



ANNUAL
Report
2023

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

Bonita Springs
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



Chairman's Desk

Allow me to present the 2023 Annual Report from the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District. This comprehensive document provides an overview of the Fire District's operations, highlighting essential aspects crucial to fulfilling our mission.

Throughout the past year, our Board has remained steadfast in its moral commitment to safeguard the interests of the general public and uphold the continuity of life safety operations. The Board's actions are designed to guarantee a prompt, professional response to fire and rescue emergencies, addressing the community's needs. In these challenging times, be assured that our expertly trained department is ready to serve and protect you.

In 2023, the Fire District played a pivotal role in safeguarding the lives and safety of a population ranging from 54,000 to 90,000 residents and visitors. Additionally, we protected taxable property assets totaling \$14,972,991,554 during the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Despite challenges, we have actively driven positive changes within the organization while ensuring the maintenance of critical service delivery levels.

Notably, the District witnessed a 14.5% increase in property values compared to the previous year. We remain committed to upholding a high standard of coverage and service, prioritizing customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BONITA SPRINGS FIRE BOARD

Steve Lohan



Chief's Desk

As the City of Bonita Springs commemorates its 25th anniversary, we are proud to share another significant milestone here at the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District. As we reflect on the past year, 2023 presented both challenges and triumphs for our district. At the start of the year, the aftermath of Hurricane Ian lingered, impacting our operations. Despite the adversities, we strategically acquired the property housing Station 27, including the restaurant and marina. This acquisition ensures continuous fire and rescue services on Hickory Island and the surrounding areas, fortifying our marine response capabilities in Bonita Springs and neighboring districts.

Station 27 underwent renovations, restoring it to its original layout with thoughtful enhancements, such as a larger gym area and a fully climate-controlled storage room for bunker gear and supplies. With resilience and dedication, we successfully returned to the station on August 7th, just before the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ian. The restaurant component of the property is currently listed for sale, and we eagerly await a suitable offer.

Despite supply chain challenges mentioned in last year's report, we successfully welcomed a new engine (E-26), and due to lead time constraints, we've ordered another engine (E-25) with a guaranteed price and deferred payment until its arrival in April 2025.



Chief's Desk

The dynamic growth in the State of Florida, with over 1,000 people relocating daily, has had its impact on Bonita Springs, influencing a 14.5% increase in property values. Due to this increase, we are pleased to announce that we were able to lower the millage rate while maintaining responsible fiscal management.

Our commitment to training and public education remains unwavering. While call volumes experienced a slight dip, the diversity of emergency calls persisted. As an all-hazards fire district, we stand ready to respond to any emergency, from vehicle accidents to assisting animals stuck in drains.

We express gratitude to the Fire Board of Commissioners, meeting diligently on the second Monday of every month. Their invaluable support during the Fourth of July celebrations garnered numerous compliments, reinforcing our strong community ties. Moving into 2024, the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District remains dedicated to being prudent stewards of taxpayer funds while delivering the highest standards of professional service.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

FIRE CHIEF OF THE BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

Gregory L. DeWitt



The Operations Division



2023

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.

Read More →

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Operations **OVERVIEW**

OPERATIONS

The District promptly responded to a diverse array of emergency incidents, encompassing fires, medical and trauma emergencies, vehicle accidents, special operation incidents, and public service calls.

In addition to emergency responses, non-emergency duties were diligently carried out, which involved:

- Inspection of apparatus and equipment
- Training sessions
- Public education initiatives
- Pre-fire planning activities
- Maintenance of fire hydrants
- Minor repairs of equipment
- Sustaining the upkeep of fire stations
- Conducting physical fitness training

These non-emergency responsibilities reflect our attention to proactive measures, ensuring the readiness and efficiency of our operations beyond immediate crisis responses.

105 FIRE PERSONNEL

The Fire Suppression Division maintained continuous coverage, operating on a 24/7 basis with three shifts, collectively staffed by 105 fire suppression personnel. This dedicated team includes 75 paramedics and 30 emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

Among the 129 full-time personnel, 10 employees work in the Prevention Division and 14 work in the Administration Division. This strategic staffing arrangement ensures a robust and responsive framework to address diverse emergency situations effectively.

