

Savannah Fire & Emergency Services

FIRE REPORT

May/June 2008

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A Message from the Chief:



I am very pleased to be a part of our newly re-constituted newsletter. This gives all of us an opportunity to look back to see what we've accomplished in the 22 months, as we meet the challenges of our future. One thing is very apparent, we've been busy!! We've hired 112 new firefighters, promoted 2 Assistant Chiefs, 8 Battalion Chiefs, 25 Captains, 40 Master Firefighters, 2 Fire Inspectors, 1 Fire Investigator, & 1 Senior Administrative

Assistant. We've also hired 1 Management Analyst, 1 Administrative Assistant and 1 Administrative Secretary. We established a full time Special Operations Chief at the Battalion Chief level, elevated the coordination of the Safety Officer Program to the Battalion Chief level and assigned 3 full time Safety Officer Positions to Operations. We have enhanced and integrated our Wellness program into our daily routine. We also highlight the re-hab function on all working incidents. We've also established 3 full time Training Captain positions, to assist in ensuring that everyone is meeting mandated training requirements. We've replenished our fire fleet with 4 new aerial ladder trucks, 4 engines, 1 Haz-mat vehicle, 2 sedans, 1 SUV, and acquired a FEMA trailer to serve as a mobile command post. We're also setting as one of our major goals, that we become a fully accredited department. I'm sharing these things with you not just blow our own horn (okay, we are a little but we've earned the right), but to say that we have come a long way and that we still have a long way to go. I am grateful for all the support I've received since I've been here and my intent is to continue to support each and every one of you as we work to keep Savannah Fire as one of the elite departments in the nation.

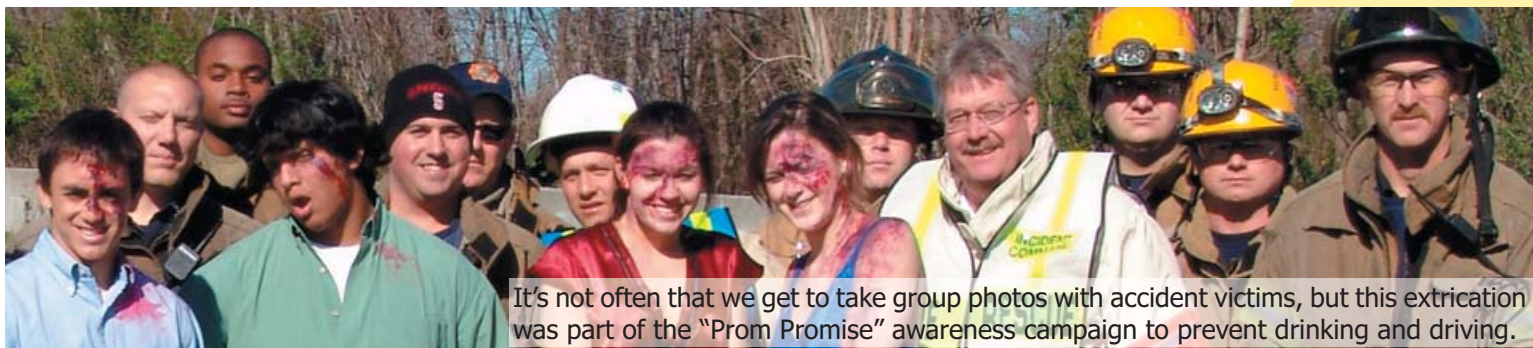
Be Safe and Stay Well.



Master Firefighter Glenn Carlson sprints to the finish line of the Savannah Mile. Four of our firefighters ran the mile in full bunker gear!



Master Firefighter Phil Ligon marches with the Honor Guard during the St Patrick's Day parade.



It's not often that we get to take group photos with accident victims, but this extrication was part of the "Prom Promise" awareness campaign to prevent drinking and driving.

LETTERS OF THANKS

Chief Middleton and Chief Mosley:

Thank you so much for providing the much needed fire protection at the 15th Annual Relay For Life of Savannah last Friday and Saturday. While the fire services were never needed, having the protection available was an important part of our success.

