



## **Training Those Who Save Lives and Protect Property**

### **Membership & General Information**

*UPDATED September 2005*

The Central Florida Fire Academy was established in June 1977 to serve as a joint fire training facility for the Orlando Fire Department and the former independent fire districts that evolved into the Orange County Fire Rescue Department. With this action the partnership between the Central Florida Fire Service and Orange County Public Schools was formed. With a newly drafted 2005 Interlocal, the Central Florida Fire Academy will continue as a partnership among Orange County Public Schools/Mid Florida Tech and these thirteen Consortium Member Fire Agencies:

- City of Casselberry Fire Department
- City of Kissimmee Fire Department
- City of Maitland Fire/Rescue & Building Dept
- City of Ocoee Fire Department
- Orange County Fire Rescue Department
- City of Orlando Fire Department
- Osceola County Fire Rescue Department
- City of Oviedo Fire Rescue Department
- Reedy Creek Improvement District Emergency Services
- City of St. Cloud Fire Rescue Department
- Seminole County Building & Fire Prevention Dept
- City of Winter Park Fire Rescue Department
- City of Winter Garden Fire Department

An independent panel of experts at the University of Central Florida described the Fire Academy as a shining example for interagency governmental partnership. Both county and city fire agencies as well as Orange County Public Schools are working together and pooling resources to the benefit of the Central Florida fire service community.

#### **Organization and Staffing**

Each consortium fire agency remits annual membership fees based on its number of certified firefighters and fire inspectors. Benefits of membership include:

- ISO rating points for training facilities – this keeps the fire insurance rates lower in the community served.
- Free use of the training facilities and equipment
- Reduced fees for Fire Academy classes
- Technical support and administrative assistance from Fire Academy staff
- Audio/Visual Support
- Use of the Fire Academy's Firefighter Skills Testing pre-employment and promotional assessment programs

The Fire Academy is currently governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Board of Governors. The Fire Academy Director manages daily operations.

### **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is a “special board” of the City of Orlando. During monthly meetings, the Board of Trustees, in its official decision-making capacity, acts on the recommendations from the Board of Governors.

### **Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors is comprised of a representative from each member fire agency, each of whom has one vote. The Board meets monthly and provides general oversight through the review of policies, budgets, and programs.

NOTE: Upon the enactment of the 2005 Interlocal Agreement, the above boards will dissolve and will be replaced on October 1, 2005 with the **Central Florida Fire Academy Board of Directors**. This new single governing board will consist of one voting member assigned from each member agency and the school board.

### **Executive Director**

Appointed by the Board, the Fire Academy Director is responsible for leadership of the OCPS instructors and the Fire Academy staff. He/she also prepares and manages the academy budgets and is responsible for the daily operations and future development of the Fire Academy and its programs.

### **Support Staff**

The Fire Academy’s support staff, in addition to the director, is comprised of full-time and part-time positions, paid and managed by both the Fire Academy and OCPS.

### **Instructional Staff**

The Fire Academy’s instructional staff is composed of more than 100 part-time hourly instructor positions. An OCPS part-time employee, acting as a “program coordinator” manages each program. In addition, hundreds of member agency fire instructors are retained by their respective departments to conduct in-service training. These instructors also assist with many Fire Academy Continuing Workforce Education (CWE) classes. The CWE course fees are paid by the Fire Academy to OCPS/MFT.

