

The All Hands

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

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Deputy Chief's Message

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

As I look around the organization – I see a lot of really great people doing a lot of really great things – and that truly makes me proud.

We have recently hired a number of new firefighters and I consistently hear great feedback on how they are progressing and what great assets they are and will be to the organization. We have a number of other candidates working their way through the hiring process and we have great hope for the same from them. In the interim, we have had a lot of overtime, and our people have really stepped up to keep the positions covered despite the long work hours they are putting in and the time away from their families.

The Town has a number of large construction projects underway that have caused great challenges for our members, both at work and just trying to get to work. Our members have come together to create plans and solutions that help us overcome these challeng-

es and continue to provide exceptional service to the community.

In that past six months we received 60 letters and/or calls from people within the community expressing their appreciation for what a great job our people have done. Within that same time period, seventeen people have received formal commendations for exceptional service. Two of our members received the Raymond J. Kunkel Award for heroic or meritorious service. Three of our members were just recognized with Fire Safety Commendation Awards by the Sons of the American Revolution. Two of our members were just recognized by the Palm Beach County EMS Provider's Association, with one being selected as the Paramedic of the Year for all of Palm Beach County. Two of our officers were just awarded their Associate's College Degrees. Four officers were just certified as Fire Inspectors. Three officers were certified as Live Fire Instructors. Two officers were just certified as Fire Instructor I's. All of this is just in the last six months.

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Administrative Update

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

With the anticipated retirements and/or completion of DROP terms, we see great opportunities for those who want them and great challenges for us as a management team in identifying and developing our top talent employees so that they will be able to fill key leadership positions in the organization. As an organization, we are committed to increasing the availability of experienced and capable employees that are prepared to assume these

roles as they become available.

This is one reason we have hired James Rowan. Everything James is doing and teaching is both relevant to our organization and important to our current and future leaders. Leadership development is not near as exciting as live fire training, but it is an essential component of our training program. In addition, to help prepare people for these future leadership roles, we will be assigning mentors to some of our top talent employees who

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Administrative Update

from page 1

have shown both their capacity to lead and their desire for advancement. The objective is to help employees move from wherever they are to wherever they could be.

We recently announced a Driver Engineer promotional process. In November, we anticipate that we will hold a Lieutenant promotional process. These are great opportunities for professional advancement and an increase in pay.

In addition to planning for our future leadership opportunities, we are heavily focused on recruiting new talent to the organization and doing everything we can to retain the talent we have today. We are working through our Organizational Improvement Committee to identify ways to make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. Many of you have contributed ideas and suggestions, and we are working on implementing those things that are both within our control and good for the organization. Not every idea is doable or in the organizations best interest, but those that are, we will get done. Almost a year ago now, we advertised and establish a hiring list for new talent. From this list we have hired eight new employees and have another three employees working their way through the conditional offer process. Each and every one of them has become a great asset to the organization and we are extremely happy to have them as a part of our team. Very soon, we will begin another round of recruitment; advertising for firefighter/paramedics with the intention of finding more great firefighters.

We have been through a lot of challenges together. Not all of them have been pleasant or ended as well as we

hoped. Our future challenge of retaining and preparing employees for leadership positions and recruiting new talent for the organization is at the top of our priority list and is certainly going to be tough. But, together we can succeed and through those successes, we will make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. 🔥



Palm Beach Fire Rescue - Years of Service Analysis

Average Years of Service	
Battalion Chief	19.82
A	17.12
B	18.58
C	23.75
Lieutenant	16.62
A	17.03
B	17.74
C	15.07
Driver Engineer	12.89
A	13.72
B	12.62
C	12.33
Firefighter	5.48
A	5.22
B	5.85
C	5.38
Average Years of Service all Line Personnel	11.12
50% of Line personnel have	10.23
Collective Years of Experience	635.38

Deputy Chief's Message

from page 1

I have challenged each of you to step up your game, to do more, to do it better, and to provide exceptional service at every opportunity. You are doing just that and more. It has been said that "in this world you will have trouble." Despite all of the challenges we face and the trials we have been through – you - the members of Palm Beach Fire Rescue - have risen to the occasion. Many of you have come forward to offer suggestions and ideas on how we can improve the organization. We need more of that – as together we will make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. But, aside from those efforts – I want to recognize each of you not for your ideas, but for your actions. We truly have a lot of really great people doing a lot of really great things. Thank you for your service. 🔥

