



Sarasota County Fire Department

FY26 Fire Assessment Program Update

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Fire Chief



Mission and Values

SCFD Mission Statement

Strengthening community through a network of skilled professionals dedicated to saving lives and protecting property.

SCFD Values

*Serving our community with **P.R.I.D.E.**
(**P**rofessionalism, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**edication, **E**xcellence)*



Quick Stats

Incident Responses

67,414 Total Incidents

54,545 EMS

6,590 Fire

4,193 Motor Vehicle Accidents

2,086 Other



Service Area Demographics

472 Square Miles

415k Population

ISO 2/2Y

25 Fire Stations



Support Personnel

SHIFT: 553

NON-SHIFT: 88

32 Lifeguards

2 Fire Mitigation

16 Office of the Fire Marshal

2 Personnel Services/Payroll

2 Finance/Assessments

1 Community Risk Reduction/Pub Ed

1 EMS Quality Assurance

4 Administrative Specialist

15 Certified Non-shift

6 Logistics

2 Planning

1 Public Information Officer

EMS Transports

37,485





- Established in 1911 with a Fire Chief and 12 firefighters
- The County's first consolidation occurred in 1985 to become the Metropolitan Sarasota Fire Rescue District.
 - *South Trail Area Volunteer Fire Department*
 - *Northeast Volunteer Fire Department*
 - *Fruitville Fire Control District*
- 1988 : Sarasota County Fire Department was formed.
 - *Metropolitan Sarasota Fire Rescue District*
 - *South County Fire District*
 - *South County Ambulance District*
 - *Southeast Fire Rescue District*
 - *Old Miakka Fire Control District*
- 1996 : the City of Sarasota Fire Department merged with Sarasota County Fire Department.
- 1997 : Sarasota County Fire Department merged with South Venice Volunteer Fire Department.
- 2024 : Sarasota County Fire Department became Internationally Accredited.





