

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 3

THE BLAZE

DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT/ 911
OPERATIONS/EMA NEWSLETTER

"Thank you for allowing us to serve you." ~ Roderick B.
Jolivette, Fire Chief

OCTOBER 2021



MISSION

**The Douglas County Fire/EMS
Department exists to improve and
protect the quality of life within our
service area through education,
prevention & emergency response.**

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FIRE CHIEF JOLIVETTE:

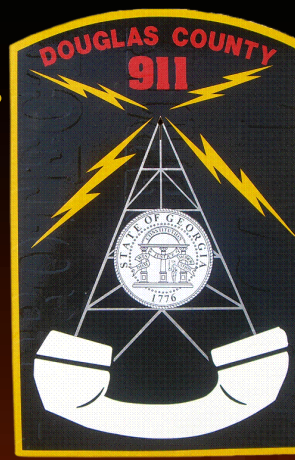
Hello DCFD Team members...
The Board of Commissioners approved the start of the Architectural design for Station #9. The design should be ready in five months. Fire Chief Jolivette will keep you abreast of the process. Not the pictured fire truck, as it's a stock photo 😊, but Douglas County Fire Department will accept delivery of a new, Sutphen fire truck Friday, October 22, 2021. Planning to officially present the fire truck to the citizens of Douglas County is underway and will be shared soon.



Fire Chief Jolivette, Deputy Chief Phillips, Captain Cj. Zachmeyer, & Doug Turner (Fleet Manager), traveled to Appleton, WI October 20th-22nd to look at and purchase two pierce saber pumpers and one pierce ladder truck

—911 OPERATIONS—

Dena Callahan-Communications Supervisor
Debra Gross-Records Administrator
Teena Donnell-Database Coordinator
Alecia Partin-Operations Coordinator



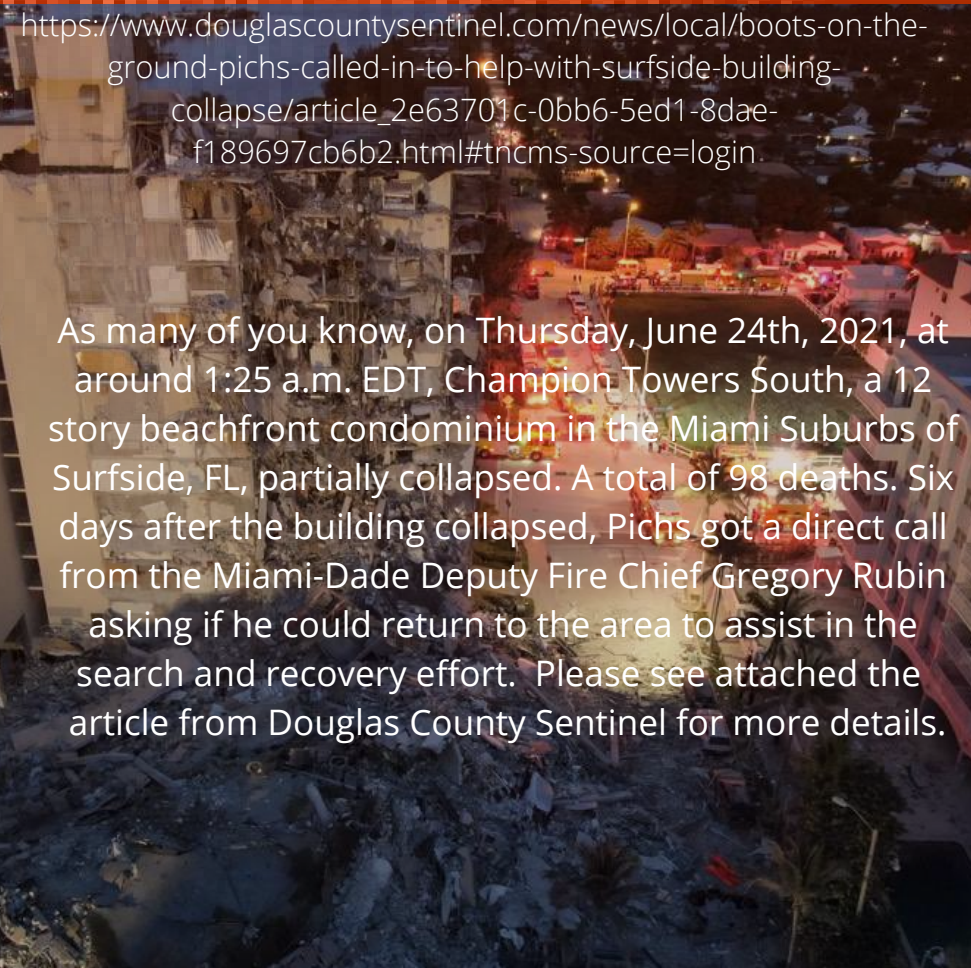
As we are putting a lot of focus on current employees completing the training program, we are also welcoming 2 new employees this month. Samantha Warren and Dreshawn Johnson, we are excited to have them join us! On October 5th, the Share House was so kind to provide our department with a Chick-Filet lunch.(pictured left)

Interesting stats to share - Last month our communication center answered 13,180 calls and made 7,145 outgoing calls. We entered 13,149 calls for service into our CAD system. This is covering all disciplines that we dispatch. Our employees stepped up to the plate yet again. 11 full time employees and 3 part time employees went above and beyond their normal obligations to work a collective total of 470 hours of overtime to cover shift shortages. We are thankful and proud of our employees!

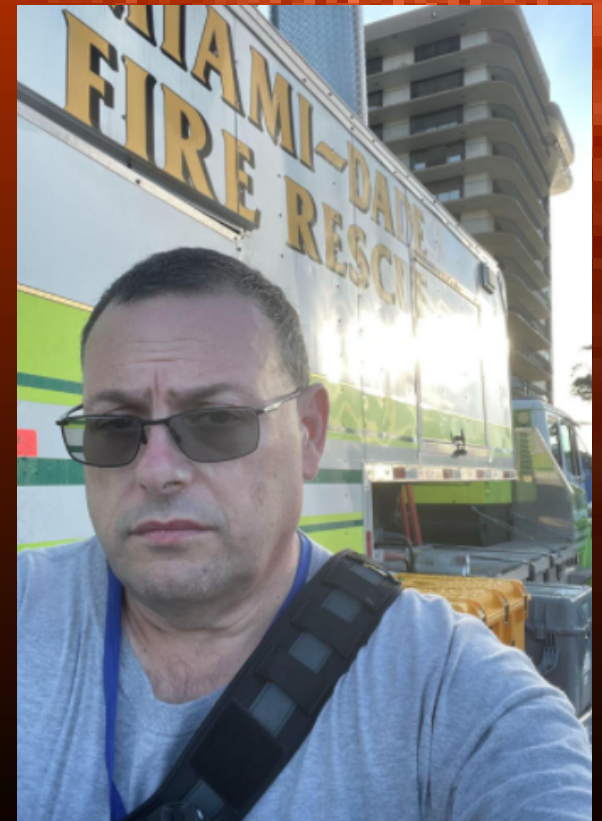
Andy Pichs- Radio System Administrator



https://www.douglascountysentinel.com/news/local/boots-on-the-ground-pichs-called-in-to-help-with-surfside-building-collapse/article_2e63701c-0bb6-5ed1-8dae-f189697cb6b2.html#tncms-source=login



As many of you know, on Thursday, June 24th, 2021, at around 1:25 a.m. EDT, Champion Towers South, a 12 story beachfront condominium in the Miami Suburbs of Surfside, FL, partially collapsed. A total of 98 deaths. Six days after the building collapsed, Pichs got a direct call from the Miami-Dade Deputy Fire Chief Gregory Rubin asking if he could return to the area to assist in the search and recovery effort. Please see attached the article from Douglas County Sentinel for more details.



