

# THE SIREN

September/October 2018

## WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

### Split Second Decisions

Emergency responders are required to make multiple decisions at emergency scenes in a matter of a few seconds that could make the difference in loss of life or property. There is no "sleeping on it", getting opinions or doing research. As the officer in charge of the shift the decision making process starts immediately after 911 dispatch notification comments. Some of the decisions made while responding are the route to take, additional resources that may be needed, type of equipment for the call, and safety considerations. When staff arrive on scene is when decision making process speeds up and becomes more critical. For instance

upon arrival at a structure fire a radio scene report is given, apparatus placement is determined and a fire hydrant must be located. The officer in charge then needs to perform a 360 of the structure and read the fire and smoke conditions to determine the point of entry for fire attack, how search and rescue will be conducted if needed, what type of ventilation will be used and where, and are there immediate hazards to be addressed such as electrical lines down and potential collapse. There are utilities that need to be turned off gas/electric and a primary search for victims to be performed. Accountability or location of staff at an emergency scene is very important and probably the

most difficult as many tasks are being performed simultaneously. The fire officer is constantly monitoring radio traffic, making decisions on further deployment of hose lines, and always planning ahead in case Plan A does not work. Whether to go defensive (pull staff out of the structure) or go offensive (attack the fire from the inside) is always on the incident commanders mind. Building construction, response time, and fire involvement impact the decision to risk a lot to save a lot. Difficult decisions made at an structure fire are based on firefighter safety, victim survivability and containing fire to one structure.

By Tim Hay

### New Ambulance

Wellington Fire/EMS has taken possession of a new 2018 Ford 450 pickup chassis ambulance manufactured by Emergency Services Supply in St. Louis, Missouri. The new ambulance is very similar to our ambulance purchased in 2017 with the exception of more black striping/paint and is replacing a 2008 model. The new

ambulance cost is \$209,000 and comes with a power cot to prevent back injuries. The department has a fleet of three ambulances that responded to over 1700 EMS calls in 2017 and call volume is increasing each year. The department has been phasing out heavy duty and van type chassis ambulances over the last several years in favor of the truck chassis ambulance.



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## Football Injuries



With football season upon us, it is important to talk about a very common and very scary injury that can take place on the field: head injuries, such as a concussion, and/or cervical spine injuries. These injuries can occur playing any position on the field. Some common signs of a concussion include: headache, possible blackout, fatigue, poor balance, poor memory, disorientation, confusion, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, ringing in the

ears and trouble sleeping. Some of these signs and symptoms may be present right after the incident, and some may not become present until hours later. A complete concussion assessment should be done immediately by a qualified medical provider.

Signs and symptoms of a cervical spine injury may include: extreme neck or back pain, weakness, numbness, paralysis, tingling or complete loss of sensation in any part

of the player's body. These signs and symptoms typically show up directly following a cervical spine injury. Whoever is with the player, should keep the player as still as possible and call 911. It is important to leave the helmet on, because if the player does have a neck injury, removing the helmet could disturb the neck causing the player to be injured worse.

By Bradley Robinson

## Fire Extinguishers in the Home

When you walk into a store you usually always see at least one fire extinguisher. All commercial occupancies are required to have at least one fire extinguisher by fire code. Do you have any in your house? Though they aren't

required it is recommended that everyone have at least one fire extinguisher in their home. Here are a few recommendations for placement for extinguisher in the home. You should have one on each level of the home. They should be acce-

ssible and be close to escape paths. Place them close to hazard areas such as the stove but not right next to it. If they are too close to the hazard then they may be inaccessible if there is a fire. A 5# ABC extinguisher

is adequate for the home. In a garage or workshop a 10# ABC extinguisher is recommended. Be sure to have them serviced each year to keep them in working condition.

