



Firehouse Notes

May
2006

Our Efforts to Reach Children Are On The Right Track

First off, a disclaimer: **This is not a training memo.** This is just your PIO, with a civilian background, sharing with the members of the Department that, in my opinion, St. George is on the right track and that you are doing a good job in our efforts to reach and teach children.

I've had the opportunity to take part in and observe a number of station tours, school visits, and such; and I am truly impressed by what I've seen. Most of you relate to and communicate with children very genuinely and effectively.

Recently, Firehouse.Com had an article about what fire departments are doing to successfully teach children to get out and stay out and to not be afraid of the rescuer. (Hyperlink : <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=49171>)

Not that we need it, but this article validates our focusing not only on "Stop, Drop, and Roll," but also on "Don't Hide, Get Outside." I believe the video we show visiting children's groups, "Be Cool About Fire Safety," addresses this well. The fire service and others have done a good job of instilling "Stop, Drop, and Roll" into children's minds. In fact, I have experienced numerous times (and I know you have, too) what the article talks about in that "Stop, Drop, and Roll" has become the answer to almost any fire safety question you ask children from pre-K to around third grade.

The article also re-enforces our taking every effort go to kids parties and schools and have small or large groups tour the stations so we can show them what a firefighter looks like and help them overcome any fear of the rescuer.

Need Volunteers for Safety House Detail

Contact the PIO if you are interested in working an OT detail on June 24th. The detail will meet at Station 68, transport the trailer, and return to Station 68.

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share? ... Graduation, Wedding, or New Addition to the Family?

Somebody's Bound to Be Proud of Something Going On!

Pat Simon's - Do My Job

We were contacted by WAFB's Pat Simon to video a segment of his Do My Job series with him in the role of a St. George firefighter, with obvious limitations. He and his cameraman were approved to ride-along for an afternoon and were granted access to the facility and all staff on duty that day.

The visit was originally scheduled for Station 61 on April 26th, but was moved to the 27th at WAFB's request. This change may have let A Shift out of the frying pan, but threw C Shift into the fire on short notice. Thanks to all the folks who worked that day for the excellent on and off camera cooperation extended to Pat Simon and his cameraman. They both extended their thanks to me, so I am passing it along, again.

The segment aired on the 9News This Morning Show on May 3rd. The story ran for over three and a half minutes, which is fairly long. I believe the video and commentary portrayed St. George and the fire service very favorably.

Thanks again, to all who took part.

Applicants Being Tested for Next Academy

As the first St. George Fire Academy of 2006 is nearing completion, plans are being made for the graduation ceremony. Also underway is the screening and testing of applicants for the next academy.

The second Fire Academy of 2006 is slated to begin holding classes in late August. The anticipated 10 to 15 cadets graduating in early 2007 will bring St. George's staffing to nearly 160 employees.

The additional manpower will allow us to assign four people to most or all of our in-service fire companies.