



# After Action Review

The Official Newsletter of Clearwater, Florida Fire & Rescue



Inside the AAR

September 2009



**Feature Crew St. 50.....A Tribute to Sept. 11.....Fallen Firefighter Ceremony.....Employee News.....& MORE**



**Clearwater  
Fire & Rescue  
Re-accredited for  
another five years.**

**The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)**, awarded the Accredited Agency Award to Clearwater Fire & Rescue, at a ceremony in Dallas, TX on August 27, 2009.

CFAI is an organization dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI accreditation process provides a well-defined, internationally recognized benchmark system used to measure the delivery of fire and emergency services and assists fire agencies in moving beyond a tactical deployment to continuous strategic improvement.

Clearwater Fire & Rescue, having met in full the requirements of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, as witnessed by a team of their peers and members of the Commission, was awarded the status of Accredited Agency for the second time. Clearwater Fire & Rescue initially received accreditation in August 2003, which is valid for five years with annual progress reports.

-Denise Balog  
Administrative Analyst

## **Commercial Fire in Downtown Clearwater** *by Division Chief Riley*

**Crews from all over the City** of Clearwater and surrounding departments responded to a commercial structure fire at 1315 Cleveland Street (pictured below) on an hot and humid June day. Companies arrived to find a one story structure with smoke showing from the rear and fire coming from the roof area. This advanced fire in a commercial building put the department to task as the fire not only involved the interior of the structure but also included a running roof fire. Interior companies controlled the fire inside while numerous units fought to expose and extinguish the roof fire.



The incident required many special calls for apparatus and personnel to the scene. This extremely physical fire was finally contained some two hours after the initial 911 call. One firefighter sustained injuries as he fell through the weakened roof when the units were called back later in the day to extinguish a minor rekindle.

This is only one of many incidents, which clearly proves that the procedures put in place by the department, the determined actions of the dedicated crews, and with the coordinated efforts by the department as a whole, the department is moving to the forefront of delivering fire and emergency services in Pinellas County.

Thank you to all the crews and personnel that responded to this incident.



## News In Brief

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by Deputy Chief Weiss

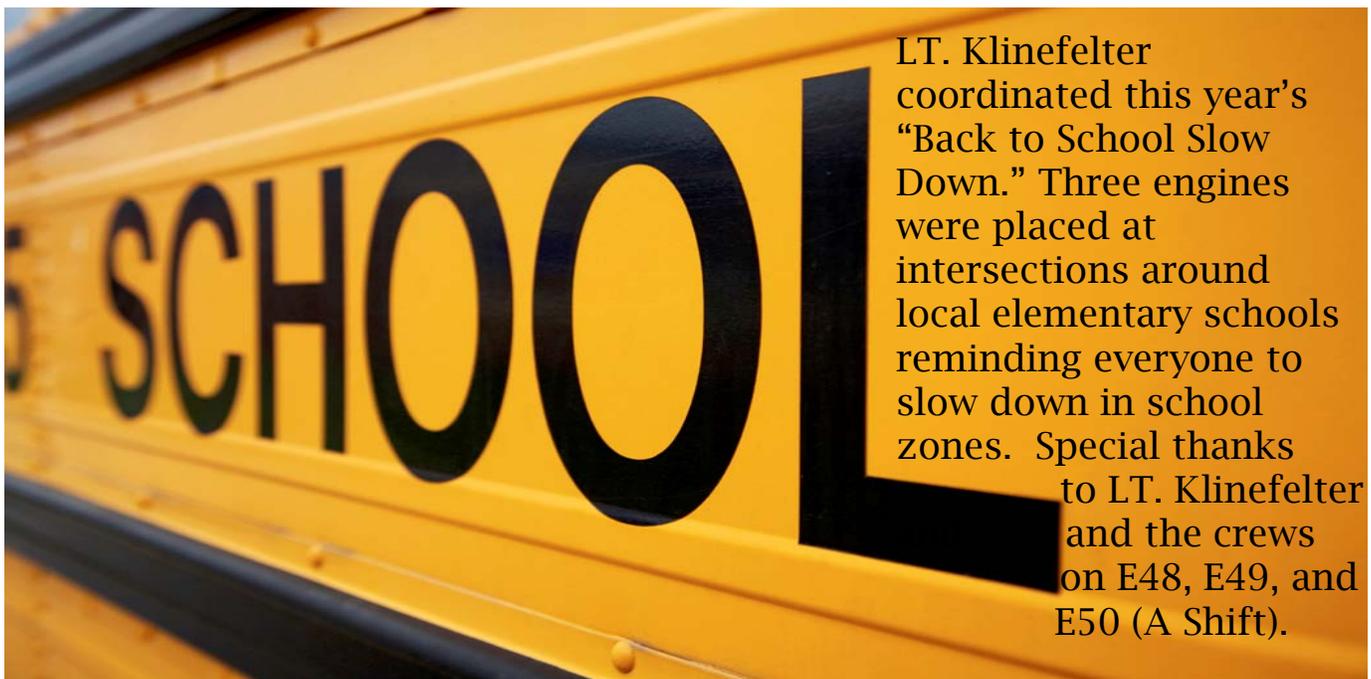
**Sustainability, Green, Environmentally Responsible**, these are terms that you never heard when you were discussing construction of a new fire station. However these terms are deeply imbedded in the planning and design of the new main Fire Station 45, which is currently being developed. The new fire station will be the first city building to use green building design, construction, and operation to provide an environmentally responsible healthy place for firefighters to live and work. Our goal is to achieve a LEED Gold Certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

The department is working with an architectural firm on the design of the station, which should be complete within 6 to 8 months. We have applied for a Stimulus Grant, and if the funding is approved, construction may begin within a year. If the grant is not approved, construction will be delayed until funding is secured.

The station will have three stories with the third story supporting Fire Administration and Fire Prevention Services. The building is being designed as a category 5 structure with an exterior design reflecting the history and tradition of Clearwater Fire & Rescue. Our goal is to not only provide a sustainable and environmentally friendly building, but a facility that everyone can be proud of.

## Back to School Slow Down

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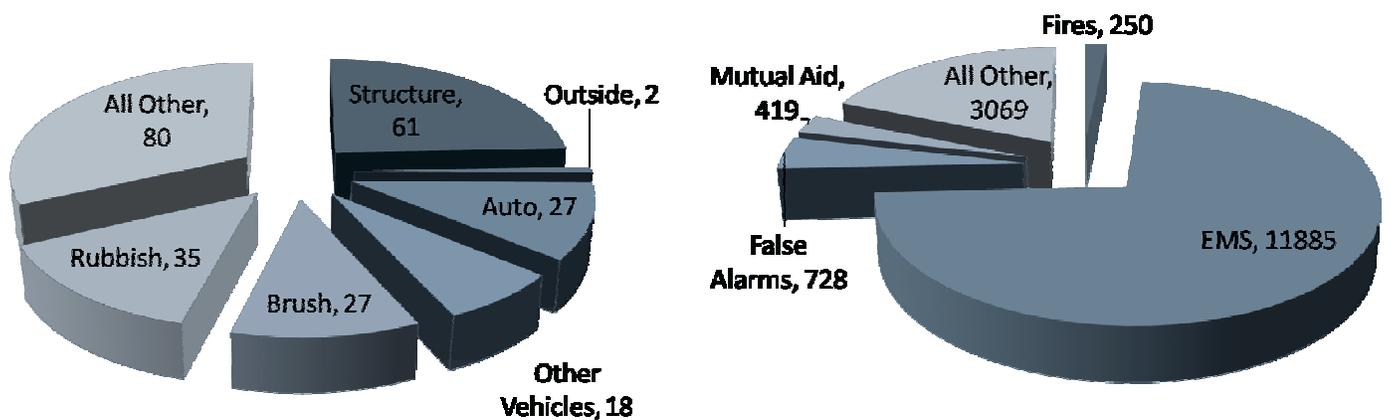


LT. Klinefelter coordinated this year's "Back to School Slow Down." Three engines were placed at intersections around local elementary schools reminding everyone to slow down in school zones. Special thanks to LT. Klinefelter and the crews on E48, E49, and E50 (A Shift).

