



Glendale Fire and Rescue News

March 2002

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Our Mission:

To prevent or reduce the loss of life and the destruction of property and the environment from fire, medical, hazardous materials and other emergency occurrences.

CHIEF'S NOTES

9/11 Six-Month Anniversary

This week marks the six-month anniversary of the horrific events of September 11 in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. On that day our lives were changed forever. Let us never forget the innocent people who were struck by this tragedy and our fellow heroes who answered the call.

EMS 2nd Anniversary

Congratulations to all members of the Glendale Fire Department as we complete and celebrate our second full year in a Fire-based EMS (Paramedic and Transport) Delivery System. We can take pride in the 22,337 EMS calls we have run since beginning full service on March 1, 2000.

Two years ago, the city delivered paramedic service through four private RA's from three locations; today we deliver enhanced fire-based paramedic services through four RA's, two Paramedic Assessment Engines and up to seven Paramedic Extension Engines, from as many as nine different fire stations.

Through hard work, sacrifice, trust and great support by our City Council, City Manager and community, we have improved services, making a significant difference in the lives of others. We can all be very pleased with the high quality of service we deliver and the experience and outstanding reputation we have gained in a relatively short period of time.

(Continued on page 2)



CHIEF'S NOTES (cont.)

New Ambulances, New Apparatus Color

At the March 12 City Council Meeting, we received authorization to purchase a second new RA in addition to the one that was included in the current budget. We also asked that these new RA's be the traditional red color and that all future fire and other apparatus purchases be red as well. I am very pleased to report that both requests were approved by the City Council and supported by our City Manager.

Brush Fires

With the weather and drought conditions we are experiencing, please ensure readiness for brush fires. As you prepare, keep in mind that the most critical emergency for me is one that may involve you... **take care of each other, be ready; lots of people are counting on us and most of all...stay safe.**

– Chief Gray

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

- The County of Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services Agency recently reviewed compliance with the several agreements applicable to our paramedic program. No action items were identified during the review. This passing grade is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of all the department's employees who have made the program so outstanding.
- The Department of Health Services has also audited performance of the Base Station at Glendale Adventist Medical Center (GMAC). This audit is performed every three years, using tapes of GFD EMS calls. They found that the base station and our paramedics' performance were exemplary.
- At the request of DHS, we recently conducted a study of our performance where "weak" or "dizzy" was the chief patient complaint. These are symptoms that make the diagnosis of the underlying cause problematic. The study found that our paramedics demonstrated an outstanding ability to determine the problem and initiate the proper course of treatment.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

The CSTI-sponsored class, "Enhanced Exercise Design," concluded with a functional exercise on Thursday February 7. Simulations always reveal logistical shortfalls, but getting all the city divisions together in an EOC and Policy Group activation was accomplished with everybody learning from the experience.

An After Action Report compiling the comments from the critique forms and recommendations for improvement is being developed.

ANOTHER LIFE SAVED

The morning of March 1, RA26 and E21 responded to a reported seizure on the fifth floor of an office building on N. Central. On arrival, RA26 was informed by building security that CPR was being performed on the patient, a 54-year-old woman.

Upon entering the fifth floor office, persons on scene stated that they had been performing CPR for approximately five to six minutes. GFD personnel took over CPR, hooked up the defibrillator and found V-fib. After one shock the patient changed into a slow PEA of approximately 40 bpm. FF/PM Menier intubated, FF/PM Corona started an IV, and Capt/PM Stanick made base contact. FF Broussard and Engineers Luchetta and Launius performed CPR and maintained a patent airway.

While in transit, the patient displayed V-fib and was shocked three more times and the appropriate drug therapy was given including D-50 and Narcan. On arrival at the Glendale Adventist ER, the patient had a sinus tachycardia rhythm and carotid pulses. GFD personnel assisted ER staff with patient transfer, and when they left the ER the patient had a blood pressure of 114/58 and a was in a sinus tach.

Engine 21 returned to the ER from a call about 45 minutes later and found the patient with improved BP of 130/72 in a normal sinus rhythm and was being prepped for the cath lab. The family was with the patient. Instead of preparing themselves for a funeral, they were talking about a possible recovery and a future with their loved one.

