

# THE RESPONDER

— Dedicated to Our Community, Our Profession and Each Other —

SPRING 2015



## IN THIS EDITION

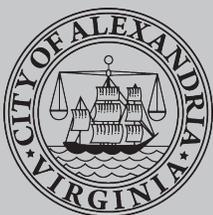
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### Alexandria Fire Department

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[www.alexandriava.gov/Fire](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Fire)

This newsletter is written  
and compiled by the  
Alexandria Fire Department's  
Community Services Unit



Community Outreach: Top photo left to right: FF Jason Kuehler & FF Jeremiah Sisler; Middle photos left to right: Medic Fredrick Koerner, Medic Edgar Velazquez, FF Kenneth Salfelder, FF Okoli Chizoba, & Medic Bao-Vinh Nguyen; Bottom photos left to right: LT Sean Europe, Medic FF Eric Doddington & CSU Shawn Gore

# Community Engagement



Community Outreach: Left to right: FF Lydia Kirkman, FF Mike Chanoler, FF James Ros, LT Sean Europe & FF Luke Nuar

## AFD Educating the Community

By: Kimeka Johnson

The City Alexandria firefighters are at it again with approximately 35 school visits this spring alone. A presentation on Fire safety tips was provided to the students, ranging from ages 2 to 5. During each school visit, the students learned the importance of developing a home escape plan, stop, drop, & roll, their local emergency number, fire alarms, and what to do if an alarm is triggered. AFD used a “role playing” approach to engage the students. Some of the students were already prepared for the aforementioned by wearing firefighter and battalion chief costumes, which made the tour of the apparatus and medic unit even more worth while.



FF James Ros performing community outreach.



LT Sean Europe helping a student off of the engine.



CPT Greg Cook & FF Tom Robinson racing to put on turnout gear for City students.

# Fire Safety for the Mobility-Impaired

By Shawn Gore

The key to dealing with individuals with mobility impairment is to acknowledge their ability to help themselves, while guiding them to recognize their limitations in an emergency without bringing unwanted attention. When considering residents who have a mobility impairment living in high-rise apartment or condominium building, it is important to be fully aware of personal limitations, have working smoke alarms and have a home escape plan in place. Being aware of personal limitations will allow mobility impaired individuals to plan ahead and know what type of assistance may be needed during an emergency. Working smoke alarms are strongly encouraged for early detection of a fire; this is especially true for individuals with limitations that may increase the time needed to safely exit a burning building.

The importance of Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH) should also be stressed to mobility-impaired individuals. Conducting EDITH helps identify physical limitations in a crisis setting. It is important to practice these drills and include your local fire service to avoid unrealistic views of the capabilities of the fire department. Your local fire department can help identify unforeseen obstacles before a fire occurs.

## Would stairwell landings be areas of rescue in the event of a fire?

Proximity is extremely important when firefighters enter a structure. If mobility-impaired individuals are in direct danger, firefighters will do their best to evacuate everyone to a safe place. Stairwell landings are a safe place to wait as long as it doesn't cause an obstruction for other residents exiting the building.

## Should residents stay in their units?

Proximity is very important when deciding whether to stay (Sheltering in Place) or exit a burning building. In large residential structures, sheltering in place may be the best option if the fire is not in their unit or below their unit. Elevators are to be used by fire department officials only.



## WORLD POLICE & FIRE GAMES

**JUNE 26- JULY 5, 2015**

### AFD PARTICIPANTS

#### Flag Football

FF. Moriah Anderson  
FF. Durant Cephers  
LT. Sean Europe  
FF. Sokthear Van  
Capt. Fred Ruff  
FF. Rick Muse  
LT. Jeff Taylor  
FF. Mike Lyons  
FF. Arash Hematti  
FF. Jarrett Wood

