

See Bio ...

Chief Neal de Jesus began his fire service career 40 years ago as a Firefighter in Sarasota County, FL and then from Firefighter /Paramedic to Fire Chief of Coral Gables. After retiring Chief de Jesus spent several years serving as a City Commissioner and President of The Diversified Group Consulting before returning to the Fire Service as Fire Chief and Executive Director of the Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue and Emergency Services. He also served three times as the Fire Chief for the City of Delray Beach Fire Rescue and twice as the Interim City Manager. He has currently resumed the role of President and Diversified Group Consulting.

Neal has served as Chair and member of many local, state, national and International committees, including: the State Emergency Response Team (SERT), the Florida State Fire College Technical Rescue Curriculum Review Committee, the Florida Firefighters Employment Standards and Training Council, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Transportation Emergency Rescue Committee (TERC), the World Rescue Organization (WRO), the Broward County Ethics Commission, and the Broward League of Cities Training and Education Committee, the Broward County Planning Council, Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee, the Florida Bar Grievance Committee and the Broward County Management and Efficiency Study Committee. As a member of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, he served as Southeastern Regional Director, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President. Before retiring, Chief de Jesus was elected to President of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and as the President of the Fire Chiefs Association of Palm Beach County. Additionally, Neal is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Metro Fire Chiefs' Association, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Society of Executive Fire Officers.

Neal has attended Miami-Dade College, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Maryland, and the National Fire Academy where he graduated from the Executive Fire Officer Program in 1999. Neal has facilitated multiple courses on behalf of FFCA for the Emergency Services Leadership Institute throughout the State of Florida. He has also served as an Adjunct Instructor for Miami Dade Fire College, Miami Dade Medical College, Broward Fire Academy, and University of Miami Medical Training and Simulation Lab. Neal is also a presenter on leadership and organizational development at local, state, national and international conferences, and symposiums in addition to teaching as a contract instructor for the Florida State Fire College.

Neal has been involved in the field of vehicle rescue since 1985 as a competitor, instructor, and assessor at the regional, national, and world level.