

# The All Hands

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

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## Deputy Chief's Message—The Future is Bright

By Darrel Donatto  
Deputy Chief



I recently attended the Florida Fire Chiefs Association conference where I had an opportunity to meet with and talk to fire chiefs from all across the State of Florida. I learned a lot from both the executive development sessions and the discussions with other chiefs. One of the things I learned was – we really have a great organization and great people. I actually didn't learn that, as I knew that, but it was certainly affirmed.

Every organization has their struggles, and we certainly have ours. However, what we have more than any other organizations I know are: great people. We have hired some of the most passionate and committed firefighters that I have ever seen in my 35 plus years of being in this business. When you walk into a fire station in Palm Beach – you can feel the passion for learning and improvement. People are working hard, they are training hard, and they are pursuing every opportunity to learn and grow that is available. That is not common everywhere I can assure you.

Urban Meyer, in his book "Above the Line" says that "Exceptional performance is the result of an uncommon level of focus and discipline in the pursuit of greatness." I can truly say our people are performing exceptionally.

This part may be a bit long, but it is important to spotlight some of the examples of the dedication, determination, and passion our people have:

- **Firefighter Yorgui Beltran** was hired here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue in January 2015, just a year and a half ago. He completed his first year of probationary training and then jumped right into training for the future. Just in the past six months, F/F Beltran has complete the Aerial Operations course, Company Officer course, Firefighter Tactics and Strategies I course, Firefighter Tactics and Strategies II course, Building Construction course, and Courage to be Safe course. With the exception of the last course listed, the others are all college level classes of a minimum of 45 hours of instruction.
- **Firefighter Michael Bennett** was hired in July 2015. While completing his first year probationary training, F/F Bennett also attended training on and completed the Aerial Operations course, Company Officer course, and Building Construction course.
- **Firefighter Gabriel Cadet** was hired in October of 2013. In his short time here at Palm Beach, Firefighter Cadet has complete the Fire Apparatus and Equipment Operations course, Fire Hydraulic course, Aerial Operations course, Company Officer course, Firefighter Tactics and Strategies I course, and Building Construction course. Also, he recently was certified as an Advanced Life Support Instructor and a Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor.
- **Firefighter Daniel Dirocco** was hired in January 2016 and less than six months in, he has already started the Paramedic School program.

*Continued on page 4*

## Administrative Update

**By Jimmy Duane**

Assistant Chief

The Annual Palm Beach Daily News and United Way, "Boxed for Success" school supply drive began on June 27th. Residents will be dropping off school supplies at each station during the course of the event. This annual effort runs through August 5th and helps to provide school supplies and needed materials for less fortunate students within Palm Beach County. For a little added fun this year, a contest was created asking participants to decorate a shoebox and fill them with school supply items. The decorated shoeboxes will be entered in a contest to win prizes. We are sure to have another very successful drive.



Risk Management conducted safety compliance inspections of all three fire stations. This is done annually in conjunction with the Town's insurance carrier. At the conclusion, a detailed report was completed and submitted for corrections. The Town's Public Works Department immediately began correcting any deficient items, several of which were immediately fixed by each of the Station Commanders.

The final Getac tablets and brackets are being installed in the Fire Rescue vehicles. These units replaced our existing mobile data terminals that Officers rely on for immediate updates while responding to emergency calls. Information Systems has installed all the latest information giving us access to information such as pre incident profiles, mapping of all the FPU gas lines and valves, water lines, Knox Box, hydrants, and building addresses with front and aerial views.



The annual asset inventory is currently being conducted. This inventory, which is required by Florida Statutes tracks equipment that are considered capital assets, those items that have a value of \$2500 or more.

Being able to provide information and answers to our customers is just one of the many priorities we pride ourselves in at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. This month we have added 3 separate informational cards, all of which will be carried on our emergency vehicles and available when needed. In conjunction with Good Samaritan Hospital, a card was created for family members and friends of patients that are transported to the hospital, which displays a map and directions to the hospital from targeted geographical areas in Town. Fire Rescue responds to several hundred fire alarms yearly, many of which the occupants are not home or aware the alarm had occurred. A door hanger card was designed to inform the occupant of the alarm as well as to provide information on how to assist with the current and future alarms. The final card, similar to the door hanger provides information to several programs that the fire department provides. Special thanks to Firefighter Farrell and Lieutenant Dunnam for all their assistance.

