Volunteer Companies Face Workers’ Compensation Issues

By Clarence “Chip” Jewell, Chairman, Risk Management Committee

Since July 1, 2014, volunteer fire and rescue companies throughout the State of Maryland have been notified by the Selective Insurance Company of the intent NOT to renew worker’s compensation insurance policies for fire and rescue companies.

This issue has been vetted both with representatives of the Maryland Insurance Administration and at the legislative level and continues to be pursued within state government by MSFA. The cancellations are permitted within the state requirements and valid. As a result, as fire and rescue companies receive the cancellation, there will be a need to obtain other insurance options.

Very few companies have offered worker’s compensation insurance for fire companies in the past. With the advent of liberal presumption laws in Maryland, the market has been even further minimized. Several years ago, the Maryland State Firemen’s Association entered into an agreement with IWIF (Injured Workers Insurance Fund) to provide preferred rating and possible dividends for preferred worker’s compensation risks.

IWIF has changed in structure and is now Chesapeake Employer’s Insurance. The preferred MSFA Worker’s Compensation Program is still available. In addition, even if a department does not meet the underwriting requirements for a

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U of MD’s Emergency Services Training Program Commemorates 85 years

By MFRI Executive Director Steve Edwards

In 2015, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute of the University of Maryland marks 85 years of providing fire, rescue and emergency medical training and education regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Founded in 1930 and known as the Fire College, the state’s fire service training program was a part of the University of Maryland’s College of Engineering and offered “short courses” until 1937, when MFRI’s predecessor, the Fire Service Extension Department, began offering courses statewide.

In 1975 the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that created the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. This mandate expanded the role of the state’s emergency services training program to address specialized training, including industrial firefighting and disaster training; R & D; and development, implementation, and operation of regional training centers.

In fiscal year 2014, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute provided training to 35,663 students in 1,732 fire, rescue, EMS, Advanced Life

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The President’s Corner

by David Keller, III

We had a productive meeting of the Executive Committee April 18th and 19th, 2015, at the Urbana Volunteer Fire Company, and I want to thank the company for the superb hospitality.

During a packed weekend of business, we heard from MSFA officers, committee chairs, the MSFA Ladies Auxiliary and allied agencies.

I, along with 1st Vice-President Roth and 2nd Vice-President Davis, have been busy traveling from one corner of Maryland to the other representing the organization. In our travels, we have networked and heard from the member companies and county associations about the things that concern them as we represent the Maryland Fire Service.

It was a busy season in Annapolis, which recently concluded and I want to thank the MSFA Legislative team lead by PP Stephen Cox and Executive Board Member Richard Smith. I also want to thank the volunteers from the LAMSA and other members from around the state who helped this session.

We accomplished a lot this year, including the building of new relationships. We also were able to head off legislation that would allow some jurisdictions to opt out of portions of the sprinkler bill.

There were many other important bills passed by the Legislature this session, and as I said our team did great work in Annapolis with a busy schedule of matters.

As my term heads into its final months, I want to thank the Association’s leadership team, the Executive Committee, and the committees for working so hard to advance the goals of our great association.

With just two months until the Convention, the MSFA committees have been working particularly hard to get everything lined up for the 2015 assembly.

It will be a memorable one for our members, vendors and guests as we have lined up lots of opportunities for education, fun and networking. I will see you in Ocean City.

David Keller, III
President, MSFA
Cecil County Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame Inductees

By Eileen Edelin

The Cecil County Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame Induction took place April 11, 2015, at the Rising Sun Fire Company banquet. The presentation by Ruth Gonce and Chairperson, Eileen Edelin inducted Peggy Sprout and Frances Ann Gibney.

Peggy Sprout joined the Rising Sun Ladies Auxiliary in 1956. Throughout her 59 years of service to the Rising Sun Auxiliary, she worked many long hours in the kitchen preparing meals, washing dishes and serving dinners, banquets and functions.

She has worked the annual carnivals and volunteered her time continuously at fundraisers throughout the years.

While being busy in her Auxiliary, she was elected as the Secretary, serving in this office for many years. Additionally she held other officer positions. She was an officer for a combined total of over 30 years. Many years ago, she also served in the Cecil County Ladies Auxiliary as an officer.

