



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

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#### Fatal Crashes Impact Same Crew

On Saturday, May 7 and then again on Saturday, May 28, MCFR Station 6 responded to fatal car crashes. In each of these accidents, crews had to deal with tragic aftermath. These kinds of calls are hard on crews as they have to closely encounter the reality of death.

Station 6 is considered a slow station. However, these two calls show that, in the world of fire rescue, anything can happen anytime and anywhere.

#### CISM Training



Over the next couple of months I'll be in the following locations teaching the two core courses in the field of critical incident stress management.

- Brooksville, FL (Pasco County) – June 28-30
- Gainesville, FL (Alachua County) – August 23-25
- Miramar, FL (Broward County) – October 18-20

[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 15 that is interested in these courses, contact me and I may be able to set up training in your area.

#### Home Away From Home

I was recently in Bay County, Florida, teaching crisis intervention. During this trip, I did something I have never done before – I spent the night at a fire station. Now, for many who read this newsletter, this is not a big deal. In fact, you spend once every three nights at a fire station. But for me, it was something to look forward to.

I had grand images of being there among the crews, perhaps enjoying a meal, and then hearing the tones drop and watching them rush off to their latest call. I anticipated being jolted out of my sleep over and over again during the night.

But in reality, none of that happened. I was staying at a rural station that was staffed by two volunteers. No one actually stayed at the station. In fact, they didn't even have the alert tones activated at this facility.

While I can now say I've spent the night at a fire station, I'm sure my experience was nothing like those who do this on a regular basis.





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## **A Dispatcher's Prayer**

Dear Lord, help me keep safe those who depend on me.

Give me healthy ears, for they are my link with those who need me. Keep my mind sharp and alert; my fingers quick and nimble. Grant that I never forget how to do ten things at once, and do them all equally well.

Bless me with patience Lord. Patience to deal with the public, with the officers, with the firefighters, and with everyone else who makes me want to grit my teeth and yell.

Give me nerves of steel; that I may listen to a mother screaming for her child to live, the man with a gun, the family watching their home go up in flames, or a request for backup or more equipment and not give way to panic.

Grant me empathy that I may help the caller in need, and not cause them more pain than they already have.

God, give me the ability to learn what I need, to remember it quickly, and give me the wisdom to use the knowledge properly.

Bless my family Lord, for they will have to make sacrifices to shift work, overtime, canceled plans and times when I just can't take on one more thing. Help them understand the missed ball games, school programs and dinners for two.

Lord, give me courage; courage to persevere when I feel undervalued, unappreciated, overworked and unrecognized and courage to keep trying when I feel in my heart it's hopeless.

Last of all Lord; help me to never forget why I chose this job in the first place, to never lose sight of what is important in the midst of the stress. Help me to remember that I make a difference; however small it may seem some days, and that I matter.

I am a dispatcher, Lord, grant me peace.



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## **Semper Fidelis**

Years ago I had the opportunity to be in Parris Island, SC. I was there attending the graduation ceremony of a young man who is now my son-in-law. Over 600 men and women had completed their recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and were now being recognized as the newest United States Marines.

For 12 weeks, this group had endured difficulties, faced challenges and accomplished tasks that most of us will never deal with. They had learned to give their all. And when they thought they were empty, they dug down deeper and found hidden strength.

They were taught the history and values of the Marines, including the Marine Corps motto, *Semper Fidelis*. Latin for "always faithful," this motto guides Marines to remain faithful to the mission at hand, to each other, to the Corps and to country, no matter what.

While *Semper Fidelis* has been the Marine Corps motto since 1883, it has been God's motto from before the beginning of time. "Always faithful" is one of the many characteristics that God demonstrates to us.

- For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. Psalm 33:4
- Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23
- He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. 1 Corinthians 1:8-9
- But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

As you read this, my son-in-law is nearing the end of his eighth year in the Marine Corps. My respect, admiration, and gratitude for those serving our country have never been greater. Personally knowing just a little more about those that are committed to give their all for a cause greater than themselves is very humbling.

But, I've also learned an incredible lesson about God. He has been and will continue to be faithful to me. He gave His all for the cause of ransoming me. How will I live my life in return knowing what He has done?



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## Amazon Donates to Charity



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**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).

