



FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD

SINCE
1948

Spring Newsletter 2017

Captain's Corner

Happy spring everyone! I hope our winter blues are packed away with the snow shovels and heavy coats, and we can look forward to colorful flowers and short-sleeved shirts.

Since our last newsletter, the Fanwood Rescue Squad has added five members and regretfully lost the time commitment of two leading members. Overall, we're still on the uptick. The process, however, to bring new members on board and acclimate them to emergency medical services takes time. Our objective is to cultivate opportunities for new members to engage as First Responders and encourage them to attend EMT school. After they complete the requirements and obtain EMT certification, we challenge new EMTs to exercise their skills and develop their proficiency. If all goes well, a new member can have 'probational' EMT status within twelve months and be assessed for 'active' EMT status within eighteen months of joining. We require two 'active' EMTs on each call, and at least one of them must be a certified driver, which entails additional training.

Last year, the residents of Fanwood called 911 for emergency medical services 493 times. Of those, Fanwood Rescue Squad responded to 242. Added to this number, Fanwood responded to 89 calls into nearby towns. Our response rate is one we view with great attention. We strive to increase the percentage of calls our Squad handles within its own borders, as well as the calls for assistance into neighboring municipalities.

While our roster count may fluctuate, the one element that does remain consistent is the mission of this

town's rescue squad, which is providing emergency medical services to the Borough of Fanwood and surrounding community. Our foremost goal is to assure a quick and proficient response to those who need immediate care. This goal can be met by combining various solutions. The first is to remain steadfast in our recruitment, retention, and training process. The second is to continue to foster relationships with surrounding squads and develop mutual aid agreements. Lastly, is to look to our Union Countywide EMS resource for coverage during the workday hours.

As 2017 unfolds, we'll provide updates to our community through our website www.fanwoodrescue.com and via our next newsletter due out in the fall. If you're interested in joining or have questions about our Squad, drop me a note at captain@fanwoodrescue.com.

I wish you all the best - be safe,
Nancy J. Mustachio; Captain



Member Spotlight

My name is Andy Weaver and I would like to share why I decided to volunteer with the Fanwood Rescue Squad (FRS) and become an EMT. I'm originally from Pittsburgh (go Steelers!) and moved to New Jersey with my wife five years ago, before buying a house in Fanwood early last year. As a new community member in Fanwood, I wanted to get involved in a meaningful volunteer activity and meet more of my neighbors. The idea of building new skills in a discipline a world away from my career in corporate finance seemed very exciting and challenging, and the

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Member Spotlight

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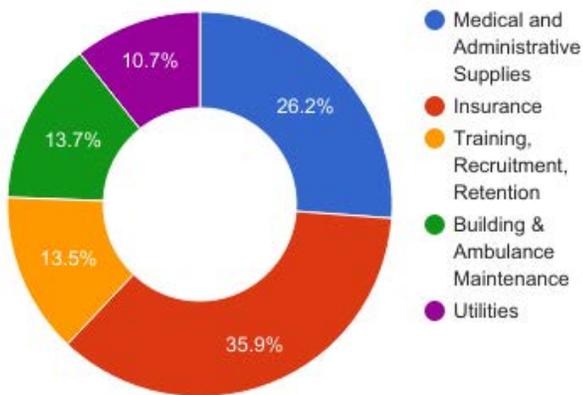
flexibility of the time commitment meant I could fit volunteering into my busy schedule. I hope to continue to build my skills and experience with the Fanwood Rescue Squad, and would recommend joining to anyone looking for similar things.

-Andy

FRS Needs your Donations!

The pie chart below presents how each donation dollar is used to keep the Fanwood Rescue Squad running and well supplied!

2016 Expenditures



Yearly expense to run the FRS ~ \$60,000

Expense per FRS call ~\$100

Allergic Reactions



Imagine this scenario. Your kids are out playing the backyard when one starts complaining of an itchy rash and seems to be having trouble getting his breath. What do you do?

Treating an onset of these symptoms often requires paramedics, but preparedness by having and knowing how to properly use an EpiPen Auto-Injector (generic name epinephrine) can mean the difference between a manageable situation and a potential crisis.

With summer just around the corner, along with all that warm weather and excitement comes an increased risk of anaphylactic reaction for those with insect, food, or medication allergies. For those who may be unaware, anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening and severe allergic reaction that causes one or more symptoms, including rashes and swollen skin, wheezing, and difficulty breathing. If you or your children have these types of allergies, a doctor should have prescribed an EpiPen for emergency use. This EpiPen should be unexpired, clear (not cloudy), and stored at the proper manufacturer's recommended temperature. When away from the home, the EpiPen should be with you or your child anytime a risk of exposure to the allergen exists. Be sure that anyone that may need to use the EpiPen is properly trained, and if the EpiPen is used, be sure to dispose of it properly at a doctor's office.

One common misperception is that local rescue squads like the Fanwood Rescue Squad carry EpiPens, when in fact, while squad EMTs are trained on how to use an EpiPen, he or she can only assist a patient by administering an EpiPen **prescribed to that patient**. For this reason, never rely on EMS to provide an EpiPen treatment if you know that you or a loved one has an allergy.

With proper preparation, outdoor summer activities can be safe and fun. Enjoy the great outdoors this summer!

New FRS Ambulance

- In our last newsletter, we announced our search for a new ambulance to replace our 2002 Road Rescue, "578". We have researched and examined various options, specifications, and designs, and are close to finalizing our requirements. In the process of designing a new ambulance, we consider the increasing requirements for EMS providers, the different types of conditions in which we operate, and the vehicle's durability. Most importantly, we factor in the needs of our community. We have spent considerable time discussing the value returned to our town's residents. Our objectives are to stay up-to-date with features that allow for improved provider safety, patient care, and operating longevity. Keeping all this in mind, we are a few weeks away from completing our specifications and placing the order. We're still targeting an arrival date before the year is over, but not wanting to rush the planning process could push our delivery date to early 2018. Stay tuned!