



What Makes Us Different Than Everyone Else?

By: Chief Robert Turpel

In a nut shell, the answer to this question is two-fold. We do more with less while still maintaining delivery of top quality emergency services and we are not afraid to be innovative and flexible in the delivery of those services. I dislike starting out with a cliché, but it's very true and a big part of our culture. Out of one fire station, Long Grove Fire Protection District (LGFPD) covers a population of approximately 12,000 residents in an area of about 14 square miles. It includes portions of five villages, three townships, and two counties. In a given day, many people travel through District. We are a full service emergency organization that delivers fire protection, emergency medical, specialized rescue, and fire prevention bureau/public education services. The specialized rescue aspect includes having in-house extrication specialists, divers, hazardous materials technicians, specialized rescue technicians (certified in 4 areas: structural collapse, high angle, confine space, and trench rescue), and wildland/interface firefighting specialists. The public education aspect includes fire prevention, CPR, first aid training, and child car seat installation. We have 6-7 highly trained and skilled personnel working on shift at any given time, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. At least four of those working on shift are certified paramedics. We utilize a combination of staffing types where the on-duty crew consists of both full-time and part-time personnel. Last year we answered a total of

1,682 calls for service.

The staffing component for LGFPD is unique by itself. We have only 13 full-time line personnel (10 are paramedics) supplemented by the use of 6 hybrid part-time personnel (all are paramedics) that receive some benefits including a \$3,500 stipend towards medical insurance expenses, 48 hours of paid time off per year and \$1,950 paid into a 457 account (like a 401K, but the government version) on their behalf. Also, we employ 19 other part-time personnel (14 are paramedics) that work paid-on-premise shifts or answer recalls during multiple call situations and serious events. Out of the 19 part-time line personnel, 16 of them are presently full-time officers or firefighter/paramedics with other fire departments/districts. Two of the three part-time personnel are recently retired from working as a full-time lieutenant and firefighter for another agency. As you can see with this staffing make-up, the District has been able to save a fortune in salary expenses and benefits but still compete with surrounding agencies by offering the core full-time personnel good salaries and benefits. Furthermore, the 19 part-time personnel I referred to previously, came to us already certified as firefighter/paramedics and most with several advanced certifications. This also shows favorably on our organization because initial training costs were not encumbered by the District. Other benefits to the LGFPD staffing model include reduced

overtime costs due to the time off factor. Full-time personnel have always been very understanding of the financial burden that can be placed on an agency due to high overtime costs. Consequently, when a full-time lieutenant or firefighter is off for any reason (vacation, holiday, sick, bereavement, and training) a properly credentialed part-time person will replace the full-time person whenever possible. Also, when a chief officer is off for any reason, they are usually replaced with another chief officer without overtime pay. Some extra money has been added to their salary for covering extra shifts but nowhere near what the true overtime costs would be to cover the time.

In addition to the money saved by this staffing model, the benefit of all the knowledge, skills, abilities, and new ideas that are generated by this mixture of highly competent personnel is exciting, positive, and instrumental in the progressive growth and maturing of the organization. Other things we do differently than many organizations is our chief officers will jump over from their command positions into company officer roles on fire apparatus and ambulances, if needed, during multiple call situations. Also, our full-time fire marshal, part-time fire inspector, and part-time building pre-planner are trained firefighters and two of them are basic emergency medical techni-

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Interesting Calls

By: Battalion Chief Marc Small

In *December*, firefighters responded to a report of smoke in the building on Crystal Lane in unincorporated Arlington Heights. Firefighters found light smoke in the hallway of the six unit multi-family building. The source of the smoke was located in an apartment on the first floor. Buffalo Grove FD, Palatine FD, Barrington FD, Lake Zurich FRD, and Palatine Rural FPD assisted in safely evacuating occupants of the building. An unattended pan of food on the stove was found to be burning; the two occupants inside the apartment were evacuated and taken to an ambulance for medical evaluation. A total of seven people were medically evaluated, with three being transported to Northwest Community Hospital for further treatment. The occupants of the apartment stated they were in a rear bedroom and had forgotten they left the food on the stove. There was no damage to the stove top or kitchen itself.

