

HOT TOPICS

August 15, 2002
Volume 2 – Issue 3



Community Education News By Lieutenant Hal Knabb

Touching the Future

By Lt. Hal Knabb

One of the greatest privileges we have as Americans is selecting our leaders and having a voice in government. In order to ensure that this privilege is effectively exercised, and every vote counts, the State of Florida has mandated that all of its counties begin tabulating votes via electronic technology. On July 24, 2002, I attended a required three (3) hour training update for poll workers. The training included instructions for operating the “new touch screen voting equipment”.

The new technology has several advantages. It is user friendly. The voter can review and change their choice many times before they electronically cast their vote. For the first time a person who is blind may vote in private. The new technology provides for voting machines with Braille and/or disposable earphones which read aloud the contents of the touch screen. Those in wheelchairs or others who cannot stand at a voting booth may vote at a table with a privacy screen. The disposable earphones may also be used for persons who cannot read.

As a poll worker in the last presidential election, the biggest problem I witnessed did not involve technology. The problem was that not every person was able to exercise their privilege to vote. Some voters were turned away because they did not have picture identification, voter’s card, and/or their name did not appear on the precinct’s roster. The new training stresses “No voter is to be turned away”. In the event a voter arrives at a precinct without the proper documentation, they are to be given a paper ballot. This paper ballot will be counted at the Supervisor of Election’s office after proper documentation has been validated.

These new changes in Florida’s laws and procedures provides for an environment where all voters can exercise their voting privilege. The process is simple and if there is any apprehension by the voter, a poll worker will be assigned to assist the voter in an orientation of the “new touch screen voting equipment”. The standard is now twenty-first century technology. The procedures are simpler, faster and less prone to error. Please, be sure to vote and exercise one of the greatest privileges we have as Americans.



Pictured Lt. S. Beckowitz

Truck 1 Retired By Brad Fitzer, Division Chief

On Friday, August 2nd, Truck 1 (7150) was officially retired and turned over to Ten-8 Fire Equipment, Inc. As part of the trade-in towards our new ladder truck. Truck 1 has served the City for 31 years, and with its retirement brought back many memories. Our new ladder truck is ahead of production schedule and is expected to be completed on September 24th. We will then visit the Pierce plant and perform the final vehicle inspection before taking delivery in early October. A special thanks to Lt. Shawn Beckowitz for

Fire Safety News

By Assistant Chief William Adams



How do jurisdictions in Florida set standards for Life Safety? On what do they base their requirements?

The State of Florida has adopted the National Fire Protection Association's *Life Safety Code* (NFPA 101), 2000 edition, as the Standard for assuring a minimum level of safety within publicly occupied structures. In this respect we are in good company. Thirty-three of the 50 states utilize this Standard. One reason for its wide acceptance is the fact that it is a consensus-based standard. This means that the final publication reflects the input of all affected interests.

The federal government requires compliance with NFPA 101 in many of its construction projects as well. In fact, use of this code is a "condition of eligibility" for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement! This requirement was very controversial when it was first being considered in a Senate hearing room in the mid-1960s. Some argued that code enforcement was a state and local responsibility.

However, the prevailing view was that federal Medicare benefits should not be going to substandard facilities. As a result, federal funding was tied to the minimum life safety requirements of the *Life Safety Code*.

What brought the issue to a head was the occurrence of several multiple death fires in hospitals and nursing homes during that decade. A total of 211 people died in 28 nursing home fires reported to NFPA during the 1960s!

The Department of Defense, Government Services Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and OSHA, also use the *Life Safety Code*.

How is the Life Safety Code different from a Building Code or the Fire Prevention Code?

The *Life Safety Code* addresses only those features of construction, protection, and occupancy that are necessary to minimize the danger to life posed by a fire or similar emergency. Those dangers would include heat, smoke, fumes, and the possibility of panic, among other things. It establishes minimum criteria for the design of egress facilities so occupants can either escape from the building or be moved into safe areas within the building. Concepts of egress include protection of the stairwells, travel distance to exits, visibility of exits from all occupied areas, having an adequate number of exits that are remote from each other, and making sure those exits can handle the occupant load. It even includes formulas and procedures for determining the occupant load based on seating, activities, and mobility of occupants.

