

# The All Hands

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

March 2013

Volume 1, Issue 3



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## Taking Responsibility for your Life

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

Recently, I just finished listening to a podcast series by Andy Stanley on "Taking Responsibility for your Life" and it got me thinking about how applicable much of what was said is to us here as an organization. In ideal world – everyone would be responsible; that is, everyone would do what they are supposed to do the way they are supposed to do it or the way that it should be done. And, where everyone takes responsibility for their responsibilities – you don't need a lot of rules. However, that is not always the case. What is not always so apparent to others is – when someone is irresponsible – that is they don't do what they are supposed to do – then someone else has to do it for them, in one way or an-

other. Irresponsibility is not an individual problem – it is a community or organizational problem. Think about it – if someone doesn't take the garbage out – then it becomes someone else's responsibility. I truly desire that, as an organization, we can work together to make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. The more responsible people are – the less other people will have to take on their responsibility for them and the fewer rules will be needed. I think back to many years ago, as a Driver Engineer, I was the person responsible for the vehicle I was assigned to. I felt the weight of that responsibility and I took my responsibilities seriously. If a bolt or screw was loose, I tightened it. If a bulb was out, I replaced it. If a bracket was rusty, I took it off, sanded it down, and painted it – before replacing it.

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## Emergency Medical Services Division

By **BRIAN FULLER**

Division Chief

On February 5 of 2013, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County proclaimed the second Saturday of every February as CPR day. Recognizing the significance of this event and the amount of people who are killed by Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) each year, Palm Beach Fire Rescue opened its doors and hearts to save lives. In cooperation with the Palm Beach Civic Association, who's mission is to improve

life in Palm Beach, 58 persons were given instructions on "Hands only CPR" and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator. A big thanks to Lieutenant Joe Sekula, Lieutenant Mark Bradshaw, Driver Engineer/PIO James Weber, and the on-duty crews that day for their cooperation and teamwork to make this inaugural event a huge success. We sincerely appreciate the generosity and support of the Palm Beach Civic Association, and The Greater South County Road Association in helping

to advertise the event and promote the town-wide life saving initiative. As Mr. Michael Stein, a town resident, and Co-chair of the Palm Beach Civic Association Health Care Committee stated, "The heart saved could be your own". It is people like Mr. Stein, and the personnel at Palm Beach Fire Rescue that are changing people's lives each day. Please don't miss CPR day on February 8, of 2014. ♥

## Fleet Maintenance

By **BRODIE ATWATER**

Assistant Chief

Palm Beach Fire Rescue currently operates 12 vehicles that serve as front line or backup Emergency Fire-Rescue Apparatus. The fleet consists of 4 Fire Engines, 2 Aerial Ladder Trucks, 5 Rescue Ambulances and 1 Special Operations Vehicle.

For approximately one year now, all apparatus repair and maintenance has been conducted by the Palm Beach County Vehicle Maintenance shop through an inter-local agreement.

Initially, Palm Beach County provided service and repairs for Palm Beach Fire Rescue fire apparatus on an as needed and emergency basis after the resignation of the department's Master Mechanic in October 2011.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue maintains a large fleet maintenance facility in the Vista Corporate Park,

located just west of the Florida Turnpike, north of Okeechobee Boulevard. The County also staffs mobile service vehicles 24 hours a day which can perform routine maintenance and emergency repairs on site at each of our fire stations or at the scene of an emergency if needed. All maintenance and repair operations are based on NFPA standards, manufacturer's specifications and industry best practices service levels for maintenance of apparatus. The City of West Palm Beach also entered into a similar agreement with Palm Beach County for fleet maintenance in FY08.

The inter-local agreement with Palm Beach County Fleet Maintenance has greatly improved the maintenance and response readiness of all Department apparatus. Through their extensive preventative maintenance program, our units have received required service and maintenance on a regularly scheduled basis. This level of service was not possible under the previous, in house,

vehicle maintenance program. With their mobile technicians, the County has quickly and effectively responded to any request for service and has addressed every issue presented. For more extensive repairs and scheduled maintenance, units have been taken to the state of the art county facility where they are worked on by highly experienced technicians. The County has also saved the Department money by determining if required repairs are covered under apparatus warranties.

