

M. Stuart McElhaney, Consultant



Stuart joined Marion County (FL) as Fire Chief in March, 1994 and was appointed Assistant County Administrator for Public Safety in April, 2009. He earned an M.S. in Geology in 1981 from the University of Tennessee and for the next thirteen years worked for Shell Oil Company as an exploration geologist in different regions around the world. While working for Shell in Houston, he volunteered for almost ten years with a large combination fire department where he served as Assistant Chief, earning a B.S. in Fire Administration from the University of Maryland in 1992. After retiring from Marion County in 2015, he served in various roles, including COO and Director of Planning and Strategic Services for Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) from 2016-2020. He specializes in government financial analysis and offers clients real-world, sustainable solutions to complex problems. He currently volunteers as a FF/EMT for Maggie Valley Fire & Rescue and as an NREMT/SAR Tech for the National Park Service in the Great Smokey Mountains Park.

Professional Experience

- Professional Consultant, J Angle Group (JAG)
- Professional Consultant, Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI)
- Professional Consultant (Individually and for Almont Associates)
- Assistant County Administrator, Marion County, Florida
- Fire Chief, Marion County Fire-Rescue Department, Marion County, Florida
- Adjunct Instructor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- Assistant Fire Chief, Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department, Houston, Texas
- Staff Geologist, Shell Oil Company

Educational Background

- Bachelor of Science, Fire Service Administration, University of Maryland, 1992
- Master of Science, Geology, University of Tennessee, 1981
- Bachelor of Science, Geology, College of William & Mary, 1979
- Executive Fire Officer Program Graduate, U.S. Fire Academy, 1998

Associated Professional Accomplishments

- Successfully consolidated city, county and sheriffs' dispatch/communications operations
- Consolidated countywide ambulance service with fire rescue reducing annual operating deficit from \$8 million to less than \$2 million while improving EMS service level
- Negotiated agreement with Level I trauma center to bring air medical program to Marion County
- Successfully authored and implemented 10-year fire rescue master plan adopted by BOCC
- Authored and implemented 10-year emergency services master plan
- Built 11 new fire stations and renovated 5
- Consolidated multiple dependent fire districts, developed countywide fire assessment
- Implemented a fire service impact fee program
- Published twelve articles for the Florida Fire Service Today as FFCA President in 2010
- Multiple successful deployments for hurricane and wildfire response with State of Florida IMT