

Eugene "Gene" Sanders

Tallahassee native, Eugene "Gene" Sanders, began employment with the Tallahassee Fire Department in 1997. During his tenure, he has held the positions of Firefighter, Driver/Operator, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Division Chief, and Deputy Chief. He holds an Associate of Science degree in Fire Science and a bachelor's degree in Fire Department Administration.

From 2015 to 2017, Gene served as the department's Fire Marshal in fire prevention. In that position, he wrote and developed a grant program for smoke alarms and led neighborhood engagement efforts in partnership with the Red Cross to help more households access these life-saving devices.

Gene most recently served as Deputy Chief of Operations, overseeing the daily operations of TFD, including the Emergency Medical Services and Training divisions. He oversaw TFD's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 7 and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Task Force 2. In addition, he serves as program coordinator for the State Homeland Security Grant Program and served as the Region 2 Coordinator for the Statewide Emergency Response Plan. In this role, he coordinated emergency assistance operations at the regional level, providing for the deployment of resources into affected areas.

Gene has been married to his wife, Valencia, for almost 24 years. Together, they are the proud parents of three children.