Operations **OVERVIEW**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In 2023, the Fire Department celebrated its 26th year of delivering advanced life support emergency medical care without transport. Bonita Springs is served by thirteen units, including 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 units are manned by firefighters who are trained both as emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

Since Bonita Springs firefighter/paramedics often arrive at emergency scenes before a Lee County ambulance, they are the first to provide critical medical care such as cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, intubation, IV administration, and drug therapy. Upon the arrival of a county ambulance, patient care transitions from firefighter/paramedics to county paramedics, who then oversee the patient's transportation to the hospital. This seamless transition ensures quick and comprehensive medical attention for the residents of Bonita Springs.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The District's proactive approach to preventative maintenance has yielded significant cost reductions and enhancements in both reliability and safety. Additionally, our preventative maintenance program extends beyond our own fleet; our Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVTs) also maintain vehicles for the City of Bonita Springs and the San Carlos Park Fire District.

For the fiscal year 2022/23, the allocated vehicle maintenance budget was \$245,000. During this same period, revenue amounted to \$64,347. This financial balance demonstrates our fiscal responsibility and effective resource management, ensuring that our vehicles remain in optimal condition while aligning with budgetary considerations.

Station RESPONSES

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 21 = 1,965 EMERGENCIES

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

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 22 = 1,076 EMERGENCIES

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

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 23 = 1,534 EMERGENCIES

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

BONITA SPRINGS STATION 24 = 1,317 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 = 1,404 EMERGENCIES

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

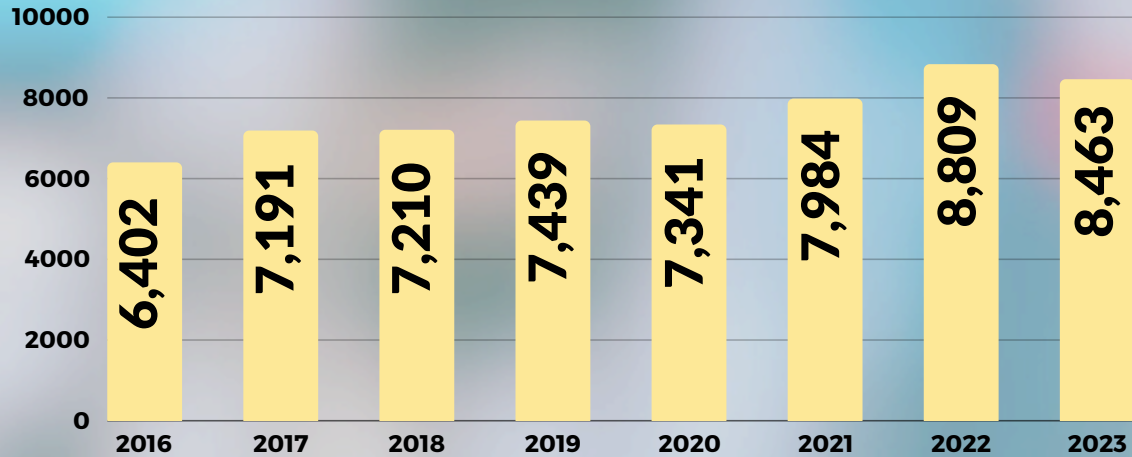
BONITA SPRINGS STATION 26 = 749 EMERGENCIES

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

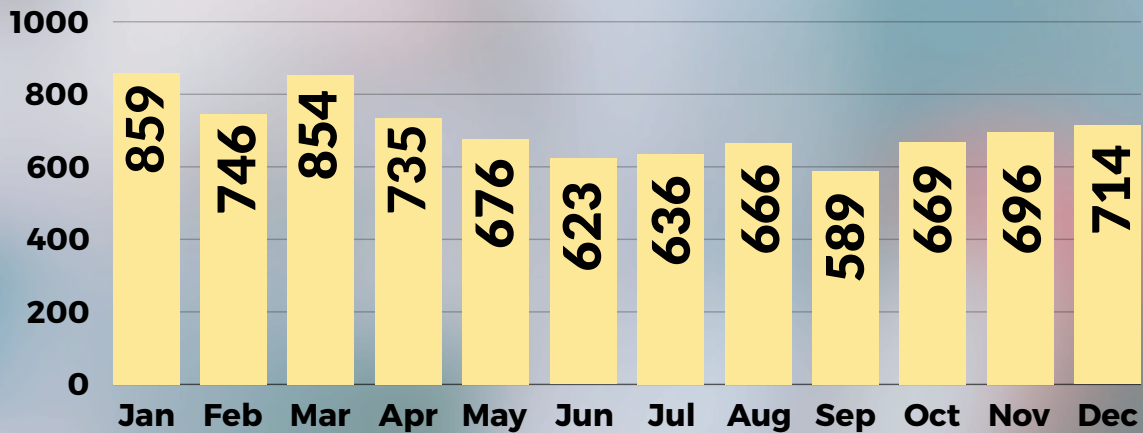
BONITA SPRINGS STATION 27 = 418 EMERGENCIES