## Run Totals

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Engine 44	59	81	79	80	93	75	103
Engine 45	153	144	170	165	165	136	161
Engine 46	40	48	64	56	78	54	58
Engine 47	130	115	150	129	112	127	134
Engine 48	165	143	160	158	141	134	144
Engine 49	161	148	182	141	157	147	154
Engine 50	96	98	86	101	91	86	91
Engine 51	192	165	221	182	209	193	195
Rescue 45	270	290	304	278	310	280	327
Rescue 46	74	86	134	132	122	120	133
Rescue 47	236	239	307	282	277	271	255
Rescue 48	253	279	293	274	288	257	277
Rescue 49	282	273	319	288	307	309	304
Rescue 50	186	193	186	207	180	177	183
Truck 45	101	102	104	118	105	100	124
Truck 48	123	95	93	99	109	127	136
Squad 49	90	78	96	85	97	61	101
AC 45	99	95	102	89	110	78	131
AC 48	140	98	112	106	106	86	139
LR 49	168	194	173	180	174	162	161
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3018</b>	<b>2964</b>	<b>3335</b>	<b>3150</b>	<b>3231</b>	<b>2980</b>	<b>3311</b>

## Fire-Statistics



250 Total Fires

16351 Total Incidents

## Retirement

### 30+ Years of Service

04/22/09 DO Gary Costa

### 20+ Years of Service

01/27/09 FF Craig Cramer  
 01/20/09 DO James Ennis  
 07/10/09 FM David Hogan  
 04/23/09 LT Chris Menendez  
 05/21/09 LT Bernard Revelia  
 05/07/09 LT James Ruggiero

### Yield to Emergency Vehicles



A new campaign will air on Knology cable network the end of September. The campaign will focus on the importance of pulling to the side

when an emergency vehicle is approaching. Thanks to Lt. Jevon Graham for participating in this campaign.

## Service Awards

### 30 Years of Service

DO Gary Costa

### 20 Years of Service

FM Dave Hogan  
 FF Ronald Streicher

### PEER Award

FF Jim Schaus  
 FF Christian Schuele  
 DO James Van Zandt

### Fire & Rescue Team Award

FM Nathan Brooks and  
 FM Monica Juarbe

### North Ward Volunteer of the Year

Virginia Costa

## Congratulations

Fire Inspectors Ed Schultz and Jerry Bittner received their CFEI (Certified Fire Explosion Investigator) Certification.



## Birth Announcements



Lucas Semple is the proud father of Reef Jewel, who is now five months old. Congratulations Semple Family!

Congratulations to the Van Zandt Family. Kayley Danielle (below) was born on 4/23/09.



Congratulations to the Steve Lannon and family! The latest CFR addition, Joshua Lannon was born on 7/21/09, weighing 7lbs5 oz.

Congratulations to the Mittler family and their new baby boy.

## New Hires



### *Stop by and introduce yourself to our newest Staff Members*

On 7/18/09, **Michelle Benjamin**, Staff Assistant Admin, joined CFR, after 3 years in the Engineering Department.

She is the proud mother of her 7 year old daughter and enjoys boating on the weekends. In addition to her time spent here, she volunteers on the board at the Indian Rocks Beach Library.

Michelle will be at the Front Desk in the Admin Department (Station 45). Among various other administrative tasks, she will handle address changes, driver's license updates, physicals and service awards. Michelle can be reached at extension 3048.

**Diane Devol**, Staff Assistant Operations, transferred from CPD, Communications Center on 08/03/09.

She is a former Air Force Sergeant who served during Desert Storm. She received the National Defense Ribbon for serving our country during this time.

Diane's time will be split between the Admin Department (Station 45) and the Training Facility. She will be handling tuition reimbursement, current training certifications, and assist with other Operation/Training needs. Diane can be reached at extension 3057.