In *January*, firefighters responded to a report of a kitchen fire on Bonhill Drive in unincorporated Arlington Heights. Firefighters went inside an apartment on the third floor to investigate. The occupants stated that there was a fire in a kitchen cabinet drawer but it was out, a little smoke was found in the apartment. Buffalo Grove FD, Palatine FD, Barrington FD, Lake Zurich FRD, and Palatine Rural FPD were returned once fire was confirmed out. The occupants had used a barbeque lighter to light the candles on a cake, waiting at least one minute before putting the lighter back in the drawer. A

short time later, they smelled something burning and saw flames coming from the drawer; they promptly called 9-1-1. A few kitchen utensils in the drawer were damaged, but amazingly nothing else caught fire. The four occupants were medically evaluated but refused transport to the hospital. The LGFPD fire prevention bureau responded to investigate the extinguished fire.



The partially burned up lighter was taken as evidence.

In *February*, crews were dispatched for a motor vehicle accident with entrapment on Old McHenry just north of Hillcrest Drive, in unincorporated Lake County. The battalion chief, rescue-pumper, and ambulance responded along with automatic aid companies from Lake Zurich FRD (LZFRD), Buffalo Grove FD, and Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD. Since the call was initially reported at Old McHenry and Quentin Roads, in LZFRD's jurisdiction, they were already on the scene with an ambulance, shift commander, deputy chief, and a Countryside FPD engine. The LGFPD battalion chief reported to the previously established LZFRD command and was briefed on the two vehicles involved. One vehicle had heavy damage and was off the road approximately ten feet into the trees. It required the removal of both front doors to obtain access to the driver and front seat passenger. LGFPD shift commander assumed command of the incident and the LZFRD shift commander became the scene safety officer. The second vehicle was on the road with the driver and occupant still in vehicle. The driver's side door was damaged during the accident requiring the use of a hydraulic spreader (Jaws of Life) to remove the door to allow access to the patient. A total of three patients, all with non-life threatening injuries, were transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington.

So what did we learn from these calls? (1) Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended. (2) Always make sure lighters are cool to the touch before putting them away. (3) Always pay special attention to oncoming traffic on two lane roads.



Planning for Severe Weather

By: Inspector Walt Lovelady

No matter where you live, you should be prepared to deal with a severe weather emergency. Based on risk assessments performed by local emergency services organizations, the type of disaster emergency most likely to occur in our area is the severe weather emergency scenario. Damage from a severe thunderstorm, tornado, microburst, or any other type of weather involving extremely windy conditions is likely to be significant and widespread. Other damaging weather situations could be represented by large volumes of rain and resulting flooding or by cold, snow, and ice. As was evidenced last summer, prolonged periods of hot and dry conditions with an associated drought also carries pertinent risks.

In addition to the immediate danger and damage of the storm itself, the main factor that makes all of these extreme weather situations even more hazardous and difficult to overcome is the prolonged interruption of utilities that may follow the incident. We have become dependent on our utility services for comfort and safety.

What to do before severe weather strikes:

Practice severe weather drills so everyone knows where to go and what to do in the event of a real emergency.

If someone in your home is dependent on electrical-powered medical equipment, make sure you have a source of backup power available.

The National Fire Protection Agency strongly urges each family to assemble a "Family Disaster Supplies Kit" to provide your family with essential supplies should a disaster strike (see the website information below for kit content suggestions).

During the storm it is important to:

Know your community's warning systems for severe weather, and know where to obtain up-to-date weather information.

Pick a safe place in your home for family members to gather. For tornadoes it should be a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room, without windows, on the lowest floor. For severe thunderstorms it should be away from windows or doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.

Have a severe weather evacuation plan in place that includes designated places to meet and several ways to stay in contact. Remember, cell phone networks frequently are down during and after weather emergencies, due to service overloads or infrastructure damage.

What to do when the power goes out:

Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electronic equipment, especially surge sensitive appliances and computers, because when the power comes back on a power surge could damage them.

Leave one light switched on so that when the power returns, you'll know right away.

Do not use candles during a power outage because the potential risk for fire is too great. Instead, use flashlights or battery lanterns, and make sure they are easily assessable to all family members. LED flashlights provide a bright light and are much more economical on batteries than conventional incandescent flashlight bulbs.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods safely cold for about 4-6

hours and a full, unopened freezer will keep its temperature for about 48 hours.

Please don't wait for the lights to go out to begin preparing for a weather related emergency. A little planning and preparation can go a long way to ensuring the safety and comfort of your family when faced with a weather related

emergency. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at 847-634-3143. Additional information and resources for family disaster preparedness may be found at www.ready.gov or www.nfpa.org/disaster.



Meet Our Fire Service Family...

By: Lieutenant Mark Gates

To do the best job possible you have to hire the best. We are proud of our top personnel, so in each newsletter we feature a few of our finest firefighters, who are part of our team and fire service family.



