

The Command Post

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Save the Date

2013 Recruit Class-B Graduation
Thursday, December 12, 2013
Statehouse Convention Center
6:00 p.m.

2013 Residential Burn Permits
expire
Tuesday, December 31, 2013

From the Chief's Desk

Are we Responsible and/or Accountable?



The definition of responsible is (a) liable to be required to give account, as of one's actions or of the discharge of a duty or trust; (b) involving personal accountability or ability to act without guidance or superior authority. Accountable is defined as responsible to someone or for some action: answerable. These two words are often used interchangeably; however, I'm of the opinion that they are not interchangeable. A few examples would be: as a firefighter, you're responsible for understanding and following oral and written instructions; as a fire apparatus engineer, you're responsible for having considerable knowledge of the geography of your assigned district, including location of hydrants and streets; as a Captain, you're responsible for the conduct and efficiency of the members under your command. The Battalion Chief is responsible for the Operational and Administrative duties and overall efficiency of a Battalion. I've heard the term "shared responsibility"; all of these responsibilities are shared; on the other hand, accountability cannot be shared. Examples of accountability are: employees completing tasks assigned, being responsible for the respective duties of their job classification, being consistent in doing the right thing in all aspects of their job, and working towards a common goal for the organization. Accountability can be defined as the "ultimate responsibility." In essence, accountability means consequences both positive (awards, attaboy's and superb ratings), and negative (written reprimands, suspensions, demotions and, in some instances, termination). As leaders of this great organization, we have the responsibility of setting the climate for success, leading by example, establishing a work environment that is inclusive, positive and highly ethical. To answer the question "are we responsible and/or accountable"- yes we are. It has often been said and found to be true that we seek accountability, and we want to know who is responsible for certain actions and who is accountable for the consequences of those actions. You, the members of this organization, have made it clear to me that consistency and accountability are important to you, and it is our responsibility to ensure that we take responsibility and hold one another accountable.

ARFF Rehabilitation Project

Contributed by: Division Chief Wayne Craft

Station 22, located on the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport grounds, has recently undergone renovations that totaled \$1.8 million. Station 22 was built at its present location in 1990. It was overdue for a rehab. The rehabilitation project consisted of a total wall-to-wall demolition of the interior and a new floor plan, including plumbing and electrical. The bay area received a new metal ceiling, eight (8) new bay overhead doors with motors, new engine room heaters and a sprinkler system. A new alert system, fire alarm and full-length windows in each dormitory room were installed. We are very proud of our new facility, and we look forward to enjoying its amenities in the years to come. We would like to thank the Airport Administration for their dedication to bringing this project to fruition. The floor plan includes renovations to the following areas:

- Training room
- 6 dormitory rooms with 3 Jack-and-Jill baths
- 3 additional bathrooms throughout the station.
- Offices: Chief, Captain and watch room (Engineer area)
- Living area, kitchen/dining and laundry room
- Exercise room, work/mail room and computer lab room

Below (from left to right): After shots of the renovations of Station 22.



Fire Prevention News

Contributed by: FF Bo Hagar

Have you noticed the baby blue shirts around various Fire Department and community outreach events? If not, you soon will. Little Rock Fire Corps is a small but growing group of volunteers that are making a huge impact on the City of Little Rock. For example, the Fire Corps volunteers have contributed greatly to smoke alarm and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detector installation requests. Thanks to Bill Toland and Fritz Kahley, operations personnel have not had to install as many detectors in the last couple of months, and more citizens are safe with working smoke alarms.

Regina Green, another Fire Corps volunteer, has spent countless hours helping the Fire Marshals Office set up electronic filing systems, taking inventory, as well as working alongside other Fire Corps members like Amanda Hagar and Dan Lusk during events such as Riverfest, Back-to-School Programs, Fire Prevention Programs, Fire Safety Day, and the Arkansas State Fair.

The Fire Corps volunteers love the Little Rock Fire Department, and they are devoted to supporting the men and women of this dynamic organization in providing better and safer communities. As of the end of October 2013, the Fire Corps has nine (9) active members with a total of 89 hours of volunteer time. Currently, the Fire Corps is in the process of partnering with the athletic department of Philander Smith College to provide an additional 40 to 60 volunteers.

The Little Rock Fire Corps is always looking for volunteers to help make a difference. Anyone interested in becoming a member can stop by the Central Fire Station, 624 South Chester Street, to pick up an application between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. For more information about the Fire Corps, call 501.918.3710 or email littlerockfirecorps@gmail.com. For more information about the national Fire Corps, please visit www.firecorps.org.

Accreditation

Contributed by: FF Bo Hagar

Close, Close, Closer!

Deadlines are fast approaching. From a “glass is half full” perspective, we have made great progress towards achieving accreditation. From a “glass is half empty” point of view, the Department has an incredible journey still ahead. To be an accredited agency is to operate at a higher standard. As the largest fire department in the State of Arkansas and tasked with protecting the citizens of this state’s Capitol, the Little Rock Fire Department should lead by example, and set the standard for how a modern-day fire department should operate. Obtaining accredited status does not happen overnight. It does not stop with the certificate. It takes “buy in” from the Department as a whole, a desire to meet and exceed standards, and a willingness to step out of our comfort zone.

In December, the Little Rock Fire Department will upgrade its status with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) to an applicant agency. This, in turn, will give us 18 months to complete all necessary documents and enact the required processes and methods that will measure the performance of our Department. We will be visited by a peer review team that will pick through every inch of our operation and make the necessary recommendations for our department as we move forward with the accreditation process.

The Little Rock Fire Department is currently ahead of schedule. Documents are almost complete and ready to be sent to the CPSE for review. There are a few moderate hurdles that we still have to overcome, but the Department will utilize as much of the above-mentioned 18-month window to achieve what is necessary to ensure that it becomes accredited. It is the goal of the LRFD Accreditation Office to obtain accreditation well before the end of the 18-month period.

Refurbished Truck 11

Contributed by: FF Bo Hagar

A New Piece of Old History



The Little Rock Fire Department took ownership of a new 100-foot aerial ladder truck in 1993, known then as Truck-5, stationed at Fire Station #11. Over the course of 19 years, the 1993 Pierce saw many changes: a rebuild of Fire Station #11 and a name change Truck-11. Over the past couple of years, crews were seeing the very noticeable effects taken on the truck from years of battling blazes, making rescues, and long midnight runs in order to protect the citizens of Southwest Little Rock. Truck-11’s ladder was strong and willing to work, but slower to respond to the call. The 1993 Truck-11 was finally retired from the frontline in 2012, after no longer having the strength to pull hills. Replaced as Truck-11 by a 2012 E-One 100-foot Aerial Ladder Truck, the 1993 Pierce was taken to Nevada for a \$250,000 NFPA 1912 Level 2 Standard refurbishing by Firetrucks Unlimited. A Level 2 refurbishment simply means refurbishing everything the Department deemed necessary, to include an overhaul of the chassis, engine, transmission, electrical systems, aerial ladder and platform, new exterior hardware such as door handles, an interior makeover, finished with new paint, and fitted with the new LRFD striping. New life has been breathed into this old LRFD work-horse, with a new job of commanding the Department’s fleet of reserve aerial trucks as Reserve Truck-19.

Annual Citizens Fire Academy

Contributed by: Dan Lusk, Fire Corps Volunteer

The Department held its 4th annual Citizens Fire Academy from August 15th to October 3rd of this year. The focus of the Academy is to make local citizens more knowledgeable about the structure, resources, responsibility and functions of the Department so that they have a better understanding of Fire and Life Safety awareness. In turn, Academy participants can then go into the community and promote the Department's commitment to the citizens of Little Rock.

This year's Academy consisted of 12 participants, including Betty Hampton, whose husband, Ron, is in the current recruit class. Betty signed up so she could get a first-hand look at what her husband will be doing once he graduates from Recruit School.

Classes met every Thursday evening from 6pm to 9pm at the Fire Training Facility, where participants were treated to dinner, provided by the Training Center staff, before each evening's class. The sessions were divided into classroom time, live demonstrations, and hands-on experience. In one session, participants donned full turn-out gear and an SCBA to get a better understanding of the physical demands that firefighters experience during a structure fire. Participants were also given apparatus familiarizations and an opportunity to ride to the top of the ladder in Truck 15's bucket as it extended 100 feet in the air.

Participants were also shown live demonstrations which included proper venting techniques by a Truck crew. The Bomb Squad demonstrated how to detonate an explosive device safely, and the Hazmat team demonstrated how they deal with toxic and lethal materials. Rescue 2 taught participants how to rappel successfully down from the top of the training tower. Later, participants received hands-on experience with the "Jaws of Life" while dressed in full turn-out gear. Last but not least, participants were taught CPR life-saving skills.

The program is open to residents of Little Rock who are 21 years of age or older, and are interested in learning more about the dynamics of the Little Rock Fire Department. Enrollment for the 5th Annual Citizens Fire Academy will begin in July of 2014. If you would like more information about the Citizens Fire Academy, please contact Fire Administration at 501-918-3700.

Participants in this year's class would like to thank Fire Chief Gregory Summers, Chief Doug Coney, Chief Joe Gray, and Chief Bob Hunthrop as well as Captain McKinley Davis, Captain Jeff Milburn, and Captain Richard Miller for their time and dedication in making this Citizens Academy a huge success.



Shown above: Students from the Citizens Fire Academy after being recognized as graduates of the Academy at the Boards of Directors meeting on November 5th. Photo by: Ben Thielemier

"No Shave November"

Contributed by: FF Bo Hagar

The Little Rock Fire Department has started a team to participate in the "No Shave November" charity called Movember. The charity hopes to raise awareness for prostate cancer, one of the leading causes of death in men. You can learn more information on this charity at www.movember.com. If you would like to participate in the cause, you can sign up on the website, and then join the team "Little Rock Fire."

SCBA

Contributed by: Assistant Chief Don Bradley

In March of this year, a Committee was formed to assess the current state of our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), or air packs, in light of the future needs of the department and in consideration of the new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2013 SCBA specifications (spec). The Committee members were Asst. Chief Don Bradley, Asst. Chief Doug Coney, Battalion Chief Alan Earnhart, Capt. Steve Bell, Capt. Dennis Davis, and David Pettypool.

Meeting as a committee and moving forward, we were able to come up with four basic options that were feasible. Committee members analyzed both the advantages and disadvantages of each option and chose what we believed to be the most viable option. That option is to begin purchasing new SCBAs so that over the next several years we will have replaced all 225 of our SCBAs that are currently under the 2002 spec with air packs that meet the 2013 spec by 2019. This option was presented to and approved by the City Manager.

In preparation for transition to the 2013 SCBA spec, the department has purchased new face masks for all LRFD members. These masks are expected to be delivered in early 2014. Once we receive them, David Pettypool will begin fit-testing and issuing the masks to everyone.

The full findings and recommendations report of the Committee can be found under the 'Documents' section of the LRFD Home Page.

Winter Fire Safety Tips

As temperatures continue to drop, we want to remind everyone to be mindful of the potential hazards that some heating sources may cause throughout the winter months. Following these safety tips can help keep a home "fire-safe" this winter.

Winter Fire Safety Tips Contd.

- Have fireplaces and chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as needed.
- Keep heat tempered glass or metal screens around the opening of fireplaces to prevent embers or sparks from escaping.
- Make sure that fuel-burning appliances have proper ventilation to reduce buildup of deadly fumes. If you have fuel burning appliances, a carbon monoxide detector is suggested.
- Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet (36 inches) away from all combustible materials.
- Keep children away from space heaters and other heat sources, especially when they are wearing night gowns or other highly combustible materials.
- Be sure not to overload circuits.
- Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.
- Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord. Never run extension cords or other electrical wiring under carpeting or rugs.
- Check holiday lighting for cuts and frays. Discard worn lighting and never splice strands together.
- If using a live tree for the holidays, be sure to pick a fresh tree and water the base consistently to prevent it from drying out.
- Never use your stove top or oven as a heating source .
- Install smoke alarms in every room of your home, and test them once a month.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan, and establish a meeting place.

