



# EMS & FIRE CONNECTION



April 2024 Edition

**Between**  
the **Thin Red Line** and the **Thin Blue Line**  
lies the **Thinnest Gold Line**

The Gold Line represents those  
who are rarely seen, but mostly heard.  
The Calm Voice in the Dark Night.  
**DISPATCHERS**  
The Golden Glue that holds it all together.

## HIGHLIGHTS

NPSTW 2024.....	1
Medical Control Directive.....	2-3
Leave Behind Narcan.....	4
To Err is Human.....	5
In Memoriam.....	6
Virtual Office Hours.....	7
Employee Recognition.....	8
Around the County.....	9-13
Community Involvement.....	14-17
Upcoming.....	18-19
Florida Pediatric EMS Symposium.....	20
Mental Health Training.....	21
HOPE Line.....	22
Adopt a Furry Friend.....	23
First Responder Breakfast.....	24-25

The week of April 14th to April 20th, 2024, signifies National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, a time dedicated to honoring those often unseen individuals who serve as the first point of contact during emergencies.

Telecommunicators embody the reassuring voice at the other end of the line during a heart-stopping moment or a crisis unfolding. They are the skilled professionals who coordinate emergency responses, utilizing various software programs seamlessly—from mapping systems to CAD deployment systems—while managing multiple screens and conversations simultaneously. Their expertise and calm demeanor guide callers through the chaos, ensuring swift and accurate assistance.

On behalf of **Safety and Emergency Services**, we extend our deepest gratitude for your tireless dedication and professionalism. We recognize the countless lives you've impacted and the countless crises you've navigated with grace and efficiency. From our entire department and on behalf of the community, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable service.






# MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

## 2024-08

**DATE:** March 26, 2024

**TO:** Pinellas County EMS Agencies  
Pinellas County Emergency Communications  
Pinellas County Certified EMTs and Paramedics  
Pinellas County Certified Advanced Practice Paramedics, Nurses  
Pinellas County Online Medical Control Physicians  
Pinellas County Ambulance Billing and Financial Services  
ED Nurse Managers

**FROM:** Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director 

**RE:** Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) Tool - DISCONTINUE USE

**Effective Date:** 0800 hrs. March 27, 2024

- This Medical Control Directive supersedes Medical Control Directive 2024-03

### Emergency Medical Dispatchers:

- Effective 0800 hrs. March 27, 2024, all call takers performing Emergency Medical Dispatch in Pinellas County, will discontinue utilizing the Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance Tool (EIDS).

### Field Personnel:

- This change will discontinue the **Respiratory isolation precautions!** CAD note
- All personnel are reminded to maintain situational awareness regarding the need to employ respiratory isolation precautions/PPE






## MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE 2024-09

**DATE:** April 1, 2024

**TO:** Pinellas County EMS Agencies  
Pinellas County Emergency Communications  
Pinellas County Certified EMTs and Paramedics  
Pinellas County Certified Advanced Practice Paramedics, Nurses  
Pinellas County Online Medical Control Physicians  
Pinellas County Ambulance Billing and Financial Services  
ED Nurse Managers

**FROM:** Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director 

**RE:** April 2024 In-Service Training

**DISTRIBUTION/TRAINING PERIOD:** April 1 - April 30, 2024

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2024

- An “In-service Training” module separate from regularly scheduled CME has been developed and is assigned to all system clinicians through Vector Solutions for April 2024.
- The in-service includes:
  - Video message from Dr. Jameson
  - System updates (protocols, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and ePCR)
- All system clinicians are required to complete this training no later than April 30, 2024.
- Failure to complete this in-service by April 30, 2024, may result in clinical restriction or suspension.

