

Cost Effective Ways of Serving You



Little Fork members assist victims of a motorcycle accident on Rt. 211

Little Fork Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

This past year, LFVFC members have worked hard to achieve success with our limited funds. Since last Fall, we have received an additional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Grant for \$11,300. The matching grant will be used to purchase a defibrillator and an extrication tool. A defibrillator monitors a patient's heart rate rhythms, oxygen status and can provide shocks if someone is in cardiac arrest. The extrication equipment, specifically called a ram, is designed to rescue trapped victims in vehicle or farming accidents.

In addition, we applied for the donation of a Trail Gator. This off-road apparatus will help us transport personnel, gear and patients in and out of areas that are not accessible to larger vehicles.

Within the next few weeks, we will be putting the finishing touches on another Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant for a new water tanker truck. We are replacing our 1967 unit with a new unit that carries twice the amount of water and has a fire pump that is six times larger. If awarded, the grant will help us pay most, but not all of the cost.

Chief's Report

In 2002, we ran 744 fire and rescue calls. This is a 49 percent increase in calls for service from last year. In total, our volunteers documented 27,611 hours of service. These hours show we are proud to protect the lives and property of our community.

With continued community growth, the demand for emergency services increase. So, we need to expand our current facilities. Our building committee is reviewing specifications for a building addition.

We have a progressive public education program. For example, we sponsored the national "None for the Road" campaign. The anti-drug and drunk driving program proved to be very successful. We hope that



Chief Darren Stevens is pictured receiving our new Automatic Defibrillator.

Finally, in late May, we are expecting the delivery of a newly refurbished pumper from the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department. The pumper will carry twice as much water as the old unit. It will also increase the seating capacity. This truck will replace our 1977 pumper. A new pumper would cost us \$425,000.

We save the community a considerable amount of money by applying for and receiving federal, state and business grants and looking for reliable used equipment.

this message is carried throughout the year.

In this newsletter, we have provided information about emergency preparedness. Please take the time to review and utilize this life saving information.

We appreciate your support of our volunteer organization.

**WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS.
WE ARE DEDICATED, RELIABLE
AND PROFESSIONAL.
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU
ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT..
IN EMERGENCY, CALL 911.**

Your Guide to Severe Weather

Tornados

Tornados can and do happen here in Culpeper County. In September 2001, we had a Category 4 tornado cause considerable damage in Rixeyville and Jeffersonton. Please listen to local radio or TV stations for severe weather information. When a tornado warning is posted, go to a basement, storm cellar, or inside hallway at the lowest level of your home. Avoid rooms such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias or large hallways. Stay away from windows. If neither a basement or storm cellar is available, use your arms to protect your head and neck. If you are outdoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area. If in a vehicle, do not attempt to outrun a tornado. When in a mobile

home, remember they are particularly vulnerable. When a tornado warning is issued, get out of the mobile home quickly and take shelter in a building with a strong foundation.

Storms

A severe thunderstorm is posted by the National Weather Service when the probability exists for damaging winds over 58 mph. It also posts warnings for severe storms with hail three-fourths of an inch in diameter or greater. Please take these warnings seriously. Go to a safe place and turn on a battery operated radio or television, and wait for the "all clear" message by the authorities. Seek safe shelters and avoid areas like athletic fields, golf courses, parks,

roadside picnic areas and schoolyards.

Remember that lightning can kill. Lightning can enter a house by direct strike, through wires or pipes, or through the ground. Be sure to stay off the phone during lightning and unplug personal property. While helpful, surge protectors cannot protect equipment through many lightning strikes.



Emergency Preparedness



Develop a Family Plan

Make sure that all family members know how to respond to an emergency. Teach everyone how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water. Children should know when to call 911. Be familiar with which radio stations to tune into for emergency information. All families should select a meeting place in or near their neighborhood.

Emergencies

Develop a family communication plan. In case you are separated during a disaster, have a plan for getting back together. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the family contact. After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of that contact person.

