

# Seminole County Fire Department 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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🕅 scfdpio

seminolecountyfl.gov/FireDepartment





# FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

This past year has been a remarkable year for the Seminole County Fire Department (SCFD) in terms of growth, training, and innovation. We are pleased to highlight some of our significant achievements and milestones over the past year.

We proudly marked the groundbreaking of Station 39 in the Paola/ Sanford area and celebrated the opening of the new facility for Station 11 in the City of Altamonte Springs. Additionally, we acquired two highwater/flood and multi-use rescue vehicles to enhance our emergency response capabilities, thanks to federal ARPA funding. The integration of the HAAS digital warning system into all our fire apparatus has significantly improved roadside safety by alerting drivers of emergency responses.

Our commitment to excellence was reaffirmed as we achieved the "Gold Standard" from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) for the fourth consecutive time. We also partnered with the Gunner Martin Foundation to provide free door alarms to residents, helping to prevent pediatric drownings. Furthermore, we

celebrated the promotion of a record 66 personnel, including four Assistant Chiefs, four Battalion Chiefs, 19 Lieutenants, 37 Engineers, and two Dispatch promotions.

On behalf of the 574 members of the SCFD, we are honored to serve our Seminole County community, providing the essential resources needed for the preservation of life and property.

Sincerely,



Fire Chief Matt Kinley Seminole County Fire Department

-Lt. Toni Loudermilk, hired in 2006 and promoted to Lieutenant in 2023



Firefighter Jesse Crews was promoted to the rank of Engineer in 2023 and serves on the Special Hazards & **Operations Team (SHOT).** 

I love the variety of specialties and advancement opportunities at SCFD. The feeling of camaraderie in our department is like no other. I've made great friends in this department and they are like my second family.



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**Fire Stations** 







**Bob Dallari** District 1

Jay Zembower District 2



### **Seminole County Board of County Commissioners**



Lee Constantine District 3



**Amy Lockhart** District 4



Andria Herr District 5

#### SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMISSIONERS • 04





#### PURPOSE

Ready to respond. Trained to make a difference.

### MISSION

The mission of the Seminole County Fire Department is **the preservation of life and property** through the rapid response of highly trained personnel with appropriate resources and continuous prevention, so everyone goes home safe.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES**

Selflessness through Duty Consistency of Service Fairness and Equity Dedication to Community





SCFD Fact: SCFD was founded on October 1, 1974.

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#### SCFD ORGANIZATIONAL CHART • 06

# AT A GLANCE





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# **OPERATIONS**



**BRYON CHANEY** 

Assistant Chief

**B** Shift

**BEN DECUIR** Deputy Chief of Operations

**JOHN THIBERT Deputy Chief of Administration** 



**JOLENE JOYCE** Assistant Chief A Shift



**JASON PRATHER** Assistant Chief C Shift



SCFD operates **three shifts** (A, B,  $\vartheta$  C) led by an Assistant Chief who serves as the Shift Commander. They are responsible for **four Battalions**, each with a Battalion Chief who oversees the stations and personnel within its area. See page 36 for Battalion listings and Station information.

#### Value Saved

PRE-INCIDENT VALUE	LOSSES	VALUE SAVED
\$353,689,566	\$9,578,397	\$344,111,169

SCFD FACT: There are 153 personnel staffed per shift.



### Seminole County Fire Department **Protective Service Area**

OPERATIONS • 10

### **Incidents by Response Program Classification**





80,000

70,000

0

Wildland Fire Services



\*Incidents – A call for service prompting a unit response. \*\*Responses – When a unit and/or units respond to an incident. The call type dictates the number of units that respond.

### **Total SCFD Incidents & Responses By Calendar Year**

# MEDICAL DIRECTOR

# EMS OPERATIONS



Seminole County's Medical Director Todd Husty speaks to media about SCFD's medical protocols and monthly meetings. These meetings lead SCFD personnel in discussion on recent EMS calls to help with quality assurance, dialogue, and training.

The Medical Director's Office establishes the **emergency medical protocols** that Paramedics and EMTs perform and practice under the Medical Director's license. It also oversees compliance and provides continuing education opportunities.

In 2023, SCFD awarded:

- 13 Life Saving Award Recognitions to 85 SCFD personnel, including dispatchers
- 10 Citizen Life Saving Awards



- Firefighter/Paramedic Thomas Blum, SCFD's Paramedic of the Year











**EMS TRANSPORTS** 

TRAUMA ALERTS: 191 | STROKE ALERTS: 552 CARDIAC ALERTS: 589 | STEMI ALERTS: 100 **SEPSIS ALERTS: 662** 

### **PulsePoint**

This app alerts users to a nearby cardiac arrest so they can perform CPR until help arrives.

