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11-06-1986 Jacksonville FL - Edgar A Cowart – FF Boat Accident

## Edgar A. Cowart

<http://www.coj.net/departments/fire-and-rescue/about-us/in-the-line-of-duty>

Nov. 6, 1986

Firefighter Edgar A. Cowart drowned when he was trapped under an overturned fire rescue boat that had struck a bridge piling while answering a distress call near the Hart Bridge. Marine 3 was responding to a call for help from a tugboat at the time of the accident.



## Edgar Cowart Jacksonville Fire Department November 6th, 1986

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=10152813394071093&id=165648371092](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=10152813394071093&id=165648371092)

Cowart, drowned after his boat, Marine 3, capsized while answering a distress call under the Hart Bridge. Cowart received the 1986 Fire Fighter of the Year award for his bravery, making him Jacksonville's first two time fire fighter of the year.

Eng. Eddie Cowart was piloting a 27 foot sport craft boat with Lt . Bill Echols when they were trying to avoid an upriver bound barge under the Hart Bridge they struck the unlit fender system of the bridge causing Marine 3 to go under the bow of the barge overturning it.

A November, 1986 newspaper headline once again said of a Jacksonville firefighter, "He gave his life trying to save others."

The newspaper story told of Engineer E.A. Cowart who drowned when Marine 3 capsized answering a distress call near the Hart Bridge.

On January 13, 1987, Engineer Cowart was posthumously selected as the 1986 Fire Fighter of the Year. He was the first person to be

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### Heroes All: Jacksonville's Firefighting History



honored as Fire Fighter of the Year twice — in 1972, "Cowart, while fully clothed, dove into the St. Johns River to save a man who was drowning".

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