

# SAMUEL PEÑA

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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Dedicated firefighting professional offering over 21 years of commitment to providing public safety in the suppression and prevention of fire. Fire Chief managing a \$101M annual budget in department of 1,140 uniformed and civilian members. Experience in managing and directing emergency operations. Strategic planner. Ability to evaluate operations and accurately project resource requirements to meet anticipated demands. Excellent comprehension of internal policies with the ability to enforce procedures for optimal team performance and safety. Extensive experience providing instruction and training. Effective in communicating goals and objectives to motivate team members. Management in emergency response operations, special rescue, and task force readiness. Strong belief in Department's obligation to the community and preserving favorable public opinion of the El Paso Fire Department.

### **CORE COMPETENCIES:**

- Operations Management
- Blue Card Incident Command Instructor
- Strategic Planning
- Program / Project Management
- Public Relations / Community Outreach
- Personnel Development
- CFAI Level 1 PEER Assessor
- Budgeting / Forecasting
- Paramedic / EMS Instructor
- Licensed Paramedic

*Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite; Industry-Specific Software  
Bilingual Spanish / English*

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## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Minor: Sociology  
University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas

Master of Business Administration  
University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**EL PASO FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**El Paso, Texas**

**1995 – Present**

**FIRE CHIEF** (March 2013 – Present)

- Plan, organize, control and provide overall direction of fire department operations
- Advise the Mayor and City Manager regarding public safety issues
- Develop and monitor departmental operating and capital improvement budgets
- Review and evaluate service delivery methods and systems
- Utilize reliable research and technical data in making presentations to the City Council, Mayor and City Manager
- Represent the City at various meetings and conferences and interact with a wide range of Community and City officials
- Provide administrative direction and supervise professional and support staff.

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**
**EL PASO FIRE DEPARTMENT (Cont'd)****ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF – OPERATIONS (2012 – March 2013)**

- Prepare operations budget and manage operation's budgetary expenditures.
- Provide leadership, direction and communication to operations personnel regarding department initiatives, emergency response services, and the resolution of operational issues and concerns.
- Provide direction and assist in goal setting for the various response programs within the El Paso Fire Departments.
- Represent the fire department in various negotiations, implementation and maintenance of inter-agency mutual aid and automatic aid agreements and relations.

**BATTALION CHIEF (2010 – 2012)**

- **Training Chief:** (2011-2012) Command departmental training for 918 uniformed members. Schedule, coordinate, and deliver general and specialized certification training. Develop materials for various programs. Evaluate recruits, conduct examinations, and track for permanent status. Plan and maintain members' continuing education hours and civil service exam fulfillment.
- Manage and administer \$1.9M budget, directly supervising 13 employees. Perform all administrative procedures to ensure compliance to state regulations for fire and medical certification. Served as the Training Category Manager for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) accreditation project.
- **Backup Safety Chief:** (2011-2012) Enforce departmental safety compliance in absence of Safety Chief. Ensure OSHA and Texas Commission on Fire Protection compliance. Incident Safety Officer during multi-company response incidents. Review accident and injury reports to identify causal factors and recommend corrective action.
- **Strategic Planning Chief / Public Information Officer** (2010–2011) Directed Division operations and supervised the development of the Department's Strategic Plan, Standards of Cover, and the Self-Assessment component. Served as the Department's Custodian of Records and Department's Public Information Officer. Department's Co-Accreditation Manager in charge of the Commission of Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) accreditation effort.
- **Battalion Chief 5C** (2010) Supervised 50 Emergency Operations personnel for six months. Commanded emergency response companies and equipment at response scenes, ensuring apparatus staffing, operational readiness, and emergency response personnel discipline.
- **Fire Captain** (2007–2010) Served as Hazmat Task Force Leader. As Company Commander for the Hazmat Unit provided administration and logistics supervision for A, B and C shifts. Provided hazmat training and task force readiness. Supervised and directed emergency response operations for the company.
- **Fire Lieutenant** (2003–2007) Commanded Ladder Company and served as Task Force Leader on C shift for Special Rescue 11. Supervised and directed emergency response operations for Company as Company Commander.
- **Fire Suppression Technician** (1998–2003) Oversaw Operating Equipment and Maintaining Readiness; served as Special Rescue 11 team member; assigned to Ladder Company.
- **Fire Fighter** (1995–1998) Served as crew member on emergency operations unit.

**COMBINED SEARCH AND RESCUE (COMSAR) TEAM**  
**COMSAR COORDINATOR (2006 – Present)**
**1998 – Present**  
**El Paso, Texas**

- As team member, tasked primarily with response to lost or injured individuals on the Franklin Mountains. As coordinator for the ComSAR team, charged with ensuring operational and response readiness of all team members on all operational shifts.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****EL PASO FIRE DEPARTMENT (Cont'd)****UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
COMMAND / CONTROL SPECIALIST****1990 – 1994**

- Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Training Ribbon, Honor Graduate Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Ribbon.

**CERTIFICATIONS**

- Texas State Firefighter - Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) (IFSC Seal)
- Texas State Hazardous Materials Technician - TCPF (IFSC Seal)
- Texas State Fire Instructor 1, 2, 3 - TCFP (IFSC Seal)
- Texas State Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Technician – TCFP (IFSC Seal)
- Texas State Fire Officer - TCFP (IFSC Seal)
- Rope Technician
- Confined Space Technician
- Trench Rescue Technician
- Advanced Medical Coordinator - Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Texas Licensed Paramedic - DSHS
- Emergency Medical Services Instructor - DSHS
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor
- CPR Instructor
- Rescue Systems I
- Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician
- Blue Card Incident Command Instructor
- Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) PEER Assessor – Level 1
- Quality Texas Examiner

**MEMBERSHIPS**

- El Paso Academy Charter School Board of Directors; Vice Chair
- El Paso County 911 District Board of Directors; Chairman
- Southwestern Fire Chiefs Association
- International Fire Chiefs Associations
- National Fire Protection Association
- Metropolitan Fire Chief's Association

**AWARDS**

- National Defense Ribbon
- American Legion Post 74 Firefighter of the Year, 2008
- State Fire Fighter of the Year, 2008
- Fire Department Good Conduct Medal for 20 Years of Outstanding Service
- Fire Department Commendation Ribbon
- Fire Department Outstanding Technical Support Ribbon
- Fire Department Outstanding Training Contribution Ribbon
- Fire Department Unit Citation Ribbon
- Fire Department Outstanding Officer/Supervisor Ribbon