

The All Hands

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

June 2015

Volume 3, Issue 6



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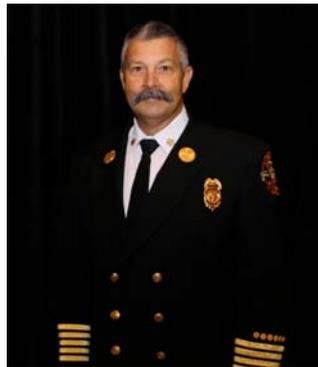
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Deputy Chief's Message—Enthusiastic Yeses

By Darrel Donatto

Deputy Chief



We have recently completed the first round of our recruitment, interview, and selection process. With over 400 applicants, we needed a way to objectively stratify them so we could select groups of candidates for the interview process. We chose to develop a point system that heavily weighted prior fire, EMS, and military experience. We also awarded points for college education, technical certificates such as pump operator, fire instructor, fire inspector, and fire officer. In addition, we added points for those EMTs in paramedic school and for candidates who have dedicated time to volunteer type services. This point system allowed us to surface the top tier of candidates for interviews. We selected over 80 candidates out of the 400 for an interview with a panel that included a Lieutenant, a Battalion Chief, a Division Chief, and myself. From the 80 plus candidates, we selected the top 34 candidates for a second interview and final consideration.

Following that process, I have to say – there are a lot of “Enthusiastic Yeses” on our list.

We have been so very fortunate to hire such great people over the past years. These great people are the reason we have such a great organization that is capable of doing great things and that is being recognized for those efforts. We are now an ISO Class 1 fire department, one of only 102 fire departments in the country to receive this distinction. We consistently receive great praise from the people who we serve in this community, including our elected officials. We have been acknowledged and recognized by many other fire service agencies as having a great organization and great people. Truly, the real secret to having a successful organization is hiring and promoting the right people. As Jim Collins puts it, when you have the right people in the right seats on the right bus, something magical happens.

We have made the commitment to build our team with only the best people. We have to rate a candidate as an enthusiastic yes to hire them. We are not willing to compromise. Sometimes it seems like the process of recruiting, interviewing, selecting, and screening candidates can take a very long time – because it does. We spend a lot of time on getting this one most important thing right – that is the “who” in our organization – the people who make this organization great. We don't settle. We spend months recruiting, sifting through available people to find the extraordinary. The dream of every leader should be to have the right person in the right job at the right time. It's a very challenging goal. Hiring and promoting are both highly subjective. Although we may never achieve perfection, that's what we should want.

We have seven conditional job offers out now. Four candidates have prior fire service

Continued on page 5

Administrative Update

By Brodie Atwater

Assistant Chief

The most recent Safety Committee meeting was held on May 29th. On hand for the meeting were Risk Manager Karen Temme, Assistant Chief Atwater, Division Chief Burke, Lieutenant Ward and Firefighter Martin. These quarterly meetings are held to discuss any problems and issues relating to safety and the wellbeing of all Palm Beach Fire Rescue personnel as well as the public.

Old Business

Among the items of old business discussed at this meeting was the updating and renovation of the vehicle exhaust systems at each station. This work has been awarded to a contractor through the bidding process and parts are being ordered for the project. Work should commence in the next 6 weeks. Additional old business included the issue of cracking concrete on the apron at Station 1. This has been an ongoing issue for some time now. The repair/replacement of the apron has been made part of the current fountain and green space restoration taking place across from the police dept. Work on the apron will commence in the third phase of the fountain project. This project is moving along quickly and we are hoping for the final resolution of this matter to begin soon. The project will be completed in three phases which will allow units to operate out of the station during the construction process. Also discussed was the improvement of visibility in the bays at Station 3. Drivers were having difficulty seeing into the far end of the bay when backing vehicles. The reflective striping has been recently replaced and the bay lighting was upgraded with very bright LED fixtures. This combination has greatly improved the visibility for personnel when backing units. In past meetings it has been recommended that a washer/extractor be purchased for cleaning dirty bunker gear after use and as part of scheduled cleaning/inspection. This item was purchased and installed at Station 3 and is being used to clean gear as needed. The replacement of existing carpeting in the dorm areas has been suggested as a way to keep the area cleaner. Public Works will be replacing carpeting in these areas with a hard surface material when conducting scheduled flooring replacement. Some materials being evaluated are, vinyl, ceramic tile and polished concrete.

