

St. Lucie County Fire District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2014

SLCFD Purchases New Apparatus

Fire District takes ownership of two new rescue trucks, one fire engine and one Quint

St. Lucie County, FL -- The St. Lucie County Fire District recently took possession of two new rescue trucks, a fire engine and a Quint (a specific type of a fire engine). The new trucks were purchased with impact fees and will enhance the reserve fleet.

National standards recommend rescue trucks to be replaced after 7 years of service. The Fire District has a total of 17 front line rescue trucks, with 3 rescue trucks over 10 years old, each with over 200,000 miles.

The Fire District has 17 frontline fire engines, with 2 engines over 10 years old and each over 100,000 miles. National standards recommend fire engines be replaced after 8-10 years.

A Quint is a fire engine which serves a dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck. Quint, meaning five, refers to the five functions a Quint provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders. The Fire District has 2 Quints over 17 years old.

“With the poor economy, the Fire District needed to postpone the purchase of any new apparatus,” said Fire Chief Ron Parrish. “At this point the cost of maintaining these vehicles outweighs the purchase of new. The fleet of rescue trucks and fire engines is old and results in too many hours in the repair shop and not responding the emergency incidents.”

The newer vehicles will be placed in reserve, and used when apparatus is being repaired or needing regular maintenance work.

“We have the very best Emergency Vehicle Technicians who have been able to keep these trucks and engines on the road, safely,” said Parrish. “However, much of our apparatus has seen better days and there comes a time when every vehicle needs to be replaced.”

“At this time we are at a point with our program that strategies to improve the longevity are on their last leg, and enhancing our reserve fleet is another breath of life for our apparatus,” said Parrish.

