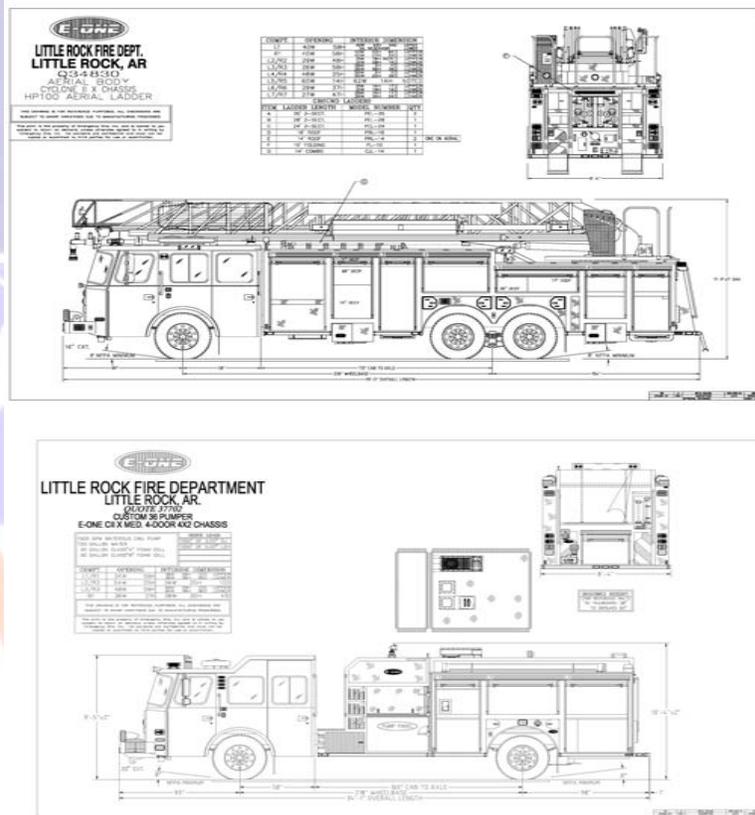
to incidents on the river. A special "Thanks" to the members of the Fire Boat committee and to Nathan Spicer and Matt Burks, who assisted with the Homeland Security Grant to obtain the boat.

We also just received word that we were awarded a 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount \$333,573 for a Driving/Command Simulator that will be installed at the Fire Training Facility.

The New Year will be a busy one as we will start our EMT refresher right away and hire some new firefighters to replace those that retired in the last six months of 2011. We will begin with the physicals in March after our EMT refresher class finishes up. Plans are in the works to add some Class-A burn containers and a Flashover Chamber at our Training Facility in early 2012. These, along with our newly added propane fired car prop, will assist the Training Division in accomplishing some of their goals for 2012.

I want to thank each one of you for the job you do protecting the citizens of our city, and I ask that you keep up the good work!! In closing, I look forward to 2012 and to serving with you another year! Be Safe.

*Chief Doug Coney
Assistant Fire Chief, Operations Division*



Above: A photo diagram of the newly purchased Aerial Ladder Truck
Below: A diagram of the newly purchase Pumper Truck

Storm Response Kit

Contributed by FAE Danny Poe and Brittanye Gyce,
Executive Secretary

The winter and spring months can be a tumultuous time for our state, especially in terms of severe weather. In 2011 alone we had a number of natural disasters occur, some with devastating outcomes. Although we are no strangers to severe weather, some severe weather incidents have posed a major question, "How can we be better prepared?" The results of many of the natural disasters that have occurred in the past year have had many people wondering. There has been an increase in concern regarding the safety and welfare of the populace during these times, not to mention the increase of effectiveness when it comes to first responders and their level of efficiency.

In the weeks following the tragic events that occurred in mid-April of 2011, FAE Danny Poe, FF Bo Hagar and several other firefighters came together and created the Little Rock Fire Department's Storm Response Kit.

