

November/December 2008

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

Pictures from

- Firefighter I final test
- HAZMAT Technician Class
- Food Drive
- EMS Expo
- Wilderness 1st Aid class



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FFI final test, October, 2008



By Qiana Medici

The flashover simulator is made from two Conex boxes put together. The end where the fire is built sits three feet higher than the other. The one below has low benches on either side for firefighters to sit and “watch the show”

Clark County Firefighters are stoking the fire for the prop with pieces of plywood and parts of pallets. The dumpster is for the charred pieces that are removed after the fire has been put out.



Safety briefing before entering the flashover simulator. He explained that we would be using three quick blasts to stop it before the flames rolled overhead.

From left to right: Instructor (CCFD), Jason (BVFD) Qiana (NCES), Lonnie (AVFD), Mike (BVFD), Vern (NCES), Chief Medici (NCES), Deputy Chief Kleinworth (NCES) and Jack Martincavage (Safety Officer)

From Patty Winters- EMS Coordinator

This last year has flown by. In this last quarter of 2008 continuing education seems to be the theme. Personnel from three of our departments attended the Nevada State Conference in Elko. This year's Conference had some new classes focusing on continuing education of the instructor and it was great to see so many of you in those classes. Congrats goes out to both Team Nye County (Desarea Bernard, John Hughes, Jim Medici, and Juan Femat) and Team Tonopah (Bobbi Misener, Rob Elliot, Chelsea Rice, Matt Kirkland) for your outstanding efforts in the fun competition. Tonopah once again won the prestigious Golden Bed Pan Award. Thanks to all of you for being such good sports. It was great to see you compete against our state officials.



Once again a wilderness first aid class was held in Tonopah at the Crescent Dunes, and was (despite the rainy cold weather) a huge success. Sessions were held on splinting/wound care, survival, and abandoned mine safety. Participants tested their skills during a "Mega-Code" and on the final day a search and rescue scenario was conducted. This class incorporated emergency medical skills, search and tracking skills, survival skills, and rescue skills. On the final morning, before the days class activities began, Rick and Donna Motis brought out a trailer; everyone pitched in and cleaned-up the camp area of the dunes.



Nye County Emergency Services was also represented at the EMS Expo in Las Vegas. Randolph Mantooth was the guest speaker. He spoke of the history of EMS, for many of us it was a trip down memory lane, for others it was good to understand our past. The class sessions offered at the Expo covered all aspects of the emergency medical system. Great experience!



As I noted above this quarter seems to have a continuing education theme. As I look through the photos that I have taken during this last quarter, I notice that another concept screams from the faces in these photos. The concept of TEAM prevails. It may be that I am just in a place and time in which I notice it more, but..... check out the photos! There are people from different areas, people from different disciplines within emergency services all working together towards a common goal. It is so great to see! We all work in our own areas, and in our own ways to make emergency response the best it can be. More and more however, it is clear that everyone is expanding beyond their own town, and/or their own discipline to help another group in need. The proof of this is not only in the photos, I have received phone calls; one service giving kudos to another, calls from state representatives stating how great you all are and how much help you have been in one way or another. I have received calls from other entities and counties telling me how much help you been in either the classroom or on scene as a bystander.

It is true that across this nation emergency medical services are at a crisis, but clearly you all are part of a grass roots effort to help not just those who dial 911 but to help each other. It seems, by your actions that you have committed to each other, to emergency services, and to represent your group in a positive way. Some of you will read this and think that it has always been this way; others of you will know that it has not. I have long held great pride in being an EMT, pride in having been educated and "seasoned" in this county. I know that the commitments you all make and the sacrifices you sustain are what will keep emergency services alive and well.

As this year comes to a close and a New Year dawns I would like to say thanks to you! Thanks to your families for allowing such a huge imposition and for sharing you with us. I have never been more proud. Each of you represents exactly what EMS is and means. You are the most dedicated, thoughtful, committed group. It is my fortune to be able to work with each of you. I look forward to the New Year knowing that if there is a secret to the success in emergency services, that secret lies in people such as you.

I wish you all a great holiday season and the very best in the New Year !

HAZMAT TECHNICIAN CLASS 2008



Congratulations to our newest Technicians:

Levi Gregory, Marty Wehrly, James Ward, Jana Riley, Matthew Clayton, and Vern Swearingen.

Also in the picture is David Moore, from EPA.

CONTAINING THE SPILL



IDENTIFYING THE CHEMICALS



ENTERING THE "HOT" ZONE

Food Drive

Carol Bird (PIO) writes:

Food Drive / Disaster Preparedness November 22, 2008



On Saturday, November 22, a number of volunteers from the Nye County Emergency Services gathered in front of Albertson's grocery store to host their first Food Drive in 2008. Kevin Kleinworth brought literature on disaster preparedness that included:

- Refrigerator magnets with 14 critical items needed before a disaster happens
- Coloring books, "Learning Natural Disaster Safety" an educational coloring and activity book.
- Pamphlets from Homeland Security on recommendations for what to maintain *before* a disaster strikes. Also Emer-

gency Supply lists, what to have on hand to make it on your own for *three* days.

- Emergency Preparedness Guide. A concise guide of valuable information including major evacuation routes, shelter locations, disaster planning for floods, fires or earthquakes. What to do in extreme heat or during a flu pandemic. How to assemble a supplies kit, what kinds of family documents you should have on hand, etc.

- Glow sticks – keep a supply of glow sticks on hand in addition to flashlights.

Personal first aid kits.

Volunteers handed out the above materials while collecting much needed food for the local food banks in Pahrump. Over 200 pounds of non-perishable food was collected and donated to the Pahrump Community Church. This food pantry supplies meals for nearly 500 families on a weekly basis.

Matt Clayton, Jana Riley, Vern Swearingen, Brent Jones, Marty Wehrly, Vance Payne and Kevin Kleinworth were in attendance, as well as Fred Jones, Jerry Fuge, Steve and Carol Bird. We had wonderful weather for the event, handed out a great deal of material for public dissemination and col-

lected for the many needy families in our area. We are looking forward to another successful event on December 6 which will be in conjunction with KNYE Radio. Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to continuing to work towards filling the food pantry's in the county.

("We will continue these food drives through out the year, as there are people hungry year round, not just around the holidays")



Jim Medici-Fire Chief/Training Officer

Food for thought about Scene safety,

As we go about our jobs here in Nye County, do we always put Safety FIRST?

Attending classes recently, I heard stories of lessons learned by other Departments regarding the Safety of response, scene safety, accountability, operational safety, and daily safety.

For the majority of our Departments, calls are few and far between, so when there is a call, are we all guilty of operating response equipment in excess of acceptable speeds?

If the responder does not make the call or to the Station because of a collision, who will the unsafe actions benefit? I know the argument is that if there is no traffic, no hazard. Well that is incorrect, what if there is a tire or other mechanical failure? Do we operate this equipment often enough to compensate for the emergency? Also consider the possibility of unseen hazards, such as other drivers violating traffic laws, and the extra stopping distance of heavy equipment, do you provide for these types of situations or are you thinking about the quickest route to the scene and what you may find upon arrival?

Remember that these incidents are not YOUR Emergency. If you are responding to an incident and create or are involved in a collision, who will be coming to YOUR aid?

"Professional" is a STATE OF MIND!

Webster's Revised Unabridged

Pro*fes"sion*al, a. 1. Of or pertaining to a profession, or calling; conforming to the rules or standards of a profession; following a profession; as, professional knowledge; professional conduct. "Pride, not personal, but professional." --Macaulay. "A professional sneerer." --De Quincey.

2. Engaged in by professionals; as, a professional race; -- opposed to amateur.

This is a definition that I found in two seconds on the internet, a lot of definitions include the definition of performing a skill or trade for pay, but that does not apply to most of us. For most, Emergency Services, whether it is EMS, HAZMAT, or Fire, this is something we volunteer to do for a multitude of reasons.

Here is a definition of Volunteer;

Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1)

vol-un-teen

—noun 1. a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking.

