

# The All Hands

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

November 2013

Volume 1, Issue 11



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## Deputy Chief's Message

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

November marks the beginning of the "Season" and with it the return of many of our residents. Our call volume picks up, the days get shorter, and the winter weather brings with it rough oceans and high surf conditions. But the best part of the "Season" for us at Fire-Rescue is the increased opportunities to go above and beyond in providing service to our residents.

The stories of how you have gone so far above the expectations of our customers are legendary; cooking their turkey when their oven was damaged due to a fire, giving them a ride to the airport when their car was damaged and they were about to miss their flight, and helping them get their car running when they broke down unexpectedly. These are just a few examples of what you have done. As this season kicks off, I encourage each of you to keep up this great effort and to seek out and provide that exceptional service that you are known for.

Together we will make our organization better and together we will create an exceptional Fire Rescue agency that our residents love. 🧡

## Toy Drive

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief



It was an incredible joy to be a part of last year's Annual Toy Drive conducted by the Shiny Sheet. For those of us in the fire service, we get our greatest satisfaction from helping and serving others; and the Shiny Sheet's annual toy drive is an opportunity for us to do just that.

The residents of the Town have been enormously generous in supporting the toy drive, and we are extremely thankful for that. What they do, allows us to do what we do - being the hands and feet - collecting these toys for those who's Christmas would otherwise not be as joyful as it should be.

Again this year, each of our fire stations has been designated as a drop off point for the annual Toy Drive which starts in November. Residents will be coming by the stations to drop off toys and checks and when they do, this provides you with an opportunity to connect to them, to get to know them and them to get to know you, as well as an opportunity to show them just how much you care. Please do everything you can to make the most of this great opportunity and to provide that exceptional service.

Last year's toy drive was a great success, and I know that this year's will be even better. We look forward to meeting the resident's as they stop by the fire stations to drop off toys and we look forward to Christmas, knowing that so many young children will have a very Merry Christmas. 🧡

## Valuing Values

By **MIKE MOWERY**

Director of Leadership Development

When I was a young leader trying to learn how to build teams and lead organizations, I remember reading something that Jack Welch, the former CEO of General Electric, wrote that has stuck with me. Welch said there were four kinds of employees at GE.

1. Those who shared the GE values and produced
2. Those who shared the GE values but did not produce
3. Those that did not share the GE values and did not produce
4. Those that did not share the GE values but DID produce

Welch said it was easy to know what to do with the first three groups.

Group 1: (those who shared the GE Values and produced) were to be rewarded.

Group 2: (those who shared the GE Values but did not produce) were to be given training and another opportunity.

Group 3: (those who did not share the GE values and did not produce) well, you had to free up their future for other opportunities.

But what about Group 4? Technically, Welch said that if an employee didn't share the GE values, then he didn't really want them on the team; but in all honesty, Welch said he would look at

their performance and think, "But, oh those numbers!!!"

I think that every supervisor has felt the tension that Welch felt. We know that when an employee is not aligned with the core values of the organization, it is like playing with fire. We know that tolerating someone who is guilty of habitual dysfunctional behavior is like protecting a cancer within our team. Leaders have a stewardship to the organization not to trade in long-term health for short-term gains or convenience.

Values matter. They are like the "out of bounds" markers on a playing field. You can do a lot of different things in a lot of different ways within the boundaries, but you can't go out of bounds or the play doesn't count. It's the same way with your core values. If you cross the line on your core values, then you are out of bounds. No one wins when you violate your core values.

We often repeat a quote from John Rockefeller who said that leading a business is a lot like raising preschoolers. He said, "Have a few rules, live by them, and repeat yourself over and over." If you hope to build an organization that attracts and keeps people who are both passionate for your core values and excel in execution, Rockefeller's timeless advice is worth hearing.

Have the self-awareness to know your core values and the courage to live them. That's what great leaders do.

Written by: Mike Mowery

[governmentresource.com](http://governmentresource.com)

## Fire Administration Update

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

Our annual recruitment effort is just being wrapped up. In all, we interviewed over 400 applicants for both the Firefighter/Paramedic and Firefighter/EMT positions. We have created a hiring list of outstanding candidates that will be good for the next year, and in conjunction with Human Resources, have been doing our best to hire quickly as vacancies occur.

Over the past year, we have lost a

number of great employees to other agencies. Likewise, we have hired a number of remarkable new members. While new employees bring a certain amount of fresh energy and excitement to the organization, we recognize that they also add to the workload of officers and others who are helping train them and get them successfully through their probationary period.

Division Chief Duane, Lt. Dudley and F/F Dorcas have put together a new probationary firefighter training program. Division Chief Fuller has put to-

gether a new Paramedic Signoff program. But it is each of you who are implementing these programs on a daily basis. We offer our sincerest thanks for the effort that you are all giving in making this happen.

You are this organization, and you are what make it great. 🔥



## Current Reality and Desired Future

November 13, 2010

[www.leadingstrategies.net](http://www.leadingstrategies.net)

Let's talk about another part of leadership. It is natural to put the best light on things, especially as a boss responsible for the "state of things." A leader's role is to see the environment as he wishes it to be AND as it is. A leader must be equally aware of two main areas: current reality and the desired future.

Both perspectives are vital to move toward a better tomorrow. An effective leader will balance seeing things as he would wish them to be (vision) with a very conscious awareness of current reality to have a true starting point. Denying current reality means disaster is on its way and not having a dream makes the present much less meaningful.

### Make an "AND" Decision



Several years ago, I was flying an Air Force T-38 Talon that was nearly out of fuel. The reason for the problem was yet another: the landing gear would not safely extend (or so I thought). I made repeated attempts to properly lower the gear as normally indicated by three, small lights inside the airplane. Each time I tried this, only two lights would light up.

Suddenly, I remembered a practice

emergency simulator session where a landing gear light bulb was bad. I tried it! After switching one light bulb for another, I had good indications of a safe landing gear configuration (down and locked). What I thought was faulty landing gear proved to be a bad, 35-cent bulb instead.

In this case, my desired vision was to safely land the plane but that was clearly threatened by the current reality of an unsafe landing gear indication. Had this emergency gone on much longer, I would have been forced to eject as landing with partially extended gear in this particular airplane would have been suicide. (Yeah, I was scared.)

I had a vision – land in one piece – but was forced to deal with current reality to get to the vision. No amount of positive thinking and hopefulness would have made a difference. It was time for action.

### Dream AND Be Real

There are similar possibilities in families, groups and organizations. A person in a leadership position without exercising real leadership likely has hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow but refuses to recognize current reality. By denying what is, this so-called leader has effectively shut down hope of organizational improvement. Is it that simple? Yes!

The reason is, to quote a mentor, "Bad news generally does not get better with time." There are very few things that simply improve with a ticking clock. Great marriages must be nurtured, fine musicians must practice, outstanding food must be prepared just right, and great organizations will only thrive with

an unshakable dream AND a steely gaze on the present. Strangely though, many organizations embrace a dysfunctional paradigm hoping that a solution will magically appear. Or worse, they hope that by just talking a good game, change will happen.

Any organization, large or small, profit or not-for-profit, secular or religious, is not exempt from the vision and current reality dynamic. If I sow the seeds of inaction, I will reap an unwelcome harvest. If I intentionally sow seeds to move toward the desired future while allowing for the present state, I will be able to start to measure progress. This requires dealing with "what is" right now and working toward alignment with the vision.

Yes, there can be pain in spelling out current reality. Most normal people would rather be comfortable than uncomfortable. Current reality organizational problems of dysfunctional teams usually fall into two categories: (1) They become invisible, or (2) They become sacred cows. Hard to deal with the former and you had better not touch the latter!

Still, reality is not the enemy, it just is. Ignoring reality has just as concrete outcomes as dealing with reality. As another colleague says, "No decision is a decision." The challenge for the effective leader is to properly diagnose reality while keeping hope alive in progressing toward a brighter future and then act!