The Storm Response Kit was created to be an effective first responder tool used to assist in search and rescue during natural disasters and severe weather emergencies. "The motivation came after the tragic events that unfolded when a tornado tore through the Cynthia and Donna Streets neighborhood off of John Barrow St. on April 15, 2011," FAE Danny Poe said. "We didn't have an action plan in place for this type of large scale disaster. Unfortunately, this was a 'learn from your mistakes' situation. After a lot of talk about what happened and things that should have or could have been done, I started commenting that we didn't even have the tools or equipment necessary to perform such a large search and rescue. So, a couple of us sat down and started talking about a kit for each apparatus that would include the basic necessities to perform this task. From there the 'Storm Kit' was born."

The Storm Response Kit is definitely a tool that will prove beneficial in the future. The items that are included in them will assist the firefighters in basic search and rescue duties in the response area, allowing them to keep up with all addresses searched and help record their findings so that nothing is overlooked. "The Storm Kit will benefit the entire department by giving all of us the basic tools and equipment for performing search and rescue during the aftermath of future large disasters," Poe said. "Before now, any tools that

we might have had to carry out this kind of task would have had to be gathered from all different areas of our fire trucks and stations. Now, with the kit, we have all of the basic things together in one place. We know what extra equipment we may need to get to add to this, if and when this type of situation arises again. The kit will benefit the general public by providing us with the opportunity to provide faster and more efficient professional service to our citizens in the time of need. We will be ready the next time we are called to a search and rescue situation."

While the Storm Response Kit was created especially for severe weather responses, it could possibly be used in other situations as well. "As with any other tool in our toolbox, our job is to adapt and overcome. Every tool we have will be used to perform some other task when the situation is necessary. The kit is just the basics. It is designed to be recreated over, and over. Nothing we do on this job is the same as any other case. As routine as some things seem, you never quite fix it the same way. Everything we do, and every way we do something, should be looked at to find a better way of doing it. I hope that somebody can take this kit and add to it," Poe said. "The Storm Kit can be used for other situations, such as a house fire



search, or condemning and zoning off a dangerous property. But for now and until the time comes for it to be used for something completely different, it is dedicated as a storm search and rescue kit."

The Storm Response Kits were distributed to all companies in mid-June of 2011. Although there has not been much severe weather, the LRFD will be better prepared next time. "To my knowledge, the kit has not been used since it has been given to all the companies. It is still a new tool in our toolbox. We are out of our severe storm season for now, and regretfully it took the events of April 15, 2011 for something like this to be created. But, you can be assured that we will be ready the next time."

"The Storm Kit is just a starting block to building a better, more efficient, professional fire department." Poe said.

Special thanks to FAE Danny Poe, FF Bo Hagar and all of the other firefighters who took time to create the storm kit! Your innovative thoughts and actions help to not only create a better, more efficient department but a safer environment for the citizens of this great city. Great job!

2011 Recruit Class-B

Contributed by Brittanye Gyce
Photo contributed by Captain Steve White

On Thursday, November 17, 2011, a graduation ceremony for the LRFD Class-B Firefighter Recruits was held at the Robinson Auditorium. There was much to be celebrated after several months of hard work and training with several recruits being honored for their achievements. PFF Brandon Gattis received the Recruit EMT Achievement Award, averaging a 93.33% in the Emergency Medical portion of recruit school. The Recruit Fitness Award recipient was PFF Jeremiah Holman, and PFF Rayburn Roybskie was awarded the Fire Chief Challenge Award. PFF Hendrick "Hank" Van Rossum received two awards: the Recruit Firefighter Achievement Award and the Outstanding Recruit Achievement Award. Congratulations to all of the 2011 Class-B Recruits!

2011 Class-B Recruits

Holman, Jeremiah	Gattis, Brandon
Crump, Nathaniel	Witherspoon, Michael
Van Rossum, Hendrik	Roybskie, Rayburn
Crawford, Allin	Nixon, Jeremy
Marchese, Joseph	Walthall, Jonathan
Nichols, Antonerio	Martin, Darius
Watson, Matthew	Davis, Matthew



Prescription Drug Drop-Off

Contributed by Brittanye Gyce

Ever wondered where one could dispose of unused prescription meds? The Law Enforcement Agencies of Central Arkansas, in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs in Arkansas, have created "Operation: Medicine Cabinet," a program created to assist citizens in properly disposing of unused prescription medications to avoid misuse and abuse within the community. Currently, there are six permanent locations where all unused prescription drugs can be dropped off. These locations are open 24-hours daily and meds can be dropped off at anytime.

