

# **CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**



## **EXPLORER POST #123**

**Entrance Exam**

**Study Packet**



# Clark County Fire Department Explorer Post #123

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Clark County Fire Department Explorer Program is a paramilitary organization, which is open to young men and women from the ages of 16 to 21 who are interested in a career as a firefighter with the Clark County Fire Department (CCFD). You will experience firsthand what it is like to be a CCFD firefighter by participating in fire ground skills, academic studies, team building exercises, and ride-alongs. Regardless of you wanting to become a firefighter, some of the benefits of our program, which are valued in any profession, are:

- Improved self-confidence
- Attention to detail
- Leadership experience and social/career network development
- Community service opportunities
- Moral character development
- The value of teamwork
- Responsibility/Accountability
- Discipline
- Benefits of hard work
- Ownership

## GETTING STARTED

The Explorer Program has two (2) enrollment dates every year. The enrollment process will mimic the testing process of the Clark County Fire Department and consists of a written test, physical test, and an oral interview.

## TESTING REQUIREMENTS

### Written Exam

The written exam will consist of a 25-question test from study material found inside this Clark County Fire Department Explorers Entrance Exam Study Packet.

A grade of 70% or greater is required to pass the entrance written exam. Approximately 25% of those trying to join our program do not pass this entrance exam. **Do not wait until a few days before the test to study this material!** The more you read this Clark County Fire Department Explorers Entrance Exam Study Packet, the better chance you will have to retain its information, which will result in a higher grade.

Those who pass the written exam move on to the Physical Fitness Test, which is a pass/fail process.

## Physical Fitness Test (Pass/Fail)

You must complete each of these:

- 1 Mile Run within 13 Minutes
- 20 Push Ups
- 20 Sit Ups
- 10 Dips
- 1 Pull Up

Those successfully passing the physical fitness test will move on to the Oral Interview.

## Oral Interview

Each candidate will be asked a series of (simple) questions so that Explorer Advisors get to know you and to ensure you understand the requirements of the Clark County Fire Department Explorer program. This oral interview is conducted like an oral interview for the Clark County Fire Department.

### Tips

- First impressions are important in any interview. Walk in, offer a firm handshake to all panel members, and as you introduce yourself to each person, look them in the eyes.  
If your hands are sweaty due to nerves, quickly and as discreetly as possible, wipe them on your pants before shaking hands.
- Do not sit until you are asked to do so.
- Using Sir or Ma'am, to those you are addressing, before and after each statement or answer is a sign of respect.  
Example: Sir, my name is Joe Smith, Sir.
- When asked a question, take a moment to think about what the question is asking before answering.
- Answer all questions to the best of your ability.  
Panel members already know you are (likely) nervous. Remain calm and remember to breathe.
- Be excited to be in this testing process.
- At the conclusion of the interview, thank the panel and shake their hands.

## **The Fire Service**

The fire service has grown and developed since there has been a need for such an occupation. From using bucket brigades to put the fire out to horse-drawn pumpers, with the first paid fire department developed in 1679 and the first volunteer fire department in 1735, we have changed and fixed the job to become safer and more effective. The first fire departments were insurance companies that only put fires out for buildings that paid their specific company. It molded into primarily volunteer fire departments that extinguished fires, for free. Local governments started ordering regulations to prevent, limit, and contain fires within structures. While most of that started many centuries ago, there are also many changes more recent as well. Less than one hundred years ago, it was not even regulation for firefighters to use protective facemasks or wear protective equipment in fires. As such, many senior firefighters within the fire service have developed cancers and other diseases due to the lack of protective equipment.

The fire service will continue to develop and evolve with the times to allow a better understanding of the occupation and continuously make it safer and easier for firefighters. Because of this, fire departments and all their employees must be able to continuously develop their knowledge and move with the changing of these times. This packet provides only basic information, which can be used as a base upon which to develop and hone your knowledge you will acquire throughout your involvement with the fire service.

## **The Clark County Fire Department**

***Our mission is "To provide for the safety and health of our Southern Nevada communities and our visitors through professional emergency response, fire prevention and public education."***

In Southern Nevada and the Las Vegas Valley, there are multiple fire departments. In addition to the Clark County Fire Department, others include Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, North Las Vegas Fire Department, Henderson Fire Department, Boulder City Fire Department, and Mesquite Fire Department, among a few rural departments too. We collaborate closely with these departments and numerous other Local, State, and Federal agencies in a joint effort to provide the highest level of fire, rescue, and emergency medical support to our residents and visitors.

