



EMS & FIRE CONNECTION



June 2023 Edition

Celebrating EMS Week!

EMS Week is an annual commemoration that pays tribute to the incredible bravery and unwavering commitment of EMS providers. This significant event serves as a reminder of their vital role in preserving and protecting lives, while also raising public awareness about the invaluable contributions and essential services provided by these dedicated professionals in ensuring the well-being of our communities. Sunstar had a week of activities for their employees ranging from a professional baseball game to food trucks. Employees had a blast at the Rays Game, and their Honor Guard presented the colors. Congratulations to Assistant Supervisor Ben White, he was the big winner at the Poker Tournament. Thank you to everyone who took the time to donate blood.

HIGHLIGHTS

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MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE 2023-14 - Revised

DATE: June 6, 2023

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 - Pilot Program

DISTRIBUTION/TRAINING PERIOD: June 7, 2023 - Per Agency

Effective Date: 0800 hrs. June 7, 2023

- Effective 0800 hrs. June 7, 2023, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue is authorized to initiate a pilot program referring patients to the Health Buddies Program by Seniors in Service.
- Clinicians will register eligible patients for services by clicking on the "Make a Health Buddies Referral" button on the www.pcemsomd.com home page and entering the 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/>

Attachments:

- Health Buddies Program Information

Distribution:

- EMS Chiefs e-mail distribution group
- Vector Solutions
- Pinellas County EMS Office of the Medical Director Webpage www.pcemsomd.com

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

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.

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.**



Contact us today!

Phone: (813) 492-8931

Email: healthbuddies@seniorsinservice.org

www.SeniorsinService.link/HealthBuddiesInfo



SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE



MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE 2023-13 - Revised

DATE: June 6, 2023

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: Enabling BLS Transport of Selected 911 Patients for COVID-19 Mitigation - **UPDATE # 2**

DISTRIBUTION/TRAINING PERIOD: As soon as possible within 30 days

Effective Date: 0800 hrs. June 7, 2023

The following updated criteria/procedure for BLS Transport of Selected 911 patients enabling FD transport of Category RED and Category YELLOW patients under standing orders are effective June 7, 2023:

Dispatch/Field Specifics:

1. A BLS Ambulance may be assigned in place of an ALS Ambulance to Alpha and Bravo MPDS determinants when needed to prevent excessive patient wait times.
2. Additionally, a BLS ambulance may be dispatched regardless of MPDS determinant when no ALS Ambulances are available that can reach the call in 20 minutes or less
3. ALS "Ambulance ONLY" responses previously authorized for 17-Alpha and 26-Alpha in addition to selected 26-Omegas as authorized under previous growth management (MCD 2021-17) are excluded to ensure at least one Paramedic responds to all 911 calls.



4. ALS First Responder Unit advises "With Patient" - 911 Dispatch advises Sunstar Unit Id
 - BLS = 100 series
 - ALS = 200/300/400/600/900 series
 - ALS with Critical Care Paramedic = 800 series

5. After assessment, the ALS First Responder Unit will advise dispatch if their Patient is "ALS" or "BLS" to allow Sunstar to match ambulance type.

Note: If a refusal is anticipated, ALS First Responder Units should cancel the incoming Ambulance as quickly as possible to preserve system resources

6. If a BLS Ambulance remains assigned to an ALS patient, the ALS First Responder Paramedic will decide on one of the following options for completing the call:
 - a. Continue ALS patient care and transport in the BLS ambulance (must bring controlled substance box)
 - b. Initiate immediate FD transport of Category RED patients per CS5 - Transport Resource Utilization
 - c. Transport capable ALS First Responder units may initiate FD transport of Category YELLOW patients and cancel incoming BLS Ambulance

Note: OLMC Consult is not required but every effort should be made to ensure at least two (2) Paramedics are attending to Category RED patients during transport.

7. For an incident involving multiple patients, ALS First Responder will advise how many BLS and/or ALS ambulances are needed. Goal is to match ambulance type to patient (e.g., vehicle crashes).

Clinical Operating Guidelines:

1. BLS Transport Determination:
 - a. A full patient assessment (Ref. Protocol U1) must be performed by a Paramedic to determine the appropriate level of care for transport (ALS vs. BLS).

