



## Helping Hands in Haiti

On January 12, the world watched the images of Haiti. Minutes after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit, MDR's Urban Search and Rescue team was getting prepared to head out to help locate victims stuck in the rubble.

The team finally arrived in Haiti on Thursday, January 14. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Urban Search and Rescue team, Florida Task Force 1, sent off 80 members and 7 canines to assist with this recovery effort.

Team members immediately went out to search for victims once they arrived in Haiti, even though their equipment arrived at the island nation hours after they did. During the 11 days the team conducted operations in Haiti, they rescued 11 people.

Team members returned to a heroes' welcome on Monday, January 25.



*A Message  
from Fire Chief  
Herminio Lorenzo,  
MDR Director*

As a fire-rescue department, we respond to the needs of others locally, but as a caring organization, we are sensitive to the needs of those around the globe. I am proud of our department's response to help the unfortunate victims of Haiti's devastating earthquake.

MDR's Urban Search and Rescue team, Florida Task Force 1, worked under trying conditions for 11 days in an attempt to pull people from the ruins of Port-au-Prince. At the end of the team's mission, a portion of its equipment cache was left behind to help. Items included tents, pharmaceutical and medical supplies, food, water and generators.

Our personnel at home have been assisting with collections of essential basic items for the island nation. Firefighters in the stations have been accepting food items dropped off for the quake victims. They also have been out on the street corners collecting donations for the Haiti relief effort. Communications Division personnel, on their own initiative and at some personal expense, conducted a successful food drive.

During my visit to Haiti, I experienced the suffering of the people who did not have the resources to help themselves. I know that the efforts of our employees will play a part in making a difference. By coming together now to support Haiti's recovery and rebuilding, our department will be able to witness that nation's future renewal. Thank you all.

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Comments about Hotlines.  
Contact Elizabeth  
Calzadilla-Fiallo at [efiallo@miamidade.gov](mailto:efiallo@miamidade.gov).  
Submissions welcomed.



# MDFR Seeks Accreditation by CFAI

On January 30, 2010, MDFR became a Candidate Agency seeking accreditation from the Center of Public Safety Excellence, Inc.'s Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

Accreditation is a process for validating whether an agency meets a nationally accepted set of best practices by which a community can judge the level and quality of fire, EMS and other services provided. It will allow MDFR to assure the Miami-Dade County community that MDFR employs the most current state-of-the-art practices in reducing fire/emergency medical services (EMS) risks, thereby "Delivering Excellence Every Day."

The initial step toward accreditation was a self-assessment evaluation, Self-Assessment Manual (SAM), gauging the efficiency and effectiveness of our services and programs, and how well they comply with legislated and regulated mandates in 10 key categories: Governance and Administration, Assessment and Planning, Goals and Objectives, Financial Resources, Programs, Physical Resources, Human Resources, Training and Competency, Essential Resources and External Systems Relationships. Within each category, there are 45 total criteria that serve as a measure upon which a performance is based. The criteria are further broken down into 244 performance indicators, which define the desired level of achievement or performance for each specific task.

Self-assessment for accreditation provides factual information about what is happening in the organization; serves as a "blueprint" for improving planning, implementation and effectiveness of future activities; provides community leaders with a method to determine their needs and desires on a given issue based on a rigid, mathematical and quantifiable criteria, not on a

subjective opinion; highlights issues at the operational level; and promotes continuous self-improvement. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is currently partnering with the CFAI in modifying their Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) to provide a credit for accreditation.

MDFR's accreditation process also entailed completion of a Standards of Coverage (SOC). The SOC detailed a community risk assessment (maximum/worst risk, high hazards risk, and remote/isolated risk); time and on-scene performance expectations; establishment of an effective response force; the distribution and concentration of resources; response reliability; and historical response data. Both the SAM and SOC will be available on MDFRnet in the near future.

