



APR - JUN 2022 | 3RD QUARTER

THE QUARTERLY FOCUS

The Florida Association of Special Districts' Official Newsletter

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3RD QUARTER RECAP

Written by FASD Staff

Wow...what an Annual Conference we had in Orlando! We brought back many of the events our members can't get enough of while we also debuted a couple new features that were a success.

First and foremost, Ramba Consulting Group, LLC, sponsored the new Annual Conference Mobile App. This allowed attendees to have all the sessions and event listings on their phone instead of carrying around a large booklet. It also allowed us to update room and time changes as they happen due to unforeseen circumstances while at the Conference.

Secondly, and most importantly, we had a handful of generous Associate Members sponsor the Wednesday evening TopGolf event. This proved to be a smashing success and we will work to bring it back next year! Thank you to **Egis Insurance & Risk Advisors, Deep Blue Investment Advisors (formally Water Walker), Database Financial Systems, Ameritas, and Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust.** We could not do this without your support.





UPCOMING FASD EVENTS

2022 FALL EVENTS

AUG 4 - 5 - QUARTERLY MEETING,
PORT ST. LUCIE

OCT 17 - 20 - CDM PROGRAM,
FT. LAUDERDALE

OCT 20 - 21 - QUARTERLY MEETING,
FT. LAUDERDALE

Need CEUs?
Check our website for
available hours at upcoming
Quarterly Meetings.

2023 EVENTS

JANUARY - QUARTERLY MEETING,
DATE AND LOCATION TBA

MAR 6 - 9 - CDM PROGRAM,
TALLAHASSEE

MAR 8 - 9 - LEGISLATIVE FORUM,
TALLAHASSEE

JUN 12 - 15 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
ROSEN PLAZA HOTEL

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS

120 SOUTH MONROE STREET, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Jim Millican,
Lealman Special Fire Control
District

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Hart,** South Broward Drainage
District

Secretary: Nate Spera, St. Lucie
County Fire Control District

Treasurer: Tanya Quickel,
ACME Improvement
District/Village of Wellington

**Immediate Past President:
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Improvement District

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Control District

Tommy Strowd, Lake Worth
Drainage District

Todd Wodraska, Sebastian
River Improvement District

Jim King, Database Financial
Services



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Written by Jim Millican

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Orlando for our fantastic 2022 Annual Conference! It was an amazing conference filled with tremendous speakers, information, networking, and a wonderful time together. This Annual Conference included our second Certified District Manager Program of the year! Congratulations to Mary Hickey and the Education and Certification Committee!

This past year has shown us that more than ever FASD is committed to moving forward and growing. We are consistently

adding new member benefits including educational opportunities as well as Associate Member benefits. The next opportunity to earn CEUs and attend the Quarterly General Membership Meeting is August 4 - 5, 2022 in St. Lucie, Florida. I would like to thank Fire Chief Nate Spera from the St. Lucie Fire District for hosting this quarterly meeting. We are moving toward hosting our meetings at member districts. If you are interested in hosting one of the quarterly meetings, please reach out to our Executive Director David Ramba.

On Thursday, August 4, Fire Chief Spera has found a top notch group of people to present a very specific topic dealing with Cybersecurity. We are finalizing the details and will announce as soon as we're able. We will also present the annual Legislative Toolbox with special guests from the Florida Legislature. As always, we will have a Thursday evening reception at the Hilton Garden Inn at PGA Village. Friday morning we will conduct our Quarterly General Membership Meeting before we break for lunch, followed by an FASD Board meeting.

We are scheduling the first Legislative Committee meeting for early August as we begin preparations for the March 2023 Legislative Session. We know the daunting task ahead due to so many election changes coming. This way we will be ready.

The Education and Certification Committee is working hard to bring you more training opportunities at each of our Quarterly General Membership Meetings, and during our next Annual Conference. Stay tuned for those.

Thank you all again for your support. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming training sessions and Quarterly General Membership Meeting in Port St. Lucie. We are committed to supporting our membership and ensuring the growth and development of FASD.

