

# Gainesville Fire Rescue

## Annual Report 2024





# Gainesville Fire Rescue

## Mission Statement

To protect and serve through community involvement, education, prevention, and rapid intervention by professionals committed to excellence.

## Department Vision

Gainesville Fire Rescue will be recognized as the model of excellence by the provision of our services.

## Department Organization

**Administration** 606 SE Depot Avenue 352-334-5078

Office of the Fire Chief

Information Management

**Operations** 352-334-5078

Fire Station 1 525 S Main Street

Fire Station 2 2210 SW Archer Road

Fire Station 3 900 NE Waldo Road

Fire Station 4 10 SW 36th Street

Fire Station 5 1244 NW 30th Avenue

Fire Station 6 3638 NE 39th Avenue (Airport)

Fire Station 7 5601 NW 43rd Street

Fire Station 8 3223 NW 42nd Avenue

Fire Station 9 4213 SW 30th Avenue

**Risk Reduction** 352-334-5065

Fire Marshal

Fire Safety Inspection

Fire Investigative Services

Fire and Life Safety Education

**Training Bureau** 352-334-5075

Training, Recruitment, and Community Instruction

**Community Health** 352-393-8300

Community Resource Paramedicine

Gun Violence Intervention

**Mailing Address for all Programs**

PO BOX 490 MS34

GAINESVILLE FL 32627-0490



Accredited by the  
Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International  
2024-2029

### CFAI

#### Self-Assessment Categories

- 1 Governance and Administration
- 2 Assessment and Planning
- 3 Goals and Objectives
- 4 Financial Resources
- 5 Programs
- 6 Physical Resources
- 7 Human Resources
- 8 Training and Competency
- 9 Essential Resources
- 10 External Systems Relationships
- 11 Health and Safety



[www.gfr.org](http://www.gfr.org)

[www.gainesvillefl.gov](http://www.gainesvillefl.gov)



Published August 25, 2025



Gainesville Fire Rescue - Accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International 2024-2029

# GFR By The Numbers 2024

## Emergency Operations

64+

City of Gainesville  
Square Miles

24,330 Incidents  
Responded to by GFR

71 Confirmed Building Fires in  
the City Limits

147,865 City of  
Gainesville Resident  
Population

22,813 incidents were in  
the City Limits

\$24,245,959 Value of  
Property Saved

31,536 GFR Unit  
Responses

92% of Property Value at  
Risk Saved

\$29 Million  
Department Budget FY25

29,543 responses were in  
the City Limits

0 Fires in Commercial Structures  
Inspected within five years

\$12.3 Million  
Projected Net Fire  
Assessment Revenue

8 Firefighter Injuries  
at the Fireground

17 Certified Firefighters Hired

0 Non-Certified Firefighters Hired

12 Firefighter Injuries at  
Non-Fire Emergencies

7 Sworn Personnel Retired

8 Sworn Personnel Resigned



## Training Bureau



339 People Trained in CPR



20% Cardiac Arrest with Return to  
Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC in Field  
to Emergency Dept 16/79)

120 Live Fire Training Hours

50% ROSC Rate for Patients who  
had Bystander CPR 8/16)

102 Technical Rescue Training Hours



# GFR By The Numbers 2024

## Risk Reduction Bureau

**25,454,006**  
Square Feet Inspected  
by Fire Safety Inspectors

**112**  
Night Inspections  
of Local Businesses

**13** Fires Intentionally Set

## Community Health Initiatives

**Community Resource Paramedicine, Gun Violence Intervention,  
Medication Assisted Treatment, and  
Fire and Life Safety Education**

### CRP Program Referrals

273 Recovery Response Referrals  
41 Homeless Outreach and Prevention Referrals  
156 Chronic Disease Management Referrals

### Gun Violence Intervention

4 Crisis Intervention Trainings for 123 individuals  
150-200 Hours monthly on violence disruption and  
mediation  
4 Community Care Callouts

### Additional Services

11 Flu Vaccinations  
12 Covid-19 Vaccinations  
12 Single Interventions for one-time service  
73 Community Events  
2,591 Neighbors Engaged  
9,194 Intern Hours

### Medication Assisted Treatment

78 candidates referred (02/18/2024 - 12/31/2024)  
36 candidates enrolled (3/5/2024 - 12/31/2024)  
31/36 patients graduated from the program  
The average length of treatment was 18 days

### CRP Educational Events

#### Included:

Back to School  
Dash and Bash  
Mental Health First Aid  
NARCAN Training  
Stop the Bleed  
Trauma-informed care symposium for 70  
attendees

### Fire and Life Safety Education

202 Total Events  
7,459 Students  
38 Fire Station Tours  
44 Fire Company Visits  
131 Car Seats Installed at 27 events  
156 Smoke Detectors Installed



# Personnel 2024



Joseph W. Dixon, Sr.  
Fire Chief



Shawn Hillhouse  
Deputy Chief  
Interim Fire Chief



David Sutton  
Assistant Chief  
Interim Deputy Chief



Stephen Hesson  
Assistant Chief



Adam Hinton  
Assistant Chief



Sean Withers  
District Chief  
Emergency Manager/  
Grants/Accreditation



Cary Williams  
Training Chief



Brandy Stone  
Director of Community  
Health Initiatives

Conrade Irving III  
Special Projects Captain

Lieutenant  
Alvin Jones II  
Acting Emergency  
Manager/Grants/  
Accreditation

Lt. Dallas Baker  
Recruitment

## Operations District Chiefs

D.G. Campbell, Jr.  
Adam Hinton  
Michael Steele, Jr.  
Nick Gonzalez

Sean Campbell  
Jeff Schuhmacher  
Ron Thomas, Jr.  
Conrade Irving III



Sworn Demographics		181
Male	177	97.8%
Female	4	2.2%
White	132	73.0%
Minority	49	27.0%
African-American	25	13.8%
Hispanic	12	6.6%
Other	12	6.6%





