

June 2019

The Siren

Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad



From the Desk of the Chief

As I am writing this article it is Memorial Day. I am honored to be in a community where so many observe this day for what it really is. For today is the day we remember all those that paid the ultimate price for freedom.

Along with a partnership in the community, we hosted a Disaster Conference for organizations and entities in town. We had many county and local organizations tell people what could be expected from them during a disaster and their individual disaster plan. No one is really ever ready for a disaster, but what you can do is constantly prepare and try to learn from past experiences. Being prepared for a disaster and self-sufficient for 72 hours after a disaster is what should be everyone's goal.

I am also writing this from home, in case you were wondering why I haven't been in the squad building lately, because I fell from a ladder, at approximately 8', and broke a bone in my leg as well as tore a couple of ligaments. At this point, I am not able to bear weight on my right leg. An MRI next week will tell the next step.

I have been following events via email and conversations with Jim Ryan, Deputy Chief, who has been taking on duties that I can't do from home. I wish to thank him for his dedication and willingness to step in and do so much for me in addition to maintaining his own duties. Also thanks to all who have sent best wishes and who have assisted with additional duties.



Sun City Center has an added layer of safety and security through the collaboration and communication of all our local organizations.

Lastly, I hope to start coming into the office tomorrow on a limited basis and am looking forward to seeing you all again.

As always, my thanks to you all. I'm honored to be associated with such a fabulous group of people.



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

June Birthdays

Ken Wolfert	1	Maureen Hollander	11
Tara Lyman	2	Jack Horan	11
Shirley Watt	2	Jon (Rick) Fox	11
James Hoffman	2	Noreen Schramm	12
Tom Porter	2	John Gentry	13
Oscar Kramer	4	Carol Watson	15
Carole Wright	4	Patricia McAdams	17
Marion Carlson	5	Lois Shannon	17
Tom Canedy	6	Karen McInnis	19
Claudia Blain	6	Ted Stone	19
Barbara Flagg	7	Jerry Mitchell	21
George Stewart	7	Cynthia Shue-Claeys	23
Charlotte Epps	7	Linda Palmer	23
Janis Wiehe	7	Julie McClintic	24
Karen Leonard	8	John Thompson	24
Linda Eargle	9	Bill Murphy	25
Travis Hill	9	Patricia Trela	26
Gerald Wick	10	Kathy Panzner	28
Jack Schneider	10	Margaret Whitford	28
		Deborah Harrison	30

Anniversaries Team#/ Years

George Ineson	0	1
William Click	6	1
Deborah Harrison	1	1
Barb Bardsley	2	1
Lawrence Bardsley	2	1
John H. Fetting	5	5
Sharon Gomez	6	5
Barbara Flagg	3	15

Squad Stats

Ambulance Runs	409
Van Runs	147
Fall Calls	180
Blood pressures	107

Year to Date

Ambulance Runs	2039
Y-T-D Falls	824
Fall % =	40%

Sick List

George McInnes	WM
Howard Levine	WM
Sally Mabesoon	T-7
Gretchen Chapman	4
Peter Gallagher	2
John Konzler	3
March While	8
Elliot Marcus	8



Behind the Scenes—Financial Management

Every day, week, month and year, the Emergency Squad receives donations from grateful patients and a supporting community. These funds are what keep the lights on, wheels rolling and medical supplies in the closet. But we all know, this doesn't happen magically. Someone has to pay the bills, make the deposits and manage the money.

In addition to paying our bills, the job as CFO includes overseeing our fundraising efforts; managing our finances through different instruments including CD's and investment funds; and managing our budget. Like any for-profit business CFO, her duties also include actively managing the day to day accounting and financial operations; preparing financial reports for the Board and serving as the liaison with auditors and vendors. But on a personal level, Marty and Brenda are the ones who write the thank you notes to our donors.

For the past 5 + years Marty Gifford has served as the Squad's Chief Financial Officer reporting to the Board of Directors. Marty has been a volunteer with the Squad for 15+ years and has served in various administrative positions. Her partner, Reinhold Baal, is active on the wheelchair maintenance crew.

She is supported in her role by Brenda Levy, Asst. CFO. Brenda is also a dispatcher on team 5. Brenda is originally from Texas and joined the Squad about 3 years ago. She is an amazing artist and member of the SCC Art Club. Brenda is married to Jerome, a retired attorney, author and "Professional Punster." She has the patience of a saint!

