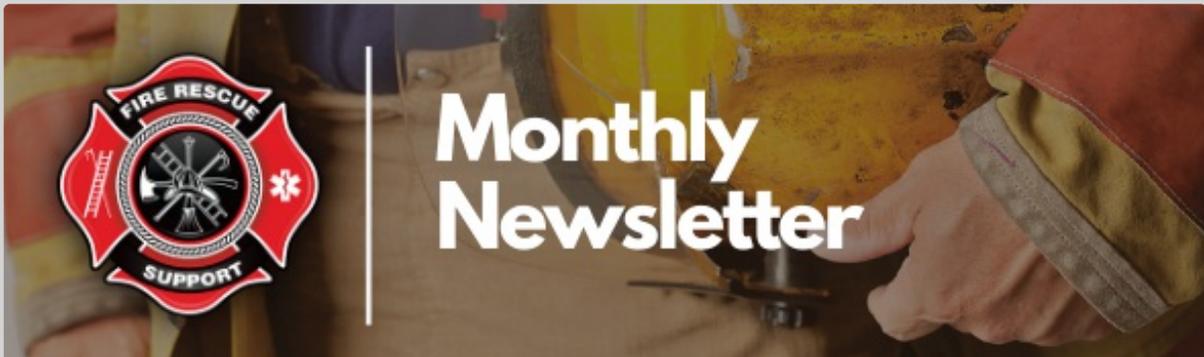


Like

Tweet



## January 2022

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### FLORIDA FIREFIGHTERS **SAFETY AND HEALTH** COLLABORATIVE

The tragedy in Surfside last summer has become a defining moment for many throughout emergency services. In these months that have followed, much has been done to help us better prepare for future events.

The chaplaincy has also been impacted. It became very clear that there was work to be done to better connect and coordinate fire chaplains across Florida. To that end, we are very excited to have a seat at the table of the Florida Firefighter Safety and Health Collaborative.

Surfside showed the distinct nature of the chaplaincy and the need to provide spiritual support in times of crisis. For many, great difficulty can create a crisis of faith which challenges long held spiritual beliefs. In addition, we saw how the practice of spiritual disciplines provided peace and comfort.

In addition, we also observed the complementary role chaplains play alongside mental health professionals, peer support personnel, and K-9 peer support. Together, we provide comfort and care for the heart, soul, mind and strength of Florida firefighters.

Our objectives are clear...

1. Discover,

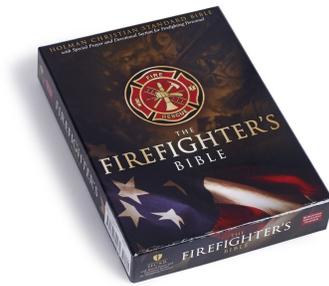
- promote,  
recruit,  
train,  
and  
support  
Florida  
Fire  
Chaplains  
for  
day-  
to-  
day  
operations
2. Coordinate  
Florida  
fire  
chaplains  
during  
large-  
scale,  
long-  
duration  
events

Please reach out if you are a Florida fire chaplain so you can be included in our statewide efforts. Also, let us know if you are a fire department that desires to add a chaplain to your overall support team.

On behalf of the over 50 Florida fire chaplains that I personally know and the dozens of others that I have not yet met, I commit to lead us to fulfill our part in supporting Florida firefighters.

Joe LaCognata  
Statewide Chaplaincy Coordinator  
Florida Firefighter Safety and Health Collaborative  
[jlacognata@floridafirefightersafety.org](mailto:jlacognata@floridafirefightersafety.org)

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*Click image for more information*

## **Faith in the Fire**

Chaplain Joe LaCognata shares about some of the unique challenges faced while trying to live out faith in the fire service.

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## **Upcoming CISM Training**

February 1-3, 2022  
Winter Garden, FL

February 22-24, 2022  
Cocoa, FL

March 18-19, 2022

Bangor, ME

April 12-14, 2022

Ocala, FL

May 10-12, 2022

Largo, FL

Contact us to host training at your agency

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



## Stress Management Information

Click the logo for some timely information on how to better manage your stress during these difficult days.



## In Remembrance

**The following firefighters died in the line of duty  
during the month of December**

---

12/3 - Vincent Malveaux - Brooklyn, NY

12/4 - Garrett Edward Ramos - Sterling, IL

12/7 - Wesley "Wes" Adams - Sedgwick, AR

12/8 - John T. Ruddy - Jersey City, NJ

12/11 - Brian Lange - Upsala, MN

12/18 - Jessie Henry - Elm Grove, LA

12/21 - Marshawn Plummer - Chicago, IL

12/21 - Anthony Michael Carfagno - Atlantic City, NJ

12/22 - Bryant Gladney - Columbia, MO

12/26 - Joseph "Joe" Maiello - Brooklyn, NY

12/28 - Thomas "Tommy" Joseph Rees - West Jefferson, OH

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## **141 firefighters died in the line of duty in 2021**

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### **Our Vision**

Imagine an organization committed to one task – supporting fire rescue personnel. From their work in the field to their lives at home, picture an organization working to equip these first responders to be more successful on the job and in life. Envision an organization that extends the support of those serving in fire rescue by offering care and comfort to the people they serve. Finally, picture an organization that would impact emergency services workers all across the country. That organization is Fire Rescue Support – supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.



## Donate Today

As a non-profit organization, Fire Rescue Support operates thanks to the generosity of individuals, churches and other organizations. You can give online by clicking the logo.



## Amazon Smile

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Fire Rescue Support Inc" as your charity. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Fire Rescue Support Inc" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



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