

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT REPORT



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Director, Public Safety Department

The Department's mission statement is "Building pride through involvement." Indian River Shores' Public Safety Department places a priority on communication, community needs, safety and education. Public Safety is unique in that all of its officers are triple-certified with State licenses and certifications as a police officer, firefighter, and paramedic or emergency medical technician. The certifications and cross-training enable the officers to function in any of these three capacities, depending on the immediate need. To maximize visibility and communication with the Town's residents, the Department has Community Liaison and Code Enforcement Officers charged with safety education, such as hurricane preparedness, and maintaining the look and feel of the Town. Public Safety also maintains bicycle patrols within the neighborhoods, which help to enforce traffic regulations, act as a crime deterrent given the presence of localized visibility, and set a good example in terms of practicing bicycle safety.

Public Safety's patrol cars have a new decal on the side - Law Enforcement Accreditation. In February 2009, The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement awarded accreditation status to the Department, and only 125 of the 400 law enforcement agencies in the State have reached this level of professional standards. Accreditation is voluntary and was the culmination of a process that took four years to complete. In order to qualify for accreditation, the Department had to make significant changes in its structure, organization, and facilities including identification of certified crime prevention and code enforcement officers, purchasing new ambulance and patrol vehicles, quadrupling training hours, and guaranteeing two paramedics on every medical call and five personnel on every fire call. Importantly, implementation of the accreditation standards and procedures has already resulted in a decrease in traffic accidents and crime rates, tripled arrests and criminal citations, and reduced the number of citizen's complaints.

The recently updated Public Safety Alert System has been a successful service for the Town's residents, with over 1,000 subscribers receiving cell phone and/or e-mail notifications of suspicious incidents, hurricane watches or warnings, public health threats to the Town or important messages from the Town Manager's office on an immediate need-to-know basis. In order to receive alerts sign-up now at <http://www.irpspsd.org>, click on My Community Watch.

Public Safety continues to offer its free-of-charge health programs to residents, specifically, File of Life, Are You OK?, and No Loves Lost. Vacation House Watch, crime prevention, fire prevention, and community liaison programs are also available.

The Town's two Fire Inspectors conduct fire prevention and readiness inspections throughout all its neighborhoods on an annual basis. In 2008, over 114 fire inspections were conducted. Suggestions were provided in terms of equipment required in order to prevent/minimize fire risks.

The Department has been actively pursuing grants in order to supplement its law enforcement equipment requirements for the purpose of reducing crime and improving public safety. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement Recovery Act has provided Public Safety with a \$32,800 grant that was used to purchase an IT server, mobile terminals for patrol vehicles, desk top terminals, and hand-held radios. These items assist the officers in providing rapid communication, updated information for background checks and warrants, and greater productivity in generating reports and responding to citizen requests.

Training remains a critical component of the Department's commitment to service and maintaining its accreditation status. In 2009, the Department's officers successfully completed 3,972 hours of training including courses in EMT/paramedic re-certification, firearms, hose testing, driver training, pre-fire plan training, self-contained breathing apparatus, pump training, live fire burns, and code enforcement.

In 2009, the average EMS response time was four minutes. The Department responded to 1341 calls for service, with 768 (57%) police related, 133 (10%) fire related, and 440 (33%) medical assistance requests. Incredibly, the Town has 14 volunteers who make a significant contribution of 2041 hours of service in office administration, courier/transport, public information, fleet management, and community service programs.



PSD Administration BACK: Detective Bart Crosby, Capt. Nick Schauman, Chief Bill Schauman, Capt. Robbie Stabe; PSO Mark Shaw, PSO Ed Ballas, Volunteer Coord. Allen Ludlum; FRONT: Accred. Mgr./Code Enf. Charlene Hall; Finance/Records Admin. Nina Osbahr; and Admin. Secretary Kristin Gianantonio