

# What's Up with Estero Fire Rescue



Community News Edition

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## Chief's Corner

### Improving Your Fire Protection Rating

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#### Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 8 - Fire Board Meeting
- ◆ April 26 - CPR Heartsaver



Estero Fire Rescue is working to keep the cost of insurance for fire protection under control. Recently, the department was awarded a Public Protection Classification (PPC) of 3 in developed areas of Estero.

One measurement of the capacity of a fire service to protect the community is its Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. This rating is used to set the fire protection portion of a resident's homeowner insurance. Under ISO's rating system, protection class "1" is the best and "10" is the worst rating. The lower the rating, the less the cost for fire insurance for a home or business.

An analysis of Estero Fire Rescue by the national data collection agency, ISO, focused on three areas to provide information on the quality of fire protection. These three areas include:

- the fire department, including equipment, apparatus, staffing, training, and geographic locations of fire stations (this accounts for 50% of the score)
- the water supply system, including the condition and maintenance of hydrants, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires (this accounts for 40% of the score)
- fire alarm and communication systems, including telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing, and dispatching systems (this accounts for 10% of the score)

ISO staff collects information about the quality of public fire protection in approximately 46,000 fire districts across the United States. **The Class 3 ranking places Estero Fire Rescue in the top 5% in the country for fire protection in developed areas.**

Rural areas of the district received a split rating of 8B. Class 8B is a Public Protection Classification for communities that provide superior fire-protection services and fire-alarm facilities but lack the water supply required for a PPC of Class 8 or better. To compensate for limited water supplies, Estero Fire Rescue made improvements in firefighting equipment that include the addition of a new 3,000 gallon Kenworth tanker. The tanker is a vital piece of equipment for firefighters and a great addition to the arsenal for Estero Fire Rescue. This is most notable in areas where there are limited water resources. This Kenworth tanker will carry a 600 gallon per minute pump and a folding tank that will allow the vehicle to offload its water supply into a holding tank while it goes to refill. This holding tank can then be used by engines to draw water for fire suppression.

For more information on our ISO rating, visit our web site at [www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org) and click on 'Extended Attach' under the *Important Documents* section. There you will find a complete history of Estero Fire Rescue's ISO rating throughout the years and how improvements have been made. You may also contact Susan Lindenmuth, Public Relations Manager, at 239-390-8046.



### Meet your EFR Staff - Rick Patrick, Dep. Chief of Support Services

Chief Patrick is currently responsible for oversight of the Support Services Squad which includes Human Resources, Information Technology, Buildings and Grounds, and Safety.

Rick comes to EFR with twenty-nine years diverse experience in Emergency Services. He is a nationally recognized leader, educator, lecturer, author, speaker, and consultant in emergency services. He holds a Bachelor of Science

Degree in Engineering Safety with a concentration in Emergency Services, and a Masters Degree in Public Safety Administration. Chief Patrick is nationally certified in Homeland Security Level III and also serves as Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) National Advisory Board. He serves as chairperson of the NAEMT Health & Safety Task Group and is a Principal Member of the Technical Committee on EMS for the National Fire Protection Association.

### National Playground Safety Week 4/ 21/08 - 4/25/08



Each year 200,000 children are seen in US emergency rooms for playground related injuries. Many of these injuries are due to falls on to hard surfaces. National Playground Safety Week is a time to focus on children's outdoor play environments. It is a time to pledge to use good judgment when playing and a time for gratitude for all the adults who work tirelessly on maintaining our playgrounds.

Here are a few tips from the National Program for Playground Safety ([www.playgroundsafety.org](http://www.playgroundsafety.org))

#### What You Can Do

Playgrounds don't become safer all by themselves. They need people like you! So what can you do? Here are some suggestions:

- Talk with children about the importance of playground safety.
- Check out your local playgrounds. If there is hard surfacing, such as asphalt, concrete, dirt, or grass underneath play equipment, call the owner and politely voice your concern. Ask if there is anything you can do to help.
- With children, make a maximum of five playground rules that they can remember and follow.

For information on any of these topics, contact Susan Lindenmuth, Public Relations Manager at (239) 390-8046.

### Estero Fire Rescue

21500 Three Oaks Parkway  
Estero, FL 33928

Ph: (239) 390-8000  
Fax: (239) 947-9538

[www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org)

**Fire Chief**  
Dr. Jeffrey Lindsey

**Fire Commissioners**  
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Marshal  
Scott Vanderbrook,  
Operations

**Edited by:**  
Susan Lindenmuth  
Public Relations Manger

### National Donate Life Month

Every day, Estero Fire Rescue responds to life threatening situations. In some cases, due to prolonged illness or disease, the only hope for an individuals survival is an organ transplant. More than 95,000 people are in need of an organ for transplant. Each day, approximately 77 people get the organ transplant that gives them a second chance, but 17 to 19 others are not so lucky and die before they can receive an organ.

National Donate Life Month was established in 2003 and is recognized each April. Becoming an organ donor is simple.



Follow these tips from the US Government site on organ donation:

- Register with your State Donor Registry, if available.
- Say YES to donation on your driver's license.
- Tell your family, friends, physician, and faith leader that you want to be a donor.
- Fill out and sign a donor card, have it witnessed, carry it with you.

For more information on organ donation, visit [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov).