



Back To Basics, The Lost Art of BLS Care

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

Everyone needs to read the article Back to Basics, The Lost Art of BLS Care, by Mark Rock, BA, NREMT, in the December 2009 issue of the Journal of Emergency Medical Services. The magazine will be in the day room. The article is loaded with thought provoking concepts related to the need for high quality BLS care on every ALS call. I know we sometimes lose sight of our basic requirements when we start to unload the drug box, or hook up the monitor defibrillator. But we must always consider our basic skills in the process of providing care to our patients. I would be glad to discuss the article with anyone. I always appreciate the feedback.

Policy & Procedure Committee Meeting

There will be a meeting on January 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse to go over any proposed changes to the SOP's.

Stuff you gotta know

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

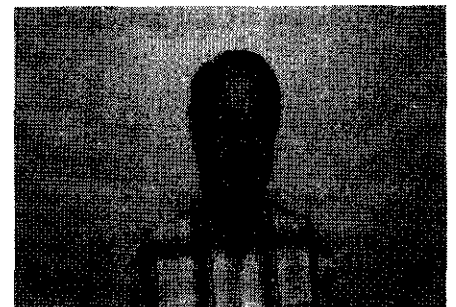
(Tricks of the Trade, Thom Dick, Journal of Emergency Medical Services, December, 2009.)

Interview with Mike Keafer

Mike Keafer is a trustee for the Rochester Fire Protection District and is also head of it's Building & Grounds Committee. He has been on the board for almost four years.

Mike and his wife, Diana, have a grown son, Brandon. He grew up in Central Illinois and currently resides in Buckhart.

Mike graduated from Rochester and is a retired electrician, having worked in the field for 40 years. His hobbies include classic cars.



Annual Dinner

The RFPD Annual Dinner will be Friday, January 15, 2010. Cocktails are at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:00 p.m. It is at Secret Recipes, 3086 Normandy Road in Springfield. Each member and their guest is invited.

EMS Fast Facts

Five words or Phrases to Avoid

1. "Calm down."
2. "Listen."
3. "We can do this the easy way or the hard way."
4. "I promise."
5. "But..."

(The Power of Words, Steve Whitehead, EMS Magazine, December 2009, Volume 38, Number 12.)

January Birthdays

James Backstein—January 6
Brett Pier—January 7

February Birthdays

Kristofer Tackett—February 17
Greg Tanner—February 18
Neil Passfield—February 21
Linn Downey—February 24

SCBA

- Check your SCBA and PASS device daily
- Confirm a full cylinder of air before entry
- Maintain constant awareness of remaining air supply
- Plan to exit before the low air warning activates
- Never hesitate to declare a MAYDAY if you THINK you're in trouble

Things to Think About

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

Check out the following website and read the article Why Being Nice Is Part of Patient Care, by Patrick Pianezza, MHA, NREMT-P, EMS Magazine Online Exclusive.

<http://www.emsresponder.com/publication/pub.jsp>. Patrick is a former paramedic student of mine. His article speaks volumes about how and why we do what we do professionally.

Words of Wisdom

The greatest achievement in life is to stand up again after falling.



Never underestimate the opportunity to make a Great Deal!

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

Wow! We are ready to put a new tanker into service. The process of purchasing the tanker took about two weeks. After months of hard work, we had a tanker brought to our attention almost accidentally. The new tanker will be in service by mid January. This is another purchase that is consistent with the district's aggressive plan to modernize our apparatus fleet.

Purchased with a no interest loan secured from the Office of the State Fire Marshall of the State Of Illinois the new tanker will identified as Tanker Two (2) and will be deployed as our first out tanker, right behind Engine Two, on all structure fires. It will be a valuable addition to our water shuttle operations. Additionally, the new Tanker Two will be first out on brush fires in support of Brush One. New Tanker Two's pump and roll capability makes it a natural addition to our brush fire fighting capabilities. Additionally, new Tanker Two has the increased functionality of an engine.

