

POLICE BLOTTER

**By Glenn Laramie
Chief, Andover Police Department**

The Andover Police Department responded to 232 calls for service from January 15 through February 15. The following is a partial breakdown.

- Accidents: 3
- Assists to Citizens: 14
- Burglaries: 1
- Traffic Summons: 5
- Civil Stand-Bys: 6

- House and Business checks: 78
- Traffic Warnings: 14
- Suspicious Person / Vehicle: 3
- Theft: 1
- Ambulance Calls: 3
- Loose Dog Complaints: 6
- Sexual Assault: 1
- Abandoned Vehicles: 2
- Bad Checks: 1
- One female juvenile was arrested for simple assault.

Andover Rescue Squad

**By Amy Fecteau, EMT-I, Lieutenant
Andover Rescue Squad**

According to the American Heart Association, "Coronary heart disease is the number one cause of death in the United States. Stroke is the number three cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of serious disability."

Do you know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack or a stroke? In other words do you know what a heart attack or stroke might look like (sign) or how it would feel (symptom)?

Signs and symptoms of a heart attack could include:

- Chest discomfort – such as a tightening, squeezing, pressure, or fullness.
- Shortness of breath – difficulty catching a breath or trouble speaking.
- Discomfort in other areas of the body – such as back pain, tingling, and pain that radiates down the arms, or jaw pain.
- Other signs – could include nausea and vomiting, sweating (like someone poured water over your head) and lightheadness.

A person can present with one or more sign and symptoms. Each person is unique and presents differently.

Signs and symptoms of a stroke could include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on just one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speak-

- ing or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

People can have these signs and symptoms come and go quickly, or they can stay for a greater period of time. If you believe someone is having a stroke, note the start of the signs and symptoms. There is a medication called TPA that can be given within three hours of onset of signs and symptoms.

Call 9-1-1 if you or anyone you know is having signs and symptoms of a heart attack or stroke. With either of these medical conditions, time is of the utmost importance. They need to get medical attention right away.

Never drive yourself to the hospital. Call for an ambulance. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) can provide vital interventions on the ambulance that can help determine the course of treatment once the patient arrives at the hospital. Such things as vital signs, electrocardiograms, oxygen, aspirin, nitroglycerin, and IV therapy are a vital part of caring for the patient who is having a heart attack or stroke and can be done by EMS on the ambulance.

As with any medical conditions, please contact your physician with any questions or concerns.

Sports Moms! Sports Dads!

The *Beacon* needs your help getting more articles and photos about kids' sports. We need volunteers to:

- Track schedules & sign-ups
- Write articles
- Take photos
- Get other parents to do the same

To help, contact Heidi at Heidi@AndoverBeacon.com



Well, now you've got one!

SEND A CHECK TODAY!

East Andover Fire Department

**By Rene Lefebvre
Chief, East Andover Fire Department**

Well, for better or worse, our East Andover Fire Department budget is complete and ready for your vote at the precinct meeting. As you will see in the Town Report, we have managed to make some cuts for a slightly smaller request than last year. With the US economy in recession we felt that this year a "make do" plan would be the best approach. As I have stated earlier, our plan will not compromise our safety or yours.

As most of you know, the Fire Precinct has been saving money every year to purchase a new fire truck. The impact to the budget when we do make the purchase should be very small, or with luck, no impact at all.

With that said, the truck committee is looking at several manufacturers and options. I have found myself constantly asking the question, "What will that option cost?" rather than, "Do we need it?" Sometimes it isn't much fun to be chief.

The cost for these machines has been eye-opening. Building the truck that we need is a careful combination of cost, needs, and wants. The machine we purchase will be with us for a very long time, and we want to get it right.

Lieutenant Mark Perry is leading the truck committee, and I have complete trust in his and the committee's ability to put together a great machine. I will keep you informed of their progress.

Keep Our Kids Safe

I promise not to get preachy, but my number one safety concern is the safety of our children. That said, we responded to an auto accident a while ago involving two automobiles. The adults were properly restrained and had only minor injuries. There was a child in the back seat of the car who was properly restrained and

in an appropriate safety seat. I think at first she thought the whole thing was a game. Seeing us firemen in our gear changed that. I am afraid we frightened her. Taking off my gear and approaching the child at eye level calmed her and allowed me to check her condition. She was fine. The child seat and other safety devices built into the car had protected her from injury.

Now I'm really going to sound sappy. Seeing a child safe and well following an incident makes me feel *great!* That day is going to be a good day. Please don't get me wrong; I do not like to see any kind of an incident happen, especially to a child, but life is not fair. We must understand what can happen and then find ways to prevent or lessen the effects.

One of the best ways to help children is to purchase a child safety seat appropriate to age and size. Telling you that this is the law of the road is not enough. People break laws and sometimes pay the price. No child should ever pay our fine for not using a proper safety seat.

I guess I am preaching, but I don't care. We are talking about the safety of our kids. For more help, google "Children's Safety Seats" on the Web. You will find KeepKidsHealthy.com and several other great sites that will help with choosing the proper seat and how to install them.

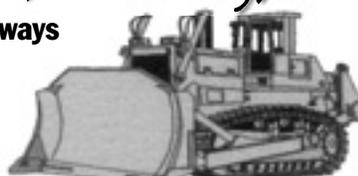
I hope you never get the opportunity to experience the mood and the energy of an Emergency Room when we bring in an injured child. Life is never more serious. Nothing is more important at that time. We tend to hang around the hospital long after we have completed our tasks, looking at the faces of the doctors and nurses for some hopeful sign. We think we are hardened veterans ... but not today.

Help us help you keep our kids safe.

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