



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

MATLACHA/PINE ISLAND
FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT





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BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

The Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Board of Commissioners is dedicated to represent the interests of all the citizens of the community and to provide these citizens with optimum service in a responsible, financially prudent manner. By working in cooperation with the District's Chief and citizens, the Fire Board will serve professionally without bias or favor.



Chairperson Tonya Player



Vice-Chair Jamie DeLacey



Treasurer John Cammick



Secretary Neil Price



Vice-Secretary Joe Hernandez

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



It is my honor to provide the residents and visitors within the Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District our 2024 Annual Report. This report will provide a peek into what your fire department has accomplished, provide emergency response data, operational data, and highlight community involvement.

We are a community fire department. Our motto is "Our Family Serving Yours." In 2024, the district hosted and participated in numerous community events. Those district events included our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Fire Department Open House, and of course, our annual Tree Lighting. We also participated in community events such as the Holiday House, Mango Mania, Pine Island Elementary School functions, and many more. In addition to events, community education plays a vital role in our mission. The district provided several CPR classes to the community. We firmly believe that the more citizens that are proficient in CPR, the safer our community becomes as a whole.

Alongside the various certification courses and community events crews participated in, we were busy running calls. In a snapshot, crews responded to 1,841 calls in 2024. Those include 116 fires (structure, brush, vehicle, other), 1,219 medical calls, 87 vehicle accidents and 419 other responses (powerlines, hazmat, public assist, fire alarms, etc.). The department made a community difference in 2024 by providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) services via our fire trucks to the community. 2024 was the first complete year of your fire department providing ALS to the community. Crews also responded to at least one structure fire a month in 2024 that had flames and smoke showing.

Additionally, your fire department responded to Hurricane Milton and Helene. Crews performed numerous high water rescues, responded to several structure fires, and responded to medical calls. To get ready for the storms, the department provided numerous sand piles and sandbags in addition to communicating with the community via social media and driving the island announcing evacuation orders. Furthermore, the district housed rescued victims at our facilities and even transported several patients off island via fire engine and brush truck during the events.

On a final note, I would like to thank the Board of Fire commissioners for the dedication, commitment, and devotion to the community and Fire District. Also, thank you to all our staff for all their work and risking their lives to save others. Finally, thank you, for allowing me to serve as your Fire Chief for the Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District.

Sincerely,

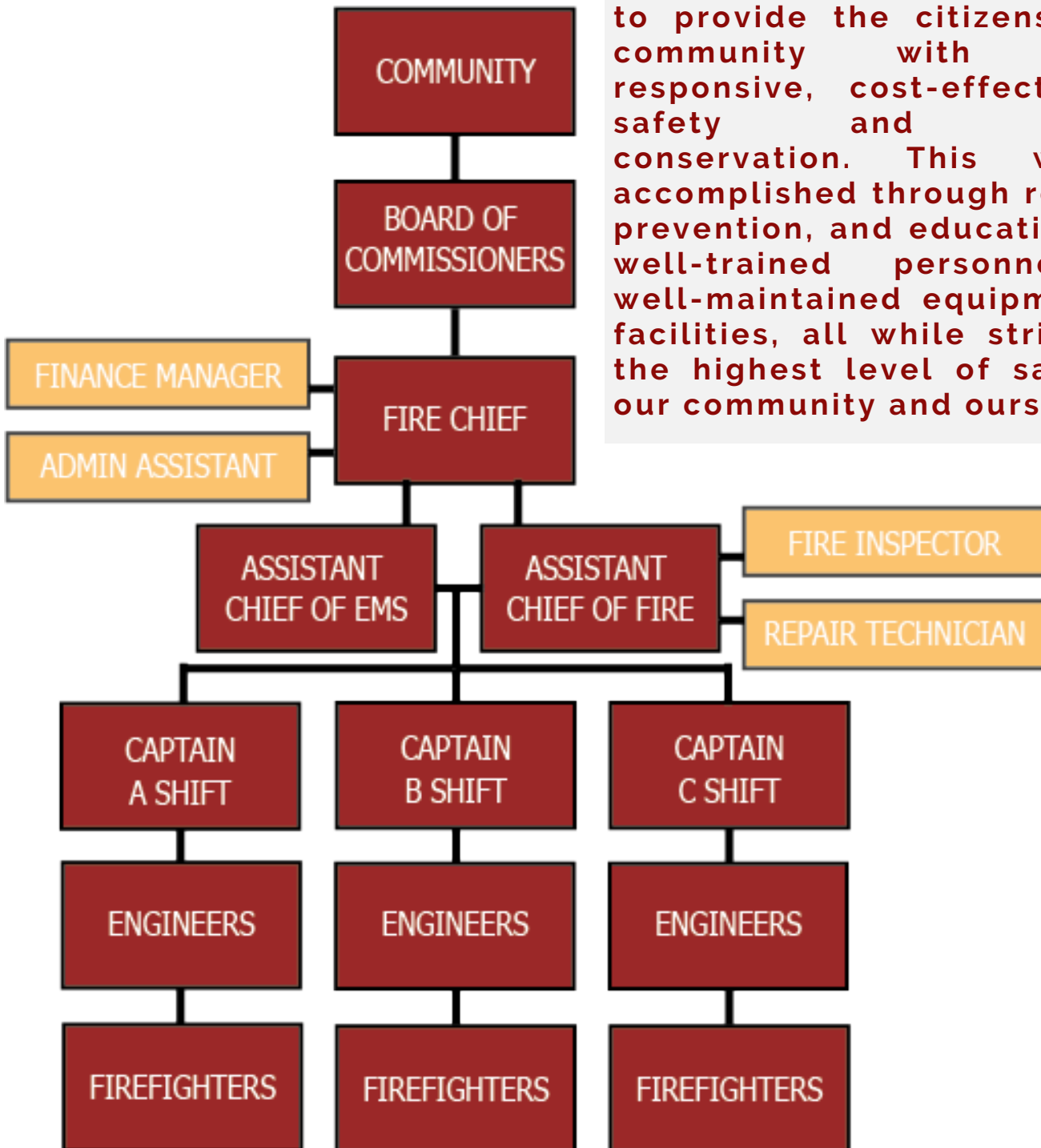
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Mickuleit', written over a white background.