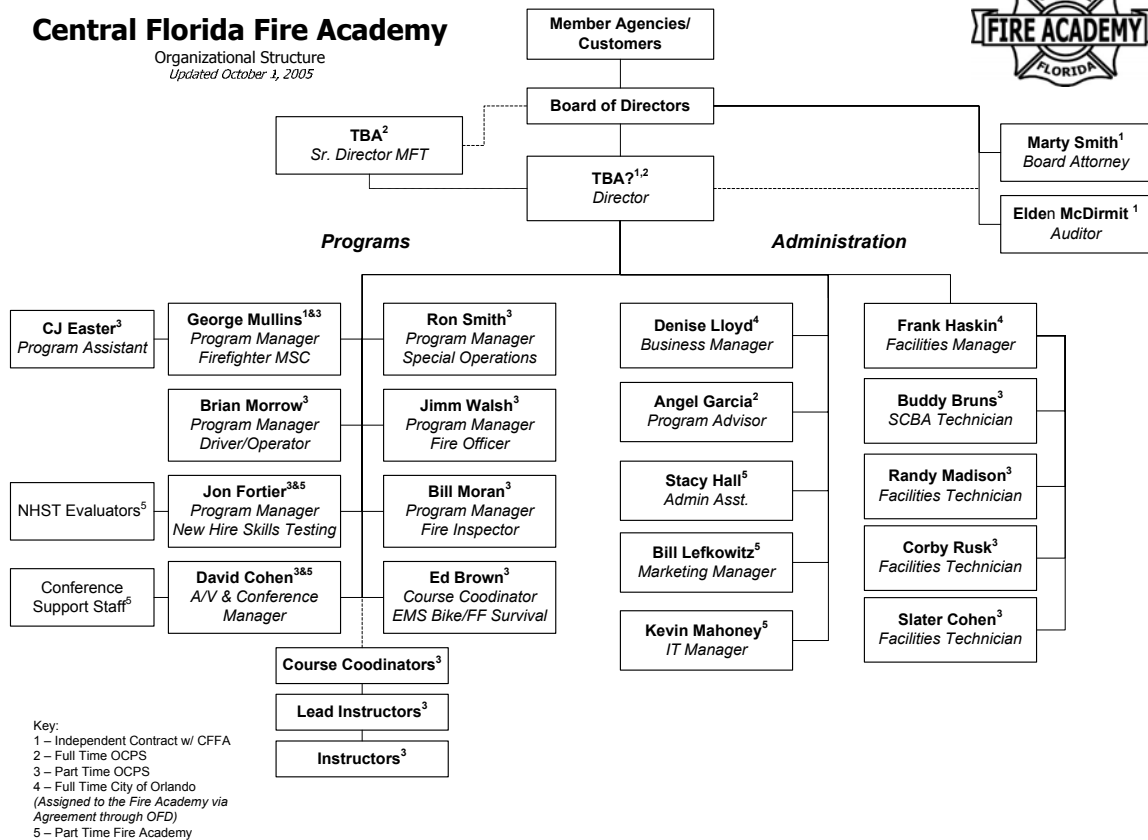
### **Mid Florida Tech**

The Fire Academy is partnered with Orange County Public Schools’ Career and Technical Education Division, and physically located at Mid Florida Tech. Most of our instructional programs are processed through the school district which generates State DOE Workforce Development funding. In turn, nearly all of the instructor pay for Fire Academy classes is funded through the District. We are but one of many successful programs at Mid Florida Tech, an internationally accredited school. However, we are considered the “Crown Jewel” in the OCPS/CTE Division.

The District also owns and maintains all the Fire Academy’s permanent facilities (listed below). However, the Fire Academy owns and operates all mobile (also listed below) and most of the fire training equipment. The Fire Academy also pays for much of the administrative and support staff it takes to operate the fire program classes at MFT.

# Central Florida Fire Academy

Organizational Structure  
Updated October 1, 2005



## Location and Facilities

Certified by the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, the Central Florida Fire Academy is located on seven and one half acres at the south side of Mid Florida Tech. Facilities include four separate OCPS re-locatable buildings and four permanent buildings. In addition to its offices and classrooms, the Fire Academy also houses the City of Orlando Fire Training Division. The Academy site includes:

- 26,000 Square foot administration/classroom facility with an indoor training area
- 24 position computer lab
- Fire Apparatus Driving Course
- 4-story Fire Tower with internal Structural Collapse Prop
- 3-story Live Fire Burn & Firefighter Safety and Survival Building
- Firefighter Search & Rescue, Breathing Apparatus Maze, Fire Apparatus & Storage Building
- Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) Fire Props (*car fire, pump flange, propane tank, transport vehicle*)
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Training Area
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) maintenance shop
- Audio/Video editing suite

The Fire Academy constructed the Live Fire Burn & Firefighter Safety Building in 1989 for 1.2 million dollars, of which \$800,000 was from the State Insurance Commissioner's Office and the other \$400,000 was from Fire Academy funds. The Academy subsequently donated the facility to OCPS/MFT, and it became a permanent part of the OCPS inventory. The building recently

underwent a \$950,000 OCPS funded repair and retrofit which will extend its life beyond the year 2020.

In July of 2005, the Fire Academy Board approved a master plan to be submitted to OCPS which calls for the renovation of its apparatus building converting two of its three bays to permanent showers and lockers while leaving the last bay for storage of the 2002 Pierce/Kenworth training engine. Furthermore, a new multi purpose building would be built where the remaining portable buildings sit. This new building would have provisions for the storage of six fire trucks, two classrooms, facilities personnel and maintenance space, and additional storage areas. Due to the constant threat of inclement weather – most importantly the high heat and humidity that can cause training to stop – indoor training space will also be included.

In addition to the OCPS property listed above, the Fire Academy owns and operates:

- Mobile fire fighting trainer with LPG props (the Fireflash Trailer)
- Mobile Flammable Liquids And Gas fire trainer (The FLAG trailer)
- Mobile Search and Rescue training unit
- Mobile 4-story fire tower
- Mobile Hazardous Materials Training Trailer
- 2002 Pierce/Kenworth Training engine.
- Three additional training engines

Our mission is to “train those who save lives and protect property.” Over the five years between Aug 2000 and July 2004, the Academy accomplished this mission through its partnership with Mid Florida Tech – one of the largest technical education centers in the southeast – by training over 5000 students with over 500,000 hours of basic, intermediate, and advanced fire and rescue skills and education. Courses and topics included:

- Certified Firefighter I & II <sup>(1)</sup>
- Certified Emergency Medical Technician <sup>(2)</sup>
- Certified Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator <sup>(1)</sup>
- Certified Fire Safety Inspector <sup>(1)</sup>
- Certified Fire Officer <sup>(1)</sup>
- Certified Fire Service Instructor <sup>(1)</sup>
- Certified Fire Investigator <sup>(1)</sup>
- Rope Rescue: Operational <sup>(3)</sup>
- Rope Rescue: Technician <sup>(3)</sup>
- Confined Space Rescue: Technician <sup>(3)</sup>
- Vehicle Machinery Rescue: Operations <sup>(3)</sup>
- Vehicle Machinery Rescue: Technician <sup>(3)</sup>
- Trench Rescue: Technician <sup>(3)</sup>
- Structural Collapse Rescue: Technician <sup>(3)</sup>
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Course
- Emergency Medical Services Bicycle Operations
- Firefighter Safety & Survival
- Various industry specific seminars including WMD and domestic security preparedness
- Agency specific in-service training (over 38,000 hours)\*

These courses were taught at the Fire Academy, on-site at member fire departments, or at a site particularly suitable for the class, such as a water tower or a building scheduled for demolition.

<sup>1</sup> Certified through the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training and meets or exceeds the corresponding professional qualification standards of the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association – America’s Fire Service consensus standard producing organization)

<sup>2</sup> Certified through the Florida Department of EMS, courses conducted by MFT’s EMS Program

<sup>3</sup> All technical rescue courses being conducted meet or exceed NFPA 1006/1670 standards for technical rescue training.

\* Member agencies’ in-service training is processed through the Fire Academy as Continuing Workforce Education (CWE) which returns state funding back to OCPS/MFT and in turn the Fire Academy.

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