

# ON SCENE



FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

June 2010



**FLTF-5  
Ready  
To Go**



## DEAR FELLOW EMPLOYEE

A few weeks ago, I got a call from the Fire Chief in Fort Worth, Texas.

He was conducting an informal survey of similar-sized departments to determine what kind of budgetary issues they might be having and how they were addressing them. Like JFRD, he has been asked to trim 5 percent of his department's

budget. I am certain that his survey ultimately will show that fire and rescue departments from coast to coast are facing serious budget problems. In short, we are not alone in this financial struggle.

I've written more columns for this newsletter regarding budget cutbacks than I care to remember, and until now, I could always say we have been spared from layoffs. But JFRD has now joined the list of other departments that are trimming not only positions but existing employees from their budgets.

During the budget cycle, I am often asked if I am in favor of the proposed JFRD budget cuts. The simple answer is no. I prefer that JFRD's budget never be cut. Instead of reductions, I'd rather have a discussion about raising revenue for Tri-Data, not only to avoid cutbacks, but to implement the much-needed expansion called for in the Tri-Data plan so we can provide better service to the community. But the city's financial condition remains extremely serious. I understand that the Mayor and City Council cannot continue to spend more than the city collects through its various revenue sources.

While funding existing levels of government services has become a challenge, I am convinced that the commitment that JFRD has to emergency response is intact. Bottom line, the 1,200-plus men and women will continue to provide the highest level of fire and rescue service humanly possible with whatever level of resources we are given.

In the midst of discouraging times, this is an encouraging truth.

Sincerely,

Dan Kleman  
Director



**Managing Editor**  
**John Bracey**  
**Design**  
**Richard J. Weaver**  
**Contributing Photographers**  
**John Bracey**  
**District Chief Steve Gerbert**  
**Wes Lester**  
Story ideas or suggestions?  
E-mail: [onscene@coj.net](mailto:onscene@coj.net) or call 630-2969



Ladder 4's Firefighter Justin Smith demonstrates a few tiller fundamentals to an interested visitor during a Florida Task Force 5 readiness evaluation event May 15 at the St. John's Town Center.

Cover shot: Firefighter Jeremy Lee (Engine 4) demonstrates a pick-off with a mock victim during a May 15 readiness evaluation for Florida Task Force 5 at the St. John's Town Center. The Emergency Preparedness Division's IMT trailer and communications truck were also on hand for tours.

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# Paper & Pen Become Practical

Bryce Wentworth has gotten a dose of reality, and it could make your job easier.

He designs fire protection systems for commercial structures and is one of several dozen engineers, architects and installers who have attended a JFRD series of classes that demonstrate how fire suppression operations are affected by commercial design. Topics include the placement of fire hydrants, dry hydrants versus those connected to a pressurized system, the installation of ample-sized access roads and other parts of the state's fire code. The attendees, local and regional, are part of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

"We deal in paper and pen all the time, but this is reality," said Wentworth after attending the most recent class at Station 16 last month. "It helps us understand how you work."

The classes came about following a conversation years ago between Prevention's Capt. **Bob Ratliff** and a design engineer who suggested a hands-on workshop to demonstrate the practical nature of the fire codes. Ratliff loved the idea because it was so relevant. He works in Plans Review and interacts with fire protection engineers frequently, sometimes returning their plans for revisions necessary for fire code compliance. So Ratliff got a JFRD team together to produce the classes.

The idea was an immediate success among the engineers.

"It was an 'a-ha' moment for them, the light bulb really turned on," Ratliff said. "Sometimes, it's just easier to show people why it won't work than tell them."

In the last two years, a variety of personnel have staffed the classes, including Fire 6's District Chief **Don Blanton**, Engine 16's Capt. **Cliff Danley**, and Engine 10's Eng. **Jason Carpenter**. Engine 37's Lt. **Sergio Cortez** assisted in last month's class which employed the engine and Foam 37. Tower Ladder 9 also participated. Ratliff said the three classes given so far would not have been possible without the efforts from the on-duty companies participating in the demonstrations of practical evolutions. Danley likes how the communication has gone both ways, so firefighters understand how the engineers design.

"Bob's done a great job of getting the city and industry together," said Danley. "The engineers know what to think when Bob reviews their plans."

Meanwhile, the engineers are taking what they learn back to the drawing table.

"The people who have been to the class, their plans are coming through better, and we have fewer times that other plans are sent back for revision," Ratliff said. "I spend less time on repeat reviews, and the customers get what they want sooner."



Eng. Jason Carpenter explains drafting to members of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers so they can better understand the limitations of a dry fire hydrant. The group visited Station 16 last month as part of a day-long, hands-on seminar to learn how their engineering designs could be tailored to better meet the needs of fire suppression operations. Prevention's Capt. Bob Ratliff and Station 16's Capt. Cliff Danley have hosted three such seminars in the last two years.

# Double Dose of BLUE

Their uniform is blue, but there is a world of difference.

Six members of JFRD graduated last month as Reserve Officers with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. Some of them are interested in one day joining JFRD's Tactical Medics team a/k/a SWAT Medics, and some have a strong interest in law enforcement. No matter the reason, they are a motivated bunch when you consider the facts.

Training at JSO's Academy lasts six months and involves academics and the practical side of law enforcement. That would include driving, defensive tactics and experiencing up close and personal pepper spray and the electrical jolt of a taser.

One more thing, JSO Reserve Officers aren't paid for being

on duty.

They can be used to augment

patrols, staff special events, and go on narcotics raids, vice activities and more. During the May 11 graduation, the fact that nearly half of the class consisted of firefighters wasn't lost on Sheriff John Rutherford.

"How many of you are hose draggers?" Rutherford asked before commending all of the graduates. "This is noble because it involves more than service to the community. It involves risk. For you to choose to do this, I'm moved by that. This community owes you a deep debt of gratitude."



(L-R) Men in Blue: Eng. Scotty Hicks (Crash 16), Firefighter Mike Griffin (Rescue 54), Eng. Ashton Geoghagan (Engine 32), Eng. Kevin Logue (Tanker 42), Sheriff John Rutherford, Eng. Chris McKeown (Tanker 44), Eng. Morey Cooksey (Engine 1), Firefighter Laurence Washington (Engine 19) and Eddie Wallace from Clay County Fire Rescue.

## Response to Emergency Landing at JIA Involves Different Kind of Apparatus

An emergency landing at Jacksonville International Airport always gets the attention of Station 16's crew, but one such event last month led to a different kind of response. A doctor aboard a Miami-bound flight was tending to an infant and asked that the plane land in Jacksonville so the child could get to a hospital. The plane landed safely and Rescue 15 transported the child. But the three family members couldn't all fit in the rescue unit. Not a problem. A JFRD van was on hand for a special training session at 16 and just happened to be available to take the family to the hospital to be with the child. Eng. **Marvin Wilson** drove the family, who were delighted when they later discovered the infant would be fine.

## Clements Defends Senior Title

With the golf tournament nearly in hand, Capt. **Billy Clements** (Engine 29) made one swing that could have cost him winning the Jacksonville Area Golf Association's Senior Championship.



Playing the next to last hole of a 54-hole (three-day) tournament, Clements had a two-stroke lead and was determined to win for the second consecutive year. But his tee shot flew left and out of bounds, leading to a two-stroke penalty. He double-bogeyed the hole, moving him into a tie for the lead coming to the final hole at Eagle Harbor Golf Club.

Clements, no stranger to competition, birdied the final hole to defeat 30 other players in his division. Last year, he came from six behind to win.





## Fascination with Fire Quickly Quenched

Anthony Taylor (*above photo*) knew he was in trouble when he burnt part of his parents' carpet and his own pajamas in early January. The 7-year-old had a fascination with the fireplace and stirred the embers with the small shovel until a few got loose. When his mother, Grace, discovered what had happened, she called upon JFRD. But it wasn't a 911 call, she dialed her long-time friend Lt. **Billy Cockman** (*above*) for advice.

"I explained to Anthony how dangerous fire was," Cockman said. "Then I told him he needed to spread that same message to all of his classmates."

The second grader at Loretto Elementary School took his assignment seriously, ultimately producing 40 different safety tips that were broadcast on Loretto's closed-circuit TV system, one tip a day for 40 consecutive days. Once the safety campaign had run its course, Cockman visited Anthony and his class in late May. He also brought along the Training Academy's Eng. **Dawn Bonaventure**, Lt. **Robert Carroll** (TL-9) and several JFRD Cadets. Cockman presented Anthony with a badge, a JFRD hat and a certificate declaring him as the department's Firefighter Helper of the Year. Amongst all the attention, the badge captivated Anthony the most. "It's gold and heavy and very cool," he said. "I think I'll have this for a long time."