It was also truly awesome to have the participation of all of the firefighters as well. There was a shift of firefighters on the track at all times throughout Relay and that visible presence spoke volumes at the dedication of the Savannah Fire and Emergency staff. We look forward to your participation again next year and hope that might include some fundraising as well!

Thanks again for your help!
Joy Kerkhoff

Dear Chief Mosley and Staff:

On behalf of the Carver Heights Neighborhood Association, thank you for participating in our Health Fair and helping to make it such a success.

We received many positive comments from the staff, parents, and community members about the meaningful experience the fair was for everyone who attended, especially the adults. We greatly appreciate your involvement.

Thank you for your time and dedication you gave to this event. We look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely,

Dorothy B. Pelote
Ella Williamson



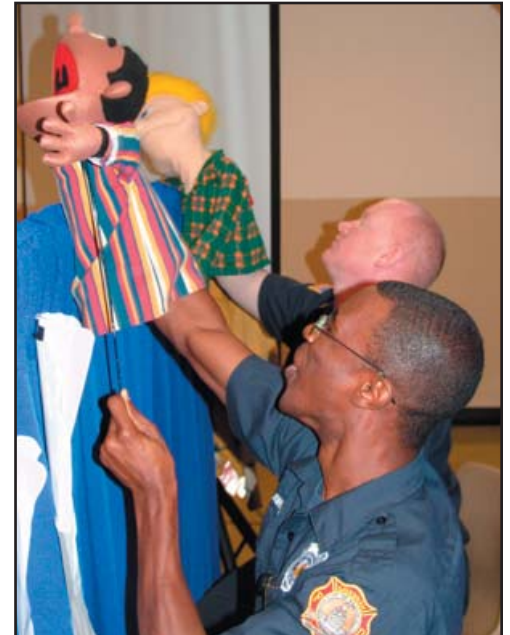
Master Firefighter Jason Bouchea (above) looks through the debris of a recent car vs. house accident. Surprisingly the car won... buy a Taurus!

Master Firefighter Ken Bethune (below) talks to a future firefighter while showing off the new apparatus.



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are available to department employees. Ads are free for you to buy, sell, advertise business services, or promote community social events. Please email classified submittals to:
mstanley@savannahga.gov



Firefighters Shamir Johnson and Brian Magill (above) do the puppet song and dance for a group of school children. Stop! Drop! and Roll!



Firefighter Milie cartwheels his way down the St Patrick's Day Parade route. His crowd-pleasing antics earned cheers and kisses.

BATTALION HAPPENINGS

BATTALION 1-C

by Captain Michael Davis

This is the first installment of, what I hope to many, articles from Battalion One C-shift. Let me first introduce myself; Michael Davis, Captain, E8C, 14yrs on the department, and father of a teenage daughter-prayers accepted.

Some of the most notable event of January 2008 were the MLK breakfast and parade, testing of Master firefighter and Captain-congrats to B shift for having the highest averages of master firefighter passing, movements of personnel and equipment to the new station 9 which was one, if not the oldest active fire station in savannah.

The MLK observant day committee had their annual breakfast on January 18, 2008 at the trade center on Hutcheson Island and it was again a success and a who's who of Savannah. The MLK parade took place on C-shift-c-shift gets most of the holidays this year.....again, aren't we lucky. The parade went well, I didn't think that I could have so much fun being that cold, but seeing the smiling faces of the children, their eyes brightening up as the fire truck passed by. And all the citizens smiling and waving, the elderly thanking us for what we do. Those are the things that kept me warm and smiling, not to mention that my face was probably frozen in a smile.

I hope to receive more information from the men and women of B1C .

BATTALION 1-B

by MFF Kevin Tomko

I was told the goal of a worker submitted entry should include any good thing happening in the lives of our Firefighter brothers and sisters. These things could include new babies, or marriages and exciting things like that. I have been tasked with submitting from my shift and battalion an individual with some life highlight similar to these, or maybe an on the job accomplishment that was extraordinary. I feel it only proper to recognize the one sole being that deserves it the most.

