

MECHANICVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

October Newsletter



Inside Articles

Annual Physical and Fit Testing	2	Training Article	3	Up-Coming Training	5
Monthly Chief's Report	2	Training Update	4	September Alarms	6



Department Physicals

This month we the Chief's have scheduled our annual Physicals and Fit Testing through Access Health, to be performed at the Central Station. Sign-up sheets are posted in the lobby at the Central Station.

The dates will be;

- Tuesday, October 27th
- Wednesday, October 28th
- Thursday, October 29th

Note: If you are over the age of 40, you are required to have an EKG completed. EKG's will primarily be done on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you cannot attend on either of those days, you may sign-up for Thursday, but you must note that you require an EKG to be completed.

Chief's Report

Alarms - 13

(11) City calls

(2) Mutual aid requests

There were no major incidents during the month of September

Drills - 4

The Department held numerous drills during the month covering subjects such as mid to high rise building fire techniques and FAST training – a rapid response team designated to locate and rescue firefighters who are trapped or injured during an incident.

A drill was held 9/19/2009 at the Mid-Rise Apartments to familiarize our mutual aid partners with the facility. Several members attended a drill at the Hillcrest Fire Dist. on 9/30/2009 to attend a NYSEG gas emergency response seminar.

Training

(5) Members have completed Truck Company Operations which was held at the Central Fire Station in Mechanicville, a 24 hour NYS training class.

(6) Members are presently enrolled in Firefighter One, the basic recruit firefighter class being held in West Crescent.

Up-Coming Events

Annual collection will be held on Tuesday October 20, 2009 and October 22, 2009. Our membership will be going door to door throughout the city asking for donations to help support programs such as fire prevention training.



**MFD October 2009 Training Article
By: Tom Brennan**

Structure Fires

In establishing incident priorities, the nation's fire service has etched the order of our responsibilities in stone. Life safety first, then incident stabilization/extinguishment, and property conservation last. The highest, of course, is life—all life. And that, most assuredly, includes the firefighter! We have recently begun speaking about the many facets of extinguishment support tactics (truck work) that must accompany extinguishment of any structural fire. How do they interplay to account for our responsibility to life?

Ventilation is the systematic removal of smoke and heat and replacement as soon as possible with cool, fresh air. Normally vertical ventilation begins as soon as possible, supported with controlled and coordinated horizontal ventilation that's dependent on whether it's used for fire control or life accountability. Ventilation allows for a more smooth and rapid penetration of the structure by firefighters for search and handline movement and evacuation. The vertical arteries, the stairways above the fire, and the occupancies they lead to become more tenable for the trapped civilians and for us. Victims overcome and unconscious but breathing will gain time with improved air supply, and we will gain more time to find them. Visibility will be increased and panic will be reduced. Effectiveness of our operations will increase. Heat will stop banking down and mushrooming. Flashover possibilities will be more remote and the rescue effort and extinguishment will be more rapid.

Search/rescue/remove. This function must be ongoing and a first priority regardless of activity or manning levels. A systematic, orderly, continuous examination of every area of the structure in priority order based on fire location and size-up is the only way to account for every human being. Coordinated efforts of interior search and exterior entry and search can account for and remove all occupants. Communication, the nozzle movement, and the command function are the key to success.

Confinement. The beginning of extinguishment is a major tool to account for life safety, both for the civilian and the at-risk firefighter. The search effort can be more determined once the fire is confined. Closing a door (or providing a barrier) to the fire room or fire area will give needed time for the search. The use of an extinguisher (2 1/2 gallons of water) can control more fire than you would realize while awaiting hand-line position.

Extinguishment. Sometimes control and extinguishment of the fire are the only ways to accomplish protection, search, and removal of the life exposure within the structure. Because of fire conditions or personnel levels at the scene, the failure of proper line placement and use will collapse the life safety goals. I recall a fire in the first floor of a 2 1/2-story private dwelling of balloon construction. Two persons were showing at the street-side windows of the attic space in the front of the house while the fire was in the rear. The few members of the department that arrived put all efforts into raising portable ladders to the two distressed civilians. No one was left to stretch a handline and isolate the first floor, rear fire. Later, after the fire was extinguished, the search team located the other five members of the family who succumbed to fire products on the open second-floor landing at the top of the stairs. As we've said so many times before, a real and effective size-up must affect fireground decisions. Think with your head and not your heart. In this case the second commandment of firefighting (incident stabilization) could have been used to accomplish the first (life safety). Actions on the fire-ground must be influenced by your ability to locate the fire!

