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Robertson Report

Volume 2010 ISSUE 2

SPRING EDITION

New Cardiac Monitor Saves Resident's Life

The Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) upgraded all cardiac monitors that are carried on all of the fire trucks and ambulances from Life Pack 12 Cardiac Monitors (LP12) to Life Pack 15 Cardiac Monitors (LP15). This upgrade in cardiac diagnostic equipment was done in the middle of 2009 to provide the best emergency care possible when a resident calls 911.

This purchase was paid for out of the ten million dollar bond issue money that was approved by the voters of the RFPD in 2008. The personnel of the Robertson Fire Protection District thank the residents immensely for the approval of that bond issue. The new LP15 monitor has the ability to transmit a patient's cardiac rhythm (ECG) directly from the scene of the 911 call to five specialty units within Depaul Hospital through a system called Lifenet. This allows doctors in all five of these hospital units, i.e., emergency room, cardiology, surgical unit, Cardiac I.C.U., and Medical I.C.U., to analyze the rhythm and prepare for patient arrival.



On February 10th, 2010, the RFPD responded to a 911 emergency of a 45 year old resident of the Robertson Fire Protection District who was presenting with classic chest pain signs and symptoms. The patient was clearly sick and presented on the LP15 with an irregular cardiac rhythm on the scene. The RFPD crew transmitted the cardiac rhythm to Depaul Hospital via the Lifenet system, which transmitted the cardiac rhythm to the five units listed above. In the minutes it took the RFPD crew to quickly stabilize and transport the patient to Depaul, a team of doctors from the five units were waiting for the patient when they arrived and determined that the patient had a 100% blockage of the left anterior descending coronary artery with a clot sitting on it. Due to the quick response by both the RFPD crew and the LP15 technology, the patient was stabilized quickly and a successful cardiac surgery saved this resident's life. Thank you again to the residents of the RFPD for the 2008 bond issue money that allowed us to purchase this state-of-the-art cardiac diagnostic equipment.

RFPD Picture Day & Ceremony

The Robertson Fire Protection District would like to invite all the residents to come to our Station One located at 12461 Missouri Bottom Road on May 1, 2010 for our second annual firefighter picture Day. There will be music, food and beverages provided by the RFPD and residents will be able to get photo shots of their families on any of our new fire trucks. This year we are incorporating our first "Truck Washing Ceremony" to commemorate our new fire trucks into service.

Kids will be encouraged to help the fire fighters wash the two new fire trucks and splash water around. This truck washing ceremony is a fire service tradition, which signifies performing a ceremonial first truck wash to put the trucks in service. "Patches" the remote control fire dog will be there for photos as will our good buddy Sparky the fire dog. These two dog friends of the RFPD firefighters are very excited about this event. The event time will be from 2pm-4pm on May 1st. Do not forget about Movie Night at Station One on April 30th. See you then!





RFPD Firefighters Deliver Baby!

On February 15th, 2010, Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) Firefighter/Paramedic's Drew Kerckhoff and Walt Dreyer delivered the baby of one of our Ville Maura residents while transporting the patient to St. John's Mercy Medical Center. While it is always better to have a child birth done in the controlled environment of a hospital, sometimes the baby has different ideas. In this case, the mother's contractions were four minutes apart and it was her third pregnancy. While en route to the hospital, the mother advised Walt that the baby was coming. Walt saw that the delivery was imminent and advised Drew to pull the ambulance over on the shoulder of Highway 270 and assist with the delivery of this baby. Together the patient and RFPD's two paramedics delivered a beautiful baby girl in the back of the 5017 (RFPD ambulance stationed at Station One). The story appeared on Channel 2 News. It is not often that firefighter/medics get to deliver babies prior to the arrival at the hospital. While it is a natural process, it can be stressful for all parties involved and you just hope that there are no complications. In this case, RFPD's Drew Kerckhoff and Walt Dreyer handled it perfectly. Great job to Firefighter's Kerckhoff and Dreyer on a job well done.

"The RFPD is committed to assisting the residents in any way possible to help them get through the tragedy."

