

Columbus Fire-Rescue Newsletter

May 5, 2009
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Rich Cowger, Chief
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Swine Flu Response Policy

With swine flu (H1N1 Flu) being in the media spotlight these days now, it will be only a matter of time before CFR responds to a suspected swine flu case.

The CDC has put forth the following guidelines for EMS response.

Persons with swine flu should be considered potentially contagious from 1 day before to 7 days following illness onset.

Patients will present nasal congestion, cough, fever or other flu-like symptoms.

Dispatch should screen the call prior to EMS arrival for possible swine flu, and if no pre-screening is conducted, the responders should maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from the patient to prevent exposure to airborne droplets from sneezing while conducting the SAMPLE history.

If the patient is suspected of carrying the virus, the PPE requirements for the

EMS responders is gown, disposable gloves, N95 respirator, and safety glasses/face shield.

SCH will need to be notified prior to transport, to allow them time to prepare for the patient's arrival.

Set the patient compartment airflow/ventilation to allow for good airflow transfer, to reduce the concentration of aerosol accumulation where possible.

After the call, the interior of the ambulance will need to be thoroughly wiped down with an alcohol based disinfectant.

As of 5/3/09, the CDC has downgraded the virus's lethality level, however, the Spanish Flu of 1918 started fairly mild, then mutated into a killer virus, so please take all precautions as EMS responders.

CFR Personnel to Receive Alltel Discounts

Would you like to receive 15 to 20% off your Alltel monthly phone bill and get new phones at significant discounts?

With Columbus Rural Fire District #3 now having Alltel as its cell phone provider, these discounts are available to all fire fighters and EMTs part of CFR.

The process involves sending an email to aci.mt.affinity@alltel.com with your agency name, your name, cell phone account #, and phone numbers associated with the account #.

According to the paperwork provided by

Alltel and the State of Montana, you should receive a confirmation email within 3 to 5 days of sending in the info.

At the time of this information, we are waiting on the 3 to 5 day order period, so it will be interesting to see how easy this discount is to get.

May Training Nights

- ◆ May 6- Ventilation- 2nd Story Ops
- ◆ May 13- EVOC
- ◆ May 20- Dinner
- ◆ May 27- Water Rescue (pool?)

Remember- it's the start of a new month and the truck checks are due (again).

Please take care of this, since on a fire is a bad time to find something missing or not working on an engine.

Also, please remember when using engines or department gear (SCBAs) for training nights, to refill or put the gear away in good condition for the next call

May Daytime Training Dates

May 5 (9 AM)

May 19 (9 AM)

HELP!!!

We need photos from the following CFR personnel ASAP for DES ID cards and our lobby roster board:

Vicki Wilson
Eric Wilson
Crystal Gaines
Joyce Bruursema
John Majerison
Jeff Obert
Billie Overby

See Rich or Dayle to get your picture taken. Thanks.

CFR EMTs Need to Sign-up for Shifts

A reminder to all CFR EMTs- you need to sign up for shifts using www.iamresponding.com.

Besides allowing responding personnel already at the station an idea if the call is staffed adequately or a second page is needed, the scheduling is used to calculate your annual ambulance/EMT incentive check. The annual incentive payout is based on BOTH the number of calls actually gone on, PLUS the number

of shifts signed up for.

A reminder as well, those EMTs that are on shift have 1st priority to respond on A4, with the ambulance to be held at the station until the on-call EMTs show up.

This keeps the call responses fair to all EMTs, since most of the EMTs do not live close to the station, or spend a lot of spare time at the station

Reminder Regarding PPE Issuance

We have been fortunate since January, with no complaints being brought forward with regards to missing or monkeyed with PPE from people's gear lockers. However, every wildland season we seem to have another series of problems with gear being taken/borrowed without the owner's permission. This is a reminder that all gear (including radio vests, gloves) are issued to specific individuals, and must

not be used without the owner's permission. You are responsible for maintaining your own gear. If you are missing something, see Rich or Jeff. Most of us have very specific ways we put our gear away after a call, and know when our gear has been messed with. Also, please check your gear weekly for any missing items, since when the tones go out is the wrong time to find something missing.

New Jump Kit Layout on A4

On Thursday, April 30th, the two jump kits on A4 were reorganized for better, more efficient usage on EMS calls.

The green jump kit bag is setup as a primary airway bag, with the O2 bottle, BVMs, airway adjuncts, and ET supplies. The red Tommy pack is setup with your B/P cuffs, bandage supplies, IV kit, and other EMS supplies.

The next time you are at the station,

please take a look at the kits, and let Rich or Loren know how the new layout is working in the field.

