

The All Hands

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

September 2017

Volume 5, Issue 9



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- Hurricane Irma
- Phil Dudley Retirement
- Do You Have the Heart of a Leader?
- Do You Have What it Takes?

Deputy Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto, Deputy Chief



Firefighters are public servants; that is our core job. We exist to serve the community we work in. One of the things that I love so much about the people here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue is how they not only serve the community but they do it from their heart. I saw so many examples of this during the most recent Hurricane Irma. Our firefighters were out there doing what they love – helping others, serving others, and making a difference in the lives of others even if just in little ways.



For example, Fire Rescue responded to a home for a carbon monoxide alarm (something every resident should have in their home.) They found a husband and wife, residents, who had just returned home after evacuating the island and staying in a hotel without power. They quickly identified that the large generator installed at their home was allowing carbon monoxide filled exhaust to enter the attic and then the home making the situation very dangerous. Most fire departments would have shut down the source (generator), cleared out the carbon monoxide, and left the residents without power until someone could fix the generator. We didn't do that. These residents had been without power in a hotel for two days and just wanted to be back home and team members saw that and wanted that for them. We cleared out the carbon monoxide so the house was safe and then we set up one of our large exhaust fans so that it would blow the exhaust away from the house while the generator was running. We left this there until the residents' power was restored. Our members saw the frustration on these residents' faces and they wanted to make a difference for them. They did their job; but they did more, because they cared. They served these residents from their heart.

Another example was a call where a resident who had evacuated the island returned home to find water coming out the front door of their home. Our crews did what they do – they stopped the leak and then they stayed for several hours cleaning up the water, moving the valuables to higher ground, and helping prevent further water damage. By the time they were done, it was getting late. The resident had not had dinner yet and said he was going to leave to go pick up dinner for him and his wife. Our crews, recognizing that the curfew was in effect told the resident that that would not be necessary and that they would take care of it. The crew went back to the station, cooked meals for this resident and his wife and delivered them along with flashlights because they were still out of power. This was a great example of our crews not only doing their job and more – but mostly caring about the people they serve.



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Administrative Update

By Jimmy Duane

Assistant Chief



As we start the new budget year, we also begin the new cycle for the annual preventative maintenance on all of the emergency vehicles. Our apparatus are essential to our primary function, responding to emergency incidents and serving the needs of our residents. They are expensive, highly technical pieces of equipment, therefore this yearly maintenance plays an important role in identifying potential issues, which otherwise may have surfaced during an emergency incident. Just as important, daily maintenance of the apparatus and equipment carried on the apparatus plays an important role in the operation and longevity of it. It's rare to see a dirty fire truck here in the town and for good reason. Depending on the vehicle's purpose, we may utilize it as a front line apparatus for over 20 years.

Firefighters inherently are discipline in nature. Morning vehicle inspections occur every day and in a similar fashion each day. We use this morning inspection as an opportunity to not only ensure that the equipment is clean and lubricated, but as an opportunity to make sure the fluid levels are full, blades are sharp, metal is free from rust and the compartment is organized. Every morning inspection is an opportunity to learn something new or teach something new about a piece of equipment to someone else. Personnel do an incredible job every day with this task. We recognize that our tools play an extremely important role on an incident and have the potential to save a life, which may even be your own. In the past, Battalion Chief Dudley was in charge of all hand tool purchases and repairs. Since his retirement, Lieutenant Bassford has stepped up in to the role and is now handling this task.

Following Hurricane Irma making landfall on our west coast, the Town's facilities all suffered some minor damage resulting from the wind and rain. The Fire Rescue Department experienced minor issues to include; roof leaks and minor roof damage at each of the fire stations, key card entry system failure, generator failure, damaged light poles and other small incidental items damaged. Inspections were completed on all of the facilities, and the items requiring attention are being addressed through the help of Risk Management and Public Works. The Midtown Beach lifeguard towers were removed from the beach and lifted to the side walk by a crane to avoid them being damaged and washed away by the surf. The current tide line is still too high and much of the beach is washed away, therefore the towers will remain in place until they can be safely moved back.



