

The All Hands

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

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Deputy Chief's Message

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

Congratulations to Lieutenant Phil Dudley who is our 2013 Firefighter of the Year. Lt. Dudley joins a select list of distinguished members who have received this award. As I look back at last year – and all that was accomplished – I find Lt. Dudley's prints all over much of it.

So what is it that set Lt. Dudley apart? First and foremost in my mind is his incredible love of the job. Lt. Dudley loves the fire service. He grew up around the fire service, with his father retiring from West Palm Beach Fire Rescue as a chief officer. He joined the fire service at a young age and for the most part has been doing this all his life. It's in his blood – It's just a part of who he is. He is proud to be a firefighter.

Second is his competence – his desire to be better. Lt. Dudley has never stopped trying to be a better firefighter; constantly seeking out new opportunities to learn and grow. He is a great medic, a great firefighter; he has set himself apart by becoming our expert in technical rescue.

Third is his genuine concern for those he works for and those he works with. Lt. Dudley cares. He cares for the people he serves, he cares for the people under his supervision, and he cares for his peers. He is always trying to serve others. Lt. Dudley is a great teacher. He has become an integral and important part of our new recruit training program. He has helped develop and teach all of our members on subjects such as firefighter safety, bailout training, confined space rescue, high rise firefighting, and more. What an incredible gift – he knows what he is doing and he is willing to share that knowledge with anyone who wants to learn.

Fourth, and probably most important, is his character. Lt. Dudley is a genuinely good and honest person. He tells you the truth – whether you like it or not. He means well in all that he does. He doesn't intentionally do the wrong thing – and he won't let you do the wrong thing if he knows about it. Lt. Dudley is not perfect. He makes a mistake from time to time – just as we all do – but he owns his mistakes and he works hard to make them right. He is humble. He doesn't seek recognition and because he is so humble – he doesn't really like recognition even though it is well deserved. Lt. Dudley is an employee to be admired.

For those of you who know Lt. Dudley – I have not told you anything here that you didn't already know. So – just why am I saying all of this? It is because this short article is not so much about Lt. Dudley as it is about what being a great firefighter looks like. With so many new and aspiring members here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue, you should know what it looks like to be the best. You should have a model to follow; a person you can go to for advice; a person who has done what you are hoping to do – and who has done it so very well.

Lt. Dudley received the Firefighter of the Year Award because of who he is as a person and what he has done here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue; however he also received this award because we need great role models for those who are coming up behind him – and he more than fits that role. He is an example for others to follow. Follow his lead and you will be sure to find success. 🔥

Admin Update

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

We have begun a new year and with it are some new initiatives that we will be rolling out very soon. The most notable amongst them will be our efforts to engage the public by delivering a variety of new community education programs from the company level. The vision is to have our crew members out in the community, delivering quality and valued education to the people who live and work in the Town of Palm Beach; education that could save their lives. We want our members to get to know the people they are serving and for the public to get to know them.

To do this, we are packaging up some programs that company officers can deliver; including a fall prevention program, stroke and heart attack awareness programs, blood pressure screening, hands only CPR training program, AED awareness and AED operation programs, high rise fire safety, and fire extinguisher operations. The goal will be for each station on each shift to seek out, schedule and deliver one program within their response area each month. Our job will be to design the programs and give you the tools you need, your job will be to deliver them.

Fire inspections are one of the best opportunities to share this message and to gain access to opportunities to come back and deliver programs we have to offer. If a business doesn't have an

AED, officers can help them see the need, help them get, register and install one, and then come back and teach hands only CPR and AED operations to the members on site. While inspecting a condo or apartment building, you can work with the building manager to arrange a time where you can come back and provide any or all of the education programs we have to the residents. Falls are our number one EMS call type and this is an area where we can truly have great impact. These programs don't have to be long – an hour or two will be more than enough to focus on a topic and deliver it well.

Lt. Bassett has been doing some of these already and the success has been incredible. His efforts have expanded and strengthened our relationships within the community. They have shown the people that we serve just how much we truly care about them. There are a whole lot more people today that know Lt. Bassett's name than there were just a few short months ago.