There will probably be some further modifications to how the kits are laid out before we are done with this process, so we are asking all to become familiar with the kits, and be patient through this process.

Officer Positions Open at CFR

There are presently openings for the EMS Assistant Chief's position and the Training Captain's position at CFR. John Zinne is stepping down from the EMS Assistant Chief's position and the Training Captain's position has been vacant since February, when Dwight took over the Assistant Fire Chief's position.

If you are interested in either of the positions, please stop in and see Rich to

pick up an application.

The deadline for turning in applications for both positions is May 15th.

Applicants will be required to interview for the positions.

EMS Humor

You might be in EMS if:

You believe a good tape job can fix anything...

You find humor in other people's stupidity

You don't think a referral to Dr. Kevorkian is inappropriate

You believe that "too stupid to live" should be a diagnosis

You have ever witnessed the charge nurse muttering down the hallway "who's in charge of this mess anyway..."

You have ever had a patient look you straight in the eye and say "I have no idea how that got stuck in there..."

You have ever had a patient say "but I'm not pregnant; I can't be pregnant; How can I be having a baby?"

You have ever said (to anyone) "so, did you find the fingers?"

You have ever included a nasopharyngeal airway as part of your evaluation of a patient's "unresponsiveness"

You think discussing dismemberment while eating chicken wings and drumsticks is normal dinner conversation

From the Top

By: Chief Rich Cowger

We all know how today's economy impacts most everything we do, from how far we can drive on vacation to the simple things we can do as a family for entertainment. Well how does that impact us in the Fire Rescue business?

Of course the Town and the Rural Fire District are both tax supported. As the economy dips at times this may mean that taxable evaluations (on which our budgets are derived from) may fluctuate up or down, unfortunately down in this type of economy.

As a member of the Department what does this mean for you? Well while we have been fortunate

that we have not been severely impacted as of yet, it should bring to mind that what ever we are doing keep in mind that we don't want to be wasteful. Little things can eventually impact the larger picture and we want to do all we can to minimize unnecessary spending. Simple things such as turning off lights around the station can help reduce utility bills thus freeing up budget money to spend on other things or making sure that if we take something to drink that we don't waste it by leaving it somewhere for it to get thrown away later.

In the end we really want to concern ourselves with providing the best customer service that we can and that means being responsible to our citizens to make the best use of the monies that they give to us to provide this service.



Keep up the good work and thanks for all you do!

New CFR Personnel

In April, CFR welcomed two new volunteers to its staff:

Loren Deichman

Loren is a paramedic with AMR's operation supporting SMC's Stillwater Mine at Nye. Loren has been a paramedic for 12 years now, lives in Columbus, is married with 2 kids, and has been with AMR's operation since September 2008. Loren sees CFR in 2 years where everyone (EMTs) will be operating at the fullest capabilities of their licenses. This means EMT-Bs with modules, and EMT-Is operating at the full I-level. Rich and Dr. Kane are hoping Loren can help with bringing CFR's EMS response capabilities to these higher levels.

Tara Smith

Tara has been an EMT-B for approximately 2 years now, was employed by SMC, where she was listed as an EMT responder, and is married with children. Tara is presently going to nursing school, and lives out on the Joliet road. Due to the distance from her home to the station, CFR will be setting her up as a QRU from her home location to respond to medical/trauma calls along the Joliet road.

Welcome Loren and Tara to the department.

New Brush Rig under Construction

Last November, CFR took possession of a new Ford 550 chassis, with the plans to replace the aging Brush 49 with a newer unit (Brush 426).

The new brush rig will have a 500 gallon water tank, a Waterous pump, have both water and foam capability, and Rich is hoping to install a remotely controlled monitor on the front bumper, like on Brush 416.

The rig will be setup with both a booster hose, and a mop-up hose reel, to allow for easier handling of ¾" mop-up hose during operations.

The cab will be fitted with seat covers, and a new low profile LED light bar will provide the light package for the unit.

The new brush unit is expected to be completed in mid- June, with the old Brush 49 to be moved out to the Holden Ranch area, where it will be renamed Brush 456, and replace the old Brush 456 unit that was stored there.

Upcoming Outside Training & Events

S-212 Wildland Chainsaws

Location- Absarokee Fire Station

May 15, 16, 17 (starts at 6 PM on the 15th)

DNRC Southern Land Office

SMC 8 Hour EMT CE Training

Location- Columbus Fire Station

May 15 (8 am to 5 pm)

Note: Prior to attending/committing to any outside training, a training request form MUST be filled out and signed by Rich or Dwight.

