

THE FIRE MARK

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT



ONLY A MATTER OF TIME

modern fire
districts must be
ready to respond
to anything and
everything Pg. 7



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FRANK LILES / COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Frank Liles was born and raised in Bonita Springs. His father's family moved to Bonita Springs in 1896; his mother's family moved to Bonita Springs in 1902. He has been married to his lovely wife Jane for 46 years. His daughter Tiffany is a teacher at Bonita Middle School. His 13 year-old grandson Jacob and 9 year-old granddaughter Parker Elizabeth both enjoy schools in Bonita Springs.

Commissioner Frank Liles has served for 15 years as a Commissioner on the Bonita Springs Fire Board, with 5 years as Chairman of the Board. In addition, he has served the community on the Bonita Springs Utilities Board for 26 years and most currently the Zoning Board for the City of Bonita Springs.

Commissioner Liles' accomplishments and goals:

- > While serving on the Fire Board, Commissioner Liles has assisted in the rebuild of Station Two; the rebuild of Station One; the construction of Station Four; and most recently, the construction of Station Five all built using impact fee money as opposed to ad valorem taxes.
- > Commissioner Liles is proud that your Fire District has grown with the community and has been able to develop a level of service that this community can be proud of, including many lives saved at fire and medical emergencies throughout the years. His goal is to maintain the current level of service to the city of Bonita Springs.
- > His main focus is on our current proposal for fire-based ambulance transport. He feels this is a necessity to our residents and that the community can benefit from this type of service provided by your Bonita Springs Fire District.
- > He would like the Fire District to be active in the community as much as possible and to continue their charitable deeds at every opportunity.

Commissioner Liles would like to extend his compliments to the excellent team of firefighters at the Bonita Springs Fire District as well as the Administration.



P. H. KINSEY, JR. / FIRE CHIEF

The District, over the past five years, has taken a number of significant actions to reduce operating costs while continuing to maintain a quality level of service. The steps taken at the direction of the Board, have provided adequate means to respond to diminishing the property values (-31.5 percent since 2008). The major areas that the District has addressed to this point are staffing, organizational restructuring, pension reform, and post-employment insurance benefits.

Since 2007, the District has reduced the total number of employees by twenty-nine percent. The majority of this reduction has been accomplished by providing two early retirement incentive programs. In 2008, the District offered a retirement incentive and thirteen employees opted out; this program has resulted in a savings of 5.4 million dollars to date. These savings were and are related to personnel, insurance, and other and ancillary costs. In 2011, the District initiated a second early retirement incentive capturing an additional eighteen employees, resulting in a projected savings of an additional 1.6 million dollars and 2.0 million dollars, this fiscal year and facilitating significant restructuring of the agency.

The primary focus of the second pension incentive was to reduce middle management. The program effectively downsized the administrative, prevention, and training divisions by eliminating seven management and/or management related positions, between the three divisions. These deletions included but were not limited to the following positions:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01 Assistant Chief | 01 Deputy Chief |
| 01 Division Chief Training | 01 Assistant Fire Marshal |
| 01 Public Educator | 02 Administrative Assistants |

As always the Fire District is proud to serve and protect.



P. H. Kinsey, Jr.
Fire Chief
BSFCRD

On average, Florida experiences the second highest number of wildfires in the nation. As a homeowner, there are three proactive ways to protect your home.

Firewise Construction: Vulnerable areas in your home include the roof, soffits, and windows. Asphalt/fiberglass shingles, sheet metal, terra cotta tile, and concrete are the recommended roofing materials. Roofs should be kept free of debris. Metal screening or hardware cloth under vinyl soffits are recommended as a way to preserve the integrity of the soffits exposed to heat. Soffits should be made of non-combustible material.

Windows and skylights are entry points for wildfire. Radiant heat can break large windows, allowing firebrands to enter the structure. Smaller, double-paned or tempered glass are more fire resistant.

Firewise Landscaping: The goal is to create and maintain a safety zone around the home. Defensible space should extend outward 30 feet or 100 - 200 feet if the home borders heavy wildland fuels. This area does not need to be devoid of shrubs and trees, but should be wisely landscaped with plants known to be less-flammable, separated by walkways and grassed areas. This will break up the vegetation that might bring fire from nearby wildland to your home.

Have a Plan: Prepare to evacuate your home the same way you prepare prior to a hurricane. Your supplies kit should have food, water, clothing, and important papers ready to go at a moment's notice. Know two evacuation routes out of the neighborhood and be prepared to leave quickly with young children or pets. If at work, have a plan for caregivers of children and pets that are home. Secure a neighbor that is willing to evacuate your pet if they are home alone during the day. Remember, officials will not allow you to enter into your neighborhood if the fire is imminent or road conditions are hazardous due to heavy smoke.

