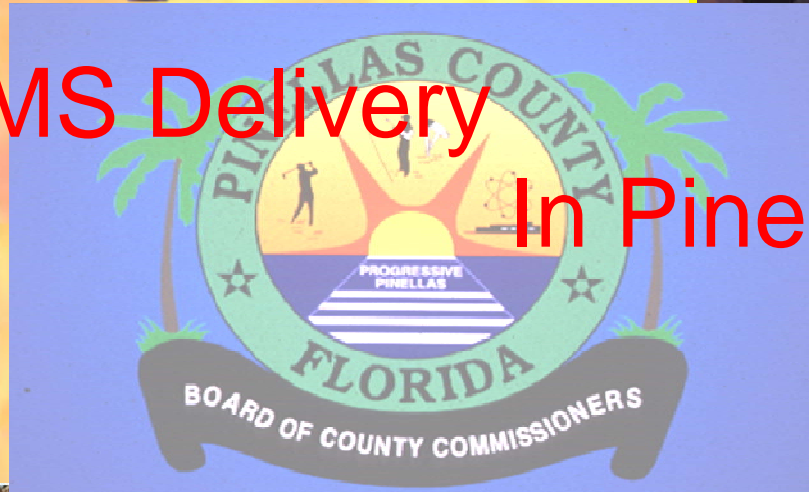




# Fire and EMS Delivery In Pinellas County



# Purpose

- WHO?** Multi - Jurisdictional Committee comprised of Fire Chiefs , financial representatives and county fire and EMS staff
- WHAT?** To develop a baseline of information on our fire and EMS service.
- WHY?** The American Assembly Process – Fire and EMS Task Force



# **Fire Protection services all began as volunteer organizations and many started prior to 1900 in Pinellas County.**

- 1890-91 - Clear Water Harbor Volunteer Fire Dept.**
- 1891 - Name changed to Clearwater and incorporated**
- 1895 - Tarpon Springs Volunteer Department Formed**
- 1897-98 - St. Petersburg Volunteer Fire Dept Formed  
Alert Hose Co. #1 at Central / Fifth Street  
Station # 2 was at Blocker's Livery Barn**
- 1897-99 - Safety Harbor Volunteer Fire Dept. Started**
- 1907 - St. Petersburg hired first fire fighters and  
volunteers disbanded**
- 1911 - St Pete Built Station #1 at 3<sup>rd</sup> St / 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S  
First horse drawn steam engine purchased.**
- 1913 - Clearwater paid Fire Chief \$50 per year & Fire  
Fighters \$2 per fire**
- 1928 - Clearwater disbanded the volunteers**

# Unincorporated Area Fire Protection

## **1973 - Florida Special Act 73-600**

**Created Fire Authority**

**Method to create Fire Districts**

## **1974 - Dependant Fire Districts began to be created.**

**Fire Code established**

**Determine Level of Service. (minimum staffing, etc.)**

**Funded through special Ad Valorem Tax.**

**Contract with existing Fire Departments for Services**

## **1980 - County Charter Adopted**

**Fire Services in Chapter 62**

## **2001 – East Lake & Lealman changed to Independent Districts**



# Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Rating

**Each fire department strives to achieve the lowest rating by this organization. The ISO rating is based on a one to ten scale, with one being the best.**

**In Pinellas County, these ratings range from 2 to 5.**





**Fire  
Stations in  
Pinellas  
County**





# The System Today

19 Fire/EMS Agencies manage 61 Fire/EMS Stations

These 19 agencies are funded by a variety of sources and serve:

912,639 Permanent Residents

315 Square Miles

19 agencies provide 1,340 total Personnel

291 on duty each day

1,141 Operational Personnel (24 Hour)

**551 are FF/EMT's**

**547 are FF/Paramedics**





# The System Today (con't)

## Daily Staffed Apparatus

56 Engines

19 Aerials

27 Rescues

10 Squads

14 District Chiefs





Engine



Aerial



District  
Chief



Rescue



Squad





# Current System Features

**Centralized Communications/Radio System/9-1-1**

**Automatic Aid Agreement - Sends closest appropriate unit regardless of jurisdiction.**

**Countywide Standard Operating Procedures**

**Countywide Hazmat Team**

**Countywide Technical Rescue Team**

**Building a centralized training facility**



# Single Family House Fire

Florida Statutes require a minimum of four trained personnel on scene prior to initiating an interior fire attack.

