



EMERGENCY SERVICES SMITHSBURG, MD FIRE & EMS NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 2

Newsletter

March/April 2007

*What would you like to see in our newsletter?
Please send suggestions or comments to the address on the back page.*

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Company would like to say thanks to the community and the area businesses for their help in making the department successful.

This year, SCVFC held our annual awards banquet at South Mountain Rod and Gun Club on February 17. Awards for top responders and Firefighter of the Year, along with awards for dedication in other ways were handed out.

This year firefighter of the year was Buddy Blake. Buddy has been active with the fire company for over thirty years and still won't hesitate to fight fire or work right next to our younger members. Buddy serves as treasurer and also serves on several committees for the department. He also spends most of his weekday hours around the station or at least in the area so he can drive the fire engines during the day when we have our largest staffing problems.

The top responders are as follows: Chuckie Johnson - 267 calls, Patrick Baker - 221 calls, Danny Gibson - 213 calls, Buddy Blake - 209, Glenn Reynolds - 180 calls, Chris Rohrer - 163 calls, Henry Vidal - 142 calls, Kevin Needy - 141 calls, and Paul Jones - 117 calls. These are the top ten responding people out of 429 calls. Each call is different and takes a different amount of time, however each call lasts a minimum of about an hour from the time we are dispatched, arrive on the scene, and return to clean the engines.

This past month we had our joint money bonanza with Smithsburg E.M.S. The event was very successful. Thanks to all who attended the money bonanza. Breakfasts will soon be coming to an end for the season. Be sure to attend the next one for a home-style breakfast. With warm months coming, S.C.V.F.C. will be conducting many fundraisers, so please try to attend.

Safety Reminder

It is that time of year again, when everyone wants to be outside riding around enjoying the warm temperatures. Be careful and watch out for slower driving traffic, motorcycles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Be sure to change your smoke detector batteries since the time change has already taken place. Swimming pools will also be opening soon. Please watch children and pets to make certain there are no swimming pool accidents this year.

EMS DEPARTMENT NEWS

- SEMS has responded to 197 calls for the first 2 months of 2007 -- 109 calls for January and 88 calls for February. (Up from 179 calls during the same period last year). Please turn to the next page for more information.

- On February 17th and 18th, personnel from Hagerstown's Community Rescue Service joined Smithsburg EMS personnel for a Basic Trauma Life Support class.

- Smithsburg EMS hosted a PH Balance class on March 17th at HCC. Personnel from Community Rescue Service also attended the class.

- Since our last issue we have added more new faces to our membership, and a new emergency medical technician -- basic class has started. Nine of our members are in the new class that started on February 1st.

- The newest addition to the SEMS fleet, an Advanced Life Support ambulance on a 2006 Ford chassis, is scheduled to be completed around June 1st. An exact date for it to be placed in service will be determined after it is equipped, inspected, and our members complete unit familiarization.

- Our annual awards banquet was held on Saturday, March 10th at Four Points Sheraton. Please turn to the next page for award information.

- Members of our department provided over 33,000 hours of volunteer service in 2006.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

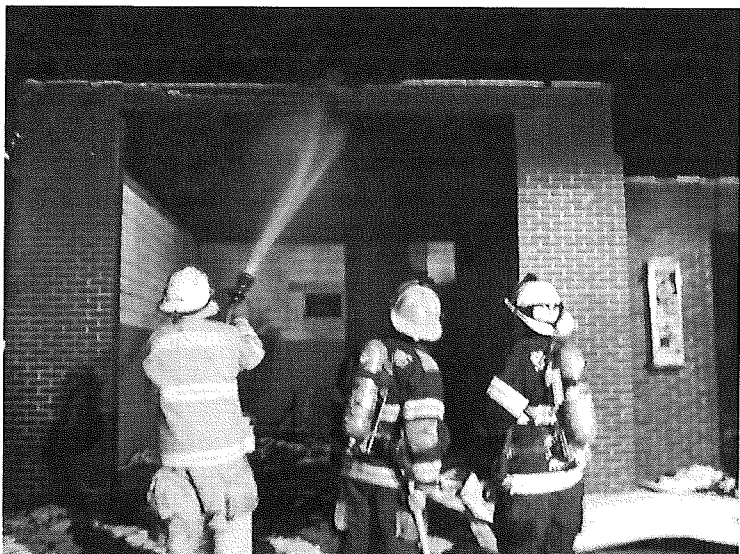
In January we thought spring was just around the corner, and then came February with the ice storm and the zero degree mornings. I don't know about all of you, but I am ready for spring now.

February 17 was our annual awards banquet, where we also celebrated the 75th anniversary of the company serving the community. The company was presented with several resolutions: one from Senator Munson, one from Sheriff Mullendore, one from the Washington County Commissioners, and one from the town of Smithsburg, presented to the company by Mayor Mickey Myers for 75 years of service to the Smithsburg community and surrounding area.