Right now, one of the most important things we can do is to create a department that this community loves. By getting out more in the community; by getting to know the people we serve and by them getting to know you, by showing the people in this community how much you care about them; by helping prevent accidents, helping prevent serious illnesses; by helping save lives – you will be doing just that. 🧯

Ocean Rescue

By **CRAIG POLLOCK**

Lifeguard Supervisor

In the month of December Town of Palm Beach Mid-Town Municipal Beach had several days in which Portuguese Man-O-War returned to its shoreline. The Portuguese Man-O-War is a jelly-like marine animal but it's not a jellyfish. In fact, these sea creatures are four different polyps that rely on each other to survive. Man-O-Wars are well known for their painful and powerful stings. They can be found in warm waters all over the world.

The Man-O-war gets its name because of similar look of an 18th century sailing ship at full sail. The body is a gas filled float (also known as its sail) which can be blue to pink in color (looks like a balloon or bag.) It can be anywhere from 3 to 12 inches. The stinging tentacles can be up to 50 meters long. If your stung by a Man-O-War pick off any visible tentacles, then rinse with salt water and see lifeguard who may help you with further treatment.

Ocean Rescue is happy to announce that its daily beach report for Mid-Town Beach is back in service. The beach report is done daily in the A.M. when lifeguards arrive for work; it includes surf, wind, flag, tide conditions and any hazards that may exist that day. The number for the beach report is 561-835- 4693. 🚨



Nitroglycerin in Heart Disease

By **KENNETH A SCHEPPKE**
MD, FAAEM

Medical Director

The protocol we have describes when nitroglycerin should be used and when it should be withheld. In this article, I will explain some of the physiology behind these protocols decisions.

There are two areas where nitroglycerin exists in the protocol. The first is for ischemic chest pain including STEMI and the second is for congestive heart failure. While both conditions involve the heart, the reasons for the use of the drug differs in each case and so, therefore, do the indications and contraindications. Nitroglycerin has two main effects. Its primary effect is reduction of cardiac preload via increased venous dilation which increases the ability to store blood in the veins. Its secondary and less powerful effect is reduction of afterload (or reduction of systemic vascular resistance - lower BP).

The pathophysiology of nitroglycerin use can be understood by examining the Starling law for cardiac contractility. This law suggests that as the muscle fibers of the heart are stretched, the force of contraction increases and therefore stroke volume and cardiac output increases. As an analogy, if you stretch a rubber band, the more you stretch it, the more it will pull back towards its original shape. This means that as preload increases, ventricular end diastolic volume increases, the muscle fibers therefore stretch and cardiac contractility and cardiac output increases. However, just as in a rubber band that is overstretched, there is a limit to this stretching or preload before it breaks or gets weaker. When stretched beyond the limit, contractility decreases. This is the

effect we see in congestive heart failure.

In CHF, preload is too high, there is weak contractility and often there is very high systolic blood pressure meaning a very high resistance to forward blood flow. Since the myocardial muscle fibers are overly stretched, nitroglycerin must be used to decrease preload. Reduction of preload will decrease the end diastolic ventricular volume which allows a reduction of the fiber stretch back to within the Starling law range and therefore improved contractile strength. In addition, reduction of afterload will reduce systolic blood pressure thereby reducing resistance to forward blood movement out of the heart which also helps to alleviate the CHF condition. This is why nitroglycerin is first line therapy in CHF. Its mechanism of reduced preload and reduced afterload directly reverses the underlying pathology of CHF and allows a return to normal cardiac functioning. Note that heart rate has not been mentioned with regard to nitroglycerin use in CHF, because it is not a factor to consider in this disease process.

In contrast, ischemic heart disease has different indications and contraindications for nitroglycerin use. In the ischemic heart, nitroglycerin helps by reducing the workload of the heart thereby reducing myocardial oxygen consumption ultimately relieving ischemic chest pain. However, the mechanism of reduction of workload is the same as in CHF. Its primary effect is reduction of preload and secondarily reduction of afterload.

In a heart that is ischemic, the muscle fibers may not be contracting strong enough to allow adequate cardiac out-

put. The early signs of a malfunctioning ischemic heart are a bradycardic or tachycardic rhythm. In both scenarios, the heart becomes more dependent upon the Starling law to maintain a good stroke volume and to maintain cardiac output. A reduction in the preload here would not allow the ventricle to fill with enough blood to stretch the muscle fibers and would result in a decrease in stroke volume and hemodynamic collapse.

