

2010 Annual Report

Estero Fire Rescue



DEDICATED AND DRIVEN FOR THOSE WE SERVE

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

LEADING THE WAY

A Message From Chief Scott A. Vanderbrook

Another year has come and gone both in our personal lives and with our extended Estero Fire Rescue family. We have seen many changes over the past year both in the county and within Estero Fire Rescue. Some of these changes have hurt us both personally and professionally and at the same time these changes have made us stronger.

For the past year we have continued a cautious and disciplined approach to financial management that has helped insulate the District and our citizens from severe recession-induced challenges currently facing other agencies. Although District revenue has declined, and may decline in the future, a combination of cost reductions and the use of reserves will largely sustain the existing levels of service.



Our budget in the future will maintain a careful balance – focusing on both managing through the uncertain economy today while continuing to maintain a long term planning perspective. We are mindful that this pursuit and investment in our strategic vision during this period of slow economic growth is challenging. We are led by a seasoned management team. With the help of our employees, labor leadership, and with the guidance from our Board of Fire Commissioners, I am confident that we have the resources and the resolve to execute the goals of our organization.

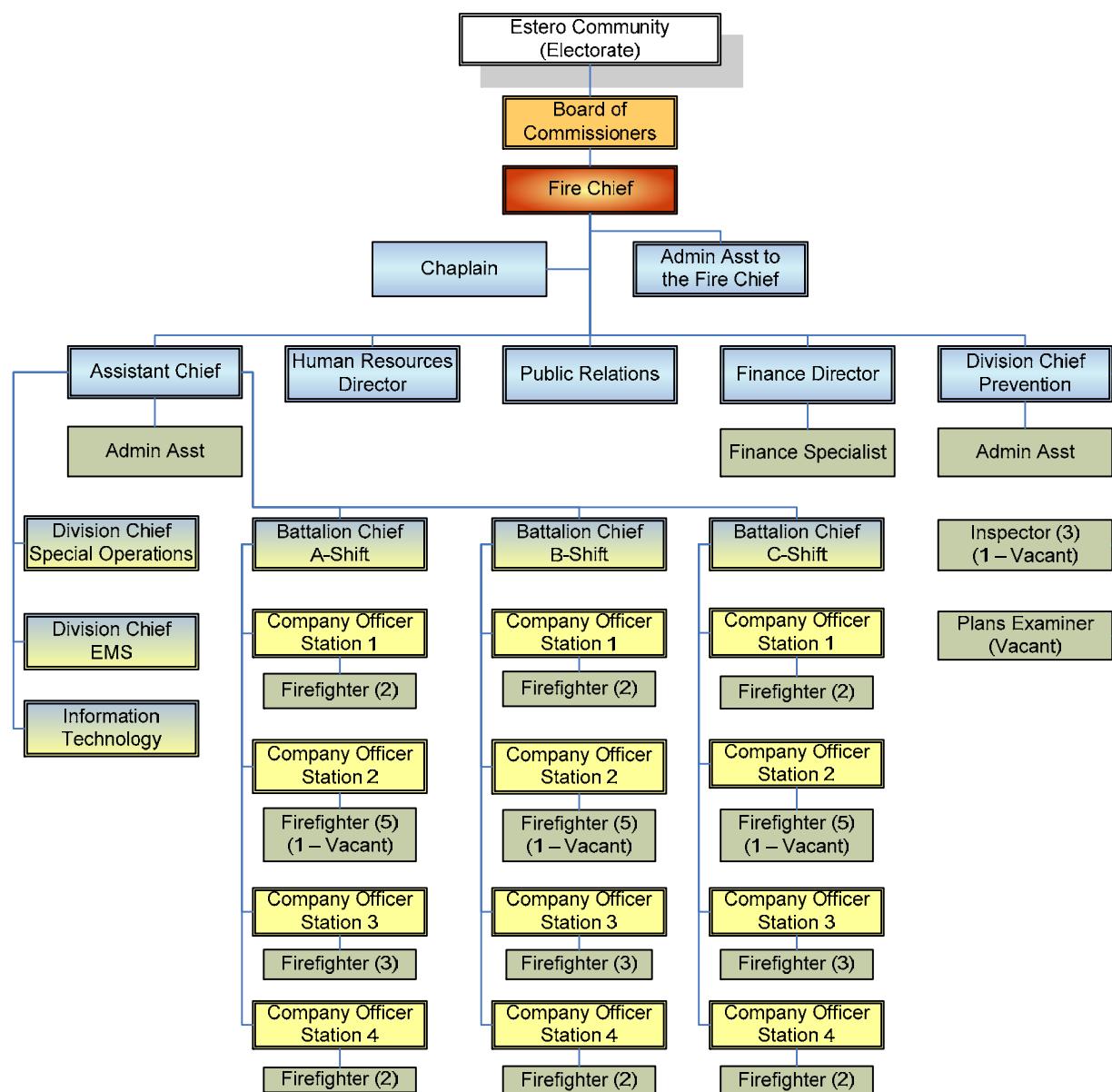
The responsibilities of this agency affect the lives of the people in our community every day. Ensuring that our citizens and visitors live in a safe environment protected by one of the finest fire departments in the county, this is a responsibility that we at the District welcome. We are grateful to our Commissioners, employees and the community for their support of our efforts to safeguard and extend a legacy of exceptional service and public value.

As we reflect on the past and look forward to the future, we may not always agree on the overall objective, but we can all agree that we are a family and in difficult times families rely on each other to get through whatever they may face. I’m proud to be part of this fire department and family and look forward to achieving whatever we set out to do together.

THE ROLE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners of Estero Fire Rescue are the only public officials elected exclusively by the voters of Estero. Commissioners generally serve four year terms unless they are appointed to fill a seat mid-term due to the resignation, retirement or death 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 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 ensure the citizens of Estero their fire rescue service is running efficiently.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



COMMISSIONER FRED PARTIN, SEAT 1

I thank the citizens of Estero for giving me the opportunity to serve as Fire Commissioner for their District. Since being appointed in February 2010 and then elected to the position the following November, I have met a lot of people within our community. I am optimistic about the future of Estero Fire Rescue. We have a great staff, led by Chief Vanderbrook, that is well trained and committed to providing quality and efficient service for our community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are truly dedicated and driven to serve.



We have a good, diverse Board of Fire Commissioners for the District. Diversity is our strength and assures we ask the right questions as we consider the options before us. I'm confident as we approach the challenges ahead, with budgetary and consolidation issues at the top of the list, we will do so thoughtfully and with integrity, and we will make the right decisions for the citizens we serve.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve. I am honored and remain committed to providing you, the citizens of Estero, with top-quality and efficient service.

COMMISSIONER FRANK MESSANA, SEAT 2

First, I would like to thank the residents of Estero for the continued support for their fire department during these tough economic times. I have been honored to be your elected representative to the Estero Board of Fire Commissioners. 2011 will continue to be a challenging year for all of us in Southwest Florida. As you may know, governments are facing the same budget crunches that we are all facing in our own homes and businesses. Governments will be forced to live within a budget just like you and I do at home. At Estero Fire Rescue, we have the challenge of providing a quality emergency response service level that the residents, visitors and business owners deserve and expect. During FY 2011, Estero Fire Rescue will face even greater challenges due to declining property values and the decline of impact fee revenues. Estero Fire Rescue is dedicated to providing an effective, professional, and efficient 911 emergency response. The men and women of Estero Fire Rescue are truly the best in the business and we need to remember that. Rest assured, Estero Fire Rescue is prepared to overcome these challenges and will continue to be there when the alarm sounds.



COMMISSIONER BRUCE PHILP, SEAT 3

SECRETARY-TREASURER

First, I want to thank all of the employees of Estero Fire Rescue for their dedicated service to the community during 2010.

I'm honored to begin my first full term as an Estero Fire Rescue Commissioner. I am also pleased with the results of the November 2010 election. Estero residents voted to retain appointees Sean James and Fred Partin, both of whom bring valuable backgrounds and strengths to the Board of Fire Commissioners. I look forward to continuing to work with all of the Commissioners, Chief Vanderbrook and his staff to safely provide the most effective, cost efficient fire and emergency services in Southwest Florida.



Economic uncertainty remained a key challenge in 2010 as assessable property values continued their decline. All eyes were on tightening current operating costs to an absolute minimum and cost-saving cooperative service agreements with neighboring districts continue to be a priority. The Collective Bargaining Agreement, due to expire in 2010, was successfully renegotiated and a stop/start option on the 175 Retirement Plan was approved and will begin generating savings as early as 2011. The Board of Fire Commissioners voted unanimously to hold the 2010/2011 millage rate to 2.0, but at a cost of drawing down almost \$1 million from our limited reserves.

In 2010, the administrative staff and the Board thoroughly analyzed the organizational and financial impact of the final Tri-Data consolidation study released in January. While the report did provide a summary of the current operations in San Carlos Park, Estero and Bonita Springs, it failed to deliver a logical or rational economic justification to merge the three fire districts together any time in the foreseeable future.

Estero Fire Rescue remains a very dynamic and enthusiastic operation where challenges are immediately viewed as opportunities. Each year, the many public education events, the personal accomplishments of the Estero Fire Rescue employees and the individual award recipients show that the organization continues to strengthen.



Lieutenant Hardman addresses the Board of Fire Commissioners
at the October 2010 Board Meeting.

COMMISSIONER RICHARD SCHWEERS, SEAT 4

CHAIRPERSON

Gayle Sassano resigned from the Board in January 2010 after twelve years of dedicated service to the community and Estero Fire Rescue. Thank you Gayle for your years of dedicated service. Fred Partin was appointed to the Board replacing Gayle Sassano on February 9, 2010 and, along with the other two new Commissioners, Sean James and Bruce Philp, has done an outstanding job in representing the Estero community and Estero Fire Rescue. Commissioner Partin, Commissioner James and Commissioner Philp have been totally involved with all aspects of the operation and are cognizant of the District's needs to be able to continue to bring the high level of professional service which has been our forte for the past several years.



Kate Hendrickson from Indianapolis and a student at DePauw University, interned with Estero Fire Rescue during the month of January 2010.

A joint meeting of the Commissioners from Estero, Bonita Springs and San Carlos Park was held at our administrative building on January 26th to receive the consultant's consolidation report which was not very well received. The consultant's recommendation failed to take all of the facts and issues into consideration prior to arriving at their conclusion, which led to further investigation by the Estero Board into all ramifications of consolidation.

The Chairpersons and Fire Chiefs from Estero, Bonita Springs and San Carlos Park met with the Editor of the Fort Myers News Press to contest an editorial by the News Press regarding our consolidation efforts. We felt their views were completely inaccurate and after listening to our group the Editor agreed to write a corrected editorial, which was published soon after our meeting with them.

I had the pleasure of attending the Legislation Delegation luncheon meeting on February 24th and the Bonita Springs Annual Prayer Breakfast on March 2nd. Both were outstanding and interesting events.

Former Estero Fire Rescue Commissioner Larry Westin passed away on April 19, 2010. Larry served Estero Fire Rescue with distinction for many years and strived to re-build our organization following the Wackenhut fiasco in 1997.

Our annual Budget Workshop was held on July 21st and we were delighted to have three very active members of the Estero community join us. We appreciated their input plus they appeared to come away with a much better understanding of the financial needs of the District.



A Pension Workshop was held on September 30th and this is another segment of our finances that will require the Board's attention.

Lastly, I had the pleasure of attending the ECCP Workshop held at the Hyatt on November 13. This was a very well run and organized morning meeting dealing with future growth in Estero.

COMMISSIONER SEAN JAMES, SEAT 5

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank the residents of Estero for their vote of trust in me in the November 2010 election. I commit myself to justifying that trust by keeping the well being of Estero residents as the primary influence in my decision making, as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. In this case, I define "well being" as the optimum balancing of benefit and cost, to Estero residents.



This past year continued the trend of declining property valuations, resulting in declining revenues. The cost reduction efforts by Chief Vanderbrook and his staff in aggressively attacking costs, and the cooperative attitude of the firefighters, in the light of economic realities, are to be commended. Hopefully, both of these efforts can be continued as we move forward.

There has been much public discussion, during this past year, concerning the potential consolidation of fire districts. The costs and benefits of such a consolidation have been thoroughly analyzed and evaluated. There is absolutely no question that, based on the financial impact of such a consolidation, there would be a significant negative impact on Estero taxpayers, in both the near term and the longer term. Consequently, I do not support the proposed consolidation plan.

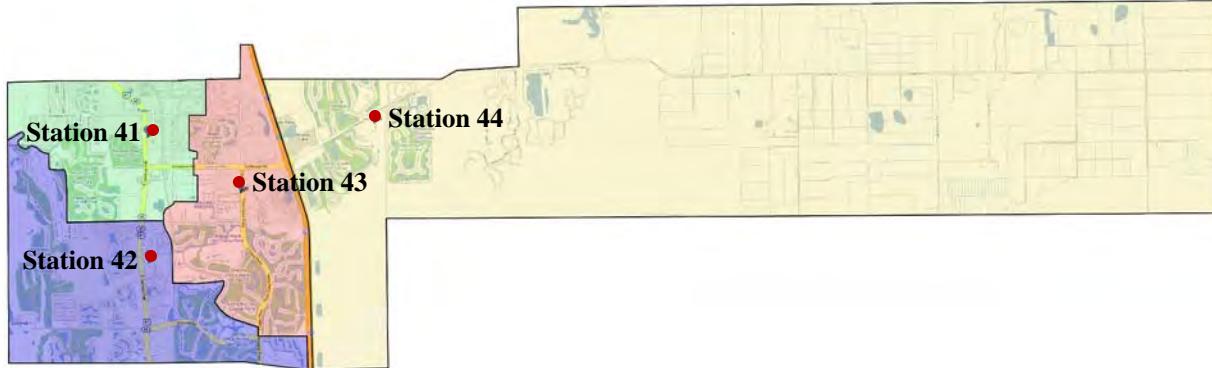
I am encouraged by recent economic reports that indicate that foreclosures are declining and, at least in Estero, there are some signs that overall housing values may be starting to stabilize. On the assumption that international turmoil does not destabilize the world's economies, I believe that there is some hope for limited optimism as we move into the future.



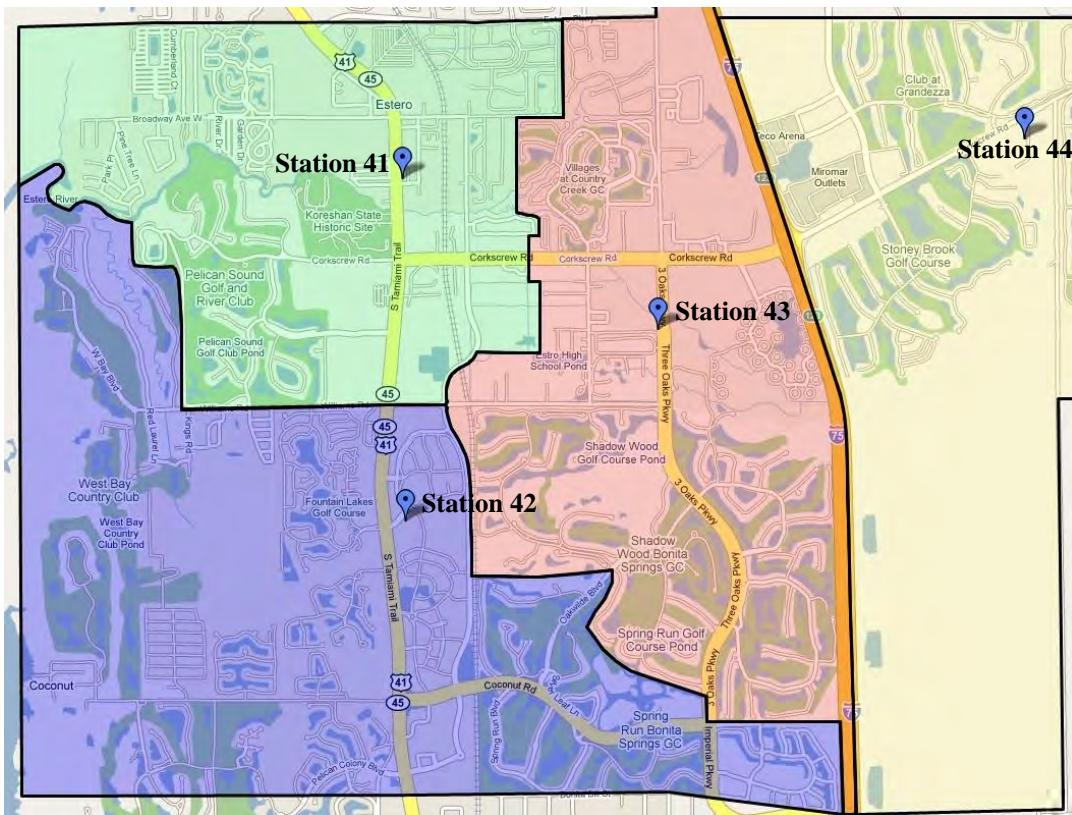
Resident Nick Batos addresses the Board at the
September 2010 Public Hearing.

THE DISTRICT

The State of Florida divided Lee County into official Fire Districts, including the Estero Fire Rescue District, encompassing 56 square miles of Southern Lee County extending from Estero Bay to Collier County. This map shows the area the Estero Fire Rescue District is responsible for serving.



The map below shows the more densely populated areas and the station locations which serve them.



Both maps are accessible on our web site www.esterofire.org

STATION 41—8631 COUNTY ROAD



Station 41 is known as the George Horne Station, after Estero's first fire chief. It became operational in August of 2002, and is located at the corner of US 41 and County Road, about 1/2 mile south of the original Estero fire station. Station 41 serves the northwest portion of the District, including the historic sections of Estero and the Koreshan State Historical Site. Station 41 houses 1 Lieutenant, 1 Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic per shift. Marine 40, Air-40 and Brush 41 are not staffed and require personnel from Ladder 41 in order to be placed into service.

Ladder 41 is an ALS (Advanced Life Support) vehicle, and it can hoist a water line 75' in the air. The truck carries 500 gallons of water and can pump 1,250 gallons per minute when attached to a hydrant. The nozzle at the top of the ladder can be remote controlled from the ground and deliver up to 1,000 gallons per minute. This vehicle is called a 'quint' because the aerial ladder adds a fifth capability to the 4 found on a regular pumper.



75' Aerial (Ladder 41)



Marine 40



Light-Duty Brush/Utility (Brush 41)



Air & Light Trailer (Air-40)

STATION 42—8005 SWEETWATER RANCH



Station 42 is located on Sweetwater Ranch Blvd., which leads into the Rapallo development and Coconut Point. Station 42 serves the densely populated southwest portion of the District, including the Coconut Point Mall. While identical to the other stations on the inside, its outside appearance matches the architecture of the surrounding development. Station 42 became operational in the fall of 2005. Due to the large call volume for Station 42 more personnel are housed at this station, which includes 1 Lieutenant, 1 Engineer and 3 Firefighter/Paramedics per shift.

Lieutenant, Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic while Rescue 42 is placed into service with 2 Firefighter/Paramedics.

In 2007, Estero Fire Rescue purchased a rescue unit that is utilized for medical calls instead of an engine company. This reduces mileage and wear and tear on our engine company, therefore reducing vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.



Rescue 42



95' Aerial (Truck 42)

This 2002 E-One, 95' platform is the flagship of Estero Fire Rescue's fleet of emergency response vehicles. It has all of the capabilities of Estero Fire Rescue's other ALS engines, plus it carries heavy equipment for Southwest Florida's Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR), also known as Florida's Task Force Six. The platform can hold up to 500 pounds while delivering a stream of water and hours of breathable air. A maximum of 750 pounds can be lifted by the platform if it is not flowing water, and can be positioned in any direction including straight up or straight out to the side.

This 2001 E-1 Quint is Estero Fire Rescue's first aerial truck. It can hoist a water line 75' in the air. The truck carries 500 gallons of water and can pump 1,250 gallons per minute when attached to a hydrant. The nozzle at the top of the ladder can be remote controlled from the ground and deliver up to 1,000 gallons per minute. This vehicle is called a 'quint' because the aerial ladder adds a fifth capability to the 4 found on a regular pumper.



Ladder 42

STATION 43—21510 THREE OAKS PARKWAY



Known as the Three Oaks Station, Station 43 became operational in March of 2002. It is located about 1/4 mile south of Corkscrew Road. Station 43 covers portions of the Brooks, Estero High School and much of the area near and just west of I-75. At the present time, Station 43 is also host to a Lee County Ambulance (Medic 21). Station 43 houses 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic per shift. Brush 43 requires personnel from Engine 43 or another Station in order to be placed into service.

This full Class A firefighting truck is a 2002 E-One pumper, holding 750 gallons of water and is capable of pumping 1,500 gallons of water per minute when hooked to a hydrant. This is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) vehicle, carrying a paramedic and the best life support equipment this side of a hospital. This engine, along with a nearly identical Engine 44, make up the backbone of Estero Fire Rescue's fleet of life saving vehicles.



Pumper (Engine 43)



Shift Commander (Battalion 40)



Light-Duty Brush (Brush 43)

STATION 44—21300 FIREHOUSE LANE



Known as the Stoneybrook Station, Station 44 was completed in March of 2003. It is located immediately north of Pinewoods Elementary School. Its close proximity to the school provides the opportunity for the crews at Station 44 to be very active with children's fire and safety education. Station 44 serves the District east of I-75. Station 44 houses 1 Lieutenant, 1 Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic per shift. Brush 44 and Tender 44 require personnel from Engine 44 or another Station in order to be placed into service.

This truck is also a 2002 E-One pumper and has the same capabilities as Engine 43. Estero Fire Rescue's truck numbering corresponds with their location. The first number (4) is the designation for the Estero Fire District. The second number is the number of the fire station where the vehicle generally resides when not on emergency calls.



Pumper (Engine 44)



Brush 44



The 3,000 gallon Kenworth tender is a vital piece of equipment for firefighters and a great addition to the arsenal for Estero Fire Rescue. This is most notable in areas where there are limited water resources. Tender 44 carries a 600 gallon per minute pump and a folding tank that will allow the vehicle to offload its water supply into a holding tank while it goes to refill. This holding tank can then be used by engines to draw water for fire suppression. The tender allows Estero Fire Rescue to defend property outside of 1,000 feet from a hydrant. Property insurance may be reduced because of this vehicle.



3,000 Gallon Tender (Tender 44)

OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief Mark C. Wahlig

It may be hard to forget the sudden and deep decline in the U.S. economy, the crash of Wall Street, the spike of unemployment into double digits, the collapse of the construction industry or the loss of tax revenue in this country that has squeezed every form of government. But I'm not referring to our current economic crisis, but instead the condition this country was left in after the stock market crash on October 29, 1929 that kicked off the Great Depression.



Reviewing the Great Depression quickly draws many similarities to today's economy. You can argue many differences as well, but one point remains the same, this country and those living in it were broke. Our parents and grandparents learned the hard way how to save a dollar. They became the example of thrifty and hardly disposed of anything that could be used in another form. They learned skills that allowed them to become more self-sufficient as they couldn't afford to pay others. They treated everything they came in contact with as if it was the last one on earth, because to them it probably was.

The good news is if history is destined to repeat itself, we will eventually return to better although somewhat different times. So why is this relevant to Estero Fire Rescue? That is because, once again, this lesson has been repeated to a whole new generation. The employees of Estero Fire Rescue have learned to adapt and overcome when it comes to repairs, replacement, purchases and the general care of the District's equipment.

Knowing the limited dollars available to the District, employees have repaired instead of replaced, repurposed instead of disposed and done themselves instead of hiring out. Everything has been up for grabs from vehicle maintenance and repair, to the upkeep and repair of our facilities. Estero Fire Rescue's employees have gone above and beyond their normal assignments to help save every dollar possible. I have seen our employees replace their fire service tools with paint brushes, spend their rest periods laying pallets of mulch, become major appliance technicians, and much more.

Our more experienced employees have found ways to continue training our newer employees in a traditional manner that is completely home grown. Training props are designed and utilized in-house that may not be the latest in the high-tech world but teach the same points nonetheless. Training programs and apprenticeships were instituted in-house so that our succession plan would be solid for the future. A co-op was formed with other fire departments in order to pool resources and train together.

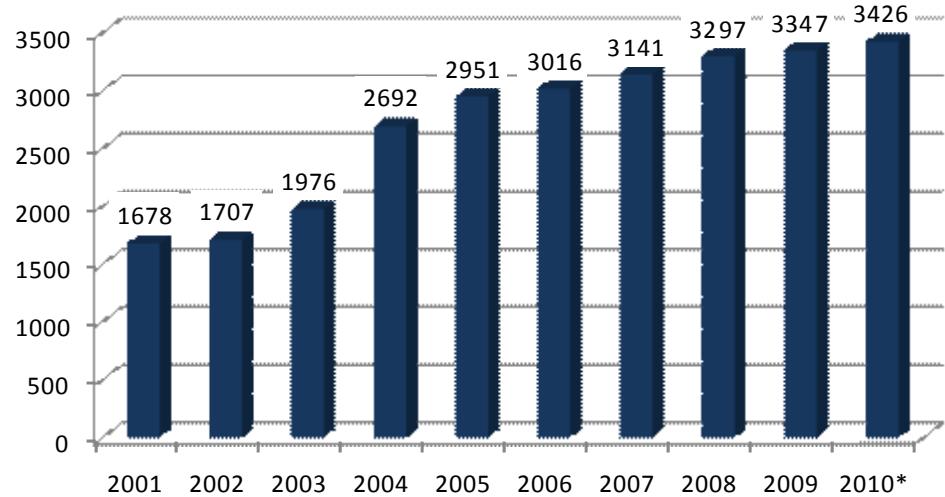
Several employees have contributed their non-fire service skills or obtained new skills in order to bring many outside expenses in-house. From the inspection, repair and cleaning of firefighting protective clothing to the design and implementation of a marine rescue program, these employees have contributed greatly to enhancing our service for minimal cost.

Equipment that once was used on the front line has now found itself used in other areas instead of being disposed. Our technology equipment that starts life in a high demand application is filtered down to less demanding applications extending its life and saving technology dollars.

In addition, purchases are carefully evaluated to determine their necessity. Multiple quotes are sought prior to purchase and every employee has put the pressure on their vendors and contractors to obtain the best quality and the best price.

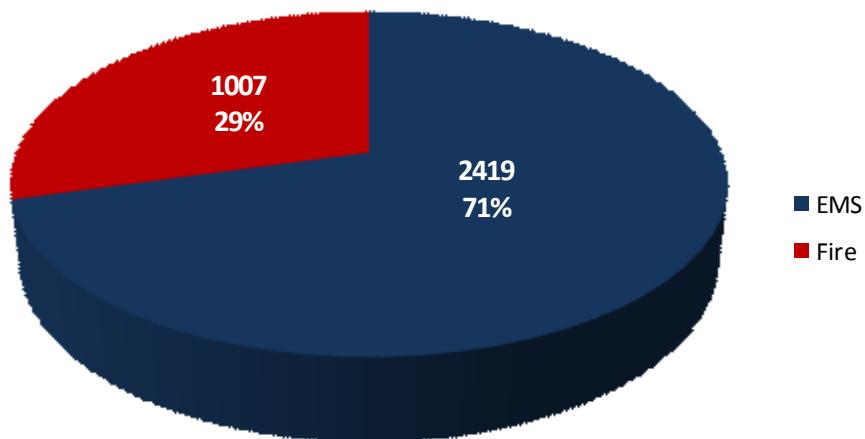
These values will not stop once our economy is no longer in the headlines, they will continue to guide and direct us so that we remain in a respectable financial position. We will continue to practice fiduciary responsibility so that we may provide a consistent and high level service to our customers as expected while maintaining a respectable cost.

CALL VOLUME FOR LAST 10 YEARS

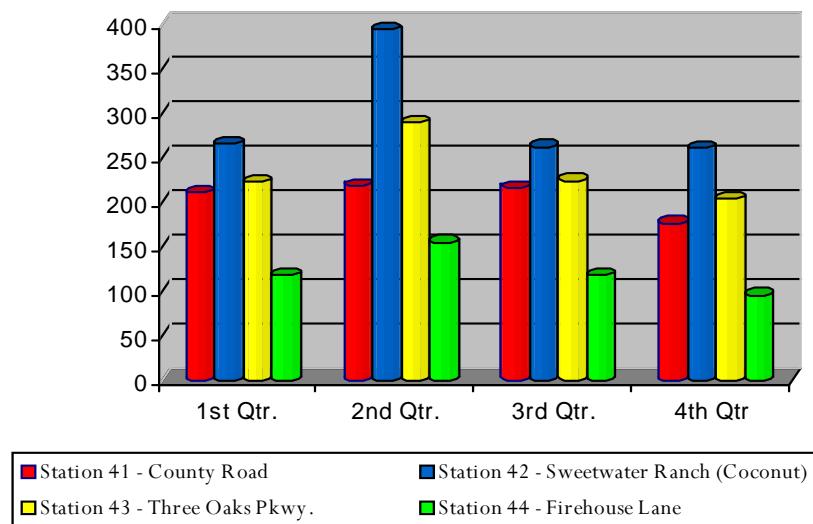


*815 calls were previously reported in the 2009 Annual Report, the remaining 2611 calls are for the nine month period, January-September 2010

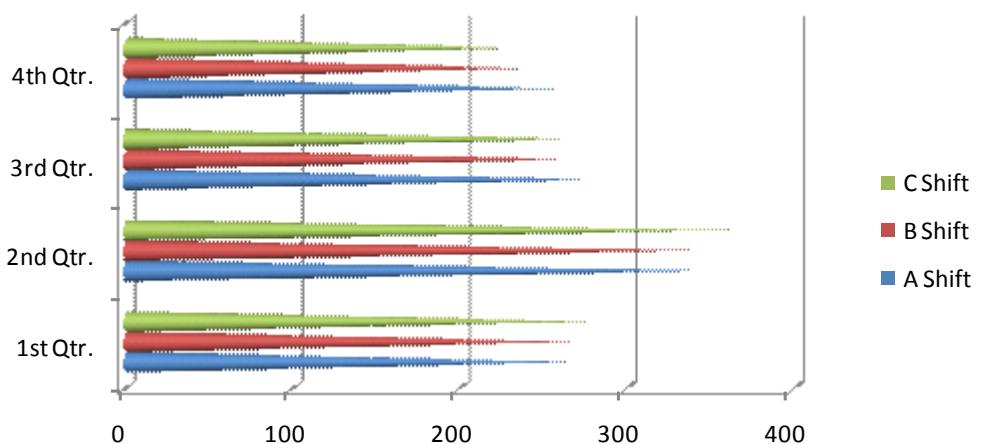
2009/2010 Call Type



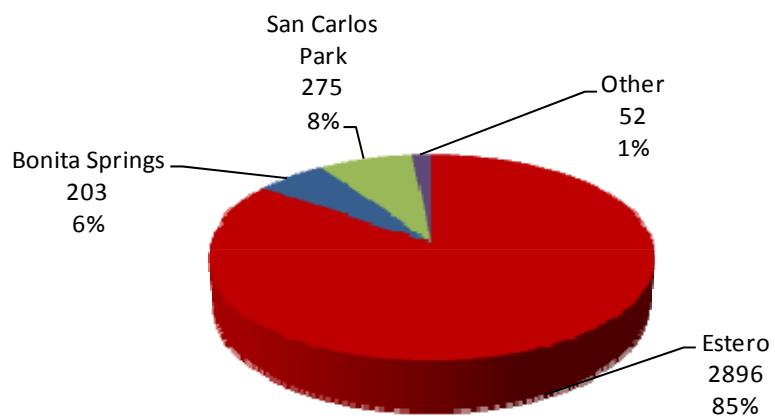
2009/2010 MONTHLY CALLS PER STATION



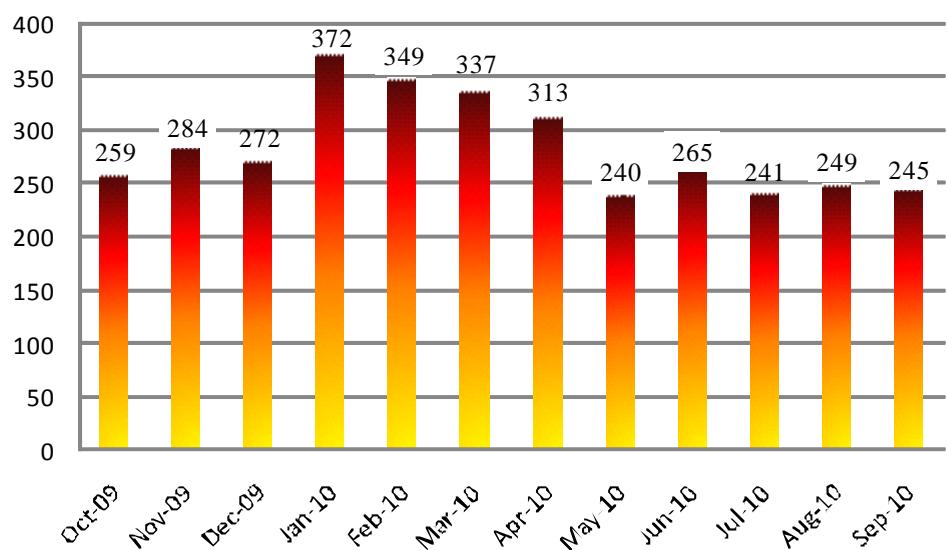
2009/2010 CALLS PER SHIFT



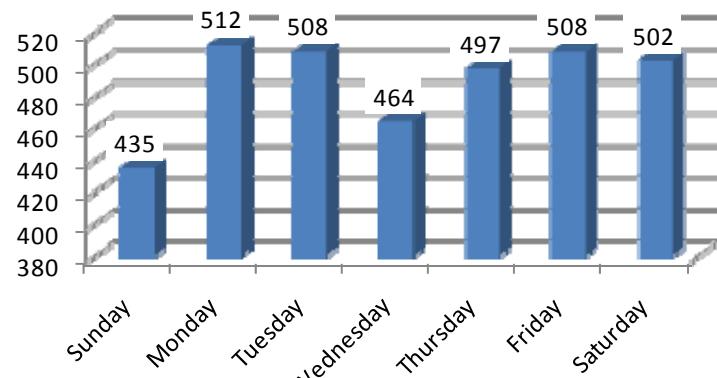
2009/2010 CALL LOCATION



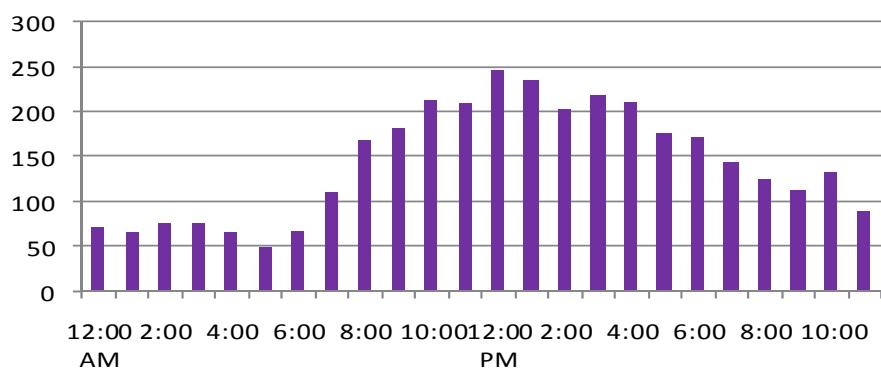
2009 / 2010 CALLS PER MONTH



2009 / 2010 CALLS PER DAY



2009 / 2010 CALLS PER TIME OF DAY



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Division Chief Edwin M. Dwyer

The Special Operations Division of Estero Fire Rescue serves a vast area of responsibilities to the internal and external customers all in an effort to aid the organization in providing a valuable service to our citizens. This Division, with assistance from very dedicated coordinators, is responsible for the functions of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bike Team, Hazardous Materials Response, the Marine Unit which provides boat and water rescue, Urban Search and Rescue, and the vehicle, equipment and facilities repair and maintenance activities.



MARINE UNIT

In the last year, Marine 40, part of the Marine Unit has been a valuable asset in providing service to our citizens and visitors to the Estero area. Marine 40 also participates in the local Marine



Marine 40

Emergency Response Team (MERT). MERT is a cooperative team approach to providing medical, fire, searches and rescue services to boaters and island visitors in the coastal areas. MERT as a whole covers an area from Charlotte Harbor to Wiggins Pass in Collier County. Emergencies on the water can require numerous resources depending on the type of help needed. This is where the team or regional approach comes in. Marine resources are dispatched from agencies closest to the emergency to provide the quickest assistance.

Lieutenant Brownlee applied for and received our second West Coast Inland Navigational District Grant (WCIND) which enabled Marine 40 to provide firefighting capabilities. Marine 40 has been outfitted with a portable pump that may be used to suppress boat fires or provide a water source for island wildland or structure firefighting. The personnel continue to train in marine emergencies and in regional drills conducted by the MERT group in an effort to be ready for the next call for help. In the last year, Marine 40 was used in twelve (12) emergency and two (2) non-emergency situations.

MERT Training



EMS BIKE TEAM UNIT

The EMS Bike Team continues to serve our community by providing very specialized EMS services at community events. This method of EMS service is efficient and very effective for localized and focused events. The teams carry the necessary equipment to provide both Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) care to patients quickly in difficult access areas or crowds. The EMS Bike Team members continue to maintain their skills through training and skills refreshers on the team bikes. In the last year the EMS Bike Teams provided services to at least eight community events some of which include the Walk for Autism, Susan G. Komen "Race for a Cure", and also provided medial standby to our Estero malls during the crowded holiday season. During this time, the EMS Bike Team has grown in membership and added a second set of EMS bikes to serve the growing number of events in the Estero community.



URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR) UNIT

Estero Fire Rescue is a founding member of the Southwest Florida Urban Search and Rescue team, known to the State of Florida as Florida Task Force 6. Florida Task Force 6 is a cooperative effort amongst public safety agencies to provide specialty services to the residents of Lee County and Southwest Florida. This specialized service is too labor and funding extensive for one agency. These public safety agencies cooperate to provide these services in a cost effective manner along with applying for and receiving grant funds to offset and achieve their mission. The team has recently closed out a grant from fiscal year 2007 and is currently participating in a grant from 2008 for \$300,000 that provides for capital equipment needs, equipment repair and maintenance and personnel training costs. This last year has been very quiet in regard to natural disasters, industrial type accidents or similar emergencies that require the skills of our highly trained personnel. That being said, these personnel must continue to plan for and train to maintain their skills for when they are called upon to perform with these life save skill sets. The behind the scenes list that is not well know to our citizens is quite lengthy. Every member of the USAR team has a primary and secondary position to accomplish the USAR mission, with each position having its own set of skills

and required training. In fiscal year 2010, the personnel recertified, just to mention a few, in the areas of swift water rescue, trench rescue, confined space and vehicle and machinery extrication. The skills of the personnel is only half of the equation. The team members also meet on a monthly basis to service and maintain their cache equipment that is needed to perform these skills.





HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TEAM—Battalion Chief Dale I. Reisen, A Shift

In this fiscal year, Estero Fire Rescue has been busy responding to and mitigating hazardous material incidents. This year we have been able to increase our hazardous material training hours and have purchased equipment to increase the safety of our firefighters, hazardous materials technicians and specialists.

In 2010, we offered 113 hours of continuing education in hazardous materials training to our operational team. Within this training, crews were able to train and increase their knowledge in the following fields:

- Hazard Communications
- Hazardous Gas Monitoring
- Review of Hazardous Material Equipment
- Reviewing Chemical Lists of Inventory of Business
- Chemical Suicide Incidents
- Propane and Natural Gas Emergencies
- Responding to Suspected Biological Agents
- WMD Mass Casualty Decontamination
- Review of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) and the NIOSH Chemical Hazard Guide

Crews responded to 48 motor vehicle accidents that also involved hazardous chemicals leaking or spilled from the vehicles. These flammable and combustible liquids were gasoline, diesel, hydraulic and ethylene glycol fluids. Firefighters also mitigated five (5) large leaks of propane and natural gas emergencies with the largest amount of over 500 pounds of natural gas released from a cut underground service line. Nine (9) emergency incidents involving spills of gasoline or diesel fuel on to the ground that had to be absorbed, with the largest spill being 20 gallons.



In this photograph, firefighters are training in setting up for a mass casualty decontamination for victims that have been exposed to a hazardous material or biological agent.



These photographs show some of the new HAZ MAT equipment that crews trained on.

TRAINING PROGRAMS – Battalion Chief Charles Collins, B Shift

Firefighting operations are inherently dangerous and too often can be deadly. In order to protect our community and our firefighters, Estero Fire Rescue relies heavily on training, for it is training that the firefighter will revert to in a crisis situation. Seconds count and every decision must be made quickly and correctly. To accomplish this mission, Estero Fire Rescue has strengthened its firefighting training program.

The program is managed by Battalion Chief Charles Collins who assumed the role of the Fire Training Coordinator in May of 2010. Chief Collins brings years of basic and technical experience in the fire service as well as technical rescue. Chief Collins has implemented many ideas from his own experience, as well as soliciting the wants and needs of the troops in order to provide relevant training that has the input and buy-in from those that will be using it.

With the help of several employees, Estero Fire Rescue has established new training programs that are producing a better trained and cohesive organization.

The Acting Engineer program, now known as the Engineer Academy, has gone from kitchen table discussions amongst a few people that recognized a need and a possible area of inconsistency, to a formal journeyman type program with specific goals, objectives and timelines. This program prepares firefighters for the role of operating Estero Fire Rescue's emergency vehicles, including pumping operations. The program produces a confident Engineer or Acting Engineer and ensures other firefighters that they can perform the skill when called upon.

The Acting Officer program will eventually be in a similar format as the Engineer Academy. It is currently being developed and will hopefully be available for use in April 2011. We ran two individuals through a trial version of this program and are basing the outline for our new program on their experiences. This program will prepare an individual to confidently lead firefighters from day to day activities to emergency response situations.

A special thank you goes out to the employees of Estero Fire Rescue that were involved in the development of these programs. They certainly could not have been completed without all of your help.

Lastly, we are moving to an annual training topic calendar. The training topics have been set out for each month in 2011. This "long term" calendar allows us to provide consistent training topics year after year while rotating special training topics in as needed.

APPARATUS MAINTENANCE PROGRAM—Battalion Chief Jeannine Horton, C Shift

This past year the Apparatus Maintenance Program (AMP), began an ongoing transformation. During the year, responsibility for the operational apparatus maintenance was transferred to Battalion Chief Horton under the Division of Special Operations which has the responsibility for overall Apparatus and Vehicle Maintenance.

The responsibility of the AMP program entails procedure development, preventative maintenance, receiving and triaging repair reports, coordination, scheduling and follow-up of repairs to all aerial ladders, engines, brush trucks, support units, battalion chief cars, and the water tender. Additionally, there are two annual testing processes that Estero Fire Rescue follows, which are recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards; the testing of all apparatus firefighting water pumps, and all aerial and firefighting ground ladders. These repair and maintenance activities are performed with guidance from manufacturer recommendations and mechanics recommendations and training from groups such as the National Emergency Vehicle Technicians and Florida Association of Emergency Vehicle Technicians.

Estero Fire Rescue obtains its fleet maintenance service with three other fire rescue agencies provided by Lee County Fleet Maintenance. Fleet Maintenance provides competitive service pricing, a shared dedicated mechanic, maintenance bay, vehicle lifts, parts department and a “one stop shop” for out sourcing of specialized repair, which may include State Contract or Government Pricing. When necessary, Estero Fire Rescue may use manufacturers mechanics for their experience and expertise.

The importance of preventative maintenance to repairs cannot be understated, especially when it comes to cost factors. First, the Company Officers, Engineers and Firefighters perform regular in-house preventative maintenance to include daily inspection, cleaning, lubricating and exercising of valves, compartments, doors and other components. Crews also conduct weekly fire pump back-flushing to minimize and prevent damage from the various water supplies. Apparatus receive monthly waxing of painted and diamond plated areas as well as manufacturer required aerial ladder cleaning and lubrication.

Second is the mechanic portion of the maintenance program which is performed in two different services. Annually, all fleet vehicles from front line fire and rescue apparatus to our support trailers have an in depth preventative maintenance service performed. This service includes an in depth inspection of the entire vehicle from top to bottom, the electrical systems, braking and other systems to include any repairs or adjustments that may be needed. In conjunction with the annual service the vehicles receive a general service of oil change and fuel and air filter changes, light inspection, fluids and chassis lubrication as needed. On a rotation of 250 hours of run time or 5,000 miles, depending on the vehicle type, a general preventative maintenance will be performed. The general service also includes a safety inspection of emergency lighting and the brakes and brake system.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Division Chief Todd Coulter

Estero Fire Rescue responded to 2,419 EMS calls in 2010, which accounted for 71% of total incidents for the year. Cardiac, general illness and traumatic injuries are the leading types of EMS calls encountered throughout the year.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is supervised by Division Chief Todd Coulter and under the medical direction of Dr. Keith Lafferty, M.D. Estero Fire Rescue is proud to be a part of an EMS system that operates with county wide protocols that advocate aggressive pre-hospital medical treatment and procedures.



Dr. Lafferty joined Estero Fire Rescue after Dr. Nathan relocated out of the area in June of 2010. Dr. Lafferty comes from New Jersey, with a medical degree from The Medical College of Pennsylvania. He is currently employed as an Emergency Room Physician at Gulf Coast Hospital and teaches as a Professor at Temple University Hospital. Dr. Lafferty brings an incredible amount of teaching talent and emergency medicine knowledge to the EMS Division of Estero Fire Rescue.

As of October 2010, Estero Fire Rescue was staffed with 30 licensed paramedics which includes 17 Firefighters/Engineers, 8 Lieutenants, 2 Battalion Chiefs, 2 Division Chiefs, and 1 Assistant Chief. There are also 4 EMT's currently enrolled in Paramedic school which should be completed in 2011.

EMS training was a priority again this year, with each firefighter required to complete a minimum of 60 hours of EMS training. This monthly training includes EMS training with Target Safety, EMS lectures, patient scenarios, and protocol competency assessments. In addition to the monthly training, EMT's and Paramedics were also recertified in Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS).

During 2010, the most notable improvement to our EMS Division was the replacement of 2 of our older LifePak 12 Cardiac Monitors with 2 new LifePak 15 Cardiac Monitors. These new monitors bring the latest technology to our apparatus and make all of our front line cardiac monitors less than 3 years old.

The EMS Division was also responsible for completing a county-wide Rehab Protocol and worksheet. This was accomplished under the direction of the Lee County Medical Care Council and the input of several departments. This protocol and worksheet ensures quality rehab for our crews and establishes a standard of care based on national criteria.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations Manager Susan Lindenmuth

PUBLIC RELATIONS

“Predictable is Preventable” Putting citizens first has always been fundamental to Estero Fire Rescue. The Public Relations Division continues this commitment by hosting a diverse area within Estero Fire Rescue, consisting of public relations, public information and public education. Public Relations act as the liaison to the residents and community for the fire department. This relationship within the community allows the department to keep up to date on the needs of its residents while promoting goodwill.



PINK HEALS On September 26, 2010 Estero Fire Rescue escorted the “Pink Heals” tour to Coconut Point Mall for display. The tour is presented by The Guardians of the Ribbon, a group of firefighters that travel across the nation in pink fire trucks to raise cancer awareness and funds to help fight cancer.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is the role of Public Information to provide comprehensive and accurate information in a timely manner on all breaking news incidents, upcoming events and department happenings. By working closely with media organizations, the PIO is able to keep the public informed. This includes maintaining the department website.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

There is no better way to prevent accidents and injuries than through education. 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. 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.



STATISTICS	
CPR Courses Taught	251
Education Programs	244
Car Seat Inspections	85
Total Public Programs	580
Total Public Taught	13,484

Working closely with the Operations Division, Public Education provides an all-hazards approach to mitigation and life safety and helps Estero Fire Rescue provide information and training to Estero's diverse population. Many of these services are designed to reduce the need for emergency response. Some of these services include:

- Fire Truck Demonstrations
- Life Safety and Prevention Lectures
- Free Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Detector Programs
- CPR, First Aid and AED Training
- Child Safety Seat Installation
- DUI Safety Programs
- Community Event Assistance
- CERT Training (Community Emergency Response Team)



Ember continues to be an important part of the education program for Estero Fire Rescue, attending many public events and being a goodwill ambassador.

Battalion Chief Dale Reisen reads to a group of students at Pinewoods Elementary during Read Across America.



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Battalion Chief Dale I. Reisen—Fire Investigative Unit

For the past fiscal year, Estero Fire Rescue conducted 58 origin and cause fire investigations within our District. Out of the 58 fires, this fire investigative unit was summoned to conduct 13 formal origin and cause fire investigations.

Operational crews responded to 17 fires to residential and commercial structures. Fire damages to these structures along with contents were estimated at \$351,500; crews were able to suppress the fires in a timely manner saving citizens \$4,128,500 in potential property loss.



