



## Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Fire Rescue

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[www.marioncountvfl.org/firerescue.htm](http://www.marioncountvfl.org/firerescue.htm)



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### **DISPATCHER LINKED TO EMSA PAYROLL THEFT CASE**

Immediate Release

**MARION COUNTY, Fla.** (March 25, 2009) – Ocala Police Department (OPD) has connected Marion County dispatcher Andre Nelson, 51, to the Emergency Medical Services Alliance (EMSA) payroll theft case, which was first initiated during the summer of 2008.

Police say Nelson is charged with felony grand theft, alleging that he fraudulently accepted paychecks from EMSA, the former ambulance service, without actually working certain hours. EMSA dissolved on September 30, 2008. The alleged theft occurred when Nelson was employed by EMSA, not Marion County. Shortly before 2 p.m. today, Nelson turned in his letter of resignation and no longer works for Marion County.

For more on the OPD investigation, contact Public Information Officer Angy Scroble at (352) 427-3139.

Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) Fire Chief M. Stuart McElhaney said when EMSA dissolved last year, its payroll system also dissolved.

McElhaney is confident that MCFR's payroll tracking system, called Kronos, coupled with the several layers of supervision within the fire department command structure would make it very difficult and highly unlikely that payroll theft could occur within MCFR. McElhaney said the Kronos system offers MCFR payroll-accountability and necessary checks and balances.

Here's how the Kronos system works: when MCFR employees clock-in at their stations, they swipe their employee identification card and confirm their identity with a digital fingerprint sensor. At the end of the shift, the employee's supervisor will confirm that the time clocked is correct. A senior manager will then double check the daily rosters, time off requests and other information to ensure that the time logged is correct. Once the timesheet is approved, it is forwarded to MCFR's payroll clerk who will confirm accuracy. If an employee shows an unusual number of hours or if there are discrepancies, the Kronos system will automatically red-flag the employee. Only a senior manager or payroll clerk has the authority to make edits to the system. Field employees cannot add or delete hours.

After researching the Kronos system used by the Marion County Clerk of the Court, MCFR first implemented Kronos in 2004 as a pilot program. Due to its successful and efficient tracking capabilities, other county departments now use Kronos, including 9-1-1 Management, Information Systems, Solid Waste, Utilities and Code Enforcement.

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