



LITTLE GASPARILLA ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

Fire Chief's Report

As you review this document, you will note, the scope of our achievements in 2015. Our team of employees are highly motivated and dedicated with the technical competence that islanders have come to expect. Whether at rescue incidents, life-threatening fire and distressing EMS situations, our firefighters earned their reputation and the public's trust in either fire related or EMS incidents.

Donald R. Adams, Sr., Ed.D., Acting Fire Chief

Fire Chief's Report

As we continue to move toward greater diversity and better use of the latest technologies within the established goals and budget for 2016 and the future we honor our history while adjusting to the times and limitations that a barrier island presents. We will constantly reevaluate and, when necessary, modify our services to embrace the mission of providing the highest level of service to the citizens and visitors of Little Gasparilla Island.

Fire Board

LGIFR is governed by a five-member Board, the purpose of which is to discuss matters of concern to the island residents including, but not limited to, the emergency medical services and fire suppression services. This Board consists of five (5) members duly elected by the registered voters of the Little Gasparilla Island. Each Board member represents a specific district of the island.

Background

In 2002, fire protection was provided by two residents utilizing timeworn equipment on the island. The frayed equipment was donated from neighboring fire departments as they upgraded their equipment and apparatus. An island resident assumed the role of fire chief and very basic fire service was funded by voluntary contributions from island residents. The first volunteer first responders for EMS assists were trained in 2004 and the resident fire chief provided basic fire and basic emergency medical services. Due to the lack of land access to the island, the Little Gasparilla Island residents identified issues regarding emergency medical services, fire suppression services, and in 2009 established a Tri-Board committee (two members from each of the following organizations; LGI Advisory Committee, The Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association and LGIFR) to explore organizing a volunteer fire department to provide fire protection with Charlotte County EMS providing emergency medical services and transportation for all medical emergencies. The committee visited neighboring fire departments to observe their operations and funding, in order to investigate different models that would be effective for the island emergency response. One model of funding included an

Independent Special Fire District similar to Upper Captiva Fire Rescue or even contracting with the county similar to Useppa Fire Rescue. After a devastating fire which took four lives several residents in the community moved to explore funding through a MSBU (Municipal Special Benefit Unit). In 2010, Ballots were sent to all islanders to determine whether or not to assess properties with an MSBU to fund a fire department. On February 12, 2002, the LGIFR Board created and signed a contract (non-transport) with Charlotte County and formed a privately funded island Fire and Rescue service. LGIFR is a 501(c)3 with the equipment owned by the corporation and fees obtained through a MSBU assigned to each property of the islands 642 property owners¹ (692 lots²). The first career fire chief was hired and residents went through First Responder training. Shortly after hiring the first chief, the board of directors explored to expand EMS services to ALS services, since the county boat/transport response was extended or even delayed at times. Fire and Rescue service first funded Advanced Life Support (ALS) with donations from the island residents and through the sale of “T” shirts and fund raisers. In 2013, LGIFR purchased property as a potential site for a fire department building and island gathering place. In 2014, \$30,000 per year for EMS operations were diverted to LGIFR out of existing county non-MSBU tax revenue. All 911 calls for the island are handled as part of an agreement between the LGIFR and Charlotte County Fire Rescue. Charlotte County Fire Rescue responds with a County Marine Boat to transport the injured or ill patients to the mainland and then the hospital, as well as provide staffing for fire related incidents.

Over the last few years, Little Gasparilla Island Fire Rescue has evolved into a unique public safety rescue system that has saved lives and reduced the severity of injuries and illnesses. LGIFR has a vision that guides the organization towards excellence through goals and strategies. The goals and strategies for LGIFR are to be achieved through deliberate planning, adaptability and the courage to embrace challenges and opportunities through communication with island residents and firefighters.

Currently LGIFR provides these Core Services:

- Emergency Medicine

- Fire Suppression
- Public Safety Education

2015 Overview

LGIFR is headed by the Chief of Department which is responsible for all operations of the organization, and duties include preparation and control of the operating budget, administration of the fire data processing systems (NFIRS), recruitment and enlistment of new employees, the provision of in-service training and education, continued evaluation of the department and its programs and planning for future service needs. The Chief of Department also administers an efficient, ongoing program for the maintenance, retention, disbursement, preservation of incident reports and other departmental records in accordance with the Administrative Code of the Florida Statutes.