Estero Fire Rescue also responded to 24 wildland/grass fires, seven trash fires and 10 vehicle fires. The property loss to vehicle fires were estimated at \$47,000.

In this time period, this investigative unit conducted official fire investigations on three (3) incendiary wildland fires, three (3) vehicle fires, with one vehicle listed as incendiary in nature. Seven (7) structure fires were investigated, finding two that were incendiary. Only five of the six arson crimes are open criminal investigations. One wildland arson was solved and the juveniles were caught.

5 - Accidental Structure Fires	1 - Incendiary Vehicle Fire
2 - Accidental Vehicle Fires	3 - Incendiary Wildland Fires
	2 - Incendiary Structure Fires

This structure fire was located at 20494 Sherill Lane, off of West Broadway Avenue. It was called in to 911 by neighbors at 4:35 a.m. on July 14, 2010. Estero firefighters arrived to find this mobile home fully involved in fire. Firefighters tried to enter the structure to search for victims; however, the roof caved in early during the incident. This fire investigative unit was called in to conduct an origin and cause fire investigation.



Evidence on scene pointed to an incendiary (arson) fire so the State Fire Marshal's office was notified of these findings. State and local fire investigators worked this fire scene collecting evidence of arson, taking witness statements and conducting a search of the house for any possible human remains. This investigative case is still an open criminal investigation.

If you have information regarding this arson fire, or any other arson or explosive device incident, you may report it anonymously online at <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/ArsonReporting/> or by calling (877) 662-7766.

LIFE SAFETY & PREVENTION

Division Chief Phillip Green

The primary goal of the Division is to ensure the safety and well being of our residents, visitors and firefighters through inspections of new construction and routine inspections of commercial and multi-family residential properties. These services are provided with courtesy and respect for our customers while striving for code enforcement.

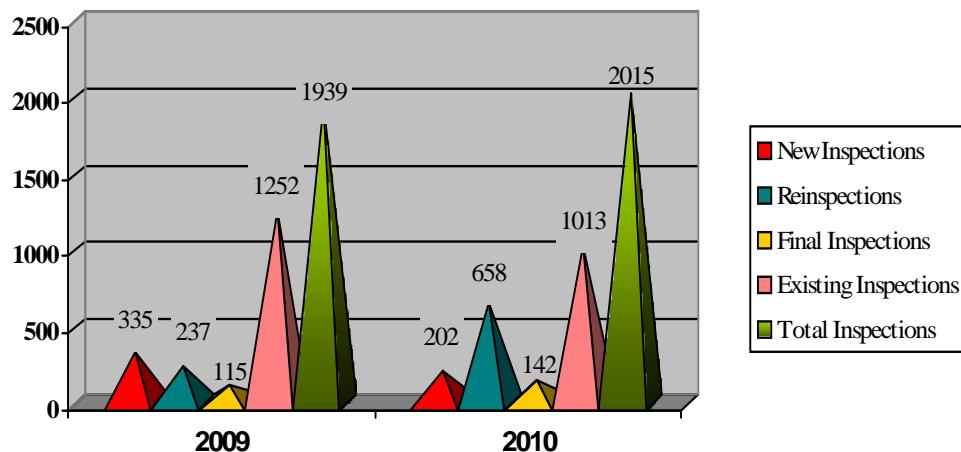


The prevention of emergencies is the key goal to the approach of this Division. Throughout the year this Division has taken a proactive approach to life safety issues. This proactive approach helps Estero Fire Rescue operate at an efficient level. Its goal is to help reduce the cost of providing fire protection services.

In addition to the core responsibilities of the Life Safety & Prevention Division, other accomplishments for the year include:

- Working with Bonita Springs Utilities and Lee County Utilities, several additional fire hydrants were added in areas that were deficient. The addition of these hydrants for specific properties lowered their ISO rating and resulted in lower property insurance rates.
- Worked with the District's attorney to draft and pass a resolution which allows the District to place a lien on property where an owner or business owes fees to the District. This provides an additional avenue for the District to collect fees it is owed for services that have been provided.
- In cooperation with Lee County Utilities, an Interlocal Agreement was drafted and passed. This Agreement allows the District to use Lee County Water Wells for firefighting purposes. This enhances the District's capability in areas where there are no fire hydrants.
- Oversaw the enhancement of the District's fire alarm systems by the conversion to wireless monitoring. This will allow the District to save over \$3,000 a year by eliminating some of its phone lines.
- Prevention began enforcement of the State's Lightweight Truss Law. This law requires certain buildings to post placards indicating that their building contains lightweight roof or floor construction which may fail under fire conditions.

INSPECTIONS



FINANCE

Finance Director April L. White

Estero Fire Rescue Highlights

- At close of fiscal year 2010 Estero Fire Rescue's assets exceeded its liabilities, resulting in net assets of \$16,081,052 on a government-wide basis.
- Total net assets increased \$964,705 or 6.4 percent, in comparison to prior year.
- The increase to net assets is a positive indicator of financial performance improvement despite the economic down turn. The unrestricted balance of \$10,262,586 can be used to meet ongoing obligations of the District and fund amounts assigned by the Board.
- Total revenues decreased \$1,641,478, or 12.5 percent, in comparison to prior year significantly due to decreased property values.
- Total expenses increased \$181,348, or 1.8 percent, in comparison to prior year. This is primarily due to an increase in the compensated absences liability, an increase in station repairs which were unexpectedly comprehensive in nature, and an increase in personal costs due to the bargaining union contract negotiated subsequent to year-end but a change in annual payment dates resulted in a larger payroll accrual.



The following is a condensed summary of net assets for the primary government for fiscal years 2010 and 2009:

Summary of Net Assets

	2010	2009
Assets:		
Current and other assets	\$ 12,998,345	\$ 11,232,691
Capital Assets	<u>11,610,733</u>	<u>12,204,871</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 24,609,078</u>	<u>\$ 23,437,562</u>
 Liabilities:		
Current liabilities	\$ 1,691,965	\$ 518,710
Non-current liabilities	<u>6,836,061</u>	<u>7,802,505</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 8,528,026</u>	<u>\$ 8,321,215</u>
 Net Assets:		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	5,364,654	5,066,691
Restricted	453,812	523,962
Unrestricted	<u>10,262,586</u>	<u>9,525,694</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 16,081,052</u>	<u>\$ 15,116,347</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 24,609,078</u>	<u>\$ 23,437,562</u>

Current and other assets represent 52.8 percent of total assets. Current assets are comprised of unrestricted cash and investments of \$11,572,055, restricted cash of \$453,268 and other assets of \$973,022. The unrestricted cash and investments represent amounts that are available for spending at the District's discretion. Restricted cash includes impact fees restricted for debt repayment and the debt reserve required by the notes.

The investment in capital assets are comprised of land, buildings and improvements, vehicles, and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and the outstanding related debt used to acquire the assets. The Restricted Net Assets is comprised of \$449,812 for repayment of debt and \$4,000 of grant matching funds.

The following schedule reports the revenues, expenses, and changes in net assets for Estero Fire Rescue for the current fiscal years 2010 and 2009:

Summary of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

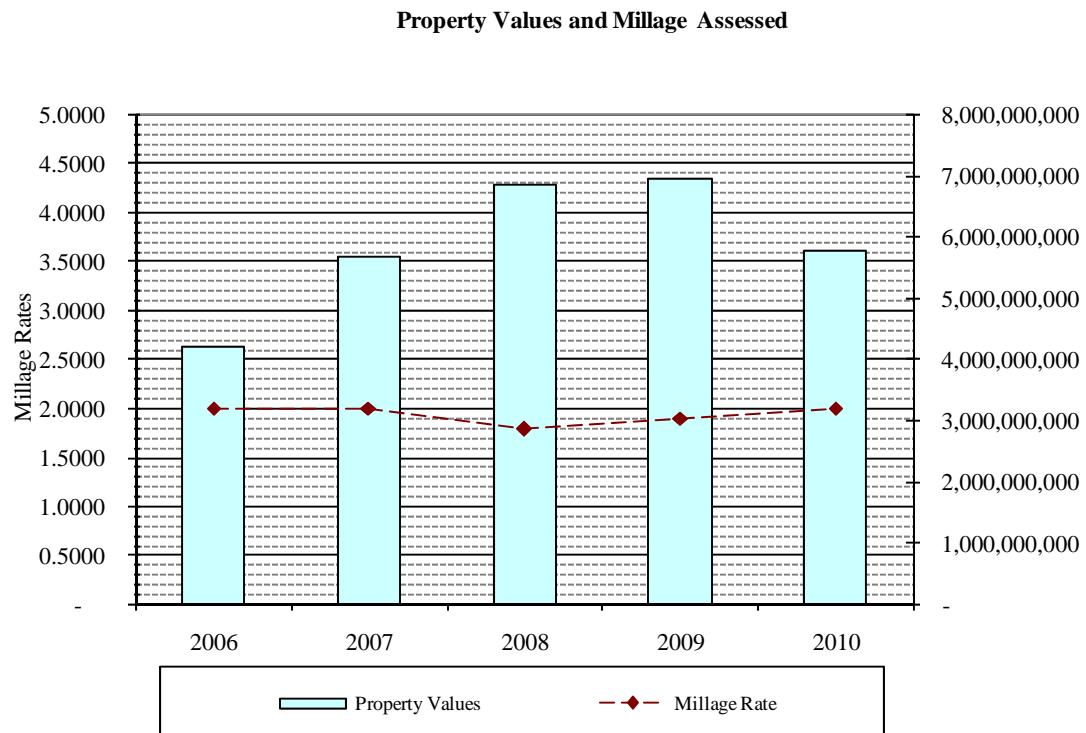
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Revenues:		
General Revenues	\$ 11,192,867	\$ 12,917,919
Ad Valorem taxes	106,855	108,806
Interest	1,659	(36,357)
Gain (loss) on sale of capital assets	46,596	33,640
Other revenues		
Program Revenues		
State and local grants	39,585	-
State Shared	19,200	20,564
Charges for Service	74,719	72,654
Impact Fees	11,707	17,440
Total Revenues	<u>11,493,188</u>	<u>13,134,666</u>
Expenses:		
Public Safety - Fire and Rescue Services	<u>10,528,483</u>	<u>10,347,135</u>
Increase in net assets	964,705	2,787,531
Net Assets - Beginning of the year	<u>15,116,347</u>	<u>12,328,816</u>
Net Assets - End of the year	<u>\$ 16,081,052</u>	<u>\$ 15,116,347</u>

Additional Financial Overview

Total revenues decreased \$1,641,678 on a fund basis, or 12.5 percent, in comparison to prior year. Total Public Safety expenditures increased by \$181,348 or 1.8 percent, in comparison to prior year. Property values have increased by approximately \$1,559,279,785 or 37 percent in the past five years. However, the taxable property value decreased by 17 percent between 2009 and 2010.

The District's millage rate of 1.9037 was increased in 2010 to 2.00 mils but continues to be one of the lowest fire district millage rates in the region. However, due to declining property values, Ad Valorem tax revenues decreased by \$1,725,052 or 13.3 percent in comparison to the prior year.

The following schedule compares the change in property value and growth in millage rates for the past five years:



Impact fee receipts decreased \$5,733, or 32.8 percent, in comparison to prior year and decreased 98 percent from five years ago. The decrease is due to a significant decline in new construction within the District's boundaries. This compounded with no anticipated increase in Ad Valorem revenue due to current economic conditions will continue to create considerable challenges when budgeting for the future.

Budgetary Highlights

Estero Fire Rescue adopts an annual budget for its General Fund as required by Florida Statute. A budget to actual analysis is reported on page 30. Budget transfers are made from time to time in the General Fund to manage unanticipated costs as they relate to originally estimated amounts. The General Fund difference between the final budgeted expenditures and actual expenditures represents a favorable variance of \$274,695 or 2.4 percent. This variance is significantly due to various reductions of operating costs such as: training, supplies, communications, travel, and not having to contribute the full estimated amount for the emergency light at Station 42.

Debt Administration

At September 30, 2010, Estero Fire Rescue had \$6,246,080 of outstanding debt for notes payable. Total long-term liabilities of \$7,754,271 which includes notes payable, derivative fair market value, an implicit subsidy, compensated absences, and deferred compensation, decreased \$48,234 or 0.6 percent in comparison to the prior year. The following is a schedule of the District's outstanding notes payable as of September 30, 2010 and 2009:

OUTSTANDING DEBT

	2010	2009
Renewal C (2002A)	\$ 3,189,787	\$ 3,611,280
Renewal B (2002B)	533,135	855,321
Series 2007A	2,523,158	2,671,579
TOTAL	\$ 6,246,080	\$ 7,138,180

The General Fund is currently responsible for payment of the debt. Impact Fees designated for debt will be used for debt as they become available.

Capital Assets

Non-depreciable capital assets include land and depreciable assets include buildings and improvements, vehicles and equipment.

The following is a schedule of Estero Fire Rescue's capital assets as of September 30, 2010 and 2009:

CAPITAL ASSETS	2010	2009
Land	\$ 1,941,090	\$ 1,941,090
Total Capital Assets not depreciated	<u>1,941,090</u>	<u>1,941,090</u>
Buildings and Improvements	9,309,805	9,298,880
Vehicles	4,265,060	4,303,727
Equipment	<u>530,067</u>	<u>451,138</u>
Total Capital Assets being depreciated	<u>14,104,932</u>	<u>14,053,745</u>
 ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		
Buildings and Improvements	(1,421,706)	(1,114,725)
Vehicles	(2,723,025)	(2,420,812)
Equipment	<u>(290,558)</u>	<u>(254,427)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,435,289)</u>	<u>(3,789,964)</u>
Total Capital Assets being depreciated, net	<u>9,669,643</u>	<u>10,263,781</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS, NET	\$ 11,610,733	\$ 12,204,871

Noteworthy capital asset activity that took place in fiscal year 2010 was as follows:

- Estero Fire Rescue purchased and equipped a marine vessel in the amount of \$59,311. This purchase was partially funded by a grant for \$12,000 from the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) and provided for additional services to the community such as:
 - Rescue and transport of victims involved in marine accidents both offshore and inland waterways.
 - EMS patient care and transport of patients aboard marine vessels offshore and inland waterways.
 - Fire suppression of marine vehicles both offshore and inland waterways.
 - Joint operation with other public safety agencies to provide mass evacuation and/or mass casualty assistance to offshore emergencies such as passenger ships, general aviation, and commercial aviation.
 - Assist Lee County Sheriff's Office and the US Coast Guard with marine patrol and boater safety and awareness.
- Estero Fire Rescue also purchased EMS equipment for a total of \$66,898 including:
 - 4 AED's for \$4,436. These AED's replaced obsolete models. It is Estero Fire Rescue's policy to maintain an AED in all District vehicles and facilities.
 - A four gas meter for the detection of hazardous materials in the amount of \$3,415.
 - Two cardiac monitors for \$56,000. These monitors replaced obsolete monitors that are needed on a daily basis for the front line responding apparatus. The monitors are compliant with the State of Florida Bureau of EMS's requirements.
 - Two bikes were purchased and equipped for \$3,047. Estero Fire Rescue's bike program provides emergency standby and response for large events in Estero.
- Estero Fire Rescue purchased 6 radios for \$16,581. Communication equipment is replaced routinely to enhance capability and memory capacity.
- Technology upgrades were made in the amount of \$18,628 and included replacing 5 computer stations and a new server that provided increased capacity and provisions for redundancy.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget Rates

The following were factors considered when the current year's budget (2010-2011) was prepared:

- Property values decreased again by approximately \$566,047,437 or 9.8 percent to \$5,194,938,022. Estero Fire Rescue is anticipating property values to level off, but will not anticipate any increases in revenue until economic factors can support such estimates.
- Estero Fire Rescue did not budget for any new positions and will not fill any of the eight existing positions due to the uncertainty of the economy.
- Estero Fire Rescue budgeted increase of approximately \$514K in personal services is significantly due to expected rising pension and insurance costs, and wages and benefits negotiated with the firefighter's bargaining unit.
- Estero Fire Rescue anticipates decreasing fund balance by approximately \$1.0MM in an effort to maintain current services. This is the first budgeted deficit adopted by Estero Fire Rescue. In an effort to mitigate future budgeted deficits, the Board adopted a new fund balance policy that establishes fund balance assignments and constraints including conditions for budgeted deficits.

The following schedule of Estero Fire Rescue's Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance as of September 30, 2009, 2010 and 2011:

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
(NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) GENERAL FUND**

Year Ended September 30, 2010

REVENUES	2009 Audited	2010 Audited	2011 Budgeted
Ad Valorem taxes	\$ 12,917,919	\$ 11,192,867	\$ 9,873,704
Charges for services	72,654	74,719	49,000
Other	180,450	223,943	161,358
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>13,171,023</u>	<u>11,491,529</u>	<u>10,084,062</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Personal services:			
Salaries and wages	5,221,626	5,365,485	5,583,689
Overtime	273,943	254,202	239,900
FICA taxes	412,275	418,534	445,507
Retirement contributions	866,222	965,105	1,061,559
Life, health, workers comp. insurance	1,139,874	1,003,325	1,037,643
Subtotal - Personal services	<u>7,913,940</u>	<u>8,006,651</u>	<u>8,368,298</u>
Operating expenditures:			
Property appraiser and tax collector fees	329,528	314,058	310,730
Professional services	106,808	102,998	98,410
Accounting and auditing	27,640	26,600	26,100
Travel	34,231	25,584	42,054
Communications and freight services	57,257	61,941	69,408
Utility services	75,345	66,114	86,700
Insurance	111,933	102,490	112,072
Repair and maintenance services	295,496	388,595	288,798
Operating supplies	211,345	213,121	214,938
Books, memberships, and training	79,855	110,889	126,315
Other	49,469	45,154	74,415
Contributions to Other Governments	40,946	56,135	-
Subtotal - Operating expenditures	<u>1,419,853</u>	<u>1,513,679</u>	<u>1,449,940</u>
Capital outlay	339,751	179,520	85,510
Debt Service	<u>1,156,969</u>	<u>1,149,553</u>	<u>1,143,606</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>10,830,513</u>	<u>10,849,403</u>	<u>11,047,354</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>2,340,510</u>	<u>642,126</u>	<u>(963,292)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Gain (loss) on sale of capital assets	12,402	24,990	-
Refund of prior year revenue	(32,464)	-	-
Loan Proceeds	-	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	<u>2,320,448</u>	<u>667,116</u>	<u>(963,292)</u>
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING	<u>8,393,533</u>	<u>10,713,981</u>	<u>11,478,190</u>
Ending FB Reserved for Debt-Restricted	466,856	449,812	464,289
Ending FB-Reserved for Comm. Safety Fund-Restricted	-	13,840	-
Ending FB Designated for Debt-Unrestricted	1,285,000	1,285,000	993,294
Ending FB Designated for Cptl Imprv Prg-Restricted	46,885	-	26,000
Ending FB Designated for Cptl Imprv Prg-Unrestricted	250,000	1,715,246	3,909,238
Ending FB Designated for Operating Reserve	4,376,691	6,805,963	3,272,746
Ending FB Designated for Health Insurance	450,000	-	-
Ending FB Designated for Retirement	500,000	1,000,000	1,615,489
Ending FB Undesignated	3,338,549	1,112,236	233,842
FUND BALANCE - ENDING	<u>\$ 10,713,981</u>	<u>\$ 11,381,097</u>	<u>\$ 10,544,898</u>

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Director Linda L. Conway

The Human Resources Director is responsible for managing all phases of human resource activity that includes providing consistent leadership, guidance, and support in all aspects of human resource management and labor relations. Essential to all components of Estero Fire Rescue, some of the responsibilities of the Human Resources Director include:

- Assisting employees with policies, processes, insurance and benefits
- Research, study and formal classes are necessary in order to keep current with the many employment laws that impact employees (FLSA, FMLA, ADA, COBRA, Workers comp, USERRA and others)
- Development of policies and procedures
- Compensation administration, retirement and benefits management
- Coordination with outside agencies and legal counsel on complaints/lawsuits
- Labor Relations
- Employee recruitment, selection and orientation
- Employee development and training
- Supervisory counseling
- Return to Work Program
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Workers compensation



Being able to create and adhere to this year's budget was a tremendous accomplishment in such a challenging economic environment. It reflects the ability of our employees to monitor and respond to the changing external landscape, ensuring that Estero Fire Rescue employees had the resources they needed during a difficult time.

The health insurance committee continued to meet throughout the year to research different options for our health plan. The committee recommended remaining with the District's current carrier, BCBS. The initial renewal rate came in at an 11.7% increase. Through competitive marketing and negotiation, Human Resources was able to secure a contract with BCBS at a 0% rate increase. Human Resources is proud of this accomplishment in that other districts experienced large increases to their health plans.

Healthcare reform legislation continues to be an area of focus. With the passing into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Estero Fire Rescue has retained "grandfather status" for at least the upcoming plan year.

Estero Fire Rescue's dental insurance was also sent out to bid this year. While our current carrier proposed the lowest initial renewal at a 30% increase, through research and negotiation, Human Resources was able to lower the renewal rate to 23% and provide an increase in benefits.

2010 was the third year in which the District contracted with Humana for vision insurance. A rate hold was negotiated for the plan year.

Our life insurance was also sent out to bid. Three carriers provided proposals. The District negotiated a contract with a new carrier, Standard which resulted in a 21.7% decrease in premiums.

This year the District provided Long Term Disability insurance to all employees. As a new benefit, the cost to the District was approximately \$10,863.76.

Southwest Florida Employee Assistance Program has provided EAP services to Estero Fire Rescue employees and immediate family members for two years. A contract was negotiated at a 0% increase. There continues to be an increase in utilization of our EAP each year which reinforces Human Resources' commitment to continue this worthwhile program.

2010 is our 2nd year of a 2 year rate hold contract with our workers compensation carrier, PGIT. Workers comp claims rose in 2009 resulting in an increase in our experience modification rate from 1.17 to 1.19. The safety committee continues to review injury reports making recommendations to reduce the number and severity of workplace injuries and incidents through the identification of hazards, reviews, and development of safety initiatives.

Estero Fire Rescue maintains fully insured property and liability policies to protect its facilities, equipment, operations and personnel. Human Resources is responsible for the processes associated with obtaining the appropriate insurance and filing of claims. Estero Fire Rescue renewed a contract with VFIS with a 3.5% increase.

A new collective bargaining unit agreement was negotiated between the District and Local 1826 for a three year contract. This contract allows for wage and health insurance openers, together with one additional opener per party, each year.

The HR Director attended several webinars, conferences and training events throughout the year to stay informed and remain current with employee benefits, compliance issues and labor laws. Additionally, the HR Director received the Certified District Manager (CDM) certification from the Florida Association of Special Districts. Here is a sample of some of this year's activities:

- Hosted open enrollment with Leading Edge and AFLAC
- 7 workers compensation claims filed
- 11 FMLA applications processed
- 6 Short Term Disability claims filed
- 1 new hire
- 38 performance evaluations received

Turnovers:	2008	2009	2010
Administration	2	0	0
Prevention	1	1	0
Operations	3	2	1
TOTAL	6	3	1

EMPLOYEES BY YEARS OF SERVICE

Total 64	
0-2	4
3-5	24
6-10	27
11-15	5
16-20	0
20+	4

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology Administrator, LuAnn Delo

One way to tell where an organization is going is to look at where it has been, from offices in temporary trailers to a permanent administrative complex, Estero Fire Rescue continues to focus on information technology growth to meet the technological needs of the District and plan for future challenges and changes.

We continue to use our computer retirement program that has enabled us the opportunity to purchase new computers and rotate our “more mature or outdated” computers to other areas within Estero Fire Rescue.



Our most impressive leap with technology this year was our implementation of server virtualization. This has allowed us to improve our server utilization with minimal overhead costs. Basically, it allows us to have less physical resources. As a result we use less energy, less IT management and maintenance while providing more redundancy and flexibility to our network.

We have expanded our backup system to include additional data backup storage to protect our data efficiently and securely. Estero Fire Rescue stores over a decades worth of digital data that must be maintained and preserved for future planning and public record.

Each of Estero Fire Rescue’s front line emergency vehicles are equipped with a Mobile Data Computer (MDC) that receive emergency call details and mapping directly from the local 911 center. This year, through our computer retirement program, we were able to reuse older computers and convert them to MDC’s. These computers now assist our chief officers with their emergency response to emergencies in Estero and Lee County.

Estero Fire Rescue is an active member of Florida’s State Emergency Response Plan. This means that resources in Estero may be called upon, along with other emergency response agencies, to provide aid in other parts of the state. To assist us with this mission, Estero Fire Rescue has installed additional GPS equipment in certain vehicles that may be used. This ensures our emergency apparatus and employees make it safely to their destination and can provide quick, responsive assistance to other communities.