Chief Benjamin Mickuleit



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District is dedicated to providing a strong, community oriented Fire and Rescue Service. The District will strive to provide the citizens of the community with quality, responsive, cost-effective life safety and property conservation. This will be accomplished through response, prevention, and education using well-trained personnel and well-maintained equipment and facilities, all while striving for the highest level of safety for our community and ourselves.



DEPARTMENT STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Chief Mickuleit

Assistant Chief of Fire Davis

Assistant Chief of EMS Allen

Finance Manager Miles

Administrative Assistant Kerr

Fire Inspector Mimbs

Repair Technician Rossman

A-SHIFT

Captain Simer

Engineer Darna

Engineer Greer

Engineer Kerr

Engineer O'Leary

Firefighter Agnew

Firefighter Angrisani

Firefighter Arias

Firefighter D'Ambrosio

Firefighter Robertson

Firefighter Saunders

Firefighter Vilchez

B-SHIFT

Captain Barr

Engineer Busscher

Engineer Knight

Engineer McQuade

Engineer Oake

Firefighter Childers

Firefighter Cole

Firefighter Giffin

Firefighter Hill

Firefighter Johnson

Firefighter Richardson

C-SHIFT

Captain Adema

Engineer Guerin

Engineer Peer

Engineer Rogowski

Engineer Russ

Firefighter Baluja

Firefighter Bernard

Firefighter Bemis

Firefighter Busbee

Firefighter Stanley

Firefighter Young

PERSONNEL ACHIEVEMENTS

The following members have reached important milestones in their careers:

YEARS OF SERVICE

Gerry Rossman 34

Cliff Simer 32

Neil Kerr 25

Keith Guerin 24

Scott Adema 23

Robert Johnson 20

Sean McQuade 20

Shane Oake 20

Benjamin Mickuleit 20

George Barr 20

PERSONNEL ACHIEVEMENTS

2024 RETIREMENT

Engineer Neil Kerr
25 years of service



2024 PROMOTION

Bryant Cole
Firefighter to Engineer



2024 AWARDS



2024 AWARDS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



JOEL ARIAS JR.

PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR



MATTHEW ANGRISANI

EMT OF THE YEAR



KYLE CHILDERS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



SEAN RUSS

HOT SHOT AWARD (MOST CALLS RUN YTD)



ALEX RICHARDSON

DEPARTMENT STATIONS

All stations are strategically placed to provide the best service for our community

Station 1

5700 Pine Island Rd.
Bokeelia, FL 33922
(239) 283-0030



Station 2

5015 Stringfellow Rd.
St. James City, FL 33956
(239) 283-8231



Station 3

14861 Stringfellow Rd.
Bokeelia, FL 33922
(239) 283-3836



Station 4

3500 SW Pine Island Rd.
Cape Coral, FL 33991
(239) 283-3311



FIRE APPARATUS

Fire Engines 🔥 🔥 🔥 🔥 🔥



Marine Fire Units 🔥 🔥



Command Units 🔥 🔥 🔥 🔥



Wild Land Fire 🔥 🔥 🔥 🔥



Water Tender 🔥



Fire Prevention 🔥



Each 🔥 equals one apparatus

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



We were able to share a second encounter with a patient in August that was very different from the first. We are beyond amazed to see the strength, resiliency, and fight that Nichole has shown throughout her journey. We continue to stand by her side and support her as she continues to defy the odds and be an inspiration to those around her. We cannot thank her and her family enough for coming to our station and sharing the afternoon with us. It was a visit that none of us will forget.



The district was awarded \$5 million through the Lee County Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery grant. County Commissioners approved the grant allocation to us September 3rd as part of awarding more than \$229 million in grants for about 20 public facility and infrastructure projects countywide funded by