

HISTORY OF THE FLORIDA STATE FIRE COLLEGE



The first Florida State Fire College Training session was held in Daytona Beach on May 7-9, 1930. From 1930 until 1939 the school was sponsored by the Florida State Firemen's Association. Classes were conducted once a year and were held in a different location each year. In 1939, the annual sessions were extended to five days in length and financial assistance was appointed to carry on this training, and annual sessions of five days continued until 1948, when ten-day sessions were held. In addition to the annual sessions, some itinerant training was conducted in several fire departments over the State.

In 1949, the Fire College became a State institution

with permanent headquarters in Ocala on six acres of ground to which were added gradually an administrative and classroom building, a garage for housing mobile equipment and other buildings for storage of training aids and supplies.

In 1969, under the State reorganization plan, the Florida State Fire College was placed under the Department of Community Affairs and became the Bureau of State Fire College.

In 1975, the Florida Legislature approved a budget request which ostensibly consolidated two existing Bureaus into one. It was during the Legislative session that the new Bureau was assigned to the Division of State Fire Marshal and acquired the title of Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

In 1989, a new 37-acre site was dedicated and opened 7 miles north of Ocala, in Lowell, among the rolling hills of central Florida's horse country. The facility has an administration building, learning resource center, classrooms, apparatus building, burn building, training tower (with a maze and elevator shafts), maintenance building, 100-bed dormitory, several lounges, and a cafeteria.

Since its founding, the Florida State Fire College (FSFC) has continuously provided vital training to the state's fire/rescue service. Now, completing its seventh decade, FSFC embarks on new directions to prepare Florida fire and emergency service personnel for the 21st Century.

In its dual capacities, the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training both prepares the fire and emergency services community for its duties and assures the citizens of the State the highest possible quality and professionalism.

The Florida State Fire College takes the point for the Division of State Fire Marshal in many joint training activities relative to emergency management, hazardous materials, incident command, and other such issues. Toward this end, FSFC works closely with the State's Division of Emergency Management, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the State Emergency Response Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Councils around the state, the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture, and other such entities. Of course, the Fire College also has strong working relationships with the Florida Fire Chief's Association, the Florida chapter of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention, the Florida Fire Marshals Association, the Florida Firemen's Association, and the Professional Firefighters of Florida, as well as every fire-rescue department statewide.

With the guidance of the Florida Firefighters Standards and Training Council, FSFC receives representative input from fire service organizations, higher education, and the private sector. Further, broad-based student and customer input from strategic planning to cafeteria selections ensures that the Florida State Fire College will always be a responsive institution, dedicated to the highest levels of professionalism and quality on behalf of the statewide fire service.



THE FIRE COLLEGE SEAL

The emblem of the Florida State Fire College contains a great deal of symbolism that adds to the meaning of this insignia and the mission of the people who wear it.

The eagle represents the eternal vigilance of the fire-rescue service, 365 days a year, seven days a week, and 24 hours a day. The shield motif below the eagle stands for the mission of protecting the public, as individuals and as a community.

The shield is divided into four quadrants, each with its own message. In the upper left, the Maltese cross is the traditional symbol of the fire service, dating back to the firefighting gallantry of the Knights of Malta in the Crusades. In the upper right, the open textbook represents the never-ending quest for knowledge. In the lower left, the crossed bugles stand for the transition to leadership and command responsibilities. The map of Florida in the lower right represents the Fire College's statewide mission to serve all of the fire service, from Pensacola to Key West.

The banner below the shield refers to the establishment of the very first Florida State Fire College, originally a week-long training event held in Daytona Beach under the auspices of the Florida State Firemen's Association. As a state institution, the Florida State Fire College has since been under the Governor's office and the Department of Community Affairs. From 1975 through 2001, the Florida State Fire College was part of the State Fire Marshal's Office within the Department of Insurance. Then in 2002, the Florida State Fire College became a part of the State Fire Marshal's Office within the Department of Financial Services.

The motto *Progressio Pere Eruditionem*, translated from the Latin, means "Progress Through Learning." The Florida State Fire College is forever committed to the increased professionalism and safety of the fire-rescue service through its educational leadership.

The Fire College Seal has transformed over the years and now includes vibrant colors and new insignia pictures. The open textbook replaced the Lamp of Learning, modernizing a never-ending quest for knowledge. The crossed bugles replaced the single bugle representing the transition to leadership and command responsibilities. The map of Florida signifies the statewide service from Pensacola to Key West. The motto was moved to circle the shield and the banner includes the establishment date of the very first Florida State Fire College. The Fire College Seal forever embodies the meaning of symbolism and mission.