



880 Airport Road, Suite 110
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Phone: 386-676-2744
Fax: 386-676-5490
Email: info@ffca.org



2017—2018 FFCA Board of Directors

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association – A Non-Profit Organization

The purpose and objectives of this Association are to bring together, at least once a year, persons interested in the saving of life, protection of properties, preventing and extinguishing of fires; to discuss ways and means for the betterment of the fire service, the reduction of the unnecessary loss of life and property, and the promotion of legislation for same; conducting fire research, making fire safety surveys, cooperating with governmental agencies, for the development of the fire service through a year-round educational program, and for all other purposes permitted by law.

As Florida's leading organization for fire & emergency services professionals, Florida Fire Chiefs' Association specializes in promoting and supporting leadership excellence in fire & emergency services management, and advocating for legislation and regulations that enhance the ability of fire professionals to protect and preserve the communities they serve.

The Association strives to accomplish its mission by committing its leadership and staff to a series of strategic elements specifically designed to serve the needs of its members. All elements and corresponding key initiatives have been articulated and approved by the Board of Directors.

Since 1958, FFCA has served the chief fire executive of career, combination, and volunteer departments. In 1993, the decision was made to open the membership up to any individual involved in fire and emergency services from the chief fire executive to the firefighter and to serve these members by establishing professional-interest sections where specialized programming is offered.

A Board of Directors composed of six regional directors and a five-member Executive Committee governs the Association which represents over 2,200 members.

EXPERIENCE - LEADERSHIP - VISION

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association (FFCA) is Florida's leading management education organization for fire & emergency services professionals; the professional association that specializes in promoting and supporting excellence in fire & emergency services management. FFCA programs help members maintain and develop their management and leadership skills.

Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

Promoting and Supporting Leadership Excellence in Florida's Fire & Emergency's Community



**LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES
2018 SESSION**

FFCA 2018 LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS



FFCA Mission Statement

“The Florida Fire Chiefs Association shall advance the profession of fire and emergency services through strategic and proactive leadership, education, development, and advocacy.”



FFCA President

Otto Drozd III, Fire Chief
Orange County Fire Rescue

EMERGENCY SERVICE FUNDING: The FFCA opposes legislation that would significantly decrease the revenue needed to provide fire and emergency services.

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY: The Florida FFCA supports initiatives which improve the health and safety of Florida’s firefighters.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION: The FFCA strongly supports the training and safety of firefighters within our State as well as an increase in dedicated funding for firefighter training.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DELIVERY: The FFCA supports legislation that would expand the role of fire rescue agencies in the delivery of telemedicine, urgent care, and non-emergency health initiatives.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT: The FFCA supports legislation that would expand reimbursement for the provision of EMS services.

DISASTER RESPONSE: The FFCA supports the continued funding of Fire Service specialty teams and resources needed for disaster response and mitigation.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: The FFCA supports legislation that would establish a stable and consistent funding source for hazardous materials emergency response, including cost-recovery programs.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE: The FFCA supports legislation that would expand and/or enhance the fire protection services for residents and industry located in Wildland Urban Interface areas.

FIRE PREVENTION: The FFCA supports the promotion of Fire Safety within our communities and the State. Fire Prevention is the best defense against fire.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY CODE: The FFCA opposes any legislative efforts that would diminish the level of safety for either the citizens or our firefighters or that would inhibit the enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code by the fire service.

BUILDING CODES: The FFCA opposes any changes to the statewide uniform building code that would negatively affect life safety.

FIREWORKS: The FFCA supports legislation or rule that would improve life safety and property protection from the dangers of fireworks.

UNFUNDED MANDATES: The FFCA opposes unfunded mandates from any level of government.

HOME RULE: The FFCA respects the Home Rule Authority of our member agencies and opposes any legislative efforts to reduce that home rule authority.

Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association Government Relations Committee:

Chief Darrel Donatto (561) 719-3517 ddonatto@townofpalmbeach.com
Chief Dan Azzariti (727) 224-8465 dazzariti@plantcitygov.com

FFCA 2018 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Amendment to Chapter 633 - FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

We are seeking amendments to Florida State Statute Chapter 633 to require training related to cancer and mental health risks for all career and volunteer firefighters seeking certification. We also want firefighter employers to provide training to existing employees. Firefighters are afflicted with cancer at a higher rate than the general population. Moreover, the suicide, post-traumatic stress, and catastrophic addictions are increasingly taking the lives of firefighters. We feel that education is the first step in reducing or preventing these risks. In addition, we are seeking to promote a tobacco free fire service in the State of Florida by having prospective firefighters sign an affidavit stating they will remain tobacco free for their tenure in the fire service.

Renewal and Expansion of the Florida Public Emergency Medical Transportation Supplemental Reimbursement Program

We are asking the State legislature to renew funding (\$25 million) for the Public Emergency Medical Transportation Supplemental Reimbursement Program in the FY2018 Appropriations and to expand this funding (an additional \$100 million) to include the unreimbursed costs for medically indigent patients in the managed care programs, 100% of which will be provided by reimbursement from the Federal government. The Agency for Health Care Administration obtained a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (4.19-B) that allows the State to reimburse **public** providers of emergency medical transport services for unreimbursed costs (certified public expenditures or CPE) of providing care and transportation to the medically indigent population. This supplemental payment program was approved dating back to October 1, 2015. To date, the State has distributed over \$19 million dollars to public EMS providers. For FY 2017, it is estimated that the State will distribute another \$25 million dollars to public EMS providers. All of the funding for this program comes from a Federal match and there is no cost to the State. This program is providing vital funding to County and Municipal governments, with those entities who have the largest medically indigent populations getting the largest share. Currently, the program does not cover medically indigent patients who are enrolled in Managed Care Programs.

Amendment to Chapter 401 - MEDICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

We are seeking amendments to Florida State Statute Chapter 401 to allow emergency medical service providers to help lower the cost of healthcare through alternative treatment and transportation programs, to revise the requirements for ambulance design and construction, to revise the requirements for equipment that must be carried on ambulances, and to allow for law enforcement assistance to emergency medical service providers when providing an examination or treatment to a patient who is intoxicated, under the influence of drugs, or otherwise incapable of providing informed consent.

For more information about the Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association’s legislative positions or a copy of our proposals for legislation, please call or email:

Chief Darrel Donatto (561) 719-3517

ddonatto@townofpalmbeach.com

Chief Dan Azzariti (727) 224-8465

dazzariti@plantcitygov.com

