

The All Hands

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

December 2014

Volume 2, Issue 12



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Deputy Chief's Message

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

The pace of change here is quick, sometimes scary quick. Some days, it seems we are like driving down I-95 at 70 mph and suddenly something bad happens just ahead. It is scary and requires quick maneuvering to safely get through the rough parts. We are doing our very best to maneuver safely through the rough parts.

We are working very hard to create an organization that this community and our fire rescue members truly love. That's our vision of what could be and should be for Palm Beach Fire Rescue and to that end – we are on track. We constantly strive to do what we do better, quicker (if quicker is better), and more efficiently. We constantly strive to “be nice” to the people we come across each day and to do for them what they would not expect their fire department to do. We constantly strive for innovation and to adopt cutting edge proven technologies and processes that will make the quality of life better for those in our community and the quality of work life better for those who work here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Doing all of this means that the pace of change is very rapid. Yet, while rapid, it is still controllable.



However, sometimes the uncontrollable change happens and sometimes it happens at a pace that is uncomfortable. Recently, we had three great people retire – four people who have a tremendous amount of experience and who do an incredible job at creating an organization that this community loves. Within the period of just a few weeks of time, Battalion Chief Peter Codispoti retired after more than 25 years with Palm Beach Fire Rescue; Division Chief Brian Fuller retired after more than 20 years at Palm Beach Fire Rescue; and Lieutenant Roger Bassett retired after more than 25 years with Palm Beach Fire Rescue. In addition, Firefighter Wayne Dorcas, who had over 32 years of experience in the fire service also decided to retire from the fire service. This is a great loss to us as an organization and to me personally because I have so much admiration and respect for these individuals and what they have done for the fire service.

One of the critical roles of leadership is managing change. Leadership is about guiding your team forward through a shifting environment. And determining the pace of transformation is one of the key ingredients of managing change. So, we are working hard to control the uncontrollable; to adjust the pace to what is manageable, to get safely through the rough and scary things that happen in organizations and to come out on the other side stronger and better.

We have the great fortune of being able to promote Phil Dudley to the position of Battalion

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Excuse Me, Your Attitude is Showing

By JOHN MAXWELL COMPANY

Published November 24, 2014

Leaders are readers of people. They study a person like they would a book, by paying careful attention to words. If you listen careful to the words someone says, you will learn a lot about that person. Specifically, you'll discover the person's attitude toward life, which reveals his or her gratitude for life.

A positive attitude can be a person's greatest asset. In fact, an upbeat attitude can take people to places that their ability could never carry them on its own. Attitude acts like a booster rocket, lifting people to a higher altitude than they could otherwise climb.

Oftentimes, motivational speakers present attitude like a magic tonic or cure-all for every ailment, but attitude isn't everything. Some people have awesome attitudes and yet are awfully incompetent. While attitude alone won't guarantee success, attitude is a difference-maker. All else being equal, attitude gives an advantage or edge over the competition. Therefore, whenever you have a choice to make between two business partners, vendors, or job candidates with similar credentials, pick the one with the better attitude.

A person's attitude is more apparent in some conditions than in others. Here are three situations in which a person's true attitude is likely to surface.

WHEN THEY EXPERIENCE NEGATIVE FEELINGS

A gray, rainy day reveals a lot about a person's attitude by showing how they respond to negative emotions. In the face of difficult feelings, some people are like tumbleweed tossed about by the wind; they go whichever way their emotions blow them. Positive people are not controlled by atmosphere but by their attitude. It provides a rootedness that prevents them from being susceptible to fluctuating moods. Whiners want to feel good before acting; winners do what's right regardless of how they feel and then experience positive emotions as a result of their actions.

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Deputy Chief's Message

From page 1

Chief. Phil's experience and his work ethic will help fill the gap being left by BC Codispoti and will help keep us moving in the right direction. We are also very fortunate to be able to re-assign Division Chief Jimmy Duane to the position of EMS Chief. Jimmy is an extremely competent and very dedicated member of our team who always does well at whatever he does and EMS will be no exception. While we will miss Division Chief Fuller tremendously, we look forward to the new and exciting things that D/C Duane will bring to EMS. Likewise, we are extremely fortunate to be able to re-assign Battalion Chief David Burke to the position of Division Chief of Training and Safety. Dave is coming into this new assignment with a lot of passion and a lot of energy and has great plans for helping train our members and keep them safe.

Sometimes I ask myself -- how hard should we push? What is too fast and what is too slow over the long haul? We must remain focused on the future, on creating an organization that this community and our fire rescue members truly love. We cannot slow down on training -- as training is essential to keeping us safe and the community safe. We must take every opportunity we can to go above and beyond for the community and to get out and connect with the community.