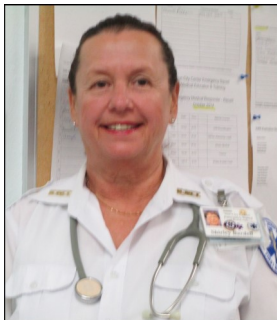


Our People & News You Can Use

Sepsis and Sepsis Alerts

**By Shirley Bardell,
Asst. Chief, Education/Medical**

Sepsis is a disease process with high mortality rates for seniors that needs to be identified quickly in the field. Sepsis itself is a systemic response to an infection. Patients experiencing potential Sepsis need immediate BLS transport, or in some extreme cases, may need ALS transport. Sepsis is a life-threatening condition.



The EMT should begin to suspect Sepsis if the chief complaint of the caller involves weakness, fever and history of an infection. Many may present with a history of UTI, pneumonia, kidney infection and/or recent hospitalization and exhibit shakiness and chills. Altered Mental Status (AMS) may also be present.

Our revised policy (effective April 2019) includes symptoms of:

Fever above 101F or under 96.4F
Sustained pulse above 90 bpm by using either automatic machine, pulse oximeter or direct palpation of an artery
Respiratory rate over 20
Infection- documented or suspected

When 2 or more of these symptoms are present, we should immediately transport and call a **SEPSIS ALERT**.

However, where there is any doubt, err on the side of caution, and call a **SEPSIS ALERT**. The radio report into the receiving hospital should include age, sex, vital signs, use of oxygen and any other relevant information.

Published by SCC Emergency Squad. Editor-in-Chief, Mike Bardell; Editor, Robin Watt, assisted by Patty Trela. 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

Avoiding Burnout

During Summer, we often work multiple shifts, helping out our sister teams. WE always appreciate the help from all of you. But be on the lookout for signs of burnout.

Burnout? It's the same as when you no longer love your job, except that you aren't being paid. Symptoms include waning enthusiasm, and no longer looking forward to coming in on duty day. These are serious issues and if you find yourself feeling this way, discuss it with your captain or teammates.

The value of the time the Squad invests in training each EMR is approximately \$1700 (determined by the value of a volunteer hour* \$21.24 multiplied by the hours of training.) As a non-profit all-volunteer organization, keeping our volunteers as long as possible is critical to the Squad's success and sustainability.

Board of Directors

**By Eileen Peco,
Chairman of the Board**

In March 2019 the Squad Membership elected Squad Members Tina Drury, Kelly Knigge and Barry McKee to serve 3-year terms on the Board of Directors. In addition, Squad Members Terry Blankenship, Kenneth Ayers and Mary Ann Meeker joined the Board to fill vacancies. We want to thank these members for stepping up to serve the Squad in addition to their ongoing volunteer assignments. Tom Canedy, Emily Lahti, and Eileen Peco fill the remaining positions.

It has been five years (January 2014) since the Membership revised the Squad Bylaws, establishing a new organization structure consisting of a nine-member Board of Directors elected by the Squad Membership. It seems timely to review the role of the Board of Directors in guiding the Squad forward.

ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board's role is to oversee the management of the Squad and ensure that the Squad fulfills its mission in the community.

- Develop and oversee the Squad's Policies and strategic goals, focusing both on near-term and longer-term challenges and opportunities.
- Support the Squad in human resource planning and recruitment of volunteers to fill ongoing critical staffing needs.
- Manage the resources of the Squad for the longer run, considering future investments and planning for future capital needs.
- Authorize major Squad transactions and approve the annual budget. Oversee the accuracy of financial statements and the integrity of the internal systems and controls.
- Support the Squad in the community and enhance the Squad's public image.
- Evaluate and manage potential risks to the Squad, including safety, legal and financial risks.
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity through adherence to legal and ethical norms.

The Board does not direct the day-to-day operations and financial accounting of the Squad. That is the role of the Chief and CFO, both of whom report to the Board as the Operations Officers of the Squad. However, the Board monitors, guides and supports the Chief and CFO in carrying out their duties as Executives of the Squad.