# Personnel 2024

Ernesto	Acuna	Driver Operator	Herbert	Ennis III	Captain	Nicholas	Owens	Lieutenant
James	Adams	Driver Operator	Jeanish	Ericson	Firefighter	Rene	Owens, Jr.	Firefighter
Trace	Adkins	Driver Operator	Edward	Evans	Fire Inspector	Bresley	Paquette	Driver Operator
Paul	Aikins	Driver Operator	Hans	Everson	Driver Operator	Jose	Paredes	Lieutenant
John	Amato	Driver Operator	Kenyada	Feathers	Firefighter	Joseph	Park	Driver Operator
Thomas	Amato	Firefighter	David	Fernandez	Firefighter	Michael	Partridge, Jr.	Driver Operator
Angelica	Arbelez	CHD Staff Specialist	Christopher	Fogel	Firefighter	Andrew	Pearce	Driver Operator
David	Arbell	Driver Operator	Brian	Gardner	Firefighter	Colby	Perryman	Lieutenant
Preston	Attebery	Fire Inspector	Dylan	Gault	Driver Operator	Andrew	Piccolo	Driver Operator
Kevin	Babcock	Firefighter	Matthew	George	Driver Operator	Corey	Plinder	Firefighter
Max	Baggaley	Firefighter	Emilia	Gessmann	Responder 1 MAT	Gunner	Pliner	Lieutenant
Adrienne	Baker	Executive Assistant, Sr	Nicholas	Gomez	Responder 1 MAT	Austin	Polk	Driver Operator
Dallas	Baker	Lieutenant	Joseph	Gonzalez	Lieutenant	Tracy	Port	Account Clerk II
Merle	Balak	Lieutenant	Nicholas	Gonzalez	District Chief	Andrea	Powell	Driver Operator
Leah	Barnes	Responder 1	Joshua	Gossett	Driver Operator	Chase	Prince	Lieutenant
Kurt	Baumann	Lieutenant	Joel	Grewes	Lieutenant	Kahlin	Randolph	Firefighter
Paul	Beauchamp III	Lieutenant	William	Greenstein	Firefighter	Tristen	Ransell	Firefighter
Ernie	Benjamin, Jr.	Investigative Services Officer	Kevin	Guierrez	Fire Safety Inspector	Devlin	Ray	Firefighter
Ryan	Blevins	Firefighter	Jamal	Haliz	Lieutenant	Joshua	Roberts	Driver Operator
Aubrey	Bocalan	Irism	Drew	Halvorson	Lieutenant	Nash	Roberts	Driver Operator
Timothy	Bowen	Lieutenant	Lebron	Hardy	Firefighter	Keshia	Robillard	Responder 1
Elizabeth	Braun	Captain	Brandon	Harris	Firefighter	Scott	Robinson	Lieutenant
Wesley	Breeden	Lieutenant	Matthew	Harrison	Driver Operator	Timothy	Rodgers	Driver Operator
William	Bridson	Lieutenant	Robert	Healy	Logistics Officer	David	Rodriguez	Driver Operator
Cory	Birson	Driver Operator	Jason	Hendricks	Lieutenant	Blms	Rogers, Jr.	Lieutenant
Casey	Brooks	Firefighter	Stephen	Hesson	Assistant Chief	David	Sampel	Firefighter
Matthew	Browder	Driver Operator	Jeffrey	Higgins	Firefighter	Rumaldo	Santos	Firefighter
James	Brown	Lieutenant	Joseph	Hillhouse	Deputy Chief	Jeffrey	Schulmacher	District Chief
Paul	Brunev	Captain	Daniel	Hinton	Assistant Chief	Adrian	Scott	BOLD Intervention Spec., Sr.
Joel	Burgett	Firefighter	Majorie	Houston	Account Clerk, Sr.	Tyler	Seibert	Driver Operator
Thomas	Burgett	Fire Inspector	Zachary	Howard	Firefighter	Sheryl	Sheehan	Staff Assistant
Kylene	Byrne	Responder 1 MAT	Anthony	Hutchinson	Driver Operator	Nile	Shetter	Investigative Services Officer
Marion	Cabrera-Arango	Firefighter	Gerrade	Iving	District Chief	Kate	Sheng	Community Health Analyst
Klen	Cade	Lieutenant	Amanda	James	Lieutenant	Zachary	Shinn	Firefighter
Sean	Campbell	District Chief	Jeffrey	Jamison	Lieutenant	Dustin	Sheliner	Firefighter
Don	Campbell, Jr.	District Chief	Mick	Jasper	Driver Operator	Glenn	Shuford	Captain
Sean	Canady	Lieutenant	Alvin	Jones II	Lieutenant	Christopher	Silcox	Lieutenant
Cody	Cannon	Firefighter	Derek	Joseph	Firefighter	Daniel	Slyyer	Driver Operator
Shane	Carroll	Firefighter	Robert	Kalaf	Driver Operator	Diamond	Smith	BOLD Program Manager
Patrick	Carty	Driver Operator	John	Kalaf, Jr.	Fire Inspector	Joshua	Smith	Driver Operator
Thomas	Carty	Firefighter	Kristopher	Keen	Lieutenant	Caleb	Southey	Firefighter
Thevor	Caslin	Lieutenant	Robert	Kern	Driver Operator	Tucker	Stanlan	Firefighter
Devlin	Chapman	Lieutenant	Reginald	Kinsey III	Lieutenant	Michael	Steele, Jr.	District Chief
William	Chestnut, Jr.	Technical Systems Analyst, Sr	Hunter	Langford	Driver Operator	Kathlene	Stedley	Admin Assistant to Fire Chief
David	Chinese-Bonnet	Firefighter	Ezekiel	LeClerc	Firefighter	Brandon	Stephens	Firefighter
Dallas	Christoffers	Driver Operator	Thomas	LeRoy	Firefighter	Shane	Stocking	Driver Operator
El	Cicco	Firefighter	Daniel	Leads	Firefighter	Brandace	Stone	Director Community Health
Jonathan	Cicco	Lieutenant	Joseph	Leads	Lieutenant	Charles	Sublondo	Firefighter
Jeremy	Cicco	Lieutenant	Chandler	Ludlen	Firefighter	Devlin	Suggs	Firefighter
Harold	Clary	Driver Operator	Anvin	Mackey, Jr.	Firefighter	Shatavia	Sumpter	BOLD Staff Specialist
Hesslen	Cobbs	Firefighter	Jody	Markwich	Lieutenant	Roberto	Sutton	Assistant Chief
Brittany	Coleman	Gun Violence Int. Pgm Mgr	Andrew	Marsh	Lieutenant	Brett	Thomas	Lieutenant
Matthew	Combs	Firefighter	Todd	Martin, Jr.	Driver Operator	Reginald	Thomas	Firefighter
Kyle	Cook II	Firefighter	Matthew	Martinez	Firefighter	Ronald	Thomas, Jr.	District Chief
David	Cook, Jr.	Driver Operator	Robert	Mason	Firefighter	Graham	Thompson	Firefighter
Dylan	Comb	Driver Operator	Jeremy	Massicotte	Lieutenant	Alex	Thony	Lieutenant
Alexander	Cowart	Lieutenant	Sara	McGinnon	Firefighter	Elliot	Tobin	Driver Operator
Richard	Crile	Driver Operator	Adam	McManamon	Firefighter	Jorge	Torres-Garcia	Firefighter
Robert	Crooms IV	Firefighter	Westin	McQueen	Lieutenant	Michael	Tringali	Lieutenant
Johannez	Damen	Firefighter	Emily	Meaders	Responder II	Bresley	Tschorn	Lieutenant
Brian	Davidson	Driver Operator	Richard	Miller	Firefighter	John	Tumblson	Firefighter
Evan	Davis	Lieutenant	Shane	Moore	Firefighter	Brett	Vangel	Firefighter
Shetiques	Davis	Executive Assistant, Sr	Travis	Moore	Firefighter	Joseph	Walker	Lieutenant
Timothy	Davis	Lieutenant	Chetrick	Mogarty	Responder 1	Madison	Weech	Responder 1
Alexis	Delisle	Lieutenant	Brendan	Mungavin	Driver Operator	Dewick	West	Lieutenant
Kelly	DeRazmo	Investigative Services Officer	Jessica	Muron	Firefighter	Adam	Whitehead	Lieutenant
Brett	Dillon	Responder II	Jamal	Neely	Firefighter	Andrew	Williams	Driver Operator
Scott	Dillon	Driver Operator	Christopher	Nelson	Lieutenant	Cary	Williams	District Chief
Joseph	Dixon, Sr.	Fire Chief	Matthew	Nolan	Driver Operator	Daniel	Williams	Technical Systems Analyst 2
Alan	DuBoise	Driver Operator	Jimmy	Nutt	Firefighter	Dennis	Williams	Firefighter
They	DuBoise	Firefighter	Brian	O'Connell	Lieutenant	Eric	Williams	Firefighter
Josiah	Dye	Firefighter	Michael	Oliva	Lieutenant	Clerence	Williams, Jr.	Firefighter
Brad	Englett	Firefighter	Krista	Ott	CRP Program Coord.	Todd	Willoughby	Firefighter
			Anthony	Otdinger	Lieutenant	Sean	Witters	District Chief



