



## Award Recognition

St. Johns County Fire Rescue's Marine Rescue Division was recently awarded the Presidents Award for Organizational Excellence in Marine Rescue Services from the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association. The Florida Beach Patrol Chief's Association (FBPCA) Presidents Award was created to recognize an agency for their outstanding contributions to Ocean Lifesaving. SJCFR representatives were presented the award during the FBPCA annual meeting and Awards Banquet in conjunction with the United States Lifesaving Association's annual conference held in the City of Miami Beach.

The following is a brief overview of statement SJCFR Marine Rescue read during the award presentation (for a full copy of the award application please send requests to [jrobshaw@sjcfl.us](mailto:jrobshaw@sjcfl.us) )

*The St. Johns County Fire Rescue (SJCFR) Marine Rescue Division is responsible for all aquatic related emergencies occurring in St. Johns County. This includes 42 miles of coastline, the intercoastal waterway and the St. Johns River. The primary objective of this first response service is to provide the highest level of skilled and efficient response to all people or situations requiring any aquatic or marine intervention.*

*SJCFR Marine Rescue is a United States Lifesaving Association Advanced Certified Agency established in 1933 that maintains 21 lifeguard towers and seven vehicle patrols daily. These positions are staffed during the summer months with 60 seasonal lifeguards comprised of: Zone Supervisors, Driver Operators and Tower Lifeguards. For the remainder of the year, the Marine Rescue Division is staffed with 4 full-time Fire Rescue Officers supplemented by trained Fire Rescue Responders located at strategically oriented Fire Stations throughout St. Johns County.*

*During the past several years, SJCFR Marine Rescue Division has developed a cutting edge Marine Rescue Operations Plan. The objective when developing this program was to begin cross-training firefighters at 24/7 stations to respond in the aquatic environment. To date over 90 certified firefighters have achieved Operations, Technician or Specialist level certifications for completing this rigorous training program.*

The FBPCA was formed in 1983 to promote professionalism within Florida's ocean lifesaving agencies. The founding members recognized the need for increased cooperation and communication among Florida's professional ocean lifeguards.