

The All Hands

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

May 2015

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Deputy Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto

Deputy Chief

1st Class Service Delivered by 1st Class People



I am honored to say that effective August 1, 2015; Palm Beach Fire Rescue will be Class 1 Fire Department as rated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

In the early 1900s, major U.S. cities suffered disastrous fires that destroyed billions of dollars' worth of property. In the aftermath, insurance companies realized they needed advance information on the fire loss characteristics of individual communities. A grading system, the Public Protection Classification (PPC™), was developed to evaluate the fire potential of cities and help cities improve their public fire protection services. This grading

system has become an important part of the underwriting and rating process for insurers writing personal and commercial fire policies.

To determine a community's Public Protection Classification (PPC™), the ISO sends expert staff to collect and then analyze information about the quality of a community's fire protection. The ISO then assigns a Public Protection Classification — a grading from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

In November of 2014, Palm Beach Fire Rescue was informed that we would be undergoing a review of our ISO rating. We began to gather and prepare the necessary information for that review. In January 2015, the ISO field representative spent the day at our department asking questions, completing forms, and reviewing and verifying our information. The ISO breaks down their review into four sections: Emergency Communications, the Fire Department, Community Risk Reduction, and Water Supply.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue achieved a score of 91.52 out of a possible 105.50 points, qualifying us to be a Class 1 rated department. The ISO reviews 48,000 fire departments across the country. Palm Beach Fire Rescue is one of only 102 fire departments to earn the Class 1 designation. This is truly an elite status.

I cannot thank enough each and every member of Palm Beach Fire Rescue, as well as the entire staff of the Emergency Communications Center, for helping us achieve this Class 1 rating.

There are so many team members who have done so much to contribute to this achievement. The work done by Christine Cunningham, Jim Palmer, and the Communications Center staff allowed us to receive 10 out of a possible 10 points. The work done by Division Chief Pompos, Asst. Fire Marshal Curcio, and Nancy Roedel allowed us to receive 39.57 out of a possible 40

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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:

- Risk Management conducted safety compliance inspections of all three stations. This is done annually in conjunction with the Town's insurance carrier. A report will be generated identifying any needed changes or issues noted.
- The Annual Palm Beach Daily News "Empty your pantry" food drive ended on April 28th. It was another very successful drive with a total of approximately 1350 pounds of food collected. This amount is 350lbs. more than the total for last year. The donated food was collected by various agencies that serve the needs of the less fortunate in Palm Beach County.
- Engine 99 (417-01) received annual maintenance inspection and service by Palm Beach County. While in for service, an issue was noted with the front end and suspension of the apparatus. New parts were ordered from Pierce and after the parts were received, the front end work was completed by an outside vendor. Dealing with the front end issue extended the service time on the unit by approx. two weeks. Palm Beach County is working with the vendor to ensure that the most commonly needed parts are kept in stock regionally to eliminate future extended wait times for parts.
- The updating of the exhaust removal systems in each station continues to move forward. The Town Council approved the bid price and total funds allocated for the project. The Purchase Order has been generated and will be forwarded to Clean Air Concepts Inc. /Magna Grip who will then schedule the project for completion.
- New mattresses were purchase for Station 3 and the Battalion Chief quarters. These mattresses were budgeted for replacement this fiscal year. Thanks to Lt. Taylor for his efforts in obtaining these mattresses within the budgeted parameters.



- Random drug testing and annual employee physical exams will resume this month. Both of these processes will be conducted by Coach Comp. Physicals will be conducted at the Coach Comp walk in clinic located on Okeechobee Blvd. All physicals will be scheduled for the morning that personnel are getting off duty.
- Palm Beach County vehicle maintenance is moving forward with implementation of a new work order process. The new system will be web based and will allow for more timely work order entry and easier tracking of pending orders. Once the system is live, they will add all County apparatus first and test the systems operability, prior to adding Palm Beach Fire Rescue units and other contracted departments.
- The Public Safety Communications center will be creating a backup communication center to be used during the upcoming renovation of the existing facilities. This center will remain in place for use in the event of an emergency or any other circumstances requiring the relocation of dispatch. The backup center will be housed in the office formerly occupied by the Assistant Fire Marshall. Fire Prevention will be consolidated in the current Fire Marshall's office.
- Members of the Ocean Rescue Division have been training hard to prepare for upcoming regional competition in Flagler Beach this July. Members will also compete in several events at the national ocean rescue competition to be held in Daytona Beach in August. Members are spending much of their free time preparing for these competitions where they will face some of the best Ocean Rescue departments in the region and the country. The Department recognizes their hard work and thanks them for their dedication.



