



SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT
2017 ANNUAL REPORT









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SWFD CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

It is my distinct honor to once again serve as Chairman of the South Walton Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. I trust you will take the time to review the 2017 Annual Report in detail and become familiar with your professional team of firefighters, paramedics, lifeguards, and executives that protect your community and provide emergency services in your time of need.

One of the primary functions of the South Walton Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners is to ensure that your tax dollars are accounted for properly and are being utilized in a manner that provides sound planning and good stewardship. SWFD's independent auditors' report for the year ended September 30, 2017 was received by the Fire Board at its January 2018 meeting. The report is prepared by Warren Averett Certified Public Accountants after completing an audit of the District in accordance with "Government Auditing Standards" which are issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. I am pleased to report that the opinion of the auditors are that the South Walton Fire District is again assessed to be in "Sound Financial Condition". You are welcome to examine this report in detail at www.swfd.org.



I also invite you to explore the website for other operational information as the SWFD has five firehouses in strategic locations throughout the 84 square mile district. They are on alert 24/7 to provide the South Walton community with fire protection for your property in addition to Emergency Medical and Beach Safety for our many visitors and residents.

South Walton is growing rapidly and the SWFD Board of Fire Commissioners, through constant planning and through excellent stewardship of its assets, will continue to meet the needs of that growth. The South Walton Fire District goal is to always provide you with

“Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need”.

Sincerely,



Maurice Gilbert, Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners
South Walton Fire District





INTRODUCTION

The South Walton Fire District is responsible for Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services, Public Fire Education and Prevention, and Beach Safety duties for an area of eighty-four (84) square miles within Walton County, Florida.

The purpose of this report is to provide a concise summary of the South Walton Fire District's accomplishments in 2017.

This annual report contains information about the emergency responses, training, personnel, and community involvement by the South Walton Fire District beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.



MISSION

"Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need"

VISION

To continually improve the safety
and wellbeing of our community.

CORE VALUES

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Community Service and Involvement



FOUNDING MEMBERS Left to right: Day Lindburg, Ed Walline, Bill Harris, Vernon Bishop, L.P. Boone, and Cal Williams.

CHARTERED IN 1968

The South Walton Fire Department changed its name to South Walton Volunteer Fire Department (SWVFD) and answered an average of 2 calls per month in a flatbed truck with a water tank bolted to the bed. In 1974, fourteen volunteers and several citizens of this tiny community built a fire station on Highway 393 South. The SWVFD operated solely on donations from the citizens it served.



WALTON FIRE STATION—South Walton County now has an operational fire station at Santa Rosa Beach. The building is also headquarters for an ambulance service and houses an office for the Walton County Sheriff's Department. Below, Bill Harris, Fire Chief (left) and Board Chairman Vernon Bishop (right), admire a new sign designating the station's location.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Sheriff Quinn McMillian (left), and Tim Taylor, President of South Walton Emergency Services (right) thanked Winne Ziel Anderson for her late husbands, donation of the substation site. The Santa Rosa Beach Sheriff's Department substation is named in honor of Mr. Johnny Ziel.



SWFD HISTORY

In 1981, the South Walton Emergency Services (SWES) was created, which included an ambulance company, the fire department, and the Sheriff's substation. Emergency calls were routed to a guard shack in Sandestin (a local resort). The guards, in turn, called the ambulance and fire truck drivers. In 1982, the Continental Phone Company and Centel Phone Company agreed to 'merge' their phone lines and provide one emergency number, allowing South Walton citizens to contact police, fire, or ambulance.



In 1983, the South Walton Fire District (SWFD) was created by ordinance 83-6, which was approved by voter referendum on September 20, 1983. Ordinance 83-6 provided for the boundaries, government and financing of the District. This ordinance established the Fire Board of seven commissioners, two of which would be, and are still, elected from each precinct, and one elected at large. All of the Commissioners must reside within the boundaries of the District. Funding for the District was established by a parcel assessment fee structure.



In 1986, the SWFD noticed a change in land use within the District. This area started converting the traditional beach front houses into multifamily, mid-rise and high-rise buildings. To assist with this additional growth, the District amended the assessment placed on these types of structures in Ordinance 1986-21. This assessment allowed the District to collect an assessment of \$25.00 per unit in the multifamily structures. Additionally in 1986, the District passed Ordinance 1986-22 to adjust the assessment on residential and commercial dwellings, as well as establish an assessment on unimproved and/or subdivided real property. The District maintained fire protection and prevention through a combination of volunteer firefighters as well as full time paid staff who maintained two stations over the 84 square miles. In 1995, the volunteer firefighter staff dwindled to zero participation, thus forcing the District to hire additional staff to meet the increasing demands for service.

FIRE DISTRICT GETS NEW HIGH RISE TRUCK Most of the time bright, shiny new fire trucks are given to little boys as gifts. In this case, the fire truck was purchased for the residents of south Walton.

Last week, the South Walton Fire District welcomed a new high rise fire truck to its battery of rolling stock. "The cost was \$127,000 for the truck and \$25,000 for the needed equipment", said Fire Chief Larry Berg. "It is currently housed at the Sandestin Fire Station."

The new high rise truck will be paid by the District on a seven year payment plan through the Orlando company, Berg said, adding that it was budgeted beginning in the 1988-89 budget year.

"The truck can carry six firefighters and has a 1500 gallons per minute pump. It is supplied with large diameter hoses, air packs, various nozzle sizes, smoke fans, etc.", Berg said. "Everything is tested out", Berg said adding, "It has been on one run so far."



FIREFIGHTERS

David Groseclose, Tim Barrett and Fire Chief Larry Berg show the District's new high-rise truck. The truck is currently housed at the Sandestin Fire Station.

1989

In 1997, The District replaced the parcel assessment fee structure with an ad valorem tax structure. Ordinance 1997-08, which was approved by voter referendum, allowed the Board of Fire Commissioners to adopt a resolution fixing the millage rate to be assessed by the Walton County Property Appraiser with a millage cap of one mill. This was passed through the Florida Legislature in 1997 and later codified in 1999.

By the year 2000, the District had a total of 5 fire stations with approximately 50 employees. Rapid growth of the South Walton area prompted the growth within the Fire District. SWFD petitioned the voters in a straw ballot poll during the general election to gather input on the existing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within the District. The poll, although not binding, resulted in an overwhelming approval of the District to proceed with providing EMS to South Walton. The District negotiated with Walton County officials to provide this service starting October 1, 2001. The addition of EMS duties expanded the District even further with three (3) ambulances and twenty-four (24) personnel.

SWFD HISTORY



SWFD entered into a joint venture with Sacred Heart Health System and Metro Aviation to provide air ambulance support services to rural areas in Northwest Florida which was in service from **2001-2006**.



In 2005, South Walton Fire District created the Communications Division. This was created with a partnership with Sacred Heart Hospital to provide reliable dispatching to the District as well as the life flight helicopter. This division has expanded to its current staffing of thirteen (13) personnel and is a critical secondary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for Walton County.

In 2006, South Walton Fire District partnered with Walton County to create and provide the area's beach safety program with an initial 6 lifeguard tower locations. The Beach Safety Division expanded the District's personnel and scope of service to an additional 24 seasonal guards as well as a permanent position for a Beach Safety Director. In 2017, SWFD's Beach Safety Division expanded to fourteen towers and thirteen roving patrols.



As of 2017, South Walton Fire District has maintained 5 stations, personnel and equipment to meet the growing demands of visitors and full-time residents. SWFD has increased the level of response from all our emergency response vehicles to be Advanced Life Support capable.

SWFD's current level of service is at 116 full-time and 9 part-time employees as well as 55 seasonal employees for our beach safety program. Our Fire District continues to proactively participate and engage our community to strategically plan and poise ourselves to be ready to meet future needs as well as maintain flexibility and explore public/private partnerships to balance growth with public safety response and protection.

Our vision of an SWFD Honor Guard had been on the horizon for several years and with the interest, commitment and determination of a special group of individuals, the vision became a reality in 2017.

SWFD BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

SEAT 1



MAURICE GILBERT
CHAIRMAN

Following a formal education in Accounting, Business Administration and Law, Commissioner Gilbert spent 20 years in mortgage banking. In 1997, Commissioner Gilbert met a group of concerned citizens who recognized the need to improve South Walton's fire service which eventually led him to offer his services as a Fire Commissioner in 1997.

SEAT 3



JACK ABBIT
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Abbit retired from the Boeing Company after 38 years in the aerospace industry. Since that time, he has been very active in our community through the Cultural Arts Association, the Philharmonic Society of Northwest Florida, Taylor Arts Center and the Sandestin Lions Club. With the support of Sandestin Lions Club members and after attending numerous Fire Board meetings, Commissioner Abbit decided that South Walton Fire District was a good fit for him. Commissioner Abbit began serving as a Fire Commissioner in 2006.

SEAT 5



CHARLOTTE FLYNT
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Commissioner Flynt was a Project Engineer for Donohoe Construction, Inc. and has been a Florida certified contractor since 1989. Commissioner Flynt has served on the Walton County Code Enforcement Board since 2002 and is a member of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, NWF Symphony Guild, and the West Florida Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Commissioner Flynt began serving as a Fire Commissioner in 2012.

The business and affairs of the South Walton Fire District are conducted and administered by a board of seven commissioners who are qualified electors residing in the District. There are seven fire commissioners that are elected from designated districts south of the Choctawhatchee Bay. Each fire commissioner serves a term of four years and is eligible for re-election.

South Walton Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners regular meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the South Walton Fire District Administrative Headquarters located at 911 N County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. All board meeting notices, agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the District's website. These meetings are open to the public.

SEAT 6



MIKE STANGE

Commissioner Stange has been in hospitality management for nearly 40 years and was President of Sandestin for 11 years. Currently, he is the Chief Operating Officer of the Resort Collection in Panama City Beach, Florida. Commissioner Stange has served as a Fire Commissioner since 2000.

SEAT 7



TOM COOPER

Commissioner Cooper has a strong background in law enforcement, community association management and security. A resident of Walton County since 1987, he has been active with the SWFD as a Commissioner in the past. Serving on the Fire Board from 2000 - 2006 and reinstated to fill a vacancy in June 2015. Commissioner Cooper's main reason for serving is to give back to the community where he lives.

SEAT 2



THOMAS MCGEE

Commissioner McGee served on active duty and in the Army Reserve as a Military Police Officer, Military Intelligence Officer and a JAG Officer. McGee served 24 years as Assistant District Attorney in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana and has served on the Walton County Planning Commission, TDC Beach Safety Committee and Beach Activities Committee, South Walton Community Council, and Cultural Arts Alliance. McGee is the co-founder and President of The Camel Club, Inc. and a member of the Children's Advocacy Center of Walton County Advisory Board. Commissioner McGee has served as a Fire Commissioner since 2014.

