

# What's Up with Estero Fire Rescue



Community News Edition

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## Chief's Corner

### Don't Invite Brushfires Home!

Southwest Florida continues to see record low rainfalls which has fire officials looking towards an active brushfire seasons. The lack of rainfall has left a deficit in rainfall totals for the year bringing the risk of fire danger even higher. Recent fires in Lehigh Acres showed just how quickly a brushfire can threaten life and property.

You can do your part to make sure that Lee County is safe by following these Fire Prevention tips:

- Dispose of smoking materials properly, especially while driving or on golf courses. Did you know that most golf courses offer cart ashtrays available for use, free of charge, while on the golf course? Just ask!
- Keep roofs and gutters free of dead plant material, especially within reach of your chimney. Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches to keep fire fuels to a minimum.
- Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy, green and drought resistant.



- Use bar-b-que grills will care. Cook only on approved, UL rated grills and check to make sure the surrounding area is free of flammable materials. Keep a hose nearby just in case.
- Eliminate outdoor burning. Remember that embers can travel a long way with the wind. Don't give fire a chance to start.

For further information on brushfire safety tips, visit our [Safety Encyclopedia](http://www.esterofire.org) located on our website at [www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org).

Contact Estero Fire Rescue for any safety need that you may have. Visit our website to learn about our many education programs or call Susan Lindenmuth, Public Relations Manager, at 239-390-8046.

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ May 4 - Taste of Estero - Miromar
- ◆ May 10 - CPR Healthcare Provider
- ◆ May 13 - Fire Board Meeting
- ◆ May 25 - Relay for Life - Miromar





## Meet your EFR Staff - Phillip Green, Interim Fire Marshal

Phillip Green has been employed with Estero Fire Rescue for four years. He previously served as Fire Marshal and Fire Chief for the City of Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

He holds a Bachelor Degree in Fire Science Management from Troy State University. He is Certified Firefighter, Fire Inspector, Arson Investigator,

Fire Service Instructor and Fire and Life Safety Educator.

He has been married to his wife Paula for 22 years. They reside in Cape Coral and have three dogs Alvin, Britany, and Simon as well as a bird Peepers.

The Interim Fire Marshal may be reached by calling (239) 390-8000

## National Hurricane Preparedness



It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone and hurricane season is right around the corner. The week of May 19<sup>th</sup> is designated as National Hurricane Preparedness week - a time to check your plan, gather your supplies and make any necessary repairs to your home to prepare it for the upcoming season. This hurricane season, Estero Fire Rescue encourages all Lee County residents to plan and prepare well in advance. Here are some helpful tips to make your plan a great one:

- Put together an emergency kit that includes non-perishable food for up to three days. Don't forget a manual can opener. In the event of power loss, the electric ones will not work
- Drinking water Have a minimum of one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Also juice boxes and soft drinks may be a welcome change
- Protect your home. Check the roof for loose shingles or those in need of repair. Protect exterior windows and secure all loose items around your home

- Medications. Make sure to have an ample amount of personal medications and prescriptions
- Cash on hand Have some cash on hand because you will not be able to access ATM's in the event of a power failure
- Radios and batteries Have flashlights and a battery powered radio to get regular updates on the storm and recovery efforts. Make sure to have enough batteries on hand
- Evacuations: What will you do in the event of an evacuation? Where will you go? Make sure to let relatives and friends know if you are leaving and where you can be reached
- Pets Shelters and some hotels do not take pets. If you have to evacuate, have a plan in place for your pets and remember to take supplies with you for them. Food, water, toys and medications.

For help in developing your family's plan, contact Susan Lindenmuth, Public Relations Manager at (239) 390-8046 or visit our website at [www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org).

## Estero Fire Rescue

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## National EMS Week ~ Your Life is Our Mission

May 18<sup>th</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup>

Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." Estero Fire Rescue is proud to be an emergency medical provider and bring to Estero the finest Advanced Life Support services.



Visit one of our fire stations to learn how medical care is provided or contact us at (239) 390-8046.

The history of Estero Fire Rescue's medical program can be found on our website at [www.esterofire.org](http://www.esterofire.org).