PERSONNEL NOTES

- Congratulations to Chief Markss, who celebrated his 42nd anniversary with the Glendale Fire Department on February 6. We are fortunate to have such an excellent example of dedication and work ethic among us, and we will all miss him when he retires later this year. Thank you, Chief Markss, for the many accomplishments and contributions you continue to make to the City of Glendale.
- Six of our personnel recently completed 160 hours of training to become certified as Hazardous Materials Technicians: Firefighters Reggie Lorincz, Christopher Mays, Patrick Dawson, Brian Richey, and John Shanley, and Firefighter/Paramedic Stephen Dobbs. We have a proud history of “taking care of our own” in Glendale. Over the years, we have achieved some remarkable accomplishments in environmental management programs. This has largely been due to the specialized skills and dedication of our HazMat Team members...a very special group of Firefighters.
- Congratulations to Fire Captain/Paramedic Steve Parrish and Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Tamburro on their graduation from LA County EMS Paramedic Training Institute and El Camino College’s 1,069-hour paramedic certification program. The graduates and their families were honored at a lunch reception at Fire Station 21 prior to the graduation ceremony. Battalion Chief Markss delivered an inspirational key-



Fire Captain Steve Parrish and Firefighter Derek Tamburro graduated from the Paramedic Training Institute on February 14, 2002.

note address at El Camino College, followed by FF/PM Tamburro, who gave an insightful class address.

- Captain Harvey Miesse, who retired from the Glendale Fire Department November 16, 1976, passed away on February 28. We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Paramedic II Melinda “Mindy” MacCaughtry



A memorial service / celebration of life in honor of Pasadena Fire Paramedic Mindy MacCaughtry was held at Fire Station 34 in Pasadena on Feb. 23. Before working for the Pasadena Fire Department, she served the City of Glendale out of Fire Station 29 while working for Professional Ambulance.

Mindy was an outstanding paramedic who always cared for others in the best possible way. She was one of those paramedics who took the time to follow up on her patients when she was off-duty and make sure they came through all right.

The special care and service Mindy delivered really made a difference. She will be missed.

FIREWISE CONFERENCE

Steve Howard, Doug Nickles, and Larry Van Avery, Whiting Woods Fire Safety Task Force Chairman, will be attending the Firewise Communities / USA conference March 27-28 in San Diego. Representatives from the 13 "Pilot Project Communities" from around the nation will gather to discuss lessons learned and to share practical advice. Some of the communities that will be represented include Ormand Beach, FL; Santa Fe, NM; Frenchtown, MT; Prescott, AZ; and Orange County, FL.

Firewise Communities / USA is a project of the National Wildfire Coordination Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team, and is the newest element of the Firewise Program. One of their main objectives is to provide citizens with information regarding their ignition potential so they can maintain an acceptable level of fire readiness. Information and assistance are provided in collaboration with federal, state and local fire staff to enable citizens to survive a wildfire while minimizing property loss.

The Whiting Woods section of Glendale was among seven pilot communities that participated in the Firewise Communities / USA program in 2001.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Glendale Chamber of Commerce will be presenting a Community Service Award to the Glendale Fire Department at the Chamber's 31st Annual Awards Recognition Luncheon on March 28 at the Hilton Glendale.



Chief Gray and Mike Matlock pose with staff from Finance and the City Manager's office after our annual budget review on March 7.

VERDUGO REDDINET SYSTEM

The Verdugo Fire Communications Center recently installed and implemented ReddiNet, which stands for Rapid Emergency Digital Data Information Network. This system enables communication between hospitals, medical dispatch centers and public health authorities.

ReddiNet is not dependent on conventional telephone company service or other infrastructures, which can be compromised during a major emergency or disaster. Instead, it works on a 900 MHz radio system that harnesses computer wireless technologies to provide secure, real time, two-way digital data communication.

