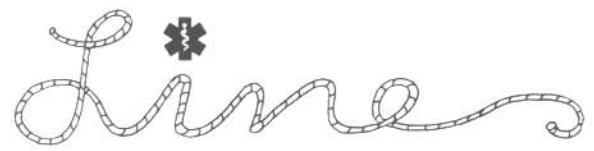




RESCUE



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS • PUBLISHED BI-ANNUALLY •

1995 VOLUME I NUMBER 1

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Arnold

OBION COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD



Crash trucks are pictured in front of Obion Squad headquarters in Union City, Tennessee

The Obion County Rescue Squad celebrated its 30th anniversary this past year. As you know, anniversaries are not only a celebration of past accomplishments, but a pep rally for the future as well. This squad has managed an impressive list of accomplishments and sets an example that many units would be smart to follow.

Obion County is one of the most Northwestern counties in Tennessee with a population of about 32,000 people. The squad provides water/land search and rescue services as well as vehicle extrication services with its all volunteer crew of 26 members. Obion County also has an 11 member crewette auxiliary which provides service and support to many of the squads functions. The squads annual operating budget is typically around \$30,000 with the bulk of funds being provided by the United Way. The remainder of the annual budget is made up through public and private donations.

The latest addition to the equipment roster is a new 1995, 2 ton diesel powered International with an enclosed utility body. This unit will see service as an additional crash truck, which virtually mirrors the squads 1990 International in appearance as well as layout and equipment. One major difference is that the new truck carries an onboard water tank with a capacity

of 600 gallons vs. the 150 gallon tank in the 1990 unit. A P. T. O. driven pump feeds a 1 1/4" hose reel that provides ample fire suppression capabilities in many situations where fire fighting assistance might otherwise be unavailable. Both units are equipped with a full compliment of Hurst heavy hydraulics, hand tools, cribbing, and an assortment of emergency medical gear. An onboard 4 KW generator provides power to both fixed and portable quartz lights for night time operations. In short, these are top-of-the-line units both in appearance and function.

Have you asked yourself "Just how is this possible with what most everyone would agree is a modest budget?" I know I did, and I think the answer is based on three qualities; smart money management, dedication, and professionalism. In todays market, a truck like this with a custom rescue bed could easily hit \$80,000. However, Obion County chose another path. By ordering the truck they wanted and fitting it with a standard utility body coupled with in-house design and a lot of hard work, they secured this truck for under \$50,000. This figure includes the radio, warning lights, generator, fire fighting system, and lettering. All that was left to do then was to add the equipment. I call that Smart Money Management. In all fairness, the county government did give a

special appropriation above the standard budget to help the squad purchase this unit. But that can be attributed to the other two qualities; dedication and professionalism.

The dedication and professionalism is apparent, it shows in the pride that is taken in the upkeep and orderliness of the building and equipment. The truck bays are clean and lined off where the equipment is stored. The office, meeting rooms, and crew quarters are spotless, with trophies and certificates neatly displayed. The vehicles and other equipment, whether new or old, are kept clean and are decal, striped, and lettered in a like manner. The members are always dressed out in an approved uniform and seem to share in the realization that everyone else counts on them to do their part and work together as a team.

These qualities stand out and are noticed by both the citizens and public officials as well. While there will always be challenges and occasional problems to deal with in any unit, a well disciplined squad that sets high standards will come out ahead. I think Obion County figured that out and put together the formula that has demonstrated accomplishments in the past, and shows promise of a bright future in the years to come. ■

This is our first issue of the Rescue Line newsletter which will be published twice a year. The information which you will receive, we hope is informative and educational to you and your squad. A lot of work has gone into preparing this first issue, and I want to thank each person that has helped in such a short period of time.

First, I would like to say that it was indeed an honor to serve as President of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads in 1994, representing Tennessee's approximate 4,700 members from 114 squads throughout our great state.

*"This year we will
be celebrating our
40th
Anniversary"*

One of the highlights of the year was the 1994 convention, which was held in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Maxwell House Hotel. I hope all who attended the convention had an enjoyable time. The Convention Committee and the State Officers spent a lot of time planning, scheduling events, working with the hotel staff in addressing and making sure all of our needs were taken care of. A special thanks goes to our host squads Cheatham County, Montgomery County, Williamson County, and UAW Ford for a very enjoyable convention. The Convention Committee is again busy planning some new and exciting things for this years convention in Nashville. This year we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary. Everyone should be making plans to attend. Remember, this is your convention, and it takes you to make it a success. Also, I would like to congratulate all teams and individuals who won awards at the 1994 convention.

