



2018 Officer of the Year

The Officer of the Year is given to an outstanding officer for demonstrating commitment in a leadership position and for serving as a positive role model both on and off-duty. Our 2018 Officer of the Year is Deputy Chief Bruce Kunz.

Chief Kunz started his career with the Mesquite Fire Department on April 18, 1988. He promoted to Driver-Engineer on March 9, 1996, to Lieutenant on June 26, 1999 and to Captain on September 24, 2005. On May 30, 2015 Bruce promoted to Deputy Chief of the EMS and Training Division.

Chief Kunz has a true desire to keep all members healthy now and healthy long after retirement. He's used that motivation to truly influence the day to day activities at the station for the betterment of each individual and the department as a whole. Through his continued dedication to the health and safety of the Members of the Mesquite Fire Department, Chief Kunz has been able to outfit each station with functional exercise equipment that will benefit the department now and the years to come. Multiple members of the department that have not always taken their fitness serious are now seen using the new equipment and program that Chief Kunz has designed. He has worked tirelessly to provide exercise programs that are easy to follow for people who are just beginning and for our more experienced members. Not only are the programs available on the intranet, but there are also instructional videos to describe each and every exercise.

The approach he has taken to encourage all members to be better at what they do has been very subtle, but very effective. We now have firefighters training at every station. The results are noticeable. The equipment he has procured has been something never seen in this department before. Not only is he putting this equipment out at the stations, but he is leading by example. He is practicing what he preaches and can be found using the equipment at any of the stations on any given day. His leadership in both EMS and Training has resulted in a much more fluid Division. Our training scenarios make sense and the Officers working under him are responding to his leadership examples.

It is a pleasure to recognize Deputy Chief Bruce Kunz as the 2018 Mesquite Fire Department Officer of the Year.