EMS Division

By Jimmy Duane

Division Chief

Though current documented cases are minimal in Palm Beach County, Measles is one of the most contagious of all infectious diseases; approximately 9 out of 10 susceptible persons, those not vaccinated, with close contact to measles patient will develop measles. Fire Rescue workers come in contact with patient's every day. Though the instances are very low, emergency workers need to be vigilant and look for possible signs and symptoms of the virus. Measles is a highly contagious disease, transmitted by respiratory aerosols when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can live for up to two hours on surfaces or in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. The incubation period ranges from 7-21 (average 10-12) days and an individual can pass the virus to others before feeling ill. Decontamination of the vehicle, equipment and personnel are a high priority during and following an incident.



On May 26th and 27th our Medical Director, Dr. Schepke will be in house delivering a multi-part lecture during our Medical Director's meeting. In addition, some of the protocols will be discussed and some minor changes will occur shortly after. After working with them for several months now, some recommendations have been made, as well as requests for additional protocols added. There will be one minimal update encompassing all the changes. Following the meeting, Palm Beach Fire Rescue is hosting a Rapid Sequence Intubation class in the afternoon. Along with West Palm Beach Fire Rescue, Palm Beach will be sending personnel to attend. This 1 hour class will be presented by Dr. Schepke.



The King Vision, our primary tool utilized for patient intubation is without doubt one of our most important pieces of equipment carried on our vehicles. Therefore, Chic Price from Boundtree Medical (Retired Palm Beach EMS Coordinator) will be providing a lecture on the King Vision. This instruction will cover the anatomy of the airway, specific tips on successful intubation with the King Vision and proper usage in conjunction with placing the Autopulse on a patient in cardiac arrest.

During the recent Town Council meeting, a resolution was proposed to accept funds from the Palm Beach County Emergency Medical Service Grant. This grant, which was written last year by Division Chief Fuller (Ret), requested 4 additional tablets to be used for medical report writing and data transfer. The tablets will assist the report writers in the collection of patient data, including automatic transfer of the patient's vital signs, ECG, Autopulse, and driver's license information. Jim Palmer is in the final stages of getting the first initial four Panasonic tablets set up, which will be placed on the front line Rescue's and one reserve.



The current airway boxes carried on the units are the large Pelican series. After recognizing a need to utilize a more efficient and lightweight case, Danny Gargiulo began working on the inventory of the box, reducing the contents to what is required and needed to successfully treat a patient. The initial bag is currently being circulated through the stations for evaluation before finalizing and placing in service. The current airway boxes, once removed will be used as the pediatric box in place of what is currently there.

Employee recommendations and suggestions are highly valued. Most of the changes that have occurred in EMS have resulted from the ideas of those operating in the field every day. Thanks for all the continued hard work, recommendations and desire to provide the best EMS service possible.

Training and Safety Division

By Dave Burke

Division Chief

During the last month, all Lieutenants and acting Lieutenants were issued the officer development series in their Target Solutions accounts. In the computer based training program, the activity was built using 79 tasks identified as essential or useful knowledge for all Lieutenants. The work completed will be captured for ISO and other data reporting with reference to company officer training. Using our Target Solutions program will ensure we get credit for all that we complete. All company officers and those stepped up to the position are reminded to enter company training into Target Solutions each day (ref Procedure #228)

Probationary training is also assigned in Target Solutions. Though probationary employees may keep a hard copy book for tracking purposes at the company level, their Target Solutions account should always mirror the efforts completed from their book. Lieutenants tasked with supervising these employees need to validate training on a regular basis. We are excited in welcoming new employees at Palm Beach Fire Rescue, which creates new training opportunities. Documentation of all training is essential to meet our goal.



