



AFTER ACTION REVIEW

The official newsletter for Clearwater, Florida **Fire & Rescue**

First Quarter 2008

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Courtesy: Clearwater Marine Aquarium

A Unique Relationship: CFR & CMA

By Lt. Steve Smith

Recently crews from FS 46 appeared in the Clearwater Marine Aquarium's first feature film to showcase their new wide screen theater. The debut was the Aquarium's way of showing appreciation for all that we've done

over the years. To understand the unique relationship, let's look back.

A couple of years ago, Station 46 crews (all three shifts) took turns assisting in holding a sick dolphin in order for medication to be administered into his diseased eye. That dolphin has since made a full recovery. What a great experience!

Last September, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium asked our crew at Station 48 to assist with relocating a 500-gallon aquarium tank from a residence in our district to the Aquarium.

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This newsletter is optimized for viewing on a computer. Try to reduce your paper consumption.

A Unique Relationship

It took eight people to carry it to their delivery truck. Once it was loaded, I called upon Lt. Wilt and his crew at Station 46 to help unload the tank at the Aquarium.

Late last year, David Yates, the Director of the Aquarium, approached me about using an Engine Company to be used in their feature film, which highlights the work they do at the Aquarium. The ball began rolling from there.

The video depicts our crew checking out their medical equipment and responding quickly when they get a call. It compares our fire company with the medical staff at the Aquarium. Just like us, when they get a call... they go.

The video's main feature is their most known resident Winter, the only dolphin with a prosthetic tail. Winter's story has been covered by local and national media and is now known worldwide. It has also been inspiring for amputees, especially children.

The theater ribbon cutting took place on December 14th. Mayor Hibbard, Fire Chief Geer, City Council members, and other local dignitaries attended. During the ceremony, the Aquarium's director again thanked Clearwater Fire & Rescue for our continued support.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Lt. Wilt and his crew at Station 46 C-shift for helping out. Once again, our Department stood out and now all visitors to the Aquarium from around the world will see us in action. You too should take the time and visit their new attraction and see Winter. You won't regret it!



(Top) Fire Crews work with a dolphin at CMA

(Above and Below) CMA Dolphin Show

(Below Left) Winter



Division Updates

Operations

By Division Chief Richard Riley

The last quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008 will prove to be very busy for the Operations Division. We have updated the PPE SOP, which includes distribution of personal flashlights, for each member of the department. These will take the place of the SCBA lights that we currently carry. Along with that SOP we are currently retro fitting the current PPE to handle the addition of the personal escape systems that the department will be trained on in this quarter. Some minor preventive measures are also being added to the PPE to reduce wear and tear on the ensemble. We will be reviewing all operational SOP's this year and will be looking for input from an array of employees.

The new high-rise pack hose are now at the stations. The SOP for the proper racking and carrying of this pack will be coming very soon. This SOP also includes the standard for the equipment to be carried in the high-rise bag. With some of our current older structures and a few of the newer constructed buildings we have had to purchase new devices and remove some older equipment. I greatly appreciate the Lieutenants that have responded to questions concerning our operations. It certainly has been well received and an equal balance has been found. I know that change is hard but we have been making great strides. We are certainly not experiencing some of the fireground problems that other departments have in Pinellas County. This can be attributed to our SOP changes and our great fire officers and firefighters. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Fire Prevention

By Division Chief Steve Strong

With the start of the New Year, it seems fitting to reintroduce the Fire Prevention Division personnel after the changes that have occurred over the last year. The Inspection Bureau includes Fire Inspector II's Jerry Bittner, Wayne Butler, Chuck Tomoff and Fire Prevention Inspector Duanne Anderson. They handle inspections of existing business, Public and Private Schools, License Inspections of Day Care Centers, Adult Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, Foster Homes and Group Homes. They also handle all the complaints from the public and any concerns that may arise from the Operations Division.

Fire Inspector II's Jim Keller and Ed Schultz man our Construction Services Bureau. They conduct plans review and inspections of all new projects. They also attend meetings with developers and contractors in coordination with other city entities to ensure a safe transition throughout the building process. Some of the projects they work on are months or years in the planning and development stage before ground is even broken.

Fire Investigations are conducted by an on-call staff of three: Fire Inspector II's, Jerry Bittner, Ed Schultz and Jim Keller. All Inspectors in the Division also work special events and operate as Safety Officers at any Fireworks displays that are put on.

Bobbie Eigenmann is the division's staff assistant. As part of her duties she inputs inspection and emergency contact information into the County 911 computer system.

Support Services

By Division Chief Robert Weiss

Support Services continues to be heavily involved with the construction of the new training facility on Belcher Road. The new burn building was delivered on December 17th and the new supply building was delivered the following.

Plans for the renovation of Fire Station 48 are also underway. We are reviewing the preliminary design and hope to have the plans finalized sometime this month. We will coordinate the actual construction to coincide with the completion of the training facility project.

The order has been placed and the new fire boat will be delivered in late February or early March. We are also ordering a new SCBA fill station that will be trailer mounted. We are also in the process of writing the specifications for a new Rescue Transport Vehicle to be purchased after the 1st of the year. The Logistics, Finance, and Health and Safety Bureau all look forward to a very busy and productive 2008.

