



# ESTERO FIRE RESCUE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



# LEADING THE WAY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF JEFF LINDSEY

I cannot think of a more fitting statement for the year 2007 than, *it was the best of times, it was the worst of times*. As we close out the old year and bring in the new year, many of us have a variety of emotions and thoughts. Depending on how your year went you may be glad it is over and anticipate great things in the new year. Regardless, most all look toward the new year with high anticipation.

The year 2007 presented many challenges for me personally and Estero Fire Rescue organizationally. I will not get into the personal challenges; however, it is amazing how life can change at a blink of an eye. Organizationally, we had many challenges and many victories.



Two months into the new year, the members of Estero Fire Rescue were faced with one of those situations none of us like to face. One of our own was taken from our midst. Firefighter Paul Reynolds was a member of Estero Fire Rescue for many years. Paul was well liked not only by our members, but those in the community. Paul had a special heart for the youngsters and was always willing to take time to talk with them and show them the fire truck. I could write an entire column on Paul, but want to just say Paul thanks for all the memories and you are truly missed!

The spring of the year kept all of us on edge as the wild land fire season was very active. 2008 has the potential to be even greater. This is a result of the drought conditions and the hurricanes from previous seasons that left lots of debris to burn. I must say this is the first time I have ever heard of a dispatch for fire trucks to a lake on fire. Lake Okeechobee was literally on fire as many of you may remember last summer and we sent a truck to assist their department.

The fire service has continually been faced with the challenges of mother nature and the forces of disaster. Whether it be the wild land fires, the hurricanes, tornadoes, or thunderstorms among others, our resources are challenged each year. This year added a new challenge. Tax reform. The legislature imposed tax reform on all governments in the state. Our residents appreciated a drop in the millage from 2.00 to 1.78. As the Fire Chief, my goal is to make every attempt to continue to provide the best service to our community with the resources provided. We cannot do some of the things we would like with less resources; however, our mission of emergency response in time of need continues to be fulfilled. We even were able to reduce our ISO rating from a 4 to a 3 in areas with public water and from a 9 to an 8b in non-public water access areas. This is a benefit for many property owners on their insurance ratings.

2008 will present a new set of opportunities with tax reform continuing to be a challenge, drought conditions and wild land fire risks, and the threat of hurricanes. I continue to commit to providing the best service we can at the most cost efficient rate.

I want to thank the Commissioners, employees of Estero Fire Rescue, and the residents of Estero for allowing me and supporting me in the role of Fire Chief.

God Bless.

# THE COMMISSIONERS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS CHAIRMAN DICK SCHWEERS

Estero Fire Rescue continues to grow in our ongoing efforts to efficiently and effectively serve the Estero Community. We have realized a net gain of three additional firefighters in Operations. Our ISO rating went from a 4 to a 3, which reflects this department's commitment to meet the needs of our customers.

In the 2007-2008 budget year, Estero Fire Rescue was able to reduce its millage from 2.00 to 1.7868 for the next fiscal year. This was done in conjunction with tax relief. It should be noted that Estero Fire Rescue has traditionally been excellent stewards of taxpayer dollars. Our growth has been dynamic from 1997 to present. We literally had to build this Fire District from scratch and never raised our millage above 2.00. In fact, we lowered it to 1.79 for three years during our heaviest growth period. As you already know, development has slowed appreciably but we still have the existing residents to serve and we are currently staffed to enable us to do so. We sincerely hope that we will be able to continue serving our residents in the same timely and professional manner in the future as the potential for more tax cuts is a possibility.

Construction has finally begun on our new, and long anticipated administrative building. So far, the contractor has been able to remain on schedule.

Chief Lindsey is entering his third year as Fire Chief and I continue to be pleased with his management skills and leadership of Estero Fire Rescue.

The wheels are slowly turning for the installation of our new emergency traffic signal which will serve our newest Station at Coconut Point just East of State Route 41. We hope to see it up and operating in the first week of January 2009.

We have experienced some delays in our efforts to be able to pre-empt the traffic signals at Broadway and Corkscrew Roads which would enable our emergency vehicles to be able to proceed from Station 1 at County Road and State Route 41 in a safe and timely manner.

And last but not least our new rescue unit has arrived and will respond from our Coconut Point Station. This unit will enable us to respond to emergency medical calls in a more efficient manner instead of responding with an engine to all medical calls.

Wishing all of you a safe, happy and prosperous year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your Estero Fire Rescue!

Dick Schweers, Chairman



## THE ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Commissioners of Estero Fire Rescue are the only public officials elected exclusively by the voters of Estero. Commissioners generally serve four year terms unless they are elected to fill a seat mid-term due to the resignation or retirement of another commissioner. Seats two and four will be on the 2008 ballot while seats one, three and five will appear on the ballot of 2010. Only citizens residing in the Estero Fire District are eligible to be a member of the Board.

The Board's primary function is to oversee Estero Fire Rescue for the citizens of the Estero Fire District. While they do not involve themselves in the day-to-day operations, they do set policy, hire the Fire Chief, provide direction, set the taxing rate, sign all checks issued by the district and generally insure the citizens of Estero their fire rescue service is running efficiently.



