

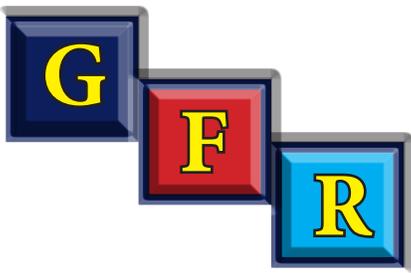


GAINESVILLE FIRE RESCUE 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Station 8 3223 NW 42nd Avenue
Home of Quint 8 and District 2
Opened June 2011

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED



2011 was an exciting year for Gainesville Fire Rescue. The first new fire station since 1980 opened on June 27th when Quint 8 began running calls from Fire Station 8 at 3223 NW 42nd Avenue. We are grateful to our new neighbors and to so many team members and partners who made this project a success!

GFR Mission Statement

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

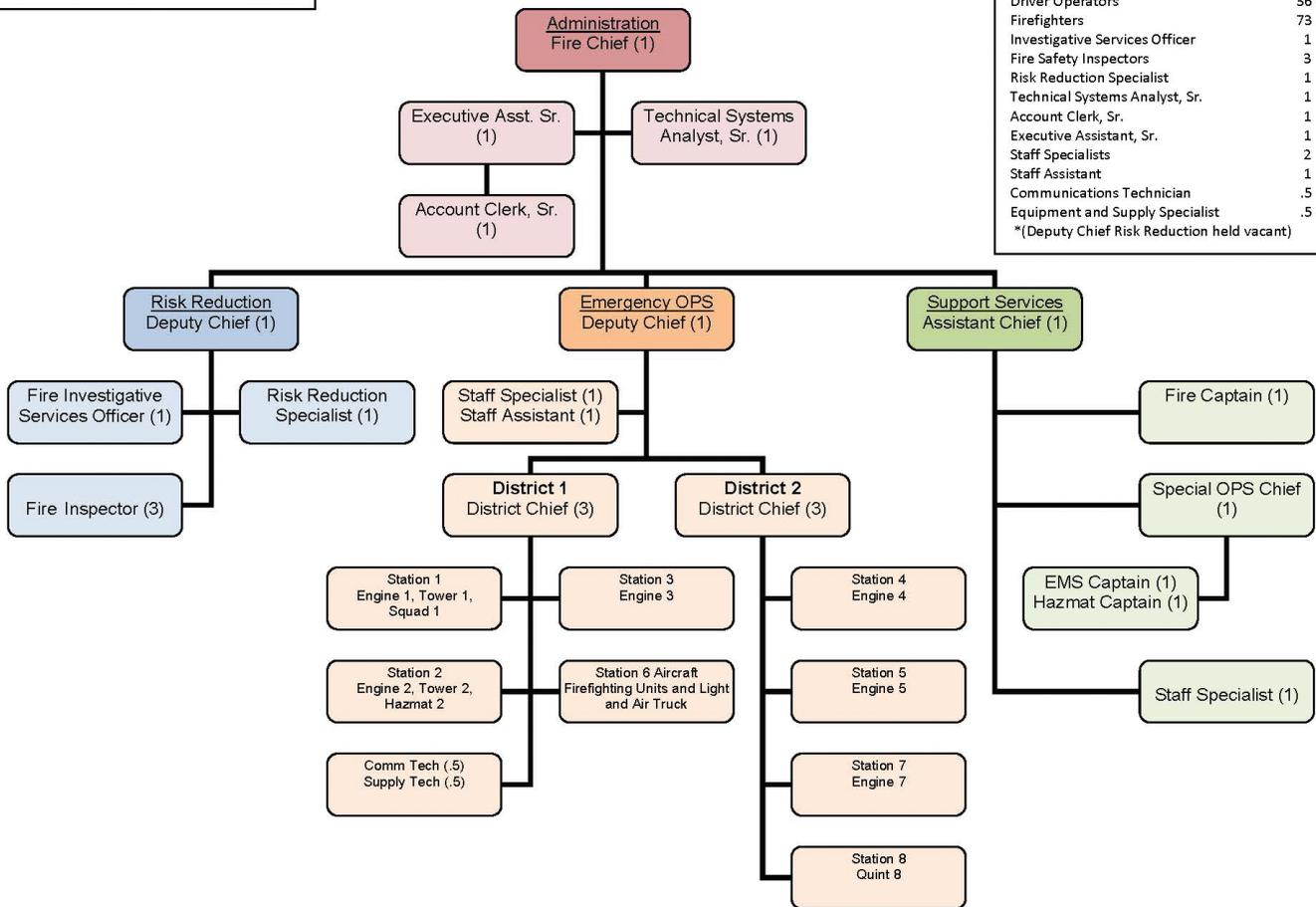
Department Vision

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

166 Total Positions
165 Full-time Equivalents (FTE's)

GAINESVILLE FIRE RESCUE ORGANIZATION CHART
Effective June 27, 2011

Chief Officers*	11
Captains	3
Lieutenants	30
Driver Operators	36
Firefighters	73
Investigative Services Officer	1
Fire Safety Inspectors	3
Risk Reduction Specialist	1
Technical Systems Analyst, Sr.	1
Account Clerk, Sr.	1
Executive Assistant, Sr.	1
Staff Specialists	2
Staff Assistant	1
Communications Technician	.5
Equipment and Supply Specialist	.5
*(Deputy Chief Risk Reduction held vacant)	



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PERFORMANCE

90th Percentile Performance for 2011

Confirmed Building Fires All Units Turnout = 1:24
 Confirmed Building Fires First Unit Travel = 6:14
 All EMS Calls First Unit Turnout = 1:11
 All EMS Calls First Unit Travel = 7:06

Calls versus Responses

When evaluating performance, it is important to remember that there is a difference between “calls” and “responses”. A single call for a building fire may have as many as five or more units assigned to respond. Each unit has its own response statistics. Consequently, the department may range from 15,000 to 17,000 calls for service, but have over 20,000 unit responses.