**Distribution:**

- EMSChiefs e-mail distribution group
- Vector Solutions
- Pinellas County EMS Office of the Medical Director Webpage [www.pcemsomd.com](http://www.pcemsomd.com)

# Leave Behind Narcan Saves a Life

In a recent incident at a local community organization, staff's prompt response and preparedness in using their Leave Behind Narcan Kits played a crucial role in saving a life. Upon finding an individual unresponsive due to a suspected overdose, they acted swiftly. Thanks to the Narcan training provided by Lt. Dan Zsido to 19 individuals just a week earlier, staff administered three doses of Narcan and performed CPR using a CPR face shield. **Their actions successfully revived the individual**, who then agreed to medical attention and substance use treatment. This episode highlights the importance of providing Leave Behind Narcan, Narcan training, and the community's readiness in addressing opioid overdoses effectively.



## Naloxone Narcan Awareness Training

### Leave Behind Naloxone Kits

Clear  
Bag

Naloxone  
First Aid  
Instructions

English  
Spanish  
Vietnamese



Hypo  
allergenic  
Gloves

Barrier  
Mask

Naloxone  
Narcan

Reminder – please give our Leave Behind Narcan Kits to the public – to anyone at anytime – please fill out the quick log on the Medical Director website for tracking [www.pccmsomd.com](http://www.pccmsomd.com)

*Save a life*



# To err is human: How agencies should navigate mistakes in EMS

Regardless of why an error happened, the focus should be on preventing any future errors, supporting the provider's remediation plan and helping them move on

March 18, 2024 11:16 AM • Katie Bower, NRP



## Katie Bower, NRP

Katie Bower is a nationally registered paramedic. She has a Bachelor's from Cornell University and is a recent graduate from the University of Florida Critical Care program. Katie serves as the EMS training coordinator for Pinellas County, Florida, and is an instructor for the School of EMS.

Click to read the entire article!



# In Memoriam



With deep sadness, Sunstar announces the passing of their esteemed team member, **Dave Minary**. Dave, who joined Sunstar in 1982 as an EMT, left an enduring mark through his unwavering dedication and infectious positivity. From his transition to a VST role in 2007 to his part-time commitment in 2018, Dave's impact was profound. His kindness and love for model trains resonated with all who knew him.

As we grieve his loss, let's support one another. Reach out if you need assistance; Tampa Bay Psychology offers a 24/7 hotline at 727-463-4349 for Sunstar members. Let's honor Dave's memory by embodying the values he exemplified daily.





# Virtual Office Hours With



# Dr. Angus Jameson



Join us for Dr. Angus Jameson's Virtual Office Hours, a monthly open forum for system clinicians to engage directly with the Medical Director.

Held on the last Friday of every month from 10 AM to 11 AM, the agenda is shaped entirely by the queries and interests of those who join. Come ask your questions, give suggestions for system improvement, or bring up any topic on your mind!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83832904678?pwd=LytwT1hTOVQ4K1FyNkVIeHROOVI2UT09>

Meeting ID: 838 3290 4678

Passcode: OMD





# Safety & Emergency Services Employee Recognition Awards



MARCH 2024

# Congratulations

## Regional 9-1-1

**STAR Award** - Andrea Jordan

**Outstanding Service** - David Haumann

**Behind The Scenes** - Dillon Bean

## Financial Services

**Outstanding Service** - Jennifer Greer, Jason Oldfield

**Stellar Performance** - Angela Husted

**Team MVP** - Adya Kearney

**Skilled Craftsman** - Lynn Baldyga, Kim Gajan

**Behind The Scenes** - Tee Wilson



Please consider nominating someone for April's Employee Recognition Awards for Regional 9-1-1, Fire and EMS Admin, Support Services and Financial Services



# Around The County


## Congratulations



Please join on Monday, April 29, 2024, at 2:00 PM to celebrate the retirement of **Lieutenant Jeff McManigal** from the **City of Seminole Fire Rescue**.

