

HOT TOPICS

February 15, 2002

Volume 1 – Issue 9



This photo is from the thank you letter sent to us by F D N Y Commissioner Thomas Von Essen in response to the memorial books that

we sent from the "Night of Pride".

"I want to thank you for the kindness, caring and support you have shared with me throughout the last six years, particularly in the last few months. At times, when we were most challenged, a small gesture, note or call has always made the difference. It's been an honor and privilege to lead this Department. We have made tremendous progress and I am very proud of our accomplishments. The many people that have been part of my staff have unselfishly devoted themselves to serving this great Department and the citizens of our city. I hope you and your family have a blessed holiday and a peaceful New Year, and pray that all of us find comfort and a sense of renewal in the coming days."

With great love and respect,

Thomas Von Essen

Proud to be

Commissioner, FDNY

EMS News

By Division Chief Robert Moreland

Hello everyone!

I recently attended the State EMS meetings in Deerfield Beach. These are quarterly meetings, and address a wide range of issues concerning all aspects of Emergency Medical Services. After attending several of the different group's sessions it seems there are three main issues coming our way.

First, there is a new data collection requirement that all providers must submit to the Bureau of EMS on a quarterly basis. They are requiring a host of information on every call we run. Through our report writing software we should be able to comply with very few adjustments. Paramedic impression and all interventions used and medications administered are required, so please make sure you are completing those screens when inputting your reports.

The second big topic was temperature control of medications. This is apparently coming from the federal level and no one seems quite sure what the requirements will be, or if we may be exempt due to the nature of our business. I'm sure we'll find out soon enough!

The last big thing being discussed is the revision of the definitions for BLS and ALS patients and the input codes used for billing. Apparently, the current definitions and codes leave too much room for interpretation by the insurance companies.

CASE STUDY:

You are called to a local office building for a person having chest pain. You arrive to find an awake and alert 47 year old male lying on a sofa in the reception area. He appears anxious, pale and slightly diaphoretic. He states he's had chest pain and epigastric discomfort for approximately two hours and he initially thought it was indigestion, but it has gotten worse and seems to be more substernal during the last thirty minutes. His history includes cigarette smoking and his father died of heart problems at age 56.

VS: Pulse is 56 and regular, BP is 84/50, Respirations are 24 and seem normal. Breath sounds are clear bilaterally, his abdomen is soft and non tender. He states he feels a little nauseated and is pale and diaphoretic. His O2 sat is 98% on room air and ECG reveals Sinus bradycardia with a 1st degree HB. Pt is placed on O2 via NRB, an IV of NaCl is placed in his R forearm. A twelve lead ECG is done and shows significant ST elevation in leads II, III, and AVF with the highest elevation in lead III.

Questions: Does this patient meet the requirements for a Cardiac alert? What wall (s) of the heart is involved? With that in mind, what may be the cause of his hypotension? Can we follow our Chest pain protocol? Are there any other tests

or techniques (hint) that we can use to further evaluate this patient and guide our treatment? What hospital should we transport to?

The first person to call me with the answers to these questions gets a two-week vacation to Hawaii courtesy of the union time pool. I haven't cleared this with Lt. Tabek yet, but it should be no problem! Just in case he doesn't go for it you'll get Honorable Mention in next month's "Hot Topics". All for now, call fast, call often at 7440.

Fire Safety News

By Assistant Chief William Adams

FIRE SAFETY NEWS BRIEFS

Be alert to possible carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning calls. During cold weather some people are tempted to use charcoal grills for heating purposes indoors. The smoldering combustion of these grills generates large amounts of CO.

Another source of CO is the exhaust from automobiles. Newer vehicles idle so quietly that the driver may forget to turn it off once he/she is inside the garage. Many of our subdivisions have houses with attached garages. They may also have the A/C air handler located in the garage. If the vehicle is left running, CO can enter through penetrations between the garage and living area, or through the air handler if it is not properly sealed. A Boynton Beach couple died recently from this type of incident. In our own community, Rainberry Bay has had three deaths as of the year 2000.

On December 8, 2001, a fire in the Toscana high-rise apartments proved the effectiveness of having automatic sprinkler systems in residential occupancies. A cleaning person had used terry cloth rags and linseed oil to wipe down wood furniture on the balcony. He discarded these rags in a plastic garbage can in the laundry room. The linseed oil spontaneously ignited. The fire was extinguished by a single sprinkler head located directly over the garbage can. The owners were asleep at the time of the fire and would have been blocked from escaping the apartment due to the location of the laundry room near their apartment entrance.

According to the Fire Protection Handbook, linseed oil has a high tendency to spontaneously ignite when disposed of improperly. It states, "Rags or fabrics impregnated with this oil are extremely dangerous. Avoid piles, and store in closed containers, preferably metal."

Unscramble the letters below to find out what the leading cause of death by poisoning in the U.S. is according to the Centers for Disease Control.

B N O O I E A O N D C R M X

PENSION ISSUES

The pension board has been working for several months to implement a change in the investment options offered to DROP participants. On January 16th, the board approved a contract with Gabriel, Roeder, Smith, (GRS) to handle the administration and record-keeping responsibilities for those new investment vehicles. Effective on that date, anyone entering the DROP no longer has the option of investing his/her pension payments in the pension fund. Instead, the participant selects from several investment vehicles which have different risk/return profiles. The participant can also change investment vehicles on-line or by phone.

In the past, participants received an annual statement on the status of their DROP accounts. Now, this information will be available on-line and quarterly statements will be provided.

On February 5th and 6th, representatives from GRS conducted informational sessions at Fire Headquarters to introduce these new benefits to members of the pension plan. If you need any additional information or have any questions regarding the new DROP procedures please feel free to contact me.

Bill Adams

ICMA NEWS

Questions about your ICMA account? An account representative from ICMA will be available for one on one consultations on Friday, February 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment please call Glenda Rivera at extension 7124.

Chief Wigderson's Farewell

Fred McAlley did a wonderful job on Chief Wigderson's farewell video. Lots of laughs with co-workers, family & friends. Here are a few pictures to remind us of that day.



Federal Disasters and Disaster Aid

By: John Tomaszewski, Assistant Chief

What is a federal disaster?

Not all disasters involve FEMA and/or the federal government. FEMA is only brought in after the governor of the state requests a federal disaster designation from the President. Preliminary Damage Assessments (called PDAs) are then conducted by FEMA with state and local assistance. If the PDAs reflect devastation that exceeds the state's ability to handle, then a Federal Disaster Declaration is made. In a catastrophic disaster with obvious widespread damage and destruction, a disaster declaration may be made within hours of the event without official PDAs. A federal disaster declaration guarantees certain disaster recovery costs will be borne by the federal government and allows certain federal aid to be paid directly to disaster victims.

What federal disaster aid is available?

Temporary Housing Grants go directly to those affected by the disaster. The aid may include rental reimbursement for people who cannot return to their homes because of the disaster and need to rent temporary substitute housing. It may also include small grants of money to make temporary repairs after a disaster. Disaster victims who are unemployed due to the disaster may also qualify for disaster unemployment benefits.

Public Assistance goes directly to governments and is used to repair public buildings and transportation structures damaged by disasters, to remove disaster debris and to take emergency protective measures. Overtime payments for emergency workers are reimbursed from this program.

Disaster aid may also include disaster loans administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration and food and shelter provided by such non-profit organizations as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Hazard Mitigation Grants are provided by FEMA for localities to use to prevent future disasters and may be used for such things as relocating houses in areas that are frequently flooded or retrofitting public buildings with protective devices such as hurricane shutters.

One of the things that FEMA works hard to communicate is that federal disaster aid is a helping hand but it DOES NOT make someone whole. It does not replace insurance and families will still bear the brunt of the economic toll from uninsured disaster expenses.

Community Education News

By Lieutenant Hal Knabb

Pedagogical vs. Andragogical

By Lt. Hal Knabb

If these words appear foreign to you, you are not alone. They were introduced to me during a class on adult learning and development. There was not one person in the class able to correctly define either word.

Pedagogy is the art and science of teaching children, and has been in existence since about the twelfth century. It is also the primary model used for adult learning. The teacher is the primary resource for learning. A pedagogical learner is treated as a dependant personality whose experience is "to be built on more than used as a resource". The learning is subject centered, uniform by age level and curriculum. Motivation is external with rewards and punishments.

Around the year 1969 Malcolm S. Knowles, known as "the father of adult education", proposed the idea of andragogical learning. Andragogy is the art and science of helping adults learn. An andragogical learner is increasingly self-directed and their experience serves as a rich resource to other learners. Their readiness for learning develops from real life tasks and problems. An andragogical learner is motivated by internal rewards and curiosity.

Another contrast between these two styles is the learning climate that each fosters.

Climate

Pedagogical

Tense
Low trust
Formal, Authority-
Oriented
Competitive
Judgmental

Andragogical

Relaxed
Trusting
Mutually respectful
Informal
Warm
Collaborative
Supportive

Our goal when delivering Community Education and Outreach Programs is to promote an andragogical climate. This enhances our ability to empower and facilitate adults toward self-direction and personal development.

Training and Safety Division

by Division Chief Russell Accardi

The Delray Beach Fire-Rescue and Ocean Rescue personnel participated in joint emergency training scenarios January 9th, 10th and 11th, 2002. The exercises were coordinated by Lt. Victor Williams in order to clarify procedures during joint responses at the beach. Radio procedures between the two departments using our new system, allows for common communications, this was an opportunity to familiarize all personnel with these capabilities.

Lt. Mark Reynolds also conducted training sessions January 16th, 17th and 18th, 2002. Our Haz Mat Team Members were trained in the use of our new Biological Field Test Equipment, which would allow a 15 minute test to determine 90% whether an unknown substance is actually Anthrax or other Biological Hazards.

The Training & Safety Division also conducted hands on High-Rise fire training evolutions in order to practice the new Countywide Standard Operating Guidelines. The training scenario involved a fire in a 15th floor condominium at Toscana in Highland Beach. Crews were able to use the fire control room, and operate elevators under fire service control, as well as connect high-rise kits on the fire floor. Most crews were able to quickly ascend to the staging floor using the elevators. The one exception out of 18 evolutions over the three days occurred to our newest **Lt., Mike Wise, and his crew**. When they arrived in the elevator lobby neither of the two elevators that service apt. #1501 were operating. This was not a setup, but an actual problem with the elevators. Without delay Lt. Wise and his crew started climbing the stairwell with all their equipment and reached the 15th floor, stretched their line and conducted a primary search in the fire apartment. **REMEMBER**, we need to be physically ready to operate in these real life situations; the next time it may be you.

All department members who responded to the memo asking for personnel interested in providing firefighter rescue training, attended a course to prepare them to train our firefighters. This course was held in Clearwater, Florida on January 24th, 25th and 26th, 2002. The training was conducted by personnel from the FDNY who are very experienced in actual firefighter rescue and survival. Hands on evolutions on moving downed and unconscious firefighters were demonstrated, as well as case studies reviewed on firefighter fatalities. Our personnel compared several methods of firefighter escape

and emergency bailout procedures and equipment. We will be working on more comprehensive procedures and recommending equipment purchases for this important firefighter safety issue. Members attending: **Division Chief Russ Accardi, Lt. Wayne Dorcas, Lt. Bill Marino, Lt. Shawn Beckowitz, Lt. Victor Williams, Paramedic Mark Siciliano.**

New vehicle Safety Technologies and patient restraint device training was held at the Airport Hilton in Dania Beach on January 16, 2002. **Lt. Hal Knabb** was in attendance.

Also, members of the Operations Committee attended Fire Rescue East in Jacksonville, January 31 – February 2, 2002 to attend the trade show and evaluate apparatus and equipment. **Lt. Mark Reynolds** attended sessions on Haz Mat and WMD. **Paramedic Jeff Harkcom** attended Honor Guard activities to continue work he started last year on this topic for our department.

All EMT's and Paramedic will need to attend the BLS CPR/AED training February 27th, 28th, March 1, 2002. This is required for your recertification so make arrangements to attend one of them.

Training Schedule 2002

February 6th – 8th

Company Level

February 11th – 13th

Pump Testing

February 14th – 15th

Company Level

Location: TBA

February 20th – 22nd

Mass DeCon Training for all shift personnel

Model 2 @ Station 5

February 27th – 28th

BLS & AED

Model 9 @ HQ

From the Chief's Desk

John and Gail Frederick are missionaries and have served in France for the past five years. In one of their recent newsletters, they shared a thought with our family that I wanted to share with you.

“Dear Friends – One image that we will never forget following the tragic attacks of September 11th was the account told by a Fire Fighter who was working by the first tower when it came down. In a matter of seconds, everything became pitch black as he was smothered by dust and debris. He had just about given up hope when he saw the faint light of a flashlight and a hand reached through the darkness. As he grabbed the hand that would bring him to safety, he not only thought the hope before him, but also of his fellow workers behind him, and he turned, reaching his hand back into the darkness. **When he finally reached sunlight he turned around a saw a chain of men walking hand in hand behind him”.**

What a great picture of the love that compels us to make a commitment each and every day to approach our responsibilities with determination – even when there is darkness and hopelessness. Let us always..... **turn, and reach for others** in all that we do.

