



PALM BAY FIRE RESCUE NEWSLETTER



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Since our swearing in ceremony back in October, the department has promoted 6 members to new ranks.

Alex Barna / District Chief
Benjamin Lamb / District Chief
Chris Bousquet / Lieutenant
Kevin Plunkett / Lieutenant
Steve Worthington / Driver Engineer
Jospeh Hanstein / Driver Engineer



A healthy congratulations also goes out to Joseph Hanstein as he was awarded Firefighter of the Year by the Space Coast Fire Chiefs Association



In anticipation of the growing demands of the city and the department, Palm Bay Fire Rescue interviewed 34 potential firefighter new hires, in late February. We hope to see the conclusion of this process wrap up by the end of the March. The goal is to hire 15 immediately so we can begin to upstaff for Station 7 and fill some necessary vacancies. We will be running an 8-week cadet style academy, as they learn the "Palm Bay Way". In addition to the bolstering of our staffing profile, our Fire Chief has been given a seat on the Development Review Board for the city, in which he has input on important topics that will benefit our fire department looking ahead. Furthermore, we have met with 3 business developers in hopes that new stations can be built ahead of, or in concert with, new construction going forward.

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Last month, we teamed up with other department members from the city to participate in Literacy Week over at Jupiter Elementary. The 7 of us traveled around the school to different classrooms, and grade levels, reading to the students while delivering a positive message about reading and education. Assistant Chief John Ringleb also



took the opportunity to talk about the fire department and answer questions about our amazing job! Additionally, we spent a lot of time at City Church Space Coast back in February as we took part in their Night to Shine event, followed up a few days later with a touch the truck event for their Preschoolers. We had a wonderful time and we can't wait to come back!



FACILITIES TRAINING

March will be our final month of Facilities training for the first half of the year. February training consisted of crews working on search and rescue, deploying, and working off of ground ladders, and victim removal from a second-floor window. The training committee met prior to the February drills and decided that a safety officer would need to be on site for all exercises to ensure a good measure of safety. We appreciate those members who stepped up to fill that role. For March, as we conclude the facilities training, we will be focusing on multi-company drills, while adding fire and smokey conditions to the evolutions. After March, we will have fulfilled 50% of our required ISO Facilities Training for 2024.



LOGISTICS UPDATE

Our Logistics division has been very busy since the start of 2024. As we prepare to bring in 15 new hires, Logistics needs to make sure each of them are outfitted with bunker gear, uniforms, and all things in between. Another logistics project that is nearing completion are the 20-year leather helmets, and the acquisition of brand-new Conway leather shields.

CAR SEAT TECHS

The department has sponsored 5 of our members to attend the National Child Passenger Safety program. This program allows those trained to be technicians and instructors. CPS Techs will put their knowledge to work by conducting child safety seat checks where parents and caregivers receive hands on assistance for proper use of child restraint systems and safety belts. PBFR will soon have the unique ability to sponsor installations and provide training on child restraint systems so that we may offer another layer of safety and education to the community.

OTHER DEPARTMENT NEWS AND UPDATES

We are excited to announce that the Training Division has now become operational, with the promotion of Benjamin Lamb. He will fill the vital role of a Training District Chief, so we can begin to build the division into something substantial. We have big plans for the development of this group, as we all understand the importance of training and preparation in our line of work.

Training and deployment of the brand new L3Harris 800 MHz pack sets are now complete. LT St. Pierre and FF Klasek spent several days preparing the new radios and distributing the training and information. All new radios are currently in use.

Later this month, we are teaming up with our City Manager to present a couple of citizen recognitions in the form of city proclamations, to 2 members of our community for their exceptional work and going above and beyond to help others. Follow our social medias for more!

Adjustments to our department protocols are nearly complete. All new medications have been received and we are nearing deployment. Dr. Dudley has provided us with the vital information needed to use the medications successfully. We will align the training and education of our new meds with the department wide ACLS training on March 21st.