# Apparatus, Stations, & Staffing

Fire Station # 1	525 South Main Street	2018
Fire Station # 2	2210 SW Archer Road	1976
Fire Station # 3	900 NE Waldo Road	1960
Fire Station # 4	10 SW 36th Street	1964
Fire Station # 5	1244 NW 30th Avenue	1965
Fire Station # 6	3638 NE 39th Avenue	2017
Fire Station # 7	5601 NW 43rd Street	1981
Fire Station # 8	3223 NW 42nd Avenue	2011
Modular Station #9	4213 SW 30th Avenue	2017
7 Engines—2 Towers—1 Quint—1 Ladder		
2 Airport Firefighting Units		
1 Hazmat Response Unit at ST 2		
1 Squad Unit at ST 1		
1 Squad - Peak Unit at ST 3		
2 District Chief SUV's		
1 Air and Light Truck at ST 1		



## 213.5 Budgeted FTE's\*

191 Sworn Personnel - 176 On Shift

### SWORN PERSONNEL

64 Firefighters  
 52 Driver Operators  
 52 Lieutenants  
 8 District Chiefs  
 1 Chief  
 1 Deputy Chief  
 2 Assistant Chiefs  
 1 District Chief / Emergency Manager  
 1 District Chief Training  
 3 Captains  
 2 Investigative Services Officers  
 4 Fire Safety Inspectors

### NON-SWORN PERSONNEL

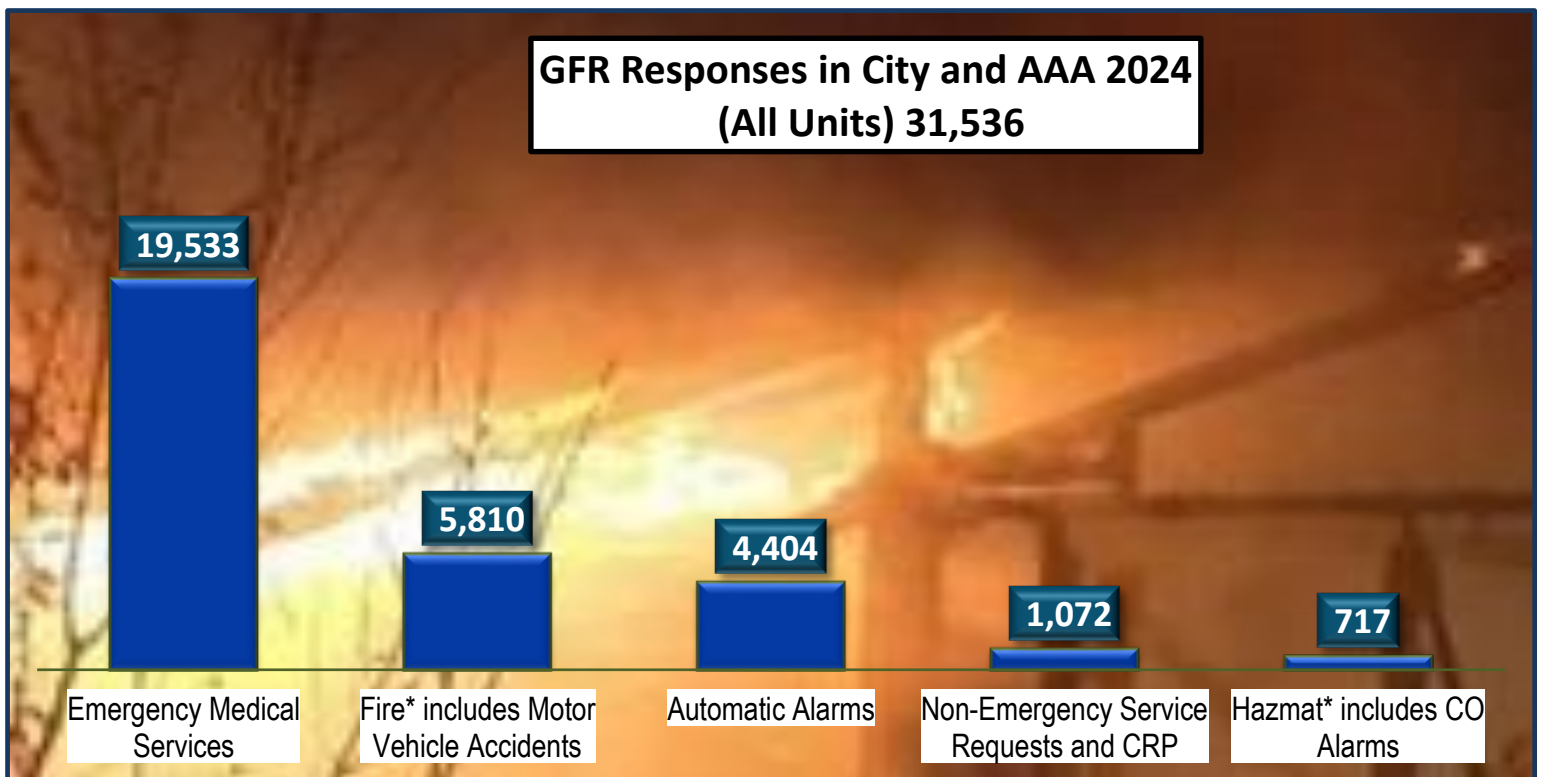
o Fire and Life Safety Educator  
 1 Community Health Director  
 1 Gun Violence Intervention Program Mgr  
 1 BOLD Program Manager  
 1 BOLD Intervention Specialist, Sr.  
 1 BOLD Intervention Specialist  
 o.5 BOLD Staff Specialist  
 1 CRP Program Coordinator  
 3 CRP Responder II  
 4 CRP Responder I  
 1 Technical Systems Analyst, Sr.  
 1 Technical Systems Analyst II  
 1 Logistics Officer  
 1 Account Clerk, Sr.  
 1 Account Clerk II  
 1 Administrative Assistant to Fire Chief  
 2 Executive Assistant, Sr.  
 1 Staff Assistant

\*Positions shown are for FY25 eff. 10/1/24

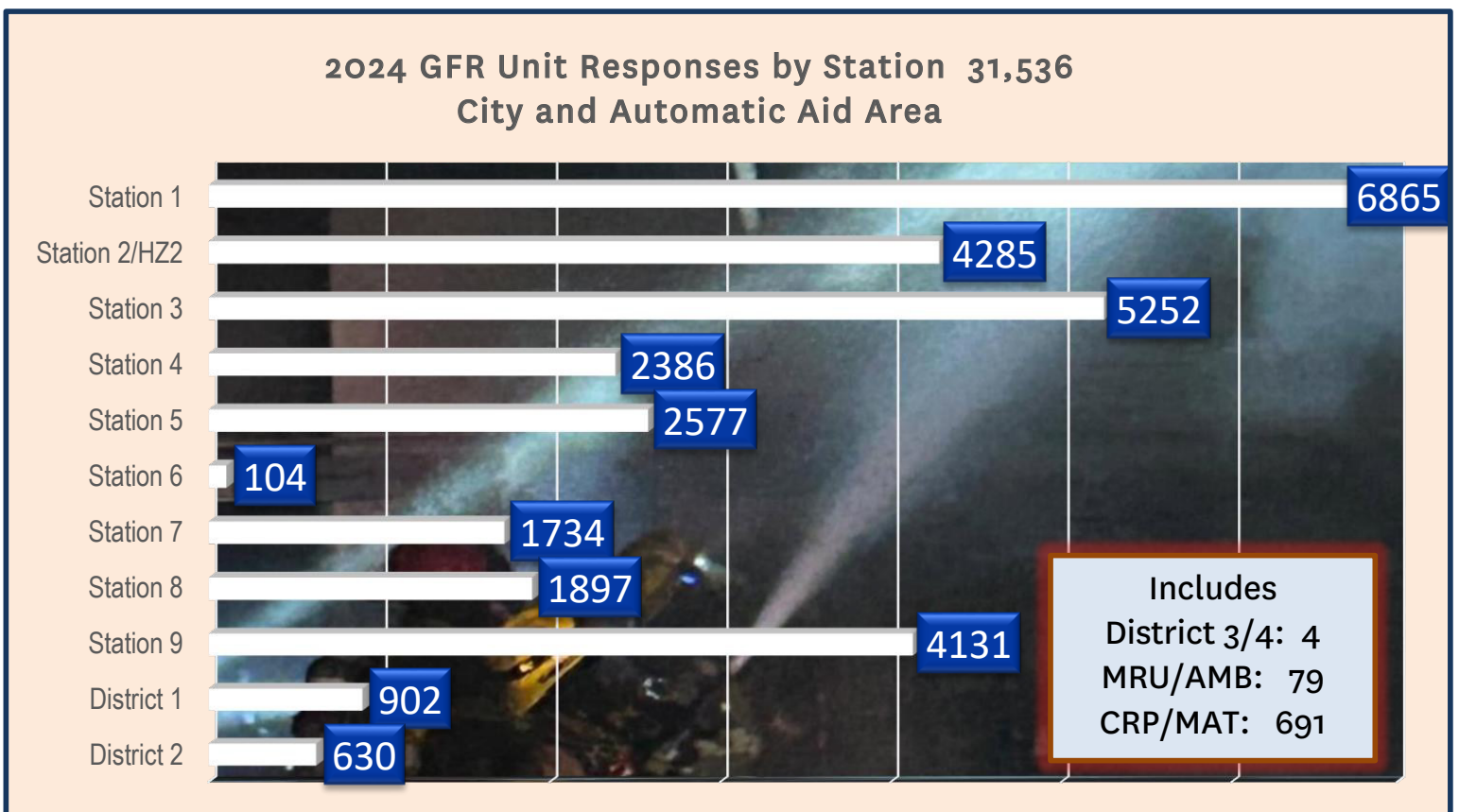


# Incidents and Unit Responses

## GFR Responses in City and AAA 2024 (All Units) 31,536



## 2024 GFR Unit Responses by Station 31,536 City and Automatic Aid Area





# Annual Program Appraisals

The GFR Team worked diligently throughout 2023 to successfully achieve CFAI Reaccreditation in February 2024. Command Staff annually appraise each program for performance, training, resources, accomplishments, and sustainability. Their detailed reports are available upon request.

## 5A.7 Community Risk Reduction:

2024 was a unique year for training and certification as 4 of the seven members of RRB were new additions to the Bureau and working through the coursework to obtain the Fire Inspector certification as well as the Fire Investigator certification. RRB utilizes monthly false alarm data to complete a formal annual program appraisal, leading to the identification of false alarm trends. The RRB works closely with the False Alarm Reduction Unit (FARU) and GFR Operations to develop targeted strategies for reducing false alarms. The City of Gainesville, led by the Office of the City Auditor, performed an internal audit on the Fire Inspection program. The audit identified six areas for improvement. Recommendations for addressing those areas were used to generate new goals for 2025. The six improvement areas are listed below;

1. Database Management and Inspection Prioritization: Occupant load factors that are used to determine a Target Hazard Score were not aligned with the most current NFPA edition.

GFR 5A.7 Community Risk Reduction Page 7 of 9

2. Oversight and Monitoring: There was a lack of policy and procedures that would outline oversight and monitoring for the inspection program.

3. Staffing: The audit committee found that there were not enough Inspectors to meet the needs of the Department.

4. Invoicing: The audit committee identified inconsistencies with billing procedures.

5. Fire Inspection Procedures and Frequency: The audit committee identified a gap in inspection procedures and frequency of some occupancy classifications.

6. Database and Access Management: Increased security recommended with regards to the Risk Reduction Database.

## 5B.4 Public Education:

A full-time temporary staff person, who started in August of 2024, manages GFR's Fire and Life Safety Education program. Prior to that, a part-time intern managed the responsibilities. GFR's annual goal is to reach 17% of the population. Staffing changes hampered 2024's efforts to meet the annual 17% goal. Through combined efforts within the Department, GFR reached 4.8% of the protected population.

New Goals:

1. Using Community Development Block Grant funding to restore and sustain the Fire and Life Safety position, while working to identify other long-term funding opportunities.
2. Develop and deploy a campaign to install 305 smoke alarms and 120 CO alarms in the homes of those in need each year, for two years. The Department will collaborate with the American Red Cross to promote and conduct several neighborhood canvassing campaigns.
3. The Department will attempt to reach 7% of the local community by December 2025 through Safety City programming, fire station tours, fire extinguisher trainings, and other outreach opportunities.
4. The Department will continue to seek reliable and sufficient funding sources for public education programs.

## 5C.4 Investigative Services:

The Risk Reduction Bureau (RRB) conducts professional investigations, adhering to NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, to determine the area of origin, ignition source, materials ignited, and the act or activity that brought the ignition source and materials together. Staffing for GFR's Fire Investigation Program includes two full-time Investigative Services Officers (ISO). Staffing was increased from one Investigative Service Officer to two officers in October of 2024. The State Fire Marshal is aware of the addition of a second ISO in 2024 and is working closely with staff regarding training.

In 2024, GFR's Risk Reduction conducted 94 fire investigations.

- 40 fires were determined to be accidental/unintentional.
- 26 fires were caused by arson resulting in two confirmed arrests.
- 13 were intentional but not ruled as arson.
- 10 were undetermined fires
- Five cases from 2024 currently remain open
- One fire may have been the result of a juvenile fire setter.

The ISO referred one family to the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention program for follow-up.



# Annual Program Appraisals

## 5D.9 Domestic Preparedness:

Since GFR established the Office of Emergency Manager in 2018, the program has demonstrated growth. In 2022, the addition of a Special Projects Captain position bolstered the emergency management team, enhancing capabilities in response, accreditation, and special events management. Due to budget constraints, the position was deleted in September of 2024. GFR EM applied for and was awarded a \$150,000 grant through the Emergency Financial Empowerment (EFE) initiative, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative. This initiative, led by the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund), assists residents affected by natural disasters in accessing financial relief resources. In an era where information serves as the cornerstone of decision-making and community safety, Emergency Management developed the Sentinel Group. This group endeavors to explore innovative avenues for collaboration and synergy among stakeholders. Storm Activity in 2024 included monitoring of 18 named storms. Emergency Management activated enhanced monitoring and operational protocols on three occasions, ensuring coordinated efforts across all City departments.

## 5E.3 Fire Suppression:

In 2024, GFR implemented a Safer Staffing model going from a three platoon model to a four platoon model, aka 24/72. This staffing model was implemented August 19th, 2024.

- In 2024, GFR began with significant vacancies. GFR was up to 30 operational vacancies in 2023 between attrition, light duty, and parental leave. This effectively meant that the Department was down almost an entire shift. As many agencies in our area were browning out units or lowering response standards, one of GFR's greatest accomplishments of the year was holding the line for our neighbors at great sacrifice of our members. During 2024, vacancies were reduced to 10.
- Hired and oriented ~16 employees.
- Negotiated a general contract with IAFF to include raises and continuing with 24/72 schedule.

Goals and Objectives for Next Year and Resources Needed to Meet Them:

- Continue replacement of Station 9.
  - o City economic development to purchase land for Station 9.
  - o Work with Public Works on design/build.
- Continue replacement of Station 3.
  - o City Economic Development to purchase land for Station 3.
  - o Work with Public Works on design/build.
- Incorporate Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program in support of Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Prepare the Department for increased service load in the southwest quadrant created by the move of Engine 80 out of the city limits and farther west of the automatic aid area.
  - o Add an additional bathroom at Station 9.
  - o Add furniture for one additional engine company.
  - o Add additional roof coverage for Engine 9

## 5F.9 Emergency Medical Services:

Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) provides Advanced Life Support pre-hospital (ALS) emergency medical services. Apparatus are strategically located throughout the community to provide as rapid of response, to any given incident, as soon as possible. Each apparatus is stocked with medical equipment and staffing levels to insure GFR has at least one paramedic and EMT on every EMS incident. GFR deploys twelve (12) full-time units and two (2) Medical Response Units (MRU), as needed, as Florida Department of Health permitted Advanced Life Support (ALS) Apparatus. The installation of a new reporting system (Image Trend) has placed an increased workload on the EMS Training Captain and the Department's IT staff, further reinforcing the need for increased staffing in the Training Division and/or FTO funding.

Goals and Objectives for Next Year and Resources Needed to Meet Them:

To meet the challenges associated with City growth, increased call loads, and a growing number of special events and to keep up with required training, remediation, and reporting requirements, the following resources were identified as necessities: • A dedicated budget for EMS training • Additional Training Captain • FTO funding • A list of preferable training equipment and supplies • An audio system compatible with a computer system for Paramedic In-Service viewing • A dedicated CPR feedback system to provide realtime feedback during resuscitation scenarios (depth and rate of compressions, volume and speed of respirations, appropriately timed charging of the monitor and delivery of shocks).





# Annual Program Appraisals

## 5G.2 Technical Rescue (TRT):

The Technical Rescue Team (LTRT #310) at Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) is dedicated to handling hazardous emergencies involving heavy industrial or vehicle extrication, confined spaces, life safety rope rescues, trench/excavation incidents, and structural collapses. This team operates at a technician level in accordance with NFPA 1670 standards, ensuring high proficiency and readiness in technical rescue.

Staffing:

- Certified Personnel: 30 members are certified at the technician level across the five core NFPA 1670 disciplines and designated as Rescue Specialists.
- Current Roster: 29 personnel are listed on the Department's technical rescue roster.
- Training Pipeline: 27 additional members have engaged in technical rescue training in the past year.
- Swiftwater Technicians: 10 members are trained in Swift/Stormwater Rescue

The team efficiently managed all technical rescues during the past year including two Vehicle and Machinery Rescues that involved Hazardous Materials.

- Eight team members were deployed with FLTF8 for hurricane responses in Bradenton/Sarasota, Perry/Lake City areas, Keaton Beach/Steinhatchee areas due to three different hurricanes that directly impacted the State. Members were used in multiple capacities including Aviation and Swift/Stormwater Recon of affected areas.
- The LTRT managed multiple confined space standby operations, particularly for Gainesville Regional Utilities.
- Ladder 8 and Ladder 9 received commercial-rated Paratech Stabilizing Struts.

## 5H.3 Hazardous Materials (HMT):

The Gainesville Fire Rescue Hazardous Materials Team (GFRHMT) currently consists of 54 technicians and a program Captain who operates under the guidance of the District Chief assigned to the Training Bureau. All GFR Operations personnel are trained in operation-level hazardous materials response.

Captain: 1

Lieutenant: 25

Driver Operators: 12

Firefighters: 15

Inspectors: 2

The Gainesville Fire Rescue Hazardous Material Program has responded to 578 Hazardous Material calls in 2024. During the 2024 Hurricane season, GFRHMT provided the Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP) and State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with regional resources with a Type I HMRT ready for deployment.

## 5I.2 Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF):

Gainesville Fire Rescue provides certified ARFF personnel to staff the Airport Fire Station #6 - 24 hours per day, seven days per week. GFR provides one Company Officer and one Driver Operator who work in coordination with Airport operations daily to meet GFR and Airport needs. Staffing includes 17 current certified ARFF personnel: Five Driver/Operators and 12 Lieutenants

The ARFF Team responded to 44 emergency calls, including:

Six (6) ALERT II

Two (2) ALERT III

Seven (7) Fire/Alarms

Twenty-Six (26) EMS

Two (2) Hazardous Materials

One (1) Brush Fire

## 5L.2 Community Resource Paramedicine (CRP):

The CRP team achieved full staffing of Responder I and II positions during 2024 and obtained a new vehicle and ordered two ambulances to support the program infrastructure. Utilizing temporary funding, CRP hired a full-time Staff Assistant to support the work of the Community Health Division and CRP program administration. Members of the team presented at statewide and national conferences including: Atrium Health MIH Summit, the Florida Association of Fire and Life Safety Educators Conference, and the First There First Care Conference. Additional staffing in 2024 greatly increased the program's capacity to respond to the needs of the community. The program now has dedicated operational units, including Responder II positions for the Homelessness Outreach and Prevention Pillar and the Chronic Disease Management Pillar. The other Responder II was assigned to the Community Health Pillar and the Recovery Response Pillar. The program's third Responder II is scheduled to begin in February 2025.



# Annual Program Appraisals

## 8B.6 Training:

The Training Program plays a crucial role in providing essential services, both within the Department and to other local agencies. While its primary focus is the ongoing re-certification of personnel, the program is actively expanding its offerings for professional development. This expansion is facilitated through opportunities such as conferences, classes, and coordinated joint-training exercises held throughout the year. By embracing these initiatives, the Training Program effectively enhances the skills and knowledge of its personnel, promoting a high standard of proficiency and excellence in the field.

- 16 personnel attended the 2024 ARFF Recertification (Burn Drill)
- Pump Operator in-house class series
- 12 GFR personnel attended Blue Card presented by the Department
- Clearance of seven Hazardous Materials Technicians
- Four personnel attended the Baltimore Airway class
- 16 total conferences were attended
- Two personnel attended and became recertified as 3M SCOTT Level II Air-Pak Technicians
- 18 personnel attended and completed the seven-week long new hire orientation class
- 27 participants attended Hazmat 160hr Technician
- Two personnel attended a class at the National Fire Academy in Maryland for HazMat-related courses
- Radiation training
- 21 personnel participated in the Technician level

## 9B.13 Communications:

The Combined Communications Center (CCC) currently operates with a staff of 91 call-takers, dispatchers, and supervisors. The facility, located at the Sheriff's Office, houses the entire division, including management, training, IT, and other support staff. Scheduling time for crews to spend a few hours in the call center shadowing call takers and dispatchers to help understand their role would help improve our working relationships between the employees of the call center and GFR operations. Furthermore, training for potential radio system failures has been recently identified as a priority. This training includes maintaining the readiness of the apparatus assigned cell phones, utilizing the direct "line of sight" radio channel, and operating under increased vigilance that upgrading a call or requesting resources is more difficult.

## 11B.6 Health and Safety / Physical Fitness:

GFR's Health and Safety program is progressive and integrated into the Department's daily activities, both before and after emergency calls. Several advantages of this include: mandatory bunker gear cleaning after every fire; particulate hoods provided to firefighters; mandatory physical fitness training during shift; a counselor is available to all members off-duty by a non-EAP practitioner; and Life Scan is offered semiannually. While the program lacks certified peer fitness trainers, which is part of the Standards of Cover, one of the goals for 2025 aims to close this gap.

New Goals:

- Budget for peer fitness trainers.
- Record management system for tracking PPE stocks and fitness data.
- Obtain a second set of (clean) PPE to meet GFR's cancer prevention initiative.
- GFR currently has 187 sworn positions that require PPE; quoted prices for PPE are \$6500/set-\$1,215,500.

## Facilities:

GFR Facilities is now under The City of Gainesville's Public Works Department. GFR is also seeking over \$80 million in funding to build six new stations, as outlined by the 2021 Growth and Expansion Feasibility Master Plan. Funding has been partly secured by an infrastructure surtax for Streets, Stations, and Strong Foundations (SSSF) that was passed by the voters in November 2022 for a 10-year period, but which has not yet been fully realized. Those funds will be used to secure bonds for future needs of the Fire Rescue Department.

## Fleet:

GFR has a new 100' aerial ladder ordered for Fire Station 8 that is scheduled for delivery in October 2025. This apparatus will mirror the truck purchased last year for Fire Station 9. This truck will increase efficiency in the northwest area of the City. GFR is still working on adding an engine company for the southwest section of the City as Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR) has relocated Engine 80 to its new station. Two District Chief vehicles were delivered this year and placed in service as District 1 and District 2. GFR has a new Hazardous Materials unit ordered that is tentatively scheduled for delivery in December of 2026. This will replace the current 2006 apparatus that is still in front-line service. GFR ordered two ambulances to support the Community Resource Paramedicine (CRP) Program. CRP Program Technicians will use them to interact with patients in a secure and private area. These units are due for delivery in early 2025.

Gap Analysis – Funding remains the most significant issue facing GFR and Fleet Management regarding replacement and repair/maintenance. The price of vehicles, as well as parts, has gone up and continues to rise. Both entities are working to overcome funding concerns. The inability of our current manufacturer to complete apparatus in a timely manner is causing extra stress on our current fleet of apparatus. GFR is looking at other manufacturers of fire apparatus to resolve the issue.





# GFR Connections

## Administration and Risk Reduction

On November 1, 2024, Chief Dixon handed over the reins to Interim Chief Shawn Hillhouse. Under both their leadership, Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) continued to excel in emergency response, community engagement, and strategic development. In November and December 2024, the Department engaged in an updated Strategic Planning process with neighbors and stakeholders and expects to have its newest Five-Year Strategic Plan published during Spring 2025. Interim Deputy Chief David Sutton was appointed as the Fire Marshal overseeing GFR's Risk Reduction Bureau (RRB). The RRB saw significant attrition with the retirement of Asst. Chief Hesson, Inv. DeRasmo, and Insp. Gutierrez. Chief Sutton restaffed the Bureau, promoting two Investigators and onboarding two Inspectors. The bureau has been working on outstanding findings from the RRB Audit, having fully completed two of the six findings.

## Emergency Operations

The implementation of the firefighters' new 24/72 schedule August 19th, 2024 put Gainesville in the spotlight with agencies across the United States reaching out to learn more about its benefits. This change includes the participation of Gainesville Firefighters with Florida State University researchers studying the overall health of firefighters working different schedules.

## Training

**The Training Division had a productive and eventful year in 2024. A major milestone was the relocation of the training staff from the former facility to the newly designated Catalyst building. Throughout the year, the division successfully conducted both the Lieutenant and Driver series courses, as well as coordinated the promotional processes for Driver and Lieutenant positions. During the summer, two comprehensive orientation classes were held, welcoming new personnel into the organization. The division also facilitated recertification courses for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). Ongoing responsibilities were upheld, including the consistent delivery of both single-company and multi-company training sessions. The team led the implementation of the ImageTrend system, enhancing training documentation and reporting capabilities. Additionally, the division actively applied for new grants and ensured compliance and reporting for existing ones.**

## Community Health Initiatives

Several projects have enhanced Community Health, leveraging various funding and working with community partners such as:

- Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness grant with Meridian Healthcare
- Healthy Afternoons with Fire Rescue supported by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding
- A substance abuse prevention campaign and work with Released Re-Entry through Opioid Abatement Settlement funds
- Determining budget needs for the Alachua County Coordinated Overdose Response Network (CORE) with ACFR and Alachua County
- Emergency Financial Empowerment grant needs assessment and family financial literacy event

**Community Resource Paramedicine Program** - For the first time, CRP was staffed with 4 Responder I's (EMT) and 3 Responder II's (Paramedics). The program is a local and national model of community paramedicine, presenting at conferences and leading the development of a regional CP/MIH meeting to support surrounding counties in the start-ups of their programs. CRP provided medical clinic staffing for General Population Emergency Shelters during hurricane activations, participated in the Meridian Healthcare Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, and engaged in webinars for the Florida Rural Health Association.

**Medication Assisted Treatment** - The MAT Program began seeing patients in March 2024 and has graduated about 86% of patients, supporting them into long-term treatment for substance use. Community support for the program has been unwavering, noting the authenticity and follow-through of the staff as key factors in the program's success.

**Public Education** - GFR onboarded a full-time Fire and Life Safety Educator in August 2024, funded through CDBG CARES funding, through December 2025. The FLSE coordinates fire station visits, truck company events, fire extinguisher trainings, car seat checks, smoke detector installs, and more.

**IMPACT GNV Activities** - The City's first Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager was hired in March 2024. IMPACT GNV, the City of Gainesville's Gun Violence Prevention Program, launched in summer 2024. IMPACT GNV has strengthened its infrastructure by welcoming new staff members and promoting community engagement with a 53% open rate for its quarterly newsletter.

**BOLD Program** - The BOLD Program transitioned from GPD to GFR in October 2024. The program became fully staffed with a Program Coordinator, Intervention Specialist, Sr., Intervention Specialist, and a PT Staff Assistant.

**Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety** - The Gun Violence Prevention Alliance (GVA), approved by various boards, held meetings discussing a strategic plan and funding through the Children's Trust of Alachua County. City initiatives include violence interruption, technology hubs, additional facilitation support for the Youth Steering Committee, and a strategic plan consultant. *Community Safety Day* offered training in crisis intervention and Narcan administration, and collaboration with local services provided trauma-informed outreach after incidents of gun violence. Using GPD forfeiture funds, two community programs working with youth afterschool have been provided supplemental funding through Sept 2025. *Violence Interruption* under the WMS Center with NSpire FL concluded in January. The team completed 194 home visits, 145 parental contacts, 708 field contacts, and 72 referrals.

**Community FIRST Initiative** - Aimed at creating a mobile City Hall concept, Community FIRST enhances direct access and trust with historically disenfranchised neighborhoods. IMPACT GNV released the "blueprint" that City department heads use to act as liaisons to address neighborhood concerns and promote consistent community presence and engagement.



# Awards and Recognition

## Donald J. King Mentorship Award

*Driver Operator John Amato*

### Employees of the Year

#### Chief Officer

*District Chief Sean Campbell*

#### Company Officer

*Lieutenant Joey Gonzalez*

#### Driver Operator

*Dylan Corris*

#### Firefighter

*Zach Howard*

#### EMS Provider

*CRP Responder I Nicholas Gomez*

#### Instructor

*Captain Paul Bruney*

#### Community Health Provider

*CRP Responder I Ketshia Robillard*

#### Administrative Employee

*CHD Director Brandy Stone*

#### Dispatcher

*General Telecommunicator*

*Dan Hartstein*

### Service Appreciation Award

*Fire Investigator Ernie Benjamin*

*Pick Your Parts (PYP) Gainesville*

### Chief's Award of Excellence

*Inspector Tom Burgett*

*CRP Responder I Chatick Moparthy*

### Unit Citations

#### C-Shift

##### Squad 1

*Gunnar Piner, Bram Davidson, Robert Kalaf*

##### Engine 1

*Devin Chapman, Josh Rodgers, Dennis Williams*

##### Tower 1

*José Paredes, John Amato, Zach Howard*

*Matthew Combs*

##### Hazmat 2

*Joel Graves, Hans Everson, Elliot Tobin*

*James Adams*

##### Engine 7

*Derrick West, Cory Brinson, Tucker Stanton*

##### Quint 9

*Colby Perryman, Matthew Nolan, Todd Willoughby*

##### C-Shift Quint 8

*Kris Keen, Patrick Carty, Daniel Lewis, Kyle Cook*

#### Special Operations Medical Team

##### SWAT Medics

*Joseph Hillhouse, Jason Hendricks*

*Brett Thomas, Jamal Hafiz, Jeremy Cicio*

*David Cook Andrew Picklo, Wayne Aylor (ACFR)*

#### New FF Orientation Field Training Officers

*John Amato, William Brideson, Paul Bruney*

*Devin Chapman, Matt Combs, Bram Davidson*

*Tim Davis*

*Herb Ennis, Zach Howard, Reginald Kinsey*

*Sara McKinnon, Anthony Ottinger, José Paredes*

*Andrew Picklo, Gunnar Piner, Sims Rogers*

*David Shuford*

#### CRP and MAT Teams

*Leah Barnes, Kylen Byrne, Brett Dillon*

*Nicholas Gomez, Emily Meaders*

*Chatick Moparthy, Ketshia Robillard, Maddi Weech*





# Retirees and New Firefighters 2024

## Enjoying Retirement!

AFC Stephen Hesson	1996-2024
ISO Kelly DeRasmo	1994-2024
CAPT Betty Braun	2002-2024
LT Alexis Delisle	2003-2024
LT Amanda James	2004-2024
LT Chris Nelson	1995-2024
FSI Kevin Gutierrez	2007-2024

## New Firefighters

6/17/24

Brad Englert  
Chris Fogel  
Brandon Harris  
Chandler Luellen  
Adam McManaman  
Richard Miller  
Travis Moore  
Reginald Thomas  
Brett Vangel

9/9/24

Ryan Blevins  
Marlon Cabrera  
David Chinaea  
Jeremiah Erickson  
Brian Gardner  
Lebron Hardy

## We Will Always Remember...

Larry A. McGraw  
District Chief  
1965-1991

Glen H. Layfield  
Driver Operator  
1969-1990

J. A. "Tommy" Castell  
Fire Safety Inspector  
1963-1985



Eugene W. Pass  
Lieutenant  
1973-2003

Ollie W. Powell  
Driver Operator  
1968-2002

Darryl Brown  
Firefighter  
1991-1999





Gainesville Fire Rescue - Accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International 2024-2029