Firefighter/Paramedic Greg Hanik began his fire service career at LGFPD in 2012. Seven years ago, FF/PM Hanik began working at Advantage Ambulance Service as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B). In 2011, he attended the Northwest Community Hospital paramedic program. As part of the program, he did his ride time on our ambulance. After obtaining his paramedic license, he was hired by the District and was sent to the fire academy. Following graduation from the fire academy and obtaining Firefighter II certification, he began working as a paid-on-call and part-time shift firefighter/paramedic. Splitting a part-time shift position with another employee, he still works part-time for Advantage Ambulance Service.

Prior to entering emergency services Greg attended the Local #256 Sheet Metal Workers trade school and has also obtained an Emergency Medical Dispatch certification. Even though he's just beginning his fire service career, he has big plans to continue his education and advance as far as possible.

When he's not working, Greg loves spending time with his long time girlfriend, playing softball, and being outside.



Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Pankiewicz began his fire service career in 2009 with the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District, as a paid-on-call firefighter. FF/PM Pankiewicz attended Northwest Community Hospital's paramedic program. In 2012, he was hired as a part-time shift firefighter/paramedic, sharing a part-time shift with FF/PM Hanik. FF/PM Pankiewicz also began working with the Highwood FD in 2012, as a part-time member.

Ben is anxious to continue his education in the fire service and currently enjoys obtaining as much experience as he can while searching for a full-time job with a fire department. An active outdoor enthusiast, he spends as much time as he can to pursue those activities.

LGFPD Mission Statement

To provide residents, owners, businesses, and visitors within the Long Grove Fire Protection District, and any recognized emergency agency requesting automatic/mutual aid, with the safest, effective, efficient, comprehensive, and customer focused Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services possible. This high level of professional services will not be limited in scope to emergency situations only, but will encompass the broader spectrum of public safety, to include Public Education, Fire Inspections, and all other support services.

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cians (EMTs) while the other is a paramedic. Thus, when the situation warrants, they work in those capacities. We will do whatever it takes to get the job done right.

We do not believe in maintaining an excessively large fleet. Our belief is the concept of bigger is not necessarily better. We have only 3 full-size apparatus: a pumper-squad, pumper-tanker, and a pumper. In October of this year, we will replace the aging pumper with a new commercial mini-tanker. All of these apparatus are multifunctional units capable of answering a vast array of calls ranging from all sorts of fires, medical calls (paramedic equipped) including motor vehicle crashes with extrication, gas leaks, and the like. We have two mini-pumper type of apparatus (paramedic equipped) that serve a multitude of roles. They can operate as the assist company to the ambulance on a medical call, function as a brush fire rig, serve as the initial fire attack apparatus on a structure fire in a limited access area (where the bigger apparatus have a hard time negotiating the narrow tree lined roads/driveways), and can handle the day to day minor service calls. The use of the smaller rigs translates to less maintenance costs, less fuel costs, and less risks associated with putting the big apparatus on the road. I must say, we are very careful with the deployment of the smaller apparatus so we “do not get caught with our pants down” so to speak, during a multiple call situation and do not have the ability to get a full-size apparatus on the road should the situation warrant it.

Our inventory presently includes two advanced life support ambulances but we will be adding a third one as a mechanical reserve unit in the near future. Mechanical reserve means that the ambulance will only be used if one of the two primary ambulances goes out-of-service for some sort of “mechanical problem”. Thus the mechanical reserve only has the basic equipment stored on it. If it needs to be placed in service, the advanced life support equipment will be transferred from the primary ambulance that is going out of service onto the mechanical reserve unit. Our on-duty chief officers operate out of a command unit which is set up in an SUV type of vehicle and we have a utility pickup truck that serves as our special team response vehicle, back-up command unit, primary snow plow unit, inflatable rescue boat trailer transporting unit, and for miscellaneous hauling. The inflatable boat is obviously used for water rescues and for performing on-going maintenance on the District’s drafting hydrants. Rounding out the fleet are some support/pool vehicles which

are utilized by the fire chief, training/safety chief, fire marshal, fire inspector, personnel attending training classes, and as a back-up for special team responses.

