



Monthly Newsletter

March 2012

What happened?

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

February	
<i>Accidents</i>	4.0
<i>Ceremonies</i>	0.0
<i>CISD</i>	0.0
<i>Fires</i>	5.0
<i>Funerals</i>	3.0
<i>Hospital visit</i>	0.0
<i>Incidents</i>	0.0
<i>Meetings</i>	2.0
<i>Station Visits</i>	0.0
<i>Training</i>	0.0
<i>Wedding related</i>	0.0
<i>Monthly total</i>	14.0

Call of the Month

The call of the month for February took place during the early morning hours of Saturday, February 11. I received a page at about 2:30am for a vehicle accident not too far from my house. The information on the pager indicated three fatalities, so I went to the scene.

When I arrived I saw the two vehicles that were involved. Later I would come to realize that this was not a two-vehicle accident, but rather what I saw was one vehicle split in two. I have never seen anything like this. There were five young men in the car; three were killed instantly. I do not know what became of the two that survived the initial accident.

Most of our crews were already gone by the time I arrived. They had quickly loaded the two survivors in ambulances and transported them to Shands Hospital. I was able to spend some time with the guys that were still on scene and talk through what they had experienced.

What's happening now?

We continue to have a great time every Tuesday evening with the first ever Marion County Fire Rescue/Church @ The Springs small group. There are four families that are faithfully attending. Many others have expressed interest and we hope to get them involved during our next semester of groups.

I had the opportunity for a brief meeting with Representative Dennis Baxley. I had the chance to make him aware of Fire Rescue Support and the work we are doing.

I submitted my first grant request in February. Firehouse Subs, the sandwich shop, has a Public Safety Foundation that helps fire departments. The company was founded by two brothers who are firefighters in Jacksonville, FL. While these grants are generally given to help small departments purchase needed equipment, I am hoping they will make an investment in the lives of the people that serve us every day. The grant was written to help fund the development and delivery of educational programs designed to support our personnel in the areas of grief, stress management and family support.

What's coming up?

I had the incredible opportunity to attend the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation regional conference in West Palm Beach, FL. Thanks to the financial support of Marion County Fire Rescue, I was able to attend four days and participate in two workshops. The first workshop was called "Stress Management for the Trauma Provider." This is exactly what I want to offer our department. I will be translating what I learned into a presentation to be shared station by station. The second workshop was called "Line of Duty Death: Preparing the Best for the Worst." While I certainly hope we never have to deal with a line of duty death, this workshop gave me some great insight into all that needs to be done should something like this occur.

Thank you!

I continue to be amazed every time I get the opportunity to work alongside our department. I am so grateful to have this opportunity. Pray that the relationships I'm establishing would grow and that I would have the opportunity to openly share a message of hope through Jesus Christ.