Children who are home alone after school should be prepared to evacuate and have a predetermined place to meet family. The primary media outlets for communicating danger is the radio, tv, or internet. Children should understand that firefighters and sheriff officers will go door-to-door to evacuate neighborhoods.

Contact schools to determine an alternate bus stop location. Busses are permitted to deliver children close to an area where wildfire is threatening. Many times, children will be dropped off with no place to go since their home is in an evacuated area.



TECHNICAL RESCUE: Tower Rescue/Recovery Team Awarded by Mayor Ben Nelson

A 61-year-old man died Monday, December 26, 2011 while changing light bulbs on a radio tower 750 feet from the ground.

Mr. Nick Rouskey, who was President and Director of Broadcast Services Tower & Antenna Inc., was dangling from the top rung and twisted in cords.

Rescuers, including the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District, North Naples Fire District, and Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 6, worked to reach Mr. Rouskey and bring him down from the tower. He was found unresponsive according to Bonita Springs Deputy Chief Frank Giuliano.

"You're sitting up on a tower swaying a foot each way. It's nerve-racking, but you've got a job to do," Lieutenant Greg Dewitt reflected. LT Dewitt was one of many who responded to the high-angle rescue, although it was LT Dewitt who made it to Rouskey 40 minutes after he started climbing. He says he checked Rouskey's pulse and his heart wasn't beating.

"That was an emotional let down, but we still had a job to do. We still had to get him down 750 feet," Dewitt said.



With the tower swaying, firefighters carefully untangled Rouskey's harness and started lowering him to the ground.

Rouskey's grandson watched as rescuers worked to bring his body down. He was controlling his grandfather's safety harness, and was the person who called 9-1-1 when he lost radio contact. It took firefighters four hours to bring Rouskey's body down the narrow tower shaft.

His body was transported to the medical examiner's office,

where the autopsy was conducted to determine his cause of death.

On Wednesday, January 18, 2012, nine personnel who responded to the call received recognition by the City Council for their outstanding performance on the scene of the high-angle recovery. Fire Chief P.H. Kinsey, Jr., Deputy Chief of Fire Frank Giuliano, LT Greg Dewitt, LT Manny Hernandez, LT Rich Scott, FF Andy Schmidt, FF Jesse Cottrell, FF Tom Harrison, and FF Adam Hughes all received the award presented by Vice Mayor John Spears.

GREG DEWITT / PRESIDENT, BONITA SPRINGS PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' LOCAL 3444

Hello from your Professional Firefighters,

We are in the middle of season and judging by the amount of increased traffic and call volume, it looks like the economy has turned around. The past couple of months have been busy for the Bonita Springs Professional Firefighters Union, and are happy to have an opportunity to help with many projects in the community.

In November and December of 2011 we visited Spring Creek Elementary School to have lunch with the students. This is always a big hit with both the students and the firefighters.



On Veterans Day, November 11, 2011, we had the distinct pleasure of playing the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team at the Bonita Springs Little League field. The Team has already committed to playing again next year on Veterans Day. We hope to see you out there and thank you on behalf of the Union for showing the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team just how generous the city of Bonita Springs truly is. We were able to raise over \$7,000.00 for these wounded soldiers.

We have been working with the Economic Development Council on how the Union or the Fire District can assist in bringing new business here to the Bonita Springs Area. We're happy to help in any way.

Our Firefighters' Calendar is available for 2012 with all profits going to local charities. Since 2003, your support of the Firefighters' Calendar has enabled us to donate more than \$75,000 to local charities and to families in need. Proceeds from calendar sales benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Bonita Springs Assistance Office, scholarship funds for high school students and free smoke alarms for kids.

This year, as in past years, the Union was approached by City Council to sponsor Movies in the Park. I'm pleased to announce that we will be assisting with this fun event again this year. The movies will be on the first Saturday of February (Footloose), March (Happy Feet), and April (Romancing The Stone). We hope to see everyone attend. This is a great event and fun for one and all. As always, if you have a question about your local firefighters please contact me.

Respectfully,
Greg DeWitt, President
Bonita Springs Professional Firefighters, Local 3444
dewitt@bonitafire.org



FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS MEET WITH SENATOR BENACQUISTO

On Thursday, December 8, 2011 at the Senator's request, Fire Chief P.H. Kinsey, Jr., Deputy Chief Frank Giuliano, and Union President Greg DeWitt met with Senator Benacquisto to discuss the advantages of fire-based ambulance transport service provided by the Bonita Springs Fire District.

The meeting allowed the Administration and Union of the Bonita Springs Fire District to express their desire to better serve the community and answer questions the Senator had regarding the possible change in service.

Senator Benacquisto inquired about the benefits to the residents of Bonita Springs, and was impressed to hear that 78% of the population in Florida is protected by fire-based ambulance transport service.

