

HOT TOPICS

November 15, 2002

Volume 2 – Issue 5



Precious Cargo! See Lt. Hal Knabb's story about twins, Jesse and Jessica Florrane on page 2.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

By John Tomaszewski, Assistant Chief

DRIVING IN A DISASTER Safety Tips for Motorists in Emergencies

After almost every disaster, search and rescue teams find victims who might have survived if they had known whether to stay with or leave their cars. Following are safety tips for drivers in various types of emergencies. This information should be kept in the glove compartment of your car. In any situation, the most important rule is: Don't panic.

Hurricane...Evacuate Early

Flooding can begin well before a hurricane nears land. Plan to evacuate early, and keep a full tank of gas during the hurricane season. Learn the best evacuation route before a storm forms, and make arrangements with friends or relatives inland to stay with them until the storm has passed. Never attempt to drive during a hurricane or until the all-clear is

given after the storm. Flash flooding can occur after a hurricane has passed. Avoid driving on coastal and low-lying roads. Storm surge and hurricane caused flooding are erratic and may occur with little or no warning.

Flood...Get Out of the Car

Never attempt to drive through water on a road. Water can be deeper than it appears, and water levels can rise very quickly. Most cars will float dangerously for at least a short while. A car can be buoyed by floodwaters and then swept downstream during a flood. Floodwaters also can erode roadways, and a missing section of road - even a missing bridge - will not be visible with water running over the area. Wade through floodwaters only if the water is not flowing rapidly and only in water no higher than the knees. If a car stalls in floodwater, get out quickly and move to higher ground. The floodwaters may still be rising, and the car could be swept away at any moment.

Tornado...Get Out of the Car

A car is the least safe place to be during a tornado. When a warning is issued, do not try to leave the area by car. If you are in a car, leave it and find shelter in a building. If a tornado approaches and there are no safe structures nearby, lie flat in a ditch or other ground depression with your arms over your head.

Summer Heat...Stay Out of a Parked Car

During hot weather, heat build-up in a closed or nearly closed car can occur quickly and intensely. Children and pets can die from heat stroke in a matter of minutes when left in a closed car. Never leave anyone in a parked car during periods of high summer heat.

Cars should be equipped with supplies which could be useful in any emergency. Depending on location, climate of the area, personal requirements and other variables, the supplies in the kit might include (but are not limited to) the following:

blanket/sleeping bag

booster cables and tools
 bottled water
 canned fruits and nuts and manual can opener
 first aid kit
 flashlight
 rain gear and extra clothes
 necessary medication
 matches and candles
 shovel
 traction mats or chains

Listen to radio or television for the latest National Weather Service bulletins on severe weather for the area in which you will drive. In times of developing emergencies such as toxic material spill or nuclear plant accidents, keep a radio or television on and await instructions. If evacuation is recommended, move quickly but calmly, following instructions as to route to be used, evacuation shelter to be sought, and other directions.

Community Education News

By Lieutenant Hal Knabb



Jesse and Jessica

Congratulations are in order for **Ferdinand and Florrane Isaac**, members of our evening Environmental Services team. They are the proud new parents of twins, **Jesse and Jessica**.

Prior to the twin's birth we provided Mom and Dad with new car seats and hands on training for proper installation. All seemed well and they promised to return for family pictures. Upon their return though, an unexpected occurrence had taken place with regard to **Jesse and Jessica's** car seats. The seats were no longer reverse facing, as they should be until Jesse and Jessica are one year old and twenty pounds. Both seats were now forward facing, thereby increasing the risk of head and neck injuries in the event of hard braking or a motor vehicle crash.

We can't see their faces." Ferdinand explained in

his best English. "Well, I need you to speak to **Mr. Benoit** at The Florida Child Passenger Safety and Resource Center." I explained in my best Creole. A brief conversation in Creole between **Romil Benoit and Ferdinand** cleared up the misunderstanding regarding the car seat installation.

Firefighter Eileen Tuckman, Child Passenger Safety Technician, facilitated the needed correction with Dad's consent and assistance.

This story has a happy ending because of the collaboration between Community Partners to provide Community Education and Outreach Services. In this case, as in the past two years, we are indebted to The Florida Child Passenger Safety and Resource Center for their immediate and continued assistance.

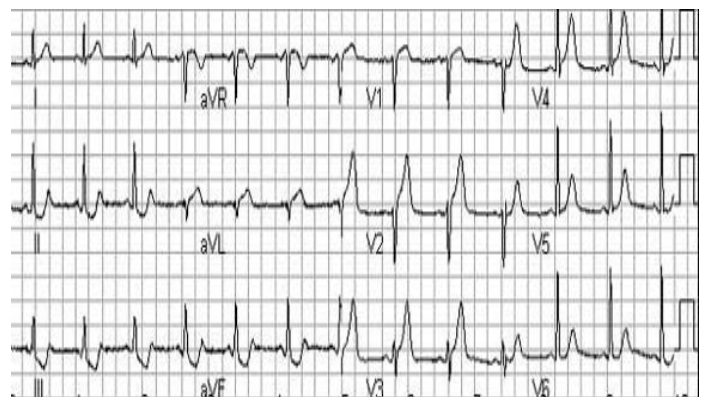
To **Ferdinand and Florrane**, Congratulations, you are to be commended for keeping your precious cargo safe. To **Jesse and Jessica**, may every ride be a safe ride.

EMS News

By Division Chief Robert Moreland

Case Study

It is 0700 Hrs. and you and your crew are called to a home for an elderly woman complaining that her arm hurts. On arrival you find a 71 year old female with a history of diabetes complaining that she woke up this morning with pain in her left shoulder and elbow. She tells you "I think I slept on it wrong". Your assessment reveals an alert and oriented patient with normal vital signs and warm moist skin. Her blood glucose is 204, she states she took her insulin this morning and had a normal breakfast. She has no other complaints. She has normal motor and sensory functions and equal pulses to all extremities. You are able to persuade her to go to the ER, and as you are loading her in the truck your partner suggests a 12 lead ECG would be a good idea.



The above cardiogram prints out. Is this normal or abnormal? (Hint: check out those ST segments). If abnormal what is your field diagnosis? With this new information will your treatment and transport decisions change? Call or stop by the office and let's discuss it!

Until next month, keep up the great work!

Admin./Support Services News

By Ellen P. Wickert, Admin. Officer

Tammy Wheatley is recovering from hand surgery; we all extend our best wishes to her and look forward to her return.

Cecelia and Collyn worked diligently to schedule Paramedic interviews for November 6th, set up the Interview Board and Polygraph operator, much copying of applications etc. Thank you both for your efforts.

Telestaff News – we are still hoping to get started with this in January – I hope you have all tried to access the training session from your stations.

Can you guess who handled the office all by herself on October 11th. Hint: Initials are GM. Thank you so much—I don't know what we would have done without you.

Also special thanks to all the light duty personnel. We have been short staffed and your help has been greatly appreciated.

Fire Safety News

By Assistant Chief William Adams

UL BATTLING COUNTERFEIT TRADEMARKS

Recently, a Delray resident brought a night light product she had bought at a department store into the Fire Safety Division. She said as soon as she plugged it in it exploded and blew the plastic cover across the room. The lamp showed the burn marks common with an electrical short circuit, and pieces of filament or other wiring material were imbedded in the plastic casing.

Surprisingly, the packaging for the lamp had the letters UL printed in not one but several locations, and there was also a UL holographic sticker attached. Lt. Tim Garito contacted the local representative of the Consumer Product Safety Commission who is currently investigating the incident.

The UL Mark has been around for over 100 years. Manufacturers, consumers, and Authorities Having Jurisdiction have come to rely upon the presence of the Underwriters Laboratories Mark as assurance that the product has met certain standards that reduce the risk of fire, shock, and/or personal injury.

The possibility exists that this product never met UL specifications at all but was a counterfeit. Unfortunately, UL has had to initiate an aggressive program to protect the integrity of its Mark. They have been training U.S. Customs officials at major ports on how to identify counterfeit Marks and the types of products on which they appear. This can be a daunting task because in 2001, UL Marks appeared on over 17 billion legitimate products!

“A RESIDENTIAL FIRE IMPACTS THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY EVERY 85 SECONDS” – I.A.F.C. PRESIDENT, RANDY BRUEGMAN

The International Association of Fire Chiefs President also noted that fire deaths peak during the winter months. For the past 15 years the I.A.F.C. has supported the “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery” campaign. The Organization enlists the help of battery manufacturers such as Eveready and Energizer, who donate batteries for smoke detectors. This successful program gets people in the habit of checking their smoke detectors each time they change their clocks.

This year Lt. Hal Knabb distributed 200 smoke detector batteries to families who attended the 13th Annual Kidsfest held on Saturday, October 26th at Veterans Park. Hal noted that having this kind of program to remind families about their smoke detectors is very important. “Young families are especially busy”, he said, “and several people told me that the time had slipped up on them”.

PEI HAS RECORDED 125 CASES OF STATIC-SPARKED GAS-PUMP FIRES SINCE 1999.

The Petroleum Equipment Institute has issued some suggestions to prevent fires and injuries caused when static sparks ignite gasoline vapors. According to the organization, whose Stop Static program promotes awareness of this surprising hazard, static charges can build up when you get in your car. As occupants enter, they create friction between clothing and the car seat- that generates static electricity. The Institute suggests that after you get out of the car but before you touch the nozzle, ground yourself. This can be done by touching your car door, or any metal object as long as it is away from the gas nozzle. This will safely discharge any static build-up. In addition, they recommend that you turn off cell phones and other electronic devices.

Community Emergency Response Team News

By Bernard Federgreen

Community minded people can always be depended upon to come up with ways of helping others in need.



Gene Dilibertz of Highland Beach with backboard he constructed.

The above photo is of future C.E.R.T. member, **Gene Dilibertz** of Highland Beach, showing off the backboard he constructed for the Highland Beach CERT Team. The cost is \$34. Great work!

Special Operations News

By Lt. Mike Wise

The Delray Beach Fire Department extends congratulations to the members of our Dive Rescue Team that participated in the 16th Annual Public Safety Divers National Conference. Delray Beach sent four teams of two divers to participate in a grueling week of underwater obstacle courses and exercises against 22 public safety dive teams from throughout the Southeastern United States from October 7-11, 2002. The event was held in Lake Conway in Orlando and was hosted by the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Driver/Engineer's Mike McCleary and Chris

Zidar won first place in the Master's Division Overall. They won first place in the Master Recovery Diver Competition for the second year in a row. They placed first in 4 of the 9 scored events throughout the week and were awarded the Braemer Rescue Swim Award in memory of one of Orange County Sheriff Deputy's dive team members that passed away in early September from a stroke.

Paramedic's Jack McKessy and Jeff Smith took first place in the Open Division, and **Lieutenant's Mike Wise and Tony Ojea** were just points behind taking second place in the Open Division.

Lieutenant Mark Dagnan and Paramedic Jeff Harkcom took second place in the Shore Sweep event and placed third in the Underwater Obstacle Course. An exceptionally impressive performance in a very demanding week of events.

All 22 teams participating in the event voted to award Delray Dive Team #3 **Mike Wise & Tony Ojea** with the First Annual Peter L. Firehock Memorial Award. The award is presented to the team that demonstrates team sportsmanship, professionalism and commitment to dive safety that Pete always embraced throughout his career. As many of you are aware Pete was the founder of the Delray Beach Fire Department Dive Team and he had participated in the competition since 1997.



(Kneeling L-R) Mike Wise, Tony Ojea, (Standing L-R) Jack McKessy, Chris Zidar, Mike McCleary, Jeff Harkcom, Mark Dagnan and Jeff Smith.

Training and Safety Division

By Lt. Victor Williams

The Training and Safety Division along with the entire Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Department would like to welcome into our family **Paramedic Christine McCrady**. Christine began her career on Tuesday, October 22, 2002 and was assigned to "A" Shift under the leadership of **Battalion Chief Richard Ackerman**. Christine isn't a new comer to public service or to public safety; she has extensive experience through her time spent as a member of Ocean Rescue as well as a member of the Basic Life Support CLIN CON championship team.

Please join the Training and Safety Division in welcoming Christine into our family by helping her to achieve her goal of becoming the best public servant possible. The Training and Safety Division wish you the best in your upcoming career and in all of your endeavors.

The Training and Safety Division would like to recognize **Lt. Edward Crelin, Lt. Greg Giaccone, Lt. Shawn Beckowitz, and Driver Engineer Mark Siciliano** for a job well done in providing the specifications and other task associated with the purchase of the new Pierce 100 foot aerial apparatus. The apparatus was introduced to the departmental Lieutenants, Driver Engineers, and Step-up Drivers during the week of October 21, 2002. **Lieutenants Crelin, Giaccone, Beckowitz, and Driver Engineer Siciliano** provided input to ensure that the apparatus was on the cutting edge in technology and safety. For your outstanding dedication and service, the Training and Safety Division commends you for a job well done.

Finally, the Training and Safety Division salutes **Lt. Richard Bush, Lt. Wayne Dorcas, and Lt. Scott Gainer** for reaching milestones in their careers. In the month of November **Lieutenants Dorcas and Bush** will celebrate twenty years of loyal and honorable service to the City of Delray and its residents. **Lt Gainer** will be celebrating fifteen years of loyal and honorable service to the city and its residents. When asked of his accomplishment **Lt Gainer** just smiled and said, "Wow!" **Lt. Bush** wasn't quite as shy. "It's

hard to believe that twenty years went by so fast", he said. "One day I had a couple of shifts under my belt and the next day it's twenty years later."

The Training and Safety Division, **Fire Chief Kerry B. Koen**, and the entire Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Department congratulate you for reaching this milestone in your careers. Each of us wish you the very best that this profession has to offer and hope that the remaining years of your careers will be as rewarding as the previous.

Training Schedule

November 1st

Cardiac Emergencies
Model 5 @ Fire HQ

November 2nd

Senior Immunizations
Cason Church @ 0900-1200

November 4th

Senior Immunization
St. Paul Episcopal @ 1300-1600

November 5th—8th

Leak & Spill Control Exercise
Haz-Mat Techs Only
Location: TBA

November 12th

Senior Immunization
Lake Delray @ 1100-1400

November 13th—15th

Pediatric Emergencies
Model 6 @ Fire HQ

November 14th

Senior Immunization
The Caring Kitchen @ 0900-1200

November 20th—22nd

Sexual Harassment
Model 1 @ Fire HQ

November 21st

Senior Immunization
Lake Delray Apts. Rec. Center
1100-1400

November 27th—29th

Happy Thanksgiving
Company Level

Snail –Mail From Mook

Life Is Better Than Good!

I swear, for someone who spent most of his life pinching a penny until Abe Lincoln shed tears, I find that Mike Wigderson’s roaming of our grand countryside to be an unexpected about-face. He seems to be enjoying his retirement, and apparently wants us to enjoy his retirement, too. I have news for him. Once he gets his fill of touring and tasting, he will have to settle down somewhere and begin spending his retirement time (as well as his retirement moneys) on something else. At that point, he will look to join the ranks of those of us who have already found the best part of retirement—helping to raise the grandkids!

Connie and I asked God several years ago to show us what He wanted us to do with the rest of our lives. He led us to Lakeland. It’s where my daughter and son-in-law live. He led us to a house much larger than our previous conclusion that we keep the grandkids (she’s five, he’s one) during the day, and sometimes on the weekend. We get to teach them, to train them, discipline them, and then hand them back.

In 15 or 20 years from now, when we no longer have the grandkids handy to teach and to squeeze, perhaps then we’ll do the touring and tasting thing. (Then, again, maybe we should do it now and take the grandkids with us. It worked for Auntie Mame!) Until that time, we’ll keep filling each day with laughter, with hugs and with the joy of children growing up.

Wiggy says life is good—we say it’s better than good!

Tom and Connie Mook
tommook@att.net

Administration News

By Brad Fitzer, Division Chief

The cupolas at Headquarters are currently undergoing reconstruction, and the termite and water damage to the trusses has been repaired. Also, the exterior painting, as well as the interior painting of the living quarters, at Headquarters is now complete.

An order for our uniform polo shirts has been placed with our vendor and we expect delivery to begin in early January. Additionally, if you have not yet had a commemorative 9/11 patch sewn on your bunker coat contact your Battalion Chief.

Other projects planned to begin in the near future include the remediation work at Station #5, landscape cut backs at all Stations, and the painting of the apparatus bay at Headquarters.

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are extended to **Travis Klemann** and **Daniel Waldrep**, who were recently promoted from Fire Fighter to Paramedic, also **Robert Baker** who was promoted from Paramedic to Lieutenant. Best wishes to you all in your careers in the fire service.



Paramedic Travis Klemann receives his new badge from Chief Koen.



Paramedic Daniel Waldrep receives his new badge from Chief Koen.



Lt. Robert Baker receives his new badge from Chief Koen.

From the Chief's Desk

Delray Beach Fire-Rescue has been the focus of quite a bit of positive press coverage recently as several print and television stories have featured our newest aerial platform (T-5). For those of you who haven't yet had the opportunity to take a look "close-up" you will be impressed. Our thanks is extended to the Operations Committee for all their efforts to create a very impressive and flexible unit for our fleet.

