

HOT TOPICS

September 15, 2001

Volume 1 – Issue 4



Community Education News by Lt. Hal Knabb

Community Education and Outreach

“Hey Mister Firemen!”...Yes, I know that we are not firemen, we are firefighters, but that’s what the children and seniors call us. Other than that slight miscall, I find these two groups amazingly astute in the area of fire prevention and fire safety. Whenever I speak to these two groups, I try to prepare in advance for what I think will be their main concerns regarding fire prevention and fire safety issues. Still, at times I feel that I have not adequately done my “homework” or as we say in Operations a “good preplan”.

My first awareness of this shortcoming was last year, when I was giving a Fire Safety talk to a Pre-K group from Banyan Creek Elementary School. I thought that I had been told the group was “learning disabled”. I prepared accordingly and was certainly surprised when the first question from this quiet group was, “Hey Mister Firemen, after vision and hearing which of your five senses is best at finding fire?” This group certainly was not “learning disabled”, in fact they were “gifted” and most of the group had been reading since they were three years old!

Last week, I relearned the importance of adequate preplanning when speaking to a group of seniors at Abbey Delray South. I was told to prepare for an audience of about thirty, who were interested in general fire safety. The audience, as it turned out, was in excess of one hundred and the topic was not general fire safety. At issue were “exciting requirements”, and in particular the “operation of fire doors”. A ninety year old with walker in hand asked me, “Explain please, how the lights work and what they mean on those doors when the alarms go off?” The maintenance man standing nearby must have seen the befuddled look on my face. He calmly whispered to me that he had a working model that we could demonstrate. Everyone learned something that day, especially me!

My point here is that: I’m finding adequate preplanning is necessary when doing Community Education and Outreach, just as it is for successful Operations. Know your audience, and know your buildings.

EMS NEWS

by Chief Richard Murphy



Paramedic Lieutenant Dennis Morley

Time to Reflect on an EMS Legend

As many of you are aware, Lieutenant Dennis Morley has retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the Delray Beach Fire Department. This is not just another one of the “Old Timers” leaving after “doing their time.” This is one of the original eight- (8) employees who were certified as a PARAMEDIC sometime in the 1977. That alone should and does warrant a tremendous amount of acknowledgement from those of us who now work in one of the best EMS systems in the state. Lets face it, we have all heard stories about the equipment, apparatus and situations these guys were faced with back in those days.

I would also like to point out a few things that many of us may have forgotten about that has made many of us say, “I hope that I can be like Lieutenant Morley when I get promoted.” “I wish I was able to intubate critically ill patients like Lieutenant Morley does.” “I’m so glad that Lieutenant Morley is my Paramedic Lieutenant.”

After working for and with Dennis over the past 14 years, I have concluded that what makes Dennis so successful was one very important value that consistently guided him in his decisions. Dennis always asked himself “how can I make it *easier* for the medics to provide quality service to the citizens and visitors of Delray Beach.” While I believe that this is a major sim-

tions of his efforts, those of us who remember having to clean and re-use most all of the medical equipment such as BP cuffs, suction units and laryngoscope blades to name a few, I'm sure you would agree that Dennis deserves about 95% of the credit for our "completely" disposable system. Yes, I realize that many of you brought those neat ideas to Dennis' attention, he was however the one who found the vendor, placed the order, answered Chief Wigderson's questions about the cost (oops) and convinced most of us that, "It is easier, just try it out for a while."

One of the other characteristics of Dennis' accomplishments is his strong and dynamic leadership ability. Dennis always excelled in training, leading and motivating individuals to their fullest potential. His peers and subordinates often emulated Dennis' leadership traits. I, like many officers of this Department, am proud to say that Dennis had a huge impact on my success here at the Delray Beach Fire Department and for that, I am eternally grateful.

Administration News

by Ellen Wickert

Budget news...We are nearing the end of the fiscal year, and all purchases for this year should be completed by September 15th. Next year's budget will be distributed as soon as all information is available.

Welcome back from vacation to Cecelia, she took a week off to be "MOM" to her children. It was great to take them to school, pick them up and to hang out with them after school to hear about their day. She also enjoyed spending quality time with her 11 month old daughter, Tyra.

