

TurboDraft brings water to Malabar

Machine to help areas not near hydrants

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Firefighters in Malabar now have a piece of equipment that makes it possible for them to draw water out of the river at high rates, helping in areas where there are no hydrants. While different from the situation in areas where hydrants have low water pressure, Malabar Fire Chief Joseph Gianantonio said the TurboDraft could have helped provide more water at a recent structure fire on south Merritt Island where water pressure was an issue. "We were looking into trying to improve our insurance rating, and we had to show the capability in the Rocky Point area, where we have no hydrants at all," he said. "We researched it, and I thought it may be a good option." The [...] TurboDraft is more convenient than conventional methods of drafting, which requires firetrucks to be within 20 to 40 feet of the water source, he said. "With this, we can be up to 100 feet away, and still deliver a sizable amount of water. It's a big benefit," he said. And it's easier to deploy than the old method, Malabar firefighter/paramedic Matt Clark said. "The requirement" for the improved insurance rating "was that we deploy it in five minutes, and we did it in four minutes, with only three people," he said. Gianantonio said he has told other Brevard fire chiefs about the TurboDraft, and has had some of them, including Palm Bay, express interest in seeing a demonstration. "It's just something for the other departments to look at," he said. "It's just another option,"



Malabar firefighter/paramedic Matt Clark holds the TurboDraft, which can pump water from rivers, lakes and ponds at a high rate.
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