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THE BULLETIN

Official monthly publication of the
Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Volume IX Issue 9

Dennis R Mallery, Editor

September 2014

Inside this Issue:

- News From Latest MSFA Executive Committee Meeting
- Notes from Association Meeting at Friendsville
- Companies Awarded DNR Grant Funds
- Accident Lists Tanker For Sale
- How Fire Departments Began...
- Activities from around the area

Upcoming Meetings

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Dec. 6-7: Pocomoke City VFD

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Association

Oct. 5: Luke VFD

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Assoc. L.A.

November 9: Barton Hose

Garrett County Association

November 26: Kitzmiller

Mike Walters Fellowship of Christian Firefighters

October 5: Good Will VFC

Williamsport Hosts MSFA Executive Committee Meeting

The MSFA Executive Committee held their first meeting on August 23-24 at the Williamsport Volunteer Fire & EMS Company.

MD State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci reported on activities of the Office of the State Fire Marshal:

Personnel: At the current time, the OSFM has seven vacant positions, three DFM, three Inspectors and one Computer Specialist. We will be filling one of the DFM positions in September. The agency held an orientation and recruitment program across the state in July and we had over 80 individuals show up and participate in this process.

Fire Fatalities: As of this date, the total fire fatalities for 2014 currently stands at 36 compared to 46 at this same time last year which is a 21% reduction. More information about fire deaths in Maryland can be found at the OSFM website at www.mdsp.org/firemarshal.

Training Partnership:

The OSFM has partnered with the Capital Region Fire Sprinkler Association to conduct training for all fire prevention personnel across the state. The first training course is scheduled for September 9th at MFRI in College Park.

Legislation: The OSFM has proposed legislation for next year's general assembly. The legislation addresses smoke alarms, sprinklers in existing high rise structures, civil cita-

tions, fines and fees.

US Fire Administration –

“Fire is Everyone’s Fight” Initiative: The U.S. Fire Administration has moved forward with the “Fire is Everyone’s Fight” action plan. All members of the fire service are being encouraged to begin use of the initiative materials and logos immediately. The graphic and theme have been made available using the:

www.usfa.fema.gov/fireiseveryonesfight website.

News Releases: Please take time to visit the OSFM’s Facebook page to find all of the educational news releases issued by the OSFM. There are at least two educational news releases issued every month. Share the releases on your Facebook pages as well. Like us at <http://facebook.com/MarylandStateFireMarshal>.

Monte Mitchell, State Fire Supervisor **MD Forest Service**, noted that through July 2014, the Forest Service has responded to 93 wildfires burning 1,696 acres. The statistics for the four regions are reported below for the year.

Region	2014 # Fires	Acres Burned
Western	21	58.2
Southern	13	5.6
Central	15	25.6
Eastern	44	1606.5
Totals	93	1,695.9

Personnel / Staffing The Director / State Forester Steve Koehn retired from the Forest Service effective June 30. He accepted a position with the US Forest Service in Washington DC. Donald VanHassent has been named as the Acting Director / State Forester for the Forest Service. He was the Associate Director over all statewide program managers. Anne Hairston-Strang has also been named as the Acting Associate Director for Statewide Programs. She has served as the Watershed Program Manager. A Forester position has been filled for our Anne Arundel field office; a Forest Ranger position has been filled in the Calvert County field office; Management Associate (office admin) has been filled at Headquarters; and the Tremendous Coordinator position in headquarters has also had interviews and position expected to start in early September. One other position has been submitted as vacancy fill request and in process. The three seasonal fire positions are also retuning on short term contract from September 2014 to June 2015 in Western, Southern, and Eastern Regions

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) The 2014 VFA grant program call letter for applications was sent out on May 16. This year \$82,500 in funding

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Williamsport Hosts MSFA Executive Committee Meeting *(cont.)*

will be available for grant distribution to eligible volunteer fire departments from the allocations received from the USDA Forest Service. The maximum grant award of \$3,000 per department will remain the same with a 50/50 match requirement. Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Applications were due on July 18, 2014

Applications were received from 54 volunteer fire departments in 16 counties. Funds requested on the applications totaled \$126,239 with a total estimated project cost of \$265,801. Applications are currently being reviewed, rated, and ranked for funding. Notification of grant awards approved to Departments will be distributed by September 30, 2013. If your grant application is approved for funding; invoices or purchase orders and copies of checks used for payment must be dated between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. Documentation to receive reimbursement must be submitted by January 15, 2015.

