

SIRENS



Winter 2020

News & Information for Albemarle County Fire & Rescue



Anti-bullying Message Teaches Kindness

In October 2019, ACFR public educator Tyler Dean visited Cale Elementary school to talk about bullying. He talked to about 50 kids in the library of Cale Elementary as part of their Unity Day activities.

Unity Day, started by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center in October 2011, is the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month, and is a day when people are encouraged to wear orange and show their support for kids who have been bullied, and for bullying prevention efforts.

To deliver this message, Dean brought about 10 firefighters and police officers to stand around the room. He pointed them out to the students, telling the kids that they could trust the officers. Dean talked to the students about the importance of kindness, and that they should tell someone if they see something they think is wrong.

Every day, more than 160,000 children nationwide stay home from school to avoid being bullied. Not only are the effects of bullying on a child felt immediately, but they can also be lifelong—or even tragic. Efforts like these provide real-world bullying prevention strategies for children.



NEWS BRIEFS

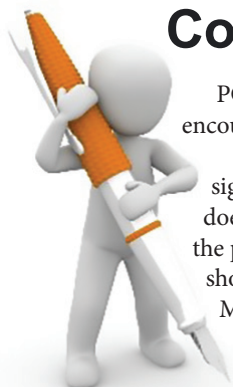
Emergency Management Coordinator

In Nov. 2019, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a proposal to transfer the County's primary emergency management responsibilities from the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) to ACFR. The Board further moved to hire full-time Emergency Management Coordinator for the department.

This move is a long-term initiative to focus more on the needs of County residents. The Emergency Management Coordinator will develop and maintain the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP); coordinate disaster preparedness including County staff training and development; mitigate risks within the community; and develop Albemarle County's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for responding to natural or man-made disasters and leading the recovery process for Albemarle County and its residents.

The Emergency Management Coordinator will report to Deputy Chief John Oprandy as a part of Community Risk Reduction and Resiliency. The application period for the position has ended and applicants are currently being screened.

Compliance Corner



PCRs need to have 3 signature boxes and at least 2 signatures, but 3 signatures are encouraged.

One signature should be from the provider who is caring for the patient. Another signature could be the patient's (to be received when giving care, as long as doing so does not impede patient care or upset the patient). Make a note on the PCR as to why the patient did not sign (e.g., patient unable to sign due to distress). The last signature should be from a person at the receiving hospital (e.g., turn over nurse or doctor).

Make sure the signature is recorded correctly as to who is signing.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Davis, EMS Billing Specialist, at (434) 296-5833, ext. 3102, or by e-mail at cdavis@albemarle.org.

In this Issue

- Letter from the Chief2
- Fitness & Nutrition3
- Santa Run4
- Recruit School 16 Graduation5
- Celebrations6
- Horse Rescue7
- New Hires8



Both Albemarle County and ACFR have seen significant growth in recent years. As you know, the organizational structure of ACFR has remained largely unchanged, despite our own growth and the changing needs of the community we serve. In 2019, executive staff looked at how to best restructure ACFR to meet current and future needs. The goals of the restructure were to:

- Achieve as much efficiency and effectiveness as possible – organizing work, projects, authority, responsibility in ways to streamline processes, assist in clear communication and/or department knowledge of who does what
- Better distribution of responsibilities among the Deputy Chiefs
- Be innovative, be strategic, and keep High Performance Organizational (HPO) best practices in mind while considering our structure
- Assure our structure and work assignments are aligned with our business operating principles, vision, and values
- Structure the department to accommodate expansion of current programs/commitments over time

Through a series of meetings, surveys, and informal conversations with staff and volunteer leadership, the steering committee considered several alternatives before choosing an organizational chart that outlined the major areas of responsibility that would fall under each Deputy Chief and created a new Chief of Staff position. This new structure allows us to meet the needs of our community, and to strengthen

Recent Updates

The Training Division would like to welcome Captain Dan Spearin and FF Robert Greene to the training family. FF Greene will be the lead instructor for the Firefighter I courses and general support for the division. Captain Spearin is taking over the role of Fire Training Captain. We wish Captain Drew Knick the best as he rotates back into the field.



In light of the impending impact of the coronavirus, we have decided to postpone the Alamo Taphouse Movie Event. We will reschedule when the pandemic threat has passed. We are messaging out the importance of social distancing as a way to contain the spread and should lead by example. We will reschedule for another time.

our relationship with volunteer personnel by cascading support for volunteers throughout the organization.

