

ANSWERING THE CALL



Barrow County Emergency Services Newsletter

May 2016

Chief's Message



Photo Credit— Nelson Sanders Photography

As the world around us changes, so does each of the sections within Barrow County Emergency Services must change as well.

Change is often viewed as a negative because we all are comfortable with what we are acclimated to. Changes to our "norm" begin to make us uncomfortable which can have trickling effects to personnel, operations, and our leadership.

James Belasco stated, "Change is hard because people overestimate the value of what they have, and underestimate the value of what they may gain by giving that up." This simple statement truly hits the nail on the head, not only with our work environment, but with everyday life.

Barrow County Emergency Services has seen many changes in it's young age and will experience many more as we continue to develop our department. These changes are implemented to improve our services provided to the citizens, the development of staff, and our overall operations.

While these changes will require effort on the part of each of us, by working together we can make these changes occur in a positive manner. "The key to success is often the ability to adapt" - Confucius -

Wishing each of you much success.....

John

*"Leaders don't
create followers,
they create more
leaders"*

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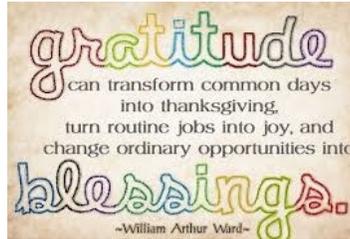




Words of Wisdom from the Deputy Chief

Attitude and how we deal with issues is a choice. We cannot always control what we will face each and every day, but we can choose how we allow these events to affect us, our co-workers and most importantly our families.

John Maxwell said, " a person's attitude does not naturally or easily stay positive.", " Like any discipline your attitude will not take care of itself, that is why it needs to be attended to daily." Instead of sitting around and complaining about an issue, make the choice to help resolve the issue. You can choose whether you are going to have a great day today or whether you are going to be miserable today.



While there are things that each of us can do to improve our attitudes, in this business we see and hear things that people should not have to see and hear. Sometimes, we need to seek others to help us cope with these things. Does that mean that the person is weak or in the wrong business? A strong person is the one who knows when to ask for help.

Earlier this year Captain Dakin offered Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support two day class. The curriculum was provided by the State of Georgia. Members of the team receiving this certification from BCES were Penny Clack and Alan Shuman, today we have 12 members on BCES regional CISM team consisting of members from BCES, Athens Clarke County Fire Rescue, The Tree House and Barrow County School System. We want this to become a go to Team when our members are in need assistance when dealing with CISM.

Look for additional information in the next newsletter regarding a meet and greet meeting for all of BCES members and family. **"KEEPING US STRONG"**



Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation
www.gbf.org

During the months of April & May, BCES will be participating in the annual "Give Boots the Burn" boot drive to benefit the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation (GFBF).

The mission of the GFBF is to partner 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.

Collection dates for BCES are
April 29,
May 6 and
May 13th.



Employee Spotlights

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



Shannon Faulkner was hired in June of 2006 as an entry level firefighter. Shannon has obtained numerous certifications to include NPQ Firefighter I & II, NPQ Fire Officer I & II, NPQ Fire Instructor I & II, and Hazardous Material Operations. His professionalism, aptitude, and overall passion for anything he sets out to accomplish provides a great example for newly hired employees. He is respected by his coworkers and supervisors alike. Shannon is a great representative for our department, both on duty and off duty.



Jeremy Mixon was hired in September 2015 as a recruit firefighter. Since his graduation from recruit school, he has made positive steps in his career. Firefighter Mixon is eager to learn and displays a willingness to better himself and our Department. Jeremy has taken several outside classes and has earned his Apparatus Operator Certification. These have been accomplished prior to completing his first year as a BCES employee. Firefighter Mixon has performed well, with determination, and professional attitude. Jeremy will be a benefit our Department and the citizens we proudly serve.