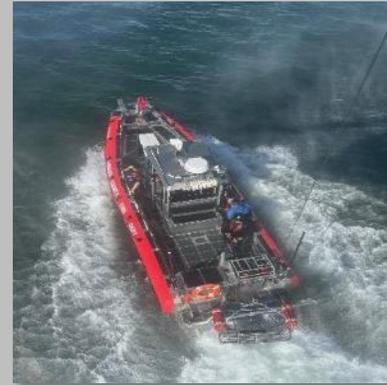
Fire Suppression



Emergency Medical Services



Public Education



Marine Rescue



Wildfire Mitigation

Sarasota County Fire Department Services



Fire Prevention Inspections



Fire Prevention Plans Review



Lifeguards



Technical Rescue



Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Response



22 ALS Engines and 1 BLS Engine*



25 Rescues



1 Heavy Rescue Squad



1 Fire Boat



2 Tankers*

Sarasota County Fire Department Resources



5 Brush Trucks



1 Mobile Command Unit



4 On-Duty Battalion Chiefs



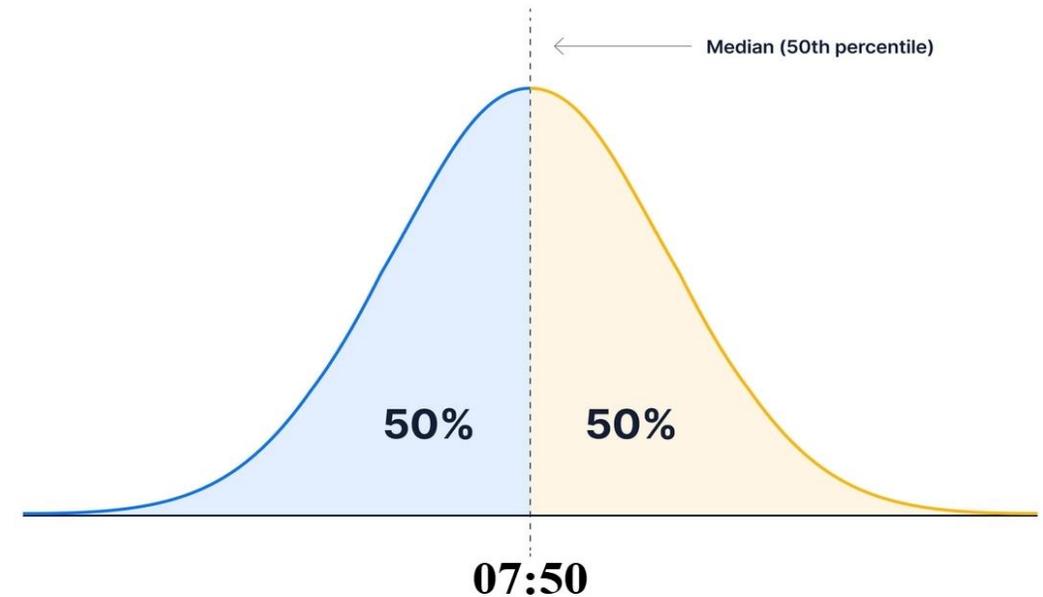
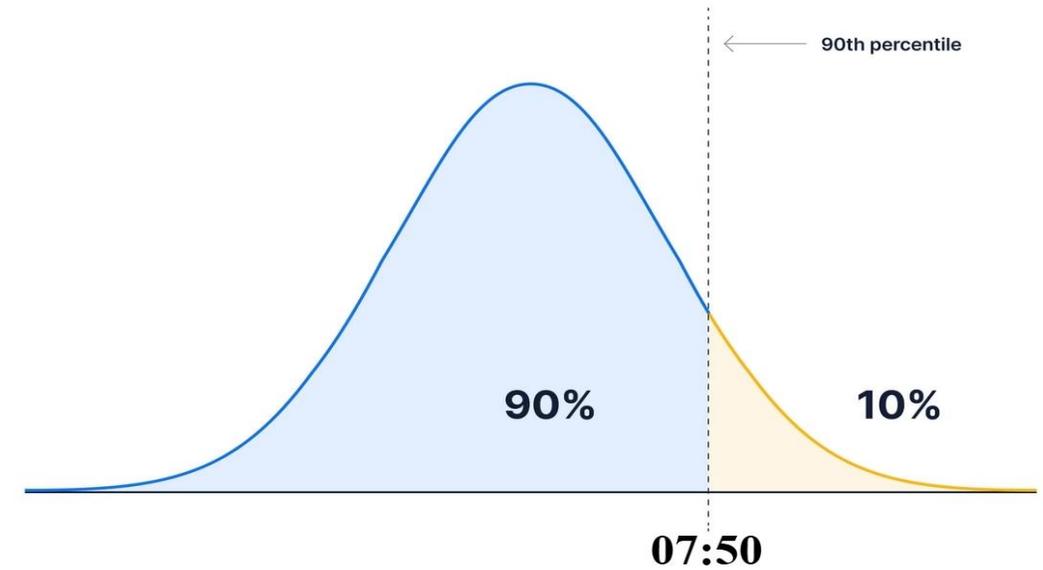
3 EMS Captains



1 Incident Safety Officer

Fractal Performance

Center for Public Safety Excellence (Commission on Fire Accreditation International) requires performance to be reported at the 90th Percentile



Response Time Segments

Call Processing

Time from 911 Call Pickup to Dispatch

Firefighter Turnout Time

Station Alert Tones to Wheels Turning

Travel Time

1st Unit Travel Effective Response Force Travel



Response Time Segments



Call Processing

Best Practice Urban & Rural = 1:00

Baseline Performance Urban = 2:29

Baseline Performance Rural = 2:25



Firefighter Turnout Time

Best Practice Urban & Rural (EMS) = 1:00

Baseline Performance Urban = 1:38

Baseline Performance Rural = 1:41

Best Practice Urban & Rural (Fire) = 1:20

Baseline Performance Urban (Fire) = 1:38

Baseline Performance Rural (Fire) = 1:43



Travel Time

1st Unit

- Best Practice = 4 Minutes
- Urban Benchmark = 5:30
- Urban Baseline Performance = 7:32
- Rural Benchmark = 7:30
- Rural Baseline Performance = 9:39

Effective Response (Structure Fire)

