



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Bonita Springs
FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

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REPORT

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FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

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Our Mission

To preserve life and property, and promote public safety through strong leadership, management, professionalism, and integrity.

OUR FOCUS: The District will focus its efforts on responding rapidly and safely to emergencies, providing appropriate interventions, community outreach, and rigorous training to constantly improve our safety, skills, and readiness.

OUR GOALS: Develop or improve our organization to effectively administer and manage the resources of the District.

Develop or improve a system for minimizing the impact of fires, disasters, and other emergencies on life and property.

Provide an effective Emergency Medical Service to lessen the morbidity and mortality of the sick or injured.

Provide an effective Fire Prevention and Public Education System to improve the quality of the lives and safety of the citizens we protect.

All personnel and staff will do their best, enjoy their job, and promote safety for themselves, their co-workers, and the organization.



Our Core Values

TO THE RESIDENTS: We owe the residents of Bonita Springs the highest quality service possible, characterized by responsiveness, integrity, and professionalism. We will continually strive for quality improvement.

TO THE DISTRICT: We owe the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District our full commitment and dedication. We will always look beyond the traditional scope of our individual positions to promote teamwork and organizational effectiveness.

TO EACH OTHER: We owe each other a working environment characterized by trust and respect for the individual, fostering open and honest communication at all levels.

TO OURSELVES: We owe ourselves personal and professional growth. We will seek new knowledge and greater challenges and strive to be at the leading edge of our profession.

FIRE CHIEF OF THE BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Gregory L. DeWitt



Chief's Desk

Another year around the sun has passed for the men and women of Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District. As a District, we encountered many interesting events this past year. As 2022 opened, COVID was in our rearview mirror. We concentrated on the future of the District regarding population growth, continuing to progress with training, and persistently looking toward serving the residents and visitors with the highest level of care. Starting February-March, we began negotiating with Bonita Springs Professional Firefighters Local 3444 on a three-year contract.

Wages and benefits were high on the priority list, primarily because of the high inflation that the entire country had been seeing for the past six to eight months. The negotiation went very well, and we ratified the contract in only a few meetings, which is a testament to our positive relationship. This year also saw the return of the Fourth of July Parade, and the District was able to help the Union in making it an excellent return for the Parade.

Supply chain issues are ongoing, from medical supplies to staff vehicles to fire trucks. We ordered a replacement engine (E-26) because the build time was 13 to 15 months. Currently, the build time has risen to 36 to 40 months. Therefore, as a District, we constantly have to forecast what we need, when we need it, and how long it will take to receive it.

In September, Southwest Florida was hit by a Category 4 hurricane, Hurricane Ian. This hurricane wreaked havoc on Little Hickory Island, including our Station 27. None of our personnel were injured, but we did have numerous employees that were greatly affected by the hurricane. As true professionals, we all pressed forward to serve the public during these trying times.



Chief's Desk

For the next few months, our concentration focused on running emergency calls and getting back into the rescue business on Hickory Island. Our call volume increased over 60% throughout the month preceding the hurricane, and subsequently increased over 10% for the remainder of the year. Late in 2022, the plaza that housed Bonita Springs Fire Station 27, as well as the restaurant and boat slips, was put on the market for purchase. We purchased the property to guarantee the District a future on Hickory Island. We have begun to remodel and rebuild Station 27 to the original specs due to the FEMA 50% rule and hope to have it operational by mid-2023.

In November, the Fire Board and staff welcomed newly elected Fire Commissioner Tommy Hugo to our Board. The Fire Board of Commissioners meets on the second Monday of every month. We thank them for their assistance with the Union contract and the Fourth of July Parade. Due to the hard work of the staff and Commissioners, we lowered our mileage rate for the ninth consecutive year.

The State has reported that over 900 people are moving daily to the State of Florida. It appears that a fair number of those people moving to our state are making Bonita Springs their home. As we look forward and move into 2023, the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District will always strive to be great stewards of the taxpayer's money while providing the best and most professional service we can.

FIRE CHIEF OF THE BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Gregory L. DeWitt



Chairman's Desk

It is my pleasure to present the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District's Annual Report for 2022. Within this report, you will see an overview of the operations of the Fire District outlining key components of the organization which are necessary to fulfill our mission.

Over the past year, the Board has upheld its moral obligation to protect the interest of the general public and preserve the continuity of life safety operations. The actions of the Board are intended to ensure timely, professional, fire/rescue emergency response in order to serve the needs of the community. During these challenging times, rest assured your department is fully trained and prepared to serve and protect you.

In 2022, your Fire District was responsible for protecting the lives and safety of between 54,000 and 90,000 or more residents and visitors and the protection of \$13,076,352,653 in taxable property assets during the 2021/2022 FY. We have been proactive in fostering change in the organization while maintaining critical levels of service delivery.

