



# The Broward Centurion

Volume 9, Issue 3 | March 2007

## PBA Endorsements For City Commissions

*Vote on March 13*

The PBA is endorsing the following candidates in the March 13 municipal elections. Please get out, vote and give these people your support.

*Cooper City*  
Cooper City Commission, Dist. 1  
John C. Valenti

*Dania Beach*  
Dania Beach City Commission  
Bob Anton

*Hallandale Beach*  
City Commission  
Keith S. London  
Julie Hamlin

*Miramar*  
Miramar City Commissioner, Seat 4  
Yvonne Garth

*Pompano Beach*  
Mayor and Commission  
Dist. 2 - Susan Foster  
Dist. 3 - Rex Hardin

*Sunrise*  
Sunrise City Commission  
Roger Wishner

## What's The PBA Fighting For This Year?

*Florida legislative session begins March 6*

There are several important items on our legislative agenda for this year. As always, the PBA will be in Tallahassee throughout the session, making our presence known and supporting legislation that will benefit our members.

This year's agenda includes:

- Equitable pay increases for state correctional, correctional probation and law enforcement officers represented by the Florida PBA, including but not limited to, pay compression and retention issues.
- The strengthening of penalties for violation of the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (SB 690).
- The restructuring of the state law enforcement officers bargaining unit. (HB 73; SB 128).

• The ability to purchase Special Risk credit for certain academy time (HB 81; SB 130).

• Changing the Special Risk upgraded credit from two percent to three percent (HB 91; SB 626).

• Restricting an employer from reemploying a retiree to his or her previous position.

• Increasing the subsidy paid to FRS retirees (HB 87; SB 8).

• Changing the FRS Average Final Compensation (AFC) from the best five years to the best three years.

*Source: Florida PBA*



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# The Broward Centurion

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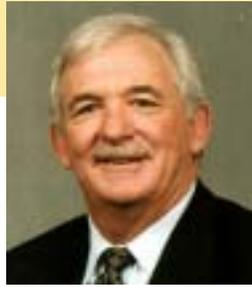
**Megan Gordon, Editor**

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*The Broward Centurion* is published by the Broward County Police Benevolent Association for the sole benefit of its members. *The Broward Centurion* is dedicated to the advancement of the law enforcement profession through better and stronger community relations. The opinions expressed in the publication of *The Broward Centurion* are not necessarily those of the Broward County PBA, its Executive Board or the Board of Directors.

Members or readers submitting letters to the editor or articles for publication are requested to adhere to the following:

- Submissions should be sent to:  
  
*Broward County PBA  
Attn: Centurion  
2650 West State Road 84  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
33312*
- Letters or articles must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address.
- All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by a statement giving permission to publish.
- All submissions must be legible.
- The Broward County PBA reserves the right of the Executive Board or Editor to amend or to add an editor's comment to any article or letter submitted.
- Advertisement in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Broward County PBA unless otherwise specified.



# President's Letter

The last week of February was one of the most difficult weeks I have spent as president of the Broward PBA and a retiree from the Hollywood police department. Most of you have read about the four Hollywood police officers who got arrested by the FBI in a sting operation; for our members in Hollywood it was a crushing blow. No matter who you talked to the most used phrase was, "I can't believe it." We worked side by side with these officers and could not see why they would do such a thing. It is hard to make sense of this. It is hard not to feel shamed by the actions of a few. This is not the Hollywood police department where I spent a 30-year career. This is not the department that I have felt proud to serve. I only hope that the public does not think any less of the Hollywood PD because of these individuals that tarnished our badge.

The PBA is looking after those officers who might have been offered a "deal" from these individuals and turned them down but are now being investigated (internally) for not bringing the information to a higher authority. This is the sad part of the tale. Ask yourself this: If you got approached by a fellow officer with a "good deal" would you automatically report the officer or would you just say no?

Whether we know it or not we are held to a higher standard. To all the Hollywood members of the PBA: Keep you head held high. You do work for a first-class organization, and we *will* weather this storm...

Dick Brickman

## Order Your PBA License Tag

Available at the main county tag office. Ask for the "Support Law Enforcement" tag.



