

IN CASE OF FIRE, GET OUT, THEN CALL 911

PINK HEALS MONARCH



Dave Graybill, the founder of Pink Heals, brought the pink fire trucks to visit Monarch HQ on July 2nd. Board president Robin Harris invited Mr. Graybill and Pink Heals to make the stop on their cross-country tour to help draw attention to the crusade supporting the women in our lives and communities.

The Board and staff at Monarch were able to raise \$1,250 for a noteworthy local charity, Gateway to Hope. The president of their board, Mr. Rick Rovak, stated the monies generated would provide much needed help and were greatly appreciated.

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



Board of Directors

Robin Harris, President
Jane Cunningham, Secretary
Steve Swyers, Treasurer

Interim Chief

Chuck Marsonette

Assistant Chief

Cary Spiegel

Deputy Chiefs

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 2014

MONARCH

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

INTEGRITY • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPONSIBILITY

MONARCH'S NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM



Chuck Marsonette
Interim Chief



Cary Spiegel
Assistant Chief

The Monarch Fire District is pleased to welcome the new Interim Chief, Chuck Marsonette, and the new Assistant Chief, Cary Spiegel. This is the first time in Monarch history that both top officers are paramedics, which the Board believes is important in light of the fact that more than 70% of the requests for emergency service are EMS calls. This is a trend in the fire service that the current Monarch Board majority has sought since they began their terms of office.

The District's top officers are now well qualified to personally fight fires and provide life-saving emergency medical treatment, if needed, and, also, to run multi-alarm fire scenes. Our Chief and Assistant Chief have a combined 62 years in the fire and emergency services having served in a variety of locations such as St. Louis City, Des Peres, West County Fire and EMS and Monarch.

They also both have years of experience in large fire district administration and each brings important and unique skills to the myriad of responsibilities required to provide leadership to the Monarch Fire Protection District. We believe this combination will help Monarch move forward; reining-in costs without reducing service or safety.

PROMISES MADE...PROMISES KEPT: PART THREE

The recent independent audit of Monarch's finances was presented at a meeting in June. The District is delighted to note auditor Allen Schulte of Botz, Deal & Co. stated, "All funds are under budget for 2013". The purchase of a new fire truck (more than \$500,000) and the replacement of the aging sprinkler system in the District Headquarters facility (more than \$100,000) were purchased from District reserves thus avoiding the need to go voters for a tax increase or bond issue. Due to diligent oversight by Staff and the Board, a healthy reserve of more than 40% of the District's operating budget remains.

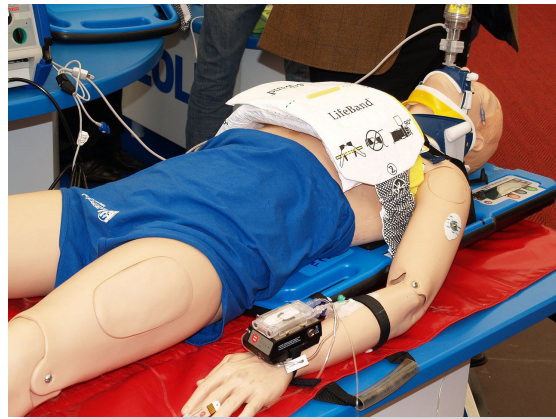
Once again Monarch reports the changes to Worker's Compensation, spearheaded by Director Jane Cunningham, are continuing to show the marked improvement necessary to bring premiums down to a level commensurate with other similar sized fire districts. If the current trend continues, as expected, the Board expects a sizable decrease in the premiums for next year.

The District has nearly completed work on the 2015 budget. The Board and the staff and District employees will be able to deliver continued excellent service you expect, without a tax increase. The Board will set the upcoming budget and tax rates at an Open Meeting in late September and the public is encouraged to attend and comment. The next newsletter will provide the full story on next year's budget for those unable to attend the meeting.

www.monarchfpd.org

PRACTICE FIRE DRILLS IN THE HOME

SAVING LIVES



Over the past several years there has been an exciting trend in the EMS world and here at the Monarch Fire Protection District! This is a trend in what the paramedic's call a clinical save. These events begin with a 911 call and patients who are not breathing and do not have a pulse.

Once Monarch paramedics arrive and begin their work, they apply a device called an AUTOPULSE. This device performs the chest compressions in a new and special way. It wraps around the chest with a wide band and compresses the entire torso. The American Heart Association recommends these types of devices to provide continuous, or 'High Quality CPR'. The device provides increased blood circulation to vital organs and frees the hands of our pre-hospital care providers to allow them the latitude of air way management and medication administration.

The reason the current trend in clinical saves is exciting is that it is dramatically improving. This results in the patient regaining a pulse and sometimes breathing unassisted. In 2009 the clinical save rate was 11.9% and since the implementation of this device on all of our ambulances, there has been a clear and steady increase, from 2009 which was 11.9% (no device) to a current rate of 32.2% for YTD in 2014.

