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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

by Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton

The East Point Fire Department is a multi-dimensional operation that prides itself on delivering the best fire and emergency services available. To accomplish this goal, the Department has developed a variety of fire safety programs tailored to meet the needs of the community. According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), more than 4,500 people die annually in the U.S. as a result of fire, and tens of thousands suffer injury.

Statistics indicate the highest fire deaths occur among children ages 5 and under, and adults age 65 and older. As a result, these are considered the most vulnerable in the population. October is National Fire Prevention Month, and it’s a time when we place a heavy concentration on teaching Fire Safety. It’s also a time when we roll out our annual "Be Cool About Fire Safety Program" to teach youngsters how to respond during emergencies as well as when and how to dial 9-1-1.

At this year’s "Be Cool About Fire Safety," we hosted nearly 200 children. Highlights of the program are featured in this issue of THE CALL. We also encourage you to take time this month to talk with family and friends about staying fire safe, and developing a home fire escape plan.

Honored to Serve,

Chief Corey Thornton
NEVER LEAVE THE BASICS

By Chief Timothy Evans

NFPA 1001 sets forth the minimum performance requirements (basic skills) for Firefighters. All of us at one time were not Firefighters, and at some point were required to learn the basics to become certified as a Firefighter. Now, as our careers progress, we are sure to hear someone state, "We need to get back to the basics."

The fact is, basic skills of fire fighting are the foundation of success on the fireground, no matter how complex the operation or chaotic the scene may be. Mastery of basic skills is essential to executing any task we perform, from venting, entering, isolating and searching a third floor window - which are tactics made possible with the assistance of a Ladder Company, and its proficiency in setting up ladders to performing intricate car extrications, which require knowledge of what tools to use and how to engage them.

As a Firefighter I once questioned my Company Officer about having to load hose after every drill evolution. That officer replied, "Son, I never pulled up on a fire scene and found hose already on the ground." The point made was that we must train the same way we work, and never short cut tasks considered simple or basic. We understand there are outside forces, beyond our control, that can play a major role in the outcome of an emergency response. Therefore, we must ensure that the actions we do control are executed efficiently, which is done by incorporating basic skills.

"You can't always stop things from going wrong, but you can always train to get things right."
BE COOL ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

Children learned it’s hip to be fire smart and safe at the East Point Fire Department’s Be Cool About Fire Safety program. The annual event was held October 10, 2019 from 10:00 A.M. to Noon in the auditorium of the East Point City Annex.

Nearly 200 Pre-K and Kindergartners attended and enjoyed romping around with Fire Clowns, Firefighters and Sparky the Dog who taught the do’s and don’ts of fire safety through skits, sing-alongs and games.

Chief Thornton stressed the importance of the program during an interview with WAGA-TV, Fox 5 Atlanta and WXIA-TV, 11 Alive. “We have a tendency to think that young kids can’t adapt or they don’t understand. When in all actuality, all they need is to be told,” stated Chief Thornton. “So if you can instill that now at a young age, then coming up they’ll have a greater understanding for it,” said Chief Thornton.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) states that fires are the leading cause of injury related fatalities in the home for children under the age of five. Furthermore, the NFPA estimates that a third of the children who die in fires are victims of fires they started or one started by another child.

The NFPA reports that it is a child’s curiosity that leads some to play with fire, although they do not know the danger involved. Meanwhile, others participate in fire play to get attention. The NFPA also states that children in crisis may purposely set fires as an act of aggression. The East Point Fire Department is working to do its part in decreasing the national fire death rate for preschoolers which currently stands at 35 fire deaths per one million children, which is more than twice the national average.

At Be Cool About Fire Safety youngsters are taught when and how to Stop, Drop and Roll and how to dial 9-1-1. They also were taught by this year’s theme - “Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your fire escape” - they too can be heroes by not playing with matches.
The Mission of the East Point Fire Department is to prevent disastrous incidents from occurring and minimize damage to life, property and the environment. In September and October 2019, the Department responded to 1,552 incidents. Of those, 987 were EMS calls, and 565 fire related EMS Calls. The Department also completed 47 Fire Pre-Plans, and installed 33 Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors and installed 5 car seats.

The East Point Fire Department installs Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, and car seats free of charge. To schedule a Service Request, individuals are asked to contact Fire Administration at (404) 559-6401.
How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.
How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Mark all of the smoke alarms with SA. Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family meeting place outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, practice your plan at least twice a year!

Grown-ups: Children don’t always wake up when the smoke alarm sounds. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs.

Get more information on smoke alarms and escape planning at www.nfpa.org/factsheets.

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911: The Deadliest Day in U.S. History for Firefighters

September 11, 2001 was one of the deadliest days in U.S. history and for Firefighters. On that day terrorists hijacked four U.S. commercial airplanes to launch suicide attacks. The planes were used as ballistic missiles against specific targets. According to the 911 Commission that investigated the attack, at 8:46 a.m. on September 11th, an American Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Shortly thereafter, at 9:03 a.m. a second Boeing 767, owned by United Airlines, crashed into the South Tower. Following these attacks, a third airplane crashed into the Pentagon on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. followed by a fourth plane crashing in an open field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

More than 300 Firefighters were among those who lost their lives that horrific day. Behind the staggering number of deaths are the individuals who were left behind including families, friends and coworkers, whom we join in remembering events that day.