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**Sunrise (Lts)**

Athena Skellion

**Wilton Manors**

Brian Behan  
 Ed Costello  
 Chuck Howard

# Welcome New Members

Ramiro M. Chambers	BSO
Elias P. Gallup	BSO
Dave L. Ghany	Miramar
Mark S. Guard	BSO
Amalin Guarino	Margate
Danny Mauriz	Miramar
John L. Monroe	BSO
Stacie J. Nelson	BSO
Valeshelia D. Robinson	Seminole
Barry A. Rumble	Hollywood
Paul Scheel	Hollywood
Lawanda D. Singleton	BSO
Ian Sklar	BSO
Christopher J. Szwanke	BSO
Anisleys Valladares	Miramar
Michael P. Venezia	BSO
Todd M. Wolosh	Margate
Gregory Woolley	Coconut Creek

## Retired

Ronald Bono	Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
Deborah Futch	Hollywood
Frank R. Pinter	BSO

## Reinstated

Anthony B. Armstrong	BSO
Eugene McCloud Jr	Broward School Board
Zack A. Scott	BSO

# Office Staff

**Charter Secretary**  
 Linda

**Receptionist/Membership**  
 Lynn

**Secretary/Detail Coordinator**  
 Kim

**Membership Secretary**  
 Maxine

**Legal Assistant**  
 Maryann

**Communications Director**  
 Megan

# Law Enforcement News

*Items of Interest From Around The U.S.*

**Kewaskum, Wis.** – Police Chief Richard Knoebel follows the letter of the law. Even if that means writing himself a traffic ticket.

The chief issued himself a citation after accidentally passing a school bus that had stopped and had its lights flashing and stop sign out. He said he got distracted by a truck stopping on one side of the street.

The ticket carries a \$235 fine and will put four points on his license. "When we get someone for not stopping for a flashing school bus we give them a citation. So I shouldn't be any different, so I did," he said.

*Source: The Milwaukee Channel*



**Marianna, Fla.** – The Jackson County Sheriff's wife, a deputy and two gunmen were killed in an incident at the Sheriff John McDaniels home on January 31.

Intruders entered the sheriff's property shortly after Mellie McDaniel arrived home. The sheriff was notified and a deputy responded. Shots were fired, and Mrs. McDaniel and the deputy were shot. Other officers, including the sheriff, arrived and killed the two suspects.

It is believed that the sheriff's home was selected and targeted.

*Source: Associated Press*

**Wellington, New Zealand** –

Police K-9 Edge got into a struggle with a robbery suspect, who bit him. Edge, of course, bit back.

The dog had two suspects cornered on a cliff. One jumped down and into police custody, the other, armed with a knife, battled the dog, biting him during the fight. Edge simply bit the suspect back. Needless to say, the dog won the fight and officers made the arrest.

This is not the first time Edge has had an altercation with a subject. In 2006 he had emergency surgery and a blood transfusion after being stabbed in the chest with a hunting knife.

*Source: Associated Press*



**Staten Island, N.Y.** – A teenaged girl sexually abused by a family friend three years ago revealed the crime in a poem that she handed in for a school assignment. Her teacher reported the incident, and police were able to arrest the suspect quickly.

The poem detailed how the 17-year-old had been forced to have sex in a parking lot on New Year's Eve 2003. The teen's teacher told school officials, who contacted Children's Services.

The 48-year-old suspect is charged with forcible touching, endangering the welfare of a child and public lewdness.

*Source: The New York Post*

**Athens, Ohio** – Kate Anderson went to the Ohio University campus to pick up her daughter's car. She spotted the gray Toyota Camry, unlocked it, started it up and drove it home. When she arrived, her daughter informed her that it wasn't her car.

The car belonged to another Ohio University student, who had reported it stolen. Toyota says that back in the 80's (the vintage of both cars), there were a finite number of ways to cut keys. The mix-up is rare, but possible. Today's keys have microchips that ensure that only the right key starts the car.

*Source: newsnet5.com/Associated Press*



**Harford County, Md.** - The Harford County Sheriff's Office has purchased two dozen "blue boxes" - plastic-and-metal devices that are placed over handcuff chains to restrict wrist movement. Each box costs \$20.

The purchase came after the January escape of an inmate being transported. Terrence Kasses Washington managed to slip out of handcuffs, leg irons and a belly chain.

