



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Frederick County Investigation Task Force Awards* — Front Page
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- *Child Seat Safety Schedule*—See Page 5
- *Many fun upcoming events. Check out the last page!*

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Fire Investigators Receive Award



On Thursday evening, October 25th, the 21st Annual Awards Ceremony was held by the Frederick County Sheriff's Office Citizen Advisory Committee. At the ceremony, a Unit Citation was awarded to the Frederick County Fire Investigation Task Force. Honorees included Sheriff's Department Corporal Jason West, Detective Marty Rowe, and Detective Dan Romeril. In addition, a Special Appreciation Award was given to Deputy Fire Marshal Glenn Ruch, Lt Charles Green, Battalion Chief Michael Dmuchowski and Bureau Chief Steve Leatherman of the Frederick County Fire Marshal's Office, as well as to Deputy State Fire Marshal Matthew Wrenn.

In August 2011, the Frederick County Fire Investigation Task Force began an investigation into a series of arson fires in the Jefferson area. The fires spanned several months and a number of sheds and outbuildings were burned. Fire Investigators were able to identify a suspect, and gather evidence in each of the cases to support a prosecution. The suspect in question had a fascination with fire and his excitement in setting fires was progressing at the time of his arrest.

In September 2011, the Frederick County Fire Investigation Task Force assumed the investigation of an arson fire that consumed a mobile trailer behind the Wal-Mart on Guilford Drive. During the investigation, fire investigators not only identified the suspect, but were able to link the same suspect to four residential arsons that had occurred in Frederick City during the earlier part of 2011. Fire investigators quickly built a criminal case against the suspect, who had previously been charged with arson-related offenses, and was a known sexual offender within the County. The Frederick County Fire

Investigation Task Force contacted the Frederick Police Department and coordinated their investigations. The suspect subsequently confessed to the crimes, and re-enacted each arson fire for the investigators.

In December 2011, the Frederick County Fire Investigation Task Force assumed the investigation of several unattached garage fires in the Villages of Urbana. Fire investigators conducted investigations and interviews at the scenes, and located key evidence therein that would later link the suspects to the crime. The suspects were identified and arrested within 24 hours of the initial call for service. The suspects in this case were responsible for nearly \$200,000 in fire loss damages.

Since its inception in 2010, the Frederick County Fire Investigation Task Force has demonstrated the importance of the task force model when conducting criminal fire investigations. Division of Fire & Rescue Services Director Thomas Owens stated "All of the arson suspects were convicted and are currently serving their respective sentences. I am extremely proud of our Fire Marshals and the expertise they provide to this task force model."



L-R: Bureau Chief Steve Leatherman, Lt. Charles Green, DFM Glenn Ruch, Cpl. Jason West, Sheriff Charles Jenkins, Det. Dan Romeril, Battalion Chief Mike Dmuchowski.

Not pictured: Det. Marty Rowe

Recruit Class 16 Conducts “Night Operations”

On Friday September 28th, DFRS Recruit Class 16 began the longest day of their 22-week training program. Night Operations is the nickname of a very long and arduous training day where the recruits have an opportunity to utilize all of the skills and knowledge they have learned since the beginning of the recruit academy.

The 18 recruits began their day at noon performing their normal duties, after which they attended a briefing on what the next 14 hours would entail, and how the rotations for the various events would unfold. Recruit class 16 instructors and unit leaders were introduced to the recruits, and assignments for the beginning of the evolutions were communicated. The annex building of the training academy

was then transformed into a mini super-fire station, housing several fire engines, a tower, a rescue squad, and two ambulances.

Recruits prepared meals, performed “station” duties, and responded to simulated emergency incidents throughout the day. To add realism, calls were dispatched by an off-duty

communications operator who works full time at the Frederick County 911 Center. Each scenario was developed to provide realistic real-world situations in order to give the recruits an understanding of how incidents are supposed to operate in a team environment.

Some of the scenarios were as simple as a basic ambulance call involving an injured person or someone complaining of feeling ill. The recruits were evaluated on how they handled these calls, and



any issues were addressed while the incident was still in progress. Some of the calls involved more complex multi-unit responses to fires, accidents, and rescue-related incidents.

For the first time ever, this recruit class was permitted to invite family members to attend the evening portion of Night Operations, and

approximately 60 family members took advantage of the invitation. Family members arrived around 6:00 PM and were given a brief introduction as to what would be taking place and what they might observe. DFRS staff moved bleachers into position around the burn building to allow families to watch as the events unfolded, and a DFRS staff member provided a commentary as the activities took place.

Recruits responded to about 32 incidents between noon and midnight that night, and then spent another two hours cleaning the apparatus and returning all equipment to the proper units.

The situations were challenging, but the evening combined both fundamental and crucial elements of the training program the recruits completed during their academy experience.





Crews continue to work as other units assemble to suppress the flammable gas fire in the background. The victim was trapped in the driver's seat of the car under the van.



Family members of all ages observed Night Ops and learned a little about the fire service and what firefighters actually do to perform their jobs.



Frederick County Recruit Class 16 posed in front of a 1947 Mack Fire Truck owned by our Volunteer Recruiter, Lisa Lessin

- 1st Row: Abraham Buckman, Daniel Hartman, Adam Cross, Scott Johnson.
- 2nd Row: Stanley Mertz, James Katuna Vince Parrish, Daniel Ging, Seth Pilarcik, Stephen Ward, Matt Johnson, Michael Hussle, Troy Zimmerman.
- 3rd Row: Benjamin McGinnis, Michael Johnson, Kenneth Sollers.
- 4th Row: Mack the Fire Dog; Stephen Wieber, Daniel Kelly

Find us on the Web at
www.GearUpFireRescue.com

Gear Up! Join the Excitement!

Have you ever wanted to be part of the action at a motor vehicle accident?

Does the thought of being part of an ambulance crew sound exciting?

Have you wanted to be a firefighter since you were a child, but didn't know how to make it happen?

If you answered, "Yes" to any of the above, then consider volunteering with one of the most honorable volunteer organizations in Maryland – Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services. Whether serving as a firefighter, emergency medical provider, auxiliary member, or in an administrative capacity, you can make a difference!

Training is free and no experience is necessary!

Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services has twenty-six volunteer

departments within Frederick County, MD. Training to become an EMT and/or firefighter is free and knowing that you are able to aid someone in their greatest time of need is especially rewarding.

We need your help! If you're looking for a challenge, want to develop friendships, do something rewarding, serve your community, and help your neighbors in their time of need, please visit www.GearUpFireRescue.com to learn more about how you can "Gear Up" and make a difference in your community today!



GEAR UP
Join the Excitement!
Become a Volunteer Firefighter or EMT Today!
www.GearUpFireRescue.com



We Congratulate Captain Kevin Fox

The Division is pleased to announce that as of September 8, 2012, Lt. Kevin Fox was promoted to the newly created position of Captain of Safety within the Bureau of Professional Services. Kevin became a Firefighter with the Division in July 1999 and has progressed through the ranks working with career staff and volunteer members at stations throughout the County. Kevin is also a MFRI Instructor and teaches both fire and EMS related programs. Kevin is an active life member of the Guardian Hose

Company and the Thurmont Ambulance Company. Captain Fox worked in Emergency Communications for 9 years before joining DFRS.

Captain Fox has contributed to many successful programs within the Division and most recently shared his professional commitment to service in supporting Recruit Class #16.

He will play a valuable role in continuing the Division's ongoing commitment to Safety.



