

The All Hands

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

July 2018

Volume 6, Issue 7



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- Leaders are Mentors
- The Secret to success is helping others achieve it first.

Fire Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto, Fire Chief



Positively Impacting the Lives of Others

At Palm Beach Fire-Rescue, our purpose is to positively impact the lives of others upon every encounter. We do this for the citizens we serve, for the people we encounter in stores, along the roadside, and those who come into our stations. We do this for each other at work and outside of work. And now, we will have an opportunity to do this for others who are working hard to establish themselves with a career in the fire service.

Palm Beach Fire-Rescue has started a new "Reserve Firefighter" program. The goal of this program is to provide experience and on-the-job training opportunities for individuals pursuing a career in the fire service. It offers an opportunity for individuals to familiarize themselves with the normal day-to-day operations of a Fire Department. The program has been developed to provide structured personal growth and professional development to the participant. The training and experience are intended to be challenging, allowing participants to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and qualifications necessary to become successful to be hired as a firefighter.

The Fire-Rescue Reserve Firefighter program provides benefits not only to the reserve participants but also to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department. The program broadens community resources and strengthening the Fire Rescue delivery system within the Town of Palm Beach, and it provides for an excellent recruiting and candidate selection adjunct.

Participants in the Reserve Firefighter program must be Florida certified Emergency Medical Technicians. They do not have to be certified firefighters, but indeed, firefighter certification helps. Because of liability and insurance limitations, these Reserve Firefighters will not be able to perform or work inside of any dangerous areas, including inside of fires or inside of extrication areas.

As of this writing, we have 29 people who have applied to participate in this program. While these positions are voluntary, candidates will be exposed to the same hiring and vetting process as candidates seeking employment. Just going through a firefighter interview process will be of benefit to reserve candidates.

We look forward to the opportunity to mentor and grow the potential of those seeking to get into the fire service.

Personally, I feel that the fire service is the best job in the world. I am so thankful for the opportunities I have had in this business and for all that the fire service has done for my family and me. I am looking forward to sharing some of those opportunities with others and hopefully positively impact the lives and their future careers. Moreover, I am looking forward to the great things these reserve firefighters are going to do here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue, as they set forth to positively impact the lives of those we serve.

Administrative Update

By Jimmy Duane

Assistant Chief

The quarterly Safety Committee meeting was held this month at station two. On hand for the meeting were Risk Manager Karen Temme, Assistant Chief Duane, Division Chief Marx, Lieutenant Matzen and Driver Engineer Martin. 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.

SAFETY COMMITTEE



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. The department is in the process of quoting the final vehicle requiring this system. The Technical Rescue Unit at station one will require a diverter to be installed on the exhaust pipe so that MagneGrip may be used.

It is standard that all emergency apparatus are equipped with back-up alarms to warn people when the vehicle is backing up. An ongoing issue brought upon by the committee was the high pitched sound that was emitted in the bay at station 2, due to the size of the bay. As a temporary fix, each of the units were equipped with hearing protection. All new future apparatus will have smart device technology, which automatically adjusts to 10 decibels above the surrounding noise, reducing noise pollution and irritation for operators and backers. This technology was purchased on the new Rescue, Engine and Ladder Truck, arriving later this year.

The risk of cancer in the fire service has dramatically risen over the last several years. Today's fires emit smoke far more toxic due to the increased use of synthetic products and plastics. In a continued effort to reduce the risk of cancer, a recommendation was made for the consideration to purchase additional respiratory protection in the form of a half mask for firefighters, more specifically those in the Driver Engineer position or positions outside of the building that would not be operating with a full self-contained breathing apparatus on their back. Firefighters always enter a fire with full gear on, air with full respiratory protection, while the driver engineers operate the apparatus, sometimes having to stand in a position within the hazardous smoke. The Training and Safety Division will continue to look in to this idea to determine what the best course of action will be.



The end of the fiscal year is rapidly approaching. Over the next several months, the remaining vehicles requiring preventative maintenance will occur. This service is performed on all of the department's apparatus, which includes a detailed check of all vehicle systems as well as any needed repairs and required maintenance procedures. The combined efforts of our personnel who diligently perform daily apparatus checks along with the quality mechanics from Palm Beach County Fleet Maintenance keep our apparatus in top running and ready condition.