Note: If a BLS Ambulance arrives on scene first, an ALS First Responder unit must continue to perform a full patient assessment to determine the appropriate level of care for transport
 - b. Category **Red**, **Yellow**, and Pediatric (less than 18 years old) must be transported by ALS.
 - c. In addition, the following criteria shall be used by the Paramedic to determine transport appropriateness:



Additional Criteria	ALS	BLS
Respiratory Rate	< 12 or > 22	12 - 22
Heart Rate	< 50 or > 130	50 - 130
Systolic BP	< 90 or > 180	90 - 180
Glucose	< 70 or > 400	70 - 400
SpO2	< 94% (max 4 LPM)	
EtCO2	< 35 or > 45	35 - 45
Received or may require an ALS medication	YES	NO
Received or may require an ALS procedure (including IV access)	YES	NO
Anticipated Significant Change in Condition	YES	NO
Risk of Deterioration/Compromise in ABCDE's	YES	NO
Paramedic - Paramedic Intuition	YES	NO

- d. If a patient is determined by the Paramedic to meet criteria for transport by a BLS ambulance (without ALS criteria - see above), patient care may be transferred.
 - e. If the appropriate level of care is unable to be determined, ALS care must continue.
 - f. ***The Paramedic will continue patient care during transport if requested to ride in by the BLS ambulance personnel.***
 - g. If the patient condition begins to deteriorate during transport by a BLS ambulance, the EMT must use best judgement as to if the best course of action is to continue to the closest emergency department or request and wait for ALS assistance to complete the transport.
2. Handoff from Paramedic to the BLS ambulance EMT shall include:
- a. A verbal report consisting of:
 - i. Chief Complaint
 - ii. History of present illness/injury
 - iii. Past medical history/medications/allergies
 - iv. Assessment findings
 - v. Treatments or interventions performed
 - vi. Proposed plan of care
 - vii. Intended destination (if already discussed with patient/family)
 - b. Opportunity for questions/clarifications from receiving EMT
 - c. Transfer of all available electronic and paper documentation including:
 - i. Uploading ECGs
 - ii. Transfer ePCR data to the receiving EMT
 - iii. Providing a copy of any paper forms (e.g., patient transfer forms, face sheets, medication lists, DNR forms, paper EMS forms, etc.)
 - d. The transferring Paramedic must obtain "Transfer of Patient Care" Signature from the receiving EMT.

BLS Transport Determination

A full patient assessment (Ref. Protocol U1) must be performed by a Paramedic to determine the appropriate level of care for transport



BLS Transport Exclusion Criteria

- RED** patient
- YELLOW** patient
- Pediatric patient < 18 years old
- RR < 12 or > 22
- HR < 50 or > 130
- SBP < 90 or > 180
- Glucose < 70 or > 400
- SpO2 < 94% with max 4 LPM Nasal Cannula
- EtCO2 < 35 or > 45
- Received or may require an ALS medication
- Received or may require an ALS procedure (including IV access)
- Anticipated significant change in condition
- Risk of deterioration/Compromise in ABCDE's
- Paramedic Intuition



The Paramedic will continue patient care during transport if requested to ride in by the BLS ambulance personnel.

Requirements of Handoff to BLS Transport Unit

- A verbal report consisting of all the following:
 - Chief Complaint
 - History of present illness/injury
 - Past medical history/medications/allergies
 - Assessment findings
 - Treatments or interventions performed
 - Proposed plan of care
 - Intended destination (if already discussed with patient/family)
- Opportunity for questions/clarifications from receiving EMT
- Transfer of all available electronic and paper documentation including:
 - Uploading ECGs
 - Transfer ePCR data to the receiving EMT
 - Providing a copy of any paper forms (e.g., patient transfer forms, face sheets, medication lists, DNR forms, paper EMS forms, etc.)