There are nearly 6,900 monthly users and over 390 **AEDs in Seminole** County listed in PulsePoint.





EMS OPERATIONS • 14

# EDUCATING & EMPOWERING RESIDENTS





FOR MORE

#### **COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM**

The Community Paramedicine Program continued to make strides in its second year. SCFD paramedics made thousands of free home visits to patients.

This innovative and vital initiative addresses the diverse needs of specific patient demographics, such as patients who frequently call 911 for routine care. By harnessing the specialized skills of paramedics, the program offers invaluable guidance and support by empowering patients and connecting them to the right care and services they need.



### **DROWNING PREVENTION EDUCATION**

In 2023, there were nine pediatric drowning calls in Seminole County, four of which resulted in deaths. To help prevent drownings, SCFD teamed up with the Gunner Martin Foundation to distribute educational materials and nearly 500 free door alarms to residents at Seminole County Library branches. The alarms alert parents if an unattended child accesses a door to a pool.

SCFD Firefighter Chris Martin and his wife Christina founded the Gunner Martin Foundation to raise awareness and educate others on drowning prevention. Martin was a football player for the University of Central Florida and the NFL who chose to become a Seminole County firefighter after the tragic pool drowning of his two-year-old son Gunner on April 6, 2016.

Firefighter Chris Martin was also honored with the "First Responder Award for Seminole County" by the Children's Safety Village for his work championing pool safety education. Firefighter Chris Martin with his family and a photo of his late son Gunner.





# NEW STATIONS

#### **FIRE STATION 39 GROUNDBREAKING**

As Seminole County's population grows, so does the demand for emergency services. In 2023, SCFD broke ground on the new Fire Station 39, which will serve the Paola/Heathrow area. Currently in progress, the Department's 21st fire station will improve response times by a little over two minutes in large sections of the northwest area of the County. The new site will be located at 5639 First Street in Sanford at the intersection of Orange Boulevard and serve more than 11,000 residents.



#### **FIRE STATION 11**

SCFD partnered with the City of Altamonte Springs to relocate Fire Station 11 to a new facility, which opened in December 2023 next to the Altamonte Springs SunRail station. Originally located in the City's municipal complex for more than four decades, the new 10,300-squarefoot station is designed to accommodate the station's increased capabilities and needs.







NEW STATIONS • 18



# FISCAL

### BUDGET \$81.9 Million

### **FIRE MILLAGE RATE** 2.7649



At SCFD, 30 Firefighter positions are funded through a \$7.3 million federal grant for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER Grant).

### Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Breakdown

SEMINO/

	FY23 Adopted Budget	FY23 Actuals	FY23 Expenditures
Personnel Services	\$65,930,171	\$68,631,986	77.5%
Operating Expenditures	\$7,170,613	\$7,989,215	9.0%
Internal Service Charges	\$5,745,429	\$6,425,342	7.3%
Capital Outlay	\$2,386,577	\$4,809,590	5.4%
Grants & Aids	\$731,636	\$751,489	0.8%
Interfund Transfers Out	-	\$471	0.0%
Grand Total	\$81,964,425	\$88,608,092	100.0%

**574** Full-Time Personnel

### **CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY**

SCFD installed new technology in all of its fire apparatus, which **digitally alerts drivers** via their car's dashboard systems when there is an accident nearby. This gives drivers a heads up on accidents so they can slow down, steer clear, and keep first responders and others safe.



# TECHNOLOGY



# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & TRAINING



### **2023 TRAINING** INCLUDED

- Quarterly Training
- Live Fire Training
- EMS Training
- Extrication/Bailout Training
- Pump Ops Training
- Trails Training

SCFD's 19-acre, 44,000-square-foot Fire Training Center in Longwood is a hub for all training related to fire services in Seminole County, including Fire, EMS, and Special Operations.

### **SPECIAL OPS TRAINING**

- Confined Space Rescue
- Vehicle Machinery Rescue (VMR)
  - VMR Operations
  - VMR Technician
- Rope Rescue
- Rope Operations
- **Rope Technician**
- Structural Tower Rescue
- Advanced Rigging
- Tree Rescue

- Structural Collapse Rescue
- Trench Rescue
- Water Rescue Training (Surface, Boat, and Dive)
- Hazardous Materials & Tech Training





FIRE

DEPARTMEN

PROGRESS

# **Training Hours by Category in 2023**

- Driver/Operator Training 15,220 hours
- EMS Training 16,927 hours
- Firefighter Training 131,915 hours
- Hazardous Materials Training 4,317 hours
- Officer Training 16,539 hours
- Recruit Training 9,600 hours
- Training Drills **19,618 hours**
- **Total Fire & EMS Training Hours:** 214,136

More than 80 Live Fire Training sessions were conducted at SCFD's Burn Building in 2023, with over 80% of the Department participating.

