



**GULF SHORES
FIRE
RESCUE
2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE

ISO CLASS 1 RATING

In 2016, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) classified Gulf Shores Fire Rescue as one of the top departments nationwide. Every fire department is rated between 1 and 10 with 1 being the top rating. Only 320 out of 44,000 departments have an ISO-1 rating. Maintaining Gulf Shores' ISO-1 rating requires constant attention to detail and dedication throughout the department.

To remain an ISO-1 rating the department requires several key components. These include: equipment testing, continuing education and training, ensuring sufficient water supplies are available, business inspections, code enforcements, successful communication.

Equipment testing includes testing all of the pumps in our engines and ladder trucks each year to ensure they are capable of delivering their rated capacity. All hose diameters are tested, all ladders are tested and aerial apparatuses are certified yearly as well. Additionally, GSFR maintains adequate reserve engines and ladder trucks to use when the current equipment is out of service.

Continuing education in addition to on-the-job training, maintains and enhances the Firefighter's skills and contributes to the department maintaining an ISO-1 rating. GSFR participates in thousands of training hours each year to ensure we are meeting the needs of our community and performing at the highest possible level.

Adequate water supply is another key component of fire operations. GSFR inspects fire hydrants annually throughout our footprint. The inspections include

identifying any hydrants that are not performing at peak condition and/or need to be replaced. These proactive inspections ensure the resources are readily available when emergencies occur.

Fire code inspections and enforcements along with pre-planning for emergencies are the core foundations of the GSFR community risk reduction program. Firefighters visit businesses throughout the year to conduct inspections and familiarize themselves with the each location in case an emergency situation arises. If code enforcements are needed, they are handled promptly and professionally to ensure the safety of employees, visitors and emergency personnel. .

Prompt and accurate communication is another key component of ensuring GSFR provides excellent service levels for our community and visitors. Baldwin County 911 System maintains a highly trained dispatch team with computer-aided dispatch that allows our teams to respond to incidents as quickly as possible. This system allows our team to safely minimize response times and to meet all required service level guidelines.

While equipment testing, continuing education, training, fire hydrant inspections, business inspections, code enforcements and successful communication are key components in maintaining ISO-1 certification, the most important component is the Firefighters, Inspectors, Educators and Dispatchers working together to ensure GSFR continues to perform at the highest level. Without the dedicated team at GSFR, the ISO-1 rating would not be possible.

2024 GSFR ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM **CHIEF SEALY**

I am proud to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Gulf Shores Fire Rescue Department. The intent of this report is to showcase the dedication and work performed by GSFR as well as the GSFR Beach Division over the past year.

It is an honor to serve the citizens of Gulf Shores as your Fire Chief. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of a team of professionals who are driven to provide positive outcomes for any situation that you encounter. I am reminded of this daily by your actions. One of the phrases that I very seldom hear is "that is not my job". (Which is what losers say). Your attitude is always "let's get this done", which is one of the things I am most proud of.

In 2025, as in every year prior, we will face unknown challenges. I have full confidence that we will be able to overcome any obstacle given the positive culture that you have established here.

I look forward to the opportunities that 2025 will provide and I look forward to the next level of excellence that we will attain together.



PAUL M. SEALY
Fire Chief

CHIEF OFFICERS



MARK SEALY
Fire Chief



ROBERT ROWLAND
Chief of Operations



MELVIN SHEPARD
Chief of Staff



NICHOLAS SCHEER
Chief of Training



JOETHAN PHILLIPS
Beach Safety Chief



GEORGE SURRY
Fire Marshal



Jeff McWilliams
Battalion Chief A Shift



KEVIN TOLBERT
Battalion Chief B Shift



BO SMITH
Battalion Chief C Shift

MESSAGE FROM **CHIEF ROWLAND**

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

I would like to start by expressing how proud I am to work for an organization made up of so many incredibly talented individuals. I have worked for the City of Gulf Shores for the last 24 years and the Fire Department within Gulf Shores for 19 of those years.

During my tenure with Gulf Shores Fire Rescue, I have worn many different hats. As we close 2024 and reflect on the past, I can honestly say that serving as your Chief of Operations has been the most rewarding position so far. As much as I loved “riding the truck”, having the ability to impact every Firefighter in our division, is very rewarding. Our people are some of the most passionate people I have ever met and being able to oversee their growth, as well as ensure they have every opportunity to succeed, is extremely fulfilling. At the end of the day “Operations” is what we present to the public when they need us the most.

One of the things I am most proud of has been our people’s commitment to serving our citizens and visitors at the highest level. Whether we are called to a structure fire, a medical emergency or just helping someone into their house, it’s all part of being a committed professional. One example of our Firefighter’s commitment to service is the increase in our Nationally Registered Paramedics. In four years, we have increased from 25 percent National Registered Paramedics to over 80 percent. It is an honor to work with a group of professionals and a department that takes so much pride in the protection of our citizens, employees and visitors.

The growth of our department, the growth of each individual within the department and the growth of the city we all serve is nothing short of amazing. Let’s all continue to work together to make 2025 even better!

MESSAGE FROM **CHIEF SHEPARD**

CHIEF OF STAFF

As we end 2024 and enter into a new year, I want you all to know that each and every member of this department has worked extremely hard this past year. I am so grateful to work for a department full of exceptional people that truly care about their profession, and demonstrate that care in everything you do each day. 2024 has been a busy year for us all! Between the demands of work and families, you all continue to work extremely hard ensuring that the residents and guest to our city are provided with the highest level of care and professionalism possible. As a resident of Gulf Shores, I could not be more pleased with our Fire Department and I feel we are protected by an amazing group of people.

As we close the book on 2024, know that I am so thankful and proud of you all for your hard work, dedication, and support. It is my honor to serve as your Chief of Staff and I look forward to what awaits us all in 2025 and beyond.

GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE ADMINISTRATION



NICK RUSSELL
EMS Officer/Lieutenant



TRAVIS WILLIS
Logistics

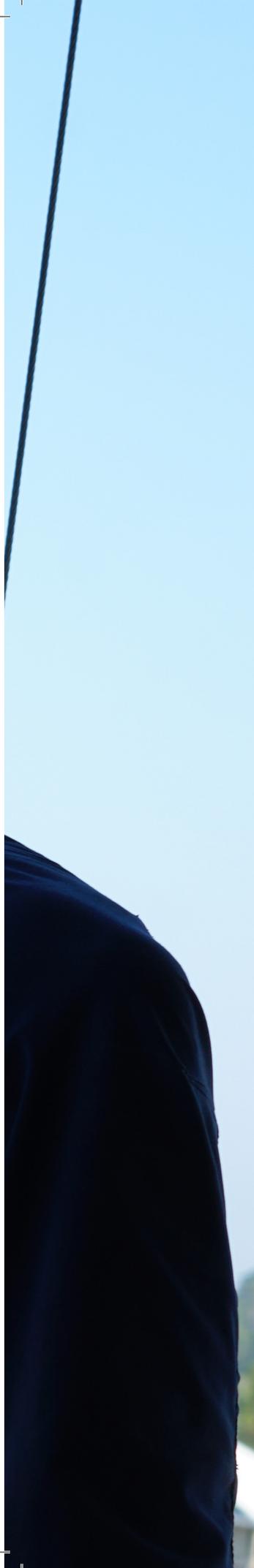


JUSTIN PARKS
Fire Inspector/Lieutenant



RONALD WEST
Education Coordinator





GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE

GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE BY THE NUMBERS

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024, like many years before was a busy year for the Gulf Shores Fire Department. Our department continues to push ahead and grow, so we can provide the best service possible for the citizens of Gulf Shores. We would like to thank the Mayor and City Council for their continued support throughout the year.

The community we serve is a very dynamic, and for us, that means we have to stay proficient in many technical areas to ensure the safety of our citizens and visitors. Within our community, we have the potential for emergencies far outside the normal house fire and EMS calls. In Gulf Shores, our personnel can expect to respond to a variety of challenging calls from surf rescue to high-rise condominiums, not to mention the explosive population growth on holiday weekends. This is mentioned to acknowledge the continued preparation and training needed to ensure our personnel are ready for any emergency within our city.

As our city continues to grow and expand, so does our department and our training requirements. This year, we began construction of a new training facility to ensure that all members of the department conduct training in a more realistic environment. Each firefighter is required to complete 228 hours of fire related training each year.

As with most fire departments in the country, EMS is the leading cause for emergency calls that we respond to. We had eight personnel successfully complete the paramedic program ensuring that our citizens are receiving the best care possible. In addition, we purchased video laryngoscopes, Handtevy system to aid with patient care, and a new oxygen fill station to safely refill oxygen bottles.

2024 continued to provide great things for our department and the people living and visiting our city. We feel that we are one of the all-around best-trained departments in the country. Most importantly, our staff has a true passion for being public servants. As we move into 2025, our department will continue to grow and learn from our past experiences. We are honored to continue to serve the citizens and visitors of the City of Gulf Shores.

GSFR RESPONSES BY THE NUMBER

49 Hazardous condition (no fire)

54 Fire

504 Service Call

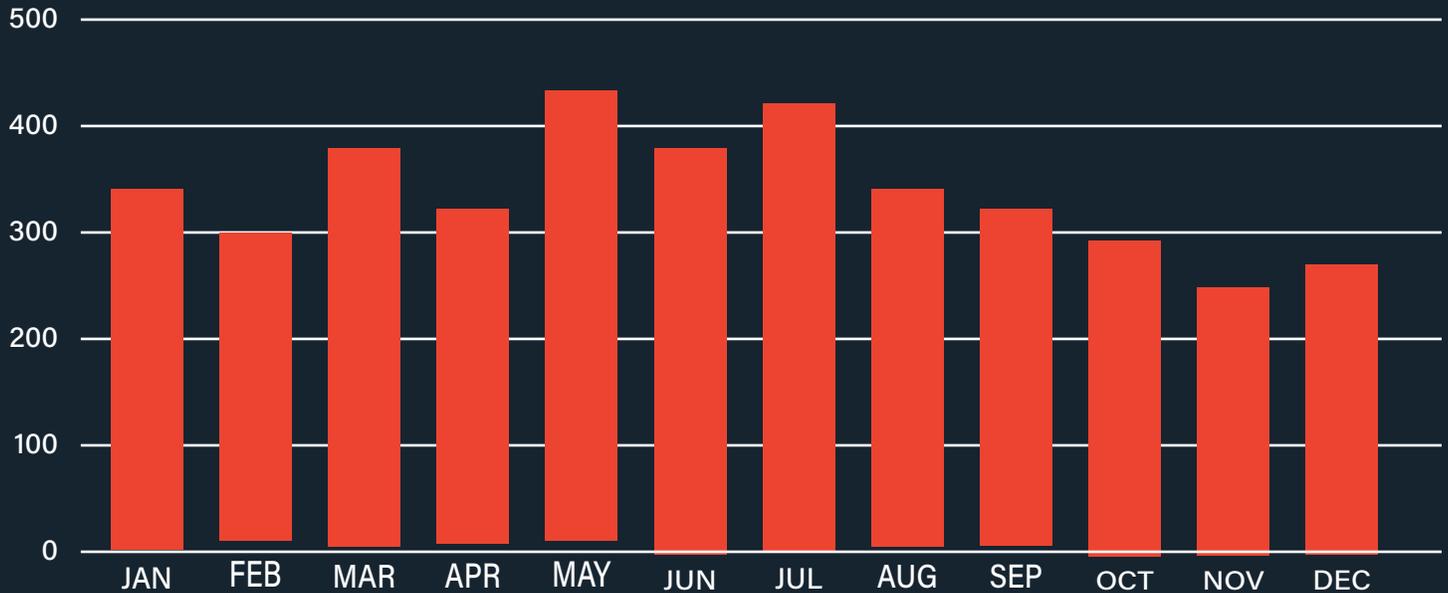
425 Good Intent Call

415 False Alarm and False Call



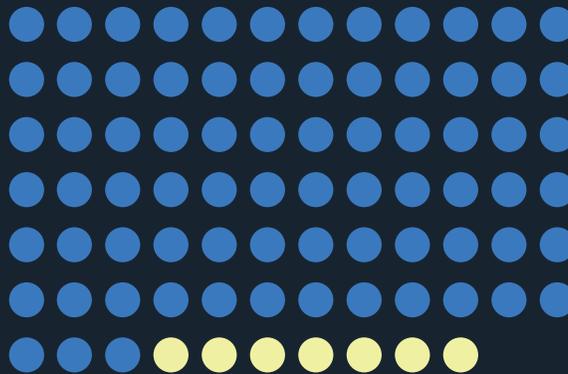
2,570 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident

NUMBER OF CALLS BY THE MONTH



APPARATUSES & EMPLOYEES

- 4  Stations
- 4  Engines
- 2  Ladder Trucks
- 2  Rescue Truck



82
Total Employees
74 Full-Time
8 Part-Time

FIREFIGHTER OF THE QUARTER



DERRICK JIMENEZ
Quarter I



JOSH SMITH
Quarter II



TRAVIS WILLIS
Quarter III



SHANE O'NEILL
Quarter IV

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR **ALEX ANAGNOSTOPOULOS**



Being chosen by your peers to be the Gulf Shores Fire Rescue Firefighter of the Year is the pinnacle of awards for our department. Your selection for the 2024 Firefighter of the Year is a very deserving Lieutenant Alex Anagnostopoulos!

Alex began his career at GSFR as a volunteer in 2004 where he exemplified excellence from day one. Firefighter of the Year is meant to recognize the Firefighter that exemplifies everything that meets the standard of our mission at GSFR over the last year, but what if you have embodied that over your entire career? That truly is the case with Lt. Anagnostopoulos. From day one in 2004, he has put the customer first by consistently demonstrating his desire to train and learn every aspect of the job as well as his efforts to pass on that knowledge to everyone else in the department.

Alex has exceeded the standards by earning his USLA lifeguarding certificate, passing the vigorous Alabama Smoke Diver course, as well as, being a state certified SWAT Medic assisting our Police Department. All of these accolades are impressive, but they are just a small percentage of what makes Alex who he is and why he is so important to GSFR and the citizens he serves. Lt. Anagnostopoulos truly cares about people and is first and foremost an amazing human being that really understands what it means to be a public servant.

Congratulations and thank you Alex for your dedication to being a professional and your commitment to the citizens and visitors of Gulf Shores and to your fellow Firefighters.



MOVING UP

PROMOTIONS

Brandon Thomas - Fire Lieutenant

Scout Alexander - Beach Safety Lieutenant

Robbie Bishop - Beach Safety Lieutenant

Adam Foley - Beach Safety Lieutenant

Kimberly Lee - Beach Safety Lieutenant



RECRUITS

Gabe Morin

Noel Hand





HEALTH & SAFETY

The health and safety of our Firefighters and Lifeguards is our top priority as an organization. Each year, in addition to the thousands of hours of training, our Firefighters and Lifeguards are required to undergo extensive medical and physical testing.

VITALEXAM WELLNESS PHYSICALS

All personnel participated in the annual Lifescan Wellness physical again in 2024. This is a NFPA 1582 mandated physical that also includes cancer screening. Cancer is very prevalent in the fire service due to the exposure to toxins created by combustion of everyday products. In fact, cancer is up to two times more prevalent among firefighters than civilians. These physicals have found 7 significant findings over the past 4 years among our firefighters. In 2024, all City of Gulf Shores employees were also given the opportunity to have this same physical completed.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTING

Every November, each Gulf Shores Firefighter is required to take a physical fitness test that was created and validated by Dr Hank Williford, a PhD Kinesiologist with Auburn University in Montgomery. This test consists of a maximum front plank time, maximum push-ups in 1 minute and a 1.5 mile run. While participation is mandatory, results are not punitive. As an organization we had a 92% pass rate in 2024.

The pass rates of the physical fitness test are among the highest of any Fire Department in the country according to Dr. Williford, who has extensive experience in creating physical standards for Fire Departments nationwide.



VITALExam







PERSONNEL STATIONS & EQUIPMENT



SWORN & CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

SWORN PERSONNEL

	HIRE DATE
Chief Paul M. Sealy	08/31/2020
Chief of Operations Robert R. Rowland	02/01/2001
Chief of Staff Melvin R. Shepard	02/17/2018
Chief of Training Nicholas S. Scheer	07/05/2005
Battalion Chief Jeffrey A. McWilliams	07/21/2008
Battalion Chief Bo Smith	01/22/2004
Battalion Chief Kevin L. Tolbert	04/01/1996
Beach Safety Chief Joethan C. Phillips	04/09/2012
Fire Marshal George F. Surry	08/01/1986
Lieutenant Richard C. Abbott	05/21/2001
Lieutenant Blake R. Ables	01/15/2007
Lieutenant Alex D. Anagnostopoulos	07/03/2006
Lieutenant Matthew P. Bartl	09/05/2006
Lieutenant Adam E. Bowmar	01/22/2007
Lieutenant Stone D. Collins	04/23/2010
Lieutenant Robert L. Garris	06/16/2008
Lieutenant Jeffrey L. Kimsey	10/14/2000
Lieutenant Logan S. Lambert	08/21/2013
Lieutenant Micheal J. Lucas	06/14/2008
Lieutenant Justin A. Parks	11/08/2007
Lieutenant Nicholas A. Russell	03/05/2010
Lieutenant Johnathan C. Sellers	05/29/2007
Lieutenant Joshua T. Smith	01/27/2003
Lieutenant Micah D. Smith	03/21/2016
Lieutenant Dee B. Thomas	03/12/2008
Lieutenant Jacob T. VanSickler	03/10/2014
Beach Lieutenant Scout C. Alexander	10/26/2020
Beach Lieutenant William R. Bishop	01/26/2022
Beach Lieutenant Adam Foley	03/03/2023
Beach Lieutenant Dylan M. Hess	02/22/2020
Beach Lieutenant Kimberly E. Lee	03/02/2023
Firefighter Samuel Anderson	10/26/2020
Firefighter Ashlee M. Barnard	07/10/2021
Firefighter Bryan M. Bossard	01/14/2019
Firefighter William T. Bowman	03/04/2017
Firefighter Lauren M. Bozeman	03/04/2023
Firefighter Jacob E. Brasher	01/30/2017
Firefighter Joseph A. Clark	10/28/2020
Firefighter Tony D. Colquitt	01/29/2022
Firefighter Colton O. DeBlieux	01/22/2022
Firefighter Justin K. Dobbs	04/03/2012
Firefighter David F. Eckman	04/30/2021

Firefighter Matthew S. Etheredge	01/26/2022
Firefighter Edward T. Farish	02/19/2022
Firefighter Cole S. Fincher	07/10/2021
Firefighter Cyrus J. Gould	05/15/2023
Firefighter Jeffrey C. Gunter	05/16/2023
Firefighter Noel E. Hand	01/15/2024
Firefighter Braxton T. Hart	01/04/2016
Firefighter William S. Higginson	06/21/2010
Firefighter Robert D. Jimenez	07/20/2011
Firefighter Jonathan E. Jones	01/14/2019
Firefighter Wesley T. Keith	01/14/2019
Firefighter Porsha M. Keller	01/01/2017
Firefighter Christopher N. Kennedy	09/02/2023
Firefighter Peter G. Kreamer	01/14/2019
Firefighter Gabriel X. Morin	03/02/2024
Firefighter Richard E. Nolte	11/24/2014
Firefighter Patrick S. O'Neill	06/15/2021
Firefighter Corey B. Parker	01/22/2007
Firefighter Christopher S. Redden	10/09/2023
Firefighter Brandon K. Rizzo	05/13/2023
Firefighter Jonathan D. Smith	01/23/2023
Firefighter Richard H. Staimpel	05/13/2023
Firefighter Stephen P. Street	01/14/2016
Firefighter Jean Tinoco	07/10/2021
Firefighter Gavin K. Tolbert	01/22/2022
Firefighter Preston Traywick	01/22/2022
Firefighter Garrett M. White	01/26/2022
Firefighter Michael A. Wiedeman	06/03/2021
Firefighter Josiah E. Wigal	04/15/2019
Firefighter Travis D. Willis	01/22/2007
Education Coordinator Ronald A. West	10/08/2005