By Harold Parkey



Vehicle Extrication Training

## Department Training

Class presentations in house for August/September were splinting, behavioral emergencies, fire investigation, vehicle extrication, rapid sequence intubation, hazardous materials decontamination, and airways. Seven staff attended the KEMSA conference at the Kansas Star, Bradley Robinson attended exterior firefighting in Clearwater, Four staff members attended a one day training on basement fires in Derby, Two staff members attended an EMS training class on pediatrics in Winfield, Chief attended a leadership class in Wichita and an EMS investigation class in Winfield. Nate Keller attended a two day Incident Safety Officer class in Topeka. Nate Keller and Javan Wright completed Fire Officer I class through Kansas University. Rebekah Murray attended a one day class on strokes in Newton.

## Structure Fire by Matt Harsh

On August 9th at 7:34 PM under the direction of Assistant Chief Sandell the Wellington Fire/EMS C-shift responded to the report of a structure fire at 223 W. 10th. Upon arrival crews found smoke showing from the exterior of the structure and the home owner standing outside stating that there was a fire in the kitchen. Engine 2 crew pulled a

1 3/4 inch attack hose line and made entry into the residence. Crews found fire extending up the wall from the stove and across the kitchen ceiling. A second 1 3/4 line was used from Engine 3 to enter the back door of the residence to assist with extinguishment and searching for any hidden fire in the ceiling or walls. Crews also searched the home for three pet

cats that were still in the home. The cats were located and resuscitation was attempted by firefighters but was unsuccessful. The cause of the fire was deemed accidental. Damages were estimated at \$30,000. Twenty three personnel from Wellington, Oxford, Mayfield and Fire District 9 responded to the scene.

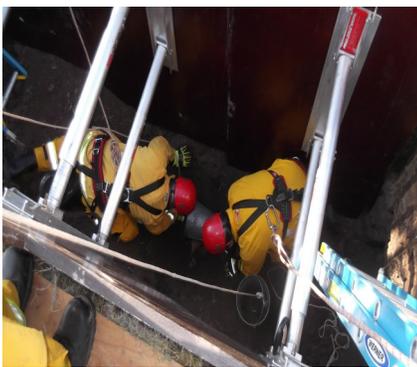
## Department Technical Rescue Training Day

On August 31st the entire department came together for technical rescue training at the old city wastewater plant. Staff obtained practical experience on trench rescue, low angle rope rescue and confined space rescue. These types of incidents do not occur very often but staff must train annually to keep a reasona-

ble skill level for these types of rescues. The department obtained rescue equipment from county homeland security grants several years ago that is still in good shape. The equipment for these types of rescues is kept on trailers at the recycle center and on our Rescue truck. Technical rescues are usually of long duration and re-

quire many resources and staff. If the rescue would require additional resources and expertise a technical rescue team from Sedgwick County would be requested. Their response time would be approximately 1 hour. As our equipment becomes unusable we will need to make difficult decisions on whether to continue to offer some of these services.

## Photographs



Trench Rescue Training



Confined Space Rescue Training



Low Angle Rescue Training

**UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS**

**JERRY PRESTON    OCTOBER 2ND**

**JUSTIN PATRICK    OCTOBER 22ND**

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](mailto:timhay@cityofwellington.net) with that email address.

Thank you to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed to the Fire Pup program to purchase safety literature/items for kids.

**Upcoming Classes & Events**

September 24-28 Driver/Operator Wellington

October 7-13      Fire Prevention Week

October 17th      Public CPR class at 6:00 PM

October 31st      Trick or Treat Downtown

October 29-Nov 1 Aerial Class Wellington



**Around the Station**

C shift did EMS standby at the Great Race.

A shift conducted safety presentations at Advanced Loan.

Attended a public safety job fair at the Workforce Center.

The department safety trailer was taken to Caldwell for the annual KanOkla safety day

Harold Parkey assisted with Arkansas City Fire/EMS officer promotion assessment center

Received a grant from Kansas Forestry for \$525.00 to

purchase booster fire hose and wildland tools.

The State Board of EMS conducted it's annual inspection with no deficiencies found.

Firefighters conducted a muscular dystrophy boot drive at Dillon's and Walmart collecting over \$1500 in donations.

Staff began performing EMS standbys at sporting events in Wellington and South Haven.

Chief gave a presentation on the departments strategic plan to the Lions Club.



Sam Pacino Fighting Baler Fire South of Wellington