The purpose of this submission is to highlight the effort and action of a Hero working among us. Although many units responded to the Sugar Refinery Fire on February 7, 2008, this Battalion and shift were some of the first Savannah Fire and Emergency units to arrive.

The mass casualty and tremendous fire load that faced the arriving units was likened to a Hollywood movie. No amount of training could have prepared the responders for what they were seeing, much less how to effectively manage the emergency. The immediate actions of this being, along side the courageous effort applied were the difference between a completely unmanageable event and a well organized effort on his behalf. The poise used was legendary, and award worthy for sure, but the real story was the long hours of continued effort, and willingness to see the task completed.

The continued effort and willingness to put it on the line is the difference between those who run from fire, and those who run to it. We share space on a fire engine most days, but on this day the true meaning of BROTHERHOOD was very clear.

BATTALION 3-B

by Battalion Chief Al Wright

I would like to recognize MFF Willie Brown for performance of Critical Incident counseling that he provided for the department on 11/11/07. After the sudden loss of MFF Lewis, MFF Brown accompanied Chief Wright on station visits to stations: 12,13,14,15,6,& 7 to provide Crisis Intervention talks with firefighters on duty.

I would like to congratulate and recognize that West Battalion "B shift" has achieved a 100% pass rate on the written portion of the promotional exams for both Captain and Master-Firefighter testing. Keep up the good work!

Chief Wright would like to recognize Engine #14 (Capt. Partain & FF Waugh) C-shift personnel for researching and developing a modified version of Excel which incorporates Preplan images into the spreadsheet for temporary storage and use of the Pre-Fire Plan. This concept has been submitted to Chief Middleton for approval for department wide use. This change will solve a major problem for the Preplan project.

FACTOID: Did you know that Savannah Firefighters average 36 Public Education / PR events per month? Each event reaches an average of 75 people!

PEER FITNESS: OVERLOAD

As firefighters, we are expected to undergo a routine physical fitness regiment, preparing ourselves for the rigors of our job. The specific methods of conditioning may vary due to the firefighters preferences or needs, but one thing should remain constant: the desire to improve. The most important principle to follow to achieve this goal is the most basic theory in any kind of physical fitness routine, the overload rule. This rule simply states that our bodies will adapt to whatever loads we place on them. In other words, the more work you do, the more work your body will be capable of doing over time. With physical conditioning you can incorporate this method by pushing harder during workouts. Increasing weight lifted, increasing the total volume of exercise completed, and decreasing rest within a workout period are all methods in accomplishing overload. The bottom line is that you need to push your body harder over time, if you expect to see results. It does not matter what routine this method is added to, the principle remains the same. Therefore, each time you step into the gym, onto the track, or where-ever you do your routine - remember to push harder in some facet each time. This, in combination with a proper nutritional and rest program, will surely produce positive results in time.

FACTOID: Did you know that we average over 16,000 cumulative apparatus responses each year? Engine 3, Engine 5, Rescue 1, and Battalion 1 each average more than 1,000 responses per year.



At a recent PR opportunity, E-2C and T-2C assisted with a boot drive to raise money for Imperial Sugar victims. The fundraiser was coordinated through Oprah's Big Give and WJCL TV. Here, Captain Elmer Cuevas stops for a photo opportunity with WJCL reporters Wendy MacNew and Kelly Foster.



Battalion Chief Dennis Cook strikes his standard Incident Command pose at a recent Colonial Oil incident.



Master Firefighter Robinson speaks to a high school student about our new high school technical curriculum and careers in the fire service

Two Firefighters Recognized for their Contributions to the Arts

Savannah Firefighters Brian Magill (Engine 3-A) and Clifford Bryant (Engine 2-B) participated as exhibiting artists in the City of Savannah's National Arts Program. Both Magill and Bryant received certificates of recognition from City Manager Michael Brown at the art show's awards ceremony. FF Magill was also awarded with 1st Place for his photographs in the Intermediate category (which had the most entrants). FF Bryant submitted illustrations/paintings in the same category.

