

THE FIRE MARK



BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

APRIL 2017

BSFD RECENT INCIDENTS

WILDFIRES

Southwest Florida saw a multitude of wildfires in March and April. At one point during the past month, three counties (Lee, Collier & Seminole) fought wildfires at the same time. The mutual aid between fire districts and help from the South Strike Team of brush trucks helped contain these fires as they threatened miles of land and nearby structures. The heavy responses to these wildfires also necessitated mutual aid between the counties' fire districts for all other emergency calls. A structure fire in San Carlos Park just miles from their wildfire was responded to by BSFD, South Trail and Iona.

[Watch the Fire Chief's presentation of recent emergencies](#)

WATER RESCUE

On March 13th, BSFD responded to a mutual aid MERT call with North Collier Fire District, Collier County Sheriff's Office and the Coast Guard. Responders successfully rescued all three occupants on board.



[Watch video of this MERT response on the Collier County Sheriff's Office Facebook page](#)

**FIRE,
HAZARDS,
& MEDICAL
EMERGENCIES**
- unparalleled service -
saving lives
& property

STRUCTURE FIRES

Brush wasn't the only thing burning this past month. Bonita firefighters were busy on the scenes of multiple structure fires as well. On March 15th, they responded to a local house fire. The fire was contained to one room and its contents; there were no injuries. On March 17th, BSFD was first on-scene to a structure fire at a home in San Carlos, while on standby during the nearby brush fire. On March 30th, BSFD firefighters responded to a room-and-contents fire at a local nail salon. On April 7th, a structure fire on Hickory Boulevard shut down the two-lane road for hours while first responders used all resources to extinguish the fire.

VEHICLE VS STRUCTURE

On April 3rd, the Bonita Springs firefighters responded to an emergency involving a defective vehicle that crashed through the bottom of a stilt home, hitting another car before landing in the home's swimming pool. The Special Operations Team secured the stilt home while the two vehicle occupants were treated with minor injuries and their dog was rescued from the submerged backseat.



Fire Station 26 Groundbreaking

Ceremony on

May 2nd at 9:00 AM

16001 Bonita Beach Road SE
just east of the Village Walk community

▪ *coffee and conversation provided* ▪

BONITA SPRINGS

Fire Control and Rescue District



WILDFIRE SAFETY

In Florida, each season poses a different danger! Southwest Florida can have wildfires year-round but generally, wildfire season peaks from January through June. Florida has already seen hundreds of wildfires in 2017, and on April 11th, Governor Rick Scott declared a state of emergency across the state because of it. Recent months have been especially dry in Southwest Florida, and with rising temperatures and still not enough rainfall, conditions remain inviting for brush fires.

Tips to stay safe during Wildfire Season

1. **Preparation is key—have a PLAN!** Create an evacuation plan and make sure all family members know and understand it. While at work, have a plan for children and pets that are home.
2. **Know two evacuation routes out of your neighborhood.** Have a predetermined place to meet your family. Firefighters and emergency personnel will go door-to-door to evacuate neighborhoods.
3. **Create a Go-Kit!** Supplies should include food/water, clothing, and important documents and other items, such as medications that you may need.
4. **Maintain a Safety Zone.** Be sure to have a functioning irrigation system around your home, and maintain fire-wise landscaping, keeping an area at least 30 feet around the structure that is clean and free of dead vegetation.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of tips to make your home and business safer from the threat of wildfires.



San Carlos Park
March 17, 2017

OTTER RESCUE

BSFD firefighters arrived on scene of an otter rescue in Spanish Wells on April 19th! Three baby otters, stuck in a storm drain, were heard crying by residents walking and bicycling in the neighborhood. The firefighters quickly formed a plan and were able to dislodge the debris which prevented them from swimming to their momma, who was waiting for them in the nearby pond. The otter family was happily reunited and celebrated with a long roll in the dirt. It was very sweet. Great job, Engine 22!



The Fire District recognizes the need to be able to incorporate and utilize volunteer help during certain emergency or disaster situations. The BSFD CERT, *Community Emergency Response Team*, has over 200 members. During the free two-day [CERT Basic Training](#), the Fire District provides education about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact Bonita Springs and trains citizens in basic disaster response skills. For more information, [click here](#). The next class is May 24th and 25th—To save your seat, register TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL EVENTS



MAY EVENTS



CERT Training

JUNE EVENTS