Medical Corner

Taken from the AST Conference From Field to Healed held in Billings, April 18th, 2009

HELP FLIGHT CALL/LAUNCH CRITERIA FOR TRAUMA PATIENTS- presented by Scott Miller of Help Flight

1. When there is a death in the passenger compartment.
2. When there is an ejection from the vehicle.
3. When there is a prolonged extrication.
4. When there is a train versus auto MVA.
5. When there is an auto versus pedestrian MVA.
6. When there is a near drowning (ER to make determination).
7. When there is falls greater than 15 feet.
8. When there is a head injury with decreased level of consciousness.

When calling into Help Flight, the following information is required:

1. Specific location of scene (GPS coordinates).
2. Patient's estimated weight.
3. Whether a ground ALS unit has been dispatched.

Landing Zone Requirements:

75' x 75'- daylight hours

100' x 100'- nighttime

Landing zone must be a minimum of 300' from patient (ambulance)

All communications with the Help Flight helicopter will be on White frequency and only by the IC or designated person.

In Columbus Fire District #3, the determination to launch Help Flight will be made either by the on-scene IC or the lead EMT on the call.

Help Flight does not charge for launches that are canceled enroute.

This information will be laminated and placed in both ambulances for later reference.

April 2009 Alarms

- 4/1 Trauma-EMS response to fall in residence- Transport to SCH.
- 4/1 Trauma- EMS transport from SCH to BCH.
- 4/2 Medical- EMS response to residence for possible stroke or MI, transport to SCH.
- 4/4 Trauma- EMS response to fall in residence, refused treatment.
- 4/6 Medical- EMS response to Beartooth Manor for possible stroke, transport to SCH.
- 4/6 Medical- EMS response to residence, CPR initiated, transport to SCH.
- 4/8 Medical- EMS response to Beartooth Manor for possible stroke, transport to SCH.
- 4/8 MVA/EMS- Participate in mock DUI accident, Columbus High School.
- 4/10 Fire- Mutual Aid call from Reed Point Fire for chimney fire. Canceled enroute.
- 4/10 Medical- EMS response to MV on Hwy 78, 2 children with breathing difficulties. To SCH.
- 4/10 Medical- EMS transport from SCH to BCH.
- 4/16 Medical- EMS response to business parking lot. CPR initiated, transport to SCH.
- 4/18 Medical- EMS response to residence for dehydrated patient. Transport to SCH.
- 4/22 Trauma- EMS response to residence for hip fracture. Transport to SCH.
- 4/22 Trauma- EMS transport from SCH to BCH.
- 4/24 Trauma- EMS response to residence for hip fracture. Transport to SCH.
- 4/24 Trauma- EMS transport from SCH to BCH.
- 4/24 Medical- EMS response to local business, Transport to SCH.
- 4/25 Medical- EMS response to residence for SOB complaint. Transport to SCH.
- 4/26 MVA- Respond to I-90 accident. Patient assessment and scene safety.
- 4/28 Medical- EMS transport from BCH to SCH.

Total Number of Calls for April: 21

Average Number of Responders per call: 6.1

YTD Call Stats:

Wildland:	9
Structure Fires:	4
Interfaculty Transports:	13
EMS:	38
Public Assistance:	4
Hazardous Conditions:	2
False Alarms:	3
MVA/Rescue:	36
Contract Fires:	0

Total Calls (thru end of April): 109

CFR Training Hours

April: 240.0 hours

YTD: 1362.5 hours

(This only counts in-house offered classes)

From the Photo Archives



Columbus firefighters respond to a night-time chimney fire in mid- January 2009.



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From the Editor

by: Dayle Flynn

Here we go with Issue #2- hopefully things will go easier this time around, since the template has been made. I am still working the bugs out of importing photos into the newsletter, and I think May's newsletter will be made in a desktop publishing format, so I had better start working on the new layout as soon as this issue goes to press.

The wet spring weather has everyone scratching their heads (including me)

wondering what sort of wildland season we will have. At least for the moment, we are being spared going out on controlled burn started fires, and that is a blessing. I think that we may be out of the drought this year, and either we will have a normal fire season starting in late July working into October, or we will have a wet summer. I am personally hoping for a wet summer, to be able to spend some more time with the family this year. Until next issue....

Pack Test Time is Here!

On Saturday, May 2nd, CFR pack tested seven CFR and Reed Point firefighters. Rich has to return the packs/vests to the BLM on May 8th, so we have only a few days to get everyone through the test in large enough groups. CFR will have one pack on hand after May 8th to

catch anyone that missed this testing period.

See Rich, Dwight, or Dayle if you need to schedule a pack test.

**RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE**

