



**Estero Fire Rescue  
2006 Annual Report**



# Leading the Way

*A Message from the Fire Chief Jeff Lindsey*

Our most memorable eras are depicted by naming the time period. I have chosen 2006 to be The Year of Transition. This past year has presented many challenges, offered new opportunities, and has been an evolving era in the time of Estero Fire Rescue. Author Jim Collins of *Good to Great* talks about the great companies in this country. The book is based upon research and not personal opinion. Mr. Collins and his group of researchers found that there are lots of good companies, but few great companies. In order to be a great company you need to get the right seats on the bus and then put the right people in the right seat.

The Board officially appointed me the Fire Chief for Estero Fire Rescue at the April meeting. After stabilizing the organization from the unraveling events in 2005, it was time to begin turning the direction of the organization and moving forward or as Jim Collins would say put the right seats in the bus and get the right people in those seats. This is not as easy as it sounds and by no means, was the latter part of 2006 an easy time. By the end of 2006, Estero Fire Rescue was reorganized. The right seats were put into the bus and the right people began to take those seats. I am very proud of our senior management in Estero Fire Rescue. There are three deputy chief positions and each of those positions were filled by the most competent people I could think to surround myself with.



Additionally, two areas that were emphasized in 2006 were leadership and education. Leadership is a key area for success of an organization. I am excited that we have instituted a library with an initial emphasis on leadership. A number of leadership books have been purchased and donated to the library for any employee to check out and read. This helps increase the knowledge level among all employees of Estero Fire Rescue. As the library grows, hopefully the knowledge level along with a better understanding of leadership tactics will increase at Estero Fire Rescue.

Education is a top priority for Estero Fire Rescue personnel. A number of individuals have completed their degrees this year. Personnel continue to attend collegiate level courses. Additional effort is going to be placed on technical training at Estero Fire Rescue. Emergency response incidents are becoming more complex every day. In an effort to keep current with trends and the young group of employees we have at Estero Fire Rescue, we will focus more efforts on the training aspect of our business with a continued focus on academics.

The community has continued to blossom. The new Coconut Point Mall arose from the ground like the Phoenix. It did not take long for residents and visitors alike to find this landmark. Likewise, Miromar Mall finished its fifth phase. Both malls are second to none in their appearance and ambience along with the retail offerings at each locale. The community is growing with many other residential communities, golf courses, retail shopping, medical facilities and businesses that make Estero the hub of activity in southwest Florida.

As we look forward to 2007, many of us have already experienced some personal challenges that will change our perspective in life forever. There are many challenges we will face this year including safety issues, media attention, and other challenges we are sometimes not prepared for. Regardless, the men and women of Estero Fire Rescue will continue to be well-trained, dedicated and poised to respond to the needs our community or visitors may have.

May God bless each and every one of you.

“DEDICATED AND DRIVEN FOR THOSE WE SERVE”

# The Commissioners

A Message from the Board of Fire Commissioners Chairman Dick Schweers

We've had yet another dynamic year with many positive changes under Chief Lindsey's leadership in the areas of personnel, titles and organizational structure to name a few. He has the organization aligned in a more efficient and economical position to better meet the needs of Estero Fire Rescue and the Estero community. He has brought in some new personnel who have various backgrounds and considerable experience within the fire service. Other personnel have been reassigned to better utilize their various skills and talents.

He has administrative personnel spending some time with operations personnel to help all employees gain a better understanding of what the others do.

We have seen our ISO rating take a positive drop to a # 4 rating and we are within reach of a # 3 rating which would be excellent.

We are hoping to see construction on our new administrative building beginning in 2007. We will have a new five year financial plan in place shortly after 2007 begins and which will be updated annually. The firm of MuniFinancial is preparing the plan for Estero Fire Rescue.

We will be adding additional personnel to operations this year as we constantly strive to meet the needs of our still rapidly growing community. We will also be looking at the need for a fifth fire station out east on Corkscrew Road as development continues to progress in that area. These are real needs as our response times are critical to the safety and well being of our residents.

We continue to address the need for a traffic signal on Rt. 41 opposite our Station 2 entrance and fully recognize the need for similar relief at Station 1. However, the situation at Station 1 has a different challenge as the road is scheduled to be widened to six lanes.

We have asked the County to help provide us with a system called pre-emption which would give Estero Fire Rescue control of the traffic signals closest to our stations. This continues to be an ongoing challenge.

And lastly, I would like to congratulate three of our Commissioners, Barbara Akins, Sam Levy and Gayle Sassano on their re-elections to the Estero Fire District Board of Commissioners.

In closing may I say that I consider it a privilege and an honor to be able to serve the residents of Estero as a Commissioner with Estero Fire Rescue.

Dick Schweers, Chairman  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
Estero Fire Rescue



"DEDICATED AND DRIVEN FOR THOSE WE SERVE"

## The Role of the Board

The Commissioners of Estero Fire Rescue are the only public officials elected exclusively by the voters of Estero. Seats one, three and five were on the ballot of 2006, and all three commissioners Gayle Sassano, Sam Levy and Barbara Akins, respectively, were re-elected to another four year term. Seats two and four will be on the 2008 ballot. Commissioners generally serve four year terms unless they are elected to fill a seat mid-term due to the resignation or retirement of another commissioner. Only citizens residing in the Estero Fire District are eligible to be a member of the Board.

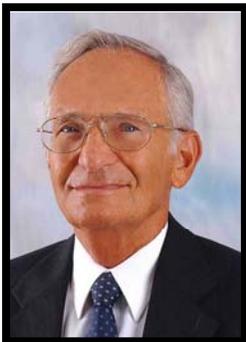
The Board's primary function is to oversee Estero Fire Rescue for the citizens of the Estero Fire District. While they do not involve themselves in the day-to-day operations, they do set policy, hire the Fire Chief, provide direction, set the taxing rate, sign all checks issued by the district and generally insure the citizens of Estero their fire rescue service is running efficiently.