HUD's allocation to Lee County in the wake of Hurricane Ian. This grant was applied for by the fire district for assistance replacing our 1975 fire house in St. James City. This is an enormous accomplishment from your fire district that numerous individuals worked hard on to accomplish. We can't thank Lee County enough for this opportunity and look forward to the new fire station serving our community & visitors!

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



We are the first fire department in Florida that has received PFAS Free (Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl) structure fire gear from LION. PFAS has been known to increase the risk of cancer. This is a huge accomplishment by the district to protect our firefighters. This new gear replaces our 10 year old structure fire gear. Thanks to the Gary Sinise Foundation for their donation of funds that paid for a large portion of this purchase.



The District was presented with a \$5000 check from Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust for a grant program to assist with our Advanced Life Support (ALS) program. These funds will be used to help cover some of the expenses of our new cardiac monitors.



OPERATIONS

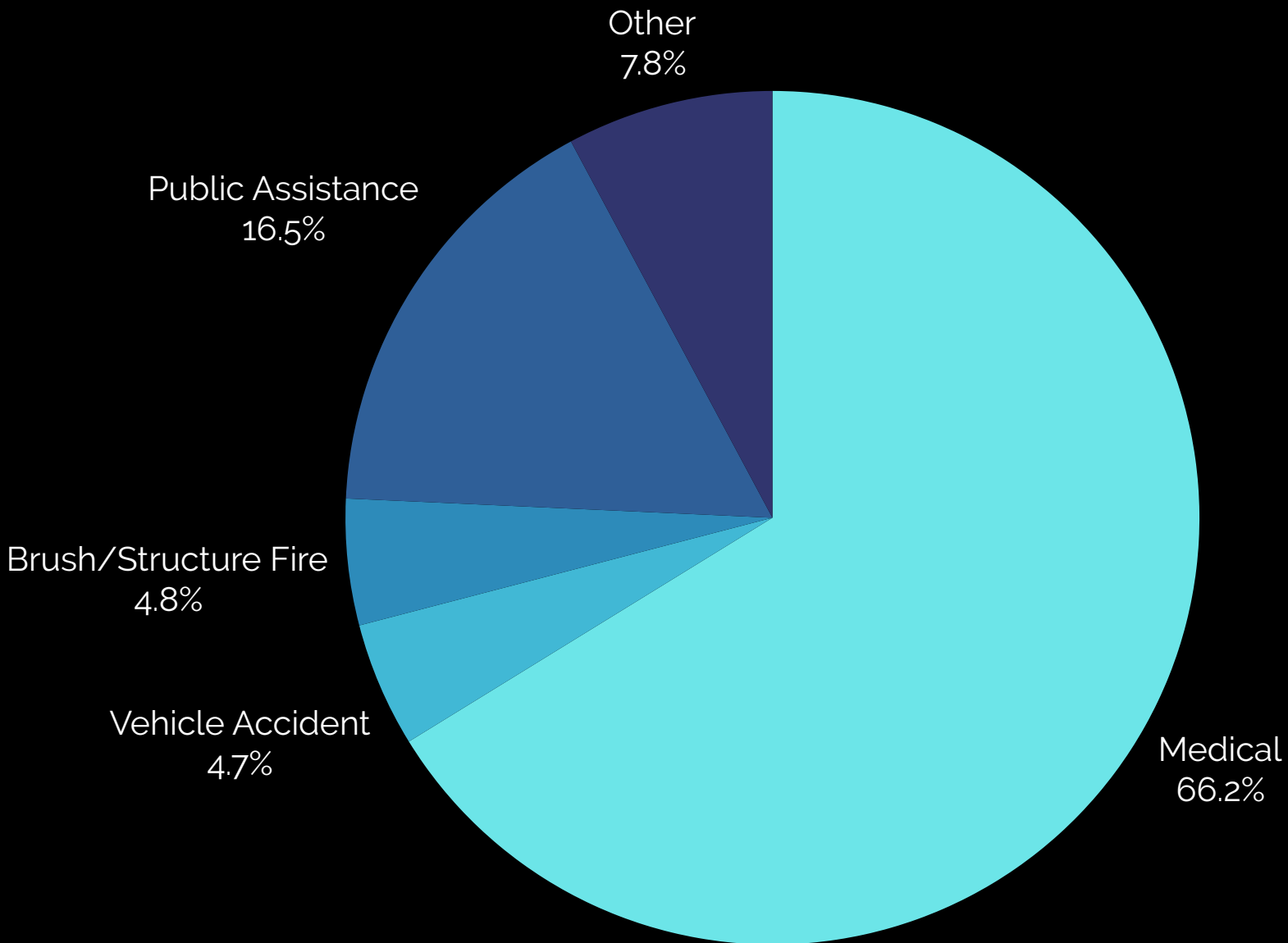
The District operates with a minimum of nine firefighters per shift, working a 24 hour shift. We have 3 shifts A, B, and C. Each shift is managed by a shift captain. The shifts are responsible for responding to all 911 calls and providing the highest level of service. In 2024, the District responded to 1,841 incidents. In addition, the District utilized Lee Flight 48 times. The District protects approximately 45 square miles.

