



SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Brian Gorski, Fire Chief ^{FG}
RE: **Chief's Report**
DATE: February 16, 2017

January 24, 2017 & February 1, 2017 – Chief Sousa, Chief Rampino, Chief Bound and I had one on one meetings with the Manatee County Commissioners to discuss Advanced Life Support Non-Transport Engines and the many benefits of having this level of service and their current COPCN ordinance preventing Fire Districts in providing this service. Every Commissioner that we spoke to supported, understood what we were trying to us in obtaining the ALS Non-Transport License and wanted to know what the problem was that is causing this road block, which was their current ordinance in the way it was written. The Chair told us to come to their next regular meeting and bring it up under “Public Comment” which would then lead to discuss and direction of the Commissioner to the County Administrator. Their next regular meeting is February 7, 2017.

January 25 – February 9, 2017 – Chief Bounds, Chief Gould, Captain Bloski and I worked on writing a SAFER grant for the hiring of 9 new Firefighter/EMT's/Paramedic's. These new positions would allow our District to staff Haz-mat 1 24/7. Staffing of this apparatus would allow us to have another apparatus that would respond to all types of calls besides Haz-mat and would also act as our RIC on a working incident. If awarded this grant, the Federal Government will fund it for 3 years, the first 2 years they will fund 75% of the cost, SMFR cost will be 25% and in the last year, they will fund 35% and our share would be 65%. This give us the District time to slowly build this cost into our rates over 3 to 4 years. Our SAFER was submitted on February 10, 2017. We will keep you posted on its progress.

January 26, 2017 – I attended the monthly Manatee County Fire Chief's meeting. At this meeting Mr. Alan Sterns from the Manatee County Property Appraiser's Office to explain a few new changes as it relates to a district line running through a parcel and how they will be handling it, which basically if the majority of the parcel sits in one District, that is called the Parent Parcel and the smaller parcel is the Child Parcel, by the way these are the terms that they use, they will assign the whole parcel to the District that has the larger parcel or Parent. The examples they showed actually was between Parrish and North River, they had a lot of these splits. Actually Chief Johnson and Chief Rampino worked this out with the PAO and it basically had no real impact on their revenues. I will explain this further at our February 16 meeting.

Chief Hoyle reviewed the status over the County collecting our fees, so far everything has been running great with them collecting our fees. Chief Hoyle did give everyone their original signed Interlocal Agreement and Resolution for our files, signed by both SMFR Commissioners and Manatee County Commissioners.

Chief Hoyle also updated us on the Appeals Board status, our March meeting will be advertised in the paper and at this meeting we will go through the applications, make our recommendations for appointment, draft a resolution for each District to adopt and their next scheduled meeting, if all goes well, at our April meeting you will be asked via a Resolution to official adopt and appoint these individuals to serve on this Board on behalf of our District. According to Chief Hoyle they do have enough applications to fill the required positions with either 1 or 2 to act as an alternate.

January 25, 2017 – Made contact with Doctor Avila and talked to him about being the Departments Physician for everything from physicals to medical evaluations and treatment of work comp injury(s) and illness(s). Dr. Avila is currently performing medical physicals for West Manatee and will so be meeting with East Manatee for the same. We have scheduled a tour of his new facility, which is also an "Urgent Care Center" walk-in clinic, but more high tech, as he states, it is the same as emergency room. Also of interesting note, Dr. Avila does use ultrasound like Life Scan, but currently would not be able to do it for the cost that Life Scan charges, the main reason is he has to pay for this equipment, down the road he might be able to meet or do better than Life Scan on their cost. I plan on taking some of our personnel to his facility to get the tour and to ask more about the services he provides. I will report back.

February 6, 7, 8, 2017 – I provided in-service training on new device that should reduce/prevent employee back injuries when providing lifting during a “Lift-Assist” type incident. This device is applied a patient and it is called the Binder Lift and it comes in 2 sizes, standard size fits a chest range from 34” to 62” and the bariatric size fits a chest from 58” to 82”. This device is made so anywhere from 2 to 6 firefighters can grab 2 lifting handles each and lift in unison. This device when applied correctly and when used correctly divides the weight of the patient into the number of FF’s lifting, example, 300 pound patient being lifting by 3 FF’s, each FF will be lifting 100 pounds, the more FF’s lifting, the less lifting weight per FF. I will have one of these devices at the meeting to demo.

Since this device is aimed at reducing/preventing injures, we did submit the cost to PGT grant program and we did get approved for reimbursement.

February 9, 2017 - Chief Bounds, Captain Thayer, Chief Gould, Fire Marshal Adent had a photo session and check presentation from Pam Hancock (PGT) and Phill Baker (Boyd Insurance) over the Binder Lift Device. We received a check for \$2496.50 reimbursement from this safety grant program. This makes 3 safety grants that we have submitted and received approval for reimbursement and we told them that we will be submitting another very soon for a new type of hood protection. SMFR will again be featured in their quarterly newspaper over the Binder Lift grant.