



The All Hands



It takes all of us working together, to get the job done!

October 2013

Volume 1, Issue 10



In This Issue:

Deputy Chief	1
Fire Prevention	2
Training & Safety	4
EMS	5
Ocean Rescue	5
Retiree Locator	8
B/C Message	9
Meet Our New Hires	10
Safety Update	11
Important Dates	12
EOM	12

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Learn
- ◆ The Consequences of Complacency
- ◆ Darrel Donatto Elected Southeast Regional Director FFCA

Deputy Chief's Message

By **DARREL DONATTO**
Deputy Chief

October 6 through October 12, 2013 was Fire Prevention Week. Fire departments all over the country use this week, the week of the Great Chicago Fire, to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. Here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue, we use this time to hold our Annual Open House.

The Open House event gave us the opportunity to invite the public into our house, to get up close with our equipment, and to meet our incredible employees in a very relaxed and personal setting. Each year this event just keeps getting better. The turnout was larger than ever, there were more activities than before and all of them were a big hit with the public. This year we were able to introduce our new Sparky character which we hope to use more often with the kids within our community. Both St. Mary's Medical Center and Good Samaritan Medical Center staffed booths in our station. Wellington High School's Fire Science Academy students were a great help with all the events.



Many thanks go to the crews that were working, the members who helped, and special thanks to Lt. Bradshaw, Lt. Weber and Division Chief Pompos who coordinated the event.



The same day as our Open House event, Lt. Roger Bassett and the crew from Station 3 held an event at the Palm Beach Executive

Center where they conducted BP and Stroke Screenings, provided fire safety tips and information, and showed off our equipment and engines to the public. This was another great opportunity for our members to be face to face with the people we serve, giving them a chance to get to know us under less stressful circumstances rather than the usual time they spend with us. This event was entirely organized by Lt. Bassett. He developed the idea, secured the location, and coordinated its delivery and promotion with the Citizens Association of Palm Beach. This is an example of an exceptional effort by Lt. Bassett and his crew.

These two events are great examples of the great work being done by our members to engage, inform, and educate the public on fire safety and emergency medical conditions that may threaten them. Likewise, they were great opportunities for the public to get to know their firefighters. In the future, we hope to do more of these types of events as well as many others. Battalion Chief Golden and Acting Lt. Bonfante are working on a Fall Prevention Program for our community. Division Chief Fuller has developed the Heart Safe Palm Beach AED program for delivery to the community. Almost every day our members are out in the community conducting fire prevention inspections where they share fire safety tips with the business community.

A year ago or so, I asked for your help in creating a Fire Rescue Department that this community loves - and WOW have you delivered. Together you are making Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. Keep up the great work. 🔥

Be Prepared!



The Palm Beach Fire Department & Palm Beach Executive Center invites you & your family to a day of fun, safety & preparation:

FREE Blood Pressure & Stroke-Prevention Screening!
Fire Safety & Prevention Tips
Tour YOUR local fire engine!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th
10am-12pm
Palm Beach Executive Center
2nd Floor
2875 South Ocean Blvd.
Tel: 578-8608

Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Learn

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

Adapted from *Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Learn*. Taken from: <http://www.johnmaxwell.com/blog/maturity-is-the-result-of-learning-to-feed-the-right-emotions>

Many years ago I came across a verse that I feel accurately describes the human condition. It says,

Two natures beat within my breast. The one is foul, the other blessed. The one I love, the other I hate, The one I feed will dominate.

I believe both positive and negative emotions are contained within each of us. There are people who teach that we should try to eliminate all negative feelings from our lives, but I have never been able to do that. I have tried, but I found that I simply can't. However, what I can do is feed the positive thoughts until they become dominant over the negative ones.

It's said that General George Patton, a fearless warrior of the U.S. Army during World War II, thought of himself as anything but brave. When an official praised his acts of heroism, Patton's response was, "Sir, I am not a brave man. The truth of the matter is I am usually a coward at heart. I have never been in the sound of gunshot or sight of battle in my whole life that I was not afraid. I constantly have sweat on my palms and a lump in my throat." How was someone so afraid able to be so brave? He fed the right emotions. Or as Patton put it himself: "I learned very early in life not to take counsel of my fears."

I try to feed the right emotions within myself by acting on the emotion that I want to win. "Do something every day that you don't want to do," advised author Mark Twain. "This is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without pain." Acting on the right emotion will lift you to success. Acting on the wrong emotion will lower you to failure.