*Gayle Sassano  
Secretary  
Seat 1*



*Bob Morris  
Vice Chairman  
Seat 2*



*Sam Levy  
Seat 3*



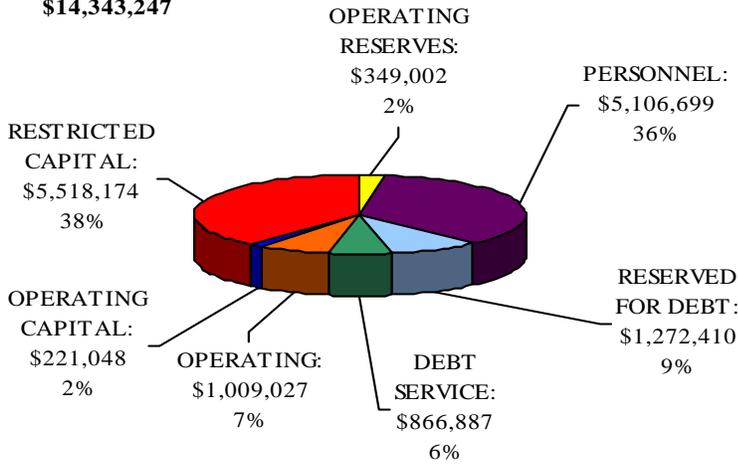
*Dick Schweers  
Chairman  
Seat 4*



*Barbara Akins  
Treasurer  
Seat 5*

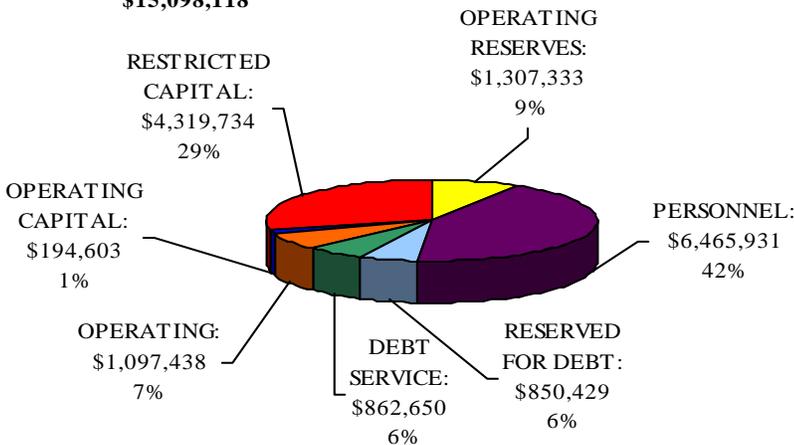
# Finance

**Budget for FY 2004-2005**  
\$14,343,247



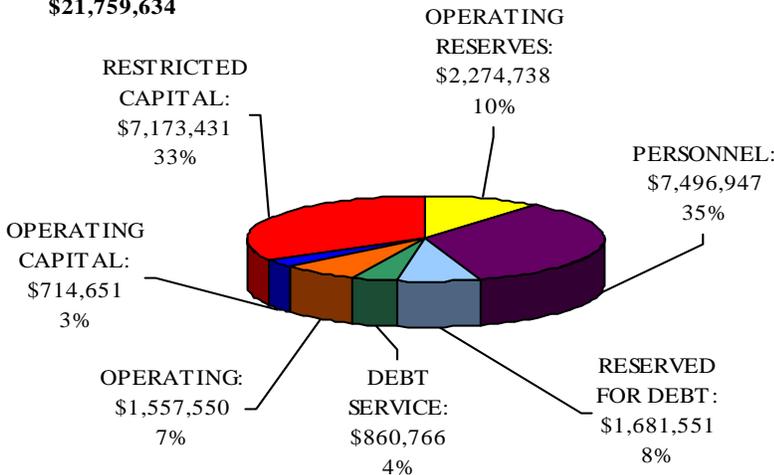
The chart at the left shows the budgeted dollars for Estero Fire Rescue for fiscal year 2004-2005. The largest slice of the pie is restricted capital, borrowed money to be used exclusively for capital expansion projects like new fire stations, new administration building and fire trucks. It should also be noted that 11% of the budget has been targeted for reserves, an indication of the improving financial condition of the district.

**Budget for FY 2005-2006**  
\$15,098,118



The chart for fiscal year 2005-2006 continues to show a positive trend towards fiscal health with 15% of the budget targeted for reserves. The wedge labeled Personnel has now become the biggest piece of the pie and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future.

**Budget for FY 2006-2007**  
\$21,759,634



The chart to the left reflects the continuing positive trend towards fiscal health with 18% of the budget targeted for reserves. Personnel continues to be the largest piece of the pie.

## Financial Highlights

In 2006, Estero Fire Rescue revised its financial policies, continued to streamline procedures, and exceeded its operating reserve goal of \$1,307,333 by approximately \$682,000 for a total approximate operational fund balance of \$1,989,322. It is no longer necessary for Estero Fire Rescue to obtain tax anticipation notes to fund expenses during the months of October and November until Ad Valorem revenue is received.

The audit completed in 2006 concluded that all but one of the financial issues found during previous audits had been resolved. There was a recommendation made by the auditor to revise the investment policy and management revised the policy during 2006. The financial future of Estero Fire Rescue continues to strengthen and improve.



"DEDICATED AND DRIVEN FOR THOSE WE SERVE"

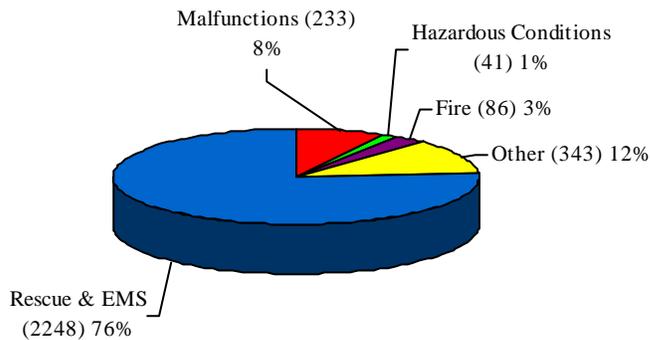
# How We Roll - Operations

In December, Scott Vanderbrook was promoted to Operations Chief. Deputy Chief Vanderbrook has the dedication and determination that is difficult to find. Deputy Chief Vanderbrook has been with Estero Fire Rescue for eight years. It is the Fire Chief's goal to promote from within the organization. Deputy Chief Vanderbrook is an example of the talent that Estero Fire Rescue has in the organization. Estero Fire Rescue has turned the corner and is beginning to see personnel within the organization that can be promoted to the various leadership levels.



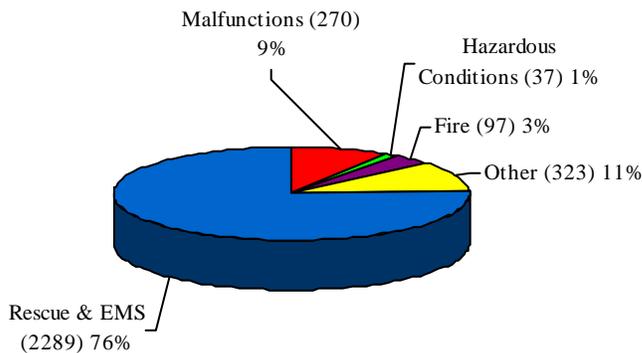
The Operations squad is responsible for delivering emergency services to those citizens who live, work, travel through and visit Estero. Operations' members respond to all calls for emergency services, including: all incidents involving fires, emergency medical services, structural collapse, trench rescue, high-angle rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous material releases and other rescue and public assistance situations. We also provide mutual aid to surrounding fire districts.

