



Greater Naples Fire Rescue

OCTOBER // 2ND // ISSUE 8

THE BOTTOM LINE



KEEPING YOU INFORMED.

4TH OF JULY PARADE

Ladder 21 was proudly on display at the 4th of July parade in Downtown Naples!



IN THIS ISSUE

**GNFD IN THE
COMMUNITY**

TRAINING

**EMPLOYEE
SPOTLIGHT**



THE BOTTOM LINE

GNFD IN THE COMMUNITY



GNFD command staff members were honored to take part in the ground breaking ceremony on July 14th for the new Great Wolf Lodge. This will be the first Great Wolf Lodge in Florida!

Engine 71 was happy to attend The Estates Branch Library Pre-K story time on Sept. 15th. It looks like the kiddos had a great time as well!



EMS Lieutenant Matt Donovan taught a CPR class to members of Habitat for Humanity on August 10th.

SUMMER HOSE DOWN NAPLES SALVATION ARMY & YMCA



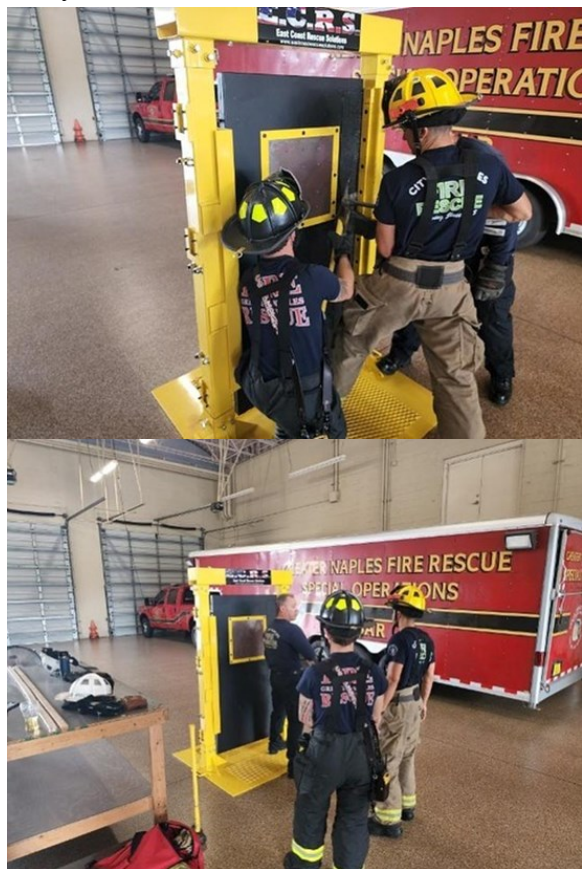


THE BOTTOM LINE

OPERATIONS GNFD TRAINING

Forcible entry training

July 14th



Region 6 Hazmat Propane Emergency Training



Technical Rescue Training at Wilderness County Club August 23rd





OPERATIONS



GNFD AND EMS CREWS PROVIDED STANDBY FOR USAF AIRBORNE OPERATIONS TRAINING

PREFERRED TIPS PROGRAM GRANT

The Preferred TIPS program is designed for government agencies that deal with safety/risk management and training programs within their communities – this year our department submitted for, and was awarded \$5,000 towards 20 hand-held thermal imaging cameras for our Firefighters.





9/11 MEMORIAL

September 11th 2022

Golden Gate Community
Center



We will never forget



THE BOTTOM LINE

9/11 MEMORIAL CONT.

Freedom Park 9/11 Memorial





9/11 MEMORIAL

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



GNFD would like to congratulate Inspector Kristen King on receiving a Certificate of Commendation at the September BOFC meeting. Inspector King witnessed a vehicle beginning to submerge in a canal after a traffic accident. Inspector King did not hesitate entering the canal to rescue the driver!

IT PROFESSIONALS DAY



On September 20th, IT Professional's Day, we thanked our very own IT duo, who do an outstanding job in helping the District run smoothly!

HR PROFESSIONALS DAY



On September 26th, HR Professionals Day, we thanked our dedicated HR team, who are amazing at supporting our mission!

CHAPLAIN JACK STROM

Coping with all these changes is called *life*, yours and mine. If you want life's best, see that *life* gets your best. The more sand that has moved through the hourglass of our *life*, the clearer we can see through it. Your life is God's gift to you, and what you do with it, is your gift to God.

When going the wrong way on the highway of life, I have found that God allows us to make a U-turn so we can change our service direction and make sure we are going the right way. Remember we cannot change our past, but we can start from now to make a brand, new end.