	2010	2011
EMS	12,290	12,388
Alarms	1,642	1,589
Fires	1,292	1,189
Hazmat	572	526
Other	262	181
Total	16,058	15,873

Engine 1	1907	Truck 1	3	Squad 1	3466
Engine 2	2951	Truck 2	5	Hazmat 2	262
Engine 3	3442	Truck 5	11	Crash 61	25
Engine 4	2171	Truck 8	25	Crash 63	29
Engine 5	1501	Tower 1	1246	District 1	646
Engine 7	2067	Tower 2	1137	District 2	463
		Quint 1	177		
		Quint 2	347		
		Quint 5	1207		
		Quint 8	976		

GFR apparatus are occasionally out of service being repaired or receiving preventive maintenance. The City maintains reserve apparatus, typically two engines and one quint, that can be activated to replace those units temporarily or as extra units during significant events such as tropical storms. Quints 1 and 2, and Trucks 1,2,5, and 8 represent responses from reserve units when primary units were unavailable during 2011. Additionally, in June 2011, Quint 5 moved to Station 8 and become Quint 8 while a new engine was activated at Station 5. GFR’s primary units are highlighted in red.

Squad 1 is the department’s only two-person unit. Their primary responsibilities are emergency medical calls, extrication and rescue calls, and support for significant multi-company calls. Engines usually have three firefighters and quints and towers have four.

Hazmat 2 is a specialized unit that does not have its own personnel. The hazmat unit responds in tandem with Tower 2 to provide detection and mitigation for hazardous materials incidents and is available for an 11-county region in north central Florida.

Turnout and Travel. Turnout is the time it takes for personnel to make their way to the fire apparatus and get rolling on the call. Travel time begins at the end of turnout time and ends when the units arrive at the scene of an incident. GFR strives for a turnout time of 60 seconds or less on at least 90% of responses and for travel times of four minutes or less on 90% of building fire and emergency medical calls. The 90th percentile tells us the baseline time that 90% of our performance is at or below.



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BUDGET AND PROGRAMS



Engine 5
Purchased in 2011
\$ 368,304

Total Budgeted for FY 2011
\$14,778,122

Administration
\$743,504

Training &
Support Services
\$471,321

Risk Reduction
& Public Education
\$682,091

Operations:
Fire Suppression
Emergency Medical Services
\$12,549,258

Information
Management
\$117,722

Special Operations:
Hazardous Materials
Technical Rescue
\$214,226

Fire Station 8

3223 NW 42nd Avenue
Funded at \$4,900,00
Land Purchased in 2006
Groundbreaking August 17, 2010
Completed in 2011 for \$3,800,000



Houses Quint 8 and District 2
LEED Silver
Three Bays 10,183 sf
Fully Sprinklered
Hardened to Hurricane Category 3
Utilities Backed up by Generator



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What an historic year 2011 turned out to be for our department!

ADMINISTRATION

When I think of the milestones that have marked significant events in our history from our beginning in 1882, such as becoming a career department in 1925, becoming Unionized in 1972, beginning Hazmat response in 1977, Basic Life Support EMS response in 1985, and Advanced Life Support in 1990, there is no doubt that 2011 will stand tall among them. We began the year involved in a hiring process that drew a record 834 applicants; 630 of those were certified firefighters, another record!

In February, we received notice that we were awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for one million six hundred thousand dollars to pay for 13 new firefighter positions for two years to staff a new fire station. We had applied for this grant in three previous years and it took the work of everyone involved over those years to ultimately be successful. In April, we hired those 13 new firefighters who increased the Operations Division staffing by 10%.



Fire Chief
Gene Prince

GFR opened Fire Station 8 at 3223 NW 42nd Avenue on June 27th. In 2006, the City Commission approved the building of the City's first new fire station in over thirty years to provide emergency response to an underserved portion of the City. Three new lieutenant and driver positions were created when Station 8 opened that resulted in a total of nine promotions. Station 8 houses a four-person Quint and a district chief. The Quint is a versatile apparatus that provides fire suppression, aerial ladder, vehicle extrication, and truck-company services to this part of the city. The new three-bay station allows GFR the opportunity to store its reserve apparatus indoors for the first time. The building is LEED certified silver.

In August, we received delivery of a new Engine 5 from Emergency One in Ocala. The new engine replaces the last American Eagle-made apparatus that had been in our fleet for twenty-two years. The exhaust system on this engine is said to be so advanced that the diesel exhaust from the motor is cleaner than the air being pulled into the air filter!

In October, we begin an eighteen-month quest to seek accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) which is a program of the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). The CFAI program requires our department to conduct a Self-Assessment of all department programs, complete a Community Risk Assessment, and develop a Standards of Cover to address the risks. While we have a response matrix that outlines how we respond and what resources we send to all hazard types, the risk assessment, along with a peer review, will help us determine if we need to make any adjustments as we endeavor to keep pace with our growing community.

In November, we completed the first citizen survey that focused only on our department. The response from our citizens was overwhelming. There were many important things to be gleaned from the survey, but the most important ones to a department committed to being known as the model of excellence were that the professionalism, competency, and courteousness of our members was rated at 100% good to excellent. The commitment of the City Commission to fire rescue services and the dedicated work of our members is what made 2011 a great year.



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OPERATIONS



Deputy Chief
Tim Hayes

The Operations Division had a very good year in our “Relentless Pursuit” of excellence while transitioning to a high performance customer service-oriented organization. Our Operations Division has evolved into a lean, mean, problem-solving machine. The synergy that has been created this past year during the accreditation process is a prime example of what can be accomplished when everyone is working toward the same goal.

I want to take a moment and thank all of the Operations District Chiefs for their leadership and hard work on the development and delivery of the first Chief Officer course. This groundbreaking curriculum provided a solid base of knowledge for the participants that will enable them to become the future leaders in our department. A special thank you also goes out to our dedicated Company Officers who spent extra time ensuring that our newest firefighters were constantly striving to improve their skills, knowledge, and abilities through quality training activities. These officers were also instrumental in perfecting our “Basic Fire Attack Drill.” With perfect practice comes perfect performance.

Our single greatest asset is our members; the people who take care of our community. The most amazing evidence of community involvement came from our folks who built handicap ramps, bought bikes, filled empty gas tanks, changed flat tires, fed the hungry, raised money to fight children’s diseases, raised awareness for cancer, ensured kids were in car seats, educated crowd managers, created safe entertainment venues, and inspected businesses. They also responded to several thousand emergency responses. “Outstanding Customer service!” Keep up the great work.