Over the next few months we will be advertising for, recruiting, and interviewing new candidates for a new hire list; we will be holding a Battalion Chief and Lieutenant promotional process and then promoting new officers; we will be completing an ISO evaluation; we will be putting new laptops out into the field for Fire/EMS reporting; and we will be receiving a new ladder truck.

There is so much opportunity ahead for those that want it and who are willing to work for it. The pace may be fast, but I am confident that it is manageable. The future is just around the corner and I am very excited to see what that future brings for Palm Beach Fire Rescue. 🔥

Administrative Update

By **BRODIE ATWATER**
Assistant Chief

It's been another busy month or so 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:



Lieutenant Ward is continuing in his efforts to obtain new weight and fitness equipment for the Station 3 gym. With guidance from purchasing, the process is now ready to be sent out for quotes. Lt. Ward has worked diligently on this project and has overcome several delays and setbacks.

Battalion Chief Golden and other Department members will be participating in the Martin Luther King Memorial Parade to be held in Riviera Beach on January 17th. Anyone interested in participating should contact BC Golden for additional information.

An RFQ has been sent out by Purchasing for the replacement of 7 Multigas detectors (4 gas monitors) and 5 universal pump probes. These items should be available for purchase within the next 30 days.

5 new Hydrogen Cyanide detectors have also been approved for purchase and should be in place in the coming weeks.

The copier located in the Lieutenant's office at Station 1 was recently replaced. The new copier is leased and will be maintained by the copier company.

Three new AEDs are being purchased for the Ocean Rescue department.

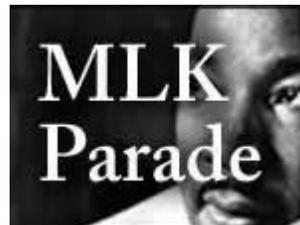
The Washer Extractor slated for Station 3 is in the purchasing process. Specifications were determined by Lt Weber and an RFQ has been submitted. The new unit will be a programmable, hard mount machine, capable of washing two full sets of gear at a time. Thanks also to D/E Grimes for his assistance with this project.

Public Works is in the process of replacing the emergency generator located at Station 2. Planning meetings have been held to determine the size and location of the new generator.

The 3 lifeguard towers located at the Midtown Beach were temporarily relocated to the grass area along S. Ocean Blvd. on December 9th. This relocation was necessary due to extremely high tides and surf conditions related to a storm along the east coast. The units were relocated to the beach within two days.

Public Works has obtained quotes for replacement of the freezer and refrigerator at Station 2. The freezer will be moved to Station 3 to replace their freezer which has required repair recently. Station 3 will receive new a freezer and refrigerator in the next budget year.

The exhaust system update project continues to move forward. Specifications and drawings have been provided to Purchasing and a request for proposal has been developed. We hope to expedite this project once the bid has been awarded. 🔥



Training and Safety Division

By **JIM DUANE**

Division Chief

There is one thing that can be assured, when the bell rings and the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department is needed, the responding crews will be well trained and prepared to handle any situation that is put in front of them at Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

Over the last few months we have spent countless hours preparing for something that is familiar in the fire service, yet different than what we have encountered in the past, response to an Ebola incident. I say familiar because we have trained over the years on a vast amount of emergency responses that required similar preparations when responding, however different because of the nature of the disease. Palm Beach had first hand experience with such a response, though thankfully the outcome yielded negative test results for an Ebola victim. Nevertheless, we must always be sure that we prepare for the worst so that the outcome may be the best for both the victims and the responders.

In late November, Palm Beach Fire Rescue and Good Samaritan Hospital worked together practicing a simulated Ebola case, which focused on the response of Fire Rescue and the transfer of patient care to the receiving hospital. Through this joint effort, Fire Rescue was able to put into action what we have prepared for; however, going one step further and making the patient transfer to Good Samaritan Hospital where they were treated. This proactive approach was yet another step to help assure that the current practices were working and that the patient would receive the best possible care. The Firefighters response was flawless, responders were well informed of the possible Ebola contamination, which deemed it necessary to prepare by donning protective clothing with respiratory protection. Thanks to the recent training provided by Lieutenant James Weber, our personnel were properly prepared for the response.

Over the coming months, several promotions will occur and many of our personnel will begin their new roles as; Driver Engineers, Lieutenant's and Bat-

talion Chief's. For every new promotion comes a new Firefighter starting fresh and green. With each position there are new and challenging responsibilities. One of the greatest duties following your promotion is preparing those that will someday take your place. It is important to think about who inspired you, who was your teacher and who was your mentor? Are you going to be that type of leader? You must afford the Firefighter that looks up to you the same mentoring that you received when you were in their position. Training must always be first and foremost in your mind.

