Volunteer of the Year in Georgetown County
Submitted by: Fire Marshal Jesse Cooper, Georgetown County Fire/EMS

Annie Stewart was a full-time employee with Georgetown County Fire/EMS for approximately 18 years. She has volunteered her time for Georgetown County Fire/EMS since 2015. After retiring, she has continued to volunteer her services as a volunteer coordinator for Station 14. She also assists in other capacities within the department as needed. Annie serves in the capacity of liaison at Station 14 assisting Fire Marshal, Jesse L. Cooper, in training and meetings.

Annie is a reliable individual who corresponds with volunteers at Stations 8 and 14 regarding updating file information, courses being offered, participating in events, budget, criteria for maintaining active status as firefighter volunteers, 1% Committee member and Family Day Committee member.

Ms. Annie’s (as she is called) spirit encourages others to do their best, remain positive and know that we are making a difference in the lives of others.
3617 Firefighters Fighting Autism!
President Justin Lenker, Midway Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3617

The International Association of Firefighters and the Fire Service are always there to support local organizations in a fight for a serious illness, cancer, or a firefighter or firefighter family in need or tragedy. Midway Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3617, has decided to team up with SOS Healthcare to assist the new Autism Center which is offering Autism services in Georgetown County for the first time. We see children as our future, but as much as they need us, we need them. The proceeds of the variety of apparel sales will go towards scholarship funding for our new SOS Health Care Social Skills Group in Georgetown County! This offer will run until the end of April 2019!

The goal is to raise at least $1,000.00 for the new Autism Center in Georgetown County!

April is World Autism Month. Many of our members know of someone who has been diagnosed or someone affected with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

We hope that you'll help us "Fight for Autism Awareness"!

Want to support this campaign? Check out Midway Professional Firefighters Association on Facebook or at their website at https://www.iafflocal3617.org/online-store.
The National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference was held on November 27-29, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference attendees gained knowledge, new ideas, and solutions to help Georgetown County better mitigate the potential hazards of natural and man-made disasters and to better serve the healthcare community.
30 Years of Service
Submitted by: Assistant Fire Chief Tony Hucks, Georgetown County Fire/EMS

Thirty-years in the Fire Service and still going. Who am I talking about? Well, it would be Battalion Chief David Geney. He started his career in 1988 with Midway Fire Rescue, and then in 2004 he moved over to Georgetown County Fire/EMS as a Battalion Chief. Over the years, he has shown to be a strong leader on incident scenes. As most know, he is very dedicated in getting the job done, being safe, and looking out for his crews.

I would like to commend BC Geney for his hard work and dedication to the fire service and those he serves. Join me in congratulating and thanking BC David Geney for his 30 Years of Service to Georgetown County!
Severe Weather Awareness
Submitted by: Georgetown County Emergency Management

With the onset of spring comes the possibility of severe weather events. Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Carolina this year is March 10-16, 2019; and the annual school Tornado Drill is scheduled for March 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Recognizing severe weather, developing a plan, and being ready to act when threatening weather approaches can protect you and your family. Remember, your safety, and the safety of those in your care, is up to you!

What You Can Do Before Severe Weather Strikes

Develop and practice a plan for you and your family at home, work, school, and when outdoors, and have an emergency supply kit. The American Red Cross offers tips at: www.redcross.org, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at: www.ready.gov.

When Dangerous Weather Approaches

Avoid the Lightning Threat

- **Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you’ll go for safety and how much time it will take to get there. Make sure your plan allows enough time to reach safety.
- **Postpone activities.** Before going outdoors, check the forecast for thunderstorms. Consider postponing activities to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.
- **Monitor the weather.** Look for signs of a developing thunderstorm such as darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind.
- **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately move to a safe place. *When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!* Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do not protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all the windows. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.
- **If you hear thunder, don’t use a corded phone.** Cordless phones, cell phones, and other wireless handheld devices are safe to use.
- **Keep away from electrical equipment, wiring, and water pipes.** Sensitive electronics should be unplugged well in advance of thunderstorms. Don’t take a bath, shower, or use other plumbing during a thunderstorm.

When Caught Outside During Thunder

There is no safe place outside during a thunderstorm. Plan ahead to avoid this dangerous situation! If you’re outside and hear thunder, the only way to significantly reduce your risk of becoming a lightning casualty is to get inside a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle as fast as you can. Remember, there is no substitute for getting to a safe place.

