

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

October - December, 2017 Volume 4 – Issue 13



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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



Reflecting on the past year's events, I could not dismiss a reoccurring thought that we consistently accomplished more working together than divided. When groups of differing values compete for power, they may find it mutually advantageous in expectation to arrive at a compromise solution rather than continuing to fight for winner takes all.

Many propose differing ideas for how to encourage compromise among differing groups, ideologies, and individuals, including tolerance, social stability, and organizational governance. Would it not be advantageous to develop stronger institutions and mechanisms that allow for greater levels of compromise?

Advancing compromise may be the most important undertaking an organization can take. A future without compromise can lead to disruptive relationships, a lack of cohesion, or inability to achieve common goals. Advocating compromise results in enhanced communications, cooperation and collaboration regardless of personality, agenda, or political motive. Compromise is not always simple or easily executed, but is a win-win-win, may have a positive affect on one's moral compass, and will assist in blurring that line between "us and them" in today's politically charged tug-o-wars.

Instilling cooperation cannot be accomplished overnight. It takes time and patience. The leaders of management, labor, and informal groups need to embrace cooperation by talking with each other and setting examples. Collaborative behavior should be encouraged at all levels; utilize teams, achieve goals together, and set reward based on cumulative performance. Always remember that cumulative performance will achieve more.



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Operations Section

By: Nolan Sapp, Assistant Chief



Firefighters face many hazards in our job. We all know the obvious ones such as fires, chemical releases, vehicle accidents and so forth. The District performs pre-fire plans, walk throughs, and studies the layout of special hazards throughout the District in order to be prepared during an emergency situation. But there is a growing hazard that is unfamiliar to many.

There has been an increase of enhancements in two specific areas; one being technology with two-way radio with lower power outputs, and the other with building enhancements for hurricane preparedness. This is creating the hazard we weren't prepared for, referred to as "in building communication failure". In Florida as we build structures, including our Fire Stations, we haven't noticed the hazard being created.

As a building reaches higher density to withstand the stronger hurricanes, a barrier is being created that prohibits the radio waves to exit the structure and reach the tower systems. These buildings have hurricane glass which has a metallic component in its manufacture. More steel and concrete all add to the density problems. As we respond to these buildings and become aware of the radio failures on the walk throughs and less serious calls for service, we need to note the communication failures. Just as we would note a premise hazard for chemicals or other dangers, we need to note buildings whose construction could lead to communication failure.



When responding to these locations the lack of two-way communication is critical to the safety of first responders. This can be crippling to Fire Operations in the event of a working incident no matter the incident type. Evacuation orders, May-Day situations, or even a change in tactics cannot be relayed fully to all members.

What is being done? Fire and Life Safety personnel as well as Communication groups are studying new technologies, as well as other code parameters to work with building contractors to better enhance our communications system to

eliminate holes in coverage and in-building coverage concerns. Some of these enhancements are Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS), leaky coax, bi-amps, and repeaters. All of these are being researched, as well as looking for better enhancements that may be available.

In the meantime, Firefighters must be conscientious of this potential hazard and take note when encountering these higher density buildings. We must not discount the hazard this can present to our first responders. The failure to have effective two-way communication is just as dangerous as any other hazard in the field.

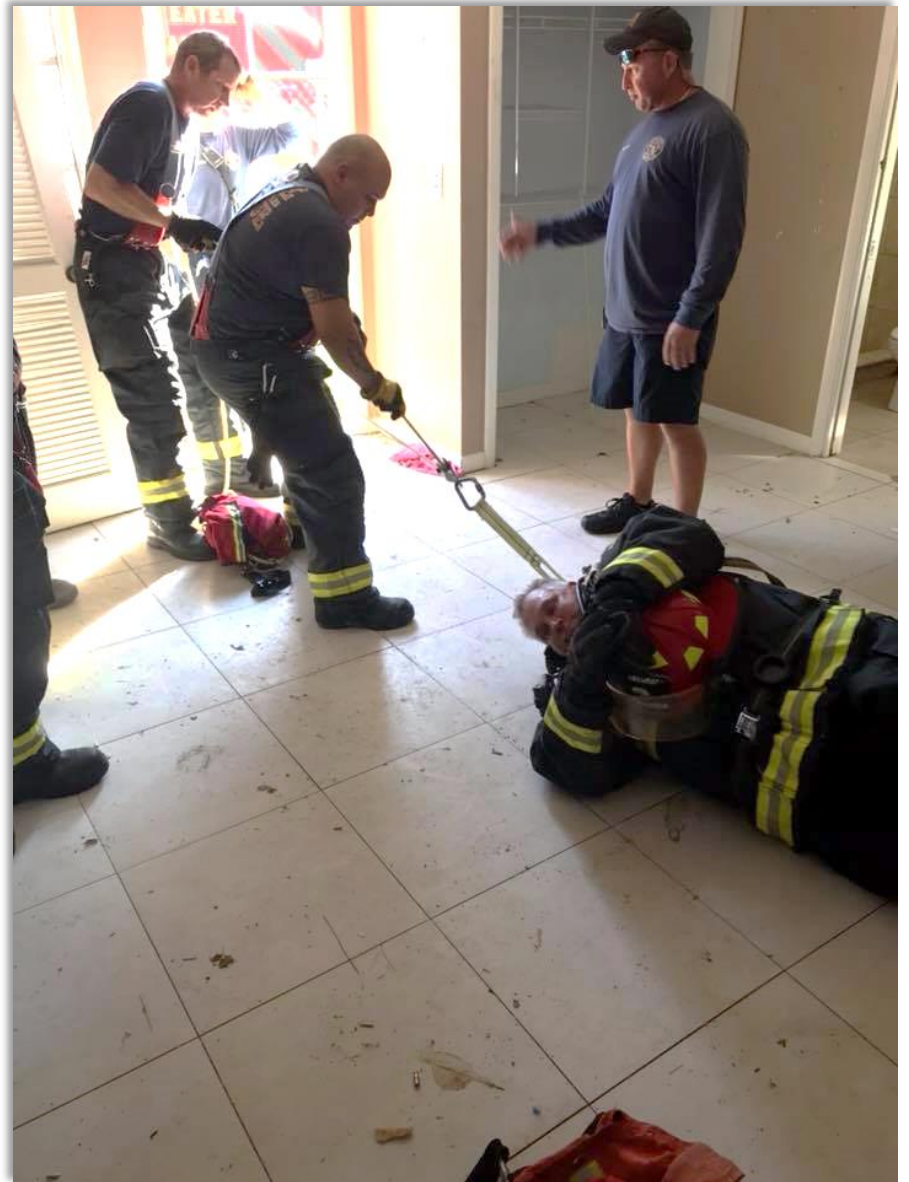
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Training

Firefighter Safety and Survival Training



Greater Naples Fire Rescue District IN THE LINE OF DUTY

April - June, 2016 Volume 2 – Issue 7

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



Training and Special Operations Section

By: Rob Low, Deputy Fire Chief

As we reflect on this past year, the Greater Naples Fire District family has been faced with many challenges both internal and external. As an agency we are not immune from the effects of disaster and as a family we are not free from the effects of passion, opinions, and “sibling” disputes. Regardless we remain a family committed to our mission and we will continue to overcome and endure. Years ago a fellow firefighter had recently joined the Fraternal Order of Leatherhead Society (F.O.O.L.S.) and he shared with me an article written by Tim Klett (FDNY) and shared by Bob Pressler (FDNY Ret.). As I read through Tim’s article titled “The 4 UPS”, I tried to picture how this fits into my life as a firefighter and as an administrator. Reflecting on the message of the “4 Ups” it was apparent that these are the same [values] that were engrained into me as I began my journey in the fire service thirty years ago and how relevant the message is still.

