

FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

March-April 2018

District Chief

Hello,

I have always been a viewer of the human experience. When I was in college I liked to go to the mall and watch people. When I was dating my wife she originally thought that I was a little on the crazy side. That is until I convinced her to join me. Its interesting what you can learn about people simply by watching them.

As I travel around going to meetings etc. it is amazing the changes that have taken place in this world that we are traveling in. However, one of the things that I have picked up is to not be judgmental of people that I do not know. We have to be careful of how we judge others when we don't know the path that they are on and where they are at on that path.

However, recently while traveling I have to question that thought process a little. And the sad thing is that it isn't just the young folks that I like to pick on regularly. Where the heck has common decency, morality, respect, integrity, etc., etc., etc. gone? And the sad thing is it's all over the place. Where are the people who hold a door open for someone else? .

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Mission Statement

Dedicated to providing the highest quality fire, emergency and other related services to the patrons of this District.

**For Information on Classes Contact Headquarters
857-3030**



Congratulations Eric Locker –Fire Fighter of the Year!

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It doesn't have to be gender specific, just maybe some common courtesy for your fellow man. I was standing in line waiting to get to my destination when up comes these other folks who walked up in front of the 20+ folks waiting their turn and stood behind a guy who was standing next to someone, talking to them, and stood behind him like there were two lines. What the heck! Apparently, they are more important than everyone who had been patiently waiting their turn. How about waiting your turn to speak to someone who is talking to another and someone walks up and butts into the other conversation and ignores normal respect for others?

But then I have to step back, apply a little patience and try to remind myself that if I follow my instincts and just slap the jerk in back of the head and ask them "What the heck?" I would probably just get thrown in jail or get sued. But then I get in a room full of leaders in the fire service who hold doors open for others, respectfully listen to conversations and wait their turn, and just generally show respect for others. People who truly show respect and decency for one another.

So what is the difference? Well I would like to think that it is people who understand that as members of the fire service they are held to a higher standard and know that they are constantly in view of the public. They have earned a place in society that has been put in the public's trust. We have basically been given the key to every home, business, and shop in our service area. People trust us because we are firefighters. A trust that has been earned by our predecessors and our "old guys".

Think about the responsibility that has been given to us. The tax payers of our district have given us a million dollar plus fire hall, ¼ million dollar fire trucks, and thousands of dollars' worth of equipment. They expect us to take care of it and to use it appropriately. These things were given to us to perform our duties and to protect their lives and property and those who visit us.

This sacred trust is one that requires us to have honor, respect, integrity, and to know our duty as we serve others. I am impressed with all of you, our firefighters. Brothers and sisters who may have different reasons for joining the fire service but are doing it none the less and doing it with honor, respect, integrity and understand what their duty is. This isn't an easy task to undertake and yet we have 170 people who have taken the challenge and are doing it honorably.

So, remember to open doors, respect others, serve others, and remember that we do not know what is happening in their lives and be careful how we judge them. We have been placed in the public trust, a trust that has been earned and needs to be maintained. So, be careful of your actions and the use of the things that you have been given by our constituents.

I want to thank all of you for providing a service to our communities that is invaluable and doing it with honor and integrity. Remember, we are riding on the acts of those who have come before us, and all that you do is leaving a legacy for those who will come after us.

Thanks for all that you do.

Craig

District Trainer

Hey folks,

As I was watching the news this morning, the Broward County Sheriff was throwing his deputy under the bus. I got to thinking, what kind of leader would do that. I started listening a little more intently on what was being said and started to equate this to the fire department.

Now, I have serious heartburn with the events that took place. My personal opinion is that the deputy should have made entry and put an end to the situation or at least died trying. However, I was not there, and it is not my place or right to armchair quarterback.

What really bothers me, is that the one person who has ownership over everything his department does or doesn't do, refused to take any responsibility. He made a comment to national media that, and I quote "I Gave him the badge, I Gave him the gun and I Gave him the training." Then went on to say that the deputy's failure to act was all on the deputy. Everything I have learned or was taught about leadership says, if you are in charge, you are responsible! Good or bad, doesn't matter.

As firefighters, we are all leaders. Yes, the number of bugles that you have, the color of your badge and the color of your helmet indicate a higher level of leadership in the fire service. But, in the eyes of the public none of that matters. A firefighter is a firefighter and will be held to a higher standard.

As a leader you are expected to make tough decisions with limited information. Unfortunately, you will on occasion make the wrong decision. It is called being human. Being willing to own up to the mistake or the bad decision is called integrity. Your integrity, when you make a bad decision says more about you than anything else you do.

For all of you, the responsibility of fire department leadership stops at the scene or battalion level. Once the call is done and everyone has made it home you are usually in the clear. For the Commissioners, the Chief and myself that is not the case. Like the Sheriff of Broward County Florida, we have liable responsibility for any decision made or action taken within our agency.

That deputy, rightly or wrongly, will forever be known as the "Coward of Broward." Why he made the decisions he did may never truly be known. But what is clear is that the leadership of that agency failed. They failed those kids, they failed that community and they failed each other. Never give anyone a reason to label you the "Failure of Fremont."

As I think about the quote that was made to the media, I try and think about what the District has given to its members. The only thing I can come up with, is opportunity.

In the last 25 years the District has worked very hard to provide its members with:

Top of the line equipment. Because the firefighters DESERVE IT.

Top of the line PPE, both Wildland and Structure. Because the firefighters and their families DESERVE IT.

Relevant training opportunities. Because the firefighters, their families and the community DESERVE IT.

The Badge and Title of Firefighter. THAT WAS EARNED!

Dan

Banquet Pictures



The District

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