



# Enroute

with  
**Fire Chief Richard Bowers**

Issue #4

March2012

## County Executive's FY13 Operating Budget

County Executive Ike Leggett will transmit to the County Council his FY13 Operating Budget on Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. The council will then deliberate the various departments's needs and can either add to or take away from the final budget. It will become permanent in late May. MCFRS will publish, when possible, the hearing dates and times.

## Recruiting News

Recruit Class 35 started the Training Academy on February 27, 2012 with 36 recruits. This class is slated to graduate on April 20, 2012. Recruit Class 36 is slated to have up to 55 recruits, who will enter the Academy in June, 2012. Both RC 35 and 36 will be made of up personnel who possessed firefighting/EMT experience prior to their application. Approximately 1100 applicants for Recruit Class 37 took the written test in January 2012. Approximately 900 of these applicants are completing their oral interviews in February and March of 2012.

The Recruiting Section would like to thank MCFRS personnel for referring friends and family to take the written examination in January. Applicants were asked to fill out a brief survey after the test and listed more than 30 MCFRS personnel who personally referred them to the job.

Prior to the December entrance exam, the Recruiting Section created a marketing plan to target returning military veterans. Recruiting then attended a veteran's hiring event and worked with several veterans' support groups to distribute our position announcement. Thanks also goes to Dwayne Harris for his diligence in ensuring several returning veterans navigated the application process and made it to the written test.

The Recruiting Section will be attending a Government Career Fair on March 14 at Springbrook High school in Silver Spring.

## No Shortage of Work

The 2011 holiday season was an extremely busy one for the department with a number of major fires and incidents and it has continued into 2012. On a very sad note, on Monday February 20, we had our first Fire Fatality for 2012 in Montgomery County.

Units were dispatched to 7600 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park at 2:15 am First arriving units discovered some smoldering clothes and towels in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor apartment and located the victim being attended to by her granddaughter. Investigators believe that the victim's clothing caught fire when she was smoking in bed and investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature. The victim suffered severe burns over 80% of her body and died shortly after transport to MedStar. The 56 year-old grandmother lived in Takoma Park and damage estimates were \$1000.

Additionally, several significant fires in the last week have displaced a number of residents:

**Valentine's Day - 9 residents were displaced** in Silver Spring in 2 separate fires on Valentine's Day evening and the following morning. Investigators believe that the fires were started by space heaters being used in each of the homes. The high cost of heating homes combined with efforts to save energy, raises the potential for an increased use of alternative heating sources. If you choose to use space heaters, please exercise extreme caution

**February 16<sup>th</sup>** – just before 7 am FF responded to the 8700 block of Barron Street in Silver Spring (Foxhall Apartments). This was a 2-alarm fire with over 55 FF responding and bringing the fire under control in about 15 minutes. **15 residents were displaced** and 1 person transported to the hospital for evaluation.

**Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** – just after 6:00 p.m. a three-alarm fire in Aspen Hill left **60 residents displaced**. (32 units impacted)

That's **84 residents** displaced from their homes due to fire in just the past week.

## MCFRS Family Support

MCFRS Family Support Network - Several inquiries have been made regarding how to contact our MCFRS FSN. Personnel are encouraged to contact our MCFRS Family Support Network by email at [MCFRS.Family.Support.Service@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MCFRS.Family.Support.Service@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## EMS Section

Please join me in congratulating the following personnel who have, within the last 6 months, successfully completed the process to become ALS providers for MCFRS. All MCFRS firefighters are strongly encouraged to enroll in the paramedic training program.

### EMT-Intermediate

Dean Ho, BCCRS  
Alex Ordoobadi, BCCRS  
Alex Baden, BCCRS  
Avital Cooperman, RVFD  
August "Gus" Hinz, RVFD  
Jason Kessler, Station 13  
Brandon Shaut, Station 35

### EMT- Paramedic

Aryeh Singer, BCCRS  
Dan Pauley, DVFD  
Alicia Raush, PSCC  
Gustavo (Gus) Lavin, Station 23

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. Great Job!

**Two Important Messages from the Records Management Office concerning ePCR reports:**

\*\*Remember you must change/update the crew on calls so that it accurately reflects the crew makeup for that incident. We have discovered reports where the crew names listed are not actually the people on that specific incident. Lawyers who have attained copies of these reports use them to determine the people to subpoena. If your name is listed and you weren't on the call you may receive a subpoena when you actually were not on the incident. It becomes labor intensive to investigate who was truly on the call. Remember this is a legal document accuracy is important. Directions for how this is done can be found in the ePCR end user guide at the following link: [https://www.mcfrrsit.com/Resource/epcr\\_eu\\_guide.pdf](https://www.mcfrrsit.com/Resource/epcr_eu_guide.pdf) The procedure for changing crew names can be found on page 19.

\*\*A Separate ePCR must be completed for each patient, even if they ride in the same Unit! Of late, we have run across the situation where two individual patients have been documented on one ePCR. For many reasons this is not a good practice. It interferes with the ability to search for a specific person and because of privacy laws if someone requests the record we must get release's from both patients.

**Fire Chief's 2012 Training Initiative – TCO3**

The Fire Chief has finished the roll out to the Certified Chief Officers. The MCFRS training initiative for 2012 is titled ***TCO3 Taking Care of your Own***. The program will be delivered to all MCFRS personnel by their respective Battalion/LFRD Chiefs throughout the months of March and April. The program will lead into the In Service Training for the spring. It addresses firefighter May Day and Signal 3 situations, and Health and Wellness information using actual MCFRS practical training scenarios.

**Montgomery County Public Safety Memorial**

The new Public Safety Memorial will be dedicated on April 20, 2012. The ceremony will be held at the site of the new memorial and will begin at 1100 hours. The memorial is located on the campus of the new Public Safety Headquarters at 100 Edison Park Drive in Darnestown. The memorial represents the five public safety agencies within Montgomery County; Montgomery County Police, Montgomery County Fire, Montgomery County Sheriff, Montgomery County Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the Montgomery County Division of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Police. The memorial was built as a public private partnership and is a solemn tribute to all fallen members of the public safety family. All MCFRS personnel are welcome to attend. Dress will be Class A.

**Tappin' Out**

The following personnel have retired since our last issue. We wish them the best of luck in their new chapters and look forward to seeing them at the POTS luncheons!

Master Firefighter Walter Balma – Fire Code Compliance