- **Avoid open areas and stay away from isolated tall trees, towers, or utility poles.** Do not be the tallest object in the area. Lightning tends to strike the tallest objects in the area.
- **Stay away from metal conductors such as wires or fences.** Metal does not attract lightning, but lightning can travel long distances through it.
Tornado Safety Rules

- The safest place to be is an underground shelter, basement, or safe room. If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative.
- Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon mobile homes and go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter:
  - Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
  - If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort:
    - Stay in your vehicle with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.
    - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car, and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
- Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances.

Flash Flood Safety Rules

- Avoid driving, walking, or swimming in flood waters.
- Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines, or culverts. Even moving water only six inches deep can knock you off your feet. Move to higher ground.
- Do not let children play near storm drains.
- If you come upon a flooded roadway never drive through it. TURN AROUND DON’T DROWN!!

Stay Informed with a NOAA Weather Radio for All Hazards

What to Listen for...

**Tornado Watch**—NWS meteorologists have determined that tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Know if your location is in the watch area by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, visiting [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) or by tuning into your favorite radio or television weather information broadcast stations.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch**—NWS meteorologists have determined that severe thunderstorms are likely to occur in your area. Watch the sky and stay tuned for NWS warnings.

**Tornado Warning**—NWS meteorologists have determined that a tornado is occurring, or is likely to occur within minutes, in the specified area. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning**—NWS meteorologists have determined that a severe thunderstorm is occurring or is likely to occur. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.
Georgetown County Fire/EMS Toy Drive “Fill the Ambulance”
Submitted by: Lt. Keith Ziegenhorn, Georgetown County Fire/EMS

On November 17 and 18, 2018, Firefighters from Georgetown County Fire/EMS volunteered their time for Toys for Tots. The event was “Fill the ambulance,” and the goal was to fill the back of an ambulance with toys. Walmart was nice enough to allow us to hold the event outside their store which made it very easy for people to donate as they left the store. The event was so successful that by the end of Saturday, crews needed to empty the truck to be able to run the event on Sunday. By the end of the event Sunday evening, the ambulance had been filled twice with donated toys. Several members of the community actually returned two or more times to continue with donations.

Approximately 1,500 toys were donated, and all the donations were kept within Georgetown County.

Special thanks to those who helped make this event so successful!

- Walmart of Georgetown
- Georgetown County Fire/EMS
  -Battalion Chief Ryan Allen
  -Lt. Dale Hewitt
  -MFF Joshua Sapp
  -Breanna Ziegenhorn

And of course, thanks to all who donated to make someone’s Christmas more special!
Dear Chief Eggiman,

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the service we received from Division Chief Mark Nugent. After being awakened by one of our smoke detectors the other night, I replaced the 9-volt battery yet was still unsure if the unit was functioning properly. So the next morning, I went online to find someone specializing in smoke detector service, perhaps an electrician; but fortunately, my search led me to the Midway Fire Rescue website.

Though skeptical as to whether a fire department would help me with a smoke detector question, I called anyway and explained the situation. The person I spoke with said that she would have someone call me back, and within half an hour, I received a phone call from Mark, who generously offered to stop by to assess the situation.

In inspecting our three smoke detectors, Mark found that two of them were failing and recommended that they be replaced. He then suggested that we purchase units with a ten-year lithium battery and explained the advantages. And he told me exactly where I could buy them and what to look for on the packaging. Much to my pleasant surprise, Mark also offered to come back the next day to help me install them, which was a relief because I had never changed out a smoke detector. In the morning, Mark stopped by as promised, but he went above and beyond by doing all the installation work himself while showing me the process and how to test the new units.

As stated on your website, the mission of Midway Fire Rescue is “to provide the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency service to the public that we serve with the resources available to us.” No one could exemplify this pledge better than Mark Nugent. He is clearly someone who cares about the people in the community and demonstrates it through his willingness to share not only his knowledge about fire prevention and safety, but also his time in going the extra mile to help others—as he did for us.

Mark is to be commended for his public service. Thank you!

Best regards,

Lloyd Mayerson
Do you come to work with a positive attitude? We all have a choice how we approach our day and our approach influences those around us. Carrying a positive attitude can have many positive effects on your life.