New Business

An item discussed as new business was the addition of a bunker gear dryer to be used in conjunction with our new washer extractor. The Department is currently in the process of pricing a rack style dryer that will be funded through a grant. Additional new business

concerned the new Florida Administrative Rule which pertains to standards for construction, repair and maintenance of firefighter places of employment. Division Chief Burke has been tasked with ensuring that the department has a policy and plan to ensure compliance with the many parts of this new rule. Monthly station inspection forms will be revised to include any new requirements.

Action Reports

Seven damage claims that occurred over the last ten months involving the Fire Rescue Department were discussed. These claims are reviewed with the goal of finding the root cause of any preventable accidents or damage and determining how these issues can be avoided in the future.

Personnel are reminded that safe operations are of paramount importance in everything that we do, both the safety of our personnel and the public are a top priority. Anyone who has any safety related concerns or suggestions is encouraged to forward these to D/C Burke through the chain of command.

The next Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for August 27th.



EMS Division

By Jimmy Duane

Division Chief

Each Year the Association of the EMS Providers of Palm Beach County hosts the Emergency Medical Services Awards Ceremony, which honors the outstanding performances by EMS Personnel in Palm Beach County. Among the many being recognized this year, Eric Legore was acknowledged for saving the life of a man in the ocean who was offshore several hundred yards in extremely rough surf. Lead by Lieutenant Symonette, both crew members entered the ocean and performed the rescue without hesitation. Thanks to Scott and Eric for their everyday efforts and representing Palm Beach Fire Rescue!

We strive to provide the best care and customer service on every call, including making the patient as comfortable as they can be while in our care. Over the last couple of months we have reached out to stretcher manufacturers to see what the latest and best technology is available. Rescue 97 recently did an evaluation on the Ferno Power Flex stretcher. In addition, Stryker performed a lengthy demonstration on their newest stretcher, the 6506 XPS Power Lift. Our agency has utilized Stryker transport stretchers for the past 16 years. Their service and reliability has proven to be excellent, providing a top quality stretcher with impeccable service. The XPS provides the ability for the stretcher width to increase at the rail an additional 33", which will increase the patient's comfort during transport. Everyone's input has been valuable with the decision making process as we continue to evaluate new stretchers, which will be on board all the vehicles in the coming months.



The Palm Beach County Emergency Medical service grant request was approved by the Town Council through Resolution last month. Jim Palmer has ordered an additional (4) Getac tablets, which will be placed on every front line unit. Once configured, the tablets will have all of the same abilities as the MDC as well as having report writing capabilities.

Several months ago we placed the new Zoll X Series Monitor in service on all the front line units. One of the options purchased was having the ability to test ETCO2 Monitoring in patients that are breathing and in respiratory distress. Traditionally, EMS personnel typically only monitor ETCO2 for determining whether endotracheal tubes are correctly placed, however following upcoming training, we will begin to utilize this this valuable monitoring tool on all patients when respiratory compromise is suspected. This technology will increase our ability to recognize the condition of patients in respiratory distress so that we may provide treatment faster.

The Operative IQ inventory system is almost completed for each of the stations, the master supply closet and vehicles are next. The concept will appear very different as compared to how we currently manage our medical inventory. The amount of supplies kept in the stations will be drastically reduced, only stocking items that are regularly used. When completed, we will easily be able to determine where items are located, when they expire, how much we use and when supplies should be ordered. The goal is to reduce unnecessary spending resulting from expiring medications and supplies and to increase our efficiency with supply ordering.



Employee recommendations and suggestions are highly valued. Thanks for all the continued hard work, recommendations and desire to provide the best EMS service possible.

Training and Safety Division— Electrical Safety

By **Dave Burke**

Division Chief

A new tool has been added to the Fire Rescue toolbox. It is a guideline that will enhance safety and better equip crews responding to emergencies involving electricity. Palm Beach Fire Rescue SOG# 520 Electrical Emergency Response outlines safety standards and best practices for fire officers and incident commanders to use as reference.

