Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report

University of Maryland

Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute

Statistics FY 2013

Emergency Services Programs	**1,534**
Field Programs Section	1,052
Special Programs Section	278
Company Drills	148
Seminars	56
Students by Program	**32,050**
Field Programs Section	22,699
Special Programs Section	5,516
Company Drills	2,455
Seminars	1,380

Student Hours by Program	**808,535**
Field Programs Section	726,957
Special Programs Section	63,011
Company Drills	8,490
Seminars	10,077
Students by Discipline	**32,050**
Fire	7,283
EMS	5,794
ALS	1,704
Rescue	2,583
Management	3,714
Hazardous Materials	2,039
Specialty	5,098
Company Drills	2,455
Seminars	1,380

New MFRI Classes

Student Study Skills
Firefighter I
Firefighter II
Fire Officer I/II
HAZWOPER Seminar
Fire Brigade Refresher

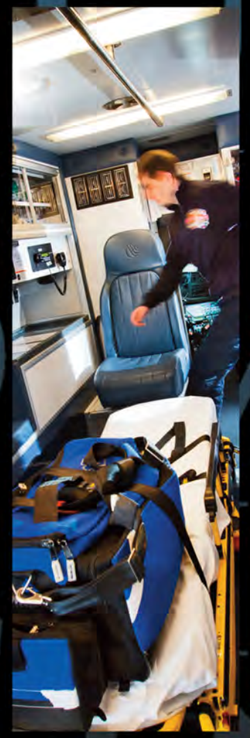
Wireless Internet Access Now Available within MFRI Headquarters

Wi-Fi has arrived at the MFRI Headquarters building in College Park. As part of the University's policy of periodically upgrading each building, network services in the MFRI building on the College Park Campus have been improved with the addition of wireless networking. In order to maintain network security, the connections require log-in credentials. University employees can use their campus directory IDs to log in. Visitors to the University will be provided a guest account that will change daily. The guest account information will be posted in the building each morning.

Firefighter Training in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

MFRI's Special Programs Section conducted a recruit fire school at the Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GITMO) from February 8-March 18. MFRI taught the following programs at the facility: Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, and Airport Firefighter.

Fire Chief Eric Tucker and the members of the GITMO Fire and Emergency Services Department were extremely helpful in assisting in coordinating equipment, apparatus, and facilities and in supporting the MFRI staff in order to make this a successful program. The training, although challenging for students as well as instructors, was successful. Indications are that MFRI will return soon for more training opportunities.



New EMT Program

MFRI began instructing the new Emergency Medical Technician Course to the DOT national standard. The course is 165 hours and includes significant new material, especially regarding anatomy and physiology.

MFRI, in conjunction with MIEMSS, continues to monitor these classes very carefully in order to improve student success.

Firefighter RIT Training and C-Spine Immobilization

Since the introduction of the rapid intervention concept, the amount of literature covering the rescue of a firefighter has grown rapidly. An area that has not been addressed as in depth, however, is what happens immediately following a successful rescue, and how to initially manage the firefighter/patient still dressed in full turnout gear and SCBA. The MFRI ALS staff noted that there are written procedures for stabilizing a patient being removed from a car or swimming pool, and procedures for removing football or motorcycle helmets, but no such techniques could be found regarding the removal of a full protective ensemble from an injured firefighter.

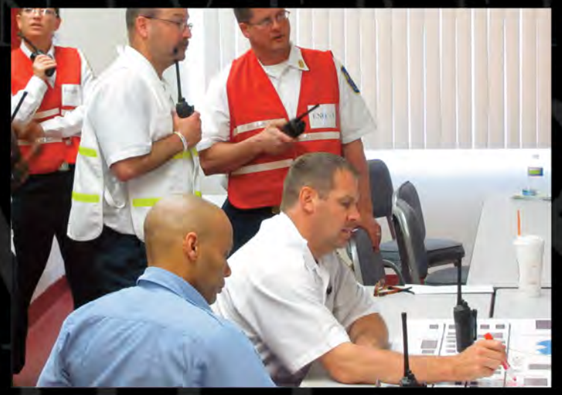
In August of 2010, MFRI ALS began researching and developing a technique for rapidly removing the gear of a rescued firefighter while maintaining cervical stabilization and keeping patient movement to a minimum. With the guidance of the MFRI medical director, a procedure was developed and added as a lesson in the current Paramedic Transitional Refresher Course, titled "**Management of the Injured Firefighter.**" The procedure has been published in the June issue of EMS World Magazine, and presented at the Firehouse Expo in Baltimore on July 27th. This lesson has also been given as a stand-alone company drill, and is still available in this format by contacting the ALS Section.

NFPA and MFRI Partner for Electric Vehicle Battery Testing

Through the Center for Fire Fighter Safety Research and Development, the National Fire Protection Association Research Foundation and Exponent Engineering approached MFRI to partner in a research project, to identify the best practices to be employed by emergency responders to incidents involving electric vehicle battery hazards.

MFSPQB Issues Record Number of Certifications

Record certifications from the Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress, and Pro Board were processed for 2012, surpassing previous years. One of the successes of the year was the number of previous edition certification requests. Over 9,400 certifications were issued including over 1,800 previous edition certifications. The ability to certify to previous editions allowed fire and rescue personnel to certify for standards issued within the last three National Fire Protection Association standard editions.



Sim Center Now Mobile

MFRI is proud to announce the expansion of our Simulation Center operations. The Simulation Center is offered by using a new Mobile Sim Lab (MSL). The MSL provides comprehensive on-site training similar in experience to that enjoyed by students who come to our main facility in College Park. At the MFRI regional centers, instructors can run multiple computers in various rooms simultaneously. The scenarios can be used in Fire Officer, HazMat Incident Commander, EMS Officer, NIMS, and other classes, as well as in stand-alone company drill-type classes on tactics, communications, incident command, size-up, etc.

Students communicate with one another and with Command with portable radios to learn to manage an incident using ICS and NIMS procedures as well as local procedures where appropriate. MFRI has developed several simulated scenarios depicting not only fires, but also mass casualty incidents, hazardous materials incidents, natural disasters, and other incidents.