

PALM BAY FIRE RESCUE NEWSLETTER



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Greetings from Fire Chief Richard E. Stover

Welcome to your Department of Fire Rescue's monthly newsletter. The intent of this newsletter is to highlight a small fraction of what is being accomplished within your department. It is my goal to keep everyone informed about not just what we are accomplishing, but where we are heading. If at any time, you would like to see something included, let me know. I will make every effort to include your suggestion in an upcoming newsletter. We are planning on including ongoing and upcoming projects, new station updates, promotions, fleet, retirements, awards, and upcoming events that you may find of interest. Please do not hesitate to provide your feedback so we can work to keep everyone in the loop.

Fire Prevention

Our Fire Prevention Division has been hard at work protecting our city's residences and visitors. They've been succeeding on safety benchmarks regarding Electric Vehicle fires and the special considerations they bring to health and safety. The Fire Prevention team has also started work on a Community Risk Assessment of the city and completed an ordinance to help further provide fire protection to new multi-family construction.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EQUIPMENT

We're excited to announce the acquisition of cutting-edge firefighting equipment for our newest Ladder Truck. The latest firefighting equipment has been ordered to outfit Ladder 7. This includes everything from A Life Pack Monitor that interprets ECG cardiac rhythms to a complete Battery-Operated Jaws of Life, and everything in between down to the last hose and axe. To further enhance our capabilities and preparedness, we are procuring an additional 14 Air Paks and 45 air bottles.

This addition ensures that we can conduct live training without equipment shortages and respond swiftly to emergencies, even during natural disasters like hurricanes, without compromising our mission right here in Palm Bay. Overall, the Department will soon see a total of 81 new SCBA units. This will properly equip all apparatus, provide spares, and provide SCBA units dedicated to our soon to be Training Division. Stay tuned for more on that topic!



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In the month of October, Logistics was able to purchase 14 brush coats to finish outfitting the rest of the department as well as 11 additional sets of bunker gear for new hires. Most recently, we purchased a Lifepak 15, Video Laryngoscope and a Lucas device from the undesignated fund balance council approved for us. This equipment will be used on Ladder 7 when it goes into service. With guidance of Chief Thomas, the new controlled substance tracking system was purchased and soon to be implemented in the field. This new tracking system will help us keep tighter security on our controlled substances as well as streamline our drug logs that are currently manually filled out. At the end of the last budget cycle, logistics was able to identify savings due to the updated list of consumables (items reimbursed by the county on a monthly basis) and purchased all Firefighters new structural gloves. These new gloves are much better quality and will prevent the need to constantly replace due to wear and tear, saving us money in the long run. These gloves were issued to the field this month with more to come in the future!



FACILITIES AND PLANNING

New carport overhangs for Stations 5 and 6 are currently in the permitting process. With the size of our fleet growing, it is vital we keep our apparatus covered and protect them from the elements. We have also replaced the carpet inside Station 3.

We have acquired iPads for all of our apparatus. I.T. is currently getting those devices loaded up with vital programs including Pre-Plans.



Public Education and Fire Prevention Month - Recap

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871. Palm Bay Fire Rescue always utilizes this opportunity to make all of October Fire Prevention Month so that we may spread the word about fire safety to our community. This fire prevention season has been our busiest to date! The men and women of Palm Bay Fire Rescue have spent over 530 personnel hours since early September, to educate people of all ages about the importance of fire safety. What an amazing accomplishment for those who have been a part of this massive campaign. We are so glad to have our firefighters impacting the community in such a wonderful way!

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - EMS INTERNS

Over the last few weeks, we have been working hard with city management to re-introduce EMT and Paramedic students from Eastern Florida State College into our fire stations to complete some of their state mandated pre-hospital ride hours. Part of the curriculum requires students to be part of a 911 emergency team, so that they may receive firsthand training on how to function as a first responder. This will allow students to get accustomed to working on the first apparatus, using the medical equipment, and experiencing the unique atmosphere of firehouse living. Alternatively, it gives those students an opportunity to see what it's like to be a part of the Palm Bay Fire Rescue team in hopes that it may one day lead them back, to join our ranks as they begin their fire careers. We hope to start seeing these students as soon as Spring of this year!

