Battalion Chief Michele Fitzsimmons is a 22-year veteran of the FDNY. She joined the department in May of 2001. Upon completion of Probationary Firefighter School, she was assigned to Engine 289 in Corona and later transferred to Ladder 138. She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2007 and eventually was assigned to Engine 67 in Washington Heights. In 2014 she was promoted to Captain and became the company commander of Engine 3 and later Ladder 12 both located in Chelsea. In May of 2020 she was promoted to Battalion Chief making her the highest-ranking female in FDNY’s Fire Operations. She is currently assigned to Battalion 46 located in Elmhurst. During her career she has been an instructor at the Fire Academy, a member of the Family Assistance Unit, a Peer Fitness Firefighter Trainer, and a part of the FDNY’s Mental Performance Initiative.

Michele is a graduate of The FDNY Officer’s Management Institute. She has lectured at Wharton Business School and UPenn’s Graduate Program. She was a guest on Leadership Under Fire’s Optimizing Human Performance Podcast. She has instructed classes at Fire Service Women of Ontario and Fire Service Women of NYS’s annual conferences.

Michele is currently the President of FireFLAG/EMS. This is her second term as President having previously held the position in 2002 and 2003. In 2007 she cofounded Phoenix Firecamp, a weeklong sleep away camp that introduces girls ages 14-19 to opportunities in the Fire Service through classroom and hands on training hosted by The Utica Fire Department. In 2009 Michele became a stem cell donor through The NY Blood Center Bone Marrow and Stem Cell donor program.

Michele’s maternal grandfather was an immigrant from Cork City and her maternal grandmother was an immigrant from Belfast.