



Air Rescue saves missing teens

On February 23, 2012, at 3:30 a.m., Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) responded to a report of two teenagers missing in the Everglades after embarking on a canoe trip on Wednesday afternoon.

MDFR's Air Rescue South was immediately dispatched to search for the young couple in a lake located northeast of the Flamingo campgrounds within Everglades National Park. Air Rescue flew in the dead-of-night through dense fog for more than hour before finding the teens. Upon discovering the missing canoe, flight medics were surprised to find that there were four people in the canoe. Apparently, two

young females that were initially unaccounted for, were invited on the excursion. All four canoers were hoisted into the helicopter and flown to safety without any injuries.

The mother of one of the missing teens became extremely concerned when her son and his girlfriend failed to return their canoe to the rental shop. She and her husband called 911 after driving out to Everglades National Park and finding their son's car minus the canoe. The rescued teens as well as their families were extremely grateful to the MDFR air and ground crews for finding them quickly.

OEM Who we are What we do

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) evolved from what was known as Civil Defense and was shaped by Hurricane Andrew's impact in South Miami Dade, and a federal initiative known as Project Impact. OEM is charged with providing the framework for the County's all hazards approach to managing disasters.

This approach focuses the programs of Emergency Management into four phases: Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. OEM centers its efforts on these four phases in order to ensure the protection of property and the continued safety and welfare of Miami-Dade's residents and visitors.

In order to ensure that all four phases are adequately addressed OEM works tirelessly every day to coordinate its activities with many of the County's Departments, all of its municipalities, a variety of non-profit social service and medical care agencies, businesses, residents, and visitors to ensure that our mission to support our community's disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation needs through the coordination of information and resources is accomplished and that ultimately our vision of having a disaster ready community is attained.



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The next Making Strides Against Breast Cancer bazaar will be on Friday, March 9. Stop by Headquarters and shop for a cause. The Public Affairs Bureau will be raffling off a \$100 gift certificate for the Rusty Pelican Restaurant. Tickets will be \$2 each or 6 tickets for \$10.

MDFR goes MADD

On Saturday, February 11, 2012, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) teamed up with MDFR, the City of Miami Fire Rescue, the City of Miami Beach Fire Rescue, the City of Hialeah Fire Rescue, the City of Coral Gables Fire Rescue, and the Village of Key Biscayne Fire Rescue Department to educate the residents of Miami-Dade County on the dangers of driving under the influence.

The event took place at Evelyn Greer Park, located in Pinecrest, and showed how extrication tools are used to get patients out of vehicles after they have been in an accident. Several units from all departments were also on display during the event.

Founded by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) is the nation's largest nonprofit working to protect families from drunk driving and underage drinking. With the help of those who want a safer future, MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving® will end this danger on America's roads. PowerTalk 21® is the national day for parents to talk with their kids about alcohol, using the proven strategies of the Power of Parents™ to reduce the risk of underage drinking. And as one of the largest victim services organizations in the U.S., MADD also supports drunk and drugged driving victims and survivors at no charge, serving one person every nine minutes through local MADD victim advocates and at 1-877-MADD-HELP. Learn more at www.madd.org or by calling 1-877-ASK-MADD.

Making strides in 2012



MDFR held its first 2012 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraising bazaar on February 10. Vendors that participated in the bazaar donated 15 percent of their profits to the American Cancer Society, which amounted to \$321.00. Additionally, MDFR raised \$73.00 selling t-shirts. MDFR collected \$595.00 from the sale of raffle tickets for two gift baskets donated by Macy's. The baskets included perfumes and colognes from some of Macy's best selling lines. The baskets had a retail value of \$1,525. FF Amina Abueshtaye and Police Officer Richard Adams were the two lucky winners. MDFR's team started the 2012 campaign on a high note, by already raising \$989.

OEM hosts Citizens Corps Public Safety Day

The Miami-Dade Citizen Corps partnered with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and BJ's to host Public Safety Day to promote public safety and awareness issues, best practices for family security during emergencies, and community preparedness. The free event took place on February 18 at the Miami Lakes Club BJ's.

OEM was the host agency for Miami-Dade Citizen Corps, which coordinates community programs aimed at preparing residents and visitors with the skills

and training to properly deal with a major emergency. The Miami-Dade Citizen Corps Council is made up of four core programs: the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami-Dade, Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS), and Medical Reserve Corps.

The Public Safety was a success and provided important preparedness information to over 200 residents. Look out for this event scheduled in South Miami-Dade for Summer 2012!



MDFR gets inspected by ISO

For the first time in more than 30 years, representatives from the Insurance Service Office (ISO) will be conducting a Public Protection Survey of the Fire District in late April. ISO is a private organization that serves insurance companies and others by providing information about a community's risk. ISO uses a set of criteria defined in the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) to review a community's fire suppression capabilities and assign the Public Protection Classification (PPC™) - a number from Class 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

When ISO develops a single PPC™ for a community, all of the community's properties receive that classification. However, in the 30 municipals and the unincorporated areas which make up the Fire District, ISO will develop a split classification. In 1978, the Fire District was assigned a split rating of 4/9. Generally, the first class (Class 4) applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. The second class (Class 9) applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station but beyond 1,000 feet of a hydrant. ISO generally assigns Class 10 to properties beyond five road miles.

