

July 2021

The Siren

Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad



From the Deputy Chief's Desk

By Tina Drury, Deputy Chief

Things are looking up or, at least, we are looking forward. We have had some new volunteers come in and we are back to scheduling a New EMR training. We have been having our Volunteer Information Meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, but we need you to invite your neighbors and friends. Other regular meetings are back too (didn't miss those).

A few offices have been remodeled and we have completed a few spring cleaning projects (Bulk Storage for supplies and the Champion Storage Unit on Rt. 674 for files and holiday decorations).

In August we are sending four EMRs to HCC to attend EMT classes. We are back to our regularly scheduled CPR and re-certification sessions, and we have a Driver Training Class scheduled.

Tom Canedy is our new captain for Team 8. And of course, he does so many other things as well. Thank you, Tom.

We are getting some new equipment such as tourniquets, scoops, new c-collars and compression dressings. We had an EMT meeting to review the proper use of these items.

Summer will be short of staff as usual. Not only are the snowbirds leaving for the season but our full time residents want to travel and visit family and friends since we have been locked down for so long. Our wonderful and dedicated volunteers will take on extra shifts as usual, double and even triple shifts from time to time. And yet again, we will endure. If Covid-19 could not bring us down neither can a little overtime. Be safe for all who travel and be strong for all who stay behind to cover.

And keep in mind, this is hurricane season. This edition of the Siren offers some valuable information on staying safe.

The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter.



Dep. Chief Tina Drury

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SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for July 2021

Joyce Behl	2	Robert Butenhoff	21
Chuck Ross	2	Betty Hunton	21
Pamela Zion	4	Brenda Raysbrook	21
Velma DeKing	4	John Dulik	21
Jim Rottman	5	James Malanowski	22
Dennis Nash	7	Euince Bembrey	23
Russell Foti	7	Ed Davis	24
Larry Crabtree	9	Dottie Kemmer	26
Keith Corsi	10	Elizabeth Peyton	27
Jennifer Meier	11	Carol Bippen	27
Franklin Sponhauer	11	Louise Michalchick	28
Dorothy Griffin	12	Marlene McLarnon	29
Georgia Axtell	15	Lorraine Germain	30
Joseph Cox	15	Roger Sawyer	30
Kenneth Allison	15		
Peter Gallagher	15		
Irene Vettrano	18		
Nancy McCune	19		
Martin Altman	19		
Wendy Tankersley	19		
Don Sattazahn	19		

**The Month of July is
Awareness for
Ultraviolet Safety and
Skin Cancer Risk**

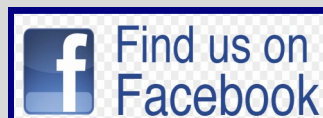
Anniversaries: July 2021

Ten Years: Russell Foti T3

Five Years: Tom Rawlings T8, Kenneth Ayers T5, Suzanne McFadyen T7

Three Years: Elaine Elliott T4, S. Diane Hathaway T2, Elda Miller T7, Susan Deptula T5, June Rowley T7

One Year: John Irvin T8, Sally Reid T8, Brian Saffell T1, Anne Symington T6, Juliana Tappen T5, Eric Nisenfeld T0



**Check our website at
SCCEMS.com**

Stats June 2021

Ambulance Runs	347
Van Runs	121
Fall Calls (45.5 %)	143
Blood pressures	64
Y-T-D Falls	870

Sick List for July 2021

Sylvia Eddens	T 4
Jim Ryan	T 5

HURRICANE SEASON

It's THAT season and although we've been lucky the last ten years, one day that luck will run out. Hopefully, not this year. Sun City Center is not in an evacuation zone, which is good. However, all of us need to consider whether we could get by for up to 7 days if our electricity was out.

So here are a few questions to help you determine what to do. By no means, is this all-inclusive!

If you or your loved one has special needs, do you know where the closest shelter for special needs individuals is? You must register in advance if you think you and your spouse would be better off in a Special Needs Shelter.

The County provides special needs shelters for residents whose medical condition may require the use of electrical equipment, oxygen, dialysis, or individuals with physical, cognitive, or medical conditions that may require assistance from medical professionals. Although special needs shelters provide more care than a general shelter, they DO NOT provide continuous bedside nursing, only assistance with daily functions and medical monitoring. More on the next page about this.