#### Triathlon

LT. Megan Drane

#### Bowling

Assistant Chief Rudolph Thomas

#### Ultimate Firefighter

FF. Jarrett Wood

#### Toughest Competitor Alive

LT. Sean Europe

#### Cycling Hill Climb

FF. Bill Dunleavy

#### Road Race

FF. Bill Dunleavy

#### Swimming

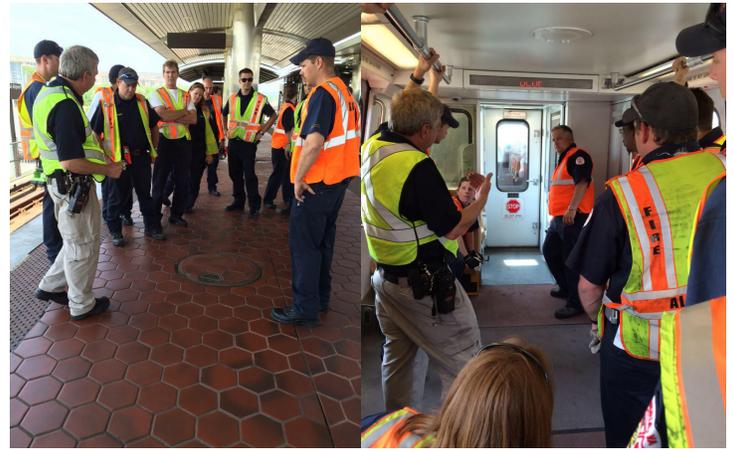
FF. Bill Dunleavy

<http://fairfax2015.com/>

# TRAINING/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



*AFD firefighters participating in an ice rescue drill in Deep Creek, Md.*



*AFD operational supervisors training with WMATA on Metro operations.*



*AFD units participate in a full scale regional RIT drill.*



*AFD HazMat Team members practicing spill & leak control techniques.*



*Members of the AFD Technical Rescue Team demonstrate basic rappelling to the 41st Recruit Class.*



*AFD practicing "victim" rescue in the swift water environment using a boat.*

# ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2015 PUBLIC SAFETY VALOR AWARDS

**Assistant Fire Marshall Andrea Buchanan,**

**Bronze Medal**



On March 15, Assistant Fire Marshall (AFM) Andrea Buchanan was on routine evening patrol. She observed a large number of vehicles illegally parked in fire lanes at the Hilton at Mark Center. Upon investigation, she discovered there was a very large crowd attending a special event in the downstairs main ballroom. The event greatly exceeded the maximum permitted occupancy of the space. This posed a danger for not only the patrons attending the event but also the guests of the hotel as it created a potential evacuation hazard in the event of an emergency. The victim was unconscious and did not appear to be breathing. AFM Buchanan coordinated with hotel staff to temporarily stop and gain control of the event. During this time, a section of the ceiling collapsed and reportedly struck a patron attending the event. AFM Buchanan radioed for medics, however, radio transmissions were difficult due to the excessive noise from the event. She immediately began emergency respirations, performing direct mouth to mouth respirations at risk of her own personal safety. The crowd was becoming hostile due to the halting of the event. Nearby patrons started to confront her as she was performing life-saving measures on the victim. They began grabbing her vest and making advances towards her weapon, in spite of the fact that she was attempting to assist the victim. AFM Buchanan now had to actively guard and protect her weapon while trying to provide care to the victim. In

spite of the potential threats and risks to personal safety, she continued to perform respirations and assist the victim without any assistance or backup from security detail staff or hotel staff on site. AFM Buchanan went above and beyond the call of duty to assist the victim, in spite of the potential risk to her personal safety from a large, hostile crowd and without the protection of any backup law enforcement personnel to maintain order, and with further threat of additional ceiling collapse. Assistant Fire Marshall Andrea Buchanan was awarded the bronze medal in recognition of her efforts under these circumstances.

**Bronze Medal**

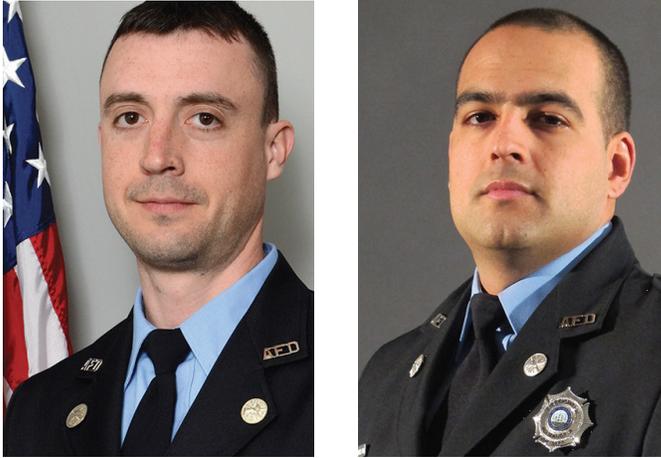
Awarded in situations where, during the course of an emergency and at personal risk, a public safety official demonstrates judgment and ingenuity in the performance of his/her duties.



*AFM Russell Furr, AFM Andrea Buchanan & DFM James Mikell at the ACOC 2015 Valor Awards.*

## Firefighter Michael Faber, Certificate of Valor

## Firefighter Daryoush Hematti, Certificate of Valor



On April 8, firefighters and medics were dispatched for the report of an unconscious adult person. Engine 209 and EMS232 were the first units to arrive on the scene. They found an adult male lying face down on the living room floor and moaning. As the EMS team attempted to talk him, the patient started moaning louder and began rocking. Suddenly, the patient started screaming and began to get up on his hands and knees. The mother of the patient was on scene and informed the firefighters and medics that her son had been doing PCP prior to arrival. She also stated that the patient had an infant daughter in the bedroom.

