



FIRE & RESCUE

# CITY OF CLEARWATER

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### **CLEARWATER FIRE ANNUAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY: FIREFIGHTER AND PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR HONORED; EMPLOYEES AND CITIZENS RECOGNIZED**

**Clearwater, Fla.** – Clearwater Fire & Rescue will hold its annual Employee Recognition Ceremony on **December 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.** at the CFR Training Facility on 1716 N. Belcher Road (next to Fire Station #48). The Firefighter and Paramedic of the Year will be recognized in addition to other personnel and citizen commendations. 2011 promotions will also be recognized during the ceremony.

- Lt. Paul Capo was selected as **Firefighter of the Year** for his dedication to training and mentoring new and seasoned fire personnel. He was also on the development team for Scott Airpack for the newest Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) pack. He travels around the nation to teach and bring back new ideas and tactics in all aspects of the fire service. Lt. Capo joined the department on October 16, 2000.
- Fire Medic Pete Gushee was selected as **Paramedic of the Year** for his skills performed this year on several cardiac arrests that he led or assisted critical emergency care, including three pediatric patients. FM Gushee joined the department on February 9, 2004.

Several other fire personnel will be recognized for distinguished and exceptional service and several citizens will receive commendations for their actions in assisting firefighters including:

- Fire personnel who responded to the Inverness Condominium Fire in July. Under extreme fire and smoke conditions, crews located and guided six victims to windows and balconies where they were rescued by ladders.
- Fire personnel who responded a building collapse at the Weedon Island power plant in June. They spent five days working tirelessly, in extremely dangerous conditions to recover a missing worker. They did





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this while stabilizing and tunneling more than 20 feet into the building via a passageway that was approximately 20 inches high and 24 inches wide with a five hundred thousand ton building above them.

- A Clearwater Police Officer who went into a burning building to alert and evacuate five residents during an apartment fire. His actions resulted in saving their lives.
- Three citizens who assisted a co-worker at Bright House Networks who suffered cardiac arrest. They initiated CPR and provided care until fire personnel arrived.

The ceremony is open to the public. The media is also invited to attend.

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