- Best Practice = 8 Minutes
- Urban Benchmark = 11 Minutes
- Urban Baseline Performance = 16:32
- Rural Benchmark = 15 Minutes
- Rural Baseline Performance = 19:59

Single Family Residential Structure Fire	
Critical Task	# of Personnel
Fire Attack Hose	3
Backup Line	3
Incident Commander	1
Incident Command Aid	1
Attack Pump Operator	1
Ventilation Team	2
Aerial Operator	1
Supply Pump Operator	1
Rapid Intervention Team	2
Search & Rescue Team	2
Total	17

Critical Tasking



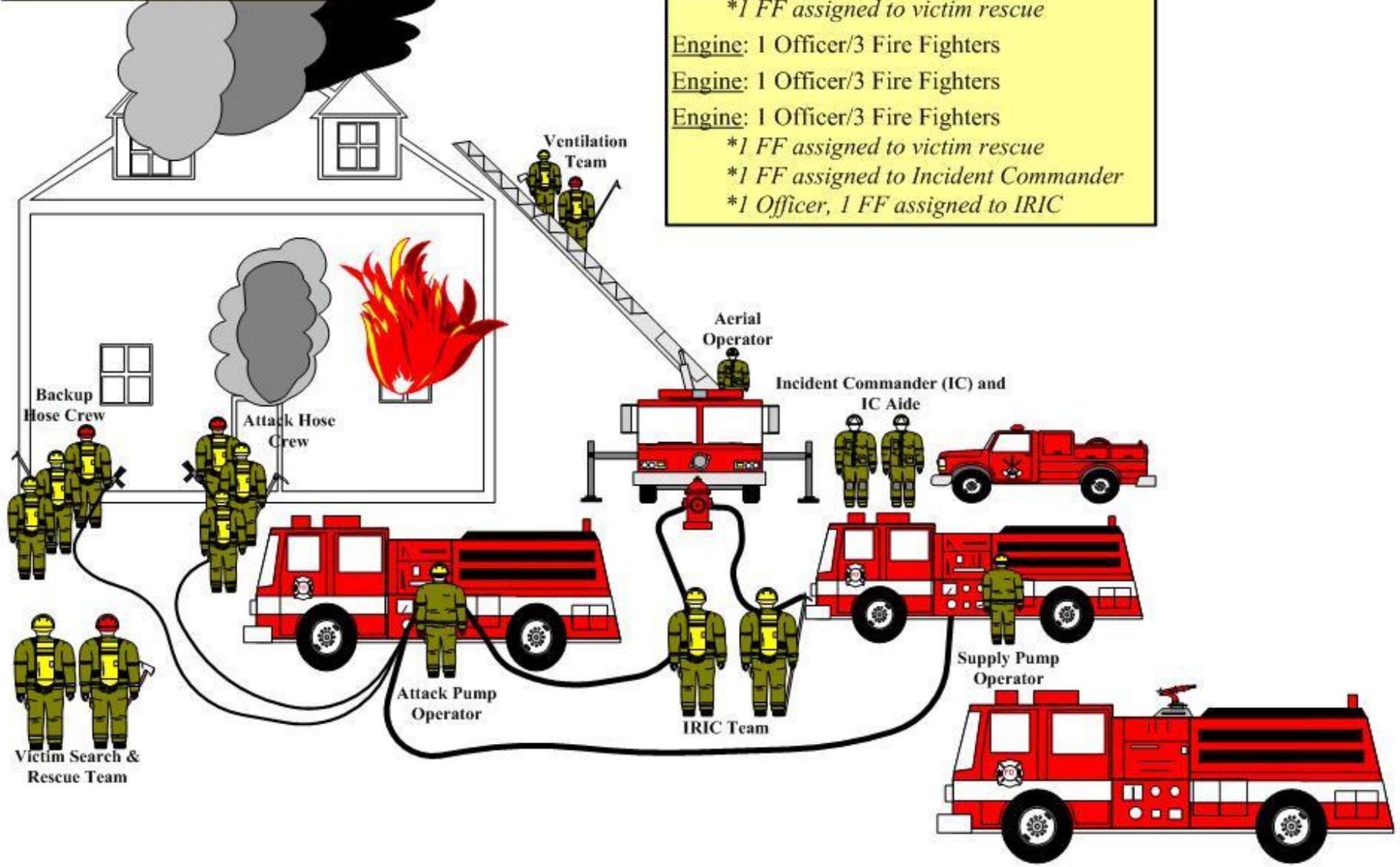
Effective Response Force is established for each incident Classification and Category based on Critical Tasking.



