



BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

357 FORDING ISLAND ROAD
BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29909



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bluffton Township Fire District Responds to Multiple Lightning Strikes During Intense Storms

Bluffton, SC — The Bluffton Township Fire District responded to an unusually high number of emergency calls on Tuesday, July 10, 2025, after strong thunderstorms brought frequent lightning and heavy rain to southern Beaufort County. Between early afternoon and late evening, several homes and outdoor areas were struck by lightning, prompting a full response from the district's fire crews and support from regional partners.

Firefighters were dispatched to multiple neighborhoods across the district after reports of lightning-related incidents. These included structure fires, power outages, smoke inside homes, and small outdoor fires. In one case, a lightning strike on a gas line ignited a fire in the lower level of a home on Greenleaf Road in the Palmetto Bluff community. Thanks to the rapid response of firefighters, the fire was contained, and the home was saved.

Other affected areas included homes along Martingale West, Hartwell Road, Mainland Lakes Drive, Coventry Court, and Yonges Island Drive. While most incidents did not result in fire, residents experienced smoke conditions, electrical surges, and visible damage to homes and nearby trees.

Bluffton crews also responded to outdoor fires caused by lightning on Hunting Lodge Road and along Okatie Highway. Firefighters from across all nine Bluffton stations were actively engaged in responses throughout the unusually busy afternoon.

"We are incredibly grateful that no injuries occurred during these events," said Deputy Chief of Operations Adam Corn. "It's rare to see this many lightning-related incidents in such a short period. Our crews performed with incredible professionalism, and the support from our mutual aid partners was outstanding. We especially thank Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue and the City of Beaufort/Town of Port Royal Fire Department for sending additional engines to assist during our peak call volume."

The Fire District encourages all residents to stay weather-aware, especially during the summer storm season.

Key safety tips include:

- Have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts, including NOAA Weather Radios, mobile apps, and text/email alerts.



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- Pay close attention to forecasts and warnings from the National Weather Service in Charleston.
- If you hear thunder, go indoors immediately—lightning can strike miles ahead of a storm.
- Avoid using electronic devices and stay away from water during lightning storms.

For more safety information and updates, visit www.blufftonfd.com or follow the Bluffton Township Fire District on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

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