



BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

357 FORDING ISLAND ROAD
OKATIE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29909



NEWS RELEASE

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Community input critical to Fire District success

Bluffton, SC (January 8, 2024, 10:30 a.m.) – The Bluffton Township Fire District is in the process of creating its next five-year strategic plan. The most recent plan is ending soon and without the support of our community, our recent and future successes could not be achieved.

To map out our next strategic plan, we are conducting a one-day, Community-Driven Stakeholder meeting on Monday, January 22, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Palmetto Electric Cooperative – New River campus (1 Cooperative Way, Hardeeville, SC 29927). The meeting will be held in their Community Room.

The Community-Driven Stakeholder meeting is an opportunity for citizens to provide feedback and input on expectations for the emergency services provided by the Fire District. During the meeting, the community will engage in a guided approach to identifying fire and life safety priorities. This process will provide direction for the Fire District in the creation of goals and objectives that effectively meet our community's expectations.

Fire Chief, Paul Boulware, said of the previous Strategic Plan, "I am proud of the Fire District's staff and personnel, and their faithful dedication to the citizens and visitors we serve. Our Mission Statement challenges us each day 'to efficiently protect the lives and property of our community in a kind and professional manner.'" He continued, "Feedback I regularly receive from community members indicates our team consistently exemplifies this commitment to excellence in implementing our Plan."

Following the Community meeting, members of the fire district will participate in a three-day Internal Stakeholder meeting to address the priorities. The Fire District staff will then develop goals and objectives to meet community expectations. Community feedback and assistance in this process is critical to our success. The courtesy of an RSVP is appreciated and may be sent to Battalion Chief, Terry Sheriff at sheriff@blufftonfd.com, by Monday, January 15, 2024.

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The Bluffton Township Fire District, established in 1978, has 178 employees. One hundred forty-seven firefighters work from 9 stations on 3 shifts. Led by Chief Paul Boulware, the department serves a 246 square-mile area in southern Beaufort County, SC and responded to over 10,600 calls in 2023.