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

Incident RESPONSES



Last year, the District responded to 8,463 emergencies. EMS emergencies equaled 68.62% of the total incidents. Responses to fires, hazards, and other assistance equaled 31.38%.



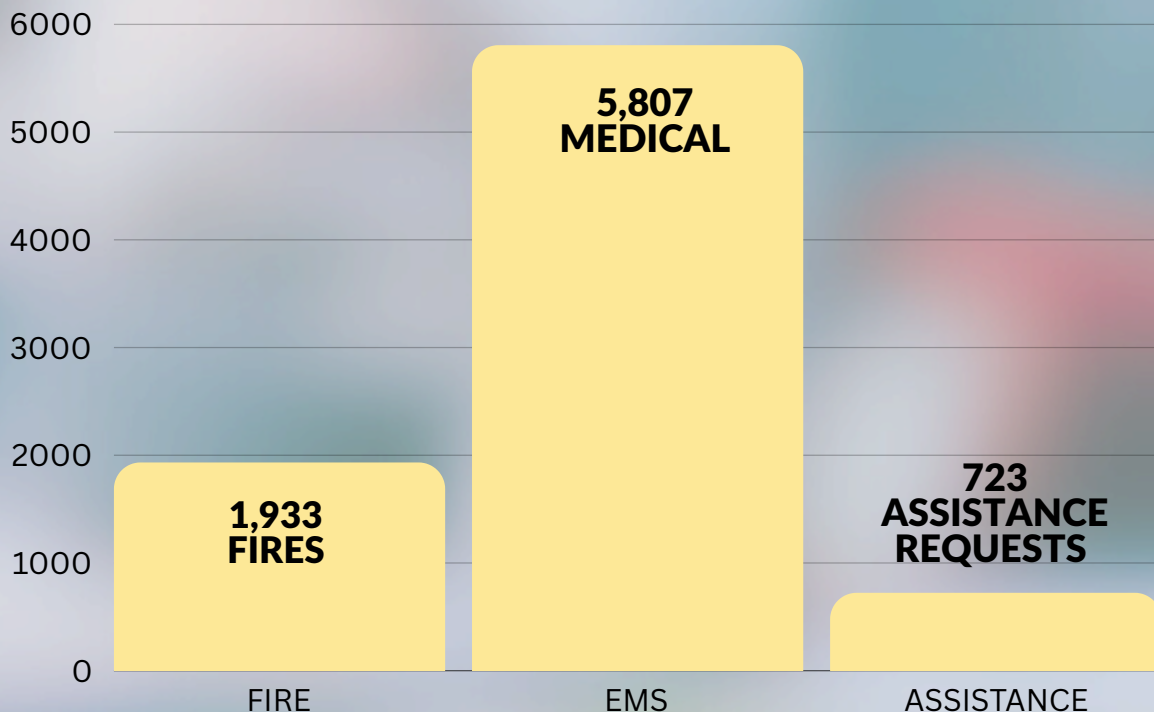
The month of January had the most emergency calls at 859, closely followed by March with 854 emergencies. The Bonita Springs Fire District responded to an average of 706 emergencies each month.

Incident RESPONSES

TOTAL ANNUAL RESPONSES

The Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District takes pride in delivering cutting-edge fire suppression and life safety capabilities to our citizens.

With an impressive ISO rating of 2, the District stands among the top three percent of the nation's finest fire departments. This accomplishment reflects our commitment to excellence. Bonita Springs firefighters undergo rigorous training and are equipped with the best resources available, ensuring they are prepared to provide unparalleled service to our citizens. Through their dedication, we consistently strive to save lives and protect property, embodying our commitment to the highest standards of public safety.



