



Ocean City Fire Department

*Volunteer & Career
United to Serve*

Protecting Maryland's Summer Time Playground

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Department Wide Newsletter

This new department wide newsletter is a communications tool that is used to disseminate information to department members. This will keep everyone up to date with the latest happenings and events.

This document shall serve as an official way to inform, announce, remind, advise, instruct, advertise, and communicate. The short publication will be accurate, factual, brief, and impartial.

The Command Staff of the department would like input from everyone on a weekly basis. You can submit training tips, birthdays, get well wishes, duty crew / shift bios, etc.

This newsletter will be published by the Office of Public Information. To submit information or if you have questions about something that you read, please e-mail: rwhittington@ococean.com

New Uniforms Effective: 10/19/2009

The primary uniform is a dark blue 5.11 polo shirt with first initial and last name on the right chest. For Lieutenants & above there will be rank under the name. The department logo will be on the left chest.

IMPORTANT: All winter jackets and job shirts need to be turned in to have the new department patch put on. No more uniforms will be worn with Fire/EMS logos.

Department Standard Operating Guidelines

After several months of organization & review- SOG's 100, 200, & 400 are complete and have been approved by the Fire Chief.

A hard copy has been placed in each fire station. There will also be a link on the city web-site.

If you would like a personal copy of these SOG's- please contact your Deputy Fire Chief.

New Dept. Uniform



Highlights

- HOSE TESTING
- DEPARTMENT SOG'S
- NEW UNIFORMS
- PURPOSE OF NEWSLETTER
- H1N1
- FIRE BOAT
- WATER RESCUE TEAM

Hose Testing Safety Tips

- 1- Wear structural fire helmets when doing the testing, hose can break...
- 2- Wear safety glasses
- 3- During testing- keep back 20 feet while hose is under pressure.

**Hose testing has begun...
Contact the Duty Chief or
on Duty Captain for times.**



SCBA Re-Cert

Final two dates are:
November 1st
November 7th

Please contact Captain Peterson with questions.

Ocean City Fire Department

H1N1 Influenza and Vaccination: By Deputy Chief Barton

The Fire Department will provide to all members vaccination for the H1N1 flu virus. The H1N1 virus (also called Swine Flu) is a new strain of influenza virus. Like other flu viruses, the H1N1 virus is spread from person to person by sneezing, coughing, and sometimes touching objects contaminated with the virus.

Signs and symptoms of the 2009 H1N1 flu can include fatigue, fever, sore throat, muscle aches, chills, coughing, and sneezing. Some people with the illness have diarrhea and vomiting. Most people who are infected with the virus get well in about one week. However, some people get pneumonia or other serious complications. Some people are hospitalized and some die.

Emergency responders and healthcare workers are at increased risk for H1N1 infection because of potential work-related to exposure to those with the illness. H1N1 vaccination involves receiving a single injection in the arm. It is recommended that all members receive the vaccination.

We plan to offer vaccination during the week of November 16th. More information about is forthcoming.

Boat / Marine Committee Update: Captain Bunting

Over the last several months, the boat/marine workgroup has been actively evaluating the current apparatus situation for marine response vehicles, in support of the recently obtained grant funding. Numerous meetings were held to review incident types that could require marine resources, several roundtable discussions with committee members and representatives from US Coast Guard and MD Natural Resources Police, as well as a review of a detailed requirements study of marine fire and rescue response capability completed in 2008 for Ocean City by CDI Engineering.

After this background work was completed, the workgroup recommended the provision of marine response in two distinct focus areas: at least one vessel for shallow water access predominantly for rescue, and a larger vessel for firefighting, rescue, and dive team support.

The workgroup reviewed the current Boat 1, and subsequently recommended it's retention as a shallow water response vessel, contingent upon the modification of it's current equipment load to minimize draft and improve maneuverability. Next, the workgroup completed general

specifications to aid them in identifying potential vessels that may meet our general criteria for the larger vessel. After significant review of manufacturers and current marine firefighting vessels in the region, the workgroup has begun work to create the detailed specifications necessary to begin the bid process, which will hopefully begin this winter, in cooperation with the MD Department of Natural Resources, the grant sponsor.



SCBA Re-Cert Pictures

Water Rescue Team Update: By Lt. Graig Temple

The Ocean City Water Rescue Team is comprised of three distinct groups that respond to and mitigate water related emergencies. Public Safety Divers handle all underwater search, rescue and recoveries of drowning victims. Rescue Swimmers are members of the team that have been trained for rapid surface deployment and rescue of the active or passive drowning victim and finally the newest addition to the team is the Boat Captain and Boat Crew member classifications. After being awarded a grant from the State of Maryland the Ocean City Fire Department is in the process of designing and requesting bids on specially designed watercraft, which will be used by the team to enhance its abilities and operations on the water.

Since last year the Dive Rescue Team has had the opportunity to bring all of its divers up to the Public Safety Diver level which transitions training into specific search, rescue and recovery skills that are essential in the rapid rescue of victims. Several divers received their Dry Suit certification with the remaining few to complete their training in November. Advanced training such as this increases the diver's skill sets and safety. It teaches them to analyze scene information prior to making entry, which in turn allows for quicker and more efficient search patterns and victim recoveries. A special thank you goes out to the Ocean City Paramedic Foundation and the Angelo Russo Memorial Dive Fund for sponsoring and funding training this past year. Without their support these advancements may not have been possible.

The team's future appears bright and with the support of the Mayor, City Council and City Manager the team will grow, continue with specialized training and provide an extremely high and professional service to the Town of Ocean City.

Carbon Monoxide Campaign Underway...

Members of the Ocean City Fire Department have begun the Carbon Monoxide Public Outreach Awareness Program. The purpose of this program is to inform the residents of the danger of carbon monoxide (CO) and the importance of CO detectors. The primary target for the campaign is single-family dwellings.