MFRI:

Director Steve Edwards noted in 2015, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute will celebrate its 85th year of providing fire, rescue and EMS training within Maryland and beyond.

AFG Grant Award:

MFRI was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program grant for a total of \$500,000 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), personal protective equipment (PPE) and hazardous material detection equipment. This competitive grant from DHS will be very helpful to us with regard to the purchase of needed safety equipment for fire service training. Maryland was the only state to receive

the maximum grant award. Plans are to purchase: 80 complete sets of SCBA; 75 complete sets of PPE for MFRI instructors; 14 air monitoring and sampling devices; and four breathing air cascade systems.

ALS. The Fall schedule is online. There are 2 different types of ALS refreshers (4 transitions and the new curriculum). Dr. Stevens, medical director, has resigned. The second annual Leadership Symposium will be held on November 14 and 15. Keynote speakers will be AJ Heitman as well as Ron Duckworth.

BLS. EMT classes starting this fall will be testing National Registry. It will be the responsibility of the student to set the written test up with Pearson Vue. There are several new test sites being set up. The test results will be sent to MIEMSS.

Dr. Alcorta provided a clarification of field skills performed by EMS students: All training programs need to have a field training coach to make sure students are aware of what they can and cannot do while in class. Once the student has been taught a procedure or skill and passed it, they can perform these skills with a preceptor per COMAR.

MSP Aviation:

Helicopter number 10 is coming in this budget year. The old helicopters are up for sale. Trooper 5, in Cumberland, is in transition. Trooper 1 should begin the transition process in the beginning of October and the entire process will be complete in November. Maintenance hour costs on the AW139 are double what the Dauphin was. They are looking at a location possible in Harford County to move Trooper 1.

Next EMS committee meet-

ing: the next meeting will be held at Pleasant Valley in Carroll County on November 2, 2014. Lunch at 1200; meeting at 1300.

ALS Sub Committee:

The ALS Sub-committee is still collecting information from the jurisdictions on the clearing process for ALS providers, both new and those coming from other jurisdictions. There was discussion of why we can't resolve the issue of ALS provider's training being accepted across jurisdictional lines.

BLS Sub Committee:

Testing for new BLS providers will include completing a practical test. They will then be given authority to take the national registry test Beginning with the fall classes. MIEMSS will pay for the first attempt; after that the student will be responsible for retesting. So far they are not requesting a protocol test for the state after completion. For recertification, BLS providers will not have to maintain national registry.

Volunteer Company Assistance Fund (VCAF)

Since the MSFA Convention meeting the VCAF Committee has seen an increase in interest for VCAF loans. The VCAF regional representatives have been working hard to educate companies on the process and outline benefits of obtaining a VCAF loan for equipment and facilities.

During the Executive Committee teleconference there was a discussion about the difference between MSFA Executive Committee rules for loans and grant, and Maryland Code, PUBLIC SAFETY, TITLE 8 - FIRE AND RESCUE FUNDS, Subtitle 2 - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

Per direction of the Executive

Committee the VCAF Committee will present additional information and justification for the Executive Committee to allow the Association to work within the bounds of Maryland Codes, PUBLIC SAFETY, TITLE 8 - FIRE AND RESCUE FUNDS, Subtitle 2 - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund, § 8-201. Definitions, § 8-202. Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - In general, § 8-203. Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Purpose; grants, and § 8-204. Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Requests for money.

Progress Payments for Construction Loans: The VCAF Committee, specifically Vice Chair Joe Antoszewski, has made good progress with developing a progress payment process for VCAF construction loans. It appears that the Maryland Military Department representatives are in agreement that change is needed and that the Baltimore County Progress Payment Process serves as a good model. The last and most important component being worked is the inspection process—who can be authorized to inspect and certify for payment.

Under MIEMSS's report on the **Volunteer Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP)**: The final VAIP document from the committee was modified by SEMSAC and the EMS Board to relieve non-transport units of the need to carry epi pens because of their cost. MIEMSS is evaluating several options to give BLS providers methods to administer epinephrine by other means in severe allergic reaction cases. MIEMSS is forming a group to look at the possibility of creating a "minimum" ambulance standard that would

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The September meeting of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was held at the Friends-

ville VFRD with President Clarence Broadwater gaveling the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Vice-president Dick DeVore led those assembled in the flag salute. Chaplain Pete Walbert offered the invocation .

