

THE VOLUNTEER VIEW

Issue # 19

APR - JUN 2015

A Quarterly Publication for the
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association

Building a Safer Community Through Volunteerism

Chief's Corner

Chief Patrick Arata

“Mommy what does “V” “O” “L”
“U” “N” “T” “E” “E” “R” spell?”



“Wow Johnny that is a big word, were do you see that? It is on that man’s shirt, who is in the street, do you see him.”

“Yes Johnny, I do, he is a Volunteer for the Police Department, and he is helping the police direct traffic for the 5K race.”

“But Mom what is a VOLUNTEER?”

A volunteer is a person who works for an organization without being paid. They freely offer to do something for someone.

As the new Chief of Police for the Town of Trophy Club, I cannot say how much I appreciate having such a great volunteer organization. After my second week as Chief, I asked for help from the volunteers to conduct the inventory of the police department, review policies and other items to help prepare the department for the future. The response from volunteers was great and for so many people to give freely in a small town is amazing, and everyday I have more calls from the volunteers asking what else they can do to help.

I have started working on a plan that will allow our volunteers to get more involved. One example is assisting with traffic control during school drop off and pickup. Along with this, I am training the volunteers to assist with helping the Police Department’s Special Support Division (SSD). This

would include things such as filing reports, reviewing department documents, and helping with grant writing. The SSD also supervises the Animal Control Unit. The volunteers will assist the Animal Control Officer with caring for animals that are lost and/or housed overnight.

Finally, volunteers will assist the Chief with special projects related to making our police department the best we can. I believe that this Police Department and our Volunteers are the best in North Texas. A big thank you to all that currently volunteer and to those who will help in the future.

Lightning Rods for the Home

Donna Schlenger - Volunteer

The National Fire Protection Assoc. states, “There are few fire causes against which so reliable a defense is available.” Hmmm, really?

Don’t you love to watch the sky light up on a rainy night with bolts of amazing lightning and robust thunder? I do! I have spent many a day or evening sitting in my garage with my Daisy dog watching Texas storms roll in and out. My thoughts were always how beautiful, Mother Nature at her best! However that being said, it is also one of the most DEADLY natural phenomena’s known to man!

The Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association (TCEVA)

What we do—assist emergency personnel in various capacities such as providing provisions during extended emergency situations and raising funds to purchase equipment for volunteer activities. With further training, volunteers help direct traffic for special events, assist in first aid, search and rescue, as well as other important activities.

Bolts of lightning are 65X hotter than the surface of the sun and they send shock waves in all directions. It is a force hard to contain safely. Benjamin Franklin supported the idea that lightning striking an elevated rod would follow a “path of least resistance” to the earth. He is credited with bringing LIGHTNING RODS to our British colonies after his kite experiment in 1752. Today, though modified, this is still thought to be the best defense. Let’s take a look at LPS, Lightning Protection Systems.



New York’s Empire State Building has a LPS feature and good thing as it has been struck thousands of times since opening. Lightning Protection Systems (LPS) are found in most new construction, public venues, churches, skyscrapers and lumber yards. Ships typically have this protection also. Protection is available for our homes and basically is a system of hard to see rods on the roof line of the house, connected by wiring which leads to the ground terminal. The system disarms the bolt of electricity leaving the home and contents safe from harm. It can be a handyman project or contractors install professionally and quickly. It is reported that lightning kills 600 property owners annually and does a billion dollars damage annually to property. These systems are said to be 99% effective when installed properly and they protect you, our pets, valuable possessions, heirlooms, antiques, photographs, furnishings and our surrounding property. Find yourself a contractor online, I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the cost.

SAFETY TIPS AROUND THE HOME - I

Conni Mayatt - Volunteer

Falls: Annually, many people fall in their homes. Some of the falls result in serious injury. If we think proactively, we can cut



the chances of many of the accidents.

One of the most likely culprits is items on the floor or stairs. So, check all your pathways and clear them of papers, shoes, and books, etc. If you have a habit of “storing” particular items on the stairway or floor, locate a new place away from the pathway.

Are there stationary items that you always walk around or over that should be moved? This could include extension cords, lamp cords, etc. If so, relocate them out of the pathway. You might want to consider hiring an electrician to add outlets, if necessary.

Do you have area rugs? If so, you can secure them in place using non-slip backing or double-sided tape. Do you get up during the night to make a refrigerator raid or to get a drink of water? Is the pathway clear? There are small directional night lights that can be plugged directly into outlets that provide dim lighting at floor level. While being dim, it’s enough to see your way through the house at night.

Stairways: Since a fall on the stairway may cause immense injuries, it is one area that might need more concentration.

Again, keep any objects off the stairs. Always use the hand railings. This will mean not using both hands to carry objects up and down the stairs.

Do you have good lighting on the stairway? At night, always use overhead lighting unless you have built-in lighting at step level. If you don’t have a light switch at the top and bottom of the stairs, it might be a good idea to have one added.

Ensure you don’t have any loose boards or carpeting.

Escape Plans: Do you have one? If not, put one in place. Obviously, this is very important for those who have children living at home. Regardless, we all need a plan.

Once you have an escape plan, practice it at least twice a year. It’s a good idea to practice it during the day and at night.

Be sure your plan includes a meeting place after you have escaped from the home. This is extremely important since if everyone is accounted for, no one will have to put themselves in danger to go back inside looking for someone who is not there.

