



AFTER ACTION REVIEW

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

Second Quarter 2008

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Fire Training Facility: Opening Soon

By Elizabeth Daly-Watts

Things are moving along ahead of schedule at 1716 North Belcher Road. The new Clearwater Fire Training Facility is scheduled for completion in the end of August.

This new state-of-the-art training complex has been in the planning stages for years and now we're just a few weeks away from the grand opening.

The original training facility was constructed in 1976 and could no longer meet the growing training requirements of this Department. The single classroom limited the number of classes taught and students who could attend. The burn tower wasn't suitable anymore for live fire training and did not provide the capacity for training which is realistic and relevant to the types of real emergency scenarios which firefighters face in Clearwater. A new training facility was needed to ensure fire personnel get

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Feature Story



the best training and equipment possible. Here's a breakdown of the training facility's features:

- An 8,967-square foot training building: includes three (3) classrooms, an exercise workout room, both male and female bathroom and locker facilities, a gear cleaning, drying and storage area and additional support space. This facility is constructed as a category five structure, and will serve as a secure backup EOC facility during hurricane and storm activation. The original office and classroom space was renovated into training staff offices.
- A 1,934-square foot pre-manufactured metal training burn tower. This burn tower allows for realistic high-rise, multi-family, single family, hotel and motel fire and emergency response training. It also provides for a variety of specialized training.
- A 4,400-square foot pre-engineered metal storage/supply building to house fire department equipment, EMS supplies and protective gear. It also provides a space for repair of department self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

We're planning a Grand Opening and Dedication Celebration for sometime in September or October. We'll keep you posted and hope to see you there!

What's Next? Renovations to Fire Station 48 are scheduled to begin in November and expected to last five or six months.

News in Brief

Mission to Guatemala

by Asst. Chief of Suppression Scott Magness



Scott taking a blood pressure during clinic.

The rural highlands of Guatemala are home to over a half-million people, many of Mayan ancestry. Unfortunately, 71% of this population lives in extreme poverty, with an income of less than a dollar a day or approximately 360 dollars a year. Their access to medical and dental care is limited, at best. Just imagine living in a community where medical, dental and vision services are available only sporadically, generally only when Medical Mission Teams from the U.S. travel to the area.

My church formed such a team several years ago, Global Hands of Healing. GHOH began sending teams to Guatemala in October of 2005. I made my first trip in June of 2007. From the moment we left, I was hooked. My paramedic experience gives me the ability to triage patients as they arrive at our clinic, but it is the human interaction that is addicting. And the children of Guatemala! One look into those eyes, I knew God had put me where I needed to be!

While in the village of Cunen, I did what any firefighter would do and stopped by the local firehouse. Through our translators, I talked with the Comandante (Fire Chief) and received a list of equipment and training needs from our new friends, the bomberos. "Bombero" roughly translates

to "firefighter" but most Guatemalan bomberos are ambulance only. Organized fire suppression is almost non-existent in rural Guatemala. The bomberos receive little training and very little funding for equipment.

Over the next several months, the generosity of many friends at home enabled us to gather supplies and put together training materials. I wanted to not only teach, but also leave the training materials for the bomberos to use in the future. Firefighter Jose Fernandez helped me convert the materials from English to Spanish. I also found several medical equipment suppliers who provided training materials in Spanish.

I traveled back to Cunen in October of '07, where we delivered the supplies and conducted three nights of training for the bomberos. That training focused on childbirth (the bomberos' number one call for service), diabetes and splinting. As we left Cunen, we stopped in Comanchaj and delivered uniforms (donated by Mary and Russ from Graphic Waves) and equipment to a very grateful group of bomberos there.

continued

News in Brief

By now we had a good handle on the equipment and training needs, and I traveled again in February of this year. This was primarily a construction trip, but I was also able to provide training and equipment to the Camanchaj bomberos. Most popular are the childbirth kits. We have now delivered over 50 kits containing supplies donated by individuals, hospitals and medical suppliers.

On June 14th, the team once again headed to Cunen. This time, in addition to more childbirth kits, we delivered a donated AED and several glucometers. We provided training on that equipment, and also taught the bomberos how to start IVs! At first, I didn't understand why they wanted such advanced training. The reason became apparent our second night in Cunen. Just after our clinic had ended, the bomberos came to our motel (imagine the worst motel you've ever been in and multiply the gross factor by 100) in the ambulance. They asked me to make a house call with them. We evaluated a 93-year-old diabetic

whose glucose level very high. The patient had been seen earlier by a traveling doctor who kindly left them IV fluids, tubing and one 20-gauge IV needle. I am still not sure whom the doctor thought would start that IV, but the bomberos asked me to do it. It was quite a challenge by candlelight, but I got it. A re-check the next morning revealed the fluid did the job, with a much lower glucose reading. So, I think I am now an honorary Cunen bombero!

