

Ralph Franklin has served as the Fire Chief of Okeechobee County Fire Rescue since September 2014. He is a 2017 graduate of the U.S. Fire Administration's Executive Fire Officer Program and has achieved the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation. Chief Franklin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science and is current pursuing his Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership.

Chief Franklin is a 38-year veteran of the Florida Fire Service. His fire service journey began in 1979 as a volunteer for Hillsborough County. His career path began in 1984 with the El Jobean Gulf Cove Fire Department in Charlotte County. In 1985 he was hired by Pasco County Fire Rescue where he worked in several operational positions before retiring in 2007. Shortly after retirement, he was hired by Citrus County Fire Rescue as the Assistant Chief of Logistics and remained there until he was hired by Okeechobee County in 2014.

Chief Franklin has been certified as a paramedic since 1987 and holds several state fire service certifications. He serves as a member of the Florida Fire Chief's Association Safety and Health Committee. Additionally, Chief Franklin is a Peer Reviewer for those seeking professional credentialing designation as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) or Fire Officer (FO).

Chief Franklin Can be reached at 863-763-5544 or RFranklin@co.okeechobee.fl.us.

Florida Certifications:

Fire Officer IV

Fire Inspector II

Fire Instructor III

Fire and Life Safety Educator

Fire Investigator I

Safety Officer