

# PALM BAY FIRE RESCUE NEWSLETTER



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### HOLIDAY SEASON ROUND UP!

Palm Bay Fire Rescue went to great lengths again this year, to spread holiday cheer to those in our community. Starting with our annual Shop with a Firefighter, nearly 40 members showed up off duty to make Christmas a little brighter for some deserving children. Engine 5 delivered Mr. and Mrs. Clause to the Malabar Rd. Walmart to say hello and hand out some hugs and high-fives just before taking the kids on a Christmas shopping spree.

Additionally, all of the fire stations and fire trucks throughout the department received Christmas make-overs so that Palm Bay Fire Rescue could help usher in the holidays!

### TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, AND COOL STUFF!

Chief Furci and our Equipment Committee have been working diligently to satisfy the needs of our growing department and our city by capturing funds to facilitate the purchasing of important fire department equipment. With the hard work of the committee under Chief Furci's guidance, they have assured that Palm Bay Fire Rescue stays up to date, and relevant in today's fire service. Some of these acquisitions include new power tools and lights for Ladder 7, new 800 MHz pack-sets, personal thermal imaging cameras, updated appliances, and 7 complete sets of E-hydraulic extrication equipment. Training for most of these new items has already rolled out, and we project all items to be in service by early Spring!



## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

During calendar year 2023, Palm Bay Fire Rescue responded to 18,771 calls. This was a 4 % increase from 2022 when the department responded to 18,130 incidents. These 2023 numbers equate to an average of 51 calls per day, or 137 incidents per 1000-population. EMS events accounted for 62% of PBFR's calls for service (11,778). Of these 11,778 calls, 4,322 of them required emergency transport. All variables are gathered from data input on EHR/ESO reporting. Furthermore, there were over 2300 ALS calls recorded, and 97 times, Palm Bay Fire Rescue provided staffing to BCPR ambulances for continued critical care.

Fire incidents occurred at a steady rate of 1 per day and has maintained the same cadence throughout the last 7 years. In some years, fire incidents were greater due to high brush fire volume. The average time on scene for 2023 equates to 250 staff-hours, and our firefighting efforts have saved Palm Bay residences an estimated \$37,705,765 in property value. 65% of all incidents occurred during the 7am-7pm window at an average of 2 calls per hours. Thursdays were our highest call volume days (2,825). Lastly, our consumables program has saved the department nearly \$22,000! Well done everyone and thank you for all of your hard work!





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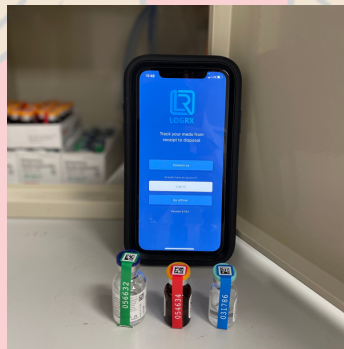
Since September, the Resource Management Chief started tracking all the Public Relation's events that Palm Bay Fire Rescue personnel have been involved in. As we make a push to better solidify our connection to the community and its people, we can enthusiastically report that this has been the busiest PR quarter (Oct 1 - Dec 31) in the History of Palm Bay Fire Rescue. It is no mystery how important it is that the fire department maintain a close relationship with the citizens of our city for a multitude of reasons. We understand it makes for some busier shifts however, especially while maintaining daily operations and training. So please except your command staff's sincere appreciation for all your hard work! Job Well Done!

**PUBLIC  
Relations**

Tours Completed - (Schools, Day Cares, Special Events, Camps) = 66  
Total Hours - (Average of 5 members per tour and 2.5 hours per event) = 770  
Total Touches - (People who we physically reached) = ~5,735

## FACILITIES TRAINING

Starting this month, all crews will be cycling into our training facility at Station 5, to begin engine company evolutions focusing on single family homes. The scenarios will multiply in complexity each month. The training will conclude in March with a live fire scenario that will test our crews on everything learned over the prior sessions. The training will pick up again in October where the focus will be multi-family and/or commercial emergencies. Once again, concluding with live fire training. Palm Bay Fire Rescue will be utilizing our own team of Live Fire Training Instructors to conduct the live burns.



## EMS UPDATES

With the approval of our medical director and EMS committee, Palm Bay Fire Rescue will be adding several new medications to our loadouts. Mag-Sulfate, Cardizem, Tranexamic Acid (TXA), Atrovent, Zofran, Solu-Medrol, and Glucagon. Once purchased, we will be working with our medical director to roll out new training while updating our department protocols. This will allow paramedics to deliver additional advanced care to sick and injured patients, without having to wait for the arrival of another agency. Additionally, these items are on the Brevard consumables list, so there is very little up-keep charge to maintain these medications after use. We are also very happy to report that our controlled substances tracking and inventory program is live and is working seamlessly to ensure accuracy & accountability of these meds.

## THINGS TO EXPECT IN 2024

2024 is already shaping up to be an exciting year for Palm Bay Fire Rescue and its members. The command staff and logistics division have been looking ahead to meet the needs of our department. Here are some things to look forward to ...

- Construction to begin on Station 7
- 20-Year service leather helmets
- 3 New Squads projected
- Drug Safes that will eliminate the need to carry keys
- Standalone training division
- New mattresses for all beds in all stations
- Promotional testing for all ranks
- Asset tracking system for inventory control
- 10-15 New Firefighters
- New furniture for Station 1
- Community Medic Program
- New firefighting gloves
- EMS Bike Team
- SCBA Mask Identifiers
- New District Vehicles

And so much more! Stay Tuned and Stay Safe! Happy New Year!

