

THE SIREN

July/August 2018

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

Lives Saved not in the Headlines

Occasionally you will hear or read about our department or another Fire/EMS department somewhere else that they saved a life with a dramatic picture or video and of course a written description. What you don't hear is what happens almost on a daily basis that doesn't make the headlines or television news. The staff here at Wellington Fire/EMS save lives on a regular basis. It may not be in the dramatic fashion that catches the media's eye but none the less what they do impacts an individual's life. Unfortunately only 10% of individuals who suffer a cardiac arrest actually get to walk out of the hospital. When we do save a life from a cardiac

arrest that is significant. The emphasis of this story is not on cardiac arrests but what decisions and procedures staff do in the field that save lives. When a person is suffering symptoms related to a cardiac event staff must interpret the heart monitor to determine if the patient needs to be transported immediately to a catheterization lab. That interpretation and care during transport can mean the difference of life and death. Another example is a person having stroke like symptoms. Once again the patient is given a test to determine whether there needs to be immediate transport to a stroke center for treatment. Strokes are time sensitive and the longer the

patient goes without treatment the severity of the stroke is usually worse. Overdoses are frequent from a variety of drugs prescribed and illegal. Narcan can be used immediately to reverse the effect of opioids on people who are unconscious and some times not breathing. Diabetic calls are common and in some cases the patient is unconscious and can die if not treated. Staff introduce glucose or glucagon into a patient usually resulting in a rapid change in the patient. Some times the patient may refuse to go to the hospital because they fully recover. These are a few of the examples how staff effect life saving events in the field and I am very proud to be small part of what they do.

By Tim Hay

New Employees

Bradley Robinson and Tyler Weiss started work on June 13th. Bradley is an EMT and comes to us from Ponca City. He is scheduled to attend Firefighter I class this fall and paramedic class in January of 2019 at Cowley County Community College.

Tyler lives locally and has an associates degree in fire science from Butler County Community College. Tyler is certified Firefighter I and II and an EMT. He has prior experience with two volunteer fire departments. Tyler and his wife Amanda just recently had a baby girl named Brooklyn.



Bradley to the left and Tyler

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Heat Related Emergencies



The summer is in full swing which means sticky humidity and scorching temperatures. To prepare properly for the increased temperatures remember these few tips when it's hot outside. 1. Stay hydrated with lots of cool water (no alcohol or pop), 2. Plan to work outside in the early morning or late evening hours or

late evening hours when the temperature is lower, 3. If you must work during the heat of the day limit sun exposure and take plenty of breaks in the shade. Remember sun screen as well to prevent sun burn. Be aware of the signs of heat stroke which

include nausea, absence of sweating, confusion, and possibly even seizures. Heat stroke is a true emergency and first responders should be contacted immediately. Stay cool and stay hydrated!

By Justin Patrick

Child Fire Safety

One of the best ways to keep your home safe from fire is education. Make sure the children in your family know the fire safety rules. Teach your children the dangers of matches, lighters and candles. Have them tell you right away whenever they find these items. Round up all matches and lighters and store them safely. In case you missed some, ask your

children to tell you where any are located through your home. Be sure your kids know what the fire alarm sounds like and what to do if it goes off. Show children how to crawl below smoke during a fire. Make sure kids know at least two escape routes from each room in the home. These escape routes can be windows. Teach kids to test doors for nearby fire by feeling the heat with the back of their hand. If

The door is warm or hot, they should try their second exit. Explain to children that they can't hide from a fire. Hiding in a closet or under a bed won't make them safe. Instead they should try to escape the home. If they can't escape, they should let others know they are trapped. They can do this by shutting

the door to the room, opening a window, and turning on the lights or throwing objects out the window. Introduce your children to a firefighter. Let them know that firefighters will look different when in full protective gear. Tell them to never hide from firefighters, and to follow all directions from firefighters.



Rural Water Supply Training

Department Training

Class presentations in house for June and July are chest pain, shock management, foam applications, dump tank operations, infection control, soft tissue injuries, respiratory emergencies, 4 & 12 lead interpretation, nozzles and mayday procedures. One staff member attended a live burn class in Parsons. Nate Keller, Matthew Harsh and Javan Wright certified as Fire Instructor I. Bradley Robinson attended a driver simulator class in Winfield. Bradley Robinson and Tyler Weiss obtained their Class B drivers license. Mike Clark obtained Instructor/Coordinator certification from the Kansas Board of EMS. Nate Keller attended a two day class in Newton.

Energized Power Lines

On June 30th at approximately 6:30 PM, Wellington Fire/EMS was dispatched to a power lines down call at 40th Street South and Drury Road after a storm came through the area. Upon arrival staff found power lines down with a small grass fire. As staff safely maneuvered around the downed lines that lay on the road, they could see that the other end

of the power line was still energized. As it was throwing sparks and catching more debris on fire a sheriffs deputy assisted with blocking off the road and a electric department crew was requested. Staff safely extinguished what fire they could and waited to extinguish the rest until the electric department could de-energize the line. After the electric crew disconnect-

ed the power lines the remaining fire was safely extinguished. The public should always treat a downed power line as it is energized, and to remember to look at the big picture and not rush in to apply water as it can result in electrocution.

By Sam Pacino

911 Dispatchers

Behind the scenes are a group of people who most do not see that answer emergency phone calls and dispatch first responders to emergencies throughout Sumner County. The 911 dispatchers must know how to talk to law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire departments who all use different radio

codes or language to describe their apparatus and incidents. Dispatchers must get information from the public who call 911 and many times are in distress and it is difficult to obtain information. They must then relay that information to the correct entity or entities while at the same time staying on the phone with the

reporting party to obtain more information or receiving additional 911 calls. As a Fire/EMS department we rely heavily on dispatchers to ensure our safety, to provide information throughout the incident and to contact additional resources. They are truly unsung heroes that don't get much credit.

Photographs



Firefighter/Paramedic Rebekah Murray to the right with paramedic students at a disaster drill in Hutchinson



Balloon toss at Picnic in the Park



Live Burn Training With New Staff

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

DAMIAN BERRY AUGUST 2ND
CHAD FRANCISCO AUGUST 6TH
MATT HARSH AUGUST 12
CHARLES KENNEY SEPTEMBER 11

We would like to reach out to more people with our newsletter so if you know of someone that is interested please email timhay@cityofwellington.net with that email address.

Thank you to Walmart for the grant of \$1000 to assist with EMS equipment purchases.

Upcoming Classes & Events

August 9-12 KEMSA Kansas Star
August 23 Basement Fires Derby
September 15th Exterior Fire Clearwater
September 24-28 Driver/Operator Wellington



Around the Station

B shift participated in putting up flags at cemetery and with Memorial Day ceremony.

Training was provided to South Haven Fire on wildland incidents.

A citizen quarterly CPR class was given with 17 in attendance.

Received 36 new self contained breathing cylinders as the existing cylinders could not be used past 2018.

Several 100 foot sections of 5 inch water supply hose failed during testing and had to be replaced.

Staff did a fire standby at the 4th of July firework display with a Brush truck and the ATV.

Staff participated in events at the Kansas Wheat Festival.

Staff participated in safety events at Dillon's Grocery and Walmart.

Conducted two tours for 37 kids from Sumner Mental Health.

Participated in the annual Hutchinson Community College paramedic program disaster scenario. Paramedic students and EMS departments throughout the state attended the event.



Stay fire safe this summer! Follow these grilling safety tips.



Stay fire safe this summer! For more information and resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.



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