CONGRATS

**AFTER 25 YEARS**  
*Of hard work and dedication  
 with the City Of Seminole Fire Rescue*  
**LT. JEFFREY  
 MCMANIGAL**  
**IS**  
*Retiring*



You are invited to Jeff's retirement Party  
**MONDAY, APRIL 29TH**  
**FIRE STATION 29**  
**1195 70TH AVE N, SEMINOLE, FL 33772**  
**2:00 PM - 4:30 PM**





# Around The County

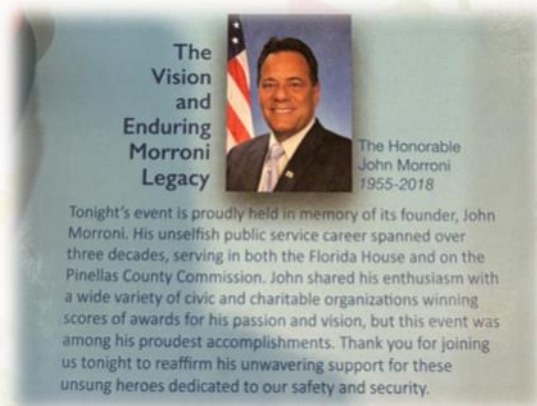
## Congratulations



On March 28, 2024, **Lorenzo Giannetti, Katie Scheller, and Darlene Florkowski** from **Sunstar Paramedics'** Critical Care Team, were honored at the annual John Morroni Law Enforcement and First Responder Appreciation Dinner for their exceptional commitment and service to our community.

Their dedication to providing critical care in emergencies and offering compassionate support to those in distress has made a significant impact on countless lives. Lorenzo, Katie, and Darlene exemplify professionalism and excellence in their field.

This recognition is a testament to their hard work and unwavering dedication. Congratulations to Lorenzo, Katie, and Darlene for this well-deserved honor.





# Around The County

## Congratulations

**Fire Medic Colin Coyle of Clearwater Fire and Recue** was honored this week with the Medal of Valor for how he handled a challenging call in December of last year. That's when a patient became combative and attacked our crew members, rendering one unconscious. Fire Medic Coyle, who works out of Station 45, was able to position himself to prevent further harm to the other medic while subduing the attacker. Thank you for your bravery and selflessness!



GREAT  
JOB!





# Around The County

# Congratulations



Congratulations to **Firefighter/Paramedic John Giordano** on 25 years of service with **Largo Fire Rescue!** Thank you FF Giordano for your hard work and dedication to the department, residents and community!

*Thank You*



*For Your Service*



25

Congratulations to **Firefighter/EMT Jerry Nguyen** on 20 years of service with **Largo Fire Rescue!** Thank you FF Nguyen for your hard work and dedication to the department, residents and community!

20





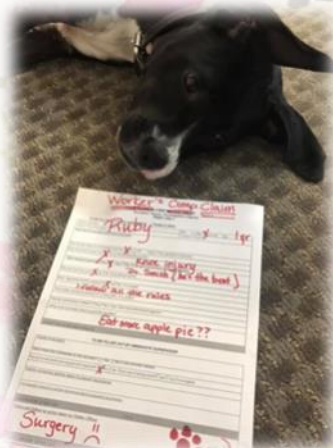


# Around The County



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wishing a joyous belated 6th Birthday to the beloved firehouse mascot of **Palm Harbor Fire Rescue**, none other than the delightful **Ruby**! While her special day may have passed on March 23rd, the warmth and cheer she brings to the firehouse continue to brighten every moment. Ruby's unwavering loyalty and boundless energy embody the spirit of camaraderie and dedication within the firefighting community. Here's to many more years of wagging tails, slobbery kisses, and shared adventures with this cherished member of the team. Happy belated birthday, Ruby!





# Around the Community

On March 30th, communities in Clearwater celebrated Neighborhood Day with a flourish of community spirit, and **Clearwater Fire & Rescue** took center stage in the festivities! They revealed some captivating snapshots of their recent Neighborhood Day activities, showcasing heartwarming moments of connection with the residents they are dedicated to serving. From eager youngsters marveling at the inner workings of a fire engine to spirited interactions with neighbors of all ages, the event radiated with the vibrant energy of community engagement. As fire crews traversed several neighborhoods throughout Clearwater, each stop brought forth new bonds and shared experiences, reinforcing the invaluable partnership between the fire department and the people it serves.