Incident RESPONSES

FIRE	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fire, other	7	4	7	4
Structure fire	41	31	39	28
Mobile property fire	29	29	27	31
Natural vegetation fire	56	32	46	47
Outside rubbish fire	26	19	32	33
Special outside fire	6	6	9	7
SUB-TOTAL	165	121	160	150

EXPLOSIONS	2020	2021	2022	2023
Overpressure rupture, explosion	0	2	2	2
Rupture air, gas, steam	1	-	1	-
Excessive heat, scorch, burns	5	4	3	3
Explosion/Fireworks, no fire	0	2	0	2
SUB-TOTAL	6	8	6	7

Incident RESPONSES

RESCUE/MEDICAL	2020	2021	2022	2023
Medical assist, EMS crew assist	4183	4804	5220	5327
Motor vehicle collision	216	286	476	435
Lock-in	4	1	2	2
Person in water/watercraft rescue	23	33	39	8
Elevator/high angle/trench rescue	39	0	41	35
SUB-TOTAL	4465	5124	5778	5807

HAZARDS	2020	2021	2022	2023
Flammable gas, liquid	20	3	42	30
Oil, toxic chemical, other spill	3	13	14	8
Chemical hazard, no spill	8	24	0	9
Electrical wiring/circuit	56	55	126	65
Potential accident	24	16	4	5
Attempt to burn	2	1	1	3
SUB-TOTAL	102	112	187	120

Incident RESPONSES

SERVICE CALL	2020	2021	2022	2023
Service call, other	7	3	5	28
Person in distress, other	12	9	133	124
Water problem	19	24	35	30
Smoke/odor investigation, removal	10	12	10	13
Animal rescue	11	4	11	17
Public service assistance	563	680	511	506
Unauthorized burning	3	5	10	5
SUB-TOTAL	480	625	715	723

GOOD INTENT CALL	2020	2021	2022	2023
Good intent call, other	17	19	12	7
Cancelled en-route/on-scene	1283	1156	1068	908
Sent to wrong location	80	93	82	105
Controlled/prescribed burning	2	2	34	1
Steam/dust (no-fire)	37	35	3	46
Hazardous materials investigation	1	2	1	7
SUB-TOTAL	1418	1307	1200	1074

Incident RESPONSES

FALSE ALARM	2020	2021	2022	2023
False alarm or false call	62	22	100	113
Malicious false call	6	11	20	4
System malfunction	180	183	223	179
Unintentional alarm	304	309	407	275
SUB-TOTAL	552	525	750	571

SPECIAL INCIDENT	2020	2021	2022	2023
Special type of incident	3	48	5	7
Citizen assist	5	2	8	4
SUB-TOTAL	8	50	13	11
GRAND TOTAL	7341	7984	8809	8463



The Training Division



2023

All personnel received advanced training in medical care, fire suppression, and special operations. The District accumulated approximately 29,364 hours of training.

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Training OVERVIEW

TRAINING OVERVIEW

Every member of our personnel has undergone comprehensive advanced training in medical care, fire suppression, and special operations, showcasing our dedication to maintaining a highly skilled and prepared team. In the reporting period, the District collectively accumulated an impressive total of approximately 29,364 training hours.

The breakdown of training hours includes:

- Fire Training (company, facility, driver, and drills): 20,271 hours
- Specialty Training, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR): 3,402 hours
- Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Training: 2,398 hours
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training: 3,293 hours

These extensive training efforts underscore our commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring that our personnel is well-equipped to handle a diverse range of emergency situations with proficiency and expertise.

LIVE FIRE TRAINING

The Live Fire Training Center at Bonita Springs Fire Station 24 played a crucial role in enhancing training for both interior and exterior fire operations. In 2023, personnel from numerous fire departments across Lee and Collier Counties actively participated in multiple live fire burns. This collaborative approach allowed each local fire district to leverage the valuable resources of the training center, fostering a shared learning experience and contributing to the overall improvement of firefighting skills in the region. The Live Fire Training Center served as a dynamic platform for hands-on training, promoting collaboration and excellence in fire response across the participating fire departments.

