

The All Hands

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

MARCH 2015

Volume 3, Issue 3



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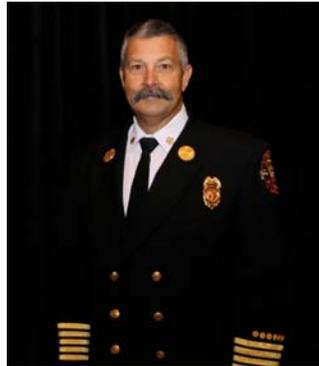
Special points of interest:

- Ladder 1
- Your Attitude is Everything
- Safety Council Awards Luncheon

Deputy Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto

Deputy Chief



In the past four months, Palm Beach Fire Rescue has responded to some very serious calls. There was a house fire on Primavera, a house fire on Seaview, and a house fire on Seaspray. There was a boat fire at the Town Docks and a vehicle fire on Royal Poinciana Way. We treated and transported two trauma alerts, one a bicycle accident and one an electrocution. We treated and transported 6 stroke alerts. We treated and transported 10 cardiac arrests.

In each and every case, our members did an outstanding job.

The majority of our calls are somewhat minor calls. We respond for a lot of fire alarms, about 500 per year or 20% of our calls. We respond to about 300 minor falls per year or about 12% of our calls. We respond to about 300 minor sickness calls each year, again about 12 % of our calls.

However, we do have and do respond to a significant number of very serious calls, and when we do, we do our job exceptionally well.

We like to think that we have the best equipment available, and I am certain that this plays a positive role in our ability to do a great job on these serious calls. I am all but certain that our members do more training that almost anyone else in the fire service. We take training very seriously. We train using sophisticated simulation labs, we do live fire training, we do lots of hands on training, we do classroom training, we do computer based training, and soon we will be doing fire simulation training. Training is important and it a part of why we do such a good job. But truly, the credit goes to our people. We have hired some of the best firefighters and paramedics that there are. They work hard, they train hard, and they care about doing a good job.

Minor or serious, our people approach every call with urgency, with expertise, with compassion, and with a true desire to make a difference for the people they serve.

My thanks goes out to each of them for making Palm Beach Fire Rescue such a great organization.

Thank You
for your service

Administrative Update

By Brodie Atwater

Assistant Chief

As part of ongoing projects to be completed by Public Works in the near future, the following items will be addressed within the FY15 budget and any project not accomplished will be on the FY16 budget.

Current Projects Underway

- Relocation of electrical drops in 2 of 3 stations to accommodate relocation of vehicles.
- South Fire Roof – pre bid meeting on 3/11 and bids due on 3/23. Aiming for a 6/1 start date
- New LED light fixtures in dorms and in dining room at South Fire.
- New LED overhead lighting in engine bay of North Fire.
- Repair of bathroom in Mechanics Bay - waiting on parts and fixtures.
- Installation of drop ceiling in SCBA room – waiting on PO to be issued.

Projects waiting for quotes or materials

- Carpeting at South Fire for conference room and gym floor.
- Installation of bunker gear washer at South Fire – waiting on quote from plumber.
- Tire Stops , North Fire – Repaint and remove/replace signs as needed.

North Fire Projects

- Replace fence by patio
- Install wood on hose drying rack
- Interior painting
- First floor bathrooms – install cabinets –furnished by FD
- Repair laminate in men's locker room

- Replace blinds in Dorms
- Break room on 3rd Floor – new cabinet/counter
- Remove and replace hedge outside generator room

Central Fire

- Replace two [2] AC units [gym and EOC]
- Paint 3rd floor hallways
- Service Tischler Doors
- Install LED lighting in engine bays
- Evaluate flooring options for dorm rooms and hallways

South Fire

- Conference Room- flooring, update cabinets, closet doors, AV system
- Paint interior walls
- Replace ceiling tiles
- Install LED lighting in engine bays

Phipps Lifeguard Station

- Repair/replace hurricane shutters as needed.
- New kitchen cabinets
- New outdoor seat
- Replace rotten wood and repaint building

Mid-Town Lifeguard Station

- Replace door
- Paint exterior of building

Ladder 1

By Sean Baker
Battalion Chief

The Pierce 75' Ladder was placed into service on Thursday February 19 at Station 1. The Ladder will respond with the name "Ladder 1" and will take the place of the Pierce Platform which has been sent to Station 3 permanently to replace Truck 3. Firefighters performed a ceremonial "wet down" and pushed the 56,000 pound truck into the bay.

