

# Highlands County Fire Rescue

HCFR – On the line or threading the needle...

Leaning forward, always ready

ISSUE 3 – January 2019

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## WELCOMING OUR NEW STRUCTURE & STAFF

A new Deputy Fire Chief along with 24/7 Battalion Chiefs, Lieutenants, and firefighters are now on the job, supplementing daywork firefighters and volunteers in Highlands County.



Deputy Chief Daniel Spillman retired from the Tallahassee Fire Dept., and has also served as Fire Chief for Escambia Co., along w/service in several other fire & EMS agencies around Florida.

Known as “Ops Chief” on the radio, Deputy Chief Spillman will be responsible for fire operations in Highlands County, coordinating the immense effort to modernize our operations program.

### 1<sup>st</sup> 24/7 FIRE APPOINTMENTS, January 21, 2019

Following the existing EMS shift pattern, two existing HCFR employees have been promoted to Battalion Chief and will join one outside hire to provide 24/7 fire coordination. Long-time employee Luke Andrews (A-shift) and long-time Volunteer Billy Kingston (C-shift) will join Zack Smith (B-shift) as BC’s. Battalion Chief Smith comes to us from the Okeechobee County Fire Dept. Known as “Battalion 1” on the radio, the BC’s will be housed at Desoto City station #19.

“Day” = Mon thru Fri 8 to 4. “Shift” = 24 hrs 7 AM times three shifts; A, B, & C; OPS = part-time

Lieutenants at Sun n Lakes of Lake Placid #41:

- Larry Money (A-shift, retired Hialeah FD)
- Jose Ibanez (B-shift, volunteer & Hardee FD)
- Todd Barton (C-shift, Hardee FD)

## WELCOMING STRUCTURE & STAFF (continued)

Along with the Lieutenants, the following firefighters have been assigned to station #41:

- Brandon Poyner; 36 Day to 41A
- Ceceil Williams; OPS to 41A
- Kelly Gibson; 36 Day to 41B
- Mike Jolin; 1 Day to 41B
- Jeremy Ballard; 19 Day to 41C
- Casey Stanaland; OPS to 41C

We are now certifying the FF credentials of our 1st group of EMS crossovers to begin shiftwork at Desoto City station #19 on January 30, 2019;

- Kevin Cornine; Paramedic to FF/P 19A
- John Poyner; EMT to FF/EMT 19A
- Max Sherwood; EMT to FF/EMT 19C
- John Wooten; EMT to FF/EMT 19C

Two outside hires will soon fill 19 B-shift spots.

### REMAINING DAYWORK FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS

The following Firefighters fill 40-hour positions:

- Lazaro Gonzalez, 1 “Day”
- Nathan Heaton, 1 “Day”
- Nick White, 36 “Day”

### EMS HIRING

You can’t “rob Peter to pay Paul” forever. New employees will soon join our EMS ranks and new rounds of interviews will soon occur.

VOLUNTEERS: As a matter of operational sense, there have been no changes in the Volunteer structure. Volunteer Chiefs & firefighters will continue to respond when available & fill rolls in our integrated incident command system.

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## COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER

In an effort to facilitate smooth and transparent communication amongst the troops, EMAIL has been identified as our official means of communications. An Order, Directive, and Memorandum system has been established, <http://www.hbcc.net/departments/PublicSafety/documents.php> , to ensure timely and accessible information is at our members fingertips. Additionally, within the next 30 days, most, if not all, of our Volunteer members will have been provided County email addresses.

## PRELIMINARY DESIGN – NEW FIRE STATION

We have been working with architects in the County “Library of Architects” in the design phase of five construction projects. One of these first five, is the “cookie-cutter” design for new fire stations. The idea is that we would strive to build the same design on any property where a new station is needed. The only significant difference of each would be the number of drive thru bays, generally between two and five, depending on the number of firetrucks and ambulances assigned to the station. The modern design will incorporate National Fire Protection Association standards for “clean” and “dirty” sides of a station, limiting the spread of carcinogenic materials within the facility, as well as ensuring there is adequate bunk, shower, parking, and training facilities available.

While we had hoped to share the new station design in this issue, complications with the property in Highlands Lakes have delayed the design work. More to come...

Active design work continues for Highlands Park station 33, Venus station 45, Desoto City station 18, and the Fire Rescue Headquarters projects.

## “MUTUAL AIDE” FOR HCFR

“Mutual Aide” in the fire and EMS service relates to adjoining fire districts having agreements in place to provide assistance. The assistance may be “automatic”, “as needed”, or “when available”. “Automatic” refers to full integrated dispatch protocols and policies, with the Dispatch center automatically including adjoining districts as indicated by protocol. “As needed” is fairly self-explanatory, meaning the dispatch center asks the adjoining district to respond. “When available” is typical on military installations and within municipalities.

Highlands County stations have historically run in an “automatic” posture, while the Avon Park and Sebring municipal departments are a cross between “as needed” and “when available”. Under one FDID number, our County stations now run together, no longer considered “mutual aide”. Both City Fire Departments are working well with the County to continuously identify ways to enhance our level of response.

## COLDER WEATHER REQUIRES DUE DILIGENCE

Several recent fires remind us that winter tips bear repeating in this issue:

- NEVER plug heaters (or AC units) into extension cords. ONLY plug into a suitably-ampere-rated wall plug.
- Clean HVAC filters/systems annually
- Install smoke alarms on each level
- Gas, fireplace, garage? CO detectors too!
- PLEASE don't leave cooking unattended

## NOTE FROM CHIEF BASHOOR:

In our next issue, we'll highlight our emerging cooperative training efforts. Over 150 HCFR, SFD, APFD, & HCSO paid, volunteer, & civilian; FF's, Law Enforcement, dispatchers, & others have recently completed joint training.

Let's continue to succeed on purpose, together!