Structure Fires in Single Family Homes

How come we keep losing so many people to fires in private homes? These are the smallest occupied structures in our districts, but we will lose about 80 percent of this nation's civilian death toll-6,000 people—inside these one and two-story structures. And to make matters more frustrating, we lose them in numbers of one or two per fire incident, usually in their own homes. What is against us that is particular to these occupancies that causes us so much grief and frustration?

Open interior stairs. The open interior staircase—an unprotected, large, vertical flue—allows products of combustion from virtually anywhere in the dwelling to fill the tiny compartments (bedrooms) and hallways on upper floors with the silent killer to the sleeping occupants. The same open stair offers virtually no protection for the fire-fighter who wants more than anything to get to the hall landing above the fire and begin a primary search of the bedrooms. The top three stairs are engulfed in a murderous column of heat and gas that can turn even the strongest of us around. There are no partitions to slow down the extending fire that so often traps the firefighter and keeps him from accomplishing his mission. Safety here depends



MFD September 2009 Training Article Tom Brennan

on communication—with the engine operations below; with a partner stationed below the heat column observing conditions and operations on the fire floor; and with members outside, who should know your route and provide secondary means of egress.

Vertical ventilation. A second reason for the unusual number of fire deaths at these occupancies is our inability to quickly ventilate vertically. We cannot stop the mushrooming and the horizontal spread and provide the quick relief to the stairs as easily as we can at other buildings, particularly those with flat roofs. One new trend that may help us at these buildings is the residential skylight. Vertical ventilation is probably the single most needed operation at private dwelling fires and it's virtually impossible to do—at least in time to make a difference. Sure, we get it accomplished eventually, but it's too late to impact what we're talking about here.

Insufficient personnel. If we had enough firefighters on the scene to stretch proper handlines, search the first floor, attempt to reach the second floor from inside, raise and properly place proper-size portable ladders to at least one window in each bedroom, and enter for simultaneous search from the outside, we probably would impact the savable life hazard positively and the life loss we experience at these dwellings would drop to an acceptable percentage. We then would have done our best. It's too bad that we can't seem to get the message across to those responsible for our on-scene personnel levels.

Interior layout. Sure, the main living areas take on patterns based on building style—Cape Cod, ranch, split-level, colonial. If we're sharp we can guess where the stair is most likely to be and which sides the living room, kitchen, dining area, and den are on. After that the rest tends to become a nightmarish maze. Bedrooms can be anywhere. Sure, they're at the top of the stairs or to the opposite side of the living area, but what about the finished garage or the converted den? Finished basements and extensions can be an unexpected confined space problem.

Exterior opening—windows. These can be a nightmare for the firefighter trying to vent, enter, and search. They come in various shapes, sizes, and operating methods. Many are just too small. High, narrow ranch windows are useless—for us and for civilians. Steel casement windows, usually in dwellings of brick and brick facades, are only 12 or 14 inches on center. How wide are you? How wide are you with your SCBA on?

These structures have features tend to work against us more than in any other type of occupancy. Since we know that we have a lot of fires in these buildings, it's important to know what we are up against. More to come next month.

Training Center w/FDNY

On Saturday, October 3rd, members attended a training session with FDNY Training Instructors. The session was a hands on drill which covered some of the topics which were discussed back in July when FDNY Firefighter Scott Hickey held a classroom session of Company Operations. The drill focused on various aspects of Truck Company Operations, such as Vent, Entry, Search and Ground Ladders. Approximately 25 members attended. ETA 42-1, T 39-1 and E 41-1 were utilized for the drill.

We expect to have the instructors return for additional sessions, possibly to include Engine Company Operations and more Truck Company tactics. We will keep the members advised as the dates or selected.



Up Coming Drills

October 2009 Training

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October

- 10/14 - Water Supply Operations
- 10/21 - F.A.S.T. Training
- MCI Drill (Date TBA)
- 10/28 - Cross Training

November 2009 Training

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November

- 11/04 - Cross Training
- 11/11 - Electrical Safety
- 11/18 - HazMat Awareness
- 11/21 - FAST Training
- 11/25 - Cross Training

Note:

MVA/Car Fire Training will be announced as vehicles are obtained. Additionally, each Training Session will address OSHA topics and a log will be kept for each firefighter.



September Alarms

Alarms - 13

(11) City calls

(2) Mutual aid requests

144 9/01 MVA—Personal Injury

Car vs. Pedestrian Accident at North Main St. and E. Saratoga Ave. Crews assisted EMS on scene and shut down the roadway. ETA 42-1, ETA 44-1 and U 39-2 responded.

145 9/02 Outside Burn

Reported Outside Burn at 411 Park Ave. Crews arrived to find a legal controlled burn in the rear of the residence. ETA 42-1, U 39-2 and Car 39-0 responded.

