

ORANGE PEEL

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Rescue 3

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR:

Sometimes the best words you can write are someone else's. There has been a lot of "drama" happening in the fire service lately, both nationally and locally. No one sums up the feelings of the Brotherhood as well as Bob Pressler. Here is the speech he gave at the 2nd Annual FOOLS convention in Florida. It speaks volumes towards how we should conduct ourselves in the face of all of this turmoil. Enjoy it as I did.

"Good evening Brother and Sister FOOL's; I want to thank the Palm Beach County Fools, the International FOOL's E-board, and especially Jon Ferguson, who had to deal with me, for the honor of addressing this group. Not to mention for helping me escape the beginnings of winter at home, where we just happened to get our first measurable snow this morning. The 82 here is a little better than the 28 at home.

A lot has happened over the last 14 months, to the Fire Service, and to the FOOL's, both here and across the country. Nationally, the Sep't 11 disaster, and locally the training tragedy, cost the fire service and the FOOL's many Brothers, including the 4 we just attended a memorial service for. Throughout these hard times, the FOOL's have always been there, with words of encouragement, as a shoulder to cry on, or just as a sounding board to vent at. After Sep't 11, the FOOL's site had the most up to date information on who was working, who was missing and who had been seen.

The FOOL's Website has become a place to stop and check on the pulse of the Fire Service.

Every time I am visiting the FOOL's site, I am always drawn to what I call our "signature"

FTM-PTB; EGH; RFB; KTF;

This group of letters, assembled over time, has become a platform for us to live by. I would like to share some of my thoughts on these letters and what they mean to me.

The Fire service, as a whole, is collectively still trying to recover from the effects of Sep't 11. The 343 members of the FDNY who made the supreme sacrifice that day will always be in our hearts and forever on our minds. As part of our FOOL's "signature", R-F- B, "Remember Fallen Brothers", these heroes should never and will never be forgotten. This should also include ALL of our fallen Brothers, no matter where they were from, or the matter in which they died. Their names have been added to long list of those that have laid down their lives so that others may live."