Currently LGIFR is made up of three shifts, each working 24 hours and then off for 48 hours. Each shift is comprised of one firefighter who responds to all non-emergency and emergency incidents supported by first responders. The station is located at 9540 Jolly Rogers. The department has adapted a standard of response coverage that all calls will be answered between 6-8 minutes of the alarm sounding. However, some areas of the island restrict this standard due to no vehicular access.

Our Mission

We are dedicated to providing an exceptional level of fire and emergency medical services, striving for the preservation of life for the citizens and visitors of Little Gasparilla Island.

Vision Statement

Little Gasparilla Island Fire Rescue is committed to providing an excellent level of emergency service based on the resources available.

Core Competencies

Excellence – Striving to better serve the community and each other.

Safety – The preservation of life and property is the number 1 goal of LGIFR.

Valor – Providing respectful and professional conduct to the community and members of LGIFR.

Integrity – Always doing the right thing even when it's difficult or unpopular.

Dedication – Completely committed to the mission and vision of our department.

Our Vision

To build community trust by providing effective, efficient, fiscally-responsible service through compassion and empathy, as well as open communications. Information dissemination initiatives will be communicated to island residents on the priorities and operations of LGIFR. This will be accomplished by proactively identifying community concerns through regular meetings to improve our response capabilities while implementing resource and deployment strategies carrying the best interest of our community in accomplishing our mission based on the challenges of the island.

LGIFR will reflect a respectful approach through open communication processes providing greater information sharing and involvement in decisions to accomplish our mission through interactions with the community at all community events. Our dedicated members will convey integrity in our commitment to excellence by demonstrating professional and courteous delivery of services to all those living, working, or visiting the island.

LGIFR will be accountable in applying organizational goals and strategies while maintaining our mission and values. Emphasis will be placed upon gaining consensus and assuring continued job satisfaction and excellent customer service both internal and external.

Our vision is that our core competencies will be demonstrated through our culture and that we will consistently meet or exceed the expectations of the community of Little Gasparilla Island.

Little Gasparilla Island Demographic

- There are 642 platted lots ranging in size from one-tenth of an acre to 13.6 acres¹.
- There are two condominium developments on the island:
 - Placida Beach Condominiums and Hideaway Bay Condominiums.
 - Placida Beach Condominiums have 30 single-family residential units and Hideaway Bay Condominiums have 102 single-family residential units.
- Little Gasparilla Island is located outside the Urban Service Area. There are no public lands or facilities on the Island with the possible exception of roads which may or may not be considered to be public.

Fire Department Facts

- FY 2015 operating budget was \$212,871 for fire and \$30,000 for EMS.
- 4 sworn employees; 3 first responders
- Firefighter's work week: Twenty-four-hour shift followed by 48 hours off. An average of ten of these 24-hour shifts are usually worked each month.
- Engine, hose truck (service apparatus) company, rescue (Polaris).
- Facilities: station located at 9540 Jolly Rogers.

Type of Response Incidents

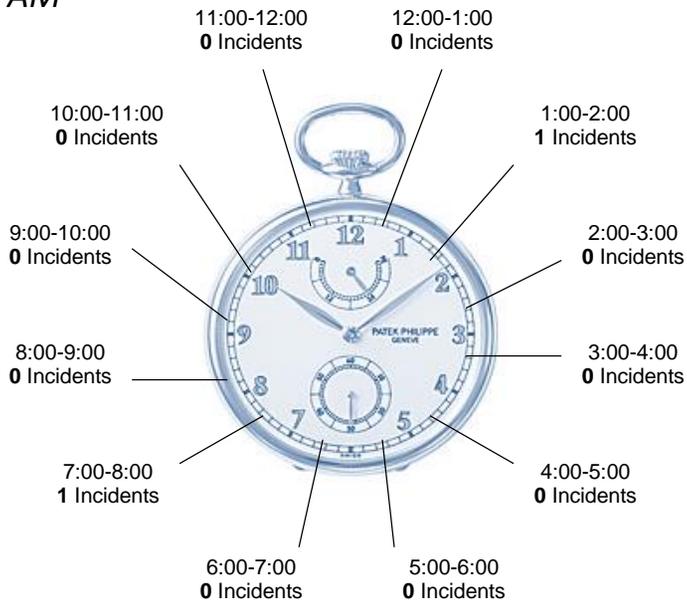
LGIFR responded to 51 incidents in FY 2015. These were various emergencies with approximately 9% of these calls fire related in FY 2015. Emergency medical related incidents account for approximately 71% of the calls answered by the Fire Rescue Department in FY 2015.

