



EMS & FIRE CONNECTION



January 2024 Edition



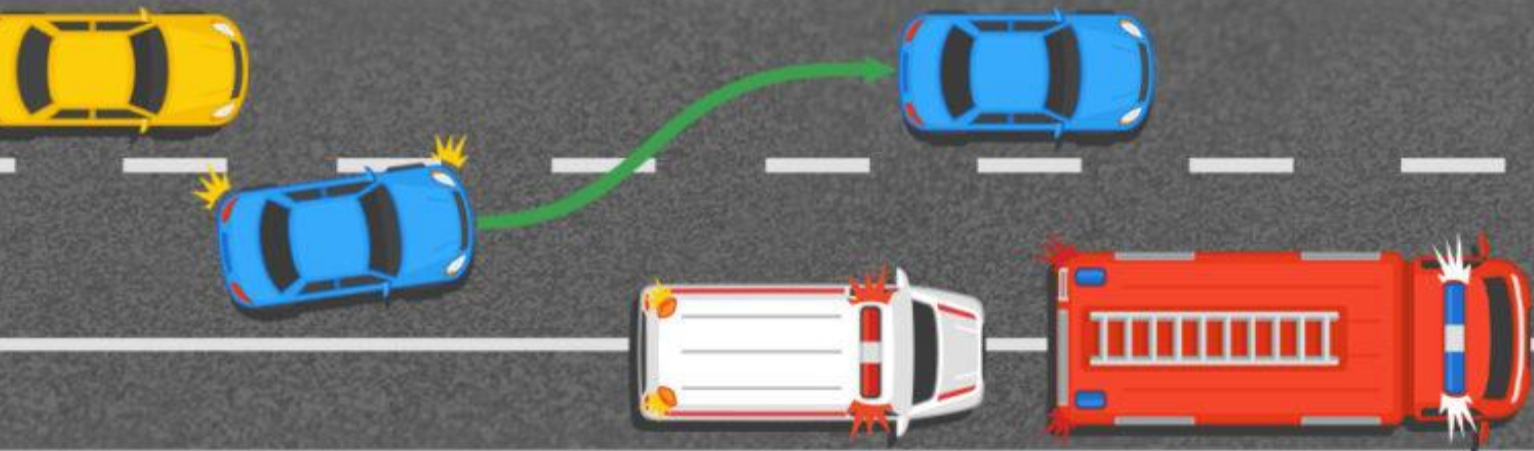
HIGHLIGHTS

Happy New Year.....	1
Move Over Law.....	2
New Medical Directive - Health Buddies.....	3-5
EMS All Stars.....	6
Employee Recognition.....	7
Around the County.....	7-11
Community Involvement....	12-14
911 Tree of Life.....	15
Mental Health Training.....	16
HOPE Line.....	17
Strangulation Prevention.....	18
Adopt a Furry Friend	19
First Responder Free Breakfast.....	20-21

Welcome to 2024! All of us here at
 EMS and Fire Administration and
 the Office of the EMS Medical
 Director wish you the best year
 yet!

Stay safe out there!

MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN



Florida's Move Over Law

Every January is Move Over Month in Florida. The Northeast Florida Department of Transportation District Two Community Traffic Safety Program reminds all motorists to obey Florida's Move Over Law. This law helps to protect those who protect us while they provide essential services in a dangerous environment – the side of the road.

Florida law requires motorists to move over a lane — when they can safely do so — for the following:

Stopped law enforcement.

Emergency responders.

Sanitation and utility service vehicles.

Tow trucks or wreckers.

Maintenance or construction vehicles with displayed warning lights without advanced signs or channelizing devices.

NEW: Disabled vehicles. (effective 1/1/2024)

New Requirements Added to the Move Over Law – Effective January 1, 2024

Florida lawmakers take action to enhance protection for all roadway users. The expanded Move Over law adds three scenarios to Florida's current law. Motorists will be required to move over if:

There is a disabled motor vehicle that is stopped and displaying warning lights or hazard lights.

