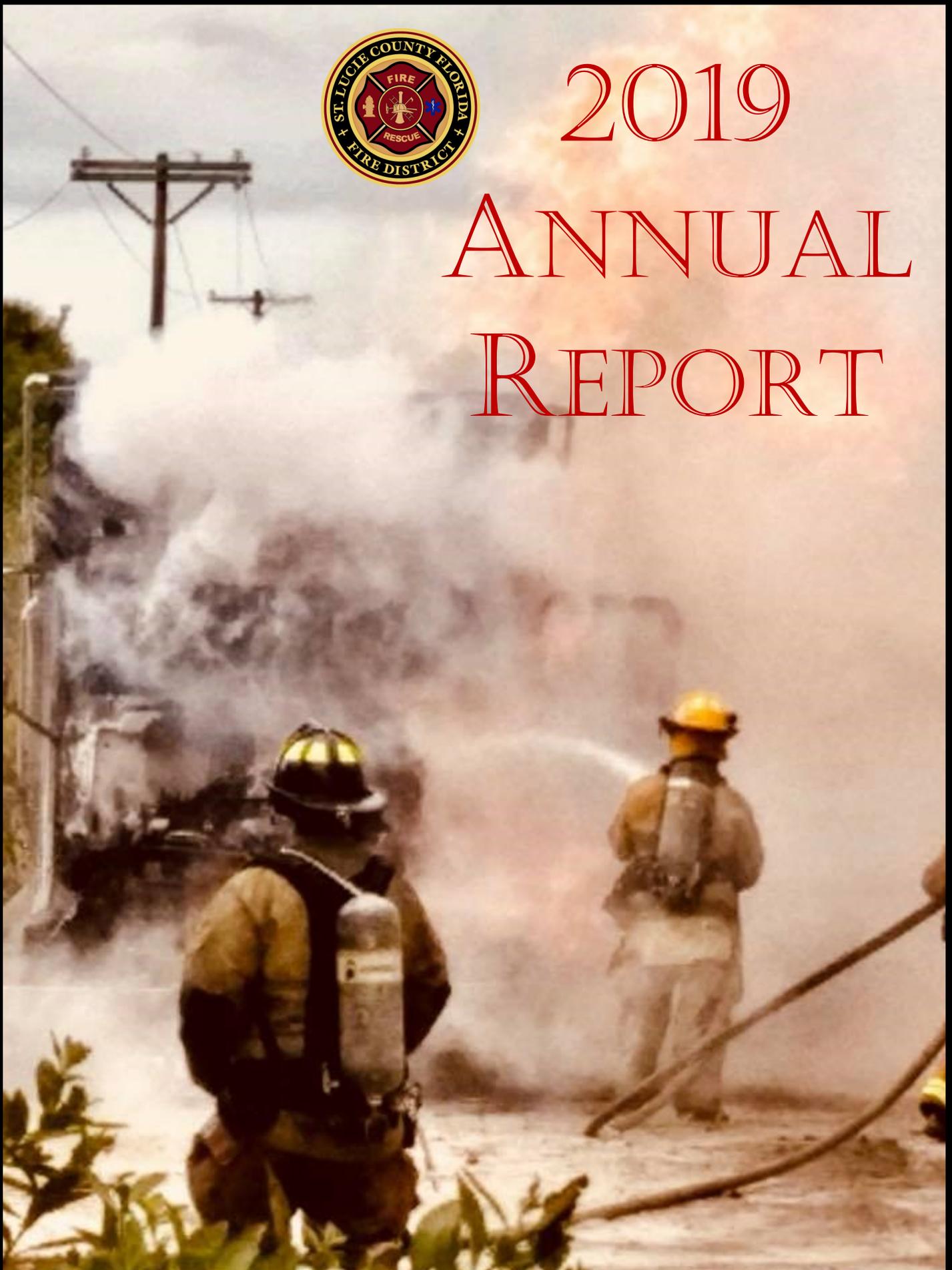




# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 3 From the Fire Chief
- 4 Board of Fire Commissioners
- 5 Leadership Team: District Attorney, Clerk-Treasurer, Medical Director, Assistant Fire Chief
- 6 Leadership Team: Deputy Chiefs and Division Chiefs
- 7 Leadership Team: Battalion Chiefs and Field Training Chiefs
- 8 Recognitions: Firefighter of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, Promotions and Retirements
- 8 Fire District Chaplain
- 9 Organizational Chart (current) & Mission Statement
- 10 Locations
- 11 By the Numbers
- 12 Finance at a Glance
- 13 Accomplishments: Administration, Communications
- 14 Accomplishments: Operations, Public Information
- 15 Accomplishments: Finance, Ambulance Billing, Human Resources
- 16 Accomplishments: Human Resources (continued), Fleet Maintenance
- 17 Accomplishments: Community Risk Reduction, Fire & Life Safety Education
- 18 Accomplishments: Information Technology, Building & Grounds
- 19 Accomplishments: Logistics, Training & Safety
- 20 Accomplishments: Training & Safety (continued)
- 21 Participation & Highlights



## ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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# FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



2019 continued to be a year of growth and expansion at the St. Lucie County Fire District. During the first few months of the year, we engaged in a strategic planning process that will govern the decisions we make through 2024. That plan began a course of changes that have carried us throughout the remainder of the year.

The following are some of the improvements the fire district started and/or concluded in 2019:

- ◇ Expanded our operations division by six (6) firefighters,
- ◇ Purchased seven (7) new rescue trucks,
- ◇ Replaced an aging water tanker,
- ◇ Replaced all self-contained breathing apparatus,
- ◇ Began construction of fire station 5,
- ◇ Replaced 2/3 of firefighter turnout gear,
- ◇ Initiated Lifescan screenings for employees,
- ◇ Expanded our Community Risk-Reduction Division,
- ◇ Initiated the fire district's first arson detection K-9 unit,
- ◇ Initiated a quarterly newsletter for fire district employees,
- ◇ Performed an administrative realignment to facilitate succession planning,
- ◇ Expanded and realigned our diversity committee,
- ◇ Contracted for a full-time on-site representative from our health insurance provider,
- ◇ Replaced all desktop computers and launched a complete upgrade to Windows X,
- ◇ New routers were installed in all emergency response vehicles,
- ◇ Began to revamp Behavioral Health Assistance Program (BHAP),
- ◇ Performed a complete rebranding of the fire district in honor of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an independent special taxing district.



All of this was accomplished while our operations division ran a record 54,478 responses and transported 34,213 patients. As you can see, every facet of our team has been working in an environment of continual improvement. This is the model we adopted through the accreditation process. Furthermore, we continue to be the only internationally accredited fire department between Orange County and Palm Beach Gardens.

We have great plans for 2020 which include further expansion of our operations division, completion of fire station 5 construction, the replacement of all of our Advanced Life-Support (ALS) cardiac monitors, and full implementation of a new station alerting system.

Congratulations on a successful year!

FIRE CHIEF

*Nate Sperra*



# FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



## 2019 FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Representing St. Lucie County*

Chris Dzadoovsky

Linda Bartz

*Representing the City of Fort Pierce*

Reggie Sessions

Tom Perona - Chair

*Representing the City of Port St. Lucie*

Shannon Martin - Vice Chair

Stephanie Morgan

*Governor's Appointee*

Mark Gotz



The St. Lucie County Fire District is an independent special district of the State of Florida and is separate from St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, and the City of Port St. Lucie. The fire district is governed by elected and appointed officials who function as the policy-making body and serve as the fire board of fire commissioners. The fire board employs the fire chief, clerk-treasurer and the district attorney to manage the operations, finances and legal affairs of the fire district.

The fire board is comprised of seven members: two from the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners; two from the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce; two from the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie; and one member appointed by Florida's Governor.



## 2020 FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Representing St. Lucie County*

Chris Dzadoovsky

Linda Bartz - Vice Chair

*Representing the City of Fort Pierce*

Tom Perona

Reggie Sessions

*Representing the City of Port St. Lucie*

Shannon Martin - Chair

Stephanie Morgan

*Governor's Appointee*

TBA



# LEADERSHIP TEAM



**KIM SABOL**  
Attorney

As the fire board fire district attorney, Kim Sabol advises the fire board directly and through the fire chief and clerk/treasurer. She attends all meetings of the fire board, reviews board meeting agenda items and provides follow-up on legal documents approved by the fire board. She oversees labor matters and acts as the fire district's chief labor negotiator; assists in the development of policy issues; drafts and reviews fire board resolutions and agreements; and assists the fire district's office of internal affairs when requested. She issues opinions on legal issues related to fire district governance and management; responds to fire board members' legal questions and handles Sunshine Law matters and ethics issues; reviews all bid documents and RFP's/RFQ's, and serves on selection committees.



**JEFF LEE**  
Interim Clerk Treasurer/Deputy Chief of Finance and Personnel

The clerk-treasurer is one of three positions within the St. Lucie County Fire District specifically authorized in Ch. 2004-407, Laws of Florida, the enabling legislation for the fire district. The clerk-treasurer is responsible for directing the activities of the finance, ambulance billing, and records departments and reports directly to the board of fire commissioners for the St. Lucie County Fire District. Major responsibilities include: accounting and auditing, cash management & investments, budgeting and records. Chief Lee also over sees the human resources and information technology divisions.

**CHI CHIOU LIU M.D.**  
Medical Director

Dr. Liu has provided over 40 years of service as the medical director for the St. Lucie County Fire District and provides decision-making policy and procedures for the emergency medical service. He monitors several programs including: the controlled substance and infection control programs, assists in meeting Florida Administrative Code, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services requirements and federal and state laws as the chairman of the Medical Review Board. The Medical Review Board is responsible for quality assurance/quality improvement, which is a peer review of the fire district's emergency medical services.



