

**Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District**  
**Historical Overview**  
**At A Glance**

- **WHO is Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District?**

We live off Wilson, DeSoto, Everglades and Randall Blvds. We live in the communities of Citrus Greens, Valencia and Waterways – we are YOUR locally governed Fire Department. We are 30 employees strong, have a Volunteer FF and Associate Member program and 2 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). We are the men and women who help you out in your time of need.

- **WHAT is Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District?**

BCIFR is a State Independent Special District – we are not under the governance of Collier County or any other municipality. We are governed by a popularly elected 3 member board, who reside within our Community – your neighbors govern us. In 1977 our founding Board members were Sigsbee F Walker Jr., Tony R. Simpson and Robert G. Tuck – today our Board members are Paul M. Plamondon, Christopher L. Crossan and Eliseo R. Chao.

- **WHEN was Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District created?**

In 1974 a group of local citizens within the Big Corkscrew Island Civic Association created the Big Corkscrew Island Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection services to the community. In 1977 this same group realized the need for a funding mechanism which led to the creation of the Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District. On November 8, 1977 the Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District was created by a vote of the people: 37 yes votes, 0 no votes. This vote allowed for the creation of the District, which absorbed and maintained the BCI Volunteer Fire Department, allowed for a 3 member local governing board and permitted the levying of up to 1 mil ad valorem tax to support the operational costs of the newly formed District. In 1985 as the District continued to grow and demand for service increased the Board of Fire Commissioners went back to the citizenry and asked for their support in increasing the ad valorem tax rate to 2 mils, for 3 years. The citizens supported the Boards request. In 1990 the Board asked the citizens to allow the 2 mil cap to remain. Again the citizens voted in support of the Boards request and made the 2 mil cap permanent, where it remains today.

- **WHERE is the Big Corkscrew Island Fire Control and Rescue District?**

BCIFR sits in northeastern Collier County – the mid-point between North Naples and Immokalee. As a general reference the Collier County Fair Grounds are located within the boundaries of the District, as is the National Audobon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The District currently protects 194 square miles which covers the communities of Twin Eagles, Citrus Greens, Waterways, Valencia, Valencia Golf, Orange Blossom Ranch, Big Corkscrew Island and the surrounding northeastern portions of Golden Gate Estates, in addition to agricultural areas serviced by Immokalee Tomato Growers, Gargulio Farms, Collier/Johnson, Pacific Tomato Growers and various others. BCIFR provides fire protection, education and rescue services to 6 Collier County Public Schools - 3 elementary, 2 middle and 1 high school and has an estimated population of 12,500.