Captain Kevin Fox



The Division of Fire & Rescue Services is currently recruiting qualified Part-Time Paramedics and Firefighters. Those interested in additional details should access the County's website at:

www.frederickcountymd.gov

Application for the Part-Time positions must be made electronically through the County website. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

“Keep Kids Safe” Child Safety Seat Program

Fully sixty-seven percent (67%) of the child safety seats checked so far this year were found to be installed incorrectly. If you are unsure as to whether or not your child's safety seat is properly installed, please contact the DFRS Child Safety Seat Hotline at 301-600-SEAT (301-600-7328) to schedule an appointment.

The remaining Safety Seat Checkpoint for 2012 is as follows:

Date	Time	Place	Address
Sunday, November 11, 2012	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Spring Ridge Fire Station Station 33	6061 Spring Ridge Pky. Frederick, MD 21701

Let's keep our kids safe!

In Case You Were Wondering . . .

What is the Hazardous Incident Response Team?

The fire and rescue service operates several specialized units that are equipped to respond to incidents that require specialized knowledge, skills and equipment specific to the type of incident. One such unit is the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT). This article will focus on explaining the Hazardous Incident Response Team that operates from the Westview Fire – Rescue Station and provides service to Frederick County.

The HIRT is the specialized tactical company in the fire and rescue service that responds to incidents involving hazardous materials. The HIRT vehicle is a heavy duty vehicle that has very large storage compartments used to carry a wide variety of specialized equipment specifically designed to detect,

In Frederick County, call 911 for Emergencies, or 301-600-1603 for Non-Emergencies

DECON-31
Hazardous Materials
Decontamination
Unit



HIRT-31
Hazardous Materials
Response Vehicle

monitor and control a range of hazardous chemicals found in the Frederick County area or those typically transported on our highway system. The HIRT team also operates a box truck style vehicle that carries all of the equipment needed for decontamination of citizens, emergency responders who have been exposed to a chemical, or hazardous material technicians that have worked in the contaminated environment to control the chemical spill or leak.

Wondering - Continued . . .

The HIRT team is dispatched to a variety of chemical related emergencies that require specialized training and equipment. These include vehicles crashes involving chemical transport vehicles, industrial accidents involving chemical containers, incidents involving agricultural chemicals, flammable liquid and flammable gas emergencies to



Hazardous Materials Technicians apply a leak control patch to a container while wearing fully encapsulating chemical protection suits.

A firefighter uses water to decontaminate a Hazardous Materials Technician during a training exercise.



name a few. The HIRT team carries a variety of chemical reference materials so the team can research the proper procedures to follow to control a chemical hazard. They are equipped with specialized chemical detection and monitoring meters that are used to sample the air or solid/liquid spills to determine if hazardous chemicals are present so they can assess the level of hazard to people and the environment. The HIRT team is also equipped with a variety of equipment to control spilled or leaking hazardous materials and specialized protective clothing that permits the hazardous material technicians to work safely in the contaminated area.

A HIRT team is staffed by a *minimum* of five firefighters that are cross trained as hazardous material technicians. These personnel include a Driver/Operator, Company Officer and three firefighter/EMT's. Personnel who staff the HIRT team operate the Engine Company and Ambulance assigned to the Westview Fire – Rescue Station, and respond to routine fire and medical emergencies. When a hazardous material incident is dispatched, these specially trained personnel respond to the incident with the hazardous materials and decontamination vehicles.



Thanksgiving Fire Safety Tips



Statistics show that there are three times more cooking fires on Thanksgiving Day than on any other day during the year, and they cause more damage to property and claim more lives than residential fires that occur on other days.

DFRS offers these tips for keeping the holiday safe from fire:

- Never leave hot food or appliances unattended while cooking.
- Always be alert when cooking. Do not cook under the influence of medication or alcohol.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire at least three feet from the stove, toaster oven or other heat source.
- Keep the stovetop, burners and oven clean.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothes that can catch fire if they come too close to a burner.
- For recipes that require frying, grilling or broiling food, stay in the kitchen. When baking or simmering foods, check food frequently.
- Hot items should be kept from the edge of counters and tables.
- Create a three-foot "Kid Free Zone" around the stove, and never hold a child while cooking, drinking or carrying hot foods or liquids.