All personnel should remember the cardinal rules of electrical safety:



- Never touch a downed wire. Including known low voltage lines such as cable or telephone, these lines can be in contact with high voltage. Always assume every wire is energized and use the Hot Stick.
- Resist the temptation to always put a fire out. In almost all cases, the best course of action for a pole fire or energized electrical equipment fire is to deny entry to the area, protect exposures, and report all information to the responding service provider.

Boiler Safety

Did you know that several hotels, multi-family and commercial occupancies contain boilers? Most boilers are gas fed, using municipal water and natural gas to produce steam and hot water. The main danger from boilers isn't from steam burns or over pressure rupture, but from the carbon monoxide they produce. The State of Florida has a representative specifically for our region who trains first responders and inspectors in boiler safety. PBFR will host boiler safety training at station 3 on June 17-19.

Recruit Training

The Training division is preparing for the upcoming recruit class. The plan is to use the opportunity to develop all Fire Rescue personnel, including instructors. By placing a senior subject matter specialist with a less experienced but highly motivated instructor, we can grow our own instructors for the future. Personnel are encouraged to seek training opportunities for instructor development. Contact the Training Division for information on several local offerings of courses such as Live Fire Training Instructor.



Rip Current Awareness

By **Florida Department of Health**
Office of Communications-6/10/15

We are one week from the official start of summer and the Florida Department of Health is promoting safe swimming while at the beach. The National Weather Service (NWS) recognizes this week, June 7–13, as Rip Current Preparedness Week—a great opportunity for all residents and visitors to become aware of the dangers of rip currents and how to protect yourself and others.

"Florida has more than 1,260 miles of beautiful coastline to enjoy—that's miles of opportunities to improve your health

through swimming, snorkeling and diving," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "I encourage all beach-goers to learn about swimming conditions before enjoying the water safely this summer."

A rip current is defined as a relatively small-scale surf-zone current moving away from the beach. Rip currents form as waves disperse along the beach causing water to become trapped between the beach and a sandbar or other underwater feature.

"The safe enjoyment of Florida's beaches and coastal areas is a priori-

ty," says Kevin Claridge, director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Coastal Office. "To improve public safety, the Florida Coastal Management Program provides flags, signs and other rip current educational materials to make swimmers aware of water conditions."

Look carefully for these signs before entering the ocean:

- Change in water color from the surrounding water (either murkier from

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Happiness Fuels Success

By Heather Harrison, Development Manager

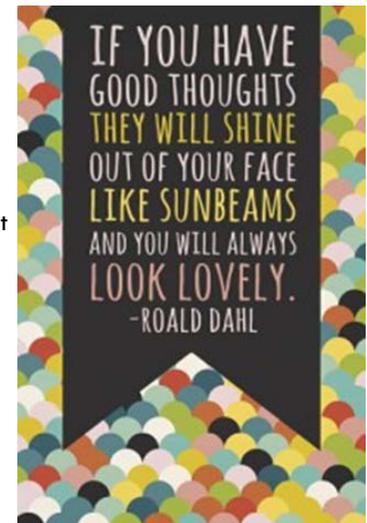
Governmentresource.com

May 26, 2015

Do you have 12 minutes? No, scratch that. MAKE 12 minutes this week to watch my favorite TED Talk, *The Happy Secret To Better Work*. It's not just my favorite, it's one of the 20 most popular TED Talks, in fact. Shawn Achor, a Waco, Texas native, Harvard graduate, and happiness fanatic, will entertain you and educate you on why happiness is the key to your success. I've watched the Talk about 37 times this past year, and it made me hungry to know more!

I picked up a copy of Achor's *The Happiness Advantage*; in it he explains the fallacy of the age old idea that if we are more successful, if we accomplish that goal, if we get the new job, THEN we'll be happy. In the relatively new field of positive psychology, research shows that this is backward. You don't become more happy once you achieve your goals, as you may have believed you would be. Happiness fuels success.

