



Fire Chief Matthew R. Love, MS, EFO, CFO, MIFireE Fort Myers Beach Fire Department

Fire Chief Matthew Love has served the emergency services community for over twenty years with the support of his wife Kristen and sons, Tyler and Noah. Chief Love has served as a Fire Chief since 2009, and has also served as a Deputy Fire Chief of Operations and Division Chief of Training. He has worked for many emergency service agencies to include the City of Colorado Springs Fire Department.

Chief Love was awarded the State of Florida District Manager of the Year Award for 2020, from the Florida Association of Special Districts. Chief Love was also selected by the Fire Chiefs' Association of Lee County Florida as Fire Chief of the Year in 2019. Chief Love has earned the distinguished Chief Fire Officer Designation by the Center for Public Safety Excellence, and is a graduate of the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. Chief Love has been accepted into the Harvard Kennedy School for Senior Executives in State and Local Government and is scheduled to earn the Harvard Executive Certificate in Public Leadership, in 2021.

Chief Love holds a Master of Science Degree in Leadership with an Emphasis in Disaster Preparedness and Executive Fire Leadership, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety and Emergency Management, holds an Associate Degree in Fire Science Technology, and an Associate Degree in Wildland Fire Science. Chief Love holds many credentials in the emergency services field, as well as the designation of Certified District Manager from the Florida Association of Special Districts and Certified Labor Relations Professional from the Florida Public Labor Relations Association.

Chief Love spent several years as an adjunct professor for the Colorado Community College system, teaching a variety of fire science courses. He also teaches courses in leadership, customer service, and firefighter safety. Chief Love speaks nationwide at various leadership events and has had the honor of being a reoccurring speaker for the United States Air Force Academy Character and Leadership programs, as well as regularly presenting for International Association of Fire Chiefs events.

Chief Love is a reoccurring contributing editor for the Leadership Dock Magazine, has been published by Fire Engineering Magazine on multiple occasions, and writes for the Florida Fire Service Magazine. Additionally, Chief Love has many research documents published by the United States Fire Administration.

Chief Love was awarded by the Colorado Springs Fire Department for his creation of the Firefighter Seatbelt Safety Program, "*25 Percent- Simply Preventable.*" This program gained national attention after delivery at the National Fire Academy, and subsequent collaborative efforts with Dr. Burton Clark of the U.S. Fire Administration to promote the National Firefighter Seatbelt Pledge.

Chief Love's career has been strongly focused on training, departmental training program management, and building training and leadership platforms. He is a strong believer in the power of an organization's mission, vision and values, and provides presentations on shared vision and inspirational leadership for both fire and non-emergency service agencies. Chief Love has made it a priority for team members to share in organizational vision and to take ownership of the organization's values and mission creation, continuously focusing on the fire service spirit of service.