

THE SIREN

November/December 2022

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

Staffing Challenges

On October 27th at 2:46 PM the department received a call of a structure fire at 617 S. Washington. At the time there was only 4 on duty. Two of the four were on their way to Wichita with a patient transfer. Just before the structure fire another EMS call was received at the nursing home on West 8th. The Captain at the station responded in an ambulance and the Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant who is also an EMT responded from city hall. Once at the nursing home and after pa-

tient contact and the patient loaded on the stretcher the structure fire call was received. The Captain and Fire Chief responded in the Chiefs pickup while the Administrative Assistant got an employee from the nursing home to help transfer the patient (non-serious) to the emergency room. To compound issues the dispatcher reported a train across the tracks adding to our response time. The Assistant Chief who was at the station asked that the department be paged for off duty

personnel to respond. The Assistant Chief responded by himself in an Engine which also had to take the long way around because of the train. Once on scene the Captain took command as his protective gear was not on scene yet and the Fire Chief stretched a hose line to the rear of the structure as soon as the Engine arrived to extinguish the rear of the home and a vehicle which were on fire. As soon as two off duty arrived another hose line was stretched into the interior of the home to extinguish fire in the kitchen. Many times we have minimal resources and do the best we can.

Jerry Preston Retirement

Captain/Paramedic Jerry Preston retired on October 21. Jerry was with our department for 22 years and before that was a volunteer in northern Kansas. Jerry was active in the EMS side of things for our department. Jerry ordered all the EMS supplies, prepared grants, maintained the EMS

protocol and liaison with various medical professionals. A reception was held with family, friends, and co-workers in attendance. Jerry and his wife intend to move to Oklahoma near a lake where he can use a new boat he has ordered and be close to his daughter. Jerry will be missed and we wish him luck.



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Strokes are a major cause of death and disability in the United States. According to the CDC, someone has a stroke approximately every 40 seconds which equates to about 795,000 strokes a year. Strokes are caused by a part of the brain not getting the oxygen it needs. If the brain goes without oxygen for

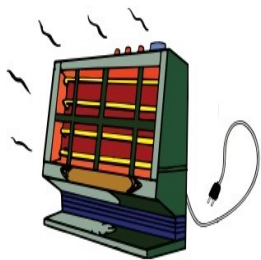
Strokes

a long time, it can cause irreversible damage which makes strokes a time sensitive issue. That is why being able to recognize signs of a stroke is so important for everyone, not just EMS providers. When you think of the signs of a stroke, think FAST. F-facial droop, A-arm drift, S-speech slurring, T-time from first symptoms. If

you see these symptoms in someone, it is crucial that they get medical care immediately!! Either 911 needs to be called or they need to go to the Emergency Room. Do not delay care as minutes count.

By Firefighter/
Paramedic Clayton
Steele

Heater Safety



Well it's that time of year again, Fall is here and with Fall comes cooler temperatures, which brings the need to heat our homes. Home heating comes in many different forms such as fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, gas and electric central heat. When firing up that central heater for the first time this year it is important to be home so that you can

monitor for anything out of the ordinary. If you have a wood stove or fireplace, it's a good idea to inspect your chimney and to clean or have it cleaned whenever there is soot buildup. Soot buildup in chimney's can produce a serious fire hazard, because soot is flammable and if your chimney gets hot enough it could ignite causing a devastating fire. Small space or room heaters

are another source of heat that is used in homes. When using these types of heaters it is VERY important that you place them a safe distance from combustible items. Space heaters should not be left unattended as they could tip over and cause a fire. Remember almost anything in a home can become flammable if you give it the chance. By Firefighter/EMT Cohl Davis



Chad Francisco & JT Yunker at Wichita HOT extrication training (yellow helmets)

Department Training

Class presentations in house for October/November were cardiac arrest, structure search and rescue, trailering, pharmacology, CNS injuries, vehicle fires and inspections. Three staff attended grain engulfment rescue training in Wichita. A shift participated in an active shooter drill with the Blackwell Fire/EMS department in Blackwell. Chief Hay attended the annual fire chiefs conference in Topeka. Three staff attended one day classes during Wichita HOT training. Javan Wright attended a fire investigation class in Newton. The department conducted a two session incident command class for county fire departments. Bradley Robinson is now a certified fire investigator after completing 160 hours of classroom and practical training.

