

July 2026, 7th Edition

CHIEF'S NEWSLETTER

IONA MCGREGOR FIRE DISTRICT

Message from the Fire Chief's Office

As we move through another busy summer, we want to recognize the extraordinary men and women of the Iona McGregor Fire District. Every day, they demonstrate professionalism, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to protecting our community. Today's firefighters respond to far more than fires—they are trained and equipped to manage an ever-growing range of complex emergencies requiring specialized training, equipment, and expertise.

This month's newsletter highlights one of those critical capabilities—Special Operations. From technical rescues and hazardous materials incidents to marine emergencies and regional Urban Search and Rescue deployments, these highly trained teams stand ready whenever and wherever they are needed. Their year-round training ensures they can respond safely, effectively, and with confidence when every second counts.

The strength of our Special Operations team is built upon dedicated firefighters who devote countless hours to training beyond their regular duties. Their dedication strengthens our district, supports neighboring communities, and enables us to assist across the State of Florida during major disasters. Whether responding to emergencies, teaching CPR, engaging with our community, or preparing for the next challenge, our members remain committed to our mission of exceeding expectations by protecting lives and property through exemplary emergency response, community risk reduction, and public outreach.

Thank you for your continued trust and support of the Iona McGregor Fire District. It is our privilege to serve this community every day.

Stay safe,

Joel Guzman, Deputy Chief of Administration

Feature: Special Operations





Monthly Call Statistics

1,589
April
2026

1,424
May
2026

1,351
June
2026



When most people think of the fire department, they think of firefighters responding to fires. While fire suppression remains the core mission of the Iona McGregor Fire District, our personnel provide a much broader range of specialized emergency services every day.

In many ways, our Special Operations Programs allow us to protect our community from 100 feet in the air to 100 feet below the water, ensuring we are prepared to respond to complex emergencies on land, in the water, and in hazardous environments throughout our community and surrounding region.

Our Technical Rescue Team is trained and equipped to perform rope rescue, confined space rescue, and complex vehicle and machinery extrication. Several members of the team also serve with Florida Task Force 6, the regional Urban Search and Rescue Team for Southwest Florida, which is overseen by our Division Chief of Training and Special Operations. Our Dive Program places trained public safety divers on each suppression apparatus, ensuring a rapid response to water-related emergencies. The District also operates a 32-foot Metal Shark fireboat capable of providing firefighting and dive rescue support to incidents on local waterways and waterfront properties. In addition, several members serve as Hazardous Materials Technicians and supplement the Region 6 Hazardous Materials Team based out of the City of Fort Myers.

Together, these specialized programs demonstrate that today's fire service extends far beyond fighting fires, providing our community with a highly trained and versatile emergency response force our citizens can be proud of!

Community Outreach: Teens Learn Lifesaving Skills This Summer

This summer, local teens spent time with us learning skills that could help save a life. During the Iona McGregor Fire District's Teen CPR Classes, participants learned CPR, how to use an AED, and how to help someone who is choking, whether it's an adult, child, or infant.

Through hands-on practice and instruction, these teens gained the confidence and knowledge to step up in a cardiac emergency. We're proud of them for spending part of their summer learning skills that can make a real difference.

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Contact Us

Administration, Station 74:
6061 South Pointe Blvd.,
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Phone: 239.433.0660

Web: ionafiredistrict.com