



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Bonita Springs

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Bonita Springs

-TABLE OF CONTENTS-

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

04-09

**MISSION STATEMENT | THE FIRE CHIEFS REPORT
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

11-16

**THE OPERATIONS DIVISION OVERVIEW | STATION RESPONSES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE
PROGRAM | ANNUAL RESPONSES | MONTHLY RESPONSES**

17-25

2021 INCIDENT RESPONSES PROFILE

26-30

**THE TRAINING DIVISION OVERVIEW | DRIVER TRAINING
PROGRAM, LIVE FIRE, AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING |
TRAINING HOURS | EMT AND PARAMEDIC TRAINING | NOTE
FROM OUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

31-35

**THE PREVENTION DIVISION OVERVIEW | REVENUE, NEW
CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS, AND PLAN REVIEW AND
PERMITTING | INSPECTIONS AND REINSPECTIONS**

36-44

**THE EDUCATION DIVISION OVERVIEW | PUBLIC EDUCATION |
SAFE HOME PROJECT, CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS, AND VICTIM
ASSISTANCE | CPR CLASSES | MEDIA RELATIONS | MOBILE
APP | EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY**



- MISSION STATEMENT -
BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT



**TO PRESERVE LIFE AND PROPERTY,
AND PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY
THROUGH STRONG LEADERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONALISM,
AND INTEGRITY.**



-MISSION STATEMENT- **BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT**

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.

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.

- FIRE CHIEFS REPORT -

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

Another year has passed, and 2021 finished the same way it started with concern for COVID-19 and its variants. The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District was able to accomplish many things despite the ongoing pandemic.

Halfway through the year, the Delta variant emerged and affected the District differently than the original strain. We had more employees out on workers' compensation with Delta than with the first round of COVID-19.

The subsequent variant, Omicron, has less severe symptoms than the Delta variant and we found our employees with this variant returned to work more quickly.

Although, COVID is still affecting the medical supply chain, we have been able to get our necessary supplies by anticipating our needs.

In 2020, we saw a decrease in call volume, which in my opinion, was mainly due to our residents and visitors choosing to stay home. As COVID restrictions lifted, we saw a change in our call volume; possibly due to our community becoming more comfortable with using the 911 system again, travel opening up, education on COVID, and people beginning to venture out of their homes. The call volume in 2021 showed an increase of 8.4%.

Our Board of Fire Commissioners required only one virtual meeting, and once restrictions lessened, The Board began meeting in person again at their monthly Board Meetings - on the second Monday of each month. After missing only one in-person Board Meeting.



- FIRE CHIEFS REPORT -

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

In May, COVID did not stop us from receiving two new apparatus. The first, a 2021 Pierce Velocity Aerial Apparatus replaced Engine 26, a 2009 vehicle. The second, a 2021 Pierce Engine replaced Engine 24. We outfitted both units and placed them in service in July. Once in service, tactical changes were made to our entire fleet by relocating the apparatus amongst our seven stations within the District to provide the community with more efficient service.

With the addition of these two new apparatus, the Bonita Springs Fire Board permitted the donation of the two engines that had been in reserve status to two volunteer fire departments northeast of Tallahassee, in Jackson County. The donated apparatus has made a tremendous difference in their communities.

Despite COVID-19, Bonita Springs showed a 5.88% increase in property values. This gave the District an opportunity to lower the millage by \$0.05; making 2021 the sixth consecutive year that Bonita Springs Fire Commissioners have reduced the millage while the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District remained debt-free.

- FIRE CHIEFS REPORT -

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT



As 2021 wound down, we continued to keep the public up to date with all the latest information via our social media outlet and our free Bonita Springs Fire Control App (please download).

The Bonita Spring Fire Control and Rescue District will always seek the most efficient and effective methods of providing emergency response and keeping the citizens and visitors of Bonita Springs safe. Our goal is to move forward, focusing on excellence in the coming year.

In your service, Gregory L. DeWitt, Fire Chief

- BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS -

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT



The regularly scheduled Fire Board Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 5:00PM at Bonita Springs Fire Station 24 at 27701 Bonita Grande. These are public meetings, and community attendance is encouraged. Agendas are published at least seven days before each meeting at www.bonitafire.org.

- BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS -

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT



It is my pleasure to present to you the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District's Annual Report for 2021. 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.

In 2021, your Fire District was responsible for protecting the lives and safety of between 50,000 and 90,000 or more residents and visitors and the protection of \$12,354,807,617 in taxable property assets during the 2020/2021 FY. We have been pro-active in fostering change in the organization while maintaining critical levels of service delivery.

The District saw a property value increase of 5.88% over the previous year. The District continued to maintain a quality standard of coverage and service, focusing on customer satisfaction and economy of operation.

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. 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.