The purchase of new Tanker Two resulted from a visit by Illinois Fire Store Staff to our Fire Station to show us some station wear. One thing lead to another and the Illinois Fire Store representative mentioned that they had a demonstration model tanker that could be purchased for a very competitive price. Command staff made the Rochester Fire Protection District Board of Trustees aware of the tanker. And the purchase process was initiated.

The Rochester Fire Protection District Board of Trustees posted a special meeting, and the Illinois Fire Store representatives were invited to bring their tanker and a willingness to "negotiate". Within two weeks the tanker was in our fire house, the Illinois Fire Store Representatives and the RFPD Board of Trustees were in negotiations, and Chief Mark Poffenberger, and myself were test driving the apparatus. By Mid afternoon, Captains John Fox and Mike Hamilton had done their visual inspection of our potentially new tanker. Captain Fox actually moved the new tanker into the apparatus bay and claimed ownership for RFPD.

Included in the negotiations were some minor cosmetic changes requiring the apparatus to be returned to the Toyne manufacturing facility. But by 1500 that day we had purchased a new tanker. It is valued at 262,000.00 dollars. The actual purchase price was negotiated down to a cost acceptable to the Rochester Fire Protection District.

There are many unique features associated with the new Tanker Two. Most importantly we will be put it into service in sixteen weeks rather than the twelve to fourteen months we would have waited for a truck to be built. This accelerated opportunity to put a new apparatus into service is a tremendous increase in safety and reliability for all our firefighters and members. The new Tanker Two replaces a twenty-three year old tanker that has become expensive to maintain and is difficult to drive. Ease of handling is a vast improvement over Old Tanker Two. The new Tanker Two will be available for training and road testing to every member with a non CDL class B driver's license or learners permit. Members with a learners permit must be accompanied by a certified EVOC instructor when driving new Tanker Two.

It is a Pumper Tanker. It is designed for those times when a single type of apparatus is not sufficient for our needs on the fire ground. When there is a need of a fully rated pump along with large quantities of water, Tanker Two steps up to the plate. It is fully capable of fighting fire as well as supporting the fire fight through tanker shuttle operations. Operating on a commercial chassis, Tanker Two has a Waterous pump, aluminum body, poly tank with a lifetime warranty, room for lots of hose, and a full complement of ladders.

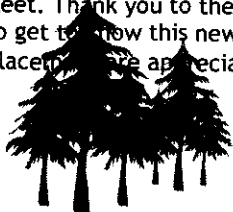
The Kenworth T 370 Series conventional cab uses a 360 hp motor to power Tanker Two. An Allison 3000EVS five speed automatic transmission, with power take off drive gear, transfers power make the pump go. A Waterous Model CXVK 1,000 gallon per minute pump, that meets NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire apparatus, as per its confirmatory testing by the Underwriter's Laboratory, allows Tanker Two to supply large amounts of water under pressure.

Other increased functionality versus the apparatus that is being replaced includes: left and right side 6 inch master intakes with steamer fittings with National Standard Threads; valved left and right side 2 ½ inch discharges; valved right and left rear 2 ½ inch discharges; and two 1 ¾ preconnected cross lays located above the side mount pump panel. Each cross lay has capacity for 200 feet of 1 ¾ double jacketed fire hose and nozzle. There is a hinged aluminum cross lay cover. The pump controls are side mounted in a self contained modular Pump compartment.

The tank is constructed of ½ inch thick PTSE polypropylene plastic with a life time warranty. This means no more rust or cracking steel tank. It holds 3000 gallons of water. The rear dump valve is a Newton 10 inch dump valve with swiveling and telescopic chute. The rear dump chute allows for discharge to the left, right or rear of the apparatus.

