



## SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

### Interoffice Memorandum

**TO:** The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners  
**FROM:** Brian Gorski, Fire Chief BG  
**RE:** **Chief's Report**  
**DATE:** September 14, 2016

**July 19, 28, August 9, 23, 2016** – The District and the IAFF began negotiations on July 19 and after four meetings we have a tentative agreement. Currently the District's Labor Attorney is reviewing our tentative agreement and the IAFF has scheduled their ratification meetings/vote for September 12, 13, and 14 and if all goes well, it will be brought to the Board on the evening of September 14 for their ratification.

**July 25, 2016** – Asked by the Manatee County Fire Chief's Association to research finding an alternative to our expiring Narcan Auto-injectors. Found a new higher dose Narcan Nasal Spray that contain 2 doses per kit at a cost of \$75.00 per kit. Passed this information on to the Fire Districts and to Doctor Nonell. The Fire District's asked me to work with Dr. Nonell in getting this new Narcan approved and purchasing it for everyone.

I worked with Dr. Nonell over this new Narcan Nasal Spray and he approved it but he wanted to only set up one account, not one for each Fire District, since we have to use his license and name in the purchase and then he wanted me to revise the protocol to include this new Narcan. I set up the account, placed order and submitted a revised Protocol for his approval as well as I developed an in-service power point training program for all of the Fire Districts to use.

**July 31, 2016** - Dr. Nonell approved my protocol revision and the in-service power point training program. I immediately sent both to all Fire Districts to begin reviewing.

**August 1, 2016** – Our new Narcan Nasal Spray arrived. I immediately contacted all of the Fire Districts and began collecting the old and issuing the new and invoicing the District's for reimbursement for their medication. As of 8/23, everyone has reimbursed us for the cost of this medication.

For our District, I provided the in-service training to our personnel and issued all employees the revised protocol to be inserted into their protocol books, additionally we updated all the protocol books in our Engines and Stations.

A note of interest, our District and Cedar Hammock are the busiest with heroin overdoses, with Southern Manatee being the busiest, we average about 7 to 10 overdoses a week and since we are on scene first the majority of the time by 3 to 5 minutes, our personnel are utilizing their skills more than they ever have which includes airway control and maintenance, analyzing glucose level and Narcan Administration and our personnel are really enjoying the fact that they can now do something to save a person's life instead of waiting until the arrival of the Rescue.

**August 8, 2016** – Manatee County EMS, Manatee County Sheriff's Department, East Manatee Fire Rescue, ECC-Dispatch, Sarasota County Fire, Sarasota Sheriff's Department, Sarasota Dispatch and Southern Manatee had a meeting here at our Administration Building over a Response Agreement that everyone signed off on back in 2006 over responses along the University Parkway. Basically in 2006 what was agreed upon back then was Sarasota would handle vehicle accidents west of the intersection of Tuttle and University, east of this intersection would be Southern Manatee and EMS up to I-75 and then from I-75 east it would be East Manatee and EMS. During this past year there has been calls and the dispatch centers sending the wrong agencies. Since the execution of this agreement Sarasota opened up Station 17 at University Town Center, which now puts Sarasota within a block of University Parkway. We all agreed to revise this response agreement and come up with a response matrix that would prevent both counties sending resources to the same incident, which included law enforcement as well.

The original agreement was only for vehicle accidents which I think is what has caused some of the problems this past year, meaning when the call came in for a car fire or person having a heart attack, this is what caused the confusion, because the original agreement was for only vehicle accidents. But going forward, we all agreed not to specific a particular call type, it would be for any EMS, Fire or Law incident on University Parkway.

Since I was the person that drafted the original agreement back in 2006, meaning I still had a copy of the WORD document, I agreed to draft the revision for everyone to review. Eventually this Agreement will be coming to you for your support and approval.

After this meeting, Sarasota County Fire and Manatee EMS stayed behind to discuss a more cooperative response, automatic aid between Sarasota County and Manatee County for EMS responses similar to what we did 2 years ago with Sarasota County, where we each are on automatic response 1 mile north and south of University Parkway for fire calls, which since approval by both Boards has worked great for the both us, including radio communications. EMS wants to do the same thing and Sarasota agreed to develop a similar agreement.

Additionally Manatee EMS advised me that within the next 2 years they would like to place in service a Rescue at our Station 5. Also, Sarasota County wants to develop an automatic aid/mutual aid agreement between both of our Hazmat Teams. During this past year our Teams have conducted numerous Training Drills and are working extremely well together and have helped each other on some significant hazardous materials incidents, like the one that was at the Planned Parenthood Center by Sarasota Memorial Hospital a few months back. This agreement would do a few things, it would provide each agency with an immediate back-up Team if needed, as well as providing coverage for each area if committed to an incident, for example, if we are tied up on an incident and another incident occurs in Manatee County, Sarasota would automatically respond if needed.