On March 18, 2010, the Team of Peer Assessors assigned to review MDFR determined that our department was a candidate for accreditation and tentatively set early June 2010 for their 5-day onsite visit to validate the information submitted/collected during MDFR's self-assessment process.

During their June trip, team members will be visiting our stations and other facilities and conversing about "what accreditation means to you, as a member of MDFR, and the community you serve."

At the conclusion of the onsite visit, the Peer Assessment Team will advise MDFR whether they will make a favorable recommendation to accredit the department. The Peer Assessment Team will complete the Peer Assessment Report, which outlines strengths, weakness and corrections/opportunities needed to achieve accreditation status. The Assessment Team, MDFR and County management would then appear before the Commission on Fire Accreditation International at the Fire Rescue International Conference in August 2010 for accreditation.



Always Ready. Proud to Serve  
Commission on Fire Accreditation International

## Accreditation... What does it mean to you and the community you serve?

### Miami-Dade Fire Rescue and Accreditation

- Committed to best practices
- Focused on continuously improving
- Accountable at all levels
- Innovative in responding to change

For CFAI accreditation information go to [www.miamidade.gov/mdfr](http://www.miamidade.gov/mdfr)



## Aiding Haiti

While 80 member of MDR's US&R team were in Haiti, local firefighters also wanted to help out.

In order to assist the people of Haiti as they begin to rebuild everything they lost, all MDR stations became official drop-off locations for donations for the Haitian Earthquake Relief Drive.

In just the first week that MDR received donations, stations had collected over 350 pallets of supplies. MDR volunteers and Dade County Materials Management teams have packaged, sorted, and distributed over 100 pallets of supplies that arrived in Haiti.

Stations will continue to collect unexpired, non-perishable, non-glass containers of the following items:

- Peanut butter
- Corn meal
- Flour
- Cooking oil
- Powdered milk
- 100 percent fruit juice (cans, boxes)
- Cereal (dry and hot)
- Rice, pasta, noodles, and other grains
- Beans (dry or canned)
- Pasta sauces
- Canned or dried fruits
- Crackers and snacks
- Seeds for planting vegetables and fruits
- Baby food and infant formula
- Canned milk, tuna, salmon, meat, vegetables, soups or broth
- Jelly
- Bottled water

MDR is also collecting the following non-food items:

- Tents
- Gloves of all types
- Masks

Our department is not collecting clothing at this time.

This relief drive helps us to continue assisting the people of Haiti as they start to rebuild everything they lost.

## MDFR Promotes Two for Top Slots

Congratulations to Chief David Downey and Chief Karls Paul-Noel, who have assumed new responsibilities. Chief Downey was chosen as the Assistant Chief for Technical and Support Services, and Chief Paul-Noel was appointed Assistant Chief for Operations.

Chief Downey has more than 22 years of service with MDR and formerly served in the capacity of Division Chief of the Training and Safety Division. He currently serves as the Fire Rescue Workgroup Chair of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force, the Region 7 Coordinator for the Florida Fire Chiefs' Statewide Emergency Response Plan, and the Eastern Division Task Force Leaders Representative for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Urban Search and Rescue Response Program.

Chief Karls Paul-Noel is a 26-year MDR veteran, who previously held the position of Assistant Chief for Technical and Support Services. He has extensive operations experience and has responded to worldwide disasters with MDR's Urban Search and Rescue team. He is an adjunct instructor for the Miami Dade College Medical Program and the Florida International University MPA graduate program.

## MDR Dedicates Eastern Shores Station 78

MDR is proud to serve the residents of North Miami Beach out of Eastern Shores Fire Rescue Station 78. The station has been in existence for 25 years and previously was operated by a private ambulance company.

After the City of North Miami Beach entered into an agreement with Miami-Dade County to provide service at this facility, a rescue unit began responding on Oct. 30, 2009 and maintained service while the station had been undergoing renovations. The City of North Miami Beach held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the official opening on Feb. 17, 2010.