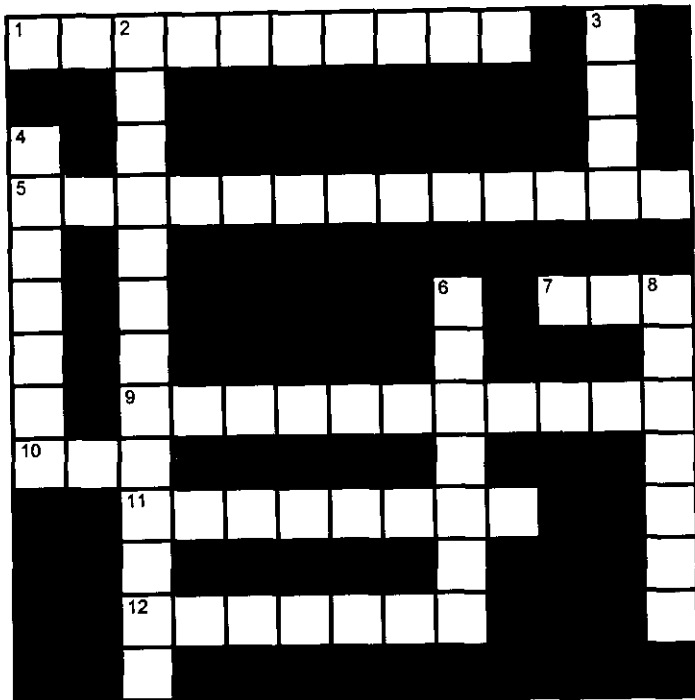
There are four compartments, two on each side, that feature roll up doors. The hose bed is nine inches high and will hold plenty of 1 ¾ and 2 ½ fire hose. There is a 24 foot 2 section aluminum ladder, a 14 foot aluminum roof ladder, and a 10 foot aluminum folding attic ladder.

I could go on and on, but believe me, there are lots of unique features that make Tanker Two a great addition to our apparatus fleet. Thank you to the Board of Trustees for their aggressive efforts in pursing this great deal for our department. Take the time to get to know this new apparatus and help us use it to provide service to our community. Any and all ideas related to equipment placement are appreciated.



Crossword Puzzles

Chapter 3: Medicolegal and Ethical Issues



1. Deviation from the accepted standard of care resulting in injury to the patient
 5. A bracelet or necklace that indicates a preexisting medical condition
 7. Committee that approves research studies
 9. An EMT who prematurely leaves a patient in need of emergency care and transportation to a hospital is subject to a charge of _____
 10. Orders directing health care providers not to provide CPR
 11. Consent to medically treat, after providing the patient with knowledge of the steps of procedures and related risks
 12. A threat or attempt to inflict bodily harm on a person
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2. Laws designed to protect the private citizen who is functioning in a nonprofessional capacity and without an expectation of remuneration
 3. High-efficiency particulate air respirator used in the prevention of transmission of tuberculosis
 4. Consent to medically treat an unconscious patient
 6. Permission to medically treat
 8. Offensive touching or use of force on a person

January 2010

January 2010							February 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31							29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 10 New Year's Day, Unite	2
3	4 Diversity Training 7:00pm Policy & Proc 7:00pm SOP Commit	5 6:00pm P Class	6	7 6:00pm P Class	8	9
10	11 6:30pm Vehicle Check 7:00pm Fire Board Mt	12 6:00pm P Class	13	14 6:00pm P Class	15 7:00pm RFPD Apprec	16 8:00am P Class
17 1:00pm 4-H	18 Martin Luther King D. 6:00pm Fire Behavior	19 6:00pm P Class	20	21 6:00pm P Class	22	23
24	25 6:00pm Bloodborne F	26 6:00pm P Class	27	28 6:00pm P Class	29	30
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6

Linn Downey

12/29/2009 8:16 AM

February 2010

February 2010							March 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29							29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 31	Feb 1 6:00pm FF Survival &	2 Groundhog Day: Unite 6:00pm P Class	3	4 6:00pm P Class	5 8:00am P Class	6
7	8 6:30pm Vehicle Check 7:00pm Fire Board Mtg	9 6:00pm P Class	10	11 6:00pm P Class	12 Lincoln's Birthday: Ur	13
14	15 Valentine's Day: Unite 6:00pm Patient Asses	16 6:00pm P Class	17	18 6:00pm P Class	19	20
21	22 1:00pm 4-H	23 6:00pm SCBA Consun	24	25 6:00pm P Class	26	27 8:00am P Class PHTL
28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6

Jan 31 - Feb 6

Feb 7 - 13

Feb 14 - 20

Feb 21 - 27

Feb 28 - Mar 6