



# THE SIREN



News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

February 2016

## From the Desk of the Chief

Already 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the year is gone. Last year was a busy year with 5095 calls in total. For a population that averages around 20,000 people most of the year, it's clear that the Emergency Squad is vitally important to the residents who live here. And from the success of the fundraising drive, we see a commitment from the community to us.

Last year we recruited 84 new volunteers to serve in all positions. Still, recruiting is one of our primary concerns for the coming year. We've had a great turnout for front desk and dispatcher positions, but will always need folks who are willing to work on the ambulance or van. We are continuing to hold our volunteer information meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at our training building. If you have new neighbors or friends, invite them to find out what we do.

We had an excellent ambulance Crew meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. If you work on the ambulance or the van, please review the article on the inside pages regarding policy or protocol changes.

One particular policy that is important is that of honoring DNR's (Do Not Resuscitate orders). If family is present when the patient is down, we will honor the Family's wishes *if they want to override the DNR*. In other words, we will favor life and do CPR even if there is a DNR for the patient, as long as one of the family members requests that we make an effort.

Safety is a very important consideration for all of us. If you see something that appears unsafe to you, it probably is. Please make sure you send Tom Murphey, Asst. Chief of Safety any thoughts, ideas or suggestions regarding the safety of our crews when they are on duty, or on scene. We are a team and looking out for each other is part of what we do.

One of the amazing things about our organization is that while no one owns it, we are all investors and stakeholders. Our investment comes from what we give of ourselves to the Squad and to the community. As such, each and every one of us should have an interest in the future of the organization and its long-term viability. Please consider that your feedback and input is relevant to helping us sustain our organization. If you haven't applied to run as a Board member, please keep it in mind for the future.



Chief Dennis Floto

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## January Crew Meeting Notes by Jim Ryan

- Team Training - New form includes signature and printed name. Also, if you work for another Team, put your team number after your name.
- Check glucometers, both on the BP machine and personal ones. Check the battery indicator on a routine basis. When the kit is short on test strips, make sure you throw out any you suspect are expired and only replace with a small number of new ones.
- Barry McKee is working on a specific CPR procedure for the vans (2 responders).
- Linda Mascetti talked about an opportunity to participate in an 8 hour mental health class to gain more awareness of mental health and addiction issues that our ambulance crews face. Sign up sheets should appear soon.
- Eileen Peco, Board Chairperson talked about DNR's and Dr. Ksaibati's preference that we opt on the side of life when confronted by a family members who, in the heat of the moment, want the DNR ignored. Opt on the side of life and let HCFR and/or the hospital sort it out. More on this later in the form of a Policy.
- When restocking the ambulance, don't overstock. It screws up the inventory control and looks messy.
- Dr. Ksaibati has stated the he wants us to check Blood Glucose on all falls, regardless of the patient's diabetic history. Additional changes coming regarding backboards and oxygen use.
- Robin Watt is looking for recruiting ideas, primarily for EMT's. We seem to have a great response for Dispatch and Receptionist positions. She is also looking for scheduling suggestions. For example, longer shifts versus more duty days. You can place any thoughts in her mailbox.

## Toughbook tips from Linda Blume

Thank you to everyone for working extra and filling in when asked. I have noticed that there are still some common errors that people are still making:

- Patient address needs to be their address not the hospital or area that they were picked from such as the Club Houses, Golf Courses, Stores and such
- Please check the pre-sets before signing off on a report.
- All Falls require a Head to Toe Exam
- Thank you for the listing any personal belongings that the person is bringing or wearing to the hospital. You don't know how helpful it can be to the person or family calling and asking about their belongings.
- People living at Health Care Facilities may consider the facility their home but we and the hospital need to know at which facility they reside.
- Please list Allergies and state No known allergies or NKDA NKFA

For the year of 2015 we had ten (10) months of 100% compliance Thank you for the great work you have done. What happened the other two (2) months? Missing transfer of care to HCFR and missing record of CPR/AED report.

I can not thank all of you enough for everything you do for the Squad Any questions, please let me know. Linda Blume

## Run Report January 16

### Monthly

Ambulance Runs	488
Van Runs	86
B/P	153
Falls	* 132

### 2015 End of Year Falls data

Dec	165
Falls Total 2015	1437

## Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Martha Finley— Team 2

Barbara Walker—Team 3

Bud Wiehe— Team 3

Lynn Kjollesdahl— Team 5

Pete DeRupo— Team 5

Sandi Hutchison— Team 7

Ron Wecker— Team 7

Monnie Shoemaker—Team 7

Pat Adams Team 8

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# February Birthdays



1	Betty L.	Williams
2	John	Yarabek
6	Linda	Blume
6	Barbara	Capron
6	Rita	Morrison
6	John	Phillips
7	Joyce	Kline
8	Norm	Noggle
8	Deanna	St. John
9	Emily	Lahti
12	Raymond	Abbott
12	Rex	Gibbons
12	Dal	Marme
14	Valerie	Cook
14	Carolyn	Wilkinson
15	Patricia	Blanck
17	Nick	Avella
17	Helennane	Frobose
18	Brigitte	Austen
18	John	Colburn
19	Pete	Blair
19	Paul	Bromberg
19	Kenneth	Rodman
20	James	Clarke
20	Nancy	Cleary
20	Garry	Gose
21	Sue	Baker
21	Sharon	Gomez
21	Judy	Myette
21	Elizabeth	Schneider
22	Fay	Kenna
23	Arlene	McCabe
23	Catharine	Rogers
24	Barry	McKee
25	Chris	Avella
25	Marty	Mallak
26	John	Bukowski
27	Erik	Sager
28	Mary	Carter
28	Chris	McCann
29	Tom	Murphy

