

Central Fire District

From the desk of the Chief

Are you who you want to be?

When you were younger did you make goals? Did you ever sit down with your best friend and talk about what you were going to be when you grew up, what kinds of things you wanted to own and where you wanted to spend your life? If you were to sit down now and review those goals would you find that they were unimportant or important? Did you accomplish them or not and how does that make you feel. The movie "The Bucket List" was a movie that I enjoyed. There were parts of it that I thought were dumb and did not agree with but it was a good example of how those types of goals can be both good and bad. However, setting goals is an important part of making you a better person and helping you to be better at all that you attempt.

If you are not happy with how things are going in your life or if you are trying to figure out how to make things better I have some thoughts to share that might help. I attended a class a while back where some of those items were discussed.

There were some statements in the class that helped me to see things more clearly on how I look at myself, analyze where I am and where I want to be, and then see more clearly how to get there. Shakespeare said "*Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie.*" I think this is a profound statement and to me it means that if we do not like things the way we are we have to fix it ourselves. I also think it says that we all have those tools, we just need to use them.

We were all placed on this earth and given our own agency to make choices to do what we want and be what we want to be. If you look at someone who you see as successful and as a role model for what you want to be, it is important for you to remember that the only difference between most of those successful people and you is that they did what they did and you did what you did. Success is not measured so much by perfection as it is by courage, common sense, good habits, lifelong growth, and the courage to move forward towards your goals.

It is a well known fact that successful people are successful because they do what unsuccessful people are unwilling to do. They take the chances and the opportunities that are placed before them. They didn't run away when they should have run forward. They analyze the situation and then if it warrants the risk, move forward. It is like working on an emergency scene. We take risks when the gain is great and only when the risk outweighs the benefit. But we cannot be afraid to move forward, prudently, when the time is right.

Make goals to help you move forward. Short term goals so you can feel the joy of success in accomplishing them and long term goals so you have the impetus to keep on trying. Trying each day is a habit a good habit. Aristotle said “You create yourself each day. You become what you repeatedly DO!!” Success and excellence then is not a single act but a habit formed out a desire to succeed.

One more secret of success they talked about in the class was that we should “act as if you already are the person you wish to become and you will become that person.” In the promotional process for the Idaho Falls Fire Department there is an assessment center that all candidates for promotion must go through various stations where they are asked to assume the role of the position they wish to achieve and then see how they perform in those situations. I used to counsel people that in order to do well at the assessment center you had to learn to act. You had to convince the assessor **and yourself** that you already were the Driver, Captain, or Division Chief that you wished to be. The better you acted the better you scored. I watched people through the years develop their talents to be better officers by participating in that process.

Daily life can be hard and sometimes a challenge but you are up to the challenge. Move forward, be the best person you can be. Remember you are what you make of yourself. You can do or be anything you choose. Yoda in Star Wars said. “There is no try. There is only DO or NOT DO!!!” To me this means that if you just say you will try to do something it gives you permission to fail. You need to give yourself permission to succeed. Just do it!!

You are Central Fire District, as you become better the District becomes better. I wish nothing but good for you. The community appreciates what you do and why you do it.

Thanks for listening and please Be Safe out There!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jim