Brian Caudle was hired in 2009 as a Part-time Firefighter / Paramedic and transferred to full-time in 2015 assigned to station 7 C- shift. Brian has developed a search and rescue maze at station 7 and has also put together a Power-Point program to be used by all shifts in training on Truck 7. Brian has completed NPQ Fire Officer I & II and always seeks training to better himself. Brian is always the first one to work with new employees; sharing his knowledge in both fire and EMS. Brian is a great asset to have working for Barrow County Emergency Services.



On April 16th, 5 members of BCES participated in the "Fight for Air Climb" hosted by the American Lung Association.

Stephen Ricci, Kim Baggett, Jeremy Towe, Sean Gluth, and Jeremy Mixon each climbed 51 flights of stairs at 191 Peachtree Tower in full turnout gear.

Through their efforts and support from others, this small team of 5 raised \$1580 for the American Lung Association. This was the 4th largest amount raised among First Responder Teams.

Kudos to these personnel for their efforts in this event.





Captain's Corner

Hello all, I would like to welcome each of you to a new area of our newsletter called the Captain's Corner. Basically it is just a new section that we speak to everyone about things going on, things coming up, or something else completely random and strange.

For this first edition, we simply want to reach out to each of you and say thank you for the support you have given each of us as we made our transitions in to our new position. Some have moved shifts or stations, and we are learning to work with different crews and things seem to be going well.

There is much that we have on our minds regarding improvements, changes and things we believe will make things better for us all so stay tuned for those but we are each excited for what is ahead for us all and our department.

So until next time, stay safe, continue training, and keep up the great work.

Captain Dakin

Captain Fuller

Captain Carignan

**THE LOOK ON ROOKIE'S
FACE WHEN YOU SAY**



**CAPTAIN WANTS TO
SEE YOU**

Recruit Shift Assignments

Shift Assignments from recruit school:

- *Crosby Harbin A-Shift,*
- *Mark Watson B-Shift,*
- *Austin Shackelford C-Shift,*
- *Steven Rose C-Shift.*

Fire Protection Division

Numerous new construction projects are in the planning or beginning construction phases.

- ♦ ***IHOP - to be located next to Applebee's in Bethlehem***
- ♦ ***Business Park on Smith Cemetery Road***
- ♦ ***Proposed 5 story hotel at Hwy 124 / Hwy 211***
- ♦ ***2000 seat amphitheater - Austin Road @ Sims Academy***
- ♦ ***Construction continues on Hwy 53 Business Park***



EMS MORE THAN A JOB. A CALLING.



EMS Week May 15 - 21, 2016

As we approach EMS week for 2016 I began to wonder how this came about. Believe it or not a simple Google search provided the answer. Below is an excerpt from the American College of Emergency Physicians web site giving the history of EMS Week.

History of EMS Week - The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) was instrumental in establishing EMS Week when President Gerald Ford declared November 3 – 10, 1974 as the first “National Emergency Medical Services Week.” This annual observance continued for four more years and was then reinstated by ACEP in 1982. Around this time the observance of EMS Week was moved to September. In 1992 EMS Week was again moved to be the 3rd week in May. The move was made to separate EMS Week from Fire Prevention week in October. The rationale for the move was the majority of fire and EMS services felt having the two events back to back hurt the effectiveness of each program so EMS Week was moved to May. (From: www.acep.org).

It is truly an honor for me to serve you as your EMS officer. I can honestly say that we have one of the best groups of EMS professionals in the state. I hear from EMS leaders all over the state how this service is setting the bar high.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to your craft. As a thank you on May 17th, 18th, & 19th we will host Lisa Smith from the “Joseph M. Still” burn center for some education and we will be providing and serving lunch to each employee that attends those days, and there may also be a surprise or two. So, Happy EMS Week, and again thank you for what you do.