It is the responsibility of the Assistant Chief to assign members to their shifts and stations. There are many variables that dictate shift assignments. Station Commanders, Field Training Officers, EMT personnel, organizational and interpersonal dynamics, as well as training and experience weigh heavily into balancing the shifts and station assignments. Although personnel are assigned to a particular station, they will regularly have to work at other stations to supplement staffing due to training, vacation, sick leave, and other variables. New probationary personnel will rotate every four months to a different station. This gives them an opportunity to experience and learn about each response zone, as well as the personnel and units assigned to that zone. The month of October is when we address the major staffing changes in the department. During this time, interviews for Station Commanders and Field Training Officers occur. In addition, this year promotional processes will take place for the ranks of Battalion Chief and Lieutenant. Shift assignments and promotions will be announced in the middle of October.

Keeping Public Safety
Staffed and Ready

EMS Division

By Dave Burke

Division Chief

During the aftermath of Hurricanes, we often hear of unfortunate deaths of those poisoned by carbon monoxide due to generator use during the absence of normal grid power. Just a few weeks ago, right here in Palm Beach County, a woman died from having her portable generator pointing toward her garage. The Carbon Monoxide produced by the generator accumulated in the house and she died during the night from inhalation of the silent killer. Why is it silent? Carbon Monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless and is lighter than air making it disperse easily and quickly throughout a structure. Here's something you probably didn't know, Carbon Monoxide doesn't care if you are rich or poor, old or young, resident or visiting, and it never announces itself as present. Here's a true story from right here in Palm Beach:

Fire Rescue units were dispatched to a single family house on Miaflores Drive a day or two after Hurricane Irma passed through our area. The Carbon Monoxide detector installed in the home alerted to high levels of the potentially deadly gas. The residents were evacuated while Fire Rescue confirmed elevated gas levels in the living areas and deadly levels in the attic. The residents were enjoying air conditioning and normal power consumption, post-storm from the use of an installed generator powered by natural gas, something equipped in many Palm Beach homes. The exhaust from the generator was not dispersing in the stagnant, humid post-storm air with no wind to carry it up in a safe direction. Instead, the deadly poison accumulated in the attic, entering through soffit vents located just above and adjacent to the outdoor installed generator. The gas then seeped downward into bedrooms and living areas. If it was not for the Carbon Monoxide Detector installed in the home, these Palm Beach Residents would have most likely lost their lives or suffered extreme permanent illness.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning should be one of the top safety concerns for all persons living the path of weather related power outages. Carbon Monoxide exposure from other sources should also be an everyday precaution. How? Install and inspect Carbon Monoxide detectors!

Palm Beach Fire Rescue uses two innovative tools to detect Carbon Monoxide in both your house and your body. In a structure, four-gas monitors are used to detect deadly gases at various concentrations. In a patient's body, our patient cardiac monitors are equipped with non-invasive Carbon Monoxide detector that simply slip onto a finger. Both of these important tools, found on nearly every Palm Beach Fire Rescue truck, are critical in helping emergency responders to save lives.



Ocean Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Ocean Rescue Supervisor

It was a long month for the staff of Palm Beach Ocean Rescue as Hurricane Irma made its impact on South Florida. The lifeguards did an amazing job preparing for the storm; the staff removed all beach information signs from the beach, cleared out important equipment from both Mid-Town and Phipps Ocean Park lifeguard headquarters. The lifeguard Towers along Mid-Town Municipal Beach were removed from the beach with a crane and tied down along the seawall. We are happy to report we only lost one shutter from a tower and had no extensive damage to any other ocean rescue equipment or lifeguard headquarters. After Hurricane Irma passed our area Town of Palm Beach Publics remained closed for more than a week. Phipps Ocean Park Beach fared well erosion wise after the storm, Mid-Town Municipal Beach was hit pretty hard with beach erosion however. Both Town of Palm Beach public beaches have reopened.

Deputy Chief's Message (con't)

From page 1

Yet another resident called to tell me about how our crews "changed her world at a tough time." This resident had no power and wanted to charge her cell phone. The crews invited her back to the station so she could plug her phone in and while there she relayed that she couldn't get in to her garage because the garage door only works with power and there are no other entrances. The crews quickly went to her home and managed to skillfully get in to the garage for her so she could get to her car. This small gesture made a big difference for her.

There are numerous other stories of firefighters clearing the trees out of residents' driveways, giving people rides to where they needed to get to, and just stopping to check on people and let them know it was going to be OK. I love all these stories.

Our people have a gift and talent for service. Serving is in their nature and it is prompted by a heart that desires to place the needs of others, first. For our team members, serving from the heart gives them great joy. They have chosen this profession because they love helping others and we have chosen them to work here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue because serving from the heart is a way of life for them. My sincerest thanks to each and every member of Palm Beach Fire Rescue for what you do and how you do it. You all make Palm Beach Fire Rescue great.



