

ANNUAL REPORT



2018



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ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



2018 proved to be a year of tremendous change within the Saint Lucie County Fire District. We were able to receive International Accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. We joined only 25 fire departments in Florida, and 266 fire departments internationally meet the demanding requirements necessary to do so. We are the only Fire Department between Palm Beach Gardens and Orlando to receive accreditation. Only 11% of the United States population is protected by an accredited agency.

This recognition emphasizes our District's dedication to excellence, establishes a District-wide culture of continuous improvement, and offers validation of our agency's operation. Moving forward, our organizational goals and objectives will be driven by the lessons learned through accreditation and strategic planning.

Also in 2018 we were able to successfully resolve the 2017-2020 firefighters' labor agreement and set a course for future collaborative bargaining. It is our goal to continue these efforts in meeting our community's ever-increasing public safety needs. We believe that through open dialogue and shared objectives we will be able to continue to meet those needs effectively and efficiently.

We continued training in the Swift Assist Victim Extrication (SAVE) Program to ensure that all law enforcement officers have been cross-trained to work with us on active shooting mass casualty incidents.

We had a rather active brush fire season, wherein numerous structures were threatened and hundreds of acres burned. Through the efforts of our staff coordinating effectively with the Florida Forest Service, County Environmental Resources Department and all branches of Law Enforcement, we were able to ensure that no homes or significant structures were lost.

On a final thought, I want to reflect back on the many causes and charities we continued to support throughout our Fire District. These include: the Big Heart Brigade, Christmas4kids, Autism Awareness, Cancer Awareness, The Brotherhood Ride, numerous blood drives, The Van Duzer food drive and numerous other Van Duzer community events. Really, there are so many causes that it is a challenge to list them all!

It is through this community engagement that we demonstrate our community leadership. Very often we hear local officials talk about St. Lucie County's community spirit particularly when there is a demonstrated need. I am comfortable in saying that through your collective leadership you continue to demonstrate to our County the results of community engagement and its effects on so many individuals.

Congratulations on a successful year!

FIRE CHIEF

Nate Spera

FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



2018 FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Representing St. Lucie County

Chris Dzadovsky - Chair

Linda Bartz

Representing the City of Fort Pierce

Rufus Alexander

Tom Perona - Vice Chair

Representing the City of Port St. Lucie

Gregory J. Oravec

Shannon Martin

Governor's Appointee

Mark Gotz



The St. Lucie County Fire District is an independent special district of the State of Florida and is separate from St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, and the City of Port St. Lucie. The Fire District is governed by elected and appointed officials who function as the policy-making body and serve as the Fire Board of Commissioners. The Fire Board employs the Fire Chief, Clerk-Treasurer, and the District Attorney to manage the operations, finances, and legal affairs of the District.

The Fire Board is comprised of seven members: two from the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners; two from the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce; two from the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie; and one member appointed by Florida's Governor.

2019 FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Representing St. Lucie County

Chris Dzadovsky

Linda Bartz

Representing the City of Fort Pierce

Reggie Sessions

Tom Perona - Chair

Representing the City of Port St. Lucie

Shannon Martin - Vice Chair

Stephanie Morgan

Governor's Appointee

Mark Gotz



LEADERSHIP TEAM



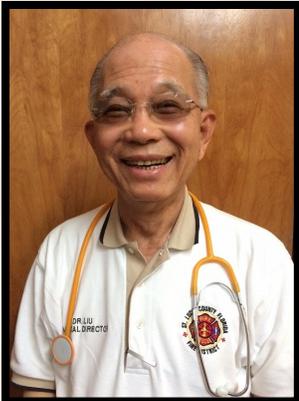
KIM SABOL
Attorney

As the Fire Board District Attorney, Kim Sabol advises the Fire Board directly and through the Fire Chief and Clerk/Treasurer. She attends all meetings of the Fire Board, reviews board meeting agenda items and provides follow-up on legal documents approved by the Fire Board. She oversees labor matters and acts as the Fire District's chief labor negotiator; assists in the development of policy issues; drafts and reviews Fire Board resolutions and agreements; and assists the Fire District's Office of Internal Affairs when requested. She issues opinions on legal issues related to Fire District governance and management; responds to Fire Board members' legal questions and handles Sunshine Law matters and ethics issues; reviews all bid documents and RFP's/RFQ's, and serves on selection committees.

Hired in 2019

The Clerk-Treasurer is one of three positions within the St. Lucie County Fire District specifically authorized in Ch. 2004-407, Laws of Florida, the enabling legislation for the Fire District. The Clerk-Treasurer is responsible for directing the activities of the Finance, Ambulance Billing, and Records Departments and reports directly to the Board of Commissioners for the St. Lucie County Fire District. Major responsibilities include: Accounting and Auditing, Cash Management & Investments, Budgeting and Records.

TRACI FOX
Clerk Treasurer



CHI CHIOU LIU M.D.
Medical Director

Dr. Liu has provided over 40 years of service as the Medical Director for the St. Lucie County Fire District and serves decision-making policy and procedures for the Emergency Medical Service. He monitors several programs including; the controlled substance and infection control programs, assists in meeting Florida Administrative Code, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services requirements and Federal and State Laws as the chairman of the Medical Review Board. The Medical Review Board is responsible for quality assurance/quality improvement, which is a peer review of the SLCFD emergency medical services.

BRIAN BLIZZARD
Assistant Fire Chief

As the Assistant Fire Chief, Chief Blizzard is second in command of the Fire District and is responsible for all Administrative and staff support services. In addition, Chief Blizzard is responsible for emergency management, inter-governmental relations and grant management.



LEADERSHIP TEAM



MARTI NEWPORT
Deputy Chief

Marti Newport, Deputy Chief of Administration and Professional Standards supervises personnel; is responsible for staffing, policy and procedure development, professional development and leadership, budget planning and management. This position is responsible for providing executive level oversight of the following: Training and Safety Division, Communications Division, Information and Technology (IT), Field Training Instructor program, international accreditation, and the Fire District's compliance program.

DEREK FOXX
Deputy Chief



Derek Foxx, Deputy Chief of Support Services is responsible for overseeing the following departments and divisions; Human Resources, Fleet Management, Fire Prevention, Public Education, ISO national rating, and Building & Grounds. This position also assists the Fire Chief with budget management, leadership, employee programs, future Fire District needs, and mentorship of future leaders of the District.



MIKE MERRITT
Division Chief of Operations

As Division Chief, Mike Merritt supervises A-Shift personnel, staffing, policy and procedure development in a leadership capacity. Responsibilities include the operational side of the Fire District's Air Rescue program, SWAT Medics, and our Diversity Recruitment Initiative.



KYLE STIRRAT
Division Chief of Operations

As Division Chief Kyle Stirrat supervises B-shift personnel, staffing, policy and procedure development and leadership. Responsibilities include Special Operations, Ops committee and SOG committee.