Battalion Chief's Message

By PETE CODISPOTI

Battalion Chief C Shift

Officers should review with their crews how to position apparatus and other emergency vehicles at a vehicle-related incident on any street, road, highway or expressway in a manner that best protects the incident scene and the work area. Such positioning shall afford protection to fire department personnel, law enforcement officers, tow service operators and the motoring public from the hazards of working in or near moving traffic.

All personnel should understand and appreciate the high risk that personnel are exposed to when operating in or near moving vehicle traffic. Responders should always operate within a protected environment at any vehicle-related roadway incident.

Always consider moving vehicles as a threat to your safety. At every vehicle-related emergency scene, personnel are exposed to passing motorists of varying driving abilities. At any time, a motorist may be driving without a legal driver's license. Approaching vehicles may be driven at speeds from a creeping pace to well beyond the posted speed limit. Some of these vehicle operators may be vision impaired, under

the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, or have a medical condition that affects their judgment or abilities. In addition, motorists may be completely oblivious to your presence due to distractions caused by cell phone use, loud music, conversation, inclement weather, and terrain or building obstructions. Approaching motorists will often be looking at the scene and not the roadway in front of them. Assume that all approaching traffic is out to get you until proven otherwise.

Nighttime incidents requiring personnel to work in or near moving traffic are particularly hazardous. Visibility is reduced and driver reaction time to hazards in the roadway is slowed.

- Advance Warning- notification procedures that advise approaching motorists to transition from normal driving status to that required by the temporary emergency traffic control measures ahead of them.
- Block- positioning a fire department apparatus on an angle to the lanes of traffic creating a physical barrier between upstream traffic and the work area. Includes 'block to the right' or 'block to the left'.
- Buffer Zone- the distance or space between personnel and vehicles in the protected work zone and near-by moving traffic.
- Downstream- the direction that traffic is moving as it travels away from the incident scene.
- Flagger- a fire department member assigned to monitor approaching traffic and activate an emergency signal if the actions of a motorist do not conform to established traffic control measures in place at the highway scene
- Shadow- the protected work area at a vehicle-related roadway incident that is shielded by the block from apparatus and other emergency vehicles.
- Taper- the action of merging several lanes of moving traffic into fewer moving lanes.
- Temporary Work Zone- the physical area of a roadway within which emergency personnel perform their fire, EMS and rescue tasks at a vehicle-related incident.

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Training and Safety Division

By **JIMMY DUANE**

Division Chief

Many thanks to all of the crews who in spite of hose testing, hydrant testing and Knox Box surveys, have managed to fit in many hours of training during the month of May. Officers and Field Training Officers have really made a conscious effort documenting the training in Target Safety and shows. Remember to document items such as inspections, hose testing, hydrant testing, pump testing and pre-incident profile each time, as this provides valuable training.

By now, most crews have had the opportunity to attend the "live fire" training at Palm Beach State College. With the recent addition of their new

burn building, Palm Beach Fire Rescue is able to attend training relatively close to the Town limits at a state of the art fire academy. This month's training is focusing on more of a back to basics approach. Crews are able to familiarize themselves with new hose loads, forcible entry techniques and hose management skills, all during a live fire situation. Future training drills and classes are currently being planned with the college.

Next month Fire Rescue will take part in water rescue training. Frank Magigliano is creating a very detailed Power Point presentation for the crews to view, prior to a week of training drills in the water. Working side by side with Ocean Rescue, crews will practice

Firefighter water survival and rescue techniques in the ocean using the equipment carried on the units.

Crews have really stepped up their game with training. The number of probation employees is at their highest level in years with more on the way. Take the opportunity every day to teach them something new and help them grow in the organization. 🔥



Fire Prevention Division

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

Division Chief

In the month of May, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 161 fire prevention inspections with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel.

The month of May was the start of our annual Knox Box inspections for residential properties. While inspecting the resident's Knox Box, utilize this opportunity to provide home fire safety tips

such as grilling safety. Some of the key safety tips would be the following: propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors; grills should be placed at least 5 feet house; keep children and pets at least three away from the grill area; keep your grills clean by removing grease or fat build up from the grills and in trays below the grill; never leave your grill unattended; and always make sure your gas grill is open before lighting it.

Just a friendly reminder, residential Knox Box inspection forms need to be

completed and returned through the Battalion Chiefs to the Division Fire Prevention and Life Safety no later than June 30, 2013. 🔥



Ocean Rescue

By **CRAIG POLLOCK**

Lifeguard Supervisor

Over the month of May Mid-Town Municipal Beach lifeguards had to hoist up Yellow Flags that indicates medium hazard due to moderate surf and Rip Currents on 18 days out of the month, lifeguards flew the Red Flag a total of 3days (a Red Flag indicates High Hazard due to high surf and/ or currents and Green Flags were flown 10 days in the month of May (Green flags indicate calm conditions). Mid-Town Municipal Beach saw large crowds over the Memorial Day weekend, lifeguards stayed busy keeping swimmers safe. Lifeguards performed over 52 preventive actions and had 1 rescue over the weekend. 🏠

Quality Corner: How Do You Get Quality Customer Feedback?

BY JOE HAYES, NREMT-P
CREATED: OCTOBER 26, 2012

Acquiring customer feedback is a valuable management tool for any service-related business. But this is a tough nut to crack. Anyone who's tried getting this feedback by conventional means—typically a survey form—will tell you it's extremely difficult. Restaurants try to bribe customers with discount offers on their next meal or a chance to win prizes, and still do not get an overwhelming number of replies. Generally speaking, unless a customer has had a very unpleasant experience, most people don't have the time, interest or patience to provide any feedback.

Shortly after taking over as quality improvement coordinator at Bucks County Rescue Squad, I searched the Internet for keywords that could help me figure out how to do this new job. One of the first items to come up was customer satisfaction surveys. Aha, this is gold, I thought, pure gold. No one at my agency had probably ever thought to do this before. The very next day I went to see the chief to brainstorm what might be the best questions to ask, confident he'd be impressed with my idea.

"We already tried that about six months ago," he replied. Thud! Another blow to my self-imagined brilliance. "We mailed out 50 surveys," he explained. "Simple things, just five questions, large print, along with self-addressed envelopes," he added. "We got exactly one reply back." Needless to say we can't afford to do any more customer satisfaction surveys.

Every Question Has an Answer, Every Problem Has a Solution

I was a system analyst in my former

life. And the one thing about system analysts is, we may retire, but we never stop analyzing. We're always looking for a better way to do things. I'm a firm believer that every question has an answer and every problem has a solution.

I started to ponder the problem with survey forms. I always declined to take any myself. They were an inconvenience. Likewise, I declined taking any surveys by the people roaming the malls with clipboards. I always felt it was an assault on my time, which was too precious.

Unless there is a burning issue—very good or very bad—the same feelings probably prevail with our patients and their families. So what other ways are there of getting customer feedback? I recalled having been tricked into a telephone survey, most often if they promised up front that there were only three questions or the survey wouldn't take more than a couple minutes. So, for me, the most effective method seemed to be a short telephone survey.

The one advantage we might have in EMS is, unlike a meal at a restaurant, if patients or their families were asked to share their opinions on the heels of an intense personal experience, most would seemingly want to share their thoughts. Additionally, if a survey asked for more open-ended thoughts and opinions, rather than sticking to a rigid framework, it might seem more personal. And I started to think it might just work.

The next day, I put my theory to the test. Lo and behold, I ended up with a nearly 80% response rate. Every individual who picked up the phone cooperated. Most even thanked me for the follow-up. About half of the calls initial-

ly went to voice mail, but most of those people ended up returning my call. I also decided to try a little experiment. For some calls I identified myself as a deputy chief, while on others I introduced myself as the quality coordinator. Not everyone wanted to talk to the quality coordinator, but everyone seemed willing to speak with the deputy chief, probably owing to the more "important" and familiar title. It didn't take long before I always identified myself on the calls as the deputy chief.

