



SMOKE SIGNALS

July / August 2011

Headlines

- From the Top! Words of Wisdom from Chief Morabito. Pg. 1
- Interesting Information from Deputy Chief Goodworth. Pg. 1
- Hot Items from Assistant Chief Stevens. Pg. 2
- Fire Marshal's Office from Assistant Chief Clamer. Pg. 2
- Logistics Information from Assistant Chief Franklin. Pg. 3
- Volunteer Information from Assistant Chief Franklin. Pg. 3
- Health and Safety Information from Assistant Chief Franklin. Pg. 3

Inside Stories

News of Note: Fire Protection Systems I - Pg. 4
Reminders - Pg. 6
Birthdays - Pg. 6

Citrus County Fire Rescue
3600 W. Sovereign Path
Lecanto, FL 34461
Office: 352-527-5406
Fax: 352-527-5404
Webpage: http://www.bocc.citrus.fl.us/fire/rescue/fire_rescue.htm

From the TOP!

Change is in the air for Fire Rescue in the next few months. On June 14th, the Board of County Commissioners voted to place Fire Rescue under the Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Jeff Dawsy. This change brings with it some uncertainty along with a great opportunity to become a better organization.

Since that day, I have had several meetings with the Sheriff and his staff on making the transition as smooth as possible. We want the least stressful transition and have the least disruption of everyday responsibilities as possible. Obviously, we cannot have any disruption of response at any time.

July 7th, the Sheriff addressed all of the career personnel to explain the process involved in their applying to his office. All personnel currently with Fire Rescue will have to re-apply for their position with the

Sheriff's Office. This is for legal, insurance, and other reasons. This meeting will be repeated for all volunteer personnel to hear the Sheriff explain his plan and ideas on July 19th at 1900 hours at the Fire Training Center. I encourage all volunteers to attend this informational meeting.

The official date of transition is October 1st to coincide with the start of the new budget year. The Sheriff's plan will open three additional career stations: Floral City, Sugarmill Woods, and DeRosa. We are working with the union to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to afford us to change the agreement to allow us the opportunity to begin the Sheriff's plan earlier than October 1.

We are trying to open Floral City and Sugar-
(From the Top—Continued on page 4)

Deputy Chief

Hello to all and I hope your summer is going well! I have just a few updates for you. We are purchasing three mobile repeaters which will be mounted on our primary engines. These repeaters will greatly enhance radio reception in areas of the County that currently has poor radio reception. These repeaters will also enhance safety by allowing us better reception on our portable radios when inside buildings. We anticipate this project being completed within the next 8 weeks.

I am excited that the new paging cell phones seem to be working well. If you have experienced any problems, please advise me so that I can correct any issues. I have asked dispatch that, in the event the call is canceled, they put out a cancellation page over the phone.

The new Engine 131 was placed in service on July 5. I want to thank everyone, especially Captain Palminteri and Captain Nocella, for all of the time and effort that they put in on that project. The engine looks great and it responded to a structure fire within 8 hours of being placed in service.

I hope you had a great 4th of July, and remember to stay hydrated during these hot and humid days. It doesn't take much to become quickly dehydrated while working on a structure fire. Be safe and thank you for all that you do!

Jim Goodworth, Deputy Chief
Chief #2
352-527-5553
Jim.goodworth@bocc.citrus.fl.us

Hot Items From Operations and Training!



As all of you are aware, on Monday June 20th, 2011, two veteran firefighters were killed when a wildfire suddenly changed direction and flashed over them. Fifty-two-year old Brett Fulton and thirty-one-year old Josh Burch were operating bulldozers at the front lines of the Blue Ribbon Fire in Hamilton County when they were caught in a "burn over." The fire was relatively small, only 12 acres, but the weather conditions changed quickly and created a burn over condition. Both Brett and Josh graduated from the Firefighter I program at the



Josh Burch



Brett Fulton

Citrus County Fire Training Center. The death of these two firefighters should not go on forgotten as it should be a frequent reminder that conditions can change in split seconds.

