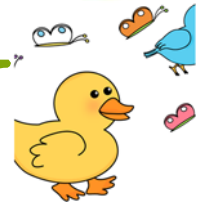




THE SIREN



News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

March 2016

From the Desk of the Chief

Unlike the rest of the country, we have wonderful weather AND great candidates for the election! Please make sure you read their applications for the Board and consider this election as important to the future of the Squad, as you consider the Presidential election is to the future of our country.

We will be facing some difficult issues in the future and addressing those issues will either sustain us for the long-term, or hasten our decline. The candidates all have excellent credentials and bring different skill sets to the Board and the Squad. They have all worked in different capacities and understand the importance of the Board's role. Please make sure you vote, because in this election, your vote definitely COUNTS!

Beginning sometime this month, we will be asking our ambulance crews to leave behind a satisfaction survey, each time they go to a patient's home. This is strictly a customer service action and will only last a month or six weeks. We are seeking community feedback about areas where we might make improvements.

A couple of thoughts about customer service and professionalism: anytime you are wearing your uniform, you are representing the Squad. Please make sure you are professional, not just in appearance, but in how you work with your teammates and other healthcare professionals in the community. Second, please remember that we take the patient to the hospital of their choice providing that it is within our service area AND they are not suffering a life-threatening emergency.

We all know how stretched we have been this winter to staff the ambulances and vans. Recruiting is now focused on finding volunteers who wish to have that patient contact so that in the future, we (hopefully) won't be over-working the ambulance/van volunteers. Please manage your time and take care of yourself. Burn-out is real and we would rather drop to one ambulance a day than have volunteers reach burn-out and walk-away.

Finally, I want to thank Bob Rusnak. While Bob will still be with us as an EMT, he is stepping down as Deputy Chief after 4+ years of doing a great job. We are grateful for his commitment to us. Thank you Bob, for all the time, talent and energy you've devoted to the Squad and the community as Deputy Chief and for your continuing service as an EMT.

And my thanks to all of you, for your commitment to the community.



Chief Dennis Floto

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Toughbook Tips by Linda Blume

Thank you for all the extra hours that you have put in. Your reports have been clear and concise and I am grateful for the mention of the personal belongings that were taken to the hospital, especially the amount of cash that one person thought was no big deal.

Please check your pre-sets and change them as needed. At end of shift or if you are signing off please check and make sure you don't have any runs hanging around and that reports have been signed and sent.

People "live" at Health Care Facilities but it is not their home. We have been asked to list which Facility they are coming from. It helps with discharge instructions and if the person will be discharged.

Please check the ambulances and vans when you are dropping off a patient and make sure all paper work follows the patient and is given to the proper person who will be taking care of that person. We had an incident where a person's paperwork was left in the ambulance for over two weeks while it was in for repairs. The papers included Medicare cards, medication records, DNR, lab results, photo IDs physician history and recommendations and yes, more information. Needless to say that this is a **HUGE violation of HIPPA** and may result in a fine to the Squad, not to mention the possibility of a lawsuit if damages are incurred. Please check so that we don't have anything like this happen again.

Y'all are so special and without you we would not be able to have this wonderful organization

Any questions please feel free to contact me.

What we need to know about Hospice patients

Most of us think of Hospice as care for the terminally ill, which is correct. However there is more to know and its important for us as "community caregivers" to understand. Hospice also provides "palliative" care: control and comfort measures for people with chronic illnesses.

Unfortunately, not every patient tells us that they are under Hospice Care. However, when they do, the first thing we want to ask is whether they have contacted their Hospice team regarding their current issue. This is because the patient has agreed to receive his/her medical care for their primary illness, from the Hospice provider. For example, if the patient is in the end stages of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) and the call we receive is for shortness of breath, taking the patient to the ER, without specific direction from Hospice, may result in the patient's insurance may not covering their bill. This is because the patient has agreed to receive disease specific care from an approved Hospice provider and not in an Emergency Room. It is the patient's responsibility or their caregiver's responsibility, to contact Hospice.

However, if this same patient with CHF were to fall and break a hip, this condition is not specifically related to the patient's chronic illness, and taking them to the ER, regardless of contacting their Hospice Team, will most likely be covered by their insurance.

Many people also wonder if Fire Rescue will transport a patient to the Hospice House. They do not. Their primary purpose is focused on saving life and transporting a sick patient to Hospice is NOT something they will do. This is something we have done and continue to do for our community residents.

Run Report February 2016

Monthly

Ambulance Runs	433
Van Runs	103
B/P	135
Falls	* 135

Year to date totals

Ambulance Runs	921
Van Runs	189
B/P	288
Falls YTD	267

Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Michael Fletcher Team 1

Martha Finley— Team 2

Barbara Walker—Team 3

Lynn Kjollesdahl— Team 5

Pete DeRupo— Team 5

Herb McKittrick Team 6

Dick McCormick Team 6

Sandy Hutchison— Team 7

Ron Wecker— Team 7

Monnie Shoemaker—Team 7

Pat Adams Team 8

Published by SCC Emergency Squad. Editor-in-Chief, Dennis Floto; 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.

March Birthdays



1	William	Odell
2	Lloyd	Banfield
4	William	Grussi
4	Beverly	Weaver
5	Robert	Bissette
5	Dayle	Martin
5	Martin	Sarner
8	Harold	Jeffery
8	Maureen	O'Brien
9	Sheila	Houlihan
9	Dorothy	McKenzie
9	Dana	Wallace
11	Anna	Baan
12	Shirley	Dwyer
12	Thomas	Tormey
14	Jim	Grimmer
17	Sylvia	Eddens
17	Manya	Ogle
19	Dale	Johnson
20	Richard	Bishop
20	Deanna	Montes de
20	Loretta	Williams
21	Jeanette	Remec
21	Mary	Soja
22	Todd	Aldrich
23	Margie	Blair
23	Richard	McCormick
23	Sam	Sudman
24	Jo-Ellen	Bromberg
24	Peg	Noeltner
24	Elizabeth	Richner
25	Joe	Kushnerick
26	Timothy	Zion
27	Sandi	Zoldi
28	Carol	Howley
31	Bob	Bizzano
31	Virginia	Defever
31	Joe	Plaskon

March Featured Volunteers—Wheelchair Maintenance Crew

Our featured volunteers are a group of fantastic gentlemen who clean and repair the wheelchairs and walkers that the Squad loans out to the community. Last year this group cleaned and repaired enough walkers and wheelchairs for the Squad to loan out 1109 pieces of mobility equipment.

When a chair or walker is donated or returned to the Squad, it is taken over to our Training Building for cleaning and evaluation. Dale Johnson, pressure washes each piece of equipment before it gets assessed for functionality. The following day, members of the crew come in to check each walker or wheelchair to ensure that it's in operating order. Moving parts are lubricated and stationary parts are checked for durability. It is cleaned with Cavacide (a cleaner and surface disinfectant), then set in the sun to dry. When it is ready to be loaned out again, it gets a green tag and gets moved over to



the Squad's Loaner Closet, ready for someone who needs it.

Above: Dale Johnson is pressure washing the chairs to ensure that any grit or grease is removed.



Left, pictured left to right: John Bukowski, Dale Johnson, Gerald Wick, Reinhold Baal and Ken Wolfert. Not in photo: Barry Bogart, Nick Avella and Charles Silk.

February's EMR Class

The Emergency Squad is pleased to announce its newest Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) from its June class. Our EMR's are a crucial team member on our ambulances and vans. They collect the patient's medical history, list of medications and document the patients current health issue. Emergency Medical Responders go through 44 hours of training in addition to 8 hours of CPR class. They must pass CPR in order to be certified as an Emergency Medical Responder. After finishing the class, all the volunteers go through mentoring before working on the ambulance or wheelchair van.

Pictured left to right are: Garry Gose; Marci McKee, Instructor; Shirley Bardell, Asst. Chief of Education, Jonathan Low, Terrie Walden and Barry McKee, Instructor.





What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charity every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charity. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support, **including the Emergency Squad!**

How do I shop at AmazonSmile? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on the web browser of your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations? Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile? Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charity to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. The website will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

What we know about the Zika Virus

- About 1 in 5 people who become infected with Zika virus become ill
- The most common symptoms are fever, rash, muscle or joint pain, headache, or conjunctivitis (red eyes).
- Mild symptoms last for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito.
- People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and rarely die.
- Many people might not realize they have been infected.
- Zika virus usually remains in the blood of an infected person for about a week but it can be found longer in some people.
- Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

There is no vaccine to prevent or specific medicine to treat Zika infections.

Treat the symptoms:

- Get plenty of rest.
- Drink fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Take medicine such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to relieve fever and pain.
- Do not take aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
- If you are taking medicine for another medical condition, talk to your healthcare provider before taking additional medication.
- No vaccine exists to prevent Zika virus disease .
- Prevent Zika by avoiding mosquito bites (see below).
- *Prevent sexual transmission by using condoms or not having sex* cont'd below

Dates to Remember:

March 10th—Board Election and annual meeting

March 10th—Aston Gardens Casion Night fundraiser

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

FunFest –March 19th—9am to 2PM

March 29th—Italian Club Fund-raiser

March Anniversaries

Team 3	Jessymol	Alex	1
Team 6	Adebola	Atanda	1
Team 7	Beverly	Beard	1
Team 2	Brittney	Perkins	1
Team 4	Randy	Anderson	3
Team 3	Shirley	Bardell	3
Team 8	Sharon	Dolan	3
Team 3	Maureen	Carey	5
Team 4	Julie	Holtom	10
Team 4	Gary	Krcil	10
Team 7	Walter	Prouty	10

Happy Anniversary!

Steps to prevent mosquito bites

- Wear EPA approved mosquito repellent
- Wear long sleeves and pants
- Try to stay out of mosquito infested areas.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