Gayle Sassano  
Secretary  
Seat 1



Bob Morris  
Seat 2



Sam Levy  
Vice Chairman  
Seat 3

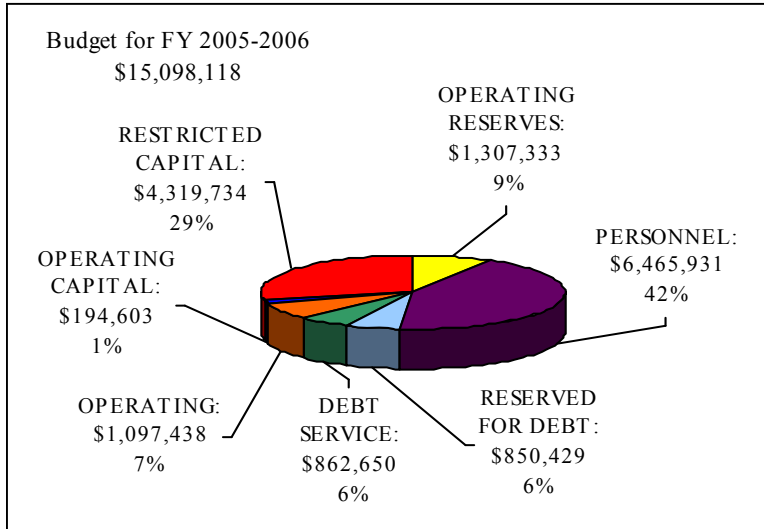


Dick Schweers  
Chairman  
Seat 4

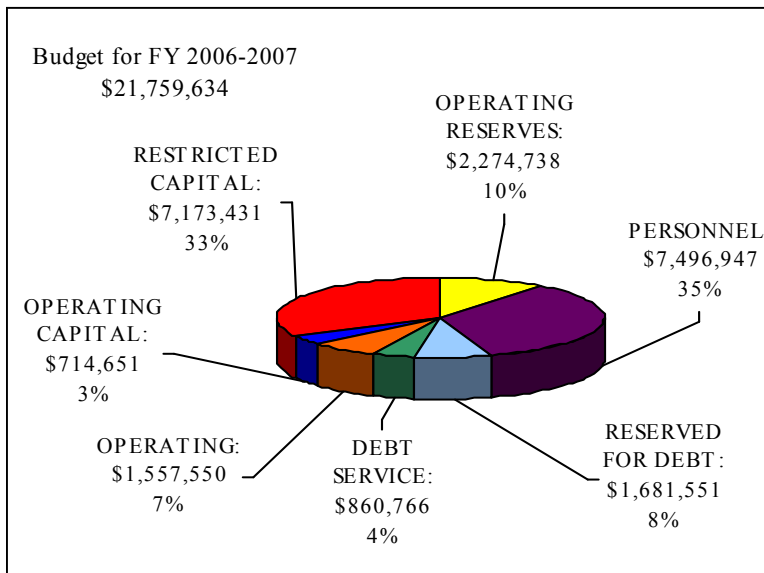


Barbara Akins  
Treasurer  
Seat 5

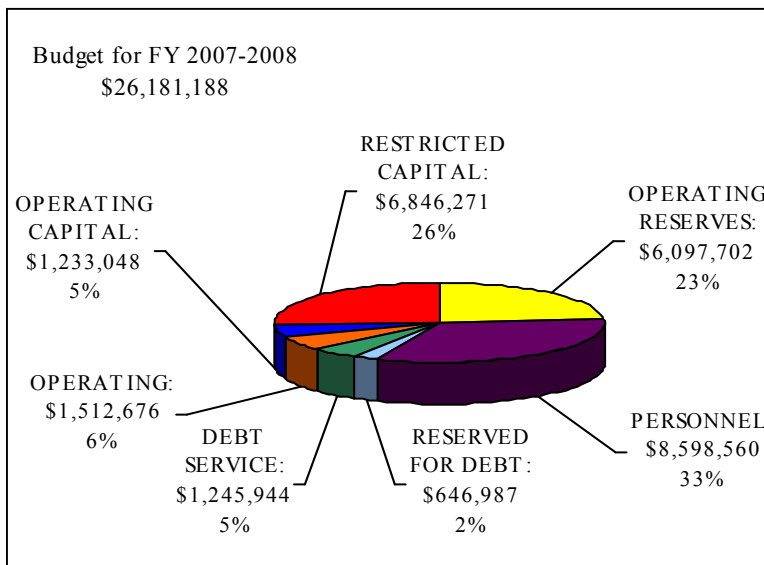
# FINANCE



The chart for fiscal year 2005-2006 continues to show a positive trend towards fiscal health with 15% of the budget targeted for reserves. The wedge labeled Personnel has now become the biggest piece of the pie and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future.



The chart to the left reflects the continuing positive trend towards fiscal health with 18% of the budget targeted for reserves. Personnel continues to be the largest piece of the pie.



The chart to the left reflects the continuing positive trend towards fiscal health with 25% of the budget targeted for reserves. Personnel continues to be the largest piece of the pie.

## Financial Highlights

In fiscal year 2007, Estero Fire Rescue continued to improve reserve balances in order to continue to provide core services. In 2007 Estero Fire Rescue exceeded its reserve goal of \$3,196,809 by \$1,478,329 for an approximate fund balance of \$4,675,138. The excess in fund balance was significantly due to management deferring expenditures until the full economic impact of the tax reform legislation is understood. In 2007 Estero Fire Rescue's Board of Commissioners adopted a reserve policy but due to subsequent tax reform legislation, management continues to struggle with balancing the costs of operation and maintaining an appropriate fund balance. Estero Fire Rescue issued its first Five-Year Financial Plan in 2007. This plan will be updated annually to assist management in reaching its long-term goals. Tax reform legislation will be the focus of updating the plan in 2008.

## New Capital Resources

In 2007 Estero Fire Rescue was awarded a grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The grant was a 90/10 cost share award and the District purchased a mobile breathing air compressor/cascade and lighting unit for \$64,220. The unit will enhance responder safety and improve the ability to safely and efficiently refill self contained breathing apparatus and also provide scene lighting while on location of emergencies such as structure fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, confined space incidents and other related emergencies. This unit is also available for mutual and automatic aid through existing mutual aid agreements.

In 2007, Estero Fire Rescue purchased a rescue unit for \$156,336. The rescue unit is utilized for medical calls instead of an engine company. This reduces mileage and wear and tear on our engine company, therefore reducing vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.

In addition to the rescue unit, Estero Fire Rescue purchased a 3,000 gallon water tanker for \$171,675. The tanker will assist with meeting the needs of the east part of the District not serviced by fire hydrants. Additionally, this will assist with achieving an ISO rating of an 8B in our eastern area.



