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 for the time for arrival from call dispatch of first unit within four to six minutes for medical and fire emergencies and within eight minutes for additional units. Fire Administration and Support Services provide services 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 publicly 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 – signified 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 confined 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 times
- Achieved accreditation through Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) in August 2004, renewed in 2009, and reaccredited in 2015 and 2020
- 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 firefighting services commenced in April 2017
- In 2017, received an ISO rating of 105 out of 105.5 possible points
- In October 2017, the Department obtained a Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the FAA to fly a drone for public safety use
DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION CONT’D

- In October 2017, the Department incorporated the Public Safety Communications Division (PSCD) under Fire Administration
- In 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 fees
- Other permits
- Firefighters Supplemental Education Fund
- Off-duty detail fees
- Life Safety Inspection Citations

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Main Vision Area:

Neighborhoods

Management Objectives:

- **Neighborhoods**
  - Provide quick and exceptional fire and emergency response
- **Organizational Innovation**
  - Support all objectives to improve decision making and financial stewardship, making the city more business friendly, with an employee culture of problem solving and engagement

Strategic Plan Actions:

- **COMPLETE** Fire Station 1 within four years of site selection

Budget Enhancement Actions:

- Additional Lifeguard Towers and Staffing at 55th and 62nd Street

Resilient305 Actions:

- **INCREASE** Community Resilience through CERT
- **ROLL-OUT** 5-Step Guide to Innovative Disaster Recovery Financing
- **PRE-PLANNING** for Post-Disaster Toolkit

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The Fire Department has sole responsibility for providing fire protection, emergency medical services, coordinating 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

- Created a homebound and elderly residential facilities COVID-19 testing and vaccine program
- Participated in the Parks and Recreation virtual Junior Firefighter Summer Camp and distributed 15,000 “Safety While at Home” pamphlets for residents that were at home during the statewide shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Held tabletop exercises in preparation for Hurricane Season and Spring Break that included COVID-19 conditions
- Acquired (2) Ultra Freezers to store COVID-19 vaccines on site, in preparation for COVID-19 pandemic
- Developed a Playbook for Early Response to COVID-19 Outbreaks within Fire and EMS Agencies to assist leadership in coordinating the initial local response to a case and/or outbreak of COVID-19 cases at their agency

"Created a homebound and elderly residential facilities COVID-19 testing and vaccine program."
FIRE

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT’D

• Hosted numerous multi-company drills focused on Urban Search and Rescue, Fire Boat, and Hazardous Materials responses throughout the City and region for Superbowl LIV

• Assisted the City of Miami Beach in the distribution of food, while working with the Feeding South Florida organization

• Developed training and purchased hardware and software for the implementation of the Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) system that will allow the Department to collect and transmit patient care and billing information more efficiently

• Delivered “Sleeping Dragon” protest training and equipment to Special Operations Technician members

• Maintained a comprehensive Quality Assurance program that ensures 100% review of all patient care reports to provide quality improvement in patient care and provide patient outcome feedback to field crews

FUTURE OUTLOOK CONT’D

• 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 employees

• New Public Safety Radio System which will provide multiple decades of service. This P25 system has the latest available technology that allows users to operate well outside the City. It also increases the interoperability capabilities among Federal, State, and Local agencies

• 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

• Jointly work with the Human Resources Department, Recruitment Division to coordinate future Fire Firefighter Entry Tests

• Working jointly with the Office of Marketing & Communications to enhance public notification through the MBAalert system

• Coordinating efforts with Human Resources Department to create targeted notification groups among city personnel and increase communication within internal departments through use of MBAalert

• 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

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

• Currently reviewing plans for renovations of Fire Station 1

• Continued Officer Development Training with Target Solutions software

• Work with other fire agencies to enhance marine firefighting 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 2022:

• Monitor feedback results from city surveys, internal service shoppers, department quality assurance programs and citizen complaints or suggestions to help improve customer service