

# THE CALL

EAST POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT BI-MONTHLY GAZETTE

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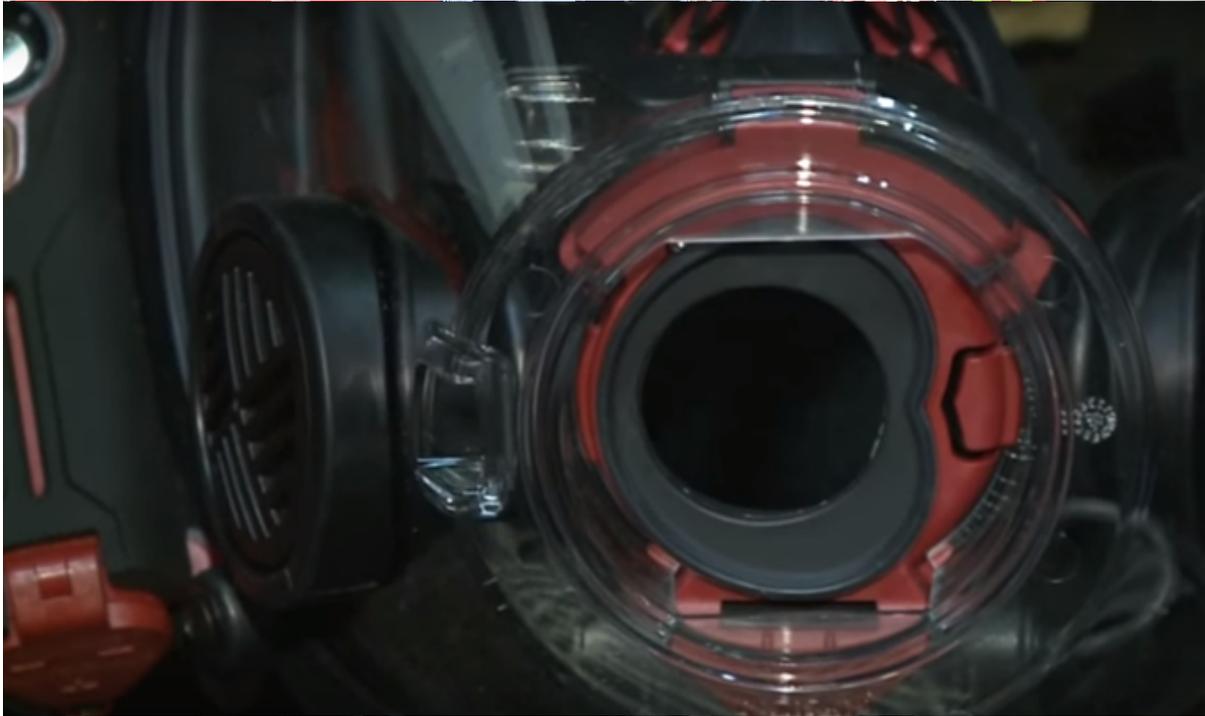
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

*by Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton*

As the Fire Chief it is my duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community and fire personnel. Additionally, I must find innovative ways to help fire personnel perform their jobs in a safe manner. Fire Chiefs all over the country are looking for the newest and greatest ways to enhance their Fire Department, and it is no different with our Department as we work to address issues concerning technology. To improve our quality of service, I've requested the purchase of Thermal Imaging Face-Masks, which will enable Firefighters to detect possible fire victims by a heat sensor. This revolutionary technology will quicken our response time during search and rescue missions, and it will enhance our fire fighting efforts. If approved, I plan to equip every member in Fire Operations with this technology.

Always looking for ways to serve the community, the Fire Department had the pleasure of recently hosting what is known as the "Santa Ride Along." During the Ride Along, Santa traveled streets of East Point in a fire truck, and made stops in each of the City's four WARDS where he sat and talked with children and provided each a toy. The event was a monumental success, as we were able to provide toys to more than 170 children. I want to thank the Neighborhood Association Officers who assisted in planning this event. Happy Holidays and 2020!