A positive attitude can boost your energy, heighten your inner strength, inspire others, and garner the fortitude to meet difficult challenges. According to research from the Mayo Clinic, positive thinking can increase your life span, decrease depression, reduce levels of distress, provide greater resistance to the common cold, offer better psychological and physical well-being, reduce the risk of death from cardiovascular disease, and enable you to cope better during hardships and times of stress.

https://www.franksonnenbergonline.com/blog/the-power-of-a-positive-attitude/

We deal regularly with hardships and stress both mental and physical. How we approach our work and our coworkers can set the tone for everyone. Look around at the people you work with. You have those positive people around that make everyone’s day better. And you have the ones that blame, criticize and complain. What kind of person are you?

Positivity starts with you. You can control your negative thinking in the following ways:

- See the glass as half full rather than half empty.
- Anticipate the best outcome.
- Stay the middle ground. Don’t view everything in extremes — as either fantastic or a catastrophe. This will help you reduce your highs and lows.
- Mistakes happen. Negative people blame themselves for every bad occurrence whether it was their fault or not. Don’t let this be you.

Choose to be the person at work that makes everyone’s day better.
# Emergency Services Birthdays

## Georgetown County Fire/EMS

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<tr>
<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td>Buster Evans</td>
<td>Harold West</td>
<td>Lizzie Falkenhagen</td>
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<td>Matthew Todd</td>
<td>Theron Alston</td>
<td>Douglas Herriott</td>
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<td>William Whitnauer</td>
<td>Robert Kosto</td>
<td>Cedric Geathers</td>
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<td>Chris Avant</td>
<td>David Geney</td>
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<td>Lawrence Davis</td>
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<td>Daniel Young</td>
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## Midway Fire Rescue

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<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cody Norket</td>
<td>Robert Sellers</td>
<td>Joseph Ruffennach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Deleuze</td>
<td>Alex Roman</td>
<td>Josann Welch</td>
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<td>Gene Turner</td>
<td>Aaron Bostic</td>
<td>Rick Myers</td>
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<td>Santini Washington</td>
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<td>Edward Mills</td>
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## Georgetown County Emergency Services/Emergency Management

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<tr>
<td>Cindy Grace</td>
<td>5/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Howle</td>
<td>6/10</td>
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FP Rekos has been an amazing addition to the department. With his prior experience and knowledge, he has been an incredible resource to the department and the community. FP Rekos has completed all driver training requirements, completed his probation with excellent scores and has already become an absolute go-to-person, not only for the officers, but for the younger firefighters when it comes to answering questions, giving advice and just being a solid and reliable role model.

With the pending retirement of FF Kingsford, I would say that FP Rekos, even with his limited time at Midway, will be and in many ways has already become our next senior man in the department. His work ethic and attention to detail are second to none and his willingness to be helpful is a welcome addition to the department. FP Rekos is an awesome person and his time and patience with his patients and his co-workers is what sets him apart. We are very lucky to have had FP Rekos join the department.

He has already become a mentor for younger less experienced paramedics, and his knowledge and experience are invaluable to helping grow and mature our new paramedics. In addition, FP Rekos will be working into the role of FF Kingsford as our shift trainer and developer of apparatus drivers.
MFF Morales is one of those reliable employees that can handle any task assigned and never needs to be prodded to get things done. His duties as a Master Firefighter for C Shift include mentoring and training newer firefighters getting them oriented to MFR and Georgetown County. He trains the more senior firefighters on driving and operating our apparatus. He also fills in as the station officer when an officer is on leave. His scene command is sound and his radio communications are clear and concise.

In addition to the shift duties, Steven carries other committee and project responsibilities. He has been serving on the Emergency Services Fuel Committee for several years. He is our Active911 "go-to" person for addressing issues with Active911—adding and removing personnel as needed and adding updated hydrant and pre-plan information. He is serving on the Apparatus Committee for the new ladder truck for Station 81 and his knowledge of our current apparatus makes him a key player in design and equipment list for this piece. He also serves on the Grants Committee doing the leg work as needed to apply for grants.

Steven always thinks of the big picture and looks for cost savings whenever possible. He is active in the budgeting process by suggesting ideas and providing information so that administration can make sound decisions. He arranged for the department to get apparatus cleaning supplies in bulk savings and in doing so, he saved MFR, the County, and ultimately the tax payers hundreds (if not 1,000s) of dollars a year.

Steven is more than just a FF for MFR and C Shift. He cares about MFR and its personnel and is always making an effort to better the department.