

Finalists for Dallas Fire Rescue Chief

Todd Edward Alt - Assistant Chief of Operations, Tampa Fire Rescue



Todd Edward Alt brings nearly three decades of progressive leadership in the fire service, grounded in frontline experience, academic excellence, and a deep commitment to public service. His career began in 1996 after completing the Fire Academy in Tampa, Florida. While earning Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic certifications, he volunteered as a firefighter—laying the foundation for a life dedicated to emergency response and leadership.

In 2001, Chief Alt joined Tampa Fire Rescue, where he has since advanced through every major operational rank—Firefighter, Rescue Lieutenant, Driver Engineer, Fire Captain, District Chief, Division Chief of Personnel, and currently, Assistant Chief. Throughout his rise, he has consistently demonstrated integrity, strategic leadership, and an ability to manage high-stakes operations while fostering professional growth within the organization.

Chief Alt holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Fire Science Management, a Master of Science (MS) in Management and a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Organizational Leadership and Human Resource Development.

As Assistant Chief, Alt oversees emergency response operations, resource management, and personnel development. His passion for education also extends to the classroom, where he serves as a faculty member at Hillsborough Community College and Columbia Southern University—sharing real-world insight and inspiring lifelong learning.

Justin Ball – Interim Fire Chief, Dallas Fire-Rescue



Justin Ball began his fire service career in 1997 with the Dallas Fire Department, now Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR). Over the past 27 years, he has advanced through every rank—from firefighter paramedic to Field Deputy Chief, Executive Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, and ultimately Executive Assistant Chief of Operations.

In this executive role, Chief Ball led the Department's most critical divisions, including Fire Response, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Special Operations, Communications and Safety. He spearheaded key initiatives such as the Stop the Bleed Program, the Single Function Paramedic Program, and the Squad Relief Program. A seasoned incident commander, he led the response and recovery efforts following the 2019 EF-3 tornado.

On June 4, 2024, Chief Ball was appointed Interim Fire Chief of DFR. He holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Administration from Texas A&M and maintains certifications as a Master Firefighter, ARFF, Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor II, Incident Commander, and Incident Safety Officer. Originally from England, Chief Ball has called Dallas home for over 30 years and considers DFR his extended family.

Raymond Hill - Executive Assistant Fire Chief, Fort Worth, TX



Raymond Hill brings over 30 years of distinguished fire service leadership to his candidacy for Fire Chief. As Executive Assistant Fire Chief of Training & Logistical Services for the Fort Worth Fire Department, Hill plays a key role in managing the department's \$219 million operating budget. His broad command-level experience includes oversight of training, operations, emergency management, communications, logistics, fire prevention, homeland security, and community risk reduction for the 1,000-person department. Chief Hill holds a master's degree in managerial science and a bachelor's degree in communications.

Chief Hill has led several transformative initiatives, including the Gear-1 PPE cancer mitigation program, Suburban 911 Dispatch, Apparatus Refurbishment Program, and multiple leadership development programs to prepare the next generation of fire service leaders. His efforts to improve diversity resulted in Fort Worth's first academy class with the most candidates from traditionally underrepresented groups.

He serves on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Performance Committee and the Executive Leadership MedStar/Fort Worth EMS Transition Team, supporting the integration of 911 communications and ambulance operations. Hill also holds certifications as a Certified Public Manager and Certified Fire Executive.

Deeply committed to community engagement, Hill volunteers with Youth 180 and founded a mentorship program for young women interested in fire service careers. His leadership is rooted in collaboration, mentorship, and continuous improvement. As Fire Chief, he aims to strengthen firefighter resiliency through mental health initiatives, enhance operational efficiency with data and technology and foster meaningful connections with the community.

Samuel Peña, Former Fire Chief, Houston and El Paso, TX



Samuel Peña is a 28-year veteran of the fire service who served as the fire chief for the city of Houston (2016 – 2024). Chief Peña led one of the largest municipal fire departments in the country for eight (8) years. The Houston Fire Department has over 4,000 personnel and an annual budget of \$490 million. In 2023, Chief Peña was named the 2023 Metropolitan Fire Chief of the Year.

Chief Peña started his career as a firefighter in El Paso (TX), where he worked his way through the ranks of the El Paso Fire Department, serving for 21 years, with his last three years as the Fire Chief.

Chief Peña previously served as Task Force leader for the El Paso Hazardous Materials and Special Rescue teams; coordinator for the Combined Search and Rescue (ComSAR) mountain rescue team; Strategic Planning Chief, Public Information Office, Training Chief and Assistant Chief of Emergency Operations.

Chief Peña holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso. Chief Peña also served four years as a command-and-control specialist in the U.S. Air Force. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the National Association of Search and Rescue.

Chief Peña left HFD in December 2024 and currently serves as the Chief of Disaster Preparedness, Harris County Engineering Department in Houston.