

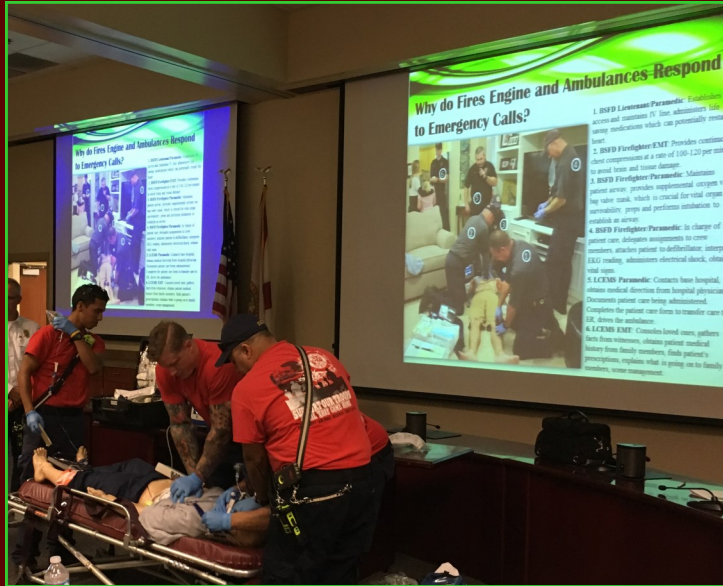
# THE FIRE MARK



## BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

AUG 2016

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM BASIC TRAINING



The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District would like to welcome our newest class of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduates. To date, the District coordinates over 200 volunteers who are trained to assist their families and neighborhood in an emergency.

The District's CERT program focuses on mitigating everyday emergencies and preparing and assisting with disasters. In the 16-hour Basic Training program, attendees are educated on subjects such as Fire Safety, First Aid and CPR, and Disaster Preparation for natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires— OH MY! Our volunteers are an important part of the Bonita Springs community, their neighborhoods, and their fire district. With this training, CERT graduates make a difference.

Below is a letter received from a graduate of this July's training program:

*"I would like to thank Nicole and Natalie and the entire Bonita Springs Fire Department for what I feel is the most valuable training I have received in my life. I attended the CERT training with my wife and it was fantastic. I learned more critical life lessons in the time allotted than any other training ever in my business life. In my business career, I have paid top dollar and felt good if I learned one or two things that would help me. I believe that for every 10 or so minutes I spent on the CERT course, I learned an important lifesaving lesson. This far exceeded any value for money measurements of any past courses taken.*

*Additionally, I now feel I know enough about what the Bonita Springs Fire Department does to be a champion supporter and spread the word on the valuable services your department provides. Kudos to the entire team. I welcome the opportunity to volunteer to help in any way."*

*- Bob Johns*

More Information on CERT can be found on our [website](#).



### STATION SEVEN UPDATE



The Board of Commissioners approved a proposal at the August Board meeting for the renovations to the property on Hickory Boulevard that will soon become Station Seven. The renovations will update the building from a vacant commercial building to the firefighters' working and living facilities. The construction process is estimated to take eight weeks after all permitting is approved. Chief Joseph V. Daigle explained at the August Board meeting that the Staff has been conducting extensive research to choose the appropriate apparatus for the new station. Chief Daigle also noted that the working 2016-2017 budget proposes adding six firefighter positions to fulfill the staffing needs of all stations. This would allow for two additional firefighters to join each of the District's three 24-hour shifts.

The Staff will give an update on the process of opening Station Six, in east Bonita Springs, at the September Board meeting.

# SIMPLY THE BEST

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A BSFD FIREFIGHTER?

The Bonita Springs Fire District is hiring qualified individuals  
as we improve our services with the upcoming opening of Station Seven on Hickory Blvd.

So how does one qualify to respond to fire alarms and other emergency calls throughout Bonita Springs? What does it take to be a part of a fire district that must perform all necessary functions and operations with efficiency and effectiveness, so as to protect the lives and property of those in need of assistance? Before making it to the interview process, applicants must prove they are qualified candidates. Qualifications include:

- Candidate must be a Florida State certified FF/EMT or FF/Paramedic
  - Candidate must be CPR/AED certified
  - Completed the Lee County CPAT, or similar CPAT
- ⇒ *What's a CPAT?* The Candidate Physical Ability Test, which includes both a written general aptitude test and a physical agility test. The Lee County CPAT is offered by a group of 12 fire districts in SWFL seeking exceptionally talented, experienced, and dedicated firefighters.

After qualifying, candidates interview with a panel of officers from the District. The Chief or his designee then makes selections to fill each position. Once selected, the candidate must comply with a number of state regulations, including extensive background checks, physicals, and medical processes, before being accepted as a BSFD firefighter. A newly hired firefighter then completes orientation, a rigorous and thorough training designed to test their physical and mental abilities, similar to that which a firefighter must endure on any given day. Orientation also provides insight into how the Bonita Springs Firefighter is expected to act and perform at a wide range of emergency scenes. Newly hired firefighters must also complete one year of probation which includes periodic evaluations to grade their performances. Think you got what it takes? [Apply here between 8/20 - 9/2.](#)

### 2016-2017 BUDGET PROCESS

At the July Board Meeting, the Fire Board voted 3-2 to set the Fire District's tentative, not-to exceed property tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year– which covers the District from Oct. 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2017. The Board voted to keep the millage flat, or not-to-exceed the current year's millage rate which is currently \$2.35 per \$1,000 taxable value. The 2016-2017 fiscal year budget process continues as follows:

- **Wednesday, August 24 at 3:00 PM:** The Board of Commissioners meet with Staff at a public Budget Workshop
- **Monday, September 12 at 5:01 PM:** The Tentative Budget Hearing is held during the Board's regular monthly meeting
- **Monday, September 26 at 5:01 PM:** Final Budget Hearing

All meetings are held at Station Four, located at 27701 Bonita Grande Drive. All meetings are open to the public and community attendance is encouraged. Additional public Budget Workshops may be added as necessary.



### YEARS OF SERVICE

[Click here to watch their presentations](#)



This month, we congratulate the following firefighters on completing one year of service to the District: **Randy McGovern, Ryan Francis, Colin Bostin and Greg Wasmuth.**



For ten years of dedicated service to the District, we thank:  
**Front Row:** HR Coordinator Nicole Hornberger, FF Gio Zamora, FF Jonathan Hernandez, FF John Kutz  
**Back Row:** FF Eric Scholz, FF Adam Hughes, Lieutenant Andrew Schmidt



Congratulations to the newest BSFCRD employee:  
**Probationary FF Andrew Ctvrtnik.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### AUG EVENTS



#### SEPT EVENTS



#### OCT EVENTS



BSFD PUMPKIN PATCH