We will continue to send childbirth kits to the Cunen and Camanchaj bomberos. I would like to thank everyone who donated receiving blankets, and please keep them coming! The bomberos have told us the kits make a tremendous difference. In fact, they joked that their call volume is going up – women in labor say, "don't call the midwife, call the bomberos! They have the equipment!"

Many thanks to all in the Department who have provided support to us in service to the good people of Guatemala!



Scott and Cunen bomberos with donated AED and childbirth kits



Scott teaching AED procedures to Cunen bomberos. In the foreground is Alexandra Feliciano, R.N. providing translation.



Scott teaching venipuncture to Cunen bomberos. In the foreground is Inge Loman, translating. Inge is an administrator with Salud y Paz, who coordinates visiting U.S. teams.



Scott checking a glucose level during clinic.

Division Updates

Operations

By Division Chief Richard Riley

It has been another great quarter for the Clearwater Fire & Rescue. One of the most notable accomplishments this quarter was the live fire training at Homer Villas. This required a tremendous effort by the Training Bureau staff and all the adjunct instructors. We had almost the entire department participate in this training along with two of our mutual aid departments. We followed that up with Quarterly Officer training that covered a myriad of subjects and upcoming operational changes. In the next couple of months we will have company ops that will involve foam training, personal escape systems, and EVOG refresher for all employees.

We've been training on the new fireboat, which we hope to place into service by the end of July. This will require some runcard changes as they pertain to water rescues and marina and boat fires. We also have two new

rescue units that should be delivered and in service by the end of the summer. The new engine committee has started the specification process for a new engine that we hope to order sometime this year.

If you missed it, we were included in the Firehouse Magazine 2007 Annual Run Survey. Engine 51 came in at #113 for the busiest engines with a total of 2,510 runs. You can view the report by going to www.firehouse.com/BusiestEngineRevsed.pdf

Over this quarter the total call volume has been a little lower, but we have been to more than a few working incidents where all our diligent training has paid off. It is a pleasure to see our personnel putting all their training to work. I just want to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work.

Monthly Run Totals

	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Engine 44	51	56	86	80	85	92	450
Engine 45	171	138	163	169	145	148	934
Engine 46	45	54	53	56	72	41	321
Engine 47	151	151	153	153	133	131	872
Engine 48	177	160	203	151	169	158	1,018
Engine 49	177	184	211	183	145	150	1,050
Engine 50	100	90	99	85	87	109	570
Engine 51	219	196	196	211	221	214	1,257
Rescue 45	301	290	332	345	320	320	1,908
Rescue 46	82	100	121	121	124	110	658
Rescue 47	269	316	326	305	302	267	1,785
Rescue 48	322	302	334	275	273	272	1,778
Rescue 49	323	284	347	323	297	288	1,862
Rescue 50	187	180	186	185	177	148	1,063
Truck 45	107	95	98	111	92	93	596
Truck 48	123	110	129	105	96	103	666
Squad 49	81	90	101	94	92	77	535
AC 45	108	95	89	114	101	99	606
AC 48	131	110	129	101	107	103	681
IR 49	204	205	213	188	192	136	11,38
	3,329	3,206	3,569	3,355	3,230	3,059	19,748

Division Updates

Fire Prevention

By Acting Division Chief Leonard Rickard

The Fire Prevention Division has been busy this last quarter. All six inspectors attended a 16-hour class on fire alarm systems. One inspector also attended an arson investigation course at New Mexico Tech. These were "Instruct the Instructor" courses, so we have added a resource for instructing the other five inspectors.

Construction Services saw the completion of two key projects. Our inspectors spent two weeks conducting final inspections at Water's Edge, the 27 story hi-rise building located on the old Calvary Baptist Church property at 331 Cleveland St.

The inspectors also finished inspections to allow the use of the new training tower at Station 48.

The Inspections Bureau continues to work on completing inspections throughout the Fire District and have now completed 2/3 of the grids in the District. Along with these inspections, the inspectors have been busy handling any fire prevention concerns or issues that arise during emergency responses or preplanning that are reported to the Division. It is our priority to address these promptly for the safety of our firefighters as well as the public.

Support Services

By Acting Division Chief Steve Strong

We're nearing the end of our much-anticipated new training facility project. The new classroom will be done next month and the new warehouse should be finished in the first week of September. Once that's done we can relocate warehouse operations and that should happen by the end of September. Annual testing for 200 sets of front line bunker gear will be completed by end of the month. We're also anticipating the delivery of two new rescue vehicles by end of July.

The Occupational Health & Safety Plan is complete and has been presented to the union for discussions on impact. The OSH committee recently interviewed three vendors for the installation of diesel extraction systems: Plymovent, MagneGrip

and Airmation. After much discussion, the committee recommended Plymovent. Subsequently, we wrote and submitted the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) award and are waiting to hear back from DHS. I would like to thank Pat Scanlon for all his hard work on the OSH committee. Good luck in your retirement.

The Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association has decided to implement the Candidate Physical Ability Process (CPAT) to be used in the hiring of new candidates. All departments in the county are participating as well as partnering with St. Pete College. The target date for implementation is January 2009.



Employee News

Meet the Recruits

Clearwater Fire & Rescue Recruit Class 11

June 2008



Sara Happs



Patricia Schauer



Lucas Semple



David Marlowe



Greg Keane

Sarah Happs

Sarah is originally from Iowa, but has lived in Pinellas County for most of her life. She said she's wanted to be a firefighter ever since she can remember. She obtained her paramedic certification at CFCC in Ocala and attended the Citrus County Fire Academy. Sarah spent four years with Sunstar before joining CFR.

Patricia Schauer

Patricia joined Clearwater Fire & Rescue in November of 2007. She's one of the department's newest Fire Medics. She obtained her paramedic certification while working with the Department as an Intern. She says working at Clearwater Fire and Rescue has been an enjoyable experience.

David Marlowe

David is a lifetime Tampa resident who spent two years with Sunstar before joining Clearwater Fire & Rescue. He has a total four years of EMS experience. He attended Auburn University where he studied political science and recently completed the Hillsborough Community College Fire Academy. David is married with a two-year-old daughter.

Employee News

2008 Public Safety & Service Award: Lt. Doug Swartz

Lieutenant Doug Swartz received the 2008 Public Safety and Service Award from the Rotary Club of Clearwater in May. Lt. Swartz was recognized for numerous volunteer hours in the Clearwater Honor Guard, National Honor Guard Academy and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. He also serves as the coordinator of the Shelter Care Christmas program, which provides a Christmas party and presents for children without families in state custody and the Move Aside program, which teaches high school students the importance of adhering to emergency vehicles. Congratulations Doug!



Stair Climb Challenge



Clearwater's Firefighter Combat Challenge Team took second place in the American Lung Association's fundraiser in Tampa.

Employee News

Going for the Gold: SORT Tryouts

by Lt. Chris Hoyne



The Special Operations Rescue Team (SORT) held tryouts on May 21, 2008. We had four people tryout: Jason Thibault, Blaise Sciarra, Robert Hansen and Andrew Leeth. The tryouts consist of a timed 1½-mile run, maximum number of push-ups in a minute, maximum number of sit-ups in two minutes, an obstacle course and the "Gauntlet." The "Gauntlet" is a multi-station scenario that tests your body and your mind.

All participants did very well. There was one position open on the team at the time and that was filled with Jason Thibault from station 49C. Please congratulate Jason when you see him. The SORT team would also like to thank Matt Burmood for his seven plus years of service to the team!

Right Place, Right Time

By Elizabeth Daly-Watts



We've been following D/O Patrick Conrey for almost a year during his grueling preparations to run the Flying Pig Marathon in full bunker gear to raise money for the family of fallen firefighter Oscar Armstrong III. That day finally came and as it turns out the bigger story was how he stopped and helped save a life in the middle of a marathon! Conrey and several Cincinnati firefighters were participating in the May 4th marathon when a man collapsed in front of them and went into cardiac arrest. They immediately took action. "We have a saying in our department: when the bell rings, you go," said Conrey. Cincinnati paramedics administered CPR while Conrey assisted. They saved the man's life. Of course if you ask D/O Conrey about it, he's very modest and will say he was just there to help.

Employee News

2008 Police & Fire Games



Toughest Competitor Alive

What does it take to be the "Toughest Competitor Alive"? Just ask FF Anthony Gomillion or FM Jason Rath. They traveled to Sarasota in June to compete in the 2008 Florida Police & Fire Games. After a three-mile run, 16-pound shot put throw, a 100-yard swim, a 100-meter dash (hang on, we're not done yet), a 20-foot rope climb, bench press max out, pull-ups and an obstacle course... FF Gomillion took home the silver medal in the 30 to 34 age bracket. FM Rath put up a tough fight in the 18 to 29 age bracket. Congratulations to both of you!