The Code addresses such building services as elevators, heating and ventilating systems, cooking equipment, emergency lighting, and chutes for laundry and/or rubbish. These features can have a dramatic impact on the confinement of the fire and ultimately on the amount of time people will have to escape or move to an area of refuge.

The Code does not address prevention of personal injury incurred by an individual's own negligence, or the preservation of property from loss by fire.

Admin./Support Services News

By Ellen P. Wickert, Admin. Officer

Our Editor, **Cecelia Shade**, has been vacationing with her family in Pennsylvania and Tennessee and Tammy Wheatley stepped in as Editor for this edition of "Hot Topics".

Gloria Marsh recently returned from a long weekend in Tampa, FL where she participated in a women's ministry retreat.

The Support Services Division has been working very hard and everyone is extremely busy filling in for those people taking vacations. I want to thank everyone for their patients and support during the summer months.

TeleStaff training for all shift personnel has been scheduled for September 25, 26 and 27, 2002.

Administration News

By Brad Fitzer, Division Chief

The Department's new website, in conjunction with the City's website, is up and running and can be viewed at <http://www.mydelraybeach.com>. Please view our new site and provide us with feedback so we can continue to improve the information we provide.

We just received the report on the air quality testing that was performed at Station #5 and will be meeting to develop a plan for remediation. The report shows areas that need slight improvement, but overall was favorable. We will continue to test the air quality of our other Stations in the future.

As always, if you have any questions please contact me.

Community Emergency Response Team News

By Bernard Federgreen

Practice makes perfect. The Citywide drill that took place on July 10th gave a few of the local communities a chance to show off their skills, which they did very well. Some glitches occurred with radio communications but this problem is being addressed immediately. A meeting was held a week later by representatives of **Woodlake, High Point, Rainberry Bay and Highland Beach** at which time each community reviewed their individual activities the day of the drill.

A simple set of guidelines is now being prepared for all CERT manned communities for future use.

An additional 15 radios were received from the Police Department and will be programmed for CERT use.

In reference to the article in the last issue about discounts at Lowes. Each organization must submit a letter to store management requesting such discounts. There is no automatic discount policy.

If any of the CERT organizations has information on your particular communities and CERT activity within the community, please let us know so we can have it place in the column.

EMS News

By Division Chief Robert Moreland

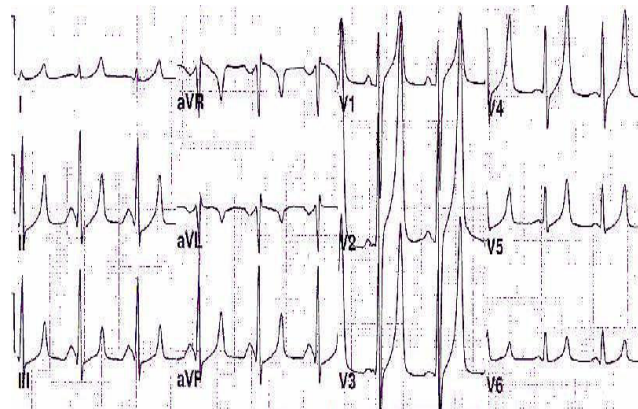
Greetings everyone! This month I've put together a little case study to get you thinking.

Case Study: You are called to the scene of an elderly resident at a friend's apartment in an Adult retirement community complaining of general weakness. Upon arrival you find a seventy six year old male complaining of general weakness for the past two days. The patient has a history of HTN, "heart problems" and kidney disease. As you gather your history and assess the patient he tells you he was supposed to have dialysis this morning but just wasn't feeling well enough to make the trip. His medications include **Spironolactone, Digoxin, K-Dur** and others he can't remember the names of.

The patient is alert and oriented, CC as above, VS: RR : 24 with mild dyspnea present. P: 84 and slightly irregular, BP: 164/92

Pt denies chest pain but feels a little short of breath. Physical exam reveals fine pulmonary crackles in the bases bilaterally, he denies abdominal pain and the abdomen is soft and non tender. Skin is warm and dry with slight pallor. Patient is able to move all extremities normally, but feels too weak to ambulate. ECG shows RSR with occasional PVC's. You decide to do a twelve lead ECG with the following results. You notice large peaked T waves throughout the ECG, otherwise there are no acute ischemic or injury patterns noted.

