

2026

PERFORMANCE REPORT

MATLACHA/PINE ISLAND
FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District

2026 Annual Performance Report

Introduction:

In 2021, Section 189.0695, Florida Statutes, was created and requires independent special fire control districts to conduct a performance review every five years beginning on October 1, 2022. With the exception of independent special fire control districts located within a rural area of opportunity, all independent special fire control districts must contract with an independent entity to conduct the performance review.

In 2023, the Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District engaged Special District Services, Inc. (SDS) to conduct the required performance audit. In the report, SDS noted several goals and objectives that the District should track to ensure the standard is met. In addition, the report provided recommendations for the District. The final document was filed with the District's governing board, the Auditor General, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in accordance with the laws of Florida. The report can also be found on the District's website.

On or before December 1 of each year, the District will publish an annual report on its website describing: (1) the goals and objectives achieved by the District, as well as the performance measures and standards used by the District to make this determination; and (2) any goals or objectives the District failed to achieve.

Requirements:

189.0694 Special districts; performance measures and standards.

(1) Beginning October 1, 2024, or by the end of the first full fiscal year after its creation, whichever is later, each special district must establish goals and objectives for each program and activity undertaken by the district, as well as performance measures and standards to determine if the district's goals and objectives are being achieved.

(2) By December 1 of each year thereafter, each special district must publish an annual report on the district's website describing:

(a) The goals and objectives achieved by the district, as well as the performance measures and standards used by the district to make this determination.

(b) Any goals or objectives the district failed to achieve.

Note:

Many of the goals and objectives are discussed at the District's monthly Board of Commissioners meetings. In addition, the District publishes an end-of-year report that includes some of the required and additional information.

Goals and Objectives of the District:

Outlined below are the district's goals and objectives as identified by SDS during the State of Florida mandated audit. Since the completion of the audit, the district has worked diligently to meet and, where possible, exceed these requirements and has implemented measures to support ongoing compliance and improvement.

Goals & Objectives for the District	**Measures & Standards**	**Met ✓ Fail ✗**
Containing a fire: The next goal is to contain the fire as quickly as possible to prevent it from spreading to other areas of the building. This involves extinguishing the fire or limiting its growth until it can be safely put out.	NFPA 1710, district adopted standards, and industry best practices	✓
Fire suppression services also aim to minimize damage to property and prevent the loss of valuable assets, such as buildings, equipment, and personal belongings.	District adopted standards, Florida Fire Prevention Code (FAC69A), NFPA1730, Mobile Eyes, Florida Administrative code 69 D, NFPA1 and 101, Lee County Building codes and Land Use, annual pre-fire plans	✓
Preserving the environment: Fire can have a significant impact on the environment, including air and water quality, wildlife habitats, and natural resources. Fire suppression services should take measures to prevent or minimize these impacts.	District adopted standards and industry best practice	✓
Fire suppression services should also ensure public safety by providing information and education on fire prevention and response, as well as	District adopted standards, Florida Fire Prevention Code (FAC69A), NFPA1730, Mobile Eyes, Florida Administrative code 69 D, NFPA1 and 101,	✓
conducting fire safety inspections and enforcing fire codes and regulations.	Lee County Building codes and Land Use, Lee County Division of Code Enforcement	

Fire suppression services should continually evaluate and improve their operations, equipment, and training to ensure that they are providing the highest level of service to the community.	ISO, NFPA1001, 1021, 1402,1410 and 1802, best department practice	✓
To provide rapid response to medical emergencies. The primary goal of fire rescue and emergency medical services is to provide a timely and effective response to medical and fire emergencies. The goal is to meet the set time by NFPA 1710	NFPA 1710, measured and presented at monthly board meetings, district adopted standards, industry best practices	✗
To provide high-quality medical care to patients	District medical director, Florida Administrative code 64J	✓
A key goal of Rescue and emergency Medical Services is to ensure the safety of patients and emergency responders	District medical director, Florida Administrative code 64J	✓
Another goal of Rescue and Emergency Medical services is to provide ongoing training and professional development for emergency responders.	District medical director, Florida Administrative code 64J, FDOH (Florida Chapter 401.23, 401.23(7) and 401.27 (6 a), American Heart association (ACLS, BLS, handtevy, PALS, district adopted standards	✓
Rescue and emergency Medical Services is to ensure efficient use of resources, such as medical equipment and emergency vehicles.	District adopted practices, District medical director, Florida Administrative code 64J	✓
To provide rapid and effective response to vehicle accidents: The primary goal of firefighters is responding to vehicle accidents is to provide a timely and effective response to the emergency.	Measured and presented at month board meetings, district adopted standards, industry best practices	✓
To ensure the safety of victims and emergency responders: A key role of firefighters in responding to vehicle accidents is to ensure the safety of victims and emergency responders.	ISO, district adopted practices	✓
To provide medical care to victims: Another goal for firefighters is responding to vehicle accidents is to	Best industry practices	✓

provide medical care to victims, including extraction, from the vehicle, first aid, and transport to the hospital if necessary.		
To clear the accident scene quickly and safely: Another goal of the firefighter in responding to vehicle accidents is to clear the accident scene quickly and safely, to reduce risk of further accidents and minimize disruption to traffic.	Best industry practices	✓
To ensure the safety of victims and emergency responders: A key goal of fire fighters in responding to specialized emergencies is to ensure the safety of victims and emergency response.	District adopted practices and monthly training of a minimum of 20 hrs. All training our are logged and presented to the shift captains at each months officer meeting	✓

Improvements:

Our Fire Department is committed to continually improving emergency response times and providing the highest level of service to our community. With approximately 45 square miles to cover, several factors can influence response times, including the distance between fire stations, multiple calls occurring within the same response area, training activities, road construction, traffic conditions, emergency access, and other unforeseen circumstances. While fire stations are strategically located throughout the District to provide optimal coverage, these factors can impact daily response times.

The District continuously evaluates opportunities to improve emergency response times, operational efficiency, and staffing levels. Through ongoing operational reviews and strategic planning, the District works to identify ways to maximize available resources, improve efficiency, and enhance service delivery. The District has invested in station upgrades and enhanced truck communications equipment to improve operational effectiveness.

Consistent with recommendations from the independent performance review conducted by SDS, the District has purchased the recommended ladder truck to enhance operational capabilities and improve service delivery throughout the District. The District is also currently rebuilding Fire Station 2 in St. James City, a project funded through a federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant. These investments reflect the District's continued commitment to improving its facilities, equipment, and overall ability to serve the community.

Increasing firefighter staffing remains a priority for the District and continues to be a focus of its long-range planning. The District recognizes the importance of adequate staffing levels in supporting safe and effective emergency operations. National Fire Protection Association

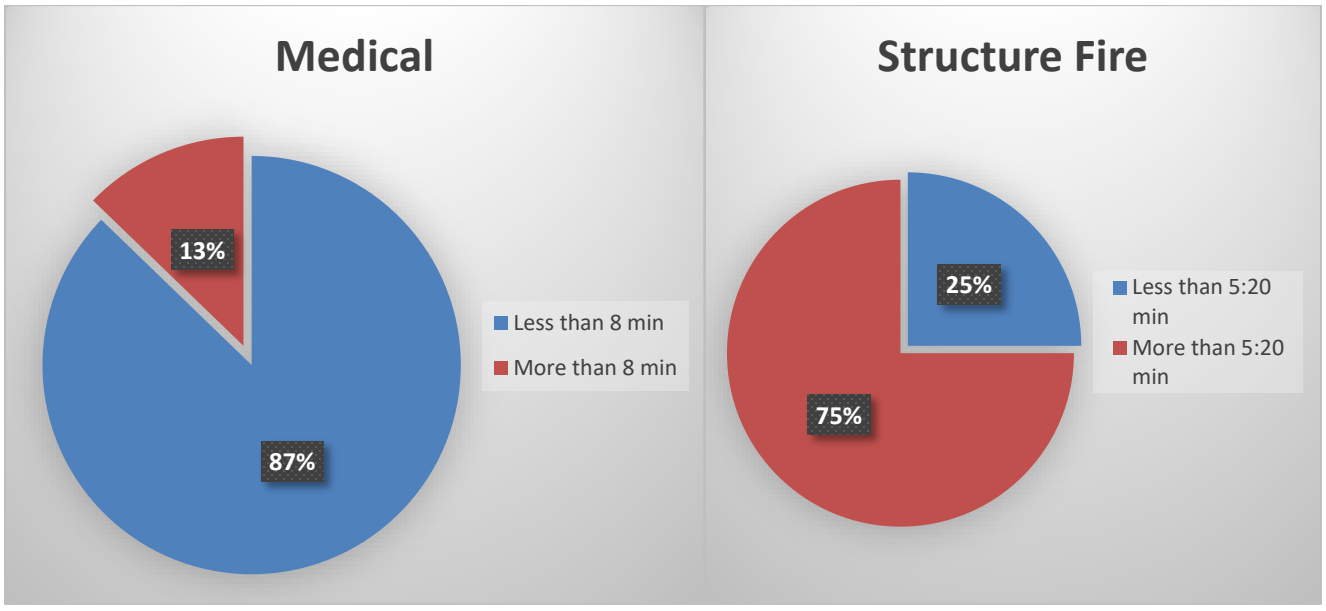
(NFPA) recommendations and the findings of the independent SDS performance review continue to serve as important benchmarks in evaluating staffing needs and identifying opportunities for improvement. The District will continue to evaluate opportunities to increase staffing as financial conditions and available resources allow.

With the passage of Florida Amendment 3 and the uncertainty surrounding its legislative implementation, along with the potential impacts on future property values and ad valorem tax revenues, the District is currently facing some financial uncertainty. As a result, the District is evaluating its financial outlook and reviewing available options to ensure long-term financial sustainability while maintaining appropriate levels of fire protection and emergency services.

As part of this evaluation, the District has engaged a consulting firm to conduct a fire assessment to help identify service needs, operational considerations, and potential funding and resource strategies for the future. The assessment will provide additional information to assist the District in evaluating its current operations, planning for future needs, and making informed decisions regarding service delivery and resource allocation.

The District remains committed to continually evaluating its operations, investing in facilities and equipment, and identifying opportunities to improve emergency response capabilities and overall service delivery. Through strategic planning, responsible resource management, and ongoing evaluation of staffing and operational needs, the District will continue working toward its goal of providing effective, reliable, and sustainable fire protection and emergency services throughout the community.

2025/2026 response times are displayed below-



Conclusion:

The District remains committed to meeting its established goals and maintaining the highest possible level of service to the community. Through ongoing evaluation of its programs, services, staffing, equipment, and operational capabilities, the District continually seeks opportunities to improve efficiency, strengthen emergency response, and enhance the delivery of fire protection and emergency medical services.

As the District navigates changing financial conditions, evolving legislative requirements, and the needs of a growing and changing community, it will continue to evaluate its resources, explore available options, and make informed decisions that balance operational needs with long-term fiscal responsibility. Investments in facilities, apparatus, communications, and personnel will remain important components of this effort.

Ultimately, the District's priority is to provide effective, reliable, and sustainable fire protection and emergency services while remaining fiscally responsible and accountable to the taxpayers and residents it serves. Through continued planning, assessment, and a commitment to improvement, the District will work to ensure it is prepared to meet both the current and future needs of the community.



"Serving Our Community Today. Preparing for Tomorrow."