

Potential Benefits and Efficiencies
Identified by the Merger and Consolidation White Paper
Prepared by the Bonita Springs, Estero and San Carlos Park Fire Districts

- Implement closest unit response, basically eliminating the territorial boundaries and allowing the closest available unit to respond to any specific emergency,
- Districts could realize cost reductions through volume purchasing,
- Maintenance and repair could be accomplished through one central repair facility for vehicles and apparatus,
- Estero and San Carlos Park are exploring additional stations further east in their respective current districts when one station may serve both their needs,
- Fire Prevention and Life Safety could implement Pre-Fire planning programs for operations across all districts,
- All Public Education Divisions could be moved within the Fire Prevention Division,
- Adoption of unified standard operating guidelines and procedures for operational functions,
- Incorporation of standard operating guidelines and procedures for administrative functions,
- The administrative process could begin functional consolidation of additional shared information and services dealing with information technology, human resources, finance, in addition to prevention, life safety, public education and public information sharing,
- Consolidation of the districts can result in consistency and decreasing duplication of services such as: customer service, fire protection, employee hiring, employee orientation, employee testing and advancement, training and purchasing,
- Use of only one accounting program for payroll, expenses, etc,
- Preparation of a single budget would result in a single audit,
- Purchases may be tracked more efficiently through the person or persons doing the job they are assigned and not having to be responsible for other jobs,

- Tracking of all purchases through one delivery center would result in central receiving, inventory, and distribution control.
- Consolidation of administrative and operations management personnel into fewer centralized facilities within the merged districts will likely reduce administrative costs,
- Merger can increase the number of resources deployed for initial response,
- Increase the number of responders for all emergency tasks from the initial call, thus reducing the burden on the initial commander to call for more units and reduce radio traffic as well,
- Consistent medical training and equipment would decrease the need for three different trainers to duplicate lesson plans, outlines and classes,
- Easier sharing of 'best practices' guidelines for all planning and operations activities,
- The training staff would be able to concentrate solely on education and training,
- Mutual training facilities will eliminate the need for Estero to build one as Bonita Springs and San Carlos Park have existing training facilities,
- One well-equipped training center with a qualified teaching staff can provide better, more consistent training than two or more training centers scattered around the same area,
- Consolidation of training divisions brings together the best staff to provide specialized training. Organized and professional trainers can provide a much more efficient program and better service to the overall community,
- The combined districts will be able to better facilitate coverage during emergency and non-emergency events such as station back-fill, addressing large gatherings such as concerts, training with the medical director in-services and scheduled events through public education,
- The districts will be able to reduce the number of reserve apparatus to maintain ISO ratings and possibly decrease the ISO rating to benefit residents as a whole,
- A merger would also provide the possibility to increase all response apparatus to advanced life support capabilities, could potentially provide a

fully staffed and equipped hazardous materials team, trench rescue team, and aerial apparatus,

- Consolidation efforts can also enhance the functionality of specific types of apparatus,
- The Consolidated districts may have the ability to comply with National Fire Protection Association Standard 1710 and 1500 that references staffing applications for emergency response,
- A larger department would need fewer pieces of reserve apparatus for an equal number of front line units, this would result in lower apparatus replacement requirements,
- Consolidation reduces the expense of specialized apparatus like aerial trucks and hazardous materials vehicles,
- A larger department allows standardization of vehicle make and design, thus allowing bulk purchase of parts in larger quantities for generally more efficient operation. Standardized equipment would allow for easier and bulk purchasing,
- Standardized equipment would also result in the ease of training,
- A consolidated district could realize the possibility of fewer fire stations because of larger scale planning,
- Other support services, such as general supplies, offices and facilities maintenance could be purchased on a larger scale thus saving by bulk purchasing,
- Consolidation would permit a twelve month inspection cycle for all existing occupancies and standardized fire code enforcement and interpretation,
- Consolidation of plan review efficiency would ensure that reviews are done within a more effective time frame using standardized inspection processes, including fire code interpretation and procedures,
- Consolidation would result in one database and blue print archiving program and one computer database reporting system for fire prevention use, and
- Standardized inspections for new construction or existing occupancies would result from consolidation.