Honored to Serve,

*Chief Corey Thornton*

# EAST POINT FIREFIGHTER HONORED AS A HOMETOWN HERO



East Point Firefighter Pierre Charles says it was a normal day's work, or so he thought. On September 26, 2019, Pierre Charles reported to the State Farm Arena to work a Disney on Ice event as a medic. Shortly after his arrival, Pierre Charles received an emergency call about an employee down. "I ran upstairs and found one of my EMS partners doing compressions," said Pierre-Charles who indicated the patient was in cardiac arrest. "We sprang into action, placing a heart monitor

on the patient, continuing CPR, and administering shock through an AED, until breathing returned," said Pierre-Charles, who has been with the East Point Fire Department four years as a Paramedic.

The patient who survived the incident was Ms. Onnie Porter. On November 25, 2019 she publicly thanked the four person EMS Team that saved her at an Atlanta Hawks Game where the four were hailed as "Hometown Heroes" by Grady Hospital and the Atlanta Hawks.

Pierre-Charles says everyone involved was gratified by the outcome. "We were just in the right place at the right time, and everyone knew their role, and did what they had to do," said the East Point Paramedic. "It's not every time that we have a save that we get the opportunity to meet that individual. It's really quite overwhelming, and all of us are very fortunate that things turned out the way it did."



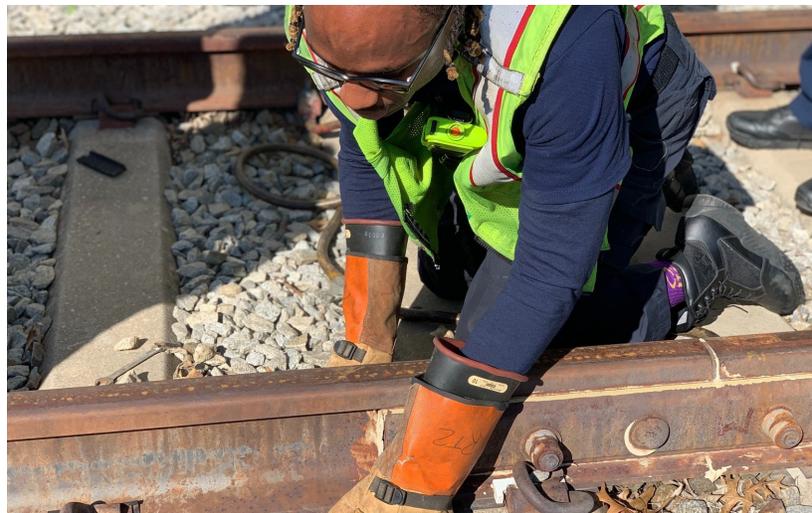
Photo Credit: WSB-TV News and the Atlanta Hawks  
Firefighter Pierre-Charles pictured 2nd left



## TRAINED AND READY FOR A MARTA RAIL RESPONSE

East Point Firefighters participated in a simulated MARTA Drill in November, to prepare for a full-scale MARTA training exercise. The tactical drill ensures that Firefighters are skilled, and ready to respond during an actual emergency involving MARTA's rail-line. "This training enables us to pinpoint our strengths and weaknesses, so we can focus attention where it's needed," said Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton. "This will enable us to provide the strongest and most effective response possible for both the safety of Marta riders and our personnel as well."

On occasion, MARTA hosts full-scale simulated emergency exercises to drill First Responders from various agencies on plans, procedures and protocols enforced during an actual event.