Captain Williams

EMT Prayer



Grant me the wisdom so that I may treat
those of your children that lay at my feet.
Let my hands be gentle, sure and swift
to impart to them your sacred gift.
Let me see only a patient's need
not their color, race or creed.
Help me always to be my best
even when it's on my hours rest.
Grant me the insight to understand why
patients of mine are going to die.
Let me remember that when they do
there is a wonderful life in Heaven with You.
Lord, if in the time of duty I should fall
help my family to hold their heads tall.
For it was You who decided that I should be
one of your chosen few, an EMT.



The following message was received by Chief Skinner from County Manager Jimmy Terrell

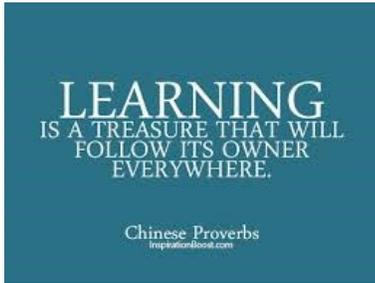
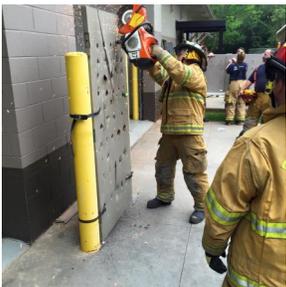
I had a voice mail to day from a citizen in Bethlehem. He called to ask me to extend to the EMS officers who responded to his mother-in-law's house this past Wednesday, the family's sincere appreciation for “The professional manner and courtesies extended by the four officers”. He said, “Their presence was a comfort to both he and his mother-in-law and that the officers response was above and beyond.”

Please extend the sincere appreciation from this office and from the Board of Commissioners to each officer for a job well done.

Thank you to the following personnel: FF/Medic Tim Towe, FF/EMT John Vangotum FF/Medic Jeremy Thayer and FF Crosby Harbin for you professionalism and courtesy show during this call.

Training Spotlights

- ◆ Recruit class completed on 4-7-16, with four graduates. Congratulations Crosby Harbin, Steve Rose, Austin Shackelford and Mark Watson.
- ◆ Live fire training was conducted at the Fire Training Facility [burn building] with all three shifts during April.
- ◆ LP Tank Fire Control drill conducted - special thanks to Vigas for providing the LP Gas and personnel to assist with this drill.
- ◆ 5 members attended the FDIC [Fire Department Instructor's Conference] in Indianapolis, IN during the week of April 17-22. Look forward to classes being conducted for BCES in the near future on the information and techniques learned during this conference.
- ◆ Advance Medical Life Support Classes scheduled for May 9-10 to be held at Barrow County Leisure Services.
- ◆ May 17- 19 the Joseph M. Still Burn Center will present burn care education to BCES employees. Classes will be held in the Training Room at BCES



CERT Team News



The Barrow county CERT team attended the Public Safety Day at Jug Tavern Park, April, 19th to show our appreciation of the city of Winder Heroes, Police, Firefighters, and EMT. CERT had a table with hand outs explaining what CERT is and how we support the Barrow County Emergency Services in times of emergency situations.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

The 18th CERT Training Class for Citizens was concluded on April 25th with 12 participants completing the training. These students completed training on Light Search & Rescue, Medical Operations, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism and other topics. Of these 12 participants, 6 have completed applications to join the CERT team.



Emergency Communications

Communications Employee Spotlight

I AM THE DISPATCHER



PROTECTING THE THREE

Communications Officer Cheryl Evans began her career with Barrow County in March 1999. Cheryl is currently assigned to night shift. She is noted for the calm manner in which she handles her duties both when handling phone calls or during radio traffic. Cheryl recently received a letter of commendation for the professionalism shown during a chase involving a law enforcement officer which spanned 3 counties.



