

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

October - December, 2018 Volume 5 – Issue 17



In This Edition

- Office of the Fire Chief..... 1
- Operations Section.....2-3
- Training & Special Ops.....4-5
- Planning Section..... 6
- Investigative Section..... 7
- Finance Section..... 8
- Awards & Recognition.....9-10
- Chaplain's Corner.....11
- Employee News.....12
- In the Community.....13



Photo Credit: Lt. Tom Purcell

Professionalism ~ Integrity ~ Compassion

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

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Greater Naples Fire Rescue District IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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

Office of the Fire Chief

By: Kingman Schuldt, Fire Chief

What it takes...

Have you ever considered what it takes to maintain an effective organization? You would think with a single mission ...*to protect life and property by providing emergency response services and education for the residents, businesses and visitors of our community*, it wouldn't be so complex, so challenging. Have you considered this, Greater Naples Fire Rescue District is a \$29 m business employing 235 people with a service base of 175,000 customers? Oh, and did I mention it does not generate profit? It can be overwhelming if you think about it in totality, the responsibilities each of us carry to do our part to add to the successes of a high-performance organization. Consider just these;



Mutual Respect

Organizational management and employees work better together if they both acknowledge that the other has a legitimate and valued purpose. Management controls the resources and in large part, the employees provide services to the external customer. Since the organization needs a happy, healthy, and productive workforce to meet its business goals and employees need a place to work, it is obvious that employers and employees are interdependent. Mutual respect makes it easier for employers and employees to meet their goals because it facilitates negotiations and ensures neither party will unnecessarily take a hard stance to the other in any number of issues.

Communications

Regular communication between the management and the employee improves the quality of the working relationship and minimizes conflicts. There are a number of factors that constantly affect the business and may also affect employees. Increased competition for tax dollars for example, from other governmental agencies can force the organization to rethink their strategies. This could not be more apparent during the 2018 voter referendum to increase local sales tax, implement fire and ambulance fees, and increase the State's Homestead Exemption for example. Its imperative organizations and its employees understand these big pictures obstacles and contribute to formulating the best possible strategies. Regular communications up and down the corporate ladder can maintain a good, conflict-free working relationship.

Teamwork

Regardless of rank, regardless of job position, regardless of affiliation, employees can and must work together in teams in order to enhance organizational effectiveness and working relationships. Ultimately, everyone in an organization wants the same thing, which is to ensure the continuous improvement of the organization's mission and sustainable high performance. A successful organization is one that grows and expands, offers better services to the customers, and opportunities to its employees. Everyone can work together to discuss issues affecting the mission, business aspects, employer expectations and the employees' needs. Thereafter, they can jointly decide on the strategies that will support the business at hand and the most effective way to achieve the best interests of all parties involved.

Our organization has a unique opportunity to be the leading fire rescue and EMS service provider in SW Florida; have you really considered this? There are many complexities in leading and participating in a vibrant organization such as ours. With the continued support of our community and Commission, and exemplary services provided by our highly trained and motivated employees, the sky is truly the limit, but we must always work together on the common goal to serve our fellow peoples.

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Operations Section

By: Nolan Sapp, Assistant Chief



It is that time of year again, and not just snowbird season. It is prescribed burn time in preparation for the upcoming brush fire season. At this time of year, weather conditions are favorable for prescribed burns, such as humidity and other conditions such as wind and dispersion that are conducive to enable controlled burns.

Prescribed or controlled burns are a part of natural fire behavior that benefits the environment. Long before we were here fire occurred naturally from sources such as lightning that nature used to clear the lower vegetation that left uncontrolled would choke out the other vegetation limiting growth of the forest.

Today that still occurs mostly with the help of prescribed burn operators that are certified to conduct such missions. Their motivation is twofold; one to assist in eliminating that vegetation that chokes our forest growth and to assist in reducing the potential of a large wildfire by reducing the fuel loads.

The fuel loads are that dense lower level vegetation that allows extreme growth, densely filling in the forest, and typically the type of vegetation that burns very readily and sometimes very volatily. Controlling that growth helps the environment and when a wildfire occurs it helps reduce the potential of a more explosive fire on the hostile side of the fire.

The Greater Naples Fire Rescue District works in conjunction with our Forestry partners to provide support for prescribed burns. We work alongside as they conduct the burns and we help keep it within the designated boundaries. The goal is to keep it within the prescription plan, which are approved by the Florida Forest Service or the National Park Service. The larger prescribed burn operations occur more often in the Florida Park Service, or Big Cypress National Park.

The professionals will closely monitor the weather when conducting burns east of the larger communities of Naples from 100 acres to thousands of acres. These are well planned and reviewed numerous times before ignition. Once approved they are monitored closely until all the burn out operations are complete. When ignited and the burn begins, residents may see large columns of smoke rise in the eastern part of Collier County.



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The column will rise and allow complete combustion of the vegetation as outlined by the plan. As the day goes, the hope is that wind conditions remain favorable to minimize the effects on the general population. Residents may smell the smoke as the day progresses, and we will begin to field calls for smoke smells in the Fire District. This is okay and we will investigate the report if they seem to be different from the anticipated smoke impact areas.

As evening comes the dispersion of the smoke starts to settle by thermal layers of the atmosphere that push the smoke down closer to the surface. Thus, the greater impact to residents from the smoke occurs in the evening through the night and early morning. Residents that have any respiratory conditions are encouraged to use their air conditioning and close the windows of their houses.

We understand that this presents a nuisance to some residents. The benefits to the environment and for the safety to our residents outweigh a short period where we experience smoke in the area. We anticipate an active brush/wildfire season again in 2019. We encourage our community to stay connected with Greater Naples Fire Rescue and the Florida Forest Service via social media for updates and information for the upcoming seasonal changes and conditions.



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Training & Special Ops Section

By: Rob Low, Deputy Fire Chief

The Magic Number is.....10,000!



The fire service is continually evolving, and we have heard the clichés a thousand times; old school versus the new school, millennials versus Gen X. Now Gen Z is entering the workforce and undoubtedly will become the next antagonist for change. One thing that remains a constant in the fire service is the importance of training and how it directly relates to injuries, survival, promotion, loss reduction, and organizational efficiencies, just to name a few.

Over the last several months the Training Section has been engaged in a productive analysis, or more appropriately- lively discussion, of what training in the fire service should look like and more significantly what Greater Naples Fire Rescue Training should look like.

Our findings led us to split training into two categories: *training* and *practice*. In full transparency this concept was first brought to the table by a recent “graduate” of the State of Florida Fire Instructor program and became an “ah ha” moment, you know the one where the light gets clear. So, what does all this mean to the fire service? A training moment is when you first learn a new skill, remember the academy days? This is an ax, this is the handle, this is the head, short chopping motion, do not swing over your head... etc. To further explain this concept, I will use our in-house football analogy. Training is when you first learn to throw a football. Step one: grip the football, step two: hold with both hands, step three: stance... and so on. Once you “get” the concept you do not need to be told time and time again how to perform the task, what you really need at this point is practice.

I am sure that many of you have heard of the 10,000-hour rule, if not you’re about to, and if you have heard of it, hang on for the refresher. This is a simple rule, to become proficient at a skill the learner puts in about 10,000 hours of practice. This is a theory, and like any good theory, there are arguments on either side. I am not here to debate any of those, however, it does not take a scientist to see the writing on the wall all the benefits of daily practice. Practice is the component of training that takes place at the station and is led by the company officer, driver engineer, or firefighter. In football, this is when you do two a day’s with position coaches prepping for the Saturday game (this is my hat tip to college football). Company officers are the coaches of our business, and just like a coach they identify areas of weakness and develop drills to make the team better for game day or in our case, better for the next bell.

Pulling hose, squirting water, reloading hose, establishing command, running a 12-lead, starting an I.V. etc... are not things that you need the training section to show you how to do, you learned these during your initial training. However, these are skills that you need to practice every day to gain proficiency and build teamwork; hit the 10,000-hour mark. We all know that in our business seconds count and taking the time and initiative every day you’re at work to practice will ultimately lead to fewer mistakes, more efficient operations, and a safer work environment. And just like a football game, your performance will reflect on the game day. Tapes will be watched on Monday, or in our case, the “hot wash”, and will reflect areas of improvement and areas of proficiency. A good coach/company officer will look at each “game” and make adjustments to the skills of their “players” with the vision to be more successful the next time you’re on the playing field.

The fire service is full of hero’s and zero’s, we all know them and they know who they are. Greater Naples Fire Rescue personnel are the best firefighters Collier County has ever seen. This is not a badge of honor that is simply handed down, it is earned through the demonstration of your knowledge, skills, and abilities. Do not take your abilities for granted, never assume you can do anything (you might get surprised), always challenge each other to be better; company and chief officers- BE THE COACH!

To all coaches and players- never ever hesitate to admit to a bad “game”, always be willing to practice your skills, don’t make excuses, be humble, share with others the knowledge and lessons you have gained and most of all- OWN IT!

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Training



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Planning Section

By: Wayne Martin, Deputy Director

It is with great pleasure to report the International Association of Fire Chiefs Fellowship Program wound up in early October.

Cohort 12 as referred to by all was the 12th Fellowship program to be hosted in the United States by a fire rescue agency. Only eight firefighters from Saudi Aramco would be selected for each Fellowship. The participants were selected from more than 1,800 firefighters employed by Saudi Aramco in Saudi Arabia.

This prestigious group arrived six months earlier. They spent approximately eight weeks training with the Greater Naples Fire Rescue (GNFD) Training Section and in cooperation with the Miami Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) Training Division. Their time spent in training was in compliance with the Florida State Fire College Standard for Firefighters. The combined group of MDFR Cohort 11 and GNFD Cohort 12 blended together seamlessly. Time spent in training included structural, aircraft, marine, and wildfire firefighting to name a few. The goal was to spend time learning the methods and techniques of the United States Fire service.

For the next four months of their time they were assigned to GNFD fire stations 21, 70 and 72. They fit right in with our existing firefighters and officers working and living alongside their American counterparts. Although a language barrier existed each Fellow had a good grasp of English speaking skills. During their time at the stations each fit right in, learning about one another's culture, customs, and traditions. They broke bread together preparing American and Saudi dishes for meals. As one could guess the fire service brotherhood and sisterhood spanned the oceans.

At GNFD they continued training with their assigned companies. They had the opportunity to respond medical calls, structure fires, auto accident, false alarms, and a multitude of different types of emergencies and fires.

The GNFD Cohort 12 had the opportunity to visit the E-One fire truck manufacturing plant in Ocala, Florida. They spent the night at the Florida State Fire College, and then had a grand tour of the Fire College campus.

Prior to graduation each Cohort presented a capstone project to the representatives of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the GNFD Command Staff. Within the project were the knowledge and experience they gained during their time with GNFD. It is expected they will present the project to their Chief Officers when they return home.

They culminated their six months in the United States with a graduation ceremony at the GNFD Fire and Life Safety facility attended by many members of GNFD who came to see their new friends and colleagues off.

GNFD was honored to be a host Cohort 12 and participate this most important International Fellowship program sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chief.

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Investigative Section

By: Shawn Hanson, Deputy Chief

Color Powder Caution



As the popularity of trendy color powder events and runs continues, so do the concerns to health and life safety. Commonly referred to as Hippie-Powder, the powder used at color powder runs and events is reportedly made up of high quality food dye, cornstarch, and other materials advertised as being “safe for the environment, safe for people, safe for clothing, and water soluble”. What’s not being advertised are the potential hazards associated with the powders and the possibility of adverse reactions.

Many of these powders have been reported to contain chemicals that are highly flammable and carry a risk for a dust explosion occurrence when the particles are exposed to an ignition source in a poorly ventilated area. In June of 2015, a crowd of people gathered at an event in Taiwan where over 495 people were seriously injured and nine deaths occurred when Holi Powder was dispersed by a pressurized source and ignited causing a fireball, resulting in a ban on colored powder in Taiwan.

Along with the flammability risk, some color powders have contained a mixture of substances such as acids, mica, glass powder, and alkalis which could cause serious skin complications, rashes, itching, redness, swelling, and allergic reactions. When persons with dry skin are exposed to the powder, they risk the color penetrating the skin more easily, stimulating eczema and atopic dermatitis.

Powders are sold in a variety of colors and in small and bulk packages from a variety of stores. Of the ones researched, all of them state they use cornstarch and high quality food dyes. What’s not so easily found is the Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS) for the powders. To ensure caution is used if considering attendance at one of these events, it’s important to note the potential health effects of the ingredient corn starch. Taken from a MSDS sheet for corn starch, potential health effects are as followed: may be harmful if inhaled, may be harmful if swallowed, may be harmful if absorbed through the skin, and may cause eye irritation. The MSDS also cautions to Avoid Breathing Dust and to Avoid Dust Formation. Another common material in the powders having similar health concerns to corn starch is baking soda.

Consider your risks before attending or responding to an event using colored powder and consider precautions such as a mask or bandana to cover your mouth, eye protection, and clothing that does not allow for powder contact with exposed skin (and you don’t mind if the color stains it).



<http://www.channelnews.com/au/lg.partners-with-the-color-run/>

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Finance Section

By: Tara Bishop, Deputy Director of
Administration and Finance



A huge Community Thank you! The outpouring of support in volunteer hours, monetary donations and toy donations made the 2018 Toy drive an overwhelming success. To the communities, schools and social organizations that have supported the Toy Drive for more than 20 years we salute you and offer a special thank you.

A special shout out to our new community partners The Publix at Kinglake, Verona Walk, and The Publix at Naples Lakes. The Greater Naples Fire Foundation proudly served 1,125 children during the annual Toy Drive Command. It's never too early for pre-planning the 2019 Toy Drive, so please Save the Dates December 18th and 19th, 2019.



HR Corner

As we wrap up the 2018 Holiday season, another year begins with new opportunities and challenges. Remember to find the balance between work and family, here are a few resolutions to consider.

New Year's Resolutions Ideas for 2019

1. Drink MORE water
2. Move more, sit less!
3. Explore & travel more.
4. Volunteer more.
5. Call mom/siblings/grandparents more.
6. Quit one bad habit.
7. Live simply, only buy what is needed.
8. Prioritize breakfast.
9. Turn on music instead of the TV.
10. Remember your goals and the big picture.
11. Try something new!
12. Floss your teeth daily.
13. Go to bed on time.
14. Take time for self-care.

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Awards & Recognition



FF David Rotkovich
1 Year of Service



DE Daniel Sawyer
15 Years of Service



DE Doug Holden
Promotion to Driver Engineer



Fleet Supervisor John Luppy
1 Year of Service



BC Caleb Morris
20 Years of Service



Captain Shar Beddow
5 Years of Service

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Awards & Recognition



BC Jeff Davenport
20 Years of Service



HR Specialist Debbie Schwarz
10 Years of Service



Stations 21, 70, and 72 Recognition
International Fellowship Program



DE Ryan McGinnis
Promotion to Driver Engineer



Commissioners Rob Boyer and Brian Cross
Thank you for your service to the District!

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Chaplain's Corner

By: Jack Strom, District Chaplain



For my first visit with you in 2019 from my Chaplain's Corner, I decided to consider the value of laughter as we start our journey forward through the year before us.

I have known the practical value of laughter, but it wasn't until recently that a medical doctor enlightened me to the physical as well as the psychological value of laughter.

We worry because there is a lot to worry about. We live in a high-risk neighborhood—the World. The doctor informed me that there are some self-help approaches for reducing anxiety that involves neither medication nor psychotherapy: One, Enhanced lifestyle and two, Relaxation and three, Laughter.

Laughter has an effective and specific role to play in reducing tension. Laughter's ability to cause the muscles to go suddenly limp is of great value in the treatment of stress. It is difficult to be anxious when the muscles are in a state of deep relaxation. Muscle relaxation and anxiety are incompatible.

The doctor went on to tell me that humor and laughter control pain in four major ways: One, by distracting attention. Two, by reducing tension. Three, by changing expectations and Four, by increasing endorphins, the body's natural painkillers.

Can we laugh our pain totally away? Probably not, but we can use humor to gain control over our pain. More than we realize, day-to-day humor may be making a significant contribution to our physical as well as our physiological well-being.

Humor is very socially acceptable. In fact, you'll find it is actually welcomed. We need periodic release from the obligation to be logical and serious about life's responsibilities. Humor allows us to deal in fantasy and nonsense and find a respite from our serious cares and responsibilities.

The ability to get a laugh out of everyday situations is a safety valve that will rid one of tensions that might otherwise continue to build and damage a person's health. A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon or trailer without springs – jolted by every stone on the road.

However, having a sense of humor does not mean that you go around laughing at everything. But it does mean that you see the funny side along with the serious side of a situation as well as with life itself.

Let me wrap up my visit with you by telling you about an important side benefit of laughter. If you laugh a lot, when you grow older, your facial wrinkles will all be in the right place. And if you give your happiness to others, it will multiply... So keep your happiness in circulation.

**“A cheerful disposition is good for your health.”
Proverbs 17:22a (MSG)**

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Employee News

Just Arrived!

Welcome our newest family members:

Oakley Lucas born to Lucas and Cesali Garcia on October 20, 2018
Brixton Delmar born to Dakotah Gutierrez on November 23, 2018
Carson born to Derek and Leslie Jones on December 14, 2018



Employee Spotlight



Thank you to the members who left the comforts of home to provide aid to their fellow first responders and Florida residents in their deployment to the areas affected by Hurricane Michael.

Welcome to GNFD



Fleet Mechanic Matthew Day

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In the Community

