



FULLY INVOLVED

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF TAMPA FIRE RESCUE

October 2015

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Where there's smoke...

Fire Marshal updates smoke detector program



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Tampa Fire Marshal Milton Jenkins, right, discusses a fire escape plan with a resident in East Tampa while Inspector Steve McCullars, back, installs a smoke detector in the hallway of the home. Photo by Jason A. Penny

The Tampa Fire Marshal's Office has revamped its smoke detector program which provides smoke detectors to Tampa residents in historically low-income neighborhoods. The program, modeled after the American Red Cross's Home Fire program, does more than just simply hand out smoke detectors to residents which was one element of the program in previous years. "We felt in the Prevention Office that the Red Cross program was the most comprehensive method of helping residents escape fires in the home," said Tampa Fire Marshal Milton Jenkins.

Jenkins updated the program after partnering with the local American Red Cross chapter in supporting the Home Fire program.

Typically Red Cross volunteers would work in groups of three during neighborhood canvass events. One volunteer would install smoke detectors while another would do an assessment of the home with the resident and come up with a sound escape plan that the resident and his or her family could use in the event of a fire. A third volunteer would document the visit and keep a record of how many smoke detectors were installed.

After discussions with the Red Cross program managers the Fire Marshal proposed having just one of the Inspectors perform all of the functions using the smoke detectors provided by the Red Cross. "Our inspectors are all fire professionals so it just makes sense that they can handle the install, escape



From the Chief: *Here am I, send me...*

Many of us have read the verse in the Bible (Isaiah 6:8) where the Prophet Isaiah humbly submits to the call before him and rises to the task to do the biddings of Him that spoke.

I was again reminded of this passage this past month as I interviewed over fifty of the more than two hundred prospective candidates who anxiously came

into my office for a hard sought-after Fire Chief's interview with hopes and aspirations of joining the ranks of the men and women of Tampa Fire Rescue. Each of us should take the time to reflect back over the years when we too received that "golden phone call" that we would be interviewing with the Fire Chief. Wow! We were one step closer to realizing the dream job of a lifetime.

As I interviewed each of the candidates who nervously sat before me, I could not help but feel the extreme pride from each of their responses to the seven questions I asked each of them. I was extremely impressed with the quality of each of their answers as well as the quality of the candidates themselves. I marveled at the degree of effort each had employed in their research of our agency. I was even grateful that I was hired over thirty years ago when the competition was not as rigorous as what each of these present candidates is facing.

While many of the candidates are currently working for agencies throughout the State of Florida, others are working outside the state, but have Florida State certifications as well. One question in particular that I ask each candidate in order to get a greater insight in their motivation for wanting to become a Tampa Fire Fighter, (I'll have to modify this question for future candidates after this publication) is: Of all the departments in the area and throughout the State as far as that goes, why did you consider employment with Tampa Fire Rescue? Every response was almost identical. "I

want to be with the best!" Wow! "Everyone knows that when you speak of Fire Departments, Tampa Fire Rescue is among the best in the state," they went on to say. They further explained that there are few departments around that has the diversity of runs that Tampa Fire Rescue responds to on a regular basis. You can be on a high-angle rescue with a window washer or painter stuck on the fortieth floor of a high-rise with a scaffolding malfunction, or a medical emergency. Or you can be responding to a confined space rescue with a utility worker overcome with methane gas exposure in a manhole or utility locker. You have the opportunity at Tampa Fire Rescue to respond to a crash fire incident at Tampa International Airport, Peter O'Knight Municipal Airport, or as back-up to MacDill Air Force Base, home of the KC-135-R fuel tankers. You can be responding to a water rescue or a barge fire all in the same day. The opportunity to be engaged in a hazardous materials release in the port is a true reality. Major motor vehicle accidents on "Malfunction Junction" Interstates 4, 75, and 275 are Tampa Fire Rescue's first alarm response zones, not to mention Dale Mabry Highway, Kennedy Boulevard, Columbus Avenue, MacDill, Martin Luther King, and Hillsborough Avenue.

