



# The Siren



News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

February 2017

### ***From the Desk of the Chief***

Hello my Sun City Center Emergency Squad family! It is a new year and we have been busy. The first month has passed and great things are happening. We won the Sun City Center Area Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the year for 2016. It was the largest category and there were some impressive non-profits. The businesses of the Chamber chose all of you for the service you do to the community. Every month I hear a testimonial of someone from the chamber needing the Squad for themselves, a family member or a friend. It is always a compliment and a thank you. All of you have earned this award and I want to say thank you for making us the best.

Also, we are working on the driveway of the training center. Work should be done by February 1st, please be flexible if isn't. Mike Bardell has been working hard to get the driveway done, please thank him for his hard work when you see him.

I found suggestion sheets in the suggestion box, but they were not identifiable. I ask that if you have a suggestion, please put your name and contact(email is preferable) so I can address and/or update you with actions taken. Also, if you identify yourself, I can ask questions to clarify what your suggestion was. The suggestion box is on the Captain's cabinet in the Squad room.

This month is the Awards banquet on February 17 and 18. I hope to see you all there. Robin Watt has been working hard setting it up, please thank her for all she is and has done. She has worked as the Assistant Chief of PR and Communications for 3 years. This was her last year and she is leaving some large shoes to fill. She is looking forward to working on our Fall Prevention program and helping our new Assistant Chief that we are advertising for right now. The job description has been emailed out and the sooner we find someone to help in her position, the better the transition will be. Thank you Robin for such great work for the last 3 years.

RUMOR: blood soiled linen can be thrown in the trash. TRUTH: according to OSHA and our EMR training program for blood borne pathogens, all soiled linen must be placed in a plastic bag that is marked soiled linen or in a red bag. Both red bags and plastic trash bags are on the ambulance. Place soiled linen in one of these containers and make sure it gets to the hospital. See Linda Blume's article in this issue for more information.

Aston Gardens has made a request to remind our ambulance crews that the staff at Aston Gardens sends their security staff to residents rooms when someone needs help (either medical or some other emergency) to be an advocate for the resident and ensure the apartment is secured and contacts are informed for the resident. Please do not bar them from the apartment. Allow them to do their job, they should not be in the way and they may be a good source of information.

There is another request I must bring up. Again, it is a reminder about private information at the Squad. Anything with a full name, address, ssn, or any combination of these needs to be disposed of properly. None of these documents can be thrown in the trash, they must be put in the shred box. This request came about because members of the Squad have been finding our old rosters in the trash cans. Please dispose of the old rosters in the shred box in the copier room. If any of you see any information from above, please remove it and alert the Captain or dispose of it in the shred box. Thank you.

Finally, some really good information, JSA Cypress Creek, A Davita medical group, delivered a check to the Squad for \$1,000.00 for all the work we do for the community. I enjoy being told about and writing about how proud our community is of our professionalism,



**Chief Robert Leonard**

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## ISOLATION ISSUES

Ensuring that our isolation procedures are used routinely, is very important to all of us. At this time of year with so many visitors, it is especially important because we are exposed to many more “bugs.” Hand washing is your number one defense tool. Anti-bacterial hand gel is handy but does not fight C-diff. Hand gels are great for a quick clean up, but your hands need to be washed with soap after 7 uses of gel. In fact, it’s the friction that cleans the hands, so if you are stuck without soap just use water and rub the hands back and forth.



Please remember to wipe down the equipment after each patient to help prevent cross-contamination.

When dealing with C-Diff (once you deal with it you will never forget it) All equipment must be cleaned with 1/2 cup of Bleach in 1 gallon of water. AIR DRY FOR 5 MINUTES. Clean the stretcher before leaving the hospital or facility and make up the stretcher when you return to base.

Chart regarding Infection Control and Epidemiology is at the Captains Desk for any questions or drop me an e-mail.

If you encounter bloody towels, wraps, bandages place in a red bag and leave at the hospital. Please make sure you are wearing gloves.  
Thank you for keeping us healthy.



Linda Blume Infectious Disease Officer

## Board of Directors Election

As mentioned in the All Squad Meeting it's time for the annual Squad election process to begin for the Board of Directors. The first step in the process is the appointment of the Standing Election Committee (SEC). This committee consists of five Voting Members who are not planning to run for the Board. They are responsible to 1) call for applicants for the open Board of Director positions, 2) verify applicant eligibility with HR, and 3) assist the Secretary in the election process leading up to the vote of the Members at the Squad Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2017 – mark your calendars.

Five volunteers have stepped forward for this important Committee. Captain/Driver Peter Gallagher (Team 2); EMR Penny Baker (Team 4); EMR Charlotte Epps (Team 8); CFO/Dispatcher Marty Gifford (Team 1); EMR Marcy McKee (Team 4). The SEC will be formally approved at the upcoming Board Meeting on December 12.

The call for candidates for open Board positions went out on December 29. Any Voting Member of the Squad is eligible to submit their candidacy. If you are interested in serving in this important role for the Squad please consider submitting your candidacy when the time comes.