For turkey fryer safety tips, go to
www.frederickcountymd.gov/turkeyfryers



The Annual Marine Corp Toys for Tots Drive has begun.

There will be a collection box in the PSTF lobby until December 17th.

We hope you'll find it in your heart to donate at least one unwrapped gift!



REMINDER!!!

It's time to "**Fall Back**"
Daylight Savings Time ends November 4, 2012.
**Change your clocks/
 Change your smoke detector batteries**

Free Smoke Alarms

The Frederick County Fire and Rescue Service has one of the most aggressive smoke alarm campaigns in the state of Maryland.

As you watch the evening news, you will often see stories of firefighters doing door-to-door checks and installations of smoke alarms in homes after a tragic fire has occurred.

The Smoke Alarm program in Frederick County is a pro-active campaign that is designed to ensure that our citizens have working smoke alarms before a fire occurs.

County career and volunteer firefighters in all of our communities are canvassing neighborhoods to provide voluntary inspections of smoke alarms, and to install smoke alarms for those in need.

Citizens can make appointments to have their existing smoke alarm(s) inspected/tested, or to have a new smoke alarm installed by calling 301-600-7275, or by emailing us at:

smokealarm@frederickcountymd.gov

Keep Your Holiday Safe!



Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat thousands of people for injuries, such as falls, cuts, and shocks related to holiday lights, decorations, and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in hundreds of fires each year, resulting in deaths,

injuries, and property loss and damage.

Keep your family safe this holiday season by following these safety tips.

Trees:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green; needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water.

Lights:

- Indoors or outside, only use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks, to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of

lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).

- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Decorations:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable; keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

Fireplaces:

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2012

- *Bingo—Every Saturday Night in November—Rocky Ridge VFD*
- 1, 2, & 3—Fill the Boot for MDA—Jefferson VFC
- 3 – Public Dinner—Urbana VFD
- 4 – Vera Bradley, Longaberger Basket, & Cash Bingo—Juniors VFD
- 8 – Form A Line Fundraiser—New Market District VFC
- 10 – All You Can Eat Breakfast—Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue
- 10 – Bingo Bash—Emmitsburg Ambulance
- 17 – All You Can Eat Breakfast—Myersville VFC
- 17 – All You Can Eat Breakfast—Rocky Ridge VFD
- 17 – Christmas Bazaar—Woodsboro VFD

December 2012

- 1 – Bingo—Rocky Ridge VFD
- 8 – All You Can Eat Breakfast with Santa—Brunswick Vol. Ambulance & Rescue
- 8 – Bingo—Rocky Ridge VFD
- 12 – Butchering –Urbana VFD
- 15 – Bingo—Rocky Ridge VFD
- 16 – Breakfast with Santa—Emmitsburg Ambulance
- 31 – New Year’s Eve Bingo—Emmitsburg Ambulance
- 31 – New Year’s Eve Party—Lewistown VFD

Walkersville VFC ~ Bingo held every Thursday except during Carnival and Thanksgiving weeks!

AMBULANCE TRANSPORT INSURANCE PROGRAM

The ambulance Subscription Club Program is a supplemental funding plan designed to relieve patients and their family members from costs associated with an ambulance transport that is not covered by insurance. It is available to all citizens of Frederick County.

Types of Memberships & Rates

Senior Citizen	
(per person aged 60+)	\$15.00/yr
Individual (Including Disabled)	\$25.00/yr
Household (three or more)	\$50.00/yr

*****JOIN TODAY AND SAVE!*****

Subscriptions are based on calendar year. Join soon for the best value!

For more information call:

301-600-1308 or 301-600-1644 or go to: www.frederickcountymd.gov/subclub



FIRE & RESCUE COMMUNITY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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