I once had lunch with Dom Capers, the successful NFL coach. One of the things he said during our conversation was, "Maturity is doing what you are supposed to be doing, when you're supposed to be doing it, no matter how you feel." That's true. The key to success is action. Too often we want to feel our way into acting, when instead we need to act our way into feeling. If we do the right thing, we will eventually feel the right feelings.

Fire Prevention Division

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

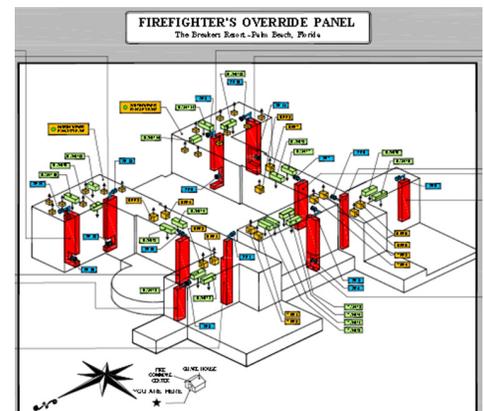
Division Chief

The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division would like to thank Battalion Chief Dave Burke and his shift personnel for attending the Firefighter Override Panel training at the Breakers. The Breakers would like to offer the same training for the other two shifts. Also, the Breakers security staff would like to provide a walk through for building familiarization for all fire operations personnel. Each Battalion Chief should contact Cyndee Adams (Project Manager) at 561-659-8431 or by email Cynthia.Adams@thebreakers.com to sched-

ule a site visit at the Breakers during the months of October or November. Just friendly reminder, Station Commanders and the Battalion Chiefs shall ensure that their booklets are up to date with ALL the revised PIP/QRS sheets. In the month of September, we completed 142 fire prevention inspections with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel.

In our efforts to reduce our false fire alarm activations, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division has recently distributed over 30 occupant verification letters to fire alarm companies that provide central monitoring and service for their customers in the Town of Palm

Beach. In addition the Alarm Companies were provided a false fire alarm prevention checklist that they may distribute to all of their Town of Palm Beach customers. 🔥



The Consequences of Complacency

By **Stephen Marsar**

Published Tuesday, June 19, 2012 |

From the **August 2012 Issue**
of **FireRescue**

There's a danger that accompanies you every time you climb aboard an apparatus and drive out of the fire-house door: complacency. It can kill just as many firefighters as disorientation, burns, structural collapse, hazardous materials or terrorist incidents. At the very least, it can leave you and your company extremely vulnerable.

To prevent complacency, as one busy FDNY engine company in the heart of Harlem likes to say, "All you have to be is ready." But are you? On every call? If not, why not? Certainly, fire officers have an obligation to say something when they see complacency, or inappropriate or unsafe behavior on the part of their members. If they don't, their inaction would also be considered complacent.

But what about firefighters who witness other firefighters being complacent? Don't they have an obligation to say something, too? And what about the obligation to ourselves and our families? Let's all be selfish for a second: If your life depends on the firefighter sitting next to or across from you, and you witness that firefighter do or act in a complacent manner, and that same firefighter's complacency leads to their inability to assist you or someone else in an emergency, would you feel justified in saying something?

Of course it's easier said than done, but remember, it's not always what you say but how you say it that may matter most. Speak with the person in private; never criticize someone publicly. When

speaking with them, try not to be accusatory or confrontational—remember you're trying to help them. Perhaps let the firefighter know you expect more from them and are disappointed in their actions. If you're rather upset by their behavior, wait until you've calmed down, but also keep in mind that you should address the issue as soon as possible or the message will seem out of context and the "teachable moment" may be gone forever.

Example: A Waist Waste

One of my (albeit, many) pet peeves is SCBA waist straps or, more accurately, the non-utilization of them. I try to lead by example and wear them correctly every time I hoist that 30-lb. rock onto my back. And when the opportunity presents itself, I ask other firefighters why they don't wear theirs. Usually the question is greeted with blank stares or awkward smiles. Sometimes, those who do answer come up with excuses like "There's not enough room on the rig," or "I forget" or one of my all-time favorites, "What waist straps, Capt.?"

Following the usually short exchange, I endeavor to point out the benefits of wearing them (e.g., less strain on your back and shoulders, particularly with 45 - or 60-minute cylinders; the fact that SCBA harnesses are made to concentrate the weight to the waist area; it helps maintain a lower center of gravity for improved balance; and hanging straps can become caught or snagged). If I haven't lost them or alienated myself by then, I like to remind them of one FDNY officer who almost lost his life and suffered severe third-degree burns during an interior high-pressure steam explosion as a direct result of his unbuck-

led waist straps becoming entangled on a railing of an open grate catwalk.

Silence as Complacency

As stated in the beginning, officers have a responsibility to say something when they see something. If they don't, they are the ones who are complacent. Example: As a relatively young firefighter, I responded to a multiple-alarm fire on a Sunday morning in Manhattan. The building was a very dangerous loft-type structure, with deep, open-floor areas, high ceilings and only one narrow staircase.

My ladder company arrived on the second alarm. Making our way into the building, we were stalled on the narrow staircase. As conditions started to go from bad to worse, members above were screaming to get off the stairs and to keep them clear. While we waited for our chance to advance up the stairs, another ladder company with a very senior officer and his two forcible entry firefighters fought their way past us. I wondered why nobody—including my officer and the battalion chief at the top of the stairs—said anything to try to stop them.

Shortly after they passed us, the incident commander (IC) issued a mayday and ordered an immediate evacuation due to a partial collapse and a rapidly extending fire condition. As my company made our way out to the street and prepared for an emergency personal accountability report, I noticed the bucket of our company's tower ladder being extended into the now boiling, pressurized, black smoke that was emanating from the large, 8-foot-tall windows of the fourth floor. **Continued on page 6**

Training and Safety Division

By **JIMMY DUANE**

Division Chief

The department members have participated in several training drills and classes throughout the month of September. The crews have really stepped up to the plate and gone above and beyond enthusiastically training. In addition to the scheduled classes, probation training has kept everyone busy. At the end of October (4) of our Firefighters will complete their probationary period and become permanent employees with the town. This has been the first set of new employees hired in several years and we are real pleased with the outcome of their performance. We wish Wayne Dorcas, Lee Hill, Scott McCracken and Alex Mahy The best of luck on their up-coming exam.

Among the training this past month, crews attended Florida Atlantic Universities Simulation Lab, where crews worked as a team participating in (4) medical scenarios. This training as with all training was an opportunity for the members of each company to rotate through different responsibilities, helping to hone the skills that they already possess while learning new skills and techniques.

The second practical portion of wa-

ter rescue was completed. Driver Engineer Frank Mavigliano, who was assisted by our Ocean Rescue team, taught each of the employees how to self-rescue them in the event of an emergency. The majority of our residences have pools in their yards and the chance of a Firefighter falling in one during low visibility smoky conditions is great if the awareness is not there. Thanks to Frank for putting together such a valuable program, one that will be used in the years to come.

Dawn Altman, who recently moved to Georgia, was in town to teach each of us our quarterly training with EKG interpretation. Dawn takes a more participative approach to teaching such a technical topic, which gives the crews opportunities to learn through practical applications. As always, great knowledge was learned and could be immediately applied in the field. We will continue to use Dawn during the new budget year for future training.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is that each and every Officer document every training session that occurs throughout the month. The hours spent with training is not reflected with the statistical reports that are run each month. Every training drill and class completed must be placed in Target

safety. It is the responsibility of each Officer to document their company's activities every day by the end of the shift. There will be classes in the near future to help Officer's complete this task, however, if there are any questions or any assistance needed, please call either Division Chief Duane or Lieutenant Marx anytime.

Congratulations to all of the new members who now serve as Field Training Officers. There were (10) applicants competing for the positions, which made for a difficult decision. Congratulations to Lieutenant Weber, firefighter Dorcas, Lieutenant Ward, Lieutenant Sekula, Lieutenant Baker and Lieutenant Marx.

The training schedule is going to fill up rapidly in the coming months with many great activities. Before the completion of 2013, the department will cover activities to include; annual bailout training, confined space class and drill and live fire at Palm Beach State College. I received some great input from personnel in regards to requests for classes and drills, most of which have already been completed or will be completed in the near future. Keep the ideas coming and remember to train because you want to, not because you have to. 🔥

Darrel Donatto elected as the Southeast Regional Director for the FFCA

In July 2013, Deputy Chief Darrel Donatto was elected to the Board of Directors of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association as the Southeast Regional Director. Chief Donatto has been a member of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association since 1995 and is the current chair of the FFCA EMS Section and a member of the FFCA Government Relations Committee. He is also serving as the current chair of the Palm Beach County EMS Advisory Council and the current President of the Fire Chiefs Association of Palm Beach County. In addition, he currently serves on the Palm Beach County Regional Hazardous Materials Response Oversight Committee. 🔥



EMS Division

By **BRIAN FULLER**
Division Chief

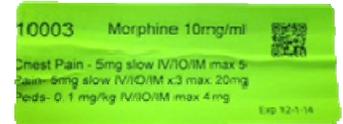
Many of you have asked, and we are listening. Combination Non-rebreather nebulizer masks have been ordered and will be placed into circulation once the current supply is exhausted. They should be received just in time for the cooler weather where we experience a higher than average number of respiratory emergencies. Personnel are encouraged to review the respiratory protocols in preparation of these events.