Also, Welcome back Tammy! Tammy and her husband, Greg vacationed in Ohio, North Carolina and Georgia visiting family and friends. We hope that her time away was relaxing and enjoyable. We really missed you.



Chief Fitzer & Cecelia Shade

Battalion Chief Brad Fitzer was presented a \$50 gift certificate to The City Oyster for naming our newsletter. We voted back in June and our new masthead made its debut in July. "HOT TOPICS" is filled with informative news and events concerning the department and our personnel. We will continue to produce the department newsletter because everyone has contributed to its success. Thank you for all that you do!

As a final note, the above photo of Chief Fitzer and Staff Assistant Cecelia Shade was taken by Chief Wigderson with our new SONY digital camera.

submitted grants. Please take an oppor-

COUNTY EMS GRANTS

As Chairman of the Palm Beach County EMS Grants, I am proud to announce that the Department was awarded three (3) grants for Calendar Year 2001 totaling \$60,616.61. The grants will be used to purchase two (2), 12 lead monitor/defibrillators, three (3) A.E.D.'s for Community Access Defibrillation, and one (1) additional S.E.R.V. unit for special events.

The County EMS Grants are scored on a competitive basis and this year we were fortunate to receive funding for all

tunity to thank Chief Murphy for his hard work in preparing and submitting this year's requests.

Brad Fitzer, Battalion Chief

SPECIAL OPS NEWS



Photo by Paramedic Jeff Harkcom

Correction: The photograph of *Lt. Mark Reynolds* with the newest addition to the Delray Beach Fire Department fleet of vehicles, was originally taken by Paramedic Jeff Harkcom. Credit was given to Paramedic Ron DeLong and we do apologize for the error.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Fire Department staff extends congratulations to *Paramedic Randy Bahe,*

Driver Engineer Danielle Connor and Paramedic



Joseph Drayson who recently received their AS Degrees in Nursing from Broward Community College, and to *Paramedic Joseph Albano* who received his AS Degree in Fire Science, also from Broward Community College.

Emergency Management News

by Assistant Chief John Tomaszewski

NFPA 1600 – Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs, 2000 Edition

This latest edition of NFPA 1600 was prepared by the Technical Committee on Disaster Management and adopted by the National Fire Protection Association at its meeting held November 14-17, 1999, in New Orleans, with an effective date of February 11, 2000.

You may be asking yourself, why is the NFPA an organization traditionally tied to fire related issues, promulgating standards addressing disasters and emergency management?

For many years, citizens have been looking at their fire department as the first responders to a multitude of emergency incidents in the community. During the 1970's, rescue and emergency medical response services were incorporated into the duties of many fire departments across the country. These responsibilities grew to the point where they soon outnumbered the response activity for actual fires in many regions. In the late 1980's and early 1990's fire departments were called upon to provide emergency response to incidents involving hazardous materials. Today, in the 21st Century, the fire service has assumed the role of "Masters of Disasters" in the community. We now are expected to be the problem solvers for everything from a stubbed toe with a resulting hangnail to a major hurricane with a 12-foot storm surge. We are the emergency managers at the local level.

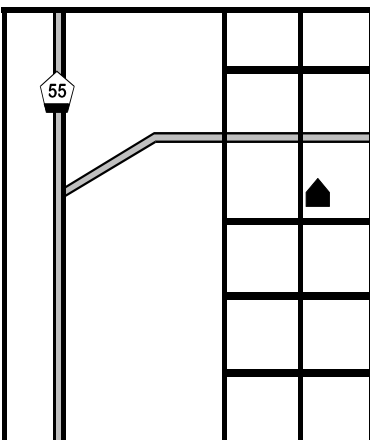
The NFPA established the Disaster Management Committee in January, 1991. The committee was given the responsibility to develop documents relating to preparedness for response to and

recovery from disasters resulting from natural, human, or technological events. The first document that the committee produced was NFPA 1600, Recommended Practice for Disaster Management, which was adopted at their annual meeting in 1995.

In the 2000 edition, the committee incorporated a "total program approach" for disaster/emergency management and business continuity programs in its revision of the document from a recommended practice to a standard. The committee provided a standardized basis for disaster/emergency management planning and business continuity programs in private and public sectors by providing common program elements, techniques, and processes. The committee expanded provisions for enhanced capabilities for disaster/emergency management and business continuity programs, both before and after a disaster, so that the impacts would be mitigated, while protecting life and property.