Roll call showed 15 departments present (43%) with Baltimore Pike, Bittering, Bloomington, Bowman's Addition, Corriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park, Ellerslie Ambulance, Frostburg Ambulance, George's Creek Ambulance, Gorman, Grantsville, Kitzmiller, Midland, Mt. Savage, Oakland, Rawlings, Southern Rescue and Tri Towns EMS not represented.

Past Presidents attending included James Decker, Ron Grabenstein, Pete Walbert, Rod Bowser, David Kyle, Pat Bowser, Janet Elbin, Mike Simmons, Tim Dayton and Clarence Broadwater.

Guests attending included David Keller III, MSFA President; Johnie Roth, MSFA 1st Vice-president; Donna Struntz, LAMSFA Chaplain; Pam Kyle, FCFV Vice-president; Betty Grabenstein, PP LAMSFA; Tracy Simmons AGCVFRA LA Secretary; Shelby Simmons, Miss Fire Prevention; Todd Dyche, MFRI and John Herath, EMS Chief Allegany Co. Dept of Emergency Services.

MSFA: President David Keller reported the Executive Committee held on August 23-24 at Williamsport was very productive and



wanted to thank all those who attended. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for December 6-7 at

Pocomoke City. We did a fund raiser for Bessie Marshall on August 24 and raised \$250. We will try this again on December 7. For a \$10 donation, you may wear a sport jersey to Sunday's meeting. The MSFA and the MD Fire Chiefs Association have teamed up for the SAFER grant and we'll be meeting very soon to determine how we will utilize the grant funds. We have 158 out of 365 MSFA Statistical Reports turned in for 2013 with 11,059,000 active hours of volunteer time given. The State Fire Reports (NFIRS) need to be turned in by the 5th of each month. If not complied with starting in October, this will affect the Senator Amons 508 monies for your County. Thanks to everyone for your support and for your commitment work.



Pat Bowser, **Volunteer Company Assistance Fund**, reported that the Board of Public Works has approved the four applications previously sent to them this past Wednesday, including funds for Bedford Road for their new engine. Pat noted that companies are their own worst enemies, as there is a company that could go to settlement and they've chosen to wait for nearly three weeks for

a date that suits them



Todd Dyche, **MFRI**, gave a run down on classes still open for pre-registration, among which

are the Rescue Tech Site Ops at Eastern Garrett starting 10/5; EMR Refresher at Midland scheduled to begin on 10/10; EMT Refresher on 10/18 at Garrett College and Rescue Tech Ropes at Garrett College on 10/25. The 12 hour EMT Refresher is also available online beginning 10/1. The National Fire Academy has developed a new 18 month 'leadership' program in which four courses are prerequisites: Leadership I, II, III and Shaping the Future. Check out their website for more information.



Pete Walbert, **Fellowship of Christian Firefighters**, reported on the breakfast meeting held at the Bedford Road

VFD. The welcome was given by President Clarence Broadwater and the response given by Tim Growden on behalf of the host company. Pam Kyle read a poem. The invocation and the blessing of the meal were given by Chaplain Walbert Following breakfast, a prayer for Joys and Concerns was given by Chaplain Walbert. Lara Engle sang six songs. The 23rd Psalm was read for deceased members. The Chapter discussed ways to generate more interest in member's attendance to the

breakfasts. The prayer breakfast adjourned at 9:45 a.m. after the benediction. The next Prayer Breakfast will be held at Goodwill VFC October 4 starting at 8:30 am. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.



John Shuhart, **Insurance**, submitted his report, in his absence, noting that he had made payment for Ronald

Poole, Bowling Green. If any company who belongs to the Relief Fund has a member die, please give me a call so that I may send out a check. I have still not heard from Deep Creek on their status for the relief fund.

The questionnaire for the accident insurance will be mailed to each company during September. This is to let me know if your company wants to continue with the association insurance policy. Please return these to be by October 1st. I need to know in order to determine the cost for each company.

Last month it was reported that Selective Insurance Company will no longer write worker compensation insurance in the State of Maryland. This is a result of changes made to Labor and Employment Chapter 445 Section 9-503 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. This was changes with House Bill 1101. It states that a fire or rescue individual who acquires cancer as a result of employment, they may file for benefits. The problem occurs as to who can confirm the cancer was a result of said employment. The feeling is the insurance company must prove that it did not come from the employment.

GONE ARE THE DAYS...The Intersection of Patient Care & Paperwork

(The following article was recently published in the Cornerstone Connection 2014 Edition XX, Pg 4-6)

By Angela Buskohl, PM CCP, CAC

Gone are the days when our only focus was just taking care of the patient. When I first began my career in emergency medicine as a paramedic, the only priority when responding to an ambulance request was to assess and treat the patient. Just 20 years ago, discussing insurance with the patient was not only discouraged, for some companies it wasn't even allowed. One afternoon in 1996, my partner and I were dispatched to transfer a patient from a hospital to a local nursing home. As I was getting the cot ready my partner went in to the patient's room to introduce himself and inform the patient that we were there to transport her back to her place of residence. I do recall that he noticed the patient condition to be that of someone that probably didn't need an ambulance for her transport.

As he entered the room and greeted the family member that was present and the patient, he informed them that this service we would be providing may not be covered by Medicare. It was his intent to inform the patient but at that time it was perceived as "This guy has no business telling us this and he doesn't want to take care of our loved one today." While clearly untrue, the damage had been done. Our focus shifted to reassure the patient and family that we were there to serve her and truly cared about her health-care.

As we returned to base after completing the transport my

partner was greeted by the Ambulance Manager for a counseling regarding the fact that it was unacceptable behavior for him to approach the patient about insurance. Little did we know this would soon change. The new age of medicine brought in change. Change brought improvements for the privacy and notification of beneficiaries. Along with the privacy improvements, new requirements for serving patients were also introduced. To comply with the required changes, our role as EMS providers now included obtaining new documentation and signature forms while still providing excellent care to the patient. As my role in emergency medicine shifted to management, it became increasingly challenging to help staff change the way they provided patient care. The challenge was not only limited to teaching new procedures, it required a new approach that went beyond assessment, treatment and transport. This shift in patient care also included informing and teaching the new requirements to other health-care providers involved in patient transfers.

Communicating the proper use of the new forms was met with resistance as well as confusion. What form do we use and why? Although the changes created improvements in patient care, it was difficult to see. Communicating the need for a signature to a patient or family member is uncomfortable to say the least – especially when just a few years earlier the practice was frowned upon, even prohibited by some. As an emergency medicine professional, you might have been thinking, "This isn't what I signed up for,

I just want to help people."

The focus on getting forms signed began to overshadow the focus on patient care. Some emergency medicine staff became so focused on getting forms signed that, upon entering a patient's room for a transfer, they would approach the patient with a form to sign before assessing the patient's medical condition.

It was unfortunate to see how the need to enforce operational requirements had moved the focus of care away from the patient. Staff had to be re-trained once again to focus on communicating with and assessing the patient prior to obtaining required signatures.

When responding to emergency situations, compliance becomes an even greater challenge. Take the example of a dispatch to a home residence where a gentleman is experiencing chest pain:

While en route to the residence preparation includes reviewing the dispatch information: patient age, signs and symptoms, when symptoms began, prior medical history, chest pain protocol and medical equipment needed.

Upon arriving on the scene, you find the patient having outward signs and a chief complaint of severe chest pain, diaphoresis and shortness of breath. You apply the cardiac monitor and pulse oximetry; obtain a set of vitals, get a brief history of the illness with allergies and meds.

Your patient is declining quickly, so you start an IV, obtain a 12 Lead, give oxygen, ASA and one nitro spray. 12

Lead confirms ST elevation in more than one lead. Throughout the situation you maintain a calm demeanor to prevent alarming the patient and family while communicating what is happening. You also share with the patient and family that due to his current condition we need to go to the nearest facility.

You are also concerned as to how the family member will get to the hospital safely as you lift the patient on to the cot and load him into the ambulance. Now en route to the hospital, you contact the ER and call a STEMI alert and continue to treat the patient's signs and symptoms. You can see based on his condition, your patient might die and mentally prepare for the next steps should the unfortunate occur.

As he is critical, you do not ask the patient for a signature on the Assignment of Benefits at this time, but will eventually need to inform the family member and have her sign the form. As you transfer care to the ER team, you also obtain a signature from the provider taking over care, ensure the patient gets registered and prepare the ambulance to be ready to respond to the next call as soon as possible.

We have come full circle now in emergency medicine, as 20 years ago we were trained to perform all aspects of scene safety, patient assessment, treatment and transport with very little responsibility of insurance and other compliance requirements.

Now responding to a dispatch includes getting all require

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forms completed correctly prior to the submission of claims. While all of these requirements are put in place with good reason and improve patient care, it increases the work load of staff. As a result, additional support staff is needed to perform the tasks of pre-billing, coding and claim submission, billing audits, etc.

In addition to meeting all requirements and submitting claims, it is best practice to ensure all those involved in the process receive correct and up-to-date information to remain compliant. This involves training, which is often obtained through seminars and conferences and increases operational expenses. Many ambulance services have found it most efficient and effective to utilize the support of an ambulance billing company to manage these tasks. This allows the emergency medical staff to "focus more attention on just helping people," returning their focus to the reason they entered into the profession in the first place.

About the Author:

Angela has been in EMS for over 20 years serving in Iowa as a volunteer and professional Paramedic Specialist, Critical Care Paramedic, manager, and educator. Angela maintains certifications in BLS, PALS, ACLS, Hazmat Operations level for EMS, and is a Certified Ambulance Coder. Angela currently serves on the Quality Assurance committee for the State of Iowa's Bureau of EMS and is a member of IEMSA (Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association).

Executive Committee Meets, Receives Committee Updates

allow jurisdictions more flexibility in ambulance stocking procedures.

MIEMSS leadership:

One candidate of the final two candidates for the Executive Director position was interviewed and the other opted not to be interviewed. Pat Gainer and Dr. Alcorta are currently acting Co-executive Directors. Also the MIEMSS Ombudsman position (previously held by PP Phil Hurlock) will be filled by Mike Deckard. Learning Management System (LMS): There have been issues with providers receiving credit for LMS training which are being addressed. In addition, VP Roth requested that MIEMSS have no more than one protocol update per year to reduce the workload on volunteer providers.

MIEMSS Joins Governor's Overdose Prevention Council.

Governor Martin O'Malley announced the formation of the Overdose Prevention Council to counter an increase in the number of overdose deaths in an executive order released on June 27, 2014. Dr. Richard Alcorta, is the MIEMSS representative serving on this council. The Council will advise and assist in establishing a coordinated, statewide effort to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Maryland. To combat overdose deaths in Maryland, MIEMSS approved the use of intranasal naloxone by EMTs effective July 1, 2014. This protocol is available for commercial services and EMRs as an optional supplement. Additional information on the Governor's Overdose Prevention Council can be found on: <http://governor.maryland.gov/documents/OPCFactSheet.pdf>. **SEMSAC BLS Committee:** The BLS Committee continues to monitor the changes made

with the implementation of the EMS Agenda for the Future: National EMS Education Standards. The committee will continue to develop materials to be used by both instructors and current providers for recertification. The Field Training Coach program has been updated and is placed on the MIEMSS Instructor's Corner. A FTC Online Training Center course is soon to follow in order to reach more potential EMT coaches and mentors. Additionally, the committee is working on ways to improve the transition from EMR-Emergency Medical Responder (formerly known as FR-First Responder) to EMT-Emergency Medical Technician certification. Another initiative by the committee is to revise the BLS continuing education requirements to be more streamlined with national trends National Registry Testing for EMR and EMT Initial Certification. Beginning with courses that start in Fall 2014, MIEMSS will be utilizing the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for the cognitive or didactic portion of the State certification process for EMR and EMT candidates. This change only effects candidates for initial certification not current Maryland providers. Candidates that enter the Maryland EMS system at the BLS level with NREMT are not required to keep their NREMT certification in order to maintain their Maryland EMR or EMT certification. Nor are current providers required to obtain NREMT. The current 12 hour refresher for EMR and 24 hour refresher for EMT requirements stay in place for provider renewals at the BLS level. The candidates for EMT certification will continue to take the current practical evaluation process through

the MIEMSS office for initial certification. Directions will be provided through the teaching agencies to students on how to register for the NREMT exam. Additional information will be provided in the upcoming months.

