



## 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:** August 20, 2020

**July 16<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – Our recently 6 State Certified Paramedic's finished the Paramedic Bridge class that Captain Thayer taught and I was able to get these six (6) scheduled to ride their precepting time at Sarasota County Fire Department and back into the Patient Simulation Lab at Suncoast Technical College for scenario testing. All of them are completed with this program and now working with Dr. Nonell in getting them ready for his final scenarios testing. We are still looking at the end of August or first of September to put our 2<sup>nd</sup> ALS Engine in service (Engine 341).

**July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020** – We successfully conducted our in-house first Advanced Life Support Class for all our Paramedics to get them all on the same renewal date going forward. Additionally, I was able to get Captain Thayer and Lieutenant Anderson to Instructor level by monitoring them while they taught some of this class as well as monitoring them during the testing portion. Both did a great job and now we have a total of 4 ACLS Instructors. American Heart Association allowed me to run this class in-house which saved the District thousands of dollars and the only cost is the \$7.50 per eCard.

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020** – Completed another Narcan grant for all the Fire District's in Manatee County and was approved. On August 11, I received 150 doses of Narcan and have begun getting this out to all Fire District's that need it. Cedar Hammock and Southern Manatee are still the biggest users of Narcan with Trailer Estates only used this medication 1 time in 3 years. We have been notified of a new type of drug which is a mixture of heroin, fentanyl and cocaine that was

being sold in the north states and was to be heading down to the southern states. Shortly after that notification, we had our first overdose of this and it took a total of 12 mgs of Narcan to restore the patient's respiratory system and I also learned that Sarasota Memorial had one as well that took even more Narcan and had to be put on a ventilator.

**July 20<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – Working back and forth between David Jackson's office and Sweet-Sparkman in getting their contract drafted and scope of work to be performed. David has promised me that he should have this contract ready by the end of this week, so we can begin negotiating the fee's and work to be performed.

**July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – Staff had a meeting with Mr. Charles Kaine from the Suncoast Blood Bank about scheduling a plasma drive for COVID-19. To donate plasma to help a seriously ill COVID-19 patient, the donor needs to have the COVID-19 antibodies in their blood. So, to begin this process, you must be tested, one tube a blood is drawn and if you test positive for the antibodies than potentially you could donate your plasma.

A positive antibody test result means a person likely had a COVID-19 infection and recovered, remember greater than 50% of the patients that are testing positive were without symptoms. This test does NOT test for current infection, it only tests for the antibody.

We had over 55 employees participate in this 3-day drive (August 10, 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>). The employee will be notified within 72 hours of their results and if they are positive and still want to donate plasma, then Suncoast Blood Bank schedules an appointment with them. If the antibody test result is negative, then this means most likely that you never had or have not developed antibodies to the COVID-19 infection and can not be used at this time.

Plasma therapy is one of few treatments that does seem to work on severely ill COVID-19 patients. Since my blood type is O + (universal donor), my plasma can be used on all blood type patients if my results come back as positive.

With what we know today about this virus and having 100 employees'; besides our two known positive cases, we figure we have more employee's that were exposed and never became sick and carry the antibodies.

**July 16<sup>th</sup> – August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – Continued work with staff over final FY21 budget preparation and the actual impact on residential and commercial parcels within our District.

**August 5, 2020** – The District was notified that we have been awarded the 2020 Assistance to Firefighting COVID-19 Supplement Grant from the Department of Homeland Security. This grant is for reimbursement of our expense for PPE and for new equipment. The amount approved was for \$49,222.29 of which our share will be around \$4474.82. Captain Bloski wrote this grant and on August 12 staff had a meeting to go over the reimbursement side of this grant, identifying what was submitted for reimbursement and to make the necessary copies for this grant.

Additionally, I have been working with Manatee Community Foundation and Chief Cacchiotti to get more money from them to offset the cost of personal protection equipment (PPE). So far they have given us over \$25,000.