Personnel have also reported some issues with the Autovent 4000 combination ventilator CPAP units. The manufacturer sent representatives to our department and determined the units had a faulty relief valve. Those units were sent to the factory for warranty repairs. Meanwhile, an oxygen powered CPAP mask (Flowsafe II EZ) is being evaluated to serve as a backup in case there are any further equipment malfunctions.



A new controlled substance handling and security procedure (316) will be released next week that should make your daily duties easier but more defined. This will coincide with the distribution of Morphine to all of the units. The controlled substance perpetual log will also have a vastly different look. Custody documents will be available on the N drive to assist with the tracking of each vial of a controlled substance according to the State standards.

Each vial will have its own unique identification number as well as dosing information printed on the attached label.



Once the controlled substance is administered, these forms will be the medium in which the EMS division will be notified of its use.

As always, keep up the good work. Your excellent customer service is noticed by the volume of calls and thank you letters received. 🙏

Ocean Rescue

By **CRAIG POLLOCK**
Lifeguard Supervisor

After the Labor Day Weekend beach attendance started to subside on the weekdays with weekends staying fairly busy. The Moon Jellyfish which arrived in August to local beaches have not cleared out, so lifeguards have had continue to hoist up Purple flags (which indicate jellyfish) to warn beach patrons of their presence.

Town of Palm Beach Ocean Rescue would like to welcome new part time lifeguard Kyle Vander Plaats who started over the summer. Kyle is from Orange County, NY and has been a lifeguard for 6 years guarding both lakefront and oceanfront facilities. Kyle moved to Florida after graduating from Stony Brook University in New York where he received his bachelor's degree in business management and marketing. Kyle has since returned to

school to peruse a career in medicine while working part-time for Ocean Rescue. Outside of school and work, Kyle has started adapted aquatics program at Florida Atlantic University assisting people with both physical and mental disabilities through the use of a water medium. Kyle also enjoys spending time in the ocean and relaxing with friends. 🏊



From Page 3

Through the smoke I could make out the figure of that same senior officer who had pushed passed us on the stairs. He entered the bucket and frantically called back to his firefighters to follow his voice to the window. The officer, his firefighters and the firefighter controlling the tower ladder bucket were in a very dangerous position and no one said a thing.

Sadly, less than two years later, that same officer and his young interior team were caught in a flashover and killed while attempting to force a door and conduct a search on the floor above the fire floor in a small, non-fireproof multiple dwelling.

Three positive changes that occurred as a result of those horrific deaths: 1) Our department changed its floor-above standard operating procedures (SOPs), 2) it ended the department's 10-year pilot program on bunker gear and 3) the city committed \$14 million dollars to outfit every firefighter with bunker gear within one month. But I still can't help but think that perhaps if a chief had questioned the officer's tactics or motivations at that previous fire, they may have tempered his aggressiveness at getting to the floors above so hastily.

The Driving Lesson

As a first-hand example of the importance of saying something (or not), one day I was working as a covering officer of an engine company in a city suburb. I arrived early and relieved the officer on duty. As we exchanged information, the officer gave me the low-down on the day's events and told me that a regular chauffeur—we'll call him "Tommy"—would be driving me. I don't recall if there was any inflection in the officer's voice as he gave me that information, but what I do remember quite clearly is that every firefighter coming in for that tour said almost the exact same thing to me: "Oh, Tommy's driving?" One even wished me good luck.

Now of course, I didn't know any of these firefighters or Tommy, so I couldn't tell if this was just some firehouse ribbing or if these guys were serious, although my sixth sense told me they were serious. Our first run came less than an hour later and I found out just how serious they were.

The call was for smoke on the 11th floor of an apartment housing complex, and this company was first-due. The members turned out quickly. Tommy careened out of the firehouse, through a red light (without taking his foot off the gas pedal, which was pushed down to the floor), up onto a sidewalk and over a bridge clogged with rush-hour traffic. We then flew directly at a group of four teenagers walking on the same sidewalk. My first thoughts: "Surely he sees them" and "Surely he's going to slow down." Well, he saw them, but he never slowed down. Three of kids ran to the outside wall of the bridge in terror and the fourth, a young girl, started in the same direction as her friends but then doubled back at the last second into the stopped traffic. Tommy never even blinked—or slowed down.

As we passed the kids, my attention quickly turned to the construction barricades in front of us on the downward slope of the bridge and the large pothole they were protecting. Tommy drove right through the plastic barricades like he was part of a chase scene in a movie. The barricades exploded into pieces, causing loud crashing and banging noises—and the distinct hissing of an air leak. At first I thought we had just punctured a tire on the edge of the pothole, but it soon became apparent that the air leak was coming from an airline underneath the apparatus. The dispatcher was now calling us to report that they were receiving multiple calls for a fire on the 10th floor.

Knowing that stopping the apparatus would lock up the breaking system, I told Tommy to keep driving as long as he could and radioed the ladder company following us to pass, as we were having mechanical difficulties. Finally, the apparatus was at a controllable speed.

I thought we were never going to make it to the fire, but when we did finally make it, we were the third engine to arrive at our first-due assignment. The large rubbish fire in the 10th floor hallway was already being extinguished by the first-arriving companies.

After the fire, as we left the building and started walking toward the apparatus, I met the IC—a friend of mine—and asked him if he knew of this guy Tommy who was driving the engine and his dangerous driving habits. He said he did not.

Saying Something ...

Later, while the department mechanic (who's quartered in the same firehouse as the engine—coincidence?) made some temporary repairs, I told Tommy that for the rest of the tour, if he drove like that again, I would relieve him of his driving duties. I had never before, and thankfully never have since, been so terrified and angered by the way a firefighter drove an apparatus. I also let the crew know that they should have said something to Tommy about his driving. Of course, there was stunned silence. I was fuming.

Luckily, the next run didn't come in for several hours, and after the first minute of that response, I told Tommy to pull over and stop the apparatus. I turned off the lights and siren and notified the dispatcher that we'd be delayed. I took a breath to calm myself, turned to Tommy and said (in my best controlled tone), "You will not drive like this while I'm working here." I then asked him if he could drive more safely and, if not, I'd have one of the other firefighters drive us back to the firehouse until his replacement arrived from another company. He conceded, and we continued to the call in what I considered a "normal" response mode. Thankfully, there were no other runs for the remainder of that day.

... Versus Saying Nothing

At the end of the tour, a regularly assigned officer relieved me, and I asked him how they could allow such a dangerous driver to be a regular chauffeur. The officer replied that he was just a lieutenant and that it wasn't his decision. I thought, did he ever question the driving abilities of this man? Did anybody? Were they all willing to let this ticking time bomb play Russian roulette with their lives? As it turns out, they were.

In a disastrous, yet almost predictable twist of fate, just four months later, the same company was involved in a major, fatal accident at an intersection. One civilian driver was killed, and the officer and two firefighters were seriously injured, two of them with career-ending injuries. Upon hearing about the accident, I called a friend who is a chief in a neighboring battalion. It turns out that he was working that tour and responded to the accident. When I asked him if Tommy was the one driving the engine, he said yes.

How did so many firefighters, officers and I allow this to happen? We saw something but nobody said anything. This man clearly should not have been driving that fire truck, therefore, it was just a matter of time before the inevitable happened. Looking back, as a covering officer, I could have spoken with the company commander about it or made an anonymous inquiry to someone. What would you have done?



Accidents can happen on the roadway if we're not careful, and if we don't speak up when we witness unsafe driving on the part of our engineers. "Tommy's" unsafe driving ultimately led to a fatal accident that killed one civilian driver and seriously injured two firefighters. Photo AP/The Repository, Bob Rossiter 🔥

Retiree Locator

By John Delorio

Retired

Your dates of employment

July 21, 1984 – August 16, 2004

Positions held

Firefighter/EMT - Firefighter/Paramedic - Driver/Operator/Paramedic - Lieutenant/Paramedic - Captain/Paramedic - Assistant Chief, Operations - Assistant Chief, Administration - Interim Fire Chief

You're most memorable experience (s):

A pregnant woman (9 months) who was on vacation from out of state experiencing abruptio placenta and placenta previa. It was the classic "load and go" where we took the patient directly to labor and delivery at Good Samaritan Hospital. Within 10 minutes the patient was in surgery for emergency C-section. Both mother and baby survived. The L&D nurse said they both would have died if it were not for our quick response, treatment and transport.



Rescue off the rocks at the mid-town beach using the aerial tower. A young man was celebrating his 21st birthday by partying with his friends. He was sitting on the seawall with his friends and accidentally fell off landing on his face

causing significant trauma and airway complications. Patient was rescued with stokes basket and aerial tower lift. Due to rapid rescue and aggressive treatment, the patient survived his 21st birthday.

Residential structure fire at lakefront home of former King Hussein of Jordan. Very odd situation where a lightning strike earlier in the day caused an arcing between underground electric and gas lines. Natural gas filled the home through electrical outlets and when concentration reach explosive limit later than night, home exploded after air conditioning turning on caused a spark induced explosion. There were calls for "smell of gas" prior to the fire which were investigated but were unfounded...until the explosion.

Washing ashore of the freighter Mercedes on a residence's

beachfront on North Ocean Boulevard during the "no name" hurricane in November 1984.

Favorite food

Anything made by my wife or daughters.

What are you doing now?

After retiring in 2004, my family and I moved to Ocala, Florida where I was working at the Florida State Fire College as an instructor, then in Domestic Security responsible for homeland security funding and projects for the State's Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces, Regional Haz Mat Teams, Technical Rescue Teams and Mutual Aid Radio Caches. In late 2008, I began working for Marion County Fire Rescue as a shift commander (Assistant Chief). MCFR had just absorbed the ambulance service from a private entity funded by the hospitals, city and county. The department had grown from 90 personnel to over 500 personnel with 30 stations in 10 years. Then after being offered the Fire Chief position in Volusia County In 2010, I accepted a Deputy Chief position with the City of Ocala Fire Rescue. I was appointed Fire Chief in early 2011.

I presently work for the Florida Department of Health in Tallahassee in the Bureau of Preparedness and Response as a Program Manager and I'm a member of a state incident management team. I also work as a consultant for several private sector emergency management firms working on projects ranging from active shooter exercises to homeland security exercises across the country with the National Guard's Civil Support CBRNE teams and Homeland Response Forces. In 2009 I completed a Master's Degree in Homeland Security from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and I'm presently a student at the University of South Florida College of Public Health in Disaster Management and a student in the Master Exercise Practitioner Program at the Emergency Management Institute.

Your greatest advice for any Palm Beach firefighter today

Was given to me by a former fire chief on my first day as an 19 year old firefighter...remember how good you felt on your first day as a firefighter because there will be days when you don't feel that way. Remembering your first day and how good you felt will carry you through those low times.

Another one...if you don't know absolutely everything there is to know about your job, your equipment, your truck, your first due area, then you have no business sitting on your butt complaining

Retiree Locator

about the present situation. Your job is to give 100% performance regardless if you're in a good mood or not. If you don't like your present situation, then do something positive to change it.

Your greatest advice for any retiree

Don't know...I'm not retired yet and my youngest child is 9 :)

Where are you now?

My wife, Elaine, our family, and I live north of Ocala, Florida surrounded by beautiful horse farms. I work one week a month in Tallahassee and the rest from my home in Ocala. My two oldest children, Elaine 24, and Lilly 22, are both married. One of our sons-in-law Matt, is a legislative aide to a State Representative and the other, Justin, is an Ensign in the United States Navy and will be assigned to nuclear power school in Charleston, South Carolina after Thanksgiving. Lilly and Justin have blessed us with a beautiful five month old granddaughter, Ariadne. Our son John, 18, is working full-time selling aerial advertising and attending community college in Ocala. The remaining children, Patricia 15, Rosemary, 13 and Marilyn, 9 are homeschooled and take dance lessons four days a week. 🍷



Battalion Chief's Message — Being a Company Officer

By **DAVID BURKE**

Battalion Chief A Shift

I was listening to a Lieutenant recently comment about how when he is absent from his normal shift, certain tasks go undone. A calendar exists in the office with events and tasks scheduled, yet when he swaps with others or overtime/step ups fill his role, company inspections and certain station operations, housekeeping and apparatus chores aren't completed.

My answer to him was simple, "Motivation is the responsibility of the Company Officer". By motivation, I refer to all tasks. For instance, when swapped out zones for any reason, the Company Officer should not allow the crew to use it as a contest to see who can sit at the table the longest. Station duties should be completed, company inspections / PIP's, hydrants, Knox box and hose testing....yes, even though it is not your primary zone.

Please take the opportunity to review a PIP or drive the zone and identify hazards and learn. Perhaps I should have informed the Lieutenant that, "Training is the responsibility of the Company Officer". I remember my instructor from the fire academy, the late Tim Monahan, telling me that I would learn 80 percent of everything I need to know as a Firefighter from my Company Officer and Driver/Engineer during my first 2 years.

