

THE FIRE MARK



BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

MAY 2015

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE FIRE DISTRICT

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District as its own special taxing district. Past and present chiefs and commissioners joined residents of Bonita Springs to celebrate the milestone. The celebration included a guidon ceremony, a ceremony that runs deep in symbolism and heritage. The junior-most firefighter, representing the future of the District, passed the guidon to the senior-most firefighter, the most trusted member of the District. The guidon was then presented to the Fire Chief, who symbolically accepted and maintained responsibility of the District, its missions, and its firefighters.



*Thank you, citizens of Bonita Springs,
for allowing the Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue
District to serve you each and every day. Since 1965, the
District has enjoyed its relationship with and involvement
within the community. The Fire District and all its person-
nel truly take great pride and pleasure in protecting the
beautiful city of Bonita Springs!*



Firefighters posing with the District's first fire engine, circa the 1950's

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

PLANNING FOR THE GROWTH OF BONITA SPRINGS

The Fire District is engaging in a significant level of growth planning. On the horizon is the potential of an additional three person crew to be located on Hickory Island to enhance our all-hazards emergency response to the area. The move can cut response times for a firefighter/paramedics to be on an emergency scene by approximately 50%-80% for many emergencies. Additionally, we are beginning the evaluation process of constructing a station on a Fire District owned site just east of the Village Walk community. The response area for the station will cover approximately 5,000 existing and future residences. Currently, the emergency response time for firefighter/paramedics to the area of East Village Walk and Bonita National is approximately 11- 16 minutes.

MEET THE FIRE CHAPLAIN

Chaplain Chitwood became the District's volunteer chaplain in 2011. One of the core missions of the fire chaplain is to give aid, comfort and help to firefighters, their families, and to the community that the District serves. Bonita Springs firefighters are continually trained on the mechanics of a fire, medical, and other emergency calls. Chaplain Chitwood makes himself available to aid in the emotional and psychological support that they may need afterwards. The chaplain also serves the community by being the support system for patients, victims, and their families during times of difficulty.





FLORIDA: THE LIGHTNING CAPITAL

The Bonita Springs Fire District would like to remind you that lightning can strike at any time. Lightning is particularly dangerous in the summer as afternoon storms can start suddenly when people are engaged in outdoor activities. Remember, if you are close enough to hear lightning or see lightning, it is close enough to strike you. When you first hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter. When inside, avoid corded phones, computers, sinks, baths and faucets, as lightning can travel through electrical equipment and plumbing. Please also stay away from windows, doors and porches.

If you are caught outside without safe shelter nearby...

Don't lie down: If you lie down, an electrical current passing through the ground from a nearby lightning strike can pass right through your body.

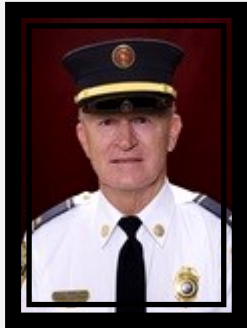
Crouch low: Crouch low so you're not the tallest object around, and at the same time keep your feet close together with your heels touching. This will help the electricity to go in one foot and out the other. Crouch as low to the ground as you can.

Crouch on the balls of your feet: This way, a minimal surface of your body is touching the ground and, if a lightning strike does come through you off the ground, the current will most likely travel up one leg and down the other, *missing* vital organs like your heart.

Cover your ears: Placing your hands over your ears can help minimize hearing loss.

Beware of hair standing on end or skin tingling: These are signs that a lightning strike is imminent. Get into the crouching position immediately if you feel this but be aware that lightning may strike without these warnings.

MILESTONE YEARS OF SERVICE



**Safety Captain
Paul Phillips
10 years**

AWARD-WINNING STAFF

Lieutenant/Paramedic Armand Calzadilla (right) was deemed Firefighter of the Year by the Bonita Springs Veterans of Foreign Wars at their Heroes Luncheon on April 27th! The District also held its own annual awards banquet to recognize some of the most extraordinary employees. Those winners were:



Firefighter of the Year—Jared Carey

EMT of the Year—Jonathan Hernandez

Paramedic of the Year—Giovanni Zamora

Fire Prevention Employee of the Year—Inspector Alan Hogrefe

Civilian Employee of the Year—Admin. Assistant Cheryl Call

Officer of the Year—Lt. Steven Bunn

District Employee of the Year—Public Educator Natalie Hughes



FIREFIGHTERS FOR A DAY

The District hosted two 'Firefighter for a Day' events during the month of April. Both events were auctioned off as certificates, donated by the District, at the Annual Gala for the Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled. The foundation earned \$2,500 at the gala and both firefighters and attendees had wonderful experiences at the events!



MDA BOOT DRIVE DONATION

The Fire District and Local 3444 presented the SWFL Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association with a check for \$27,000! The monumental donation was collected by the firefighters during the annual "Fill-the-Boot-Drive" in March and was a recent record.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY EVENTS



JUNE EVENTS



JULY EVENTS



4TH OF JULY PARADE