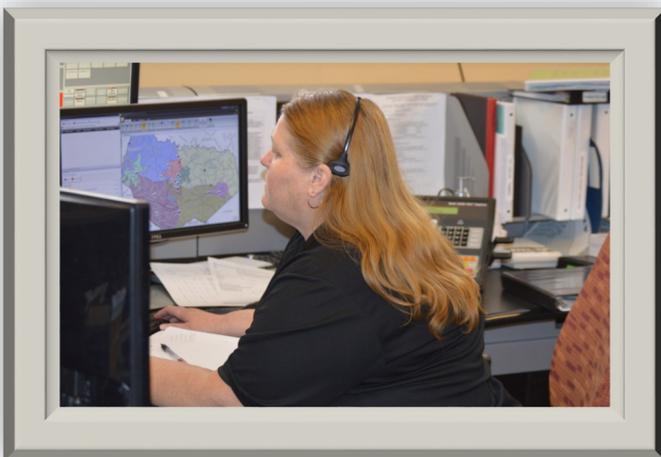
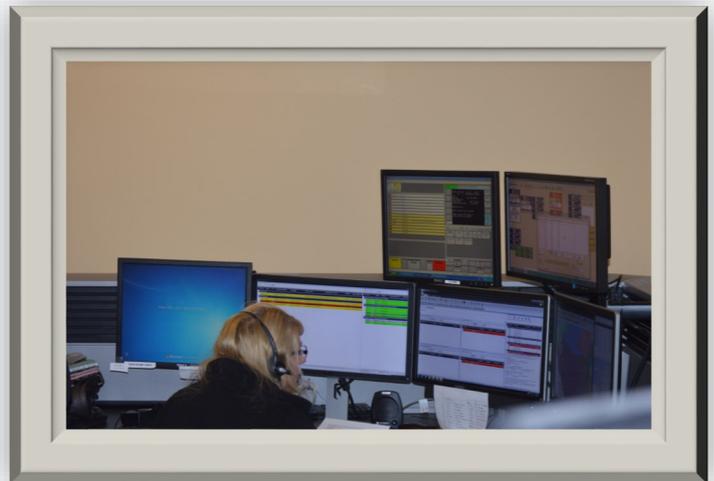
Thank you Cheryl for your service to the Department, the County and the Community.

Emergency Communications Promotion



Cathy Loggins was promoted to Shift Supervisor in the Communications Center effective April 16th. She has been filling this role on a temporary basis since February and was recommended by an outside interview panel to receive this promotion.

Congratulations Shift Supervisor Loggins on your promotion.



911 Humor

911 Officer: 911 What is your emergency?

Caller: My wife is going into labor, what do I do?

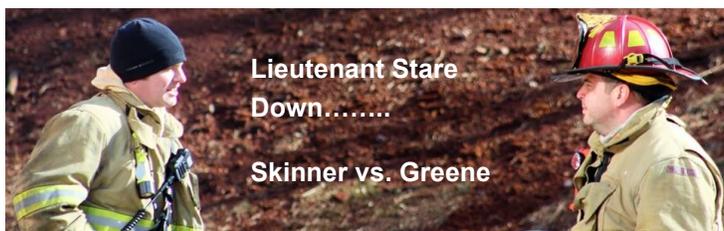
911 Officer: Relax sir, Is this her first born?

Caller: No, this is her husband

The Lighter Side of BCES



Wax on....
Wax Off....



The miracle is not that we do this work,
but that we are happy to do it.
Mother Teresa



Glen Cain	May 1
T. J. Gower	May 4
Mac Bedor	May 7
Tommy Hulseley	May 7
Ross Evans	May 10
Talissa Callihan	May 17
Mike Stoops	May 20
Kathy Wallace	May 21
Vivian Chambers	May 22
Molly Jenkins	May 24
Shannon Faulkner	May 28

Anniversaries

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Heath Williams	May 28	22
Rob Nowakowski	May 5	19
Bryan Bullock	May 5	18
Nelson Foell	May 14	14
Matt Austin	May 5	13
T. J. Gower	May 15	10
Adam Payne	May 15	10
John VanGotum	May 15	10
Adam Reynolds	May 1	7
Will Golden	May 18	5
Robert Solomon	May 17	5
Chris Jones	May 11	5
Tonya Peels	May 26	2
Tamika Atkism	May 11	1