The Fire Training Officers Association of the Palm Beaches is hosting a very special speaker in the month of July. Dr. David Griffin (On A Mission, LLC) was the first due Driver/Engineer at the Charleson, S.C., Sofa Super Store fire of 2007. Dr. Griffin will lead you through his incredible journey of self destruction, survival guilt, awakening, and eventual dedication to making a difference. This inspirational event will be held at the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Administration complex on July 29th. Seating will be limited as this is a one day only event. Look for training announcements in the near future and get your tickets early!

Palm Beach Fire Rescue recognizes that no one is immune to violence or man-made disasters. The men and women of this organization are dedicated to preparedness in the care and protection of the residents and visitors of the Town. In that spirit, May 18 – 20 will be Active Shooter Training for all shift personnel. This training will build the base knowledge needed to participate in the Active Shooter joint training and drill to be held this summer (date TBA) between all Palm Beach Public Safety departments. During our preliminary training, we will focus on learning new terminology and practice hands-on basic movements as part of law enforcement protected rescue teams.



Ocean Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Lifeguard Supervisor

Over the month of April beach attendance at Phipps Ocean Park and Mid-Town Municipal Beach stayed busy as Spring Break came to a close. Lifeguards were able to keep sections of Beach open at Mid-Town Municipal Beach as construction crews from the recent beach renourishment moved through the public beach area. Over the last month numerous lifeguards have really stepped up their training to prepare for the 2015 Southeast Regional Surf Lifesaving Championships held in Flagler Beach, Florida this July, in which lifeguards will compete against guards throughout the State of Florida. Also this August the USLA (United States Lifesaving Association) National Lifesaving Championships will be held in Daytona Beach Florida, the National Championships are held in Florida about every 5 to 6 years and winning a medal is a great accomplishment that takes hard work and dedication. Ocean Rescue would like to congratulate an exceptional part-time lifeguard Kyle Vander Plaats who was recently accepted into St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies and will depart in August. Congrats Doc.

Focus on the Things You Can Do Something About

By Lolly Daskal

Lead from Within

May 12, 2015

Two frogs were playing together when suddenly they fell together into a bucket of cream.

One frog quickly realized he didn't have any way to gain his footing to get out, so shortly afterwards he accepted his fate and slipped under the surface and drowned.



Horrified, the second frog watched his friend give up and die.

But he was determined not to go himself without putting up a fight. He wasn't sure of the best thing to do, so he just thrashed around, doing whatever he could to keep himself afloat. In time, he began to notice that the cream was growing thicker. He kept kicking, and after a while he discovered that the cream had turned to butter and he could easily hop out.

Here's the thing to remember: What happens *within us* is at least as important as what happens *to us*.

We all face challenges—that's a given, in leadership, work and in life. It's how we choose to respond that makes all the difference. And that can be tough to figure out, especially when things are difficult.

But if we don't want to drown we have to focus on the action we can take.

Here are some helpful thoughts to help the next time you need to churn the cream into butter:

Focus on the route, not the destination. Most of the time, you can't know what the outcome will be. And that's OK. Even the worst possibilities are seldom as dire as drowning in a bucket. Stumbles and failure are part of success, so take your focus off the results you fear and concentrate on your best path forward.

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Deputy Chief's Message (con't)

From page 1

points for Water Supply and 4.62 out of a possible 5.50 points for Community Risk Reduction. Lt. Marx's has spent countless hours helping revise and improve our TargetSolutions program to capture the training hours that our team members put in. And, while it was our team members who were out there doing all of the training, without Lt. Marx's efforts, we would not have been able to adequately document that training and earned 7.86 out of a possible 9 points for training. In addition, the work done by all of our fire rescue team members – training every single day, inspecting properties, conduction prefire planning, testing hydrants, testing apparatus, ensuring our equipment is in good working order, responding quickly, and doing what they do best of all, proving exceptional service to

our community – allowed us receive 40.8 out of a possible 50 points for Fire Protection.

While the ISO has designated us as a Class 1 Fire Department and that is certainly an honor to have achieved that designation; that rating is not near as important as the 1st Class people that we have here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. You all work so hard and do such a great job. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do. Keep up the great work and together we will continue to make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better.