The "blue box," which will fit in the palm of a hand, connects each cuff and covers the keyhole. It can also be applied so that the inmate's hands are facing in opposite directions, making it harder to maneuver.

*Source: The Baltimore Sun*



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10-206-05PGA

# When Cops Retire

When a good man leaves the "job" and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder.

We wonder if he/she knows what they are leaving behind, because we already know. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.



them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his frame. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and, in his heart, still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore. And you will always look at the rest of the law enforcement world with a respect for what they do, grown only from a lifetime of knowing. Never think for one moment you are escaping from the life. You are only escaping the "job," and we are merely allowing you to leave "active" duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God," and you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

*Submitted by Bill Wynn*

We know in the law enforcement life there is a fellowship that lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he/she throws

## More Wilton Manors Drama

### *Former police chief sues city for pension benefits*

The Wilton Manors saga continues. Now Richard Wierzbicki, former Wilton Manors police chief, is suing the city for hundreds of thousands of dollars in pension benefits he feels he's being cheated out of.

Wierzbicki, who took early retirement in 2005 over concerns that cost-cutting measures the city was considering would hurt the police department, says the city reneged on an agreement to include accrued vacation and sick leave time in the calculation of his retirement benefits. The present value of that time is \$268,924.

After retirement, the former chief was paid \$44,450 for his accumulated sick leave, etc. But the city did not include that lump-sum payment when calculating his pension, according to the suit.

*Source: Express Gay News*

## BSO SWAT Honors Fallen Deputy

Members of BSO's SWAT gave up their pay for the day in honor of slain deputy Brian Tephord.

They donated the time they spent working on the case to Brian's family. And they did so without seeking recognition.

The mother of one of our BSO members thought we should know about the sacrifice these deputies made to ease some of the suffering for the Tephords. We are very proud of these deputies; each and every one of you is a hero.

# Gun License List Under Wraps

*State passes an exemption to constitution*

During the 2006 legislative session, Florida law makers pulled the names of people licensed to carry a gun out of the Sunshine by passing an exemption to the state constitution. The new law, which took effect July 1, requires a court order to get the list of individuals licensed to carry guns.

The push for this law began in November 2005. An Orlando TV station published the names, birth dates and addresses of 55,000 Central Florida concealed weapon licensees on its Web site. While the government made the information available upon request, it had never made it available on the Internet.



The reasons for sealing the list vary:

- The possibility of identity theft
- Women who had been stalked and had moved and armed themselves now could be found
- Would-be assailants could determine what type of force to expect in an altercation
- Criminals could use the list to steal firearms

Critics contend the law is unconstitutional because the scope is too broad and the reasons cited for closing the records were not sufficient. Their main concern is

keeping tabs on the screening process for applicants.

The concerns are not unfounded. The *Sun-Sentinel* obtained the list just prior to the law taking effect and discovered that more than 1,400 people on it have convictions for assaults, burglaries, sexual battery, drug possession, child molestation and homicide. Hundreds of others have warrants for their arrest, current domestic violence injunctions and misdemeanor convictions for gun-related crimes. (See sidebar, right)

## Who's Carrying?

Total permits statewide  
**410,000**

Licensees who plead guilty or no contest to felonies:  
**1,400**

Licensees with outstanding warrants:  
**216**

Licensees named in active domestic violence injunctions:  
**128**

Licensees who are registered sex offenders:  
**6**

Source: South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Florida is not the first state to make this information confidential. Wisconsin, Washington, North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Arizona have similar laws.

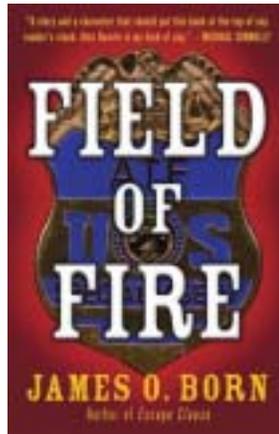
Source: South Florida Sun-Sentinel

# PBA Member Releases Fourth Novel

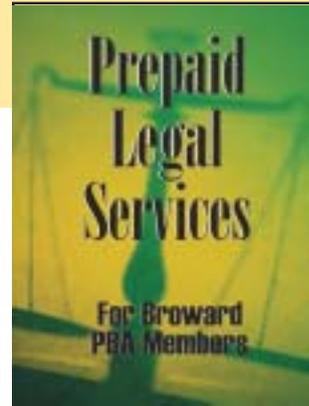
**F**DLE agent Jim Born is at it again. His fourth novel, *Field of Fire*, is in bookstores now.