Requests for repairs should be entered via the Track It system unless they are of an emergency nature. This information is then forwarded to the County by the Assistant Chief and repairs are scheduled. For emergency repair requests after hours, the Battalion Chief will contact the on duty Field Operations Officer and he will coordinate the response of a mobile technician. 🔥

## Response Time

By **PETE CODISPOTI**

Battalion Chief

NFPA 1710 recommends that we have turn out times of 60 seconds or less for EMS, and 80 seconds or less for Fire. As we know this can be a challenge, and how we prepare ourselves for this is equally important. We constantly hone our fire and medical skills, but what do we do to improve our turn out times? Here are a few suggestions and examples of procedures Lieutenants may implement to improve results:

**BE READY.** Be sure your crew has their radios on them. Radios should be

on your person and/or in your immediate reach. (not on the hook outside the kitchen). Be sure your crew is in their proper uniform or has their uniform items readily accessible to wear, for example, having your jumpsuit on hand when working out in gym area or when in the shower.

**USE THE MDT.** Be sure the MDT is online and ready. Remember to hit F8 dispatch and then F1 en-route. Do this before you announce over the air, as this will eliminate the possible time delay of dispatch entering it in for you.

**WORK AS A TEAM.** Lieutenants

should lead by example. The Rescue and Engine crews should support one another. Whichever crew is ready to go first, should be expedited. The fastest en-route time will be used on the call.

**KEEP TRACK.** Crews should keep track of their turn out times. Inconsistencies or errors in recording should be corrected right away.

**MAKE IT FUN!** Lieutenants can keep their crews motivated by coming up with incentives. Last one to the truck...buys dessert. 🔥

## Two Hands, Two Tools

By **MICHAEL N. CIAMPO**  
fireengineering.com

Sizing up the building's rear with a halligan tool on a fire alarm call, the truck firefighters noticed water running out the back door. During door size-up, they could see hinges, indicating that it was an outward-opening door. A firefighter quickly inserted the halligan tool's adz end into the gap between the door and the frame. Having nothing to strike the tool with to set it deeper into the gap, the firefighter used his hand to hit it. When flesh hit metal, pain instantly shot through the firefighter's palm and wrist. Sound familiar?

In numerous truck company operations classes, it is drilled into students' heads that when you get off the truck you'd better have a tool with you. Many departments still preach this creed and abide by it today, while other departments have standardized riding positions and tools assignments. For example, firefighters assigned to the "irons" position normally carry a halligan tool, an ax or a maul, and possibly a hydraulic forcible entry tool.

So what happens when firefighters aren't assigned to the forcible entry position? Many firefighters carry only one tool, whether it's a favorite hand tool or a hook. The problem with carrying only one tool is that you are limited to the things you can accomplish with that tool or to the areas in which you will be able to work with that tool. How many times have you tried to overhaul in a tight space such as a closet with a six-foot hook?

The hook's length often makes this a difficult and impractical operation to perform.

Many of you have been taught that if one firefighter brings one type of tool, then you should bring a tool that complements that tool. So does that mean if one firefighter brings a halligan, you should bring an ax? What happens when you get inside and need to open the ceiling and its height is more than eight feet and difficult to reach with either the halligan or the ax? Probably someone is going to make a trip back to the apparatus to retrieve what you need or, if you're lucky, you can use the radio and have the chauffeur bring another tool. (Of course, that's if the chauffeur is not tied up with other duties.)

Perhaps it's time for firefighters to adopt a new rule or philosophy: "Two Hands, Two Tools." When you are assigned a riding position on the truck company apparatus, make sure you are carrying a tool in each hand. If the irons firefighter is carrying a set of forcible entry tools, the other firefighter should step off the apparatus with a proper size hook (depending on the type, size, and characteristics of the structure) and another hand tool. That tool can be a halligan, an ax, a multipurpose tool, a demolition bar, or any other hand tool that is part of your arsenal.

If someone takes a hook, you at least know that he can open the ceiling or push it down from the roof. In addition, if the hook is too long to fit into an area, the firefighter can quickly

revert to using the smaller hand tool to accomplish the same task without delay. There are a few rules to follow when operating with two tools.

First, if you're using your hook to open up a ceiling or a wall, don't lay your hand tool down on the bed or floor. Place it into the wall so that you don't lose it among the debris. If you're removing the baseboard molding with the hand tool, hang the hook into the wall or onto the door or its hinges or even in a closet. Don't lean it up against the wall; it most likely will slide down or someone will knock into it and it can hit you or another firefighter.

Second, if you are assigned two tools, bring them on all types of runs including gas leaks, elevator extrications, and water leaks, to name a few. In older buildings, leaking water could have been rotting the floor beams for years. When opening the ceiling over the tub for water removal, that's part of salvage work. The firefighter should stand in the doorframe for safety, using the hook's reach. This is also true at fires: Many old cast-iron tubs may be set in concrete; if the floor joists are compromised, a collapse potential exists.

One of the tricks of the trade of carrying a hook and halligan is that they create another set of impromptu irons. Turn the hook upside down with its head pointed or resting on the ground. Then place your boot on the hook's head, exerting downward pressure. Next, pivot the hook on the ground and force it into the halligan,

striking it and driving it into position. You can use various types of hooks to accomplish this. Remember, it works a lot better than using your hand! Carrying two tools with two hands is not meant to increase a firefighter's workload; the idea is for firefighters to be able to handle a multitude of tasks—and, of course, carry a flashlight.

**MICHAEL N. CIAMPO** is a 23-year veteran of the fire service and a lieutenant in the Fire Department of New York. Previously, he served with the District of Columbia Fire Department. He has a bachelor's degree in fire science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. He is the lead instructor for the FDIC Portable Ladder H.O.T. program and an editorial advisory board member of *Fire Engineering*. He wrote the Portable Ladder chapter and co-authored the Ventilation chapter for *Fire Engineering's Handbook for Firefighter I and II* (Fire Engineering, 2009) and is featured in "Training Minutes" truck company videos on [www.FireEngineering.com](http://www.FireEngineering.com).

## Fire Administration Update

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

Sometimes you think things can't possibly get any busier, and then somehow they do. We are currently working on our Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. As everyone is well aware, the potential closure of the Flagler Memorial Bridge is of significant concern to the Town, its residents, as well as us as the provider of Fire and EMS services to the Town. We have developed a comprehensive Bridge Disruption Plan that we are prepared to implement immediately if needed. We are working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation to implement a traffic preemption system that would give priority to our emergency vehicles when they approach an intersection on an emergency response of emergency transport. We are also working on implementing new technology that would provide access to camera views of key intersection from our emergency vehicles.

In addition, we are improving the functionality of the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system within our apparatus with the intent of moving to a closest unit response system for dispatching units. Chief Fuller has been working with the Health Care District to expand our access to the TraumaHawk for transport of serious patients off of the Island. Chief Duane has been working to secure additional landing sites. While we are striving to develop a great plan, it is truly the exceptional skill and services of our people that will make our residents the safest. At a recent meeting on the bridge, it was said that the safest place to be when you are having a medical emergency is in the back of a Palm Beach Fire Rescue ambulance. That was a very well deserved and very true compliment. We will continue to do our part by developing plans and allocating the needed resources, and we thank you doing your part to provide great service. 🔥

## Welcome Our New Fire-Rescue Team Members

We are proud to welcome Rebekah Gray as our newest addition to Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Currently a Drill Sergeant in the Army Reserves, Rebekah is a combat veteran with over 12 years of service. She earned her AS degree in Emergency Medical Services from Kieser Career College in May 2012 and completed Fire school at Broward Fire Academy where she finished as the top student. We are confident that Rebekah will be a great asset to this community.



Rebekah Gray

Jeffrey Wunsch served his country proudly for over 3 years in the United States Army. He was a member of prestigious 101st

Airborne Division and deployed to Baghdad Iraq in 2006. There, he was hand selected by his company commanding officer to serve as his personal turret gunner, as well as going on numerous combat missions in the efforts of supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since his separation from the military Jeffrey has graduated from Palm Beach State Colleges EMT and Paramedic program, as well as graduating from Coral Springs Fire Academy, where he was named class achievement award winner. Jeffrey brings courage, honor and integrity with him to the Town of Palm Beach Fire Department. 🔥



Jeffrey Wunsch

## Taking Responsibility for your Life

*Continued from page 1*

That truck was my responsibility for the 24 hours that I was assigned to it. If I didn't do those things – someone else would have to. My responsibilities didn't just go away – someone had to do them, and for my shift that someone was me. If I didn't do them, and the

next person didn't do them, eventually someone came along and wrote a rule saying, in way to many words, what had to be done and just how it had to be done.

Together we can make this organization better. We all just need to step

up and be responsible for our responsibilities and to recognize that as we collectively work to make the organization better – our personal situation within the organization will likely get better. 🔥

## Training and Safety Division

**BY JIM DUANE**

Division Chief

Thanks for listening! Training hours for the month of February dramatically increased from the previous month as a result of proper documentation. There is no doubt that training occurs every day, therefore, it is extremely important to document your efforts. Each month units perform company inspections and Pre-incident profiles on our local businesses. This type of activity is considered training and can be documented under the "Building Familiarization" category in the "Training" tab.

The month of April is filling up fast with training. Dawn Bean will be teaching ECG training with a larger emphasis on hands on training combined with a small lecture. Palm Beach State College has been contracted for our annual Hazardous Material training. Each session will be (7) hours long with a brief lecture, followed by scenario based training. Finally, The National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer class is

being held April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a mandatory class for promotion to Lieutenant and is very difficult to find. Palm Beach is fortunate to host such a class, which is free through Federal grant funding. There is still room in the class; everyone is encouraged to sign up fast. Probationary personal are also approved to attend.

Everyone by now has met our newest members of Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Jeff Wunsch and Rebekah Gray completed their (2) week orientation and have begun shift work. Both Candidates are assigned to the South Fire Station on "A" shift and "C" shift respectively.

I touched briefly last month on the importance of training as if you were on the real call. Repetition is something that can develop good habits, as well as bad. Every time you get off the rig at the emergency scene, the same thing should always occur. Personnel should be wearing full turnout gear and SCBA when there is a potential of entering an IDLH setting. General fire alarms are

statistically false in nature, however, never let your guard down and be prepared. If you're going to wear your PPE, wear it all, including your SCBA. If you're not properly dressed, the success of the scene is hampered as well as the safety of you and the members operating on the scene.

Your personal tools and the tools you carry off the rig are equally important. Every person leaving the unit should have at least (1) tool in their hand at a minimum, though (2) tools are preferred. Whether you carry the irons, a hook or a hydra ram, being prepared for the worst will save your life. Calls in high rise buildings will require each person to carry several tools due to the distance you may have to travel before getting to the actual emergency. Both hose packs should be carried in on every incident unless the information received dictates otherwise. The bottom line is to prepare for the worst so you can perform at your best. 🔥

## Retiree Locator

This month we feature Wayne Lindros who retired from Palm Beach Fire Rescue in January of 2007. Wayne was hired in September of 1980 and held the positions of Firefighter/Paramedic, Lieutenant/Paramedic, and Captain/Paramedic. Wayne stated, "I skipped Driver Engineer because back in the early 80's Paramedics could not be Drivers and me as Chief scared too many people". His most memorable experience was meeting his wife Suzanne, (retired Palm Beach Fire Rescue Lieutenant Paramedic) of course and the camaraderie and friendship of working in a "team" environment with those who understood what that meant and applied it not only to work but to life.

Wayne is traveling with Suzanne and enjoys being PopPop to Joseph and Jessie. He is relishing retirement and his second career... Flying and managing corporate aircraft as the Director of Operations for Strategic Moves LLC, an international aircraft management company with clients in the US, Canada, and Russia.

Wayne says his best advice for a Palm Beach Fire Rescue employee today is to "invest in the future, be it education, financial, or career planning, but don't be too rigid. And most important, have alternate plans and question everything". For retirees he says, "You succeeded in completing a career. Don't look back. Get out and enjoy it!!! Wayne and Suzanne call Denver, NC home but say "who knows where we will land next".

*If you would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please contact Stephanie at [smavigliano@townofpalmbeach.com](mailto:smavigliano@townofpalmbeach.com)*



Wayne and Suzanne  
glacier trekking in Alaska

## Sincere Thanks

By **ROGER AND CINDY LANE**

Good day fellow Palm Beach Fire Rescue members,

Cindy and I would like to thank each of you for your kindness and hospitality that you showed us at the South Station Awards Ceremony October 21<sup>st</sup>. It was awesome to see each of you and only brought back great memories of serving with you during my years in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization.

I have always been amazed at the dedication and devotion that our personnel consistently displayed. It was good to hear and see the "above and beyond" service that you continue to provide to the citizens and visitors in the Town of Palm Beach.

I am personally humbled and honored to be part of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Training Tower. I was only a "spoke in the wheel" and a "servant." The Palm Beach Fire Rescue agency is full of many

talented members who are the "backbone" and "strength" of the organization. I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to serve beside each of you. I look forward to seeing all of you again in the future. I hope that each of you and your families have a prosperous and safe 2013 year. Remember, "Every day is a training day."



