As we close the chapter on 2013, a year of great things, we prepare to make 2014 a year of renewed commitments and relationships. The cooperation between all partners in our public safety response system significantly impacts our ability to provide the best possible service to the citizens of Prince George County.

The initiatives, goals, and work plan elements for the department have all been created from the strategic planning process as well as other processes that our first responders are involved in to ensure their input is received. I challenge all of us to keep these documents fresh and at the front of everything we do to help ensure we are all working in the same direction.

In 2013, the Department of Fire and EMS stretched itself beyond any boundaries to ensure protection for the citizens of Prince George County. As in past years, our career and volunteer personnel were constantly challenged to meet the demands of the public. Tragedies from structure fires, fatal EMS calls, thorough disaster preparation and response continue to stress the system and test the limits of our personnel. However, the resilience of our response system still remains steadfast from the people who make up the system. The first responders always have been and continue to be the strength of our system. Several briefings, committees, and groups work tirelessly to problem-solve these challenges. However, the key to resolving issues, the key to moving this organization forward, and the key to providing the best level of service to the citizens, visitors, and workers of Prince George is the teamwork that all of our first responders employ.

From the Hill

Mission

To provide quality services through the dedication of our people.

“Neighbors helping neighbors”

VALUES

Honor – we believe in honesty, fairness, and integrity.
Respect – we will embrace the diversity of others and be courteous.
Accountability – we will hold ourselves and all members of the organization, responsible for our actions.
Integrity – we will conduct ourselves in a manner that will not bring discredit to the organization.
Trust – we will earn the trust of each other and to all we serve by fulfilling our obligations.
Compassion – we will be understanding to others feelings, needs, and concerns, and strive to alleviate others distress.
Quality Customer Service – we will do everything in our ability to meet the needs of and accommodate the citizens, patrons, and visitors of Prince George County.
Justin Bulifant
Firefighter/Medic

Hometown: Prince George, Virginia

Current City: Prince George, Virginia

Age: 30

Member of what department: Disputanta Volunteer Fire Department

Position at the Fire Department: Firefighter

Time in the department: One year with Disputanta, total of fourteen years with Prince George County.

Favorite Quote: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

Jobs outside the Fire Department: Medic in Richmond, Virginia.

What is your favorite part about working for Prince George Fire and EMS: It’s a really good feeling to be helping those who need it.

Where do you see yourself 5 years from now: Sees himself married with a child.

How would your co-workers describe you: Easy to get along with and reliable.

What is your proudest accomplishment while working for PGFEMS: Building comradery with the guys in the departments and being apart of an organization that provides a high level of service to its citizens.

What advice would you give to someone new to the fire department: There is no better feeling in the world than knowing you’re helping someone. The fire department will also keep you on the straight and narrow and help you to avoid trouble.

### Upcoming Training

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<td>EMT-E Course</td>
<td>2/17-5/31</td>
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<td>EMS Continuing Education Dinner</td>
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<td>“Survivor Day” Crisis Training</td>
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<td>PHTLS</td>
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<td>Community CPR</td>
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### Pub Ed Events

- **2/12**: Career Day at Harrison Elementary School
- **3/29**: PGHS Car Show
- **4/28**: TRIAD Health Fair
The Hot Mic—Signal Codes

It is important to always be aware of your department’s codes for assistance. In Prince George, there are four different signal codes that express that fire and EMS personnel need assistance when plain language cannot be used. Signal 1 or “Mayday” means there is immediate danger. Signal 2 is that personnel need backup or assistance. Signal 3 is to take a subject into custody and signal 4 is hold for sensitive information.

East Coast Truck Ops Class

Jarod Blake and Kevin Whalen are two firefighters with the FDNY and are also instructors from Task Force 1 Inc. that traveled to Prince George County to offer an East Coast Truck Operations program to firefighters. This rigorous program is designed to “demonstrate the critical importance of truck work, regardless of whether or not the fire department operates a truck company.” The program began on September 27 through September 29 and offered a classroom setting lecture as well as hands-on training in an acquired structure on Jefferson Park Road.

Members from fire companies within the county as well as Fire and EMS personnel attended this program and reviewed topics such as ventilation, laddering, forcible entry and exiting, search and rescue, overhaul, offensive use of aerial devices, working with an engine company, team concepts, meeting the mission with minimal staffing, riding and tool assignment, and the use of thermal imaging cameras. The hands-on and

to simulate smoke and fire within the building. Members were given scenarios and trained from the time a company is dispatched to extinguishment of the “fire.” After each scenario, members gathered in the front of the house to talk about how to improve as well as different tips and suggestions from instructors. Other scenarios included firefighter maydays and search and rescue for individuals trapped inside of the house.

At the end of training, members gathered to reflect and evaluate the program where members expressed their gratitude and overall pleasure in the program and the instructors.

Chiefs Adopt Incident Management Plan

On September 19, 2013, the chiefs of all stations met at Burrowsville Volunteer Fire Department for their monthly Chiefs’ Management Committee meeting.

At this meeting, the chiefs voted to adopt the county’s first incident management plan. The purpose of this policy is to “outline the Incident Management System to be utilized at all incidents handled by Prince George County Fire and EMS.” And this policy will “provide for the development of a complete and functional command structure at each incident that will increase response effectiveness and personnel safety.”

Three different command modes will be used on each scene: investigation, offensive, and command. Transfer of command must be done face to face and after the parties have been briefed on the incident. The incident commander must be the only personnel communicating with the ECC during an incident. The policy also outlines levels of staging prior to entering a scene.

