



SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



THE SIREN

News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

November 2015

From the Desk of the Chief

Every year, the months and days go by faster. It's a part of aging that we all agree on – time speeds up; our grandchildren are suddenly entering high school or college when they were so little just yesterday. Now it's that time of year when we see our friends and neighbors returning from the north, plan our Thanksgiving, Christmas or Hanukah events and look forward to the New Year. Once again, it's gotten here too quickly.

Not only do we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, but we also recognize and honor our Veterans. Somehow it's appropriate that the two holidays are only weeks apart. When we give thanks for our family and health, we should also give thanks for our Veterans who have served our country. Without their service, we would have much less to be thankful for.

We had an excellent all Squad meeting on October 20th. Thanks go to Shirley Bardell for planning and coordinating the meeting, Dr. Ksaibaiti for his time and to all who assisted in this endeavor. Staying informed is vital to the success of our organization.

If you work on our ambulance or at the front desk, we ask that you make sure your immunizations are up to date. This is more than just the flu shot. When we have patient contact, we are exposed to more health risks. Most of us assume this means only our ambulance crews, but it does include anyone who has contact with the public, which means our front desk folks who do blood pressures need to be up to date on their shots as well. Please check your emails from Shirley Bardell for instructions. The paperwork is on the Captain's desk; please pick it up, review it, get the necessary immunizations and return the paperwork.

December is a busy time for everyone, but please mark your calendars for Dec. 14th or 15th. These are the dates of our Awards dinners. Even numbered teams – 2,4,6 and 8, will have their event on the 14th(?) and odd numbered teams will be on the 15th. If for some reason you cannot attend on the night your team is scheduled, you can attend the other evening. Please look for details by email and also on the ready room bulletin board. An envelope for deposit checks will be placed there in the next week.

Public relations events can always use a helping hand. Not only is it fun, but it's a great way to let your friends and neighbors know more about the Squad. If you have a few extra hours, sign up to help out. Everyone is welcome!

As always, my thanks to all of you. It takes a community to take care of our community.



Chief Dennis Floto

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Toughbook tips from Linda Blume

Welcome back to our snowbirds and thank you to all that stayed this summer. We were busy and worked extra shifts. I plan to occasionally write for the Siren Toughbook hints to help refresh memories and maybe answer questions.

- A fall is a fall (not sick person, traumatic injury or unknown person down.) It is a FALL
- All falls are trauma calls.
- Please chart that a head to toe exam was done.

Calls are usually 911, unless they are medical transports or mutual aid calls. Mutual aid calls are EAST OF 301 and WEST OF CORTARO Drive. We still use lights and sirens and provide the same patient care that is indicated.

HIPPA signatures are good for the life of the patient and fifty years following their death

Please chart ALLERGIES if any.

Please be careful with pre-sets.

Once again welcome back and thanks to all



VOLUNTEERS ARE THE LIFE-BLOOD OF THE SQUAD by Eileen Peco
It is clear that volunteers are the most important asset of the Squad. Recruiting over the past year has been very successful in attracting new volunteers willing to share their time and talents to fulfill our mission of Neighbors Helping Neighbors. While the primary focus of recruitment has been on bringing in front line volunteers willing to train as EMTs, EMRs, Drivers and Dispatchers, there are other important functions that are needed for the Squad to function every day 24/7.

For example, the addition of volunteers with special technology skills in our IT Department is critically important as we face changes in our record retention and reporting systems. In the Education Department knowing HOW to teach is as important as knowing WHAT to teach, so volunteers with teaching skills are a critical need. Maintenance of our vehicles and buildings is another critical skill – we can't respond if the wheels can't roll! Administrative folk who do everything from research to data entry to filing are also crucial to a well-run organization.

Currently we are very fortunate to have a talented and experienced leadership team contributing many hours of time "behind the scenes" in administrative capacities as well as operations management. However, it is a Board responsibility to consider the longer term future of the Squad with regard to the leadership team, both operations and management. In the coming weeks the Board will be addressing those needs by developing a Succession Plan. The plan will focus on developing back-up for these current talented volunteers in key specialized positions on the Squad. Those who have specialized skills and management experience and are interested in contributing to the Squad in new and different ways will be encouraged to make their interests known. We will continue to update you monthly on our progress.

FUND RAISING UNDERWAY

Our annual fundraising letter is already getting a wonderful early response from the residents of Sun City Center and Kings Point. In less than two weeks we are at 15% of our goal and climbing. This only reminds us of how important our services are to the community and how much residents appreciate what the Squad does. It also reinforces our energy and drive to continue to support the Squad with our time and talents. Again thanks to everyone for their contribution in every capacity as volunteers of this wonderful organization.