Turning Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones

No sooner had I sat down the next evening, basking in the satisfaction of another problem solved, when the definition of our extended customers struck me. Yes, our primary customers are our patients, but there are others we serve and work with as well. It occurred to me that important information on our performance and potential for improvement may be obtainable from these other customers.

I made a quick mental list of our other stakeholders, including police, fire and, of course, the hospital emergency department. As soon as I recognized these entities, I realized the mode of communication which works best for one may not be the most effective for all. While it might be acceptable to call the head of the ER, a fire chief or police commander, it just didn't seem to be the most effective way to get feedback. I realized, while acquiring customer feedback was my primary goal, there was an opportunity to go beyond that,

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Hurricane Preparation and Responsibilities

By BRODIE ATWATER

Assistant Fire Chief

We are currently in the early part of Hurricane season. Policies and Procedures for dealing with on duty Hurricane and storm response are included in the Town of Palm Beach Storm Emergency Response Plan as well as in PBFR Procedure 110.

While many of the current employees of the Department have worked during a major storm, many of the newer personnel may not have been part of this type of an event. The Town and Department procedures spell out very clearly what is required for on duty operations. Listed below are some items of interest that impact personnel on a more individual level:

When a Hurricane Warning condition is declared for the Palm Beach area, the Town Manager or his designee shall make a declaration regarding the closure of Town of Palm Beach Administrative offices. When announced, all Town employees within their respective departments will be instructed to leave their workstations except those with assigned duties in this plan. Following completion of assigned duties to protect Town property, all personnel, except those pre-identified as essential personnel, should leave Town property and seek protective shelter.

Prior to and no later than the notice of a Hurricane Watch, Town personnel are advised to protect their family and personal property. Town personnel may be subject to immediate recall during an emergency as directed by the Town Manager. During the storm only essential personnel with specific duties under this plan may be on Town property.

Department Directors shall update and maintain an employee contact list that includes designation of essential or non-essential status by department and/or storm-related assignment.

All off duty employees are required to call the appropriate telephone number below within eight (8) hours after the hurricane conditions subside to report their status and to receive their work assignments: Fire-Rescue Employees (561) 838-5454

All employees returning to the Town to work assignments must ensure that they have identification to enter through Town checkpoints if implemented post-storm. Human Resources will attempt to contact off duty employees who have not checked in within the first twenty-four hours and determine their status/situation and their ability to report for work. HR will also coordinate relief assistance for Town employees and their families, if necessary.

72 – 48 hrs from potential landfall--Confirm that all town employees are advised to properly prepare their residence and families for a hurricane event and to monitor local news and weather channels for instructions pre-storm. Consider authorizing for all departments to initiate an orderly, scheduled time off for essential personnel, followed by non-essential personnel to finalize their home and family preparations based upon timing and circumstances of the impending storm event.

48-36 hrs from potential landfall --Confirm that on-duty employees are afforded time for residence and family preparations and security actions.

All employees reporting to duty at any time during a Storm Preparation Phase shall ensure that they bring at least three days (72) hours of personal supplies and food. As a suggestion, the following items should be included:

- 3 bath towels
- Sleeping bag/bedding
- Personal flashlight and batteries
- Personal articles for 3 days
- Prescribed medication
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Razor and shaving cream
- Mosquito repellent
- 3 days' supply of food that does not require refrigeration or cooking
- 3 gallons of water
- Other personal hygiene articles

Off-duty or standby personnel who lose phone contact with the department during or after the storm are required to monitor the following radio/television stations for instructions:

- WEAT, 850 AM - 104.3 FM
- WJNO-WRMF, 1040 AM - 97.9 FM
- WIRK, 107.9 FM, WBZT 1290 AM
- WPTV, Channel 5
- WPEC, Channel 12
- WPBF, Channel 25
- WFLX, Channel 29

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Retiree Locator

By **MICHAEL PALMER**

Retiree

1. Your dates of employment

I began working with the department April 1981 and my retirement date was September 11, 2001

2. Positions held

I began as a Firefighter-EMT, received my paramedic credentials in 1982. I was appointed to the position of Community Education Coordinator in 1995.

