

# PALM BAY FIRE RESCUE NEWSLETTER



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- April Brush Fires heat things up across the city
- New Promotions and Positions
- 20-Year Leather Helmets and shields are in
- 12 New hires have started
- May and Mental Health
- Summer Swim and Water Safety initiative
- Training for the next generation of DE's and LT's
- Happy Mother's Day!



Last month, Palm Bay Fire Rescue responded to a sizable number of brush fires. Hundreds of acres burned in April, causing PBFR to stretch its resources to mitigate all the fires, while still providing first response coverage to the rest of the city. During these fires, we called upon several agencies to aid us in our fight against these blazes. The estimated property value that was in jeopardy during these fires exceeded 8 million dollars. We are happy to report that there was no loss of life, no homes lost, and no injuries, with the estimated property damage to be less than \$100,000.



Last month, Palm Bay Fire Rescue brought on 12 new hires, to start their journey with our department. The new hire process will be 8 long weeks of orientation that will include a myriad of different training topics and objectives. The recruit class is being managed by our brand new, and fully functioning Training Division. Battalion Chief Lamb, Lieutenant Bliss, Driver Engineer Hanstein, and Fire Medic Almeida have been putting in the long hours to make sure this new hire class is the best we've fostered in years. The goal is to give these 12 men an academy style class that incorporates physical fitness and agility evaluations, fireground operations, hose deployment, forcible entry and most importantly, teamwork. We are very excited and fortunate, to have them aboard!



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We are always excited to announce promotions as it signifies the growth and development of our firefighters, solidifying the future of our department. Congratulations to all of you on your hard work and latest achievements!

Brandon McKee / Assistant Chief  
Tyler Richmond / Battalion Chief  
Randy Rosseau / Driver Engineer  
Robert McCarthy / Driver Engineer

We are also happy to announce the creation of our new community outreach position.

Valerie Baptiste / Life Safety Outreach Coordinator



## MAY IS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

May is mental health awareness month. The fire service has made great strides to connect its members to mental health services, as the growing concern for mental safety becomes more prominent each year. Our team of peer support members is starting to grow, as we understand the need for support is swelling in our profession. UCF Restores will be visiting our department in July to provide Awareness level training to a handful of our firefighters and staff members. Palm Bay Fire Rescue wants to be able to provide a level of assistance to any firefighter regardless of the reason or the degree. We are also placing a large emphasis on chaplaincy as an added layer of care and support. We are very proud to see the care and effort that is being placed into this initiative, and none of it would be possible without the devotion of those who see value in each other's safety.



## WATER SAFETY

Palm Bay Fire Rescue is teaming up with local swim safety advocates, to educate the members of our community, on the importance of water safety. We found this program to be of profound importance since there are a growing number of water accidents each year. As we head into the summer months, we wanted to everyone to know simple swim tips and safety around the water as an added level of prevention to the Palm Bay Community. Stay Tuned for more!



## LOGISTICS UPDATE

The 20 Year leather helmets are in! These helmets are a "thank you" from the city and department for those continued years of selfless service to the city and the community. It is a tradition we hope to see continue, awarding every firefighter, regardless of rank, a new leather helmet upon their completion of 20 years of service.

## OTHER DEPARTMENT NEWS AND UPDATES

The Training Division is firing on all cylinders. It was a process to get here, but with the guidance and support of the command staff and city management, the division is now thriving. Not only are they tasked with developing the I2 new hires and preparing them for their career with Palm Bay Fire Rescue, but they are also getting the next round of promotional candidates prepped for their exams. Each member that has entered the promotional process must complete a task book prior to their exam. This adds an extra layer of education, preparation, and personal accountability to each person's process. The are 30 people currently in the promotional portal. Thus, our All-Star Training Division is staying very busy!

Brand new drug safes have arrived. These safes will eliminate the need for keys to be carried any longer, while adding an extra layer of security to our controlled medications. R and D on the installation of these safes are underway as we hope to put them to use in the very near future!

Palm Bay Fire Rescue wants to wish all of our Fire-Moms a well-deserved Happy Mother's Day. We also don't want to forget all the Fire-Wives and Moms that hold down the fort at home, when their significant other's leave for their shift. We realize it is hard to be away from loved ones so please accept our gratitude for all of the hard work and personal sacrifices you make. We hope you have a safe and wonderful Mother's Day!

