



Emergency Medical Services (EMS): A Critically Important Operation Provided By Your Fire District

By: Chief Robert Turpel

The Long Grove Fire Protection District (LGFPD or District) responded to 872 emergency medical calls in 2014. Of those calls, 733 were within District boundaries and 139 calls were automatic/mutual aid responses to other agencies. Out of the 733 calls within the District, 129 were traffic accidents with injuries. Total calls responded to by the District in 2014 was 1,585. EMS related calls made up 55.12% of our total responses.

In order to properly answer these calls, the on-duty staffing level ranges from 5-7 personnel out of our one station, while 6 is the usual minimum. The District currently employs 34 total firefighters. Thirteen are full-time employees and 24 are part-time. Twenty-eight of the 34 total personnel are licensed Paramedics (EMT-P), 5 are basic licensed emergency medical technicians (EMT-B) and 1 is a paramedic student. Just to give you an idea on the cost and time requirements for an EMS education, an EMT-B's initial training is approximately 170 hours (classroom, clinical, in-field ride time/apprentice) and costs around \$1000. If a person decides to upgrade their certification to pursue EMT-P, a paramedic's initial training is minimally 958 hours (same breakdown) and will cost about \$6000. Both Paramedic and EMT-B personnel are required to participate in ongoing trainings to remain licensed and both are required to file for re-licensure with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) every 4 years. IDPH requires a Paramedic to complete 32 hours of continuing education (CE) each year. An EMT-B must complete 20 hours of CE. LGFPD requires its personnel to participate in multiple extra shift trainings pertaining to EMS topics above what is required by IDPH.

LGFPD owns/operates 2 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances, 3 full-size fire apparatus that are also ALS (paramedic equipped), 1 mini fire apparatus that is ALS and 7 support vehicles that are equipped with Basic Life Support (BLS). In addition, the District possesses 2

EMS bicycles that can be outfitted with BLS equipment and has just purchased an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and trailer (approximately \$31,625 for just the ATV and trailer...less \$10,000 matching grant from Illinois Department of Natural Resources) which will also be equipped with BLS. The District will be taking delivery of a second new Ford F550 4-wheel drive ambulance (about \$190,100 for ambulance only) this month. Upon delivery of this 2nd unit, the older ambulance will be sold. Both District ambulances will have 4-wheel drive capabilities...extremely important due to the challenging winter weather road conditions emergency personnel face at times. The ATV will be used for providing/deploying EMS at special events such as festivals, various runs, remote rescue operations in forest preserves and in other private wooded limited access areas. It will have a custom stretcher system installed to allow temporary removal/transportation of a patient to an awaiting ambulance. The bicycles are utilized in tandem and can be useful during running events where an EMS team follows/circles the runners, while remaining out of the way. However, close enough for an immediate contact should the need arise.

LGFPD is a member of the Northwest Community Hospital (NWCH) EMS System. The protocols and policies District personnel must operate under are generated from this authority. The protocols and policies are science/research based to allow cutting edge care to be administered in both the field and the hospital setting. This system is well known, highly regarded and respected in the emergency medical field. It allows our personnel to deliver top quality care in an aggressive, progressive, proactive manner. The continuing education offered to paramedics and EMT-B's from NWCH is extremely well developed, delivered and pertinent (ie: Ebola and measles). NWCH truly challenges their medical providers to be the best of the best, which obviously benefits you the consumer.

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Interesting Calls

By: Deputy Chief Marc Small

In September, LGFPD firefighters responded to several mutual aid calls to surrounding communities. On September 3, we responded to Rolling Meadows for a structure fire. September 4 we responded to Libertyville for a structure fire. September 6 we responded to Buffalo Grove for a structure fire. September 12, we responded to Buffalo Grove with a structural collapse technician for a car that drove into a residence.