3. Your most memorable experiences

Social interaction with my colleagues, attending the National Fire Academy

4. Favorite food

Wow! My palate has certainly experienced a diverse variety of cuisine. Now, in culinary school, I find my knowledge base and affiliation for food growing exponentially. With that said-give me pizza and a beer any day of the week.

5. What are you doing now?

I am attending Miami-Dade College where I am pursuing a degree in Culinary Arts. Yes, another degree and quite the departure from the degrees in business or my desire to attend law school although I was accepted to law school and did indeed sit through orientation before coming to my senses. I do find the academic endeavor quite rewarding and perhaps when I complete I will find a way to employ the skill-sets, or not.

6. Your greatest advice for any Palm Beach firefighter today

My most formidable challenge faced while with the town was coming to terms with the eventual loss of employ-

ment due to my visual impairment. I possessed no skill-sets, academic or occupational that would afford me a competitive advantage in the job market. Nor were there individuals within the organization that might provide insight on preparing academically for life after the fire department. I would suggest to you that few if any of my colleagues-early in my career possessed academic degrees. I was forty-one years of age when I separated from the town yet fortunately I would find gainful employment despite lacking academic credentials. Eventually I did acquire an under-graduate degree along with a graduate degree-sadly at my own expense.

So for the moment, let me be the colleague that provides a pearl of wisdom. I can't stress enough the importance of pursuing an under-graduate degree and the acquisition of skill-sets that makes one marketable and competitive-outside the fire service industry. The competitive dynamics inherent to today's job marketplace makes the possession of an under-graduate degree an absolute necessity. I believe the lack of a degree is the big disqualifier. Yes there are considerable investments yet the return on investment is greater in value as it prepares you in the event-however unlikely you believe it to be, to face the uncertainties of an early separation. The academic experiences afford one the opportunity to rediscover an identity-to retool for a new life's work.

With tuition reimbursement a part of the firefighter compensation plan, it makes good sense financially to pursue a degree while employed. Despite the challenges of a fire department work schedule and it's inherent potential for

scheduling conflicts, an under-graduate degree is achievable. Efficient time management, well-defined study skill-sets (which will come in time) and a desire to succeed are all you need. Good luck.

7. Your greatest advice for any retiree

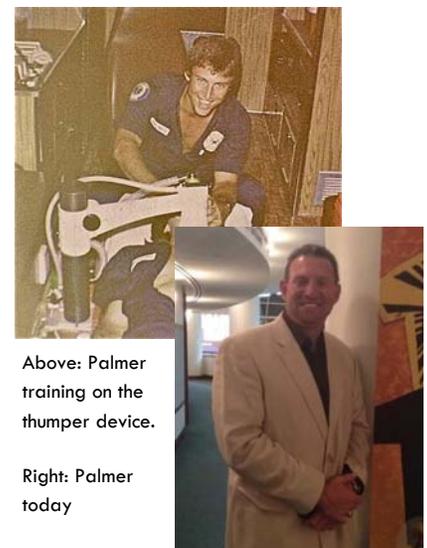
Eat healthy when you can. Fill your days with worthwhile activities. Nap whenever you want. Walk. Give of your time but remember your time has value. Go to Europe. I want to go to China-any takers?

8. Where are you now?

I am living and playing in downtown Miami. Come Visit! 🍷



Wade Snyder, Michael Palmer, Roy Griffin. Early 80's



Above: Palmer training on the thumper device.

Right: Palmer today

B/C Message

from page 3

- Transition Zone- the lanes of a roadway within which approaching motorists change their speed and position to comply with the traffic control measures established at an incident scene.
- Upstream- the direction that traffic is traveling from as the vehicles approach the incident scene.