Please remember:

The 10 Standard Firefighting Orders

1. Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts.
2. Know what your fire is doing at all times.
3. Base all actions on current and expected behavior of the fire.
4. Identify escape routes and safety zones and make them known.
5. Post lookouts when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.
7. Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear instructions and insure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times.

Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.

Getting out of wildfire season and guess what? Another hurricane season is here!

Have you prepared your family and home? I hope so, as we all know that there is nothing like being caught unprepared. If not, it is time to start. Remember, the worst thing to have on your mind when you are here is to worry about your home and family. Make sure you and your crews review the disaster plan. We have been extremely lucky in the past couple of years.

Speaking of storms, please be extra cautious with the afternoon lightning storms. There are way too many firefighters killed by lightning every year. The key is, unless there are emergency circumstances requiring you to be outside in a lightning storm, to seek shelter or stay in the apparatus until the storm passes.

As most of you know, we just completed our 29th FF I & II program. Graduation was held at the Curtis Peterson Auditorium and it went extremely well. Thank you to all that assisted and attended we could not have been as successful without you. We would like to send out special congratulations to our personnel who graduated this class:

(Hot Items—Continued on page 4)

From the Fire Marshal's Office

Have you ever been to a bar-b-cue where the host has a great grilling area: Easily accessible (just outside of the rear door of the residence), located inside of a large covered screen room next to the house, built-in large outdoor type stainless steel L.P. gas bar-b-cue grill, great counter tops with plenty of counter space and cabinets below, built-in small sink, and a small refrigerator. Most likely, the L.P. gas tank is stored below the built-in grill for convenience and out of sight.

From a functional perspective, this would be fantastic! No need to go outside when moving from the house and the grill, the screen room keeps the bugs away, and it provides the ability to cook during bad

weather. However, from a fire safety



perspective, there are many issues. Some of the fire safety issues are as follows:

- The type of L.P. gas grill has been tested and approved for outdoor use, only. The manufacturer's instructions stipulate that the grill is located at least 10' from any structures and usually 24" from any combustible materials.
- Typically, the manufacturers of outdoor L.P. gas grills recommend against building these types of units in cabinets.
- The L.P. gas must be stored in a well ventilated area, not below cabinets. L.P. gas can accumulate in confined spaces and, if ignited, may cause an explosion or very rapid fire.
- Gasoline or other combustible or

(From the ... - Continued on page 5)

Citrus County Fire Rescue asks that you practice fire safety everyday!

From Logistics:

I would like to thank George Cannella from Station 8 for his work in getting the local area VFW posts to donate an American flag for the tower. The flag is a 29' x 40' flag and has already been used several times. Thank you, George!

Several projects have been recently completed. These include installing tile in the upstairs bathrooms at Station 2, replacing the concrete pad at Station 2, replacing the windows at Station 14, painting the inside of Station 18, and the removal of the outside bushes at Station 9.

The Logistics Section



is very active at this time in developing a plan to have the station identified in the sheriff's plan ready for use. This will be a priority project, so please bear with us if some issues are delayed some. The crews from Station 23 are assisting with this project.

New Engine 131 is in at Fleet. As you recall, this vehicle was damaged in an accident several months ago. The vehicle has been repaired, received a new chassis, and is now ready for service. There are some minor things that need to be accomplished before it is in service. We anticipate that it will be actually placed in service in early July.

SCBA fit test was recently completed. We are reviewing the list and will notify those who need a make up session.

Quotes are now being obtained to conduct annual ladder testing.

For those of you who do not know, the bunker gear cleaning extractor has been moved to Station 2. Station 2 personnel

are now doing the cleaning.

At the time of this writing, the contractor has begun work on replacing the roof at station 3.

We would like to remind everyone that the proper paperwork must be filled out when requesting items of any kind. It is practically impossible to track all of the phone calls and verbal request for items. If we do not have the proper paperwork, we cannot guarantee your request will be filled.

Please remember to not just stop by Logistics. If you need assistance from Logistics, give us a call so that we can schedule you to come in. Remember, Logistics is closed on Wednesdays, except for emergency and safety related items.