It's really not backward when you think about it. Choosing a positive attitude allows you to see things in a better light, and it opens your mind to greater opportunities. It also makes you more attractive – now just go with me on this. If you are negative, pessimistic, grumpy even, do people want to be around you? If you are cheerful, you smile, and you say kind things, you're someone I'd want to be around. Now, I prefer authenticity, which means it's not all hearts and rainbows all the time! But largely, being positive draws people and opportunities to you. Hiring managers, think about it this way: Would you hire someone who frowned or was stoic during most of the interview or complained about his or her past workplace? Or would you give preference to the candidate who comfortably smiled and spoke of the hope for future employment with you, while answering your tough interview questions? Supervisors, do you find yourself spending more time speaking to those who drag you down with their lamentations? And who do you prefer to delegate those important projects to? The grumbling negative Nelly? Or the Susie Q who says, "Thank you for the opportunity to grow!" Logic follows that having a happy disposition gets you hired and accelerates growth and development opportunities, which can result in promotions and higher salaries. And there's science to back that up.



Deputy Chief's Message (con't)

From page 1

experience, two have very distinguished prior military experience, and one has prior volunteer experience. They are all going through our conditional offer screening process at this point. We are extremely excited that these new people will be joining our Palm Beach Fire Rescue team. Our goal is to have these candidates on the job by the first or second week of July.

We have experienced a lot of overtime in the past month due to the number of vacancies we have. We understand the toll that can take on our workforce, and we are pushing hard to get these new candidates on board as soon as possible to relieve that overtime burden. In the meantime, know that we are doing everything possible to select the right people to join our team – so we can continue to make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better.

The Up Side to Swimming with Sharks

By Lolly Daskal

Lead from Within

Fresh fish has long been an important part of the Japanese diet, but the challenges of meeting the demand was overtaxing the area's waters.

To solve the problem, fishing companies acquired bigger boats that could go farther out. But—as is often the case—the solution brought with it a different problem.



Longer trips to more distant waters meant the fish had to be frozen on the boats. But frozen fish didn't suit the refined Japanese taste in seafood, and prices for the frozen fish quickly dropped.

So it came to the next idea—installing fish tanks in place of the freezers. After a little thrashing around, the fish became listless and apathetic—and their lethargy, like freezing, affected the taste of the final product. Consumers were still unsatisfied, and the industry was in crisis.

Then they came up with a brilliant solution to keep the fish tasting fresh. They added a small shark to each of the fish tanks. Fearful of the shark, the fish were constantly on the move—keeping them active and therefore fresh.

Just like those fish, we all sometimes are in situations where we don't want to be, racing to stay ahead at whatever is nipping at us. But it's not 100 percent bad (well, at least not for us—it's hard to find an up side from the fish's perspective).

Here are some of the benefits of being thrown in with a shark or two:

Sharks keep you fresh. To solve the challenges that face us, whether they're everyday or extraordinary, means finding an innovative way to transform the source of the challenge. That's a task that's much easier to do when you can draw on the power of staying fresh, using new experiences to shape old ideas.

Sharks keep you engaged. Indifference is no longer an option. Every day is infused with your mission and the goals that will help you achieve it.

Sharks keep you challenged. Many people are mistrustful, even frightened, of new ideas. They buck at the idea that something will be challenging. But as leaders and innovators, we welcome challenges as the way to our greatest achievements.

Sharks won't let you quit. Leaders are called to be tenacious. Cowards never start, the weak don't finish, and leaders never quit. The right challenges and engagement won't leave you any room to even think about it.

Sharks keep you on the move. As with the fish, a stagnant existence comes with bad side effects. Leadership favors those who are on the move, those who take action, those who come up with creative solutions.

When you least expect it, life may send you a challenge to test your courage, the best leaders, the most successful people, learn the up side of swimming with the sharks, they are ready.

Don't allow yourself to be overwhelmed by your challenges; instead, view them with a fresh, challenging mind and discover what you can learn from them, because you usually face your greatest opposition when you're closest to your biggest innovation.

Fire Prevention

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**
 Division Chief

In the month of May, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 245 fire prevention inspections with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel. Fire hydrant testing starts up in the month of June. Battalion Chiefs will provide guidance and assistance to Company Officers ensuring they have proper resources and zone coverage. Battalion Chiefs will notify Fire Prevention by email if any fire hydrant is in need of non-emergency repair or maintenance. Hydrant inspection forms need to be completed and returned through the Battalion Chiefs to the Division of Fire Prevention and Life Safety no later than July 17, 2015. Just a friendly reminder, residential Knox Box inspection forms need to be completed and returned through the Battalion Chiefs to the Division of Fire Prevention and Life Safety no later than June 30, 2015.



The Breakers Hotel recently held a construction meeting on May 15th with the P/Z/B Department and Fire Prevention Division in regards to their renovation projects for this summer. The construction projects include the following items: replicating the Florentine Fountain (off the Main Drive); installing a new Roof for 40 Coconut Row Building; renovating the Ocean Grill Dining Room; renovating the Spa and Salon areas; completing the remaining segments of the Frangible Retaining Wall on the south beach area; cosmetic repairs to the flag towers; replacing roofing sections for the Main Hotel; and installing a new cooling tower and re-

placing the chillers; removing their smoke stack; building a new engine room along with replacing the boiler, fire pump, and



generator. Company Officers should make arrangements with the Breakers security to survey the construction areas for Pre-Fire Planning. In addition, the Fire Prevention Division has worked out an arrangement with Breakers management to improve our fire access to the South Gate by giving us some RFID stickers. Assistant Fire Marshal Michael Curcio has installed the Breakers bar coded stickers on all our fire apparatus and vehicles. In addition, there is a Knox key switch located by the gate.

In closing, fire company officers should survey site plans with their crews in regards to on-going construction jobs throughout the Town. A list of Construction sites may be found under the 'N' Drive, under Fire Rescue folder, then under Department folder, finally look under the folder listed as Construction Projects and Modifications/Additions for 2015 (Forth folder listed). They are listed as follows: Breakers Construction Project; Royal Poinciana Plaza – New Parking Configuration; Sun and Surf 100 & 130 Sunrise Avenue; Palm Beach Country Club New Gates with Knox Boxes; and Sailfish Club Renovation Project.



Fire and Life Safety

By Mike Evans, Deputy Chief

IAFC

How Company Inspections Can Save Firefighters

Imagine going to work each day in one of the most dangerous professions in the world and possibly not knowing what your work environment will be when you get there and not knowing what type of pitfalls you will face as you work. As firefighters, that's the reality of our potential workplace on every shift. Not in our fire stations, but in the buildings and structures that are being threatened and attacked by fire.

Now, imagine having firsthand knowledge of the threats and dangers in the buildings in your first-due district. Imagine knowing what type of processes and products are being manufactured, produced, stored and sold in these buildings before they're threatened by fire. Imagine knowing if this particular occupancy is a loser or if you have a chance to stop the fire's progress before the building comes down.

Would this information help you in your risk analysis of the situation? Would it help establish a safe and effective incident action plan?

But how do you get this information after the fire has started?

Let's consider the impact a company inspection program could have on our communities and on our firefighters.

It used to be believed that only those no longer physically able to perform the job of a firefighter would go into fire prevention and become fire inspectors. Today, nothing could be farther from the truth for many progressive departments, where some of the brightest and best are drawn towards prevention.

In this era of doing more with less, where we cross-train our firefighters to be paramedics and other specialty technicians in order to provide more value to our customers, we also need to concentrate on what will make our firefighters' work environment safer.

Company inspections put your firefighters, the ones who will be first into a fire, in the buildings under normal atmospheric conditions, with good visibility and reduced stress. These highly trained professionals can be taught some of the basic concepts of fire prevention. Start with these basic goals:

Prevent fire from occurring by controlling sources of ignition coming into contact with combustible materials.

Make sure all means of egress are accessible and usable: doors actually open.

Ensure that all fire-protection systems are in service: sprinkler systems, fire-alarm systems, specialty systems, firewalls and their protected openings are being properly maintained.

These simple, basic goals, along with a mindset of educating business owners on what the problem is and how to correct it, will lead to the start of a company-inspection program that can positively impact your business community and help save our firefighters by giving them more knowledge and reducing the threat of fires.

A company inspection program can be successful with both full-time firefighters and part-time personnel who either work a shift in a combination system or are available during normal business hours. Either way, the end result is a reduction in the impact of fire in your community and a safer work environment for your firefighters.