All emergency personnel are at great risk of injury or death while operating in or near moving traffic. There are several specific tactical procedures that should be taken to protect all crewmembers and emergency service personnel at the incident scene including;

- Never trust approaching traffic
- Avoid turning your back to approaching traffic
- Establish an initial “block” with the first arriving emergency vehicle or fire apparatus
- Always wear Class III high visibility reflective vests during daylight operations
- Always wear structural firefighting helmet
- Wear full protective clothing plus the highway safety vest at all vehicle-related emergencies between the hours of dusk and dawn or whenever lighting levels are reduced due to inclement weather conditions
- Turn off all sources of vision impairment to approaching motorists at nighttime incidents including vehicle headlights and spotlights
- Use fire apparatus and police vehicles to initially redirect the flow of moving traffic
- Establish advance warning and adequate transition area traffic control measures upstream of incident to reduce travel speeds of approaching motorists
- Use traffic cones and/or cones illuminated by flares where appropriate for sustained highway incident traffic control and direction
- Establish a fire department member assigned to the “Flagger” function to monitor approaching traffic and activate an emergency signal if the actions of a motorist do not conform to established traffic control measures in place at the highway scene

Below is a recent article related to highway safety, be safe!!

Monday, May 27, 2013 A fatal crash and car fire on I- 95 in Delray Beach turned into a major problem early yesterday after at least four subsequent crashes took place, including one involving an emergency vehicle. Fortunately, no Firefighters were injured. It started after a 20-year-old un-seat belted man was ejected from his car and killed when he ran into the rear of a tractor trailer on the interstate, one mile south of Woolbright Road.

Several more crashes occurred after emergency vehicles arrived to fight the car fire. With several lanes blocked by fire, rescue and cops, a second crash took place on I-95 south of the first scene. After more units arrived and blocked even more lanes, a vehicle skidded into the emergency scene and collided with a rescue ambulance....crew members were working in the area and avoided being hit by only a few feet and then a fourth crash occurred when another car was rear-ended. The ambulance struck by a passing car was later taken out of service because some compartments in the rescue vehicle were dented and could not be opened. 🔥

Quality Customer Feedback

from page 5

strengthening these important relationships with face-to-face meetings.

Those meetings proved to be one of the best things the chief and I have ever done. Just stopping by to ask how things were going—in general, and with our EMS crews, in particular—was met with instant appreciation. The greatest benefits were opening new lines of communication and fostering personal relationships. It didn't take long to see how, despite working with these agencies regularly, we hadn't ever really communicated. And after we made a frequent practice of these meet and greets, any time a problem did arise, as will from time to time, instead of sulking in silence and letting discontent fester, we were able to resolve the issue quickly with a cordial phone call. This small effort paid other dividends as well. We were asked to provide CPR and first responder training to the fire department, and we were subsequently invited to form a tactical EMS team to support our local police department.

Conclusion

It's difficult to take a one-size-fits-all approach to quality improvement. What works for quality control in manufacturing and the restaurant industry may not work in EMS. Thinking outside the box is worth its weight in gold, no matter your profession. A personal telephone call to a recent patient or their family is more time consuming than typing up a standard survey form and bulk mailing it out, but the return on investment is also much better. Likewise, in this age of voicemail, e-mail, Twitter and Facebook, personal relationships may still be the most effective way to improve interagency relationships, resolve problems and get things done.

Joe Hayes, NREMT-P, is deputy chief of the Bucks County Rescue Squad in Bristol, PA, and a staff medic at Central Bucks Ambulance in Doylestown. He is the quality improvement coordinator for both of these midsize third-service agencies in northeastern Pennsylvania. He has 30 years' experience in EMS.

EMS Division

By BRIAN FULLER

Division Chief

During the month of May the capabilities of the departments basic and advanced airway therapies were improved to the latest technology. The King vision portable video laryngoscope system has been a long awaited technological advancement and its simple to use. This device was successfully used in just the first few days and has improved our endotracheal intubation abilities. Furthermore, the Laryngeal Mask Airway devices were removed and replaced with the King LTS-D supraglottic oropharynx ventilation tubes. Both of these devices are a welcomed addition to our respiratory ventilation tools.

We took this opportunity to also change the respiratory kit and rolled

out a new, larger red bag that will accommodate the Autovent 4000, and the new respiratory ventilation tubes in a more organized and efficient manner.