SWORN PART-TIME PERSONNEL

Firefighter Enrique D. Bush	06/08/2018
Firefighter Christian R. Butler	02/28/2024
Firefighter John J Edmond	04/30/2021
Firefighter Franklin C. Jones	10/13/2016
Firefighter Alexander Langston	02/17/2024
Firefighter Coley W. Smith	02/19/2024
Firefighter Hailee A. Starr	01/16/2024
Firefighter Colby Strafuss	02/17/2024

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Management Analyst Tammy L. Burkhart	11/27/2023
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FIRE STATION 1



1921 West 1st Street
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

251-968-7422

Engine 1, Truck 1, Rescue 1
Battalion 20, Brush 1

A-SHIFT



Micah Smith
Lieutenant



Cyrus Gould



Seth Redden



Gabe Morin



Blake Ables
Lieutenant



Derrick Jimenez



Michael Wiedeman

B-SHIFT



Brandon Thomas
Lieutenant



Zeke Brasher



Shane O'Neill



Micheal Lucas
Lieutenant



Cole Fincher



Brandon Rizzo



Clayton Gunter

C-SHIFT



Johnathan Sellers
Lieutenant



John Jones



Lauren Bozeman



Preston Traywick



Noel Hand



Richard Abbott
Lieutenant



Ricky Nolte



Josiah Wigal

FIRE STATION 2



105 West 11th Street
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

251-968-1482

Engine 2, Truck 2, Brush 2

A-SHIFT



Josh Smith
Lieutenant



David Eckman



Gavin Tolbert



**Colton
DeBlieux**

B-SHIFT



**Alex
Anagnostopoulos**
Lieutenant



Will Bowman



Garrett White



Noah Kennedy

C-SHIFT



Logan Lambert
Lieutenant



Jean Tinoco



Taylor Farish



Jonathan Smith

FIRE STATION 3



18069 State Highway 180
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

251-968-1483

Engine 3

A-SHIFT



Jeff Kimsey
Lieutenant



Bill Higginson



Sam Anderson

B-SHIFT



Robert Garris
Lieutenant



Peter Kreamer



Stephen Street

C-SHIFT



Adam Bowmar
Lieutenant



Justin Dobbs



Porsha Keller

FIRE STATION 4



19290 Oak Road West
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

251-968-0407

Engine 4, Truck 4,

A-SHIFT



Matthew Bartl
Lieutenant



Corey Parker



Ashlee Barnard



David Colquitt

B-SHIFT



Jake VanSickler
Lieutenant



Braxton Hart



Bryan Bossard



**Hudson
Staimpel**

C-SHIFT



Stone Collins
Lieutenant



Joe Clark



Wesley Keith



**Shea
Etheredge**

BEACH RESCUE HEADQUARTERS



245A West Beach Blvd
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

251-968-9828



LIFEGUARDS

18 Years

Robert Simpson

7 Years

Tyler Lancaster

Phillip Stewart

5 Years

Kallie Byrd

Matthew Palamara

Scott Wade

4 Years

Harrison Wade

Mack Nall

RANGERS

4 Years

Tyler Barnes

3 Years

Anna-Madeline Carrick

Caleb Colvin

James Derstine

Omar Lagos

Rinoa McGrew

Gabe Morin

Cade Williams

Emilee Wright

2 Years

Bayne Barrontine

Tiffin Gillilan

Trent Mayr

TK McGowin

1 Year

Alex Tao

Amelia Haynes

Bernard Nesbitt

Brayden Roberts

Ellie Flaig

Gavin Cobb

Jack Price

Jake Heintzelman

John Ellis

Lance Owens

Liam Bickham

Nathan Hensley

Patrick Conley

Will Yokel

2 Years

Mitch Craft

Sarah Hadder

Bill Cobb

Luiza Wade

GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE LOGISTICS DIVISION

The Logistics Division is responsible for the procurement duties for Gulf Shores Fire Rescue. Our top priority is ensuring all of our staff have the necessary tools and equipment to be successful with a goal of deliveries being received on Tuesday. In addition to the procurement of items, the Logistics Division is responsible for writing



Travis Willis
Logistics

the specifications for new apparatus, consulting and approving the design of the apparatus with the manufacturer's engineers and gives the final approval for the build to begin. Upon completion of the build, the Logistics Division, verifies all specifications were met prior to taking delivery of the apparatus.

In 2024, we acquired and installed new SCBA Compressors at Station 1 and Station 2. We also purchased and outfitted the new Engine 4, Truck 2, and Squad 1.

We added 1 mobile generator for Station 2, purchased 17 new sets of turnout gear and purchased new kitchen appliances for Station 2 and Station 3. In addition to the acquisition of necessary equipment, the Logistics Division oversees yearly maintenance and upkeep on all facilities, uniforms, gear and keeps each station supplied with necessities.









BEACH SAFETY

In 2024, we received over 100 applications from individuals eager to join our USLA Lifeguard division. Out of these, 22 candidates began training at the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) Academy, and 16 new Lifeguards successfully passed the rigorous program to join our ranks. We are proud of our team members who have moved on to greater careers, demonstrating the strong foundation and valuable experiences gained, while serving with the Gulf Shores Beach Safety Division.

We take great pride in acknowledging the achievements of our Lifeguards, who have leveraged their experience to pursue advanced career opportunities. In 2024, former Lifeguard Brackin Stewart graduated from United States Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer School. Former Lifeguard Mac Hirsh is currently a commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps at the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and attended Marine Corps Infantry Officers course last fall. Current Lifeguard, Kallie Byrd successfully passed her NCLEX and is now a Registered Nurse. Lifeguards Bayne Barrontine and Trent Mayr have accepted full time positions with outside agencies.

GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE

BEACH SAFETY DIVISION

The Beach Safety Division is led by Beach Safety Chief Joethan Phillips and supported by five full-time Lieutenants: Dylan Hess, Scout Alexander, Robbie Bishop, Adam Foley, Kimberly Lee. Assisting them are 36 seasonal Open-Water Lifeguards and 5 Beach Rangers. Lifeguards oversee 10 miles of beachfront with 12 static lifeguard towers and 4 roving patrols. They also respond to emergency calls along an additional 3-mile stretch west of Calloway Pass. Our personnel are trained to USLA standards in open water lifesaving, First-Aid & CPR, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and Emergency Medical Response. Five out of the six full-time staff are certified Firefighters and Licensed Paramedics. The 4 Beach Rangers focus on ordinance enforcement and beach safety education. Beyond daily Lifeguard duties, our team educates beachgoers on potential hazards, including rip currents, heat-related risks, and other beach dangers. Lifeguards and Rangers conduct thousands of educational talks annually and respond to numerous swimmer in distress calls,



rescues, medical emergencies and wildlife rescues. To strengthen our span of control and provide better oversight for beachgoers, we have increased the number of Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel on the beach to ensure faster and more effective medical responses. In 2024, the Beach Safety Division successfully renewed our advanced level certification and achieved certifications as Personal Watercraft Rescue Certified (PWRC) and Beach Emergency Vehicle Operator Certified (BEVOC) agency. These certifications reflect our dedication to maintaining the highest standards in beach safety and emergency responses. Additionally, the State of Alabama has allocated \$400,000 a year to support helicopter operations, enhancing our emergency response capabilities and reinforcing our commitment to public safety.



