

ON SCENE



April 2012



Terrific Teamwork Inside & Out

Inside: The "Wow Factor" • Firefighter of the Year • 2011's Unit Runs



DEAR FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS

It's hard to predict when the "wow factor" may materialize.

You try a new restaurant, and you can't believe how good the food is. Your drive to work is all green lights. You take your vehicle in for routine maintenance, and when you pick it up, it's been washed and vacuumed. In each instance, you're pleasantly surprised. Some might say "wowed."

Sometimes, we "wow" others with the simplest of efforts, like a recent call handled by Ladder 1's C-shift. Dispatched to assist a citizen, Lt. Casey Geiger and his crew arrived to find a woman who had fallen in her apartment at a residential facility for seniors. She had slipped after spilling a soft drink on her floor. Helping the woman up was simple, so was the action of Eng. Brian Tibbetts who found a mop and cleaned the woman's messy floor. The call was completed in a few minutes.

Ladder 1-C didn't realize they had "wowed" their customer until I shared a thank you letter that arrived at JFRD Headquarters a few days later. Written by an administrator at the residential facility, the letter praised the crew's courtesy and attention to detail. In our eyes, the call was simple, and the crew's efforts routine. But their caring demeanor, their dignified and respectful treatment, and the brief but extra effort of mopping the floor made a lasting impression on the customer.

I'm certain that many of our members frequently "wow" the people who call JFRD for help. We can't expect to get a thank you letter or e-mail each time, but when we do receive that simple acknowledgment, it affirms how important our best efforts and extra efforts are to those we serve. Giving the customer your best is not merely professionalism; it's a reflection of your attitude and character. It's proof that your heart is in the right place. It also helps build the community's confidence in JFRD and local government.

Our career presents us with extraordinary opportunities to make a difference, and we might believe that extrications, structure fires, MCIs, or complex events are the best ingredients for the "wow factor" to materialize. But sometimes, great impressions are easily made during the simplest of calls and so is the "wow."

On the Cover:

Engine 1's Capt. Jimmy Fulford and Fire 3's Dist. Chief Roger Lewis are on scene at a second alarm residential fire in 51's district late last month. Firefighters suppressed the blaze in about 40 minutes and saved the majority of the house. Another photo, page 6.

Sincerely,

Marty Senterfitt
Director/Fire Chief

GUNS 'N' HOSES

is April 14



Engine 27's Firefighter Jonathan Ortiz (left) pounds away at a heavy bag with a little resistance from Engine 36's Firefighter Lamar Roberts. Ortiz is hoping to compete in this year's Guns 'n' Hoses. Roberts competed last year and won his bout.



Under the leadership and training of Eng. Ike Davis (left), IAFF has claimed seven victories since Gun 'n' Hoses began in 1999. FOP has won four times, and twice the event has ended in a draw. Davis' team of trainers has included Engine 26's Firefighter Dewitt Cooper for many years.



Guns 'n' Hoses promoter Robbie Freitas with JSO is flanked by (L-R) JFRD's Eng. Pat Williams (Engine 45) and Rescue 58's Capt. Earl Acosta who handle numerous details to make the event successful year after year.

Mutual Aid Off Duty On Foot

Engineer **Pat Copeman** may have been off duty on Aug. 19, 2011, but he was working. He'd traveled to St. Augustine for the day to help a friend move, and in the late afternoon, the focus of his efforts and aid would drastically change.

"It sounded like a wreck or a transformer exploding," said Copeman (Engine 7-B). "I walked outside, and I heard the fire burning and saw the smoke."

A small fuel tank farm, adjacent to a gas station and auto body shop, was engulfed in flames. Copeman immediately reacted, running about a block toward the scene of a massive fireball that was morphing into a thick, black smoke plume surging hundreds of feet into the sky. Metal fragments from the ruptured, above-ground fuel tanks were dropping from the sky. Despite a series of explosions, Copeman's attention immediately turned to an incapacitated man on the ground who was dangerously close to the approaching flames.

"He was trying to crawl away, but he kept collapsing," Copeman said.

Copeman and three others quickly reacted. Together, they carried the large man, a fuel tanker driver, toward safety. The spontaneous team of rescuers paused just once during their efforts when they were jolted by a powerful and very hot explosion, which Copeman likened to a flashover. Without Copeman's and the others' brave actions, the man's fate could have been far graver that afternoon.

