



# EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMMAND COLONEL'S NOTE

We have experienced a number of changes in the last month, as the Emergency Operations Command is in the process of crafting a program that is responsive to the needs of the community, while dealing with the fiscal realities that complicate each of our jobs. I will be meeting with the Battalion Chiefs and Majors in a group setting at least once each month, and I will attempt to ensure information is disseminated at the station level.

The information that follows is designed to explain decisions that have a direct effect on you each day and will hopefully enhance communication between administration and the field. In addition, it is my hope this information will spur conversation between the firefighter in the field and Command Officers.

- Safety Accountability Forms - Battalion Chief's and Majors will be documenting both safety violations and personnel that show consistent adherence to our standards, i.e.: wearing safety vest even under extreme conditions, using back up personnel when no one is seemingly observing, etc
- Department Vacancies – Holes are being filled so we start each day fully staffed if everyone comes to work. The sick leave used each day will determine how significant our staffing adjustments will be each day.
- Information – Majors and Battalion Chief's are expected to meet with their personnel to discuss areas of concern and disseminate information to the stations
- Recruits – CRS #41 is coming out on March 22, 2010 to get 5 patient assessments. This is the only way they can participate, and Station personnel are not to deter them from the task at hand. The Fire Training Academy will ensure they have enough information to keep them focused during their time away from the Ambulance, and Station Officers will guarantee no hazing of any kind is directed at the recruits
- Training – Each Battalion is developing a training program and a list of training needs. Next month EOC will distribute this information and station officer will be expected to add this to their drills that currently take place. In stations where drills are not a regular activity, Battalion Chief's and Major will hold officers responsible. I along with Major Michaelides will be visiting stations to observe these activities.
- Physical Training and Chat – I will be coming out to the stations during the week to PT with station personnel. Additionally, this will provide opportunities for me to speak with members of the Department that I have not conversed within the recent past. Additionally, we will have a plan formulated next month managed by the EOC Staffing Office to strategically take stations out of service to participate in the Physical Training program. More information will be provided as we finalize plan.
- Volunteer Ambulances – We are scheduled to start two Volunteer Ambulances at 1500 hours March 26 through 0700 March 27, 2010. This program will be staffed by Volunteers from around the County, and the Staffing Office will decide where this works best from at the start of their shift. Generally, they will have a minimum of 8 hours, and they will be used to cut overtime, up-staff certain high call areas and cover certain gaps we have in the Department.

03/19/2010



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- VSU – Battalion Chief's and Major's will continue forging relationships with the Volunteer Leadership to increase the number of hours each Volunteer Company participates. Each overtime dollar saved is another dollar that can be used for promotions, outside training activities, hiring more personnel...
- Specialty Teams – With Major Thomas retiring, Special Operations is being broken into individual units. These units will still work together during certain activities, but the plan is to better focus each on their particular area of expertise. The following people will be the unit leaders of the disciplines listed:
  - Captain McCormick – Water Rescue
  - Captain Gallagher- Technical Rescue
  - Craig Black – Hazmat
  - Special Events – BC Corey Smedley
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team (CISD) – An announcement will be distributed from Human Resources within the next 2 weeks, soliciting interested individuals to participate in reforming a team within the Fire/EMS Department.