



SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



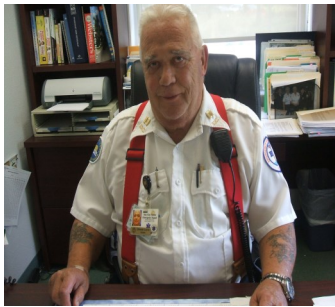
# THE SIREN

News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

June 2015

*In this community we are blessed with many veterans who have served their country honorably. This past Memorial Day, the community honored its veterans who passed away since this time last year and paid tribute to all branches of our military.*

*Likewise the Squad is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers who serve their community; who step up to fill in when someone can't fill their duty day; and step in to help those less fortunate than themselves. It's no wonder that so many of our volunteers are also veterans.*



for

*We have the beginning of a long hot summer and I want to thank all of you hanging in there. We know that with folks working extra shifts, sometimes tempers can be short. Particularly when it's this hot, this soon. But I believe help is on the way. We held a very good first Prospective Volunteer Open House on May 13th. While we only had eight members of the community show up, we had three fill out applications before they left. If you follow baseball, that's a .375 batting average. Not too bad for a start.*

*With that in mind, our next Open House for Prospective volunteers will be held June 10 at 6 PM at our training building. Please invite new friends and neighbors, fellow club and church members that may be looking for something meaningful to do.*

*The Summer Appreciation lunch will be held August 25<sup>th</sup> at Borini Theater. The theater was just renamed "Veteran's Theater" on Memorial Day, so you may see it referred to as that in future references. Updates will be provided prior to August.*

*Speaking of veterans, we'd like to be aware of your service to our country. If you served in a branch of the military (wartime or not) please drop a note to Robin.*

*Thank you for your sense of community, service and dedication. The spirit of volunteerism lives in each of you.*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**June 10th—  
Prospective Volunteer Open House,  
Training Center  
6PM**

## In This Issue

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**Sepsis Alert meeting May 27th**

## Calling a Sepsis Alert

By Shirley Bardell

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Robin Mason, RN Manager of South Bay ER (pictured below) presented the new Sepsis Alert procedure to members of the Squad.

Sepsis is an infectious process that if not caught in time can have a very high mortality rate. The mortality rates increase with age. The Sepsis Alert is a national health care initiative that has been instituted to identify the criteria known to be present in patients experiencing some degree of sepsis, either initial or advanced. Our population is at very high risk.



Sepsis can be from a previous UTI (urinary tract infection) or any other infectious disease process that has spread to other areas of the body, including major organs. It can also cause significant tissue breakdown.

Our role will be to identify patients that are possibly septic through recognizing the key symptoms; then calling a Sepsis Alert via the radio on the way to the hospital. The nurses in the ER have specific procedures that will be instituted upon our arrival. The quicker those procedures can be instituted, the better the chances of success.

We will need to be alert for:

- ◆ Increased temperature
- ◆ Increased heart rate- over 100 bpm
- ◆ Decreased B/P - below 100 systolic
- ◆ And- does the patient just not look or act right? AMS? Weak?

Robin also gave laminated cards listing the key symptoms the EMT's that were present at the meeting. I will be making more for everyone. In addition, she gave us a large poster explaining sepsis and what to look for in our patients. This poster will be mounted on a wall in the Squad room for everyone to refer to.

## Run Report May 2015

<b>Ambulance Runs</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Van Runs</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>B/P</b>	<b>187</b>

### Year to Date

<b>Ambulance Runs</b>	<b>2237</b>
<b>Van Runs</b>	<b>637</b>
<b>B/P</b>	<b>186</b>

