

What's Up with Estero Fire Rescue

Estero



FIRE RESCUE

Community News Edition

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Fire Chief's Corner

Dr. Jeffrey Lindsey, Fire Chief

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ October 20 - Fire & Life Safety Day at Miromar Outlets



"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"

~ Benjamin Franklin

September has been a busy month. The final budget for Estero Fire Rescue was adopted. I was elated that the staff of Estero Fire Rescue was able to reduce the millage for the 2007 - 2008 fiscal year to 1.7868. We were able to save the taxpayers of the Estero community by rolling back the millage rate, less a 3% reduction, as directed by the Governor of Florida. We will continue to be good stewards of the funds we receive and will do our part to continue to provide the quality service for our residents and visitors.

The other major headline that hit the news in September was the move to look at consolidation. The Fire Chief's from Estero, San Carlos Park and Bonita Springs Fire Rescue have met to begin to discuss how the three districts can

better serve our populations by jointly working together at a greater magnitude than we do currently.

Each agency has designated two individuals that serve on a committee to develop a white paper on the prospects of consolidation. This involves all aspects from functional consolidation, consolidation of services to a complete merger where there would be one fire district to serve the area versus three separate districts. I must emphasize that this is in its infancy and will take some time for it to progress. If it does progress to a recommendation of a merger of the fire districts, it will come before the voters of all three districts for acceptance or rejection. There will be more about this in future newsletters.

Have a safe and happy October.

Fire Prevention Week - Do you have a plan?

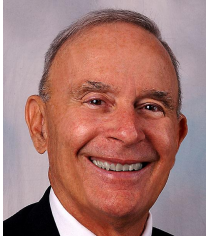
Fire Prevention Week is coming! October 7th through October 13th is recognized as Fire Prevention week. This week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and was important in bringing about change in the way firefighters, government and citizens view fire safety. This year's theme is "Practice Your Escape Plan."

Fire spreads quickly and, within a few minutes can easily keep you from escaping. It is important to have working smoke alarms in your home to notify you of a fire emergency but it is equally as important to have a plan of escape. Planning in advance can make all the difference. Here are a few tips to help you make your escape:

- Get everyone in the house involved in the plan. Make sure you have two ways out of every room.

- Install smoke detectors in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Walk through the plan - check for exits including windows.
- Pick a meeting place where your family can gather once they are out of the house.
- Practice, practice, practice! Your plan will be second nature in the event of an emergency if you practice it often.
- Once you are out, NEVER go back in for anything! Firefighters are specially trained and have safety gear to perform rescues.

For more information on creating a home escape plan, contact EFR at 239-390-8046 or visit our website at www.esterofire.org



Meet your EFR Commissioners - Chairman Dick Schweers

Commissioner Dick Schweers has been on the Board of Estero Fire Rescue since August of 1997. He currently serves as the Board's Chairman. Mr. Schweers worked for Northern Illinois Gas for 37 years, before retiring as a District Superintendent in 1992. During his last 5 years with NiGas, he served on the Board of Commissioners of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District in Northern Illinois. He currently resides in Fountain Lakes, where he represents the community on the Estero Counsel of Community Leaders (ECCL). He is also a member of the Estero Civic Association, the Estero Historical Society and is President of the Notre Dame Alumni Club in Lee County.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere compliments to the EFR Staff on our standing as a Fire District today as compared to where we were in August of 1997, when we virtually had to build this Department from scratch. We had reduced our Millage (Tax rate) to \$1.79 for several of those years and allowed growth to pay for the development of EFR. We have never risen above \$2.00 per mill. Another milestone was the implementation of Advanced Life Support (ALS) beginning on September 1, 2000. ALS enables EFR to provide the very best in field medical services. As first responders, it is essential that we provide this vital service to our community."

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Fire Commissioners

Richard G. Schweers, Chair
Bob Morris, Vice Chair
Gayle Sassano, Secretary
Barbara Akins, Treasurer
Sam Levy

Deputy Chiefs

Richard Patrick, Support Svs
Tom Siegfried, Fire Marshal
Scott Vanderbrook, Operations

Estero Fire Rescue - Dedicated and Driven for those we serve!

Did you know that we make house calls? And not all of them are for emergencies. At Estero Fire Rescue, we are proud of the progress that we have made to make our community safe. A major part of that success comes from our relationship with the residents and visitors to Estero. We offer assistance with smoke alarms, emergency evacuation plans and home safety inspections along with a wide variety of education training.

Do you have a community meeting coming up? We would love to be a part. Each year, Estero Fire Rescue gives presentations to a number of residents at HOA and business meetings or civic groups.

These meetings allow residents and visitors to find out about EFR, the services that we provide and how we can help. It also allows EFR to hear from the community how we are doing.

So here's your chance. Estero Fire Rescue wants to hear from you! Contact Susan Lindenmuth, Public Relations Manager for EFR at (239) 390-8046 to set up your own meeting. Find out what your fire department does for your community and how you can be a part of keeping Estero a great place to work and live!

"Dedicated and Driven for
Those We Serve"



EFR Store

Looking for a gift idea? Estero Fire Rescue may have what you're looking for! The EFR Store has a number of items for sale with proceeds to benefit the Estero Community Safety, Education and Emergency Fund. This fund exists through private donations and is used for education training for the residents, school projects and emergencies within our community. The store houses department T-shirts, coffee mugs, hurricane kits and more! Stop by and browse!



Edited by:

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