West Lafayette Fire Department
January 2010

Medical Director Doctor Michael Kupon was recently hired to take the place of Doctor Natalie Schwartz as the Medical Director for our department. Dr. Kupon, like Dr. Schwartz, practices his life saving skills in the Saint Elizabeth emergency room and has, no doubt, treated several West Lafayette residents. As Medical Director he is charged to:

- Provide liaison between the local medical community and the Department
- Assist in the continuing education programs of the Department
- Participate in the audit and review of cases treated by the emergency medical personnel of the Department
- Assure compliance with approved medical standards established by the Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission performed by the Department
- Establish protocols for automatic defibrillation, airway management, patient assisted medications, and emergency medical technician administered medications as approved by the Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission

Autism and Triage Two online courses recently developed by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security were completed by the members of WLFD. The first course titled, Autism Spectrum Disorder, was developed to: "assist you in developing your repertoire of techniques used to identify, rescue, triage, and treat victims of an emergency situation, especially those who may be suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorders. What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)? Why can knowledge of this disorder be important to an emergency responder?" (Copied from the course description.)

The second course, START Triage, was developed to: "provide you with knowledge of a system that will help you to quickly and effectively conduct medical triage on a mass casualty scene. When first responders arrive on a mass casualty emergency scene the rules of triage change. Responders must do the greatest good for the greatest amount of people injured. START Triage provides methodology and a system to accomplish that imperative." This course actually provided a good refresher for WLFD firefighters as the Department adopted this system a year ago when the State made first made the equipment available at no charge.

HazMat All members of WLFD have been studying and brushing up on hazardous materials. As part of this, the old Smitty's building on Northwestern Avenue was utilized for mutual hands-on training with the Purdue Fire Department. Purdue, like TEMA (Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency), has a specialized trailer filled with hazardous materials response equipment. They demonstrated the use of this equipment and, in particular the newer equipment then, together both departments practiced removing a victim from the "hot" zone and decontaminating them in anticipation of medical treatment.

Chief Drew