

**Upper Captiva Fire & Rescue District**  
4511 Hodgepodge Lane  
P.O. Box 322 Pineland, FL 33945



**Serving the Community with Pride**  
Phone: 239-872-2263  
Email: [info@uppercaptivafire.org](mailto:info@uppercaptivafire.org)

## **EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

Saturday September 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Location: Fire Station

### **COMMISSIONERS & STAFF PRESENT:**

In room: Duncan Rosen, MJ Yafchak, Van Hammond, Chief Jesse Cottrell

Via Zoom: Mike Filipczak

### **ISLANDERS/GUESTS PRESENT:**

Room: Alex Murphy

Via Zoom: Zeke McDonald, Anne Linder, Brad Whitmore, Carolina Rodriguez, Jeff Fox, Sara Hammond, Thema Goetzl

### **MINUTES:**

#### **1) Call to Order:** Commissioner Rosen

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM at the fire station

#### **2) Purpose of Emergency Meeting:** Commissioner Rosen

Emergency meeting of the UCFRD board of directors is required to address equipment damages during Hurricane Helene (September 26) which caused extensive flooding on the island, but specifically at the fire station.

#### **3) Public comment on Agenda Items:**

None

#### **4) Department Status post Helene:** Chief Cottrell

Situation:

Over 5 feet of water in the main bay (see picture below), 3 feet of water in the upper pole barn.

Both Fire engines started, but extensive saltwater penetration occurred.

- The old 192 Engine cannot engage the PTO necessary for pumping—it can still carry water.
- 191 (Newest engine) was in need of overhaul before Helene as extensive corrosion was identified post Ian.
- Both Brush Trucks are operational.
- The transport unit (ambulance) is dead.
- Mule was completely under water and is dead.

At this time, we are up and running but must consider necessary proactive maintenance on 191 to be critical. We cannot transport 191 off island for repairs as it has our primary pumping capability necessary to fight house fires. The Brush Trucks can transport water and have limited pumping capacity (below ISO required levels). Thus, we need to have a second pumper truck on-island as soon as possible.

The prospect of loaner equipment from nearby districts is not an option as long as we have standing water across the island and many local departments have flooded equipment that need repairs/replacement and don't have available loner pumpers. Temporary rental is an option, but expensive (\$300/day, 60 day minimum = \$18K + barge transportation).

Note: Time and a half to be paid to every employee during the state of emergency (state requirement).

Authorized spending level needs to be increased to address urgent replacement purchases ahead of insurance payout.

191 (newest engine) requires ~40K to repair from Ian (expect this number to go up based on Helene).

192 (oldest engine) repair estimate is over \$100K and deemed not worth repairing.

Note: A New 4X4 Engine was discussed during the 2025 budget process.

Motion by Duncan to increase authorized Captain Jesse's non-capital (misc) expenditures limit to \$25K. The vote passed 4-0.

Motion by Van to authorize up to \$150K to purchase another 4X4 Fire Engine to replace Engine 192. Vote passed 4-0

**5) Next Steps: ALL**

**6) Next Monthly Meeting Date:**

**Saturday** October 19, 2024, 10:00 AM

**7) Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:59

Photo from you-tube channel. Caption indicating explosion was in regard to lithium batterie damaged by Hurricane Helena at Fire Station.