If you believe you or someone you know may need a special needs shelter it is highly recommended you pre-register for the Special Needs Shelter Program before hurricane season. Call the Hillsborough County Health Department at **(813) 307-8063**

If a big Hurricane were to strike here, would you have enough clean water to last at least 7 days without having tap water?

What about meals and foods you could prepare without electricity? Do you still have a manual can opener?

If you evacuate, do you have a hurricane kit for yourself and your pet? What about a carrier for your pet? You should be ready to pack up and go and have "Fluffy's" food, medications and maybe a favorite toy all ready to go. Do you know if local shelters accept pets? Make sure you have your prescriptions and enough medications to get by at least a week.

One of the most frequent medical emergencies after a hurricane is food poisoning. This is because refrigerated food has spoiled when the electricity has been off. Be prepared to throw out food that is questionable.

And be prepared to survive 3 to 7 days without assistance from local, State or Federal government agencies, if a the big one strikes!

And, by the way, Sun City Center is not in an evacuation zone.

What's New?

Special Needs Shelters

If you or someone you know has special medical needs, this information is important.

There are three Special Needs (Medical) Shelters in Hillsborough County. A special needs shelter is a temporary emergency facility capable of providing care to residents whose medical condition exceeds the capabilities of the Red Cross Shelter but is not severe enough to require hospitalization.

In order to accommodate residents who need evacuation assistance to a Special Needs Shelter, **it is most important that they pre-register in advance for placement into a shelter.** This will help in determining what level of sheltering is necessary to provide residents with the appropriate level of care during an evacuation.

If you feel you may qualify and are not pre-registered please complete a Special Needs Shelter Evaluation form, which is available in [English](#), and in [Spanish](#). The forms can be faxed to **(813) 307-8063** or mailed to Florida Department of Health (PHP) Hillsborough County PO Box 5135, Tampa, FL 33675-5135.

Once registered, clients will receive an annual mail out requesting updated contact and medical information. This information is used to assist us in keeping your registration information current, and eliminates the need for clients to re-register every year. Please be sure to advise our office of any changes in your contact information or medical status to help assist us in providing you with the best care possible.

An individual meets the medical criteria for assignment to the Special Needs Shelters if:

1. They are unable to administer their own frequently required or daily injectable medicines.
2. They require daily or more frequent dressing changes because of moderate or copious drainage from ulcers, fistulas, or other similar problems.
3. They need assistance with ostomy management, dialysis, and indwelling catheters of any kind.
4. Activities of daily living are so restricted by immobility that others provide assistance to meet these basic needs and those people are unavailable at this time.
5. They require daily assessment of unstable medical condition by professional nursing personnel, or other similar conditions.
6. They have a respiratory condition, which requires special equipment such as monitors or oxygen.
7. They have a terminal illness but are ambulatory and in need of professional assistance in administering heavy doses of pain

Save the Date

Appreciation Luncheon—August 26th, Veterans Theater 11am to 2pm Sign up required and will be available at the end of July

Special needs cont'd

8. They have received a letter by the Florida Department of Health Hillsborough County, assigning them to a Special Needs Shelter.

People assigned to a Special Needs Shelter will need to bring with them all medications, medical equipment and supplies, and articles of comfort they routinely use.

Oxygen tanks will be supplied for all patients in a Special Needs Shelter that require the use of oxygen. If continuous oxygen is required, please be sure to bring a portable tank with enough oxygen to get you home from the shelter after the storm. **Please bring concentrators to the shelters.**

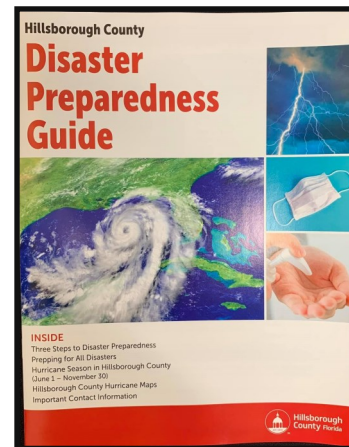
Supplies you SHOULD take to a Special Needs Shelter:

Medications and Lists of Medications
Special Dietary Needs (Special Diets CANNOT be accommodated in a shelter)
Medical Supplies, Oxygen Masks, Pulse Ox, Heart Monitor, etc.
Wound Care Supplies
Blankets/ Pillows, Air mattress
Towel/ Washcloth
Change of clothing
Wheelchair/ Walker
Personal Hygiene Items (soap, toothbrush, adult diapers, etc.)

