

# 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

### In this Issue

Fire Chief's Corner	1
Change your Batteries	1
Upcoming Events	1
Commissioner Corner	2
511	2
Fryer Safety	2

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Nov 4 - Daylight Saving Time
- ◆ Nov 13 - EFR Board Meeting

Another month has past and we are heading towards the holiday season. Our northern friends are beginning to return to enjoy the wonderful weather we expect during the winter months. It is important we plan our travels and add a little extra time as the roadways begin to increase with traffic. It is our hopes that each of you has a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

There are a number of significant events happening in the District. The first, evolves around tax reform. As noted, we have reduced the millage rate for the taxpayers of our community. However, the state legislatures continue to look at other means to reduce property taxes. We are supportive in maintaining a reasonable tax rate. We would encourage you to review any constitutional amendment or proposal the legislature proposes. The proposals thus far have been very complicated

and when examined may not be in the best interest for any one. Keep informed.

The second big talk has been the three fire districts in south Lee county discussing consolidation issues. It is important to emphasize this is in the infancy stage and currently the three Districts are working to gather information to present to the three fire Boards at joint meeting in January. At this point the Boards and the public will be able to hear the presentation. The Boards will then give direction to the three District Fire Chiefs of how they would like us to proceed. The process will take time and there will be ample opportunity for every one to provide input on the process, whatever that process may be.

Until next month, be safe and enjoy the Florida fall weather!

### Daylight Saving Time ~ Remember to Change your Batteries!

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.

November 4th is the first day of Daylight Savings Calendar. Therefore you needed to change your clock back one full hour to "Fall Back" to the Fall/Winter 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





## Meet your EFR Commissioners - Secretary Gayle Sassano

Commissioner Gayle Sassano joined the Estero Fire Rescue Board of Commissioners in October of 1997, and currently serves as the Board's Secretary. She is also a teacher at Pinewoods Elementary School in Estero. Mrs. Sassano resides in Estero River Heights.

*Coming from the Chicago area, the Sassano family has lived in Estero for 14 years, San Carlos Park for 12 years prior to that, and had been visiting family here as far back as 1972. She has seen a great many changes in that time.*

*"I have witnessed the tremendous growth and growing pains our community has undergone over these many years*

*When we first moved here, I was shocked by lime green fire trucks in a metal frame fire station. We've come a long way. I am very proud of the tremendous accomplishments and hard work by the men and women of EFR. Estero Fire Rescue is a top notch department. Everyone has worked hard to achieve this excellence. I know it will only get better in the years ahead. I hope the community is as proud and appreciative of the excellent, dedicated, emergency service they have in their backyard. I am honored and humbled by the role I have been fortunate enough to play alongside the fine men and women of Estero Fire Rescue."*

## Estero Fire Rescue

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Deputy Chiefs  
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Tom Siegfried, Fire Marshal  
Scott Vanderbrook, Operations

## Calling 5-1-1 can save time...and headaches

The Florida Department of Transportation's free Southwest Florida 511 travel information service helps busy families save time by providing on-demand, real-time traffic information for I-75 and 28 other major area roads. Now parents can call 511 from a cell phone or landline phone to know about traffic conditions before leaving for their destination.

"The 511 service may help parents better plan family time," Debbie Tower, Florida DOT District One director of public information said. 511 receives a quarter of its daily calls between 3 and 6 p.m. when people are picking up children from school or heading to family activities after work. "Our peak time for calls is Friday, with Thursday a close second," Tower added.

The 511 service provides information about congestion, construction and lane closures, incidents and severe weather affecting travel on roadways in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. Callers use speech-activated technology to ask for information about a specific road, or they can request information by city or by county.

Calling 511 assists users in avoiding the congested areas by changing their departure time or choosing a different route.

For more information on this great service, visit the Florida Department of Transportation website at <http://fl511.com/>

## Holiday Safety Tips - Deep Fried Turkey: A Southern Favorite!

What is Thanksgiving without a turkey? Here in the Florida, a deep fried turkey is a favorite meal; quick to cook and always delicious. But deep fryers can be extremely dangerous when care isn't taken. Here are a few things to consider when using a turkey fryer:

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn.
- Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.
- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you don't watch the fryer carefully, the

oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.

- Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use. Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot, hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.

For more tips of fryer safety, visit our website at [www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org).



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