

January 2022

The Siren

***Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad***

AMBULANCE

From the Chief's Desk

I hope everyone had a great holiday. Let's hope 2022 is better than the last two years have been. I imagine most of you have heard now that we are back in masks. It is my hope this will be for a very short time. I believe you will see some larger venues close off. There is an updated policy on Covid-19 in the book at the Captains desk. They are saying that if you have had 3 shots you have about 70 -80 percent immunity. And if you do contract it, the effects will be less.

On December 8th, I went in front of the County Commissioners and made the pitch for another Hillsborough County Ambulance. It was the last meeting before the holiday break. I haven't heard anything yet, but I will keep you informed.

We are working on an informational forum. There seems to be a couple of new tests out. One is supposed to detect over 50 types of Cancer. Another will show how susceptible to Covid-19 you are. These are just a couple of items we want people to know exist. This will happen in late January.

We have ordered new gurney lift mechanisms and we are hoping to have all done by the end of March. Having this one piece of equipment has done more to extend the length of time people are able to stay on the Ambulance. Cost is around \$130,000. Before this, crews had to lift patient and gurney into the Ambulance. Just writing this made my back start to ache.

My thanks to you all for your continued service through the past two, difficult years. May we all see a Happy and HEALTHY 2022.

Happy New Year



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for January 2022

Aileen Engel	2 nd	Ed Whitehead	18 th
Thomas Leyden	3 rd	Marcia McKee	19 th
Doug Gatchell	4 th	Michael Bardell	20 th
John Kennedy	5 th	Bobbie Cockrell	20 th
Pamela Kerstetter	5 th	Marcia Doscher	20 th
Elaine Shaefer	8 th	Kathy Zdrodowski	20 th
Shawn Brauch	9 th	Grace Ryan	23 rd
Donna Lewis	9 th	Louis Balance	24 th
Gary Krcil	10 th	Gloria Deiss	25 th
Arleen Sanders	10 th	Robert Leonard	25 th
Linda Mascetti	11 th	M.J. Ricketts	25 th
Barb Bardsley	13 th	Michael Noone	26 th
Elizabeth Oskamp	13 th	Barbara Page	26 th
Carol Zeller	15 th	Michael McClintic	26 th
Mary Borg	16 th	Len Farrell	28 th
Ana Bauer	17 th	Doris Ferron	30 th
Mary Fisher	18 th	Richard Schneider	31 st

Happy Birthday!

January Anniversaries

Team #

15 Year Anniversaries

Ghassan Ksaibati	
Peg Noeltner	3

10 Year Anniversaries

Janice Churchill	8
Don Churchill	8

5 year Anniversaries

Mohsen Khalifa	5
Teresa Rowe-Wilson	3
Helen Corradi	4

3 year Anniversary

Lynne Albrecht	7
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1 Year Anniversaries

Robin Lotz	1
Doug Friedel	6
Steve Fafoutis	6
Bobbie Cockrell	6
Len Farrell	7

Stats End of Year 2021

Ambulance Runs	4239
Transported	2252
Fall Calls (%)	1639
	38.6%
Blood pressures	847
Van runs	1375

Sick List for January 2022

Gail Letzring	Team 1
Joe Michaliszy	Team 1



Driver's Road Kit

You get called to the scene of a single vehicle accident, car versus tree. The vehicle driver is unconscious, the car is running, but the doors are locked. A pedestrian was hit and our ambulance driver is occupied holding c-spine for the pedestrian. You - the EMT or EMR, need to get to the driver. What do you need to get into the car? Where do you find it?

Hopefully, you will never encounter this scenario. But if you respond to such a situation while working on the Squad, our drivers know where this equipment is and how to use it. But what if our driver is occupied and cannot assist in breaking into the victim's car?

Something overlooked in our training (except for our ambulance drivers) is that we have a Road Jump Kit that contains a pair of gloves, goggles, ax, rubber mallet, seatbelt cutter and glass punch. It is this kit that will allow us to break into a vehicle when the driver is unresponsive and locked in. It is important equipment and will save valuable time if such a situation were to occur. Everyone needs to know what it is, what it's for and where it's located on the Ambulance. It also helps to know how to use what's inside the kit.