Check out our [new website](http://www.rfpd.org) at www.rfpd.org

RFPD Extinguishes House Fire Fast

In January of 2010, the Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) responded to a house fire call on the 4800 block of Tall Tree Lane. They arrived to heavy smoke and flames coming from the attic and through the roof. RFPD 5014 (rescue pumper) was the first on the scene and evacuated the residents and made quick entry into the structure. The 5014 engine company quickly found the base of the fire in the attic and proceeded to make an immediate stop of the fire and minimize damage to the rest of the residence. RFPD Ladder Truck 5025 soon arrived and assisted in searching for any fire extension in the walls or attic. Once Battalion Chief Dan Hoguet determined the structure was safe for the homeowners to go into to retrieve their personal items, the RFPD firefighters assisted the residents in this process and helped them to get whatever personal items necessary that were not damaged by the fire. House fires are devastating for families to endure and the RFPD is committed to assisting the residents in any way possible to help them get through the tragedy. Luckily nobody was hurt in this incident and the damage to the property was minimized as much as possible. If residents ever have questions about fire incidents, please call us at (314)291-6180 for assistance on the matter.

CAFS Car Fire Training

At the beginning of March of 2010, all shift personnel participated in car fire training evolutions at Hood's Towing located at Northwest Industrial. As you know, the Robertson Fire Protection District now has in service a new 100 foot aerial platform ladder truck (5025) and a new rescue pumper (5014) truck. Both of these new fire trucks are equipped with the CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System), which is relatively new fire suppression technology that allows for quicker extinguishment of fires using compressed air and foam and using less water during the fire attack. This will minimize property damage and will no doubt speed up the time it takes to put out fires. When the RFPD firefighters were training with CAFS on the donated cars at Hood's Towing, the car fires were being extinguished in anywhere from seven seconds to twelve seconds. This is probably three times faster than just using water on the fires as we have done in the past. You can watch actual video of the RFPD CAFS training evolutions at our website at www.rfpd.org. In addition to learning how to properly use the new CAFS that is equipped on both of our new fire trucks, this car fire training was great training for the firefighters to practice proper techniques when extinguishing car fires. While car fires are fairly routine emergencies for RFPD firefighters to respond to, there are many dangers involved in a car fire that firefighters must be aware of at all times to prevent injury to the firefighter as well as the citizens of the RFPD.



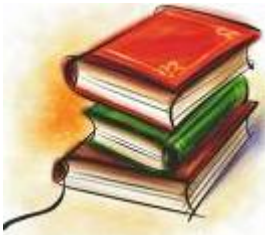
RFPD Firefighters Participate in Stair Climb Benefit

On March 6th, 2010, three Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) firefighters participated in the "Master the Met Stair Climb Challenge" fundraiser for the American Lung Association. This fundraiser was held at the Met-Life building located in downtown St. Louis. The three RFPD firefighters who volunteered to represent the fire district for this race were Captain Todd Phillips, Private Jim Kincy, and Private Matt Anderson. Each of these RFPD firefighters raised sponsor money on their own in addition to paying the \$40 entrance fee to participate. The Robertson Fire Protection District firefighters donated \$500 to the American Lung Association on behalf of the three RFPD firefighters. It was a terrific fundraising event that had over 1400 people who registered for the event. The race consisted of each individual running up the forty-two flights of stairs of the Met-Life Building. This is a very difficult task for anyone, but the RFPD firefighters chose to make it even more difficult for themselves by choosing to run the entire stair climb event in full turnout gear and breathing air from their SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus). Pvt. Jim Kincy said there was only one other team that chose to run the race in full firefighting gear. By them having on their full gear and SCBA's, this added sixty pounds to their body weight and made the event that much more difficult to complete. Their training was long and difficult. The RFPD congratulates these three men on a fantastic job for the ALA.



