



Enroute

with
Fire Chief Richard Bowers

Issue #3

February 2012

Safety 101

Giving new meaning to the statement "Safety in numbers," over 1000 students in Montgomery County Public Schools have participated in the fire department's Risk Watch safety program so far this school year. The Risk Watch classroom curriculum focuses on preventing the most common childhood injuries and is designed to cover eight key topics including fire and burn prevention, motor vehicle safety, bike and pedestrian safety, water safety, choking, suffocation/strangulation prevention, poison prevention, fall prevention and firearms injury prevention.

The classroom instruction is part of the Risk Watch Injury Prevention Program, a comprehensive injury prevention curriculum developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the Lowe's Home Safety Council and aligned with the State of Maryland's Standards of Learning. Any personnel interested contact Beth Anne Nessel at 240-777-2463

Lifesaving starts here

Physio-Control's Lifenet technology that transmits heart rhythm data and vitals was showcased in a high profile media event at Suburban Hospital on January 18, 2012. Media were on-hand to see firsthand how this technology is saving lives and enhancing the ability of first responders to provide diagnosis and critical patient care in the field. Media were invited to see the technology from initial diagnosis through to activation of the hospital's "Code Heart" team.

All County hospitals which have the Cardiac Intervention Center (CIC) designation from the State of Maryland, including Suburban Hospital, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Washington Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital, collaborated with MCFRS to implement the LifeNet System. Each of the hospitals contributed toward the initial equipment purchase and has agreed to support ongoing expenses.

Looking for a few good Mentors

The Montgomery County Public Schools has contacted MCFRS and is recruiting mentors for several of its schools. If you're interested in finding out more and possibly changing the life of a child, call the PIO's office at 240-777-2474.

Extreme Makeover

The MCFRS public education website is your one-stop shop for everything you need to know (almost). The newly redesigned public education portal was engineered for improved functionality with an easy-to-use interface and online tools. The design incorporates an enhanced navigation system enabling users to “grab and go” important content. Find everything from the latest news advisories, media events, safety initiatives and information, County laws and regulations to what’s being tweeted and blogged. As with any major site launch, we expect that you will have some immediate feedback and we look forward to hearing more about how we can further improve the site. You will continue to see additional enhancements and new functionality on an on-going basis. Please connect with Beth Anne Nessel with any suggestions or ideas . . . stop, click and check it out: www.mcf.rs.org/mcsafe.

Smoke Alarms

We all know that smoke alarms can save lives. One common denominator in all of our fire deaths over the last two years has been the absence of working smoke alarms. Many of you who conduct the Saturday Door to Door program also know that of the few homes you actually enter, most have at least one alarm that does not work, and usually requires a new battery and/or new alarm installation.

The other big issue some of you, and our Community Outreach Staff (COS), are observing in these homes is the smoke alarms are well beyond their 10 year shelf life. Field and COS have also seen recent cases where alarms were 20 plus years old!

All of these issues highlight the continued and vital need to make sure our residents have working smoke alarms! Obviously your participation in the Saturday Community Outreach program is critical.

SMOKE ALARM QUIZ

Test your knowledge on the current technology and history of residential smoke alarms by taking the true/false quiz below:

1. ALL residential smoke alarms are required to be replaced every ten years?

True: _____ False: _____

2. To silence your smoke alarm after witnessing a known nuisance alarm such as a little bit of smoke from burned toast you should simply press the test button.

True: _____ False: _____

3. Battery operated smoke alarms may never need to have the battery replaced during their ten year life span.

True: _____ False: _____

4. Due to changes in construction codes and stricter mandates on materials used for carpeting and furniture, people now have a longer period of time to escape their home after the smoke alarm sounds:

True: _____ False: _____

5. The first electric fire detector was invented in 1911

True: _____ False: _____

6. More than half of the fire deaths that occur in the United States every year occur in homes with missing or non functioning alarms.

True: _____ False: _____

7. You run a home for an activated detector and discover that the device is a combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm that is still sounding. By listening to the alarm you can distinguish if it is smoke activation or CO activation by counting the number of beeps.

True: _____ False: _____

*** Answers on the next page**

SMOKE ALARM QUIZ Answers

Test your knowledge on the current technology and history of residential smoke alarms by taking the true/false quiz below:

1. ALL residential smoke alarms are required to be replaced every ten years?

True: NFPA 72, the National Fire Alarm Code, requires the replacement of any residential smoke alarm that has been in service for more than ten years.

2. To silence your smoke alarm after witnessing a known nuisance alarm such as a little bit of Smoke from burned toast you should simply press the test button.