## Ocean Rescue Division

By **CRAIG POLLOCK**

Lifeguard Supervisor

Over the month of February Mid-Town Municipal Beach was able to maintain the amount of sand build up along its shoreline, resulting in a nice wide beach. On February 24, 2013 lifeguards had to close Mid-Town Beach for four hours due to a school of sharks in the area. It suffices to say that the

annual shark migration has reached the Palm Beach area. During this time if sharks are in the area lifeguards will hoist up double red flags that indicate the water is closed for swimming, lifeguards will also write on beach condition boards NO SWIMMING. The annual shark migration could be around thru the month of March. Please check with lifeguards if you intend on swimming in the next few weeks. 🚫

## Awards Ceremony

Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> was the first of many more to come for Palm Beach Fire Rescue. On this day, Palm Beach Fire Rescue was



DC Donatto, AC Atwater, LT Marx, Chief Blouin

proud to recognize over 30 individuals for their acts of kindness, customer service, life saves and heroism; also recognizing past recipients who were nominated for employee of the month for their continuous and consistent efforts they have provided.

Retired Division Chief Roger Lane and his Wife Cindy arrived from River Ranch to help celebrate the day with all

of his former co-workers and friends. To his surprise, he also would be honored for his dedication to training which has provided lasting changes to our organization and the methods for which we document and provide such training. Driver Engineer Stuart Grimes played an integral part in the purchase of the Mobile Training Tower. His grant writing skills provided the necessary documentation to purchase the tower at a minimal cost to the Town. Every time the tower is raised, the signs that bare their names will remind us of the efforts that both Roger and Stuart gave to help further develop training in our department. As the past recipient of Firefighter of the Year for 2011, Division Chief Roger Lane was given the honors to pass on such a prestigious award to the 2012 Firefighter of the Year, Lieutenant

Mike Marx. Chief Lane described Lieutenant Marx best when he stated that Mike is "constantly looking at ways to help the organization, his love and commitment to the job have never waned, he is selfless and gives the highest level of care possible".

The common theme to every award issued was the result of excellent customer service that we provide each and every day to the citizens and visitors of the Town of Palm Beach. Each and every one of us should be proud of what our friends and co-workers have accomplished. A special thanks to everyone who attended and were able to enjoy the morning with their family. This was a great opportunity to come together and celebrate the many accomplishments of our members. 🙏

## How to Learn to Take Responsibility

BY DANIEL ADETUNJI

MOTIVATIONALMEMO.COM

Responsibility is the ability to respond and act accordingly. You must understand that leadership is responsibility. Often times, most folks want to attain a high position in their job or life, but they are not ready to take the responsibility that comes with it. Promotion comes with responsibility. If you don't want to pay the price that comes with promotion, then don't dream to be promoted.

"Ability" in the above context does not refer to authority or energy. Ok, let me explain so you understand what I'm saying. Let's say you come into your room or office and you notice a painting that was supposed to be hanging on the wall slumped; take immediate action to reposition it rightly. If you walk away ignoring the dissonance, it means you're not showing any sign of responsibility. If you have this "I don't care" attitude, stop it because it won't take you anywhere. Don't delay your promotion with your lackadaisical attitude. Put it off. Embrace humility. Take up responsibilities. I mean, take up responsibilities even when you're not asked to.

### The Ability To See & Act

Taking responsibility is much more than leadership— it means seeing what things to be done and responding accordingly. It's like coming to a place where you're supposed to have a meeting, and all the chairs; instead of being arranged; are scattered; don't ignore them. Arrange the chairs. Don't wait for someone else to do it. That's taking responsibility. By doing so, you're bringing a success ingredient into your character.

I laugh sometimes when people say

things like" My dream is to become the CEO of so and so company; I want to become the president in the next five years". It's not impossible to become a president or the CEO of a highly reputable firm; but the question is, are you willing to take up the responsibility that comes with it? Are you willing to take up the leadership mantle? Someone else might say "Oh, I didn't notice the chairs were not arranged; that is why I didn't do anything". That's why it's called "responsibility"; The ability to see and act. Some people don't see; therefore they don't act. (That's the meaning of irresponsibility. The inability to see and act).

### Your Responsibility List

Here is the list of things to keep in mind to start taking responsibility.

- Get rid of fear. Let go of irrational beliefs
  - Release insecurity, blame, and anger.
  - Don't be scared to take some risks. The best guys you know today are risk takers.
  - Be prepared to change and grow your life.
  - Use positive affirmations. This is very important.
  - You can't do it all yourself! Get help from others.
  - Be open to new ideas
- Don't blame anyone. Accept that you're responsible for your life and the choices you make.

### Reach Out To Meet Needs

You can never become prosperous if you're self centered and greedy. Victory, success, long life, wisdom, and prosperity will only come to you if you recognize a human need and reach out to meet that need. Look at Bill gates and Larry Page for example. These guys are ordinary beings like you and I. They

don't have four legs or four hands; neither do they came from *planet Jupiter*. They have achieved so much because they recognized the needs of people and did all they could to meet it. Being responsible has nothing to do with age; it comes with maturity. Maturity is responsibility.

To become mature is to become responsible; it is to volunteer to get the job done even when you are not paid. It is to go the extra mile to meet the needs of people. This is what distinguishes you as a leader. Some people think leadership is about bossing around and giving instructions. It's taking responsibility. Leadership is the assumption of guidance, responsibility, higher intelligence, and superior knowledge. It means being in service to your creator (God), to your fellow man, and to the society. A leader is one who has the ability to respond and meet the needs of his followers.

### Your Turn

Do all you can today to become responsible to your organization, house of God, and to your society. The world needs responsible people. You're an agent of change. The world is waiting for your manifestation. Take responsibility and live a life of victory!

*Daniel Adetunji is an expert guest blogger, freelance writer and blog ghost-writer who offer blog-ghostwriting services to online business owners who do not have the time to update their blogs with quality content. He is a motivational speaker and writer and he's currently available for hire. His self-development and motivational articles have made many people discover their potential.*

## JANUARY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

### Training Hours

A Shift	513.25
B Shift	676.75
C Shift	602.50
Total	1792.50

### Fire Prevention

Inspections	176
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### Ocean Rescue

Visitors	19,577
Town Ordinance Enforcements	182
Preventative Actions	127
Man-O-War stings	13

### FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	70
EMS Calls	159
Transports to Hospital	117

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Paul Hooper	3/3
Scott McCracken	3/3
Jeremy Derosa	3/4
Michael Grubba	3/9
Dennis Wytrykush	3/10
Hector Ayala	3/15
Brad Caudell	3/17
Timothy Pompos	3/18
Rebekah Gray	3/18
Tony Wallace	3/28
John Cuomo	3/31

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Roger Bassett	24 years
Scott Symonette	23 years
Stephanie Mavigliano	19 years
Richard Ward	17 years
Robbie Locy	16 years
Gerald Hagin	10 years
Jeremy Stanley	2 years
Armando DeFilippis	2 years

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2013:

January	Stephanie Mavigliano	July
February	Jody Sronce	August
March		September
April		October
May		November
June		December

## Employee of the Month

The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen **Firefighter Jody Sronce** as Employee of the Month for February 2013.

Firefighter Sronce has served in the organization for 6 years. He is currently assigned to the North Station on "B" shift, and regularly serves in the capacity of step-up Driver Engineer. Jody previously received employee of the month in July of 2012, citing his positive attitude and excellent work ethic. Being very humble, Jody gives credit to his crew for tasks that are completed and truly believes that everything is accomplished through teamwork.

Firefighter Sronce continues to display a positive attitude and work ethic. His Battalion Chief states, "*Jody never waivers from doing what is right, he looks to the future and to the possibilities that lie ahead*". Jody is currently working on obtaining classes for future promotions and hopes to begin training as a step-up Officer in the very near future.

Firefighter Sronce is a true professional both on and off duty. On February 3, 2013, at approximately 14:40, while off duty and shopping in Plantation, Florida, Jody observed a fire on the fourth floor of a large high-rise condominium with no fire units on scene. Despite the danger to him, Jody selflessly went into action, finding an unlocked stairwell, ascending to the fourth floor, obtaining a fire extinguisher, and then making his way through several balcony areas where he extinguished a large fire involving outdoor patio furniture. This fire was so intense that it threatened an adjoining residential unit. His quick actions prevented the spread of the fire to this adjoining condominium and the rest of the building. According to Battalion Chief Joel Gordon of Plantation Fire Department, "Due to the number of open windows directly above the fire, Jody's quick actions kept the fire from auto-extending and limited the amount of smoke migration into adjacent apartments". The residents were able to return to their apartment shortly thereafter and the fire department was able to handle the incident without committing a large number of resources. His actions that day were truly heroic and show his genuine commitment to serving others.

We highly commend Firefighter Sronce for his dedication and devotion to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization. Jody consistently performs at a high level, always striving to do his best and make Palm Beach Fire Rescue a better place to work and serve the community. His work ethic and enthusiastic attitude are a great asset to the organization, therefore, making Jody Sronce an outstanding recipient of the February 2013 Employee of the Month award.