2005 Incident Response Data - Total Calls = 2951  
1/1/05 - 12/31/05



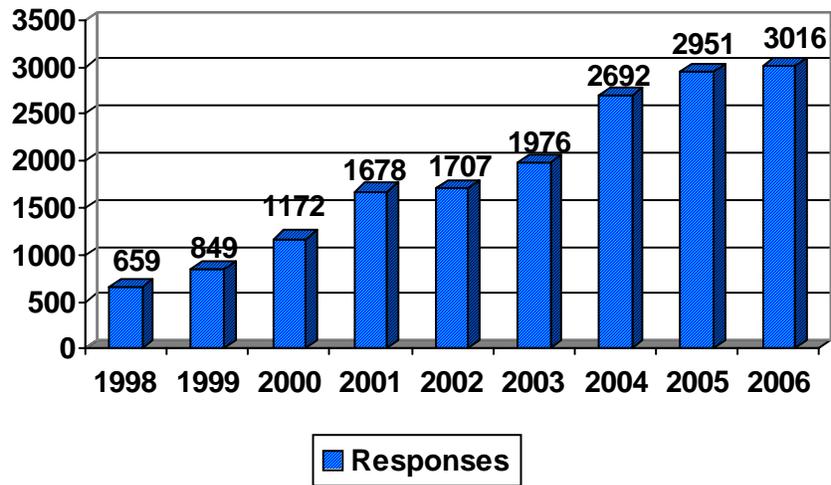
*The chart to the left reveals that about 3 out of every 4 emergency responses run by Estero Fire Rescue were medical/EMS calls.*

2006 Incident Response Data - Total Calls = 3016  
1/1/06 - 12/31/06



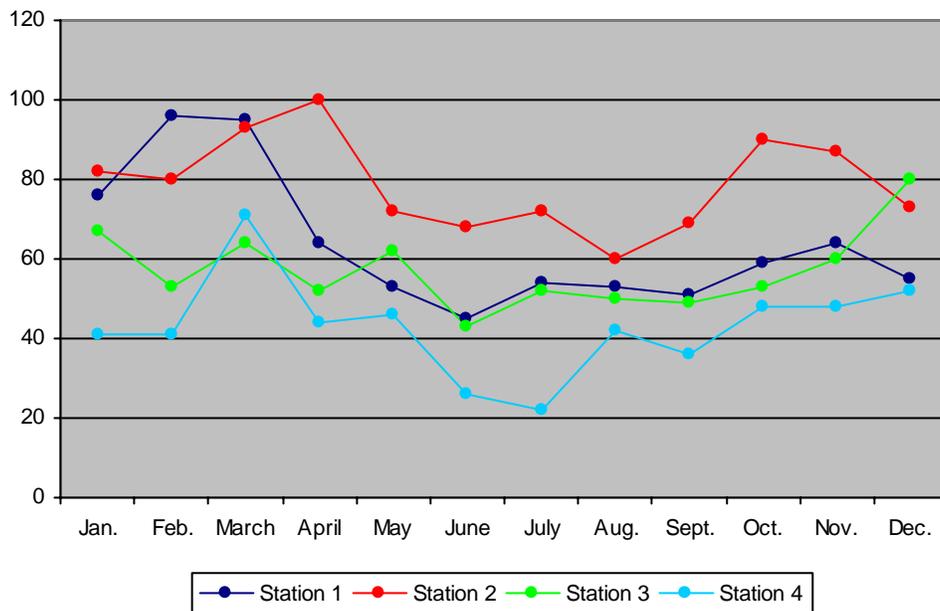
*The chart to the left indicates a breakdown of all operational emergency and non-emergency calls that Estero Fire Rescue responded to in 2006. The chart reveals medical calls are the largest part of the call volume averaging 76% per year. Estero Fire Rescue responds to all medical calls with a paramedic capable of providing Advanced Life Support.*

### Call Volume for Last 9 Years



The graph illustrates that in 2006 call volume has increased almost 4½ times from 1998. During the summer months the call volume decreases due to a decreased number of residents as our seasonal residents return to their northern homes but steadily increases beginning in September and declines in May. In 2006, Station 1 and Station 2 responded to the majority of the calls, however, Station 3 and Station 4 will begin to show an increase due to the continuing growth and development in the eastern portion of our district.

### Monthly Calls Per Station



## The Ratio of Firefighters to Residents

Year	# of Firefighters	# of FF/1000 Residents	Estero Population
2001	16	0.70	22,738
2002	23	0.89	25,828
2003	27	0.94	28,764
2004	33	1.03	32,091
2005	42	1.12	37,987
2006	45	1.07	41,981

*In an attempt to keep up with the continued growth population of the Estero community, Estero Fire Rescue strives to employ additional skilled and trained firefighter/paramedics to meet the needs of the community.*

## New Capital Resources

In addition to hiring new staff, Estero Fire Rescue strives to meet the needs of the community through technology, some of which included the following:

**Mobile Data Computer (MDC)** – Five MDC’s were acquired through an annual EMS grant and one was purchased for the battalion chief’s vehicle. Annually, Estero Fire Rescue participates on a committee with other EMS advanced life service (ALS) agencies in Lee County that coordinates with Lee County on an annual EMS grant that is administrated by the State of Florida to enhance EMS services. The grant funds have purchased the computers while the agencies have purchased the licenses and installation cost. A mobile data computer has been installed in each of Estero Fire Rescue’s front line initial response ALS apparatus. These computers in the apparatus allow the responding personnel to receive more detailed and specific information from our dispatch center for the type of emergency the crews are responding to. Additionally, the computers are equipped with a program that automatically displays a map showing the emergency location and the shortest route to that emergency. The computers also enhance the ability to track the critical times such as their dispatch, enroute, arrival at the emergency scene and in-service with the push of a button.

**Toughbox Computer** - Three Toughbox notebook computers were purchased for the Life Safety & Prevention squad with the goal of the fire inspectors having the ability to reference information as well as document information while away from the office (inspections, fire flows, violations etc). The benefits of having the reference material and documentation readily available allows the fire inspector to show the customer the laws and codes applicable to the inspection(s) performed, as well as a history of the occupancy and violations for the building etc. In addition, the mobility enables more time to be allocated to fire prevention activities and provide quality customer service.

**Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** – The district purchased ten (10) Automatic External Defibrillators (AED’s) to increase the availability of these lifesaving devices throughout the Estero community. They have been placed in all marked Estero Fire Rescue vehicles that travel throughout Estero on a daily basis. Personnel are trained in the use of the AED’s and with the widespread distribution of the AED’s it is hoped that a quick deployment time will save lives. According to the American Heart Association, more than 250,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest. Most cardiac arrests are due to abnormal heart rhythms, with ventricular fibrillation (VF) being the most common. In this condition, the heart rhythm is in a chaotic, irregular fashion and fails to pump blood to the body’s other vital organs. Death follows within minutes. Defibrillation, the providing of an electrical shock to restore the heart to its normal rhythm, is the only known therapy for VF. Unfortunately, for every minute that passes without defibrillation, a victim’s chance of survival decreases by 7-10 percent. In only 8 or 10 minutes, death is nearly certain.

# Fire Investigations

Lt. Dale I. Reisen - Fire Investigative Unit

The Fire Investigative Unit under the Fire Marshal's Office of Estero Fire Rescue responded to ten official fire investigations. Six cases were closed due to the cause of the fire being listed as accidental; three were listed as incendiary (arson) and are still open criminal investigations.

The first case of the year happened at Coastal Village off of Three Oaks Parkway and appeared at first to be a possible arson fire because of gasoline found in the middle of the dormitory; however, further investigation revealed an accidental fire.

The second fire scene was to a small wildland fire area on Charring Cross Circle, a witness saw a person of interest throw a device into the woods and then took off in a vehicle. This case is listed incendiary.

The third case involved the wildland area behind Fountain Lakes that was set on fire by juveniles; however, the juveniles were never located. Case number 4 was a fire found within the column of stairs at The Greens within Fountain Lakes. The interior of the columns of the stairs and landing were constructed of wood, which was found to be water rot and Styrofoam. This fire was listed as accidental due to a discarded cigarette found within the origin area that started the smoldering fire. The fifth investigation involved several acres of wildland off of Six L's Farm Road where the fire threatened several homes and a cellular phone tower. The fire was listed as accidental.

The sixth fire involved a trailer within Covered Wagon mobile home park, where firefighters saved a cat from the fire. The fire destroyed the rear portion of the trailer and the investigation led to an electrical problem within the back bedroom. The seventh case was discovered by a sheriff deputy at the dead end of Burgundy Farms Road, where a vehicle was found burned. The vehicle was reported stolen on July 4<sup>th</sup> and was burned that night. Evidence found at the scene pointed to an incendiary fire. Lab results of the evidence show that a flammable liquid was used on the exterior of the vehicle. This case is still open.

Case number 8 was caused by lightning hitting the roof of a residential house within Stoneybrook. The fire started on the roof and broke through into the attic area of the garage. On case nine, a vehicle was stolen and dropped off on Six L's Farm Road and set on fire with gasoline. The arsonist left enough evidence to show how they did the crime of stealing the vehicle and setting the fire. This case is still open. Case 10 was a vehicle on I-75 at mile marker which was left on the side of the road when it caught on fire. The fire was due to a mechanical failure burning the engine compartment and passenger area.

10 official fire investigations:  
4 accidental structure fires  
2 incendiary wildland fires  
2 incendiary vehicle fires  
1 accidental wildland fire  
1 accidental vehicle fire



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# Life Safety & Prevention



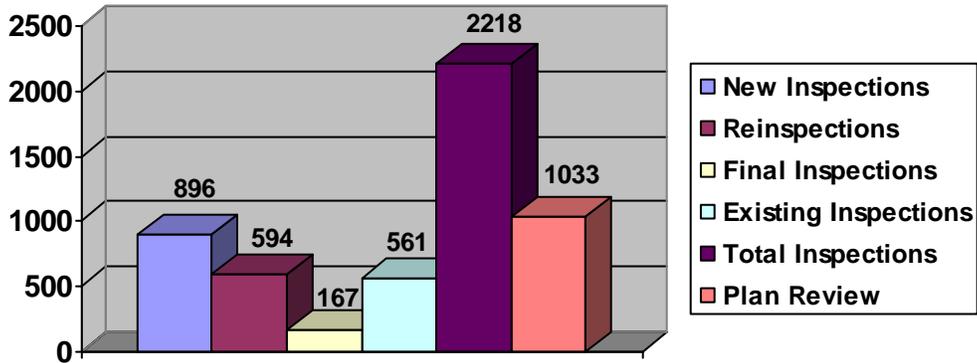
Deputy Chief Tom Siegfried joined the team in May as the Operations Chief, but was put into the Fire Marshal's role with the reorganization in September. Deputy Chief Siegfried brings a wealth of knowledge in the life safety arena and is world known for many of his efforts in this arena.

The goal of the Life Safety & Prevention squad is to reduce injuries, death, and property loss caused by fire, through the enforcement of state and local fire codes. Prevention Programs for community risk management include new construction plan review and inspection of new and existing commercial buildings for fire code compliance, fire and life safety consultations, fire and arson investigation, community fire prevention, emergency medical instruction, and accident prevention education programs to various community groups, schools, employees of local businesses and homeowner associations. While fire prevention is a primary concern for the squad, it is far from the only concern. The squad and Estero Fire Rescue in general, take an all-hazards approach to mitigation and life safety.

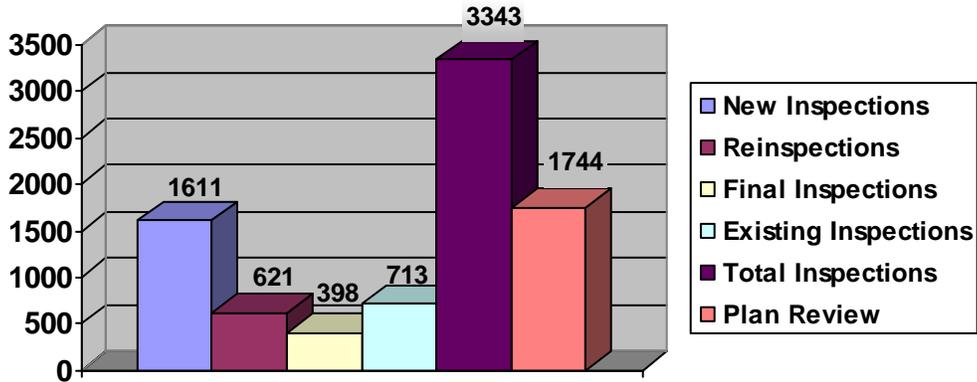
While it is vitally important to mitigate emergencies quickly and professionally, it is better to avoid emergencies in the first place. Estero Fire Rescue strongly believes in a proactive approach to life safety issues in Estero. That is why a significant amount of services offered by Estero Fire Rescue are designed to reduce the need for flashing lights and sirens. Some of the services provided by Estero Fire Rescue are listed below:

-  New Construction Commercial/Multi-Family fire inspections
-  Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Training
-  Fire Extinguisher Training
-  Fire Truck Demonstrations
-  Life Safety & Prevention Lectures
-  Free Smoke Detector Program
-  Preconstruction Plan Review
-  Residential Fire Safety Surveys
-  Existing Commercial Multi-Family Fire Inspections
-  Fire Code Consultation
-  Hydrant Fire Flows
-  CPR Training
-  First Aid Training
-  Community Event Assistance
-  Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
-  Child Car Seat Installation

### 2005 Inspections & Plan Review



### 2006 Inspections & Plan Review



Since 2000, Estero has seen continued growth which is indicated by the increasing number of plans reviewed. A total of 98 plans were reviewed in 2000, 402 plans reviewed in 2001, 742 plans reviewed in 2002, 547 plans reviewed in 2003 and 781 plans reviewed in 2004. The largest growth during these years was in multi-family residential buildings with the commercial growth starting in 2004. The charts above continue to show the increase in the number of plans reviewed in 2005 and 2006. Today, with the developments of Rapallo and Coconut Point Mall, Estero has prospered very well.