The District saw a property value increase of 5.84% over the previous year. The District continued to maintain a quality standard of coverage and service, focusing on customer satisfaction and economy of operation.



We welcomed Fire Commissioner Tommy Hugo to the Bonita Springs Fire Board - November 2022

CHAIRMAN OF THE BONITA SPRINGS FIRE BOARD

Steve Lohan



2022

Operations



Operations OVERVIEW

The District responded to a wide range of emergency incidents including all types of fires, medical and trauma emergencies, vehicle accidents, special operation incidents, and public service calls.

Non-emergency duties included:

- Inspection of apparatus and equipment
- Training
- Public education
- Pre-fire planning
- Fire hydrant maintenance
- Minor repair of equipment
- Maintenance of fire stations
- Physical fitness training

96 FIRE PERSONNEL

The Fire Suppression Division provided around-the-clock coverage with three shifts staffed by a total of 96 fire suppression personnel, including 61 paramedics and 35 emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Of the 119 full-time personnel, 23 are 40-hour employees. The District also employs one part-time administrative position.



Operations OVERVIEW

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

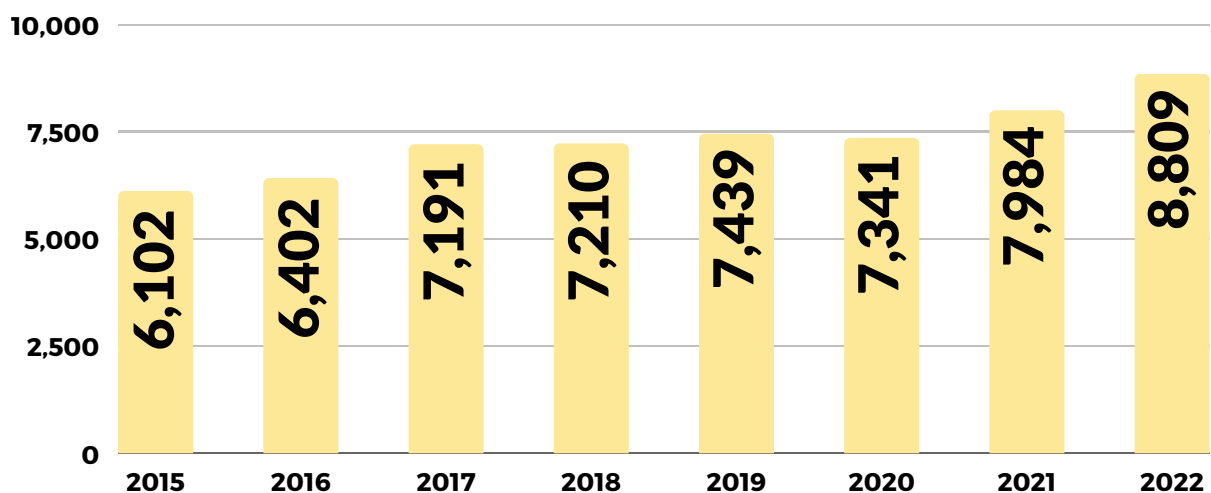
2022 marked the 25th year of providing non-transport advanced life support emergency medical care. Thirteen units serve Bonita Springs: four engines, one mini-pumper, one rescue unit, two ladder trucks, two brush trucks, one heavy rescue squad, one hazardous materials truck, and one marine rescue unit. All are staffed with firefighters trained as emergency medical technicians and paramedics. In most instances, they are the first to arrive at a medical emergency. Bonita Springs firefighter/paramedics perform advanced life support procedures such as cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, intubation, IV, and drug therapy often before the arrival of a Lee County ambulance. Once a county ambulance arrives, patient care is transferred from firefighter/paramedics to county paramedics, and the patient is transported to the hospital.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The District's preventative maintenance program has dramatically reduced costs while improving reliability and safety. We have increased efficiency and established a functional maintenance and repair facility. In addition to our own fleet, EVT's maintain vehicles for the City of Bonita Springs and the San Carlos Park Fire District. The vehicle maintenance budget for 2021/22 FY was \$275,000. The revenue budget for that same period was \$46,353.47.



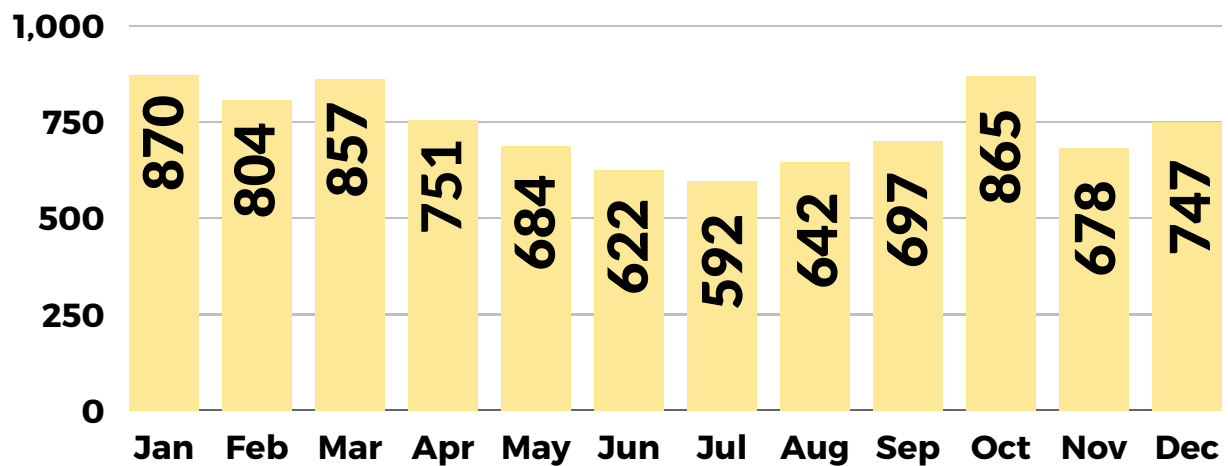
Annual RESPONSES



In 2022, the District responded to 8,809 emergencies. EMS emergencies equaled 65.6% of the total incidents. Responses to fires, hazards, and other assistance equaled 34.4%.



Monthly RESPONSES



In 2022, January had the most emergency calls at 870, closely followed by October with 865 emergencies. The Bonita Springs Fire District responded to an average of 734 emergencies each month.



Station RESPONSES

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 21 = 2,182 EMERGENCIES

27490 Old 41 Road: staffed with a ladder truck and a rescue, and 6 Firefighter - EMTs/Paramedics

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 22 = 1,154 EMERGENCIES

28055 Mango Drive: staffed with a ladder truck and 4 Firefighter - EMTs/Paramedics and a Battalion Chief

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 23 = 1,667 EMERGENCIES

25001 S. Tamiami Trail: staffed with an engine, a brush truck, and 4 Firefighter - EMTs/Paramedics

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 24 = 1,230 EMERGENCIES

27701 Bonita Grande Drive: staffed with an engine, a brush truck, and 4 Firefighter - EMTs/Paramedics and a Battalion Chief

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 25 = 1,463 EMERGENCIES

8850 West Terry Street: staffed with an engine and 4 Firefighter - EMTs/Paramedics

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 26 = 722 EMERGENCIES

16001 Bonita Beach Road: staffed with an engine and 4 Firefighter - EMTs/Paramedics

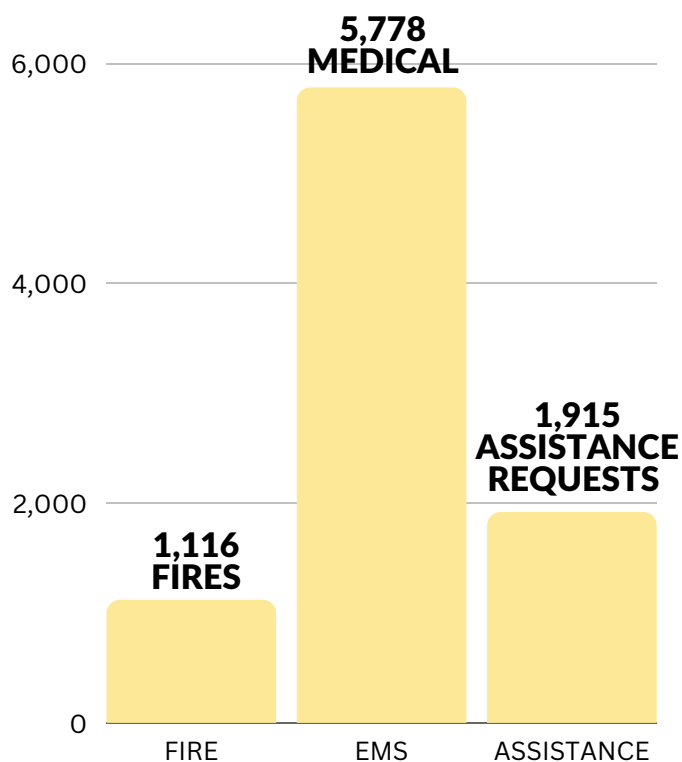
BONITA SPRINGS STATION 27 = 391 EMERGENCIES

26105 Hickory Island Blvd SE: staffed with a mini pumper and marine unit, and 3 Firefighter - EMTs/ Paramedics

Incident RESPONSES

Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District provides our citizens with cutting-edge fire suppression and life safety capabilities.