JEN CHAMBERS
Division Chief of Operations

As Division Chief, Jennifer Chambers supervises the fire, EMS, aeromedical, HAZMAT and technical operations for C-shift.



DEBBIE KNUPP
Division Chief / Fire Marshal

As Fire Marshal and Division Chief, Debbie Knupp supervises the Community Risk Reduction Division (AKA - Fire Prevention Bureau), In-Service Inspections and Public Education.



JEFF LEE
Division Chief

As Division Chief, Jeff Lee supervises the Communications Division and the Information Technology Division.

DIVISION CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

The Division Chief of Operations, in addition to monthly day-shift rotations, oversees all activities on their respective shift. The Battalion Chiefs and the Field Training Chiefs report to the Division Chief. Each shift has approximately 125 line personnel. The Division Chief is housed at Station 1 in Fort Pierce and covers stations 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 15 and Air Rescue in northern St. Lucie County. Additionally, the Division Chief responds to all major incidents in the northern area of the county and throughout the jurisdiction as needed.

LEADERSHIP TEAM



BATTALION 2 CHIEFS

Housed at Station 17 in Tradition, Battalion 2 is responsible for the operations of stations 10, 14, 16 and 17; as well as the Emergency Operations Center. Battalion Chief 2 responds to all major incidents in the western area of the county, which includes; Tradition Medical Center and the biotech corridor, Emergency Room at Darwin Square, Martin Memorial Medical Center, Brennty assisted living complex, two residential airparks, and two water treatment plants.

CHRIS JONES
A-Shift



RON HAZELLIEF
B-Shift



RYAN JAY
C-Shift



BATTALION 3 CHIEFS

Housed at Station 3, on Ravenswood Lane near Sportsman Park, Battalion 3 is responsible for the operations of stations 3, 5, 12 and 13. Battalion Chief 3 responds to all major incidents in the southeast area of the county, which includes: St. Lucie Medical Center, the City Center Complex, Port St. Lucie City Hall, Port St. Lucie Police Department complex, and the Saint Lucie River with its many tributaries.

MIKE LEISEN
A-Shift



JAMES TREFELNER
B-Shift



WARREN MILLARD
C-Shift



FIELD TRAINING CHIEFS

Housed at Station 6, the Field Training Chief is responsible for the operations of stations 6, 8, and 11. The Field Training Chief is stationed in the center of the county which gives them quick access to all major incidents throughout the District when needed, including: the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant and approximately 3000 acres of the Savannahs State Preserve.

MARK CRISTALDI
A-Shift



MARK WILSON
B-Shift



AARON SHAW
C-Shift



WILLIAM FRENCH
Battalion Chief

Battalion Chief William French is responsible for the area covered by the Division Chief during the month the Division Chief of Operations is on Day-shift. He rotates through each shift according to which shift is vacant that month.

RECOGNITIONS



MATT NEILSON
Firefighter of the Year

Matt Neilson is currently in his 20th year with the Fire District. He is part of the Training Division and our 2018 Firefighter of the Year.



BRENDA STOKES
Support Staff of the Year

Brenda is currently in her 6th year with the Fire District. She is the Public Information Officer and our 2018 Support Staff of the Year.

PROMOTIONS

Derek Foxx to Deputy Chief
Debbie Knupp to Division Chief
Jeff Lee to Division Chief
Mike Merritt to Division Chief
Kyle Stirrat to Division Chief
Mark Cristaldi to Battalion Chief
William French to Battalion Chief
Ryan Jay to Battalion Chief
Aaron Shaw to Battalion Chief
Mark Wilson to Battalion Chief
James Meyer to Captain
Satchell Peterkin to Captain

Donny Stefani to Captain
Jason Kershanick to Lieutenant
John King to Lieutenant
Jacob Morris to Lieutenant
Ryan Sapp to Lieutenant
John Paul Starpoli to Lieutenant
Kevin Whitaker to Lieutenant
Nicholas Wilson to Lieutenant
Justin Center to Engineer
Revel Thom to Engineer
Joseph Brandes to Paramedic
Stephen Cullen to Paramedic

Harold Davis to Paramedic
Kayla Donohue to Paramedic
Michael Farrell to Paramedic
Maria Fernandez to Paramedic
Robert Hall to Paramedic
Austin Hodge to Paramedic
Ciaran Reilly to Paramedic
Trevor Seegot to Paramedic
Amy Kwansnicki to
Administrative Assistant

RETIREMENTS

Fire Chief Buddy Emerson (February 28)
Lieutenant David Mele (March 31)
Lieutenant Robert Ledbetter (March 27)

Battalion Chief Scott West (September 28)
Lieutenant Grady Christopher (September 29)
Lieutenant Ralph Moody (September 30)

