



FIRE & RESCUE

# CITY OF CLEARWATER

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## **CLEARWATER FIREFIGHTERS MENTOR BURN SURVIVORS AT CAMP**

**Clearwater, Fla.** – It has been a long-standing tradition for Clearwater Fire & Rescue to participate in the Children's Burn Foundation of Florida annual Burn Camp. Camp offers children the opportunity to build friendships with other burn survivors and show them they are not alone.

This year is Burn Camp's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was started after Clearwater Fire & Rescue Firefighters pulled Ruth Pierson from a fire and saved her life. She started the camp as a way for kids to meet and bond with other burn survivors.

This year three Clearwater Firefighters will serve as "buddies" at Burn Camp 2011: Firefighter Wendy Arnold, Fire Medic Jason Haynor and Fire Medic Michael Hutto. Buddies are paired with each child burn survivor to mentor, provide friendship and help. Camp runs from November 10-13 in Umatilla, Florida.

There are five children from Clearwater attending Burn Camp 2011:

- Two sisters, 13 and 15, sustained burns in a house fire 12 years ago. One had 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns on her face and hands the other on hands.
- Two cousins, 14 and 11, sustained burns in a house fire 3 years ago. One had 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns over much of her body and the other sustained smoke inhalation and now suffers from asthma.
- One 13-year-old sustained 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to his leg and hip area from candle 5 years ago.

**MEDIA NOTE:** Firefighters will be available for interviews on **November 10 from 7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. prior to departure from Largo City Hall, 201 Highland Avenue in Largo.** A camp participant, Jasmine Bradley, and Regional Coordinator, Irene Gaccek, will also be available for interviews.

Media Contact for the Children's Burn Foundation of Florida:

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For more information, visit [www.childrensburnfoundationoffl.com](http://www.childrensburnfoundationoffl.com).



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