Together we will continue to experience moments in which we are faced with adversity. I believe that the wisdom shared by those that came before combined with my passion for the fire service and the respect that I have for those that serve every day, this year like all the others, will provide opportunity, growth, and a renewed commitment. I share this article so that you too may reflect on your lives as members of the proudest profession in the world. Remember to always pass along the knowledge you have gained and to interact positively each day with your brother and sister firefighters.

The 4 UPS

“The first is, Listen up: When you are first starting in the Fire Service, there is a lot going on. You are entering a culture that is unlike any other one on this planet. You will hear stories, tales and just plain BS. But listen carefully. That is our past talking. All of the information has value; it is up to you to determine how much value it has to you. Listen to the older, over-the-hill, past-their-prime, malcontents, for the little "pearls of wisdom" that aren't in any textbooks. A lot of important information that will help keep you safe and alive on the fire ground is not written down. The fire service is very young. We are losing our experience. The F/F's that went to fires during the war years are slowly retiring. Talk to them before they leave. We are losing our history, we are losing our past. Don't let this happen.

The second up is, Clean up: The firehouse is your second home. Treat it as such. And if you are the junior F/F working, you are the lowest on the totem pole. You get the dirty work, you get to do the dishes, and you get to mop the floors, and you get to clean the toilets. This is not based on any prejudices of race, sex, or religion. It is based on the fact that all the junior people before you did it, or should have done it. You do it until the next probie is assigned to that company. It is part of belonging; it is doing what you should be doing. And it is always pretty funny, because in my experience, the ones that piss and moan about doing the chores usually end up doing them by themselves for a long time. But the ones that just do it, the ones that are the first to get up to head for the sink after a meal, usually find that they have help. They become accepted into the “family” a little quicker. (Continued on page 5)

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Training and Special Operations Section

By: Rob Low, Deputy Fire Chief

(Continued from page 4)

The third up is, Step up: This goes hand in hand with the previous "up" but there is more. Be involved in your company and in your department. Attend company functions, help run them if possible. In NYC every company I ever worked in would have a company picnic in the summer, a Christmas party in the fire house in December, and a dinner-dance sometime during the year. Become a productive member of your Company. Above all, go to funerals and services, especially the line of duty ones. Pay your respects. Become a part of the fire service by deed and not by mouth.

The last up is my favorite; Shut up: This one goes well with listen up, but actually goes a little further. Spend more time listening and doing than talking about it. Show by your actions and your deeds what type of F/F and member of this great Brotherhood/Sisterhood you are.

In our personal lives, DTRT, means take care of our families. Take care of your loved ones. Think before you act. And when all else fails, go with your heart, Do The Right Thing. Say as you do; do as you say. Say what you mean; mean what you say.

Remember, a person is only as good as their word. Talk is cheap; backing your talk up is priceless."

Stay safe.



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Holidays



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Finance Section

By: Tara Bishop, Deputy Director of
Administration and Finance

Volunteers + Community Support = Holiday Spirit

The Greater Naples Fire Foundation wishes everyone a Happy New Year! Community Support is very important to the success of the Greater Naples Fire Foundation projects, without the financial support and countless volunteer hours worked our projects would not be possible. The Holiday season is the perfect time to thank all of those

that make our mission of serving those in need possible. The donor and volunteer lists grew this Holiday season as well as those needing assistance this year. The annual Toy Drive Command assisted 503 families and 1011 children. To the volunteers and donors, if life was a Twitter page, #kindness, #holidayspirit and #compassion would be trending because of you. Thank you!

Are you an Amazon.com shopper? For eligible purchases at Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. You can make the Greater Naples Fire Rescue Foundation your charitable organization, then every time you order through the Amazon Smile website you'll be helping the Foundation continue its mission of supporting fire rescue personnel.

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Smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

*Thank you so
much for giving!*

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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



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

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Investigative Section

By: Shawn Hanson, Division Chief

Winter is upon us and with the beautiful weather it brings, it also brings seasonal challenges for the Investigative Section/Fire & Life Safety Branch.

