



# AFTER ACTION REVIEW

The official newsletter for Clearwater, Florida Fire & Rescue

Winter 2011



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## Morris Named Top Paramedic



**FM** Fred Morris shows exemplary performance on critical incidents and is committed to delivering exceptional medical care to the citizens (patients) he serves. Morris maintains a positive attitude and desires to excel. He is an excellent role model and mentor for new medics, sharing his knowledge and experience. He has played an intricate role in setting the standard for excellence in emergency medical services. Morris was recognized and presented the Turner Award for Excellence on Nov. 18.

## Awards Ceremony Includes Firefighter of the Year

**D**river Operator Christian Schuele was awarded Firefighter of the Year honors at the Dec. 9 ceremony held at Station 48. While many people speak of their accomplishments, Schuele's actions speak for themselves. His impressive accomplishments in a single year, along with his positive attitude, tenacity, and dedication to the Department earned him the distinction.

During the past year he was promoted to the position of Driver Operator. In addition, he completed the 160-hour Technical Rescue Training Curriculum and received his Tech Rescue certification. The certification allowed him to join the Department's and the County's Technical Rescue Team. He also obtained his Instructor III and Live Fire Training Instructor certifications with the state. He was instrumental in the success of the Fit4Duty program, giving a presentation on nutrition, and instructing fellow personnel during the workout session. In the Fall, when the Training Bureau needed assistance, he again volunteered



*Colleagues congratulate DO Schuele as he steps forward to accept the Firefighter of the Year Award. Paramedic of the Year Fred Morris applauds at right.*

**See Honors, next page**



## More Front Page News

### Swartz Named October Safe Firefighter



In October, Hale's Safe Firefighter of the Month Award went to Doug Swartz,

Clearwater's Assistant Chief of Health and Safety. Swartz was recognized for his outstanding contribution to CFR's safety initiatives and programs.

"I have a small role in providing input and opportunity to create a safe working environment for our crews," said Swartz. "We hope to continue to provide innovative ways to carry out our mission and insure that everyone goes home."

The nine-year CFR veteran heads the Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Committee that reviews incidents, equipment safety and department procedures. He was recognized for his peer fitness team, which focuses on firefighter health and wellness by

educating members on nutrition and fitness. He also initiated the Accident Review Committee, a four-person accident review board that addresses preventable problems.

Swartz developed several CFR policies, including the Infection Control Plan that teaches firefighters how to reduce the risks of infection they may be exposed to on the job. He also started the department's volunteer Honor Guard program, which helps care for families of fallen firefighters

When asked what key piece of advice he would like to share with firefighters around the world, Asst. Chief Swartz said, "Don't be afraid to speak up and challenge tradition. If the system isn't working for you, change it. There is always room for improvement."

Hale's "Safe Firefighter of the Month" recognition program helps fire companies stay focused on the importance of Life Safety Initiatives and honor those individuals who lead their peers in a commitment to safety.

#### HONORS, from previous page

his time to help teach the new standard on Rapid Intervention Crew Training.

Other firefighters were also recognized at the ceremony including Paramedic of the Year Fred Morris (see article at left).

Thomas Knobl received the Exceptional Service Award and the Fire Chief's Award for Distinguished Service went to Jeff Roberts and Douglas Kellin.

Commendations for Service were received by the following firefighters: Patrick Conrey, Mike Dellavolpe, Kevin White, Gary Spence, Anthony Tedesco, Douglas Kellin, Jeff Roberts, Sergio Alexandre, Jon Lopez, Robert Tellone, Thomas Allegretti, Absolom Young, Kris Familiari, Heath Brenner, Jennifer Terrell, Bradley Golomb, Keith Shive, Michael Hutto and Steve Lannon.

### FM Wing Returns from Afghanistan

Fire Medic Mark Wing rejoined us earlier this year after a six month deployment in Afghanistan. Master Sergeant Wing is in the Air Force reserves and served as the Deputy Fire Chief for Crash Fire Rescue Quick Response Strike Team. The team provided support in high-risk areas for crash fire rescue and performed hundreds of hours of hazardous

standby to protect United States and Coalition aircrafts.