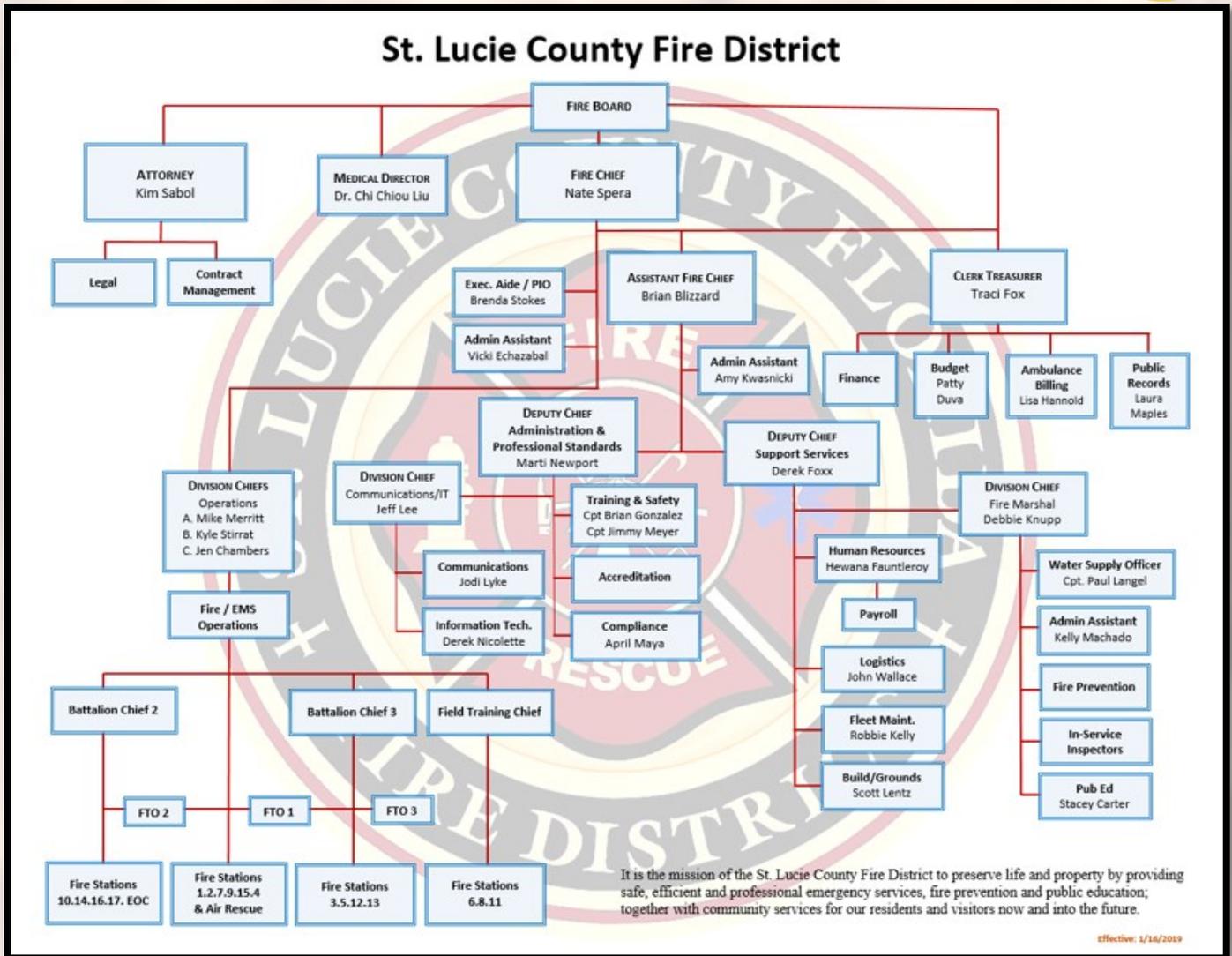
FIRE DISTRICT CHAPLAIN



TOMMY NEIMAN
Retired Lieutenant

Tommy Neiman served actively with the St. Lucie County Fire District for 30 years. Now in his retirement, he serves as the Fire District Chaplain. Among the many services he provides, he works with our Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team.

CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



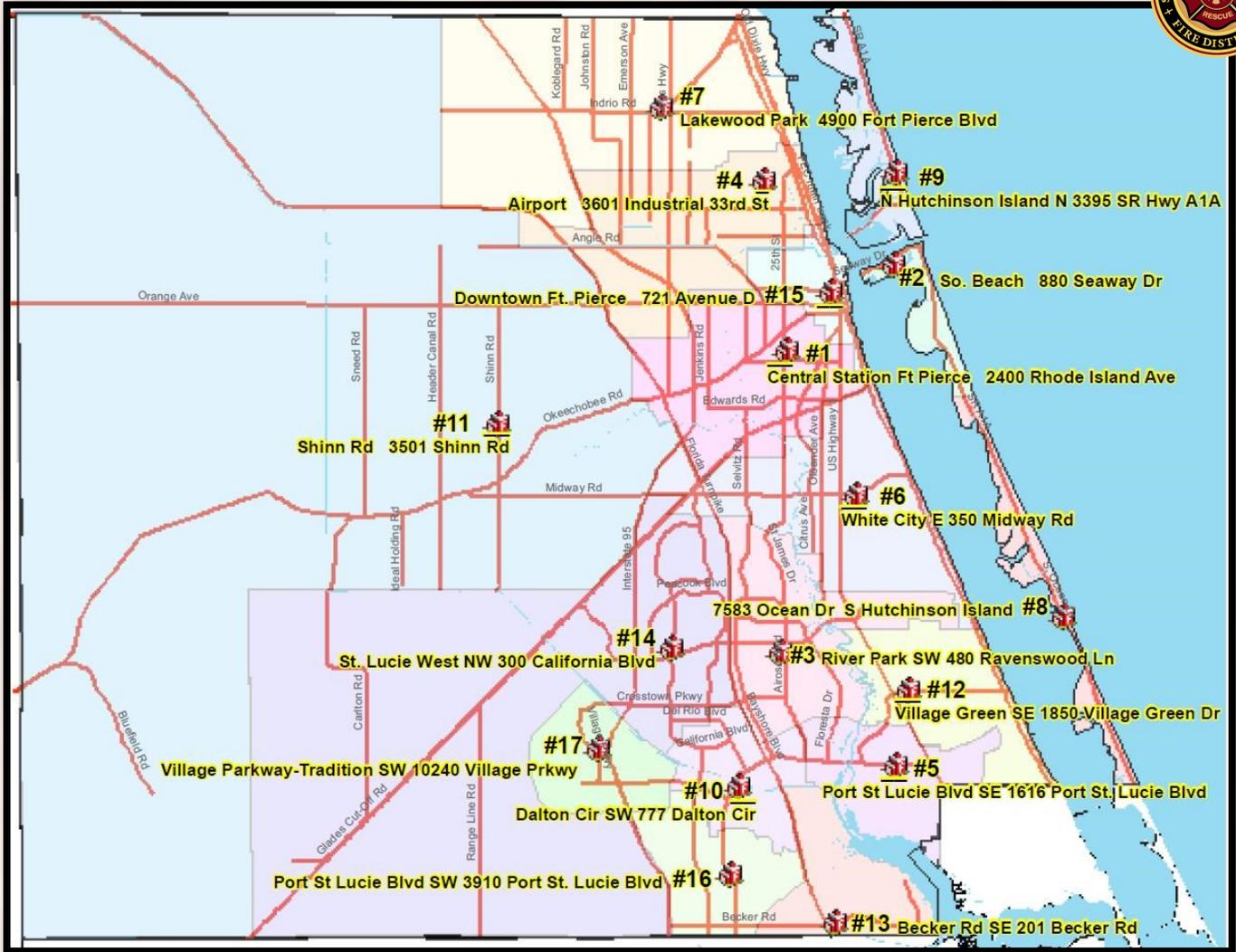
MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the St. Lucie County Fire District to preserve life and property by providing safe, efficient and professional emergency services, fire prevention and public education; together with community services for our residents and visitors now and into the future.



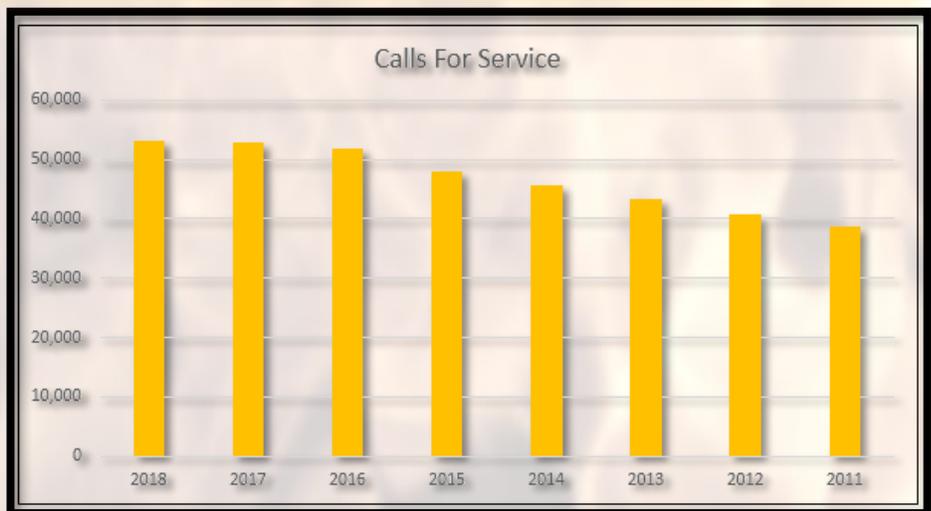
“Our Family Serving Yours”