Overall, the meeting was very productive and mutually beneficial. All agreed that the safety and security of the citizens in Bonita Springs is the primary goal. Senator Benacquisto is interested in the process and was impressed with the current services offered by the Bonita Springs Fire District, another follow up meeting was discussed.



ANDREW SCHMIDT / FIREFIGHTER

Get to know the talented and skilled individuals of the Bonita Springs Fire District.

- > Firefighter/Paramedic
- > Florida resident since 1992
- > In the fire service since 2005
- > 2 years with Lee County Port Authority Aircraft Rescue, 5 years with Bonita Springs Fire District
- > University of Florida graduate with Bachelors in Business Administration



Specialty Education/Training:

- > Trench Collapse Rescue Specialist
- > Confined Space Rescue Specialist
- > High Rise and Low Rise Rope Rescue Specialist
- > Vehicle & Machinery Extrication Specialist
- > Paramedic
- > Structural Collapse Specialist
- > Incident Management Expert
- > Large Animal Rescue Expert
- > Rescue Diver
- > Trained in Flood and Swift Water Rescues
- > Trained in Terrorist Incidents
- > Hazardous Material Technician

- > Florida State Certified Pump Operator
- > Florida State Certified Fire Officer I
- > Florida State Certified Fire Service Instructor III
- > Rescue Officer for USAR, Florida Task Force 6

Awards

- > Fire Crew of the Year 2007, Dixie Moon Propane Fire
- > Fire Crew of the Year 2008, 800 Acre Estates Brush Fire
- > Phoenix Award 2010
- > Unit Citation Award 2011, Radio Tower Recovery

MS. HELEN MACCALLUM / HUNTERS RIDGE CERT MEMBER

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program provides education about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact Bonita Springs and trains citizens in basic disaster response skills. Using the training acquired in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can be called upon to assist others following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members take an active role in emergency preparedness projects in their communities. We would like to introduce you to an individual who is committed to making a difference in Bonita Springs.



Education

- > Masters in Divinity, Episcopal Divinity School, Pastoral Theology
- > Post-Graduate Studies and Research Assistant, University of Michigan (Burn Care Facilities, Juvenile Diabetes)
- > Bachelors of Arts, Hollins College, French Literature/Art History

Recent Training/Current Certifications

- > American Red Cross (Active DSHR status)
- > First Aid, CPR, Shelter Management, Mass Care Overview, Client Caseworker: Providing Emergency Assistance
- > CERT (Active Bonita Springs Fire District)
- > Community of Hope Lay Crisis Chaplain (Episcopal)
- > Lay Eucharistic Minister/Visitor (Episcopal)

Recent Volunteer Activity

- > Harvest Time Ministries (Past Board Member, 1 year)
- > Susan G. Komen 5K Race for the Cure (3 years)
- > Alex Wake Memorial 5K Race (1 year)
- > Marco Island 5 mile Race (1 year)
- > Shelter Volunteer (American Red Cross/CERT)
- > Habitat for Humanity (Lee/Collier County)
- > LOVE INC (Lee/Collier Counties)

Career

- > Chaplain, Avow Hospice, Naples (2010 - present)
- > Home Care Team
- > Lay Associate, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs
- > Outreach and Membership (2 years)
- > Paralegal/Legal Assistant CT, MA, FL, NY (20 years)
- > Corporate, Real Estate, Litigation, Sports Marketing

Previous Major Disaster Response Experience

- > Director, Children's Summer Camp, 7th Ward, New Orleans
- > Lay Crisis Chaplain, Post-Katrina, Astrodome, Houston
- > Shift Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Post 9/11, NYC

Recent Awards

- > Commendation, Bonita Springs Fire Department (2009)

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS: CARBON MONOXIDE

The Invisible Killer: The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Each year in America, more than 150 people die from accidental non-fire related carbon monoxide poisoning associated with consumer products. These products include faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters, and fireplaces.

Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

Understanding the Risk

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste, or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea, and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health, and the concentration and length of exposure.

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces, and motor vehicles.

Who is at risk?

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens, and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

What Actions Do I Take If My Carbon Monoxide Alarm Goes Off?

What you need to do if your carbon monoxide alarm goes off depends on whether anyone is feeling ill or not. If no one is feeling ill:

1. Silence the alarm.
2. Turn off all appliances and sources of combustion (i.e. furnace and fireplace).
3. Ventilate the house with fresh air by opening doors and windows.
4. Call a qualified professional to investigate the source of the possible CO buildup.

