



SMOKE SIGNALS

Citrus County Fire Rescue Newsletter January / February 2010

From the Top

Happy New Year! This year will be a dynamic one for Citrus County Fire Rescue. We will see some changes as we go through the year, including the use of FireHouse software reporting which started January 1. We hoped to have the CAD information imported directly to our reports, and although it did start, it was not correct. It has been shut down temporarily until the issues are resolved.

As we use the software, we will resolve the minor issues that occur. Please take time and consider the information that must be entered. We may change some codes to better suit our operations, and we will put out a "cheat sheet" of codes for each section as necessary. I ask that you have patience with the software project.

We will be updating the Board of County Commissioners on the fire department reorganization and potential funding options as we go forward. We should be seeking approval for a replacement burn building within the month. Once approved, the new building should be in place within six months. This will allow the Training Center to continue to be certified by the Fire College.

We will be taking delivery of the new tower and should have it in service by June. It will be housed at Station 23. We will be looking for volunteers to staff that station and respond with the tower. Station 23 will be placed in service as a fire station soon. Logistics will be moving to Station 5 and will share the station with the volunteers there. Please consider volunteering at least one time slot per month to staff this vehicle. We will provide training for all those interested in operating this vehicle.

Finally, I would ask that each of you consider what you can do to improve safety within the department. Look at your personal commitment to safety, and what you can do to be safer. Then look at your station, and make suggestions to make that safer. Finally, consider the department as a whole, and work to make us safer. Safety starts with each individual. It is your responsibility to be safe and that the operations around you are safe.

Please make this the safest year ever. Do the simple things; buckle up every time you get in a vehicle. Be aware of your situation while working on scenes. Don't put yourself in danger unnecessarily, risk a lot to save a lot (life), risk a little to save a little (savable property), risk nothing to save nothing (un-savable property) .

Remember, "Everyone Goes Home."

Our saying for the month is, "One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea." (Walter Bagehot)

Be safe, Everyone Goes Home!

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Operations and Training

Well, we have another FF I & II class down. Class #26 graduated on December 10th and the ceremony went excellently. I would like to personally thank everyone who helped put it together. Congratulations to our Citrus County Volunteers who completed the FF I & II program: Derrek Bedaro, Chris Binkerd, Josh Mousel, Cody Patchell, Nathanael Richards, Michael D. Williams, and Mark Scalzi.

As you know, we will be starting a new FF I & II night class on January 12th at 1800 hours. Some of you may wonder about the night class changes, and, yes, we added Wednesday nights and also changed the hours from starting at 1900 hrs starting at 1800 hrs. Most of this is due to the changes in the curriculum and the additional subjects in the program. However, in order to keep the length of the night class at six months instead of increasing it to seven months, we had to throw in Wednesday nights.

During the week of January 11th – 15th, we conducted new hire testing at the FTC to create a Firefighter/EMT list. This list was developed to use to fill positions as they open. In the testing process, there is a 100 question written test before continuing to the practical portions of the test. In the practical portions, we check the basic fire ground and medical skills of each individual. Also, critical and basic functions of a Firefighter/EMT are tested. There were over 100 applicants that applied.

Happy new year to you and your family. Let's make 2010 a great year, be safe and have fun with what you do. Life is too short and valuable to waste time. Don't procrastinate, just do it!!



FLORIDA WOMAN SLAMS INTO THE REAR OF A PARKED ENGINE COMPANY ON A RUN

READ OVER OUR SCENE SAFETY SOP REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF THE APPARATUS AND THE SAFETY CONES. PROTECTION OF THE SCENE IS VITAL!

Friday, January 8, 2010

A woman is recovering in the hospital this morning after she slammed into the back of a fire truck. The accident happened along the 300 block of South Federal Highway (U.S. 1) Thursday. The fire truck was on a run, parked on the side of the road with its lights on, when the driver rear ended it. The firefighters were uninjured. Source: FirefighterCloseCalls.com



From FirefighterCloseCalls.com

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING IS A NECESSITY!!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

The only stupid question will be the one you don't ask.

Don't complain if you don't participate in making the decisions, it is a sign of insecurity.

Craig Stevens
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Logistics

Corey Fulton has been hired as a Tradesworker in the Logistics section. He has already been out in the field repairing various items. Corey has an HVAC background that will help us tremendously. When you see him, introduce yourself.

During January, we will be placing the 4" hose on the apparatus. Captain Long is coordinating this effort.

Work has begun on installing the fire suppression hood system at Station 24. The work should be finished sometime in late January.

Please remember that equipment or vehicles cannot be moved to another location without the permission of Logistics. If we have all of these items inventoried and without notification, the inventory is incorrect.

