



# ANSWERING THE CALL

Barrow County Emergency Services Newsletter

June 2016

## Chief's Message

As we embark on the summer months, it is a good time to remember the importance of family. Too often, we get focused on our jobs and other events that are happening in our lives and family tends to get whatever time and energy that we have left.



Photo Credit— Nelson Sanders Photography

Our families are the most valuable asset that any of us have. Your family stands with you through good times and bad times and we all should ensure that our family knows how valuable and important that they are.

Our jobs are important from the perspective of providing a means of income to provide for our families, but family should be our priority. Our work family and community depends upon us to be here to perform our duties to the best of our abilities. Each of us should give 100% of our ability while on duty; in order to do this, we must have assurances that our family is okay while we are away. Taking care of your family and spending quality time with them is a vital part of this assurance.

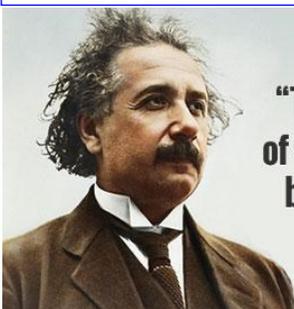
Equally important is that we take care of ourselves. Every day, emergency responders see and hear things that no person should have to experience. These sights and sounds cannot simply be forgotten. We tend to have the false impression that saying things have an impact on us makes us weak. Quite the opposite is true, not admitting that you need to talk to someone and trying to hide or suppress these feeling will weaken the body and mind. Mental health is as important to the body as physical health. While we have teams to assist us in times like this, I would also like to pass along to you all that if you should need someone to speak with don't hesitate to come to me. My door is always open for each of you should you need it!

Enjoy your summer, spend time with your families, and take care of yourself.

*John*

***“The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example.”***

***- John Wooden***



**“Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value”**

- Albert Einstein

LeadershipQuote.org

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## Words of Wisdom from the Deputy Chief

**CHANGE** is a word that evokes many emotions in people. Change can be met with resistance, acceptance and even fear. Many times over the past several years I have heard personnel say “We have always done it this way” or “That is not how we have been doing it”.

John Maxwell said “Change is inevitable... Growth is Optional”. As the department and community continues to grow, we will see changes continue to occur. As a department we need to embrace these changes and work towards positive growth along with the change. Some changes as small, such as when we migrated from Emergency Communications being referred to as “Central” along with other names to all agencies utilizing “Dispatch”. Other changes have been and will be more significant.

How these changes are handled by each of you is totally up to your attitudes and acceptance of Change. According to Socrates “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” Following this principle, instead of trying to hold on to the way we have always done things, change is simpler if we embrace the fact that we are a changing and growing department. If we work as hard at a positive implementation of these changes as we do to holding onto the old way of doing things, change will be a smooth transition.

*Alan*

Folks here's some updates for things going on within BCES,

First some of you have heard about the upcoming golf tournament on Sept 19th This tournament is to benefit Am vets, BCES Fire Foundation and CERT. So the tournament is called the ABC tournament. We will get more information out as the tournament grows.

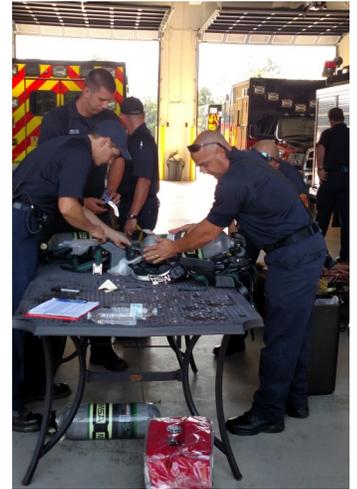
The new Engine 4 is at Fireline to have additional equipment add and some detailing, the last thing will be to install the radio equipment.

Summer time is here a time to spend with family and friends, with cookouts, vacations and fun times. Please be safe and enjoy!

# Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

The new SCBAs approved for purchase by the Board of Commissioners on 3-22-16 arrived in June. Training for BCES personnel was conducted on June 8-10 and the new equipment was placed in service on June 10th. The MSA packs replaced packs which were nearing the end their recommended usage life in accordance with NFPA1981.

Some of the added features include: integrated microphone for public safety radio, digital air gauges and enhanced visibility.



# New Expeditions

The new Expeditions approved for purchase by the Board of Commissioners January 2016 arrived at the department on June 21st.



# Employee Spotlights

*Each month this section will spotlight one employee from each shift and one employee from communications. Employees are submitted by the Battalion Chief/Shift Captain/911 Manager.*



Lieutenant Brett Skinner joined the department in September 2005 and has worked hard for the department and citizens we serve. Brett has worked on numerous programs throughout the years that have helped the department move forward and enhance the services we provide for our citizens. At the end of May, Lt Skinner participated in a week long training with the Barrow County Sheriff's Department and became a SWAT Medic. Lt. Skinner has also been working with the members of A-Shift that are in the current Lieutenant promotional process to help them understand the roles they will face when promoted.



FF/EMT Steve Parkerson joined the department in March of 2013. Prior to joining BCES he retired as a Battalion Chief from Gwinnett County Fire after 30 years of service. FF/EMT Parkerson has been married to his wife for 34 years and they have 2 children. Steve's Lieutenant commented "Parkerson is the type of firefighter that we all should strive to be like. His dedication, attitude and work ethic exceeds most people that I have met"



FF/PMDC Rob Aldred has been working for BCES for 8 years on C-Shift. Rob is always willing to lend a hand and take on projects that will benefit the department and County. Most recently, Rob made and hand painted traffic alert signs for the crews to utilize during the Burn Foundation boot drive. Over the years Rob has worked on numerous grants for equipment for our department. These grants have included; turnout gear, cardiac monitors and the new Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICS). FF/Aldred is a great asset to have working for BCES.



Communications Officer Patrick Harbin began his career with BCES in December 2009. After a few years at Jackson County 911 he came back to work fulltime with BCES. Patrick is an excellent communications officer and able to multi-task at the console. He remains calm during some of the most stressful situations and is able to calm a distraught caller to obtain the information needed to respond the help needed. Patrick recently completed the development of a training manual for 911 which is being used to train new communication officers. We would like to thank Patrick for his professionalism and loyal dedication to BCES

*Ability*  
is what you're capable of doing  
*Motivation*  
determines what you do.  
*Attitude*  
determines how well you do it.

# Georgia Firefighter's Burn Foundation



BCES personnel recently conducted a boot drive to benefit the Georgia Firefighter's Burn Foundation. The GFBF partners with the fire service and burn care community to provide fire safety and prevention education, support medical facilities and assist burn survivors in their recovery.

Each shift and crew participated in the drive and even had a little friendly competition to see who could raise the most money. Funds raised so far total \$16,872, with more to be tallied.



June 12—17, Camp Oo-U-La was held at Camp Twin Lakes located within Fort Yargo State Park. The GFBF provides this camp at no cost to burn-injured children and their sibling(s). Eligible campers are Georgia residents age 7 to 17 who sustained a burn injury that required treatment or hospitalization at a burn center, or non-Georgia residents who were treated in a Georgia burn center, and their siblings.

Camp offers burn-injured children and their siblings opportunities to grow together in their recovery—both physical and emotional—and in their relationship with one another, all while experiencing the fun, friendships, and freedom that you can only find at camp!

BCES Personnel as well as other firefighters from across the state get the opportunity to interact with the children during this week in a stress free environment. Firefighters participated in the annual limo parade through Winder and also visit with the campers at Camp Twin Lakes throughout the week.



BCES personnel got to hang out with the kids at Camp Oo-U-La. FF/Medic Thayer tried to give the kids a fishing lesson . He caught this fish and later claimed it was a 10 pound catch (Fisherman tales). Glad the kids get a week of just being kids and feeling accepted, despite their scars (mental and physical).

Nobody  
Told  
Me

## Why didn't I see it in the Newsletter?

You and your crews/shift have worked really hard this past month on a project. Someone you supervise has completed a huge accomplishment. So, you may be asking yourself, why wasn't this included in the newsletter? The simple answer to this is that no-one on your shift or in your division submitted it for inclusion.

Employee recognitions (highlights) and shift or division news is submitted each month by the Shift Captains, Battalion Chiefs, 911 Manager, EMS Captain, Fire Prevention Captain and Training Captain. If information is not submitted, then personnel miss getting the recognition they deserve for a job well done.

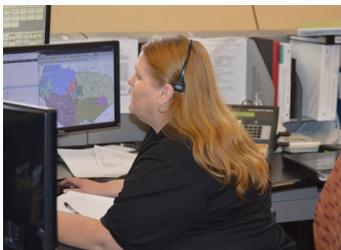


Likewise, if you want others in the department to know what is happening on your shift or in your division, you need to make sure that one of the Captains or the 911 Manager has this information.

This newsletter was intended to be a means of information sharing for everyone in the department. We have a lot of good employees doing lots of great things. Take advantage of this opportunity to share what is happening with others.



## BCES Snapshots



# Training Division

All three shifts are working on completing the assigned monthly training for June (Rope Bailout).

Crews are also training on pediatric intraosseous infusion. Captain Bullock completed the Advanced Extrication Technician Level Train the Trainer course sponsored by the Georgia Trauma Commission and the Georgia Association of EMS. Lt. Eric Lee and FF/EMT Jeremy Towe completed the Advanced Extrication Operations Level Train the Trainer. This allows us to have certified extrication instructors on staff.

Captain Bullock stated "I would like to say Good Job to all three shift Captains for getting their crews out and training. I know the weather is hot, but we have to get it done."



## Captain's Corner

**Last month we discussed a change of culture that we aim to see throughout our ranks. A change that we hope will allow us to improve not only ourselves, but to challenge each other to improve, grow, and to excel. We talked about a challenge to be different and we encouraged each of you to no longer accept the "we've always done it this way" mindset.**

**With that said, we want to bring another word to mind and that is outstanding. *The definition of outstanding is exceptionally good, magnificent, superb, exceptional, superlative, or first class.* With a honest conscience, could you use any of these words to describe yourself, your demeanor around the station, the service you provide to our citizens, or your effort towards the training you complete, your station duties, or regarding your pride and ownership of the things you do or don't do? There are many that could say they make the effort daily, others cannot. Do you go that extra mile? Do you pick up the things you see that need to be done?**

**That is what outstanding truly is, and being outstanding everyday is what will continue to push us and the service we provide above and beyond what the citizens expect, but honestly and more importantly, what they deserve. It has been said that the extra mile is often the stretch of road that is never crowded. Are you willing to go past what is comfortable? Until next time, stay safe, continue training, and keep up the great work**

*Captain Dakin*

*Captain Fuller*

*Captain Carignan*



# CERT

In July, Barrow County CERT will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary. The CERT program was first introduced in Barrow County in July 2006 and became the 23rd CERT organization in Georgia.

Since that time, 18 classes have been conducted with more than 200 citizens receiving training in disaster preparedness. Many of these students have went on to become active members of the CERT Team, assisting public safety personnel in various events and responses within the County. The CERT Team currently has **35** active members.



CERT Members at their annual banquet in January 2016



The CERT team has assisted in numerous community events to include the annual holiday toy drive, various festivals and celebrations, assisting with parking for election and other large events. In addition to the community events, CERT members have assisted staff with conducting the CERT training classes radio testing and deployment, EOC operations and other public safety agency operations.



On June 3, CERT Team members Michael Toney, Tina Watkins, Vance Oakes and Fern Oakes portrayed victims during the Region E Hospital Exercise. Approximately 50 victims were triaged and transported by bus to Athens Regional and St. Mary's hospitals as part of this exercise.



# BCES Candids



They took the "kids" to Disney .... Yeah right.



But this is the way we do it in Canada!



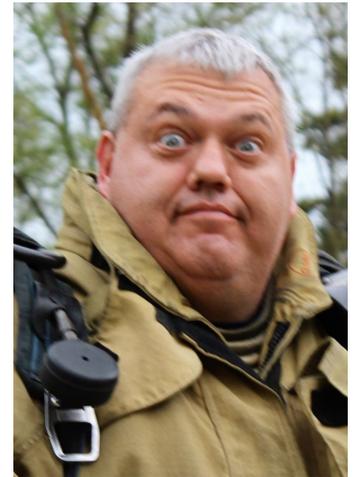
"Can y'all explain that to me one more time?"



Captain Bullock, that training fire was a little hot!



Here is an oldie of Deputy Chief Shuman... when he actually Had HAIR!!



Did someone say doughnuts?



I know I look cool standing here, but truth is....my shirt is caught in the file cabinet and I cant move!!!!!!



Way Back When..... Before Bullock's babies, Bullock was a baby (2009)



CERT member Bob Heiss ready for deployment.



Sharon Jones	July 2
Jeremy Williams	July 4
Steven Rose	July 8
Marty Garner	July 10
Mandy Wallace	July 10
Heath Williams	July 12
Crosby Harbin	July 13
Penny Clack	July 20
Tommy Crowe	July 21
Tracey Walling	July 24



<u>Employee</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Sharon Jones	July 1	25
John Skinner	July 24	16
Keith Jarrett	July 24	14
Tommy Crowe	July 7	10
Shannon Faulkner	July 24	10
Jeremy Thayer	July 24	10