



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING HURRICANE IRMA

On September 10, 2017, Florida was hit by Hurricane Irma, a Category 4 storm which ripped off roofs, uprooted trees, flooded coastal cities and knocked out power to almost 7 million. At one point, Hurricane Irma was the strongest hurricane the National Hurricane Center has ever recorded in the Atlantic, forcing the relocation of our resources at 7 of our 10 stations because of expected wind speeds and storm surge. As was the case throughout the County, the men and women of the North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District met the crisis head on, working tirelessly around the clock to provide emergency response, care and compassion to the community. These devoted professionals truly lived up to the District's mission of "Honor, Service, Pride".

A command center was maintained throughout the event at the District's Station 48 located on Livingston Road. Designed to withstand hurricane force winds up to 180 mph, Station 48 accommodated command staff from North Collier Fire, Immokalee Fire, the Sheriff's Office and frequent visits from Representatives Bob Rommel and Byron Donalds.

It's not just our employees who stepped up to the plate during this time of crisis – our partnerships with Collier County Sheriff's Office, Collier County EMS, Collier County Public Schools, the EOC, and our fellow fire agencies provided effective and efficient responses to the varied needs of our community in a collaborative manner.

We would be extremely remiss if we did not acknowledge the significant support from our community partners, who through the donation of literally tens of thousands of dollars of supplies and resources which were distributed throughout the community, and our C.E.R.T. volunteers who through the donation of their time, assisted us in fulfilling our mission of service to the public. “Thank you” seems inadequate - please accept our sincerest gratitude for the support given by:

- Florida Motorsports
- Kawasaki
- Living Word Church
- Costco
- The Ritz-Carlton Beach and Golf Resorts
- Meals of Hope
- Miller’s Ale House
- Moraya Bay
- Kalea Bay
- Operation BBQ
- Physician’s Regional Hospital
- Sarasota Fire Department
- CenturyLink
- Jensen Underground
- International Association of Firefighters
- Artichoke and Company
- Seminole Petroleum

There is still much to be done to rebuild and recover from Hurricane Irma. Many are still without power and water, and we continue to be here to assist you with any unmet needs. We have shown that together we can accomplish anything! The resilience of the human spirit and the continued expression of compassion through even small acts of simple human kindness are illustrated everyday as we continue to recover.

**The Board of Fire Commissioners
North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District**