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Flagler County FireFlight participates at University High School ‘Career Day’

February 3, 2021 – Flagler County’s FireFlight team late last week participated at the EMS/Military Expo 2021 held at University High School in Orange City – something it has done for nearly a decade.

“This is really a career day for our juniors and seniors,” said event organizer Perry “Doc” Revlett, who heads the school’s Bio-Medical Program. “We’ve been doing this for 15 years, and I think it’s the ninth year Flagler County has participated.”

Students are treated to a flyover by larger military aircraft, but “small birds,” like FireFlight, land for an up-close inspection.

“It gives your pilots (Todd Whaley in this instance) a chance to discuss how vital FireFlight is to Flagler County,” Revlett said. “It’s not just an air ambulance. With its bucket, it’s an important firefighting tool. A lot of people don’t realize that.”

Given its many functions – including patient transportation, search and rescue, and law enforcement assistance – people often ask why FireFlight was given its name.

It was purchased after the ’98 wildfires – the first time in US history that an entire county was evacuated due to wildfire. During those fires 71 homes were destroyed, and another 175 homes were damaged.

About 82,000 acres of timber – valued at $4,000 per acre – burned. The timber loss alone was $328 million. Flagler County spent about $1.3 million in protective measures in 1998.

FireFlight was purchased in 2002 for $1.55 million with Landfill Bond money designated for fire suppression. No General Fund money was used.

Countless wildfires have been quashed with the help of FireFlight. More than 1.7 million gallons of water have been dropped on fires since 2002.

It has also brought in more than $2 million in ambulance billing.