

Armando S. Bevelacqua is 30 plus year veteran of the fire service where he currently serves as District Chief - Special Operations and Homeland Security with the City of Orlando Fire Department, Orlando Florida. Within this time, he has functioned as a Technical Rescue Technician, Flight Medic, Firefighter, HazMat Specialist, and Special Operations Lieutenant.

His assigned duties hold him responsible for, Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Response, both local and regional response systems. He is co-manger of Florida Task Force 4 (state USAR asset) and commander of HazMat Region 5 team. He has developed Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials educational programs for the Orlando Fire Department along with programs instituted within surrounding departments and across the nation.

Armando also teaches at local colleges, instructing Fire and EMS Classes. He writes free-lance, publishing articles and educational textbooks. He is published with topics on report writing for EMS providers, Emergency Medical Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents, Hazardous Materials Field Guide and Terrorism Handbook for Operational Responders and a Chemistry book geared for the first responder. He has been presented nationally on several controversial issues in the disciples of Technical Rescue, EMS, Hazardous Materials and Management. Armando lectures to fire departments throughout North America and is an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy, additionally a WMD/Haz-Mat instructor for the Federal Bureau of Investigations along with an international initiative involving WMD Counter proliferation in former Soviet Union States through the Department of Defense as well as with several federal agencies.

Chief Bevelacqua represents the Orlando Fire Department on several federal, state and local committees. He holds membership to the Inter-Agency Board (IAB) for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability - IAB discussing issues affecting USAR and HazMat deployment and equipment as it relates to terrorism and which have developed the national "Selected Equipment List" (SEL) for first responders. Technical Consultant to the NFPA 472, and 473 Technical Committees along with representation on the ASTM standards development committee for emergency response. Chief Bevelacqua has assisted in the development of standards and protocols such as with Rocky Mountain Poison Control for the development of standardized Medical Protocol for the WMD event and for the State Department for WMD training of embassy delegates. Additionally is an active member with the State of Florida working group for equipment and training in the Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials response environment.