**THIS PAST YEAR HAS SHOWN US THAT MORE THAN EVER FASD IS
COMMITTED TO MOVING FORWARD AND GROWING.**

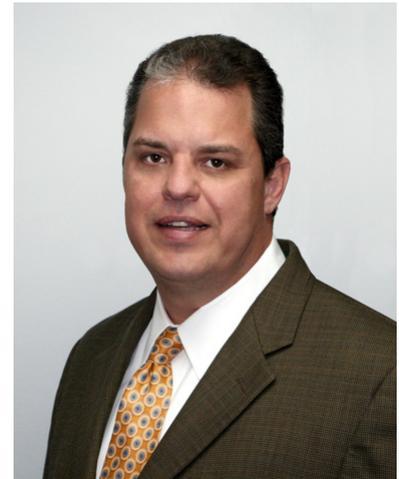


MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Written by David E. Ramba

We are more than half way through 2022, and while many of our colleagues are enjoying a well-deserved break from the rigors of day to day life, we at FASD have continued seeking ways to give our members a financial advantage.

Looking back at the last quarter, I am most excited about the expansion of our membership base.



All FASD members, whether your district has been a member for many years or joined just last month, can now take advantage of the benefits of membership, including our new **Official FASD Credit Card through US Bank**. These cards are the perfect way to support FASD while enjoying secure and convenient access to credit. And with the Official FASD Credit Card, members can earn 1% Cash Rewards on net spend.

Let FASD help transform you district's surplus assets and inventory from a burden to an opportunity. FASD has partnered with the online government surplus auction site, **GovDeals.com**, to provide special districts and other government agencies with a simple, transparent platform for buying and selling surplus items online.

And finally, FASD and **National Purchasing Partners Government (NPPGov)** have partnered together to bring you discount pricing on products and services from some of the nation's leading companies. As a member of FASD, you have free access to extensive savings for both districts and individuals.

Information on how to access these fantastic benefits are located in this newsletter and are featured on the FASD website under "Member Benefits."

We truly want our members—whether you are brand new or have been with us for years—to feel that FASD has your best interests at heart. We are continuing to find ways to bring value added items to your membership. If you have any suggestions on how we can make your membership even better, please call our office or email me at david@fasd.com.

We hope to see you at the next Quarterly General Membership Meeting in August!

**LOOKING BACK AT THE LAST QUARTER, I AM MOST EXCITED ABOUT
THE EXPANSION OF OUR MEMBERSHIP BASE.**



QUARTERLY MEETINGS



APRIL

The April Quarterly Membership Meeting was held at Hyatt House in downtown Tampa on April 21 - 22. We debuted the Mental Health First Aid Course and were able to fill 2 classes, thanks to Gehring Group and FHE Health who sponsored these classes! In addition to this course, we also had a day and a half of available CEUs running congruent with the MHFA Course.

AUGUST

The August meeting was originally scheduled to be a Board Meeting, but we have upgraded it to a regular Quarterly Membership Meeting. The dates are August 4 - 5 and will be held at Secretary Nate Spera's Fire District HQ in Port St. Lucie.

To register for this meeting, [click here.](#)



OCTOBER

October's Quarterly Membership Meeting is October 20 - 21 and is being held at The Riverside Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale! We will also offer the last CDM Program of 2022, from October 17 - 20, in addition to CEUs. Please mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more information.

To apply for the CDM Program, [click here.](#)



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August Membership Meeting

Join us in Port St. Lucie!



August 4 - 5, 2022
St. Lucie County Fire District HQ

5160 NW Milner Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

Thursday, August 4

Legislative Toolbox

*Certified Managers and
Officials will receive 2 CEUs*

Cybersecurity

*Certified Managers and
Officials will receive 2 CEUs*

Evening Reception

*Hilton Garden Inn
at PGA Village*



Friday, August 5

Membership Meeting

*Certified Managers and
Officials will receive 2 CEUs*

Lunch then Board Meeting

www.fasd.com/quarterly-meetings
for more information

To Register

« [Click Here](#) »

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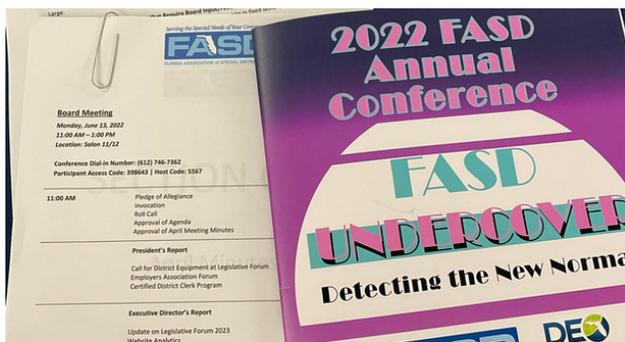
ROSEN PLAZA, ORLANDO FL

JUNE 13TH - 16TH, 2022

COACHING • MENTORING • TRAINING • TRUST

OUR WEEK IN PICTURES..

