



## **ASK YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT...**

**Battalion Chief Frank Giuliano**

**QUESTION** *Posted: 05/302008 From Johnathan Mirk*

Why is Bonita Springs ladder truck, Ladder 21, stationed at station 1 instead of station 2 like it used to be or possibly station 5 in Bonita Bay? Those two stations are closer to the high rises in Bonita Springs. Also how many times does the B.S.F.D use the ladder truck and when will you buy the 70 foot platform truck?

### **ANSWER**

Johnathan,

Our Ladder truck, L-21 is currently stationed at our station one on Old 41 in Bonita, as this is the most centrally located fire station in our district at this time. We have several high-rise buildings in Bonita Springs located from Pelican Landing through Bonita Bay and out to Hickory Blvd along the coast, so we try to keep the ladder truck in the middle of this area for the quickest response possible. We also have automatic mutual-aid agreements with North Naples FD, Ft. Myers Beach FD, and Estero FD and will use their ladder trucks or engines when needed.

BSFD station five is currently a singlewide trailer with no room for a ladder truck. Our plans for the future are to hopefully replace the trailer with a permanent station on West Terry St. close to US 41 and to move the ladder truck there. L-21 was located at station two on Mango Dr. only temporarily while station one was being remodeled.

Ladder-21 is used for all structure fires and alarm activations, and is also used as a back up ALS (Advanced Life Support) engine for medical calls, as well as a back up on vehicle accidents when needed. Our ladder truck is useful not only for rescue capabilities at high-rise structure fires but as an elevated water stream at all structure fires, and so L-21 is dispatched routinely to these calls. In 2007 L-21 responded to over 735 calls.

Our current Ladder truck was purchased in 1989 and has over 118,000 miles on it and is due for replacement early next year.

Johnathan, thank you for your question and for your interest in our fire rescue department and I hope I answered the questions to your satisfaction. If you have any other questions, or want me to expand on these, please feel free to contact me personally via my email or ask me on line.