Speaking of the "fleet", we will be moving forward with the purchase of at least three replacement rescue units in the near future, following Commission's (Delray Beach and Highland Beach) action last week to cancel outstanding Purchase Orders and receive authorization to file suit against the manufacture of our last rescue in an effort to recover our costs in that purchase. Additionally, we are funded to purchase one additional unit this fiscal year. Initially, we will be acquiring three units and, depending upon the outcome of the anticipated law suit, a fourth unit to replace the Freightliner which is now out of service. Unfortunately, delivery time may take as much as 8 months from the issuance of a new purchase order, but have faith...this will be resolved.

Halloween week was a great success, both in terms of community safety and an opportunity to be out in the public with our community service message. Approximately 1,000 children (and parents, too) had a fun time at the 55th annual Halloween parade on Atlantic Avenue. We handed our red fire helmets and American Flags again this year and had a chance to display the new aerial as part of our presence. Then, on Halloween night all the City Commissioners and the Mayor rode with us throughout the community to participate in "trick-or-treat" activities. From all accounts,

everyone had a wonderful, fun evening....and the kids and families loved it everywhere we went.

We continue to do a lot of interviews for vacant positions and we are getting some encouraging results. Our efforts have been greatly enhanced by the work of our "recruitment team"...headed up by Lt. Danielle Connor. The internet has become a very powerful tool for us and we will use it even more to help with this critical work.

Battalion Chiefs from Boca Raton Fire-Rescue spent the week with us recently observing how our BC's do their day...and we hope to expand this "shadowing" experience with other key Departments in Palm Beach and Broward Counties as time permits. There are lots of ideas out there, along with various ways to approach common problems. So, if you see a different uniform and an unfamiliar face around, it could be a "shadow" for the day.

Our big news of the month comes from Washington....as FEMA and the United States Fire Administration announced an award of a \$140,000 FIREACT Grant for 10 additional ZOLL 12 leads. This purchase will bring to 12 the number of units in Delray Beach...for the benefit of the citizens and the overall community. Special thanks to **Division Chief Rob Moreland and Asst. Chief John Tomaszewski** for all their hard work in preparing the grant and getting the "paperwork" prepared properly to obtain this much needed funding. **Great job guys!!!!**

Truck 6 has a new thermal imaging camera (now we have 4) and it was demonstrated at the Highland Beach Town Commission workshop recently. Thanks to **Chief Accardi** for taking care of the purchase and demo for this greatly enhanced equipment.

The distribution of our next newsletter is December 15, 2002. Due to the Thanksgiving Holidays, all news articles should be turned in to Cecelia Shade in the Administrative Office on or before Wednesday, November 27, 2002, but no later than Monday, December 2, 2002 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:



OPERATIONS NEWS
By Acting Asst. Chief Charles Stravino

Departmental Anniversaries

November 21	Richard Bush	20 yrs.
November 22	Wayne Dorcas	20 yrs.
November 23	Martin Galner	15 yrs.
November 30	Victor Williams	10 yrs
November 8	William Marlno	9 yrs.
November 8	David Marchstelner	9 yrs.
November 8	Ilene Rose	9 yrs.
November 8	Danille Connor	9 yrs.
November 8	Mark Reynolds	9 yrs.
November 8	Andrew Zimmer	9 yrs.
November 8	Christopher Bitzer	9 yrs.
November 8	Rylan Rose	9 yrs.
November 8	Mark Siciliano	9 yrs.
November 8	Joseph Albano	9 yrs.
November 8	Michael Thornton	9 yrs.
November 8	Joseph Drayson	9 yrs.

Congratulations on your milestone in your career in the fire service.

In mid-October, I had an opportunity to visit with members who were in Orlando. *Mike McCleary, Chris Zidar, Jack McKessy, Mark Dagnan, Jeff Harkcom, Mike Wise, Jeff Smith and Tony Ojea* were attending the annual Public Safety Divers Competition. This week long event tested agencies from throughout Florida by putting them through various scenarios and judged them on their performance.

I came away with a new understanding and respect for the Dive-Rescue component of our service. I was impressed by the positive attitudes of all the competitors and their commitment to this discipline. The risks they are willing to take, capabilities beyond what I was aware, and how fortunate our community is to have a well trained, well equipped team in place. We had done well in the past at this event but this year was amazing. Each participant brought home several medals and teammates *McCleary and Zidar* won the masters overall trophy! Congratulations to all our participants on your success and the way you represented Delray Beach Fire-rescue. We are proud of your accomplishments.