St. Johns County Fire and Rescue requested JFRD's mutual aid shortly after 5 p.m., and the fire was brought under control around 8:30 p.m.

For Copeman's actions, JFRD's Awards Committee named him Firefighter of the Year, also known as the Lt. Joseph F. Stichway Award. Copeman is also this year's only recipient of the Bronze Medal of Bravery.

"To me, I never felt like I deserved an award," Copeman said. "If any of our guys had been there, they would have done the same thing."

Background: A fuel tank farm explodes Aug. 19, 2011 off State Road 16 near St. Augustine. Eng. Pat Copeman (Engine 7-B) was at a friend's house a block away when he heard the blast and ran to the scene to help.

— Heather Dawn Harley-Davidson/Artist and Photographer

Engineer Pat Copeman

JFRD'S FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Photo by Dianne Baltz

At this year's JFRD Awards Ceremony, Firefighter of the Year Eng. Pat Copeman (Engine 7-B) enjoys the moment with his father Tom, who is a retired JFRD Captain, as well as (L-R) daughters Christine and Nikki and mother Dianne.

Firefighter Awards Recipients

MEDALS

Joseph F. Stichway Award
Bronze Medal of Bravery
Eng. Pat Copeman, Engine 7-B

Lt. Andy Graham
Distinguished Service Award
Station 7 and Station 21

For their commitment to hosting ice cream parties for patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

COMMENDATIONS

FF William Gaskins, Engine 4-A
FF Jeremy Lee, Engine 4-A

For actions at the scene of an electrical burn patient.

Lt. Richard Brinson, Engine 10-A

For his actions while off duty at a drowning incident.

Lt. Jeff Campbell, Rescue 21-C

FF Todd Whaley, Engine 21-C

For actions at an MVA with a patient trapped inside a burning vehicle.

UNIT CITATIONS

Engine 17-A

Capt. Charles Lee, Eng. Andre Rodall,
 FF Aaron Taylor

For actions involving the rescue of a child at a structure fire.

Engine 51-A

Lt. Michael Peery, Eng. Jeffery Kendall,
 FF Alex Kimmel, FF Grace Solberg

For actions involving the rescue of a young male at a structure fire.

Station 1-C and Station 4-C

For actions at a vehicle in a pond at East Bay Street and Everbank Field.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Dist. Chief Richard Lundy, Fire 4-C

Capt. Sean Hatchett, Engine 21-C

Lt. Matthew Tator, TL 21-C

Eng. Terri Gouin, HazMat 21-C

Eng. Ralph Murphy, Engine 21-C

Eng. Pam Ramsdell, Rescue 21-C

Eng. Russell Fox, TL 21-C

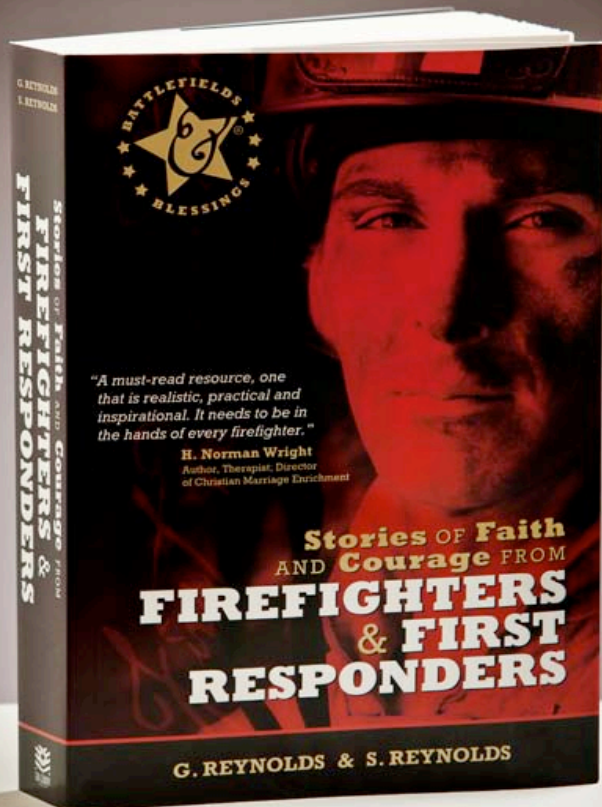
FF Mitchell Eaves, TL 21-C

FF Jeremy Isaacson, TL21-C

FF Roger Lewis, Jr., Engine 21-C

For their actions at an MVA with a person trapped inside a burning vehicle.

