

St. Lucie County Fire District News Release



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Emerson Selected as Next Fire Chief by St. Lucie County Fire Board

St. Lucie County, FL – Deputy Chief and Fire Marshal George ‘Buddy’ Emerson was selected to succeed Fire Chief Ron Parrish, at a special Fire Board meeting on Wednesday. Chief Parrish will be retiring on September 30, 2015 and the Board began the selection process in 2014.

“The Fire Board had a very difficult selection between three strong, qualified candidates,” said Chief Parrish. “I am confident that the Fire District will continue to maintain a solid foundation and collectively meet the challenges of the future under the direction of Chief Emerson. The Fire District has developed depth within the Department and it definitely showed through in all the candidates vying for the position.”

Chief Emerson joined the St. Lucie County Fire District in February, 1992. He has served as Fire Marshal since 2005. He currently heads the Fire Prevention Bureau, Buildings and Grounds, Logistics, and Public Records divisions. The Fire Prevention Bureau handles plans review, inspections, fire investigations, and public education for the Fire District.

Chief Emerson has a Master of Science degree in Executive Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University and a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from the

University of Florida. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and holds dual designations from the Center for Public Safety Excellence – Chief Fire Officer and Fire Marshal. In 2010, Chief Emerson was named Florida's Fire Marshal of the Year by the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association and was recognized by the Governor and Cabinet for his contributions in Fire Prevention. He is also a U.S. Navy Veteran having served from 1982-1990. As an active community supporter, Chief Emerson currently serves as the Vice President of Fort Pierce Little League.

“I am honored to have been selected as the next Fire Chief for the District. I truly appreciate the outpouring of support. It has been overwhelming and humbling. I look forward to the challenges ahead and our continued efforts to provide quality Fire and Emergency Medical Services to our residents and visitors,” said Chief Emerson.