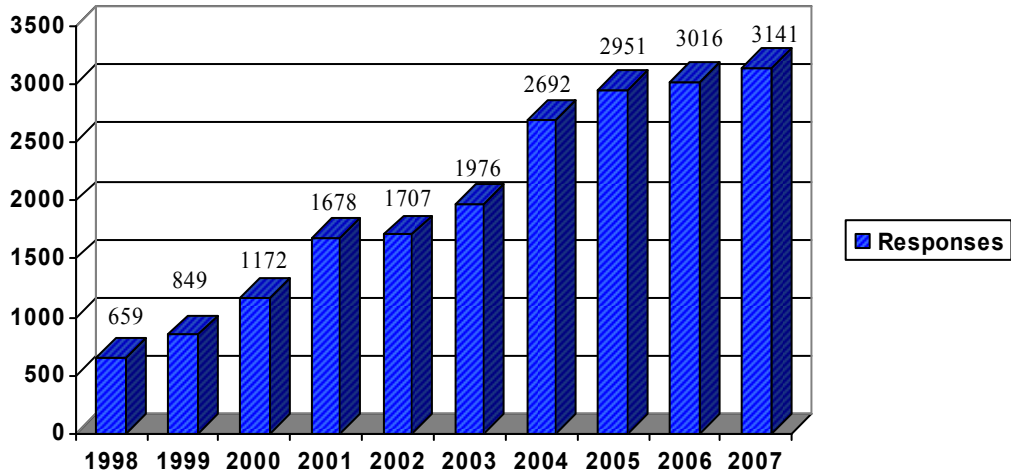
# OPERATIONS



The Fire-Rescue squad is led by Scott A. Vanderbrook, Deputy Chief of Operations. The Fire-Rescue squad makes up the largest portion of the department. This squad is made up of three shifts, each working 24 hours and then off 48 hours. Each shift is comprised of 17 firefighters that respond out of four stations within the District's boundaries.

The primary objective of the Fire-Rescue squad is to maintain a state-of-the-art emergency response force, capable of handling a wide range of situations. Professional development training, fire and emergency medical training help maintain our level of readiness for any emergency. The Fire-Rescue squad is responsible for extinguishment of fire, treatment of personnel for medical emergencies, control of hazardous material incidents, and special operations.

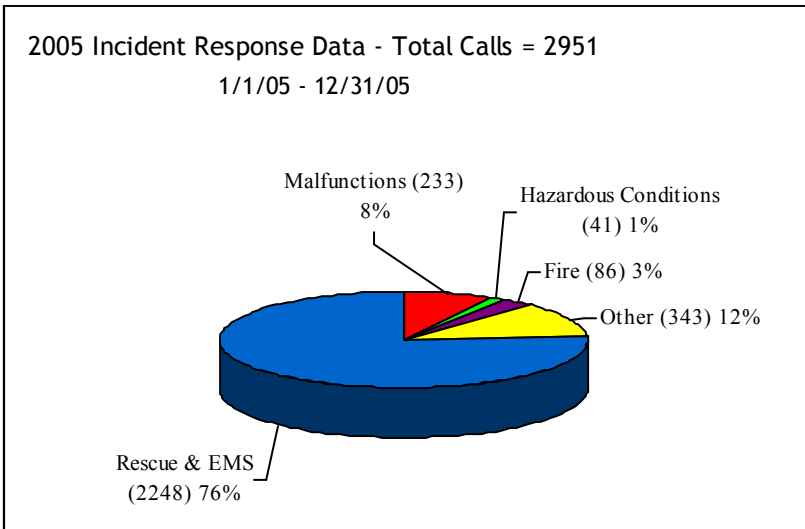
**CALL VOLUME FOR LAST 10 YEARS**



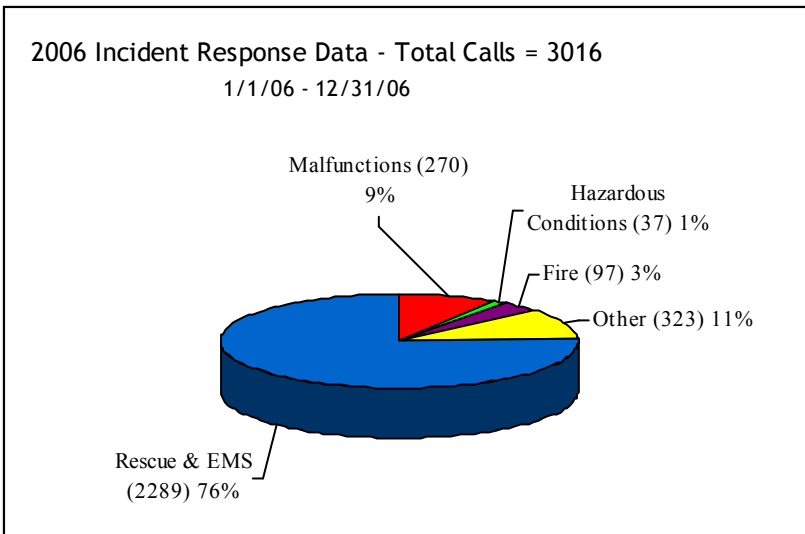
The total call volume for 2007 totaled 3141 emergency incidents. This averages to 8.6 emergency incidents per day. Compared to 2006, emergency responses increased 4.2% (125 incidents). This total reflects an increase of 84% since 2002 (5 years) and an increase of 377% since 1998 (10 years).



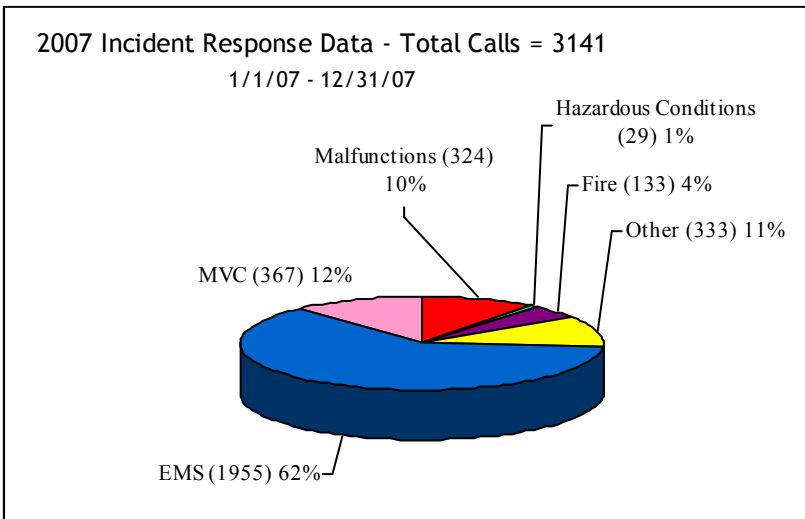
The chart to the right reveals that about 3 out of every 4 emergency responses run by Estero Fire Rescue were medical/EMS calls.



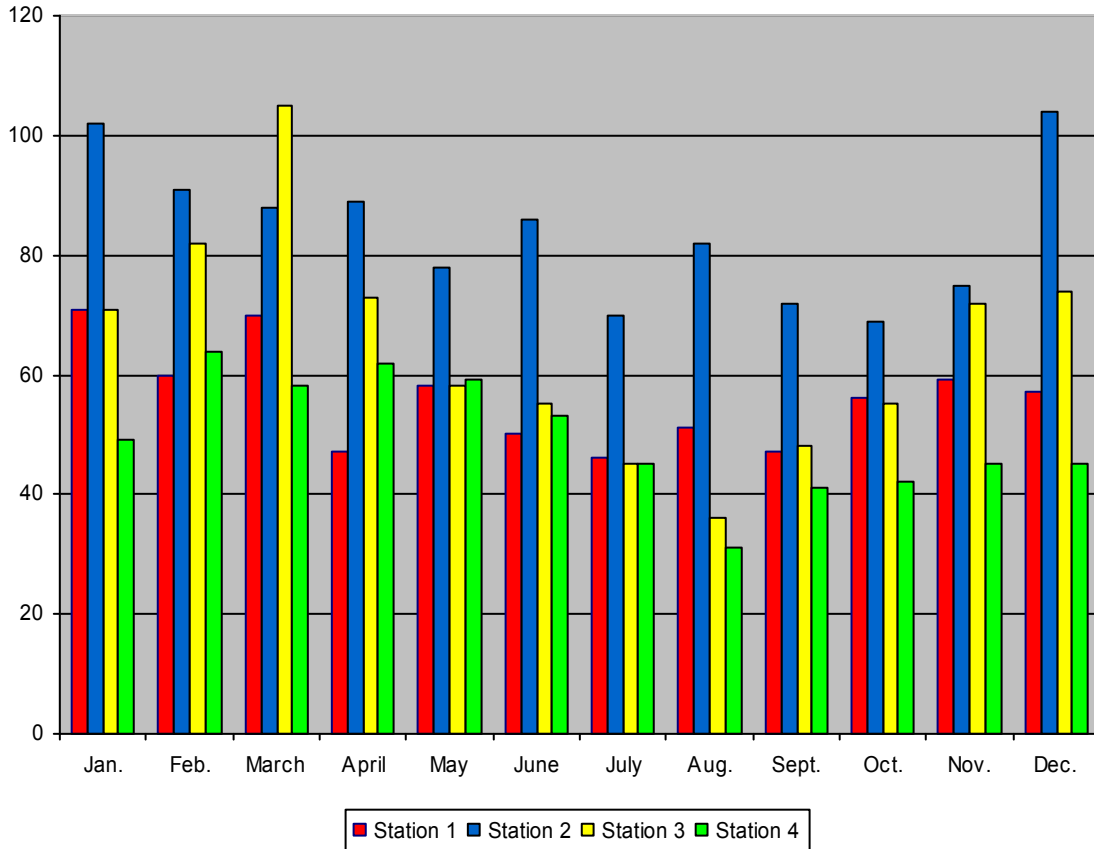
The chart to the right indicates a break down of all operational emergency and non-emergency calls that Estero Fire Rescue responded to in 2006. The chart reveals medical calls are the largest part of the call volume averaging 76% per year. Estero Fire Rescue responds to all medical calls with a paramedic capable of providing Advanced Life Support.



The chart to the right indicates total call volume for 2007. The chart reveals a 4% increase in call volume from 2006. The chart also breaks down motor vehicle crashes as a separate category for 2007.



### Monthly Calls Per Station



Station 2 continues to be our busiest station. Totals for Station 2 were 1028 incidents compared to Station 3 with 795, Station 1 with 689 and Station 4 with 629. The busiest month was March (333) and the least busy month was July (208). Seasonal increases are seen district wide November through April. Stations 3 and 4 show increased activity December through June due in part to an active brush fire season.

### The Ratio of Firefighters to Residents

Year	# of Firefighters	# of FF/1000 Residents	Estero Projected Population
2001	16	0.70	22,738
2002	23	0.89	25,828
2003	27	0.94	28,764
2004	33	1.03	32,091
2005	42	1.11	37,987
2006	45	1.11	40,685
2007	48	1.11	43,430*

*\*Information obtained from the November 2007 Estero Development Report.*

# FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

DALE I. REISEN, BATTALION CHIEF - FIRE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

For the year 2007, the Fire Investigative Unit under the Fire Marshal's Office of Estero responded to ten official fire investigations. Five cases were closed due to the cause of the fire being listed as accidental; four were listed as incendiary (arson) and are still open criminal investigations and one was listed as undetermined due to not enough evidence being present.

10 official fire investigations:  
3 accidental structure fires  
2 incendiary structure fires  
2 accidental wildland fires  
2 incendiary wildland fires  
1 undetermined wildland fire

The first case of the year happened at Bella Terra at the condos. Two apartments, not rented, were found to have burn patterns inside the interior where juveniles were setting different items on fire. The second fire case was at the Muvico Theater at Coconut Point. Someone piled pine needles up against the exterior exit doors and set them on fire, forcing smoke inside one of the theaters setting off the fire alarm and evacuating the structure. This case is listed incendiary and is an open criminal investigation.

The third case involved the kitchen at the Wildcat Run Country Club. A propane line leading to an oven was disconnected by falling items which released propane gas into the building and catching the kitchen on fire. The case was found to be an accidental fire; however, propane connectors were found to be installed incorrectly. The fourth case of the year was 60 acres of wildland off of TPI road. The fire behavior patterns revealed the origin site just ten feet from the road; however, all accidental causes were ruled out and the incident site was suspicious. This case is listed as undetermined and is still open until further supporting evidence comes forward.

Cases five and six were wildland fire investigations, one at Corkscrew Estates Road where 60 acres burned and the second at Corkscrew Road and Bundury Farms Road where 160 acres burned. Both fires were investigated by this investigative unit and investigators from the Department of Agriculture. Both are listed as spot over from control burns in the area. Both are listed as accidental fires.

Case seven was a tree that was set on fire in the middle of the night next to a structure at Coastal Village Apartments. Evidence pointed to incendiary (arson), no suspect has been found. This case remains open. Number eight was wildlands behind El Dorado Acres subdivision that was set on fire by fireworks. Juveniles were discovered and interviewed. Two juveniles completed the juvenile fire setters program at Estero Fire Rescue.



Case nine and ten were accidental structure fires, one being residential and one commercial. The residential fire started in the garage and fire crews suppressed the fire in the early stages. The commercial fire was located at the Hyatt Coconut Plantation Maintenance building where a fire was located within a commercial dryer in the laundry room. Fire sprinklers and the fire alarm were activated when the employees discovered the fire and tried to extinguish the fire with fire extinguishers.

