

FIRE

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Fire department is 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.

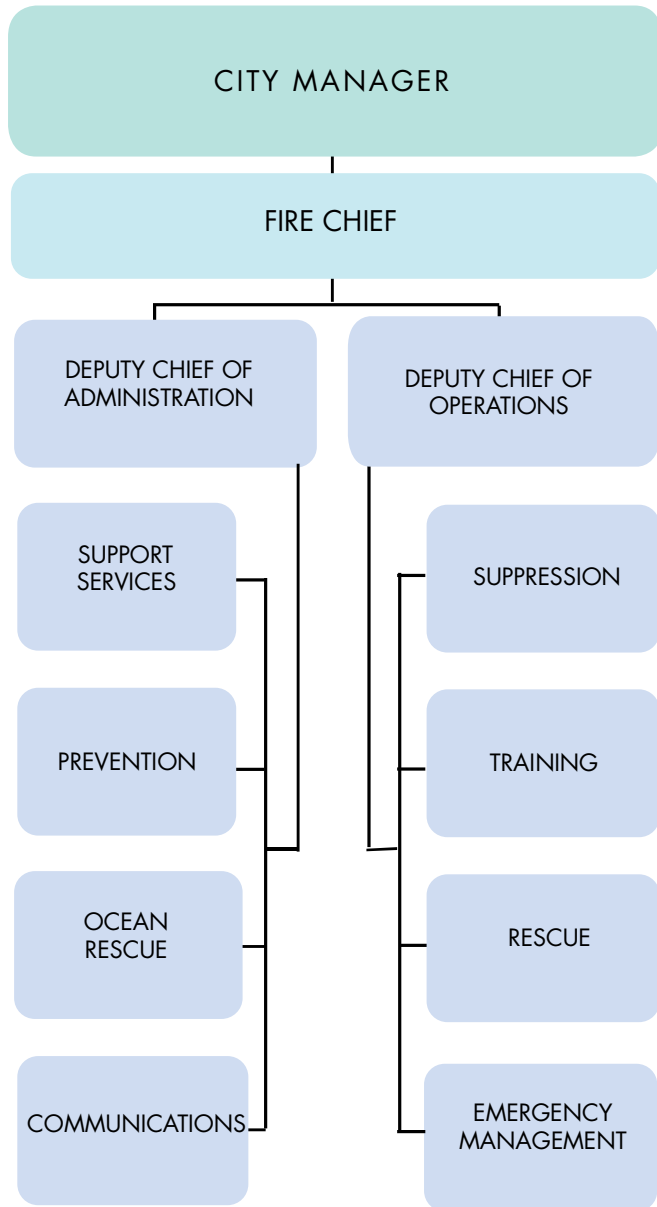
Significant Historical Events:

- 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 have transformed the Fire Department into an all hazards department as of 2004
- 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
- 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
- In April 2016, a combination Fire and Rescue crew to staff Fire Boat 4 was approved and marine firefighting services commenced April 2017. In 2023, an additional Fire boat was donated to the marine fleet. In 2024, an enhancement to staffing allowed for new marine station 5 to be approved.
- 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
- 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
- Effective July 1, 2024, the Florida governor approved a grant for \$417,500 for the replacement of 1 of 2 Aerial 100 ft. Fire trucks

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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

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.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Main Vision Area:

Neighborhoods

Management Objectives:

- **Neighborhoods**
 - Provide quick and exceptional fire and emergency response
 - Continuously improve emergency preparedness to better respond to shocks like hurricanes to bounce back as quickly as possible.
- **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
- **COMPLETE** North Beach Ocean Rescue Facility
- **COMPLETE** analysis by Computer-aided dispatch (CAD)/Records Management system (RMS) consultant with a final recommendation of an upgrade or new system. This will improve crime data for analysis.
- **INCREASE** compliance with the Building Code by streamlining the process and providing continued training to the public and applicants on the process.

Budget Enhancement Actions:

- Full-Time Emergency Management Fire Division Chief Position

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SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Sent a voluntary group of firefighters to Israel to help back-fill fire stations while Israeli firefighters were called for military services
- Developed and delivered an in-house Driver Engineer program and High-Rise Firefighting training
- Reviewed 10,242 plans for new construction and completed 10,150 annual fire inspections
- Replaced all Stop the Bleed Kits & Automated External Defibrillator (AED) parts, batteries, and pads (46) for all public area locations throughout the City and completed the Mass Casualty Active Shooter Drill with the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) at the Jackie Gleason Theatre
- Planned and participated in a multi-jurisdictional training exercise with the Miami Dade Police Department and Miami Dade Schools Police Department on an active shooter scenario at the Miami Beach High School



***Reaccredited our
Tri-Accreditation with
the International
Academies of
Emergency Dispatch.***

- Established a shared health data exchange partnership with Mt. Sinai giving us the ability to review all patient outcomes and receive billing information in real time to effectively increase billing ability
- Added 18 new AED's for Ocean Rescue personnel to utilize on the beach due to award of a grant from the State of Florida
- Launched Beach Conditions webpage that includes two webcam feeds, lifeguard tower locations, and pictures
- Renewed Tri-Accreditation by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch in all three call-taking disciplines of fire, medical, and police. Only 14 Emergency Communication Centers in the world are Tri-accredited.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT'D

- Deployed Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport units, Basic Life Support (BLS) first aid stations, and Night Inspections teams throughout the month of March for Spring Break
- Decommissioned one Fire Rescue truck, eight sets of bunker gear, and a Fire hose that were donated to our sister city of Cozumel, as approved by the City Commission on May 15, 2024
- Implemented new Ocean Rescue Emergency Medical Service (EMS) BLS protocols
- Emergency Management provided over 3,700 hours of training to City staff and outside partner agencies, including the American Heart Association Hands Only CPR, Incident Command System courses for National Incident Management System compliance, CERT program achieved over 309 volunteer involvements, WebEOC, and Crisis Track

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Temporarily suspended expenditures toward plans and design for Fire Station 1 at 833 6th Street. As of May 2024, additional renderings and analysis of potential alternative sites for Fire Station 1 are being conducted.
- 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 2025:

- 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, as well as increasing efficiency and job satisfaction among employees

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FUTURE OUTLOOK CONT'D

- 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 rescue and fire prevention services will continue to increase. Miami Beach voters in 2018, approved significant capital 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. 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. The new building is designed to withstand a Category 5 hurricane, other natural disasters, and challenges such as security threats.

FUTURE OUTLOOK CONT'D

- Working jointly with the Office of Marketing & Communications to enhance public notification through the MBAlert system and the new Digital Communications Specialist
- 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

