



November 2009

BOCA FIRE RESCUE NET

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



Fire Chief Report
By:
Thomas R. Wood,
CFO

Retirement and Promotions

Firefighter/Driver Mike McCormick's last shift was Saturday, October 31, 2009. A "Final Roll Call" for Mike was held at Fire Station 1 on Sunday, November 1, 2009. Mike had the distinction at the time of his retirement of being the senior most and the oldest active employee. Mike started his career on July 9, 1973, and completed 36.3 years of dedicated service. Mike and his new bride Dora (married October 9th) have plans of traveling to Brazil (Dora's home). Please join me in wishing Mike a happy and healthy retirement. [see pictures on page two]

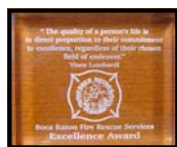
Joe Majhess was promoted to Division Chief on October 30, 2009. Joe will be in charge of Administrative Services. Joe will report to Assistant Chief Raul Travieso and he will handle Planning and Communications. Joe will coordinate records management and also assist Raul with the Planning and Emergency Management functions.

Donnie Horn was promoted to Captain on October 30, 2009. Nate Nichols and Ben Frederick were promoted to Firefighter/Driver on November 2, 2009.

With the successful trial period of running Medic 3, this unit will become permanent, and we have four Lieutenant promotions in order to provide full-time supervision. The following personnel are being promoted to Lieutenant: Shane Leon, Jesse Duffy, John McClain, and Matt Smith.

Please wish Joe, Donnie, Nate, Ben, Shane, Jesse, John and Matt well with their new positions. A Badge Ceremony will be scheduled for Friday, November 13th.

Excellence Award – Jason Sekula



Firefighter Jason Sekula responded to a multiple vehicle accident at Glades Road and Dixie Highway on October 5, 2009, with one of the vehicles loaded with four occupants and resting very near the railroad tracks. A high speed train was approaching from the north, just seven blocks away without time to stop. Other responders brought three ambulatory occupants to a safe position outside the railroad crossing arms. An injured woman remained inside the vehicle with no access from the safe side of the crash scene. At that time it was not known if the vehicle would be struck by the train. The warning bell sounded and the railroad crossing arm came down and struck the vehicle. With the train coming at high speed, Jason picked up the elderly woman from the back seat of the vehicle and carried her to safety in his arms. Seconds later the train passed within inches as he had to duck under the railroad crossing arm with the patient. Jason's quick,

decisive action displayed bravery and strength in the face of danger and is to be commended. Jason's heroic actions have earned him a Department Excellence Award. Congratulations for a job well done!

Innovation Award – Bill Swoope



Upon delivery of the new Ford Expedition designated as the new EMS 1 vehicle, EMS Captain Pat Bayne was asked by Assistant Chief Raul Travieso if he would be interested in taking the point on designing the interior. Pat accepted and looked forward to the opportunity. After a brief inspection and conversations with the other three EMS Captains, Pat realized we needed a custom design to optimize the space provided by the slightly smaller vehicle. Pat finally realized this was more of a challenge than initially thought. Having worked as Bill Swoope's supervisor, Pat remembered Bill had worked with this type of project before. Pat contacted Bill and asked for a meeting to inspect the new vehicle. Bill provided valuable input as to what would be practical and helped with the design. Pat asked Bill if he would have time to manufacture the "cages" and Bill gladly accepted the challenge. Working on his down time from the Department and his second job at St Mary's hospital hyperbaric chamber, Bill picked up the materials and welded the pieces together at his shop. Bill gathered information, purchased items and spent countless man-hours to follow through with the completion of the project. We now have a custom designed and



built interior to the EMS 1 vehicle that is both practical and safe. Items that were loose in the old vehicle are now secure in case of a crash or rollover. According to Pat Bayne, this project would still be in the planning stages if not for Bill Swoope's dedication, know-how, and hard work. Thus, Bill Swoope has earned a Department Innovation Award. Congratulations Bill!

24 Hours at Fire Station 5

On October 14, 2009, I worked a "24 hour shift" at Fire Station 5. Captain Mike "Backbone" LaSalle took me under his wing, as I rode Engine 5 for most of the shift. Acting Firefighter/Driver Dan Rush and Firefighter Raul Chacon rounded out the crew. We started the day with a bang...a man fell with a ladder and suffered an injury which required transport...a single family home fire alarm (false call)...and an Africanized honey bee attack (no attack...just bees buzzing)...all before 12:00 Noon. Then we had 10 pounds of "blackened dolphin (aka Mahi Mahi)" for lunch, spread among 15 crew members and guests (Office of Management and Budget staff). Over 6 pounds of skirt steak spread among 9 crew members for dinner made for another outstanding meal.

I also drove Medic 5 to City Hall and back to Station 5. That was a thrill for Lieutenant Jamie Smith, Firefighter Brian Shapins and Firefighter Arnaldo Rodriguez, especially the first time I tapped the brakes. We got dressed and were cancelled three times after mid-night for medical emergencies handled solo by Medic 5.

The value to the crews of my pres-

ence can be summed up with the following issues which are now being addressed: 1. Fourteen missing dormitory reading lamps should be ordered by the contractor and they should be installed very soon. We determined that the company that manufactured the lamp fixtures at all the other stations went "out of business." 2. The oxygen meters on all five new Medic units will be

replaced with the variable liter per minute type, instead of the type that has limited settings. 3. The public address system will be interconnected to the telephone system, so you can page from any telephone.

2010 Payroll Deduction Charitable Giving Campaign

It is that time of the year again. You should have received the 2010 pay-



Hired 1973 — Retired 2009



Mike McCormick—you will be missed.



roll deduction charitable donation request form with your paycheck on November 6th. The tough economic times were evident in the Department donation total decrease between 2008 (\$13,200) and 2009 (\$3,899). Please dig deep this year and be generous.

The groups we can support are:
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Red Cross, Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter, South County Boca Raton Firefighters & Paramedics Benevolent Fund, Inc.
Children's Burn Foundation of Florida
Make-a-Wish Foundation
United Way of Palm Beach County

Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving Holiday.

Until next month...be safe.



Operations

By:
John Johnson
Deputy Chief

The promotional exams have been completed, and three promotions have been fulfilled from these lists. This was the first time JTS Association Inc. delivered an exam to our Department. The testing company has completed an exam review with each candidate from the Driver Engineer and Battalion/Division Chief exams. In addition, members of the Department and the testing company conducted a post incident analysis to improve the process for the next exam. Speaking of the next

exam, sometime in January the Department will be posting an April exam for the position of Lieutenant. Those of you eligible for the exam need to ensure that you meet all the requirements for the position. Congratulations to all that completed the Driver Engineer and Battalion/Division Chief exams.



Administration

By:
Glenn Joseph
Deputy Chief

Congratulations to Division Chief Joseph Majhess, and welcome to the Fire Department administrative staff. Joe has been assigned to Assistant Chief Raul Travieso as part of an expansion of the Fire Department's commitment to planning, communications and emergency preparedness. The addition of Division Chief Majhess to the administrative staff will allow the Fire Chief to expand our NFIRS quality assurance program. I think that Division Chief Majhess will make an excellent addition to our team, and we are all looking forward to working with him.

I would also like to congratulate Donald Horn on his recent promotion to Fire Captain, and Nate Nichols and Ben Frederick on their promotions to Firefighter Driver. As we grow and become more experienced as firefighting professionals, we take on new roles and responsibilities that require more skills and a wider variety of expertise. Donald Horn, Nate Nichols and Ben Frederick have proven that they are competent fire service professionals who

will be the future of this organization.

Congratulations to Matt Smith, Shane Leon, John McClain, and Jesse Duffy for being promoted to the position of Lieutenant.

Mike McCormick's last shift on the job was Saturday, October 31, 2009. Congratulations Mike and have a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Let's do the numbers for September, 2009:

Total EMS Alarms 701
Average Resp. Time 5.39 Min.
EMS Unit (most alarms) Med2-175

Total Fire Alarms 157
Average Resp. Time 6.13 Min.
Fire Co. (most alarms) Trk5--139
Station 5 (most alarms) 432

Other Incidents 173
Total Alarms 1,031

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



Tyler Bunting dressed as one of our future firefighters. Tyler especially loves to handle the hose and spray water.



Planning and Emergency Management

By:
Raul Travieso
Assistant Chief

It gives me great pleasure to announce my appointment as the Assistant Chief of Planning and Emergency Management. As you all well know, I always enjoy a good "challenge".

I am also pleased to further announce the promotion of Joseph Majhess to Division Chief. In addition, Joe has been further appointed to assist me in guaranteeing the success of our "NEW ASSIGNMENTS". I believe this is a great opportunity for Joe to enter into the management phase of Fire Rescue.

Due to the recent technical advances in Communications, I have once again assumed the responsibility of Fire Rescue Communications operations.

Be assured, 2010 will be a banner year for Fire Rescue's Planning and Emergency Management section.



Victoria (Fire & Life Safety) with one of her customers who came in for a permit.

Kings Deli

The structure formally known as Kings Deli has been demolished. The building located at 1900 Military Trail was removed last month and no longer poses a risk. In early September, construction crews took a week to strip the building of all the recyclable materials and then demolished the structure. It was unfortunate that the building had to be removed, but we can now look forward to a modern, safe, code compliant structure to be developed on the property.



Fire & Life Safety

By:
David Woodside
Assistant Chief

911 Banner



This year, as we celebrated the anniversary of the terrorist attack on the United States, students from FAU recognized the event with a memorial of their own on the Boca Raton Campus. Their memorial service occurred at the same time as the event at Mizner Park. The students created a memorial banner and presented it to the Fire Department. The banner is installed in the training classroom at the Banyan Trail Support Facility and may be viewed as soon as you enter the classroom. In speaking with the organizer of the event, the student government would like to make their 911 remembrance an annual campus event. The students were also saying, "We Shall Never Forget" and it was a joy to have interacted with them when I received the banner they created.

Biotest

Construction continues at 5800 Park of Commerce Blvd. at the Biotest buildings. We have had a few false fire alarms at the building but the work appears to be tracking towards having all of the Life Safety Systems completed by mid-November. Currently, Biotest is scheduled to have the LEL detectors commissioned on November 10th. Members of the Fire and Life Safety Division will be on site for the commission process. An operations plan has been reviewed by the Special Operations Chief and a final version is still being developed. The facility plans to operate on a temporary basis beginning mid-November and then close down again to complete the final phases of construction. Once the building construction is completed, there is a plan to provide training to all firefighters on the buildings safety systems and procedures.



2009 All City Pumpkin Carving Contest

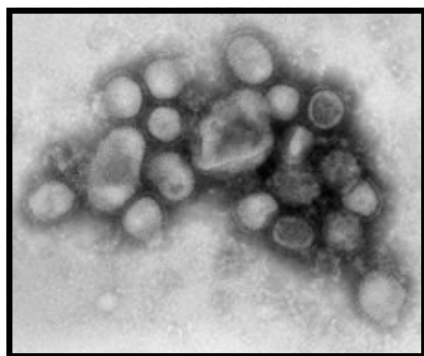




EMS News

By:
Mike Barker
Assistant Chief

2009 H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)



Every time you listen to the news, there is a story on the H1N1 Flu changes. Some medical professionals are advising you to receive the vaccine and others are against it. At a recent meeting I attended, this was one of the topics. The Epidemiologist in attendance advised that not receiving the vaccine presents far greater risks than receiving the vaccine. I urge people to investigate the facts that are on the CDC's website and decide for yourself. The CDC website and the recommendations for who should receive the vaccine can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

Who will be recommended to receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine?