If a vehicle is stopped and is using emergency flares or posting emergency signage.

When a vehicle is stopped and one or more persons are visibly present.

Florida's Move Over Law Expanded in 2021

In addition to first responders, this law also applies to other public servants and roadside workers. Drivers typically know to move over for law enforcement, fire rescue, and emergency medical services. Many still do not realize the law requires them to move over for sanitation, utility, wrecker, maintenance, and construction vehicles. Basically, if motorists see a service vehicle on the side of the road with flashing warning lights, they need to change lanes or slow down.



MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

2024-05

DATE: January 5, 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: Health Buddies Referral Program - Expansion

DISTRIBUTION/TRAINING PERIOD: N/A

Effective Date: Immediately

- ALL Agencies are authorized to refer a patient to the Health Buddies Program by Seniors in Service.
 - Eligibility Criteria:
 - 18 years of age or older
 - Chronic medical condition(s)
 - Resides in Pinellas, Pasco, or Hillsborough Counties
 - Has a phone
 - Wants to receive phone calls
- Clinicians will register an eligible patient for services by clicking on the "Make a Health Buddies Referral" button on the www.pcemsomd.com home page and enter applicable information.
- Clinicians must document a referral in the ePCR using the "Community Referral - Health Buddies" intervention.

For more information about the program: <https://seniorsinservice.org/health-buddies/>

Referral Handout

Welcome to Health Buddies!



Encouraging better health through social connection

You've been referred to Health Buddies

What to Expect Next:

1. A member of the Health Buddies team will be giving you a call.
2. Get ready to start your 12-week journey toward better health through friendly phone calls.
3. You'll receive 2-3 friendly phone calls per week from your dedicated Health Buddy.

Health Buddies will empower you by:

- Providing encouragement
- Lowering stress and anxiety
- Improving your health
- Connecting you to resources

This free program is provided by:



BayCare



SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE



SuncoastCreditUnion

Do you know someone who is lonely? Scan here to connect them with a Health Buddy!



Questions? Reach out!

Phone: (813) 492-8931 SeniorsInService.org

Email: healthbuddies@seniorsinservice.org

¡Bienvenido a Health Buddies!



Promoviendo la buena salud a través de la conexión social

Usted ha sido referido a Health Buddies

¿Qué puede esperar a continuación?

1. Un miembro del equipo le llamará para la entrevista inicial.
2. Usted recibirá 2-3 llamadas telefónicas a la semana.
3. Prepárese para iniciar una experiencia de 12 semanas en la cual mejorará su salud física y emocional, mediante la conexión social.

Su voluntario de Health Buddies le empoderará a través de:

- Apoyo mediante llamadas telefónicas
- Herramientas para mejorar su salud mental
- Conectándolo con recursos disponibles en su comunidad

Este programa es gratuito y posible gracias a:



BayCare



SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE



SuncoastCreditUnion

¿Conoces a alguien que se siente solo? Escanee aquí para conectarlo con un Health Buddy.



¿Preguntas? ¡Contáctenos!

Teléfono: (813) 492-8931 SeniorsInService.org

Email: healthbuddies@seniorsinservice.org

Health Buddies



Encourage better health through social connection



Health Buddies engages compassionate, trained volunteers to provide encouragement, education, and support to individuals living with chronic conditions. Through regular telephone reassurance, we are improving the health of individuals who need it most.

Health Buddies empower individuals living with chronic conditions to...

- *Enhance their quality of life*
- *Lower stress and anxiety*
- *Self-manage their health*
- *Live independently*
- *Reduce loneliness*

Become a Volunteer

If you are a compassionate individual who cares about health, you can help today! All volunteers complete a background check and receive training from Seniors in Service. **Sign up to be a Health "Buddy" today using the link below.**

Refer a Patient

Social relationships have a positive impact on physical health. **"Prescribe" companionship as medicine and refer a client today using the link below.**

What do Health Buddies do?

Commit

To calling their "buddy" on a regular schedule.

Engage

In meaningful conversation about their well-being.

Listen

For "red flags" that may need to be addressed.

Connect

Them to additional community resources.



SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE

Contact us today!

Phone: (813) 492-8931

Email: healthbuddies@seniorsinservice.org

www.SeniorsinService.link/HealthBuddiesInfo



HCA Florida Healthcare Pinellas County Hospitals Recognize EMS All-Stars

December 21, 2023 – The HCA Florida Healthcare hospitals in Pinellas County appreciate the positive working relationship shared with our local emergency response teams including Fire Rescue, EMS and Sunstar to keep the communities we serve healthy. In 2008, the hospitals began recognizing staff members for the great work they do in the community through the Pinellas County EMS All Star Team award. HCA Florida Healthcare puts patients first, and they know that exceptional healthcare is built on a foundation of inclusion, compassion and respect for our patients and for each other. They set out to honor EMS leaders who align with these values and dedicate their careers to the care and improvement of human life.

We are very excited to honor and welcome the following emergency first responders to the 2024 HCA Florida Pinellas County EMS All Star Team:

Mike Granger, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District

Luke Hains, Lealman Fire District

Michael Harris, Lealman Fire District

Corey Kullman, Lealman Fire District

Kathryn MacDougall, Seminole

James Marshall, Sunstar

Adam Pegg, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue

Dana Shultz, Sunstar

John Tricarico, Gulfport Fire Department

Michael Wasilewski, Madeira Beach Fire Department

The members will be recognized with a ceremony at their respective offices and sub-stations on behalf of the HCA Florida Healthcare hospitals in Pinellas County including HCA Florida Largo Hospital, Northside Hospital, Pasadena Hospital and St. Petersburg Hospital.





Safety & Emergency Services Employee Recognition Awards



DECEMBER 2023

Congratulations

Regional 9-1-1

Stellar Performance - Nick Savage

Financial Services

STAR Award - Deniesha Mitchell

Outstanding Service - Pam Bell

Stellar Performance - Jason Oldfield

Skilled Craftsman - Kim Gajan

Behind the Scenes - Krista Martin

Support Services

Team MVP - Patrick Bragg



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

Around The County

This heartwarming annual tradition not only brings festive cheer to the **Pinellas County 911 Dispatchers** but also highlights the strong sense of community collaboration among emergency service providers. The dedicated members from the **Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association**, **Sunstar**, and the **Pinellas County Sheriff's Office** came together not only to express their gratitude but also to recognize the vital role that 911 Dispatchers play in ensuring the safety and well-being of the community, especially during the holiday season.

As sirens may echo through the quiet night and emergency calls continue to pour in, these compassionate gestures remind us that behind the scenes, there are individuals tirelessly working to keep our communities safe. The 100 meals served on Christmas Eve symbolize the collective appreciation and support from these organizations, creating a sense of camaraderie that goes beyond professional duties. In the spirit of unity and goodwill, this annual event serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnected web of emergency responders who come together to serve and protect, even during the joyous celebrations of the holiday season.



Around The County

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Firefighter/Paramedic John Sleppy** on his promotion to Lieutenant.

Lt. Sleppy started his firefighting career with **Madeira Beach Fire Department** in February of 2014. Lt. Sleppy is a pro-active, self-driven and hard-working individual. In the nearly 10 years of his service with MBFD, he continued his development, becoming an acting driver and acting lieutenant. In 2017, he was recognized by his peers for his enthusiasm, drive and commitment to the profession and the Department by winning the nomination of Firefighter of the Year. He volunteered to serve on the Strike Team to assist communities devastated by Hurricane Ian. He was deployed for nearly 30 days.

