

The All Hands

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

October 2017

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- Be the Path-Maker!



Deputy Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto, Deputy Chief



I recently attended a talk by Bob Norton, of the Norton Development Group. Bob is an accomplished trainer and leadership consultant who does a lot of work with the fire service. This was probably the 4th or 5th time I have heard Bob speak, but this time, something new stood out to me. Bob said that leaders are paid to get the best results possible for their company. That is a huge statement and one that resonated with me.

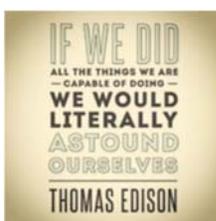
We have so many great people working here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue and their potential is almost unlimited. The key to making Palm Beach Fire Rescue great is helping every single person who works here to be the best that they can be – that is, tapping their unlimited potential.



Palm Beach Fire Rescue is a great organization. We are a Class 1 fire department, the highest rating a fire department can receive and one that is limited to less than 1% of all the fire departments in the nation. We provide fire and emergency medical services with low response times, great quality care, and exceptional customer service.

We expect supervisors and leaders to make sure that every single person who reports to them is the best that they can be. To do that, we set high expectations for each person in terms of performance (what they do), knowledge (knowing a lot about what they do), quality (how well they do what they do), service (how happy they make others), and relationships (how well they get along with each other and the public).

We foster an environment of learning and we strive to help our people achieve their full potential by supporting a culture of continuous development. We train a lot. We use realistic computer simulations to teach and test our member's skills in both emergency medical services and fire. We deliver training on every aspect of what we do every month. Our members are kept current in the latest technologies and latest science in both emergency medical services and fire protection. We send our people to classes and we bring classes to the department to make sure we have the knowledge and skills to be the best we can be.



Moreover, while we expect every supervisor to get the most out of those assigned to them, we know that in the end, what it comes down to is a personal decision; a decision on the part of each individual of how much they are willing to give of themselves as a firefighter here at Palm Beach. Each person has a personal responsibility to himself or herself to be the best that they can be. We want that, we expect that, and we will support that in every way possible.

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Administrative Update

By Jimmy Duane
Assistant Chief



UPDATE

In compliance with the National Fire Protection Association standards, Palm Beach Fire Rescue will be conducting the annual service tests on all of the vehicle ground ladders and aerial devices. Contracted through Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Fleet Maintenance, Mistras Inc. will conduct the testing during the month of November. Palm Beach Fire Rescue's thoroughness with keeping up on standards and performing all of the required testing is one of the many reasons our department earned and maintains the Insurance Service Office standard (ISO) rating as a Class 1 Department.

The Ocean Rescue Department has diligently worked to get the beaches back in order since Hurricane Irma came through. During that time, the lifeguard towers at mid-town beach were removed from the sand and lifted by crane on to the sidewalk area along South Ocean Blvd. Following the storm, a large portion of the beach was washed away. Furthermore, the King Tides occurred, which again caused additional damage to the dunes. During the first week of November, Beyel Brothers Crane Service will be lifting the towers back on to the beach.

**CLEAN
BUNKER
GEAR IS
HEALTHY
AND
SAFE**

STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.
USE CLEAN BUNKER GEAR

The department completed its semiannual bunker gear cleaning. While we currently have a washer/extractor and gear dryer for cleaning gear, NFPA requires that the gear be professionally inspected once a year by a certified vendor. The outside vendor conducted this inspection as well as washing the gear while they have it in their possession. At this time, all necessary repair are completed for the safety of our personnel. Thanks to Lieutenant Dunnam and his crew, this year's cleaning was well organized and quickly accomplished.

Engine 98 and Tactical 97 returned from Palm Beach County Fleet maintenance, where they received their annual preventative maintenance. During this time all of the incidental repairs were completed including servicing all of the small engine equipment carried on the squad. The Wil-Burt Night Scan was removed from the roof and sent back to the manufacturer for an estimate on rebuilding the light. Engine 97 will be leaving next for service.

During the month of November, the Fire Rescue Department will be conducting fire hydrant testing throughout the Town. Regular hydrant testing is a significant component of the Fire Department's water supply system. Our system is constantly being impacted by improvements, deterioration, changes in usage, and water system maintenance activities which are conducted by the City of West Palm Beach. In addition to determining fire flows, testing can uncover a number of mechanical problems from valves that don't operate properly to leaks and even pump damaging debris flowing from hydrants. It is imperative that we discover problems and get them repaired before the hydrant is needed in an emergency. As a coastal community, beach salt takes a toll on the hydrants itself. After testing, the threads are greased to help prevent corrosion. Although this is a requirement for both NFPA and ISO, routine flow testing is important to determine what their capabilities would be in an emergency. Landscape planting is often close to the roadway edge and it can be difficult to visibly locate some fire hydrants in town. Because of this, blue reflective markers are placed offset to the center line of the road to help Driver Engineers locate the hydrants.



