

Nye County Emergency Services

May 2008

Volume 3, Issue 2

Beatty



It was my pleasure to attend the Beatty Volunteer Fire Department's dinner recently. It always amazes me the great food and hospitality that thrives in Beatty, NV. Having the opportunity to present Mike Lasorsa a watch at the dinner, recognizing him for 30 (yes, that is right) 30 years of service to the Beatty Volunteer Fire Department was a pleasure and an honor for me. Mike is a dedicated volunteer who spends countless hours serving his community, and for that we are truly grateful. Thanks as always goes out to Mike and all of the Beatty Volunteers.

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Brent Jones

Congratulations!



Patty Winters Reports

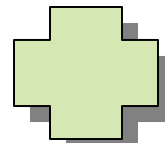


Nye County had a great showing at the Clark County EMS Instructor Symposium. The Symposium was well organized and had well known speakers.

It is great to see so much participation from our group. This level of participation definitely speaks well for our personnel and the future of EMS here in Nye County.

During the symposium a team building exercise was conducted. Due to the amount of attendees we were broken up into three groups. I am proud to say that in every group, Nye County had at least one person actively involved with the exercise, in most groups our people led the way during the exercise. Way to get in there and get things done !!

Tonopah's Basic class started off with a bang. We currently have eleven students and they are doing great. They have been running with Tonopah's Ambulance Service on provisional attendance license, this has proven to be a great experience. This class has also had the benefit of student instructors who finished the instructor class that was held in Tonopah in January. The enthusiasm of these new instructors is definitely contagious. They have come up with some great training/teaching ideas. Great group of students and instructors !



Nye County Deputies help to train our students regarding the hazards of responding to violent situations. A big thanks to these Deputies who not only help keep us safe but also are taking part in the education of our students.



Jim Medici Reports

TO All Fire Departments:

As you may already know, I have accepted the position of Fire Training Officer/ Volunteer Fire Coordinator. My goal is to dedicate my time to assist you so you are getting the training you want as well as one's we are required to have. I am also dedicated to foster and grow the relationship and partnership between all the Departments under the "Emergency Services umbrella". I share our Director, Brent Jones' vision of Positive Relationships between all the departments. One of the steps that we can take to make this happen is to improve Communication. I am available to listen to your concerns and assist your Departments. I would also like to begin holding Quarterly Chief's Meeting's to help improve inter department communication. If we meet and communicate regularly, we can work together to address common problems occurring County wide, such as low membership, retention of Volunteers, updated training, and improvement of inter-departmental relationships.

There are currently many projects on going in my office. I am updating and revising the Nye County Fire Department Policy and Procedure's, as well as entering all of the incidents for the County Departments into the National Fire Incident Reporting System, as well as researching and compiling a list of Mandatory Training. The State and NFPA are continually updating training requirements and Standards for Fire Departments, and knowing how valuable your time is, I do not want to waste your time in irrelevant training, so I am propagating a list of mandated classes. In working together we can conduct these trainings and I will assist you in training Safe and Knowledgeable Firefighters as well as assisting your Departments with improved Leadership and Officer training.

I pledge to you my Dedication to Excellence. Help me Help you. We all want Safe Firefighters protecting your Communities and having them go home Safe to their families. Thank you in advance for allowing me to help you.

I would also like to thank all of those families supporting you in this Challenging endeavor. Lets all work together toward this common goal.

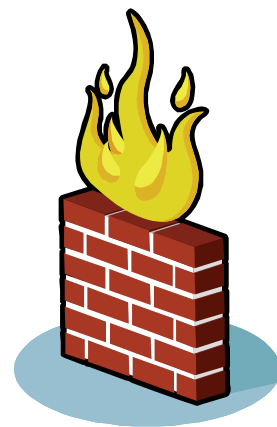
Jim

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Crystal FFI Class



The New Workplace Safety and Training Officer

Greetings to all,

My Name is Vance Payne. I am your Workplace Safety and Training Officer. My predecessor, Jim Medici, has done a remarkable job as Safety Officer and leaves me in good position to succeed. The job of Workplace Safety and Training is a rewarding endeavor by nature and I have been blessed to get to do it here. This County has already em-

braced an attitude and culture of Safety. My goal is to grow that attitude and culture into a model that our neighbors will be envious of. People make this organization work and safety protects and enriches that work. I hope you will be patient with me as I learn to know all of you. Your input and assistance will be vitally important to a SAFE WORKPLACE. Nye County is our home and our workplace. Together, we will make it an even safer and happier place to call home.



