

**FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Fire Prevention Bureau  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**Fire fighters battle difficult boat fire**

**Fort Myers Beach, FL – Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District (FMBFCD) received reports of a boat on fire near the 2500 block of main street on San Carlos Island in unincorporated Lee County, around 9:30pm on Friday August 1, 2008. FMBFCD responded to the reports of fire by sending Battalion Chief 31, ALS Engines 31 & 33, ALS Ambulance 31& 32 and ALS Truck 33. Upon arrival fire fighters observed flames shooting 30 feet into the air from the 70 foot “shrimping” boat. Fire fighters found one boat fully involved and two surrounding boats experiencing fire exposure issues. Fire fighters worked feverishly to extinguish the fire and protect the surrounding boats. FMBFCD received mutual aid support from several agencies because of the nature of the fire. Iona-McGregor, Sanibel and South Trail Fire Districts also responded to the incident. As of 2:00 am the fire was under control. Fire fighters will work throughout the night to insure there are no further hazards.**

**Investigators from several agencies will work together to determine the cause of the blaze as the fire was aboard a boat. FMBFCD investigators will partner with investigators from the United States Coast Guard and Florida’s Fish and Wildlife Commission. Investigators will wait until morning for more light to begin their investigation.**

**Fires upon commercial fishing vessels can become extremely complicated due to the materials on board, such as diesel fuel, wood, combustible engines. Also the construction of these vessels may cause added complexity, as many are constructed from fiberglass materials.**

**For more information contact the Public Information Officer, Ramon Looby.**

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