



Monday April 10, 2017

St. Lucie County Fire District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Two Bystanders Rescue Young Man From Burning Car
St. Lucie County Fire District presents the Citizen Hero Award**

St. Lucie County, FL – The St. Lucie County Fire Board will present Citizen Hero Awards to Joseph Gibson and John Terry for rescuing a young man by pulling him from a burning vehicle that was involved in a motor vehicle accident.

The presentation will be on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 3:00 pm, at the beginning of the Fire Board Meeting, held at the St. Lucie County Fire District Administration offices, 5160 NW Milner Drive, Port St. Lucie FL.

In the very early morning hours of March 5, 2017 Fire District crews responded to an MVC. Upon their arrival, one patient was lying in the roadway and two others were trapped inside the burning vehicle that had hit a tree at a high rate of speed and came to rest wrapped around a utility pole. Firefighters went to work to extinguish the fire and extricate the patients inside the car.

It was later discovered that Gibson and Terry, heard the impact from their porch and ran to the road to see what was happening. Hearing the screams and witnessing a young man struggling to get out of the window from the upside down car, both men ran across the street and pulled him out and away from the fire. They tried to free the front seat passenger as well, but the vehicle had become fully engulfed by the flames.

It was a very tragic accident that left one young man dead and another in a burn unit with severe burns to his whole body. If not for the quick and brave actions of Joseph Gibson and John Terry another life could have been lost.

“This is the worst call I have been on in my 17 years”. -Lieutenant Donny Stefani

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