The novel follows ATF agent Alex Duarte on assignment in South Florida. Duarte is assigned to investigate a bombing in a migrant worker camp that killed a child. The intended target is a small-time thief, whom Duarte catches, then loses.

The story follows Agent Duarte across the country as he chases his quarry across the country, accompanied by Department of Justice lawyer Caren Larson, who may know more about the case than she's letting on.



If you haven't read any of Jim Born's books, this is an excellent time to start. His previous novels are: *Walking Money*, *Shock Wave* and *Escape Clause*.



Michael Braverman, P.A.  
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EOE/M/F/D/V

“A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”  
—Mark Twain”

# Duty First For Officers

by Michael Daily, New York Daily News

**F**orsake that snug bed tonight and try walking a dark and arctic stretch of pavement, as 22-year-old Police Officer Patrick Lynch did in Queens from Sunday night into early yesterday morning.

Stay out for one hour and then another and another while your toes go numb and your ears burn and your fingers turn icy despite your gloves. Fight the temptation offered by each doorway to duck out of the piercing wind.

Imagine yourself a rookie cop, but not in balmy Los Angeles with a starting pay of \$52,000 and a \$5,000 signing bonus.

Imagine yourself in suddenly frigid New York, just seven weeks out of the academy, your pitiful \$25,100 starting pay now up to a barely adequate \$32,100. You certainly are not here for the money.

You are assigned to work a shift starting at 9:30 p.m. in Corona as part of the "high-impact" strategy in which areas with spiking violent crime rates are flooded with rookie foot cops. This puts you at the corner of 103rd St. and 39th Ave., 50 minutes into your fourth freezing hour on duty. Your new leather gun belt would tell anybody with street smarts that you are a rookie. But few people with any kind of smarts are out at this hour in such weather unless they have to be. You chance to peer a block down to 102nd St., to a patch of sidewalk buckled by the gnarled root of a starkly bare tree. You see a figure with

a baseball bat in his right hand. The left hand is grabbing something from a second figure who is sprawled on the pavement.

You decide this must be a robbery. You start running down 39th Ave. The standing figure sees you and flees up a double long block of 102nd St.

The other figure is still sprawled on the pavement. You see it is a fellow rookie cop from your academy class, 30-year-old Police Officer Joseph Cho. He is bleeding so badly from the head you think he had been shot. You note that his gun is missing.

You give chase up the dark block, dashing along a row of two-story brick

houses as you radio a 10-13, meaning an officer needs assistance. You know the figure ahead has not just a bat, but at least one gun, your comrade's 9-mm. automatic.

But however mortal the danger, you are running toward it as fast as you can. However desperate the figure may be to get away, you are that much more determined to catch him.

You then see another academy classmate, Police Officer Christine Schmidt, racing from the other end of 102nd St., just as determined. You know the fleeing figure is trapped. He knows it, too. And he has that gun. You charge on after him, in hot pursuit on a frigid night after someone who has

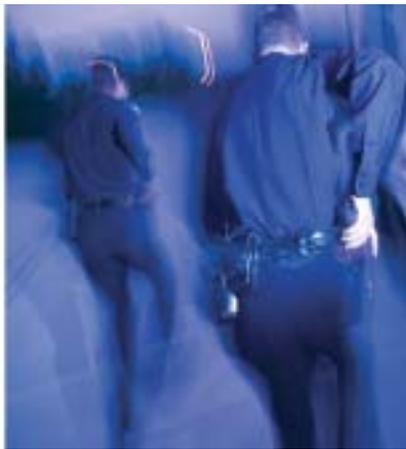
already left one cop bleeding on the pavement. Schmidt keeps closing in from the other side. Neither she nor you fires at this man with a gun who could at any instant make that instant your very last.

Suddenly, you are on him, an eternity becoming no time at all as your training takes over. You and Schmidt cuff 21-year-old Danny Fernandez. You recover the gun, which Fernandez will say he stole hoping to use it for robberies. You also recover Cho's handcuffs, along with the bat. Other cops arrive in radio cars, veteran cops who no doubt worry that the pitiful starting salary will not attract the caliber of people the NYPD needs. You and Schmidt stand as proof the job still draws some of our finest young people, so fine as to disgrace those who would pay them less than they are worth.