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that certain groups of the population receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it first becomes available. **These target groups include pregnant women, people**

who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, and people ages of 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

A question was asked at this flu update meeting re: what about protection for infants less than six months in age? The answer was: Infants less than six months of age may not be vaccinated. The CDC recommends that everyone in the household receive the vaccine. Pregnant women are recommended to receive the vaccine regardless of what trimester they are in. Generally, it takes about fourteen days for the vaccine to be transferred across the placenta to the fetus and will offer protection to the newborn infant.

Upcoming Projects for EMS

There are a couple of major purchases the EMS Division is preparing for. Power stretchers and cardiac monitors are in the process of being purchased for the upcoming year. All medic units will receive the power stretcher. The exact brand or model has not been selected at the time of this article.



Logistics & Support

By:
Mike Gergora
Assistant Chief

The Logistics and Support Division is preparing for the new additions

coming to Boca Raton Fire Rescue this fiscal year. January will be filled with exciting happenings. We will be receiving and distributing our new bunker gear. Our new Ladder Truck and two (2) new Pumpers will be arriving as well. The ISO is also scheduled to re-inspect the Department. We will be extremely busy preparing for these events.

I wanted to share with you a little known fact that I discussed with the Battalion Chiefs the other day. Tom Sova, Dave Hobson, and Carlos Vidaurreta supply their own tools to repair and service our apparatus and equipment. They have made a personal investment in their commitment to serving the Department. Having the right tool for the right job can expedite the demands for service and repair. Please thank them for going the extra mile the next time you see them.

Congratulations to Division Chief Joseph Majhess, Captain Donnie Horn, Firefighter/Driver Nat Nichols, and Firefighter/Driver Ben Frederick on their recent promotions to these positions.

Other outstanding Department issues:

Special Operations:

The specifications are being finalized for the bid process and purchase of a new Special Operations vehicle during this budget year.

U.S Flags on Fire Apparatus:

I have ordered a flag mounting system to see if we can provide a way to proudly and safely display the U.S. Flag on our apparatus. The intent is to evaluate the product and develop a uniformed method of installation.



Station Visits:

I will begin making station visits in December. The purpose of these visits is to provide you with an opportunity to express your concerns, desires, and suggestions to me on how the Department can better serve your needs. Of course, feel free to offer any praises for the services currently being provided as well.

Uniforms:

We hope to have the purchase order for uniforms by the end of November. We will order uniforms for our personnel immediately after it is issued.

Support Staff Training:

The Logistics and Support staff will be attending a CPR certification course on November 5th. Carlos is currently certified and will be handling shop issues during the training session.

This month we will observe two national holidays: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. I hope that you will spend time with family and friends during these special days.

Please stop in my office anytime that you are at Fire Administration.

Until then - Stay Safe and Professional!



Congratulations to Mike Schmitz and Rayana Botelho

Mike and Rayana welcomed a new baby boy into their home. Kaden Botelho-Schmitz was born on October 11th. He weighed in at 7 lbs, 4 ozs, and was 21 inches long.



Special Operations

By:
Scott Johnston
Division Chief

The month of October was Pastor Appreciation month, and we were invited by the members of Solid Rock Christian Church to honor Pastor Joe Guadagnino during a special service.

Pastor Joe has volunteered his time as our Fire Chaplain since 2001, and is always there to serve in any way he can. Along with his regular duties as Senior Pastor, husband, father, and coach, Pastor Joe has always been there for us in times of celebration and times of sorrow.

In attendance at the ceremony were Deputy Chief John Johnson and his wife Linda, FF Jesus Barrera, Lt. Jason Stout and his wife Raquel, son Trenton, and Trenton's Grandma Diane Lea, Station 8 A-Shift Crew (Lt. Loyd Putnam, FFD Pat Lao, FF Marcus Cooper), myself and my wife, Kim.