Based on the above information and ECG strip below, what do you think may be going on with this patient? Is there a potential for the patients condition to deteriorate? If so, what would the field treatment be? **Call the office at 7440 and let me know your thoughts on the diagnosis and treatment.**



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**By John Tomaszewski, Assistant Chief****RENTERS INSURANCE**

Many people do not understand what renters insurance can do for them. Insurance can assist in financial and emotional recovery from disasters large or small. It replaces more than any community organization can provide. If you rent an apartment or a house, renters insurance will reduce the financial hardship a fire, theft, or other disaster can cause. If you are one of the many members of our organization who rents an apartment or house, you should read on to find out about renters insurance - what it is and why you should have it.

What is renters insurance?

Renters insurance is insurance that pays you if your personal property is damaged or stolen. Renters insurance can cover fire and smoke damage, theft, vandalism, damage from windstorms and hail, damage from explosions, water damage from plumbing problems, and many other hazards. It also protects you from liability if an accident happens in your home and may pay your temporary living expenses if an emergency forces you to leave your home.

Doesn't my landlord's insurance protect my belongings?

No. Your landlord's insurance does not protect your personal property. It only protects the building.

***Won't renters insurance cost too much?***

No. Renters insurance is available at low cost for your personal property. It costs a great deal less than car insurance. Renters insurance costs less than \$12 a month in most areas of the country.

What if I don't own much property?

You probably own a great deal more than you think- furniture, clothing, stereo, television, computer, books, toys, jewelry, sports equipment, pots and pans, dishes... What would it cost to replace everything in your apartment if there was a fire or other disaster?

Is all renters insurance the same?

No. Some policies cover more than others. The deductible (an amount you pay before the insurance starts to pay) and limits may vary, and the cost for the same coverage may be different from company to company.

Who should I buy renters insurance from?

Shop around for the policy that meets your needs at the best price. If you have a car, the company that insures it is a good place to start. Discounts may be available if you have more than one policy with the same company. Ask your chosen agent about contents coverage, replacement value coverage, living expense coverage, liability and theft, what is *not* covered, and deductibles.

Training and Safety Division

By Lt. Victor Williams

Lieutenant Mike Wise represented the Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Department at the Phoenix Fire Health, Fitness and Safety Symposium. The 14th Annual Firefighter Health, Fitness and Safety Symposium, held in Phoenix, Arizona, starting on June 26 and concluding on June 29, 2002. On our department's behalf, Lt Wise networked with several firefighters and Chief Officers from various departments throughout the country. **"It is apparent that the Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Department is head and shoulders above most departments in our commitment to promoting and addressing firefighter health and safety"**, he reported upon his return. Lt Wise said he received valuable information at each of the workshops in which he participated. The following is a brief overview of each workshop.

"It's Not Okay to Die in a Structure Fire"

The primary presenters for this workshop were **Fire Chief Alan Brunacini, Assistant Chief Steve Kreis, and Assistant Chief Steve Storment**. The workshop focused on the history of firefighting tactics and addressed the lessons learned in the tragic loss of Phoenix **Firefighter Bret Tarver** on March 14, 2001. Tarver died after his air supply ran out while being trapped during a five(5) alarm supermarket fire. Also discussed was the significant underestimation of the manpower required to perform the extrication and removal of Firefighter Tarver. Since this event, Phoenix Fire Department has focused it's attention to the Rapid Intervention Crew's staffing. Much of the focus of the upcoming Incident Management Symposium scheduled for September 3-6, 2002, will address the findings of these training scenarios and recommendations for Rapid Intervention Crew staffing. The final aspect of the workshop addressed a recommendation to reevaluate fire department's Risk Benefit Analysis prior to commitment to offensive fire attack operations.

"Reflections on September 11th"

The primary presenters for this workshop were **Malachy Corrigan, RN Ph.D**(Director of Counseling Services for FDNY), Lieutenant **Pat Morrison**, Fairfax County Fire Rescue, and **Rich Duffy**, Director of Occupational Health and Safety I.A.F.F. This workshop focused on the colossal effort involved with providing Critical Incident Stress Debriefing to FDNY personnel and their family members after September 11, 2001. During the workshop, Mr. Corrigan reported that there is an immediate need to address and attempt to evaluate the psychological wellness of FDNY personnel. He described the obstacles and difficulties he encountered in a profession that was not prepared to handle an incident of such magnitude affecting the entire world.