Joethan Phillips
Beach Safety Chief



Dylan Hess
Lieutenant



Scout Alexander
Lieutenant



Robbie Bishop
Lieutenant

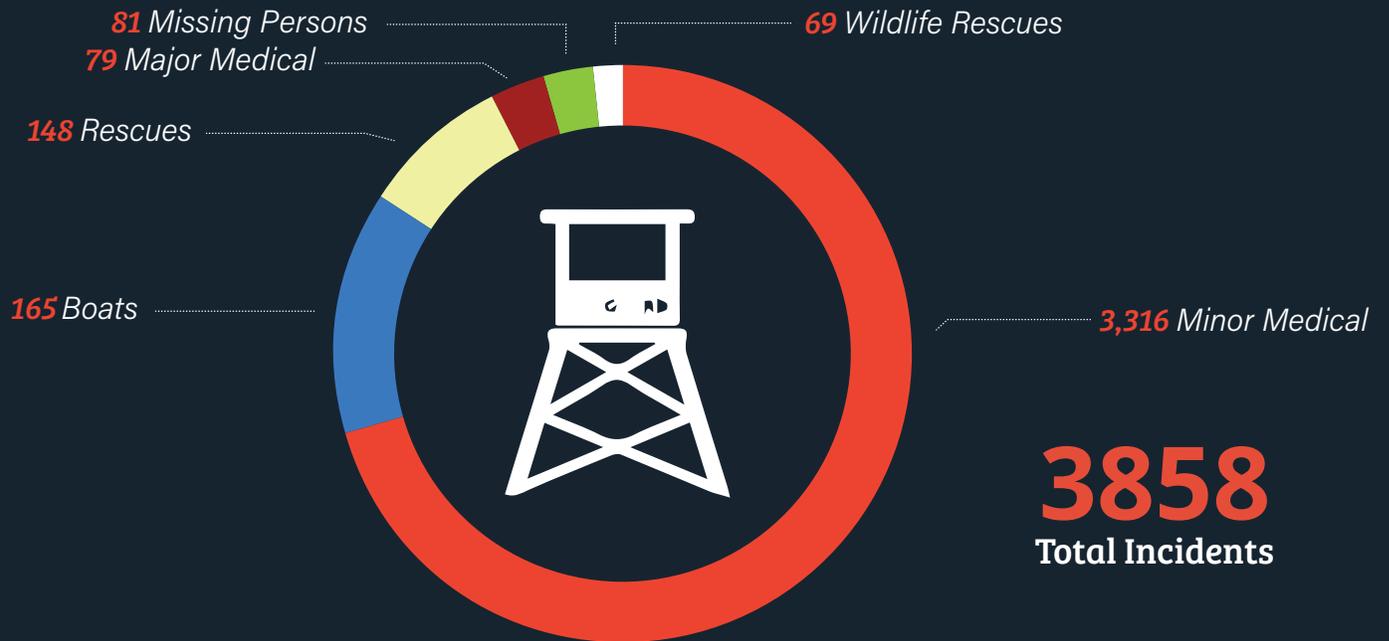


Adam Foley
Lieutenant

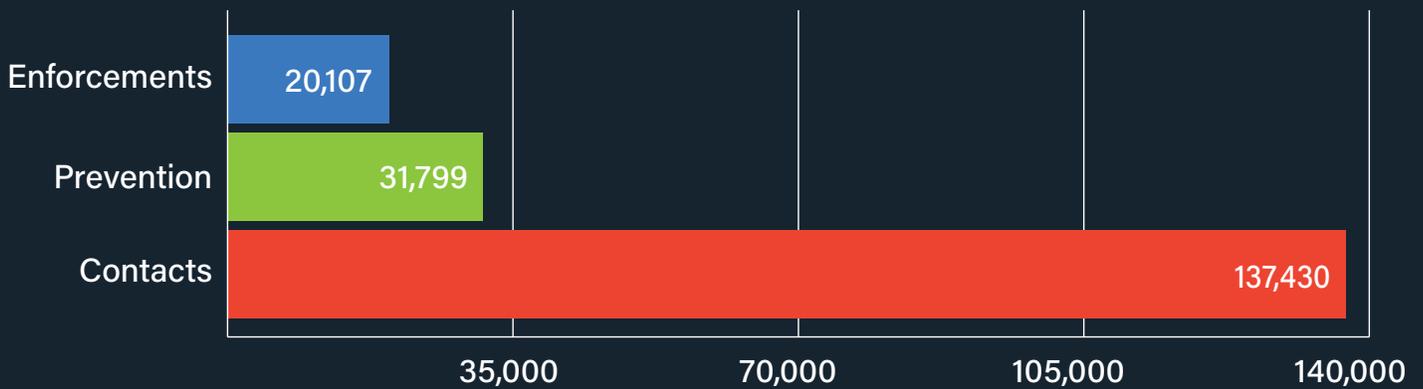


Kimberly Lee
Lieutenant

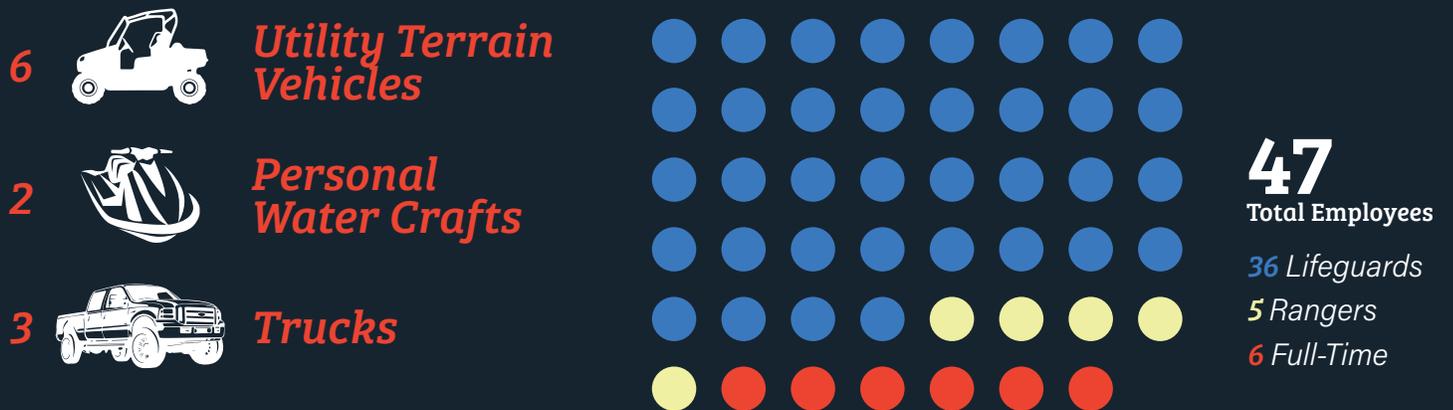
GSBR RESPONSES BY THE NUMBER



OUTREACH & ENFORCEMENT



APPARATUSES & EMPLOYEES



LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR **JAMES DERSTINE**



James Derstine has been selected by his peers to be Gulf Shores Beach Rescue's Lifeguard of the Year for 2024. James is a third year guard who joined Gulf Shores Fire Rescue Beach Division after graduating from Gulf Shores High School, where he participated in our Lifeguard class. Passing EMT-B registry, passing A-EMT class, enrolling into Paramedic school, being trained in our helicopter rescue swimmer detail, and going through our PRWC operator's course are just a few of his accomplishments this year. James wants to obtain a full time career position with Gulf Shores Fire Rescue or bridge from Paramedic into Physician Assistant School.

James has proven himself competent in all areas of Beach Rescue and has worked to be one of the main Lifeguards we rely on heavily with advanced operations. He also does an excellent job looking out for younger guards and mentoring them. He lights up any room he walks into and is a very motivated and positive individual. James is a guy that conducts himself with integrity and Gulf Shores Beach Rescue is proud to have James on our staff.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR **ALEX TOA**



Alex Tao has been selected as Rookie of the Year for the 2024 season. This award is voted on by his peers. Alex is a first year guard from Hawaii and is one of the fastest swimmers on our Lifeguard crew. He has enjoyed learning the responsibilities of being a Lifeguard and always brings a positive attitude to work. Although he is a first year guard, Alex shows the ability to influence others in a positive manner and demonstrates his commitment, passion and dedication to our department and the community. In addition to learning the basics of being a Lifeguard, Alex is a member of the Beach Rescue competition team. He placed 1st in the swim race for his age group at the USLA Southeast Regionals Lifesaving Championships this summer and is currently enrolled in EMT-Basic.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE **ALEA HELICOPTER RESCUE SWIMMER PARTNERSHIP**

Gulf Shores Beach Rescue partnered with Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and Orange Beach Surf Rescue again in 2024 to staff specialized lifeguards trained to deploy from the ALEA helicopter to rescue distressed victims. We staffed the helicopter on busy weekends and holidays. Two lifeguards were staffed as rescue swimmers and one Lifeguard supervisor was staffed as a Crew Chief. This detail is extremely useful to respond to any water emergency along the beaches of Baldwin County in a timely fashion. Certain lifeguards are selected to go through the training required and get many repetitions prior to being sent on a patrol. We trained with the USCG out of the Mobile Aviation Training Center and with those who write the curriculum for the USCG Rescue Swimmers. These partnerships provide an extra layer of protection for the citizens and visitors that frequent the beaches of Baldwin County.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE ECLA COMPETITIONS

ECLA (Emerald Coast Lifesaving Association) is a division within USLA Southeast Region. The Emerald Coast stretches approximately 100 miles and includes 5 different counties consisting of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay and Baldwin County and includes all of the beaches in between. In 2024, Gulf Shores Beach Rescue competed against other agencies within ECLA for the second year. The sport of Lifesaving has grown across the country and within the USLA organization. Agencies from all over the country compete against one another and our team goal is to be competitive at that level in the near future. In 2024, our team competed at 5 events from March-July with the June event being hosted here in Gulf Shores. In these competitions Lifeguards compete in a variety of events including rescue races, swim races, rescue board races, runs, combinations of all, etc. The events provide an opportunity to network and build relationships and camaraderie with other Lifeguard agencies, while showcasing our skills and learning best practices from others.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE USLA Southeast Regional Surf Lifesaving Championships

USLA is made up of regions with Gulf Shores Beach Rescue and the Emerald Coast being in the Southeast Region. The Southeast Region is primarily the state of Alabama and Florida's coastline. As a region, we meet annually to compete, showcase our skills, network and build relationships with other Lifeguards from distant agencies. The 2024 regional competition was held in Navarre, Florida. During regionals, Lifeguards compete as chapters. For this competition, GSBR joined the Emerald Coast Chapter to team up with Orange Beach, Navarre, South Walton, and Pensacola to compete against other chapters. 2024 was the first year GSBR sent competitors to the USLA regionals and the goal is to make competing in regionals an annual event. Our 12 competitors were: Patrick Conley, Alex Tao, Kimberly Lee, Dylan Hess, Jake Heintzelman, Trent Mayr, TK McGowin, Tiffin Gillilan, Rinoa McGrew, Ellie Flaig, Caleb Colvin, Adam Foley.

The Emerald Coast chapter fought a hard fight and placed 2nd overall in a tight race, losing 1st place by only 40 points. Gulf Shores Beach Rescue contributed to the ECLA by placing in the following top 10 finishes: 1st place men's age group surf swim, 7th place men's open surf swim, 2nd place men's open surf rescue race, 1st place women's open 90m dash, 7th place men's open 90m dash, 2nd place women's open beach flags, 4th place men's open beach flags, 2nd place men's open 4x100 run relay, 2nd place women's open 4x100 run relay and 5th place men's open run swim run.

GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL **LIFEGUARD CLASS**

GSBR teaches a Lifeguard class at Gulf Shores High School. The first half of the semester is spent focusing on USLA skills and the basics of being an Open Water Lifeguard. The curriculum includes pool swims twice a week and open water lifeguarding skills. After successful completion of the Lifeguard curriculum, the students have the opportunity to apply to be a Lifeguard for GSBR. The students are still required to participate in our USLA academy and perform the physical requirements necessary, but the required bookwork and testing for USLA is completed in the high school class. In the second half of the semester, students are taught American Red Cross material. The students learn the basics of being a Pool / Water Park Lifeguard. During this portion of the class, they continue the swims twice a week and continue enhancing their skills. After successful completion of this part of the course, the students receive an American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification. This allows them to work at a pool or waterpark. The benefits of teaching this class at Gulf Shores High School include promoting beach and water safety, job opportunities for students and providing a recruiting avenue for GSBR. Since 2019, we have hired 4 Open Water Lifeguards out of the class and sent 3 other students to work at the Bodenhamer Rec. Center as Pool Lifeguards.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE **JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS**

The Junior Lifeguards program was created to bring awareness and teach useful skills to individuals aged 10-15. Each year, Gulf Shores Beach Rescue holds four different camps designed to demonstrate to the participants what it is like to be a part of the Beach Rescue crew, as well as basic water safety, CPR, first aid, swimming techniques, and rescue techniques. They also learn the basics of responding in patterns, different surf conditions, general dive training, emergency situations, hazards in the gulf, important weather patterns, different surf conditions, general dive training, and how to ride on the rescue ski. Each camp consists of four eight-hour days and has around twelve to fifteen participants. In addition to teaching the participants basic lifeguarding skills, the program excites young people about the



possibilities of being a Lifeguard, when they are old enough to apply. One of our seasonal Lifeguards, Caleb Colvin, participated in our Junior Lifeguard program, when he was younger and will be returning for his fourth summer on the beach in 2025. Caleb is also one of our assistant instructors, along with Emilee Wright. The Lead Instructor in 2024 was Lt. Adam Foley.