Incident Types Identified Using Codes Organized in Series

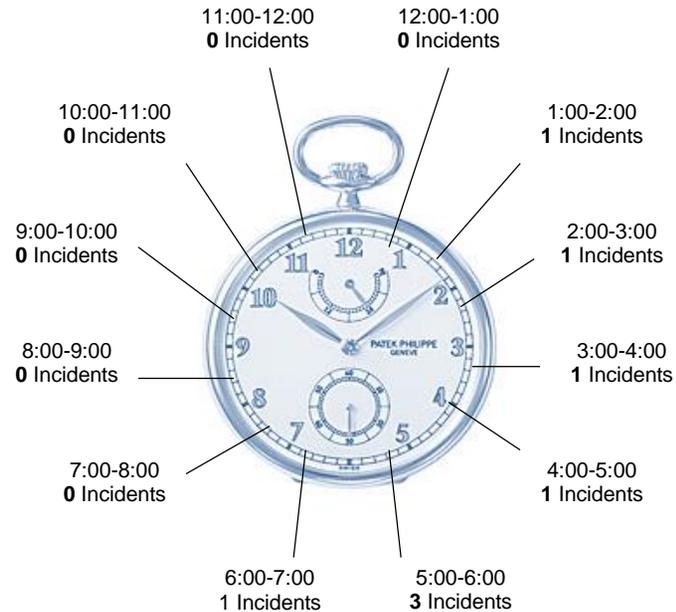
On the following three pages you will find counts per hour for all incidents in 2015. There is a three-digit code and a written description that best describes the type of incident. This entry is generally the type of incident found when emergency personnel arrived at the scene, but if a more serious condition developed after the fire department arrival on the scene, then that incident type should be reported. The codes are organized in a series based on definitions from the National Incident Reporting System.

Total Number of Non-Fire Incidents from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, in Event Counts per Hour (Series 200 - Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire); Overpressure rupture from air or gas (no ensuing fire); Overpressure rupture from chemical reaction (no ensuing fire); Explosion (no fire); Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition; Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat, other, Series 400 - Hazardous condition, other, Series 500 - Service call, other; Person in distress; Unauthorized burning, Series 600 - Good intent call, other, Series 700 - False alarm and false call, other, Series 800 - Severe Weather and Natural Disaster, Series 900 - Citizen complaint)

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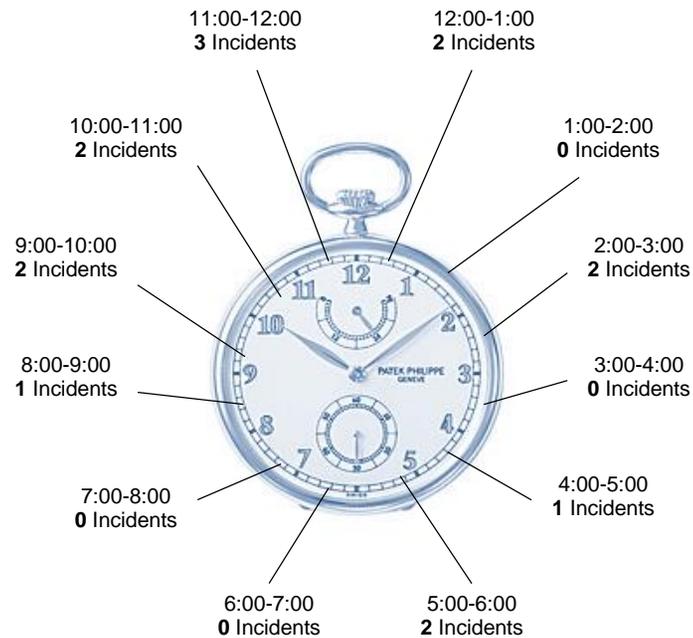