EMS Division

By **Dave Burke**

Division Chief

All Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technicians are required to meet a specified standard to become licensed and provide care. Additionally, EMS agencies are also required to meet a standard of care through compliance with certain rules and regulations. In the State of Florida, the standard is Section 401, Florida Statutes and Chapter 64j-1, Florida Administrative Code. These comprehensive laws and rules detail the minimum standards for equipment carried on advanced life support ambulances, training, patient records, and many other areas. Palm Beach Fire Rescue is subject to inspection each year by the State of Florida Department of Health as well as by Palm Beach County Division of EMS. The inspections are a thorough check of the agency and ensures a high level of quality care. Confirming each agency is always up to standards, most inspections are unannounced and extremely detailed; inspection processes are always executed without impeding patient care. Palm Beach Fire Rescue has a long tradition of receiving excellent grades after State and County inspections. All PBFR personnel, from the Division Chief assigned to EMS to the newest Firefighter EMT, familiarize themselves with inspection standards and prepare daily to exceed the minimum set by the State. Palm Beach Fire Rescue is always ready for inspection!



Pediatric patients account for less than 10% of patients treated by EMS on a national average. Here in Palm Beach, the numbers are even less. In the last year, PBFR has treated 37 patients under the age of 18, accounting for only slightly more than 2% of the total patients treated for the year. The fact that Palm Beach Fire Rescue is less likely to care for sick and injured pediatric patients is a good reason to create realistic training to enhance our skills when helping those we do not encounter on a frequent basis. Last month, we used our learning management system for web-based training on pediatric patient assessment. In addition, crews used the department EMS simulation lab to hone their skills with regard to pediatric treatment including the differences in drug therapy, cardiac arrest, respiratory difficulty, trauma (including burns) and extreme allergic reaction. In the coming months, we will focus our EMS training on pediatric airway management in preparation for Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training at the first of the year. Consistent training on our less frequent events will make us excellent at all we do!



Cesar Lora from our Public Education Division training the Society of the Four Arts in Stop the Bleed and CPR

Ocean Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Ocean Rescue Supervisor

Beach conditions over the last month have not been the best for swimming, continuing days of rough surf, the return of Moon Jellyfish and not so great water clarity have made swimming rather unpleasant. As the weather begins to change, the increase of onshore winds will start produce more frequent rip current. Rip currents account for more than 80% of rescues performed by ocean lifeguards. Rip Currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from the shore out to sea. They typically extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone, and past the line of breaking waves. The best way to stay safe is to recognize the danger of rip currents and always swim at beaches with lifeguards. When caught in a rip current it is imperative that you stay calm and don't try to swim directly towards shore. Instead swim parallel to the shoreline until the current begins to lose strength and then swim back to shore. As we move in to Fall and Winter the threat of rip currents will increase along the Palm Beach coast.

Live Fire Training



Deputy Chief's Message (Con't)

From page 1

Palm Beach Fire Rescue is a great organization; however, we can be better. Together, as we each give our best, as we each fulfill our own personal responsibility to be the best we can be, as we each do more, know more, care more, and serve more – Palm Beach Fire Rescue will become the best that it can be. If we all did the things we are capable of doing, imagine the potential.

Training

By Sean Baker
Division Chief

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) coupled with bunker gear is the most important part of a firefighter's personal protective equipment. During the month of October, our fire crews trained on new SCBA equipment that is compliant with the latest industry safety and operational standards. Lieutenant James Weber coordinated the training with the vendor and our fire crews to ensure that the new equipment is placed on our units, ready for the next emergency.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue is constantly preparing future leaders for added responsibilities in the department. Months of training and mentoring culminated into two separate promotional processes for the rank of Battalion Chief and Lieutenant during the month of October. There were eleven candidates competing for one Battalion Chief and one Lieutenant position. Candidates were graded on their ability to handle simulated fire and ems emergencies using the department's simulation lab. They were then individually interviewed to ensure that they had the personnel skills to handle day-to-day decisions in the field. We are proud of the hard work that the candidates put into this process and we look forward to continuing to work with the future leaders of the department.

The department attended our quarterly Live Fire Training at Palm Beach State College. The training evolutions were designed by our Field Training Officers and simulated fighting a fire inside of a 2-story building. This training is invaluable for our firefighters as it places them in a real time scenario that puts their skills and abilities to the test. Lessons learned from this training will drive training for the next several months so that our firefighters continue to grow and expand their abilities.

