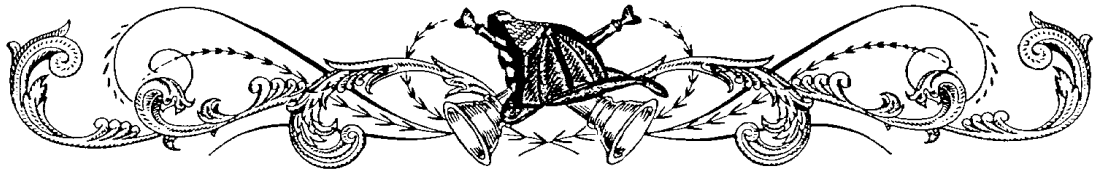




# The Guernsey County Firefighter



Volume 7, Issue 05

May 2007

**DON'T FORGET:** Guernsey County Firefighters' Association Meeting  
Tuesday - May 08, 2007  
7:30 P.M. @ Lore City VFD

## Curve Caution: By Chris Daly of FireRescue

How many times have we heard of a fire apparatus crash that occurred while a vehicle was rounding a curve? There are many reasons for this, most of which revolve around speed.

Every curve in the roadway has a "critical speed." If you exceed this, your vehicle will begin to spin around its center of mass and leave the roadway. Regardless of your skill level or years of experience, if you exceed the critical speed your vehicle will lose control.

Critical speed is determined based on how sharp the curve is, how much bank is in the roadway, and the "stickiness" or coefficient of friction of the road surface. By measuring these three factors and plugging them into a formula, the critical speed of a curve can be calculated.

Let's examine a curve in the road that has a radius of 200 feet, a curve not uncommon to most of our districts. On a sunny day with dry asphalt, the critical speed of this curve would be approximately 51 mph. A driver traversing this curve at 40 mph would safely navigate the curve and not think twice.

Imagine that the next day it rained, and now the asphalt is wet. This change in weather conditions would lower the critical speed of the curve to approximately 34 mph. If the same driver who previously drove through this curve at 40 mph attempted to do the same thing in the rain, he would find himself spinning off the roadway because the rain had caused the critical speed to drop to 34 mph. By driving faster than 34 mph, the vehicle begins to lose control and loses traction with the road surface.

No matter how long you have been driving or how good you think you are, if you exceed the critical speed of a curve, you will lose control of your vehicle.

### Centers of gravity

In addition to issues with critical speed, drivers of vehicles with high centers of gravity have other issues to contend with. If you are driving a vehicle with a high center of

gravity, such as a fire truck, you will probably roll over well below the critical speed of the curve.

As the fire truck enters and begins to round the curve, centrifugal force will cause the weight of the vehicle to shift to the front outside tire. This causes the center of mass of the vehicle to shift as well. If you're traveling too fast and the center of mass of the vehicle shifts too far, a rollover will result.

Overcorrection is also a common cause of curve-related crashes. How many times have we heard of a fire apparatus crash that was caused when the driver drifted off the right side of the road, attempted to bring the vehicle back onto the road, overcorrected and then caused the vehicle to roll over?

We often hear training programs say that drivers should slow down, regain control of the vehicle and then bring the truck back onto the road surface. I say stop the truck. It is much safer to bring the vehicle to a controlled stop and then gently bring the vehicle back onto the road surface at a slow and safe speed.

There is no need to try and save a few seconds conducting such a risky maneuver as bringing a moving vehicle back onto the road surface. Stop the truck, take a breath, assess the situation and continue on. If you are that concerned about the time it will take to bring the truck to a stop, slow down and don't drift off the road in the first place!

Curve-related crashes are a common cause of firefighter injuries and fatalities. Drivers must recognize the hazards of driving a vehicle through a curve, especially during inclement weather conditions, or while operating a vehicle with a high center of gravity.

Drivers must be thoroughly familiar with their districts so that they are able to recognize that a curve is approaching and slow down well in advance of entering it.