Our rating of ISO 2 puts the District in the top three percent of the best fire departments in the Country. Our firefighters have the best training and equipment possible and continually strive to provide unparalleled service to our citizens, saving lives and property.



Incident RESPONSES

FIRE	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fire, other	7	7	4	7
Structure fire	48	41	31	39
Mobile property fire	20	29	29	27
Natural vegetation fire	36	56	32	46
Outside rubbish fire	29	26	19	32
Special outside fire	5	6	6	9
SUB-TOTAL	145	165	121	160

EXPLOSIONS	2019	2020	2021	2022
Overpressure rupture, explosion	2	0	2	2
Rupture air, gas, steam	1	1	-	1
Excessive heat, scorch, burns	1	5	4	3
Explosion/Fireworks, no fire	-	0	2	0
SUB-TOTAL	4	6	8	6

Incident RESPONSES

RESCUE/MEDICAL	2019	2020	2021	2022
Medical assist, EMS crew assist	4606	4183	4804	5220
Motor vehicle collision	232	216	286	476
Lock-in	1	4	1	2
Person in water/watercraft rescue	13	23	33	39
Elevator/high angle/trench rescue	34	39	0	41
SUB-TOTAL	4886	4465	5124	5778

HAZARDS	2019	2020	2021	2022
Flammable gas, liquid	12	20	3	42
Oil, toxic chemical, other spill	2	3	13	14
Chemical hazard, no spill	7	8	24	0
Electrical wiring/circuit	48	56	55	126
Potential accident	12	24	16	4
Attempt to burn	4	2	1	1
SUB-TOTAL	85	102	112	187

Incident

RESPONSES

SERVICE CALL	2019	2020	2021	2022
Service call, other	4	7	3	511
Person in distress, other	13	12	9	5
Water problem	14	19	24	35
Smoke/odor investigation, removal	-	10	12	10
Animal rescue	7	11	4	11
Public service assistance	435	563	680	133
Unauthorized burning	7	3	5	10
SUB-TOTAL	480	480	737	715

GOOD INTENT CALL	2019	2020	2021	2022
Good intent call, other	11	17	19	12
Cancelled en-route/on-scene	1129	1283	1156	1068
Sent to wrong location	96	80	93	82
Controlled/prescribed burning	1	2	2	34
Steam/dust (no-fire)	18	37	35	3
Hazardous materials investigation	3	1	2	1
SUB-TOTAL	1258	1418	1307	1200

