



2020
Annual
Report

St. Lucie County

Just the Facts

ST. LUCIE COUNTY (SLC)
POPULATION (2020 ESTIMATE)



344,041 with a growth rate of 2.34% in the past year according to the most recent United States census data.

County Demographics

- Persons under 5 years 5.0%
- Persons under 18 years 19.5%
- Persons 65 years and older 24.7%
- 572 square miles of total land area and 21 miles of coastline.
- Florida's 21st most populous county with 1.5% of Florida's population.

Fire District Demographics

- Firefighters 399
- Telecommunicators 21
- Support Staff 64
- 17 fire stations and 1 air rescue hangar strategically located throughout the county.
- SLC firefighters are dual certified as emergency medical technicians (EMT) or paramedics (PM).





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ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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“Our Family Serving Yours”

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF NATE SPERA



For the St. Lucie County Fire District, much of our focus in 2020 was directed towards mitigating and addressing our community's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Fire District undertook an extensive Incident Action Plan that was developed to address our community's needs while protecting our first responders from infection and an outbreak within our organization. A team was assembled that met continuously in the initial phases of the outbreak and regularly with county, municipal and state health officials and leaders in our health care community to develop a comprehensive approach to the emergency. At all times, the protection of our community was of paramount concern and the coordination among health care providers helped ensure that our response was effective in meeting our community's needs.

Aside from the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a productive year for the Fire District. With support from a grant from the federal government, we replaced all cardiac defibrillator monitors on our ambulances and fire engines during the first few months of 2020. The cost of this \$1.1 million project was reduced to approximately \$400,000 through the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant (AFG) and successful negotiations with our vendor by Assistant Fire Chief Blizzard.

The Fire District was awarded another federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant of over \$600,000 for the purchase of battery powered hydraulic extrication equipment for each of its 17 stations. It is unusual for an agency to receive AFG grants of this size in back to back years. These tools are in the process of being purchased and deployed upon the writing of this report. In total, the Fire District was awarded over \$1.3 million through this competitive federal grant that was instrumental in replacing a cache of tools and equipment, instrumental as frontline lifesaving devices.

Organizationally, the District reorganized our Training Division and the Community Risk Reduction Division to better meet the needs of our growing community. Moreover, additional personnel were assigned to these divisions over the last year to ensure that we remain compliant with our commitment to our strategic goals and industry standards. The Fire District also expanded the number of firefighters in our Emergency Operations Division and expanded our ambulance service to include a 21st front line fully staffed rescue unit.

Despite the restrictions presented regarding the pandemic, we were able to continue our work with several non-profit organizations, although in a modified format. These charities include the Big Heart Brigade, Christmas4Kids, and Lil' Feet. These community outreach events grow in success and participation from our staff each year.

On another note, 2020 saw the retirement of Dr. Chi Chiou Liu our long-term Medical Director. Dr. Liu served the St Lucie County Fire District and the residents of our community for over 42 years, making him one of the longest-serving medical directors in the State of Florida. Dr. Liu helped create fire rescue based emergency medical services in St Lucie County, the first of its type on the Treasure Coast. He was instrumental in training the first five paramedics in St. Lucie County and developed the county's first medical protocol for emergency medical services. He was also instrumental in the development of a regional protocol that served several counties in the 1990's. The District today has over 180 certified firefighter paramedics, and dozens more paramedics who serve as Station Officers, Chief Officers, and general staff within the District, all of whom owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Liu and his family for their service. Sadly, Dr. Liu passed away in January 2021, and our sympathies go out to his wife Mary and his large extended family. Dr. Ken Palestrant, who has served our community for decades and got his start in emergency medical services as a paramedic in South Florida in the 1980's, was employed by the Board of Fire Commissioners as the Fire District's second Medical Director in March of 2020.

Let us all hope that 2021 brings a return to normalcy and renewed commitment to our neighbors and community.

WHO WE ARE



S
L
C
F
D

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VALUES

- ⇒ Safety
- ⇒ Strategic
- ⇒ Integrity
- ⇒ Transparent
- ⇒ Community-Driven
- ⇒ Professional
- ⇒ Compassionate, Comprehensive Service
- ⇒ Inclusivity
- ⇒ Pride, Passion, Purpose
- ⇒ Teamwork
- ⇒ Family

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND: St. Lucie County Florida was created in 1905 with Fort Pierce serving as the county seat. Established in 1906, the Fort Pierce Fire Department formed with the intent of lowering the rates of fire insurance in the area. As time moved forward, the department continued to grow based on need and demand within the county. In 1959 by an act of the Florida Legislature, the St. Lucie County / Fort Pierce Fire District was created. The district continued to grow and provide a broader expanse of services within its coverage area. In 1996, the organizational name change to the St. Lucie County Fire District (SLCFD was formalized).

FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



2020 FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Representing St. Lucie County

Linda Bartz - Vice Chair

Chris Dzadovsky

Representing the City of Fort Pierce

Tom Perona

Reggie Sessions

Representing the City of Port St. Lucie

Shannon Martin - Chair

Stephanie Morgan

Governor's Appointee

TBA



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 fire commissioners. The fire board employs the fire chief, clerk-treasurer and the district attorney to manage the operations, finances and legal affairs of the fire 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.



2021 FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Representing St. Lucie County

Linda Bartz - Chair

Chris Dzadovsky

Representing the City of Fort Pierce

Linda Hudson - Vice Chair

Curtis Johnson (interim)

Representing the City of Port St. Lucie

Shannon Martin

Stephanie Morgan

Governor's Appointee

TBA

ADMINISTRATION



Nate Spera
Fire Chief



Kim Sabol
Fire District Attorney



Patty Marston-Duva
Clerk / Treasurer



Dr. Kenneth Palestrant
Medical Director



Jeff Lee
Assistant Fire Chief



Marti Newport
Assistant Fire Chief



Jen Chambers
Deputy Chief



Mike Merritt
Deputy Chief

DIVISION CHIEFS

Days - L to R:

Mark Cristaldi

Brian Gonzalez

Paul Langel
Fire Marshal



DIVISION CHIEFS

L to R:

William French

A-Shift

Kyle Stirrat
B-Shift

Aaron Shaw
C-Shift



Tommy Neiman
Fire District Chaplain

RECOGNITIONS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



LT. BRIAN SEXTON
Lieutenant Sexton is currently in his 26th year with the fire district. He is an officer at fire station 2 on South Hutchinson Island. He is our 2020 Firefighter of the Year.

SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR



BONNIE DESOUZA
Bonnie is currently in her 7th year with the fire district. She is one of five ambulance billing clerks and is our 2020 Support Staff of the Year.

PROMOTIONS

January

Jenny Grima to Paramedic
Edward Ponders to Paramedic
Andrew Willmore to Paramedic

February

Andres Elizondo to Lieutenant
Trevor Giordano to Lieutenant
Carol Spencer to Risk Manager

May

Brian Gonzalez to Division Chief
Dono Fusco to Paramedic
Will Lyshon to Paramedic
Leonard Santos to Paramedic
Joey Casson to Building & Grounds Supv.

June

Patty Marston-Duva to Clerk/Treasurer

July

Jeff Lee to Assistant Fire Chief
Marti Newport to Assistant Fire Chief
Matt Ramsay to Lieutenant
Austin French to Paramedic
Thelrietta Richardson to Paramedic
Taylor Wright to Paramedic
Vicki Echazabal to Executive Aide

August

John Craton to Captain
Mark Elliott to Lieutenant
Brad Roberts to PM/Engineer

September

Justin Guercio to PM/Engineer

October

Paul Langel to Division Chief
Wayne Boyer to Captain
Travis Owen to PM/Engineer
Jacob Concannon to Paramedic
Tyrone Smith to Paramedic
Amy Kwasnicki to Compliance Mgr.

November

Matt Ernst to PM/Engineer
Alexia French PM/Engineer
Brian Solberg to PM/Engineer
Benn Francoeur to Engineer
Christopher Baldwin to Paramedic
Michael Hamilton to Paramedic

December

Kevin Reilly to Paramedic
Jean Carlos Torres to Paramedic

RETIREMENTS

Paramedic Renee Forbes (January 15)
Lieutenant Steve Burns (January 31)
Paramedic Rob Tearle (January 31)
Deputy Chief Derek Foxx (February 27)
Supervisor Scott Lentz (April 29)
Captain Christy Selph (July 25)
Engineer Donalan Hamrick (October 14)

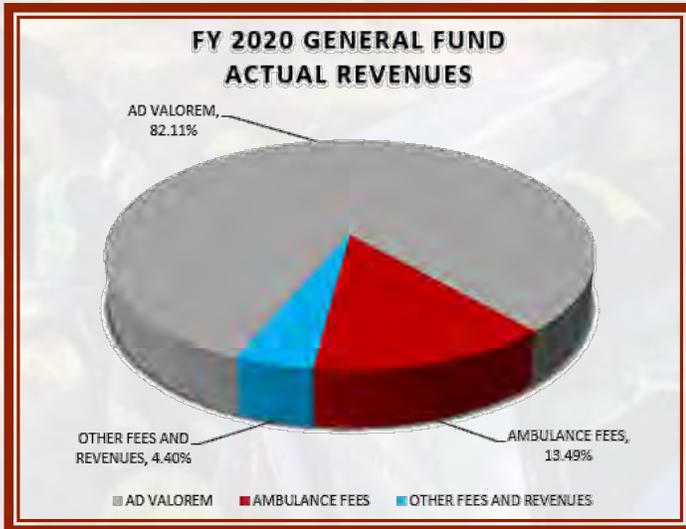
Engineer Frederic Barbera (October 27)
Paramedic Michael Lopresti (October 30)
Captain Brad Dashner (October 30)
Paramedic Dave Hoilman (November 27)
Engineer Brennan Kelley (December 22)
Engineer Michael E. Dean (December 31)

FINANCE AT A GLANCE



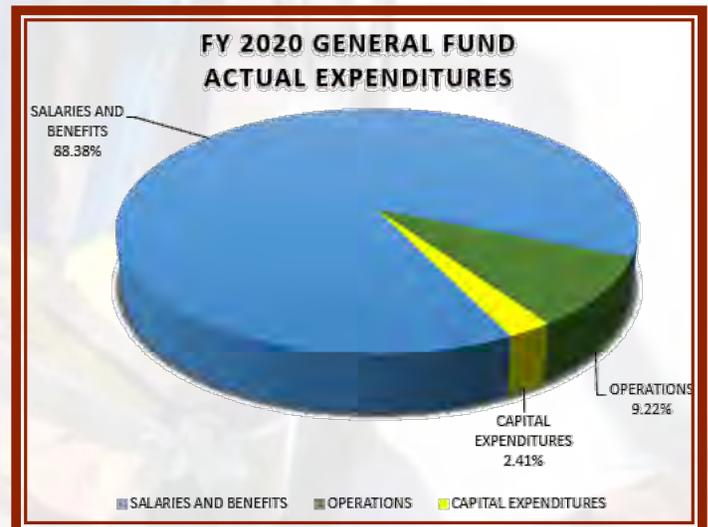
FY 2020 – Year End

The following charts reflect the fire district's revenue and expenditures for the 2020 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 | \$ 64,226,778 | \$ 64,565,979 | 82.11% |
| Ambulance Fees | \$ 11,628,662 | \$ 10,610,471 | 13.49% |
| Other | \$ 6,290,621 | \$ 3,456,014 | 4.40% |
| Total Revenue | \$ 82,146,061 | \$ 78,632,465 | 100.00% |

| | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>Adopted</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>% of Actual</u> |
| Salaries/Benefits | \$ 72,373,396 | \$ 69,647,448 | 88.38% |
| Operations | \$ 7,676,482 | \$ 7,262,375 | 9.22% |
| Capital | \$ 1,796,183 | \$ 1,896,600 | 2.41% |
| Total Expenses | \$ 81,846,061 | \$ 78,806,424 | 100.00% |