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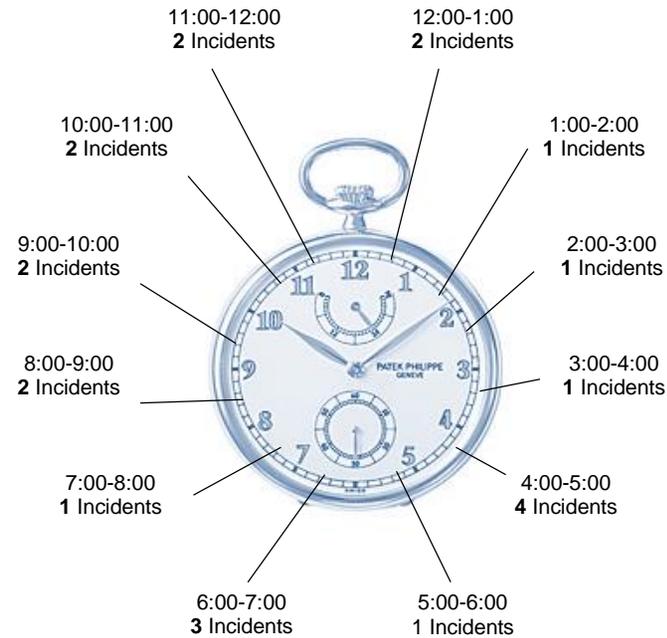


Total Number of EMS Incidents from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, in Event Counts per Hour (Series 300 - Medical assist; Emergency medical service incident; Lock-In; Search for lost person; Extrication, rescue; Water and ice-related rescue; Electrical rescue; Rescue or EMS standby; Rescue, emergency medical service (EMS) incident, other)

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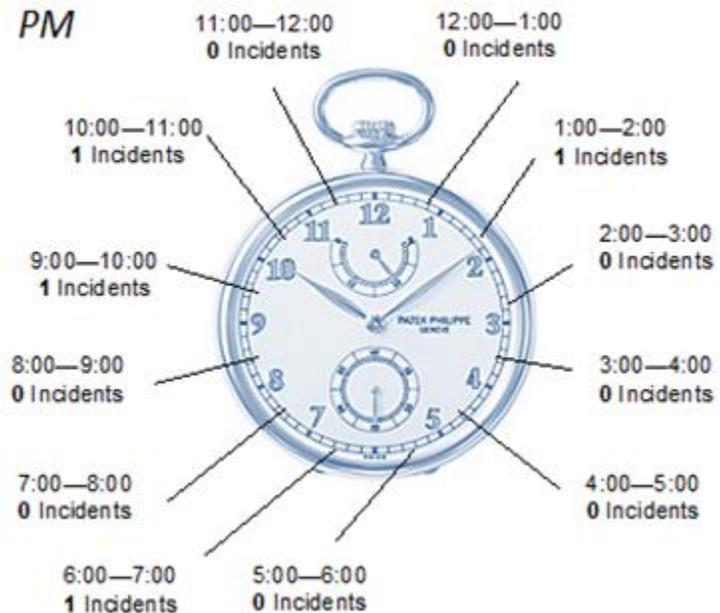
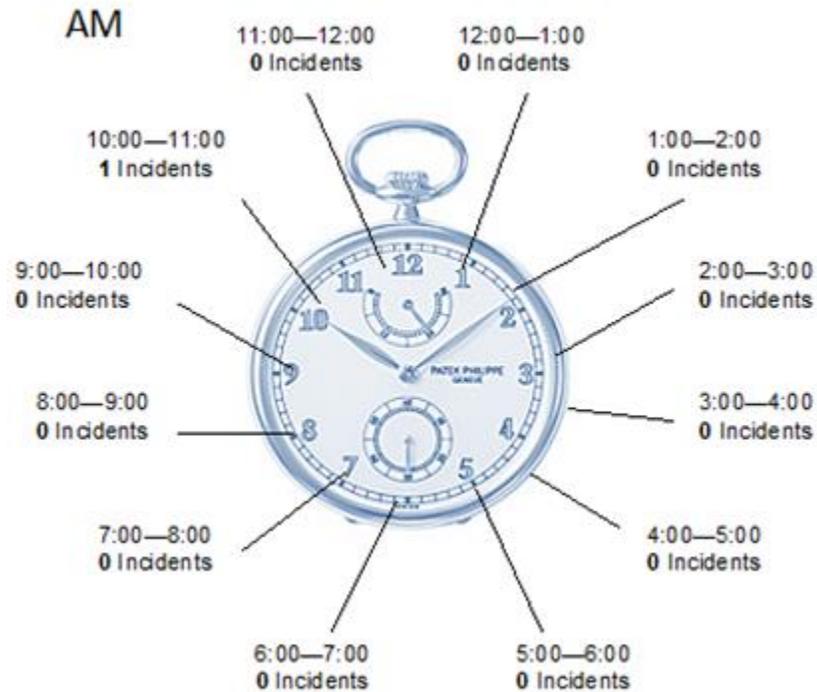