Here in Delray Beach, the Fire Department developed and maintains the City's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The Emergency Operations Center for the City is located at Fire Headquarters and the Fire Department is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the emergency management program. We work with the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management and the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce to coordinate the local disaster/emergency management and business continuity programs.

Fire Safety News by Assistant Chief William Adams



This month our maps are being placed on each vehicle for a "test drive". Evaluation forms will be available at each station. We would appreciate your suggestions, comments or even maps that you have made or gathered, so that they can be considered for our next map book. This is not the final product, but it will get us through until a better map book is designed. Cecelia has the master book for anyone who would like a copy of the map book. Please make a copy and return it to her. I would like to thank everyone who helped put this project together. It took a tremendous amount of time, effort and team work to get this accomplished in such a short time. I am anticipating working until October 4th. In my absence, John Lasko will be guiding the map committee. Please forward all comments to him during this time. Thanks again and I will see you in January!

Training and Safety Division

by Division Chief Russell Accardi

The training & Safety Division has added some new equipment to our inventory to help enhance the quality of training in the area of Emergency Medical Services.

A new pediatric intubation mannequin was purchased and will be available for use in training room D. We also purchased a new 12 lead EKG simulator to be used for scenarios and EKG interpretation training, which will also be in training room D.

A new antennae for the thermal image cameras is being tested by the Training & Safety Division. This will allow our wireless transmitter to send and receive a video image at the command vehicle. Upon completion of the evaluation of this new hardware the third camera will be placed in service on Engine 2. This will give our department a camera in the East, Central and West corridors of our response area.

Lt. Mike Twigger attended the second annual ABC's of Infectious Disease for Public Safety Personnel Conference, August 20th – 22nd, 2001 in Tampa, FL. This conference was coordinated by the State of Florida Department of Health Bureau of EMS.

A new Countywide High-Rise Fire SOG has been adopted by the Palm Beach County Fire Chief's Association. Training on the new SOG is scheduled for September.

The department conducted ACLS recertification training in August and are pleased to announce that all personnel required to recertify have completed the process.

Special Operations: As many of you may have seen in a memo from Chief Koen, the South County Regional Haz Mat Team was evaluated by the County oversight Committee recently. The team comprised of Delray Beach and Boca Raton scored a perfect 100%. The areas of operational readiness including equipment inventory, training, and training documentation were key areas of the evaluation. This score was the highest of all the teams in Palm Beach County. Congratulations to all of the team members who have worked hard to have a professional Haz Mat response capability, especially Lt. Mark Reynolds for ensuring we would be ready for the evaluation.

Some Special Operations responses for August included:

A-Shift:

Mobile home fire resulting in 100 lb. LPG cylinders venting with fire and later leaking. 3110 South Federal Highway.

Dive Rescue call – car in the intracoastal waterway 1001 South Federal Highway.

Mercury spill at a house under construction, 609 NW 1st Avenue.

B-Shift:

Natural gas line cut at Bud's Chicken.

C-Shift:

55 gallon drum of Bromine leaking at Rexall Sundown Warehouse in Boca Raton.

In last month's issue, we omitted ***Paramedic Mark Dagnan*** as one of the Step-up Officers who completed the 16-hour "Rapid Intervention Course" at the Broward Fire Academy. Congratulations to all members who participated.

Training Schedule

September 5th – 7th

New Standing Orders

Model 5 @ Fire Headquarters

September 10th – 15th

County Wide High Rise Training

Model 15 @ Fire Headquarters

September 19th – 21st

Special Ops. Boat Operation

2 Sessions – Divers & Haz Mat Techs

September 26th – 28th

New Standing Orders Review

Model 1 @ Fire Headquarters

From the Chief's Desk



It occurred to me.....

Recently, I received some new personal protective clothing and set about the task of getting it adjusted and otherwise in order. While dealing with that chore, it occurred to me that I was not just looking at a set of “gear” like we did in the “old days” when you got “hand-me-downs” a lot, but rather I was putting together a “*safety system*”, designed just for me.

When I take everything into consideration, it is a very impressive ensemble, intended for use under some awesome and very bad conditions – called fire. The whole outfit issued to you as a Fire Fighter in Delray Beach weighs about 51 pounds, including the SCBA and PASS device. Protective gear is heavy, hot, bulky, cumbersome, and sometimes not worn correctly or completely because it is heavy, hot, bulky, and cumbersome. Just putting all that stuff on to get it adjusted made me break a *serious sweat*. That little process made me pause and remember that you guys have to really work in that stuff regularly, and what it is like to have to advance a 2-1/2 into a 1500 degree structure fire.

Back to the point of this piece...today’s gear, and what it is designed to do. It’s designed to get you into and out of a fire,

and be ready *to go home to the family in the morning – just like you came to work yesterday at 8 – in one piece, and not crispy or otherwise messed up*. That will be the case if our gear is used as intended.

“Used as intended”. That phrase stuck me when I noticed that both the coat and pants came with sewn-in certifications, 24 pages of instructions, manufacturer’s warnings and directions; the gloves each came with one of those “don’t remove under penalty of law” tags attached to the cuffs along with a 28 page brochure telling me how to wear, care for and even dispose of my gloves; the new helmet and boots (which we will be ordering soon) come with permanently affixed NFPA approvals on the insides; the flashlight has its own 6 page set of instructions; and my NOMEX hood also has one of those “don’t even think about removing it’s labels ,” you get the picture. *Only my suspenders came free of instructions. I guess we are still able to figure out some thing’s on our own.*

All kidding aside, and *with apologies to Andy Rooney*, who just loves to do stories about such stuff, we have come a very long way to make sure that each of you (and me) will be as safe as possible when assuming some of the more dangerous aspects of our profession. The detail of these documents attest to that. A lot of people are working in the “standards making process” and the manufacturing industry to advance our environmental safety even further, and we owe them a “big thank you” for their past and current efforts.

By the way, those instructions, direc-

tions, and other material, while pretty dry reading, are all intended to help us take care of our gear. *I figure if we take care of it, it will do it’s part to take care of us.*

On other matters—

Congrats to *Robert and Jeanna Baker* on the birth of their son Joshua Tyler on August 10th. Glad to see *David Kobrin* and *Paul Hensley* recovering from recent medical issues. Our sympathy is extended to the families of *Bill Adams* and Andy *Heithaus* on the recent losses in their families. Best wishes to *Chief Richard Overman* on his retirement, and to *Chief Larry Schroeder* on his promotion – and we look forward to a great relationship with his new administrative team.

Special inter-departmental congratulations to *Barbara Garito* on being named City Clerk. A few well deserved days off for *Russell and Stacy Accardi* both in San Francisco and later in Tucson. Finally, we wish *Lt. Dennis Morley* the very best in the next phase of his life...we will certainly miss you, and you can “retire” knowing that you made Delray Beach a better place because of your service.

The two-year *Chief Officer list* is now published and posted, and we appreciate all the hard work that went into completing this very important administrative task. Several changes are now underway within the *CERT program* involving communications systems and hardware as well as projected schedules for re-training existing members. Thanks to *Mike Twigger, John Tomaszewski, and Bill Adams* for helping move these program changes along.

Kerry B. Koen

Letters from “Mr. and Mrs. Smith”

Mr. and Mrs. Smith represent our “customers“, and are very important people in our community. We thought you might like to read some comments and excerpts from the many letters, notes, and phone calls received each month regarding the services we provide. Keep up the great work!



Recently I had an unfortunate accident that resulted in a foot fracture. My daughter placed a phone call to 911. Needless to say, I was very upset but when the Paramedics arrived they quickly put my fears to rest. They were caring and compassionate and put me totally at ease in the situation...

R.S. - Delray Beach, FL

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DELRAY BEACH?

by Bill Rego
Special Events Coordinator

October 20th

American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk, 7:30 a.m. – Siemans ICN, Inc., 900 Broken Sound Parkway, Boca Raton, FL, 3 miles – City of Delray Beach sponsored event. Fire Fighters have been the #1 contributors for the past 2 years. Let's keep up the good work!

