

THE SIREN

November/December 2023

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

Chief Tim Hay Retires

If you've been following our Facebook page, you probably know by now that Chief Tim Hay has retired from the City of Wellington. Tim was Chief of WFD since 2010. Prior to Wellington, he held the position in Saratoga Springs, Utah, Parsons, KS; and Mission Township in Topeka. In total, Tim has worked 45 years in Fire Service.

On September 15, the department hosted a reception for Chief Hay, with many retired former co-workers of Tim's in attendance.

Chief Hay leaves some big shoes to fill. Currently, the city is in-

involved in the hiring process for his replacement. In the meantime, we are all pitching in to do our part to keep the department fit to take care of the community we love and to live out our Mission Statement:

Do the Right Thing

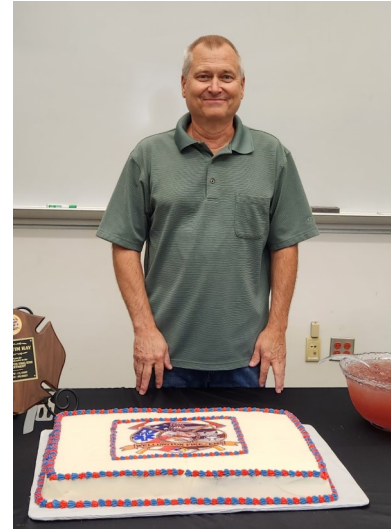
Respect our Citizens and Each Other

Competence, Compassion, Fairness "Always"

Everyone Goes Home.

Enjoy Retirement, Chief!

~ C. Smith, WFD Admin. Asst.



New Employee

We welcome Luke McCombs as a new employee. He started his training on October 25th and his first day on B shift was November 14th. Luke lives locally and has worked for Caldwell EMS. Luke is currently in paramedic class at Cowley College and will graduate in August of 2024. Luke was WFD's first scholarship recipient in 2020.



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The Dangers of Sleep Deprivation

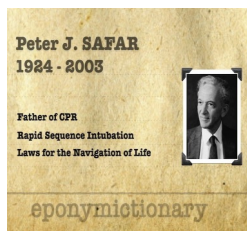


How many first responders experience sleep deprivation? Most of us get enough sleep at home in our own beds, but as time goes on, fewer and fewer first responders are getting the restorative sleep that is needed to sustain us. The problem is that emergency services personnel are becoming more sleep-deprived because of getting less sleep while on duty for a variety of reasons, such as ever-increasing call volume, decreased staffing, and automatic- and mutual-aid call volume

These current conditions mean that EMS personnel and firefighters are frequently running on empty in terms of quality and quantity of sleep. Research indicates that poor and inadequate sleep can be problematic from a health standpoint. Sleep deprivation is linked to numerous human ailments, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, immune system malfunctions, which can include obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome.

Sleep deprivation can affect decision-making skills, judgment, and coordination. The risks of sleep deprivation to the emergency services, such as EMS and firefighting are clear: Sleep-deprived personnel are unsafe and they may be subjected to higher risk for health complications.

The History of CPR



In the modern age, almost everyone has heard of CPR. However, the concept of CPR has not been around forever. Before CPR was invented, people would be placed on their stomach and their arms were flapped behind their back like a bird. In 1956, a brilliant physician by the name of Dr. Peter Safar

publicly displayed his life saving invention of CPR which demonstrated that CPR was capable of saving people who were not breathing. Besides inventing CPR, Dr. Safar helped develop the first Paramedic Ambulance in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr Safar also helped develop the field

of anesthesia and is considered to be the father of the modern ICU. It is hard to imagine that one man would do so much for emergency and critical care medicine.

By FF/EMT-P, Clayton Steele

Department Training



Countywide Training Day

Class presentations in house for October/November were cardiac arrest, search and rescue, mass casualty, pharmacology, electric vehicle fires, hazardous material decontamination, forcible entry and CNS injuries. Casey Hayes and Clayton Steele completed the week and half Driver/Operator course through KU. Casey Hayes received his Instructor I certification. Wellington hosted a countywide training day on various subjects. Cassy Smith attended the fire administrative assistant conference. All staff participated in a half day technical rescue class. Participated in a training exercise (fire) with the nursing home located at 1600 W. 8th.

HazMat Call—Anhydrous Leak

On October 18th at approximately 8:00pm ,Wellington Fire Department was called to the 100 block of north Bluff Rd to assist Argonia FD with an anhydrous leak. When units arrived, it was found that 2 farm implement anhydrous nurse tanks were leaking anhydrous in a field with a house nearby. The anhydrous cloud filled the incident area quickly due to there being no wind and the leak could not be stopped.

There was a report of the house nearby with a family of 6 entrapped due to the anhydrous cloud engulfing the house. An extraction crew was quickly established and 6 people were evacuated without injury due to the quick thinking of the firefighters on scene. US Highway 160 was shut down for several hours and 4 square miles of the area were evacuated as a precaution until the anhydrous cloud dissipated.

Other agencies that assisted were Mayfield FD, Sumner County sheriff's department and Kansas state highway patrol.

By FF/EMT Cohl Davis

Officer Corner

Recently I have been asked by a couple of friends how I feel about my job. My answer to them

without any hesitation is "I wouldn't want to do anything else!" I will admit after 26 years at

Wellington Fire/EMS, there have been some great days and some days that I would rather forget.

I chose this job because I like to help people and no 2 shifts are the same. I was raised to help

those that need help whenever possible. In this job we see people in their worst and do our best to turn

To both it may be the worst day of their life, but we treat them to the best of our ability.

Hopefully by the time we leave them at the hospital they are comforted and at ease. Another reason I

like this job is that it is never the same from shift to shift. We may not run but 1 or 2 calls one shift but then the next shift we may run 10 calls. Every call is different in its own way. No two vehicle accidents are the same, even if they are at the exact same spot. There are many reasons I dislike my job at times, but

what job is not like that. I am away from my family for 24 hours at a time. In my career I have seen several things I wish I hadn't. Those things will stick with me forever. I have missed several family events over 26 years for sure. However tough, I would not change my career for any reason. I have my Family and my fire department Family, and I wouldn't be who I am without both. This truly is the best job in the world. I am blessed to have a job that I enjoy and allows me to interact with many people.

By Asst Chief/EMT, Harold Parkey

Photographs



Former WFD employees at Chief Hay's Retirement Reception



Fire Prevention Week—Christian Academy



House Fire 500 block E 3rd

Upcoming Projects, Training, Events

AC installation

Technical rescue training November 15th

New roof on public safety building

Bids sent out for new Custom Fire Aerial Platform Truck.

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.



Around the Station

Staff visited all five elementary schools during fire prevention week and gave classes to pre-school through 5th grade.

Participated in the Wellington High School homecoming parade.

Participated in the Chambers Fall Festival.

Held a CPR/Stop the Bleed class for electric distribution.

Held a CPR/Stop the Bleed class for the public with

Gave out candy during the Halloween trick or treat downtown.

Participated in the annual Cowley College health and

services day.

Staff along with water distribution tested fire hydrants throughout the city and county.

Staff held another successful golf tournament on October 7th with 164 participants that raised money for high school scholarships and non-perishable food items.

The department received a grant from the State of Kansas in the amount of \$17,640 to purchase 800 radio's for five apparatus.

Staff worked on our training site at the compost site to install windows and doors to the training containers.



Trick or Treat Down the Street