**Guernsey County Firefighters Association**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**April 10, 2007**

Guernsey County Firefighters Association Meeting April 10, 2007 held at Cumberland VFD.

Meeting called to order by President Mike Warner with 13 members present.

Old minutes were read and approved.

Finance report given \$3,950.21 with Post office box rent due of \$40.00

NO OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

**EMA**; Last meeting they went over multi-agency coordination and Emergency Operation Center.

LEPC exercise will be at Senecaville May 18th and there will be a players briefing on the 16th at 18:00 hours at Senecaville VFD.

There will be a county Terrorism meeting April 26th at 08:15 at the county Administration building, the meeting is open to the public and they will have a representative from DDTI to discuss the Centerline Project and the GIS system.

Three departments need to finish up their NIMS paperwork, Cumberland, Old Washington, and Liberty to be compliant.

NIMS 400 class is at Senecaville April 21st and 22nd if needed.

NIMS 300 & 400 classes scheduled at Liberty October 27th & 28th, and November 17th & 18th if needed.

If anyone needs some in-house training for those that need NIMS 700,100,200,800 get with Gerry or Linnie at 432-9292

BYESVILLE; Tanker out of service.

Thanked all who helped with the grass fire and responded to a few 1st responder calls.

CUMBERLAND; Been calm, and trying to build a tanker, also reported they had a few grass fires

SENECAVILLE; seven fire calls and eight 1st responder calls for the month and they talked to Finley and expect there new tanker by the end of July.

Mentioned FEMA Grant applications are out, and that they are holding a CPR refresher class, Thursday April 19th at 18:00 hours and a beginners class Saturday May 5th at 08:00 hours at the Firehouse for the community

NEW CONCORD; Reported 58 EMS calls and 19 fire related calls and in the middle of a basic fire class.

CERT; have two more classes and then will be holding there disaster drill May 5th from 08:00 to 12:00

LORE CITY; Quiet

QUAKER CITY; Reported they quit Bingo operations, due to the lack of a crowd.

Golf outing May 6th, and looking for EMS volunteers who want to help out with Go-Cart races. 12 EMS and 7 fire incidents

FAIRVIEW; Fireman's festival with contests to be August 18th, Flyers passed out

TECH RESCUE TEAM; holding a golf outing April 28th, Get a hold of Justin Warner at CFD

ANTRIM; Reported three EMS calls, and that EMT class has 3 more classes, Swift water class this weekend and it is the Pennsylvania criteria , NFPA 1670 until Ohio gets there Standard set, note, to be swift water operations you will need to be at rope operation lever. Class to be \$2,000.00 to be divided up among participants. Wednesday and Thursday will be swim test and Friday at 18:00 hours and 08:00 hours will be class room and Sunday will be swimming at Senecaville dam at 08:00

Byesville motions and Antrim seconds for adjournment at 20:14 hours; Passed

## Join The National Volunteer Fire Council and Merck/Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals (MSP) in "Sounding the Alarm for High Cholesterol"

Heart attack is the leading cause of on-duty death among firefighters. Moreover, nearly 100 million American adults have high total cholesterol – a risk factor for heart disease. With statistics like these, the NVFC and Merck/Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals (MSP) are "Sounding the Alarm for High Cholesterol" to alert firefighters to the risks of high cholesterol and its role in heart disease. This important new program is an extension of NVFC's Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, which aims to reduce the number of firefighter and EMS personnel deaths from heart attack.

Education is the first step toward living a heart-healthy lifestyle. NVFC and MSP are challenging firefighters and EMS personnel to learn more about high cholesterol and its role in heart disease. Log onto the program's new web site, [www.cholesterolalarm.com](http://www.cholesterolalarm.com), to take the Heart-Healthy Challenge - a fun, educational quiz for firefighters and EMS personnel - and access other resources including family history mapping and risk assessment tools.

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## May 20-26 is National EMS Week

National EMS Week will be celebrated across the nation on May 20-26, 2007. This event brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services on the medical front line.