Note: these numbers are unaudited

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

BY THE NUMBERS

DEMAND FOR SERVICE

Total Calls for Service

54,618

Emergency Medical Calls

49,647

Fire Calls

4,969

Unclassified

2

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTS

by Ground

31,974

by Air

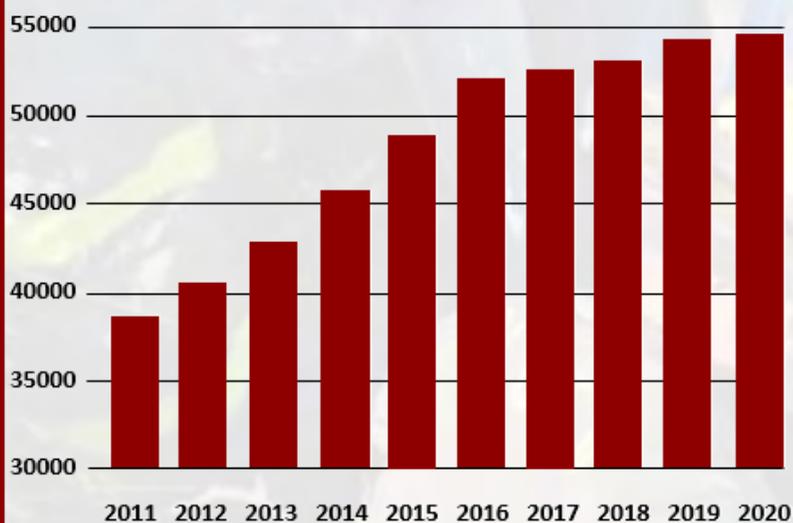
57

TRANSPORTS TO FACILITIES BY GROUND

| | |
|---|--------|
| Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital | 829 |
| Cleveland Clinic Martin Health SLW—ED | 161 |
| Cleveland Clinic Martin North Hospital | 613 |
| Cleveland Clinic Martin South Hospital | 2 |
| Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital | 7,375 |
| Darwin Medical Center | 117 |
| Lawnwood Regional Medical Center | 15,299 |
| Lawnwood Regional Medical Center—Vero Beach | 20 |
| Raulerson Hospital | 2 |
| St. Lucie Medical Center | 7560 |



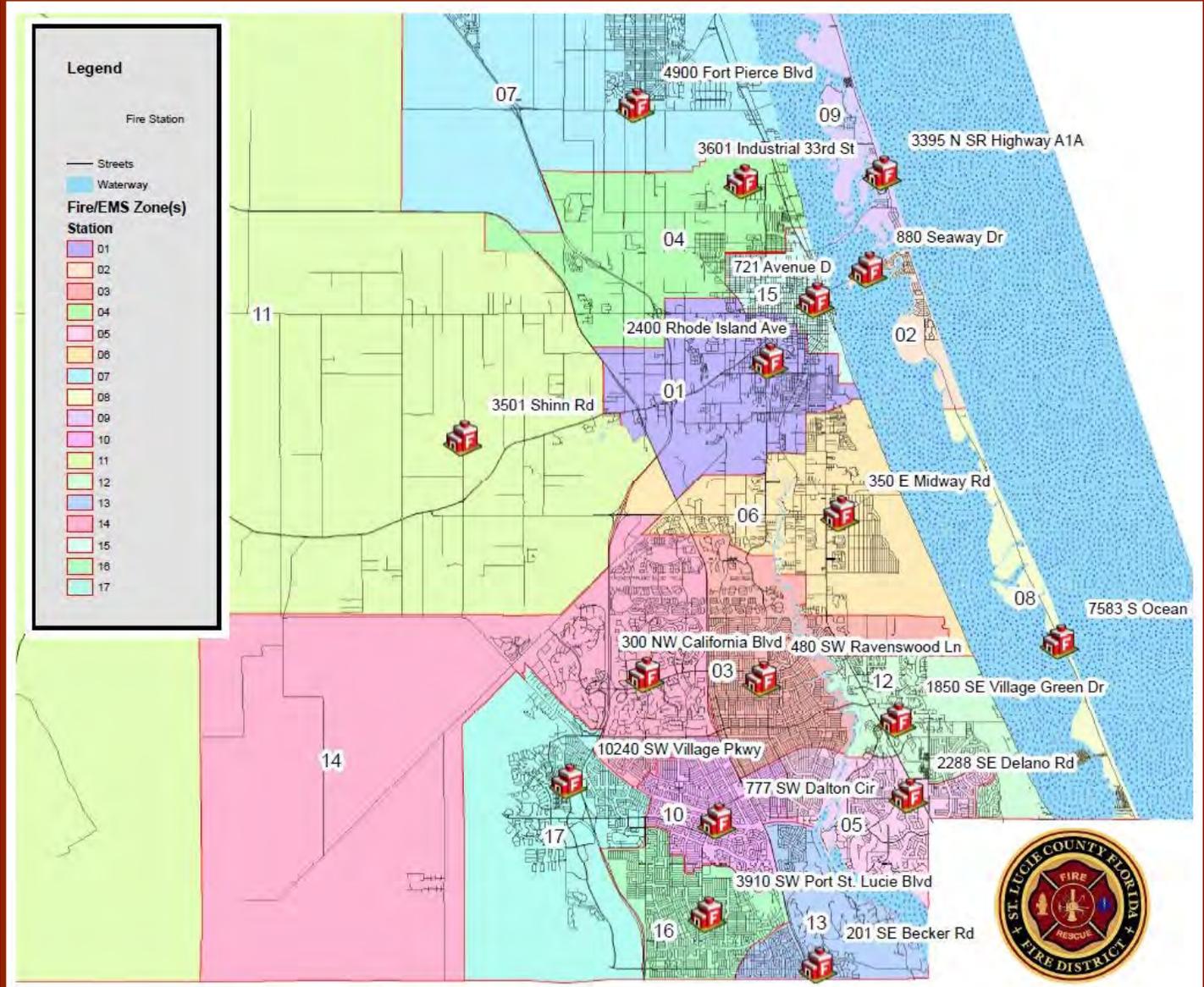
COUNT OF CALLS BY YEAR



ANNUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

| YEAR | CALL TOTAL |
|------|------------|
| 2011 | 38,612 |
| 2012 | 40,744 |
| 2013 | 43,414 |
| 2014 | 45,749 |
| 2015 | 48,022 |
| 2016 | 51,935 |
| 2017 | 52,996 |
| 2018 | 53,046 |
| 2019 | 54,478 |
| 2020 | 54,618 |

STATION MAP & APPARATUS PROFILE



17 Fire Stations
14 Engines
3 Quints/ 75' Aerial
1 Ladder / 100' Aerial
2 Special Op Squads
13 Brush Trucks

22 Rescue Trucks
4 Tankers
1 ARFF
1 Marine Unit
2 Beach Rescue Mules
2 Detail Mules

All fire stations are manned 24 hours, 7 days a week by (3) 24-hour shifts. All St. Lucie County Fire District firefighters are dual certified as paramedics or emergency medical technicians.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 1

2400 Rhode Island Ave
Fort Pierce

1 Fire Engine
2 Rescue Trucks
1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 9,020
Manpower: 7



Constructed in 1983, station 1 (also known as Central) is the only two-story fire station in the county and has a slide pole for rapid response for personnel from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor. Station 1's immediate response area consists of a 25 square mile first due zone. In addition, coverage includes a 35 mile stretch of the Florida Turnpike and a 6 mile stretch of I-95. While many of the calls are to single family homes, there is a heavy volume of commercial facilities in station 1's zone.

