



## SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

### Interoffice Memorandum

**TO:** The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners  
**FROM:** Brian Gorski, Fire Chief <sup>BC</sup>  
**RE:** **Chief's Report**  
**DATE:** January 19, 2017

**November 18, 2016** – Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District participated in another “Streetwise” Class at Sarasota Technical College. About 16 of personnel and their family members volunteered as patients. As patients, they were moulage up and placed in various scenarios all over the school campus and the graduating adult EMT’s would get dispatched by ambulance to these patients. When they get on scene, the EMT’s would assess the scene, the patient, provide treatment, call the resource hospital and transport to the hospital. This class started at 1400 hours and ended around 2230 hours. Our personnel did an outstanding job again.

**December 6, 2016** – I had a meeting with Braden River High School Counselor and Manatee Technical College about a High School student by the name of William Cusano that would like to shadow us for a day for his career project. I reviewed and provided a copy of our requirements for a ride-along, which was our release, HIPPA Policy & form, policy over picture taking / social media, and dress code requirements. All forms were signed by the student and his parents. Mr. Cusano was set up to ride with Battalion Chief Smith on 12/28/2016. He arrived at Station 1 at 0730 hours and Chief Smith showed him the routine from checking out the apparatus, response, to actually training drill at Fire Station 3. Upon conclusion at 1700 hours, Mr. Cusano without a doubt will be attending the next Fire/EMT Academy class.

**December 8, 2016** – I attended Trauma Rounds at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. This session was for Disaster Managers and pertained to the management of

Mass Casualty Incidents and Disaster Preparedness. Personnel from both Manatee County and Sarasota County Emergency Management attended.

**December 9, 2016** – Ms. Hannah Morse from the Bradenton Herald conducted an interview with me over heroin overdoses and the medication Narcan. I provided Ms. Morse with 2 years of stats including the number of times we administered Narcan. This story did run in the paper as well as on their website.

**December 10, 2016** – Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District participated in the “Boots n Badges” blood drive by providing Haz-mat 1 and displaying our equipment. The Fire Department (Boots) did win this competition again for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a row.

**December 12, 13, & 14, 2016** - I provided an in-service and evaluation of a new patient lifting device with all 3 shifts. This new device is perfect in lifting a patient that has fallen and just needs assistance to get up, it can be used in narrow hallways, small bathrooms and allows for multiple people to lift by using your legs and not your back. The device is easily applied to the patient and once fully secured in this lifting device, this device has multiple lifting handles, so from any side of the patient, you grab the handles to lift. Plus this device provides the patient comfort when being lift, especially to the frail thin skinned patient. This device will NOT replace the Mega Mover, but will be an additional tool for our personnel to use to prevent back injures to our employees. Our personnel rated this device “Outstanding to Excellent” in their evaluation. Since this is device will be used to prevent employee back injures the cost will be submitted to the PGT grant program, our Work Comp. carrier, for reimbursement.

**December 16, 2016** – Chief Bounds and I attended a meeting at the Manatee County Administration Building with other representatives from the West Manatee, North River and Cedar Hammock. Our Meeting was with the County Administrator and County Commissioner & Chair Vanessa Baugh and Representative Jim Boyd. Commissioner Baugh set up the meeting. Also in attendance was Manatee County Public Safety Director Bob Smith and EMS Chief Paul DiCicco. This meeting was about allowing the Fire Districts to provide Advanced Life Support Non-Transport Services. Both Commissioner Baugh and Representative Jim Boyd support the Fire Districts in providing this service. As Chair, she directed both the County Administrator and Public Safety Director to amend their current ordinance that pertains to the Certificate of Need (CON) process that would allow a Fire District to apply and obtain their CON and then apply through the State of Florida for their ALS Non-transport License.

Representative Boyd told Commissioner Baugh and the County Administrator that if they do not cooperate with the local Fire Districts over this positive service that will be provided to the citizens, then he will go ahead and file his Bill and then the County would lose control. They assured him that they will move forward over this issue and amend their ordinance to allow Fire Districts to provide ALS Non-Transport Services. We will keep you all updated as this progresses.

**December 20, 2016** – I provided in-service training to Jerome Ruffing, Sean Dwyer, and Jason Evans over the Binder Lift device. Manatee County EMS is also interested in this device for the same reasons we were interested in it. The Binder Lifting Device came in two sizes, regular which will fit almost all patients and then they make the Bariatric size, which is for 500 pound plus patients. EMS was interested in obtaining the Bariatric size for their Bariatric unit.

**January 2, 2017** – Lieutenant Chevalier and I proctored and graded the written exam for our Lieutenant and Captain assessment. All candidates will now move forward to the other components of the assessment. The written exam was graded by Lt. Chevalier, Captain Crawford and I, thus each test was reviewed by the 3 of us to ensure accuracy of the results.

**January 10, 2017** – Attending our quarterly Board of Trustee Pension meeting. The new FY16-17 Actuarial Evaluation and GSAB 67/68 were reviewed. Our Pension cost did go up but this increase was beyond our control, the State mandated that all local pension plans adopt the new mortality tables since we are living longer and the raising of the discount rate. At this time we are calculating the additional cost to determine if a budget amendment will need to occur. Overall both the General and Firefighter Pension are in great shape with their funding well above 80%. Both Plans were close to 100% funded last year but because of these 2 new requirements, it has dropped the funding level down to the mid-80's.

**January 11, 2017** – Lieutenant Bloski, Chief Gould, Chief Bounds and had a meeting today over submitting for a SAFER Grant for Firefighter/EMT positions. This initiative will allow us to staff Haz-mat-1 24/7 by utilizing existing SMFR Haz-mat Technicians and back filling with the new Firefighter/EMT positions obtained through the SAFER Grant. The SAFER Grant period opened January 10 and will close February 10.

**January 12, 2017** – We attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trauma Success Reunion at Sarasota Memorial. SMH Trauma Center provided lunch while they reviewed the two trauma cases that came into the Trauma Center last year (2016), from when Fire-Rescue first made contact, initial pre-hospital findings and care, arrival at the Trauma Center, their findings and immediate intervention, surgical findings and repair, ICU care, rehab. and then release. Each one of these patients were present to “Thank” everyone that was involved in saving their life. A bunch of us from Southern Manatee attended this really neat event.

**January 17, 2017** – Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District held a retirement ceremony for Firefighter/EMT Brett Carpenter at Station #1.

**January 18, 2017** – Robert and I arranged a meeting with Maggie Mooney-Portale for the purposes of discussing some initiatives for 2017 that we need to work on such as the on-going problem with the Property Appraisers Office not wanting to apply non-ad valorem assessments to common elements, RFP for a methodology study over our non-ad valorem assessments and impact fee, revisions to our enabling act, Interlocal Agreement between Manatee County and SMFR for Hazardous Materials Response and continued funding, Revision to the Manatee County Recovery Ordinance, ALS Non-Transport Services and Manatee County CON process, and we have some questions over the recently adopted Interlocal Agreement between Manatee County and the Fire Districts that allows the County to collect certain fee’s – questions pertain to refunds with credit cards.

**January 19, 2017** – We attended a planning meeting at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport for their 2017 tri-annual Passenger Aircraft Disaster Response Exercise (PADRE 2017) which will involve 70 patients that will be moulage up. This drill will involve both counties and multiple agencies from both. The actual drill will be conducted on March 20 at 1500 hours.