Steve Lohan, Chairman of the BSFD Fire Board

-2021 OPERATIONS OVERVIEW- BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

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

97 FIRE PERSONNEL

The Fire Suppression Division provided around-the-clock coverage with 3 shifts staffed by a total of 97 fire suppression personnel, including 53 paramedics and 44 emergency medical technicians (EMT).

There are 24 40-hour employees for a total of 121 full-time personnel, plus 1 part-time administrative position.



2021 STATION RESPONSES

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 21

27490 Old 41 Road: staffed with a ladder truck and a rescue, and 6 Firefighter-EMTs/ Paramedics who responded to 1,894 emergencies

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 22

28055 Mango Drive: staffed with a ladder truck and 4 Firefighter-EMTs/Paramedics who responded to 1,099 emergencies

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 23

25001 S. Tamiami Trail: staffed with an engine and 4 Firefighter-EMTs/Paramedics who responded to 1,547 emergencies

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 24

27701 Bonita Grande Drive: staffed with an engine and 4 Firefighter-EMTs/Paramedics who responded to 1,123 emergencies

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 25

8850 West Terry Street: staffed with an engine and 4 Firefighter-EMTs/Paramedics who responded to 1,275 emergencies

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 26

16001 Bonita Beach Road: staffed with an engine and 4 Firefighter-EMTs/Paramedics who responded to 632 emergencies

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 27

26105 Hickory Island Blvd SE: staffed with a mini pumper and marine unit, and 3 Firefighter-EMTs/ Paramedics who responded to 414 emergencies

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

2021 marked the 24th year of providing non-transport advanced life support emergency medical care. Nine units serve Bonita Springs: four engines, one mini-pumper, one rescue unit, two ladder trucks, and a 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 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 2020/21 FY was \$227,500. The revenue budget for that same period was \$35,000.



-2021 RESPONSE TOTALS-

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

766

FIRES & HAZARDS

2,094

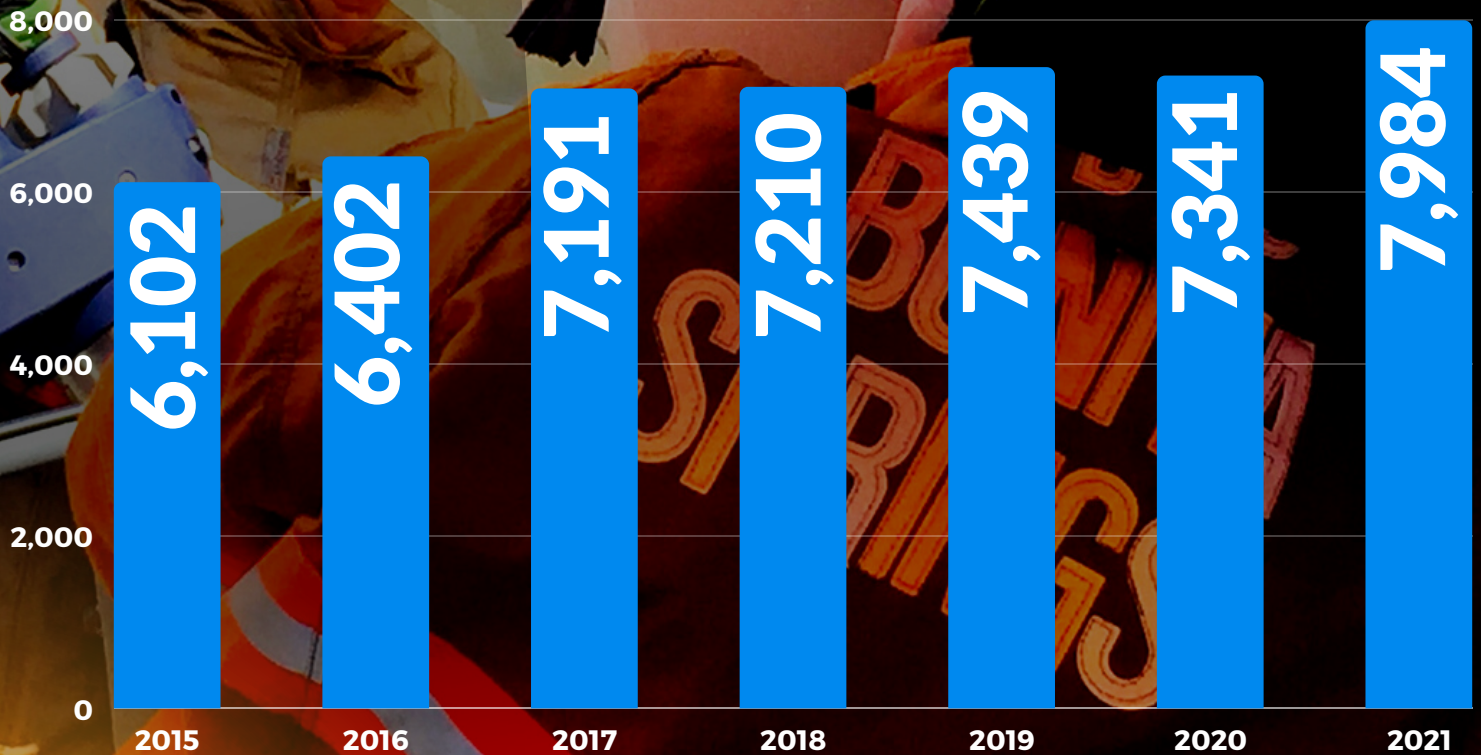
ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

