

Krithik Ram Saravananaraj  
Avenel Middle School  
Mr. Caplette's Class

## The Brave.

Suppose you're passing by a house that is on fire, with smoke swirling in the air. Then you hear screams of help, do you have the courage to enter the house to save those trapped inside by the flames, which would strike fear down to your bones? Would you succumb to terror if such a situation were to fall upon you? There are many people who would not let fear take over them in that situation. These "people" in question are first responders. They make decisions like this all the time in their daily lives. Examples of first responders are nurses, firefighters, police, and military volunteers. First responders are the ones who aid civilians through their actions. In the following paragraphs, I will be showing 3 examples of first responders and their actions.

Firemen do substantially more than fight fires. As revealed in the July 31st, 1931 issue of the Woodbridge Independent... "**Woodbridge Fireman Saves Boy's Life**", Robert Bechler, a 12-year-old kid, was spending time with his friends at a boat's wharf. Unfortunately, he slipped and fell into the water, he was struggling for air and desperately trying to surface in order to breathe. His companions couldn't help since they couldn't swim. Firefighter C. H. Rothfuss acknowledged what had occurred, he leapt into the water and swam to safeguard the kid. The boy would not have made

due assuming that it hadn't been for firefighter, C. H. Rothfuss. Firemen are prepared to help in a wide range of salvage circumstances that many individuals are not aware of nor do they experience.

The April 13, 1961 Newspaper of the Leader-Press...**"Superiors Laud Officer For Quick Action Which Saved Life of Cyclist"** Officer, Robert Garnder, while on patrol was asked to look out for mishaps and speeding. While he was watching route 35, close to the Korvette entrance, a youth named Richard D. Murphy was speeding through the intersection, unfortunately, he slid and was severely injured. Officer Garder saw what occurred and immediately rushed over to help Richard, who was bleeding badly from his injuries. Robert called the Woodbridge Emergency Squad to come and help Richard. With the calmness and professionalism of Robert Garnder and the Woodbridge Emergency Squad, Robert was able to survive. For his actions, Robert Garnder was recognized by his superiors.

Do you believe that you could battle a fire that is around 50 feet tall? As reported in the September 17, 1943 issue of Fords Beacon... **"Firemen Called Back 5 Times To Check \$100,000 Blaze At Klein Warehouse"**, Well over 40 firefighters were called upon to battle a fire that happened in a coal manufacturing plant which was owned by Joseph C. Klein. **"There was no preliminary warning of smoke, but the huge flames suddenly broke out through the roof accompanied by large clouds of smoke that could be seen for miles around."** When the firemen arrived, the blaze was burning out of control. It took the firemen over 4 hours to gain the advantage. Overall,

it took more than 10 hours for the exhausted firemen to claim victory. Firefighters often risk their safety to protect their communities, they sometimes are tasked to achieve the impossible.

First responders are truly the backbones of society. They are individuals who hear our calls when we're in our most desperate moments. These 3 examples of what first responders do are just a small sample of how these heroes of Woodbridge have helped our town in the past. They do more to help the citizens of our town than the people, sadly, realize. It was really fun going through the articles and newspapers of our town's history. It has made me think of maybe someday working in one of these fields.