



MEET YOUR DETROIT FIRE DEPARTMENT



Under New Leadership: Newly appointed Fire Commissioner Charles Simms

Charles (“Chuck”) Simms is the interim Fire Commissioner of the Detroit Fire Department for the City of Detroit. He joined the department when he was 19 years old and courageously fought fires for 15 years winning many commendations and awards for his heroic efforts. He was elected union representative for his battalion for 2 straight terms. Chuck transferred to the Arson and Fire Investigations division and rose through the ranks from lieutenant to captain and was eventually appointed to Chief of Arson. He was active in leading the department in strategically combating the numerous arsons in the city, especially the spike during the infamous Devil’s Night, which was eradicated under his leadership. Chuck was appointed Second Deputy Commissioner in 2016 where he provided oversight to the Fire Marshal, Arson, Training, Community Relations, and Communications divisions. In this role, he was able to apply efficient and lean procedures to increase the services to the citizens of Detroit. He was then appointed by Mayor Duggan to Interim Fire Commissioner in January 2022. Chuck was born and raised in Detroit where he attended Detroit Public Schools, graduated from Pershing High School, and then attended Wayne County Community College. Chuck obtained a Bachelor of Arts,

Psychology, and Master of Education, concentrating in Educational Psychology from Wayne State University. He is an avid learner who most recently gained Lean Six Sigma Green Belt to accompany many certifications received over the years, such as Nationally Certified Fire and Explosion

Investigator, Hazardous Materials, Confined Space, Emergency Medical Technician, and Weapons of Mass Destruction. Chuck is a humble and dedicated leader who loves to infuse humor and positivity into any situation.

His mantra since becoming a leader in the department is “To always do what’s best for the citizens of Detroit”. He has a passion for serving others and for improving and streamlining processes. Chuck is grateful for and loves the role that he plays in the fire department. He is also proud of his family that he refers to as his “Home Team”. Chuck has been married for 29 years and has 2 young adult sons.



SIMMS

The Detroit Fire Department consists of 7 Divisions:

1 Fire Marshal Division

The mission of the Detroit Fire Marshal Division is to provide the citizens, visitors of Detroit with the highest level of fire prevention using standards set forth by the Michigan Building Code, City Ordinance, and NFPA for the purpose of fire prevention inspections, code enforcement, plan review, investigation and public education, all delivered with outstanding customer service.

Please see the City of Detroit DFD/Fire Marshal Division Website for all our payment options. Visit <https://bit.ly/3kJTQu0>.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Billing/Permits
(313) 596-2963 | ■ Freedom of Information Act
(F.O.I.A.) Requests
(313) 596-2937 |
| ■ Complaints
(313) 596-2954
9-1-1 (After Hours) | ■ Knox Box Info
(313) 596-2968 |
| ■ Fire Reports
(313) 596-2963 | |

2 Community Relations Division

The mission of the Community Relations Division is to provide a safe environment for our customers through public education and community awareness programs.

HOME FIRE SAFETY

The Community Relations Division provides public education programs to reduce burn injuries and fatalities. The division coordinates an array of educational, community awareness, and outreach programs. One critical program is the Home Fire Safety Program where families are encouraged to install working smoke detectors on every floor in the home including the attic and basement and have an evacuation plan and practice it with the entire family. It is also important to have a pre-assigned meeting place (such as a neighbor's house) outside the home to make sure everyone gets out safely.

The division coordinates an array of educational, community awareness and outreach programs.

- Firehouse Tours
- Junior Fire Cadet Program (14-23)
- Hands-Only CPR Training
- Mobile Fire Safety House Training
- Career Opportunity/Exploration
- Smoke Detector Installations
- Fire Prevention Week Activities
- Carbon Monoxide Detector Installations
- Fire & Life Safety Education
- Arson Awareness

CONTACT THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION

Email communityrelations@detroitmi.gov or call (313) 596-2959.