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



OUR WEEK IN PICTURES..

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

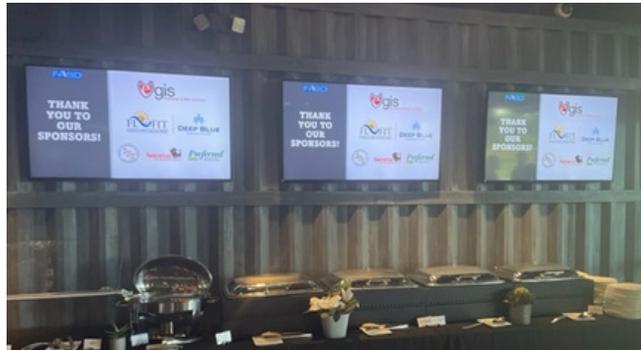
Annual FASD Education Foundation Golf Tournament



OUR WEEK IN PICTURES..

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

TopGolf Dinner and Games



Thank you to our generous sponsors:



OUR WEEK IN PICTURES..

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Awards and Tribute Luncheon



Terry Lewis Legislative Award
Terry Lewis



Board Member of the Year
Tanya Quickel
Justin McBride



District Manager of the Year
Greg DeWitt



District of the Year
Coral Springs
Improvement District



Safety Award
East Flagler
Mosquito Control District



Gale English Lifetime Achievement
Jim Millican

OUR WEEK IN PICTURES..

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Awards and Tribute Luncheon



Associate Member of the Year
Egis Insurance & Risk Advisors



FASD Member of the Year
Kim Eikov



2022 CDO Graduates



2021 CDM Graduates



2022 CDM Graduates



FEF Scholarships



ANNUAL CONFERENCE



UNLEASHING YOUR HERO

Written by Kevin Brown, FASD Keynote Speaker

During the pandemic we've heard the words **hero** and **essential** on a daily basis. We've watched as everyday people in communities, families and organizations all over the planet rise to the challenges we've all faced during the crisis. And while we may not all be in the same boat, we have all most certainly been in the same storm.

One of the things that I have noticed during the past fifteen months is that crisis never makes heroes, it simply reveals them.

We have watched people and organizations use this season to create new opportunities to serve their customers. They are not bogged down trying to manage change, they are busy leveraging change and solving problems for the people they serve. They understand that the goals haven't changed, simply the path has changed. As leaders, they have gone to work managing human realities and corporate objectives. Focused on taking care of people and adjusting to the current circumstances while preparing to accelerate growth in the future ahead.

In the past decade, I have been around the world sharing an idea called The HERO Effect® with high achievers and world class organizations. An idea that all started with one simple question. A question that changed my life forever. Here's the question:

What does a hero look like?

From our military men and women to world changers and first responders, we all recognize and believe in heroes. In fact, if you ask most people what a hero looks like, they will define heroes as "ordinary people doing extraordinary things." While that is a noble ideal, we respectfully disagree. After chasing down heroes all over the world, from every walk of life, we believe that the definition of a hero is just the opposite.

A hero is an extraordinary person who chooses not to be ordinary.

KEVIN BROWN SPOKE TO OUR ATTENDEES ON THURSDAY MORNING OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND THE MOOD WAS INSPIRING. WE HAD A BOOK SIGNING AFTERWARDS WHERE FOLKS WERE ABLE TO CHAT WITH HIM. HE RECEIVED MUCH PRAISE FOR HIS SPEECH.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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This changed everything.

What I have learned is that heroes do certain things better than everyone else. They show up with a different mindset and focus. Specifically, I noticed four fantastic qualities that are evident every time a hero shows up:

1. Heroes help people—with no strings attached.

Everyone comprehends that heroes help people. We understand on some level that helping others is a key ingredient to success in life. We have heard from many sources that serving others is the pathway to making a difference and creating wealth. Yet, even though we are taught this idea of servanthood, it has been my experience that most people actually don't get it.

I have observed that most people try to be helpful to the extent that it's worth their anticipated return on investment. They evaluate if it is worth their time and attention to give something more for a greater something in return. In other words, there is a motive. There's quid pro quo. It is conditional upon another person's action. Many people bargain, negotiate, and work an angle to get what they want. Heroes don't do that.