Along with this growth, it is vital that we provide our citizens with the safest structures possible. This is best accomplished by way of the fire inspection program. Estero Fire Rescue performs not only new construction inspections, but re-inspections of structures that do not meet the requirements of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The charts above reflect the increasing number of inspections that are necessary to provide the safest structures possible. Estero Fire Rescue also performs annual inspections to further ensure the safety of the Estero community. The Fire Inspectors of the Life Safety & Prevention Squad spend many hours in training to enhance their knowledge of the current changes of the Fire Codes and more competently apply the Fire Codes.

Plan review and fire inspections are a small part of the Life Safety program, but these activities are the largest asset of the Estero community in public safety.

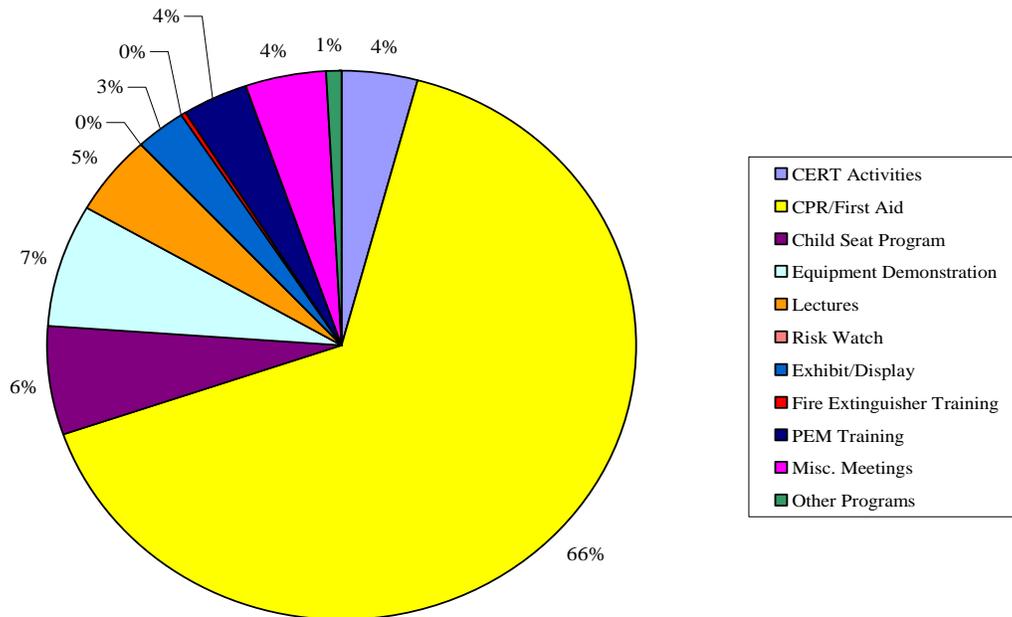
# Public Education

The best way to handle an emergency is to prevent it from happening. When that is not possible, knowing what to do in the event of an emergency can make all the difference. That is the role of Public Education.

**The mission:** Provide fire and life safety through education and prevention with a team approach.

In 2006, 16,831 residents of Estero attended 440 education programs and apparatus displays during firefighter visits to schools, daycare centers, neighborhood associations and civic groups.; an increase of almost 100% over 2005.

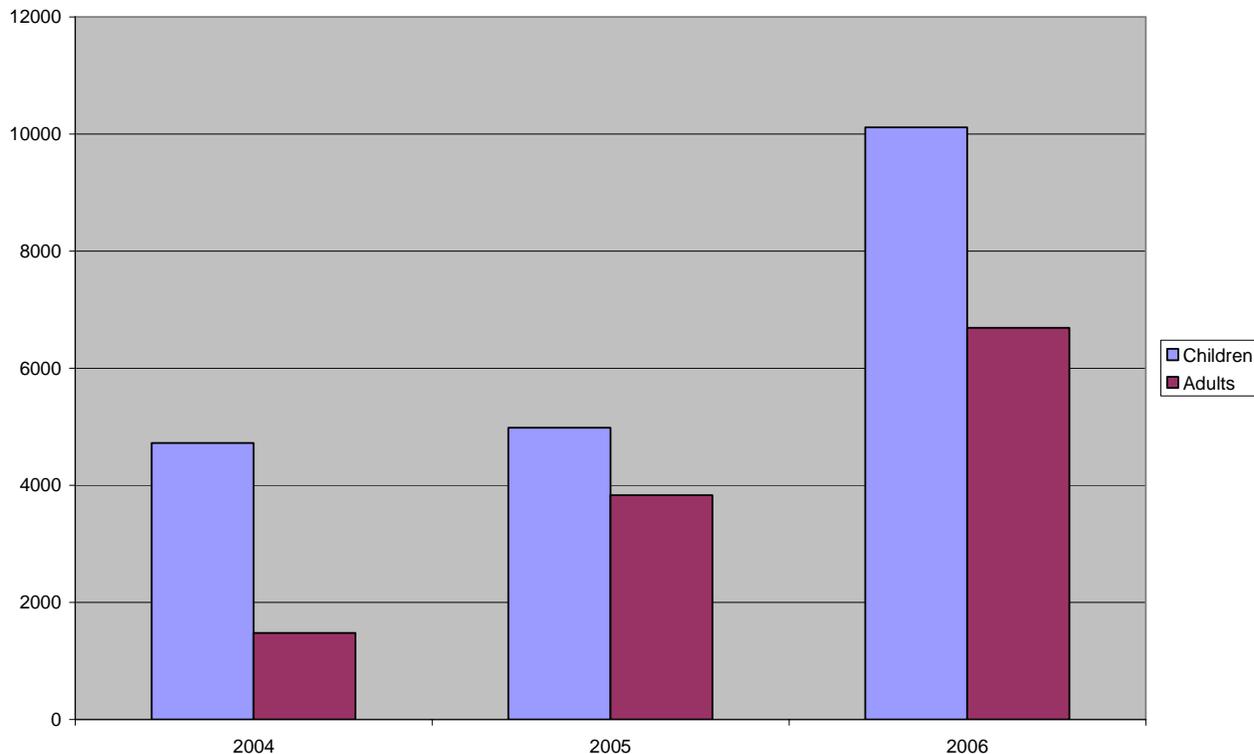
### 2006 Educational Program



“DEDICATED AND DRIVEN FOR THOSE WE SERVE”

Each member of Estero Fire Rescue has an active role in the education of our residents in fire and life safety education. Public Education provides a large number of safety and education programs to the community in either small or large groups, such as First Aid and CPR training, fire extinguisher training and emergency planning. Educational programs that focus on the needs of various businesses and community groups are scheduled throughout the year to help promote a team approach to keeping the community and the businesses safe.