Back to the conversation with the Lieutenant, who is a highly motivated officer and always does all the things described earlier. He should have communications with other officers and step up officers to ensure that these tasks are not requests....they are required. We have made these requirements of ourselves because it is what our customers expect and deserve. Maybe I'll go back and share with the Lieutenant, "Setting the tone for the day and creating an atmosphere of humility and service is the responsibility of the Company Officer".

The truth is, while all of these things are the responsibility of the Company Officer, they are just some of the things we all must accept as absolutes and insist on the best from each other. 🔥

Meet Our New Hires



My name is Jordan Euliss; I am 21 years old and grew up in South Florida. I have always wanted to help others and know this is the career for me. I have an uncle and aunt who are both firefighters for Palm Beach County who have helped me through my schooling and definitely showed me this is the best job there is! I started training and preparing for this career when I was 15 with Explorers for Boca Raton Fire and from there went straight into EMT, Fire Academy, and Paramedic school. I was on the ALS competition team at Palm Beach State in 2011-12 and hope to start a team for Palm Beach.

I am currently taking classes to finish my degree and want to further my education in Fire Science and one day Nursing. Family means a lot to me and I am so thankful for mine. I was raised by a single mother and looked up to my Grandfather as a father. I would not be where I am today without them; they taught me to think of others before myself, compassion, loyalty, honesty, persistence, and how precious life is. I have a great boyfriend who is so supportive and understanding; he is also a firefighter and knows the challenges of becoming one. I am so blessed that I was selected to work for The Town of Palm Beach and can't wait to see what the future holds.

My Name is Maverick Daughtrey. I am 22 years old, and was born and raised in West Palm Beach. I worked as an automotive technician thru high school, EMT, fire, and paramedic programs. Over the last year I have worked in the busiest emergency room in Palm Beach County to fine tune my skills. When I was received an offer to be employed by Palm Beach Fire Rescue, I was ecstatic! I am eager to bring my skills, great attitude, and work ethic to the Department.

When I am not working, volunteering, or in the gym. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I am an avid outdoors-man, I love fishing, hunting, diving, water sports, fixing cars, and being out in the boat. I am thrilled to start the career I have such a strong passion for at PBFRR, and hope to someday be a leader in the fire service.



Hello, my name is Dany Diaz. I was born and raised in Miami, Florida. I am 38 years old and am proud to say raising a family with my high school sweetheart, Virginia Diaz. Together we have five beautiful children. Shortly after graduating high school, I started working part-time in the dry cleaning industry while attending Barry University. I worked my way up to management and eventually, through hard work and strong customer service, acquired 2 dry cleaning businesses of my own. Being a small business owner has taught me many important life lessons which I am very thankful for.

In 2010, I was offered the opportunity to sell the businesses. I took that opportunity to spend more time with my family and pursue my dream of becoming a firefighter. I immediately immersed myself in fire science and graduated top of my class from the Miami Dade Fire Academy in 2011. Furthermore, I earned state certifications in studies of EMS and Paramedics. During this time, I also had the opportunity to work at Mount Sinai Medical Center as an ER tech. While working there, I was able to contribute and be a part of many medical emergency situations which helped me acquire invaluable knowledge and experiences.

Finally, one of my greatest accomplishments in life to date came with the offer of being able to serve the Town of Palm Beach. And, I promise to serve the community with the same values and drive that made me who I am today.

Meet Our New Hires



Hello I'm Gabriel M. Cadet Jr. I'm 29 years old, the youngest of four siblings and the first to start a career in the fire service. I come from a large Haitian-American family. Growing up I learned to speak Spanish, Creole and French but like most skill sets, if you don't use it, you lose it. In my spare time I enjoy playing most competitive sports. If there is ever a FD v. PD game, I'm in! I'll always consider any opportunity to travel somewhere new. Prior to starting here, I worked for the Pasco County FD for 6 months. I look forward to meeting everyone and beginning my career with the Town of Palm Beach FD.

Safety Update

By **BRODIE ATWATER**

Assistant Chief

The most recent Safety Committee meeting was attended by Risk Manager Karen Temme, Assistant Chief Atwater, Division Chief Duane and Lieutenant Ward. These quarterly meetings are held to discuss any problems and issues relating to safety and the wellbeing of all Palm Beach Fire Rescue personnel as well as the public.

Among the items of old business discussed at this meeting was the repair and/or replacement of the apron at Station 1 due to cracking and settlement. Public Works has completed a scope of work for the replacement project and it has been submitted for outside bids. Completion of the project will be done in three sections, with each section taking approximately two weeks. This will allow for two of the three apparatus bays to be in use during the replacement project.