What is it? It is the Road Jump Kit.

What's it for? Specifically for breaking the glass of a vehicle to get to a patient.

Where is it? It's in the same compartment with the on-board Oxygen tank, on a shelf above the stairchair. It has a small plastic red lock that can be cut in order to open it.

How do you use it? If you must break into a car to assist a patient, retrieve and open the kit. Put on the goggles first. Take the entire kit over to the vehicle – you may need more than one item in the bag. Find the glass punch and put on the gloves. Use the glass punch on a corner of a window away from the patient, but where you can still reach in and open the door after the glass breaks. Make sure you don't endanger yourself or the victim.

Check it out today while you're reading the article. You can also go to YouTube to find glass punch demonstrations.

When you look in the compartment behind the driver's door, look up. This is what it looks like inside the compartment.



What's New?

New Assistant Chiefs

In December, the Board approved two volunteers, Emily Lahti and Karen McNinnis to Assistant Chief positions.

Emily Lahti joined the Squad in January of 2000 and has served as an EMT on Team 4 for most of those years. Emily has also served on the Squad Board of Directors for six years, serving as Secretary of the Board for several years. She has accepted the position of Assistant Chief of Safety.



Karen McNinnis, began with the Squad in 2017, beginning as an EMR. Soon she was a Driver, then Assistant Captain.

She became an EMT in March of 2019 and Captain of Team 7 in November of 2019. She has also served as Manager of Driver Training. Karen has accepted the position of Assistant Chief of Purchasing.

We thank them both for their continued dedication to the Squad and the community.



Every Call, Every Person

by Tina Drury, Deputy Chief

As we begin our new year, I ask that you think about our motto: "Neighbors helping neighbors." You have all embodied our mission through your time and dedication to our community. Living your values through our organization has made us what we are: the one group the community turns to when they are ill, injured, scared or worried.

Every call, every person - we are here to serve our friends. Whether they come through the front door or call us, the Squad originated on the idea that we are here to serve our friends and neighbors. As long as we have an ambulance available and the call originates in Sun City Center or is from HCFR, we respond. It makes no difference if the call sounds like an ALS call, we go.

And please remember, our doors are open to everyone. Our community, our residents as well as our volunteers, are all stakeholders in the Emergency Squad and we should treat everyone as we would want to be treated.

Ten Digit Dialing

by Richard Grant, Assistant Chief, IT

"Beginning January 22, 2022, mandatory 10-digit dialing will be in effect for Hillsborough County. During the first part of January, IT will begin the process of reprogramming each individual system number stored in our Allworx server to meet this requirement. If any Corporate user has established a personal speed dial list, the user owner must perform the reprogramming, if needed. Squad members should be aware that this new requirement applies to your home phone service as well."



If you aren't familiar with Amazon Smile, now is the time to learn what it's about.

amazonsmile

It is a charity program that doesn't cost you a dime. Instead, amazon contributes to the charity of your choice when you sign up and select your favorite charity. Then it donates a % of your purchases to that charity. Its that simple. Learn more at: <https://smile.amazon.com>

HIPAA AND LEGAL ISSUES FOR EMS

By Linda Eargle, HIPAA Compliance Officer

Happy New Year! Last week, the Chief and I were discussing HIPAA procedures as we begin to revise the HIPAA policies and procedures in 2022. In our discussion, I said I only give the yellow HIPAA/privacy policy flyer if I have a signature. He thought we left the flyer on each patient visit. What is your practice? Your feedback will be helpful in our revision.



As part of quality assurance, I am reviewing visit notes for which HIPAA signatures were not obtained. I read the EMT's report for context and note run numbers where the narrative and reason for no signature do not seem to match. On several runs I was on, the selection was not what I intended. My impression is that the pen slipped to the menu choice above or below my intended selection. Have you had similar challenges?

