



City of Marco Island

Date: September 18, 2023
To: City Council
From: Fire Rescue Chief Chris Byrne
Through: Mike McNees, City Manager
Re: Fire Rescue Monthly Report

Hurricane Idalia

Tropical Storm Idalia paralleled the Marco Island coast on August 29th bringing gusty winds, heavy rainfall, and isolated power outages. Fortunately, we were spared any significant damage. Collier County and City staff are assessing coastal erosion damage including damage to the recently completed Tigertail Lagoon project. Hurricane Idalia provided City staff with our first experience utilizing the City's Emergency Operations Center which exceeded our expectations.

Division Chiefs

The Departments Division Chiefs, who serve as shift commanders, have filed a petition with the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) to become members of the bargaining unit for collective bargaining purposes. In consultation with the City's labor attorney, it was determined to be in the best interest of the City to not contest the petition. The Division Chiefs will be reclassified to the rank of Battalion Chief which better defines their shift commander position. This change is consistent with the City's police sergeants who are also included in the police bargaining unit.

Executive Director of Public Safety

Collier County has hired Mike Choate, Fire Chief of Immokalee Fire Rescue Department, to serve as Executive Director of Public Safety. As Director he is responsible for Collier County EMS and Emergency Management. The EMS Chief and Emergency Management Director are his direct reports. Chief Choate has extensive experience leading Fire-based EMS systems. He was previously Fire Chief of Polk County Florida. I anticipate significant change to occur under Chief Choate's leadership.

Fire Marshal

The Department completed interviews of Fire Marshal applicants during August. A conditional offer of employment has been provided to one of the candidates. The position has been vacant since May. An announcement will be provided in September.

High Water Vehicle

The Department has received the High-Water vehicle which was donated by the Gary Sinise Foundation. This Department now has two (2) high-water units, one housed at each fire station. This unit was utilized to recon flooded areas during Hurricane Idalia.



Collier County Public Safety Radio System

The Fire Chiefs attended a meeting with Collier County staff on August 10th to be informed of the planned upgrade of the County's Public Safety 800 MHz radio system. The system upgrade will add tower sites, create a loop system, expand the coverage eastward due to growth, improve in-building penetration and provide resiliency through hardening of the microwave sites. This upgrade changes the radio system backbone from L3 Harris to Motorola. The change to Motorola will provide improved technology to the system by expanding the capabilities of the current County CAD. The upgrade is a 43M dollar project with an 18-24 month build time. There are no costs being passed on to the City.

Strike Team

In accordance with the State Emergency Response Plan, a Strike Team of Fire Engines from Collier County was deployed to North Florida to provide fire and EMS services to communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia. The City of Marco Island Engine 50 with four (4) firefighters is currently providing service in Suwanee County. Deployment costs, including back-fill overtime, is reimbursed by the State of Florida.



Public Education/Community Outreach

- The Department hosted two (2) CPR Classes during August certifying 13 citizens in CPR / AED
- Captain Clemmons instructed a "Stop the Bleed" course to the teachers at Marco Island Academy prior to the start of the school year.
- Fire Inspectors and Operations staff toured the Marco Island Charter Middle School prior to the start of the school year.

Items of Interest

- Chief Byrne conducted a Lunch & Learn to City Staff reviewing Hurricane preparedness & response.
- The interim Fire Marshal and Fire Chief met with the Building Department to develop the expedited permitting process for fire alarm and sprinkler systems. The process is in accordance with new state statutes.
- Chief Byrne attended the annual International Associations of Fire Chiefs Conference
- Deputy Chief Marshall attended the Collier County Fire Chiefs Operations and Communications Committee meetings
- Deputy Chief Marshall completed programming of the Motorola APX portable radios including the LTE backup system
- Chief Byrne conducted three (3) Fire Chief Round Table meetings with shift personnel.

Marine Incidents

During the month of August, the Fire Boat responded to eleven (11) marine emergencies. The emergencies included a vehicle in the bay, overdue boaters, traumatic injury, lost boaters, vessel in distress and medical emergency.



Fire Rescue Department Incident Statistics

Alarm Responses	August	Year-to-Date
100 - Fire	4	34
200- Overpressure / Rupture	0	0
300 – EMS / Rescue	180	1836
400 – Hazards Condition	10	99
500 - Service Calls	40	256
600 – Good Intent	20	153
700 - False Alarm	42	361
800- Weather / Natural Disaster	1	2
900 - Special Incident	5	14
Total	302	2755

Fire Prevention Division

- Inspectors continued training w/ NCFR fire prevention staff. Other training for inspectors this month included familiarization w/ BDAs, FAC 61G code class, Simplified permit process for fire alarm and sprinkler permit class, firestopping training online.
- Several more electronic Knox boxes were placed in service. Also visited several sites to consult w/ property reps regarding installation of new Knox boxes.
- Trained several members of Operations staff in operation of electronic Knox boxes.
- Attended 3 pre-approval meetings for proposed building projects.
- Attended meeting w/ other city officials regarding city-wide permitting processes.
- Participated in 3 interviews for Fire Marshal candidates.

Activity	August	Year-to-Date
Fire Plans Review	166	1286
Construction Inspections	487	2960
Other Inspections (Annuals, Complaints, CLU)	186	2231
Fire Investigations	0	9
STR Inspections	3	56
Inspector training	122 hrs	751 hrs

Training Division

- Staff attended Arthrex Cadaver training
- Conducted final probationary performance evaluation of FF Chimpoulis. Successfully completed.
- Staff attended monthly County Training Committee meeting 8/11
- Staff attending hybrid hazmat class August-September
- Staff attended DRT hazmat training @ St48 8/31
- Mental health 3rd Quarter completed with staff
- Golisano Stars training (virtual) completed with all staff

Training Summary

- **Medical Training:** Cadaver Lab; EMS CNS Injuries Advanced; EMS Fundamentals of 12 Lead ECG Operation and Interpretation; EMS Intro to Arrhythmias: Tachy-arrhythmias and Fibrillation; EMS Managing Cardiac Arrest: During and After Resuscitation; EMS Pediatric Trauma Advanced; Ferno powered Stair Chair; FTP medical training
- **Fire Operations:** Career Development, Off-site courses; Fire Inspector Training; Ground Ladders; High rise stair climb; Hose Operations; Ropes and Knots; Vent Enter Search review
- **Driver Training:** Apparatus Operations; Brush 50 Capabilities; EN51 capabilities, equipment, and specifications; Fire Apparatus Operations, Aerial/Pumping Apparatus;
- **Officer Development:** NFPA 1021 Information Management; NFPA 1021 Leadership as a Group Influence
- **Hazmat Training:** Multi Agency Hazmat Operations;
- **Marine:** Marine Crew Training; Marine Rescue Training;

Training Type	August Training Hours	Year-to-Date
Fire Operations	284.39	1471.06
Officer Training	13	480.75
Driver Training	65	205.5
Medical Training	115.5	784.48
Hazmat Training	7.5	81.5
Marine Operations	27	265
Total	512.39	3288.29