## Squad Welcomes First 2016 EMR Class

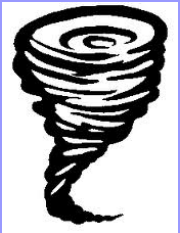
The Emergency Squad is pleased to announce that the first 2016 class of Emergency Medical Responders completed their training on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Emergency Medi-



cal Responders (EMRs) are trained in first aid, certified in CPR and are essential members of our ambulance crews. While the EMT and driver are working with the patients, the EMR works with the patient's family or caregiver to document medical history, allergies, medications and other critical patient information. All members of the ambulance crews are EMRs before additional training for other positions.

Pictured above are: June Anderson, Robert Butenhoff, Theresa Snipe, Gary Gose, Corey LaBrecque, Thomas Leyden, Kay Taylor, Virginia Taylor, Daniel Zawacki, David Zoerb. Marci McKee (Instructor), Betty Richner (Instructor), Chuck Russ (Asst. Director, Education), Shirley Bardell (Asst. Chief Education) Not pictured: Barry McKee (Instructor) and Julia Wickersham (Instructor).

## Hillsborough County Emergency Alert System By Noreen Schramm



At the Emergency Medical Planning Council (EMPC) meeting last week Hillsborough County Fire Rescue made a presentation for county EMS and planning agencies with regard to the tornados that happened in Manatee and Sarasota Counties in January. Because these tornados came in the middle of the night many were unaware they were in danger until the tornadoes hit. The county has a program called "Get Connected. Stay Alert," where people can get emergency and urgent messages on their phones, by email or text. To register for this emergency information they need to either go to [HillsboroughCounty.org/HCFLAlert](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/HCFLAlert) or call [\(813\) 272-6602](tel:8132726602) and they will walk you through the process.

HCFL Alert is Hillsborough County's official public notification system for emergency and urgent messages. Keep your contact information up to date so we can continue to reach you.

In light of what happened in Manatee and the fact that we will be dealing with an El Nino effect for the remainder of the winter and into the Spring, this program provides information is urgently needed by everyone.



## Mea Culpa!!! Correction to January's Anniversaries!!

Team 3	Michael Bardell	1
Team 7	Harvey Berman	1
Team 8	Susan Dietman	1
Team 6	Margaret Farrell	1
Team T	Oscar Leon	1
Team 4	Marcia McKee	1
Team 1	Mary Reter	1
Team 1	Dana Wallace	1
Team 3	Kathie Withers	1
Team 7	Linda Conklin	5
Team 3	Dianne Felder	5
Team 7	Jane Foppe	5
Team 7	Russ Girgenti	5
Team 6	Anthony Horman	5
Team 7	Ken Kleen	5
I.T.	Chester Rindfuss	5
Team 7	Dick Seagrave	5
Team 6	Robert Smolenski	5
I.T.	Katherine Vitale	5
Team 3	Barbara Capron	10
Team 1	Susan Cooper	10
Team 5	Lynne Kjollesdal	15

## Golf and Social Club Donations



The Emergency Squad received a \$1300+ donation from the Golf and Social Club of Sun City Center. The club, which is now defunct, divided its remaining funds to between the Squad and the South Shore Mental Health Coalition.

Pictured above , L to R: Liz Argott, Debbie Caneen, President of the South Shore Mental

## Dates to Remember:

Spring Fling at Kings Point—March 16th  
10 am to 2 pm

FunFest –March  
19th—9am to 2PM

March 10th—Board  
Election and annual  
meeting



## February Anniversaries

Team 2	William Grussi	1
	Mary Gustafson	1
Team 8	Donna Manship	1
Team 5	Norm Noggle	1
Team 3	Laura Schwander	1
Team 2	Wendy Arnio	3
Team 8	Anne Cross	3
	Garry Gose	3
Team 2	Linda Palmer	3
Team 7	Monnie Shoemaker	3
Wheelc	Charles Silk	3
Team 4	Timothy Baker	5
Team 7	Robert Bisette	5
Team 3	Cory Fieber	5
Team 7	John Lackey	5
Team 4	Vallery McKeehan	5

*When telling friends about the Squad, make sure you tell them:*

- ◆ WE are 100% Volunteer - no one gets a paycheck!
- ◆ WE are 100% FREE - no one ever gets a bill!
- ◆ WE do over 5000 runs a year in our community!
- ◆ We began in 1964 and are nearly 52 years old.
- ◆ We are supported entirely by donations and community grants!