FIRE

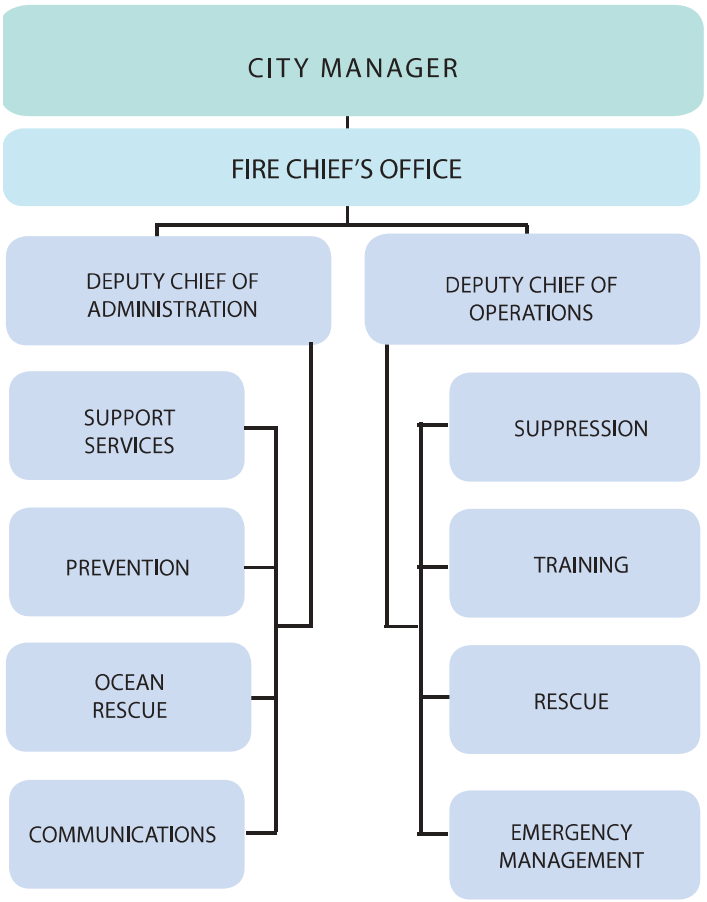
DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

We are a team of dedicated professionals whose mission is to provide our residents and visitors with the highest level of safety and security through the delivery of fire suppression, emergency medical services, disaster response, ocean rescue, fire prevention, public education programs and public safety communications.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Fire Administration Section ensures a constant state of mission readiness through the efforts of the Fire Suppression Division, Fire Rescue Division, Fire Prevention Division, Support Services Division, Training Division, Ocean Rescue Division, Public Safety Communications Division, and Emergency Management.

Rapid and effective emergency services are provided to the community from four fire stations that are strategically located to allow a call dispatched to the arrival of first due unit within four to six minutes for medical and fire emergencies and within eight minutes for additional units. Fire Administration and Support Services provide service from their own facilities. Ocean Rescue provides services from one headquarter and three sub-headquarter facilities that coordinate the preventive and rescue efforts of 36 lifeguard towers located to cover all publically accessible beaches. Emergency Management is run from the Emergency Operations Center at Fire Station #2.



Significant Historical Events:

- Fire Department established in 1920
- Rescue Division established in October of 1966 – signifie paradigm shift from fire protection only to Fire and Emergency Medical Rescue Service
- Multiple large scale fires in the 1980's and compliance with state and local fire prevention codes responsible for expansion and modernization of the Fire Prevention Division
- Merged with Beach Patrol (now Ocean Rescue Division) on May 16, 2004, which further enhanced the Fire Department's capabilities and training opportunities
- Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction or (WMD), terrorism and natural disaster plus responsibility for responding to confine space, ocean rescues, elevated victim rescue and hazardous materials incidents have transformed the "Fire Department" into an "All Hazards" Department
- Minimum Staffing ordinance passed in February 2003, requiring 44 Firefighters to be on duty at all time
- Fire Department achieved accreditation through Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) in August 2004, renewed in 2009 and reaccredited in 2015
- Fire Department rated as a Class One Department by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) in December of 2007 and was renewed in January 2017
- Implemented National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in 2009
- Implemented Fire Department reorganization in October 2012 to align its classifications with what is nationally recognized and recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710.
- In 2014, the Training Division was added to better address service enhancements and training needs
- ICMA Study of the Fire Department was completed March 2015
- Fire Boat 4 delivered in April 2016 and marine firefighti services commenced in April 2017
- In 2017, received an ISO rating of 105 out of 105.5 possible points
- October 2017, the Department obtained a Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the FAA to fly a drone for public safety use

FIRE

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION (CONT'D)

- October 2017, the Department incorporated the Public Safety Communications Division (PSCD) under Fire Administration
- October 2018, the Department incorporated Emergency Management as a division under Fire Administration

FISCAL ENVIRONMENT

The Fire Department is supported primarily from the General Fund. Revenue sources within the General Fund generated through Fire Department activities include:

- Rescue transport fees
- Fire Inspection Fee/Annual Fire Permit/Fire Watch Overtime Fees/False Alarm Fees
- Plan review permit fees
- Enhanced fire inspection fee
- Other permits
- Firefighters Supplemental Education Fun
- Off-duty detail fees
- Life Safety Inspection Citations

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The Fire Department has sole responsibility for providing fire protection, emergency medical services, coordinate relief after natural and man-made disasters, public safety communications (911), fire prevention and life safety inspections, review and enforcement, ocean rescue, and beach safety within the City of Miami Beach. To accomplish our mission, the Fire Department is provided sufficient resources and maintains mutual aid agreements with other local, state and federal fire and emergency agencies, as well as the private sector.

The Fire Department continues to work to establish and maintain cooperative relationships with our residents, elected officials, City administration, and other City departments to foster public and private partnerships.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued constant efforts to maintain international accreditation through the CFAI and #1 rating on a 1 to 10 scale from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Continued enhancements of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Fire and EMS electronic reporting and records management, electronic reports for city vehicle accidents, and electronic reporting of employee injuries, accidents, and exposure to chemical or biological hazards

- E-911 center was accredited by the Accredited Center for Excellence from the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch

- Lifeguards rescued 785 drowning victims from rip currents and completed 339,128 preventative actions

- Responded to 34,122 unit responses (based on calendar year) including structure fires, car fires, construction accidents, hazardous material calls, medical rescue incidents, water rescues and public service calls

- Engaged into a collaborative effort with the Miami Beach Police Department and Miami Dade Police Department Narcotics Bureau to share opioid overdose statistics and combat the opioid epidemic that is affecting Miami Dade County (326 incidents with Narcan under 40 opioid related)

- Expanded community outreach with the Pulsepoint Respond smart phone application in the City which aims to improve sudden cardiac arrest outcomes and provide transparency of Fire Department operations and taught City employees the importance of Pulsepoint App being equipped with bystander CPR life-saving skills

- Completed 10,806 plan reviews for new construction and remodeling of business properties and conducted 7,069 annual inspections

- Department Wide Critical Incident Debriefing raining

- Enhanced Community Outreach and education by developing a more robust CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) training. This program now includes targeted training for Hotel staff, with the goal of increased preparedness and cooperation of disaster response efforts. In addition, previously trained CERT participants are also offered advanced training and special activities to keep them engaged during blue skies.

- An alternate City EOC has neared completion at Mount Sinai Medical Center, and will be operational by hurricane season 2019. This space can be used in the event of a pandemic or other large-scale medical event of significant impact and could also serve as back-up EOC if the current EOC is not operable. DEM will keep the space operational by offering trainings there, as well.

FIRE

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Currently reviewing plans for renovations of Fire Station 1 and addressing parking issues
- Continued Officer Development Training with Target Solutions software
- Currently working on completion of replacement of the 79 street Ocean Rescue trailer
- Work with other fire agencies to enhance marine firefighti capabilities, Hazmat, Technical Rescue Team (TRT), special operations

FUTURE OUTLOOK

A major effort of the Fire Department is to maintain a results-oriented agency. Constant improvement and maximum efficiency and service are pursued through the following anticipated accomplishments in FY 2018/19.

- Monitor feedback results from city surveys, internal service shoppers, department quality assurance programs and citizen complaints or suggestions to help improve customer service
- Pursue additional efficiencies, cost savings and revenue enhancements through performance reviews with emphasis on reducing costs, managing risk and liability and increasing efficiency and job satisfaction of employee
- Updating CAD/New World System/Telestaff systems to newer versions
- Given the city's continued increase in daily population, tourism, special events, traffic, new construction and renovation projects, it is reasonable to anticipate that demand for fire, medical emergency, ocean rescue and fire prevention services will continue to increase. In 2018, via referendum, voters approved significant project developments for the Fire Department, which will assist in keeping abreast of the increased demand for services. Five major projects were approved to include the replacement of Fire Stations 1 and 3, replace the Ocean Rescue sub-station in North Beach, replace the City's aging public safety radio system and replace the existing marine patrol facility in order to relocate Fire Boat 4 from North Beach to South Beach. Replacement of Fire Station 1 is of the most urgency due to its current condition. Intensive maintenance is required to continue operation of Fire Station 1 as it exists today. This maintenance includes costs that, over time, would exceed the cost of full demolition and reconstruction of all facilities on site. Moreover, existing parking conditions at Fire Station 1 negatively impact the demands of the neighborhood and personnel reporting to work. The existing FEMA Flood elevations indicate that under severe storm events Fire Station 1 would become inaccessible and would prevent emergency assistance to the surrounding Miami Beach community. Further, Fire Station 1 should be replaced to current NFPA standards. The new building should be able to withstand a Category 5 hurricane, other natural disasters, and challenges such as security threats/risks. In addition, the new station will include the 911 Call Center.
- Jointly work with the Human Resources Department, Recruitment Division to coordinate future Fire Firefighter Entry Test
- Working jointly with Communications and Marketing Department to enhance public notification through the MBAlert system
- Coordinating efforts with Human Resources Department to create targeted notification groups among city personnel and increase communication within internal departments through use of MBAlert
- Emergency Management is a strong partner in Resilient305 efforts, which include cooperative initiatives with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County. Miami Beach leads the way with our CERT coordination and is also involved in the development of a recovery guidebook for other municipalities to use as the region enhances resiliency efforts.

FIRE

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

General Fund

- A significant component of the increase for all departments are increases in employee-related costs including a one percent cost of living adjustment in April 2020, as well as a maximum of three percent merit increase for employees, except members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) which include a five percent step increase. Merit, step, and cost of living increases apply within existing pay ranges. A five percent increase in the City's premiums for health insurance for all employees is also included, except for members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) which includes an eight percent increase in the City's premium.

- Personnel services expenditures increased by $1,558,500, or 2%. This is primarily due to increases in salaries and wages totaling $1,007,000 resulting from applicable cost of living adjustments and merit increases budgeted in FY 2020, as well as $551,500 in other personnel services expenditures, which include projected increases for health and life insurance, overtime, holiday pay overtime, and pension.

- Operating expenditures increased by $16,500, or 1%. This is mainly due to a $299,000 increase in uniform expenditures that are required based on various collective bargaining agreements across the department. This increase was, however, offset by decreases in other miscellaneous operating expenditures including, but not limited to contract maintenance, supplies, promotions, travel, etc. totaling $282,500 based on projected operational needs in FY 2020.

- Internal services expenditures increased by $71,000, or 1%, primarily due to increased usage of Property Management services of $216,000. An additional increase was incurred in Central Services of $32,000 for printing services along with an increase of $6,000 in Fleet Management services for vehicle repairs. These increases were, however, partially offset by decreases in Information Technology and Risk Management services totaling $183,000.

- Debt service expenditures remained at $15,000 based on the allocation of the projected FY 2020 Ameresco debt service obligation.

- Capital expenditures decreased by $63,000 for the department's matching component of potential grants applied for during FY 2020.

E-911

- The E-911 Fund increased by $386,000, or 178%, primarily due to a change in the agreement between Miami-Dade County and AT&T for wireless, wireless prepaid, and non-wireless emergency 911 services. This change increased the overall funding allocation to the City from the County for these services, which are provided by the department's Public Safety Communications Unit (PSCU) and provide additional overtime and contract maintenance services associated with operations of the City's 911 call center.

FY 2020 Efficiencies/Reductions

General Fund

- As part of the FY 2020 budget development process, departments were tasked with identifying efficiencies that would not impact current service levels. The Fire Department identifie $103,000 in its annual budget that includes funding allocated for miscellaneous travel and training, as well as funding set-aside as a grant match for any potential grants that the Department may be eligible to apply for throughout the year.

- The department's operating budget also includes the reduction of a vacant full-time Data Entry Clerk position in the amount of $53,000. The tasks that are performed by this position will be distributed among the remaining staff to minimize the impact on the Division's operations.

- The department's operating budget also includes the reduction of a full-time Office Associate IV position in the amount of $46,000. The tasks that are performed by this position will be distributed among the remaining staff to minimize the impact on the Division's operations.

FIRE

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

- The department's operating budget also includes the elimination of the CodeRed notification system in the amount of $46,000. During FY 2018, the Department of Emergency Management began implementation of the Everbridge emergency notification/monitoring system to replace the CodeRed system. This new system known as "MBAlert" has been rolled to the public and its basic system configuration is accessible through Everbridge's contract with the State of Florida at no cost to the City. This efficiency eliminates the funding for the "Code Red" system which will have no impact on the delivery of service.

- The FY 2020 budget includes a $14,000 efficiency for the elimination of the 1% COLA budgeted in April 2020 for unclassified positions $100,000 and over.

FY 2020 Enhancements

General Fund

- The FY 2020 budget includes an enhancement in the amount of $30,000 to fully staff the 26th Street Lifeguard Tower. This enhancement will permanently staff the 26th Street Lifeguard Tower with two Full-Time Lifeguard I and two Full-Time Lifeguard II positions, which is currently being staffed by Ocean Rescue utilizing overtime since it was placed in that location November 1, 2017. The total cost of this enhancement is $249,000 in Year 1 and $315,000 in Year 2 and will be offset by savings in overtime and holiday pay overtime of approximately $219,000 annually.