

# Seminole County Fire Department History



In **1974**, the Seminole County Department of Public Safety, EMS/Fire/Rescue Division (hereafter referred to as Department) was created to serve unincorporated Seminole County. The Department was created from numerous volunteer fire departments that were established across the county. The Department grew to over 13 stations by the year 2000. In 2002, Seminole County EMS/Fire/Rescue merged with the City of Altamonte Springs Fire Department to make one of the larger fire departments in Central Florida. In October 2008, the City of Winter Springs Fire Department merged into Seminole County increasing the number of Seminole County Stations to 18.

This department operates under a sophisticated "First Response" mutual aid system. Every city in Seminole County, along with Volusia and Orange Counties participate in this sharing of resources. This concept dispatches the closest unit(s) to an emergency regardless of jurisdiction.

Seminole County EMS/Fire/Rescue responds to emergencies that threaten life and property daily. A proactive approach is taken in many of these emergency situations by extensive training and disaster planning. The department operates under the Incident Management System of Incident Command for both daily operations and alarm situations.

The Department operates 18 stations strategically located throughout Seminole County. Resources include; 16 Engines, 2 Tower/Ladder Trucks, 17 ALS (Advanced Life Support) rescue units, and 1 heavy rescue/special response unit. Other resources include 8 woods trucks, 2 EMS special event golf cart, 6 EMS bicycles, 2 four-wheel drive tracker units, one mobile command unit, 3 water tenders, and a prescribed burn unit. Field units are directed by Division Chiefs and directly supervised by four Battalion Chiefs.