



Monthly Newsletter

July 2012

What happened?

Here is a breakdown of the hours I spent with Marion County Fire Rescue and Fire Rescue

| June | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Accidents</i> | <i>1.5</i> |
| <i>Ceremonies</i> | <i>2.5</i> |
| <i>CISD</i> | <i>3.0</i> |
| <i>Counseling</i> | <i>1.0</i> |
| <i>Fires</i> | <i>7.0</i> |
| <i>Funerals</i> | <i>0.0</i> |
| <i>Hospital visits</i> | <i>2.0</i> |
| <i>Incidents</i> | <i>2.5</i> |
| <i>Meetings</i> | <i>1.0</i> |
| <i>Station Visits</i> | <i>25.5</i> |
| <i>Training</i> | <i>0.0</i> |
| <i>Wedding related</i> | <i>0.0</i> |
| <i>Monthly total</i> | <i>46.0</i> |

Call of the Month

The month of June brought me back to Gator Joe's. I had been there with the department on March 21st due to a drowning in Lake Weir. The call this month was for the same reason.

A 19-year old who was in the water with his cousins drowned in exactly the same spot where a 12-year old drowned in March. I spent time on the beach with the victim's cousins trying to offer words of comfort. But in situations like this, there truly are no words that can help.

After the call I returned to the station to spend some time debriefing with the crews. They were frustrated that they couldn't have done more. After talking over coffee for about an hour, they went back in service. Moments later they were dispatched to their next call as their day had to go on. Remember to pray for our crews. They deal with much and often without a lot of time to process what they experience.

What's happening now?

After a couple of months in the making, I have finally finished a presentation on stress. I had the opportunity to attend a workshop hosted by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation called "Stress and the Trauma Provider." From that workshop I developed a presentation for Marion County Fire Rescue.

This presentation focuses on the unique manner in which those serving in fire rescue are impacted by stress. For the men and women of Marion County Fire Rescue, the question isn't *if* their job will bring stress to them, but rather *when* and *how often* they will deal with stress because of the work they do.

This presentation is being given to one station at a time. In this way, I have the opportunity to connect and have conversation with the crews.

What's coming up?

Every day the men and women of Marion County Fire Rescue provide professional and compassionate service to the residents of our county. However, when their work is complete, they leave the scene and prepare for the next call. At times, this finds them leaving people that are still in a pretty tough spot.

One of the ways that Fire Rescue Support is working to help the department extend its care for victims is through providing gift cards from places like Publix, Wal-Mart and Winn-Dixie. These gift cards can help to meet some basic needs, if even only in a small way.

To this end, I have been visiting stores asking for donations for this purpose. In addition, I am applying to the foundations of each of these stores for additional assistance. I hope to secure the resources to provide this extension of care.

Thank you!

For me, the intersection of passion and calling is found in the chaplaincy. And because of your love, support and generosity, I have the privilege of spending my days right in the middle of that intersection. Thank you for partnering with me in making a difference in the lives of those who serve us every day.