A long standing tradition in the fire service, a "wet-down" is a ritual celebrated by many fire departments in the United States in which firefighters commission a new fire apparatus by anointing it with water sprayed from the retiring pumper's tank water or from a neighboring firehouse's apparatus. The ritual dates back to the late 1800's when horse drawn pumpers were used throughout the nation's Fire Service.

Horses that were commissioned for service would be washed along with the pumper at their newly assigned firehouse and backed into the firehouse bay. The firefighters would then fit the new horse with its harness placing the company in service. After every run, firefighters had to hand push their pumpers back into the bay and ready themselves for the next alarm.

When new horses or pumpers were purchased neighboring firehouses, department chiefs, and citizens from the surrounding community would attend the ceremony to celebrate the new powerful addition to their neighborhood firehouse. Local clergy came to bestow blessings upon the horse throwing holy water unto it for long life, strength, speed and good health. The blessing would serve to ward off any evil spirits or "gremlins" that could affect the firehouse's newest addition.

Today, fire departments continue to celebrate this tradition with the help of a driver in the seat and the company's transmission in reverse. After being wet-down and blessed, the company is slowly rolled backwards into the bay while firefighters assist by pushing up-front.



Training and Safety Division

By Dave Burke

Division Chief

It was another busy month filled with training and experience gained for all of us at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. The structure fire on Seaspray Ave brought a tragedy for a resident who lost three dogs to smoke inhalation. Our hearts go out to her and hope her life can begin to rebuild. The positive of the fire was the actions and learned lessons identified during the After Action Report conducted on B shift. Watch for a S.T.E.A.L.T.H. report from this division in the coming days.

The delivery of Ladder 1 (soon to be Ladder 97) brought additional pride of profession and department, and provided an opportunity to learn a multitude of new things. The Pierce in-service training was lengthy, but worth every minute. The aerial apparatus has dozens of features requiring more training for the effective use of new technologies. The compressed air foam system (CAFS) aboard Ladder 1 demands all of us to rethink everything we thought we knew about foam. The CAFS and a piercing nozzle give a single company an enormous advantage in emergency mitigation not seen before at PBFR. The increased safety factor for firefighters and victims coupled with early fire knockdown makes this an exciting game-changer when correctly used and deployed. My hat's off to the great job the apparatus committee did on this truck.

We have increased our knowledge and use of the training software Target Solutions in the last month. Lt. Marx has been a tremendous help with his tireless efforts to organize and streamline training through the use of ISO Training Tracker feature within Target Solutions. This will allow us to track each member's training hours in every category for recertification at the state level for each position (Officer, Inspector, etc.). The addition of a 3 year training calendar is coming soon, allowing better planning and organization of all training. As always, we have to be diligent in logging the training into the system. Watch for a procedure update incorporating Target Solutions and the importance of capturing all of our efforts to ensure proper credit.

Lastly, great job to the instructors and participants of this month's Confined Space Awareness training conducted at the Town's lift station at Phipps Park. All students agreed the class was relevant and informative with incredible knowledge shared by instructors BC Dudley and Lt. Bassford.



EMS Division

By Jimmy Duane

Division Chief



The Fire Rescue Department completed their Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) recertification this month. Florida Atlantic University conducted the program, which consisted of a morning lecture and afternoon practical session.

Since the last certification, the department has hired several new Firefighter/Paramedics with a variety of ACLS expiration dates. Not expiring again till 2017, the training synced all of its members to the same date.

