

Rafael Sa'adah



Rafael Sa'adah serves as Assistant Fire Chief of EMS. AFC Sa'adah was appointed as a firefighter to the District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department in January 1991 and has served in a wide variety of operational and administrative assignments. He is the first paramedic in the history of the Department to rise through the competitive fire officer promotional process and reach the rank of chief officer.

AFC Sa'adah has over two decades of experience in emergency medical services (EMS). He has been a nationally registered EMT-Paramedic (NREMT-P) since 1991, and has served as a paramedic, paramedic preceptor, EMS quality assurance officer, and paramedic instructor. AFC Sa'adah taught as a paramedic instructor at the university level for many years, and counts as one of his proudest accomplishments the several generations of his former students who now serve as paramedic supervisors and in other leadership positions locally and nationally. His operational certifications include: Advanced Medical Life Support, Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Fire Service Instructor, Fire Officer, Safety Officer, and Hazardous Materials Technician. His incident management experience includes serving as EMS Branch Director for the Presidential Inauguration of Barack H. Obama, 1/18—1/21/2009, the largest planned special event in U.S. history.



AFC Sa'adah is a proud thirty-year resident of the District of Columbia and a product of the D.C. public school system and the District's public university. He earned his bachelor's degree in fire science administration from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) in 1998, graduating *summa cum laude*, and received his master's degree in public administration with honors in 2000, also from UDC. He is a graduate of the American Ambulance Association's Certified Ambulance Service Manager (ASM) program and the George Washington University's Certified Public Manager (CPM) program.

AFC Sa'adah currently serves as an advisory member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) District of Columbia Committee on Trauma. Past appointments have included the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary's Emergency Medical Services Commission (2006), and the D.C. Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration Fatality Review Committee Advisory Panel (2004). In 2000 he served as a subject matter expert on the National Fire Academy's Management Science Curriculum Review Committee. From 1995 to 1998 he served as an operational firefighter/paramedic and hazmat technician on the Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (MMST), a multi-jurisdictional anti-terrorist task force with special training in nuclear, biological, and chemical counter-measures.

AFC Sa'adah has a particular interest in the nexus between public health and EMS, and in improving the efficiency and effectiveness with which the EMS system addresses community health needs. He states: "My sole professional ambition is to faithfully serve the citizens of the District of Columbia and the D.C. Fire & EMS Department. My goal as a leader is to continue the progress we have made towards achieving the Mayor and the Fire/EMS Chief's vision for a world-class Emergency Medical Services system in the Nation's Capital."