



Media Opportunity from **BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT**

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BSFDs Marine Response Unit at Bonita Springs Fire Station 27 Makes a Wave in Response Times

In the short time that it has been open, the location of the newest Bonita Springs fire station has proved to be a valuable asset to the community and has already shown an incredible reduction in emergency response times for land and water emergencies.

Since January of 2017, a crew of three firefighters have responded to emergencies from the station located at 26105 Hickory Boulevard in Bonita Springs on either an advanced life support fire pumper (picture included) or an advanced life support marine unit (picture included).

Land emergency responses, from the bend at Hickory Blvd. to Big Carlos Pass, would have previously taken approximately 8 to 15 minutes, but are now approximately 4 minutes.

Previously, firefighters would trailer the boat from Station 22 off Mango Drive, to the nearest boat dock at Lovers Key, taking nearly 20 minutes. This en route time is now eliminated altogether with a quick drop into the water from the newly constructed boatlift at the fire station, next to the Big Hickory Fishing Nook.

Vice-Chairman of the Fire Board, Lawrence P. Kosilla, Jr., is grateful for the central proximity of the marine response unit, "Our marine responses were delayed due to the previous location of our boat. We weren't serving our residents and visitors quickly enough. They deserve better response times. The new location allows our firefighters to respond to emergencies on the water much faster, providing a better outcome."

Bonita Springs Fire Station 27, a project that took 16 years to come to fruition due to high property costs, limited space availability, and other hurdles, is a welcomed addition to the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

Vice-Chairman Lawrence P. Kosilla and our Deputy Chief of EMS, who coordinates our Marine Emergency Response Team (MERT), will be available to speak about the marine emergency responses.

WHEN: Friday, April 28th at 10AM

WHERE: BSFD Station 27 at 26105 Hickory Boulevard

Included is footage of a marine emergency involving our BSFD Marine Response Unit with the Collier County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit. The recorded emergency demonstrates the types of water emergencies which will benefit from the central location of the fire station and boatlift. View the MERT response caught on video: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1342557239137388&id=141536609239463

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