News in Brief

USFA



U.S. Fire
Administration

Getting Involved

by Deputy Fire Chief Robert Dubé

One of the hallmarks of a growing and effective organization is their commitment to exploring outside educational opportunities. During the past four years, Clearwater Fire & Rescue has been committed to allowing our personnel to avail themselves of these opportunities. Eleven of our future leaders have attended courses at the National Fire Academy and 53 of our employees have attended training at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, the Firehouse expo in Baltimore, Maryland and the Florida Fire Service Conference (Fire Rescue East) in Jacksonville. These opportunities allow our personnel to observe best practices nationwide and bring back to Clearwater some of these processes to ensure we remain on the cutting edge of emergency services delivery.

Our Department's senior staff has been involved locally, statewide and nationally through the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs association, the Florida Fire Chiefs association and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Recently, I have been fortunate in

being elected to the board of directors for the health, safety and survival section for the IAFC. In this venue, I am also now serving as a committee member on the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) firefighter survival course development. The IAFF is developing and will deliver firefighter survival training in the same manner as their well-received hazardous material training is done currently. We have met once at the IAFF headquarters in Washington, DC and will be conducting a follow-up meeting in February. This course will adopt some methods and skills check sheets currently in use in Clearwater and our department will hopefully be one of the test sites to validate this important training initiative by the IAFF. This opportunity allows for our department to maintain the forward thinking and cutting edge philosophy that all good fire departments have.

All members of our department should pursue attendance at one of the listed conferences, opportunities are advertised through the training bureau and the department will ensure your costs are covered; all you have to do is attend. You will not get a better opportunity to learn from the best the fire service has to offer and bring back that knowledge to make us better.



Cones=Awareness

by Lt. Bill Wargin

They're big and they're noticeable, but that may not be enough. When parking emergency vehicles on the side of the road in a non-emergency situation, check to see if a portion of the vehicle is protruding into the roadway. If it is, you should consider placing cones out to alert drivers that a shift in traffic may be needed to get by.

Also, when it's necessary to park emergency vehicles in the road, try putting cones out to let drivers know your vehicle is stationary. Do a quick safety assessment and use your discretion. Not every situation is the same and not every situation will require cones.

Stay Safe,
The Safety Committee

Awards

Firefighter of the Year



It's the department's highest honor... a title held by only one person each year. Driver Operator Patrick Conrey was named the department's "Firefighter of the Year" for his commitment and dedication to the department and the citizens of Clearwater, as well as his compassion for people in general. He was recognized at the department's quarterly Employee Recognition Ceremony on Friday, December 8, 2007.

Conrey is involved in several aspects of the department's operations, including the Technical Rescue Team and Marine Response Team. Both require an additional commitment to training. Conrey is also a member of the department's Honor Guard.

Conrey helps raise awareness and donations for the MDA, having coordinated several fundraising efforts over the past few years. In his spare time, he's training for a marathon, which he will run in full bunker gear, to raise money for the family of a fallen Cincinnati Firefighter.

Conrey began his career with the department in 2000 and was promoted to Driver Operator in 2005. He's currently assigned as Driver Operator of Truck 48 at the Belcher Road Fire Station. Congratulations Patrick!

2007 Turner Award for Excellence



Clearwater Fire & Rescue Fire Medics Monica Juarbe and Jason Matthews received the 31st Annual Turner Award for Excellence for their exemplary performance in 2007. FM Juarbe is described as the "most improved" employee in the department. Prior to her employment with the department, Juarbe had no EMS experience. Her hard work and extra effort has helped her increase her EMS skills to meet and exceed department standards.

Fire Medic Matthews is described as an excellent medic, going above and beyond in the area of patient care. On several occasions, Matthew's decisions and skills have made life-saving outcomes for his patients.

"We are extremely proud of Fire Medics Juarbe and Matthews' dedication and commitment to Clearwater Fire and Rescue's professional standard of care," said Fire Chief Jamie Geer.

The Turner Award was established in 1977 to acknowledge the daily service Clearwater Fire & Rescue provides to citizens. It recognizes Fire Medics who best exemplify Emergency Medical Service professionalism. Congratulations Monica and Jason!

Awards

Unit Citation: Water Rescue

By Assistant Chief of Special Operations Kent Watts

Last September, units were dispatched to a water rescue for a jumper on the Bayside Bridge. After some time searching, the operation changed from rescue to one of recovery. The jumper's body was located by the dive team and brought back to shore.

At the time of the incident, conditions on Tampa Bay were abysmal. There was a strong wind, a swift current, heavy wave conditions and a small craft advisory in place. The crews who responded to this incident were awarded a Unit Citation for their exceptional skill and finesse in safe operation of their equipment under arduous circumstances.

In addition, multiple jurisdictions responded and events unfolded rapidly and unexpectedly. The crews' ability to quickly implement the deployment of specialized equipment and resources was impressive. CFD personnel remained focused on their task: they adapted to the changes, making on the fly adjustments to meet changing situational requirements. When the incident changed from rescue to recovery, they quickly made the modifications necessary to integrate the divers into the incident, all the while maintaining the safety of all of the personnel involved. The divers were organized, capable, and prepared. They recovered the body in less than four minutes.

The way that the personnel were able to function as a team is an outstanding example of how these operations should be performed. They were proficient, prepared and flexible: they adapted and persevered. They presented a strong positive image of the Clearwater Fire Department during a high visibility, multi-jurisdictional incident and should be highly commended for their professionalism and skill.

Incident: Water Rescue
Location: Bayside Bridge
Date: Sept. 29, 2007
Time: 12:09 pm

Personnel: B Shift Engine 49

Lt. Chris Hoyne
FM. Matt Daerr
FF. Travis Connolly

Rescue 49

FM. Robert Palisi
FM. Monica Juarbe

Squad 49

Lt. Steve Coward
DO. Steve Wilenski

Truck 48

Lt. Brian Schonborn
DO. Peter Georgantas
FF. Kristin Hoekstra
FF. Mike Brown

Truck 45

DO. Mark Herny
Acting LT. Steve Salagaras
DO. Kevin O'Connor
FF. Jason Haynor

LR49

Lt. David Yawn

Certificate of Appreciation: Andy Stephens

By Assistant Chief of Special Operations Kent Watts

Clearwater Fire & Rescue presented Andy Stephens with a Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication in assisting the Department with its operations. Andy's spent hundreds of hours of his own personal time helping out. He's the de facto caretaker of the Rehab unit, taking it to calls and making sure it's adequately stocked with everything firefighters need. On multiple occasions he's helped stabilize burned buildings, making them safe for fire investigators could go in and work. He's also assisted with relocating and advice for maintaining heavy equipment. He's also assisted with setting up teaching scenarios for the Technical Rescue Team. Andy exemplifies the spirit of unselfish service and has helped the Department time and time again. The Department is grateful for his dedication, hard work and unflinching good nature.

News in Brief



Don't Forget... Wash Your Hands!

by Denise Balog

We've been reading about the drug-resistant staph infections that have made headlines in the recent weeks, also dubbed "the cockroach of bacteria." It can live on various surfaces and spread by unwashed hands.

"Soap and water is the cheapest intervention," says Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As well as washing your hands, do not have close contact with things like sharing towels and razors, lying on mats, or playing hand-to-hand sports with open scrapes or cuts. Keep to the basics of hand washing and covering cuts.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses and can be prevented by obtaining a flu vaccination each year. The City has provided a couple of opportunities to get this vaccination and you can find other sources through local medical facilities. Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through

coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. People can become infected by touching something with the flu viruses on it, and then touching their mouth or nose. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five days after becoming sick. (CDC website, 11/14/07)

You should not use antibiotics to treat the common cold or the flu. If antibiotics are prescribed for you to treat a bacterial infection, be sure to take all of the medicine. If you don't know if you have a viral illness or a bacterial infection, ask your doctor or health care provider and follow his/her advice on what to do about your illness.

For more information, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Community Service Opportunity



Join National Mentoring Month

It can be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable things you'll ever do. Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is looking for mentors. January is National Mentoring Month and you can make the difference in a child's life.

BBBS is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the country. Their mission is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with measurable impact.

You can choose from community-based mentoring, school/site-based mentoring, or activity-based mentoring (sports buddies). If you're interested: call 727-518-8860 or visit their website: www.bbbspc.org.

Employee News

Service Awards

- 30 Years** LT Hugh Yeager
- 20 Years** DO Robert Going
LT Thomas Jensen
AC Danny Jones
LT Robert Shawn Tellone
LT Rodney Wilt
- 15 Years** DO Micheal Faulkner
DO Ruben Hernandez
LT William Keller
FF Peter Lopez
LT Jay Schmitt
- 10 Years** DO Leonard Melanson
Debora Weitzel

Retirements

LT Anna Rowell 10/12/07

New Hires

FF Jeremiah Mills 10/29/07 (rehire)
FF Patricia Schauer 11/26/07 (former intern)

Sympathies

DO Bob Going on the passing of his father, Joseph Going
DO Patrick Scanlon on the passing of his mother, Eileen Schultz

Births

DO James Vincent Carino

Proud Grandfather for the first time... **It's a Boy!**
Dylan Vincent Carino was born on November 30, 7 lbs. 4 oz. 20"

FF Robert Ramos

Proud Parents for the first time... **It's a Girl!**
Ashlyn Renee Ramos was born December 11, 9 lbs 6.9 oz. 19 1/2", wife Tracy

FM Mauricio Perdigon

Proud Parents for the first time... **It's a Girl!**
Sibylla True Perdigon was born December 16, 7 lbs 6.5 oz. 21", wife Cherilynne

DO James Van Zandt

Proud Parents for the first time... **It's a Girl!**
Sydney Allison Van Zandt was born December 28, 8 lbs 5 oz., wife Sharon

A Note from the Editor

Elizabeth Daly-Watts, Public Safety PIO

I hope you've enjoyed the 2008 First Quarter edition of After Action Review. If you have a story to share or ideas for articles, please send me an email: 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



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