

What's Up with Estero Fire Rescue

Estero



FIRE RESCUE

Community News Edition

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Fire Chief's Corner

Dr. Jeffrey Lindsey, Fire Chief

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Dec 11 - EFR Board Meeting
- ◆ Jan 15 - Consolidation White Paper Presentation

We are fast approaching the end of 2007. The good news is we have just finished the 2007 hurricane season and escaped the wrath of Mother Nature inflicting her fury on our state. In the same aspect, we are very dry and the threat of wildfires is higher this year than virtually any year before. If you remember last year was one of the driest on record, this fire year it appears to be potentially even worse. What does that mean for you? First, be careful with any open flames, discarded cigarettes, etc. Second, make your home a Firewise property. Don't know what that is? Contact our fire prevention squad today for information regarding this program.

The tax issue continues to loom. The fire district has been monitoring the ever evolving property tax legislation. I encourage you to stay current with the proposals and look at the entire package. There have been many changes and not every solution or component has a benefit. It is a difficult

subject and I sincerely hope the legislatures look at all aspects of the legislation they propose.

Many of you have read or heard about the joint activities of Estero, Bonita Springs, and San Carlos Fire Districts preparing a white paper on consolidation. This paper will be presented to all three Fire Boards on January 15, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Three Oaks Banquet Center on Three Oaks Parkway just north of Corkscrew Road. This meeting is open to the public. I hope to see you at the meeting. In the same respect, the Board of Commissioners for the Fire District meets each month on the second Tuesday at the Estero Park. The meeting starts at 5 pm. I would encourage each of you to attend the meeting to learn what is happening in the District.

I want to wish all the residents and visitors a safe holiday season.

Happy New Year!

In the Spirit of the Season...

Each year, Estero Fire Rescue collects toys for boys and girls in our area that may not have the joy of presents. The annual Toys for Tots drive has begun and we need your help. You may drop off a new, unwrapped toy for girls, boys or teenagers at any of our four fire stations.

Toys will be collected, sorted, wrapped and delivered by Santa's 'helpers' prior to Christmas Eve.



If you know of a family or individual in our area that is in need this holiday season, please contact Susan Lindenmuth, Public Relations Manager at 239-390-8046.

From our family to yours, have a happy and safe holiday season.



Meet your EFR Commissioners - Bob Morris, Vice Chairman

Commissioner Bob Morris joined the Estero Fire District's Board in April, 2002. Mr. Morris is a local business owner of Rockscapes International and lives in Northwest Estero.

Commissioner Morris moved from California to Estero in 2001. He helped form the current Chamber

of Commerce and was the first President, a position he held for three years.

Commissioner Morris is very active in his church, Gospel Baptist in Bonita Springs, and is Chairman of the Trustee Committee for the church. He is glad to be in Estero and, according to Commissioner Morris, "just turned 70 and going strong!"

Tips for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season

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The long holiday season is full of opportunities for people to get together for fun, food, and sharing. By following some simple precautions, you can make the holidays safe for yourself, your family and friends.

Be watchful of dangers to children. Teach them to stay away from candles, fireplaces, fireworks, space heaters, matches, and lighters. Holly and mistletoe can be poisonous to small children and pets.

Choose toys wisely. Avoid those that could be highly flammable or a choking hazard. Check the toy recall website at www.cpsc.gov.

Install smoke detectors on every level in your home and in each bedroom. Check their function according to manufacturer's directions, and change their batteries twice a year. *For the greatest fire safety, a smoke detector inside each and on each level of the home.*

Wrap it up! Dispose of gift wrappings soon after opening presents. A room full of paper lying around on the floor and furniture is yet another holiday hazard. Do not burn wrappings in a fireplace; they may ignite suddenly and cause a flash fire.

Give space heaters space! An adequate clearance of at least 36" from any combustible surface. Make sure the heater meets UL testing and is used properly

Check out lights. Make sure all holiday lights are tested for safety. You can identify these by a "UL" label from Underwriters Laboratories. Replace any worn sets or those with loose connections. Outside, use lighting labeled for outdoor use. Inside, do not overload outlets. And always unplug everything before you leave your home or go to bed.

Use motorized ornaments/decorations wisely. Be sure to turn off any motorized ornaments on your tree with your holiday lights., and keep watch over animated figures, which can overheat and burn out if used for long periods of time.

Choose a fresh tree. Look for one without shedding needles. Trim the trunk at an angle before you put it in a non-tip stand. Make sure it is watered constantly and placed away from all exits and sources of heat. All artificial trees should have labels which indicate they are fire retardant.

Care with candles. Always put candles in candlesticks before you light them. Do not use them in decorations or displays. Keep candles away from curtains or other combustibles materials. Never put them in windows or near exits. And never leave candles in the reach of unsupervised children or pets. Always blow out candles when you leave a room.

From our Family to yours, have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!!