Tampa responds to medical emergencies that range from pediatric to geriatric and everything in between. And to further add, Tampa Fire Rescue participates in more than 800 specialty and extra duty events annually. From nationally and internationally televised events to multiple professional sports and NCAA Division 1 collegiate events, Tampa Fire Rescue manages these types of events and everything in between. The opportunity to train on the many exotic "all-hazards response" issue is a mainstay of Tampa Fire Rescue's Training Academy. "Chief, why would any professional firefighter want to be anywhere else?" Wow!! Did I say that already? And if that wasn't enough, many of the candidates spoke of the diversity of our agency as compared to other agencies. Since many of them spoke of this particular observation, I asked them what Tampa Fire Rescue's diverse make-up meant to them. Again, their responses were almost identical: Opportunity. When you see the make-up of Tampa Fire Rescue with men and women in responsible roles at each level of the organization, and you see almost every ethnic class employed throughout the agency, it sends a message to observers that there are opportunities of growth and development throughout this organization. It means that I would be afforded opportunities to pursue areas of interest that I might not have in agencies with a different focus.

What a prideful reflection I experienced from the comments of these prospective candidates. I have always been a firm believer that our fire service should be more than a nice, good paying job close to home. Most fire personnel want to find meaning and opportunity in their jobs. They want to feel that they are part of something bigger and something better. They want to know

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Fully Involved

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Propane Emergency Training Course reaches milestone in Tampa

By Jason Penny

Driver-Engineer Kelly McNatt from Engine 18C became the 5,000th Florida first responder to complete the Propane Emergency Training Course August 20.

The course is presented by Propane Training Services and is funded through the support of the Florida Propane Gas Association (FPGA) and its members.

"Florida's propane dealers have a very large, year-round customer base in Florida," stated FPGA Executive Vice President Dale Calhoun in a letter about the program. "It is the intent of the [FPGA] and all the propane dealers in Florida who fund this program to take a very proactive position in educating our first responders and industry personnel when dealing with any type of propane related emergency," Calhoun said.

The program began in 2012 and is free to first responders and hazmat teams in the State of Florida. According to the FPGA, the class is accredited through the Florida State Fire College and the Division of Consumer Services, Bureau of Standards for continuing education credits.

"Since this May, 449 of Tampa Fire Rescue's personnel have successfully completed this emergency training class," said Propane Training Services president Carl Weeks. "It is wonderful to have that kind of turnout and support from your Tampa area fire officials."

Tampa Fire Rescue Training Captain David Dittman worked closely with Weeks to schedule the classes and has attained nearly one hundred percent participation. "We can



boast about having the best trained firefighters in the state," said Dittman. "These courses only add to the technical proficiency of our firefighters which ultimately makes our community safer," said Dittman.

During the course firefighters receive comprehensive instruction on handling propane emergencies. The course includes the history of propane and industry safety initiatives; standards, codes and regulations; LP container design and construction; and general emergency response procedures.

"I thought the course was very informative," said Driver-Engineer McNatt. "As fire professionals we are required to know a lot about many different fire scenarios and propane is a major one. Just about everyone uses propane in one way or another."

Chief

that what they do matters. These are our department's human capital, our organization's greatest assets.

There is a lot of talk these days about lack of engagement in the workforce. Imagine how engaged people are when their team makes them feel that they are a fundamental part of the success of the organization; that everyone from the rookie firefighter through the ranks, including the civilian personnel, constitutes a binding thread, tightly interwoven into the company fabric, each equally doing its part to give the fabric its strength. Tampa Fire Rescue's success is due to what each of you do every day to make our organization the stellar performer to which our community has become accustomed.

As we swiftly approach this season of giving, I ask each of you to think back to the day you first received that phone call that forever changed your professional career, but more importantly, provided you an opportunity to help change the lives of many of our citizens within our community who might not be as blessed as many of our families are. Please make an effort to give just a little bit more during the United Way Fund Campaign drive as well as making an extra effort to help wage a more concerted effort to stamp out this dreadful breast cancer disease. Galatians 6:10 says, "as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people."

Until next time, stay safe out there and I'll see you soon...

A personal story: Fighting breast cancer

By Janice Eastburn

October has become Breast Cancer Awareness month, but I've always had a personal interest, having lost family and friends to this disease. In June 2014, it became even more personal when I found a lump and began a different adventure. After seeing a lot of doctors, having a bunch of tests done and going through surgeries and treatments, I've learned a few things that I'd like to share that may help others.

