



THE SECOND ALARM

JUNE 2019
THE SECOND ALARM

A Department Without Limits

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

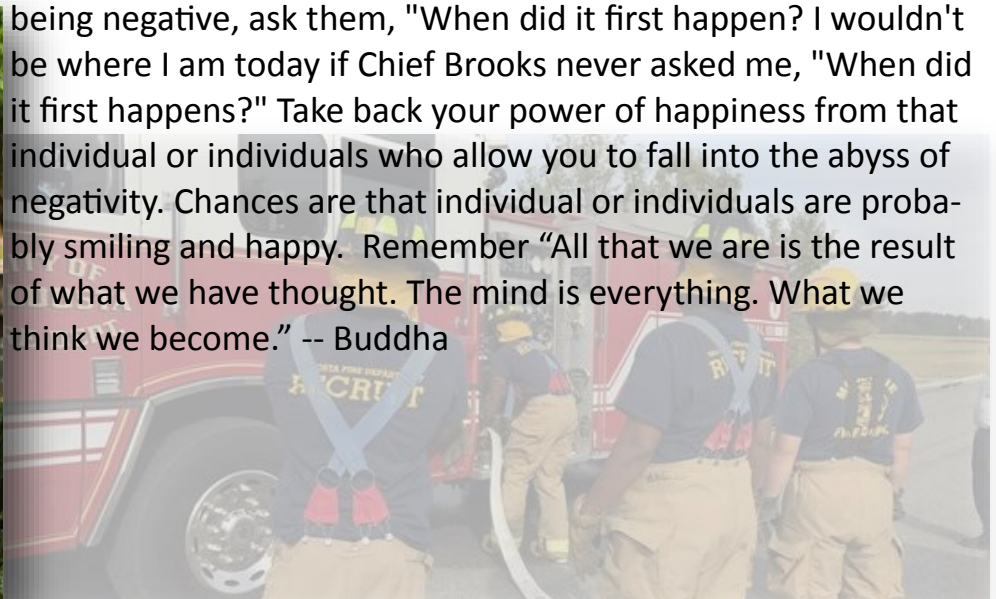


When did it first happen? That's the question; I often ask when someone comes to me complaining about his or her job. Most people that know me, often admire my optimism. I remember as a firefighter, I had a reputation for being optimistic and passionate for my job. One day, my Battalion Chief heard me make a negative comment. He pulled me to the side and asked me, "When did it first happen?" I had no idea of what he was asking; then he explained, when were you first exposed to the "dark side?" After pondering on his question, it started to make sense. I always found the good in every situation until I found myself spending time with co-workers that were the opposite. If it weren't for my Battalion Chief, I would have fallen deeper into that abyss. Victoria Addino once said, "Always think extra hard before crossing over to a bad side, if you were weak enough to cross over, you might not be strong enough to cross back!" I was fortunate enough to cross back; however, there were several of my co-worker that was not. Some left the department, and others are still working in the department living a life of misery both personally and professionally. I mention this only to remind you that negativity is an addiction. It is worst than most drugs. Metaphorically speaking, it gives you a natural high, it makes you feel good; however, at the same time, it is adversely affecting your body both mentally and physically. If you do not believe me, look at someone that is a "card-carrying member" of the negativity club. They are graciously aging; never happy nor smiling, and often lose focus of normality because of their self-assertion not to see positivity. When you feel yourself being negative, ask yourself, "When did it first happen?" If you hear a co-working

being negative, ask them, "When did it first happen? I wouldn't be where I am today if Chief Brooks never asked me, "When did it first happens?" Take back your power of happiness from that individual or individuals who allow you to fall into the abyss of negativity. Chances are that individual or individuals are probably smiling and happy. Remember "All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think we become." -- Buddha



Freddie A. Brooks





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Atta Boys!