A plaque was presented to Pastor Joe at the end of the service, which will be displayed on the wall at Solid Rock. The next time you see Pastor Joe, please take the time to thank him for his dedication to Boca Raton Fire Rescue as our Fire Chaplain and for his willingness to "Always Answer the Call".



Congratulations to Naomi and Todd Withrow

Todd and Naomi welcomed a new baby girl into their family. Lillian was born on October 20th at 3:20 pm. She weighed in at a dainty 6 lbs, 5 ozs, and was 20 inches long.



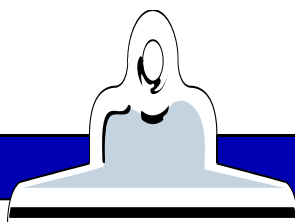
Training & Safety
 By:
 Pat Kelly
 Division Chief

Hello once again.

With the Lieutenants Test looming on the horizon next spring, we are planning to host the Course Delivery class. This class is mandatory for the Lieutenant's and EMS Captain's tests, both of which are being given in 2010. This class, along with 6 years fire service experience, will also qualify you to become a certified Fire Service Instructor. If you are interested in participating, please contact Captain Mitch Greenberg to place your name on the list.

Many individuals have started the Lieutenant or Captain Proficiency Packet. There is a 100 question test that accompanies each of those documents and must be submitted with the packet. If you are working on the Lieutenant Packet, please contact Captain Greenberg and he will e-mail you a copy of the test. If you are working on the Captain's packet, please contact Captain Strasser for a copy. The recommendation/signature page is a still a part of the process, and must be submitted along with the packet and the 100 question test.

Please remember to sign the attendance roster at every training session. We use the roster to determine who has missed a given class. It creates considerable confusion in the Battalion Chief's office when we schedule individuals for a make-up class that they have already attended.



MEMO

Service Awards

Raul Travieso	35
Glenn Joseph	22
Scott Ward	20
David Woodside	20
Eric Alexander	5
Jeffery Lazzeri	5
Christopher Owen	5
Jose Santana	5
Matthew Smith	5
James Barry	4
William Fowler	4
Benjamin Frederick	4
Ryan Hardy	4
Joseph Henry	4
John Lamey	4
Tomas Martin	4
Christopher Neville	4
Jason Sekula	4
Kim Bunting	1



11-02	John Lamey
11-03	Dorant Mowatt
11-06	Dave DiPierro
11-07	Sean Migone
11-09	Kim Puchalski
11-11	Francine Chokanis
11-12	Ken Clark
11-15	Val Polistena
11-23	Warren Cann
11-24	Arnaldo Rodriguez
11-25	Loyd Putnam
11-25	Ben Frederick
11-26	Dave Eddinger
11-27	Paula Ursini
11-27	Alejandro Callegari
11-29	George Fix
11-30	Bryan Walton
12-01	Pat Murray
12-01	Mike Davanzo
12-02	John Gibson
12-04	Joel Narcowich
12-04	Jesus Barrera
12-06	Tomas Martin
12-07	Scott Stinecipher
12-07	Phil Strasser
12-07	Bill Pazanski
12-08	Ed Guinn



The Fire Rescue clerical staff celebrated "Bosses Day" with some of the Executive Staff by serving chocolate covered fruit.



