

HOT TOPICS

February 15, 2004

Volume 3 – Issue 8



Marcia Higgs, center, joins Lt. James TabEEK and Chief Koen to present "The Fire Fighter" to Delray Beach Fire-Rescue. Plans for a re-configured courtyard at Headquarters will incorporate this generous gift into the design. See additional photo on page 4.

Community Education News

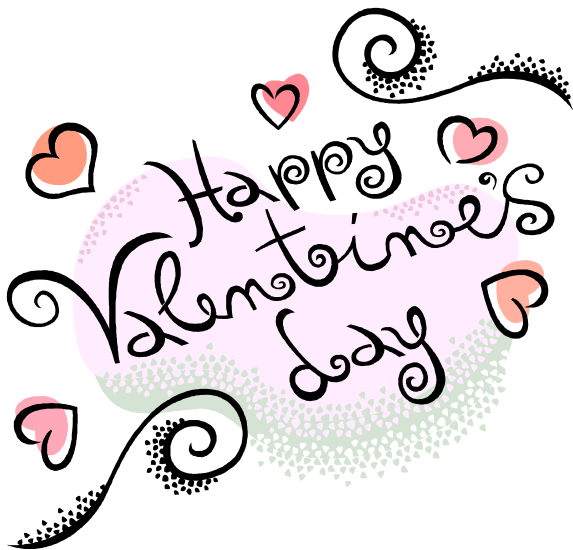
By Lieutenant Hal Knabb

National Child Passenger Safety Week 2004 Emphasizes the Importance of Keeping Children Safe While Riding in Motor Vehicles

From February 8-14, 2004, the Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Department will join this national effort and spread the message that every passenger must ride properly buckled up in a vehicle for every ride. "No one should take for granted that their family may be involved in an automobile crash. Everyone must make sure that relatives, neighbors and friends know that allowing a child or other passenger to ride unrestrained is illegal, and the consequences of sustaining a life long injury or death are never worth the risk," says Kelly Powell Hamilton of The Florida Resource Center.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 59% or 32,598 of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2002 were unrestrained. Buckling up is still the most effective way to reduce injuries and save lives from motor vehicle crashes in America. However, many adults and children still ride unrestrained or unknowingly use child restraints improperly. In Florida, over 96 percent of child safety seats and booster seats inspected by certified technicians are found to be improperly installed, according to data collected from fitting stations and child safety seat check up events. We are using this national awareness week to remind families about the importance of buckling up and correctly installing the appropriate child safety seat in the vehicle.

Infants must ride rear-facing from birth to 1 year of age and weigh at least 20 pounds, and must NEVER ride in the front seat of a vehicle equipped with a passenger air bag. Toddlers at least 1 year of age and who weigh over 20 pounds should ride in a forward-facing child safety seat. Children 4 to 8 years of age and up to 4' 9" in height should use a belt-positioning booster seat because the adult safety belt does not fit this age group correctly. Older children, over 4' 9", should use a safety belt. Unfortunately, a recent report from the 2003 Child Passenger Safety Summit found that children 8 to 15 years of age are less likely to buckle up, accounting for higher fatality rates.



Community Emergency Response Team News

By Bernard Federgreen

“Many drivers just do not believe they’ll be in a crash so they do not wear vehicle safety belts or make sure children are properly restrained for every ride. Our goal is to make sure that families understand the necessity of using the proper restraint every time they ride in a motor vehicle. Buckle yourself and buckle your child!” says Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bill Adams.

NHTSA's 4 STEPS FOR KIDS program promotes the correct use of child safety seats at different stages in a child's development, as shown in the 4-STEP logo.

Florida KidCare

The Florida KidCare program should be up and running again by mid 2004. Governor Bush has allocated enough funds into next year’s state budget for KidCare to start processing the approximately 80,000 children who are presently on a waiting list. The applications available on our first run vehicles should still be handed out to families identified as needing insurance. Other programs besides KidCare are available to these families and the KidCare applications will identify which program best fits each family.

CERT

The first quarterly training for 2004 was a success. Forty-five CERT members actively participated in a review of *Light Search and Rescue* techniques. Lead instructors Bernard Federgreen, James Friedman, Leo Pruner, and Richard Katz (Boynton Beach CERT) provided an interactive format which, judging from post class surveys, was well received and appreciated. Our next quarterly refresher training is scheduled for April 3, 2004. The subject will be *Disaster Medical Operations Parts One and Two*.

On a Personal Note...

Many thanks for all your thoughts and prayers for my family and I with the passing of my father. It was an expected death and now he rests in a better place. You would have liked him. He was a simple person, very straight forward, and a great dad. Thanks again. Hal.