Cleaning the Toilet Can Make You a Better Leader

By Leadership Now

4.15.15



Leadership doesn't make you better than anyone else, it makes you more responsible.

As a leader you are more than an individual contributor. Leaders think about the context—the big picture—not just their function. Focused on the outcome, they do whatever needs to be done to move the organization forward. They do whatever they can to facilitate the work of others.

Leaders are connected to what others are doing. And we can accomplish this by asking, "How can I help you?" And then doing what needs to be done.

Michael Janda Founder of the creative agency RiSER, put it this way in Burn Your Portfolio:

I believe you are a better person if you've ever had a job that required you to clean a public restroom. This humbling task teaches so many lessons, among which is the willingness to do whatever the job requires. I have seen over and over again in my career that the people who are willing to go the extra mile and do whatever task is required of them by their boss or client are among the most valued in the company.

Ultimately, cleaning public toilets early in life is not the only way to learn gratitude and humble service to others. Many people

are fortunate to learn these lessons in their homes. Others are born with service built deep inside of them. Regardless of how you learn to serve, learn it and learn it well.

Doing what needs to be done—including cleaning toilets—is taking ownership for the outcome. Going the extra mile—doing what needs to be done—helps to create a true culture of leadership in your organization—by example.

We don't serve because we are leaders, we have the privilege to lead because we serve

Retirement - Don Taylor



Palm Beach Fire Rescue recognizes the retirement of "C Shift" Lieutenant Don Taylor. Lieutenant Taylor has worked for Palm Beach Fire Rescue for over 19 years and takes with him many years of experience and memories. Lt. Taylor served as the President of the Board of Trustees and Fund Administrator for the Palm Beach Firefighters and Paramedics Education Fund. Lt. Taylor continues to stay active in the community. Don currently serves as an Executive Committee member of the Board of Directors for Lake Worth Christian School and is the Campus Coordinator for the EMS Team at Christ Fellowship Church. He was assigned as the Station Commander for Station 3 for many years and has kept his station in impeccable condition throughout his tenure. His work with the Citizen's Association created public education and outreach programs that have solidified Palm Beach Fire Rescue's relationship with the community. Don is looking forward to traveling and spending time with his wife Ann-Marie and their daughter Abbie. Congratulations Don and Happy Retirement.



Fire Prevention

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

Division Chief

In the month of April, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 231 fire prevention activities with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel. The Fire Prevention staff recently completed their transition of moving Assistant Fire Marshal Michael Curcio into the Fire Marshal's Office with Division Chief Tim Pompos. The old office will be used as a back-up Dispatch center during the next couple of months in the summer while the main Communication center is being remodeled. The move was a team effort involving Brett Madison and Paul Brazil from Public Works, along with Jim Palmer from Information Systems and Captain Ann-Marie Taylor from the Police Department who coordinated the move.

Fire Prevention staff is preparing for fire hydrant testing in the month of June. The hydrant testing inspection forms and equipment will be ready by June 1st for Fire Companies to conduct fire hydrant testing in their respective zones. On April 17, 2015, Lt. Willie Bonfante completed a fire drill at 235 Sunrise Avenue, which included a class for the Palm Beach Hotel staff. The program was well received by the Hotel Administrative staff. Also, we should recognize Dany Daiz, Robert Wood, and Tim Martin for their great work assisting Lt. Bonfante in making the fire drill and class a big success.

On April 21, 2015, Ladder 97 responded to a call originally dispatched as a smell of gas at the Breakers Administrative offices on 265 Royal Poinciana Way. On Lt. Bortot's size up, he found a strong smell of electrical along with smoke inside the structure. A pre-connect inch and three quarter hose line along

with a CO2 extinguisher was pulled from Ladder 97. On investigation, Lt. Marc Bortot found the source of the smoke was coming from a door just to the left of the entrance. The door was opened to the electrical room and smoke had banked down half way in the room from the ceiling. The thermal imaging camera was used and fire could be seen on top of the large industrial size USB battery back-up system unit. Lt. Bortot and F/F Dick utilized the CO2 extinguisher due to the uncertainty of all power being shut off to the building. The CO2 fire extinguisher mitigated the fire with minimal damage to the office. The Breakers Administrative staff was very impressed with the professional work of Lt. Marc Bortot and his crew of Driver Engineer Richard Buttery, and Firefighter Christian Dick on the fire scene.