**Program Attendance**



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# Support Services

Richard Patrick joined our team in June. He held the position of Division Chief of Health, Safety, and Training. After the reorganization, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of Support Services. Deputy Chief Patrick is known for his work in EMS and safety. In his new role he is forming the human resource department. As we go into 2007, Deputy Chief Patrick is working diligently to start the construction process of our administration building that has been a long time coming.



The Support Services squad is charged with keeping our employees working, communicating and functioning safely through employment best practices, state-of-the-art technology and operationally sound facilities.

The Deputy Chief of Support Services is charged with the direction, support, coaching and oversight of Human Resources, Information Technology, and Facility Maintenance.

Many functions and processes occur around the clock as a result of the responsibilities and actions of the Support Services squad. The squad handles numerous functions that affect every employee. As the repository for all Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines (SOP/SOG) including development, review and refinement, the squad began a several year project to create an employee handbook from the framework of existing SOP/SOGs. Sound, functional, practical, and DOABLE procedures and guidelines inform, guide and keep employees on the intended path.

## Human Resources

In 2006, the Support Services squad began a new era for Estero Fire Rescue through forming a Human Resources department and promoting a Human Resource Coordinator.

The Human Resource department is responsible for managing all phases of human resources activity. Essential to all components of Estero Fire Rescue, responsibilities of the Human Resources Coordinator include:

- ✿ orientation,
- ✿ pre-employment checks,
- ✿ maintaining personnel transactions,
- ✿ personal medical files,
- ✿ employee statistics,
- ✿ insurance services,
- ✿ benefit program management,
- ✿ training in human resource related issues, and
- ✿ addressing inquiries to all Estero Fire Rescue policies, procedures and programs.

**2006 - Longest Span of Days Worked without Lost Work Injury—61**

## Facility Maintenance

Facility Maintenance keeps the stations and administration office functioning. Dozens of routine tasks and general maintenance projects were conducted in 2006. Maintenance also provides oversight of contractors who work on the property of Estero Fire Rescue.

## Information Technology

The Information Technology system is responsible for a comprehensive range of technology for Estero Fire Rescue. As we become increasingly dependent upon rapid access to information – and subsequently less tolerant of failure of technology, Estero Fire Rescue has placed great emphasis on the technology structure of Estero Fire Rescue and the community.

A relatively simple technology problem can impact a wide range of information and communications. Support Services is proud to say that 2006 rendered little to no “down time” with the information technology system.

Other highlights for the year include:

- ✔ Implemented Phase I – voice/data communication system
- ✔ Implemented system-wide anti-spam software-aiding in the reduction of incoming spam or unnecessary/unwanted electronic mail
- ✔ Implemented electronic mail archiving system-for compliance with government and other regulatory requirements
- ✔ Deployed mobile infrastructure allowing end users to wirelessly communicate aiding in greater productivity, access to current information and quicker response to the day to day communications
- ✔ Updated backup system for continuous protection of all Estero Fire Rescue’s information system

In addition to the aforementioned components, the Support Services squad provides oversight to:

- SOP/SOG, Safety and Performance Evaluation committees
- Administration Building Project
- Extended Attack – 5 Year Plan
- Safety and Risk Management Training for Staff
- Internal Investigations

**Human Resources = Keeping Our Employees Working**  
**Information Technology = Keeping Our Employees Communicating**  
**Facilities Maintenance = Keeping Our Facilities Functioning**

# Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

Southwest Florida  
Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)/Florida Task Force 6



Estero Fire Rescue continues to be a full participant in the Southwest Florida Urban Search and Rescue Team (Florida-Task Force 6). There are nine Estero Fire Rescue members that participate on the team. Each member of the team has a primary and secondary specialty training area in which they are required to maintain their proficiency. This is in addition to a minimum level of required training in multiple areas. Each specialty area of training has a vast list of skills, abilities and knowledge that are required to maintain the level of expertise.

In August 2006, USAR Task Force 6 was deployed to Jasmine Bay for the report of a person that had fallen at a construction site. The skills and training of the members representing the participating agencies were used to perform a confined space and high angle recovery.



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# Community Emergency Response Team

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, using a model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then, CERT's have been established in hundreds of communities.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills that they learned during the training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to daily emergencies.

In 2006, Estero Fire Rescue provided one series of CERT classes, which resulted in 80 hours of training through instruction and conducting drills. The CERT classes produced 15 new CERT members. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, these individuals will be able to assist their community and first responders in the initial phases of recovery. Also, these individuals are now better equipped to deal with the smaller scale emergencies that occur daily, such as heart attacks and personal injuries.

Estero Communities with CERT Teams:  
Country Creek  
Stoneybrook



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## Explorer Post 1964

Estero Fire Rescue Post 1964 of the Boy Scouts of America, was started in December of 2003. The program has maintained 15-17 dedicated members since 2004 and has helped several neighboring fire departments start their Explorer programs. The Post is led by Division Chief Todd Coulter, Lieutenant Jeff Brann, and Firefighter Laura Occhipinti. The Explorer program is involved in the following activities:

- ◆ *Learning firefighting skills*
- ◆ *Learning EMS skills*
- ◆ *Becoming certified in CPR*
- ◆ *Becoming certified in First Aid*
- ◆ *Competing in local and national Fire Explorer events.*
- ◆ *Riding on fire apparatus with on-duty firefighters.*
- ◆ *Fundraising for equipment and events requiring travel.*
- ◆ *Having Fun!*



### Achievements in 2006

1. Former Post Captain Clint Skelton graduated from fire school and is currently completing the EMT program at Edison Community College.
2. Amy Craft continued her position as Post Captain, also winning 2006 Homecoming Queen at Estero High School.
3. Cory Heller was promoted to Lieutenant.
4. The Post was able to purchase a 6'x12' trailer, used for equipment storage and transporting gear to local and national events.



**"DEDICATED AND DRIVEN FOR THOSE WE SERVE"**

# The Safety Fund

## Mission Statement:

The Estero Community Safety, Education and Emergency fund exists to:

- ◆ promote safety and health through education and dispersion of safety supplies to residents and visitors to the Estero community;
- ◆ to provide additional comfort and service to those who require the assistance of Estero Fire Rescue; and
- ◆ as a first responder, Estero Fire Rescue is uniquely qualified to recognize and address the immediate needs of victims and their families.

The fund operates solely on donations and contributions from various communities and individuals within the Estero community. Special recognition goes to the communities of Copperleaf at the Brooks and Riverwoods Plantation. Their desire to “give back” to the community of Estero was instrumental in bringing the Safety Fund into existence. Both neighborhoods have made generous contributions to the Safety Fund through fundraising events and promise continued support in the future. Shane’s Rib Shack, which is new to the Estero community, has also made a generous contribution to the Safety Fund in 2006; we look forward to working with them to promote safety within the community. The commitment of these communities and organizations to local charities and to the people of Estero is to be recognized and applauded!