Molly the Fire Safety Dog

Contributed by: FF Bo Hagar

On November 4, 2013, the Fire Prevention and Community Outreach Division inducted a new honorary member to the LRFD Family. Molly, a Dalmatian, is one of the Fire Safety Dogs from the Keep Kids Fire Safe Foundation. Molly, along with her owner, Firefighter Dayna Hilton of the Johnson County Fire Department and founder of the Keep Kids Fire Safe Foundation, are dedicated to educating children about fire safety.



The Fire Safety Dogs have a variety of programs in place that are geared toward teaching fire safety to kids. This includes traveling the country doing hands-on demonstrations, using Skype to video-chat with different schools around the world, as well as their live television show, Sparkles' Safety Spot, which can be seen every Friday at 9:00 CST at www.firesafetydogs.com, and on MOM TV.

The Fire Prevention Division got the opportunity to partner with the Fire Safety Dogs for Fire Safety Day 2013.

The LRFD has been featured in several live streams of Sparkles' Safety Spot, which has received recognition from Firehouse Magazine. The Fire Safety Dogs and the LRFD have also done fire safety programs to schools in South America via Skype. The new partnership between the Fire Safety Dogs and the Department will bring them back to Little Rock for more fire prevention events similar to the one offered at Fulbright Elementary on November 4th, where Molly was inducted, and Fire Safety Day 2014.

Tricks performed by Molly include testings smoke alarms, crawling low under smoke, and showing children their meeting place. The Fire Prevention Division is proud to partner with the Fire Safety Dogs, and looks forward to embarking on a journey toward exceptional fire prevention.

Time Change: Battery Change

Contributed by: Brittanye Gyce, Executive Secretary

When you changed your clocks back for the end of daylight savings, did you change your smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide (CO) detector batteries, too? If not, you should! People are encouraged to test their smoke alarms once a month and change their batteries twice a year, preferably during daylight savings time so that it can easily be remembered. If you have not recently changed your batteries in your alarms and/or detectors, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. If you do not have a smoke alarm and/or CO detector and would like to have them installed in your home free of charge, please call 501.918.3710. Requests for smoke alarms and CO detectors are processed around the 1st and 15th of every month.



Have you heard the news? The Little Rock Fire Department now has a Facebook page! Like us on Facebook for more information on what's happening within the Department, service messages, safety tips, photos, videos, stories and events. Department members are encouraged to utilize available resources to educate others about fire safety; what better way than Facebook? We welcome you to like our page, share its content, and provide your own department related news, videos, and photos. www.facebook.com/littlerockfire

Firefighter Profiles



Name: Rick Brewer
Rank: Captain
Station-Shift: 11-A
Years of Service: 26

What are your hobbies/interests?

Hunting, fishing, boating, Riding ATVs, camping...pretty much just being outside.

What is the most rewarding thing about being in the fire service?

Most rewarding thing...those calls that you go on where you actually make a difference in someone's life. When something you were able to do for a person makes their day better or possibly their life better. Those are the rewarding times to me.

What would someone be surprised to know about you?

Surprised to know about me? I have performed Garth Brooks music with a live band for a crowd of approximately 2000 people.

What made you become a firefighter?

What made me become a firefighter? I got to know a couple of young LR firefighters that I was able to talk to and learn about the fire service. I was looking for better employment and the fire department seemed like a good fit for me. I liked the idea of helping people, the excitement of the job and the work schedule. 26 years later...I think it was a good fit.

If you could change one thing about the Department, what would it be?

If I could change one thing...I would like to erase the negativity that I hear within our department and in society as a whole. I would like to just remind our firefighters how privileged we are to be a part of this great profession and to challenge them to do their jobs to the best of their abilities but try to have fun at the same time. Enjoy your careers and don't wish away time just waiting for retirement. Make a difference.

What would you tell someone who is interested in the Little Rock Fire Department?