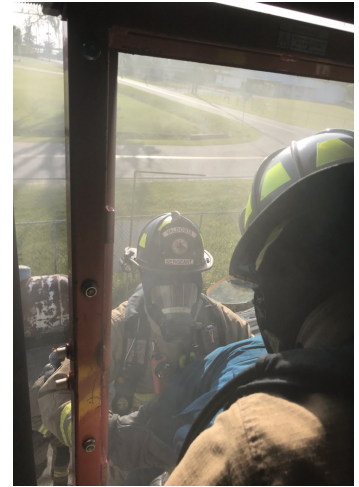
Submitted by Lt. Justin C. Ply

I would like to take a few minutes to acknowledge a few folks for their hard work, dedication, determination and passion for their job and the department. I would first like to thank each and every member of the Valdosta Fire Department that participated in the Residential Primary Search Techniques Class that was held March 26th – April 3rd. Everyone showed up with great attitudes and willingness to learn and they put in some great work. We had a great time honing our skills as a firefighter. It is times like this that makes all the difference in the world when everyone is on the same page.

I would also like to acknowledge three individuals who made this course happen. Without Lt. Herpin, Lt. Niehanke, and Sgt. Clark this class would not have been possible. These three guys make teaching and learning fun and memorable. These guys took time away from their personal lives and off duty jobs in order to make this a great success.

They are always willing to help with anything that will better our department and that's what makes me proud to serve with these guys. Lt. Reed was also a big help as he helped on the days that he was available to assist.

Thank you





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Atta Boy!

Submitted by Lt. Justin C. Ply

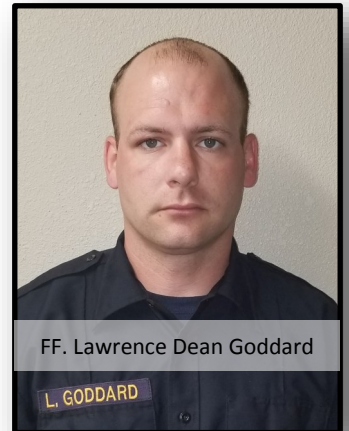
Sgt. Ken Taylor participated in the Savannah Mile on Saturday, May 25, 2019. He completed his mile in 9 minutes flat while wearing his personal protective equipment. This is an awesome accomplishment in itself, but what makes it even better is Ken just celebrated his 60th birthday.

The 14th Annual Savannah Mile presented by the Two Hundred Club of the Coastal Empire honors our fallen responders, their families, and our military heroes. The one mile course down Drayton Street from the south end of Forsyth Park to Broughton Street has heats for every fitness level and age group. Our elite first responders and military runners will compete for the Full Gear * All Out Flag in the heroes heat in full gear (30 additional pounds), The family friendly Family Fun Run/Walk allows anyone to participate, including strollers, wheelchairs, and our four legged family members. The Memory Walk has the surviving family members of our fallen first responders walk the mile in remembrance of their loved ones.



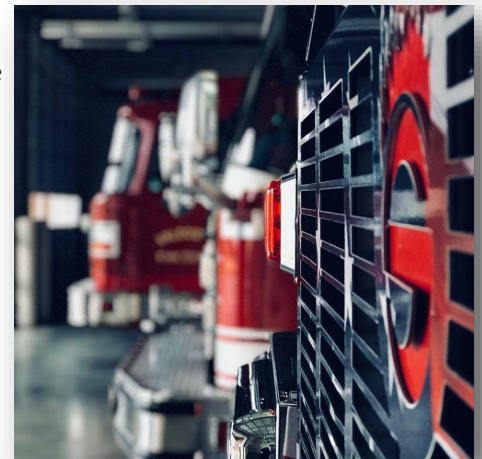
Employee of the Month Nomination

On the morning of April 30th, the Valdosta Fire Department responded to a house fire at the 400 block of Seymour Street. Firefighter Lawrence Dean Goddard was a key player in saving the home from a total fire loss. The occupant, an elderly lady, who had taken refuge at a neighbor's house during the blaze, asked to come survey the damage and possibly gather a few essential valuables. She had difficulty walking to her home due to the fact she exited quickly without her shoes to escape the fire.



The occupant was grief stricken at the sight of the fire damage and took a moment to gather herself before sorting through what was left and making a few requests. Among the requests were her medications and purse. The occupant told firefighters where her shoes were stored and asked them to retrieve a pair for her. Upon finding the charred remains of the occupant's shoes, Firefighter Goddard immediately decided to remedy the situation. He requested permission to call his wife, Patty Goddard, and asked her to buy a new pair of shoes for the occupant. Firefighter Goddard showed a pure desire to be of service to help a citizen in need. His request to call his wife was granted and Mrs. Goddard was happy to be of service also. She delivered the new shoes to the occupant just moments after fire units cleared the scene.

