



# News Release

**Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department**  
(954) 746-3400  
[www.sunrisefl.gov](http://www.sunrisefl.gov)  
Thomas DiBernardo, Fire Chief

## Sunrise Fire-Rescue Wins ALS Award for Second Year



From left to right: Lts. Joseph Friedemann, Ian German, and Christopher Russo.

**(SUNRISE, FL)**- On Wednesday, May 25, Sunrise Fire-Rescue paramedics took first place in the 2016 Chief Mike Haygood Broward Invitational Advanced Life Support (ALS) Competition. Sunrise Rescue-Lieutenants Joseph Friedemann, Christopher Russo, and Ian German outperformed 19 other teams from fire-rescue departments throughout South Florida. It is the second year in a row, and third time overall, that Sunrise has received the award, having previously won the inaugural ALS competition in 1997 and then winning it again in 2015.

The ALS competition took place during the 20th Annual **First There, First Care** Conference at the Seminole Hardrock Hotel and Casino. Held by the Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County and the Broward Regional EMS Council, the conference highlights the latest trends, techniques, and products available in the field of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The event is billed as the largest EMS conference in South Florida, drawing several-hundred healthcare professionals from the tri-county area.

During the competition, the teams were presented with a chaotic, high-pressure medical scenario involving nearly a dozen fictional patients to be assessed and treated. The competitors were kept in complete isolation, with the details of the test scenario held secret from them, until their team's turn to perform. Upon entering the mock scene, the team members had to demonstrate critical thinking as well as skill competency and rapid execution, in order to score as many points as possible within twelve minutes. Teams were then ranked in order of their total points, with Sunrise having earned the highest score.

In preparation, the Sunrise team rehearsed providing emergency care in a variety of scenarios, sharpening their skills and streamlining communication with one another. However, Lts. Friedemann, Russo, and German ultimately attribute their repeated success to their combined 25 years of experience working as paramedics for Sunrise Fire-Rescue.

"We're thrilled and humbled to be recognized for the second year in a row. Through their talent and their dedication to patient care, the team continues to do us proud," said Sunrise Fire Chief Thomas DiBernardo.

For more information, please visit the Fire-Rescue page on [www.sunrisefl.gov](http://www.sunrisefl.gov), 'Like' us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @SunriseFRD.

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