Among the more significant of the challenges is the one all of us face this time of year...traffic. With the influx in traffic, comes a decrease in inspection efficiencies; as travel time to and from inspections increases, the number of inspections each inspector is able to complete in a day decreases, resulting in longer inspection timeframes and a potential for unhappy customers.

Also seeing a seasonal increase is the number of complaints received with more than 90 percent of complaint calls regarding outdoor cooking appliances, fire pits, and miscellaneous code compliance concerns and issues from condominium associations coming during season.

This season has already been especially challenging as we continue to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Irma; an earlier than “normal” seasonal traffic pattern, increased construction for repairs and replacement resulting from the damaging effects of Hurricane Irma, including follow-up inspections on deficient fire alarms systems.

How do we adjust to these seasonal challenges? By putting a strong emphasis on providing excellent customer service with every interaction we have with customers, patience, education, implementation of a solid inspection time formula, having an amazing staff willing to embrace and step up to the challenges, and by always practicing GNFD’s core values: Professionalism, Integrity, and Compassion.



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Planning Section

By: Wayne Martin, Deputy Director

The Planning Section is responsible for Fleet Management and one of the primary needs assessment identified the importance of continued Preventive Maintenance Inspections. The implementation process will continue to take time in order to appropriately identify existing deficiencies and take necessary corrective actions. Along with oil changes and minor repairs, Fleet has identified the need to address certain items immediately. As one can imagine, heavy apparatus that require quick starts, stops, and “hard” driving often require replacement or repairs to brakes, suspensions, tires, and alignments. Ideally, a comprehensive maintenance program will include semi-annual inspection of all front-line apparatus.

Many modern-day vehicles use synthetic oils and can go 5,000 to 7,500 miles between oil changes. Following manufactures recommendations as to when your vehicle should be serviced will result in extending useful life. Regular service provides for checking all filters, tire, and brakes will provide a safe dependable vehicle.

The Florida sun, rain, and nightly dew are hard on all types of vehicles. Effective vehicle maintenance plans will bring confidence in the fleet and pride to the operators. The traditional red apparatus takes a beating in the sun and weather conditions of southwest Florida. To maintain the value, enhance reliability, and bring pride it is important to maintain the entire vehicle.

Starting in 2018 the District will establish a schedule for the exterior maintenance of all vehicles. For example, vehicles should be waxed a minimum of three times per year. To get the best return on a vehicle it is imperative it be maintained. According to Kelly Blue Book, a vehicle in Excellent condition rather than Poor condition will bring about 20% more at re-sale. Fire apparatus and vehicles are no different, it could mean thousands of dollars in our pocket.



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Awards & Recognition



FF Steven Perez, DE Brad Buczko, DE David Borowski
5 Years of Service

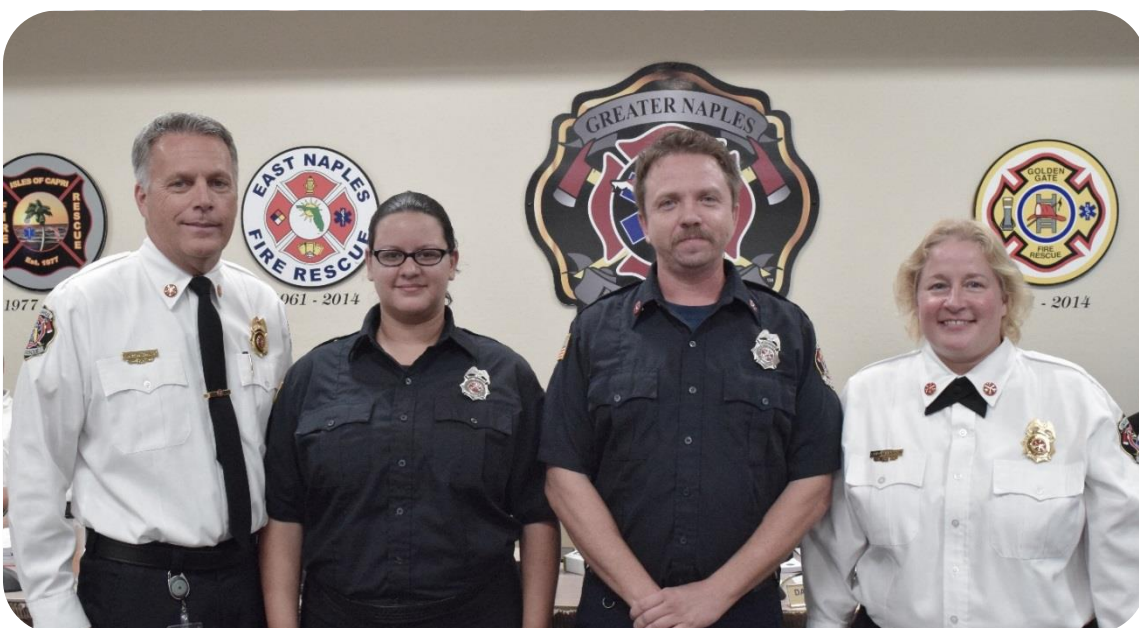


Lt. Jorge Lara, Lt. Robert McGowan, Captain Scott Wilson
15 Years of Service

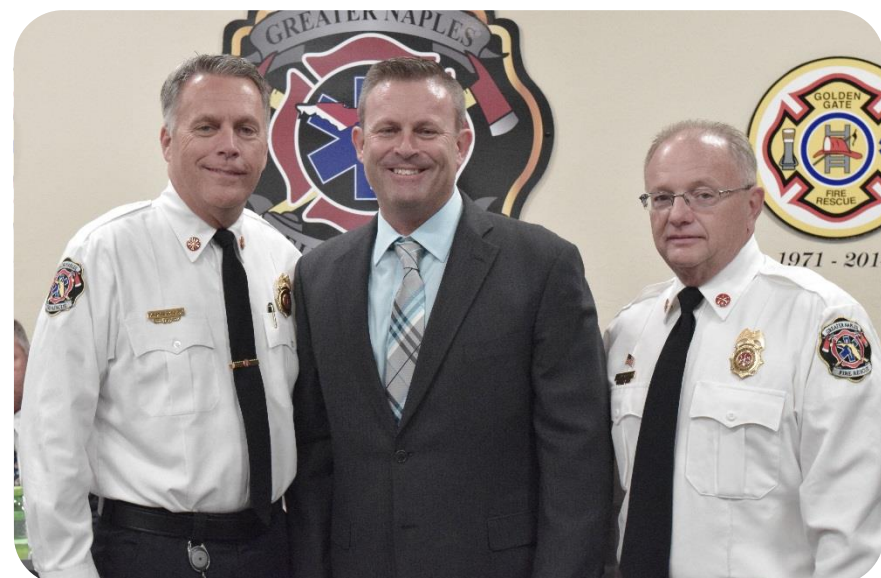


Lt. Manny Arroyo
20 Years of Service

Our Newest Team Members at Greater Naples Fire Rescue District



Jennifer Meredith, Ian Stewart
Inspectors



John Luppy
Fleet Supervisor

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Awards & Recognition



DE's David Borowski, Jay Crouse, Brad Buczko
Promotion to Driver Engineer



DE's Erin Gill, Aaron Douglas
Promotion to Driver Engineer



Lt. Willie Douglass
Retirement- 30 Years of Service



Captains Brandon Bunting, Kevin Schoch, Scott Wilson
Promotion to Captain

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Chaplain's Corner

By: Jack Strom, District Chaplain



TOGETHER WE CAN DO ALMOST ANYTHING

I recently read a story about what seemed like an impossible task. For certain it was beyond the ability of what one person could do alone. But, with the creative involvement of many people it was accomplished. As I read the story I thought of our GNFD Team. Here's the story:

“In 1981, Herman Ostry bought a farm a half mile outside of Bruno, Nebraska. The property had a creek and came with a barn. When the creek flooded, the barn ended up in two feet of water and Ostry decided to move the barn to higher ground. One night around the dinner table, Ostry commented that if they had enough people they probably could pick the barn up and move it.

A few days later, Ostry's son showed his father some calculations. He had estimated that the barn weighed approximately 16,640 pounds. He also estimated that a steel grid needed to lift the barn would add another 3,150 pounds, bringing the total weight to just under 10 tons. He figured it would take around 344 people lifting to move the barn.

So, on July 30, 1988, shortly before 11 a.m., a quick test lift was successfully made. Then, as local television cameras and 4,000 people from eleven states watched, 344 people moved the barn 115 feet south and 6 feet higher up a gentle slope and set it on its new foundation.” *

The reason most people think that something cannot be done is because they know that they can't do it by themselves. But seemingly impossible things can be done if we join together in the task. Working together, we can not only move barns, but change the world.

GNFD's response to “Irma” was such a time. Together GNFD met an overwhelming need. In fact, it is a daily occurrence for GNFD to respond to needs that are bigger than any one of us could take care of by ourselves. The New Year of 2018 will be filled again with such opportunities to fulfill the words of our Mission Statement.

This is what I was privileged to watch take place December 20 & 21 as the GNFD Team under the direction of the Greater Naples Fire Foundation took on giving approximately 1,000 children gifts to make sure they too could celebrate Christmas with gifts with their name on it under their Christmas Tree.



*You can access a 4-minute video of the actual moving of the barn - just google “Bruno Barn Move.”

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Employee News

Condolences

Our prayers are with the following families:

Tony Palermo Family
Jorge Lara Family



Just Arrived!

Welcome our newest family member:

Charlotte Belle born to Dustin and Rebecca Hancock on December 23, 2017

Employee Spotlight

Name: Joshua Williams

Job Title: IT Technician

Hire Date: June 6, 2016 (part-time) October 3, 2016 (full-time)

Hobbies: Playing the drums, building models, and building computers

Interests: Technology, Video Games, Family, and Music

Can't Live Without: Family and Friends



Name: Kevin Nelmes

Job Title: Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic- C Shift

Hire Date: October 20, 2003

Hobbies: Riding four-wheelers; going to the beach; running obstacle courses; training Military Working Dogs (MWDs) as Dual-Purpose K9s- specializing in Explosive Detection/Patrol Deployment

Interests: My main passion is to end Human Trafficking Globally; Tactical Medicine; Interpreting Human Behavior; Foreign Languages; Traveling; Increasing Human Performance and Proficiency Under Stress

Can't Live Without: A purpose



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Public Relations



Blue Zones #1 Recipe of 2017

Ikarian Longevity Stew With Black Eyed Peas



Visit <https://bluezones.com/recipes/> for more delicious and healthy recipes.

Ingredients

- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large red onion, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 fennel bulb
- 1 cup (8 ounces) black eyed peas (with dried peas, bring to a boil, boil for 1 minute, remove from heat, cover and let sit for an hour. Drain, rinse, and use.)
- 1 large, firm ripe tomato, finely chopped
- 2 tsp tomato paste, diluted in ¼ cup water
- 2 bay leaves
- salt to taste
- 1 bunch dill, finely chopped

Directions

1. Heat half the olive oil over medium heat and cook the onion, garlic, and fennel bulb stirring occasionally, until soft (about 12 minutes). Add the black-eyed peas and toss to coat in the oil.
2. Add the tomato, tomato paste and enough water to cover the beans by about an inch. Add the bay leaves. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until the black-eyed peas are about half way cooked. (Check after 40 minutes, but it may take over an hour.)
3. Add the chopped dill and season with salt.
4. Continue cooking until the black-eyed peas are tender. Remove, pour in remaining raw olive oil and serve.