Training OVERVIEW

DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

In 2023, the Training Division provided a comprehensive driver training program for all firefighters. This intricate program covered various aspects, including maintenance procedures, apparatus knowledge, equipment familiarization, emergency and non-emergency driving, and evaluations of pump operator skills. The program was designed with two primary objectives in mind:

- Assess the readiness of new drivers/engineers.
- Ensure proficiency in pump and apparatus operations.

The success of the program highlights our commitment to maintaining a skilled and capable team, well-prepared to handle the intricacies of driving emergency vehicles and operating essential equipment effectively.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

In 2023, the District ensured comprehensive training for its personnel, covering a diverse array of disciplines. The training included:

- High/Low Angle Rope Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication/Stabilization
- Water Rescue/Operations
- Hazardous Materials
- Confined Space
- Trench Rescue

This multi-disciplinary training approach ensures that firefighters are prepared to handle various challenging situations with competence and expertise.

Training OVERVIEW

EMT AND PARAMEDIC TRAINING

Under the leadership of the District's Medical Director, Dr. Ben Abo, a robust program of monthly in-service training sessions was implemented. These sessions covered various essential aspects, including:

- Pediatric Care
- Cardiac Care
- Trauma Emergencies
- Orthopedic Injuries
- Respiratory Conditions
- Pharmacology

Furthermore, the Training Division organized monthly instructional and practical evolutions. Paramedics also actively participated in specialized classes encompassing:

- Basic Life Support
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Basic Trauma Life Support
- Advanced Pediatric Life Support

To ensure ongoing competency, Target Solutions, a web-based training system, was utilized alongside other programs. This comprehensive approach aimed to maintain and enhance the skills of Emergency Medical Providers. Renewal certificates and licenses from the State were obtained, reinforcing the commitment to upholding high standards in the field of emergency medical care.



Medical Director's Desk

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



The Prevention Division



2023

The Fire Prevention Division interacted with our public whilst applying the Florida Fire Prevention Code to commercial and multi-family residential buildings constructed within the District.

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Prevention OVERVIEW

PREVENTION OVERVIEW

The Fire Prevention Division actively engaged with developers, builders, architects, engineers, and homeowners to apply the Florida Fire Prevention Code to commercial and multi-family residential buildings within the District. Our dedicated staff played a vital role in performing fire inspections, re-inspections, and occupancy permit inspections within the community's business districts and multi-family housing complexes.

Additionally, our team diligently inspected the installation of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems in multi-family homes. This proactive approach ensures that all structures within the District adhere to fire safety standards and regulations, promoting the overall safety of both commercial and residential properties.

By fostering collaboration with key stakeholders in the construction process, the Fire Prevention Division contributes significantly to creating a safer environment for the community. This comprehensive approach underscores the District's commitment to preventing and mitigating fire risks in various types of structures.

Prevention OVERVIEW

INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Division provides inspections on all new and existing construction throughout Bonita Springs.

6,853

TOTAL INSPECTIONS FOR 2023

62

FIRE FLOW
INSPECTIONS

2,630

OCCUPANCIES
INSPECTED

724

OCCUPANCIES
RE-INSPECTED

3,321

NEW CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTIONS

116

USE/OCCUPANCY
INSPECTIONS

Prevention OVERVIEW

NEW CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS

Our commitment to delivering exceptional service is reflected in our continuous efforts to conduct timely, comprehensive, and accurate inspections throughout the District. These inspections play a crucial role in minimizing the risk of fire damage and enhancing the overall life safety of building occupants.

In the realm of new construction inspections, we ensure meticulous scrutiny to guarantee code compliance at every stage of the building process. This includes a thorough examination of individual components such as fire alarm systems, fire-rated walls, fire sprinkler piping, and the installation of liquid propane tanks and piping. By adhering to these rigorous standards, we contribute to the creation of safer environments and buildings that meet or exceed regulatory requirements.

Our focus on precision and diligence in inspections underscores our commitment to the well-being of the community and the prevention of potential hazards. We strive to uphold the highest standards of safety and compliance throughout all phases of construction within the District.

INSPECTIONS AND REINSPECTIONS

We aim to deliver thorough and precise inspections throughout the District. These inspections play a crucial role in minimizing the risk of fire damage and enhancing life safety for building occupants. In the context of new construction, inspections ensure that code requirements are adhered to throughout the entire building process. This includes inspecting elements such as fire alarm systems, fire-rated walls, fire sprinkler piping, as well as liquid propane tanks and piping to ensure compliance with established standards.

Prevention OVERVIEW

REVENUE

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

\$256,380

TOTAL REVENUE FOR 2023

\$29,307

TOTAL REVENUE WRITE-OFFS
POST-HURRICANE IAN

\$94,982

PLAN REVIEWS

\$11,233

PLAN REVIEW WRITE-OFFS
POST-IAN

\$8,900

FIRE PERMITS

\$350

FIRE PERMITS WRITE-OFFS
POST-IAN

\$150,078

INSPECTIONS

\$17,724

INSPECTION & FIRE
FLOW WRITE-OFFS
POST-IAN

\$2,420

FIRE FLOWS

Prevention OVERVIEW

REVENUE WAIVED POST HURRICANE IAN

With compassion in mind for our community recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in 2023, the Bonita Springs Fire Commissioners, Fire Chiefs, and Fire Marshals demonstrated their commitment to the community's well-being. Recognizing the financial challenges faced by residents in the rebuilding process after the devastation along the Bonita Springs coastline, a collective decision was made to alleviate the burden on our community.

As a result, all fees related to permits and plans for renovations, specifically those associated with repairing and rebuilding structures damaged by Hurricane Ian, were waived. This measure aimed to provide significant relief to individuals and businesses affected by the hurricane, facilitating a smoother and more affordable recovery process.

This approach reflects a community-focused response to a challenging situation, putting solidarity and support foremost during a time of recovery and reconstruction.

\$29,307

WAIVED AFTER HURRICANE IAN IN 2023

Prevention OVERVIEW

PLAN REVIEW-INSPECTION SERVICES

Our commitment to safety and regulatory compliance extends to both new construction and interior remodeling projects through our plan review and inspection services. For new construction, our inspections ensure code compliance for individual components throughout the entire building process. This involves a thorough examination of various elements, including structural components, fire safety measures, electrical systems, and more, to guarantee that the construction aligns with established codes and standards.

Similarly, for interior remodeling projects, our plan reviews and inspections focus on ensuring that any modifications or enhancements adhere to relevant codes and regulations. This process is vital to maintaining the safety and integrity of the structure while accommodating changes to the interior space.

Through these diligent plan reviews and inspections, we aim to provide a thorough and accurate assessment, promoting the highest standards of safety and compliance.

1358 TOTAL PLANS
REVIEWED
FOR 2023

863
TOTAL PLAN
REVIEWS

68
OVER THE
COUNTER
PLAN
REVIEWS

133
BUSINESS
USE/
OCCUPANCY
REVIEWS

294
TOTAL PLAN
RESUBMITTALS




The Education Division



2023

Each year, the District's goal is to educate nearly every full-time resident of Bonita Springs through over 30 Public Education programs.

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Education OVERVIEW

Each year, the District actively engages with Bonita Springs residents through more than 30 Public Education programs. These initiatives are meticulously crafted to provide education that empowers individuals of all ages to achieve success in various aspects of their lives. Particularly in the realm of fire and life safety, the ultimate success lies in promoting the daily well-being of participants.

In 2023, the Fire and Life Safety Public Educator seized a unique opportunity to make learning relatable, concrete, and meaningful for students of all ages. Utilizing both in-person instruction and social media platforms, the District successfully reached and interacted with a diverse audience.

Interactive activities, thoughtful guidance, an emphasis on individual problem-solving, and positive feedback were integral to ensuring effective learning experiences across age groups and topics. To cater to visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners, safety messages were delivered through various learning methods, including visuals and props, group discussions, hands-on educational activities, and age-appropriate literature. These diverse approaches created an engaging and enjoyable environment, aligning with the Bonita Springs Fire District's Public Education Division mission and fostering success for all participants.

While gauging the success of preventative fire and life safety programs is challenging, the District acknowledges that the impact may never be fully quantified. However, the ongoing commitment to education remains a vital component in promoting safety awareness and potentially preventing accidents or fires in the community.