In her community, this lady showed time and devotion to the 4-H, the Farm Museum, Farm Bureau and the Cecil County Fair. Her volunteer work in the 4-H and in her Auxiliary is outstanding.

Frances Ann Gibney has been a valued member of the ladies auxiliary to the Rising Sun Fire Company since 1975.

Through her many years of service, she has provided tireless hours of time and feverously worked at dinners, carnivals, breakfasts, and various other fundraisers to benefit her auxiliary and her fire company.

She has prepared food and served many county-wide dinner meetings. Frances Ann has also participated in fundraising activities for the County-Wide Ladies Auxiliary and served as a membership and chaired its committees.

She has served as treasurer for over 20. She is currently the president and has been in that position for 15 years. She has served in various officer positions to the Cecil County Ladies Auxiliary over the past 30 years plus and has held offices of President, Vice-President, and Chaplain. She has served them well and proudly.

Frances Ann is committed to her community and her church.

She retired from a prestigious career in the Federal Government and retired after 44 years of dedicated service. She continues to exercise her skills working for a

related article on page 11
Galena Response to Vehicle Fire

By Nevin Steffy

On March 23, 2015, Galena Fire Company was alerted for a vehicle fire on the grounds of a local nursery. The vehicle was a small box truck used to haul nursery products and personnel around the grounds. It was positioned about 1/2 mile off the main roadway and was well involved on arrival. The cab of the truck had already burned and was almost out as well as the fiberglass body on the truck. The only actual fire was in the very rear of the truck and it appeared to be burning itself out.

A 1 3/4" attack line was stretched by two firefighters in full PPE including air packs. The pump operator was having some difficulty getting water to them, so they backed off a few feet until the water source could be established. Just as they backed up, the diesel fuel tank on the vehicle became loose and a large fireball ensued.

The firefighters, uninjured, were then able to extinguish the fire once water started flowing through the line.

Thankfully no one was hurt, but it makes for an interesting discussion.

How often would have those circumstances ended with a different conclusion? How often are there others standing in close proximity to the fire without proper PPE?

How often would have firefighters stayed right on top of the fire waiting for water and been engulfed in the large ball of flame?

We are taught to look for clues, however in this instance there were none. Training and following the right procedures was the determining factor between injuries and "everyone going home safe."
“...the arrival of an ambulance service in many communities took many different variations. Ambulance service in some towns was provided by the local funeral director.”

“...As time passed, an ambulance was placed in service by many local fire departments. But, in some towns, the local fire company could not, or would not, embrace EMS.”

Get Together

by Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

Over the last 200 years, fire companies and ambulance companies have been organized throughout Maryland to provide service to their community. Sometimes, a fire company was formed after a disastrous fire nearly destroyed a town. Then again, some companies were formed when a schism developed and splinter members organized another department. And some departments were formed simply because the community decided they needed fire protection.

The arrival of an ambulance service in many communities took many different variations. Ambulance service in some towns was provided by the local funeral director. The “combination” coaches could transport a patient to the nearest hospital then remove the red beacon ray to transport the deceased to their final resting.

I know in one community the only way you knew if the patient was dead or alive was if you could see a pillow in the window as the hearse/ambulance passed by. In some cities, a serious patient was transported in the back of an open air rescue truck to the hospital.

Parts of Maryland saw the Maryland State Police maintain ambulance service at the local barrack. A trooper would be called in from patrol to get the ambulance and take it to the scene, no patient attendant needed.

As time passed, an ambulance was placed in service by many local fire departments. But, in some towns, the local fire company could not, or would not, embrace EMS. As a result, many separate ambulance and rescue companies were organized. Whatever the reason, hundreds of volunteer fire, rescue and ambulance companies have sprung up throughout our state for decades.

But, as fundraising becomes more difficult, manpower slowly dwindles and governments tighten their finances, a national trend of company and department mergers, consolidations or other types of cooperative service delivery efforts have developed. This has resulted in fear, concern and animosity between members, companies, county governments and volunteer associations.

We need only look to our neighbor to the north to see how often this trend has occurred. United Hook & Ladder is the combination of the former New Oxford and Abbottstown fire companies. Additionally, SAVES, the Southern Adams County Emergency Services, consolidated four other companies into one emergency services organization. In some cases, the simple merger of organizational structure was utilized between companies, while other organizations combined and actually consolidated stations.

