

IN CASE OF FIRE, GET OUT, THEN CALL 911

NEW FLEET ADDITION

The Monarch Fire Protection District has a new addition to the fleet. Ambulance 2257 is a 2017 four wheel drive Ford Life Support Vehicle. It is assigned to House 5 at 155 Long Road. The new truck is one of 4 front line state of the art mobile response units. It is equipped with the tools and staff to provide advanced life support care and transport for the sick and injured. The new addition brings the average age of our ambulance fleet to less than six years old. Planned purchases in the next two years will reduce the average age of the trucks just under 3 years old.

The ride technology known as liquid springs, and patient loading systems recognized as the power loader incorporated in the new trucks, make transporting our patients safer for the patient and crew.



FALL SAFETY TIPS

- Change your smoke alarm batteries
 - Change smoke alarm batteries at daylight savings time change (except 10-year sealed batteries)
 - Check the age of your smoke alarm – replace if 10 years old or older
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance
- Have your furnace serviced by a reputable heating and cooling company
 - Make sure filters are changed regularly
 - Have the flue checked for blockage and leaks
 - Have the furnace checked for safe operation
- Clean your fireplace and chimney
 - Hire a reputable chimney sweep to clean and inspect your chimney and fireplace
 - Ask chimney sweeps if they are members of the National Chimney Sweep Guild (NCSG)
- Use caution with space heaters
 - Never use a space heater unless you have working smoke alarms
 - Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters
 - Never use extension cords to power electric space heaters
 - Make sure your space heater has a tip-over safety switch
- Use caution when cooking for the holidays
 - Deep fry turkeys outside away from buildings and wood decks
 - Don't leave frying unattended – "stand by your pan" (or deep fryer)
 - Follow your deep fryer's operation instructions for safe use



Board of Directors

Rick Gans, President
Jean Millner, Secretary
Robin Harris, Treasurer

Assistant Chief

Cary Spiegel

Deputy Chiefs

Les Crews
Robin Echele
Nick Harper

Fire Marshal

Roger Herin

Headquarters

13725 Olive Blvd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Phone: 314-514-0900
Fax: 314-514-0696



"Like" us on Facebook

Facebook.com/MonarchFPD

Visit Our Website

www.monarchfpd.org



**In Emergency,
Call 9-1-1
All other inquiries,
call (314) 514-0900**

FALL 2017

MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

INTEGRITY • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPONSIBILITY

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER FROM THE BOARD

We begin by saying goodbye to former Monarch Board Member Jane Cunningham, while at the same time welcoming Jean Millner to the Board. Jane made immense contributions to the Board and District in the nearly 5 years that she served. While an unexpected relocation ended her term early, the legacy she leaves behind will be felt for years to come. During her term tax rates were held the same or lowered, the District's service levels were unparalleled and the relationship with citizens and businesses of the District were never better. Jane has assured us she will be keeping an eye on how we are doing from her new home and provide us opinions and feedback if asked (and even possibly if not asked).

Jean comes to the Board with a diverse background that includes having served on several commissions for a St. Louis County municipality. Jean has significant experience in the advertising and communications industry and food service management. She has truly hit the ground running by putting in extensive time attending meetings, riding with the Battalion Chiefs and visiting the stations in order to meet our fire fighters and paramedics and review our equipment. Her voice and opinions have already permeated our Board meetings and her ideas are refreshing. Come to a Board meeting to meet our newest Board member, Jean Millner.

The Board recently passed the Budget and set the tax rate for the coming year and we are pleased to report we once again have a balanced budget AND a lower tax rate than last year. Yes we promised to lower the Ambulance Fund tax rate to correspond with the advent of resident ambulance billing (paid by insurance). But we were able to take it one step further and we also passed a slight reduction in the General Fund tax rate. Monarch now enjoys the 4th lowest tax rate of the 23 St. Louis Fire Districts (based on the latest available information from St. Louis County). But, as importantly, our level of service is at an all-time high.

Finally we wish to pay tribute to our Acting Assistant Chief Les Crews for his recent work with hurricane relief in Houston and Florida. Les, who is a Task Force Leader with Missouri Task Force One, was deployed by FEMA as a Division Supervisor for the Urban Search and Rescue Incident Support Team relief efforts to Hurricane Harvey in Houston. Then, after returning home for a short time, he was deployed by FEMA as a Division Supervisor assembled for search and rescue efforts for Hurricane Irma in Florida. Les has finally come home to resume his duties with Monarch where we see daily what a valuable asset he is to our Fire District and the residents and businesses we serve.

