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From the Desk of the Chief

Where has this year gone! I just got used to writing 2019.

The awards dinner was a real success and I wish to thank Robin and Patti along with all the others that worked so hard to make it that way. I am consistently amazed at all the Squad does and the people that belong to it. Many people couldn't live on their own if the Squad didn't exist. And the Squad wouldn't exist without all of you!

This is a very special time of year. I can remember so many years reaching for the next objective or possession to own. Those things don't matter to me as much as they used to. I am thankful for my family and friends. And I am just looking forward to spending time enjoying this holiday season more than getting caught up with presents and all the commercialization

that is now, unfortunately, a major part of it.

It is my sincere wish for each and every one of you to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Holidays



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for December

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Richard Grant | 1 | James Hiller | 16 |
| Caroline Whalen | 1 | Eileen Peco | 16 |
| Kelly Knigge | 3 | Christine Walsh | 16 |
| Dolores Whiteside | 4 | Susan Deptula | 17 |
| Jack Riley | 5 | MaryAnn Vinci | 17 |
| Tina Drury | 6 | Donna Heath | 18 |
| Theresa Snipe | 6 | Joan Batcho | 19 |
| Chris Simko | 7 | Cynthia Lowe | 20 |
| LeeAnn Stinchcomb | 7 | Jan James | 21 |
| Suzie Potratz | 8 | John Lackey | 21 |
| Janice Rousseau | 8 | Elaine Ax | 22 |
| Betty Butler | 9 | Rebecca Gonda | 22 |
| Kay Bogard | 10 | Leo Scire | 23 |
| Rosie Divish | 10 | Jim Abney | 24 |
| Carl Bohnenkamp | 11 | William Zeller | 24 |
| Susan Fitts | 11 | Christine Morrison | 25 |
| Ron Cowden | 12 | Loreen Brezec | 26 |
| Diane Raphael | 12 | Daniel Krupa | 26 |
| Pam Click | 13 | Gene Deiss | 27 |
| Linda Menier | 13 | Patricia Johnson | 27 |
| Stanley Zabetakis | 13 | Lillian Stone | 29 |
| Hazel Crosby | 14 | Diane Wowk | 29 |
| Robert Bialaszewski | 16 | Donna Adriano | 30 |

Anniversaries Team#/ Years

| | | |
|------------------|---|----|
| Jim Ryan | 8 | 15 |
| Harold Jeffery | 0 | 5 |
| Joanne Principio | 1 | 1 |
| Amber Haynes | 6 | 1 |
| Edward Cox | 8 | 1 |
| Bertil Johnson | 6 | 1 |
| Nancie Jardine | 6 | 1 |
| Gladys Rivard | 3 | 1 |

amazon smile

Squad Stats

Run Reports

Ambulance Runs 391

Van Runs 92

Fall Calls 134

Blood pressures 81

Sick List

Patty Trela T-8

No other names were forwarded by the Captains. I'm glad all are well.

Meet HIPAA Compliance Officer Linda Eargle

The Emergency Squad Board of Directors recently appointed Linda Eargle as the Squad's new HIPAA Compliance Officer.

HIPAA Compliance Privacy Officer, appointed by the Board, reports to the Board due to the nature of this position. The HIPAA Officer implements and supports HIPAA information security initiatives throughout the Squad. The duties of this position include providing oversight and monitoring security practices; monitoring and maintaining paper and electronic signatures as required by Federal and State Mandates; and updating the SCC Emergency Squad to changes in Federal and State Regulations, to assure correct and accurate procedures for the protection of individual information.

Linda Eargle is a physical therapist with degrees from the University of Florida, Clemson University and Regis University. She has certifications from the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy as a Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults (CEEAA) and Advanced CEEAA. She serves as a trainer for the CEEAA and American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Clinical Instructor courses phase 1 and 2.

Dr. Eargle practiced in a variety of clinical settings and as faculty and adjunct faculty for several universities. She currently is an on-site visitor for the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, for whom she has served as a commissioner and site visitor since 1986.

Linda has volunteered on the Squad for more than 5 years as an Emergency Medical Responder. Linda also serves as the Squad's Fall Prevention Educator.



Our People & News You Can Use

Broadcast from Dispatch By Di Good, Director of Dispatch Training



All dispatchers should re-familiarize themselves with the Key Locator System which is on the computer in Dispatch. Open the icon and review the various search parameters. Be aware that the phone number that is on the caller screen is the phone number that is automatically populated into the Key Locator. Make sure they match before starting a search. If they do not match – the caller may have called on a cell or on the non-emergency line and transferred over – search by putting in the address. The Key Locator should always be checked prior to calling HCFR. If no key location is available, then...

The crew may ask for Dispatch to call HCFR and advise them that we cannot gain entrance to a residence. HCFR will handle responding and gaining access.

Falls constitute a major portion of our calls for service. The most important question to ask:

“Is the person conscious/have they been unconscious?”

This is the most critical piece of information the EMT needs in order to determine what equipment they will need to bring in to immediately treat the patient. It is also the deciding factor in whether or not Dispatch needs to notify HCFR. The question of other injury or bleeding status can be asked as a follow-up.

Regarding our wheelchair van service: “Can you walk unassisted.” If the person needs a cane, walker, or wheelchair, they cannot walk unassisted and qualify for our van service.

The reason for a call does not belong on the Dispatcher Log Sheet. Please do double and triple check the last 10 incident numbers, and continue to double check them throughout the shift. There have been some transposing of numbers noted in the past month.

We do not schedule hospital discharges. The hospital should call when the patient is ready to be wheeled out the door!

Whatever holiday you celebrate, may it be a blessed time of year for you all!

Thank you for all you do.