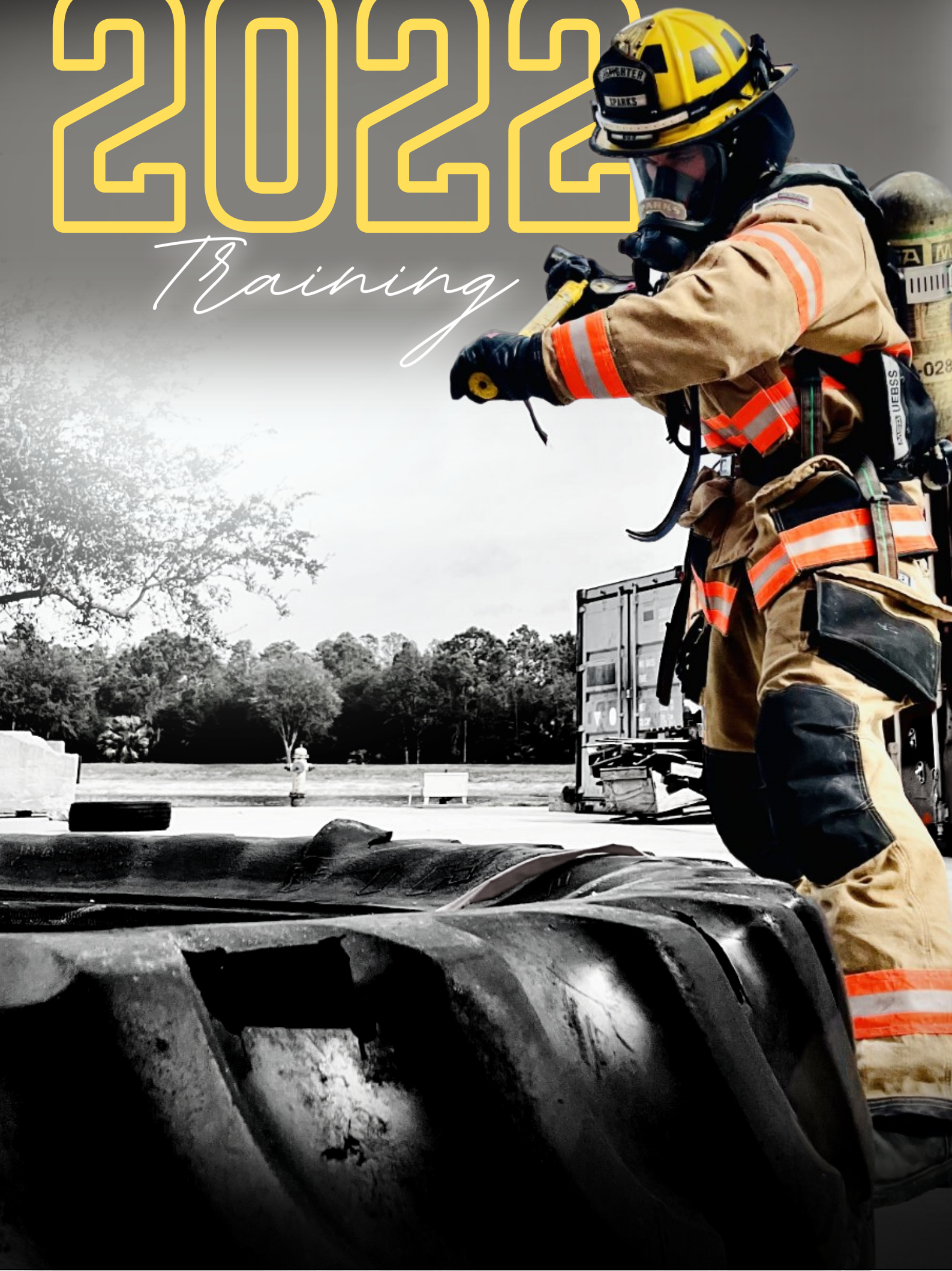
Incident RESPONSES

FALSE ALARM	2019	2020	2021	2022
False alarm or false call	41	62	22	100
Malicious false call	5	6	11	20
System malfunction	204	180	183	223
Unintentional alarm	319	304	309	407
SUB-TOTAL	569	552	525	750

SPECIAL INCIDENT	2019	2020	2021	2022
Special type of incident	7	3	3	5
Citizen assist	5	5	2	8
Mutual Aid	-	-	45	0
SUB-TOTAL	12	8	50	13
GRAND TOTAL	7439	7341	7984	8809

