We create and deliver exceptional service to our community through a culture of safety, courtesy, professionalism, and efficiency.

Thomasville Fire Rescue (TFR) is committed to providing “exceptional” public safety services for our community as reflected in the City of Thomasville Mission Statement. We are professionals dedicated to providing a work environment that will enable the department to reach its commitment to excellence.

TFR has adopted the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives supported and implemented through the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The Initiatives have helped to promote a strong culture of safety in the U.S. Fire Service and address the need to create a “culture of change” through accountability, risk management, and training and certification, in order to ensure that “everyone goes home” at the end of each shift.

Many fire departments face serious challenges when trying to create a culture of change, improve performance, and implement new standards. Though often daunting, it is important to remember that industry standards are an essential component contributing to firefighter life safety.

As part of our overall mission, TFR continually strives to improve structural fire protection capabilities to help reduce fire-related property losses, injuries, and fatalities. Measuring effectiveness, maximizing resources, and obtaining additional resources all play an important role in attaining an Effective Response Force (ERF) and meeting the demands for service.

TFR has earned the Public Protection Classification (PPC) ISO Class 2 by the insurance industry. Over the past four years, the performance of the men and women of TFR has raised the level of safety, courtesy, professionalism, and efficiency within the department. In 2017, TFR raised the bar of excellence. An ISO field representative visited TFR in August, 2017 and the ISO Rating has been raised from an 81.24 to an 89.02, less than 1 point away from a CLASS 1 Fire Service. TFR is amongst the top 2% fire departments in the nation.

In 2013 a self-assessment of TFR was conducted by the newly appointed Fire Chief, Chris Bowman. The assessment resulted in a 2014 report that was presented to the City of Thomasville Public Safety Committee. The Committee’s approval, and the fire department execution of action since that report, has raised the demonstrated performance of firefighters to a new level of safety and professionalism.
The primary goal of all training, education, and professional development programs is the reduction of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. As members progress through various job duties and responsibilities, the department now ensures the introduction of the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities, as well as ongoing development of existing skills and updated job performance requirements.

TFR is an agency member and holds a Certificate of Compliance as a Fire Rescue Department with the Georgia Firefighter Standards & Training Council (GFSTC). GFSTC is accredited by the National Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System (Pro Board) and makes certification available to its members.

National Professional Board Certifications for the Fire Service are the stamp of approval from a third party review of our agency’s certification system. The review includes all aspects of certification testing including; completeness, fairness, security, validity, and correlation to the Fire Service National Standards.

Certification is the verification that a firefighter has successfully completed an evaluation of their knowledge, skills, and abilities against the National Standard. Individuals that successfully pass a certification exam and practical skills test are certified and have reached a major accomplishment in demonstrated performance as a professional firefighter.
Major Accomplishments in Demonstrated Performance

Thomasville firefighters are:

♦ Meeting firefighter national minimum standards and industry best practices of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications. This is the foundational training and certification for all fire service professionals.

♦ Meeting the requirements of NPQ Firefighter 1 - up from 14% in 2014 to 100%.

♦ Meeting the requirements of NPQ Firefighter 2 - up from 2% in 2014 to 100%.

♦ Exceeding the minimum training requirements of ISO. In 2012, Insurance Services Offices (ISO), the agency which determines fire insurance ratings through overall community preparedness, issued new guidelines for fire departments nationwide. These guidelines state that firefighters initial training should be in accordance with the general criteria of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications 2013 Edition. ISO gives credit for the completion of Firefighter I and Firefighter II training/certification (in accordance with the general criteria of NFPA 1001).

♦ Graduating from the Georgia Fire Academy. Up from 0% to 100% of all new hires since 2014.

♦ Meeting the certification requirements of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC). The GFSTC provides certification standards for all firefighters, fire inspectors, fire investigators and fire & life safety educators in the state of Georgia.

♦ Meeting the certification requirements of Driver Operator. 0% NPQ Driver Operators in 2014, to all officers, drivers and step up drivers to 100% NPQ Driver Operator/ Pumper Certified.

♦ Meeting the certification requirements of Driver Operator. 0% Aerial trained in 2014, to all officers, drivers and step up drivers to 100% Driver Operator/Aerial certified.

♦ Meeting the minimum training requirements for Company Officers for 100% all Officers.

♦ Meeting the minimum training requirements for Incident Command. 0% Incident Command Training and Certifications in 2014 to 100% for all Commanders, Captains, and Lieutenants. Engineers will receive this training in 2018.
Thomasville Fire Rescue Milestones

If any organization is to improve in its continuous drive for excellence, it must determine the organizational direction for excellence and develop a strategy for getting there. A properly developed strategic plan steers an organization from “business as usual” towards attainment of excellence by tackling areas needing improvement.

