

**Chester First Aid Squad
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***** For Immediate Release *****

**Chester First Aid Squad
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Chester First Aid Squad Announces 2011 Officers, Looks Back on 2010 and Forward to Another Successful Year

CHESTER, NEW JERSEY – The Chester First Aid Squad (CFAS) announced its Line and Administrative Officers for 2011:

Administrative Officers: President: Daniel Cribari; Vice President; Samuel Rosenfeld; Secretary: Pauline Alexander; Assistant Secretary; Mike Mastro; Treasurer: Julia Robinson. Administrative officers are responsible for the business aspect of the squad, including facilitating meetings, and maintaining finances.

Line Officers: Captain: David Fretwell; 1st Lieutenant: Cris Champi; 2nd Lieutenant: Eric Prach. Line Officers are responsible for managing all emergency responses and the overall operational function of the squad.

Other appointed officers include: Quartermaster: Tina Avallone; Chief Engineer: Bryan Barton; Training Officer: Holly Flanagan; Building Manager: Russ Apgar.

The Chester First Aid Squad had an eventful and busy 2010. Its dedicated team of volunteer EMTs, on call 24x7, responded to 801 calls within Chester Borough and Chester Township, plus 21 mutual aid calls in surrounding towns. CFAS serviced not only local residents, but also local businesses and eldercare facilities. Of the 801 calls, 533 required immediate transportation to one of six area hospitals. CFAS EMTs responded to diverse emergencies, including trauma emergencies such as a sports accident or fall, motor vehicle accident-related calls, medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest and respiratory difficulties, childbirth, and fire-related emergencies servicing both patients and emergency fire personnel. For some emergency calls, CFAS partnered with advanced life support units, as well as AirOne, an Atlantic Health System helicopter, plus NorthSTAR operated by NJ State Police. Both are used to transport critically injured patients to a local trauma or burn center hospital.

In addition to handling individual emergency calls, CFAS ensured an on-site presence at 24 local Chester events, such as the 4-H Fair, the Chester Craft Fairs, and various other festivals and sports events held locally. CFAS' North Road facility served as a Car Seat Safety Station at the popular Car Seat Check events held every first Tuesday and every third Thursday of the month. And in partnership with the Emergency Services Coalition (ESC), which includes the Chester Fire Company, Chester Township Police Department, Chester Borough Police Department, and Ladies Auxiliary, CFAS helped organize and run a one-week camp for children at the end of June, Emergency Services Week, the Soft Ball Tourney, and blood drives throughout the year.

Improvements in 2010 included the installation of Toughbook computers on each ambulance to implement electronic patient care reporting; the purchase of a Stryker motorized stretcher; and implementation of the 'I Am Responding' system, a tool that helps manage the response of its members.

In 2011, CFAS has many exciting plans in the works which will benefit the community, including the purchase of a new ambulance (funded by the Township and Borough), an 'EMTs on Bikes' program and the launch of a new website. Look for more information in future articles.

Captain David Fretwell commented: "We are always looking for local residents who can volunteer their time either as an EMT/Driver, or Associate Member whose main role is providing administrative support to the squad. Training is provided by the squad and it's a great opportunity to be a part of a professional team while giving back to the community."

To learn more about the Chester First Aid Squad, inquire about becoming a member, or make a donation, visit: www.chesterfirstaid.com or call the CFAS Office at : (908) 879-5560. All donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.

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About Chester First Aid Squad

The Chester First Aid Squad (CFAS) located in Chester, NJ is a volunteer, nonprofit, organization that provides emergency medical services to sick and injured residents of Chester and surrounding towns. CFAS was established in 1945 and became independent from the Fire Company in 1987. CFAS currently operates three ambulances and has a support unit of approximately 50 members, many of which are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). On average CFAS runs over 800 emergency calls a year. CFAS works closely with the Chester Vol. Fire Company, and Chester Borough and Chester Township

Police Depts. In addition to these local organizations, CFAS works with other mutual aid squads in the area, hospital-based paramedics, and state and private Aeromedical helicopters. For more information about the Chester First Aid Squad, visit: www.chesterfirstaid.com

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