



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



72,000 Calls Later A Look Back at 2014



Fire rescue crews with Marion County Fire Rescue and Ocala Fire Rescue logged nearly 72,000 calls in 2014 and I have the privilege of working alongside of these men and women; men and women who have given their lives to serve their community. Here's how Fire Rescue Support worked before, during and after the call.

Before the call:

- 4 funerals of fire family members and 5 weddings of firefighters
- 14 ceremonies with Marion County Fire Rescue and the Florida State Fire College
- 19 hospital visits and 37 station visits
- 25 presentations on crisis intervention and stress management

During the call:

- 29 incidents including boating accidents, bomb threats, gas leaks, plane crashes and suspicious packages
- 37 fires with \$6,900 given to support fire victims
- 39 traffic accidents involving 14 fatalities

After the call:

- 19 Critical Incident Stress Management events including pediatric calls and motor vehicle fatalities
- 56 counseling appointments

I have had the privilege of being around fire rescue personnel for over 25 years and have a deep passion for what they do. They are a wonderful, caring group of people that often deal with the worst of what life has to offer. Thanks for allowing me the privilege to be there for them before, during and after the call.





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Before the Call

Wednesdays at Dunkin' Donuts



Each Wednesday at 8:30am I enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut at the Dunkin' Donuts at Baseline and Maricamp. I'm there because I like coffee. I'm also there to spend some time with those who share two very important parts of life – faith and firefighting. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and some time with those connected through both purpose and passion.



Winn-Dixie Grant



I'm excited to let you know that Fire Rescue Support was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant through the Bi-Lo/Winn-Dixie Foundation. This grant helps provide funding for our program designed to help fire victims.

Since beginning in 2012, Fire Rescue Support has given over \$11,000 to people who have suffered loss due to a fire. These funds are given to offer hope and give people the ability to start taking steps toward recovery.

Fire Rescue Support is grateful that the Bi-Lo/Winn-Dixie Foundation sees value in what we are doing by financially supporting our work.





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#GivingTuesday



Recently, Fire Rescue Support was part of an initiative called #GivingTuesday. Designed as a day for unselfish giving, #GivingTuesday gave people an opportunity to refocus their giving after Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

While we didn't raise a lot of money (we did receive over \$1,000!) the #GivingTuesday initiative gave Fire Rescue Support some great exposure.

We put together a series of videos showing our work among fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call. Nearly 20,000 people were reached on Facebook with these promotional videos. If you didn't get a chance to see them, you'll find them on the #GivingTuesday page of our website (www.firerescuesupport.com).

And if you would like to give to support our work, you can do that on our website as well.



CISM Classes



I am pleased to let you know that I will be teaching Individual/Peer Crisis Intervention and Group Crisis Intervention in Levy and Polk counties in February.

On February 11-12 (Individual/Peer) and February 25-26 (Group) the Levy County Department of Public Safety will host these classes at their facility in Bronson.

On February 16-17 (Individual/Peer) and February 18-19 (Group) the Polk County Critical Incident Stress Management Team will host these classes at the Polk County EOC in Winter Haven.

While these classes are being hosted by agencies, anyone is welcome to attend. More information and registration details for both these locations can be found on our website (www.firerescuesupport.com).





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Time for Some New Wheels

I remember my first car. It was a 1970 Ford Maverick that was about 10 years old when I got it. It was yellow in color, but a few cans of spray paint later, my brother and I had customized it metallic silver with a black racing stripe. Wow!

It was a great first car. I learned how to change the oil, work on the brakes and perform other basic auto maintenance tasks. That was back when you could open the hood of a car and not be intimidated by the host of computers running the vehicle.

At that time we lived about 30 miles from Chicago in a new subdivision being built up in the country. It was a time when urban sprawl was clashing with quiet living. It was a time that Ford clashed with John Deere.

The road from the Interstate leading to our house was a gravel road; the amenities of the city had not yet reached us. One fateful day, at the top of a hill on that gravel road, my poor Maverick met its maker in the form of a farm tractor pulling a disc attachment (I'm sure there is a more appropriate name, but remember, I'm a city boy).

Needless to say, that was the end of the Maverick. No amount of fine tuning, minor repairing or basic maintenance would bring new life to this car. I was in need of some new wheels.

And that's exactly what God offers us through Jesus. No amount of fine tuning, minor repairing or basic maintenance can take us from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive. What is needed is a fresh start; a new life.

God loves us, even while we are dead in our sin. In fact, Romans 5:8 tells us that it was while we were against Him that Jesus died for us. But God doesn't want us to stay dead; we are able to have new life. That's what it means to be born again.

If you are reading this and know that you are still trying to tinker with something that is broken beyond repair, this beginning of the New Year would be a great time to let God know that you are ready for a change. And if you know that you are already in Christ, I pray that you will choose to live fully the new life that God has made available to you.

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After the Call



On Saturday, September 13, Roy Jackson had a cardiac event. He had just returned from a bike ride and was cooling off in the shower when he started not feeling well. Moments later he was passed on the bed – his heart had stopped.

911 was called and minutes later MCFR Rescue 55 arrived and began advanced life support procedures. Rescue 55 was able to establish a pulse. Then, with assistance from MCFR Engine 31, Roy was transported to Munroe Regional Medical Center.

On Sunday, December 21, Roy Jackson and his family had the opportunity to meet crews from Rescue 55 and Engine 31. Roy expressed his thanks to the crews and shared that because of the passion they have for what they do, he is now able to continue living out his passion of being with his family.



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To My Brothers and Sisters

To say “thank you” doesn’t seem enough to capture the appreciation I have for what you do day-to-day. Your commitment to your work and to the people you serve is of the highest caliber. Even when times are challenging, you show up to every call with passion and purpose. You seek to bring hope where there is none and help when a hand is needed. You are rightly called “hero” and deserve the respect you receive from those of us that truly know what you do. In a small way, I will continue to my part. I’ll be there for you and the people you serve. More than anything, I’ll continue to pray for your safety and success every day.

Amazon Donates to Charity



For eligible purchases at Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer’s selected charitable organization. You can make Fire Rescue Support your organization by [clicking here](#). Then every time you order through the Amazon Smile website you’ll be helping Fire Rescue Support continue its mission of supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.

Thank you!

Thanks for your interest in and partnership with Fire Rescue Support. Because of you, we have the opportunity to support fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call. Visit www.firerescuesupport.com for more information or to donate. You can also find us on Facebook. And please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance personally or professionally. You can reach me at 352-425-1643 or joe@firerescuesupport.com.

