

ON SCENE



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

May 2009



Doucette is Firefighter of the Year



DEAR FELLOW EMPLOYEE

Recently, a local publication ran a story which I firmly believe is an unfortunate and inaccurate misrepresentation of our department and its culture. The issue begins with an inflammatory cover and continues inside with a story that unfairly characterizes the JFRD of today.

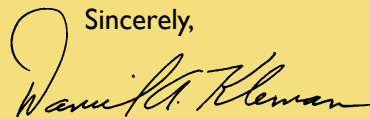
Though we are not perfect, we certainly are nowhere near what this story alleges. Do we still have issues that need attention? Of course. Do we still have work to do? Absolutely.

One of the story's first errors is mentioning "the inflexible tradition of all-white leadership." While the reporter spoke to several people, she *should* have interviewed Chief Charles Moreland or Chief Anthony Roseberry, two of our six Division Chiefs who have been in their positions since 2003 and who are African-Americans. Chief Moreland and Chief Roseberry are emblematic of a true JFRD tradition, one where smart, loyal and deserving employees *can* and *do* rise to the top.

I also wish the reporter could have attended our recent graduation ceremony, where we proudly celebrated the most diverse recruit class in JFRD's history. She should also have read a copy of last year's letter from the Human Rights Commission, praising our department for its progress with their recommendations.

When I arrived at JFRD in the fall of 2006, I shared my passion for creating a work environment in which every person is treated with dignity, fairness and respect. We are building that environment, and I refuse to let a news story become a roadblock in our journey.

I am proud to be part of this department, and I know that you also have a sense of pride in your career choice and in JFRD. I encourage you to hold your head high and continue efforts to make JFRD one of the best fire and rescue departments in America. Together we will become an organization where every employee is treated with dignity, fairness and respect.

Sincerely,


Dan Kleman
Director



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Ethan Abell, 2, was one of dozens who attended Station 2's 100-year anniversary celebration last month. Ethan is the son of Firefighter Scott Abell who is assigned to Station 2. Capt. Bill Langley and several personnel assigned to "The Springfield Deuce" organized the event.



Members of JFRD's Explorer Post 29 conduct litter patrol on Alden Road every month.

You're Their Role Model

They monitor JFRD calls on Scan America's Web site. They know what "squirrel" means in the fire service. They love to ride. And they consider you role models.

One more detail about the 36 members of JFRD Explorer Post 29: next time you travel down Alden Road, to or from the Training Academy, you can give them credit for cleaning up the median and shoulders along that stretch. In fact, this group of teenagers has collected 137 bags of roadside litter since they "adopted" the road about a year ago.

JFRD's Explorer program is a combination of exposure to the fire service, academics, and lessons in citizenship.

Explorer **Carl Hagenbeck**, 15, said he's ridden with nearly every station in the last 12 months. He's hooked on the excitement and said, "it's always good to be helping people."

"We want them to know there's more than riding on the trucks. Being a firefighter is about community service," said **John Knoll**, an adviser to the Explorers and a retired volunteer firefighter from the Lake Shore station, now Station 22.

The list of JFRD Explorer achievements since the group start-

ed some 20 years ago is almost as long as Alden Road, so we'll just name a few recent ones. Just last month, JFRD Explorer **Tyler Johnson** spearheaded a successful fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Explorers have participated in Fire Rescue East Honor Guard competitions. They've also participated in CERT drills and helped staff several events, including JFRD's Fallen Firefighter Memorial. A few years ago, the group traveled to Mississippi to clean up a Boy Scout camp in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

While the group has a full slate of activities, JFRD's Explorer Post is lacking in one area.

"We need more adult advisers, and JFRD personnel would be ideal," said Lt. **George Fox**, who oversees the program.

The more advisers the group has, particularly firefighters, the better the experience and education the Explorers can receive. Fox said the commitment can be as simple as a few hours each month. If you are interested in becoming an adviser, contact Fox at the Training Academy. If you don't know the fire service definition of "squirrel," ask an Explorer.