As a licensed boat captain, his knowledge and experience with water rescue training have not only proven to be of benefit during training sessions but also of immeasurable assistance during emergency water rescue situations. Lt. Sleppy has been the department's lead instructor of all aspects of marine operations training. Throughout his tenure, he has been extremely proactive in mentoring and training new employees and making sure they are prepared for duty. With the promotion to the Lieutenant position, he is also taking on the role of Training Officer.

Help us congratulate **Lt. John Sleppy** on his promotion!

Around The County

Congratulations



Please help congratulate **Firefighter Tim Bennett** on his successful completion of the driver engineer program. FF Bennett is now a cleared driver engineer for **Palm Harbor Fire Rescue**. Congratulations, Tim!



Around The County

Congratulations



Pinellas Park Fire Department is proud to announce their Firefighter of the Year for 2023 is **Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Lonadier**.

FF/PM Lonadier was recommended for the award by **EMS Chief Andrew Hughes** who described Daniel as a “dedicated and exemplary firefighter who has shown exceptional commitment and growth within the Pinellas Park Fire Department.”

Since being hired in 2019, FF/PM Lonadier has shown a dedication that goes beyond his regular duties - most recently demonstrating his leadership in taking on the responsibilities of an acting Lieutenant. He has also made significant contributions to the department’s education initiatives by revamping the department’s EMS orientation process for new hires and taking the lead in our CPR program.

“Daniel has consistently demonstrated outstanding performance and professionalism” stated Chief Hughes. “I am confident that recognizing Daniel for his accomplishments will not only acknowledge his hard work but also inspire others in our department to strive for excellence.”

Please join us in congratulating **Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Lonadier** as the 2023 **Pinellas Park Fire Department** Firefighter of the Year!

Around the Community

HAPPY HANUKKAH



Station 48 crew played a special role on December 8 at the Mega Hanukkah Celebration by hosting the annual gelt drop. **Rabbi Levi Hodakov** tossed candy gelt from the ladder truck, and children scrambled to catch as much candy as they could. Thank you, Chabad of Clearwater, for allowing **Clearwater Fire & Rescue** to participate in this special tradition!

Around the Community



In December, **Madeira Beach Fire Department** had a chance to be part of holiday events in their neighboring communities. They even got to drive the guest of honor (& his wife) to the Town of Redington Beach Holiday Party. T25 took part in the N. Redington Beach Tree Lighting ceremony, and **Chief Clint Belk** drove B25 in the Redington Shores Christmas Parade. It's always a great time for the crews to share in the fun of community celebrations!

Around the Community

Tis the season for giving! Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue was overwhelmed with gratitude for their local communities and friends at Publix (Walsingham Commons, Belleair Bluffs, & Indian Rocks Shopping Center) for all of their generosity this holiday season. Their toy drive was very successful, and we are sure that many children had extra big smiles on Christmas Morning!!! The station also got a visit from the big man himself!! A special thank you to all that were involved!



911 TREE OF LIFE!!

Step into a cozy spot filled with love and gratitude, crafted with the help of national groups and friendly collaboration from various 911 folks. Together, they've whipped up a space that invites everyone to cheer for the unsung heroes—our amazing telecommunicators—who leave a big mark on our lives.

In the heart of April's National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, snug under the wings of National 911 Education Month, we roll out the Tree of Life. It's not just a symbol, but a sweet shout-out to the awesome work of 911 telecommunicators, a reminder of the big impact they have on the communities they serve.

Fed by the stories of these everyday heroes, the 911 Telecommunicator Tree of Life blooms, each story a leaf that adds color and depth. Watch the tree grow month by month, as more stories, more leaves, pop up and dance in the breeze, honoring telecommunicators from every nook of our nation.

You're invited to be part of this touching journey, to give a shout-out to those 911 telecommunicators who, with kindness and dedication, pick up the call to help those in need. Share their stories through a simple form, knowing that each tale will be cherished and carefully added to the Tree of Life—a living shout-out to these awesome souls.