Total personnel recommended for sustained operations;

Incident Commander (1)

Attack Hose line (2)

Search Team (2)

Rapid Intervention Team (2)

Aerial Operator (1 if used)

Support Person for each hose line (2)

Apparatus Operator (1)

Backup Hose line (2)

Ventilation Team (2)

**Total – 14 or 15**





# 15 Personnel needed on Scene for Sustained Operations

A Single Family Residential house fire at Tampa Road and McMullen-Booth  
Requires a Response From 4 Stations



Engine 56 (3)



Engine 54 (3)



Truck 53 (4)

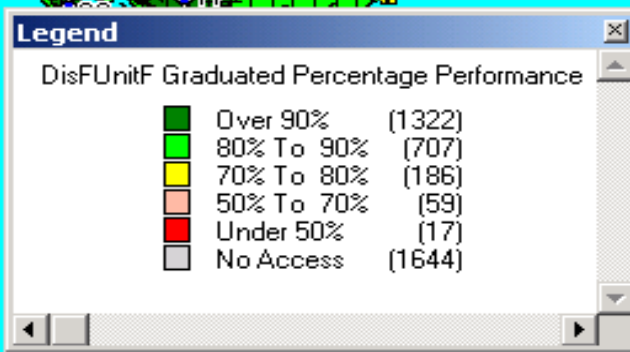
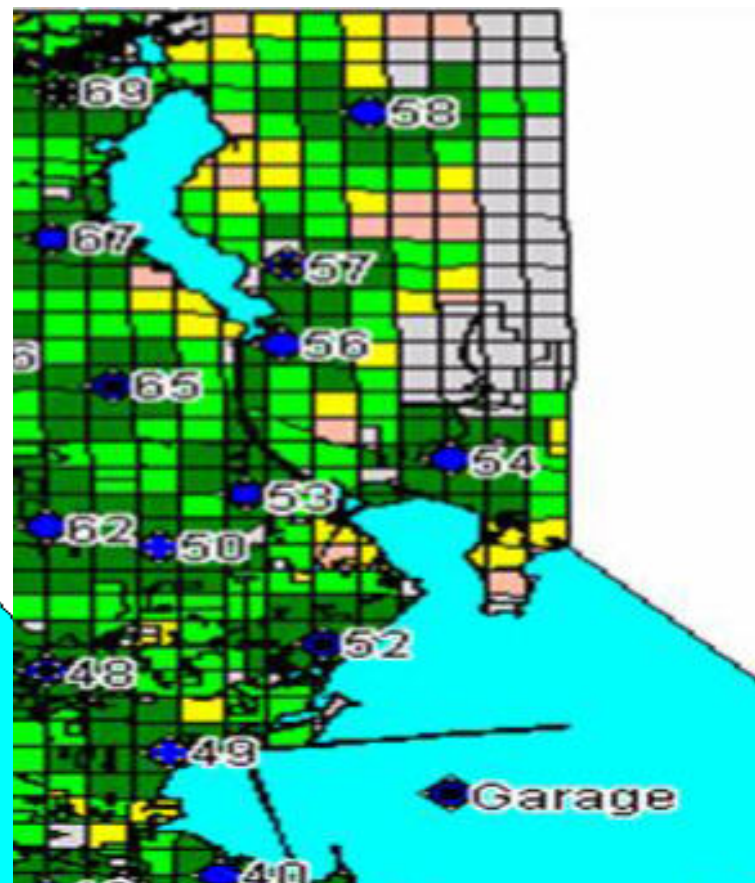
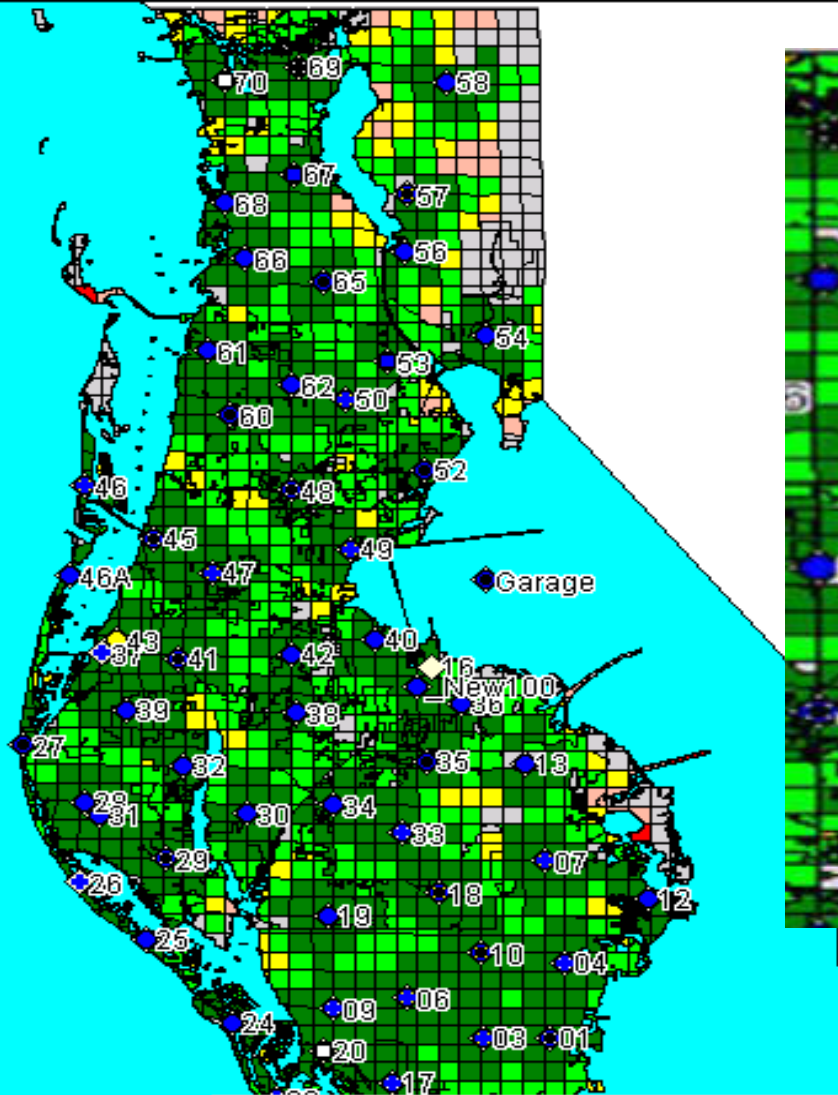
Engine 65 (3)