TRAINING & EDUCATION

ISO-1 rating requires 228 hours of Firefighter training annually for all 57 of our on-shift responders. In 2024 our fire personnel exceeded the collective department minimum by obtaining 16,402 total hours. Our Firefighter's pride themselves on the many hours of training performed outside of the required minimum.

Each GSFR licensed EMS provider is required to maintain their licensure by obtaining up to 60 hours of accredited EMS training every 2 years. In 2024 our providers have over 5,000 hours of accredited in house EMS training hours. Classes such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and International Trauma Life Support are held annually. In addition, our newest providers spent over a combined 11,000 hours in academic level courses.

All Gulf Shores Beach Lifeguards are certified through the United States Lifesaving Association. This rigorous training program consists of 48 hours of classroom/water rescue techniques, 40 hours of EMR training and 16 hours of Emergency Driver education. In addition, all returning Lifeguards are required to complete 16 hours of re-certification training and 16 hours of medical training every year. In 2024 the Beach Division conducted over 1,044 hours of medical training, 998 hours of rescue training and 1,344 hours of physical training.

CONTINUED EDUCATION

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS
37,036

EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROVIDER

PARAMEDIC

Colquitt, Tony David	Farish, Edward Taylor
Deblieux, Colton O'Neal	O'Neill, Patrick Shane
Etheredge, Matthew Shea	

ADVANCED EMT

Derstine, James	Smith, Jonathan David
Nall, Mack	Williams, Cade
Nesbitt, Bernard	

EMT

Derstine, James	Morin, Gabriel Xavier
Hand III, Noel Edward	Nesbitt, Bernard
Lee, Kimberly	Tao, Alexander

EMR

Bickham, Liam	Heintzelman, Jake Hensley,
Cobb, Gavin	Nathan
Conley, Patrick	Nesbitt, Bernard
Ellis, John	Owens, Lance
Flaig, Ellie	Price, Jack
Haynes, Amelia	Roberts, Brayden

CERTIFICATION CLASSES

AFS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPEMENT

McWilliams, Jeffrey A.	Scheer, Nicholas Scott
Parks, Justin A.	Smith, Bo Leigh
Rowland, Robert Ryan	Tolbert, Kevin Leonce

AIRPORT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTER

Garris, Robert Lee	Kreamer, Peter Glanton
Gould, Cyrus Jackson	Parks, Justin A.
Jones, Jonathan Earl	Wiedeman, Michael Andrew

ALABAMA PIPELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Morin, Gabriel Xavier

ALABAMA SMOKE DIVER

Ables, Blake Richard	Kreamer, Peter Glanton
Deblieux, Colton O'Neal	Sellers, Johnathan Charles
Etheredge Matthew Shea	Smith, Micah Daniel
Jimenez, Robert Derrick	White, Garrett Marshall

ATV / UTV PATROL

Barrontine, Bayne	Heintzelman, Jake
Bickham, Liam	Mayr, Trent
Conley, Patrick	McGowin, TK
Ellis, John	Nesbitt, Bernard
Gillilan, Tiffin	Tao, Alexander
Haynes, Amelia	

CAFCA HOT TRAINING

Brasher, Jacob Ezekiel	O'Neill, Patrick Shane
Lucas, Micheal Joseph	

CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINT EDUCATOR

Brasher, Jacob Ezekiel	Street, Stephen Patrick
Burkhart, Tammy L.	

COMPETITIVE SWIM TRAINING

Colvin, Caleb	Hess, Dylan Matthew
Derstine, James	Mayr, Trent
Gillilan, Tiffin	Roberts, Brayden
Heintzelman, Jake	

DISASTER MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Burkhart, Tammy L

EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER

Gould, Cyrus Jackson	Kennedy, Christopher Noah
Hand III, Noel Edward	Lee, Kimberly Elizabeth

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR I

Smith, Jonathan David	Wigal, Josiah Evan Lee
White, Garrett Marshall	

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR II

Anderson, Charles Samuel	Smith, Jonathan David
Bossard, Bryan Matthew	Wiedeman, Michael Andrew
Nolte III, Richard Edward	Wigal, Josiah Evan Lee

FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR: AERIAL

Alexander, Christopher Scout	Gunter, Jeffrey Clayton
Bozeman, Lauren Macy	Hand III, Noel Edward
Colquitt, Tony David	Kennedy, Christopher Noah
Deblieux, Colton O'Neal	O'Neill, Patrick Shane
Etheredge, Matthew Shea	Staimpel, Richard Hudson
Farish, Edward Taylor	Tolbert, Gavin Korren
Gould, Cyrus Jackson	Traywick, Preston Bradley

FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR: PUMPER

Bozeman, Lauren Macy	Hand III, Noel Edward
Colquitt, Tony David	Hess, Dylan Matthew
Deblieux, Colton O'Neal	Kennedy, Christopher Noah
Etheredge, Matthew Shea	O'Neill, Patrick Shane
Farish, Edward Taylor	Rizzo, Brandon Keith
Foley, Cory Adam	Staimpel, Richard Hudson
Gould, Cyrus Jackson	Tolbert, Gavin Korren
Gunter, Jeffrey Clayton	Traywick, Preston Bradley

FIRE FIGHTER I / II

Morin, Gabriel Xavier

FIRE INSPECTOR I

Kennedy, Christopher Noah	Wigal, Josiah Evan Lee
White, Garrett Marshall	

FIRE INSPECTOR II

Jimenez, Robert Derrick	Kimsey, Jeffrey Lawrence
Jones, Jonathan Earl	Sellers, Johnathan Charles

FIRE INSPECTOR III

Jones, Jonathan Earl	Sellers, Johnathan Charles
Kimsey, Jeffrey Lawrence	

FIRE INVESTIGATOR

Dobbs, Justin Kyle	Russell, Nicholas Allen
Higginson, William Stacey	Smith, Joshua T.
Kreamer, Peter Glanton	Wiedeman, Michael Andrew

FIRE OFFICER I

Anderson, Charles Samuel	White, Garrett Marshall
Brasher, Jacob Ezekiel	Wiedeman, Michael Andrew
Dobbs, Justin Kyle	Wigal, Josiah Evan Lee
Kreamer, Peter Glanton	

FIRE OFFICER II

Ables, Blake Richard	Van Sickler, Jacob Tanner
Hart, Braxton Taylor	Wiedeman, Michael Andrew
McWilliams, Jeffrey A.	

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS AND OPERATIONS

Morin, Gabriel Xavier

HELICOPTER RESCUE SWIMMER

Carrick, Anna Madeline	Nesbitt, Bernard
Derstine, James	Wade, Scott
Morin, Gabe	Williams, Cade

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEMS

Burkhart, Tammy L

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM FOR HIGH RISE

Abbott, Richard Caleb	Rowland, Robert Ryan
Anagnostopoulos, Alex P.	Smith, Bo Leigh
Kimsey, Jeffrey Lawrence	Thomas, Dee Brandon
McWilliams, Jeffrey A.	Tolbert, Kevin Leonce
Parks, Justin A.	White, Garrett Marshall
Phillips, Joethan Clay	

ISO PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

Shepard Jr., Melvin Roy

LIVE FIRE INSTRUCTOR

Kreamer, Peter Glanton	Nolte III, Richard Edward
McWilliams, Jeffrey A.	

MARINE FIRE FIGHTER

Garris, Robert Lee	Kreamer, Peter Glanton
Jones, Jonathan Earl	Street, Stephen Patrick
Keller, Porsha Maurine	Traywick, Preston Bradley
Kennedy, Christopher Noah	

MARINE FIRE FIGHTER TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

Keller, Porsha Maurine

NFA-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE: INCIDENT

Keller, Porsha Maurine

NFA-EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM

Shepard Jr., Melvin Roy

NFA-FIRE SERVICE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Willis, Travis Draper

NFA-FIRST LINE TECHNOLOGY

Willis, Travis Draper

PEER SUPPORT AWARENESS

Abbott, Richard Caleb	Deblieux, Colton O'Neal
Anagnostopoulos, Alex P.	Dobbs, Justin Kyle
Barnard, Ashlee Marie	Etheredge, Matthew Shea
Bartl, Matthew P.	Fincher, Cole Simeon
Bishop, William Robert	Foley, Cory Adam
Bossard, Bryan Matthew	Garris, Robert Lee
Bowman, William Trent	Gould, Cyrus Jackson
Bowmar, Adam E.	Gunter, Jeffrey Clayton
Bozeman, Lauren Macy	Hart, Braxton Taylor
Brasher, Jacob Ezekiel	Higginson, William Stacey
Clark, Joseph Anthony	Jones, Jonathan Earl
Collins, Stone Davis	Keith, Wesley Tyler
Colquitt, Tony David	Keller, Porsha Maurine

PEER SUPPORT AWARENESS CONTINUED

Kennedy, Christopher Noah	Smith, Jonathan David
Kimsey, Jeffrey Lawrence	Smith, Joshua T.
Kreamer, Peter Glanton	Smith, Micah Daniel
Lambert, Logan Scott	Staimpel, Richard Hudson
Lee, Kimberly Elizabeth	Street, Stephen Patrick
Lucas, Micheal Joseph	Surry, George Frank
Morin, Gabriel Xavier	Thomas, Dee Brandon
Nolte III, Richard Edward	Tolbert, Gavin Korren
O'Neill, Patrick Shane	Tolbert, Kevin Leonce
Parks, Justin A.	Traywick, Preston Bradley
Redden, Christopher Seth	West, Ronald Allen
Rizzo, Brandon Keith	White, Garrett Marshall
Rowland, Robert Ryan	Wiedeman, Michael Andrew
Russell, Nicholas Allen	Wigal, Josiah Evan Lee
Sellers, Johnathan Charles	