In June 2010, Estero Fire Rescue’s Information Technology Division rolled out a new intranet that provided a visual access to data. Previously, employees navigated shared file folders in order to retrieve information. This approach required knowing where to look in order to find the information. When Estero Fire Rescue was a smaller organization this approach served us well. As we have grown, and our data has exploded, we now need to use a more user-friendly, web like method to access shared resources.

Now that the new intranet site is live, FY 2010/11 will allow us to add additional features to the system focusing on streamlining employee communications. These enhancements include requesting and tracking employee leave, event processing, maintenance tracking, equipment issues and requests and more.

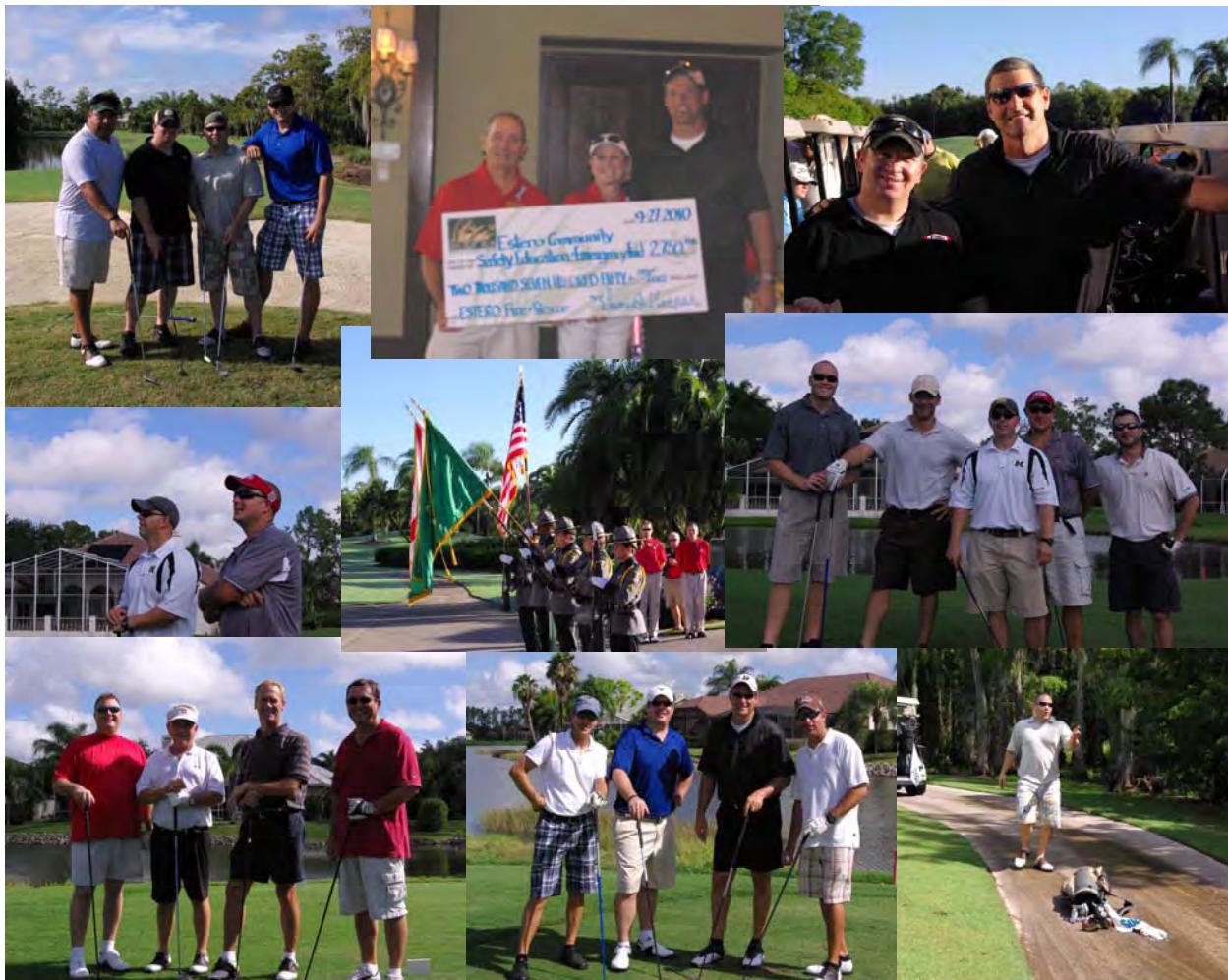
THE SAFETY FUND

As a valued Community partner, Estero Fire Rescue is uniquely qualified and prepared to recognize and address the immediate needs of victims and their families following an emergency.

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

- Provide education and distribution of emergency and safety supplies to residents and visitors
- Promote safety and health initiative through education
- Provide additional comfort and necessary services to those who require the assistance of Estero Fire Rescue due to a natural or man made emergency.

The Safety Fund operates solely on the generous donations and contributions from individuals and communities within Estero. The contributors recognize the need and value of the Safety Fund and are committed to its success. In September, Wildcat Run hosted a 'Giving Back to the Community' golf outing for Estero Fire Rescue and the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Wildcat Run generously donated \$2,750 to the Safety Fund and it is through donations such as this, that provide the means for Estero Fire Rescue to give back to the Community. Other generous donations were received from Riverwoods Plantation and Sunny Grove.



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 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 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.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORP

Beginning in 2009, Estero Fire Rescue CERT began to work and train with a new volunteer group. The Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) is a nationally recognized volunteer organization of healthcare professionals that supplement existing emergency and public health resources. A local MRC chapter based in The Brooks began early in 2009 and members from both Estero Fire Rescue CERT and the MRC quickly discovered that working together could strengthen both organizations and benefit the community greatly.

EXPLORER POST 1964

The Estero Fire Rescue Explorer Program has had another successful year of training and competitions. The Post currently has 13 Explorers and is continually recruiting new members from Estero High School and surrounding high schools. The highlights of 2010 include:

- **Winterfest Competition in Gatlinburg, TN:**
 - 3 top ten finishes in Fire Events (52 teams)
 - 3rd Place in Volleyball Tournament
- **Coral Springs Firematics Competition:**
 - 2nd Place in Hose Rolling Event
 - 5th Place Overall
- **Broward County Firematics Competition:**
 - 3rd Place in Bucket Brigade Competition
- **Maritime Emergencies Summer Tour:**
 - Tour of Port of Miami
 - Tour of Miami-Dade Fire Marine Division and ride on Fire Boat #1
 - 3 day cruise on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Majesty of the Seas
 - Historical and Fire Tour of Key West (Truman's White House)
 - Fire and emergency response tour on board cruise ship with Safety Director
 - Tour of the bridge with RCCL staff
- **Hosted the 3rd Annual FFCA Fire Cadet Academy:**
 - 11 Fire Departments represented
 - 85 Explorers/Cadets attended
 - 16 Advisors attended
 - 2 days of practical skills, classroom training, and fun activities
 - Estero High School was site of conference
 - Bonita Springs and South Trail Fire Departments assisted with training classes



Fire Boat #1 Miami-Dade

The benefits of the program have again become more apparent this year with the following accomplishments:

- 6 Estero Fire Rescue Explorers graduated from Fort Myers Fire Academy
- 4 Explorers completed the EMT Program at Edison College
- 1 Explorer hired as a firefighter by the Department of Forestry
- 1 Explorer hired as a firefighter by Lehigh Acres Fire Department
- Logged over 100 hours of EMS and fire training
- Staffed First Aid tents and participated in numerous community events, such as the 4th of July celebration at Miromar Outlets and Celebrate Estero

The Estero Fire Rescue Explorer Program continues to grow and the success of the Program is demonstrated by the accomplishments of the youth involved.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

JANUARY



MVC
(LOCATION NOT PROVIDED
BY PHOTOGRAPHER)

LABAMBA FIRE MIROMAR MALL



FEBRUARY



MVC 6L'S'S FARM ROAD



CELEBRATE ESTERO CHILI COOK OFF



CHARING CROSS
RESIDENTIAL FIRE



TRAINING—AIR 40



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

MARCH

MEDICAL TRAINING



MVC I-75



SUSAN G. KOMEN 5K AT COCONUT POINT MALL



APRIL

SECOND ANNUAL VALOR 5K AND TRAIL RUN



TRAINING—VEHICLE EXTRICATION



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

MAY

TRAINING—LIVE FIRE



STRUCTURE FIRE —SHIRLEY LANE



MERT TRAINING
(MARINE EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM)

JUNE

BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTO SHOOT



FFCA (FLORIDA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION) FIRE CADET ACADEMY



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

JULY

POSING FOR A CURE—CALENDAR EVENT AT HYATT PLACE COCONUT POINT

Proceeds from calendar sales benefitted a local charity, Partners for Breast Cancer Care, which provides funding for breast cancer diagnosis and treatment for those without health insurance.



FIRE—ALICO ROAD STORAGE OFFICES



BOY SCOUT BIKE RODEO



AUGUST



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFE ROADS



LADDER 41 LIFE SAVE



FLORIDA PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION GOLDEN IMAGE AWARD

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

SEPTEMBER



PINK HEALS TRUCK VISITS ESTERO



OCTOBER

LIVE WELL EXPO CALENDAR EVENT



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

NOVEMBER

HAZ MAT TRAINING



MOVEMBER MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS



**LARGE AREA SEARCH—
TRAINING WITH BONITA SPRINGS**



**COCONUT POINT MALL
BLACK FRIDAY**

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

DECEMBER

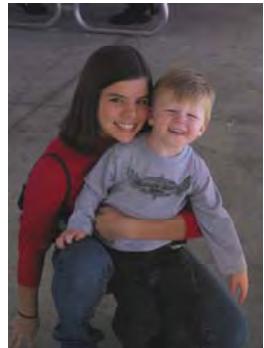
FILL-A-FIRE TRUCK TOY DRIVE



GRANDEZZA CALENDAR EVENT



FIRE WIVES CLUB (FWC) FAMILY DAY



AWARDS, RECOGNITION & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Estero Fire Rescue was honored in 2010 to receive both a local as well as state Image Award from the Florida Public Relations Association for video production. Estero Fire Rescue created and presented a video to residents in 2009 that explained the fiscal challenges faced by the District and the solutions presented. The state-wide association is made up of professional marketing and public relations firms, making the win an extraordinary honor.



RECOGNITION



(L-R) Chief Vanderbrook, Lieutenant Althouse, Lieutenant Ott and Chief Wahlig

25 Years of Service with Estero Fire Rescue
Lieutenant Brent Althouse and Lieutenant Dave Ott

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Battalion Chief Horton, Executive Fire Officer



Chief Vanderbrook, Finance Director White and HR Director Conway received the Certified District Manager (CDM) certification from the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD)

AWARDS, RECOGNITION & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Firefighter Jarred Whelan,
pictured with Lieutenant Hardman

MERIT AWARD



Lieutenant Dan Hardman
Firefighter Mark Diaz
Engineer McDougall
("pictured" with Assistant Chief Wahlig)

PHOENIX AWARD

Lieutenant Glen Brownlee (far left)
Lieutenant Jeff Brann (second from the left)
Firefighter Guillermo Maradona (middle)



AWARDS, RECOGNITION & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Firefighter Clint Skelton, pictured with Battalion Chief Horton



Inspector Scott Danielson,
pictured with Division Chief Green



Lieutenant Bill Poole at the “Giving Back to the Community”
golf outing hosted by Wildcat Run

There were only three recipients during 2010 for the Employee of the Quarter award.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Rising Star
Inspector Scott Danielson