## Promotions



**Rosanne Lacey** received a promotion from Staff Assistant Operations to Payroll Tech on 07/01/09. She will miss working with all of you at training.



**Mark Wing** received a promotion from FF to FM on 08/01/09. Mark has been with CFR for five years. He will remain on C-Shift.



**Robert Winer** received a promotion from FF to FM on 08/30/09. He has been with CFR for five years. FM Winer will remain on B-Shift.

## In Sympathy



*We express sympathy to those of you who have lost a family member or friend.*

- Our friend and co-worker Karen Keegan passed away on June 22, 2009
- Lt. Monte Gibson's mother passed away this year
- A/C Ray Roby's mother passed away on August 13, 2009
- FF Rob Lee's mother passed away on August 14, 2009
- FM Chris Maine lost his father on August 22, 2009
- Fire Investigator Jim Keller lost his brother-in-law in late August

## September 11th Remembrance



**CFR Remembers** the September 11<sup>th</sup> terror attacks that took the lives of 343 FDNY firefighters, as well as multiple public safety employees and civilians. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the flags were lowered to half staff and many city officials observed a moment of silence at Fire Station 45.

## Preview From Our Honor Guard

by AC of Health and Safety Doug Swartz



**Members of the Honor Guard** will join nearly 1000 other honor guard members from across the country at this year's National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony on October 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. They will play an integral role in the overall command & coordination of the weekend. Our team members will be involved in registration of other teams as they arrive and also hold key positions during events both Saturday and Sunday. Several members will be charged with leadership roles for the various details of the ceremonies.

It is always extremely rewarding just to provide a uniformed presence to the families who have suffered such a tragic loss, but it gives each of us an increased sense of pride to know that we play an intricate role in the success of the weekend. It would be very difficult to walk away without renewed focus, pride, and commitment to our profession.

***“To be in the midst of over 7000 people that have gathered to mourn, to celebrate, and to heal is extremely humbling. We have several new honor guard members attending the memorial for the first time this year and they will provide their perspective upon our return.”***

Fortunately, we do not have a recent connection to such a tragic loss in our department. It is for that reason, that we need to strive each day to keep it that way. It is emotionally draining and depressing just to be in a support role. None of us ever want to have to attend as the family or department of a fallen firefighter, but neither did any of those who were in attendance this year.

We all accept the dangers of our chosen profession, but until you look into the eyes of a family who now has a void that will never be filled; it is not hard to understand why our presence in Emmitsburg is so important. I hope you share the pride that I have in your honor guard. They give many hours of their own time throughout the year to perform at a variety of details, including fund raising events to help offset some of the cost of this trip. Some will also dedicate their own time and money to make this important journey.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent all of us at Clearwater Fire & Rescue, but it is humbling and overwhelming to stand tall and proud on behalf of all those that get up in the morning and go to work with an FD emblem on their shirt. We all agreed that no matter how many times you attend this event, something reaches out and grabs you. It could be a song, a family, or a story that hits home. We look forward to standing tall in the sea of blue to pay tribute and to honor our fallen.



This weekend long tribute, has always and will be, about the families who have lost a loved one in the past year and previous years. (Photo courtesy of Firehouse Magazine)

## Feature Crew Station 50 (C Shift)

by Shannon DeFazio



*I had the privilege* of visiting Station 50 (C Shift) during a station tour for a local Mom's Group. With over 20 attendants, Lt. Graham and his crew impressed the crowd with their demonstrations of the engine, rescue, and fire hose. The crew even managed to have FM Mittler (above) dress in full gear and make a dramatic entry from a "smoke" filled room. Most importantly, the kids learned that "Firefighters are our friends." Especially true for this little boy, who formed an instant bond with FF Familiari (pictured right).



## Special Thanks

### *MDA Pancake Breakfast*

The Clearwater Auxiliary & Firefighters were able to raise \$1,000 at this year's Pancake Breakfast!



### *Congratulations to the new IAFF Executive Board Members.*

President - Gerard DeVivo  
 Secretary/Treasurer - Dave Hogan  
 Executive Vice President - John Klinefelter  
 Vice President (A Shift) - Mark Viola  
 Vice President (B Shift) - Adam Siegel  
 Vice President (C Shift) - Serge Alexandre  
 Vice President (Inspection) - Chuck Tomoff



### *Preschool Storytime*

On September 16, CFR presented, upon request, a fire safety storytime for preschoolers at Clearwater's Main Library. FF Arnold (Below) demonstrated bunker gear and posed for pictures with the children. The Children practiced "see smoke, crawl low" and learned about where to meet in case of a home fire. Special thanks to FF Arnold for taking the time to participate in this public education event.



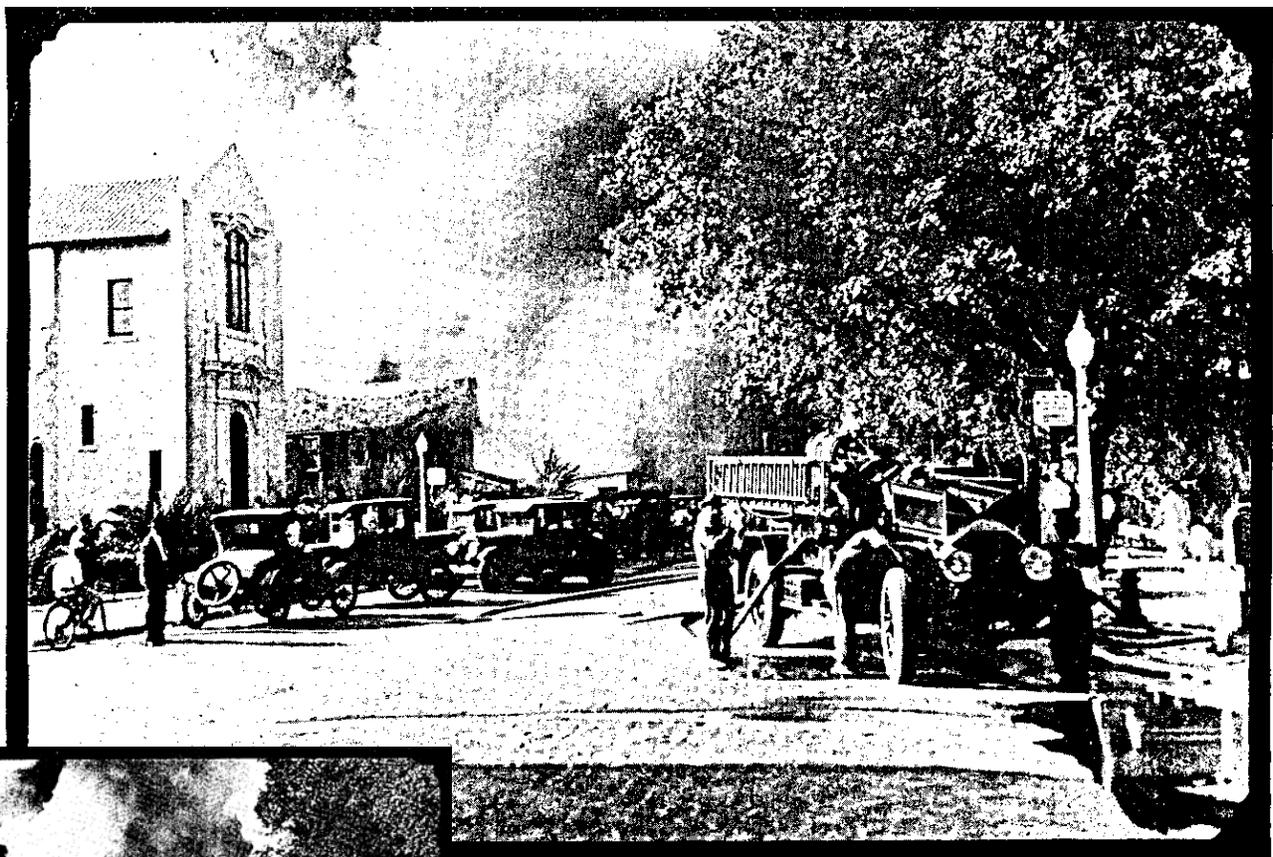
CFR is proud to be involved once again with the Suncoast Safe Kids Coalition. Safe Kids is dedicated to fight unintentional injury of children.