Operations Section (Deputy Chief Puckett)

- Operations
 - Emergency services
 - Staffing
- Logistics
 - Fleet
 - Facilities
 - Quartermaster
- Policy Development

Community Risk and Resilience Section (Deputy Chief Oprandy)

- Fire Marshal's Office
- Emergency Management Coordinator
- Public Information/Engagement
- Organizational culture – Diversity and Inclusion Plan

Member Services Section (Deputy Chief Childress)

- Training and Professional Development Division
- Personnel Battalion Chief
- Health and Wellness
- Recruitment and retention for career and volunteer members

Chief of Staff / (Mezzoni)

- Budget and EMS Cost Recovery
- Strategic Planning and Organizational Development
- Information Technology

Additionally, while the top-level changes have been made, as Deputy Chiefs work with those in their sections, additional changes to names/reporting structures may be made. These changes will be communicated as appropriate.

Thank you all for the valuable input you provided this summer to help us achieve a more effective and efficient department. I'm excited to see these changes play out over the new year.

—Chief Dan Eggleston

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

How is Albemarle County preparing?

Public safety agencies use a structure called the Incident Management Team (IMT) to plan for and respond to major incidents, including severe weather, public health incidents like COVID-19, or planned large-scale events. The IMT structure allows us to efficiently direct resources and coordinate across organizations. The IMT is meeting at least weekly but will adjust meeting frequency to address our community's needs.

Albemarle County's IMT has developed a multi-phased plan, in alignment with guidance from the CDC, on what measures to take and when to reduce the spread of disease and to maintain our business operations. The plan was developed in coordination with Albemarle County Public Schools and our regional health and public safety partners and is being revised continuously to adapt to the needs we see to achieve our goals:

- **Reduce transmission** among staff
- **Protect people** who are at higher-risk for adverse health complications
- **Maintain essential services** for the public

The phases of the plan are designed to respond to what happens locally—from the current planning phase through to if local cases are reported.

What Can You Do?

First, share this message with your neighbors, friends, and colleagues. Signup to receive these important messages in your inbox at albemarle.org/amaill.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a wealth of resources for businesses, households, schools, and faith-based organizations at cdc.gov/coronavirus. The CDC is specifically encouraging people to:

- **Avoid close contact** with those who are sick.
- **Stay home when you are sick**, except to get medical care.
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer** with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently** touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles)

Complacency of the Bravest

Let's talk about a hot topic for a second shall we? That's right, we're chatting about firefighter fitness and nutrition. Over 50 percent of line-of-duty-deaths are cardiovascular related. When are we going to start taking firefighter health seriously? When will the health and fitness talk stop being just that; talk?

The reaction of some firefighters is a sharp and blustering pushback to the notion of fitness and health. Performing with the same excuses of "I've done it this way and have always been successful", or "I can perform when it really matters". That type of arrogant complacency is one of the biggest hurdles when it comes to making a change in the mentality of fire service health. We've all heard the talk about our jammed packed schedules for the shift, or that we are not here to workout but instead to do the job. When you think about being successful at this profession does being fit and capable to do the tasks ever come into play for you? It should! Whether you're volunteer or career holds no difference when speaking about health and wellness.

When we perform any task on or off of the fireground our heart takes the brunt of that operation. We are called upon at a moments notice and switch from zero to one hundred at the tone of a buzzer. Constantly pushing our fitness boundaries will only help us improve



our ability to execute the basic fireground task, reduce the occurrence of injury, improve the recovery process and increase resiliency. An awareness we all must have is that physical strength, fitness and nutrition are not mutually exclusive.

If you've read this far I applaud you, but if you've read this far and are asking yourself how you can make a change I'll go even further and high five you. The truth of it is, most people

think that the first step is the hardest part and although it's a brave decision to leap into the fitness unknown, continuing with a health program daily is as equally as hard. The workouts that are a success and where improvements are made are an easy form of self motivation. It's the days that you'd rather do anything except be in the gym that are the hardest workouts. Those however, are the most important days for success. You've pushed through something on that day that most people will never do in their lifetime. Which, if you think about it is the mentality that most people have about this profession. To them we do a job that most people won't do. Isn't it time to treat ourselves and our health the way people view us as a profession?

I love being a firefighter and consider it an honor and privilege to be able to serve my community in that capacity. It is our responsibility to ourselves and to each other to take charge of our preparation and fitness for this duty. Train hard so that you will be ready to do the work when you get the call. Remember that being fit is the most basic requirement of a firefighter.

