

Donald Patnoude

The Basics

- **Full Name & Rank:** Donald Patnoude, Division Chief – Prevention & Public Education
- **Original Home District:** Southwest Allen County Fire Protection District (SWFD)
- **Years of Service:** 46 years total (including 37 years as Fire Chief for SWFD)

Professional Biography Donald Patnoude is a second-generation firefighter and Fire Chief, proudly following in his father's footsteps. He grew up around the fire service and is living his lifelong dream of working alongside his heroes every single day. Chief Patnoude began his career in 1979 upon receiving his EMT certification, becoming a volunteer Firefighter/EMT with Adams Township Fire Department in 1980 before being hired full-time there in 1981. He went on to serve as a full-time Public Safety Officer at the Fort Wayne International Airport in 1985 and graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 1986. In 1989, he was hired as the full-time Fire Chief for the Southwest Allen County Fire Protection District, a position he dedicated himself to for nearly four decades. His regional leadership also includes serving as President of the Allen County Fire Chiefs Association from 2007 to 2010, as well as serving on the Allen County Hazardous Waste Tax Fund Committee and the Allen County Emergency Management Advisory Council.

Education & Certifications

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Indiana Certified Master Firefighter in: Strategy and Tactics, Fire Investigator, Fire Service Management, and Instructor
- Great Lakes Region Basic Aircraft Firefighter Training
- Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Graduate (1986)

Unified District Division & Vision

- **Primary Area of Responsibility:** Fire Prevention, Public Education, Inspections, and Code Enforcement.
- **First-Year Goal:** Ensuring that the businesses our citizens work in and visit are safe, while providing robust outreach to local schools and organizations to promote proactive fire safety throughout our community.
- **Community Impact Vision:** *"Providing Allen County citizens with the confidence of knowing that best-in-class emergency help is always just a phone call away, no matter where you live."*