2022

Training





BONITA SPRINGS
FIRE-RESCUE

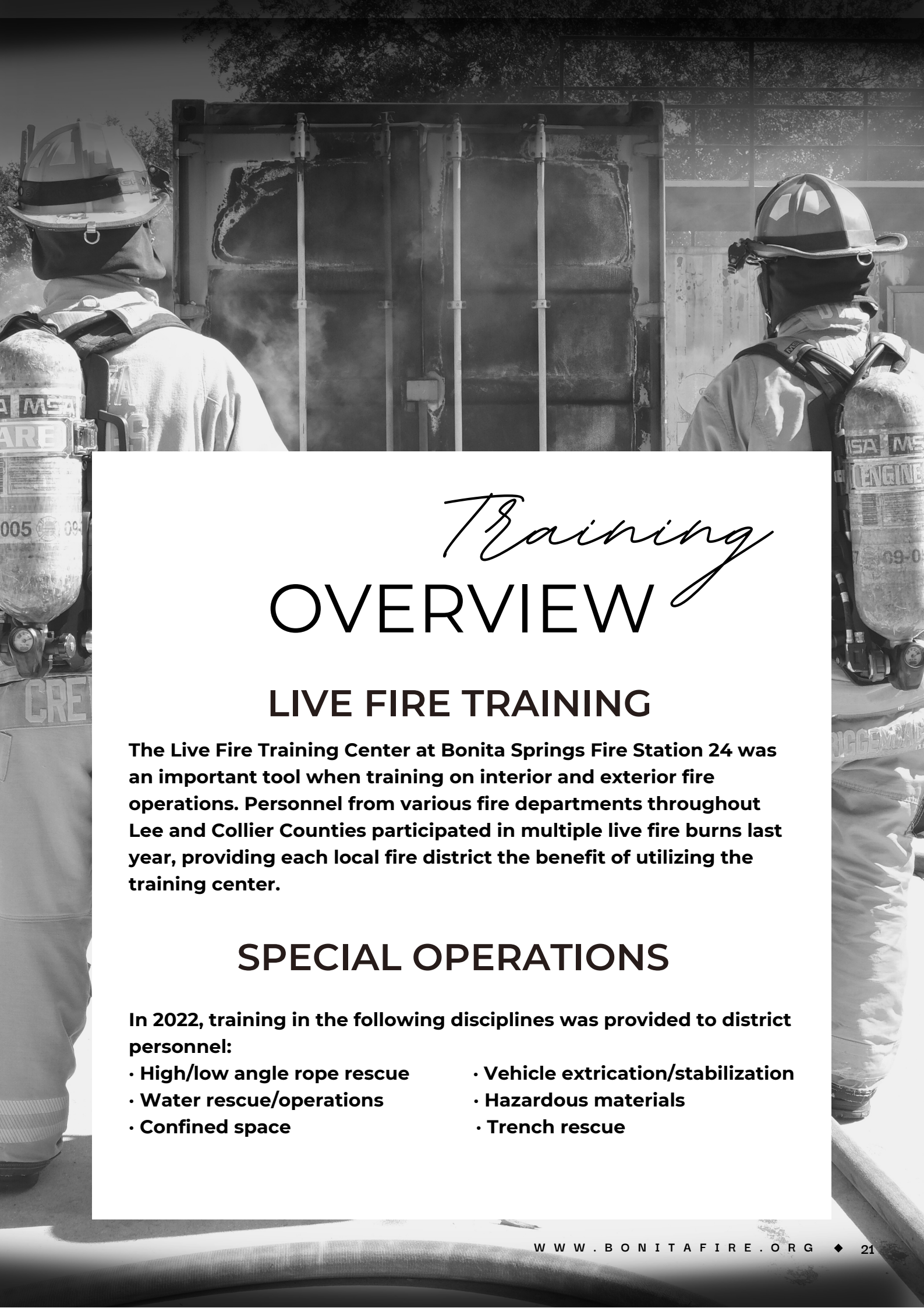
Training OVERVIEW

All personnel received advanced training in medical care, fire suppression, and special operations. The District accumulated approximately 24,352 hours of training. Classes included:

- Company Training: 11,317 hours
- Facilities Training: 3,230 hours
- Specialty (USAR) Training: 1,571 hours
- Officer Training: 2,707 hours
- HazMat Training: 1,055 hours
- EMS Training: 4,472 hours

DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

The Training Division administered a driver training program in 2022 for all firefighters. It is a complex program that includes maintenance, apparatus knowledge, equipment familiarization, emergency and non-emergency driving, and pump operator skill evaluations. This program has two important goals: 1) Determine the readiness of new drivers/engineers. 2) Ensure department personnel are trained in pump and apparatus operations. The program was a success as all of our firefighters passed their testing.



Training OVERVIEW

LIVE FIRE TRAINING

The Live Fire Training Center at Bonita Springs Fire Station 24 was an important tool when training on interior and exterior fire operations. Personnel from various fire departments throughout Lee and Collier Counties participated in multiple live fire burns last year, providing each local fire district the benefit of utilizing the training center.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

In 2022, training in the following disciplines was provided to district personnel:

- High/low angle rope rescue
- Water rescue/operations
- Confined space
- Vehicle extrication/stabilization
- Hazardous materials
- Trench rescue



Training OVERVIEW

EMT AND PARAMEDIC TRAINING

The District's Medical Director, Dr. Ben Abo, conducted monthly in-service training sessions to include:

- Pediatric care
- Cardiac care
- Trauma emergencies
- Orthopedic injuries
- Respiratory conditions
- Pharmacology

The Training Division also conducted monthly instructional and practical evolutions. Additionally, paramedics attended specialized classes in:

- Basic life support
- Advanced cardiac life support
- Basic trauma life support
- Advanced pediatric life support

Target Solutions, a web-based training system, was utilized along with other programs to maintain competency in their field. Emergency Medical Providers received their renewal certificates and licenses from the State.



Training OVERVIEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

My name is Dr. Benjamin Abo, I am an EMS Physician. In October of 2022, I had the honor of taking over as Medical Director for the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District. In addition to overseeing the training and credentialing of all Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics, my duties include the review and expansion of the quality of care delivered, in coordination with Lee County Emergency Medical Services standards. Your Firefighter-EMTs and Firefighter-Paramedics have the same medical certifications as responders on the ambulance, including trauma care, pediatric care, advanced cardiac care, and beyond. Bonita Springs Firefighters are trained in firefighting and technical rescue, and as an added benefit to our residents, their medical training allows them to provide you the best care with an all-hazards approach.

As their Medical Director, I consistently remind our firefighters that we do not get paid for what we do but for what we are prepared to do, and they are eager to adhere to that mission. I am proud to be part of, and potential recipient of, the expert service provided by the Bonita Springs Fire District for all our residents and visitors.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR/ FDMD1, DO PARAMEDIC EMTT-WP-CD

Dr. Benjamin N. Abo



2022

Prevention



Prevention OVERVIEW

The Fire Prevention Division interacted with developers, builders, architects, engineers, and homeowners in the process of applying the Florida Fire Prevention Code to commercial and multi-family residential buildings constructed within the District. Our staff performed fire inspections, re-inspections, and occupancy permit inspections within the community's business districts and multi-family housing complexes. They also inspect the installation of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems in single-family homes.