On October 13, firefighters responded to a reported structure fire on Middleton Drive in Kildeer. Responding were a pumper squad, pumper tanker, ambulance, Long Grove Fire Chief, and Deputy Chief. Automatic aid companies from Buffalo Grove FD, Lake Zurich FRD, Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD, Palatine FD, Prospect Heights FPD, Barrington FD, Barrington Countryside FPD, Wheeling FD, and Arlington Heights FD responded to the scene. Prospect Heights FPD Chief, Lake Forest FD, Fox Lake FPD, and Highwood FD covered our station during the incident. First unit on the scene reported visible smoke coming from the front door of the two story single family home. The 4 occupants of the home were outside and reported to fire crews that everyone was safely out of the building and the fire was in the basement. Crews advanced a hose line into the basement encountering heavy black smoke. The fire was extinguished using approximately 750 gallons of water. The fire damage was kept to the room of origin but there was smoke damage throughout the house. The occupants were medically evaluated, reporting no injuries and released on the scene by paramedics. The fire was determined to be accidental.

On October 22, firefighters responded to a reported head on vehicle crash with an occupant entrapped, on Old McHenry Road at Prairie Wind Road. We responded with a pumper squad, ambulance, Long Grove Fire Chief, with assistance from Buffalo Grove FD, Lake Zurich FRD, Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD, and Palatine FD. Upon arrival

crews reported a small SUV crashed head on into a semi-tractor trailer parked off the road on Old McHenry, the semi's cab was vacant at the time of the crash. The engine compartment of the SUV was on fire and was quickly extinguished while crews simultaneously worked to free the trapped driver. Fire crews removed the driver (the only occupant) and transported the victim to Condell Medical Center. The crash was investigated by the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

In October, LGFPD firefighters responded to several mutual aid calls to surrounding communities. On October 4 to Hickory Road in unincorporated Mundelein for a structure fire, with a pumper squad. October 10, to a structure fire on Quaker Lane in Prospect Heights with a pumper tanker and Fire Chief.

In November, LGFPD firefighters responded to several mutual aid calls to surrounding communities. November 2, to Golf Road in Waukegan for an out of control brush fire. We assisted at several structure fires: on November 3 on Stratford Road in Prospect Heights; November 4 on Silver Rock Lane in Buffalo Grove; November 6 on Valley View Road in Lake Barrington; November 8 on Kruckenber Road in Hawthorn Woods; November 11 on West State Road in Island Lake; November 21 on Timber Lane in Wauconda; and November 24 on Jackson Court in Vernon Hills.

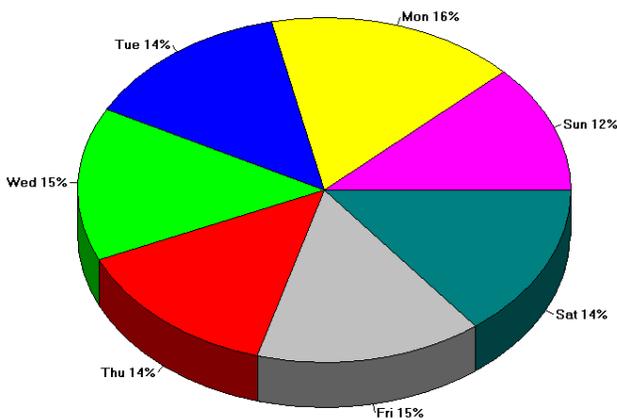
January 8, firefighters responded to Bonhill Drive in unincorporated Arlington Heights for smoke in the hallway of a multi family dwelling. We responded with a pumper squad, pumper tanker, ambulance, Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, with assistance from Palatine FD, Buffalo Grove FD, Barrington FD, Lake Zurich FRD, and Palatine Rural FPD. Upon arrival, crews were met by a tenant of the building stating that there is smoke coming from a 1st floor apartment. No one answered when crews pounded on the door; it was forced open to find moderate smoke in the apartment from unattended food burning on the stove. The pan was removed from the apartment and no fire damage