The FSRS allocates credit by evaluating the following three major areas:

1. Fire Alarm and Communications System, which accounts for 10 percent of the PPC, analyzes a community's facilities and support for handling and dispatching fire incidents
 2. Fire Department, which accounts for 50 percent, examines the engine companies, distribution of fire stations and fire companies, and the department staffing and training
 3. Water Supply System, accounting for 40 percent, reviews the water supply a community uses for fire suppression.
- No weight is assigned to other services provided by and expected of modern fire-rescue departments, such as a department's ability to provide emergency

medical services, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, or responses to motor vehicle collisions.

During their one-week site visit in late April, ISO representatives will be visiting MDR's Alarm Office and may visit stations to verify station location and inventory station apparatus. They will also be reviewing our training and response records as well as, documentation attesting to pump and hose tests and maintenance and inspection of hydrants. ISO representatives will also be conducting flow tests of selected hydrants within our response area. Additional information regarding ISO's site visit will be made available through All Stations and Office Memorandums as their visit approaches.

ISO's PPC™ rating is important to our residents and commercial and industrial stakeholders. Our PPC™ rating plays an important part in the decisions insurers make affecting the availability and price of property insurance. Individual Insurance companies, not ISO, determine the premiums they charge to policyholders. The methodology a company uses to calculate premiums for property insurance may depend on the company's fire-loss experience, underwriting guidelines, and marketing strategy. Some insurance companies, such as State Farm, disregard the ISO protection class when underwriting a policy. This is precisely the reason ISO stresses the fact that the FSRS is an insurance rating tool and not intended to be used as a means of evaluating the quality of fire protection provided by a community. Albeit, assuming all other factors are equal, the price of property insurance in a community with a good PPC is lower than in a community with a poor PPC.

For additional information on ISO visit: <http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/>



Save the date! Medal Day 2012

The Board of Merit will be hosting its 11th Annual Medal Day Ceremony on Saturday, March 24, at 10 a.m., at Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's (MDFR) Training Center.

More than 100 MDFR employees will be honored at this year's ceremony. Medal Day is MDFR's way of recognizing the meritorious efforts of the men and women who perform above and beyond the call of duty in a job that requires unparalleled bravery every day.

Employees will be recognized in seven different categories, with the highest being the Gold Medal of Valor. This year, the Board of Merit will be presenting the three highest awards that they offer.

Bring your friends and family and join us, as we honor our local heroes.



Carlos A. Gimenez
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Esteban Bovo, District 13

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts
Pedro J. Garcia, Property Appraiser
Alina T. Hudak, County Manager
Robert A. Cuevas Jr., County At-

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Main number:
786-331-5000

www.miamidade.gov/mdfr

Mission Statement:
We protect people, property and the environment by providing responsive professional and humanitarian fire rescue services essential to public health, safety and well-being.

Produced by the MDFR Public Affairs Bureau

Ryder Trauma Center rededicates EMS lounge

Several representatives from fire rescue departments throughout Miami-Dade County attended a rededication ceremony of the EMS lounge in the Jackson Memorial Hospital Ryder Trauma Center on January 26th. This room, which is equipped with a coffee machine, refrigerator and computer, will be used as a break room for fire rescue personnel who bring patients to Ryder. JHS Chief Operating Officer Don S. Steigman and Nicholas Namias, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.M., co-medical director of Ryder Trauma Center, welcomed fire rescue crews from the Miami-Dade County, Miami, Miami Beach and Hialeah.



MDFR and Jackson Memorial employees enjoy the EMS lounge.



A Day of Remembrance honoring the life of Lt. Daniel James Hall

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan and Fire Chief, William Bryson, paid homage to Lt. Daniel James Hall, a trailblazer, who helped shape the agenda for young African Americans interested in the Miami-Dade Fire Department. On February 27, 2012, Commissioner Jordan presented the family of the late Lt. Hall a proclamation honoring his years of service and acknowledging the trials and tribulations of his tenure as one of the first Blacks in the Fire Department. The event took place at Station 11 in Miami Gardens where Lt. Hall worked for many years.

Lt. Hall was hired by Miami-Dade County in June 1969 and transferred from Aviation to the Fire Department in August 1970. "He had to overcome insurmountable obstacles," said Commissioner Jordan. "Lt. Hall was faced with various challenges, but he rose above it all to become a productive member of the Fire Department and a valued mentor."

During his speech, Fire Chief Bryson, stressed Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. words: "The measure of a person's greatness is not in the number of servants they have but in the number of people they serve" and introduced Metro-Dade Firefighters Local 1403, first black president, Captain Rowan Taylor. "Lt. Hall paved the way for people like me to be presently representing all firefighters regardless of color."

Lt. Hall planted a seed in this effort by being part of the group who formed the Progressive Firefighters Association of Dade County, an organization of black firefighters. This group laid the foundations and made bridges so minorities might cross over to be able to achieve opportunities and prosperity. Retired Progressive Firefighter Chief, David James, was in attendance and spoke very highly of Lt. Hall's commendable track record. Nowadays, the "Progressive Firefighters" continue promoting the spirit of fellowship amongst its members as well as organizing and encouraging activities that enhance the fire rescue service image. For the group, Lt. Hall is a metaphor for the struggle to attain racial equality.

It is fitting that this recognition is held during Black History Month, as it is the official yearly celebration of the achievements of African Americans. It falls in February, the same month as the birthdays of the great black leader Frederick Douglass (February 14), who fought to gain equal rights for all people and of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12), who helped to end slavery in the United States.