Your fellow rookie Cho is taken to Elmhurst Hospital Center, where the doctors report he was not shot, but struck in the head with the bat. He has a fractured skull. Back at the scene, the spot where Cho was attacked is marked off with yellow crime scene tape that comes down sometime after dawn. A fragment tied to a chain-link fence flutters in a wind that has the people of the neighborhood hunched as they troop past. The brittle sunshine offers no warmth.

The place where you made the arrest is not marked at all, it being just another routine instance of police restraint, not excess.

You may not be back out there tonight. But you certainly will the next night or maybe the next, standing post in the cold while the rest of us are home snug in our beds.



# When It's Hard To Lose Weight

*Can you get around a plateau?*

**Y**ou're eating properly. Working out. But the numbers on the scale have failed to go down. You've hit a plateau, and nothing you do is working.

Now what do you do?

People tend to hit a wall in their weight loss when they're weight is in the normal range. You may not be at your goal yet, but your body might have other ideas. The closer you are to a normal body weight, the more your body will resist going lower. Just because you want to be a smaller size doesn't mean your body feels the same way. Remember that your body is programmed to focus on healthy functioning, not on society's obsession with thinness.



In other words, you may be battling your genes.

Fitter people have to work harder and smarter to see significant improvements. First, you must take a look at your exercise and diet plan. In an effort to see results, you may have cut more calories and ramped up your exercise routine. This can backfire on you by creating an energy deficiency; you may not be eating enough to sustain your activity level, so your body goes into starvation mode. In addition to not losing weight, chronic energy deficit can lead to bone loss, muscle loss and, in women, hormonal disruptions that can lead to infertility.

So how to get past a plateau? The first step is being honest with yourself. Your goal may not be reasonable for your body. If you believe it is reasonable, you will need to increase your level of exertion and endurance. Make sure you're eating enough to sustain your workouts. Don't drop calories too drastically. A sports nutritionist will be able to evaluate your daily energy needs (find one at [eatright.org](http://eatright.org)).

Losing stubborn fat means you may have to up the intensity on your cardio and dialing down the weight training to once a week.

Most of all, be patient. It may take three to six months to see results.

Source: *MSN Health & Fitness*

## INGRAM PEDIATRICS, PA



Hello! My name is Deborah E Ingram, MD. I would like to introduce you to my newly established Pediatric office. I am a board certified Pediatrician. My office opened August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and I have been practicing medicine for 5 years. My office provides annual and infant check-ups, vaccinations, annual flu shots, sick visits, 'blue and gold forms' and sports physicals to children of all ages: birth through age 18. I received my medical degree at The Medical College of Georgia and completed residency at The University of South Florida's Pediatric Residency Program. I have returned back to Fort Lauderdale to contribute quality medical services to the place I now again call home!

For further information, please feel free to view our website at [www.IngramPeds.com](http://www.IngramPeds.com). To contact our office please call:

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# Births

Congratulations to BSO Detective **Martin Hedelund** and his wife, **Margi**, on the arrival of twin boys on January 22. **Dalton Jackson** weighed in at 6 pounds and was 18 inches long, while **Martin William** weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Lighthouse Point officer **Michael Search** (who is also a rep) and his wife, **Kellie**, welcomed their second son, **Tyler David**, on December 29. Tyler weighed in at 7 lbs., 1 oz. and was 20" long. Mom, dad, big brother **Michael Dylan** and grandpa (retired **BSO Sgt. Bill Ahlert**) are all thrilled at Tyler's arrival.

Hollywood officers **Julie Graziani** and **Travis Morris** welcomed a son, **Tyler James Morris**, on February 4. Tyler weighed in at 2 lbs., 1 oz. and was 13 3/4 inches long. Tyler was born at 27 weeks and is currently in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Keep them all in your prayers. Come home soon Tyler!



Tyler Search



## Member Honored As Officer Of The Year

Congratulations to Officer **Marc Tortorici** on being selected as Hollywood's Officer of the Year! Marc earned this honor because of his commitment to the job and his professionalism. Well done!

