



## SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

### Interoffice Memorandum

**TO:** The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners  
**FROM:** Brian Gorski, Fire Chief <sup>BE</sup>  
**RE:** **Chief's Report**  
**DATE:** August 16, 2018

**July 19 - August 17, 2018** – Working on the proposed FY19 Budget. Updating Revenue projections for both our non-ad valorem, ad valorem and our other misc. revenues as well as our impact fees. We are now about 99% completed on the expenditure side of the FY19 budget, we are now double checking numbers and working on the documents, budget books, website version(s) and staff has begun creating the numerous resolutions that will be presented to you all at our September meetings.

**July 20, 2018** – I was invited to participate in a meeting that was established by Nicholas Azzara, Manatee County Government, and Public Communications Director/PIO. This meeting was to bring all agencies together to first provide mutual media contacts with everyone, identify the ways each agency communicates to the public and to determine each agencies PIO. This was the first meeting and it was outstanding. It makes you feel really good when you learn that SMFR communicates to the public more frequently with various methods compared to the other agencies. I did get a much better media contact list, which will help us tremendously in getting media coverage for our events.

**July 25, August 1, 8 & 15, 2018** – Shawn Myles and I participated at the weekly meetings established by Public Safety Communications that pertains to a new CAD called Rapid Deploy. Last year we saw a demo of this CAD and it was outstanding. Rapid Deploy is a CAD that is made for Fire/EMS/Law that interfaces with multiple feeds that provides instant information for the responder. On August 30<sup>th</sup> we will begin training over of this new CAD with a

goal of starting the pilot program around October or sooner. Manatee Sheriff, Bradenton PD, Manatee EMS, and Southern Manatee will be the ones conducting the pilot program. Sometime in late August or early September a few of our Engines will be given an I-Pad/Tough Book that will be running this new CAD for us to evaluate.

**July 25, 2018** – Captain Bloski, Chief Gould and I attended Region #13 Trauma Service Area (Sarasota, Manatee, and Desoto Counties) meeting at the Public Safety Building. Blake Trauma Center asked Southern Manatee Fire Rescue to present a case that involved multiple agencies that pertained to a patient that was critically burned. This was the Haz-mat incident on Anna Maria Island, started at night when a young male was walking down the beach and found “glowing rocks”. He picked up these rocks and placed them in his pants pockets. Shortly after touching these rocks his hands started to feel funny which gradually lead to irritation and then 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns. We did not get notified until the next day about a substance found on the beach. Meanwhile this young man headed home and when he arrived and got out of his car, his pants caught on fire which again cause 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to his legs. This patient then got back in his car and drove himself to Blake. Upon his arrival, he was admitted with critical burns. The reason for the review of this incident was because it involved multiple agencies and no one knew that there was a patient other than Blake and Blake had no idea how/what burned the patient. West Manatee made the initial response the day before and turned it over to their Public Works. We were notified the next day by MSO over an unknown substance at Public Works. It was because of SMFR Detective work in the investigation of this substance that we learned about the patient and we did interview the patient at Blake. The substance turned out to be white phosphorus from a navy flare that washed ashore and leaked down the beach. Interesting case with a lot of opportunities for improvement of communication among agencies.

**July 26, 2018** – Commissioner Durant, Chief Blanco and I participated at the request of Manatee County Government in a neighborhood meeting over the placement of a new 185 feet radio tower on County owned land designated as Kinnan Park. Over 100 citizens showed up to voice their concerns over this project. This meeting did not go well for Manatee County. The public without a doubt does not want that tower placed on this site. The public does fully understand the current radio system needs and support public safety 100%, but made it clear that they do not want it here. They were also upset over the fact that it was being done in secret and have been asking the County over the course

of a few months about information over this site and they said that they never really got any useful information.

**July 31, 2018** - Staff had a meeting with nine (9) of our employees that we cannot find a pre-employment physical for them in their medical file. Pre-employment physical is the document that is needed in a heart-lung case. We have been working with our Work Comp attorney, Labor attorney and these employees on what we all need to do since this important document is lacking in the event something should happen to one of these employees.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - I successfully completed our 7<sup>th</sup> grant from Kaleo Pharmaceutical Company for the Narcan Auto-Injectors for all of the Fire District's and was officially notified this morning, August 7<sup>th</sup> less than 16 hours after submitting to Kaleo Pharmaceutical is was approved and they already shipped it. This was the fastest turn around on a grant that I have ever experienced in my 43 years. Within the next day or so I will be receiving 200 doses and when it does I will be distributing among all of the Fire Districts.

Within the next week or so I should have a report completed for you all over our overdose incidents over a 3.5 year time frame and the huge impact we have made county-wide in saving lives. You will see that this report will identify a reduction in the number of incidents this year compared to the previous years and running on the same patient 2 to 3 times in one day has ceased possibly due to proper rehab. and medication to reduce the need for heroin.

**August 7, 2018** - Staff was asked to assist Manatee County staff at the August 7<sup>th</sup> County Commission meeting presentation over the Kinnan Radio Tower. This was a very long meeting, did not get back to the office until 1800 hours. The Commission Chambers were filled with members of public in opposition of the placement location of this tower. In addition to this crowd of angry citizens, all of the County Commissioners were extremely upset with County Staff over this project and NOT following their instructions about having meetings with the public, they were looking to hang someone! Right now the County has spent more than \$600,000 in construction work currently at this site, meaning the anchor points are 60' deep - poured concrete and metal and the small building foundation is ready to be poured. Towards the end of this meeting I was asked to speak which I did, I spoke about the importance of radio interoperability and being able to have 95% coverage with a portable radio, which is the life-line for all responders and this new system will allow us to talk to other agencies not only within our county but in other counties. The Commissioners did their vote

to continue the stop-work order on current site and has requested staff to get Motorola at a meeting to discuss other locations in the area and the use of multiple smaller towers and requested their staff to have public meetings over the next tower that will be installed in West Manatee's area, before any work is performed.

**August 9, 2018** – Staff arranged a meeting with all Fire Chief's at our Administrative Building to go over the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the Haz-mat Interlocal. This 2<sup>nd</sup> draft including all of the suggestions/comments received from all of the Fire District's and their attorneys. At the conclusion of this meeting we notified David and Maggie so they could notify the County Attorney to proceed with this draft. We are still looking to bring this to everyone's Boards in October. I will keep you all posted. The recent fire at the Port actually helped everyone better understand how the recovery process works with the AHJ and in this case it was North River. We walked Chief Rampino through the process utilizing our templates, all agencies that assisted including mutual aid from other counties submitted their cost utilizing a standard format on their letterhead. We then prepared a cover letter (template) for Chief Rampino that told the insurance company summarize the cost with the detailed invoices attached – again perfect example on how the recovery ordinance is to work.

After completing this meeting, while everyone was present, Chief Whitehurst invited the Manatee County School Board to our location to discuss an initiative that they are bringing forward about not evacuating a school during a fire alarm, they want to delay evacuation and check it the cause first. The reason comes from the School Boards review of the recent shooting event in Parkland Florida where the bad guy pulled the alarm and as the students were evacuating the bad guy was shooting them. The purpose of our meeting is to learn more details on where this is coming from, school board (local vs. state), law enforcement or who and remind them of the requirement in Florida Law and inside of making a quick reaction decision over this tragic event it needs to be discussed with all agencies for resolution, a simple solution would be to remove all pull stations and ensure adequate coverage of smoke/heat alarms and I am certain that there are other solutions. I will keep you posted over this as we learn more.