Mr. Rich Duffy praised the I.A.F.F.'s rapid deployment of qualified professionals to establish an assistance network. CISD teams from throughout the country were mobilized to New York to initiate stress evaluations and incident debriefing for NYFD personnel and their families.

"Current Events in Firefighter Health, Wellness and Safety"

The presenters for this portion of the workshop were **Rich Duffy** and **Scott Peltin**, Division Chief Phoenix Fire Department Train-

ing Academy. This workshop focused on the progress of proposed legislation, standard adoption progress or obstacles, and firefighter safety issues at the national level. The workshop began with a report on concerning NFPA 1710. Mr. Duffy reported that NFPA Standard 1710 has been adopted. Mr. Duffy went to discuss progress with the Wellness/Fitness Initiative and the first Peer Fitness Trainer Certification Program to be presented by the I.A.F.F. Personal Protective Equipment was also discussed in the hope of finding better ways to protect personnel from hazards encountered while performing their duties.

"The Phoenix Fire Department Study-Heart and Nutritional Testing"

This was the final workshop offered during the symposium. The presenters for this workshop were **Dr. William Lee** of Middleburg, Virginia, and **Dr. James Fleming** of the Phoenix Fire Department. The workshop reported on the emphasis of determining factors that may identify a firefighter at risk of having a heart attack or cardiac event. Dr. Lee and Dr. Fleming are conducting studies on firefighter's medical history, blood lipid profiles and the presence of abnormal proteins as a tool to determine or predict heart attack risk.

As you can see, Lt Wise was very busy during the symposium. I'm asking that the entire department join the Training and Safety Division in acknowledging Lt Wise for returning such an insightful report and for a job well done.

Lt Wayne Yoder and **Lt Mark Reynolds** attended the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials, and the State Emergency Response Commission Training Task Force Meetings in Jacksonville held on July 11 and 12, 2002. The Training Task Force is presently updating the guidelines for public sector hazardous materials training and awareness, and operational training programs. "By our involvement in these meetings", said Lt Yoder, "We gain local input into the process and help us ensure that the finished guidelines meet our needs on the local level. Lt Yoder represents the Florida Professional Firefighters on the State Emergency Response Commission and chairs the State Emergency Response Commission Training Task Force.

Lt Mark Reynolds and **Lt Wayne Yoder** also attended the Florida Fire Chief Association's Hazardous Materials Response Session Meeting. This was the first meeting of the new session. The meeting took place on July 20th and 21st, 2002. During these meetings Lt Yoder also met with Sarasota County Fire Rescue to review and discuss Standard Operating Guidelines and Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction events. Lt Yoder stated that the meetings proved to be fruitful and extremely informative. The meetings were filled with new and innovative thoughts on equipment and procedures. Many will be shared with us in the upcoming months.

Finally, the Training and Safety Division would like to salute Lt **Mark Reynolds** for his recent appointment as the Co-Chairman of the Florida Fire Chief's Hazardous Materials Responders Association. Lt Reynolds has worked hard in becoming one of our areas leading authorities in Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction response and mitigation. The Training and Safety Division, as well as, the entire Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Department congratulates you for your success.

September's Training Schedule on next page.

Operations News

By Acting Assistant Chief Charles Stravino

After 30+ years of service, Truck 1 also known as "The Snorkel" will be retired from our apparatus fleet. It served our community well for many years and fortunately its service as an elevated water stream were not needed too often. Many of us though had experiences removing injured workers from precarious heights on construction sites and other interesting application of its use. For 20 years this was the only aerial apparatus Delray Beach had until Truck 3 (now known as Truck 5) was put into service as a Quint in 1992. This truck certainly has sentimental value to many of our personnel who trained with and were qualified to fly it.

Replacing the Snorkel will be a new Pierce 100' foot ladder with a articulating "sky arm". This vehicle is scheduled for completion September 20, 2002 and delivery is anticipated in October.