Our big news of the month is the ratification of a new, three-year **Collective Bargaining Agreement** which will retroactive to October 1, 2001. Lots of credit goes to those at the table on both sides. A Special word of thanks is in order for all the assistance and support given to this process by **Mr. Harden, Mayor Schmidt and ALL the members of the City Commission**. The ratification vote has set in motion the administrative process to adjust salaries and other affected benefits. Our collective “thanks”..... in advance goes to the **Administrative Team and Ellen Wickert** who are now in the process of getting all the changes translated into cash for members of the Bargaining Unit.

The Department scored BIG in the **6th Annual Chili Cook-Off** as part of the Green Market activity in January – bringing back “The People’s Choice” and “First Place Traditional Chili” trophies for the display case at Headquarters. Thanks to **Bill Rego** and the “tent team” that put the finishing touches on a very classy presentation that got a lot of attention from the public.

A new 100-foot aerial platform apparatus was approved for purchase at the City Commission’s meeting on February 5th. The new unit will eventually replace Truck 5, and that unit will become a reserve. **Truck 1 will**

be traded-in as part of the overall deal, after 31+ years of service to the community, including 31 Christmas Parades with Santa. The same Commission meeting saw the **approval of two, 12-lead ZOLL defibrillator/monitor units** bringing a new level of technology forward in the field of EMS.

We are well underway with our planning for CPR Day at Florida Atlantic University on April 13th. Our team is headed by both **Div. Chief Rob Moreland and Mr. Dan Burns** (from Beautiful Delray Beach). Dan and Rob are on the speaking circuit now recruiting citizens to take advantage of this great opportunity to make their families and communities safer. Last year over 1,000 south county residents took the course. This year, WHO KNOWS?!

By the way, **a great “SAVE” occurred on January 19th at Borton Volvo** on North Federal Highway and the “survivor” went home from the hospital on January 24th and will hopefully be working with us to promote the event. **Effective CPR, AED application, and quick response from DBFR** were the combination that made this a great success story.

Recruitment announcements hit the classified ads on February 10th and we have great hope that our **new salary schedule, expanded advertising and overall long-term recruiting strategies** will have a positive impact on our vacancy rate. Two job offers have been made from our last interview/testing process and start dates have been established for these two candidates. One will be attending the Minimum Standards program as soon as a class position is available, and the other will be reporting for initial shift assignment. Welcome to **Crista Mockenhaupt** and **Bradley Kanter** as they join our team, and begin a great career in Delray Beach.

A new commemorative Patch and Decal is being finalized by **Div. Chief Accardi** to commemorate the loss of the 343 Fire Fighters in New York on September 11th. This was the single largest loss of fire fighters in United States History. We’ll have a story to pass on to our future Fire Fighters and the public who may not remember what that number actually mean. I think you will be pleased with the design, complements of the **Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale**.



The City's Newest Aerial Unit

The City's newest aerial unit will be similar to Truck 48 in Clearwater, including a 4th section articulating feature to deal with high parapets, and a growing number of townhouse complexes in the community.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH***Quiche Florentine******Ingredients:***

- 1 Deep dish frozen pie shell
- 4 oz. Cream Cheese
- 1/2 pkg. Frozen chopped spinach – thawed and pressed dry
- 6 oz. Spam – 1/4 inch dice
- 5 Large eggs
- 3/4 cup Light cream, or 1/2 & 1/2
- 1/2 cup Pecornio Romano grated cheese – divided into thirds
- 1 cup White Cheddar Cheese – divided in half
- 1 tbsl. Diced green chilies
- 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 2-3 drops Yellow food coloring
- 1/2 tsp. Kosher salt – more to taste
- 1/4 tsp. Fresh ground black pepper - more to taste

Method of Preparation:

Preheat oven to 375F. Remove frozen pie shell to counter and let thaw to room temperature.

Cut the cream cheese into thin slices and lay on bottom of pie shell covering the surface evenly. Place an even layer of spinach on top of cream cheese. Place the diced Spam evenly on top of spinach. Evenly spread 1/2 of the cheddar cheese and 1/3rd of the Romano cheese, Dijon mustard, chilies, salt, pepper and the yellow food coloring. Pour this mixture over the ingredients in the pie shell taking care not to over fill it. Evenly spread the remaining Cheddar and Romano cheese on top of egg mixture. Place the pie shell on a sheet pan or pizza pan and place on middle rack of oven. Bake for 45-50 minutes until a wooden skewer comes out clean. Remove, and let rest for 40-45 minutes before cutting into six wedges.

Yield: 6 servings

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**C. E. R. T. UPDATES**

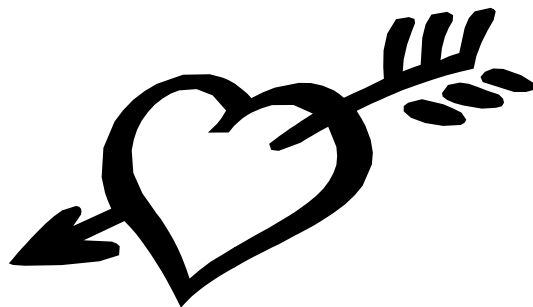
On Monday, January 14th, High Point C.E.R.T. members sponsored a lecture on Terrorism and how to cope. It was given by Lt. Hal Knabb with 63 residents attending and found the information and video informative. At the end of the presentation, several questions were asked. Everyone agreed that the lecture made them a little more aware and cautious of their surroundings and activities.

At a meeting with Chief Koen, on January 22nd, three CERT programs were put into motion:

1. A fire department sponsored ***COOK-OUT*** for those CERT participants and spouses who completed the current re-training program. This social will take place in April. A site is being secured.
2. ***A ROUNDUP*** will be held in May, before the start of the hurricane season. A check will be made of equipment and a review of procedures. At this function CERT shirts will be distributed to re-trained CERT members.
3. A mailing list is being prepared so that active CERT members can receive a copy of ***"HOT TOPIC"***, which is the fire department monthly newsletter.

Further news is forthcoming, so please distribute copies of this mailing each month to your members.

Bernard Federgreen

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO OUR WONDERFUL FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF, FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**E-MAIL INDEX**

This month we are adding a new item to our monthly newsletter especially for our retirees. We are asking all of our retirees that would like to participate to forward their e-mail address to me and we will publish them from time to time in an effort to keep in touch with one another. Retired EMS Chief Doug Trawick loved the idea and was the first to volunteer. You may e-mail Doug at DTRAW1223@AOL.COM. Send me your e-mail address to SHADE@CLDELRAY-BEACH.FL.US or call me at (561) 243-7415.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO LAUGH AT THEMSELVES FOR THEY SHALL NEVER CEASE TO BE AMUSED.

RETRACTION: ADDING CORRECTION

Due to the fact that the calculator operator was still in 2001, the January Departmental Anniversaries were off by a year, or I omitted you altogether. My apologies to the following personnel:

- Maurice Haas..... (29 yrs.) - January 2nd
- Michael Hendricks (28 yrs.) - January 22nd
- Donald Farrow..... (20 yrs.) - January 25th
- Ruth Douthitt..... (15 yrs.) - January 7th
- William Briard..... (15 yrs.) - January 28th
- Mark Wood (14 yrs.) - January 4th
- Gloria Marsh (13 yrs.) - January 17th
- Tommie Osborn..... (8 yrs.) - January 10th
- Kenneth Thompson (6 yrs.) - January 8th
- Kerry B. Koen (1 yr.) - January 8th
- Jeffrey Smith (1 yr.) - January 16th
- Steven Moews (1 yr.) - January 16th

HAPPY MILESTONE!!!



The distribution of our next newsletter is March 15, 2002. All news articles should be turned in to Cecelia Shade in the Administrative Office on or before March 1, 2002. Deadline for turning in news articles will be March 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. Thank you for your participation.

Departmental Anniversaries

John Fletcher, Jr.	February 9	26 yrs.
David Priest	February 16	19 yrs.
Raymond B. Fitzer	February 17	19 yrs.
James TabEEK	February 17	19 yrs.
Michael McCleary	February 22	14 yrs.
Michelle Murphy	February 22	14 yrs.
John Reeck	February 22	14 yrs.
Clinton Cason, Jr.	February 21	13 yrs.
Russell Accardi	February 21	13 yrs.
Frederick McAlley	February 21	13 yrs.
Christopher Zidar	February 28	8 yrs.
Shawn Beckowitz	February 28	8 yrs.
Randy Bahe	February 28	8 yrs.
Cecelia Shade	February 18	5 yrs.



Operations News

By Acting Assistant Chief Charles Stravino



Lt. Mike Wise and Chief Koen

Congratulations to *Mike Wise* and *Steve Anderson* on their recent promotions to Lieutenant. We wish them the best in their



Chief Koen & Lt. Steve Anderson

new roles and responsibilities.

The Training Division is near completion on a officer development program, which will initially target newly promoted officers and eventually incumbent personnel.

Get well wishes are extended to *Wayne Yoder* who is spending time at home recovering from a fractured hip/femur. Also, *Spencer Langley*, who has been out several shifts not feeling well.

The new ladder truck was approved at the February 5th City Commission Meeting. Anticipated construction time is approximately nine (9) months. We are also testing and evaluating a new generation electric vehicle to be used at special events. This vehicle will augment current capabilities with the expansion of special events in size.