BY THE NUMBERS

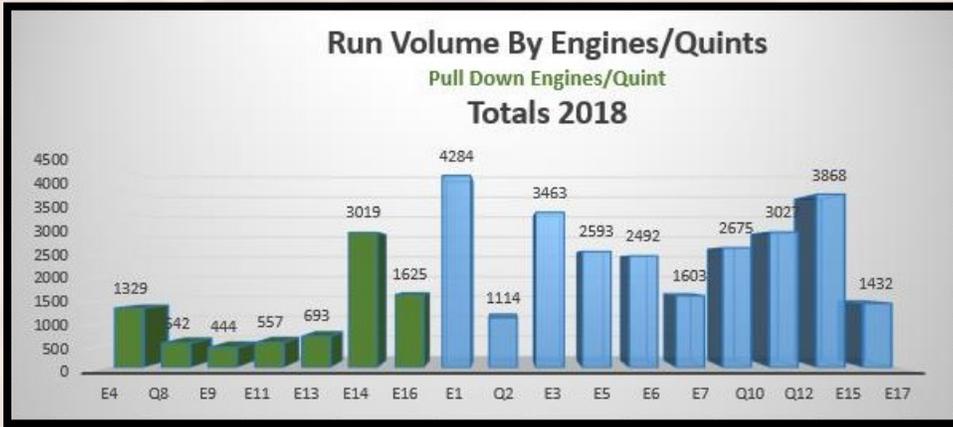
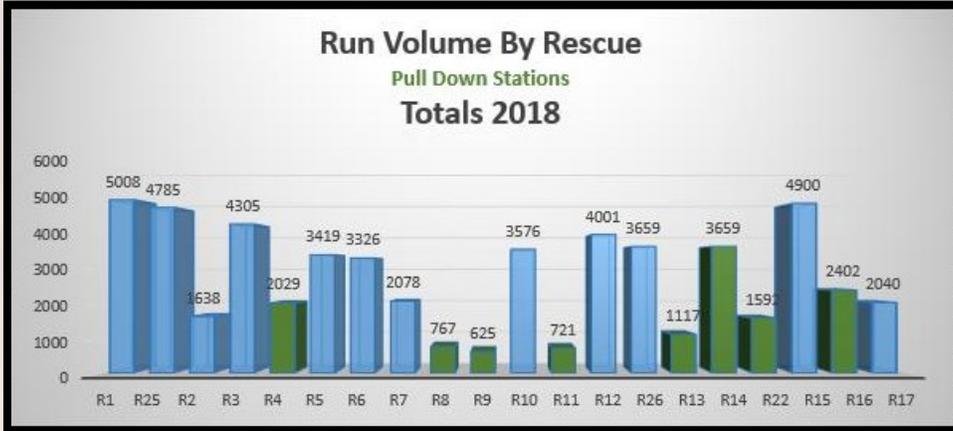
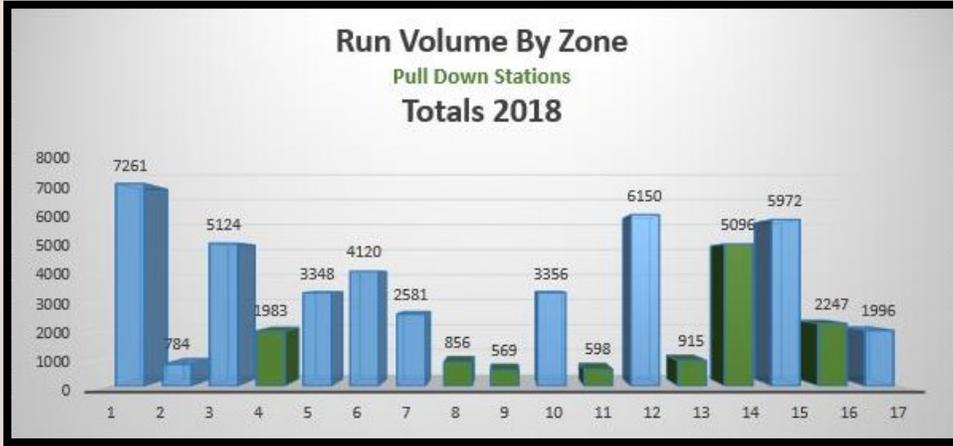


St. Lucie County Fire District serves a population of more than 298,000 and a total land area of 572 square miles with comprised of 386 Firefighters and 61 Civilian Employees.

Annual Calls For Service	
Year	Call Total
2018	53,046
2017	52,996
2016	51,935
2015	48,022
2014	45,755
2013	43,458
2012	40,750
2011	38,652