Fire scene at 265 Royal Poinciana Way after the fire.

In closing, Fire Company Officers shall ensure all their assigned annual Knox Box inspections for residential properties are completed and returned through the Battalion Chiefs to the Division of Fire Prevention and Life Safety no later than June 30, 2015.



Focus on the Things You can do Something About (Con't)

From page 5

Focus on what you have, not what you lack. Faced with a challenge, it's easy to focus on what you're missing. But there's no better moment to take stock of who you are and what you have—within you and around you.

Focus on what you can do, and not what you can't. It's always going to be easier to give up rather than to fight. But it means you'll never move ahead. Put up a good fight and keep it up until the end.

Focus on containing the challenge and not drowning in the drama. We all know someone who seems to magnify every problem they encounter. Don't be that person. If there's drama, walk away. If there's discord and blaming, don't participate. Keep your focus on solving the problem at hand.

Focus on trusting yourself and not wavering within. Don't allow anyone else to make decisions for you. Remember, part of leadership is coming up with new ways of doing old things. Be the person who shows their leadership in times of challenge.

Challenges are tough and frightening. But, with the right focus, it can help you build a stronger version of yourself.

Lead from Within. When facing a difficult challenge we must focus on the things we can do something about—because struggling with challenges is a natural part of growing, developing, and leading.

Promotions



It is our pleasure to announce that Caesar Mustelie has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Lieutenant Mustelie has been employed with PBFRR since August 2008. Lieutenant Mustelie is in the United States Army Reserves and after being on military leave for almost 2 year he is now a Certified Blackhawk Pilot. Caesar is happily married to his wife Lauren and has one daughter, Liliana. Lt. Mustelie's first assignment is at Station 2 and he is in charge of both Engine 98 and Rescue 98. Great Job Lieutenant!

Firefighter Alex Mahy has been promoted to Driver/ Engineer at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Alex was hired in October 2012 as a Firefighter EMT. Alex has been very busy since starting here in Palm Beach. In the short time with us, Alex completed his 12 month probationary training, celebrated the birth of his daughter Emma, started the Paramedic program, and tested for and earned the rank of Driver/Engineer. Alex and his wife Karen have plenty to celebrate. Congratulations!!!



Identifying and Mitigating Wind Driven Fires

By Sean Baker

Battalion Chief

Structure fires today are very different from those faced by prior generations of firefighters, and in many ways, they are more hazardous. Because of the changes to the modern fire environment, traditional firefighting methods may not always be the safest and most effective. Interrupting the flow path — disrupting the flow of the fire within the burning structure — involves tactics that are innovative and sometimes counterintuitive, research shows that these methods can reduce heat within the structure, minimize the potential for flashover and greatly enhance the survivability of both occupants and firefighters.

Wind blowing into the broken window of a room on fire can turn a "routine room and contents fire" into a floor-to-ceiling firestorm. Historically, this has led to a significant number of firefighter fatalities and injuries, particularly in high-rise buildings where the fire must be fought from the interior of the structure. A NIST study from 2009 put these findings into a sobering context. When a window or door failed on the upwind side of a room and contents fire, a flow path was created through the structure. This flow path created heat from ceiling to floor in excess of 1112 degrees F within 30 seconds along that flow path. This event occurred in 2012 when a Chicago Fire Captain lost his life in a two story "routine" attic fire. (NIOSH Report #F2012-28).

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has been studying wind driven fires for many years. Their findings are based on science and real world conditions and should be of particular interest to Palm Beach Fire Rescue's strategies and tactics. Based on NOAA statistics, the island of Palm Beach can expect average winds of 7-10 miles per hour on any given day. If first responding crews are not anticipating experiencing a wind driven fire on every fire alarm they are starting behind the proverbial eight ball.

