2010 Annual Run Survey!

INSIDE FEATURES

Citizens Academy Grads

2010 Run Survey

Award Presentations

Explorers Go to Fire College

"Quality Professional Services Delivered with Compassion"
Citizens Academy Class 7 Graduates
“The Magnificent Seven”

Seven members of the Seventh Mobile Fire-Rescue Citizens Academy class graduated on November 15, 2010. The ceremony was held at the Training Academy and concluded 10 weeks of training and learning about what the members of the department do each day.

Although a small class in comparison to the typical fifteen to twenty participants, they were no less enthusiastic to be involved with the academy. Every member participated in all the events scheduled.

Class members visited the Central Station Museum and learned about the history of the department, got an overview of the department’s organization and operational procedures, toured the 9-1-1 learning how the system works Center and listened in on emergency calls, tried on some personal protective equipment with the SCBA for size,

They were taught and certified in C.P.R. and Automated Defibrillator usage, learned about fire prevention and safety and toured the Mobile harbor on board the fire boat.

They took a car apart using extrication equipment and discovered how heavy and learned how bulky using the equipment can be and it takes skills to operate properly. They also rappelled off the roof of the training tower, which is always a class favorite.

The most important thing is they now have a greater appreciation and respect for what you do everyday on the job.

Thanks to everyone that helped with the training and next time you’re at the Training Academy be sure to check out the plaque they presented to the department in appreciation for your time and effort.

The next class is scheduled to begin sometime in March of 2011. If you know of anyone, family, friends or neighbors that may be interested in attending, encourage them to fill out an application, which can be located on our web site.
Annual Report of Calls

The following is a breakdown and total number of calls and call types made by the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department for the year 2010.

Fire Calls: 1,807

EMS Calls: 18,356

Hazardous Condition Calls: 526

Ruture/Explosion Calls: 21

Service Calls: 1,500

False Calls: 4,208

Severe Weather Calls: 11

Other Calls: 31

Total Number of Incidents: 26,460

| Unit  | E01 - 1,863 | E02 - 968 | E03 - 2,180 | E06 - 2,427 | E07 - 2,305 | E08 - 1,429 | E09 - 1,535 | E11 - 941 | E12 - 1,335 | E14 - 1,639 | E15 - 2,079 | E16 - 2,112 | E18 - 1,143 | E19 - 2,144 | E20 - 1,032 | E21 - 248 | E22 - 2,360 | E23 - 1,997 | E29 - 1,788 |
|-------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
Fire Safety Contest Winners Recognized

Mobile Fire-Rescue Department and the local Firehouse Subs Restaurants teamed up to develop a new program to encourage families to check their smoke alarms and have home fire drills. The winning private school was Mobile Christian School (MCS) with an 84% card return. Dawes Intermediate was the winning public school with a 72.9% return on cards.

Chief Dean, local Firehouse Subs owners Jim Sherman and Jim Chandler, Engine 6 Shift 2, Chaplain Percey Harris and Kent Landsberg presented the award to MCS on November 16. Chief Pappas, Firehouse Subs owners and Kent Landsberg made the presentation at Dawes Intermediate on November 19. The winning students received fire helmets, kid’s meal cards and other prizes. The schools were presented with a plaque.

Firehouse Subs printed three thousand reminder cards and Public Educator Kent Landsberg distributed them to children in ten local public and private schools. The children were to take the cards home to their parents to sign and return to school when they had completed the requested tasks. The school with the highest percentage of returned cards would win the contest. Over 1,800 families responded by returning the cards.

According to Landsberg if the program is a success in Mobile, Firehouse Subs Corporate Office is considering turning it into a nationwide program.

Special MFRD Fire Mark plaques were also presented to Firehouse Subs owners Jim Chandler and Jim Sherman for their kind generosity and support of Mobile Fire-Rescue and its public education efforts.
On Friday, November 19, Assistant Chief, Billy Pappas presented a Citizen Valor Award to Travis Williams, 29, a 12 year employee at the University of South Alabama Medical Center (USAMC). Members of the hospital administration, co-workers and “Travis Fans” attended the ceremony and were on hand to cheer him on as he received his award.

On September 2, 2010, Rescue 23 was dispatched to a “man down” report on board a WAVE Transit bus at Bel Air Mall. On arrival, Firemedics Brent Becker and Porsha Black entered the bus to find an approximately 40-year-old male unconscious and seated in the rear of the bus. There was a young man standing behind the victim physically supporting him so that he would not fall over onto the bus floor. The young man was wearing a USA Medical Center employee tag that identified him as a Custodial Worker II for the medical center. The young man was later identified as Travis Williams. Williams advised the medics that he recognized that the man had something wrong with him and had the bus driver stop and call 911. He also told them that he has a relative that is a diabetic and he thought that was what was wrong with the man.

Rescue 23 checked the victim’s BG and found it to be 29. He was treated and transported to USAMC.

According to Porsha, who made the nomination, “Mr. Williams was extremely helpful and deserves recognition as an outstanding citizen of Mobile”.