The history of the Clark County Fire Department dates back seven decades. It is both rich and colorful from the days of the El Rancho Vegas Hotel and Casino fire to the unforgettable MGM Grand inferno and Hilton fire that changed the way fire departments around the world responded to high-rise fires.

In these pages are stories that recount the bravery and dedication of the department's personnel. We hope you learn things about people whose lives made Las Vegas more than just a gambling destination. As you continue reading, you will learn about Clark

County and what has made it, including the world-famous Las Vegas Strip, a preferred tourist destination.

Very few occupations, if indeed any, have histories as rich and interesting as the fire service. Ours is no exception. This is the story of the Clark County Fire Department and the challenges it has met and overcome in the last 60+ years. When it came time to *stand and be counted*, Clark County Firefighters were right there in the thick of things, doing what had to be done. This is a story of a group of brave individuals who responded to the call.

## **History**

The Clark County Fire Department (CCFD) was established on November 23, 1953. The very first station was not ready at the time of the department's establishment so the first eight-crewmembers of the CCFD responded out of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue's Station 2. They worked in two, four-man crews and started out working only day shifts. On January 1, 1954, Station 11, the CCFD's first fire station, was opened. The department began with this one station responding to calls with a 2-Platoon 72/96-hour workweek system. Split into two platoons, A and B, each with four men running the single pumper that made up the entirety of the department.

The department has changed much since then. We now run with a 3-Platoon system (Platoons A, B, and C). CCFD firefighters work 24-hours on, 24-hours off, for nine straight days, and then given six days off. This rotation is repeated making for one-third of the month (ten or more full days per month) spent away from friends and family. Our department has grown to encompass 33 urban (paid career) stations and 10 volunteer stations. Most of the career stations are within the city. Each station has different apparatus located within them. Generally, stations closer to the center of town have a greater number of apparatuses to compete with the number of calls they receive. One of our urban stations is located at the Harry Reid International Airport (formally known as McCarran International Airport). Station 13 responds to calls only at the Harry Reid International Airport, they do not leave the airport. Harry Reid International Airport is the seventh busiest airport in the United States seeing nearly 50 million passengers per year, which is served by the men and women of Station 13.

## **Organizational System**

Every fire department has a specific organizational system to ensure everything runs smoothly and that employees are aware of the Chain of Command, which every member from the Fire Chief to the newest firefighter follows. The top of the organizational chart is the Fire Chief. This position has overall responsibility for the administration and operations of the entire department. Fire Chief Billy Samuels is our Fire Chief. Directly below him are the Deputy Chiefs, who have the same role as the Fire Chief, though they have functional assignments. Because of the size of the CCFD, we have eight deputy chiefs wherein all the sections of the department (Operations, EMS, Training, Rural Division, etc.) are split up so the department can run smoothly and

efficiently without too many responsibilities weighing on any single person. This is referred to as the Span of Control. The Span of Control is the number of individuals or resources that one supervisor can manage effectively. Assistant Fire Chiefs come just below Deputy Chiefs. Right below Assistant Chiefs are Battalion Chiefs. Battalion Chiefs supervise and control the operations of a certain number of stations. (Remember Span of Control?) Below Battalion Chiefs are Fire Captains. Fire Captains are responsible for each individual fire station and are the supervisors of those who work in them, which are Fire Engineers and, finally, the chain of command ending with Firefighters.

**Battalions & Apparatus**

To maintain a proper chain of command and span of control, the department is split into four sections, called battalions, each run by a single Battalion Chief (there are three Battalion Chiefs in each battalion, as they rotate with the 3-Platoon system). The 33 urban stations are split into five battalions; each battalion is based upon a geographical location. The next few pages list every career CCFD station, their locations, their apparatus, and the battalion that they belong. Each is important to know. It is also important to know the apparatus the department has:

Engine Companies .....	32 (One station, 87, does not have an engine.)
Truck Companies .....	6 (Stations 17, 18, 22, 24,30 and 61)
Rescue/Squad/Ambulance Companies .....	34
Airport Rescue Fire Fighting Fire Apparatus .....	4
Heavy Rescue (Technical Rescue) .....	1
Mobile Air Resource .....	1
Rehab Unit .....	1
Water Tender .....	1
Mobile Command Unit .....	1
Communications Unit .....	1
Rescue Watercraft .....	1

