



THE SIREN



News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

July 2016

Hello Sun City Center Emergency Squad and Happy Fourth of July.

It is always exciting to come to you with information going on in and around the Squad. June brought the Squad a lot of good things. Ted Stone and the IT office have started converting over our computer systems at the Training building as a dry run and soon will be over at the main building to get all the systems working together. Please support them with what they need and be patient with the outages.

We now have 6 more EMTs; 6 of the 8 that we sent to the Spring EMT class have taken and passed their state licensure exam. Please welcome our new EMTs; Merrill Pritham from Team 3, Walt Bowers from Team 3, Bud Wiehe from Team 3, Emily Gempler from Team 2, Debbie Jasmer from Team 4 and Tom Burlage from Team 8. They sacrificed a big part of their lives to help the Squad during our time of need Congratulations to all of you. We have 2 more EMT graduates waiting to take the exam, I wish the 2 of you good luck.

Rumor control: I have been hearing rumors that I would like to stop.

Rumor 1. You cannot get shingles if you had chickenpox or have weeping (open sores) shingles. **Truth:** If you had chickenpox or if you come into contact with weeping shingles, you can get shingles. Please refer to the binder that Linda Blume made about different isolation problems to see what they are and how to protect yourselves.

Rumor 2. The chief has a new procedure on Direct Admits. **Truth:** The policy on direct admits in the policy book is still the same as it always has been. No updates have been approved yet. Please do not listen and pass on any information you do not know is from a credible source. If you are not sure, ask your Captain. They will get the straight answer for you.

July is a wonderful month but also HOT. We need to remember to hydrate often (see the Summer Heat Emergency article.) We are already having days with a heat index over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Drink water to keep from dehydrating and protect yourselves in the sun. I hope everyone enjoys their 4th of July. I always enjoy a good fireworks show and there will be plenty to see around our area in over the Bay. So, stay safe, keep cool and keep up the great work you do for our community.

Thank you and see you around the Squad.

InsideThis Issue

Patient Transport Information

Body substance Isolation

Toughbook Tips

Run Report

Sick List

Birthdays

Summer Heat Emergencies

Safety First

Military medics

Anniversaries

Fall alert buttons

Recruiting

Dates to Remember

Below: Chief Robert Leonard



Patient Transport Information by Shirley Bardell



AHCA form 5000-3008- used when the hospital transfers a patient to a Skilled Nursing Facility. There **MUST** be a signature on the bottom of page 2.

AHCA form 1823 -used when the hospital transfers a patient to an Assisted Living Facility. There **MUST** be a signature on the bottom of page 4.

The numbers are found at the bottom of the pages.

We are not responsible to determine if the signature on the form is a physician or other approved health care provider. We only have to make sure that a signature is on the form.

Nor are we responsible to decide if the appropriate form is used. That is the responsibility of the hospital Case Manager.



I will be posting samples of these forms on the Education Bulletin Board.

If signatures are missing the receiving facility will more than likely refuse to accept the patient.

Run Report June 2016

Monthly

Ambulance Runs	372
Van Runs	110
B/P	137
Falls	120
Lift Assist*	7

(*new category)

Year to date totals

Ambulance Runs	2553
Van Runs	674
B/P	759
Falls YTD	632

Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Bev Carnes Team 2

Bill Odell Team 2

Bucky Devling Team 5

Garry Gose Team 6

Pam Windspirit Team 6

Sandi Zoldi Team 6

Ron Wecker— Team 7

Arlene McCabe Team 8

Body Substance Isolation and Personal Protection by Linda Blume

It is our goal to protect you, your family and patients from sharing germs.. Your mother was correct when she told you to wash your hands. It is the best way to prevent sharing of germs. During the past 6 weeks we have transported patients with: Shingles 3; VRE 1;E.Coli 1, Scabies 2; Cdiff 5;and MRSA 5.

There is a chart at the Captains desk and in Dispatch to advise what to do/use for different conditions. There is also a white binder to help satisfy your great thirst for knowledge.

Just because you had the Shingles vaccine, does not mean that you can't get shingles.



Toughbook Tips by Linda Blume

EMT's it is your signature on the reports please make sure what you sign is correct. Last month I heard from eleven attorneys requesting reports.

A Fall is A Fall and requires the note that a Head to Toe exam was done and yes it is a trauma alert. A Blood sugar is also required on all falls.

Vitals signs include the GCS.

PreSets need to be changed when needed.

Patients may "live" at Palm Gardens, Plaza West or one of the other Health Care Facilities but it is NOT their home. Please list what facility they reside in

Please check before you leave that all yours records have been sent to the server.

Stay Cool.

Published by SCC Emergency Squad. Editor-in-Chief, Robert Leonard Editor, Robin Watt. Articles are accepted up to the 25th of the month for the following month's issue. Items may be addressed to THE SIREN and posted in "The Siren" mailbox, located directly below Team 8's mailbox. U.S. Postal Mail should be addressed to: Sun City Center Emergency Squad, The Siren, 720 Ray Watson Dr. Sun City Center, FL 33573. When addressing email, subject line should state: THE SIREN and be sent to:

robinw@scc-ems.us.