## Moses and Aaron Foundation Honors MDR

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez joined Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun and Yehuda Kaploun of The Moses and Aaron Foundation, as well as a number of elected officials and dignitaries, to celebrate the Festival of Chanukah and honor some of Miami-Dade County's community leaders at the Julius Littman Performing Arts Theater in Miami Beach on December 15, 2009.

Fire Chief Herminio Lorenzo was recognized that evening along with other local honorees that included Rabbi Abraham Korf, Judge Don Cohn, Government Affairs Consultant Ronald L. Book,

and Special Projects Coordinator for the Office of the Mayor, Marilyn Rey. All of the honorees have dedicated their time and talents to many worthy causes including elder issues, preventing homelessness, assisting the mentally challenged, educating children and adults, helping troubled families, and protecting and bettering lives through public service.

Mayor Carlos Alvarez also presented a proclamation declaring the day December 15, 2009 "Moses and Aaron Foundation Chanukah Candle Lighting Ceremony Day."





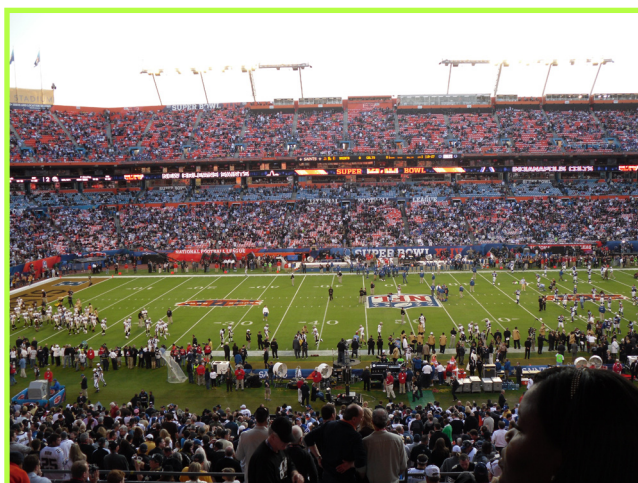
## A Super Day for MDR

On February 7, 153 million people worldwide watched the New Orleans Saints beat the Indianapolis Colts in the most watched Super Bowl in history. While people were watching the action on the field, MDR was working behind the scene to make sure that everyone in the stadium was safe. MDR spent countless hours planning and preparing for the big day. The week leading up to the big game included meetings and the set-up of the ITC Communications Village.

Early on game day, MDR personnel started to check in for their assignments. Employees from different departments showed up at Noreland High School with one mission: to protect people, property, and the community. Hundreds of employees from Fire Prevention, Staffing, Logistics, Facilities, MIT, Operations, Haz-Mat, Special Ops, Media and Public Relations, and other bureaus were all assigned to different areas to make sure that visitors had a safe and memorable day.

On game day, MDR responded to more than 50 calls inside Sun Life Stadium. MDR personnel worked late into the evening, ensuring the safety of all.

"The Super Bowl was a successful event," said Fire Chief Herminio Lorenzo. "This event was unprecedented with the level of cooperation not only within the department across divisions but with interagency support."



**Did You Know?**  
That Super Bowl XLIV was watched by an average of more than 106 million people, surpassing the 1983 finale of "M-A-S-H," to become the most watched program in U.S. television history.

### MDR On Demand

The Media and Public Relations Bureau is preparing to launch MediaNet on MDRnet. MediaNet is the department's one-stop multi-media shop that enables the easy exchange of print, digital and audio-visual content.

MediaNet is fast, easy and convenient. It lets employees search archived department news clips, news releases, PIO articles, and training, public safety and promotional videos. It also gives employees access to more than 75,000 digital images stored in MDR's Photo Library.

### Yearbook Update

The MDR yearbook is finally here. Yearbooks started shipping out in early 2010, just in time for MDR's 75th Anniversary.

This 216-page historical/pictorial book includes a history of the department and hundreds of photos. Chapters include: line of duty deaths, honor guard, department history, fire stations, union history, fire chiefs, operations, special operations, ocean rescue, and more.

People interested in purchasing the book can call 1-888-263-4702, or visit [www.mtpublishing.com](http://www.mtpublishing.com).

### MDR Defeats MDPD

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, MDR competed against MDPD in the second annual Obstacle Course Competition. The event was held at the Miami-Dade Police Department Metropolitan Police Institute.

Even though MDPD had the home field advantage, MDR's final team time was 10 minutes faster than MDPD's. Lt. Miguel Yanes won the Men's Division with a time of 02:01.4, and Lt. Rob Sheppard came in a close second with a time of 02:02.7. Firefighter Jessica LeNoir won the Women's Division with a time of 2:44.3.

Apart from the friendly competition, the goal of the event was to raise money for charity. The charities that benefitted from this challenge were Operation Support Our Wounded Warriors and the Children's Cancer Caring Center.





## Making the Grade

### MDFR Firefighters Graduate from Basic SRT Course

For the first time, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) firefighters were invited to participate in a Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Special Response Team (SRT) training course. The grueling 3-week course required an 8-hour physical skills assessment and firearms qualification, which was followed by daily strenuous physical training, firearms training, basic rappelling, exposure to chemical agents, training in diversionary devices, and victim and/or hostage rescue operations.



A total of 42 personnel (24 from qualified for the course. By the end of the three weeks, eight MDFR personnel remained among a total

of 13 graduates.

The eight graduating MDFR firefighters will now participate in a reserve officer training program; once completed, they will qualify to be assigned to the three MDPD Special Response Teams. Additional MDFR personnel will take upcoming SRT training courses as they are offered, eventually comprising a cadre of fully trained Tactical Paramedics to work closely with our MDPD brothers and sisters.

### MDFR Receives Positive Feedback

MDFR continues to receive positive results through the Customer Feedback Survey. For patients served between January 1 and October 25, 2009 the results of emergency medical service were outstanding. Just under 3,000 medical patients returned the survey, which accounted for 11 percent of the surveys sent. Respondents scored the four questions between one (1) and five (5), with one being strongly disagree and five being strongly agree. On the average for all four questions, respondents rated our department's service 4.80 overall. Just under 90 percent of all returned surveys have received an overall average score above 4.50, which is excellent. These results confirm MDFR's outstanding service and professionalism in delivering the highest level of emergency medical care.



### Trauma Survivor Reunites with MDFR Responders

MDFR responded to a motor-vehicle collision involving a motorcycle and a sports utility vehicle (SUV) on the evening of July 4, 2009. First-arriving units from North Miami Beach Station 31 discovered two male riders who had been ejected when their motorcycle was struck by the SUV. Crews acted quickly to stabilize both critically injured men, who were transported to the trauma center via Air Rescue. One of the injured riders slipped into a coma due to the serious traumatic injuries he suffered, and the other sustained a severe head injury.

Fortunately, both victims survived and have made a full recovery. Rafael Rios, one of the survivors, visited Station 31 on November 4, 2009 to reunite with the MDFR firefighters who came to his aid. He conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to the fire-rescue crews, who were happy to know that their actions had contributed to such a positive outcome for Rafael.



### Powering Down Pays Off

As we approach Earth Day (April 22), MDFR continues to do its part to guarantee that the earth stays the same color as its trucks. The electricity-savings program, Gearing Up to Power Down, was launched in November 2009 and will continue until November 2010.

So far, many stations have shown impressive reductions in power consumption. Villages of Homestead Station 66 posted a remarkable 24 percent reduction as compared to the previous year. Trail Station 61 and East Homestead Station 65 also

have posted double-digit reductions: 16 and 14 percent respectively.



In total, all stations and facilities reduced electricity usage by approximately 43,000 kilowatt hours just during the month of January. To provide some frame of reference, one ton of coal produces approximately 2,500 kilowatt hours of electricity. Please continue to conserve power and check MDFRnet for updates. Those stations and facilities that reduce power consumption by at least 10 percent will be eligible for station rewards.