**Incident Response Call Volume**

The CCFD is the largest (career and volunteer) fire department in Nevada and is responsible for protecting the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and unincorporated Clark County, which is over 7,000 square miles with a population of 2.4 million people. The CCFD also provides services to the resort townships of Laughlin, Primm, and Jean. The department is busy! We responded to over 146,000 incidents in 2023. Our incident call volume breakdown is approximately:

- 77% - Emergency Medical Services (Medical Calls)

- 6% - Traffic accidents, Hazardous materials, technical rescue, etc.
- 4% - Fire related emergencies
- 13% - Other

## **Training Center**

In 1983, a new mechanics shop and the completion of a training center were built, both located on the corner of Tropicana Avenue and Arville Road. This also became the home of the Fire Prevention Bureau. This facility brought with it improved training, vehicle maintenance, and other services, which is an invaluable tool in maintaining the highest caliber of readiness.

## **Urban Stations**

- **11**  
**Location:** Las Vegas Blvd / Russell  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 6
- **12**  
**Location:** Desert Inn / Industrial  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 2
- **13**  
**Location:** Harry Reid International Airport  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Squad, Red Dog 40, 41, 42, 44  
**Battalion:** 2
- **14**  
**Location:** Desert Inn / Topaz  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Mobile Air Resource  
**Battalion:** 2
- **15**  
**Location:** Spring Mountain / Valley View  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 2
- **16**  
**Location:** Washington / Mt. Hood  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Battalion (Chief) 3  
**Battalion:** 3
- **17**  
**Location:** Tropicana / Andover  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Truck, Rescue, Squad  
**Battalion:** 13



- **18**  
**Location:** Flamingo / Paradise (**Main Fire Administration Office**)  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Truck, Rescue, Squad, Battalion (Chief) 2  
**Battalion:** 2
- **19**  
**Location:** Russell / Spencer  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 13
- **20**  
**Location:** Judson / Sloan  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 3
- **21**  
**Location:** Decatur / Oquendo  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Heavy Rescue  
**Battalion:** 7
- **22**  
**Location:** Flamingo / Rainbow  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Truck, Rescue, Battalion (Chief) 7  
**Battalion:** 7
- **23**  
**Location:** Alexander / Lamb  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 3
- **24**  
**Location:** Warm Springs / Dean Martin  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Truck, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 6
- **25**  
**Location:** Tropicana / Pecos  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Battalion (Chief) 13  
**Battalion:** 13
- **26**  
**Location:** Flamingo / El Capitan  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 7
- **27**  
**Location:** Vegas Valley / Lamb  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 3
- **28**  
**Location:** Sahara / Town Center  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 7

- **29**  
**Location:** Paradise / Warm Springs  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Battalion (Chief) 6  
**Battalion:** 6
- **30**  
**Location:** Buffalo / Robindale  
**Apparatus:** Truck, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 7
- **31**  
**Location:** Hollywood / Sahara  
**Apparatus:** Engine  
**Battalion:** 3
- **32**  
**Location:** Harmon / Las Vegas Blvd  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Squad  
**Battalion:** 2
- **33**  
**Location:** Desert Inn / Swenson  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Rescue, EMS Captain  
**Battalion:** 2
- **34**  
**Location:** Durango / Oquendo  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 7
- **35**  
**Location:** Flamingo / Hualapai  
**Apparatus:** Engine  
**Battalion:** 7
- **38**  
**Location:** Eastern / Serene  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 6
- **39**  
**Location:** Blue Diamond / Rainbow  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 6
- **61**  
**Location:** Charleston / Nellis  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Truck, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 3
- **65**  
**Location:** Southern Highlands / Valley View  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue, Water Tender  
**Battalion:** 6

- **66**  
**Location:** Buffalo / Mountains Edge  
**Apparatus:** Engine  
**Battalion:** 6
- **76**  
**Location:** Thomas Edison / Laughlin Civic  
**Apparatus:** Engine, Rescue  
**Battalion:** 13
- **85**  
**Location:** Needles Highway / James Bilbray  
**Apparatus:** Engine  
**Battalion:** 13
- **87**  
**Location:** Jean off ramp / Las Vegas Blvd  
**Apparatus:** Rescue  
**Battalion:** 6

## **Rural Stations**

- **70** - **Location:** Trout Canyon
- **71** - **Location:** Bunkerville
- **75** - **Location:** Searchlight
- **77** - **Location:** Sandy Valley
- **78** - **Location:** Goodsprings
- **79** - **Location:** Mountain Springs
- **80** - **Location:** Blue Diamond
- **82** - **Location:** Cold Creek
- **83** - **Location:** Indian Springs
- **84** - **Location:** Cal-Nev-Ari

## **First LODDs (Line of Duty Deaths)**

On March 1, 1968, the day began as any other at Station 14. Firefighter Colin Hanley noticed smoke growing in the north. He relayed his observation to his Captain, Captain Roy Walch. As they investigated it, the cloud continued to grow and the call came in, there was a fire in the Sandstone Company Dice Factory. The crew of Engine 14 (consisting of Captain Walch, Engineer Angel, Firefighter Ernest, and Firefighter Hanley) were dispatched and were the first unit to arrive. The building was well involved as the engine crew began laying lines. Hanley took a line and began operating at the rear of the building. A short time later, he shut down his line and went back to the engine. He told Engineer Angel that he thought he needed some oxygen. As Engineer Angel went for a resuscitator, Hanley went to sit down on the back of the engine but collapsed before making it there. Efforts to resuscitate were unsuccessful. Firefighter Hanley's death was attributed to the inhalation of phosgene gas that was given off from the burning celluloid cubes used in the manufacturing of dice. Firefighter Colin Hanley

was the first line of duty death of the Clark County Fire Department. Station 20, later built in 1975, was dedicated to the memory of Firefighter Colin Hanley.

April 11, 1970, only two years after the death of Firefighter Colin Hanley, the CCFD experienced a fire in the Stardust hotel that resulted in the loss of a second firefighter line of duty death. The Stardust was engulfed in flames. While fighting the blaze, Captain Frank Testa suffered a heart attack, wherein efforts to revive him were also unsuccessful. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital. Station 19, also built in 1975, was dedicated in honor of Captain Frank Testa.

## Major Events



**El Rancho Vegas Hotel and Casino** – On June 17, 1960, at 4:40 am, CCFD apparatus were dispatched to a fire at the El Rancho Vegas Hotel and Casino. When they arrived, most of casino was already engulfed in flames. Despite their attempts to fight off the flames, it was too late to save the building. Luckily, the incident was not considered a tragedy, as evacuation of the structure was orderly and there were no deaths or injuries.



**MGM Grand Hotel** – November 21, 1980, saw the second largest life-loss hotel fire in U.S. history. The source was determined to be an electrical ground fault within a small deli in the hotel. The fire was discovered at 7:05 a.m. by a construction worker, who immediately notified MGM security and began trying to knock the fire down with an extinguisher. As the fire continued to intensify, the worker realized the severity of the situation and left the area. Within six minutes of discovery, the total casino area was involved, at a burn rate of approximately 15 to 19 feet per second! The CCFD received the call at 7:17 a.m. with Engine 11 arriving at 7:19 a.m. As the Engine 11 crew made entry into the structure; the rapidly spreading fire forced them out of the structure. The results of this fire were devastating with 85 deaths and more than 700 injured.



**Las Vegas Hilton** – On February 10, 1981, only 90 days after the devastating MGM Grand fire, the Las Vegas valley experienced another significant fire at the Las Vegas Hilton. This fire occurred shortly after 8 p.m. and sadly, the cause of the fire was not an accident. After an extensive investigation, Investigators discovered there were fires set in four different spots within the hotel. It was determined that Phillip Bruce Cline set these fires and received eight consecutive prison sentences of life

without parole. The results of the fire were also devastating with eight deaths and more than 200 injured. The fewer deaths can be attributed to the lessons learned from the MGM fire, as the fire department ordered the guests to stay in their rooms and await the fire's extinguishment, as opposed to mass evacuation.

**Caesar's Palace Hotel** – On April 1, 1981, reports of a fire at the luxurious Caesars Palace were coming in and the Clark County Fire Department answered the call. Around 10:30 a.m., first arriving units discovered smoke coming from the fifth floor on the west side of the structure. As crews made their way to the fifth floor, conditions were poor. There was heavy smoke throughout the floor and the power had been lost.

