

The Command Post

Volume 7, Issue 2

A Publication of the Little Rock Fire Department

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Upcoming Events

Flu Immunizations
LRFD Training Facility
7000 Murray Street
November 16-18, 2016
0800-1500

Keep the Wreath Green
City-Wide Project
November 24, 2016-
January 1, 2017

From the Chief's Desk

Solutions



When challenges arise we immediately think of how it will affect us. When solutions are presented that are not favorable to our liking we tend to dismiss them which may hinder progress and growth. Challenges are a part of life and instead of looking for ways around it or wallowing in its enormity, we should first and foremost meet each challenge "head on".

We face a ton of challenges in our day-to-day operations as fire service professionals. Problems and issues are always illuminated but solutions are seldom given the same light. As leaders and members of this great organization, we must ask ourselves, "How can we tackle these challenges? What is my role in accomplishing this task? Am I a part of the problem or a part of the solution?" Complaining at the kitchen table does not and will not solve issues, but being proactive in providing viable solutions aids in laying the foundation of how to effectively resolve issues for those that will follow in your footsteps.

In any relationship, communication is key to reaching practical solutions. Leading by example is critical inasmuch that our clear and concise communication will enable us to better understand and connect with the people around us. It will also create an environment that builds respect, trust, and resolve differences that foster environments where addressing challenges with proven problem solving methods are the norm. Your capacity to lead in times like this will demonstrate caring, affection, and creative ideas that can thrive in the workplace.

I challenge each member of this organization to think of ways to improve your communication and problem solving skills; brainstorm with your comrades and peers. We must be willing to have an open mind and receive recommendations from one another, regardless of rank or position. I'm a firm believer that "If two people always agree - one of them is not needed".



Working
SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE LIVES
Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

Now that daylight savings has come to an end, we encourage everyone to change their smoke alarm batteries, test them, and work with your families to ensure that a fire evacuation plan is in place in case of a fire. It is important to make sure that all alarms in the home are in good and working order in case of a fire emergency. For more information about the department's Smoke Alarm Program, please contact 501-918-3710.

New Recruits

Hats off to the individuals that successfully completed recruit school! The Recruit Class B graduation was held on September 29, 2016 at Saint Mark Baptist Church. Congratulations to all and best of luck on your endeavors!



Photo provided by: Capt. McKinley Davis

J. Cruz	K. Thompson	M. Bradford
S. Hicks (Hot Springs)	T. Williams	P. Webber
Q. Dodds, Jr.	J. Goff	K. Printer (Bryant)
V. Lowe	J. Grove	J. Elliott
M. Huffstickler	T. Walker (Hot Springs)	E. Ware, Jr.
J. King	G. Davis III	

Remembering Our Own

Losing one of our own is never easy. Losing them to health related issues can toughen the burden. The department recognizes the members, both active and retired, that we have lost in 2016. When you become a part of the Fire Department, you are forever family. Your contributions will never be forgotten and your memory will live on forever.

Ret. Captain
J.W. McCraw

Ret. Engineer
Jerry Collie

Ret. Engineer
Clarence Barr

Ret. Captain
Glen "Doc" Jones

Ret. Captain
William "Duke" Ellington

Ret. Captain
Bryan Pinkerton

Ret. Engineer
Wayne Downey

Ret. Captain
Havis Jacks

Ret. Captain
Cecil "Bunny" Ferguson

Ret. Captain
Robert Thomas Allen

9/11 Presentation



Photo provided by: Capt. Charles Austin

Each year on 9/11, department members assemble in front of their respective stations in remembrance of the 343 firefighters and countless others that lost their lives during the terrorist attacks that occurred that day in 2001.

In tribute, the Little Rock Fire Department participates in the following manner:

0850: Little Rock Fire Department Color Guard raises the LRFD Patriot Day American Flag at Central Fire Station.

0855: All on duty personnel assemble in front of their stations.

0858: All personnel come to attention at 0859. This is the time of the collapse of the South Tower at the World Trade Center. Apparatus sirens will sound for one minute.

0900: One minute of complete silence.

0901: Personnel dismissed and return to normal duty functions.

September 11th will always have a place in the hearts of United States Fire Service members.



The department is better prepared to fulfill its mission of service, following training programs offered by the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy (NFA). FF Ben Hammond, Eng. Jay Meeks, FF Jean Bisbee, and Eng. Casey Jones (shown L to R) were selected to attend courses offered at the NFA campus in Emmitsburg, MD. Information and photo provided by Mike Wallace, instructor at the NFA.