Heroes help people ... with no strings attached. No pretense. No conditions. No agreement. No contingencies. It's the dot, dot, dot that separates the hero from everyone else.

Heroes approach their work and their life very differently. They bring a passion and a focus on the outcome for their customer, student, co-worker, and friend that is different from almost everyone else. They are not caught up in transacting business. They are deeply caught up, however, in transforming moments and leaving the people they serve wanting more.



2. Heroes create an exceptional experience for the people they serve.

Heroes make life better. They simplify things and are easy to do business with. Heroes know that the easier it is to do business with them, the harder it is for the competition to take their customers. Heroes dominate the emotional space between their customer's head and their heart. They know that if they make an emotional connection, people will fight to find the logic to support their decision to do business with you.

Exceptional service is worth going out of my way to invest my time and money with someone who is amazing at their job. That is what I want for my business, and it's what I want for my personal life with my friends and family: to be the only choice; to be the obvious choice.

Isn't that what you want?



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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The number one thing that keeps you from being your best is your decision to be ordinary.
Deciding to show up and be like everyone else.
Deciding to do the minimum required to get by.

If you want to be your very best, then decide on your non-negotiables. A non-negotiable mindset deals in absolutes—the things that won't be compromised—there is no bending or flexing. The things that you refuse to sacrifice at any price.

What do you stand for? Decide what will not be compromised in your life. Decide how others will define their experience with you. Decide your own operational philosophy for life that will reach beyond your professional life and into everything you do.

3. Heroes take responsibility for their attitude, their actions, and their results.

There's a motivational quote that says, "If it is to be, it is up to me!" How true it is.

Unfortunately, many people have modified that quote to say, "If it is to be, don't look at me!" Average people are content to move their own integrity outside of their responsibility. They look to the people around them and point the finger. They blame leadership. They spend more time looking for the reasons they can't get it done and zero time figuring out how to make it happen.

Heroes act differently. Heroes are the epitome of what it means to take responsibility for their results. They own the moment and know that every moment matters. They spend their time looking for ways to make it happen and produce the best possible outcome for the people they serve.

Heroes take responsibility and lead by example.

4. Heroes see life through the lens of optimism.

Optimism is different than positive thinking. Positive thinkers are great pretenders. If they encounter a challenge, roadblock, or obstacle, they pretend that it doesn't exist. They believe if they ignore it, it might just disappear.

The optimist, on the other hand, encounters the same challenge, roadblock, or obstacle, and they face it head on. They don't pretend it doesn't exist. They acknowledge it as a problem that requires focus and attention to conquer.

Optimism gives heroes a couple of secret weapons. First, it gives them supernatural vision. It allows them to see what others cannot see. They see their jobs, their families, their communities, and their lives in a new light. They see things not as they are but as they can be—people not as they are but as they can be. They see situations and circumstances not as they are but as they should be.

Second, optimism is the great equalizer. It helps us process information differently—to see what others see but apply it in a different way. Heroes use this power as leverage to stay one step ahead of everyone else and act in a manner that seems to give them a slight edge.

In order to serve others, heroes rise above the challenges and adversities of everyday life. They have conditioned themselves to be bigger than their problems. They lift themselves and others up and provide a new perspective.

Heroes look for solutions instead of reasons that it can't be done. They learn how to look from above the fray where they can think, create, and decide on the things that are most important to move their highest priorities forward.

Publisher's Note: *We only have five signed copies left of **The Hero Effect**. Let FASD staff know if you'd like one before they are gone.*



FOUNDATION INVESTORS

Investments in the FASD Education Foundation support professional development scholarships, quality educational opportunities, and Foundation initiatives to improve the special district community.



President's Club

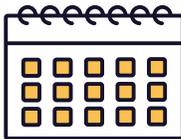


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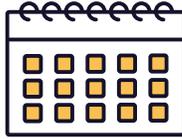
Rita Greenberg



How can you support the FASD Education Foundation?



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Make a monthly pledge of an amount you choose

Learn more: www.fasd.com/about-the-foundation





FASD MEMBER BENEFITS



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- Public Safety Agencies
- Sheriffs
- State Universities and Colleges
- Trade Association Co-ops

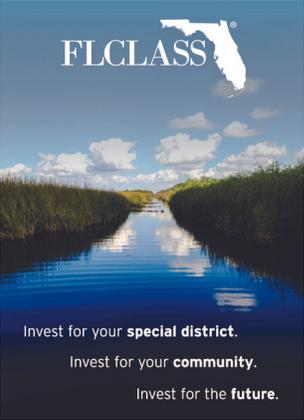


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MGT

MGT has assisted public agencies across the country with financial decision-making for nearly half a century. We welcome the opportunity to assist with HB1103 Performance Audits.



