

THE SIREN

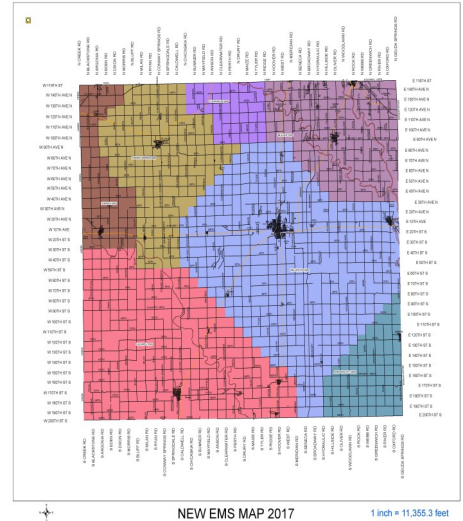
September/October 2017

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

EMS Redistricting

Sumner County EMS re-districting is now a reality. With the endorsement of the Sumner County Commissioners some EMS response areas were changed to improve response times to rural areas. Two areas of the county that were addressed were the southeast corner and areas around Argonia. The southeast corner around Geuda Springs which was serviced by Wellington will now be serviced by the Arkansas City Fire/EMS Department. Areas around Argonia which were

serviced by Norwich EMS will be divided between Caldwell EMS, Conway Springs EMS and Wellington Fire/EMS. All of these areas saw a 30 minute response time from the existing providers which wasn't good for the patient(s). The redistricting process began in March 2017 and now that most of the EMS providers have done some compromising in the name of better response times for our citizens the process will be turned over to Sumner County 911 for address changes.



New Ambulance

The department received a new Osage Ford 450 ambulance in July at a cost of \$211,000. The new ambulance replaces a 2007 model which was sold to Caldwell EMS to use as their second out unit. This new unit is being financed through a lease

purchase agreement, money set aside for ambulance purchases and the sale of the existing ambulance. This new unit has a pickup chassis and liquid spring suspension for a smoother ride. The new ambulance was setup like our other units for consistency.



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Emergency Vehicle Response

Emergent vs. Non Emergent Response

Many people ask, what makes you guys go lights and sirens to a call versus not turning on the lights and siren and speeding to every call. The answer is the nature of the call. Recent studies have shown that lights and sirens save little time if any in the response and care the patients get after calling 911. The studies that were done recently show and increase in injury to



both providers and pedestrians when responding to calls while driving emergency traffic. Many people see lights and sirens and gawk or stare at where the emergency vehicle is going versus paying attention to the road ahead of them, which results in avoidable accidents. Many providers in smaller towns and rural areas use judgement calls on whether to respond to a call with lights and sirens de-

pending on the nature of the call and how much of a critical response could this possibly be i.e. house fire vs a fire alarm or cardiac arrest vs a fall. Remember providers train in driving among many other aspects of the job. Next time you see an emergency vehicle responding with lights and sirens help avoid an accident and remember to pull to the right.

By Justin Patrick

Safety in Public Places



Every day, millions of people wake up, got to work or school, and take part in social events. But every so often the unexpected happens: an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism or some other disaster. Routines change drastically, and people are suddenly aware of how fragile their lives and routines can be. Each disaster can have lasting effects-people may be seriously injured or killed, and devastating and costly property damage can occur. People entering any

public assembly building need to be prepared in case of an emergency. Before you enter a building take a good look does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable. Have a communication plan with family and friends in the event your separated and pick a meeting place outside. When you enter take a good look around for multiple exits and make sure exit doors are not locked or blocked. If exits or exit paths are blocked contact management

immediately and if not addressed leave the building and contact the local fire department. Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning or heat sources that make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, fire sprinklers and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.



Low Angle Rescue Training

Department Training

Several members attended the KEMSA EMS conference in Mulvane August 10-13. Fire/EMS Chief attended a Strike/Task Force team leader class in Pittsburg, Kansas. Classes conducted in August and September were low angle rescue, confined space, mass casualty incident, CPR, emergency decontamination, behavioral emergencies, altered mental status, airways, master streams and high rise hose packs. Toured grain facility in Milan to determine possible rescue situations of staff. Hosted a Traffic Incident Management class for the region instructed by Kansas University staff. The class taught students how to properly setup and protect our crews on highways during emergency incidents.