Retirements



**Battalion Chief
Tom Hoffman**
Retired on
January 8, 2016
After 43 Years of
Service



**Battalion Chief
Don Freeman**
Retired on
August 15, 2016
After 43 Years of
Service



**Captain
Alan Lowrey**
Retired on
January 31, 2016
After 28 Years of
Service



**Captain
Freddy Ingram**
Retired on
March 1, 2016
After 31 Years of
Service



**Captain
Bryan Pinkerton**
Retired on
April 5, 2016
After 23 Years of
Service



**Captain
Michael Johnson**
Retired on
April 8, 2016
After 30 Years of
Service



**Captain
Randy Hickmon**
Retired on
April 13, 2016
After 32 Years of
Service



**Captain
Steve Kotch**
Retired on
May 1, 2016
After 28 Years of
Service



**Captain
Bernard Hamric**
Retired on
May 31, 2016
After 31 Years of
Service



**Captain
Michael Baker**
Retired on
June 30, 2016
After 33 Years of
Service



**Engineer
Christopher Williams**
Retired on
June 3, 2016
After 31 Years of
Service



**Engineer
Jason Gammel**
Retired on
June 28, 2016
After 29 Years of
Service

Promotions



Christopher Spruell
Promoted to Engineer
on January 8, 2016



Michael Doan
Promoted to Div. Chief
on January 8, 2016



Brickley Owen
Promoted to Captain on
January 11, 2016



Roy Wert
Promoted to Captain on
January 13, 2016



Joshua Womack
Promoted to Engineer
on January 14, 2016



Naim Salaam
Promoted to Batt. Chief
on January 14, 2016



Bob Hunthorp
Promoted to Asst. Chief
on January 14, 2016



Brent Bufford
Promoted to Captain on
February 1, 2016



Cody Graddy
Promoted to Engineer
on February 2, 2016



Matthew Guenther
Promoted to Engineer
on March 8, 2016



Joe Howard
Promoted to Engineer
on April 7, 2016



Robert (Matt) Johnson
Promoted to Engineer
on April 8, 2016



Aaron Slater
Promoted to Engineer
on April 8, 2016



Douglas Speer
Promoted to Captain
on April 22, 2016



Jason Gregory
Promoted to Engineer
on April 25, 2016



Robert Vest
Promoted to Captain
on April 26, 2016



Jack Hancock, Jr.
Promoted to Engineer
on April 27, 2016



Donald Ply
Promoted to Captain
on April 27, 2016



Casey Jones
Promoted to Engineer
on June 6, 2016



Bryan Biley
Promoted to Engineer
on June 7, 2016



Michael Beatty
Promoted to Captain
on July 12, 2016



Richard Morris
Promoted to Engineer
on July 13, 2016



Hendrik Van Rossum
Promoted to Engineer
on August 23, 2016



Charles Phillips
Promoted to Captain
on August 31, 2016

Hydrant Testing Changes

In previous years, hydrants throughout the city of Little Rock were tested twice a year by our department. With our new appointment from the Insurance Service Office (ISO), that is no longer mandatory. ISO only requires that the department test hydrants once a year now that we have attained a Class 1 rating. In an effort to ensure that hydrants are still tested bi-annually, Central Arkansas Water (CAW) has agreed to test city hydrants during the fall season. Our department will continue to test hydrants each spring around March and April, and CAW will test hydrants from September to November, testing them every other year thereafter. Notifications about testing dates will continue to be released by CAW. For more information about hydrant testing schedules or to report leaking hydrants, please call 501-377-1239.

Hook and Ladder Tees



In our last issue of *The Command Post*, we revealed that we would have shirts available for the general public to purchase. That is now a reality! LRFD Hook and Ladder Tees are available for purchase at the Central Fire Station, located at 624 South Chester Street, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Prices for the tees are as follows:

Youth Medium-Youth Large	\$15
Adult Small-Adult XL	\$18
Adult 2XL-4XL	\$20

Proceeds from the shirt sales aid in the department's continued fire prevention efforts. For more information about the Hook and Ladder Tees, please contact Brittanye Gyce at bgyce@littlerock.org.

Fire Station Gift



Photo provided by: Tabitha Cooke, Admin. Asst.

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) presented the department with a \$5,000 donation at their annual event held at the Statehouse Convention Center. Fire Chief Gregory Summers, Assistant Chief Doug Coney, and Administrative Assistants Tabitha Cooke and Lisa Blue were in attendance. Chief Summers and Chief Coney accepted the donation on behalf of the department.

AAPI USA is one of the largest medical societies in the country; representing 100,000 Indian American medical doctors. The organization recognizes the commitment, compassion, and sacrifices that firefighters make and have agreed to donate to the department on an annual basis. The donation will be used to benefit the Operations Division. The department thanks the AAPI for their generous contribution!

Keep The Wreath Green



Keep the Wreath Green is the department's newest initiative geared toward reducing the amount of home fires that happen throughout the holidays. This will be a city-wide initiative that will track the number of fires that occur by changing the lights on wreaths from green to red. The goal is to keep the wreath as "green" as possible. There will be five (5) wreaths placed at various fire stations and at City Hall. The project will begin on Thanksgiving Day and end on New Year's Day. Will you help us keep the wreath green this season?

Department Makes Donations

The department has made donations throughout the year that have benefitted the city's surrounding volunteer fire departments.

Two of the LRFD's reserve engines were given a new place to call home. A press conference was held at the LRFD Training Facility presenting the Sweet Home VFD and the West Pulaski FD with 1987 and 1989 Pierce Arrow engines. Mayor Mark Stodola and Fleet Services Director Wendell Jones were in attendance to provide remarks and aid Chief Summers in presenting both departments with their new apparatus. The donations were made possible with the group efforts of the department and Fleet Services.

LRFD also donated seven (7) pallets of equipment to various volunteer departments in the area. The pallets contained fans, hoses, nozzles and other fire suppression equipment needed to keep citizens safe.

These donations help strengthen our relationships and mutual aid agreements with our neighboring departments.

Fire Safety Day

The month of October was a busy one for the department. From Fire Prevention Week to Fire Safety Day to the Arkansas State Fair and more, there are many things that keep the department full of activity.

Fire Safety Day is held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week. It is a family-friendly event that allows people to come out and learn more about fire safety while having fun. The event involves free food, entertainment, and booths where patrons can learn important information about health and safety. This year's event was held on Saturday, October 8th in the Clinton Presidential Center parking lot with an estimated 3500- 5000 people in attendance.

Special thanks to Captain Warren Robinson for organizing this year's event as well as the vendors, organizations, and fire departments that contributed their time and efforts to make Fire Safety Day a success.

Smart 9-1-1

Smart 9-1-1 is an internet-based system that allows citizens to create a profile that will provide information that 9-1-1 call takers and first responders may need in order to assist in an emergency. Any time a citizen that is registered with Smart 9-1-1 makes an emergency phone call from the number associated with the safety profile, 9-1-1 systems will recognize the number and automatically display the information on the screen for the call taker to view. The call taker will then pass the information along to first responders so that they are able to better assist when they arrive on scene.

On September 1st, dispatchers began advising responders if there is a Smart 9-1-1 or Facilities profile for the address location to where they are dispatched. The information that can be entered in a Smart 9-1-1 profile includes but is not limited to:

- Names of residents at the location
- Medical information
- Vehicle information
- Any photos uploaded by the user
- Location of hidden keys
- Garage codes
- Whether large dogs are possibly present
- Floor plans if entered by citizen
- Information that can help first responders make advanced decisions

Citizens can create their own profile at www.smart911.com to have a better understanding of what is available. The system requires users to update their information every six months or it gets deleted. In addition, all K-12 schools are mandated to use a system called the Rave Panic Button. Teachers and Administrator's phones will be registered to the system. This system can be used to notify 9-1-1 and all other staff members at the school of an emergency. Businesses and other public venues have the options of creating a Smart 9-1-1 account also. These profiles can have floor plans, photos, locations of sprinkler connections, utilities, etc. For more information about Smart 9-1-1 or to create your own profile, please visit the system's website.

Employee Recognition

Knox® HomeBox™

Eight (8) department members were recognized for their commitment and service to the City of Little Rock and the LRFD at the CLR Employee Recognition Luncheon. The luncheon was held at the Double Tree hotel during Employee Appreciation Week. These individuals were presented Outstanding Service Awards by City Manager Bruce Moore for twenty and thirty years of service, respectively. The department congratulates you on your recognition and thank you all for your dedication to the department and to the City of Little Rock!



