

The Basics

- **Full Name & Rank:** Robert M. Boren, Fire Chief
- **Original Home District:** Northwest Fire District
- **Years of Service:** 29 Year in Fire & EMS

Professional Biography

Background: I began my fire service career in 1997 as a volunteer firefighter, inspired by the opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself and to help bring order to chaos during some of life's most challenging moments. From 2003 to 2006, I served as an Advanced EMT with the Three Rivers Ambulance Authority before transitioning into a full-time career firefighter position in 2006. Throughout my career, I have served in several leadership roles within the fire service, including Chief of Operations from 2007 to 2019, before being appointed Fire Chief of the Huntertown/Perry Township Fire Department in October 2019 and later becoming Fire Chief of the Northwest Allen County Fire Protection District in 2024.

In addition to my local leadership responsibilities, I am actively involved in regional and statewide emergency response initiatives. I serve as a member of the Northeast Critical Incident Stress Management Team, supporting first responders and public safety personnel following critical incidents. I am also a member of the District 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team, where I have participated in numerous statewide exercises and special events, including support operations for the Super Bowl in Indianapolis and the Brickyard 400 in Speedway. These experiences have allowed me to collaborate with emergency management professionals from across Indiana and strengthen my commitment to preparedness, leadership, and service to our communities.

- **Education & Certifications:**

- Fire Chief Executive Training
- Fire Officer I
- Fire Officer Strategy & Tactics
- Fire and Emergency Instructor I
- Firefighter I & II
- Hazmat Awareness & Operations
- Advanced EMT
- All-Hazards Incident Management & Liaison
- NIMS – 100,200,300,400,700,800
- Traffic Incident Management Instructor
- Critical Incident Stress Manager Individual & Group
- IAFF Peer Support
- Suicide Prevention and Awareness

- **What drew you to the fire service?** Having grown up just five houses from my hometown fire station, I knew from an early age that public safety was where I wanted to

dedicate my life. It offered me the opportunity to serve others with purpose, lead through adversity, and make a meaningful impact on the lives of people during their most challenging moments.

The Duties with the Unified District

- **Primary Area of Responsibility:** As Executive Deputy Chief, I will serve as the second-in-command of the Allen County Fire & EMS District, providing executive-level leadership and coordination across all major divisions of the organization. My responsibilities will include helping ensure consistency in operations, administration, training, emergency medical services, and strategic initiatives throughout the district. I will work closely with the Executive Fire Chief, district leadership teams, and stakeholders to translate the district's vision into daily operational success while maintaining organizational continuity and accountability. When delegated, I will act on behalf of the Executive Fire Chief and help guide district-wide initiatives that support exceptional service delivery, firefighter and paramedic safety, and responsible stewardship of public resources.
- **Your Vision:** My vision for the first year of the Allen County Fire & EMS District is to ensure a seamless transition from the organizations we have been to the organization we are becoming. While change can bring uncertainty, our commitment to the citizens we serve must remain constant. I want our communities to continue receiving the exceptional fire and EMS services they expect while seeing continued growth, innovation, and improvements throughout the district.

Equally important is our commitment to the men and women who make this organization successful every day. Our firefighters, paramedics, and support staff are our greatest asset, and my goal is to ensure they feel valued, supported, and heard throughout this process. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities that come with building a unified district, I believe strong communication, transparency, and trust will be essential. By taking care of our people and keeping our focus on service, we can build an organization that is stronger than any one department and positioned to serve Allen County for generations to come.

- **Community Impact:** The greatest benefit of unification is our ability to provide a higher level of service through a more coordinated, efficient, and sustainable organization. By coming together as one district, we can better align our resources,

personnel, training, and operational strategies to ensure that every resident of Allen County receives the same high standard of fire and EMS service, regardless of where they live.

Unification also allows us to improve our effectiveness and efficiency by reducing duplication, strengthening collaboration, and creating consistency across the organization. This approach helps us maximize the value of every tax dollar invested in public safety while positioning the district for future growth and challenges. Most importantly, it allows us to build a stronger organization for our firefighters and paramedics, ensuring they have the support, equipment, training, and leadership necessary to safely serve our communities.

Ultimately, unification is about creating a fire and EMS system that is stronger together than it could ever be apart – one that delivers exceptional service, operates responsibly, and remains focused on the needs of both our citizens and our employees.