Structure Fire

The department was dispatched to the first chimney fire of the fall season in the east end of town in October. When crews arrived they found flames burning vertically up the exterior of a wood framed chimney chase on a modular home. The fire was quickly extinguished with one hose line. Incoming personnel helped to overhaul the burned portion of the structure inside and

outside the home. Department investigators worked to determine the cause and it was found to be a defective/out of code chimney. The home suffered exterior damage and some smoke damage to the interior but was saved and could be occupied after repairs. Extra precautions should be taken when using fireplaces, wood burning or pellet stoves. In order to stay safe a professional

should inspect and clean these devices to ensure they are in proper working order at the beginning of each heating season. This home had working smoke detectors that alerted the occupants. Make sure your smoke detectors are operational by checking each month.

By Captain Jeremy Wiens

Officer Corner by Asst. Chief Vic Sandell

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial is located on the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The memorial was constructed in 1981, the 7-foot monument features a sculpted Maltese Cross. Plaques encircling the monument list the names of the men and women of the fire service who have died in service of their communities. A brick Walk of Honor winds through the

campus, connecting the monument site to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel. The Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial is located next to the Kansas Firefighters Museum in Wichita. The memorial was dedicated in June 2002, and consists of a life-sized bronze statue of a firefighter discovering the helmet of a fallen comrade, engraved bricks, and a memorial

wall with the names of fallen Kansas Firefighters.



Photographs



Structure Fire 1100 block North A



Grass Fire 40th South and Broadway



Structure Fire 600 block South Washington

Upcoming Projects, Training, Events

Storm Siren installation
Air conditioning replacement
Ambulance remount

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter by contacting timhay@cityofwellington.net

If any organization/business would like a "Stop the Bleed" class (30 minutes in length) contact the fire station at 620 326-7443.

Smoke detectors are available from the department at no cost. Combination smoke carbon monoxide alarms are available for home owners only.

Fire extinguisher use class available from the department by calling 620 326-7443.

HOLIDAY DECOR
Fire Safety Tips

Water natural Christmas trees daily.

Look for damage when using old lights, including frayed wires.

Trees should be placed on stands with wide feet to prevent tipping.

Do not leave burning candles unattended.

Make sure candles are kept out of reach of children and pets.

Be sure to properly secure outdoor lights and decorations.

GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPT.

Visit the Fire/EMS website at cityofwellington.net or call 620 326-7443 for more information. Join City of Wellington Fire/EMS Facebook

Around the Station

B shift participated in the Fall Festival activities with employment information and vehicles.

The 4th annual golf tournament was held on September 24th with 168 players participating

The departments safety trailer was taken to Caldwell for Kan-Okla annual safety day 250 kids went through the trailer.

C shift attended the Futures Unlimited back to school bash activities.

Fire Pup and A shift were downtown for the candy handout to kids for Halloween. A shift handed out candy at Kennedy Elementary.

A short presentation was given to the local Lions Club.

The kitchen was finally completed and looks great.

All shifts visited local apartment complexes with fire safety messages and goodies for kids.

B shift gave tour to Lincoln kindergartners.

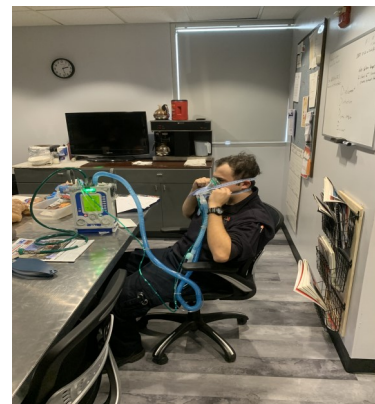
A shift participated in an active shooter drill in Blackwell.

Staff visited all 5 elementary schools during Fire Prevention Week and gave presentations to all grade levels.

C shift visited Wee Too Pre-school during fire prevention week.

A shift gave a safety presentation and tour to a Cub Scout Troop.

B shift installed new speakers in the apparatus room.



Clayton Steele teaching an airway class demonstrating CPAP and BiPAP.