Banned items at the shelter:

Illegal or illicit drugs
Weapons
Alcohol

WE have copies of the current disaster guide in the front Lobby.



School Supplies Collected

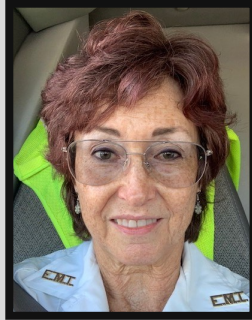
The Emergency Squad will be collecting school supplies again this year. We will be collecting the much needed supplies for school children during the months of June and July. Please bring your donation to the Squad and place in school supply box located in the Ready Room. Thank you.



Elder Abuse

By Robin Watt, Assistant Chief Public Relations

While June 15th is recognized as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, every day should be. In Florida, we currently have more than 5.5 million residents over age 60. And everyone is considered to be a "mandatory reporter," meaning that if you know or suspect that a senior is being abused, you are required to report it.



The problem for most of us is that we don't want to report someone if we aren't sure. Maybe it would mean bigger problems for the individual or their family. Maybe they would be angry with me if I ask too many questions. Is it being nosy if I do this? Is it really any of my business?

Clearly, if you witness physical abuse, you would call 911. None of us would stand by and watch someone being attacked and do nothing. But what else counts as abuse?

- Emotional or psychological abuse – intimidation, threats, demeaning comments, verbal berating or isolation from loved ones.
- Self-neglect – when individuals fail to care for themselves – poor hygiene, lack of food, fear of others may all indicate that someone is no longer able to care for themselves.
- Financial/material exploitation – improper use of an elder's funds, cashing checks or using an ATM card without permission, forcing an elder to sign documents.
- Sexual abuse – non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.

We have new Elder Abuse brochures in the front lobby. If you want to know more, please pick one up. If you know someone who might benefit from having the brochure, please share.

HIPAA

By Linda Eargle, HIPAA Compliance Officer



In the last year, the case of the Georgia EMS agency's HIPAA violations have produced more emphasis on HIPAA for EMS agencies. In my searches, the primary focus is security of the medical record.

We know that we have an amazing IT department. I met with Richard Grant to ask about how he's set up our system to protect patient health information. WOW! The following is my very simplistic understanding of the IT security of patient records.

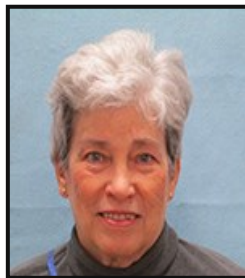
Three primary computer security safety things that we all should always do are 1) always know where the computer is, 2) make sure the computer screen is not visible to anyone who do NOT have reason to have the medical information, and 3) do not give your passcode to anyone. Richard has multiple safeguards so if your computer was ever missing, the captain should notify him and he can immediately disable that computer from the server.

Richard is constantly updating security so that the only people with access to the documentation software are the active EMTs and EMRs or administrators who need to know. I learned that the only way to fax records to the medical centers is on the computer. We have a very secure fax system with encrypted information. Richard also set up our server with a detailed fax cover page with all the required HIPAA security information.

Our computer system is designed as secure. Our use of the system is the first line of defense in keeping the information safe. If you have a process you use to ensure IT safety, please share with me at Lindae@scc-ems.us.

Toughbook Reporting

By Merrill Pritham, Assistant Chief, Quality Control



It was great to see many of you at the EMT meeting, especially since so many are new to our Service. There are still mistakes being made with the report numbers and please, please double-check to be sure the number is correct. Especially watch for transposed numbers, added digits and left off digits.

Blood sugars must be recorded for all fall patients, of course, but most others as well. Combative and confused elderly often forget to eat and drink and may be exhibiting symptoms of low blood sugar. Better to take it and be sure.

Many of our patients are being incorrectly found in the roadway. This is due to trying to choose private residence and hitting roadway instead. It is easy to hit the wrong thing but death, cardiac arrest, wrong sex, etc. are just as easy to correct. EMT's, this is YOUR license. Make sure you are as correct as possible before hitting "send."

Thank you to all of you for doing such a wonderful job and my thoughts are with the First Responders in Miami, as well.

Please take care.

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Team Captains

Team 1	Robert Leonard
Team 2	Betty Richner
Team 3	Chuck Russ
Team 4	Tim Zion
Team 5	Ken Ayers
Team 6	Eileen Peco
Team 7	Karen McInnis
Team 8	Tom Canedy