The end of the fiscal year is rapidly approaching. Over the next several months, the remaining 5 vehicles requiring preventative maintenance will occur. This service is performed on all of the department's apparatus. The service includes a detailed check of all vehicle systems as well as any needed repairs and required maintenance procedures.

The Operative IQ vehicle check sheets have been modified recently. Working closely with the Driver Engineers and PBCFR mechanics, revisions were done to better assist those that are checking the vehicles daily. The system provides a very thorough documented check of each vehicle daily. Personnel should complete a work request thoroughly outlining any repair necessary. Depending on the severity, the repair will be prioritized and either sent the shop for service or placed on a ticket for the mechanic to repair on his next visit to the station.

OPERATIVE  IQ

## EMS Division

By Dave Burke

Division Chief



Since our migration to the Getac tablets in creating patient care reports, there have been some slight adjustments in how we get the administrative part of the job done. I want to remind all caregivers, especially Lieutenants in charge of patient care of the importance in accurate and timely submission of patient care reports. All patients must have a hardcopy of the report left at the hospital for each patient transported. If you are unable to connect to the hospital printer, use the printer in the rescue truck and report the details of the malfunction to the Battalion Chief on duty. Please note: Getac tablets used in the docking stations as MDC's cannot be switched with Getac's used for patient care reporting as they do not contain the same software. I encourage you to keep sharpening your skills with the Getac tablets and integrate them into your pit-crew EMS scenarios.

Zoll Medical sent out a new firmware update for our Zoll X Series monitor/defibrillators. The update was loaded onto all of our devices with no end user training required. You may notice some font, visual presentation changes as well as voice prompt and alarm sound changes. Most of these were subtle differences upgraded due to caregiver suggestions. I encourage you to use the monitor in conjunction with the cardiac rhythm generator during simulation lab training. Remember last month's tip in printing a tracing instead of diagnosing from the monitor screen especially in tachycardic rhythms.



Welcome to PBFR's newest member, Lieutenant Anthony Curtis! Dr. Schepke, our Medical Director, was impressed with Lt. Curtis and his ease of diagnosing and treating advanced cardiac and trauma patients during his recent scenario-based testing. Additionally, D/E Alex Mahy passed his written medical protocol test and is waiting for formal practical test off. Alex also recently passed his State of Florida Paramedic exam and has become a suppression unit acting officer. Congratulations Alex!

The EMS Division is currently reviewing policy for adoption of a Pediatric Transport Procedure. Until formally rolled out, all pediatric patients are to be protected in a proper device for transport. Our rescues are equipped with an integrated child seat for use in transporting multiple non-critical pediatric patients or family members of a patient. Pediatric patients should be transported on the stretcher with shoulder harness and all patient safety belts in use.