The Logistics section is now open from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We hope that this is helping with the service delivery.

Ralph Franklin
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Chief #6
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Volunteer Coordinator

We have 42 volunteer applications in various steps of the process.

The next new volunteer Orientation is January 25, 2010, at 1900 hours at the Training Center. Any volunteer member that has not attended an orientation needs to attend also.

Please remember to keep your contact information, address and phone number updated in *FireHouse* and with administration. We have found several individuals with incorrect information in the system.

Ralph Franklin
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Health and Safety

The Safety Committee has voted to hold meetings every other month. The next meeting of the committee is March 8, 2010, at 10 a.m.

Very soon, a new SOP will be placed into effect regarding the charging and replacement of radio batteries. Please read over this procedure so that we can use the batteries to the best of the manufacturer's standards. I would like to thank Lt. Hurst for his hard work on the program.

Please remember to schedule your annual physical as soon as you are notified to do so. In addition, you must complete any follow-ups the Health Department sends you for. Without those being completed, your physical is not done. Remember, the yearly physical is a requirement and not an option for all combat personnel.

Ralph Franklin
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Fire Marshal's Office

I am proud to announce that our fire fatality statistics is below the national and state fire fatality statistics; Citrus – 7.14 per 1,000,000 population – adjusted for 140,000 population; the

national – 13.2 per 1,000,000 – 2006; and state average 8.9 per 1,000,000 – 2006 fire fatality rate.

The Fire Marshal's Office (3 fire inspectors and an assistant chief) performed 1,788 fire inspections in 2009 (6.4% decrease from 2008); 715 construction reviews (24.7% decrease from 2008) with an average turn around time of less than 2 days; and 3,808 children and adults participating in 198 fire and life safety programs.

Could our increase of public education be responsible for the low fire fatality rate as compared to other communities?

With the administrative issues out of the way, they are expecting to get down to business – training! As they each complete their required training, they will become "Ride-Along Approved." This means that they will be permitted to ride along on an engine under carefully supervised conditions.

During the meeting of Wednesday December 30, 2009, the following officers were elected / appointed:

Business Officer Election results:

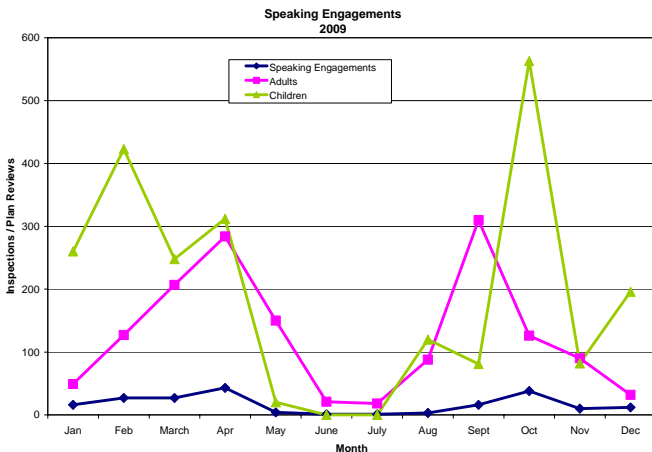
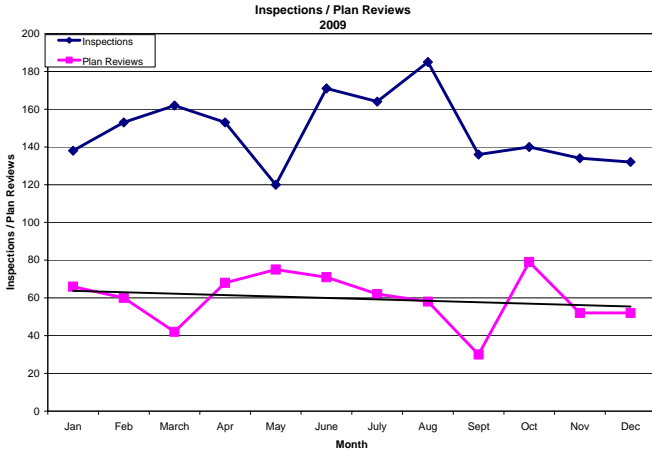
President: Bethany Dozier
Secretary: Cody Agen
Treasure: Colin Beagan

Operations Officer appointments:

Captain: Anthony Bower
1st Lieutenant: Cody Albritton
2nd Lieutenant: Stephanie Clamer

Any young adults between 14 and 20 years old, who have graduated the 8th grade, and who are interested in participating in the Citrus County Fire Explorer Program can contact Captain Dozier or Assistant Chief Clamer at 352-527-5407.