At this point the firefighters and medics gave the patient space for safety. Police were dispatched to assist. The patient suddenly lunged at Firefighter Michael Faber, pinning him against the wall in the corner of the living room. He was screaming, scratching, and spitting, and would not release Firefighter Faber.

Firefighter Hematti jumped on the back of the patient and, with the assistance of Firefighter Faber, they were able to get the patient to the ground. Knowing that the patient's mother and infant daughter were still in the apartment, the firefighters continued to restrain the patient on the ground. The subject fought the entire time.

With both firefighters on him, he was able to lift them both off the ground several inches multiple times. He was constantly scratching, spitting and foaming at the

mouth. The subject was larger and heavier than the firefighter and, having used PCP, he possessed an extraordinary amount of strength.

The entire time, the firefighters talked to the patient, tried to calm him, while ensuring that he had an adequate airway.

The firefighters were able to restrain the patient so medics could administer medication to help calm the patient and police could take him into custody. Once the patient was safely placed into a medic unit for transport to Alexandria Hospital, it was noticed that both Firefighter Faber and Firefighter Hematti had suffered minor injuries. Both firefighters were taken to Alexandria Hospital, treated and released.

Without the quick and decisive actions of Firefighter Michael Faber and Firefighter Daryoush Hematti, this incident could have turned out much different and potentially deadly for the family of the patient, personnel on the scene, and the patient himself. Both Firefighter Michael Faber and Firefighter Daryoush Hematti were awarded the Certificate of Valor.

### Certificate of Valor

For recognition as a public safety official, for action taken involving personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment in the performance of duty.



*FF Michael Faber & FF Daryoush Hematti at the ACOC  
2015 Valor Awards.*

## Firefighter Michael Ambrose, Life Saving Award

## Firefighter Joseph Porcelli, Life Saving Award

## Firefighter Micheall Lyons, Life Saving Award



On April 23, around 7:30 a.m., members of Engine 207, Firefighters Michael Ambrose, Joseph Porcelli, and Micheall Lyons responded to a call at MacArthur Elementary School for reports of a child passed out in the cafeteria. Just before arriving on scene they learned that the situation was possibly much worse; “possible pediatric cardiac arrest with CPR in progress.”

Upon arrival, the firefighters were able to quickly locate the victim and determine life-saving procedures were needed.

Firefighter Porcelli began performing compressions on the child while Firefighter Ambrose worked to clear his airway. Firefighter Lyons prepared the automated external defibrillator, AED, which is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and is able to treat them through defibrillation. Once ready, Firefighter Lyons used the AED to analyze the child. There was no significant heartbeat detected and the use of the AED would be ineffective. The child did not have a pulse. Undeterred, the firefighters continued compressions and other life-saving measures. After four additional rounds of 50 compressions, a weak pulse was detected.

At this time, medics arrived and were given a quick brief as to the situation. The firefighters continued to assist the medics as they prepared the child to be transported to Inova Alexandria Hospital. The child’s mother had also arrived at the school and was updated on his condition. Firefighters led her to the cafeteria where she was able to accompany her child to the hospital.

This child had a significant cardiac medical history. The quick actions and life-saving measures taken by these

firefighters undoubtedly saved his life. For this Firefighter Michael Ambrose, Firefighter Joseph Porcelli, and Firefighter Micheall Lyons are awarded the Life Saving Award.

### Lifesaving Award

To be awarded in recognition of official acts taken by public safety officials in a life-threatening situation where an individual’s life is in jeopardy, either medically or physically.



*FF Joseph Porcelli & FF Michael Ambrose at the ACOG 2015 Valor Awards.*



*Fire Chief Dubé and the 2015 AFD Valor Award Recipients.*

# QUARTER 1 FIRE LOSS REPORTS

## JANUARY 2015

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE	CAUSE	VALUE	**LOSS**	STATUS
01/01/2015	5865	5530 ASCOT COURT APARTMENT- A	MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	INCENDIARY	\$85,825,000.00	\$250.00	CLOSED
01/02/2015	5324	428 MONTICELLO BOULEVARD	SINGLE FAMILY	ACCIDENTAL	\$410,904.00	\$1000.00	CLOSED
01/14/2015	5541	1431 ORONOCO STREET	TOWNHOUSE	ACCIDENTAL	\$532,328.00	\$20,000.00	CLOSED
01/15/2015	5515	110 NORTH FAYETTE STREET	CHURCH	INCENDIARY	\$143,380.00	\$250.00	OPEN