5,124

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

-2021 ANNUAL RESPONSES-

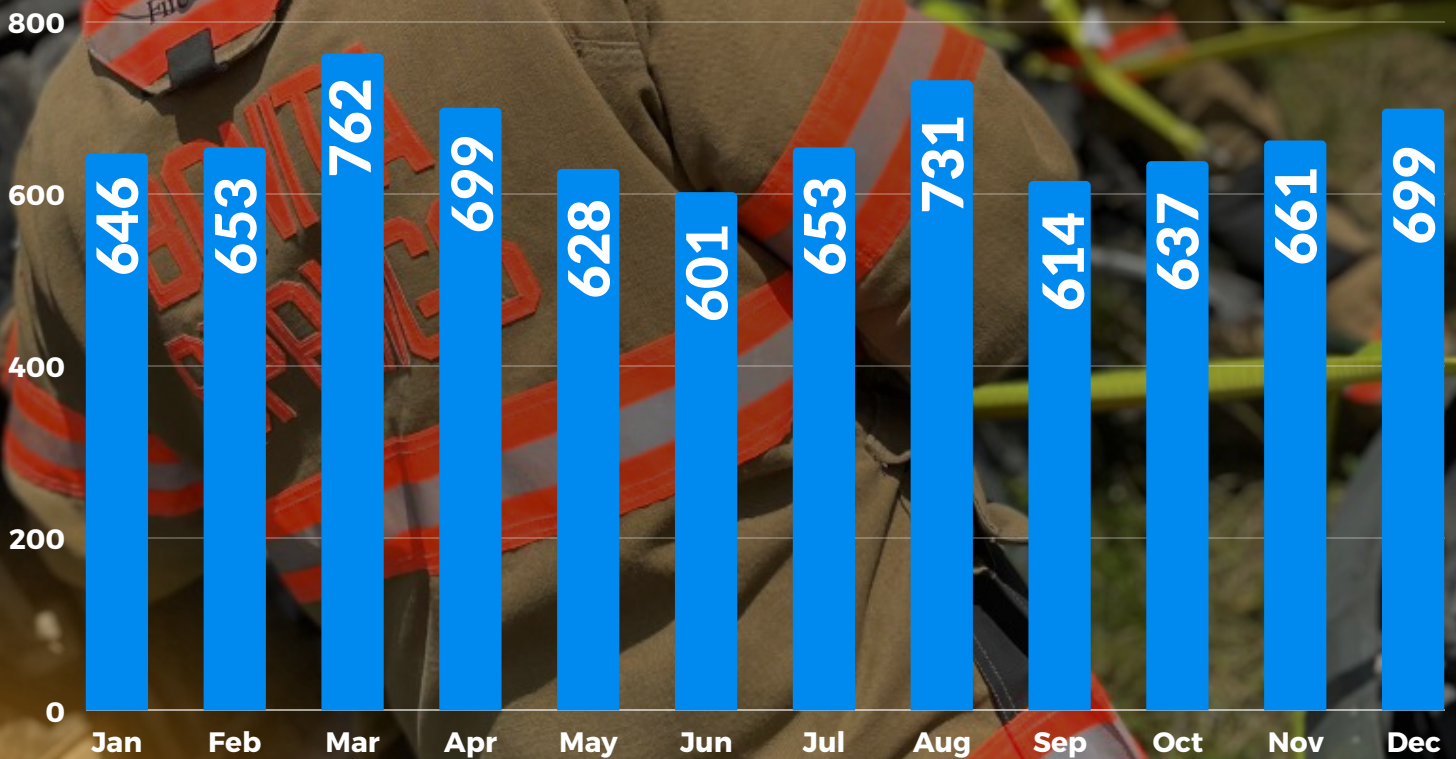
BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT



In 2021, the District responded to 7,984 emergencies. EMS emergencies equaled 64% of the total incidents. Responses to fires, hazards, and other assistance equaled 36%.

-2021 MONTHLY RESPONSES-

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT



In 2021, March had the most emergency calls at 762, closely followed by August with 731 emergencies. The Bonita Springs Fire District responds to an average of 665 emergencies per month.