The **Bessie Marshall Fund** has been very busy since the convention. To date, the Fund has paid 3 cases for a total of \$2700.00. We are in the process of mailing out the Lottery tickets for the coming year. This is our biggest fund raiser. Last year we paid 33 cases for a total of \$28,050.00 so you see we have a lot of money to raise We would like to thank everyone who continues to support this fund for your fellow members Remember you can make a donation in the name of your deceased members or in honor of a member who has served for many years. We would like to acknowledge the donations of 100 Black eyed Susan Pins by Frank Underwood. When sold we will receive a profit of \$700.00. Thanks Frank for your continued support every year. We also would like to thank Mr. Steal, PP of Pa. Firemen's Association for the donation of the fire truck for the raffle for the Convention. Each year this raffle shows a return of several hundreds of dollars. I will have Black-eyed Susan pins for sale today for \$7.00 if you need one for your suit jacket.

Chaplains:

The 2014 Conference for the Federation of Fire Chaplains will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis October 17-23. It is not too late to be a sponsor of the Conference. Contributions can be made in one of the following categories: Chief-\$1,000; Captain-\$500; Lieutenant-\$250; EMT-\$100; Fire-fighter-\$50 or Probie-\$25. Tax-

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**Mt. Savage/Frostburg
Cash Bash**

Saturday, October 11th

11:30 am to 6:00 pm

Mt. Savage VFD

Early Bird drawings

12:00 - 1:00 pm

(Must be present to win

Early Bird drawings)

Regular drawings

1:00 - 6:00 pm

Don't have to be present to win

Tickets: \$20/person

Guests: \$10 at the door

Grand Prize: \$3,000

ID required at the door

**Bowling Green/Ridgeley
1st Annual Cash Bash**

Saturday, Oct. 18th

1:00 - 4:30 pm

Bowling Green VFD

Doors open at 12:00 pm

\$500 Early Bird Drawing

1:00 pm

(Must be present to win

Early Bird Drawing)

Tickets:\$20.00

Grand Prize: \$1,000

Contact any member or call

(301) 729-1522 for tickets

or more information

Upcoming Training

EMR Refresher

Oct. 10 Midland FD

1830 hrs Fri/Sat/Sun

EMT Refresher

Oct. 18 GCC

0830 hrs Sat/Sun

Rescue Tech: Site Ops

Oct. 5 Eastern Garrett

0830 Sundays

Rescue Tech: Rope Rescue

Oct. 25 GCC

0830 Saturdays

Conducting Safe Live Fire

Training Evolutions

Oct. 28 WMRTC

0830 Sundays

Trauma Cases for EMS

Oct. 9 WMRTC

1830 Thursday

* *requires Medical Clearance*

www.mfri.org

Friendsville VFRS

Cash/Gun Bash

Saturday, October 4th

1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Doors open at 12:00 pm

Tickets: \$25.00/person

Grand Prize: Winchester Gun Safe

Cresaptown VFD's

3rd Annual

HOLIDAY BASH

Saturday, November 15

3:00 - 8:00 pm

Doors open 1:00 pm

Allegany County

Fairgrounds

Early Bird Drawings

(Must be present)

2:00 - 2:50 pm,

Tickets: \$25/person

for a chance at 27 prizes

Grand Prize: \$1,000

Only 500 tickets on sale

Contact any member to

purchase yours now!

**Baltimore Pike
VFC**

**AYCE Spaghetti
Dinner**

Saturday, October 18th

4:00 - 7:00 pm

Spaghetti, Salad, Roll

\$7.00

Soda & dessert extra

Extra spaghetti sauce

available for sale by

the quart: \$5.00

Eat in or Carry out

Call ahead:

(301) 724-4170

Allegany County Departments

County EMS Chief John Herath is attempting to determine the number of flu vaccine doses he'll need for the upcoming flu season.

If your Department has not contacted him with a number of your members wishing to receive the vaccine, do so asap!



IN MEMORY

Charles Riley, Bloomington VFD

Dorothy Hunt, Midland FD Auxiliary

**Robert J. 'Doc' Wilson, Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD
and committee member of MSFA**

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. "

Isaiah 41:10

<p>*** FREE ***</p> <p>Dry Cleaning & Shirt Salon 1313 National Hwy LaVale, MD 21502 (or any of their branches)</p> <p>Offering Free Dry Cleaning of Class A Uniforms or Uniform Shirts</p>	<p>Oldtown VFD Auxiliary Chicken Dinner October 12th 12:00 pm until sold out Carry-outs available</p> <p>Hoagie/Salad Sale October 23rd Pick up orders 11:00 - 3:00 pm Orders due by October 19th Contact any member or call (301) 759-2917</p> <p>Baked Ham Dinner October 26th 12:00 pm until sold out Carry outs available</p>	<p>Spaghetti Dinner Good Will Fire Company First Friday of each month 4pm-6pm Fireman's Armory in Lonaconing</p> 	<p>Eastern Garrett Co. V.F.R.D. Spaghetti Dinners 2nd Saturday each month 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Adults: \$7.00 Children: \$3.50</p> <p>Turkey Dinners 4th Sunday of: March April September</p> 
<p>Flintstone VFD 150 Club Saturday, November 1 6:00 pm Tickets \$25/couple No one under 21 admitted Only 150 tickets available Contact any member for your ticket</p>	<p>Send Us Your Information!!</p>	<p><i>The Bulletin</i> is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association who's business address is P.O. Box 252 Barton, MD 21521-0252. Information for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the Editor at P.O. Box 142 Oldtown, MD 21555-0142 or emailed to drm21555@yahoo.com</p>	

<p>Executive Committee Meets <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>Eleven Share In 2014 State VFA Grants</p>	<p>Firefighter-author Writes Children's Book for Fire Safety</p>
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deductable donations can be made to the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Co. 4 Broadview Blvd S. Glen Burnie, MD 21061, mark for 'Chaplain'.

LOSAP:

Within the next two weeks (following the Executive Committee meeting) an updated copy of the MSFA-P-2.2 (Revised 8/14) will be sent to each Points Coordinator for distribution to all of their County companies. The form has been updated to reflect the new deduction of \$3,750.00 for the taxable year 2014. A copy will be placed on the MSFA website also. Each subsequent year, an updated form increasing the amount by \$250.00 will be distributed in the same manner until we reach the \$5,000.00 limit. Other notes from the Executive Committee meeting: Dues notices for 2015 are being mailed out in December, please return your payments as soon as possible. The Fire Prevention Committee will have their tip sheets online very soon. Departments are asked to submit information to the Fire Prevention Committee regarding lives saved by smoke alarms. A question was raised as to why companies aren't selling the MSFA's \$10,000 Raffle tickets? Contact Tim, in private if you wish, to explain your reasoning to him. Other information and full Committee reports are available online at msfa.org under 'Document Library' as well as the Past Presidents newsletter published by Barbara Knippenburg.

State Forester Monte Mitchell recently released the list of those departments who will receive grant monies through the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program. Fifty-four companies from 16 Counties applied for grant funds totaling \$265,801.

Thirty-nine companies from 15 Counties had projects approved for a total expense of \$187,652 of which the State will reimburse one-half, or \$90,021, to those who properly submit their copies of invoices and cancelled checks for those projects that were approved.

Receiving awards and the amount approved are:

Baltimore Pike	\$6,088	\$3,000
Barton	\$6,189	\$3,000
Bedford Road	\$3,987	\$1,993
Ellerslie	\$ 530	\$ 265
Good Will	\$6,470	\$3,000
Grantsville	\$1,028	\$ 514
Kitzmilller	\$6,500	\$3,000
LaVale	\$3,206	\$1,603
Mt. Savage	\$4,920	\$2,460
Oldtown	\$6,440	\$3,000
Potomac	\$4,000	\$2,000

The book teaches kids the importance of fire safety and prevention from the perspective of a 6-year-old outdoorsy girl
 CHARLESTON, W.Va. — An author is using her firefighting experience to help spread fire prevention awareness in the form of her newest children's book. The Fayette Tribune reported that volunteer firefighter Amber Elmore will launch "Betsy Beansprout: Fire Safety Guide" Saturday, Oct. 4. The event will be held at the Sissonville Volunteer Fire Department, which was rebuilt after burning down in 2010.

"Betsy Beansprout: Fire Safety Guide," the fourth book in Elmore's Betsy Beansprout series, teaches kids the importance of fire safety and prevention from the perspective of a 6-year-old girl who lives on a state park. "As a firefighter, I've seen far too many preventable fatal fires, and this book aims to teach children, and even parents, the importance of prevention and safety," Elmore said. "We're inviting government leaders, legislators, and all members of the community to join us in our effort to lower the statistics and save lives."