THE BOTTOM LINE

EMS NEWS

PREPARING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

Jim Augustine, MD

It is still unfortunate that we are in the middle of managing a lot of calls for illnesses like COVID, and service issues as staffing is tight. The good news is, we do not have the same threat of critical illness and death. And your community really appreciates your work.

This is going to be a busy fall and winter as we come out of pandemic times. And the stories are not going to be just about COVID. So what do you plan for?

Right now there are many more infectious illnesses passing through the community. There is a theme: people are back together, and in contact with each other after being quite “sterile” over the past 2+ years. They are passing lots of illnesses to each other. The GI bugs (like the nasty little cruise ship norovirus), lice, skin infections, meningitis (a bad infection), and mosquito illnesses are all at much higher rates than usual. To keep these out of your house: stay away from sick people, wash your hands, be careful the group-eating events (or bring your own food). To keep these out of our fire stations: don’t come to work if you are sick.

There are a lot more respiratory illnesses. Not just COVID but all types of infections in sinuses, ears, throats, airways, and lungs. These are still nasty, and some people are getting admitted again for diseases other than COVID. PPE protects us from all of these, so please wear it to protect yourself, your family, and your fellow Department members. Influenza is here already, and it is very likely to be a big flu season. The month of October is a great time to get a flu shot, and I would recommend it to all of you. The influenza vaccination this year protects from four strains (so it is a quadrivalent vaccine), and this will be a good year to be protected.

Then there is the latest variant of COVID. The symptoms of Omicron are different. Very few people have loss of taste and smell. Sore throat, runny nose, fatigue, fever, headache and back pain seem to be the most common symptoms in our healthy members who get it. Omicron is clearly less deadly, but the extraordinary increase in the number of individuals getting the disease mean the ED’s are still busy, and unvaccinated persons are very much at risk for hospitalization, and death. Breakthrough cases are occurring even in those vaccinated and boosted, but those individuals are at much less risk for serious disease. Some have speculated that the Omicron variant is so infectious that eventually everyone is going to get it.

Vaccines and boosters for COVID are still very much recommended, and safe. There are still plenty of the primary vaccines for those that have not been vaccinated, at all ages down to 6 months. The recent news is the release of an improved bivalent booster that covers the Omicron variant more effectively. It is for patients that have already received the primary series of vaccines. Anyone down to age 12 can get that booster. Again, October is a good month to get vaccinated, and protection will be present through the holiday seasons. It can be given at the same time as the influenza vaccine, but in a different jab and in a different arm. Getting both together is likely to make you feel washed out for about 24-36 hours, but it provides lifesaving protections and reduces the risks of being in an ambulance, or in a hospital bed.

In this upcoming busy season, there is the hope that we can return to normal incidence of diseases that will not continue to interfere with life and community. Here are key elements:

- Most important to our community and Department is that personnel should not be in public, or come to work, if ill
- Vaccines are providing great protection from serious disease. Both COVID and flu vaccines will be useful in the coming months
- Tests are no longer free to get in the mail from the Federal government, but we have access to testing that will let us know quickly if COVID is present
- We have treatments that reduce the severity of COVID disease. That includes monoclonal antibodies, prophylactic monoclonal antibodies, and oral treatments. If you are sick with COVID, get seen
- Masks continue to be effective in preventing spread, and they are available
- The health care system is still functional

Be prepared. Use your PPE. Stay well! Keep your family healthy!



FLEET MAINTENANCE

SUBMITTED BY MARK RECORDS

The month of August has been a very busy one at Greater Naples Fire & Rescue Fleet Operation. The Apparatus Committee made trips to Pierce Manufacturing in Bradenton to inspect the new Fire Trucks coming. The Apparatus Committee also made a trip to Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wisconsin to work on layout and designs of future fire apparatus. The Fleet Department also took possession of a new Water Tender for Station 74.

It has also been a very busy month for the Fleet Technicians in getting training and certifications completed. Fleet Mechanic John Luppy recertified in some of his ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certification, these have to be re-tested every five years to maintain. Lead Technician Jamie Popiol received factory training on the Pierce Fire Apparatus at their yearly training center. Lead Technician Robert Taub also received his ASE Certification, as well as finishing his requirements to be an EVT Master Certified Ambulance Technician. Lead Technician Mark Records also recertified his ASE Certification to maintain his areas of qualifications.

The Fleet Operation Department would like to thank the Command Staff and Fire Commissioners for the purchase of new apparatus, equipment, training, and for supporting the mission of Fleet.

