

Opinions

Everybody has one...

How to Handle an Emergency

Emergencies happen every day. It is our job, as public safety, to receive calls; notify responders; respond to the emergency; and know what to do when we get there. Public safety is trained to make order out of the chaos of emergencies. However, most of the general population have not had training on what to do in an emergency. We cannot provide enough information in a single column to prepare you for every emergency; however, Union County Fire Department would like to provide a few tips to help get you started.

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Recognizing an emergency is the first step. Sounds simple but one person's definition of an emergency can be different from another. The dictionary defines an emergency as, "a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action." If there is a situation that meets that definition and you need help to deal with it, then you have an emergency. By the way, situations such as getting the wrong order at the drive thru of your local fast food restaurant is not an emergency.

Once you know you have an emergency, there are a few things that you need to do. First, remain calm. There may be times where you actually have to tell yourself to calm down. Remaining calm helps everyone else around you remain calm and allows you to perform much better. Next, call 911 and provide detailed information to the 911 dispatcher.

Some people feel that the act of calling 911 will solve the emergency. It is true that calling 911 will get public safety on the way but in the meantime; what should a person do? There are so many different emergencies that we can't cover them all here but there may be actions that can be performed before help arrives. There are the obvious such as cardiac arrest where CPR can be performed; major bleeding that can be controlled with direct pressure; small fire where a fire extinguisher can be used; etc. If you feel you must act, make certain that your actions will not place you in danger.

If you really want to know what to do during an emergency, you should do some research and take some classes. There are CPR, First Aid, and various other classes that can teach basic information about emergencies. There is also CERT (Citizens Emergency

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Free Indeed

You've probably seen Warner Sallman's popular painting "Christ at Heart's Door." He was inspired by Holman Hunt's "The Light of the World," first painted in 1853. That painting hangs in Keble College, Oxford.

Both are inspired by Jesus' words, "I stand at the door and knock" (Rev. 3:20). Part of the symbolism is that the door has no handle, implying that it must be opened from the inside. You can let Jesus in, or not. God does not force Himself on us because he created humans to be free to think and act.

Not so fast, says the secularist. We are propelled by atoms, molecules, and environment. It's all cause and effect, not free will. That's called "determinism." Proponent Sam Harris writes, "How can we make sense of our lives, and hold people accountable for their choices, given the unconscious origins of our conscious minds?" That worldview can hold no one morally responsible, which may sound like freedom but is a form of slavery.

The yearning for freedom is part of what it means to be human. It inspires our dreams and fuels our successes. It prompted a people to cross the Red Sea with the army of ancient Egypt in hot pursuit. It caused colonial Americans to dump tea into Boston Harbor and take up arms against a conquering world power. It inspired Wilberforce to devote his political career to the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that full civil rights be granted to all Americans who could then say together, "Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

God is free and created us to be the same. But we tend to apply freedom in flawed ways because the human condition is imperfect. The Bible attributes this to man's choice to defy God, and thereby introduce sin into the world. So, though we advocate for human freedom from oppression and restraint, that is only a picture of the ultimate freedom we need. For that, we turn to the only One who can deliver it.

Jesus said, "Everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." The world's answer is to lash out against anything or anyone that reminds them of that slavery, instead of accepting the grand offer. "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of

All Things New
Wayne Fowler



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Commissioner's Questions

Q. Why does GDOT use the squirting of tar in the cracks instead of always resurfacing the highway?

A. For the same reason we use surface treatment paving, to keep the road surface in good condition and safe for travel and to SAVE MONEY! Putting the tar in the cracks keeps the moisture out of the pavement, which helps it to last longer and produce less pot holes. While this patching method uses a lot of man hours and equipment and supplies, it can extend the life of a paved road for five years or more in many cases. This saves a lot of money and still allows for safe travel, just as the patching the county does.

Q. Does the patching method the county uses work better or worse than the state method?

A. I would say that it works just as good if not better, plus we can do our patching with one person driving the gravel spreading truck and one person driving the tar spreading truck. However, it is true that we have to really watch the weather closely, as it can make a mess if we get rained on while spreading the tar, as some have experienced. Another reason we use the patching method we do is that many of the older paved county roads were not set up correctly using adequate amounts of base gravel, and they can have so many cracks that it requires the covering of larger areas in order to cover all the cracks.

Q. My road hasn't been paved in over 20 years but is still in good shape. Do you have a time frame where each road is paved after a certain amount of time passes?

A. No. The amount of time between road paving's isn't on a time frame; each road has to be looked at individually for specific conditions. We then compile a list and work on the roads in most need. The county road I live on was paved probably 25 years ago by the county. Through the years it has received several patches and remains an excellent road, although it would look a lot better if it had a fresh coat of asphalt. We try to not resurface our roads just for looks, but for need.

Q. My road is closed tomorrow, what am I supposed to do?

A. It is an unfortunate truth that sometimes the Road Department will need to close a road for repairs. This situation does not

Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



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Drug Free Mountain Life

Synthetic Drugs

Prevention is about advancing knowledge and understanding of the risks associated with drug and alcohol use. The goal of prevention programs is to deliver the facts and provide resources to people in hopes that they can avoid the pitfalls of substance use and abuse. Prevention programs are not just for children, adolescents and teens. Every person in our community benefits from substance abuse education and resources.

The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN LIFE campaign supports an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families, and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.

Drugs that are abused are evolving and becoming more accessible, and they are often purchased legally at the local convenience store.

Not all drug use can be detected in over-the-counter drug screens that you can buy at the pharmacy or big-box stores.

Synthetic drugs are just as addictive and dangerous as illicit street drugs purchased from the local drug dealer.

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Letters to the Editor

In Memoriam - Thank You

To the Union County Class of 2019,

I would like to express my sincerest thanks and heartfelt appreciation for the presentation, yearbook display, and speech given in memory of my daughter, Jennifer Beavers. In a world where kindness and thoughtfulness seems to be a rarity, it gives me great hope to know there are young folks like each of you about to embark on the journeys of your lives.

Jennifer left us several years ago, but she lives on through those of us that knew her. When we think about her, she lives. When we speak about her, she lives. As long as there are memories thought of and stories shared, she will always remain alive inside our hearts. Please continue to keep her spirit alive by thinking of her from time to time and sharing memories of her to those who wish to know about her.

To Eli Reeves, thank you for the wonderful tribute through music, as well as the heartfelt speech.

To Kanon Hemphill, thank you for the heartfelt speech.

To the Yearbook Staff, thank you for honoring Jennifer's memory in photos.

And thank you to each and every one of you. I'm extremely grateful for everything that you did in memory of my daughter. These were gifts beyond gifts and I will cherish them always. I am so incredibly humbled by you all. You have truly touched me beyond imagination or explanation.

With love,
Anita Russell

Fine Man

Dear Editor,

I would like to give a praise to Chad Deyton, Chief of Police at Union County Schools. Chad lives in Blairsville and helped me when my car was stuck. He pulled me out and was nothing but a gentleman. Chad made sure I was safe and could drive. He would accept nothing for his generosity, hence I am hoping this small thank you just lets others know of this fine man.

Katie Harkins

Excellent Care

Dear Editor,

After being a patient at Union General Hospital for nine days recently, I would like to express the appreciation and admiration of my wife and I for the medical, nursing staff and other personnel.

Upon entrance to the emergency room, my care was prompt and comprehensive. The phy-

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"Think of it as a lesson in economics. If you want pie, you have to pick the berries."

Smokey Bear is 75

The guardian of our forest has been a part of the American scene for so many years, it is hard for most of us to remember when Smokey Bear first appeared. Dressed in a ranger's hat, belted blue jeans and carrying a shovel, he has been the recognized wildfire prevention symbol since 1944.

To understand how Smokey Bear became associated with wildfire prevention, we must go back to World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. The following spring, in 1942, a Japanese submarine surfaced near the coast of Southern California and fired a salvo of shells that exploded on an oil field near Santa Barbara, very close to the Los Padres National Forest. Americans throughout the country were shocked by the news the war had now been brought directly to the American mainland. There was also fear that enemy incendiary shells exploding in the timber stands along the Pacific Coast could easily set off numerous raging forest fires in addition to those already being caused by people. Protection of these forests from uncontrolled fire became a matter of national importance, and a new idea was born. If people could be urged to be more careful, perhaps some of the fires could be prevented.

Forest fires caused by people were nothing new. For many years, the nation had known that forest fires presented a serious threat. In 1939, a poster showing a forest ranger who looked like Uncle Sam pointing to a raging forest fire stated, "Your Forest - Your Fault - Your Loss." Statistics showed that nine out of 10 of the fires were person-caused and, thus, preventable. With this in mind, in 1942 the Forest Service organized the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program with the help of the Wartime Advertising Council. The Wartime Advertising Council was composed of people experienced in the business of advertising who donated their talent to the U.S. Government to get important messages to the people. Posters and slogans were created through the Wartime Advertising Council, including "Forest Fires Aid the Enemy," and "Our Carelessness, Their Secret Weapon." By using catchy phrases, colorful posters and other fire prevention messages, the CFFP Program encouraged people to prevent accidental fires and help with the War.

Walt Disney's motion picture "Bambi" was produced in 1944, and Disney authorized the CFFP Program to use his creation on a poster. The Bambi poster was a success and proved that using an animal as a fire prevention symbol would work. The Forest Service needed to find an animal that would belong exclusively to the

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RC&D Executive Director
Frank Riley



Glenna Mae

Glenna Mae was born to Clifford and Effie Hyde on Oct. 18, 1916. She was headstrong and would fight anyone at the drop of a hat. She could outwork most men and she could be the kindest and most loving person you would ever meet. She didn't trust anyone in the government and her favorite sport was "wrestlin."

One summer day after he and Glenna Mae had married the previous fall, two of Papa's old girlfriends showed up at the weaning off house. The girls were told that Coon and his wife Glenna Mae were in the field chopping cotton. They walked to the field and found Papa standing beside of a wagon looking up at his young wife. The two girls spoke to Papa and introduced themselves to his wife. One of the girls asked Papa, "Coon, why did you marry this old gal when you could've had one of us?" Glenna leapt from the wagon, and before Papa knew what was going on, she had the girl on the ground pounding her head. Papa pulled her off the girl and the Lauderdale girls ran away.

Sixty years later Dad was preaching at Decoration Day. The two old Lauderdale girls were present and inquired about the status of my Papa. Dad told them Papa was alive and well as was his wife Glenna Mae. At the mention of her name the Lauderdale girls shivered. Dad invited them to the farm. One of the girls responded, "I don't think we need to do that, do we sister?"

One day a census worker came to Granny's house. At first Granny tried to answer the questions honestly. But, Glenna became suspicious when the census worker began asking questions about the number of quilts that were owned by the family. After one such question she went to her bedroom and pulled out the double-barreled 20 gauge. The census worker quickly left the house. Granny never trusted anyone in the federal government.

The day I was accepted to attend the University of Georgia was an exciting event for me. So, I called Granny to tell her the good news. I told her all about school and being able to attend the UGA football games. We even talked about Vince Dooley. I knew that Granny's sister had worked at Auburn when her son attended that school. Therefore, Granny knew a little about Auburn due to her sister's stories. As soon as we hung up the phone Granny called her sister, Bess, to tell her about my news. Granny even mentioned Vince Dooley's name. Bess interrupted Granny and said, "I never did like that Vince Dooley. When I worked in the cafeteria at Auburn that Vince Dooley was the meanest boy at school, and if he is coaching at Georgia, then I don't like them." Granny re-

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Around The Farm
Mickey Cummings



Hay Testing

This past winter was difficult for some cattlemen because the hay quality was not as good as usual. That was mostly because of the amount of rainfall that we received. More rain meant more vegetative growth, and the sun isn't out so the forage plants aren't able to produce the carbohydrates needed for the forage to be nutritious to the cattle. Essentially, what happens is that the hay fed to cattle has a lot of fiber in it. Lots of fiber in hay without nutrition means that the cattle can't properly digest the forage. Cattle will eat enough forage to be full, but all that indigestible forage creates an impaction in their rumen. The effects of cattle eating low quality hay and getting an impaction can range from calving issues, to diarrhea, to weight loss, and even dying.

Obviously, losing livestock is very disheartening, and a financial loss. I've seen it happen first hand. When cattle start to die because of poor quality hay, usually you will have at least a few cattle go down. Forage quality issues can be made worse if they are combined with supplements that stimulate forage intake, because then cattle are eating more of the low quality hay. The best treatment for low quality forage is to know ahead of time about the quality of your hay. The only way that you can do that is through hay testing.

UGA Extension labs can do hay testing. Because of seeing cattle ill and dying because of poor quality hay this past winter, I want to encourage hay producers and cattlemen to do more hay testing. Unfortunately, hay testing isn't something that I can offer to people free, because the lab charges me for the tests that they run. However, in an attempt to put my money where my mouth is, I have a proposition. This year I will cover the shipping costs to send in a hay sample to the lab. In the past, I have charged a little extra to cover shipping the hay sample. However, because I believe that hay testing will be incredibly beneficial to cattlemen and hay producers I am going to cover those shipping costs myself.

We can do three main tests for hay. The basic one costs \$15 and will tell the moisture, fiber, crude protein, lignin, total digestible nutrients, and give you a relative forage quality (RFQ). The RFQ is an index that will give you a number to give you a reference on the quality of your hay. Dry cows don't need as high of an RFQ compared to gestating cows, or cows with a calf that they are feeding. Above the basic test is a \$20 test that is the basic test + nitrates. Above that is a \$40 test that is basic + nitrates + minerals.

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Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



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