There have been instances in the past where citizens have dropped prescription medications off at local fire departments within the city. The Little Rock Fire Department cannot and will not accept any prescriptions drugs, and none of our fire stations serve as drop-off locations. Below is a list of all of the prescription drug drop-off locations in the Central Arkansas area. For more information about this service, please contact the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office or visit www.artakeback.org.

Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
2900 South Woodrow Street (off of Roosevelt Road),
Little Rock

Little Rock Police Department
700 West Markham, Little Rock

NLR Police and Fire Training Center
2400 Willow Street, North Little Rock

Grant County Sheriff's Office
101 W Pine Street, Sheridan

Jacksonville Police Department
1412 West Main Street, Jacksonville

Benton Police Department
114 South East Street, Benton

Sherwood Police Department
2201 East Kiehl Avenue, Sherwood



Fallen Firefighter Zachary A. White

January 16, 1979-December 23, 2011

You will truly be missed. Thank you
 for your commitment and service.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

LRFD members are encouraged to apply to the National Fire Academy for continuing education and training courses. The application process for the first semester of the NFA will open on April 15, 2012 and will close June 15, 2012. For more information about the courses available, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and click on the 'Fire Service' tab. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your respective Battalion Chief.

Black-Out Box

For the past several years the Fire Department has gained interns over the summer through the City of Little Rock Community Programs. Each year since 2010, our interns have been asked to come up with a project that they feel will be beneficial to both the department and to the citizens of the city. In 2010, the interns assisted in creating correspondence for the blood pressure program that was initiated in June 2010, making citizens aware that free blood pressure checks were available at local fire stations. In the summer of 2011, the interns came up with the idea to create a box full of the basic necessities that could be used in case of power outages and emergencies and make it available to the public.

Interns Rekarah Davis and Bryon Miller put their minds together to create the Black-Out Box (or BOB). "The Black-Out Box is basically an emergency box," Rekarah Davis says. "This box will be helpful during any black-out or power outage to any home."

"We started off with many ideas, but after review we narrowed our options down to five. Out of those five options, Chief Gray chose the Black-Out Box. After coming up with the idea, we then began to make a plan for the box and began researching the materials needed for this type of resource. After determining the materials needed for a power outage, we chose a container to put the items in, known as the Black-Out Box (BOB)."

"When I asked the interns in 2010 to come up with a project for us to implement, they came up with a brochure for the blood pressure campaign. Since then, I decided to have all interns come up with a project for our community every year," Chief Gray said. "I figured since they are bright, young and full of ideas they may consider something that we may not have thought of. I asked the two interns to come up with five new ideas and I would select the best idea for our department to implement, of the five ideas the "Black-Out Box" was the best. After making my decision, they were given three budget options, \$10, \$20, and \$30 to work within. The \$20 dollar option proved to be the best. The \$20 kit contains a flash light, a weather band radio, safety tips, and emergency phone numbers of family members, all in a water proof bag. Once implemented, these kits will be distributed to low-income elderly and low-income families with children."

Chief Gray is currently working to get all of the items for the 'BOB' and anticipates that it will become available to the public sometime this spring. In addition to the Storm Response Kit that was created for firefighter use, the Black-Out Box is a tool that citizens can use during severe weather emergencies.

Fire Death Reduction

FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS LEAD TO REDUCTION IN FIRE DEATHS IN LITTLE ROCK

According to statistics released by the United States Fire Administration, 2,555 civilians lost their lives in 2010 as a result of fire. As grim as these numbers seem, the number of fire deaths in Little Rock is trending downward. From 2006-2008, Little Rock had 16 fire fatalities, and from 2009-2011 that number reduced to 11. This is a 31% decrease overall and a 40% decrease from 2010 (5 fatalities) to 2011 (2 fatalities).

These reductions in fatalities can be largely attributed to public education. The fire prevention efforts of highly trained firefighters on duty every day and the increased efforts of the Fire Prevention and Community Outreach Division are all critical factors in ensuring that an emphasis is placed on the first line of defense against fire and other emergencies - prevention.

"We have fire extinguisher training that is offered to local businesses, and tours conducted at fire stations also serve as a great opportunity for elementary school children to learn not only about how firefighters live and work, but also to emphasize fire safety in the home," said LRFD Chief Gregory Summers. "There is also the Save-A-Life smoke alarm program whereby we distribute, install and inspect smoke alarms free of charge for Little Rock residents."

Newer initiatives include:

- The Home Safety Survey - where citizens can request the LRFD to inspect their homes and offer fire safety advice
- The Citizens Fire Academy - provides insight into the core job functions of a firefighter
- The annual Fire Safety Day - held in conjunction with the national "Fire Prevention Week"

For more information about any of these public education events, please contact Division Chief Joseph Gray at (501) 918-3700.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE LITTLE ROCK FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE CORPS PROGRAM

Are you (or someone that you know) interested in volunteering with the Little Rock Fire Department? The LRFD is seeking a limited number of volunteers to participate in public education and community outreach programs throughout the city. All interested applicants must be 16 years of age or older and must be willing to have a thorough background check conducted. For additional information about the LRFD Fire Corps program and how to sign up to become a volunteer, please contact Division Chief Joseph Gray at 501-918-3780 or Captain Dennis McCann at 501-918-3759.

Statistical Reports

Company Responses for 2011

Engine 15	2920	Engine 20	1441
Engine 9	2539	Engine 16	1364
Engine 3	2519	Engine 13	1351
Engine 7	2451	Truck 15	1269
Engine 1	2394	Engine 10	1149
Engine 8	2357	Engine 21	1039
Engine 2	2194	Truck 9	1022
Engine 6	2138	Truck 11	833
Engine 14	2061	Truck 18	588
Engine 19	2027	Engine 4	469
Engine 17	2010	Truck 21	413
Engine 11	1979	HazMat 11	410
Truck 7	1818	Truck 4	239
Res2cue	1726	Red Ball 1	150
Truck 1	1494	Red Ball 2	60
Engine 12	1463	Red Ball 3	53
Engine 18	1460	Red Ball 4	27

Did You Know?

Did you know that in 2011 the highest percentage of responses that occurred within a 24-hour period usually happened between 10 am and 7 pm?

According to the On-Scene Performance Measurement that is generated by our NFIRS system, the LRFD responded to a total of 25,537 incidents with all responding units arriving on scene within 5 minutes of dispatch.

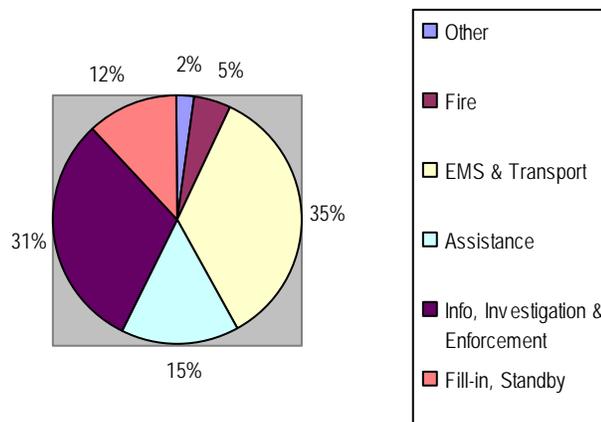
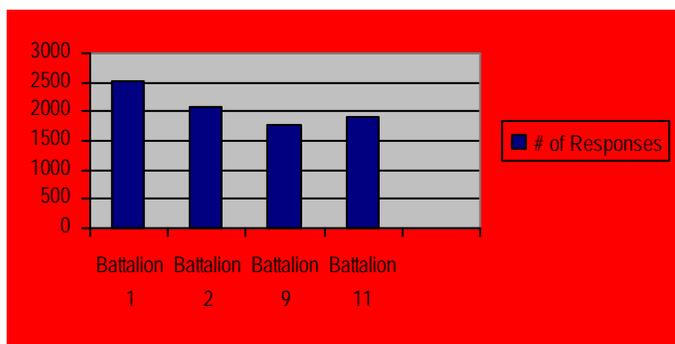
Did you know that the average time that it takes for the first responding unit to arrive at the scene of a working structure fire enroute to their location is less than 3 minutes?

Did you know that a flashover fire is one of the most lethal forms of fire and is one that firefighters have a slim chance of surviving if caught in its path?

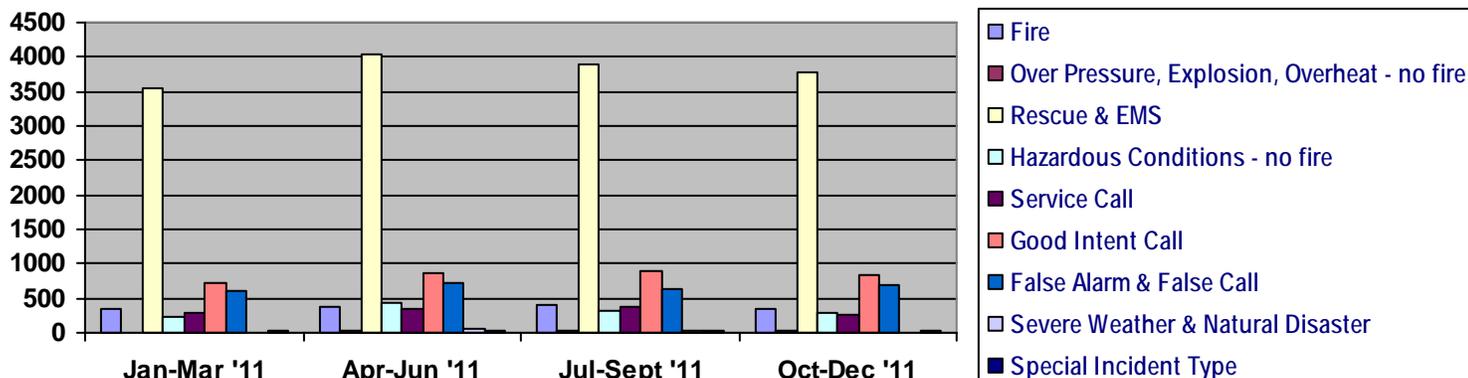
Did you know that the Little Rock Fire Department conducted 215 school programs last year, teaching over 8,000 students and teachers about fire safety?

LRFD Incident Listings where action was taken in 2011

Battalion Chief Responses for 2011



2011 Incident Listings by Incident Type



Station 23 Update

Contributed by Paula Patterson, Administrative Services Manager
Photos provided by Paula Patterson and FF Ryan Baker, Fire Marshal



Architectural drawings for Station No. 23

The Little Rock Fire Department received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant in the amount of \$2,017,800 for construction of a new fire station in west Little Rock. The City of Little Rock entered into a contract with Dayco Construction Company on October 28, 2011 in the amount of \$2,589,000 to construct the station. Additional funds needed to complete the construction will be provided by the city. A preconstruction conference was held on October 24, 2011 between representatives from the City of Little Rock, Dayco Construction Company and representatives from companies sub-contracting services on the fire station construction project. The meeting was held to ensure that all parties involved in the construction of the fire station were made aware of proper procedures and required documentation pertaining to Davis-Bacon and Buy American; and the timeframe under which the construction project must be completed. A community meeting was held on October 20, 2011 to update citizens in the area surrounding the fire station location about progress on the project and the anticipated construction timeline. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 1, 2011, and work began on the project site the same day.

Contracts which include LEED, Davis-Bacon (pay requirements) and Buy American requirements have been entered into between Dayco Construction Company and the sub-contractors, and copies have been forwarded to Fire Department Administration. As of December 31, 2011, the station pad has been completed and made ready for footings to be dug. Additionally, drainage improvements are 75% complete.