No matter what rank you are, there is always someone behind you looking to learn and become better. Be that person that people aspire to become. Train hard because you want to be the best you can be; lead by example because many are observing that example, always seek education because the career is constantly changing and most of all; be there when they need you, both personally and professionally. 🔥

Ebola Preparedness Training

By **JAMES WEBER**

Lieutenant

Routes of entry, blah blah blah. How many times have you thought you had all of them covered yet still get sick? How many times have you put alcohol gel on your hands to feel the sting of an unknown cut? Or wonder why it stings when you put after shave on your face (hopefully you ladies can't empathize with that)? It's because there was an open route of entry.

Swine Flu, Bird Flu, SARS, Anthrax, HIV, Hepatitis, Bubonic plague, Chikungunya, Mad Cow, Rabies the list goes on and on. The new game in town is Ebola, however all of them share a common thread and we as EMS providers are on the front line in dealing with these infectious agents. We must protect ourselves if we are to make sure we don't bring these home to our families.



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EMS Division

By **BRIAN FULLER**

Division Chief

As the new year approaches there will be many positive changes to how we serve our patients.

First, The new protocols authorized by Dr. Kenneth A. Scheppke, Medical Director will go into effect and with that comes the latest scientific methods and best practices for treating the ill and injured in the Town of Palm Beach.

Second, the Panasonic tablets have arrived and will soon be in operation. Integrating Panasonic mobile tablets with the technology already in place will allow real-time data collection that is pure and precise. The CAD data and times can be automatically populated in the mobile computer within our current software. Once the units arrive at the

definitive care facility, a more legible computer generated report can be printed and will be made available to the receiving facility upon patient transfer. If necessary, the data can be transmitted via the Wi-Fi hotspot to the receiving facility even before we arrive.

The total integration of the data will allow every aspect of the operation to be analyzed allowing treatment modalities to be altered much faster. This will result in a more rapid and effective quality assurance process.

In other news, Dr. Scheppke has recently published a research document titled Prehospital use of IM Ketamine for Sedation of Violent and Agitated Patients. The peer reviewed journal was published in the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine and can be found at DOI: 10.5811/

westjem.2014.9.23229. We have recently received Ketamine and will be conducting a review of the protocol before distribution. Personnel are encouraged to review the publication, the protocol, and the skills to administer it.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve. This will be my last article as an employee at this amazing department. I have spent half of my life here and have been privileged to have met such incredibly passionate and caring individuals both within fire rescue and throughout the town.

Please continue to serve as you do, care like you do, and don't forget to have fun saving lives. 🙏

Ocean Rescue

By **CRAIG POLLOCK**

Lifeguard Supervisor

Over the month of November swimming conditions at Mid-Town Municipal Beach and Phipps Ocean Park really have turned for the worse. Numerous days of strong onshore winds (easterly) have had lifeguards flying Yellow Flags to warn swimmers of hazardous swim conditions. The strong onshore winds have also pushed in the The Portuguese Man o' War which is a beautiful and interesting-looking animal that may also be a nuisance to swimmers. Despite its jelly-looking appearance, this organism isn't a jellyfish, but instead is a siphonophore in the class Hydrozoa (rather than the class Scyphozoa, where 'true' jellyfish belong). The Portuguese man o' war is also known as the, blue bottle. The Portuguese man o' war can deliver a painful (but not generally deadly) sting, even after death. So Portuguese man o' wars on beaches should be handled with care and you should stay well away from them in the water, keeping in mind that tentacles can be over 50 feet long.

How to Treat a Portuguese Man O War Sting if you think you have been stung:

1. Leave the water.
2. Do not rub the area or treat it with alcohol, as this can aggravate the symptoms (there is conflicting advice on whether or not it is acceptable to treat with vinegar).
3. Remove any tentacles from the skin using a gloved hand or tweezers
4. Thoroughly wash the area with salt water.
5. Following removal of the tentacles, placing an ice pack on the area can help with pain relief.
6. Obviously, seek medical assistance for a severe sting! 🚑



Obituary—James Edward Walker, Retired Assistant Chief



James Edward Walker of North Fort Myers, Florida passed away following a recent illness on Monday, December 8, 2014 with his loving family by his side. He was 79 years old.

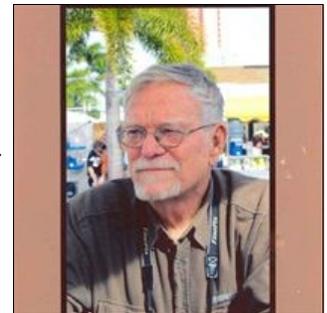
James was born on September 19, 1935 in Fort Myers, Florida and graduated from Fort Myers Senior High in 1953 and married his high school sweetheart Joyce Tomlinson on August 22, 1954, they moved to the West Palm Beach area two years later where they raised their family. Jim learned the construction trade and in 1961 joined the Town of Palm Beach Fire Dept., retiring in 1986 as Asst. Fire Chief.