Be Well and Safe.

Vance

What you Should Know About Staph and MRSA

*This information is from part of a Risk Management Bulletin from POOL/PACT Nov. 2007

An Old Infection Threat Becomes a New Workplace Concern



More and more we hear about a thing called MRSA, in the news. What is it? How does it concern me? Well, MRSA is a type of staph (Staphylococcus aureus) Bacteria that has been around for a long time. About 25 to 30 percent of the population is colonized (when bacteria are present, but not causing an infection) in the nose with staph bacteria. Sometimes, it can cause an infection. Staph is one the most common causes of skin infections in the U.S. Most of these skin infections are minor (such as pimples and boils) and can be treated without antibiotics (also known as antimicrobials or antibacterials). However, Staph bacteria can cause serious infections such as surgical wound infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia. MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), as its full name suggests, is a type of staph that is resistant to common antibiotics. Approximately 1 percent of the population is

colonized with MRSA. Staph infections (including MRSA) occur most frequently in persons with depressed immune systems. These healthcare-associated staph infections include surgical wound infections, urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia.



Community-Associated MRSA

When MRSA infections are acquired by persons who **have not** been recently (within the past year) hospitalized or had an invasive medical procedure, they are known as Community-Associated MRSA (CA-MRSA) infections. Staph or MRSA infections in the community usually manifest as skin infections and occur in otherwise healthy people. Such skin infections may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or surgical wound infections.

In the observed outbreaks of MRSA, the environment has not played a sig-

nificant role in its transmission, because MRSA is transmitted most frequently by direct skin-to-skin contact. You can protect yourself from infections with good hygiene (e.g., washing with soap and water, using an alcohol-based hand rub, and showering after heavy perspiring), covering any open skin area such as abrasions or cuts with a clean dry bandage, not sharing personal items such as towels or razors, using a barrier (e.g., clothing or a towel) between your skin and shared equipment, and cleaning equipment surfaces before and after use.



Steps for Prevention

Wash your hands!

Your mom was right! The simple act of washing your hands (with soap) for 10-15 seconds will help stop the spread of MRSA. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizing gel.

Treat cuts, scrapes, and abrasions immediately.

Washing and/or treating the wound

will kill MRSA. Look for wound care gels or ointments that kill MRSA. Then, keep wounds covered with a bandage until healed.

Shower after physical activity.

Bacteria grow best in warm, moist environments such as those created after physical exertion. Parents should educate their children to the importance of showers after physical activities that produce heavy perspiration. This knowledge is good protection of the ones we love.

Properly clean tools, gear, and equipment.

Take time during the work day to clean the tools and equipment that can accumulate MRSA. Situations where workers share tools and gear may be ripe for the spread of infection-causing bacteria. And, don't underestimate the obvious. An excellent example would be the telephone that numerous people use. When in doubt.....clean it!

Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.

Bacteria can live on wounds and bandages and can easily spread. Never touch another person's wound without an adequate barrier such as surgical gloves.

Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

Razors are especially troublesome, since they can break the skin creating an open invitation for MRSA and other bacteria to enter the body. Bacteria can live on towels and similar items. Drying towels and clothing items in a dryer instead of air drying can help kill bacteria.

Wipe down gym equipment before and after it is used.

Cleaning contact surfaces on gym equipment reduces the opportunity for bacteria to survive and be

passed to users.

In summary, our society is much more knowledgeable about the spread of disease. This knowledge permits us to be proactive if we choose.

For more information on this subject, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an excellent source. http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar/msra_ca_public.html



From Crystal FF I Class



Kevin Kleinworth Logistics/Abatement Officer

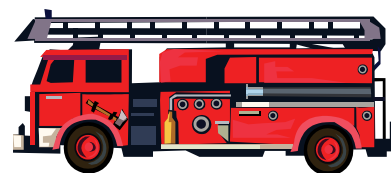
I was raised in a small Northern California town, Pollock Pines, CA. As a kid I saw many huge fires that ravaged the mountains where I lived. Watching these huge wildfires made me realize my calling to be a firefighter. A month after high school graduation in 1987, I enrolled in the Sierra College Wildland Fire program. I became a member of the on-call wildland college fire crew. That is where I got my first taste of wildfire. The next fire season I was hired with the Eldorado Hot Shots, United States Forest Service, which was in my home town.

After 5 seasons with the Forest Service I decided to venture on. I joined the Placerville Volunteer Fire Department for a short time before moving to Southern California. I wanted to land one of those fire jobs with a huge agency but underestimated the fierce competition. A taste of the big city led me back to small town life. I settled down in a town in Northern Nevada called Dayton- in Lyon County. The county was desperately needing volunteers so I gladly joined. Like any department there were growing pains. With the population exploding and the paid/volunteer department trying to keep up. The district offered all the training I could handle and I eventually achieved my Firefighter I, Firefighter II, EMT-Intermediate, Haz Mat Technician, Fire Instructor, Industrial Firefighter I & II, and Wildland Engine Boss, as well as ICS Certifications. I ended up becoming the county's first seasonal wildland firefighter and ended up staying on mostly full time after that.

In 2004 I was called to the Waterfall Fire in Carson City. I was involved in a near fatal burn over with my engine, trying to escape a cul-de-sac – but being cut off by the news media. I had to stop my engine so the news media could escape, however I was then trapped by the flames which burned my engine to the ground. I had first, second and third degree burns on my neck and face. The healing process took about a year and I had to question whether I would return to the profession.

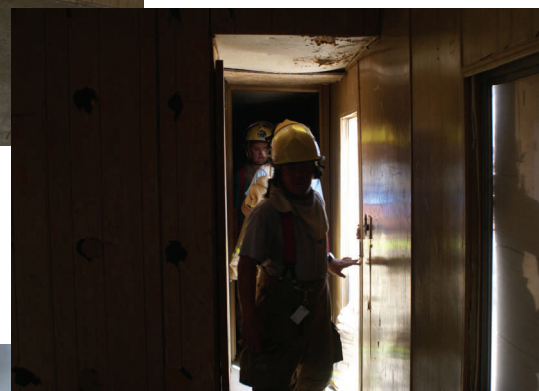
At this point in my life I do have a lovely wife and 3 small children. However I just couldn't shake the feeling of wanting to help others who cannot help themselves. Because of the burn over I was awarded the Highest Award for Valor from Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, as well as Professional Hero of the Year Award from the American Red Cross and awards of Valor from Lt. Governor Lorraine Hunt and Senator John Ensign. Over my tenure I have been on some of the largest fires in US history. Both San Diego wildfires, one in 2003 and in 2007. I was awarded a Valor pin by the Governor of California for the 2003 Cedar Fire. After leaving Central Lyon County I worked as an advisor/ Vol. Station Captain for Storey County Fire. I spent a season fighting fires for a private wildland company and fought fires from the border of Mexico all the way up to Northern Idaho. That one season we fought hundreds of fires and I was never home. I then took a job with the Nevada Division of Forestry as a State Fire Captain and inmate Crew Boss- working out of Winnemucca before transferring down to Indian Springs.

While working in Indian Springs I became familiar with Pahrump. I am very happy to be a part of the Nye County Emergency Services. I look forward to serving not only the people of Nye County but our valued Volunteers with my dedication and experience to the fire service.



Crystal FF I training.

FFI "Live Fire"



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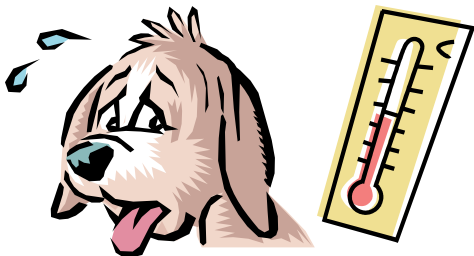
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Animal Control



Please remember that the temperature in a parked car can reach 150F in about 6 minutes when it is 100F outside.

Please DO NOT leave your animals in your car!!

As per NRS 574.195 you may not leave your animal confined in a vehicle during extreme temperatures.

A Word from Brent Jones—Director

As we continue to make progress in the Emergency Services department, I am extremely proud, excited, and grateful to finally have a full staff of wonderful employees. Included in this newsletter you will be able to read about the additions and changes that have taken place, and I think that everyone is excited about where we have been, how far we have come, and the unbelievable future that lies ahead of us.

We want to provide the best service possible to this community. With this great group of staff, the dedicated group of volunteers countywide, and the support that is always so appreciated by the County Manager and board of County Commissioners we can only anticipate the progress and innovation to come. As we move forward into the Spring and Summer months we must all stay focus on our goals and as more

visitors come through this great County, the trend is always for the volunteer services to get busier running calls.

Stay strong, thanks for all that you do, and please let me know if there is anything further that we can do to make your service to the County better.

Brent.