IMPROVING OUR ORGANIZATION

Communications are a vital part of internal operations of any organization. Thanks to Jim Friedman (Rainberry Bay) for his efforts in maintaining an up to date roster of our members. An essential piece of our records are missing. Other than Rainberry Bay, Highland Beach, Hamlet and High Point we need a call roster for each community. We need a member who would be responsible for relaying pertinent information of CERT members throughout their individual communities.

I am requesting that each CERT community, regardless of the size to call in a leaders name to me at (561) 265-3339. This information will also be helpful to fire-rescue.

INTERESTED IN GOLF?

CERT is planning a golf tournament on Saturday, May 15th. Two courses are under consideration. Get your playing partners together and give me a call to reserve a spot.

MAILING

You should be receiving information of the March 6th picnic. If you have not received this information by February 6th please call me or Jim Friedman.

If you have any questions on CERT programs or activities please call the CERT direct line and leave a message at (561) 243-7428. This will lessen the calls going directly to Fire-Rescue personnel.

Training and Safety Division

By Lieutenant Victor Williams

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| February 4th-6th | Tele-Staff Training
Model 6 |
| February 11th-13th | PBSO Bomb Squad Training
All Haz-Mat Techs
St. #5/0830-1330 |
| February 18th-20th | Driver Operator
Pump/Hydraulics Review
Model 1 |
| February 25th-27th | BLS & AED
Model 10 |



Fire Safety News

By Assistant Chief William Adams

Quick response and ready access are essential for Fire Fighters trying to extinguish a hostile fire. One of the tools our jurisdiction relies on to obtain access to buildings is the Knox Box. This is a secure enclosure that contains keys and other information to help gain access to buildings without having to force entry.

Like any other product with moving parts, these boxes require periodic inspection and maintenance. The Knox company recommends the following procedures for keeping the boxes in working order:

MEDECO LOCK - Spray the lock with a dry Teflon lubricant. Do not use oil-based products such as WD40 or graphite. These products attract dirt and can gum up the mechanism. After spraying the lubricant, rotate the key in the lock two or three times to check operation and spread the lubricant.

If the lock still does not operate properly, spray the lock cylinder with a good carburetor cleaner such as Gum Out or Poxylube. These products will flush out any grit that may be interfering with the mechanism without leaving a residue. Now, work the key in and out of the cylinder several times and spray with lubricant again.

By placing a piece of wood against the lock core and tapping it with a hammer you can send a strong vibration through the lock core to loosen stuck lock pins if necessary.

DOOR GASKET - Apply a light coat of grease-like silicone paste (Dow Corning #4 or equal) to the gasket surface. This adds extra moisture resistance.

KNOX-BOX SURFACE - Check the Knox-Box for chips or scratches in the surface powder coating. Prime and paint to protect the surface.

BOX CONTENTS - It is essential that the box be kept stocked with properly labeled keys to entry points. Any time a lock is changed or new maintenance areas are added, be sure to notify the Fire Safety Division. Arrangements will be made to meet with on-site personnel to open the Knox-Box and add the new keys.

FIRE SAFETY TIP

Now that "Winter" is here, be sure to keep portable and other space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, and turn heaters off when you leave home or go to bed.

Admin./Support Services News

By Ellen P. Wickert, Admin. Officer

The entire department sends there condolences to Roxanne Tilghman and her family for the recent loss of Roxanne's father. Services were held in Okeechobee, Florida and Nantucket Island, Massachusetts.

This is a reminder that budget has officially kicked off and anyone responsible for submitting a special program budget needs to submit all items along with justifications to the Assistant Chief of your Division no later than February 16, 2004.

Update - the Support Service Staff and Battalion Chiefs have been working on inputting the final data on the Tele-Staff staffing program. The Battalion Chiefs have been working with Staff Assistant II Mary Black on inputting the daily roster. Shift level training will be conducted during the first part of February.

Good news—Barbara Garcia has retuned to work full time as the PA in Clinical Services. If you get a moment stop in and welcome here back. Barbara we all missed you.

Operations News

By Assistant Chief Charles Stravino

We kicked off the New Year with the unit requests/assignments showing some personnel and crew changes at various stations. Crews will be busy familiarizing themselves with new response zones, and possibly different apparatus.

The past few months Administrative Support has been provided to the Battalion Chiefs. This comes in the form of Mary Black, who spends about the first two (2) hours of her day assisting the Battalion Chiefs with paperwork, schedules, mail-sorting, filing, phones and other needs as they arise. By all accounts this has been a huge success and Mary's skills, suggestions and support has been greatly appreciated.