BY THE NUMBERS



DEMAND FOR SERVICE

Total Calls for Service
53,046

Emergency Medical Calls
48,050

Fire Calls
4,996

Unclassified
0

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTS

by Ground
33,375

by Air
377

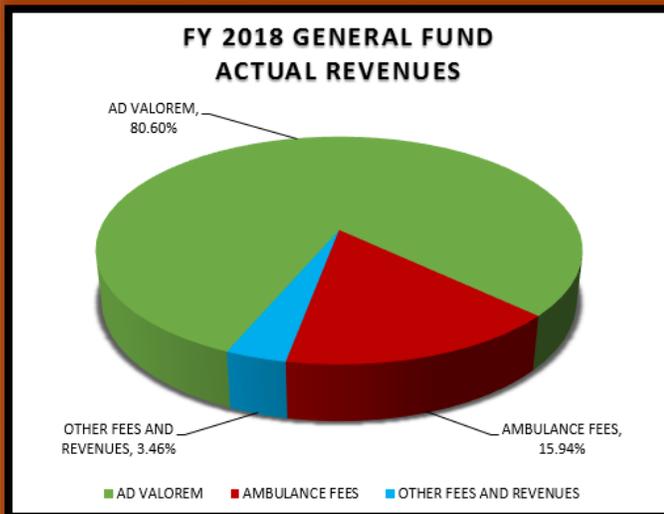


FINANCE AT A GLANCE



FY 2018 – Year End

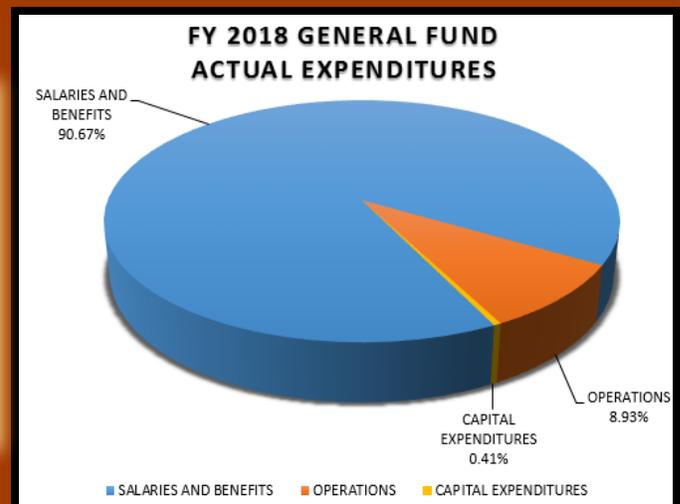
The following charts reflect the District's Revenue and Expenditures for the 2018 fiscal year. Actual revenues do not include reserve fund balances, cash on hand or transfers in. Actual expenditures do not include transfers out. Due to prior accounting changes, ambulance fees now include a reduction in unallowable amounts charged to Medicaid and Medicare. They are no longer classified as an expenditure, as was the prior practice. These numbers are unaudited and subject to change during the fiscal year audit.



	<u>REVENUE</u>		
	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Actual</u>
Ad Valorem	\$57,062,053	\$55,307,245	80.60%
Ambulance Fees	\$11,500,000	\$10,937,295	15.94%
Other	\$ 2,844,622	\$ 2,371,053	3.46%
Total Revenue	\$71,406,675	\$68,615,593	100.00%

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Actual</u>
Salaries/Benefits	\$63,831,344	\$63,172,012	90.67%
Operations	\$ 7,235,105	\$ 6,218,459	8.93%
Capital	\$ 340,226	\$ 282,604	0.41%
Total Revenue	\$71,406,675	\$69,673,076	100.00%



**Reduced due to ambulance fee write-offs / reductions*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



OPERATIONS

Reports to Division Chief on Days

- ◆ Started the first phase of a three year plan to replace all structural firefighting gear.
- ◆ Purchased MSA Self Contained Breathing Apparatus to completely replace existing equipment.
- ◆ One integrated thermal image camera attached to the SCBA was purchased for each of the 17 frontline engines/quints.
- ◆ Fire “field training instructors” have added the Live Fire Training Instructor certificate to facilitate live fire training for all shift personnel.
- ◆ Seven handheld Thermal Imaging Cameras were obtained through a local grant and will replace older existing models.
- ◆ Swift Assist Victim Extraction (SAVE) Training was performed with all St Lucie County police agencies.
- ◆ Quality Assurance / Quality Improvement (QA/QI) revisions were made to enhance identification of training needs.
- ◆ Added an additional frontline ALS transport unit.
- ◆ Upgraded seven non-transport engines/quints to ALS units.
- ◆ Added adult video laryngoscopy on each ALS transport unit.
- ◆ Added adult and pediatric video laryngoscopy on each EMS supervisor unit.
- ◆ Added two ballistic vests on all ALS transport units.
- ◆ Added three ballistic vests on all ALS non-transport units.
- ◆ Educated all EMS personnel on the Federal “Stop the Bleed Campaign.”
- ◆ Held a four-hour trauma class for all EMS personnel.



ADMINISTRATION

Reports to Assistant Fire Chief Brian Blizzard

- ◆ Received Accreditation status from the Center for Public Safety Excellence - Commission on Fire Accreditation International.
- ◆ Coordinated the Public Emergency Medical Transport (PEMT) Supplemental Reimbursement Program.
- ◆ Investigated Managed Care / Medicaid supplement reimbursement program.
- ◆ Coordinated and managed the Region 5 deployment of two Engine Strike Teams to the Panhandle for Hurricane Michael relief efforts.
- ◆ Coordinated the state reimbursement process for Hurricane Michael deployment to the Panhandle.
- ◆ Coordinated the purchase of six new Braun rescue trucks.
- ◆ Coordinated the acquisition and funding of an Ambu-Bus.
- ◆ Completed the acquisition of P25 compliant digital radio equipment with Martin County and FEMA.
- ◆ Developed and managed several Federal, State, local and private grants.
- ◆ Assisted in the development of a three year agreement with the Medical Director.
- ◆ Coordinated a new five year agreement with Air Methods, Inc.
- ◆ Managed several agreements with educational institutions for EMT/Paramedic training.
- ◆ Continued management of the FEMA reimbursement process from Hurricane Matthew.
- ◆ Implemented ALS Engine program for all front line engines.
- ◆ Utilized the Capital Improvement Bond for capital purchases.
- ◆ Evaluated Lifescan integration to augment our current physical evaluation.
- ◆ Managed agreement with the Florida Forest Service.
- ◆ Managed agreement with the United States Coast Guard.
- ◆ Assisted in the hiring/interview process for 27 new employees.
- ◆ Managed several HAZMAT cost recovery claims.
- ◆ Participated in successful labor /management negotiations.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



HUMAN RESOURCES

Reports to Deputy Chief Derek Foxx

- ◆ Completed the in-house recruitment, vetting, and hiring process of 171 applicants, resulting in 18 firefighter positions filled.
- ◆ Completed the in-house recruitment, vetting, and hiring process of 194 applicants, resulting in nine non-firefighter positions filled.
- ◆ Conducted seven new hire orientations.
- ◆ Created three new job descriptions and revised 11.
- ◆ Processed 689 personnel actions: 27 hires, 16 terminations, 121 salary changes, 75 supplemental changes and 450 system-wide COLA updates.
- ◆ Partnered with IRSC to coordinate TC-PAT dates for Firefighter recruitment readiness.
- ◆ Managed 96 new, 56 ongoing, and closed 124 workers' compensation claims.
- ◆ Managed 39 FMLA cases and processed 12 FMLA deferments.
- ◆ Guided eight employees through entering the DROP, nine employees through exiting the DROP, and provided pension calculations to approximately 20 employees.
- ◆ Conducted open enrollment of 450 employees. Managed the processing of 288 changes to health benefits, AFLAC selections, flexible spending accounts, and long term disability benefits for 121 employees. Additionally, implemented system-wide changes for the employer/employee premium rate changes for the new plan year.
- ◆ Partnered with The Resource Centers in the implementation and roll out of the wellness deductible incentive.
- ◆ Arranged for the workers compensation attorney to do an educational presentation to the Health Trust Board.
- ◆ Coordinated a financial educational workshop.
- ◆ Partnered in the coordination of the informational workshops for the transition from Care Now to Care Here.
- ◆ Participated in four Company Officer training sessions.
- ◆ Coordinated and proctored the Captains Exam with 15 participants tested.
- ◆ Partnered with Finance on the end of year data audits.
- ◆ Partnered with The Resource Centers and the Health and Welfare Trust to coordinate Medicare Advantage Informational sessions.
- ◆ Coordinated two three-day biometric screening sessions of all employees and retirees.
- ◆ Conducted research into implementing and revising an after-hours drug testing process.
- ◆ Coordinated and facilitated the DOT Urine Drug Testing training and certification of 20 Officers to administer Drug Testing.
- ◆ Ensured 20 firefighters were assigned to obtain testing certification.
- ◆ Streamlined the Quest testing process for new hires and firefighter physicals by implementing and rolling out the online assignment of Quest testing.
- ◆ Managed the transition of the Payroll function from Finance into Human Resources.
- ◆ Involved in the following committees: Safety Committee, Sick Bank Committee, Employee Health and Welfare Trust, Captains Exam Challenge Committee, Engineer's Exam Challenge Committee.
- ◆ Attended the following conferences: SHRM Awareness Conference, IAFF Safety and Health Conference, Orlando Fire Conference, FFCA Safety and Health Conference, Florida State Fire College Annual Mental Health Symposium, PGIT (Risk) Education Day.
- ◆ Accomplished the timely completion and submission of the ACA required 1095s to the IRS as well as the distribution of those forms to 623 employees and retirees.
- ◆ Partnered with Finance to complete W2C data verifications for FY 2016.
- ◆ Began researching and opened communications with Life Scan to coordinate the future implementation of the program, per the ratified Articles of Agreement.
- ◆ Negotiated discounted rates for prepayment of the statutory required state mandated life insurance.
- ◆ Partnered in the development and roll out of the Deferred FMLA Policy.
- ◆ Drafted the revisions to the Tuition Reimbursement Policy.
- ◆ To better facilitate retirement options, coordinated with the Resource Centers and the Information Technology department to gain access to the pension calculator from a remote computer housed in HR. Additionally, coordinated training for the use of the pension calculator for HR employees.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Reports to Division Chief Jeff Lee