Letters of Recognition listed on page 7.



EVERYDAY Reading

Attention all personnel, check your station library. Chaplain Percy Golden recently delivered a book featuring articles from hundreds of firefighters around the country, including one of JFRD's active District Chiefs as well as a retired JFRD Chief.

"Stories of Faith and Courage from Firefighters & First Responders," a daily devotional book, features brief contributions from Fire 9's Chief Trevor Nelson and JFRD retiree Bill Burns. The Jacksonville chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters purchased copies of the book for each station. Nelson, the Jacksonville FCF president, became involved the project a couple of years ago when FCF International solicited articles. He invited his friend Burns to contribute, too.

If you're interested in purchasing your own copy, e-mail Golden at percyg@coj.net. Cost is \$18.



Quick Actions Lead to Big Save

During a recent second alarm residential fire in 51's territory, Engine 51's Firefighter Alex Kimmel runs to take care of a line. Safety 1's Capt. Scott Gardner is behind him. Crews knocked down the fire in about 40 minutes and saved the majority of the 7,000 square foot home. Fire 4's Dist. Chief Andy White had command of the fire, and Fire 3's Dist. Chief Roger Lewis commanded the operations sector.

CALL VOLUMES February 2012

RESCUE	R59191	E34228	AIR540	BR3231
R1337	R55190	E20217	HAZ2138	BR3522
R4328	R57187	E2215	E5637	MARINE UNITS
R31326	R70 (peak time) ...174	E13209	HR429	M310
R30323	R71166	E27205	E4023	M18
R5312	R49132	E4202	E458	PLANS REVIEW
R2310	R80 (peak time) ...125	E7197	LADDERS	Plans Reviewed .332
R17309	R81 (peak time) ...67	E135186	L28174	SAFETY/INVESTIGATION
R21305	R82 (peak time) ...44	E154186	L30157	SF182
R36301	ENGINES	E58186	L31149	SF289
R7300	E28369	E59186	L10146	Fire Investigations 31
R19299	E31332	E5168	TL21136	FIELD CHIEFS
R22298	E30328	E26159	L44123	F3115
R28295	E22309	E12154	L1121	R104102
R34283	E19305	E14141	L18109	F792
R15279	E10298	E37137	TL9105	F686
R24277	E1297	E55137	L34104	R10385
R20274	E51297	E57134	L4103	R10575
R32268	E9282	E33130	L3244	F472
R13263	E152279	E41126	L2628	F970
R25262	E25276	E29124	TANKERS (Top 5)	F167
R51259	E17271	E23103	T5281	F564
R50253	E24270	E49102	T2874	F259
R52251	E32262	E1185	T4269	F853
R35232	E18259	E1679	T3445	
R27220	E44254	E14370	T3144	FEBRUARY TOTALS
R54218	E21244	E5364	BRUSH TRUCKS (Top 5)	EMS7,929
R42213	E36235	HAZ760	BR4284	FIRE1,358
R23211	E150232	E4646	BR4364	NON EMR ...287
R58204	E42230	E4841	BR3135	Total:9,574

FIREFIGHTER AWARDS RECIPIENTS Letters of Recognition

Dist. Chief Jake Blanton
 Capt. Matthew Cipriani
 Capt. John H. Long, III
 Capt. Richard Reichard
 Capt. Julian C. Smith
 Capt. James H. Snyder
 Lt. George H. Bartley
 Lt. Timothy S. Culpepper
 Lt. John A. Davis III
 Lt. Patrick D. Hagan
 Lt. David B. Howell
 Lt. Leroy C. Joiner
 Lt. Gail M. Loput
 Lt. Jesse L. Modican
 Lt. Derek M. Nowell
 Lt. John P. Vitale
 Eng. Michael A. Belcher

Eng. Ronald L. Burckhard
 Eng. Jason L. Crawford
 Eng. Michael W. Cullen
 Eng. Thomas Crow
 Eng. Daniel R. Dantzler
 Eng. Tammy E. Davis
 Eng. Chick A. De Medici
 Eng. Charles D. Dumas III
 Eng. Daniel W. Dunkley
 Eng. Warren R. Emerson
 Eng. Justin A. Hager
 Eng. Todd M. Hardin
 Eng. Alexander Jones, III
 Eng. Scott P. Karpus
 Eng. Sean M. Lambert
 Eng. Josh L. Linder
 Eng. Clinton M. Milstead

Eng. Mark Pena
 Eng. Michael C. Soto
 Eng. Robert W. Stover
 FF Taylor J. Artel
 FF Dominique S. Bartley
 FF Johnnie L. Buchanan
 FF Evan G. Burns
 FF Larry W. Chrisman
 FF Paula M. Epperson
 FF James M. Hardwick
 FF Ryan W. Haynes
 FF Kevin B. Jacques Sr.
 FF Jamie T. Jordan
 FF Gralyn Matthews, Jr.
 FF Matthew G. McCormack
 FF Lashawn D. Mitchell
 FF Charles D. Spencer

FF Darren A. Parker
 FF Christopher L. Scott
 FF Brian P. Southall
 FF David R. Thomas
 FF Jamal J. Wells
 FF Henry C. Wise
 FRCO Supervisor Meg Barr
 FRCO Supervisor
 Kim Moreland
 FRCO Assistant Supervisor
 Marcia Jackson
 FRCO Sonya Chandler
 FRCO Richard Landess
 FRCO Angilyn McFarland
 FRCO Eboni Wallace
 JSO Officer Martin Prinzi

R-1, E-28 **BUSIEST** IN 2011

RESCUES

R1	4126
R31	4084
R28	3960
R30	3933
R22	3932
R4	3899
R36	3837
R19	3830
R2	3828
R21	3806
R17	3749
R7	3599
R5	3590
R20	3577
R24	3538
R34	3478
R15	3454
R13	3318
R51	3302
R25	3230
R32	3223
R52	3097
R54	2919
R35	2914
R50	2742
R27	2714
R42	2634
R58	2580
R23	2466
R55	2462
R71	2340
R57	2338
R59	2176
R49	1683

ENGINES

E28	4429
E31	4133
E19	3889
E22	3801
E51	3744
E30	3727
E1	3577
E10	3491
E152	3487
E18	3487

E21	3436
E9	3345
E32	3235
E25	3226
E44	3153
E24	3081
E20	3076
E36	3021
E27	2895
E42	2865
E17	2850
E34	2847
E4	2650
E2	2554
E13	2522
E150	2517
E7	2444
E135	2308
E154	2252
E5	2171
E58	2090
E59	2090
E37	2029
E55	1940
E12	1911
E14	1750
E29	1631
E57	1429
E33	1407
E41	1388
E26	1254
E23	1201
E11	1158
E49	1144
E16	968
E53	825
E143	763
HAZ7	757
HAZ21	730
E48	617
E46	552
E56	537
E40	215
AIR5	348
HR4	344
E45	171
CVAN	141

LADDERS

L28	2089
L30	1813
L31	1630
TL21	1623
L44	1479
L10	1399
L18	1314
L1	1222
L32	1206
L4	1171
L34	1134
TL9	997

TANKERS

T28	813
T52	764
T42	715
T31	597
T29	473
T34	443
T57	329
T33	308
T49	280
T54	272
T44	195
T43	147
T45	52
T40	49

BRUSH TRUCKS

BR16	985
BR31	692
BR32	676
BR35	648
BR42	615
BR43	558
BR49	452
BR50	39
BR53	7

MARINE UNITS

M3	163
M1	94
M2	87
M40	23

FIRE PREVENTION

Investigations	392
Plans Reviewed	3,914

FIELD CHIEFS

F3	1462
R104	1008
F4	945
F7	890
F9	874
F6	868
R103	854
R105	807
F5	652
F2	650
F1	636
F8	613

MONTHLY TOTALS

EMS	95,282
FIRE	18,259
NON EMR	4,235

Total:117,776



Troy Jenschke

Captain of Rescue 1, which was JFRD's busiest rescue last year.