

# SAN CARLOS PARK FIRE DISTRICT



# FIRE HOUSE NEWS



COMMUNITY EDITION ~

2008-2009 WINTER ISSUE

~ COMMUNITY EDITION

## Seasonal Safety: Brushfires

Florida is home to millions of residents who enjoy the state's beautiful scenery and warm climate. But few people realize that these qualities also create severe wildfire conditions.

Brushfires start all the time along our roadways. These brushfires are normally caused by careless smokers who throw cigarettes out the window of a vehicle or those who haphazardly throw them on the ground. In fact, according to the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, over 70% of brushfires are caused by people. Please be aware, there are laws against throwing a cigarette out of a vehicle or onto the ground. If you choose to smoke in your vehicle, please USE YOUR ASH TRAY and don't empty it at the stop light.

Although we can prevent the majority of brushfires, a number of them are caused by factors out of our control. Be aware these fires may threaten your home. Many homes have been destroyed or damaged due to a lack of yard maintenance. The Division of Forestry recommends the following tips to help protect you and your home in the event of a brushfire:

- Maintain a 30 foot buffer around the home (free from leaves and other debris, with trees trimmed back from the home). If you have pine trees keep the

needles clear of the roof and surrounding areas. Just remember: "Lean, Clean and Green" Landscaping.

- Remove combustibles such as wood, propane tanks, gas grills, boats, ATVs and cars from under or near your home.
- Have a driveway at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet to provide access to emergency vehicles.
- Use fire-resistant construction on both the roof and the exterior of your home.
- Use fire-resistant attachments. These include any structure connected to your home such as decks, porches or fences.
- Have a disaster plan well in advance of a brushfire and practice it on a regular basis with your whole family.

San Carlos Park Fire District has recently been receiving an elevated number of calls for illegal burns. Please remember if you have trash and yard waste pick-up, burning is not permitted on your property.

Please assist us in keeping our residents safe during this brushfire season by doing your part to prevent brushfires.

## Did you know?

Defensible space allows firefighters room to put out fires.

Evacuations due to a wildfire can occur without notice. When wildfire conditions exist, be alert.

Although mulch helps retain moisture, when dry, it can become flammable. Mulch, as well as all landscaping should be kept well watered to prevent it from becoming fire fuel.

Something as simple as making sure that your gutters, eaves and roof are clear of debris can reduce your fire threat.

## FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Mary Lou Garofalo  
 Everett Glover  
 Lawrence Sweeney  
 Terry Dettmar  
 Grant Schwalbe

## A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF NAT IPPOLITO

I am proud to announce Firefighter Kolin Manning was awarded "Firefighter of the Year" and Administrative Secretary Jennifer Bossi was awarded "District Employee of the Year". Both were honored at the 2008 Awards Banquet for going above and beyond the call of duty and exemplifying the District's mission. Also receiving awards were: Firefighter Brian Dubrasky, Lieutenant Gene Rison, Lieutenant Ernie Hand, Inspector McClure "Gunny" Mathews, Firefighter Joe Hrabak, and Firefighter Mike Asselin.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SEASONAL SAFETY	1
CHIEF'S MESSAGE	1
SECRET SANTA	2
VALOR 5K	2
UPCOMING EVENT	2
FACTS AND FIGURES	2

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Visit [www.sancarlosfire.org](http://www.sancarlosfire.org)

**SEASON FOR CARING**

San Carlos Park Fire District continued a 26 year tradition this year with their Annual Secret Santa Program. For more than a quarter of a century SCPFD has spread holiday cheer to the less fortunate. Each year Station 53's conference room becomes "Santa's Workshop" where friends, neighbors and the fire district join together to collect toys that are then wrapped and distributed to a multitude of needy families. This year 191 families and 906 children received gifts. "The program has grown each year, and with that so have the hearts and giving of our community." said Chief Nat Ippolito. It is truly with the help of those who donate gifts, money and time that needy families in San Carlos Park Fire District are assured a Merry Christmas.

Thank you to San Carlos Park-Estero Kiwanis Club, San Carlos Park Civic Association, Miromar Lakes Women's Group, San Carlos Park Fire District CERT team, Estero Country Club at the Vines, and each member of our community for your assistance this year.



**FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY EAGLE VALOR 5K**

The San Carlos Park Fire District in conjunction with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and Estero Fire Rescue will hold the 1st Florida Gulf Coast University Eagle Valor 5K Road Race and Trail Run on April 18th on the campus of FGCU.

The event will benefit families of fallen Firefighters and Police Officers in Lee County. The Valor 5K will feature something for everyone, as this event is one of the few which offer both a road race and a trail run. To join your local fire-fighters in either race this April please contact the fire district for more information at 267-7525.

We look forward to running for Valor with you to support the families of those who have given their lives to protect this great community. See you on April 18th!



**UPCOMING EVENT**

Join us at the San Carlos Park Civic Association Annual Spaghetti Drive-thru dinner on April 17th.

Visit SCPFD Station 51 located on Sanibel Blvd. between 4 and 8 pm to pick up a delicious meal prepared by San Carlos Park's own firefighters.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for this great fundraiser. Please call the Civic Association at 590-6901 for more information on purchasing your tickets!

Sept. 22,  
2008-  
December  
20, 2008

Rescue/  
EMS:66%

Fire: 4%

Service: 8%

Hazardous  
Conditions:  
3%

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