July Birthdays

Day	Name
2	Chuck Russ
3	Vince Vincent
4	Chuck Ziemer
4	Velma DeKing
4	Joe Michaliszin
4	Pam Zion
5	Jim Rottman
6	Hope Rund
7	Dennis Nash
7	Russ Foti
9	Barbara Walker
10	Bucky Devling
13	Fab Cabrera
14	Tony Horman
14	David Zoerb
15	Peter Gallagher
15	Georgia Axtell
15	Joe Cox
17	Matt Parrish
18	Bob Rusnak
19	Marlene Antonsen
19	Marty Altman
19	Patsy Geresy
21	Bob Butenhoff
22	Jim Malanowski
22	Sue Cooper
23	Shun Lee
24	Ed Davis
26	Dottie Kemmer
26	Jim Kreydt
29	Lyn Yucuis
30	Lorraine Germain
30	Penny Baker



Summer Heat Emergencies

Heat stroke and heat exhaustion are the most serious heat emergencies of summer. Although they can occur year round here in Florida, they are more likely to occur in late Spring through Summer until our weather begins to cool and the days get shorter.

Recognizing the symptoms of heat stroke and exhaustion is important – not just for our patients, but for ourselves. While symptoms may vary slightly from person to person, heat stroke, the most serious heat emergency, most often includes very hot, **DRY** skin, confusion, rapid heartbeat, dizziness or loss of consciousness and a very high body temperature, nausea and or vomiting and headache.



Heat exhaustion is also quite serious, and has many of the same symptoms. The biggest difference is that with heat exhaustion, the patient will be sweating profusely.

Although heat exhaustion isn't as serious as **heat stroke**, it isn't to be taken lightly. Without proper intervention, heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke, which can damage the **brain** and other vital organs, and even cause death.

If we are responding to a call for potential heat emergency, we follow our protocols. But if you are home or at a neighbor's house, call 911 and then proceed to get the person into a cooler environment. Remove unnecessary clothing, have them drink cool or cold water, cool their skin with either ice packs or cool damp towels. If emergency response is delayed, call the emergency room for additional instructions.

The best way to prevent health issues from heat exposure is avoid working outside in the middle of day; take frequent breaks inside or in the shade; stay hydrated; wear loose fitting clothes that "breathe;" and wear a hat. Too often people don't recognize their own symptoms before they begin to suffer the effects of the heat. Use the buddy system with your spouse or if you live alone, let a neighbor know you're working outside.

Safety First—by Mike Albanese

When backing up our vehicles, please make sure you have a "backer," either one of your crew members or even a bystander is better than having no one. If you are serving as a "backer", make sure the driver can see you in his/her mirrors at all times.

It is also important that the driver and backer understand the hand signals used to communicate. We have a drivers' video that shows the proper way to use hand signals when backing up our vehicles.



If it is nighttime, please make sure that there is enough light to see the parking area AND your backer. Our ambulances have spotlights to illuminate the area. This will also help us avoid trip and falls over curbs, planters and other objects that may impede our ability to get our gurney into a patient's home.

Our Current Military Medics



Ricardo Padrun joined the Squad over a year ago. He is currently stationed at MacDill and has been deployed overseas several times since joining the Squad. Prior to joining the Army, Ricardo was a NYFD firefighter and medic..



Mark Kinsey also joined the Squad in 2015 while still in the Air Force. He drove from Orlando on his duty days and now resides in Sebring. He has been discharged and is going to paramedic School.



Steve Parent, also stationed at MacDill, works in Air Traffic control for the base. Steve joined us in 2015 to maintain his EMT skills and credentials.

All these gentlemen help fill in our schedule—please thank them when you see them

Fall Alert Buttons by Robin Watt

As I sat here wondering what else to place in the Siren, my phone rang. Being unfamiliar with the number, I sent it to voicemail. They called back. This time I answered and it was the call center for my Dad's medical alert button, otherwise known as a Fall Button. I dashed home and Mike Bardell and Ron Windsor came over (there was no ambulance available) in the Captain's car.

Fortunately, Dad was uninjured. He fell in the garage and the heat was awful. It was dark because the automatic light had gone off. Imagine if he had laid there for several hours!

Thank goodness he had his alert button on and it was charged.

So my message today is this: If you live alone or are frequently alone, please consider getting one of these life-saving devices. There are numerous brands to choose from and most of them charge about the same amount – roughly \$1/day. With some brands you purchase the equipment, making the upfront cost more, but the monthly cost less. With others, you rent the equipment.

If you are frequently away, there are fall buttons that are like cell phones – they work anywhere. When their button is pushed, it will actually tell the call center where you are because it has a GPS within it, to help locate you. This is useful also if you are in a car accident.

If you have one – wear it. All too often when we pick up a patient, we ask if they have a fall alert button. And too frequently, they tell us it's beside the bed or in the bathroom. That doesn't help if you fall in the kitchen or garage.

Falls can cause serious injuries – broken hips, shoulders and traumatic brain injuries. While a fall button will not prevent a fall, it will get you help much faster.



Dates to Remember

Summer Appreciation Brunch August 25th, Community Hall (watch for details)



July Anniversaries and Pins

TeamName		years
5	Ken Rodman	3
2	Jan James	3
5	Ed Davis	3
1	Patricia Riddle	5
3	Russ Foti	5
WC	John Bukowski	10
2	Bill Odell	1
3	Donna McClister	1
2	Hannah Gempler	1
1	Marlene Antonsen	1

Recruiting during the Summer

During the Summer months, we have suspended our Wednesday night recruiting meetings. However, we still need people and especially those willing to work on the Van, Ambulance or in Dispatch.

Please let your neighbors and friends know that they can drop by the Squad and fill out an application and speak with Chris McCann, our Asst. Chief of Human Resources, about how they can help us and the community.