♦ TFR was the first Fire Department and is currently the only Fire Department in the State of Georgia to be certified as a “Blue Card” Incident Command Center and Simulation Lab.

♦ TFR was the first Fire Department in the State of Georgia to teach the curriculum for Fire Inspector Level 1 outside of the Academy. Increasing certified fire inspectors from one State Inspector in 2014, to 20 State Fire Inspectors in 2015. There are now 25 in 2017.

♦ TFR had its first year of meeting 100% of all occupancy fire inspections in 2015. Today TFR has met this goal for the past three years.

♦ In 2015 TFR began a Firefighter Annual Physical Program compliant with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFF), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), NFPA, ISO, and OSHA. Today all firefighters receive annual firefighter physicals.

♦ 2017, TFR has it’s first State of Georgia Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Marshal Tim Connell.

♦ 2017, TFR has it’s first State of Georgia Training Officer of the Year., Chief of Training Craig Dukes.

♦ The TFR Fire Training Tower and Firefighting burn building were repaired and refurbished in 2017. This included the Fire Training grounds being repaved to include adding a vehicle extrication area.

♦ Thomasville Fire Rescue begins its first Fire Department Honor Guard. Two TFR Firefighters graduate from the National Honor Guard Academy.

♦ The TFR Succession Planning Program that began in 2015 to include officer training and fire service credentialing has yielded National & International Fire Service Credentialing Designations: 2 -Chief Fire Officer (CFO), 2 -Fire Officer (FO), 1 Fire Marshal (FM), and 2 Fire Administration BS Degrees.

For an organization to grow, it must be stretched. For an organization to stretch, it must take on critical issues and service gaps. In order to legitimately identify critical issues and service gaps, it must have accurate intelligence, and in order to have accurate intelligence, it must understand the expectations and concerns of its members (internal stakeholders) and of the community served (external stakeholders).

-Commission on Fire Accreditation International
For the first time in the Thomasville Fire Rescue Department’s history the total demand for service exceeded 5000 events. This was a 10% increase over the previous year. 725 of these 5,167 events were fires, fire alarms, hazardous conditions, good intent, service calls, over pressure/rupture, and other incidents.

Medical Emergencies EMS/Rescue) 3,946, are now the leading event type with 76% followed by Good Intent Calls 505 or 9.6%, False Alarms 496 or 9.5%, Fires are at 86 or 1.6% and Hazardous Conditions at 79 or 1.5%.

Fires have fallen by over 35% since 2014, and are at an all time low, which can be attributed to an excellent Fire Prevention Program. The Community Outreach Programs include free smoke alarm placement for residents and replacement, pre-incident fire planning and annual fire inspections for businesses. Since 2014 Building Fires are down by over 40%, other Fires (outside, Rubbish, etc…) are down by 50%, and Vehicle Fires have remained approximately the same.
75% of all Building Fires were in Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 2 territories, down from 80% in 2016. Building fire exclude cooking fires contained to the object of origin, chimney fires, and trash or rubbish fire inside a structure with no flame damage to the structure.
Statistical Summary

The busiest time of day for overall call volume is between 10:00 hours and 17:00 hours. The largest portion of call volume takes place during the waking hours from 06:00 hours to 23:00 hours. Of the 83 Fire Calls 88% take place 06:00 hours to 23:00 hours.

The month of May was the busiest call volume month with 484 calls followed by March at 458. The monthly call volume average is 430, with a daily shift average of 14.16 incidents per shift, and 3.5 incidents per apparatus.
Thomasville Fire Rescue’s primary mission is to provide fire, medical, hazardous material, and technical rescue response within the geographic boundaries of the City and first responder medical support to county Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers.

Fire protection is provided by 42 uniformed personnel operating out of 3 fire station locations, 2 engine companies, 1 ladder company, 2 Rescue units, 1 Commanders vehicle, and necessary support equipment and personnel.

Thomasville presently covers a land area of 14.96 square miles. Daytime population is estimated to be 25,752 persons. The department protects areas which have population density of 1253 persons per square mile. (U.S. Census)

The City of Thomasville is located in Southwest Georgia, midway between Valdosta, Ga to the east and Bainbridge Georgia to the west. The City was incorporated in 1826 and is the county seat of Thomas County. The City of Thomasville has a population of 18,742 people and is the largest city in Thomas County.