Ventilation performed by our Truck and Rescue Companies must be communicated with incident command so that interior suppression crews are prepared. Underwriters Laboratory (UL) states that "In modern structure fires, the time between tactical ventilation and flashover is two minutes, compared to eight minutes in a traditional fire, giving firefighters 25% of the time they previously had to recover from poorly timed ventilation." There are videos that do a great job explaining this statistic, particularly the experiment from Governors Island, in New York.

So what can we do? During a recent meeting of Fire Chiefs at the Urban Fire Forum held at the NFPA Headquarters the following tactics were suggested:

1. **Size-up:** Assure that a 360 view of the structure is conducted and that fire location, fire extent, and smoke conditions are reported to command. This may not be possible with our structures, but visualize as much as possible.
2. **Identify the flow path:** Know where smoke and fire are exiting, where the entry point is for fire attack crews, and where ventilation is taking place. Every new ventilation opening provides a new flow path to the fire.
3. **Cool or "soften" the fire from the exterior (Hit it Hard from the Yard!):** Cooling the gases can greatly improve interior conditions, even when not applying water directly on the seat of the fire. This should be accomplished with a straight or solid stream applied directly to the seat of the fire or to the ceiling (avoid "whipping" the nozzle in the window).
4. **Assess and understand smoke tunneling (Read Smoke):** Rapid inrush of air or a tunneling effect at point of entry or point of ventilation could indicate a ventilation-limited fire.
5. **Vent close to the fire origin:** Venting rooms far away from the seat of the fire significantly increases the temperatures in these rooms and creates a flow path for the fire to move to previously uninvolved areas. Venting far away from the fire may cause the burning room to transition to flashover and fire to move toward the ventilation locations.
6. **Coordinate ventilation with hose attack:** Coordinate vertical and horizontal ventilation with fire attack. To make sure the fire does not get larger and that ventilation works as intended, take the fire from ventilation-limited (where it needs air to grow) to fuel limited by applying water.

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Farewell



Cole James was hired with Palm Beach Fire Rescue on 11/18/13 as a firefighter/paramedic with one year of experience. During his first 8 months of service, he took multiple classes working towards his Fire Inspector and Fire Officer certificates. Cole finished his probationary book 4 months ahead of schedule and scored number 1 on the Driver-Engineer Exam. He was promoted on 08/14/14 and is currently assigned to E-98 Driver-Engineer on A Shift. Cole has recently been offered a Firefighter/Paramedic position at another Fire Department. Cole is hardworking and enthusiastic. Without a doubt, he will be successful at his new fire department and we wish him the best.



We would like to wish Firefighter Dany Diaz a warm farewell. Danny was hired by the Town of Palm Beach on October 14, 2013. Since Dany's inception with Palm Beach Fire Rescue, he has been openly accepted as one of the best recruits of recent hires. Dany, has displayed all of the passion and hard effort needed to be a welcome addition to any crew to which he was assigned, which is why he was known as the workhorse of his assigned crew. Dany accepted a firefighter position with a local municipality here in South Florida and we wish him well in all his future endeavors.



Firefighter Robbie Wood will be leaving Palm Beach Fire Rescue on May 17, 2015 and the department would like to thank him for his time with us. Robbie's short time with department left a lasting impression that will be sorely missed. Firefighter Wood is known as the department cheerleader and always brings a positive attitude to shift. He is enthusiastic and lives for the camaraderie that lives within the department. He will always be part of Palm Beach Fire Rescue's extended family. Robbie was hired on January 6, 2014 and has been hired by a local department. Best of Luck Robbie.

Identifying and Mitigating Wind Driven Fires (con't)

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7. Vent Enter Isolate Search (VEIS): Close the door of the room being entered. This increases tenability for potential occupants and firefighters while smoke ventilates from the isolated room.

8. Close the door: Closing the door between the occupant and the fire or between the firefighter and the fire will cause conditions to remain tenable for temperature and oxygen concentration. This action increases the chance of survivability.

9. Control the access door: Controlling the door (or closing as much as possible) at the point of entry upon arrival limits the incoming airflow. The door should be controlled until water is applied to the fire. Once water goes on the fire and the attack crew has the upper hand, the door can be opened. At that point, it is no longer a ventilation-limited fire so all ventilation will allow more hot gases and smoke out of the environment than are being created by the fire.

