

## **Fire District Officially Puts New Special Operations Squad Into Service Following a Traditional “Push-In” Ceremony.**

**Fort Pierce** – On **Wednesday, January 4, 2023**, the St. Lucie County Fire District will officially put new squad 6 into service following a traditional “Push-In” ceremony. The ceremony will include a wet-down and blessing of the new apparatus.

The event will take place at **1:30 PM** at **firehouse 6**, located at **350 East Midway Road** in Fort Pierce.

The “Push-In” ceremony pays homage to firefighters in the 1800s who used horse-drawn equipment and would have to literally push the fire engines into the garage after returning from a fire. The event has since become a widely practiced tradition for new fire department vehicles. The wet-down is a ritual celebrated by many fire departments in the United States in which firefighters commission a new fire apparatus by anointing it with water sprayed from the retiring pumper’s tank water.

Fire District Chaplain, retired lieutenant Tommy Neiman, will be on hand to give the blessing and cake will be served after to celebrate.

Captain Donny Stefani and the apparatus committee have been instrumental in continuing the tradition in St. Lucie County after organizing the very first “Push-In” ceremony in April 2021. This one is somewhat special, as Captain Stefani is the station officer at firehouse 6.

“I’m glad to see that the push-in ceremony has become a tradition at our Fire District. I hope to see some of our Indian River Estates neighbors stop by for the event.” –Captain Stefani