**1,841
INCIDENTS
IN 2024**



INCIDENTS BY CALL TYPE

This graph displays the major call types the District responded to in 2024.



STATION RESPONSE BREAKDOWN

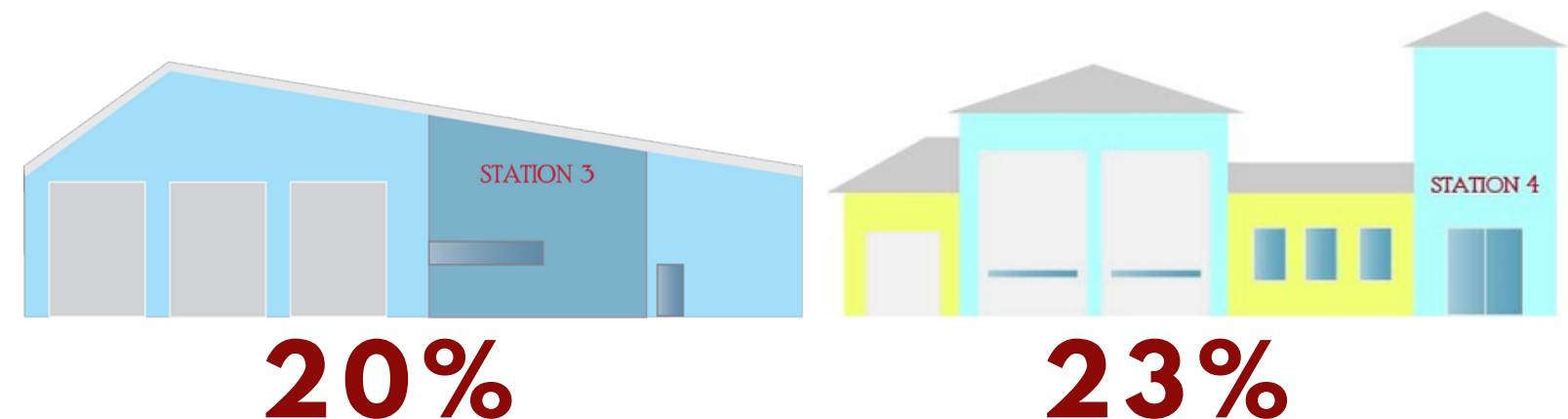
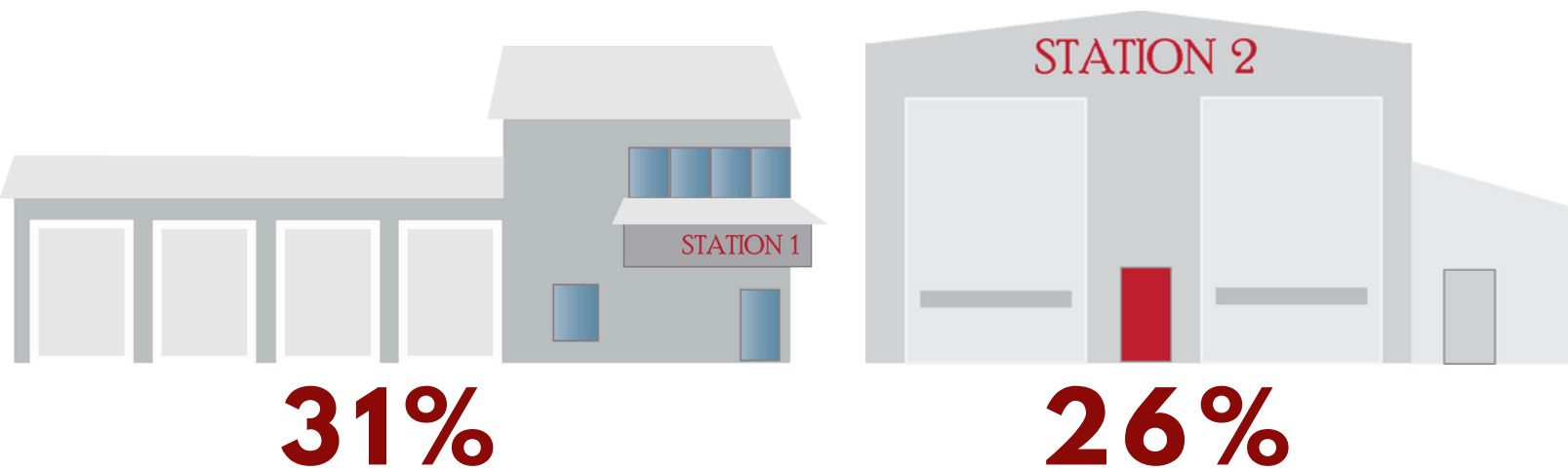
In 2024, each station had the following number of emergency calls in their zone. The numbers do not reflect any standbys. Our engines moved up for standby 150 times to provide enhanced coverage within our District.

