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Fire MSBU Quarterly Update
-MSBU Fire Stations & Public Benefit from Regular Meetings-

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 those goals and address concerns. Since the formation of this group, regular meetings of the fire stations funded through fire MSBU's is leading to better on scene coordination and promoting greater inter-agency training.

Brad Baker, Emergency Services Coordinator with Santa Rosa County explains, "Because the fire officers are now meeting on a regular basis and have a better understanding of each others districts and operations, we've seen better on scene coordination when multiple stations respond. Anytime we have enhanced on scene coordination, public safety levels are increased. The improved communication is also helping promote more training like a company officer training recently hosted by Skyline Fire & Rescue District, which was attended by over 25 officers from stations throughout the county."

In the third quarter of the current fiscal year, stations responded to 46 mutual aid calls and 69 in the previous quarter. Additionally, no response calls, or calls where a fire department was unable to respond in their district and another fire station was called to provide mutual aid, continues to reflect the decrease seen last quarter. The decrease is attributed to a stipend program for the volunteer firefighters which is funded by the fire MSBU.

Third Quarter Fire MSBU Update

No capital funding expenditures were approved in the third quarter.

From April 1- June 30, the nine MSBU stations responded to a total of 1,276 calls:

- 106 traffic accidents
- 836 calls for medical assistance
- 334 fires

Fire MSBU's are used for the stations of Allentown, Bagdad, Berrydale, East Milton, Harold, Munson, Pace, Skyline, and Jay which are primarily volunteer. The funding is used to improve fire and medical services by implementing a five-year plan created by the Santa Rosa County Fire Services Executive Group, while maintaining a "no subsidy" ambulance contract. Holley-Navarre, Midway, Avalon and Navarre Beach are special taxing districts and not part of the MSBU fire group. Gulf Breeze and Milton fire services are provided by their municipalities.

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