Kenneth Clamer
Assistant Fire Chief / Fire Marshal
Chief #5
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Without the participation of Citrus County Fire Rescue staff, residents and visitors practicing fire safety every day, our lower fire fatality rate would not be possible. However, we have a long way in making our community more fire safe. For the coming year, let's work on dropping that statistic to "0."

Overall, congratulations to all! Keep up the word of fire safety!

Kenneth Clamer
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Exploring

The Citrus County Fire Explorer program is progressing very well. The Explorer's have completed writing their Standard Operating Procedure and their By-Laws. Whew, are they glad that's over!

BIRTHDAYS

January Birthdays:

- 4 – Christopher Binkerd – St. 3
 - 9 – Joseph Palminteri – St. 13
 - 9 – Sue Vines – Admin.
 - 10 – Steve Whitmeyer – St. 7
 - 13 – Grover Howell – St. 8
 - 14 – Andrea Perkins – St. 7
 - 14 – Joshua Layette – St. 2
 - 23 – Joseph Ford – St. 14
 - 25 – William Howell – St. 14
 - 26 – Shirley Mulligan – St. 7
 - 31 – Kenneth Rodgers – St. 3
- Congratulations to Station #3, 7, and 14 (tied) for the most birthdays in January!

February Birthdays

- 4 – Jennifer Taylor – St. 24
- 6 – Brandon Gelinis – St. 20
- 8 – Robert Mann – St. 14
- 10 – George Cannella – St. 8
- 13 – Gehard Hatzelhoffer – St. 14
- 14 – Carolyn Russo – St. 13
- 15 – Daniel Ryan – St. 24
- 17 – Lawrence Griffin – St. FTC
- 20 – Craig Stevens – Admin.
- 20 – Thomas Skowronski – St. 3
- 22 – Benjamin Ressel – St. 3
- 25 – Mark Cavanagh – St. 14
- 25 – Robert Ray – St. 5
- 27 – Edward Hinderhofer – St. 8

Congratulations to Station #14 for the most birthdays in February!

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Reminders/Notes/Dates:

Fire Officer Meetings

February 8, 2010
June 14, 2010
August 9, 2010
October 11, 2010
December 13, 2010

All Hands Meetings

April 12, 2010
March 8, 2010
May 10, 2010
July 12, 2010
September 13, 2010
November 8, 2010

See next page.

- All officers must attend the ICS 300 and 400.
- EMT and Paramedic re-certifications due this year must have copy into our office by December 31, 2010.
- Make sure all activities, training, and stats are entered into Firehouse software.
- Don't forget to look at the Fire Rescue Event Calendar for dates of upcoming events.
- Complete your Target Safety assignments.
- FF I & II Night class will start January 12, 2010 at 1900 hrs.
- As of January 4, 2010, Citrus County Fire Rescue included a total of 158 volunteers: 63 Trainees, 17 Support firefighters, 55 Combat firefighters, 23 Auxiliary unit members, and 14 Fire Explorers.

**Check the Fire Training
Center training calendar
at:**

<http://www.localendar.com/public/firetraining>

Photograph Corner



Pictured above, back row from left to right: Captain Knowles (Instructor), Kenneth Clamer, Vincent Lanzarone, Lucas Williams, Anthony Sequin, Front row (L to R), Tom Fletcher, Robert Knoll, Michael Acuri, "Fly" McClendon. Captain Knowles instructed the class on wildfire fighting techniques, including Watch Out tips, weather effects on wildfires, hand tool techniques, etc. The four days of activities comprised of the Wildland Fire Courses S130, S190, and L180.



Drafting operations from a portable water tank for water supply.



It was in the afternoon when Engine 201 extinguished the final wisps of smoke and fire.



Structure fire on W. Herndon St., Hernando. The fire was reported at 1:11 a.m. The caller advised the residence was fully involved with fire. Engine 131 arrived at 1:23 a.m., on scene seconds before Engine 201. The Incident Commander (Cunliff) considered the severity of the fire and began a defensive fire attack from the exterior of the building. The last unit, Engine 201, completed the assignment at 12:30 p.m.



Engine 71's crew (left to right), Captain David Knowles, Driver Engineer Thomas Fletcher, Firefighter Michael Arcuri, and Firefighter Sterling Harris bought gifts for Subways' (W. Gulf to Lake Hwy, Crystal River) "Tree of Angels."



Engine 71 and 31 assisted Santa and showed the engines to children and adults at Beall's Department Store on N. Suncoast Blvd. in Crystal River. Pictured are (left to right) Firefighter Michael Arcuri, Firefighter Michael Moore, Driver Engineer Colin Brunner, Captain Wayne Fletcher, Driver Engineer Thomas Fletcher, Captain David Knowles, and, of course, Santa in the red suite.