



EMS & FIRE CONNECTION



November 2023 Edition

Pinellas County EMS/CME Training Consortium Celebrates 7 Years!”

As we mark the 7th anniversary of our Continuing Medical Education (CME) and EMS Academy programs, EMS & Fire Administration and the Office of the Medical Director would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to our incredible team.

Over these years, we've delivered 7,000 courses, thanks to the dedication of our EMS Leadership Group, Training Team, Academy Instructors, and over 80 CME Instructors. The collaborative spirit between the County, EMS Medical Director, Cities, Fire Districts, and Sunstar Paramedics has only strengthened.

Special thanks to all who have served in various roles. Your contributions have been invaluable. The County expresses gratitude to the EMS Medical Director, Fire Chiefs, and Sunstar’s management for their unwavering support.

Looking back, we've not just met but surpassed our goals. The program continues to thrive and evolve, a testament to your hard work and commitment.

Cheers to our achievements, and here's to many more years of success!

HIGHLIGHTS

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EMS INSTRUCTORS

EMS TRAINING GROUP

Stephen Bailey	John Gray	Kevin Mannion	Dustin Seabolt	Christopher Zipeto	Chief Allen Smay
Justin Barker	Andre Gutierrez	Larry Marshall	Mark T. Sherwood Jr	Mark Zipeto	Chief Andrew Hawkins
John Barranco	Matthew Handwerk	Brendan McGonagle	Dana Shultz		Lt. Stephen Bailey
Wesley Bayes	Mike Harris	David McNeil	Allen Smay		Chief William Barrs
Marcus Behrman	Jeffery Haspray	Lance Michael	Jordan Smith		Brooke Stidham
Matthew Beighey	Jason Haynor	Bradley Mikesell	Jazmin Soloman		Kenney Ceron
Todd Best	Mark Henderson	Nicholas Millican	Jared Sorensen		Chief Craig Misener
Jonathan Blinkey	David Hernandez	Ryan Mitchell	William Stark		Chief Emery Culverhouse
Anthony Bordonaro	Brenden Holcomb	Adam Mittler	Joshua Stevens		Chief Bill Gorham
Amanda Campbell	Caleb Hudak	Alex Monte	Kenny Sweitzer		Craig A Hare
Kenney Ceron	Andrew Hughes	Richard Morris	Christopher Taylor		Chief Andrew Hawkins
David Cook	Krystal (Quinn) James	Kyle Mueller	Anthony Tedesco		Chief Andrew Hughes
Matt Caranova	Robert Johnson	Alexandra Muhlstadt	Zachary Teramae		Dr. Angus Jameson, MD
Jordan Dahlstrom	Cody Jones	Jared Nestor	Theodore Thompson		Chief Jeffrey Carrington
Matthew Demarco	Sawyer Keller	Reilly Nolan	Jeremy Tinter		Chief Mark Keenan
Austin Dente	Jeffrey Knight	Michael Nolletti	Timothy Titus		Captain Thomas Kras
Michael Donovan	Adam Leprovost	Jorge Olivera	Josh Tokotch		Mark Eggers
Elizabeth Drouin	Kyle Lighthiser	Shelby Papa	Ryan Wagner		Chief William Morelli
Mark Eggers	Daniel Lonadier	Luca Petrone	Charles Walker		Chief Mike Porch
Thomas Enright	Joshua Lovetere	Ross Pinney	David Walker		Lt. Mark T. Sherwood Jr
Jon-Michael Farris	Stephen Mahr	Christopher Quinn	Jason Wing		Dr. Andrew Smith, MD
William Fletcher	Kevin Mannion	Kasey Ras	Matt Wirth		Jazmin Soloman
Michael Fogarty	Larry Marshall	Gabriela Rodriguez	Jordan M. Woolverton		Chief Anthony Tedesco
Italo Gamarra	Brendan McGonagle	Steven Rowland	Stephen Wright		Chief Mark Zipeto
David Gibson	Dennis McCormick	David Schaefer	Autumn Yanchunis		
Gary Glenn	Stephen Mahr	Aidan Seabolt	David A. Young		




MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

2023-20

DATE: November 15, 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: HCA Florida Trinity Hospital & HCA Florida Trinity West Hospital - Status Changes