Fire Station 2

855 Seaway Drive
Fort Pierce

1 Quint
1 Rescue Truck
1 Marine Unit– Boat

Calls for Service: 2,193
Manpower: 5



Original fire station 2 was built in 1967. In 2007 the current station was built approximately 1/4 mile southeast of the original site. The primary response area is residential and commercial that encompasses: Port of Ft. Pierce, Intracoastal Waterway including the Inlet, Atlantic Ocean, high/mid-rise residential buildings from 2 to 21 stories, Ocean Village, Harbour Isle, Pelican Yacht Club & an array of small apartment complexes, hotels, motels & restaurants.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 3

480 SW Ravenswood Lane
Port St Lucie

1 Fire Engine
2 Rescue Trucks
1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 7,491
Manpower: 7



Original fire station 3 was built in 1964. In 2010, the current station was built just a few blocks southwest of the original site. Station 3's primary response area is residential with commercial corridors. The types of businesses in this area include building supply, landscaping supplies, restaurants, and auto body repair. Included in the response zone is the Priineville Water Treatment Facility for PSL, four elementary schools and one middle school. The area also includes several multifamily apartment complexes, and several assisted living care facilities.

Fire Station 4

3601 Industrial 33rd Street
Fort Pierce

1 Engine
1 Rescue Truck
1 Brush Truck
1 ARFF

Calls for Service: 2,524
Manpower: 7



Fire station 4 was built in March 2008 in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The new station was built because the original station was over 40 years old and could no longer house the personnel and the newer equipment needed to serve the community. Fire Station 4's response area includes residential, commercial, industrial and the Treasure Coast International Airport. The station is located at the airport and is equipped with an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) apparatus, specifically designed to respond to aviation emergencies. The immediate response area consists of about 40 square miles.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 5

2288 Delano Road
Port St Lucie

1 Fire Engine
1 Rescue Truck

Calls for Service: 3,905
Manpower: 5



Original fire station 5 on Port St Lucie Blvd was built in 1975. The current station, just built in 2020, is only a few miles northeast of busy Port St Lucie Blvd. However, the call volume of fire station 5 has increased steadily over the years and is now amongst the busiest stations within the St. Lucie County Fire District. Response area is predominantly single family residences, with commercial occupancies along US1 and Port St. Lucie Blvd.



Fire Station 6

350 East Midway Road
Fort Pierce

1 Engine
1 Rescue Truck
1 Tanker
1 Brush Truck
1 Special Ops Squad

Calls for Service: 4,607
Manpower: 7

Original fire station 6 was built in 1975. In 2008, a more modern fire station was built to house more personnel and equipment to handle the increased call volume and responsibilities. Response area is a mix of residential and commercial as well as an abundance of high hazard facilities. Station 6 responds to both North and South US-1, Indian River Drive, the Florida's Turnpike and Interstate 95. It is also part of a dual response special operations team that responds to any and all special operations calls in the county.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 7

4900 Fort Pierce Blvd
Fort Pierce

- 1 Fire Engine
- 1 Rescue Truck
- 1 Tanker
- 1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 2,593



Built in 1977, station 7 was built to serve the growing northern edge of the county. The response area includes residential, mixed commercial and wild land. The boundaries of station 7 include the county line to the north, Old Dixie Highway to the east (including some portions of St. Lucie Village area); the St. Lucie County International Airport lies in the southern portion of the zone, and I-95 to the west. The station area also covers I-95 from the county line to mile marker 133.



Fire Station 8

7583 South Ocean Drive
Jensen Beach

- 1 Engine
- 1 Rescue Truck
- 1 Beach Rescue Mule

Calls for Service: 905
Manpower: 5

Fire Station 8 was built in 1983. Prior to that, this area of the county was covered either by Martin County Fire Rescue or by station 2 on Seaway Drive. Fire station 8 covers 14 miles of South Hutchinson Island including the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. The northern end of the zone starts at Blue Heron Boulevard in Ft Pierce and continues south all the way to the county line in Jensen Beach. Within zone 8, there are 40 residential high-rise condominiums ranging from 3 to 22 floors high and two large manufactured home communities.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 9

3595 North A1A
Fort Pierce

1 Engine
1 Rescue Truck
1 Beach Rescue Mule

Calls for Service: 917
Manpower: 5



Built in 1984, station 9 was the ninth station built out of 17 stations. Though many of its residents are seasonal, there are approximately 5,000 year-round residents. Zone 9 is primarily a barrier island with one roadway to Fort Pierce and Indian River County. It is unique in that the railroad tracks and the drawbridge offers complete isolation from additional St. Lucie County Fire District resources. With well-established landing zones and communication with Indian River County's stations 2 and 6, mutual aid can be rendered if needed.



Fire Station 10

777 SW Dalton Circle
Port St Lucie

1 Quint
1 Rescue Truck
1 Tanker
1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 4,439
Manpower: 6

Fire Station 10 was built in 1985 and is surrounded by several homes. Zone 10 is economically and culturally diverse. The response area is mostly residential with an emerging mixture of commercial and industrial properties as well as several shopping plazas. Station 10 responds to the Florida's Turnpike and provides back-up for incidents that occur on Interstate 95.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 11

3501 Shinn Road
Fort Pierce

1 Engine
1 Rescue Truck
1 Tanker
1 Brush Truck
1 Mule

Calls for Service: 923
Manpower: 5



Fire station 11 was constructed in 1986 to meet the growing demand for emergency services in the western portion of St. Lucie County. It's response area is mostly rural and agricultural and is the largest in the county encompassing hundreds of square miles west of Glades Cut-Off and the Florida Turnpike, from the Martin County line all the way north to the Indian River County line. Though not in their zone, Station 11 is a backup station for many incidents on I95 and the Florida Turnpike.



Fire Station 12

1850 Se Village Green Drive
Port St Lucie

1 Quint
2 Rescue Trucks
1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 6,686
Manpower: 7

Fire Station 12 was built in 1988. This area was in the growing stages and had not yet developed the population density it has today. The emergency call volume of station 12 has increased steadily throughout the years and is currently the second busiest fire station in the county. It has a very large and diverse response area that is residential, commercial and industrial.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 13

201 SE Becker Road
Port St Lucie

1 Engine
1 Rescue Truck
1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 1,467
Manpower: 5



Originally housed in a prefabricated building, the current station 13 was built in 2003. It is the only station in the county with a lighted helicopter landing pad for aero-medical transports. Strategically located next to Florida's Turnpike, station 13 covers a large area of approximately 25 square miles of Southeast St. Lucie County. It includes a combination of residential dwellings, assisted living facilities, limited commercial areas and a recreational city park.

Fire Station 14

300 NW California Blvd
Port St Lucie

1 Engine
1 Ladder Truck
1 Rescue Truck
1 Bariatric Truck
1 Brush Truck
1 Mule

Calls for Service: 4,980
Manpower: 6



Fire station 14 was built in 1999. In 2000, the fire district organized a technical rescue team, the team and equipment were housed at station 14. Station 14 services one of the fire district's largest geographic response areas. It is divided by Interstate I-95 and is diversely interspersed with undeveloped land. The zone is filled with residential areas and brimming with commercial retail and business complexes.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 15

721 Avenue D
Fort Pierce

1 Engine
1 Rescue Truck
1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 6,471
Manpower: 5



Fire station 15 opened in 1997. It serves the fire district's oldest response zone that was originally established in 1924 and housed at US Hwy 1 and Avenue A, until 1983 when station 1 was built. Fire Station 15's response area includes residential and commercial properties. It serves the majority of the northwest residential section of Fort Pierce and covers the entire commercial historic downtown district, four marinas with both dry and wet storage, the cargo ship terminal, and several fruit packing warehouses.

Fire Station 16

3910 SW Port St Lucie Blvd
Port St Lucie

1 Engine
2 Rescue Trucks
1 Brush Truck

Calls for Service: 2,986
Manpower: 5



Fire Station 16 is one of the latest stations to be constructed in St. Lucie County. It was completed in December 2008 to keep up with the rapid growth of single family residential dwellings in the area.. The response area is composed predominantly of single family homes with light commercial use as well. Station 16 covers the southernmost part of Interstate I-95.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station 17

10240 SW Village Pkwy
Port St Lucie

1 Engine
1 Rescue Truck
1 Tanker
1 Brush Truck
1 Special Ops Squad

Calls for Service: 2,980
Manpower: 5



Built in 2008 and placed into service on December 4, 2008, fire station 17 is located in the Town of Tradition, a master-planned community. The area is a mix of residential and commercial, but also serves a large agricultural area including farms and groves. Station 17 is part of a dual response special operations team that responds to any and all special operations calls in the county.

Air Rescue

3105 Airmans Drive
Fort Pierce

1 Eurocopter EC135

Calls for Service: 994
Manpower: 3



Air Rescue is stationed at the Treasure Coast International Airport. This Air Rescue Program joint partnership with the St. Lucie County Fire District and Air Methods, Inc. was established in 2008. Under this partnership, known as St. Lucie County Air Rescue, expeditious air transport of emergent patients is provided by a highly skilled crew of three: A Pilot, a dual certified critical care flight-nurse/paramedic provided through Air Methods Corporation, along with a flight-paramedic provided through the St. Lucie County Fire District.

DIVISIONS & DEPARTMENTS

Communications

15305 W. Midway Road
Fort Pierce

The communications division is manned 24 hours, 7 days a week by (4) 12-hour shifts. All Tele-Communicators are required to maintain the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) certification. Furthermore, all Tele-Communicators have a minimum of nine certifications and are also CPR and NIMS certified.

Calls for Service: 54,618

Manpower: 5

The Communications Division plays an important role in the fire district, accomplishing its mission by providing the most effective emergency communications as possible. It is the nerve center of the fire district's operations and is the first point of contact for the public. It is where calls for service are received, information is obtained and transmitted to the appropriate units or stations, and where pre-arrival instructions are given through the Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) process making the Telecommunicators the first of the first responders.



Administrative Complex

5160 NW Milner Drive
Port St Lucie

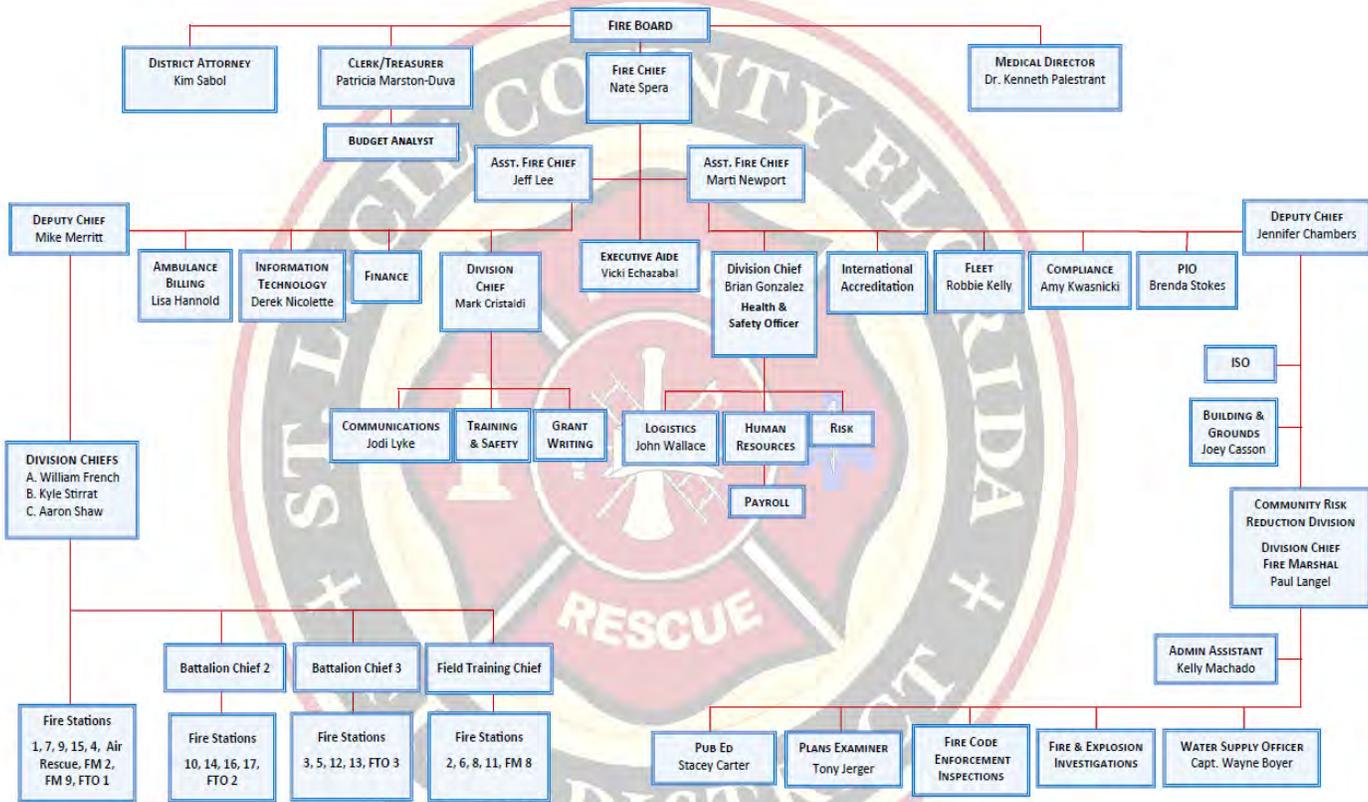
All administrative and support functions are housed at this location.

| ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT | | ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX | |
|---|--------|---|-----------------|
| BOARD MEMBERS | | CHAIRMAN | |
| JACK KELLY | MEMBER | JAY SIZEMORE | CHIEF |
| CHRISTOPHER COOPER | MEMBER | GARY PERREW | CLERK/TREASURER |
| DOUGLAS COWARD | MEMBER | KEN CROOKS | ATTORNEY |
| FRANNIE HUTCHINSON | MEMBER | 2006 EDLUND-DRIEKENBAS-SINKLEY ARCHITECT AND ASSOCIATES, PA URBAN BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC. GENERAL CONTRACTORS | |
| RUFUS ALEXANDER | MEMBER | | |
| EDWARD BECHT | MEMBER | | |
| WILLIAM FURST | MEMBER | | |
| *DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THOSE WHO PRECEDED US AND THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW.* | | | |

With the growth of the county and call volume increasing every year, it was obvious that support functions were outgrowing the current location adjacent to fire station 1 on Rhode Island Avenue. So in 2006, upon completion of construction, all admin and support functions were moved to Milner, including; fleet maintenance and logistics—which are housed in separate buildings in the back. Inside the main building, in addition to admin, ambulance billing and all other support functions; the Community Risk Reduction division is responsible for fire inspections and investigations throughout the county, plans review, and fire safety education.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

St. Lucie County Fire District



DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS

Ambulance Billing

The ambulance billing department processes the billing for emergency ambulance transports in St. Lucie County.

- ◆ Charges Billed Out: \$20,149,575
- ◆ Cash Collected: \$10,989,967
- ◆ Billable Transports: 32,371.
- ◆ Medicare Payments: \$3,344,815
- ◆ Medicaid Payments: \$143,855
- ◆ Commercial Payments: \$6,801,560
- ◆ Private Patient Payments: \$699,737
- ◆ Each Billing Clerk enters an average of 6474 calls per year.

Building & Grounds

Buildings & Grounds is responsible for repairs and maintenance of all fire district buildings. It is also responsible for inspection and maintenance on all self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for over 400 personnel, all air conditioning systems, fuel tanks, and landscaping. They also participate in budget preparations for capital improvements at all fire stations.

- ◆ Oversaw and managed the timeline for subcontractors during the construction of the fire station on Delano Road in Port. St. Lucie.
- ◆ Coordinated and supervised the move from old station 5 to new station 5.
- ◆ Facilitated the development of large projects, some of which include:
 - ◇ Install industrial laundry facilities at central fire station.
 - ◇ Enhanced security measures at administration complex.
 - ◇ Replaced A/C units at stations 1, 4, 13, 17, shop complex, and administrative complex.
 - ◇ Installed new fuel tanks at fire stations 3 & 10.
 - ◇ Re-roof fire station 13.
 - ◇ Renovate new training space at central fire station.
 - ◇ New flooring installed at stations 10 & 12.
 - ◇ New bay doors installed at stations 8, 9, 14 & 15.
 - ◇ Installed emergency generator at central fire station.

Community Risk Reduction

The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) division is responsible for the development and delivery of the following public safety programs: plan review, fire code enforcement, fire & explosion investigations, public education, and water supply.

- ◆ Completed 4,641 fire inspections, 58 fire investigations, and 863 site and building plan reviews.
- ◆ Site plan review, building plan review, and permitting accumulated \$884,258 of revenue.
- ◆ False alarm fees program accumulated \$175,791 in revenue.
- ◆ The Compliance Engine web based software generated over \$60,693 in revenue.
- ◆ Created the Pre-Plan St. Lucie County Schools Program which includes enhanced emergency response capabilities to school related emergencies.
- ◆ Participated in Ft. Pierce, Pt. St. Lucie and St. Lucie County development review committees to facilitate all commercial development countywide, with some of the larger projects listed below:
 - ◇ Derecktor Shipyard
 - ◇ Treasure Coast International Airport MRO hangar
 - ◇ Veterans Nursing Home
 - ◇ 250,000 sq. ft. Fed Ex facility
 - ◇ FPL solar education center.

DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS

Finance / Records

The Finance Department is responsible for the management of all accounting and investing of the fire district's funds, as well as maintaining and overseeing all public records for the fire district.

- ◆ Created the Capital and Maintenance 5-Year Plans matrices for fleet, buildings & grounds, and machinery and equipment.
- ◆ Records request responded to for the fiscal year: 1,725
- ◆ For Fiscal Year End 2020, Accounts Payable processed a total of 2,919 checks and 57 ACH/TFRs, resulting in a total A/P balance of \$21,851,290.57.