True: Over the last ten years almost every smoke alarm made now has a Silence/hush feature that will quiet the alarm for up to 8 minutes and then go back into normal mode. If yours does not do this, refer to question #1

3. Battery operated smoke alarms may never need to have the battery replaced during their ten year life span.

True: Battery operated smoke alarms powered by a long life lithium battery will normally not require a battery change for the decade long life span of the device. In most of these, the battery is sealed inside the unit preventing its easy removal.

4. Due to changes in construction codes and stricter mandates on materials used for carpeting and furniture, people now have a longer period of time to escape their home after the smoke alarm sounds

False: Over the last several years, burn tests conducted in today's typical home clearly demonstrates that escape time has greatly decreased

5. The first electric fire detector was invented in 1911.

False: The first electric fire detector was invented by Francis Robbins Upton, an associate of Thomas Edison in 1890.

6. Half of the fire deaths that occur in the United States occur in homes with missing or Non-functioning smoke alarms.

False: According to the National Fire Protection Association and the US Fire Administration it was **more than two thirds**. Of those that died in homes with functioning alarms, the majority were unable to escape due to age, drug/alcohol use or physical disability.

7. You run a home for an activated detector and discover that the device is a combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm that is still sounding. By listening to the alarm you can

distinguish if it is smoke activation or CO activation by counting the number of beeps.

***True:** While most combination alarms have a voice feature, Many of the alarms only distinguish a difference by the number of beeps. This is allowed by NFPA 720-9.6.3.2 but what home owner is even aware of this? The good news is, IF they call us, we have the tools available to test for CO or other gas levels in the home.*

EMS Today

EMS Today, the JEMS Conference and Exposition, is once again coming to Baltimore. The dates are February 28-March 3, 2012. You can check out the details at www.emstoday.com. This is a national conference of 'all things EMS' and a great opportunity to attend a conference of this magnitude without incurring travel costs.

MCFRS has qualified as a "Top Buyer" which allows each provider from our organization to receive a **\$50.00 discount** off the price of the Gold or Silver Package. To obtain the discount you should follow the directions listed below:

Use this link: <http://www.emstoday.com/DP177>
Clicking on this link will automatically apply the \$50 discount.

Or if you go through the main website, www.emstoday.com you will have to manually put in the priority code DP177 to generate the discounts.

Patient Refusal Documentation

On average, Montgomery County runs approximately 6000 EMS calls each month. Of those, 600 are refusals. Properly documenting a patient refusal is extremely important.

Recently, the QA office reviewed several months of patient refusals. That review indicated that there were some patient refusal ePCRs which omitted important information.

This is a reminder that the following should be present on **ALL** patient refusals:

- PATIENT'S NAME
- CHIEF COMPLAINT
- MENTAL STATUS
- A COMPLETE SET OF VITAL SIGNS
- A COMPLETE NARRATIVE THAT INCLUDES:
 1. THE **PATIENT'S** OWN WORDS DESCRIBING
 2. WHY THEY ARE REFUSING
 3. THE **PATIENT'S** SIGNATURE

*** IF A HIGH RISK C/C IS PRESENT YOU MUST CONSULT THE HOSPITAL**

**Remember, the unit report is never to be used to document a refusal. An e-PCR must always be completed.

Outstanding work!

PE701
Capt. Russell Blinkhorn
FF3 Joseph Skinner
FF3 Brian Vane
MFP Michael Schwab

A701
FF2 Geoff Olds
IIFFF2 C. Xenohristos

PE719
Capt. John Hanagan
FF3 Joe Comproni
F3P Shawn Goodbrod
FF3 Bryan Riley

On the morning of January 23, 2012, the units/personnel identified above were dispatched to the Silver Spring Professional Building at 1109 Spring Street, for an unconscious person-ALS2. Upon arrival, bystanders identified an adult male patient who was found to be unconscious with agonal breathing and no pulse.

A review of the well-documented e-PCR indicates that a superb job was done by all of the personnel. This was an event that clearly required considerable, aggressive and precise interventions in order to achieve the outcome that occurred – delivery of a viable patient to the ED. The patient is still being “cooled” at HCH, but is scheduled to begin re-warming today.

This is an outstanding example of all facets of the system, working together for the best outcome possible. Major kudos to *everyone* on the incident. This type of positive outcome can only be accomplished with *everyone* working in sync.

Training

February is dedicated to our yearly recertification requirements. All of the certified chief officers are engaged in the train the trainer program for the delivery of the 2012 MCFRS Training Initiative. The final Taking Care of Our Own (TCO3) program will be finalized by the end of the month. The MCFRS chiefs will be delivering the in station training during March and April. Good Stuff!!

MCFRS Tappin' Out

The following personnel have retired since our last issue. We wish them the best of luck in the next chapter of their life!

Battalion Chief Kenneth Korenblatt – Fire and Explosives Investigation Section