"The future firefighter must have the mindset and attitude that physical fitness is a requirement of their job. It doesn't matter if you are a volunteer, paid on-call or career firefighter, you must believe 100% that physical fitness is a fundamental aspect of your job."

—LIEUTENANT JIM MOSS



On Saturday, January 25th ACFR hosted their annual Awards and Promotions Ceremony at the Doubletree Hotel. This ceremony provided and opportunity for ACFR staff and their families to recognize numerous accomplishments made by staff throughout 2019. The emcee for the banquet was CBS 19 News Chief Meteorologist Travis Koshko, and Chief Thomas Jenkins of the Rogers Fire Department in Rogers, Arkansas delivered the keynote address. The awards banquet wouldn't be possible without the hard work of Captain Nickie Huff.

Santa Run

The Hollymead Fire Rescue- Station 12, ACPD, ACFR admin staff, and ACFR Fire Marshals provided four days of Santa Run in the Hollymead area. Each day the crews start at 0930 and run until about 1700 hrs taking a one hour break for lunch. Crews travel each street playing Christmas music and making stops when citizens come outside. The citizens meet the crews, get a picture taken with the big man himself—Santa Claus and a treat from the crews. Some of the shifts sing Christmas carols while others dressed in tacky Christmas sweaters. In the end the crews handed out 1200 candy canes, posted 756 pictures and one video which had over 12,000 views on Facebook, and countless smiles and hug by everyone. A special thank you to our photographer Justin Morgan and to Santa Claus Larry Bouterie.



Recruit School 16 Graduation



The newest batch of recruits graduated on February 20th. Now the real work begins as they transition to their assigned stations and learn the trade first hand. This is the first class to go through the hiring process without needing any prior experience or certifications. Those who had never stepped foot on an engine before the 24 week school are now ready to serve their community, fully dedicated to their new career.

At the ceremony, Christopher Hein was presented with the coveted Seat Three award. This award goes to the individual who the instructional staff feels possess a natural leadership ability and has excelled at the didactic work, making that person invaluable to the team and organization. Justin Lloyd was presented with the physical fitness award. This award goes to the individual that the PT instructional staff recognizes as someone who understands that fitness is instrumental to being a success in their profession and will push themselves to the max. The leadership stressed the fact that selecting the award winners was challenging as the group was extremely talented and dedicated from the beginning.



FF Christian Castro was chosen to speak on behalf of the recruits. In the course of the speech, he emphasized the comradery Recruit School 16 developed. “The bond that we developed as a class is something special that not too many recruit classes are able to create. In a career where crew members are so dependent on one another, these bonds are precious and vital.

When the tones drop and we don our gear, we implicitly make a promise to one another that we will do whatever it takes to make sure we all make it back to the station and to our families. “

Chief Eggleston left the newest members of the ACFR family with words of wisdom saying “The world is constantly changing but one thing that has not changed is that when people need help they call 911 and firefighters answer that call. The profession you have chosen is a noble one because you are taking the oath to serve others, often under difficult and hazardous conditions.... It is a tremendous responsibility, but one that I am quite sure each of you are prepared to take on.”

The training division is proud to send these five new firefighters into the field to serve the community with pride and dedication. **CONGRATULATIONS, GENTLEMEN!**

Celebrating Years of Service (Stats provided through ImageTrend)

5 years

Orlando Johnson	3/27/14
Aaron Neumann	4/1/14
Laura Hedger	4/21/14
Henry Austin II	5/5/14
Tomas Sullivan	5/5/14
Jason Wilson	5/5/14
Timothy (Michael) Karr II	5/14/14
Chase Melander	5/14/14
Tyler Cersley	6/29/14
Heriberto Valtierra	6/30/14
Ethan Cole	7/1/14
Walt Davis	7/1/14
Joseph Plumb	7/15/14
Zachary Robb	7/22/14
Christopher Simpson	7/27/14
Kim Frazier	8/15/14
Adam Halfacre	8/18/14
Kaye Campbell	8/21/14
Pieter Wollschlager	8/26/14
Matthew Robertson	8/27/14
Nazar Aljassar	9/15/14
Alice Thomson	9/15/14
Tyler Cosgrove	9/15/14
Laura Moran	9/19/14
Daekwon Brooks	10/1/14
Douglas Haas	10/4/14
Neal Rose	10/4/14
Daniel Vega	10/4/14
Emily Zhou	10/4/14
Samer Gaber	10/14/14
David Rocker	10/20/14
Amar Bukvic	10/20/14
Jeff Villia	11/17/14
Mark McGill.....	11/18/14
Vicki S Kirby.....	11/24/14
Allison Snoddy.....	11/24/14
Jeremy A Dornon	11/25/14
Mary M Hartwell.....	12/1/14
Barbara Morris	12/1/14

10 years

Audrey Barrell	1/20/10
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15 years

Mike Walton	11/3/04
Yousef Shakhsheer	11/15/04
Gerald Perry	2/19/05

20 years

Gregory Paquin	11/1/99
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25 years

George Lindbeck MD	1/1/95
Timothy Cersley	1/1/95
Florence Shifflett	1/14/95

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Web ID: ALBEMARLE

**24/7 SUPPORT, RESOURCES
& INFORMATION**

Celebrations

Join us in congratulating Rodney Rich, II, on his promotion to Battalion Chief, effective December 1, 2019. BC Rich also serves as the department's Chief Engineer, which is responsible for overseeing maintenance and operational readiness of CVFD apparatus.



Left to Right: Chief G. Dillon, Battalion Chief R. Rich, Deputy Chief W. Schmertzler

- IN SEPTEMBER, Alyssa Mezzoni and John Burns welcomed their daughter Fiona to the family. She weighed in at 8 pounds 15.9 ounces and 20 inches.
- IN OCTOBER, Liz and Damian Scott welcomed son Dylan. He weighed in at 6 pounds 9 ounces and 20 inches.
- IN NOVEMBER, the Barbaris family welcomed their son Noah into the family. He weighed in at 8 pounds.
- IN DECEMBER, Deputy Chief Heather Childress and Chris Goode announced their engagement
- IN FEBRUARY, Cody and Val Gillespie welcomed their daughter Alexandra. She weighed in at 8 pounds 2 ounces and 20.5 inches.
- IN MARCH Wayne "Jay" Adams passed his NREMT testing, allowing him to join the rest of his recent recruit graduate class in the field. Congratulations FF Adams and an official welcome to the family



On Sunday December 5th, ACFR the Recruitment and Retention Committee held a Fire & EMS appreciation event at Kegler's Lanes. Approximately 40 members representing departments from across the Albemarle County system came out to enjoy an afternoon of bowling, food, and fellowship. Fun was had by all.

The R&R Committee plans to hold regular events to show appreciation for the service members provide to our community and to provide an opportunity to enjoy each other's company in a relaxing and fun environment. Be on the lookout for our next event!

Releases

FF Rodney Winchel BLS & EVOC II
 MFF Zach Matthews..... ALS
 FF Matt Page BLS
 Captain John James..... Captain II
 FF David Carnes DPO
 FF Nathaniel Richardson..... EVOC II
 FF Brandon Britton ALS
 FF Sean Ryan ALS
 SFF Josh Loving ALS
 MFF Foss ALS
 FF Brandon Brooks ALS

WARS

Zachary Armstrong..... BLS
 Avni Malik..... BLS
 Emily May BLS
 Sarah Purgason BLS
 Taylor Vest BLS
 Sam Anderson AEMT
 Ryan Thomas AEMT
 Grace Foster EVOC II
 Phillip Indorf..... EVOC I

Promotions

Wallace Robertson MFF
 John Rebert MFF

2019 Calls for Service

EMS 11,849
 Fire..... 3,550



What or Where is it?

This picture was taken in our community, but can you guess where or what it is?

Send your guesses to acfsirens@albemarle.org by April 10th.

The right guess gets an ACFR swag bundle. **On your mark, get set, go!**

Horse Rescue

November 25th started out pretty normal for the Maupin family, of Heather Crest Place in Crozet, but things escalated quickly and by mid-afternoon it turned into a unique day not only for them, but for members of ACFR as well as a specialized Animal Rescue Team from Culpeper County.

Horse owner Donna Maupin was in Maryland and her son Ethan was tending to the animals on the farm, with early morning feeding. It was brisk out, but he had walked most of the property and still couldn't find Cheyenne, a 16-year-old paint mare. Ethan, along with neighbor Charlie Black, searched and searched, and were then drawn down to a lower field by the constant braying of Poncho, a mini-donkey who was adopted a little over a year ago by the Maupins, and had become best friends with Cheyenne.

Apparently sometime overnight, Cheyenne, a 1,200-pound mare, had crashed through a sinkhole formed in the once solid ground after a small creek on the farm changed course. Ethan and Charlie found Poncho standing over Cheyenne, who was found about eight feet below ground level, up to her belly in mud and water. She was cold and shivering, and unable to free herself.