Station 1 - 576

Station 2 - 481

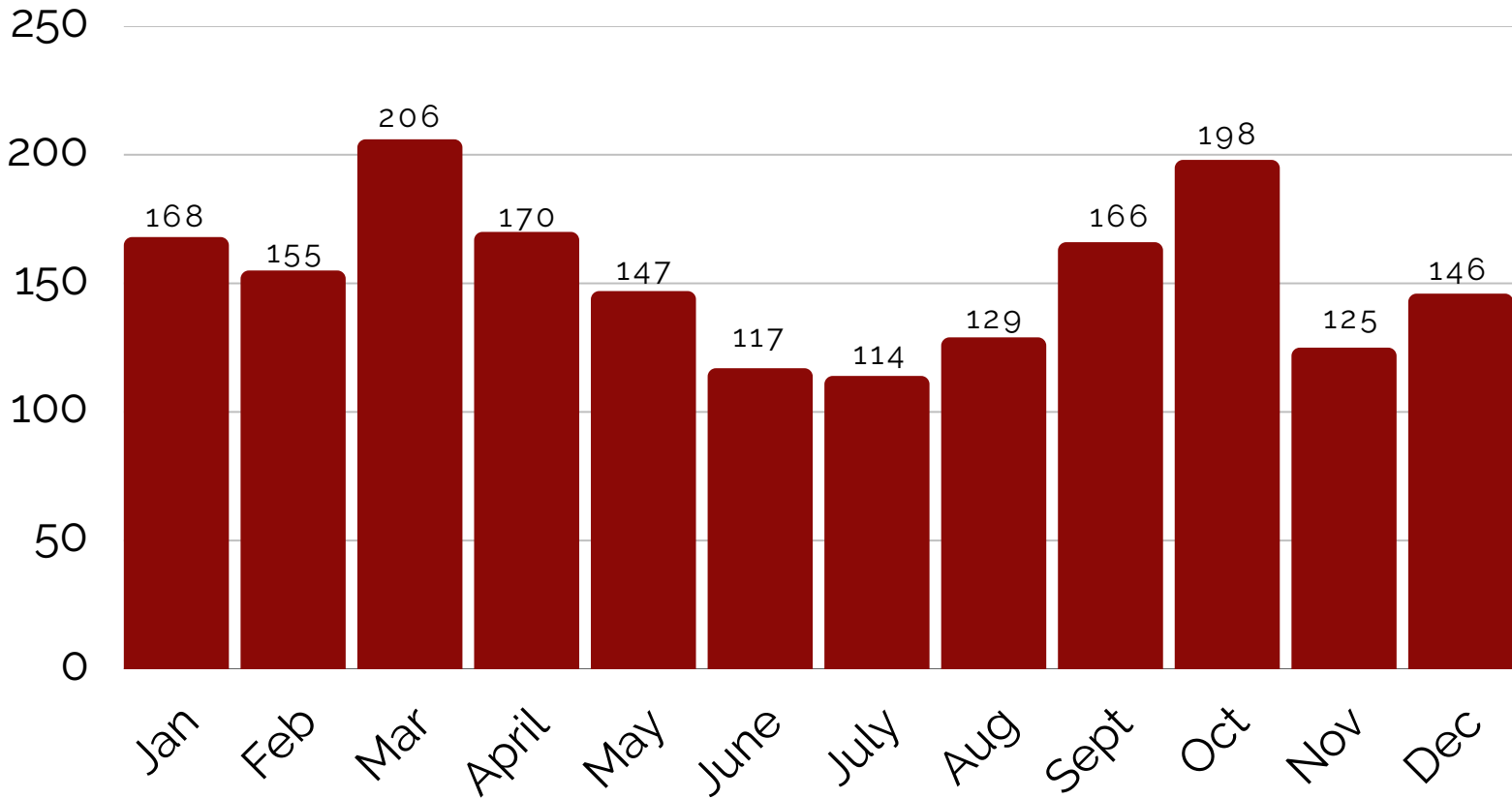
Station 3 - 368

Station 4 - 416



CALL VOLUME BY MONTH

- 153 calls average a month
- 5 calls average a day
- 90% on scene in under 7 minutes



Data provided gives an insight on the monthly call volume the department responds to. On average, the District responds to 153 calls a month, or close to 5 calls a day. In addition, the District is involved with community and District events, trainings, checking out equipment, performing station maintenance, etc., when not responding to emergency calls. Furthermore, 90% of the time, our crews are on scene in under 7 minutes after being dispatched.

3 FUN FACTS

Statistics include standbys

Call totals by shift

A Shift - 683
B Shift - 635
C Shift - 673

Call totals by day of week

Sunday 306
Monday 255
Tuesday 297
Wednesday 266
Thursday 295
Friday 297
Saturday 278

Call totals by top time of day

7:00-7:59pm 132
11:00-11:59am 125
2:00-2:59pm 125
3:00-3:59pm 121

MARINE RESPONSE

In 2024, our marine units responded to 27 calls. Those calls ranged from search and rescue, fire operations, assisting barrier operations, medical calls, etc. Having a boat is imperative to operations as an island fire district.

27
MARINE
CALLS



MARINE RESPONSE



M-151 is our shallow water boat and is capable for shallow water rescue operations.

Firefighters Arias and Baluja participated in the Boat Operations Search and Rescue (BOSAR) course in April. This course provides public safety responders the necessary skills and tactics to engage in search and rescue operations on the water. This class is nationally recognized by both FEMA and NASBLA.



M-156 is our specialized marine unit equipped with a pump and fire equipment for firefighting at the shoreline and for marine fires. In addition, M-156 is outfitted with an FLR system for nighttime search and rescue.



TRAINING

On average, each member of the department spends at least 20 hours a month training. Training encompasses classroom and practical settings. Training ranges from extrication, driving operations, structure/brush fire tactics, water supply, leadership, public relations, injury prevention, etc. In 2024, we accumulated 9,496 hours of training. That equals to more than 279 hours a year for each firefighter.