Firefighter Combat Challenge

Relay	Team Clearwater	2 nd place
Female Individual	FF Wendy Arnold	1 st place
30-39 Individual	FF Anthony Gomillion	3 rd place
Over 40 Individual	D/O Patrick Conrey	2 nd place

Firefighter Combat Challenge Team

Gainesville, Fla. Competition, April 19 -20

Congratulations to **Team Clearwater** for an excellent showing at their latest competition in Gainesville, Fla. They've qualified for the World Challenge for the 4th year. Some highlights were taking 2nd place in the team category and 3rd place in the co-ed tandem category. Below are the Combat Challenge Team results:

Team/Individuals

Team Clearwater 6:28.49 **2nd Place**
(Gomillion, Rath, Siegel, Conrey, Viola)

Individual Course Times

Gomillion	1:50.69	10 out of 58
Viola	2:17.34	26 out of 58
Rath	2:20.46	28 out of 58
Siegel	2:22.55	30 out of 58

Female Individual Course Time

Arnold 3:45.77 5 out of 6

Tandems

Team Clearwater Tandem 1 (Gomillion/Viola)	1:56.95	12 out of 15
Team Clearwater Tandem 2 (Gomillion/Viola)	1:54.07	11 out of 15
Team Clearwater Co-Ed Tandem (Gomillion/Viola)	2:00.81	3rd Place

Relays

Team Clearwater Relay (Gomillion, Swartz, Siegel, Rath, Conrey)	
Seeding Round	1:32.59
Round 1	1:29.28
Round 2	1:37.70



Photo Gallery

Maple Street Fire



Smoke and flames showing from an early morning fire at 1616 Maple Street on May 17, 2008.
Photos by D/O Donald Thomson

Douglas Avenue Fire



Fire at 2029 Douglas Avenue on June 29, 2008. Photos by Operations Chief Richard Riley

Fire Boat Training



Crews train on Clearwater Fire & Rescue's new fire boat. It arrived on May 16, 2008.

Photo Gallery

Recruit Class # 11



Photo Gallery

A Helping Hand in Honduras

FM Mauricio Perdigon and FF/DO Gary Costa went to Honduras in June for a two-week missionary trip with the Northwest Tampa Church of Christ - Tampa Youth Missions group. They built homes and handed out food and supplies to the locals. This was Perdigon's 11th trip and Costa's first. Both made it a family affair. FF Perdigon was joined by his wife, Cherilynne, and their baby daughter. Costa brought his son, Greg.



The girls work just as hard as the boys. No fear on the roof

Most homes don't have floors; they were added for a nice touch

It's a family affair! FF Perdigon with his wife and daughter.



Standing with the proud owners of a new home. Time to build a house: 4-7 hours

*Top: The village of Mona Loa
Bottom: A month's worth of food being prepared for distribution. The food bags include beans, rice, cornmeal, coffee, sugar, salt, bullion cubes and shortening*

Announcements

Slow Down Program Helps Kick Off School Year

August 19, 2008

In another month, Pinellas County students will head back to the classroom. The first day of class for kids Pre-K through 12 is Tuesday, August 19th. Clearwater Fire & Rescue will help children get back to school safely with the **Slow Down** campaign. Personnel will use fire apparatus, lights and banners warning drivers to use caution and watch out for students in school zones before and after school.



Fire Prevention Week

October 5th-11th

Fire prevention week runs October 5th through the 11th. All eight stations will participate in the third annual Open House on October 11th (B Shift). Start brainstorming about displays and activities at your fire station. This year's theme is "It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!" According to the NFPA, Fire Departments responded to nearly 400,000 home fires in 2006. The leading causes of home fires are cooking, heating, electrical and smoking materials.



Employee News _____

Service Awards

10 Years Matthew Burmood
Gray Joyce
Gary Spence
Tammy Whitham

5 Years Scott Pettay
Robert Ramos
Michael Ward

Promotions

FF to FM
FM Patricia Schauer 06-09-08
FM Lucas Semple 06-09-08
Accounting Technician
Terri Rowland 06-26-08

Retirements

FF/DO Patrick Scanlon
28 years (1980 – 2008)

Births

FM Jerome Mourelatos

Proud Father... **It's a Boy!**
Alexander Jerome Mourelatos was born on June 13th, 4lbs. 16"

Inspector Jim Keller

Proud Grandfather... **It's a Boy!**
Owen Daniel Ferrara was born on June 12th, 7lbs. 5.6 oz. 20"

Sympathies

Retired FF Bill McClure on the passing of his mother, Elayne McClure on June 9, 2008

Lt. Rodney Wilt on the passing of his father-in-law

Other News _____

A Scooping Success!



The Baskin-Robbins 31-Cent Scoop Night on April 30th helped raise money for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and almost a thousand dollars for the Clearwater Honor Guard. "We helped in bringing to the attention of hundreds and hundreds of local citizens, young and old, the importance of what we do as firefighters first and as an Honor Guard Team second," said D/O Michael Faulkner. People were lined up outside the door for much of the night, with standing room only.

Here's What's Cooking...

MDA Summer Camp Dinner



On Monday June 9, 2008 members of the Clearwater Fire Department and Spring Hill Fire Department prepared a meal for approximately 150 kids at the Rotary Club Camp in Brandon. The menu consisted of steak, baked potato and corn on the cob and ice cream.



A Note from the Editor

Elizabeth Daly-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. 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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