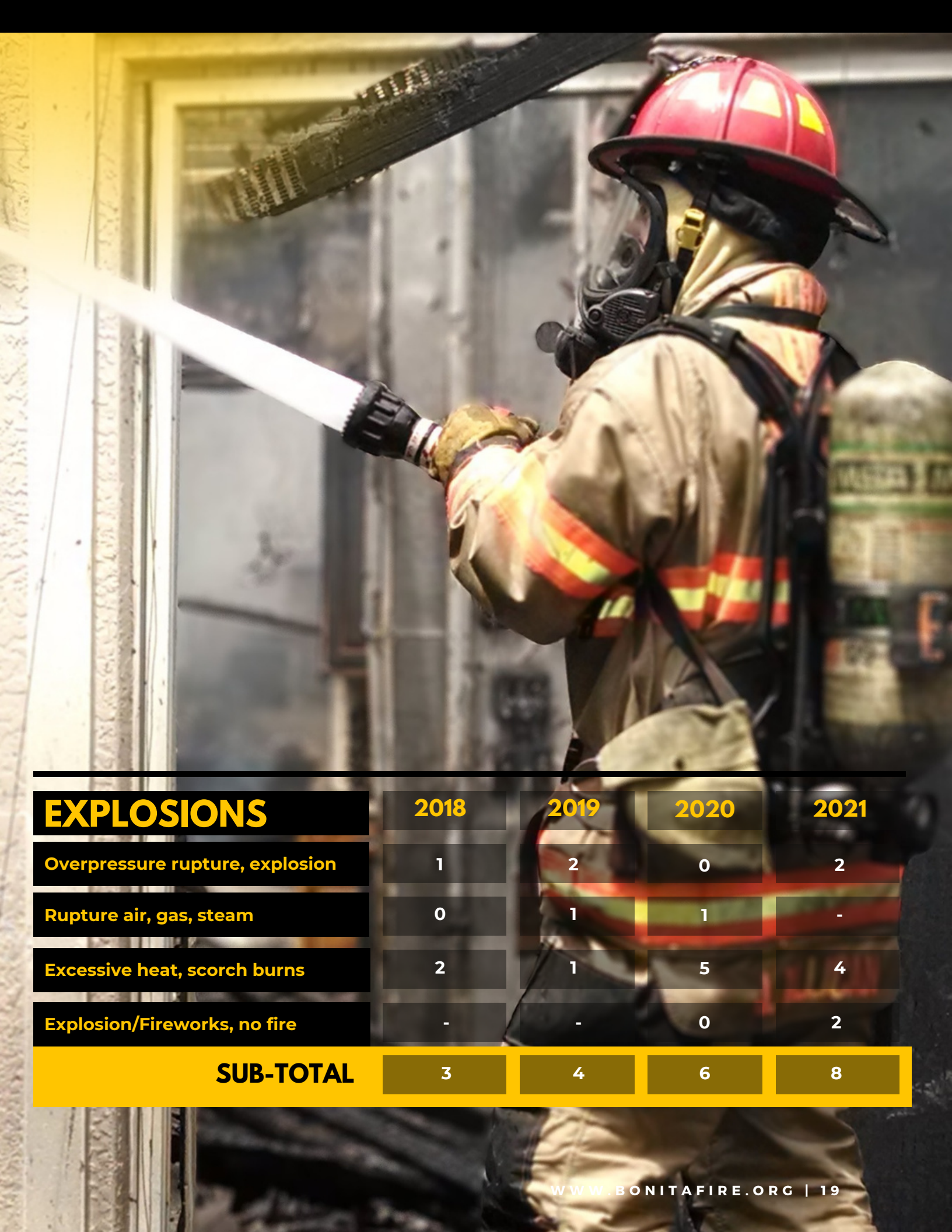
- 2021 RESPONSE PROFILE -

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

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.



