

# NEED TO KNOW

## DID YOU KNOW?

Southside Fire Department is a non-profit public service organization. Every dollar of your subscription money goes for the provision of fire protection and rescue services.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Blood pressure checks are taken at all Southside stations between the hours of 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. Home Fire Safety Inspections will be performed upon request. Please call 354-5670.

## IMPORTANT

If you are planning to sell your house and have received a statement for the next year, please give us a call at 354-1011 before you make your payment so that we can correct the amount due.

## ARE YOU MOVING?

Call headquarters 354-1011 and ask for Teresa, Crystal, Cayla, or Anne or send a note to Chief/General Manager, SSFD PO Box 13250, Savannah, Georgia, 31416.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE. Our present insurance classification (class 3) is the best of any combined fire department in the Southeastern United States.

SUBSCRIPTION FEES ARE WAIVED OR REDUCED IN CASES OF HARDSHIP. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, PLEASE CALL 354-1011.

OUR RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:		PRESENT
\$ 20,000. AND UNDER	(house only)	\$ 60.00
\$ 20,001. - \$ 60,000.	(house only)	\$ 90.50
\$ 60,001. - \$100,000.	(house only)	\$120.00
\$100,001. - \$140,000.	(house only)	\$149.50
\$140,001. - \$180,000.	(house only)	\$188.00
\$180,001. - \$220,000.	(house only)	\$225.00
\$220,001. - \$250,000.	(house only)	\$264.00
\$250,001. - \$350,000.	(house only)	\$299.50
\$350,001. - \$450,000.	(house only)	\$335.00
\$450,001. - \$550,000.	(house only)	\$372.00
\$550,001. and over	(house only)	\$407.00

## CONTACT SSFD / EMS

(912) 354-1011  
PO Box 13250, Savannah, GA 31416  
info@ssfd.com



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Tom Harris, President



As the newly elected president of this organization, I want to start by saying how proud we are as a board and each of you as subscribers should be for the response of our Firefighters and EMS personnel to the Imperial Sugar event. Chief Meadows will cover some of the details in his report below, but I have to say that our personnel did all that was asked of them and more. We are very fortunate to have such well-trained and dedicated personnel.

This year has seen some changes in our Board. Sid Strickland has tendered his resignation after 29 years of service, most recently as the President of the Board. We will miss his humor, his vast years of experience and his dedication to making this a strong, well-trained organization. Chuck Moore joined our Board early this year and has already made his presence known with his insight and enthusiasm. Chuck is a native of Savannah, graduated from Benedictine Military School and Georgia Tech and is a successful businessman.

In response to the continued growth of our subscription base, we will add 5 additional full time Fire/EMS personnel to our staff in 2008. This will give us 24-hour coverage with full time personnel at all twelve of our stations. Of course our dedicated ranks of 130 trained volunteers allow us to deliver the highest level of service to our subscribers and therefore keep their insurance rates as low as possible.

Thank you for your support and we will continue to protect "Life and Property" in a safe and efficient manner in 2008.

## IMPORTANT INFO

**FOR EMERGENCIES:**  
Always Call 9-1-1

**St. Joseph's / Candler**  
www.sjchs.com  
(912) 819-4100 - St. Joe's  
(912) 819-6000 - Candler

**Memorial Health**  
www.memorialhealth.com  
(912) 350-8000

**Chatham Co. Emergency Management**  
www.cema.chathamcounty.com  
(912) 201-4500

**Chatham Co. Tax Assessor's Office**  
www.chathamcounty.org/assessor.html  
(912) 652-7271

## Your Board of Directors

Charles Teel	Sid Strickland
Tate Shiver	Wilton Persons
Clinton Crosby	Don Amerson
Thomas Harris	Thomas White
Tom Andrews	Ken Wheeler

**Emeritus**  
Samuel McTeer      Lloyd Hodges (Chaplain)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 402  
Savannah, GA

Southside Fire / EMS  
PO Box 13250  
Savannah, GA 31416

# CHIEF / GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- Wesley A. Meadows, Chief / General Manager

Our hearts go out to the victims of the Sugar Refinery disaster. It goes without saying that something as devastating as this catastrophic event is the catalyst for the community to come together as one. Not only did the emergency services in our community respond and react, you the community was there also.