2. a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

3. Military. a person who enters the service voluntarily rather than through conscription or draft, esp. for special or temporary service rather than as a member of the regular or permanent army.

4. Law. a. a person whose actions are not founded on any legal obligation so to act.

b. a person who intrudes into a matter that does not concern him or her, as a person who pays the debt of another where he or she is neither legally nor morally bound to do so and has no interest to protect in making the payment.

—verb (used without object) 9. to offer oneself for some service or undertaking.

10. to enter service or enlist as a volunteer.

—verb (used with object) 11. to offer (oneself or one's services) for some undertaking or purpose.

12. to give, bestow, or perform voluntarily: to volunteer a song.

13. to say, tell, or communicate voluntarily: to volunteer an explanation.

No part of the Volunteer definition states that Volunteers are unprofessional, and no part of the Professional definition excludes a Volunteer.

When we are part of something as noble as Volunteer Emergency Services, we should want to be as professional as possible. Since

America witnessed 343 firefighters, 14 EMS responders perish in a horrible attack, YOU have been elevated to an even higher standard than before, You are America's Hometown Heroes. Part of being affiliated with your local response group is taking pride in your Department and your Community, act accordingly, it is easy to demand the respect of being a Volunteer Firefighter, sometimes it is even harder to earn the high respect of being a Firefighter. We can all work together to be the best and most professional, but this requires work and effort, which is sometimes overlooked by being overconfident. Being a Volunteer Firefighter isn't a negative term. Be proud, look good, work hard at improving your skills, and remember you are a PROFESSIONAL.

Recently nine Volunteers from three Stations in Nye County, Amargosa Valley, Beatty, and Station 51, completed the requirements of the State of Nevada and NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications to earn their Firefighter I certificate. I am very proud to list their names; James Bowers, Jason Thompson, Mike Harmon, Larry Levy, Vern Sweringen, Trevor Dolby, Lon Fuller, Shaun Gilliland, Qiana Medici. Congratulations to you, and thanks to our Instructors, Jack Martincavage, Karl Schuermann, Martha Wherly, Rod Fernandes, Keith Young and Kevin Kleinworth.

These folks exemplify "Firefighter", I can't thank all of the Students and Instructors enough.



HO, HO, HO and Y'all Be Safe!

From: Vance Payne, Workplace Safety and Training Officer



Happy Holidays to all of you! This is a most joyous time of year. The time for family and friends to come together to share all the things we cherish and have been blessed with.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you just how much I have enjoyed coming here to work with you. I have been blessed to come to know so many fine people. Thank you all!

In a further effort to share, I would like you to consider the following information. I hope that it may make your Holiday a little safer and enjoyable.

Holiday Decoration Safety Tips-

Trees- If you use an artificial tree, it is highly recommended that it have a fire resistance statement with it.



A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember:

- A fresh tree is green. Duh!
- Fresh needles are hard to pull from the tree.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- When the trunk of the tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of needles shows that the tree is too dry.

Keep your tree away from all heating appliances and flame sources.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water

while the tree is indoors.



Artificial Snow- Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. Be careful around people with respiratory ailments. To avoid injury, read container labels: follow directions carefully.

Lights- Indoors or outside; use only lights that have been tested for safety. Any damage to the string makes them suspect and should not be used.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage.

Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and cause a fire.

Never use lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become energized with electricity from faulty lights, and anyone touching a branch could be electrocuted.

Candles- Be extremely cautious in the placement of candles near any combustibles.

Always use a non-flammable holder.



Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper.

Candles are a major source of holiday house fires. Please extinguish them when not in the room or when leaving your home.

Turkey Fryers- The widespread use of turkey fryers nationwide has created increased injuries and fires. Follow manufacturer's directions completely. Heed the following directions:

- Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.
- Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures.
- Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, or any structure that can catch fire.
- Raise and lower food slowly to reduce splatter

and avoid burns.

- COVER bare skin when adding or removing food.
- Check oil temperature frequently.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF. At this point the oil is near the ignition temperature.