Run Report October 15

Monthly

Ambulance Runs	418
Van Runs	94
B/P	301
Falls	147

Year to Date

Ambulance Runs	4232
Van Runs	936
B/P	1780
Falls	1173

Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Chris Avila— Team 1

John Crouch— Team 3

Barbara Walker—Team 3

Fab Cabrero—Team 3

Pete DeRupo - Team 5

Lynn Kjollesdahl—Team 5

Marty Mallak— Team 5

Garry Gose- Team 6

Frank Gomez - Team 6

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November Birthdays



3	Jessymol	Alex
3	Michael	Fletcher
4	Bob	Geida
5	Terrie	McNamara
9	Helga	Robinson
9	Wendy	Rudolph
10	Erma	Faron
12	Sean	Bennett
13	Patricia	Riddle
14	Robert	Means
15	Sandra	Rife
16	Chrissa	Carmichael
18	John	Bowker
19	Laura	Schwandner
20	Ted	Adamczyk
21	Walt	Bowers
22	Debbie	Jasmer
23	Glenn	Morales Torres
23	Glenn	Torres
25	Steven	Parent
25	Dave	Watkins
27	Julia	Wickersham



Folks, when we are gifted with treats by the community or our volunteers, please remember these are for everyone. Sometimes teams have leftovers that we know will be disposed of if not eaten, but check with the captain before helping yourself. Our "lunch money" needs to feed our evening and overnight crews also. If it's a non-perishable type item that will last, such as coffee, teabags, etc., please leave them for all our team members to enjoy.

FEATURED VOLUNTEERS—OUR INSTRUCTORS!

Almost every month, the Emergency Squad trains new Emergency Medical Responders, Ambulance drivers and dispatchers. In addition, the Squad teaches CPR to all Squad ambulance volunteers and offers Heartsaver CPR to the community. In 2015, the Squad has taught more than 9 EMR classes, 10 driver classes (new and recertification), 10 dispatcher classes (new and recertification) and 17 Basic Life Support CPR classes for more than 100 students and 8 Heartsaver-AED classes for more than 50 non-squad members. Instructors for CPR and Emergency Medical Responders must go through certification themselves in order to become instructors. The Squad is fortunate to have so many people willing to give their time to educate new volunteers and serve the community.

Pictured below left to right are: Jim Malinowski, Betty Richner, Robert Leonard, Marci McKee, Jennie Casey, Linda Conklin, Karen Crippen, Chris McCann, Shirley Bardell, Asst. Chief of Education, Ed Davis, Dick McCormick, Gary Krcil, Chuck Russ, Pete Blair, Linda Hughes (seated) Paul O'Connor, Ted Adamczyk, Barry McKee, Tim Zion, George McInnes and Ed Berken.

Instructors not in the photograph include: Judy Myette, Jim Smith, Noreen Schramm, Jan Huber, Tim Baker, Kay Bogart, Walt Bowers, Bob Mulcahy, Peter Gallagher and Linda Eargle



October Emergency Medical Responder Class

Two new students successfully completed the intense 52 hour "Emergency Medical Responder" course given at the education building. Students are first trained and certified in CPR. Following this, students study medical and environmental emergencies, airway management, the human body, bleeding, shock and poisoning. Students also learn the proper techniques for splinting, bandaging, back boarding and scooping patients.

After successfully completing the course, the new EMRs are assigned to one of eight teams.

Pictured L to R: are Deb Spitler and Sherri Cooper.

Thank you ladies for joining our Squad family!



Squad by the Numbers (as of November 2015)

So often when we speak to our friends and neighbors we talk about all the wonderful things we do – that's good community relations! But I've noticed that sometimes we use that "400" number as the total number of Squad members and that might be having an effect we don't want. Although at our peak in the winter, we have close to that total, only about half that number work on the ambulances or wheelchair vans.

At last count, approximately 180 volunteers are ambulance/wheelchair van volunteers. This is a big difference and when we want to recruit new Squad members, perhaps we need to make this distinction. While it takes all of us to make this place run, our greatest need is for volunteers who are willing to make patient.



And in case you're wondering, here's the rest of our numbers:

EMTs 36 Drivers (all)71 EMRs 74 Dispatchers74 Other 101



By special request, I am repeating this article. Holiday Season is coming up fast. If you do your shopping online, you might be surprised to learn that the Squad is one of the charities you can donate to through The Amazon Smile program. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select the Squad from the many charities available. It doesn't add anything to the cost of your purchase.

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 3rd—1PM - EMT meeting

**Nov. 5th—Hi Neighbor 6:30—8:30PM
South community Hall**

Nov. 6th—St. Andrews Presbyterian Health Fair

**Dec. 2—Flu shots
9am—2pm**

**December 14 & 15
Awards Dinners
Even teams on the 14th
Odd Teams on the 15th**

Some people spend their whole life wondering
"Did I make a difference?"



Some people don't need to wonder

Anniversaries

JoEllen Bromberg			1
Marcia Lederberg			1
Chris Martin			1
Pat Adams			5
Sylvia Eddens			5
Bill Murphy			5
Tom Murphy			5
MaryAnn Meeker			10
Jeffrey Rein			10
Grace Ryan			10
Arleen Sanders			10
Michael Schramm			15