**9,496
HOURS OF
TRAINING**

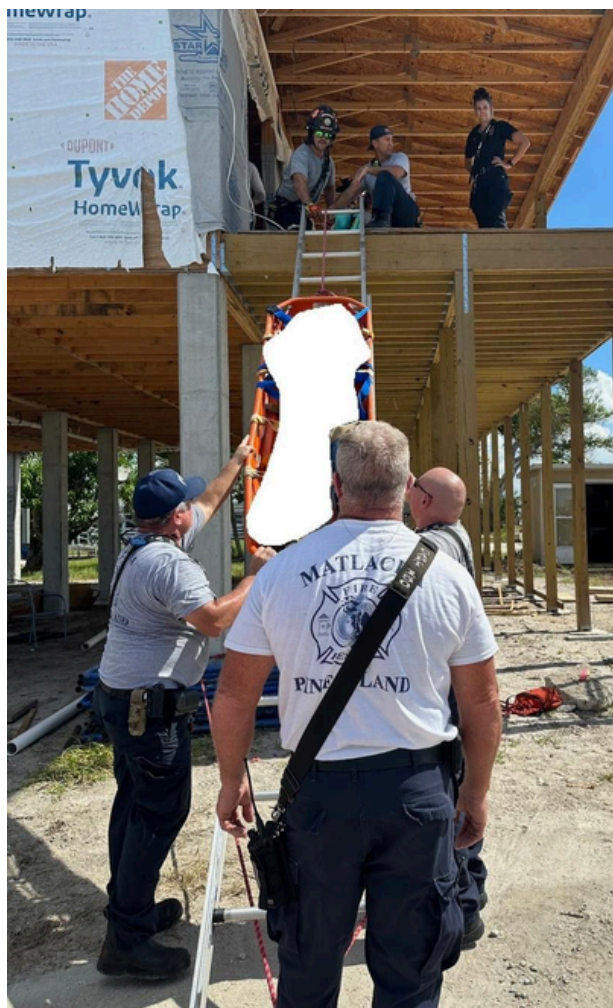
ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Active Shooter Training
- Live Fire Co-Op Training
- Vehicle Extraction
- Search and Rescue
- Fire Suppression Sprinkler Training
 - (Standpipe/Sprinkler System)
- Firefighter Water Survival

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS



In April, crews completed an in-house built entanglement course. During this scenario, crews are in full gear and on air with no visibility. Personnel trained on forcible entry, entering and searching a structure, and egress, including window exits. Crews also practiced second-story extractions in case of stair collapse. Our firefighters are well trained and prepared for a multitude of different scenarios!



In October, E-152, E-151, Captain 150, PI-3, and LCEMS M10 responded to reports of a person who had a medical event on the second story of a job site. The patient's condition prevented them from being able to safely get off the second story, so crews needed to assist with getting them down. Crews were able to quickly make access, begin patient care, and, successfully lower the patient to the first floor. Crews utilized their training from this course in order to assist this patient to safety. **22**

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

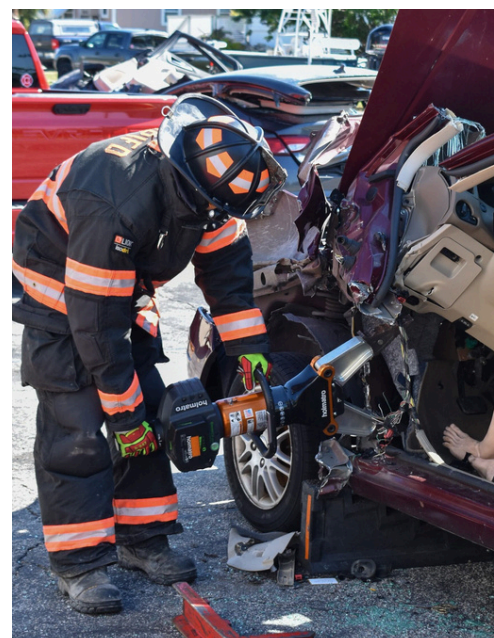
In March, our staff completed a three week department-wide competency program that encompassed all the medication, skills, and procedures they are credentialed to perform under their license. These involved items relating to airway, cardiac, neurological, traumatic, OB, environmental, and other medical emergencies to which providers were asked to perform these skills in training simulations.