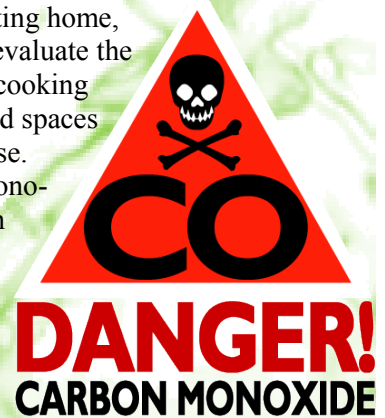
If illness is a factor:

1. Evacuate all occupants immediately.
2. Determine how many occupants are ill and determine their symptoms.
3. Call your local emergency number and when relaying information to the dispatcher, include the number of people feeling ill.
4. Do not re-enter the home without the approval of a fire department representative.
5. Call a qualified professional to repair the source of the CO.

Protect Yourself and Your Family from CO Poisoning

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Make sure the alarm has been evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.
- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting, and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.
- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.

When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.



Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District offers over 30 educational programs to the public. This is an example of just one of our popular topics. To view a complete list go to www.bonitafire.org. For more information on our programs or to participate in a fire and life safety class, please contact your Public Educator at 239-949-6228.

FIRE PREVENTION LIFE SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AWARD / 2010

The listed businesses and individuals have received the Fire Prevention Life Safety Partnership Award:

- > Hoveland Realty at City Mattress Building
- > Lee County Elections Office at Old 41 Road
- > Bonita Springs Acupuncture and Anti-aging Clinic
- > State Farm Insurance at Bonita Beach Road
- > KC Pawn Shop
- > Survey Café
- > Jimmy Ito at Abby Carpet
- > Olympia Café
- > Center Park Plaza Apartments
- > Classic Title
- > Benson's Grocery
- > Garden Corner Nursery
- > Heaven Scent Florist
- > Conshor
- > Lezgun Plumbing
- > Bonita Bead
- > Builders Glass
- > Sarlow Mowers
- > Kingom Homes Office
- > Parlin Insurance
- > Vogue Interiors
- > Coastal Landscapes

This award is given by the Fire Prevention Division to businesses that have shown an attempt to promote safety in the workplace. Congratulations to these hardworking businesses and thank you for making Bonita Springs a safer place to live, visit, and work. More of our Fire Prevention Award recipients for 2011 will be listed throughout the year.

ONLY A MATTER OF TIME: TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING, A PRIORITY

What is the true job of a firefighter? To protect lives and property. But in today's fire service, that involves a lot more than responding to fires.

Firefighters have to be trained in how to extinguish structure fires, high-rise fires, vehicle fires, vessel fires, and wildfires; as well as medical procedures, including but not limited to intubation and cardiac procedures. In addition to, each of the 69 Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District firefighters have specialized training in the following areas:

- > Structural Collapse
- > Trench Rescue
- > High-angle Rescue
- > Swift Water/Flood Water Rescue
- > Confined Space Rescue
- > Rapid Intervention Team
- > Hazardous Materials
- > Emergency Boat Operator

However, some are trained to expert/technician levels. Years of experience, thousands of hours of training not only in the classroom but in applied physical training, and yearly recertification to prove to the State that Bonita Springs' firefighters are ready for even the most technical rescue. The following are at expert/technician levels in certain competencies:

- > 20 Emergency Boat Operator Technicians
- > 38 Rescue Technicians (most specialties listed above)
- > 44 Swift Water/Flood Water Technicians
- > 26 Hazardous Materials Technicians

Even though Bonita Springs firefighters may not rely on this specialized training everyday, when needed, they are



able and definitely prepared. This was the case with two recent emergencies: a rescue on a 750-foot radio tower and the next day on a large boat fire.

The radio tower emergency involving Mr. Nick Rouskey, who was President and Director of Broadcast Services Tower & Antenna Inc., occurred after he was dangling from the top rung and twisted in cords 750 feet off the ground. His grandson who was controlling his grandfather's safety harness, called 9-1-1 when he lost radio contact with him.

He was found unresponsive. It took a team of Bonita Springs firefighters with expertise in high angle/rope rescue 40 minutes to reach Mr. Rouskey and 4 hours to bring his body

down the narrow tower shaft.

The following day, a boat fire occurred near Lover's Key State Park. A 36-foot boat caught fire with eight people aboard. For this emergency, the District's Boston Whaler Guardian fire-boat was deployed. Its firefighting capabilities include gallons of AFFF foam, a specialized foam which when mixed with water effectively smothers the vapors and extinguishes the fire in a fraction of the time it would take to use water alone. Bonita Springs is the only Fire District in south Lee County that has this type of foam on their marine unit. All passengers made it off the vessel safely.

No matter what time of the day or night, firefighters have to be prepared for any type of crisis when they are called. Any emergency, anywhere in the world; whether it's a technical rescue, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, daily vehicle collision, medical, or fire emergency, firefighters are there and always ready to respond.

For more information visit us online at www.bonitafire.org