EMA (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY)

September 20th and 21st marked the 12th anniversary of the historical flood that caused major damage to Douglas County and more importantly seven deaths. As we remember this tragedy, we want to make sure we as a community become more resilient. The terms 100- and 500-year flood can be misleading. You can have multiple events that can be categorized as 100- and 500-year floods in a short time. As many of our citizens that lost their homes in this event did not have flood insurance, we wanted to use information provided by FEMA to encourage citizens to purchase flood insurance. Many of the homes destroyed in 2009 were not in a designated flood zone.



JASON
MILHOLLIN

Photo credit WSBTV



EMA (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY)

JASON MILHOLLIN

The following helpful information is provided by FEMA



Disaster Assistance vs. Flood Insurance: Do You Know the Difference?

If you experience property damage during a flood, you'll likely be able to cover your recovery costs through disaster assistance funding—right? Possibly wrong. In fact, federal disaster assistance isn't guaranteed, and many residents overestimate the amount of funding they'll receive (if any). As climate change worsens and residents face an increasing risk of damage from things like hurricanes, levee failures, and post-fire flooding, you'll want to make sure you're prepared. Take the first step by visiting [Floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) to learn how flood insurance can best protect you against the financial impact of flooding.

Here are five key differences between disaster assistance and flood insurance:

1. **Disaster Declarations:** Federal disaster assistance requires a Major Disaster Declaration from the president to authorize funding. Flood insurance does not require a disaster declaration, so policyholders can make a claim almost immediately after any flood event.
2. **Coverage:** Both disaster assistance and flood insurance cover flood damage to your primary residence—but disaster assistance is only designed to make a home safe and fit to occupy, not to restore it to pre-disaster condition. Disaster assistance can sometimes be used for additional expenses like vehicle repairs, temporary housing, or medical fees, but only flood insurance offers building and contents coverage that is customizable to meet your needs.
3. **Payout:** Federal disaster assistance often comes in the form of a FEMA disaster grant, which averages about \$5,000 per household, or a Small Business loan from the Small Business Authority. (SBA) By comparison, the average flood insurance claim payment over the past five years was approximately \$69,000. Unless purchased through a private vendor, flood insurance policies are backed by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). You will never need to repay the NFIP for your flood insurance, but certain forms of federal assistance, like SBA loans, must be repaid with interest.

DEPUTY CHIEFS



Deputy Chief Allen

We have 8 new hires who have started their station assignments recently. State Inspections for the Ambulances will begin on Nov. 2nd, 2021. All Fire Department personnel have been instrumental with the preparation. We are definitely ready!

Over the past few months, the Fire Department Operations section has promoted several members of the department within the ranks of Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, and Battalion Chief. Recognition of this achievement will be taking place soon.

Deputy Chief Phillips

The month of October has been a busy and exciting month for our organization. The Douglas County Fire/EMS Department has been actively recruiting and hiring, to answer the call of nationwide shortage of firefighters and first responders. We have hired at total of (29 in training Firefighters/EMT) mostly from Douglas Co. area, to answer the call of service to the community. We have also taken delivery of a 2021 Sutphen Monarch Pumper (Engine # 5). The Apparatus Committee (Chief Jolivette, Chief Phillips, Capt. Zachmeyer and Doug Turner) returned from Appleton, Wisconsin on 10.23.21 with great news of additional apparatus to update the Department's Fleet. (1) Ladder Truck: November 2021, (2) Pumpers: December 2021 and January 2022. These new additions to the department will continue to enhance and protect the quality of life within our service area through education, prevention and emergency response. This is aligned directly with the Department's Strategic Goal # 6 (Prepare for area growth through a standard of cover strategy to improve operational performance).



DEPUTY CHIEFS



Deputy Chief Lugo

Fire Prevention Week was October 3-9, 2021. The theme this year was "Learn the Sounds of Safety!" Due to COVID we offered a number virtual activities for the week. You can see our National Fire Prevention Week web page at <https://www.celebratedouglascounty.com/695/National-Fire-Prevention-Week>.

Here you will find five videos that were also posted on YouTube and distributed to the Douglas County School System, reaching 28,000 Douglas County students. A special thanks to Lt. Mark Sullivan, Douglas County PIO Phyllis Banks, Communications and Community Relations Director Rick Martin, Ryan Wilson of DCTV 23, Inspector/Public Safety Educator Wesley Corkill, Paula Austin and Melissa Loreda for their help in this endeavor.

