ARE YOU PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

The storm’s arrived, you’ve heard the warning...are you prepared? Hurricane season is June 1st through November 30th. To reduce stress and anxiety that a storm may bring, be proactive and plan ahead. Preparation is key to protecting your home, your family and pets.

WATCH vs. WARNING
If a storm has the ability to occur within 48 hours, it’s considered a Hurricane Watch. If it’s expected to hit within 36 hours, it's a Hurricane Warning. If a warning is issued, follow weather updates and emergency instructions. If a warning is issued, evacuate when told to go. Do not linger. It puts your life in danger as well as first responders should you need to be rescued.

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PREPARATION IS THE KEY
When a storm makes landfall, power may be lost. And this means no television to keep you posted on the storm. Make sure you have a battery-powered radio and a smart phone charger. Remember that text or social media may be the only way to communicate during and after a storm. This also may be the only way to contact family that is not with you.

Additionally, do you have the proper supplies to ride out the storm at your home? Before a storm hits, create a disaster kit:

- Medication
- Water (1 gallon per person, per day for three days)
- Non-perishable food, pet food
- Radio
- Batteries
- Flash lights
- First aid kit
- Wrench to cut off utilities
- Local maps
- Can opener
- Cell phone charger (battery powered)
- Gas in your car
- Generator (if possible)

OTHER ITEMS TO PREPARE
Other important preparations include:

- Get flood insurance
- Board up your home
- Take pictures of your home before the storm
- Trim or remove damaged trees
- Buy a portable generator
- Keep your car in good working condition, gas tank full
- Determine if you live in an evacuation area; you need to know your home’s exposure to storm surges, flooding and wind.

AFTER THE STORM
When the storm clears, return home when given the green light by emergency services. Check with family, watch out for debris, never touch a downed power line and do not walk through flood waters. Safety is most important.
RESOURCES

**Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)**
To get prepared, consider joining a CERT class. It is a free, 8-week class, 3 hours per meeting and one night a week. The North Collier Fire CERT team instructs you how to care for yourself, your family and your community in times of emergency. The next class will begin August 12, 2017. For more information check out our website [www.northcollierfire.com](http://www.northcollierfire.com), click on the “community” tab and click on CERT. You can download the application on this page and check out information about upcoming classes.

**Collier County Emergency Services**
If you need access to emergency services following a disaster, the Collier County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) can assist, including contact information for police, hospitals, utilities, fire and other governmental agencies. Collier County Emergency Operations Center Hotline is (239) 252-8444 and their website is [http://bit.ly/collieremergency](http://bit.ly/collieremergency).

**North Collier Fire Facebook Page**
Also, follow North Collier Fire on Facebook. Our District will provide real time information and updates during a disaster to help keep you safe.

Remember, preparation is the key to staying safe this hurricane season.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF**

Wildfire Season came to an abrupt end with flooding rains. Once again, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to our community for your support during a busy and devastating brush fire season. Please join us in transitioning to hurricane season. Just like brush fires, preparation is key. You will find several safety tips within this issue to keep you and your family safe.

It is also important to remember that Orange Tree in the North Collier Fire District is ranked #1 in the nation for the most lighting strikes annually. We ask that you heed the warning of lighting detection devices and seek immediate hard shelter when you see a storm approaching. Lighting can strike in advance of the approaching storm front or rain. Boaters also must be vigilant of rapidly changing weather conditions to prevent being caught at sea during our afternoon storm thunderstorms.

These tips are critical for your safety and the safety of first responders who are requested to respond during these dangerous weather conditions.

James M. Cunningham  
Fire Chief
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month’s employee spotlight goes to David Bellamy. But let’s be serious, he would have rather the bulb burned out. After 33 years of service with the District, Bellamy retired and did not want to be recognized. But where is the fun in that? We tracked down those closest to him and pried out information. They chose to speak on promise of anonymity.

“Bellamy does not like the spotlight,” explained a crew member. “He was a well-respected leader who started the District’s Technical Rescue and Hazmat teams. He always put his team members first.”

Bellamy began working for the District in 1984. At that time, it was called North Naples Fire Department, but would become North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District in 2015. Bellamy joined the team as a fire fighter but was quickly promoted to an engineer position three years later. He went on to become a Lieutenant, Captain, temporary Ops Chief and a Battalion Chief.

Bellamy was a huge asset to the District, and friends say he was always quick to push the spotlight or hero title away. His main focus was on his team. “He was calm on scenes,” said one team member, “he was very level headed.”

Bellamy retired in June as a Battalion Chief. Thank you David for all of your hard work and for making this article hard to write. You are appreciated and will be missed.

ARTHREX VIDEO SHOOT FEATURES NORTH COLLIER FIREFIGHTER

It was 8 a.m. Mike Spicuzza’s 24-hour shift just ended, but he knew he would stick around the station. The lights were set-up, the cameras ready to roll and the fire trucks staged in the background. Arthrex’s team was at Station 45 to do a story shoot with Mike; it featured an Arthrex InternalBrace placed in his ankle.

“The Arthrex InternalBrace cut down my recovery time from 13 to 5 weeks. I was doing physical therapy one week after getting out of surgery—compared to being in an aircast for two months with my other ankle injury. I was extremely excited and pumped I was able to get back on the fire truck as quick as I did!”

Four hours in and Mike’s shoot was over. We look forward to watching Arthrex’s final product.
LIFE SAVING AWARDS

Nine crews were given a Life Saving Award recognizing their efforts during intense moments that meant life or death for a patient they were assisting. The crews were recognized on May 11th in front of the North Collier Fire Board of Commissioners.

ALS procedures are performed on patients suffering from cardiac arrest, heart attack, stroke, respiratory ailments, overdose, trauma and more. In 2016, North Collier Fire responded to 10,787 medical calls including vehicle crashes. The administration of life saving medication on scene is critical and is increasing each year with 818 medical administrations in 2016 compared to 588 the year prior. In addition, 3,989 Advanced Life Support (ALS) procedures were performed on patients in 2016 compared to 2,555 in the year prior and 278 in 2010. The need for Basic Life Support (BLS) procedures is rising with 4,170 performed in 2016 compared to 1,616 the year prior.

In critical moments, these procedures are the difference between life and death. North Collier Fire has been licensed by the State of Florida to provide Advanced Life Support Services since 2011. Each year, the District is issued a Certificate of Need (CON) by the County that allows it to implement these advanced lifesaving procedures.

CIT GRADUATION

As a District, we are proud and extremely grateful to our CIT graduates. CIT stands for Crisis Intervention Team, and is a 40-hour training program designed to improve the way law enforcement and the community respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis.

As first responders—fire fighters and medics—our personnel experience extreme traumas first hand on a weekly basis. As many try to shake off devastating encounters, it’s burned into their memory. This program is vital to all our first responder’s mental health and stresses. We are proud to be a part of the CIT program and committed to pursuing avenues to create the best mental health program for our staff at North Collier Fire and Rescue.
PHOENIX AWARDS

In a building on Lely Cultural Parkway, nearly 100 first responders gathered to be recognized for their quick efforts that saved a life. Among the first responders sat some of those patients who faced death but were saved. In emotional moments at the microphone, Collier residents told their story and thanked the crews face-to-face. Please join North Collier Fire in honoring the first responders in our District who received awards for their valiant efforts.

North Collier Fire Phoenix Award Recipients

FF Anthony Aguilera
ENG. Mark Barry
Eng. Shane Brinson
FF Jesus Cabezas
Eng. Giovanni Campobasso
FF Chandler Craft
FF Cory Denton
FF Jesse DeWitt
BC Albert Duffy
BC Erik Espineta
FF Thomas Gallagher
Eng. Justin Gibson
Lt. Dustin Gourley
FF Richard Graham
FF Robert Hardy
Lt. Jonathan Hise

Eng. John Huckeby
Eng. Bret Jameyson
Eng. Dennis Kerr
Lt. Josh Kirk
FF Nick Kompinski
FF Felipe Lamay
FF David Laurich
Lt. Scott Leonard
Eng. Brent Loewel
Lt. Robert Loewel
Eng. Bryan Lopez
Eng. Alvin Marte
Capt. Jason McCormick
FF Mario Mendoza-Aboytes
Eng. Mark Miller
Lt. Bill Moss

Lt. Dave Nelson
Eng. Christopher Perry
FF Christopher Power
FF Manny Romero
FF Tyler Ronco
FF Jeffrey Simonson
BC Robert Smith
FF Michael Spano
Eng. Joseph Squittieri
Lt. Nickolas Stolts
FF William Szczepkowski
FF Colton Wienk
FF Victor Yedra
**CYPRESS WOODS ARSON FIRES**

It was Memorial Day weekend when our crews arrived to find a Cypress Woods community building engulfed in flames. The structure housed restrooms; it was a total loss. As investigators arrived on scene, they learned this was not the only strange fire to happen in the community over the weekend. When the facts were complete, investigators uncovered a total of six fires had been set in a 96-hour period. Ruled as arson, the fires were set in bathrooms and trash cans in the Cypress Woods Community.

A week passed, and the investigation continued. Fire Chief James Cunningham set up a special HOA meeting with Cypress Woods residents to address the community’s growing concern. More than 50 residents attended along with the Collier County Sheriff’s Office.

