



Venom Response Team Featured on Animal Planet

MDFR's Venom Response Team encounter dangerous creatures like venomous vipers, ravenous gators, terrifying tegu lizards and deadly bees on a daily basis. On June 12, 2011, Animal Planet viewers tuned in to a virtual "ride-along" with the team members as the brand-new series "Swamp Wars" premiered.

This elite group comes face-to-face with South Florida's deadliest creatures – the source of more than 1,000 frantic emergency calls in the region placed annually – and recently saved the life of a 14-year-old Loxahatchee boy bitten by an Eastern Diamond-

back Rattlesnake. The new Animal Planet episodes follow MDR's specially trained firefighters, who comprise the only emergency response team of its kind and currently hold the largest and only anti-venom bank available for public use in the nation.

The series follows the intensity and urgency of our renowned team's clash with nature as the group takes down killer snakes, rushes against the clock to deliver anti-venoms and ultimately saves lives. Stay tuned to Animal Planet at 9 p.m. on Sundays to watch "Venom One" in action.

A Message from Interim Fire Chief Karls Paul-Noel



After much thought and deliberation, I will be retiring on August 16, 2011. I have served the public proudly for 27 years and now is time to move on to another chapter of my life. I feel honored to have had the privilege of working for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, a world-class organization, second to none because of the people that make up the department. The tremendous opportunities that I have been afforded while working for the County are too many to list. Most recently, in May 2011, when Fire Chief Herminio Lorenzo retired, I assumed the role of Interim Fire Chief.

We have experienced a number of transitions in the last couple of months, both within our department and the county. We have elected a new mayor and two new commissioners.

When Mayor Carlos Gimenez proposed the budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year, it was apparent that Miami-Dade Fire Rescue would be facing some very challenging times. The proposed budget will affect fire boat service and eliminate five vacant sworn positions as well as 70 civilian positions, 52 which are filled. Our department has been feeling the impact of the economic downturn for some years now. It seems like every year we are expected to do more with less. I realize all this will impact everyone in our department. Making decisions to reduce our committed workforce is a difficult one.

We will not know the full impact of the budget until it is approved by the Board of County Commissioners on September 22, and the negotiations are completed with all county labor unions. During these times we continue to provide the community with the best service possible. This is due to the dedication from each and every one of you.

I would like to thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to Miami Dade Fire Rescue and the residents of Miami-Dade County as we work to find new ways of conducting business. I leave with the memories of many wonderful people and the knowledge the department rests in good hands.

You are the best ambassadors of our department's mission! Remember that we are defined by the service we give and I will forever remain "Always Ready and Proud to Serve".

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**Comments about Hotlines.
Contact Griselle Marino at
gmarino@miamidade.gov.
Submissions welcomed.**

Put on your Pink Bra and join MDR's team!

October is Breast Cancer awareness month, and MDR has joined forces with the American Cancer Society to "Make Strides Against Breast Cancer." On Sunday, October 9, MDR will join thousands to participate in a 3.2-mile walk fundraising event.

In the past, MDR has been one of the county's top fundraisers. Donations will help the American Cancer Society find better ways to prevent, detect, and treat breast cancer as well as provide help and hope to people facing the disease.

In 2010, Miami-Dade County raised over \$100,000. To become a member of MDR's team or to donate, visit <http://bit.ly/o86FzL>.



MDR Prepares for the Airbus 380

Lufthansa's Airbus 380 made its inaugural landing at Miami International Airport on June 10, 2011 and MDR was ready for it.

Before its arrival, total familiarization was considered key to MDR's preparation in serving the world's largest passenger aircraft. Firefighters needed to become familiar with various aspects of this newest and largest commercial passenger airliner. A larger, longer ladder was purchased by MDR for emergency responders to reach the 79-foot-high, 237-foot-long aircraft. The Airbus 380 has 50 percent more floor area than the 747-400.

Required firefighter training included familiarization of the double-deck, wide-body aircraft configuration and its evacuation procedures, including the 16 slides of the aircraft. The Airbus 380 that flies into Miami International Airport accommodates 525 passengers, almost 100 more than the rival Boeing 747, but it can carry 853 passengers in an all-economy configuration.

SCBAs Donated to MDCR



Interim Fire Chief Karls Paul-Noel presents Director Timothy Ryan with the donated SCBAs.

On July 1, 2011, MDR donated 300 Dräger Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) and an additional 524 masks to the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department.

SCBAs are devices worn by rescue workers, firefighters, and others to provide breathable air in situations where there is an immediate danger to life and health. An SCBA has three components: a high-pressure tank, a pressure regulator, and an inhalation connection that consists of a face mask. All three components connect together and are mounted on a carrying frame.

MDR donated a surplus supply of SCBAs. The donation helped the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department incur a savings of more than \$450,000. The donation helped our public safety partner while helping to be fiscally responsible.

Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Gets "HOT"

Firefighters from MDR and the Homestead Air Reserve Base conducted a joint training on June 29, at the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

The training was a part of a two-week series conducted at the Aircraft Fire Training Facility on base. The facility simulates a realistic aircraft and can be used for liquid fire, cabin fire, and engine fire scenarios.

Firefighters were able to train by extinguishing

two exterior, two interior and an engine fire simultaneously. The training not only gave our firefighters more experience, they were also given the opportunity to renew their qualifications on extinguishing aircraft fires.

In the past MDR has traveled to Dallas to conduct this training. By conducting it locally, MDR was able to save a quarter million dollars.



US&R Team Named the Best



The Florida Fire Chief Association honored US&R FL-TF1 and FL-TF2 with the 2010 Search and Rescue Award. This recognition is given to individuals whose actions as search-and-rescue responders demonstrate the highest level of excellence and ongoing commitment to the fire rescue service and community.

FL-TF1 and FL-TF2 are being recognized for their

assistance in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in January 2010. Over 18 survivors were brought out alive from beneath the rubble by members of both teams in 10 days. The rescues performed in Port-au-Prince accounted for the most rescues in the history of FL-TF1 and FL-TF2.

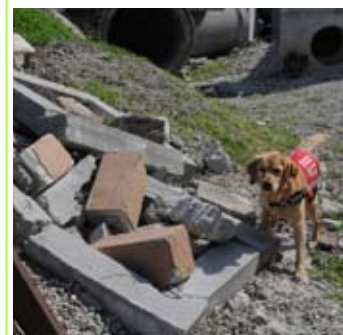
The award was presented in January to the teams at the Fire East Conference in Daytona.

US&R Dogs Lend a Helping Paw

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requested the assistance of MDR's US&R cadaver dogs in June, to assist in locating the body of a missing person. For three days several canine teams, search team managers, support personnel, and agencies from across Florida canvassed 200 acres trying to find a missing person.

Cadaver dogs are trained at the US&R Training facility in Kendall to detect human tissue. When a dog detects the tissue they sit down next to the spot to alert their handler. Research has shown that these dogs never alert falsely.

In this case, the body was never discovered, but officials believe that the body could have once been there.



US&R Team Prepares for Disasters

MDR's US&R Team conducted a three-day annual exercise in May. This exercise was to rate the teams readiness and deployment capacity for missions in the United States and abroad.

MDR's US&R Team performed the following operations:



- Conducted physical search and rescue operations in damaged/collapsed structures and transportation accidents.

- Provided emergency medical care at disaster sites for trapped victims and Task Force members.

- Carried out reconnaissance duties to assess damage and determine needs, then use that information to provide feedback to all agencies involved.

- Provided disaster communications support using state-of-the-art satellite systems.

- Conducted hazardous materials survey/evaluations of affected areas.

- Assisted in stabilizing damaged structures, including shoring and cribbing operations as required.

The last major deployment for the US&R team was to Haiti to help in the recovery efforts after the 2010 earthquake. The team has been deployed nationally and internationally for multiple disasters including the Oklahoma City bombing, World Trade Center collapse, Hurricane Katrina, and earthquake responses in Columbia and Turkey.

Radiological Readiness

With current events focusing on the radiological disaster in Japan, MDR conducted a mock radiation drill on March 22, 2011. HazMat specialists explained the different types of decontamination procedures and showcased personal protective equipment used by rescuers as well as sophisticated meters used to detect radiation levels. Specialists explained how they decontaminate a vehicle, survey the occupants to see if they have any radiological contamination on their bodies, and screen for the specific location of the contamination. Reporters from the local media were given an opportunity to try on the personal protective gear and to also participated in a scenario where sophisticated meters detected their level of radiation. With this exercise, members of the press were able to make the community fully aware of MDR's radiological emergency response capabilities.

Employees Rewarded for Innovative Ideas

Three MDRF employees were recently recognized for their innovative ideas. The employees submitted their suggestions using the county's "Idea Machine."

The employees recognized were Electrician Victor Elias, Fire Supply Bureau Supervisor Christopher Weichler, and Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Felix Llanes, who was acknowledged for two ideas.

Elias' suggestion helped to reduce the electrical consumption in MDRF headquarters between 5000 and 8000 Kilowatt hours per month by programming several set points in the headquarters building that depended on the thermal demand, instead of just using one set point. Weichler helped to create a standardizing process for the disposal process for the American flags used at fire stations. Old flags are then collected and taken to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars hall where they are properly disposed of. Llanes designed a system to fix inoperable wireless Elkhart Monitors by using three wires instead of the six wires that the system originally used. He also suggested a way to fix the electrical steps in trucks that were always breaking because of the daily rigors of a busy emergency vehicle. Llanes recommended using the existing step structure, but removing the electric motor and replacing it with a heavy-duty pneumatic cylinder.

