

## The Basics

- **Full Name & Rank:**

Jeffrey Alan Berning

Current – Chief, Northeast Fire District

Appointed – Deputy Chief of Operations, Allen County Fire District.

- **Original Home District:**

- Bloomington Twp. FD, Bloomington, IN 1985-86 (Volunteer) Firefighter
- Adams Twp. FD, Allen County, IN 1987-89 (V), 1989-1990 (Full-Time) Firefighter
- New Haven-Adams Twp. FD, New Haven, IN 1990-1995 (F) Firefighter
- Fort Wayne FD, Ft Wayne, IN, 1995-2023 (F) Firefighter, Captain, Battalion Chief.
- Hometown FD, Hometown, IN, 2022-2024 (F) Fire Chief
- Northeast Fire District, Grabill, IN, 2024-2026 (F) Fire Chief

## Professional Biography

**Background:** I got my start in the fire service in Bloomington IN. I was an ROTC student at IU. I was preparing for Airborne School with a fellow student cadet. He was already on the local volunteer FD. His comment to me was, “If you think jumping out of perfectly good airplanes is a rush, you need to join the volunteer FD and go into burning buildings.” He was right. Over the years I have moved on to other fire departments; each time looking to expand my training, my experience and my capabilities. The Army taught me command and leadership skills. The fire service gave me opportunities refine those skills. At each and every department, I have been lucky enough to work with great leaders, great cohorts, and great subordinates. Working with these folks, to accomplish a mission, has been a great driving force. Being a member of the team to address those needs and expectations of the people calling 911, has also been very rewarding.

### Education & Certifications:

Firefighter I/II, EMT, Hazmat Tech, PADI Rescue Diver.

Fire Officer I & II, Fire Inspector I & II, Fire Instructor I, II & III,

Bachelor of Science – Public Administration, Indiana University

Associates Degrees – Fire Science, Ivy Tech

### What drew you to the fire service?

As mentioned, a fellow student got me interested in the fire service. I stayed for the challenge and excitement. I stayed for the camaraderie while living and working, 24 hours at a time, as a member of numerous crews. I stayed for the reward of being able to help people when they need us.

## The Duties with the Unified District

**Primary Area of Responsibility:** Deputy Chief of Operations.

I will be responsible for making sure when a 911 call comes in, the appropriate units respond. That they respond from the closest location(s), in a timely manner, with the needed equipment and manpower, to address the needs of the emergency situation.

### Your Vision:

We will provide Allen County with a timely response to 911 calls. We will be working from day one, to send the closest, most appropriate units, with the needed equipment. Increasing manpower will: offset the loss of volunteers, allow prompt responses to the steadily increasing number of 911 calls, and facilitate staffing stations and crews with the required personnel. The personnel needed to ensure improved safety to citizens and responders.

**Community Impact:** **COMMUNITY IMPACT IS THE REASON** FOR ESTABLISHING A COUNTY WIDE FIRE DISTRICT

The Allen County Fire District will cover over a growing population of 125,000 – The 3<sup>rd</sup> highest population covered by any fire department in the state, behind Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne.

- **POPULATION DRIVES RUN VOLUME.**

The Allen County Fire District will be covering over 500 sq. mi., spread over the entire 660 sq. mi. of Allen County – THE LARGEST coverage area in the state, (one of the largest coverage areas East of the Mississippi River)

- **SQUARE MILES COVERED DRIVES RESPONSE TIME, RESPONSE TIME = LIFE & FIRE SAFETY.**

The Allen County Fire District will have 20 stations (16 combination, career & volunteer stations, and 4 volunteer stations) to respond throughout the largest fire district in Indiana. 16 stations staffed 24/7 will make the Allen County fire District the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest behind Indianapolis and Ft Wayne. A large coverage area needs many stations to reduce response time.

- **DISTANCE BETWEEN FIRE STATIONS AND THE CITIZENS THEY PROTECT ALSO DRIVES RESPONSE TIME, RESPONSE TIME = LIFE & FIRE SAFETY**

The Allen County Fire District will be 5<sup>th</sup> largest by staffing (behind Indianapolis, Ft. Wayne, Evansville & South Bend). To provide adequate coverage, staffing will rise to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest fire department in Indiana, behind Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne.

- ***STAFFING NUMBERS ADDRESS RUN VOLUME, RESPONSE TIME, AND LIFE & FIRE SAFETY***