



# Monthly Newsletter November 2015

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

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## Fire Rescue Family Day



The games have been decided. The menu has been selected. The program has been established.

The only thing missing is you!

We are just two weeks away from Fire Rescue Family Day, a day set aside to give fire families of MCFR and OFR a chance to play together and receive our thanks for the work you do. In addition, we'll spend some time talking about some of the challenges that are unique to fire families.

### The games...

Twister, Dominoes, Connect, Gran Prix, Ring Toss, Fish Bowl, Golf, TicTacToe, Cornhole, Bean Bag Stoplight, Plink, Bowling and a Photo Booth. Also, cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn. In addition to all of this, each family will receive a goodie bag filled with gifts and items for our community sponsors.

### The menu...

For the kids: Chicken Nuggets, Macaroni & Cheese, Glazed Carrots

For the adults: Tossed Salad, Chicken Marsala, Pulled Pork in a Mojo Marinade, Mixed Vegetables and Dessert

### The program...

We have invited three fire couples to share their experiences over the years. Chief Anthony Ortiz (OFR) and his wife Olivia, Lt. Scott Ramage (MCFR) and his wife Danielle, and Lt. Alexis Sofield (MCFR) and his wife Madeline, will participate in an interactive discussion about the joys and challenges of fire families.

Fire Rescue Family Day is being held on Saturday, November 14 from 10:30am to 1:00pm hosted by Church @ The Springs and sponsored by Hale Pump.

To help us prepare for this event, please follow this link to an online registration form (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KNLKF5N>).

Don't have younger kids at home? Come anyway!  
On duty? Have your spouse and children join us!





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## #GivingTuesday



We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

Designed as a day for unselfish giving, the first Tuesday in December (this year it's December 1<sup>st</sup>), #GivingTuesday gives people an opportunity to refocus their giving after Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Fire Rescue Support is excited to be part of #GivingTuesday 2015. Between now and then, you can learn more about the work we do among fire rescue personnel by going to our website ([www.firerescuesupport.com](http://www.firerescuesupport.com)) and Facebook page (be sure to "Like" us). Then, on December 1<sup>st</sup>, you'll be given the opportunity to financially give to support this work.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday.

**#GIVINGTUESDAY™**

## Federation of Fire Chaplains



From October 16 – 22, I had the privilege of joining nearly 200 fire chaplains for the Federation of Fire Chaplains Annual Conference. Held in Palm Beach Gardens, this event brings together fire chaplains from all over the country, as well as Canada, for a great time of learning and connecting.

## Pediatric Fatality

On Thursday, October 15, at approximately 8:30am, MCFR Station 30 received a call for an unresponsive child. I arrived minutes after our units went on scene to find that the child was deceased. Our crews had switched from being rescuers to being compassion givers, a role they serve in very well.

As is usually the case, we spent only a little while with the family on scene. As extended family arrived we knew they would be well cared for. However, several days later, I heard from the family and was able to assist them by officiating at the child's memorial service.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be available whenever the need arises.



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## Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial



Each year, we gather to remember those from Florida who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial at the Florida State Fire College stands as a lasting tribute. It also serves as a stark reminder of the inherent dangers of this profession.

Firefighters, families and others from across our state gather to honor and remember. As Chaplain with the Florida State Fire College, it is my privilege to open and close this ceremony with prayer.

## Trunk or Treat

Church @ The Springs had the privilege of hosting over 6,000 people for a fun, safe evening on Halloween. The Springs is grateful to Marion County Fire Rescue Engine 32 and Engine 33 for being part of this event.





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### More than Just a Day

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Picture the day after Thanksgiving.

The day before you were in a house that was full; today things are back to normal. The day before you sat at a table full of holiday food; today there are only leftovers. The day before you took time to recite what you are thankful for; today, well what about today?

For many, the only thanksgiving they know is the fourth Thursday of November each year. This is the official day set aside for us to give thanks. But thanksgiving should be much more than a day of life; it should be a way of life.

For most of us, our thanksgiving list is full of the good things that God has done for us and the bad things He has kept from us. But this seems to limit Paul’s instructions stated above to “give thanks in all circumstances.” What about when the good things don’t get done and the bad things don’t get stopped?

Being thankful in all circumstances can be a challenge. Day in and day out, you see the tragedy and sorrow that is part of life. You are with people during some of their darkest moments and at times get drawn into their difficulties. So how can we be thankful in all circumstances?

Ultimately, we must come to see that what we have to be thankful for is our relationship with God and our ability to trust in Him completely. We must be able to look at the difficulties of life and put them into a bigger perspective; an eternal perspective.

“Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11





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## 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](http://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](mailto:joe@firerescuesupport.com).