146 9/05 Outside Burn

Reported Outside Burn at 383 South Main St. 39-0 responded and advised the residents. All other units held in quarters.

147 9/05 Outside Burn

While on scene at 383 South Main, Car 39-0 was advised of another controlled burn by the residence. Car 39-0 investigated. Unfounded. No additional response from MFD.

148 9/06 Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid request with Arvin Hart for two ETA's to the scene of a Structure Fire on County Route 76. Crews assisted with overhaul and clean-up. ETA 42-1, ETA 44-1 and Cars 39, 39-0 and 39-9 responded.

149 9/07 Outside Burn

Reported Illegal Burn at 255 South Main Street. Car 39-9 arrived and determined that it was a large illegal burn. ETA 42-1 responded priority 2 per car 39-9.

150 9/11 Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid request for one ETA to stand by for Hemstreet Park FD which was out at the scene of a structure fire in Melrose. ETA 42-1 handled the cover assignment.

151 9/12 Carbon Monoxide Alarm

Reported CO Alarm with Illness at the intersection of Viall Ave and Mechanic St. Crews determined that there was no alarm activation. The resident advised the smelled an

unknown type odor. Crews checked the residence with a multi-gas detector. No abnormal readings found. Arvin Hart was dispatched due to a possible 911 discrepancy, but it was determined that the location of the alarm was in fact within the City limits.

152 9/15 MVA—Personal Injury

Reported two car MVA with injuries at Central Ave and Hill St. Crews assisted EMS, performed scene clean-up and Fire Police assisted with traffic control. ETA 42-1 responded.

153 9/16 Outdoor Gas Odor

Caller reported an outdoor odor of gas in the area of 383 North Third Ave. Determined to be a neighbor that was working on a vehicle and had been transferring gas from a fuel can to the vehicle. ETA 42-1 responded.

154 9/17 MVA—Personal Injury

Car vs. Pedestrian Accident at Park Ave and Central Ave. Crews assisted EMS and performed traffic control duties. ETA 42-1 and Cars 39 and 39-9 responded.

155 9/18 MVA—Personal Injury

Reported two car MVA with unknown injuries. Crews responded with EMS. No injuries were reported. Crews performed traffic control while awaiting the arrival of a tow truck. ETA 42-1, U 39-2 and Cars 39 and 39-9 responded.

156 9/23 Trash Fire

Police on scene reported clothing set on fire in the Park Plaza near McDonalds. Car 39-9 arrived to find the fire extinguished by a passer by. All units held in station.

157 9/26 Rescue

Report of a child stuck in an elevator between the 4th and 5th floors of the Mid-Rise. Crews utilized the elevator key set to open the door and remove the subject. ETA 42-1 and Car 39-0 responded.



Training Announcement

Topic: Engine and Ladder Company Hands On Operations
Instructors: FDNY Firefighter Scott Hickey & FDNY Lt. Mike Ciampo
Location: Saratoga County Fire Training Center
Date: Saturday 10/3
Time: 8 AM

Details: FF Scott Hickey from Truck 45 in Washington Heights Manhattan and Lt. Mike Ciampo will cover both engine and truck responsibilities on the fire scene and from the perspective of experienced firefighters. This is a hands on drill that will require members to conduct extinguishment, search, and ventilation tasks. It is a rare opportunity for MFD to be able to host such well trained and knowledgeable instructors, thus, attendance is strongly encouraged. All members that sign up will be required to attend and participate. If interested, please refer to the sign up sheet at one of the fire stations.

Questions: Call Tim Cuilla at 588-3970 or email at tim.cuilla@gmail.com

Instructor Background:

Scott Hickey is a 22 year veteran of the fire service. Currently, he is a member of the FDNY Tower Ladder 45 where he has worked for the last sever years. Before joining FDNY, Scott spent fifteen years as a volunteer in Saratoga County.

Michael Ciampo is a lieutenant with the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) where he has served for 18 years. He was previously a firefighter with the District of Columbia Fire Department for five years. Prior to his career experience, Ciampo joined the Wyckoff (NJ) Volunteer Fire Department in 1979 and was a fourth generation volunteer firefighter. He has a bachelor's degree in fire science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Ciampo is the lead instructor for FDIC's Hands-On Training portable ladders class and is a frequent lecturer on truck company operations at FDIC. He is a contributing editor and editorial advisor for Fire Engineering and authored the portable ladder chapter in the soon to be released textbook Firefighter I & 2. A certified New York state fire instructor, Ciampo is also a NYSAFC Hands-On Training Program instructor in truck company operations and live burn evolutions. He has also instructed at the Firehouse Expo and numerous other fire service tradeshow across the country.