6,928

INSPECTIONS COMPLETED IN 2022

Prevention OVERVIEW

REVENUE

The Fire Prevention Division received revenue from fire flows, permits, inspections, and plan reviews.

\$5,850

FIRE PERMITS

\$123,138

INSPECTIONS

\$82,688

PLAN REVIEWS

\$2,420

FIRE FLOWS

\$212,474

TOTAL REVENUE



Prevention OVERVIEW

NEW CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS

We strive to provide timely, comprehensive, and accurate inspections for the District. These inspections reduce the potential for fire damage while increasing life safety for building occupants. New construction inspections assured code compliance of individual components of construction throughout the building process. Examples include fire alarm systems, fire-rated walls, fire sprinkler piping, and liquid propane tanks and piping.

PLAN REVIEW-INSPECTION SERVICES

Plan reviews and inspection services were provided for new construction and interior remodeling projects. All new construction inspections assured code compliance of individual components of construction through-out the building process.



Prevention OVERVIEW

886

TOTAL PLAN
REVIEWS

204

TOTAL PLAN
RESUBMITTALS

1,103

TOTAL REVIEWS AND
RESUBMITTALS

PLAN REVIEW

We strive to provide timely, comprehensive, and accurate inspections for the District. These inspections reduce the potential for fire damage while increasing life safety for building occupants. New construction inspections assured code compliance of individual components of construction throughout the building process. Examples include fire alarm systems, fire-rated walls, fire sprinkler piping, and liquid propane tanks and piping.



Prevention OVERVIEW

FIRE PREVENTION IN 2022

46

FIRE FLOW
INSPECTIONS

2,601

OCCUPANCIES
INSPECTED

128

SYSTEM REPORTS AND
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

654

OCCUPANCIES
RE-INSPECTED

145

USE/OCCUPANCY
INSPECTIONS

3,193

NEW CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTIONS



2022

Education



Education OVERVIEW

Each year, the District educates or interacts with nearly every full-time resident of Bonita Springs through over 30 Public Education programs. The programs are designed to provide education to enable students, of any age, to become successful in their lives. In the case of fire and life safety, that includes perhaps the greatest and most important success of all, daily well being.

In 2022, the Fire and Life Safety Public Educator had a unique opportunity to make learning relatable, concrete, and meaningful to students. The District was able to educate or interact with people of all ages via in-person instruction and social media.

Interactive activities, guidance, emphasis on individual problem solving, and positive feedback ensured effective learning regardless of age, topic, or setting.

In order to reach visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners, the safety messages are offered through the use of various learning methods. The lessons were reinforced by visuals and props, group discussions, hands-on educational activities, and age-appropriate literature. These learning methods created an engaging and fun environment that completed the Bonita Springs Fire District's Public Education Division mission and helped all students succeed.

Since it is typically difficult to gauge the success of preventative fire and life safety programs, we may never know how many accidents or fires have been prevented by the education that was offered.

Education OVERVIEW

SAFE HOME PROJECT

In 1996, the Smoke Alarms For Every (SAFE) Home initiative provided smoke alarms for the community. Throughout the year, free 10-year built-in lithium battery smoke alarms were distributed to families in need during community outreach events.

CHILD CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

Under the instruction of the Lee County Safe Kids Coalition, the Bonita Springs Fire District became certified in 2008 to safely install child restraint seats. Through a donation funded budget, the Fire District also provided car seats to families in need. The District is proud to announce that it has four certified Car Seat Technicians trained through Safe Kids Worldwide.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Since 2001, this program has delivered additional support to victims beyond the emergency response, such as coordinating with the American Red Cross and other agencies for assistance with lodging, clothing, food, and emotional support.