## Training and Safety Division

By **JIMMY DUANE**

Division Chief

Congratulations to our recent probationary Firefighters who completed their year probation and are now permanent employees of the Town. Wayne Dorcas, Lee Hill, Alex Mahy and Scott McCracken all completed their year, achieving high scores on their final testing.

Each month I have emphasized the importance that Officer's appropriately document the training of their members. The hours have fallen over the last few months, not from the lack of training, rather from the lack of documentation. To assist the Officer's, I have added each Supervisor, FTO, and some outside facilities to the list of Instructors to choose from. Please document every day all training that each of the members take part in. Personnel have been assigned several months of EMS training in the Target Safety portal. Please look at the deadline of each assignment so that they are completed on time.

Mandatory individual ICMA meetings are set to begin on November

20th. Fire Rescue has six days set aside for training. I have attempted to schedule everyone during that six day period; however some of the personnel were not working. There will be ample days available while on shift that you can attend. Please check the current schedule for your date and time and if you need to re-schedule for any reason, call Robin in Human Resource at extension 6320. Notify your Battalion Chief as well so the list can be updated.

Yearly bailout training is currently taking place at Station 3. Lieutenant's Dudley and Bassford are running each person through the tower performing multiple evolutions so everyone is confident with the skill. Though this a very low frequency event in the fire service, it is no doubt extremely important and may be the only means necessary to save your life.

"Back to the basics" evolutions were introduced during the month of November. This month's skills were ground ladders, which teaches everyone the simple skills needed to safely maneuver them on the fire ground. This basic function, as

well as the future segments will be the responsibility of each Officer to teach.

Training in the fire service is so incredibly important. When the tones go off, it is everyone's responsibility responding to the call to know what they are doing and have the ability to do it well. When someone calls 911, they are most likely experiencing one of the worst days, we are there to make it better. Each station should train every day, regardless of whether or not a probationary person is assigned to them. As always, call me if you have suggestions for future training. 🔥



## Darrel Donatto appointed to the State EMS Advisory Council

Deputy Chief, Darrel Donatto was appointed to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Council as EMS Administrator (Fire) representative. John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS stated "I look forward to your contribution to the council and to its continuing efforts to improve EMS for Florida's citizens and visitors. Dr. Armstrong is the Surgeon General and Secretary of the State of Florida.



## Deploying the AutoPulse

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

Prompt initiation of chest compressions of an adequate depth, optimal rate, and avoidance of interruptions in CPR contribute to improved outcomes. Mechanical CPR devices automate the process of manual chest compressions and deliver consistent, high-quality CPR. Removing manual CPR from the resuscitation equation enables the resuscitation team to concentrate on improving other aspects of care, such as addressing reversible causes and, in the case of pre-hospital resuscitation, removing the patient from scene to ambulance and onward to hospital with on-going chest compressions, thereby increasing the overall quality of the resuscitation effort.

Some researchers have pointed out that the application mechanical CPR devices can cause prolonged, harmful interruptions in CPR because of the time

taken to deploy the device.

So is it possible to improve the efficiency of device deployment? Of course it is - but it requires a coordinated and frequently practiced team approach.

There are many parallels conceptually between deploying a mechanical CPR device and the pit stop routine used in motor sport. The event is predictable, teams can train and practice in advance and time is of the essence. In the April issue of Resuscitation, Marcus Ong et al. reported their experience with developing a pit-crew routine for mechanical CPR deployment. The pit-crew routine involved each member of the resuscitation team being assigned a distinct role or function, all team members having an appreciation of each other's role and the tasks that must be completed. Emphasis was placed on teamwork and minimal delay in applying the device and minimal interruptions in CPR. Using this approach, Ong was able to signifi-

cantly reduce the time to device deployment.