Little Fork Events

Country Breakfasts

1st Sunday of Every Month

Juicy Barbeques

3rd Saturday of Every Month

Annual Letter Drive

April 2003

Family Health and Safety Day

August 23, 2003

Golf Tournament

October 2, 2003

Door-to-Door Annual Fundraising Drive

October 2003

None for the Road

All Year

Jingle Bell 5K Fun Run

December 6, 2003



Deputy Chief Doug Monaco, Vice President Doug Jenkins and Sheriff H. Lee Hart are shown with the winning raffle ticket at last year's Final Fall Barbeque.

Spring/Summer Safety Tips

Spring Fever

After winter, everyone is gearing up for Spring. Remember to use your electrical tools, ladders and lawn mowers properly. These household items can cause serious, even fatal accidents. On average, 150,000 people make emergency room visits due to ladder falls. In addition, more than 75,000 people are treated annually for lawn mower injuries and casualties. Another 35,000 people sustain injuries from power garden tools such as trimmers, lawn edgers and pruners.

Gas Grills

Always store the cylinder outside and away from structures. Remember to turn off the cylinder valve when you

are not using it. Never use the barbeque inside or below an overhang. This is a major fire hazard and may introduce high levels of carbon monoxide into the building. When in use, keep the barbeque away from anything that will burn. Check connections frequently to ensure that they are gas tight. To test, use a water soap mixture on the connections and fitting. This will produce bubbles if gas is leaking. Always open the lid before turning on the gas to light the barbeque.

Stop, Drop and Roll

If working or cooking around heat sources, wear tight fitting, tightly woven clothing. This lessens the chance of having your clothing catch

fire. Children should be kept away from heat sources or closely supervised by an adult. If your clothing does catch fire, remember:

STOP, DROP AND ROLL

STOP - Do not run.

DROP - Wherever you are, inside or outside. Cover your face with your hands, drop to the ground.

ROLL - Roll over and over to smother the flames.

Proper Address Posting



The time saved by having your home easily marked and located by our emergency personnel could make a difference in critical situa-

tions. It is important to post your address with a minimum of three inch reflective numbers on both sides of your mailbox. This is how we find you in an emergency. Numbers should be posted on both the front of your residence and mailbox.

If your house is not visible from the road, you need to have a sign on your driveway with your address.

This also applies to addresses with multiple mail boxes.

In addition, at night, a lit or flashing porch light or yard light and an open front door would help guide us in an emergency.

Brush Fires

The number of homes being built in Culpeper County near brush areas are increasing rapidly. When a fire occurs around one of these new homes, it often extends into the brush, threatening other homes and forest resources.

Brush fires often threaten and burn homes and structures built in wooded

areas if the homeowner has not taken proper fire safety precaution. Keep leaves and debris cleared from under decks and porches so that they will not be set on fire by blowing sparks and embers. Dispose of ashes and charcoal briquettes in a metal container and allow them to stay in the container for 48 hours.



Little Fork Members at work.

If you are burning a large amount of brush, please notify the Sheriff's Office at 727-3400 before igniting the fire.

Current Resident
Rural Route 3
Jefferson, VA 22724

Permit 002
PRSTD MAIL
POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson, VA

Little Fork Volunteer Fire and Rescue Co. Inc.
6011 Rixeyville Road
Rixeyville, VA 22737

We Are Here For You

Little Fork Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company's (LFVFC) main objective is to protect and preserve life and property from and during fires, medical emergencies, or other disasters. LFVFC is one of the few volunteer companies in the Commonwealth that require both fire and/or EMS certification for its members. LFVFC is proud of our mission to provide trained, certified, volunteer personnel to respond to all of your emergencies.



Little Fork Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

**6011 Rixeyville Road
Rixeyville, VA 22737
(540) 937-7717 (station)
www.lfvfrc.org**

Chief	Darren Stevens
Deputy Chief	Doug Monaco
Captain	Lee Monaco
Lieutenant	Sammy Stalls
EMS Lieutenant	Pam Bertone
Fire Sergeant	Doug Jenkins, Jr.

Board of Directors

President	Jim Sweigart
Vice President	Doug Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary	Penn Gorman
Treasurer	Kim Stalls

At left are some LFVFC Members