The national drug shortage continues to be an issue each month as the availability of certain medications becomes more difficult than others. An example of a common item used in Fire-Rescue is saline IV solution. As I wrote last month there seemed to be some reprieve on the item and we were able to order several cases of the solution, however this month the allotment was (1) case. Norcuron, which is used in the advanced airway protocol has been unavailable for over 6 months; however, we were able to acquire the vials needed to supply the trucks. With the exception of Magnesium Sulfate, all of the medications we carry are now in stock and available for use. Paramedics should be cognizant of the shortage and do their part as not waste medications, only opening packages just prior to use.



The new medical standing orders will be in service on March 27th. All Fire-Rescue personnel will take part in protocol proficiency testing just prior to the implementation date. One of the largest changes to the update is the limited use of long spine boards. Rather than automatically transporting patients on back boards, they will be moved in the position of comfort.

Officers continue to do a good job with acquiring all of the proper documentation for EMS billing. Collecting data from the incident is extremely important when attempting to properly bill for the transport. Every attempt should be made to document the following:

- The patients signature in section I and if unable to sign, an authorized signature in section II with the proper reason for the patient not signing.
- If the patient is unable to sign and there is not an authorized representative, a crew members signature in section III.
- Receiving facility signature
- Insurance cards and Identification
- A local address of the patient if their ID is out of state
- Matching the "Ambulance required due to" reason with the narrative of the incident. Example if the patient was treated for chest pain, state that as your reason, not "medical monitoring".
- If Workers Comp related, name of business responsible

Since the implementation of the new radio system in 2011, communications between the units and the hospitals have been accomplished through the old radio system. Christine Cunningham has been aggressively working on connecting the current Maycom radio system to the hospitals and has successfully completed it. For now, only JFK (channel 15) and Good Samaritan (channel 16), which are the two main hospitals we use will be working on the system. All other hospitals will need to be contacted with the use of the Motorola mobile or portable radios.



Your Attitude is Everything if you want to Succeed

By Lolly Daskal,
President and CEO, Lead from Within
February 24, 2015

When it comes to success, many of us never even think about our attitude. Most of us are so busy just trying to live our lives, with all our hundred responsibilities and our thousand tasks and our million commitments, that we find ourselves often reacting to our lives instead of responding to them.

Successful leaders don't have fewer problems than unsuccessful leaders—they just have a different attitude.

The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding our attitude:

Don't get locked into negative thoughts where you've experienced difficult times in the past. Any ill feelings and negative thoughts you may have had in the past were of no value to you then and have not increased in worth since.

It's not helpful to react in negative ways to daily events. Be mindful of how you choose to interpret what happens to you. The way you react and reason with the events in your life is the way your memories will be stored.

When you have harsh struggles in store, your attitude can save you. You can't change the inevitable and you don't know what will happen in the future—struggle and pain may arrive uninvited. And it's at those times especially that your attitude will

make or break you.

Many of us have forgotten how to control our attitude, even though it is really the only control we have. When we hold on tight to our misgivings, when we dwell on the ways we've been mistreated, it's easy to forget that our attitude is what defines the things we experience.

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow may never come, so the present is the moment we have.

Lead From Within: Let us strive to make our reactions and responses the best they can be, because our most precious attribute is our attitude. The choice is ours: We can hold on to negative thoughts or we can put some altitude in our attitude!



