



**HISTORY OF THE CITY OF MIAMI RESCUE DIVISION**  
**Captain Randolph (Randy) H. Boaz**  
**April 29, 1935 - July 31, 2000**

The City of Miami Rescue Division had its beginning in 1939 and was designed to dispatch skilled men to scenes of emergencies to provide first aid to firefighters injured in the line of duty. Because there was no other agency rendering these services to the public, there was a gradual expansion of this service, as well as a gradual orderly improvement in the level of firefighter skills and care rendered to the citizens.

As populations shifted and expanded and more technology was available, the Rescue service expanded and shifted their emphasis from "do no harm" to "medical consultation and stabilization of patients," who are remote from a hospital or physician.

In 1964 Captain R.H. Boaz joined a 30-member class of dedicated firefighters who volunteered to be one of the first in the nation trained by Medical Doctors in the new science of "Mobile Emergency Care".

In 1967 this team of rescue pioneers were privileged to be the first group of Miami firefighters to transmit the nation's first electrocardiogram from the streets of Miami to a local hospital emergency room. Dr. Jim Hirschman and Dr. Eugene Nagel developed this new advanced life saving technique. This concept was so new that nobody in the Nation had accomplished this before.

In the City of Miami EKG's were transmitted over a telemetry package, which was developed in Miami in 1965 and 1966 in association with the University of Miami School of Medicine and the City of Miami Communications Division.

This Emergency Medical Rescue system was developed through many years of joint cooperation between the University of Miami School of Medicine, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and the City of Miami Fire Department. This system was the first complete in the United States using the concept of hospital based physicians working with paramedics in the field via telemetry (radio and EKG capability).

In 1965 a second unit was established in the western suburbs. In 1966 a third in Liberty City, in 1973 a fourth in Coconut Grove and in 1974 a fifth unit was located in the Center City to give relief to Rescue 1 who was receiving up to 600 calls per month in the zones designated as their first response territory.

From 1975 through 1984 Captain R.H. Boaz served as a representative for the City of Miami Fire Department. He made recommendations in Dade County, The State of Florida and at the National level, which was beneficial in the development of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) delivery, standards and the curriculum(s) of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) I and II.

Randy's participation and input was influential and contributed to what later became law in the country. Congress enacted the EMS Act of 1973 (public law 93-154) which funded and authorized the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to develop EMS systems throughout the country. The State provides laws that broadly outline what is prudent, safe and acceptable EMS systems.

Captain Boaz was nationally recognized as an expert in the field of Emergency Medical Services. He was highly respected by his peers as an outstanding and enthusiastic instructor. Randy's evident experience, attitude, skill, humor, and love for EMS was demonstrated in his untiring efforts and deep dedication to create an interesting and informative environment in the classroom.

Randy went on to become the most active educator in Dade County in the field of Emergency Medical Services. In 1972 he began working as a part time paramedic instructor at Miami-Dade Community College in 1985 after his retirement with the City of Miami Fire Department, he started teaching full time. At the time of his death, he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medical Services. It is estimated that Captain Boaz trained 85% of all Paramedics working in Miami-Dade County.