

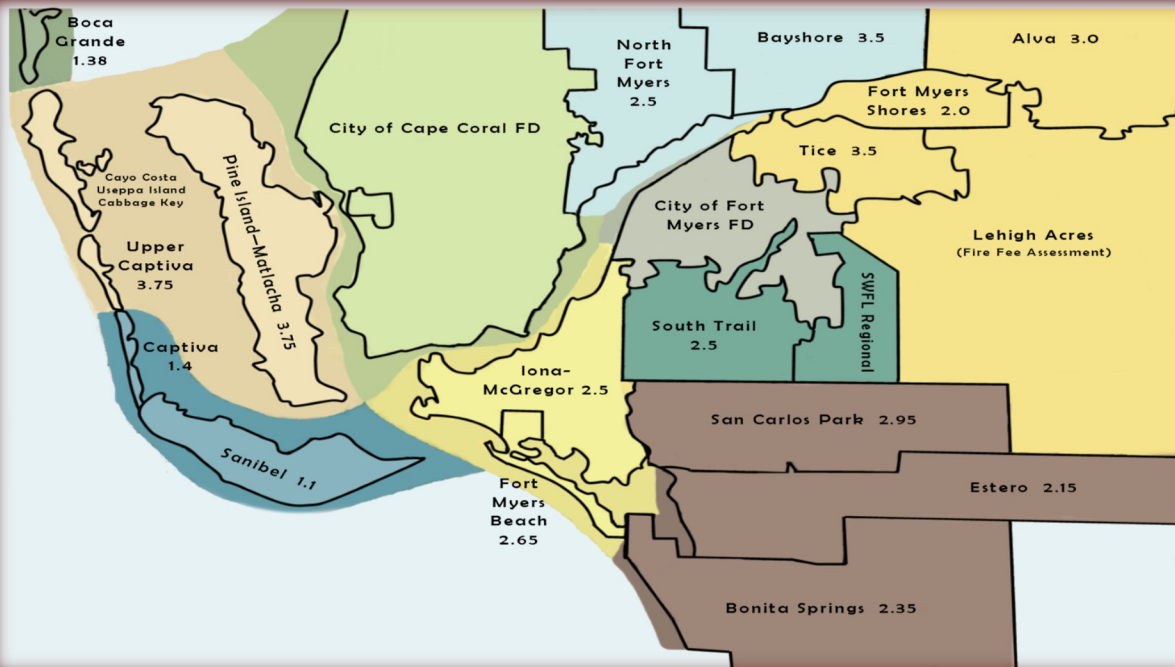
THE FIRE MARK



BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

JAN 2017

FIRE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION INFORMATION



At January's Fire Board Meeting, Fire Chief Joseph V. Daigle addressed the newly proposed legislation of Representative Matt Caldwell regarding the consolidation of the Lee County fire districts. As mentioned by the Chief, the legislation, should it go through, could allow residents within Lee County to create a larger county-wide consolidated fire district. "A ballot question will be asked of all the voters in Lee County in the general election in November of 2018," Chief Daigle went on to explain the bill and how the consolidation will affect the Bonita Springs Fire District.

The position of the Lee County Fire Chief's Association, which includes the Chiefs of the Fire Districts cited in the legislation, will remain neutral. Chief Daigle stated, "Being charged with implementing the fire-rescue services within the boundaries of Bonita Springs, and not the remainder of Lee County, I must diligently review the impact that this legislation may have on our citizens here in Bonita Springs."

The map above demonstrates the multiple fire districts within the County and their various millage rates. According to vote, Bonita Springs may consolidate with any combination of the other fire districts. "It is impossible to calculate these impacts to service here in Bonita Springs with any degree of certainty without knowing who will vote to join this county district," Chief Daigle explained in detail how it is possible that some, not all, of these Districts will be voted to merge. In addition to an unknown impact on taxes to the residents, there is also an unknown impact on services in regards to the dissemination of resources from the Bonita Springs Fire District to the other fire districts in the county.

If the vote prevails in 2018, there would be a grace period of two years where the current fire districts would run as-is and the new county-wide district could be ready to serve in 2020. Chairman of the Fire Board, Steve Lohan, commented, "Out of seventeen special fire districts in Lee County, there are eleven that have a higher millage rate than we do and there is some substantial debt in some of the other districts." He went on to ask, "Once that merger goes through, you set a millage rate and everybody pays the same. Then, are our taxpayers going to pay for stuff that they didn't incur before the consolidation?" Once we understand more about the legislation and who will play a part in the proposed merger, strategic estimates can be made on how the Bonita Springs taxpayers will be affected. At Monday's meeting, the Fire Board voted to not support the merger.



PINNING CEREMONY



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Congratulations to our newly hired Firefighters and newly promoted Lieutenants, Training Captain, and Deputy Chief. Our Pinning Ceremony was memorable, a true milestone in the lives of each of these members of the Bonita Springs Fire District. We thank each of these employees for their dedication to the residents of our District.

BSFD SHARPS PROGRAM



“Sharps” include used syringes with attached needles and disposable lancets. Insulin dependent residents, or those whose medical needs require the use of injected medication, can pick up new sharps containers and safely deposit used containers at each Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District fire stations. Used sharps containers can be deposited at the fire stations **only when firefighters are present to accept the containers**. For safety purposes, it is critical that residents do not leave used containers outside a fire station. The Fire District **does not** accept unused medications. John’s Pharmacy at 9048 Bonita Beach Road has agreed to safely dispose of the discarded medications.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY EVENTS



FEBRUARY EVENTS



CPR/AED CLASS

MARCH EVENTS

