

Sometimes You Can Laugh

By T. Drennan—EMS 1st Lieutenant

The sound of siren and flashing lights usually mean serious problems for someone and their family. What many people don't realize is how stressful it can be for the responding fire or ambulance crew. The idea of not knowing what to expect on arrival can be unbelievably intense. Especially when a life may depend on the crew's actions. Sometimes calls are not always stressful or dangerous. Every once in a while a trip turns into a comedy of errors and you just have to "Go With The Flow".

Quite a few years ago we were working a motocross race. We were set up with the ambulance and a small vehicle to transport injured riders from the track to the ambulance for either first aid treatment or transport to a hospital.

We weren't there too long when we watched one of the riders get the "hole-shot" leading a pack of about fifty riders into the first turn. The turn was set up so the riders were funneled into a chute leading into a quick left hand turn that would only fit five to six riders at the same time. As the rider led the pack into the turn he "high-sided" and crashed in the middle of the turn. He ended up lying sideways completely across the track as the entire pack of bikes raced into the turn. Fortunately, most of the bikes managed to get by or around him, but at least twenty ran right over him.

Immediately the crowd started screaming! The track officials and safety officer were wildly waving safety flags and gesturing for the ambulance crew to get to the rider. We jumped into the rescue vehicle and rushed across the track to the rider. When we reached him, he was unconscious lying face down in the mud. Actually he was buried about six inches into the mud on the track. We extricated him from the mud with a backboard and transported in to the ambulance area to check him out for further injuries. About this time he started to regain consciousness and could tell us what happened. Luckily he was unhurt and advised us he was ok.

He was explaining what happened as we were checking him out, when he bellowed and suddenly threw up a horrendous amount of blood-red, frothy fluid with such force it splashed all over both the crew and him. Immediately we suspected massive bleeding due to internal injuries. Just as we hit the highway with siren screaming and lights flashing, he sat up and said he "never should have drank all that cherry soda".

We turned off the lights, killed the siren and almost threw him out of the ambulance!

Fire Fighter's Journal

By L. Fliedner—Fire Fighter / EMT

The smoke was thick; I didn't like the look of it. The decision was mine. My brain started racing and for moment drifted off to when I was, well younger.

"...Please daddy, I know I'll be good at it."

"No, your mother will kill me."

"And when have you let that fear stop you?"

"You have a point. Okay you can join, just no live ..."

"Don't stop me, I can do this."

"Fine, you can be a firefighter."

"Thank you."

Training started that summer, man was it tough. I found out that I wasn't very adept at walking on roofs but once my instructor talked me through it and I put my mind to it, it was easy. I discovered I was really good at the basic skills of fire fighting except I hadn't seen any fire yet. Remember to be careful what you wish for.

Just a short time after class ended I got my wish. Then for the next 9 years my wish was fulfilled numerous times. As the years past I continued to train and learn, all to be the best. Who knew it would all come to this moment.

With those memories fresh, along with the current excitement I made the call, we were going in. The next 22 minutes were rough. Two of my guys were leading the search and I was in the rear. The house was going good upstairs and all I could focus on was "My two sisters and I were in the hallway trying to get to the back door, they were right behind me." So in the back door we went, the fire hadn't spread that far yet. Sure enough even though the smoke had come down stairs and the heat was getting worse, we found them curled up in closet under the stairs.

Once we got outside we all looked at each other and silently said thank you and with that I said a quick thanks to my dad for letting me join and for believing in me so completely that my first call as Lieutenant turned out to be my finest moment.

Be careful with your grill. Hot coals can burn you as well!

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Emergency Dial 911

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Greenfield Township
Volunteer Fire Company
Fire/EMS Station 24

424 Route 106
Greenfield Township, PA 18407

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Roadway Access

By Paul Fortuner, Sr.—Greenfield Twp. Police Chief/EMT

Greenfield Township, like most municipalities is a rapidly growing community. In recent years we have seen large numbers of permanent residences constructed here. This growth, along with the fact that most families now own two or more vehicles has caused traffic volumes to rise. Our Police Department is doing its best with available resources to keep traffic moving safely.

Realizing the population of the Township swells considerably during the summer months and this population brings additional motor vehicles with it, we must address the parking situation in congested areas such as Newton Lake.

Emergency vehicles must travel these roads on a daily basis. Illegally parked cars can sometimes present a serious problem, resulting in needless delays in providing services. In an emergency there isn't enough time to locate a vehicle's owner and ask him to move it. The fire department has already replaced its engine with a more maneuverable unit in an effort to more easily access difficult areas. This alone does not combat the problem.

Property owners are urged to provide off-street parking areas for their tenants and guests and insure they do not park in such a manner as to impede traffic. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic will be ticketed according to state laws and then be removed at the expense of the owners.

If we cannot obtain voluntary compliance in the matter of illegal parking, the Greenfield Township Board of Supervisors will be forced to explore other methods to insure the safety of residents. One such method being considered would be the total banning of parking on Township roadways. This would solve the Township's problem, but would cause an extreme hardship for the property owner, something no one wants to see, but keep in mind that providing roadway access for medical and fire protection services are "TOP PRIORITY".



Homeland Security

By F. M. Bales, CFPS—Fire Chief/EMT/Fire Inspector

Harking back to the "good old days" when volunteer fire companies had the reputation of being a bunch of "good old boys"; who hung around the firehouse and occasionally responded to fire calls; eventually putting the fire out and sometimes causing more damage than saving property. The old foundation savers! **Well folks, times have changed!** While Pennsylvania does not have a state-wide minimum fire fighter training requirement, some fire companies like Greenfield have established minimum requirements for their fire fighters. These minimum training requirements challenge the fire fighters to prove that they have the skills needed to serve the public. Those fire companies that have established high standards for their fire fighters have experienced a significant reduction in the loss of property. But, the demand for professionalism and skills keep growing every day.

Most people are not aware that in addition to responding to calls for help in their own jurisdiction, some fire companies in Lackawanna County have anti-terrorism responsibilities. **YES! Terrorism concerns in our back yards!** There are several potential terrorist targets within the county and some of our area responders carry responsibilities to protect the people in those threat areas.

Your fire company was the first in the county to train members for terrorism response, beginning in 1998. That initial training has grown to cover a full spectrum of training and skills that keep you safe every day. Training like terrorism response, hazardous material response, and even bomb and explosives response training.

How does GTVFC fit into the big picture? Well first off, GTVFC provides decontamination (DECON) services. DECON, is one of the most critical care issues during the release of a hazardous material or a terrorism event. GTVFC established an emergency DECON Team in 2000, to provide support for the county has mat team and to ensure victims would receive early DECON.

GTVFC was selected to represent Lackawanna County on the Northeast Emergency Response Decon Task Force, which comprises 9 counties, because we were one of only two functional teams in the area. The other hails from Carbon County. Where does this team go? For presidential candidate Kerry's visit, we set up camp in Scranton. For President Bush's visit, we established operations in Moosic. We have responded to The Lackawanna County Airport, Dunmore as part of the Ber-

wick power plant exercise; North Pocono Area for a suspected Biological agent, and some other locations that we can't share.

We are mobilized when Lackawanna County receives an indication that people have been contaminated with a hazardous material or biological agent. Once we are mobilized we function as a part of the Decon Task Force, with primary duties to provide advanced decon and command support. During these deployments, GTVFC operates under the Authority of the Lackawanna County Emergency Management Agency.

Bet you did not know that your township volunteer fire company was so progressive. Well Greenfield is. The members of your fire company have advanced themselves in the field of fire protection, medical services, rescue, and hazardous materials response to a level that is unmatched in our area. Why do these unpaid residents take the time to do all this? Well, despite what you may think, there are: fires in the township; medical emergencies; car wrecks; people trapped in cars over embankments; hazardous material exposures, and we do have threat for terrorism right in our area. Think about it:

- Shutting down I-81 for more than 1-hour results in an interruption of commerce for three states.
- How many defense plants are in our area?
- Chemical Facilities?
- How many historic buildings are in the northeast area?
- Air and rail transportation?
- Water treatment facilities? Major dams?

There is a need! More importantly, the members of your fire department volunteered to address that need. The DECON team is also available for statewide mobilization if required. But don't worry, when the DECON Team leaves, there are still members left behind along with our mutual aide fire departments to continue to protect you.

EASTER BASKET RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1st Prize Basket**— Gary and Mary Jane Allen— c/o \$100 Weis gift card, 2 movie tickets, candy, pitcher & glasses
- 2nd Prize Basket**— Andy Petrilak— Kitchen basket, c/o candy, Easter Kitchen items & more
- 3rd Prize Basket**— R. Heller from E. Stroudsburg— Childs basket c/o Stuffed Bunny, Playdough, game, bubbles, candy

Thank you all for your support!

Fund Drive

By A. F. Karolyi— Administrative Member

This topic comes up every year when GTVFC mails the fund drive requests. We get comments like: "I received two or more duplicates."; "This person is deceased, please take their name off your list."; "I moved and don't live in Greenfield Twp.". Life changes every day. However, our address list is derived from the Twp. tax data base. If you own property in the township you will get as many fund request forms as properties you own. We make every effort to respond to your comments to avoid duplicates. Eventually the tax data base takes care of any changes in property transfers. Please have patience and keep your comments and donations coming. They do help us.

2005 FUND DRIVE RETURNS

1st Request Mailing— 1338

1st Request Donation Returns— 322

% of Donation Returns— 24%

Please Support Your Fire Company!

We Need Help!

Attrition is a normal thing in every organization. Volunteer replacement is a constant effort and not easy. Without fire fighters and administrative support a volunteer fire company cannot exist. We need your help for the following:

- **Firefighting-(5) Fire Fighters and/or Rescue Staff**
- **Non-Firefighting-(3) Fire Apparatus Drivers w/CDL**
- **Non-Firefighting-(3) Ambulance Drivers no CDL**
- **Administrative- (5) Fund Raising, Records, Publicity**

YOU Join—We Train—No Cost to YOU

Coming Events

- June 26th, **Fire Hall Breakfast**, 8:00AM to 12:00 Noon
- June 26th, **Fire Hall Bake Sale**, 8:00AM to 12:00 Noon
- July 31st, **Fire Hall Breakfast**, 8:00AM to 12:00 Noon
- Aug. 28th, **Fire Hall Breakfast**, 8:00AM to 12:00 Noon