Doucette is Firefighter of the Year



200 Club President Clint Dawkins (right) congratulates Engine 154's David Doucette as Firefighter of the Year during the club's annual meeting in April.

The toughest part was keeping it a secret.

But Engine 154 B-shifters Lt. **Steve Brunson** and Firefighter **Chris Pellicer** as well as retired Lt. **Andy Graham** kept a lid on it for months. When Eng. **David Doucette** participated in a photo shoot, he got an idea. Then it became official on May 8, at JFRD's Annual Firefighter Awards Ceremony, when the engineer with 15 years on the job was named Firefighter of the Year.

"It was awkward because we usually have the awards first and then I take the Firefighter of the Year to different organizations that honor them," Graham said. "After the 200 Club in April, I told David to keep May 8 open."

Doucette's receipt of the Lt. Joseph F. Stichway Award comes seven months after he waded into a murky retention pond late one October evening, trying to save a young man who was trapped inside a car that had veered off of State Road 9A and came to rest upside down and completely submerged. When Brunson, Pellicer and Doucette arrived on scene, they saw Rescue 103's Chief **Alfred McAlister** and several bystanders on the bank. There also were two men in the pond, water up to their chests, who apparently were standing on top of the car. McAlister knew somebody had to get in the pond quickly; Doucette didn't hesitate.

"All I did is what I was supposed to do. I don't consider myself a hero. I've been diving in the water all my life," said Doucette, a diehard surfer for 35 years who grew up in Crescent Beach and has traveled extensively in pursuit of big breaks. Places like Indonesia, Costa Rica and Mexico. In fact, this year's Firefighter

Awards would have happened sooner, but Doucette was surfing in Nicaragua for most of March; hence, the need for secrecy.

On that Saturday night last October, it took Doucette about two minutes to pull the victim from the car to the banks of the pond so rescue efforts could begin.

"David's the kind of guy who sees what needs to be done and he does it," said Pellicer, who's worked with Doucette for three years. He's not the only one who feels that way.

"He is just one of those rare people who knows what to do, and when there is no solution evident, has the resourcefulness and ability to make it happen anyway," said **Robin Doucette**, David's wife. "He does it naturally, without trying, even in his everyday life, and he never brags or sees that he ever does anything out of the ordinary."

By the way, Robin is a firefighter with the City of St. Augustine and was named their Firefighter of the Year two years ago. "He was so proud of me, and he was joking around, telling everybody, 'I taught her everything she knows,'" Robin said. "And it is true ... he is absolutely great at what he does."

The incident involving the overturned car resulted in a fatality, but that doesn't detract from Doucette's efforts. Perhaps the framed certificate he received at this year's awards best characterizes the situation: "Doucette's bravery is not only a reflection of his professionalism, but is also indicative of the mettle found within all of the members of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department and for that matter, firefighters throughout the world."



Engine 154's David Doucette has traveled extensively to pursue his passion for surfing, a sport he's enjoyed for 35 years. This photo is from a trip to Mexico in the 1980s.

Firefighter Awards Recipients

Firefighter of the Year

Eng. David Doucette

Bronze Medal

DCHF Mike Pickett

Lt. Alan Jones

Eng. David Doucette

Eng. John Usry

Certificate of Commendation Individual

Lt. Dean A. Bunk E-36-A

FF Kyle A. Brown E-36-C

FF Theodis C. Harris E-10-A

FF Jorge L. Hernandez E-28-A

FF Bradley W. Macomber R-19-B

Lt. Robert K. Hickson E-18-A

Lt. Richard R. Lundy L-18-A

Eng. Aaron W. Bebernitz E-7-A

FF Joshua R. Miller L-28-C

FF Stephen A. Park E-41-B

Eng. Jeffery S. Feltman L-1-A

Eng. Wade H. Taylor M-3-A

Capt. Michael S. Braddock R-30-B

Eng. Charles D. Dumas E-10-C

FF Stephen C. Collins, II E-18-B

FF Eric J. Hansen L-10-B

Lt. Robert G. Carroll TL-9-B

Eng. Clarence Hodge E-24-A

FF Daniel J. Kasiska E-24-A

Certificate of Commendation Unit

Honor Guard

RDIV Charles E. Moreland HQ

Capt. Richard M. Rochford SF-2-B

Capt. Kenneth G. Middleton R-71-B

Capt. Edward E. Cobb R-52-C

Capt. Anthony F. Doshier E-29-B

Capt. Debra A. Avery R-36-C

Capt. Timothy G. Devin HQ

Lt. Joseph R. Howell R-21-A

Lt. Jeffrey M. Gerbert R-54-A

Lt. Dean A. Bunk E-36-A

Lt. William M. Miller E-12-B

Lt. Cecil L. Hoskins R-30-C

Lt. John A. Davis R-30-A

Eng. Anthony E. Ragans R-24-A

Eng. Pamela A. Ramsdell R-21-C

Eng. Nathan J. McNamee L-32-B

Eng. David R. Adler E-12-C

Eng. Robert O. Tarkington L-18-B

FF Jonathan L. McMullen E-7-C

Ladder Company 28 - C

Capt. Michael D. Bilodeau TA

Eng. Jason W. Jones L-28-C

FF Joshua R. Miller L-28-C

FF George E. Pillsbury L-28-C

Certificate of Appreciation Individual

Capt. Johnny A. Battle R-24-B

Capt. Gerald K. Powers L-10-A

Lt. Christopher S. Miller E-5-B

Lt. Kent H. Ward L-10-B

Eng. Anthony E. Ragans R-24-A

Eng. Timothy P. Peterson E-5-B

Eng. Michael A. Williams R-5-B

FF Eric M. Reddish E-17-B

FF Joshua R. Covelli E-2-A

FF Craig A. Thomas R-52-A

T2 EXPLOSION

Certificate of Commendation Unit

Communications

Sup. Kimberly P. Moreland FRCC

Asst. Sup. Michele M. Lucas FRCC

Asst. Sup. Susan L. Lively HQ

FRCO Catherine V. Cyrus FRCC

FRCO Laci E. Reed FRCC

FRCO William E. Green FRCC

FRCO Tondalia Colon FRCC

FRCO Karen T. Johnson FRCC

Engine Co. 30

Lt. William B. Crolley E-30-B

Eng. James M. Polkey E-30-B

FF Michael A. Belcher E-30-B

Ladder Co. 30

Lt. Kristopher S. Jolly L-30-B

Eng. Eric K. Reinhold L-30-B

Lt. Enoch E. Skidmore E-32-B

FF Darrold S. McArthur L-30-B

Engine Co. 21

Lt. William P. Ironside E-21-B

Eng. Timothy L. Torbett E-21-B

Tower Ladder Co. 21

Capt. Kurtis Wilson TL-21-B

Eng. Robert A. Lukas TL-21-B

Eng. Steven C. Breckenridge

HAZ-21-B

FF Jeremy C. Pilcher TL-21-A

FF Gentry A. Grimes TL-21-B

Rescue 21

Capt. Kevin J. Kotsis R-21-B

Lt. David L. Scott R-21-C

FF Laurie A. Flak R-21-B