This year's theme is, "Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service."

Organized by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and supported by a network of partner organizations including the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), EMS Week includes national and local activities to honor EMS providers and raise public awareness about health and safety issues, including how to prevent injuries and what to do in a medical emergency.

For more information, including a National EMS Week Planning Kit, visit [www.acep.org/emsweek](http://www.acep.org/emsweek).

## Fire & EMS Stand Down June 17-23

The Third Annual Fire and EMS Stand Down will take place during the week of June 17-23. This year's theme, "*Ready to Respond*," focuses on the proper training, preparation, and equipment necessary to answer a call and return safely. The Stand Down has an expanded schedule this year to provide departments with maximum flexibility for participating in the exercise, including weekend opportunities to better accommodate volunteers.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) urges every fire and EMS department to participate in the Stand Down by suspending all non-emergency activity in order to focus entirely on firefighter and EMS safety until all shifts and personnel have taken part. The NVFC joins the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), and other emergency service organizations in encouraging participation in this event.

"Firefighter and EMS personnel health and safety must remain a top priority, and the Stand Down offers a way to garner increased attention to this critical issue," said Maggie Wilson, Director of Health and Safety for the NVFC. "The NVFC continues to work towards decreasing the number of line-of-duty deaths through programs such as the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative, and the Emergent Health and Safety Issues Project. I hope all departments use the Stand Down as an opportunity to address important health and safety issues and move this critical topic to the center of focus."

For more information regarding the Stand Down and related activities, visit [www.iafc.org/standdown](http://www.iafc.org/standdown).

**REMEMBER**

***L.E.P.C.***

***EXERCISE***

***MAY 18TH, 2007***

## The Guernsey County Firefighter

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### NOTICE

Anyone that would like the  
Newsletter e-mailed to them.  
Send your e-mail address to  
[tbeckner65@cebridge.net](mailto:tbeckner65@cebridge.net).

## Guernsey County Firefighters' Association

### 2006 Meetings

January 9	Senecaville***
February 13	Cassell Station
March 13	Liberty
April 10	Cumberland***
May 8	Lore City
June 12	Antrim
July 10	Old Washington***
August 14	Byesville
September	No Meeting—Guernsey County Fair
October 9	Pleasant City***
November 13	Quaker City
December 11	Cambridge

Guernsey County Firefighters' Association meeting start at 1930 hrs.

\*\*\*GCLEPC meeting at 1800 hrs;

Guernsey County Hazmat meeting to follow LEPC meeting

## Heart Defibrillators Available to Public Safety Agencies

*New initiative established to raise the standard of care for community safety Nashville, TN (April 6, 2007)*

LifeGuard Medical Solutions, a national leader in the field of cardiac care, has created a new initiative aimed to provide automated external defibrillators (AED's) to all agencies providing services of Public Safety (EMS/Fire/Police).

The initiative, named "*The Public Safety AED Program*", has been established in an effort to raise the standard of care for communities throughout the U.S.

The program allows all Public Safety agencies the ability to purchase AED's at a nationally contracted discounted rate-structure. The defibrillator awarded as the AED-of-choice for *The Public Safety AED Program* is the HeartStart Onsite AED. Manufactured by Philips Medical Systems – the worldwide leader in the AED industry – the HeartStart OnSite AED has been selected for this program based upon its reliability, ease-of-use and advanced technology.

While the deadline date may be extended, *The Public Safety AED Program* is currently valid until August 31, 2007. All agencies interested in purchasing AED's off this national contract are therefore encouraged to respond to this opportunity promptly.

### Corporate Profile

LifeGuard Medical Solutions was established as a champion of cardiac care following the 1999 sudden cardiac arrest death of the founder's father. A leading nationally-recognized CPR Certified Training Center for the American Heart Association (AHA), the company provides onsite life-support training services and distributes AED's to communities and organizations throughout North America.

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