Firefighter
Craig Martin
20 Years of
Service



Captain
Donald Ply
20 Years of
Service



Captain
Warren Robinson
20 Years of
Service



Captain
Darryl Thacker
20 Years of
Service



Engineer
Danny Poe
30 Years of
Service



(Ret.) Captain
Michael Johnson
30 Years of
Service



Captain
Dearthur Jordan
30 Years of
Service



Captain
John Robinson
30 Years of
Service

Congratulations to Firefighter Bo Hagar for being awarded the CLR Departmental Employee of the Year for LRFD. Hagar works as the Accreditation Coordinator. He also plays a vital role in assisting with Fire Prevention matters. Thank you for all that you do and job well done!

The department has established a new emergency access program supporting our homeowners in the City of Little Rock using the new Knox® HomeBox™ Single Key Vault. This will provide the Fire Department a rapid access system to your home for an emergency without forcing entry.

The HomeBox is a heavy-duty secure key vault installed outside your home typically on or near the front door giving our fire department access. Once the homeowner has it installed, they will contact the Fire Department and arrange a time for our personnel to place the key inside the box and lock it. Only our Fire Department can lock or unlock it and we keep our keys secure when not in use.

In a home emergency requiring assistance, if the people inside are unable to open the door or if they are not in the house, the responding fire crews can open the HomeBox and enter the house. By doing this, we avoid a forced entry and costly alternative of breaking down the door or a window. Once the firefighters are inside they can address the situation and take the appropriate action. When completed they will re-secure the home and return the house key to the HomeBox.

The Knox Box system has been used by local businesses for many years and has now become available to our city residents at a lower, more affordable price.

To learn more about Knox HomeBox, visit www.knoxhomebox.com or call 855-GET-KNOX (855-438-5669). If you have a Knox Box, contact the Fire Department at 501-918-3710 to schedule a time to have your box locked.



Left: FF Hagar receiving his CLR Departmental Employee of the Year plaque by Assistant City Manager James Jones. The award was presented at the Employee Recognition Luncheon held at the Double Tree Hotel. He was also recognized at a reception held at City Hall.



Congratulations to Engine 3 for being named Firefighters of the Year from the University District during National Night Out. The award was accepted by the Station 3's C-Shift crew.



Above is a photo of relay pumping operations training being done at the LRFD Training Facility in conjunction with the Pump Operations Course. The Pump Operations Course has been taught in three separate modules over the course of this year. The department is currently in its third module that is set to end on November 12th. The purpose of the course is to increase the knowledge of our engineers in Pump Operations. Photo provided by Chief Alan Earnhart.



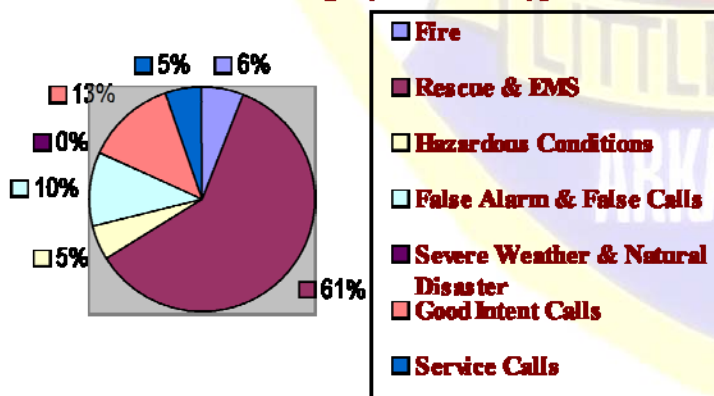
On September 17th, the late Captain Gavin Wright's name was added to the International Association of Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Colorado Springs, CO. Wright, who passed from cancer in 2013, was a firefighter that was known for his resilience and positive attitude.. Captain Charles Austin was in attendance to present the IAFF Union Flag to the family.