AROUND THE DISTRICTS

The Village of Wellington Earns Highest Ranking for Workplace Mental Health

BY KIM EIKOV, VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON

The Village of Wellington is proud to announce they have been awarded the 2022 Platinum Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health by Mental Health America.

The Bell Seal recognizes employer advances in workplace mental health by awarding Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum recognition levels.

The Village of Wellington underwent rigorous evaluation of its policies and practices in four areas: workplace culture, benefits, compliance, and wellness programs. Their status as a Bell Seal-certified organization demonstrates The Village of Wellington's ongoing commitment to employee mental health and well-being.

Mental Health America (MHA), founded in 1909, is the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and to promote the overall mental health of all. MHA's efforts are guided by its Before Stage 4 (B4Stage4) philosophy--that mental health conditions should be treated long before they reach the

most critical points in the disease process. To help employees identify mentally healthy workplaces, MHA created the Bell Seal program to recognize and guide employers who are committed to creating them.

"Receiving the Bell Seal for The Village of Wellington shows that our wellness program and focus on mental health has had a positive impact on all employees. Recognizing that wellness and mental health may look different for each staff member," said Kim Eikov, CDM, CCMF, CWPC, Manager II, HR, at The Village of Wellington.



The Village of Wellington is committed to providing the best for their employees and looks forward to their continued work to ensure they uphold the standards set forth by the Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health. You can learn more about MHA and the Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health at: <https://www.mhanational.org/bestemployers>

STATE ADVOCACY



DESANTIS SIGNS \$109.9B BUDGET, VETOES \$3.1B

The \$109B spending plan is about \$8B more than the current year, about an 8% increase.

Gov. Ron DeSantis vetoed \$3.1 billion in spending last month as he signed the 2023 fiscal year budget, which still leaves \$109.9 billion in place, with increases in nearly every facet of the budget.

Federal COVID-19 recovery stimulus funds, a swiftly rebounding economy and inflation that has boosted the cost of goods — and therefore sales taxes — helped swell the state’s coffers. That led lawmakers, prodded by DeSantis, to give raises to teachers, prison guards and law enforcement officers.

Senate President Wilton Simpson led a push to raise the minimum wage for state employees from \$13 to \$15 per hour, four years ahead of the \$15 minimum wage mandated for all Florida workers by 2026 via a constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2018. Moreover, all state workers, most of whom have had their salaries held largely flat by the Legislature over the last decade, will receive a 5.4% pay hike.

The budget has \$24.3 billion for K-12 schools, a \$1.7 billion increase on the current year. That works out to \$8,143 per student, about \$385 more than the current year. It includes \$800 million to boost teacher salaries, an increase of \$250 million over the current year.

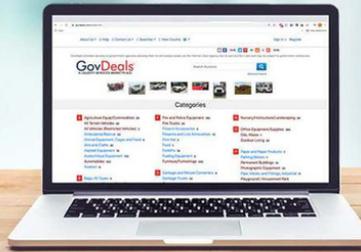
Before the vetoes, the Florida Legislature had compiled a \$112.5 billion state budget for 2022-23. But DeSantis shaved some of that off considerably — with more than 400 local projects or other budget items cut, according to the veto document. The veto list includes projects that are both local in nature but also can have statewide impacts, such as a \$645 million new prison and \$75 million for a University of South Florida – Environmental & Oceanographic Sciences Research & Teaching Facility. A \$50 million project for road widening in Hernando County got tanked, as well as a \$35 million sports training and youth tournament facility in Pasco County. Another \$350 million for water quality improvements and Everglades Restoration was slashed.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Elements of a Successful Fleet Preventative Maintenance Program

By Ryan Rupnarain, Egis Insurance & Risk Advisors

If your district relies on vehicles for its operations, it can be hard to ignore the numerous benefits of regular inspections and preventive maintenance as part of an overall fleet safety program. Such benefits include a reduction in accidents and downtime, increased vehicle lifespan, as well as improved employee morale and attitude towards safety to name a few.