- ◆ Started replacing obsolete PCs with new ones.
- ◆ Reorganized Laserfiche.
- ◆ Upgraded Telestaff.
- ◆ Billing upgrades.
- ◆ Zoll installs.
- ◆ Computer software upgrades.
- ◆ Pension Board activities.
- ◆ Installed and set up new rescue trucks for service; R4, R5, R16, R15, R7, R17.
- ◆ Designed and configured new mount technique for new Surface tablets program.
- ◆ Installed and set up new engines for service; E5, E7, E3, E4, E15.
- ◆ Installed and configured new Sprint routers to take place of old Mifi's.
- ◆ Installed new cameras on Purchasing building.
- ◆ New radios received –pc numbers, assigned, programmed and inventory done.
- ◆ Installed new 800 Radios in fleet and stations.
- ◆ Radio waves recorded for new channels.
- ◆ Smart phones to Chiefs.
- ◆ Removed all old IT equipment from “gym” and sent old gear to recycle plant. Cleared Purchasing of old gear as well.
- ◆ Installed 4.9ghz radio system on our tower and EOC tower and configured for use.
- ◆ Installed new 11ghz radios and rack hardware.
- ◆ Installed new Cradle Point devices in rescues and removed MiFi's.
- ◆ Continued work with Innoprise/OneSolution.
- ◆ Repaired failed main UPS at Milner and replaced batteries.
- ◆ Attended accreditation meeting in Orlando and received accreditation.
- ◆ Went live with Zoll PCR and Fire RMS systems.



AMBULANCE BILLING

Reports to the Clerk-Treasurer

- ◆ Charges billed out: **\$21,016,112**
- ◆ Cash collected: **\$10,424,737**
- ◆ Billable transports: **33,499**
- ◆ Medicare payments: **\$3,959,259**
- ◆ Medicaid payments: **\$167,624**
- ◆ Commercial insurance payments: **\$5,296,570**
- ◆ Private payments: **\$1,001,284**
- ◆ Each Billing Clerk enters an average of **6,700** calls per year.



FLEET MAINTENANCE

Reports to Deputy Chief Derek Foxx

- ◆ Maintained District fleet of 130 vehicles and apparatus that exceeds 1-million miles per year to NFPA and manufacture standards.
- ◆ Rigged and placed five new E-One pumpers into service.
- ◆ Rigged and placed six new Braun/GM rescues into service.
- ◆ Spec'd new tanker to replace Station 6's aging unit.
- ◆ Retrofitted older apparatus with exhaust after treatment systems to reduce exhaust particulate.
- ◆ Organized third party pump testing at Milner to standardize pump testing procedures, improve record keeping and facilitate quicker repairs as needed.
- ◆ Spec'd and delivered new, more fuel efficient maintenance van for Building & Grounds.
- ◆ Established two new vendors to improve parts pricing competitiveness and increase availability.
- ◆ Worked with Division of Forestry to acquire a surplus 2000 GMC Service Truck to replace an aging unit.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Reports to Division Chief Debbie Knupp

- ◆ Completed 4,560 fire inspections, 53 fire investigations, and 674 site and building plan reviews.
- ◆ Site plan review, building plan review, and permitting accumulated \$1,116,530.82 of revenue.
- ◆ Participated in the county Safety Festival and other functions to promote fire safety.
- ◆ Managed the District's preparation for the upcoming ISO evaluation.
- ◆ Facilitated ATF origin and cause training and certification for investigators Cox and Lt. Boyer.
- ◆ Managed the Fire District smoke alarm install program.
- ◆ Participated in fire station open houses.
- ◆ Updated and rebranded fire safety trailer.
- ◆ Managed the Fire District's false alarm fees program through St. Lucie County.
- ◆ False alarm fees program accumulated \$232,100.26 in revenue.
- ◆ Updated Fire Resolution fees and codes to establish new business inspection fee.
- ◆ Facilitated the completion of large projects such as Maverick Boat Group, Florida Power & Light Solar Fields, SLC Airport Terminal, Christ Fellowship Church, Tradition Health Park Medical Clinic, Sunrise VW Auto Dealership, and Springs at Tradition community.
- ◆ Managed The Compliance Engine web based software that generated over \$40,000 in revenue.



FIRE AND SAFETY EDUCATION

Reports to Division Chief Debbie Knupp

- ◆ Fire and Life Safety Educator I and II.
- ◆ Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist.
- ◆ Youth Firesetter Program Manager.
- ◆ National Certification Fire and Life Safety Educator.
- ◆ Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician.
- ◆ School Visits ~ 54 3,046
- ◆ Engine Demos ~ 61 2,709
- ◆ Safety House Visits ~ 13 847
- ◆ Station Tours ~ 53 1,619
- ◆ Events/ Festivals ~ 31 136,482
- ◆ Open Houses ~ 16 2,580
- ◆ St. Lucie County Fair.
- ◆ St. Lucie County Safety Festival.
- ◆ Seafood Festival/ Boys & Girls Clubs.
- ◆ Hurricane Expo/ Port Saint Lucie Civic Center.
- ◆ Unity in our Community/ Fort Pierce Police Department.
- ◆ Back to School Event/ Saint Lucie County School Board.
- ◆ The Fire District has reached 176,952 residents through televised interviews, PSA's and various social media outlets.
- ◆ Partnership with Safe Kids Worldwide in the development of The St. Lucie County Safety Village.
- ◆ Installed 137 smoke alarms for the residents of St. Lucie County.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



