

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

Tradition Continues as Engine 16 is “Pushed In”

Recently, Marion County Fire Rescue continued a fire service tradition at Shady Station 16. A new engine was ceremonially “pushed in” as it replaced its predecessor. The history of “pushing in” apparatus goes back to the time of horse-drawn fire engines. When these units returned to the station after a call, the horses were unhitched and the engine was pushed back into the station by the crew. As part of this ceremony, new Engine 16 was “baptized” with water from old Engine 16 before being pushed into the station.





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CISM Training

One of my great passions is teaching. I love the opportunity to share relevant information that will make a difference in people's lives.

I have the privilege of being an Approved Instructor with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation and teach their two core courses. "Assisting Individuals in Crisis" focuses on helping an individual in a crisis situation by using questioning techniques to create a strong, empathic connection. In "Group Crisis Intervention", the focus is on helping a group move through a crisis situation using a variety of intervention techniques.

Over the next couple of months I'll be in the following locations teaching these two courses over three days.

Ocala, FL (Marion County) – April 5-7

Brooksville, FL (Pasco County) – April 12-14

Maitland, FL (Orange County) – April 19-21

Daytona Beach, FL (Volusia County) – May 10-12

Southport, FL (Bay County) – May 17-19

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

If none of these locations or dates are convenient and you have a group of at least 10 that are interested in these courses, contact me and I may be able to set up training in your area.



Human Side with OFR

You have the skills. You have the training. You have the experience. But is there something lacking in your preparation to do the job of a firefighter? Everything you do is done in the context of others. How well are you equipped to deal with the people you interact with day in and day out?

Recently, I spent three days with Ocala Fire Rescue talking about these questions through a presentation called The Human Side of the Fire Service. During our time, we explored how to better care for victims, our families, our peers and ourselves.

I'll be sharing this presentation with Sumter County Fire Rescue this month and Marion County Fire Rescue over the summer. Contact me if you're interested in having me bring this to your agency

Motorcycle and Fire Fatalities

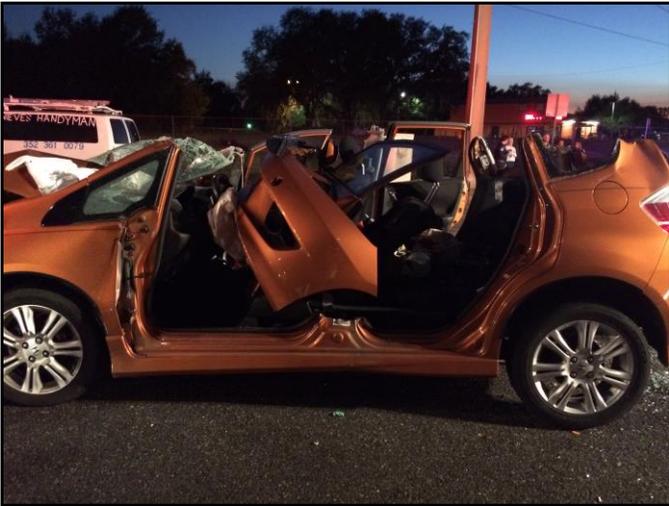
On Thursday, February 25, I was contacted by dispatch regarding a vehicle accident in Ocala that had left a motorcyclist dead. I responded to speak with the driver of the other vehicle, but they had already finished with law enforcement and left the scene. However, moments later, the mother of the deceased arrived. I was able to spend time consoling her and her husband.

Just two days later, on Saturday, February 27, I was dispatched to a structure fire with MCFR Station 6. A man was found dead in his home as the result of a morning fire.

"Teach me to number my days, that I may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

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Vehicle Crash at 441 & 42



I was leaving The Villages heading north on 441 when a call was dispatched for a vehicle crash at the intersection of Highway 441 & Highway 42. I was first on scene and found two vehicles with heavy damage. As you can see from the picture above, fire rescue personnel had to perform extensive extrication to free one of the individuals from their vehicle.

The gentleman who was the driver of this car was very concerned about making sure his wife was contacted. Since we were only a couple of blocks away from his home, I was able to drive there and let her know what had happened.



The Fire Chaplaincy

What are fire chaplains? What value do they bring to a department? What roles do they play? These and many other questions will be explored during a course I'll be teaching at the Florida State Fire College in April.

“The Fire Chaplaincy” will be held from 9:00am – 3:00pm on Friday, April 29.

From theory to practice, participants will leave challenged and prepared to bring this valuable position to their departments. This course is open to current chaplains, as well as those considering involvement as a chaplain in the future. This would also be the perfect opportunity for a department exploring the chaplaincy to find out what it is all about.

For more information and to register go to www.firerescuesupport.com





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He's My Brother

“He ain’t heavy, Father... he’s m’ brother.”

That iconic phrase has symbolized the spirit of Boys Town for decades. But many people don’t know how it originated. Back in 1918, a boy named Howard Loomis was abandoned by his mother at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys, which had just opened a year earlier. Howard had polio and wore heavy leg braces. Walking was very difficult for him, especially when he had to go up or down steps. Soon, several of the Home’s older boys were carrying Howard up and down the stairs. One day, Father Flanagan asked Reuben Granger, one of those older boys, if carrying Howard was hard. Reuben replied, “He ain’t heavy, Father... he’s m’ brother.”¹

That spirit of caring for others is what defines the fire service. That’s why we are called public servants. It’s our willingness to selflessly serve those in need that makes us who we are. Beyond our tools and techniques, it’s the person-to-person nature of our work that really matters. That is, it’s the human side of the fire service that makes a difference.

And now, more than ever, we are seeing that in order for us to be our best in providing care for those in need, we must provide care for one another.

I’m writing this after teaching a critical incident stress management course to those from the Coast Guard and 911 Communications, as well as fire rescue personnel. During our time, we learned how to provide care to those who have experienced a critical incident. And while this training will help support victims, the biggest focus is on providing care to those we serve alongside of.

Initiative 13 of the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundations states “firefighters and EMS professionals and their families must have the resources to deal with the various complications that their jobs can bring to their lives, especially issues regarding emotional and psychological stress.”² To accomplish this, agencies are beginning to look inward. That is, we are discovering that those in the best position to provide this support are sitting right in the firehouse. With training and guidance, peer support teams will be one of our best resources available to provide support and care for each other.

Supporting one another. I guess this is just one more idea that the Bible got right hundreds of years ago.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

¹ <http://blog.boystown.org/story-behind-aint-heavy>

² <http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/16-initiatives/13-psychological-support>



Monthly Newsletter
March 2016

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Thank you!

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