B Shift Training



Training

By Sean Baker
Division Chief

Palm Beach Fire Rescue conducted our annual confined space victim rescue training at our South Fire Station #3 located in Phipps Park. This annual training is essential to keep our firefighters proficient when responding to emergencies involving utility workers operating in underground power, water, and sewage vaults. These utility workers, including some that work for the town, are subjected to low oxygen atmospheres, electrocution hazards, and the potential to be entrapped by a structural collapse making confined space training an absolute necessity for Palm Beach Fire Rescue Firefighters.



We had several other training sessions, including natural gas emergencies, and leadership training during the month of September, but we were interrupted by the impacts of Hurricane Irma. This storm struck the West Coast of Florida but had a major impact to the island, which is a testament to the size and strength of this tropical system.



Forecasters predicted that Palm Beach Island would sustain category one-hurricane force winds and the emergency planning team decided to keep our fire rescue teams on the island to weather the storm. Citizens were told to evacuate their homes due to safety concerns, and many chose to follow the directive from Palm Beach County's Division of Emergency Management. Public safety remained on the island to protect the properties and those citizens that chose to ignore the mandatory evacuation notice. We strongly recommend all non-essential personnel to follow the evacuation notices issued by the County as our response is severely delayed during a hurricane.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue started preparing many months before the arrival of Hurricane Irma. Our pre-storm plans ensured that we were prepared for the impacts of a major storm hitting the island and our planning was put to the test. Staffing levels were increased, equipment was readied, and our crew members were prepared for the long haul. Some of our people worked in excess of 52 hours to ensure the safety of our residents.

Emergency response to calls had to cease when the sustained winds reached over 50 miles per hour as our high profile vehicles are susceptible to turning over in high winds. Which is why we stress the importance of evacuation when ordered.

Once winds died down to an acceptable level, fire crews immediately went about cleaning up debris left behind by Hurricane Irma. Fire crews were deployed as cut teams armed with chainsaws, straps, and chains throughout the island to clear downed trees from roads, driveways, and condominium entrances. The work started well before dawn with the goal of clearing paths for oncoming work crews at daybreak. During the clearing process, damage assessments were conducted on buildings, power lines, and other town infrastructure to give the town's emergency operations center a head start on restoration planning.



At daybreak, crews began to check on residents to offer post storm assistance. Our fire companies worked to get our citizens back on their feet after the storm passed by providing ice, water, batteries, flashlights, assistance with generators, and in one case, a cooked meal when a resident could not leave after curfew.

We were fortunate to avoid the direct impact of Hurricane Irma, and we were prepared for the worse case situation. We are proud of the work of our Town of Palm Beach Employees and grateful for the extra work and dedication put in to getting our island back to normal.

Hurricane Irma



Above ground electrical feed fire.



Lt. Curtis, D/E Martin and FF Dombrowski clearing debris on Jungle Avenue.



Fire Rescue Crews following a night of clearing debris.



Cleaning debris after the storm passed.

Fire Prevention

By Marty DeLoach
Fire Marshal

Should I stay or should I go? The easy answer is you should not stay on a barrier island with a category 4 or 5 hurricane bearing down on you. Sure, the buildings in town have been here for a long time and have survived smaller hurricanes in the past. However, you need to ask why would I stay? Your house may stand and you may survive unharmed, but the streets will be blocked, public services, ambulances, police, and fire will all be delayed or not able to come at all during the storm. Power and water may be lost and living conditions may not be pleasant.

The County had shelters set up inland away from storm surges. The shelters are generator powered and provide food and water. Many inland hotels had available rooms and most have generators. Pets are also welcome at several of the hotels, so you did not need to worry about where to take your furry friends. There were countless preparations made ahead of the storm as well as heeded warnings that most people thought reasonable.

The managers of condominium complexes tried to help their residents leave the island. They asked everyone to leave the buildings and the island to comply with mandatory evacuation orders. People that stay during a storm can put themselves at risk, as well as, the dedicated first responders who make every effort to respond and help when things go bad. So the question still remains to be answered; why stay?

There are stories all across the internet about natural disasters and people who paid with their lives when they ignored evacuation orders from the local authorities. In 1980 scientists and homeowners refused to leave Mount St. Helen, approximately 57 people were killed.

Having to evacuate is a deeply personal decision. I have spent close to forty years working to keep people safe so the answer is simple for me. Things can be replaced, people cannot.

Many gas-powered generators were used after the storm due to the loss of power across the county. At one point during the storm, around 70% of FPL customers in Palm Beach County were without power. There were several tragic stories from around the state of people dying from the exhaust byproducts of their generators. The Town of Palm Beach experienced several calls regarding home generators during the post storm days. One residence had a serious problem with the exhaust that could have easily turned into a tragedy.

Familiarizing yourself with generator safety and having an understanding of the properties of carbon monoxide can lead to the safe operation of generators. Carbon monoxide (also known as CO), has been named the "Invisible Killer" it is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. In the United States, more than 150 people die every year from accidental non-fire-related carbon monoxide poisoning, associated with consumer products, including generators. Other products include faulty, improperly used or incorrectly vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces. Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission

Because carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not know they are being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever) including: •Headache•Fatigue•Shortness of Breath•Nausea•Dizziness. High-level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including: •Mental Confusion•Vomiting•Loss of Muscular Coordination•Loss of Consciousness•Ultimately Death.

Portable generators should be placed outdoors, at least 3 feet away from anything else and at least 20 feet away from any open doors and windows.

Fueling portable generators and the long-term use of fixed generators created some safety concerns after Hurricane Irma. People lost sight of the dangers of gasoline and wanted to quickly refill their generators even trying to fill the generator with the motor

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Do You Have the Heart of a Leader?

JULY 9, 2014 / KEN BLANCHARD

Posted online at: <https://howwelead.org/2014/07/09/do-you-have-the-heart-of-a-leader/>



I've worked with thousands of leaders over the years and the most successful ones achieve results while acting with respect, care, and fairness for the well-being of everyone involved. Many companies put pressure on leaders to reach or surpass goals at any cost. But wise companies realize that leaders who can achieve results by creating a motivating work environment are the leaders who will sustain future success.

What's the secret behind this kind of leader? I think truly effective leadership begins on the inside—with your heart. Leading from your heart is about leadership character and intention, which form the backbone of servant leadership. As a leader, you must ask yourself why you lead. Is it to serve or to be served? Answering this question in a truthful way is so important. You can't fake being a servant leader. I believe that if leaders don't get the heart right, they simply won't ever become servant leaders.

The most persistent barrier to being a servant leader is a heart motivated by self-interest that looks at the world as a "give a little, take a lot" proposition. Leaders with hearts motivated by self-interest put their own agenda, safety, status, and gratification ahead of those who are affected by their thoughts and actions. Leaders with a servant heart believe their role is to bring out the best in others. They thrive on developing people and helping them achieve their goals. They constantly try to find out what their people need to perform well. Being a servant leader is not just another management technique. It is a way of life for those with servant hearts.

Fire Prevention (con't)

From page 7

still running. While it may be inconvenient to turn off your power source when you need it most, trying to refuel a hot generator can be dangerous. Turn the generator off and wait 15 minutes to refuel. You can minimize the inconvenience by scheduling a refuel of the generator at an off-peak time, such as when your family is asleep. Never operate a generator in rainy or wet conditions. Generators produce electricity, and electricity and water make a potentially deadly combination. Place your generator on a dry, level surface. Keeping it under a canopy or other covered area can protect it from moisture, but the area must be open on all sides and well ventilated. Never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet. This is an extremely dangerous process known as "back feeding," doing this runs power back into the grid. It can harm you, electrical workers trying to repair a system during an outage, and your home. If you want to have backup power connected directly to your home, you must have a licensed electrician install a power transfer switch and a stationary generator.

Large fixed generators are generally checked each week and run for thirty to sixty minutes. The amount of heat and by-products of combustion may become problematic when these units run for days after a hurricane. We had several concerns after the storm with large generators in some of our residential complexes. These units need to be checked periodically to ensure there is no large accumulation of carbon monoxide, overheating, or electrical problems in the building.

Please consider all of these factors when faced with a hurricane or natural disaster. Your decision to evacuate or stay most often involves other people and you may be putting others as well as yourself in danger by not heeding the warnings.

The Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department performed 33 building inspections in August. There were 18 violations cited in the 915,000 square feet of buildings inspected.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? DEVELOPING KEY LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES.

By Brigadier General (Retired) Becky Halstead

January 01, 2016

Posted at: <https://www.thayerleaderdevelopment.com/blog/2016/do-you-have-what-it-takes-developing-key-leadership-principles>

Leaders are defined by their actions and attitudes, especially during volatile times or periods of substantial change. Under pressure, leadership can be eroded by pessimism, lack of clear vision, failure to accept responsibility, or weak communication. The journey to becoming an effective leader, even under fire, begins inside. Before you can effectively lead others, you must commit to lead yourself based on a core set of principles.

