

Testimonial, January 2014

*“You guys are awesome – the best!”*

Testimonial, October 2013

*“Everyone who comes to help @ our home is always very patient, calming and caring. You guys are the best!”*

## “STROKE PHONES” IMPROVING COMMUNICATION FOR STROKE VICTIMS

Did you know that the CCFPD has joined with Mercy Hospital’s Stroke Team in a program where our paramedics can leave a cell phone with a reporting party or family of a person having a stroke? These “stroke phones” allow the physician direct, immediate contact with the individuals that best know the patient and the events leading up to the stroke onset.

Have you heard time is muscle? Time is also brain. Similar to a heart attack, a stroke is caused by a lack of blood flow to a portion of the brain rather than to the heart. The causes are

typically either a blockage or rupture of one of the vessels in the brain leading to inadequate blood flow. We work closely with all of our local hospitals to minimize the time between identification of stroke signs and symptoms, and definitive care. When our paramedics recognize a stroke in the field, they can inform the hospital and activate a stroke team. At certain hospitals, a team of nurses and physicians led by a neurologist will be ready and waiting for the patient’s arrival. Often, our paramedics can take the patient straight to CT scan so that the stroke team can quickly



*Captain/Paramedic Gronborg displays a “Stroke Phone” used in conjunction with Mercy Hospital to create direct communication between doctors and a patient’s caregivers.*

determine the correct method of treatment. Because of our close working relationships with the hospital, outcomes of patients suffering a stroke have greatly improved.

If anyone you know has sudden onset of:

- slurred speech.
- one-sided facial droop.
- apparent weakness on one side of their body.
- memory problems.

**Be sure to immediately call 9-1-1 and consider “stroke”.**

## STRIKE TEAM 3



Fire departments have become a principal resource for responding to emergencies in their jurisdictions.

Specially trained paramedic/firefighters from the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District, as well as from other entities in St. Louis County comprise **Strike Team 3**, which is a heavy rescue task force that is dispatched to multiple types of disasters.

As nearly everyone remembers, recent tornadoes ravaged the metropolitan St. Louis area, and **Strike Team 3** along with other elite heavy rescue teams were dispatched to assist local fire departments as needed. They also responded to the city of Joplin, Missouri in May 2011 after a devastating EF 5 tornado struck causing loss of life, catastrophic damage, and countless rescue incidents. Although we do not know when and where **Strike Team 3** will be needed next, we do know that it will be needed, and we pledge to remain well-trained and well-equipped to help you and your neighbors no matter what emergency arises.

DIAL 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Need information/updates concerning the District?

Visit our website: [www.ccfire.org](http://www.ccfire.org) or follow us on twitter @crevecoeurfire 

## PROPOSITION S

**PROPOSITION S** will read, “Shall the Board of Directors at Creve Coeur Fire Protection District be authorized to levy an additional tax of not more than twenty-five cents per one hundred dollar assessed valuation to provide funds for the support of the ambulance service?”

*A simple majority is required to approve this proposition.*



*Paramedic/firefighters from CCFPD participate in an Urban Search & Rescue disaster preparedness drill with the goal of remaining incident-ready.*

## PROPOSITION Y

**PROPOSITION Y** will read, “Shall the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District issue bonds in the amount of Nineteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$19,500,000) for the purpose of purchasing real property, constructing, equipping, and maintaining fire stations and purchasing and equipping ambulances and fire protection and fire-fighting apparatus and auxiliary equipment therefore to carry-out the objects and purposes of the District?”

*A four-sevenths majority is required to approve this proposition.*

*The CCFPD firefighter/paramedics are preparing to enter a structure fire.*



### Proposition Y Funds Allocation

Construction of New Fire Station #2	\$ 5,800,000.00
Replacement of state-of-the-art ladder trucks and fire engines equipped with technologically-advanced, life-saving fire suppression and rescue equipment	\$ 4,700,000.00
New Disaster Shelter and Administrative Center	\$ 3,400,000.00
Replacement of state-of-the-art ambulances equipped with technologically-superior, advanced life support equipment	\$ 2,700,000.00
Diversified Operating Expenditures	\$ 944,000.00
Replacement of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA)	\$ 700,000.00
Replacement of fire-fighting turnout gear	\$ 660,000.00
Replacement of cardiac monitors and automated external defibrillators (AED) to remain on the cutting edge of technology	\$ 496,000.00
Replacement of breathing air compressors	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,500,000.00</b>

Testimonial, November 2013

*“Paramedics were very professional.  
Makes me proud to be a resident of Creve Coeur!”*