See **President** Page 2

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORTS

GUATEMALAN FIRE/RESCUE MEMBERS ATTEND TARS CONVENTION

By Doug Warren

The Guatemalan's express a sincere THANK YOU for making their trip to Tennessee possible. To them it was equivalent to winning the lottery. They were made to feel welcome every day of their visit.

A special thanks to those who attended the convention, to Morris Simpson, Steven Frost, Mark Bowery, Steve Carden, Mike Brookshire, Asst. Chief Robert Watson, Russ Miller, and others involved in providing the training to Bomberos Juan Ramon DeLeon, Chief Jose Pacacoj, and Bombero Jose Osorio.

During their stay they spent a day with the Nashville Fire Department, attended the TARS Convention in Nashville, became certified in CPR, received two days of Basic Fire Training, completed Advanced Extrication, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and Basic Rope Technical Rescue Training. All this packed into 17 days. Some time was set aside for leisure that included a day at the "shopping mall" and a rafting trip down the Ocoee River, compliment of Ocoee Outdoors.

It was an opportunity of a lifetime for these Bomberos. They will take the training they received back and

share it with the 3,500 volunteers throughout Guatemala. They were able to take back lots of needed and appreciated equipment and medical supplies.

It was, as well as being informative, a very emotional time for them. While away from home one's wife gave birth to a child, one's 25 year old brother died, and one's wife and child experienced an armed intruder breaking into their home. All this and the adjustments to the American way of life added up to the experience of a lifetime.

They all returned home safely and are now sharing their experiences with their fellow friends and bomberos in Guatemala City and Chichicastenango. You have friends in Guatemala forever.

Equipment and medical supplies are being collected to take to Guatemala in June of 1995. Any individual, squad, fire department, or other organization who would like to make a donation of rescue items or money should do so at the February Region meetings or the State Directors meeting in March. Thanks for all your help and interest in our friends in Guatemala. ■

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER By Roy L. Goddard

We are beginning a new year. The 1995 Officers have been elected and installed in most of the rescue squads across the state. Some have been re-elected to their office and have experience in serving in that responsibility. Others are elected for the first time and will be facing new responsibilities.

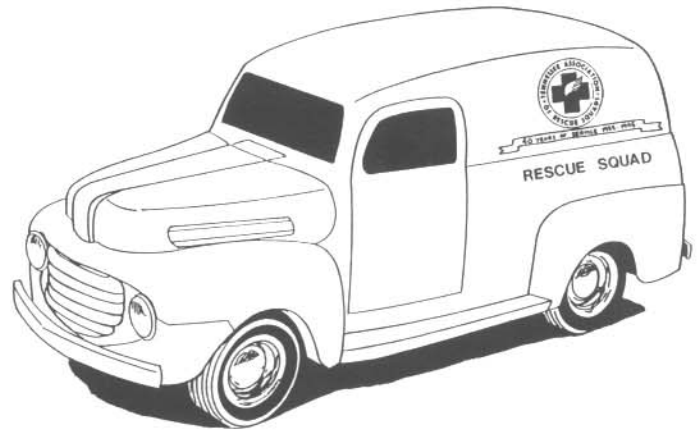
Let me encourage each and everyone of you, who are serving as Chaplain, to prepare yourselves to better serve the members of your squad. Remember, many of the missions our squads are dealing with are life or death situations and can cause emotional stress for our members. In some cases the victim may even be family members or good friends of our members answering the call.

Be sure to make yourself available to each member when there is a need.

In some situations, you may need to arrange debriefing meetings or counseling sessions. If needed, you can obtain help from ministers in the community with these sessions. Also, in most areas of the state, professional groups are available to help with these type sessions. If you insure with VFIS certain coverages may even cover counseling costs.

Do not forget the families of the victims. In many tragedies such as; drownings, house fires, missing persons, suicides, auto accidents, etc. you may be one of the first available to the family members. The compassion and concern you show the family will help them through a tragic time.