Elmore began her fire service career in 2004 with the Sissonville Volunteer Fire Department where she currently serves as a firefighter, according to the report. She is a certified National Wildfire Coordinating Group and FEMA/EMI Instructor and is a certified Wildland Public Information Officer.

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EMS Leadership Program

especially designed for EMS Officers and leaders of all levels

November 14-15, 2014

Maryland Fire & Rescue Headquarters

4500 Paint Branch Parkway

College Park, MD 20742

Free symposium for in-state providers.

Out-of-state provider fee is \$50.00.

Registration must be made online at als@mfri.org

For more information: (301) 226-9900 or 800-ASK-MFRI

Topics included are Front Line EMS Supervision; Change Management in EMS Leading the Charge for Change; Social Media Marketing and Managing Maximizing Resources and Minimizing Problems; Why EMS Systems Fail; EMS Management Lessons from M*A*S*H and five others!

**Send Us
 Fire Prevention Week
 Activity Photos and
 we'll add them to a
 future issue!**



FOR SALE: The Accident VFD has their 1961 Tanker, shown above, for sale. Unit's still in service. Hose and ladders not included in the sale. For more information or to place a bid on the unit, contact the Department at accidentvfd@verizon.net
(Photo - Accident VFD)

MSFA 2014 SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

October 14-15

Howard County Dept. of Fire & Rescue
Services Public Safety Training Center
Marriottsville, MD

Keynote Speaker:

Gordon Graham

'What is Real Risk Management?'

'Seven Rules of Admiral Hyman Rickover'

'Tips for Success'

Breakout Sessions:

'Near Misses' (IAFC)

'Fireground Safety' (IAFF)

'Johns Hopkins Cardiac Prevention Program' (JHMC)

'Roadway Safety' (MD SHA & MSP)

'Injury & Accident Prevention' (MOSH)

'Training Safety' (MFRI)

'16 Life-Safety Initiatives' (NFFF)

More information or registration can be found at
mfri.org/announcements/2014safety Symposiumhcdfra.pdf or
hcdfrs.net

Oakland Volunteer Fire Dept. 1st Annual Arm Wrestling Tournament

Saturday, October 11th
Oakland Volunteer Fire Department

\$10.00 admission per weight class
includes tournament, food, drink &
refreshments

Weigh in held 5:00 - 5:45 pm
Pulling begins at 6:00 pm

Classes:

Right handed: 0-154 lbs; 155-176 lbs;
177-220 lbs; 221 & above.

Left handed: 0-175 lbs; 176 & above.

Women: Right handed and left handed.

Questions: call (301) 696-7323 or
(301) 696-7640

Come One, Come All!!!!

DID YOU EVER WONDER HOW FIRE DEPARTMENTS WERE STARTED?



Did you know that in 1736, Benjamin Franklin started the first fire department ever? It was located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was called the Union Fire Company.

Ben Franklin lived in Boston until he was eighteen years old. The city of Boston had major fires in 1653 and 1676. After the fire in 1676, Boston purchased a London pumper. The city then hired Thomas Atkins and twelve other men to fight fires. These were the first paid firefighters in the United States. At the age of six, Benjamin Franklin witnessed another major fire in 1711. One hundred ten families lost their homes.

In 1682, the city of Philadelphia was founded by William Penn.

When determining where to locate the city Penn gave careful thought to the dangers of fire.

In 1718, Philadelphia bought its first engine. It was named The Shag Rag but it was not put into service until 1730 when Philadelphia had a fire that destroyed much of the commercial district along the river.

In 1733, Ben Franklin often wrote about the dangers of fire and the need for organized fire protection in his newspaper, "The Pennsylvania Gazette". Ben Franklin was familiar with Boston's Mutual Fire Societies which were also known as "Fire Clubs." But the "Fire Clubs" existed for the protection of its members, not for everyone in the community.

After a huge fire in Philadel-

phia in 1736, Franklin created a fire brigade called The Union Fire Company with 30 volunteers. The first full-fledged volunteer firefighter in America was Isaac Paschall. The idea of volunteer fire brigades gained popularity. These citizens were able to afford to purchase equipment and pay fines for missing meetings and fires. (Does your department have a history of paying fines for not helping at a fire or for missing meetings?).

Some famous Americans who served as volunteer firefighters were: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, John Barry, Aaron Burr, Benedict Arnold, James Buchanan and Millard Fillmore also served as volunteer firemen.