Hose testing is wrapping up. Pump testing is scheduled for March, and April will bring Aerial and Ground Ladder tests.

Until next time, be safe!

From the Chief's Desk

Once again, we have had a very productive and very busy month, and I want to give a big “THANK YOU” to everyone in the organization for their best efforts to successfully deal with a lot of important projects, and a very heavy workload. ***This past month, for example, our emergency responses reached 1,026 incidents – near a record***, and our response times continue to improve through the first four months of this fiscal year in both Delray Beach and Highland Beach.

Additionally, we did a new round of Fire Fighter/Paramedic interviews and several candidates have been selected to proceed to the preliminary physiological evaluation and work history background checks, driving record and criminal reviews. As you know we have seven vacancies to fill, including four new positions authorized in this year's budget. To assist us in finding a larger pool of qualified candidates, ***Lt. Danielle Connor*** will be re-assigned to days for a period of time. We need to “grow the list” so that we can find the best matches for our professional needs. Also, thanks to all those who participated in both the ***Oral Interview Board*** and the ***Medical Evaluation Board*** during the January testing.

The good folks at ***DeAire Country Club*** outdid themselves again this year by raising a record amount of money from their annual Charity Golf Tournament. This is the 15th year they have honored both the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments with donations to our gift trust funds. This year, we anticipate that over \$20,000 will be available to Delray Beach Fire-Rescue. We are planning to purchase a ***trailerable rescue/dive boat outboard motor and trailer*** with their gift and replace our old inflatable boat that has been at the retirement age for many years. The new unit will be much easier to work from in the case of water rescue, and it will be suitable for other emergency functions over time.

We are also in the purchasing process to add a ***new laptop computer*** to our ***C.E.R.T. and EOC*** inventory as a result of the generosity of the residents of Rainberry Bay. This equipment will certainly enhance our ability to communicate and record our process in the event of EOC activation. Additionally, the unit can be used for general departmental activities and training as well. ***Delray Beach continues to be blessed by many generous groups and individuals who think of us regularly.***

The citizens overwhelmingly voted to support a \$22.5 million dollar bond issue in mid January. The approved funds will be used to purchase land and develop additional parks as well as a new western community center – which we now plan to be designed as an additional hurricane shelter for our residents, and this will indirectly improve our ability to serve as part of our roll in Community Emergency Management. Other funding will support the expansion of Old School Square, a downtown parking garage, and furnishings for the new city library that will soon be built on West Atlantic Avenue.



Congratulations to ***Kevin Saxton*** who was recently promoted to

Paramedic upon successful completion of all required internal testing and certifications.

For those of you who haven't yet seen the ***“new look”***, stop by the clinic and see the staff's new lab coats, with the DBRF logo. ***Very nice!***

A major task of the month was our 10 year review by the ***Insurance Services Office***. The ISO evaluation took the entire week and we are still providing some final information to their Field Representative as he begins the actual grading review in his Jacksonville office. We should know in March how we did. ***Thanks to all for a job well done in preparation for this important evaluation.***

Two pieces of art have been donated to the Department and will be part of our on-going memorialization of the events of September 11th, as well as the dedication of our own Fire Fighters and staff right here in Delray Beach. ***Loren Shaffer, owner of Borton Volvo and Volkswagen*** provided us with an original sculpture entitled “9-11” which must be seen to believe and understand. It is very unique and will be prominently displayed at Headquarters in the weeks ahead. Loren was so touched with what ***the artist, Robert Rosselle of Alexandria, Virginia*** was trying to convey, he wanted to buy the piece and give it to us. The sculpture was presented to the Department on January 29th at the Colony Hotel as part of the Jazz on the Avenue events. ***We are very appreciative.***

The second piece is a statute of a Fire Fighter in full protective gear. This piece was given to the Department by ***Marcia Higgs of Urdl's Water Gardening Center*** in Delray Beach. This statute will be incorporated into our re-designed front entry courtyard as that project moves forward. A special thanks goes to ***Lt. James Tabee*** for following up on this contact, and then bringing this to fruition. The City Commission recognized Ms. Higgs at their regular meeting on February 3rd.



Mayor Jeff Perlman, Commissioners Bob Costin, Alberta McCarthy, Deputy Vice-Mayor Patricia Archer and Vice Mayor Jon Levinson joined in the presentation of “The Fire Fighter” at the February 3rd Commission Meeting.



