

Jacob Black EFO Bio

Jacob Black began his service with the Santa Fe County Fire Department (SFCFD) over 20 years ago. His journey from a volunteer to Fire Chief highlights the foundational role of volunteerism in the fire service.

Early in his career, he balanced his academic pursuits and nonprofit involvement with part-time work for SFCFD. Jacob completed his undergraduate education, graduating from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor's in business administration. As a two-time cancer survivor, Jacob has served with numerous nonprofit organizations, including serving on the board of directors for both the New Mexico Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Children's Cancer Foundation of New Mexico. Jacob is on track to complete the Executive Fire Officer program in the fall of 2024.

Jacob has held numerous roles throughout his tenure, starting as a firefighter Paramedic before transitioning to the training division. His leadership grew as he assumed the position of Assistant Chief of Support Services and continued when he was appointed Fire Chief in December 2022.

Jacob faces many challenges and opportunities as he leads SFCFD, given its expansive jurisdiction covering nearly 2,000 square miles of rural and urban landscapes. The Department has a diverse team of over 100 full-time firefighters, supplemented by 150 on-call volunteers operating out of 32 fire stations, six operating around the clock.

Recognizing the indispensable value of collaboration, Jacob fosters a culture of teamwork essential for the Department's operational efficiency. SFCFD's success hinges on robust partnerships within the Department, various county departments, and external agencies. As an Executive Fire Officer, Jacob prioritizes building resilient communities through enhanced collaboration ensuring SFCFD remains prepared to tackle present challenges and future uncertainties.

Jacob's dedication and strategic vision continue to propel SFCFD toward excellence, safeguarding the communities it serves with unwavering commitment and professionalism.