Feel free to email or contact me with your thoughts and ideas.
lindaec@scc-ems.us

Community Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, Community Relations

We made it through 2020 AND 2021. And it wasn't easy! But as we begin 2022, we should make a few resolutions:

Have patience with our patients!

One day we'll move slower; our hearing will be worse, as will our eyesight and possibly our thinking.

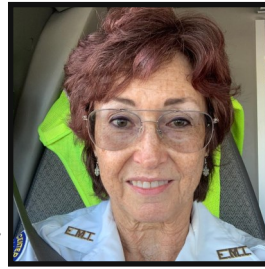
Have patience with our teammates! (See above note!)

Speak slower if your patient is a generation older than you. Each younger generation speaks faster than the previous one.

Tell your neighbors about your experience on the Squad, (without revealing patient information.)

Be a source of information to your neighborhood. Provide information on community resources to those who need it. (We have a new blue 2021-2022 card)

When we have events, invite folks to join you at them.



Sun City Center Community Resources 2021-2022	
<small>Phone numbers are 813 area code unless indicated</small>	
HELP WITH FOOD	
Meals on Wheels	634-9283
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	634-1252
Free Lunch on Wednesday 11:30-12:30	
Food Pantries	
Prince of Peace	634-2328
Good Samaritan Mission	634-7136
St. Anne (Rudins)	645-1714
Our Lady of Guadalupe	633-2384
Senior Centers lunch program—application required	
Ruskin Senior Center	272-5250
Wimauma Senior Center	272-5250
HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION	
SCC Rides	633-6111
<small>Provides transportation for ambulatory persons only in SCC</small>	
Emergency Squad Wheelchair Van	633-1411
<small>Wheelchair bound residents only to doctor's appointments. Schedule 24 hours in advance</small>	
Disabled Veterans	647-2866
<small>Mobile van for hospital</small>	
DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH	
Hillsborough County Dept. of Health	307-8000
COVID-19 testing hotline	272-5900
Florida Dept. of Health	floridhealth.gov
COVID-19 Call Center	866-779-6121
<small>Available 24/7</small>	
<small>email: COVID-19@flhealth.gov</small>	
Sun City Center Emergency Squad	
Non-Emergency	633-1411
Emergency Line	634-3800
<small>Updated: 10/6/2021</small>	

But enough of resolutions! Being a member of the Squad, you are automatically held in higher esteem. Your kindness and your dedication are appreciated by the entire community. Thank you.

Quality Assurance

by Diane Simon, Asst. Chief QA

Happy New Year and I hope it will be healthier for everyone!



There are very few common errors on the ePCR's. That's GREAT news! That being said, I need to remind you to correct the reports INCIDENT tab to reflect if the call is Mutual Aid, or if it is an MVA and everyone donned their vests. Small details, but oh so important in collecting data. INTERVENTIONS whether done by HCFR or our crew, need to be addressed – i.e. C-collars, splinting or hemorrhage control. Take care, be safe and keep up the excellent patient care. Your hard work is much appreciated by not only the community, but by the Assistant Chief/Quality Control.

Blessings...dgsimon

This Month

January 5th—Jen's Market at Kings Point
(Volunteers needed, the sign-up sheet is in the back of the ready room.)

Upcoming:

Jack's Shack fundraiser—February 6th

Safety First

One of the first items we check while answering a call is scene safety. It is imperative that we keep ourselves and our team safe at all times. We better serve our community by protecting ourselves. A large part of keeping safe is personal protective equipment (PPE) and equipment sanitization.

Directly from our Deputy chief the following is now in effect:

- **WASH YOUR HANDS** upon entering the building
- **SPRAY YOUR FEET** with Cavicide (at the back door and by the wheelchairs by the front door)
- **WEAR YOUR MASK** when out in public as well as at the Squad (both buildings)
- **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE** whenever you can.

Remember we got through this before and we will again if all cooperate. The update of recent Covid changes are in the Covid book on the Captains desk #21.

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Team Captains

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