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TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION OF THE MOBILE FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT- ESTABLISHED 1888

INSIDE FEATURES

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"Quality Professional Services Delivered with Compassion"

TRUMPET

An official publication of the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department.
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The Trumpet welcomes your questions and/or comments. To submit photos, articles or comments call (251) 208-2857 or e-mail: huffman@cityofmobile.org

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Our Mission

The Mission of the Mobile Fire - Rescue Department is to identify and respond to community needs in order to deliver an effective and efficient system of service which minimize risk to life, health, and property from fire, trauma, acute illness, and hazardous conditions.



On the Cover

Captain Ray Hildreth participates in a live fire training exercise conducted by the Training Academy.

Cover Photo By:
Steve Huffman

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End of the World?

One of the most talked about theories is the end of the Mayan Calendar. The Maya, who lived in Central America between A.D. 250 and 900, had a cyclical calendar that ran approximately one human lifetime, or 52 years (life was shorter back then). To account for events more than 52 years away, they devised another calendar, one that ran 5126 years, and apparently began in the year 3114 B.C. Do a little math: 5126 minus 3114 equals 2012. "I believe the Mayan calendar was based on some incredibly good astronomy, said Lawrence Joseph, author of "Apocalypse 2012." "They were really good at knowing when. They weren't so good at saying what's going to happen then."

The Mayans believed this date would be the end of one life and the beginning of another; it's up to us to decide what that means.



Nostradamus Predictions & Prophecy: Did Nostradamus predict the end of the world?

Nostradamus left his predictions in the form of several letters, almost 1000 4-line verses call quatrains, and a collection of 6-line verses called sixains. Three of the more noted predictions were: The death of Henry II, The London fires of 1666, and The French Revolution. With the death of Henry II, he describes how he dies. The London Fires of 1666 he gives the year of the fires, and The French Revolution he writes of a place that didn't even exist in Nostradamus' day. Nostradamus made and recorded over one thousand predictions during his lifetime. Of those, some say over half have come true. As for the end of the world...Nostradamus predicted it to the year 3786 or 3797, depending on which Nostradamus expert you believe. Only time



will tell.

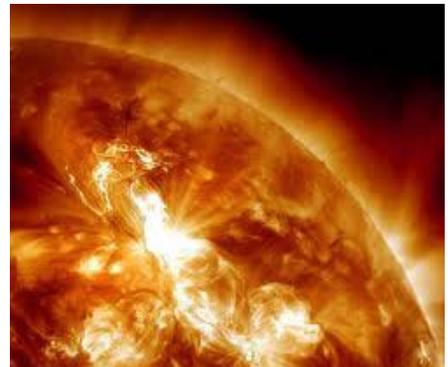
If you look at most of the predictions and prophecies, their origins start with the stars. The Mayans used the stars to help build their calendar; Nostradamus was an astronomer and used the stars for some of his predictions.

In the movie 2012 Solar Flares are what caused all the problems. Did anyone see the size of the Solar Flares this year?

NASA stated that this year could be one of the biggest years for large Solar Flares. Some of the predictions state that large natural disasters will be the cause of 2012 problems.

In the last 10 years we have seen many large scale disasters that have caused massive loss of life and destruction. The Japan earthquake, early and large tornado outbreaks, and let's not forget the super volcano in Yellowstone that is past due for a massive eruption. How about the volcano on Iceland that caused large disruption of air travel in Europe. That was one of the smaller volcanoes on Iceland. I think old Mother Nature will decide the final outcome on our nice little blue planet.

Let's do what we did for Y2K and throw big parties, watch the skies and see what happens.



Fire Fighter Burn Injuries

By **CHIP CURRERI**
Captain, Fire Investigations

For the last ten years fire fighter injuries have remained at the same level. However fire fighter mortality from burn injury has gone from 30% to 5 % in the past 30 years. With new and better gear one would believe that this problem would decline. This has not been so and it appears that we fire fighters are our own enemy.

The most common fire fighter injury is burns. The most common areas where burns occur is the wrist area where our coat and gloves meet. The knee area and lower legs due to compressing of bunker pants. Ears from light protection from the hood, improper placement of the hood and the use of no hoods and flaps only. Shoulders from the compression of the straps from the SCBA harness.

Our best protection from burn injury is the use of bunker gear or Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Everyone must assure that their gear is properly fitted. Gear that is too tight can lead to burn injury, gear should be loose fitting and cover all areas when worn. Proper care and inspection should be performed by the user. If gear has holes, tears or wear it should be replaced. Modification or repairs can void the

warranty on gear and void any liability on the manufacturer of the equipment. Gear should be washed at least every six months. Now we have all seen that fire fighter with the battle wounds all over their equipment, but one must remember what makes up these marks FIRE FUEL (carbons). Last PPE should be used properly. Use the gear for what it is designed for!