Fleet Maintenance

Fleet maintenance is responsible for spec'ing & outfitting, preventive maintenance, and repair of 131 fire district vehicles and apparatus that, as a fleet, exceed 1-million miles annually. In addition, fleet maintenance is responsible for maintaining all station generators, "jaws of life" extrication tools, and the small engines that are used in day to day operations.

- ◆ Outfitted 7 new Braun rescue trucks and placed into service.
- ◆ Outfitted 9 new Ford command vehicles and placed into service.
- ◆ Outfitted a new F350 fleet maintenance vehicle into service.
- ◆ Outfitted and placed a new Freightliner/Pierce tanker into service at Station 10.
- ◆ Outfitted two Kawasaki EMS units for beach rescue.

Information Technology

The IT department provides the fire district data and voice communications services. This includes, but is not limited to, software and hardware support, installations, tower climbing, 24/7 support, administering email and phones, maintaining the microwave infrastructure which supports CAD alerting, AVL, and data links to EOC, and researching new techniques and devices.

- ◆ Implemented Westnet station alerting system at all stations and EOC.
- ◆ Installed new handheld toughbook laptops for report writing.
- ◆ Implemented NFORS statistics reporting system.

Human Resource

Human Resource is responsible for multiple HR functions in support of positive employee and labor relations. Responsibilities of HR include: performance management, benefit administration and leave management, workplace health and safety, recruitment, promotional process oversight and payroll.

- ◆ Implemented, managed and coordinated, per the ratified collective bargaining agreement, Life Scan wellness screenings of 238 scans for employees and dependents over a six-week period.
- ◆ Completed the in-house recruitment, vetting, and hiring process of 102 applicants, resulting in 22 firefighter positions filled.
- ◆ Completed the in-house recruitment, vetting, and hiring process of 174 applicants, resulting in 4 non-firefighter positions filled.



DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS

Logistics

The logistics department is responsible for the complete procurement of the fire district; including the research, purchases, warehousing, and distributing of medical, office and janitorial supplies, uniforms and bunker gear for all active firefighters.

- ◆ Initiated the first ever Hurricane Preparedness kit for all fire stations and the administration complex.
- ◆ Purchased nearly \$500,000 dollars worth of Covid-19 relief supplies and equipment.
- ◆ Purchased and maintained over 1500 medical, house, and office supplies for all fire stations, communications, and air rescue.
- ◆ In collaboration with the Training Department, purchased and distributed new and updated medical items such as the X-Series Zoll Monitors, Lucas Devices, Rescue 42 Struts and Handtevy Pediatric Systems.
- ◆ Donated various firefighting equipment and supplies to assist Bolivia and Mexico.



Operations

The operations division is responsible for emergency service delivery to the community; including emergency medical response, fire suppression, aeromedical responses, special operation response, and overall personnel and safety management for all shifts.

- ◆ Finalized helmet replacement program to bring all fire helmets into compliance as per NFPA 1851.
- ◆ Placed two Covid-19 rescue trucks in to service to keep up with the demand of the Pandemic.
- ◆ Placed in to service atmospheric monitoring devices and developed a policy for air quality monitoring on fire scenes.
- ◆ Placed in to service a new tanker.
- ◆ Took delivery and placed in to service seven (7) new rescue trucks.
- ◆ Placed in to service, six (6) new battalion chief and FTO vehicles.
- ◆ Placed in to service a mass casualty transport bus.
- ◆ Received a DOH matching EMS grant to purchase three (3) Lucas Devices to aid our crews in CPR.
- ◆ Received the Assistance to Firefighters grant allowing the fire district to purchase nineteen (19) sets of extrication equipment to replace 21 year old aging equipment.
- ◆ Received the Assistance to Firefighters COVID grant allowing the fire district to purchase needed personal protective equipment to fight the COVID pandemic.
- ◆ Received the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Critical Facilities Hardening Program grant to replace the roof at Station 4 and new garage doors at station 2 and 4.



DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS

Public Education

Public education is provided to the community by the fire district's Fire & Life Safety Educator (FLSE) and operates under the supervision of the community risk reduction division. The FLSE is responsible for developing and presenting fire and life safety education programs to the residents of St. Lucie County.

- ◆ Provide fall prevention presentations for seniors in the following communities: Holiday Out, Whispering Pines, Savannah Club, Spanish Lakes, Ocean Village and Lake Forest Park.
- ◆ Partnered with WPSL Radio to broadcast a safety PSA reaching over 62,000 listeners.
- ◆ Partnered with the St. Lucie County School Board to launch virtual fire safety classrooms, reaching over 15,000 students.
- ◆ During the month of October virtual fire and life safety classrooms were released on the district website in English, Spanish and Creole, reaching 14,280 people.
- ◆ Through our social media platforms: Youtube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter we have posted online safety education reaching 344,714 people.
- ◆ For the year 2020, fire and life safety information has reached a total of 385,404 people.

Public Information

The Public Information Office is responsible for disseminating information to the public on departmental programs and services, facilitating media relations, and coordinating community outreach. The Public Information Officer (PIO) is also the spokesperson for the fire district during emergency incidents and acts as the liaison between the incident commander and the media.

- ◆ Worked with other public safety agencies to put out consistent and relevant information during the early days of the pandemic and throughout the statewide quarantine period.
- ◆ Organized citizen and personnel recognitions.
- ◆ Updated the yellow dot and medical information programs and delivered or mailed them throughout the county to residents and communities.
- ◆ Coordinated and developed the employee quarterly newsletters and annual report.

Risk Management

The focus of risk management is to protect the fire district's assets from loss and minimize employee injuries on the job.

- ◆ Facilitated correspondence for COVID positive employees and provided support throughout the process.
- ◆ Since March of last year the Risk division has managed 46 COVID positive claims.

Training & Safety

The training & safety division is responsible for fire and EMS training of all St. Lucie County Fire District firefighters. This division is also directly involved with health, safety and exposure risk management for the fire district.

- ◆ Developed, coordinated and provided training/orientation for new hires.
- ◆ Completed training and implementation of resuscitation devices including: the I-Gel supraglottic airway device, the Zoll Res-Q-Pump and Zoll Res-Q-Pod.
- ◆ Coordinated radiologic training for all aligned personnel in collaboration with the Emergency Operations Center.