TRAINING

Reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport

- ◆ Involved in the following committees: EMS Operations, EMS Guidelines, Medical Review Board, Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) committee, FACE team, Safety committee, Fire Operations committee.
- ◆ Attended the following conferences: Fire Rescue East, CLINCON, Ft. Lauderdale Fire Expo, Orlando Fire Conference, Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC), Treasure Coast Hands On Training, Health and Safety Conference – Florida Fire Chief’s Association, Mickel/Begg Leadership Symposium.
- ◆ Developed and released numerous firefighting training videos.
- ◆ In conjunction with Indian River State College’s Public Safety Complex conducted multiple NFPA 1403 compliant live fire training events.
- ◆ Conducted one NFPA 1403 compliant live fire training event utilizing an acquired structure.
- ◆ Developed a Cancer Awareness Program (Post Fire Decontamination Procedure) on proper cleaning of firefighting personal protective equipment after scene and training events.
- ◆ Coordinated and instructed FFP 2720 Company Officer course for 30 Fire District employees through the Florida State Fire College.
- ◆ Coordinated a 160 hour HAZMAT Technician course.
- ◆ Coordinated and oversaw four Company Officer Certificate Program (COCP) courses.
- ◆ Developed and delivered an advanced trauma class for all firefighters.
- ◆ Conducted orientation and training for 17 new firefighters.
- ◆ Implemented an advanced Stroke Medical Guideline in cooperation with Lawnwood Regional Medical Center
- ◆ Developed, instructed and recorded 18 hours of facility training for all Operations personnel.
- ◆ Coordinated Hazmat refresher training for all line personnel.
- ◆ Recommended release of 11 Paramedic Apprentices to function as a primary Paramedics.
- ◆ Entered ten new Paramedic Apprentices into the Paramedic Apprenticeship Program.
- ◆ Continued Swift Assisted Victim Extraction (SAVE) program for 2018 with all law enforcement agencies within the county.
- ◆ Implemented the following active shooter training programs: IS906, IS907, IS914, IS915.
- ◆ Accomplished EMT & Paramedic recertification and tracked proper recording into Target Solutions.
- ◆ Updated the following policies: Transport, Quality Improvement Process.
- ◆ Updated all engines and quints to provide ALS services.
- ◆ Research and development (R&D) on the following items: Child car seat restraints, thermometers, five head gas monitors, extrication gloves, firefighting gloves.
- ◆ Researched, developed and implemented the process for replacement gear of all firefighters.
- ◆ Continued to utilize Field Training Instructors (FTIs) to assist with delivery of training programs.
- ◆ Expanded the use of Ketamine for treatment of Pain Management and PAI.
- ◆ Researched, developed, implemented and oversaw the circuit training of all line personnel.
- ◆ Annual hose testing completed and logged in an updated tracking system.
- ◆ Implemented and maintained a new report writing system for both fire incidents and EMS electronic patient care reports (ePCR).
- ◆ Changed from PPD to T-Spot testing of all operational employees for tuberculosis testing to improve accuracy.
- ◆ Developed and implemented a new procedure for emergency ring removal (Ring Cracker tool).
- ◆ Added videolaryngoscopy to all rescue trucks and FTO/FTC apparatus
- ◆ Developed a Safe Sleep Program to reduce the infant mortality rates.
- ◆ Researched and developed a new pediatric ALS bag with quick reference drug dosing cards.
- ◆ Began the process of upgrading to advanced AEDs with screens with the ability to monitor cardiac rhythms
- ◆ Applied for and granted the FireHouse Subs grant to upgrade seven thermal imaging cameras
- ◆ Coordinated and participated in the following drills: FEMA, IRSC MCI, Exercise Cloud 9 (Bioterrorism training), Radioactive exposure.
- ◆ Coordinated the delivery of annual Radiological training with St. Lucie County Emergency Operations Center.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FINANCE

Reports to the Clerk-Treasurer

- ◆ Record requests responded to for the year: 2,937.
- ◆ Participated in Union Negotiations.

COMMUNICATIONS

Reports to Division Chief Jeff Lee

- ◆ Implemented Certified Training Officer (CTO) stipend.
- ◆ Created new Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) cards.
- ◆ Two employees completed probation.
- ◆ One new employee hired and successfully trained.
- ◆ Participated in the Company Officer Program.
- ◆ Participated in the First Responder Challenge for the Sugar Plum Run.
- ◆ Dispatched 53,047 calls for service.



LOGISTICS

Reports to Deputy Chief Derek Foxx

- ◆ Donated various items such as computers, mattresses, and recliners to Faith Farms Ministry and the Image of Christ Church.
- ◆ Logistically assisted the Big Heart Brigade in providing over 2000 meals for Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Purchased and maintained medical, house and office supplies for 17 Stations, Communications and Air Rescue.
- ◆ Provided various medical supplies to the St. Lucie County Fire District detail team supporting the New York Mets at First Data Field.
- ◆ Implemented the issue and purchase of over 150 sets of the Globe Bunker Gear for St. Lucie County Fire District Firefighters.
- ◆ Issued uniforms and bunker gear for 11 new hires and outfitted three new Telecommunicators.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Reports to Deputy Chief Derek Foxx

- ◆ All fire suppression hood systems were professionally cleaned at all 17 Fire stations.
- ◆ Installed new air conditioning systems at stations 8, 9 & 11.
- ◆ New air conditioning system installed in Fire Prevention.
- ◆ Painted exterior of stations 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14.
- ◆ Painted interiors of stations; 10, 4, 8.
- ◆ Major tree removal at station 7.
- ◆ Rescreened patios at stations 11 & 12.
- ◆ Removed and installed new fuel tanks at station 12.
- ◆ Removed and installed new fuel tanks at station; 7, 8, 9, & 11.
- ◆ Add one 500 gal gas tank to station 16.
- ◆ New radio room cabinets at stations 9, 10 & 11.
- ◆ Revamped station 6 yard with new sod and plants.
- ◆ Normal maintenance on 17 fire stations, admin complex, old station 2, Central leased office, including; irrigation, plumbing, air conditioning, kitchen equipment, roofing, windows, garage door(s), etc.
- ◆ SCBA: Maintained and serviced 140 Interspiro air packs, 400 face masks, 400 air bottles.
- ◆ Major mold remediation at stations 7 & 14.
- ◆ New bay doors at stations 10 & 12.
- ◆ Added new maintenance member, Tommy Marrazi.