GFR worked with researchers at the Florida Survey and Research Center to conduct a citywide survey about perceptions of, and satisfaction with, the services provided by GFR. The survey collected information about Gainesville residents’ general awareness of GFR services, their level of satisfaction with specific services received, and general understanding of GFR funding and services. The information gleaned from this study had a direct impact on updating our strategic plan; this roadmap will assist us with keeping our mission focus.

The shift folks are actively attending homeowners’ association meetings sharing with our customers who we are, what kind of equipment and capabilities we have, and making that “I know somebody at the Fire Department connection” with each group. This new group of well-informed Fire Rescue Associates becomes our advocates within the community.

This past year is only the beginning of the great accomplishments still yet to come in the Gainesville Fire Rescue Organization. “To the last rescue, to the last flame, Gainesville Fire Rescue will FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT.”



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SUPPORT SERVICES

What We Did in 2011:

- Annual Travel-to-Training: Support Services sponsored Operations staff attendance at the Orlando Fire Conference, Black Chief Officers Committee Conference, and Fire Rescue International Conference.
- Physical Fitness Assessment: Annual testing created by the City's Nutritionist and Athletic Trainer, and the Department's Health & Safety Committee.
- Live Fire Training: In 2011, Support Services developed scenarios to practice firefighting skills in the controlled burn of a vacant house donated to the department.
- Hazardous Materials Response Team Training: Over 160 hours of training is required for new members to join the team. Training continues weekly so these dedicated men and women are ready to handle a chemical, radiological or biological emergency.
- Annual Multi-Company Training: Conducted each month for the first six months of the year in day and night evolutions: Support Services oversees drills in accordance with standards nationally recognized for firefighter training.
- Monthly On-line Training: Support Services creates new training modules monthly for Operations personnel, including fire suppression training, EMS training, Florida Fire Inspector continuing education, hazardous materials refreshers, aircraft rescue, and general firefighting courses.
- Weekly Skills Training: Support Services creates new training scenarios annually involving various aspects of firefighting, requiring participation by all GFR and ACFR operational personnel
- Recruiting: Assistant Chief Michael Randolph attended several career fairs in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida with the mission of promoting the department. In addition, Support Services hosted activities including instruction on writing professional resumes and cover letters, accessing the City job application web site, and an informational booth, as part of the City of Gainesville Career Fair in September.
- Operation CARE: This organization provides American Heart Association (AHA) approved classes, such as CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and First Aid. These classes are offered to departmental personnel and to the community.
- Explorer Post 972: Support Services manages a GFR-sponsored Boy Scouts of America Explorer post, which teaches firefighting skills to high school students.

Special Training Projects:

Florida Fire College Fire Officer Series: Classes included Fire Service Hydraulics, Apparatus Operations, Fire Service Course Design, Company Officer Leadership, Ethical & Legal Issues for the Fire Service, Fire Fighting Tactics I & II, Private Fire Protection Systems I, and Fire Prevention Practices.

NFA Courses: SSB hosted three (3) FEMA National Fire Academy fire service leadership classes with participants from GFR and several local departments made possible by grant funds distributed by the Florida State Fire College.

FEMA National Incident Management System: In 2011, all GFR staff members took six (6) courses above the requirement to ensure that the department is completely prepared for incident management in event of a community emergency.



Assistant Chief
Michael Randolph

Promotional and Hiring Processes:

- New Firefighter Hiring Process
- Driver/Operator Promotional Process
- Training Captain Promotional Process
- District Chief Promotional Process
- New Paramedics' Certifications
- Provide Assessors for Other Fire Rescue Departments



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RISK REDUCTION



**District Chief
Don Sessions**

The Risk Reduction Bureau (RRB) is responsible for enforcing the Florida Fire Prevention Code and Chapter 10 of the City of Gainesville Code of Ordinances addressing Fire Prevention. In our effort to fulfill this responsibility, staff of the RRB work to reduce the level of risk within our community, to our citizens, visitors, and first responders. Bureau activities include: fire and life safety code interpretation, plans review, night inspections of public assemblies, post-fire investigation, issuance of burn permits, issuance of fireworks permits, complaint investigations, designation of fire watches, injury prevention and public education. Additionally, overseeing life safety inspections of new commercial buildings and conducting periodic inspections of existing commercial structures and occupancies presenting potential for significant life safety concerns fall within the objectives of the RRB. During 2011, staff conducted 1,495 fire safety inspections, reviewed 90 Development plans, completed 99 post-fire investigations, and followed up on 142 complaints regarding community fire safety related concerns.

Efforts of RRB staff and members of our Operations Division have provided quality public education reaching over 19,898 citizens through 84 fire company visits, 28 fire station tours, 52 public presentations, 15 Safety City programs, and 33 other safety programs. Many of the safety programs have been designed to address lessons learned elsewhere related to fire safety. Operation Safe Club provides crowd manager training to ensure fire safety within public assembly occupancies. This program was established locally in 2007 by former RRB Chief Tim Hayes in an effort to ensure the safety in night clubs for all patrons. The presence of a trained crowd manager is required by local ordinance for businesses categorized as “assembly occupancies” having in excess of 50 individuals within their building at any one time. Approved training is provided monthly, free of charge, by the RRB.

Alarms for smoke and/or fire provide an alert to occupants of particulate matter in the air and/or the presence of significant heat. Their capability to generate early warning to occupants dramatically increases the odds of survivability. The RRB coordinates with the Alachua County False Alarm Reduction Unit to provide information and solutions to locations that experience frequent false alarms. As GFR responds to approximately 1,600 false alarms each year, it is important that we work with our property owners to reduce unnecessary responses while ensuring all individuals respond appropriately to every activation. Never assume that an alarm is false or react to this early warning system in a cavalier or non-compliant fashion.

Management of the RRB has been accomplished through the rotation of District Chiefs, each serving a six-month period of commitment as the Fire Official overseeing the bureau. To date, District Chiefs Jeff Lane, JoAnne Rice, and Donald Sessions have served in this position. In addition to the Bureau Chief, the RRB staff includes Inspector Steve Hesson, Inspector Keith Collingwood, Inspector/Investigator Kelly Derasmo, Investigative Services Officer Sandy Ellison, and Public Education Specialist Krista Gonzalez. Their collective efforts are aimed at enhancing the quality of life within the Gainesville community through fire and life safety education, fire safety inspections, post fire investigations, and consultation involving engineering efforts to reach compliance with applicable code. During calendar year 2011, the Bureau’s services generated \$69,968 in revenue from fire safety inspections and over \$69,000 through the False Alarm Reduction Program.