## Sick List

**Roy Skinner - IT**

**Martha Finley Team 2**

**John Cortese - Team 3**

**Pete DeRupo - Team 5**

**Chris Simko - Team 6**

**Frank Gomez - Team 6**

**Tom Murphy - Team 8**

**Paula Lickfeldt - Team 8**

**Betty Marme - Team 8**

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## Birthdays

Day	FIRST	LAST
2	Jim	Hoffman
2	Tom	Porter
4	Richard	Morrison
6	Barbara	Kushnerick
7	Al	DiSalvio
7	Barbara	Flagg
7	Janis	Wiehe
8	Patricia	Connors
9	Linda	Eargle
10	Betty	Marme
11	Herb	McKittrick
12	Noreen	Schramm
14	Bonnie	Matthys
14	Robert	Montgomery
15	Carol	Watson
16	Ruby	Hebel
17	Patricia	McAdams
17	Al	Seifert
18	Kathleen	Shaefer
19	Joan	Cohen
19	Ted	Stone
21	Jerry	Mitchell
23	Linda	Bowker
23	Linda	Palmer
24	Julie	McClintic
24	Jack	McDonald
25	Bill	Murphy
26	Larry	Lewis
28	Joan	Ambrose
28	Kathy	Panzner
29	Joseph	Hannigan

## 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.



## Code of Conduct

It's always important to remember that the Emergency Squad is probably one of the most highly regarded organizations in the community. When we are out in public, we want to be sure we are respectful not just to those around us, but to each other as well. When responding to a call, remember we work as a team. Treat each other with patience and courtesy. If there is an issue between team members, please bring it back to the captain and don't let disagreements or arguments occur at a patient's house, the hospital or anywhere we might be assisting others. Just a few thoughts to remember:

- ◆ The driver is in charge of the ambulance and getting the team to and from the scene safely.
- ◆ The EMT is the team leader on scene and in the hospital.
- ◆ If time is not of the essence, the EMT and driver should allow the EMR to gather patient information, list medications and get signatures.

Don't allow summer heat and stress to interfere with good teamwork. We are all motivated to help the community and we're here for the right reasons.

## Featured Volunteer—Diane Simon

Diane started her travels from western New York where she and her husband lived for almost 25 years. prior to landing in SCC in 2004 by way of PA., VA., NC. and HI. The world was their oyster and at age 57 they began to enjoy living in paradise. Less than two years later Diane was a widow and had no family within 1000 miles. It was at this time that she decided to seek out information about the Emergency Squad.

When asked by the receptionist in the front office why she was there and what she was interested in, she replied without hesitation in her usual shy manner "how long does it take to become Chief?" Of course she was kidding, but it certainly struck a note.

After her training period to become a First Responder, she wanted more and went on to school through the Squad and became an EMT. Amazing how things come full circle. Six years ago the Squad went from paper reports to computerized reports and Diane assumed the position of Assistant Chief, Quality Assurance. From there she began training new First Responders and soon became interested in furthering her responsibilities by becoming Director of Education. She has remained in one of those two positions for the past several years and just recently gave up her Assistant Chief role to become just an EMT once again.

In Diane's words, "The most satisfying experiences have been holding someone's hand that needs assistance. Being there for a significant other who is frightened, anxious, and unable to administer to their loved ones is such a satisfying event. The Squad has been my cherished family and I am honored to serve the community."

Although Diane never did become "Chief", she has served the Squad gladly as an Assistant Chief, Medical, EMSTARS Liaison, Director of Education, and Assistant Chief, Quality Assurance. Thank you, Diane, for a job well



## Critter Corner

Hemi belongs to Jim and Ginny Rottman. Ginny fell in love with this breed years ago when they lived in Ohio. In fact, Ginny got involved in showing her Tibetans at dog shows and was fortunate to have two of her dogs become champions.

Hemi was given to them 8 years ago by a local breeder and fast became one of their family! Hemi is a very sweet little dog and would love to meet all of you!



## Anniversaries

Gomez, Sharon, Team 6,	1 yr
Gomez, Frank R., Team 6,	1 yr.
Hatcher, Andrew, Team 7,	1 yr
Abbe, Anita-Marie, Team 3,	1 yr.
Fetting, John H., Team 5,	1 yr.
Marchbanks, Buddy, Maint.,	3 yrs.
Carter, Mary, Team 7,	3 yrs.
Pruett, Greg, Team 7,	3 yrs.