

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)	\$ 62.00
\$ 20,001. - \$ 60,000.	(house only)	\$ 93.00
\$ 60,001. - \$100,000.	(house only)	\$124.00
\$100,001. - \$140,000.	(house only)	\$154.00
\$140,001. - \$180,000.	(house only)	\$194.00
\$180,001. - \$220,000.	(house only)	\$232.00
\$220,001. - \$250,000.	(house only)	\$272.00
\$250,001. - \$350,000.	(house only)	\$308.00
\$350,001. - \$450,000.	(house only)	\$345.00
\$450,001. - \$550,000.	(house only)	\$383.00
\$550,001. and over	(house only)	\$419.00

CONTACT SSFD / EMS

(912) 354-1011
PO Box 13250, Savannah, GA 31416



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Ken Wheeler, President



As your new president, I'm pleased to report that despite difficult economic conditions, Southside Fire, EMS, and Security Services continues to thrive. While other departments are contending with budget cuts, reduced shifts, and manpower reductions, we continue to expand our services to our community.

During 2010, we have been very busy developing plans for a new headquarters facility on Dean Forest Rd. During Katrina, we watched and wondered what would happen if an event of such magnitude happened in Savannah. We realized that our current headquarters on Norwood Avenue would be vulnerable to a similar hurricane strike in the Coastal Empire. Due to our dispatch center being collocated with the headquarters, a major disruption to our response capability would occur in the event that the headquarters took significant damage. To enhance our response capability, we began to search for a new location to build a more sustainable structure to meet post-Katrina building guidelines. We needed a new location, on higher ground, further inland, near a major traffic artery, with the space we needed for a headquarters, emergency call/dispatch center, training facility, fire station, and maintenance facility. We are pleased to announce our selection on Dean Forest Road, just south of Southbridge.

As we proceed into 2010, we are confident in our ability to meet this community's emergency service needs, now and into the future. We are dedicated to providing world class emergency services to our community and subscribers, both residential and commercial. Thank you for your continued support of our companies.

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	Chuck Moore
Tate Shiver	Wilton Persons
Clinton Crosby	Don Amerson
Thomas Harris	Tom Andrews
Ken Wheeler	Peter Schenk - EMS
Karen Owens	

Emeritus	
Samuel McTeer	Lloyd Hodges (Chaplain)
Sid Strickland	Thomas White

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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

Once again we are being driven by a slow economic growth in not only the county but the nation. Southside continues to deliver an extremely high level of service for the most economical cost known. We are managing an extremely tight budget and have not raised the fees for our subscribers for this 2010 budget year. This in itself makes it very difficult to maintain our revenue and expenses; however we will continue to perform as needed. One of the things that greatly enhances our operations is the volunteer divisions. They are to be commended for the giving of their time and energy to support the citizens we protect. Currently we have about 130 volunteers in Southside's 5 Divisions that receive the same training as any career personnel with any fire department around.

One thing that you as a subscriber can do to assist us in our operations is to discuss with your neighbors their need to become part of our program. It is extremely unfair for those of you that understand our program and subscribe to support those that do not participate. A subscriber with our department receives a substantial amount of savings on their homeowner's policy as compared to nonsubscribers. Where else can an investment of \$250.00 give you back approximately \$450.00 immediately (this varies with insurance companies).

Again thank you.



FIREFIGHTER FOCUS

- Hugh Futrell, Assistant Chief



Well, we have survived one of the coldest winters in Chatham County since the early '80's. Something to be said for that! So, let me thank those of you who were more than fire safe this past winter. The numbers of space heater fires this year compared to the last few years were

down. That's a good thing: thanks for being safe out there. Our chimney and heater fires were up however. While your fireplace is not being used this spring, have your flue check by a certified Chimney Sweep for cleanliness and integrity. Then, before summer, have your AC and heating system checked. You'll avoid problems during the heat of the summer and be ready for next fall as well. Be sure and change your AC filters. Not doing so taxes your blower motor and can cause overheating problems for the motor. Over time this becomes a fire threat.

Speaking of taxes (it is that time again), we like using "acquired structures" for live-fire burns because they are real. Our firefighters get to experience real fire in a real burning structure and not simulated situations. If you can donate one you're getting rid of anyway, you might just get the tax break as well. Call us if you need: we're prepared to serve.

EMS FOCUS

- Timothy Genest, Assistant Chief



The American Heart Association's 2010 report on heart disease and stroke in the U.S. is similar to 2009 in that: 1.) A coronary will occur about every 25 seconds and a death will occur every minute. 2.) 31% of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OOHCA) will receive bystander CPR

& 2 percent receive layperson defibrillation.

Survival to hospital discharge remains at 7.9% for EMS treated cardiac arrests among adults, among children this rate is 6%. 60% of the lay public claim familiarity with CPR, 98% recognize that AEDs give electrical shock to cardiac arrest victims, and 79% say they know what to do during a medical emergency. EMS treats 60% of all OOHCA deaths. Only 33 % of these patients have symptoms within one hour preceding death; 23% have a shockable rhythm.

Please take the opportunity to learn CPR. Saving Lives in Chatham County (SLICC) is a 501 © (3) public charity that provide inexpensive CPR training to interested individuals and groups. More information about SLICC can be found at www.SLICC.org.

SECURITY FOCUS

- Gary Jarriel, Director of Security



Lock Your Doors! Just yesterday it seems we could rest in our homes without fear of someone invading our personal space. Early 1970's, we could leave our home, cars and businesses unsecured, we could let our children walk to school or down the street. Times have changed!

