

Bethany Salem Fire Department

December 2016

Volunteers

With out the idea, the inspiration, someone willing to bring all the threads together, BSFD would not exist. Without the efforts of those who dream up the fund raisers, that raise the funds, BSFD would not exist. Without those who pay the bills, who run the numbers, who manage the accounts, BSFD would not exist. Without those who get the buildings built, who keep the heaters running, the bay doors on, the radios working, BSFD would not exist. Without those who clean the bays, clean the bathrooms, pull the weeds, pick up the trash, mow the yard, BSFD would not exist. Without those who inspect the engines, maintain the equipment, check the batteries, BSFD would not exist. Without those who carry a beeper and who are willing to stop there normal lives and respond, BSFD would not exist.

BSFD is far more then a fire fighter on a hose. It is a deep and wide pyramid of volunteers, and without them, BSFD would not exist.

BETHANY-SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

From the Chief

As 2016 comes to a close, I want to thank each of you for a wonderful year!

We have been blessed this year, especially when we look at the world around us. Our prayers are still with the victims of Gatlinburg, as you all know a place very special to me!

Bethany Salem Fire Department

December 2016

The Christmas Dinner



2016 Awards

(Special Award: Tom Gray received a Job shirt as a thank you for his work this year.)
(He also, removed his name from the eligibility list for all awards this year.)

10 Year Service Award: Kevin Duncan

25 Year Service Award: Kristy Easterwood

Frank P Riddick: Pam Gray for running the most calls this year.

William "Bill" Craddock: Pam Gray for the most in house volunteer training hours received.

Firefighter of the Year: Greg Moore; awarded by nomination.

Support Member of the Year: Pam Gray; awarded by nomination.

Bethany Salem Fire Department

December 2016

Recent Social Events

The Christmas party was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all. We hope you had the opportunity to attend, for those who did not, the evening was a quiet, social time with a wonderful feel and atmosphere. We were blessed to have Chief Riddick and his wife Glenese in attendance.

Greg was recognized for his outstanding contribution to us as Firefighter of the Year. He consistently is one of our best responders and he has been on scene at numerous fires throughout Pickens County this year. He has proven himself time and time again to be a solid volunteer both to us here at BSFD and to all the other departments in the county. Good job Greg!



Pam was recognized for her outstanding support. We all know that Pam is absolutely essential to me. Without her constant support, I would not be able to participate in the station at the level that I do. O Dark Hundred, with freezing temperatures, she is in the car ready to go, uniform shirt, vest and hat. Time and time again she is the first responder on scene at so many medical calls. I cannot tell how many times I have seen her, kneeling before a patient, patiently asking the right questions and making the right decisions. It is always a blessing to me

to have her with me on the many calls she makes. Her being there allows me the luxury of monitoring the scene and updating other inbound units. Pam was recognized not only for the many calls she makes but for her many hours of training both at BSFD and at County courses. Thank you so much Pam for supporting us and for allowing me to contribute to BSFD.

Chief Riddick and Chief Prather both spoke and reminded us of the risks and rewards associated with fire fighting. We all learn from their knowledge and experience. Lessons they have learned and passed onto us, such as the importance of checking your nozzle before entering a fire and more mundane but equally important tricks on how to inspect engines (and in this case, tires). They have wealth of knowledge that we can all benefit from. To all of those who came before us, our thanks!

Bethany Salem Fire Department

December 2016

Recent Incidents

The quiet stretch has ended. BSFD has been inundated with numerous calls the past few weeks. Luckily, most have been routine and our support to other arriving County personnel was mostly to locate homes, to "be there if needed" and to handle radio traffic.

Others have required more effort. A recent medical call exemplifies why we are needed. This particular call was to a home that is literally falling apart. Unsafe staircases, collapsed flooring, exposed electrical lines, an unresponsive patient, freezing weather, and the need for more personnel than a normal response.

BSFD has also had a several calls relating to both broken water pipes and to very high voltage power lines causing an arcing fire potentially dropping the lines onto a busy road.

As we all know, Dispatch provides us with the best information they can, updates us with new information while en-route, but it is impossible to know what we will really encounter on scene. Scene size up, scene safety and, as I am still learning, request additional resources early.

This really is why we are here. Responding is the entire point of BSFD. Nice buildings, neatly stacked papers, clean, ready to roll machines, are of no use, if no one answers the call. So, please, leave those beepers, radios and phones on, and, if you can respond, you will make a difference.



Type Total Report

Print Date: 05-Dec-16
Print Time: 08:01:37 AM
User Name: easterwoo

Incidents Created From: 01-Nov-16 00:00:00 AM To: 01-Dec-16 00:00:00 AM; Unit Org: PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8; Unit(s): All; Source: All; Community: All

Unit Org	Event	Event Description	Type Count
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	33AC	FIRE ALARM COMMERCIAL	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	33B	BRUSH FIRE	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	33G	GRASS FIRE	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	33I	ILLEGAL BURN	6
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	33O	OTHER TYPE FIRE	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	33R	FIRE IN RESIDENCE	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	33S	SMOKE INVESTIGATION	3
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	39	INFORMATION FOR OFFICER	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	41I	MVA WITH INJURIES	2
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	47C3	PERSON INJURED EMERGENCY	2
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	53A	SUICIDE ATTEMPT	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	55	UNKNOWN TROUBLE	1
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	76C3	PERSON SICK CODE 3	24
PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8	76MA	MEDICAL ALARM	1

Type Count -PICKENS.FIRE.BETHANY SALEM ST8: 46

Bethany Salem Fire Department

December 2016

Equipment Status

There has recently become available a convenient source of non-ethanol "regular" (ie. unleaded) fuel. We have taken advantage of this by discarding (or relegating to non-critical machinery) the older fuel in the Station which may have contained ethanol. It is hoped that the various engines we operate will perform better with this non-ethanol fuel. All of the 2 cycle (mix) engines have been drained and refilled with non-ethanol based mix, as well as the cans on the engines. The four stroke (ie. non-mix fuel) engines while not completely drained of fuel, have been topped off with the new fuel. Hopefully this will increase the reliability of our engines.