SCFD Fact: The Seminole County Fire Training Center offers recertification classes, technical training courses, and testing for many outside state and national agencies.

# NEW HIRES & RECRUITMENT



In 2023, three New Hire classes with a total of 40 recruits were trained and placed into Operations.

The Recruit Classes train for eight weeks at the SCFD Fire Training Center. Over 80% of the training is hands-on. The orientation is facilitated by Training Lieutenants as well as subject matter experts.

SCFD's Fire Training Center has a live burn prop, car fire prop, and propane cylinder prop.

In 2023, SCFD and Dispatch personnel attended more than 25 recruitment events at local fire colleges and Seminole County public high schools.

SCFD partners with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Military, and Seminole County Public Schools for the "Get Informed About Uniforms" program to teach high school students about careers in public safety.



**SCFD Fact:** More than 60% of new recruits call Seminole County their hometown.









#### NEW HIRES & RECRUITMENT • 24

"The Seminole County Fire Department has many specialized teams, and it offers lots of opportunities for everyone to grow. The opportunity for advancement is unlimited."

- Lt. Brad Myers, SHOT Training Lieutenant, hired in 2007 SCFD is an all-hazards Fire Department with plenty of special teams and opportunities for training and professional growth.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Special Hazards & Operations Team (SHOT)
- Tower Team
- Tanker Team
- Prescribed Burn Team
- Bike Team
- Trail Responses

- Marine Unit
   Operations
- Dive Team
- Aviation Rescue Specialists (in cooperation with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office)
- Large Animal Rescue

Honor Guard

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

- Peer Fitness
  Team
- Urban Search & Rescue Task Force
- Trainers and Instructors

### DEPLOYMENTS

The Urban Search & Rescue Central Florida Task Force 4 deployed to Taylor County in August 2023 in response to Hurricane Idalia. The mission of the US&R Team is to respond to natural and manmade disasters and to provide search and rescue, medical support, communications, and damage assessment. SCFD has 35 members on US&R Task Force 4.

Members of SCFD's Burn Team joined an interagency team with the State of Florida through the U.S. Forest Service and deployed to Eugene, Oregon to help fight wildfires.









# FIRE PREVENTION





up 3%\*

### 89 FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

\*compared to 2022.

4,456 PLANS REVIEWED up 28%\*

7,500

up 47%\*

EXISTING

INSPECTIONS

The 11-member Fire Prevention team works to ensure the safety of businesses and residences. They educate and enforce the Fire Codes, which help businesses and homeowners mitigate and ultimately survive the most common fire hazards.



SCFD's Fire Marshal Christina Diaz was appointed as the East Central Director of the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association. She serves as one of six regional directors leading the 1,600 members at the organization.

#### **SMOKE ALARM OUTREACH**

Over the past year, SCFD distributed and installed 551 smoke alarms, making 285 homes safer.

SCFD also proudly partnered with the American Red Cross of Central Florida on three smoke detector outreach events.

After a houseboat fire, SCFD hosted a smoke detector installation event at a local boat marina during Fire Prevention Week. Crews installed smoke alarms on 23 boats.



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Seminole County boat owners receive smoke alarms during **Fire Prevention Week** 



# PUBLIC INFORMATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH



SCFD takes a proactive approach to educating residents through the local media on important public safety topics.

This year, the public information team handled more than **1,000 media inquiries and stories.** 

BIG BEAR HUGS: Rotary Club of Lake Mary donates 'Trauma Teddy Bears' to Seminole County Fire Department



Seminole County Fire Department Firefighter Chris O'Neill with the donated 'Trauma Teddy Bears' from Rotary Club of Lake Mary. When Seminole County Fire epartment Firefighter Chris Wiell runs medical or fire calls ut of Station 24 in Winter prings, he has noticed numerus times that children are overhelmed or frightened. It could form a seizure or even having be in the back of a Rescue mbulance) to be transported to he hospital. Sometimes he even lows up surgical gloves as balnons to give to the children to sitract them from a scary situa-

See BEARS, Page 6

Dropping off donations



L1. The Mun Freet, Freehitt, Benefitzer/BAT Cooper Knoels, Intelligibiar Janes Agei and technical News Magula load donated school supplies from a cart Thready Seminois County is to Bygathmeet preparement dops of consisting of school supplies of the county is a school of the county of the county of the county of the county of Donations were collected at all Sommole County Free Department stations and Seminole County Library branches. BICABBO BAMBIEZ BUXEDM OR AMDO STIMULE.



The Department participated in **676** Community Outreach Events, averaging **56 events** per month and reaching more than **122,813** residents! Events included:

- Fire station visits
- Community educational events, including CPR classes, health fairs, school visits
- Recruitment events
- Car seat installations/checks

This year, SCFD Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians helped install and inspect 102 car seats, a 36% increase from the previous year.



The Save a Life Seminole Hands-Only CPR program trained 1,772 residents, a 50% increase from the previous year.

SCFD values its partnership with Seminole County Public Schools, which requires its 9th and 11th graders to learn basic first aid and CPR.

#### A life saving lesson to local high school students from the Seminole County Fire Department



#### Special to the Herald

Personnel from the Seminole County Fire Department recently taught more hands-only CPR and AED use to more than 1,000 9th and 11th grade students at Winter Springs High School.

Florida House Bill 157 (2021 Legislative) requires school districts to provide basic training in first aid, including CPR for students in 9th and 11th grades. Seminole County

Firefighters/Paramedics and the Community Outreach Team trained the students. The students rotated through classes throughout the day and watched a CPR video and then conducted

# FOR MORE INFORMATION



# EMERGENCY Communications

SCFD's 911 Emergency Communications Team consists of **37** personnel. Dispatchers work four different 12-hour shifts.



Calls to 911: 55,222

Inbound Non-Emergency Calls: 38,873

Outbound Non-Emergency Calls: 34,389

### Total Calls: **128,484**

The SCFD Emergency Communications Center fields after-hour calls for Animal Services, Public Works, Traffic Engineering, Environmental Services, and Fleet and Facilities. **356** 

calls on 10/4/2023

BUSIEST HOUR OF THE DAY 5,845

> calls during the 12 p.m. hour

CALLS ANSWERED

**AVERAGE 911 CALLS** 

ANSWERED PER DAY

151

WITHIN 10 SECONDS

97.6%

### **TRAINING & LEARNING**



SCFD Dispatchers spend time learning what crews do in the field. New crew members also shadow Dispatchers to better understand Communications Center operations.







Dispatcher Nora Acuna was recognized with a "Stork Club" award for assisting with a birth of a baby over the phone. She met Riley, the baby she delivered, along with her family.



Delta Shift learns hands-only CPR.



# SCFD FLEET

# **NUMBER OF FRONTLINE UNITS**

- 16 Engines
- 21 Rescues
- 6 Aerials (4 Towers and 2 Quints)
- 1 Squad Heavy Rescue
- 5 Tankers
- 8 Woods Trucks

- 8 Marine Units
- 5 UTVs
- 2 High-Water vehicles
- 1 Bariatric Transport Unit
- 1 Mobile Command Unit
- 1 Mass Casualty Unit

- 1 AmbuBus
- 1 Rehab Unit
- 4 Battalions
- 1 EMS 1
- 1 Incident Command Technician (Tech 1)





\*Photos courtesy of Stephen Faulk, Norman Reyburn, and Seth Reynolds

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SCFD FLEET • 34

# SCFD FLEET



**Abbreviation Key** 

#### **NEW UNITS**

Following the flooding caused by Hurricane Ian in 2022, SCFD needed to upgrade its two older high-water vehicles, built in 1968. Using federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the County purchased two new 6x6 high-water vehicles. These multi-purpose vehicles (TSU1 & TSU2) help residents during emergencies, including hurricanes, storms, and brushfires.



# **BATTALION 1**



# FIRE STATIONS

**E** = Engine | **R** = Rescue | **T** = Tower | **Q** = Quint | **TK** = Tanker | **WD** = Woods Truck **BT** = Boat | **ATV** = All Terrain Vehicle | **BC** = Battalion Chief

### Station 11

Constructed in 2023

### **SERVING ALTAMONTE** SPRINGS

2721 S. Ronald Reagan Boulevard, Altamonte Springs



Unit Responses:

E11 - 3,217 R11 – 3,248

**Other Units:** WD11

> **BT11** ATV11

SCFD FIRE STATIONS • 36



Constructed in 1985

### SERVING ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

325 Douglas Avenue, Altamonte Springs Busiest Station

Unit Responses: E12 – 4,176 R12 – 3,856 T12 – 1,862

Other Units: BC1





### Station 13

Constructed in 2008 SERVING FOREST CITY/ BEAR LAKE

3860 East State Road 436, Apopka

\*Peak load unit operates 9 A.M. – 5 P.M., Monday – Friday

2 <sup>nd</sup> Busiest Station	
<b>Unit Responses:</b>	
E13 – 3,943	
R13 – 3,324	
T39 – 1,496	
R14 – 1,091*	
<b>Other Units:</b>	
ТК13	