**August 10, 2016** – Members of the IAFF Bargaining Team, Captain Crawford, Chief Bounds and I had a meeting with Bill Costello for the purposes of explaining the Journeyman Firefighter Apprenticeship Program. Our personnel are very interested in implementing this program. The Apprenticeship Program is a National and State recognized program that in Florida is run through the Department of Labor and Department of Education in Tallahassee. Upon completion of the Journeyman Firefighter Apprenticeship Program, our employees would receive a certificate from the State of Florida Department of Education and a certificate from the Department of Labor. Hours generated by our employees generates dollars that comes back to the organization to pay for classes. Right now we pay \$200 to \$300 per employee for a class. Personnel enrolled in this program, all of these required classes would be free to our

employees. Additionally our veterans would receive additional benefits while the complete this program. Our personnel are really excited and they do want to implement this new Training Program over the next three years.

**August 1 – September 6, 2016** – Continued to finalize our proposed FY17 budget.

**August 15, 16, 17, 2016** – Chief Bounds and I had one on one meetings with each Commissioner to go over the tentative agreement with the IAFF and our proposed FY17 budget.

**August 16, 2016** – Chief Gould and I had a meeting with our attorney, Maggie Mooney-Portale over two items, first was a letter that she drafted on our behalf that registered our Drone with the FAA. This has letter has been finalized and has been mailed off to the FAA. Our second item was over the Manatee County Recovery Ordinance that was adopted back in 2008. At that time each Fire District was to adopt a resolution that would allow the County to recovery costs on their behalf, the Fire District's never did this. So under the guidance of Maggie and the Manatee County Attorney, we will need to get each Fire District to do this. We will create the Resolution template for everyone to use. Chief Gould, Maggie and are going to attend the next Manatee County Fire Commissioners quarterly meeting in October to give everyone an overall of what needs to happen that should have happened back in 2008 and the reason that we need to quickly move on this is because the County has been utilizing the Recovering Ordinance with great success and we do not want to have an issue arise over this resolution not being adopted.

**August 24, 2016** – Our C-Shift personnel at Station 3 and Station 5 attended a special recognition ceremony at the Sarasota County Commission Chambers. The Sarasota County Commissioners and Fire Chief Mike Regnier presented a "Certificate of Recognition" and a BIG Thank You and a job well done in providing assistance to the 6<sup>th</sup> Alarm Fire that Sarasota County Fire Department had on Packinghouse Road on June 17<sup>th</sup> around 0100 hours. C-Shift was on duty at the time of fire. On this date Sarasota County Fire Department was extremely busy with multiple medical calls and multiple working fires when this fire call into the Dispatch Center. Because of joint training, similar SOP's, and the utilization of the ICS system, this incident was successfully managed by multiple agencies without any incidents.

**August 25, 2016** - Chief Bounds and I attended the monthly Manatee County Fire Chief meeting. Items that were discussed, the Interlocal for the collection of building fees, all Districts will need to take this agreement to their Board for approval and signature and attach to it a copy of our fees that authorize the County to collect for us.

About one year ago Manatee County Government utilized us to host a Fire Grant for the Station Alerting systems and this past week we were notified that Manatee County did not get this grant.

Chief Hoyle reviewed some organizational changes within his department due to retirements and shifting duties around.

Bob Smith, Public Safety Director addressed all of us about working together as a Team to develop a plan that would allow a Fire District to create Advanced Life Support Engines. Chief Sousa, Chief Rampino, Chief Dicicco, and I agreed to form this committee to do the research in going with ALS non-transport Engines.

Additionally Bob Smith advised everyone that Paul Dicicco was appointed as the new EMS Chief with Manatee County EMS. Paul has been an employee with EMS for over 20 years and was serving as their Quality Performance Manager.

I advised everyone that I found a vendor that sells the Epi-pens that were the cheapest out of 15 different vendors and asked everyone if they wanted me to set up an account like I did for the Narcan for future purchasing, which they did and I have already set it up and notified everyone.

**September 7, 2016** – Participated on a conference call with Chief Sousa, Chief Rampino, Collier County Fire Chiefs, and Bonita Springs Fire Chief over changing Florida Statute 401 language as it relates to ALS Non-transport and the CON process and reviewed some Interlocal Agreements from these Fire Districts as it relates to providing ALS Non-transport services with their Counties since the County operates the ALS transport services, which is similar to Manatee County.

**September 13, 2016** – Chief Bounds and I participated in a meeting at West Manatee Fire Rescue about the Fire District's here in Manatee County being

allowed to operate ALS non-transport Engines. This meeting does include the Public Safety Director and EMS Chief Paul Dicicco.