Firefighter of the Year
Clint Skelton

Chief's Award
Lieutenant Glen Brownlee



THE ESTERO FIRE RESCUE FAMILY



Sean James
Commissioner
1 year of service



Frank Messana
Commissioner
2 years of service



Bruce Philp
Commissioner
1 year of service



Fred Partin
Commissioner
New Commissioner



Dick Schuevers
Commissioner
13 years of service



Brent Althouse
Lieutenant
25 years of service



Eliel Blanco
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



Jeff Brann
Lieutenant
8 years of service



James Brown
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



Glen Brownlee
Lieutenant
21 years of service



Henry Burke
Fire Inspector
11 years of service



Charles Collins
Battalion Chief
10 years of service



Linda Conway
HR Director
12 years of service



Todd Coulter
Division Chief EMS
7 years of service



Timi Custer
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



Scott Danielson
Fire Inspector
New Employee



LuAnn Delo
IT Administrator
10 years of service



Mark Diaz
Firefighter—EMT
2 years of service



Edwin Dwyer
Division Chief
Special Operations
10 years of service



Ember
2 years of service



Gregory Escarra
Engineer
5 years of service



Ryan Evanson
Engineer
4 years of service



Jason Fiora
Firefighter—EMT
4 years of service



Anthony Fite
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



Frederick Gonzalez
Firefighter—Paramedic
7 years of service



Dennis Goodlad
Firefighter—Paramedic
7 years of service



Phillip Green
Division Chief
Prevention
6 years of service



Shaun Hagan
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



Daniel Hardman
Lieutenant
4 years of service



Steve Harris
Lieutenant
9 years of service



Lena Hedengren
Firefighter—Paramedic
7 years of service



Anthony Horton
Engineer
6 years of service



Jeannine Horton
Battalion Chief
7 years of service



William Kinkel
Firefighter—EMT
2 years of service



Jerry Krohnfeldt
Firefighter—Paramedic
8 years of service



Scott LaBree
Lieutenant
8 years of service



Matthew Larlham
Firefighter—Paramedic
5 years of service



Thomas Lentz
Lieutenant
5 years of service



Susan Lindenmuth
Public Relations Manager
6 years of service



Terrence Lindgren
Engineer
5 years of service



Johnny Manning
Fire Inspector
9 years of service



Guillermo Maradona
Firefighter—Paramedic
4 years of service



Michael Maradona
Engineer
5 years of service



Christopher Martin
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



Patrick McCafferty
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



David McDougall
Engineer
7 years of service



Roberto Medina
Lieutenant
8 years of service



David Murray
Engineer
9 years of service



Laura Occhipinti
Engineer
5 years of service



David Ott
Lieutenant
25 years of service



Matthew Pagnutti
Engineer
4 years of service



Kim Poli
AA to Fire Chief
5 years of service



Thomas Poole
Lieutenant
10 years of service



Adam Rambo
Firefighter—EMT
2 years of service



Maria Ramos
AA to Prevention
5 years of service



Dale Reisen
Battalion Chief
11 years of service



Jason Richards
Engineer
8 years of service



Felicia Rodriguez
Lieutenant
10 years of service



David Russell
Firefighter—Paramedic
5 years of service



Grant Schwalbe
Lieutenant
7 years of service



Shane Sells
Firefighter—EMT
21 years of service



Clint Skelton
Firefighter—EMT
3 years of service



Schyler Smith
Engineer
5 years of service



Thad Stevens
Engineer
10 years of service



Jean Strobel
Finance Specialist
8 years of service



Scott Vanderbrook
Chief
12 years of service



Mark Wahlig
Assistant Chief
12 years of service



Judy West
Admin. Specialist-Operations
10 years of service



Jarred Whelan
Firefighter—Paramedic
5 years of service



April White
Finance Director
7 years of service

IN THE NEWS

SOUTH LEE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS

Bonita Springs fire Chief Phil Kinsey said the district's 15.1 percent drop in taxable property value was more than he anticipated.

"I don't think it's anything we can't handle," Kinsey said. "I don't anticipate any layoffs. We'll certainly have to make some adjustments."

This summer's budget meetings have not been set yet because of scheduling conflicts. The Estero fire district property values fell by 10.9 percent.

"We have to go through the budget process, and then our commissioners will have to determine what services or what types of services they want to maintain," Chief Scott Vanderbrook said.

"It also has a lot to do with our ending budget this year and what we have in reserves and what we'll be able to use into the next year."

He said costs such as insurance are not available yet either. He said the district eliminated administrative positions and cut in other areas the past year to maintain service.

San Carlos Park Fire saw a value decline of 16.9 percent. Chief Nat Ippolito could not be reached Tuesday.

Kinsey and Vanderbrook said the values and how they affect each of the three south Lee County fire districts' budgets will factor into the ongoing plans to consolidate.

"It's easier to do some figuring now that we have some kind of estimate on the total values of the three districts," Kinsey said.

"We've got to look at whether the other two districts are going to continue to maintain the same service our board is going to set," Vanderbrook said.

— Christina Cepro

Estero Fire will hold tax rate, use reserve

\$2 tax cap per \$1,000 in assessed valuation

BY MARK S. KRZOS
mkros@news-press.com

Estero fire Chief Scott Vanderbrook said the fire district will take \$1.04 million out of reserves to keep the fire tax rate about the same in 2010.

Commissioners decided Wednesday that a cap for the 2010-11 budget will be set at \$2 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The owner of a home valued at \$200,000 after homestead would pay about \$400 for fire protection next year.

Even though Lee County property values dropped 15 percent this year, Estero resident Nick Batos, 65, said full-time residents will likely pay more to the fire district this year than last because of the Recapture Rule. The rule requires appraisers to raise assessments by 3 percent or the cost of living.

The first public hearing on the proposed budget is Sept. 9. Final approval is expected Sept. 20.

whatever is lower, when the market value of a home drops but remains higher than its assessed value.

It could have been worse, Vanderbrook said. "We're taking a million from our reserves in order to avoid an increase and we're doing it without decreasing services."

But even with the reserves, fire officials said during the district's budget presentation earlier this month, it's likely to be cut from \$6 to \$3 and expenditures likely to rise from \$11.06 million in 2010 to \$11.13 million in 2011.

Vanderbrook and April White, the district's finance director, said the district may have to look at layoffs and closing stations if the economy doesn't improve.

"We're going to have to make up that \$1 million," White said. "It may be a doozy in 2012."

The first public hearing on the proposed budget is Sept. 9. Final approval is expected Sept. 20.

Estero Fire Board avoids tax rate increase

Declining property values lead to \$1 million deficit

BY MARK S. KRZOS
mkros@news-press.com

Most Estero residents won't be paying much for fire protection this year.

South Lee County commissioners Thursday unanimously approved a \$1.04 million tax rate for 2011 and increased homestead tax rates by a tax rate of \$2 for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

Opponents of a homestead tax increase say the fire board has a financial cushion and the district won't pay more than \$100,000 in taxes.

Lee County property values dropped by 15 percent year-round and residents will pay more.

The rule requires appraisers to raise assessments by 3 percent or the cost of living. Residents will pay more.

"We've got a million dollars in reserves," Vanderbrook said. "We've got a million dollars in reserves."

White said funding usage in 2010 was \$1.04 million.

Fire board members voted over the last eight meetings.

Fire districts implement their own tax rates.

The district's budget was prepared by the county auditor.

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IN THE NEWS

Local governments face tough choice: taxes, cuts

BY BRIAN LIBERATORE
bliberatore@news-press.com

The county, its cities and fire districts will have to raise tax rates or cut millions from next year's budgets after another drop in property values.

New assessments from the county's property appraiser released Tuesday show the taxable value of county property dropping to \$54.9 billion in 2009 — down 15 percent from the year before and almost 40 percent from four years ago during the height of real estate market. The numbers will be used to calculate local governments' 2010-11 budgets.

The values are only estimates, but it's unusual for the final numbers due July 1 to vary much.

The drop is worse than many had expected. Lee's countywide value hasn't

Guns 'n' Hoses Blood drive today in Estero

BY CHRISTINA CEPERO • CCEPERO@NEWS-PRESS.COM • June 18, 2010

9:58 A.M. — Law enforcement and firefighters have combined forces to combat summer blood shortages by holding blood drives.

A drive is being held until 1:30 p.m. today at the Estero Fire-Rescue administration building at 21500 Three Oaks Parkway, 390-8000.

Donors are asked to vote for the firefighters or law enforcement to win bragging rights for most blood collected this summer.

Each donor will receive a Guns 'n' Hoses T-Shirt and Dairy Queen Grill & Chill coupon.

Two other Guns 'n' Hoses blood drives are scheduled:

- Sanibel Recreation Center, 3880 San-Cap Road, Sanibel, from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday

- Lee County Sheriff's Office, 14750 Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday

Donations will help ensure an adequate supply for children and adults who are patients in Lee Memorial Health System.

One in three people will need blood in their lifetime... You never know if it will be you or someone you love.

B2 | THE NEWS-PRESS, LOCAL & STATE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2010

ESTERO Baby suffers burns from hot water

A 10-month-old boy was taken to the Tampa Burn Unit Tuesday after suffering hot water burns.

The incident happened on Sedona Circle — just off Estero Parkway shortly before 10 a.m.

According to the Lee County Property Appraiser, the home is owned by Brian and Melanie Ras-

nick. The couple could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

"It appears to have been an accident," said Tony Schall, spokesman for the Lee County Sheriff's Office. "As far as I know there isn't an investigation."

Susan Lindemuth, spokeswoman for Estero Fire Rescue — which responded to the emergency — also characterized the burn as accidental.

Firefighters get buff for calendar

Estero hunks helping charities

BY AMY RODRIGUEZ • amyr@news-press.com

It's time for the men you like to work hard — what they're looking for comes from Estero Fire-Rescue. The department's first calendar features 12 hot firefighters from Estero, Bonita Springs, Marco Island and Naples. Proceeds from the calendar will benefit the Estero Safety Fund, the Estero Fire Department and the Estero Fire-Rescue Foundation.



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ESTERO

Pizza kitchen helps fight breast cancer

California Pizza Kitchen has joined Estero Fire Rescue's efforts to raise money for Partners for Breast Cancer Care, which provides breast cancer screening, treatment and education; and the Estero Safety Fund, which provides fire and safety education to the community.

Estero Fire Rescue is producing its first firefighter calendar. All proceeds will go to the two charities. The calendar will be available after Oct. 1.

From Aug. 13-15, California Pizza Kitchen at Coconut Point in Estero will donate 20 percent of its proceeds for everyone who brings in a flier.

Fliers are available at esterofire.org and at the Estero Fire Rescue admin-

istration building at 21500 Three Oaks Parkway.

Estero firefighters will be outside the movie theater from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 14 to distribute fliers.

Coconut Point is off the west side of U.S. 41, just north of Coconut Road. For more information, contact Susan Lindemuth at 390-8000 or lindemuth@esterofire.org.

Saturday, July 10

* Estero Fire Rescue's First Firefighter Calendar Attendees will cool off poolside at the Hyatt Place Coconut Point as the Estero Fire Rescue's 12 hottest firefighters heat up the party by offering autographed calendars for visitors. In addition, attendees will enjoy live entertainment from Yaad Music, raffles and more. Proceeds from admission and raffles benefit Partners in Breast Cancer and the Estero Safety Fund, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, includes food and select beverages, Hyatt Place Coconut Point, 23120 Via Villagio, Estero, 390-8000.

South Lee fire departments hosting Explorer Cadet Academy

BY MARK S. KRZOS • mkrzos@news-press.com • June 23, 2010

The Bonita Springs, Estero and South Trail Fire Departments will host a fire Explorer Cadet Academy today and tomorrow.

Explorers are young men and women ages 15-20 who participate in fire department training to see if a career in the fire service is right for them.

The three fire departments will provide the training for the cadets.

The training will take place at Bonita Springs Fire-Rescue Station Four, 27701 Bonita Grande Dr.

Training will be held behind the fire station at the training tower.

During the training, which runs from 10 a.m. to noon on both days, the 85 students will receive hands-on training on search and rescue, vehicle extrication and arson investigation.

The Explorer Cadet Academy is a week-long program designed to expose potential Explorers to numerous aspects of the fire service, including water rescue, arson investigation, vehicle extrication, search and rescue, medical/trauma, terrorism and much more. Training includes both classroom lecture and hands-on practice.

SPOTLIGHT

Estero firefighters ablaze with goodwill

By Kelly Merritt
Staff Writer

Estero was a few degrees hotter than the rest of Florida on Saturday morning.

The Estero Fire and Rescue firefighter charity calendar party served as a preview of the calendar that will be sold later this month.

Several firefighters took the stage to promote the department's first calendar. Santa and pants,

were the theme of the calendar.

The event began at 11 a.m. and continued until 4 p.m., featuring music, performances and other activities. There was a silent auction and raffles throughout the day. All the action happened outside at the Hyatt Place Coconut Point.

Several members of the Estero Fire and Rescue

— including Estero Fire and Rescue Fire Chief Eliot Blasco — were on hand to help with the event.

"The calendar is for a good cause, and we were happy to be a part of it," said Blasco.

Blasco and Blasco's wife, Debbie, were



WHERE TO FIND US



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Special thanks to the Estero Fire Rescue personnel who contributed to the 2010 Annual Report.
Annual Report Coordinator—Kim Poli, Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief



“Dedicated And Driven For Those We Serve”