Another safety measure is for two story homes to have a rescue / escape ladder. Normal escape routes could become unavailable. There are many choices on the Internet. Look for “escape ladders.”

Q-2 2015 TCEVA Newsletter Calendar

TCEVA General Meetings

7 PM on the 2nd Monday of the month at the TCFD Training Room (Fire Station)

April 13th

May 11th

June 8th

Denton County CERT - 7 PM on the 1st Tuesday of the month

Denton County EOC - 9060 Tasley Lane, Denton, TX

April 5th

May 5th

June 2nd

Citizen Police Academy Alumni of North Texas (CPAANT)

General Meetings - 10 AM on the 1st Saturday of the month

April 4th

May 2nd

June 6th

North Texas Crime Prevention Association (NTCPA) Training -

10 AM on the 3rd Thursday of the month

April 16th

May 21st

June 18th

Community-wide Garage Sale

Sat, April 11, 8am – 2pm

Medal of Honor Ride

When Wednesday, Apr 8, 2015

Back to Nature

When Saturday, Apr 25, 2015

4th Annual 'Catch Me If You Can' Bike Race



Home Fire Safety

Plan Your Families Escape Now

Robin Conarty - Volunteer

Do you have a well-constructed escape plan in the event a fire engulfs your home or is "flying by the seat of your pants" your motto when it comes to an emergency situation? As adults, this may be all you need but when children or the elderly are involved, it is not an acceptable option.

With over 350,000 house fires in 2013, there were over 2500 civilian deaths associated with these fires. Therefore, in order to help ensure the safety of you and your family, it is important to develop a fire escape plan now, run several drills, especially when children are involved, and be prepared for the possibility of this emergency. Once the smoke alarms sound, there may only be one to two minutes to safely escape.

By the way, do you have functioning smoke detectors in each bedroom, as well as outside each bedroom? Do you test your detector monthly? Have you changed the battery lately? Have you replaced those alarms



that are over 10 years old? These are all fire safety recommendations from the National Fire Protection Association, <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/escape-planning>, as well as the below planning strategies and tips.

Basic Planning

Bring everyone in your household together to devise your plan. Walk your home and identify possible escape routes. If children are in your household, it is advised that a drawing of your floor plan be made, marked with two ways out of each room, including doors and windows.

Make sure everyone understands the escape plan and that each escape route is clear of obstacles. Doors and windows should be easily opened and each household member must know how to remove the window screen (or how to break through it).

Choose a meeting place that is a safe distance at the front of your home like the neighbors driveway across the street or a certain mailbox or light post. Mark that location on your escape plan drawing. Make sure that your street number is visible at all times. If your number is located on the façade of your home, make sure you have it lighted during the evening. Have your street number painted on your curb in reflective paint, preferably at each side of your driveway, so the fire truck lights make it visible. This is advisable even with façade numbers just in case your light has burned out or was neglected to be turned on.

Memorize the emergency phone number for the fire department so household members can check-in once safely outside. If there are infants, older adults or members with mobility limitations, assign someone to assist them during the drills and during a real emergency. Make sure there is a backup person, just in case the designated person is away during the emergency. (Help elderly or disabled friends or relatives that live in their own home, devise their own personal escape plan). Advise overnight guest of the escape plan and make sure you know the escape plan when you are the overnight guest.

Once outside, stay outside. Do not reenter for any reason. If someone is missing from your meeting place, advise the dispatcher who will get that information to the fire fighters who are equipped and skilled to perform the rescue.

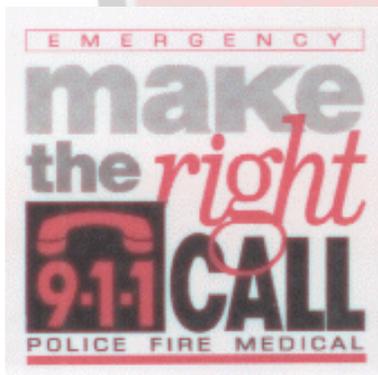
Test Your Plan

Practice your plan twice a year by running realistic drills, including the different escape plan for infants,

the elderly and those with disabilities. After the plan is mastered, hold drills at night while children are sleeping. Be sure to tell everyone ahead of time that there will be a drill so no one is unnecessarily frightened. If a household member does not readily awaken to the sound of the alarm, assign someone to awaken him/her and incorporate that into your Drill. If you have multiple floors, every member must be able to escape from the upper floor. A safety ladder should be stored in an easily accessible location and proper application should be incorporated into the drill. Ladder practice for children should only be done from a first story window. The route with the least heat and smoke should be chosen and each member advised to stay low, get under the smoke to the exit. Closing doors as you escape may help to slow the progress of the fire.

If all exit routes are blocked, prepare a place to seal in for safety. Make this part of your escape plan. Close all doors between you and the fire and use towels or blankets to seal door cracks and cover air vents to help prevent smoke from entering. If possible, call the fire department to report your exact location. Wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth to let firefighters know your location.

Fun child-friendly activities regarding fire safety in various situations, as well as important information for adults, can be found at



Thank You to Papa Murphy's for Supporting the TECVA



**The Volunteer View is published by the
Trophy Club Emergency Volunteer Association
Editor - Donna Schlenger**