



## SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

### Interoffice Memorandum

**TO:** The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners  
**FROM:** Brian Gorski, <sup>BG</sup> Fire Chief  
**RE:** **Chief's Report**  
**DATE:** May 16, 2013

**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – We received free surplus mobile lap top computers for our apparatus for the purposes of establishing a communication link between the apparatus and the Dispatch CAD. On this date we had a meeting with Insight, the Company that Manatee County using for their vehicle computers to determine what is going to be needed to make these computers operational for our apparatus. We are awaiting a quote from them and as soon as we receive this information it will be presented to the Board for their review and recommendation.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – Fire Chief's from both Sarasota County and Manatee County arranged and attended a meeting with Congressman Verne Buchanan in his Sarasota Office. This meeting was to discuss the issues that face Fire and EMS Services not only in our area, but throughout the State of Florida. Some of the issues that we discussed were the implementation of Obama care in 2014 and its impact to health insurance as well as the impact to EMS providers on their reimbursements from EMS transports. We also talked about the 800 MHz regional (3 county) project that involves all public safety agencies in these three counties utilizes a regional 800 MHz system that would allow for a standard radio communication platform or backbone that we would like his support at the Federal level and to see if there are any Federal dollars that could be used for this project. Another big issue to everyone, not only in Florida but throughout the United States is the shortage of pre-hospital medications used and carried on ambulances as well as in the hospitals. Congressman Buchanan was totally unaware of this issue which has been going on for the

past three years and getting worse. He wanted more information about this issue from us because without a doubt he was going to address this issue in Washington. The last issue that we discussed was our regional Fire Act Grant for self-contained breathing apparatus. Congressman Buchanan stated that he does support this grant project and is going to write a letter of support for our grant application.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013** – I had a meeting with staff over the development of a new website for the District. A lot of progress has been made and as of April 18 our new site, [www.smfr.com](http://www.smfr.com) went live and replaced the old site.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> & May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – We participated in two (2) meetings with Sarasota County, Town of Longboat Key, and the City of North Port over the regional SCBA (air pack) grant. Since Sarasota County is the largest Department they will be the ones to submit this grant application, however all participants will need to supply them with detailed information about their Department, service area served, age of equipment and at what standard does their SCBA comply with.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup> & May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013** - We held four (4) successful negotiation sessions with the IAFF.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – attended the Manatee County Fire Chief's meeting which was held at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. The main topic of discussion was FY14, annual rate resolution and the potential increase to rates based on the five (5) year average of growth in Florida Personal Income, which is 2.01%. Also, discussed the radio change over that will occur on May 6<sup>th</sup> that involves for example Cedar Hammock, Trailer Estates, and Southern Manatee being dispatched on the same channel and then being assigned a TAC channel right after dispatch to work their incident.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – attended a meeting with Doctor Nonell at Blake Medical Center. Doctor Nonell is the Medical Director for the Manatee County Emergency Medical Services. The purpose of the meeting was to see if Dr. Nonell would be interested in becoming the Medical Director for our Department and Doctor Nonell is very much interested. We had a long meeting and Doctor Nonell told me that in the past he tried to get the other Fire District's on Board with Manatee County EMS; however no one District was interested even though they respond on EMS calls with Manatee County EMS. Doctor Nonell was really excited to see that we came to him and want to be part



of the Manatee County EMS system. We have other meetings scheduled to further discuss our relationship through either an MOU or Contract.

**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – Myself and Larry Saver visited each Station and to come up with up with a preventative maintenance schedule for our facilities that includes things such as painting, pressure cleaning, carpet cleaning, replacement of appliances, etc,. The information obtained will be placed into a spread sheet, priced, scheduled, and given to you at a future Board meeting to consider. We have spent millions of dollars for all of our facilities but we lack in a plan to maintain them.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – We had a meeting with the Holmatro (extrication tools) dealer about their preventative maintenance program for our equipment. Currently the District does not have program in place and a few months back we did have a failure of one of the hydraulic lines that caused the fluid to go into one of our Firefighters eyes. Once this information is obtained it will be included in the FY14 budget for consideration.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013** - Attended the Council of Government meeting, which was held at the Bradenton Convention Center. The main issues that were addressed was a brief overview of the 2013 Legislative Session that closed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Actually the 2013 Legislative Session ended on a positive note for everyone. No real financial impacts passed down to counties and a lot of bills that threatened an impact to us did not pass.

Another topic of discussion was Manatee County Governments plan to reduce the millage rate both in the cities and throughout the county by implementation of a ½ cent sales tax. They plan on removing from the millage rate, healthcare, sheriff patrol in the cities, and the implementation of franchise fees. The proposed plan would lower cities taxes by 26% and county taxes by 13%. The ½ cent sales tax will be on the June 18<sup>th</sup> ballot.

Another topic of discussion “How we grow”, basically the current plan needs to be updated and on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 0900 hours, a consultant to the county will be presenting this plan to County Commissioners for their consideration. This meeting will be held at the Bradenton Convention Center. It looks like the growth and planning changes will be to the SW area of the County.