The quality of breathing air and maintenance of our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and equipment used to fill the SCBA equipment is a critical aspect for respiratory protection. Because of its importance, quarterly maintenance and air quality testing is performed. Channel Innovations completed the quarterly inspection and semi-annual maintenance and air quality testing on the department's air compressor system. Once again the quality of air tested high and the system remains in great working order.

EMS Division

By Sean Baker
Division Chief

Nothing screams summer in South Florida like a trip to the beach, and the Town of Palm Beach has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Thousands of visitors make a point to come to the island and play in the crystal blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean every year. Sun, surf, and sand make the beach a wonderful draw for people of all ages. Palm Beach Fire Rescue's Division of Emergency Services would like to ensure that our visitors stay safe, which is why we would like to arm the public with a little information while enjoying our coastal paradise.



The first, and probably the most obvious, warning would be about the South Florida sun. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke and sun poisoning are some of the dangers that can come of prolonged sun exposure. Symptoms include confusion, dizziness, fatigue, headache, muscle cramps or weakness, nausea, excessive sweating or lack of sweating, pale skin, swelling (particularly of the hands or face), rapid heartbeat, and confusion. Sun poisoning can also be indicated by skin redness and blistering, pain and tingling, or fever and chills.

If you, or someone you are with, displays any of the above symptoms, you should get out of the sun, remove any excess clothing, drink plenty of water and take a cool bath or shower. If symptoms are severe it is best to seek medical attention. Be sure to stay hydrated and avoid drinks that can dehydrate you like coffee, alcohol, etc.

The next warning involves watching out for rip currents. The ocean is more powerful than people expect, and sometimes this miscalculation can have dire consequences. Waves don't always break evenly along the shore. And when they don't — i.e., when they break more strongly in some areas than others — it can cause a circulation in the water that produces a rip current (basically a strong channel of water extending from the shore out into the water). Rip currents also tend to form near a shallow point in the water, such as a sandbar, or close to jetties and piers and can happen at any beach with breaking waves. They are the number one hazard for beachgoers and can pull even the strongest swimmers out to sea.

If you see a current of choppy, off-colored water extending from the shore, steer clear. If you do get pulled out, stay calm, save your energy (let the current carry you for a while), and keep breathing. Don't try to swim against the current! Gain your composure and start swimming horizontal to the shore until you're out of the current. Then turn and swim diagonally towards the shore. If you can't make it to the shore, wave your arms and make noise so someone can see or hear you and get help. When in doubt, swim close to a lifeguard and stop by the lifeguard tower to ask if the conditions are safe for swimming.

Ocean life can also cause problems if not prepared. The most common creature that frequents Palm Beach Shores is jellyfish, or Man-O-War as they are frequently called. Most jellyfish stings can be treated at home: If any tentacles remain stuck to the skin after exiting the water, remove them using a flat object (like a credit card). Do not rub them off with your hands or a towel, which can aggravate the sting even more. Rinse the sting with seawater (using fresh water may activate stingers that have not yet released venom). Next, deactivate the stingers: Rinsing with vinegar for at least 30 seconds works for some species, while a paste of baking soda and seawater works for stings caused by Portuguese man-of-war and sea nettle jellyfish. Finally, relieve pain by soaking the sting in hot water for at least 20 minutes. Seek medical attention as always for severe reactions.



There has been some talk of medical waste lately on our beaches, but this phenomenon is no

different that it has been in past years. We ask that the public notify Ocean Rescue Lifeguards if they encounter any thing that resembles medical waste. These trained professionals will ensure that it is handled appropriately.



The ocean is a beautiful place to visit for recreation and relaxation, and with a little preparation anyone can have a great time. The information listed above can be applied to any body of water, including lakes and pools so, have a plan, pack your sunscreen, stay hydrated, and ALWAYS swim close to a lifeguard.

Fire Prevention

By Martin DeLoach
Fire Marshal

The start of another school year is quickly approaching. Palm Beach County Schools open on August 13, 2018. Florida schools are all seeking better ways to protect the students and employees with a renewed vigilance due to the tragic events at Stoneman Douglass High School.

