

City of Miami



PEDRO G. HERNANDEZ, P.E.
City Manager

2008 Message from the Fire Chief:

During 2008 the Department has provided increased levels of quality services to the citizens of Miami with the addition of new apparatus. We continue to experience a tremendous demand for emergency services with an estimated 87,000 alarms this year.

To help address the increased call volume, one additional Rescue unit was placed in service at Fire Station 8 located in Coconut Grove. Additionally, we expect to launch our full time Fireboat for marine and waterway Fire-Rescue services coverage. The all aluminum vessel is produced by MetalCraft Marine, powered with twin 760hp diesels with jet drives, has twin 1750gpm fire pumps and can achieve a top speed of 42mph. All personnel assigned to the vessel are Public Safety Divers and Paramedics.

We have won various awards during this year including two ALS competitions, a historic rating from ISO as a Class 1 City (first time in Miami's history), Lt Iggy Carroll won the Florida PIO of the year and I was named the Metropolitan Fire Chief of the year (a true testament to the department!!).

2009 will be a tough fiscal year and the City will be juggling to keep from cutting vital services. Part of the problem is, the worse the economy gets the busier we get. We will be doing a lot of planning and saving where possible.

The City of Miami Department of Fire-Rescue has a long history and tradition of being a respected and innovative Fire Department recognized throughout the world, all because of the dedicated men and women that serve and have served. I am extremely proud of everyone, past to present and grateful to be the Fire Chief of such a great organization. The opportunity to serve this dynamic community and its citizens is a great honor for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Bryson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

William "Shorty" Bryson, Fire Chief/Director
Department of Fire-Rescue