Captain Don Warren of Engine 12 had sent his only firefighter with Engine 11's crew while he remained at the stairwell to help guests evacuate. Just then, a security guard came to Captain Warren asking for help getting an unconscious guest out of a room. The security officer led Captain Warren through the heavy smoke to a room where they began a search for the guest. After a short while, the guard had to flee as the thick smoke became too much to handle as Captain Warren continued to search for the victim.

The room flashed over - everything ignited at once. Surrounded by flames, Captain Warren tried to find a way out. Soon, the sound of the fire quieted and he could hear the muffled sound of firefighters talking to each other. A crew had made their way through the fire and saved Captain Warren's life. When the first firefighters saw him, the straps on his air pack were still burning. Firefighter Ron Patron put out the remaining fire and, with the help of Captain Carl Lowe, assisted Captain Warren out of the hotel. Captain Warren suffered painful burn injuries and endured numerous surgeries. It took over two years before he could return to duty.





**PEPCON Explosion** – The Pacific Engineering and Production Co. of Nevada (PEPCON) began operating in 1958. The plant produced ammonium perchlorate, an oxidizer used in National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) space shuttle and the defense industry's Titan missile programs. The plant was built just southeast of Las Vegas near the city of Henderson. Inexpensive hydropower from nearby Hoover Dam and the dry climate - ideal for easier handling and storage of the product - made the location perfect.

Shortly before noon on May 4, 1988, a series of explosions rattled the plant and the surrounding area. The blasts killed two employees and injured more than 300 others.

Company officials estimated about 4,500 tons of ammonium perchlorate were present at the plant at the time of the explosions. Nearly all of it was

destroyed by the fire and resulting explosions. A nearby natural gas pipeline was ruptured by the detonations resulting in large flames that were visible miles away.

Members of the closest responding units from Henderson Fire Department suffered cuts when their engine's windows shattered as they approached the scene.

The nearby Kidd & Co. marshmallow plant was nearly destroyed, and numerous homes, schools, and businesses suffered varying degrees of damage. Property damage to buildings other than the plant was estimated to be \$74 million.

CCFD Fire Investigators determined that sparks from a welder's torch ignited the ammonium perchlorate. Poor housekeeping contributed to the fire and the resulting explosions.

The first explosion was the smallest and provided a warning to company employees to evacuate the complex. Two more detonations obliterated the property, but by then, all but two management members of the company had escaped.

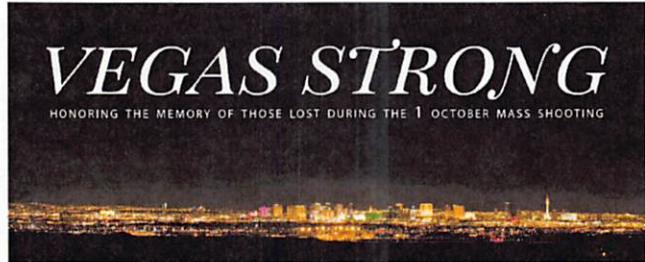
After the explosion, the plant was renamed Western Electrochemical Co. and relocated to southern Utah. It operates now in Iron County, approximately 14 miles northwest of Cedar City, Utah.



On **January 25, 2008**, at 10:57 a.m., a passing motorist reported that the roof of the Monte Carlo was on fire. Fueled by a highly flammable foam facade, the fire spread quickly along the building's facade and down into the upper floors. Clark County firefighters on the roof and hanging out hotel room windows attacked the fire with water to extinguish it. The Monte

Carlo, a 32-story casino resort with 3,020 guest rooms of which approximately 2,400 was occupied at the time of the fire, required the evacuation of approximately 1,000 employees and 5,000 guests. Much of the damage was contained to the top floors, roof, and the building's exterior. An estimated \$100,000,000 was lost due to damage and casino/hotel operation interruption but there were no fatalities with thirteen guests treated for minor injuries and smoke inhalation.

**2017 Las Vegas Shooting** - On October 1, 2017, a 64-year-old man opened fire on a crowd attending the Route 91 Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas Strip killing 60 people and wounding/injuring 867. On-duty firefighters were on location almost immediately establishing casualty collection points (CCP), tending to those wounded or injured while several firefighters attending the event off-duty immediately sprang into action consciously, deliberately, and repeatedly advanced toward the danger, moving people to CCPs for triaging and transport to local hospitals.



