

THE SIREN

July/August 2019

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

Response to Flooding in May

The City of Wellington and Sumner County saw record rainfall in May of 2019. Widespread flooding caused damage to vehicles, structures and to government infrastructure. Wellington Fire/EMS responds to water rescue incidents with two boats on loan from emergency management and with trained staff in swift water rescue. On the evening of May 7th crews began assessing flood conditions at 10:00 PM, just shortly after they were out flood related

incidents were being dispatched. These included flooded basements, power lines down and stalled vehicles in water. The severity of flooding quickly escalated along North H street and areas around Rock Island Ball fields. Working with the police department, public works and the electric department crews began checking on residents and notifying them of flood conditions. There were residents already contacting 911 in need of rescue. Crews

worked throughout the night and next day responding to water rescue's within the city and around the county. The last rescue's were conducted on May 8th at 11:00 PM on south Oxford Road. Hargis Creek, Slate Creek , Rock Island Slough and Wellington Lake all contributed to flood incidents. In total Wellington Fire/EMS rescued 23 people and several pets from either vehicles or structures.

By Tim Hay

New Lifesaving Equipment

The department recently received new lifesaving equipment-a Zoll heart monitor and (18) SCOTT self contained breathing apparatus. The heart monitor was possible through a matching Kansas Board of EMS grant. The new monitor has the capability to

shock cardiac arrest patients, take blood pressure, pulse and oxygen saturation. Paramedics also use the monitor to determine how to treat heart rhythm's. The self contained breathing apparatus was a planned budget purchase as the old apparatus turned 16

years old and lacks technology. Staff will be able to use an integrated safety device if they are in trouble and will now have an amplifier on their face mask so communications to the incident commander and other firefighters is much clearer.

Inside this issue:

Lightning Safety	2
Change in Cardiac Arrest Treatment	2
Department Training	2
Life Saving Commendation	3
Insurance Services Office Fire Rating "3"	3
Photographs	3
Around the Station	4



Lightning Safety



If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or hard-topped vehicle right away. Do not go under trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm. Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.

Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches. There is no safe place outside. Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used. If a person is struck by lightning call 911 immediately. For indoor safety turn off

computers. Stay off corded phones, computers and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You can use cell or cordless phones. Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry or wash dishes. Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain!

Change in Cardiac Arrest Treatment



Beginning July 1st the department began changing how we treat cardiac arrest. A recent study done by Rialto California Fire/EMS described how they changed their survival rate significantly by implementing seven components. The seven are 1. continuous chest compressions with a CPR machine, 2. use of cannula or mask oxygen before intubation, 3. performing chest compressions

with patient in a sitting position (optimize perfusion), 4. use of a device when performing breaths called a rescue pod to increase circulation, 5. waiting to defibrillate when there is a long down time, a very fine V fib or carbon dioxide reading of less than 20mmHG (patient is less receptive to electrical shock and needs further chest compressions to increase perfusion),

6. de-emphasizing epinephrine until proper perfusion, and 7. expanded use of capnography to indicate whether a patient needs additional time for resuscitation. Staff have been trained on the new methods/procedures and as a department we hope to increase our return to spontaneous circulation for all non traumatic adult arrests from 20% to 50%.

Department Training

Class presentations in house for June/July were ACS chest pain, shock management, tank battery fires, hazardous materials scenario, attic fires, soft tissue injuries, respiratory emergencies, aerial operations, mayday procedures and heart monitor. Nate Keller completed the Sumner County Leadership Class. Rebekah Carr certified as a Firefighter I. Rebekah Carr, and Chuck Kenney participated in the Hutchinson Community College field day where they participated in a mock disaster exercise at the state fairgrounds. A shift participated in vehicle extrication training with a local emergency medical technician class.



Vehicle extrication training with emergency medical technician class.