If vehicles are only in the shop when they need something, your program may be more failure based and is reactionary as a result. A preventive program, on the other hand, is systematic and includes scheduled inspection, maintenance, and repairs for any items that are at or even approaching a threshold established by the manufacturer and/or district, usually based on time or mileage.

In our previous article, we introduced the concept of “negligent entrustment” explaining that a district could be held liable if they knew or should have known that driver was not fit to operate a vehicle. A similar exposure exists if a district failed to maintain a vehicle, resulting in an increase of unreasonable risks or harm to the driver or others.



What Should Your Preventative Maintenance Program Include?

Generally, the key components of an effective program include the following:

- A checklist of preventive maintenance tasks to be performed and their frequency.
- Routine driver and mechanic inspections
- Detailed record keeping





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

(...continued from previous page)

Preventative Maintenance Service Checklist

When it comes to creating a checklist, manufacturer-provided materials are invaluable resources. These often contain suggested preventive maintenance strategies as well as recommendations related to service intervals and safe vehicle operation. These guidelines should be accounted for in your preventive maintenance program and includes things like cooling and lubrication systems, drive belts, lighting, tires, electrical components, windshield wipers, and the braking system. The mileage intervals at which you perform these maintenance tasks can vary depending upon operating conditions and what would be considered “normal” or “severe” duty. For most fleets, the following typically falls under “severe” duty:

- Towing trailers and equipment
- Extensive idling and/or stop and go traffic
- Operating off road or other rough conditions

Routine Inspections

In most cases, no one knows the vehicles in your fleet better than your drivers. They are also often the first line of defense against unexpected breakdowns or repairs and are an integral part of a successful preventive maintenance program.

While driver inspections should not be considered a substitute for inspections by trained technicians, they do reduce the likelihood of unnoticed conditions that can inhibit safe vehicle operations. That said, drivers should know what to look for during their pre-trip inspections and vehicle usage. As vehicles become increasingly complex and rely more on computerized controls, proper driver training is essential. While the specific components of the inspection can vary, they generally include, but are not limited to, reviews of the following:

- Safety items (e.g., tires and tire pressure, wipers, horn, brakes, steering, mirrors, etc.).
- Drivability items (e.g., fluid levels and leaks, misfire, rough idle, excessive vibration, or noise, etc.).
- Vehicle body (e.g., glass, body damage, cleanliness, etc.)
- Miscellaneous repair items (HVAC, radio, etc.).

Many of these items can be included in daily pre-trip inspections. Drivers should report any deficiencies to the maintenance department or management for scheduled repairs or necessary adjustments.

While your drivers can provide a general overview of what needs to be done on specific vehicles, pre-trip inspections are not exhaustive enough to account for larger repairs. That’s where mechanic inspections can come in handy.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

(...continued from previous page)

Performed at regular intervals, these inspections are a deeper dive into the health of your vehicles and typically examine things that can be overlooked during pre-trip inspections. Whether done in house or by a service center, consider sharing your preventive maintenance checklist to ensure service aligns with your fleet program standards.

Record Keeping

Maintaining a current and accurate recordkeeping system is a key to a successful preventive maintenance program. In fact, strong records can allow your district to leverage data to optimize your preventive maintenance program. For example, maintenance records that indicate a vehicle is consuming more oil than usual can be used to address an issue before it becomes a costly repair.

Thorough maintenance records can also be used to demonstrate that the district had a robust fleet maintenance program in place should an incident occur where improper maintenance was alleged.

The Ongoing Importance of Preventive Maintenance

As important as preventive maintenance programs are to the overall success of a fleet program, they must be reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis to remain effective. Those in charge of the program should also seek input from stakeholders, including drivers, to discover what may and may not be working well.

Hopefully this article has highlighted how effective preventive maintenance programs involve more than just routine or as-needed services. It is a system tailored to your district's needs and accounts for daily inspections, allows you to give prompt attention to minor repairs, and maximizes the reliability and safety of all of your vehicles.

For more resources on fleet safety and risk management, reach out to riskservices@egisadvisors.com





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Does Your Staff Really Know Their Benefits?

BY DATABASE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

That's the question. Does your staff really understand all the benefits they have?

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The other issue is the lack of service in quite few areas from the deferred compensation providers. A lot of participants have either never or for years looked at their risk tolerance compared to the funds selected in their plan. Those who do, usually pay a management fee to their provider.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

WATER WALKER INVESTMENTS REBRANDS TO DEEP BLUE INVESTMENT ADVISORS

BY DEEP BLUE INVESTMENT ADVISORS

For over six years Water Walker Investments has been a proud sponsor of the FASD. Water Walker Investments has rebranded and is now Deep Blue Investment Advisors. The firm's ownership remains the same. The rebranding reflects our ongoing desire to provide personalized and professional guidance to which our clients are accustomed.



