

THE BUGLE

The Newsletter of Seville-Guilford Fire & EMS

AED's in the Workplace

The number of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) placed in public buildings and businesses continues to grow. An integral part of the American Heart Association's "Chain of Survival," rapid AED placement plays an important role in increasing the chances of survival for someone having a cardiac arrest.

We are fortunate to have AED's available in not only our EMS vehicles, but in police cruisers, municipal buildings and vehicles, and in numerous local businesses and churches.

Some helpful tips for those considering purchasing an AED or who have one available:

- *Train your employees in the use of the AED. They are, by design, very simple to use – almost foolproof- and will instruct the user with voice prompts. A simple overview of the AED and its function will help your people feel comfortable if they ever need to use it.*
- *Check the batteries per the manufacturer recommendations. The batteries in most models will generally last up to several years, but should be checked periodically.*
- *Check the defibrillation pads to ensure they are still sealed/intact, and that they haven't expired. Expired or unsealed pads may not adhere well to the victim's skin, decreasing the effectiveness of the AED.*

It is increasingly common for people to see multiple types/brands of AEDs in their daily lives, whether at work, school, the gym, grocery store or public buildings/sporting events.

Remember that each type is simple to use and will walk you through the proper operation of the device.

Finally, be aware of the AEDs available to you at your place of employment, worship or other locations. You never know when you will be the one to make a life-or-death difference.

Want your name on this locker?



...then stop in and pick up an application to be a volunteer Firefighter and/or EMT. You can join your neighbors and friends in serving your community.

Minimum qualifications include:

- High school diploma or GED or equivalent
- Of good moral character
- Valid driver's license
- Drug Free
- Willingness to attend meetings and trainings, and respond to the needs of your community

Applications may be picked up at the station daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. or on Thursday evenings (training night) at 7. Please bring a copy of your driver's license and any certification cards you may have (CPR, EMT, etc).

Please call the station at 330-769-4112 if you have any questions

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SMOKE TRAILER TRAVELS

Our fire safety trailer (commonly called the Smoke Trailer) was purchased with monies provided through the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program. In the past three years, the smoke trailer has provided fire and severe weather safety training to over 1000 kids and adults throughout the area.

Outfitted with a complete kitchen, bedroom, and living room, the trailer uses non-toxic smoke to show the importance of staying low and finding the nearest exit in case of a fire. It also has working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, kitchen safety props, and audio/visual capabilities to teach storm safety.

In addition to local functions, the smoke trailer has also travelled to nearby communities, including Rittman, Creston, Wadsworth, Westfield, Lafayette, and Medina, to assist in their programs.

CO & SMOKE DETECTOR MAINTENANCE

There is more to maintaining the detectors in your home or business than simply following the recommendation to "Change your clocks, change your batteries." While this is critical for battery powered detectors, there are other things you can do to keep your detectors functioning properly so they are ready to alert you in case of an emergency.

General maintenance includes cleaning the units regularly, as pet hair, dust, and grease can all affect the sensors. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations how proper cleaning procedures.

Also, both Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors and smoke detectors have recommended replacement schedules.

According to the US Fire Administration, **smoke detectors**, whether battery powered or hard-wired, should be **replaced every 10 years**. The common detector types include both Ionization and Photoelectric Detectors, which operate differently and respond to different types of fires. The USFA recommends using a

combination of both, or getting dual sensor detectors. SGFD has a limited supply of smoke detectors available free of charge to residents who need them. Please contact the station at 330-769-4112.

According to multiple sources, **CO detectors** should be **replaced every 5-7 years**, depending on the manufacturer. CO detectors should be UL listed. UL requires any CO detector manufactured after 2007 to have an "End-of-Life" warning to indicate it is time to replace the device. Commonly, the unit will begin "chirping" at 30-second intervals. Once this occurs, the unit will no longer detect and alert for CO. Often the unit will show a code (for example E-O-9) to verify that it is out of service.

CO detectors started becoming common 10-15 years ago, so many have reached or are reaching their end-of-life cycle and need to be replaced.

Did You Know...

We average 60-65 fire and EMS calls per month?

A new fire engine costs \$400,000 - \$500,000 or more?

A new ambulance costs \$150,000 or more?

New federal emissions standards and NFPA standards have increased the price of a fire truck by \$25,000 to \$50,000?

Our station is staffed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, including weekends and holidays? (we have on-call crews after hours)

New federal and state standards are requiring our personnel to have more training than ever before?

That being a volunteer firefighter and/or EMT can be a very rewarding experience?

Most of our people work full-time jobs while also covering station duty and on-call shifts, attending weekly training, and finding time to take part in fundraising activities and public events?