The investigation is ongoing. If you have any information into who is responsible, please contact our Investigator Andy Marfongella at 239-877-4786.

**JONES MINING MULCH FIRE OUT**

After more than a month, the mulch fire at Environmental Turnkey Solutions is officially out. It began in late April and burned through early June.

We worked the fire in phases. Crews contained it to the property, reduced smoke and requested the business help during the mitigation process. To ensure compliance, we visited the site daily and implemented video documentation missions via aerial drone on a bi-weekly basis. North Collier Fire along with Collier County Code Enforcement and other regulatory agencies will continue to work with the business to ensure compliance with all local and state regulations.

**NEW SQUADS ARRIVE**

On June 16th, shiny, brand new squads pulled into Station 45. The [ambulance] squads, manufactured by Braun, will be used to respond to medical calls. North Collier Fire and Rescue treats patients at the scene. In addition to the squads, North Collier Fire has medics/firefighters on board each fire engine. Our teams are certified to perform ALS (Advanced Life Saving) on scene. The certification given by Collier County allows our medics to administer lifesaving drugs or medications on scene while waiting for transport to the hospital. It’s saving lives in Collier County.
LIGHTNING FIRE

On June 12th, a caller reported hearing a loud boom followed by smoke and flames. North Collier Fire and Rescue responded to the home on Caribbean Way and found a gazebo in the backyard of the home on fire. The structure was destroyed along with the furniture on it. Lightning was determined to be the cause.

MOTORIZED PADDLE BOARD DONATION

A huge thank you to WaveJet Of Florida for donating a motorized paddleboard to our District to help save lives on the water. It is the newest, quickest way to pull distressed swimmers out of the water. Beach patrol tested the different types of motorized paddleboards to decide which would work best for our needs. We look forward to bringing it on board and making it a part of our beach patrol!
WOMAN TRAPPED; CAR INTO CANAL

On June 15th, two cars collided near the intersection of Livingston Road and Immokalee Road leaving one woman trapped in her car on the edge of a canal.

The woman was taking a left onto Immokalee Road from Livingston Road. As she turned, another car coming in the opposite direction took a right onto Immokalee Road. Both cars collided, hit the guard rail sending one woman’s car flying over the canal and landing backwards partially in the water. Inside the car the woman was trapped. Our crews arrived and cut her out using the Jaws of Life. She was transported to the hospital as a trauma alert.

One of her family members reached out through Facebook saying “THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY MOTHER’S LIFE!”

NORTH COLLIER FIRE SURVEY

North Collier Fire is asking the community to take a moment and fill out a survey for the District. North Collier Fire is seeking to obtain status as an Internationally Accredited Fire Rescue Agency by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

This accreditation program is a comprehensive self-assessment and evaluation model that enables fire and emergency service organizations to examine past, current and future service levels and performance and compares them to industry best practices. This process leads to improved service delivery by helping fire departments determine community risk and safety needs, evaluate the performance of the department, and establish a method to achieve continuous organizational improvement. This survey is an integral component to our accreditation process.

To take the survey go to: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/58V9BJS](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/58V9BJS) or log onto our website at [www.northcollierfire.com](http://www.northcollierfire.com), click on the red box on the right hand side labeled “Complete Our Survey”. When asked for the control number, please enter your five-digit zip code.

If at any time you have a problem or a question about the survey, please contact Deputy Chief Rita Greenberg at 239-552-1321 or Administrative Assistant Kim Crawford at 239-552-1356.
BEAR CREEK SHOE GIVE-A-WAY

Tiny feet marched in one by one; their minds filled with anticipation. It had been nearly one month since their families lost everything. On May 8th, more than a dozen apartments were destroyed or damaged by a building fire at the Bear Creek apartments. Twenty days later, the families’ children all sat in the community’s clubhouse waiting on a brand new, free pair of shoes.

It would be the Naples Bay Rotary giving the shoes to the kids; the Naples Bay Rotary’s mission is to provide brand new free shoes to kids in need in Collier County. Alongside the first responders including North Collier Fire and the Collier County Sheriff’s Office, the Rotary called up the children one by one handing them a shoe box. As each child opened it, their face lit up and with a smile, they whispered ‘thank you’.

PUSH IN CEREMONY

It was a Saturday, and Station 10 was packed with people. The crowd gathered on May 20th to welcome a new engine into service. The ceremony is centuries old and commemorates the times when fire trucks were pulled by horses. Each day the crews would have to wash it down before pushing it back into the station. After the ceremony, it’s exactly what the Station 10 crew did—they washed the engine and pushed it back into the station where it was officially called into service.
HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS

June 1st represents the beginning of Hurricane Season which runs through November 30. Throughout the month of June, we will share information, tips and trends about hurricanes and how to best be prepared the 2017 Hurricane Season.

For our residents who have just moved to our community, let’s start with the difference between a tropical depression, a tropical storm and a hurricane?

A tropical depression forms when a low pressure area is accompanied by thunderstorms producing a circular wind flow with maximum sustained winds below 39 mph. Most tropical depressions have maximum sustained winds between 25 and 35 mph.

An upgrade into a tropical storm occurs when cyclonic circulation becomes more organized and maximum sustained winds gust consistently at or above 39 mph, and no higher than 73 mph. Tropical storm status is when the naming of the storm takes place.

A tropical storm is then upgraded into Category 1 hurricane status as maximum sustained winds increase to between 74 mph and 95 mph.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is used to rate hurricane intensity in the Atlantic Basin. A 1-5 rating system is used, with Category 1 being a less intense storm and Category 5 very intense.

Check www.weather.gov for more information.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

With Hurricane Season upon us and the recent wet weather causing power outages, we wanted to share important safety tips about the proper use of a generator. Portable generators are useful during power outages.

We would like to remind our residents that the improper use of portable generators can cause serious injury even death. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire hazards. Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Keep these devices outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home.
SERVING OUR SENIORS (S.O.S)

We need YOU. S.O.S is a phenomenal volunteer program focused on providing for our seniors. North Collier Fire is looking for more seniors in need of assistance with groceries. If you cannot shop for yourself, we will assist, picking up and delivering the groceries to your front door. Here is how the program works:

Overview:
S.O.S. is a program under the jurisdiction of the North Collier Fire Department. It consists of a group of volunteers who assist our clients with their grocery needs by providing home delivery for those seniors who can no longer shop for themselves.

Background:
This program grew out of the current CERT program back in October, 2002. Since that time, it has serviced over 80 senior citizens, allowing them to enjoy independent living. For many years, we've served 9 to 12 clients per week resulting in approximately 1,600 annual deliveries. Recently, however, due the loss of several clients within a short period of time, we are now down to 4 active SOS clients, putting this valuable program in jeopardy.

Geographic Requirements for Service:
Clients must reside within the following boundaries- North of Creech Road; South of Bonita Beach Road; West of Logan Blvd and East of the Gulf of Mexico.

Client Requirements for service:
The SOS program is based upon the physical need of seniors in our area. Upon requesting participation, the individual is interviewed by our volunteer team. Determination is based upon the individual's inability to shop for him or herself. Usually this means the loss of a driver’s license and/or vehicle concurrent with the lack of a relative or friend in the area who can shop for the applicant.

Registering the Client:
Upon passing the requirements for participation, the client is read our “Contract With Our Clients” wherein explanation is provided in what the SOS team will do for them and what is expected from them in return. Once that is agreed upon, all of the client's contact information will then be recorded and, subsequently, the client will be entered onto our “Call List,” thus, completing the registration process.

Current SOS Procedures:
Each of our clients is contacted every Monday morning and their grocery needs are recorded. These “orders” are then taken to the North Collier Fire Station 45 where each order is entered in our computer system and then faxed to the Publix in Riverchase. Publix then completes the orders for Tuesday or Wednesday deliveries. A Volunteer team picks up the orders from Publix and delivers them to our clients. Following the client’s review and acceptance of the order, the volunteers obtain a check (or cash) from the senior for the amount owed. When all orders for that day have been completed, the volunteers deliver the payments to Publix and check out for the day.

Current problem:
Although this program has been working remarkably well over the past almost 15 years, we now have a problem: within the last few months, we’ve gone from 9 participating clients to only 4. Three passed away and two have moved out of our area (i.e., meeting medical or family requirements). We have therefore scaled back to only one day per week deliveries. This has the potential of us losing some of our wonderful volunteers who are the heart of SOS.

Problem Resolution Attempts:
We have spoken to our participating Publix several times, requesting they contact us for any person they see who is in need of our services. We have also been in contact with temples and churches in our area to do likewise. The Jewish Federation of Collier County has been notified of our search and I’ve personally spoken to a group called “Comfort Keepers” and requested they contact us if they see any of their clients who might benefit from our services. I’ve even requested our former leader, Jerry Sanford (who shops at that Publix) to inform us if he sees any potential SOS clients. To date, none of these contacts has brought us any leads.

Caveat:
Everyone who has participated in this program is aware of its value to our seniors. However, we walk a very tight rope in that, if more people were aware of this program, it could actually expand dramatically. Thus, if we broadcast our need via the Naples Daily News or TV, we could be so swamped that Publix and our volunteers would be overwhelmed.

So now we come to you for your assistance in helping to keep this extremely valuable program moving ahead.

For more information e-mail Christina Silverman at csilverman@northcollierfire.com.