Mac Hutto was honored for many years as treasurer, and Bryan Wiles for many years as assistant treasurer. Both have stepped down for a break. Thanks guys for a job well done.

The Ladies Auxiliary was honored for all their hard work and dedication to the company. Glenn and Margaret Fishack composed a history book of the company that was handed out to members at the banquet and a copy will be given to the Historical Society and library if you would like to read the book.

As always, I am looking for volunteers for membership, fundraisers, work details, or any suggestions. You can email me at president@smithsburgvfc.org. If you call the station 301-824-2889 and nobody is at the station, just leave a message and the appropriate officer will contact you about your inquiry. If you think the newsletter is a good source of information, drop an email to captain@smithsburgvfc.org and let him know. Thank you



EMS Statistics

Here is a list of some, not all, of the calls we have responded to so far this year.

TYPE OF CALL	Totals
Abdominal pain	6
Cardiac/respiratory arrest	3
Chest pain/Heart problems	25
Diabetic	6
Fall	19
Hemorrhage/Laceration	5
Medical emergency	22
Overdose/Ingestion	4
Seizure	6
Traumatic injury/amputation	9
Trouble breathing	24
Unconscious/Syncope/Altered LOC	17
Vehicle crash/Pedestrian struck	22
Fire related events	5
RESPONSE AREA	Totals
Boonsboro	1
Cascade	8
Clear Spring	1
Franklin County	13
Frederick County	18
Hagerstown	15
Halfway	1
Leitersburg	27
Mt. Aetna	16
Smithsburg area (other)	54
Town of Smithsburg	43
TOTAL Jan. and Feb. 2007	197
TRANSPORTS	Totals
WCH - Hagerstown	111
FMH - Frederick	4
Waynesboro Hospital	14
Hand Center	1
Univ. of MD Med. Center - Baltimore	1
TOTAL Jan. and Feb. 2007	131

SEMS Annual Awards Banquet

Top responder awards

10 – Travis Routzahn	(107 calls)
9 – Vernon Wilson	(116 calls)
8 – Garrett Snyder	(139 calls)
7 – Brad Chambers	(145 calls)
6 – Jon Snyder	(145 calls)
5 – Krystina Gaudio	(150 calls)
4 – Andy Smith	(169 calls)
3 – Kyle Minnick	(174 calls)
2 – James Ulrich	(182 calls)
1 – Brian House	(264 calls)

EMT of the Year

James Ulrich

Paramedic of the Year

Jennifer Gargana

Aider of the Year

Brian House

Unsung Hero Award

Vance Almy

(Calls for top responders are VOLUNTEER responses only, this does not include the number of calls handled by career/paid providers or by some of the volunteers who are also part-time employees).

CHIEF'S CORNER

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S REPORT

Friends and Neighbors,

With spring fast approaching and the passing of day light savings time, it's time to think about fire safety. In recent headlines of March 8, 2007, 10 individuals including 9 children died in a fire in Bronx, New York due to a space heater and no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms will save your life, but only if they work. We teach every second grader in the school system that when you change your clocks to change your batteries in the smoke alarm. How much time does it take? A few minutes of your day could make the difference between life and death.

Most people that die in a fire don't die from the fire itself, but from the smoke from the fire. Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm. In 1996, Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Department conducted a Life Safety Survey, this is where members of the department set out and did a door – to – door campaign. The goal of this campaign was to ensure that all residents within Smithsburg were equipped with working smoke alarms. The department visited 537 homes. Of those 537 homes only 257 had smoke detectors present with 199 of them working properly. The department provided the remaining houses with either a new smoke alarm or changed the battery to make them fully operational.

It's been ten years since the Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Department completed a campaign such as the one in 1996. Armed with the statistics of that campaign and the recent acquisition of an eight thousand dollar grant from State of Maryland under the Safe Smoke Alarms for Everyone grant program we will conduct another campaign starting in May 2007. This grant targets high- risk groups, such as families with children under 5, families with adults over 65, families with poverty level income and families living with members having special needs.

A group of members have set down and identified our primary and secondary target audience. We will be surveying these homes accordingly. Please look for our team members, who will be easily identified by a bright yellow shirt with "Safe Team" on the back or a fire department logo shirt. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact the fire station at 301-824-2889 or by email assistantchief@smithsburgvfc.org.

Yours in safety,
Sam Ginn, Assistant Chief

EMS CHIEF'S REPORT

First, on behalf of Smithsburg EMS and Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Company, I would like to extend our thank you for making our Money Bonanza fundraiser a great success.

Saturday, May 5th is the annual Smithsburg town spring cleanup. The dumpsters will be located behind our station located off Maple Avenue. Please do not begin dumping before Saturday morning, May 5th.

