



## Water Rescue Training 2017

Photos by Becky Hugler

*Ponce Inlet, FL* – The Ponce Inlet Fire Rescue Department (PIFR) hosted its annual Water Rescue Training over three days in July. The 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> saw neighboring agencies Daytona Beach Shores, Port Orange, South Daytona, New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater firefighters come to the dog beach area at Lighthouse Point Park to participate in the class.



Over the three days, firefighters trained on using multiple types of water rescue equipment including rope throw bags, rescue bouys, rescue boards, type I and type III water rescue vests, and floatation

belts. The participants learned the proper sequence of events for enacting safe water rescue missions utilizing the aforementioned equipment as well as spinal immobilization in the water and retrieval of unconscious, semi-conscious, and conscious victims from the water with a rescue board. Departments sent crews for either a morning session or an afternoon session so that Engine crews could train together with the crews that they regularly work with in the field. The training was divided up into an introductory and equipment review section and then crews drilled at one of three skills stations for 20-30 min before rotating to the next station and ending with an after action style debrief and Q and A session where crews could compare notes and discuss the skills learned in the session.



Each session consisted of 20 to 25 firefighters and approximately 125 firefighters participated in the three-day event. PIFR would like to thank all neighboring agencies for participating and for those that assisted with instruction including Ponce Inlet's own Firefighter/EMT-Driver Engineer John Brooks, Ponce Inlet Firefighter/Paramedic Igor Kojadinovic, South Daytona Commander Ernie Jarvis, Port Orange Firefighter/Lt David Gill and everyone else that helped during the training.