The new name symbolizes the firm's commitment to clients and their communities. "Deep" represents the depth of our experience, and "Blue" represents the strength of trust our clients have bestowed upon us. The new logo is representative of the resourcefulness of the Deep Blue team and its thoughtful approach to investment management.

Rest assured that as a member of the FASD, you can continue to rely on us for all your investment needs. This rebranding does not affect the firm's daily operations and in no way affects our relationship with the FASD. We will continue, as Deep Blue Investment Advisors, to support the FASD through its various programs and sponsorships and will continue to serve as the advisor to the Florida Fixed Income Trust ("FL-FIT).



We are excited about continuing our relationship with the FASD and its members as Deep Blue Investment Advisors.



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Deep Blue Investment Advisors (formally Water Walker Investments) is a Tampa-based SEC Registered Investment Advisor founded in 2000 specializing in treasury management consulting services, fixed income investment advisory, and consulting services to governmental clients statewide. The firm is also the investment manager to the US Fixed Income Trust (US-FIT) which oversees local government pools in Florida.



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AROUND THE DISTRICTS

East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District Announces New Fire Marshal

Submitted by East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District

Fire Chief Jason Gennaro has announced the assignment of Division Chief Jason Letzring to the role of Fire Marshal of the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District.

Prior to becoming the Fire Marshal, Chief Letzring was a district Lieutenant and actively engaged in the fire prevention division assisting Chief Gennaro. Upon the retirement of former Fire Chief Tom Jamison in June 2021, Letzring was promoted to the position of Division Chief on the C shift and identified as the future Fire Marshal during the succession process.

"We are extremely proud of our professional men and women that serve our community, and Chief Letzring will bring the fire prevention leadership needed to continue the professionalism of the department," said Chief Gennaro.

He joined the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District as a firefighter in 2005. During his 17-year career with the department he's also held the titles of Driver-Engineer and Lieutenant.

Chief Letzring is a Florida State Certified Firefighter and Florida Health Department-certified EMT having completed training through Saint Petersburg College in 2004.

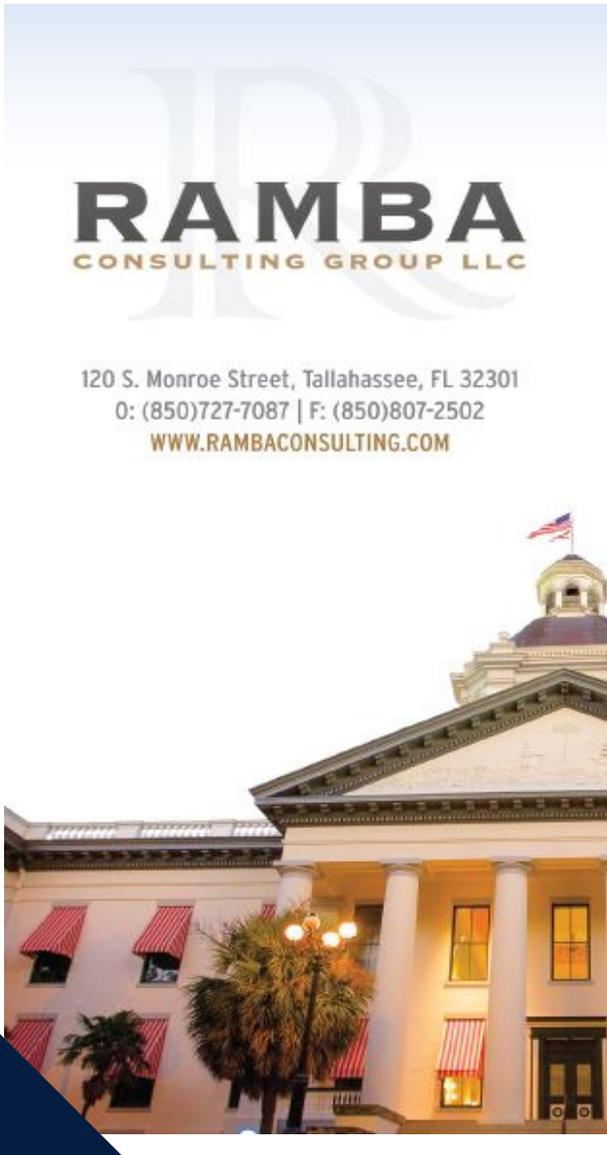
He also studied fire science at Saint Petersburg College and earned an associate degree in 2003. His long list of professional certifications includes fire officer levels 1- 3, fire instructor, fire inspector, and many more. He is a member of the Florida West Coast Fire Marshal's Association and the Pinellas County Fire Marshal's Association.