If a mechanical CPR device is deployed – like almost all tools or devices designed to make our life or tasks easier – it is vital that the user operates the device correctly. In the case of mechanical CPR devices, this includes minimizing the no-flow period while the device is deployed, and **the only way to achieve this consistently is by regular practice as a team.** Any less is a disservice to our patients. 🇺🇸



## Ocean Rescue

By **CRAIG POLLOCK**

Lifeguard Supervisor

Over the month of October beach conditions saw 22 days with yellow flags being flown which indicates medium risk swim conditions due to moderate surf or rip currents ,along with the yellow flags being up over 20 days lifeguard also have been flying the purple flags as well, which indicates jellyfish. The remaining of days saw low hazard swimming conditions with green flags (calm conditions).

Ocean Rescue would like to welcome new part-time lifeguard Brendon Andrews to its staff. Brendon is a local boy who was born and raised in West Palm Beach. He attended John I Leonard High School and went to the University of Louisville where he received a degree in human and health performance. Brendon also swam all 4 years of collage and was an All-American and a

Scholastic All American as well. Brendon enjoys anything to do with water spearfishing, surfing and body surfing in his spare time. Welcome aboard Brendon.

Lifeguard Daniel Kniseley continues to show his great athletic ability, he recently competed and won the Annual Paddleboard race around Peanut Island. The race is put by Palm Beach County Lifeguards, was held on October 16th. Great job Dano. 🇺🇸



## FDA News Release

**For Immediate Release:** Oct. 31, 2013

**Media Inquiries:** Christopher Kelly, 301-796-4676, [christopher.kelly@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:christopher.kelly@fda.hhs.gov)

**Consumer Inquiries:** 888-INFO-FDA

### **FDA takes two important actions on drug shortages**

Strategic plan and proposed rule on early notification by manufacturers will help agency build on recent progress  
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is taking two actions to further enhance the agency's ongoing efforts to prevent and resolve drug shortages, a significant public health threat that can delay, and in some cases even deny, critical care for patients. Following the President's 2011 Executive Order on reducing drug shortages, the number of new shortages in 2012 was 117, down from 251 in 2011.

Today's announcements build on this work. First, the FDA is releasing a strategic plan called for in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA) of 2012 to improve the agency's response to imminent or existing shortages, and for longer term approaches for addressing the underlying causes of drug shortages. The plan also highlights opportunities for drug manufacturers and others to prevent drug shortages by promoting and sustaining quality manufacturing.

Second, the FDA issued a proposed rule requiring all manufacturers of certain medically important prescription drugs to notify the FDA of a permanent discontinuance or a temporary interruption of manufacturing likely to disrupt their supply. The rule also extends this requirement to manufacturers of medically important biologic products. The proposed rule implements the expanded early notification requirements included in FDASIA.

"The complex issue of drug shortages continues to be a high priority for the FDA, and early notification is a critical tool that helps mitigate or prevent looming shortages," said Janet Woodcock, M.D., director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). "The FDA continues to take all steps it can within its authority, but the FDA alone cannot solve shortages. Success depends upon a commitment from all stakeholders."

Early notification gives the FDA time to: work with manufacturers to investigate the issue leading to the manufacturing disruption; identify other manufacturers who can make up all or part of the shortfall; and expedite inspections and reviews of submissions from manufacturers of drugs that may prevent or mitigate a shortage.

Early notification from manufacturers about possible shortages, as requested in the President's Executive Order 13588 of Oct. 31, 2011 and then codified into law in FDASIA, has enabled the FDA to work with manufacturers to restore production of many lifesaving therapies. Since the Executive Order, there has been a 6-fold increase in notifications to the FDA.

The notifications received under the existing requirements have resulted in real progress in addressing shortages. The FDA helped prevent 195 drug shortages in 2011 and 282 drug shortages in 2012, leading to a reduced number of new shortages in 2012. The expanded early notification requirements would further enhance the FDA's ability to address issues prior to the occurrence of a shortage.

The strategic plan, which was required by FDASIA and is being sent to Congress today, describes actions the FDA will undertake to improve its current efforts to respond to early notifications of a potential shortage. These include: improving the FDA's communications about shortages, such as launching a new mobile app, so that individuals can instantaneously access drug shortage information via their smart phones; clarifying manufacturers' roles and responsibilities by encouraging them to engage in certain practices that will reduce the likelihood of a shortage; and updating the FDA's internal procedures for responding to early notifications of potential shortages.