2016 Quarterly Totals

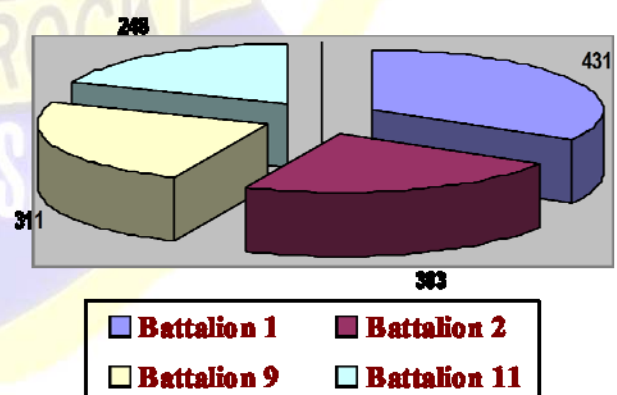
The total number of runs for the third quarter of 2016 was 8,114, which is slightly higher than last year's total. In 2015, total number of runs from July to September was 7,715. The total number of runs from January to September is 22,635. Below are charts and data that display total number of runs, incident types, and total number of responses by Battalion/District for the third quarter of this year.

2016 Third Quarter Company Responses									
Engine 15	788	Engine 11	524	Engine 18	414	Truck 09	267	Truck 18	139
Engine 02	668	Engine 19	502	Rescue 2	387	Engine 23	250	Truck 21	111
Engine 03	667	Engine 14	498	Engine 12	361	Engine 10	246	Truck 04	81
Engine 07	626	Engine 17	491	Truck 15	353	Truck 11	218	Red Ball 01	11
Engine 08	618	Truck 01	458	Truck 07	348	Engine 21	181	Red Ball 02	6
Engine 09	600	Engine 06	448	Engine 16	336	Engine 04	167	Red Ball 04	2
Engine 01	534	Engine 13	417	Engine 20	308	HazMat 11	158	Red Ball 03	1

Incident Listing By Incident Type



Total Responses By Battalion/District



Winter Weather Safety

As the weather begins to cool and the holiday season approaches us, we encourage you to take extra precaution this fall and winter. Some house fires that occur during this time are attributed to factors related to heating, cooking, and entertaining in the home. Here are some fire safety tips to keep you and your family safe this season:



Christmas Trees

- Consider an artificial tree; they are generally fire retardant.
- If you do get a real tree, keep it well-watered.
- Do not leave tree lights on when you go out, even if it is "just for a few minutes."
- Do not let tree lights run for more than six (6) - eight (8) hours, even if attended.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source; keep at least three (3) feet of space around the tree at all times.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Some lights are designed for indoor or outdoor usage only. Please check the before use.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.
- Never use electric lights on a metal tree.
- Do not place the tree where it blocks exits.
- Choose a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
- Safely dispose of real trees when it begins dropping needles-dried out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage nor should it be placed against a house.



Candles

- Avoid using lit candles, if possible. If not, use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from material that is not flammable and is large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Do not place lit candles in windows where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids, decorations, and other combustible materials.
- Try to avoid carrying a lit candle.
- Keep candles, lighters, and matches out of reach of children.



Entertaining

- Unattended cooking is one of the leading causes of home fires. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.
- Clean the oven and stove prior to the holiday. Often the

extra load on the appliances causes a fire due to the high use and extra grease build up.

- Keep kitchen clutter away from the stove and oven.
- Turn pot handles inward to avoid spills.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Use a metal or glass screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting carpets or furniture.
- Dispose of hot ashes in metal containers placed away from the house.
- Clean your chimney regularly.
- Do not burn trees, decorations or wrapping paper in your fireplace.
- Use aged wood, not green wood if available.



Portable Electric Space Heaters

- Don't use them to warm bedding, cook food, thaw pipes, or dry clothing.
- Choose a space heater that has been tested and is certified to meet specific safety standards.
- Make sure the space heater includes a tip-over switch that shuts it off automatically if it accidentally falls over.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Combustibles such as curtains, chairs, firewood, and even walls should be at least three (3) feet away from the heater.
- Avoid using extension cords unless absolutely necessary. If you must use an extension cord with your electric heater, make sure it is marked with a power rating at least as high as that of the heater itself. Keep the cord stretched out. Do not place the cord to under carpeting or rugs. Do not place anything on top of the cord.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Turn the space heater off if you leave the area.
- Never use a space heater overnight in the room where you are sleeping.
- Use heaters on the floor; never place heaters on furniture.
- Do not use heaters in wet or moist places, such as bathrooms.
- Do not place heaters where towels or other objects could fall on the heater and start a fire.
- We do not recommend liquid fuel powered space heaters.

In addition to these tips, please make sure that there are working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Please be sure to test them monthly and go over your fire escape plan with your family. Always have at least two escape routes and a meeting place outside. Under no circumstances should you disable your smoke alarms. We hope these reminders will help you and your loved ones have a safe and happy holiday season!