We are proud to announce that Palm Beach Fire Rescue will have our first ever honor guard to represent the department at community events. The mission of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Honor Guard is to serve as representatives of the Department at formal occasions as directed by the Deputy Fire Chief. The Honor Guard projects a positive image of the Department and the members by performing as a well-trained professional team at local events. The Honor Guard is dedicated to honoring fallen firefighters, their families, and Department members, past and present. We are grateful for Lieutenant Ed Sabol for coordinating this effort and getting 11 of our members certified by the State of Florida. These members dedicated a week of their time to intensive training and lessons to ensure that they represent the community with pride, honor, and respect. The department is also thankful for the community support from our partners at the Society of the Four Arts that allowed us to host the training on their property. The department is looking forward to making our debut after our personnel received their uniforms and the training is complete.



Battalion Chief Update

By Joe Sekula
Battalion Chief

It is without question that we have chosen a dangerous profession. One of the most important keys to our survival when operating in these immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environments is having a sufficient and dependable air supply.

This month the department received new air packs. Our old air packs had reached the end of their usable life and were becoming costly to keep repairing. The road to get them was long as we looked at several different air packs from several different manufacturers. All were great, but in the end, we chose to continue using Scott. Scott has a proven track record and continues to set the bar for quality and innovation. We had our in service training last week from the Scott representative and most of the department has already been fit tested for our new masks.

While the masks may look the same there are some differences. The main difference in the mask is that the clear lens is much sturdier and has a much higher temperature rating than our old masks. You should also notice that they are more comfortable to wear than our old masks.

The air packs themselves have numerous changes and improvements that were made to meet the strict requirements of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). When compared to our old packs, the new air packs are about the same weight of 27 lbs. However, the weight is now focused on the hips instead of the shoulders which will make it much less tiring to wear by alleviating fatigue in the shoulders.

The regulator is now detachable and allows additional options for supplying the mask in the event that we are the ones that suffer an emergency and the RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) is deployed.

The Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device now has a series of different sounds, and alarms a little earlier than before. The low air alarm also comes on now at 1/3 the bottle pressure instead of 1/4. These are all requirements by NFPA. You will still recognize some of the unchanged regulators like the RIC-UAC (Rapid Intervention Crew Universal Air Connection) and the Dual EBBS (Emergency Buddy Breathing System).

The RIT packs are also improved. These new packs were designed by firefighters and RIT instructors from across the country to specifically meet the challenges faced by previous RIT teams. The bag is made of high-visibility orange flame and heat resistant material. Reflective stripes up and down the bag help improve visibility. This makes it easier to identify the orientation of the bag in low visibility and stressful environments. The pack itself is sturdier with a skid plate on the bottom, and there is also an air gauge installed as well.

Please spend some time familiarizing yourselves with our new air packs and RIT bags. Next to our bunker gear, these are the most important pieces of equipment we carry, as our lives depend on them, and our proficiency in using them. We have more Live Fire training scheduled and will also be training shortly on RIT drills using the Paktracker.



Fire Prevention

By Marty DeLoach
Fire Marshal

October can be a great time of year for lots of fun outdoor activities. I was lucky enough to travel to Michigan to go to an apple orchard with my son and grandson. The fall colors are spectacular in the northeast this time of year.

October is also a special time of year for the fire service. In 1871 (as the story goes) a fire broke out in the O'Leary barn. The exact cause of the fire has never been determined and there has been much speculation over the years. The most popular tale blames Mrs. O'Leary's cow, who allegedly knocked over a lantern. The fire's spread was aided by the city's use of wood as the predominant building material in a style called "balloon frame". More than two thirds of the structures in Chicago at the time of the fire were made entirely of wood, with most of the houses and buildings being topped with highly flammable tar or shingle roofs. All of the city's sidewalks and many roads were also made of wood.[4] Compounding this problem, Chicago had received only 1 inch (2.5 cm) of rain from July 4 to October 9, causing severe drought conditions before the fire, while strong southwest winds helped to carry flying embers towards the heart of the city.[5] The Great Chicago Fire burned for several days with most of the tragedies and damage done between October 8th and 9th. This tragic conflagration killed more than 250 people, leaving over 100,000 people homeless and destroyed 17,400 structures. The land mass that the fire consumed was over 2,000 acres.

This fire as in the case of most tragic fires, initiates changes in fire safety. This fire triggered a change in the way that firefighters and public officials understood fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (known today as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be henceforth observed in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention.