The strategic plan also describes efforts the FDA is considering to address the manufacturing and quality issues that are most often the root cause of drug shortages. These include: broader use of manufacturing metrics to assist in the evaluation of manufacturing quality, as well as incentives for high-quality manufacturing; internal organization improvements to focus on quality, including a proposed Office of Pharmaceutical Quality within CDER; and risk-based approaches to identify early warning signals for manufacturing and quality problems. The FDA has established a separate docket for the public to provide comment on the proposed rule.

## EMS Division

By **BRIAN FULLER**  
Division Chief

As you can see from the pictures here, we are experiencing a few shortages of the medications we carry. Both Calcium Chloride and Adenosine are unavailable without alternatives. This means there are no generic forms, other suitable packaging, or ways to provide the meds to you. According to the manufacturers, Adenocard is expected 1st quarter of 2014 and Calcium Chloride 4th quarter 2013.

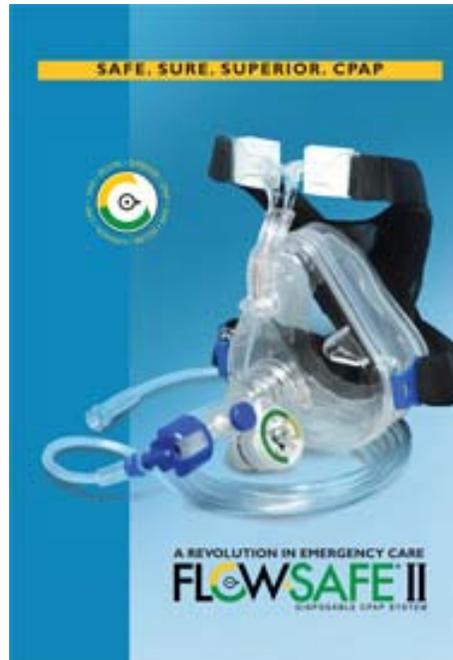
**Generic Name:** CALCIUM CHLORIDE  
**Description:** CALCIUM CL AS 10% 10X10ML  
**CIN:** 3233962  
**NDC:** 00409-1631-10  
**UPC:** 304091-631106  
**Contract:** ACCESS-M  
**Contract Alias:**  
**Strength:** 100MG/ML  
**Form:** ANSYR SYRINGE  
**Size:** 10x10 ML

**Stock Status:** Out Of Stock ■  
**Quantity Available to Order at this time:** 0  
**Rebate Eligible:** Yes  
**Returnable:** No

**Generic Name:** ADENOSINE  
**Description:** ADENOSINE SY 3MG/ML 10X2ML  
**CIN:** 4041554  
**NDC:** 25021-0301-72  
**UPC:** 325021-301722  
**Contract:**  
**Contract Alias:**  
**Strength:** 3MG/ML  
**Form:** SYRINGES  
**Size:** 10x2 ML

**Stock Status:** Out Of Stock ■  
**Quantity Available to Order at this time:** 0  
**Rebate Eligible:** No  
**Returnable:** Yes

The EMS Division will actively seek alternatives for these medications and track the availability of same.



The Flow Safe II disposable CPAP system masks have arrived. The training videos will be distributed in the next week for all personnel to view. This device has a built in manometer and pressure relief valve, an inline nebulizer can be attached to safely administer meds without removing the mask, and it's lightweight mask design provides a better seal and improved comfort for the patient.

Two Autovent 4000 portable ventilators were shipped out for recalibration and service. They were received and reinstalled on the units while two more were rotated out for service. The remaining four will also be serviced when the others return.

Beginning December 2, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue in conjunction with the City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue will be host-

ing a Dynamic EMS Documentation: "Essentials for Patient Care, Risk Management and Compliance" training program. The training will take place at the City of Boca Raton Fire and Police Training Complex. There are two training opportunities per day from 0830-1230 and 1330-1730.

