

# IN THE LINE OF DUTY

July - September, 2017 Volume 3 – Issue 12



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*Professionalism ~ Integrity ~ Compassion*

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

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- Dedicated to our Community, Our Profession and Each Other -



## Office of the Fire Chief By: Kingman Schuldt, Fire Chief



**H**ave you ever thought about what it takes to be a leader? Most would consider the fire chief as the formal leader of the organization but there have been many great leaders from all ranks and position throughout our fire service. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Captain Bill Gustin immediately comes to mind when I think of a leader.

A mid-level supervisor who is extremely proficient in his skill-set, well respected by the newest of firefighter to the experienced fire chief, respectful of rank, caring, humble, and always professional. Regardless of formal position or rank within the organization, it all comes down to a person choosing to make a decision.

Making decisions, is key to being a leader at any level. Even not making a decision is, in fact, a decision. Persons exercising leadership, or desiring to do so, must face the difficulties of making decisions and realize consequences of their decisions.

Consequences for decision-making are often associated with emergency responses with the thought of life and death. It is their lives that are impacted by the failure of those in positions of authority to decide, or decide in a manner which serves themselves before others. Have you thought of the difficulties associated with other decisions you are not routinely presented; personnel matters, budget management, legal consequence, legislative, labor/management, accountability?

It is often easier in our close-knit firehouse culture to remain silent and inactive, or quickly criticize others regarding actions or behaviors of those around us. Some are not with ill intention, but it is often much easier than addressing our friends and our co-workers; maintaining accountability, modifying behavior, addressing the uncomfortable, doing the right thing.

To address a member or to call attention to behaviors indicative of poor performance, low morale or counter productivity can be seen by the culture as violating the sacred trust “in the firehouse.”

Self or informal group-serving decisions and actions are seen in all walks of life. When this occurs the genuine exercise of leadership is absent in these matters. When the decision basis is to avoid taking a risk or making oneself open to critique in order to self-protect, then leadership, in the concept of serving others, is null and void.

Leaders at all levels are faced with dozens of decisions that need to be made every day. As our organization grows, the decisions continue to become more frequent and more complicated. Successful leaders make many wrong decisions throughout the lifetime of their careers, but those failures always lead to valuable learning experiences. Regardless, it is imperative to find ways to make the tough decisions.

In this, the decision to act, or not act, can be as fatal as remaining silent in the face of overwhelming evidence of a need for active and compelling leadership. Sometimes, many times; being a leader requires strength, courage, and the willingness to take action.



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## Training





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## Operations Section

By: Nolan Sapp, Assistant Chief



**R**emembrance Ceremonies were held all across the United States this past month, with the exception of Southwest Florida. This September 11, 2017, all of Southwest Florida Emergency Services were consumed with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Although formal gatherings weren't held, we still remember the brave Firefighters who gave their lives in 2001 to save countless civilians from tragedy.

On September 11, 2017, Greater Naples Fire District members were reaching out to their communities in their hour of need. The District responded to calls for service like fire alarms, medical calls, structure fires, and vehicle accidents. We continued to do additional neighborhood checks and requested welfare checks; but on this day and for many days afterwards we did tasks like provide food, water, and aid to those in need. We worked side by side with other organizations such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, FP&L, and many other willing to help where they could.

As we engaged in the recovery efforts for our community we discovered some of our own needed assistance. Our facilities needed repairs, but GNFD still proudly answered the calls and gathered needed supplies to help residents in need. We are here to service our community in its hour of need. The Fire Service is a proud organization and stands ready to respond.

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District took a direct impact of Hurricane Irma in Everglades City, East Naples and Golden Gate affecting thousands. The storm touched every corner of Greater Naples Fire Rescue District. We touched every aspect of our great community to ensure everyone was assured we were here in their hour of need. As a new organization we provided a better unified response. Globally we were able to move assets where needed with a more unified Command structure having the personnel and apparatus to meet the need.

September 11, 2017 wasn't honored as in years past with flag raising, bell ringing, standing at attention with pomp and circumstance. This September 11<sup>th</sup> Firefighters of Greater Naples Fire showed honor by working in ways to respond not only to the daily common calls for service, but by providing much needed basic needs for our community. We will always remember the 343 that gave all and honor their memory by giving of ourselves to citizens that we may not know all the while knowing they need us.

