

THE FIRE MARK



BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

DEC 2015

BSFD PROMOTIONS



**SIMPLY
THE
BEST**



Here in Bonita Springs, we have a tradition of excellence and becoming an officer of the Bonita Springs Fire District is designated for the best. In lieu of retirements, we have five members of our District that have earned the honor of advancing to a higher rank. Each of these officers has worked hard for the District for many years and they have earned the recognition and responsibility of the position. Their promotion shows how their commitment to duty and determination, which we have always assumed to be synonymous with their character, will magnify the District's mission.

In place of retired Battalion Chief Todd Taylor, Winthrop Telford will advance to Battalion Chief. In place of soon to retire Training Captain Paul Phillips, Eric Madden will advance to Captain. Lastly, three Firefighters have been promoted to Lieutenant.; Lieutenant Andy Chicas, Lieutenant Thomas Harrison, and Lieutenant Michael Mendez.

The District is fortunate to have these officers as our next leaders. We wish them all the best in this important career advancement. Congratulations again on their accomplishment.

CHRISTMAS TOY DISTRIBUTION

Each year, the Bonita Springs Fire District partners with Toys for Tots to provide Christmas toys to families in need.

The BSFD made Christmas a little brighter for 176 families, including 365 children who were provided toys in 2014.

Dedicated volunteers, including many Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members (pictured here) help the District by collecting toys, organizing toys, and helping parents select toys for their children.



The toys, provided through Toys for Tots, are made possible by the generosity of Bonita Springs residents and businesses.

Toys will be sent home with families beginning on December 14th, just in time for Santa to place them under their tree on Christmas Eve.

A special thank you goes out to those who have donated to Toys for Tots and to our amazing volunteers who make this program possible.

CHIEF'S REPORT



Where do we stand today: At the Board Meeting on Monday, December 7th, Fire Chief Joseph Daigle presented an evaluation of our operations, in regards to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1710 Standards, including water rescue, extrication, trench rescue, and how a modern day fire department operates.

Chief Daigle explains, "We need to look at the way we deploy EMS resources as a fire department. The transition from a full-size apparatus to a smaller rapid response vehicle may not always meet our goal, providing the right resource, to the right place, at the right time." A 2014 *Journal of Emergency Medical Services* illustrates just this when it addresses where the fire service is today and responds to the recommendations in *America Burning* more than 40 years after the publication came out. Chief Joseph Daigle explained deployment models to the Board of Commissioners which exemplify a modern-day fire/EMS deployment matrix, as they pertain to the use of EMS rapid-rescue models. "A valuable point is, when we're responding to a call, what are we concerned with? I'm concerned with providing the best treatment and emergency services response that we possibly can in **any** circumstance. The point of the matter is, a full-sized engine has the tools necessary to handle all the jobs in each zone. When the emergency call load becomes greater than each engine can handle, we can add a rapid response vehicle. However, replacing an engine with a rapid response vehicle is decreasing the toolbox available to the firefighters to be able to handle any emergency that arises."

Chief Daigle also explained an evaluation of 8-hour shifts versus the 24-hour shifts currently in effect for the firefighters. 66 percent more firefighters would be needed to maintain the same level of coverage. 12-hours shifts would require 50 additional firefighters. With wages, equipment, gear, and medical insurance coverage, etc. the cost to the District would be exponentially higher than it is now, more detail was provided at the [Board Meeting](#) last Monday. The additional hurdle would be the challenge of hiring and maintaining qualified firefighter-paramedics.

To address a suggestion mentioned at a previous Board Meeting, in reference to a possible type of response model, Chief Daigle discussed roving emergency response units. "I could not find any fire department, who qualifies for our mission, utilizing a roving apparatus model." The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District is working efficiently using a nationally accepted resource and staffing model to provide the best overall fire-rescue coverage possible.

BSFD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The proposed Fire Station location intended to cover the residents of Hickory Boulevard was discussed at the Board Meeting on Monday. The Commission discussed the newly proposed location to the south of McLaughlin, in the wooded area next to the Century Link building. A local developer submitted a proposal to donate land in conjunction with their larger development project. The District would use this land as a possible site for a future fire station and the land would give the District much needed quick water access and faster response times to the residents on Hickory Island.



The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to hear from our residents. **How do you feel about a station located close to Hickory Boulevard?** The topic will be discussed at a Special Meeting of the Board, date TDB, at 27701 Bonita Grande Drive where the Commission will hear input from the Community. At the March 14th Board Meeting the topic will be readdressed by the Board. Those interested in voicing their recommendations or airing questions are encouraged to attend and address the Board and Staff during the Public Comment section of the meeting. Chief Joseph Daigle is always available to answer questions. He encourages residents to contact him at Daigle@bonitafire.org or by calling 239-949-6200.

WHAT IS C.E.R.T.?

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 on 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 February 4th and 5th– To save your seat, register TODAY!



UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC EVENTS



JAN EVENTS



FEB EVENTS

4&5

CERT BASIC TRAINING