Chaplains, let us resolve to perform the duties of our office to the very best of our ability in 1995. ■



40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE KEEPSAKE PROPOSED

1995 will mark the 40th Anniversary of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads. In recognition of this, the State Officers will propose the purchase of, in limited quantity, a 1950 Ford Panel Van "Bank" if enough interest is shown to justify the minimum order required.

The model will be die cast metal at 1/25 scale, painted white with chrome wheels, chrome accents, and a key locking mechanism on the bank. It would also have the TARS logo and a 40th anniversary marking in official colors displayed on both sides. If authorized, the Ertl Company will manufacture the panel van as a limited edition, one-of-a-kind collectors item that you could cherish for a lifetime. Ertl is a major manufacturer/distributor of toys and hobby kits and is the leading manufacturer of custom collectible vehicles in America today.

It is anticipated that a full color representation of the model will be shown at the February Region Meetings. The price of the "bank"

will be \$20 each and advance orders will be accepted at the Region meeting as well. Payment by check or money order is required with the placement of your order. If a sufficient quantity is pre-sold, it is anticipated the Board of Directors will authorize placement of the bulk order. If not, your money will be promptly refunded.

Since this particular model is a new product addition to the Ertl line, actual production would not take place until mid-summer of 1995. We would plan on distributing your orders at the 1995 convention in Nashville or for an additional charge you may choose to have your order shipped to you. Proceeds from the "bank" will help fund 40th anniversary activities and promotions throughout this year.

Remember, only a limited number will be available, and they will be offered on a first come - first serve basis. So, be prepared to place your order for a keepsake that is bound to become a collectors item. ■

President (continued from Page 1)

The Officers of our Association will be meeting several times this year to develop clear goals and objectives to support volunteer rescue squads and to effectively represent, promote, and protect the interest of volunteers to better serve the citizens of Tennessee. I believe we can be successful in accomplishing our mission by working together as a team; and as team members, each of us has the

responsibility to make our goals attainable, as we commit first to our local squad, and then to our region, and finally to our Association. Working together as a team, we will be successful. I will be looking forward to seeing each of you at the February Region meetings. Please make your plans to attend. Support your Region and your Association. ■

EVENTS CALENDAR

1995 TARS MEETINGS

FEB 95 REGION MTGS

- I 2/04 LIMESTONE
- II 2/11 EAST/WEST POLK
- III 2/18 DICKSON COUNTY
- IV 2/25 HUMBOLDT AREA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 18 COOKEVILLE, TN

JUNE 95 REGION MTGS

- I 6/03 MORRISTOWN
- II 6/10 MONROE
- III 6/17 VAN BUREN CO
- IV 6/24 T.B.A.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 15 MURFREESBORO, TN

40 TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCT 5,6,7 - NASHVILLE, TN

RESCUE COLLEGE

MANAGING SEARCH OPS

JAN 23-27, MURFREESBORO

BASIC VISUAL TRACKING

MARCH 20-24, WEST TN

SCHOOL BUS RESCUE

WINCHESTER - MARCH 24-26

BASIC VISUAL TRACKING

APRIL 24-28, MIDDLE TN

ADVANCED EXTRICATION

COLLIERVILLE-MAY 19-21

BASIC VISUAL TRACKING

MAY 22-26, EAST TN

INSTRUCTOR I - WILLIAMSON

COUNTY - MAY 26-28

OTHER TRAINING

ANNUAL INSTRUCTOR UPDATES

- REG I 4/01 KINGSFORT
- REG II 4/08 ETOWAH
- REG III 4/15 RUTHERFORD
- REG IV 4/22 CARROLL

2ND ANNUAL RESCUE SQUAD MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

MAY 6, M.T.S.U.

Specific information regarding meetings and training will be mailed to each TARS unit usually 30 days in advance. Training classes and dates are subject to cancellations or rescheduling.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Paul Anderson

TARS members, another year has come and gone. I hope all of you had a safe and warm Christmas. I also, hope the New Year is prosperous and safe for one and all.

We now have several training opportunities for each squad and its' membership. One of your responsibilities as squad members is to be a trained professional in the service you render to the public. Although technically we do not manufacture a product, we must consider our product to be people's lives and well being. As professionals we need to take advantage of all the training that is offered by TARS.

Morris Simpson, TARS Training Coordinator, has upgraded our courses over the past several years to what they are today.

"... We must consider our product to be people's lives and well being."

When we are well trained it makes us look good in the public's eye. When we look good and stand out in our communities, fundraising becomes easier. In the New Year let's all strive for safety and training for all TARS members.

If I can be of any assistance in training, membership, or just to be a friend, please call me. ■

TRAINING AND SAFETY

EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

By Neil Rossman, P. C., Attorney at Law

A NEED TO FORMULATE POLICIES

Since it is a fact that your greatest chance of being involved in the legal system arises out of vehicle operation (and supervision), it seems to me that departments and chief officers would do well to formulate policies in advance to minimize their exposure to possible lawsuits. All anyone needs to file a lawsuit is a ballpoint pen and \$125 for the entry fee. It would be nice if I could guarantee that you will never be named in a lawsuit, but that is impossible. The real trick is to avoid being found liable, which is the legal term for being at fault.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

How can prudent departments begin to avoid being found responsible for traffic and vehicle related lawsuits? The first way, and the way which I have continually been preaching to anyone who will listen, is to institute a bonafide training program for

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

By Bill Sowell

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are having a Happy New Year! The Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads had a real good year in 1994, with the addition of seven new squads.

Now is the time to look to 1995. Let us all work together for the betterment of our Association.

As I have stated at Region Meetings and Captain/Unit Directors Meetings, whenever possible I will continue to take pictures of your equipment and building to put in the State Scrapbook to share with other squad members. Each squad will be sent a print of the same pictures.

Hope to see each of you at the Region Meetings in February and June. ■

apparatus drivers. Department members should not be allowed to operate emergency vehicles based simply upon their ability to arrive at the station before anyone else. Likewise, assignments as an operator ought not to be made on the basis of seniority or advanced age. Members who take, and successfully complete, an apparatus driver's safety course should be certified for such duty and should have to re-certify on a regular basis, every three years not being unreasonable.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course should involve a written examination as well as a practical evaluation of driving and operating skills and the successful candidates should receive a certificate of successful completion for their personnel files. The written exam and the practical driving test need not be on a par with being qualified as a NASA astronaut, but should be a genuine and defensible course which teaches and evaluates real operator skills and knowledge.

See **Accidents** Page 4

WATCH YOUR SPEED

Secondly, I have constantly reminded my students and audiences that speed of response is not necessarily the mark of a great fire department. You are no good to anyone, including yourself, if you are involved in a traffic accident on the way to an emergency. At the very least, you have taken yourself and the piece out of service. At the worst, you have hurt or killed someone, perhaps yourself.

Thirdly, and perhaps this should be first from a personal protection point of view, wear your seat belt. Be fully dressed and equipped before the piece begins to move.

CHECK THE EQUIPMENT

Fourthly, if there is any doubt in your mind about the serviceability or safety of a piece of apparatus or a tool carried thereon, put it out of service and report it immediately up the departmental chain of command.

Don't be afraid to ground the piece under justifiable circumstances.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Lastly, take into consideration the limitations imposed by your environment. Extreme conditions of weather including ice, snow, rain, wind and/or darkness should dictate extreme caution.

I trust that these thoughts have been of use to you and that you will adopt them into your everyday department protocol. Even if you disagree with me, at the very least, they will cause discussion and debate and at least serve to make people aware of the problem. Remember, no one is immune from being named in a lawsuit. You can, however, take prudent and advance steps to insure that your conduct, when called into question, will be found to be reasonable and proper. ■

Editor's Note: This article has been condensed and reprinted with permission from the VFIS News.



A portion of the costs of this newsletter has been provided for by VFIS of Tennessee

FOR SALE

1988 FORD TYPE II HIGHTOP F-350 AMBULANCE (REBUILT DIESEL) - \$13,000.00 OR BEST OFFER. ROANE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD - 615-882-0297 OR 615-354-4069

THREE GENERAL ELECTRIC MASTER PRO MOBILE RADIOS TWO CHANNEL UNITS EQUIPPED WITH 155.205 & 155.340 \$200.00 EACH - CONTACT J. P. ROBINSON, SECRETARY DAVIDSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD - 615-373-5736

Items to be listed must be submitted to TARS office by December 30 for January issue and June 30 for July issue. Please provide brief description of item, contact, and price, if applicable.



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