PEER SUPPORT MEMBER

Ables, Blake Richard	Redditt, Francis Wayne
Alexander, Christopher Scout	Rowland, Robert Ryan
Anderson, Charles Samuel	Russell, Nicholas Allen
Burkhart, Tammy L.	Scheer, Nicholas Scott
Farish, Edward Taylor	Sealy, Paul Mark
Hess, Dylan Matthew	Shepard Jr., Melvin Roy
Jimenez, Robert Derrick	Smith, Bo Leigh
McWilliams, Jeffrey A.	Tolbert, Kevin Leonce
Phillips, Joethan Clay	Willis, Travis Draper

PERSONAL RESCUE WATERCRAFT

Alexander, Christopher Scout	Hess, Dylan Matthew
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PWC

Barrontine, Bayne	Morin, Gabe
Derstine, James	Nesbitt, Bernard
Gillilan, Tiffin	Tao, Alexander
Mayr, Trent	Yokel, Will

RAPIS INTERVENTION CREW MEMBER

Morin, Gabriel Xavier

TECHNICAL RESCUE: PASSENGER VEHICLE

Garris, Robert Lee	Kreamer, Peter Glanton
Gould, Cyrus Jackson	Parks, Justin A.
Jones, Jonathan Earl	Wiedeman, Michael Andrew

TECHNICAL RESCUE: ROPE

Anderson, Charles Samuel	Kennedy, Christopher Noah
Bozeman, Lauren Macy	

TECHNICAL RESCUE: TRENCH

Bossard, Bryan Matthew	Smith, Micah Daniel
Dobbs, Justin Kyle	Street, Stephen Patrick
Nolte III, Richard Edward	

TRUCK SKILLS BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK

Kreamer, Peter Glanton	Wigal, Josiah Evan Lee
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USLA BOD MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Bishop, Robbie	Shepard, Melvin
Phillips, Joethan	

USLA ACADEMY

Bickham, Liam	Hensley, Nathan
Clark, Joe	Koon, Brayden
Cobb, Gavin	Nesbitt, Bernard
Conley, Patrick	Owens, Lance
Ellis, John	Price, Jack
Flaig, Ellie	Roberts, Brayden
Hand, Noel	Smith, Jonathan
Haynes, Amelia	Tao, Brayden
Heintzelman, Jake	Yokel, Brayden

HIGHER EDUCATION

BS FIRE SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

Collins, Stone Davis

BAS FIRE SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

Rowland, Robert Ryan	Scheer, Nicholas Scott
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ASSOCIATES DEGREE

Nolte III, Richard Edward



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE TRAINING DIVISION

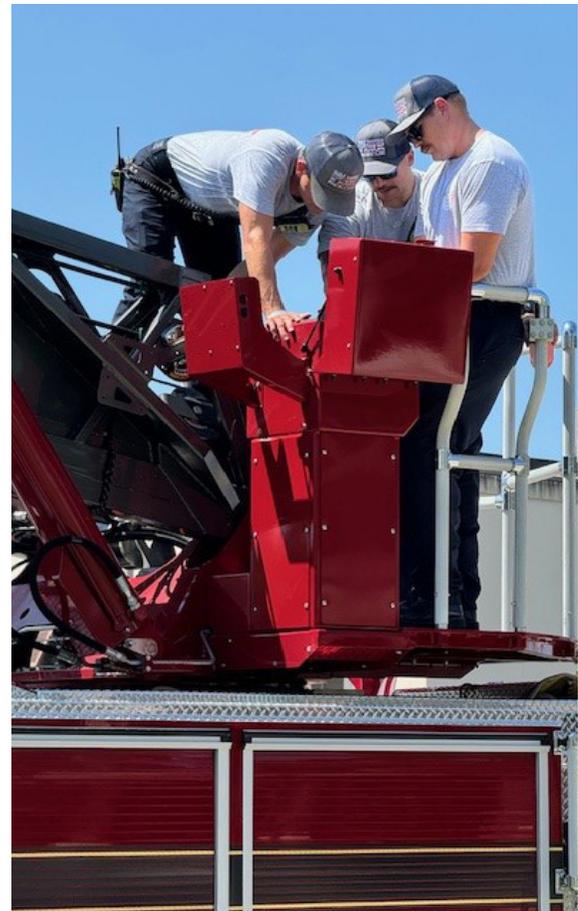


Nicholas Scheer
Chief of Training

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF SCHEER

As Training Chief for Gulf Shores Fire Department, it is my responsibility to ensure our Firefighters are able to perform at their optimum level. Training and continuing education are key components our Firefighters need to be able to perform at their highest level. The tasks required to assist each individual with reaching this level include the following: assess current training needs of the department, develop training programs, ensure all required training is complete and current to NFPA and ISO guidelines. Additionally, the Training Division works with other city leaders and the city insurance companies to ensure safety programs are in place and being performed by all city employees. All of these goals are accomplished by establishing specific training goals, forming timelines for training completions, observing

drills, and evaluating the progress of training performances. The commitment and dedication our firefighters have towards training and education surpasses anything I have ever witnessed in our county before. These men and women are constantly training to make themselves better Firefighters and Paramedics. Our Firefighters combined hold over 1,100 certifications from the Alabama Fire College and of those certifications, 137 were obtained in 2024. They attend multiple conferences and classes each year learning new skills and networking with professional Firefighters from all over the country. It is an honor to work for a department with so many great people that are dedicated to carrying out our mission and are proud to be a part of this organization.





JOB TASK ANALYSIS

Each year in March every firefighter from the Fire Chief down to the newest firefighter completes a Job Task Analysis (JTA). This JTA was designed by our firefighters to test their ability to perform rigorous activity in turn-out gear. It includes an attic crawl, 100 strikes with a 12 pound sledge hammer, confined space crawl, hose roll, hose hoist 5 times, four story stair climb, dummy drag, serpentine carry with weighted SCBA cylinders, ladder carry, and floor space crawl. If the firefighter can complete all steps on one cylinder of air, they pass the JTA. If they can complete it in less than 8 minutes then they receive a JTA award. For the third year in a row we had a 100% pass rate on the JTA. The department air consumption average is less than 2/3 of a cylinder with an average time of 7 minutes 57 seconds.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE FIRE CONFERENCES

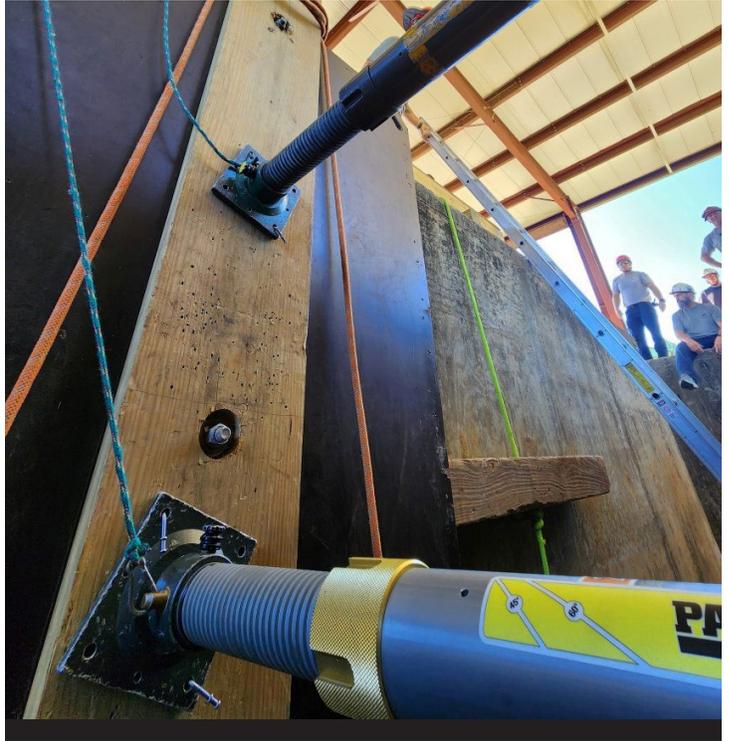
This year our Firefighters attended several conference outside of their required training. These conferences concentrate on officer development, leadership, engine company operations, truck company operations, rescue company operations, high-rise firefighting and rescuing down Firefighters. These conferences have attendees from all over the country providing networking opportunities and allowing our Firefighters to build professional relations with like-minded individuals, while expanding their knowledge in the most up-to-date fire tactics.



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM TRAINING

Our technical rescue team trains bi-monthly for a total of 48 hours a year. Each member on the team is required to maintain 24 hours of technical rescue training a year. The training consist of Rope Rescue, Confined Space, and Trench Rescue. In 2024, our team had the rare opportunity to train at Embassy Suites before the walls were completed. This training was conducted jointly with the Construction Management staff of Embassy Suites and Baldwin County E911. The scenario was a construction worker falling off the side and suspended in their safety harness. This training was designed to evaluate the response of the workers on the scene, the duties of the dispatcher, and the response and rescue from Gulf Shores Fire Rescue.





AUTOMATIC AID TRAINING

Automatic aid is a collaboration between neighboring cities to provide resources. We have conducted 40 hours of training with our automatic-aid agencies. Our automatic-aid agencies are Foley Fire Department, Orange Beach Fire Department, and Oyster Bay Fire Department. They are automatically dispatched on structure fires and large scale incidents. These trainings are in place to allow the firefighters an opportunity to learn about each agency's equipment, abilities and skill sets before responding to a large incident.



TRAINING CENTER

In 2024, GSFR began construction on a Fire Training Center.

Currently the property has been cleared and paved with a confined space prop completed. Construction will continue in phases with a goal of final completion in late 2025. Once completed, the training center will provide our teams with centralized realistic training facilities and allow our teams to train for all potential hazards they may be exposed to.

The next phase (prop) to be built will be a two-story burn building. The burn building will be used to train firefighters in actual fire conditions. This building will be utilized to provide live fire, high heat, and real smoke situations including limited visibility scenarios. Additionally, this prop will provide training on advanced skills under real conditions including actual structure fires.

An additional phase (prop) to be built will be a four story training tower with each story mimicking buildings in the city of Gulf Shores. The interior walls will have the ability to move and be adjusted to allow the layout to be changed over time. The first floor will be designed as a normal single story residential home with the option to add the second floor for a two-story home. The second floor is designed as a beach house with both interior and exterior stairwells and a large balcony. The third story is designed as a hotel or apartment with enclosed hallways. Lastly, the fourth floor is designed as a condo on the beach with open hallways. The tower will be equipped with an interior stairwell that has a fire department connection and standpipes for stretching hand lines in stairs. The roof will be decked and have two anchor points for rappelling and a confined space tube.



Future construction plans include building a trench rescue prop, vehicle fire prop, props for airport firefighting, and eventually a classroom. These enhancements will allow all training to be conducted in one centralized location.





ALABAMA SMOKE DIVER

The Alabama Smoke Diver course is for Firefighters with a desire to strengthen their skills through a rigorous and challenging class that will benefit them throughout their career. The course is designed for students to be challenged both physically and mentally in diverse settings involving multiple aspects of the firefighting profession. In 2024, Gulf Shore Fire Rescue had 8 Firefighters complete the Alabama Smoke Diver course. In addition we have 3 additional firefighters that began pre-course training in January of 2024 to attend the January 2025 Smoke Diver course. These dedicated Firefighters have trained both on and off duty to be prepared physically and mentally to become Smoke Divers. These trainings are led by Firefighters that are Smoke Diver certified themselves. They provide leadership and mentorship for the candidates that are attending this difficult and rewarding course.



A PROACTIVE MINDSET ACQUIRED STRUCTURE

In 2024 we had the opportunity to train in an acquired commercial structure on Gulf Shores Parkway. This structure is a three story building that consists of office spaces and conferences rooms. We utilized this rare opportunity for several days performing drills and scenarios each day. The drills included stretching out fire hose, search techniques, and rescuing down firefighters. This training was conducted jointly with Orange Beach Fire Department, Foley Fire Department and Baldwin County E911. The main focus of this training was implementing a new county wide policy for all fire departments and Baldwin County E911 to utilize if a MAYDAY is called by a firefighter.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE

EMS DIVISION

The EMS Division for Gulf Shores Fire Rescue is led by Lieutenant Nicholas Russell. Lt. Russell manages all the major components of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and serves as a staff specialist responsible for the administrative and clinical functions related to EMS. The duties of the division include assuring the highest level of care is performed within the scope of practice by providing guidance, equipment improvements, development of guidelines and establishing standards. These tasks ensure emergency operations are performed at the highest level and continuously improving at GSFR.



NICK RUSSELL
Lieutenant



**DR. JASON
EVERSULL, MD**
Medical Control

MESSAGE FROM LIEUTENANT RUSSELL

It is a continued honor to serve Gulf Shores Fire Rescue as the EMS Officer. There are few departments that maintain a culture of excellence like GSFR. This is a reflection of our Firefighters and the work they put in year after year. Gulf Shores Firefighters not only maintain competence and provide exceptional emergency care, I continuously witness them making a special effort to ensure the community is taken care of beyond the initial response. Sometimes it's not the extremes, it's the small gesture of courtesy that makes a lasting impact on those we serve. This

is a great example of our continued commitment to upholding our mission statement and values as a department. I am extremely proud of each one of our Firefighters for their commitment and drive for success. I want to thank each one of you for making Gulf Shores Fire Rescue what it is today.

ABOUT Dr. JASON EVERSULL

Dr. Eversull began his career in pre-hospital care in 2003 as a Firefighter in the Birmingham metropolitan area. He obtained his Paramedic certification while attending Auburn University and working for the Auburn Fire Division. In 2009 he graduated from the inaugural B.S. EMS cohort at the University of South Alabama and continued his fire department career with the Mobile Fire Department. He was inspired partly by the department's Medical Director to pursue a degree in medicine and did so with the intent of advancing the scope of practice for EMS and underserved populations in the State. He attended medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he was awarded a military HPSP scholarship and commissioned as an officer in the United State Air Force and completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at the UAB Hospital. Dr. Eversull is currently assigned to an Airforce ground surgical team and just completed a combat tour in Africa. Additionally he serves as a practicing ER Physician and Medical Director for Fire Department based EMS systems. He and his wife have 5 beautiful children and enjoy the beach and active outdoor activities.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE **EMS EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT**

Each year our Firefighters obtain over 6,000 combined hours of accredited EMS training in addition to their normal duties. The training standards maintained each year consist of courses such as: Advanced Cardiac Life Support, International Trauma Life Support, Basic Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. These certification courses ensure our Firefighters are up to date on the most current techniques, procedures, and treatment protocols available.

In 2024, we welcomed 5 new paramedic graduates. This brings our departmental percentage of Licensed Paramedics to over 80%. An incredible achievement, and a perfect example of our Firefighters continuous pursuit of improvement and dedication to providing the best EMS service possible to the citizens we serve.





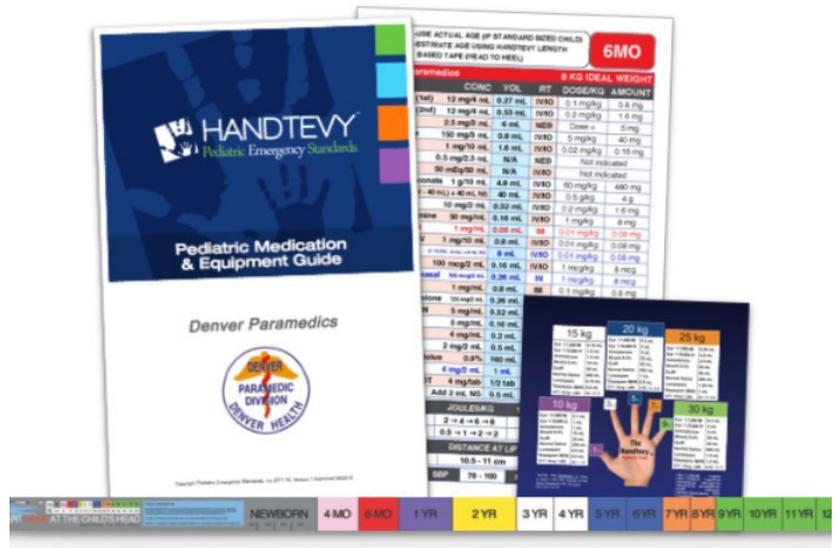
THE CUTTING EDGE VIDEO LARYNGOSCOPES

In 2024, Gulf Shores Firefighters gained access to cutting-edge technology that enhances the efficiency and safety of endotracheal intubation, a life-saving procedure used when someone is not breathing. The addition of video laryngoscopes to our tool kit represents a significant advancement in our ability to provide timely and effective care during medical emergencies. This state-of-the-art technology not only improves our success rates in performing endotracheal intubation but also enhances patient outcomes by minimizing risks and complications.



THE CUTTING EDGE HANDTEVY

Being prepared for a pediatric medical emergency is an integral part of our job. Historically, pediatric drug dosing has been a daunting task due to the complexities involved. With the implementation of a system called Handtevy, our Firefighters now have a simple system available to manage the stress of treating critically ill pediatric patients, while enhancing confidence during resuscitations. This digital system allows Firefighters to rapidly estimate weight, select properly sized equipment, and confirm medication doses based on the patients age or height. In turn, this system improves the response time to treatment, success rate of procedures, and reduces the amount of stress our responders face during these critical responses.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND CLASSES

CPR or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. CPR can double or even triple chances of survival after sudden cardiac arrest. It is imperative that CPR is initiated as soon as possible for not only survivability, but in order to keep neurologic function intact. This year, Gulf Shores Fire Rescue certified over 400 community members and city officials in the use of CPR and AEDs. Gulf Shores Fire Rescue's continued initiative leads to improved patient outcomes and survivability rates in our community. This is a great example of empowering our community members to take immediate action in critical situations, potentially saving more lives.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE PUBLIC ACCESS AEDs

In addition to CPR, rapid access to automated external defibrillators, significantly increases the chances of survival for individuals experiencing cardiac emergencies. Prompt defibrillation is critical in restoring a normal heart rhythm and preventing irreversible damage. Gulf Shores Fire Rescue maintains 22 of these public access AEDs throughout the city. Placement of these automated external defibrillators represents our mission to enhance public safety and emergency response capabilities within Gulf Shores. Having these AEDs in high-traffic areas including recreational centers and assembly facilities, ensures that residents, visitors, and bystanders have the necessary tools to initiate life-saving measures, while awaiting professional medical assistance from our Firefighters.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE TACTICAL PARAMEDIC TEAM

The Tactical Paramedic Team is comprised of Firefighters, who work alongside law enforcement to provide operational support in tactical medicine, threat analysis, planning, and logistics. Each member is a licensed Paramedic and holds an endorsement as a tactical paramedic. Members not only complete countless hours of tactical medicine training yearly, they adhere to all training and proficiency standards set by the Gulf Shores SWAT Team. In 2024 our tactical paramedics participated in a multitude of special assignments and operations. Gulf Shores Fire Rescue's Tactical Paramedic Team remains one of the few nationally recognized programs through the International Board of Specialty Certification.

A PROACTIVE MINDSET PROTECTING OUR SCHOOLS

Every second is critical to potentially save a child's life in the event of a critical injury. The harsh realities that we must prepare for include threats of violence in a school environment. We pray that our preparations are never needed, however, we must be prepared. Each teacher in the Gulf Shores City Schools system has access to a Stop The Bleed kit in their classroom. Having access to these kits can not only immediately save a life, it also buys our Firefighters time to arrive on scene and decreases the severity of the patient's condition upon our arrival. When seconds count, this potential treatment can lead to improved patient outcomes and survival.

Gulf Shores Firefighters hold annual school safety training events for each city school campus. These training events provide the teachers and staff an opportunity to receive hands on experience using lifesaving equipment they have in their classrooms and around campus.

Additionally, Gulf Shores Fire Rescue participates annually in a 3 day collaborative Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER) training exercise. This training involves multiple local, state, and federal agencies in partnership with administrative staff from the schools and provides a near realistic environment to test and improve responses if they are ever needed.







COMMUNITY OUTREACH & RISK REDUCTION

Community Risk Reduction is the identification and prioritization of risk followed by the coordinated application of resources to minimize the occurrence of unwanted events.

GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

Fire code inspections and enforcement are the core of our community risk reduction program. Public and commercial buildings are inspected for the purpose of ensuring people can work, recreate, shop, heal, study and worship in a safe environment. Unlike their homes, these are places, where they have no personal control of the construction or maintenance of the structure. Regular inspections of these types of occupancies helps ensure the fire code is being observed.

Ensuring structures are safe and built to the appropriate fire code starts with a strong foundation. Collaborating with the Gulf Shores Building Department, engineers and contractors, Fire Marshal Surry conducts plan reviews to ensure compliance to the fire code before construction begins. Inspections continue to be conducted throughout the construction process and

before the structure can be occupied by the public, a final inspection is also required.

Fire code inspections are also performed on existing structures on a daily basis. Businesses are subject to a fire code inspection and a review upon new application for business license, or when a business license is up for renewal. Fire Marshal Surry and Lieutenant Parks conducted these fire code inspections throughout the year. In addition, on-duty fire crews inspected and developed pre-incident plans for 549 buildings within the City of Gulf Shores.

The Community Risk Reduction Division is also charged with meeting the department's public education objectives. Creating, implementing, and evaluating fire safety education programs lead to positive behavioral changes in the community.



George Surry
Fire Marshal



Justin Parks
*Lieutenant
Fire Inspector*



Ron West
*Education
Coordinator*



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE AIRPORT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING

The Gulf Shores Fire Rescue Community Risk Reduction Division has the responsibility for providing Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) services for the Gulf Shores International Airport (KJKA) and the aviation community. According to the Airport Air Traffic Tower statistics Gulf Shores International Airport had 97,014 landing and takeoff cycles for the year 2024 making it one of the busiest airports in Alabama. The onset of the New Year 2025 brings new challenges to the ARFF team with the onset of air carrier operations, a new terminal building, and an increased operational tempo.

The ARFF team proudly cooperates with civilian, civil service, and military aviation partners to accomplish the required goals for the safety of passengers and the community. The ARFF team utilizes apparatus both stationed on the airport, as well as, at other department stations. Gulf Shores Firefighters train alternately with both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy annually in order to maintain proficiency with aircraft rescue operations. The Division inspects all fueling operations at the airport and inspects all new hangars for FAA compliance. The Division works and trains with the air traffic controllers located at the air traffic control tower in order to provide immediate communications and response to airport emergencies.

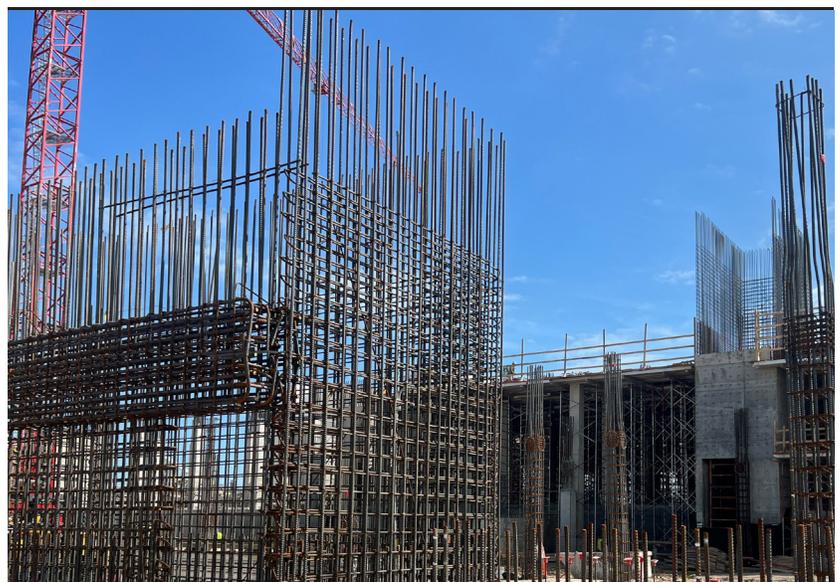
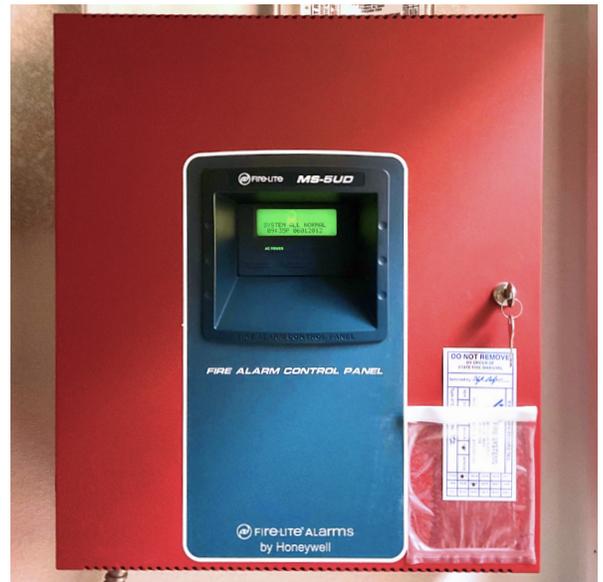


COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

NEW CONSTRUCTION

With the continued growth in our community, the Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector were tasked with overseeing risk reduction for several large construction projects in 2024. Examples of these projects include the construction of Gulf Shores Phoenix II, Embassy Suites, Legendary Marine, Gulf Shores High School and the addition to Gulf Shores Elementary School. For these projects, the CRR team was responsible for issuing permits, approving plans and inspecting fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems, fire pumps, underground fire mains, and commercial kitchens.

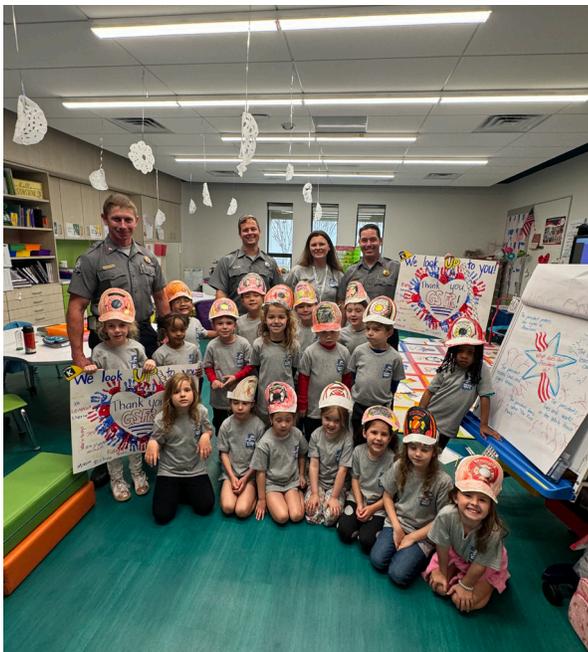
In addition to the commercial growth in Gulf Shores, the Community Risk Reduction team reviews new subdivision plot plans and fire protection infrastructure prior to the construction of all new homes. In 2024, over 30 new single family and multifamily structures with sprinkler systems were permitted and inspected.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION **FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION**

Gulf Shores Fire Rescue prides itself on having a strong presence around the community especially within the Gulf Shores City School system. Throughout the year, fire crews participated in various seasonal events hosting demonstrations, as well as, visiting with families to create memorable interactions. During October's Fire Prevention Month, GSFR sponsored Fire Prevention Week consisting of fire safety presentations for over 1,100 students at Gulf Shores Elementary. Each student was sent home with fire and life safety materials to share with their family. In addition to the city schools, fire safety presentations were organized for South Baldwin Christian Academy students and conducted at local daycares.





A PROACTIVE MINDSET **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

The City of Gulf Shores continues to be a premiere vacation destination for families around the country. This has also awarded us the opportunity to host a vast array of large scale public assemblies, such as sporting events, concerts and festivals. The community risk reduction division is largely involved in the overall safety and risk management of these events, while working as a team with Gulf Shores Department of Cultural & Recreational Affairs, event coordinators, vendors and a wide-range of entities involved in such occasions.



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The Gulf Shores Fire Rescue Association is a group of members from the community, whose mission is to support Gulf Shores Firefighters and their families in ways that are not possible with municipal funding. The association assists with community and fundraising events including the Annual Golf Tournament, the Annual Awards Banquet, the Annual Fire Department picnic, and more. Everyone is invited to get involved! Call Station 1 at 251-968-7422 for more information!



GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE AIR MED CARE

Gulf Shores Fire Rescue is pleased to offer AirMedCare to residents of the City of Gulf Shores.

Any Gulf Shores resident transported via ground or air by an AirMedCare Network provider, including Medstar Ambulance and Medstar AirCare, from a pickup location in Baldwin County, Ala., is covered under this membership. In the event that a Gulf Shores resident is transported by an AirMedCare Network provider, payment for the transport over and above the patient's insurance benefit limit will be covered with no additional out-of-pocket expense. If the patient transported is uninsured at the time of the transport, the providers will bill the covered person at the Medicare allowable rate for the transport.

Gulf Shores' residents may elect to obtain a full AirMedCare Network emergency air household membership by completing an application and paying an additional \$55 per household per year (\$45 per household for seniors).

A full membership has no insurance or pickup location restrictions. This will provide coverage for all AirMedCare Network air ambulance transports across a 38 state coverage area. In addition, residents without medical insurance can upgrade to a full ground membership for \$55 a year (\$45 per household for seniors), which will eliminate the uninsured exception above. It is vital to remember that these services are for true emergency transports and non-emergent events will not be covered.





GULF SHORES FIRE RESCUE

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