Shown above: Land being cleared for construction days after the ground breaking ceremony



Progress as of December 27, 2011



Progress as of January 4, 2012



Progress as of January 17, 2012

Equity & Diversity Conference

In October 2011, FF Jennifer Winchell and FF Melissa McInturff traveled to Portsmouth, VA to attend the 3rd Annual Women in the Fire Service Workshop and 2011 Equity and Diversity Conference. This conference is held annually to bring individuals from across the nation together for networking and to open up about various experiences/issues with equality and diversity and to learn techniques on how to overcome those issues through various workshops. When asked about their experiences at the Equity and Diversity Conference, the ladies said it was “an eye opener” and “a great experience.”

“It was a great opportunity to travel to the conference.” FF McInturff said. “Not only did I get to meet other firefighters who struggle with the same issues that I do, but I learned techniques to help cope with those struggles. I also learned how good I have it at this department. I was shocked to learn that some female firefighters were intentionally set up to fail and some even purposely injured at fires because they were unwanted. I am very proud to say that I have never been faced with a situation in which I have been treated unfairly because of my gender. Not only do I have the best job, I work for the best department.”

“The conference was an eye opener for me because I got to listen and learn about other departments that have equality and diversity issues, and it made me realize that the LRFD does not have these issues. I felt very proud that the LRFD has taken care of us and put policies in place to help and protect us from such issues,” FF Winchell said.



Shown Above: FF J. Winchell (left center) and FF M. McInturff (right center) with members of the Portsmouth Fire Department

“Serving with Pride, Excellence and National Recognition”

Editor:

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LRFD Mailbag

Dear Chief Summers,

Five times during the months of August and September, the firefighters from Station 12 responded immediately to my 911 call seeking professional aid to my husband. On each occasion they arrived with such kindness and consideration, they also found the time to re-assure me. I would like to take this opportunity to commend and extend my appreciation to Captain Stanley McKinney, FF Carl Smith and FF Anthony Franklin who did so much to help my husband during their calls. Upon learning that he had passed away, they graciously and with genuine caring, visited our home to extend their condolences to me and my family. Such an unexpected and thoughtful gesture, meant more than I am able to express, and we are most deeply touched and honored by their eloquent expressions of caring. Thank you Chief Summers, from a most grateful resident of Little Rock, for selecting such exemplary examples of duty, mercy and professionalism to watch over and care for the citizens of this wonderful community. We are most fortunate indeed!

Sincerely

Mrs. Edward J. Erxleben

Dear Chief Summers,

On behalf of the Arkansas affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the cure, please accept this Lucite award as a small token of our heartfelt gratitude for your efforts in fundraising. The funds raised will directly benefit the women in Arkansas who are either uninsured or need assistance with their breast health. Please pass along our gratitude and praise to all those who helped in your fundraising efforts.

With gratitude,

Amy Treadway
Development Director

Dear Chief Summers,

I'm writing you today to express my sincere appreciation of the professionalism demonstrated by your team who responded to a hazardous chemical disposal at our facility on February 8, 2011. Without the prompt attention of your team, our workers may have been exposed to unnecessary hazards or injury. As soon as your team was contacted, they fully answered all of our questions and anticipated the type of response we would need. When your team arrived, they properly analyzed the risks involved to minimize the threat for our employees.

Thank you,
Hernan Brondino
Operations Manager, TenarisHickman

Dear Chief Summers,

On behalf of Lewis Street Church of Christ, we would like to thank the staff of the LRFD for giving of their valuable time in helping us with our 17th Annual Safety Day Rally. You are truly making a positive difference in the lives of children and their parents. Please convey our heartfelt thanks to the following: Zach White, Matthew Stallings, and Paul Beatty for giving of their time to a worthwhile cause. Volunteers with their passion and dedication are so hard to come by. It is one thing for people to give money, but to give so selflessly of their time speaks volumes.

In His Hands,

Thomas Messer, Youth Director
Lewis Street Church of Christ