The employee's suggestions have helped the department increase our efficiency while saving money.



Got an idea?
Feed the idea machine! The Idea Machine is an online employee suggestion board dedicated to the sharing of innovative suggestions for improving how Miami-Dade County does business. Ideas can be submitted through e-net.

Honoring a Hero

MDRF dedicated Airport North Station 59 to fallen Firefighter Robert "Casey" Lamme on April 26, the 30th anniversary of his passing.

Friends and family gathered to remember the 10-year MDRF veteran. FF Lamme stopped to help a motorist trapped in a burning vehicle while off duty. The vehicle had hit a power pole, and FF Lamme was electrocuted while trying to remove the victim.

FF Lamme spent the majority of his career at Miami International Airport.



Junior Lifeguards Graduate

One of the "coolest" activities for students this summer was the Ocean Rescue Bureau's Junior Lifeguard Program at Crandon Park and Haulover Park. The month-long sessions were a big hit for youths ages 9 to 17 interested in learning the responsibilities of ocean lifeguards.

MDRF's ocean rescue lifeguards gave the participants a strong aquatic background and acquainted them with the hazards of ocean swimming. Along with gaining an opportunity to learn about water safety in these sessions, the youngsters became proficient in minor medical first aid, beach etiquette, preventive actions and saving lives.

The Junior Lifeguard Program was created 18 years ago and exposes the youth in our community to an environment that teaches them courtesy, respect, discipline, sound morals and good sportsmanship.



Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's ALS Team on a Winning Streak

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's (MDFR) Advanced Life Support (ALS) Team has been busy racking up first-place victories. The team walked away with the top award at the 2011 Bill Shearer International ALS/BLS Competition held on July 8, 2011, as part of the ClinCon 2011 Conference in Orlando. Team members were Captain Eddy Trapero; Firefighter Bernardo Bernardo; Firefighter Robert Cardenas; and Firefighter Michael Ung won after competing against more than 40 teams from around the nation. This victory marked the team's second championship in the past three years at this event, which is considered to be the "Super Bowl" of ALS competitions.



MDFR's team also landed first place for the second consecutive year at the 2011 James Malcolm ALS Competition held on May 27, 2011 during EMS week in Hollywood, FL. The team, consisting of Firefighters Bernardo Bernardo, Robert Cardenas, Alex

community.

The team's first-place winning streak included another victory just nine days earlier at the University of Miami, where they received top honors – again, for the second consecutive year -- at the Stephanie Brown Memorial ALS Competition. This particular competition is considered to be one of the most difficult in the nation.

"These ALS competitions put the team's knowledge, skills, clinical accuracy and efficiency to the test in meeting demanding benchmarks," said MDRF Interim Fire Chief Karls Paul-Noel. "Our department is therefore extremely proud of its ALS team, and we congratulate its members on their outstanding accomplishments."

Train in the Tropics

MDFR will roll out the red carpet and host the first ever Training Conference and Expo from January 10-13, 2012. Open to firefighters around the nation, the conference will give registrants the opportunity to learn in our state-of-the-art training center.

Firefighters will have the chance to learn the latest firefighter techniques and then try them out in real-life scenarios. MDRF Captain Bill Gustin has been announced as the keynote speaker at the conference.

For more information visit, www.miamidade.gov/mdfr.



Did you know?

The training center has the second longest flashover in the world

MDRF Cleans Crandon Beach on Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd every year. This year, Miami-Dade Ocean Rescue Lifeguards demonstrated their concern for their environment by picking up underwater litter and debris at Crandon Park Beach.

"We did this to raise awareness of the harm litter causes to sea life and to do our part to keep our beaches clean," said Chief Stan Hills, Marine Services Chief for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. "Many of the lifeguards and firefighters that participated were off duty."

Trash in the ocean kills more than one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles each year through ingestion and entanglement. Examples of debris include plastic bags, fishing line, fishing nets, six-pack holders, string from a balloon or kite, glass bottles and cans.



MDRF Employee Profile Capt. Joe McManus "Lifeguard of the Year"



MDRF's Ocean Rescue Captain Joe McManus was named the 2010 lifeguard of the year by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association.

Captain Joe McManus began his lifeguard career in 1974 on Rockaway Beach, NY. He guarded for the National Park Service for 25 years. In 1996, he became Chief Lifeguard for Riis Park, a large, urban beach-front facility. He is the founder and past president of the New York City Chapter of USLA. While residing in New York, Joe coached swimming and water polo at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, for ten years.

The Captain moved to Florida in 1997 and has lifeguarded for Pompano Beach, Miami Beach, Indian River County and is currently a lifeguard supervisor for Miami-Dade County. He is a state certified EMT

and has worked closely with the Florida EMS Advisory Council. His efforts have led to the initial inclusion of lifeguards in the Florida EMS Strategic Plan for 2010-2012.

He is a long-time volunteer for USLA, having served as both president of the southeast region and as national vice-president. In 2008, he helped secure a year-round lifeguard service in Brevard County. Joe is a four-time national champion in USLA Competition. He is a staunch advocate for the lifeguard profession, and continues to serve the aquatic safety interests of residents and visitors in Florida and around the country. Captain MacManus is married to Debby McManus and they have three sons, Jim, Joe and Brendan.

The Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association was formed in 1983 by the Beach Patrol Chiefs to promote professionalism within Florida's ocean lifesaving agencies. The founding members recognized the need for increased cooperation and communication among Florida's professional ocean lifeguards.

Welcoming a new Recruit

On May 24, a dream came true for 13-year-old Rodolfo Alejandro Caceres when he became an honorary firefighter. The 7th grader was born with Muscular Dystrophy; a disease that progressively weakens muscles.

Rodolfo started out the day at Station 47, located in Westchester, where he received his official badge. Dressed up in an MDRF uniform he rode on Engine 47 to his middle school, where he was greeted by friends and the schools marching band.

"Firefighter Caceres" spent the rest of the day visiting the 9-1-1 dispatch center and Air Rescue.



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Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Main number:
786-331-5000

www.miamidade.gov/mdrf

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 MDRF Media and Public Relations Bureau

Saying Goodbye to a Brother

More than 300 friends, family, and colleagues gathered on May 7, to say farewell to FF Gregory Harris. Firefighter Harris, a former Marine, certified police officer, and an honorable firefighter lost his life in the line of duty on Friday, April 22, 2011.

FF Harris started his tenure at MDRF in October 1998 as a member of recruit class 82. At MDRF he received a great deal of training and earned several certifications including, Driver Operator, Marine Firefighter, and Haz Mat Technician. In addition, he served as a part of the Honor Guard and was a member of the Urban

Search and Rescue Team.

He served the residents of North Miami-Dade for most of his career and worked at MDRF Golden Glades Station 38 before his passing. Representatives from fire departments and other public safety agencies from across the state were present to pay their last respects.



Charitable contributions in memory of Firefighter Harris may

be made to Metro Dade Fire Fighters Charities and mailed to IAFF local 1403 at 8000 NW 21 Street, Suite 222, Miami, FL 33122. Please include Gregory Harris' name in the memo line.

Honoring MDRF's Bravest

On April 9, More than 150 firefighters were recognized in seven different categories at the tenth annual Medal Day Ceremony.

The highest award presented was the Bronze Medal of Valor. Chief Timothy Gibbons, Capt. Roman Bas, FF Juan Ceballos, and FF Michael Perez received this award. Chief Gibbons was honored for helping to save a person stuck in a vehicle that had crashed into a canal. Capt. Bas, FF Ceballos, and FF Perez risked their lives to rescue two women who were trapped inside a townhouse engulfed in flames.

Members of the Urban Search and Rescue Team were also honored for their rescue mission in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.



MDRF Retirees

We would like to wish the following people a wonderful retirement.

Cheryl L. Hernandez

Alfredo Suarez

Steven Hourican

Mark Houghtaling

James Oliver

John Muncey

Matthew Kross

Sandra R. Fobb

Russell Talley Jr.

Terry Roberts

Joseph Hunt

Persio Abreu

William J. Evans

Booker T. Cope Jr.

Lawrence D. Wanschek

Miguel Ruiz

Pamela Lillard

Shirley James

Rene Hernandez

John Bastien

Robert Bedenbaugh

Herminio Lorenzo

Eduardo Flores

Richard W Mansfield

Richard Jaffe

Thomas Gibbs

Mark Silverman

Steve C. Holsinger

Craig Evert

Manuel Mena

Vera Washington

Jose A. Santana

Roy Melara

Adrienne Castrillon

James Morton

Wilfredo Alvarez Jr.

William Clark

Glenn Moton

Harold Dean Martin

Teresa Tojeiro

Jorge Perdices

Robert Chochoon

Jeffrey Gibbons

Fernando J. Figueredo

Pedro Salgado

Ines Ramirez

Peter Jr. Shea

Roger Perez

John L. Perhach

David N. Gravitt

William Burden

Joseph R. Johnston

Lynda Henschel

Freddie Menefee

Jane Feuer

Karls Paul-Noel

