



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: November 15, 2018

October 19, 2018 – attended the quarterly Public Information/Communications Officer meeting at the Manatee County School Board Building. Meeting is for all Public Information / Communications Officers here in Manatee County from all agencies. The meeting was created by Nicholas Azzara, Manatee County Communications Manager. The purpose of the meeting is to share media contacts, share various ways of keeping the public informed and well as employees. Southern Manatee is the only Fire District that participates.

When we need to get the word out over a particular issue/subject, we all agreed to work on this together so that we all have the same message being communicated to the public, a good example would be about an approaching hurricane.

October 22, 2018 – Our next four (4) Firefighters started Paramedic school and on Tuesday, October 23 I gave my welcome talk to all the students about “Professional Standards, Medical-Legal and Documentation”. Just like with Captain Thayer’s class SMFR leads that class, SMFR will lead this class as well.

October 24, 2018 – Chief Bounds, Captain Thayer, Captain Bloski and I attended the quarterly Trauma Region 13 meeting at the Public Safety Building. SMFR was asked to assist Blake and Sarasota Trauma Center with a “Trauma Skills Class” that both Trauma Centers will be conducting in December for all EMT’s and Paramedic’s. They asked for assistance in their mass decon station and with performing advance procedures while a patient is still pinned within

the wreckage from an accident. There will be lot of other skill teaching events including lectures by the Trauma Teams from both Trauma Centers.

October 25, 2018 – Attended the monthly Fire Chief’s meeting. Chief Mark Regis provided us with slide presentation over their 16 day deployment of their Ambulance Strike Team that was assigned to the Panhandle where our Engine Strike Team was assigned. A lot of destruction and during the first couple of days they were averaging around 50 calls per 24 hour shift in the beginning days.

Discussion over placement of a standardize Knox box at all fire stations so that when move ups/down occur from another agency they can gain access into the station. Not all fire stations have Knox box’s so to some fire agencies there will be that cost and for those that have Knox box’s there will be the cost of changing out to a standardize key. I suggested utilizing the 4 digit key pad to either a door or bay door, they work great and very affordable. You can program them with a common code, everyone could use the address of that station or 0-9-1-1.

Cedar Hammock is moving forward with building a fire tower at their training facility. However there will be no fire props for this tower.

November 1, 2018 – I picked up 5 more portable 800 MHz radios and charger that were surplus from Sarasota County for the University Park CERT Team. Which now this Team has 10 radios and for them they work perfect and gives them the communication that they need to be effective in their community.

November 5, 2018 – Had a meeting with Chief Whitehurst and Chief Sousa over automatic aid / closest unit response, standardize response to call types. This is the first of many meetings to come. Additionally Chief Whitehurst discussed his business plan for the East Manatee to go ALS Non-Transport. Additionally Parrish is now discussing going ALS Non-Transport as well.

November 6, 2018 – Attended Manatee County’s monthly award ceremony along with Chief Bounds and Chief Blanco. We had three of our employees, Lt. Conner, FF/Paramedic Justin Young, and FF/EMT Ellis receive Phoenix Recognition along with three EMS personnel so saving the life of a cardiac arrest patient. I made contact with the patient and his family and invited them to this award ceremony, which turned out to be a really cool event for the patient and his family and the patient was able to thank everyone that was involved in saving his life.

After this ceremony Chief DiCicco invited Chief Blanco, Chief Bounds and I to attend his monthly staff meeting. His meeting was very informative and he gave an update over their recent changes of taking 5 – 24 hr. units and turning them into 12 hr. units and we all saw the data, with the first month of this program they are seeing improvement in response times, quicker turn-around times and the biggest and most important, we witnessed and heard right from their employees, they love this new schedule. I told Chief DiCicco that he needs to do the same presentation to the Fire Chief's because their version is way different and we all heard and saw the positive impact that this change is having on his employees and improvement in response times. At the Fire Chief's meeting it was said by Fire Chief's (rumor), that EMS was shutting down 5 – 24 hour ambulances, they did NOT, what they truly did was take the 5 units and divided them into two 12 hour shifts, there still is 5 ambulances, but they are staffed 0800 to 2000 hours and then 2000 hours to 0800 hours as an example.

The start and end time on these units are different, meaning some might come in at 1000 hours and work until 2200 hours, they stagger them during peak times.

Chief DiCicco did say that he will be adding another 24 hour ambulance soon and it will be stationed in Myakka City.

November 7, 2018 – Worked on “Uncollectible Accounts Receivable” policy updating to include language over criminal cases of uncollectible accounts. We have 3 cases in which we assisted law enforcement and in all 3 cases, 2 are in local jail and the 3rd is in prison. I will explain further on what we need to do to meet the intent of the law over “Uncollectible Accounts” as a result of criminal activity and incarceration at our November 15 meeting.

October 19 – November 15, 2018 – Working on a county-wide project for all of the Fire Districts and Manatee County EMS about developing a bid package for oxygen service, refills and rental charges. The bid will be for a common vendor that will be able to supply all agencies with this service. Currently this service is being provided by three (3) vendors and the cost is all does vary among departments that utilize the same vendor, you would think a department with little service would pay less cost, but that is not true, they have a higher rental and refill fee compared to a department that has a high use of oxygen. We hope to save everyone money by doing this bid county-wide and to standardize the oxygen carrying equipment.

In the past steel bottles were used which weighed a ton and you had to put an oxygen regulator on the bottle in order to use it. With this type of system, the oxygen regulator had to be either repaired or replaced annually because they always received damage during a call. We use aluminum bottles with the built-in regulator, which we now save money over the repair and maintenance of a regulator. Additionally so agencies are still using steel bottles and these steel bottles put excessive wear/tear on the bag that they are carried in because of their weight.

Owning bottles vs. renting bottles, it is better to rent and it is a lot cheaper. If you own your bottles, you have the cost and scheduling to get them hydro-tested.

One fire agency has an oxygen cascade system that they made that utilizing 4 to 5 large H tanks and they refill their own bottles, which is extremely dangerous and this Fire Chief wants to stop this practice before someone gets hurt or killed.

One other option that I will writing into the bid is to deliver and maintain bottles at fueling depots throughout the county vs. at everyone's main fire station. Everyone so far liked that idea, fire apparatus and ambulances when getting fuel can exchange empty bottles for full bottles. Frequency of delivery, I am working on everyone's data now to determine the frequency of delivery, some sites might be 1 a week and others might be 1 a month.