President Woodrow Wilson issued the first Fire Prevention Day proclamation in 1920. This began the tradition that fire prevention week is observed on the Sunday through Saturday in the week that 9 October falls. This is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. During this week, most fire departments follow the national theme that supports a common message based on tragedies that need to be overcome.

Home fire escape plans are very important and are often neglected since we all feel we can get out of our own homes blindfolded. The reality is that most fire victims are injured or killed in their own home. The most vulnerable victims to fire accidents continue to be children and the elderly.

Having a fire safe home involves prevention, which everyone should be reflecting on during the month of October. Some questions you can ask yourself are; do you know how to put a pan fire out in your kitchen? Is the number on your house visible for first responders to find you quickly? Do you know to close the door behind you as you exit from a burning building? Did you know that most people that go back in to a burning building after they have been out safely never come back out alive? Fires grow very fast when there is no limit to the air or fuel. Unfortunately, many people underestimate how quickly a fire will spread.

October also brings one of my all-time favorite holidays, Halloween. This is another fun activity that can turn tragic without the correct precautions. Planning is an important aspect of Halloween. Parents need to pay close attention to costumes, trick-or-treating activities and candy selections. One of the best ways to ensure kids are safe during Halloween is to have an adult or responsible teen go trick-or-treating with them. All children under 12 and sometimes early teens should be accompanied when trick-or-treating.

Pedestrian visibility is of extreme importance during Halloween. Those accompanying children should take steps to ensure kids are visible when crossing streets or walking through neighborhoods. Costumes should include reflective materials and be of a safe length. Refrain from costumes that drag on the ground and could cause a child to trip or stumble. Oversized costumes also pose a fire hazard. Always choose costumes made of flame-resistant materials. Make sure costumes fit comfortably and don't pose any hindrance when walking. If a costume doesn't have reflective material, add items such as glow necklaces or bracelets to help increase visibility.

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Donations for Puerto Rico



Palm Beach County Care organized to help Puerto Rico post Hurricane Maria. Palm Beach Fire Rescue delivered supplies to the Palm Beach Day School from where the items were being loaded and sent to the Port of Palm Beach. Our three fire rescue stations served as drop off locations.

Fire Prevention (con't)

From page 7

A glow necklace or bracelet is an easy way to add visibility to any child's costume. Give children flashlights to increase visibility, and trick-or-treat in well-lit areas that are familiar.

Masks can become problematic for children when trick-or-treating. When given the choice between face paint and masks, choose face paint. A mask can make it difficult for a child to see when crossing streets or walking through neighborhoods. Masks pose a safety risk, and face paint is preferable. Likewise, ensure that any costume accessories are safe and not constructed from sharp objects. Look for costume props that are made of Styrofoam or soft, flexible material to prevent accidental injuries to your child or others. Today's younger generation is used to mobile phones and tablets. Make sure that kids put the electronic devices away and do not try to text and trick-or-treat.

People often like to have large bon-fires to conclude Halloween evening, to roast marshmallows or have some hot cider. Please remember that most places in our area require permits for bonfires.

Though it is tempting for kids to eat their candy as soon as they get it, it is important for adults to check all candy. Studies show that the likelihood of tainted or poisoned candy is low; however, it is important to double check all candy. If any candy is in an open package, discard it.

We have had the opportunity to provide several reading sessions with children in our area. Our fire suppression crews were able to spend some time at the Four Arts Children Library and Palm Beach Elementary School. The children always enjoy the time spent with the firefighters but just as important, our firefighters enjoy the experience with the children.

The fire department inspected 83 buildings last month. There were 9 violations cited during the inspections that are being corrected. The inspections involved over 1,601,000 square feet of buildings.

Be The Path-Maker!

By: Steve Luckenbach on September 17, 2017

Posted on: <http://www.whyteamweekly.com/why-team-weekly-blog/be-the-path-maker5603947>

Why do so many of us look for a path, rather than make one?

Could what we seek reside within us?

I'm reminded of the story of the man who searched the world over for diamonds that were in his own backyard.

Consider.....the power that resides within you to make a new path. By definition, leaders go first. Awake each morning with a creative mindset, not a mindset of being lost and overwhelmed in a big world, but rather a mindset of knowing you have gifts beyond comprehension to create from the inside out. Choosing one's own attitude, alone, can lift your spirits and the spirits of others; through collaboration create new ways of thinking.

Consider your own outlook on life; the windshield is so much larger than the rear view mirror, why do so many choose the smaller view?

