

Know what 911 responders can do for you

In 2016, we did a television show of the Brevard County Fire and Rescue team from Station No. 62 in Sea Park (watch it at helpingseniorsofbrevard.info/event/0622c-scgtv-hs052/).

We shot the tape at the station with the ambulance in the background, and it was as realistic as possible. Right then I knew I wanted to write about 911 responders. And, since this was the team that responded to my stroke emergency in December 2013, I knew they were good.

The importance of calling 911. Time is critical, as responders can make things happen that cannot be done when you drive yourself or another to the hospital. If a person is considered unstable or potentially unstable, treatment can be started en route to the hospital.

If it takes you 15 to 30 minutes to get to a hospital, and responders can get to your home in five minutes, the decision to call 911 becomes a no brainer.



**HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD**
JOE STECKLER

Responders prefer that you err on the side of making a call to ensure the patient gets the necessary treatment.

Many are reluctant to go to the hospital, especially during COVID-19, thereby delaying treatment of a possible heart attack or stroke. Let the paramedics make that decision. Since they are trained in the use of emergency equipment, responders can administer critical treatments like using a cardiac defibrillator to restart your heart.

Responders monitor the patient and communicate to emergency room staff while en route to the hospital so everyone is informed and prepared to

administer the best care as quickly as possible.

Understanding the Vial of Life program. Brevard County Fire Rescue has a program whereby you can store important medical information in a vial in the refrigerator. The paper, once filled out by you, contains a short medical history, medication and insurance information, allergies, and other data to help the team treat you.

You can obtain these free vials at any fire and rescue station. All responders are familiar with the program and know to look for the vial, so it is vital that we participate and keep our information updated – it will save valuable time for you and them. You can learn more about the Vial of Life at HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org.

Knowing when to call 911 and having an updated Vial of Life in your home are tangible, possibly life saving actions. What is more intangible is your peace of mind knowing that the

responders that come to your aid are highly trained professionals who can and are constantly making decisions to assist you...decisions that can save your life. Emergencies are stressful! Lessen your stress by being prepared and acting quickly in an emergency.

Shortly after Christmas, 2013, a cyclist was struck on Highway A1A. Station No. 62 responded and, from the time they received the call until the patient was en route to the hospital, only nine had minutes elapsed. Four months later that patient was mobile. Keep 911 as an important part of your response and also become more knowledgeable of the many other services available to you, even during COVID-19.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

Foreign

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in the spring semester and continued through summer classes.

"It seemed prudent to me for the safety and health of everyone, which of course is

our number one concern," he said.

The announcement of the regulations, however, caused McCay and senior staff to reevaluate that approach "because it's such a huge fraction of our student body that are international. We had very little choice but to at least have some level, maybe a major level, of on-campus courses."

As the interview concluded, Martin asked McCay what advice he would offer to other educational leaders.

"The only advice I can give is flexibility. If you are not flexible, you are not going to survive," he said. "We got more information, the boundary conditions changed, we had to be flexible and make a new decision."

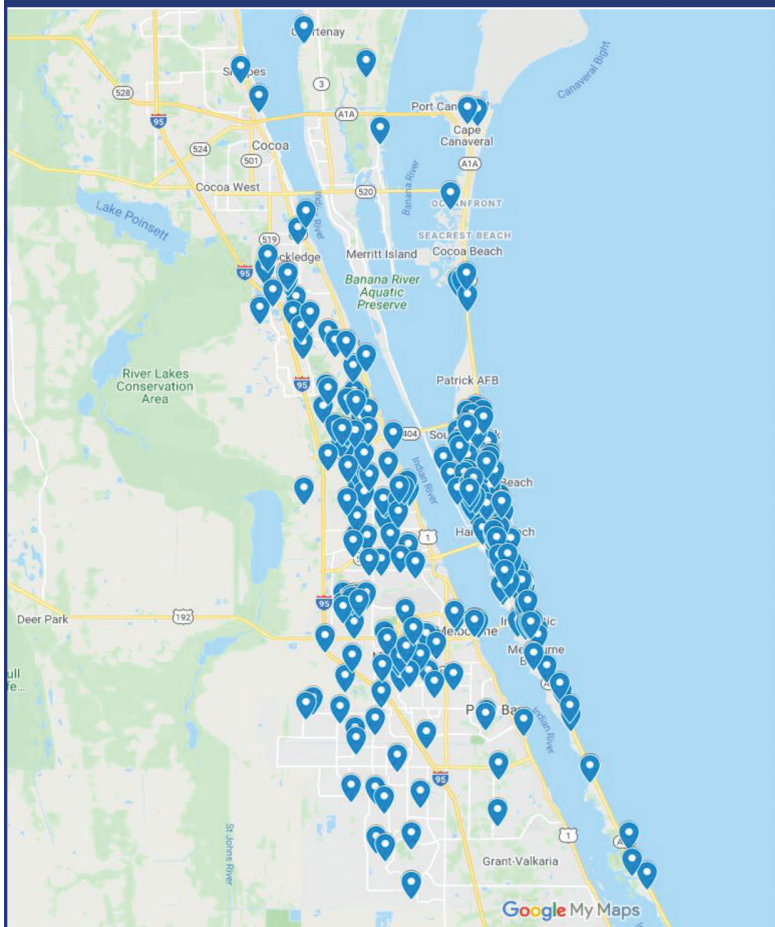
Meanwhile, the university has developed a comprehensive health and safety plan called "Florida Tech Safe: Return to Learn," that outlines numerous steps being taken to protect students, faculty and staff arriving for face-to-face fall classes that begin Aug. 17.

The plan is available here: <https://www.fit.edu/coronavirus/>.

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