## FEBRUARY 2015

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE	CAUSE	VALUE	**LOSS**	STATUS
02/27/2015	20303	3260 GUNSTON ROAD	MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	ACCIDENTAL	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	CLOSED

## MARCH 2015

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE	CAUSE	VALUE	**LOSS**	STATUS
03/15/2015	20410	700 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET	MOTEL	ACCIDENTAL	\$100,000.00	\$2,500.00	CLOSED
03/20/2015	20901	232 WESMOND DRIVE	SINGLE FAMILY	ACCIDENTAL	\$165,333.00	\$7,000.00	CLOSED
03/23/2015	20682	4625 SEMINARY ROAD #103	MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	ACCIDENTAL	\$42,690,061.00	\$35,000.00	CLOSED
03/28/2015	20410	824 MONTGOMERY	MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	INCENDIARY	\$437,760.00	\$100.00	INACTIVE

**\*\*LOSS VALUES INCLUDE CONTENTS OF STRUCTURE\*\***

# FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY TIPS

## SPRING FIRE SAFETY TIPS

### BBQ/ Grilling Safety

- Never use gasoline to start a fire.
- Use charcoal lighter fluid only before the fire is lit.
- Place grills well away from combustibles; buildings, fences, deck railings and landscaping can easily and quickly ignite.
- Keep a garden hose or a portable fire extinguisher handy in case the fire gets out of control.
- Never bring a grill into the home. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal can be dangerous, even deadly, in an enclosed space.
- Keep children and pets away from fires and grills. It only takes a second for curiosity to cause a serious burn.
- Though coals may appear to be cool, always soak them with water. Coals retain enough heat to reignite for days after the fire.
- If your bag of charcoal gets wet, leave it in a well ventilated area away from the house. During the drying process, spontaneous ignition can occur in confined areas.

### Home Safety Tips

- Test and clean your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check your fire extinguishers.
- Clean your oven and cooking surface top of your stove.
- Keep combustible items such as oven mitts, towels, wooden utensils, paper towels, etc. off the top of the stove.
- Check for and correct frayed or damaged extension cords and wiring on all appliances.
- Prepare for storm -related outages (make sure your flashlights and portable radios have batteries and that other supplies, such as bottled water, are stocked and available).
- Practice exit drills with your family so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency (establish a meeting place).
- Properly store household chemicals and never mix cleaning agents.
- Recycle old newspapers, magazines and junk mail.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter from your dryer before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.

### Outside Safety Tips

- Make sure your address numbers are up and visible from the street.
- Clean up yard debris. Cut back dead limbs and grasses.
- Maintain a clear 'fire zone' of 10' around structures.
- Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances.
- Get your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage.
- Keep 100' of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.
- When refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine, and don't smoke while pouring gasoline.
- Wear proper eye protection when operating trimmers, lawn edger's, pruners and power saws.

### Garage Safety

- Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals.
- Check fuels containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- Have all power equipment cleaned, serviced and readied for use.



*AFD's Monique Jackson-Asante checking a fire extinguisher at station 204.*

# ADMINISTRATION & LOGISTICS NEWS

## 2016 Fiscal Year Budget

By: Cameron Hall

On Thursday, May 7, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. While the City of Alexandria is continuing to recover from the recession, the budget once again, reflects cutbacks in federal funding. At the same time, real estate taxes and city fees are largely unchanged from last year. This fiscal year, the City will begin the funding investments into the new Waterfront plan and continue funding for the Potomac Yard Metro Station. Public safety remains one of the City's top priorities.

Personnel costs have contributed to an estimated 5% increase in the Fire Department budget compared to last year. Rising disability retirement rates and merit raises were responsible for \$2.3M of increases to the Department's budget. In addition, the implementation of the Firefighter III and Medic III career ladder is scheduled to take place in FY2016. This is in addition to the normal merit increases all employees will receive.

This 5% increase does not even include one of the most discussed topics in this year's budget – the staffing of Engine 210. The Mayor and Council have added additional funds to staff Engine 210 with overhires. These personnel are above our authorized staffing numbers but as people retire from the Department, the overhires are not replaced and move into these vacant positions. The issue will likely continue to be a budget topic as additional recruitments, may be necessary.

The Police Department received an across the board increase in pay for police officers to keep them more compatible with surrounding jurisdictions. Due to budget constraints and prioritization however, market alignment raises and years of service adjustments (referred to as YOSAM) were not possible for Fire Department personnel in this budget.