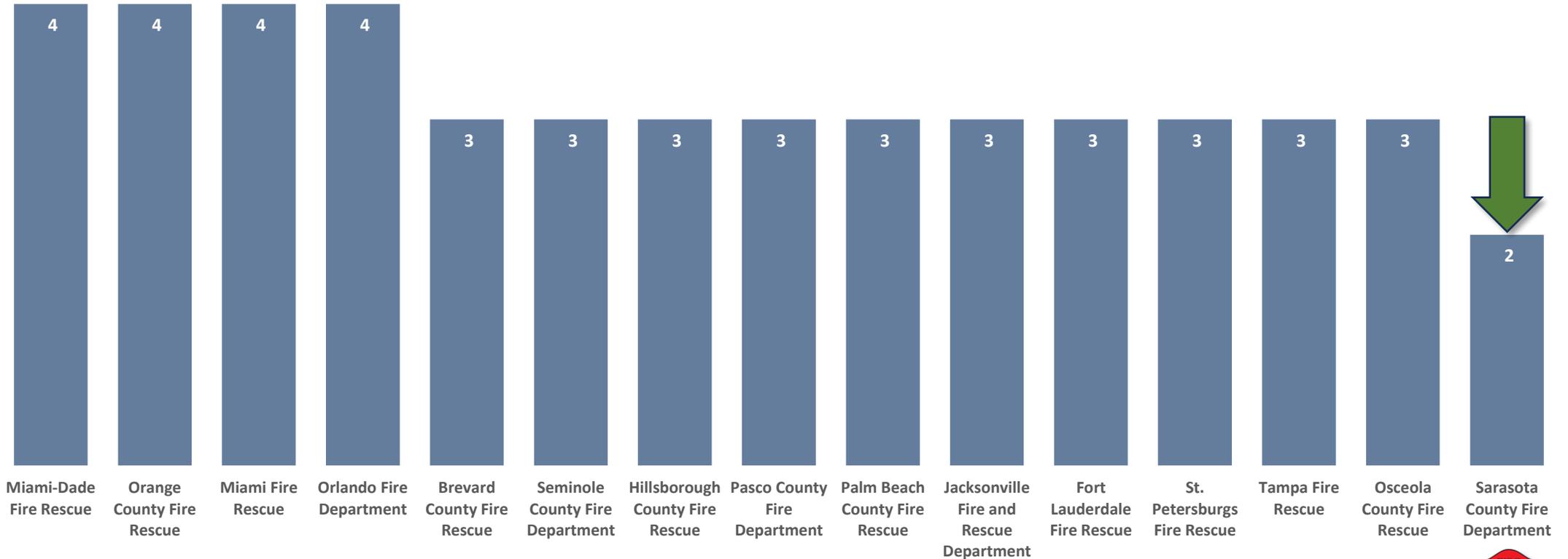
ERF Travel Time established by number of stations the required number of responders are responding from.

15 PERSONNEL REQUIRED
*17 if Aerial Device and
Supply Pump are in Operation*

TOTAL ON SCENE: 17
Incident Command Vehicle: 1 Chief Officer
Ladder Truck: 1 Officer/3 Fire Fighters
 **1 FF assigned to victim rescue*
Engine: 1 Officer/3 Fire Fighters
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Engine: 1 Officer/3 Fire Fighters
 **1 FF assigned to victim rescue*
 **1 FF assigned to Incident Commander*
 **1 Officer, 1 FF assigned to IRIC*

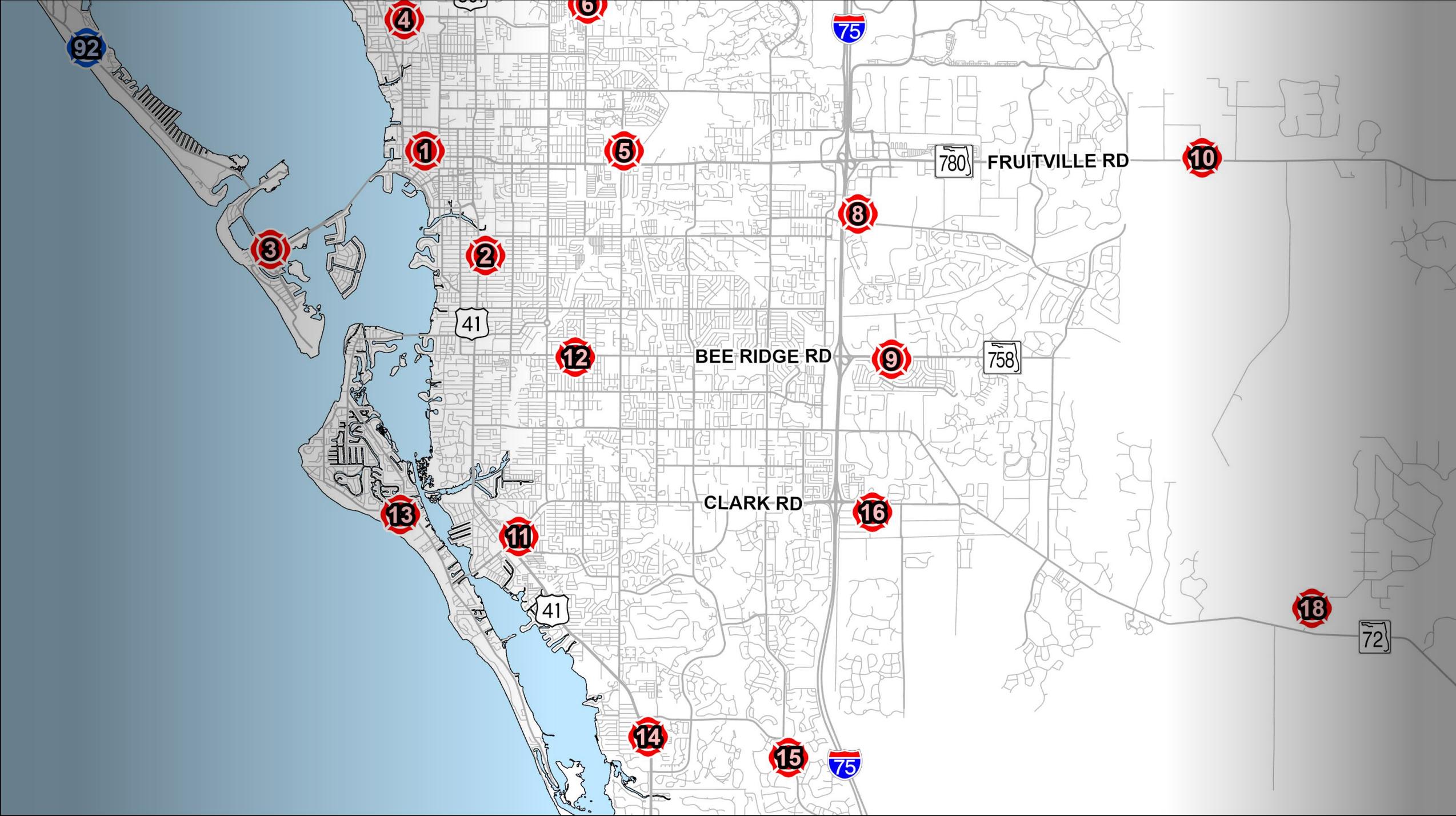


Minimum Engine Staffing



Agency





92

4

6

75

1

5

780

FRUITVILLE RD

10

3

2

41

12

BEE RIDGE RD

9

758

13

11

CLARK RD

16

41

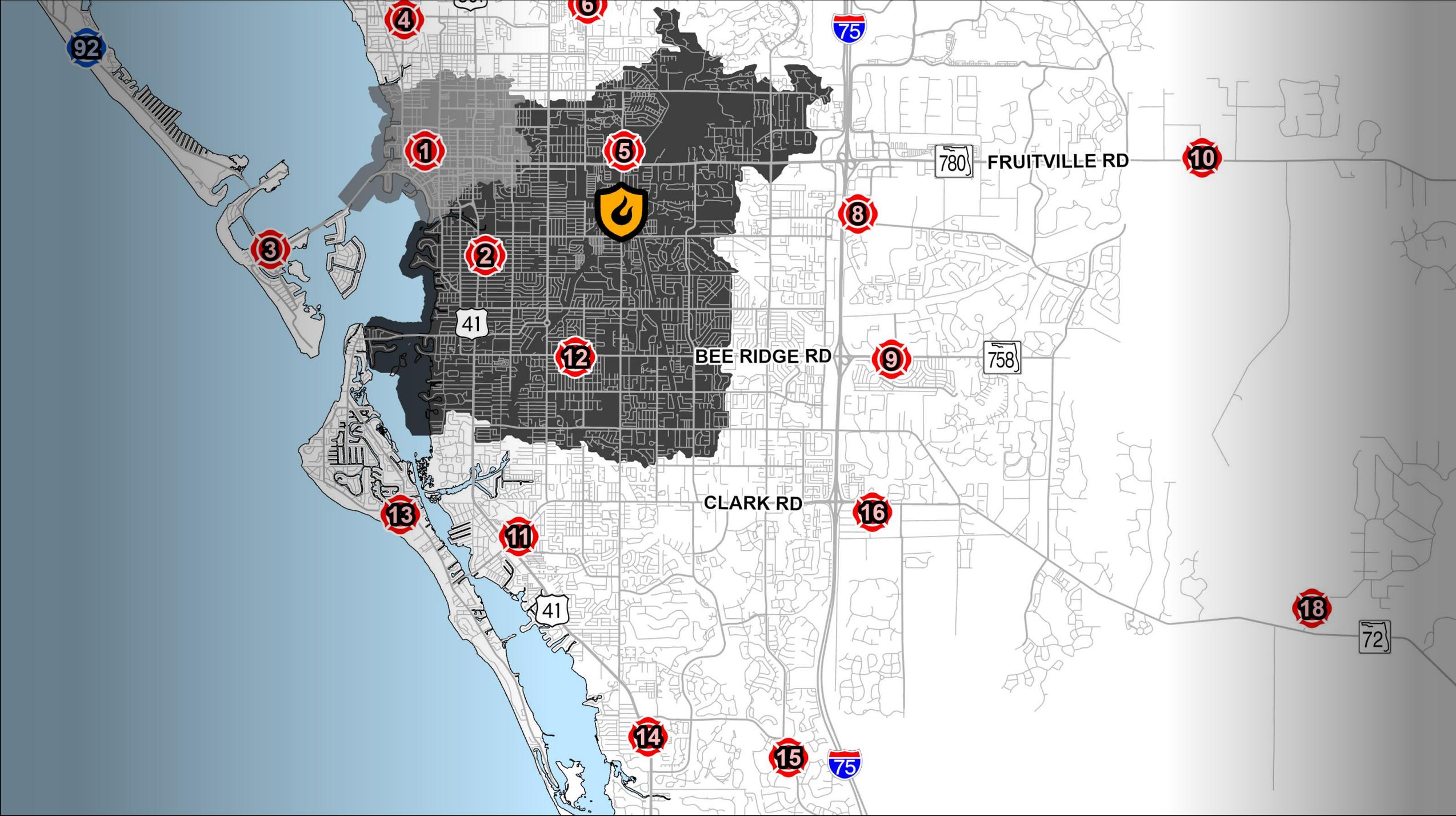
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14

15

75

72



92

4

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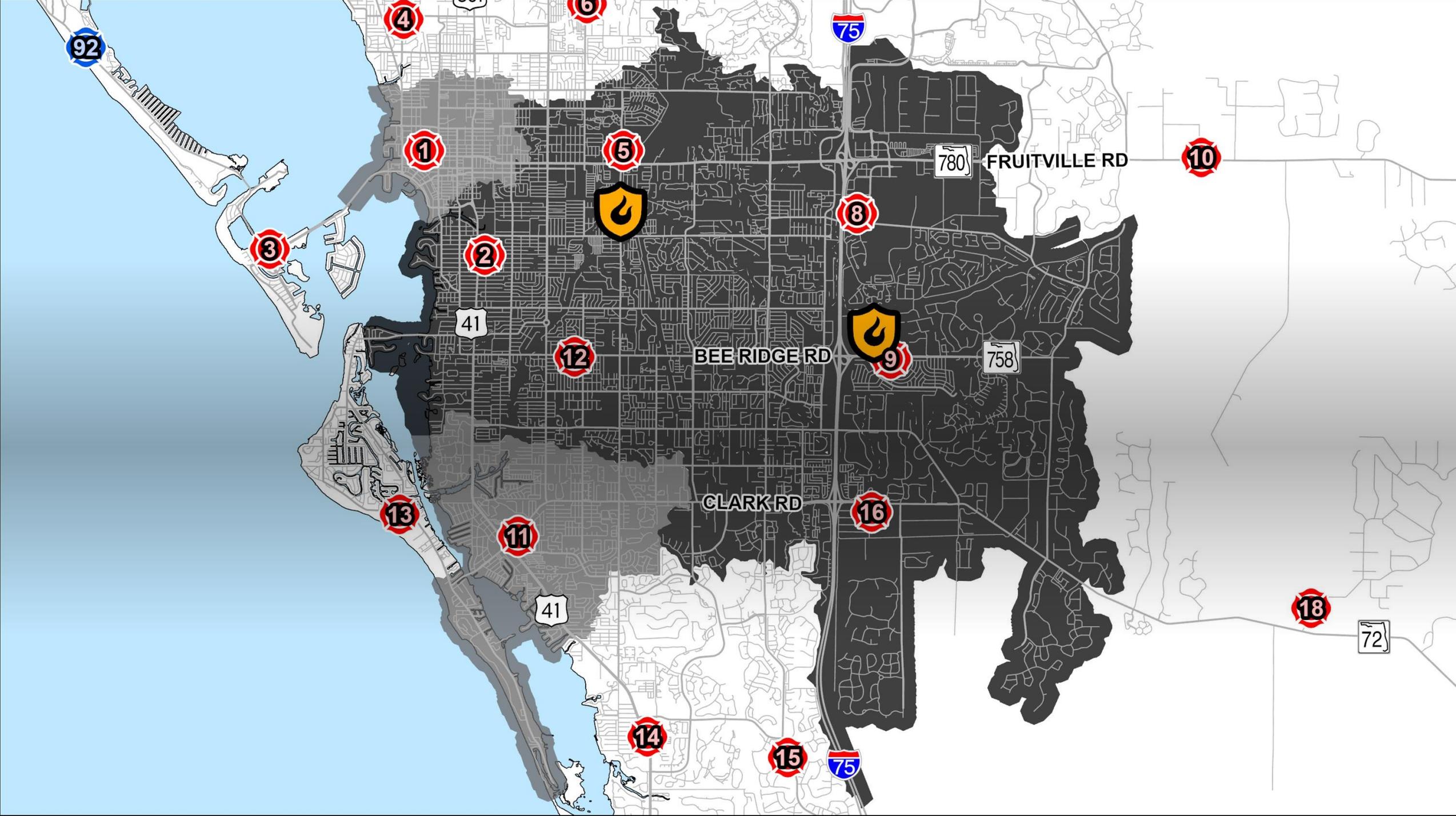
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75

72

Fire Assessment Background



Sarasota County utilizes a fire assessment as a charge imposed against real property to pay for fire services provided by the County



Cost-effective and financially stable means for funding fire services and associated facilities



Benefit based system



Provides dedicated funding source that preserves level of service based upon annual decision



Fire Assessment methodology foundation built upon the level of service and funding necessary to provide that level of service

Fire Assessment Methodology

Does not include outbuildings

Continues to use the following components of the current 2023 Assessment Methodology:

- Uses rates based upon an Equivalent Billing Units (EBU's) of 100 Sq. Ft. increments
- Includes a minimum assessment of 7.5 EBU's (750 sq. ft.) to ensure each property is assessed basic cost of fire protection
- Mobile homes/spaces assessed residential rate at minimum of 7.5 EBU's
- Travel Trailer Spaces assessed Non-Residential/Multi-Family rate for 330 Sq. Ft. or 3.3 EBU's

Data Components

Service Delivery

- ALS with Transport
- Apparatus and fire flow available
 - Unlimited
- Fire Protection Benefit Area
 - City of Sarasota
 - Unincorporated area of Sarasota County (except Englewood & Nokomis Fire District areas)

Fire Department Budget

- Fire vs. EMS expenditures
 - Develop 5-year assessable budget for fire protection

Develop Cost Apportionment

- Call/Incident Data

Develop Parcel Apportionment/Preliminary Assessment Roll

- Ad Valorem Tax Roll Data
 - Building/Property Use
 - Building area square footage

Fire Fund Models Assumptions

Model updated to include new and additional level of service increases over next five years – including:*

- Continuation of 3rd person staffing plan (5-year plan)
- Projected out-year personnel, capital and equipment costs
- Unfunded mandate staffing plan for the fire marshal's office
- Staffing for two additional rescues in FY29 & FY30
- Fire Station 7, Systems Court (Waterside/LWR) in FY26
- Fire Station 27, East Venice Rd in FY27
- Fire Station 24, South Lorraine Rd (Skye Ranch) in FY28
- Fire Station 26, relocation TBD, in FY29
- Fire Station 25, North Lorraine Rd in FY30



- Debt service for mobile radio replacement in FY28
- Regional Fire Training Academy
- Fire Marshal inspection services
- Projected personnel costs
- Capital and equipment costs
- Additional Fire Administrative Staffing, including Training Staff
- Tanker Trucks

** Not all items above are budgeted*

Fire & EMS Expenses



Revenues cannot be transferred
between funds



50%



50%

Most costs are split 50/50*

**Fire & EMS
FY26 Forecasted Budget
\$167,277,926**

* Fire Marshal is 100% Fire, SWAT Medics, EMS Captains are 100% EMS. Capital Assets are not split; they are charged 100% to either Fund.

Historical Fire Assessment Rates

Annual Increase by Fiscal Year

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	Total Increase
2,500 Sq. Ft. Single Family	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$6.50	\$33.75	\$33.75	\$84.00
1,600 Sq. Ft. Multi Family	\$2.08	\$4.00	\$5.12	\$7.20	\$46.72	\$39.20	\$104.32
10,000 Sq. Ft. Non-Residential	\$10.00	\$39.00	\$48.00	\$60.00	\$254.00	\$341.00	\$752.00

5-Year Average Assessable Budget -- \$71,275,684

Maximum Rates	FY 23-24 Adopted	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	5-Year Average
Single Family Residential	\$9.00	\$11.80	\$12.79	\$14.33	\$15.25	\$12.56
Multi-Family Residential	\$16.31	\$21.38	\$23.19	\$25.97	\$27.65	\$22.76
Non-Residential	\$22.74	\$29.80	\$32.32	\$36.20	\$38.55	\$31.73



Proposed 13% Increase to Fire Assessment Rates

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Proposed Rates:

Assessment Category	Current Rate	Proposed 13% Increase
Single-family	\$10.35	\$11.70
Multi-family	\$18.76	\$21.20
Non-residential	\$26.15	\$29.56

Examples:

Total Sq. Ft.	Assessment Category	Current Annual Assessment	Proposed Annual Assessment	Annual Difference	Monthly Difference	Daily Difference
2,500	Single-family	\$258.75	\$292.50	\$33.75	\$2.81	\$0.09
1,600	Multi-family	\$300.16	\$339.20	\$39.04	\$3.25	\$0.11
10,000	Non-residential	\$2,615.00	\$2,956.00	\$341.00	\$28.42	\$0.95



August 15, 2025 – TRIM Notification Mailed

Public Meeting Schedule : 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

- **August 19th:** Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd.
- **August 20th:** Fire Station 23, 1930 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
- **August 25th:** Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota

September 10, 2025 – FY26 Final Budget and Rate Approval
1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota FL 34236

Next Steps



Questions?