## **BORN TO SERVE: Upholding A Family's Legacy**

Answering the call to serve is something East Point Fire Lieutenant Charles Shannon Barnette is intimately acquainted with. That's because he comes from a long lineage of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents who have all served in different branches of the United States Military, including his Dad who is his role model. "He actually put bombs under planes as they flew in Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict," Barnette stated. "His demeanor, his drive and desire to

help others made a big impact on me and my brother, plus his having this knowledge of stuff left us wondering 'How do you even know this?'" Barnette said. "We later came to realize it was a result of my Dad experiencing life, and being committed to learning and sharing his knowledge and skills in helping others."

Barnette says thoughts of entering the Military started at an early age, as well as dreams of

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**"What people consider failure, I view as a learning experience.**

**Therefore, no matter what I do in life I will never lose. I will either win or I'll learn. "**



"One of the greatest rewards [of serving in the Military] is that I'm following in my family's footsteps."

Charles Shannon  
Barnette

Staff Sergeant, United States  
Army National Guard



**Above: East Point Fire Lieutenant Charles Shannon Barnette**

becoming a Firefighter. "My uncle was the Fire Chief of Phenix City, Alabama, and my Dad was also a Firefighter in the Navy," Barnette said. "That and spending lots of time at my grandmother's home, which was a couple of blocks from an East Point Fire Station, and seeing Firefighters rushing to calls were all major influencers."

It was also at his grandmother's home that Barnette says he became familiar with his family's military legacy. "My Grandmother created what I call a wall of fame, where pictures hung of our relatives - males and females - who served in the United States Military," said Barnette. "As I gazed at that wall I vividly recall hoping that my picture would be added one day."

Barnette answered the call to serve in 1995, by joining what was then the Jonesboro Fire

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Be prepared for the future and set goals because if you don't make plans to meet your goals, it's nothing but a dream.

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Department. Two years later he was hired by the City of East Point Fire Department, where today he serves as a Lieutenant. Barnette says the call to join the military never waned over the years, and he found it grew even stronger with 911. "The acts of aggression that caused the catastrophic events that day took an unimaginable human toll, including the lives of more than 300 of my brothers [Firefighters]," stated Barnette. "I felt compelled to act, so I enlisted with the United States Army National Guard, and today am over two teams that I control as a Platoon."

These days Barnette enjoys serving in a leadership capacity in two different chain of command structures. He says his life views have contributed to his success in both the Fire Service and Military. "What people consider failure, I view as a learning experience. Therefore, no matter what I do in life I will never lose. I will either win or I'll learn," Barnette said.

Looking back, Barnette said he also believes his success is reflected in the achievements of others. "Long before I became a [Fire] Lieutenant, I trained people below me, and held to my standard of training them to be better than me, so they could succeed and pass on what they learned," Barnette said. "People ask 'How can you do that?' I explain it's something I enjoy because when its their time to train and I see them using the same tactics I used, my efforts become generational as they are passed on, and that to me is very rewarding.



**Above: U.S. Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Charles Shannon Barnette**

As a career Firefighter, Barnette says he's also learned a lot from officers within the East Point Fire Department, who were dedicated to training. "Talking to great people who went before me like Lt. Charles Kendrick, Lt. Brandon Earvin, Lt. Cedric Chaney and Lt. Timothy Evans, many of whom are Chiefs now, these guys pulled me under their wings," said Barnette.

"Anytime I asked them for training it was never, 'Not now,' or 'Wait a minute,' but always 'O.K., let's go!'" Barnette stated. "Therefore, I've always been mindful of doing the same when someone approaches me for training."

When asked if he could go back in time, what advice would he give his younger self, Barnette said the answer is simple. "Be prepared for the future and set goals because if you don't make plans to meet your goals, it's nothing but a dream."

**Read more about U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Charles Shannon Barnette's story in the January 2020 issue of**

**Real Hero Report Magazine. His story publishes online, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at [www.realhero.report](http://www.realhero.report)**



**BARNETTE'S TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THE FIRE SERVICE AND MILITARY:**

1. **Develop the right mindset.** It's not about you anymore, but the team.
2. **Train, train, train -** Being skilled in the latest tactics, maneuvers and operations is paramount. As well as knowing the proper operation of equipment.
3. **Read, read, read -** It broadens your thinking. My favorite books are Biographies, Fiction and Educational reads.
4. **Enhance your people skills -** It helps develop you to be productive instead of argumentative.
5. **Be active, not reactive -** Take initiative when possible.
6. **Look to make small changes -** They add up over time and contribute to a bigger picture.