First, find doctors that really care about you, your situation and your health. Doctors who think you're not just a "routine" patient or a number – it may be routine for the doctor and staff, but it most certainly is not routine for you. Make sure they will listen, answer questions and take the time to talk *to*, not *at* you about what is going on, including treatment options and the pros and cons for each option. I was blessed to have doctors and nurses that gave me their personal cell numbers if anything went wrong or if I had questions. Don't just settle for someone you're not comfortable with; look around if necessary.

Second, hope is a powerful thing. Even though sadly, people still die from this disease, many, many more are doing more than surviving it. They are living wonderful lives. Be



and stay positive; it really does help, not just during something like this, but every day. A friend recently told me it takes a lot of energy to be miserable, it's much easier and takes less energy to be happy. Thanks Kelly McNatt.

Third, I've been aware how fortunate I am to work here with Tampa Fire Rescue. During this adventure, it reaffirmed how wonderfully blessed I am to work with such marvelous people. Their thoughts, prayers, and words of encouragement truly helped more than I can express. I am humbled by how many people

care. There are so many to say thank you to, but I would especially like to thank Robbie Northrup. He has worn a pink shirt for the second year in support of me— and even posted it on Facebook!

Even though Breast cancer is the most recognized one in October, all cancers are horrible. We should remember all the ones we've lost to it and celebrate everyone that's been victorious over it. I could go on about types of treatments, how many days were not the best, statistics, how many types of cancers there are, etc. The list is endless. But after thinking about it, these were the important ones to me. Take care of yourselves and stay safe.

TFR soccer team brings home the silver



Top row from left to right, Scott Acker, Rodger Nieves, Ulises Veraia, Steve Ferianni, Wesley Stevens, Tyler Dunn, Brian Fernandez. Bottom row left to right: Jeff Hill, Alberto Arias, Steve Hill, Ryan Burkett. Photo courtesy Wesley Stevens

The Tampa Fire Rescue soccer team traveled across the state to Cocoa Beach to attend the First Responder Games September 23-25. Battling injury and illness TFR Futbol was able to pull out a second place finish and be awarded the silver medal. The team had a tough 6 games in 3 days but was able to work together with the help of our Coach Scott Acker.

The team bested Miami Beach Fire and Miami Dade Police and tied the Brevard County Sheriff's team to advance to the quarterfinal round where they beat Palm Beach Fire propelling them to a semifinal victory against Lee County Fire United. They ultimately fell to Brevard County fire in the finals and were awarded the second place silver medal. "I'm really proud of these guys," said Acker.

"Representing TFR in the finals was sweet and we were glad to bring back the silver medal."

Operations Division Update

By Chief Nick LoCicero, Assistant Chief—Operations



"Officium Paratus"

For those in the fire service October is a very significant month. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls.

According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

While we strive for zero fire deaths each year the recent fire deaths sustained in the city brings into focus that there is much work to be done. Each and every firefighter has the capability to impact lives not only during active emergency incidents but through community interaction and education in fire prevention. The NFPA provide some astonishing national statistics:

Home Fires

- One quarter of home fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom. Another quarter resulted from fires in the living room, family room or den.
- Three out of five home fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- In 2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,755 deaths, 12,200 civilian injuries, and \$7.0 billion in direct damage.
- Home fires killed an average of eight people every day in 2013.
- Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment.
- Smoking materials are the leading cause of home fire deaths.

Smoke Alarms

- Three out of five home fire deaths in 2007-2011 were caused by fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
- In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hardwired alarms operated 93% of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 79% of the time.
- When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.

The most effective risk-reduction strategies are those that

employ a broad-based integrated approach utilizing a combination of prevention interventions. President Harry S. Truman's 1947 conference on fire prevention coined the original Three E's — education, enforcement and engineering. In 2000, the National Fire Academy added economic incentive and emergency response because of their importance to community risk reduction. The goal of using multiple interventions in parallel is twofold: Prevent incidents from occurring, and when prevention fails, reduce or mitigate the impact of the incident. Each of the E's can contribute to the development of realistic, comprehensive and effective solutions. Together the E's produce a synergistic effect and are more effective than when used individually.

