



THE SIREN

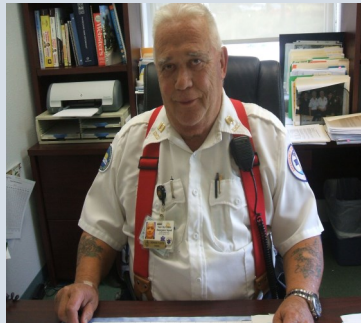
News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

July 2015

From the desk of the Chief

I recently read an article about volunteer EMS organizations. The primary point it made was that in order to survive in today's world, we need to **EM-BRACE CHANGE**.

It is unfortunate that in today's world many volunteer EMS organizations are closing their doors. The reasons vary, but most often include lack of funding or community support, lack of volunteers, increased regulatory or educational requirements. The Squad has seen and felt the impact of all of those issues in its past 50 years.



And it has always survived. But it has done so by being willing to examine itself and identify areas that require change or need improvement. For example, in 2014, changed our bylaws and selected a new Board of Directors. All of this was to address future needs.

This year, our biggest need is new volunteers. We have made some changes to address short-term and long-term needs. We have been reaching out to EMT schools around the Bay area and focusing on our own HCC EMT school. By serving as a place where young EMTs can get experience and become comfortable with their skills, we can fill our ambulance crews during our Summer crunch when we are so short of EMT assistance. We have begun a new monthly recruiting effort also and last month we had 17 prospective volunteers. The recruiting meeting will be held each month on the 2nd Wednesday at 6PM in our training center. Be sure to tell your neighbors.

One more thought on embracing change: **be open to new ideas**. We are only about 1/3 through the summer and we may still need to go to 6 or even 4 teams. With several of our captains being ill and a few additional EMTs having health issues, it might be an option to get by until our snowbirds return. Just saying.

And now I am pleased to say our four EMT students have all passed their exams and have their Florida licenses! Congratulations to Beverly Carnes, Deborah Croll, Cat Rogers and Pam Zion for all their hard work. We know you'll be great EMTs!

And finally a word of thanks to our team schedulers. Thank you for your dedication to filling the schedule. It is a tough job and we appreciate the effort it takes during our summer shortage.

Thank you to all of our summer crews. You are amazing people and I'm proud to be your Chief.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**August 25 —
Summer Appreciation Lunch
Veterans Theater**

**July 8th—
Prospective Volunteer Open House,
Training Center
6PM**

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Spread the Word, but Skip the Infection

How Long do germs survive? It depends on the type of bacteria or virus and what kind of surface they are on. Most bacteria, viruses and fungi need moisture to survive so moisture in the air and surfaces can also affect how long they live outside the body.

Cold viruses have been shown to survive on indoor surfaces for more than a week. In general, viruses survive for longer on non-porous (water resistant) surfaces, such as stainless steel and plastics, than porous surfaces, such as fabrics and tissues. Although cold viruses have been shown to survive on surfaces for several days, their ability to cause an infection starts to decrease after 24 hours.

Most cold causing viruses survive on hands for a much shorter time. Some only last for a few minutes but 40% of rhinoviruses, a common cold-causing virus, are still infectious on hands after one hour.



Flu viruses capable of being transferred to hands and causing an infection can survive on hard surfaces for 24 hours. Infectious flu viruses can survive on tissues for only 15 minutes. Like cold viruses, flu viruses survive for much shorter periods on the hands. After five minutes the amount of flu virus on hands falls to low levels.

Flu viruses can also survive as droplets in the air for several hours and low temperatures increase their survival in the air.

Stomach bugs - There are many germs that can cause a stomach bug. They include bacteria such as E coli, salmonella, Clostridium difficile (C difficile) and viruses such as norovirus and rotavirus.

Salmonella survives for short periods of around 1-4 hours on hard surfaces or fabrics. Norovirus and C difficile, however, can survive for much longer. In one study, C difficile was shown to survive for five months. Norovirus can survive for days or weeks on hard surfaces.

When someone with norovirus vomits, the virus is distributed in small droplets in the air. These droplets can settle on surfaces, causing the virus to spread, so it's important to clean surfaces thoroughly if someone in your home has been infected with norovirus.

To help prevent the spread of stomach bugs **wash your hands** thoroughly and regularly, particularly after going to the toilet, and **practice good food hygiene**.

MRSA The staphylococcus aureus bacteria that cause MRSA infections can survive for days to weeks on surfaces. MRSA bacteria can live on surfaces for longer than some other bacteria and viruses because they survive better without moisture. Generally, MRSA bacteria survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft surfaces.

Preventing the spread of infection It is not always possible to avoid catching an illness, but there are ways to reduce your risk and to prevent infections spreading to others:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly after going to the toilet, before handling food and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Keep your home clean and particularly if a member of your family is ill.
- Wash fabrics that may be contaminated with bacteria or viruses at 60°C (140°F) and with a bleach-based laundry product.