# Around the Community



On April 4 **Sunstar Paramedics** hosted 40 local high school students from Youth Leadership Pinellas at Sunstar HQ during their Emergency Services Day. Topics covered were the Triad of Life, Stop the Bleed, Narcan Administration and Hands Only CPR along with a robust vehicle demonstration.





# Around the Community

Girl Scout Troop 603 paid a visit to Station 57 this week as they pursued their First Aid Badge! The dedicated firefighters of **East Lake Fire Rescue** took the opportunity to impart valuable skills, teaching the troop members hands-only CPR, sharing essential first aid knowledge, and guiding them in assembling their very own first aid kits. Additionally, the troop enjoyed an insightful tour of both the station and the fire truck, deepening their understanding of emergency response efforts. The East Lake Fire team expressed their gratitude for the delightful company, emphasizing their appreciation for the troop's thoughtful gesture of sharing delicious cookies.





# Around the Community

In March, the children's program at **Lighthouse of Pinellas** embarked on an enriching adventure with a tour of the **Pinellas Park Fire Department**. This excursion provided an invaluable opportunity for the children to not only hone their mobility skills but also to immerse themselves in an educational and enjoyable exploration of essential community services. The visit to the fire department served as a platform for hands-on learning, allowing the children to gain insights into the critical roles and functions of firefighters and emergency responders. The Lighthouse of Pinellas extended their sincere gratitude to the Pinellas Park Fire Department for graciously hosting the group and contributing to their educational journey.





# UPCOMING



Free for Family Caregivers

## Connecting Caregivers Conference

Where You Can Find Help & Hope



 Linda  
BIRLANS

From the comfort of your home!

May 7, 8, & 9, 2024  
Register Today!

<https://connectingcaregiversconference.com>

Sessions will be recorded  
and shared with registered participants



# UPCOMING



## Falls Prevention in the Home: Training Emergency Responders & Community Partners

Learn how to do a Falls Prevention Home Assessment

Sponsored by Falls Free Florida and

Nova Southeastern University-Tampa Bay Regional Campus

Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program

3400 Gulf to Bay Blvd, Clearwater FL 33759

Each 2-hour class will include classroom instruction and time in the lab which is set up as an apartment so that you can see how the home assessment works.

Training dates will be June 5,6,19,20 2 classes a day at 9am and 11am

Limit of 10 students per class

To sign up please email [Lori Collins/Pinellas 911 at llcollins@pinellas.gov](mailto:llcollins@pinellas.gov)



**E | M | L | R | C**

EMERGENCY MEDICINE LEARNING & RESOURCE CENTER



LIFESAVING EDUCATION FOR LIFESAVERS

*formerly known as ABCs of Pediatric EMS*

# 2024 FLORIDA PEDIATRIC EMS SYMPOSIUM



May 15, 2024 | AdventHealth Tampa | 7:30 am – 3:00 pm



## Save the Date:

**Audience:** EMTs & Paramedics

**Date:** May 15, 2024 @ 7:30 am – 3:00 pm

**Location:** AdventHealth Tampa

Thank you Sponsors!



Interested in sponsoring this event?  
Please email [tmartin@emlrc.org](mailto:tmartin@emlrc.org)



**E | M | L | R | C**

EMERGENCY MEDICINE LEARNING & RESOURCE CENTER



LIFESAVING EDUCATION FOR LIFESAVERS



# Mental Health Training

## Franciscan Center 'Operation Restore'



### Find Your Center

#### DATES FOR UPCOMING

#### RETREATS

April 22-25, 2024

June 24-27, 2024

July 22-25, 2024

September 16-19, 2024

October 21-24, 2024

November 11-14, 2024

If you, or someone in your agency is interested in attending, please email or call

Liz Fogo @ [lfogo@pinellas.gov](mailto:lfogo@pinellas.gov) or 727-582-5755

**Seats go quickly! Reserve yours now!**

# FIRST RESPONDER HOPE ♥ LINE

The First Responder Hope Line is a confidential resource first responders and the people they care about can use when stressed, depressed, or struggling in some other way. Connect confidentially by calling 1-866-4FL-HERO (866-435-4376) or visiting <https://lasttoask.com/>.

