Fire Chaplain Program

Upper Captiva Fire & Rescue Service District

8-16-2024

Why Should You Care?

- **Increase Understanding**
  - Program of the Fire District
  - Role/Purpose of Fire Chaplain
  - Intent of the Program
- **Provide an Update on the Program**
  - Last Report to was on 12/17/2021
  - Responsibility Needs Accountability
  - Stakeholders and Community Should be Aware

What is a Fire Chaplain?

- ➤ **Ministry of Presence**

- ➤ **Provides spiritual and other support to those in the fire service and those affected by emergency crisis**

- ➤ **Specific role in each department is determined by an agreement (SOG) with the Fire Chief**

- ➤ **Non-denominational and non-sectarian, ministering equally to people of all faith traditions or those with no faith tradition at all**

- ➤ **Father Mulcahy from M*A*S*H**

What Initiated the Program?

- ➤ **Significant Events**
  - ▪ 2019 drowning events
  - ▪ Panama Shell house fire
- ➤ **Unique Needs**
  - ▪ No easy access for victim/patient families to facilities
  - ▪ Many people are visitors from out of town
  - ▪ Fire support arriving are without vehicles and knowledge of island
  - ▪ Rotating Firefighter resources creates less "island" knowledge

Focus Areas

- Care to the Chief and Deputy Chiefs
- Care to Firefighters
- Care to Those Affected by Emergency Crisis
- Logistical/Practical Support to Firefighters

Continuous Improvement

- ➢ **Learning**
  - ▪ Self Study, Formal Certification
- ➢ **Planning and Preparation**
  - ▪ Plan, Practice, Review and Adjust
- ➢ **Practice**
  - ▪ Station visits, responding to 911 calls, serving islanders and visitors
- ➢ **Mentor/Accountability Partner**
  - ▪ Chaplain Mark Goodman
- ➢ **Connection to Peers**
  - ▪ Weekly Fire Chaplain Zoom call

Experiences Since 2021

- ➤ **Frequent Sit-Downs with Chief**
    - ▪ Sounding board, listening ear
    - ▪ Debrief on incidents
    - ▪ Relay public perceptions

- ➤ **911 Response Support**
    - ▪ Several medical calls
    - ▪ Fire suppression support
    - ▪ Logistics support on scene

- ➤ **Community Care Support**
    - ▪ Death scene support
    - ▪ Patient family support/logistics

Questions?