After finding her, the quick-thinking residents made a call to the authorities and shortly there after members from Crozet, Albemarle County Fire Rescue, North Garden and Western Albemarle Rescue Squad were on scene assessing the situation. It was clear that Cheyenne was in danger, and the decision was made by Will Schmertzler, Assistant Chief of Crozet, to call in reinforcements including vets from Blue Ridge Equine, as well as the specialized services of the Little Fork Technical Large Animal Rescue Team in Rixeyville, VA.

In the hours, Donna Maupin rushed back from Maryland, and crews on scene worked to prepare the location for the arrival of the Little Fork team, gathering blankets, wood for shoring up the hole and assisting the vets from Blue Ridge Equine to keep Cheyenne calm.

Upon arrival, Doug Monaco, Chief of the Little Fork team said, "We don't do anything without the permission of the animal's vet," and after some discussion, the decision was made to sedate the mare while rigging was secured around her to lift her out. Thankfully Bobby Vess, who was given a call, brought his excavator from a nearby job and the plan was to use that to lift the mare.

After several attempts from above the hole, rigging was finally secured around the mare and in a slow, deliberate manner Cheyenne was lifted out of the watery pit, and onto solid ground again. She was very cold and still partially sedated. Donna, who was



Submitted by Firefighter Justin Ide, Crozet Volunteer Fire Department, with the help of reporting from the Crozet Gazette. Photos by Justin Ide

watching from the sidelines said "Everyone looked worried, even a little grim," and continued "I was holding my breath." Cheyenne lying down on one side was obviously weak. Rescuers warmed her with blankets and rubbed her hair dry, and slowly as she came around, she was able to get up and walk up the barn under her own power. After a couple of days of rehab, and visits from Poncho, Cheyenne was able to come home no worse for wear a day before Thanksgiving.

Members from Crozet, North Garden, Ivy Fire Rescue, ACFR and Western Albemarle Rescue Squad all participated in this unique call, but it was the folks from the Little Fork Technical Large Animal Rescue Team that really made the difference. They had the experience and the specialized equipment to make this possible, and for that we thank them.



New Hires

Agency	Name	Start Date
ACFR	David Edward Snyder II	11/1/19
Crozet	Addison Carroll	1/2/20
Crozet	David Paul Bruton	12/19/19
Crozet	Douglas Gernert	12/23/19
Crozet	Kevin Lee Winstead	12/27/19
Earlysville Fire Co.	Trevor Devon Albro	11/18/19
Earlysville Fire Co.	Victor Ramos-Paz	11/4/19
East Rivanna Volunteer Fire.	Kadence Nicole Pfeiffer	12/24/19
East Rivanna Volunteer Fire	Whitney Wissinger	11/6/19
Monticello	Kevin Daniel Freier	11/21/19
Monticello	Lan-Anh Dang	11/11/19
Pantops	Anvitha Kambham	12/4/19
Pantops	Carter Brooks Fisher	12/5/19
Pantops	Danielle Borgonia	1/2/20
Scottsville Volunteer Fire	Raymond Patterson	12/20/19
Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire	Brian Albert Bower	11/21/19
Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire	Charlie Dean	12/18/19
Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire	Cody McCulley	12/18/19
Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire	John West	12/18/19
Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire	Kirthana Logachandar	12/18/19
Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire	Sevele Van Der Werf	12/26/19
Stony Point Volunteer Fire	Colton Rushing	12/4/19
Stony Point Volunteer Fire	Courtney J. Brown-Carter	11/20/19
Stony Point Volunteer Fire	Joshua McKenzie	12/11/19
Stony Point Volunteer Fire	Kristin Allison Blackburn	11/20/19
Stony Point Volunteer Fire	Page Murray	12/13/19
WARS	Abigail Newbury	11/1/19
WARS	Andrew Goodwyn	12/23/19
WARS	Charles Stish	12/19/19
WARS	Hailey Singleton	12/12/19
WARS	Pooja Karandikar	12/12/19
WARS	Sung-Ki Lee	1/8/20
WARS	Teryn Ratcliffe	11/27/19

SIRENS is the official newsletter of Albemarle County Fire Rescue and is published quarterly.

The newsletter is available online at acfirerescue.org with hardcopies distributed to each station.

SUBMISSIONS: Articles, feature stories, cartoons, photographs, upcoming training, station news, and station events and functions are welcome at any time and can be submitted to ACFRSirens@albemarle.org.