The knowledge of this equipment was first brought to the District by Director, and current President of the Board, Robin Harris. He attended a conference for Fire Directors and Staff which provided information about many important innovations in fire and EMS equipment some of which, like AUTOPULSE, were implemented at Monarch.

When you compare our numbers to the National average, the Monarch Fire Protection District is at the forefront of implementation of new technology and training techniques. The Board and District personnel strive to keep up to date on equipment and techniques to provide the best possible service to everyone in the Monarch Fire Protection District.

USE AND STORE GASOLINE SAFELY

Gasoline is an important part of our everyday lives. It lets us run our cars and trucks, getting the kids to school and the groceries home. It helps us keep our grass and gardens looking good, powering mowers and lawn care equipment. It lets us get away on vacation, running boats, off-road vehicles, and motorcycles.

But gasoline can be dangerous if not handled or stored properly. Gasoline should only be used for its intended purpose - as a motor fuel - and stored only when absolutely necessary. It should not be used as a solvent, cleaner, barbecue starter or for any other non-engine use.

Recently, a local television news report spotlighted the alleged dangers of red plastic gasoline cans exploding. In each example they cited, the gasoline vapors were ignited due to someone using gasoline on or in the immediate vicinity of open flames or sparks. The report seemed to lead viewers to believe that if a spark arrestor was provided in the can or spout, that it would be safer. I want to advise everyone that it is NEVER safe to pour or store gasoline in the vicinity of open flames, sparks, hot equipment or any other source of ignition.

Even with a spark arrestor, it is possible that the vapors inside the can may ignite from an ignition source outside the can. One news report about gas can flame arrestors stated, "...at an open public meeting in Rockville, Md., scientists working for the standards group released full test results for the first time. Ali Rangwala and Brian Elias of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute's combustion lab reported that six of 14 flame arrester prototypes passed the test, meaning they prevented flame from passing into the cans and exploding vapor mixtures inside. Seven other designs failed, and one prototype was not tested." (Emphasis added). This shows that not even half of the flame arrestors performed as intended.



CHOOSE A SAFE PLACE OUTSIDE FOR EVERYONE TO MEET

USE AND STORE GASOLINE SAFELY (continued)

In order to be safe with gasoline, take the following precautions:

- Gasoline is a flammable liquid and should be stored at room temperature, away from potential heat sources such as the sun, a water heater, space heater or a furnace, and a least 50 feet away from ignition sources, such as pilot lights and equipment that produces sparks. Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and can travel along the floor to ignition sources.
- Do not smoke within 20 feet of where gasoline is handled or stored.
- Gasoline must be stored in an approved container or tank. Keep gasoline containers tightly closed and handle them gently to avoid spills.
- Never fill a gas can more than 95% full.
- Store gasoline in a shed or garage separate from the house. Always keep gasoline inaccessible to children.
- Always fill gasoline powered equipment outdoors, and only when the engine and attachments are cool.
- Never use your cell phone or other electronic device while handling gasoline.
- Be careful not to produce static electricity while handling gasoline – stay out of your vehicle while filling the tank.
- Do not use gasoline in kerosene heaters or lamps.

CONSTITUENTS ARE ASKING WHY.....

Some residents and reporters are inquiring about the status of the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations. Negotiations are presently paused awaiting union response after ten months (starting Oct. 1, 2013) and 11 negotiation sessions largely because the previous board (President Robin Harris excluded) signed off on an "Evergreen" or "Forever" Clause that was requested by the union to make sure the generous agreement they won had no end....ever. That agreement can be found on the Monarch website at: <http://www.monarchfpd.org/wp-content/uploads/CBA-Jan-2011-thru-Dec-2013.pdf>

Among other things, that agreement states that there will be no duties (other than an alarm) assigned to the safety staff after noon of each 24 hour working day that begins at 7am. Vacation and other leave benefits of that CBA are extensive and costly:

- A Firefighter/Paramedic with 15 years of service is entitled to 360 hours of paid vacation, 144 hours of paid sick leave and up to 144 hours of paid Kelly (personal) days off work (a total of up to 648 paid hours off work each year).
- A Firefighter/Paramedic with 20 years of service is entitled to 432 hours of paid vacation, 144 hours of paid sick leave and up to 144 hours of paid Kelly days off work (a total of up to 720 paid hours off work each year). This is equivalent to 90 eight hour days.
- Shift personnel can also sell back up to four days of sick leave annually (which might not otherwise accrue).

The present Board, in an effort to have the opportunity to negotiate an agreement that reflects more the expectations of the residents, has asked a judge to rule on whether or not a union contract signed by a previous board obligates Monarch taxpayers forever. The court will be setting additional hearings in the case so we are awaiting a final determination. Meanwhile the Board's hands are tied.

Salaries, benefits and time off in compliance with the current Union Collective Bargaining Agreement may be found at: <http://monarchfpd.hackmultimedia.com/index.php?82#sthash.x4gD5WCf.dpbs>. Then click on "Download Detailed Information".