## Deputy Chief's Message (con't)

- **Firefighter Abigail Farrell** was hired in July 2015. During her first year, F/F Farrell completed the Vehicle & Machinery Rescue Operations course and also started her second semester of Paramedic School. F/F Farrell was recognized as the Employee of the Month in June 2016.
- **Firefighter Oscar Geerken** was hired in July 2013. F/F Geerken has complete Fire Apparatus and Equipment Operations course, Fire Hydraulic course, Aerial Operations course, Firefighter Tactics and Strategies I course, , Firefighter Tactics and Strategies II course, Building Construction course, and Fire Prevention Practices course. In addition, Oscar is currently pursuing his Bachelor Degree in Fire and Emergency Services at the University of Florida. In January 2015, Geerken was selected as the Employee of the Month.
- **Driver Engineer Alex Mahy** was hired in October 2012. D/E Mahy has complete Fire Apparatus and Equipment Operations course, Fire Hydraulic course, Aerial Operations course, Firefighter Tactics and Strategies I course, Building Construction course, Fire Service Course Delivery, Incident Safety Officer, and Courage to be Safe course. During his short time here, Mahy attended and completed the Paramedic School program and is now a certified Paramedic. In March of 2015, Mahy completed his Bachelor of Science in Health Administration. In May of 2015, Mahy was promoted to Driver Engineer. In May 2016, Mahy was selected as the Employee of the Month. And recently, Mahy was approved to fill in as a Step-Up Lieutenant.
- **Firefighter Stephen Montoya** was hired in January 2015. While completing his first year probationary training, F/F Montoya also attended training on and completed the Fire Apparatus and Equipment Operations course, Fire Hydraulic course, Aerial Operations course, Company Officer course, Firefighter Tactics and Strategies I course, and Building Construction course. In addition, Montoya completed a course and became certified as an underwater Dive Technician. He recently was certified as an Advanced Life Support Instructor and a Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor. In March 2016, Montoya was selected as the Employee of the Month.
- **Firefighter Christopher Pommells** was hired in September 2014. F/F Pommells completed the Fire Apparatus and Equipment Operations course, Fire Hydraulic course, and Aerial Operations course. In addition, Pommells has completed Rope Rescue Operations and Rope Rescue Technician courses.
- **Firefighter Nei Silva-Filho** was hired in December 2014. In the past year and a half, F/F Silva Filho completed the Fire Apparatus and Equipment Operations course, Fire Hydraulic course, and Aerial Operations course. In addition, Silva Filho has completed a Rope Rescue Operations course, Confined Space Operations course, and Confined Space Technician course.
- **Firefighter Angel Sronce** was hired in January 2014. F/F Sronce completed the Company Officer course, Firefighter Tactics and Strategies I course, and Building Construction course. In addition, she finished the Paramedic School program and is now a state certified paramedic. She obtained her instructor credentials as an Advanced Life Support instructor, Pediatric Advanced Life Support instructor, CPR instructor, and Level A EMS instructor, and she is currently completing her Associates Degree in Nursing. In December 2015, Sronce was selected as the Employee of the Month.

These examples are just a small representation of the effort being put in by the people here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. There are many more within the organization who are doing the same – seeking to grow and make themselves more valuable to the organization and the community.

I am extremely optimistic about the future of Palm Beach Fire Rescue. We have such incredible people. And these people are pushing themselves to grow and be better. They have a winner's mindset and they don't let negativity get in their way. They are intentional about their future, and thus their future is bright here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

It has been said that under pressure, we do not rise to the occasion; we rise or fall to the level of our training. Our people are rising to an incredible level of training and excellence – and I am proud to be able to play a small part in helping with that journey. Our people are truly making Palm Beach Fire Rescue better.

## James Hendrick, Retired Firefighter



Palm Beach Fire Rescue retiree James Hendrick Sr. 93, passed away July 2, 2016. Firefighter Hendrick served his country in the Navy during World War 2. Later he became a Firefighter with the Town of Palm Beach for 21 years. Firefighter Hendrick retired from Palm Beach Fire Rescue December 1, 1975. A graveside service was held Sunday July 10, 2016 at Hillcrest Memorial Park in West Palm Beach. Engine 97 and crew attended the service. The members at Palm Beach Fire Rescue sends out there condolences to the family of Firefighter Hendrick.

## Chief Darrel Donatto Receives Florida's Fire Chief of the Year Award



Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue's Deputy Chief Darrel Donatto has been selected as the Florida Fire Chief Association's Fire Chief of the year for 2016. This very prestigious award was given to Chief Donatto at the Annual Fire Chief's Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida on July 12, 2016.

Chief Donatto was chosen after a rigorous selection process that graded the candidate's service to the EMS and Fire Communities throughout their communities and state-wide. Some examples of Chief Donatto's achievements include: participation and advocacy of fire based EMS within the State of Florida for more than 20 years, diligently bringing legislation to the state level that requires at least two elevators be required in high rise buildings, participation on numerous committees statewide, and working to

limit unnecessary unfunded mandates from being imposed on fire rescue agencies by the State of Florida.

Deputy Chief Donatto serves on many professional organizations such as the State EMS Advisory Council, the State EMS Data Committee, The Florida Fire Chiefs Association and Palm Beach County's Fire Chiefs Association, and Palm Beach County's Regional Hazardous Materials Oversight Committee.

Closer to home, Chief Donatto's lead by example approach and insistence on high moral standards has transformed Palm Beach Fire Rescue's culture. The organization has achieved an improved ISO Class One rating, false alarm reduction of over forty percent, accurate tracking and analyzing data in all divisions, and implementation of leadership coaching to reinforce organizational goals. Standards for promotion within the organization were also increased, leading to a better equipped leader at the company officer level.