Remember, all of our engines should be "staged" to start. I can tell you from first hand experience the incredible difficulty in attempting to start an engine you are not familiar with. Fumbling for a fuel cutoff, a choke, an on/off switch while in the dark, often in turn out gear, is not fun. While there are some reasons to argue otherwise, all of the equipment should be as close to "simply pull the cord" as possible. The chainsaws are stored, on, choke on. The K-12, on, choke on. The generators, fuel line on. The fan, fuel on, choke on, switch on. As much as is possible, on our equipment, if on scene, simply pull the cord and it will start. Be aware though that other engines in the County may not be set up that way. If you are using equipment from another engine, you may find yourself fumbling for glasses and a flashlight trying to remember if I means on or O means on. But, with Station 8 equipment, all you do is pull the cord!

E80 - First Out Engine for our Fire District. A razor has been added to the AED. Remember, this engine is not on an air compressor. You will need to start the engine to give the engine time to fill the air tank before leaving the station. My technique is to start the engine, preflight (an airplane term, it means walk around) put on your turn out gear, by then the air should be ready.

E81 - Second Out Engine - Water Supply to Other Districts. During the most recent Engine Inspection, the generator stalled while under load but recovered and operated normally afterwards. This has been followed up and the generator is working normally. E81 picked up a flat tire but this was quickly repaired, free of charge, by Mike at Jasper Tire. Thank you Mike!

E82 - First Out Engine to the Preserve. It is a functional fire engine equipped with hand tools, Scott 2216s and a chainsaw. The 2216s are fully operational. The med bag on E82 has not been recently inspected. The compressor in Salem has failed, as a consequence, like E80, plan to give the engine time to fill the air tank. It fills fast.

T80 - First Out Brush Truck. The "Tanker" (Forestry pumper) continues to serve us well. A 1" hose reel, a 1 3/4 nozzle. Basic hand tools and 1350 gallons of water. The engine has new tires and solid batteries. Unfortunately, the area lights on the rear of the tanker have failed. They are large, around 5 to 6 inch bulbs and probably need replacing, if it is not some other problem. I am not sure yet, if I will replace the bulbs or replace the lights. I will let you know.

S80 - Squad Vehicle. Squad 80 contains a collection of hand tools, medical bag, oxygen bag and support equipment. The med bag has not been recently inspected. Due to the number of calls recently made by "Pam" Squad 80 is located at her house. If S80 is needed by other BSFD members simply give us a call and we will return it to the station.

The power steering leak on S80 continues to be a problem. At some point, this must be addressed.

Bethany Salem Fire Department

December 2016

HYDRANT TESTING

Hydrant testing is on our list of "Honey Do's". All of our hydrants have been recently painted. It is now time to get crews out to ensure that they do indeed flow water.

Unfortunately, now it is simply too cold to stand in ankle deep water, even in turnout gear. Hydrant testing is on hold until, well, it warms up!

Still, if you are interested in working on this project contact me.

Mystery Repair!



Did you know that debris burning is Georgia's number one cause of wildfires? To prevent injury and damage, state law requires residents to obtain a burn permit before burning outdoors. Illegal burning without a permit is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and a year imprisonment. Stay safe...burn legally...burn wisely. Secure a permit, 24 hours a day.

It's fast and easy at
GaTrees.org or 1.877.OK2-BURN.

The open fire ban has been lifted. Normal burn procedures are in effect.

It is BSFD policy to interpret authorized "warming" fires to mean that a supervised campfire is an authorized burn. We are trying to protect the environment and guard against wildfires, but we recognize that a supervised campfire is an important part of our community.

Campfires, if supervised, are cool.

Bethany Salem Fire Department

December 2016

Medical Training

Kevin would like to increase the refresher medical training and I think that would be a great idea. He has a wealth of knowledge and access to many training devices.

If someone would like to work with Kevin to help set up some training sessions on AEDs, CPR, choking, Epi-pens, backboarding, O2 administration, and such, please contact him. I know I would benefit greatly from a course on any of these subjects.

Membership & Fund Raising

We have a solid group of core members, but, all organizations must bring in new members. I know that on each call I make, if it is appropriate, I mention that we, usually the first people on scene, are volunteers and are looking for new volunteers. I like to point out that there is a need not just for a fire fighter on a nozzle, but for drivers, engineers, support, station support, fund raising, membership drives, cleaning, mowing, gardening and help with administration. Please, each and everyone of us need to continue to bring new members into BSFD.

Equipment and Shop Maintenance

The "tool shop" and our rolling stock, soon hopefully to include B80, require constant attention. If the opportunity arises to help out in maintaining and inspecting equipment or organizing our tools, it would be greatly appreciated.