The training is free and funded by the EMS Council of Palm Beach County.

There was a large increase in the amount of medical calls during the month of October compared to September. Season is here and so are the fluctuations in the weather. Please ensure the units are fully stocked with cold weather gear such as blankets and respiratory equipment. ▼

## Retiree Locator

By **Arthur J. (Blackie) Kitts**

Retired

Employed 03/16/1949-03/31/1977

At ninety two years old it is hard for me to remember many things but I will always remember my time with the fire department and the people I had the privilege of working with.

I was with General Douglas Mac Arthur during World War II and spent most of my time in heavy artillery as we worked our way around the Pacific theater. It was a very tough time and I was lucky to get out of it alive, as many of my friends were not so fortunate

After the war I opened a service station in Knoxville and then hooked up with an old high school friend from Maynardville, Tennessee named Alvin White, who soon after talked me into moving to West Palm Beach with him. We opened a service station in Northwood and I came to know Ralph Hardin, who at the time was the fire chief in Palm Beach. He talked me into coming to work with the department and soon afterwards I also got Alvin a job there. We both made it a career and Alvin later retired as assistant chief.

I worked my way up from rookie fireman to driving the pumper and aerial trucks, then to Captain, Assistant Chief and finally to Fire chief, before retiring in the early eighties after about twenty seven years of service.

My fondest memories of the department are the friendships I developed and the way that everyone got along and appreciated the opportunity to have a job with benefits, which was rare at that time. One of the benefits we enjoyed was being allowed to play golf at the Breakers Hotel course free of charge. We really thought we were something! We didn't have many fires when I worked in Palm Beach and most of our calls were the same as they probably are today, what we then called first aid runs. Some things never seem to change, do they?

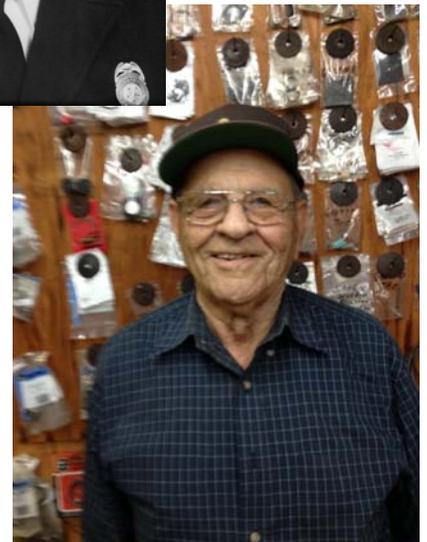
After retirement I vowed to do what I still do, which is keep my body and mind active. If I could give any advice to someone thinking about retirement that is exactly what I would recommend. In my opinion the best way to do that is to develop friendships and a hobby that you really enjoy and that keeps you busy.

If I were to give advice to a young firefighter it would be to keep your mouth shut, your mind open and do what you are told. If you

can't do that and do not have a passion for helping other people, you should look for another career, as firefighting requires a person to give of themselves without selfishness.

My wife Lorene and I still live in the triplex on Cabana Road in the Singer Island part of Riviera Beach that we bought over fifty years ago. Lorene recently had a heart attack and is unable to do much. My health is not good either, but I force myself to stay active, which includes regularly visiting a friend's lawn mower shop in Riviera, where I pretend to help but actually don't do much but shoot the breeze with him and customers that come in.

I want to thank the department for this newsletter, as it helps me keep in touch with what's going on in the department and the few retirees that I still remember. 🍷



## Fire Prevention

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

Division Chief

The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division would like to thank Lt. Mark Bradshaw and Lt. James Weber, along with Fire Operations "A" shift personnel for a successful Public Safety Open House event. In addition, during Fire Prevention Week Lt. Mark Bradshaw once again participated in the Annual Story Time event at the Society of the Four Arts Children's library. The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division is working with the Director of Education, Molly Charland from the Society of Four Arts to allow for Fire Rescue personnel to teach future CPR/AED, Home/kitchen safety, and Fall Prevention classes in their new Dixon Education Building.