In my home county, formal planning documents have recommended consolidations of stations for nearly 30 years, yet none of these recommendations have come to fruition.

The recent Baltimore County Association report has caused much discussion, both in and out of Baltimore County.

We continue to ignore the future when we act on the present. We need to comprehend the paradigm shift in our service and our communities. Efficiency and cost

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Ready to Babysit in Takoma Park

For fifty years the Takoma Park VFD has been working to make sure parents have access to a carefully trained group of babysitters to whom they may trust child care while going out for the evening. This course started in 1963 when veteran firefighter Jim Jarboe took on the assignment.

On March 16, 2015, another class graduated, joining over 2,500 well-trained young people that have graduated from the course of studies. The latest class is shown in the photo below: From left, front row Rafael Perez, Isabel Anderson, Abby Brier, Sophia Kim, Second row, Brennan Moore, Allison Garcia-Pineda, Sydney Greenberger, Maya Hofslider, Bridget Griffith, Back row, instructor Tina Willey, Elias Bell, Joe Victoria, Johnny Flack, Elayna Davis-Mercer, assistant Ashlee Willey. Not pictured: Jim Jarboe.

Capt. Rusty Willey and FF/EMT Adam Bearne. Special note: Tina took this course 45 years ago, and for the past two years has assisted with teaching it.
The Chaplain’s Corner

End of Life

By MSFA Chief Chaplain
John F. Long, Jr.

In this issue I want to speak about the “End of Life”. I am not going to dwell on what happens to you when your time here on earth is done. No, I am not going to dwell on the issue of “Is there life after death”. No, that is for another time. In this issue I want to try to help the folks who respond to a cardiac arrest and using all of their skills and equipment are not able to reverse what God has set in motion.

Maryland EMS protocols have changed to allow families to have their loved ones die with dignity and not require EMS personnel race through the streets with lights and sirens to a hospital to have a doctor determine what the EMTs already knew in the field.

But along with these new protocols comes new responsibilities for the EMTs. That of notifying the survivors that the end of their loved ones life on earth has arrived.

Every EMT has had to complete the required MIEMSS training so what else needs to be said? Chaplain what can you say that would make this any better for the EMTs? Well from my experience in the field as an active responding firefighter/EMT there must be a lot that can be said.

You see it seems that every call I go on that is an end of life call, I get the same response from the folks I am with. Usually it is something like this, “man I am glad you are on this call with us,” “I don’t know how you are able to deal with the family like you do,” “you are a better person than I am to be able to comfort the family.”

So in a brief moment let me try to help you be better prepared for the inevitable. Remember first and foremost that what had just happened may not have been expected.

Not all cardiac arrest patients have been dealing with difficult health issues. Even those who have been, the survivors most likely are not prepared to hear that their loved one is no longer here.

So remember your notification will be putting them in a state of shock. When you deliver the news to them be frank and direct. Tell them that their loved one has DIED, even though you have done everything possible to prevent it from happening. Don’t use words that you think will make it less shocking.

After you tell them give them a minute to process this news. Stay with them, at the same time, have the other responders make the person presentable. If they were removed from their bed to the floor for treatment, have the crew put them back in bed, if clothes were cut off for access place a blanket over them but leave the head (if not damaged) and an arm exposed. Once that is done ask if they would like to have a minute with the deceased.

The greatest impact you can have on a survivor at this point is to let them see and feel that their loved one is no longer here. Don’t force them to do anything they do not feel comfortable doing. Insure them that everything that could be done for their loved one was done. Don’t say things like “it is God’s will that they have died.” If they ask you why, assure them that you did everything possible.

You may ask them if you can contact anyone for them. Most of the time there will be a neighbor who has come to the house because of all the lights flashing outside and they may be already in the process of notifying other family members. If not and a police officer is not on location assist them in making the notifications. Most people are so in shock that the simple things of remembering phone numbers becomes an impossible task. Don’t rush them, give them time to think.

Because we deal with such a diverse population that has different customs and beliefs there is not one process that can be used in all situations. Here is where you will have to ask questions to find out what needs to be done and if you can help them in any way.

Allow the survivor time to digest what is happening and “DO NOT” rush them for answers.

