



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPARTMENT NAMES 2012 'FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR'

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 2/26/13) – Firefighter/Engineer Benjamin Blethen has been named Temple Terrace's *2012 Firefighter of the Year*.

The announcement was made Monday night during the Fire Department's annual awards banquet in Temple Terrace. Blethen, 30, was selected after an extensive review of "his vast contributions to the department and our community over the past year," said Assistant Fire Chief Ian Kemp.

Fire officials lauded Blethen's efforts in updating the department's pre-fire plans, providing firefighters an "understanding of the configurations and hazards of the buildings in our city. This valuable information assists with the knowledge necessary to provide safe working conditions during fire operations," officials wrote.

Blethen was hired as a firefighter in 2008 and promoted to engineer in 2012. He has been instrumental in implementing the department's Health & Welfare programs, particularly in ascertaining the appropriate workout equipment for firefighter fitness.

"Ben has been a big contributor to the forward progress of our department," said Fire Chief Keith Chapman. "He has demonstrated the department's core values of compassion, respect and professionalism throughout the year. I am pleased that he is representing our department as the 2012 Firefighter of the Year."

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