HAZMAT 21

Eng. Jason B. Kerr HAZ-21-B

Engine Co. 7

Lt. Sheldon T. Smith E-7-B

Eng. Aaron W. Bebernitz E-7-A

Eng. Thomas G. Crow R-13-B

Eng. Ralph J. Murphy E-21-B

Eng. Tyson K. Epps R-21-B

Rescue 7

Lt. Christopher D. Woods R-7-B

Eng. John L. Hall R-7-B

HAZMAT 7

Eng. Richard A. Barrett, Jr. HAZ-7-B

Fire District Chief - Fire 2

DCHF Kevin M. Dix F-2-B

Additional Personnel

Capt. John Long III L-44-C

Lt. Mark Treglio R-5-B

Eng. Jason Carpenter TA

BERKMAN GARAGE COLLAPSE

Certificate of Commendation Individual

BCHF Eugene T. Callahan, Jr. F-1-C

DCHF Richard G. Lundy F-4-C

DCHF Nealy M. White F-4-A

DCHF Randall W. Wyse Union

DCHF Leslie H. McCormick HQ

Lt. William R. Carlson L-31-C

Eng. Christopher W. Stover R-2-C

Lt. Casey B. Geiger L-1-C

Eng. Perman E. Hagans L-1-C

Eng. Gerald P. Hammett, Jr. R-1-C

FF Jeremy R. Schillo E-35-C

Eng. Steven C. Lauer R-50-C

FF Mark Schreiber E-23-C

Eng. James G. Morgan CVAN- C

Capt. William L. Langley E-2-C

Lt. Mark C. Roberts E-18-C

Lt. Jeffery L. Johnson R-2-C

Eng. Yasuko J. Kabisch R-30-B

Certificate of Commendation Unit

Engine Co. 4

Capt. Robin R. Gainey E-4-B

Capt. Matthew J. Cipriani E-27-C

Capt. Steven A. Riska E-21-C

Eng. Karl Lewis L-4-A

Eng. Eric A. Prosswimmer E-4-C

Lt. James P. Renaud F-1-B

Eng. Pamela A. Ramsdell R-21-C

FF Jasper J. Carter L-4-C

FF Jason B. Bishop E-13-B

Eng. Scott P. Karpus E-4-B

FF Scott B. Holechek E-4-B

FF Stephen D. Pullen E-4-C

Ladder Co. 4

Capt. Raymond P. Lutzen L-4-C

Capt. Eric T. Courtis E-36-C

Lt. James A. Mallard L-4-A

Lt. Colin S. Aguilar L-4-B

Eng. Travis L. Maples E-16-B

Lt. Patrick D. Gouin L-18-B

Eng. Shawn L. Hultquist L-4-B

Eng. Neal Tarkington L-4-C

FF Justin C. Smith L-4-C

FF Joshua R. Montoro L-4-B

FF Adam G. Albritton L-4-A

FF James Stone L-4-A

Heavy Rescue 4

Eng. James E. Baity HR-4-A

Eng. Mark R. Osteen HR-4-C

Eng. Janice K. Maddox HR-4-B

Engine Co. 13

DCHF Kevin D. Thomas F-8-B

Capt. Gary M. Kuehner E-25-B

Capt. John M. Broxson, Jr. E-33-B

Eng. Richard J. Arcusa R-71-A

Eng. Benjamin A. Stein E-13-B

Eng. James C. Rhoden E-13-B

FF Alaric R. Gardine E-27-B

Eng. Heath I. Mooney L-4-C

FF William R. McCoy R-13-B

Rescue 13

Capt. Bradley F. Sirmans R-13-A

Lt. James Taylor R-13-C

Lt. Randall T. White R-13-B

Eng. Terri E. Gouin HAZ- 21-C

Eng. Scott E. Baker E-150-C

Florida Task Force 5 Members

Capt. Roy L. Hall, Jr. TA

Capt. Bruce A. Scott TA

Capt. Sean L. Hatchett TA

Lt. Jesse V. Brown, III TA

Lt. Todd A. Smith F-1-A

Lt. Christopher S. Miller E-5-B

FF Robert L. Kappelman E-5-A

DODGING A BULLET



Eng. 7's Lt. Mark Johnson explains how crews mitigated a propane leak in this 30,000 gallon tank on April 7 at Fleet Management.