The Chief has been a mentor to all his staff. He has inspired most to achieve a Bachelor's Degree, attend courses at the National Fire Academy, and to actively participate in fire and EMS related issues and organizations at every level. His ability to inspire others and passionate work ethic made him an outstanding selection for Florida's Fire Chief of the Year.



## Training Division—Why Do We Train?

**By Sean Baker**

Division Chief

Palm Beach Fire Rescue has had a very busy month in regards to training. We have completed our annual Active Shooter Training with assistance from our police department and are currently rolling out new plans to better serve our community. The department as a whole is becoming better equipped to handle not only an active shooter drill, but also Mass Casualty Incidents with the purchase of new tactical gear. This new equipment will go in service within this next month and will dovetail with the training that was given at the drill in June. The likelihood of an event happening in the town remains constant and I feel confident that public safety will mitigate whatever comes our way.

Live Fire is underway at Palm Beach State College and we have changed the way our drills are administered. The focus will be on instruction followed by practical evolutions. Initial feedback has been positive and we are committed to bringing the most relevant and practical training to our members. During this training we covered Vent Enter Search (VEIS) tactics that aid in the rescue of victims in hazardous fire conditions. Next we focused on controlling the flow path of fire during suppression operations, which is directly in line with the latest science from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In the future we will be implementing an incident command element that will allow our crews to function as we do on the island. The focus will be on maintaining crew integrity and operations during the first ten minutes on scene.

Annual Water Rescue Training will be starting July 18 – July 27 at the Bath and Tennis Club. We are fortunate to have a community partner such as B&T to give us access to their facilities for our training needs. This year's evolutions will involve mitigating a scuba diving emergency, rescue tube tactics, and paddle board proficiency. We are privileged to have our own resident Master Diver, James Weber, and water rescue expert Frank Mavigliano handling our training. This is just another example of the resources that we have available when utilizing our own personnel as instructors.

Thanks to all that have offered input and suggestions to make this department better. I take all of your recommendations seriously and will do my best to make them a reality. Our training hours are through the roof and the volume of training requests for outside classes is staggering. Keep up the good work and train as if your life depends on it because it does!



## Fire Prevention

By **Marty DeLoach**, Fire Marshal

July is a month for enjoying summer activities. One of the things that kids love to do is go to a circus. On July 9, 1944 the famous Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey Circus was performing with the famous Flying Wallendas. There were 7,000 people packed into the tent for the three ring performance that has been a tradition of circus acts. As the Wallendas were climbing up to perform their high wire act the circus band broke into Stars and Stripes Forever. This song signified a warning to all of the circus crew as it was the traditional circus musical disaster song.

The circus workers all started guiding the people out of the performance area as a wind drove a sheet of flame across the paraffin wax coated Big Top, the world's largest single piece of canvas. The people immediately started to panic and within 10 minutes 168 people, one-third of them children were dead.

This event and the lives lost are the reason that we have strict enforcement on membrane structures. We require all tents to have a certification on flame spread. We do not permit cooking or any open flames within the tent structure. The appliances and electrical equipment must all be rated by an independent laboratory like U.L.

The life safety code book that we use in fire prevention has been built on a foundation of previous disasters. We have a new code compliance concern based on the Florida legislature ( FS 718.112) requiring buildings where the floor of an occupiable story is greater than 75 ft. above the lowest level of fire department access, to either retrofit with sprinklers or modify their building with an engineered life safety plan. The foundation of this new legislation is derived from the November 21, 1980 MGM Grand fire in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This fire compromised people's lives due to the absence of fire alarms, sprinklers and designed pressurized stairwells failed to work properly. The tragic results of this fire event culminated in the loss of eighty seven lives. The simple answer is people need help when fires break out. The help that they need must come quickly, within the time that you can hold your breath. We train to respond fast and understand that we can never get there that fast. This is why it is crucial for the building officials and fire officials to work together to ensure buildings have the correct designed features to help all of the occupants when something goes wrong.

We anticipate a webinar will be up and running to help condominium associations make good choices about how to comply with the new law, sometime after July 21. The Palm Beach Post ran an article on July 3, 2016 about the new statute that had one condominium lawyer recommending to clients to opt out when the association does not have extra money. The problem with this advice as the law has been explained to us is that opting out of sprinklers then requires that the building have an approved engineered life safety system. The life safety systems, often require modifications to the building, which cost far more than a retrofit sprinkler system.