A second item of old business included the replacement of the commercial dishwashers installed at each station. After input was gathered regarding several problems with the dishwashers, this information was forwarded to Public Works. Attempts were made by Public Works to rectify performance issues but these attempts were unsuccessful. The three station dishwashers were replaced by the Department with high quality residential units. These units operate more easily than the previous washers and use standard dishwashing soaps.

Additional items of old business included: The possible activation of key fobs via radio for exiting the gym facilities, but not entering. Per IS, it is not possible to separate the entry and exit fob activation and the option was not possible. Also discussed was the addition of rack systems on the Ocean Rescue ATVs to make patient transport possible. The racks were purchased and have been installed.

The committee also addressed one recent damage claim involving the Fire Rescue Department. The incident caused damage to the top fold down step located on the rear of Engine 2. A section of supply hose caught on the step while it was being deployed and separated the step from the truck. The step was in the normal position, folded flat against the truck body. The cause of this incident was discussed, as well as actions needed to ensure that this did not re-occur. The damage was determined to have been unavoidable, as all precautions were taken. The chances of a folded section of hose falling into the small space adjacent to the step are very slight, but this appears to be what happened in this case. The step will be repaired by PBC maintenance. Personnel are encouraged to contact any member of the Safety Committee with suggestions or concerns regarding the overall safety of the Department and its members. 🔥

AUGUST DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours	
A Shift	295.5
B Shift	307
C Shift	466.5
Total	1,069

Fire Prevention Inspections	142
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Ocean Rescue Visitors	15,434
Town Ordinance Enforcements	183
Preventative Actions	150
Minor First-Aid/Stings	26

FIRE and EMS	
FIRE Calls	87
EMS Calls	79
Transports to Hospital	54

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Caesar Mustelier	10/3
Dany Diaz	10/8
Jody Sronce	10/14
Derryl Bucheck	10/19
Michael Dickson	10/21
Danny Dunnam	10/22
Stuart Grimes	10/29

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Sean Baker	10/18/99	14 years
Michael Hays	10/21/02	11 years
Braden Whitworth	10/20/08	5 years
Brian Matzen	10/20/08	5 years
Alejandro Mahy	10/22/12	1 year
Scott McCracken	10/22/12	1 year
Lee Hill	10/22/12	1 year
Wayne Dorcas	10/22/12	1 year

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2013:

January	Stephanie Mavigliano	July	Frank Mavigliano
February	Jody Sronce	August	Sean Baker
March	James Weber	September	Dennis Wytrykush
April	Roger Basseff	October	
May	Joe Sekula	November	
June	Wayne Dorcas	December	

Employee of the Month/Dennis Wytrykush

The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen Ocean Rescue Lifeguard Dennis Wytrykush as Employee of the Month for September 2013.



Dennis Wytrykush has served in the Palm Beach Ocean Rescue organization for 28 years. He is currently assigned to the Beach Patrol and serves in the capacity as a Lifeguard. Dennis has received several accolades over his long tenure with Ocean Rescue, citing his hard work and dedication, as well as many rescues of residents and visitors of the Town of Palm Beach. His Supervisor states "Dennis has a high level of enthusiasm that he brings to work; his morning lifeguard training is legendary". Dennis consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, routinely filling in as Supervisor of Ocean Rescue.

On August 2, 2013, Dennis demonstrated exceptional customer service and extreme compassion for Justin Callahan, a retired veteran of the 10th United States Army Mountain Division who lost his leg below the knee while serving our country in Afghanistan. On the previous day, Justin and his girlfriend were enjoying the day at Phipp's Ocean Park, when his prosthetic limb was pulled off of his leg by the waves and current. They searched for hours and were unable to locate the specially designed, \$8,000, prosthetic. The next morning, they made a call to the lifeguard station at Phipp's Park. Dennis sprung in to action and spent two hours swimming up and down the beach, finding Justin's prosthetic limb.

In the words of Katie Riker, Justin's girlfriend, without his "persistence that morning, we might never had found that leg again. We wanted to share this wonderful story with you and express our heartfelt appreciation to you, who not only answered our call that morning but acted so quickly." This is exactly what we hope for on each and every interaction with the public; that we would leave our customers with a sense of great appreciation for the exceptional service we provide and great surprise at the steps that we as an organization are willing to go.

Dennis is an individual who always strives for excellence. We highly commend him for his positive attitude, his enthusiasm and service of dedication to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department, Ocean Rescue Division and the Town of Palm Beach. We highly commend his service to the community and urge him to continue the great work that he is doing.