Engine 36's Capt. **Eric Courtis** and his crew were driving down Superior Street to fuel up at Fleet Management on an unusually cold April morning when Courtis noticed JSO was enforcing traffic control. A few minutes later, E-36, the only JFRD apparatus on scene at the time, was calling for help with a very dangerous situation at Fleet.

A police officer informed Courtis about a gas odor that had just prompted an evacuation of Fleet's 200 employees. It wasn't long before Firefighter **Bryan Wagner** (TL-9) pinpointed the problem – propane leaking from a 30,000 gallon tank near the gas pumps. Since propane sinks to the ground and dissipates and the vehicle repair bays around Fleet have numerous ignition sources, including space heaters, the potential for a massive explosion was very real.

Enter the HazMat team – the entire team from 7 and 21. Ironically, Engine 7's Lt. **Mark Johnson** (photo above) and his

crew were involved in propane tank exercises at the Training Academy when his phone rang. Once on scene, they joined other firefighters, as well as technicians from TECO and Atlantic Cylinder Tech Corporation, to secure a faulty relief valve on the tank. Crews also worked with AmeriGas in siphoning the liquid propane into a bobtail truck and burning the vapor using a flare. All the while, Ladder 4 applied a fog stream to help dissipate the vapor.

"I think the heavy winds that day helped because the gas couldn't pool anywhere," Courtis said.

Approximately, 2,000 gallons of gas were removed from the tank. The incident lasted more than 10 hours, long enough for Administrative Services Division Chief **Larry Peterson** to bring in dinner for crews on scene.

"We dodged a bullet on this one," Johnson said. "This whole place could have been leveled."



DEPLOYED IN DELUGE

Members of the Emergency Preparedness Division's Incident Management Team spent eight days in April on deployment, responding to the severe flooding conditions in the Panhandle and Big Bend regions of Florida.

The team was assigned through the State EOC to the local EOCs in Hamilton and Madison Counties and coordinated with numerous other agencies, including the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement during all phases of emergency management. Several major roadways were closed for days and approximately 250 homes and other structures suffered flood damage.



Crews from Rescue 13 and Engines 20 and 21 were forced to evacuate a 6,000 square foot structure in the first few minutes of a three-alarm fire at Beach Boulevard and Taunton Road on April 23. It took all crews about 45 minutes to bring the fire under control.

Rescue 13 First On Scene at Third Alarm

Rescue 13 had the jump on everybody on April 23.

Capt. **Brad Sirmans** and Firefighter **Chad Parker**, who had transferred from Rescue 59, were returning to Station 13 from Memorial Hospital around 2:10 p.m. when a huge column of smoke on Beach Boulevard caught their eye. Once they passed the Emerson Street overpass and turned onto Taunton Road, they were not surprised to see heavy smoke rolling from a commercial structure's eaves and flames shooting from the rear of the 6,000 square foot building. But they were surprised to see no other responding units.

"We were kind of in disbelief," Parker said.

"I immediately called for a full assignment," Sirmans said.

That's when Engine 20's Capt. **Evans Howard**, who was monitoring his radio in the station, told his crew to get bunkered out and go. They were the first engine to arrive.

"It was already through the roof," Howard said, looking at the structure, which housed a general contracting business and a medical mobility company.

Fortunately, the two employees inside the structure when the fire began had already made a quick escape. Engine 20 laid a supply line to the rear westside of the building and Howard ordered the 2½-inch hand line placed in service to attack the

fire. Parker joined crews from 20 and 21 to advance the line.

"I got bunkered out, grabbed a nozzle and went inside," Parker said. "I hadn't grabbed a 2½-inch hose in over a year."

The crew was doing fine, but Howard called for a second attack line since the fire was wall to wall and in the ceiling. When Engine 21 arrived on scene, **Lt. Tim Kirkland** called for traffic control, then Engines 1 and 28 each laid supply lines across Beach Boulevard to Ladders 1 and 28.

