



MDFR Battles Four Alarm Fire



Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR) responded to a warehouse fire located at 7635 NW 27 Avenue in Liberty City on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 2:47 p.m.

First arriving fire crews from MDFR's Model Cities Fire Station #2 were confronted with intense heat coupled with heavy smoke and flames billowing out of an auto body shop. Firefighters attempted to enter the building but soon after retreated when propane tanks inside the structure began to explode. The fire quickly consumed the warehouse, causing the roof and a rear wall to collapse.

Firefighting efforts shifted to protecting the adjoining businesses in order to prevent the fire from spreading. Auto shop workers advised fire commanders that there were large quantities of paint and chemicals inside the building. Fortunately, all of the employees were able to evacuate the fire without sustaining injuries. Due to the size of the warehouse and the massive amount of flames, a four alarm building assignment was dispatched for manpower.

Over 150 firefighters and 65 MDFR units responded to the blaze which took over five hours to extinguish. No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire was accidental and started in the paint and body shop. This is the largest fire that MDFR has responded to since the fuel farm fire at Miami International Airport in March of 2011.

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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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.



Medal Day honors our bravest

On Saturday, March 24, MDFR honored recipients of the Employee Valor and Excellence Awards during the eleventh annual Medal Day Ceremony.

More than 100 firefighters were recognized in seven different categories, with the highest being the Gold Medal of Valor.

This is the highest honor awarded to MDFR personnel. It is given for an act exemplifying bravery, gallantry, or courage in the furtherance of saving lives and/or protecting property and the fire firefighters that risked their lives during March 23, 2011's jet fuel farm fire at Miami International Airport were the recipients of this award.

MDFR units from the Airport Division and from surrounding battalions received a Silver Medal of Valor for responding to the call at the airport's Tank Farm. Upon arrival, airport units, including foam trucks, were faced with a flowing fuel fire in an unprotected area. These initial units had to take up attack positions from both the east and west sides of the tank farm. The

foam trucks were approximately 50 feet from the origin of the fire and remained in those positions for more than 2 hours, using more than 10,000 gallons of finished foam.

Other units from the airport provided water sources for the foam trucks and deployed jump lines to cool nearby storage containers. They worked at a high level of intensity and at times were exposed to extreme heat conditions and explosions for up to two and a half hours. In the face of real danger and prolonged work times, these units performed exceptionally well. MDFR's extremely aggressive attack prevented fuel storage tank failures as well as damage to the inbound fuel filtration system from Port Everglades.

The award recipients, their family members, elected officials, local police and fire chiefs from South Florida witnessed this very special award ceremony. The event was modeled in the rich tradition of FDNY's award ceremonies.



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/>



MDFR joins walk that raises awareness for service animals

Members of the Urban Search & Rescue Team's Canine Unit joined more than 150 walkers with their guide dogs, service animals and regular pet companions at the fifth annual Walk, Waddle, and Stroll Dog Walk, benefitting the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Sunday, March 25. This event help to raise awareness for the amazing work service animals provide to those who are in need. This year's event was hosted by Honorary 'Dog'nitary Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman and WPLG Channel 10's Sasha Andrade was the emcee.

"In addition to raising much-needed funds for our programs at Miami Lighthouse, which provide rehabilitation and vocational training to thousands of people every year, our fifth annual Walk, Waggle and Stroll Dog Walk raised a great deal of awareness for the presence of service animals in our community," said Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia A. Jacko, who is blind and uses a dog guide named, Kieran. Special recognition was given to Commissioner Sally Heyman and Carol Russo who conceived the idea for the dog walk five years ago.



Contest prizes for "cutest," "look-alike," and "most talented dog," were judged by Miami-Dade County Public Defender Carlos Martinez, Chairman of Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors Michael Silva, Board Director Lou Nostro and Dog Walk co-creator Carol Russo. Also in attendance was Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez. Music and sound engineering was provided by instructors in the Miami Lighthouse Better Chance Music Production Program™.

Swamp Wars Returns

Animal Planet is bringing back "Swamp Wars" for more high-stakes drama, as the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Venom One unit carries on its battle against the lethal animals that threaten South Florida. From the unit rescuing a family driven to the brink by angry Africanized bees buzzing inside their walls to saving lives worldwide by delivering anti-venom to victims of deadly snakebites, the ride is only getting wilder! "Swamp Wars" follows this brave team as it protects Florida and its native species from an imminent swamp invasion of the worst kind with the potential to change the face of Miami as we know it.

Swamp Wars is produced for Animal Planet by 2C Media, Inc. For 2C Media, Inc., Chris Sloan, Carla Kaufman Sloan and Calvin Simons are executive producers. Erin Wanner is the executive producer for Animal Planet.

OEM awarded Accreditation

The Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been granted full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). Receiving this distinction is a significant achievement. OEM was commended for the work accomplished which validated its compliance with national standards.

Accreditation is a means of demonstrating, through program assessment, documentation and on-site assessment by an independent peer review team, that a program meets national standards. It is valid for five years from the date the EMAP Commission grants accreditation. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and be reassessed in five years to maintain accredited status.

Accreditation recognizes the ability of local government to bring together personnel, resources, and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to a disaster of any type.

These capabilities form the foundation of the nation's disaster response system.

"Achieving accreditation is a significant accomplishment for an emergency management agency," said Curtis Sommerhoff, OEM Director. "It validates our commitment to delivering professional emergency management services to the people of Miami-Dade County."

EMAP is a national non-profit organization established to evaluate and improve the nation's emergency management capabilities and provides the country's only accreditation process for emergency management programs.



Take Your Daughter and Sons to Work Day

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue participated in this year's annual "Take Your Daughter and Sons to Work Day". Children between the ages of 8-18 were invited to take part in familiarizing themselves with their parent's workplace. Activities for the day included a puppet show, a presentation about the MDFR Venom Response Team, tuck demos, and opportunity to crawl through the smoke house. It is estimated that over 100 children took part in the day's activities.



MDFR goes MADD

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 on Saturday, February 11, 2012, 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 extrications 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.

**Comments about Hotlines.
Contact the Public Affairs
Bureau Manager, Griselle
Marino at
gmarino@miamidade.gov.
Submissions welcomed.**

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 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!