Ralph Franklin
Assistant Fire Chief
Chief #6
352-527-5415

From the Volunteer Coordinator:

We have 16 volunteer applications in various steps of the process. The next orientation will be scheduled for early August.

It is very important that you keep your officer and Fire Administration advised if you are moving, taking extended leave, or any circumstances that are preventing you from remaining in good standing.

Please remember that if you want to transfer to another station, there is a transfer form you must complete to obtain approval. Also, if you change your address, phone number, or e-mail address, please fill out the appropriate form and return it to Fire Administration.

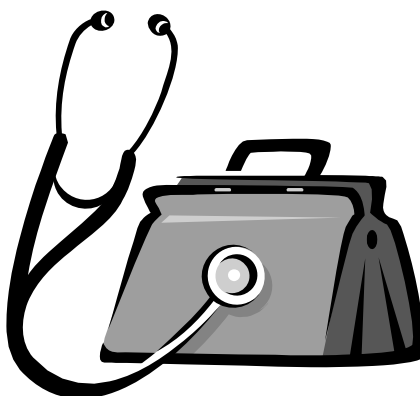
If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer, please have them call me at Fire Administration.

Please remember that the issued county cell phone is to be used only to receive incoming text messages from dispatch and to call 911. All other uses are not authorized. Please see the recently issued order on this subject.

Ralph Franklin
Assistant Fire Chief
Chief #6
352-527-5415



Volunteer Services



From Health and Safety:

We are still proceeding with the purchase of four vehicle repeaters. It is a long and tedious process to get this program up and running. We have applied to the FCC for a frequency license and are awaiting approval of our application.

Please remember that all combat firefighters must have a yearly medical exam. On the day of your physical, please remember to fast (no food or drink) before your exam.

Make sure you arrive early and have the medical history form completed before your arrival. If the history form is not completed upon arrival, the health department will reschedule your appointment.

Be Careful!

The weather is extremely hot. Please remember to keep yourself well hydrated. Over exertion can occur very rapidly in this heat.

Ralph Franklin
Assistant Fire Chief
Chief #6
352-527-5415

(From the Top—Continued from page 1) mill Woods prior to October 1st, although there is work to be done at both stations. This will bring us to eight career stations with two personnel in each station. As we are going from three personnel per station to two, it is imperative for us to have a good compliment of volunteers in each station.

There will be some new positions established. There will be a Battalion Chief on each shift to allow for a supervisor to be available 24 hours per day. There will be a training coordinator and volunteer coordinator position established as well. We will most likely advertise for these positions once a job description is established.

Along with this move is a change for training. We will finally partner with WTI, something that has been at least one

and a half years in the making. We have approval and drawings to pour a pad for a new burn building that will be formed from CONEX boxes.

In transitioning to the Sheriff's Office, there will be some bumps in the road. However, I can assure you that Sheriff Dawsy and I are committed to making this partnership work, and most importantly, improving our service to Citrus County. In conclusion, I am excited about the opportunity to transition the department to the Sheriff's Office and hope that each of you will work with us to improve Fire Rescue.

For a safety message, I will be short. The hot summer weather is upon us and we should all be hydrating throughout the day. The time to hydrate is as soon as possible after you wake in the morning. This is important for all personnel, volun-

teer and career. We never know when we will be expected to perform for long periods at a fire. In the past, we were told to cut sports drinks by 50 percent; however, that is no longer true. They should be consumed at 100 percent strength, as they are designed for the quickest absorption at 100 percent.

Lastly, this month's saying is from David Brandon - "Change is not a criticism of the past. It simply means that the future is going to be different."

Be safe, and enjoy the summer.

Larry Morabito, EFO, Fire Chief #1

352-527-5406

larry.morabito@bocc.citrus.fl.us

(Hot Items—Continued from page 2)

- Firefighter Todd Bayer Station # 9
- Firefighter Randall Johnson Station # 13
- Firefighter Jesse Mullis Station # 13

• Rules for fire officers to follow ...