The Florida Legislators created an unfunded mandate to hire a police officer for every school in Florida. Public Safety Officials have been diligently creating plans, conducting training and preparing to overcome a shooting event if one occurs in their jurisdiction. The truth is many officials are reacting and striving to prevent any additional loss of life; however, the answers are not clear and the costs, in most cases, are not achievable. Several school districts in Florida have publically stated they do not have the funding to assign or hire police officers to be in every school for the 2018/2019 school year.

The school districts are trying to identify workable and affordable ways to protect our schools from these tragic events. Unfortunately, some solutions will not be as effective as expected or desired. Attending the Executive Development Conference with the Florida Fire Chiefs, speaker Bill Godfrey, a retired fire chief and current lead instructor for the Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Incident Management course, stated there are two enemies at an active shooting event that lead to serious injuries and death. He had a very intimidating picture of a handgun being aimed in a “in your face” fashion as the first enemy. The second enemy he described was a picture of a clock representing time. These two items are statistically what cause people to lose their lives at these appalling events. Chief Godfrey explained that injured people at these events very often need immediate care, possibly tourniquets or other techniques to stop bleeding and ultimately surgery. Lieutenant Jason Redman, a retired Navy Seal and author of the bestselling book “The Trident” also spoke at the conference, and in his lecture he discussed the statistical success of trauma doctors for our military. He shared that if you can get the wounded soldier to their operating room with a pulse they had a 90 plus percent chance to save the wounded soldier life. Time is the other major enemy for people during active shooter events.

The other piece of important information that was shared by Chief Godfrey was the fact that contrary to everything else that firefighters do, the longer the incident lasts, the safer the work zone becomes. He provided some statistics on active shooter events and stated that almost all of them are carried out by single shooter. He also stated that almost all of the shooting is over inside of ten minutes. In a U.S. Department of Justice study on active shooter events, between 2000 and 2013, there were 160 occurrences and only 2 had more than one shooter. Statistics show the shooter commits suicide 40% of the time. The report documented the time in 63 incidents, where 69.8% ended in 5 minutes or less. These incidents fall under the law enforcement side of public safety with strong support from the fire service, private ambulances, emergency management and the hospital system. Another interesting fact shared in the presentation is that active shooter events are patrol officer events for mitigation, not swat teams. The shooting is over before they assemble a swat response.

The Police and Fire departments in Southeast Florida have made combining policies and training together a high priority for the region. This profession requires dynamic leaders and active policy reviews to continue to meet the needs of the citizens. The Florida Fire Chiefs Association has a section on their web site “Model Response Guidance to Active Shooter Hostile Event”. The United States Department of Homeland Security has good information on the statistics and lessons learned on their web site. With almost 40 years of working in the fire service it is still a struggle for me to see suppression crews training in body armor or having discussions on what types of body armor should be purchased for firefighters.



Joint Active
Shooter training
with Palm
Beach Police

Battalion Chief Article

By Joe Sekula
Battalion Chief

As you might have already seen or heard about on the news, on Tuesday July 10th there was a natural gas explosion in Wisconsin. This explosion claimed the life of a Sun Prairie Fire Captain and left another firefighter with critical injuries. Four other firefighters, a police officer, and seven civilians were also hurt.

The explosion was a result of a private contractor that had punctured a natural gas line causing a leak. As firefighters were investigating and evacuating the involved buildings, there was an explosion that severely damaged 5 buildings.

I found myself reading about this over and over. At first, it was easy for me to relate as the Fire Captain was a 15 year veteran with 2 young children. Second, his Company was responding to a natural gas leak caused by a contractor puncturing a gas line. Something that we here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue respond to frequently. Lastly, this is a High Risk call that no matter how routine it might seem, has the potential to escalate into a major emergency that could involve fire, explosion, collapse, and/or large scale evacuations. This tragic event in Wisconsin could have happened anywhere. Fire crews could not safely access the damaged section of the gas line to stop the leak at that point. Yes, we have natural gas lines running all throughout Palm Beach. Yes, there seems to always be some sort of digging or construction going on, and yes, we have already experienced our own major gas emergency in the past. Remember the explosion and fire at the house on Primavera in 2014? That was due to a gas leak inside of the garage. A gas leak that could not immediately be shut off. It took FPU over three hours to be able to clamp the gas line, as shutting down the gas meter did not shut off the gas, and overall it took over six hours to get that gas fed fire under control.

