



## 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:** March 19, 2020

**February 24, 2020** – RFQ Proposals were due on this date by 1400 hours. The District received two (2) proposals.

**February 27, 2020** – RFQ Evaluation Committee reviewed and scored the two proposals received. The purpose of the Committee's evaluation of the proposal was to produce a short-list for the Commissioners. Since we only had two proposals to evaluate, the committee evaluated four (4) of the five (5) categories and decided to allow both firms to do a five (5) minute presentation at the March 19 Board meeting. Both firms were notified of their presentation and Attorney David Jackson will be present to guide this process for us.

**February 20 to March 19, 2020** – Non-stop meetings with Manatee County Emergency Management, Manatee County Health Department and the Fire Districts over COVID-19. Your Administrative Staff has been non-stop in finishing up our COOP, Flu Pandemic Plan, PPE Inventory (County-wide), developing Interim Guidance Protocols for our personnel based on CDC's guidance however these change daily thus we have to keep them updated as we learn more about this virus. Captain Thayer and Captain Bloski then took these Interim Guidance Protocols and began hands-on in-service training with all of our personnel to ensure they understand what they need to do for protection by ensuring that each employee properly dons their PPE and most importantly the proper doffing of their PPE and the steps for decon.

Since Southern Manatee Hazardous Materials Team carries an electrostatic antimicrobial sprayer that is 99.99% effective in killing all viruses and bacteria, we have been used to decon two EMS ambulances that transported two CDC confirmed COVID-19 patients. This process takes about 7 minutes to fog the inside of the ambulance with its equipment. EMS has two of these foggers on order. We are working on plan to fog our Stations during this pandemic on a routine basis, still working out the schedule, once a week or every 2 weeks. We did this two years ago with the regular flu season and it did help prevent the transmission of this virus between employees.

I was asked by Emergency Management to be the point person for the Fire District's regarding their response plans (COOP and Flu) and PPE Inventory in obtaining copies of their plans and PPE stock levels. I then created a master sheet for the whole county. This PPE inventory identified that some Fire Districts didn't have either N-95 masks or isolation gowns, so I then had as an example East Manatee had a lot of N-95's and North River didn't have any at all, so I had East Manatee give some to North River, Duette had a lot of N-95's and Parrish had a few, so again I had Duette give some to Parrish. Bradenton Fire had no isolation gowns and we have a lot, so I gave Bradenton some. By creating this master inventory list, we were able to identify how need what item(s) rapidly and we were able to help each other out. This master PPE Inventory sheet was given to all Fire Districts and Emergency Management. While I was creating this, since we are a licensed ALS provider, I received an email from the State Office of EMS requesting each county to create a master PPE stock levels and to send it to them so they can begin working on ensuring that all first responders are adequately protected with PPE. I immediately sent ours to the State.

We have been assisting the Manatee County Health Department in getting out public messages about the Coronavirus and how citizens can protect themselves and assist in preventing the spread. Shawn Myles has been linking their information to our website as well placing certain documents on our entrance doors at all our facilities.

As this virus spreads, the WHO and CDC are constantly updating guidelines as well as implementing new requirements to prevent the spread. They are focusing on prevention through education to control the spread and at a meeting today (3/12/20) discuss will occur over cancelling public events held in communities (concerts, games, any type of event that draws people) and even locking down facilities such as nursing homes to prevent what happen in Washington State. More to come over this topic.

For Southern Manatee we began our preparation back in early January 2020. I got ahead of the curve before all of the vendors were sold out of PPE and began revising our Flu Pandemic Plan and had Chief Bounds complete our COOP plan as well as prepare our emergency documents when the times for you all to act on. We have developed a booklet for each Station that contains our Interim Guidance Policies/Protocols over COVID-19 as CDC produces them. I am still working on one that pertains to an employee being exposed to a confirm COVID-19 patient. I will explain this one at our March 19 meeting.

**March 6,7 and 8, 2020** – We conducted our annual MDA Boot drive. During this 3-day event we collected over \$14,000, they still need to count the change. Citizens once again were dropping \$10, \$20, and even \$100 bills into our boots and we they are donating, they think it is for us. It was non-stop by the public ***“Thanking us for what we do”***! Hearing the public support makes me proud to be a Firefighter.

**March 9, 2020** – Staff and line personnel attended the monthly awards ceremony held at the Public Safety Building. We had two crews receive Phoenix Awards for the successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest victim. One of the patients was present at this awards ceremony to personally thank everyone that was involved in saving his life.

We also received the “Medical Directors Award”, which is has never been given to a Fire District before. This was awarded to Firefighter/Paramedic Crystal Tucciarone, Firefighter/Paramedic David Wernet, Firefighter/EMT Seth Burnett and Battalion Chief Adam Perry. Weeks ago, on a Thursday early evening EMS was extremely busy and our ALS Engine was dispatched to a shooting right down the street from their Station. Our personnel arrived on scene within 3 minutes, law enforcement was already on scene and declared the scene was safe for them to enter. FF/Paramedic Tucciarone and FF/Paramedic David Wernet quickly assessed their patient, which sustained a gunshot to his chest and was unstable. FF/Paramedic Tucciarone immediately called a “Trauma Alert” and she immediately assessed the patient to determine that he had a tension pneumothorax and she immediately decompressed the chest while Firefighter/Paramedic Wernet started a large bore IV to begin fluid replacement, while FF/EMT Burnett assessed vital signs. Battalion Chief Perry set up an LZ for Aeromed. Our personnel rapidly identified and stabilized the patient’s life-threats, called the “Trauma Alert” and had completed all tasks within 10-12 minutes while waiting for an ambulance to arrive to transport the patient to the

LZ. Patient was transferred to Aeromed and taken to Sarasota Memorial Trauma Center. The Trauma Center Team said our personnel did an outstanding job and informed our Medical Director of this. This patient was discharged a week later to another facility for continued rehab care.

**March 11, 2020** – Last night staff and personnel from Southern Manatee attended the graduation ceremony for FF/Graduate Paramedic Ian Segneri and FF/Graduate Paramedic Kyle Brady. FF/Graduate Paramedic Kyle Brady was the first ever recipient of the “Anthony Martinez Award”. FF/Graduate Kyle Brady maintained a 99.8% GPA throughout this 13 month course and in addition to this GPA he constantly displayed outstanding traits of leadership, teamwork, positive attitude and outstanding feedback from his daily evaluations from all instructors involved in his training including outstanding reviews from the hospital staff and Sarasota County Fire Department preceptors.

Again, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District employees are constantly achieving awards that maintains this organization as a “World Class Fire Department” and places our organization at the top not only in this county but in our region and State.