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2014 Call Analysis

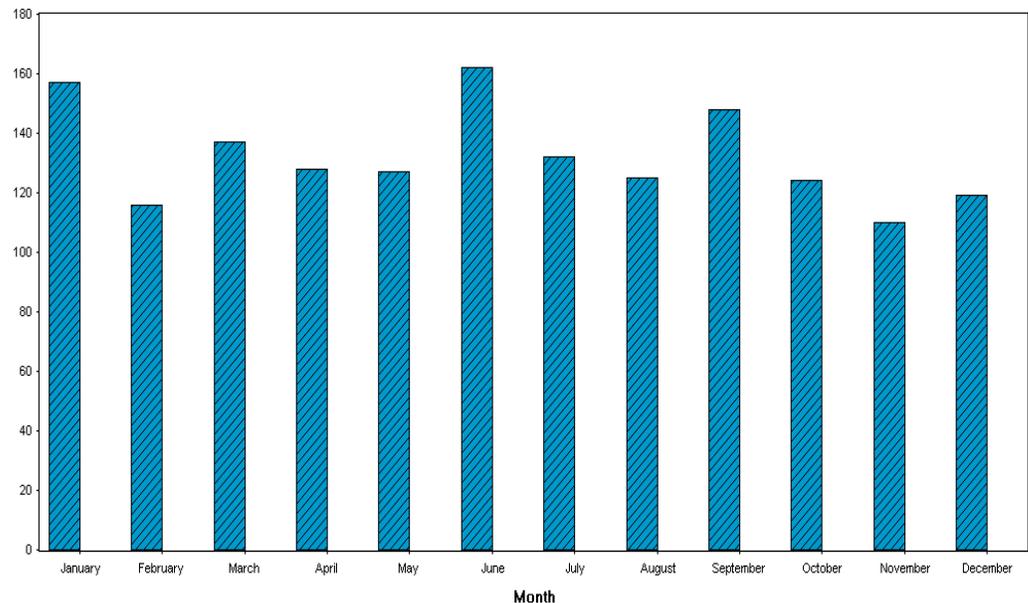
By: FF/PM Jeff Baygood

The District had another busy year with a total of 1,585 responses. It was slightly busier than 2013 with a 4% increase in responses. The District averages just over four responses per day. The calls were just about equally spread among all three shifts. Of our total responses 55% of them were medical in nature. The medical calls range from simply helping out someone who needs assistance getting into bed, to automobile accidents requiring extrication, and providing assistance to



another fire department at a medical call in their jurisdiction. We had 5 structure fires and 6 vehicle fires last year. The Special Teams technicians responded to 8 calls within our MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) division. The vast majority of our responses (87%) are handled by our duty crew without the need for additional personnel.

Many people ask what day of the week is the busiest. There is no rhyme or reason to when responses happen. The pie chart shows how the responses are just about evenly spread. During a shift 68% of the calls happen during the day shift from 7am to 7pm. It is also asked what months are busiest; the bar chart shows that January and June were our busiest months and November was the slowest.





The Community Emergency Response Team of South Lake County
(Serving Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, Lake Zurich, Long Grove and Elmhurst)

Large Sports Memorabilia Auction

Welcomes you to the

8th Annual

ALL-U-CAN EAT

Pancake Breakfast



\$7 per person
Children 5 and Under FREE

Sunday, May 17th, 2015

8:00am - 1:00pm

LAKE ZURICH FIRE STATION #1
321 S BUESCHING ROAD



K-9 demonstration, Mini Firefighter Challenge, Antique Firetruck Rides

Silent Auctions - Raffles - Music & FUN

All-you-can eat fluffy pancakes, sausages, Starbucks Coffee, juice & more.

Please come support a great community cause!



Bring Family & Friends! Rain or Shine!

(847) 208-1621 slccert@gmail.com or visit our website at www.slccert.org

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Meet Our Fire Service Family...

By: Firefighter/Paramedic Kris Mullen

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 Patrick Nyczaj joined LGFPD during the summer in 2014. Patrick completed his paramedic training at Northwest Community Hospital earlier that summer. As a part of that training, he completed his ambulance ride time with our department. He also attended and graduated fire academy over the summer.