This is why we train so frequently and intensely on how to safely mitigate these types of emergencies. This is why every one of our suppression units has specialized tools to be able to stop a leak in a poly/plastic pipe, or a leak in a steel pipe. This is why we carry 4 gas monitors. This is also why there was such a hard push for us to be able to access Florida Public Utilities (FPU) gas line maps. We now have access to these maps and can see exactly where natural gas lines run throughout Palm Beach. We are constantly evaluating our equipment and training and have recently finished our department-wide gas training in May. We also recently added a new handheld vise clamp for use on the poly/plastic pipe in hard to reach or access areas. This is one of the same tools FPU uses to stop their gas leaks.

The very least we can do is use this tragic event as a reminder that we have a dangerous profession, and a very important responsibility to keep our residents safe. We must recognize the extreme hazards these incidents can pose to civilians, and us, as emergency response personnel. We must be proficient with all of our tools and equipment, and above all else we cannot get complacent and must always wear our full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and must always anticipate and expect that ignition will occur when dealing with a flammable product in an uncontrolled event.

Please keep the victims and families of those involved in your thoughts and prayers.



Training

By Michael Marx

Division Chief

This month's focused training was on Water Rescue. The fact that Palm Beach is surrounded by water on all sides, presents the need for continual water rescue training. The beautiful waters are inviting to many visitors that are not accustomed to the risks they present.

There are many reasons for conducting water rescue training in the Town of Palm Beach. Being able to recognize water hazards within the demographics of the Town of Palm Beach, keeping personnel safe in roles best suited for higher trained water skilled personnel, familiarizing personnel with equipment and resources that are available, being able to recognize a swimmer in distress, demonstrating water rescue skills, managing spinal injury and having the skills necessary to expedite victim retrieval and provide exceptional patient care for the best possible outcome to name a few.

Palm Beach is the eastern most town in Florida, located on a 16-mile long barrier island. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 10.4 square miles. 3.9 square miles of it is land and 6.5 square miles of it is water.



When conducting a water rescue, time is critical. The average active drowning person has 20 to 60 seconds before submerging. Once submerged finding the victim dramatically decreases after the first 2 minutes from the last fixed location point. Palm Beach Fire Rescue has our firefighters begin thinking of critical thoughts as soon as the tones are activated for a water rescue response. Some of these thoughts include: Location of the incident? How many people and how far out in the water are the victims? What time of day? What type of Weather conditions are present? Is there a need for additional resources such as United States Coast Guard or Palm Beach Police Departments Marine Vessel? Palm Beach Fire Rescue responds to a myriad of different water incidents from bridge construction, storm drains, flooding, boat accidents, injured divers, to multiple victim rescues. Virtually any type water incident, in any location on the island can occur at any time. There are 4 open span bridges located in the area and 4 fixed bridges. These bridges present additional water rescue events. Our fire department trains personnel to know what to do in the event that they are exposed to tidal water while wearing their personal protective gear. This is always a possibility when involved in fighting fire while in, on or around a vessel.



Florida hosts seasonal harvesting such as mini lobster season, which is always annually the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July. It begins at 12:01 am on Wednesday and ends at 12:00 midnight on Thursday. The regular lobster season is always August 6 through March 31. Multiple reefs off Palm Beach coast and warm gulfstream waters provide an environment for excellent year round diving. The Town's coastline is host to both personal and commercial boats used for diving. Fire Rescue Water Rescue Training covers the different rescue swim strokes, escapes and rescue techniques necessary to have the most positive outcomes for water rescue incidents. Firefighters are trained on both the proper swim techniques while encountering heavy currents and the correct tactical decisions when encountering struggling victims. This invaluable training also covers in detail techniques in removing victims from water, proper reach or throw rescue equipment, rescue board skills and the proper handling and treatment of Shallow and Deep Water Spinal Injury management. So in summary, one can see the crucial need to continually train on the topic of water rescue in order that the public can have confidence in the skills of our fire department. Our aim is always to provide the highest level of customer service and to be thoroughly trained in all aspects of public safety mitigation.

Leaders are Mentors

By Michael Ray Hopkin

March 13, 2009, Posted at: <https://leadonpurposeblog.com/2009/03/13/leaders-are-mentors/>

One of the key tenets of leadership is the need to pass on the knowledge and experience to others. Most great leaders throughout history have made it a priority to grow and develop other leaders who can come in, take the reins and lead more effectively.



A mentor is a trusted counselor or guide, a tutor, a coach. A mentor cares more about helping others than getting credit. A mentor seeks to make the world better through helping individuals and inspiring them to help others. In the context of helping others, a mentor seeks to:

Guide: Mentors teach others how to learn, how to find ways to do things themselves. When you ask your mentor questions, he or she does not give you the answers, but guides you to find the answer yourself. They teach you how to be successful by helping you become self-successful.

Inspire: Mentors motivate. They have high optimism and a love for life. Their energy is contagious. Mentors lead people to succeed through their own success and by encouraging others to believe they can also succeed. They set a pattern to follow.

Build: Mentors develop others. They provide opportunities and direction. They create structure and process to channel the growth and development of those they lead. Their goals are “other” oriented; not wanting the glory or limelight themselves, they foster the growth and success of others.

Make it a priority to find someone for whom you can be a mentor. Your efforts will help that person learn and grow. Giving your time and knowledge to others will help you develop your leadership skills.

The secret to success is helping others achieve it first

By: Iyanla

Think of your personal favorite leaders. Did they get there all alone or did they bring others with them? It's likely that there's a whole list of people who have been uplifted because of them.

To reach the success you crave, it's important to focus your energy on helping others reach success. When you do that, you'll have a network of successful people who are inspired to help you continue to reach everything you aspire to.



Leadership Personality

“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.”

Jack Welch



LEADERSHIP AND BUSINESS COACHING

JUNE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	511
B Shift	473
C Shift	483
Total	1467

Fire Prevention Inspections

35

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	13,775
Town Ordinance Enforcements	64
Preventative Actions	35
Beach Closures due to lightning	6

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	89
EMS Calls	119
Transports to Hospital	72

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

Kyle Vander Plaats	08/02
Adam Kramser	08/02
Kathryn Dombrowski	08/05
Robert Miraglia	08/20
Kristen Ruest	08/23
Jakob Hadad	08/30

AUGUST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Danny Dunnam	08/96	22 years
Timothy Martin	08/13	5 years
Walter Arcila	08/17	1 year
Austin Bradshaw	08/17	1 year
Kelsey Mazzola	08/17	1 year
Anthony Ursillo	08/17	1 year

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2018:

January	Stephanie Mavigliano	July
February	Craig Pollock	August
March	Charles Shinn	September
April	Kristen Ruest	October
May	Anthony Curtis	November
June	Frank Mavigliano	December

Employee of the Month—Frank Mavigliano



The Palm Beach Fire Rescue Awards Committee has chosen Driver Engineer Frank Mavigliano as Employee of the Month for June 2018.

D/E Mavigliano has proudly served as part of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for seventeen years. He is currently assigned to the South Station on A shift aboard Ladder 99. D/E Mavigliano has been a multi recipient of the Employee of the month for July of 2013, January of 2014, August 2015 and July of 2017. Frank is well respected for his abilities with regard to water rescue and his eagerness to train others. He uses his past twenty years of experience as an ocean lifeguard to develop and enhance water rescue training for our firefighters.

Frank has conducted the department's water rescue training for the last several years. Following the updated trends and techniques associated with water rescue, Frank continuously updates the existing classroom and practical portions of the training. This month, D/E Mavigliano conducted a two part series of water rescue training. This included a Power Point presentation with audio and video components, which was assigned to all Firefighters through the Target Solutions platform for crews to review prior to attending class. Frank spent several days teaching the proper methods for response to aquatic emergencies in the open water environment, including pools, intra-coastal and the Atlantic Ocean. With an emphasis on life safety, crews learned valuable lessons of team work and techniques needed for protecting lives by learning prompt, skillful rescue and lifesaving techniques.

Driver Engineer Mavigliano is commended for his passion in helping others and his dedication to the safety and survival of Town residents and their visitors. Training received through this program has been invaluable to our personnel during several water rescue incidents this year. The program helps department personnel operate better as a team and our residents and visitors to the Town will be safer because of his efforts. Frank's incredible passion in training others makes him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the deserving recipient for the June 2018 Employee of the Month Award.