When new legislation is passed the economic impact has to be identified. The information that was given at the time of the adoption showed actual retrofit costs to be from less than one dollar per square foot to around two dollars. Every building will have specific costs and obstacles to overcome. The direction that the owners chose, should be based on all of the options and costs associated with the different ways to comply for their building, when they vote.

We are seeking as much information on compliance with the statute to share with our associations. Suffice it to say, simply saying no, does not comply, with the new statute. In the end this legislation would never have passed if there were not inherent dangers in these types of buildings that have cost people their lives when things went wrong. The common statement that we have never had a fire, why should we have to spend all this money, will not allow your building to continue without modifications.

The Palm Beach Fire Department performed 80 building/business inspections in June. The businesses that were inspected totaled over 316,000 square feet of commercial space. We found 27 violations of the fire code. Most of the violations are minor in nature and we are working with the owners to correct all of the violations.

The prevention bureau continues to be involved with the local construction projects, through permit review, rough inspections of piping and equipment being installed and the final inspection prior to the certificate of occupancy is issued for the building.

We worked with the Four Seasons Hotel to help their staff and guests during a recent evacuation drill. The Four Seasons Hotel was being proactive to work with their team to ensure all of the people will be guided in the event of a real emergency. Our staff members are always willing to help the businesses and visitors to our town to ensure their safety.

## OPTIMISM: The Secret of Great Leadership

By: Lollydaskal

<http://www.lollydaskal.com/leadership/optimism-secret-great-leadership/>

If you're looking for powerful fuel for your leadership, look at optimism.

Winston Churchill used to say "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Maybe that's why optimistic leaders are usually more successful than pessimists.

When you're a pessimist, everything is about failure, anxiety, and problems. But when you're optimistic you can be someone who continually improves and moves forward.

Even if you're not among the lucky people for whom optimism comes naturally, you'll discover it's an attitude that can be learned and practiced. Here are some strategies to consider to foster optimism in yourself and those around you:

- 1. Go for the gold.** Celebrate your strengths and talent instead of concentrating on your weaknesses. Focus on what you do well and what you are good at. Don't be down on yourself for everything you aren't; instead, start loving yourself for everything you already are.
- 2. Get out of your comfort zone.** Cultivate unpremeditated and unrehearsed actions, and encourage yourself to do things that are impulsive and impromptu. Especially if you are a creature of habit, push yourself to the edge of your comfort zone. Uncalculated action builds your optimistic muscle—when you stop doing what you have always done, you get new results.
- 3. Look for the proverbial silver lining.** Learn to rethink every challenge and every adversity and always look for the gift. Try to look at situations that trigger your negativity as opportunities to learn. Teach yourself whatever discipline it takes to redirect your reaction into positivity.
- 4. Avoid negativity altogether.** That means doing what you can to avoid negative environments, people, and circumstances. It won't be easy, but make a true effort. If you know someone to be a complainer, do everything you can to keep your distance.
- 5. Nurture your well-being.** Do what you can to surround yourself with positive messaging on a daily basis. Watch inspirational videos, read motivational blogs, biographies—whatever it is that inspires you and nurtures you.
- 6. Visualize the winner within.** Every success starts within. If you don't see yourself as a winner, then you can't perform as one. The biggest challenge in any situation is to stay positive in a world that is filled with negativity.
- 7. Focus beyond yourself.** If you know you have a tendency to be negative, do what you can to focus on something beyond yourself. Try to step outside of yourself, beyond the circumstances and situation, and past your pessimism.
- 8. Remember that happier equals healthier.** There is evidence that the immune systems of optimistic people are stronger than those of pessimists. Stay positive and you may be able to enjoy better health.
- 9. Engage in daily positive mantras.** If you have a tendency to talk to yourself in a negative way, change it up and give yourself a positive mantra. Try telling yourself, *This will go right because I worked hard and this time I will succeed.* Simple positive affirmations can have a positive effect on your mindset.
- 10. Be in control of what you can control.** When faced with challenges, failures, adversity, recognize what you can change and proactively try to find ways to do something about it. Control the things you can control. Incredible things happen when you decide to take control of what you do have power over instead of craving control over what you don't.

**Lead from within:** Optimism is essential to achievement and it is also the foundation of true progress and great leadership.



