

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

2015 Year in Review

The department saw call volume increase in 2015. The EMS calls went from 1361 in 2014 to 1414 calls in 2015 and Fire calls in 2014 were 1063 compared to 1109 in 2015. There were several accomplishments in 2015 including the addition of 3 Firefighter/EMT's to help with safety, overtime call back and efficiency. We replaced broken and inefficient heaters in our apparatus room with efficient radiant heat-

ers, District 7 replaced a 20 year old Brush truck, all three Assistant Chiefs completed an incident command 50 hour online class called "Blue Card", we obtained a CPR compression mechanical device through a grant provided by the Kansas Board of EMS, Sumner County 911 now hosts a backup site for outdoor warning device activation, began participating in the After School Program, completed two disaster exercises with city staff and John

Faust and Jerry Preston were recognized with awards from the VFW. This is just a few of our department accomplishments and the department maintains a document called our "Long range plan/Accomplishments" which is 28 pages in length, is updated on a regular basis and is available upon request. We look forward to providing the public with excellent services again in 2016.

New Employee

James Christy III has joined our department on December 14th. James previously served with the Wichita Fire Department for five years and volunteered for Fire District #9 located in Belle Plaine. James has been married to

his wife Christy for 13 years and has one son James Christy IV. Firefighter/EMT Christy has several certifications including Firefighter I & II, Driver/Operator and Hazardous Materials Technician.

Welcome Jimmy!!



Inside this issue:

Strokes	2
Seatbelt Safety	2
Ammonia/Chlorine Training	2
Decontamination	3
Stabbing Call	3
Personnel Spotlight	3
Around the Station	4



Strokes



A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells. Brain cells die when they no longer receive oxygen and nutrients from the blood or there is sudden bleeding into or around the brain. The symptoms of a stroke include sudden numbness or weakness, especially

on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble with walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination; or sudden severe headache with no known cause. There are two forms of stroke: *ischemic* - blockage of a blood

vessel supplying the brain, and *hemorrhagic* - bleeding into or around the brain. If you have one or more of these symptoms please call 911 immediately. There is a limited amount of time to treat a stroke so the quicker you recognize there is a problem and you seek medical attention the better your long term outcome will be.

Seatbelts



Advent of Vehicle Restraints Seat belts became available in new cars during the early 1970s. Shoulder belts followed shortly thereafter. Beginning in 1985, American car manufacturers offered airbags as part of a 'supplemental restraint' system in auto-

mobiles. Trucks and SUVs have trailed safety automobile requirements for passenger vehicles. Trucks and some SUVs have been the last to get padded dashboards, collapsible steering columns, ABS brakes, and side airbags. Since their intro-

duction, airbags have become a controversial topic. It is true that some people have sustained serious injury from airbag deployment. However, the fact is that airbags combined with seat belts (lap and shoulder belt) do save lives and help prevent more serious injury.

Ammonia/Chlorine Training



Kansas University Fire & Rescue Institute conducted a one day class on responding to and mitigating Anhydrous Ammonia and Chlorine Emergencies here at our department. Staff were instructed on the dangers of each product and how to mitigate incidents. Anhydrous ammonia is used extensively in farm productions and transported on highways and rural roads. Chlorine is used at water treatment facilities, pools and also is transported over our road and railways. One of our most common hazardous materials responses is leaks of anhydrous ammonia in rural areas.

Decontamination

As part of a regional Hazardous Materials Team along with Winfield and Arkansas City Fire/EMS Departments we are responsible for providing decontamination not only for our personnel but also the general public in the event contamination occurs from a hazardous material. Contamination can come in many forms such as liquids especially corrosives, dry materials such as powder, and biological agents. In the event of a

contamination our personnel would immediately remove a person(s) from the immediate danger if they could not remove their self and either do an emergency decon or take our time and setup a secure decontamination line depending on the product and the medical condition of the patient. An emergency decon is simply applying copious amounts of water to rinse away the product so a person can be moved away from the danger and

medical treatment begin. A further decontamination would be required so personnel, apparatus and the hospital are not contaminated. Setting up a decon line is usually a non-emergency event where people can wait to be decontaminated such as an unknown substance which at the present is not having any medical effects. A decon line has wash stations and a person is thoroughly cleaned and clothing removed so they can be removed from the scene.

Stabbing Call

On January 17th at 3:19 AM Wellington Fire/EMS staff responded to a reported stabbing the 1100 block of South Washington. Upon arrival they found an altercation between family members had turned into a stabbing of one family member. The other member sustained trauma from the physical altercation. Staff immedi-

ately worked to control the bleeding of two large stab wounds. The stabbing victim had lost a considerable amount of blood and required two IV's to replace the large volume of blood loss. Because of the blood loss and the patient going in and out of consciousness it was decided to take the patient to St. Francis Hospital in Wichita as a trauma alert.

The second patient from this call was taken to Sumner Regional Medical Center for assessment. A total of five personnel and two ambulances responded to this call. These types of incidents are high stress both for emergency responders and the family. Our best wishes to both patients to make speedy recoveries.

Personnel Spotlight

Firefighter/Paramedic Mark Farley began his service with Wellington Fire/EMS in 1976. Mark was one of the first paramedics on the department when it took over EMS in the early 1970's. Mark has been married to his wife Beth for 35 years and has three sons Daniel, Samuel and Loren and one daughter Stephanie. All of his children are either

in college or have graduated. Mark has taken numerous classes throughout his career and is known around the station for his calm demeanor and his compassion towards his patients. Mark has been involved in our EMS quality assurance program for many years. He worked part time at Sumner Regional Med-

ical Center for 18 years. Mark thoroughly enjoys spending time with his family! Two of his most memorable calls were a vehicle accident where the individual had injuries and cold exposure and a accident where a person was trapped underneath a rail car and suffered critical injuries to his legs.



BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY 1 JIMMY CHRISTY

FEBRUARY 7 JEREMY WIENS

FEBRUARY 26 JOHN FAUST

MARCH 18 SAM PACINO

MARCH 28 KYLE TUTTLE

We would like to thank the Presbyterian Women for their donation of \$100.00 which we will use to purchase smoke detectors that will be offered free to the public.

A big thank you to Strickland Towing for their donation of vehicles for our vehicle extrication class.

Upcoming Classes & Events

February 1 Pipeline Emergencies

February 2-5 Fire Investigator Training

February 5 SLICERS class Wichita

February 20 Fire Class Winfield

**Visit the Fire/EMS website
at cityofwellington.net or
call 620 326-7443 for more
information**

Around the Station

Santa Claus arrived at our station to deliver Christmas Presents along with Shannon from Mental Health. Over the last several years we have teamed up with Sumner Mental Health to provide funding and to help deliver the presents.

We have applied for a grant from the Kansas Board of EMS to purchase a power cot for patient care. The power cot costs approximately \$16,000 but helps prevent back injuries to staff.

We received a grant from Firehouse Subs in the amount of \$6997 to purchase some additional vehicle extrication equipment. The equipment will include stabilizing struts to be used to stabilize vehicles when they are on their side or top and cribbing devices which are used under the frame of a vehicle to prevent movement and to support the car so it will not bend downward during vehicle extrication. The next time your in the Wichita area visit a Firehouse Subs and tell them thank you for their generosity.

Captain John Faust delivering Christmas presents