Now here is where I would like to talk directly to you the EMT. I am able to deal with survivors because I have my faith. I know what to expect when my time here on earth is done. Having my faith and confidence in God enables me to help those who do and don’t.

I am not saying this to have you evangelize the survivors. I am telling you this so you have a foundation to stand on. This reminds me of an old hymn, “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand, All Other Ground is Sinking Sand.” I know I am where I am because of God, the creator of the universe, created me and put me where I am for his plan. I am who I am because of him.

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A Maryland State Police Ambulance. Source: MSP Yearbook

Workers’ Compensation

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preferred rates, Chesapeake Employer’s Insurance offers a standard rating program that would be available for most volunteer fire and rescue companies in Maryland.

Chesapeake Employer’s Insurance is available through your local insurance agents. If you do not have an agent, you may purchase worker’s compensation insurance direct from Chesapeake by calling Mary Lou Wozny at 410-494-2266.

Save the Date

By Bruce Bouch, DSFM

Maryland Fire Service—Risk Reduction Weekends May 16-17, 2015 Statewide Smoke Alarm Installation Program.

MSFA Convention June 20-25, 2015

Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference, Sept. 29, 2015

Oct. 17-18, 2015 — Statewide Smoke Alarm Installation Program

“Come on people now smile on your brother everybody get together try to love one another right now”

BE SAFE
End of Life

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If you have a strong faith and are grounded in your faith you will be able to better comfort those survivors you have to deal with.

Finally, anytime you have to deal with an end of life call. Remember to take care of yourself and your crew. Don’t let the stress of the call bottle up inside of you. Talk with your crew about the call share your thoughts with one another. Someone might have seen something on the call that you did not, or someone might have questioned a procedure or timing of something that was done.

The best protection you can have from developing “Burnout”, PTSD, or health problems from stress is to be open and communicate about the call.

If you don’t feel comfortable about a particular call, or it was worse than you have ever experienced call upon your CISM team or chaplain. Your physical and mental being is more important than one traumatic call you have experienced.

God bless you servant.

MFRI MILESTONE

Continued from page 1

Support, Hazardous Materials, Management and other specialized training programs.

MFRI works closely and in cooperation with the local fire training academies at the county level, as well as numerous other state-wide emergency services organizations.

MFRI’s success is the result of the contributions and support of many individuals and organizations over these 85 years.

In order to remain proactive, MFRI is developing its 2025 Strategic Plan. According to MFRI Director Steven T. Edwards, this planning process “includes internal and external evaluations of the Institute and identifies the strategic issues that will become its focus in the coming decade.

The feedback and participation from our students, instructors, and partner organizations have been invaluable in the strategic planning process.”

The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute is the State’s comprehensive training and education system for emergency services. The Institute plans, researches, develops, and delivers quality programs to enhance the ability of emergency service providers to protect life, the environment, and property.

An entity of the University of Maryland College Park, MFRI has headquarters and training academy facilities located on the College Park Campus; and six additional regional training centers located at Edgewood, Cresaptown, Mt. Airy, Centreville, Princess Anne, and La Plata.

Sixty five full-time faculty and staff, supported by over 700 state-certified instructors, deliver emergency services training programs through site-specific mobile training, or at any of its regional training academies.

Correspondents & Photographers Wanted

Get coverage for your company, association, or MSFA committee in the Volunteer Trumpet

The Newsletter of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association

To contribute material or discuss opportunities contact the editor

Mike Dixon, trumpet@msfa.org
MIEMSS News Briefs

by Jim Brown, MIEMSS
Director of Educational Support Services

NATIONAL EMS WEEK, 5/17–23

National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine’s “front line.” This year, EMS Week will be celebrated May 17 – 23, 2015. During this week, Wednesday, May 20 will be observed as Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day. The theme for this year’s observance is "EMS STRONG". MIEMSS will observe EMS Week with the annual Stars of Life and Right Care When it Counts Awards ceremony to recognize Maryland EMS providers and citizens that have gone above and beyond in their life-saving efforts.

AMBULANCE SAFETY TASKFORCE

The Ambulance Safety Task Force was reconvened to increase awareness of ambulance safety. In collaboration with MFRI, MSFA, jurisdictions, and commercial ambulance companies, the MIEMSS Ambulance Safety Task Force will consider factors associated with ambulance crashes and increased ambulance safety. The group will meet to continue work on implementing the Task Force’s recommendations.

