

911- What's your emergency?

I'm guessing that if you're reading this article, you may have said this line or something similar sometime in your career. There's a sad fact that most of the time this question is answered by a list of disheartening information such as medicals, car crashes, or other distressing incidents. However, there are those times when we can't help but laugh due to the information provided.

I know that I have my top calls I'll never forget due to the fact they still crack me up. I'm still unable to tell a full story before I start laugh. For instance -

"911, What's your emergency?"

"I'm sorry to call on this line but there's a (hhhhoowwwlllll)..."

"Sorry Ma'am but I couldn't understand that."

"Next door there's (hhhhoowwwlllll)..."

"Say that again Ma'am"

"The neighbors (hhhhoowwwlllll)..."

"Ma'am?"

"Lonely (hhhhoowwwlllll)..."

"Dog (hhhhoowwwlllll)..."

"Help (hhhhoowwwlllll)..."

There's nothing like the real thing. Even the best writers in Hollywood cannot outshine the funny conversations and incidents that Dispatchers handle everyday. So let's show those comedy writers what it's all about, give us an article or transcript of your 911 call or incident and some background to go with the information so it may be shared with others for a good laugh.

Why not go a bit further? Since we have awards for well-respected matters such as Dispatcher of the Year, Citizens Award, and others, why not have one for the non-serious laughable matters of our careers. Enter to win the HOWL Award of the Year. Why HOWL? Due to our stressful work environment, why not Handle Operations With Laughter!

The NENA Board members will review and vote on each month's entries. The winning entry for the month will be posted in the newsletter. At the end of the year, all monthly winners (twelve entries) will be posted again for all NENA and APCO members to vote for the HOWL Award of the Year.

Remember, you have to enter to win and it does not matter if you're a member. Most of all, you should enter so we can all share in the laughter. Send your entries to jacil@911solutions.net with the subject line of HOWL.