Photos and Events



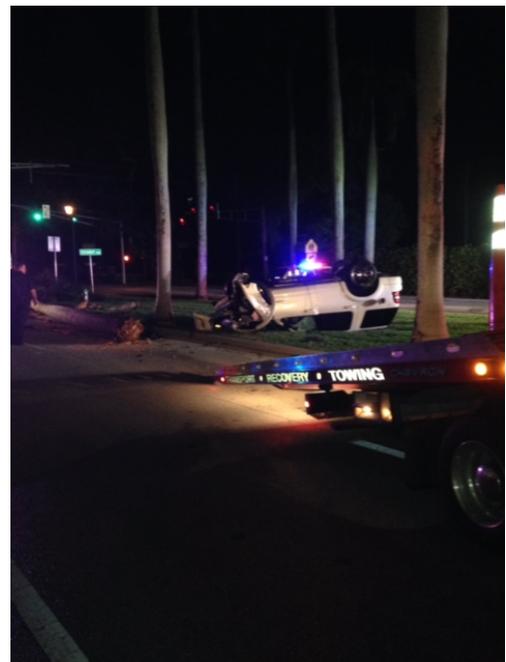
Station #2 practicing “transitional fire attack” using deckgun in conjunction with preconnect handline.



Denise Carmona and her granddaughter Ivy at Take your Child to work day on April 23rd.



Blake and Ashley Wells (children of Kennie Wells) on Career day at school.



Crews responded to a rollover accident in the early morning hours on May 13. Vehicle hit a palm tree.

APRIL DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	636
B Shift	410
C Shift	189
Total	1235

Fire Prevention Inspections

239

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	22,345
Town Ordinance Enforcements	167
Preventative Actions	97
Minor First Aids	4

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	71
EMS Calls	158
Transports to Hospital	96

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Dave Burke	5/26
Brodie Atwater	5/28
Cristian Dick	5/28
Yorgui Beltran	4/11

MAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Mike Curcio	5/89	26 years
Christina Wieber	5/04	11 years
Jerry Castillo	5/04	11 years
James Weber	5/05	10 years
Mark Hyhre	5/14	1 year
Houston Park	5/14	1 year
Daniel Barnickel	5/14	1 year

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2015:

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

Employee of the Month—Tim Pompos



Chief Pompos has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for over 26 years. He is currently the Department Fire Marshal serving as part of Fire Administration. Tim is constantly working to ensure that the Fire Prevention Division maintains a safe environment both for the citizens of the Town and the members of Fire Rescue.

One of Tim's main goals for the past two years has been to reduce the number of false fire alarms that the Department responds to. These false alarms deplete resources needed for response to actual emergency situations and add to the risk to our personnel by creating unnecessary emergency vehicle responses. Chief Pompos has worked diligently to reduce false calls by educating building manager and property owners. He personally reviews and follows up on every false alarm with the responsible parties. He also works with on duty Fire Rescue personnel in conducting follow up inspections and other fire prevention activities. In the most recent six month period reviewed, false alarms had fallen by 42%.

The Department recently underwent an ISO audit where several different aspects of Departmental capabilities are analyzed and reviewed. A large portion of the process involves Fire Prevention related categories such as water supply, community risk reduction and fire prevention enforcement. We were given maximum points in nearly every category involving Fire Prevention. The hard work of Chief Pompos in these areas played a major role our classification improvement from a Class 2 department to a Class 1 designation. Making PBFR one of only 102 departments to reach this level out of 48,000 reviewed.

Besides all of his regular duties as Fire Marshal, Tim also serves as the Food Unit Leader for the Town during storms and other emergencies. In this role he is responsible for tracking all related equipment to ensure availability and operability as well as working with suppliers to provide food and provisions during times of emergency operations. Tim also is responsible for planning and coordinating the Fire Rescue side of our very successful annual Public Safety open house. This event is always well attended and provides an opportunity for the public to get a better understanding of all the services that the Department provides.

We highly commend Chief Pompos for his leadership, service, and dedication to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department, the Town of Palm Beach, and the community he serves.