He lost his valiant battle with cancer and was preceded by his parents Johnnie W. and Jaunita Walker. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife Joyce; two sons James Michael and John Scott, wife Valerie, brothers J. Terrance, wife Jane and J. Allen, Wife Joyce Lane and sister Gloria Thomas, friend John Thomas, brother-in-law Denzil Tomlinson, wife Annette and Robert Tomlinson, wife Linda. He has five grandchildren; Christopher, Holly, Andrew Daniel and April and four great grandchildren; Devon, Matthew, Lilly and Dominic. He has many nieces, nephews, cousins, great friends and firefighters who will also miss him. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his love, loyalty, and integrity.

Jim and Joyce were able to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on August 22, 2014 and his 79th birthday on September 19, 2014. He loved traveling, skiing, white water rafting, building houses, making cast nets and fishing. He and Joyce built five homes and continued to remodel. His greatest joy was building their dream home in North Carolina which they enjoyed for eleven wonderful years.

The world has lost one of it's finest and we are left to cope with his loss and honor his memory. A Memorial Gathering will be held from 10:00 AM- 10:30 AM on Thursday, December 18, 2014 in the Chapel at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, 1589 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida 33907, (239) 936-0555. A Memorial Service will thereafter be celebrated at 10:30 AM by Dr. Charles Peal, Hope Hospice Chaplain. Immediately following conclusion of the service, friends and family will recess to adjacent Memorial Gardens Cemetery where Mr. Walker will be laid to rest in the Fountain Garden Section.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you instead consider a donation in James' memory to the charity of your choice or to Hope Hospice, 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, Florida 33908, (239) 482-4673 or on the internet at: www.hopehcs.org



From page 1

This month we learned the proper methods of donning and doffing and decontamination, while this was done directly in response to Ebola, it can apply to almost any other threat that comes down the road. When confronted with calls like this it's important to remember certain things.

Slow down, speed make you miss important things

No skin showing, deny all routes of entry

Encapsulation works both ways, encapsulate the PT

Decon, DECON, DECON!



You've received decon training not only in the event you need to decon each other, but to recognize when it's NOT done properly. We have been working hard to get equipment in place, training done and procedures written and we've come a very long way. We're way ahead of the curve when compared to most departments, yet still the simplest things make the most difference. Stay safe my brothers and sisters. 🔥

Embrace Change to Stay on the Leading Edge of the EMS

Troy M. Hagen, MBA, NREMT-P | From the May 2014 Issue | Monday, May 5, 2014

It's an exciting time to be in EMS. The healthcare system is rapidly changing and the future of our industry is unknown. In these times of uncertainty, there are usually one of two directions organization leaders can take:

1. Do nothing and hope life returns to normal; or
2. Lead their organizations through the change and come out ahead. (These are the organizations that will survive and thrive.)

In response to those who make the first choice, please reconsider. "Hope" isn't a good long-term success strategy. For those who make the second choice, let's discuss the best way to stay on the leading edge of success. First of all, let's stop making decisions in a vacuum. You may be the best leader on the planet, but when you say "go," you don't want your followers charging the wrong hill. Gut feelings and bluffing only have limited success—even at the poker table. You don't want to gamble foolishly with your organization and its employees. We need information to effectively lead our organizations through substantial change. National Hockey League great Wayne Gretzky said, "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been." We need to do the same with our organizations.

It's easier said than done when no one can see into the future. However, there are steps we can take to better understand our profession and help decide our next moves.

Collect data. Most EMS systems today collect tremendous amounts of data across multiple software platforms. Scheduling software, electronic patient care reports, accounting systems, fleet and supply management tools, and a host of other software solutions generate more data than we can effectively evaluate. The challenge is condensing all these data points into useful information for you to make educated decisions.

NEMSIS is a data repository for EMS systems. To date it has more than 34 million records that are available to query. NEMSIS 3.x promises to be Health Level 7 compliant, meaning it can interface with hospital electronic medical records. This will finally make it possible for EMS agencies to receive hospital patient outcome data and better help us evaluate how effectively we impact patient care. This also provides us more meaningful data to analyze and put to work, and could provide the information EMS needs to better understand our impact and integrate into the health care system.

Measure performance. To move from data collection to useful information, we must evaluate our data for accuracy and measure our performance. Is an intubation attempt anytime the blade enters the mouth or when one tries to pass a tube? Without these definitions, our performance measures (intubation success rate in this case) will be flawed. Establish standardized performance measures across all aspects of your organization to ensure you're measuring the right things from your data.