Decades ago, it was predicted that Nitroglycerin, because of its ability to reduce myocardial oxygen demand, would decrease both death rates and myocardial infarction size. Since then, studies have revealed that it holds neither benefit. It has no benefit other than pain relief. No mortality benefit and no morbidity benefit. Since it is no better than any other pain reliever, yet carries higher risks of collapse of cardiac output than many other pain relievers, its use in the ischemic heart has been slowly falling out of favor. It is still safe to use it provided there is no evidence that cardiac output is dependent upon preload stretch of the muscle fibers (Starling law). However, if there is any concern that cardiac output could fail as a result of loss of preload, it should be withheld because its risks would then outweigh its potential benefits. **Nitroglycerin should be withheld in ischemic heart disease when tachycardia above 100, bradycardia below 60 and/or evidence of right ventricular infarct such as inferior wall MI and /or positive V4R.**

As a summary, preload in CHF is too high and afterload is often too high as well. Nitroglycerin works very well in this disease **Continued on page 4**

Training and Safety Division

By **JIM DUANE**

Division Chief

Welcome to the training page! For the past two months, the training hours are up. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to give yourselves credit for what you do. I found that with the increase in new recruits comes the increase in knowledge of the very basics of our jobs.

There are many future plans for training. Starting in February and running consecutively each month Palm Beach State College will be teaching the three Driver Engineer courses that include, Fire Service Hydraulics, Fire Service Apparatus and Aerial Apparatus, all which are required for promotion. For those of you that will be eligible in time, however, need the courses should take advantage of this opportunity in order to be qualified for the upcoming Driver Engineer promotional test tentatively set for June 4th and 5th. School time and swaps will be authorized, as well as one unit a day attending in order to cover as many personnel as possible.

The recent new recruits are well on their way and we're real proud to have them on board. Brad Fabben, Eric Le-

Gore, Angel Sronce and Rob Wood have worked hard during their first two weeks and look forward to starting their career on shift. The initial schedule changed, where they are now on a day schedule for two weeks instead of one, followed by one shift shadowing the firefighter on the unit that they will be assigned to. Many thanks to the personnel that have assisted with this initial training and special thanks to Lieutenant Dudley, Lieutenant Bassford, Lieutenant Sekula and Firefighter Dorcas for all of their time spent off shift assisting in this process.

Some of the training completed in the past month includes the monthly "Back To Basics" training, which was ropes and knots. Lieutenant Bassford did an outstanding job with confined space awareness, running all of the members through the equipment, followed by an exercise in the training prop. Some immediate training coming next month will include three weeks of live fire at Palm Beach State College. This live fire session will focus on car fires in a building with a VES, (vent enter search) exercise. Following the training, all of the front line bunker gear will be sent out for cleaning and repairs. Vehicle extrication training is being

planned for early April. The intent is to have units attend training off the island at a local junk yard where the quantity of vehicles is greater giving crews more of an opportunity to practice on a complete vehicle, rather than having to share it with other crews.

I can't emphasize enough how important it will be for every Lieutenant to spend each and every day preparing their firefighters for the future. Starting January 18th, every Officer will have a probationary Firefighter sitting behind them, therefore, the need to train every day is more important than ever. Your experiences, leadership and teaching are what will mold them for the future. Give them every opportunity to be the best they can be. 🔥



Nitro

From page 3

by directly reversing the underlying cause for the CHF. In myocardial ischemia, the muscle cells are not contracting as strong as normal due to reduced oxygen supply. Since the muscle is already malfunctioning due to the ischemia, cardiac output becomes more reliant on Starlings law to maintain adequate contraction strength and cardiac output. Signs of borderline cardiac function in the ischemic heart where preload should not be reduced include tachycardia, bradycardia and inferior wall/right ventricular infarcts. ▼

EMS Division

By **BRIAN FULLER**

Division Chief

December 2013 proved to be one of the busiest in history for EMS related emergencies generating 158 alarms responses to aid the ill or injured. This was more than 10% of the EMS calls for the year (1513 in 2013) all while maintaining the excellent customer service you always provide. Keep up the incredible job.

On December 12, 2013 Lieutenant Mark Bradshaw attended the Annual Palm Beach Island Cats luncheon where he demonstrated animal CPR.

Lt. Bradshaw was revered by the attendees and has received numerous requests to repeat his performance. The attendees described him as "exceptionally well spoken".



Photo courtesy of Paulette Martin
www.preciousmomentphotography.com

The new NRB mask nebulizers have been distributed to each station. These should greatly increase the ease of delivering this therapy and because of your suggestions it became a reality.

2013 also proved to be very difficult year to obtain lifesaving medications. Your patience is greatly appreci-

ated. We continue to see a shortage in most medications in the form, concentration, and delivery method we are accustomed to. Epinephrine is one such medication that is available in the same form, concentration, and size however, it was not available in needless. Extra caution needs to be used when delivering this medication until the regular packaging can be purchased.

This month a good time to document the expiration dates on all medications and equipment so that we can prepare to replace when necessary.

I would also like to remind everyone of the AED initiative we have launched and to make sure you ask about AED ownership during your fire inspections.

Thank you for all you do. 🙏

Battalion Chiefs Message - Sizing Up Rear Entry Doors

By **KEITH GOLDEN**

Battalion Chief B Shift

Commonly the rear door of any occupancy is usually more fortified than others. For the fire department this usually means increased difficulty for gaining entry through these doors. However this remains a priority especially when these occupancies are involved with fire and certain tactics demand we make entry through these doors.

We must get out into the community and especially in the alleyways of commercial and mercantile structures and look at these doors to determine what it would take to make entry in emergent situations. Determining the right tool for the job is necessary when we find a fortified door. If bolt heads are visible what is your tool of choice? K-12, rotary saw and even a set of irons can force the door if the right tactics are used. The heads can be sheared off using the halligan, hinges can be split using



the spike and even the fork end of the halligan can be placed on top of the hinges and struck to remove them from the hinges. Know your tools ~even though the rotary saw/ K-12 is the fastest a set of Irons with the knowledge to use them are still the keys to any door. 🔥

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY IS SHORTER THAN YOU THINK!

By **JOHN C. MAXWELL**

December 18, 2013

<http://www.johnmaxwell.com/blog/the-distance-between-ordinary-and-extraordinary-is-shorter-than-you-think>

What do you think of when I say the word “ordinary?” These are the words that come to my mind: Common. Usual. Normal. Boring. Average. Something you see every day.

What about “extraordinary?” I think of: Amazing. Incredible. Uncommon. Unusual. Special. Above average. New.

In the English language, only five little letters separate “ordinary” from “extraordinary:” extra. And while “extra” can be defined as “outside,” in English it also means “just a little bit more.”

The word we use is not as important as the idea: the distance between ordinary and extraordinary is shorter than you think. For too long, people have thought there was a huge gap between normal and special. They’ve assumed that “above average” was far above “average.” Unfortunately, once you believe that, it’s easy to conclude that since you’re “average,” you’ll never be anything else; that there’s no way to claw your way up to “above average.”

I’m here to tell you that you’ve made the gap too wide. In life, an extraordinary performance is often separated from an ordinary one by the slightest of margins. What if your ordinary life could become extraordinary with only the smallest of changes? Would it be worth trying?

Here are some “extras” that can help you close the gap between ordinary and extraordinary:

A little extra effort. There is a price to be paid for achievement. Sometimes it’s a large price. But sometimes just a little extra effort can yield significant results. What price are you willing to pay for success?

A little extra time. To give something time, we need something other than perseverance. We need patience with the process of growth. I believe that many of us overestimate events and underestimate the process. But we’ve got it all wrong. As I wrote in the Law of Process in *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, leaders develop daily, not in a day.

A little extra help. I love this saying: “If you see a turtle on top of a fence post, you know he had help getting there!” Why do I love it? Because I’m a turtle on a fencepost. I know that I didn’t get to where I am in life on my own. I’m just not that smart, gifted, or fast. The truth is that those who reached “extraordinary” had help getting there. And many types of success can only be achieved with help. If you refuse to ask for – or accept – it, you limit yourself and your work to a lower level of achievement.

Remember that ordinary and extraordinary are not far apart. If you accomplish just one of the above “extras,” your work will begin to be above average in that area.

If Ordinary People ...

Gave a Little Extra Effort,

Spent a Little Extra Time,

Sought a Little Extra Help ...

They Would Become Extraordinary!



Hand-washing rates low among emergency medical personnel

CBS NEWS *November 13, 2013, 10: 56 AM*

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/hand-washing-rates-low-among-emergency-medical-personnel/>

A new study shows only 13 percent of emergency medical providers reported cleaning their hands before patient contact, according to the study from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J.

"What we found was a little concerning," Dr. Josh Bucher, a resident at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital and one of the study's authors, told CBSNews.com. The study, which was administered through an online survey and distributed via email to national and regional emergency medical organizations, looked at almost 1,500 EMS providers. The results revealed a number of troubling trends.



Only 52 percent of emergency care respondents, which includes first responders, emergency medical providers, paramedics and a small portion of physicians, reported that they wear gloves with every patient contact. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), wearing gloves is still not enough to prevent the transmission of pathogens in healthcare settings.

"Gloves and hand-washing are supposed to be combined," Bucher said.

Only one-third of emergency medical providers reported they cleaned their hands after performing invasive procedures, the survey also revealed. The study was presented in October at the American College of Emergency Physicians annual meeting in Seattle, and is considered preliminary since it's yet to be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The CDC says that it's vital for healthcare providers, including those in an emergency setting to practice hand hygiene in order to disrupt the transmission of microorganisms to patients. In the United States, about one in every 20 hospital patients develops a health-care associated infection each year. Some may lead to death. According to Bucher, hand-washing should occur prior to touching a patient, after touching a patient, after contact with bodily fluids and before and after invasive procedures. Anytime a provider touches anything or anyone at all, they should be washing their hands.

"Overall rates of hand-washing are not great," he noted. He said the EMS study also found that having soap in an ambulance did not affect hand hygiene, but was slightly associated with increased stethoscope cleaning. Age and gender also played a factor in hand washing practices too: the researchers found females were more likely to wash their hands than males.

Older personnel over 60 were more likely to wash their hands than younger providers. But there was no correlation between level of experience and hand-washing practices, according to Bucher. The findings suggest a need for better education for EMS providers.

The study revealed only 10 percent of respondents received blood born pathogens training. And a little more than half of those surveyed knew that after treating patients with gastrointestinal illness, hand washing should occur with soap and water. While many departments reported having gel dispensers in their ambulances and using them frequently, not all reported doing so.

Hand-washing education often depends on the department, according to Bucher. "It is not really standardized," he said. He would like to see this study lead to more successful methods of hand hygiene education for emergency care providers and an increase in hand hygiene practices overall.

"A lot of emergency care starts in EMS," he noted.

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In Memory

FIRE CHIEF VINCENT (KEN) ELMORE

Chief Elmore was born in Washington, D.C. on August 23, 1936, son of the late Vincent Ivy Elmore and Mary Jones. He was employed as a Firefighter in Washington, D.C. for 23 years and resided in Maryland before moving to Palm Beach Gardens after being selected for the position as Fire Chief of the Town of Palm Beach. He served as Fire-Rescue Chief from November 30, 1981 through December 22, 2000. After retiring, he continued to work full time with the National Professional Qualifications Board.

Chief Elmore was renowned nationally as a great contributor to the compilation of writing fire service codes and regulations. He was also instrumental in opening up the fire service to allow women firefighters. At the time of his death, Chief Elmore was the Accreditation Manager of the Pro Board. In this role Chief Elmore was instrumental in the unprecedented expansion of certification opportunities for fire and emergency service personnel round the world. He became the operational face of the Pro Board and worked tirelessly, patiently, and professionally with a wide-range of entities seeking accreditation. While never compromising the high standards of accreditation, Chief Elmore became an advocate for organizations seeking accreditation. He was driven by a simple, yet unyielding, principal--every dedicated fire and emergency service provider should have the opportunity to receive formal recognition for their training and education. He was warm, welcoming and always had a friendly glint in his eye and the Pro Board was fortunate to have him as an ambassador and administrator.



Ken received his Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science Administration and was a Firefighter by profession for over 49 years.

Ken Elmore, age 70, passed away peacefully at his home in Old Port Cove, North Palm Beach, Florida, with his wife and family by his side, on Saturday morning, January 13, 2007.

Kirk Blouin, President of Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police

Posted on: January 16, 2014

Director of Public Safety Kirk W. Blouin was installed this morning as the new President of the Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police. The Installation Breakfast was held at the Atlantis Country Club, and was attended by about 100 members and their guests. The new officers were installed by the Honorable Paul A. Damico, Judge in the 15th Judicial Circuit.

In addition to Director Blouin, the newly installed officers include Vice-President, Chief Brian Smith of Juno Beach Police Department; Secretary, Chief Vincent Demasi of West Palm Beach Police Department and Treasurer, Chief Lawrence Leon of Palm Beach County School District Police.

The Palm Beach Police Department Honor Guard participated in the ceremony, and the Invocation and Benediction were provided by Father James Harlan, Rector of the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea.

<http://townofpalmbeach.com/civicalerts.aspx?AID=77>



Fire Prevention

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

Division Chief

In the month of December, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 157 fire prevention activities with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel. The Fire Prevention and Life Safety would like thank all of fire operations shift personnel for completing the fire hydrant testing in a professional and timely manner. Now that the winter season has arrived, please utilize this opportunity while completing your Fire Company Inspections in our community to remind the residents and business owners that house fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season of the year. People are at greater risk in the winter season when they use unsafe heat sources or if they don't follow fire safety rules in the kitchen or while using candles.

Some of the most common winter safety issues:

Carbon monoxide incidents are more common during the winter months. Carbon monoxide calls are more common during the early evening hours.

Electricity is one of our basic needs. The best way to keep our home safe from electrical hazards is to take good care of appliances and to use all electrical equipment properly.

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. In fact, half of all house heating fires occur in December, January, and February. All heating equipment shall be kept at least three feet away from furniture and other types of combustible items.

Cooking is the leading cause of house fires and related injuries. Don't leave the kitchen while you have something cooking on the stove. 🔥



News and Notables



Division Chief Brian Fuller and Teasha Thomas were married on January 4, 2014 in Islamorada, Florida.

The newlyweds will reside in Boynton Beach, Florida and plan on starting a family. Teasha is employed by the Palm Beach County School District where she teaches 4th grade. She is in the final semester of completing her masters degree.



Farewell

F/P Hill is a fast learner who has a diversified set of skills and can be counted on to complete his tasks and give his best effort at all times. I believe his calm demeanor, operational effectiveness, personal integrity, practical thinking and commitment to excellence makes him a great person and the reason why he was selected as a Firefighter for the Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

F/P Hill is a devoted family man who enjoys spending time with his Fiancé Stacey, fishing, diving and building custom made fishing rods. F/P Hill is anxiously waiting on the special day when he and Stacey will be married with the date set for 2/7/2014.

F/P Hill has a positive attitude and dedication to anything he is involved in.

Good Luck F/P Hill in all your future endeavors and may God continually bless you and your family.



Tony was hired at Palm Beach Fire Rescue on July 18, 2005. He quickly showed a mechanical aptitude by completing several station and apparatus projects. Tony attended dozens of classes during his more than eight years, including most of the FLUSAR technical rescue courses. Tony lives in Jupiter with wife and is the proud father of three daughters. Tony departed town employment in late December to pursuit another career in firefighting. Good luck Tony!

Driver Engineer Tad Bentley was hired in 5/17/2004 as a firefighter. Tad scored number 1 on the drivers test and he was promoted 4 years ago. Tad was a very valuable asset to us. He was a gifted small engine mechanic and helped repair chainsaws, and he help others learn how to pump fire apparatus. Tad will be missed by all, good luck at Palm Beach County.



Eric joined Palm Beach Fire Rescue on December 5, 2005. Eric attended dozens of classes during his employment and started acting as a step up driver in his last six months. Eric's father is a retired firefighter and was present and proudly watching when Eric received his badge, shortly after hiring. Eric has accepted employment with a neighboring department and we wish him success. Eric you'll be missed.

Meet Our New Hires



My name is Angel Sronce and I am 21 years old and have been a Florida resident my entire life. I attended the Broward Fire Academy for my EMT and Fire certifications and I am currently in my last semester of the Paramedic program at Broward College. I hope to further my education by obtaining my EMS degree and further my career by taking any available classes that I am eligible for here at the department.

I hope to be a great addition to the already incredible family here at the Town of Palm Beach Fire Department. As most already know, Driver Engineer Jody Sronce is my father and I am extremely glad I have the opportunity to work with him. While going through school and pursuing my career I worked for AMR and American Ambulance to gain experience. Being chosen to work here at the Town has been a dream come true.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, exercising (Spartan Races and Crossfit) and shooting archery. I plan on learning all that I can and having a long, prosperous career here at the Town of Palm Beach Fire Department.

My name is Eric LeGore, and I am 28 years old. My path in the medical and public service field began in 2003 at Palm Beach Atlantic University. I studied Sports Medicine, and graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's of science in Athletic Training. I worked as an Athletic Trainer for Suncoast High school from 2007-2009, and then began school to become a Firefighter/Paramedic. I received my EMT, Paramedic, and Firefighting certifications from Palm Beach State College during 2009-2011.

For the past 2 years I was a volunteer firefighter for North Palm Beach Fire Rescue, and also worked the last year for Palm Beach Gardens Medical center as a Paramedic. My wife Elizabeth and I live in Palm Beach Gardens and enjoy spending our time at the beach and outdoors.



I look forward to serving the community, and starting my career as a Firefighter/Paramedic with The Town of Palm Beach.



My name is Brad Fabben. I am 49 years old and I was born and raised in Lake Worth, FL. I have been in the fire service for over 28 years and have enjoyed a great career and anticipating the same in Palm Beach. During my career I went from Firefighter to EMS Lt, Operations Lt, and retired as an Operations Captain. I occasionally stepped up as EMS Captain and Battalion Chief.

I recently got married to a woman who also works in the fire service. She is a 20 year veteran with 6 more years to go. I have 2 daughters who are both in college at UCF and FAU. I hope to bring a little experience to Palm Beach and give back what was given to me.

My name is Robert Wood. I am 23 years old and was born and raised in south Florida. Before being given the opportunity to work for the Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue, I attended Florida State Fire College in Ocala and graduated both the EMT and Paramedic program from Palm Beach State College. While perusing my goal to be hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic I was a volunteer at North Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

Besides my passion for firefighting I spend my free time playing ice hockey. Cars have always been a hobby of mine whether it be enhancing my own or dreaming of future ones. My family has always been a huge support through my life and I enjoy spending my time with them as well as my girlfriend and friends.

My goal within this department is to become the best Firefighter I can possibly be as well expanding my knowledge and experience along the way. I hope to be a great asset to the department and am excited to have this opportunity.



DECEMBER DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours	
A Shift	276
B Shift	573
C Shift	667
Total	1516
Fire Prevention Inspections	157
Ocean Rescue Visitors	23,675
Town Ordinance Enforcements	256
Preventative Actions	175
Minor First-Aid/Stings	24
Rescues	5
FIRE and EMS	
FIRE Calls	82
EMS Calls	158
Transports to Hospital	84

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Jose Ruiz	1/1
Nancy Roedel	1/14
Oscar Geerken	1/22
Craig Johnson	1/22
Roger Bassett	1/23
Darrel Donatto	1/25

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Brodie Atwater	25 years
Richard Buttery	25 years
Scott Comer	24 years
Brian Lebrun	15 years
Darrel Donatto	10 years
Lacie Flynn	5 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	Jill Bassford
June	Wayne Dorcas	December	Rich Buttery

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR : Lieutenant Phil Dudley

Employee of the Month— Rich Buttery

The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen **Driver Engineer Rich Buttery as Employee of the Month for December 2013.**

Driver Engineer Buttery has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for 25 years, promoted to Driver Engineer in 1994, and is currently the senior member on shift. He is assigned to the Central Station on "A" shift on Engine 1.

Rich goes above and beyond what is expected of him on a daily basis. Rich can be found working late into the evenings on vehicle and station projects, often initiating the start of it on his own accord. Rich assisted with the mounting of doors for the bunker gear room at station 1. He continuously works on the units and recently mounted some tools on all 4 engines, installed a thermal imaging camera bracket on Truck 1 and fixed the mounts for the Opticom system on all of station 1 units. His Supervisor states that "his pride and ownership he displays is appreciated and recognized everyday". The units in his station are always kept in tip top condition due to his attention to detail.

Rich takes training very serious and feels that each member, regardless of experience should take part of each training session. Recently, during confined space training, Rich volunteered to attend a second day because he felt that the more exposure he had with the subject the better prepared he would be. He has spent numerous hours teaching the new employees, helping them gain a thorough knowledge of the equipment kept on the units, as well as the basic maintenance for the equipment.

Driver Engineer Buttery is an individual who always strives for hard work. We highly commend him for his efforts, passion, and dedication to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue and the Town of Palm Beach. Rich is an example of what is "right" about the Department, making him an outstanding recipient for the December, 2013, Employee of the Month award.

