

Fire Chief Donald R. Peterson, Biography

Donald R. Peterson is a 25-year-veteran of the Golden Gate Fire Control and Rescue District in Naples, Florida. He has served as the district's fire chief for 16 of those years.

Chief Peterson runs a fire district located in one of the fastest growing areas of the United States of America. He is faced with the daily challenges of providing quality services to his ever-increasing resident and visitor population.

The Golden Gate Fire District has battled through many incidents over the years, including some of the largest wildfires in Florida history such as the Merritt Fire in 2000, which burned more than 16,000 acres.

During his career, he has served in several capacities:

- He is a member of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association since 1993 and currently serves in the position as county coordinator for Collier County in the State Emergency Response Plan (SERP);
- He has served as a strike team leader on state incidents;
- He has been a liaison at the state emergency operations center for major incidents, including Hurricane Katrina;
- He is a member, International Association of Fire Chiefs since 1993;
- He is a 23-year-member of the International Association of Arson Investigators; and
- He is a 26 year member of the Moose International Organization.
- Past President of the Collier County Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshalls Associations;
- Member of the National Fire Protection Association and was a Charter member of the Wildland Fire Management Section;
- Currently serves as a member of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Wildland Committee;
- Participated in the FireWise Community Planning Program;
- Assisted with writing local and state legislation for emergency services;
- Assisted with getting implemented traffic signal pre-emption devices in Collier County;
- Has attended classes at the National Fire Academy regarding community planning and emergency services;