

# **PAMPLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & E.M.S.**

“Serving the public since 1952”

Post Office Box 1116

Pamplin, VA 23958

Dalton Elder, Chief  
Shane Richardson, Asst. Chief  
Donnie Roach, 2nd Asst. Chief  
Tim Seamster, EMS Captain

Bill Hogan, President  
Alan King, Treasurer  
Brian Vandegrift, Sec.

August 1, 2004

## **PRESS RELEASE**

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Pamplin Volunteer Fire Dept. put a medical First Responder program into service. Licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of EMS, a First Responder unit is just what it sounds like, a first responder to a medical situation. Once personnel arrive on scene, they can provide First Aid, Basic Life Support, patient stabilization, and communicate patient status to an incoming Rescue Squad. A First Responder Unit does not transport patients to the hospital, and will not replace the need for a Rescue Squad. However, the availability of this new service allows a patient quicker access to trained medical personnel.

There are currently 18 people on the First Responder roster. All are certified through the State as at least a First Responder, 12 are certified as EMTs or above. Two persons are awaiting their certification and will then be added to the roster. Tim Seamster is currently serving as EMS Captain, with Jeff Baldwin as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and Barry Vanderveer as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Approximately half of those on the roster are current fire department members and the other half are area residents who have joined only to run First Responder calls.

The Pamplin First Responders will utilize a 1993 Chevrolet Suburban, donated from the City of Chesapeake, as their First Responder vehicle. Although not an ambulance, this vehicle carries much of the same equipment. The equipment was purchased through funds provided by Prince Edward County, the Spout Spring Ruritan Club, and donations from area citizens. Appomattox County will carry the automobile insurance on the vehicle.

The Fire Dept. began exploring the idea of forming a First Responder unit about four years ago. Last year, the Fire Dept. decided to proceed with it's formation and begin the application process with the State. The dept. had hoped to have the new unit up and running last winter, but the licensing process and purchase of equipment took longer that expected. Signifying it's expanded role into the medical field, the Fire Department changed it's official name to the Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department and EMS, Inc.

Sincerely,

W. H. Hogan, President PVFD