Today, it is impossible to operate as an island by yourself. For years, LGFPD has worked closely with its neighbors to provide the highest quality emergency services possible. Everybody cannot have every piece of equipment, apparatus, or enough personnel to handle the “big one”...or even a lot of the “little ones” at the same time. It is just not business smart or financially responsible. Sharing of resources is a must; you must be willing to give in order to receive. LGFPD has 11 active automatic aid intergovernmental agreements with surrounding jurisdictions. These agreements are fire, EMS, and special rescue driven. We co-own a comprehensive training facility with Buffalo Grove FD, Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD, and Wheeling FD; it is located in Buffalo Grove. Also, we co-own a hose tender apparatus with Countryside FPD and Wauconda FD, which has the capability of deploying 4,000’ of 5” supply hose. We are a small district that has created/developed sustained agreements with our neighbors in order to provide our residents, business owners, and visitors with the most efficient, timely, comprehensive, effective, and safe emergency responses possible. You are truly receiving a “big city” response in a “small town” environment.

This very newsletter you are reading was developed in-house by District personnel. Including authoring, editing, printing, and processing. It is then sent to you via the US Postal Service.

In conclusion, LGFPD is a special organization. Our firefighter pension fund is 96% funded. All our other funds are in good sound financial shape. Our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating (as I told you in a previous newsletter edition) improved from a District-wide 5, to a rating of 3 within 1,000’ of a fire hydrant (city or drafting), and a rating of 4 for the rest of the District. We have been a member of the state’s premier emergency medical system (Northwest Community Hospital Emergency Medical System) since 1999, which translates into the best possible pre-hospital emergency care we could deliver. We do things a little different than everyone else at times, while complying with all the current fire service trends, because of the sheer uniqueness of the area we protect. We are proud of the fact we can remain flexible and deal with any emergency situation on a professional level even though we are a smaller organization.

Can you hear me NOW?

By: FF/PM Shaun Unell

In today's age of technology, one of the areas the fire service is behind the times in is radio communications. We strive to be able to relay critical information to one another during emergency situations with clear concise communications. One of the main problems we encounter is noise. Unfortunately, from the second we are dispatched until the situation has been mitigated, we as firefighters are always making noise. We have noise from the motors of the apparatus we ride in and the power tools, like chain saws we utilize. Even pumping water through hose lines makes the pumping truck work harder and louder. So in order to overcome these obstacles, technology is trying to catch up for the fire service. But as with any new technology, it comes at a cost.



Motorola HT 1000 – Current VHF radios

Currently the majority of portable radios we are using were made in the late 1990's and early 2000's. If you had a computer or TV that was still in use for that long of a timeframe, it can be very hard to find parts to repair those items. Our radios are no different. We are limited to 16 channels to talk on. Six of those are our fire ground frequencies which we use at emergency scenes and for training. That only leaves us with 10 channels to utilize with the rest of our surrounding towns. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) helps set

the guidelines by which area fire departments aid each other. MABAS has frequency guidelines in accordance with federal standards for interoperability. Interoperability is essentially creating a common channel that all agencies can communicate on. One of the worst feelings a public safety professional can experience is trying to communicate with someone they can see but can not talk to. With the national channels in place, we are able to communicate with various agencies from fire departments, police departments, public works, and federal agencies. Our current down fall is lack of channel space to include these frequencies in our radios.

Buffalo Grove FD (BGFDD) is dispatched by North West Central Dispatch on an 800 MHz system that is not compatible with our VHF radios. We have 5 radios for our entire fire department that we can use to communicate with BGFDD in order to talk on their channels. If we respond to BGFDD, Palatine FD, Arlington Heights FD, and several other surrounding communities, we have to use one of those 5 radios to speak with their dispatch center and fire companies. We still talk to our dispatch center on our VHF channels and sometimes those towns also use a VHF fire ground channel. As we assist with their emergencies, we may have to carry multiple radios to effectively communicate with all involved agencies. This can be a significant safety hazard for our firefighters, and confusing as well.

LGFPD is pursuing a federal grant to help bring us up to date on technology and interoperability with the purchase of new portable radios. The new radios are able to function on multiple frequency bands just by changing the channel knob. Then we will no longer need to carry two separate radios to talk with all involved agencies. This will lead to clearer, more concise communications and fewer missed critical messages. Of course, they come at a large cost of over \$5,000 per portable multi-band radio, compared to under \$1,000 for the single band VHF radios we currently are using.



*Motorola APX7000xe
New multi band radios*

Ensuring we can be heard now and in the future is a safety concern we are trying to manage on a daily basis. By pursuing grants we hope to keep our crews safe while also being fiscally responsible with the taxpayer funds we operate on. Thank you for your support in keeping us safe while keeping you safe!