Delray Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade



Fire Prevention

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

Division Chief

In the month of February, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 219 fire prevention activities with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel. On February 17th we hosted our fourth annual Public Safety Open House with the Police Department. The event received high marks by over 350 Town residents and guest who attended. Residents raved over the new firefighter smoke maze prop along with amazing K-9 CPR training that was provide by Lt. Mark Bradshaw. The Ocean Rescue team led by Craig Pollock added a new item to the event with a power-point presentation on water safety tips that was completed by his part-time life guard Kyle Vander Plaats. A number of the people found the information to be informative and helpful. Also, we had for the first time ever a certified fire safety clown for our Public Safety Open House. Mary Galloway volunteered her time to promote fire safety tips to kids along with distributing balloons and other items. As in previous years, Good Samaritan and St. Mary's Staff conducted over fifteen healthcare screenings during the Open House. I would like to commend the Society of Four Arts Staff with helping us out with the photo booth along with other items in the fire station bay during Open House. Lt. James Weber and on-duty fire operation personnel provided Adult AED/CPR and fire extinguisher training to our Open House guests. Lastly, a special thanks goes out to the fifteen Fire Cadets led by James Marshall from Wellington High School. The firefighter cadets were outstanding in volunteering their time in making our event a very successful one by helping us out with monitoring the Training Tower, fire apparatus, and guest favorite fire hose cone training prop with Fire Operation personnel. Also, the Wellington Fire Cadets donned Sparky the Fire Dog along with Police Department's Mc Gruff costumes.

The Fire Prevention Division met with the General Contractors and Project Engineers for 1338 North Lake Way – The Sailfish Club and 100 Sunrise Avenue – The Sun and Surf. Both job sites will be undergoing major renovations. Site plans, names of contacts/phone numbers, and construction schedules will be forthcoming in the next few months. Company Officers are highly encouraged to conduct site visits and become familiar with your access points in the event of responding to a fire or ems incident at the location.



Mark Bradshaw teaching K-9 CPR during the Public Safety Open House

On Tuesday morning, February 24, at 8:11 a.m. a fire occurred in a single family two story home at 360 Seaspray Avenue. Fire Crews arrived on scene at 8:15 a.m. to find flames shooting out of the windows along with heavy smoke billowing from the roof. On investigation crews found smoke and fire on the entire second floor. Fire Operations personnel were able to retrieve four dogs out of the fire, in which one dog was still alive and was sent over to Island Animal Hospital. Unfortunately, the other three animals passed. The two occupants, the homeowner and caretaker were fortunate enough to escape the house with only minor injuries; the homeowner was later transported to the hospital for further medical evaluation. The fire was extinguished by crews after only ten minutes from arrival on scene. It should be noted that everyone on the scene did an outstanding job in the extinguishment of the fire. This is why our Fire Rescue Department is committed to continuous fire training throughout the year.



Safety Council Awards Luncheon

By Brodie Atwater

Assistant Chief

The Safety Council of Palm Beach County held their annual awards luncheon on March 12th. The luncheon serves as a major fundraiser for the group as well as a platform to recognize safe practices and accomplishments by various public and private organizations.

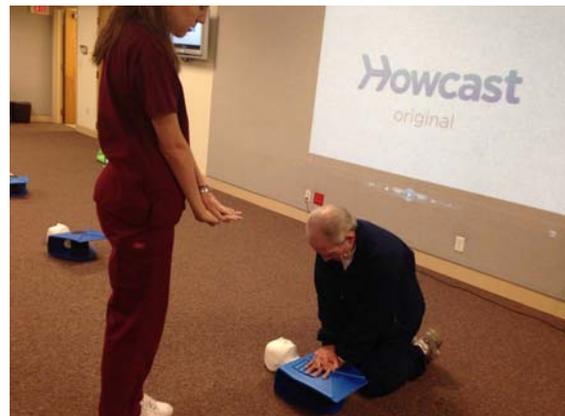
At the ceremony the Town was presented with an Award of Merit for workers safety, which recognized the outstanding safety history of Town operations for 2014. This award was presented to Risk Manager Karen Temme and members of the Public Works Safety Committee. A Special Recognition Award was presented to Dispatcher Talisha Coleman for her exemplary actions during a call involving a potential Ebola patient. Her actions helped to ensure that all necessary information was gathered and relayed to FD personnel prior to any contact with the patient. A Lifesaving Award was presented to Lieutenant Scott Symonette and F/P Eric LeGore for their actions in the rescue of a potential drowning victim located several hundred yards from shore in rough conditions.