1. Practice Discipline - Discipline is perhaps the most important principle of effective leaders. Personal discipline motivates leaders to deal with problems that might be easier to walk away from, control their responses to difficult situations, avoid repeating mistakes, and push through when quitting seems like the best option.

Your true character is who you are when no one else is watching, although in this day and age it seems someone is always watching. Discipline allows you to do what is right whether you are in the public eye or home alone. Discipline is inextricably woven into each leadership principle described here.

2. Be Demanding - At West Point, students follow an honor code, "I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those who do." This code sets the bar high for leading yourself first by being honest and trustworthy. It then sets the bar even higher by requiring that you expect or -- to take it one step further -- demand the same from others. Leading with integrity is critical if you expect to instill high moral standards in the organizations you lead.

3. Lead with Emotion - Emotions allow you to be a caring and charismatic leader, but you must be able to channel emotion or passion into a response that is appropriate to the situation. The heart and mind, working together, serve as the foundation for leadership that incorporates character and competence: to achieve a perfect balance of emotionally empathetic intellect with knowledge-based skills.

Your heart contributes the qualities that come more naturally to you—the expressive impact you have on those you lead. Your mind contributes your skills—the principles and values you master over time. The two merge to sharpen your response to each challenge.

4. Own Your Mistakes - Everyone makes mistakes. In fact, it's the quickest way to learn a lesson. If you're a true leader, you demonstrate character by taking responsibility for your mistakes, rather than looking for someone to blame. And you don't make the same mistake twice. To be an effective, inspirational and influential leader, you must always hold yourself accountable.

5. Build Bridges - A proactive, positive approach to leadership is more about teaching and less about exerting authority. To build bridges with those you wish to lead, extend yourself to others, share, listen, influence and be willing to admit that you aren't always right or don't always have all the answers. Many times listening to those who live and work "where the rubber meets the road" provides insight that isn't always evident at the higher decision-making level. To be an effective leader, you must be open to a collegial exchange of ideas.

6. Be Selfless - This might sound counterintuitive, but people who genuinely focus on others receive much more than they give—personally and professionally. Even when you are busy, it's important to make yourself available to teach, coach and mentor. As you move up the ranks, your responsibilities become greater, and it becomes easier to put up barriers. Serve others first and check your ego at the door. As Jackie Robinson said, "A life is not important, except in the impact it has on other lives."

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? DEVELOPING KEY LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES. (con't)

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7. Never Give Up - If you quit every time things get tough, you will miss out on wonderful opportunities for yourself, as well as for helping others. Powering through tough times can open doors to incredible adventures, valuable experiences, rich relationships, and rewarding moments of insight. Instead of quitting, make adjustments and know that with each new challenge you will learn more about yourself, gain new resources and knowledge, and come to appreciate life from a different point of view. If in doubt, ask yourself: Will quitting create more opportunities or a better outcome? Minimize your regrets and resolve not to give up.

Developing good leadership skills relies on leading by example, being true to yourself, practicing compassion, and living with discipline and purpose. Lead yourself first to become the type of leader you would most desire to be led by.

Battalion Chief Phil Dudley Retires

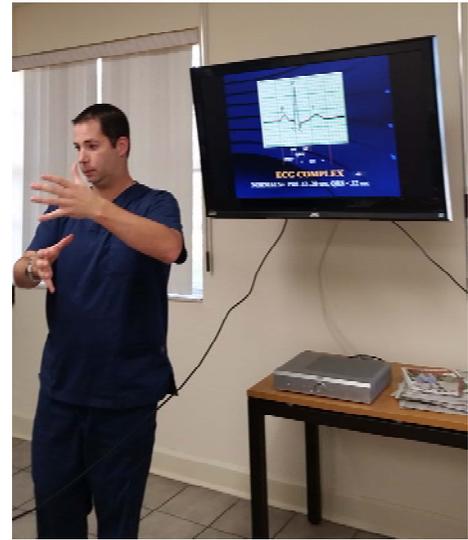
Battalion Chief Phil Dudley has retired after 27 years in the fire service. Chief Dudley is a second-generation firefighter who has moved up through the ranks. Chief Dudley's father retired from West Palm Beach Fire Rescue, as a Captain, after serving for 35 years. Phil started his career at Mangonia Park and after two years serving, he moved on to employment at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. After nine years as a Firefighter/Paramedic, Phil promoted to Paramedic Driver/Engineer. Phil's passion and love for the job, along with his leadership skills, lead him to his next promotion as a Lieutenant. Throughout his career, Phil has also held the positions of Field Training Officer along with Station Commander at station one. Phil is a Live Fire Instructor and teaches at Palm Beach State College. Phil has his Fire Officer I Certification and is a Certified State Fire Inspector. In 2014, Phil promoted to the position of Battalion Chief. His dedication to the department and profession shows through his hard work in so many areas. Phil has achieved incredible goals and has tackled impressive tasks throughout his career. He never stops learning new techniques and ways that he can improve upon himself and his coworkers. Most notably is his love for training and teaching the entire department the knowledge and skills that he has learned. Even on Phil's very last day here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue, he spent his last hours teaching Confined Space Rescue to the entire department. Phil is highly respected by his peers and leaves behind his vast knowledge of leadership abilities, Technical Rescue skills, and mechanical abilities, just to name a few. Palm Beach Fire Rescue wishes Chief Phil Dudley a Happy Retirement and a sincere thank you for your time and dedicated service.



Photo Ops



F/F Barosa and Dr. Keehn during an EKG interpretation class at Station 3.



Dr. Keehn teaching EKG interpretation through lecture and hands on methods. Class was held at Station 3.

Annual Confined Space Rescue Training



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UNTIL YOU GET IT
RIGHT. PRACTICE
UNTIL YOU CAN'T
GET IT WRONG**

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AUGUST DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	605
B Shift	792
C Shift	987
Total	2384

Fire Prevention Inspections

33

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	10,222
Town Ordinance Enforcements	90
Preventative Actions	43

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	91
EMS Calls	105
Transports to Hospital	66

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Chase Angelocci	10/04
Jody Sronce	10/14
Danny Dunnam	10/22
Stephen Montoya	10/22
Stuart Grimes	10/29

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Sean Baker	10/99
Brian Matzen	10/08
Alejandro Mahy	10/12
Scott McCracken	10/12
Brendon Andrews	10/13
Gabriel Cadet	10/13
Kyle Vander Platt	10/15
Dennis Wytrykush	10/15
Lauren Guzik-Molyneaux	10/16
Jaakob Hadad	10/16

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2017:

January	Cesar Lora	July	Frank Mavigliano
February	Abigail Farrell	August	Jill Bassford
March	Charlie Shinn	September	
April	Anthony Curtis	October	
May	Brian Matzen	November	
June	Joe Sekula	December	



Employee of the Month—Jill Bassford



Lieutenant Bassford has proudly served as part of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for almost seventeen years. She is assigned to Fire Station #3 on A-Shift, aboard Ladder 99. Lt. Bassford was previously awarded Employee of the Month for April 2007, January 2012, November 2013 and Fire-fighter of the Year in 2014. Jill is well respected for her technical abilities and has been utilized for many years as one of our technical rescue trainers working with both new hires and senior members of the department.

Lieutenant Bassford fills in as an Acting Battalion Chief on A-shift and is the assigned Station Commander for Station 3.

In addition to all of her normal responsibilities, Lt. Bassford continues to seek opportunities to make the department better and is constantly working with the Training Division to help make our firefighters better prepared for the next emergency. Lt. Bassford helps teach Vehicle Mechanical Rescue (VMR), firefighter bailout, live fire training (LFTI), and works part-time with Palm Beach State College as an adjunct fire ground instructor.

During this past month, Lt. Bassford brought one of the most prolific, well-respected, fire service leaders to the Town of Palm Beach. Bobby Halton, Editor in Chief of Fire Engineering Magazine, spoke at the Society of the Four Arts about leadership principles for the fire service. This speaking engagement brought over 140 fire service leaders from all over the State of Florida to our Town for an opportunity to hear Chief Halton offer stories about engagement, servant leadership, and fire service traditions. The event was an overwhelming success, and Lt. Bassford's efforts provided an excellent educational opportunity for fire service leaders all over the State.

Lieutenant Bassford is commended for her passion for making the fire service better than she found it. She sets very high expectations for herself and for her crew, keeping them challenged and fulfilled. Her efforts are making our firefighters better prepared to serve the community with preparedness and professionalism. Jill's incredible passion for training others makes her a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the deserving recipient for the August 2017 Employee of the Month Award.