What made this even more unique is the fact that Travis has cerebral palsy and a speech and hearing deficiency. Despite those challenges, Williams stepped up to help someone else.
Retirements

District Chief
Melvin Stringfellow
25 Years Service
Retired 01/06/2011
Training Division

Firefighter-Driver
Paul Connolly
24 Years Service
Retired 11/01/2010
Engine 12

Congratulations and we wish you good luck upon your retirement and future endeavors!

Explorers Participate in Alabama College Weekend

Front Row (left to right): Wesley, Trey Stockman, Erica Krout, Eric Jackson, Jr. (EJ)
Back Row (left to right): Myles Langley, Jeffery Boddie, Captain Philip Ballard, Jordan Sanders, Brandon Dennis, Jesse Phelps, Ethan Cantin, Captain Todd Norsworthy

By TODD NORSWORTHY
Captain and Advisor

The Mobile Fire-Rescue Fire Explorers attended the First Annual Alabama Fire College Explorer Weekend November 5th-7th. One-hundred twenty young men and women from across the State of Alabama attended this two day event. The training consisted of Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Live Fire Attack, Hose and Search Evolutions, Fire Cause Determination and Candidate Physical Ability Test/Personal Protective Equipment Training.

Ten Explorers from the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department attended, accompanied by two advisors from the department.

The weekend gave these young men and women the opportunity to experience what it is like to work as a firefighter. The Explorers also had the opportunity to hear information from several firefighters and administrators about how to become a firefighter, the physical demands, the importance of education and the 16 Life Safety Initiatives for the Fire Service.

It was great to hear and see the excitement these young men and women had as they talked about a career in the Fire Service.

All the participants received a certificate for completing 16 hours of training in the Fire Service.

The Alabama Fire College and Explorer Advisors from across the state have committed to make this an annual event. Our Explorers are already looking forward to next year’s event and their future as a firefighter.
Live-Fire Training Drills

By Christopher J. Naum, SFPE—Naum, a 35-year veteran of the fire service, is the chief of training for the Command Institute in Washington, D.C., and is the second vice-president of the ISFSI. He also serves as a liaison to the Board of Directors for the IAFC’s Safety, Health and Survival Section. Naum has an extensive background in building construction and engineering, having worked concurrently as an architect, fire protection engineer and fire officer.

Case Study: Report No. 09-153

“The event involved a two-story, wood-frame structure approximately 40 feet x 100 feet. A fire was set on the second floor in the front corner of the building. There was a metal stairwell on the outside of the building. The stairwell was used to gain access to the fire area. The fire was extinguished as part of the drill. It was discovered that the fire had burned through the ceiling and had advanced into the attic of the structure. The smoke was rapidly increasing, and the crew was not making headway with controlling the fire. The order to withdraw from the building was made. No one was injured in this evolution. The building should have been checked before the evolution. There was no incident safety officer. NFPA 1403 was not followed.”

Comments

In this case study, preparations and planning didn’t follow recognized fire training standards and lacked the level of rigor and thoroughness that live-fire training requires to ensure a high degree of firefighter safety. Fortunately, no one was injured. Live burns in acquired structures require extensive pre-planning, risk and hazards assessment and abatement, as well as documentation of the planned training evolutions and operations. Operational and safety contingency plans are a requisite for all such training.

Discussion Points

Use the following points to ensure your department is adhering to proper safety precautions during live burns:
- Thoroughly inspect and document the building’s construction features, characteristics and layout.
- Note unique construction and occupancy features, materials or finishes that may have inherent safety considerations during fire evolutions.
- Follow recognized training standards and guidelines, such as NFPA 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions.
- Develop a basic SOP that you can customize for each live-fire drill.

- Develop appropriate plans that document all phases of training drills and evolutions.
- Establish adequate scene oversight with safety officers and assistants, coupled with strong accountability, communications and incident command systems.
- Establish contingency plans for the unexpected.
- Establish back-up RIT crews, as well as primary and secondary water sources, adequate staffing and other resources, all of which should be readily available during all phases of the training evolution.
- Use experienced and qualified instructors, safety staff and support personnel.

Tips

Errors and omissions during live-fire training in acquired structures are very unforgiving. Research the numerous LODDs that have resulted from live-fire training operations and learn from these events and other near-miss reports. We must elevate and maintain the margin of safety at these events to ensure the integrity of firefighter safety. Follow recognized consensus standards or state regulations. For additional resources, visit www.buildingsonfire.com and www.firefighterclosecalls.com.

Flu/H1N1 Season

Assume patients with respiratory symptoms have some type of flu. Wear the proper PPE before entering the patient area, and always put a mask on the patient. Limit the number of crewmembers having direct contact with the patient. Wash hands immediately after patient contact. Properly dispose of any contaminated equipment, and don’t wear contaminated clothing home. Decontaminate other equipment and your vehicle. If you are exposed, report it.
Dates to Remember

January 1 - New Year’s Day
January 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 2 - Groundhog Day
February 3 - Chinese New Year
February 8 - Boy Scout Day
February 12 - Lincoln’s Birthday
February 14 - Valentine’s Day
February 22 - Washington's Birthday
February 21 - President’s Day