**Our personnel, both career and volunteer, are to be commended for responding to their assigned stations to ensure continued emergency service and response to any other emergency needs.**

As I alluded to in the fall newsletter, the Board of Directors elected not to increase the subscription rates for the 07/08 budget but it does appear an increase will be necessary for our 08/09 budget. There are several areas of our expenses that have grown considerably since the start of our current budget (health care, fuel cost). On the revenue side the housing market has followed the current trend and currently has not met our expectations for growth.

Sidney L. Strickland has elected to retire from Southside's Board of Directors after serving more than 29 years. He is not only a staunch supporter of the department but a true and dear friend. From me, and others of the department, we wish him all the best in the future.



## FIREFIGHTER FOCUS

- Hugh Futrell, Assistant Chief



On October 6, 2007, an ordinary day, Chief Jason Waterfield and Deputy Chief Scott Kimball were traveling on Hwy 340 between Brownsville and Frederick, MD, on their way to Emmitsburg, VA, for the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service.

Suddenly, they witnessed a cloud of dust and vehicles taking evasive action away from a single overturned vehicle a short distance up the road: a vehicle had rolled, crushing the roof, entrapping three teenage passengers.

Armed with only a cell phone and red lights, Chief Waterfield blocked the highway with Southside's Car-4 and called 911 for backup and rescue equipment. Chief Kimball began to evaluate the scene and assess the victims. They both began the rescue with no hose line in place for safety, gas and oil leaking, and no rescue equipment. They removed two of the teens from the truck; however, the third passenger's leg was entangled in the brake and gas pedals, and his arm was under the vehicle. Chief Kimball stayed with the third victim keeping him calm and protected. Chief Waterfield maintained control of the scene, the public, and traffic, until rescue units arrived.

Two firefighters on a trip, stop and put their own lives in jeopardy to rescue three unknown teenagers and maintain safety for all. For this response, Chief Jason Waterfield and Deputy Chief Scott Kimball have been awarded The 200 Club's Valor Award.

As supporters of Southside Fire/EMS, I wanted you to know the quality of firefighter who serves you. Congratulations Chiefs Waterfield and Kimball.

**Well done.**

## EMS FOCUS

- Timothy Genest, Assistant Chief



Everyone most likely remembers what they were doing the night of February 7, 2008, when the sugar refinery explosion occurred. It was a horrific event that tested much of the skills that we at Southside Fire/EMS work to refine on a continuous basis. We, as well as other community public safety agencies, plan for this type of mass casualty event every year be it a plane crash, natural disaster or even a terrorist event. **This training pays**

**off in a big way when the "real world" disaster occurs. Southside assisted in Emergency Medical Services and with Fire Services. Our communications center began calling both our career and volunteer Firefighter/Medics and within a very short time had nearly an additional 100 trained professionals either responding to the refinery or responding to one of the stations to standby for an assignment.** Southside Fire/EMS ambulances transported fourteen patients from the disaster and even provided two staffed fire apparatus to Port Wentworth to stand by at their station to provide fire suppression service to their citizens while their department worked at the sugar refinery. Many different agencies pulled together and handled the situation in a very professional manner to the betterment of the citizens of Chatham County and they are all to be commended.

# VOLUNTEER CHIEF'S REPORT

## SEVENTH DISTRICT DIVISION

- Chief Victor D'Alessandro

With the recent tragedy that took place at the Sugar Refinery one way that you could help is by recycling your cans at one of the aluminum can recycling centers located at several fire stations throughout the area. This effort is managed by the Southeastern Firefighter's Burn Foundation. The Southeastern Firefighter's Burn Foundation was created in 1988 as a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization to support burn patients and their families both during and after treatment of the trauma of a burn. Their support programs include meals for family members of burn victims, burn survivor reunions, holiday gifts for young patients, as well as a retreat for the families during their loved one's hospitalization in the Burn Center. The Foundation is a member of the Federation of Burn Foundations, Georgia Firefighter's Association, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, the South Carolina Firefighters' Association and the South Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs.

### In 2006, the Southeastern Firefighter's Burn Foundation

- Spent over \$16,700 on prescriptions for patients.
- Spent over \$41,500 on anti-scarring garments for patients.
- Spent over \$7,000 in transportation costs for follow-up medical visits.
- Housed over 1,200 family members at the Jeffrey Vaden Chavis House
- Served over 16,000 meals in the waiting room of the Burn Unit, coordinated through volunteers of the Foundation and supported by 68 churches and civic organizations.
- With our patient and family services and our volunteer programs, we gave over \$250,000 back to burn patients and families in 2006.