The transferring Paramedic must obtain a “Transfer of Patient Care” signature from the receiving EMT

ALERT

Pharmaceutical Change
0.9% Sodium Chloride – 1000 mL

Pinellas County
EMS & FIRE
ADMINISTRATION

June 12, 2023

A change is occurring to the brand of 1000 mL 0.9% Sodium Chloride carried in the system

Effective Date:

Immediately

Reasons for Change:

- Doubling of the expiration dating (minimum) – from approx. 13 months to 30+ months
 - This change yields a significant cost savings to the system
- Clinical design improvements/enhancements over the existing product
- US manufactured product (North Carolina) that increases the security of the supply chain

Assistance Requested:

- **DO NOT** deploy the new Fresenius Kabi product until the existing Baxter Viaflex product is expended
 - Move ALL inventory forward from locations such as special event gear, station supply cabinets, transport capable unit patient care compartments, etc.
 - Cases of the Fresenius Product will come marked with a friendly reminder

Information Distribution:

- EMS Chiefs E-mail Distribution Group
- Vector Solutions
- EMS Newsletter

Around The County

2022 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: Conner Wright



The **East Lake Fire Rescue** Firefighter of the year began in 1989. This award is to recognize a department member who has gone above and beyond in education, who has taken initiative in assisting others, possesses a positive attitude, takes on extra projects, and their performance and experience have flourished within their department.

Hired in August of 2019, **Firefighter Conner** was asked by then fire chief Tom Jamison to develop an Individual Development Plan for 1, 3, and 10 years. Conner stated:

“My 3-year goal is to take all classes and complete all training to become a ride up driver (acting driver) and become eligible for promotion to the driver engineer position”.

- October 2020 Received his State of Florida Pump Operator certificate.
- April 2021, Conner had finished the acting driver program and was ready to drive for East Lake.
- In May of 2022, Conner and his crew received a commendation from PCEMS for a cardiac arrest resuscitation.
- June of 2022, Conner received a PEER recognition award for his work assisting Chief McLain in implementing the PSTRAX program.
- In September of 2022 Conner received his Certificate of Compliance from the State of Florida for Fire Safety Inspector I.
 - In January of 2023, Conner received his State Fire Office I and II.
 - In March of 2023 Conner was cleared for acting lieutenant status.
- In March of 2023 Conner went to the Emergency Management Institute and attended the National Emergency Management Basic Academy, along with assisting with working with Pinellas County Emergency Management.

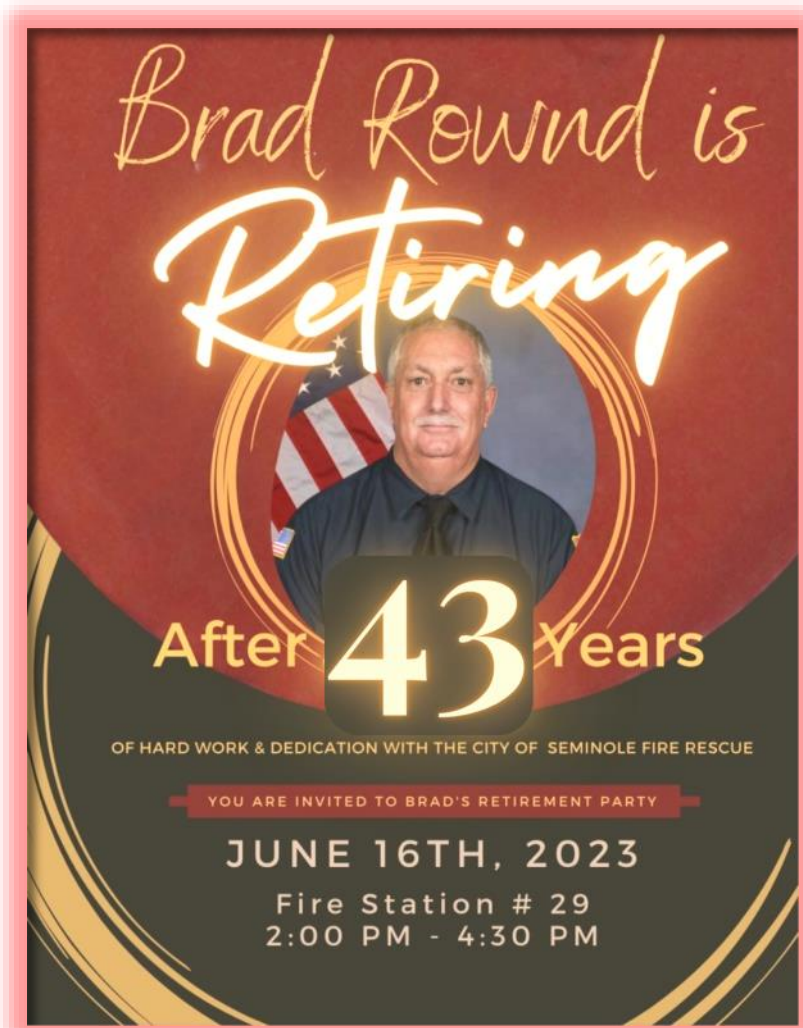
It is easy to say that Conner has met his goals and then some.

Please join in congratulating Conner Wright 2022 Firefighter of the year!



Around The County

Congratulations



Congratulations!! A retirement gathering will be held for Fleet Maintenance Manager Brad Rownd, who will retire after 43 years of dedicated service to the City of **Seminole Fire Rescue** and Pinellas County. Please stop by Seminole Fire Station 29 on June 16, 2023, between 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm to share a story about Brad.

Around The County

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue** Driver/Engineer Matt Fennell for his well deserved retirement after 24 years of service!



Congratulations Driver Engineer Bill Podolak on your retirement! DE Podolak served the **East Lake** community for 19 years, with a total of 40 years in EMS.



Congratulations to three fire medics who have graduated and received their first station assignments. Good luck to Amanda Benson, Dillon Berry and Nicolas More as they embark on their careers with **Clearwater Fire & Rescue!**

Around The County

Congratulations



Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue welcomes 3 new Firefighter/Paramedics, James Chestnut, Mark Erroch, & Nicholas Mejias to the team.



Congratulations Kevin Insco on your promotion to Driver/Engineer at Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue!



On May 9th, Gulfport Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Barber was presented his new Lieutenant "Brass" badge, rank name plate, and red helmet.

Around The County

Congratulations

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue



Firefighter Paramedic
Jennifer Shedler



Firefighter Paramedic
Kevin Reynosa



Congratulations!

Where Emergency Care Begins

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue congratulates Jennifer Shedler and Kevin Reynosa on their promotions to Firefighter Paramedics.



Congratulations to Michael Shuster on his promotion to driver-operator with Clearwater Fire & Rescue!





Life-Saving Rescue: Transplant Team and Heart Safely Delivered!



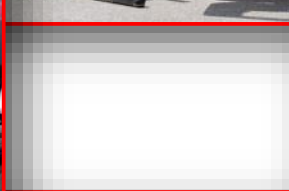
On May 22nd **Largo Fire Rescue** station 41 units responded for a significant vehicle crash involving a Tampa General Hospital transplant team. The team was responding with a heart to HCA Florida Largo Hospital to perform a transplant on a waiting patient. Unable to proceed in their own vehicle, the decision was quickly made to transport the team and the heart in R41 the rest of the way so they could execute the lifesaving procedure.



Apparatus Fair 2023

Safety and Emergency Services held an Apparatus Fair on May 6th as a thank you to all the Safety and Emergency Services Employees. It is rare that our employees get to see the apparatuses they support.

Thank you to all the fire departments and agencies who participated this year! We hope that you will join us again in future years!



Around the Community



There just might be some future firefighters in the kindergarten graduating class of Pinellas Prep Academy! These kids have years ahead of them, but for one special day they got a chance to be junior firefighters thanks to the A-Shift crew on Truck 33. The kindergarten class held their graduation ceremony at Skyview Pool on May 22 and **Pinellas Park Fire Department** was on hand to help them celebrate. Kids took turns aiming the fire hose at cones and sitting in the driver's seat of the ladder truck. We think the parents had a great time, too! Congratulations to all the young graduates!



Around the Community



East Lake Fire Rescue LT Carlson, DE Katsimbrakis, FF Rollins and our Fire and Life Safety Educator, Mrs. Hernandez, had a great time at Plato Academy in May! The children had a chance to check out the fire truck, bunker gear and they learned about fire escape plans and water safety! In honor of the 1st day of Hurricane Season, the teachers and school staff were all provided with Hurricane Preparedness guides.