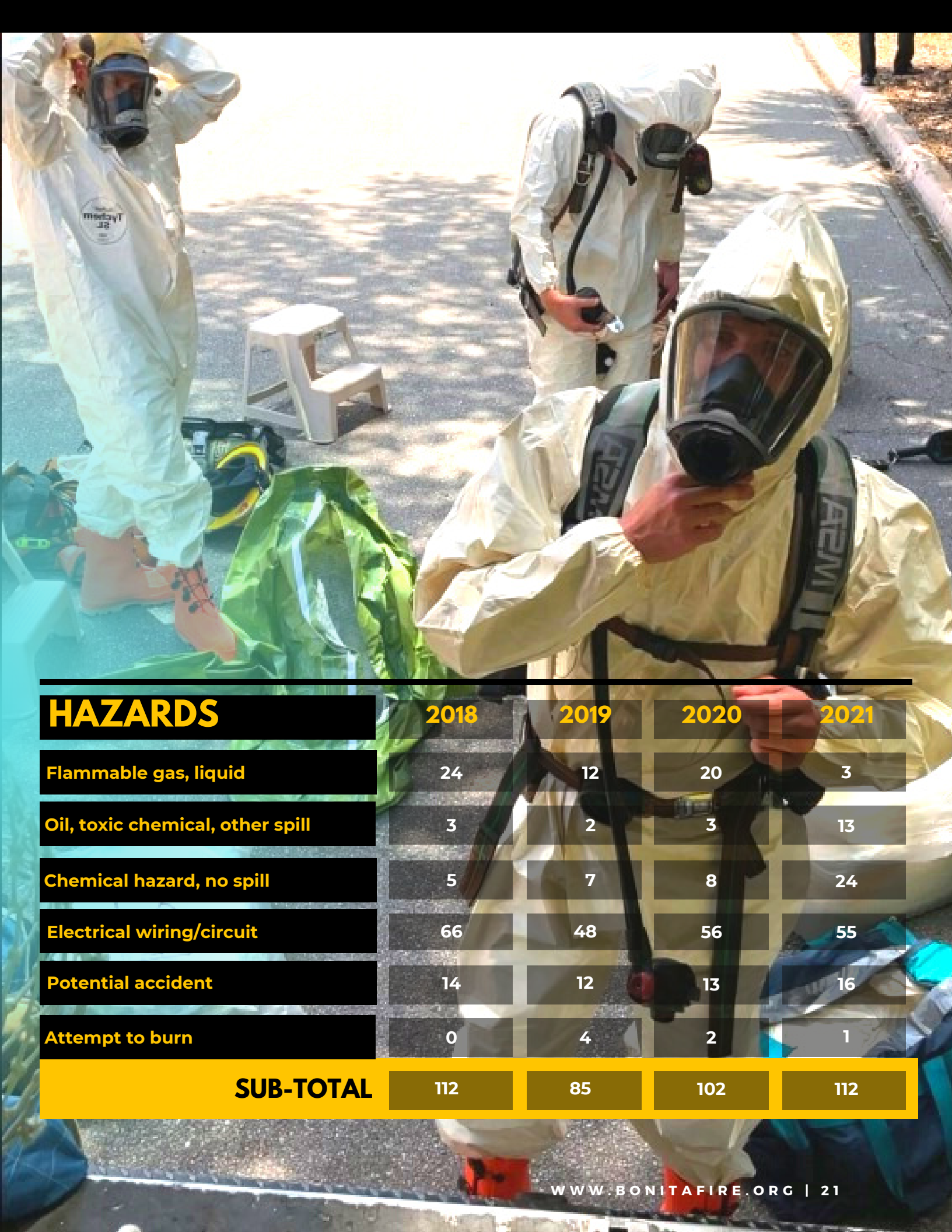
FIRE	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fire, other	6	7	7	4
Structure fire	34	48	41	31
Mobile property fire	23	20	29	29
Natural vegetation fire	44	36	56	32
Outside rubbish fire	38	29	26	19
Special outside fire	5	5	6	6
SUB-TOTAL	150	145	165	121



EXPLOSIONS	2018	2019	2020	2021
Overpressure rupture, explosion	1	2	0	2
Rupture air, gas, steam	0	1	1	-
Excessive heat, scorch burns	2	1	5	4
Explosion/Fireworks, no fire	-	-	0	2
SUB-TOTAL	3	4	6	8



RESCUE/MEDICAL	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rescue, EMS incident	189	41	83	51
Medical assist, EMS crew assist	265	232	216	286
MVC with injuries	4147	4565	4100	4753
Lock-in	1	1	4	1
Person in water/watercraft rescue	16	13	23	33
Elevator/high angle rescue	32	34	39	0
SUB-TOTAL	4650	4886	4465	5124



HAZARDS

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Flammable gas, liquid	24	12	20	3
Oil, toxic chemical, other spill	3	2	3	13
Chemical hazard, no spill	5	7	8	24
Electrical wiring/circuit	66	48	56	55
Potential accident	14	12	13	16
Attempt to burn	0	4	2	1
SUB-TOTAL	112	85	102	112



SERVICE CALL	2018	2019	2020	2021
Service call, other	10	4	7	3
Person in distress, other	21	13	12	9
Water problem	14	14	19	24
Smoke/odor investigation, removal	47	-	10	12
Animal problem	4	7	11	4
Public service assistance	378	435	563	680
Unauthorized burning	9	7	3	5
SUB-TOTAL	483	480	625	737



GOOD INTENT CALL	2018	2019	2020	2021
Good intent call, other	21	11	17	19
Cancelled en-route/on-scene	1181	1129	1283	1156
Sent to wrong location	93	96	80	93
Controlled/prescribed burning	4	1	0	2
Steam/dust (no-fire)	7	18	37	35
Hazardous materials investigation	1	3	1	2
SUB-TOTAL	1307	1258	1418	1307



FALSE ALARM	2018	2019	2020	2021
False alarm or false call	89	41	62	22
Malicious false call	11	5	6	11
System malfunction	134	204	180	183
Unintentional alarm	265	319	304	309
SUB-TOTAL	499	569	552	525

SPECIAL INCIDENT

2018

2019

2020

2021

Special type of incident

4

7

3

3

Citizen assist

2

5

5

2

Mutual Aid

-

-

-

45

SUB-TOTAL

6

12

8

50

GRAND TOTAL

7210

7439

7341

7984



-2021 TRAINING OVERVIEW-

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

All personnel received advanced training in medical care, fire suppression, and special operations. The District accumulated approximately 24,299 hours of training. Classes included but were not limited to:

- Driver/Engineer
- Officer development
- Air management
- Forcible entry
- Live fire
- Hydrants
- Leadership
- Vehicle extrication
- Rapid intervention
- Vent-Enter-Search
- EMS
- Physical fitness





DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

The Training Division administered a driver training program in 2021 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.

LIVE FIRE TRAINING

The Live Fire Training Center at Bonita Springs Fire Station 24 is an important tool when training on interior and exterior fire operations. Personnel from various fire departments throughout Lee and Collier Counties participated in more than 15 days of live fire burns. This totals to over 1284 firefighters trained at the Bonita Springs' Live Fire Training Center.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

In 2021, training in the following disciplines was provided to district personnel:

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



TOTAL TRAINING HOURS

The District accumulated approximately 24,299 hours of training. Firefighters received training in fire and medical operations, hazardous materials, and other diversified training throughout the year.

24,299
TOTAL HOURS OF TRAINING

1,859
HOURS OF MEDICAL TRAINING

20,660
HOURS OF FIRE TRAINING

1,529
HOURS OF DIVERSIFIED TRAINING

951
HOURS OF HAZMAT TRAINING

EMT AND PARAMEDIC TRAINING

The District's Medical Director, Dr. Alexander Rodi, Jr., 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.



MEDICAL DIRECTOR

My name is Dr. Alexander Rodi, Jr. and I have been the Medical Director for the Bonita Springs Fire District since 2010. My duties include training and credentialing your emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. I also review the quality of care your EMTs and paramedics deliver, and establish and maintain acceptable practice guidelines which we have developed in conjunction with Lee County Emergency Medical Service. Our EMTs and paramedics come from the same training programs as the County's EMTs and paramedics. The difference, and greatest benefit to you, is that our EMTs and paramedics are also firefighters; they have dual certifications in both firefighting and medical care.

In addition, your paramedics have multiple certifications in trauma care, pediatric care, basic life support, and advanced life support. I provide monthly lectures on various medical issues related to patient care and treatment. Our EMTs and paramedics are professionals who are constantly striving to be the best in the County. Trained to think outside the box, they use their training and knowledge to deliver the best care possible to the citizens of Bonita Springs. Since we respond to a large number of medical calls, it is important to understand that time is critical. From initiating a 911 call to arrival at the hospital, any unnecessary delay can mean the difference between life and death.

Your Fire District strives to provide the very best pre-hospital medical care economically possible. We continue to work toward providing top-level medical care on a local level to improve your quality of life.

Dr. Alexander Rodi, Jr., Medical Director

-2021 PREVENTION OVERVIEW-

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

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 inspected the installation of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems in single-family homes.



REVENUE

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

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 AND 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 throughout the building process.





\$6,725

FIRE PERMITS

\$131,963

INSPECTIONS

\$94,909

PLAN REVIEWS

\$2,470

FIRE FLOWS

\$236,067

TOTAL REVENUE

PLAN REVIEWS

An agreement between Lee County and the District was established in 1980 for plan review. The Fire Prevention Division performs plan review for all permits issued, including multi-family residential, commercial buildings, fire protection systems, and other hazards. The District also issues a permit for fire protection systems and hazards, and conducts ongoing inspections during construction. To ensure fire code compliance prior to issuing a building permit in 2021, plans were reviewed through an inter-local agreement with the City of Bonita Springs.

706

**TOTAL PLAN REVIEWS
WHICH BROUGHT IN \$94,909**

118

TOTAL PLAN RESUBMITTALS

90

**TOTAL PLAN REVISIONS
WHICH BROUGHT IN \$3,375**

A firefighter in silhouette is working on a structure during a fire at night. The scene is illuminated by the bright orange and yellow flames of the fire, creating a dramatic and high-contrast environment. The firefighter is positioned in the lower right, leaning over a structure. The background shows the intense fire and the dark night sky.

8,330

INSPECTIONS COMPLETED
IN 2021 INCREASED MORE
THAN 17%

3,036

OCCUPANCIES
INSPECTED IN 2021

972

OCCUPANCIES RE-
INSPECTED IN 2021

45

FIRE FLOW INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED IN 2021

3,918

NEW CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTIONS IN 2021

191

OTHER SYSTEM REPORTS
AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS
COMPLETED IN 2021

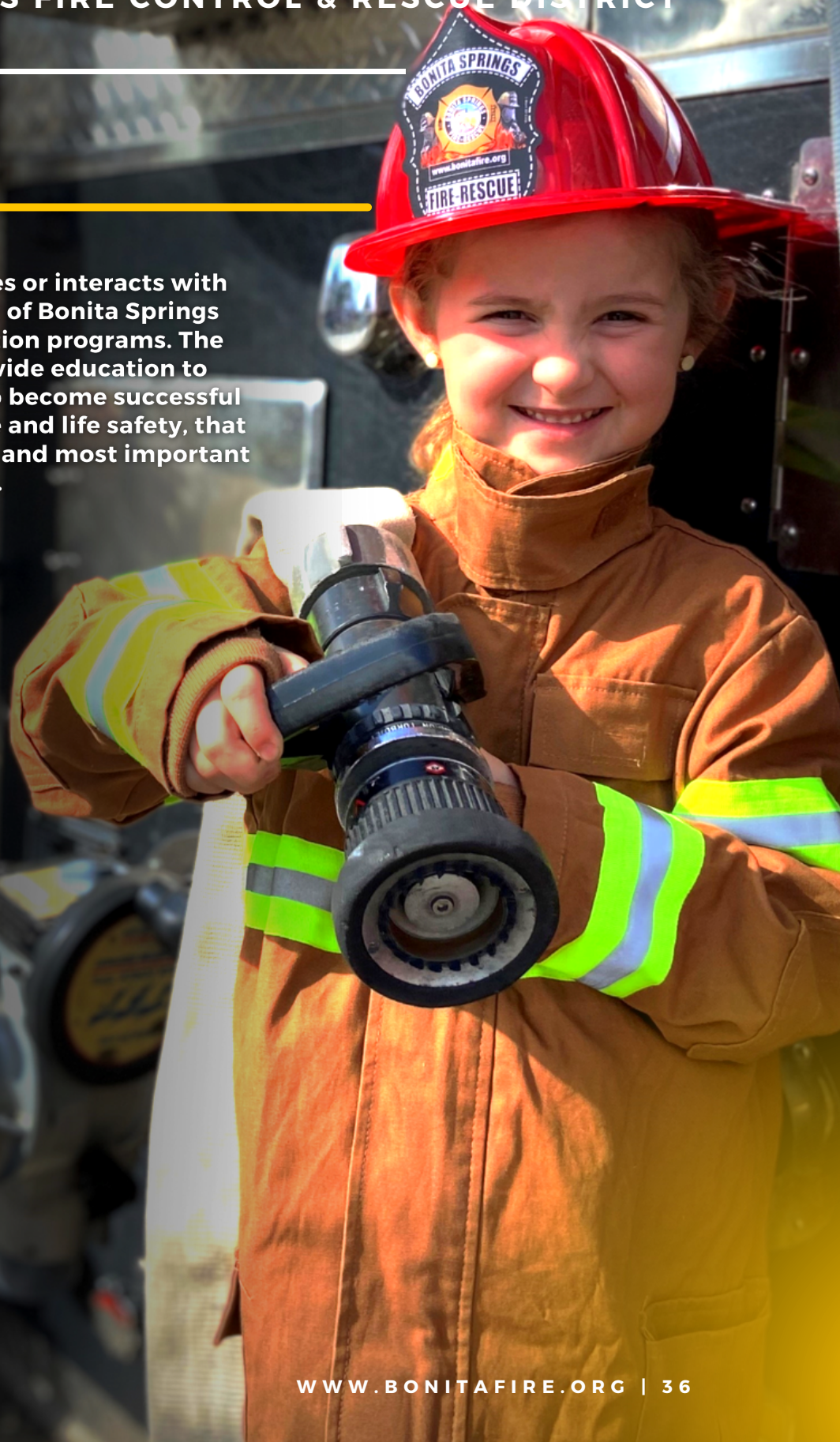
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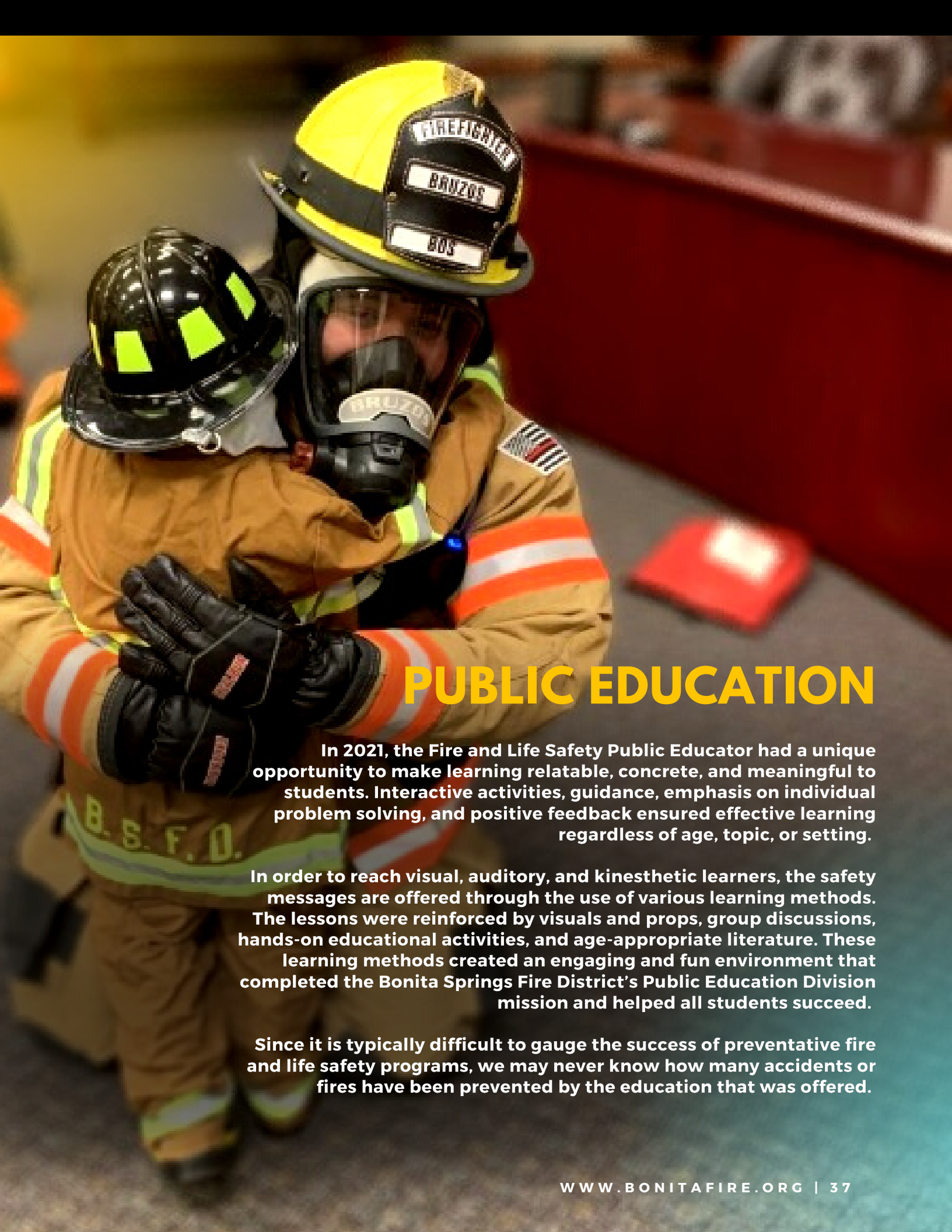
USE/OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED IN 2021

