

St. Lucie County Fire District

News Release



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SLCFD, St. Lucie County Firefighters Benevolent, and Treasure Coast Healthcare System join forces for Autism Awareness

St. Lucie County, FL – The St. Lucie County Fire District along with the St. Lucie County Firefighters Benevolent and the Treasure Coast Healthcare System are kicking off Autism Awareness Month with some sharp new wheels – a Ford SUV painted with colorful flames, made of puzzle pieces. A light blue puzzle piece is the symbol for autism. The vehicle will be unveiled at Fire Station #17 in Tradition (10240 SW Village Parkway, Port St. Lucie) on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. It will be used by the Public Educator for the Fire District as she visits schools in the county.

In addition the Fire Station will be “Light It Up Blue” something which has grown worldwide to shine awareness on autism. All of the outside lights will be blue, and the Station will stay “blue” throughout the month of April.

Visits to schools this month will include special sessions for ESE students, giving them the opportunity to see fire trucks and firefighters who are there to help them. This will make the students less fearful of the first responders there to help them in an emergency.

Again this year Firefighters will be wearing special Autism Awareness T-shirts for the month of April as they answer emergency calls.

The Fire District continues to train their employees on how to respond to an autism patient, something they started last year. They were one of the first fire departments to offer such training.

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), celebrated each year on April 2, was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis. Autism is one of only three health issues to be recognized with its own day by the United Nations. WAAD activities increase world knowledge of autism and impart information about the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, WAAD celebrates the unique talents and skills of persons with autism around the world.

On World Autism Awareness Day, Autism Speaks celebrates its international Light It Up Blue Campaign. Thousands of iconic landmarks, communities, businesses and homes across the globe unite by shining bright blue lights in honor of the millions of individuals and families around the world affected by autism.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/liub/goto-building>