



Greater Naples Fire Rescue

JULY - SEPT // ISSUE 12

THE BOTTOM LINE



KEEPING YOU INFORMED.



7.4.23

**Structure Fire
Fleur De Lis Ln.**



7.7.23

Vehicle Fire



IN THIS ISSUE

**GNFD IN THE
COMMUNITY**

OPERATIONS

IN MEMORY

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GNFD IN THE COMMUNITY

8.2.23: GNFD personnel attended the "topping off" ceremony for the new Great Wolf Lodge





GNFD IN THE COMMUNITY

9/11 - NEVER FORGET

GNFD presented the Four Fives Bell ceremony in honor of the lives lost on 9/11. Thank you to the Golden Gate Civic Association for organizing this special memorial each year.





OPERATIONS

STRUCTURE FIRE 8.16.23



Crews from GNFD and surrounding Districts responded to a 2-alarm house fire at 5350 21st PL SW after a motorcycle caught fire on the back porch.

During the initial search of the residence, an unresponsive dog was found inside. The dog showed no signs of life after being overcome with smoke. Crews performed CPR, ventilations and administered oxygen to bring him back to life!



STRUCTURE FIRE 9.23.23



TWO-ALARM HOUSE FIRE IN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES

Fire crews extinguished a 2-alarm fire at a two-story home at 141 6th Street NE in Golden Gate Estates.





FLEET'S ALLEY

Happy beginning of Fall, hope you have had a wonderful summer. Once again Fleet has been a buzz of busy bees. The apparatus committee returned from Pierce after a lengthy final inspection of the new trucks. Ten-8 of Ft. Myers has already received some of the units and is in the process of outfitting them. EVT Lead Mechanic Rob Taub recertified in F1/F2 to maintain his Master EVT certification. Mark Records just finished some training in F1/E0 at Bonita Springs Fire, the class was offered by the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and instructed by Michael Young. It is with a heavy heart that Fleet is retiring two of the last East Naples Fire trucks. These two assets have provided an incredible service to the community for many years. Fleet has put many hours of work and lots of blood and sweat into these assets, we salute you. Have a great beginning of the Holiday seasons.

-Mark Records



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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Chaplain David Wildman to the GNFD family! Chaplain Wildman was formally introduced at the August BOFC meeting.



Congratulations to Lieutenant Inspector Aaron Stewart who was officially pinned at the August BOFC Meeting!



THE CHAPLAINS MESSAGE

"Are You Even Asking the Right Questions?" - David Wildman

Embracing Honesty and Openness in the World of First Responders

Ever had that moment when you're at work, and you're not quite sure what you're doing, but you don't want to admit it? You try to play it cool, acting like you've got everything under control to avoid looking foolish. I've been there, and I vividly remember a time over 20 years ago when I was a newbie EMT in Austria. I was sitting in an ambulance, surrounded by all sorts of medical gear, equipment, and meds, trying to soak it all in. Then, a seasoned paramedic strolled over and asked, *"What are you doing in here?"* I responded honestly, saying, *"I'm trying to learn."* His comeback was a zinger: *"Are you even asking the right questions? Do you know what you're looking at?"* That moment has stuck with me ever since.



Fast forward to today, and I'm in a similar boat. It's been over two decades since I was an active EMT in Austria, and now, I've got the honor of being the volunteer fire chaplain for the Greater Naples Fire Rescue. It's an incredible honor, but also brought back those familiar feelings of being overwhelmed. I keep telling myself I've still got the basics down, but there's no ignoring the changes – new lingo, evolving procedures, and fancy new gadgets. I'm wrestling with simple questions that I often dodge, all to try to look like I know what I'm doing.

The Power of Honesty and Openness

In the world of firefighters and first responders, where competence and control are like gold, admitting you don't know something can be a tough pill to swallow. But let's shift the perspective for a moment. What if we could just be upfront about what we don't know? Instead of using the word "vulnerability," which might sound a bit out of place in the fire service culture, let's call it what it is – "asking questions."

My journey as a fire chaplain has made me once again realize how valuable honesty and openness are. It's not just about fessing up when you're in the dark; it's about recognizing the power of seeking support when you need it. My buddy BC Craig Weinbaum has given me a nudge a few times when I've started a question with, *"This might be a dumb question..."* His response? *"You better ask if you want to know!"*



THE CHAPLAINS MESSAGE CONTINUED.

In my role as chaplain, I get to offer support to you – the brave folks of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue. I keep in mind that being willing to ask questions, seek guidance, and talk about the challenges we face can bring us closer and make us more resilient as a team.

Whether you're a seasoned firefighter or someone like me, coming back after a long break, owning up to what you don't know, and reaching out for help when you need it is a testament to your strength and commitment to keeping our community safe. Over time, this mindset shift will change how we look at things and continue putting our people's well-being front and center.

Please Take It Easy on Me

As I step into my role as the Greater Naples Fire Rescue fire chaplain, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the chance to serve once more. A special shout-out to Chief Sapp, Chief Wolfe, Chief of Staff Chesser, and Battalion Chief Weinbaum for the warm welcome and the invaluable help during my onboarding. I'm eager to swing by your stations whenever I can and be there for emergencies, events, and functions.