## Palm Beach Fire-Rescue Welcomes Lt. Anthony Curtis



Locally raised and currently residing in Palm Beach County, I am honored to be the newest Lieutenant for Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue. I am twenty-seven years of age and have been in the fire service since eighteen years old. I knew well before the academy that I was going to become a firefighter due to my long bloodline of firefighters. Aside from the passion I have for my job, I have a beautiful wife that blessed me with a wonderful daughter. We love to fish, boat, and do anything outdoors as a family. I am beyond grateful for my new position and I look forward to my career with this amazing department serving the people of Palm Beach.

## Ocean-Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Shift Supervisor

The summer months are here and beach attendance has stayed steady. The swimming conditions have been really good throughout the month of June. The Green flags (low hazard swim conditions) have been up at Mid-Town Beach. The Town of Palm Beach coast line (oceanside) has not been affected by the algae bloom that has closed many beaches in Martin County to swimmers. In other lifeguard news, the guards have been busy training for the upcoming 2016 Southeast Regional Surf Lifesaving Championships held in Siesta Key Florida on July 14th and 15th. The annual lifesaving tournament is held every July at different venues throughout the state of Florida, ocean lifeguards get a chance to compete against other lifeguard agencies from the state of Florida. Last year our team of lifeguards had great success at the regional tournament held in Flagler Beach Florida, where they placed 2nd overall in the team standings.



## Battalion Chief Update

By Phil Dudley

Battalion Chief

This past April, I had the opportunity to travel to FDIC to attend training classes delivered by some of the most prominent names in the fire service today. One workshop that stood out above the rest was “Aggressive Command and Tactics” by Anthony Kastros (Battalion Chief, Sacramento CA.). The May 2016 issue of Fire Engineering contained an article by Chief Kastros addressing aggressive command and highlighting the “NIOSH 5”.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has identified the top 5 factors of firefighter deaths and injuries on the fire ground as:

Inadequate Risk Assessment

Inadequate Incident Command

Inadequate Accountability

Inadequate Communications

Failure to follow SOG’s



First, inadequate risk assessment is due to a failure of not doing a 360 of the structure or a poor size up was performed. In order to make good decisions on the fire ground, we need to gather as much information as possible.

Second, inadequate incident command is caused by the Incident Commander trying to fill too many roles such as Safety Officer, Accountability Officer etc. The Incident Commander needs to focus on incident command.

Third, inadequate accountability is due to Incident Command trying to perform too many roles on large incidents. On the Fire Ground, we should have a dedicated Accountability Officer, who is keeping track of all personnel and their tasks including when interior crews change locations in large structures.

Forth, inadequate communication is caused by too many firefighters trying to communicate at once. We are all fortunate that everyone has a radio, however not everyone needs to be talking on them. Priority radio traffic should go to the crews in the IDLH. Make transmissions clear and to the point.

Last is failure to follow SOG’s. We have SOG’s for structure fires and high rise fires. They need to be followed. If we practice following SOG’s on general fire alarms it will come natural when we get the real thing.

Kastros writes in his article “The following are mandatory for a safe and efficient command system: An appropriate and ongoing risk assessment, a proactive ICS that stays ahead of the incident power curve, an accurate and ongoing accountability system, clear and concise communications, and adherence to up-to-date SOG’s and national standards.” Every time one or more of the NIOSH 5 occur on the fire ground, we increase our potential for an injury or LODD to occur.



## FL Firefighters, Researchers Team up to Study Cancer

By Ashley McBride on June 28, 2016

Source : Palm Beach Post Fla (TNS)



Butch Smith, a fire captain with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, has had a difficult fight.

Smith was diagnosed in 2008 with multiple myeloma, a blood cancer. But a research partnership between the University of Miami's Sylvester Cancer Center and South Florida fire departments is giving other firefighters a chance at earlier detection.

"Had I had a simple blood test," Smith said Monday, "it could've caught my disease at a much earlier stage."

The initiative, which is expanding to more firefighters in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, began last summer, after the Sylvester Center secured funding from the state to study the incidence of cancer in firefighters. Samuel Eaton, county fire-rescue district chief, announced that a health survey initially distributed to county firefighters would be launched to include firefighters at other municipalities.

While firefighters experience higher rates of certain cancers than the general population, doctors haven't pinpointed the exact carcinogens.

"This initiative is so important for our community and I'm delighted that we can expand this year," Dr. Stephen Nimer, with the Sylvester Center, said. "Because we really know too little about the magnitude of the problem and why firefighters get cancer at a younger age than others and why there's more cancer in this community."

Richard Ballard, CEO of Sylvester Cancer Center, said with an additional \$1.5 million in funding from the state in its second year, researchers plan to expand the initiative to Martin, Orange and Hillsborough counties.

Florida Rep. Frank Artiles, R-Miami-Dade, said he hopes to use the research findings to push a cancer presumption law in the state of Florida. Such a law would assume that firefighters can develop cancer as a result of their job, making it easier to get health and disability benefits. According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, 33 states have cancer presumption laws for firefighters.

"This is not just a Palm Beach County issue, it's not a Broward County or a Miami-Dade County issue," said Palm Beach County Fire Chief Jeff Collins. "It's a national and a global issue."

The initiative includes multiple components, including the annual survey, screenings for cervical and colorectal cancers, a mobile app for firefighters to document workplace exposures, a program to collect breath and skin samples before and after a firefighter's shift and an educational campaign with the university's school of communication to increase awareness, prevention of and early detection of cancer.

The program also has a specific outreach for female firefighters.

Martine Poitevien, an administrator at Sylvester Cancer Center, said unlike many women in the region who may not have access to care, there's a different reason why female firefighters need an outreach program.

"(For female firefighters) it's not that they don't have access to care, but that they don't have time," she said. "They're working 12-hour shifts, they're taking care of everybody else, they really don't have time."

## JUNE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

### Training Hours

A Shift	476.51
B Shift	584.74
C Shift	706.33
Total	1767.58

### Fire Prevention

Inspections 80

### Ocean Rescue

Visitors 19,544

Town Ordinance Enforcements 156

Preventative Actions 56

### FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls 60

EMS Calls 104

Transports to Hospital 68

### JULY BIRTHDAYS:

Daniel Barnickel	7/09
Lawrence Katz	7/21
Gabriel Cadet	7/22
Adriana Rodriguez	7/23
Willie Bonfante	7/25

### JULY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Michael Marx	7/04	12 years
Marc Bortot	7/05	11 years
Daniel Barnickel	7/11	05 years
Oscar Geerken	7/13	03 years
Michael Bennett	7/15	01 year
Laura Deckers	7/15	01 year
Abigail Farrell	7/15	01 year
Cesar Lora	7/15	01 year

### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2016:

January	Michael Marx	July
February	Charles Shinn	August
March	Stephen Montoya	September
April	Chris McKay	October
May	Alex Mahy	November
June	Abigail Farrel	December

## Employee of the Month— Abigail Farrell



Abigail goes above and beyond what is expected of her on a daily basis. Abigail can always be found working on apparatus and equipment, learning new techniques, and filling her need to be the best Firefighter possible. Abigail's attitude is always positive and her work ethic is beyond reproach.

Abigail has been with the department for a little over 1 year and has already made a lasting impression on her crew. She is the first to volunteer to help with any task regardless of the requirements and always does so with a smile. Her initiative is also to be commended as she has placed great importance on her education and training. During this past month alone FF Farrell has assisted with the following:

- Revision and redesign of informational door hangars for AED and Knox Box information to be utilized by all fire department apparatus.
- Reorganization of Bunker Gear Storage Room at Station 1.
- Coordination of cleaning and repair of spare bunker gear.
- Assist Battalion Chief Marx with fulfilling EMS Supply orders to all fire stations.
- Inventory and maintenance of medical supply storage.
- Cleared to function as an Acting Driver Engineer.
- Currently enrolled in Paramedic school at Palm Beach State College.

Her dedication, selfless actions, and relentless hunger for job knowledge are setting her apart as a future leader in our organization.

Firefighter Farrell's Lieutenant states, "FF Farrell's ambitions, intelligence, work ethic, and consistent positive attitude make her highly deserving of this award." We highly commend Firefighter Abigail Farrell for her dedication and devotion to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization. Abigail consistently performs at a high level, always striving to do her best and make Palm Beach Fire Rescue a better place to work and serve the community. Her daily efforts in the station are an example of what we stand for and strive to do every day. He is a great asset to the organization, therefore, making Abigail Farrell an outstanding recipient of the July 2016 Employee of the Month award.