Education **OVERVIEW**

SAFE HOME PROJECT

In 1996, the Smoke Alarms For Every (SAFE) Home initiative took a proactive approach to enhance community safety by providing smoke alarms. As part of this initiative, free 10-year built-in lithium battery smoke alarms were distributed to families in need during various community outreach events held throughout the year. This effort aimed to ensure that essential fire safety measures were accessible to all, contributing to the overall well-being and protection of the community.

CHILD CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

In 2008, under the guidance of the Lee County Safe Kids Coalition, the Bonita Springs Fire District achieved certification to safely install child restraint seats. This certification marked a commitment to ensuring the safety of young passengers in vehicles. Additionally, through a donation-funded budget, the Fire District extended its support to families in need by providing car seats.

120 CAR SEATS
INSPECTED
IN 2023

The District takes pride in the accomplishment of having four certified Car Seat Technicians, who have undergone training through Safe Kids Worldwide. This expertise enables them to effectively educate and assist parents and caregivers in properly installing child restraint seats, contributing to the overall safety and well-being of young passengers within the community.

Education OVERVIEW

CPR CLASSES

The Bonita Springs Fire District upholds the belief that knowledge acquired today has the potential to save a life tomorrow. With this commitment to community well-being, the District has consistently offered classes designed to equip individuals with the skills to perform CPR on adults, children, and infants. These classes have been made accessible to both residents and nonresidents, with Bonita Springs residents and businesses benefiting from a half-price incentive.

Utilizing the American Heart Association's curriculum, the District has successfully trained 391 participants. The curriculum covers essential aspects, including effective compressions and breaths, techniques for assisting choking victims, and the proper use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Through these educational initiatives, the Bonita Springs Fire District actively contributes to enhancing community members' ability to respond effectively in emergency situations, fostering a safer and more prepared community.

391 TAUGHT CPR
AND AED USE
IN 2023

Education **OVERVIEW**

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

The Public Education Division holds a firm belief that proper education on fire safety for children and their parents is instrumental in preventing fires and minimizing fire-related losses. To bolster this initiative, community partners in Bonita Springs generously donate to provide fire safety education materials to children in the area. Since 1988, this program in association with the National Fire Safety Council, Inc. has served as a cornerstone in the Fire District's efforts to educate children on fire safety and injury prevention.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, initiated by the Bonita Springs Fire District in 2007, has grown significantly, with approximately 250 members trained as of 2023. This program offers instruction in disaster preparedness, fire safety, extinguisher training, basic first aid, CPR, and automated external defibrillator (AED) training. The CERT Basic Training course is a comprehensive program, providing a total of 16 hours of instruction to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge for emergency response and community assistance. This initiative underscores the District's commitment to enhancing community resilience and preparedness in the face of potential disasters or emergencies.

250 TAUGHT CERT
DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS
SINCE 2007

Education OVERVIEW

MEDIA RELATIONS

The District actively disseminates public information through various media channels, fostering an exceptional relationship with the media. This collaboration is primarily utilized to keep residents informed about ongoing emergency situations, educate them about potential hazards in their homes, and announce the District's events, safety presentations, and classes offered to the public. The media serves as a vital conduit for sharing critical information, enhancing public awareness, and promoting community safety initiatives. The strong partnership with the media reinforces the District's commitment to transparent communication and ensuring that residents stay well-informed on matters concerning their safety and well-being.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Since 2001, this program has been dedicated to providing ongoing support to victims beyond the initial emergency response. This includes collaborative efforts with organizations like the American Red Cross and other agencies to coordinate assistance with essential needs such as lodging, clothing, food, and emotional support. The program aims to comprehensively address the various aspects of recovery and ensure that individuals affected by emergencies receive the necessary support for their overall well-being.

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE

Mobile App



The Bonita Springs Fire District embraces a progressive and ambitious approach, aspiring to deliver the best possible service to both residents and visitors of Bonita Springs. The District takes pride in its role in the community and continually seeks to enhance communication and safety.

In 2020, the Bonita Springs Fire District introduced a new mobile app to the community, reflecting a commitment to modern and interactive communication. The purpose of this application is to provide a platform for effective communication with the citizens of Bonita Springs and surrounding areas. It serves as a valuable tool for sharing information on topics crucial to the safety and well-being of the community, emphasizing the District's dedication to leveraging technology for the benefit of its residents.