Please visit the Prince George County Fire and EMS Webpage to become familiar with all of the changes that have taken place.
Breast Cancer Awareness - October

Every year, over 230,000 men and women are affected by breast cancer. The Susan G. Komen Foundation is a charity that raises money for the prevention, treatment, research, and education of the disease. Prince George County Fire and EMS supports this cause with annual t-shirt sales in which all proceeds benefit the charity.

The 2013 Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser was a hit this year in Prince George County. With just two weeks of advertising sales for t-shirts and sweatshirts, fire and EMS administration collected orders for almost 200 different items. On September 28 at the extended Farmer’s Market, additional items were sold with the help of Lindsay Warren from the Commissioner of the Revenue’s Office and Kirsten Cherry with Information Technology. All-in-all, almost $600.00 was raised to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer awareness and research for prevention and treatment. Ashley Aleshire with Prince George Fire and EMS headed the fundraiser and thanked all of those who helped make this fundraiser a success and for their selfless generosity and support.

Hunger Action Month - September

In Virginia, over one million individuals are unsure of where their next meal will come from; families are struggling to put food on the table every single day. Feeding America, the country’s largest hunger-relief charity has identified September as Hunger Action Month. All fire and EMS stations in Prince George were provided with a box to collect nonperishable food items to donate to the food bank at the end of September. The station that raised the most items will be awarded with an ice cream social for their members.

Box after box was dropped off to the fire and EMS office from people, departments, families, and stations wanting to participate in helping the food bank provide food to those who need it. A final weigh-in on September 27th revealed that over 900 pounds of food had been collected to donate. The fire station who donated the most food was Carson Volunteer Fire Department, donating well over 100 pounds of nonperishable food items. Prince George Emergency Crew came in second place at almost 100 pounds.

Emergency Management Coordinator Donald Hunter said, “thank you to all of those who donated and those who put in hard work to make this donation happen.” Mr. Hunter went on to thank emergency management intern Sarah Campbell for the hard work she put in to the event as well as the rest of the fire and EMS office staff including Director Brad Owens.

This donation was made by fire administration staff as well as fire and EMS personnel and the director of fire and EMS. Staff from the Prince George County Food Bank expressed sincere gratitude for the donation.
Review of UL’s Innovative Fire Attack

Article by Firefighter/EMT Jeffrey Wallace, PGFEMS

As we advance as a society we find new, better, and cheaper ways to do just about everything. One thing that has changed drastically in the past 50 years is how we design, build, and furnish modern structures. The houses being built today are built to get the most out of the builders’ money, large open spaces are prominent and materials to build them aren’t the conventional lumber of years past or expensive masonry that many older homes are constructed of. Along with layout and building materials the furnishings inside have changed as well. Years ago furniture was made of three things: lumber, steel, and cotton fibers. Today synthetics rule the marketplace and with this modern day firefighters face a new challenge and must change the way they do business. Fires are less common due to better fire prevention education, but the fires that they come across are more dangerous. Underwriters Laboratory conducted several studies to find ways that firefighters can operate safer in these modern day challenges and “Innovating Fire Attack Tactics” discusses their findings and the solutions they have come up with.

(Continued on next page)
The townhouses had brick exterior walls with lightweight lumber interior walls, considered a more traditional type of dwelling and furnished with modern synthetic furniture. In both of these tests they attempted different types of innovative firefighting tactics as well as traditional fire attack methods.

Traditionally firefighters have been taught to fight fire from the inside out because if you apply water from the outside you could push the fire throughout the structure. The Underwriters Laboratories study was able to study this idea and prove that this is not the case. In fact applying water to the fire from the outside was not causing a change in the fire flow, but opening a door or window was the cause. They also discovered the traditional practice of opening up doors, breaking out windows or cutting holes in the roof during an active fire attack does have a potential negative effect on fire conditions.

The results of the test indicated that the best tactic for fire attack in modern dwellings with modern furnishing went against the traditional belief. They recommend that a quick attack from the outside be made to drastically cool the interior conditions before firefighters make entry. This can be accomplished by quickly attacking the fire room from and exterior window or from a doorway. Then it is recommended that the firefighters make a traditional interior fire attack in an environment that will now have lower temperatures and a reduced flashover risk.

The Underwriters Laboratories conducted these tests to help improve the safety of the men and women who serve on the front lines. With the outcomes of these studies showing that and innovative exterior offensive attack followed by an interior attack is the safest and most efficient method, the next challenge is to get the information to those who will use it. They are passing this message by at fire service conferences and through training articles. Once the message is received the men and women of the fire service can implement these new tactics and hopefully due to the hard work of the Underwriters Laboratories the fire service will be a safer place. I encourage all of you to check out the UL website and review the study for yourself.

http://ulfirefightersonsafety.com/
Approaching Vehicle Fires

Approach vehicles carefully from angles, and avoid direct lines from tires, bumpers, and hatchbacks containing struts. These items when in contact with continuous heat have a history of failing.

The exposure to heat will typically end up with some form of explosion that sends out a projectile towards those making the attack. We want to make the attack with an 1 ½" line and consider a back-up line as well. Bring the appropriate tools to the job. Have a minimum of a halligan and an axe for potential forcible entry.

By: Jason Poremba

To read more, please click here.

Prince George Office of Fire and EMS
6602 Courts Drive
Prince George, Virginia 23875
Office number: 804-722-8614