Create benchmarks and standards. Compare your performance measures to others. Once several agencies are collecting and measuring data the same way, we can effectively compare our organization. With enough involvement, industry standards can soon develop. To know where we stand, we must collect and evaluate data and measure our performance. The difference in future success or failure may depend on how well we do our current tasks and fulfill our responsibilities. We can't manage what we don't measure.

Continuously improve. There's always room for improvement. Don't accept the status quo as "good enough." Adopting a culture of continuous improvement will give your agency the mindset it needs to improve.

Study related industries. As EMS changes, we may get clues about how to proceed by looking at different industries. Other professions have experienced similar challenges and required change.

Develop a plan. Once we have the data, the measures and understanding of the industry, we're ready to make educated decisions. Armed with knowledge, you can better justify your actions and arguably have a better chance for success.

Continued on next page

A Desperate Cry For Leadership

By Mike Mowery

Governmentresource.com

November 26, 2014

Leadership is influence. Nothing more. Nothing less.

In trying to illustrate that definition, I often use this metaphor: Every person has two buckets. In one hand is a bucket of water. In one hand is a bucket of gasoline.

Empowering leaders know when to use each bucket. Disruptive leaders do not. The way you use each bucket is the way you influence individuals, groups, and situations.

When a wise leader comes upon a situation that's volatile and tense, he/she doesn't pour gasoline upon it! That's a situation where cooler heads need to prevail. That calls for a bucket of water so that you can put that fire out. Imagine the damage that's created when a disruptive, dysfunctional, or downright MEAN leader comes into a volatile setting and just adds to it! That's pouring gasoline on a fire, and it won't be long before it's worse than ever.

On the other hand, not all fires need to be put out. We've probably all seen times when a person in the organization gets really excited about the new vision, the new challenges, or the new opportunities—only to have someone “pour cold water” all over their aspirations. It may even have happened to you! That's when an empowering leader uses her bucket of gasoline! That's a situation that calls for encouragement and enthusiasm!

Everyone has both buckets in their possession. Good leaders just know when to use the right bucket. I thought about that this week as I watched the news from Ferguson, Missouri. I saw some good examples and some bad examples, didn't you? I saw some leaders who were definitely pouring water where it needed to be, but also some who seemed to be agitating others—pouring gasoline upon what was already a tense situation.

The issues that the City of Ferguson is facing are complex, complicated, and confusing. There are no easy answers. The city (and the nation) will need leaders who know which bucket to use in each different situation.

The important thing is not to get caught in the trap of saying what this person or that group should do somewhere else. The most important thing for you to do as a leader is to use your influence where you are—in your city, in your department—to promote fairness, lawfulness, peace, empathy, and real prosperity for everyone.

There's a popular commercial that poses the question, “What's in your wallet?” Perhaps the more pertinent question to ask yourself before you rush into action is, “What's in your bucket?”



From Page 7

Implement the plan. A plan without action is just a dream. To make it reality, a good leader will allocate the necessary resources to get the job done in the timeline defined.

Evaluate results. Once the plan is implemented, continuously evaluate to determine if you're achieving the anticipated results. If you are, hold the course. If not, it's time to regroup and study further to see if early assumptions may have been flawed or if there was a misstep in the plan or implementation.

Conclusion

Being the leader isn't easy. There's risk everywhere you turn. With the proper tools and plan, these risks can be calculated and the chance for reward improved. Preparing for and embracing change will keep your organization on the leading edge of the profession. Your patients, your team and your community deserve the best you can provide.

Retirement—Brian Fuller

By **BRODIE ATWATER**

Assistant Chief



After more than 20 years of distinguished service with the Department, Division Chief Brian Fuller will be retiring on December 19th.

Brian was hired by Palm Beach Fire Rescue on July 18, 1994. During his time on the Department, he has always served with dedication, honor, passion and outstanding skill.

During Brian's tenure with the department he has served in the capacity of Lieutenant, Division Chief and Assistant Chief. He currently holds the position of Division Chief of EMS. Additionally he functions as the department Public Information Officer. Brian has also worn many different hats as the Department's liaison with several different Town civic organizations and area hospitals. Brian will be sorely missed as Administration's unofficial technical computer expert. While employed with the Department, Brian continued his education, graduating Magna cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management.

Brian recently introduced the Heart Safe AED program within the Town. This program provides the location of the closest registered AED to the emergency through the 911 operator. Heart Safe also provides assistance with the maintenance of AEDs throughout the town and training in their use. This program has not only had an immediate impact on the lives of the citizens and visitors of the Town, but

also one that will continue to save lives year after year. Brian was awarded both the Kunkle Award and the P.B. County Heroes in Medicine Award for his dedication to this worthwhile project.

Brian is leaving the department to pursue an excellent business opportunity in the private sector and to spend more time with his new bride Teasha and his son Josh.