The Washington County EMS Plan for the Future (master plan) was proposed and accepted by a majority of the EMS companies after several modifications. The county commissioners are expected to vote on the EMS Master Plan in the near future. The plan includes adding funding to help support fuel costs, maintenance for transport units, and computer software to help manage staffing county wide. The added funding will bolster EMS companies with their struggling budgets and allow for more opportunities to purchase improved equipment, add staffing, or begin planning for station improvements.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Snider, CCEMT-P, FP-C
Chief of Operations

EMS Health & Safety Reminder

Stroke Warning Signs

The American Stroke Association says these are the warning signs of stroke:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

If you or someone with you has one or more of these signs, don't delay! Immediately call 9-1-1 so an ambulance can be sent for you. Also, check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared. It's very important to take immediate action. If given within three hours of the start of symptoms, a clot-busting drug can reduce long-term disability for the most common type of stroke.



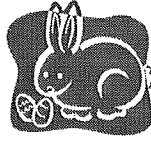
UPCOMING EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS

Upcoming Fundraisers

Chicken BBQ - Saturday, March 31, 2007
½ chicken \$5.00, ½ chicken w/ sides \$6.00

All -U- Can Eat Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Saturday, April 7, 2007 - 7:00-10:30 a.m.



Basket Bingo - Saturday, April 14, 2007
\$20.00 per ticket includes 20 games, including three specials.

If tickets are purchased early, you will receive a free raffle ticket.

For tickets call 301 824 2888.

Tickets are now available for our next **Harley Raffle**.

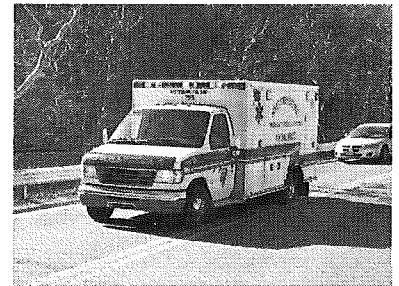
Please call 301 824 2889.

If you didn't know it, we also rent out the dining hall for parties, such as birthdays, anniversaries, or weddings.

Contact John Miller 301-733-1516

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us at the Money Bonanza on Saturday, March 3rd!

Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) is a volunteer organization and relies on donations from our citizens to continue to provide first class emergency care. The mission of SEMS is to provide swift response, safe transport, and the highest quality, most progressive medical care available to today's standards. Our approximately 70 square mile response area covers not only the Town of Smithsburg, but also Leitersburg, Mt. Aetna, Pen Mar, Cascade, Ringgold, Cavetown, and portions of Frederick County. SEMS provides BLS (basic life support) and ALS (advanced life support) services to these areas as well as mutual aid to portions of the City of Hagerstown, Frederick County, and Franklin County.
Please support our fund drive!



DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

The current officers for SCVFC are as follows:

OPERATIONS STAFF

Chief	Steve Lewis
Deputy Chief	Chris Rohrer
Assistant Chief	Sammy Ginn
Captain	Chuckie Johnson
Lieutenant	Patrick Baker

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

President	Phil Rohrer
Vice President	Glenn Reynolds
Treasurer	Buddy Blake
Secretary	Barb Miller
Director	Jason Kline
Director	Chuck Baker
Director	John Miller

CONTACT INFORMATION

Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Company
22 N. Main St., P.O. Box 32
Smithsburg, MD 21783
301-824-2889

Fire Company Contacts

Chief Steve Lewis CHIEF@SMITHSBURGVFC.ORG
Deputy Chief Chris Rohrer DEPUTYCHIEF@SMITHSBURGVFC.ORG
Assistant Chief Sam Ginn ASSISTANTCHIEF@SMITHSBURGVFC.ORG
Captain Chuckie Johnson CAPTAIN@SMITHSBURGVFC.ORG
Lieutenant Patrick Baker LIEUTENANT@SMITHSBURGVFC.ORG
President Phil Rohrer PRESIDENT@SMITHSBURGVFC.ORG
Vice President Glenn Reynolds VICEPRESIDENT@SMITHSBURGVFC.ORG

The current officers for SEMS are as follows:

OPERATIONS STAFF

Chief	Rob Snider	rsnider@sems79.org
Assistant Chief	Jon Snyder	jsnyder@sems79.org
Captain	James Ulrich	julrich@sems79.org
Training Coordinator	Jennifer Gargana	jgargana@sems79.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

President	H. Wayne Williams	hwilliams@sems79.org
Vice President	Dr. Vincent Cantone	vcantone@sems79.org
Treasurer	Valen Meadows	vmeadows@sems79.org
Secretary	Bonnie Winders	bwinders@sems79.org
Director	Donnie Bolyard	dbolyard@sems79.org
Director	John Pullaro	jpullaro@sems79.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services, Inc.
8 Maple Ave.
P.O. Box 411
Smithsburg, MD 21783
301-824-3314

Did you know that you can view the Emergency Services newsletter online?

Spread the word!!

Log on to <http://www.smithsburgvfc.org/Newsletter.htm>
to view the current and past issues!

Please mail suggestions/comments to:

Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (SEMS)
P.O. Box 411

Smithsburg, MD 21783

or email your suggestions/comments to:
newsletter@smithsburgvfc.org