



# Monthly Newsletter

## April 2012

### What happened?

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

<b>March 2012</b>	
<i>Accidents</i>	8.5
<i>Ceremonies</i>	6.0
<i>CISD</i>	0.0
<i>Counseling</i>	1.0
<i>Fires</i>	23.0
<i>Funerals</i>	0.0
<i>Hospital visits</i>	3.0
<i>Incidents</i>	3.0
<i>Meetings</i>	2.0
<i>Station Visits</i>	5.0
<i>Training</i>	32.0
<i>Wedding related</i>	0.0
<b><i>Monthly total</i></b>	<b>83.5</b>

### Call of the Month

On Wednesday, March 21, I was alerted via pager of a possible drowning at Gator Joe's (a restaurant on Lake Weir). While there was initially some confusion, it soon became clear that two young girls had been in trouble in the water. One had been rescued; one was still missing.

Our crews were in the water searching for the missing child. Unfortunately, there was a trench that was about 20 feet deep that they could not get to the bottom of. As time went on without recovering the other girl, everyone came to realize that she would not be saved.

As all of this was unfolding, family members of the missing girl began to arrive. Before everything was over, a group of about 25 had gathered. I was able to be there, along with a Crisis Intervention Specialist from the Sheriff's Office, to comfort the family.

I was also able to follow up with our fire rescue crews very specifically since I was on the scene with them. Situations involving children are among the most difficult for them to deal with.

## **What's happening now?**

I am very excited to let you know that the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation awarded Fire Rescue Support a \$5,000 grant for the development and delivery of educational programs in the area of stress management. This is the first grant we have ever applied for.

Speaking of grants, we have applied for another grant to support educational programs. This grant has been requested from FM Global Insurance Company. They award grants for fire prevention. We hope they will see a better prepared workforce is a key to fire prevention.

A couple of months ago, I had the privilege of helping start the first ever small group Bible study made up of people who attend Church @ The Springs and serve with Marion County Fire Rescue. I'm happy to tell you that I have left this group in the capable hands of one of our firefighters and his wife. I hope to help get another group started soon.

As you can see from the list on the other page, this has been my busiest month yet. A bulk of my time was spent at the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation regional conference. But our county has also been impacted by some significant forest fires that require a lot of man hours to bring under control. I am so grateful to have the time available to work alongside of our fire rescue crews.

## **What's coming up?**

I'm looking forward to putting the final touches on the "Stress Management for the Trauma Provider" presentation that I'll be taking to our stations. This will give me the opportunity to present some great information to our crews and also to continue to build relationships with them.

I'll be involved in a variety of graduation ceremonies over the next couple of months at the Florida State Fire College. I'm scheduled to be part of this time with firefighter, EMT and military search & rescue classes.

## **Thank you!**

Your encouragement, prayers and financial support make the work of Fire Rescue Support possible. You are partners in providing a listening ear to a fire rescue couple in a tough spot in their marriage. You help provide a cold bottle of water to crews who have been working on a fire scene for hours. You make it possible for someone to be there and extend a hand of comfort to a family grieving over their loss. Thanks for being part of making a difference. Thanks for being part of Fire Rescue Support.