DISTRIBUTION/TRAINING PERIOD: N/A

Effective Date: Immediately

- Effective immediately:
 - HCA Florida Trinity West Hospital is CLOSED
 - HCA Florida Trinity Hospital is no longer a Baker Act Receiving facility

Distribution:

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



Safety & Emergency Services Employee Recognition Awards

OCTOBER 2023

Congratulations

EMS & Fire

Star Award - Ken Grimes

Financial Services

Outstanding Service Award - Dawn Barclay

Behind the Scenes Award - Laura Jaeger

Regional 9-1-1

Outstanding Service Award - Jennifer

Barlow, Crissie Muhlstadt

Skilled Craftsman Award - Sandy Stoinski

Behind the Scenes Award - Bianca Young,
Emilio Chavez

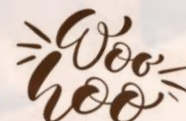
Support Services

Star Award - Joshua Chance



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

LARGO EXTRICATION TEAM WINS 1ST PLACE OVERALL IN COMPETITION!



In October, Largo Fire Rescue's Extrication Team traveled to Long Island, NY to participate in the 2023 TERC North American Vehicle Rescue Challenge. The team competed in three challenges involving real patient extrications with and without hydraulic tools!

The team took home the win for:

1st Place in the Limited (20 min no hydraulic tools)

1st Place in the Unlimited (20 min hydraulic tools)

2nd Place in the Rapid (10 min with all tools)

1st Place Medic (**Firefighter Spencer VanBuskirk**)

1st Place Incident Commander (**Firefighter Billy Stark**)

1st Place Technical (**Firefighters Kyle Parker, Jameson Kinsey, Dane Matta and Nick LeBlanc**)

1st Place Overall!

Congratulations, gentlemen! Way to make Team Largo proud! Special thanks to LKQ Pick Your Part for allowing the team to spend countless hours at their facility in preparation this competition.



Another Win for Pinellas County Sheriff's Office SWAT Medic!



Left to right: North American Rescue Rep Chris Hoyne
1st Place Vincent Greco - Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office
2nd Place Kenny Haworth - Marion Co Sheriff's Office
3rd Place Dane Wilson - Lake Co Sheriffs Office



Tactical EMS Team Coordinator/Paramedic Vincent Greco of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team clinched 1st place for the second consecutive year in the Tactical Medic competition at SWAT Round Up in Orlando, FL. Navigating a scenario that tested extremity injuries, junctional hemorrhages, and casualty movement to a Casualty Collection Point (CCP), Greco's back-to-back victories underscored his consistent excellence in tactical and medical proficiency. His success not only highlighted individual skill but also reflected the enduring commitment to high standards of training within the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, emphasizing the team's readiness for complex tactical challenges.

CONGRATULATIONS Vincent Greco!!

Around The County



Dunedin Fire Rescue proudly introduces **FF/PM Kyle Sanford** as the Firefighter of the Year for 2023-2024. Kyle joined the team in May 2017, acquiring certifications as an Engine Driver, Truck Driver, and serving as a Deck Hand on the Fire Boat.

Selected by his peers, Kyle is characterized by qualities like confidence, selflessness, passion, determination, adaptability, and resourcefulness. He has swiftly ascended to a senior firefighter position and now takes on the role of mentoring new recruits, many of whom lack prior firefighting or EMS experience. His peers acknowledge his patience, wisdom, and leadership.

In terms of "Extra Measures," Kyle actively contributes to the Apparatus Design Committee and leads the Department's Equipment Committee. Recently, he undertook the creation of an Equipment booklet for Truck 60, providing valuable insights into equipment identification, usage, and specifications for the benefit of new recruits and existing department members.

Kyle's latest initiative centers on fire suppression, where he identified and addressed issues with high-rise hose lines and pre-connect nozzles, ultimately enhancing safety for department members and citizens.

Kyle Sanford's dedication to Dunedin Fire Rescue is evident through his unwavering passion for the job and his constant drive to improve the department. He is a highly deserving recipient of this year's Firefighter of the Year award. City of Dunedin, Florida - Government



Around The County

Largo Fire Rescue welcomes their newest probationary Firefighters!



🔥 Firefighter/EMT: Cody Lighthiser



🔥 Firefighter/EMT: Chandler Cornell



🔥 Firefighter/EMT: Zach Ondich

WELCOME ABOARD!

Around The County

Congratulations



Largo Fire Rescue would like to extend their congratulations to **Firefighter David Hagadorn** on his retirement. They are grateful for his dedicated service throughout his 26 years with them. Dave, thank you for your hard work and commitment to our community!



Woo hoo

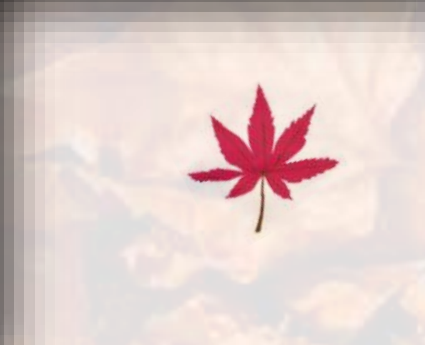
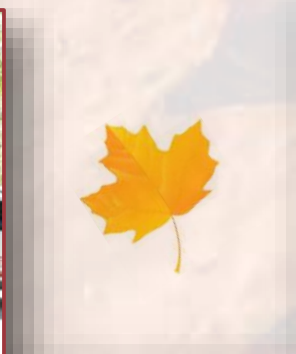


Around The County

Congratulations



Join Palm Harbor Fire Rescue in congratulating **Lt. Steve Gorby** on his retirement after 23 years of service. **Lt. Gorby** is a Navy veteran, was a member of the PHFR extrication team and named Firefighter of the Year in 2005. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and worked most of his career out of Station 65. Congratulations and thank you for your service! We wish you all the best in your retirement years!





Around The County

Congratulations



Seminole Fire Rescue would like to congratulate **Firefighter Jaxson Burney** and **Firefighter Erns Moline** on graduating from Paramedic school. These men have worked tirelessly through the paramedic program over the last year while simultaneously working through all of the work that goes along with first year with the department. Congratulations!



Seminole Fire Rescue is proud to recognize **Firefighter C. Wagner** as a fully certified Ladder Truck Operator.

Firefighter Wagner spent the last several months completing a rigorous program comprised of didactic and practical classes, unit specific coursework and testing, culminated with a final assessment by the Training Division. He came to the City of Seminole Fire Rescue with previous experience as a firefighter, truck operator and in technical rescue, which has added an additional level of competency to their already superb cadre of operators.

Around The County

Congratulations









Congratulations to Safety Harbor Fire Department's FF/PM **Bobby Canfield** on his promotion to fire captain. Captain Canfield will be assigned to E52C.







Around the Community



   October was fire safety month!   

During fire safety month Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue firefighters venture out to our local schools to put on a presentation about fire safety. These presentations range from what firefighters do to what the kids should do during an emergency based off of what age and grade your child is in.

Some of the things the kiddos may have come home talking about are:

-  When to change the batteries in your smoke detectors (every 6 months, candy holidays Halloween and Easter)
-  Making a safe meeting plan for if there is ever a fire in your home and the kiddo has to get out, where to meet you. For example; by the mailbox, a neighbors house, etc.
-  The importance of not hiding from the firefighters and making as much noise as they can if trapped in a room during a fire.
-  How to stop, drop and roll if their clothes are to catch on fire.

The kiddos were able to see a firefighter get dressed in all their gear as well as the breathing apparatus and hear what they sound like. They asked tons of questions and overall had a great time!

Thank you to the local schools for allowing them to come by and present fire safety every year!

Around the Community

During the month of October, Clearwater Fire and Rescue received a visit from a local mom's group at Station 48, along with an enthusiastic group of youngsters. Their crew had the pleasure of instructing them on important fire safety tips and showcasing some of the tools used in our profession. The children were especially thrilled to take a turn with the fire hose. Clearwater Fire and Rescue would like to express their sincere appreciation to this fantastic group for their visit and their wonderful enthusiasm!



Around the Community

Fire and Life Safety Educator Hernandez, LT Carlson, DE Baclawski, and FF Buell from East Lake Fire & Rescue had a fantastic time spreading fire safety awareness during Fire Prevention Month.

Visiting Excel Learning Center and Leap Forward Academy, they shared crucial messaging, demonstrated the gear firefighters wear, and even hosted a thrilling touch-a-truck event!

The engagement didn't stop there – every student took home a fire helmet and a fire prevention sheet for parents, ensuring that the important safety message resonated beyond the visit. Kudos to the dedicated team from East Lake Fire & Rescue for making a lasting impact on the community's awareness and safety during this Fire Prevention Month. Their commitment to educating and protecting the community shines through!



Around the Community

On the spooky night of October 21st, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue hosted its annual Haunted Fire House at Station 10. Over 1,300 brave souls ventured through the chilling Haunted House, joined by more than 2,000 revelers for trick-or-treating, eerie eats, and sinister fun! Massive thanks to SPFR volunteers, vendors, and St. Petersburg Association of Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 747 for conjuring this event! Here's to a haunting celebration that left an unforgettable chill in the air!



Legends Never Die 5K Madeira Beach



October 22 was a fantastic day at the Madeira Beach Fire Department's Legends Never Die 5k. Since 2021, Madeira Beach Fire Department has hosted Legends Never Die 5K since 2021. The mission for this event is to bring awareness to mental health, PTSD and suicide in first responders, veterans, active military personnel and their families.

Over 300 runners of all ages participated in this event. Vendors were on hand to offer services and information. Many firefighters and other personnel from local fire departments were there as well. Proceeds from the race will be donated to The Franciscan Center's First Responders Post Trauma Training Program. The Franciscan Center provides life-changing programs to the Tampa Bay community and beyond. The First Responders Post Trauma Training creates a safe, confidential environment for individuals to work through their most critical incidents and process the cumulative stress of risking their lives throughout their careers.



November 1, 2023

Important Information on Fraudulent Emails to Practitioners

The Florida Department of Health (Department), Division of Medical Quality Assurance, is warning Florida health care practitioners about a fraudulent email and phishing attempt sent to Florida health care practitioners.

Scammers are posing as the Department and offering to provide licensees with “important information” concerning a temporary change to your license status. **This email did not originate from the Department.**



Health care practitioners will never receive unsolicited calls or emails from the Department where personal information is requested, payments are demanded, or threats against your license are made. We want to protect our health care practitioners from fraud schemes. If you receive an email that looks suspicious, do not click on any links or attachments, or provide any personal information.

Report the scam email by using your favorite internet browser to search for “Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)” and use the FBI webpage to provide information regarding the fraudulent email.



If you have any questions, please contact our customer contact center at (850) 488-0595.

About the Division of Medical Quality Assurance

MQA, in partnership with 22 regulatory boards and four councils, regulates over 40 health care professions, more than 200 license types, and 10 unique health care facility types to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Florida.

Mission:

To protect, promote, & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

Vision:

To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General



Consumer Alert: Don't Buy or Use Steering Wheel Decorative Emblem Decals



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration warns consumers about aftermarket steering wheel decals that could potentially cause significant injury or death. At least one driver suffered a serious injury that resulted in the loss of sight in one eye, when an aftermarket emblem adorned with rhinestones became dislodged from the steering wheel in a crash and hit the driver in the face.

The product is a metal or plastic plate, usually covered with rhinestones or other shiny decorations, with an adhesive back that covers the vehicle's logo in the center of the steering wheel. In a crash, the force of a deploying air bag can turn the product into a projectile, resulting in serious injury or death.

Unlike the permanently affixed logo on your vehicle's steering wheel, these aftermarket decals can easily become dislodged when the air bag is deployed. Any alterations or changes to your air bag or its cover can also cause it to not function correctly.

NHTSA is asking consumers to avoid purchasing these steering wheel decals for all vehicle makes and models. Consumers should also remove any such decals that they have already applied to their steering wheels.



Plan Ahead for Peace of Mind!

Save Money with Sunstar FirstCare

Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership:

Get life-saving medical transport without the worry of high medical transportation bills.



- ✔ Covers 100% of copay & deductibles
- ✔ Covers 50% of of medically necessary* trips with insurance denial
- ✔ Covers 20% of of medically necessary* trips with no insurance

*Medically necessary: a specific medical need for an ambulance, to or from a medical facility for medical treatment using Medicare standards.

Enroll to reduce medically necessary ambulance transportation costs:

Single Membership **\$86** (Annual) *Coverage effective as early as January 1, 2024*

Family Membership **\$129** (Annual)

Learn how the Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership can benefit you and your family.