Six minutes into combat, Fire 1's Battalion Chief **Dale Margadonna** assumed command and called a second alarm. Suddenly, crews inside had to evacuate due to a partial collapse of the roof. A role call accounted for everyone, and 17 minutes into command, Margadonna called third alarm and organized an exterior attack. Engine 20 began supplying Ladder 18. Meanwhile, Rehab 9 arrived and firefighters began cycling through. Engine 4's Lt. **Chris Lewis** used an 1¾-inch line to cool LP tanks that were venting through relief valves. Margadonna called the fire under control shortly after 3 p.m. and terminated command around 5 p.m.

While the fire was big, the injuries were minimal. Rescue 4 transported one civilian patient to the hospital for observation, and no firefighters were injured.

Replacement Station 50 Opens



L to R: Mayor John Peyton, ICI Homes CEO Mori Hosseini, Assistant Fire Chief Randy White and Council Member Richard Clark open Station 50 on April 29.

The four-bay, 11,000 square foot structure is home to Engine 150 (Capt. Jim Smith), Rescue 50 (Capt. Terrance Jones) and Brush Truck 50. Ladder 28 (Capt. David Lundy) temporarily runs out of 50 while Replacement Station 28 is being built.

ICI Homes and Beazer Homes paid for the new facility. They also partnered with the city in a land swap for the site of old 50 with the new site, which is about 250 yards away. ICI and Beazer are planning a 2,400-home community.

APRIL 2009

CALL VOLUME TOTALS

ENGINE COS.

E30	.367
E28	.337
E18	.327
E31	.324
E51	.316
E19	.313
E10	.311
E22	.306
E21	.295
E9	.291
E20	.288
E152	.285
E4	.281
E1	.280
E32	.273
E44	.264
E36	.261
E17	.255
E24	.251
E34	.247
E25	.245
E150	.228
E27	.225
E42	.217
E2	.209
E7	.200
E13	.199
E5	.199
E154	.190
E59	.184
E135	.179
E12	.178

E37	.173
E58	.173
E55	.172
E14	.167
E29	.130
E57	.120
E33	.119
E11	.113
E41	.111
E23	.102
E26	.97
E16	.90
HAZ7	.79
E49	.78
E53	.75
E143	.61
HAZ21	.56
AIR5	.52
E46	.47
E56	.47
E48	.45
HR4	.44
E45	.21
E40	.17

RESCUE UNITS

R1	.345
R4	.345
R20	.338
R2	.337
R7	.329
R22	.326
R30	.324
R36	.321

R34	.319
R5	.313
R19	.303
R15	.299
R17	.295
R13	.292
R21	.288
R24	.288
R31	.287
R51	.273
R32	.269
R28	.268
R52	.253
R35	.251
R25	.245
R54	.245
R50	.236
R27	.208
R55	.205
R71	.201
R23	.196
R42	.196
R58	.196
R57	.178
R59	.161
R49	.115

LADDERS

L30	.164
L10	.144
L31	.136
TL21	.136
L1	.126
L28	.125

L44	.121
L18	.113
L32	.103
L34	.103
L4	.101
TL9	.96

TANKERS

T28	.98
T52	.69
T31	.64
T29	.46
T42	.41
T44	.40
T34	.28
T57	.27
T33	.19
T49	.19
T43	.11
T45	.8
T40	.5

BRUSH TRUCK

BR31	.86
BR50	.80
BR32	.67
BR42	.66
BR35	.65
BR43	.54
BR53	.51
BR16	.2

MARINE UNITS

M3	.25
M1	.7

DISTRICT CHIEFS

F3	.124
R104	.107
F6	.83
F2	.77
R103	.75
F4	.70
F7	.66
R105	.65
F1	.56
F9	.55
F8	.50
F5	.45
F37	.9

PLANS REVIEW

Plans Reviewed	.323
Inspections Completed	.370

SAFETY/INVESTIGATION

SF1	.81
SF2	.72

MONTHLY TOTALS

EMS	.7,551
FIRE	.1,776
NON EMR	.260

Total: . . . 9,587