**BRIAN BLIZZARD**  
Assistant Fire Chief

As the assistant fire chief, Chief Blizzard is second in command of the fire district and is responsible for all administrative and staff support services. In addition, Chief Blizzard is responsible for emergency management, inter-governmental relations and grant management.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM



**MARTI NEWPORT**

Deputy Chief of Administration & Professional Standards

Marti Newport, deputy chief of administration and professional standards supervises personnel, is responsible for staffing, policy and procedure development, professional development and leadership, strategic planning, budget planning and management. This position is responsible for providing executive level oversight of the following: training and safety division, communications division, fleet maintenance, logistics, field training instructor program, international accreditation, and the fire district's compliance program.



**MIKE MERRITT**

Deputy Chief of Operations

As deputy chief, Mike Merritt supervises all combat personnel, staffing, policy and procedure development in a leadership capacity. Responsibilities include the operational side of the fire district's air rescue program, special weapons and tactics (SWAT) medics, and the diversity recruitment initiative in our strategic plan.



**JEN CHAMBERS**

Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction

Deputy Chief Jennifer Chambers oversees the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division which includes: fire prevention, fire & life safety education, fire code enforcement, plans review, inspections, and fire investigation. She is also responsible for the buildings and grounds department.



**MARK CRISTALDI**

Division Chief of Professional Standards

Mark Cristaldi, Jr., division chief of professional standards, supervises personnel, provides oversight of the communications division, grant writing, and accreditation management. He reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport. This position is responsible for policy and procedure development/revisions, data analysis, professional development and leadership, strategic planning, budget planning and management, and provides assistance to other administrative functions.



**BRIAN GONZALEZ**

Battalion Chief of Training & Safety

Battalion Chief Brian Gonzalez oversees the training and safety division which consists of planning, developing and implementing comprehensive training programs and curriculum to ensure all agency and legal training requirements are met. Chief Gonzalez reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport.

# LEADERSHIP TEAM



## DIVISION CHIEFS

The division chiefs oversee all activities on their respective shifts. The battalion chiefs and field training chiefs report to the division chief. Each shift has 128 line personnel. The district chief is housed at fire station 1 in Ft. Pierce. District chiefs cover stations 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 15 and air rescue in northern St. Lucie County. Additionally, division chiefs respond to all major incidents in the northern area of the county and travel throughout the jurisdiction.

**WILLIAM FRENCH**  
A-Shift



**KYLE STIRRAT**  
B-Shift



**AARON SHAW**  
C-Shift



## BATTALION 2 CHIEFS

Housed at fire station 17 in Tradition, Battalion 2 is responsible for the operations of stations 10, 14, 16 and 17; as well as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Battalion chief 2 responds to all major incidents in the western area of the county, which includes; Tradition Medical Center (TMC) and the biotech corridor, emergency room at Darwin Square, Martin Memorial Medical Center, Brenny Assisted Living complex, two residential airparks, and two water treatment plants.

**CHRIS JONES**  
A-Shift



**RON HAZELLIEF**  
B-Shift



**RYAN JAY**  
C-Shift



## BATTALION 3 CHIEFS

Housed at fire station 3, on Ravenswood Lane near Sportsman Park, Battalion 3 is responsible for the operations of stations 3, 5, 12 and 13. Battalion chief 3 responds to all major incidents in the southeast area of the county, which includes: the St. Lucie Medical Center (SLMC), the City Center complex, Port St. Lucie City Hall, Port St. Lucie Police Department complex, and the Saint Lucie River with its many tributaries.

**MIKE LEISEN**  
A-Shift



**JAMES TREFELNER**  
B-Shift



**WARREN MILLARD**  
C-Shift



## FIELD TRAINING CHIEFS

Housed at fire station 6, the field training chief is responsible for the operations of stations 6, 8, and 11. The field training chief is stationed in the center of the county which gives them quick access to all major incidents throughout the fire district when needed, including: St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant and approximately 3,000 acres of the Savannahs State Preserve.

**BILL GARRIGAN**  
A-Shift



**MARK WILSON**  
B-Shift



**DAN MIKELS**  
C-Shift



## RECOGNITIONS



**KEVIN WHITAKER**  
Firefighter of the Year

Lieutenant Whitaker is currently in his 15th year with the fire district. In 2019 he was a member of the training division and an officer at fire station 15. He is our 2019 Firefighter of the Year.



**TAMMY WARD**  
Support Staff of the Year

Tammy is currently in her 16th year with the fire district. She is one of two HR specialists and is our 2019 Support Staff of the Year.

## PROMOTIONS

Jennifer Chambers to Deputy Chief  
Jeffery Lee to Deputy Chief  
Mike Merritt to Deputy Chief  
Mark Cristaldi to Division Chief  
William French to Division Chief  
Aaron Shaw to Division Chief  
William Garrigan to Battalion Chief  
Brian Gonzalez to Battalion Chief  
Daniel Mikels to Battalion Chief  
Keith Bergeron to Captain  
Richard Hall to Captain  
Casey Hogan to Captain  
Ryan Salomon to Captain  
Jesse Almand to Lieutenant  
Jesus Bayona to Lieutenant

Anthony Fitzpatrick to Lieutenant  
Salomon Rincon to Lieutenant  
Gustavo Santa to Lieutenant  
Logan Blake to Engineer  
William Bryant to Engineer  
Darrell Chibas to Engineer  
David Sloat to Engineer  
Robert Thomas to Engineer  
Jerrel Fairweather to Paramedic  
Justin Hartley to Paramedic  
Katherine Kaltenbach to Paramedic  
Zachary Krueger to Paramedic  
Anthony Lopez to Paramedic  
Joshua Meek to Paramedic  
Jeffrey Backus to Telecommunicator Supervisor

## RETIREMENTS

Engineer William Q. Smith (February 28)  
Telecommunications Supervisor Cindy Taylor (May 16)  
Firefighter/EMT Donald Botterbusch (June 29)  
Engineer Sonny Walls (August 30)  
Captain Dave Noble (October 5)

Firefighter/EMT Laura Brown (November 29)  
Engineer Stephen Beane (November 30)  
Division Chief Fire Marshal Debbie Knupp (December 10)  
Lieutenant Lewis Clanton (December 29)

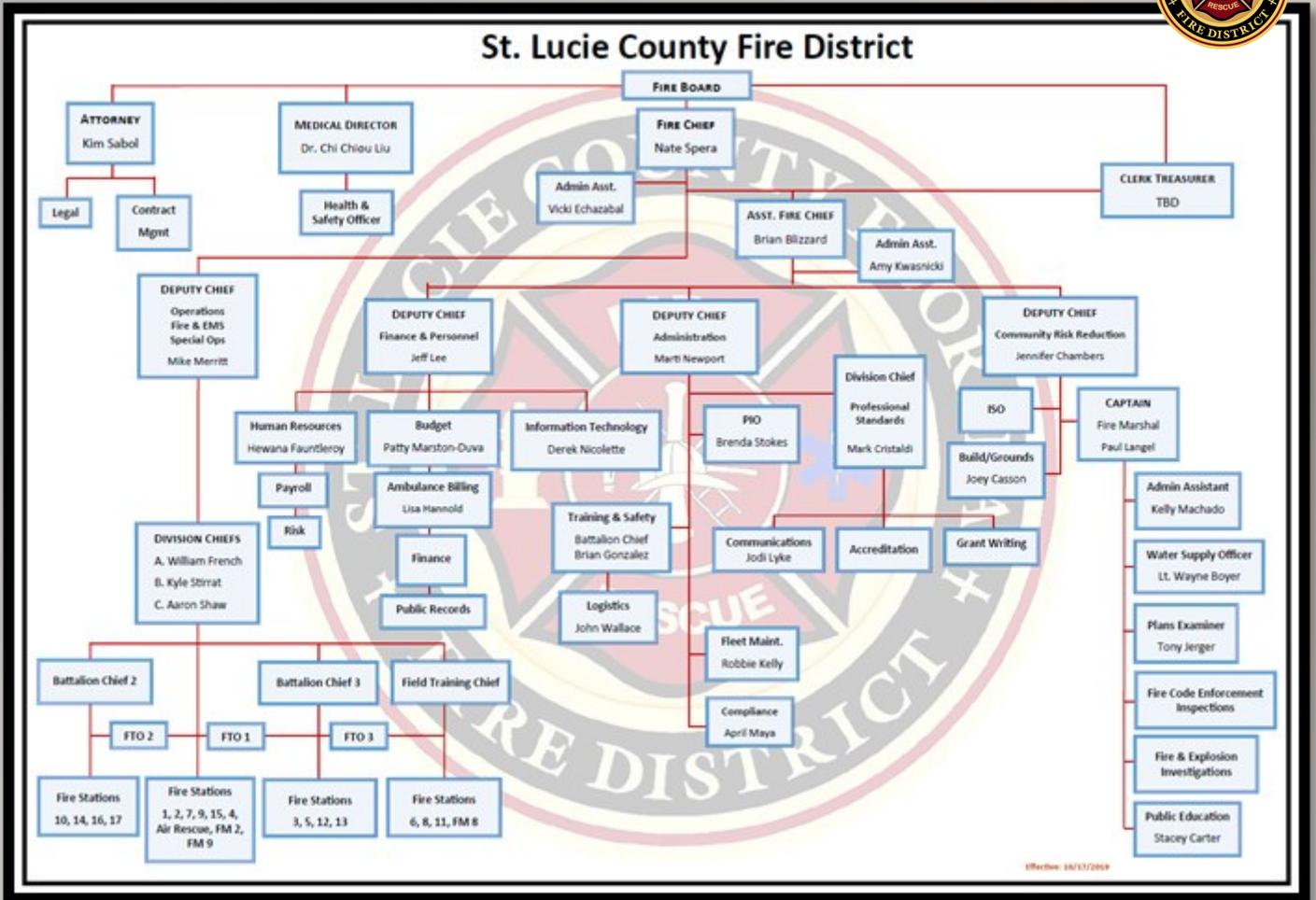
## FIRE DISTRICT CHAPLAIN



**TOMMY NEIMAN**  
Retired Lieutenant

Tommy Neiman served actively with the St. Lucie County Fire District for 30 years. Now in his retirement, he serves as the fire district chaplain. Among the many services he provides, he works with our Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team.

# CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



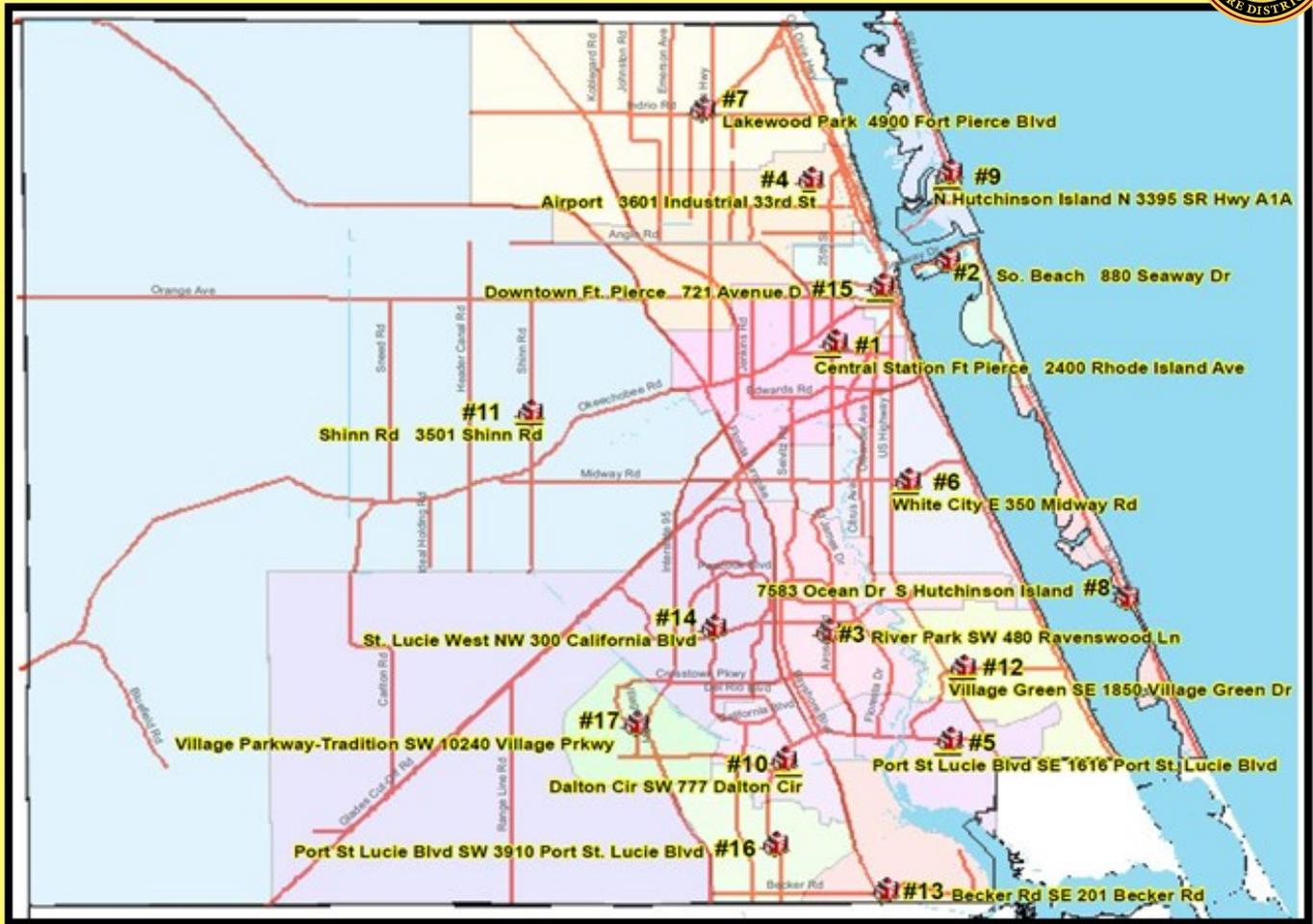
## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the St. Lucie County Fire District to preserve life and property by providing safe, efficient and professional emergency services, community risk reduction, and public education; together with community services for our residents and visitors now and into the future.



“Our Family Serving Yours”

# LOCATIONS



**STATION 1**  
2400 Rhode Island Ave  
Fort Pierce 34950

**STATION 2**  
855 Seaway Drive  
Fort Pierce 34949

**STATION 3**  
480 Ravenswood Ln  
Port St Lucie 34983

**STATION 4**  
3601 Industrial 33 St  
Fort Pierce 34946

**STATION 5**  
1616 SE Port St Lucie Blvd  
Port St Lucie 34952

**STATION 6**  
350 E Midway Rd  
Fort Pierce 34982

**STATION 7**  
4900 Fort Pierce Blvd  
Fort Pierce 34951

**STATION 8**  
7583 S Ocean Dr  
Jensen Beach 34957

**STATION 9**  
3395 N A1A  
Fort Pierce 34949

**STATION 10**  
777 SW Dalton Cir  
Port St Lucie 34953

**STATION 11**  
3501 Shinn Rd  
Fort Pierce 34945

**STATION 10**  
777 SW Dalton Cir  
Port St Lucie 34953

**STATION 12**  
1850 SE Village Green Dr  
Port St Lucie 34952

**STATION 13**  
201 SE Becker Rd  
Port St Lucie 34954

**STATION 14**  
300 California Ave  
Port St Lucie 34986

**STATION 15**  
721 Ave D  
Fort Pierce 34950

**STATION 16**  
3910 SW Port St Lucie Blvd  
Port St Lucie 34953

**STATION 17**  
10240 Village Pkwy  
Port St Lucie 34987

**AIR RESCUE**  
3105 Airmans Dr  
Fort Pierce 34946

**ADMINISTRATION**  
5160 NW Milner Dr  
Port St Lucie 34983

The COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION is located at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

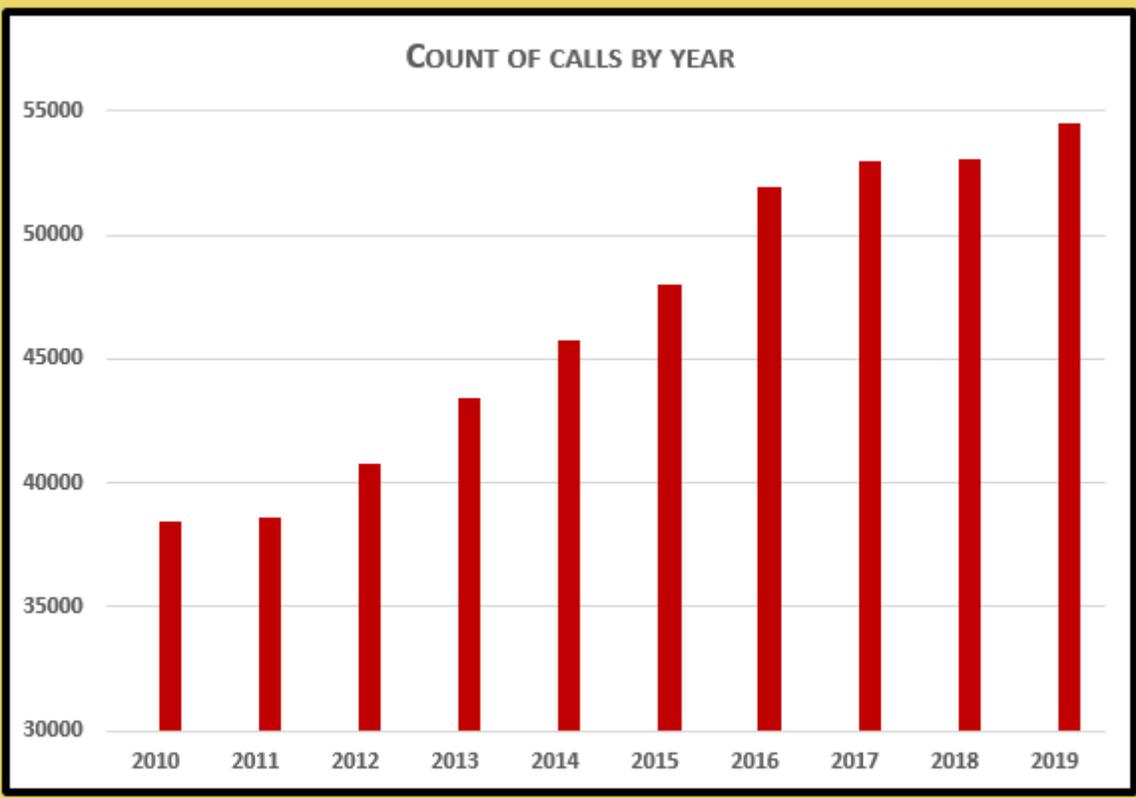
# BY THE NUMBERS



ANNUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	
Year	Call Total
2010	38,438
2011	38,612
2012	40,744
2013	43,414
2014	45,749
2015	48,022
2016	51,935
2017	52,996
2018	53,046
2019	54,478

**DEMAND FOR SERVICE**  
 Total Calls for Service  
 54,472  
 Emergency Medical Calls  
 49,561  
 Fire Calls  
 4,911  
 Unclassified  
 0  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTS**  
 by Ground  
 34,376  
 by Air  
 444

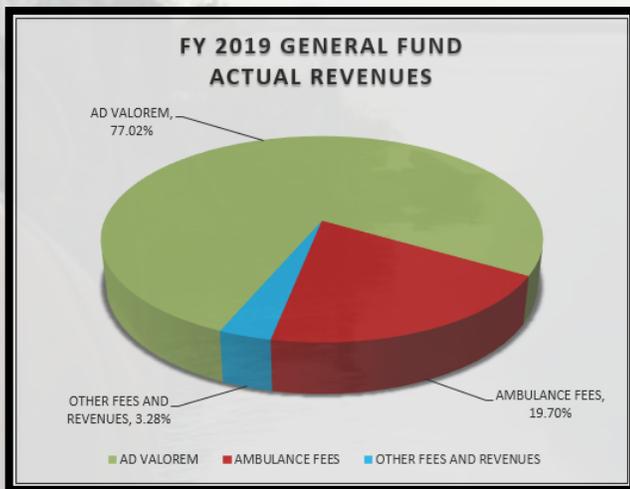
St. Lucie County Fire District serves a population of more than 298,000 and a total land area of 572 square miles served by of 387 firefighters, 21 telecommunicators and 64 support staff.





