



Monthly Newsletter

February 2012

What happened?

Here is a breakdown of the hours I spent with Marion County Fire Rescue and Fire Rescue Support last month...

January	
<i>Accidents</i>	3.5
<i>Ceremonies</i>	0.0
<i>CISD</i>	5.5
<i>Fires</i>	1.5
<i>Funerals</i>	0.0
<i>Hospital visit</i>	2.5
<i>Incidents</i>	1.5
<i>Meetings</i>	19.5
<i>Station Visits</i>	1.5
<i>Training</i>	1.5
<i>Wedding related</i>	0.0
<i>Monthly total</i>	37.0

Call of the Month

The call of the month for January actually took place when I was out of town. A horrific traffic accident took place on Interstate 75 just south of Gainesville during the early morning hours of Sunday, January 29. 11 people were killed and over 20 were injured. Fog and smoke from a nearby wildfire combined to create a deadly zero-visibility situation.

I had the opportunity to follow up with our crews that were on this call. They told me this was one of the worst calls of their career. They expressed much grief for the families that were so severely impacted by this event.

Pray with me for those firefighters that were part of this tragic event. Pray that God would protect their hearts as they give of themselves time and time again. Pray that I will have the opportunity to connect with them deeply and have an opening to talk about spiritual issues.

What's happening now?

I am very excited to let you know that in January we started the first ever Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) small group. We are meeting weekly at the home of one of our firefighters. The core of the group is made up of those MCFR families that attend Church @ The Springs. Kim & I are helping to facilitate this group as it gets started, but our goal will be to leave by summer and hopefully start a new group.

Last month I mentioned that I was hoping to be part of the Florida Fire Chief Association's conference in January. Thanks to my chief, I was able to get a couple of minutes before the Florida Fire & Emergency Services Foundation Board of Directors. The main goal of the foundation is to provide education and support for the firefighters of Florida, a purpose consistent with Fire Rescue Support. Many of the board members knew me from my participation in various firefighter memorial services throughout the state. This, plus the strong endorsement of my chief, gave me a brief, but significant opportunity to share about Fire Rescue Support. I look forward to following up with this group.

At the beginning of January we did a mass mailing to over 150 churches in Marion County. We sent a copy of our brochure, along with letters of endorsement from my chief, Stuart McElhaney, and my pastor, Ron Sylvia. This is the first step in reaching out to area churches to secure partners and funding.

What's coming up?

I've made some great initial connections with potential partners and donors, but nothing has solidified yet. You can pray specifically for these groups. Also pray for me as learn more and more to wait on God.

- Florida Fire Chiefs Association
- Village View Community Church
- Crimson Fire
- Florida Fire College
- Walmart Stores (requested gift cards to give to fire victims)
- Firehouse Subs (grant possibility)
- Local firefighters union
- Sofield Engineering
- Dennis Baxley, Florida House of Representatives

Thank you!

Thanks for making it possible for me to minister to those serving with Marion County Fire Rescue and other emergency services agencies throughout Florida. God had given me a unique role and you are helping me fulfill it.