

# 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

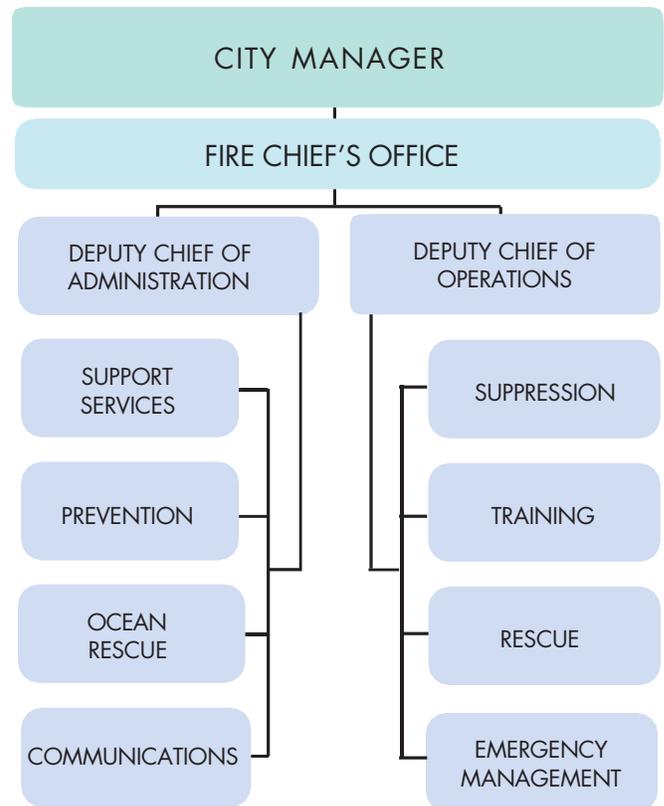
The Fire Administration section ensures a constant state of mission readiness through the efforts of the Fire Suppression Division, Fire Rescue Division, Fire Prevention Division, Support Services Division, Training Division, Ocean Rescue Division, Public Safety Communications Division, and the Division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

Rapid and effective emergency services are provided to the community from one of four fire stations that are strategically located to allow response times to be within four to six minutes on medical calls or fire emergencies and up to eight minutes for additional units to arrive on the scene. Fire Administration and Support Services provide services from their own facilities. Ocean Rescue provides services from its headquarters and three auxiliary facilities to coordinate the preventive and rescue efforts of 38 lifeguard towers located along all publicly accessible beaches. Emergency Management operates from the Emergency Operations Center at Fire Station #2.

### **Significant Historical Events:**

- Fire Department established in 1920
- Rescue Division established in October of 1966, signifying a shift from fire protection to fire and emergency medical rescue service
- Multiple large fires in the 1980s and the need to comply with state and local fire prevention codes led to an expansion and modernization of the Fire Prevention Division
- Merged with Beach Patrol (now Ocean Rescue Division) on May 16, 2004, further enhancing the Fire Department's capabilities and training opportunities
- Threat of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, natural disasters, ocean rescues and hazardous materials transform 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. Reaccredited in 2015 and 2020

## DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION CONT'D



- Fire Department rated as a Class One Department by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) in December of 2007. The rating was renewed in January 2017.
- Implemented the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in 2009
- Fire Department reorganization in October 2012 to align its classifications to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommendation 1710
- In 2014, the Training Division was added to better address service enhancements and training needs
- ICMA Study of the Fire Department was completed in March 2015
- Fire Boat 4 was delivered in April 2016 and marine firefighting services commenced in April 2017
- In 2017, the agency 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

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## DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION CONT'D

- In October 2017, the department incorporated the Public Safety Communications Division (PSCD) under the 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:

- Fire Rescue Unit and Boat Staffing
- Full-Time Information Technology Specialist II Position

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 human-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 maintains mutual aid agreements with other local, state and federal fire and emergency agencies as well as other organizations.

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

## SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held the second Jr. Firefighter Cadet Program. More than 15 children participated from grades 6-12
- Added two new lifeguard stations to the Mid Beach neighborhood of Miami Beach, reducing the distance between towers
- Vaccinated over 14,000 people against COVID-19 between January and June 2021
- Implemented weekly night inspection teams from Thursday through Saturday nights. The Fire Prevention division conducted between 150 to 450 life safety inspections of assembly occupancies on Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue and Washington Avenue from 15 Street to South Pointe. The teams accomplished 1,149 of these inspections during a five-month period.
- In June 2021, our Fire Prevention division assisted the Building Department in proactively posting notices on approximately 110 buildings that were coming up on their 40-year recertifications



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## SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT'D

- Enhanced pandemic preparedness by securing an on-site, climate-controlled, 40-foot storage container for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and gear used by department personnel
- The Public Safety Communications Division (PSCD) was reaccredited on September 2021 by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch as an Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) in the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) discipline
- The Public Safety Communications Division (PSCD) deployed a new radio system which, offers more reliable radio communications
- Obtained \$38.6 million in reimbursement of COVID-19 payroll expenses under the CARES Act
- Coordinated recertification by the National Weather Service as a StormReady Community

## CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Reviewing plans for renovations to Fire Station 1
- Continue officer development training with Target Solutions software
- Work with other fire agencies to enhance marine firefighting capabilities

## FUTURE OUTLOOK

A major effort of the Fire Department is to continue to operate as a results-oriented organization. Constant improvement and maximum efficiency and service are pursued through the following anticipated accomplishments in FY 2023:

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



## FUTURE OUTLOOK CONT'D

- Pursue additional efficiencies, cost savings and revenue enhancements through performance reviews with emphasis on reducing costs, managing risk and liability as well as increasing efficiency and job satisfaction among employees
- 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 service, ocean rescues and fire prevention services will continue to increase. Miami Beach voters in 2018, approved significant enhancements to assist the Fire Department in meeting increased service demands. Five major projects were approved by voters to include the replacement of Fire Station 1 as well as Fire Station 3 and the Ocean Rescue substation in North Beach. Voters also approved a new public safety radio system and new marine patrol facility to house Fire Boat 4 in South Beach. The replacement of Fire Station 1 is the most urgent project. Significant improvements are needed to meet current and future demand without negatively affecting response time. Necessary work includes costs that, over time, would exceed the cost of full demolition and reconstruction. Moreover, existing parking at Fire Station 1 is simply inadequate to support the number of department personnel assigned to the site. Based on FEMA Flood elevations, Fire Station 1 would likely become inaccessible under severe storm conditions. This would disrupt the ability of Fire Station 1 to provide emergency assistance to the surrounding Miami Beach community. Further, Fire Station 1 does not meet current NFPA standards. A new building would be designed to withstand a Category 5 hurricane, other natural disasters and challenges such as security threats.
- Continue to work with the IT Department to enhance the Fire Department's data analysis capabilities
- Working jointly with the Office of Marketing & Communications to enhance public notification through the MBAlert system
- Coordinate efforts with the Human Resources Department to create targeted notification groups among city personnel and increase communication within internal departments through 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