- Your #1 job is to ensure that everyone goes home.
- You must be an effective and competent leader.
- You must be prepared and accountable.
- You must be a good decision maker.
- You must be an enforcer of policies and procedures.
- You must be a good role model.

Nothing less than your crew's life depends on it!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

The only stupid question will be the one you don't ask.

Don't complain if you don't participate in making the decisions; it is a sign of insecurity.

Craig Stevens, Assistant Fire Chief of Operations
Chief #4
352-527-7621



From FirefighterCloseCalls.com

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING IS A NECESSITY!!

News of Note: Fire Protection Systems I

On March 31, 2011, the Fire Training Center graduated 11 students from the Fire Protection Systems I class. Fire Protection Systems I is one of five classes that the student must complete before seeking approval to take the Florida State Test to become a certified Fire Inspector I. It is also a component of the Fire Officer I certification.



The participants studied private fire protection and detection systems, such as fire sprinkler systems, standpipes, fire alarms, fire suppression, etc. They developed an understanding of why the systems are needed, how they are constructed or assembled, and preventative maintenance of each system was also discussed.

The students included the following: from Citrus County Fire Rescue: Chad Boham, Vincent Lanzarone, Kevin Papadouplos (KP), James Pinchbeck, Michael Robinson, and Lucas Williams. Other graduates included: B.J. Blockyou (SCFR), Michael McDonald (CCSD), Hillary Sanford (BFR), Tony Tindell, (SCFR), and Scott Wagner (CCSD).



Congratulations to all who graduated!!!

(From the ... - Continued from page 2)
flammable liquids must be stored away from the L.P. gas grill.

- With the L.P. gas tank in a compartment, the regular leak testing becomes difficult and may be not performed.
- Replacing empty L.P. gas tanks is problematic and tightening connections may be difficult, causing leaks.

The United States Fire Administration estimates the following:

- An estimated 5,700 grill fires occur on residential properties each year in the United States.
- Almost half (49 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Over half (57 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur in the 4 months of May, June, July, and August.
- Thirty-two percent of grill fires on residential properties start on patios, terraces, screened-in porches, or courtyards."

Sometimes we make decisions based on

convenience and don't recognize the potential of a fire. If an l.p. gas leak developed and a fire started, what could happen? As many of our Fire Rescue staff can attest, with the grill under the over hang or too close to the structure, the can ily

into



home and cause severe damage. If the grill was a safe distance away from the building, the only damage would be to the grill and dinner.

Other important safety tips when grilling are:

- Keep oven mitts or other pot holders

handy.

- Make sure pot handles do not hang over and outside of the grilling surface. Accidentally hitting the handle may cause the pot to fall off the grill or over turn.
- Be sure children and pets are a safe distance from the cooking area.
- Make sure all L.P. gas connections are secure and have no leaks. Check connections with a soapy water solution: A bubble developing is a good sign of a leak.
- Store l.p. gas cylinders in a well ventilated area away from other flammable or combustible liquids.
- Read, understand, and practice the manufacturer's recommendations.

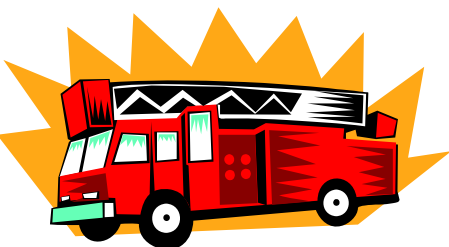
Please enjoy your weekends and outdoor cooking experiences at home and not at the hospital emergency room. Practice being fire safe everyday!

Kenneth R. Clamer, Assistant Fire Chief / Fire Marshal
Chief #5
352-527-5408



As of June 28, 2011, Citrus County Fire Rescue included a total of 135 active volunteers made up of: 38 trainees, 13 support firefighters, 54 combat firefighters, 30 aux. unit members.

Area intentionally left blank.



