

AVALON FIRE / RESCUE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2012

Fire Commissioners Meeting held the first and third Monday of each month at the North Station located at 5408 Mulat Road, Milton, FL. 7 PM. Please attend and see your tax dollars at work.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To get an application to volunteer you can:

- Go to our Web Site at www.avfire.com to download application and bring by the Station 1.
- Come by Station 1 for application.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

- THE AVALON FIRE RESCUE NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND CITIZENS. BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.AVFIRE.COM.

Message from the Fire Chief Sid Wiggins

Results from the August 9th, 2011 ISO (Insurance Services Office) audit show the Avalon Fire Rescue Department maintaining its current Class 5 rating in the North End and a Class 9 rating in the South End.

(As a reminder, a Class 9 rating will generally save the average homeowner around \$150 annually, and a class 5 will generally save you an estimated additional \$200 annually on Homeowner Insurance premiums.)

The Fire District Commissioners and Fire Department members are very pleased with the results of this audit.

As we start a new year, not only do we prepare to respond to Fire or other emergency calls, the department and volunteer members will be engaged in scheduled equipment testing to maintain its good standing as a Fire Department by following the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards which have a significant impact on the fire service. Some of these testing requirements are as follows:

- Annual Air Pack (SCBA-Fire Fighter Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) Testing
- Annual Service Tests of Pumps on Fire Department Fire Apparatus
- Annual Fire Hose Testing (to include coupling/nozzle testing)
- Annual Ladder Testing

In the first quarter, the Fire Department will also be undergoing a Firefighter Safety and Health Program compliance review conducted by the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal.

The items listed above are just a few of the many responsibilities that our Department is held accountable for and must maintain to keep in service as a Fire Department. It is important for you to know that your tax dollars is what makes this all happen. Without the support and the dollars funded by the tax rolls, our Department could not maintain its level of service within this community.



Avalon Fire Rescue Apparatus

- 1998 Chevy Tahoe – Chief's Vehicle
- 1987 (17 Foot) Offshore Boat
- 1965 Kaiser Brush Truck
- 1999 E-One Class-A Pumper
- 1988 FMC Class- A Pumper
- 2009 E-One Rescue Class-A Pumper
- 2000 E-One Class-A Pumper
- 1998 Mini-Pumper
- 2001 GMC Sierra– Asst Chief's Vehicle

Not Pictured: 1950 Portable Cascade System, 1997 Ford Crown Victoria, 1989 Dodge Station Wagon (Service Truck)

Avalon Fire Rescue - 3 Year (YTD Call Volumes)

	2010	2011	2012*
Structure Fires	12	17	1
Vehicle Fires	6	19	3
Grass/Woods/Trash Fires	39	49	6
MVA	155	145	17
Medical	308	348	51
Water Emergencies	7	3	1
Others (Power Lines/Gas Leaks, etc)	48	50	8
Mutual Aid (Other Fire Dept Calls)	111	142	39
Total	686	773	126

***Current YTD Totals thru Feb 2012**

Special District Funding and Santa Rosa County Fire MSBU (Municipal Service Benefit Unit)

Santa Rosa County Fire Special Districts

Avalon Fire Rescue (established July 1, 1980 by special act, funded by ad valorem revenue) with a current millage of 1.00,

Holley-Navarre (established July 7, 1980 by special act, funded by ad valorem revenue) flat rate (see link for details) (<http://www.hnfd.org/faq.html>)

Midway (established March 18, 1982 by special act, funded by ad valorem revenue) with a current millage of 1.40

These departments are special taxing districts and not part of the MSBU fire group. The funds collected and budgeted are kept within each special district and used individually to maintain that Fire Department.

Santa Rosa County Fire MSBU (Municipal Service Benefit Unit)

In October 2007, a fire services executive group consisting of chiefs from the nine MSBU stations, two community representatives and the Santa Rosa County Emergency Services Coordinator was formed to create short and long term funding plans, review progress towards these goals and address concerns. Fire MSBU's are used for the stations of Allentown, Bagdad, Berrydale, East Milton, Harold, Munson, Pace, Skyline, and Jay.

For all MSBU dollars collected, the funds are shared among each fire district.

Individual MSBU Dept Budgets can be found: <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/firedept/budgets.html>)

Fire Protection MSBU Rates can be found at: <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/firedept/documents/msbufirerescue.pdf>

Calendar of Events April 2012

February 1st thru April 17th

AARP representatives providing Tax e-File Services will be available at the Fire Department. Every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Safety Message:

TEST YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS...SAVE YOUR LIFE

The Avalon Fire Rescue Fire Department reminds you to test your smoke detectors at least once a month. A broken detector provides no protection and you can't afford to be without early warning to a fire. Periodic checks of detectors should be routine in your home.

Most smoke detectors have a "press to test" button. It is also a good idea to test the detector using a candle or cigarette. But be very careful! Hold the candle about six inches under the detector. Keep the candle burning if you have an ionization-type smoke detector, as it responds to an open flame best. Blow the candle out and let the smoke drift up to a photoelectric-type detector, as it responds faster to smoldering fires. As soon as the alarm sounds, fan the smoke away with a magazine or newspaper.

If your detector is battery operated, change the batteries once a year at least. Most smoke detectors will sound a "chirping" noise when the battery gets low, but don't wait for that. Always keep fresh batteries on hand.

You should have at least one smoke detector on each level of your home or apartment. Protect the bedroom areas first, since most fatal home fires happen at night. Train everyone in your family to respond quickly at the sound of the smoke detector. Seconds count. Practice getting out safely.

If your smoke detector is not working properly or if it continues to false alarm, return to the place of purchase and get a new one.

Our next Newsletter is scheduled to be published June 2012 – Topics to include Referendum for Requested Tax Increase and Requirements of Firefighting Personnel.