What I would tell someone interested in the department...I would talk to them about the job we do and how the department works, then I would encourage them to do some soul-searching to see if the fire service is for them. If so...I would want them to know that LRFD is the best department they could become a part of.



Name: Melissa McInturff
Rank: Firefighter
Station-Shift: Central-C
Years of Service: 8

What are your hobbies/interests?

I like to travel and I do Crossfit, but I don't like it very much at all.

What is the most rewarding thing about being in the fire service?

I like being where the action is, helping people, and I'm very thankful that I have a job that I love.

What would someone be surprised to know about you?

I think people would be surprised to know that the LRFD changed my life. I was a "wild child" until I got the job. Becoming a FF is the best thing that's ever happened to me.

What made you become a firefighter?

I wanted a challenge, and I got one. I love not knowing what I'm going to get every day I come to work.

If you could change one thing about the Department, what would it be?

I wish we all had a spare set of turnouts that were our own. Especially at winter time.

What would you tell someone who is interested in the Little Rock Fire Department?

I would say don't be intimidated by what you think a firefighter looks like. We are all different and the stereotype isn't necessarily true. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, DO IT. Never let anyone tell you it's not possible because of the way you look.

Remembering Our Own

Gavin Wright
E 20

December 8, 1979 – August 8, 2013

Kenon Saine
RB 3

July 26, 1975 – August 20, 2013

Firehouse Culinary Artist

In this issue of the Command Post, Chief Summers wanted to shed light on one of the capacities that so many firefighters possess: cooking. In doing so, he created a new segment called Firehouse Culinary Artist. In this segment, we are putting the spotlight on 'Ashley's Creations' by FF Ashley Coleman of Station 23, C-Shift. FF Coleman has been with the Department since July 2012. If any personnel would like to showcase some of their Firehouse recipes, please submit your entries along with a photo to bgyce@littlerock.org.

Bar-B-Que Beef Nachos

Ingredients:

Tortilla Chips
Cherry Tomatoes
Blanco Cheese
Jalapenos
Beef Brisket
Sweet Baby Ray's Onion Bar-B-Que Sauce

Ingredients for season rub:

Cayenne pepper
Paprika
Celery salt
Pepper
Onion powder
Garlic powder
Kosher salt

Directions:

Combine all of your dry seasonings in a bowl. Add season rub to beef brisket.

Smoke brisket until tender.

Melt Blanco cheese and add milk to maintain a creamy texture.

Chop brisket and aside to cool.

On a bed of Tortilla Chips added melted cheese, layer brisket next, add sliced cherry tomatoes and jalapenos.

Finish dish with a drizzle of Bar-B-Que sauce.



Grilled Chicken with Black Bean Corn Salsa

Ingredients:

Chicken Breast
Black Beans
Whole Kernel Corn
Rotel (Habanera/Lime)
Lime Juice
Cilantro
Jalapenos
Garlic Cloves
Purple Onions
Red Bell Peppers
Croissant Rolls

Directions:

Season and grill chicken until cooked fully.

Rinse and drain black beans and corn in strainer.

Finely chop garlic gloves, purple onions, red bell pepper, cilantro, and jalapenos.

In a large bowl, add all chopped ingredients, as well as the beans and the corn.

Add lime juice, and rotel to mixture, stir until evenly mixed -Add cooked chicken to a plate, top with the bean salsa and serve with a croissant roll.



Bar-B-Que Shrimp

Ingredients:

1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. onion powder
1 tsp. dried basil
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1/2 tsp. dried rosemary
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/3 tsp. paprika
1/2 cup butter
4 cloves of garlic, minced
1/4 cup beer, room temp
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined, salt to taste
1 lemon sliced

Directions:

In a small bowl add garlic powder, onion powder, basil, thyme, rosemary, cayenne pepper, paprika. Set aside.

Melt butter in large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute.

Add shrimp and cook for a couple minutes. Season with spice mixture and continue to cook and stir for a few minutes.

Add beer and Worcestershire sauce; simmer until shrimp is cooked through, about 1 minute.

Add lemon and let cook for another minute. Taste and season with salt before serving.

Pour mixture over a bed of rice and serve.