Chief Letzring will continue to oversee the C shift team of 12 firefighters, directing all shift activities and operations to accomplish the district mission. In addition, Chief Letzring will assume the responsibilities of the Fire Marshal. This includes the management and supervision of district fire inspections, enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, construction plan review, and coordinating additional fire prevention matters.





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Hurricane Preparedness

Develop an Evacuation Plan



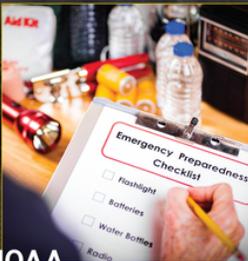
- Find out if you live in an evacuation zone
- Plan several routes
- Have a go bag for supplies
- Plan for your pets
- Follow evacuation orders if given

NOAA weather.gov

Are you in a hurricane evacuation zone, or in a home that would be otherwise unsafe in a hurricane? If so, think now, about where you'd go and how you'd get there if you're told to evacuate.

Hurricane Preparedness

Assemble Disaster Supplies



- Food & water
- Medicine & prescriptions
- Keep gas tank full
- Cash on hand
- Radio, batteries, phone chargers

NOAA weather.gov

Just having enough supplies to make it through a hurricane isn't enough. You need plenty to make it through what could be a long recovery period too. Prepare for AT LEAST three days.

Hurricane Preparedness

Get an Insurance Checkup



- Check with your agent
- Know your policy
- Consider flood insurance
- Keep documents with you

NOAA weather.gov

Are you insured for a hurricane? Check in now before hurricane gets active. Keep in mind that standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, and flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period!

Hurricane Preparedness

Strengthen Your Home



- Cover windows
- Trim trees
- Secure loose outdoor items
- Secure all doors
- Move vehicle to a safe location

NOAA weather.gov

Can your home withstand a hurricane? Make sure it is up to local hurricane building code specifications. Remember, the garage door is the most vulnerable part of the home, so it must be able to withstand high winds.

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- Help your neighbors prepare
- Help your neighbors evacuate
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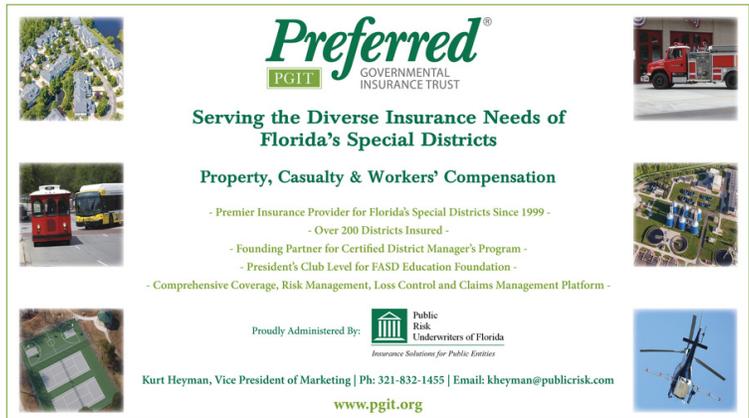
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**SOUTH FLORIDA
EMERGENCY VEHICLES**



SUTPHEN



**4655 Cummins Ct.
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Florida's Premier District Management Firm

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2501A Burns Road
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ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Owner David Stonitsch founded South Florida Emergency Vehicles in 2001 with a simple mission: Provide first responders of Florida with the finest apparatus and service. In the last ten years, SFEV has grown to become one of the top Sutphen dealers in the country. SFEV is also the Florida dealer for KME Fire Apparatus, SVI, PL Custom Ambulances, and SFEV Brushtrucks.

ABOUT SPECIAL DISTRICT SERVICES, INC.

Special District Services, Inc., creates and manages special taxing districts throughout the State of Florida. SDS was organized to meet the growing demand for urban services and provide a public financing vehicle to serve community infrastructure and service needs in a timely and cost-effective manner.



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