General Rules for Safety- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of reach of children.

Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.

Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.

- **Holiday Safety Includes Security-** During the holidays, it is easy to let your guard down. Be aware!
- When shopping, park in well lit areas.
- When placing items purchased in your vehicle, cover them up or put in the trunk, and lock the vehicle.
- Keep your doors secured at home.
- Be careful with credit cards and personal information. Keep away from prying eyes and prevent identity theft.

Make This Holiday Season Healthy One- Winter weather and hectic schedules can lower the body's defenses. Here are 10 tips for avoiding and preventing illness.

- Wash your hands a lot.
- Don't share cups.
- Use tissues when you blow your nose, then throw them away.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Use disposable paper towels in the kitchen, not cloth ones.
- Wash your children's toys once a week.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or your hands when you sneeze.
- Open your windows when the weather is decent. Consider buying a humidifier.
- Frequently clean doorknobs, light switches, telephones, and counter tops.
- Don't let anyone smoke in your house.



In closing, I wish a healthy and happy Holiday to you and your families. And, may the New Year be a true Blessing to you all!

Vance Payne, Workplace Safety and Training Officer

From Animal Control

STATE LAW REQUIRES RABIES VACCINATIONS FOR ALL DOGS, CATS AND DOMESTICATED FERRETS !

If your dog, cat or domesticated ferret is not vaccinated, is not up-to-date on its vaccinations, or is not properly confined after biting someone, as the owner you may be subject to a fine of \$187 for each offense. Additional fines may apply.

There are only 6 known cases of a person surviving symptomatic rabies. Approximately 55,000 people worldwide die each year from rabies. In order to prevent such tragedy, rabies vaccinations are required by law and are required prior to receiving a pet's license.

Read more: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabies>



**NYE COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Contact information

Office:
1510 E. Siri Lane, Ste 1
Pahrump, NV 89060
Phone: (775) 751-4279
Fax: (775) 751-4280

Animal Control:
1510 E. Siri Lane, Ste 2
Pahrump, NV 89060
Phone: (775) 751-6315
Fax: (775) 751-4280

NEWSLETTER:
Phone: (775) 751-6316
Fax: (775) 751-4280
E-mail: clandsberry@co.nye.nv.us

*We are on the web:
Nyecounty.net*



TRAINING INFORMATION:

Fire Training:

Jim Medici: (775) 209-0861
e-mail: jmedici@co.nye.nv.us



EMS Training:

Patty Winters: (775) 482-7244
e-mail: pwinters@co.nye.nv.us



New Hire & Safety Training:

Vance Payne (775) 209-6861
e-mail: vpayne@co.nye.nv.us



A word from Brent Jones– Director

Many of you who read this newsletter each quarter are well aware of the battles that Nye County Emergency Services has had to fight to get to where we are today. I wish I could say that the battles were over on all fronts, but that would be a very optimistic statement. In the Emergency Services / Animal Control world, we do not know what adventure and/or what type of issue or problem may arise each day. John Lennon put it so well when he said: "Life is what Happens to you while you're busy making other plans." In the Emergency Response / Emergency Preparedness field we never know what each day will bring, and we are constantly preparing for the unknown. Fortunately we have put one of the most qualified, best

suited, hardest working and professional staff together in the nation. The problem with public safety departments usually starts with the lack of staff. What Nye County lacks in numbers we make up ten-fold in dedication and commitment to the task at hand. Everyone within the County should feel very comfortable about the fact that we are blessed with great staff, tremendously dedicated and professional volunteers, and the support of the County Manager and the Board of County Commissioners. I personally want to thank each and every one who makes "getting the job done" a priority in their lives. You truly make a difference!

Before the next newsletter comes

out, the holiday season will have come and gone. The time seems to fly by at an extremely quick pace the older I get. All of us who represent Nye County Emergency Services throughout this great County want to wish each of you the very best of holiday seasons. Be safe, enjoy the warmth and love of your families, and rest assured that the Nye County dedicated staff and volunteers will be standing fast, ready to render aid at a moment's notice. Happy Holidays to one and all!