In June, crews ran scenarios to practice their Basic and Advanced Life Support skills. In September 2023, the Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District became an advanced life support (ALS) agency, allowing for responders to provide more advanced methods of emergency care. The department now has 16 licensed and credentialed paramedics. In addition to the important basic life support interventions, the crews can provide advanced medications, procedures, and treatments to those in need. **23**

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

In November, our crews participated in a comprehensive vehicle extrication training exercise. This training ensures our firefighters are prepared to handle complex rescue situations and provide the best possible care to victims trapped in vehicles.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

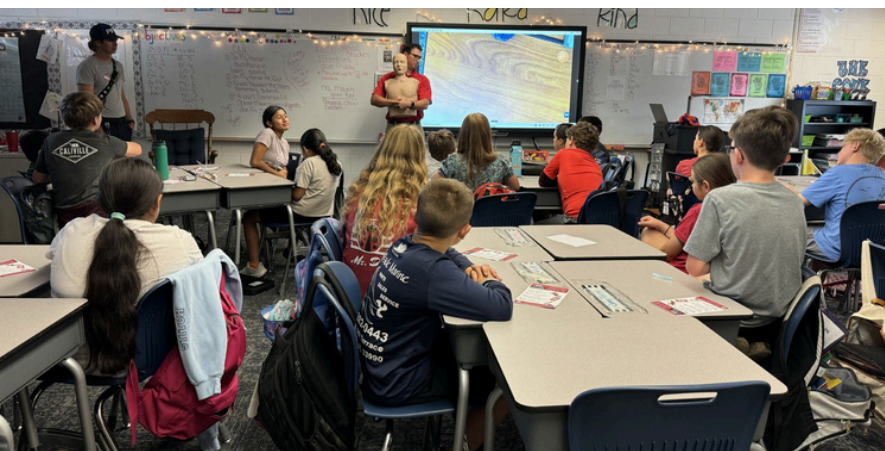
The District provides free car seat checks to the community. During the check the certified technician ensures the car seat is installed correctly, is the proper fit for the child, checks for recalls, and teaches the caregiver. This year, the department added two additional car seat technicians.

15

CAR SEAT CHECKS IN 2024

OVER
150
CPR PARTICIPANTS

The District teaches various CPR and First Aid courses. The Heartsaver CPR/AED class is a hands on based, instructor-led course that teaches adult and child CPR and AED use, infant CPR, and how to relieve choking in adults, children, and infants. This course teaches skills with the American Heart Association research-proven practice-while-watching technique, which allows instructors to observe the students, provide feedback, and guide the students' learning of skills. In 2024, crews taught 20 classes, reaching over 150 people.



FIRE PREVENTION

The Prevention Division of the Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District is committed to providing superior quality preventative fire service to those who live, work, and invest in the District. Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District protects lives and property from fire and injury through continuous effort and integrity of service in every section within this division. We energetically contribute to our community, serve as positive examples, and make every effort to efficiently and practically make the most of all the essential resources available in order to provide a safe environment for the citizens and emergency responders. It is our goal to provide timely, comprehensive, and accurate inspections for the District. 224 inspections were completed in 2024 ranging from new construction, annual inspections, and hydrant flow tests.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

In 2024, the District hosted several public events to educate our community and promote public safety. Those events included our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Open House, and Christmas Tree Lighting. Each event reaches well over 300 participants each year. This year, crews demonstrated a live forcible entry during our Open House event.

Other events that the District participated in include the Garden Gala, Mullet Toss, 4th of July Parade, Summer Camps, Library Events, Christmas Boat parades, Santa deliveries, and many more.

The department dedicates education and prevention hours by partnering with Pine Island Elementary. Activities include assisting during fire drills, teaching CPR to fifth graders, participating in career day, serving school lunch, and supporting events like spring fest, field day, and Read Across America.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public events & prevention are an immense part of our commitment to the community,



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

CERT plays a crucial role within the fire department. CERT assists in large scale events when needed. Our team meets monthly to train and fine tune CERT skills. Those skills include light search and rescue, first aid, rehabilitation trailer deployment, teamwork, etc. All of those are vital skills to provide the highest level of service to our community.

In 2024, our CERT team volunteered 222 hours to help our community.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

Our CERT team:

Karen Titolo
Mary Reich
Steve Petersen
Paula Bruckner
Fran Haas
Narrie Magturo
Donna Trusik
Nancy Buthman



CERT participation at all District functions and is a huge help to the District.

This year, our CERT team strengthened their skills with a lifesaving Stop the Bleed class!





DATA OVERVIEW

9,496
Training
Hours

1,841
Emergency
Calls

400+
Community
Outreach
Hours

MATLACHA



PINE ISLAND

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Scan the QR code download our app.
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