

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

January - March, 2019 Volume 5 – Issue 18



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Photo Credit: Lt. Kevin Nelmes



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



So, Greater Naples Fire District is now in its fifth year; but still growing, expanding, changing on an almost daily pace. Continually re-adjusting our strategies to recognize the realities of an organization faced with new economy and politically accepted acumen. Unfortunately, a societal norm of contemplated confusion, crises, and miscommunication dominates our business strategies and efforts to advance the mission of the formal organization.

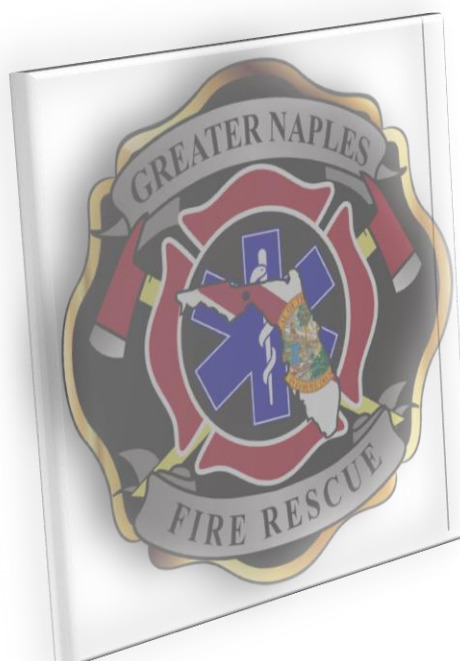
Too often, we struggle to adapt to changes that today's economic and political environment create. Already overburdened people are forced to spend valuable time reacting, rather than pre-acting, causing a shift in priorities and strategies, at least temporarily. Regardless of the duration of distraction, it takes away from the formal strategies and creates delay of real productivity and collaboration.

One of our greatest attributes as firefighters is our ability to adapt to changing conditions, troubleshoot problems, and mitigate adverse conditions with little notice. There is however a price to be paid. When the alarm sounds in the firehouse, we leave our meal, postpone training, and drop the mop in order to address the priority emergency. After all, that's what we do, and we do it well.

Conversely, miscommunicated agendas, non-coordinated efforts, or politically motivated initiatives seldom serve the organization and its members well. Misdirection inhibits the ability to implement programs in-progress or planned. It confuses the workforce, creates additional work, and can demoralize those unaware of the situation at-hand. Ultimately organizations are unable to produce the results expected. And who suffers, the members who are otherwise unaware of the misdirection.

We will continue to go through significant changes for at least the immediate future. Leaders, both formal and informal, need to help their people understand those changes and their role in executing the changes. Leaders must set the tone and be the example, deliver accurate information, address questions to the best of their ability, and hold themselves and subordinates accountable.

Leaders from all levels of an organization must assure everyone is in the same boat, seated and rowing in the same direction. Let us never forget our mission; *To protect life and property by providing emergency response services and education for the residents, businesses and visitors or our community.*



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Operations Section

By: Nolan Sapp, Assistant Chief

It's 3:30 in the morning, all is quiet until the overhead speaker opens up, "STRUCTURE FIRE, smoke and flames visible", reported. The crew assembles and responds to the scene. Upon arrival, smoke is visible but no flames. The Officer begins their 360 as the rest of the crew deploys hand lines and grabs their tools.

As they work their way around, it is discovered that access is blocked by hurricane shutters, the same shutters that were put on months ago during hurricane season. Although they were placed to protect the home at the time of the storm approaching, they now act as a barrier for the homeowners' escape and the crew's ability to do their job. It can't be determined where the fire is because it's not visible, it also can't be determined if anyone is home. There is only one way in and one way out.

This changes the tactics and slows the progress considerably to ventilate the house to allow safe entry into the house. Interior attack is started very cautiously and not too deep until the shutters are removed. Eventually the fire is extinguished, but it took much longer and fortunately this time, everyone got out.

Hurricane shutters are great for what they are intended for. Their purpose is not to keep them on the windows to darken a room or secure the home. Many counties throughout Florida and municipalities have codes and ordinances that require that shutters come down after the danger of a storm has passed. If a community doesn't have such standards in place, one should adopt their own situational awareness and remove them after the storm danger has passed. This is just as important for your safety as they were to put up in the first place, if not more. It could prevent your escape and the Fire District's access to get to you, when and if the time comes.

Please use shutters for storm protection and use other means, such as shades, to darken a room. This may mean the difference in saving your or a loved one's life.



Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

Storm Shutter Safety



Did You Know?

- Storm shutters can greatly impede firefighting operations and limit the ability to ventilate a structure of toxic smoke and gases, and prohibits safe evacuation of trapped victims.
- Firefighters are forced to use power saws and other heavy equipment to gain access to doors and windows blocked by storm shutters.
- Keeping up your hurricane shutters all year as a way of protecting your home can actually attract burglars instead of deter them because they think that no one is home.



Facing the Facts



- There have been several instances in Florida where firefighters haven't been able to get into burning homes due to hurricane shutters being deployed outside of hurricane season.
 - In 2004, four children and an adult were killed in a house fire in Homestead, Florida.
 - That same year, a 53-year-old man was trapped inside his home in Fort Lauderdale during a fire.

Safety Tips

- All residential rooms are required to have two points of egress. If there is a fire, it is important to make sure you have a way to get out of your home.
- Establish an emergency escape plan and make sure everyone in the house is aware of how they should exit in the event of fire.

Hurricane shutters are not dangerous when used correctly. Make sure to only deploy shutters when there is an imminent threat of a hurricane in order to protect your home and your family.

For additional information contact us at www.GreaterNaplesFire.org

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Training & Special Ops Section

By: Rob Low, Deputy Fire Chief

The Rosetans are a group of people from Roseto Pennsylvania, and I believe they can save our brother and sister firefighters. In 2018, the fire service has once again experienced an increase of tragedy upon tragedy with firefighters taking their own lives. Most recently, and closer to home, was the self-inflicted gunshot suicide of a St Petersburg Firefighter the week before Christmas. A 2017 study revealed that more firefighters died by suicide than in the line of duty, this is a heart-wrenching statistic that seems to be gaining momentum. It is time for action and all of us need to take a united stand to prevent future loss of life of our brothers and sisters!

Some may have heard my soapbox moment about station design and how I believe that this is part of the problem. Having lots of personal space is a luxury and, in my opinion, something that is best enjoyed at home and has less of a positive effect on the fire service. Every day, whether you are on shift, work 40 hours, management or labor, we are all faced with stressors. Emergency calls, organizational demands, training, open houses, equipment maintenance, and the list goes on, are all contributors to positive and negative feelings. Often times these demands for our attention and service may seem like a never-ending cycle, with little or no reprieve during our workday. This can and does result in an increase in stress, often making us want to “hide” from the daily reality that is the fire service.

Take a moment to reflect on your actions or of those around you, do you want to retreat into your cube (aka personal space) as soon as you get to work? Do you prefer to create a “totally dark” daytime atmosphere, essentially shutting out the world? Do you not talk to those you work with because you don’t like them; or better yet do you know why you don’t like them? Do you find yourself easily caught up in the negative politics? Are you easily swayed into identifying negatives instead of finding the positives? Is it easy to point the finger at perceived system failures rather than see your own shortcomings? These are just a sample of stresses felt in the fire service, and Greater Naples is not exempt.

So what do the Rosetans have to do with any of this? Well, the Rosetans are a well-established group of immigrants from Italy that settled in Pennsylvania, they have an unusually high rate of longevity, few health problems including heart disease, and more importantly very few mental health-related issues as compared to neighboring communities. So why are they so much healthier? One could easily surmise that their diet plays a significant role in their overall health. To the surprise of the researchers, they found the Rosetans, like there neighboring communities, drank alcohol (at a higher rate), cooked with lard, exercised little, were obese at near the same rate, and worked in high risk/high hazard environments. So what was the key to their success and how can they save the fire service?

The answer- the Rosetans supported each other, they were close-knit, self-supportive, and in bad times relied on the greater community for support. Rosetans did not allow individuals to be crushed by everyday stressors nor would they allow someone to become isolated. They also avoided internalization of stress. Starting to see the solution? (*continued on p.4*)

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Training & Special Ops Section

By: Rob Low, Deputy Fire Chief

(Continued from p.3)

Those that have been in the fire service for a long time remember when all the stations were set up for “community”, there was nowhere to hide and the crews worked together for long periods of time, often until one of them promoted out. There was, and still is, a benefit to the “openness” of living quarters; you were “forced” to be a community, to talk, to care, and to interact. All of which are keys to the success of the Rosetans and for the fire service; we just have to listen to what the facts are telling us.

So what can we do to save each other? First and foremost, CARE. Care about each other, about what we are here for, about the community we serve, about making ourselves better, about being a positive part of something bigger than us as individuals. When you see a change in behavior, TALK. Talk to the person, be concerned, ask questions, don’t avoid them. Enjoy the SUN. This seems a bit ironic being that we are in Florida, but there are numerous studies that have proven that light, particularly daylight, can positively change the mood of a person. Conduct a company officer SEARCH and RESCUE. Company officers have a tremendous amount of responsibility, if you notice one of your team members missing during the day, go look for them, engage them, keep them out of isolation.

Take the “EYE CARE” challenge. This is not a medical procedure and does not require any training, in fact, this is something that your training section developed. Simply put, have the guts to look a coworker in the “EYE” and say “I Care”; I care about you, I care about your family, I care what your day is like, I care what you’re feeling, I care about what is bothering you, I care that your hiding, I care that you’ve withdrawn, I care enough to want to see you tomorrow.

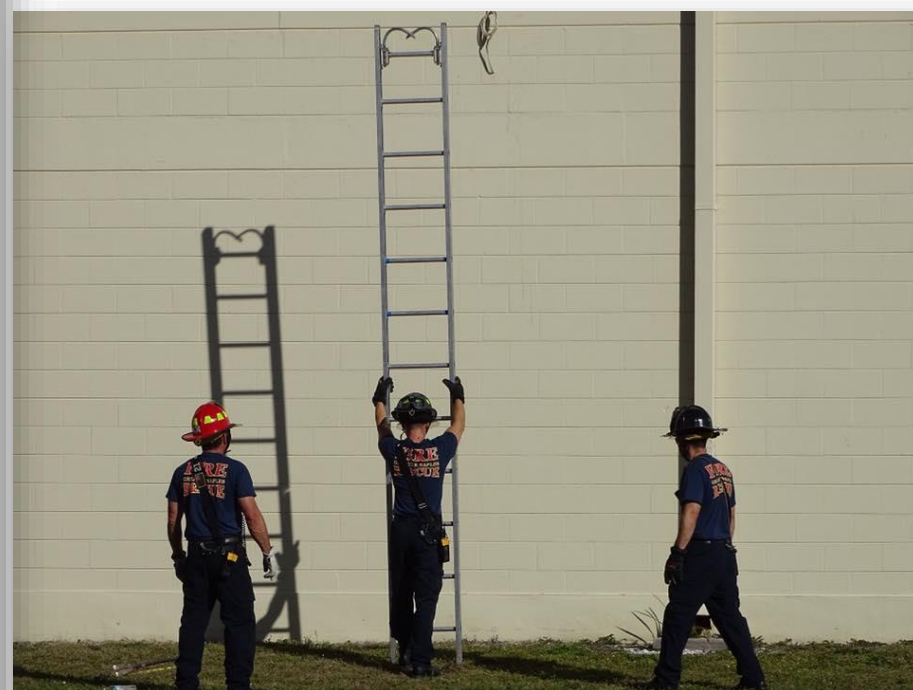
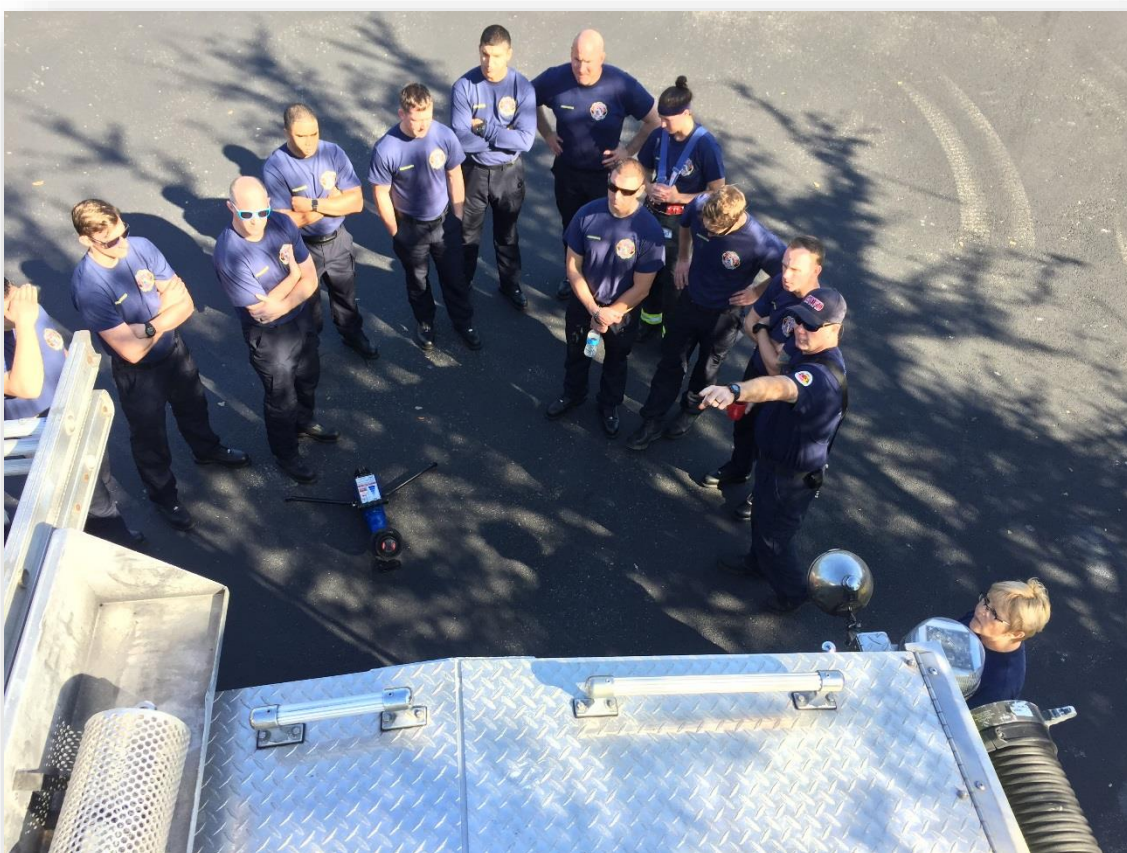


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Training



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Planning Section

By: Wayne Martin, Deputy Chief

Yes, our primary responsibility is responding to emergency situations, however staying in-touch with the overall needs of the community is just as important. The Community wants and supports more than just the fire truck showing up at the emergency, they want to be involved and heard. The District's strategic plan is updated to include our community's voice to make sure the District is providing all the services needed. Greater Naples Fire Rescue is fortunate to have many community relationships that help the "Fire Community" grow.

Recent community support accomplishments include a partnership with the Golden Gate Estates Land Trust for the purchase of a new Brush truck. The community served by Station 71, located at 100 13th St. SW, and new Brush 71 are highly susceptible to wildland fires, therefore making this partnership a win-win. Brush 71 is a 2019 Type 1 Brush truck which carries 780 Gallons of water and 20 gallons of Class A foam. It is equipped with two 200 foot lengths of one inch booster hose and carries 400' of one and one half inch fire hose. The Golden Gate Land Trust participated in funding the apparatus with a 50% match at \$106,000.



Being active in Community organizations such as the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, Golden Gate Kiwanis, and Golden Gate and East Naples Civic Associations additionally helps the District meet the needs of our community. A recently formed community-based initiative is tackling affordable housing for our public service professionals. The Housing Coalition is looking at housing options for firefighters, law enforcement, nurses, teachers, and retirees. There should be more information available on this topic in the months to follow as the Coalition identifies and refines the availability and needs of all public safety workers.

Want to be a part of the Fire District Community? Please join us for the Fire Chief's monthly Fully Involved Community Meetings, subscribe to the Fire Chief's weekly message, and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. For more information on meeting time/location or to sign up for the Chief's message, visit the District's website www.GreaterNaplesFire.org

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Awards & Recognition



Lt. Jeremy Morgan
15 Years of Service



FF Aaron Borowski
1 Year of Service



FF Kris Occhipinti & Captain Craig Weinbaum
15 Years of Service



Lt. Kevin Nelmes & Assistant Chief Nolan Sapp
Tenzinga Leadership Award



AA Suanne Woeste, AA Tracey Caparrelli, AA Judy Schleiffer, AA Sarah Pike, HR Specialist Debbie Schwarz
2018 Employees of the Month



Chaplain Jack Strom
Excellence in Service in Chaplaincy

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Awards & Recognition

Lt. Tom Purcell
Fire Chief's Values Award



Driver Engineer Daniel Sawyer
2018 Firefighter of the Year



Administrative Assistant Susan Morris
2018 Civilian Employee of the Year



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Chaplain's Corner

By: Jack Strom, District Chaplain



In a day when four-letter words have fallen on hard times, I am glad to report that there are many four-letter words that are great words and I suggest that we use them as often as we have opportunity to do so. I'm thinking of words like *sing, love, hope, work, care, rest, give* and the list goes on.

In fact when I think of our Firefighters and their role as First Responders, it is the word *work* that seems to be a good four-letter word that identifies our GNFD personnel. Simple observation helps us to also know that word can also be pronounced as *serve*.

I have come to understand that our GNFD District Team, although they are challenged by seeing through their task, they further recognize the challenge of seeing their task through. They know the reward of a thing well done is to have done it! And to do it right, under the Leadership of Chief Kingman Schuldt, it is understood that today's preparation determines tomorrow's achievements. It is called "the price for mastery in the field."

I have observed that people in general feel better about their *work* when they are appreciated. It is always a delight to see this take place at GNFD as those who make up this wonderful task force are recognized and honored for over and above service. At the same time knowing those being honored, we sense that for them such rewards are usually anticlimactic - the joy was in doing.



Our Firefighters have learned to do their *work* well and then some. To them it is the "then some" that really counts. Service to a GNFD Team Member means caring and such caring shows up outfitted in firefighting protective gear. It also means that their firefighter boots will leave their footprints in the sands of time.

Going back to where I started my Chaplain's Corner for this 2nd quarter, I call your attention to using the right four-letter words. If you have a clean mouth and honest hands it will take you through most any circumstance.

The bottom line is, finding your chosen vocation all that it can be, will happen when you have done something for someone who can never really repay you. Firefighters face that opportunity daily in their *work* and so are blessed people.

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Employee News

Just Arrived!

Welcome our newest family members:

Blake Savannah born to Arael Contreras on February 28, 2019
Logan Carl born to Justin and Lauren Humphrey on March 29, 2019



Employee Spotlight



The Florida State Elks Association, comprised of 90+ statewide Lodges, has selected Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Lieutenant/Paramedic Kevin Nelmes as the 2019 EMT/Paramedic First Responder of the year. Lt. Nelmes will receive this prestigious award at the Florida State Elks Association State Convention on May 25, 2019.

Congratulations Lt. Nelmes!

Welcome to GNFD

FF/PM Ryan Rogula
FF/PM Steve Lawrence
FF/EMT David Ramis
FF/EMT Reginald Roseme'
FF/EMT Zolan Henderson
Apprentice FF/EMT Demetrius Williams
Apprentice FF/EMT Dylan Kelly
Apprentice FF/EMT Michael "Billy" Cipriano
Apprentice FF/EMT Mark Gonzalez
Apprentice FF/EMT Cory Hogue
Apprentice FF/EMT William Wilkie
Apprentice FF/EMT Aaron Arts-Kottke
Apprentice FF/EMT Hanna Hullibarger
Apprentice FF/EMT Victoria Trapani



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In the Community

