



Monthly Newsletter

May 2012

What happened?

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

April	
<i>Accidents</i>	6.0
<i>Ceremonies</i>	7.5
<i>CISD</i>	1.5
<i>Counseling</i>	0.0
<i>Fires</i>	19.5
<i>Funerals</i>	0.0
<i>Hospital visits</i>	4.0
<i>Incidents</i>	5.0
<i>Meetings</i>	8.0
<i>Station Visits</i>	2.5
<i>Training</i>	0.0
<i>Wedding related</i>	1.0
<i>Monthly total</i>	55.0

Call of the Month

On Wednesday, April 25, I was responding to a residential structure fire when I heard these words over the radio: "Firefighter down!" I was only minutes away, but in that brief time my mind went through several scenarios of what may have taken place.

Fortunately, when I arrived I found that one of our firefighters had nearly passed out, but was already recovering in the back of an ambulance. It turned out he had been feeling poorly that day and the intensity of fighting the fire simply overwhelmed him. Close contact with his crew meant they were able to see his distress and provide care for him immediately.

Most of us take for granted that all those serving and protecting us will safely return home at the end of the day. Don't ever forget that their world is a dangerous one and remember to pray for God's protection over them each day.

What's happening now?

Fire Rescue Support received an unexpected gift last month in the form of a donation from a local foundation. Back in December, I sent letters to 10 foundations in the Ocala area. I did not hear back from any of them until last month when a check for \$1,000 arrived from the Amy E. Tarrant Foundation. I don't know much about this foundation, but hope to have the opportunity to establish an ongoing relationship with them. This whole situation was a strong reminder that God has the resources of the world at His disposal. We will continue to serve day-to-day trusting Him to meet our needs.

One of the Walmart stores in Ocala has been partnering with Fire Rescue Support to provide assistance to fire victims. The store on Easy Street has donated \$150 worth of gift cards to be given to those who suffer loss as a result of fire. Fire Rescue Support has been able to pass on these gift cards as a small gesture of help. Thank you Walmart for caring for your community in this way.

I had the opportunity to meet with two churches to share with them the vision of Fire Rescue Support and to ask for their financial support. Both Trinity Baptist Church of Ocala and Village View Community Church of Summerfield were very receptive and will consider partnering with us.

What's coming up?

Florida is experiencing ongoing drought conditions which will mean an increased risk of grass and wildland fires this summer. In fact, Marion County Fire Rescue has been working two large grass fires (over 200 acres each) since March. Anticipating this to continue, we are working with local businesses to be able to provide food to our crews when they are out for extended periods of time. We hope to receive support from places like Arby's, Publix, Subway, Walmart and Winn-Dixie. Pray for success as we approach these organizations.

Thank you!

Every time I put on my uniform, I am reminded that what I do is only possible because of your love, support and generosity. You are making it possible for me to pursue both a calling and a dream to make a difference in the lives of those that serve us every day. Thank you for investing in the lives of those that are part of Marion County Fire Rescue and others in the fire service that I get the privilege to work alongside of.