**Causalities of September 11th**

- Firefighters - 343
- Police - 60
- Military - 89
- Airline Flight Crew - 35
- World Trade Center - 2,763
- American and United Airlines - 245
- Pentagon (Civilians and Military Personnel) - 189
Richard "Chip" Turner has served the City of East Point Fire Department for more than three decades, and has the dual honor of being part of a lineage that has enjoyed a lengthy record of service in the city as well. "For those who are familiar with East Point in ages past, they may recall the Southern Wood company that was located on Conley Drive," stated Turner. "My Granddad served the company as a crane operator for more than 50 years before retiring," said Turner.

"However, my family's devotion to the City of East Point as public servants began with my..."
Above: Chip Turner honored for Years of Service at a City Council Meeting in 2017. Flanked by Council Member Sharon Shropshire, WARD A At-Large (left), and East Point Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham (right).

"LIFE IS VALUABLE AND FAMILY IS PRECIOUS. MAKE THE MOST OF THE TIME YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN WITH BOTH."

Dad, who served the East Point Police Department for 19 years from 1966 to 1985, and I came along four years later, joining the East Point Fire Department in 1989." Turner says he was among a class of five Fire Recruits the Department hired and he vividly recalls the excitement he felt when finding out he got the job. "My thoughts were 'To have been selected among such a small group was a real honor,' and I was determined to make the most of this amazing opportunity."

In his 30 years of service to the City of East Point, Turner says there is one call that stands out. "It was a house fire, and I was pumping the first Engine in when suddenly we heard a loud crash. The first floor of the home had collapsed into the basement taking five to six Firefighters with it," reflected Turner. "One firefighter became disoriented, and started heading in the wrong direction. However, Doug Stanley, who then was a Firefighter and today is a Lieutenant, jumped from what was left of the 1st floor to the basement, rescuing that Firefighter," stated Turner. "All of the Firefighters who fell through the floor were safely removed from the structure, and fortunately did not sustain life threatening injuries. It was a very harrowing experience, and one we will never forget."

Turner said his Dad's passing three years ago, and his handling the care of his Mother who has Alzheimer's disease, has taught him something he shares with everyone willing to listen. "That is to live every day to the fullest, and to make the most of the time you have with family and friends because life is valuable and family is precious."
We WILL answer the CALL. Day and night, storm or calm, from firehouses big and small, we WILL answer the call.
The City of East Point helped more than 100 Trick-or-Treaters enjoy a safe, spooky Halloween at its Annual Halloween Festival. The event was held at the Jefferson Park Recreation Center located at 1431 Norman Berry Drive in East Point on October 31st.

In addition to games, face painting and candy giveaways, activities included a Chili Cook-Off and a Best Dish competition. Fire Apparatus Operator Angelo Malone snagged a 2nd place trophy in the Chili Cook-Off, and the Fire Department won 2nd place in the Best Dish competition for entering a tasty Banana Pudding dessert.
The East Point Fire Department participated in Career Day at Abundant Grace Academy in East Point on September 25, 2019. Classrooms of children rotated outdoors to view the Fire Truck and learn valuable lessons about Fire Safety, while other students learned about a Career in the Fire Service in their classroom.

Pictured Left: FAO Christopher Butler shows students fire gear

Below left to right: FAO Christopher Butler and Lieutenant Cedric Chaney give students a tour of the Fire Truck
Local News Covers Fire Department's "Be Cool about Fire Safety Program"

The Fire Department’s Be Cool About Fire Safety Program was covered by WXIA-TV, 11Alive and WAGA-TV, Fox 5 Atlanta. Below are links to the coverage which you can view on the Department’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/eastpointfire

WXIA-TV, 11Alive
East Point Fire Department keeps it ‘Cool’ with Annual Fire Safety Event
http://bit.ly/2nC5CGx

WAGA-TV, Fox 5 Atlanta
East Point Firefighters Teach Children Fire Safety
https://www.fox5atlanta.com/.../east-point-firefighter-teach-...
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Fire Department Personnel FAO Quintavious Hill and FAO Jason Turner who are set to graduate from Police Mandate School next month.

The Fire Department is planning the return of the "Santa Ride Along" in December. Meetings will be scheduled with East Point Neighborhood Association Officers to plan this community event, and holiday favorite where Santa Claus will bring Christmas cheer to neighborhoods on a Fire Truck. Stay tuned for updates.

Lieutenant Charles Barnette has answered the call to serve East Point and his country. Find out more about him in the next edition of THE CALL.
My goal is to build a Department that delivers on a greater scale the best customer service while attending the EMS and Fire needs of the community and in handling other requests. It is what East Point expects and deserves and what we are committed to deliver.

Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton