

# THE FIRE MARK

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT



Q2 2014

## FIRE CHIEF JOSEPH V. DAIGLE

*Saving Lives and Property / Our Mission, Our People*



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The Bonita Springs Fire District recently conducted a testing process to rate and rank firefighters aspiring to become Lieutenants. The test consists of a written exam, a tabletop scenario and an oral review panel.

The written exam evaluates the candidate's knowledge of district policies and procedures, labor contracts, and volumes of response protocols equating to hundreds of pages of information, that essentially must be memorized, to compete with the top firefighters. During the tabletop scenario, the candidate must show strategic and tactical efficiency when planning and executing the mitigation of emergencies, ranging from a fire to a water rescue. Finally, the candidate must answer tough questions regarding their performance history and how THEY can handle the rigors of being a company officer. This is all completed under the acute, watchful, painful scrutiny of the Bonita Springs Fire District's top front-line officers.

When a firefighter becomes a company officer, it is a milestone in their career and an extensive leap of personal and professional responsibility. A Lieutenant is the station officer who commands a crew on an engine

or truck company. The officer's responsibility includes the operation of their apparatus and the overall management of their station. The officer insures the firefighters are ready to perform their duties and that every single piece of equipment such as the brush fire truck, rescue boat, jaws of life, rescue saws, medical equipment and rescue equipment are present and functioning satisfactorily. Additionally, the Lieutenants' duties extend to the maintenance and upkeep of the station they are assigned.

However, the expansive responsibility is most recognized during the emergency response. During the course of their duties. The company officer may respond to:

- ◆ Tractor trailer rollover on I-75 with patients trapped
- ◆ Gunshot victims
- ◆ Capsized boat with patients in the water
- ◆ Gas main rupture on 41 and Bonita Beach Road
- ◆ Woman giving birth in the parking lot of a bank
- ◆ Construction worker fallen three stories
- ◆ Heart attack at Publix on West Terry St
- ◆ Man trapped at the top of a 700 ft. tower
- ◆ Unidentified white powder/ biochemical threat
- ◆ Radioactive substance spill on I-75
- ◆ Brush Fire
- ◆ Bomb Threat
- ◆ Structure Fire
- ◆ Man down for unknown reason

Every Lieutenant must be able to respond to the incident in a safe manner, first determining the extent of the emergency. Surprisingly, most untrained people either far over-estimate or under-estimate the severity of the emergency situation, and the resources needed. Both can be catastrophic.

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As an example, a Lieutenant must determine when arriving on the scene of a substantial motor vehicle crash: Is the scene safe? Are there electrical or fire hazards such as power lines down or a gasoline leak? Does traffic pose a risk to the patient, the firefighters or the bystanders? How many cars are involved and how many people are in each car? How many people are injured and do I need two ambulances or one ambulance and a helicopter? Where do I land the helicopter? Did the driver of that car have a heart attack while driving? How many more firefighters do I need?

With training and experience the Lieutenant is expected to answer these types of questions on any type of incident, at any time of day, and take action with little or no room for error.

As a new firefighter, I was thoroughly impressed with my Lieutenant's ability to remain calm and de-

cisive during the most turbulent emergency operations. I took much of what I learned and applied it to the management of my crews and emergency scenes, when I eventually became a Lieutenant. When a firefighter becomes a company officer, they are now responsible for millions of dollars of taxpayer assets, the lives and well being of their crew and citizens and properties in their response area.

Becoming a Lieutenant/Company Officer is a deservedly prideful day in any firefighter's career. It is filled with the great reward of commanding scenes, which saves someone's life, their loved one or their cherished property. Alternatively, when things go wrong in the "fog of war" the failures can be demoralizing. This is why the position is held in such high esteem...because it's earned!

In Your Service,  
**Fire Chief Joseph V. Daigle**

### EVANS CONFORTI / VICE CHAIRMAN

Evans Conforti has been serving the citizens of Bonita Springs as a Fire Commissioner since 1998. Commissioner Conforti is a retired police officer from Nassau County New York. He also served several years as a volunteer firefighter. Commissioner Conforti moved to Bonita Springs in 1997 with his wife, Louise. He lives in Pelican Landing and has three children and one grandchild.

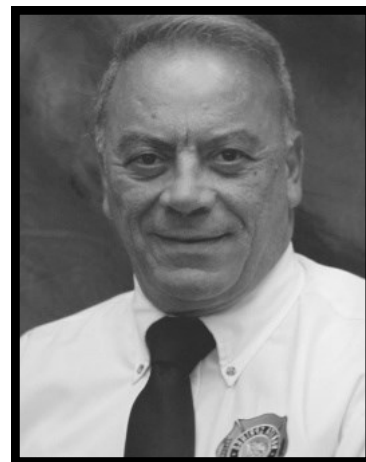
Evans Conforti ran for office with the intention to make a positive impression on our great community. The Commissioner immediately began to impact the organization by becoming involved with the purchasing of new fire apparatus as a member of the apparatus committee.

Additionally, Commissioner Conforti became intricately involved with the construction of Station 24 located on Bonita Grande Dr.; a project which required extensive oversight to complete. Other notable infrastructure projects supported by Commissioner Conforti included the construction of Station 25 on West Terry Street, and the redesigning of Station 22 located on Mango Dr. and Station 21 situated on Old 41 Road. These projects represent the professionalism of our fire district and the identity of our community.

During the economic downturn, Commissioner Conforti took action in voting for reduction in staff, unprecedented pension reform, and relieving the District of 16 million dollars per year in unfunded liabilities. However, he is committed to actively assessing the emergency needs of the community and providing the funding and staffing to ensure the District can provide appropriate services.

With first hand understanding of the impact the firefighter/paramedics have on life-or-death situations, Commissioner Conforti supports ambulance transport being provided by the Fire District.

Commissioner Conforti has given 16 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Bonita Springs with a progressive, rational approach to the oversight of the Fire District, consequently, ensuring timely professional emergency responders will be there for you when you call.





Hello, from your Bonita Springs Professional Firefighters! Although the second quarter of 2014 has come and gone extremely quickly, your Local 3444 has been tremendously productive in the community.

In March, revenue from the annual Local 3444 Bonita Springs Professional Firefighter Calendar allowed us to donate \$5,000 to the Bonita Springs Assistance Office. This non-profit organization's goal is to assist people who encounter an unexpected crisis which has created a temporary financial hardship such as rent, mortgage, utilities, clothing, food, or health needs.

Your Local 3444 and BSFCRD also continued our support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Each of the three shifts collected donations from the local community on sequential Saturdays. The hard work paid off, with a donation to MDA for \$20,377!

The Bonita Springs Professional Firefighters also participated in a Bowling Tournament benefiting South Trail Firefighter Danielle DiBenedetto. The team had a good time and donated \$450 to help one of our own stricken with cancer.



## BSFD FIREFIGHTERS DELIVERS BABY IN BANK PARKING LOT

When Dominique Peterson pictured giving birth to her third daughter, the SunTrust Bank parking lot off of Bonita Beach Road is not exactly what she had in mind.

Peterson is a labor and delivery nurse and says she was resting at home between shifts when she knew her third daughter was on the way. She has been precipitous, which means she gives birth very quickly.

Dominique and her husband Chase were driving to HealthPark Hospital when they realized that they were not going to make it. They pulled into a bank parking lot and quickly called 9-1-1. Within minutes, the Bonita Springs Firefighters on Engine 24, Lieutenant Jason Brod, FF/Paramedic Leo Willette, FF Randy Werstein and FF Ray Perez, were on scene.

Lt. Jason Brod remembers, "She (Dominique) was super calm; I introduced myself and told her to relax." Just minutes later, Calla Renee Peterson was born in the passenger-side seat of the car. "We worked together and got it done," Lt. Brod said.

This is surely a day the family and BSFD crew will never forget. "They were taking pictures of me holding the baby, so I guess I'll be in the baby book forever," said Lt. Brod.



## 5 CORNEL LEE / ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL

Assistant Fire Marshal Cornel Lee began his career with the Bonita Springs Fire and Rescue District as an Inspector's Assistant in 2005. He worked this position and attended Edison College simultaneously. Upon completion of his schooling and obtaining his Inspector's certification, he was promoted to Fire Inspector. While serving in this capacity, he ensured that the commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings were safe and complying to the National Fire Codes adopted by the State of Florida. He also examined commercial building plans for six fire districts to ensure fire codes were being applied.

Cornel Lee grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Hawaii for a year and then enlisted in the US Army Security Agency. Cornel was stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts spending the next three years stationed in Bad Aibling, Germany. After his service in the military, he became a police officer with the Honolulu Police Department and also earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Management from the University of Hawaii – Chaminade. Cornel was hired by the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms as a Special Agent. He spent several years in retail management, which led to a position with a software company as a database technician.

Cornel considers himself blessed to have been a part of such a diverse and interesting career path, which has led him to the position of Assistant Fire Marshal.



## RAY YOUNANS / VILLAGEWALK CERT MEMBER

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program provides education about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact Bonita Springs and trains citizens in basic disaster response skills. Using the training acquired in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can be called upon to assist others following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

We would like to introduce you to CERT member, Ray Youmans. Ray Youmans, a retired veterinarian, had performed CPR before.... on a dog, a rat and even a moose! Although trained in CPR through BSFD he had never utilized it on a human until April 21st.



Ray Youmans and his brother-in-law LPN Paul Ross witnessed a 68 year old man collapse next to his vehicle in the Bonita Grande Publix parking lot. They quickly ran to his aid while Youmans' wife called 9-1-1. Ray and Paul knew they needed to act fast! They saw that the patient had a moderate head wound from the fall- the patient's eyes were wide open; he had a blank stare; his tongue was turning blue, and he was completely unresponsive. They quickly began chest compressions after they did not find a pulse. After a very short time, the patient became conscious again just as fire-fighters on Engine 24 arrived on scene. The patient appeared awake, alert and oriented due to their quick actions!

Ray Youmans and Paul Ross received the Fire District's most prestigious award on May 12th—The Phoenix Award!

# Fire Extinguisher Safety

## P.A.S.S.

Always use the P.A.S.S. system when using a fire extinguisher.

**P= PULL** the pin

**A= AIM** the nozzle

**S=SQUEEZE** the handle

**S=SWEEP** the extinguisher powder at the base of the fire.

Also, I like to add **SQUAT** as you walk in closer to the fire so the heat goes over your head and you can easily smother the flames. Never turn your back to a fire and use the buddy system when able to ensure safety.



**Ordinary combustibles**



**Flammable liquids**



**Energized electrical equipment**

### Always call 9-1-1 first!

If the fire has engulfed more than one object or is larger than a small waste paper basket, or you are not confident about fighting the fire, go to your safe meeting place immediately. Remember, the time it takes to extinguish a fire is the same time you'll need to escape.

### **Effective fire suppression is an understanding of:**

- The type of fuel involved or class of fire
- The elements required for fire to exist
- The resources required and available to extinguish each type of fire
- Effective fire suppression techniques



Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District offers over 30 educational programs to the public. This is an example of just one of our popular topics. To view a complete list go to [www.bonitafire.org](http://www.bonitafire.org). For more information on our programs or to participate in a fire and life safety class, please contact Public Educator Natalie Hughes at 239-949-6200.