When exiting our vehicles in a parking lot, we often remember to lock our vehicle. What about when you return? Do you remember to lock your vehicle doors while riding down the road? If not, make this as common of a practice as securing your safety belt! Not only do locked doors secure your packages and items, it prevents unwanted passengers!

Keep the same practice at home, even if you plan to be away for a short period. Lock your doors and windows while at home, just as you would while away. We must protect ourselves, our property and others residing with us. Consider a Keyless Entry Door Lock for your home. Keyless locks are easy to install and operate. The automatic re-locking feature is terrific for those who are still trying to get in the habit of re-locking upon recent entry.

Remember, secure your items AND secure yourself too! Lock Your Doors!

VOLUNTEER CHIEF'S REPORT

WILMINGTON ISLAND DIVISION

- Chief Jason Waterfield

I'm pleased to report another successful year with the department; we had no fire related deaths or firefighter injuries. This is amazing after responding to 386 fire calls this past year. FACT: In Georgia, residents are 30% more likely to die in a fire than people in any other part of the country. This has caused Georgia to be coined the "Burn Belt" by National Center for Health Statistics. Each year approximately 3,300 people die in fires. This has sparked some concern that single-type smoke detectors are not sufficient and have been known to wait past the survivable rate of a person. A better choice is a dual-type detector; it can sense a slow moving fire or a fast spreading one. This makes a huge difference when it comes to smoke detectors. If you have questions please call or stop by the stations. As a final note the new 3,000 gallon tanker has arrived and is ready to serve the area. Be Safe/Stay Alert.

SKIDAWAY ISLAND DIVISION

- Chief Jim Murray

This is the time of year when many of you will be using your fireplace to take the chill off a cool day. We have recently had several chimney fires due to a buildup of creosote. Chimney fires can burn explosively-noisy and dramatic enough to be detected by neighbors. Flames and dense smoke may shoot from the top of the chimney...homeowners report being startled by a low rumbling sound that reminds them of a freight train. If you have a chimney fire, vacate the house and call 355-6688 immediately. If you want to learn how to prevent chimney fires, go to your computer and Google CHIMNEY FIRE CAUSES. You will find an article from the Natural Handyman.

About 60% of our calls are alarms that may be alerting the homeowner to smoke or a fire. We treat each of these calls very seriously and we investigate to be sure there is not a fire. Please do not delay calling 355-6688 so that we can respond quickly to your home. Many times people apologize for calling us when it turns out to be a false alarm. Our reply is always "thank you for calling....we are glad that there is no fire."

SOUTHSIDE DIVISION

- Chief Wendell Hill

I want to thank all of the people that came out to see Santa Claus when we brought him around at Christmas time. We get so much joy 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 home made cookies and peanut brittle. Again, Thank you, you have no idea how much we enjoying 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 with training hours, lessons plans, minutes for meetings and as well as helping with fundraising. Bottom line if you have time we can use you. Please call HQ at 354-1011.

MONTGOMERY DIVISION

- Chief Wayne Noha

We would like to welcome Ian Jones, Douglas Smith and Ryan Stratz as new member volunteers with Montgomery Fire Department. We appreciate their willingness to serve their community in this way. Also, Ian is currently on leave serving our country overseas as active duty military. May God bring him back safely.

It's that time of year and we start burning leaves. Please obtain a permit from Georgia Forestry by contacting them via web at [HYPERLINK "http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/OnlinePermits/"](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/OnlinePermits/) <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/OnlinePermits/> or by calling 1-877-OK2-BURN (1-877-652-2876). ALWAYS be conscious of wind, surroundings and don't forget to have a hose wetting down the area around your fire.

Montgomery had its Annual Award Banquet at Forest City Gun Club, what a great facility and personnel, in December and I was pleased to announce the following:

FF/EMT Chris Best – Rookie Firefighter of the Year.

FF/EMT Ryan Selgren – Firefighter of the Year.

Lynn Miles – Auxiliary Member of the Year.

And FF/Paramedic Frank Pilcher received the Jack McCutchen, Sr. Chiefs Award selected by myself for outstanding performance to Montgomery Fire Department and this community.

I appreciate each and every volunteer and their families for the many sacrifices made to ensure their community is protected and served well. Hours spent separated serving each of you.

SEVENTH DISTRICT DIVISION

- Chief Eric Phillips

I'm pleased to be writing this first article as Chief of 7th District, and would like to thank Past Chief Victor D'Alessandro and Southside's Board and Officers for their support during this transition. I am happy to announce an initiative which will make Southside and 7th District more successful in the coming days. Southside has enrolled in the Knox program, joining 10,000 FD's worldwide. Knox is a key box entry system, not unlike a realtors lock box, is installed on a home or business and keyed to a master key carried by Southside's officers. This reduces damage from forcing entry during fire or medical emergencies, saving owners money and making emergency operations more effective. Visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.KNOXBOX.com"](http://www.KNOXBOX.com) www.KNOXBOX.com for more information. Living in an active military area, many of our soldiers serve as volunteers throughout communities in southeast Georgia. Our soldiers serve at home and abroad and count on us to protect their families as they serve to protect ours. There are plenty of ways you can help. We are always happy to speak with those interested in playing an active role in public safety, volunteering as Firefighters, Medical 1st Responders, or in a support and auxiliary function. We want YOU!