# LIFE SAFETY & PREVENTION



Fire Marshal Tom Siegfried worked with the Life Safety & Prevention squad to evaluate and analyze the services provided. Each member of the squad has spent the year improving and refining those services provided.

The primary goal of Estero Fire Rescue Life Safety & Prevention squad is to deliver the highest quality of service to the public through a proactive approach. We strive to provide responsive and efficient services through enforcement of codes, public education and fire safety awareness.

Reminding everyone, while it's important to mitigate all emergencies quickly and professionally, it's always better to avoid those emergencies in the first place. The Life Safety & Prevention squad believes in a proactive approach to life safety issues here in Estero. That is why we offer an abundance of services to the community.

-  Public Relations
-  Public Information Office
-  New Construction Commercial/Multi-Family Fire Inspections
-  Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Training
-  Fire Extinguisher Training
-  Fire Truck Demonstrations
-  Life Safety & Prevention Lectures
-  Free Smoke Detector Program
-  Pre-construction Plan Review
-  Residential Fire Safety Surveys
-  Existing Commercial Multi-Family Fire Inspections
-  Fire Code Consultation
-  Hydrant Fire Flows
-  CPR Training

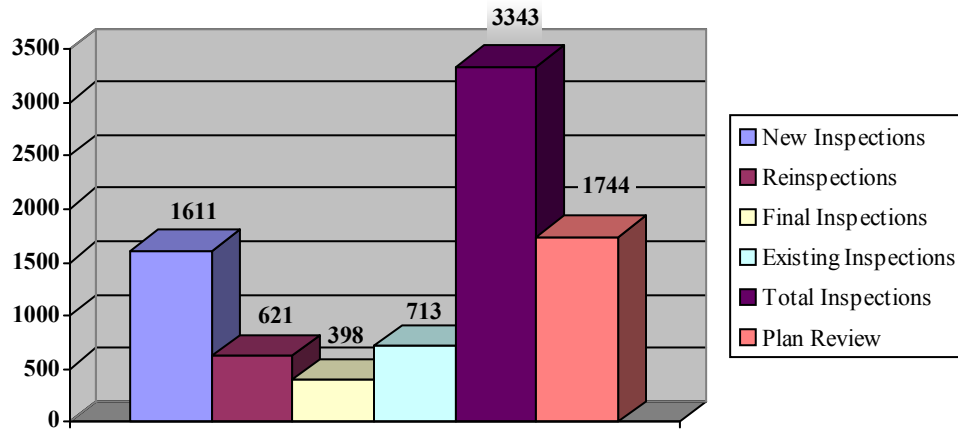
## HEALTH SAFETY EDUCATION

Estero Fire Rescue serves as a Training Center for the American Heart Association and provides training to citizens on administering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, during the first few minutes following a heart attack or breathing emergency. Along with CPR, the Training Center offers classes in First Aid and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). This training has proved to be a vital link in the AHA Chain of Survival. With over 75% of the emergency calls run by Estero Fire Rescue of a medical nature, it is important

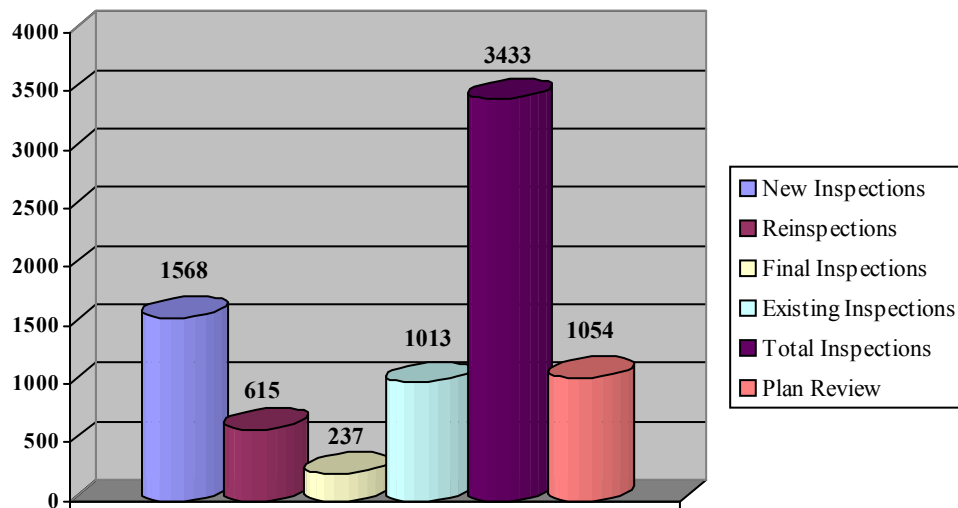


that CPR be delivered quickly to increase the patients' chance of survival. In 2007, the Estero Fire Rescue Training Center delivered 214 classes and provided instruction to 1,430 people.

### 2006 Inspections & Plan Review



### 2007 Inspections & Plan Review



While growth has continued in 2007, it has slowed significantly as demonstrated in the charts above. The slow down and completion of such major projects as Rapallo and the Coconut Point Mall has shifted our efforts back to those areas we neglected the past couple of years. You will see an increase in existing inspections, fire hydrant and fire flows. We have also been able to address nuisance alarms and enforcement of fire code violations.

We remain committed to the extensive training of our inspectors to keep them current with changing codes and standards.

The future will bring the Life Safety & Prevention squad closer with the Operations squad in an effort to convey a common goal of taking a proactive approach to fire protection.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

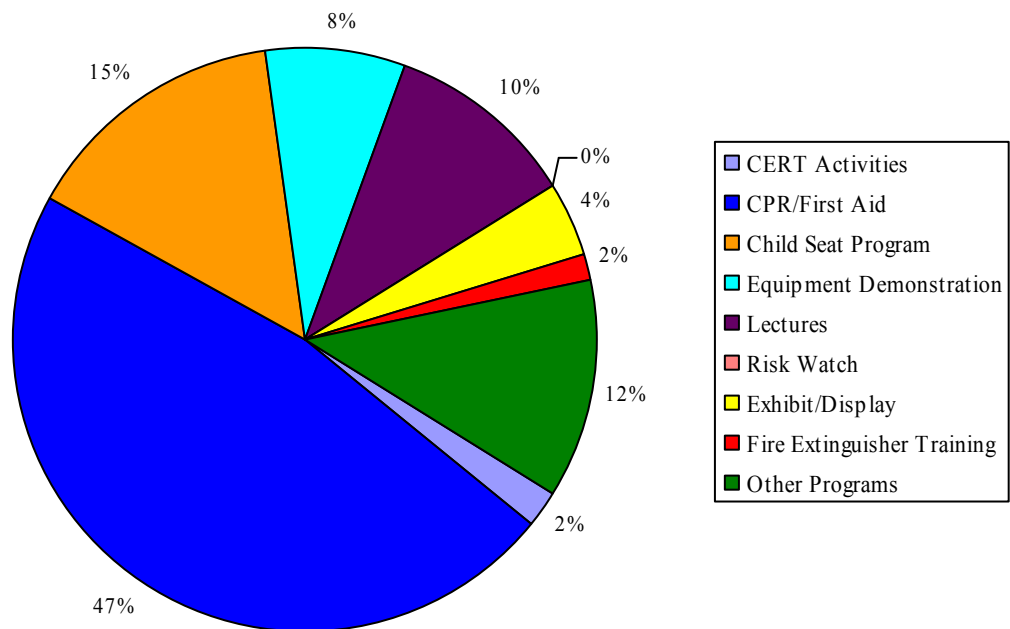
After reorganization at the end of 2006, the positions of Public Relations and Public Education were combined within the Life Safety & Prevention squad. The position of Public Relations Manager is held by Susan Lindenmuth, a three year member of the department and prior Public Education Manager. Ms. Lindenmuth brings several years of business management experience to the position along with education and training in the fire service.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

Fire and life safety begins at home. Knowing the basics of how to prevent fires and what to do in case there is a fire or other emergency can make all the difference. That is the role of Public Education.

The efforts of Public Education to improve public awareness about fire and life safety through education and outreach have been extremely successful. In 2007, the squad conducted 507 trainings, displays, equipment demonstrations, station tours and lectures throughout the district. As part of its efforts to expand fire and life safety education to all Estero residents and visitors, Public Education reached out to over 56,000 people during the year. This involved an 'all-hands' approach utilizing firefighters and prevention staff to educate the community on how they can take an active role in preventing fires and unintentional injuries.

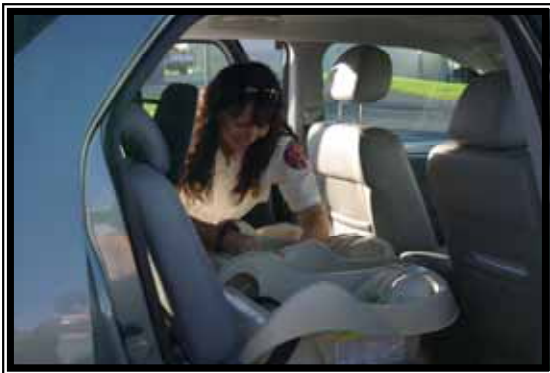
2007 Educational Program



## PUBLIC RELATIONS

One of the roles of Public Relations is to provide the public with information on their fire district and to act as a liaison between the department and the community. This includes meeting residents at community events and presenting information to home owners and civic organizations. Public Relations took steps this year to provide more accurate and timely information to the Estero residents by implementing a community newsletter entitled, "What's Up with EFR – Community News". This newsletter is printed monthly and delivered to a number of locations around the district. It provides residents with safety information as well as any upcoming events within the department.

Another improvement to Public Relations is the new Estero Fire Rescue website. The new site features news for contractors, resident safety information, important notices and more. Continuous upgrades to the site will continue with future plans to include resident email lists and emergency live feed information in the event of a disaster.



# SUPPORT SERVICES

Deputy Chief Richard Patrick continues to serve in his role overseeing Human Resources, Risk Management & Safety, Facility Maintenance and Information Technology. As the construction process for the administration building began, Deputy Chief Patrick works diligently to oversee the project.



The Support Services squad is charged with keeping our employees working, communicating and functioning safely through employment best practices, state-of-the-art technology and operationally sound facilities.

The Deputy Chief of Support Services is charged with the direction, support, coaching and oversight of Human Resources, Information Technology, and Facility Maintenance.

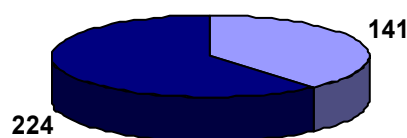
Many functions and processes occur around the clock as a result of the responsibilities and actions of the Support Services squad. The squad handles numerous functions that affect every employee. As the repository for all Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines (SOP/SOG) including development, review and refinement, the squad began a several year project to create an employee handbook from the framework of existing SOP/SOGs. Sound, functional, practical, and DOABLE procedures and guidelines inform, guide and keep employees on the intended path.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resource department is responsible for managing all phases of human resources activity. Essential to all components of Estero Fire Rescue, responsibilities of the Human Resources Coordinator include:

- ✿ orientation,
- ✿ pre-employment checks,
- ✿ maintaining personnel transactions,
- ✿ personal medical files,
- ✿ employee statistics,
- ✿ insurance services,
- ✿ Employee Assistance Program (EAP),
- ✿ Return to Work Program,
- ✿ Employee Health & Wellness,
- ✿ benefit program management,
- ✿ training in human resource related issues, and
- ✿ addressing inquiries to all Estero Fire Rescue policies, procedures and programs.

## 2007 - LONGEST SPAN OF DAYS WORKED WITHOUT LOST WORK INJURY—141



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology system is responsible for a comprehensive range of technology for Estero Fire Rescue. As we become increasingly dependent upon rapid access to information – and subsequently less tolerant of failure of technology, Estero Fire Rescue has placed great emphasis on the technology structure of Estero Fire Rescue and the community.

A relatively simple technology problem can impact a wide range of information and communications. Support Services is proud to say that 2007 rendered little to no “down time” with the information technology system.

Other highlights for the year include:

- ☞ Implemented Phase II – voice/data communication system
- ☞ Created Strategic Plan for IT functions in new Administration Building
- ☞ Developed IT specific SOP/SOGs.

## FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Facility Maintenance keeps the stations and administration office functioning. Dozens of routine tasks and general maintenance projects were conducted in 2007. Maintenance also provides oversight of contractors who work on the property of Estero Fire Rescue.

In addition to the aforementioned components, the Support Services squad provides oversight to:

- SOP/SOG, Safety and Performance Evaluation committees
- Administration Building Project
- Extended Attack – 5 Year Plan
- Safety and Risk Management Training for Staff
- Internal Investigations
- Comprehensive Physical Examination Program—development & management
- Planning traffic safety preemption systems
- Fire Service Accreditation

**HUMAN RESOURCES = KEEPING OUR EMPLOYEES WORKING**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY = KEEPING OUR EMPLOYEES COMMUNICATING**  
**FACILITIES MAINTENANCE = KEEPING OUR FACILITIES FUNCTIONING**

# URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR)

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR)/FLORIDA TASK FORCE 6



Estero Fire Rescue is a member of the Southwest Florida Urban Search And Rescue Team. Ten members from Estero Fire Rescue serve in many different positions on the team. These members dedicate many hours of their personal time to maintain required training. This training is vital to Estero Fire Rescue's Operations Squad. It allows our members to have technical knowledge that can be used at Estero Fire Rescue's incidents within the District.



# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, using a model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then, CERT's have been established in hundreds of communities.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills that they learned during the training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to daily emergencies. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference.

CERT members also assist the department during non-emergencies such as community events, health fairs and fund raising.

In 2007, Estero Fire Rescue was proud to add another group of residents to the CERT family by providing 80 hours of training and drills. The team consisted of 16 new members with 75% of the members from the Cascades Community. In addition, Estero Fire Rescue CERT members trained to assist residents by becoming Shelter Managers. In the event of a local disaster, members of the team can open, operate and maintain a shelter. Estero Fire Rescue CERT members have teamed with Ft. Myers Beach Fire Department CERT members to maximize their effectiveness during times of emergency. We currently have 56 CERT members and the members have been called upon to assist during hurricane situations.

In 2008, we are projecting the completion of training two more CERT teams and the commencement of refresher training for the existing CERT personnel.



# EXPLORER POST 1964

The Estero Fire Rescue Explorer program has had another successful year of training and competitions. The Post has 14 dedicated members and is continually recruiting new members from Estero High School and surrounding high schools. The highlights of 2007 include:

Winterfest Competition in Gatlinburg, Tennessee:

- ✧ Top ten finishes in the Combat Challenge and Rapid Dress competitions
- ✧ 1st place finish in the Confined Space Crawl (new BSA record of 5.75")

Summer Trip to Orlando and Ocala, Florida:

- 👤 Tour of firefighting and EMS responses at Disney World
- 👤 Tour of the Florida State Fire College and E-One Fire Apparatus Plant

Firematics Competition in Deerfield Beach, Florida:

- 🔥 2nd place in Rapid Dress competition
- 🔥 3rd place in Bucket Brigade competition

The benefits of the program have become more apparent this year with Estero Fire Rescue hiring the former Post Captain and four Explorers being accepted to fire academies, scheduled to start in the fall of 2008. One Explorer is also starting the EMT program in January of 2008, with hopes of also starting at a fire academy in 2009. The Estero Fire Rescue Explorer program continues to grow and assist the youth of the community.



# THE SAFETY FUND

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Estero Community Safety, Education and Emergency Fund exists to:



Promote safety and health through education and dispersion of safety supplies to residents and visitors of the Estero Community



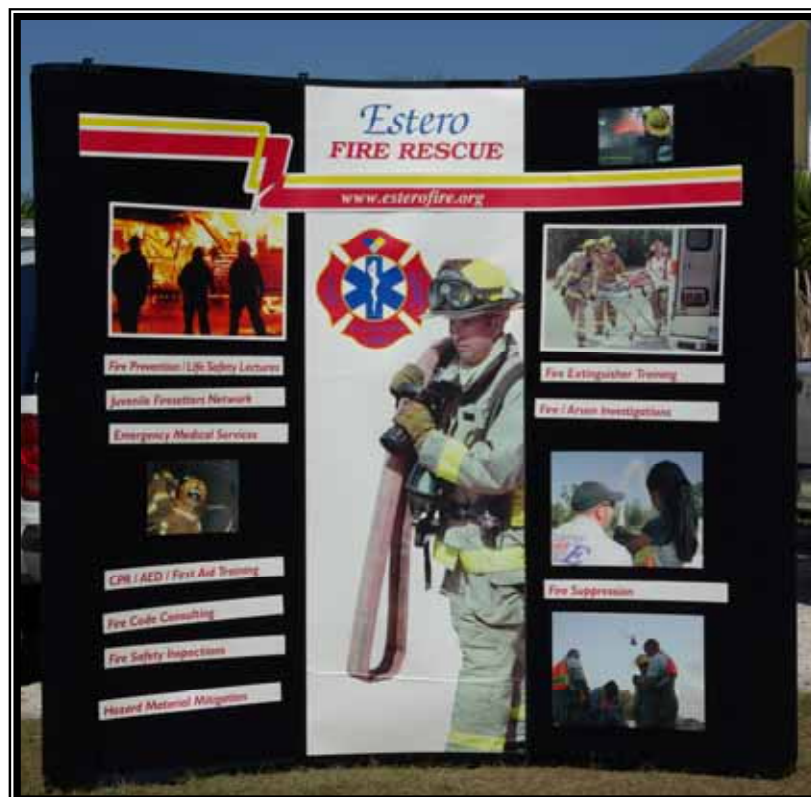
To provide additional comfort and services to those who require the assistance of Estero Fire Rescue



As a first responder, Estero Fire Rescue is uniquely qualified to recognize and address the immediate needs of victims and their families

The fund operates solely on donations and contributions from various communities and individuals within the Estero community. The communities of Copperleaf and Riverwoods Plantation made a generous contribution to the fund this year as it has each year. The commitment of these communities and organizations to local charities and to the people of Estero is to be recognized and applauded!

The combined donations and sales of coffee mugs and shirts raised over \$3,000 for the fund in 2007. With the funds raised through the Estero Community Safety Fund, Estero Fire Rescue helped to provide printed education materials for the public and support to the Estero Fire Rescue Explorers.



# THE ESTERO FIRE RESCUE FAMILY

## Fire Chief

Jeffrey Lindsey, 6 years of service

## Deputy Chief

Richard Patrick, Support Services, 1 year of service  
Tom Siegfried, Fire Marshal/PIO, 1 year of service  
Scott Vanderbrook, Operations, 9 years of service

## Division Chief

Todd Coulter, EMS, 4 years of service  
Edwin Dwyer, Fire, 7 years of service

## Shift Commanders

Chris Krajic, 4 years of service  
Larry Nisbet, 4 years of service  
Dale Reisen, 8 years of service

## Lieutenants

Brent Althouse, 22 years of service  
Jeff Brann, 5 years of service  
Glenn Brownlee, 18 years of service  
Charles Collins, 7 years of service  
Ronald DuBock, 3 years of service  
Jeannine Horton, 4 years of service

Matthew LaBree, 5 years of service  
Roberto Medina, 5 years of service  
David Ott, 22 years of service  
Thomas Poole, 7 years of service  
Grant Schwalbe, 4 years of service  
Mark Wahlig, 9 years of service

## Firefighter/Paramedics

Diego Carmona, 2 years of service  
Gregory Escarra, 2 years of service  
Frederick Gonzalez, 4 years of service  
Dennis Goodlad, 4 years of service  
Daniel Hardman, 1 year of service  
Steve Harris, 6 years of service  
Lena Hedengren, 4 years of service  
Anthony Horton, 3 years of service  
Jerry Krohnfeldt, 5 years of service  
Matthew Larlham, 2 years of service  
Thomas Lentz, 2 years of service

Terrence Lindgren, 2 years of service  
Michael Maradona, 2 years of service  
David McDougall, 4 years of service  
David Murray, 6 years of service  
Laura Occhipinti, 2 years of service  
Jennings Perry, new employee  
David Russell, 2 years of service  
Schyler Smith, 2 years of service  
Thad Stevens, 7 years of service  
Jarred Whelan, 2 years of service

## Firefighter/EMTs

Eliel Blanco, new employee  
James Brown, new employee  
Aubrey Chasser, 2 years of service  
Timi Custer, new employee  
Ryan Evanson, 1 year of service  
Jason Fiora, 1 year of service  
Anthony Fite, new employee  
Shaun Hagan, new employee

Guillermo Maradona, 1 year of service  
Christopher Martin, new employee  
Patrick McCafferty, new employee  
Matthew Pagnutti, 1 year of service  
Jason Richards, 5 years of service  
Shane Sells, 18 years of service  
Clint Skelton, new employee

**Public Relations Manager**  
Susan Lindenmuth, 3 years of service

**Plans Examiner**  
Jerry Van Gelder, 6 years of service

**Fire Inspectors**  
Henry Burke, 8 years of service  
Phillip Green, 3 years of service  
Johnny Manning, 6 years of service

**Finance**  
April White, Finance Director, 4 years of service  
Jean Strobel, Finance Specialist, 5 years of service

**Staff**  
Linda Conway, Human Resources Coordinator, 9 years of service  
LuAnn Delo, Information Technology Administrator, 7 years of service  
Kim Poli, Administrative Assistant to Fire Chief, 2 years of service  
Maria Ramos, Administrative Assistant, 2 years of service  
Judy West, Administrative Specialist, 7 years of service

**IN MEMORY OF ONE OF OUR OWN**



Paul Tyler Reynolds  
Firefighter—19 years of service  
April 20, 1965 – February 27, 2007

# ABOVE AND BEYOND

Every year, Estero Fire Rescue recognizes those individuals who distinguishes himself or herself from the crowd. It may be a single, well-executed act or a constant can-do attitude that earns him or her this recognition.

## Employee of the Year

Firefighter Lena Hedengren

On February 27, 2007, Estero Fire Rescue was saddened by the untimely death of Firefighter Paul Reynolds. To help both Estero Fire Rescue and the Reynolds family through the difficult time, Firefighter Lena Hedengren was asked to be Estero Fire Rescue's liaison for the Reynolds family. She accepted without hesitation.

Lena devoted over a weeks worth of her life to help ease the pain for Paul's family helping to coordinate funeral arrangements, financial obligations and other family needs. Lena put the needs of Paul's family and those of Estero Fire Rescue ahead of her own personal life for this difficult task.

## Award of Merit

Terrence Lindgren  
Jean Strobel

## Life Saving Award

Lieutenant Grant Schwalbe  
Firefighter Laura Occhipinti  
Firefighter Jason Richards

## Educational Achievement

Todd Coulter, Bachelors  
LuAnn Delo, Associates  
Gregory Escarra, Bachelors  
Daniel Hardman, Associates  
Jeannine Horton, Bachelors  
Chris Krajic, Bachelors  
Scott Labree, Associates

Susan Lindenmuth, Bachelors  
Jeffrey Lindsey, PhD  
Larry Nisbet, Bachelors  
Maria Ramos, Associates  
Thad Stevens, Associates  
Gerald Van Gelder, Bachelors

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Years of Service Award

### *5 to 9 years with Estero Fire Rescue*

Jeff Brann	Rob Medina
Henry Burke	Dave Murray
Chuck Collins	Tom Poole
Linda Conway	Dale Reisen
LuAnn Delo	Jason Richards
Ed Dwyer	Thad Stevens
Steve Harris	Gerald Van Gelder
Jerry Krohnfeldt	Scott Vanderbrook
Jeffrey Lindsey	Mark Wahlig
Johnny Manning	Judy West

### *15 years with Estero Fire Rescue*

Glen Brownlee  
Shane Sells

### *20 years with Estero Fire Rescue*

Brent Althouse  
Dave Ott

### EFR EMS Bike Team

Eliel Blanco	Jason Fiora	Scott LaBree
Glen Brownlee	Fred Gonzalez	David Murray
Greg Escarra	Jerry Krohnfeldt	Mark Wahlig

# WHERE TO FIND US

## Mission Statement

“Dedicated And Driven For Those We Serve”  
Through Aggressive Life Safety, Proactive Fire Prevention,  
Public Education and Community Involvement



Station 1 – 8631 County Road



Station 2 – 8006 Sweetwater Ranch



Station 3 – 21510 Three Oaks Parkway



Station 4 – 21300 Firehouse Lane

Administration Office  
21500 Three Oaks Parkway  
Estero, Florida 33928  
239.390.8000  
239.947.9538 (Fax)  
[www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org)

Special thanks to the Estero Fire Rescue personnel who contributed to the 2007 Annual Report.  
Annual Report Coordinator – Kim Poli, Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief



“DEDICATED AND DRIVEN FOR THOSE WE SERVE”