Of utmost importance is the reduction of hazards within our community due to the efforts of the Risk Reduction Bureau staff and its programs.



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SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Submitted by David McIntire, Acting Special Operations Chief

During 2011, Special Operations continued to develop as a premier group of first responders. Within this group are the disciplines of Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials, and Technical Rescue. Each of these disciplines has shown improvement throughout the year, not only in training, but also in equipment.

The operation of the department's Emergency Medical Services experienced a significant change during the middle of 2011: GFR's Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Layon, accepted a new position at a hospital in Pennsylvania. With him vacating the lead medical director position for our department, it left a hole that we were able to fill with a familiar face to Gainesville Fire Rescue. Dr. David Meurer was, at the time, already providing medical direction for our Hazardous Materials Team. When it came to filling the spot being vacated by Dr. Layon, it was a natural fit to bring Dr. Meurer into the lead medical director position.

The Gainesville Fire Rescue Hazardous Materials Response Team, assigned to Fire Station #2 located at 2210 SW Archer Road, had a great year. In 2011, Operations-level training was given to all personnel in the department. Additional skills were taught and centered on detection and air monitoring. The training included monitoring and detection using a four-gas detector, radiation detectors, Ph paper and Fluorine paper. All of our first line units are equipped with this equipment.

In 2011, the 35 members of the hazardous materials team received annual standard competency training along with several specialty classes that were delivered at the Gainesville Fire Rescue Support Services Bureau. These specialty classes included biological sampling and radiation detection delivered by the Department of Health and the Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control. Several members of the team also attended the Counter Terrorism Operation Support class in Las Vegas, Nevada, to learn how to identify and treat victims of incidents involving Radiation/Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Two new pieces of equipment were also added to our cache of detection equipment. The Proengin AP4C and the Smith Detection LCD 3.2 are chemical agent detectors that look for a range of chemical warfare threats and Toxic Industrial Chemicals. With the continuing training and improved detection equipment enhancing our capabilities, Gainesville Fire Rescue and its Hazardous Materials Team is ready to respond to any emergency incident involving a hazardous material.

Gainesville Fire Rescue's Light Technical Rescue Team (LTRT) and Task Force 8 contingent continue to evolve into an efficient and effective team. Annual competency training was conducted to meet the training standards set for the team. With cooperation from our department, Marion County Fire Rescue, Ocala Fire Rescue, and the State of Florida, we were able to secure approximately \$80,000 in training funds. With a portion of these funds we were able to train six additional responders to the Technician level. Our current technical rescuer levels stand at 29 trained personnel with 24 of them having received additional training to the Technician Level. These 24 members comprise Task Force 8.

As you can see, 2011 was a busy year within Special Operations. All of our personnel look forward to 2012 and the challenges that lie ahead.



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HEALTH & SAFETY PHYSICAL FITNESS

Gainesville Fire Rescue is committed to reducing the risk of illness and injury to our employees. This is accomplished through the work of the Health and Safety Committee and the Physical Fitness Committee. These employee teams work closely with GFR managers, City Risk Management, and Employee Health employees to maintain and improve employee fitness and safety throughout our firefighters' careers.



Engine 7 Crew with SCBA

Health and Safety Summary

District Chief JoAnne Rice

The Health and Safety Committee met four times during 2011. GFR had a total of 23 On the Job injuries for fiscal year 2010/2011 related to emergency incident responses.

Accomplishments

- Extractors purchased for Station 1 and 8
- Rehabilitation SOG Completed
- Utility 6 outfitted with Rehab Equipment
- Seat Belt Pledge Completed
- Health Assessments Completed
- Fire Boots upgraded from Rubber to Leather Boots
- Carpets at Station 1, 2 and 4 replaced with rubber matting
- Bunker Gear Inspections, maintenance, and repair completed

Physical Fitness Summary

District Chief JoAnne Rice

The Physical Fitness Committee met seven times during 2011. Peer Fitness Trainers (PFT) met four times. We conducted two fitness classes and completed the Annual Fitness Assessments. Five PFT's renewed their PFT certifications to June of 2013. Fitness Assessments were completed during September and October. One hundred and forty six (146) personnel met the department PT minimum standards as determined by the Physical Fitness Committee and 11 were referred to a Peer Fitness Trainer. During 2011 we spent \$22,371.98 on physical fitness equipment, repairs, fitness incentive and fitness assessments (not including overtime for assessments or new equipment for Station 8).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Summary - Lt. Michael Cowart

Firefighters are expected to enter environmental conditions of extreme risk from heat, debris, chemicals, and other hazards. Maintaining effective personal protective equipment, including bunker gear and boots, is a priority for the department.

A total of 117 PPE garments (either a coat or pant) were sent in for repair based on issues found at inspection or turned in by employees.

Costs during 2011 totaled approximately \$103,000 and included items such as 13 sets of new turnout gear for Station 8; 15 sets of replacement turnout gear for other stations; 88 pairs of replacement leather boots; helmets, gloves, and hoods; and, approximately \$12,500 in repair costs.



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Touch
-a-
Truck

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Gainesville Fire Rescue...
What **we** can do for you!

Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez

When most people think of their local fire rescue department, the first thought that comes to mind is...Big Red Fire Trucks! Fire trucks are great, but did you know that Gainesville Fire Rescue does more than just respond to fires? In fact, in 2011, Gainesville Fire Rescue conducted 213 public education events reaching 19,898 citizens! I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with you what Gainesville Fire Rescue, and more specifically the Risk Reduction Bureau, has to offer the citizens of Gainesville.

Fire Station Tours (28 conducted in 2011)

Fire Station Tours are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm and 5:00pm, and on Saturdays between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Tours are open to any size group and last one hour. Guests will take a walking tour through the fire station, meet with working firefighters, and see the fire engines. This is a free service.

Fire Engine Visits (84 conducted in 2011)

Fire Engine Visits are available during the same times as fire station tours. Due to a high volume of requests, we currently schedule visits with childcare facilities, schools, after-school programs, and large community events. This is a free service.

Kiwanis' Safety City Activities (15 conducted in 2011)

Safety City is a two-acre, child-sized village that offers a "one stop shop" for safety education. Gainesville Fire Rescue partners with other local agencies to offer safety education in one location. You will often see Safe Kids of North Central Florida and local law enforcement agencies participating in Safety City programs. Safety City visits are scheduled Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Safety City visits are free.

Project Get Alarmed

Project Get Alarmed is a smoke detector installation program for residential homes. After filling out an application, Gainesville Fire Rescue will come install free smoke alarms in your home. During certain times of the year, carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguishers are also available for installation. This is a free service and available based on our donated stock.

Operation Extinguish

Operation Extinguish is Gainesville Fire Rescue's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program. This program is offered to assist children two to 18 years old and their families. Children involved in the program may have been referred by their own parent or caregiver, local fire rescue agencies or local law enforcement. This program is designed to teach specific fire safety education to children who have a fascination with fire, have been caught with lighters or matches or who have set fires previously. This program is offered to families on an individual basis and is confidential. This is a free service.

Special Events

Gainesville Fire Rescue hosts and attends many special events throughout the year including the Junior Fire Academy in the Summer (applications open in April) and the Annual Screaming for Safety event in October.

Check out Sparky the Fire Dog's Activities at www.sparky.org

If you are interested in any programs contact the Risk Reduction Bureau at 352-334-5065 or email Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez at gonzalezkk@cityofgainesville.org or visit www.gfr.org.



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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



We function as a team by communicating effectively. Information Technology is what allows us to share information with each other and with our stakeholders and partners. GFR works diligently to keep up with the advances in information technology in a cost-effective way to ensure that radio, phone, mobile computer, and database systems support the mission of our organization.

Information Technology is used by Gainesville Fire Rescue for:

- Unit to unit and dispatcher to unit radio communications
- Mobile data computer communications to provide information to responding units
- Mobile phone communications for chief officers and key support personnel
- Office and station telephone communications
- Traffic pre-emption to clear intersections
- Delivery of training programs
- Performance measurement
- Strategic Planning
- Shift scheduling



GFR's Inspectors are equipped with mobile technology so they can work in the field and reduce travel time and fuel consumption.

2011 GFR Information Technology Annual Report

Submitted by Artie Chestnut, Senior Technical Systems Analyst

Naztec

Naztec produces software which works with Computer Aided Dispatch systems to affect traffic preemption for responding Fire and EMS units. Based on automated vehicle location (AVL), traffic signals are changed to move traffic out ahead of responding vehicles. GFR IT participated in configuration testing, driving around with a mobile computer simulating responding vehicles.

Increased Bandwidth for the Fire Station Network

GFR has an agreement with GRUCOM to provide fiber-optic services to the fire stations and GFR Administration, allowing the fire stations to be connected to the City Of Gainesville network. GRUCOM supplied 10 Megabits per second (half-duplex) connectivity. The agreement was renewed for an additional five years, providing 100 Megabit per second network speed (10 times faster) at our fire stations for the same costs. This additional bandwidth has enabled GFR applications to run faster and provides the framework to support future endeavors such as video conferencing and remote training classes.

VOIP phones

As the old Rolm telephone system reached its end-of-life and experienced hardware failures, the city's IT department decided to move forward with implementation of IP phones city-wide. Locations being served by the Rolm system were evaluated. GFR IT worked with city IT to procure and install switch hardware for all GFR locations. IP phones were installed at GFR Administration, Risk Reduction and Support Services and Fire Station 8. The other seven fire stations still utilize analog telephone systems which can be replaced as funding allows. The infrastructure is already in place, so upgrades can be accomplished one station at a time or all seven at once based on funding.



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ACCREDITATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a professional process that guides fire rescue departments through a comprehensive self-assessment that is verified and validated by peer assessors trained by the Center for Public Safety Excellence's Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

There are currently less than 150 fire rescue agencies world-wide that have successfully met the CFAI's accreditation standards, 16 of them are in the State of Florida. To achieve accreditation, an agency must receive positive reviews on 82 core competencies and another 171 performance measures; implement a community-driven strategic plan, and develop a Standards of Cover based on a Community Risk Assessment. If it sounds like a lot of work, that's because it is, and GFR is committed to the self-assessment process because we know it helps our department provide excellent service to our community.

GFR became an applicant agency for accreditation on October 1, 2011 and our goal is to complete the accreditation program and have a peer assessor site visit before the end of 2013.

Strategic Planning

To develop a community-driven strategic plan, GFR needed formal feedback from the community on its level and quality of services. That feedback was obtained through the Gainesville Fire Rescue 2011 Citizen Survey conducted by the Florida Survey Research Center. The complete survey can be viewed on the department's web page at www.gfr.org.

The strategic planning team was pleased to learn that more than two-thirds of the survey respondents were familiar with GFR and that nearly 85% of respondents rated our services good to excellent. We also learned that our community values our fire and life safety programs. GFR's strategic plan includes goals to "Improve education and information about GFR to the community," to "Improve our fire prevention practices and programs to reduce community fire risk," and to "Provide fire and life safety education for the community."

We look forward to extending our outreach to the community through future surveys, participating in neighborhood town hall meetings and community forums, and through a variety of media formats to increase the community's knowledge of the department and its services and to learn what the community expects from Gainesville Fire Rescue.

ISO Public Protection Class

The City of Gainesville continues to maintain an ISO PPC rating of 3 on a scale of 1 - 10, with 1 being the best possible rating. Many components of fire suppression services are scored, including the radio communication system, the water supply system, training programs and drills, fire station locations, and the type of apparatus available in the stations. The accreditation process will be valuable in helping GFR prepare for the next ISO inspection in 2014.



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A-SHIFT

District Chiefs James Lovvorn and Rusty Barrett

The year in review for 2011 A-Shift was uneventful, but for GFR as a whole, what a monumental year with the opening of Station 8 and the hiring of 13 new firefighters. A-Shift would like to welcome our five new employees and congratulate Lt. Sean Campbell and Driver Operator Amanda James on their promotions. Noah Roberts completed training and became a cleared paramedic.