## FIREFIIGHTERS COMPLETE BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Kudos to Fire Department personnel FAO Jason Turner and FAO Quintavious Hill on completing Basic Law Enforcement Training. Graduation Ceremonies were held Friday, November 1, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. at the Fulton County Public Safety Training Center located at 3025 Merk Road in College Park.

Turner and Hill were members of a graduating class of 24 Recruits from Public Safety Departments around the Metropolitan area.

FAO Hill was presented the coveted "Top Shooter," award for being the most highly skilled marksman in the class.



## TAKING ON THE TOUGH MUDDER ATLANTA CHALLENGE

East Point Firefighters got a chance to find out what they are made of at the Tough Mudder Atlanta Challenge. The team of nine, ran an 8-mile course and tackled obstacles that included a tunnel crawl, a three story rope climb and a 10 foot dive into a 14 foot pool of cold water. Firefighter Coleman Lynn said the course tested their fitness levels, stamina and grit. "It's a grueling yet fun team workout, that challenges your mental prowess, and physical abilities to the core." said Coleman. The November 9, 2019 event was held at Bouckaert Farms in Fairburn, Georgia. The 2020 Tough Mudder Atlanta Challenge will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 2nd and 3rd at the same venue in Fairburn, Georgia.



# Frequently Asked Questions

BY CHIEF COREY THORNTON

The Fire Department is often asked questions regarding the use of fire extinguishers in the home. The questions range from what are the various types of fire extinguishers available, to which should be purchased for home use. In addition, we are often asked how many smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors should be placed in the home and where.

Here are answers to some of your frequently asked questions.

## Q: What are the different types of fire extinguishers?

A: There are 5 types of fire extinguishers, and each is uniquely designed to fight a particular type of fire:

**Class A** - Ordinary Combustibles (wood, paper and plastic)

**Class B** - Flammable Liquid and Gases

**Class C** - Energized Electrical Equipment

**Class D** - Metals

**Class K** - Kitchen Fires (cooking oil, grease and fats)

## Q: What type of fire extinguisher should I purchase for my home?

A: The most commonly used fire extinguishers in the home are A, B and C.

## Q: How many smoke detectors do I need in my home?

A: A smoke detector should be on each level of your home, and one in each bedroom.

## Q: How many Carbon Monoxide Detectors do I need in my home?

A: There should be one Carbon Monoxide Detector on each level, and one near gas appliances.



For Fire Safety Games and Activities visit <http://www.sparky.org/>

**Q:** How can I be more effective in teaching young children about Fire Safety in a way that will be more engaging?

**A:** We find children learn best when they take part in what we're teaching. Therefore, we utilize interactive activities and discussions that make learning fun. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has within its website a page for Sparky the Fire Dog, that's full of interactive games and activities children will enjoy while learning about fire safety and prevention. To visit, go to <http://www.sparky.org/>