Life Saving Commendation

On the evening of June 19th, Wellington Fire/EMS was dispatched to a patient who was experiencing difficulty breathing. Upon arrival the patient was barely conscious and breathing. Paramedics Mike Clark and Nate Keller ascertained that the patients survival would depend on advanced life saving procedures. The crew suspected immediately that the patient may be experiencing anaphylactic shock, as evident by the swelling of her tongue. Treatment was rendered utilizing the protocol for allergic reactions which resulted in

no marked patient improvement, more invasive actions were needed. The medics displayed an outstanding use of knowledge, skill and experience in deciding to implement rapid sequence intubation protocol for the patient in order to provide ventilations and to prevent sudden cardiac arrest. Clark and Keller along with others on B shift flawlessly performed the complicated RSI procedure. The patient was transported to Wichita in serious conditions. While enroute the crew maintained sedation and ventilations keeping the patient alive. The

patient later made a full recovery in ICU. Medical staff at Wesley and the family confirmed that it was indeed a severe allergic reaction to accidental consumption of almonds. The Wesley ER physician indicated that without the quick thinking and use of the very advanced procedure that the likely outcome for the patient would have been death. Both Clark and Keller were awarded the life saving commendation.

Insurance Service Office Fire Rating “3”

The insurance services office recently reviewed the City of Wellington and rural areas around the city including Fire District 6 & 7 this year. ISO rates municipalities based on their fire protection, water supply/distribution and 911 dispatch. Then a numeral classification is assigned in a range of 1 to 10 with 10 being the worst. Results of the recent ISO survey will be favorable for most home and business

owners when it comes to what is paid for the fire portion of structure insurance. The previous rating for the City of Wellington was a 4, the new rating is now a 3, and area’s within 5 miles of the fire station will receive a 6 down from an 8. Structures in excess of 5 miles of the fire station will still receive a 10. The new ratings will go into effect September 1, 2019. Improvement throughout the years have helped ob-

tain the new fire rating including 3 additional operational staff, automatic mutual aid agreements, hauled water capabilities, continual apparatus upgrades, and water distribution improvements. There are still area’s we can improve on including structural and recruit training hours, average staff on scene of a structure fire and water distribution branch lines. Nationwide there are 35,742 departments with a 4 or higher rating and 12,426 with a 3 or less rating.

Photographs



Recently acquired Stop the Bleed training kit for public presentations.



Semi fire on Kansas Turnpike. Semi hit a KTA dump truck from behind causing a diesel leak on the dump truck and then the semi caught fire, no injuries.



New self contained breathing apparatus and Zoll heart monitor.

UPCOMING STAFF BIRTHDAYS

TIM HAY JULY 31ST
CHAD FRANCISCO AUGUST 6TH
MATHEW HARSH AUGUST 12TH

We now offer child seat inspections! Call the fire station at 620 326-7443 to make an appointment.

If any organization/business would like a "Stop the Bleed" class (30 minutes in length) contact the fire station at 620 326-7443.

Factoid-Wellington EMS calls increased 46% from 2011 to 2018 and are still rising!

Firefighter Golf Tournament August 17th
Register at wellingtonfiregolfclassic.com

Upcoming Classes & Events

KEMSA August 8-10 Mulvane

Wildland Firefighter Practical September 5th Wellington

Hot Classes September 21-22 Wichita

Alternative Fueled Vehicles September 26th Wellington

Read past newsletters at cityofwellington.net

**Visit the Fire/EMS website
at cityofwellington.net or
call 620 326-7443 for more
information. Join City of
Wellington Facebook**

Around the Station

The department held a CPR class for the public with five in attendance.

Staff assisted with avenue of flags and veterans ceremony at cemetery.

A shift participated in Kansas Plastics employee fun day.

Staff participated in the following Wheat Festival activities-stop the bleed (picnic), parade, routine patrols with ATV and cow patty bingo cleanup.

Fourth of July activity-there were only two firework related fires, a trash can and a grass fire.

Soffit repair began at the public safety facility. Exterior sheetrock will be replaced with aluminum for durability.

C shift had the safety trailer at Walmart for educational purposes.

New Hire-Loren Farley began work as a Firefighter/EMT, Many may know Loren as he grew up in Wellington. Loren recently acquired Firefighter I, Firefighter II and emergency medical technician certifications in Texas. His dad Mark was a Firefighter/Paramedic with the department for over 30 years.



New Hire Loren Farley