## FY 2019 – Year End

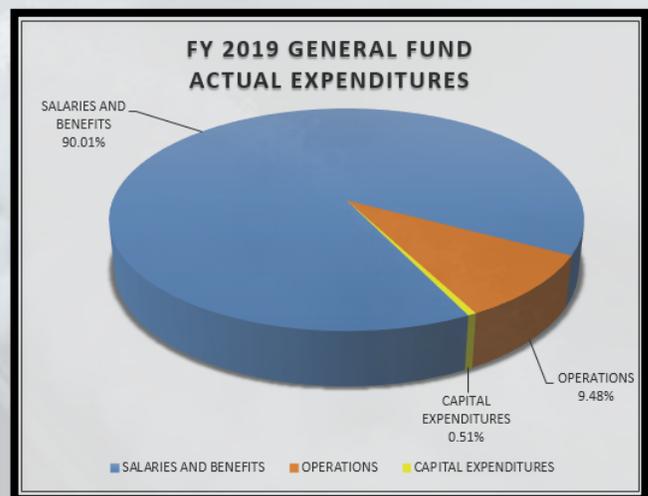
The following charts reflect the fire district's revenue and expenditures for the 2019 fiscal year. Actual revenues do not include reserve fund balances, cash on hand or transfers in. Actual expenditures do not include transfers out. Due to prior accounting changes, ambulance fees now include a reduction in unallowable amounts charged to Medicaid and Medicare. They are no longer classified as an expenditure, as was the prior practice. These numbers are unaudited and subject to change during the fiscal year audit.



	<u>REVENUE</u>		
	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Actual</u>
Ad Valorem	\$59,448,874	\$59,760,949	77.02%
Ambulance Fees	\$10,873,652	\$ 15,285,628	9.48%
Other	<u>\$ 5,082,030</u>	<u>\$ 2,548,754</u>	<u>3.28%</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$75,404,556</b>	<b>\$77,595,332</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## EXPENDITURES

	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Actual</u>
Salaries/Benefits	\$67,096,822	\$66,235,806	90.01%
Operations	\$ 7,690,825	\$ 6,977,512	9.48%
Capital	<u>\$ 541,909</u>	<u>\$ 374,864</u>	<u>0.51%</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$75,329,556</b>	<b>\$73,588,182</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



*Note: these numbers are unaudited*

*\*Reduced due to ambulance fee write-offs / reductions*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## ADMINISTRATION

### Reports to Assistant Fire Chief Brian Blizzard

The administration division provides overall direction, leadership and vision for the fire district. Divisional responsibilities, include; providing administrative support for the fire district in budget preparation, policies, public information, payroll, logistics, human resources, information technology and fleet maintenance. Deputy Chief Marti Newport, Deputy Chief Jeff Lee, and Deputy Chief Jen Chambers report to Assistant Fire Chief Brian Blizzard.

- ◆ Maintained accreditation status from the Center for Public Safety Excellence - Commission on Fire Accreditation International.
- ◆ Coordinated the Public Emergency Medical Transport (PEMT) Supplemental Reimbursement Program.
- ◆ Initiated the Managed Care/Medicaid supplement reimbursement program.
- ◆ Submitted and received reimbursement for the Region 5 deployment of two engine strike teams to the Panhandle for Hurricane Michael relief efforts.
- ◆ Managed numerous contracts and agreements with vendors.
- ◆ Coordinated the purchase of seven new Braun rescue trucks on Ford F450 chassis.
- ◆ Coordinated the lease of seven new command staff vehicles via Enterprise Fleet.
- ◆ Coordinated the acquisition, partnerships, funding and development of a mass casualty transport vehicle.
- ◆ Continued the coordination of P25 compliant digital radio inter-operable equipment with Martin County and FEMA.
- ◆ Managed the development and submission of six hazard mitigation projects with the Local Mitigation Strategy working group.
- ◆ Participated in opioid crisis work groups and quick response team meetings.
- ◆ Managed local partnerships with surrounding hospitals and healthcare facilities.
- ◆ Coordinated the Hep A vaccine supply via the county health department.
- ◆ Managed local partnerships with surrounding educational institutions.
- ◆ Managed mutual aid requests with Martin County Fire Rescue.
- ◆ Developed and managed several federal, state, local and private grants.
- ◆ Coordinated the federal grant award to purchase 25 new EKG monitors/defibrillators.
- ◆ Managed the continued partnership with Air Methods, Inc.
- ◆ Managed several agreements with educational institutions for EMT/Paramedic training.
- ◆ Managed and received FEMA reimbursement funding from Hurricane Matthew.
- ◆ Managed the FEMA reimbursement process for Hurricane Dorian.
- ◆ Integrated Lifescan to augment our current physical evaluation.
- ◆ Managed agreements with the Florida Forest Service and the United States Coast Guard.
- ◆ Assisted in the hiring/interview process for new employees.
- ◆ Managed several HAZMAT cost recovery claims.
- ◆ Participated in successful labor / management negotiations.
- ◆ Continued involvement and participation with the Treasure Coast Fire Chiefs' Association.
- ◆ Participated in the development of the Fire District's Strategic Plan.



## COMMUNICATIONS

### Reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport

Telecommunicators receive emergency calls, provide critical instructions to assist callers (EMD), dispatch responding units, track unit movements and availability, and provide hospitals with advanced notice of critically ill or injured patients. The Communications division supports operations by documenting and time stamping important events in the incident report, providing updates to responding units with critical information, and notifying agencies such as utilities, law enforcement, mutual aid, etc. at the request of field units. The day to day operations are supervised by Division Chief Mark Cristaldi and consists of:

(1) Communications Coordinator, (4) Telecommunicator Supervisors, and (16) telecommunicators.

- ◆ Successfully hired and trained two employees.
- ◆ Two employees successfully completed probationary status.
- ◆ Six employees became state of Florida certified.
- ◆ Implemented new Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) cards.
- ◆ Two employees attended Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) conference in Baltimore, MD.
- ◆ Communications coordinator attended G300 - Intermediate Incident Command Systems (ICS) for expanding incidents and the art of reading smoke classes.
- ◆ Participated on strategic plan, communications, and bunker gear committees.
- ◆ Telecommunicators volunteered for various events with the fire district and Local 1377 benevolent.
- ◆ Dispatched 54,478 incidents.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## **OPERATIONS**

### **Reports to Deputy Chief Mike Merritt**

The operations chief is responsible for emergency service delivery to the community; including emergency medical response, fire suppression, aeromedical responses, special operations responses, and overall personnel and safety management for all shifts. Division Chiefs: A-shift William French, B-shift Kyle Stirrat, and C-shift Aaron Shaw report to Deputy Chief Mike Merritt

- ◆ Completed training and placed our new state of the art MSA Air Packs in service.
- ◆ Completed the second phase of our three year plan to replace all structural firefighting gear, replacing 2/3 of our firefighters gear.
- ◆ Planned and developed a gear "Decon and Cleaning Policy" to properly clean structural firefighting gear after fires to align with the national firefighters cancer initiative.
- ◆ Developed and implemented a "swap-out" program for Nomex hoods after fires, planning a "swap-out" program for gloves starting in 2020.
- ◆ Added a third bravo rescue truck to the fleet bringing the total up to three stations running with two rescue trucks to better enhance emergency responses in zones with heavy call volume.
- ◆ Purchased atmospheric monitoring devices and developed a policy for air quality monitoring on fire scenes.
- ◆ Recertified all EMT's and paramedics in CPR and ACLS.
- ◆ Evaluated the Quality Assurance / Quality Improvement (QA/QI) process to ensure proper training is being administered in needed areas.
- ◆ Started the planning process to purchase two new fire engines.
- ◆ Notification was made that we received the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to purchase 27 new state of the art cardiac heart monitors to be placed in service in 2020.
- ◆ Notification was made that we received a state grant to purchase ResQ Pumps which is a CPR device to work in conjunction with the new cardiac heart monitors being placed in service in 2020.
- ◆ Identified the need to revamp our pediatric advanced life support bags, designed them and placed in service.
- ◆ Identified the need for a mass casualty transport bus and worked with our fleet maintenance division to design it to be placed in service in early 2020.
- ◆ Completed DOSE (Direct On Scene Education) training, a Florida Department of Health initiative to educate residents about the prevention of sudden unexpected infant death syndrome.
- ◆ The diversity committee has attended numerous career expos for the recruitment of a diverse workforce.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **Reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport**

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the fire district to assist in community outreach programs. Brenda Stokes is the PIO and is also the spokesperson for the fire district during emergency incidents and acts as the liaison between the incident commander and the media.