9th Annual Fire Fighters Recognition Dinner, Dancing, and Awards Program will be held at the Elks Club in

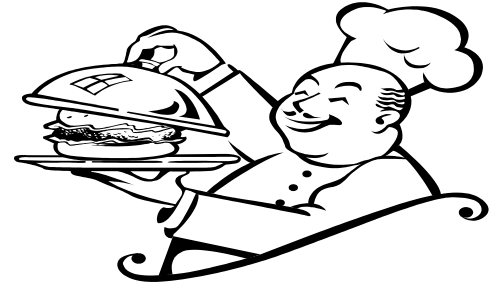
Delray Beach at 7:00 p.m. until midnight. This year we will be honoring John Hansen, Bill Adams, Butch Tillson, Ron Pangburn, David Kobrin, Bob Jolly (Beach Patrol), Rich Connell (Beach Supervisor) and Carol Carpenter (Civilian Award).

November 10th

Palm Beach County Council of Fire Fighters Annual Chili Cook-Off, Lake Worth...Taste some of the wildest chili's you could ever imagine. *Local 1842* will be there to defend last year's title of *Best Chili* over all, along with the other locals from Palm Beach County. Food, live entertainment, spirits and Fraternal gathering.



WATCH OUT! On Saturday, September 1st, The 4th Annual Delray Beach Bed Race was the happening thing in town. Our personnel attempted to win the 1st place prize which was a trip to Hawaii. The Sandwich Man Restaurant and the Professional Firefighters & Paramedics Local 1842 sponsored *Paramedic Mike Wise, Paramedic Michelle Murphy, Paramedic Michael Bucher, Paramedic Chris Hutchinson, Firefighter Tommie Osborn, and Lt. John Staab* who came in Second Place in the event behind Pine-apple Grove who walked away with the 1st Place win. Congratulations to our awesome Bed Race Team!



Recipe of the Month

Chicken n' Cheese

- 8 – Boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 8 slices – Swiss lorraine cheese (1/8" thick)
- 1/2 lb. – Sliced white mushrooms
- 2 (10-3/4 oz.) cans – Cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup – Half and Half
- 2 cups – Pepperidge Farm Herb Stuffing (a small package will do)
- 1 – Stick of Butter

Place chicken in a 9x13 glass baking dish. Top with Swiss cheese. Place mushrooms over the Swiss cheese. Mix cans of soup with half and half and pour over chicken. Spread stuffing mix over top, and drizzle melted butter over the top. Bake at 350 for 45-50 minutes.

Anonymous Fire Fighter

Thought Of The Month



LEADERSHIP

Until you spread your wings, you'll have no idea how far you can fly.

Unknown

HIS-tory by Chief M.B. Wigderson

How I Came To Work For The City of Delray Beach.

My first day on duty was Sept. 8th, 1972. It was also the last shift for Captain Tommy Lyman who was one of the first paid Fire Fighters hired by the City of Delray Beach back in 1943. Captain Lyman was a tall gentleman with a crew cut who looked like a Marine. I still remember his comment to me that first morning, "Son you're going to see it all before you retire, just thank God it's not all at once". Captain Lyman was the first generation of paid Fire Fighters and now I was part of the second generation. In 1971, with the building of Fire Station #3, on SW 12th Avenue (now named Linton Blvd.), the City had hired nine firefighters. They called their group "The Lighting Nine", and now they were going to hire six more firefighters to finish the manning. Our group would call ourselves "The Salvage Six". That first day I reported to Capt. Latour on the A shift. He would assign me to senior man Elmer Johnson who drove Engine 12 at Central Station. His job was to outfit me in spare bunker gear and issue me my equipment. The bunker gear was black, with a knee length coat and pants held up with red suspenders, which I needed because both coat and pants were too big as well as the boots, that I had to cut outdoor carpeting inserts to make fit. The gloves were black thick rubber for hand protection and the helmet was a heavy black leather helmet with a plastic heat shield. Elmer showed me the Scott air pak on the south pole of the apparatus floor and told me I should practice putting on my gear and air pak. Total weight of everything was around seventy pounds. I practiced dressing out and getting on the engine until one of the crew members said to make it more real I should be upstairs and respond by sliding down the pole, get dressed and climb on the Engine. This must be done in less than one minute or I would be left behind.

