

What's Up with Estero Fire Rescue



Community News Edition

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Chief's Corner

Deputy Chief of Operations, Scott Vanderbrook

control of hazardous material spills and leaks.

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I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Operations Team of Estero Fire Rescue. The Operations Team makes up the largest portion of the fire department. This team is made up of three shifts, each working 24 hours and then off 48 hours. Each shift is comprised of 17 firefighters who respond from four fire stations that are strategically located throughout Estero. Our crews staff 2 engines, 2 ladders, 2 brush trucks, 1 rescue, 1 tanker and 1 command staff vehicle. All of our stations are staffed with highly skilled emergency medical technicians and paramedics to provide advanced life support.

The primary objective of the Fire-Rescue Team is to maintain a state of the art emergency response force, capable of handling all types of situations. Calls for service include the control and extinguishment of fires, medical emergencies, the rescue of trapped victims and the

Fire-Rescue Team members perform daily, weekly and monthly evaluations on all department equipment. Maintenance projects include in-house hose testing, flow testing of fire hydrants, aerial cleaning and inspection, and testing of fire pumps. Employees also conduct pre-fire planning of structures to be better prepared in the event of any response and to help eliminate any possible injuries or hazards.

You are welcome to visit any of our fire stations from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm any day of the week. You can stop in and meet the firefighters, check out the stations and apparatus or get your blood pressure checked. Fire stations are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Remember the firefighters may not be in the station because they are out assisting with an emergency.

Upcoming Events*

- ◆ March 8 - Firefighter Charity Hockey Game
- ◆ March 11 - Fire Board Meeting
- ◆ March 15 - Susan Komen Race for the Cure

*See page 2 for details

Poison Prevention Month

March is Poison Prevention Month and a time to take a look around your home for possible poison hazards. Each year, more than 2 million cases of poisoning are reported to the nation's poison control centers with a majority of these calls involving a small child.

Cleaning products, pest control and household chemicals are what first come to mind when poison safety is mentioned because they are readily available in most homes. Take time to make sure that the products you choose are in child-resistant containers.

Aspirins, vitamins, and over the counter and prescription medications are all in the top ten poisons and are attributed to 40% of the reports cases each year. Household plants can cause problems for children as well as pets. Some plants can cause skin irritations, illness or death if consumed.

Don't forget about poisonous fumes and gases, such as Carbon Monoxide. Fume poisoning occurs as a result of carbon monoxide build-up from anything that burns fuel, such as a vehicle exhaust, generator or grill.

For more information on Poison Prevention, visit www.esterofire.org.





Meet your EFR Staff - Scott Vanderbrook, Dep. Chief of Operations

Deputy Chief of Operations Scott Vanderbrook was born and raised in Newark, a small town in upstate New York. He started his fire career as a volunteer firefighter at the age of 18 and belonged to the Deluge Hose Company as part of the Newark Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1989, Deputy Chief Vanderbrook moved to Florida to continue his firefighting career and was hired as a firefighter/EMT with the City of Oviedo Fire Department. Deputy Chief Vanderbrook worked his way up the ranks to Division Chief responsible for training, emergency medical

services, public information and public education.

In November of 1998, Deputy Chief Vanderbrook was hired by Estero Fire Rescue to assist in the development and growth of a young organization and has served in many positions at Estero Fire Rescue over the past several years. Deputy Chief Vanderbrook is a member of the Lee County Fire Chief's Association and the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, in which he has served on many committees within both organizations. He also serves as a task force leader for Florida Task Force #6 of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

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Scott Vanderbrook,
Operations

Daylight Saving ~ Spring Forward for Family Safety

The good news? Over ninety-three percent of all homes in the United States have a least one smoke alarm. The bad news is that one third of them are not working.

Each day, an average of nearly three children die in home fires ~ 80 percent of fire deaths involving children occur in homes without a working smoke alarm. An early warning can provide critical extra seconds to escape, smoke alarms double your family's chance of getting out of a home fire alive ~ but only if they work.

March 9th is the last day of the Daylight Savings Calendar. Therefore you needed to change your clock forward one full hour to "Spring Forward" to the Spring/Summer hours of Daylight Savings. When you do, make a lifesaving change in your household ~ **change the batteries in your smoke alarms.**



This simple habit takes just a moment, but is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire. **Your detectors have been working for about 4,320 hours over the past 6 months since we changed our clocks, the batteries need replacing!!**

Also, take the time to review your family's fire escape plan and include these reminders: always have two ways out of every room, have a family meeting place and once you are outside, never go back in.

Estero Fire Rescue offers a smoke alarm program free to all Estero residents. If you need assistance in replacing your smoke alarm, the battery or have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (239) 390-8046

Mark Your Calendars...

- Healthcare Provider CPR - March 8 @ 9:00 am at Estero Community Park
- Firefighter Charity Hockey Game - March 8th @ 5:00 pm at Germain Arena
- Fire Board Meeting - March 11 @ 5:00 pm at Estero Community Park
- Susan B Komen Race for the Cure - March 15 @ Coconut Point Mall

Edited by:

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