In addition to Lt. Symonette and F/P LeGore, other Department personnel in attendance included Chief Donatto, A/C Atwater and D/C Burke.

We would like to recognize and congratulate those members that received awards and thank them for continuing to operate at such a high level of skill and professionalism in everything they do.



All Hands CPR Day



Battalion Update - Know Your Cutting Tools and their Uses

By Keith Golden

Battalion Chief

The chainsaw is an efficient tool. Yet it can be dangerous if used incorrectly. That is why safety must always come first. When you are given a task that requires a chain saw or K-12 remember that your personal protective equipment is required. Of course, protective equipment cannot prevent an accident from happening, but it can help to reduce the level of injury if one does occur.

It is for the safety of every firefighter to keep the chainsaws in proper condition. Regular inspections, daily starting, maintenance, and training of power tools can accomplish the level of safety needed during an emergency. It is essential to use the proper protective clothing whenever operating a chainsaw because of the potential of serious injury that can happen from kickback or accident contact with the moving chain.

Maintenance and Inspection of Departmental Chainsaws must take place

- Daily, and/or after extended use. This will insure the chainsaw is in proper running order and safe to operate.
- After each use the chainsaw will be inspected for chain sharpness, proper chain tension, loose parts, chain brake function, throttle trigger and shut-off switch operation, clogged air filter and lubrication hole, and wear on the bar. If any problems are found that cannot be resolved immediately, take the chainsaw out of service, and report the problem to your supervisor who will ensure that a (Track-it) is submitted and repairs are performed.
- When preparing to use the chainsaw, inspect for chain sharpness, proper chain tension, loose parts, chain brake function, throttle trigger and shut-off switch operation, clogged air filter and lubrication hole, and wear on the bar. Start the chainsaw to insure it is running smoothly (Never drop start the chainsaw, place on ground hold rear handle down with right foot, grasp front handle firmly with left hand, and then grasp pull cord with right hand and pull.)- Follow starting procedures for that tool because each chainsaw is slightly different.
- Firefighters who do not have experience using chainsaws shall not use them until training is provided.

Personal Protective Equipment

- When using the chainsaw the proper personal protective clothing shall be worn. When cutting trees in a non-hazardous area the minimum personal protective clothing shall consist of full PPE bunker gear, helmet, goggles, and gloves.
- When using the chainsaw for venting the proper personal protective clothing shall be worn. When venting roofs or cutting building material for overhaul, follow Personal Protective Clothing and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus SOGs.

Buddy System

- Always work in teams with one firefighter watching for hazard that the chainsaw operator cannot see while operating the chainsaw. Some of the hazards to watch for:
- Operators footing while backing up
- Tripping hazards
- Unstable tree tops/ roof tops
- Personnel entering fall zone
- Fire danger
- Operator fatigue etc

***Remember * Work safely today and everyday**



Promotions



Sean Baker has been with Palm Beach Fire Rescue since October 1999 and was promoted to the rank of Driver/Engineer in August 2007, followed by his promotion to Lieutenant in October 2009. Sean has been married to his wife Jamie for 19 years and has two children, Brittany and Tyler. Battalion Chief Baker recently completed his Associates degree in Emergency Medical Services and will begin the Bachelorette program at Barry University this summer. In addition to his assignment on C shift, Sean represents Palm Beach Fire Rescue as the department's Public Information Officer and attends monthly town association meetings. Over his career, Chief Baker has been recognized on numerous occasions receiving letters of commendation, Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue Firefighter of the Year 2010, Recipient of the Sons of the American Revolution Award 2010 and a Life Save Award in 2013



Newly promoted Lieutenant Danny Dunnam has been with the Town of Palm Beach for 18 years. He was recently named the employee of the month for pump testing, attention to detail and customer service. Danny was born in Palm Beach County and resided here until joining the United States Navy in 1988 where he served for 5 years with many duties including being a rescue swimmer. Lt Dunnam is a great addition to the supervisory team and he states his time in Desert Storm, the Military and the Fire service has prepared him with the commitment, loyalty and dedication to duty needed to do the job. "I know I am ready for the future challenges that this position brings"



We would like to congratulate Scott McCracken on his promotion to Driver Engineer

D/E McCracken Began his career with Palm Beach Fire Rescue 8/22/2012 and immediately tethered himself to one of the top drivers in the department and began learning as much as he could. Scott made his intentions and his desires to be a driver engineer known and pressed towards that mark. D/E McCracken deeply entrenched himself in all things that a driver should do and know; he even volunteered for multiple committees concerning the apparatus and mounting of equipment. D/E McCracken has thoroughly demonstrated his willingness to help, proficiency and the positive attitude needed to succeed. I am happy to have D/E McCracken as my newest B shift Driver Engineer.

Photos and Events



Power-Point display by Ocean-Rescue at Open House Event



Fire Safety Clown in action at the Open House Event.



Lt. Weber assisting Council Member Townsend



Firefighter Palmer helping kids with the evolution at the fire hose training prop.



FEBRUARY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	626
B Shift	554
C Shift	501
Total	1681

Fire Prevention Inspections

219

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	15,782
Town Ordinance Enforcements	167
Preventative Actions	146

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	62
EMS Calls	197
Transports to Hospital	126

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Scott McCracken	3/3
Brad Fabben	3/4
Jordan Euliss	3/9
Dennis Wytrykush	3/10
Christopher Lucas	3/15
Hector Ayala	3/15
Brad Caudell	3/17
Kelly McConchie	3/17
Eric Legore	3/18
Timothy Pompos	3/18
Jason Stern	3/22

MARCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Scott Symonette	3/90	25 years
Stephanie Mavigliano	3/94	21 years
Richard Ward	3/96	19 years
Robbie Locy	3/97	18 years
Gerald Hagin	3/03	12 years
Jeremy Stanley	3/11	4 years
Christopher Lucas	3/14	1 year

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2015:

January	Oscar Geerken	July
February	Mark Bradshaw	August
March		September
April		October
May		November
June		December

Employee of the Month— Mark Bradshaw



Lieutenant Bradshaw has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for over 18 years, promoting to Officer in 2004. He provides excellent leadership from the company officer level. Mark is an acting Battalion Chief and serves as the department's Public Education Coordinator. He makes a difference every day by delivering customer service and important education to the residents and visitors of Palm Beach.

Mark has used his personal traits and learned leadership skills to win important friendships throughout the Town. Mark has been instrumental in building relationships to foster the improvement of the department's reputation within the community. He was a leader in coordinating and teaching during the 4th Annual Palm Beach Public Safety Open House. The event was a success because of people like Mark who contribute tirelessly to his profession and department.

During the past year, Mark touched the lives of hundreds of residents by teaching CPR and pet CPR. The classes he taught have ranged from small in-home demonstrations to large gatherings such as the county-wide CPR day and dozens of requests are received throughout the year for Mark to teach pet CPR. Mark not only teaches residents and visitors, but employees are also touched by his knowledge. Such is the case when he recently taught CPR instructor courses to PBPD and Ocean Rescue.

Lieutenant Bradshaw assisted in the reorganization of the AED program, logging dozens of hours contacting, scheduling, visiting and teaching others. He also coordinated and executed the 2015 Award Ceremony. This consisted of identifying and ordering needed supplies, researching personnel files, creating certificates, plaques and agendas, as well as ordering food, refreshments, and pancake breakfast supplies. Mark delivered most of the items and came in very early the day of the event. Planning and coordination required Mark to stay late on several nights before the ceremony and the results were outstanding as the event was well received.

Lieutenant Bradshaw is commended for his passion for training the public, his dedication to the safety and survival of fellow Fire-fighters, and his leadership. Mark's positive attitude and influence in the community make him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the deserving recipient for the February 2015 Employee of the Month Award.

