



BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

357 FORDING ISLAND ROAD
OKATIE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29909



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Stephen Combs
Phone: (849) 949-4255 | Social: @BlufftonFire
pio@BlufftonFD.com

Local EMTs recognized for 20 years of service

Bluffton, SC (September 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. EDT) – Derek Franks and Jayme Beach, Battalion Chiefs with Bluffton Township Fire District, were recently recognized by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) for achieving 20 consecutive years of National Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Certification. This distinction is an honor held by few EMS professionals.

To maintain their status as Nationally Registered EMTs, Franks and Beach completed, on a biennial basis, the most comprehensive recertification program for EMS professionals in the country.

By maintaining their National EMS Certification and completing regular continuing education courses, the two have demonstrated their commitment to providing exceptional pre-hospital emergency medical care.

Franks and Beach were Nationally Registered as EMTs in 2003 and have been serving the Bluffton community since August 1999, and May 2000, respectively. Both Battalion Chiefs began their careers as firefighters and worked their way through the ranks to serve in their current roles. Franks serves as the Shift 2 Battalion Chief out of Station 35 (Headquarters) and Beach serves as the Shift 1 Battalion Chief out of Station 38 (Hampton Parkway).

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians serves as the National EMS Certification organization by providing a valid, uniform process to assess the knowledge and skills required for competent practice by EMS professionals throughout their careers and by maintaining a registry of certification status. To learn more about the organization, please visit their website at www.nremt.org.

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The Bluffton Township Fire District, established in 1978, has 178 employees. One hundred forty-seven are firefighters who work from 9 stations on 3 shifts. Led by Chief Paul Boulware, the department serves a 246 square-mile area in southern Beaufort County, SC and responds to an average of 8,685 calls per year. This year, the Fire District is on track to eclipse 10,000 calls for service.