**37** • SCFD FIRE STATIONS

# Station 14

Constructed in 1992

### SERVING ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

600 Hattaway Drive, Altamonte Springs



Unit Responses: E14 – 1,486

# Station 22

Constructed in 1984

### **SERVING FERN PARK**

7122 US Highway 17-92, Casselberry



Unit Responses: E22 – 2,782 R22 – 2,703

# **BATTALION 2**



### Station 21

Constructed in 2005

# SERVING CASSELBERRY

681 Seminola Boulevard, Casselberry

\*Peak load unit operates 9 A.M. – 5 P.M., Monday – Friday Unit Responses: E21 – 2,487 R21 – 2,148 R28 – 814\* Other Units: EMS1





# Station 23

Constructed circa 1970

### SERVING HOWELL BRANCH

4810 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park



Unit Responses: E23 – 2,025 R23 – 1,934





Constructed in 1975

### SERVING CASSELBERRY

1055 Red Bug Lake Road, Casselberry



Unit Responses: T25 – 2,837 R25 – 2,558

### Station 26

Constructed in 1994

### SERVING WINTER SPRINGS/TUSKAWILLA

850 Northern Way, Winter Springs



Unit Responses: E26 – 1,705 R26 – 1,646



Constructed in 1990

SERVING WINTER SPRINGS

5280 Red Bug Lake Road, Winter Springs **3<sup>rd</sup> Busiest Station** 

Unit Responses: E27 – 2,830 R27 – 2,293 T27 – 1,046 Other Units: BC2

# **BATTALION 3**





### **Station 29**

Constructed in 2018 SERVING JAMESTOWN/ ALOMA WOODS

2300 Via Loma Drive, Oviedo



Unit Responses: E29 – 1,101 R29 – 1,056 Other Units: WD29



# Station 16



Constructed in 1984

### SERVING WEKIVA SPRINGS/SABAL POINT

930 Wekiva Springs Road, Longwood Unit Responses: E16 – 2,175 R16 – 2,440

> Other Units: WD16 BT16

### Station 34

Constructed in 1981

### **SERVING PAOLA/SANFORD**

4905 Wayside Drive, Sanford Unit Responses:

**Busiest Station** 

Q34 - 2,972 R34 - 2,370

### **Other Units:**

WD34 TK34 BT34 ATV34 BT39



Constructed in 1989

### **SERVING SANFORD**

201 West County Home Road, Sanford Unit Responses: E35 – 1,951 R35 – 1,822 Squad 2 – 1,180 Other Units: BT35

WD35 Dive Unit 35

# **BATTALION 4**







# Station 36

Constructed in 1985 SERVING LAKE MARY/ HEATHROW

6200 West Lake Mary Boulevard, Lake Mary Unit Responses: E36 – 2,624 R36 – 2,141 Other Units: BC3





Constructed in 1975

### SERVING WINTER SPRINGS

102 North Moss Road, Winter Springs Unit Responses: Q24 – 1,918 R24 – 1,823 Other Units:

> TK24 Tech1

### **Station 41**

Constructed in 1981

### **SERVING MIDWAY**

3355 East State Road 46, Sanford Unit Responses: E41 – 1,613 R41 – 1,812 Other Units: WD41 ATV41 BT41 BC4



Constructed in 1990

### **SERVING GENEVA**

320 West State Road 46, Geneva

Unit Responses: E42 – 672 R42 – 646 **Other Units:** TK42 WD42 Airboat 42 ATV42





### Station 43

Constructed in 1984 **SERVING CHULUOTA** 

110 East 7th Street, Chuluota

Unit Responses: E43 – 635 R43 – 601 **Other Units:** WD43 ATV43



Seminole Cour Orange Cou Seminole Co

45 • SCFD FIRE STATIONS



Constructed in 2000

### **SERVING UCF/CARILLON**

Joint Station with Orange County Fire Rescue Department

4999 North Orion Boulevard, Orlando

#### **Unit Responses:**

ınty Rescue 65 – 1,827**		Orange County Engine 65 – 1,637**		
unty Jurisdiction	906	Orange County Jurisdiction	724	
ounty Jurisdiction	912	Seminole County Jurisdiction	912	

#### \*\*Some calls run outside Seminole & Orange County Jurisdiction