## Run Report January 16

### Monthly

Ambulance Runs	448
Van Runs	91
B/P	137
Falls	139
Heart/Chest Issues	19

### Sick List

Roy Skinner	- IT
Frank Gatto	Team 3
Kathy Shaefer	Team 4
Mick Hebel	Team 4
Lynn Kjollesdahl	Team 5
Jan Kjollesdahl	Team 5
Bucky Devling	Team 5
Dan Johnson	Team 5
Sally Stamen	Team 5
Beverly Beard	Team 7
Mary Soja	Team 7
Lois Lynch	Team 8

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## February Birthdays

Day	FIRST	LAST
1	Edward	Cohen
1	Dennis	Floto
1	Betty L.	Williams
2	Tom	Rawlings
2	John	Yarabek
4	Dolores	Smith
5	William	Reyes
6	Linda	Blume
6	Barbara	Capron
6	John	Phillips
7	Joyce	Kline
8	Larry	Berman
8	Robert	Kratzer
8	Norm	Noggle
8	Deanna	St. John
9	Emily	Lahti
12	Connie	Abbott
12	Dal	Marme
13	Robert	Jensen
14	Valerie	Cook
14	Mary	Mobley
14	Carolyn	Wilkinson
17	Nick	Avella
17	Helenanne	Frobese
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	Floyda	Jessee
23	Catharine	Rogers
24	Rosie	Lee
24	Barry	McKee
25	Chris	Avella
25	Marty	Mallak
26	John	Bukowski
27	Erik	Sager
28	Mary	Carter
28	Christine	McCann
29	Tom	Murphy

## Going on a Cruise? Make sure you are covered!

Did you know that when you go outside the United States that Medicare does not provide emergency medical care (in most cases)? This is primarily because Medicare is not accepted anywhere, but in the U. S.

In most situations, Medicare will NOT pay for health care services or supplies that you receive when you are travelling outside the United States or its territories. However, Medicare allows a cruise ship's doctor, under certain laws, to provide medically necessary health care services if:

- The vessel is of American registry
- The physician is duly registered with the Coast Guard to render the professional services in question, and

The services are rendered while the ship is in a U.S. Port (or within 6 hours of departure or arrival at a U.S. Port) regardless of whether it's an emergency.

If the ship is more than 6 hours away, Medicare will NOT cover health care services.

If you are considering foreign travel, there are several Medicare supplements that offer foreign travel coverage. Or check your Advantage plan to see if you have foreign travel coverage. You might also ask your travel agent what travel insurance covers.

Be a safe and wise traveler this year and make sure you have health care coverage when you go abroad. We want everyone to come back healthy!

## TOUGHBOOK TIPS

Thanks for the great job you are doing. Just a few points on this chilly day. You know who the Snow Birds are this time of year -- they are wearing shorts and flip-flops. True Floridians are wearing their winter jackets, long pants and yes, I have seen gloves.



Please check your e-mails on your shift days and make the proper changes.

ALL runs use Lights and Sirens EXCEPT for transports FROM the hospital. We do not transfer patients FROM homes or facilities to the hospital.

Pre-sets need to be checked before submitting your run and changed if necessary.

Please sign all charts and check your toughbooks to make sure you don't have any runs "sitting" undeleted before you leave.

New EMT's / old EMTs if you are having questions or concerns regarding charting please don't hesitate to contact me and I will sit with you and go over the charts. Also I send back runs that require changes to help you. I am here for you.

Linda Blume, Assist. Chief of QI

## Debbie Jasmer, EMT—Off duty Hero

On Wednesday night February 1<sup>st</sup>, a drunk driver collided with a vehicle carrying seven passengers, five of whom were children. This occurred on College Avenue in Ruskin, right across from Debbie Jasmer's food truck. Debbie was serving a customer when the crash occurred. She immediately jumped into action, triaging the victims to determine their injuries and the care they needed. Other bystanders assisted and took their directions from Debbie, who assigned them their duties and then quickly attended to a 3 year old child, who was most critically injured.

Debbie did CPR on the 3 year old for over 12 minutes until a deputy arrived and took over. Two of the children were seriously injured. Only one child had been appropriately belted into a child safety seat.

Debbie is quick to acknowledge the Squad's training and her EMT education for providing her the ability to jump into action when she was most needed. We are so glad to have her in our Squad



## February Anniversaries

<u>Team</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
5	Jonathan Low	1
7	Lois Andress	1
7	Virnia Defever	1
7	Theresa Walden	1
8	Marie A. Nelson	3
6	Jim Grimmer	3
5	Jim Hoffman	3
4	Mick Hebel	3
3	Bud Wiehe	3
3	Nancy McCune	3
Radio	Richard Bishop	5
4	Barry Bogart	5
Maint.	Kay Bogart	5
Maint.	Mike McClintic	5
3	Merrill Pritham	5
4	Kathleen Schaefer	5
8	Joan Leombruno	5
4	Pam Zion	5
4	Tim Zion	5
8	Bonnie Murphy	5
Maint.	Bob Bizzano	10
2	Dolores Whiteside	10

*Happy Anniversary and Thank You!*

### Dates to Remember

All Squad meeting  
March 9th

### Annual Awards Dinners—doors open at 5 PM

February 17th -Odd numbered teams

Feb. 18th—Even numbered teams  
South Community Hall

### REMINDERS

1. Please put the top down on the copy machine when using.
2. Help clean the kitchen during your duty day.
3. Do not put anything down the toilet that doesn't belong there.
4. Mark the supplies you take from the supply room.

### Team Captains

Team 1—Bob Mulcahy

Team 2—Peter Gallagher

Team 3—Walt Bowers

Team 4—Randy Anderson

Team 5—Ed Davis

Team 6—Dick Morrison

Team 7—George McInnes

Team 8—Jim Ryan

Thank you gentlemen for all your work!