Treasure Island Fire Rescue hosted a Life Jacket Giveaway and Water Safety Event on Treasure Island Beach last month. They met people of all ages and were able to fit children with life jackets and educate so many on water safety as we enter the season for swimming.



Upcoming




SPLASH OF SUMMER HOSE DOWN EVENT

**JULY 3, 2023
11AM TO 12PM**

FREE CHILD LIFE JACKETS & WATER SAFETY TIPS!
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

**EAST LAKE FIRE RESCUE STATION 57
3375 TARPON LAKE BLVD, PALM HARBOR FL 34685**




East Lake Fire Rescue will be hosting their Annual Hose Down event at Station 57, located at 3375 Tarpon Lake Blvd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685 on July 3rd, 2023 from 11am to 12pm. This event is in partnership with the East Lake Community Library. Stop by and let your children play in the fire hose spray! All attendees will receive water safety bags and FREE life vests *while supplies last*. This is an East Lake summer tradition. No registration needed, just meet us there! Protective footwear and protective eye goggles are highly recommended. Don't forget your sunscreen!



East Lake Fire Rescue Hosts Blood Drive

East Lake Fire Rescue will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, July 12th, from 10:30am to 3pm at station 57 located at 3375 Tarpon Lake Blvd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685. All donors will receive a \$20 eGift Card, and a wellness checkup that includes blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse, and a cholesterol screening. To schedule an appointment, visit www.oneblood.org/donate-now/ and you can either search by zip code or type in sponsor code 59152. For more information on this event, visit the East Lake Fire Rescue Facebook page.

Upcoming

MADEIRA BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT LEGENDS NEVER DIE 5K

PTSD | MENTAL HEALTH
SUICIDE PREVENTION



**FIRST RESPONDERS
ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS**

OCTOBER 22, 2023

9:00 AM Check in 7:30 - 8:30 am

ARCHIBALD BEACH PARK
15100 Gulf Blvd, Madeira Beach, FL 33708

Early Registration (Race Tshirt Included)

June 1 - September 11 \$35

Regular Registration

September 12th - 30th \$35

Late Registration

October 1st - 20th \$40

Day of Race Registration \$45



Find us on
Runsignup.com

Kids 12 & Under Are FREE

Questions?
Call MBFD 727.391.3400

Since 2021, **Madeira Beach Fire Department** has hosted Legends Never Die 5K. Our mission for this event is to bring awareness to mental health, PTSD and suicide in first responders, veterans, active military personnel and their families.

We all have a role to play in listening, connecting and reaching out to those who may be struggling with challenges. By talking about mental health and suicide, it not only helps reduce stigma and increase awareness, but it also has the potential to save a life.

Join us on October 22, 2023 as we honor those that have lost the battle to traumatic stress, and show support for those who are currently battling and those who have survived the battle. We will stand together to advocate for education, resources and treatment for mental health for first responders and military/veterans.

INVISIBLE WOUNDS ARE THE HARDEST TO HEAL



Announcing!



Pinellas County Animal Services Volunteer Program would be pleased to connect with Fire Agencies across the County, Sunstar Paramedics, and 911 Telecommunications Services, to provide some stress busting visits with their furry pals!

Visits can be tailored to location/shift schedules/circumstances.

Agency Mental Health Coordinators can reach out to Volunteer Program Coordinator, Jennifer Renner, to schedule a visit!



Jennifer Renner, B.Sc., HABc
Volunteer Program Coordinator
Pinellas County Animal Services
12450 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774
(727)582-2636

jrenner@pinellascounty.org



All First Responders Matter First Friday Breakfasts

Held monthly 8-9:30a.m.
On the first Friday of each month.



10740 SR 54
Trinity, FL 34655
727-376-8717

30200 US Hwy 19 N
Clearwater, FL 34684
727-789-4467

40489 US Highway 19
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
727-947-4012
(Starting March 5, 2021)



SUNRISE Family Restaurant

7500 ULMERTON RD
LARGO, FL. 33771
727-535-4445



OLD COUNTRY STORE

2151 54th Ave N
St. Petersburg, FL 34714
727-526-0031
(Starting Jan. 8, 2021)



10555 Park Blvd
Seminole, FL 33772
727-623-0907
(Starting Feb. 5, 2021)