## **CCFD Fire Chiefs**

### **First Fire Chief: William H. Trelease**

- First Fire Chief of the Clark County Fire Department
- Held the position from Jan 1954 until Dec 1964 (when he passed away)
- Began firefighting career in 1922 as a volunteer firefighter; became an Engineer for LVF&R

### **Second Fire Chief: Herman "Kit" Carson**

- Held the position from Dec 1964 to Jan 1971
- Was one of the first firefighters of the CCFD
- Roles during tenure at the CCFD include Firefighter, Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Chief, and Fire Chief

### **Third Fire Chief: Clell Henley**

- Held the position from Feb 1971 until Nov 1974
- One of the founding members of the department
- First driver on B Platoon when Station 11 opened, first Battalion Chief in the Fire Prevention Bureau and first Deputy Chief of CCFD
- Worked as a Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Chief, and Fire Chief

### **Fourth Fire Chief: Leroy O. Hawks**

- Held the position from Nov 1974 to Dec 1977
- Took on newly added responsibility of handling admin duties for existing 11 volunteer fire departments in Clark County
- Served as a Firefighter, Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Lieutenant, Senior Fire Investigator, Assistant Fire Chief, and Deputy Fire Chief

### **Fifth Fire Chief: Roy L. Parrish**

- Held the position from Dec 1977 to Dec 1990
- Began his career with the CCFD in 1959
- Served as a Firefighter, Fire Engineer, Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and Fire Chief

### **Sixth Fire Chief: William S. Bunker**

- Acted as Fire Chief for six months before being appointed in June 1991. Held the position until Nov 1996
- Served as a Firefighter, Fire Engineer, Paramedic, Rural Fire Chief, and Deputy Fire Chief
- Helped the CCFD achieve ISO Class I rating in 1992



**Seventh Fire Chief: Earl A. Greene**

- Held the position from Nov 1996 to Feb 2006
- Began his career in 1973 and was involved in all areas of the Fire Department, including Fire Prevention, Hazardous Materials, Logistics, Volunteer Fire, Administration, etc.

**Eighth Fire Chief: Steven M. Smith**

- Held the position from Feb 2006 to Sept 2010
- Served as a Firefighter/Paramedic, Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, and Battalion Chief
- Helped fight the MGM and Hilton fires

**Ninth Fire Chief: Bertral T. Washington**

- Held the position from Nov 2010 to Dec 2014
- Worked through the ranks of Firefighter, Training Officer, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Fire Chief
- Transferred to become Fire Chief of the Pasadena Fire Department in California

**Tenth Fire Chief: Greg Cassell**

- Held the position from Dec 2014 to Feb 2020
- Work through the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic, Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, and Battalion Chief
- Reestablished the Technical Rescue Team
- National keynote speaker for the development of training and policies for Hostile Events

**Eleventh Fire Chief: John Steinbeck**

- Held the position from Feb 2020 to Feb 2025
- Has been with the Clark County Fire Department since 1990
- Work through the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic, Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and before the Fire Chief, he was a Deputy Chief and the Clark County Emergency Manager
- For a large portion of his career, he specialized in technical rescue including high angle, confined space, swift water, trench, vehicle and machinery extrication, and structural collapse
- Southern Nevada FEMA Urban Search and Rescue team member since 1993 with deployments to New York City after 9-11 and New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina
- Active board member of Nevada Child Seekers, an organization dedicated to protecting children in Nevada

**Twelfth Fire Chief: Billy Samuels**

- Promoted to Fire Chief on Feb. 18, 2025, and is the current Fire Chief of the CCFD
- Has been with the Clark County Fire Department since 2001
- Work through the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic, Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and before the Fire Chief, he was a Deputy Chief and the Clark County Emergency Manager
- Played an integral role in the planning and execution of major events such as the annual New Year's Eve celebration on the Las Vegas Strip, the Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix and Super Bowl LVIII
- Provided leadership in response to natural disasters that have impacted Clark County and ran the operations for the Family Assistance Center are the tragic events of 1 October