- ◆ Collected and compiled information from each division/department to produce the annual report.
- ◆ Managed and updated social media sites: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
- ◆ Applied to Nextdoor for government agencies; set-up, and initiated.
- ◆ Coordinated and organized open houses at the fire stations and administrative building.
- ◆ Managed the financials for the SLCFD Honor Guard.
- ◆ Coordinated individual and group interviews for requested media stories with employees and residents.
- ◆ Presented and delivered yellow dot and medical information envelopes to residents and communities.
- ◆ Participated in the strategic plan process and participated on the external communications committee.
- ◆ Provided drinks & snacks on scene and meals during extended response times.
- ◆ Assisted the SLC safety festival and the national combat challenge held locally in promoting the events and coordination efforts.
- ◆ Organized the annual Boot Auction & Dinner for Lil Feet which raised \$24,000.
- ◆ Worked with youth development agencies to identify kids in need and organized several shoe events.
- ◆ Served on the board and was instrumental in organizing the 2019 Big Heart Brigade for St. Lucie County.
- ◆ Scheduled and coordinated photo shoots, traveled the county for station and group pictures, formatted and labeled photos, collected data and laid the groundwork for the upcoming yearbook.
- ◆ Coordinated recognitions & events: citizen hero, good samaritan, service to family, promotions, retirements, special events, etc.
- ◆ Order, sort and distribute t-shirts for employees representing the fire district at athletic events.
- ◆ Order, sort and distribute t-shirts for all employees to support autism awareness in April.
- ◆ Order, sort and distribute t-shirts for all employees to support cancer awareness in October.
- ◆ Order, sort and distribute t-shirts for all employees to support our troops in November.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## **FINANCE**

### **Reports to Interim Clerk-Treasurer: Deputy Chief Jeff Lee**

The finance department is responsible for; accounting and investing all district funds, monitoring and approving all expenditures, issuing checks, developing operating and capital budgets, compiling annual financial statements, maintaining fixed asset records, performing special analysis/management studies and maintaining the official records of the fire district. The finance department, includes; (1) management analyst, (1) accounts payable/records clerk, (1) staff accountant and the clerk treasurer.

- ◆ Records request responded to for the year: 2,729
- ◆ Began transitioning journal entry backup documents from paper to electronic.
- ◆ Updated accounts payable procedure manual for cross-training.
- ◆ Started cross-training staff for accounts payables and public records requests.
- ◆ Reorganized and streamlined the chart of accounts in OneSolution.
- ◆ Updated the purchasing manual's dollar-limit threshold to allow for an easier purchasing process and to reflect the threshold limits in current practice by surrounding counties and cities.
- ◆ Improving the efficiency of the budget preparation process.
- ◆ Consolidated and organized the FY 2018 auditor-requested electronic schedules to a central location.
- ◆ Partnered with human resources on fiscal end of year data audits and auditor-requested schedules.
- ◆ Worked in conjunction with the fire chief to present a financing plan.
- ◆ Participated in labor management negotiations.



## **AMBULANCE BILLING**

### **Reports to Interim Clerk-Treasurer: Deputy Chief Jeff Lee**

The ambulance billing department processes billing for emergency ambulance transports in St. Lucie County (SLC). They work with both operations and training & safety to ensure compliance with state and federal statutes. They assist with the collection of documents for the Public Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) cost report, which has brought the fire district additional funding from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for Medicaid patients. They secure and maintain patient files in accordance with the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Lisa Hannold is the billing supervisor and oversees (1) quality assurance coder and (5) billing clerks.

- ◆ Charges billed out: \$21,211,181.00.
- ◆ Cash collected: \$11,681,822.00.
- ◆ Billable transports: 33,879.
- ◆ Medicare payments: \$4,345,161.00.
- ◆ Medicaid payments: \$66,699.00
- ◆ Commercial payments: \$6,180,262.00.
- ◆ Private patient payments: \$1,089,700.00.
- ◆ Each billing clerk enters an average of 6,776 calls per year.
- ◆ Attended the Medicaid Managed Care Emergency Medical Services Supplemental Payment Program in Orlando.
- ◆ Involved in community events, supported by the fire district: open houses, Big Heart Brigade, Hundred Club, 5K Memorial Walk for 911 and more.



## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Reports to Deputy Chief Jeff Lee**

The primary responsibility of the human resources department is to support the employer–employee relationship performing a variety of functions that both assist and manage the organization's biggest asset, its workforce. Hewana Fauntleroy is the HR Director and oversees (2) HR specialists, (1) payroll clerk, and (2) receptionists.

- ◆ Department certifications and significant training – two human resources specialists obtained a Society for Human Resources Management – Certified Professional certification (SHRM-CP), 1 human resources specialist completed a leadership program, and the payroll clerk began working on a Fundamental Payroll Certification (FPC).
- ◆ Involved in the following committees: safety committee, sick bank committee, employees health and welfare trust, diversity committee, health & wellness initiative committee, committee to enhance training to meet state, federal, and national standards, captains exam challenge committee, engineers exam challenge committee.
- ◆ Implemented, managed and coordinated, per the ratified collective bargaining agreement, Life Scan wellness screenings of 248 scans of which 243 were completed for employees and dependents over a six-week period.
- ◆ Obtained FBI/FDLE fingerprinting authority and established a relationship with Martin and St. Lucie county Sheriff's department to administer for new hires.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## HUMAN RESOURCES - continued

- ◆ Collaborated to enhance EAP processes and services, which resulted in a rebranding and customizing services to better serve the Districts employees, retirees, and dependents.
- ◆ Coordinated and proctored the engineers promotional exam with 50 participants tested; the lieutenants promotional exam with 56 participants; the battalion chiefs promotional exam with 5 participants.
- ◆ As a result of coordinating with the Resource Center to gain access to the pension calculator, HR guided 15 employees through entering the DROP, 12 employees through exiting the DROP, and provided approximately 43 pension and accrual calculations.
- ◆ In collaboration with the employee Health & Wellness Trust, introduced, oriented and coordinated office space for the new Gehring Group on-site consultant.
- ◆ Partnered with the Gehring Group in the automation of the fire district's benefits administration and open enrollment function with the implementation of BENTEK.
- ◆ Partnered with the on-site consultant in creating an employee benefits booklet to be used with all new hires and during all open enrollments.
- ◆ Coordinated two nine-day open enrollment sessions with the Gehring Group and all benefit vendors, to include two, six-day biometric screening sessions for all employees and retirees.
- ◆ Partnered with the Gehring group and the health & welfare trust to coordinate Medicare advantage informational sessions.
- ◆ Arrange for PGIT and a workers' compensation attorney to do an educational presentation for the joint safety committee and at the chief officer meeting.
- ◆ Partnered with IRSC to coordinate TC-PAT dates for firefighter recruitment readiness.
- ◆ Completed the in-house recruitment, vetting, and hiring process of 110 applicants, resulting in 16 firefighter positions filled.
- ◆ Completed the in-house recruitment, vetting, and hiring process of 101 applicants, resulting in five non-firefighter positions filled.
- ◆ Initiated online application capability.
- ◆ Conducted seven new hire orientations.
- ◆ Created one new job descriptions and revised five.
- ◆ Processed 1320 personnel actions: 21 hires, 20 separations, 25 promotions, 196 salary updates, 150 supplemental pay updates and 908 system-wide COLA updates.
- ◆ Processed 1838 payroll actions, 1195 deduction updates and 643 contribution updates.
- ◆ Successfully completed and early submittal of all IRS reporting requirements. Accomplished the timely completion and submission of the ACA required 1095s and 941, RT-6 reporting to the IRS.
- ◆ Managed 62 new, 23 ongoing, and closed 122 workers' compensation and property claims. Managed 55 FMLA cases.
- ◆ Implemented a new cancer insurance policy in response to senate bill 426.
- ◆ Responded to four external surveys.
- ◆ Revised three policies.
- ◆ Coordinated a financial education workshop.
- ◆ Partnered with the training & safety division to coordinate the company officer certificate program.
- ◆ Participated in four company officer training sessions.
- ◆ Partnered with finance on the end of year data audits.

## FLEET MAINTENANCE

### Reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport

Fleet maintenance is responsible for spec'ing & outfitting, preventive maintenance, and repair of 131 fire district vehicles and apparatus that, as a fleet, exceed 1-million miles annually. These vehicles range from UTV rescues, staff vehicles, rescues, pumpers, aerial apparatus, brush trucks, water tankers, special operations apparatus and an Oshkosh Stryker 1500 Airport Rescue Firefighting unit. In addition, fleet maintenance is responsible for maintaining nineteen station generators, nineteen "jaws of life" extrication tools, and all of the small engines the fire district uses in its day to day operations. All equipment is maintained to manufacture and NFPA standards. Robert Kelly is the fleet maintenance supervisor and oversees the daily operations. Fleet maintenance also consists of (1) service manager and (4) technicians.



- ◆ Utilizing a grant from the St. Lucie County Department of Health and a school bus donated by the St Lucie County School District, fleet maintenance converted the bus into a Mass Casualty Transport Ambulance, MCT-1.
- ◆ Converted battalion 2's F150 into a dedicated K-9 unit for arson investigation.
- ◆ Retrofitted older apparatus at station 6 with exhaust treatment systems to reduce exhaust particulate.
- ◆ Worked closely with apparatus committee to spec two new Sutphen custom pumpers for 2021 delivery.
- ◆ Worked with Braun to find a solution to a major vendor issue delaying the delivery of seven rescue units.

In addition to scheduled service and repairs and the projects listed, fleet maintenance also spec'd and placed into service the following vehicles: 2019 F150 to replace battalion 2, 2019 Ford Explorer for the Public Information Officer (PIO), 2019 Ford Transit 350 to replace building maintenances 2004 UtiliMaster, 2019 Ford Transit 350 as a dedicated personnel transport unit, Transit 1, 2019 Ford Expedition to replace the fire chief's 2004 Expedition, 2020 Pierce tanker to replace station 6's aging 99 Freightliner.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

### *Reports to Division Chief Jen Chambers*

The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) division is responsible for identifying and prioritizing local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact. In other words, community risk reduction is a process to help communities find out what their risks are and develop a plan to reduce the risks. The CRR division is responsible for the development and delivery of the following public safety programs: plan review, fire code enforcement, fire & explosion investigations, public education, and water supply.