The Estero Community Safety Fund received nearly \$7,000 from donations and fundraisers in 2006. In early 2006, a public advisory board for the fund was set in motion. The purpose of this board is to help oversee the fund and provide direction for future works and projects.

With the funds raised through the Estero Community Safety Fund, Estero Fire Rescue implemented two new educational programs: the Fire Safety Clown Team and a Life Safety Puppet Show. Both of these programs allow for additional exposure into the community and a chance to continue passing along fire and life safety messages through the art of entertainment. Appearing at schools and community events, the Clown Team and Puppet Show have contributed significantly to the success of the Estero Fire Rescue Public Education in 2006.



*Bunkers and Scooter*

# The Estero Fire Rescue Family

## Fire Chief

Jeffrey Lindsey, 5 years of service

## Deputy Chief

Richard Patrick, Support Services, new employee  
Tom Siegfried, Fire Marshal/PIO, new employee  
Scott Vanderbrook, Operations, 8 years of service

## Division Chief

Edwin Dwyer, Logistics & Planning, 6 years of service

## Shift Commanders

Chris Krajic, 3 years of service  
Larry Nisbet, 3 years of service

## Lieutenants

Brent Althouse, 21 years of service  
Jeff Brann, 4 years of service  
Charles Collins, 6 years of service  
Todd Coulter, 3 years of service  
Jeannine Horton, 3 years of service  
David Ott, 21 years of service

Thomas Poole, 6 years of service  
Dale Reisen, 7 years of service  
Felicia Rodriguez, 6 years of service  
Grant Schwalbe, 3 years of service  
Mark Wahlig, 8 years of service

## Firefighter/Paramedics

Diego Carmona, 1 year of service  
Ronald DuBock, 2 years of service  
Gregory Escarra, 1 year of service  
Frederick Gonzalez, 3 years of service  
Dennis Goodlad, 3 years of service  
Daniel Hardman, new employee  
Steve Harris, 5 years of service  
Lena Hedengren, 3 years of service  
Anthony Horton, 2 years of service  
Matthew LaBree, 4 years of service  
Thomas Lentz, 1 year of service

Terrence Lindgren, 1 year of service  
Stephanie Loving, 1 year of service  
Michael Maradona, 1 year of service  
David McDougall, 3 years of service  
David Murray, 5 years of service  
Laura Occhipinti, 1 year of service  
David Russell, 1 year of service  
Schyler Smith, 1 year of service  
Thad Stevens, 6 years of service  
Jarred Whelan, 1 year of service

## Firefighter/EMTs

Glen Brownlee, 17 years of service  
Aubrey Chasser, 1 year of service  
Ryan Evanson, new employee  
Jason Fiora, new employee  
Jerry Krohnfeldt, 4 years of service  
Matthew Larlham, 1 year of service  
Guillermo Maradona, new employee

Robert Medina, 4 years of service  
Matthew Pagnutti, new employee  
Paul Reynolds, 19 years of service  
Jason Richards, 4 years of service  
Shane Sells, 17 years of service  
Michael Whitewood, 4 years of service

