

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

April - June, 2020 Volume 6 – Issue 23



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Professionalism ~ Integrity ~ Compassion

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Office of the Fire Chief

By: Kingman Schuldt, Fire Chief

Anyone who desires to become a leader at any level has many opportunities to refine their skills. And it should be said, to be an effective leader is no easy task. There is no single, simple formula that everyone can adopt, each person is unique and builds their own style of leadership. It goes without saying that formal education plays a big role in the development of any leader; however, some of the best leaders did not graduate with any formal higher education. There are many traits associated with effective leaders that we all gravitate toward. Here are a few thoughts to ponder.



Kindness to subordinates, colleagues, and superiors goes along way. When dealing with others it makes a difference when we are nice, making others feel welcomed. Persons who focus on controversy and disruption never serve the organization or their fellow members well. Maintaining a positive outlook toward yourself, others, and the organization goes a long way. Too often we allow negativity to adversely influence the many benefits we have and accomplishments achieved daily in the fire station. Remember, it is generally the vocal minority who breed negativity, and allowing it to run unchecked can lead to a deterioration of any work unit.

Leaders learn to bridge gaps and build relationships. Whether between fire stations, shifts, external agencies, public or the community at-large, every leader has a role and responsibility to bridge the gap. Good leaders keep a long-term and high-level view of the organization, focusing on the end result, finishing what is started. For each of us this may have a somewhat different meaning; on shift it may be completing your assigned tour of duty with no injuries or accidents, maybe it is a training program or project that significantly impacts the organization, development and execution of the annual budget, or passing legislation to secure long-term sustainability of the Fire District.

All leaders must commit to excellence. Know that second best does not lead to success, mediocrity breeds content. Pay attention to detail, hold yourself accountable as well as others, and maintain exceptional standards to make certain your team reaches for excellence, always.

A good leader must have integrity and display honesty in all aspects of their work and relationships. Without this, they will not have the trust of their followers and will not be able to build a strong team. Honest leaders earn the right to have responsibility and authority to manage others.

Leadership requires constant practice and attention to the needs of others while focusing on the long-term survival of the organization. Leadership can be inherent but more commonly learned through a combination of formal education, life experience, trial and error, and a bit of good luck!

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Operations Section

By: Nolan Sapp, Assistant Chief



Florida is becoming a year-round hazard potential, and we all need to be prepared. As we move deeper into hurricane season, the threat of potential wildfires still exists and we are amid a pandemic, the likes of which has not been seen since the 1917 Spanish Flu.

The fear of COVID-19 encouraged many to purchase emergency supplies in the anticipation of quarantine. This unprecedented pandemic forced many to prepare, just as the coastal states prepare annually for hurricanes.

These items include water, nonperishable food, necessary paper items, and personal hygiene products. This fear left store shelves empty of these essential items for many weeks.

Now is the time to take inventory. Many have maintained their supplies. Many began to use those supplies as items become available. Keep in mind, this is not the time to become complacent. If you have maintained your supplies, compare your items to the list of items suggested for the threat of hurricanes. Make sure to have all items necessary to sustain your family for a minimum of three days. With this extraordinary situation we find ourselves facing, possible natural weather events and pandemic fears, it would be prudent to maintain ample supplies for a longer period.

Today we have uncertainty as to the types of hazards we may face. We must continually educate ourselves and prepare for all types of events throughout the year. The best defense is a good offense. **GET A PLAN, BE PREPARED AND STAY SAFE!**



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According to FirefightersCloseCalls.com (home of the Secret List the NFPA recently released its annual “U.S. Firefighter Fatalities in the United States” report, which showed fewer than 50 U.S. Firefighter fatalities while on duty in 2019, reflecting the lowest number of Firefighter deaths reported since NFPA began conducting this study in 1977. In addition, there were no multiple-fatality incidents, which also represents a first for the report. Other important achievements include the lowest number of deaths of volunteer firefighters, deaths in road vehicle crashes, and cardiac deaths.

Overall, 48 Firefighters died while on-duty in the U.S. in 2019, **a sharp drop from recent years**, where deaths average 65 per year. Of the 48 fatalities, 25 were volunteer Firefighters, 20 were career Firefighters, and one each was an employee of a state land management agency, an employee of a federal land management agency and a civilian employee of the military.

Overexertion, stress, and medical issues accounted for by far the largest share of Firefighter deaths, as has been the case in past years. Of the 26 deaths in this category, 22 were classified as sudden cardiac deaths (usually heart attacks), two were due to strokes, one to heat stroke and one death was by suicide. The 22 sudden cardiac deaths with onset while the victim was on-duty mark the fourth consecutive year that the toll has been below 30, but they still account for the largest share of on-duty deaths. Cardiac-related events accounted for 44 percent of the on-duty deaths over the past 10 years.

In 2019, four Firefighters died in vehicle crashes, four were struck by vehicles and one Firefighter fell from a moving vehicle. In the past, crashes of road vehicles fairly consistently accounted for the second largest share of the on-duty Firefighter deaths, but the number has dropped in recent years, with fewer than five deaths in three of the past 10 years. Firefighter deaths in road vehicle crashes, which accounted for three of the four crash deaths in 2019, have ranged over the years from a high of 25 to this year’s low of three.

FirefighterCloseCalls.com was an idea born from The Secret List, an independent newsletter produced since 1998 in an effort to bring forward the issues involving injury and death to firefighters...often issues that are ignored, quickly forgotten or just not talked about. Originally started as an e-mail group amongst some close friends in the fire service, it is currently received by thousands of fire service members.

Chief Billy Goldfeder, EFO, a firefighter since 1973, serves as deputy fire chief of the Loveland-Symmes (Ohio) Fire Department. He also serves as Lexipol's senior fire advisor and is a member of the [Fire Chief/FireRescue1 Editorial Advisory Board](#). Goldfeder is a member of the Board of Directors for several organizations: the [IAFC](#), the [September 11th Families Association](#) and the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation \(NFFF\)](#). He also provides expert review assistance to the [CDC NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program](#). Goldfeder is the recipient of numerous operational and administrative awards, appointments and recognitions. He has served on several NFPA and IAFC committees, has authored numerous articles and [books](#), and presented several sessions at industry events. Chief Goldfeder co-hosts the website www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com.

Thank you to Chief Goldfeder for allowing the republication of this information.

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Chaplain's Corner

By: Jack Strom, District Chaplain



For my Chaplain's Corner I carefully contemplated what would you, the GNFD Team, find helpful to read. The challenges that you face daily are without set boundaries and circumstances. And you well know that the siren on the particular GNFD apparatus that you are in on your way to serve someone in need, is not going to solve the crises that awaits you.

The more I have observed this team, the more I have learned to respect you and the service you deliver whether that is a fire, a car accident, the devastation of a hurricane, some kid's cat or dog stuck up a tree, teaching safety lessons on how to celebrate the 4th of July, and the list goes on. It seems without end. The reality is that it takes much training and education along with **wisdom** to do what you do as a first responder.

It was that thought of **wisdom** that reminded me of a question I was recently asked, "How does someone acquire **wisdom**?" I knew that my answer would not be what the person expected, never-the-less I told the young man who raised the question to listen carefully and to write my answer down and to never forget it.

My answer was simple and practical at one and the same time. I told him the way to acquire **wisdom** was to use *common-sense*. I then explained that homespun *common-sense* becomes instinct and enough instinct becomes **wisdom**.

I am well aware that *common-sense* is nothing more than homespun solutions, but in time it becomes instinct and enough instinct make one a genius. In fact the door of **wisdom** swings on the hinges of *common-sense*. And, it is good to remember that **wisdom** finds its strength with a heart full of faith along with a head full of facts.

As a member of the GNFD Team, with such **wisdom** you also know there comes the ability to discover alternatives. Such **wisdom** is in reality the accurate perception of what is really important. It is mostly an uncommon amount of *common-sense*. Although knowledge comes from studying and skill from training, true **wisdom** comes from living.

In fact, it is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers. If you desire a wise answer, you must ask the right question. It is then that a wise person will listen and will increase their learning and attain to the discovering of wise counsel. True **wisdom** is the accurate perception of what is the right solution.

Hope to be wiser than other people if you can, but don't tell anyone about your hope. You see, knowledge and training can be communicated, but not **wisdom**; it must be lived and other people will then know you have it. That said, none of us are as wise alone as all of us are together as GNFD.

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Human Resources Corner

By: Debbie Schwarz, HR Manager



With the recent wildfire impact to the community and Fire District, we saw an outpouring of support from many citizens providing donation of many types. In fact, the District received so many donations that staff quickly became overwhelmed until the Greater Naples Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) was activated. A couple dozen team members from the VeronaWalk and

Naples Reserve community teams responded to the request and challenge of organizing and preparing much needed donated food and drinks for distribution to the hundreds of statewide firefighters who were working the front lines for extended periods of time without rest.

The Volunteers such as the CERT offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. We find the more we engage our volunteers, the more they want to help and be a part of helping the Fire District and Greater Naples Community.

According to HelpGuide.org volunteering provides a happy and healthier life.

- Volunteering connects you to others
- Volunteering is good for your mind and body
- Volunteering can advance your career
- Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life

Thank you to our CERT members for the support provided during the wildfires and annual Foundation Toy Drive.



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Employee News

Just Arrived!

Welcome our newest family members:



Jordan Alexander born to Chris and Steffani Citak on June 3, 2020

Employee Spotlight

Congratulations to the following retirees:

Administrative Assistant Susan Morris- 16 years of service

Finance Specialist Pat Meulenberg- 36 years of service

Lt. John Taylor- 28 years of service

Lt. Inspector Steve Riley- 30 years of service



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In the Community

