

# The All Hands

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

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Volume 5, Issue 6



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## Special points of interest:

- **Injured Sea Turtle Rescue**
- **How Adversity Becomes the Key to Success**

## Deputy Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto, Deputy Chief



**Nice, kind, caring. Thanks you for being all that and more.**

I had the great fortune to be able to interview some prospective firefighter candidates for Palm Beach Fire Rescue the other day and it was such an incredibly great experience.

These people are so eager to join our organization. They are highly driven and motivated to succeed, driven; they all have kind, caring, and compassionate hearts; and they all have a desire to help others.

I think the best part of my job is getting the opportunity to give others the opportunity to be a part of what I get to be a part of.

I ended that day feeling so good about the future; not only because there are so many great people out there who want to be a part of the fire service, but also because of what I heard from each of them about our organization.

Before we get to the final stages of our hiring process, we always offer prospective candidates the opportunity to come spend a day with us so they can learn more about our organization, the people who work here, and the culture that exists here. It is important to us that we hire people who fit our culture and it is important to us that prospective candidates have an opportunity to see for themselves if our organization is a good fit for them. This ride-a-long day does just that. Candidates get to see firsthand who we are as an organization, what are values are, and what it would be like if they were to be given the opportunity to join our team.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue is different. We do things the "Palm Beach" way. We care for people the "Palm Beach" way. Moreover, we serve this community the "Palm Beach" way. Our culture is one of exceptional public service, unwavering integrity, and extreme passion and perseverance to get the job done. Our team members are some of the nicest, kindest, and most caring people you will ever meet. When you need someone to come to your home because your mother, or your daughter, or your son is sick – that is exactly what you want – someone who truly cares about you and your family.

I was excited that so many of the prospective candidates that we interviewed shared those same values. However, I was even more excited to hear from those candidates about how they were treated by our team members during their ride along. I frequently hear from people in the community about how well we cared for them or their family. However, this feedback was from a different perspective; one of someone who is thinking about spending a career here. These prospective candidates all spoke about how different their experience was at our department from any other department that they had spent time. They spoke about how they were treated like family, that there was a true sense of camaraderie, that the people who work at Palm Beach Fire

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## Administrative Update

By Jimmy Duane

Assistant Chief

The most recent Safety Committee meeting was held on June 15th. On hand for the meeting were Risk Manager Karen Temme, Assistant Chief Duane, Division Chief Baker, and Lieutenant Matzen. These quarterly meetings are held to discuss any problems and issues relating to safety and the wellbeing of all Palm Beach Fire Rescue personnel as well as the public. The recent implementation of the contract added an additional member position to the committee. In the near future, personnel will have the opportunity to volunteer for this position. This important position represents the Town and the personnel working at Fire Rescue in a manner that promotes the upmost safety to the organization.



The department currently utilizes MagneGrip exhaust capture system on all of the emergency apparatus stored in the three fire stations bays. The system connects directly to the vehicle tailpipe to remove contaminants, which is excessive in an area that has limited ventilation. Last year the department acquired a tractor that was being disposed of by Public Works. This vehicle, which is used to move the Mobile Training Tower is currently the only apparatus stored in the bay without the ability for utilizing MagneGrip. In the near future, a diverter will be installed on the exhaust pipe so that MagneGrip may be used.

A second item discussed in the meeting was the nomex hood exchange program we instituted at the beginning of the year. The hood is considered the most permeable piece of protective equipment we use while fighting fires. It is in the interest of all involved to reduce the impact of cancer in the fire service through a proactive and aggressive approach by the reduction of exposure to carcinogens. Following a fire, crews are encouraged to exchange their dirty hood with a clean one, which is kept in the Battalion Chief's vehicle.

Every two weeks, specific beach sites located in Palm Beach County are sampled for saltwater quality. This program, instituted in 2002, is part of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. On May 30th, it was discovered that the beaches located at midtown had a higher than normal enteric bacteria rating in the water. This bacteria possesses a risk to swimmers, therefore the beach was closed. Ocean Rescue Lifeguards immediately notified town officials, and took immediate action to put up warning signs & closed Middletown public beach to swimming. Lifeguard Supervisor Craig Pollock took the appropriate actions to obtain new testing equipment so that mandatory follow-up testing could be completed. Further tests resulted in good ratings and the beach was opened up for swimming the following day. Special thanks to lifeguards Houston Park, George Klein and Lifeguard Supervisor Craig Pollock for all their efforts in keeping the beach safe for the residents and visitors during this timeframe.



**EVERYONE  
GOES HOME®**  
Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives by  
the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation



**MagneGrip™**  
EXHAUST EXTRACTION SYSTEMS

## EMS Division

By Dave Burke

Division Chief

Palm Beach Fire Rescue has a tradition of hiring dedicated men and women who have a passion for helping others. Once on the job, these employees are immersed in a culture of service. All around them are like-minded people who all feel and think the same with regard to helping others, a true team of professionals dedicated to serving the residents of Palm Beach and their visitors.

These dedicated EMS personnel respond to those who are in need, some of the patients are at their worst moment. Quite often, patients will delay calling for help and a loved one will make the call because the patient is either too embarrassed or have waited until they are unable. A delay in calling for care can directly affect patient outcome. For EMS workers, our first goal is to gain access to the patient as quickly as possible. In order to achieve this goal, care providers must be aware of the need. Developing a relationship with our customers will greatly assist in overcoming the apprehension some patients feel in making that first step of dialing 9-1-1.



A minor cut or slight pain may not seem like an emergency to one patient, but definitely can be for others battling larger underlying health issues. We want our patients to know they can call us for whatever they may need.

### Stop The Bleed Offered To You



After the horrible tragedy at Sandy Hook and other global events, the White House launched a campaign to save the lives of those harmed by trauma. The Stop the Bleed Program is designed for individuals with little or no medical training, but who may be called upon as immediate responders, to provide life-saving bleeding control to a victim of an injury prior to arrival of emergency medical services. Injury results from a wide variety of causes, including accidents or intentional harm, and in a wide variety of locations, such as your home or workplace. Proper training from Palm Beach Fire Rescue will give citizens the tools and skills needed to stabilize a person that has severe bleeding and will reduce mortality from uncontrolled hemorrhage. Palm Beach Fire Rescue is honored to provide individualized training for you. We will come to your organization, home, or you can come to us. Stop the Bleed can save lives, please allow us to show you how.

## Injured Turtle Rescued off the Beach



## Ocean Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Ocean Rescue Supervisor

The summer months are here and beach attendance has stayed steady. The swimming conditions have been good throughout the month of May and into June. However, lifeguards have been had to close the beach to the public, several times due to lightning in the area, from afternoon thunderstorms. The state of Florida leads the nation in lightning strikes and unfortunately this means that Florida also leads the nation in deaths and injuries caused by lightning. Beach patrons should be prepared to exit beach and seek safe shelter when thunderstorms move in, lifeguards will clear the water and beaches when lightning is present.



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

From page 1

Rescue are so kind, so friendly, and so helpful that it made them want to be a part of this organization even more. They all echoed that they came to us seeking a job, but now they are seeking to be a part of this very special team that we have here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

We have so many great people here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue and I am so proud to get to be a part of this great team. My sincerest thanks goes out to each and every team member for doing what you do each and every day for our community, for caring for the people in this community like you would care for your family, for being kind always and no matter the situation, and for making Palm Beach Fire Rescue a great place to work.



## Training

By Sean Baker  
Division Chief

Town of Palm Beach Firefighters completed our annual vehicle extrication training this month at Fire Station #3 located at 2185 South Ocean Blvd. Our department conducts this training annually to refresh our crews on the lifesaving tactics required to remove a patient from a vehicle involved in an accident. We conducted the classes over a 4-day period, working on vehicles that were different sizes and shapes to simulate what our crews could encounter on a daily basis. This training is another example of the training that our crews receive to keep their skills sharp to ensure they are ready to handle the next emergency.

Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Training also occurred during the month of June. Haz Mat training is an important element for our training division. This training helps our firefighters identify dangerous chemicals and substances that pose a threat to the public. We utilized our own, state certified, in-house instructor to teach this class to our firefighters as it is a requirement by the State of Florida. Our firefighters received training that helps them identify and control, natural gas leaks, fuel spills, and chemicals that could be used as part of a terrorism event. We are fortunate to have access to some of the best resources in the area to teach this class and our firefighters are better equipped to keep this community safe.

One of the final training sessions in June will conclude with Mass Casualty Training at our Station 3 training center. We simulated the response to a large group of people that were injured during a shooting event. This tabletop exercise tested the abilities of our medical personnel to properly treat and transport a large group of people with a varying level of injuries. This is an essential skill for our firefighters to have as this type of event is becoming far too common. We are doing our very best to keep our training real, current and relevant so that you can count on us to respond quickly and efficiently to your next emergency.

### Upcoming Training:

Palm Beach Fire Rescue has collaborated with the owners of the Testa's properties on Royal Poinciana Way and they have agreed to let our firefighters train on their property before it is demolished in Mid-July. We will have an almost unprecedented opportunity to create real time training evolutions utilizing properties within Palm Beach's Town limits. Palm Beach's Training Division will coordinate this training and will offer training on topics such as: Fire hose management, special procedures for emergency victim rescue, and firefighter rescue techniques. We rely heavily on our business partners in the community and with their help; Palm Beach Fire Rescue is taking every opportunity to make our people better for our citizens.



**Annual Vehicle Extrication Training**

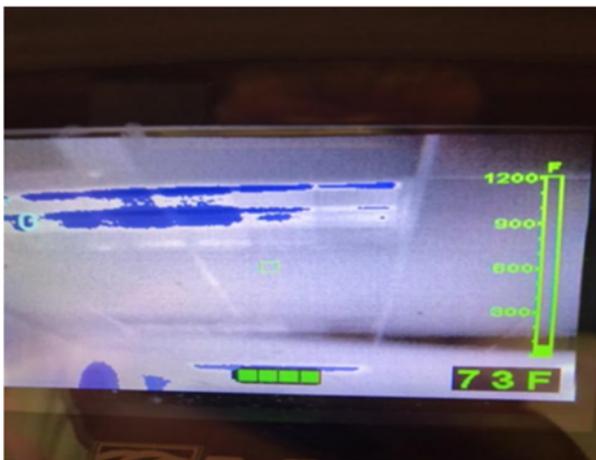
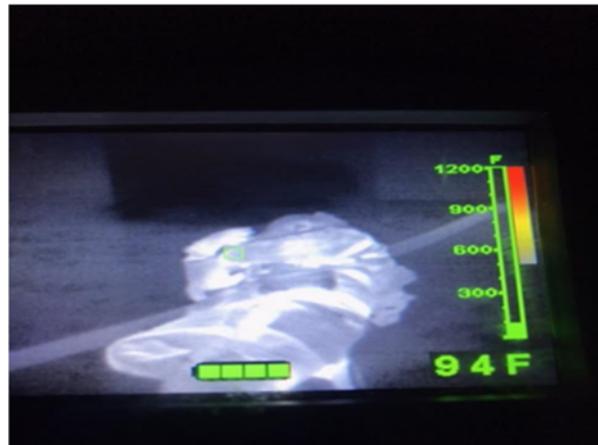


**Palm Beach Fire Rescue Training Division at the Testa's Properties with the Owners.**

## B/C Update

By Mike Mark  
Battalion Chief

This month's equipment spotlight will focus on Palm Beach Fire Rescue's latest lifesaving tool. This tool is the Bullard QTX Thermal Imager Camera. The benefits of using thermal imaging technology as a firefighting tool encompass nearly every aspect of a firefighter's job. Thermal imaging is not, however, a technology designed to replace current firefighting tactics. Rather, it is a tool that allows the firefighter to be more effective and make better decisions. Some of the many uses for the Bullard QTX Thermal Imager include: Search and Rescue, Scene Assessment, Locating the source of a fire, Determining the spread of a fire, Locating hot spots, Determining ventilation spots and Locating victims just to name a few. Palm Beach Fire Rescue continually trains our department's firefighters and our mutual aid partners, West Palm Beach Fire Rescue and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue to better prepare for possible events, and to increase the chances of having the most positive outcome to an incident. Palm Beach Fire Rescue responds to many fire alarms where the source of the alarm needs to be determined. For example, many alarms are received as a smell of smoke, but on arrival to the scene there are no visible flames within the structure. Palm Beach Fire Rescue utilizes the thermal imager to rule out internal flames within the walls and ceiling. Then firefighters can more accurately determine the origin of the problem. Most of the time with the use of the thermal imager camera, firefighters are able to determine a hot spot such as a burned elevator motor or a HVAC system or even a light ballast. It can also be used to locate victims that have been trapped in a structural collapse or victims that have been overcome by the by products of fire. The thermal imager camera proves to be an invaluable resource to our fire department on a daily basis.



## Fire Prevention

By Marty DeLoach  
Fire Marshal

We are now officially into the 2017 Hurricane Season. What does that mean for first responders, homeowners and business owners in a hurricane prone area?

The answer is often the same for everyone, nothing. We hear the annual admonishment, be ready, get a kit together with vital emergency gear and then we procrastinate and fail to make any actual preparations.

We should all know what the newscasters are talking about when they provide warnings. The terms that they use, all have purposeful information that is often misinterpreted due to a lack of understanding by the viewers.

**Storm Surge:** is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. Storm surge can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coastline. If you are on a barrier island, like Palm Beach, storm surge information can be very valuable.

**Storm Tide:** is the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide. This can change depending on when the storm hits shore. Our average high tide fluctuates close to 3 ft. from low to high. Clearly, 3 ft. of ocean water makes a difference to people in lower elevations.

**High Winds:** The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is used by the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Winds that are 74 miles per hour are considered hurricane force. Winds at this level or higher can destroy buildings and mobile homes. This is also the level that debris, like signs, roofing materials or any small item left outside, can become flying missiles.

### Category of Hurricanes.

Very dangerous winds that will produce some damage	74-95 mph
Extremely dangerous winds that will cause extensive damage	96-110 mph
Devastating damage will occur: Well built frame homes can sustain severe damage with roof loss likely	111-129 mph
Catastrophic damage will occur: Trees will be snapped and uprooted	130-156 mph
Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed	157 mph and higher

The summer weather as well as weather following hurricanes can bring tornados.

### What is a tornado?

They are defined as a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. The weather service claims that nearly a thousand tornados touch down each year in the United States. We are better off today than we were before Doppler radar; the warning time has better then doubled from five minutes to thirteen with Doppler. .

**Tornado Watch:** A tornado watch is issues by NOAA's SPC, the watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a tornado. It is often issued for large geographic areas covering 25,000 square miles.

**Tornado Warning:** These are issued by local offices of the National Weather Service. These warnings are issued when severe weather is imminent and is based on specific local conditions. When you are in the area of a warning, you need to take cover and expect bad weather conditions. Tornados are part of a thunderstorm so you will need to find a place that is safe from lighting strikes when a tornado warning is issued.



## How Adversity Becomes the Key to Success

By Gurbaksh Chahal

Posted at: <https://belimitless.com/how-adversity-becomes-the-key-to-success-gurbaksh-chahal/amp/>

*“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.” – Henry Ford.*

To me that is a powerful motivational statement that I always keep in mind as I continue my journey through life and as I continue to work as hard as I know how to overcome challenges, especially those that are potentially life-altering.

It's inevitable that major obstacles will arise to block your passage to the stars. Sometimes they're self-inflicted; sometimes they're the result of actions by others with ulterior motives. Sometimes it's a combination of both.

Regardless of the cause you have to learn from the experience. You have to draw from it so you can progress to the next phase of your journey. The bigger the adversity you have endured, the bigger the lesson and the bigger the opportunity for personal and professional growth.

You definitely learn more when the tide is against you than you do when the tide is running for you.

Nobody, of course, has the right to expect a perfect life. And if somehow you have had a perfect charmed life until now you'll find it even harder to tackle challenges when they are thrown in your path.

When adversity does come your way the true measure of a person is how he or she ultimately deals with it. Can it make you desire with all of your heart to become more understanding of others and more compassionate? Can it make you more resilient and more determined to achieve even greater success? Can it make you a respectful and respected leader?

When personal or business adversity threatens your life just think of the grit and resilience shown by those who have had had to face serious physical challenges and emerged victorious. I take heart, for instance, from the story of award-winning athlete Jason Lester.

When he was just 12 years old Jason was struck down by a speeding car. He suffered 20 broken bones and a permanently paralyzed right arm. Shortly afterwards his father died. But Jason didn't quit. He continued to pursue the love of sports that had been encouraged by his father.

And he went beyond the norm. In 2008 he became the first disabled athlete to complete the Ultraman. That's 320 miles of biking, swimming, and running—something that the vast majority of able-bodied people are not able to do. He went on to win an ESPY Award in 2009 for “Best Disabled Male Athlete.”

Overcoming his adversity turned him into a star.

To reiterate: the truth of the matter is that the more successful you become the more adversity you are likely to encounter. No matter how much you mature and develop you will have to deal with stumbling blocks—just of different kinds and different magnitudes. They can be earth-shattering and emotionally draining. But that's life. And you must learn from them to become a better and more successful person.

When you make up your mind to overcome challenges that seem insurmountable you can lift off like a plane and soar to 30,000 feet and beyond—if you decide that that's what you want to do.

When confronted with a sudden loss or significant reversal of fortune do not panic. Reflect on what has happened. What did you do wrong? What should you have done differently? Avoid tunnel vision. Develop other options.

*Continued on page 9*

## How Adversity Becomes the Key to Success (con't)

From page 8

Don't stop. Don't give way to doubt and fear. Move forward. Find the strength within yourself to pick yourself up and arch forward. When you commit to doing the right things eventually you will be blessed. That's karma.

Many people never seek to climb a mountain in the first place; they're afraid to fall. They can't imagine scaling new heights. But do you really want to live your entire life on the ground? When you are able to overcome adversity the sky is the limit; you have one of the pillars of strength to become successful—again and again.

As the old Japanese proverb says, "Fall seven times and stand up eight."

## Vehicle Extrication Training



## Fire Prevention (con't)

*From page 1*

What should people do to prepare now for a potential storm?

Every family needs a family communication plan. This is a written plan indicating where to meet and who to contact in the event of a bad storm. If you have an elderly person who depends on you, they will need assistance to help them through the storm. Remember to keep your fuel tank at least half-full, preferably over three quarters since gas is not always available after the storm.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency event takes place. This means having important supplies in sufficient quantity for each member of your family to last 3 to 5 days.

Fire prevention along with the firefighters inspected 263,000 square feet of buildings in May. We found 13 violations that are being corrected by the owners.



## Department Training

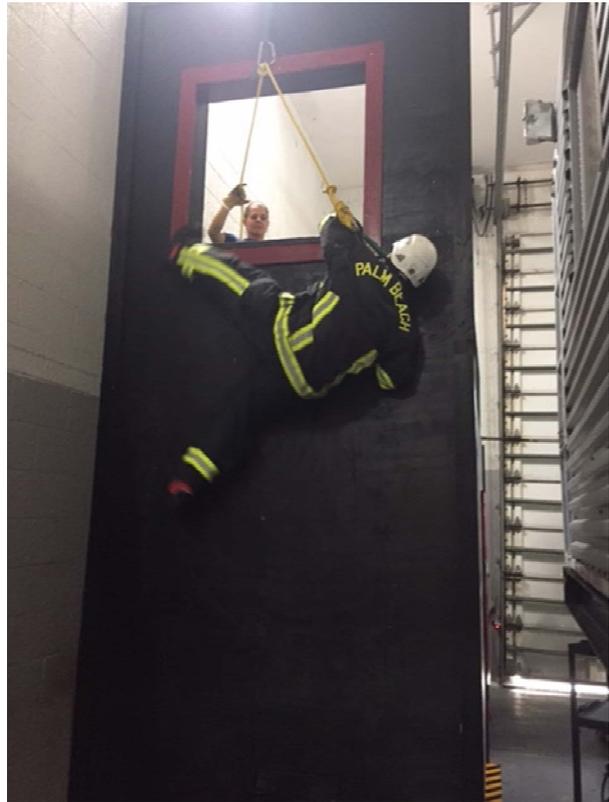
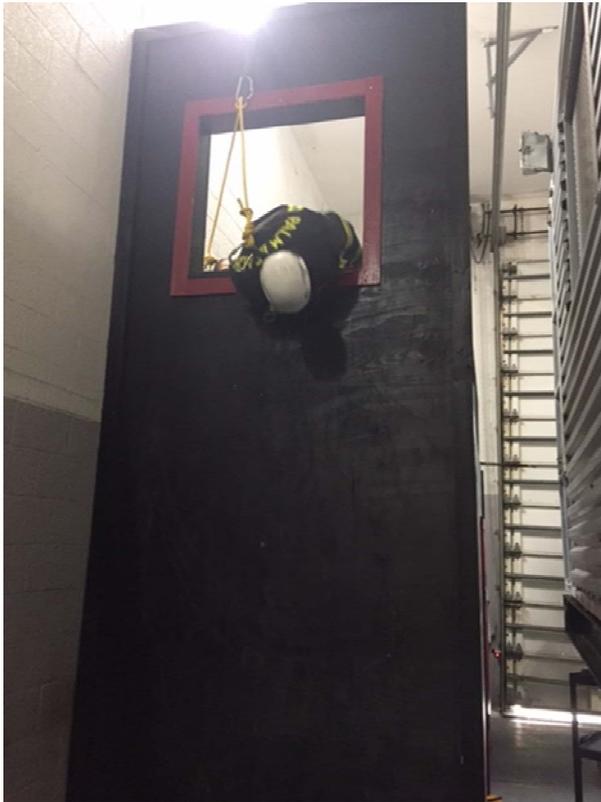


Station #3 B shift Training



Stuart Grimes training Firefighters on RIT Packs

Photo Ops—Department Wide Training



## MARCH DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

### Training Hours

A Shift	657
B Shift	878
C Shift	1276
Total	2811

### Fire Prevention Inspections

127

### Ocean Rescue

Visitors	17,453
Town Ordinance Enforcements	123
Preventative Actions	78

### FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	63
EMS Calls	148
Transports to Hospital	100

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Frank Mavigliano	06/05
Christopher Pommells	06/05
Mark Myhre	06/09
Christopher McKay	06/10
Mario Reyes	06/20

## JUNE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Willie Bonfante	06/02
Ryan Zabovnik	06/02
Kyle Vander Platt	06/13
Anthony Curtis	06/16

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2017:

January	Cesar Lora	July
February	Abigail Farrell	August
March	Charlie Shinn	September
April	Anthony Curtis	October
May	Brian Matzen	November
June		December

## Employee of the Month— Brian Matzen



The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen Lieutenant Paramedic Brian Matzen as Employee of the Month for May 2017.

Lieutenant Paramedic Matzen has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for 9 years, starting his career on October 20, 2008. He is currently assigned to the South Fire Rescue Station on "A" shift. Brian is well respected by his peers and supervisors for his work ethic and always displays a positive attitude. Brian is that go to guy when things need to get done and he is always willing to help others regardless of what his is doing.

Lieutenant Matzen works as a paramedic instructor at Palm Beach State College, is currently assigned as one of our six Field Training Officers (FTO), and has begun to seek opportunities to act as a step-up Battalion Chief. Lieutenant Matzen has attended the National Fire Academy (NFA) several times during the past 2 years, and has just completed the Managing Officers Class. The Managing Officers program is a multiyear curriculum that introduces emerging emergency services leaders to personal and professional skills in change management, risk reduction and adaptive leadership, which Lt. Matzen will use to enrich the professional lives of Palm Beach's Firefighters.

In addition to all of his normal responsibilities, Lt Matzen continues to seek opportunities to make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. During this past month, Brian Matzen was responsible for securing seven buildings that are part of the Testa's properties for the Training Division. Matzen mediated both the legal and logistical issues between the Town and the property owners of the aforementioned buildings to ensure that our department could take full advantage of this rare training opportunity. Also during this past month, Lieutenant Matzen has volunteered to help redesign the Town of Palm Beach's website as part of a town-wide website redesign committee.

Always maintaining a positive attitude, Brian sets the example for others to follow. His efforts are making a difference in both the department and in our community by improving the quality of the service we deliver. We highly commend Lieutenant Matzen for his dedicated service and devotion to Palm Beach Fire Rescue, and to the citizens of the Town of Palm Beach. Matzen demonstrates an attitude of service through compassion and excellence. His consistent positivity makes him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the community, therefore, making Lieutenant Brian Matzen an outstanding recipient of the May 2017 Employee of the Month Award.