Be safe, be proud.



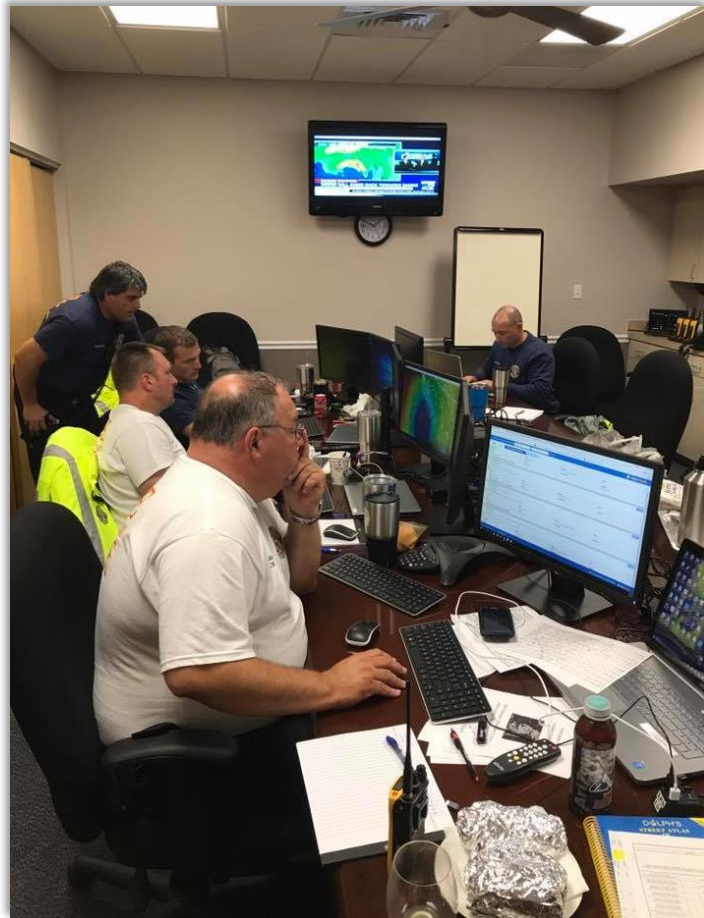


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## Hurricane Irma



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## Finance Section

By: Tara Bishop, Deputy Director of  
Administration and Finance

**T**he Greater Naples Fire Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3), is gearing up for the 2017 holiday season. We are counting down the shopping days until Christmas and wishing for a season filled with community propensity and cheer. However, we are reminded daily as we drive the streets of Collier County and see the piles of personal belongs curbside just how many in the area are dealing with the difficulties associated with recovering from Hurricane Irma.

Continuing the District's Toy Drive tradition, The Foundation will be collecting new toys and monetary donations for less fortunate families in our area. The Greater Naples area, along with business owners and civic groups, have been more than generous over the years in helping make this program the success it is today.

This year we are expecting to have requests totaling 1,500 children between the ages of infant to 12. To ensure the "toy store" is stocked with sufficient toys, the Foundation is requesting help from the community. Your generosity and thoughtfulness during this holiday season is greatly appreciated.

Anyone wishing to donate to this year's program is asked to make donations by December 14, 2017. Toy donations will be accepted Monday – Friday 8am-5pm at the Greater Naples Fire Headquarters 14575 Collier Blvd or the Greater Naples Fire and Life Safety facility at 2700 North Horseshoe Drive. Community/civic groups wishing to be a drop off site, please contact Administrative Assistant Suanne Woeste at (239)348-7540 or by email [swoeste@gnfire.org](mailto:swoeste@gnfire.org).

Monetary donations can be mailed to: Greater Naples Fire Foundation Attn: Toy Drive 14575 Collier Blvd. Naples, Florida 34119





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## Mental Health Awareness

# If You See No Way Out Just Reach Out

MAKE THE CALL TO MAKE THINGS BETTER

Fire/EMS Helpline: **1-888-731-FIRE (3473)**

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, 24/7



Being a Firefighter brings many challenges. Remember, you are not alone. Talk to someone you love. Talk to a friend or colleague. Or talk to counselors trained and experienced in the firefighter and EMT culture by calling the national Fire/EMS Helpline.

[www.nvfc.org/help](http://www.nvfc.org/help)



### Signs to Watch Out For

**Isolation:** Becoming distant from the company around the firehouse  
**Loss of Confidence** in their abilities as a firefighter or EMT/Paramedic  
**Sleep Deprivation:** Difficulties sleeping at the station or on off days  
**Anger:** Suppressed anger or taking anger out at home  
**Impulsive:** Behaving recklessly or in ways not typical for that person

### How to Help

#### Be Proactive, Be Direct.

We do this when responding to an emergency.

#### Ask the Questions.

If the firefighter is having suicidal thoughts, ask "Do you feel like killing yourself now?" and "Do you have a plan?" A "yes" means you need to seek medical help immediately. Do not leave the person alone.

#### Have Compassion.

Show compassion and stay in the moment when talking to someone who needs help.

#### Use Discretionary Time.

If someone comes to you with a problem you don't understand, state that you need to do research and gain information to help them.

#### Walk the Walk.

If your brother or sister is in need, stand by their side to help them through their issues.

Source: Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, [www.ffbha.org](http://www.ffbha.org)



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## Investigative Section

By: Shawn Hanson, Division Chief

**D**id you know the first fire extinguisher was said to have been developed around 200 BCE by Ctesibius of Alexandria? He created a primitive hand pump for the purpose of directing water at a fire. The first patented fire extinguisher was invented in England by chemist Ambrose Godfrey in 1723.

This particular extinguisher was made from a cask of fire-extinguishing liquid containing a pewter chamber of gunpowder that were connected to a series of fuses; when the fuses were ignited the gunpowder exploded, dispersing the liquid on the fire.

The “modern” fire extinguisher wasn’t invented until nearly a century later. In 1818 British Captain George William Manby’s fire extinguisher consisted of a copper vessel of 3 gallons of pearl ash solution (potassium carbonate) contained with compressed air.

Throughout history, the fire extinguisher has seen numerous modifications, some of the following are obsolete fire extinguishers that have been replaced by more advanced extinguishers: the soda-acid extinguisher – patented in 1881, contained a bicarbonate solution and sulphuric acid, the classic copper fire was also invented in 1881, and in service until the late 1950’s, the Fire Grenade, typically used for vehicles fires – a glass bottle contained a carbon tetrachloride solution that was hurled at the fire; removed from service due to extreme toxicity (high concentration exposures damaged the nervous system and internal organs and converts to phosgene gas when mixed with heat...also used as a chemical weapon).



Today, there are two main types of fire extinguishers: stored pressure and cartridge-operated. The most common fire extinguisher, the stored pressure unit, the expellant (typically nitrogen or air) is stored in the same chamber as the firefighting agent. The expellant (typically compressed carbon dioxide) in a cartridge-operated extinguisher is contained in a separate cartridge than the firefighting agent.

Fortunately, today’s fire extinguishers have become a much safer and environmentally friendly alternative over its predecessors.





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## Awards & Recognition



Lt. John Handley  
Retirement- 26 Years of Service



Scott Brewer  
Promotion to Lieutenant



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## Chaplain's Corner

By: Jack Strom, District Chaplain



Decisions: The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

You've seen it happen. With the car quickly approaching, the little squirrel decides to cross the road. Halfway across, the squirrel experiences a sudden change of mind & reverses direction. After just a few haltering steps, the squirrel changes its mind again & reverses course. The back & forth goes on until the car settles the issue, and the little squirrel learns the hard way that indecision is a killer.

Never-the-less, we know the importance of making a decision so we will not end up like the little squirrel. However, most of the decisions we are faced with are more complicated than just crossing the road. Many times, we know the decision we want to make but that decision seems *barricaded* with problems that we feel must be solved before we can make the decision.

So it all comes down to decision-making or problem-solving. Which do you think is the most important? Many people go through life trying to solve problems but never make a decision. A decision is an act of the *will*. It is the *what* of a plan... while problem-solving is the *way* of carrying out the decision of that plan. The important focus is to always make the decision first, then set out to solve the problems.

You may make a decision that will be a process of several problem-solving actions before the decision that you make becomes a reality. On the other hand, if you make problem solving the first issue, you may never make the decision.

For example: You may be thinking you would greatly benefit from pursuing more education. But you don't feel you can afford the investment it will take to enroll in college at this time of your life. At this age of your life you choose not to ask any of your extended family for financial help. You've looked, but there aren't any scholarships that seem to have your name on them. You may never pursue more education because your action is conditional and uncertain at best.

Another scenario: Young in marriage you want to start a family but realize that first you need a larger house, and you may say, "We can, if I get a raise or can find a second job or a creative way to increase our income. Or maybe if our grandparents will loan us the down payment." And the list goes on. Trying to solve the problems, you may never secure the house you think you need, so you keep putting off experiencing the joy of having children.

However, if the persons in the above examples (or other such challenges) says, "I'm going to college!" or the young couple "We are having a baby!" then one conditional issue will not deter them. Instead, they will keep searching for a solution until they find a way to carry out their decision. It may take some time (even a few *seasons*) before their decision becomes a reality.

The important thing is to make the decision to do *it* (whatever *it* is.) When you make the decision, I believe you will then be able to solve the problems to carry it out. (And learn from the squirrel... be careful crossing the road!)



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## Employee News

### Condolences

Our prayers are with the following families:

Jason Bledsoe Family  
Alan McLaughlin Family



### Just Arrived!

Welcome our newest family members:

Eevi Charles born to Scott and Quortni Jacobs on July 25, 2017  
Thea Hunter born to Nicholas and Alexandra Newman on September 2, 2017

## Employee Spotlight

**Name:** Matt Trent

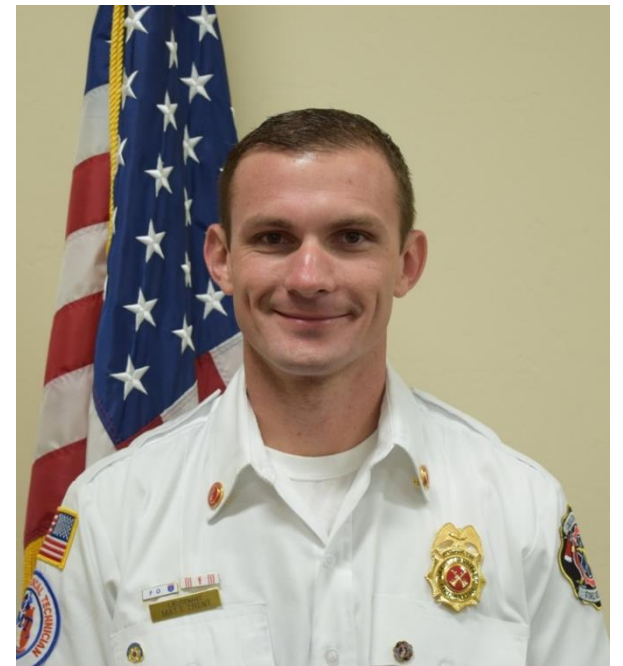
**Job Title:** Battalion Chief- C Shift

**Hire Date:** January 3, 2006

**Hobbies:** I enjoy going to school, teaching, watching football, and car stereos

**Interests:** Research, computer science and emergency management

**Can't Live Without:** My family and coffee



**Name:** Vaughn Palmateer

**Job Title:** Driver Engineer- C Shift

**Hire Date:** March 22, 2014

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my two kids , working out , taking time out for my beautiful wife , and watching sports

**Interests:** To be as educated and involved as I can in all aspects of the Fire Service to better serve the Community I work for. After almost 30 years in the fire service I continue to better myself through continuing education, research and networking.

**Can't Live Without:** I live a very fast-paced, on the go kind of lifestyle. I have big goals and my work ethic pushes me to work harder until I accomplish them. I need to keep my energy up, so the thing I absolutely can't live without is the comradery of my fellow firefighters.





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## Public Relations