The City Manager has eliminated 14 positions throughout the city, nearly all of which are vacant. None of these were taken from the Fire Department.

The entire budget package may be viewed on the City webpage at: <http://alexandriava.gov/budget/info/default.aspx?id=83131>

## Investigations Unit 200

By: Andrea Buchanan

The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Section, Fire Investigations Unit (FIU) has placed into service a refurbished 2004 Freightliner Sprinter Van as a stand-alone Fire Investigations Unit. The van, affectionately named "Frankenstein," was born out of necessity.

Prior to placing the van in service, the FIU utilized a tandem axle trailer for large scale fire investigations. For years, the trailer has posed several logistical problems such as transportation to the scene, placement on scene, and outliving the serviceable age. With no funding allocated to the FIU for a stand-alone replacement unit, the question was asked if a suitable Government Deal vehicle could be located and designed to accommodate the function of a Fire Investigation vehicle at which time the 2004 Freightliner van became available after previously serving as the supply van.

AFM Buchanan, AFM Furr and Deputy Fire Marshal Sullivan worked with personnel at the Fire Department Maintenance shop to design and outfit the van with existing equipment that was taken off of the trailer. The newly outfitted van will allow personnel to drive the vehicle directly to an investigation and will provide much of the equipment necessary to assist investigators with processing a scene. The unit will be designated as Investigations 200.

The FIU would like to thank the personnel at the Fire Maintenance Shop – Supervisor Mike Young, John Sublett, Butch Hakenson, Tom Wheatley and Captain Dave Lukes for their assistance and dedication to making this project a reality.

# CONGRATULATIONS AFM ANDREA BUCHANAN

## 2015 Investigator of the Year

### International Association of Fire Investigators (IAAI)

The Investigator of the Year Award is given to an individual who has shown outstanding achievement through the use of professional expertise in both the criminal and civil fields of arson control.

The Investigator of the year is chosen from nominations from 43 Countries throughout the world. It is based on a case in which the investigator worked and must be verified by a committee through interviews and news accounts.

The IAAI Investigator of the year is the highest recognition in the Fire Investigation profession.



## The Alexandria Fire Department receives American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition Award

BECAUSE TIME MATTERS.



MISSION:  
LIFELINE

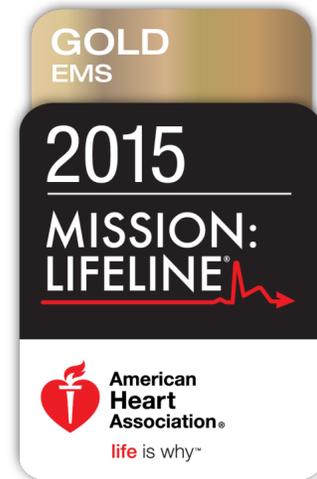
2015 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Recognition

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

### Alexandria Fire Department Alexandria, VA

Mission: Lifeline® EMS – GOLD  
Achievement Award Agency  
Recognition valid from May 2015 to May 2016

The American Heart Association recognizes this EMS provider for attaining 75% or higher composite adherence to each applicable Mission: Lifeline® EMS Achievement Measure for consecutive 24 month intervals to improve the quality of care for STEMI patients.



Nancy Brown  
Chief Executive Officer, American Heart Association

James G. Jollis, MD, FACC  
Chair, Mission: Lifeline Advisory Working Group

Elliott M. Antman, MD, FAHA  
2014-2015 American Heart Association President

# WINTER 2015 RUN STATISTICS

(JANUARY & FEBRUARY)

	UNIT	MEDICAL	FIRE SUPPRESSION	2015 YTD	2014
<b>Station 201</b>	E201	86	169		
	Total			255	1376
<b>Station 202</b>	M202	244	73		
	U202	0	1		
	Total			318	1966
<b>Station 203</b>	E203	91	165		
	T203	20	196		
	Total			473	2313
<b>Station 204</b>	E204	97	173		
	M204	227	64		
	T204	17	297		
	Total			877	4486
<b>Station 205</b>	E205	100	274		
	M205	264	86		
	T205	0	1		
	Total			726	4645
<b>Station 206</b>	E206	193	206		
	M206	349	103		
	RS206	32	68		
	Total			951	5627
<b>Station 207</b>	E207	142	217		
	M207	270	80		
	Total			710	4005
<b>Station 208</b>	E208	292	246		
	M208	379	94		
	T208	0	0		
	Total			1011	7291
<b>Station 209</b>	E209	87	198		
	H209	1	3		
	U209	0	4		
	Total			290	1636
<b>Station 210</b>	E201	0	9		
	M210	0	9		
	Total			18	0

Total: 5630      2014 Total: 33,345