## "His House" Cares for Haiti's Children

The youngest victims of Haiti's earthquake are being housed in South Florida as they transition into their adoptive homes. His House, a faith-based nonprofit organization in Miami Gardens, is the first temporary home for almost all Haitian orphans arriving in the state of Florida. The founder and director of His House is Jean Caceres-Gonzalez, who is married to MDFR Firefighter Mario J Gonzalez.

The Haitian government allows only those children already in an adoption process to leave the country, and His House must be ready to take care of them when they arrive, even at a moment's notice. On one particular weekend, 67 youngsters came to South Florida. Ages of the orphans range from nearly newborn to teenagers.

Financial need is mounting for His House. The indefinite amounts of food, clothing and shelter given to the children are presently funded by private donations.

All of the Haitian children who have arrived at His House already are in the process of being adopted, and His House also is offering support to the adoptive parents working through the uncertain adoption process.



## The Loss of Two Sisters

Firefighter Catherine Wall lost her battle with myeloid leukemia on December 14, 2009. At the same time, MDFR lost a colleague who continually strived to improve the well-being of others. Our department dedicated North Miami Beach Station 31 to Firefighter Wall in her presence on November 6, 2009. This dedication was a testament of her significant contribution to the community and to the thousands of hours she spent helping those in need during her 25-year tenure.

The kindhearted spirit of Lieutenant Cathy Angyus also will be missed by our department. She passed away in December while vacationing in Brazil. Lt. Angyus was a woman of many athletic talents who loved traveling and the outdoors. She was a 10-year veteran with MDFR and was assigned to Engine 63 for the past three years. She previously became the first female firefighter with the Hammond, Indiana Fire Department, where she served for 10 years.

## MDFR Posthumously Honors a Hero

MDFR honored United States Marine Corporal Christian Guzman-Rivera by swearing him in as an honorary firefighter posthumously during a small ceremony that was held on November 13th at Station 66 in Guzman-Rivera's hometown of Homestead.

Corporal Guzman-Rivera was a 21-year-old soldier who died on August 6, 2009 with four other US Marines after their HUMVEE drove over a land mine in the western province of Farah in Afghanistan. Corporal Guzman-Rivera's dream was to become a Miami-Dade Fire Rescue firefighter.



## MDFR Gets Fit

The MIT Get Fitness Challenge crowned its biggest "losers" on November 24, 2009. The competition lasted 12 weeks, and the winner was calculated based on the highest percent of body fat loss. The winners were McGregor



Sheppard from Fire Prevention with a 19.66 percent weight loss and Elizabeth Calzadilla-Fiallo from the Media and Public Relation with a 21.65 percent weight loss.

Congratulations to all the 28 "losers" who lost 143 pounds total.

### Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Main number:  
786-331-5000

[www.miamidade.gov/mdfr](http://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 Media and Public Relations Bureau

Be on the lookout for MDFR's first reality show, **Danger Coast**, premiering on Friday, April 9, at 9:30 p.m on Country Music Television (CMT).



Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Board of County Commissioners  
Dennis C. Moss, Chairman; José "Pepe" Diaz, Vice Chairman; Barbara J. Jordan, District 1; Dorrin D. Rolle, District 2; Audrey M. Edmonson, District 3; Sally A. Heyman, District 4; Bruno A. Barreiro, District 5; Rebeca Sosa, District 6; Carlos A. Gimenez, District 7; Katy Sorenson, District 8; Dennis C. Moss, District 9; Sen. Javier D. Souto, District 10; Joe A. Martinez, District 11; José "Pepe" Diaz, District 12; Natacha Seijas, District 13

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts; Pedro J. Garcia, Property Appraiser; George M. Burgess, County Manager; Robert A. Cuevas Jr., County Attorney