Despite the language barrier, Wing helped start the first Fire Academy in Kabul. In Mazar-e-Sharif, he provided academic and hands on training in Air Force and Army aircraft to 25 German firefighters. Wing was awarded a

Commendation Medal for his achievements.

Wing says he's happy to be back with his family: his wife Kim, daughter Jady, and son Gavin.



## Letter from The Interim Chief

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As you are aware, we now find our organization in a transitional period. However, I am confident that we will move on with professionalism and integrity that helped build CFD's reputation as the leading fire service in Pinellas County. As we keep our eyes on that mission and duty, I look forward to serving as your Interim Chief and working with each one of you.

### Updates to Some Department Projects:

**Facilities** - The crews moved into their newly renovated Station 48 with little to no hurdles. Thank you to Chief Strong, Stan, and Chief Stasiowski and his move-in team for making the transition from Range Road back to Belcher a smooth one. Station 45 renovation is still under council consideration. Further information will be forthcoming when it is available.

**Apparatus** – The council approved the purchase of two new engines, which we anticipate receiving in May 2012. The new rescue unit should be delivered in March 2012.

**Budget** – We've made some cutbacks in the department in order to meet our approved city budget which included another decrease in county funding. R50 was taken out of service on Oct. 1. S49 has transferred to S51. Supplies are being monitored on a weekly basis due to limited purchasing. I think we've successfully accomplished our budget goal without affecting service to the community. I encourage you to watch the city council sessions (with supervisor approval if on duty) to keep abreast of proposals and approvals of agenda items that may affect the department.

**Events** – Fire Prevention Week feedback was very positive from citizens and staff. Thank you to C-shift at Station 48 for making this event successful. The annual employee recognition ceremony Dec. 9 was also a great success. Congratulations to DO Christian Schele on his Firefighter of the Year award.

As the year winds down, I'd like to thank all of you for your hard work and making a conscientious effort to instill safety in the stations and on your crews this year.

Thanks and stay safe,

**Interim Fire Chief Robert Weiss**

## Photo Essays

# October Expo Raises Fire Safety Awareness

## Clearwater Firefighters Promote Importance of Smoke Alarms

By James Keller, Fire Inspector II

The 2010 Fire Expo was a great success. More than 300 people stopped by the Clearwater Fire display inside the mall, and picked up information concerning smoke alarms and fire safety from Fire Inspector's Chuck Tomoff and James Keller. Sparky the Fire dog was on hand to delight children and there were lots of smiles and giveaways to take home.

Families were able to get a first-hand look at many of the different types of fire trucks and equipment which was on display in the Westfield Mall parking area. Several of the surrounding communities participated in this annual event for Fire Prevention. The Fire Departments from Northern Pinellas County were well represented.



## Photo Essays

# Open House Fun, Popular for Families

## Station 48 Hosts Activities

By Chuck Tomoff, Fire Inspector II



On Saturday, Oct. 9, Station 48 hosted CFD's annual open house. There were approximately 160 people who attended. Lt. Wargin, Lt. Williams and their crews did an excellent job of setting up different stations for public participation activities. The stations included: Spare gear to don; a firehose to spray and a room with fake smoke. A smoke alarm was constantly sounding in the smoke-filled room so kids and their

parents could see what it was like to get low and exit the building in a real emergency. Kids were also allowed to take on the role of a firefighter and help rescue a victim. In the station's classroom, a PowerPoint presentation included department photos of staff in action. Tables were filled with giveaways including coloring books, pencils, balloons, stickers, red plastic fire helmets and other items.

There was also literature for adults

including a smoke alarm program brochure. Attendees also had paramedics check their blood pressure. Engine 48, Truck 48 and Rescue 48 were also set up for public viewing in front of the training towers and tours of the fire station and training building were offered.

Facilitating staff for the event included Inspector Schultz, Inspector Anderson and Inspector Tomoff.

## Photo Essays

# Firefighters Mix Well With Water

## Divers Complete Complete Confidence Course Training



**D**ivers completed the training and confidence course in October. The course is designed to give newer divers an understanding of the challenges inherent in public safety diving.

Public safety diving generally consists of vehicle and body recovery, evidence search for law enforcement, and assisting the Coast Guard in multiple operations. The majority of the dives are conducted in retention ponds, lakes, and rivers with virtually zero visibility.

First the divers were trained with good visibility on all aspects of the course: underwater orientation, entanglement hazards, diver assist rescue, confined space search, body retrieval and recovery, and lifting operations. Once divers became comfortable with these tasks, they conduct the same exercises in a completely blacked-out environment. This gives them realistic training for the kind of environment they will face on callouts.



## Photo Essays

# Working in Combat Conditions

## Tactical EMS School Tests Firefighters



**C**learwater Fire & Rescue SWAT Medics and partnering agencies conducted a four-day Tactical EMS School in August. In an active shooter simulation, medics treated patients in hostile environments. Situations such as active shootings and other SWAT callouts require medics to remain calm and focused while performing life-saving care in a stressful environment.

The class implemented new tactical protocols, Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC). Adopted by Pinellas County, TCCC is used by the military in hostile environments and is currently being used by soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.



## Employee News

### Service Awards

**5 Years** Benjamin McBride  
Bradley Keating  
Christopher Hannigan  
Christopher Maine  
Christopher Van OpDorp  
Craig Krueger  
Fred Morris  
Jason Matthews  
Jason Thibault  
Jean-Pierre Medani  
Jeff Roberts  
Jerry Bittner  
Jose Fernandez  
Joseph Kraus  
Lenny Rickard  
Mauricio Perdigon  
Nathaniel Brooks  
Randall Bingham  
Robert Hansen  
Robert Weiss  
Rosanne Lacey  
Shawn Lawrentz  
Steven Lannon  
Steven Strong  
Thomas Knobl  
Timothy Smith  
Vincent Supernor

**10 Years** Alex Monte  
Christopher Hoyne  
Kevin Boaden  
Marty Moran  
Michael Hendry  
Paul Capo  
Patrick Conrey  
Peter Georgantas  
Scott McGrail  
William Muniz

**15 Years** Al Hinson  
Charles Gibson  
Glenn Witko  
Trevor Murray  
William Fry

**20 Years** Bradley Golomb  
David Bryan  
Harry Williams  
Jerry Howell  
Keith Shive  
Mark Anyon

**30 Years** Thomas Allegretti  
Virginia Costa

### Promotions

#### December 2009

Christopher Johnson to Fire Medic  
Kyle Mueller to Fire Medic

#### July 2010

Trevor Murray to Fire Medic

#### September 2010

Rosanne Lacey to Personnel Payroll  
Technician

#### October 2010

Anthony Sammartano to Fire  
Medic Lieutenant  
Kris Familiari to Lieutenant  
Mark Smyth to Lieutenant  
Christian Schuele to Drive Operator

### Retirements

Lt. Norman Jernigan, Aug. 25  
Lt. James Thomas, Aug. 28  
Personnel Payroll Technician  
Virginia Costa, Oct. 1  
Lt. Jerry Howell, Disability  
Retirement, Nov. 18

### Reclassifications

From Fire Medic to Driver  
Operator:  
Jason Thibault  
Nathan Brooks  
Sean Becker  
Shawn Lawrentz  
Thomas Knobl  
Timothy Smith

### Births

**FM Greg Keane and wife  
Rachael**, a son, Grant Michael,  
July 12, 8 lbs., 4 oz., 21 inches

**Lt. Jevon Graham and wife  
Keesha**, a son, Jaxon Christopher,  
Aug. 5, 9 lbs., 2 oz., 21 inches

**FM Jerome Mourelatos**, a son,  
Benjamin Robert, Sept. 4, 2 lbs.,  
11 oz.

**FF Sean Premo and wife  
Danielle**, a son, Caleb  
Anthony Michael, Oct. 6, 6 lbs.,  
4 oz., 20 inches

**FM Christopher VanOpdorp and  
wife Heather**, a son Cody Michael,  
Dec 11, 7 lbs., 11 oz., 20 inches

**FF Sean Premo and wife  
Danielle**, a son, Caleb  
Anthony Michael, Oct. 6, 6 lbs.,  
4 oz., 20 inches

**FM Blaise Sciarra and wife  
Kristen**, a son, Blaise IV, Dec. 15,  
7 lbs., 12 oz., and 20 inches

### Sympathy

To friends, family and former  
colleagues of **Firefighter  
Robert L. Housholder (ret.)**,  
who passed away July 24.  
Housholder served with CFD  
from 1973 to 2002.

To **Fire Lieutenant Scott Shore** on  
the loss of his mother this past  
September.

To **Lieutenant Tom Allegretti** on  
the loss of his father.

To **Administrative Support  
Manager Marty Moran** on the  
loss of his mother this past  
September.

To **Chris Hoyne** on the loss of his  
mother

To **Ruben Hernandez** on the loss  
of his father

### Career Milestones

Congratulations to **Inspectors  
Keller and Tomoff** who received  
their CFEL certifications

News in Brief

# Color Guard Dresses Up a Bucs Game

Seven members of the Clearwater Fire & Rescue Honor Guard presented colors for the National Anthem at the October 17th's Bucs home game against the New Orleans Saints. This is the third year the Honor Guard has participated in this duty.



## Boo Bash: Halloween 2010



## News in Brief

# Fire Services Fascinate Citizens Academy

**O**n Sept. 29 the Department held its annual citizens academy presentation for Clearwater 101 candidates. Nineteen individuals were taking part in the ten-week program to learn about city operations and visit key departments throughout the city. Each year, Clearwater 101, an eclectic group, comes to the class with a desire to learn more about how their municipal government works, often with an eye toward serving on a city board or running for public office.

Each city department is assigned an evening to host the group and explain the many facets of its activities. The Fire Department's

presentation is always a standout, with staff including the history of the department, descriptions of each station, a visit to a fire station and discussions of personnel, call volume, training, budget issues, chain of command, and special teams, among other topics.

This year the program included a visit to Station 48. The crew at 48 C Shift did an excellent job of explaining their duties, equipment, providing a tour of the station, and giving the citizens academy candidates some insight into life in a firehouse.



As always the feedback was completely positive. Common comments include "we had no idea the fire department did so much." As in past years the entire group left with a new understanding of how the fire department operates, how their tax dollars are being spent, and how we, as firefighters serve them. This year's Citizen's Academy class graduated in mid-November.

## Crew Wears Pink for Cancer Awareness



**Y**ou never expect to find firefighters doing their jobs wearing pink, but the crew from Station 51 had a good reason to do just that October 25, 26 and 27: to raise breast cancer awareness and support the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Lt. Steve Smith reported that the shirts had the desired effect. "We received many compliments and some questions on why we were wearing them. While (we were) shopping at Walmart, a customer told me that when she saw us wearing the pink t-shirts, it struck her kind of funny seeing firemen wearing that color. Then she read the back of our shirts, and it reminded her to make an appointment at the doctor for a mammogram. I hope we can do this every year."

# A Note from the Executive Editor

Elizabeth Watts, Public Safety PIO

If you have a story to share or ideas for articles, please send me an email: [elizabeth.daly-watts@myclearwater.com](mailto:elizabeth.daly-watts@myclearwater.com). And don't forget your photos! I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions for upcoming issues. Keep up the good work and be safe!

## After Action Review Contributions

### Executive Editor

Elizabeth Watts

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### Associate Editors

Denise Balog

Veronica Josef

Diane Devol

Veronica Lacey



## Miscellany



### Future Firefighter?

Jadyn Watts, daughter of PIO Elizabeth Watts gets a little advice from Sparky the Fire Dog at this year's Fire Expo at Clearwater Countryside Mall.