



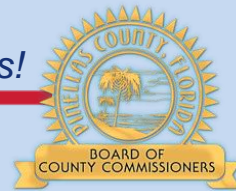
# Doing Things!

**Water Rescue Program Update  
September 27, 2016**



# Water Rescue Program Update





# Background

- Cities and Fire Districts have provided water rescue through their Fire Rescue departments for the last 20-30 years or more. The Fire Service works closely with law enforcement, the US Coast Guard, and Florida Fish & Wildlife.
- While each community has done a very good job in preparing for and responding to water rescue emergencies, **the County would benefit from having a comprehensive countywide program.**
- Water Rescue assets and response configurations are varied and complex due to the many types of hazards and situations faced by Fire Rescue personnel
  - Ocean rescue in the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay
  - Shipboard and marina firefighting
  - Surface and dive operations on the gulf, bay lakes, canals, intercostal waterways
  - Mass casualty preparedness for multi-passenger vessels and commercial aircraft
  - Capability to operate in heavy weather conditions
  - Surface rescue on retention ponds
  - Underwater operations including sinking and submerged vehicles
  - Boating accidents
  - Distressed boaters and swimmers
  - Drowning and rip currents

# Fireboats





# Marine Units



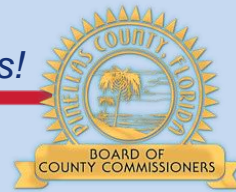
# Light Marine Units





# Other Resources

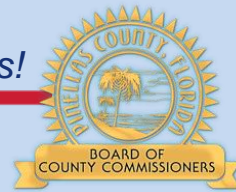




# High Priority Needs

- Marine Unit dedicated to Lake Tarpon (BP Funding Request)
- Fire Rescue Boats capable of firefighting, multi-victim rescue, and heavy weather operations in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Clearwater and St. Pete Beach. (Budgeted City and EMS Funds in FY16-17).
- Improved capability for Fire Rescue Units to rescue motorists from sinking and submerged vehicles by providing rapid diver equipment and training. (EMS Funds in FY16-17 through this Resolution).





# Fire Chiefs Support & Request

- The PCFCA supports the Board of County Commissioners, through its EMS Authority, establish the two-year Water Rescue Plan by Resolution.
- The Resolution provides for much needed funding from County EMS to the Cities and Fire Districts to support for operations, maintenance, equipment improvements, and expanded training. Some examples are as follows:
  - Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR) for Fireboats and Marine Units to expand our Search & Rescue capability to find victims in the water.
  - Rescue Boat Operator and Search & Rescue Training Classes.
  - Dive Equipment and Training for Sinking/Submerged Vehicle Rescue

# Next Steps

- Comprehensive Plan for Water Rescue
  - Cross Discipline Oversight Committee
    - EMS & Fire Admin with Fire Rescue
    - Police, Sheriff, Coast Guard, and FWC
    - Eckerd College Search & Rescue
  - Public Education and Outreach
  - Level of Preparedness Assessment
  - Long Range Plan to address Gaps