Also soon to be in service is our newest **Special Event Vehicle**. Stay tuned for upcoming photographs and information on this unique unit.

August Training Schedule

August 1st-2nd

Initial Attack
Line Strategies
Model 16

Location: Fire Headquarters

August 3rd

Dive Rescue Training
All Personnel
Location: TBA

August 5th-9th

HazMat Tox Medic Practical Training
HazMat Techs Only
Location: Fire Headquarters

August 12th-16th

Tank Truck Class
Delray & Boca Fire Department
Location: Fire Headquarters

August 21st-23rd

Dive Rescue Training
Company Level

August 28th-30th

Hurricane Preparedness
and Survival
Mode 4
Location: Fire Headquarters

Informational News

Submitted by Collyn Katri



It's not always easy to tell if you're dialing an international telephone number. In most cases, you have to dial "011" to begin a call to a foreign country. But

there are locations outside the U.S. whose telephone numbers may look like domestic long-distance calls, but they are actually international calls and international rates apply.

ATT recently put out the following warning:

Don't respond to email, telephone calls, or web pages which tell you to call an 809 telephone number for any reason. The area code 809 is located in the Dominican Republic and is not covered by United States regulations. If you call from the United States you will be charged \$2,425.00 per minute!

There are many scams that deceive consumers into calling international numbers. You may see an ad for a service that directs you to call a specific number, or you may receive a page, an e-mail message or an "urgent" message on your answering machine. All messages direct you to call a number for more information - almost always an international number.

They recommend the following defense:

Be cautious about area codes you don't recognize. Check your telephone directory or call the operator to determine where the area code is before making your call.

Control access to your telephone so unauthorized callers do not use your telephone to call these services. If you are sure you won't need to make international calls, call your long distance carrier and ask them to put an international block on your telephone line.

Don't be a victim of this scam.

From the Chief's Desk

As I am writing this article, the representatives from Pierce (10-8) are here to take possession of Truck 1 which is a trade-in on a new 100 foot rear mount platform which should be in Delray Beach during October. Truck 1 has served the community for over 31 years having first been assigned to Station 3, later to Station 4 as a reserve and most recently at Headquarters. ***This apparatus was purchased in 1970 as part of a fire protection improvement package approved by the voters in a General Obligation Bond Issue in the amount of \$440,000.***

These funds built Fire Station 3, purchased Truck 1 (at a price of just more than \$90,000), two pumpers (Ward La-



France's – long sense gone) and purchase of land on which to build a new Fire Station 2 at the corner of Miramar and Venetian. That parcel was eventually sold to a developer and the proceeds were used to partially pay for the present Fire Station 2 at 35 Andrews Avenue.

Two Osceola County Fire Fighters, ***Lt. John Mickel and FF Dallas Begg***, were killed at a training fire recently. One of these two men, Lt. Mickel was a former co-worker with our own ***Chris Hutchenson***. Chris attended the services for Lt. Michael on Saturday, August 3rd. Our collective symphony is extended to all in Osceola County. Also, we extend our prayers and symphony to the ***family of Cecelia Shade*** on the passing of her Uncle.

Chief Accardi is working with officials in ***Highland Beach*** to purchase an additional thermal imaging camera for Truck 6. This acquisition will bring our total to four units. Eventually, we plan to have a camera on each fire apparatus in every zone.

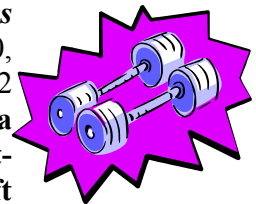
Lt. (ret.) Tommy Buce stopped in to say hello last week and he extends his best to everyone. It's always good to see you Tommy! Also, ***Lt. (ret.) Barry Searles*** made a quick visit to Headquarters recently to say final good bye's as he moves northward to enjoy retirement. Enjoy your new home and way of life Barry – you've certainly earned a rest.

We have completed a series of interviews, evaluations, background checks, etc. for new personnel and ***four (4) conditional job offers are in the mail***. We also have another round of interviews scheduled for August 21st. We were also working on incentives for our current personnel who help us find good, qualified staff – similar to that in place in the Police Department. ***More to come on that score in a few days.***

The Department hosted a luncheon at the Holiday Inn-Highland Beach for our departmental volunteers. Those attending were ***Edythe Rothberg, Murray Michelson, Arnold Fine, Ruth Wolk, Charlotte Lichenstein, Tina Farugia and Margot Watson, as well as Lt. Hal Knabb, Roxanne Tilghman, Ellen Wickert*** and myself. It was great time of fellowship, a terrific view and a fine time to visit and say “thank you” for all these volunteers to help keep us moving in the right direction. We take all their efforts too much for granted. They all really make a difference!

As our third tropical storm of the season forms, in the Atlantic, we are still working on hurricane preparations. The ***Highland Beach C.E.R.T. crew*** re-tested our radio system and problems which were found during the annual drill seem to be corrected. Again, thanks to all the C.E.R.T. team members for being prepared to help, should the need arise.

A new ***Weigh-In Fitness Challenge*** has been announced by the ***Clinical Services Unit*** beginning on August 19, 20, and 22nd. The winner of the 12 week challenge will received a ***paid day off from the Department and a \$150 dinner gift certificate from the staff of the Clinic***. Good programs for better health!



Delray Beach will be the scene of a five day movie “shoot” segment of ***Bad Boys II***. Described as one of the biggest movies to have ever been shot in Florida, this film will bring a lot of interest and attention our way. Fire-Rescue is a key player in the planning, security and safety of the local production. Several meetings of our staff with the production crew have been completed and more are planned. A lot of our “on-site” presence will be part of the final segment of the shooting at ***a South Ocean Blvd. site***.

The distribution of our next newsletter is September 15, 2002. All news articles should be turned in to Cecelia Shade in the Administrative Office on or before August 29, 2002. Deadline for turning in news articles will be August 29th at 5:00 p.m. We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of "Hot Topics" and we look forward to producing our next new and exciting issue. Thank you for your participation.

TO:

Departmental Anniversaries

August 17	Thomas Nabors	19 yrs.
August 28	Jan Holmsted	13 yrs.
August 15	Adam Granath	8 yrs.
August 15	Spencer Langley	8 yrs.
August 15	Matthew Pearce	8 yrs.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

- Haystack Beef Burgers - With Tomato-Chilpotle Mayonnaise

INGREDIENTS:

The patties -

3 lbs. Ground chuck (80%-20% Lean to Fat Ratio)
 2 ea. Zucchini squash
 2 ea. Yellow squash
 2 ea. 1 oz. Packets—Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing/Dip mix
 Fresh ground black pepper—to taste
 Kosher salt—to taste

The dressing -

3 ea. Moistened sun-dried tomatoes
 1 ea. Chipotle pepper
 2 cups Extra heavy mayonnaise
 2 tsp. Fresh thyme leaves—chopped
 Kosher salt to taste

METHOD OF PREPARATION -

Cut the zucchini and the yellow squash into 1-inch pieces. Then cut the outside skin and about 1/2 inch of the flesh away from the squash. Cut these pieces into Julienne or matchstick cuts yielding about 1 cup of vegetables.

Using a large, non-reactive mixing bowl, break the meat apart with your hands. Dust the meat several times with the dry ranch dressing mix, and season with a few black pepper grindings. When all the dry mix has been added, gently mix in the cut vegetables, a little at a time until all are incorporated. Then form 8, (6 ounce) patties. Season the outside of the patties with Kosher salt. Place patties on a platter or sheet pan, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until time to cook the burgers.

To prepare the dressing, use a food processor

to reduce the sun-dried tomatoes and the chilpotle pepper to a paste. A little olive oil and Kosher salt may be needed to achieve the desired consistency. Add the two cups of mayonnaise and incorporate thyme leaves. Cover and refrigerate until ready for service.

Prepare the burgers over direct, medium high heat, until internal temperature reaches 165F using a fast read thermometer. When desired temperature is reached, remove the burgers to a warm platter and let rest for 3-4 minutes.

Just before service, brush the inside of 8 large sesame seeded hamburger buns with melted butter and lightly toast on the grille.

NUMBER OF SERVINGS: 8 (6 oz.) burger patties; and 2 cups of Tomato-Chilpotle Mayonnaise.