The CRR division consists of the following personnel: Captain Paul Langel – Fire Marshal, Lt. Wayne Boyer – Inspector/ Investigator, Lt. Salomon Rincon – Inspector/Investigator, Lt. Jesse Almand – Inspector, Joe Cox – Inspector/Investigator, Brian Putnam – Inspector/Investigator, Tony Jerger – Plans Examiner, Stacey Carter – Public Educator, Kelly Machado – Staff Assistant, and Camy – Arson Dog. Also, In-service field inspectors: Captain Rob Pedreira, Lt. Ricky Williams, and FF/PM Andres Elizondo

- ◆ Completed 5,461 fire inspections, 47 fire investigations, and 760 site and building plan reviews.
- ◆ Site plan review, building plan review, and permitting accumulated \$1,112,175 of revenue.
- ◆ Implemented policies and procedures for the reorganization of fire prevention and public education divisions to establish the new Community Risk Reduction division (CRR).
- ◆ Participated in the county safety festival and other functions to promote fire safety.
- ◆ Managed the fire district’s preparation for the upcoming ISO evaluation.
- ◆ Facilitated ATF post blast explosives training and certification for investigators.
- ◆ Managed the fire district smoke alarm install program.
- ◆ Participated in fire station open houses.
- ◆ Implemented accelerant detection canine program.
- ◆ Managed the fire district’s false alarm fees program through St. Lucie County.
- ◆ False alarm fees program accumulated \$226,819 in revenue.
- ◆ Worked with implementing the fire district strategic goals 3 and 6.
- ◆ Facilitated the development of large projects such as Pursuit Boats’ expansion, Florida Power & Light solar fields, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center’s expansion, Amazon package facility, Tamco City Electric project, Southern Grove DRI, Publix at Taylor Creek Commons, Hiltons Town and Suites, fire station 5 relocation and rebuild, Port of Fort Pierce Development – Derektor Shipyard.
- ◆ Managed the compliance engine web-based software that generated over \$48,000 in revenue.



## FIRE AND SAFETY EDUCATION

### *Reports to Deputy Chief Jennifer Chambers*

Stacey Carter is the Fire and Life Safety Educator (FLSE) and operates under the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) division. The FLSE is responsible for developing and presenting fire and life safety education programs to the residents of St. Lucie County. In doing so, the mission is to protect the lives, property and environment of all people within St. Lucie County by preventing the occurrence and minimizing the adverse effects of fires, accidents and all other emergencies.

The fire district has reached 90,510 residents through televised interviews, PSAs and various social media outlets.

- ◆ Fire and Life Safety Educator I and II
- ◆ Youth Firesetter Program Manager
- ◆ National Certification Fire and Life Safety Educator
- ◆ Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician
- ◆ School visits - 45      Total population: 2,608
- ◆ Fire engine demos- 61      Total population: 2,839
- ◆ Safety house visits- 6      Total population: 652
- ◆ Fire station tours- 43      Total population: 1,660
- ◆ Events / Festivals- 41      Total population: 150,034
- ◆ Open houses- 14      Total population: 2,098
- ◆ St. Lucie County Fair
- ◆ St. Lucie County Safety Festival
- ◆ Hurricane Expo ~ Port St. Lucie Civic Center
- ◆ Wildland Fire Expo ~ Florida Forest Service
- ◆ Unity in Our Community ~ Fort Pierce Police Department
- ◆ Summer Safety Program ~ 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers
- ◆ Caring Community Cleanup ~ City of Port St. Lucie
- ◆ Kid Mania ~ Early Learning Coalition
- ◆ Back to School Event ~ St. Lucie County School Board
- ◆ Installed 101 smoke alarms for the residents of St. Lucie County



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### ***Reports to Deputy Chief Jeff Lee***

The IT department provides the fire district data and voice communications services. This includes, but is not limited to, software and hardware support, installations, tower climbing, 24/7 support, administering email and phones, maintaining the microwave infrastructure which supports CAD alerting, AVL, and data links to EOC, and researching new techniques and devices. Derek Nicolette oversees the IT Department and supervises (3) system administrators.

- ◆ Replaced telephone system, replaced the servers and all phones in offices and fire stations, replaced all laptops in vehicles with new Panasonic Toughbooks, replaced security camera server, replaced copier in the Community Risk Reduction division.
- ◆ Rebuilt new Windows update server, completed PC replacement in all offices and fire stations, PC software updates and upgrades, various server software upgrades and updates.
- ◆ Set up Proofpoint email security and encryption.
- ◆ Set up new endpoint (PC and server) security and antivirus program.
- ◆ Work on various CAD issues with vendor and county staff.
- ◆ Installed new TVs to replace projectors in all conference rooms, installed new projector and whiteboard in training room.
- ◆ Setup new VPN connection at fire station 6 to replace microwave radio and tower system.
- ◆ Work on new fire station 5 planning and wiring install.
- ◆ Repair lightning damage to microwave system at Milner.



## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

### ***Reports to Deputy Chief Jen Chambers***

Building & Grounds is responsible for maintenance and repairs at 17 fire stations and the administrative offices. Joey Casson is the supervisor and oversees; (3) maintenance technicians, (1) lawn maintenance technician, and (1) custodial technician

- ◆ Serviced all fuel tanks, painted them and changed out filters to maintain accurate fuel usage.
- ◆ Serviced and repaired garage doors at all fire stations.
- ◆ Serviced and repaired sprinklers at all fire stations and fertilized lawns.
- ◆ Serviced station lights and emergency lighting.
- ◆ Serviced all AC systems and installed ultra violet lights to prevent mold and germs.
- ◆ Pressure washed all fire stations.
- ◆ Performed yard maintenance throughout the district, including trimming and removal of trees.
- ◆ Placed 350 MSA air bottles and 175 air packs into service.
- ◆ Fire station #1 - Replaced AC system, installed sectional doors inside the bay, replaced gutters and landscaping, painted the station and all of the Central building, including purchasing.
- ◆ Fire station #2 - Painted the front bay doors.
- ◆ Fire station #3 - Landscape: removed shrubbery, replaced sod, added rocks and repaired driveway, replaced siding and fascia and painted.
- ◆ Fire station #4 - Replace gutters and made major repairs to main waterline.
- ◆ Fire station #5 - Assisted IT in running wires throughout the newly constructed building for cameras and other future use.
- ◆ Fire station #6 - Paint the inside of the fire station throughout. Replace sod and installed asphalt millings for the grill area.
- ◆ Fire station #7 - Installed an awning over the generator area.
- ◆ Fire station #8 - Laid sod at entry way, replaced carpet with tile, replaced cabinets, lights, and painted the radio room. Installed new AC and insulated windows.
- ◆ Fire station #9 - Serviced and repaired gutters and replaced carpet with tile. Installed insulated windows.
- ◆ Fire station #10 - Installed an awning over the generator area.
- ◆ Fire station #11 - Painted the generator and replaced wooden doors with fiberglass. Installed a new water softener, replaced screens in screen room, painted fire station throughout, replaced AC unit, added rock landscaping. Installed insulated windows.
- ◆ Fire station #12 - Replaced carpet with tile, replaced screens in screen room, painted all the fascia boards, cleaned gutters and serviced the exhaust fan belts. Replaced the AC duct system.
- ◆ Fire station #13 - Replaced fuel tank with a new 500-gallon tank. Installed LED lights in the bay area and parking lot pole. Pressure washed and painted the helipad and installed new lights.
- ◆ Fire station #16 - Installed new AC system in FTO room.
- ◆ Fire station #17 - Replaced siding and fascia and painted.
- ◆ Admin complex - Added a new fuel tank for small engines. Installed new LED bulbs. Remodeled the copy room into an office, relocated the cabinets into the mail room and shop break room, repainted and laid new carpet. Constructed a new office in HR. Remodeled an area upstairs and built a gym. Pressure washed the building, sidewalks, all pavement, painted new parking stripes and installed new parking curbs. Installed 3 TVs and ran power outlets for projectors. Replaced the AC unit in the purchasing department.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## LOGISTICS

### **Reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport**

The logistics department is responsible for the complete procurement of the fire district; including the research, purchases, warehousing, and distributing of medical, office and janitorial supplies, uniforms and bunker gear for all active firefighters. John Wallace is the supervisor and oversees (2) purchasing clerks.

- ◆ Donated bunker gear, brush gear, and SCBA equipment to aid Bolivia and Mexico in their firefighting efforts.
- ◆ Logistically assisted the Big Heart Brigade in providing for over 2000 meals for Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Purchased and maintained over 1,000 medical, house, office and operating supplies for 17 fire stations, communications, and air rescue. This resulted in the assistance of over 30,000 St. Lucie County Fire District billable calls.
- ◆ Provided various medical supplies to the St. Lucie County Fire District detail team supporting the New York Mets at First Data Field.
- ◆ Implemented the issue and purchase of over 150 sets of the Globe bunker gear for the St. Lucie County Fire District firefighters.
- ◆ Issued uniforms and bunker gear for 14 replacements and outfitted six new telecommunicators.



## TRAINING & SAFETY

### **Reports to Deputy Chief Marti Newport**

The training & safety division is responsible for fire and EMS training of all St. Lucie County Fire District firefighters. This division is also directly involved with health, safety and exposure risk management for the fire district. Battalion Chief Brian Gonzalez is the infection prevention officer and oversees the training and safety division (2) captains and (1) firefighter paramedic.

