

Richard Fernandez - (NAVRA)

Richard served the City of Coral Gables Fire Department located in Miami Dade County for 32 years retiring July 2024. A 35 year veteran of the fire service, Richard has worked in many capacities during his career. With Coral Gables Fire Department he has held the rank of FF/Paramedic, Driver/Engineer Air-tech, and Lieutenant assigned as the Public information/education officer. With the Training Division Richard served as Training Lieutenant and later promoted to the EMS division as the departments EMS Captain. Richard joined the department's Special Response Team in 1995 competing as a Medic, Technical Rescue Specialist and Incident Commander for many years in regional, national and international events. In 2016 Richard took over as Coordinator for departments SRT Team. As a volunteer firefighter, Richard served as the Deputy Fire Chief of the Key Largo Volunteer Fire Rescue Department. His Responsibilities included Operations, Training, Budget and Strategic Planning. Richard also works for Palm Beach State College where he is a part time faculty member teaching courses in Fire Fighting Minimum Standards, Special Operations, Shipboard Firefighting and Live Fire Training.

Richard's certifications include: Paramedic, ACLS, PALS, PHTLS, Fire Service-Instructor I, Fire Service-Inspector, VMR Ops/Tech, Rope, Trench, Structural Collapse and Confined space Operations, Technical Rescue Instructor, National Certified Flight Medic and Live Fire Instructor. Richard holds an Associate in Science degree in Emergency Medical Services, as well as attending the United States National Fire Academy where he has been certified in Incident Command courses to include: Fire Command, Command of Multiple Alarm Incidents, Command and Control of target Hazards, and Command and Control of Natural and man-made disasters and is certified as an All Hazards Operations Section Chief.

Richard has been a member of both TERC and NAVRA rescue associations serving as a competitor, Regional, National and International Assessor and Instructor.

Richard is currently the Director of Operations for Interamerican Firefighters Inc. A company dedicated to providing training and consulting in an assortment of Fire Service and EMS Disciplines. Registered in the USA and Colombia, Interamerican Firefighters Inc. has provided consulting and training services for fire departments in the USA, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Argentina, Chili, Paraguay, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Trinidad. Additionally, he has delivered training projects for the United States Northern and Southern Commands in their response zones.