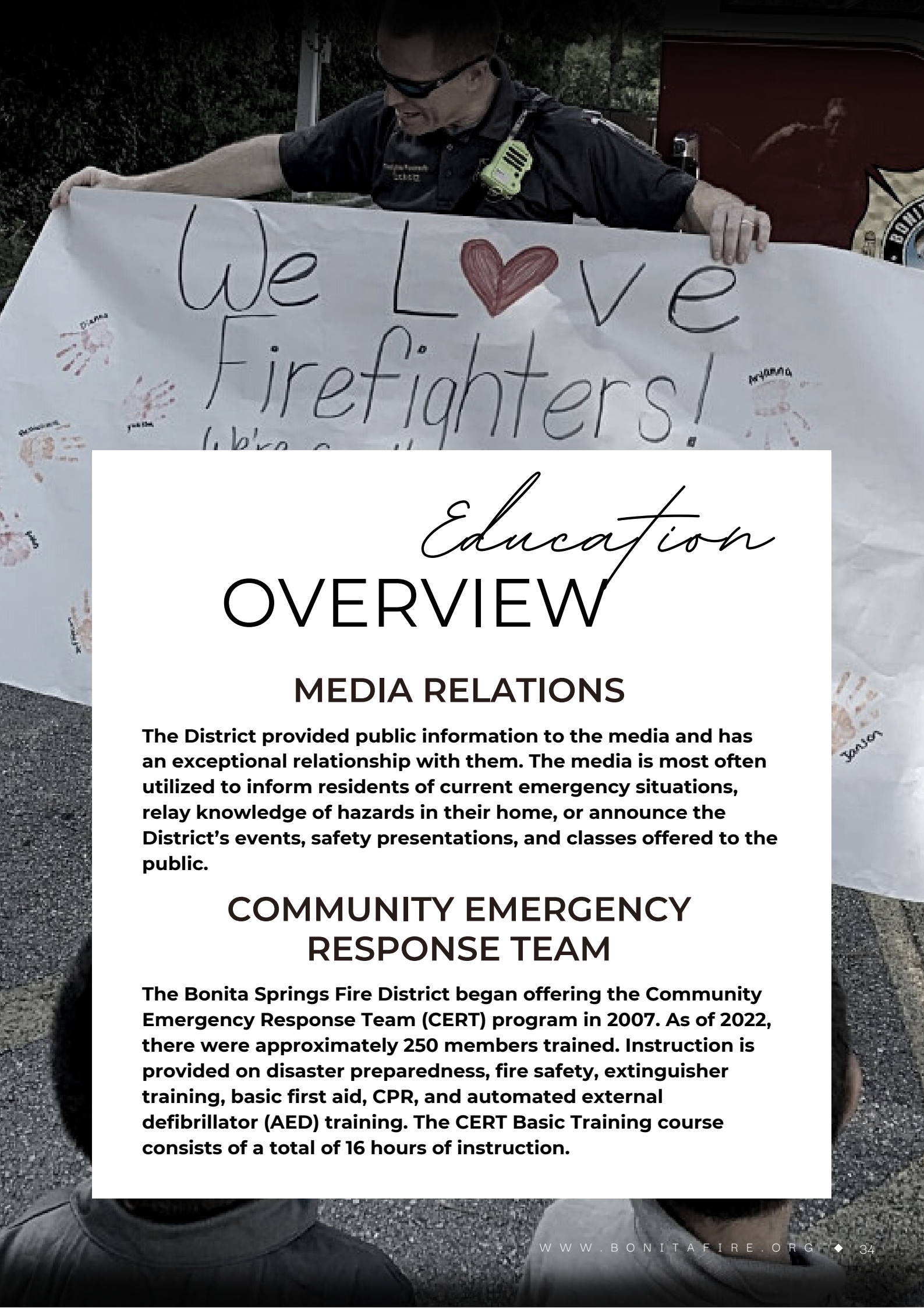
Education OVERVIEW

CPR CLASSES

The Bonita Springs Fire District believes that what you learn today could save a life tomorrow, which is why we've offered classes to prepare individuals to perform CPR on adults, children, and infants. The classes were provided to residents and nonresidents; however, Bonita Springs residents and businesses pay half-price. By utilizing the American Heart Association's curriculum, the District taught 124 participants how to treat choking victims and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

The Public Education Division is confident that fires and fire losses can be prevented when children and their parents are properly educated on fire safety. To support this program, businesses and community partners within Bonita Springs donate to provide fire safety education materials to children in Bonita Springs. This vital program assists the Fire District in teaching children fire safety and injury prevention. The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District has been associated with the National Fire Safety Council, Inc. since 1988 and believe in their programs.



Education OVERVIEW

MEDIA RELATIONS

The District provided public information to the media and has an exceptional relationship with them. The media is most often utilized to inform residents of current emergency situations, relay knowledge of hazards in their home, or announce the District's events, safety presentations, and classes offered to the public.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Bonita Springs Fire District began offering the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in 2007. As of 2022, there were approximately 250 members trained. Instruction is provided on disaster preparedness, fire safety, extinguisher training, basic first aid, CPR, and automated external defibrillator (AED) training. The CERT Basic Training course consists of a total of 16 hours of instruction.



DOWNLOAD OUR FREE MOBILE APP

The Bonita Springs Fire District is progressive and ambitious. We want to provide the best service possible to the residents and visitors of Bonita Springs. We are proud of our District and the role we play in the community. In 2020, the Bonita Springs Fire District introduced a new mobile app to the community. The purpose of this interactive application is to improve our ability to communicate with the citizens of Bonita Springs and surrounding areas regarding topics that are important to their safety and well being.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