For a list of the areas where cans are collected, please go to the website located at [http://www.theburncenter.org/PDF/recycle\\_locations.pdf](http://www.theburncenter.org/PDF/recycle_locations.pdf)

## WILMINGTON ISLAND DIVISION

- Chief Jason Waterfield

Spring time again and it's in full bloom. This past year has been very busy for a couple of reasons. One is due to the increase in call volume for fires, totaling "358" runs, fortunately no firefighter injuries or deaths to report this past year. Also, the National Professional Qualification "NPQ" training is progressing well and has produced some very extraordinary officers to step forward. Join me in congratulating newly promoted Lieutenant Greg Friday; Lieutenant Vincent Becker; Lieutenant Thomas Plumley and Safety Officer David Higgs for their new leadership role in the command structure and the challenges faced by new officers. Each one has vast experience in fire suppression & control, rescue extrication for vehicles and incident command.

**Special Concern:** This time of year we receive numerous calls for outdoor burning in the county and most citizens believe it's their right to do this, but what is most misunderstood is that it requires a burn permit from Georgia Forestry, good weather condition, water on site, can't be a nuisance to others and must be attended from start to finish. Special note, persons can and will be held responsible for damages caused, criminally and/or civilly.

It's the Law: Does anyone know what changed in Georgia, January 1, 1964?..... Georgia made it a law that no new private passenger vehicle could be sold in the state without safety belts. So now you know, Buckle up!!!

## MONTGOMERY DIVISION

- Chief Wayne Noha

Greetings and I hope all is well and healthy with you and your family. I have two items of concern that I would like to address. First is that of the **MOVE OVER law**. When you see Emergency vehicles, please move over to the farthest lane if available. If not, then slow down to a safe speed and be prepared to stop. During several recent, very critical incidents, "close calls" were encountered while we were trying to conduct an accident scene with passers-by "gawking" and driving recklessly. Please help protect US as we protect YOU. And secondly, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE **identify your address** by making it visible from the road on long driveways especially where there are groups of mailboxes placed away from homes.

Recent promotions are: Doug Struble-LT, Christian Ingram-LT, Garrett Bodaford-Captain-Training, Frank Pilcher-Captain-Operations, Michael Boen-Sr. Captain, Rick Boen-Safety Officer.

We also just completed a First Responder Course with the following graduates: Jeff Maddox, Lynn Miles, Vanessa Nowinsky, Paul Perkins, and Robyn Selgren. A special thank you to our own Adam Miles for instructing this course.

New members to the department are Donald Lamont and Jeff Maddox.

## SKIDAWAY ISLAND DIVISION

-Chief Jim Murray

We would like to thank everyone who attended our 2008 Fire and Ice Ball held at The Plantation Club on January 18, 2008. We had over 250 guests who helped us raise money for the Southeastern Firefighter's Burn Foundation in Augusta. With the recent explosion and fire at the sugar refinery, we are all very much aware of how important the Burn Center is for the residents of our area. Next year's Ball is scheduled for January 16, 2009, and it will be a "sellout" once again. If you would like to attend, please call the 2009 Chairman, Fred Langley at 598-4183.

Bob Trenkamp, who is one of our Skidaway Island 1st Responders, has been announced as the TLA Volunteer of the Year for 2007. We are very proud of Bob and the work that he is doing. In addition to being a 1st responder, Bob is a Paramedic who works on a Southside Fire/EMS ambulance and in the ER at Memorial...and he is Founder of the SLICC (Saving Lives in Chatham County) which is the organization that is working to train as many residents as possible in CPR. **So far over 20% of Skidaway residents have been trained and they stand ready to perform CPR when necessary.** To learn more about SLICC, contact Bob Trenkamp at [www.slicc.org](http://www.slicc.org).

## SOUTHSIDE DIVISION

- Chief Wendell Hill

I want to thank all of the people that came out and saw Santa Claus when we brought him around at Christmas time. We get so much joy from seeing all of you with the kids and some of you without the kids. We had some new firefighters with us this year and they couldn't get over people coming out with homemade cookies and peanut brittle. Again, thanks, you have no idea how much we enjoy doing the "Santa Detail."

Our organization relies on volunteers to make things happen. Our main mission is protecting you, your family and your property from many types of disasters. We are constantly looking for people that would like to help make this happen. We need firefighters, of course, and we even have a junior firefighter program for 16 to 18 year olds that are interested. We also need people to help around the station keeping track of training hours, lesson plans, minutes for meetings and as well as helping with fundraising. Bottom line if you have time, we can use you.