As stated earlier proper sizing is a must. Some of the weakest links for gear failure and injury is how it is worn. The interface and SCBA face piece are the highest burn injury areas for the fire fighter. The worst offender of monitoring proper sizing is us. You come out of the academy and in the best shape of your life and go to the fire house. Now that your not working out each day and eating healthy meals of fried foods the first thing that happens is the your gear gets little tight and where gear is compressed are the most vulnerable areas of burn injury due to compression supposed to provide layers of protection. Compression of gear is a major issue with the possibility of burn injury. How does our gear work? Gear is protection. So if you compress your gear you have reduced those protective layers.

How can we as fire fighters reduce risk of injury? Training, know how to use your gear and the proper way to wear. Understand the environment. Know and inspect your gear. When you inspect your mask

upon reporting on shift inspect your bunker gear also. Use good judgment. Do not get complacent. Do not alter your gear. If it doesn't fit replace. Lastly WEAR YOUR GEAR! How many of us have removed our gear to cool down and then go back into the structure coat off. This has shown to the second highest time for burn injury to the fire fighter from fall out making contact to unprotected areas.

All burn injuries to the fire fighter should be investigated. Even the smallest burn should be treated by health care providers. Going a step further it has been recommended by the American Burn Association and the Burn Center community that ALL FIRE FIGHTERS for any burn injury regardless of % should be seen by the burn unit or burn physician. We must remember that one you have been burned your injury can worsen from further heat exposure and my not even be the same fire. Infection from the skin integrity compromised and possibly turning that minor injury into a hospital stay or permanent damage or disfigurement.

Burn injuries should be tracked so future injury prevention training can be taught. Proper training is a must; the fire fighter that is most apt to suffer a burn injury has less than 4 years as a fire fighter. Remember when making entry though a door get in the front of the doorway not the sides as the gases and fire vent to the side, and have your hose line ready.





The reality is that when fire strikes, your home could be engulfed in smoke and flames in just a few minutes.

It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. What if your first escape route is blocked by smoke or flames? That's why having two ways out is such a key part of your plan. This year's theme, "Have 2 Ways Out!", focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

Home Fires

- One home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010.
- Most fatal fires kill one or two people. In 2010, 19 home fires killed five or more people. These 19 fires resulted in 101 deaths.
- In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.

Escape Planning

- According to an NFPA survey, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, less than half actually practiced it.
- One-third of Americans households who made and estimate they thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less. And only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!
Smoke Alarms
- Almost two-thirds (62%) of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Cooking

- Cooking has been the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries since 1990. Unattended cooking was by far the leading cause of these fires; Two-thirds of home cooking fires began with ignition of cooking materials, including food, cooking oil, fat, or grease .

Heating

- Heating equipment was the leading cause of reported home fires in the 1980s and has generally ranked second since them. It is the second leading cause of home fire deaths. Fires involving heating equipment peak in December, January and February, as do deaths from these fires.
- The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.

Electrical

- Half (49%) of home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment. Other leading types of equipment were washer or dryer, fan, portable or stationary space heater, air conditioning equipment, water heater and range.

"Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website, www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2012 NFPA."



Photos in Time...

Structure Fire March 1968 Location Unknown





JULY - Kermit Watson - Captain, EC14
AUGUST - Scott Miller - Captain, EC18



IN MEMORY



Firefighter
Cornelius Hester
Over 16 Years Service
Retired 06/23/2012
Died 08/19/2012
Engine 12, Shift 3

You Will Be Missed!

RETIREMENT



Driver
Leroy LuQuire
20 Years Service
Retired 06/23/2012
Engine 22, Shift 1

Good Luck in Your Future Endeavors!

Congratulations to Captain Juanita "Odie Odom, who on Friday, 13 July, 2012, completed all qualification requirements and was certified as an On-Duty Fire Investigator. She joins two Shift and five back up investigators in the Bureau of Fire Prevention. Captain Odom is the first female fire fighter to complete the qualification process within the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department.

Chief Tacon,

My family and I would like to express our sincere thanks to Fire Medic Driver Brad Cox and Fire Medic Eddie Lee Scott for the care they provided my 84 y/o father-in-law on Friday, July 5th.

In April, Dad fell in the yard and broke a vertebrae in his back. He underwent surgery and rehab and returned home in early June. On the morning of July 5th, just three weeks after completing therapy, he fell on his rain-slick carport. No one else was awake when it happened. He was able to get himself up and into a recliner, where he sat for over three hours. When my mother-in-law found him, he was in considerable pain. They phoned me, only telling me that he had fallen and was hurt. Fearing the worse, I called Fire Alarm and requested an ALS.

According to my mother-in-law and sister-in-law who was visiting, Brad and Eddie Lee were a Godsend. They performed a thorough yet gentle exam, all while comforting two very distraught women. At the time, the full extent of Dad's injuries was not known but all agreed he needed to go to Springhill to be checked out. He declined the ride in the Rescue Truck, opting for POV. As he had been sitting for over three hours, Brad and Eddie Lee assisted Dad with using the restroom and then gently placed him in the car. At Springhill it was discovered that Dad had broken his hip. It has been replaced and he will return home today, under my wife's very close supervision.