SEAT 4



BRIAN CHRISTENSON

Commissioner Christenson was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1991. Commissioner Christenson has a degree in Emergency Medical Services and has been involved in emergency services since 1997. Commissioner Christenson has been a Firefighter/Paramedic in Okaloosa County since 2000. Commissioner Christenson has served as a Fire Commissioner since 2006.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As Fire Chief of the South Walton Fire District and on behalf of the professional men and women dedicated to protecting the lives and property within our community, I am pleased to present the 2017 South Walton Fire District Annual Report. The year 2017 was another banner year of accomplishments, celebrations, and achievements for SWFD. This report provides a clear picture of our Department's role in making our area a safe, resilient, and thriving community. South Walton continues to experience significant population growth, a vibrant economy, and an intense level of development, resulting in an increased demand for services from our department. In 2017, SWFD experienced the highest call volume in our department history. Without a doubt, the dedicated men and women of our fire district are our most important asset. I am most proud of our team of dedicated and caring professionals who come to work every day with a singular focus – the protection and safety of the tens of thousands who live, work, shop and play in our great community. Their committed and professional approach helps us achieve our mission of

“Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need”.





As we recognize and celebrate SWFD's 35th anniversary of serving our citizens and visitors in 2018, our fire district has experienced many changes along the way. One thing that has not changed is your Fire District's constant focus on achieving organizational excellence. We continue to prepare for not only the day-to-day challenges, but the ones on the horizon that we will face in the future. The South Walton Fire District family takes immense pride in providing the best possible service to our community.

The South Walton Fire District would like to offer our sincere appreciation to Chairman Maurice Gilbert and our board of fire commissioners and you, the citizens of South Walton, for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Talbert
SWFD Fire Chief/Administrator

“Average is never our goal...you can get average anywhere, Extraordinary is what we are going for in all we do!” ~ Fire Chief Rick Talbert

SWFD ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The Administrative Staff is responsible for providing leadership, vision, overall direction and administrative support for South Walton Fire District. This Staff is committed to serving the public and personnel of our District. Staff duties include long range planning, budget development, financial management, personnel and payroll administration, grant/project management, data management, record management and general customer service in order to ensure efficient daily operations of the South Walton Fire District.

FIRE CHIEF TALBERT joined the South Walton Fire District in April 2007. With over 38 years of experience in the fire service, Chief Talbert provides progressive leadership to our District, a commitment to the community and the personal and professional development of our members. In 2009, Chief Talbert received the Florida Fire Chief of the Year award, the most important honor the Florida fire service can bestow upon one of its chief executives.

ASSISTANT CHIEF CRAWFORD joined South Walton Fire District in 2001 as a Firefighter/Paramedic. He was promoted to Division Chief of Emergency Medical Services in 2006, and Chief of Operations in 2011, where he is responsible for fire suppression, emergency medical services, special operations, and emergency management activities of our Fire District. Chief Crawford holds a degree in Liberal Arts and Emergency Medical Services, holds an undergraduate certificate from Florida State University in Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and is a graduate of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Emergency Services Leadership Institute (ESLI).

ASSISTANT CHIEF ANDERSON began his fire service career in 1988 as a volunteer firefighter. Chief Anderson joined South Walton Fire District in 1998 and promoted through the ranks as Lieutenant, District Chief and currently, Assistant Chief. Chief Anderson is responsible for support services which includes Fleet and Facility Management, Communications and Information/Technology divisions. Assistant Chief Anderson received the 2009 Fire Chief's Award for his dedication to our District, our members and the community we serve.

ROBBIE LUND joined the South Walton Fire District team in May 2008. Robbie, serving as Administrative Assistant, directly supports to the Fire Chief and Assistant Chiefs. Robbie is responsible for personnel recordkeeping, recording and transcribing meeting minutes and serves as the Records Management Liaison Officer for South Walton Fire District. Robbie also serves as SWFD's Department Relations Committee Secretary / Treasurer. Robbie received the South Walton Fire District Extra Mile Award in 2009, 2015 and 2016 for her dedication and commitment to South Walton Fire District's Core Values.

CAROLE MARTIN accepted the position of Fiscal Officer in February of 2012 bringing an extensive amount of experience in a wide variety of disciplines. Carole's responsibilities include paying vendors, preparing District payroll and maintaining the District's financial statements. Carole was the recipient of the 2015 Fire Chief's Award and 2016 Extra Mile Award.

WINDY STINSON joined SWFD in 2017 as our very first Human Resources Coordinator. Windy has over 15 years of experience in HR. Her role as the District's HR Coordinator includes preparing or updating employment records related to hiring, transferring, and/or promoting employees as well as explaining HR policies, procedures, laws, and standards that relate to new and existing employees and how it affects the District.



RICHARD TALBERT
FIRE CHIEF/ADMINISTRATOR



RYAN CRAWFORD
ASSISTANT CHIEF
FIRE RESCUE OPERATIONS



MARC ANDERSON
ASSISTANT CHIEF
SUPPORT OPERATIONS



ROBBIE LUND
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



CAROLE MARTIN
FISCAL OFFICER



WINDY STINSON
HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR

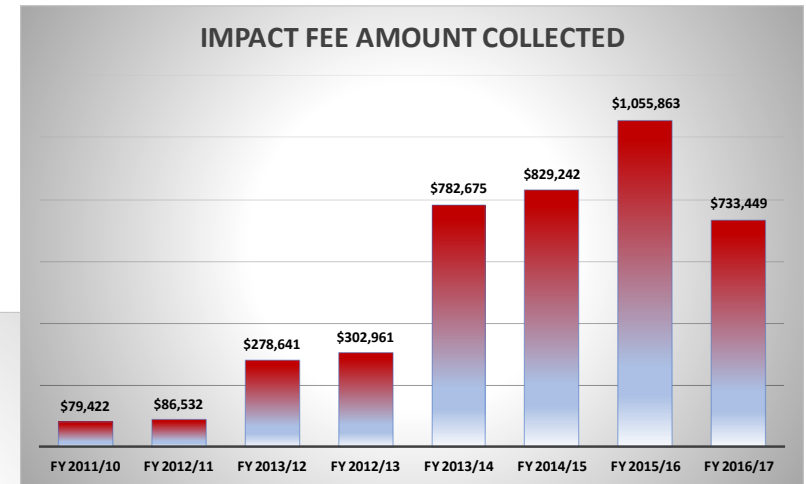
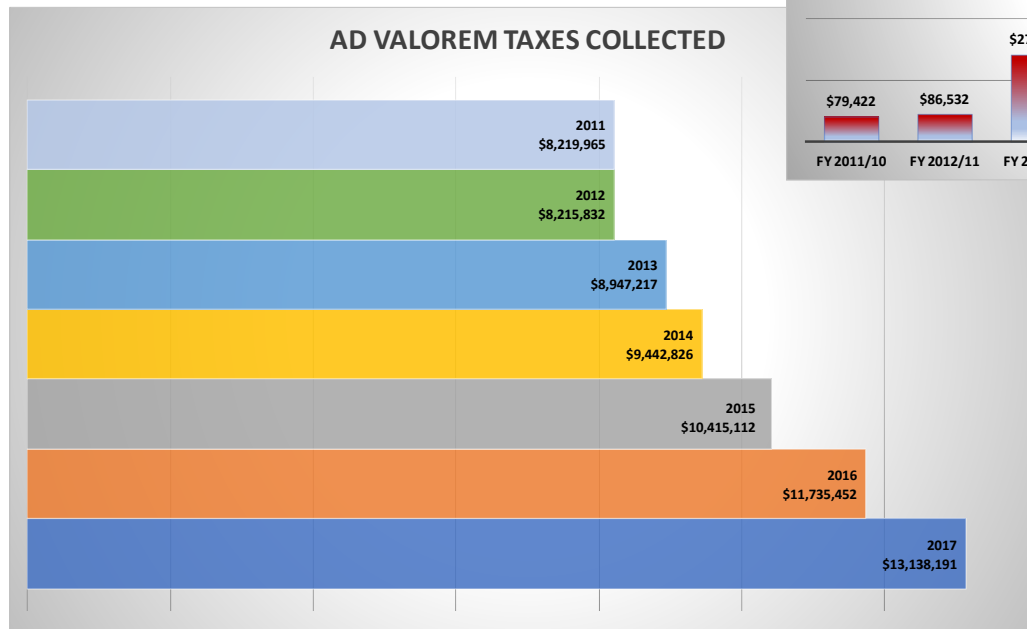
SWFD BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

The South Walton Fire District millage rate continues to be among the lowest in the State of Florida.

SWFD MILLAGE RATE						
2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
.9799	.9799	.9799	.9799	.9799	.8999	.8600

These charts reflect a Fiscal Year budget timeline of October 1st through September 30th of each year.



The South Walton Fire District receives funding from impact fees collected on new residential and commercial construction in South Walton. Impact fee funds are specifically utilized to construct facilities such as fire stations or for the purchase of firefighting equipment to keep pace with growth.

BUILDING PROJECTS

- Submitted drawings for the Fleet/Logistics Building and Training Tower site at South Walton Fire District Headquarters to Walton County for permitting.
- Selected contractor for the Fleet/Logistics Building and Training Tower project.
- Station 4 exterior updated.
- Station 5 parking lot updated.

EQUIPMENT

- Replacement of all Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).
- Replacement of breathing air compressor for SCBA replacing a 2001 unit.
- Installed new turnout gear extractors at the Inlet Beach and Santa Rosa Beach fire stations.
- Replaced one (1) Lifepak 15 cardiac monitor.

APPARATUS

- Replacement of Heavy Rescue Pumper (Squad 3) at the Santa Rosa Beach fire station replacing a 2005 engine.
- Re-chassis of two (2) 2006 ambulances.
- Implemented diesel exhaust filtration system on all front-line apparatus.
- Implemented a stretcher / non-emergency transport service.
- Replaced one (1) Fire Inspector vehicle replacing a 2006 truck.

ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- Replacement of aerial ladder truck (Truck 2) at Station 2 replacing a 2005 aerial.
- Purchase one (1) new ambulance.
- Creation of two response battalions with addition of 2nd District Chief position so two (2) are on duty daily.
- Fleet Maintenance, Logistics, and Training Facility project construction.
- Creation of SWFD Honor Guard unit.
- Procurement of four (4) video laryngoscopy units on all ambulances.
- Program enhancement with procurement of Mobile Eyes computer software for fire inspections and pre-fire planning.
- Program enhancement with First Watch real-time web-based situational awareness data surveillance and visualization software.
- Implementation of SWFD's internal webpage.





SWFD APPARATUS

ADMINISTRATION



STAFF

BEACH



BEACH 1

LIFE SAFETY



FIRE MARSHAL

STATION 1



ENGINE 1

STATION 3



RESCUE 3



SQUAD 3

NON-EMERGENCY VAN



BLS 1

SPECIAL EVENT CART



EVENT 1

STATION 2



TANKER 2



TRUCK 2



RESCUE 2



BRUSH 1

STATION 4



RESCUE 4



TRUCK 4

STATION 5



ENGINE 5

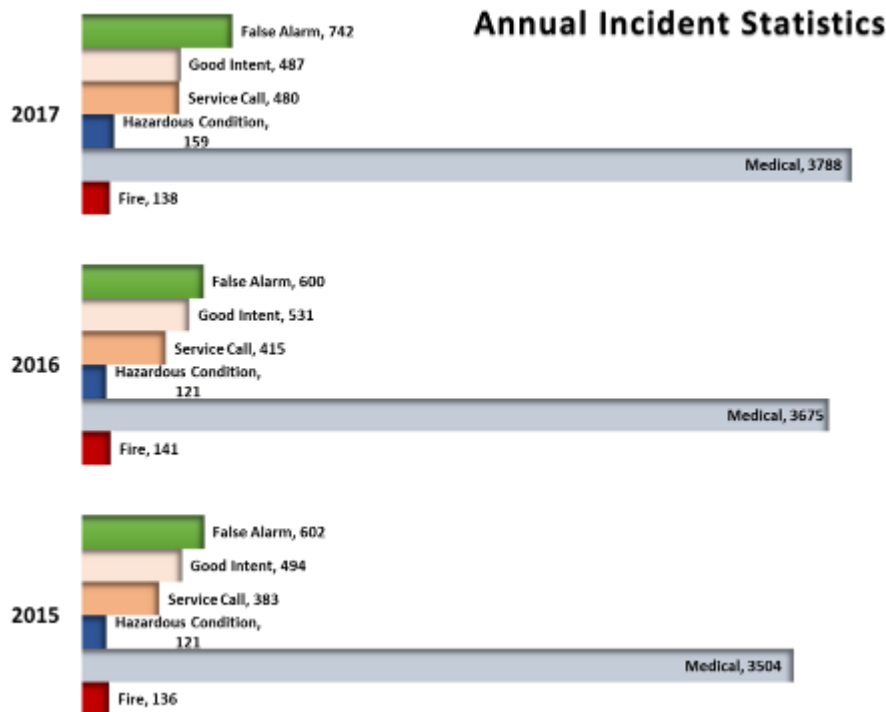


RESCUE 5



Ryan Crawford, Assistant Chief – Fire Rescue Operations, has served with the Fire District since 2001. Chief Crawford oversees all aspects of SWFD Operations. This division is responsible for fire suppression, emergency medical services, special operations, and emergency management activities of our Fire District. Chief Crawford is a graduate of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association’s Emergency Services Leadership Institute (ESLI), holds an undergraduate certificate from Florida State University in Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and possesses Associate’s Degrees in Emergency Medical Services and General Education. Chief Crawford is currently attending Florida State University completing studies towards a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration.

The Operations Division provides around-the-clock emergency response throughout South Walton Fire District’s 84-square miles. Each year the Operations Division responds to nearly 6,000 emergency calls involving fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials, and requests for emergency medical services. The Operations Division includes three advanced life support fire engines, two advanced life support aerial trucks, 1 basic life support non-emergency transport unit, and four advanced life support ambulances (rescues) as well as several specialized resources housed within five fire stations strategically located throughout the geographic area.



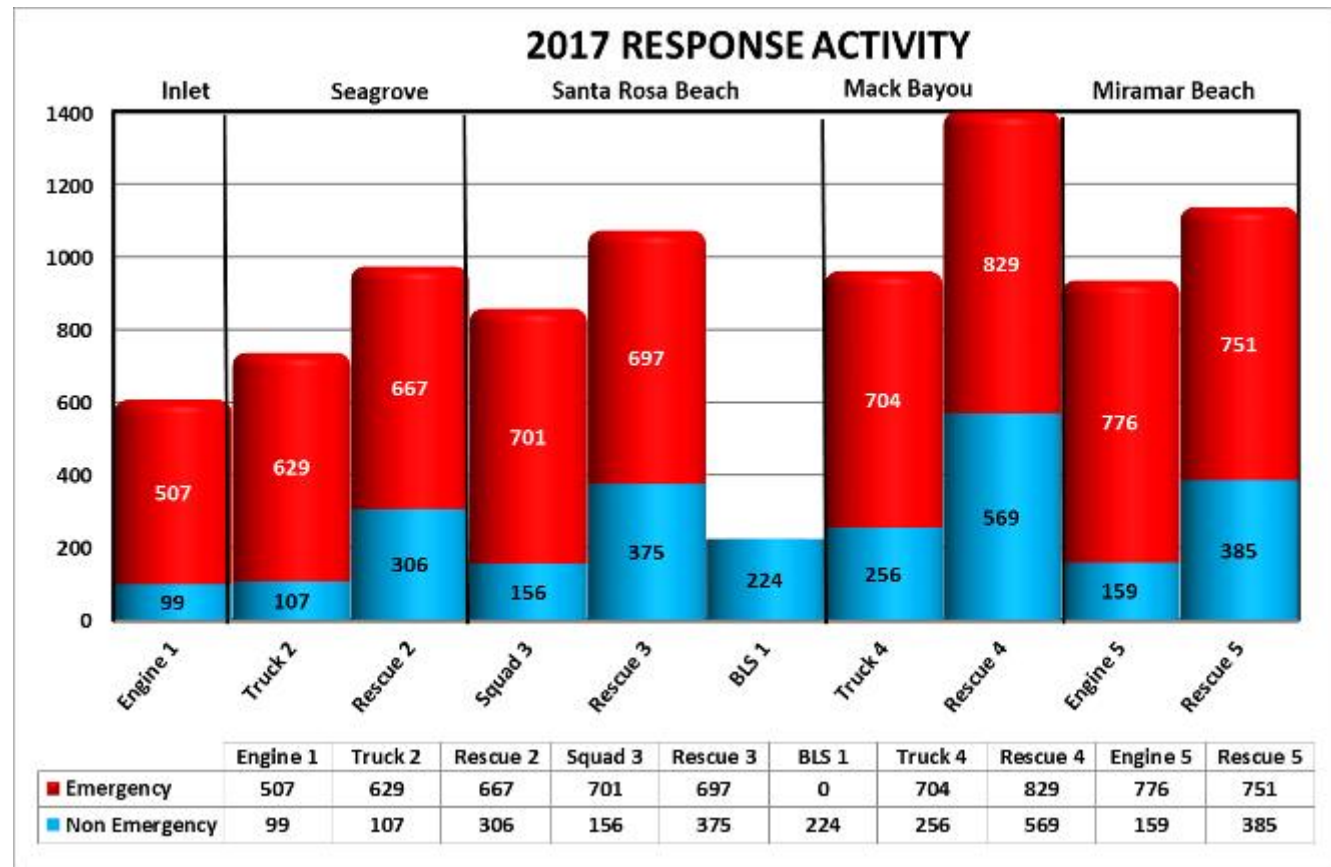
The Division is also home to Squad 3, which provides for one of Florida’s Light Technical Rescue Teams. This team has advanced training and equipment and specializes in rescues involving building collapse, high angle rope rescues, trench rescues, vehicle machinery rescue, construction accidents and other unique calls for highly specialized rescue techniques.

The members of SWFD have one goal in mind – providing you, our residents and visitors, the best levels of customer service possible. In 2017, the District was confronted with many challenges. These challenges were met with the true professionalism that our citizens expect.

The table to the right represents the South Walton Fire District's fire protection and response capabilities while considering the impact of fire on structures relative to their pre-incident value measured against the cost of the fire damage.

2015 – 2017 SAVE / LOSS RATIO						
Year	# of Actual Fires	Pre-Incident Property Value	Property Value Saved	Property Value Lost	Percent Saved	Percent Lost
2015	136	\$288,295,748	\$285,900,653	\$2,395,095	99%	1%
2016	141	\$29,407,104	\$25,224,785	\$4,182,319	86%	14%
2017	138	303,557,148	299,765,565	3,791,583	99%	1%
Total	415	\$656,014,452	\$610,891,003	\$10,368,997	95%	5%

The table to the right illustrates all emergency and non-emergency response activity by South Walton Fire District Stations / Units for the 2016 calendar year. The Mack Bayou (Station Number 4) continues to be the busiest of all South Walton Fire District locations.



The year 2017 presented your Fire District with many incidents affecting our community. Below are a few of the significant emergency responses.

► On the evening of January 2, 2017, at approx. 8pm Engine 5, Rescue 5, Truck 4, Squad 3, Rescue 3, and DC1 were dispatched to a building fire located at 12590 US Highway 98 in Miramar Beach due to an apparent lightning strike. Units arrived on scene to find a well involved working fire within a large single-family structure which had already self-vented through its tile roof. This incident presented unique challenges as a result of the active thunderstorm activity going on. Due to the extent of the fire development, crews initiated a defensive fire attack on the structure and placed priority on exposure protection to adjacent buildings. Approximately 10 minutes after arriving on scene, a second residential working fire was dispatched at 15 Flamingo Drive, also a result of a lightning strike. Truck 2, Rescue 2, Engine 1, Destin Ladder 10, Chief 2 and Chief 1 arrived to find an occupied single-family residence well involved in fire. Occupants had self-evacuated the home upon SWFD arrival. Heavy thunderstorms activity was present with frequent lightning. The personnel assigned to these two incidents faces significant challenges only complicated with wind driven rain and thunderstorm activity.



◄ On the afternoon of February 9th, 2009 Engine 5, Rescue 5, Truck 4, Rescue 4, Squad 3, Rescue 3, DC1, EMS1, Chief 2, and Chief 1 responded to a structure fire at 126 South Shore Drive in Miramar Beach. Upon arrival, crews found a 2-story duplex with heavy smoke coming from the garage and second floor. The roof was found to have vented. Firefighters initiating fire attack from the unburned unit that was connected to the burning unit. The fire was extinguished before it spread into the second living unit. The State Fire Marshal's office investigation determined that the fire originated in the garage and appeared to have been caused by an electrical malfunction.

► On the morning of March 20, 2017 at approximately 9:20am Squad 3, Rescue 3, Truck 2, Rescue 2, Engine 1, Truck 4, Rescue 4, Engine 5, Rescue 5, EMS 1, DC 1, Chief 2, and Chief 1 were dispatched to a building fire located at 38 Sandcastle Court in Blue Mountain Beach. Units arrived on scene to find a fully involved natural gas fed working fire within a large three story single family structure. Responding personnel applied defensive tactics to protect neighboring structures that were in close proximity. Due to the time of day and heavy vehicular traffic – Command gave the order to shut down Hwy 30A and place aerial master streams in service. As crews were knocking down the fire a significant natural gas leak was discovered. Engine 5 personnel were assigned to cool / disperse the gas leak while allowing gas to burn and awaited gas utilities to shut off the fuel at the meter. Complications were presented due to the instability of the structures integrity which required personnel to operate well outside of collapse zones. After approximately two hours, utility personnel were able to successfully shut of the gas and the fire was extinguished. This incident was a difficult and complicated response due to the continuous hazards presented by an unstable building, a natural gas leak, and the location of the fire.



◄ On June 2nd, 2017 Engine 1, Truck 2, Rescue 2, Squad 3, and District 1 were dispatched for a technical rescue incident at 285 Yacht Pond Lane. Firefighters arrived to find an individual to have fallen off ladder while painting the third-floor roof of a residence. The patient was located on the third-floor roof of the residence and was located between two sets of roofs in a valley that prevented Trk-2 from being able to ladder the area the patient was located in. The residence contained multiple roofs that were in a configuration that did not allow another part of the roof to be laddered for patient removal. Firefighters gained access to the 4th floor of the residence and employed a high angle technical main line and belay system anchored to two separate window frames. Patient was safely packaged and extricated via stokes basket using high angle technical rope haul system.

OPERATIONS

2017 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

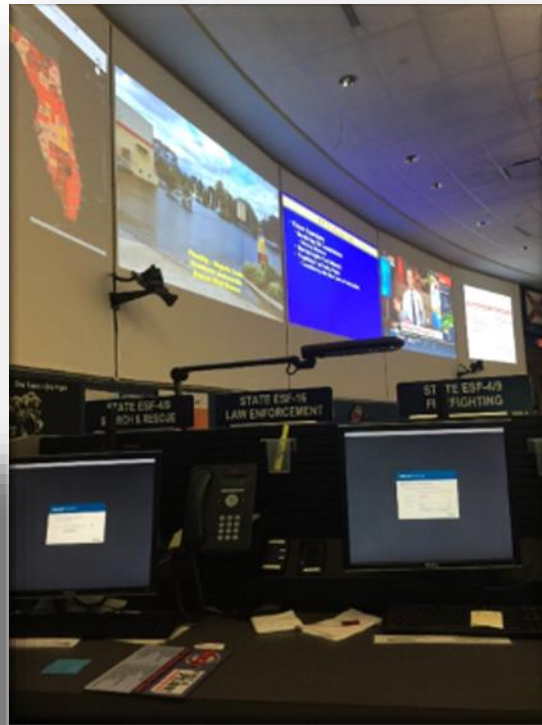


◀ On June 13th, 2017 at 2am - Engine 5, Rescue 5, Truck 4, Rescue 4, Squad 3, Rescue 3, Truck 2, Rescue 2, and District 1 were dispatched to a confirmed working fire at 917 Scenic Gulf Drive in Miramar Beach. Units arrived to find a three-story single-family structure with heavy smoke and flames showing. Crews quickly conducted a primary and secondary search of the structure ensuring that the building was clear of any life hazards. Multiple hand lines were deployed and exposure issues were rapidly dealt with minimizing additional damage to adjacent homes. The fire was declared extinguished at 3:30am however the structure experienced significant fire damage estimated near \$175K in value. The State Fire Marshal's investigation determined the fire originated from a faulty window air conditioner unit.

▶ On June 22nd at approximately 10:30pm Engine 1, Truck 2, Rescue 2, Squad 3, Rescue 3, Truck 4, Rescue 5, Panama City Beach Ladder 31, District 1, and Chief 2 were dispatched to 56 Trigger Trail in Rosemary Beach for a reported structure fire. Upon arrival firefighters found a three-story residential structure with heavy fire involvement on the third floor. With heavy smoke pushing down around the building, visibility was limited. Arriving units quickly developed an incident action plan and initiated an interior fire attack. Fire vented through roof requiring crews to change tactics and extinguish through exterior tactics. Aerial master stream was established through third floor front doors and windows overcoming fire through volume. The fire was extinguished however the structure experienced fire damage estimated at \$150K.



► September 7th – 12th the Fire District's Light Technical Rescue Team (Squad 3) was readied for state wide deployment. SWFD Command Staff stood up as Regional & County Coordinators and Assistant Chief Marc Anderson deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center. SWFD was instrumental in the statewide coordination and response effort for Fire/Rescue, and USAR efforts with Hurricane Irma.



◀ On October 24th at approximately 4am Engine 1, Truck 2, Rescue 2, Squad 3, Rescue 3, District 1, and Chief 2 were dispatched to a working fire at 146 Dune Drift lane in the Watersound community. Upon arrival crews found a fully involved pool-house structure with collapse already in progress. Firefighters quickly established a water supply and initiated a defensive fire attack due to the advanced nature of fire progression and the instability of the structure. This incident was further complicated for firefighters with delays getting underground power secured as a result of damage to transformer building and a ruptured natural gas line. Ultimately, the structure was considered a total loss at an approximate value of \$300K.



OPERATIONS

2017 TRAINING EVENTS

In 2017, your South Walton Fire District members logged over 30,000 hours of training. Training subjects consist of supervisory and leadership coaching, driver operator competencies, advanced and basic emergency medical skills, technical rescue disciplines, live fire instruction, hazardous materials, and general firefighting education.





OPERATIONS

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM



South Walton Fire District's Technical Rescue Team (TRT), has been focused on getting new members the training required for TRT designation during 2017. After this training is complete, South Walton's Team will be 24 members strong. The Team is under the guidance of District Chief Thomas who assists the team in the District's ability to respond to technical rescue events when they arise.



In addition to their standard fire suppression and emergency medical services equipment, Squad 3 is strategically located in the middle of the District at Station 3/Headquarters with a significant cache of technical rescue equipment. This unit is poised and ready to respond with our specially trained team members to provide a prompt, competent, caring resolution in any technical rescue situation.



OPERATIONS

2017 TRAINING



2017	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
FIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Fire Training (facilities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Fire Training (facilities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Fire Training (facilities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 1410 Part 1 • NFPA 1500 Driving Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forcible Entry Training • Fleet Program Defensive Driving
EMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication & Documentation • Medication Errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Injury Protection • Advanced IO • LMA Supreme In-service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO Poisoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stryker Stretcher and Stair Chair In-Service

“Training is not a mandate, it is a necessity!”

~ Fire Chief Rick Talbert

“The fire ground is a great teacher. The key is to pay attention, train hard and often and don’t make the same mistake twice.” ~ Fire Chief Rick Talbert

 <p>JUNE</p>	 <p>JULY</p>	 <p>AUGUST</p>	 <p>SEPTEMBER</p>	 <p>OCTOBER</p>	 <p>NOVEMBER</p>	 <p>DECEMBER</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFPA 1001 Loss Control • NFPA 1021 Assuming the Role of Company Officer • Fire Industry Driver Operator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventis Pro Gas Meter • Leadership and Ethics • Fire Industry Driver Intersection Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventis Pro Gas Meter (In-Service) • Interviewing and Hiring • Fleet Program Distracted Driving • Multi Company Night Drill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VES Training Drill • Discipline and Determination • Fleet Program Driver Safety Orientation • Mass Casualty Exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretches, Forcible Entry and VEIS Training • NFPA 1021 Elements of Supervision and Management • Fleet Program Accidents and Emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Fire Training • NFPA 1021 Incident Scene Management • Fleet Program Adjusting for Conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities Training—Annual Make-up • NFPA 1021 Legal Responsibilities and Liabilities • Fleet Program Dangers of Speeding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS Aquatic Emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duodote Auto Injector Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Place for Newborns • Ketamine In-service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Mass Casualty Incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Triage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS Accessory Documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traumatic Injury During Pregnancy

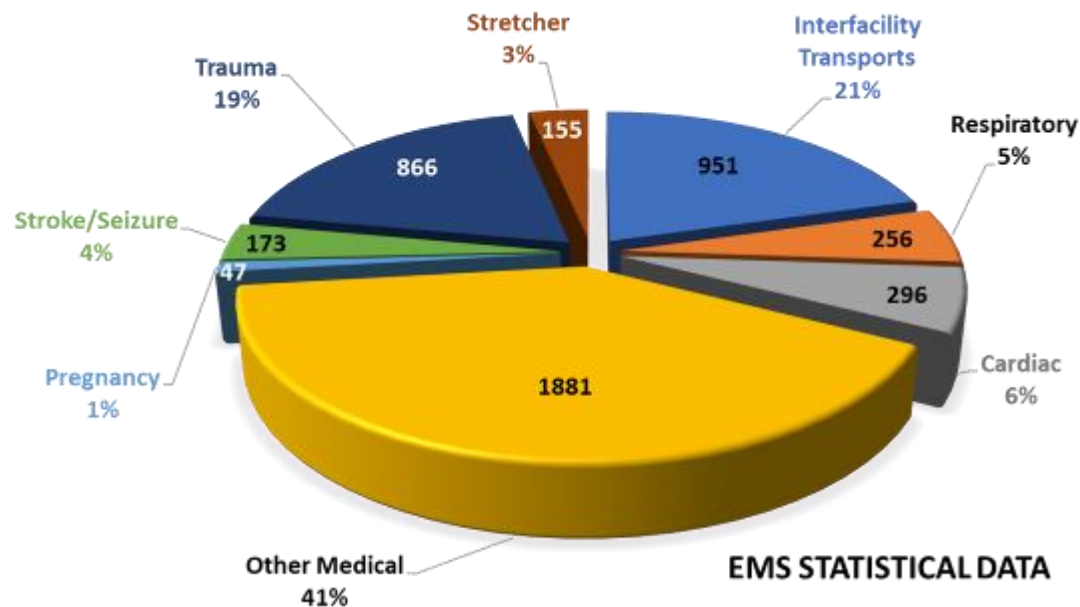


The EMS Division is overseen by Captain Jason Cotton who has over 20 years of experience in emergency services. In addition to serving as EMS Captain, Jason functions as the District’s Infection Control Officer, Safety Officer, and Privacy Officer.

The South Walton Fire District is proud to be the Emergency Medical Services provider for the South Walton community. Since 2001, SWFD has performed ambulance transport. Currently we have five Advanced Life Support first-response fire apparatus and four Advanced Life Support transport ambulances. We provide 911 response, as well as both emergency and non-emergency interfacility transport. All personnel are state certified to either the EMT (basic life support) or Paramedic (advanced life support) level, and continuing education is held to ensure that staff members are trained to the latest guidelines.

In addition to providing EMS response and transport, the EMS Division oversees the community CPR program. 46 of our EMTs and Paramedics are certified to teach CPR through the American Safety and Health Institute. In 2017, these instructors taught 436 members of the community to confidently perform CPR. We were also invited to teach CPR skills to students at the South Walton High School. In one day, over 200 students were taught and practiced CPR skills.

The EMS Division is also involved in the medical training of our Beach Safety personnel, all of whom are trained to at least the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level, and many of which are EMTs or Paramedics. Beach safety personnel are available and equipped to begin providing EMS care immediately on the beach while summoning fire apparatus and ambulance services.





Working alongside Captain Cotton is the District's Medical Director, Dr. Gary Pablo. Dr. Pablo has been the medical director for SWFD since 2001 when the District began providing advanced life support services. With forty years of experience as an emergency physician, Dr. Pablo demands a high level of performance from the District's EMTs and Paramedics. Dr. Pablo is involved in the medical operations of the District by providing medical direction in the form of protocols. Dr. Pablo personally tests and approves all District Paramedics prior to their designation as a "District Solo Medic." Dr. Pablo enjoys visiting with the District's EMTs and Paramedics to provide informal education and follow-up on cases. Dr. Pablo also regularly responds with crews to oversee the quality of care provided by District personnel.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

GARY M. PABLO, MEDICAL DIRECTOR



NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES

JASON COTTON, EMS CAPTAIN



In 2017, the EMS Division expanded to include a Basic Life Support (BLS) interfacility transport ambulance staffed by part-time EMTs. This unit is able to provide quality non-emergency transport at a greatly reduced cost to both the District and the end user. This program also keeps our Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport resources available for 911 response and emergency interfacility transfers.



As part of the South Walton Fire District's non-emergency transport program, the "Home for the Holidays" is designed to allow patients in skilled nursing and adult living facilities to go home and be with family members for holiday dinner. This free transportation is available to local residents who would otherwise be unable to come home for the holiday celebration. The "Home for the Holidays" program provides transportation on Thanksgiving Day or day after Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Free roundtrip transportation originating in South Walton and ending in Walton County or within the Destin City limits is offered annually.



KINSEY CARROLL



MICHAEL HALL



CRAIG INGRAM



STEVEN PARSH



AUSTIN HINTON

SWFD NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM



ANDREW MILLER



JACOB CORTEZ



TROY DEVOY



BRYCE ORCHARD



CHRIS BOWSER

DISTRICT CHIEFS

The position of District Chief requires attention to detail, the ability to handle multiple incidents at once as well as the ability to manage a large number of people effectively. District Chiefs are responsible for managing day to day operations including budget preparation, monitoring reports, personnel management, preparation of performance evaluations, and the training and mentoring of their assigned personnel. District Chiefs are emergency responders with medical training and hold specialized firefighting skills and certifications.



DISTRICT CHIEF COREY HARNED



A SHIFT

District Chief Harned brings over 29 years experience to his position. Chief Harned joined South Walton Fire District in February 1998 as a Firefighter/ EMT. Chief Harned was promoted to Lieutenant in 1999 and moved up to the District Chief position in 2000.

- Responsible for supervision of South Walton Fire District's annual hose testing and data collection.
- Coordinates Event Action Plans for local events using South Walton Fire District personnel.
- Responsible for quarterly safety inspections of all five South Walton Fire District facilities.
- Co-Chair of the South Walton Fire District Department Relations Committee.
- Assists with South Walton Fire District promotional testing.
- District Liaison with South Walton's water utility companies.
- Responsible for the ongoing testing and data collection of all hydrants in the District.
- Chair of South Walton Fire District's Honor Guard

DISTRICT CHIEF HERB PATTERSON



B SHIFT

With over 30 years experience in the fire service, District Chief Herb Patterson brings career excellence to our department in both fire and EMS. Chief Patterson has been a committed member of South Walton Fire District since May 1999 when

he joined our department as a Firefighter/EMT. Chief Patterson was promoted to Lieutenant in 2001, and received his promotion to District Chief in January 2008. Chief Patterson received the 2016 Fire Chief's Award.

- Apparatus Committee Member—participated in design stage of a replacement 105' ladder truck.
- Assists with annual promotional testing.
- Responsible for developing Event Action Plans and serving as Incident Commander for various special events.
- Responsible for the maintaining tools and apparatus for the District.

“When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work.”

~Edward F. Croker, FDNY Fire Chief (1899-1911)

DISTRICT CHIEF MIKE THOMAS



C SHIFT

District Chief Mike Thomas joined South Walton Fire District as a Firefighter/Paramedic in June 2001. Chief Thomas was promoted to EMS Chief in May 2005 and made a lateral move to District Chief in November 2006. Chief Thomas has over 27 years experience in the fire service, holds an

Associate's Degree in Paramedic Science and is currently working on his Bachelor's Degree.

- Responsible for the acquisition of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). In 2017, SWFD purchased 30 more sets of gear to update members gear and to build a cache of gear for reserve sets of PPE.
- Responsible for developing Event Action Plans and serving as Incident Commander for various special events.
- In 2017 purchased workout equipment to modernize and standardize SWFD stations
- Researched and purchased new breathing air compressor
- Responsible for the purchase and transition to MSA SCBA's
- Assists with new hire testing

**SOUTH
WALTON**



**FIRE
DISTRICT**

STATION 1
INLET BEACH



A SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
S. NEWSOM



SERGEANT
J. ODOM



FIREFIGHTER
K. EBERSOLE



FIREFIGHTER
T. SCHUSTER

B SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
K. DELL



SERGEANT
J. LAWSON



FIREFIGHTER
A. STEELE



FIREFIGHTER
T. FOXHALL

C SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
M. GRIGGS



SERGEANT
W. USHER



FIREFIGHTER
M. MCHENRY



FIREFIGHTER
R. LAMARRE

SOUTH
WALTON



FIRE
DISTRICT

STATION 2
WATERCOLOR



A SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
B. HARTZOG



SERGEANT
C. LANIER



FIREFIGHTER
J. SCHOFIELD



FIREFIGHTER
K. HART



FIREFIGHTER
C. SUPRISE



FIREFIGHTER
R. PULLEM

B SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
E. LANG



SERGEANT
S. HUTCHINS



FIREFIGHTER
T. THOMPSON



FIREFIGHTER
S. SMITH



FIREFIGHTER
G. BRANTLEY



FIREFIGHTER
J. CARTER

C SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
P. STANFORD



SERGEANT
J. WHITE



FIREFIGHTER
D. SANSOM



FIREFIGHTER
K. CHRISTENSON



FIREFIGHTER
D. SMITH



FIREFIGHTER
C. CHASE



A SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
B. HUGHES



SERGEANT
A. SAINZ



FIREFIGHTER
M. COX



FIREFIGHTER
D. BEALE



FIREFIGHTER
M. SERPAS



FIREFIGHTER
D. MASAT

B SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
G. KUEHNER



SERGEANT
B. WELLS



FIREFIGHTER
M. HAYES



FIREFIGHTER
M. CRAMER



FIREFIGHTER
R. HALL



FIREFIGHTER
D. LANGER

C SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
D. LATOUR



SERGEANT
J. ADAMS



FIREFIGHTER
J. MOSS



FIREFIGHTER
K. REYNOLDS



FIREFIGHTER
P. ARMITAGE



FIREFIGHTER
J. SCRIVANI



SOUTH
WALTON

FIRE
DISTRICT

STATION 4
MACK BAYOU



A SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
D. WARD



SERGEANT
P. BLOCK



FIREFIGHTER
M. LEE



FIREFIGHTER
G. GRAY



FIREFIGHTER
D. MISHLER



FIREFIGHTER
A. HUTCHINS

B SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
N. BROWN



SERGEANT
J. WILLIAMS



FIREFIGHTER
R. MATHEWS



FIREFIGHTER
S. THOMPSON



FIREFIGHTER
R. FREDRICKS



FIREFIGHTER
S. FOREMAN

C SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
C. KIDDER



SERGEANT
C. POWELL



FIREFIGHTER
M. JONES



FIREFIGHTER
A. EVANS




FIREFIGHTER
D. CORCORAN



FIREFIGHTER
J. WELLS

**SOUTH
WALTON**



**FIRE
DISTRICT**

STATION 5
MIRAMAR BEACH



A SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
M. REDMOND



SERGEANT
J. BUNNICELLI



FIREFIGHTER
L. LEWIS



FIREFIGHTER
J. DURKO



FIREFIGHTER
T. FREDRICKS



FIREFIGHTER
T. SPENCER

B SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
P. MEHLOS



SERGEANT
M. YOUNGBLOOD



FIREFIGHTER
T. SANTNER



FIREFIGHTER
T. PARKER



FIREFIGHTER
J. ELLIS



FIREFIGHTER
C. BURRI

C SHIFT



LIEUTENANT
K. VANVALKENBURGH



SERGEANT
H. APFELBACH



FIREFIGHTER
B. GRAVES



FIREFIGHTER
C. SCHNEIDER



FIREFIGHTER
E. MCKUHEN



FIREFIGHTER
C. FRIEND

SUPPORT SERVICES

MARC ANDERSON, ASSISTANT CHIEF

Chief Anderson joined South Walton Fire District in 1998 and promoted through the ranks as Lieutenant, District Chief and currently, Assistant Chief. Chief Anderson is responsible for support services which includes Communications and Information/Technology, Fleet and Facility Management divisions.

The year 2017 brought many projects and enhancements to the District in which Chief Anderson was proud to be a part of. The following are some of the more significant areas that were worked on.



In addition, the State of Florida was reintroduced into an active hurricane season. Hurricane Irma arrived in September of 2017 and threatened the entire state of Florida. During this event, Chief Anderson was tasked with the deployment to the State of Florida's Emergency Operation Center where he participated in the planning section for the Statewide Emergency Response Plan. Once there, Chief Anderson was fortunate enough to team up with some of the State's leaders to plan a response to the various needs throughout Florida. As the storm approached with uncertainty of its final path, Chief Anderson volunteered to help establish an alternate State EOC site located in the Florida National Guard's Camp Blanding. As the storm passed, the State EOC received no damage and was transitioned into forward liaisons. Chief Anderson became a liaison to Clay County and embedded with their personnel on the responses within their county.



COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION/TECHNOLOGY:

Chief Anderson coordinated a major overhaul to SWFD's website infrastructure and went live with a re-designed public webpage in the summer of 2017. The coordination included SWFD's internal website – Digital Emergency Services.

Chief Anderson also coordinated the addition of SWFD TV. This included the research, development and deployment of informational monitors in all of SWFD facilities. SWFD allows for an alternative messaging forum to disseminate information to all of our personnel.



FACILITY MANAGEMENT:

The Fleet Maintenance / Logistics Building and Training Tower project has made significant progress through the design and engineering phases, Walton County approvals and the selection of the contractor. SWFD will break ground in the Spring of 2018 with a projected completion date of Spring of 2019.

In 2017, the following updates were made:

- Station 1 - exterior update.
- Station 4 - exterior painting of the entire facility.
- Station 5 - improved the existing driveway and parking lot of the east side as well as re-installed a fuel station.
- All Stations - Security system finalization.
- Reconfigured the Administrative offices to include a service window in the lobby area as well as a new office for our Human Resources Coordinator.



FLEET MAINTENANCE

BOB HASINBILLER, EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN



Bob Hasinbiller has been with the South Walton Fire District since 2017 as our Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT).

Fleet Maintenance responsibilities include managing the entire South Walton Fire District fleet, associated recordkeeping, establishing/conducting scheduled maintenance intervals, performing routine/non-routine repairs, scheduling/overseeing outsourced and warranty service and repairs, researching/ordering and purchasing of parts and supplies. Bob also performs minor repairs to staff vehicles and equipment as well as non-routine repairs of wave runners and ATVs associated with our Beach Safety Division.



South Walton Fire District's fleet of response vehicles that depend on our EVT's knowledge and expertise include five "first response" fire apparatus, four "first response" rescue units (ambulance), one 3000 gallon tanker, one brush truck, one non-emergency basic life support ambulance and one electric event cart. Our reserve apparatus include two Quints, one Engine and three rescue (ambulance) units.



FLEET MAINTENANCE 2017 SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Received and placed in service, Squad 3 for Station 3. A custom built Pierce Impel Heavy Rescue, with larger water capacity, increased compartment space and cab seating for 5 firefighters for added manpower if need during deployment.

Received and placed in service three Rescue Re-chassis by Horton Emergency Vehicles. Replacing Rescue 5, Station 5, Rescue 2 Station 2 and Rescue 3 Station 3. These were new Freightliner Chassis with Cummins Power that yielded a savings of 25% per vehicle by remounting.

Completed build specifications for a new 105' Ariel Truck for Station 2. Built on a Pierce Velocity chassis. Estimated in service September 2018.

Completed build specifications for a new Horton Rescue which will be also be installed on a Freightliner chassis with Cummins power. Estimated in service Aug 2018.

No-Smoke systems were added to all frontline apparatus and rescues. This system shall help eliminate exhaust fumes on startup while in the engine bay.

Conducted on site annual ladder testing by Structural Technologies, Inc. All aerial and ground ladders were tested and certified.

Conducted annual pump testing with First In Service, LLC. All fire pumps tested and certified.

COMMUNICATIONS

STERLING STRICKLAND, DIRECTOR



Sterling Strickland joined South Walton Fire District in 2016 as the Communications Director. Director Strickland oversees the daily operations of the Districts Emergency Communications Center. Director Strickland previously worked for 24 years as a Firefighter/ Paramedic in northeast Georgia and 19 years as a part time 911 operator and Quality Assurance Officer. Director Strickland graduated Lanier Technical College in 1995 with a degree in Paramedic Technology and also serves as a regional Emergency Medical Dispatch instructor for the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch.





The Communications Center operates a computer aided dispatching and mapping center with integrated Emergency Medical / Fire Dispatch protocols, an enhanced 911 dual trunk and mapping system and an integral computerized radio communications workstation, all of which aid the Communications Operator with locating the caller in need, obtaining vital information, dispatching appropriate responders and apparatus, providing critical lifesaving and pre-arrival instructions to the caller.

The major benefit when dialing 9-1-1 is that certain information is automatically generated from the incoming call and is immediately available to the call-taker. However, the call-taker is required to verify information and will answer your call by asking the following question.

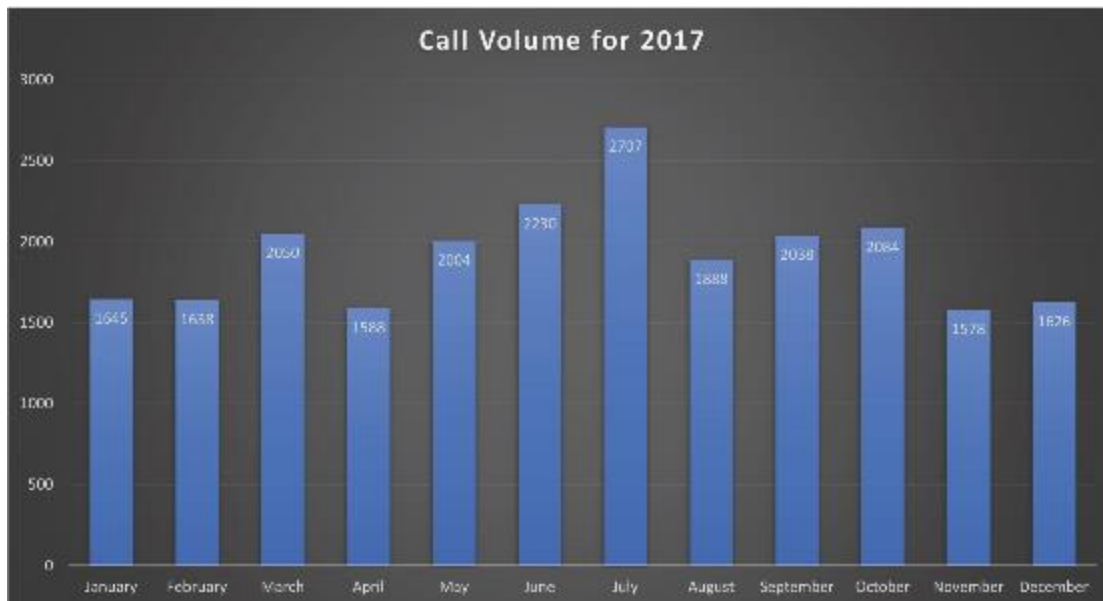
The information that is automatically generated when you call 9-1-1 is limited and requires the call-takers to ask questions that determine the appropriate units to respond to your emergency, i.e. Medical, Fire, or Law Enforcement. Some emergencies require a combination of these agencies.

It is important to keep in mind that while the call-taker is asking for additional information, responding units are being dispatched to your location.

The additional information is immediately relayed to the responders (while in route) to provide them with a pre-assessment of your emergency which allows them to gather the proper equipment necessary to handle the emergency; therefore, saving precious seconds.

SWFD COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

The E911 Communications Center at South Walton Fire District is staffed by a team of highly trained and highly motivated individuals whom are carefully selected and vetted. Each operator is certified by the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch in both Medical and Fire call processing protocols. Each operator is also certified as a Florida Public Safety Telecommunicator as well as being trained in CPR and the use of an AED. A majority of South Walton Fire District E911 operators obtain certifications through the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, APCO, in Public Safety Telecommunications and Fire Service Communications. These professionals are highly educated in providing lifesaving pre-arrival instructions for medical, trauma, rescue, and fire situations. They are also capable of providing triage and prioritization to the responding South Walton Fire District units through a protocol led form of interrogating the caller. This process assists the district by ensuring a proper response of our Fire and EMS resources. The South Walton Fire District Communications Center staff consists of 10 Communications Officers, 2 Communications Supervisors, and the Communications Director. In 2017, a total of 23,076 emergency and non-emergency calls were processed by the Communications Center.



David Nelson
Supervisor



Danny Graham
Supervisor



Blake Griffiths



Ken Stephens



Brad Baldwin



Chris Lambert

Behind every hero there is a guardian looking out for them. I am the heroes' guardian. I am a 911 dispatcher. ~ krankie



Magaly Whitener



Tabatha Strickland



Kerry Seay



Amy Thomas



Scott Guyne



Fire Marshal Sammy Sanchez joined the fire service in 1990 while serving as a Law Enforcement Officer in Bay County, Florida for a short period of time. Fire Marshal Sanchez became a member of the South Walton Fire District in 1998 and holds state certifications in Firefighting, EMS, and as a Fire Safety Inspector. Fire Marshal Sanchez received the SWFD Firefighter of the Year in 2000, the Fire Chief’s Award in 2011 and completed the Emergency Services Leadership Institute certification in 2016. Fire Marshal Sanchez oversees all phases of the Life/Safety Division which include:

Fire /Life Safety Inspections, Fire Investigations, Plans Reviews, Public Fire/Life Safety Education, Public Information, Outdoor Event Permitting and Beach Bonfire Permitting.

Fire/Life safety code compliance is the single most important non-emergency activity performed by the Fire Service. The efforts of the SWFD Life/Safety Division have increased overall fire/life safety awareness in our community and has made an impact in reducing commercial fires. Our primary focus and priority continues to remain true to our mission to

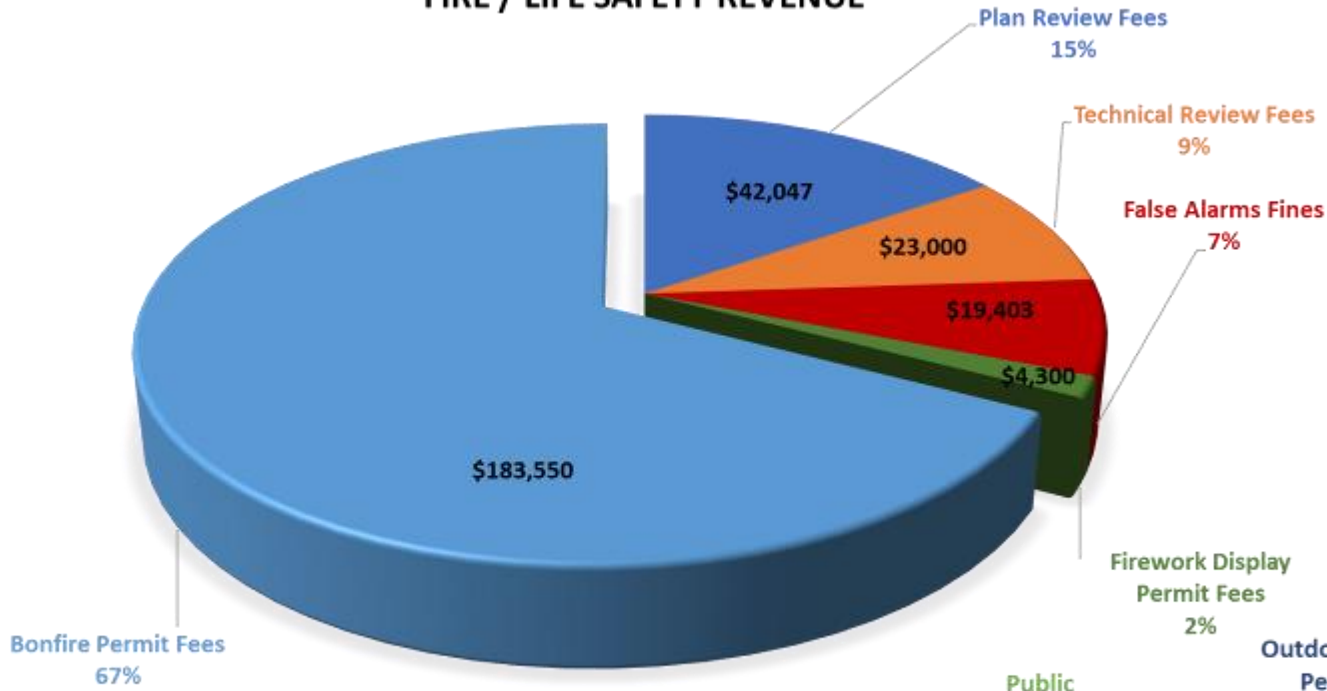
“Continually Improve the Safety and Well-being of Our Community”.

In 2017, the Fire/Life Safety Division conducted 1,387 fire/safety inspections and 538 re-inspections of commercial properties yielding 1,117 fire code violations.

By conducting annual fire/life safety inspections our business owners experience an immediate return on their investment by being able to:

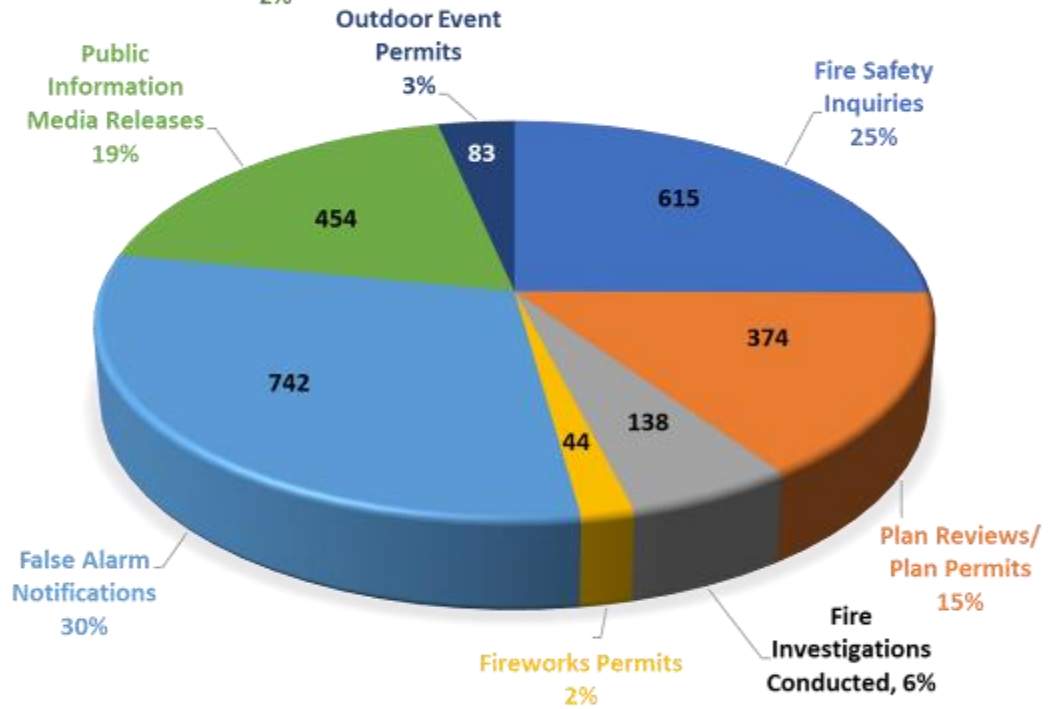
- Operate a commercial occupancy that meets all the applicable fire and life safety laws, regulations, standards and codes.
- Help reduce firefighter injuries that may occur during commercial business fires.
- Reduce and or eliminate the fire risk in their occupancy.
- Avoid loss of revenue due to fire.
- Sustain employees

FIRE / LIFE SAFETY REVENUE



“Fire Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility.”

~ Fire Marshal Sanchez

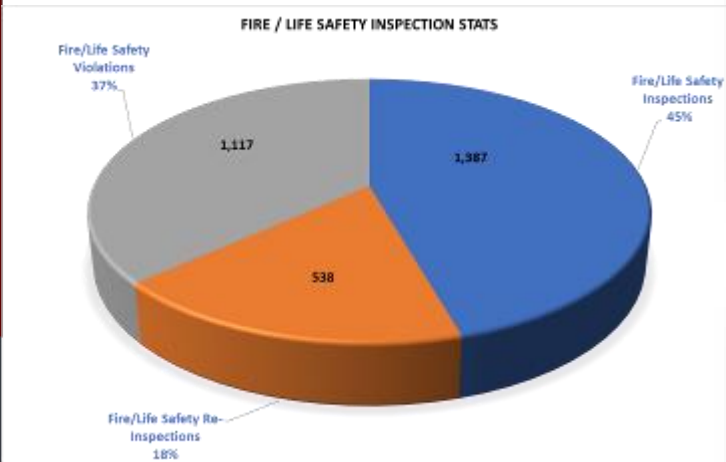


FIRE / LIFE SAFETY STATS

Fire/Life Safety Inspections focus on ensuring that new and existing buildings/facilities are operated and maintained to governing codes. Inspections provide a safe environment for the employee, citizens, visitors of South Walton and are extremely beneficial for all emergency response personnel as well.

Fire/Life Safety Inspections are conducted in all commercial businesses by the SWFD Life/Safety Division Fire Inspectors. Every inspection affords us an opportunity to identify fire/life safety hazards along with methods to remedy these hazards. Our fire inspectors often take advantage of this moment to provide safety and educational messaging to our business owners and their employees.

The Fire/Life Safety Division is responsible for all commercial inspections that include but not limited to site inspections, proper installation and final acceptance tests of fire protection systems and kitchen hood systems. The Fire/Life Safety Division also conducts inspections related to state licensing of certain occupancies, inspections requiring technical expertise, mobile food vendors and outdoor special event inspections which include event tents and structures.



Inspector Gene Ventry joined the South Walton Fire District team in 2013. Inspector Ventry is responsible for conducting comprehensive, technical inspections of every commercial building and property in South Walton. By utilizing Gene's strong fire alarm background, SWFD ensures that all submitted fire alarm plans are code compliant.



Inspector Michael Albano joined the South Walton Fire District Life/Safety Division in 2016. Albano is responsible for conducting comprehensive, technical inspections of every commercial building and property in South Walton. Albano's experience as a firefighter has allowed him to transition quickly into the Fire/Life Safety Division where he excels in fire code research and review.

Annual Permits Issued	141
Temporary Permits Issued	3,742
Commercial Impact Fee Receipts Issued	32
Residential Impact Fee Receipts Issued	998
Permit Review Fee Receipts Issued	142



Customer Service Specialist Julie Clarke joined the South Walton Fire District in 2017. With customer service background, Julie was able to bridge her skill set and assimilate herself into the Fire/Life Division. Julie is primarily responsible for receiving plan reviews, collecting fire district impact fees, processing beach bonfire permits and assisting the numerous customers that call or stop by our administration offices daily.



In 2010, the South Walton Fire District was established as the beach bonfire permitting agency for Walton County. The South Walton Fire District works diligently to ensure each permit is carefully vetted by establishing safety parameters for the beach bonfire, ensuring the protection of the beach and our sea turtles and identifying a responsible party for every permitted beach bonfire.

Whether it's an annual permit (for beachfront property owners) or temporary beach bonfire permits (available to anyone of legal age on public property) they are reviewed and checked for compliance on a nightly basis by the TDC Beach Code Enforcement Officers. Beach bonfires are a privilege in South Walton and through proper permitting and compliance they can remain a popular beach activity for everyone.

BEACH SAFETY

David Vaughan, Beach Safety Director



Beach Safety Director David Vaughan began his career with South Walton Fire District as a Lifeguard in 2011. With over fourteen years of experience in Beach Safety, Vaughan completed his third year in the role of Beach Safety Director in 2017. Vaughan oversees the administration and operations of the South Walton Fire District Beach Safety Division.

The 2017 lifeguard season enjoyed great success in its primary responsibilities for Education and Prevention efforts, as well as with its Emergency Medical Services response performance. South Walton saw an increase of almost a ½ million additional visitors in 2017, combined with a record high number of Red and Double Red Flag condition days during the busiest times of the season.

In 2017, there were 53 days of Red Flags and 18 days of Double Red Flags which accounted for 32% of the entire 220 day Beach Safety season under very hazardous conditions.

In 12 seasons, there have been ZERO fatal drownings on guarded beaches!

SWFD Beach Safety continued its program growth in 2017. An additional Tower was added to the Grayton Beach area, and two additional Towers were placed at Rosemary Beach.

During the 2017 lifeguard season, 1,601,207 Public Contacts were made to educate South Walton's beach goers on beach safety. The total number of Public Contacts since the inception of our Beach Safety and Education program in 2006 comes to over 2.5 million.

During the 2017 Lifeguard season, South Walton Fire District Beach Safety personnel performed 87 Water Rescues, of which 60 were performed outside South Walton Fire District's contractual patrol zones.

Public Assists were up from 601 in 2016 to 771 in 2017, a 28% increase.

Medical Response calls to the beach also hit a record high of 379 calls, with 89 of those classified as Major Medical calls.

South Walton Lifeguards also helped with 197 lost persons assists on the beach.

South Walton Fire District lifeguards had a positive impact on preventing water-related rescues and fatalities by producing a record number of public contacts and 216,504 Preventive Actions due to an increase in our mobile capabilities and 3 additional Towers.

The daily "beach conditions" script on the South Walton Fire District public website combined with the South Walton Fire District's social media pages have proven to be popular tools in notifying the public of current beach conditions and flag information. Locals and visitors can also have the beach flag conditions texted to them daily by texting the word "FLAG" to 31279.

The South Walton Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners declared the week of June 4-10 to be South Walton Fire District Beach Safety/Rip Current Awareness Week in South Walton. This was recognized at the regular South Walton Fire District Fire Board meeting.



Lifeguard Supervisor Colin Perlaky joined SWFD Beach Safety in 2016. Supervisor Perlaky comes from the beaches of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina and is responsible for overseeing the daily operations, training, and administrative functions of the Beach Safety Division. Perlaky is a Fire Fighter / EMT with over 10 years as an open water Lifeguard, USLA Training Officer, ASHI Certified Emergency Medical Responder Instructor, VFIS Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor, USLA Certified Personal Watercraft Operator, and PADI Certified Diver.



Lifeguard Supervisor Joe Jansen joined SWFD Beach Safety in 2016. Supervisor Jansen became an open water Lifeguard after a career as a professor at the University of Cincinnati and business ownership background in Kentucky. Jansen is responsible for overseeing the daily operations, training, and administrative functions of the Beach Safety Division. Jansen is an USLA Training Officer, ASHI Certified Emergency Medical Responder Instructor, VFIS Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor, USLA Certified Personal Watercraft Operator, and PADI Certified Diver.



South Walton Fire District Lifeguards performed water safety duties at a number of prominent local events, including the Sandestin Triathlon for which we provided 16 lifeguards and rescue equipment. In addition, South Walton Fire District's Lifeguard team provided water safety education

and mentoring to area schools, social events, as well as the South Walton Fire District's Polar Plunge.

South Walton Fire District Beach Safety Division has offered the beach wheelchair service since 2008.

Beach wheel chairs were offered at five locations in 2017: Tower 1 (inlet Beach regional Access), Tower 2 (Santa Clara Beach Access), Tower 6 (Ed Walline Beach Access) and Tower 9 (Miramar Beach).

Beach wheelchair usage has grown in popularity each year with 323 beach patrons utilizing this service in 2017.

In 2017, the South Walton Fire District Beach Safety Division earned its Advanced Agency certification which reflects the highest national standards of training.

The Beach Safety Division contributes to surf lifesaving and open water education by active participation in the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA), USLA South Eastern Regional Chapter, as well as USLA Emerald Coast Local Chapter.

Involvement in these organizations enables our organization to be at the forefront in the development and standardization of operational guidelines as well as being directly involved with the testing of new methodologies, training protocols and practices.

BEACH SAFETY

**Tower 1
Inlet Beach Tower - Access 2B
438 S. Orange Street**

**Rover 1
Inlet Beach**

**Tower 2
Rosemary Beach Tower
Walkover "C" / Rosemary Ave.**

**Rover 2
Rosemary Beach**

**Tower 3
Rosemary Beach Tower
Walkover "G" / 24 Spanish Town Court**

**Rover 3
Rosemary Beach**

**Tower 4
Santa Clara Tower - Access 17
3468 E. County Highway 30A**

**Rover 4, Jet Ski 4
Seagrove Beach**

**Tower 5
Van Ness Butler Tower - Access 30
1931 E. Co Highway 30A**

**Rover 5
Seaside**

**Tower 6
Grayton Beach Tower - Access 31
288 Garfield Street**

**Rover 6
Grayton Beach**

**Tower 7
Blue Mountain Tower – Access 36
2365 S. Co Highway 83**

**Rover 7
Blue Mountain Beach**

**Tower 8
Gulfview Heights Tower – Access 37
186 Gulfview Heights**

**Rover 8
Santa Rosa Beach East**

**Tower 9
Ed Walline Tower – Access 39
4447 W. County Highway 30A**

**Rover 9, Jet Ski 9
Santa Rosa Beach Central**

**Tower 10
Dune Allen Tower – Access 43
5753 W. County Highway**

**Rover 10
Santa Rosa Beach West**

**Tower 11
Sandestin HOA Beach Access
4010 Beachside One Dr**

**Rover 11
Sandestin East**

**Tower 12
Sandestin HOA Beach Access
4010 Beachside One Dr**

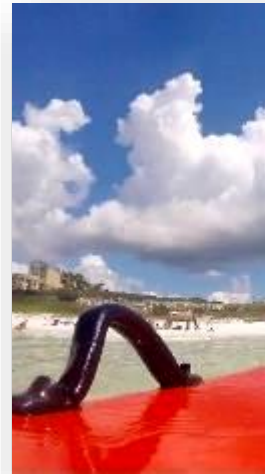
**Rover 12
Sandestin West**

**Tower 13
Geronimo Tower – Access 48
735 Scenic Gulf Drive**

**Rover 13
Miramar Beach East**

**Tower 14
Pompano Joe's Beach - Access 49
2375 Scenic Gulf Drive**

**Rover 14
Miramar Beach West**



SWFD Beach Safety utilizes fourteen (14) ATV "Rovers" to continuously patrol the beaches of South Walton.



Junior Lifeguard Program Goals

- To demonstrate and teach water safety while enjoying the beach and Gulf environment
- To promote and develop future lifeguards
- To foster good sportsmanship
- To meet other young people with similar interests and develop new friendships
- To most importantly ...

HAVE FUN!



“Creating a safer beach environment for our community through education.”

The South Walton Junior Lifeguard Program is held under the supervision of the South Walton Fire District Beach Safety Director and South Walton Fire District Professional Lifeguards. Program participants are instructed in many aspects of beach, water safety, environmental and community stewardship.

The South Walton Fire District Junior Lifeguard Program began in 2009 with 60 participants and has grown to 125 participants in 2017.

All 125 participants successfully completed all components of the 3 week courses.

We are very happy to report that the feedback we received from the parents of our participants and the community at large has been very positive.





The members of the South Walton Fire District are committed to its Mission, Vision, and Core Values of

**LEADERSHIP – TEAMWORK – INTEGRITY -
COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

We believe we have a duty to demonstrate our loyalty and respect to those we serve by our involvement in the communities where we work.



9-1-1 STAIR CLIMB





ELF RIDE



POLAR BEAR PLUNGE



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



SWFD ANGEL TREE

**AWARD CEREMONY
2017**

Under certain circumstances, South Walton Fire District members may put themselves at risk in order to save the life of another. These selfless actions should not go unrecognized.

In addition to acts of bravery, members of the South Walton Fire District are recognized for educational achievements and outstanding services to the public.

South Walton Fire District proudly recognized the following members at its 2017 Annual Awards Ceremony.



**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
MIKE SERPAS**



**COMMUNICATIONS
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR
KERRY SEAY**



**LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR
COREY CRAWFORD**



**FIRE CHIEF'S AWARD
LOCAL 3516 PRESIDENT
SCOTT GUYNE**

“Every aspect of the work we do, contributing to our team or in service to our fire district, is your personal autograph that you should stand behind.” ~ Fire Chief Rick Talbert



**LIFEGUARD COMPETITOR
OF THE YEAR
AUSTIN KISNER**

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT RIBBON

SGT/P Phillip Block—Associates Degree
 FF/P Chris Schneider—Associates Degree
 FF/P Mike Serpas—Associates Degree
 FF/EMT Kenneth Reynolds—Associates Degree

AWARD OF TENURE**5 YEARS**

SGT/P Phillip Block	FF/P Tyler Fredricks
FF/EMT Robert Hall	CS David Nelson
FO Carole Martin	

10 YEARS

FF/P Dan Corcoran	FC Rick Talbert
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15 YEARS

LT/P Daniel LaTour	FF/P Jerry Moss
SGT/EMT James Odom	FF/EMT Kenneth Reynolds

20 YEARS

LT/P Paul Mehlos	SGT/EMT John Bunnicelli
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FIREFIGHTER OF THE QUARTER

1st SGT/EMT James Odom	2nd FF/P Matt Cramer
3rd FF/P Mike Serpas	4th FF/P Josh Ellis

ROBERT HEIGHTON LIFESAVING AWARD

FF/P Chris Schneider	LG Brandon Connellan
LT/P Mike Redmond	LG Cameron Buckley
SGT/P John Lawson	LG Randy Wright
FF/P Mark Lee	LG Corey Crawford
FF/P Doug Mishler	LG Megan Grenon
LT/EMT Dave Ward	LT/EMT Kevin Dell
FF/EMT Gabriel Gray	LGS Colin Perlaky
CO Ken Stephens	CS David Nelson
CO Tabatha Strickland	FF/P Austin Steele
CS Danny Graham	FF/EMT Thomas Thompson
SGT/P Shawn Hutchins	SGT/P Phillip Block
LT/P Kevin VanValkenburgh	FF/P Steven Foreman
FF/EMT Brandon Graves	FF/EMT Kevin Ebersole
FF/P Ethen McKuhen	CO Ken Stephens
FF/P Anthony Evans	FF/P Matt Cramer
SGT/EMT John Bunnicelli	FF/EMT Rob Hall
CO Scott Guyne	LT/P Glen Kuehner

UNIT COMMENDATION AWARD

FC Richard Talbert
 OC Ryan Crawford
 DC Herb Patterson
 LT/EMT Kevin Dell
 FF/EMT Tim Foxhall
 SGT/P Mark Youngblood
 FF/P Matthew Hayes
 FF/EMT Kevin Ebersole
 FF/P Austin Steele
 SGT/EMT CharLee Lanier
 LT/P Glen Kuehner
 FF/EMT Thomas Thompson
 FF/P Steve Smith
 LT/EMT Nate Brown
 CAPT Jason Cotton
 SGT/P John Lawson
 FF/P Mark Lee
 SGT/P Wes Usher
 FF/P Tyler Fredricks
 FF/EMT Coy Surprise
 FF/P Josh Ellis
 FF/P Tim Parker
 FF/P Matt Cramer
 FF/P Thomas Santner
 FF/P Scott Thompson
 FF/EMT Garrett Brantley

TIM PADGETT EXCEPTIONAL DUTY AWARD

FF/P STEVE SMITH
 FF/EMT GARRETT BRANTLEY
 FF/P CHRIS BURRI

CERTIFICATE OF EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE

FF/P Dean Sansom
 FF/P Matt Cramer
 FF/P James Carter
 FF/P Tyler Fredricks
 FF/EMT Travis Spencer

EXTRA MILE AWARD

SWFD HONOR GUARD

SGT/P Shawn Hutchins
 FF/P James Carter
 CO Chris Lambert
 DC Corey Harned
 LT/P Brian Hughes
 SGT/EMT Allen Sainz
 FF/P Drew Masat
 FF/EMT Joel Schofield
 SGT/P Phillip Block
 LT/EMT Dave Ward
 FF/EMT Adam Hutchins
 FF/EMT Dawson Beale
 FF/P Mike Serpas
 FF/P Ryan Fredricks
 SGT/EMT John Bunnicelli
 FF/P Luke Lewis
 CS Danny Graham
 FF/P Jason Durko
 FF/P Kevin Hart
 FF/P Kate Christenson
 FF/EMT Travis Spencer
 SGT/EMT James Odom
 FF/P Tracey Schuster
 LT/EMT Steve Newsom
 CO Kerry Seay
 CO Amy Thomas

FF/P Jason Durko
 SGT/EMT John Bunnicelli
 LT/P Mike Redmond
 JR LG INSTR Evelyn Williams
 FF/P Drew Masat





Santa's Little Elves.



SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

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