The tragic events of September 11th are commemorated in an original sculpture, titled "9-11" by Robert Roselle of Arlington, Virginia (second from left). Mr. and Mrs. Loren Schaffer of Delray Beach presented this unique work of art to the Department on January 29th. Commissioner Jon Levinson also attended the presentation.



Organizers of the Annual DelAire Charity Golf Tournament gather to celebrate another record setting year. This year's donation will be used to purchase a trailerable rescue boat.

Valentine's Day Fruit Punch (For Kid's)

Ingredients

1 pkg. each—cherry & strawberry Kool-Aid
 1 (6 oz. can) frozen orange juice
 1 (6 oz. can) frozen lemonade
 2 cups sugar
 1 qt. ginger ale
 3 qt. water

Directions

Mix Kool-Aid, sugar and water. Add orange juice and lemonade. Mix until thawed. Add ginger ale just before serving. Serves about 25.

Strawberry Kiwi Smoothie (For Kids)

Ingredients

1 cup pineapple juice
 3 peeled kiwi
 1 cup frozen banana slices
 3/4 cup frozen strawberries

Directions

Place all ingredients into a blender in the order listed. Blend at a low setting for the first minute, then the high setting until smooth. Serves 3.

Frozen Fruit Smoothie (For Kids)

Ingredients

1/2 cup orange juice (or other juice)
 1 large banana
 1/2 can peaches, drained
 1 cup whole frozen strawberries
 1/2 cup pineapple, drained

Directions

Whirl in blender until smooth. Makes two big servings. You can add your own variations, such as fresh peaches, papaya, or coconut milk for a tropical taste. The essential elements are a banana, the whole frozen strawberries, and some juice. Great in hot weather.

Special Operations News Lieutenant Michael Wise

Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Department Hazardous Materials Technicians have attended the Chemical Warfare Agent Training Course in Anniston, Alabama. The program is delivered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness at Fort McClellan. Battalion Chief **Russ Accardi**, Lieutenant **Mark Reynolds**, Lieutenant **Mike Wise**, Engineer **Mike McCleary**, Engineer **Mark Dorsett**, Engineer **Eric Patrie**, Engineer **Chris Zidar**, Paramedic **Walter Hirst** and Paramedic **Jeff Harkcom** have attended the program. The course graduates were exposed to advanced aspects of working in an actual chemical agent environment at the **COBRA** training facility, detection methods and equipment, selection and use of different types of PPE, and crime scene evidence preservation. All the attendees were impressed with the ODP training facility, the course organization and the extraordinary emphasis on student safety.

The program is designed to better prepare hazardous materials technicians for a Weapons of Mass Destruction event involving chemical warfare agents. Several other courses are being offered by the Office of Domestic Preparedness throughout the country to enhance the fire-service role in Homeland Security. Hazardous materials technician that are interested in registering for any of these programs should contact **Lt. Mike Wise** for registration applications.

The distribution of our next newsletter is March 15, 2004. All news articles should be turned in to Cecelia Shade in the Administrative Office on or before Wednesday, February 26, 2004 by 5:00 p.m. As always, we hope that you have enjoyed this issue of "Hot Topics" and we look forward to our next issue. Thank you for your participation.

TO:



Kid's Corner

Presidents' Day Quiz True or False

Departmental Anniversaries

February 9	John Fletcher, Jr.	28 yrs.
February 16	David Priest	21 yrs.
February 17	James TabEEK	21 yrs.
February 22	Michael McCleary	16 yrs.
February 22	Michelle Murphy	16 yrs.
February 22	John Reeck	16 yrs.
February 21	Clinton Cason, Jr.	15 yrs.
February 21	Russell Accardi	15 yrs.
February 21	Frederick McAlley	15 yrs.
February 28	Christopher Zidar	10 yrs.
February 28	Shawn Beckowitz	10 yrs.
February 28	Randy Bahe	10 yrs.
February 18	Cecella Shade	7 yrs.

Congratulations on the
 Milestones you've reached in
 your fire service career.



1. Presidents' Day is celebrated the third Monday in February.
2. It honors two great presidents, President Washington and President Wilson.
3. President Washington was the first American president.
4. President Washington is the only president to have a state named after him.
5. President Lincoln's first name was George.
6. Pictures of both presidents heads can be found on U.S. banknotes.
7. President Lincoln wrote the U.S. Constitution.
8. Both presidents were assassinated.
9. President Lincoln helped end slavery in the United States.
10. President Washington was born on February 9th.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. False—Washington & Lincoln
4. True
6. True—Washington \$1/Lincoln \$5
8. False—Only President Lincoln was shot
10. False | 1. True
3. True
5. False—It was Abraham
7. False—James Madison authored it
9. True |
|---|--|