The Board meets the second Monday of each month in the Training Center at 1:30 PM. Squad Members are welcome to attend these meetings to hear discussions by the Board on topics listed on the Agenda posted in the Ready Room.

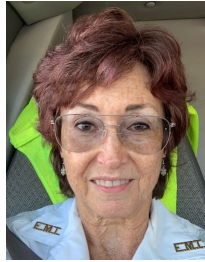
The Board of Directors thanks the Squad Membership for their support and service on the Emergency Squad.



Community Leadership

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, Public Relations

Our leadership – Chief Mike Bardell, Chair Eileen Peco and many others, spend many extra hours in the community working for the betterment the Squad and all SCC residents. These efforts are most often behind the scenes and unknown to both Squad members and community residents alike. Monthly "Forum" meetings with the leaders of local facilities, Kings Point and Community Association, not only allows the Squad to offer input to the other organizations, but keeps our leadership apprised of issues and events that could impact our operations.



In addition to organizing the community health symposiums this past year, the Squad, in conjunction with the SCC Security Patrol and Samaritan Services, met with community leaders earlier this year, to jump start planning efforts on disaster and hurricane planning. These efforts keep us connected to local County agencies that are critical to our post-disaster efforts, should we ever take a direct hit.

Participation in State and local health committees and organizations also keep the Emergency Squad on the radar of State and local leaders, which of course means better access and faster responses from those agencies, should we need them.

If you have new neighbors who don't know about the Squad and our involvement in the community, these are just a few things you can share with them

We are well-prepared.

Featured Volunteer

Mohsen Khalifa, has worked a number of different jobs before his retirement. He was educated as an engineer and worked 14 years in the aerospace industry as an engineer and manager in the area of automation and robotics. He decided to move away from engineering and invested in a franchised donut business. Mohsen owned and operated 2 donut shops in the Boston area for 14 years and retired at the ripe old age of 49. He spent the following 14 years as a substitute teacher and part-time school bus driver which he enjoyed the most.



This is not the first time Mohsen has volunteered. He was a volunteer EMT with the East Windsor, NJ Rescue Squad from 1982 to 1984. Mohsen said, "this is my way to give back some of what I was given by my adopted country." Mohsen truly believes in volunteering and helping others and has instilled the same desire to help others in his children. Mohsen said, "I'm very proud of my daughter for spending two years volunteering with AmeriCorps after graduating from Boston University. I believe that those who have been given much, should give something back."

Mohsen met his wife, Cindy, at a church dance in Princeton, NJ in 1983. They have been married for 34 years. They are the proud parents of 2 children, Sarah, 28, a personal trainer, and Sammy, 29, MIT graduate and a surgical robotics entrepreneur.

Mohsen moved to Sun City Center after living in Massachusetts for 35 years, mostly in Foxborough; the home of the great New England Patriots....Go Pats. Mohsen has been with the Sun City Center Emergency Squad for 2+ years and serves the squad as a Driver and EMR on Team 5. Thank you for all you do, Mohsen.

Incident Reports for Ambulance Medical Transports

By Barb Capron, EMR, Team 3

Recently several "ambulance medical transport" reports have been sent to the server with wrong information - particularly on the "incident tab."

They are showing as follows:

	<u>Incorrect</u>	<u>Correct</u>
Type of Service:	911 response	Medical Transport
NOC as Dispatched:	(Call dependent)	Transfer/Interfacility
Dispatch Priority:	Emergent	Non-Acute
Call Status to Scene:	Emergent	Non-Emergent
Call Status Details To Scene:	Lights and Sirens	No Lights or Sirens

The defaults for an "ambulance medical transport" are different from "911 response". Therefore, all EMR's should set up a medical transport default report when they start their shift if there will be 2 ambulance in service at the same time (ie shifts 7-3 and 9-5).

Instructions can be found in the Documented red binders located in the ready room under Tab 10. There is a lot of information that can be loaded ahead of time including the following tabs: Incident, Situation and Narrative.

If you have any questions, please email me at barbaraca@scc-ems.us.

Team Captains

Team 1	Robert Leonard
Team 2	Betty Richner
Team 3	Chuck Russ
Team 4	Tim Zion
Team 5	Ken Rodman
Team 6	Dick McCormick
Team 7	Tina Drury
Team 8	Tom Burlage



Check our website at
SCCEMS.com