We are continuing to experience a medication shortage. We have been unable to acquire D50 (Dextrose) for the treatment of diabetic emergencies and are using glucagon. We have received authorization to alter the protocol to read; (official bulletin to follow)

IF BLOOD GLUCOSE IS <60 mg/dl

- D50 25g IV/IO, retest glucose after 10 minutes, if patient remains <60 mm/dl administer 12.5g of D50

If D50 is unavailable

- Administer D5W/D10, 250 cc bolus

- Administer 1mg GLUCAGON IVP, retest BS is 20 minutes, if still low repeat x1

We believe that this treatment will be effective since we are administering a fluid with 12.5 Grams of Dextrose (D5W) and giving Glucagon IVP instead of IM or via the MAD device. Realize that Glucagon acts on the Liver so that it converts stored glycogen into "glucose" and releases it into the bloodstream to increase sugar levels in the body. 🦋

Photo Gallery / News and Notables



Jimmy Duane, Jody Sronce, Michael Marx, James Weber
Darrel Donatto
National Society, Sons of the American Revolution Awards



Brian Fuller, James Weber, Michael Marx, Darrel Donatto
Palm Beach County EMS Providers Association Awards
James Weber received the Paramedic of the Year
Michael Marx was also nominated and honored.



Palm Beach Firefighters, friends, and family participated in the
Eric Patrie 5k benefit run May 18, 2013



**Congratulations to Alejandro and Karen
Mahy**

Emily Marie Mahy was born on

May 14 , 2013

Welcome Our New Employee

My name is Phil Jones. I am 26 years old and I was born and raised in Deerfield Beach FL. Shortly after high school I attended Coral Springs Fire Academy and EMS Academy to become a Firefighter/Paramedic. Once certified in 2006 I began to volunteer at Key Largo Fire Rescue where I was hired as a career Firefighter/EMT. In my spare time I enjoy fishing, diving, boating, working out, hanging out with my family (parents and brother) and watching sports with my friends. On June 3rd I was hired by the Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department where I'm excited to pursue my future as a Firefighter/Paramedic.



Hurricane

from page 6

36- 24 hrs prior to anticipated land fall

At the discretion of the Deputy Fire Rescue Chief, on-duty employees may be allowed the opportunity to return home to secure their property and families. This will be done when departmental storm preparedness responsibilities have been sufficiently taken care of and time exists for the safe return of employees to duty. Nonessential personnel may be allowed to return home but are subject to recall after the storm.

The Assistant Fire Chief will designate an individual to coordinate assistance that may be needed by employees and/or their families during a storm event. The person designated will be responsible for the following actions:

- a. Coordinate a response to the residence of each department member working after a storm if contact cannot be made due to storm damage of power lines and/or telephone access.
- b. Provide ice or other supplies, if available, to family members as necessary while department members are working.

c. Attempt to address employees and/or families of employees who have any special needs be taken care of after a storm event when the employee is working and cannot leave to take care of them, or when specific services are closed or are otherwise unavailable.

Employees should be aware of all of the information above so that they are not only prepared to provide service to the Town during a major storm event, but they are also able to properly prepare themselves and their family for any storm related situation. ■



Administer Uninterrupted Chest Compression

American Academy of Emergency Medicine > [Modern Resident](#)
Shock -- Administered Uninterrupted Chest Compressions

Meaghan Mercer
May 20, 2013

It is important to revisit and challenge dogma in medicine. When you think of defibrillation you hear the word "CLEAR" and know your primary job in that one instant is to make sure that none of the medical professionals participating in that code situation are at risk of receiving a life threatening shock. However, with the advent of gel adhesive pads is it still dangerous?

When clearing the patient for defibrillation, this causes an interruption in chest compressions causing the central perfusion pressure (CPP) to drop, and it can take more than one minute of good-

quality chest compressions to restore them to pre-pause levels. CPP has been found to be the best single predictor of ROSC, with values less than 15mmHg predicting a failure. Therefore, we are greatly increasing the morbidity and mortality of our patients with each second off the chest. *Circulation* published the article "Hands-On Defibrillation, An Analysis of Electrical Current Flow Through Rescuers in Direct Contact with Patients During Biphasic External Defibrillation," in which they investigate the amount of leakage voltage and current to a rescuer receives during defibrillation. They found that the current measured in the rescuer's body ranged from 19 to 907 μ A. In most cases, the leakage current measured below recommended safety standards and none of the rescuers felt a shock.