**Mechanicville Fire
Department**

August Alarms

114 8/03 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid to Hillcrest for a fire alarm activation at 48 Johnson Rd. All daytime mutual aid was held in station.

115 8/05 MVA w/PI

Car vs. Pedestrian MVA on Park Ave. in front of McDonalds. 39-0 responded and held all units in station. No injuries per EMS on scene.

116 8/07 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid to Hemstreet Park for a brush fire on River Rd. ETA 42-1 responded. Crews assisted HPFD with manpower at the scene and water supply.

117 8/07 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid to Hemstreet Park for a brush fire on River Rd. ETA 44-1 and 42-1 responded with Car 39.

118 8/08 Outside Smoke Condition

Reported outside smoke condition in the area of 218 South Third Ave. Called unsure if it was a controlled burn or structure fire. ETA 44-1, T 39-1 and Car 39-0 responded. Determined to be an outside burn,

119 8/12 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid with Hillcrest for a Fire Alarm. Call cancelled. Fire Control dispatched the wrong departments.

120 8/12 Transformer Fire

Reported transformer fire in the area of 510 Grant St. ETA's 44-1 and 42-1 responded with Car 39. The fire was unfounded and NYSEG was notified.

121 8/13 MVA w/PI

2 Car MVA at East Saratoga and North Main Street. ETA 42-1 and Car 39 responded. Crews contained leaking fluids and assisted EMS with victim removal.

122 8/15 MVA

Vehicle over an embankment on William St. at the church. Car 39-9 and U 39-2 on scene. All other units cancelled.

123 8/16 EMS Assist

EMS requesting lifting assistance on Park Place.

124 8/16 Structure Fire

Working structure fire caused by a lightning strike at 297 South Main St. See inside article for more information.

125 8/17 Mutual Aid

Daytime mutual aid with Hillcrest for a fire alarm at St. Luke's Church on McBride Rd. Car 34 cancelled ETA 42-1 while en route.

126 8/18 Hazardous Condition

Flooding Central Ave.

127 8/18 Hazardous Condition

Flooding Ellsworth Ave.

128 8/18 Hazardous Condition

Flooding First Ave.

129 8/18 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid to Hemstreet Park for a reported structure fire at 359 Old Schaghticoke Rd. Caller reported the home was struck by

lightening and there was an odor of smoke. ETA 42-1 and Car 39-0 responded. MFD personnel check the residence with a TIC and determined there was no fire.

130 8/18 Hazardous Condition

Report of wires burning on Central Ave in front of Country Living. No hazard found. Good intent call only. ETA 44-1 and Cars 39-0 and 39-9 responded.

131 8/19 Structure Fire

Caller reported smoke showing at Kearney's Service Center. Crews arrived to find a smoke condition coming from the building and forced the front door. Crews found it to be a wood stove being used to burn trash after hours.

ETA 44-1, 42-1, E 41-1 T 39-1, U 39-2 and Cars 39, 39-9 and 39-0 responded.

132 8/20 Hazardous Condition

121 6th Ave. for a report of power lines down. Found to be a cable line only. ETA 42-1 and Car 39-0 responded.

133 8/20 Fire Alarm

Car 39 reports audible fire alarm at the Community Center. Alarm was accidental. No response required.

134 8/20 Fire Alarm

Reported fire alarm at J.S. Moore Homes. Determined to be a faulty smoke detector. ETA 42-1, 44-1, U 39-2 and Cars 39-0 and 39-9.

135 8/21 Stand By

Stand By in station for severe weather.

136 8/21 Fire Alarm

Fire alarm activation at Bubbles Restaurant. Car 39-9 and ETA 42-1 responded. Car 39-9 arrived and determined that it was a false trouble alarm.

137 8/21 Hazardous Condition

Flooding Central Ave.

138 8/21 Hazardous Condition

Flooding Ellsworth Ave.

139 8/21 Structure Fire

Report of wires burning in a residence on Saratoga Ave. ETA 42-1, 44-1 and Car 39-9 responded. Residence checked with TIC. Situation deemed non-hazardous.

140 8/21 Hazardous Condition

Request for traffic control due to power outage.

141 8/28 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid to Hemstreet Park for a Structure fire on Knickerbocker Rd. ETA 44-1, 42-1 and Cars 39 and 39-9 responded.

142 8/29 Rescue

Report of a 2 y/o with his arm stuck in a heater. Child was freed by EMS prior to FD arrival. Cars 39 and 39-0 responded.

143 8/30 Mutual Aid

Mutual aid to Hemstreet Park for a reported structure fire. Fire out prior to arrival. ETA 42-1 and Car 39-9 responded.