

Fire Chief Rudy Ruiz

Rudy Ruiz, Fire Chief of the Perrysburg Fire Division in Perrysburg, Ohio.

I am an Executive Fire Officer graduate from 2011. My education includes: an associate's degree in fire science; bachelor's degree in education, and a master's degree in business administration. I was fortunate to be selected for the first class of the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI); charter member of the IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program (iDELP) and am a current member of the IAFC Professional Development Committee (PDC). I was selected to be the Chair of the PDC in 2017 but had to step down last year due to personal reasons. Those issues have been resolved and I am prepared to become active again with the IAFC. I have experience in mentorship training, community outreach, personal development, public education, succession planning, and data collection & analysis.

A single mother who emphasized the importance of God, family, and education raised me along with my brother and sister as migrant workers. I was the first in my family to attend and graduate college despite all obstacles. What this taught me was that the influence of one person could make a difference in anyone's life. This is where I base my platform. I believe aspiring fire service leaders need a sustainable leadership culture to encourage them to continue their education, provide them with ownership of specific duties, and especially encourage them to help others. I fully intend to share my experiences, successes, and failures to benefit the Executive Fire Officer Section (EFOS) on the Board of Directors representing the Great Lakes Division.

With all of my blessings, it would be my honor to give back and support the EFOS mission of identifying, producing, and encouraging industry wide and governmental acceptance of executive fire officer development programs, certifications and standards.