



## SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

### Interoffice Memorandum

**TO:** The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners  
**FROM:** Brian Gorski, Fire Chief <sup>BG</sup>  
**RE:** **Chief's Report**  
**DATE:** November 16, 2017

**October 22, 2017** – Attended funeral services for Battalion Chief Bill Kocur. Quite a few employees from the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District attended the services due to the fact that they knew Bill. Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District also moved an Engine into Sarasota County Fire Station #17 (UTC) to provide coverage for them.

**October 24, 2017** – Attended meeting at Sarasota Technical College over the Paramedic Classes for 2018, which they are planning 3 (February, July, October). Manatee Technical College will be holding 2 classes, (January and October), however their January 2018 class is full.

**October 26, 2017** – Finished conducting the practical patient and skill assessments on our personnel that requested to go to Paramedic school. We have ten (10) candidates that want to go to Paramedic school. By our Business Plan, we will be sending only three (3) a year for the next 3 to 4 years.

**October 30, 2017** – I had a staff meeting with our Battalion Chief's and Chief Blanco about who the first 4 that will be attending Paramedic school. Our first 4 candidates will be Sam Collins, David Wernet, Jason Weissman and Robert Thayer.

**November 1, 2017** – I participated as an evaluator for our multi-agency drill that was developed by Captain Bloski that involved over 250 personnel and 50+ patients. This drill took place at LeCom Stadium and it pertained to a person

detonating a bomb that injured multiple patients, secondary bombs and potentially the release of a deadly nerve agent Sarin. This was a multi-agency drill that involved many disciplines, an EMS component, Law component and Haz-mat component. This drill started at 0930 and ran until 1200 hours. Captain Bloski did an outstanding job in the planning and execution of this drill.

**November 2, 2017** – Robert, Debbie T. and I participated on a conference call with the Pension Attorney Jim Linn over SMFR’s OPEB account. The reason for this call was to determine what the District could do with their OPEB account since it was not going to be used due to the extreme financial liability that it would put on the rate payers of the District. One option that we presented was to close this fund and move the money into the Firefighters and General Pension fund. This move would reduce the financial liability of both plans. Attorney Jim Linn advised us that this can be accomplished with a resolution, more to come.

Our new Ladder Truck can in so Robert, Rick, Mike and I went over to Ten 8 to look at and to get some pictures. You all will be pleased on how this Truck turned out. Our Apparatus Committee did an outstanding job in designing this apparatus.

**November 3, 2017** – I was asked by Manatee County Government to participate at their Press Conference that they were holding at 0930 hours over the implementation of a new Live-saving phone application called PulsePoint. PulsePoint is a mobile app that alerts CPR-trained citizens to someone nearby having a sudden cardiac arrest. This app is activated by the local public safety communications center simultaneous with the dispatch of local Fire and EMS resources. The purpose of the app is to increase the survival rates of cardiac arrest victims. The app is only activated if the event is occurring in a public place, the app is not typically activated for residential addresses. This app also has a feature that also identifies the closest AED to the emergency. For the past three months during our Tactical Reviews (Pre-plans) and Inspections by all Fire Districts, we have been taking pictures of the locations of these AED’s and uploaded to the PulsePoint app. Speaking at the Press Conference was the Public Safety Director Bob Smith, Public Safety Communications Chief Jacob Saur and myself. This appeared on SNN 6, BayNews 9, ABC 7, Bradenton Herald and Fox News.

**November 3, 4, and 5, 2017** – Southern Manatee Fire Rescue held their 1<sup>st</sup> 5K, which was a HUGE SUCCESS. The District’s Medical Insurance Company Cigna gave the District \$10,000.00 to be used in the development of a Wellness

Program. This event was held at the Benderson Rowing Park and was organized by our Fitness/Wellness Coordinators Captain Thayer, Christi Hollins, Kiel Duquette and Chris Snider, they did an OUTSTANDING JOB! Over the 3 days we had around 100 participates (employees & family members). We can barely walk today but it was fun besides and healthy.

**November 8, 2017** – We had a meeting with VFIS Insurance Risk Control Inspector. This was originally scheduled for September 12 but everyone had to cancel due to Hurricane Irma. The reason for his visit was to review general operational plans, safety policies, driver selection criteria, driver training program, vehicle and equipment maintenance, HR policies and employment practices training over harassment, workplace violence and social media.

**November 9, 2017** – Manatee County Commissioner Robin DiSabatino arranged a meeting to meet with us at our Administration Center over the topic of CERT. Commissioner Marken also attended this meeting since she is very knowledgeable in CERT.

**November 16, 2017** – In the morning the Manatee County Fire Chief's conducted a PIA over Hurricane Irma at the EOC prior to the big PIA that Manatee County Government Emergency Management will be conducting in the afternoon over their response to Hurricane Irma.