REMINDERS:

Meetings:

Volunteer Meeting with Sheriff Dawsy

July 19, 2011 at 1800 hours at the Fire Training Center

Volunteer Liaison (1800 hours at Fire Training Center - FTC)

September 12, 2011
November 14, 2011

Rehab Unit (1800 hours at FTC)

August 8, 2011
October 10, 2011
December 12, 2011

Fire Officers (1900 hours at FTC)

August 8, 2011
October 10, 2011
December 12, 2011
Officers, don't forget volunteer activity reports!

Training Classes:

- Construction Documents and Plans Review (Inspector I series) class is from July 11 to 14, 2011 from 0830 to 1930 hours
- First Responder course starts on

July 25, 2011

- Firefighter I & II day class starts on August 1, 2011

Check the Fire Training Center training calendar at:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/firetraining>

Call Kim Fugate at 352-527-5406 to sign up.

Miscellaneous:

- All officers must attend the ICS 300 and 400.
- Complete your Target Safety assignments.
- Don't forget to look at the Fire Rescue Event Calendar for dates of upcoming events.
- Make sure all activities, training, and statistics are entered into the Firehouse software.
- Lieutenant Bessler will be working with Logistics to identify mounting of equipment in the cabs of the apparatus.

- Lieutenant Marsh has developed new procedures for hydrant testing.
- Captain Knowles has completed the PDO, Swap, and OT SOP.
- Captain Long has completed the Station Duties SOP.
- Career crews: Do not forget that we need you to complete 20 hours of fire safety inspections per month.
- Don't forget, we will have dedicated night or day training sessions each month for each station to attend training at the FTC.



NOTE: The fee schedule for classes at the Fire Training Center has been drastically reduced for students outside of Citrus County Fire Rescue or Crystal River VFD. Call for further details!

Birthdays

July Birthdays:

2—Kabacinski, John—St. 5
3—Paar, William—St. 18
3—Lanzarone, Vincent—St. 7
3—Wilhite, Ronald—St. 13
6—Paul, Wagner—St. 20
11—Williams, Lucas—St. 23
11—Moore, Michael—St. 23
12—Nocella, Kathleen—St. 13
12—Longacre, John—FTC
13—Bessler, Robert—St. 23
14—Moore, Adam—St. 14
15—DeMaio, Anthony—St. 2
15—Knoll, Robert—St. 7

16—Sickenberger, Jeremy—Exp.
19—Gennaro, Tymothy—St. 2
20—Elias, David—St. 2
20—King, Corey—St. 20
21—Sorrell, Robert—St. 20
23—Seguin, Anthony—St. 2
24—Johnson, Randall—St. 13
28—Hayes, Melanie—St. 14
30—Caliguire, Dakota—Exp.

August Birthdays:

1—Smith, Richard—St. 14
2—Amato, Thomas—St. 5
3—Amato, John—St. 5

4—Brunner, Colin—St. 7
5—Hannold, Janet—St. 3
10—Sutton, Neil—St. 3
12—Moeckel, Rommel—FTC
13—Michel, David—St. 8
18—Story, Martin—St. 8
23—Boyer, Kennedy—St. 20
23—King, Norman—St. 14
24—Clamer, Stephanie—St. 7
26—Meaders, Andrew—St. 2
28—Risher, Levi—St. 8
28—Mejias-Ortiz, Jose—St. 14
31—Hunt, Michelle—St. 24



Happy Birthday to all!!!



On Friday, June 10, 2011, Auxiliary Wendy Brennan and Fire Inspector Mike Brennan used the Hazard House and other tools to provide fire and life safety educational ideas and materials to the customers of the Homosassa Walmart.



On Saturday, June 11, 2011, Trainee/Explorer Clamer taking the time out to have a photograph taken with the host Min, Risk Manager, Walmart Supercenter.



Fire Explorer Clamer “testing” visitors’ fire safety knowledge at Fire Rescue’s table during the Walmart Supercenter Safety Day event on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Yes, they managed to get every one correct!!!



Refurbished Engine 131 was dedicated July 5, 2011. Sheriff Dawsy, Chief Morabito, available command staff officers, and station to push out the old and replace it with the new (Engine 131).