Patrick is 28 years old and resides in Palatine. He comes from a family of three boys. He graduated from Palatine High School in 2005.

Starting as a part-time employee, Pat is now assigned to a regular shift. He also works for Jewel-Osco, having been there for the past six years. He is passionate about the fire service and is excited to serve the community.



Firefighter/Paramedic Thomas Szarzynski also joined the District during the summer of 2014. Thomas attended and graduated fire academy at NIPSTA (Northern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy) last summer. He completed his paramedic training at Northwest Community Hospital and has been working for Advantage Ambulance Service for the past five years.

Tom is a graduate of Brother Rice High School. He married his wife, Lynn, in 2011. Prior to entering the fire service, he worked for Jewel-Osco for ten years.

Having started as a part-time employee, he is now assigned to a regular shift. By becoming a member of the District, Tom has fulfilled his lifelong goal of becoming a firefighter.

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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On a normal basis, we send 4 personnel and two vehicles on an EMS call. If the staffing level is the normal 6 personnel on shift, the ambulance will respond with 2 paramedics and the mini-pumper with 2 trained persons (quite possibly both paramedics). The ambulance is chased by the fire apparatus to assist them at the scene with treatment, moving the patient, gathering medical history, moving equipment, providing security and consoling family members. If the response is critical in nature, such as a cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or severe trauma the chase/assist vehicle will be a full-size fire apparatus capable of carrying at least 3 additional personnel to the scene. Important points to remember at this time is you do not want us showing up to your emergency with just 2 persons and then we have to call for additional help because the medical condition of the patient deteriorated just prior to our arrival or while we are on the scene. Also, the presence of additional staffing at the scene increases the safety of everyone. EMS equipment can be heavy and cumbersome, more personnel translates into less chance of injury to first responders. You may have simply fallen down a couple of steps in your home and injured your leg, more personnel translates into you can be removed/transported from your house much more gingerly which means less pain and suffering for you. Ultimately, we want to deliver the best patient care possible. Finally, as I explained earlier, these fire apparatus are paramedic equipped. Their equipment can pretty much be used to deliver the same care as the equipment on an ALS ambulance. The only thing the fire apparatus cannot do is transport you to the hospital. Thus, if the assist company is not needed, it can be returned to service and if another call comes in, it can be redirected to the second call and if it arrives sooner than our other ambulance (or an ambulance responding mutual aid to the District) the crew can begin the appropriate care at both the BLS and ALS level. In rare circumstances, after close screening/triaging with the consensus of a radio operator at our dispatch center, a decision may be made by an on-duty supervisor to send an ambulance only to an EMS incident. Again, caution is the word of the day, the medical complaint might be a simple bloody nose that is not clotting, however, the underlying reason for the bloody nose may be very high blood pressure (possibly hypertensive crisis) which may lead to a stroke. Obviously, more personnel arriving on the scene for this situation would be warranted if the patient's condition worsens.

If a call received by our dispatch center is of such a

nature that a command officer may be needed in order to manage the scene properly (such as the case with a traffic accident) the on-duty chief officer will be dispatched to the scene. Also, at times the on-duty staffing can be inundated with calls or committed on an exceptionally involved call; should that be the case, besides utilizing mutual aid to cover our station or respond to another call, the District recalls our off-duty personnel to respond to the station to staff the reserve apparatus.

There are current standards that dictate the amount of personnel that should be dispatched to an EMS call. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 Standard (2010 Edition), *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments* states "personnel deployed to ALS emergency responses shall include a minimum of two members trained at the emergency medical technician-paramedic level and two members trained at the emergency medical technician-basic level." The standard defines an ALS response as "emergency medical treatment beyond basic life support that provides for advanced airway management including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, establishment and maintaining of intravenous access, and drug therapy." The NWCH EMS System requires at least 5 personnel respond to and administer care to patients that are severely compromised. This would include patients suffering from cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, other major airway problems, critical traumatic injuries and the like. Each crew member on these types of incidents is assigned a particular function of care to complete in order to provide the patient with an overall focused treatment.

