



July 2009

BOCA FIRE RESCUE NET

<http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/fire/newsletters.shtm>



Fire Chief Report
By:
Thomas R. Wood,
CFO

Michael G. Debrecht Fire Rescue Station 5

The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 2009, at 10:00AM. Please consider this your invitation to attend!!!

Final NIOSH Report

The final NIOSH report "Evaluation of Antimony and Mercury Exposure in Fire Fighters" is now available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2009-0025-0076-3085.pdf> [you may have to cut and paste site]

Excellence Awards

On Saturday, May 16, 2009, at 6:28 am, the Fire Department was dispatched to a water rescue at 900 South Ocean Blvd. Fire Dispatch advised that a 23 foot boat capsized 50 yards north of the Boca Raton Inlet and that there were three people in the water. Units arrived to find 3 victims, wearing life preservers, standing on and sitting on the rocks of the jetty. Blood could be seen on the back of one of the victim's shirts. The por-

tion of the jetty where they were perched was separated from the jetty attached to the mainland by about 100 feet of rough water.

Boat 3 was staging in the Inlet, but was unable to approach the rocks safely. A U.S. Coast Guard boat on scene had the same problem. The personnel on scene and the crew of Boat 3 sized up the situation and determined the best course of action. A decision was made, based on the on-scene resources, to equip a rescue swimmer with fins, goggles and a Peterson buoy and have the rescue swimmer get close to the rocks, while a victim wearing a life preserver jumped away from the rocks. Captain Jeff Ross was chosen as the rescue swimmer, and Firefighter/Driver Warren Cann was his immediate back-up swimmer. Both personnel were in the water during the rescue. One by one each victim jumped from the rocks and was brought to shore by Captain Ross with the assistance of Firefighter/Driver Cann and other personnel on scene.

Once the victims were removed from the water, they were brought to the patient care area in Medic 1 and evaluated by the crew. Two of the victims were transported to Boca Raton Community Hospital for treatment.

It should be noted that, as with many of our calls, this was a team

effort. It truly took the efforts of all the personnel on scene to safely conduct this rescue and the following patient care. All personnel on scene were issued a commendation; however, Captain Jeff Ross and Firefighter/Driver Warren Cann were life-guards for many years and their rescue swimmer skills brought this incident to a successful conclusion. They were both recognized with the issuance of Department Excellence Awards on June 25, 2009. Congratulations Jeff and Warren!



Congratulations Jeff and Warren!

Preserve Brush Fire 5th Anniversary

It has been five years (July 5, 2004) already since one of the most significant brush fires in our history:

The "Preserve Brush Fire" started at about 2:30 pm and consumed about 8 acres of a 9.24 acre nature preserve. The 9 acres were surrounded by 35 single-family homes with values upwards to \$1,000,000 each. While the main body of fire was con-



trolled within one hour, several units remained on scene until 10:30 pm performing mop up activities. One unit remained on scene throughout the night. There were no reported injuries, no structural damage, and minimal damage to fences and other landscape.

With our mutual aid partners (Boynton Beach, Deerfield Beach, Delray Beach, and Palm Beach County), plus on-duty City units and overtime City units, and between City coverage and units assigned to the fire we used: 17 Engines, 4 Brush Trucks, 6 Medic Units, and 2 Support Units. Boca Raton Police Services handled traffic control and evacuations with 15 Police units.



Until next month...be safe.



Happy Fourth of July



Operations

By:
John Johnson
Deputy Chief

Summer is upon us, it has been extremely hot over the past couple of weeks and it does not show any signs of cooling off any time soon. Make sure that you are hydrated and stay hydrated throughout the day. Everyone should ensure that there is plenty of drinking water on the apparatus at all times.

Last month there was some confusion on the job responsibilities of our support staff. Kim Bunting is our payroll person who 8 months ago took over for Judi Edwards, and before Judi, it was Carrol Ann. If you have any questions relating to payroll which your supervisor cannot answer, with your supervisor's permission, Kim may be contacted for assistance. Jennifer Miller is the Office Assistant in the Training Section. During your ACLS class last month, she was the person who checked your driver's license. Questions relating to training entries, training records or certification requirements, should be directed to her. I hope this helps clear up the confusion with staff responsibilities, and the staff can better assist you with your questions.



Administration

By:
Glenn Joseph
Deputy Chief

Another month has gone by, so it is time for our regular monthly update on the activities in Administration.

Our budget review with the City Manager and the other department heads went as well as can be expected under our current economic conditions. The next milestone for the 2010 budget is a final report from OMB that will include all of the changes (reductions) for the next fiscal year.

The fact is that there is a 9% reduction in property values in the City of Boca Raton with an anticipated double digit drop next year. What that means to me is that the pain is not over, and we have not yet reached the projected bottom of the curve.

Given those austere conditions, the general atmosphere during the budget review was positive. The City Manager and his team has proposed several changes to the City Council to include adjustments to the fire assessment fee, the addition of parking meters, and red light traffic cameras to help offset the revenue shortfall for the coming year.



It will take commitment, sacrifice, and creative solutions from all levels of the organization to maintain our outstanding level of service and our quality of life. Let us keep up the good work and continue our commitment to excellence.

As always, Be Competent, Be Professional, Be Safe.



Logistics and Support

By:
Raul Travieso
Assistant Chief

Today we are announcing the delivery of 2 new Horton Medical Treatment and Transport units. These 2 new units feature a 4-door extended cab, 4 person high roof seating, and all current safety federal specifications. Horton has been manufacturing ambulances for over 40 years. The Horton units also have the safety and crash record of their all-aluminum welded patient compartment and modular cabinetry, which is very important to us. These units also feature our new graphics scheme with retro-reflective chevron striping in the front and rear of the truck for added visibility and safety. By mid-July, these “flagship” medical units will be outfitted and placed in-service to replace Medic 4 and Medic 1. Please see

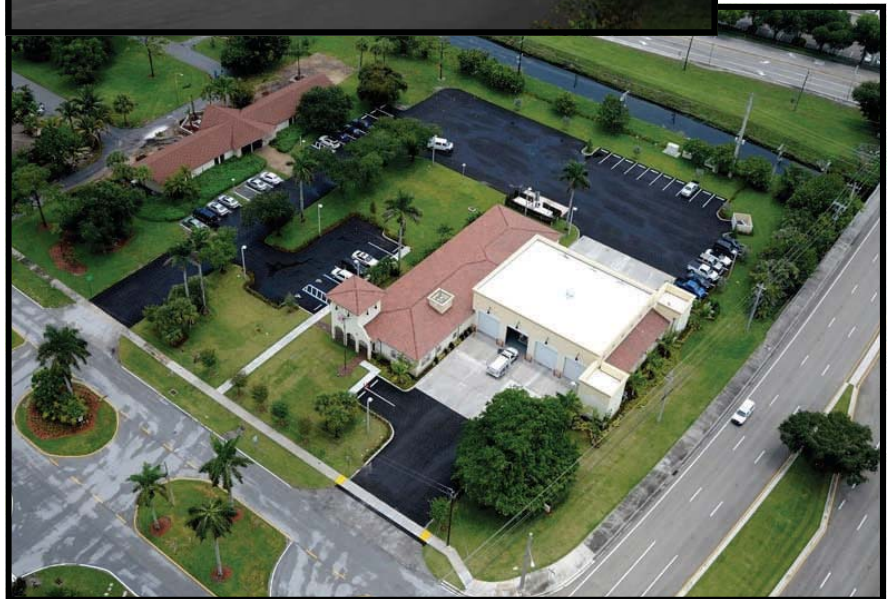
the attached photograph for a sneak preview of our new 2009 NFPA Standard 1901 compliant high visibility safety chevron striping.



We are completely moved into Fire Station 5 now that the EMS Captain’s Office has been relocated from Station 1. The “mega”, “state-of-the-art” station now houses five units including; Engine 5, Medic Unit 5, Medic Unit 25, Brush Truck 5, and the EMS Captain’s vehicle. Please mark your calanders for the grand opening, dedication, and honoring of the “Michael Debrecht” Fire Station 5 on August 1st, at 10 am.



Michael Debrecht Fire Station Five





Fire and Life Safety

By:
David Woodside
Assistant Chief

We are still early in the hurricane season, and within the City of Boca Raton we have an abundance of generators in both residential and commercial structures. Portable generators are widely used and have many applications for temporary power from an everyday construction site to powering homes during power loss from a hurricane. Now is the opportune time to check and service your generator so that it will be ready in the event of a storm.

There are three primary hazards associated with portable generators: carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire hazard. These hazards can be minimized with diligent attention when using a generator. Generators, when running, produce carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. Proper ventilation will assist in reducing exhaust gases from collecting within an enclosure. Generators should never be used indoors or in an enclosed space. When placing a generator, it should be a least 10' from a building and away from openings that would allow carbon monoxide to enter the building. Balcony use of a generator is prohibited. The fol-

lowing are general safety tips for portable generators:

- ◆ Do not connect the generator directly to the building wiring
- ◆ Install Carbon Monoxide detectors to monitor the build up of gas in a structure
- ◆ Turn generator off and allow it to cool before refueling
- ◆ Do not overload a generator
- ◆ Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy duty extension cord
- ◆ Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting down the generator
- ◆ Avoid touching the hot areas of the generator
- ◆ Do not store fuel indoors
- ◆ Use approved containers to store fuel
- ◆ Never fuel a generator while it is running
- ◆ Keep children away from generators

Many commercial generators are provided with an automatic transfer switch. The automatic transfer switch provides a visual indication when it is not in the automatic mode, an automatic transfer and retransfer of electrical power and mechanical holding and electrical operation of the system. Many of the residential installations over the past three years have included an automatic transfer switch as well. This transfer of electrical power can be hazardous to the firefighter. During a fire or other hazardous event, it is important to verify that the building does not have an emergency power source when relaying information to the Incident Com-

mander that the utilities (electricity) have been secured. The failure to identify a generator when one is present could have deadly consequences.

In this time of preparation for hurricanes, it is necessary that we become vigilant in examining and evaluating residential and business generator processes and planned usage. Our being proactive today may result in minimizing our need to become reactive to fires or injuries resulting in improper use of the needed resources in the maintenance of life and lifestyle.



Planning

By:
Mike Gergora
Assistant Chief

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Launches Leadership Development Program!

Leadership Development is a vital part of preparing our Department to meet our current and future challenges. This will be an ongoing program with new topics being discussed each month. Last month we began a review of the Organizational Values of Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services. I suggested the acronym ROCCS be used to help recall the five Organizational (Core) Values: Communication,



Compassion, Ownership, Respect, and Service. The first of the five values discussed was Communication: *"We communicate with ownership in what we say, compassion in how we say it, and respect for all. The components of active listening and timely feedback are vitally important to successful communications"*.

I witnessed an example of this value in practice by members of our Department during the month of June. The example of good Communication (as described above) happened during a training session. There was a lively exchange among junior and senior employees of ideas dealing with the City's Policy Refresher topics. I appreciated the mutually respectful manner that the parties used to communicate with each other. I felt that active listening and timely feedback were key components to successful communications in this situation. It makes it easy to contribute to a conversation when it is known that opinions will be respected, provided they are communicated in a respectful manner. Now let's build on this value.

The next Organizational Value to be discussed is Compassion: *"Genuine compassion is applied to everything we do. Each encounter should leave a lasting positive impression. Care and concern is used in our treatment of those we serve, as well as each other."* We provide a public service like none other. We are routinely called to respond to

emergency situations in our community. In many cases the balance of someone's life rest in our hands. Emotions can run high with family members of victims as well as with members of our Department during a crisis. Once again I will be looking for an example(s) of Compassion in practice. Please email me during the month of July when you witness this Organizational Value being used. July offers even more for Leadership Development.



The officers of our Department will be receiving an audio version of a book by Spencer Johnson, M.D.: "Who Moved My Cheese?" as another part of the Leadership Development program. This book is considered to be one of the best works written on how to deal with change and stress. Each officer will participate in an exercise that examines the tools discussed in this book. Step-up Officers that wish to participate in this portion of the Leadership Development program can email me with your request and I will provide you with the materials.

Other Outstanding Department Issues

ISO: It has been a month since we met with the ISO representative. We are still waiting for a response from the ISO on the proposed changes needed to retain our Class 2 Rating.

"Swine Flu": The H1N1 flu virus is still out there and the World Health Organization (WHO) has determined this to be a pandemic outbreak. This virus is acting much like a seasonal outbreak, yet they are expecting the second round to be more severe. The CDC has reported that a vaccine will be available shortly. The Department is monitoring this situation closely.

Mutual Aid Agreements: Our Mutual Aid Agreements are on their way to the City Council for approval during the July 28th meeting. These agreements are with Boynton Beach, Deerfield Beach, Delray Beach, and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Departments. Thank you to Gail Jordon for her assistance with these documents.

Have a Happy 4th of July! Let us not forget during this holiday that we have so much to be thankful for through the sacrifices of others.

Congratulations to Captain Jeff Ross and Firefighter/Driver Warren Cann for receiving Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services' Excellence Award.



Communications

By:
Mike O'Neil
Division Chief

Radio Rebanding

We have just about completed Phase 1 of the rebanding project. The testing of our back-up repeaters has been successfully accomplished. These back-up repeaters would be deployed and activated in the event of a complete system failure of our radio system. The current radio system has several built-in redundant features, and we have never needed to activate our back-up repeaters.

Fire Station Alerting System

We presently are working with our vendor in the configuration settings for the new IP based fire station alerting system. We are expecting to start receiving the equipment in mid-July to early August. As soon as the equipment is received, the station installations will begin. Shift personnel should not notice any difference. The new system will save money by eliminating existing dedicated telephone lines and allow for expansion of stations.

Computer Aided Dispatch Computers

The Information Technology Division has just updated the CAD and Mobile CAD Terminals to new servers. The new servers

will increase the efficiency, reliability, and speed of our hardware and software.



EMS

By:
Bob Nelligan
Division Chief



Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Swine Flu

H1N1 is a new flu virus that was first detected in April 2009. It is thought that H1N1 spreads in the same way that regular seasonal flu viruses spread; mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus. Because this is a new virus, most people do not have immunity to it, and illnesses may be more severe and widespread as a result. In addition, the vaccine to protect against H1N1 virus is not expected to be available until after the onset of the expected new wave of H1N1 this Fall. Therefore, health care institutions and EMS providers should prepare for high volumes of sick and contagious people seeking care.

So far with H1N1, the largest number of confirmed and probable cases has occurred in people between the ages of 5 and 24

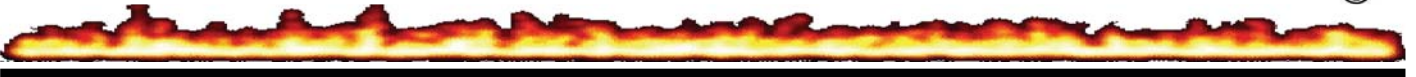
years old. There are few cases in people older than 64 years old, which is unusual when compared with seasonal flu. There is speculation that people older than 64 years old may have been exposed to a form of H1N1 years ago, and may have some degree of immunity to the strain.

If the H1N1 virus follows the pandemic patterns of the 20th century, health care providers should prepare for the potential of a higher level of virulence in the Fall wave, which occurred in both 1918 and 1957. Patterns would suggest cases could appear in early Fall and will be occurring well into the normal seasonal flu months. If this happens, all age groups could be hit hard as the seasonal flu will affect the very young and elderly, and H1N1 will greatly affect the 5 to 64 year old age group with a stronger effect to the 5-24 old year group.

The number of flu-related deaths varies from year to year because flu seasons often fluctuate in length and severity. CDC estimated that about 36,000 people died of flu-related causes each year on average during the 1990s in the United States. This figure could be much higher for the upcoming flu season if H1N1 does spread as it is expected to.

What can you do to stay healthy?

- ◆ Stay informed. Check the CDC website on a regular basis at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>



◆Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people, therefore take everyday actions to stay healthy:


◆Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

◆Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

◆Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

◆Avoid hand shaking.

◆Disinfect objects that are touched on a regular basis such as door knobs, light switches, computer keyboards and mouse, telephones, faucet handles, etc.

◆  *Avoid removing food from multiple use containers such as potato chip bags and pretzel jars with your hands.*

◆Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

◆Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.



Left to Right: Chief Tom Wood, Catherine Approbato, Frances Weinberg, Marcia Schiff, and EMS Division Chief Bob Nelligan.
Photo by Capt. Greenberg

The Women’s Club of Boca Teeca Donates Check for Fire Rescue
By: Frank Correggio, Public Information Officer

On June 3, 2009, members of The Women’s Club of Boca Teeca met with Fire Chief Tom Wood and presented the Department with a check in the amount of \$2,000.00. This money will be used to purchase an advanced training mannequin for Boca Raton Fire Rescue Paramedics. Catherine Approbato, the Club President, Frances Weinberg and Marcia Schiff presented the check.

The “**Crash Kelly**” training mannequin by Laerdal combines training in extrication as well as advanced airway management. This mannequin can be articulated allowing it to be placed in various settings for extrication and rescue. The head allows for full airway management from using simple oral airways, Bag Valve Mask ventilation to more advanced airway techniques.

For over 25 years the Women’s Club of Boca Teeca has donated money to Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services for the purpose of purchasing new medical and/or training equipment. Over the years these donations have enabled Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services to purchase AED Trainers, CPR mannequins, Intraosseous Access System called the EZ-IO, fiber optic laryngoscope blades, blood pressure machines, and Emergency Medical Dispatch training materials for our dispatchers.



Training and Safety

By:
Patrick Kelly
Division Chief

Hello once again.

Training

Well things are rolling along at Banyan Trail! Within the next week or two the contractor will start the final paving and sodding of the site. We are asking for help in completing several projects. One is the completion and installation of the rail line so the two tank cars can be put in place. This will involve preparing and placing the concrete ties and laying and securing the rail tracks which will be bolted to the ties. The other project that is on the horizon is the construction and installation of the permanent propane training props. The permit for the propane prop has been approved by the Building Department and Captain Hartley has agreed to oversee the construction of the concrete slab. Both the rail and propane projects will involve a lot of hard labor in blistering heat and high humidity. Your compensation will be Compensatory Time and the satisfaction of building props that will be used by the department and your coworkers for decades to come. Please submit your name to Jennifer Miller if you are interested in helping with either project.

There seems to be some confusion between Jennifer Miller and Kimberly Bunting. Any payroll or leave issues should be directed to Kim Bunting (982-4023) as she is the new "Payroll Goddess" who replaced Carrolann Stankovitz (CA). Jennifer Miller is the new Office Assistant who replaced Stella Cantalupo and therefore any training related questions, particularly those pertaining to training records, should be directed to Jennifer (982-4042).

Safety

We have received several injury or accident reports that have not been properly completed. Please take the time to read the instructions and complete each field of the report in its entirety. The most common recent issue is reports submitted without the signature of the supervisor.

Till next time be Safe.



July Birthdays

- 07/02 Ryan Cole
- 07/03 Dan Grader
- 07/05 Mike McCormick
- 07/05 Matt Tupper
- 07/06 Ed Thompson
- 07/07 Bob Cervi
- 07/08 Brian Marlen
- 07/08 Jason Stout
- 07/10 Ellen Beckman
- 07/10 Jamie Smith
- 07/10 Pat Bayne
- 07/13 Scott Matheson
- 07/14 Chris King
- 07/16 Jerry Cochrane
- 07/18 Chris Owen
- 07/19 Bob Nelligan
- 07/20 Donnie Craig
- 07/22 Randy Bautista
- 07/24 Dan Vaudo
- 07/27 Adam Elliott
- 07/29 Jason Sekula
- 07/31 Ray Lintner

- 08/01 Chris Innerst
- 08/02 Joe Johnson
- 08/05 Matt Smith
- 08/06 Frank Correggio



SERVICE YEARS

Name	# of Years	Name	# of Years
Bill Pazanski	5	John Johnson	21
Keith Metcalf	5	Chris Schulz	25
Kurt Holoboff	5	Joe Stewart	26
Jason Owens	6	Paul Gressinger	28
Mike McBrien	6	Tom Sova	31
Warren Cann	6	Paul Ceresa	31
Kevin Sullivan	7	Ken Bailes	35
Bill Puchalski	7		
Mike Altamuro	7		

Congratulations to the above for their years of dedicated service.



Is It As Confusing to You As It Is to Me?

College transcripts (certified or non-certified) Tuition Reimbursement Forms, Training Certificates

.... Who Gets What?

Education Supplemental Compensation — Cheryl Freeman, Office Supervisor
Cheryl needs a “certified”, sealed transcript from the college(s) you attended. She then attaches the transcript to a cover letter from Chief Wood with the Application Form (which you must fill out and return to Cheryl), a Job Description and faxes/mails it to the Fire College. You can get the application form by calling or emailing Cheryl (X4019, cfreeman@myboca.us).

Educational Differentials — Kim Bunting, Accounting Specialist (X4023)

College Transcript (non-certified)

Must be employed for one full year.

Kim sends out a reminder letter (usually at the end of May) asking for transcripts **ONLY** if any qualifying classes have been added since the last educational differential was paid.

Incentive Pay – i.e., HazMat, Inspector, Instr. III Certification, etc. -- Kim

Training Certificates

Jennifer Miller, Office Assistant II/Training (X4042) [Email is jemiller@myboca.us]

Jennifer needs copies of all outside training.

Tuition Reimbursement

Sue Sova, Accounting Coordinator (X4026)

Must be employed for one full year.

PRIOR to beginning class, submit a “Tuition Reimbursement” form (Item 37 in electronic filing cabinet) along with proof of enrollment and receipt of payment. After class has been completed, Sue needs proof of completion and the letter grade you received.

[A-100% reimbursement; B-75%; and C-50%.]

A Note to the Wise:

Whenever you have an address change, remember to go into the Fire College site and update your student information. This will speed up any application process significantly.

Also remember to inform Fire Rescue Administration of address/phone changes (Gorilla or File Cabinet #34). This is a TAPIRS [AS-226] requirement. These changes can be forwarded to either Cheryl or Kim.