Squad 65 (2)

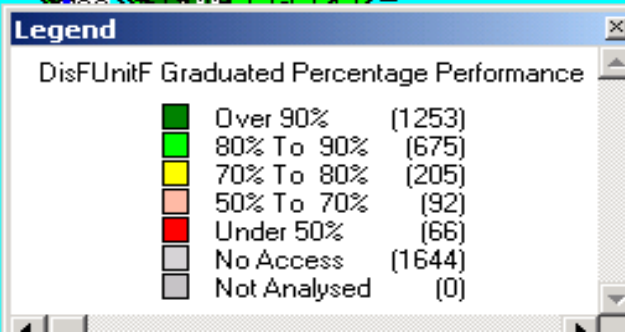
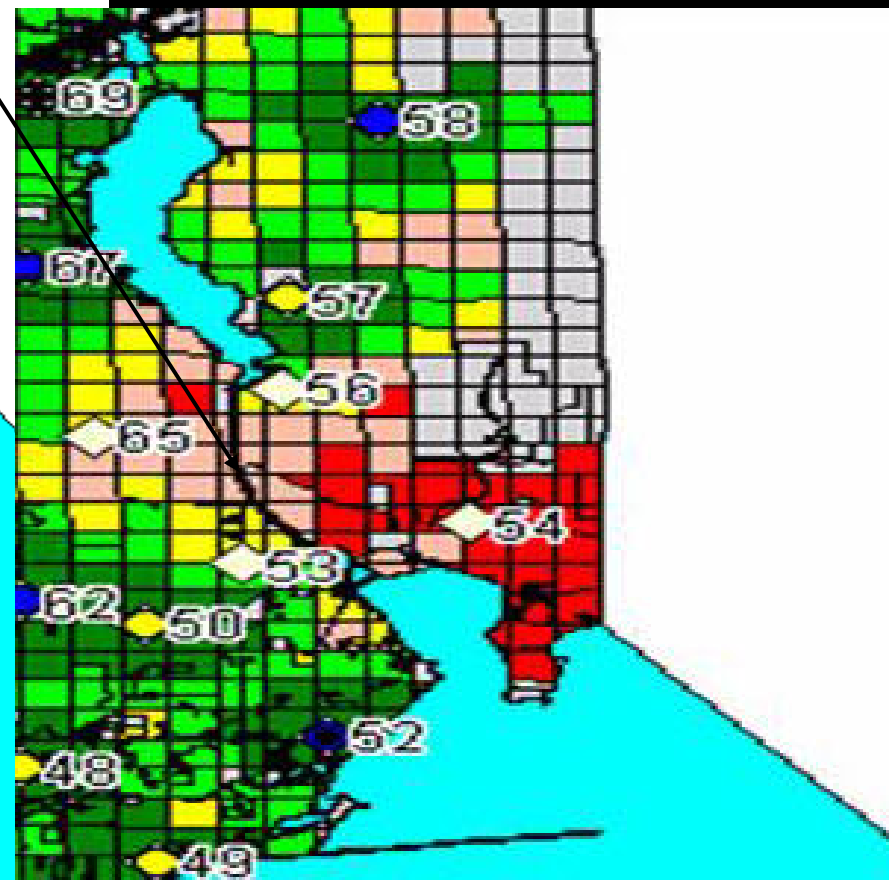
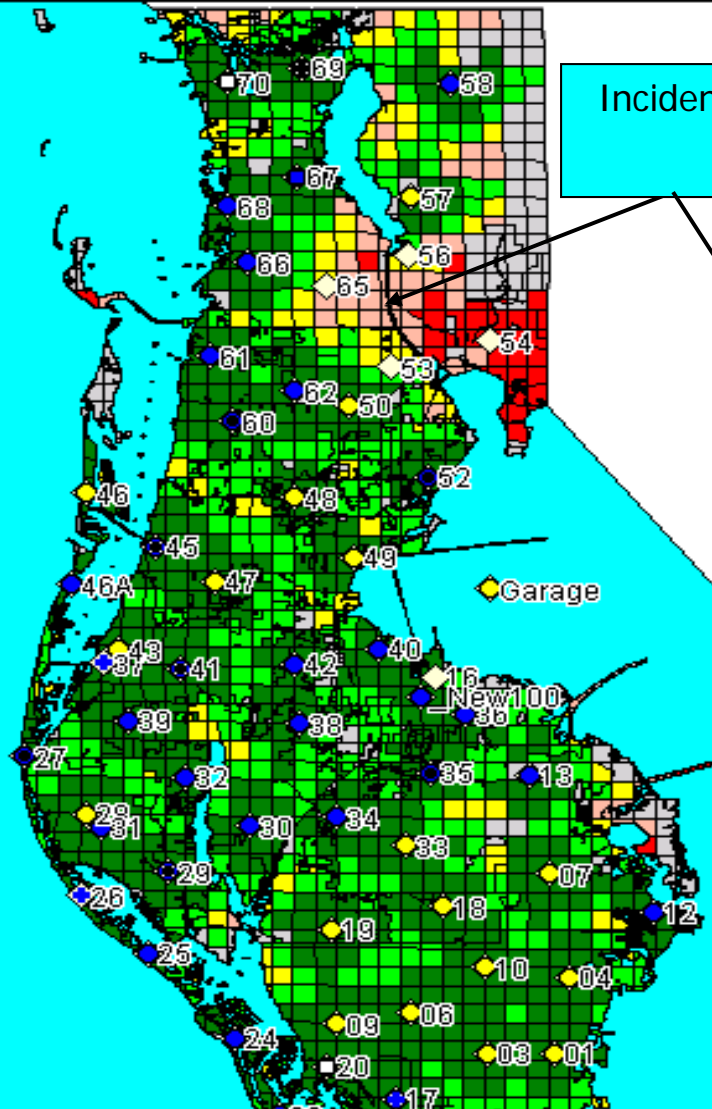
D/C 65 (1)







Incident at McMullen Booth &  
Tampa Road



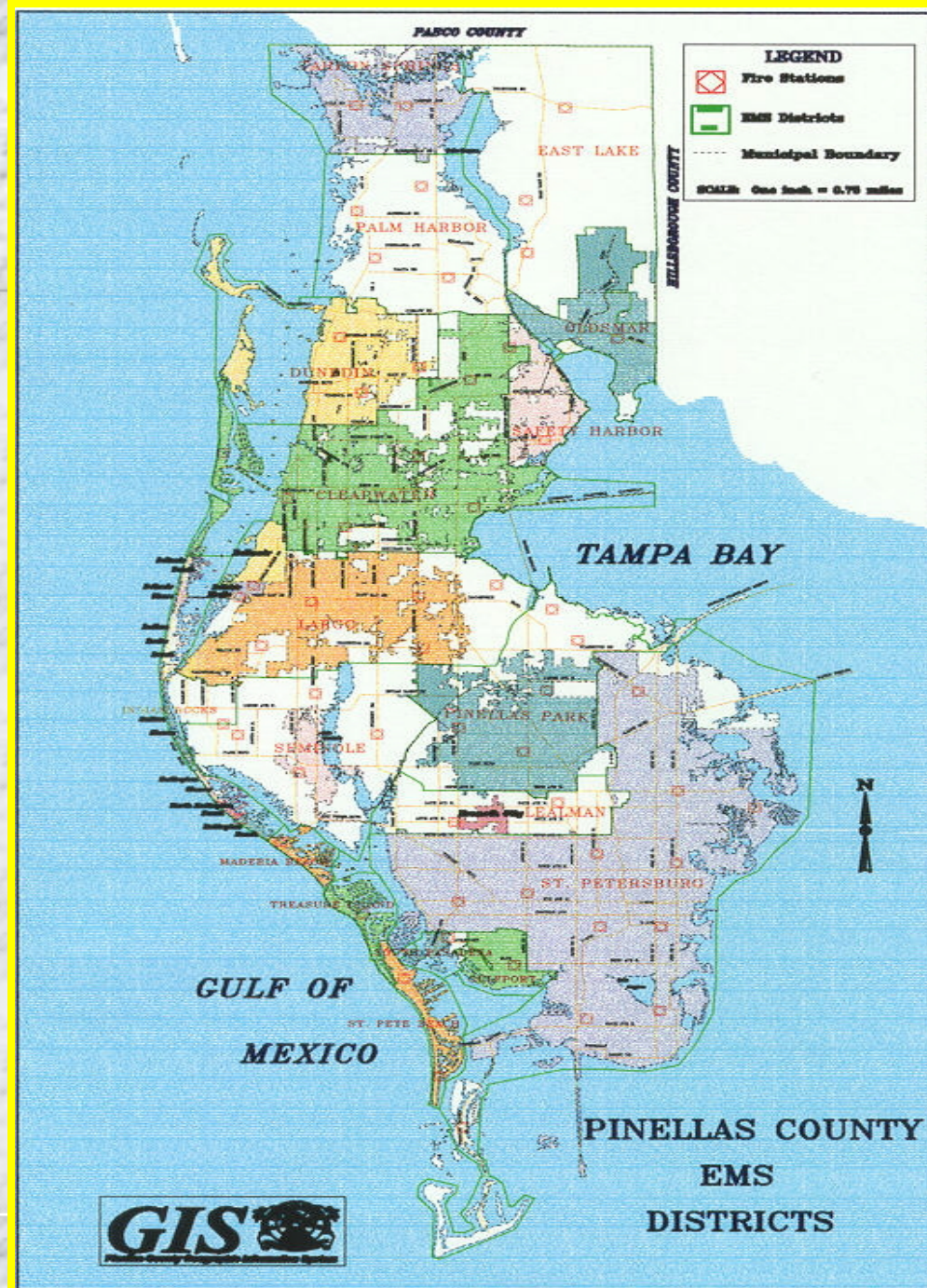




**Fire  
Stations in  
Pinellas  
County**











Engine



Aerial







Rescue



Squad







# EMS System

-  **1980 - Chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida created the EMS Authority. Countywide Referendum established our Countywide EMS system.**
-  **1988 - Ordinance No. 88-12 solidified the EMS system as a “Public Utility Model.”**
-  **1997/98 - Performance Contract for ALS First Responder Services with 18 Municipalities and Fire Districts for 10 years.**
-  **1999 - Performance Contract for ALS Ambulance Services, Based Upon Best Practices. Contract with ambulance provider = five years with two, three-year extensions.**



# Pinellas County EMS System

**The system is designed to achieve the best performance through:**

-  **Rapid ALS First Responder Services Provided by Fire Departments**
-  **ALS Ambulance Services Provided Through Private Contractor “d/b/a Sunstar”**
-  **Centralized Medical Control and Quality Improvement**
-  **Centralized 9-1-1/Communications & Paramedic Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)**

# **Single Tier, Dual Response, all ALS EMS System**

## **ALS First Responders**

**Respond from 60 stations  
in 18 EMS districts**

**Medical Emergency Responses:  
116,857**

**Average Responses per Day:  
320**

**Average Responses per Station:  
5.33 per day**

## **Ambulance Contractor**

**Ambulance Responses:  
156,089**

**Ambulance Cancellations:  
49,906**

**Ambulance Transports:  
106,183**

**Average Responses per Day:  
428**

**Average Transports per Day:  
291**



# **Single Tier, Dual Response, all ALS EMS System, con't.**

## **EMS First Responders financed by:**

**Ad Valorem Tax support of  
0.66 Millage (1.50 Mil Cap).  
Taxes held flat, or reduced  
last eight out of nine years**

**10-year performance-based  
contract with EMS  
Authority.**

**Funding based on a fixed  
price contract with annual  
increases based on MPI**

## **Ambulance Contractor financed by:**

**User fees (if you ride, PC  
bills).**

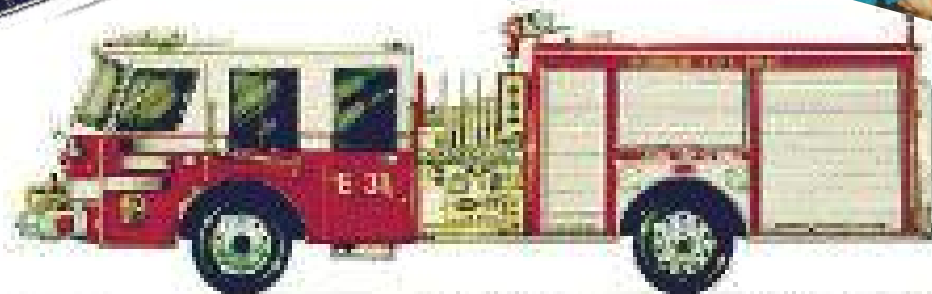
**No tax subsidy.**

**5-year performance based  
contract with EMS  
Authority (option for two  
3-year extensions).**

**Reduced Liability from  
indemnification: vehicle  
accidents, purchasing, and  
workforce issues.**



Costs, response, and a whole lot more....





# Fire/EMS Budgets FY 01/02

Department	County EMS Funding	County Fire Funding	City / District Fire Funding	Total
Belleair Bluffs		275,978	484,022	760,000
Clearwater	3,175,045	2,342,083	9,982,872	15,500,000
Dunedin	734,973	559,075	2,909,207	4,203,255
East Lake	453,700		2,767,954	3,221,654
Gulfport	454,957		369,758	824,715
Pinellas Suncoast	939,572		2,455,853	3,395,425
Largo	2,182,821	1,284,953	4,883,726	8,351,500
<i>High Point</i>		977,700		977,700
Lealman	893,991		3,706,009	4,600,000
Madeira Beach	334,569		677,799	1,012,368
Oldsmar	226,850		706,695	933,545

# Fire/EMS Budgets FY 01/02 (cont'd)

Department	County EMS Funding	County Fire Funding	City / District Fire Funding	Total
Palm Harbor	961,535		5,186,534	6,148,069
Pinellas Park	1,322,296	676,710	4,006,594	6,005,600
<i>High Point</i>		1,355,728		1,355,728
Safety Harbor	693,533	139,930	1,499,183	2,332,646
Seminole	1,353,124	3,766,110	2,066,742	7,185,976
South Pasadena	394,015	193,570	576,476	1,164,060
St. Pete Beach	739,860		1,414,388	2,154,248
St. Petersburg	8,004,939		21,375,174	29,380,113
<i>Gandy</i>	357,895	139,384	456,223	953,502
<i>Tierra Verde</i>	357,895	550,491		908,386
Tarpon Springs	697,061	228,079	1,591,660	2,516,800
Treasure Island	364,124		575,866	939,990
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,642,754</b>	<b>12,489,791</b>	<b>67,692,734</b>	<b>104,825,279</b>



# 2001 Fire/EMS Emergency Responses

<b>Code 1 - Medical</b>	<b>101,130</b>
<b>Code 2 - Single Engine/Investigate</b>	<b>8,251</b>
<b>Code 3 - Auto Accident</b>	<b>15,090</b>
<b>Code 4 - Structure Fire</b>	<b>3,978</b>
<b>Code 5 - Automatic Fire Alarm</b>	<b>7,759</b>
<b>Code 10 - Brush Fire</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Specialized Responses</b> <b>Hazmat, Extrication, Aircraft</b> <b>Water Rescue, etc.</b>	<b>2,388</b>
<b>2001 Total</b>	<b>138,759</b>

# Benchmarking with Broward

	<b>Broward</b>	<b>Broward</b>	<b>Pinellas</b>
	<b>(2000 Data)</b>	<b>Comparison</b>	<b>(2001 Data)</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>1,490,289</b>		<b>912,639</b>
<b>Geographic Size</b>	<b>*1209</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>Total Stations</b>	<b>97</b>		<b>61</b>
<b>Total Firefighters</b>	<b>2,938</b>		<b>1,141</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>238,177,597</b>		<b>104,825,279</b>
<b>Alarms</b>	<b>226,776</b>		<b>138,759</b>
<b>Firefighters per Square Mile</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>3.62</b>
<b>Firefighters per 1,000 Population</b>	<b>1.97</b>		<b>1.25</b>
<b>Incidents per 1,000 Population</b>	<b>152.15</b>		<b>170.03</b>
<b>Cost per Capita</b>	<b>168</b>		<b>115</b>
<b>Cost per Alarm</b>	<b>1,050.00</b>		<b>676</b>
<b>PSAP' s</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Automatic Aid Agreements</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>

**\* 774 square miles are conservation areas such as the everglades**



# Portfolio of Services

Emergency Medical Services and Fire Suppression

Training

Public Fire and Life Safety Education/Awareness

Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention

Fire Investigation

Communications Systems

Management of Water for Fire Protection

Specialized Response Teams (Haz Mat/Tech Rescue/Marine)

Emergency Management/Disaster Planning

# Conclusion

All Fire/EMS Providers within Pinellas County receive funding from multiple sources.

It is not unusual to have multiple jurisdictions respond to an emergency within Pinellas County which demonstrates the effectiveness of the countywide automatic aid agreements.

The emergency operations system currently in use is effective and provides for a timely response and professional service to the citizens of Pinellas County.