-2021 PUBLIC EDUCATION OVERVIEW-

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

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.





PUBLIC EDUCATION

In 2021, the Fire and Life Safety Public Educator had a unique opportunity to make learning relatable, concrete, and meaningful to students. 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.

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 INSPECTION & INSTALLATION

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 six certified Car Seat Technicians trained through Safe Kids Worldwide.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In 2001, the District realized a need that wasn't fully met on emergency scenes - emotional first aid. This program delivers 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. Included in this program is the Fire District's Chaplain, Jeff Chitwood, to assist our residents in the physical and emotional recovery process.





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 treatment for choking victims and instruction on how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District continued our Fire Safety and Injury Prevention Education Program for children and parents as part of the National Fire Safety Council. The Public Education Division is confident that fires and fire losses can be prevented, but children and their parents must be properly educated in 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. We strongly believe that by making children aware, we can prevent tragic fire losses and deaths. The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District has been associated with National Fire Safety Council, Inc. since 1988 and believe in their programs.





MEDIA RELATIONS

The District provided public information to the media, and has a continuous exceptional relationship. 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.



MOBILE APP

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 wellbeing. Search: Bonita Springs Fire Control.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Bonita Springs Fire District began offering the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in 2007. As of 2021, there were approximately 230 members on the team. 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.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY

In 2021, the Public Education Division educated or informed 383,177 people, compared to the 397,264 in 2020, and 218,271 in 2019—social media being the most effective outlet for outreach. The District participated in 476 educational opportunities in 2021, compared to 355 opportunities in 2020.



DOWNLOAD OUR FREE 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.