Reading Program at Area Schools a Huge Success

For the second year in a row, the Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) firefighters are participating in the literacy program at Garrett Elementary School and Armstrong Elementary School. This reading program is titled "Blazing a Trail to Literacy With the Robertson Fire Protection District." Once a month the RFPD firefighters go up to both schools and read a book to the second grade classes (at Armstrong Elementary) and third grade (at Garrett Elementary) classes and talk about how important reading is to the students. We have been doing this since the beginning of school in September and will continue until Summer break. The students absolutely love when the fire trucks come to their school to read to them and it is also a lot of fun for the firefighters. Luckily none of the reading sessions so far this year have been interrupted by 911 emergency calls, since all the equipment remains in service during these reading sessions. We truly hope to keep that streak going. For the last reading sessions at both schools, the firefighters present all the students in the literacy program certificates of completion and usually give Summer Safety talks to the kids before they go off on Summer break. Last year the firefighters also brought up pizza and soda for the last reading session party. Of course this was quite a hit with the students. A huge thank you needs to go out to Shanon Grashoff (Garrett Elementary) and Tori Haynes (Armstrong Elementary) for helping the RFPD coordinate this program for the second year in a row. Keep reading those books! See you soon.



RFPD Firefighter/Paramedic Marty Flavin Receives Ten Year Service Award From Chief Tilley

Firefighter/Paramedic Marty Flavin was hired with the Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) on January 2nd, 2000 by RFPD Fire Chief Dave Tilley and the RFPD Board of Directors. On January 15, 2010 Private Flavin received a plaque from Chief Tilley and the Board of Directors at an open board meeting to recognize and celebrate ten quality years of service with the RFPD. Marty has many paramedic and firefighter certifications to his name including Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), CPR, Fire Officer 1, and Hazardous Materials Operations and Awareness just to name a few. He is a highly skilled asset to the RFPD and has an intense desire to provide the best service possible to the residents of the Robertson Fire Protection District. In addition to these great work-related qualities, his co-workers really enjoy working with him because he is a great fire house chef. He likes to cook and does an outstanding job of doing so. Some of his more famous dinner specialties are New England Clam Chowder, homemade pizzas, and Smokey-Cheddar Bacon Cheeseburgers. Some of Marty's hobbies outside of the RFPD include hunting, fishing, and spending quality time with his family. Congratulations to Firefighter/Paramedic Marty Flavin on his ten year service award with the Robertson Fire Protection District. We wish you a safe and successful future with the RFPD. Keep up the good work!





Robertson Fire Protection District
Board of Directors & Fire Chief

Mark Bright, President
Steve Neuner, Secretary
Joan Noel, Treasurer
Dave Tilley, Fire Chief

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RFPD House One (314) 291-6180
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Robertson Fire Protection District Mission Statement

The primary Mission of the Robertson Fire Protection District is to protect the lives and property of our citizens from the effects of fire, emergency medical incidents, hazardous situations, and other disasters.

Through immediate response to emergency needs, rapid suppression of fire, competent application of life saving techniques, and public education, we dedicate ourselves so the quality of community life is increased by the security and peace of mind we promote by our actions.

We are committed to serving our community with professionalism, excellence, and devotion to duty by maintaining and improving the skills of our personnel. The Robertson Fire Protection District recognizes our personnel as our greatest resource and the key to our success.

*"To Protect and Serve is Our Business,
and Being the Best is our Passion."*



RFPD Movie Night Reminder on April 30th!!!!

Please do not forget about the first Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) movie night of 2010 on Friday, April 30th. We will be showing the movie "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" on the movie screen that night. As the RFPD has done in 2009, the firefighters will show this movie in the engine bay of Station One located at 12641 Missouri Bottom Road on our ten feet tall movie screen and use our PA system for movie theatre quality sound. The firefighters will be watching the movie along with the residents and enjoy hosting these community events for the great residents of the Robertson Fire Protection District. The firefighters will provide soda, water, and popcorn for everyone to enjoy. If possible, please bring folding chairs/lawn chairs if you have them. We only have a limited number of chairs and want to ensure that everyone has a comfortable seat for the movie. Of course Sparky the Fire Dog and Patches the Remote Control Fire Dog will be in attendance for the movie. They are huge "Alvin and the Chipmunk" fans. The movie will start at 7:30pm so get there early to get a good seat in the engine bay. With this huge movie screen and PA system, there will not be a bad seat in the house. Feel free to begin arriving after 6:30pm so you can mingle with the firefighters and check out the two new fire trucks. We encourage you to bring your families and friends to RFPD for the movie night. It is sure to be a great time and the firefighters are looking forward to it.

Robertson Fire Protection District

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