



Monthly Newsletter

August 2013

**Fire Rescue Support exists to support fire rescue personnel
before, during and after the call**

Before the Call

Confidential email addresses

I'd like to let you know about two new email addresses that are available for you to connect with me at Fire Rescue Support. First, you can email joe@firerescuesupport.com from your personal email and have a way of communicating with me that won't make it into the public records. Also, pray@firerescuesupport.com can be used to send specific items that you would like me to pray about. As always, all communication will be kept strictly confidential.

OFR begins Character Council



The fire service has a long standing tradition of serving with pride, honor and integrity. These character qualities, and others like them, represent the essence of what a firefighter is. To deeply instill character qualities within Ocala Fire Rescue, Chief Bradd Clarke has started a Character Council whose purpose is to raise the awareness and value of character in the department and beyond. Look for more about the Character Council in the coming months.

ICISF training

I recently had the opportunity to attend a training session with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation in West Nyack, New York. The session I attended was called Advanced Group Crisis Intervention Strategies and Tactics for Complex Situations. This course took the principles of critical incident stress management and applied them to extremely difficult situations such as line of duty death and disasters. As an added bonus, the course was taught by Dr. Jeff Mitchell, President Emeritus of ICISF.

Love is in the air!

By the time 2013 comes to a close, I will have had the privilege of officiating six fire department weddings this year. Spending time with couples in preparation for their wedding and their marriage is one of the great joys I get to experience as a chaplain.

New hires

I've had the privilege over the years of spending time with the new hires to MCFR. Recently, I was invited to our Communications Center to talk with their newest recruits. I spent time talking about stress as it relates to their work and sharing about the role of the chaplain.



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During the Call

Call of the Month

While the late night fireworks were still sounding as the Fourth of July came to a close, I was contacted by dispatch about a single vehicle automobile accident. Sadly, a vehicle had failed to negotiate a curve in the road resulting in it colliding with a tree. The driver was pronounced dead on the scene.

Concerned that friends or family would come to the accident site, crews requested that I respond. This would allow the department to provide an extra measure of care during this tragedy.

Although no family or friends arrived, I was able to be there to support our crew, as well as the Florida Highway Patrol troopers on scene.

MCFR's new ladder trucks

Marion County Fire Rescue was excited to recently roll out two new 78-foot-long ladder trucks. Ladder 21 and Ladder 30 join Ladder 17.



What happened?

Here is a breakdown of the hours I spent with the Florida State Fire College, Marion County Fire Rescue, Ocala Fire Rescue and Fire Rescue Support last month...

July	
Accidents	3.5
Ceremonies	0.0
CISD	0.0
Counseling	3.0
Fires	0.0
Follow up	0.0
Funeral related	1.0
Hospital visits	5.5
Office	11.0
Incidents	1.5
Meetings	13.5
Special Events	0.0
Station Visits	20.0
Training	18.0
Wedding related	5.5
Monthly total	82.5



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After the Call

“Chief” Bobby Ramage



Bobby Ramage, a man who will always be known as “Chief”, recently ran his last shift with MCFR where he served for 28 years. So what’s next for a guy who is a

firefighter through and through? More time in the fire service! Bobby will soon be serving with The Villages Public Safety Department as a firefighter/EMT. We wish Bobby all the best and pray he will continue to make a difference as he faithfully leads and serves. Bobby is shown here with crews from Stations 17, 18 and 33 at a farewell dinner in his honor.

On a personal note

Owen returns from Afghanistan



As I write, my son-in-law, Corporal TJ Owen, is on his way home from his second deployment to Afghanistan. TJ, who serves with the Marines, is stationed in Cherry Point, NC, where he lives with my oldest daughter, Alleson. We are

grateful to him, and to all who serve our country, for their commitment to our safety and security.

Thank you!

Thanks for your interest in and support of Fire Rescue Support. We exist to support fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call. Visit www.firerescuesupport.com for more information or find us on Facebook. You can simply click on the images below.