The primary use of ReddiNet within the Verdugo System is to track hospital emergency room status. Paramedics in the field receive accurate hospital status reports from the Verdugo dispatcher as to whether a facility is open, or if it is closed to specific patient services. This is important for determining the appropriate facility to transport a patient and to inform family members on scene of their destination.

ReddiNet also has the capability for disaster assessment of facilities on the system, management of multi-casualty incidents by tracking patient destinations and personal identification, determining hospital bed availability and transmitting important information pertaining to natural disasters, public health threats, civil unrest or acts of terrorism.

ReddiNet is truly a total emergency management communications solution which dramatically improves a community's ability to protect its citizens in times of emergencies or crises. It is designed to meet the increasingly complex needs of emergency response professionals. We are fortunate to have this resource available to assist field personnel in providing high quality medical care and to assist in determining which facilities are available to receive their patients.

GFD's Out of Jurisdiction Responses

Jurisdiction	Jan.	Feb.
Arcadia	0	1
Burbank	12	15
Monrovia	0	1
Pasadena	7	6
LA City	5	8
LA County	5	5

MUTUAL AID RESPONSES



Five engine companies, two truck companies, RA21, HM27, and AU21 from the Glendale Fire Department assisted the Los Angeles Fire Department in responding to a structure fire at 4528 Brazil St. in Los Angeles on February 12. Photo by Kenji Luster.



Initial damage estimates reached \$2.5 million after a second-alarm house fire at 855 Holladay Road in San Marino on March 5. Fire companies from Alhambra, Arcadia, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, and South Pasadena responded. Photo by Manuel Soto.

Glendale Fire Department:

We Help People

WINTER WONDERLAND

Glendale’s annual Winter Wonderland was held in Brand Park on February 9 with the assistance of E27’s crew. T26 delivered Sparky, and RA26 was later called to assist a person having a seizure at the event.



Jill Karnicki, Glendale News-Press

Carlos Guerrero, John Mare and Juan Perez join Sparky (AKA Mark Masto) for GFD’s version of the Olympic luge event at the annual Winter Wonderland celebration in Brand Park

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

The initial planning conference for the August 2002 exercise to be held at Nestle was held the week of February 25. Planning is ongoing for the Chemical Weapons Full-Scale Exercise that is being conducted to test our response to a Weapons of Mass Destruction type incident.



Hey, they forgot to mention . . .

This is YOUR newsletter... if we neglected to cover an important subject, event or other piece of information, let us know about it.

Please submit articles, photos, etc. for the April issue to Mike Matlock by April 11.

FROM THE TRAINING SECTION

Risk Standards

From a wise old Chief comes the following (paraphrased):

- You will risk a lot to save a lot
- You will risk little to save little
- You will risk nothing to save nothing

Apply these thoughts to the big fires you have gone on. A fire through the roof in a vacant building is not worth risking your life for, but the building next door that has some risk, even though it may be vacant, is where you might spend your efforts. Protecting office records, even though you lose a building, might save a business. And all of us would risk everything to save a life. Think at all times, be aggressive and save what is savable, but recognize when it's not. Believe you are better than everyone else, because you must.

Personal Exposures

This is a reminder that shouldn't be necessary – and probably isn't – but you must be responsible for your own safety in regard to exposures. All the systems are in place to take care of you, but you must immediately report any exposures you have, consistent with your training, or just taking care of yourself. It's your health and welfare. We do our best to take care of you, but you also have the responsibility to take care of yourself.

Recruit Academy Update

It's looking like the start date will be April 15. That's a move from the previous commitment due to a hopefully more realistic estimation of what it's going to take with a maximum effort (which is our standard) to get it going. The academy Captains will be Harold Scoggins, Anthony Arellanes and Greg Fish.

Leadership

All of our testing and all of our hiring emphasizes the characteristic of leadership. All of you have an element of that in your make up or you wouldn't be here. The Training Section encourages you take time to understand what that leadership means to both the job and

the community and use it to make your workplace a better place to be. When the rumors are flying, it takes leadership, in any and all ranks, to take hold and say "Wait a minute, that doesn't make any sense, let's find out the truth." Lead. Lead. Lead. That's what you're here for.

Fire Grants

The Department is once again looking into the availability of grant funding for some of our programs, new and ongoing. If anyone would like to assist in the research or be part of the development, please contact Training or Mike Matlock.

SubJAC

The SubJAC Committee will be meeting shortly to respond to some requests for funds. If you have some project areas in mind that the committee should fund, please send them either to Training or one of the Committee members: Joel Apollo, Alan Dearden, Chuck Manente, Don Biggs, Dean Carriger or Chief Gray. There is a policy in the manual on general guidelines.

Also, Captain Carriger is in the process of bringing everyone who has been hired or promoted lately up to speed on where and what they should be reporting. If you have any questions, please call him. We are working on software in conjunction with the Filemaker reporting system to automate the entire process.



Driver’s License Practices

This could be the policy of the week, month or year. As a reminder, the procedure changed a few years ago to be consistent with DMV policy in that you must have a “Learner’s Permit” in order to learn to drive any type of Class B or A vehicle. The policy spells out the procedure. Please review it or contact the Training office if you have any questions.

TB Testing

As a reminder, TB testing is now being done every six months to comply with what has become an industry standard in the medical field. (Most fire agencies are still doing annual tests, but medical sections are doing it every six months.) It is critical that everyone complete the testing in the months designated. Most of you have made the February dates, but if you missed them, you must make arrangements in EHS to get the test done immediately.

Plan ahead for the next tests in August, if you know you are going to miss them, and when the time gets close, make an appointment at EHS to get it done. The enormity of trying to get this done for everyone every six months will bury us if everyone doesn’t take a personal responsibility. It amazes other agencies when I mention we have some people who miss this type of testing.

Probationary Testing

As a result of the ever-increasing number of probationary personnel, and the amount of time involved in doing the probationary testing itself, we are developing an entirely new program of testing. This testing will rely more on the fire company to cover some of the items presently done at the test, and for the Captain to sign off on certain tasks. A draft of the new program will be in place by April 1 and will affect the next round of probationary testing. The intention is to relieve some of the load at all levels while still maintaining the strengths of the probationary process that we feel are so important.

RIC Training

This program is progressing and everyone should expect to go through it. We are receiving a great num-

ber of very positive reports and a thanks should go to all of the instructors who are putting it together. Special thanks to Captain Greg Phipps, who is coordinating this training for Glendale.

MCI Training

A special MCI update class and exercise is planned for April. This is to be a Tri-City program worked around participation with the studios and local schools in Burbank. We’re still working out the details but it will be happening soon.

Captain’s Examination

The Captain’s exam will move forward with 25 personnel. A schedule of times and events will be forthcoming.

Hepatitis C

There is a designated need and a requirement to do some Hepatitis C training for all personnel. This will be done in conjunction with annual blood-borne pathogen training and will be conducted by the EHS section later this year. Exact dates are yet to be determined, but probably in the third or fourth quarter of the year.

9/11 Video

For anyone that missed it, Training has a copy of the 9/11 video shown on CBS on Sunday evening, March 10. The quality is not good enough to make copies, so this is the only one we have. It is available to be checked out.

VERDUGO CALL VOLUME: FEBRUARY	
Incoming Admin. & 7-Digit Emerg.	3,371
Outgoing Admin. Calls	1,457
911 Calls	2,755
Total Calls Handled	<u>7,583</u>
Dispatched Incidents	3,925

PRESCRIBED BURN @ DESCANSO

The Los Angeles County Fire Department is scheduled to conduct a prescribed burn on the Descanso Gardens property in the City of La Canada-Flintridge in May.

A portion of the proposed project includes land owned by the City of Glendale, between the 2 freeway and the city limit boundary, from just south of Verdugo Hills Hospital to the boundary of the 1999 Rafael Fire. The Glendale Fire Department has participated in the review and planning of the project, and will participate in the actual prescribed burn itself.

This project will reduce the threat of fire starting along the 2 freeway, provide a uniform fuel type in the City of Glendale adjacent to and including the Rafael Burn, and be a great opportunity for both departments to utilize unified command in a controlled fire environment. There will be no direct costs to the City of Glendale for participating in the project. LACoFD will incur the administrative costs, which will be reimbursed by the State of California.



RED CROSS AWARD

During the City Council meeting March 12, the Glendale Fire Department received the California Golden Bear Award from the Glendale/Crescenta Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross for exceptional service in partnership. We genuinely appreciate the partnership we have enjoyed with the Red Cross over the years and look forward to continuing this relationship in years to come.

EMS RESPONSE TIME STATS

Mar. 1, 2000 - Mar. 1, 2002

Code	# of Incidents	Av. Response Time (min.)
ABD	670	3.89
ALERGY	79	3.81
ALOC	717	3.80
ASLT	378	3.65
BACK	149	3.94
BITE	28	4.50
BREATH	2812	3.87
BURN	8	3.95
CHEST	1826	3.82
CHOK	73	3.61
DIAB	174	3.92
DOWN	691	3.54
DROWN	2	3.17
EMS	42	3.63
EMSF	31	4.56
ENGR	18	3.90
FALL1	60	3.73
FALL2	1983	3.77
GIB	180	4.04
GSW	21	3.93
HANG	4	4.41
HEART	660	3.75
MED	2488	3.81
MEDAL	124	3.69
NOTBR	466	3.63
OBGYN	159	3.65
OD	131	3.73
PSYCH	259	3.94
RESCUE	36	4.08
RESFW	92	6.32
SEIZ	743	3.78
SHOCK	1	2.12
SICK	349	4.00
STAB	19	3.75
STROKE	400	3.81
TC	2154	3.56
TCFUEL	13	3.81
TCFW	371	6.11
TCRES	130	4.24
TCSTR	41	4.28
TOXIC	256	3.89
TR1	71	4.45
TR2	869	3.79
UNCON	1138	3.78
UNKMED	359	3.64
USAR	4	3.96

February 2002 Statistics

Fire - Explosion	33
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear	1
EMS - Rescue	813
Hazardous conditions, standby incidents	26
Service calls	113
Good intent calls	39
False Alarm calls	94
Natural disaster incidents	0
Other incidents	4
TOTAL INCIDENTS	1,123

Fire/Explosion Incidents

Total property loss	\$81,430
Total contents loss	\$895
TOTAL LOSS	\$82,325
PROPERTY SAVED	\$17,324,055

Average Response Time - Dispatch to Arrival

Fire incidents	4:33
EMS incidents	3:51

CALENDAR

March

- 14-16 HMRT Recertification
- 18, 19 Paramedic Continuing Education
- 20 EMS Meetings
- 20-22 EMT-1 Training
- 20-22 Blood & Spirometry Testing
- 21 Safety/Training Committee Meetings
- 24,27,28 RIC/Firefighter Safety Class
- 26 Staff Meeting
- 26-28 Blood & Spirometry Testing

April

- 1 VMP Brochure Mailed Citywide
- 1-3 RIC/Firefighter Safety Class
- 4-6 MCI Classroom Instruction (Pasadena)
- 9 Staff Meeting
- 9, 10 Aerial Ladder Testing
- 13 Household Hazmat Collection (EMC)
- 15 Tri-City Fire Chiefs Meeting
- 15 Approx. start of new Recruit Academy

ON HEROISM...

“It is by presence of mind in untried emergencies that the native metal of a man is tested.”

–James Russell Lowell, 1864

“The more freedom we enjoy, the greather the responsibility we bear, toward others as well as ourselves.”

–Oscar Arias Sanchez, 1987

“The greatest obstacle to being heroic is the doubt whether one may not be going to prove one’s self a fool; the truest heroism is to resist the doubt – and the profoundest wisdom, to know when it ought to be resisted, and when to be obeyed.”

–Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1752

“I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom.”

–Bob Dylan

“When nature removes a great man, people explore the horizon for a successor; but none comes, and none will. His class is extinguished with him. In some other and quite different field, the next man will appear.”

–Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1850

“One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, One Nation, evermore!”

–Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1862



Firefighters sifted through the World Trade Center rubble following the utter devastation of the September 11 terrorist attacks six months ago.