Run Report June 2015

Monthly

Ambulance Runs	402
Van Runs	110
B/P	155
Falls	112

Year to Date

Ambulance Runs	2639
Van Runs	747
B/P	1040
Falls	664

Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Robert Leonard—Team 1

Sally Ogle—Team 1

Dan Holtom Team 4

Pete DeRupo - Team 5

Chris Simko - Team 6

Frank Gomez - Team 6

Paula Lickfeldt - Team 8

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Birthdays

1 Catherine	Amass
2 William	McLoughlin
2 Chester	Rindfuss
2 Chuck	Russ
3 Vince	Vincent
4 Velma	DeKing
4 Joe	Michaliszyn
4 Charles	Ziemer
4 Pamela	Zion
5 Jim	Rottman
6 Hope	Rund
7 Russell	Foti
7 Dennis	Nash
9 Barbara	Walker
10 Robert	Devling
11 Brenda	Vavrina
13 Fabricio	Cabrera
14 Anthony	Horman
15 Georgia	Axtell
15 Joe	Cox
15 Peter	Gallagher
16 William	Shepherd
17 Amanda	Beach
18 Robert	Rusnak
19 Marty	Altman
19 Patsy	Geresy
19 Nancy	McCune
19 Brittney	Perkins
20 Taylor	Blount
21 Stephen	Livingston
22 Susan	Cooper
22 James	Malanowski
24 Ed	Davis
25 Alan	King
25 M.J.	Ricketts
26 Jim	Kreydt
26 William	Rogers
29 Lyn	Yucuis
30 Penny	Baker
30 John A.	Crouch
30 Lorraine	Germain
30 Jody L	Timmel

Board Report—BY Eileen Peco, Chairman of the Board

The Squad Board thanks all of our dedicated volunteers for stepping up to the call for additional hours to keep our ambulances and vans running 24/7 during these hot summer months. It is the dedication of so many volunteers that keeps the Squad strong and able to serve the community.

The Board also welcomes the new members to the Squad. It's wonderful to see new faces and meet new friends, and we welcome each of you to the Squad "family". The new programs to recruit volunteers have been successful in both educating the community about the Squad and attracting new interested members.

FINANCES: So far this year the budget is being carefully managed. Through May we are overrunning income by 41% thanks in large part to unanticipated donations and bequests, and gains on investments. We are also underrunning budgeted expenses by 14%. The net result is positive net income of \$60,033 through May 31, 2015.

Investments (CDs, etc.) have remained stable over the year. Unfortunately as some CDs mature we are unable to reinvest at the same interest rate as before. The Board continues to evaluate investment options for the Squad's reserve funds. These funds are critical for future replacement of ambulances and building reserves. Therefore the board has diversified funds among several investment options. Unfortunately, interest rates continue to be very low for fixed investments.

While we are financially stable, fundraising is an ongoing process to ensure the health of the Squad in the future. Plans for the annual fund drive have already begun. In addition the Squad is seeking grants and other sources of funding.

UPCOMING PROJECTS: Insurance Renewal: The Squad's insurance policy is up for renewal August 1. The Board is working with insurance agent Mack, Mack & Waltz on this renewal.

DISASTER PLANNING The hurricane season is upon us. The Squad participates with the community in disaster preparedness. The Board is working with the Chief and operations staff to review and revise the Squad's Disaster Preparedness Plan to ensure that we will have adequate resources in the event we are hit by severe weather.

Family Traditions

Karen Stansell and Mom Mary Hoying

Karen Stansell, Team 7 EMR is a second generation Emergency Squad volunteer. Her mother Mary Hoying was a Squad "First Aider" sometime around 1983 .

"Volunteerism was a very important part of my parents'



lives . Mom also volunteered for the Security Patrol, was a pink lady for South Bay Hospital, transported eyes for the eye bank with the Lions Club, and delivered Meals-On-Wheels.back in the 80's."

Karen joined the Squad in 2008.

Featured Volunteer— Steve Livingston

Stephen was born just about 50 years ago in Washington DC. His travels took him to Maryland, England, Oregon and finally to Florida where he attended USF and graduated with a degree in psychology. During his professional career, he specialized in mental health issues and criminology research.

Stephen joined the Squad in 2013. He is currently a certified ambulance driver and an Emergency Medical Responder. He is a valued member of the IT team and he was recently appointed as an Assistant Captain for Team 2.

Stephen says he joined the Squad because he knew there was a need and he wanted to be able to give back to his community. We are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed professional on our team.



Did You Know the Emergency Squad is a listed charity on Amazon Smile? The Squad is a registered charity in the Amazon Smile program. The Smile program allows buyers to contribute to their favorite non-profit organization **at no extra cost** to themselves; the AmazonSmile Foundation donates .5% of the purchase price each time you shop through the Amazon Smile program. To use smile.amazon.com in your computer or mobile device, you can return to it more often to select the charity of your choice for online about the products that are



the program, type the web browser on your computer mark this site so that easily. On your first visit you your choice and Amazon will you. Details are available gram, non-profit organizations available.

Martha Finley—15th Anniversary

It was the turn of the Century – the 21st century and Martha Finley signed up to volunteer for the Emergency Squad. In her 15 years, Martha has served in a variety of jobs for the Squad including Asst. Captain, EMR, Van Driver and Coordinator. Martha also spent many years as the Chief of the Security Patrol.

Anniversaries

Team 7	Robert Montgomery -	1 year
Team 7	Lynn Warren	3 year
Team 1	Julie McClintic	3 years
Team 1	Margaret Goss	3 year
Team 5	Julie Schneider	3 year
Team 7	Marty Altman	3 year
Team 6	Carol Block	10 year
Team 3	Joe Cox	10 year
Team 2	Martha Finley	15 years