For more information call (727) 582-2008

Print application online: pinellas.gov/firstcare



Pinellas County complies with all federal, state and local laws related to persons with disabilities. To request alternate formats of this information, contact the Office of Human Rights at (727) 464-4362 (TDD) or email accommodations@pinellas.gov. Funding for this flyer was provided by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services. 500 copies were printed at a cost of \$100.00 or \$0.10 each. 10/24



Sunstar FirstCare Membership

Pinellas County Helping Citizens
Plan Ahead for the Unexpected



Patients have a low-cost solution to help cover out-of-pocket ambulance expenses thanks to Sunstar's FirstCare Ambulance Membership. The average cost of a single ambulance transport is \$943. Annual membership fees for the Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership plan are \$86 for a Single Membership and \$129 for a Family Membership.

Membership covers 100% of expenses associated with deductibles and co-payments and 50% of medically necessary trips denied by insurance.

Uninsured members receive a 20% discount on medically necessary ambulance transportation.

In 2022, the membership plan saved patients an average of \$175 per transport.

The Family Membership covers individuals who reside in the same household related by blood, adoption, marriage, or registered domestic partnership.

The Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership is not an insurance plan. It is a Pinellas County Government program that works with an individual's insurance company to minimize out-of-pocket ambulance expenses. New enrollees, paid in full prior to March 31, 2023, will receive more than 12 months of coverage for the cost of the one-year plan

Upcoming



Pediatric Emergencies... and sometimes Surgery!

All Children's Hospital will host a quarterly seminar discussing the most common pediatric emergencies which may require transfer for further evaluation and surgical management.



Listen to experts review best practice for pediatric emergencies



Discuss the timeliness of diagnostic exams and management prior to transfer



Join us in developing a continuous dialogue on improving care for the region's pediatric population

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital

Surgical Performance
Improvement & Patient
Safety (SPIPS)

Register for one or the series to add them to your calendar, use the QR Code below.



1 PEDIATRIC CAT1 CME/CNE

Surgical Performance
Improvement & Patient Safety

Surgeon Champion
Nicole Chandler

Program Manager
Alex Willoughby

Dept of Surgery

501 6th Ave South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
P 727-767-8724
HopkinsAllChildrens.org

JHACH—Pediatric Presentations / Dates

- Pediatric Neurosurgery – August 10th, 2023 / 4-5pm
- Pediatric Trauma Patient – November 2nd, 2023 / 4-5pm
- Pediatric Volvulus/Intussusception – Feb 1st, 2024 / 4-5pm
- Pediatric Concussion Injuries – May 2nd, 2024 / 4-5pm

COME AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES, YOUR COMMON PRACTICE, AND ASK QUESTIONS – OUR GOAL IS TO IMPROVE CARE OF THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT WITHIN THE TAMPA BAY REGION.





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/>



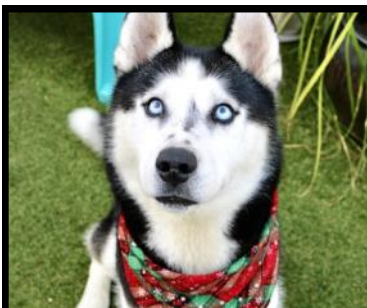
HERCULES



DIONNE



CARDI



GILBERT



ISABELLA



FELIX



TACO



EVA



QUINCY

PINELLAS COUNTY, FL

Please join us for our monthly First Responders

Free First Friday Breakfast

DECEMBER 1ST

8:00-10:00

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

2023



**40489 US-19
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689**



**443 Main St, Safety
Harbor, FL 34695**



**10555 Park Blvd,
Seminole, FL 33772**



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



Rotary
Club of Tarpon Springs



"Create Hope in the World"- "Together. We Can Make an Impact"

All Pinellas & Pasco County Breakfasts are sponsored by Rotary Clubs District 6950

www.tarponspringsrotary.com

#D6950Strong

PASCO COUNTY, FL

Please join us for our monthly First Responders

Free First Friday Breakfast

DECEMBER 1ST

8:00-10:00

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

2023



10740 SR-54
Trinity, FL 34655



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#D6950Strong