

I, Greg Standard started as a first responder (volunteer firefighter) with Seward Co. Emergency Services in March 1988 and I later became a full-time employee in 1999 as an Asst. county fire chief / emergency manager.

I began as a volunteer firefighter with Seward County Fire Dept. in 1988 and in 1990 became a parttime EMT, later advanced to an AEMT.

In 1999 I accepted the position of Asst. County Fire Chief and Emergency Manager for Seward County. This job has been a minimum of 50+ hours per week for the entirety of my employment. I have been on call 24 / 7 for the entire term of my employment, with on the average 8-12 days off per year.

My duties included EMS calls, suppression of structure fires, vehicle fires, oil field fires, cropland fires, hay fires, and wildland fires. The fires sometimes lasted for several days, and working 36 hours straight was not unusual.

I attended almost every for-service call service in Seward County as well as many Mutual Aid calls in surrounding counties from 1999 thru 2016. From 2016 forward, I attended large fires at local industries as well as grass/ground cover fires in Seward and surrounding counties.

I also repaired & tested equipment, hoses and apparatus and performed other duties in maintaining the building and equipment of the Seward Co. Fire Department.

I led firefighter training at the fire training meetings on Thursday evenings which routinely lasted 3 hours.

Some accomplishments;

- I started a burn permit program for the Seward County Fire Department that provided a reduction in wildland fire occurrences, while allowing property managers a means to conduct needed burns.
- I obtained the first extrication tools for Seward County Fire and our first Thermal Imaging Camaras.
- I led the project to move the Seward County LE, Fire and EMS departments into the State wide Radio system
- I was the primary person involved in the construction of a new fire station in Kismet Kansas from approval of the project to purchasing the land to signing off on the completion of that project. This was a 40 hour a week job for about 6 months of the project, which involved several years of work to bring to fruition.
- I developed an apparatus replacement schedule for all fire SCFD department apparatus.
- I developed a firefighter training program for the Seward County Fire Department.

I hold the following National fire service certifications: FF II, Driver Operator Pumper, Driver Operator Aerial, Fire Officer I, Haz-Mat Technician, High Angle Rescue, Confined Space Rescue , KCEM, and an Associate's Degree in Fire Science.

In addition, I have instructed and tested firefighters for KU Fire Rescue Training Institute in Kansas and at the request of the Director of KUFRTI I taught the first Driver Operator train - the trainer - class in the state of Oklahoma .

As a Seward County authorized member of the Kansas Incident Management Team, I participated as an Operations Chief at numerous fires, Planning Chief - Hurricane Katrina, Deputy Incident Commander - Greensburg Tornado, Logistics Chief - Greensburg Tornado, in a number of large fires, tornados and hurricane responses.

Under the direction of State and Local Law Enforcement I have participated in many searches for missing or lost individuals, body recoveries, rescues of stranded motorist in blizzards, managed traffic control situations, assisted with investigations and provided training as well as drills and other tasks as assigned for our law enforcement agencies.

Severe weather is another facet of first response. I have maintained a group of qualified volunteer spotters that assist me with providing "real time eyes on the ground" reports of current conditions. I have always personally observed storms from the field in order to provide the best warnings for our county. In many cases the strong storms I have monitored never hit severe limits, however I was in the field observing them to provide the best information possible. In a number of cases the risk to myself was very high due to large softball size hail and tornadic/straight line winds which is extremely hazardous. As an example of the need to be in the field spotting storms, the last two tornados that affected Seward County were warned by myself prior to the NWS providing warnings for the storms. The National Weather Service advises that I have been spotting on 214 severe thunder storms, 22 tornadoes, as well as 6 Flash Floods and a large number of Blizzards in the last 8 years. Following the passage of the storms I always engaged in primary searches for injured or stranded persons whenever we have apparent damage.

As an AEMT I have since 1999, and will continue to once my 60 days of separation passes for compliance with KPERS rules, run calls out of the Kismet station as a primary responder. I also have run calls in Liberal as needed. I have also worked standbys at rodeos, ball games etc. and have taught teach CPR classes for both industry and community groups. I was never paid for this work as it was explained to me by county administration" that all emergency calls or work were my job".

During COVID19 I led the Seward County Response, including the time that our Health Department was closed. I served as the leader of this operation and as a technician whenever I needed to fill open spots at the Seward County vaccination and testing facilities for approximately 287 days during which John Ralston (director of Seward County EMS) and myself worked, conservatively, 12-to-16-hour days 7 days a week providing information, transportation, meals, housing, vaccinations and COVID tests for over 55,000 residents and others. I also managed the Emergency Operations Center, provided logistic support, and overall supported all phases of the response. I obtained support from the Kansas National Guard to provide staffing at our places of service. The State of Kansas thankfully supported this mission with additional Kansas National Guard staff for our test sites and made it possible for us to provide the services to our citizens that they needed, neither John Ralston nor myself were ever compensated for all these extra hours of work this work beyond our regular salary, because as first responders this was our job according to Seward County.

In 1999 I was enrolled in KPERS by the Seward County administrations office, in 2006 when Seward County first offered KP&F, I was enrolled in KP&F by the Seward County Administrations, Office. In 2016 following a severe injury, I was moved out of the fire department, but was advised by the Seward County Administrator that I

would remain qualified and retain my status in KP&F. The county's KP&F program has been audited by KPERS and no question was raised about my participation during these audits according to administrative staff. I did confirm my benefits through KPERS prior to retirement by requesting an estimate of my retirement benefits from KPERS and received confirmation that I would retire with 20 years of KP&F and 6 years of KPERS.

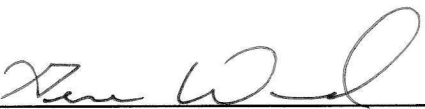
I have without fail, in the entirety of my career, been, and acted as a first responder across multiple disciplines, always providing service and care for those affected by life threatening or tragic circumstances. I have always placed the welfare and safety of myself and my family secondary to the welfare and safety of the citizens of Seward County. I would not trade this experience for anything, the opportunity to give back to your community through service as a first responder is a wonderful thing.

In closing, I am confident that I have fulfilled the requirements of a First Responder faithfully and diligently throughout my career with Seward County and should therefore be paid for my KP&F service that I have paid and earned over the last 20 years.

Greg Standard

Retired, Asst. County Fire Chief, Emergency Manager, AEMT

I Gene Ward, find the above to be consistent with my recollection of Greg Standards service to Seward County as a first responder.



Dated: AUG. 20TH 2025

Gene Ward, Seward County Sheriff