

Quick Facts About Your Fire District

What West Manatee Fire & Rescue District Offers Your Community

- **Advanced Life Support (ALS)**
Paramedic-staffed units delivering life-saving care, including cardiac monitoring, advanced airway management, and emergency medical interventions before hospital arrival. Our Return of Spontaneous Circulation rate after a cardiac arrest is nearly twice as the national average.
- **Fire Suppression & Emergency Response**
Professional firefighters trained to respond to structure fires, vehicle fires, alarms, and all-hazards emergencies across our district.
- **Fire Prevention & Community Risk Reduction**
A proactive Prevention Bureau focused on inspections, public education, and outreach to reduce emergencies before they happen.
- **Specialized Rescue Capabilities**
 - Light Technical Rescue (rope, confined space, trench, extrication, collapse)
 - High-water and flood rescue
 - Rescue Swimmers for marine and swift-water emergencies
 - Advanced boat operations for coastal and inland water rescues/Marine Emergency Rescue Team (MERT)
- **Hurricane & Disaster Readiness**
Personnel, equipment, and training are designed to protect lives and property during severe weather and large-scale emergencies.
- **Local Governance & Accountability**
An independent special fire district governed by five elected commissioners, with all funding staying local to support your services.

Challenges Facing Your Fire District & How Ad Valorem Would Help

- **Expanding State and Federal Mandates**
New requirements for firefighter cancer benefits, PFAS-free protective gear, mental health programs, staffing levels, and work-hour standards—without dedicated funding.
- **Aging Facilities & Equipment**
Several stations are in vulnerable locations, and critical apparatus and equipment are becoming more expensive to maintain and replace.
- **Staffing & Retention Pressures**
Meeting modern safety and staffing standards requires additional personnel, which current funding cannot support.
- **Limited Training Infrastructure**
A lack of sufficient training facilities makes it harder to maintain peak readiness and meet evolving NFPA standards.
- **Funding Disparity Compared to Similar Districts**
Unlike neighboring districts, WMFR relies solely on non-ad valorem assessments, placing it behind comparable agencies that use more stable funding models.
- **Risk of Slower Response Times if Unaddressed**
Without additional revenue, current service levels cannot be sustained, increasing long-term risk to public safety.