

# From the desk of Officer Marshall Morehead

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Article 10-17-13

## **Just Glad to be Home**

Well, first of all I would like to thank everyone for all of the calls, Facebook posts, e-mails and face to face well wishes and congratulations I have received over the last few days. What about? It's because Officer Jeremy Salas and I just graduated from the South Carolina Fire Academy as certified Firefighter Officers. It made me feel good that so many people were concerned about us. The most common comment I've heard since coming back is "I didn't know you still worked here" or "we were wondering where you've been". I kind of felt that way myself since I've been gone for the last two months straight and I've been absent for most of the last three, training either at the Fire or Police academy. In a recent conversation with Interim Chief Ken Dasen I told him "I've been gone so long I wasn't sure if I still worked here or not, but since I was still receiving a paycheck I felt obligated to come back". He laughed, but I hope I didn't give him any ideas.

There's always been a good natured love/hate relationship between Firemen and Police Officers. It usually involves jokes along the lines of "Why did God create Police Officers? ..... So Firemen could have heroes". This is then usually followed up with a comment about doughnuts. But, while I have spent the last two months being taught how to be a fireman, I have also learned more respect for what they do and how they do it. Having spent almost thirteen years "running toward the gunfire" and very little running towards a burning house, the experience was mostly brand new to me. This is why the Public Safety aspect of my job is so interesting and why this training is so important. Teaching Firemen and Police to think like one another can be a monumentally difficult task, even though we do the same thing (serve the community, protect lives and save property). The difference is in the fine print. By making sure that everyone at the city has received the same training and is on the same page we make everyone safer and our jobs a lot easier.

Now that I'm back I am looking forward to putting my training to use. Everything from conducting commercial and residential fire prevention surveys and pre plans to better prepare citizens and help prevent fire causing behaviors and actions, to adding fire prevention techniques and fire extinguisher information to my community talks, meetings and articles. The more we, as your community servants, learn the better prepared we are to prevent or control situations in the community. Whether that be crime related or fire related it's our job to get it done. Thank you again for your time and for helping us to better serve you. It's good to be back.