Chief Fuller has always been someone who is willing to give of himself to assist others in any way possible. He puts his beliefs into action in everything that he does. He is an individual who always strives for excellence. He truly cares about those around him and the citizens that he has served in so many capacities over the past 20 years. We wish Brian all the best in the future and appreciate his steadfast dedication to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department and the Town of Palm Beach.



From page 2

WHEN THEY MUST DEAL WITH MUNDANE DETAILS

It's said that the devil is in the details, and some people behave like devils when they have to deal with the less-than-thrilling aspects of their jobs. Every occupation has its inglorious tasks, and how a leader handles them says a lot about her attitude. The more a person complains, the less he'll attain. Conversely, by approaching even minor responsibilities with positivity and a sense of purpose, a person sets himself up for success.

WHEN THEY FACE ADVERSITY

People either shrink from adversity or rise to meet it—largely on account of their attitude toward life. Thankfulness shines brightest during tribulation. Saint Paul exhorted his readers to “rejoice always” and to “give thanks in all circumstances.” When we encounter adversity, we can counter anxiety with appreciativeness. When we are grateful, fear disappears and faith appears.

Fire Prevention

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

Division Chief

In the month of November, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 170 fire prevention activities with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel. I would like to thank Battalion Chiefs Phil Dudley and Keith Golden along with fire operation crews for their participation of the Tree Lighting events at Bradley Park, Memorial Fountain, and Worth Avenue. It's events like these that bring the community closer together in sharing the holiday season.

Now that the holiday season has arrived, please utilize this opportunity while completing our Fire Company Inspections in our community to promote fire safety tips. Some of the examples may be the following: keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn; replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulbs connections, utilize no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs, read the manufacturer's instructions for the number of LED strands to connect together; use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged; keep decorations away from windows and doors; select a holiday tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall out when touched; make sure the tree is not blocking an exit; and be sure to add water to the tree stand daily.



The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division would like to re-

mind all operational personnel that the following Special Assignment Overtime details are available. If you are interested in working any of the following assignments below, please sign up through TeleStaff:

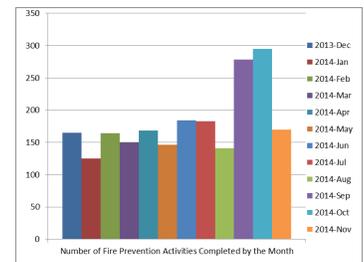
Wellington Equestrian Events at the Mar-a-Lago Club on January 4, 2015

Society of the Four Arts Lecture Series, starting January 6, every Tuesday until March 31, 2015

Society of the Four Arts Met Opera Series, starting January 3, on various Saturdays until April 25, 2015

Mar-a-Lago Club Events for the month of January starting January 17, with the last event scheduled for January 28, 2015

On December 19, 2014 at 1 PM, the Fire Prevention Division will be providing a Special Assignment Overtime class for all new hires along with any recent hires that have not received the training. The Special Assignment Overtime is required in order to work details. Please make arrangements through your assigned Battalion Chief to attend the SAO class. If you have further questions in regards to any Special Assignment Overtime details or training, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Richer and More Alive

By **The Cathy Family**

December 2, 2014

"We are all of us richer than we think we are," wrote Michel de Montaigne. While it's true, we often forget this in the midst of busyness or difficult times. It's all too easy to turn our focus to what is missing or what has been lost than to what has been permanently found. Let's not be people who, like Colette, lament, "What a wonderful life I've had! I only wish I'd realized it sooner." Let's instead be people who wake in gratitude and live with purpose and hope each day, making the absolute most of every moment. While it will take more effort on our part, we will rest more soundly at the end of each day. This is

why Pearl Bailey wrote, "A man with ambition and love for his blessings here on earth is ever so alive. Having been alive, it won't be so hard in the end to lie down and rest." Let's really live while we are alive.



Promotion

By **DAVE BURKE**

Division Chief

Phil Dudley has been with Palm Beach Fire Rescue for over 22 years. He has served as a Fire Officer for nearly 11 years and earned outstanding performance appraisals during his service. He earned the prestigious Palm Beach Fire Rescue 2013 Firefighter of the Year Award, for his selfless efforts, incredible motivation and commitment to training others.

Phil has served as Station Commander for over four years. His attitude of constant improvement and pride in department and profession is evident in everything he accomplishes. He consistently promotes the values of the Town of Palm Beach and shares the vision of the department leadership.

Incredible opportunities are presenting to those who are prepared, and Dudley has clearly prepared himself for those exciting challenges. His dedication and learned leadership efforts make him clearly deserving of increased authority and responsibility.

So, it is with great pride that we announce the promotion of Phil Dudley to the rank of Battalion Chief. 🔥



Battalion Chief's Update

By **PHIL DUDLEY**

Battalion Chief

Last month "A" shift responded to a Confined Space emergency in Zone 3. The first arriving crew found an unresponsive worker lying at the bottom of a pump station approximately 15' below grade. The crew determined the call was a rescue vs. recovery, therefore the crew immediately requested additional units including the Squad. After monitoring the atmosphere in the confined space for hazards the decision was made to make entry and proceed to treat the patient. Once additional units arrived the patient was extricated smoothly and promptly. This is an example of a call that occurs infrequently, but requires repetitive training in order for the rescuers to not put themselves in danger.

More than sixty percent of confined space fatalities are would-be rescuers. Monitoring must be performed prior to entry and during entry for all rescues in order to ensure it is not only safe to enter, but also safe to work in. Most common atmospheric hazards found in confined spaces include flammable vapors, toxic gasses, dusts and lack of oxygen due to biological decomposition and

chemical reactions and displacement by other gasses. A simple blower can do wonders to provide a fresh air supply into the confined space and "turn the air over," removing or minimizing the hazards. Nevertheless, atmospheric monitoring of all confined spaces should never be discontinued until all personnel are out of danger because the conditions can change instantly.

All crews were put through a confined space awareness class last year to prepare for this type of emergency. Due to having a solid training foundation to fall back on, the first arriving crew at this confined space incident did not allow their emotions to control their response to the situation. In just a few hours of training, we all can be taught to identify a confined space and determine the possible hazards of the space. At that point, rescuers are able to identify a hazardous situation and know when to call for additional help.

"Be part of the solution, not part of the problem."



Wayne Dorcas— Retirement

Palm Beach Fire Rescue has had the privilege of having Wayne Dorcas working as a Firefighter for the past 2 years. Wayne spent the last couple years of his career working with us, sharing his great knowledge and wisdom that he brought from his long career at Delray Beach. Wayne retired as a Captain in 2010 from Delray Beach after 29 years of employment. After 27 years of teaching firefighting he still continues to do so at Palm Beach State College. Wayne and his wife Michelle have 4 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandsons and 2 dogs, Couya and Rickie (Lefty). Within the next few months Wayne and Michelle plan to build a new house in Athens Tennessee and move to their new home when Michelle retires from Delray Beach Fire Rescue. While building their new home, Wayne will continue to teach at Palm Beach State College sharing his experience and knowledge. The passion Wayne has for the fire service is like no other. The two years he has been with Palm Beach Fire Rescue, Wayne has made contributions to Live Fire Training, SOG's, "Monthly Back to Basics" outlines, apparatus hose loads, and much more. He will be greatly missed by all members of Palm Beach Fire Rescue.



Retirement—Pete Codispoti

Palm Beach Fire Rescue recognizes the retirement of "C Shift" Senior Battalion Chief Pete Codispoti. Chief Codispoti's first day in the Town was on September 11, 1989, and he has faithfully served the residents of Palm Beach for more than 25 years.

During his career Pete never stopped learning and moving forward. He has attended training all over the country including Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) training in Oklahoma, and National Fire Academy Courses in Emmitsburg Maryland. Chief Codispoti also was a member of the Disaster Management Assistance Team (DMAT) and volunteered his time to serve on the Crisis Intervention Management Team (CISM) that helps firefighters work through issues related to the stresses of dealing with emergency calls. His passion for learning and teaching served him well leading to his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant in 2001 followed by his current position as Battalion Chief in 2008.

After a long and fruitful career with the department Chief Codispoti is looking forward to spending time with his wife Christina, his daughter Gianna, and his son Dominic. The department and the citizens of Palm Beach will miss him and we wish him all the best in all his future endeavors.



New Hires



My name is Nei Silva Filho. I am a Florida certified fire medic since 2013 with an EMS degree and a Associates in Science from Miami Dade College. I was previously employed by Marathon Fire Rescue as an Inter- facility transfer and South Florida Baptist Hospital as an ER technician. Before I stepped into the fire/medic field, I worked for the Miami Dade Public Library system as a Librarian Assistant for 10 years. Outside of my academic and professional life, I am an athletic person that enjoys playing soccer and practicing martial arts along with any other team sport. Mechanical work fascinates and intrigues me, learning how different machinery operate and work makes my spare time enjoyable and fun. I am thrilled to start my full time Firefighter career as a member of the Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department.

My name is Tyler Palmer. I am 23 years old and I am originally from West Palm Beach, Florida. Growing up, I never imagined myself doing any other work than being a firefighter. Shortly after high school I attended EMT school and then fire school at Palm Beach State College. While I was in school I would work at JFK Hospital in Atlantis Florida where I was able to gain real world experience in patient care. I am currently in the paramedic program at Health Career Institute and I am pleased to announce that I will be completing my training on December 18th. I am extremely proud and excited to follow in the footsteps of my father- Mike Palmer who retired in 2001. I look forward to providing my services to the residents of the Town of Palm Beach.