## Florida Police & Fire Games Set For June

*Deadline for entries is May 7*

The 2007 Florida Police & Fire Games will take place in Sarasota from June 16 through June 23. This year's games are hosted by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.



Applications are available at the PBA office. For more information, please go to [www.lawgames.org](http://www.lawgames.org).

# Letters & Thanks

January 9, 2007

On February 15, 2007, I will retire. My life, at this point in time, has taken me to a new beginning in the private sector. In light of the above, I have reevaluated my personal and professional goals, and feel that now is the appropriate time to depart from the department.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the City of Hollywood and the Command Staff for allowing me the opportunity to have an unbelievable career in Law Enforcement. I have had many great experiences at the Hollywood Police Department and will never forget the amazing memories we have shared together. The relationships that I have formed with my fellow workers will be treasured forever. The men and women of the Hollywood Police Department are some of the finest in the business.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank the Broward PBA for what they have done for my family and me. They are responsible for the conditions and comfort we have enjoyed at work and will continue to enjoy for the rest of my life. Once again, thank you for being a positive part of my life.

Alex Recio

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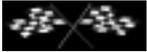


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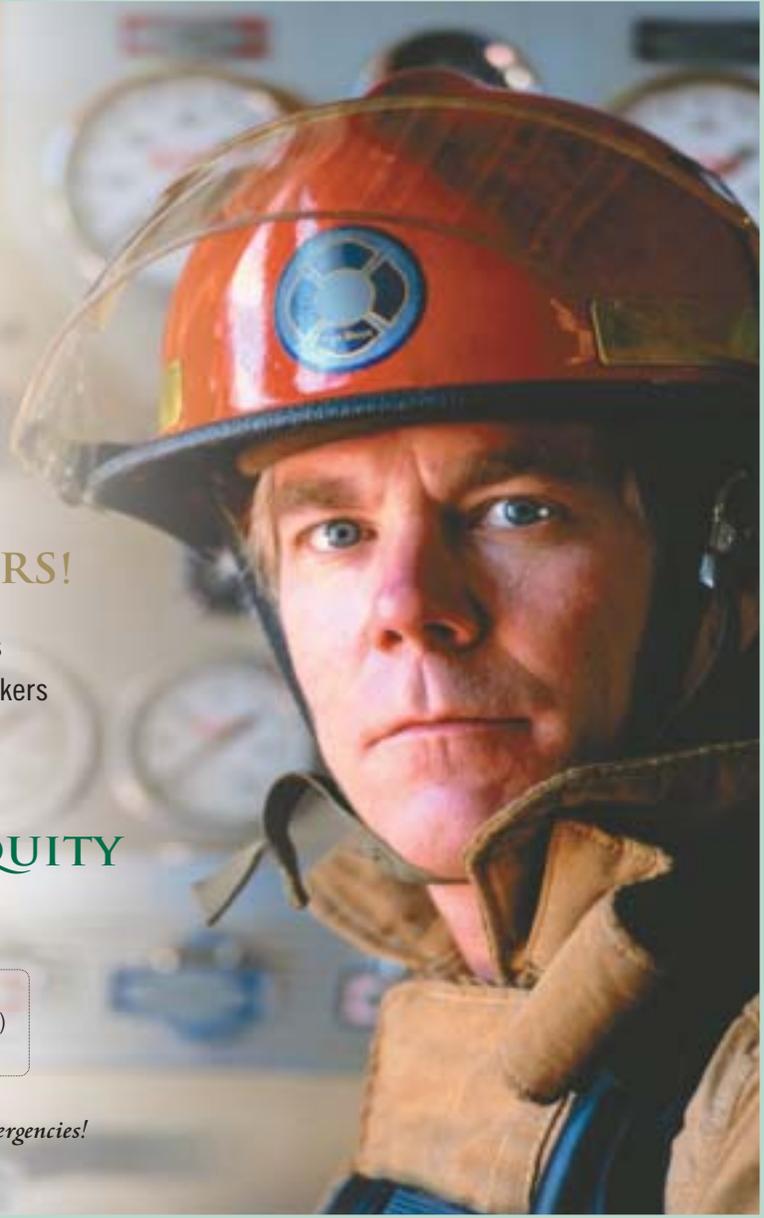
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