Propane Emergencies

By Keith Golden

Battalion Chief

As we prepare for the summer season, I like to prepare for two things; the possibility of hurricanes and an increase in propane emergencies and/or injuries. It is imperative that we understand that gas



emergencies can range from small emergencies causing minimal impact to more involved situations causing a greater impact.

Small propane tank fires create a great danger for us as we respond to these emergencies; when propane

tanks are exposed to excessive heat, the gas itself expands. If there is not enough room in the tank to accommodate the expanded gas, a pressure release valve will open in order to allow propane gas to be emitted from the tank. This is called "venting." It typically occurs when the internal tank pressure exceeds 375 PSI and this action prevents the tank from exploding and putting you and your crew in grave danger.

When venting occurs, a pungent odor should be present. Propane is an odorless gas; the "rotten eggs" smell most people associate with propane is actually provided by ethyl mercaptan, an additive which is mixed with propane gas to alert users of a leak. The problem arises when gas is released from the tank during venting, but there is no odor. This is known as "odor fade."

Once the ethyl mercaptan becomes undetectable, propane leaks can place the customers and fire fighters in grave danger. There have been several cases where gas consumers have been injured or killed while transporting propane tanks, or when operating gas grills in areas that were not properly ventilated, because of leaks they did not detect. So avoid disaster by remembering that just because you do not smell propane that does not mean there is no propane present so use all available detection tools at your disposal.

For our customers we should always tell them to follow the safety tips listed below:

- Always operate your gas grill in a well ventilated area.
- Never store a spare propane tank above or below a tank that is in use.
- Do not leave your propane tank exposed to direct sunlight.
- When transporting a propane tank, make sure there is proper ventilation.

- Never light a cigarette when your are transporting a propane tank.

- When transporting a propane tank, do not leave the tank in the trunk of your car longer than necessary.

Once we encounter a true gas emergency full PPE and breathing apparatus is required, evacuation of the area is a must and our action plan must be communicated with the police department so they can assist. And because these incidents are potentially life threatening we must be careful and

- Fight fire from the maximum distance possible, or use unmanned hose holders or monitor nozzles.

- Cool containers by flooding them with large quantities of water until well after fire is out.

- Do not direct water at the source of leak or at safety devices because icing may occur.

- Leave the area immediately if you hear a rising sound from venting safety devices or see discoloration of the tank.

- For massive fires, use unmanned hose holders or monitor nozzles; if this is impossible, leave the area and let the fire burn.

- Be aware that when a BLEVE occurs, sections of the tank can fly in any direction. Just avoiding the ends of the tank should not be considered a safe operating procedure. **Always Remember - Tomorrow is your reward for working safely today.**



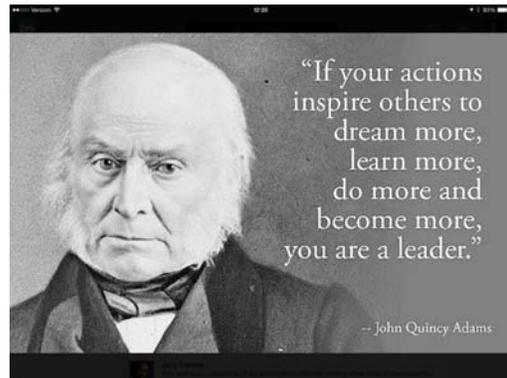
Congratulations Geerken Family



The Palm Beach Fire Rescue family would like to welcome our newest member Brielle Ivy Geerken weighing in at 6lb and 7oz and extend congratulations to Jacqueline and Oscar on a job well done.



Retirees Chief Lane and Chief Fuller enjoying some time together at River Ranch.



Rip Current Awareness (con't)

From page 4

- sediments, seaweed, and flotsam or darker because of the depth of the underwater channel where the rip flows);
 - A gap in the breaking waves, where the rip is forcing its way seaward through the surf zone;
 - Choppy surface that extends beyond the breaker zone;
 - Floating objects moving steadily seaward; and
 - Water in the rip may be colder than the surrounding water.
- What to do if caught in a rip current:**
- Don't panic—this wastes energy and keeps you from thinking clearly;
 - Don't attempt to swim against the current directly back to shore;
 - Swim parallel to shore until you are out of the current;
 - Float calmly out with the rip current if you cannot break out by swimming perpendicular to the current. When it subsides, just beyond the surf zone, swim diagonally back to shore; and
 - Use periods of rest by floating as you attempt to work your way back to shore if you tire.