- ◆ Coordinated and provided training on new MSA SCBA to all aligned SLCFD personnel.
- ◆ Developed, coordinated and provided training/orientation for 18 new hires.
- ◆ Developed safety officer training program and provided periodic in-house training to Field Training Officer (FTO) and FTO step-up officers.
- ◆ Provided fire officer 1, tactics and strategy class, open to all SLCFD personnel.
- ◆ Coordinated and provided training on live burns at IRSC fire training grounds.
- ◆ Coordinated donation of bunker gear, SCBA and other fire equipment for Guatemala.
- ◆ Provided periodic “code red” training for day staff and light duty personnel.
- ◆ Implemented new post-incident decontamination procedures for fire and hazardous materials scenes.
- ◆ Coordinated and hosted, “The Art of Smoke Reading” by Dave Dodson, for SLCFD personnel and responders from multiple agencies.
- ◆ Developed bunker gear replacement program in collaboration with operations and logistics.
- ◆ Continued ongoing developing of fire training programs to maintain annual and periodic objectives as well as modern approaches for fire emergencies.
- ◆ Created new procedure and training for new Draeger X-am 5000 5-Gas atmospheric monitor.
- ◆ Researched half-mask respirators for protection of engineers, fire investigators and other applicable uses at fire and hazardous incidents.
- ◆ Assigned multiple EMS target solutions programs to maintain standards and required CEUs for licensure.
- ◆ Finalized development for new program, “Direct On-Scene-Education” (DOSE), a community infant safe-sleep initiative, in collaboration with the Department of Health and provided in-house training on DOSE to all aligned personnel, including all new hires during orientation.
- ◆ Designed DOSE educational brochure and collaborated with the Department of Health in developing a safe-sleep kit containing a variety of child safety tips and information for the community.
- ◆ Continued research and development of new pediatric dosing card system and procedure, to expedite and reduce anxiety levels on high-acuity pediatric emergencies. Also, provided introductory training on dosing card system to all personnel - utilizing feedback for improvements in program development.
- ◆ Continued development and improvements of new pediatric medical emergency bags: One EMS bag containing all pediatric airway, medications and accessory equipment.
- ◆ Began planning and coordinating training of new Zoll X-Series monitors for 2020.
- ◆ Managed and coordinated paramedic apprentice program, including individual training and testing for each phase of the program.
- ◆ Managed and attended all pre-release and release interviews for paramedic apprentices.
- ◆ Released 6 new paramedic apprentices to regular paramedic status in 2019.
- ◆ Attended resuscitation academy to learn the latest advancement in resuscitation in preparation for ACLS/BLS recertification.
- ◆ Provided ACLS/BLS recertification for all certified SLCFD firefighters. Researched and incorporated QCPR, feedback.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## TRAINING & SAFETY - continued

- ◆ CPR manikins and implemented “high performance CPR”, advanced CPR techniques into ACLS/BLS recertification training. Also, Implemented new pit crew approach to medical emergencies, including training provided to all aligned personnel.
- ◆ Instituted and provided training on stay and play approach, including on-scene benchmarks, for all full arrests, to improve rates of survival.
- ◆ Began coordinated efforts with local law enforcement agencies for interagency cooperative CPR training.
- ◆ Researched Lucas device (mechanical chest compression) for future implementation.
- ◆ Began revision of end of life policy, for completion and implementation in 2020. Began creation of new “Patient Resuscitation” procedure, to supplement end of life policy, for completion and implementation in 2020.
- ◆ Researched and began strategies for training and implementation of resuscitation devices in 2020 including: the I-Gel supraglottic airway device, the Zoll Res-Q-Pump and Zoll Res-Q-Pod.
- ◆ Research & development of the radio frequency identity tracking program, to consider for tracking logistics inventory.
- ◆ Coordinated and hosted multiagency diabetic education with Kim Perrota and Martin Health Systems.
- ◆ Developed and presented “SLCFD trauma response” program to multiple agencies at the Region 5 Trauma Advisory Board meeting and presented similar program to the St Lucie County Roundtable.
- ◆ Developed, coordinated and provided “paramedic national exam review” in-house class for paramedic students employed by SLCFD.
- ◆ Attended multiple fire classes, including, “Go, No Go”, a fire safety, tactics and strategy lecture and “This House Rocks”, a leadership lecture, to enhance training knowledge.
- ◆ Coordinated radiologic training for all aligned personnel in collaboration with the Emergency Operations Center.
- ◆ Coordinated the Lieutenant promotional written and practical exams for qualified aligned personnel, and assisted with coordinating Battalion Chief exam for qualified aligned personnel.
- ◆ Co-coordinated multi-agency Swift Assisted Victim Extraction (SAVE) training with Port St. Lucie Police Department.
- ◆ Provided assistance as evaluators for the Martin County Fire Rescue and officer promotional process and Indian River County Fire Rescue engineer promotional process.
- ◆ Researched and developed new idea for all-inclusive Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)/Active Shooter kit. Researched new equipment and began developing training for the following MCI kit equipment: Hyfin vented chest seals, abdominal pressure bandages for MCI kit, advanced pleural decompression needles.
- ◆ Continued to monitor and oversee infection control prevention and managed exposure incidents for all personnel in collaboration with human resources. Began revision of infection control prevention plan policy in collaboration with human resources.
- ◆ Provided ongoing research and development of multiple upcoming training projects including pediatric medical emergencies, 12 lead EKG Interpretation, Pharmaceutically Assisted Intubation (PAI), advanced airway management, mass casualty incident and national incident management system.
- ◆ Provided ongoing development and modifications of all emergency medical guidelines, including researching the reimplementing of an updated educational guidelines section.
- ◆ Attended St. Lucie Leadership program throughout 2019 for community awareness and development of interagency relationships.
- ◆ Attended fire conferences, including Orlando Fire Conference, Ft. Lauderdale Fire Conference and FDIC to enhance fire training development.
- ◆ Attended report writing lectures and trainings including, the Zoll Summit and “zoll crystal reports” training to improve EMS report writing process.
- ◆ Attended periodic EMS-related meetings including the emergency response networking at IRSC, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center quarterly meetings and Tradition Medical Center EMS leadership meetings to maintain and improve interagency communication and relations.
- ◆ Attended regular meetings in the safety committee, EMS operations committee and EMS guidelines committee.
- ◆ Attended multiple stroke performance improvement meetings with Tradition Medical Center, for future consideration of stroke patient transports.
- ◆ Participated in multiple strategic planning meetings, including diversity, health and safety, internal communications and training.
- ◆ Researched new systems for handling and maintaining controlled substances in order to increase security, tracking and accountability.
- ◆ Provided PCR tablet updates for report writing system and updated Fire RMS program, in collaboration with the IT Department.



# PARTICIPATION AND HIGHLIGHTS



## JANUARY

- ◇ The 2020 firefighter calendar to benefit the SLCFD combat challenge team rolled out for the second consecutive year.
- ◇ Open houses were held at fire stations 3, 7, and 11.
- ◇ Nine firefighters successfully completed their first year at the fire district.
- ◇ Nine new firefighters joined the ranks and began the 4-week orientation process.
- ◇ Dr. Chi Chiou Liu, the fire district's first and only medical director was recognized for 40 years of service.
- ◇ Members from the fire district, along with family and friends, participated in the annual MLK parade in Fort Pierce.
- ◇ Twelve members of the special operations team participated at the hazmat symposium in Daytona Beach.
- ◇ The fire district donated used (but useable) gear and equipment to humanitarian efforts to benefit volunteer firefighters in Guatemala.
- ◇ Firehouse Subs in Jensen Beach presented grant funds to the fire district to purchase seven new thermal imaging cameras.



## FEBRUARY

- ◇ SLC Fire District, in cooperation with the National Honor Guard Academy hosted a week long training for emergency services honor guard units. Nine SLC firefighters participated in the training.
- ◇ Open houses were held at fire stations 2, 8, and 9.
- ◇ Members from the fire district participated in a week long strategic planning process with the Center for Public Safety Excellence.
- ◇ Firefighters began the training process for the new air packs.
- ◇ Commissioner Reggie Sessions was sworn in and welcomed to the Fire Board.
- ◇ SLC firefighters participated in the firefighter chili cook-off in Lake Worth to benefit firefighters with cancer.
- ◇ One firefighter successfully completed his first year at the fire district.
- ◇ Lil Feet, Christmas4Kids, and firefighters provided more than a 100 pairs of shoes to needy children throughout SLC county.
- ◇ FF/Eng William Smith retired after 39 years. He is the longest serving African-American at the fire district and was the oldest active firefighter at the time of his retirement.



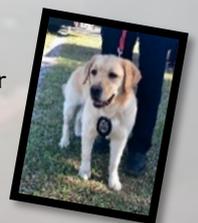
## MARCH

- ◇ All rescue vehicles received new laptops to replace outdated equipment.
- ◇ Open houses were held at fire stations 10 and 17.
- ◇ The Big Red Bus was at the administrative building so personnel, family and friends could donate blood.
- ◇ Members from the combat challenge team participated in the first responder games in Tampa and won first place out of 13 teams.
- ◇ SLCFD honor guard along with pipes & drums participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Port St. Lucie.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Award (1), Spirit of Family Award (2), Good Samaritan Award (2).



## APRIL

- ◇ Replaced all individual air packs and masks worn by firefighters to meet current requirements.
- ◇ Replaced old outdated equipment on all frontline vehicles including all fire and rescue trucks.
- ◇ Open houses were held at fire stations 4 and 5.
- ◇ The fire district partnered with Communities Connected for Kids and held the MANicure movement kick-off at the administration building to help bring awareness to child abuse prevention.
- ◇ Ladder 14 and various crews accompanied FLSE Stacey Carter to local schools to demo the fire equipment and gear to special needs students.
- ◇ Began rotating personnel through for individual photos in preparation for a 60-year commemorative yearbook
- ◇ The combat challenge team competed in Indianapolis: relay team placed 4th and Brian Riebe placed 2nd overall for individuals.
- ◇ The fire district and air rescue participated in the 2019 teddy bear parties at the hospitals with HCA.
- ◇ Telecommunicators were recognized this month during national public safety telecommunicators week for their dedication and outstanding service.
- ◇ The fire district welcomed Camy (the only arson dog from Key West to Melbourne). Her handler, Fire Inspector Joe Cox traveled to Maine where he trained with her and then brought her back to St. Lucie County. Camy was provided through a grant from State Farm and Maine Specialty Dogs.
- ◇ The fire district participated in the annual safety festival with a fire and smoke detector demonstration, public education, and touch-a-truck presentation.



# PARTICIPATION AND HIGHLIGHTS



## MAY

- ◇ SLC firefighters were recognized this month for National EMS Week by local hospitals and businesses.
- ◇ Open houses were held at stations 6 and 15.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Award(1), Spirit of Family Award (2).
- ◇ The Big Red Bus was at the administrative building so personnel, family and friends could donate blood.
- ◇ Camy, the fire district's accelerant detection canine was sworn-in and received her official badge.
- ◇ Commissioner Rufus Alexander was recognized for his service to the Fire Board of Commissioners.
- ◇ Continued rotating personnel through for individual photos in preparation for a 60-year commemorative yearbook.



## JUNE

- ◇ Ladder 14, operated by Lt. Adam Zuccaro, participated in the surfers for autism event.
- ◇ Began group and station photos in preparation for a 60-year commemorative yearbook.
- ◇ SLC Lil Feet raised \$24,000 through the annual boot auction & dinner, sanctioned by the fire district and the firefighter benevolent.
- ◇ Lil Feet presented a commemorative boot created by local artist Ann Steakin to the family of Gary "Garfish" Brooks, in memory of Gary who passed away on March 17, 2019. Gary was a retired engineer from the fire district.
- ◇ The fire district donated (through the efforts of firefighters Irael Gamez and Roman Garcca) 25 SCBA air packs and 50 air bottles to a small volunteer fire department in Mexico.



## JULY

- ◇ New water tanker 6 went into service.
- ◇ Continued group and station photos in preparation for a 60-year commemorative yearbook.
- ◇ The Big Red Bus was at the administrative building so personnel, family and friends could donate blood.
- ◇ Firefighters and their families participated in the annual Boys & Girls Clubs chili cook-off.
- ◇ Seven new firefighters joined the ranks and began the 4-week orientation process.
- ◇ Chief Spera recognized Lt Kevin Whitaker as Firefighter of the Year and Tammy Ward as the Support Staff of the Year.
- ◇ Administrative chiefs unveiled the new fire district logo in the commission chambers and presented a plaque to each of the commissioners that included the old and the new patches.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Award (1), Spirit of Family Award (1).



## AUGUST

- ◇ Firefighters assisted SLC Lil Feet in several back to school shoe shopping sprees for needy children throughout the county.
- ◇ The combat challenge team competed in Colorado and brought home several awards.
- ◇ Firefighters participated in tunnels of hope throughout the county to welcome students back to school.
- ◇ Three firefighters successfully completed their first year at the fire district.
- ◇ All SLC firefighters participated in the Rapid Intervention Training (RIT). RIT is used to train firefighters how to save other firefighters that become trapped, lost, or disoriented during a fire.
- ◇ Continued group and station photos in preparation for a 60-year commemorative yearbook.
- ◇ The fire district began preparing for the possibility of Hurricane Dorian making landfall on the Treasure Coast.
- ◇ Spirit of Family Award (2), Public Safety Excellence Award (5).



## SEPTEMBER

- ◇ The fire district participated in 911 memorials throughout the county with local law enforcement agencies.
- ◇ Building & Grounds installed the new logo throughout the district.
- ◇ Chief Spera and the honor guard participated in pregame activities prior to the St. Lucie West Centennial High school's "First Responder's Night".
- ◇ The fire district and National Rescue Consultants (NRC) partnered on a local in-house 40 hour trench rescue training.
- ◇ Fire Investigators Joe Cox and Salomon Rincon along with Camy the arson dog were recognized for their outstanding work on an arson fire that became Camy's first apprehension.
- ◇ Members from the fire district participated in the grand opening of the long-awaited Crosstown Parkway bridge grand opening.
- ◇ Spirit of Family Award (5).



# PARTICIPATION AND HIGHLIGHTS



## OCTOBER

- ◇ October is designated as fire prevention month, so Stacey Carter, in conjunction with members from the community risk reduction division and nearby fire stations, visited local schools (Pre-K through 2nd grade) to promote fire prevention safety education throughout the month.
- ◇ The fire district combat challenge team, along with other local firefighters, competed in the National Firefighter Combat Challenge held in Fort Pierce.
- ◇ The fire district joined Nextdoor for public agencies, a social media site to target specific neighborhoods or communicate with the entire county.
- ◇ Open house were held at the admin complex and fire station 3.
- ◇ Members of the honor guard and the pipes & drums team traveled to Emmitsburg, MD to participate in numerous details for the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial.
- ◇ Citizen Hero Award (2).
- ◇ In a promotional ceremony; 3-deputy chiefs, 3-division chiefs, 3-battalion chiefs, 4-captains and 2-lieutenants were pinned by family members and sworn into their new rank.
- ◇ Chief Spera and members from the firefighter benevolent participated in the "Battle of the Bräts for Babies" to benefit Healthy Start of SLC.
- ◇ Firefighters from fire station 4, located at Treasure Coast International Airport, attended a 40 hour aircraft firefighting class at the fire college of the South in Jacksonville, FL.
- ◇ Chief Spera and administration hosted a Halloween party for day shift and support staff.



## NOVEMBER

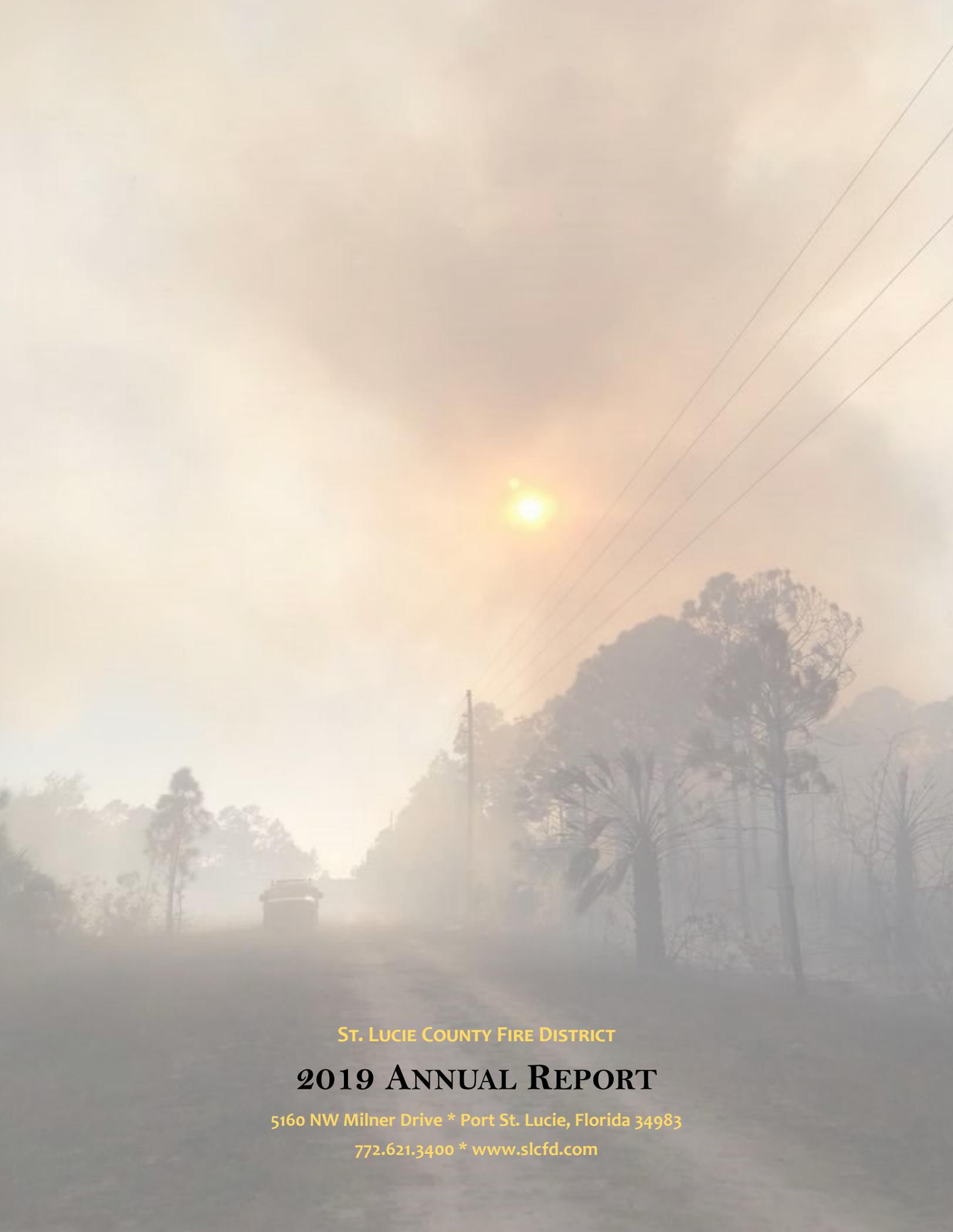
- ◇ Open house was held at fire station 13.
- ◇ SLCFD softball team came in 2nd place at the 3rd annual Gary Morales softball tournament. The proceeds from the tournament benefit the 100 Club of SLC.
- ◇ St Lucie firefighters, family, friends and volunteers packaged approximately 1,700 Thanksgiving meals and distributed them to people in need throughout the county. Lawnwood Regional Hospital donated the turkeys and Fort Pierce PD assisted with deliveries.
- ◇ Team SLCFD participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off to benefit SE Honor Flight, Operation 300, Renewal Coalition & Friends of Public Safety



## DECEMBER

- ◇ Fire stations began collecting toys for the annual Christmas day toy deliveries sponsored by Christmas4Kids.
- ◇ Over 200 firefighters attended the "Art of Reading Smoke" class hosted by the fire district and held at the administrative building.
- ◇ SafeKids and the fire district partnered to bring the National Child Passenger Safety Technician certification course to SLC.
- ◇ The fire district participated in the annual Festival of Lights parade in Port St. Lucie and the Sights & Sounds parade in Fort Pierce.
- ◇ Christmas4Kids hosted several wrapping parties at the fire district in anticipation of the 12th annual Christmas Day gift deliveries to needy children.
- ◇ Chief Spera and crews participated in the Special Olympics party.
- ◇ In a special recognition ceremony, Deputy Chief Derek Foxx was recognized for 30 years of service. Chief Foxx was the first African American to make it to an executive rank in the history of the fire district.
- ◇ Also recognized this month was Commissioner Mark Gotz who was appointed to the SLCFD Board of Directors in 2012 by Governor Rick Scott.
- ◇ Fire station 15 was recognized by the City of Fort Pierce as the winner of the best non-commercial Christmas light display.
- ◇ Firefighters, family and friends helped deliver toys and clothing to children in need throughout St. Lucie County on Christmas Day.





ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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