- **Education:** Education intervention influences behavior by raising awareness, providing information and knowledge to produce the desired behavior. Education is only effective if people do what they are supposed to do, i.e., firefighters wearing seatbelts.
- **Enforcement:** Enforcement interventions include passing, strengthening and enforcing laws as well as issuing and enforcing regulations.
- **Engineering:** Engineering involves changes in the physical environment: the design, development and manufacture of safety products. Changes are the result of advances in technology; some examples are fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, helmets and airbags.
- **Economic incentive:** These incentives are measures used to influence behavior either positively or negatively. Positive economic incentives reward people monetarily for behaving in a certain manner or making certain choices. Negative economic incentives punish people monetarily for behaving in a certain manner or making certain choices. Tickets, fines and citations are used to discourage people from choosing unsafe behaviors. Economic incentives can be used to persuade people to do business (sales, coupons, discounts, etc.).
- **Emergency response:** Emergency response interventions are used by emergency responders (fire/Emergency Medical Services/law) to mitigate risk. The emergency response capability of the community must be considered during the risk-assessment process. Some risks can only be mitigated by adding new emergency response capability or enhancing current emergency response capability. Emergency service personnel are trained and equipped to handle many emergencies; however, there are occasions when emergency services can be overwhelmed by demands. This is when a well-organized, well-managed Community Emergency Response Team can make a world of difference in ensuring our great city maintains a destination for families and businesses to live, work and play. On the apparatus front we have several items nearing completion. In the coming week we will have two replacement rescue units that will go into service (R-14 and R-20). Additionally, Ybor City's very own Engine 4 will be completed as well.

Until next time- Stay Safe.

Mayor Buckhorn kicks off MDA “Fill the Boot” campaign



Mayor Bob Buckhorn places money into a fire boot to mark the beginning of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's “Fill the Boot” campaign. Mayor Buckhorn proclaimed October as Firefighters Appreciation Month in Tampa before making the first donation of the campaign. From left: Jace Kohan, Nick LoCicero, Jason Dougherty, Elizabeth Carlson (MDA Fundraising Coordinator), Mayor Bob Buckhorn, Fire Chief Tom Forward, Bill Townsend, Bill Mann and Milton Jenkins. Photo by Jason A. Penny

“For more than six decades firefighters have stood on the front lines for MDA, striving to make a difference in the lives of those affected by muscle disease,” said MDA Executive Director, Erin Authier. “Firefighters do more for MDA and the families we serve than any other group. In the Tampa area, they spend countless hours every year participating in Fill the Boot drives and at MDA Summer Camp. We're grateful for the support of these inspiring, selfless individuals who have made a profound impact on our families' health, well-being and quality of life.” More than 100 members of the Tampa Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 754 will fan out across the city with boots in hand for this year's drive on October 4th and 11th, and November 8th before Tampa Bay Buccaneers home games at Raymond James Stadium.

MARSHAL: ‘Off to a good start’

plans and documentation,” Jenkins said.

Another change with the new program is that smoke detectors will be installed in accordance with National Fire Protection Association guidelines. Whereas before one smoke detector would be handed out, now inspectors will install the number of detectors based on the NFPA standards which state that smoke detectors should be installed in each bedroom, outside of common sleeping areas and on each level of the home. Inspectors are installing the new ten-year, sealed-battery smoke detectors mostly provided by the Red Cross. Additionally, the First Alert company donated 200 ten-year smoke detectors and have already been installed in many homes in East Tampa neighborhoods.

“We’re fortunate to work with the Red Cross and First Alert,” said Jenkins. “Our new program has gotten off to a good start. We just want to make sure we can do whatever we can to prevent tragedies like what happened in September from happening again.” Jenkins said, referring to a house fire that happened in the early morning of September 1 when a 61-year-old grandmother and her three young grandsons perished due to a lack of smoke detectors in the home. “I’m sure that family would still be alive today if they’d had working smoke detectors in their home,” Jenkins said.

Going above and beyond

On September 22 after treating an 81-year-old patient that had fallen while mowing his lawn, Driver engineer John Bogush, Firefighter Aaron Taylor and Firefighter Erik Hernandez from Engine 19C exhibited some skills that were likely not learned during their firefighter training. Not wanting to leave a job unfinished, the engine company decided to go that extra mile and finish mowing the man’s lawn. He was able to enjoy a freshly manicured lawn that included clean sidewalks after the men blew off the debris. Considering it was another hot day in South Tampa, this random act of kindness no doubt lifted the spirits of both the patient and his wife.