Invest less time fearfully analyzing the past in an effort to predict and protect yourself from the unknown future. Get excited about life and all that it has in store for you! Live, have fun, and learn! Count it all as Joy - for within the coal is found the diamond. Wake up each new day and see it as a rebirth, because that is what it is, a reawakening of your consciousness. Each new day has endless possibilities often best progressed with a spirit of love and a creative mindset.

When we Why Team members say "Make it a great day!", rather than "Have a great day", we are reminding ourselves and others that we can create what we want, that life does not happen to us, we happen to life. Thomas Edison said, "If we all did the things we are capable of doing we would literally astound ourselves". So the question for you is simply, "Are you going to make it a great day?". If not, why? Is self-pity really comforting in the long run?

No matter how difficult your circumstance, you have the power to choose how you think about it. We either create our limits or we create our limitless possibilities. Consider no longer using the word failure, but rather see it all as gifts of insight, feedback to expand the window through which you view the world. Is there not experimentation in creation? Wilber & Orville Wright would have never taken flight if the countless feedback of what didn't fly was seen as failure rather than feedback. Thomas Edison, in his own words, said he discovered 1,000 ways not to build a light bulb. Are you determined to shine brighter and fly higher? Man first achieved controlled flight on December 17th, 1903 and just 66 years later walked on the moon.

Are you shooting for the moon? If not, why not?

Consider embracing more fully each New Day, creating, experimenting, trying new approaches, knowing that you can shift and change as circumstances necessitate. You can make today great - so get after it. Make the days great and you'll make the weeks, months, and the year great; your best ever!

Keep your Why before you, it will guide you and more effectively answer your "what's" and "how's."

Don't choose a Why to prove that you're enough, choose a Why from the knowing that you are enough, more than enough, for a time such as this - to serve and be served as you become all-the-more through concerted effort. Be on purpose to make a difference in the lives of others. Gifts received are enlarged when given to others. And know that your gifts flower best when you put yourself to the test. Create a better world for others and watch your world improve. Collaborate with like-minded people, reaping greater possibilities together. When your alarm awakes, embrace your day like it is your last.

Make it great!

Palm Beach Public Fire Safety Event



Photo Ops (con't)



Lieutenant McKay with Sparky the fire dog discussing fire safety with a local pre-school



Station 2 B shift Driver Engineer and hose management training



Crews working a Rollover accident on Royal Poinciana and Coconut Row. 4 patients transported to the hospital.



George Klein from Ocean Rescue giving a water safety class to local Boy Scout Troop.

SEPTEMBER DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	562
B Shift	821
C Shift	675
Total	2058

Fire Prevention Inspections

83

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	7,522
Town Ordinance Enforcements	35
Preventative Actions	74
Jellyfish Stings	21

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	190
EMS Calls	88
Transports to Hospital	49

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Damon Patrick	11/01
Justin Heinrichs	11/10
Houston Park	11/17
William Layman	11/25
Martin DeLoach	11/26
Mark Bradshaw	11/26

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Mario Reyes	11/94
Keith Golden	11/94
Craig Johnson	11/02
Joseph Sekula	11/02
Stuart Grimes	11/04

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2017:

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



Employee of the Month—James Weber

Lieutenant Weber has proudly served as part of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for twelve years. He is assigned to Fire Station #3 on C-Shift, aboard Rescue 99. Lt. Weber was previously awarded Employee of the months of October 2009, November 2011, and March 2013. Weber is well respected for his technical abilities and has been utilized for many years as our certified self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) technician.

In addition to all of his normal responsibilities, Lt. Weber continues to seek opportunities to make the department better. Weber is the personal protective ensemble (PPE) trainer for our weapons of mass destruction and infectious disease equipment. James recently used his expertise as a master diver to help with our annual department water rescue training at the Bath and Tennis Club. Lieutenant Weber also has volunteered to head up the department's unmanned aerial drone program that will allow the department to expand its response capabilities during an emergency.

During this past month, Lt. James Weber volunteered to be the main point of contact for our new Scott SCBA air packs. He took on the responsibility of working with Fischer Scientific, our SCBA vendor, to confirm that we received the correct items. Weber then implemented a plan to fit test the entire department with the new masks that are required for the new air packs. Finally, Lieutenant Weber worked with the vendor, our Training Division, and operational personnel to establish a training class that was taught at the department over the course of 3 days. Our new air packs are now in service thanks to the hard work of Lt. Weber.

Lieutenant Weber is to be commended for his efforts to make our department better. He is constantly looking for ways to contribute and wants to be involved in mentoring the future leaders of Palm Beach Fire Rescue. His efforts are ensuring that our firefighters are equipped to serve the community with preparedness and professionalism. James's technical abilities and passion for training others makes him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the deserving recipient for the September 2017 Employee of the Month Award.