I've got a small favor to ask: When I pop into your station and toss out what might seem like "dumb questions," cut me some slack. I'm still learning the ropes, but I have a hunch that you're learning something new every day, too.





EMS NEWS

Dr. James Augustine , MD

Welcome autumn, and season is coming quickly! And all that comes with it. Traffic, more volume, and busy restaurants. Oh, and busy hospitals.

Good things are coming with updates to our medical protocols, and care of patients.

Respiratory season is also approaching. COVID cases are rising. The flu season has been moderately active in the Southern hemisphere, and it is in America already. R.S.V., which stands for respiratory syncytial virus, is in the pediatric population.

For three years we had the greatest concerns about COVID, but we now have to plan for effects of all the respiratory bugs. The great news is that there are vaccines and treatments that reduce risks from all the threatening respiratory viruses that pose the highest risks this season, including COVID.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

The most exciting and timely developments are in protection from RSV. RSV can cause severe lower respiratory tract infections in older adults and infants, including pneumonia and respiratory failure. Two RSV vaccines were FDA approved in May for the prevention of these infections in adults ages 60 and older. Infants and young children can get serious complications if they get sick with RSV. To date there have not been methods to protect these groups from severe RSV disease. Prior efforts to protect infants with traditional vaccines has not proven effective, but a new approach has been developed and proven effective. A new monoclonal antibody product named nirsevimab has proven to protect infants and young children from severe RSV. It has just been released. The CDC recommends one dose of nirsevimab for all infants younger than 8 months born during – or entering – their first RSV season. For an unfortunate group of children between 8 months and 19 months at increased risk of severe RSV disease, such as children who are severely immunocompromised, a dose is also recommended in their second RSV season.

Another approach to preventing severe infections in infants is to vaccinate a pregnant woman, who then produce antibodies that are passed to the newborn. This is an innovative strategy. The FDA approved an RSV vaccine named Abrysvo (manufactured by Pfizer) for use in women who are 32 to 36 weeks pregnant, as a tool to protect RSV in infants from birth to age 6 months. The vaccine is particularly important to those who are most at risk to have a compromised baby.

Emergency personnel have for all these years watched infants struggle to breathe after they are infected with this respiratory virus. Some of those infants have been their own children. This is now a potentially preventable disease in millions of small children, and it would be well worth the effort for public safety personnel to be part of the process.

Influenza

The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older should receive an influenza vaccine. This year's flu vaccines are now available at drugstores, hospitals, doctor's offices, occupational health clinics, and elsewhere.



EMS NEWS CONTINUED.

New this year, people with egg allergies can be vaccinated without special additional safety measures needed. They can receive any influenza vaccine (egg-based or non-egg-based) that is otherwise appropriate for their age.

COVID-19

Yes, it is still around, and increasing in frequency over the last few months. Many Americans have now gone more than a year without a booster, and immunity has waned. Fortunately, most cases have been minor, and severe COVID has been rare in people under 50, especially if they have received a vaccine shot or had the virus. Nearly all Americans fall into one or both categories. But COVID is still a bad disease with an unpredictable outcome, and the risk of long COVID is present in each case of the disease.

The important news is that updated COVID booster vaccines are expected in late September. They will target the XBB.1.5 strain of Omicron, which has circulated through the U.S. for much of 2023. Personnel who get ill with COVID are subject to the isolation procedures that were used in 2022. Now is the time to review those practices and recommendations.

GNFD personnel who are traveling may want to incorporate the use of PPE in their travel plans, especially in congested travel modes. ***And as always, this is not the time for members to come to work sick.***

What is the recommendation for timing all these strategies?

Although the landscape around fall vaccines is more complex this year, the overarching message that the CDC is recommending is that immunizations are very important to staying healthy during winter respiratory virus season. A good strategy for many healthy persons is to get their COVID booster and flu shot at the same time, in October or early November.

Patients can receive an influenza vaccine simultaneously with either the RSV vaccine or the updated COVID booster. When multiple vaccines are given at the same time, the injection sites should be spaced appropriately from one another, or in opposite arms.

The bottom line

This is another time to focus on the importance of keeping members healthy through the respiratory season, and adopt practices that reduce the risks of personnel and their family members from flu, RSV, and COVID.

When dealing with infected patients, it is always wise to use PPE that includes at least gloves, an N95 mask, eyeshields, and a gown if the patient is losing body fluids. With a patient that is coughing, please also have the patient wear a mask. Clean yourself and equipment after the patient is transitioned in care, and safely dispose of any dirty gear.

Stay safe and healthy this busy season!



IN MEMORY OF CHAPLAIN JACK STROM



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's first Chaplain, Jack Strom on July 8, 2023. Chaplain Jack proudly served the District since 2015. His life purpose was to coach, mentor, love, and encourage and he considered it a privilege to serve our first responders and their families. The men and women of GNFD will be forever grateful for Chaplain Jack and his wife Barb's contributions to the District. Please join us in keeping their family in your thoughts and prayers.

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Chaplain Jack Strom was an integral part of Greater Naples Fire Rescue District through the years. It was an honor to present his wife, Barb Strom with a Maltese Cross to show our appreciation at the August BOFC Meeting.