Testimonial, January 2014

*“Outstanding service  
in every respect.”*

## GET TO KNOW YOUR EMERGENCY RESPONDER, TIM MURPHY

We would like to tell you more about this year's Firefighter of the Year award recipient, Private Timothy Murphy. This honor is bestowed upon him for his efforts in the successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest patient. Last November, Tim along with his crew responded to a person down at a local gas station. Upon his arrival basic resuscitation efforts were being performed by CCFPD staff officers on an elderly gentleman next to the fuel pump. Private Murphy exhibited calmness under pressure in utilizing one of our newest advanced life saving pieces of equipment, the Lucas 2 automatic CPR device. Tim, along with his crew, quickly administered advanced life saving techniques and prepared the patient for transport. During transport, Tim and accompanying paramedics were able to reestablish a heart rhythm and pulse. The gentleman had normal vital signs and was even trying to breathe on his own upon arrival at the emergency department. This is only one of many incidents that he has shown excellence in the field of EMS. His professionalism, knowledge, and high standard of care makes him an asset to the community he serves. Tim Murphy was born and raised in the South St. Louis area. While attending Affton High School, he had already made the decision that he

wanted to pursue a career in the Fire Service as a paramedic/firefighter. Tim's brother, who had the same aspirations, is also a career firefighter in a neighboring district. He and his brother have a tremendous work ethic, and have worked together in a lawn care business since high school in order to pay for his education. Tim firmly advocates education, and as such, has served as an instructor at Saint Louis University in their CERT program (Community Emergency Response Team). When Tim was asked why he wanted to be in the fire service, he responded, *“The fire service is an honorable job where I can work with a diverse group of people and make a purposeful impact in people's lives.”* The St. Louis City Fire Department was the first employer to benefit from Tim's skills and attributes. After spending time there as a paramedic, he was hired by the Kirkwood Fire Department and later came to us in 2008. Tim is specially trained as a



*Paramedic/Firefighter Tim Murphy demonstrates the built-in child safety seat used on all CCFPD ambulances.*

Hazardous Materials Technician on the St. Louis County HazMat Team, and has been an integral part of the service we provide. For the last five years, Tim has volunteered his time to represent the Fire District in the Veteran's Day Parade. He holds a high value for family and loves spending time with his siblings and nieces. Tim is engaged to his fiancé, Jessica.

*A CCFPD firefighter/paramedic operates Ladder truck #2315 in aerial operations at an apartment fire.*

- #2315 has a 105 foot aerial ladder
- Carries 400 gallons of water and, with an adequate water supply, is capable of pumping 2,000 gallons per minute
- Equipped with compressed air foam system (CAFS)
- Equipped with state-of-the-art rescue and EMS equipment
- Manned 24 hours/365 days per year and responds from engine house #1



