

THE GENERAL DISPATCH

General Insurance Agency's Monthly Newsletter



WWW.GIA911.COM

March 1, 2017

General Insurance Agency, Inc. is an Independent Agent & Broker, established in 1948. We proudly provide insurance for over 375 Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Squads in PA, NJ & DE. Our experienced staff is available day or night to meet all of your insurance needs.

Developing Confident EMS Volunteers

There are many challenges that face our volunteer EMS squads today. From volunteerism to training, many squads are questioning how to keep their members up to date on training policies and procedures to ensure the safety of their community.

In a recent article posted on *EMS1.com*, the issue of areas with “low call volume” has been getting a lot of attention. There is a “growing anxiety” about the competence of some volunteers simply based on the lack of available experience and training. For this reason, many members often choose to leave the EMS Squads.

So what can be

done? Per Nancy Magee, a seasoned EMS volunteer and businesswoman offering Volunteer Survival workshops and training through MEDIC Training Solutions and author of the article “Redesigning Volunteer EMS”, the answer lies in one simple word; **SWOT**. This is an analysis tool used to identify **STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES**, and **THREATS**. Most often, this tool has been used in organizational assessments, but now “lends itself well to individual assessments.”

The process and analysis of each member is quite simple and gives a clearer picture of each member. Squads can create an individual SWOT Analysis sheet within their parameters as an organization and keep an ongoing file of each

member. The analysis also includes a “self-assessment” as well. It is not used to deter members from joining or staying, to criticize or condemn, but it’s a tool to ensure that the EMS Organizations are doing their best to provide proper training and experience to all of the volunteers. SWOT is a positive and “non-judgmental” process. For more information and to read the article in its entirety visit:

WWW.EMS1.COM NEWS FROM FACEBOOK!

In this issue...

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Desk of Wes

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From the desk of Wes Fritz...

Hi folks...been another interesting month for us all in the fire service. Some of you have had some bad fires. We've experienced some members with injuries from those calls and sure hope they are all on the mend.

I was excited to be invited to do a Radio Show with an old friend Mark Hopkins of WYFL Radio 1180. Many of you know Mark from Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue where he is the chief. He invited me as a guest and asked me all kinds of questions that I found interesting and I hope you do as well. You can find it online at www.unsigned.us. I'm told there is an archive file of all his past guests as well. If you can't tune in on a Saturday afternoon at 1:30pm simply go to their website and you'll find he has had some local guests who have served our communities for many years. Also..remember we here at General Insurance Agency are always interested in what you and your department are doing. Please keep us informed so we can tell others. Thanks again for your friendship. It really means something to us on a regular basis. Remember our annual BBQ and pirate ship cruise Saturday June 3rd at noon. Hope you and your family can attend.

Til next month....

Wes

6 Important PPE Items paramedics and EMT's should be wearing, but aren't.

Article from EMS1.com Moving Paramedicine forward with Nicholas Miller

Paramedics and EMT's have one of the most dangerous of occupations.

EMS providers are 2.5 times more likely to be killed on the job than the average worker.

5 Times more likely to be killed in a transportation incident.

6 times greater illness and injury rate than the national average.

30 times higher risk of a transportation related injury than the national average.

With all these risks why not protect yourself with the right equipment.

1. **Eye Protection.** A simple pair of safety glasses can protect your eyes from UV Radiation, flying particles, sparks, patient assaults, and biohazard splatter.
2. **Knee Protection.** This protection guards you from hot asphalt, cold icy roads, biohazards, and the repeated weight of your body and the one your lifting.
3. **Isolation PPE.** There is a reason a patient is on isolation precautions and the same precautions used in the hospital should be continued use during the ENTIRE transport. Become familiar with your departments procedures for PPE for isolation patients.
4. **Body Armor** This protection can not only provide protection against firearms and knives, but can also provide protection during motor vehicle collisions.
5. **Seat Belts.** Patients should be strapped with all three belts provided on the stretcher. As well as personnel on the ambulance should be belted as well.
6. **Helmets.** Unfortunately most departments do not provided with custom fitted helmets. But if you are you should be wearing them. Serious head injuries are one of many incidents in the field and we all know with proper protection it could be avoided.

Community Events

March 4th 6pm-10pm Paint and Sip at Topton Fire Company. Tickets \$40 covers painting supplies and 1 glass of wine. Additional glasses of wine available for purchase. 21 or older. Contact Topton Fire Company for Tickets.

March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th (Every Sunday) Bingo at Citizens Fire Co #1 Slatedale

March 12th 8am-12pm Breakfast at American Fire Company Lansford, PA \$8 adults \$4 children Take out and local delivery available 570-645-7171

March 18th Corn hole Tournament @ Irishtown VFC 12:30-5pm Registration starts @ 11am \$30 per team (2person team) \$5 per guest

March 18th Irish Dollar Night and Karaoke @ Irishtown VFC Fun for the whole family! Food, Games of Chance, Raffle prizes and music. \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5 Meals served 6pm-8pm. Contact any Irishtown member or the FH direct for more info.

March 24th 6pm-8pm and March 25th 10am-2pm Basket Social at Citizens FC #1 Slatedale. Drawing at 2pm Sunday March 25th. For info call Michelle Schramel @ 610-760-9652 or Lisa Neff 610-760-1211

April 1st 6pm-9pm Beach Haven Fire Co. Auxiliary is hosting the Ginger Ninja Comedy Show. Tickets \$40 21 and over only. Held at the Beach Haven Fire Co. Contact Stacey @ GIA for more info.

Oh, so your "hero" is a fictional person that slings webs? My heroes are real people that rescue people from burning buildings and save lives. They're Firefighters and EMT's.



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Facebook.com/TalonRescue

Notes from Kevin Kleinsmith

Since this month is all about the luck of the Irish let's talk about how lucky you are to be insured by ESIP in the event of something unlucky happening. Here is a list of policy enhancements and improvements in your coverage that have taken place over the last 2 years that you might not know about:

Your electronic card key system is now covered up to \$25,000. Depending on your system they could run well over \$15,000 to replace after a loss

Let's say the groundhog is actually right and we will have winter before spring arrives and we have a major snow event that could compromise your roof. Your policy will now pay up to \$1,000 to have your roof cleaned before a major loss occurs.

If you have any portable garages or storage sheds on your property. They are now automatically covered up to \$10,000 and \$1,000 in contents coverage

Have just a few events where liquor is served? Your policy now covers up to 10 events a year without needing liquor liability coverage

Buying a new vehicle? We now can put a guaranteed replacement endorsement on that will replace your totaled vehicle for up to 5 years from the date of purchase

Not only will we pay up to \$1,000 of your members home insurance deductible in the event they are working on a call and a disaster strikes at home but ESIP will also pay up to a \$1,000 to cover their additional living expenses to stay somewhere while their home is being repaired

These benefits are what helps make ESIP and industry leader for over 25 years. If you have any questions regarding your policy don't hesitate to call/Email Wes or Kevin anytime!



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Contact Stacey@GIA911.Com to ADD Facebook posts, Classifieds and Any News ideas!