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**Building Maintenance**

Bernard Lamach, 3 years of service

**Public Relations Manager**

Susan Lindenmuth, 2 years of service

**Plans Examiner**

Jerry Van Gelder, 5 years of service

**Fire Inspectors**

Henry Burke, 7 years of service

Phillip Green, 2 years of service

Johnny Manning, 5 years of service

**Finance**

April White, Finance Director, 3 years of service

Maria Ramos, Finance Specialist, 1 year of service

Jean Strobel, Finance Specialist, 4 years of service

**Staff**

Linda Conway, Human Resources Coordinator, 8 years of service

LuAnn Delo, Information Technology Administrator, 6 years of service

Joan Martis, Emergency Management Planner, 1 year of service

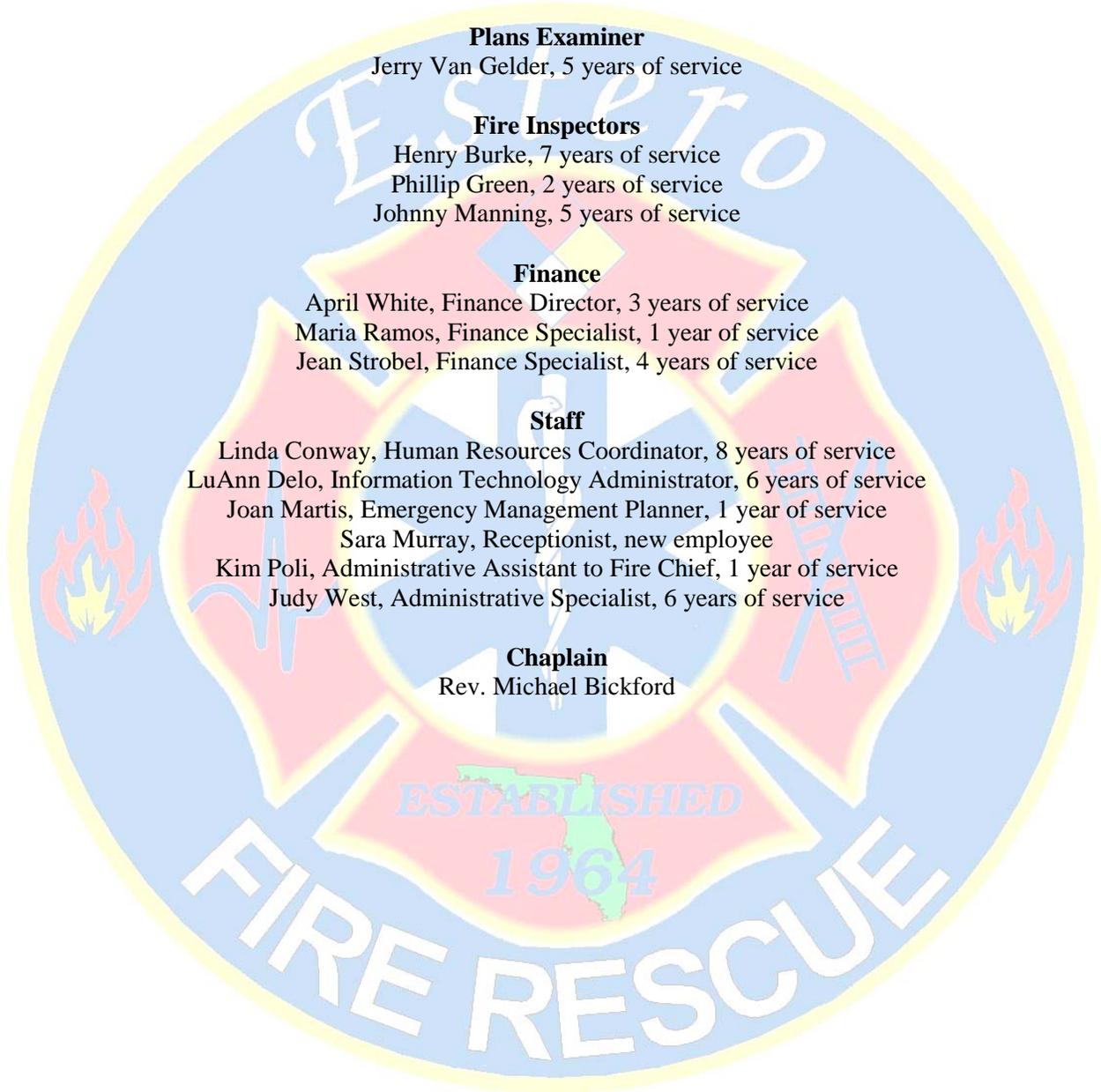
Sara Murray, Receptionist, new employee

Kim Poli, Administrative Assistant to Fire Chief, 1 year of service

Judy West, Administrative Specialist, 6 years of service

**Chaplain**

Rev. Michael Bickford



# Above and Beyond

Every year, Estero Fire Rescue recognizes those individuals who distinguish themselves from the crowd. It may be a single, well-executed act or a constant can-do attitude that earns them this recognition. Below are those individuals that earned the praise of their fellow employees.

## **Firefighter of the Year**

Lieutenant Grant Schwalbe

Lt. Schwalbe consistently goes over and above in his daily duties and professional approach within Estero Fire Rescue. Lt. Schwalbe spends extra time developing his personnel towards their advancement with positive results. Lt. Schwalbe has taken the initiative to develop and produce a “subdivision map book” that has proven to be a valuable asset to Estero Fire Rescue. This book has been completed utilizing both on and off duty time and is updated regularly. Lt. Schwalbe has also put Estero Fire Rescue “on the map” with his recent submission to Firehouse magazine of Estero Fire Rescue annual statistics utilizing both on and off duty time. Lt. Schwalbe takes great pride in all that he does and he instills this pride and work ethic in his personnel.

## **Fire Crew of the Year**

Lieutenant Felicia Rodriguez  
Firefighter/EMT Paul Reynolds  
Firefighter/EMT Glen Brownlee  
Firefighter/Paramedic David Russell  
Firefighter/EMT Aubrey Chasser  
Firefighter/EMT Matthew Larlham

The fire crew of the year was part of a group of firefighters that were summoned to Lehigh Acres for a brush fire. The crew was dispatched at 1522 hours on April 29, 2006 and for over 10 hours they worked as a team protecting many structures and extinguishing brush fires as they went along. Their endeavors are exemplary of the dedication and professionalism of Estero Fire Rescue personnel, regardless of where they are called to perform their tasks.

## **EMS Crew of the Year**

Lieutenant Jeff Brann  
Firefighter/Paramedic Laura Occhipinti  
Firefighter/Paramedic Tom Lentz

The above crew responded to a patient in cardiac arrest. Despite their efforts, they were unable to save the patient. The crew had become familiar with this patient due to multiple calls to the residence. At the time of the patient’s passing, out of town relatives were present who were overwhelmed by the situation. The Ladder 41 crew remained on the scene with the family providing support and assisting them with arrangements for their loved one. The crew, although unable to save the patient, went over and above to “save” the family unnecessary grief and help them through a very difficult time. The crew’s assistance is another example of the dedication and professionalism of the Estero Fire Rescue firefighters.

## **Employee of the Year**

Public Relations Manager Susan Lindenmuth

Since Susan’s employment with Estero Fire Rescue, she has taken a very aggressive and concerted effort to provide the best public education program possible. Susan has developed a school fire prevention program that is to be envied by many. Susan has been lauded for her superb efforts and presentations. Susan continues to better her programs by learning more about fire prevention and other programs for the community. Susan has even completed training to be a clown. Susan also shows her concern for the community by her involvement with the CERT program, car seat installation, and interaction with other Estero groups. Susan is now expanding her involvement more by assuming the position of Public Relations Manager.

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# Accomplishments

## Personal Academic Accomplishments

LuAnn Delo—Associates Degree in Network Technologies  
Gregory Escarra—State Paramedic Exam  
Susan Lindenmuth—Firefighter I course; passed State Firefighter I exam  
Terrence Lindgren—State Paramedic Exam  
Maria Ramos—Associates Degree in Accounting  
Thad Stevens—AS in Fire Science; Fire Officer II certificate; State Instructor II

## Specialty Training

Charles Collins—Chemical, Biological & Radiation Training/Weapons of Mass Destruction  
Linda Conway—Analyzing Salary Surveys; FEMA course IS235 Emergency Planning; IS00242 Effective Communications; IS 244 Developing and Managing Volunteers (FEMA)  
Edwin Dwyer—American Medical Response Course - Israeli approach; “Managing Mass Casualty and Terrorism”  
Jeffrey Lindsey—ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 703 & 800; Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy-Executive Analysis in Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management  
Joan Martis—Preparedness & Community Response to Pandemics; CFAI Accreditation Training; Basic/Advanced Sky Warn Weather Spotter”; ICS/EOC Interface and I703 Resource Management  
Richard Patrick—ICS 200, 300 & 400; “Taking Care of Our Own” - Line of Duty; “Managing Mass Casualty and Terrorism”  
Kim Poli—State Library and Archives of Florida Records Management; FEMA Course ICS 100  
Maria Ramos—Excel-Level II  
Tom Siegfried—ICS 200, 300, 702, 703 & 800  
Jean Strobel—Excel-Level II  
Mark Wahlig—Chemical, Biological & Radiation Training/Weapons of Mass Destruction  
Michael Whitewood—Chemical, Biological & Radiation Training/Weapons of Mass Destruction

BLS Recertification completed for all Operations personnel  
EHOP (Estero Hazard Operation Plan) instruction and distribution to all stations and administration  
EHOG (Estero Hazard Operation Guide) instruction and issue to all employees and commissioners  
Fire Extinguisher Training provided for all Administrative personnel  
Peer Fitness Evaluation for all Operations personnel  
SCBA Fitness Testing completed for all Operations personnel

# Where To Find Us

## Mission Statement

“Dedicated And Driven For Those We Serve”  
Through Aggressive Life Safety, Proactive Fire Prevention,  
Public Education and Community Involvement



Station 1 – 8631 County Road



Station 2 – 8006 Sweetwater Ranch



Station 3 – 21510 Three Oaks Parkway



Station 4 – 21300 Firehouse Lane

Administration Modular Office  
21500 Three Oaks Parkway  
Estero, Florida 33928  
239.390.8000  
239.947.9538 (Fax)  
[www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org)

Special thanks to the Estero Fire Rescue personnel who contributed to the 2006 Annual Report.  
Annual Report Coordinators – Kim Poli, Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief  
and Susan Lindenmuth, Public Relations Manager

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