During the last several weeks we offered a Georgia State sponsored Structural Fire Control Class and a Structural Fire Control Instructor Class. This class was offered in conjunction with GFTSC, Atlanta Fire Department and Douglas County Fire Department. A total of 41 Atlanta Fire Department and Douglas County Fire/EMS Department students attended these classes.

We want to congratulate the following Douglas County Fire/EMS Department personnel for acquiring their Structural Fire Control and Structural Fire Control Instructor certificates:

Structural Fire Control:

Thomas White
Spencer Shuman
Kaitlyn Massey
Derek Cogland
Brett Perry
Kishawn David
Brantley Burton
Warren Mannis

Structural Fire Control Instructor:

Thomas White
Spencer Shuman
Kishawn David
Kaitlynn Massey

DEPUTY CHIEFS

Deputy Chief Lugo

SEPTEMBER CALL STATS

HEADINGS		Total Calls
100	FIRE	14
200	OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (No Fire)	0
300	RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) INCIDENTS	1,387
400	HAZAROUS CONDITIONS (No Fire)	39
500	SERVICE CALL	159
600	GOOD INTENT CALL	203
700	FALSE ALARM AND FALSE CALL	61
800	SEVERE WEATHER AND NATURAL DISASTER	2
900	SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE	1
	NOT REPORTED	17
	Monthly Total	1,883
	Yearly Total	16,062

BATTALION CHIEFS

DCFD Team,

The month of October brings with it a season of change, and not just the weather. There are many exciting things happening, but you have been so busy it is hard to keep track. One thing that is getting back to normal are Touch-A-truck events and school visits, both of these have always been at the core of who we are and I missed that connection with the community. Another is that over 25 people have been hired and will begin training on the 18th, a side benefit to that is at least three of our team are going to get EMTA training as well. Also, in the works and close to arrival is a new pumper. Capt. Zachmeyer has been on several trips assisting in the finish spec of the truck that will make it more user friendly and safer. In the same vein, movement is being made toward building the spec for aerials and beginning the purchase process. Having received a \$1 + million-dollar grant toward this purchase is something Chief Jolivette began working on almost as soon as he took over.

This foresight has now paid off in a big way.

Those are just a few things to be excited about, but most important is the new people. Let us all do our best to bring these new members into the team in the most positive way. We may be losing institutional knowledge as our older people retire but these new DCFD Team Members will come in with an excitement that we can take advantage of and show them who we are and what we can accomplish. And this is just the beginning. We are going to be in an almost constant process of hiring and training. Chief Jolivette has said he wants to see the Training Complex open for business every day and I believe him.

The last thing I'd like to say is Congratulations!! to Captain C. J. Zachmeyer, Lt. Jamal Wilson, Lt. Nathan Britt and Lt. Arthur Rogers. I'm proud of you and I know you are going to do great things!

GO A-TEAM!



**Battalion Chief Shadix (Rusty)
(A-SHIFT)**

BATTALION CHIEFS

This year has been a test for everyone in the fire department, especially the personnel that are on the rescues day in and day out with out any relief in the near future. We are striving to get the help to our personnel and I ask that everyone try to stay positive and lean on each other for assistance. Sometimes after a long shift if possible go to breakfast with the crew and release the tension. Call each other and talk. We are family and this family needs a lot of support right now. It is easy to get on the negative train but that is not helping anyone, that just brings everyone around you down. We got in this business for the passion and the camaraderie and we have let that slip away. We are all tired and we know we are going to get moved around a lot and our Lts and Sgts that are paramedics are not getting to do the job they have worked so hard to get. They are always on the rescue and I know it gets old but we need to pull together and become that family that we had before. We are more than a team. All I am asking from everyone is when you start to get frustrated or aggravated, step back and take a deep breath and remember why we choose this profession, it is the best in the world especially when the times are good but right now is the test, pull together and work together lets all help each other out. Lets try to get back to when it was fun to come to work. Every morning come in and smile at someone but better yet tell a dad joke. Everyone stay smart and safe.