After an hour or so I was almost getting it when someone suggested to make this more realistic, I should be in bed with my bunker pants neatly pulled down over the tops of my boots ready for me to jump into. I did this until the 10:00 o'clock coffee break. During coffee, I met the rest of the shift and soon found that they were a friendly lot. They would help point out the rest of my duties. I had the honor of doing the barrow duties. This consisted of putting up and taking down the flag, taking out the garbage, polishing the brass pole, turning on or off the red porch lights and securing the station at night, opening up in the morning and bring in the newspapers. Remembering my lost and found days at NWA, I asked how long I would be "in the barrow" and in unison they responded "until you can do it without being told". Captain Latour assigned me to ride rescue with my first partner Henry Kamiya. Henry had started the year before and had grown up in Delray. His Grandfather was one of the first Japanese settlers in Yamato, just west of here. Henry was calm and cool under pressure and very self-assured in the performance of his duty. He would become my mentor. My job was to drive the 1961 Greenbrier ChevyVan, Rescue 7, a gift from the Women's Club. Due to its gross weight, from the time you left the station you kept it floored just to do the speed limit. We were to provide first aid and transport the patient to Bethesda Hospital in Boynton Beach. The more critical the call, the faster we would "swoop and scoop" the patient to the hospital. I remember the first baby I delivered in the back of Rescue 7. Henry was driving and giving me instructions over his shoulder, and I was quite nervous and inexperienced, so when he asked me if she was crowning, I asked her if she was crowning. She was moaning something awful. As we hurried into the ER,

the nurse on duty insisted we must take her to pediatrics. We flew down the hallways all the while delivering the baby on the stretcher. Mother and child were whisked away as soon as we arrived at the delivery room. Later we found out it was a baby girl. Oh what an experience, we got back to the station and I would not go back to sleep the rest of the night.

On the second Monday in October, "The Salvage Six", named for our ability to arrive at any emergency scene just in time to clean up, reported to Captain Todd Jackson, Training Officer. We were to begin our orientation and State required Minimum Standards Class. This 200 hour, five (5) week class would be taught for the first time in-house. Attending this class would be Rick Lee, Mike Malinowski, Earkis Hill, Al Damato and Bill Rego. I met Bill Rego during the NWA strike in 1970. He was the manager of the Shakey's Pizza Parlor across from Mitchell Field in Milwaukee. We became friends when Bill supported our cause by bringing us pizzas on the picket line. Later he would hire me as a part-time bartender during the strike. Originally, Bill was going to tow the U-Haul trailer with his truck to move my family to Florida, stay a week and return home, but as the talk of moving to Florida sounded better and better, he too decided he would apply to the Fire Department for a Firefighter position. E. Hill, as we called him, was recruited by Captain Gerner from the vehicle inspection station on Congress Avenue. He was well liked and always in a good mood. I would describe him as non-excitable, a good characteristic for this line of work.

Chief Wigderson's journey through time will continue next month. I can't wait to see what happened next.

The distribution of our next newsletter is October 15, 2001. All News articles should be turned into Cecelia Shade in the Administrative Office on or before October 1, 2001. Deadline for turning in news articles will be October 1st 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.

TO:

Departmental Anniversaries

Michael B. Wigderson	September 8	29 yrs.
Geoffrey Cooper	September 15	21 yrs.
Christopher Ackerman	September 16	1 yr.

Congratulations to our personnel who have reached their first anniversary or more in their careers in the Fire Service. We wish you much success in the future...



Operations News

by Acting Assistant Chief Charles Stravino

This month I would like to share with you a few of the more significant calls that we have responded to recently.

- B-Shift, HazMat team responded to twin engine plane crash on I-95 to assist Boca Raton with a full spill.



- Crews stopped a 1-1/2" natural gas line, ruptured by construction workers,

prior to the gas company's arrival.

- C-Shift fought two (2) structure fires on July 18th within several hours of each other. Both fires originated in the kitchens. One of the fires was a 2-story townhouse with heavy smoke showing from the 1st and 2nd story windows. That fire caused approximately \$30,000 in damage.



struction area.

- A-Shift responded to an accident on I-95 with four fatalities, along with several other rollover accidents in the con-

- A-Shift also had a fatal car accident on N. Congress Avenue.

- C-Shift responded to a car in the canal, I-95 southbound, south of Woolbright Road.

As you can see, with a wide variety of calls, we always need to be in a state of readiness.

I have received positive feedback on all of the incidents, as well as the many, many others we have responded to. Keep up the great