CHIEF'S CORNER- "ALWAYS LEARNING"

A great philosopher once said, "The Only Thing Constant is Change". This observation is validated nearly every day in the business of Emergency Services. Who would guess the responsibility shouldered by an emergency service provider would evolve to such proportion and scope?

The various disciplines in Emergency Services have integrated by demand. Formerly, Military Personnel dealt with national security issues, typically off-shore. Law Enforcement Personnel focused their skills on national, state, and local law enforcement. Firefighters dealt with fire and rescue scenes. Medical emergencies were restricted to Ambulance Personnel trained to deliver the sick and injured to ERs for emergent care.

The transformation started naturally, Paramedicine produced Paramedics and Fire and Rescue seemed the most effective delivery component for the community. We now have Paramedics, equipment, and pharmacy items, on fire apparatus, rescue trucks, staff vehicles, and ambulances (Life Support Vehicles). Law Enforcement Personnel deal with ever increasing threats, not only to the public, but sometimes they find themselves the target. The 'Bad Guy' is getting more and more creative and lethal. (con'd on page 2)

www.monarchfpd.org

**In Emergency,
Call 9-1-1
All other inquiries,
call (314) 514-0900**



Visit Our Website
www.monarchfpd.org

"Like" us on Facebook
Facebook.com/MonarchFPD



13725 Olive Blvd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Phone: 314-514-0900
Fax: 314-514-0696



Prst Std
US Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit #474

CHIEF'S CORNER - ALWAYS LEARNING *(continued from page 1)*

Domestic issues have required the inclusion of the Military in some cases. It is not uncommon to hear that the National Guard is activated for some event within the shores of the United States. Fire, Rescue, and EMS frequently find themselves working with and dependent on Law Enforcement Professionals and sometimes with Military Service men and women. There are times of National Emergency (natural disasters), where all of these disciplines, deploy, converge, and work together. It seems the profession of, 'bringing order to chaos', is becoming more and more challenging.

I have had the good fortune of living and working through the current evolution of 'Emergency Services'. It is impressive to witness the 'Constant Change' in this business. More importantly I want to express my appreciation for the support we have from the citizens of the Monarch Fire Protection District. Meeting the demands, not only in Professional Staff, but with proper apparatus, training, education, and equipment, is a daunting task; without the support of the community, it would be an impossible task.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, and the men and women of the Monarch Fire Protection District... Thank You!

Kindest Regards,
Acting Chief Cary Spiegel
(314) 514-0900 ext. 2201
(314) 581-2201 cell
spiegel.c@monarchfpd.org

FLOOD, FIRE, EARTHQUAKES AND TWISTERS



Everyone who has watched the news this year has seen areas flooding from hurricanes and rain; fires destroying forests, crops and homes; earthquakes toppling houses, stores and factories; and tornadoes destroying everything in their path. Fortunately, the worst missed our area this year. Unfortunately, we have seen floods from rain and rivers, fires consuming homes and businesses; earthquakes doing minor damage (the last severe one was the New Madrid earthquake in 1811/1812) and tornadoes with their associated destruction here in Monarch or very nearby.

While no one can fully prepare to weather every calamity, the Monarch Fire Protection District is ready to respond to our residents and businesses when misfortune calls. We have five fire houses across the District with more than 100 professionals ready to help.

Everyone knows we have fire trucks ready to roll within minutes of receiving a call for help and ambulances staffed with paramedics and excellent equipment to assist with medical emergencies. However, we do much more.

Monarch is home to a regional heavy hauler that is designed to provide confined space rescue for victims trapped in collapsed buildings or trenches with about 50 firefighters trained to use the specialized equipment. We also have boats and personnel trained for swift-water rescues.

We team up with the St. Louis County Police to provide helicopter rescues using their helicopter and pilots and our rescue personnel. We operate and staff a designated Rescue Truck when the need arises which carries tools to extricate victims trapped in vehicles and other rescue equipment. Then, of course, we participate in area events and in District training to hone the skills needed to perform these duties.

However, Monarch, the Department of Homeland Security and the State of Missouri all recommend everyone take a few basic steps to help themselves. Under normal circumstances, Monarch crews and equipment is minutes away, but, what if a major disaster strikes the area.

First, everyone should have a minimum of three days of non-perishable food (don't forget a manual can opener in case the electricity is off) and water for each family member. You should have a flashlight with fresh batteries and you may want to get a few emergency candles and matches. A simple first aid kit is very inexpensive. Make sure you have a few simple tools (hammer, nails, screw drivers, pliers, crescent wrench and, perhaps, even some vice grips or locking pliers).

Make sure you know where to shut off the gas and water to your home in case there is a leak. For a few dollars, you can buy a special wrench designed for the gas shutoff. Keep cell phones charged or have an external charging device.

A comprehensive list could become quite long but just a few simple items can make a big difference when calamity strikes. To borrow from the Boy Scouts, "Be Prepared".

IN THE WORLD OF FIRST RESPONDERS



It is with great sorrow that we report the loss of Dr. Christopher Bosche. Dr. Bosche died September 12, 2017 after a three year battle with cancer. The cancer may have been the result of exposure due to his response to the World Trade Center as a Medical Manager for Missouri Task Force 1. Dr. Bosche was a member of Missouri Task Force 1 for many years. He was deployed six times with the task force: in August 2005 for Hurricane Katrina, June 2006 for the Elks Lodge Building Collapse in Clinton, August 2006 for Hurricane Ernesto, August 2008 for the Republican National Convention, May 2011 for the Joplin tornado and October 2012 for Hurricane Sandy.

Dr. Bosche was born in 1973 in Chesterfield Missouri and he attended Parkway Central High School. He graduated from medical school at Mizzou and was an emergency room physician. Dr. Bosche was a family man and adored his wife and two children. He was an avid Blues Hockey fan and loved dogs.

Men like Dr. Christopher Bosche are a diamond in the rough and he will be sorely missed. The Monarch Fire Protection District grieves for his wife and two young children. He will be remembered as a hero and a friend to the Fire and EMS community.

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDE

Fall is the time of year we get the most inquiries about how to dispose of hazardous household waste. Hazardous household waste products (HHW) are items containing chemicals that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. These products can be harmful to you, your family and the environment if not disposed of properly. They can be in the form of gases, liquids or solids. Below is a guide to disposing of the most commonly asked about HHW. **For items not listed, call 1-800-CLEANUP (1-800-253-2687).**

For recycling information, and for information on household chemical collection events, contact St. Louis County Department of Health at 314-615-4130 or visit them on the web at <http://hhwstl.com/disposal>.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF:

- **20 lb. Propane Tanks** (for BBQ grills, campers, etc.): Drop off at Lowe's, Home Depot or other propane sales centers. We recommended that you use as much as possible to empty the tank before disposal. **DO NOT** discard old propane tanks in the trash, whether empty or not.

- **Household Batteries:** Household batteries (9v, AAA, AA, C, D, etc.) that you think are dead may have some of the charge remaining in them. Cover the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals with heavy tape, or package the batteries in a zip lock bag or other container before disposal. This will prevent the terminals from contacting metallic materials that could short the battery and cause a fire.

- **Dry Chemical Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguisher companies will take your old fire extinguishers; or you can empty them and discard them in the trash. Empty your old fire extinguishers outside only – preferably into a trash can or other container. Stay upwind of the discharge. The dry chemical used in fire extinguishers is not considered hazardous, but can cause choking (just like dust) if inhaled. **DO NOT** discard fire extinguishers in the trash unless the gauge indicates that there is no pressure.

- **Old Gasoline:** Pour, up to a gallon at a time, into an almost full vehicle gas tank. Old gasoline, if adequately diluted by fresh gasoline, should not harm your vehicle engine. **DO NOT** discard old gasoline into a storm drain or sanitary sewer – this can create an explosion hazard.

- **Old Motor Oil:** Auto parts stores such as Advanced Auto Parts, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Auto Zone, etc. will take used or old motor oil.

- **Latex Paint:** Dry out and discard in trash. Dry out by mixing equal parts paint and either oil-dry or kitty litter and allow to dry out.

- **Compact Florescent Bulbs:** Compact florescent bulbs contain a small amount of mercury. Home Depot will accept your old compact florescent bulbs, or you can save them for disposal at the St. Louis County household chemical collection events.

- **Other HHW** such as pesticides, solvent based paint products, cleaning chemicals, etc. should be stored in a safe place in their original containers, and disposed of at household chemical collection sites operated by St. Louis County Department of Health (www.stlouisco.com/doh or 314-615-4130), or call 1-800-CLEANUP (1-800-253-2687).

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



A 'Tip of the Helmet' to Heidi Sowatsky as she donated her time and talent. The Fire District has had a facelift; our headquarters entrance foyer, lobby, and board room have never looked better.

Thank you Heidi Sowatsky, Franchise Owner Decorating Den Interiors