**Battalion Chief Roberts
(B-SHIFT)**

BATTALION CHIEFS

C-Shift

As another month draws to a close, C-shift's roster looks quite different. We have lost some personnel to retirement and to other shifts but we are fortunate to have gained some as well. Douglas County Fire recently held a promotional process for Captains and Lieutenants and I would like to publicly welcome Captain Doug Dickens, Captain Travis Major, Lieutenant Thomas Howes, Lieutenant Brett Perry and Lieutenant Mathew Allen to C-Shift and to say congratulations on your promotions. Everyone is working extremely hard completing the pre-fire plans and training while continuing to respond to a high volume of calls. Thank you to each and everyone of you. You are very much appreciated.

Be safe and be smart,
Battalion Chief C. Shelton



**Battalion Chief Shelton
(C-SHIFT)**

Additional Info/Events

NEW RECRUITS EVENT

WELCOME NEW RECRUITS!



Douglas County Fire/EMS Headquarters
12501 Veterans Memorial Highway
Douglasville, GA 30134



**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 19TH
@2PM**

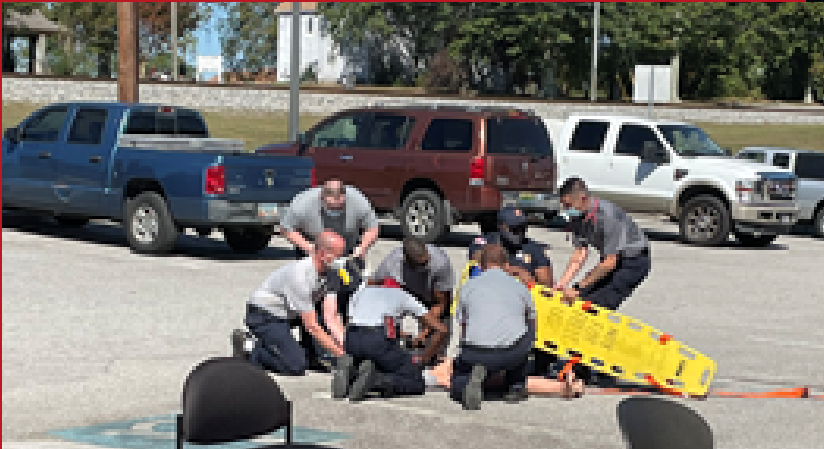
Please Join Us
In the midst of an EMS workforce shortage that has gained National attention, Douglas County Fire/EMS Department is pleased to announce the addition of 25 new recruits starting October 18th, 2021.

Local members of Douglas County answering the call.



Fire Chief Jolivette, and Deputy Fire Chief Phillips welcomed the new recruits, and engaged them in a T.E.A.M. exercise that involved an introduction of themselves.

Twenty-five, yes, 25 new recruits started careers with Douglas County Fire/EMS Department, Monday, October 18, 2021. These men and women have answered the call to give back to their communities by working in them. Pictured below are a few of the new recruits being tested for COVID-19 prior to the start of rewarding careers.



Douglas County Fire/EMS Department is looking forward to welcoming soon, an additional fifteen new recruits, and a Fire Lieutenant for the Douglas County Fire/EMS Department's L. Wayne Arrington Training Center.



Additional Info/ Events

Fire Chiefs' Citizen Award



Mrs. Brittany Lee was recognized for her heroic act on July 18th, 2021 in the care, and C-spine stabilization of a patient in a wreck on I-20. She arrived on the scene well before any Douglas County Fire Department unit, and assisted GSP with the calming and access to the patient. The Board of Commission Chairman, Dr. Romona Jackson Jones, and District 4 Commissioner, Ann Jones Guider were in attendance, and a reception of light refreshments followed the program.

Fire Chief Jolivette, and his Executive Staff presented Mrs. Brittany Lee, with the Douglas County Fire Chiefs' Citizen Award at Douglas County Fire/EMS Headquarters on October 19th, 2021.



Additional Info/ Events

Live Fire Training

Here are some pictures of our field personnel doing live fire training:

