



THE BOTTOM LINE



KEEPING YOU INFORMED.

The Perfect Recipe For Fire

BATTLING THE DRY WEATHER

With humidity dangerously low, and even drier soil, the weather conditions in the month of May instigated a series of fires across Collier County. This posed such a serious threat that the Collier County Board of Commissioners issued a burn ban. Violators of this ban were to be fined up to \$15,000 for illegal burning of yard waste and other prohibited materials. Burning yard waste in poor conditions has been a repetitive mistake, which has had devastating outcomes. It only takes a few embers from a yard burn to spiral into a life threatening brush fire.

The Golden Gate Estates area is no stranger to wildfires during this time of year. The dense brush and vegetation of the surrounding area makes it especially susceptible to threats from the hot, dry weather. The warm weather and low humidity during our dry season provided the perfect weather to instigate fast growing brush fires. Most notably, the 14th Avenue fire that flared up around May 22nd grew up to 900 acres before it was contained on May 28th. Multiple agencies were a great help in achieving containment of this fire, especially the Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), whose air operations were critical to putting out the fire as fast as possible. The CCSO Huey dumped over 250 buckets of water onto the 14th Avenue fire alone. Each bucket is around 242 gallons, meaning that over 60,000 gallons of water were used to diffuse the fire! This fire was accompanied by multiple other flare ups in the area; however, the 14th Avenue was the largest fire that was contained this wildfire season. The District urges the community to be prepared and cautious year-round, as our geography and climate makes the area especially fire-prone.



IN THIS ISSUE

WATER DAY AT BIG CYPRESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GOODBYE WILDFIRE SEASON, HELLO HURRICANE SEASON

RECOGNIZING RECENTLY PROMOTED EMPLOYEES

COMMUNITY CORNER

Everyone’s Favorite Day of the Year

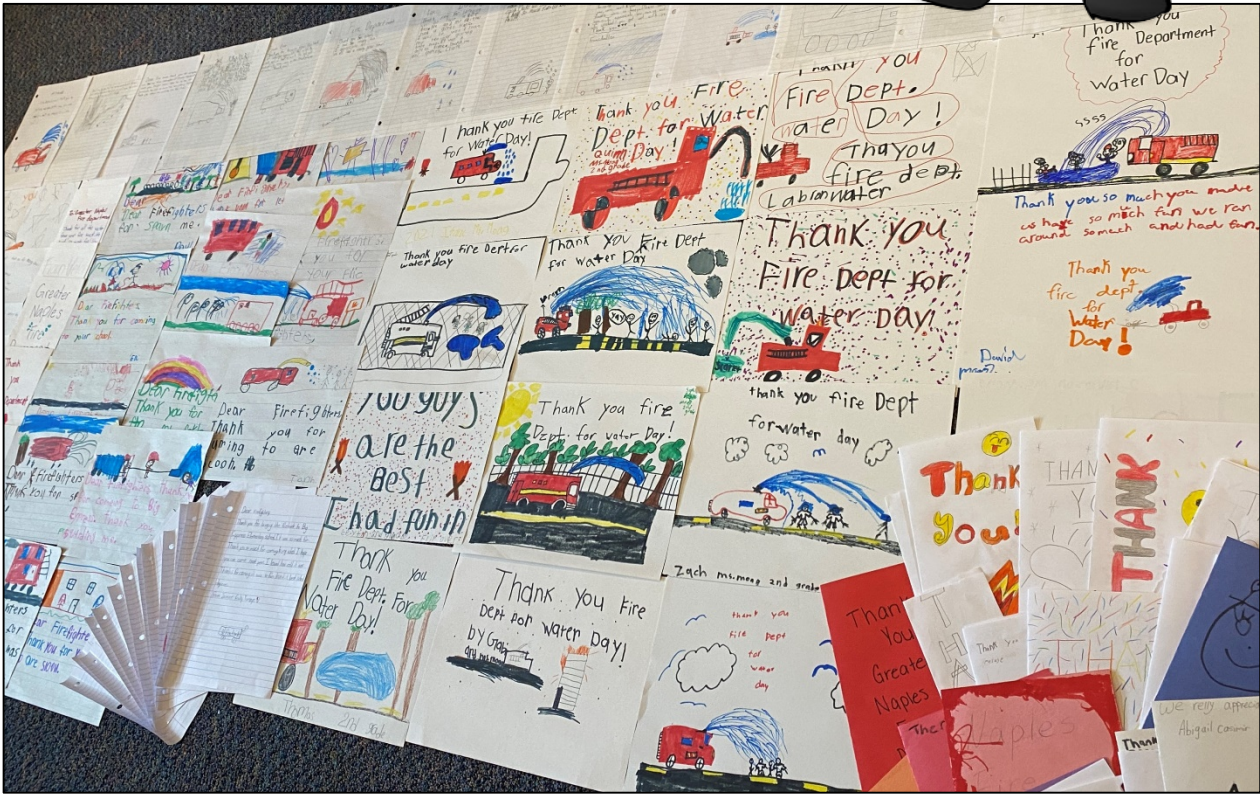
Water Day at Big Cypress Elementary

KICKING OFF SUMMER RIGHT



BCE students splashing around in the water from Engine 71 amidst the summer heat.

It’s no surprise that the tradition of “Water Day” at local schools is a student favorite. On this day, students get to enjoy an afternoon full of different water activities to cool off from the summer heat. Crews were thrilled to be part of Big Cypress Elementary water day, on June 9th, where 900 students got to splash around under the rain from Engine 71. After the day was over, crews returned with beautiful letters from BCE students, thanking the firefighters for coming. Thank you to the individuals who helped provide such a fun afternoon for these well-deserving students!



Letters from Big Cypress Elementary School students thanking firefighters for coming to water day.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Emergency Medical Services Event

BRIDGE PREP ACADEMY

Knowledge is the gift that keeps on giving! Firefighters never fail to inspire youth with their extensive safety knowledge and high intensity experiences. The big red truck full of cool tools also helps to draw in a crowd of enthusiastic students. Crews participated in Bridge Prep Academy’s fire and emergency medical services event on May 7th. Multiple agencies around the community gathered to participate in this event and teach students about the roles and responsibilities of different types of first responders. GNFD firefighters demonstrated different tools and gave students great insight on what it means to be a firefighter. They were even given GNFD fire hats and made honorary members of the District! A special thank you to Bridge Prep Academy for giving us a chance to talk to the community’s future first responders!



Bridge Prep Academy students gather for a safety lesson from firefighters.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Living with Integrity

A Lesson on Navigating Circumstances with Right Thoughts and Actions

CHAPLAIN JACK STROM



With the echo of the Celebration (7/4) for our continuing “Independence” still ringing in our ears... let’s embrace our Liberty / Freedom. It’s a personal challenge to make it our responsibility to protect this legacy and pass it on to the generation that follows us. Each year on the birthday of our nation, my concern is that all of us are hopeful for our future to continue to be, “One Nation under God with Liberty and Justice for all!”

The MISSION of the GNFD Team is to “Protect Life and Property by Providing Emergency Response Services and Education for Residents, Businesses and Visitors of our Community.” This we do by fulfilling our VALUES of Professionalism ~ Integrity ~ Compassion.

GNFD’s Mission and Values is filled with important words. The one word that stands out to me the most is found with our Values... it is the word “Integrity!” It is not a gift to be received but rather it is earned by living right so that your “**WORD**” is one and the same as your “**Bond.**” It needs no defense - it only needs someone to live truth as a way of life. It is an attribute that sustains right thoughts and actions along the perilous journey of GNFD.

At the same time that we are striving to carry out the Mission and Values of GNFD... you and I are striving to navigate the troubled waters on the sea of life through the storm of circumstances. Although we can’t change the direction of the wind, we can adjust the set of the “sail” on our boat of life and make it through the storm.

Along with our Mission and Values we need to do our part with an embracing countenance. With birth, God gave each of us a face... but we must furnish our own countenance. Smiles or frowns cost us nothing, but the value difference is enormous.

The message on our face says a lot...even if you don’t speak a word to people. You communicate joy, sadness, fear, hatred, acceptance, rejection... and much more. It is easy to forget this. If nothing is spoken, it is often thought that nothing has been said. In fact, your face can communicate even more than your mouth.

So, make a conscious decision to wear a good face, one that reflects that you are pleased to see the person you are facing.

In my office I have an artist’s portrait sketch of Jesus laughing. Each morning I sense its warm greeting to me as I commit myself to have a happy countenance. My commitment connects me with my family, friends and those I work with. Some are hurting people that have taught me how to smile through tears... reminding me that a smile is a curve that puts things straight.



HURRICANE PREPARDNESS CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Plan an evacuation route well ahead of time. This way, you can be aware of nearby shelters and account for pets in your plan.
- ☐ Keep non-perishable emergency supplies on hand. When a hurricane warning is issued, people run for the stores, so getting ahead of the rush is instrumental to getting adequate supplies.
- ☐ Take an inventory of your personal property to ensure you have purchased enough insurance to replace your personal possessions. This will also help speed up the claims process and substantiate losses for income tax purposes.
- ☐ Review your insurance policies. It is a good idea to understand your coverage and whether its adequate to repair or rebuild your home, if necessary.
- ☐ Take steps to protect your home. Replacing old windows, cutting down weak tress & branches, installing storm shutters, and replacing gravel and rock landscaping with mulch are great ways to protect your home from damage during a storm.

SAFETY FIRST

Out with the Old, In with the New

Say Goodbye to Wildfire Season & Hello to Hurricane Season

PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON 2021

After a treacherous battle with the environment throughout wildfire season, the weather begins to transition into the scattered summer showers that will help to re-saturate land. However, June 1st begins Hurricane Season, which is projected to bring much more than just scattered showers. According to the National Weather Advisory, there are 17 named storms expected for the 2021 hurricane season, 8 of which will become hurricanes. This reality makes it crucial to properly prepare for what is to come. Many residents scramble to put their shutters up and prepare their house and family at the last minute. Taking initiative can make the difference between being put in an emergency situation and safely avoiding one. To minimize the impact of a storm, you can use the Hurricane Preparedness Checklist to the right to guide you in establishing safety plans for your home and your family.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Promotions

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING WORK

There are many qualities that make a good leader. Whether the leader of a few or many, these qualities are unwavering. The District prides itself on 3 important qualities in particular: professionalism, integrity, and compassion. There are many employees who have exceeded the boundaries of these characteristics and have established a new standard for themselves and those around them. We recognize these individuals and celebrate their promotions so that their contagious work ethic can have a better platform to inspire other employees. It goes without saying that the contributions of these individuals have made a tremendous impact on the day-to-day operations of the District. We look forward to the continued success of our recently promoted employees and celebrate their exemplary job performance.



Chris Diaz promoted to Battalion Chief being pinned by his family.



Jason Bright promoted to Battalion Chief being pinned by his wife.



Forrest Campbell promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations being pinned by his son.



Andy Krajewski promoted to Assistant Chief of Training being pinned by his family.



Ray Kilmer promoted to Lieutenant being pinned by Lieutenant Marty Good.



Kevin Schoch and Brian Heath promoted to Battalion Chiefs.



Justin Humphrey promoted to Driver Engineer.



Mario Castaneda promoted to Driver Engineer being pinned by his wife.



Romain Favier promoted to Driver Engineer being pinned by his mom.



Manny Morales promoted to Driver Engineer being pinned by his wife.



Community Immunization

AN UPDATE ON THE CONTINUED EFFORTS OF THE DISTRICT

After more than a year of getting used to a new reality, living amidst a pandemic, the COVID-19 vaccine has kick-started the country in getting back to normal. While the virus may not be going away anytime soon, the community stands stronger than ever fighting against contracting it. We cannot express our gratitude enough for all of the first responders that have helped Collier County become over 61% vaccinated. Since half of our firefighters are also certified paramedics, they have played a crucial role in expanding vaccine administration across the District. After the implementation of our program in March to help interested groups and living communities get the vaccine, the District has helped vaccinate several communities. The mask mandate in Collier County expired in April; however, masks are still recommended for non-vaccinated individuals. Current CDC guidelines also reflect recommendations for avoiding large gatherings when possible and has transitioned to suggesting consideration of risk levels when attending or hosting events. As for operations, the District continues to follow safety protocol when assisting potential COVID-19 patients. We are glad to work together with the community to bounce back from COVID-19.



Fire Chief Sapp stopping in to say hello to GNFD's paramedics administering COVID-19 vaccines at the South Regional Library.



Paramedics administering COVID-19 vaccines at the South Regional Library.

COMMUNITY HEROES

Protective Paws

MEET THE PUPPIES TRAINING TO SAVE LIVES



This special group of dogs are training to become heroes! These future service dogs will assist their future owners by alerting them or others when an emergency situation presents itself. Crews at Station 75 were thrilled at the chance to take part in helping these dogs develop an awareness for loud sirens and the bulky uniforms they will encounter. Service dogs help approximately 80 million Americans! It is crucial that these dogs are properly trained to remain calm and look out for certain signs so that their owner can be helped out when needed. Topaz Assistance Dogs is a nonprofit organization that places highly skilled Assistance Dogs for Individuals with Epilepsy, Type 1 Diabetes, Mobility-Related Disabilities and Children on the Autism Spectrum. Firefighters exposed the dogs to full dress, sirens, and horns during their time at the station. The dog pictured below, Ziva, is a hearing alert service dog. She did an amazing job of recognizing sirens and was even able to alert Janine Shea from the Topaz team, when her



phone was ringing amidst the sirens blaring! Crews look forward to helping with this training again soon.

FIRE RESCUE

Pet Rescue

SAVING ANIMALS INVOLVED IN FIRES

Any fire is chaotic as it is. However, when you factor in pets to an emergency situation, it becomes much more complicated. An important part of being prepared for a fire is having a plan for your pet. This can mean anything from keeping pets near entrances when you leave home so firefighters can easily find them, or having their collar and leash ready to go. But what happens when things don't go according to plan? When the unthinkable happens and pets are trapped inside a building or home on fire, there is particular protocol firefighters must follow to save our furry friends. Of course, firefighters must focus on saving human lives first and foremost. However, when conditions are favorable, firefighters will do their best to save an animal. Each year pet owners go to great lengths to save their pets lives, which can end up costing

their own. It's important to weigh the magnitude of a situation in order to ensure everyone's safety. Rescuing animals trapped in a fire should be left to the professionals. The pet Chihuahua pictured on the right was saved from a house fire in April. Firefighters and EMS used pet oxygen masks that were donated by the Verona Walk Community to treat this puppy and expel any smoke from his lungs. Pet oxygen masks are used to resuscitate animals by offering a continuous and accurate direct flow of pure oxygen, making recovery quicker and more effective. The rubber seal at the base of these masks forces the mouth shut and delivers the oxygen directly into the nostrils. Having the right equipment on hand is vital to resuscitating pets from smoke asphyxiation. We are extremely grateful for donations like these that are put to great use!



Crews working with EMS to resuscitate a Chihuahua that was involved in a house fire.