



CITY OF VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Fire Chief Shawn Carvey

Company Citation & Valor Award Recognition for Actions Taken July 30, 2017

On July 30, 2017 at 12:47 PM Venice Units E51, TRK 51, E52, SKI/MULE 51, and BN5 responded to 4100 South Harbor Drive, Casperson Beach, for a swimmer in distress. Casperson Beach has some of the fastest rip currents in this area. Not to mention, the small jetties of rock that can come out of nowhere making it very dangerous.

The Rescue Boat was unable to respond due to the waters being excessively rough. E51 arrived on scene with BN5. Units on scene found seven (7) swimmers unable to swim back to shore due to rough seas and swift currents. Two (2) of the swimmers were able to swim back to shore but faced injuries due to climbing on rocks to stay above the water. E51 crew member, Firefighter Justin Cochara, swam out with a rescue board in 5 foot seas. Justin Cochara met with the remaining five (5) swimmers at the sandbar and guided them to safety on land. Two (2) patients, a 14 year old male and 18 year old male, were transported to Sarasota Memorial Hospital due to injuries from climbing on the rocks.

Company Citation Award - This award recognizes any functional units superior service at an emergency incident. The company must display such exceptional performance of difficult tasks as to set it apart from other companies.

E51: Lt Lowery and FF Cochara

BN5: BC Silva

TRK51/ Mule 51: FFs Devine and Putnal

E52: Lt Worobel, FFs Eaton and Dietz

Valor Award – The award presented in recognition of acts involving extreme personal risk while attempting to save the life of another

FF Cochara