# Getting to Know ...

## Capt. Evans Howard

**Assignment:** Station 20's Captain, Engine 20-A.

**Hometown:** Jacksonville, Fla.

**Growing Up:** "We didn't have electricity. My father said we didn't need that." No indoor plumbing or phone either until the early 1970s, when Howard was 13, and his family moved to a house with utilities.



**Recruit School:** Howard's classmates included Capt. Robin Gainey and District Chief Nealy White. "We'd rush home from work, get in my '69 Ford Falcon and head to Stockton Street. That was our Tuesday and Thursday night and all day Saturday." Gainey and Howard worked as tree trimmers while attending the Training Academy.

**About the Job:** "My enthusiasm is the same as the day I walked through the door. I love what I do."

**Station 20:** "I'm surrounded by good people. I respect them as adults, and they respect me. I never really have any problems, and there are no shift wars."

**Being an Officer:** "My job is to help these people get to where they're supposed to be in their careers."

**Being a Firefighter:** "My job is to get out of here with the quickness. It says that on the front, back and sides of the engine ... I believe that's the way we should respond."

**Radio Dial:** Gator Country FM 99.9. Currently, he perks up when the Gator plays Lady Antebellum.

**Off Duty:** Rides his Harley Fat Boy motorcycle cruiser. "I get on that thing with some country music in my ears, and I'm good to go."

**Retirement Plans:** "No, but I've got three years to figure it out. I know that I'm going to miss the job, but I'll figure out something to do, so I won't miss it as bad."



Several members of the Training Academy, including Lt. Mike Peery and Division Chief Elly Byrd, greeted more than 100 veterans of WW II at the Jacksonville International Airport the morning of May 22. The vets were taking a flight to visit the WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Their trip was sponsored by the Rotary Club's Honor Air program.

## CALL VOLUMES May 2010

<b>ENGINES (Top 30)</b>	E20 .....231	R20 .....312	L34 .....103	Investigations ...29
E28 .....396	E42 .....231	R24 .....312	L1 .....97	<b>FIELD CHIEFS</b>
E30 .....364	E2 .....221	R34 .....309	TL9 .....89	F3 .....115
E22 .....344	E17 .....218	R13 .....308	L4 .....81	R104 .....92
E10 .....331	E4 .....215	R19 .....307	<b>TANKERS (Top 5)</b>	F6 .....81
E31 .....331	E150 .....211	R17 .....306	T28 .....73	R105 .....80
E19 .....325	E5 .....211	R32 .....287	T42 .....71	F9 .....78
E21 .....321	E135 .....201	R35 .....283	T52 .....60	R103 .....72
E18 .....305	E58 .....194	R51 .....282	T31 .....57	F7 .....67
E51 .....292	<b>RESCUES (Top 25)</b>	R25 .....273	T34 .....43	F4 .....65
E1 .....284	R28 .....362	R54 .....260	<b>BRUSH TRUCKS (Top 5)</b>	F5 .....54
E32 .....283	R30 .....358	R27 .....236	BR42 .....96	F1 .....48
E24 .....280	R1 .....350	R42 .....232	BR31 .....86	F2 .....48
E152 .....278	R31 .....343	<b>LADDERS</b>	BR32 .....74	F8 .....43
E44 .....274	R36 .....341	L28 .....177	BR35 .....74	<b>MONTHLY TOTALS</b>
E25 .....261	R2 .....340	L30 .....145	BR53 .....55	EMS .....8,079
E34 .....250	R22 .....339	L31 .....141	<b>MARINE UNITS</b>	FIRE .....1,390
E9 .....246	R7 .....334	TL21 .....132	M3 .....15	NON EMR ...262
E13 .....245	R5 .....331	L10 .....126	M1 .....13	<b>Total: ...9,731</b>
E7 .....242	R4 .....327	L32 .....110	<b>FIRE PREVENTION</b>	
E36 .....241	R21 .....315	L18 .....109	Plans Reviewed 326	
E27 .....234	R15 .....312	L44 .....108	Inspections (new) 237	