



Monthly Newsletter

October 2026



Movies, books, and comics have given us some larger-than-life heroes. Luke Skywalker. Captain America. Mario the Plumber. When the situation seems hopeless, these characters arrive on the scene to bring order of out chaos. They help, heal, and save the world.

First responders operate in this world as heroes. While it's a title you reject, the truth is that's how the rest of us look at you. You are bold, strong, confident. You are problem-solvers and risk-takers. You help, heal, and save the world. But like every good hero, you have those that work alongside of you; those that fill the role of sidekick.

Think for a moment about some well-known heroes and sidekicks: Frodo Baggins and Samwise Gamgee, Batman and Robin, Kirk and Spock. Samwise carried Frodo on his adventurous journey. Robin prevented Batman from becoming too dark in his ways. Spock balanced Kirk's passion with logic.

It's the sidekick that generally sees the big picture and helps keep the hero focused on the task at hand. It's the sidekick that stays emotionally calm and helps the hero sort through their struggles. It's the sidekick that brings out the depth of the hero's character and helps us to see them for who they really are.

For the first responder, I believe your family plays the role of sidekick. Your family provides you with support, perspective, and commitment so you can be successful in your role as hero. They help balance your work and home life. They offer unconditional love and acceptance.

While heroes are the ones in the spotlight, they wouldn't be successful without the faithful, steadfast presence of their trusted partners. Sidekicks might not get noticed much, but the story wouldn't be the same without them.

Upcoming Events



**FD CHAPLAIN SERVICES, INC.
&
SAN CARLOS PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
PRESENT**



“ESSENTIALS OF FIRE CHAPLAINCY”

**Foundations of Fire Chaplaincy-Personhood of the Chaplain-
Ministry to Firefighters- Crisis Victim Ministry-Chaplain Operations
Stress Reactions- L.O.D.D. - Beginning a Fire Chaplaincy & Much More**

**Florida State Fire College Awards 16 Hours for
Fire Inspector and Fire Service Instructor Renewal**

Cost: \$250 (includes FFC Basic Fire Chaplain Certificate @ USB FFC Training Manual)

Dates: November 19-20, 2026 (8:00am-5:00pm each day) Must attend all 16 hours.

Location: SCPFD #54 16900 Oriole Rd. Ft Myers, FL 33967

REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT OUT, Fill OUT and Scan/Email this form to ChaplainFD@gmail.com

(make checks payable to FD Chaplain Services, Inc.)

Mailing address is 10221 S Golden Elm Dr. Estero, FL 33928

Name: _____ FireTraq ID# _____

Address: _____

Cell/Text#: _____

Email: _____

Agency/Department: _____

Occupation: _____ Chaplain at this time Y or N (circle one)

Will be paying for course on our website _____ Mailing Check _____ (check one)

If another person or agency is paying, please provide name _____

Instructor Mark Goodman is a veteran of the fire service with over 40 years' experience as a Firefighter, Fire Inspector, Fire Marshal, and Fire Service Instructor III. He currently serves Estero FD, South Trail FD, San Carlos Park FD, Lehigh Acres FD, and Sanibel FD as Chaplain, and is a Peer Member of the CISM of SW Florida team. Mark is a Master Chaplain and Instructor III for the Federation of Fire Chaplains.

I understand and agree that if I cancel my registration for this course, I must notify FD Chaplain Services, Inc. seven (7) calendar days prior to the first day of class in order to receive a refund. If a refund is approved, an administrative fee of \$35 will be charged.

In the rare circumstance that FD Chaplain Services, Inc. must cancel a class, a full refund will be made.

www.FDChaplainServices.com

ESSENTIALS OF FIRE CHAPLAINCY

JANUARY 11TH AND 12TH, 2027

9:00-5:00

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

Orange County Fire Rescue
Training Center
11104 Curry Ford Road
Orlando, FL 32825.



Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy is a two-day course designed to serve as a "Survey of Fire Chaplaincy". It is appropriate for new Chaplains, experienced Chaplains, and those who just want to learn what Fire Chaplaincy is all about. The course includes classes in ministry to Firefighters, Ministry to People in Crisis, Managing Stress, Fire Department Funerals, Fire Chaplain Operations, and many others.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Chaplaincy Foundations
- Ministry to Firefighters, Ministry to people in Crisis
- FD Funerals
- Fire Department Chaplain Operations
- Helping Firefighters manage stress & more!

REGISTRATION

\$250

Includes all materials

INSTRUCTOR:
CHAPLAIN MILTON SMITH
727-798-5718

LOCAL CONTACT:
CHAPLAIN LOUIS DEL TUFO
407-627-8217



SAVE THE DATE!!!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

ESSENTIALS OF FIRE CHAPLAINCY

MARCH 18TH AND 19TH, 2027

9:00-5:00

PASCO COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

Pasco County Fire Rescue
Station 17

2951 Seven Springs Blvd.

New Port Richey, Fl. 34655



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CHAPLAIN MILTON SMITH
727-798-5718

LOCAL CONTACT:
CHAPLAIN BILL JAMES
727-480-5551



SAVE THE DATE!!!
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Florida Fire Chaplains Conference



April 12-14, 2027
Ocala, FL

Website Resources

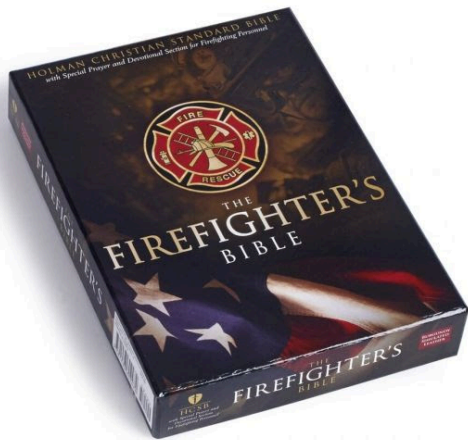
Have you ever been to the Resources page on our website? Click on the image to the right to find help with stress management, spiritual growth, marriage, and parenting.



Click image for more information

Featured Resource: The Journey Continues

Last month we looked at Journey Through the Gospels. Now, with The Journey Continues, you'll read the rest of the New Testament. Along with each day's reading are questions to consider to help guide your time in the Word.



[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.



Each month, in an effort to continue to promote the conversation about critical incident stress management, we'll discuss a topic relative to crisis intervention. This will be helpful as a refresher to those who have already been trained, as well as something to create interest among those who have not.

The Role of Faith

When an individual is facing a crisis, we want to encourage them to use any and all resources available to get back to a good place. For many, this includes their faith. But sometimes, we aren't sure how to proceed with issues of faith. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind.

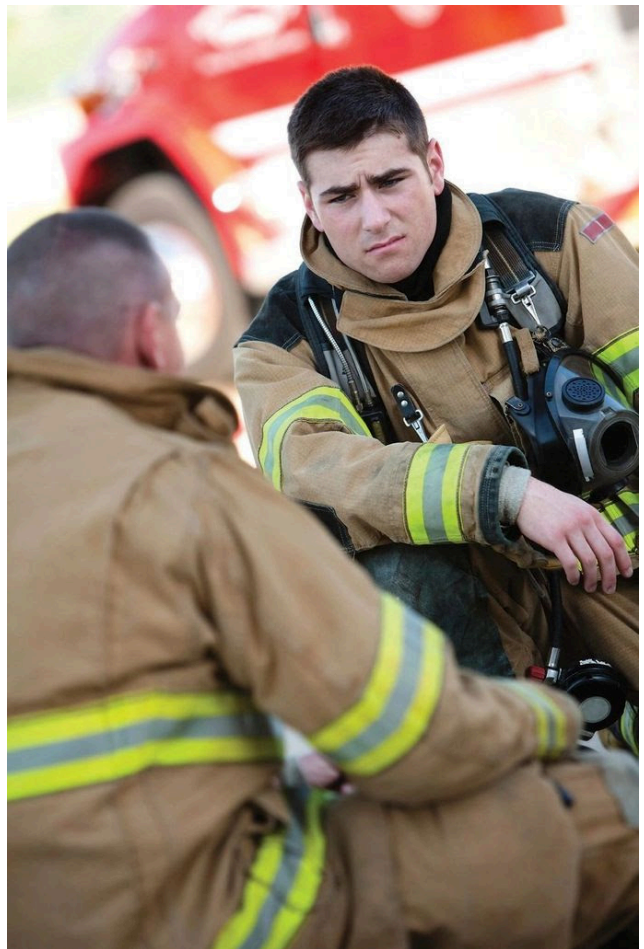
First, the person in crisis should be the one to initiate a faith conversation. People can be very open, yet very vulnerable during a crisis. Our forcing a faith conversation can be counterproductive, to say the least. So, let the person in crisis be the one who brings up the topic. This could be by simply referring to prayer as something they lean on in difficult times, or speaking about their church as a place of hope and peace.

Second, don't feel like you need to have all the answers when it comes to people's faith questions. Remember that you can refer people with serious questions of faith to chaplains, pastors, and other clergy.

Upcoming CISM Training

December 8-10, 2026
Kissimmee, FL

Contact us to host training at your agency



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



Stress Management Information

Click the logo for information on how to better
manage your stress.



In Remembrance

9/4 - Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Handlin - Odessa, TX

9/4 - Firefighter Eric Phillips - Raymond, NH

9/7 - Firefighter Joe Flake - Wellston, OK

9/20 - Pilot Ryan Cutter - McCall, ID

9/20 - Pilot Greg King - McCall, ID

9/20 - Junior Firefighter Bryce Kaufmann - Girard, PA

66 firefighters have died in the line of duty in 2026



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 PayPal logo.



FIRE RESCUE
SUPPORT INC



Support your favorite local charity every time you shop.

Donate your change by automatically rounding up your orders to the nearest dollar at checkout.

Round Up at Walmart

You can help Fire Rescue Support every time you shop at Walmart. Choose our organization and round up your purchase. Click on the image and search for Fire Rescue Support.