Photos and Events



C Shift—Driver Engineer Training



Firefighter Paramedic Eric Legore receives heroism award from the Son's of the American Revolution.



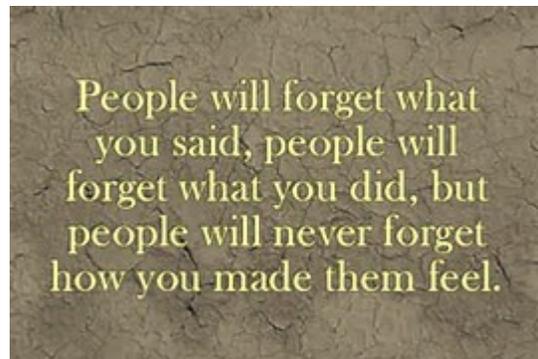
A shift loading patient onto Trauma Hawk.



Steve Weagle and Ride for the Red Cross 2015



Congratulations to Jordan Euliss and Kyle Shaw from Delray Beach Fire Rescue on your recent engagement. A 11/11/16 wedding is planned.



MAY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours
A Shift 332
B Shift 339
C Shift 404
Total 1075

Fire Prevention Inspections 239

Ocean Rescue Visitors 22,344
Town Ordinance Enforcements 134
Preventative Actions 167
Minor First Aids 4

FIRE and EMS
FIRE Calls 57
EMS Calls 140
Transports to Hospital 92

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Frank Mavigliano 6/05
Christopher Pommells 6/05
Mark Hassell 6/06
Mark Myhre 6/09
Michael Curcio 6/10
Mario Reyes 6/20

JUNE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Willie Bonfante 6/02 13 years
Ryan Zabovnik 6/02 13 years
Christopher Seay 6/11 04 years
Kyle Vander Plaats 6/13 02 years

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2015:

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

Employee of the Month—Brian Matzen



Lieutenant Matzen has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for over 6 years, promoting to Fire Officer last February. He is currently assigned to the Central Fire Rescue Station on “A” shift in Charge of Rescue 97. He is well respected by his peers and supervisors for his work ethic and always displays a positive attitude. His Battalion Chief describes him as, “The guy that always does the right thing. He is always looking to improve what we do and how we do it.”

Besides fulfilling his regular job duties and responsibilities as a Lieutenant, Brian consistently goes above and beyond what is required of him at work. He is an integral part of how our department delivers emergency medicine to those we serve. Brian has partnered with others and designed new medical kits and rescue unit layouts, streamlining our business through efficiency and less waste.

Recognizing the importance of safety, Brian volunteered to review all 500 series standard operating guidelines. He made dozens of suggestions for change and has made himself one of the department experts in our operations. This process required an incredible amount of Lieutenant Matzen’s time and effort, however he didn’t stop there and as he does often, volunteered to complete another project. He was then trusted with the development of a new procedure for dry sprinkler powder aerosol, a quick acting fire knock-down tool designed to greatly enhance survival of civilians or our own. Brian also worked with others in developing a criterion check list for fast and effective reference in the treatment and transport of cardiac and stroke patients.

Lieutenant Matzen earned his Bachelor of Health Services from FAU prior to joining PBFR, and his thirst for knowledge continues. He recently completed Incident Command for Multi-alarm Incidents at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. Brian returned with a hearty respect for the institution and thrived in the learning atmosphere. He has plans to return this fall for EMS Incident Operations. Brian’s immediate future training plans are filled with Live Fire Training Instructor class at PBSC in July. Exemplifying leadership by example, he consistently encourages others to seek training and share knowledge.

We highly commend Lieutenant Brian Matzen for his service of dedication and devotion to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department, and the Town of Palm Beach. Brian demonstrates an attitude of excellent work ethic and dependability. His consistent job performance and positive attitude makes him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the community, therefore, making Brian Matzen an outstanding recipient of the May 2015 Employee of the Month Award.