LGFPD believes that public education with a mindset of preventative education is an important component of the delivery of emergency medical services to the public. As such, the District currently instructs public CPR and first aid classes (see page 8 for details). Future endeavors include developing/delivering classes to the elderly in fall prevention, cooking related accidents/burn prevention and general knowledge/safety for babysitters.

I am happy to say, where it comes to the future of EMS, the LGFPD and our EMS system has openly embraced the coming changes. Paramedics and EMT-

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Basic personnel will be tested based on national guidelines instead of state requirements. The current paramedic class (including our student) at NWCH will be tested at the national level. Significant changes as to who should receive spinal immobilization have been introduced. Much of the research has proven there was an over use of immobilization and it actually resulted in more harm than good to many patients. Our system has initiated extensive training in this area and updated the corresponding policies and protocols regarding this change.

Hydraulic cots and mechanized loading systems have been introduced to lessen the chance of emergency personnel sustaining a lifting type of injury or for the patient to be injured due to being dropped while being manually lifted into the ambulance. I am proud to say, mostly through grants and other income streams, the LGFPD currently has hydraulic cots and mechanized loading systems in each of our ambulances and the previously mentioned new ambulance that will be delivered in March is equipped the same. "Community paramedicine (CP) is a new and evolving model of community-based health care in which paramedics function outside their customary emergency response and transport roles in ways that facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations. CP programs have been independently developed in a number of states and countries, and thus are

varied in nature. These programs typically have been designed to address specific local problems and to take advantage of locally developed collaborations between and among EMS and other health care and social service providers. Interest in this model of care has grown substantially in recent years in the belief that it may improve access to and quality of care while reducing costs." (*Community Paramedicine: A Promising Model for Integrating Emergency and Primary Care, UC Davis, Institute for Population Health Improvement*) NWCH is responding to this idea by introducing the concept to all the medical officers and chief officers of the departments/districts within their EMS system. LGFPD looks at CP as an opportunity to help some of our low income families, in the future, that reside in the Cook County portion of the District south of Lake Cook Road. Examples of CP might include Paramedics conducting follow-up wound checks at private residence, removing sutures or performing a blood pressure check/screening. Of course, the priority for LGFPD personnel would remain responding to emergency calls for assistance.

All in all, we are very proud of the services we offer you on the EMS side of our mission. We will always strive to be better and always want to be a part of the "best practice" model through providing our emergency responders with significant amounts of quality oriented, realistic, comprehensive, up-to-date trainings/education.

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brush piles are also 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

- On the day of the burn, call the fire station at 847-634-3143 *prior to burning, for permission to conduct the burn, and again when the burn is complete with the fire extinguished.* Burns are only allowed by the IEPA when wind speeds are between 5 and 15 mph.
- All open burns must be adequately supervised for their entire duration. Which means someone needs to stand there and watch the burn from start to completion.
- All burns must have an adequate means of extinguishment (buckets of water or a garden hose) close at hand.
- Per the International Fire Code (2009 Edition, Chap-

ter 3, Section 307) and the IEPA, "the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder, another person responsible or the fire department of *open burning* that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation."

Remember that while fire is an effective tool for outdoor spring clean-ups, it can also be dangerous if it gets out of control. The results of miscalculating the speed of the wind or the amount of fuel can be disastrous not only for you, but for friends and neighbors as well. Following the rules and regulations for open burning in your area will go a long way toward insuring a safe and effective spring clean-up. If you have any questions about open burning, please contact the District's Fire Prevention Bureau at 847-634-3143.

A Review of Open Burning

By: Fire Marshal Michael Schmitt

Spring is here, the weather is warming up, and that also means that we are in full swing with open burning season. As the population of Lake County increases, it is ever more important to be conscious of courtesy and safety when burning outside. In order to conduct a burn that gets the job done safely without any damage or ruffling feathers, it is quite important to understand the procedures and follow the rules.