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION- SGFD Member is a TV Star

SGFD part-time Firefighter/EMT Brittany Rufener has been quietly building a resume as an actress in TV ads recruiting volunteer firefighters and EMTs.

The Ohio Fire Chiefs Association used grant money to produce multiple TV spots highlighting the need for, and the benefits of becoming, volunteers. These ads have been shown on TV stations throughout the state in an effort to increase volunteerism, particularly in rural and suburban areas where volunteers are crucial to the local fire departments.

A total of four commercials were made, with Rufener having various roles in each. Her favorite ad to shoot, "Today's Woman Volunteer," features Brittany and talks about the various roles women play in today's society.

In addition to SGFD, Rufener works full-time as an EMT for LifeCare Ambulance, volunteers with Sterling FD, and is going to school to become a paramedic.

All four ads can be viewed on the internet at:
www.ohiofirechiefs.com/aws/OFCFA/pt/sp/safer



When not signing autographs, Rufener does more mundane activities like morning truck check-outs

SGFD RECEIVES \$40,000 BWC GRANT

SGFD was recently awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Ohio BWC to purchase powered ambulance cots and loading systems from Stryker Medical. The battery powered cots raise and lower at the push of a button, and are designed to reduce back injuries to department personnel.

Also, we will be installing powered loading systems in both ambulances. These will automatically raise the entire cot to the loading position, allowing department members to simply push the cot into the back of the ambulance.



Back and other musculoskeletal injuries are common in EMS, as EMT's are often required to lift and move patients in awkward positions. Additionally, studies show that the population is getting larger, requiring more effort to move patients and increasing the chances for injury. The Power Cot and Power Load system will make it safer for both our personnel as well as the patient.

We expect delivery of the new cots and load systems within the next several weeks.

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CHIEF ELECTED TO BOARD

At the July annual meeting in Columbus, Chief Jerry Winkler was elected to the Board of Directors of the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA), replacing Chief Doug Starkey of Geneva as the Northeast District Director.

As Director, Chief Winkler's duties include representing 12 counties in northeast Ohio, working to improve fire and EMS service in the state, assisting with the annual Ohio Fire & Rescue Officer Development Conference, and helping the OFCA continually evolve to meet the changing needs and roles of the fire service.



Chief Winkler is sworn in as Northeast Director

According to Chief Winkler, "this speaks to the excellent reputation our fire department has throughout the area, and to the hard work and dedication of our department members."

The Board of the OFCA includes six Directors representing each of the geographic districts, three "at-large" directors, a 1st and 2nd Vice-president, as well as the President and immediate past president of the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association.

CHIMNEY SAFETY

Though most of us don't want to face it, winter weather is just around the corner, and with it comes our annual chimney fire season. With summer being un-seasonably cold (the coldest in 40 years), the use of wood-burning devices may start even earlier than normal this year.

Each winter we respond to multiple chimney fires. Overwhelmingly, these are caused by improper maintenance and cleaning. Over time,

creosote builds up in the chimney, obstructing airflow. Embers ignite the creosote, causing a fire.

Often, we are able to put the fire out before significant damage is done by using an ABC extinguisher, lowering chains to break the creosote loose, or a simple chimney brush. Occasionally, however, the fire can extend into the walls on either side of the chimney and spread into the house or to the roof, causing thousands of dollars in damages

Creosote buildup, cracks, structural disrepair, and decaying mortar joints can all contribute to the spread of fire. We recommend periodic inspection and cleaning of chimneys and stovepipes to reduce or prevent the likelihood of a fire. Professional chimney sweeps are trained in proper maintenance and cleaning, as well as inspection of chimneys and stovepipes. While we don't recommend any particular sweep, we encourage you to check in the phone book, online, or ask your friends and neighbors for recommendations.

CPR CLASSES OFFERED

SGFD has several CPR instructors on staff and offers monthly certification and refresher classes. Generally, classes rotate, with lay-person CPR one month, followed by healthcare provider training the next. If you would like more information regarding classes, please contact the station at 330-769-4112 and we will forward your contact info to one of our instructors.

BI-ANNUAL PHOTO FUNDRAISER COMING UP

It's time, again, for our bi-annual photo fundraiser. Soon, representatives of Superior Portraits will be going door-to-door on behalf of SGFD. For a \$20 donation, they will provide you with an 8 X 10 family portrait, and an opportunity to purchase additional photos or portrait packages.

Monies received through this always popular fundraiser go toward purchasing uniforms and equipment for the fire department. Please contact the station if you have any questions. Thank you all for your continued support of SGFD.