# BURNING ISSUES

**CREVE COEUR  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

PRST STD  
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ST. LOUIS, MO

PERMIT NO. 3252

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
CENTER**

11221 Olive Boulevard  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

314-432-5570

Fax: 314-432-2367

**HOUSE ONE**

11720 Olive Boulevard  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

314-432-0403

**HOUSE TWO**

10940 Schuetz Road  
St. Louis, MO 63146

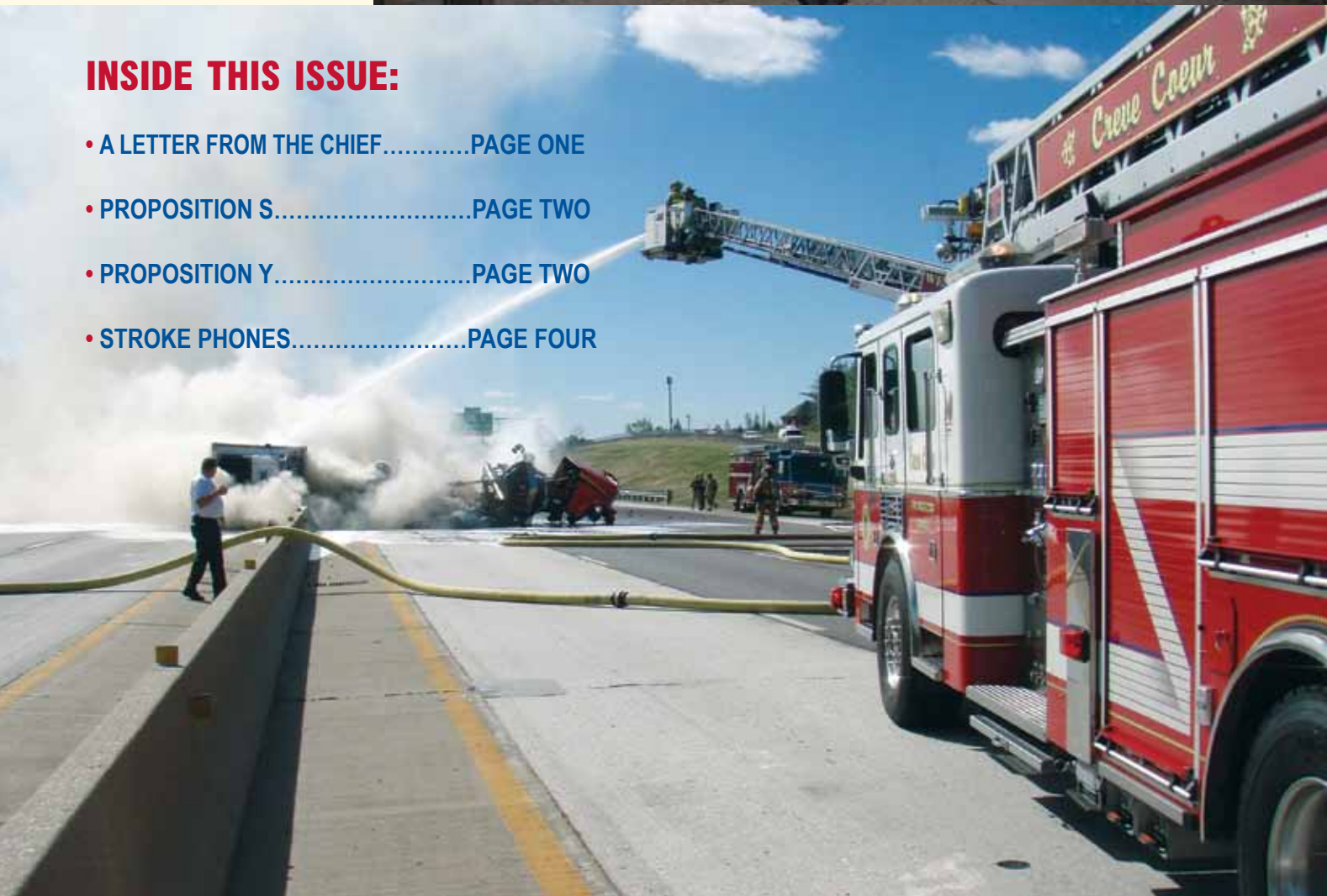
314-432-6330

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[www.ccfire.org](http://www.ccfire.org)



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MARCH 2014

# BURNING ISSUES

CREVE COEUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## The Board of Directors



**Ron Olshwanger**  
*Chairman*



**Blanche C. Keeler**  
*Secretary*



**Harvey Seigel**  
*Treasurer*

Board of Directors' Monthly Meetings are held every Tuesday, up to four per month. The meetings start at 7:00 a.m. in the Administrative Center located at 11221 Olive Boulevard. Call to confirm meeting dates.

## A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF – Kenneth D. Black

The relationship that the citizens and personnel of the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District share is one of mutual respect and admiration. You, the residents, have consistently displayed your support as evidenced by our 98% approval rating and your expressed appreciation for our services. In turn, we continue to be honored to serve you. Among the reasons we have been able to serve our neighborhoods so well is our highly-trained, well-equipped paramedics and firefighters. Whether it be the caliber of employee that we have been able to attract, the continuing education and training we provide to maintain the highest level of proficiency, or the District's cutting edge equipment-containing apparatus, we have always strived to maintain a high level of service.

Currently, Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") is approximately 40% of the District's total expenditures, but generates only 24% of the District's revenue. This is true despite a 149% increase in emergency responses since 1984. The District has subsidized the expenses for ambulance service from the general fund. The percentage of this subvention has risen from 16% in the eighties to 51% presently. In real numbers that's \$85,640 then, versus \$2,689,830 now.

As you may recall, in the Fall 2013 Newsletter, we discussed the important role that EMS plays in the District-wide budget. Since EMS is currently operating from a tax rate set in 1984, which was diminished further by legislative amendments to the Missouri State Constitution, the District has been significantly affected by the imbalance between EMS revenue and expenditures. Despite enacting cost-saving measures, the disparity between revenue and expenditures continues to grow.

In light of the foregoing, we would like to bring to your attention two ballot measures on the upcoming April 8, 2014 ballot that have been proposed in an effort to bridge the budgetary gap. The first ballot measure that will be presented to voters is a twenty-five cent EMS tax increase termed Proposition S; the second ballot measure that will be presented to voters is a 19.5 million dollar bond proposal termed Proposition Y. The purpose of Proposition S is to rectify the gap between

EMS revenue and expenditures. The purpose of Proposition Y is to, over time, pave the way for the District to construct new fire station facilities and make updates to vehicles and equipment in the coming years. (See proposed Proposition Y Funds Allocation) Proposition Y is a proposal to take on a fixed amount of debt, where the entire approved amount would not be utilized all at once, but only as needed. Bonds, which are sold on the financial market, will be paid back by tax levy.

The foregoing background information and summary of the ballot measures is being provided for informational purposes only. We will continue to strive to provide the best possible EMS services available with our elite professionals, superior equipment, and state-of-the-art training and protocols and will continue to measure ourselves by the quality and value of those services in a constant effort to keep you and your family safe.



*Firefighter/paramedics from the CCFPD are extinguishing a tractor trailer fire on Highway 270.*

The Creve Coeur Fire Protection District is committed to protecting the people, property and environment within our community. We will be responsive to the needs of our citizens by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety, and well-being of the community. We will accomplish our mission through prevention, education, fire suppression, medical services, hazard mitigation and other related emergency and non-emergency activities. We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at our command to provide a product deemed excellent by our citizens.

## STATE-OF-THE-ART MONITORS HELP IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES

According to the American Heart Association, 1 out of 3 people in the United States have cardiovascular disease, and more than 8 million people suffered a heart attack last year. Sadly, some of those heart attacks deteriorate into

cardiac arrest. Did you know that

not all cardiac arrests can be “shocked” effectively? There are a number of heart rhythms that are lethal and render the heart’s pumping action ineffective. Only two rhythms, Ventricular

Fibrillation and Ventricular Tachycardia are responsive to defibrillation. Both rhythms involve electrical activity originating from the bottom chambers of the heart.

The CCFPD uses top of the line cardiac monitors in order to effectively determine and treat abnormal and lethal heart rhythms. We have recently purchased new LifePak-15 monitors for each ambulance and truck at a cost of nearly \$29,000 each. The cost to keep and maintain advanced medical technology is high, but so is the benefit of caring for your loved ones. Each monitor has advanced electrocardiograms (ECG’s) and incorporated airway monitoring.

The LifePak-15’s enable us to determine the presence of an acute heart attack and even transmit the information to the hospital to

be examined by a physician, all while still on scene. Time is critical, and when our medics have determined an appropriate cause, they can call and activate a surgical cath lab from the field, saving precious time.

When the patient arrives at the hospital, in some instances the paramedics will bypass the ER and take the patient directly to a surgical suite where a cardiac surgeon and team will be waiting. Because of this cooperation between our hospitals and paramedics, patient outcomes are greatly improved.

### **Signs and symptoms of a cardiac event, or heart attack can include:**

- Chest pain, or pain in the arm, neck, jaw, or back with unknown cause.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Sweating with unknown cause.
- Nausea and/or vomiting.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- We enjoy a 98% approval rating from the citizens we serve.
- Our paramedic/firefighters are cross-trained not only in emergency medicine and fire suppression, but in a variety of disciplines such as: Hazardous Materials & Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) response, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) training, High-Angle & Confined Space Rescue, Ice & Swift Water Rescue, and Active Shooter response.
- District call volume has increased from 2280 calls per year in 1984 to 5673 calls in 2013.
- According to St. Louis County Government records we protect over \$1.26 billion in fixed property not including weekday business traffic.
- The District is comprised of parts of the cities of Creve Coeur, Maryland Heights, Town & Country, and unincorporated St. Louis County, as well as the Village of Westwood.
- All District buildings are smoke-free and pet friendly.
- The District provides CPR education to the public at no cost.
- The District houses and maintains the primary St. Louis County Hazardous Materials Unit, which responds for incident monitoring, entry team insertion, and remediation.
- We have an excellent ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating of 3. This is among the top ratings in the metropolitan St. Louis area and is a factor in determining lower insurance rates.
- In addition to our residents, we also protect two colleges, nine schools in the Ladue, Parkway, and Pattonville School Districts, 26 private schools, and 16 pre-school and daycare centers.
- There are three hospitals within the Fire District limits, one of which is a Level 1 Trauma Center and fully accredited Children’s Hospital.
- We protect five skilled nursing facilities, two assisted-living facilities, two hospital-based hospitality houses, and ten group homes.