The emergence of pregelled self-adhesive pads has greatly decreased the risk of current transmission due to

contained gel, reliable pad placement, and decreased operator error. Risk is heightened if the rescuer is in contact with a highly conductive material such as fluids including sweat, gel, or other bodily fluids; however, this can be minimized by placing a dry towel or blanket between the patient and rescuer. Also, the investigators in the study wore gloves, which provide insulation against electrical current.

Hands-off defibrillation should still be practiced if hand-held paddle electrodes are being used or if there is a highly conductive substance between the provider and patient. More research needs to be done but it is on the horizon and could alter the way we do CPR in the future. The phrase "I'm clear, you're clear, we are all clear" may soon be a memory.

MAY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS		JUNE BIRTHDAYS:	
Training Hours		Frank Mavigliano	06/05
A Shift	343	Mark Hassell	06/06
B Shift	549	Michael Curcio	06/10
C Shift	350	Michael Hays	06/17
Total	1242	Mario Reyes	06/20
Fire Prevention Inspections	161	JUNE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:	
Ocean Rescue Visitors	25,335	Mark Hassell	06/09/84 29 years
Town Ordinance Enforcements	262	Brad Kliphouse	06/21/99 14 years
Preventative Actions	197	Willie Bonfante	06/17/02 11 years
Man-O-War stings		Ryan Zabovnik	06/25/02 11 years
Rescues	1	Christopher Seay	06/07/11 2 years
FIRE and EMS		COMMENDATIONS	
FIRE Calls	76	Jody Sronce	Safety Commendation
EMS Calls	131	Michael Marx	Safety Commendation
Transports to Hospital	95	Michael Marx (nominee)	Paramedic of the Year
		James Weber	Safety Commendation
		James Weber	Paramedic of the Year
		EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2013:	
		January Stephanie Mavigliano	July
		February Jody Sronce	August
		March James Weber	September
		April Roger Bassett	October
		May Joe Sekula	November

Employee of the Month—Joe Sekula

The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen Lieutenant Joe Sekula as Employee of the Month for May 2013.



Lieutenant Sekula has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for the past 10 years, promoting to the rank of Lieutenant in 2010. He is currently assigned to the Central Fire Rescue Station on “B” shift, Truck/Rescue 1. Joe is a past recipient of the Employee of the Month for May of 2009, recognized for his consistent above and beyond work performance. Joe is well respected by his peers and supervisors for his hard work and enthusiastic attitude. His Battalion Chief describes him “as a very detail oriented person and see’s things through to completion”.

Lieutenant Sekula, with the assistance of Lieutenant Cuomo, spent several hours planning, preparing and conducting Rapid Intervention Crew and SCBA Confidence training in West Palm Beach. The crews were able to gain greater confidence with necessary skills to operate their SCBA in zero visibility and increase their knowledge of RIC operations. The valuable hands on exercises provided helped to make the emergency scene safer for all those responding.

Lieutenant Sekula’s impeccable customer service skills have afforded him numerous letters of appreciation from the residents of our community, stating how professional he is; providing an exceptional level of service. His passion for developing future Officers has helped to grow new Step-Up Lieutenants. Joe spent several months training and mentoring Mike Messner and Brian Matzen, preparing them well for the future. During their training period, Joe prepared the individuals to the extent that they had a good understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the position. Lieutenant Sekula wrote the script that assisted the Officers when speaking to the public about the AED initiatives. In the immediate months following, he has been successful with contacting several residents and businesses, completing their AED registrations.

Besides the many programs and projects Lieutenant Sekula has volunteered for and completed, training has been a large priority in his daily shift schedule. Joe recently completed his Associates Degree in EMS Management and is currently working on starting the Bachelor program in Fire Science. We highly commend Lieutenant Sekula for his excellent work and commitment to training. Lieutenant Sekula is a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the Department’s recipient for the May 2013 Employee of the Month Award.