Be Prepared

By Capt. Wes Adwell

Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.

- Alexander Graham Bell

We all know about preparation. It's something we do every shift. We check our personal gear, our tools & equipment, and our vehicles readiness. We make sure everything we may need during our shift is ready so we can perform our best. We know how to do this because this is the way we were taught and trained. Preparation protects us and allows us the best chance for success in any situation.

What about preparation for your family's financial well-being? Do you make plans for your family's future with the same diligence? Unfortunately, many do not. For many, these things are not taught at home or in school, and we often learn these lessons later in life. Often, people have good intentions but don't make it a priority, and then time quickly passes by. Don't procrastinate! Preparing your financial situation now could make it easier on you and your family in the future.

Here are a few ideas to consider, with a brief description to follow.

- Deferred Compensation
- College Savings
- Financial Plan
- Life Insurance
- Having a Will or Trust

Payroll deduction into **deferred compensation** prepares you for your future in retirement. Your money grows tax deferred and can be used when you separate from service, regardless of your age. This money can help supplement your pension after you retire. Proper investment allocation and increasing your contributions throughout your career can grow your savings over time.

With the cost of a post education continuing to rise, it's essential to start saving for college as early as possible. For those with children, the Florida Pre-Paid Plan or a college 529 *plan, provide a variety of options and benefits for you to save. Depending on the types of plans you choose, the Florida Pre-Paid program covers the cost of future tuition, fees, and boarding with a fixed cost. A college 529 plan offers a flexible way to save at a cost that can be variable. A 529 plan offers tax-deferred compounding and the potential for tax-free withdrawals, if the money is used to fund qualified expenses such as tuition, fees, books, room and board, and supplies. You can also own both plans.

Preparing a financial plan helps you see the whole picture

of your finances and set long and short-term life goals, a crucial step in mapping out your financial future. When you have a financial plan, it's easier to make financial decisions and stay on track toward your goals. This can give you confidence in your future retirement instead of guessing.

Life Insurance helps protect the ones you love if something were to tragically happen to you; on or off duty. It's especially important for those that have less than 10 years on the job and are not yet vested. Having adequate life insurance is more than just paying off a mortgage and final expenses. It should cover your monthly income until your children are grown and finished with their education. Life insurance could mean your family would be financially secure. The costs of insurance increases as you get older too. Therefore, it is more advantageous to obtain a policy at a



young age. In addition, developing a serious health issue prior to being insured may make it more difficult to get coverage later and the premiums will likely be higher.

A Will, also referred to as a "Last Will and Testament", is primarily designed to transfer your assets according to your wishes after death. Unlike a Will, a living Trust usually becomes effective immediately after incapacity or death. While some often think that only the elderly need to have a Will, it is advisable for adults of all ages to have one. It is especially important for parents of minor children, even if they don't have significant assets. Without a will, the government may decide who will become your children's guardian. In order to have a say in who will care for your children—should you die before they reach adulthood—you must draft a Last Will and Testament to state your wishes.

Having these in place as soon as possible helps prepare your family for your retirement, your children's education at potentially less expense, and care & security for your family after you're gone.

Disclosure: The author is not affiliated with the City of Tampa's Deferred Compensation providers. This information is for educational purposes and is not meant to be used as investment or tax advice. Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.



Mark your calendar!

27th Annual



TAMPA FIRE RESCUE

Awards Banquet

Friday, October 16, 2015

Doors open @ 6, event begins 6:30 promptly.

Join us as we honor one of our own as the "Firefighter of the Year"

All seats are reserved... Call Yvonne at 813-348-6521

Come for the memories, stay for the night.

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27th-30th



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TEMPLE VS. USF

Date: November 14

Time: TBD

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- Orange: \$28/ticket

PACKAGE INCLUDES

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- USF Hat for each member of the group
- Group Name Scoreboard Recognition
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PURCHASING INFORMATION

To purchase tickets please click [HERE](#) and enter the promo code 'heroes' or contact Dan Izzo by calling 813.974.9112 or e-mail dizzo@usf.edu.



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