BY THE MONTH REVIEW

January

- Happy Birthday to us!! St. Lucie County Fire District celebrated 114 years serving the citizens of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and the Villages of St. Lucie!
- Two local residents were recognized as citizen heroes for their courageous actions last November that saved the life of a woman trapped in her sinking car.
- On January 27th, 21 firefighters began their career at the St Lucie County Fire District.
- Station 15 was recognized by the City of Fort Pierce, during the fire board meeting, as the winner of the best non-commercial Christmas light display. The \$250 winnings were presented to SLCFD Christmas4Kids.



- In honor of Black History month, three retirees (Robert Lewis, Bill Smith, Derek Foxx) and active FF LaToya Young were recognized in a ceremony at station 15 for their contribution to the history of St. Lucie County.
- The health and wellness committee hosted an employee luncheon with local health and fitness vendors.
- Battalion Chief Brian Gonzalez received the "Emergency Service Provider of the Year" award at the Treasure Coast Fire Chief's Association banquet.
- Two local residents were recognized with Citizen Hero awards: one for saving two people from a submerged and sinking vehicle and one for saving the first hero.



February

March

- The fire district prepares for COVID-19 and begins initiating safety measures to protect personnel, patients and the public.



- 500 face shields, 300 surgical masks, and over 200 cloth masks were donated.
- SLCFD was featured in a WPBF 25 News story regarding PPE and protocol changes that first responders across the state are making with the rise in COVID patients.
- Messages of support and love for first responders were popping up at stations and throughout the community from local businesses and residents.
- With assistance from DLF Media, Chief Spera made a PSA stressing the importance of staying home. The PSA ran on the Clear Channel radio stations throughout the time of quarantine.
- WPBF 25 News featured SLCFD in a second story regarding the changes in call volume during the governor's "stay at home" order.
- FD telecommunicators were recognized during the month of April 12-18 in honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.
- With schools closed and fire stations off limits, Stacey Carter began producing educational YouTube videos that include virtual station tours and reading fire safety books. The videos are being shared on the FD social media sites.



April

BY THE MONTH REVIEW

May

- FF/PM Devin Sao was featured in a story by CBS News for his unique photos titled “Life Goes On,” prompted by individual precautions, during the pandemic and viewed as the new normal.
- FF Julian Reams was featured in Firehouse for his artistic and creative murals at the stations.



- SLCFD was featured in a community-wide thank you video, organized by the health department and produced by DLF Media.
- After more than two years of planning and construction, we finally moved into new station 5.
- Several crews had the opportunity to train on best practices, in real life fire scenarios, during a two day live burn training- thanks to the donation of a house.
- Chief Spera visited station 10 to present Dorian Jackson with the Service to Family award. After responding to someone hit by a car, Jackson went to Wal-Mart to purchase a pair of jeans and socks to replace the damaged clothing.



June

July

- Six local residents were honored as Citizen Heroes for their efforts in saving a neighbor.
- Telecommunicator Nick Klein was presented with the “Public Safety Excellence” certificate.
- The mandatory mask ordinance went into effect throughout SLC.
- The Fort Pierce Women’s Club initiated their monthly “Breakfast with a LifeSaver” by recognizing all SLCFFs for their continued efforts during the pandemic.



- SLCFD Christmas4Kids presented ten local teachers with baskets of school supplies and goodies to start the 2020 school year.
- The Petco Foundation awarded a \$1500 grant to the fire district for Camy's recertification.
- Even with the pandemic, Lil' Feet purchased close to 200 pairs of shoes for children going back to school this year.
- Lt. Adam Zuccaro was recognized for his work on and off duty to promote autism awareness by the FP Women’s Club at their monthly “Breakfast with a Lifesaver”.
- The fire district purchased two Kawasaki Mule Pro FX Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) for navigating sand and beach atmospheres that traditional fire rescue vehicles cannot traverse. Both UTVs are engineered to carry supplies and outfitted with a transport area. They are located at station 8 & station 9.



August

September

- Members from the command staff, the honor guard, and stations on duty were in attendance and participated in the 911 events held throughout the county.
- WPTV5 interviewed Chief Shaw, Lt. Almand, and FF/PM Wiles for their work with the FD's mental health awareness programs.
- Dr. Liu officially retired as the fire district medical director and we welcomed Dr. Kenneth Palestrant into the fire district family.
- Telecommunicators Ansley Merritt and Megan Hamilton were recognized and received the “Spirit of Family Award.”



BY THE MONTH REVIEW

October

- The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) division launched the fire & life safety virtual classrooms... just in time for Fire Prevention month.
- Members from CRR purchased smoke alarms and installed them into two homes that recently fostered several children. They also installed two donated fire extinguishers.
- The Combat Challenge team traveled back to Texas to participate in the World's competition - they came home World Champions!!!
- Accelerant detection canine, Camy, received a cooling vest and a K9 alert system to monitor temperatures and carbon monoxide when she is in the truck, through a grant from Project Paws in Port St. Lucie.
- Several fire district personnel participated in a drive-thru chili cook-off to benefit Surfers for Autism, hosted by Watercrest Senior Living.



- The fire district was awarded the 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to fund the purchase for 19 sets of battery operated extrication equipment. Firefighters actively participated in demonstrations from various manufacturers to provide feedback on the best tools to meet their needs on scene.
- The Big Heart Brigade had to make several changes and had to adapt with a handful of volunteers only, but served more families than ever. SLC Big Heart Brigade distributed 800 turkeys, which is equivalent to approximately 8000 meals.

November

December

- When Polly, the widow of Don Moore who served as Fire Chief during the mid-1970s needed a new roof, several active and retired firefighters worked together to get her a new roof before Christmas.
- The communications division participated in the "Christmas Cards for Our Troops" program. Approximately 100 cards were sent to military deployed this holiday season.
- Battalion Chief Dan Mikels discussed the recent purchase of the Lucas devices (CPR) using the CARES Act funds with WPTV Meghan McRoberts. He also demonstrated their use and talked about the benefits to patients and medics.
- In a small recognition ceremony, (12) promoted employees were honored and officially pinned.
- Members from the SLCFD family & Christmas4Kids, along with Santa and the Grinch, made their annual visits to children throughout SLC the week of Christmas and Christmas morning. Several businesses participated in this year's toy drive.



A dramatic photograph of a fire with a firefighter's silhouette in the foreground. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames rising against a dark background. The firefighter's silhouette is visible on the right side of the frame, wearing a helmet and looking towards the fire.

St. Lucie County Fire District

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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