EMS/FIREFIGHTER NIGHT AT ORIOLE PARK

The Orioles will recognize Maryland’s EMS providers across the state during EMS Week on Wednesday, May 20th at 7:05 pm when the Orioles take on the Seattle Mariners. EMS Providers will be honored for what they do each day. For each ticket sold, $5-$7 of the sale will go directly to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). For ticket information, please go to: http://www.orioles.com/tix/ems, select quantity of tickets, create a Baltimore Orioles ticket account, pur-

Chief Jarboe Presented with NVFC Fire Prevention & Education Award

Reprinted from the NVFC Website

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) recognized Chief James Jarboe with its 2015 Fire Prevention and Education Award during a special dinner at the NVFC spring meeting on April 17. Established in memory of volunteer firefighter Marc Mueller and sponsored by First Alert, the award honors a volunteer firefighter or support volunteer who has made a significant contribution in the area of fire prevention.

When presenting the award, NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg praised Jarboe’s lifetime of service to his community and his innovative approaches to fire prevention education. “It is an honor to receive this award in honor of Mark Mueller, who did so much for the fire service,” Jarboe said upon receiving the award. He also noted all of the achievements being made by members of the fire service nationwide. “I know across the country there are a lot of people doing great things in fire prevention…. The volunteerism is out there.”

Jarboe has served his community through fire prevention and education outreach for over 50 years. He has coordinated and been the lead instructor of the Takoma Park (MD) Volunteer Fire Department’s Babysitter’s Safety Training Program since 1964. Over 2,500 girls and boys have completed the 10-hour program under his leadership. Since 1982, he has authored the monthly Firehouse Report column in the city’s newsletter, which includes fire safety messages, response statistics, fire loss data, and more.

Each Halloween Jarboe paints pumpkins and displays them throughout the area with safety tips for trick-or-treating. He also coordinates a partnership with the Lions Club and Holy Cross Hospital blood drives to provide fire safety information to blood donors.

Throughout his tenure at the department, Jarboe has helped to design emergency preparedness brochures; developed, organized, and coordinated the city-wide “Operation Smoke Detector Check” project; served as a safety monitor at the city’s annual Halloween haunted house; and provided a weekly hour-long fire safety segment at the local college radio station. Jarboe also continues to provide fire safety tips during department programs and city events.

see photo page 12
North East Fire Co. Celebrated 93 Years of Service at Annual Banquet

By Eileen Edelin

The North East Fire Co. celebrated their annual banquet on May 2, 2015 celebrating 93 years of service.

Auxiliary President Ruth Gonce and Eileen Edelin presented the Cecil County Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame Awards.

Two Ladies Auxiliary members were inducted into the Cecil County Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame.

Carolyn Stewart — The inductee is a member of the North East Ladies Auxiliary. This lady’s dedication and commitment to volunteering ignited her interest to give her best to others in her community.

In 1983 she joined the North East Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary. She is married the love of her life, who is also a member to this fire company.

Throughout her 31 years of active service, she has worked many long hours.

She has always enjoyed her time volunteering in the kitchen, prepping for functions, working breakfasts, the bingos, annual carnivals and countless banquets. In her auxiliary she has held several positions, serving as the chairperson of the audit committee and 10-17 committee.

She also served on the Election Committee. In the LAMSFA, she has served as Delegate and an Alternate representing the North East Ladies Auxiliary for many years at convention.

She is a recipient of the auxiliary top 10 awards for hours of service, presented at banquet annually. Diligently completing whatever task she was assigned.

In her home life, she is a dedicated, wife, mother, daughter, grandmother and sister. She takes great pride and joy in her family, friends and church family.

She and her devoted husband are the proud parents of two children and grandparents to two grandchildren. Her compassion and caring extended to caring for her parents during their illness before their passing.

She has shown love and thoughtfulness to all those that have been fortunate to have known her.
Chief Jarboe receives the NVFC Award. L TO R: Philip Stittleburg, NVFC Chairman, MSFA VP, Johnie Roth, Chief Jim Jarboe, and MSFA PP David Lewis. See article page 10