## Fire Prevention Week History

**Fire Prevention Week** was established in 1925 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1871. This historic fire is blamed for killing 250 people and leaving over 100,000 Chicago residents homeless. Legend has it that this deadly fire was started by a cow. Mrs. Catherine O'Leary was milking one of her five cows when a lamp was kicked over, setting the barn on fire. The fire quickly spread throughout the city burning over 2,000 acres and 17,400 structures. The fire started on October the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1871 but lasted 27 hours and did most of its damage on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**In 1925 President Woodrow Wilson** announced the first *Fire Prevention Week*. The week surrounding October the 9<sup>th</sup> would be observed in a way to keep the community aware of the importance of fire safety and prevention.



**Clearwater suffered** from a big fire at the Rug Cleaning Plant around this same time on April 28, 1926 (pictured above and left). This fire caused an estimated \$22,400.00 (today valued at \$3,336,669.62).

## October



### *Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned*

Testing the water before putting a child in the bath may sound like common sense. Wearing short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking on the stovetop may show foresight. This and other simple actions may be all it takes to prevent devastating burns.

- Fire Prevention Week 2009 focuses on burn awareness and prevention, as well as keeping homes safe from the leading causes of home fires. ***Saturday October 10, will be this year's open house.*** For more information on this year's campaign go to the NFPA's website at <http://www.firepreventionweek.org>
- The Honor Guard will participate in the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial. It will be held in Emmitsburg, MD on October 2-4.
- This year's Fire Expo will be October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Countryside Mall from 10:00 to 2:00.
- October 9<sup>th</sup> State Fire Memorial in Ocala, Fl.

## Recruit Class 12



- The new recruit class will start on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Who will be the selected thirteen new Firefighters?

## November

- Mark your calendar for the 2009 Turner Awards.

## December

- The annual Employee Recognition Ceremony will be held at the Training Facility.
- 2010 Firefighter of the Year Announcement.
- Recruit Class 12 Graduation will be held at the Training Facility.
- Shelter Care Christmas (high hopes to have MORE participation this year).

Photo Gallery



On the hose (pictured left) is Lt. Brian Schonborn and FF Adam Siegel. Below is Lt. Harry Williams (bottom left) and Lt. Bob Quinn (bottom right).



Fire at 711 Vine St on September 2<sup>nd</sup> (pictured above and top left)

Largo Fire on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 AM (pictured bottom left)



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## Get Well Soon

- Father Jacob Monteleone
- FM Doug Wood
- LT Terry Costello

## Contributions From

- Division Chief Riley
- Denise Balog
- Fire Chief Geer
- Deputy Chief Weiss
- AC Health & Safety Doug Swartz
- Virginia Costa pancake breakfast pictures
- Lt. Klinefelter's wife Carrie for information on the pancake breakfast
- Shannon DeFazio



There are two months left of the 2009 Hurricane Season. It will officially end on November 30<sup>th</sup>. It has been a quiet season with only five named storms and one making landfall. *September is National Preparedness Month.* Would you and your family be ready should a disaster strike? For more information go to:

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



## Trivia



Do you know when the fire extinguisher was first invented? Hint...the first extinguisher was a gunpowder cask filled with a fire retardant liquid. A fuse was lit & an explosion of the retardant liquid was released onto the fire.

## Did I miss something?

Do you have a story to share? Did I forget to mention something? Please send your stories and pictures for next quarter's newsletter to:

[shannon.defazio@myclearwater.com](mailto:shannon.defazio@myclearwater.com)