In October, Chiefs Barrett and Lovvorn swapped district assignments to broaden their professional development and to give A-Shift members diverse leadership.

Chief Barrett and Chief Lovvorn would like to express their gratitude to all of the personnel on A-Shift for their commitment to the department, as well as their commitment to providing excellent service to the citizens of Gainesville.



Driver Operator Buddy Gasche is remembered at a memorial ceremony in September



Nick Gonzalez, Byron McGriff, and Pat Lewis prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt



Alix Thony, Stephen Decker, and Wlises Mejia "learn the ropes."



Kris Keen instructs participants in the Junior Fire Academy



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District Chiefs JoAnne Rice and Jeff Lane

B-SHIFT

2011 was a year of growth and development for B-Shift. While Chief Lane and I each spent a six-month rotation as the Risk Reduction Bureau Chief, several of our personnel were able to step out of their normal roles and work in the next higher rank classification for an extended period of time. During this time, each took on additional responsibility as they moved into their new roles and were able to gain invaluable knowledge and experience.

First of all, Lieutenant Saunders and Lieutenant Cowart filled in as the interim District Chiefs at District 1 or District 2 respectively. As these two lieutenants temporarily vacated their positions, it required those individuals on the Lieutenants' list and Driver Operators' list to move up as well. Driver Operator Sean Campbell filled in as the Acting Lieutenant on TW1 and Firefighter Betty Braun took over as the Acting Lieutenant on Engine 4. With these two in acting positions it meant that Driver Operator Greg Fenn and Firefighter Jody Markwisch worked out of class assignments as lieutenants almost daily and firefighters Attebery, Quinn, Steele, and Williams on the Driver Operators promotional list filled in for those positions, as well as many other up and coming drivers.

Everyone did an admirable job of stepping up to the challenge. Both Lt. Saunders and Lt. Cowart were able to pick up right where DC Lane and I left off and made the transition seamless. They both did an excellent job and were able to gain a lot of valuable knowledge and experience during their rotations. It was a great trickledown effect; not only did the individual people benefit, but the department was able to benefit from all the experience and knowledge that each individual gained by working in the various out of class positions.

With the opening of Station 8 in the summer of 2011 the department grew by 13 firefighters, three driver operators and three lieutenants. Chief Lane and I were very proud that, of the eight promotions for Station 8, four came from B-Shift. Driver Operators Sean Campbell and Adam Hinton were promoted to Lieutenant and Firefighters John Cicio and Jody Markwisch were promoted to Driver Operator. Unfortunately, after the promotions, several transfers took place and we were unable to keep Lieutenants Campbell and Hinton. This was a difficult loss for B-shift as they were valuable assets to our team; however, in their place we received two tremendous employees: newly promoted Lieutenant Mike Tringali and Driver Operator Brad Paquette. The final growth for B-shift came with the additions of four new firefighters; John Dowling, Justin Hartley, Derek Joseph, and Rutledge Rogers.

With each of these changes and challenges we have grown, developed, and become a stronger team. Each addition has brought with them their individual strengths and of course weakness, but each has a desire to learn, grow, and work together to develop our new team.

It has been a tremendous year and Chief Lane and I would like to thank each and every member of our B-Shift Team for their resiliency and tenacity to always get the job done, whatever it may be and to get it done right.



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

C-SHIFT

District Chiefs Pat Lewis and Richard Saulsberry

Feels like it was just yesterday that the year 2011 began, low and behold it has come and gone. C-Shift would like to share some of our accomplishments with our great brothers and sisters. First I would like to say it was a great event when Gene Prince was announced as the new fire chief along with Timothy Hayes taking the reins of Deputy Chief of Operations. Chief Lewis and I would like to thank all C-shift employees for their hard work to keep the ship afloat.

There were several employees on C-shift that contributed to creating valuable training props. Firefighter Jeremy Massicotte took many hours of his own time to create a forcible entry prop that has proven to be very valuable to the department.

Lieutenant Billy Jackson, Driver Operator Calvert Brown, and Driver Operator Scotty Taylor continue to do a superb job of being well-prepared for the yearly FAA Inspection at the airport. They also are responsible for keeping our SCBA Program up and running. Lieutenants DG Campbell, Bowen, Hinton and Law have done a tremendous job of preparing new employees for long, prosperous, and challenging careers. Lieutenants Ellis and Law have been working hard to keep the C-Shift Hazmat Technicians on top of the ever-changing hazmat world.

C-shift employees would like to congratulate our own newly promoted Driver Operator Nick Gonzalez and Captain Shawn Hillhouse to their new positions; we wish them the very best. We would also like to congratulate R. Mazaleski, A. Lopez, C. Irving, J. Massicotte, and W. McQueen for successfully completing the Driver Operator Process.

The new employees have been nothing but stellar; they are eager at every opportunity to learn new and exciting ways to add to their EMS and firefighting tool boxes. Gainesville Fire Rescue is very fortunate to have such young employees with a passion to be great. Some have already taken an interest in joining one of the specialty teams. From my observation of them, you can tell this is not a one-year show, these employees are the real deal.

Chief Lewis is responsible for the new addition of Fire Engine 5. Chief Lewis put in many hours to see the project to the end. He is also responsible for the soon to be delivered Utility 6, the air and light truck.



Parnell Jones and Scotty Taylor
at Airport Fire Station 6

2011 did not get by us without losing some C-shift members to retirement. We wish Firefighter Frank Drummond a happy retirement. Firefighter Pat Hartley retired in early 2012 and he will be greatly missed also. Finally, C-shift would like to say to their other brothers and sisters to stay strong, look out for each other's backs, and love each other, for you never know if you will get a second chance to do so.



Lt. Billy Jackson remembers
the fallen at the September
memorial.



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

GFR's Annual Awards and Recognition Program for 2011 was held March 22, 2012 at the new Gainesville-Alachua County Senior Recreation Center.

AWARDS AND HONORS



The GFR family, along with City Manager Russ Blackburn, Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers, and Airport Director Allan Penksa, were very pleased to recognize Lt. Curtis Crawford with the Medal of Valor for his efforts to save a pilot trapped by an airplane crash. We also thanked retirees Pat Harley and Frank Drummond for their many years of dedicated service to the community.



Medal of Valor
Lieutenant Curtis Crawford

Donald J. King Mentorship Award
Driver Operator Jamel Cheesborough

- Employee of the Year Awards**
- City Diversity Award*
 - City Employee of the Year*
 - Administrative Employee*
 - Athlete of the Year*
 - Chief Officer*
 - Company Officer*
 - Dispatcher*
 - Driver Operator*
 - EMS Provider*
 - Firefighter*
 - Inspector*
 - Instructor*

- Assistant Chief Michael Randolph*
- Lieutenant Keith Saunders*
- Comm. Technician Ken Habicht*
- Firefighter Joe Lewis*
- District Chief Don Sessions*
- Lieutenant Tim Bowen*
- George Diaz*
- D/O Corey Thomas*
- Firefighter Amanda Howard*
- Firefighter George Keyzer*
- Fire Protection Specialist Dan Starbuck*
- Captain Shawn Hillhouse*

Service Appreciation Awards
Clark Coleman
Chip Howard

- Firehouse Subs*
- University Athletic Association*

Community Service Award
IAFF LOCAL 2157

Medical Director's Award for EMS Excellence
Firefighter Elijah Virgin



- Unit Citations**
- Fire Station 8 Design and Construction**
Gene Prince, Keith Saunders, Corey Thomas, Jeff Schuhmacher, Shawn Hillhouse, Marjorie Houston, Bill Northcutt
 - GFR Honor Guard**
Jeff Lane, Michael Cowart, Parnell Jones, Ace Saulsberry, JD Perryman, Calvert Brown, Jamel Cheesborough, Corey Thomas, Stephanie Hornbuckle, Ernie Benjamin, Ed Evans, Amanda James, Rob Mason, Todd Willoughby, Amanda Howard

- Chief's Award of Excellence**
Ernesto Acuña, Wes Breeden, Betty Braun, Artie Chestnut, Tracey Higdon, Adam Hinton, Billy Jackson, Jeff Lane, Alex Lopez, Byron McGriff, Jeremy Massicotte, Matt Pfof, Jason Powell, Mike Steele, Brett Thomas, Brad Tschorn, Adam Whitehead
- Fire Radio Users' Group - CCC**
Pat Ford-Thomas, Desi Hightower, Nicole Ferguson, Michelle Klement, Carole Burchfield, Mable Parales

- Certifications**
PARAMEDIC
John Dowling, Joel Graves, Kris Keen, Wilises Mejia, Matt Pfof, Josh Roberts, Noah Roberts, Sims Rogers, Chris Whitney

- Continuing Education**
Sean Canady, Stephen Decker, Nick Gonzalez, Joel Graves, Keith Hughes, Conrade Irving III, Kris Keen, Joe Morris, Matt Pfof, Chris Silcox, Mike Steele, Brett Thomas, Elijah Virgin, Joe Walker, Chris Whitney, Cary Williams, Sean Withers

- Promotions**
Shawn Hillhouse - Training Captain
Nick Gonzalez - Driver Operator

- Retirements**
Firefighter Frank Drummond
Firefighter Pat Hartley



Photos by Keith Collingwood



GFR PERSONNEL 2011

Employee	Position	Hire Date	Employee	Position	Hire Date
Gene Prince	Fire Chief	12/3/1984	Ernesto Acuna	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Timothy Hayes	Deputy Chief - Operations	6/1/1987	Preston Attebery	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Michael Randolph	Assistant Chief	9/11/2006	John Barker	Firefighter	1/2/1990
Rusty Barrett	District Chief	7/18/1988	Chad Belger	Firefighter	8/2/2004
Jeff Lane	District Chief	10/1/1990	Elizabeth Braun	Firefighter	8/5/2002
Pat Lewis	District Chief	1/9/1989	Matthew Browder	Firefighter	8/19/2002
James Lowom	District Chief	10/1/1990	James Brown	Firefighter	8/8/2005
JoAnne Rice	District Chief	10/1/1990	Thomas Burgett	Firefighter	2/15/2010
Richard Saulsberry	District Chief	10/30/1989	Sean Canady	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Don Sessions	District Chief	1/23/1989	Harold Clary	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Michael Heeder	Captain	6/28/1989	Leah Cornwell	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Shawn Hillhouse	Captain	8/11/2003	Brian Cote	Firefighter	6/12/2006
Bill McCrea	Captain	9/19/1988	Alexander Cowart	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Daniel Smith	Captain	11/30/1992	Stephen Decker	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Dallas Baker	Lieutenant	3/28/1994	Michael Derringer	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Kim Berryman-Dages	Lieutenant	1/2/1986	John Dowling	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Erle Biggs	Lieutenant	6/29/1987	Frank Drummond	Firefighter	7/25/1994
Timothy Bowen	Lieutenant	12/11/1995	Eugene Dugan	Firefighter	8/2/2004
William Bristow	Lieutenant	12/11/1995	Herbert Ennis	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Sean Campbell	Lieutenant	8/19/2002	Joseph Gonzalez	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Don Campbell	Lieutenant	4/2/2001	Joel Graves	Firefighter	5/2/2011
Michael Cowart	Lieutenant	1/13/1992	Kevin Gutierrez	Firefighter	4/9/2007
Curtis Crawford	Lieutenant	12/3/1984	Drew Halvorson	Firefighter	8/8/2005
Franklin Diaz	Lieutenant	10/1/1990	Thomas Hand	Firefighter	8/19/2002
Todd Ellis	Lieutenant	1/2/1990	Matthew Harrison	Firefighter	3/5/2007
Daniel Godfrey	Lieutenant	12/3/1984	Pat Hartley	Firefighter	9/9/1985
Tracey Higdon	Lieutenant	12/15/1997	Jason Hendricks	Firefighter	6/12/2006
Adam Hinton	Lieutenant	12/15/1997	Amanda Howard	Firefighter	8/7/2006
John Jackson	Lieutenant	11/30/1992	Sanford Hughes	Firefighter	8/5/2002
Kenneth Johnson	Lieutenant	1/2/1990	Aaron Hunt	Firefighter	8/22/1994
Parnell Jones	Lieutenant	12/3/1990	Conrade Irving	Firefighter	8/7/2006
Gary Law	Lieutenant	1/9/1989	Jeffrey Jamison	Firefighter	2/12/2007
Terry McCarthy	Lieutenant	1/2/1990	Sharron Jones	Firefighter	11/30/1992
David McIntire	Lieutenant	10/11/1999	Derek Joseph	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Steven Mueller	Lieutenant	8/12/1985	Kristopher Keen	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Christopher Nelson	Lieutenant	12/11/1995	George Keyzer	Firefighter	5/10/2010
Michael Sanders	Lieutenant	7/15/1985	Reginald Kinsey	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Willie Saulsberry	Lieutenant	10/1/1990	Joseph Lewis	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Keith Saunders	Lieutenant	1/13/1992	Alexander Lopez	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Allen Siorek	Lieutenant	12/15/1997	Michael Lowery	Firefighter	3/21/1994
Michael Tringali	Lieutenant	8/19/2002	Andrew Marsh	Firefighter	8/7/2006
Bradley Tschorn	Lieutenant	3/21/1994	Robert Mason	Firefighter	8/5/2002
Derrick West	Lieutenant	12/15/1997	Jeremy Massicotte	Firefighter	8/8/2005
James West	Lieutenant	2/5/1990	Robert Mazalewski	Firefighter	2/12/2007
Wendy Anderson	Driver Operator	10/1/1990	Westin McQueen	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Ernie Benjamin	Driver Operator	4/2/2001	Wilises Mejia	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Bill Blair	Driver Operator	10/30/1989	Joseph Morris	Firefighter	12/19/2011
Mark Boals	Driver Operator	4/3/1989	Andrew Pearce	Firefighter	2/12/2007
Wesley Breedon	Driver Operator	10/11/1999	Richard Pena	Firefighter	10/30/1989
Calvert Brown	Driver Operator	10/1/1990	Matthew Pfost	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Paula Buckholz	Driver Operator	1/7/1991	Caleb Polhill	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Julie Butterfield	Driver Operator	10/30/1989	Kyle Preus	Firefighter	2/15/2010
Jamel Cheesborough	Driver Operator	10/1/1990	Melinda Quinn	Firefighter	3/10/1985
Jonathan Cicio	Driver Operator	8/8/2005	Joshua Roberts	Firefighter	8/11/2003
Alexis Delisle	Driver Operator	8/11/2003	Noah Roberts	Firefighter	8/8/2005
Scott Dillon	Driver Operator	8/19/2002	Timothy Rodgers	Firefighter	7/10/2006
Alan DuBose	Driver Operator	8/19/2002	Rutledge Rogers	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Edward Evans	Driver Operator	8/11/2003	Kevin Schoneck	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Gregory Fenn	Driver Operator	8/19/2002	Christopher Silcox	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Randy Gaskins	Driver Operator	12/3/1984	Michael Steele	Firefighter	2/12/2007
Nicolas Gonzalez	Driver Operator	8/2/2004	Mark Sturks	Firefighter	1/2/1990
Reshard Hodges	Driver Operator	3/21/1994	Roberto Sutton	Firefighter	6/12/2006
Stephanie Hornbuckle	Driver Operator	8/19/2002	Brett Thomas	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Amanda James	Driver Operator	8/2/2004	Alix Thony	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Leslie Lane	Driver Operator	12/15/1997	Elijah Virgin	Firefighter	10/25/2010
Jody Markwisch	Driver Operator	8/11/2003	Joseph Walker	Firefighter	6/12/2006
Byron McGriff	Driver Operator	10/30/1989	Paul West	Firefighter	4/14/1986
Martie Moore	Driver Operator	3/21/1994	Adam Whitehead	Firefighter	1/12/2009
Wallace O'Neal	Driver Operator	11/30/1992	Christopher Whitney	Firefighter	4/18/2011
Eric Pace	Driver Operator	11/30/1992	Cary Williams	Firefighter	4/9/2007
Bradley Paquette	Driver Operator	8/11/2003	Eric Williams	Firefighter	8/11/2003
John Perryman	Driver Operator	3/21/1994	Todd Willoughby	Firefighter	8/11/2003
William Powell	Driver Operator	11/30/1992	Sean Withers	Firefighter	8/2/2004
Chase Prince	Driver Operator	8/2/2004	Sandy Ellison	Investigative Services Officer	10/31/1994
Lyndel Scheibly	Driver Operator	1/2/1990	Keith Collingwood	Fire Inspector	6/25/1990
Jeffrey Schuhmacher	Driver Operator	8/5/2002	Kelly DeRasmo	Fire Inspector	7/25/1994
Daniel Svyer	Driver Operator	8/19/2002	Stephen Hesson	Fire Inspector	11/12/1996
Scotty Taylor	Driver Operator	1/9/1989	William Chestnut	Technical Systems Analyst, Sr	5/10/1994
Corey Torner	Driver Operator	1/13/1992	Krista Gonzalez	Risk Reduction Specialist	11/6/2006
Ronald Thomas	Driver Operator	8/11/2003	Kathlene Driggers	Executive Assistant, Sr.	6/23/2003
			Marjorie Houston	Account Clerk, Sr.	12/30/1991
			Lynn Alstead	Staff Specialist	11/8/2010
			Adrienne Baker	Staff Specialist	10/8/2007
			Sheryl Sheehan	Staff Assistant	5/5/2008
			Kenneth Habicht	Radio/Communication Tech.	10/20/2008
			James Petty	Supply-Equip Specialist	2/15/2007



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

GFR PERSONNEL 2011



Retirees in 2011

Michael G. Heeder
Training Captain
March 31, 2011

Frank Drummond
Firefighter
December 1, 2011



We Will Always Remember...

Jerry Adams
April 6, 2011

Jimmie Hart
February 5, 2011

Bart Plemmons
June 9, 2011

Andy Strickland
May 17, 2011

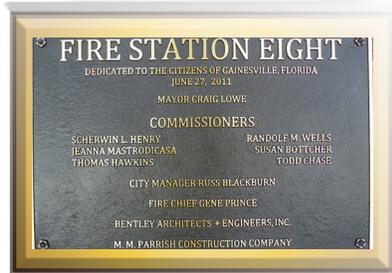
Rickey Watson
December 31, 2011

James Wilkerson
April 2, 2011



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GAINESVILLE FIRE RESCUE 2011



All GFR Stations are designated as Safe Place and Safe Haven locations



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