I know that both Brad and Eddie Lee would say they "were just doing their job" but the care, professionalism and respect for Dad's dignity certainly touched my family. I thank them and am proud to work with such dedicated professionals.

Sincerely,
The Lawrence "Tony" Geci family



Some are Associated with a Great Company. Others Make a Company Great.
--John Vigiano, Lt., Rescue Company 2;
Captain, Ladder Company 132, FDNY (ret.)



Firefighter Safety

Rapid Intervention Teams

By Steve Pegram—Pegram is chief of Goshen Township Fire and EMS in Clermont County, Ohio. Pegram is serving his second term on the Board of Directors for the International Society of Fire Service Instructors and represents the IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival section on the NFPA Electric Vehicle Safety Training Project.



Several of the near-miss reports related to rapid intervention team (RIT/RIC) activations address issues related to staffing, hoseline operations, PASS device use, ICS use, evacuation signals, building construction and communications. These are the same factors that are frequently found in NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Reports.

Any of us who read the fire journals or websites know that firefighters continue to get themselves into trouble on the fireground, and unfortunately, the lessons learned after the event are all too often the same in each case. Many communities are still slow to properly address or fix the problems. This is one major reason why RITs are a necessary element on every fireground.

Case Study: Report #08-642

"We responded to a working structural fire at a private residence. The first-arriving units observed fire venting from a window on the first floor of the structure. Hose and search teams entered the building. The two-member search team proceeded to the second floor, believing that there might be victims trapped there. The fire suddenly extended up the stairs to the second floor as the hose crew encountered difficulties charging the hoseline. The search team was quickly overrun by the fire conditions. Attempting to seek refuge inside a room, they found that all the doors were locked, trapping them in the hallway. Although separated, they both eventually jumped through a window at the end of the second-floor hallway. They were transported to a burn center for treatment."

Excerpt from Lessons Learned

No matter how cautious firefighters are, fires are dynamic and conditions can deteriorate rapidly; therefore, it is imperative that firefighters be prepared for dire situations. Fire departments need to train firefighters to deal with the possibility of becoming lost or trapped. While it is difficult to simulate a training scenario in which a firefighter actually feels his/her life is threatened, creative, realistic and safe training exercises can be developed to help prepare firefighters for dire situations. Through repetitive training, firefighters can learn such emergency survival techniques as "skip-breathing" to conserve precious air supply, entrapment self-extrication techniques, wall breaching techniques, ladder escape "bail-

out" methods and so forth. It is also important that firefighters be equipped with small items, such as wire cutters, personal flashlights and personal lengths of rope or nylon webbing. Above all, firefighters must be conditioned to respond to individual emergencies calmly in order to make reasonable decisions.

Firefighters must be taught that if they become lost or trapped, the most important thing they can do is notify others of their situation and location as best they can. For this reason, every interior crewmember should have a portable radio equipped with a sufficient number of operational frequencies and a dedicated command frequency. They should use a pre-determined emergency term such as "mayday" to notify the incident commander of their situation. Finally, firefighters need to immediately activate their PASS devices manually so that rescue crews can locate them quickly.

Comments

In early 2010, the NFPA released the first training standard that specifically addresses RITs. NFPA 1407 reviews training policy and procedures, instructor requirements, student prerequisites and RIT operations training programs and equipment.

Now is the time for every department to review their SOPs and adjust their policies, training, staffing and communications to ensure that we are in compliance with the new standard and that we are doing everything possible to ensure we are protecting our own.

Discussion Points

- Do you have an RIT training program? Does your state have a law/standard pertaining to RITs?
- What is your procedure when calling in and responding to a mayday?
- At what point are firefighters assigned to RIT sent to the scene? Is that too late?
- Are firefighters familiar with mutual-aid departments and do you share mayday and RIT procedures?
- If you use RIT, is it proactive or reactive (i.e., throwing ladders for egress as opposed to standing by)?
- What is your opinion on standardizing what we call it (RIC, RIT, RAT, FAST)?

Lifestyle

If you make healthy lifestyle choices, you can help lessen your risk of developing many types of cancer. Maintain a healthy weight by going for a walk with your family after dinner, exercise regularly, eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, limit your alcohol consumption, and always protect your skin.

The Odds Are Stacked...

For the general male population, there is a 1 in 6 chance of being diagnosed with prostate cancer and a 1 in 33 percent chance of dying from prostate cancer. Talk to your physician regarding prostate cancer screening options. (Source: CDC)



Dates to Remember

- September 3 - Labor Day
- September 9 – Grandparents Day
- September 11 – Patriot Day
- September 17 - Constitution Day
- September 28 – Native American Day
- September 28 – Ask a Stupid Question Day
- October 2 – Name Your Car Day
- October 7-13 – National Fire Prevention Week
- October 8 – Columbus Day
- October 10 – Emergency Nurses Day
- October 16 – Boss's Day
- October 24 – National Bologna Day
- October 31 – Halloween



MOBILE FIRE-RESCUE

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