

We are heartbroken to confirm that death of one of our firefighters, Firefighter/EMT Michael "Mike" McCarty. He was found deceased in his home yesterday, May 21, 2025, after a house fire off Caloosa Trace Circle.

At this time, Lee County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with Bureau of Fire Arson Explosives Investigations, is conducting an active death investigation and we are fully cooperating with their efforts. Out of respect for Mike's family, the South Trail Fire & Rescue family, and to maintain the integrity of the investigation, we are not releasing further details at this time.

This is a devastating unexpected loss for our department, and our love and strength are with his family, friends, and fellow firefighters. He was a valued member of our family and dedicated his life to serving others. We ask for privacy and compassion during this difficult time. Any media inquiries related to the investigation should be directed at the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

We also want to take this moment to emphasize the importance of mental health wellness, especially within the first responder community. We urge anyone who is struggling to reach out, and all of us to reach in to check on each other.

Firefighter/EMT Michael "Mike" McCarty, date of hire with South Trail Fire & Rescue, July 11, 2002. He was also currently employed with the Upper Captiva Fire Protection and Rescue Service District. He started his career as a firefighter with the City of Fort Myers Fire Department, September 2000 – July 2002. He also served in the United States Marine Corps.

- South Trail Fire & Rescue District