County Fire Plan

The Sumner County Fire Chiefs Association requested the Kansas Forest Service to produce a county master fire plan for Sumner County. Eric Ward of the Kansas Forest Service compiled the plan and has completed several county plans in the past. The goal of the plan is to show fire chiefs, city/county commissions and citizens what the existing fire delivery looks like in the county. All fire chiefs were asked for statistical information in January of 2017 which included apparatus inventories, staffing, training backgrounds and other

information that was needed to be placed into the plan. Other items which were included in the plan was did the fire department report their incidents to the state, did they use insurance proceeds for firefighters and did they have mutual aid agreements with surrounding departments. Unfortunately many of the fire departments did not return any information to Mr. Ward so he had to go with what he could get from outside sources. Mr. Ward drove the county to look at potential wildland prob-

lems, the existing fire stations in the county and their apparatus. What was divulged from the plan was that several departments in the county are not reporting incidents that could result in the loss of grants and loaned apparatus. Other departments were not utilizing insurance proceeds. One item that has always been known and was specified in the document was that several departments need to consider consolidation to share resources and or dissolve due to lack of funding and volunteers.

Vehicle Accident

On Aug 5th, 2017 at about 6:00 PM. Wellington had a severe thunder storm with torrential rain. During the storm Wellington Fire/EMS started receiving calls to the turnpike for unknown accidents. At 6:30 PM Wellington Fire/EMS was dispatched to a multi vehicle accident. Upon arrival we found a vehicle that hit the center barrier. The patient stated she was sitting in her

car after the accident still against the barrier and was taking her seatbelt off when another car hit her. With multiple wrecks and patients Mulvane Fire and EMS and state troopers were requested. One patient was transported by Wellington Fire/EMS and two patients were transported by Mulvane Fire and EMS to Wichita hospitals. There were several wrecks during this

storm, but this specific accident caused a secondary accident. Lessons learned if driving in bad storm whether rain, sleet, or snow everyone needs to slow down and plan extra time. If you are involved in an incident get out of the vehicle and get completely off the highway or if your injured or can't get out of your vehicle don't take your seat belt off.

By Sam Pacino

Personnel Spotlight

Administrative Assistant Katlyn Humphrey has been with the department since March 2017. Previously Katlyn worked for a doctors clinic in Wichita. Katlyn's job consists of processing EMS reports for billing, providing statistical information for reports, completing department purchase orders, answering incom-

ing calls, meeting the public and myriad of other tasks. Katlyn has two children Jenny age 4 and Teddy age 2. Katlyn has an associates degree in medical science and will be going back to school for a psychology degree as well as criminal science. Some of her hobbies

include cooking (which she has already brought items to work for staff to eat that were very good), gardening and fishing.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

CHUCK KENNEY SEPTEMBER 11TH
CURT HASART SEPTEMBER 18TH
JERRY PRESTON OCTOBER 2ND
JUSTIN PATRICK OCTOBER 22ND

A big thank you to the Mission Thrift Shop for a donation to purchase prevention materials for adults and kids.

Automatic External Defibrillator locations in Wellington-All Schools, Tect Aerospace, GKN, Aquatics Center, Golf Course, Recreation Center, City Hall, Knights of Columbus Hall, Electric Department Trucks, Wellington Lake, Triumph, Sumner County Jail, Botkin Health and Rehab

Upcoming Classes & Events

September 23-24 HOT Fire Classes in Wichita
October 11th Trauma Symposium in Wichita
October 20-22 Fire Chiefs Conference Garden City
October 23rd Pediatric Class Arkansas City
February 2018 Driver Simulator Wellington



Around the Station

Staff provided standby at the Slate Creek Great Race.

B shift attended Futures school kickoff family night.

Staff has began testing 415 fire hydrants within and outside the city limits maintained by the City of Wellington. Testing should be completed by mid October.

Chief gave a presentation at the Senior Citizens Center on fall safety and other safety subjects.

Staff met with SRMC nursing staff to discuss patient care.

All KNOX key boxes in town were checked to ensure that the current keys could still make entry into the structure. The key boxes are beneficial as we do not need to carry 75 plus keys in multiple vehicles and then fumble through the keys to find the right one during an emergency.

Due to diminishing radio signal because of federally mandated narrow banding the department has adopted a policy that directs personnel to change from the Wellington Fire/EMS channel to other county channels in certain areas of Sumner County for communication.

We now have access to the cities Facebook so watch for timely prevention tips, emergency scene reports and other information.

Staff collected \$2554.94 for Muscular Dystrophy during the Labor Day weekend. Thank you to all that donated!

Staff was invited to attend a September 11th lunch at Lincoln Elementary.

Thank you to everyone who brought food and treats to the fire station in recognition of September 11th.