Good Samaritan Hospital staff experience our side



During the month of December representatives from Good Samaritan Hospital spent time riding on our units as part of an outreach program designed to help improve the service to our community.

Pictured here, Heather Clay, Director of Business Development spent the day riding with Rescue 1 and got to experience how we function before the patient arrives at their facility. Equally, our personnel spend time in their emergency room and cardiac catheter lab to improve the service we provide to our patients.

When personnel can experience both sides of the equation, they get a much better understanding of the total picture. This results in a much higher level of service provided and reduces redundancy, said Division Chief Brian Fuller.

Fire— 417 Primavera Avenue

On Tuesday evening November 4th, at approximately 8:15 PM, a fire broke out at 417 Primavera Avenue. The fire raged for nearly six hours before being brought under control by our fire crews at 1:47 AM. Structure fires like this one are why our Fire Rescue Department is committed to continuous fire training throughout the year.



Battalion Chief Codispoti conferring with Chief Duane at the Command Post.



Fire Operations crew rehabbing during the fire.



Safety is a top priority, second floor wall collapse occurred.



Exterior attack with fire hose lines.

Photo Ops



SANTA IN PALM BEACH Just as we still do today, Palm Beach Fire Rescue is transporting Santa in a fire truck as seen in this photo from Dec. 26, 1979. (Palm Beach Post staff file photo)



Oscar Geerken, Derryl Bucheck, Scott McCracken



Extrication Training with Probationary Employee



Scott Comer, Michael Burroughs, Brian Fuller conducting a vehicle extrication drill 1990's

NOVEMBER DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	259
B Shift	409
C Shift	329
Total	997

Fire Prevention Inspections

170

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	11,997
Town Ordinance Enforcements	164
Preventative Actions	123
Minor First-Aid/Stings	14

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	109
EMS Calls	128
Transports to Hospital	73

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Michael Marx	12/4
Keith Golden	12/5
Stephanie Mavigliano	12/8
James Duane	12/14
Scott Symonette	12/15
Robert Wood	12/18
Don Taylor	12/19

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Michael Messner	12/5/2005	9 years
Danny Gargiulo	12/6/2004	10 years
Lawrence Katz	12/17/2001	13 years
Frank Mavigliano	12/17/2001	13 years

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2013:

January	Frank Mavigliano	July	Willia Bonfante
February	Michael Marx	August	Deryl Bucheck
March	Joe Sekula	September	Scott McCracken
April	Mark Bradshaw	October	Michael Curcio
May	Willia Bonfante	November	Danny Dunnam
June	Ryan Zabovnick	December	

Employee of the Month– Danny Dunnam

The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen **Driver Engineer Danny Dunnam** as Employee of the Month for November, 2014.

Driver Engineer Dunnam has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for 18 years, promoting to Driver Engineer in 2004. He is currently assigned to the Central Station on "B" shift on Truck 1/Rescue 1. Danny goes above and beyond what is expected of him on a daily basis. Besides fulfilling his regular duties, he has been assigned as the permanent acting Lieutenant for the past few months due to personnel retirements. During this time, Danny has spent countless hours assisting and training new probationary employees and has filled the role and responsibilities of the position.

A few months ago, Danny and others attended a pump testing class at Palm Beach State College. He and others learned best practices to ensure our apparatus were properly tested and certified according to the NFPA standard. After learning the process, Danny led the project in writing a pump testing procedure for the department, which is currently being used today. His efforts have increased safety and apparatus life expectancy. The pump testing project required ingenuity and resourcefulness as Danny found locations to execute the tests and scheduled department personnel to assist.

With the same resourcefulness, Driver Engineer Dunnam has led his crew with countless opportunities to help the customer. During a fire alarm a few months ago, it was discovered that the occupant's smoke detector was having problems. Not having any batteries, the crew returned to the station so that batteries could be retrieved and installed in all of the unit's detectors. Their care for the customer kept the resident safe in the event of a future smoke occurrence.

Driver Engineer Dunnam has recently passed his Fire Officer I exam and obtained Florida State certification. His commitment and ambition are readily evident in his actions. Education and execution have prepared Danny for emerging opportunities as he plans to enter the approaching promotional process for Lieutenant.

We highly commend Driver Engineer Dunnam for his dedication and devotion to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization. Danny consistently performs at a high level, always striving to do his best and make Palm Beach Fire Rescue a better place to work and serve the community. His daily efforts in the community are an example of what we stand for and strive to do every day. He is a great asset to the organization, therefore, making Danny Dunnam an outstanding recipient of the November, 2014 Employee of the Month award.