Fire Hydrant testing will be conducted in the month of November through mid-December. The fire hydrant testing inspection forms shall be completed and turned in by no later than December 16. The Battalion Chiefs will assign and distribute the hydrant testing work load to ensure that is evenly divided among the three shifts. The Battalion Chiefs will provide any guidance and assistance necessary to the company officers in providing proper resources and zone coverage for the hydrant testing.

In the month of October, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 208 fire prevention inspections with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel. Just a friendly reminder, Station Commanders and the Battalion Chiefs please ensure your booklets are up to date with ALL the revised and newly added PIP/QRS sheets. 🔥

## Battalion Chief's Message — The Ultimate Multi-Purpose Tool

By **KEITH GOLDEN**

Battalion Chief

One of the most useful but under used pieces of equipment is the Thermal Imaging Camera also known as the TIC. It is something we train with for firefighting but it has many more uses and it just requires a little creativity. Once we understand how it works its situational usage becomes invaluable.

During firefighting we use it to check for a home's heat signature during our 360, vent point ignition, faulty light ballast's and even electrical problems. But this equipment can be used to scan the beach and bushes for migrants/immigrants to see if they are hidden in the bushes and can possibly help determine their path of travel, Check areas surrounding motor vehicle accidents for possible ejected occupants and /or vehicle path of travel or even for a fleeing driver.

The TIC can be used to help P.D. to look for escaped fugitives, discarded contraband and even scene surveillance. Thermal cameras cannot see through anything but it does detect heat radiating from a surface so remember that when you have a nighttime drowning, MVA or to assist the Police department by erecting ladders as they search for fugitives or contraband that the TIC is there and can be used to make many tasks easier. 🔥



## Meet Our New Hire

Hi, my name is Cole James and I am 30 years old. Let me start off by saying it is an honor and privilege to be a part of the team! I was born and raised locally here in West Palm Beach and love everything South Florida has to offer. I have a beautiful girlfriend and on our days off we enjoy getting out on the ocean to fish, dive and enjoy our awesome friends and family in "Paradise".

During the past two years I have had the opportunity to work for Tequesta Fire-Rescue where I learned what it meant to be in the "Public Safety" business. At Tequesta I was able to take technical rescue courses, finish my A.S. in EMS and learn how to provide patient care that goes far above what is expected. Although I am sad to leave where it all started for me; I am looking forward to the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

I am eager to demonstrate my ability, dedication and work ethic. My goal is to build on my foundation and to provide the best Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service possible to the residents and guests of "The Island". 🔥



## Congratulations to Brian and Michelle Matzen

Cooper Kenan Matzen was born on

October 23 , 2013



Recent bailout training conducted using the Mobile Training Tower

## What's Happening

By **BRODIE ATWATER**

Assistant Chief

It's been a busy month here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. The following information has been compiled in an effort to keep everyone up to date on what's been happening in the Department over the past month (or so):

- The cascade system from Station 1 was relocated to Station 3 by Lt. Weber with assistance from D/E Hays, F/P Wallace and F/P Diaz.
- Cascade bottles received their required 10 year hydrostatic testing from Hydro Stat Inc.
- Annual preventative maintenance and inspections were completed by Palm Beach County on Truck 3 and Engine 1.
- Gym equipment was previously purchased and installed in Station 2, the old equipment will be sent to purchasing to be auctioned. New equipment has been bid for Station 3 and the purchasing process has begun. Thanks to Lt. Ward for his work on this project.
- The Opticom traffic management system was installed and tested on all fire apparatus and the BC vehicle. A new SOG for the use of this system will be distributed in the near future.
- The Flagler Memorial Bridge went out of service on 11/12/13 due to settlement issues. The previously developed Bridge Disruption Plan was implemented. Two emergency transports occurred shortly after the bridge went out of service with no issues.
- The Annual Palm Beach Daily News Toy Drive will run from November 18<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Toys may be dropped off at any fire station. Participation by PBFR made the drive an outstanding success last season. We are hoping for the same this year.
- On 11/12/13 the Veterans Wall of Honor was dedicated adding the names of three current or former Town residents who served in the military during times of war. This memorial also bears the name of Ralph Hollis a Town firefighter who later became a police officer. Mr. Hollis was killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor at the beginning of World War II.
- Ocean Rescue Supervisor Craig Pollock received the Town's Employee of the Year award due to his outstanding service with his Division.
- Truck 1 was on hand for the Veteran's Day Parade on November 10<sup>th</sup> in West Palm Beach. The Truck was one of two aeriels used to display a large American Flag at the end of the parade route.
- Maintenance by an outside company was completed on all roll up hurricane shutters. As we near the end of a quiet storm season it appears that they, thankfully, won't get any use this year.
- A new performance evaluation system has been implemented. This system has fewer criteria and should be easier to complete. Performance criteria for evaluations was updated and refined to help make evaluations less complicated and supportable.
- The Squad was returned from Ocala after a complete air compressor re-build by the Channel Innovations Company. Replacement of gauges and valves will commence in the near future.
- The joint Fire Rescue and Police Department open house was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and was a great success. Many residents and visitors were given the opportunity to learn more about what we do every day. There were lots of activities for children and some great food. The on duty crews did a great job helping out and keeping the children and adults informed and entertained. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

## AUGUST DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

### Training Hours

A Shift	92.5
B Shift	309
C Shift	135
Total	536.5

### Fire Prevention Inspections

208

### Ocean Rescue

Visitors	14,318
Town Ordinance Enforcements	176
Preventative Actions	180
Minor First-Aid/Stings	33

### FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	68
EMS Calls	118
Transports to Hospital	74

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Damon Patrick	11/1
Daniel Kniseley	11/9
Peter Codispoti	11/15
Tad Bentley	11/25
William Layman	11/25
Mark Bradshaw	11/26
Scott Comer	11/27

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Keith Golden	11/14/94	19 years
Stuart Grimes	11/1/2004	9 years
Paul Hooper	11/13/2006	7 years
Craig Johnson	11/12/2002	18 years
Mario Reyes	11/14/1994	19 years
Joseph Sekula	11/12/2002	11 years

## 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 Bassett	October	Derryl Bucheck
May	Joe Sekula	November	
June	Wayne Dorcas	December	

## Employee of the Month– Derryl Bucheck



The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen Driver Engineer/EMT Derryl Bucheck as Employee of the Month for October 2013.

D/E EMT Bucheck has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for over 16 years. Derryl was promoted to Driver Engineer in 2005 and is currently assigned to the Central Fire Station on "B" Shift, Engine 1. He is well respected by his peers and supervisors for his work ethic and positive attitude. Derryl is a past recipient of the Employee of the Month award.

Derryl Bucheck consistency accomplishes his regular job duties and goes above and beyond what is required of him as a Driver Engineer. His supervisors state that Derryl exemplifies and models the character, attitude, and work ethic that all firefighters should have. He never complains, gossips, or lets negativity affect his outlook. Derryl is a humble employee and refuses to take credit for the many things that he does on a regular basis, on and off duty. With the increase in employee recruitment, Derryl has played a significant role in outfitting employees with uniforms, as well as maintaining the closet and stock of such items. He is credited with consistently mentoring and training personnel, spending countless hours assisting his Officer's with the new recruits.

D/E EMT Bucheck serves as a member of the Quint Committee. Derryl has spent countless hours reviewing schematics and drawings to make sure that the organization is receiving the best equipment and vehicle to fulfill the needs. He spent uncountable hours off duty driving to other municipalities in order to meet with members of similar committees and review their recent purchases. Derryl regularly stays up late at night to work on projects. He usually stays after hours in the morning to finish projects or help with any assistance needed.

We highly commend Driver Engineer Bucheck for his dedication and devotion to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization his work, dependability, and perseverance, make him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach, therefore, making Derryl Bucheck an outstanding recipient for the October 2013 Employee of the Month award.