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Total Number of Fire Incidents from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, in Event Counts per Hour (Series 100

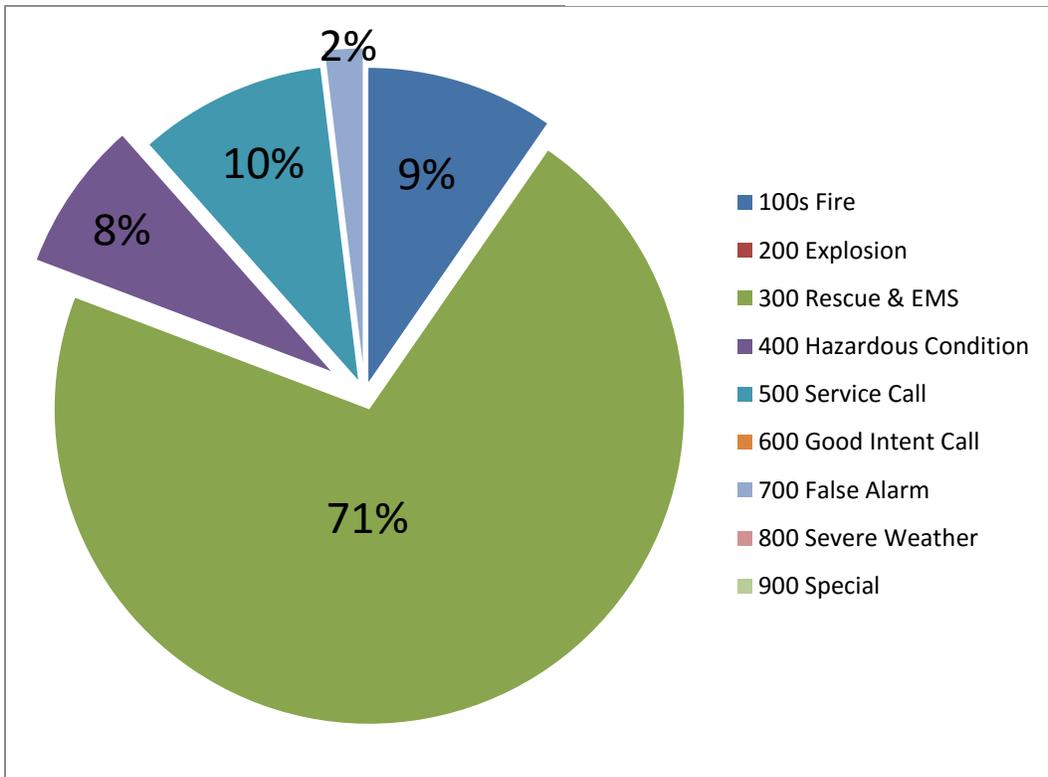
- Structure fire; Fire in mobile property used as a fixed structure; Mobile property (vehicle) fire; Natural vegetation fire; Outside rubbish fire; Special outside fire; Cultivated vegetation, crop fire; Fire, other)



Location of Incident in relationship to the Island. The majority of incidents are centered around the Hideaway Bay Condominiums.



FY 2015	
100s Fire	5
200 Explosion	0
300 Rescue & EMS	37
400 Hazardous Condition	4
500 Service Call	5
600 Good Intent Call	0
700 False Alarm	1
800 Severe Weather	0
900 Special	0



Accomplishments

2015 Budget

Prepared annual budget for FY 2015-2016 request process which included review and prioritization of proposed budget.

Training

Provided training for all firefighting personnel in accordance with established State standards, including the development and delivery of courses specifically required for delivery and tracking the hours for Fire and EMS recertification training through Target Solutions.

Hiring

Hired one firefighter/paramedic to fill vacancy due to retirement.

Grants

Submitted application SAFER grant for additional employees.

Community Education

Coordinated and participated in community events, parades, tours of fire stations.

References

- 1 HDR Engineering. (2007, September). Little Gasparilla Community Plan: The Citizens of Little Gasparilla Island, The Little Gasparilla Island Advisory Committee, and Charlotte County. Retrieved from <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/boards-committees/lgiac/Site%20Documents/FinalCommunityPlan.pdf>
- 2 Docket No. 130265-wu. (2014). Little Gasparilla Island Water Utility. Retrieved from <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/FILINGS/14/04460-14/04460-14.pdf>.