2012 Year-End Call Analysis

By: FF/PM Jeff Baygood

Last year was another busy year for LGFPD. Although 2011 was slightly busier by 3%, we ran a total of 1,682 calls. A majority of the calls (69%) happened during the “day shift” (7:00am to 7:00pm) and the remaining 31% happened during the “evening shift” (7:00pm to 7:00am). For the most part, emergency calls were equally divided among the three shifts. Black shift ran 34% of calls, Red shift had 30%, and Gold shift came in at 33% of the total calls. The duty crews were able to handle 80% of calls without recalling off-duty personnel. Twenty percent of our calls resulted in a multiple-call situation (two or more calls overlapping in time). While many of them were handled solely by the duty crew, sometimes a local call back of off-duty personnel was requested or off-duty personnel, who happened to be at the station, were hired back to maintain staffing levels. July was our busiest

month with 183 responses. Most calls (49%) occurred within the District’s portion of the Village of Long Grove.

Our two ambulances were very busy in 2012, running 46% of the total in-District medical calls. Plus another 9% were automatic/mutual aid ambulance calls. The ambulance crews transported 75% of patients to one of the eight local area hospitals, while 25% of the time crews obtained a medical release. The District responded to 122 vehicle accidents and 7 of the accidents were dispatched as a rollover and/or the possibility of extrication. Ambulance calls to the District’s two nursing homes accounted for 9% of the total calls.

The remaining calls were calls for service or fire responses. We responded to a total of 30 Code 3/Code 4 responses, which included an initial report of a structure fire, inside natural gas leak investigation, burning odor, or lightning strike to the building. We had 9 working fires in 2012.

We also responded to Special Rescue Team incidents. We have trained technicians for 5 specialty disciplines. They are Dive, Hazardous Materials, Side Scan Sonar, Wildland, and Technical Rescue. Divers were called out 6 times and Side Scan Sonar technicians (who aid in water recovery operations) 4 times. The Wildland team was activated 3 times, while the Hazardous Materials Technicians and Technical Rescue Technicians each responded to 2 calls.

LGFPD continues to proudly serve and support our residents and neighboring fire departments through automatic and mutual aid agreements., while continuing to maintain our level of service by balancing staffing levels with our call volume.

The Community Emergency Response Team of South Lake County
(serving Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, Lake Zurich, Long Grove & Ela Township)
welcomes you to the:



6th Annual



ALL-U-CAN EAT



**Pancake
Breakfast**

Sunday May 19th, 2013



8:00am – 1:00pm

LAKE ZURICH FIRE STATION #1
321 S. BUESCHING ROAD

\$5 PER PERSON, KIDS 3 AND UNDER FREE
Fire Prevention Skits, Mini Firefighter Challenge,
Antique Firetruck Rides

Silent Auctions - Raffles - Music & Fun

All-you-can eat fluffy pancakes, sausages, Starbucks Coffee, juice & more!
Come Support a Great Cause!!

Bring Family & Friends! Rain or Shine!
(847)-208-1621 slccert@gmail.com

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Fire Line

A newsletter of

Long Grove Fire Protection District

1165 Old McHenry Road

Long Grove IL 60047

847-634-3143

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**Pancake
B'fast 5/19**

*Emergency always dial 9-1-1
Non-emergency 847-634-3143*

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Retired LGFPD Fire Chief honored at Residential Fire Sprinkler Symposium

By: Fire Marshal Michael Schmitt

Retired Fire Chief Dave Grupp was honored recently at the Illinois NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 13D Residential Fire Sprinkler Symposium that was held at Medinah Banquets in Addison, on March 6th. Retired Chief Grupp was recognized for his part in designing, promoting, and helping to get the residential sprinkler ordinance in the Village of Long Grove adopted on April 12th, 1988. It was the first residential sprinkler ordinance in the State of Illinois, and it has grown to 88 Illinois communities protected by residential sprinklers today. It is very important to have sprinklers in your residence because sprinklers, combined with smoke detectors in your home, increase your chances of surviving a fire to 88%. Combine that with making and practicing a home escape plan twice a year and you increase your chances of surviving a fire to 93%.

We tip our hats to Chief Grupp for his forward thinking.

Calendar of Events

May 2	CPR/AED Class
June 4	First Aid Class
June 6	CPR/AED Class
July 11	CPR/AED Class
August 1	CPR/AED Class
September 10	First Aid Class
September 12	CPR/AED Class
October 3	CPR/AED Class

Classes begin at 6 pm. Class fees are \$15 for residents of LGFPD, \$30 for non-residents. Call Katie Hayes for additional information at 847-634-3143.