Available to ALL First Responders AND Families of First Responders:

**Fire Fighters**  
**EMT's**  
**Police Officers**  
**911 Telecommunicators**

Established in 2020, the First Responder Hope Line employs retired or former first responder peers as care coordinators who are trained to listen without judgement and provide emotional support. In 2022, the Crisis Center received additional funding to hire a First Responder Ambassador, Retired Asst. Chief Meg Ross, who is working to increase awareness of the line and reduce the stigma associated with seeking behavioral health resources throughout the 11-county coverage area from Pasco to Collier County.

The Suncoast Alliance for First Responders (SAFR) was also established to bring together first responder leaders and community partners to create a strategic plan to address the barriers and gaps to behavioral health resources in the Tampa Bay area. The SAFR has completed a strategic plan, R.E.A.L. Hope for First Responders and will be meeting in January to put this plan into action.

Calls to the First Responder Hope Line 2022 and 2023:

111 Calls to Hope Line in 2022.

227 Calls to Hope Line so far in 2023.

200 First Responder Care Coordination Follow-Ups so far in 2023.

1132 Calls from First Responders (excluding Hope Line) or their families so far in 2023.

(410 Out of Area, 722 in 11-County Area)

First Responder Hope Line: 1-866-4FL-HERO (866-435-4376) or visit <https://lasttoask.com/>  
WEDU Special Documentary - Last to Ask: [WEDU Specials](#) | [Last to Ask](#) | [PBS](#)







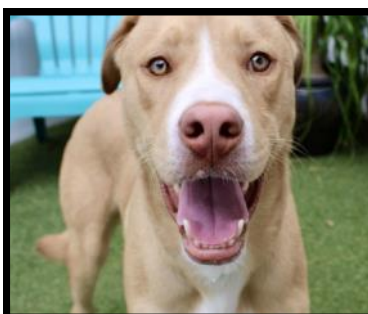
# Announcing!

Pinellas County Animal Services has many amazing dogs and cats that need loving homes! These are just a few of them looking for their fur-ever homes! Please consider adopting one of these wonderful animals or spread the word to anyone who is looking to add a furry member to their family! For more info on these animals, visit <https://pinellas.gov/adoption-center-dog-cat-adoptions/>

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**INDIANA BONES**



**CHAMP**



**GREG**



**DUKE**



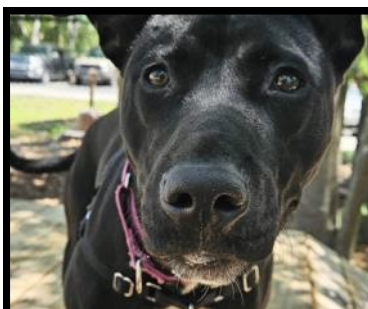
**FELICITY**



**TAEMIN**



**ARNIE**



**KATE**



**LUKE**

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# PINELLAS COUNTY, FL



35000 US Hwy 19 N  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

**Sponsored by:**



**MAY 3RD**  
**8:00-10:00**  
**2024**



2626 Gulf to Bay Blvd,  
Clearwater, FL 33759

**Sponsored by:**

**SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY  
AVAILABLE**



1170 Starkey Rd,  
Largo, FL 33771

**Sponsored by:**

**D.O. Sleep Solutions**  
**Pinellas Park**

# Free First Friday Breakfast

**Active duty & Retired: Fire-EMS-LEO-Dispatch**





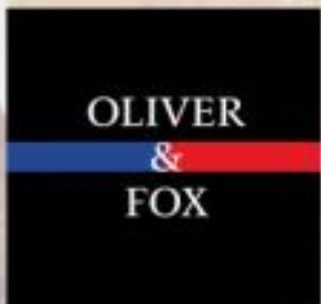
# PASCO COUNTY, FL

**MAY 3RD**  
**8:00-10:00**  
**2024**



**10740 SR-54**  
**Trinity, FL 34655**

**Sponsored by:**



# Free First Friday Breakfast

**Active duty & Retired: Fire-EMS-LEO-Dispatch**