3 Communications Division

The mission of the Detroit Fire Department Communications Division is to provide the citizens of Detroit with world class fire department communications relating to the dispatch and follow-up of the appropriate Fire Department resources necessary for the protection of life and property as it relates to the use of fire, medical and rescue response.

Our Communications Center has a total of 30 highly trained licensed Public Safety Emergency Medical Technicians and Medical First Responders Fire/EMS Dispatchers who operate the Center 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year dispatching Fire & EMS Responders and resources to emergencies received from the calling public.

4 Emergency Medial Services (EMS) Division

DFD-EMS brings cutting-edge prehospital treatment and transport to the Citizens and Visitors in Detroit. The EMS Division handles over 140,000 medical calls for service each year. Dedicated licensed medical responders staffing 15 Basic Life Support (BLS) and 10 Advance Life Support (ALS) Ambulances handled emergency responses. For the most life-threatening emergencies, a fire company will respond first to stabilize the patient, closely followed by a transporting ambulance.

For billing questions, call (888) 987-3605. For medical records, call (313) 596-5180.



HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- Learn Hands-Only CPR (push hard and fast in the center of the chest)
 - Attend Regular Check-Ups with Your Doctor
 - Call 9-1-1 for Life and Limb Threatening Emergencies ONLY
 - Always Cooperate with Emergency Responders
- YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE!**

5 Fire Operations Division



Fire Operations has 782 personnel that includes Chief Officers, Firefighters, Fire Engine Operators, and Fire Officers. The fleet includes 27 Fire Engines, 13 Ladder Trucks, 6 Tactical Mobile Squads and a Hazardous Material Response Vehicle.

These vehicles have been strategically placed throughout the city to provide the most efficient service to the citizens of Detroit. Firefighters licensed as Emergency Medical Technicians, Medical First Responders and Paramedics now respond to all priority runs with EMS to deliver the most efficient and effective service possible.

6 Training Division

Located at 10200 Erwin in Detroit, the Walter P. Harris Fire and EMS Regional Training Center (RTC) trains every firefighter and medic of the Detroit Fire Department to prepare them for duty. The RTC also offers refresher training awareness courses and simulation programs that are available to City employees, community groups, and corporate entities.

For more information, contact Regional Training Center at (313) 237-2775.

TRAINING AREAS INCLUDE:

- Fire Fighting
- Emergency Medical Services
- Hazardous Material
- Emergency Vehicle Operation
- Rope Rescue
- Incident Command
- CPR
- EVOC Driving Simulator
- Milo Response Simulator
- And much more!

7 Fire Investigation Division

The Fire Investigation Division is committed to protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Detroit. Every one of our Detroit Fire Investigators is a Certified Fire Investigators (CFI), and/or Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator (CFEI) with years of experience and specialized skills in determining fire origin & cause. We have developed an Arson Task Force that also incorporates Detroit Police Detectives and Sergeants with years of experience and knowledge in solving complex Investigations. The crime of Arson devastates both lives and property and it is the collaboration between law enforcement and the community that will defeat the scourge that arson inflicts on our community.

In 2021, the Arson Reward program paid out over \$10,000 for tips leading to the arrest & conviction of criminals who use fire as their weapon of choice. We have worked closely with the neighborhood watch groups and others going door to door to pass out Arson Awareness leaflets and posting reward signs throughout the city. We encourage all citizens to get involved in watching over their neighborhoods. You can make the difference and assist us by reporting arson: CONTACT US: Main Office: 313-596-2940, Direct Tip Line 313-628-2900, email us at arsontips@detroitmi.gov, or through Facebook at Detroit-Fire Investigations. All of these methods allow you to remain anonymous.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Reward up to \$5,000 offered for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of anyone on arson charges.



PUT THE ARSONISTS WHERE THEY BELONG

The fires they set affect all of us! To report arson, call "Arson Control" toll-free at 1-800-44-ARSON.



ARSON K-9 SECTION

Campbell is a Labrador Retriever trained to find accelerants at fire scenes. A collaborative funding effort with the Fire Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms makes the K-9 program possible.