**William H. Trelease**  
Jan. 1954 - Dec. 1964



**Herman "Kit" Carson**  
Dec. 1964 - Jan. 1971



**Clell Henley**  
Feb. 1971 - Nov. 1974



**Leroy O. Hawks**  
Nov. 1974 - Dec. 1977



**Roy L. Parrish**  
Dec. 1977 - Dec. 1990



**William S. Bunker**  
Jun. 1991 - Nov. 1996



**Earl A. Greene**  
Nov. 1996 - Feb. 2006



**Steven M. Smith**  
Feb. 2006 - Sep. 2010



**Bertral T. Washington**  
Nov. 2010 - Dec. 2014



**Greg Cassell**  
Dec. 2014 - Feb. 2020



**John Steinbeck**  
Feb. 2020 - Feb. 2025



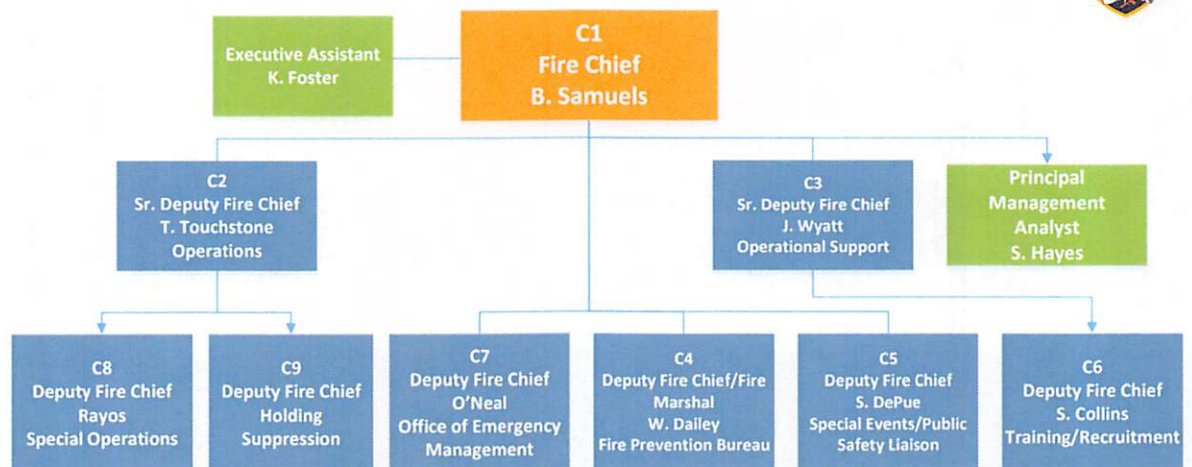
**Billy Samuels**  
Feb 2025 - Present

## CCFD Administration Staff

- **Fire Chief:** Billy Samuels
- **Senior Deputy Chief:** Thomas Touchstone (Operations)
- **Senior Deputy Chief:** Jennifer Wyatt (Operational Support)
- **Deputy Chief:** Wayne Dailey (Fire Prevention)
- **Deputy Chief:** Steven De Pue (Special Events)
- **Deputy Chief:** Sean Collins (Training/Recruitment)
- **Deputy Chief:** Brian O'Neal (Office of Emergency Management)
- **Deputy Chief:** Carlito Rayos (Special Operations)
- **Deputy Chief:** Kenny Holding (Fire Suppression)
- **Executive Assistant:** Kelly Foster
- **Principal Management Analyst:** Sheron Hayes

### Clark County Fire Department Functional Organization

Updated October 2025



## **Parting Words of Advice**

The fire service is a proud and strong organization, rich in history and tradition. Additionally, the Clark County Fire Department, who governs this Explorer Program, is only a small fragment of the fire service organization that contributes to the world of firefighting. As part of the history covered above, it is incredibly important that we do not limit our education to the CCFD alone. Neither should we, once in the program, limit our education to what we learn on Explorer meeting days. Our word of advice, as fellow and former Explorers, is to commit yourself to more than what the Explorer program offers. Research and study beyond the materials our Explorer Advisors provide you. Research videos on the topics we discuss in class and during skills. Study and learn more of American history. History developed who we are today and understanding who we are today helps you develop the future you desire.

Research what we, as Americans, stand for. Understand the history of the American flag; the reasons behind its designs and incredible national events like 9/11, and how American history affects the fire service. Go 'above and beyond' the expectations we have developed and will instill upon you. Our Explorer program will only take you so far within the world of firefighting. As with life, you will only get out of the Explorer program what you put into it. Learn to motivate yourself and become the person you want to be. Visualize it! Good luck and work hard.

Welcome to the Clark County Fire Department Explorer Program!