From our first meeting on March 24, 2004, our Explorer program has hit the ground running. As we move into 2010, our program finds itself coming back to the beginning. Our once young men and women have grown and moved on. Our program is full with 18 new young Explorers eager to start their journey as those before them. We have made many strides as we moved forward. The biggest is the \$100,000.00 scholarship given by the Countess de Hoernle. This scholarship fund has given our Explorers the opportunity to attend EMT, Paramedic and the Fire Academy. To date we have produced the following:



Explorer Update

As Reported By:

Frank Correggio
Lead Advisor



School Completed

EMT - 15
Paramedics – 6
Fire Academy – 6

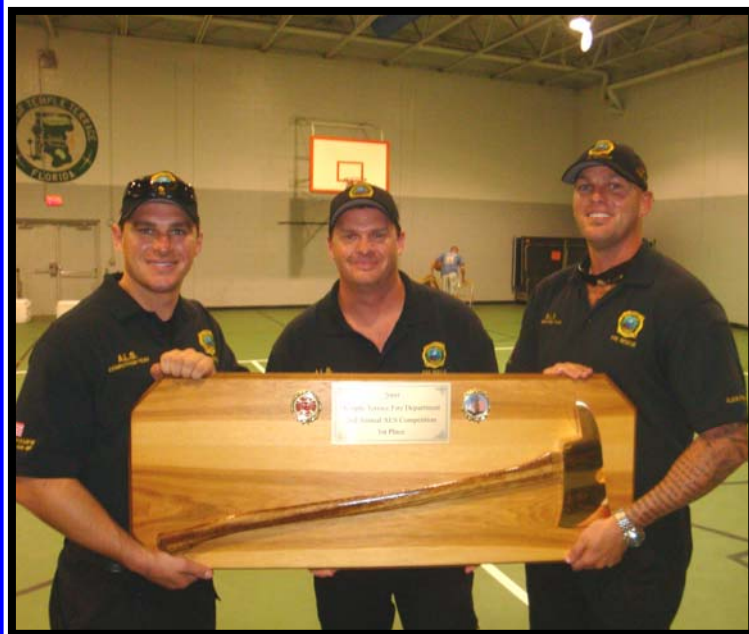
In School

EMT – 2
Paramedic – 3
Fire Academy – 2 (Former Explorers)

Waiting To Apply

Fire Academy – 1

Our greatest accomplishment is that our efforts in training and keeping our Explorers have paid off. To date, we have hired former Explorers Joe Johnson, Jesus Barrera and Jonathan Vought. Val Polestina was a former Explorer for about 8 months. We have one former Explorer, Manny Nuno, who is on our list and Explorer Jonathan Santana, fully certified, has applied to take our next test. Explorer Chad Watler, who is finishing up his Paramedic class, has interviewed for Deerfield Beach. Former Explorer Kevin Zimbrick, taking the Paramedic class and now an Advisor for our program, has applied to Hollywood Fire Rescue. Former Explorer Vanessa Vought (Paramedic) who is also an Advisor has applied to Delray Beach Fire Rescue. She starts the Fire Academy in January. All of this has been made possible because of each and everyone here at Boca Raton Fire Rescue. Your support and the mentoring of these fine young men and women and treating them as “one of the family” has opened their eyes, minds and hearts to work in the best profession in the world - firefighting. On behalf of all of our Explorers past and present and their families I would like to say thank you.



Pictured left to right: Shea Miller, Pat Bayne, Eric Alexander

Hard Work And Training Pay Off, Paramedic Team Wins Again At Temple Terrace

On September 28th and 29th, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Advanced Life Support (ALS) Competition Team consisting of Paramedic Captain Pat Bayne, and Firefighter/Paramedics Shea Miller and Eric Alexander defended its title at the 2nd Annual Temple Terrace ALS Competition held in Temple Terrace, Florida. The team’s quick reactions, critical thinking and expert patient care gave them another “**First Place**” win. This year in the final scenario, the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Team handled seven critically injured patients ranging from drowning, inhalation burns, head trauma and cardiac arrest.

The Department has been sending teams to competitions since 1981 throughout the state and country. Competitions and seminars such as these are instrumental in helping to educate and keep paramedics skills at an optimum level. Knowledge gained at these events are brought back and introduced to the Department through training and skills testing, which translates into providing superior service to the citizens in our community.

*Happy
Thanksgiving
to Everyone*



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**Remember
Veterans Day
November 11**