



May/June 2009

BOCA FIRE RESCUE NET

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



Fire Chief Report
By:
Thomas R. Wood,
CFO

Apology

We went three years straight publishing our monthly newsletters on time. Then we missed our May 2009 Newsletter. My decision to not publish it was based on illnesses and absences of most of the key people. This edition will be just a little thicker, as we have twice as much material to cover. We will try to stay on schedule.

Michael G. Debrecht Fire Rescue Station 5

We have an update...we moved into the new fire station on May 13, 2009...and we have scheduled the dedication ceremony for Saturday, August 1, 2009, at 10:00AM. Please consider this your invitation to attend!!!

Paramedic of the Year Award

On December 1, 2007, Phillip Ross planned to joined friends at Lloyd Beach State Park in Dania Beach for a day of swimming. Thinking that his friends were swimming in deep water, Phillip dove in head

first and hit a sandbar. He broke his neck in two places, leaving him paralyzed and bobbing helplessly in the waves. Off-duty Firefighter **Sean Migone**, who happened to be at the beach, saw Phillip and held c-spine immobilization and his head out of the water until Fire Rescue



arrived. Phillip has stated that if it weren't for Sean, he would have drowned. Neurosurgeons recall when Phillip arrived at the hospital, he was "totally paralyzed in his legs, with no motor function and was severely paralyzed in his hands..." The hospital's goal during treatment was to have him functional using a wheelchair. But Phillip wouldn't have it end that way. After three hours of surgery and seven weeks in the hospital, neurosurgeons have stated, "not only does he walk, you can barely tell that he's injured when he walks". Obviously, Phillip's recovery was never expected.

On May 21, 2009 Firefighter **Sean Migone** was given our "Paramedic of the Year" award. Congratulations Sean!!!

Excellence Award

Lt. Bayne has emerged as a leader in the Emergency Medical Services delivered by our Department. He has provided EMS training to our new personnel for several years, par-

ticipated in training our award winning ALS competition teams, and been a member of a team that took first place at the Stephanie Browne ALS Competition in Miami. Additionally, Lt. Bayne contributes to the writing and revising of our EMS Protocols. For the past two years, Lt. Bayne has been the guiding force behind our EMS Challenge. While he has worked with a very willing group of motivated individuals, it's his leadership that has molded them into a cohesive team with the common goal of creating a premier event. Under Lt. Bayne's direction, this event has grown in number of participants, attracting 14 teams this past year. It has become recognized as a competitive, creative, and challenging event drawing teams as far away as St. John's County to our north and Miami-Dade County to the south. His leadership, supervision, organizational



skills, and creativity have made this one of the most unique and imaginative ALS competitions in the state.

Lt. Pat Bayne's work ethic, motivation, willingness to help others, and ability to succeed have made him one of our most respected officers and worthy of our Department's Excellence Award. The award was presented on May 21, 2009. Congratulations Pat!!!

In Loving Memory of



Jillian Hauck
Sept. 26, 1982—May 29, 2009
Daughter of Captain Joe Hauck
Fire Rescue Services



Three New Firefighters



Our three newest firefighters were hired on April 6, 2009, and they completed their 7-week Orientation Program on May 22, 2009. **Jesus Barrera, Evan Gaub, and Jonathan Vought** took the oath and were presented with their badges on May 21, 2009. Congratulations and welcome to our Fire Department family!!! We are back at 100% employment.

Promotion

Effective May 18, 2009, **Dave Hobson** was promoted from Vehicle Technician I to Vehicle Technician III. Dave earned dozens of technical certifications in order to qualify for this promotion. Please take a moment to congratulate Dave when you are visiting Fire Support.

Red Cross Donations



Thank you for your generosity and compassion for the victims of fire in our community as evidenced by your donations for the "Heroes for the American Red Cross." This year Battalion Chief Aide **Curt Berryman** was able to collect \$447.00. Thank you Curt!!! According to Julie Ott, the American Red Cross - Greater Palm Beach County Area Chapter spent \$9,289

in direct financial assistance to fire victim families within our City during calendar year 2008. Thanks to you, the American Red Cross mission continues within our community.

Other News!

Accreditation – On May 1, 2009, I suspended our efforts to achieve Fire Service Accreditation. We did not succeed in obtaining the necessary approvals at the City Goal Setting Workshop. Assistant Chief Mike Gergora was re-directed to handle other issues, such as Emergency Management / H1N1 Influenza.

Countywide Fire Dispatch Lawsuit

We were notified on May 14, 2009, that on May 6, 2009, the Florida Supreme Court issued an Order denying our petition to hear the case. This is the final step...thus it is over. We have no plans for switching to the county dispatch system, so it is business as usual for now.

Until next month...be safe.



Operations

By: John Johnson
Deputy Chief

As we enter hurricane season, we all need to be prepared for potential storm activities. You need to make sure that your own needs are met by ensuring your family and home will be taken care of if we do have an extended event. Everyone needs to review the hurricane plan and make sure that you understand the procedures for reporting to duty if a storm is heading to-

wards the City.

The Department will be utilizing a new testing company that was chosen through a competitive bid process for promotional exams. This company will be tasked with providing a Driver/Engineer and a Battalion/Division Chief exam this year. In addition to the new company, a change in the contract requires that a practical exam is part of the driver's test. Stay tuned for the posting of these exams. Good luck to everyone that takes part in the test.

Until next time be safe.



Administration

By:
Glenn Joseph
Deputy Chief

Well, the first draft of the budget for Fiscal Year 2009/10 is complete. I would like to thank everyone that participated by identifying areas of our system that needed improvement and submitted suggestions that would help us deliver a better level of service to our communities. Most of the suggestions were included, although some had to be deferred indefinitely, others will be reconsidered in the next budget year. The level of participation is encouraging in that it proves that a majority of our members are engaged and interested in improving the level and quality of service to the community. Thanks again for your participation.

The next step in the budgetary pro-



cess is justifying and defending our fiscal needs. That process will be a rigorous and detailed exercise, articulating and justifying our needs to the other stakeholders. City management required three (3) budgets: one with the usual cost of living adjustment, another with a 5% decrease and a 10% decrease in funding. As you might expect, a 5% decrease would be painful, but a 10% cut would be excruciating. The immediate economic and fiscal outlook remains bleak at best.

In closing, I would like to welcome our new probationary firefighters: Jonathan Vought, Jesus Barrera and Evan Gaub; I think that they will prove to be an excellent addition to our fire department family. I would also like to congratulate Dave Hobson on attaining Vehicle Technician III in the last month.

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



Planning

By:
Michael Gergora
Assistant Chief

Hurricane Season is upon us. Are you prepared?

That's right! June 1st marks the official opening of the 2009 Hurricane Season, and it will continue through November 30th. It is time for us to get prepared to weather the potential storms.

Please review the memo I sent out on Power DMS that describes how each of us needs to prepare to meet

the demands that may be placed upon us during a hurricane activation. Each of you is asked to review the Hurricane Annex with particular attention given to the Operations Section-Response Activities. The information contained in this section outlines the Department's procedure for operational considerations such as emergency response, reporting for duty, and other important guidelines. It is equally important to address the personal needs of you and your family NOW! Proper preparations by each of us will relieve a lot of unnecessary stress.

Speaking of stress, according to the



Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the number of so called Swine Flu-H1N1 cases being reported is decreasing. Palm Beach County has had eight (8) confirmed cases as of this writing. The CDC has labeled this as being similar to a "seasonal outbreak". There is a second wave of outbreaks that is anticipated for either late summer or during the winter months. There are reports that a vaccine will be developed and available by that time. Hopefully, they will be able to achieve this goal in order to reduce the risk presented to the public and emergency responders. This brings me to the next topic concerning risk.

The ISO provides risk information to insurance companies that help them to set the rates for commercial and residential properties. In October 2008, the ISO conducted a survey of

Boca Raton Fire Rescue, Dispatch Center, and Utility Services (water supply) in order to establish our Public Protection Class (PPC). Currently we are a Class 2. We have received our PPC Preliminary Report that has the potential to lower our PPC to a Class 3. I have been working on addressing our preliminary report from the ISO in an effort to retain our current rating. We had a meeting with an ISO representative on May 21st in order to get answers to questions about the report. I conducted a survey of the PPC rating of fire departments in Palm Beach and Broward Counties and found that the average PPC rating is 3.43 and 3.0 respectively. We will have six months to address the issues stated in the ISO report.

In the last newsletter, I asked you some questions that I am interested in getting your responses. There is one question in particular that I wish to address. Do you apply our Core Values in everything you do? This leads to another question that you should answer for yourself. Can you name the five Organizational (Core) Values of Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services? If not, let's take a refresher together. I will be listing them in alphabetical order, but please note that they are of equal importance.

Our Organizational Values are Communication, Compassion, Ownership, Respect, and Service. I like to use the acronym ROCCS (pronounced = rocks) for ease of memory and use this metaphor -- they are the ROCCS on which the foundation of this organization is built on. So let the building begin! Each month I will take one of our Organizational Values to discuss with you, look for opportunities/examples of that value in practice



by a member(s) of our Department, and report my findings to you. This month we will start with 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.*

We have added a new section to our newsletter called "Service Alert". The "Service Alert" section will recognize our personnel for each full year of service provided by to Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services. Boca Raton Fire Rescue's Executive Staff wants you to know that we appreciate and value your service.

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Firefighter/Paramedics Jesus Barrera, Evan Gaub, and Jonathan Vought.

Stay Safe and Professional!



Logistics & Support

By: Raul Travieso
Assistant Chief

It is with great pride that we announce receiving the "Temporary Certificate of Occupancy" for our new FIRE STATION 5 on May 8, 2009. New Fire Station 5 will be dedicated in honor of Michael Debrecht for his service, commitment, and his ultimate sacrifice.

After furnishings were delivered, window treatments installed, and communication links established,



we moved our personnel and apparatus from the modular station to our permanent facility on May 13, 2009. With the addition of the "new mega" Station 5, we will be able to house Engine 5, Medic 5, Medic 25, and Brush Truck 5 in its 4 bays and provide accommodations for 14 firefighters during emergency preparedness activities. Additional state-of-the-art building features include:

- o Tilt-wall concrete construction and impact-resistant doors and windows to withstand 155 MPH winds.
- o Medical decontamination room.
- o Commercial washer and dryer for firefighting gear.
- o Industrial grade natural gas kitchen equipment.
- o Fully equipped exercise room.
- o 250 kilo-watt emergency generator with a 500 gallon diesel fuel tank.
- o Separate fuel dispensing station to fill vehicles on-site.
- o City government's first "green building"....applying for LEED certified status.



The general contractor and many subcontractors will remain on-site for at least another month while they finish all the work, and we strive for a complete Certificate of Occupancy (CO).

I wish to take this opportunity to commend each of you assigned to Station 5 for your assistance during the relocation of equipment, furnishings, and supplies from our temporary modular facility into our newly constructed “state-of-the-art” Fire Station 5. You can be proud of the fact that by helping us transfer quickly into our new building, we avoided any delay in the completion of repaving and landscaping projects.

You are certainly part of creating the “NEW LOOK” of Fire Station 5.

The **Ladder Truck Committee** met last month with engineers from Sutphen Corporation to discuss additional specification improvements to the proposal for our new 75-foot ladder truck. This ladder truck is an upgrade to the addition of two new Pumpers as part of the replacement cycle for three of our 15-year old Pumpers. The suggestions and input from committee members Tom Sova, Daryl Scott, Patrick Kelly, Mike LaSalle, and Donnie Craig has been invaluable. With their recommendations, this new ladder truck will be a state-of-the-art apparatus featuring the latest engineering enhancements. We are scheduled to take delivery of the ladder truck in early October 2009.



*Calendar the Date
Saturday, August 1, 2009
Dedication of Fire Station 5*



Fire and Life Safety

By: David Woodside
Assistant Chief

We will continue to answer code questions like we did in the last newsletter:

Q. When operating a tar pot, does it really have to be on the ground?

A. NFPA 1 16.7.1.4 prohibits the use of a tar pot (kettle) on the roof of any building. It further explains control should be identified with barriers and the tar pot operated within this controlled area. The code requires that whenever the kettle is in operation, a knowledgeable attendant must be within 25 ft of the kettle. A minimum of two 4-A 40 BC fire extinguishers are also required to be in close proximity to the operation of the kettle.

Q. Apartment buildings used to have alarm systems and now we found a sign that says if the alarm is sounding to call 911. Is this correct?

A. The 2008 Florida Fire Prevention Code allowed some apartment buildings to drop their alarm monitoring. FFPC NFPA 101 31.3.4.3.5.1 states that “Fire Department Notification shall not be required in existing apartment buildings 4 stories or less in height...” The code further states that there must be a sign identifying the system as a local alarm system and to call 911 in case of fire in the building. Also audible and visual notification devices must be on an approved outside wall.

Inspection of Fire Protection Systems

The State of Florida has made it simple for anyone to identify a fire protection system that has deficiencies. This new system is very valuable for fire companies conducting building surveys. At a glance, the company officer will know if the sprinkler or standpipe system is up to code since its last inspection. Last year the state instituted a red tag/green tag system for contractors providing maintenance and service to fire suppression systems.

Two tags are used for fire protection systems, a compliant (green) tag or a noncompliant (red) tag. The green tag indicates that the fire protection system was found to be in compliance with the applicable NFPA standard during its last inspection. The non-compliant red tag identifies that there were deficiencies during the last inspection. Either tag should be attached to the main riser or main control valve in a way that is visible and should not be removed from the fire suppression system.

Elysium

The building at 2600 NW 5th Avenue formerly known as the Elysium is being demolished. After months of hard work by both Development Services and Fire Rescue, the Elysium is finally coming down. This complaint was initiated by a small fire with follow-up from Battalion Chief Brett Lea expressing the magnitude of safety hazards that the building presented to the



citizens as well as to firefighters. The demolition work should be completed around the middle of June. The building will be demolished down to the slab except for the racquetball and tennis courts which will be left standing. The pool has had holes punched in the bottom and will be filled with dirt prior to the completion of the work. Attached are two pictures of the demolition in process.



Elysium being demolished.



EMS News

By:
Michael Barker
Assistant Chief

ALS Competition season is in full swing. Boca Raton's own EMS Challenge was tremendously successful thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team lead by Lt. Pat Bayne, and numerous members of our Department who assisted with set up, played roles in the scenarios, and were there for the take down and clean up at the end of day - my sincere thanks to all.

Our competition team comprised of FF's Shea Miller, James Haag, Jeff Lazzeri, and Eric Alexander took 2nd Place at the Chief Michael Haygood Broward Invitational ALS Competition and competed at the Stephanie Brown ALS Competition at the University of Miami. FF's Ryan Hardy, Robert Parks, Mike Sember, and Andres Veas will be competing this month in the Randy Boaz Memorial ALS Competition at Miami-Dade College, and both teams are registered for the ClinCon Competition at the end of June. It takes a lot of time and effort to pre-

pare for these competitions and I applaud everyone who has stepped up to participate in these events.

EMS Reporting continues to be a source of frustration. It seems as soon as one problem is corrected another one surfaces. While the latest software fix addressing the dropped times and interventions seems to have been successful, some computers have an ongoing connection problem that IT is working to resolve. I have received several suggestions aimed at streamlining the process of entering data for our medical reports and currently FF Shannon Frederick is working on those suggestions with the folks at Documed. I also plan to issue a weekly update to keep everyone informed on the latest issues being reported, and what's being done to correct them. I appreciate everyone being patient and professional while we continue to adapt and refine this process.

See page 7 for ALS photos.



Happy Late May Birthdays!

- 05/01 Bob Graffam
- 05/01 Neil Duffy
- 05/05 Raul Travieso
- 05/13 Dave Covert
- 05/14 Todd Stewart
- 05/14 Norm Engel
- 05/17 Jim Pingrey
- 05/17 Gerry O'Brien
- 05/21 Joe Hauck
- 05/21 Pat Lao
- 05/21 Jon Vought
- 05/22 Dan Rush
- 05/23 Chris Burden
- 05/27 Tom Carroll
- 05/30 Mike McBrien

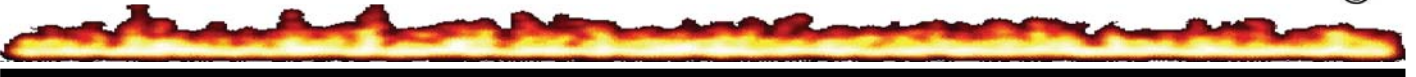
Happy June Birthdays!

- 06/01 Tony Armijo
- 06/02 Tom Karbowski
- 06/09 Ryan Hardy
- 06/14 Karl Richards
- 06/17 Rhett Martin
- 06/19 Irena Elmstrom
- 06/19 Tory Buckman
- 06/22 Joe Majhess
- 06/23 Andrea Brennan
- 06/24 Doug Webb
- 06/26 Vince Rubio

First Week of July Birthdays

- 07/02 Ryan Cole
- 07/03 Dan Grader
- 07/05 Michael McCormick
- 07/05 Matt Tupper
- 07/06 Ed Thompson
- 07/07 Bob Cervi





Special Ops

By: Scott Johnston
Division Chief

Boca Raton Fire Rescue was called upon by Jones and Bartlett Publications to take part in creating the photos used in their new edition of "Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations". Captain Paul (Cid) Ceresa answered the call and rallied several of our personnel to assist and make it happen. I would estimate approximately 60% of the photos in the book are all BFRF personnel dressed out in different levels of PPE conducting anything from Spill Control to Public Safety Sampling. All of the pictures were shot at our Banyan Trail Training Center and props were arranged to resemble real call scenarios.

The following personnel need to be recognized for their "outstanding commitment" to our Fire Department by volunteering their off-duty time or fitting this assignment into their already busy daily schedule: Capt. Paul (Cid) Ceresa, Capt. Tom Carroll, Capt. Phil Santa Maria, FFD Ed Guinn, FFD Bill Puchalski, FFD Mike Sklark, FFD Scott Brooks, FF Donnie Mullens, and FF James Haag. If you would like to see a copy of the edition, each member listed should have a copy you can view. I will also see about trying to put a copy in each station so all personnel will have access to this book.

During the month of May, several personnel participated in a "Rescue Swimmer Class" administered by Boca Raton Ocean Rescue Captain

Tim Fry. The course was based on an open water lifeguard curriculum, which actually certified them as such. Just when the course was coming to an end, B Shift ran on a cap-sized boat in the Boca Inlet early on the morning of May 16th. There were several victims from the boat stranded on the North Jetty section that does not connect to the rest of the jetty. On scene were several units including Fire Boat 3, which stood by while Captain Jeff Ross and FFD Warren Cann went into the water to retrieve the victims from the jetty. Captain Ross, who was once employed as a lifeguard, and just happened to go through the above mentioned class, along with FFD Cann, also formerly employed as a lifeguard and still certified as a lifeguard, together brought the victims safely to the beach with the assistance of personnel from the responding stations.



Obviously there were many more personnel involved who I have not mentioned, and all personnel involved are to be congratulated for a FINE TEAM EFFORT!!! The need for this type of training is evident, and Captain Fry has agreed to do more of these classes for us in the future. If you are interested, keep an eye out for the next class offering.



Also during the month of May, we hosted a Rope Tech Rescue class at our training facility.

This was also a first of its kind and was a success. We were able to provide 4 free slots for this class. I know that some thought the selection process was unfair, and I have taken your suggestions and will look

at some different ways of selecting personnel in the future. I hope to schedule more classes in the future where we can offer free slots as we did with this last one based on the disciplines of Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Trench, and Vehicle Extrication.



EMS

By: Bob Nelligan
Division Chief

**Palm Beach County
Trauma District**

Palm Beach County's Trauma System is overseen by the Health Care District and provides rapid-response care for more than 3,000 traumatically injured patients each year. Since 1992, the District's nationally recognized Trauma System has saved nearly 40,000 lives. The integrated system delivers medical and trauma care by coordinating an enhanced 911 communications and dispatch system, EMS and Fire Rescue personnel, two 'Trauma Hawk' aeromedical helicopters, and two Level II Trauma Centers and their rehabilitation centers. The two Trauma Centers are St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach and Delray Medical Center in Delray Beach. Trauma Centers provide the best chance of survival for those patients who have significant trauma as they are staffed by trauma surgeons and a trauma team 24 hours a day.





The statistics from the first six months of the Trauma Districts fiscal year has shown 2008/2009 to be a typical year. Since October 1, there have been 1,516 patients that have been processed through both Trauma Centers. That is an average of 4.16 patients per day per center. March 2009 has been the busiest month so far with an average of 5 patients per day. Of the 1,516 patients processed into the Trauma Centers so far this year, 86.3% have required >24 hour care for a total of 9,822 inpatient days.

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services transports our Trauma Alert patients to Delray Medical Center. We have transported 51 patients meeting the severe injury criteria since October 1, 2008. Crews have done an outstanding job of stabilizing patients, limiting on-scene time to a minimum, and providing lifesaving treatment while transporting to the Trauma Center. According to the Director of Medical Services at Delray Medical Center, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services paramedics and firefighters are highly respected within the trauma district.



Service Alert!

Last month, the individuals below completed the following years of service at Fire Rescue:

Dan Coine	26 Years
Mike LaSalle	18 Years
Bryan Walton	9 Years

Thank you for your dedication!



Training and Safety

By: Patrick Kelly
Division Chief

Hello once again.

Training

We recently completed training drills on two condemned buildings on NW 4th Avenue. By all accounts, the training was much needed and well received. Special thanks go to Battalion Chief Lea, Captains Strasser and Greenberg and all those who assisted in preparing and delivering the training. We strive to provide training that is pertinent and meaningful. If you notice any abandoned building in town that might possibly be used for training, please let us know and we will pursue the possibilities.

On May 29th, contractors began the next phase of the development of our training site. Over the next few weeks, they will be grading, expanding the water distribution system, and paving enough area so that we can complete EVOC training at the site. The next time you are at Banyan, take a moment to observe the progress. While the wheels of progress may turn slowly, we are lucky they are turning at all.

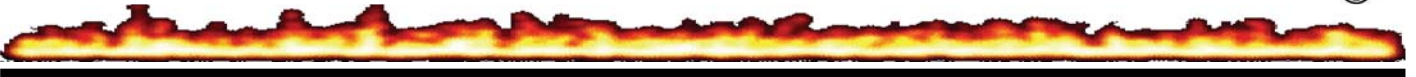
*We run training reports twice per month to evaluate the accuracy and consistency of training records entry. While training records are being entered more consistently than before, there are still some omissions or mistakes being made. Feel free to contact **Jennifer Miller at 982-4042** or any of the Training Officers if you have any questions regarding data entry. We have placed the recently developed TAPIRS on the Staff Management System (SMS) in the Q Drive/Training/Online Training Instructions/SMS folder for reference. Please remember that the training staff has the ability to edit or delete training records. If you make a mistake entering training records, e-mail either me or Jennifer Miller with the details and we will make the corrections. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and are making a difference, thank you.*

Safety

With the lingering threat of H1N1 (swine flu), please be diligent and protect both yourself and your co-workers on any incident that might possibly be flu related.

There have been several incidents where personnel have injured themselves exiting apparatus. Remember that when stepping from any unit, it is safer to exit backwards while maintaining a grip with both hands. Maintain three points of contact at all times until you are on firm, level ground.

Till next time, be safe.



Communications

By: Mike O'Neil
Division Chief

New Fire Station Alerting System

The Fire Department received approval to purchase a new Fire Station Alerting System, and this is scheduled to be fully operationally by November 2009. The new Fire Station Alerting system was obtained with a matching grant. The current Zetron 626 system is being replaced by an IP FSA by Zetron. The IP based system will be a tremendous savings due to the elimination of dedicated phone lines that the older system required. In addition, the new system will allow the addition of new fire stations and the redundant ability to alert fire stations in cases where the Communications Center must be relocated in a disaster situation.

Rebanding

During the last two weeks of May, all of our radios had new frequencies programmed into them. The programming of the radio infrastructure was done Thursday, May 28, 2009. This change is invisible to the user and completes

Phase I Rebanding. Our Phase II rebanding is not scheduled as of the date of this article. Included in our radios are the new Nationwide Mutual Aid channels and the Broward County Sheriff's Fire Rescue Division channels. These channels will become active after these agencies reband.



In the News...



Family Evacuates As Home Fills With Smoke

At approximately 2 am on April 8, 2009, Boca Raton firefighters responded to a report of a structure fire at 660 Coventry Street. Firefighters arrived to find all occupants and the family pets out of the 2 story dwelling. Crews entered through the front door to find heavy smoke. A small fire was located in the laundry room adjacent to the kitchen area. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire which appeared to be laundry located on top of the clothes dryer near the dryer duct. Crews quickly set up high powered exhaust fans to remove the smoke. Hazardous Material Technicians used a special meter to monitor carbon monoxide levels. There were no injuries reported and the family pets, two dogs and a cat were unharmed.



Recent CERT Graduates Are Ready For Hurricane Season

On April 15th, 2009, Fire Rescue Services held its graduation and mock drill for CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team, and added 23 new members to its team. CERT trains its members to respond and assist when a hurricane, tornado or man-made disaster strikes and the fire department is inundated or will have a delay in response. CERT training will also help students handle minor emergencies that happen day to day.



New member Marc Goldberg and others use cribbing technique to rescue a trapped victim.

This is the first new CERT class that Boca Raton Fire Rescue has taught in two years. The class and all the equipment is FREE.

For more information or to find out how to register for CERT, please contact Catherine Vanden Broeck, Volunteer Coordinator at 561-393-7770.



Erin Francisco and Rosis Suarez-Elias assist a victim to medical treatment.



Vehicle on Fire on Yamato Road

On April 21, 2009, Boca Raton firefighters responded to a call for a vehicle on fire at 200 West Yamato Road. Emergency dispatchers received the 9-1-1 call at the same time as firefighters at Fire Station #4 had citizens knocking on the door reporting the same. Firefighters arrived within minutes to find a 1988 Toyota Camry with flames coming out from under the engine compartment. The vehicle was stopped in the middle lane, eastbound on Yamato Road just west of NW 2nd Avenue. Fire crews pried open the hood and knocked down the fire. Firefighters used special rescue tools to open the hood and put the remainder of the fire out. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time and no injuries were reported.



Lt. Tony Armijo looks on as Firefighter/Paramedic Donnie Mullens uses a saw to cut open the car hood.

Photos by PIO Frank Correggio

Early Morning Vehicle Rollover On I-95

Shortly after midnight on May 23, 2009, Boca Raton Fire Rescue was called to a vehicle rollover at the southbound entrance ramp to I-95 at Yamato Road. Crews arrived to find the 1998 Isuzu Trooper sitting upright on the shoulder of the roadway. The driver of the vehicle said that his tire blew out and then he lost control of his vehicle. The driver, which was the only person in the vehicle, was transported in stable condition to Boca Raton Community Hospital for evaluation. Florida Highway Patrol was on scene investigating the incident.



Vehicle roll-over on I-95.

Firefighters Rescue Three From Capsized Vessel

On May 16th at approximately 6:30 am, Boca Raton Fire Rescue responded to a report of a capsized vessel near the Boca Inlet. The Coast Guard Station in Miami received the distress call via radio. Fire crews arrived in minutes to find a 23 foot capsized vessel approximately 50 yards offshore and approximately 50 yards off the inlet. Firefighters located three victims stranded out on the north jetty off the Boca Beach Club. The Coast Guard was on scene and worked together with Boca Raton Fire Rescue to determine the best course of action to rescue the victims. Due to the extremely rough conditions with seas approximately 4-6 feet, it was not possible to bring Boca Raton Fire Rescue's Boat 3 or the Coast Guard vessel close to the jetty to make a rescue. Officials decided the best course of action was to put Fire Rescue swimmers in the water. Captain Jeff Ross entered the water with rescue gear and a rescue life line which was handled by Driver / Engineer Warren Cann. Both men were former life guards. Captain Ross swam out to the jetty through the rough water and one by one brought each victim safely on shore. Two victims were transported with minor injuries to Boca Raton Community Hospital for evaluation. There were no other injuries reported. The incident is being investigated by Boca Raton Police Services.



Photo by Frank Correggio

Firefighter Ken Clark handling the hose.

Firefighters Quick Response Keeps Fire Confined to Garage Area

On April 24, 2009, Boca Raton firefighters responded to a structure fire at 6161 North Dixie Highway. Units arrived within minutes to find heavy smoke and flames coming from the garage area. Firefighters quickly entered the garage and noticed that there was a car burning inside with flames spreading to the garage ceiling area. Firefighters quickly knocked down the fire and began to pull the ceiling looking for possible extension and hot spots. The homeowner was home at the time the fire started. There were no injuries reported. Fire officials estimate the damage at approximately \$200,000 and the home is uninhabitable at this time. The cause of the fire is undetermined and under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office.



Photo by Frank Correggio

Fire Explorers Mike Slatery, Isabel Schlicht, Casey Gugliotta, Joe Berry, Stephanie Kujowa, Chad Watler (Team Co-Captain), Mike Harrison (Team Co-Captain) and Sara Jacobson

Boca Raton Fire Explores Do It Again At Annual Fire Explorer Firematic Competition

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Explorers attended the Annual Fire Explorer Firematic Competition held on March 9th at the St. Lucie County Fair Grounds in Ft. Pierce, Florida.

The firematic competition brought Fire Explorer teams from Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Martin County, Rivera Beach, and St. Lucie County to compete in 5 different events. These events help to promote teamwork and help test the team's skill in different areas of fire-fighting. Teams also come together to share ideas and network on training and education.

Boca Raton Explorers won four 1st Place events, and took 1st Place for overall points scored. The Boca Team was also presented with the Sportsmanship Award. Eight Boca Raton Fire Explorers trained and practiced three times a week for over two months to prepare for this competition.

Competition Events

1st place: Boca Raton Post 315

- Hose roll
- Hose deployment - 1 into 2
- Running Hose
- Barrel Push

1st Place Boca Raton Post 315

Overall points

Sportsmanship Award: Boca Raton Fire Explorer Post # 315



Jason & Raquel Stout Show off The new Addition To their Family:

**Trenton William
05/14/09
6lb 1oz
19" long**



Photo by Jay Bell

Whether by land or water, we're there.

Vessel Burns, Four Rescued

On May 22, 2009, at approximately 9:20 pm, Boca Raton Fire Rescue responded to a report of a vessel on fire at approximately 300 SE Mizner Blvd in the Intra-coastal waterway. Fire crews arrived within minutes to find a 30-40 foot pleasure craft fully involved with fire. Four occupants of the vessel entered the water and made it to shore while the vessel continued to burn. Rescue crews recovered the four occupants on shore. Three were treated for burns and minor injuries, the fourth appeared to have minor injuries. All were transported to Boca Raton Community Hospital for further evaluation.

Firefighters battled the blaze from the sea wall and from Fire Boat 3. Despite their efforts, the vessel burned to the water line. Fuel leaked from the vessel and continued to burn. Fire officials decided to let the remaining fuel burn out. Haz-Mat crews were on scene prepared to float booms in the Intra-coastal and dyke any fuel that might have escaped. The cause of the fire is unknown. The State Fire Marshal's Office was called in to investigate.



**Paula Ursini-Gardener
and family welcome the
newest member:**

**Chase Mauricio
04/30/2009
7 lbs, 8 oz
20 inches long**

Smoke Detectors Save Lives



Thomas R. Wood, CFO
Fire Chief
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