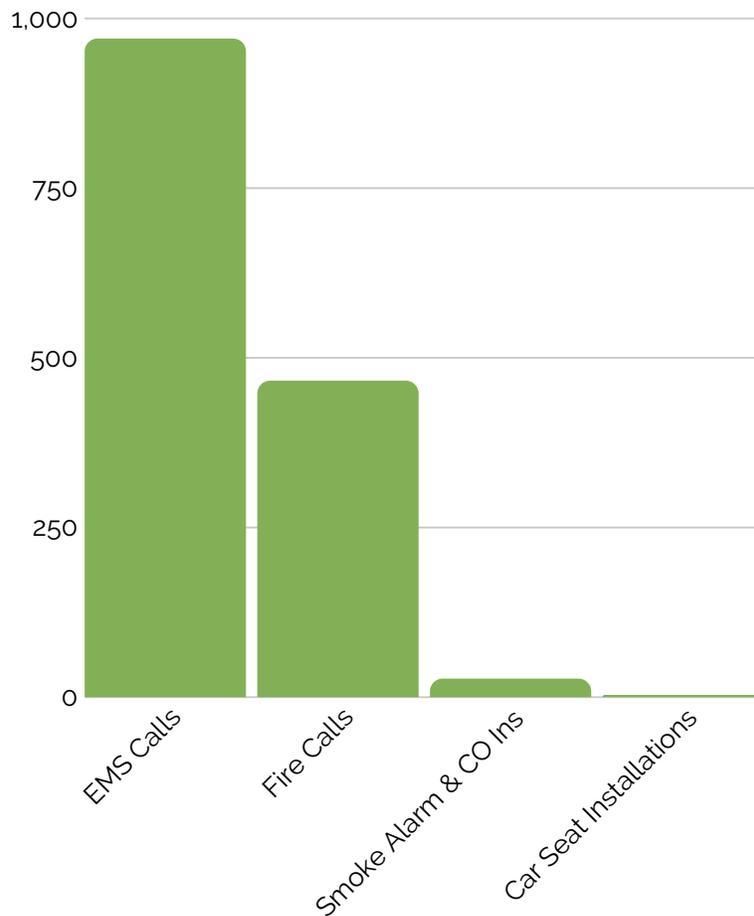
## Q: What are the basics of a good fire escape plan?

**A:** A fire escape plan should include escape routes, a meeting area outside of the structure, location of fire extinguishers, and if possible, home escape ladders for 2 story or more homes. When a fire occurs, follow your escape plan. Get low (to the ground) and attempt to escape the area utilizing a window or door. Go to your meeting area outside the home and then call 911.

**"Make a habit of testing your Smoke Alarms once a month. Check and change batteries twice a year."**

# OUR CURRENT STATS

The Mission of the East Point Fire Department is to prevent disastrous incidents from occurring and minimize damage to life, property and the environment. In November and December 2019, the Department responded to 1,434 incidents. Of those, 969 were EMS calls, and 465 were fire related EMS calls. The Department also installed 15 Smoke Alarms, 11 Carbon Monoxide Detectors and completed 2 car seat installations.



The East Point Fire Department installs Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, and car seats free of charge. To schedule a Service Request, individuals are asked to contact Fire Administration at (404) 559-6401.



*Schedule an appointment to have the East Point Fire Department install a smoke alarm (and carbon monoxide detector) in your home. It's free. To schedule call Fire Administration at (404) 559-6401.*

# IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY



## The Fire Department Brings Holiday Cheer

**Pictured Above: East Point Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham (3rd left), Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton (center) along with Firefighters, Residents and Fire Auxiliary Members at the Santa Ride Along.**

The East Point Fire Department gave toys to more than 170 children during its holiday event known as The Santa Ride Along. The affair was held December 21, 2019 from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. During the Ride Along Santa traveled the streets of East Point in a Fire Truck visiting children at a central location in each of the city's four Wards.

The Santa Ride Along is a holiday favorite that Chief Thornton revived after an eight year hiatus. "It was something the Fire Department started many years ago under Fire Chief Ronnie Few that continued for a while, and brought a lot of joy to children and adults," stated Chief Thornton. "This event is made possible with the help of some East Point residents, Neighborhood Association officers, members of the Fire Department Auxiliary and Council Members, for whom we are truly grateful and appreciate their continued support."

# THE 2019 SANTA RIDE ALONG



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# The City of East Point Fire Department

*Wishes you a Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season and New Year!*





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*Iron sharpens iron. Therefore, we all have a skill or strength that can contribute to the success of the whole.*

***Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton***