

FireWire

Spring 2019



HOT HEADLINES

NEW EMS Chief Makes Needed Upgrades

In January 2018, the Fire District promoted Captain Mark Russell to the position of Deputy Chief Medical Officer. With high expectations from Fire Chief Steve Olshwanger, newly promoted Deputy Chief Russell started implementing changes.

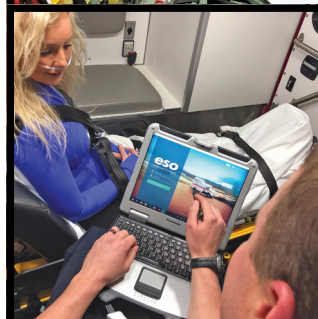
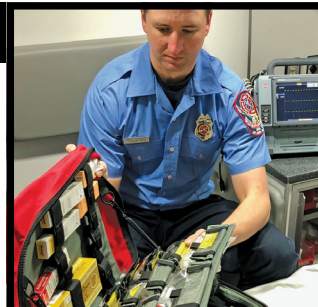
Improving our Medical Control was a high priority for the District. We've switched our Medical Control from Mercy Hospital to SSM Health DePaul, which not only saved the District budgetarily, but the SSM Health DePaul protocols our Paramedics work under gives them the ability to administer life-saving treatments and medications previously not available to us when we were with Mercy Hospital.

EMS reporting software has been upgraded. This new software creates a more advanced report and has health data exchange (HDE) capabilities. HDE allows our patient care reports to automatically upload to the patient's ER chart, creating a consistent flow of documented treatment from transport to hospital discharge, and reduces the amount of time our Paramedics are out of service at the hospital.

More advanced technology for our cardiac monitors was implemented. Our Paramedics can now transmit EKG's directly to an ER physician from the patient's bedside. This earlier notification to the ER allows them more time to prepare for the patient. Also, our cardiac monitors can now detect levels of carbon monoxide in patients. Carbon monoxide responses have been on the rise and the ability to detect levels of carbon monoxide in patients will help in determining the most appropriate hospital for transport.

Under Deputy Chief Russell's leadership, these necessary improvements with our EMS service were made, and our EMS division in 2018 was \$21,000 under budget.

Firefighter Paramedic, Dave Schurwan



New Ladder Truck Arrives

On September 1, 2018, your new Ladder Truck 4425 was placed in service. Manufactured by Rosenbauer America, 4425 is a 109' aerial with a rescue body design and carries a full complement of advanced life support medical equipment, specialized rescue tools, and firefighting gear. Water and ICE rescue suits, high angle, confined space, wildland fire and hydraulic rescue tools are just some of the specialized equipment this truck is outfitted with.

Incorporated into the design of the truck are several new state-of-the-art features our previous ladder truck didn't have. One feature is the Scene Apparatus Manager (S.A.M.), which is a computer-based system that controls the pump operations faster and smoother than a manual system,

allowing the truck operator the ability to focus on scene management and crew needs from the best vantage point possible via a wireless tablet. 4425 is the first manufactured truck in the world with this system. This truck also has a compressed air foam system (CAFS), which delivers aerated foam from our hose lines for a faster extinguishment of the fire, using less water. Additionally, a new style of hose bed is incorporated into the design. It allows the hose bed to come down to ground level to load the large diameter hoses, preventing injuries from lifting the hose high onto the truck for reloading. The 109' ladder has allowed greater reach on several fires in the area since being placed in service.

*Building Committee Co-Chair
Firefighter Paramedic, Brian Shepherd*



Visit Maryland Heights Fire Protection District **online!**

www.mhfire.org

FROM THE CHIEFS DESK

Fire District Residents,

Happy Spring, we have already started with a busy 2019 and are on track to exceed our call volume from 2018. I am proud of the great strides your Fire District has taken throughout the year to provide unsurpassed emergency services, state-of-the-art equipment, and exceptionally trained personnel. These include the newly replaced ladder truck, the change to a more expansive medical protocol, new medical reporting software, firefighters protective gear, and the achievement of an improved ISO rating. The members and staff work diligently on committees to research, assess, and select the finest equipment for the community while still remaining fiscally responsible. Capital improvements were made possible by Proposition B, as promised.

We are welcoming new firefighter paramedics to the organization who will step forward to conquer the emergency challenges of tomorrow.

I am always available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Chief Steve Olshwanger



Local Heros Make National News

On an icy Sunday morning, weather conditions produced over 100 accidents in the local area, putting Emergency Services on overload. Road conditions quickly became dangerous. Highways and major roads came to a grid lock. Paramedic-Firefighter's Shaylor Taetz and Jonathan Stillpass knew they would be busy when they started their shift. What they didn't know is that they would soon make a decision that would affect themselves, their patient and the Fire District in a national way.

While transporting their first patient to the emergency room, from one of the many motor vehicle accidents that day, the ambulance became stuck in traffic. With the hospital in view, the two Paramedics decided sitting in traffic wasn't helping the patient. They covered the patient with every blanket they had, put on their turnout gear, and pushed the patient on the stretcher the last mile to the emergency room.

This incredible act of patient care was caught on camera by an SSM DePaul Hospital employee, who uploaded the image to Facebook. Quickly, the Facebook post was shared over 50 times and the story made national news. Their heroic story was acknowledged on CNN, Fox News, the Weather Channel, MSNBC, local news networks and in EMS and Fire publications. Their act of compassion sets an example for all emergency workers that not everything goes our way, sometimes we must deviate from the norm.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Mark Russell



Your Firefighter Paramedics Shaylor Taetz and Jonathan Stillpass pushed the patient on the stretcher the last mile to the emergency room and made national news.

IN ACTION

Maryland Heights Ladder company 4425 assists Ladue FD on a large house fire.



Spring 2019

EQUIPPED AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Old Buildings Provide New Opportunities for Training

The Owner of an office building scheduled for demolition is allowing Maryland Heights Firefighters to conduct training drills before the building's demise! There is nothing more realistic than training in an acquired structure. Having such a large building like this one offers multiple opportunities for a variety of training. Hose line evolutions, ladder evolutions, search and rescue drills, and active threat scenarios are just a few of the skills for us to train on. The District thanks the local businesses for such a wonderful opportunity!

Assistant Chief Training Officer, Steve Rinehart

Severe Winter Weather – No Deterrent for Service to our Citizens

Despite almost a foot of snow, sub zero temperatures, and an ice storm, the Maryland Heights Fire Protection District maintained full response capabilities to its citizens during severe winter weather. To help achieve this, our Reserve firetruck and ambulance were put into service to ensure quick response times despite poor road conditions and increased call volume. Special unit 4428 (a 6 wheel drive UTV) and pickup truck 4481 (equipped with a snow plow and loaded with hose

and other firefighting essentials) deployed with our equipment to ensure Firefighters and Paramedics could make access to deliver service for 911 callers. "This type of proactive preparation assures the best possible service even under the worst conditions. Our citizens deserve the best and we will always do our best to deliver that!" said Tom Carter – President, Board of Directors.

Assistant Chief Training Officer, Steve Rinehart



Firefighters close in on a "child victim" during search and rescue training.



Severe Weather Makes for Critical Decisions

Maryland Heights responded to a water rescue in which Assistant Chief Steve Rinehart, Firefighter Paramedic Dave Schurwan and Firefighter Paramedic Kevin Heberlie rescued two victims. The call was for a van that slid off the roadway during a snowstorm and

ended up in a lake, trapping the two occupants. Personnel donned special ice suits, swam out to the van, and successfully rescued both occupants. The victims were treated at the scene and transported to a nearby hospital.

Firefighter Paramedic, Matt Weis III



PREVENTION

Fire Pit & Outdoor Fireplace Safety

As we approach the Spring / Summer seasons we would like to remind our citizens of some basic fire pit safety tips:

- Burn only fuels intended for these appliances; no trash, household refuse, or lawn debris.
- Maintain a safe distance from any combustible materials; homes, sheds, decks, dry brush /landscaping.

- Fires must be constantly monitored until extinguished and at least 1 method of extinguishment shall be kept close at hand.
- Ashes should be given enough time to cool and should only be placed in metal, noncombustible containers. These containers should never be placed in garages, on decks, or up against any combustible materials.

Deputy Chief Fire Marshal, Greg Meyer

MEET YOUR DIRECTOR

Meet your Director Tom Carter

Director Carter has been a District Director for 6 years, serving as Secretary and is currently the Board President. Director Carter has been a resident of the community for over 25 years and has enjoyed raising his family here. In his leisure he spends time with his children, boating, and participating in charity fundraisers. He has worked in the financial industry for over 30 years and is a successful entrepreneur. Director Carter is respected as a businessman and was recently invited to speak about personal finance at Washington University School of Medicine. He is also a Board of Director for Central County Emergency 911 Dispatch. He became involved with the Fire District as a way of not only serving the community, but making it stronger and safer. Director Carter's experience is proven through his fiscal responsibility, progressive financial strategies, and the continued economic stability of the District.

Director Carter has supported advanced training for the Firefighters and Paramedics. He is committed to ensuring the District has the necessary resources, such as state-of-the-art equipment needed to provide the highest level of service to the residents.

Public Information Officer, Captain Robert Daus



Director Carter works closely with the Chief staff to assure budgets and goals are being met. He also takes the time to learn about the lifesaving equipment the firefighters use to keep the community safe.



New to the Firefighting Family



Joe Smart is a third-generation firefighter and swift water rescue technician. He worked as a paramedic and training officer for 8 years at St. James Ambulance District. Worked part-time at Crawford Ambulance District for 9 years and was a Volunteer firefighter for 10 years. When he is not on duty he enjoys the outdoors hunting, camping, and ATV riding. He also enjoys spending time with friends at Blues or Cardinals games.



Chris Jones has been in the emergency services for almost a decade. After being a Journeyman tile setter with Local 18 Bricklayers he went to school and took a full-time position as a paramedic with Christian Hospital EMS. He was working as a Paramedic Firefighter for Metro North Fire District before coming here. Chris enjoys spending time with his wife Jamie, son Connor, and daughter Morgan. He likes to tee off on the golf course with friends and take on the open road with his motorcycle.



Shaylor Taetz knew he wanted to go into the fire service and began EMT training right out of high school, obtaining Paramedic and worked at Abbott Ambulance before being employed as a Firefighter Paramedic by Brentwood Fire Department. When he is not on duty Shaylor enjoys hiking with his two Great Danes, playing disc golf and working on his Jeep. He looks forward to an annual fishing trip with his father that has been going strong for over 18 years.



Tim Hickey started as an AirEvac flight paramedic and was a City of St. Charles Firefighter Paramedic before coming to Maryland Heights. He is married to a flight nurse who works a very similar schedule and they have six children. When he is not spending time with his family he enjoys going to Cardinals or Blues games.

ISO Rating

The Maryland Heights Fire Protection District recently underwent an ISO rating review. What is an ISO rating you may be asking? It is an audit conducted by Insurance Services Office who rates a department's ability to put out fires. This audit concentrates on 4 areas of criteria:

- An overall review of a department's equipment, personnel, and level of training.

- The available water supply and its infrastructure.
- Emergency Communications.
- Fire Prevention and Community Outreach.

The result is a score of 1-10 with 1 being the best. This score is one of many factors utilized by insurance companies in determining premium rates.

We are proud to announce that the Maryland Heights Fire District improved their score from a previous rating of Class 4 to a present rating of Class 2. This placed the Fire District in the top 3% in the nation. We would like to thank our citizens for providing us with the equipment needed to achieve this improved rating.

CERT: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Interested in learning more about how to prepare you and your family for a disaster?

The Maryland Heights CERT Team is continuing to train on new and exciting skills. Thanks to the support of the Maryland Heights Fire District the Team trains each month to be better prepared to assist their neighbors when disaster strikes.

CERT Participants learn basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, disaster medical operations and light search and rescue, from local emergency responders who are trained professionals. The eight-week class culminates in a full-scale disaster exercise that allows participants

to test the skills they have learned in a real-life simulation.

If you would like more information on the CERT program, contact Deputy Chief Denis Drozkowski at ddrozkowski@mhfire.org or check out the Team's Facebook page Maryland Heights CERT.

St. Louis Community College offers FREE CERT training. The classes are offered throughout the year (must be 17 to attend). You can register by calling 314-984-7777 and sign up for EMSS 715-Community Emergency Response Team Training.



Members learn skills in the program and then get an opportunity to put them to use in training scenarios.

Smoke Detector Programs SAVES LIVES

Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms.

The Maryland Heights Fire District is working to reduce these types of fatal statistics by annually promoting the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" program. This door-to-door operation allows the opportunity for the firefighters to talk with residents and stress the importance of having a working smoke detector in their home. Batteries are distributed, installed, and smoke detectors are tested. Two replacement smoke detectors, per household, are available for installation in homes that may find a faulty or outdated detector(s).

In fires in which smoke alarms were present, almost half (46%) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.

We recommend that detectors be tested on a regular basis and replaced every 8-10 years. The batteries should be replaced at least once each year (except for long-life lithium batteries). A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire. Please take the time to check your detector, change batteries and/or call us to schedule a smoke detector evaluation-installation. To schedule an appointment call 314-298-4400.

Please feel free to contact my office with any fire safety questions.

Deputy Chief Fire Marshal, Greg Meyer



PREVIOUS EVENTS



Reading to Children

Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Greg Meyer was one of several Chief officers and firefighters who visited Remington Traditional School to read to the students. The Fire District annually goes out to the area schools teaching fire prevention over several weeks to students.



Flicks with Firefighters

We thank everyone who made the first Flicks with Firefighters event a success. Over 60 residents and their children spent the evening at the fire station watching the movie Little Foot. We look forward to hosting another movie soon.



Maryland Heights Fire Protection District

A Newsletter for the Residents
of the Maryland Heights Fire Protection District



FireWire

Spring 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Robert Nichols
Secretary



Tom Carter
President



Mark Wells
Treasurer

**THANK
YOU** For Your
CONTINUED
SUPPORT



CALL 911 TO REPORT A FIRE
OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY!

Maryland Heights
Fire Protection District
2600 Schuetz Road
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
314-298-4400

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
#2828