It should be stressed at this point that where you live has a lot to do with what “the rules” are. LGFPD covers a rather large area containing portions of the Villages of Long Grove, Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, and Lincolnshire, as well as, areas of unincorporated Lake and Cook Counties. The residents of *Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, and Lincolnshire must follow the codes that their respective villages have adopted. Contact your Police Department for information on open burning in your village.* The following rules and guidelines pertain to the residents of the District who reside in the Village of Long Grove and in areas of unincorporated Lake County falling within the District’s boundaries.

Outdoor burns fall generally into 2 categories: conservancy burns and brush piles.

Conservancy Burns (*designated by the Village and the IEPA Permit*) *these are areas of wild grass and other natural areas around your property:*

If your address is not listed on the **IEPA Permit** applied for by the Village, then we can’t issue you a burn permit. Residents should contact Village Hall to ensure your address is included on the Village IEPA Permit.

- Beginning in 2011, LGFPD no longer issues Conservancy Burn Permits without a current IEPA permit.
- Lake County residents also require both permits but may have to apply for both permits themselves (application forms for both LGFPD and IEPA permits are available at the fire station).
- Residents, individually or as part of a group, may

elect to retain a contractor or landscape company to conduct their conservancy burns. If this is your choice, make sure to specify as part of your agreement that the contractor will “secure all necessary permits.” The company will need to secure its own IEPA permit for your burn. Due to insurance and bonding requirements, private, for-profit contractors may not use the Village IEPA permit for their burns. Be sure to check for proof of insurance and bonding to conduct outdoor burns.

The application form with original signature must be submitted in person for review and approval.

- LGFPD permits are numbered to aid in identification on “burn day” phone calls.
- LGFPD permits are valid for 30 days. Multiple burns may be conducted on the same permit, but a call to the fire station is required prior to, and after, each burn. Expired permits must be reapplied for.
- Currently, there is no charge for our permit.

Failure to comply with LGFPD, Lake County, or IEPA open burning regulations may result in a citation carrying a fine of up to \$250 per violation.

Regarding brush piles (*defined as branches and other landscape waste excluding leaves or grass clippings*):

- A permit is not required for brush piles.
- You still need to call the fire station for a “GO or NO-GO” on your brush pile burn, based on current weather conditions and wind speeds.
- The pile may not exceed 5’ wide X 5’ long X 5’ tall.
- Construction debris, common garbage, grass clippings or leaves may not be burned in any quantity.* Only brush and/or landscape debris (tree trimmings) created on the property may be burned.
- As with all outdoor fires, the rules about constant supervision and readily available means of extinguishment apply to brush piles as well as conservancy burns. (See below)

Burning hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (daylight time) per IEPA for conservancy burns. Burning hours for

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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

Presorted Standard Mail
 US Postage Paid
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 Palatine P&DC



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

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was found; smoke was evacuated by natural ventilation. The tenant was located, told about the event, and how it could have turned out much worse.

January 26, firefighters responded to Nichols Road in unincorporated Arlington Heights for smoke in the hallway of a multi family dwelling. We responded with a pumper squad, pumper tanker, ambulance, Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, with assistance from Palatine FD, Buffalo Grove FD, Arlington Heights FD, Lake Zurich FRD, and Prospect Heights FPD. Upon arrival, crews were met by Cook County Police Officers stating that there was unattended food burning on the stove in a 1st floor apartment. Officers removed the burning pan from stove top and opened several windows before our arrival. No fire damage was found and smoke was evacuated by natural ventilation. The tenant was located, told about the event, and how it could have turned out much worse.

In February, LGFPD firefighters responded to mutual aid calls to surrounding communities for structure fires. On February 20 to Slocum Lake Road in Wauconda and on February 28 to Peach Tree Lane in Lake Zurich.

Calendar of Events

May 7	CPR/AED Class
May 17	Pancake Breakfast at Lake Zurich fire station
June 2	First Aid Class
June 4	CPR/AED Class
July 2	CPR/AED Class
August 6	CPR/AED Class
September 1	First Aid Class
September 3	CPR/AED Class
October 1	CPR/AED Class

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