PARTICIPATION AND HIGHLIGHTS



January

- ◇ The Firefighter calendar rolled out to benefit the Combat Challenge Team.
- ◇ Firefighters participated in a radiological Emergency preparedness training in conjunction with FEMA & FPL.
- ◇ Hired 11 new firefighters.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Awards (4).
- ◇ Station 4 assisted in unloading 200 dogs rescued from the hurricane damaged islands throughout the Caribbean.
- ◇ Bingo at Tin Roof to benefit the SLCFD Pipes & Drums.
- ◇ On Jan 12th, Nate Spera became the 12th person to serve as Fire Chief in St. Lucie County.
- ◇ Firefighters had the opportunity to train in live fire situations thanks to the house donation from Ranger Construction.
- ◇ Members from the SLCFD along with family and friends, participated in the MLK Day parade in Ft Pierce.
- ◇ Open Houses at Station 6 and Station 7.



February

- ◇ Five New Engines / 6 rescue trucks were placed into service
- ◇ Participated in the Health Department "STOP the Bleed" campaign.
- ◇ Firefighters participated in three week Charity Boot Drive sponsored by the Benevolent.
- ◇ Open Houses at Station 14 and Station 17.

March

- ◇ SLCFD participated in a FEMA evaluated Radiological Drill in conjunction with Emergency Management and Lawnwood Regional Medical Center.
- ◇ Firefighters assisted with the placement of Castle flags.
- ◇ Change of Command, Appointments, and Promotion ceremony.
- ◇ Fire Chief Nate Spera officially took command.
- ◇ Newly organized FireBelles 2.0 kicked off with a fundraiser at Hoplife.
- ◇ The SLCFD received international accredited status from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.
- ◇ Members from the SLCFD, along with family and friends participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade in PSL.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Award (1).
- ◇ Open Houses at Station 2 and Station 10.
- ◇ Station 12 Open House canceled due to personnel at PSL Fire.



April

- ◇ Districtwide participation in the annual Safety Festival.
- ◇ Blood Drive at Admin Complex - 39 pints collected.
- ◇ Members from the Fire District walked with Tom "Bull" Hill as he traveled through SLC During his journey from Key West to Tallahassee to raise awareness about the lack of benefits for families of FFs that die due to job related cancer.
- ◇ Firefighters played in the Boca Burn baseball tourney to benefit the Children's Burn Foundation.
- ◇ National Public Safety Telecommunicators week.
- ◇ Recognition ceremony to acknowledge five promotions and one appointment.
- ◇ Historic First: Derek Foxx promoted to Deputy Chief & Debbie Knupp promoted to Fire Marshal.
- ◇ Station 3 dedication in honor of Lt Mark Morrison.
- ◇ Ground Breaking for Station 5.
- ◇ Open Houses at Station 5 and Station 13.



May

- ◇ Explorers participated in West Palm Beach Firematics.
- ◇ EMS Week.
- ◇ The Combat Challenge team competed in Apopka and finished as championship finalist.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Awards (5).
- ◇ Recognition ceremony to acknowledge one promotion and the Firefighter and Support Staff of the Year.



PARTICIPATION AND HIGHLIGHTS



June

- ◇ Members participated in the hurricane expo at the PSL Civic Center.
- ◇ A new HR Director was hired.
- ◇ All Fire District vehicles received International accreditation status stickers.
- ◇ Lil Feet Boot Auction & Luau raised over \$38,000.
- ◇ Golf Tournament to benefit our Honor Guard.

July

- ◇ Participated in the hurricane expo at the PSL Civic Center.
- ◇ Hired seven new Firefighters.
- ◇ Participated in the Boys & Girls Clubs Chili Cook-off.

August

- ◇ 2018-2019 Open House dates released.
- ◇ Hired a part-time Supply Clerk for Logistics.
- ◇ Firefighters trained with Ft. Pierce Police on Swift Assist Victim Extraction (SAVE) training.
- ◇ Participated in the Chick-Fil-A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in Ft. Pierce.
- ◇ Firefighters helped local kids pick out shoes during the back to school events sponsored by Lil' Feet.
- ◇ Firefighters competed in a sandwich making competition with Sheriff's deputies at the grand opening of Wawa in Fort Pierce.



September

- ◇ Local firefighters competed with firefighters from around the country in the Scott's Combat Challenge held in Fort Pierce. Three SLC teams qualified for Nationals.
- ◇ Hired a new Ambulance Billing Clerk.
- ◇ SLCFD Honor Guard competed in a sandwich making competition with Pt St Lucie Police at the grand opening of Wawa in Pt St Lucie.
- ◇ Firefighters participated in the charity tournament benefitting Honor Flights hosted by Boca Fire Rescue.
- ◇ SLCFD members and family of participated in the 2018 Tunnels to Towers 5K Run & Walk in Vero Beach.
- ◇ Members of the Fire District participated in 911 memorial events throughout the county.
- ◇ Open House kick-off at the Administrative offices.

October

- ◇ Recognition ceremony to acknowledge 13 promotions from Lieutenant to Division Chief.
- ◇ Hired two new Telecommunicators, 1 Maintenance Assistant, and two part-time Receptionists.
- ◇ Firefighters wore duty shirts sponsored by Martin Health System and Air Methods to promote cancer awareness
- ◇ SLCFD engine strike teams were deployed to Chattahoochee (in North Florida) to assist in the clean-up efforts following Hurricane Michael.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Awards (2).
- ◇ Fire Prevention month.
- ◇ Pink Heels tour at Hoplife.
- ◇ Chief Spera, Fire Prevention, and firefighters participated in the reopening of the newly renovated Boys & Girls Club Infinity Center in Ft. Pierce.
- ◇ SLCFD Combat Challenge Team participated in the Sacramento Combat Challenge World competition.
- ◇ Open Houses at Station 12, Station 14 and Station 16.



November

- ◇ Firefighters participated in the Gary Morales softball tournament to benefit the 100 Club of SLC.
- ◇ Firefighters assisted in the Jessica Clinton pediatric heart screenings at the health department.
- ◇ Firefighters wore "Support our Troops" duty shirts sponsored by LWMC and SLMC.
- ◇ FireBelles2.0 sponsored a Fall Festival for the families of the Fire District.

PARTICIPATION AND HIGHLIGHTS



November– continued

- ◇ Chief Spera participated as a celebrity chef at Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse to benefit the Hands Clinic.
- ◇ The Fire Explorers competed in an Explorer Combat Challenge.
- ◇ Members from the Air Rescue flight crew attended a water egress training.
- ◇ Fire District personnel participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Maintenance Rehab Overhaul (MRO) hangar at the TC airport.
- ◇ SLCFD hosted a 40 hour Vehicle Machinery and Rescue course at second change salvage.
- ◇ Under the sponsorship of the Big Heart Brigade - firefighters, families and friends prepared 1800 meals that were delivered to shut-ins and those in need throughout St. Lucie County.
- ◇ Firefighters participated in ISO training.
- ◇ Open Houses at Station 1 and Station 13.

December

- ◇ Members from the SLCFD participated in the 2nd annual Sugar Plum 5k in Tradition.
- ◇ SLCFD Honor Guard participated at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Ocala.
- ◇ Peanuts themed employee appreciation holiday party.
- ◇ Firefighters, family and friends from SLCFD assisted Christmas4Kids in Christmas morning deliveries throughout St Lucie County.





ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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