Thank you for all that you do!

911 Telecommunicator
Tree of Life

Submit a leaf or read the stories at
www.911treeoflife.org

THE CALM VOICE IN THE DARK
THE UNSUNG EVERYDAY HERO
THE THIN GOLD LINE



we appreciate our dispatchers



Mental Health Training

Franciscan Center 'Operation Restore'



Find Your Center

DATES FOR UPCOMING

RETREATS

February 5-8, 2024

March 18-21, 2024

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 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](#)





Women in Distress of Broward County
CASA of Pinellas County
The Spring of Tampa Bay

Training & Technical Assistance Updates



Women in Distress of Broward County
CASA of Pinellas County
The Spring of Tampa Bay

FLORIDA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COLLABORATIVE

Strangulation Prevention Conference

This 16-hour course will aid in the identification, investigation, and documentation of strangulation in intimate partner violence cases.

This training will be provided by leading experts in America:

- Casey Gwinn, J.D., former elected City Attorney of San Diego & the official trainer of the Florida Supreme Court
- Gael Strack, J.D., Alliance for Hope CEO & national strangulation expert

**SAVE THE
DATES**

Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM EST
Thursday, April 11, 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM EST
Friday, April 12, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM EST

In-person Conference will be held in the Greater Tampa Bay Area



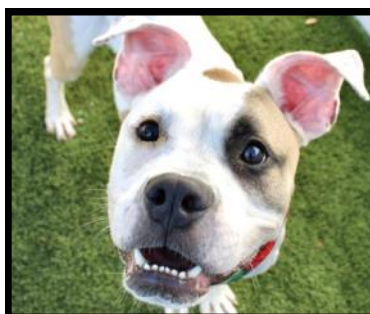
Who Should Attend?

Law Enforcement · Judges · Prosecutors · EMTs · Paramedics · Attorneys · Advocates · Medical Providers · Psychologists · MFTs · LCSWs

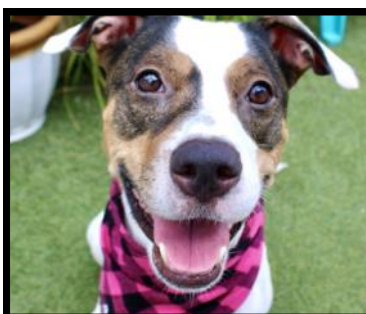


Announcing!

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/>



KENNY



BELLA



MOOEY



BOYO



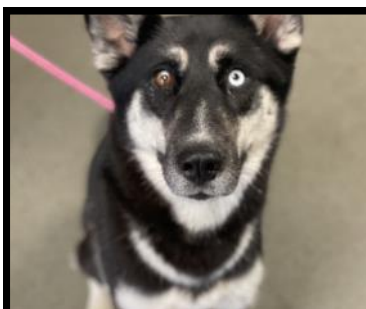
VIXEN



OLIVIA



RICO



PETUNIA



KRATOS

PINELLAS COUNTY, FL

Please join us for our monthly First Responders

FEBRUARY 2ND

Free First Friday Breakfast

8:00-10:00

2024

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



40489 US-19

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689



443 Main St, Safety

Harbor, FL 34695



SPONSOR

All Saints
Episcopal Church
Tarpon Springs

**IN MEMORY OF
TSPD MAJOR
MICHAEL TRILL**



SPONSOR

Compass Church



10555 Park Blvd,
Seminole, FL 33772



2151 54th Ave N, St.
Petersburg, FL 33714



SPONSOR

Gulf Seafood
Partners
Indian Rocks Beach



Scan here to donate!



SPONSOR

Compass Church

PASCO COUNTY, FL

Please join us for our monthly First Responders

FEBRUARY 2ND

Free First Friday Breakfast

8:00-10:00

2024

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



IHOP

10740 SR-54
Trinity, FL 34655



OLIVER
&
FOX



Scan here to donate!