Watch out for the Romance Scam by Dep. Jeff Merry

As you know, the residents of Sun City Center are continually victimized by scammers. These fraudsters prey on our residents just because of their age. Con artists seek out seniors for a variety of reasons, number one being their access to money in their retirement accounts.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Romance Scams accounted for more monetary losses than any other scam in 2018. And the losses are expected to be higher in 2019, with over triple the number of cases since 2016. For those victims over 70, the median loss was over \$10,000.00.

These scammers find their victims on social media sites, such as FaceBook, Instagram, Plenty of Fish, Meet me.com, just to name a few. They build trust and create the illusion of an actual relationship by chatting several times a day and crafting their stories and answers based on information obtained from the victim themselves. Then comes the request for money.

The scammers often say they:

- Work on an oil rig
- Are in the military
- Are a doctor with an international organization

They ask for money to:

- Pay for a plane ticket or other travel expenses
- Pay for surgery or other medical expenses
- Pay customs fees to retrieve something
- Pay off gambling debts
- Pay for a visa or other official travel documents

The scammers will ask for the money to be loaded onto gift cards, deposited into mysterious bank accounts, and purchase bitcoin.

NEVER send money or gifts to someone you have not met in person.

If you suspect a romance scam:

- Get a second opinion
- Stop all payment methods
- Stop all communication with the person
- Block all communication methods with the person
- Report the person to the social media site
- Report to the Federal Trade Commission
- Report to Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Copies of this article are at the front desk and on the Captains desk.

Child Car Seat in Ambulance

By Tina Drury, Deputy Chief

It's not often that we transport children or infants in our ambulance, but it does happen. So, it has been brought to my attention that not everyone is aware of the Child's car seat in the Ambulance. It is located in the reverse seat in the back compartment where the EMR usually sits. There is a strap that appears to be a seat belt, just pull and it drops down and you can strap the child right in. It is and will be in every Ambulance. It may be a good idea for each Captain to show the AM crew and each crew show the next shift and the next and so on, use a Team Training sheet just for this purpose I will put one in each mailbox so get started asap. P.S. do it for several weeks to make sure all of your crew has been trained.

Squad Teamwork

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, Public Relations

Since mid-October, we've had four major events: two symposiums, our 55th anniversary and our annual awards dinner.

These events would not be successful without YOUR help. Stepping up to assist, whether its registering attendees, setting tables, decorating or greeting folks, or cleaning up afterwards, makes all of these events run more smoothly. And just to sound like your mother, "Many hands make work light." Or something like that!



The teamwork that the public sees, demonstrates what a great organization we have. When you all show up in uniform (or T-shirt, depending on the occasion) and work to help our residents find a seat or get a lunch, it reflects our dedication to helping our neighbors and each other. It also shows the cohesiveness we have as a group.

There will be many events throughout the year. These will be announced through emails and often in the Si-ren. Without you, they would be difficult and time-consuming. With your help, it becomes a pleasure. Your time and energy is always appreciated. Thank you.

Safe Gurney Operation

The Squad is fortunate that we have hydraulic gurneys today and no longer have the old manual gurneys. Today, operating the gurney is easier and safer for both volunteers and patients. But before ATTEMPTING to use the gurney, make sure you are properly trained and understand, not just how it operates, but the Squad's protocols and practices.

First, when there is a patient on the gurney, never attempt to move it using only one person. This is a two-person operation.

If you are in the process of transporting a patient on the gurney, do not leave your end of the gurney. If you must leave your position, inform the other crew member. Work as a team to secure the gurney before releasing your end. Make sure you are on level ground, with nothing that could cause the gurney to tip.

- Do not allow an untrained person to assist you.
- Make sure the patient's arms, legs and hands are inside the gurney
- Make sure nothing will impede the moving parts
- Communication with your crew is important.
- Report any equipment failures or accidents to your captain and have the proper forms filled out.

Be safe and take care of each other as well as the patient.

1st Annual Squad Golf Tournament – February 26th, 2020

Our friend Matt Permuth with Vesta (Kings Point management company) is putting together what we hope will become an annual event here in Sun City Center. This will be a fundraiser for the Squad, with business sponsorships at various levels. Matt is looking for help with various committees. If you are interested, please **call Matt at 813-787-9200**.

Toughbook tips by Merrill Pritham,

Except for a recent outbreak of mis-numbering of reports, things are going well. Please check the numbers carefully, if we get one wrong it can throw things off down the line.

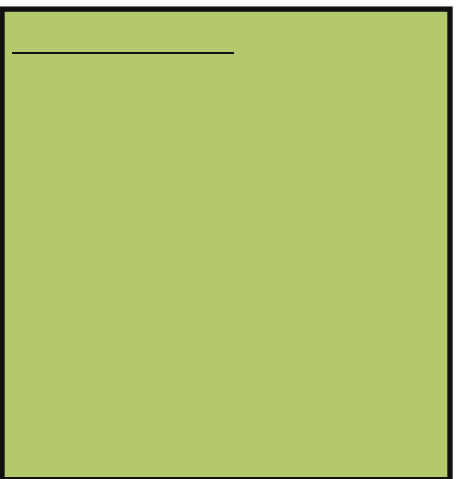
If you call an alert to the ER please go back to the beginning of the report and mark the "Alerts Called" correctly.

Blood sugars need to be done on all fall. Problems with glucometers should be reported to your Captain and followed up on. It's unacceptable to omit because the patient is on Hospice and not eating well.

Dispatch gives you the "problem" and the EMT decides what the situation on scene is. This should match with the assessment. A finding of abdominal pain should not be entered as "No Other Appropriate Choice" and back pain is not "Sick".

Lastly, no "sex unknown" or on final acuity, "dead".

Enjoy the holidays!



Check our website at
SCCEMS.com