This was not an instance of profound sacrifice, however, it is noteworthy in the fact that Firefighter Goddard displayed the pure spirit of public service in his desire to help a person in need. His small act of kindness reminds us that it does not have to be a big thing to make a huge impact.





We will miss you Chief Broome!





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Congratulations to the NEW Fire Chief Brian Boutwell



The City of Valdosta announce the appointment of Brian Boutwell as the City's new Fire Chief, effective June 15, 2019. Chief Boutwell most recently served as the Assistant Chief for the Valdosta Fire Department with oversight of all fire operations and special operations including the Georgia Search and Rescue Task Force 2. Chief Boutwell's fire service background includes extensive knowledge and expertise in Fire Suppression, Search and Rescue, Hazardous Material Response, Fire Investigation, Training, Logistics, and EMT Intermediate. Chief Boutwell has an Associate Degree in Fire Science from West Georgia Technical College, Bachelor Degree in Fire Science Administration from Waldorf College. He also graduated from the Emergency Medical Technology/Technician program at Valdosta Technical College, now known as Wiregrass Technical College.

Boutwell began his career at the Valdosta Fire Department in 1996 as a Firefighter. Following that, he moved through the ranks of the Valdosta Fire Department from Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Battalion Chief. In 2015, Boutwell was appointed Assistant Fire Chief of the Valdosta Fire Department.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to spend my entire career with the City of Valdosta. Working in every position at the department has given me the opportunity to work side by side with many of our firefighters and leaders within the department. We have such a dedicated group of individuals who strive to provide the best service to the citizens of the City of Valdosta. I am looking forward to the continued success of this department," said Chief Boutwell. "I cannot thank the City of Valdosta enough for the support that has allowed me to have many accomplishments throughout my career. To say it is an honor to be selected as the City of Valdosta's next Fire Chief is an understatement. The Valdosta Fire Department has a long history of professionalism, excellence and community involvement. During my time at the City of Valdosta, I have had the pleasure of working under two leaders such as Chief JD Rice and Chief Freddie Broome, who I believe served as great examples for the leadership it takes to run the Valdosta Fire Department. I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of the fire department and the city's leadership team."

In 2016, Chief Boutwell received his certification as a Georgia Fire Chief by the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs. Certification applicants must meet four prerequisites, including holding a Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council State Certification in at least one of the current Fire Service Certifications and having served as at least a fire officer in a state-certified fire department. The program was developed to ensure that the fire departments in the state of Georgia have qualified, credentialed and professional leaders and managers overseeing their departments and personnel.

More recently, in 2018, Boutwell completed the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy's (NFA) "Executive Fire Officer Program" (EFO) Program. Chief Boutwell was the first member of the Valdosta Fire Department to complete the EFO program. Boutwell joins a group of only 73 individuals in the State of Georgia to complete this program since it began 25 years ago.

The National Fire Academy's (NFA) Executive Fire Officer Program (EFO) is a four-year curriculum that provides Senior Fire Officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) administration. The courses and accompanying research examine how to exercise leadership when dealing with severe or unique problems within communities.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Submission to the newsletter should occur before the 20th of each month
- Feel Free to submit photos with your submissions
- Have a strong opinion about a topic of concern to our fire department? Feel free to submit a piece for review and possible publication in the newsletter.



CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, Issue 6 June 2019

CFAA Reminders / Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **Chief Broome—Going Away Reception**
Monday, June 10, 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
At the Women's Bldg., located at:
1409 N. Patterson Street
- ♦ **Community Wide Back to School Block Party**
Collaboration Meeting-Open to Public
Friday, June 14 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex
Multi-Purpose Room—CFAA Invited to come to meeting.
(Event is for August 3, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
@ Drexel Park /More Details Coming)
- ♦ **Juneteenth Event**
Saturday, June 15 from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
At the Old Historic Courthouse Square (on Valley Street)
A Fire Engine and Fire Safety House Requested
CFAA Volunteers Requested to help!
- ♦ **Valdosta Veteran's Ministry Dinner**
August 3, at 6:00 p.m.
The 5th Annual Anniversary Dinner Banquet
CFAA Invited to support and attend. \$30 per ticket .
Email cfaavaldosta@gmail.com for information on
how to purchase a ticket. Seating is limited.



- ♦ **CFAA General Meeting**
Tuesday, August 20 @ Fire Station 1
Conference Room (6:00 p.m.)

Events must be presented at general meetings and approved to be added to the calendar or by special request through the Chief and the VFD.

*If you missed the last CFAA newsletter, check the Group Facebook Page or send an email to:
cfaavaldosta@gmail.com*

Our Mission

"Our mission is to contribute to the functions of the Valdosta Fire Department while supporting service projects and fostering positive relationships among the community."

Recruitment Rally

Citizens Fire Academy, after all, it is why we are all here. What better way to support our Valdosta Fire Department than by encouraging more citizens to participate in this amazing program. At the same time, who doesn't like a little healthy competition...

Now through the month of August...Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!!!

Invite friends, neighbors, family and co-workers to apply and participate in the next CFA. The CFA Class 6 is scheduled to begin August 27. The CFAA member with the highest number of recruits will earn bragging rights for the next year and the title of CFAA-Recruitment Champion.

Also mark your calendar. We provide dinner to the new Class on August 27th. Sign Up Coming Soon!

Need the 411?

If you are not receiving updates and emails or if your contact information has change, make sure to send an email to: cfaavaldosta@gmail.com

Include your name, your contact information and CFA Class #.

You can also sign up for Remind 101 and receive text reminders by:

Texting this message
@vfdc
To this number:
81010

Also, if you have not connected on Facebook, visit here: <https://www.facebook.com/VFDCFA/>

The Citizens Fire Academy Alumni (CFAA) are citizens whom have completed the Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) through the Valdosta Fire Department. If you are interested in signing up for the next CFA course, please email Tangela Rowe with the Valdosta Fire Department at: TROWE@VALDOSTACITY.COM

If you have completed a CFA course and would like to receive more information on the alumni, email:
CFAAVALDOSTA@GMAIL.COM

CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, Issue 6 June 2019

Highlights on Community Outreach Initiatives



Adopt A Road Clean-Up



CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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A Special Thanks and Farewell to Chief Broome

Thank you for all you have done for our community. We will miss you but wish you the best.



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Class 3



Class 4

CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, Issue 6 June 2019





LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

Volume 4, Issue 6

June 2019

Electrical Safety Around Water

Electrical Facts Around Water:

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly 400 people in the United States are electrocuted each year.

Carbon monoxide can remain in or around a boat at unsafe levels even if the engine has been turned off.

Electrical Safety Tips Around Water:

Never allow swimming near the boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring. This can put anyone at risk of electrical shock drowning (ESD).

Have boats inspected and maintained each year by a qualified marine electrician.

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCIs) should be installed and tested monthly. Run tests to find out if

electrical current is leaking from the boat.

Only use cords intended to be used around water. Never use household cords near water.



All electrical outlets, light switches, and receptacles around swimming pools must be UL listed for safety assurance.

Know where main breakers are on both the boat and the shore power source. This will help you respond quickly in an emergency.

Always Remember

What kind of car does an electrician drive? A Volts-wagon.

Underwater gas and electrical utility lines are indicated by special signs. You should have the ability to recognize these signs. Don't anchor the boat near the underwater gas or electrical utility lines.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path and if you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path.

It is important to have waterproof coverings on electrical appliances that are used near swimming pools, spas, and boating marinas.

Electrical devices and cords should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources such as pools and spas. When possible, use battery operated electrical devices outside.

Never handle electrical devices when you are wet – either from water activities or from perspiration.

Make sure there are no power lines over a swimming pool.

Do not swim during a thunderstorm.

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Seasonal-fires/Electrical-safety-around-water>

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

Habirdnd = bu2sh Ujustrme

Answers to last month's wuzzles are Run away with me and Hammer into.

Fire Safety Quiz

1. It is not important for electrical equipment used around water to be grounded or bonded.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. Due to ESD, Kentucky is considering a bill that will ban swimming within ____ feet of a marina.
 - A. 100
 - B. 200
 - C. 50
 - D. 75

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. A. & 2. A.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief