



# THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the  
**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

January - March, 2004

## 15th Annual Rural Community Fire Protection Institute Dinner



The 15th Annual Rural Community Fire Protection Institute Dinner and Vendor Show is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2004 at the Montgomery Civic Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The day begins with the vendor area opening to the public at 12:00 Noon and closing at 6:00 p.m. There will be several companies displaying their trucks and

fire/EMS wares for attendees to look over inside and out. Also, many associations and organizations will be present to talk about services they offer to fire departments and fire personnel. Ms. Vicki Murphy from FEMA will be hosting a grant writing workshop. If you are considering submitting an application this year for any grant program,

you certainly don't want to miss it. Also, we will have members of the Daleville Police Department conducting their popular and highly informative workshop on Meth Labs and their dangers to First Responders. These workshops will start at 2:00 p.m. and are free to anyone that would like to attend.

The Dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. During the evening we will hear from many state and local public officials and fire organization leaders. There will be several distinguishing awards presented during the course of the night. Also, we will give away the door prizes that were registered for during the day in the vendor area. Our guest speaker for this year's event is "Dollar Bill" Lawson. He is a comedian/DJ with the country station



102.5 The Bull out of Birmingham. We are sure that it will be a show you won't want to miss!

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this event. Complete the registration form found inside and return it to the Institute. Visit our web page at [www.rcfpi.com](http://www.rcfpi.com) for additional information and registration forms. You can also contact us at 1-800-897-7237 with any questions. We hope to see you here in Montgomery on March 20, 2004.



*Do you know this state employee?  
See page 12.*

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# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Johnny Dennis*



On November 25, Congress passed a much-needed change in the Public Safety Officers Survivor Benefits Act. This change will now expand the (P S O B) Program to include death benefit payment for heart attacks or strokes in the line of duty to public safety officer's families. This change is long over due as many fire service organizations and, most of all the National Volunteer Fire Council, has lobbied congress to change this policy.

Records show 37 firefighters died from heart attacks in the line of duty in 2002. This most likely is a close average for many years in the past. The total number of firefighters killed in the line of duty usually exceeds 100 each year. Heart attacks are the cause of approximately one third of firefighter deaths. Changing the law allows the survivors to

receive the truly deserved benefit payment of over \$260,000. This only solves one of the problems, but does nothing to alleviate the cause of firefighter deaths due to heart attacks.

"Firefighters Die of Heart Attacks Too", a past article in *The Volunteer*, was written to convince our fire service the importance in having an AED in each department. This program has saved one firefighter in Alabama while responding to an emergency, and I believe it will save others in the future. When it comes to Firefighters and heart attacks, the real question should be, how can we lower the number of firefighters who die of heart attacks? How can we focus on the cause rather than administrating its effect?

My research is very limited in the causes of heart attacks, however, a number of issues come to mind in reducing heart attacks. Eating the right foods, exercising, weight control and most of all not going beyond your physical endurance level while on an emergency. Physical fitness programs are standard in some departments, but should be looked at closer for all departments. Having a yearly full physical can also catch problems early. Firefighting is a stressful and high energy job. We have committed ourselves to firefighter safety on scenes, but as we age and as the aspects of our duties as a firefighter change with the ever growing times, we have to also commit ourselves to firefighter well being and health.

## AAVFD SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2004

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2004. This makes it possible for each of the winners to be recognized at their High School Graduation Ceremony.

Each year four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each are awarded. Each scholarship is given on a one-year basis and must be applied for each year regardless of previous applications and must be used within one year of award.

Applications must be mailed to the Montgomery office to the attention of Scholarship Chairman Roy Adamson and postmarked no later than March 31, 2004. For information on applying, contact the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SEND YOUR 2004 INSURANCE ENROLLMENTS!

The new year for AD&D insurance enrollments began on January 1, 2004, but it's not too late to send your renewals/applications to the Montgomery office. Policy cost is \$12.00 per year for \$10,000 coverage or \$20.00 per year for coverage of \$20,000. Coverage begins on the date your applications reaches the office. If you need additional applications, contact the office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833.

## ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

Annual dues to AAVFD were due on January 1, 2004 and should be sent to the Montgomery office. Membership dues for county associations with 100% membership are \$35 per department. Dues for individual fire departments are \$40

per department.

If you have not sent in your dues, please take a moment to do this now. If you are not a member and wish to be, contact the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833, and we will be glad to provide you with membership information.

## ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE BY MAY 31, 2004

Each year the association presents an award for Firefighter of the Year and the Sherry Garner Memorial Award. The Sherry Garner Memorial Award honors Alabama's first lady firefighter lost in the line of duty.

The nominated individual must be a member of a volunteer fire department that is a current member of AAVFD. No form is necessary. Recommend the firefighter and tell why you think he or she should be recognized, attach statements by others, if you wish.

These awards are not for valor. Information about a heroic act may be included in some recommendations, but these acts are not necessary to be eligible for one of these awards. There are many far-above-average personnel around this state who have not yet been singled out for their volunteer service to their communities. This is your opportunity to recognize that person for the many significant contributions that they have made.

Nominations must be mailed to the AAVFD office no later than May 31st. The awards will be presented at the annual Conference in Dothan.

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**1985 E-One Custom Pumper**

Diesel Automatic, 1500 GPM/500 Tank  
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**RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE  
PROTECTION INSTITUTE**  
15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER & VENDOR SHOW  
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2004  
MONTGOMERY CIVIC CENTER  
7:00 P.M.

**RESERVATION SHEET**

Individual/Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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County Represented \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>Please reserve</b> _____	<b>Sponsor Table(s)</b> \$800.00 per table
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## Don's Perspective

by Don Shield  
Alabama Firefighter

Financial times are going to be tougher for some volunteer fire departments this year with state funding being cut by 50%, and with the present possibility being cut to zero the following years. With the FREE dedicated service the volunteer fire departments and volunteers provide their communities, counties and state, it is a shame that our legislators and governor have allowed this to happen. It's hard to put an exact figure on the savings the volunteer fire departments save their communities, counties and state, but I would project it to be at least in the millions and possibility in the billions annually.

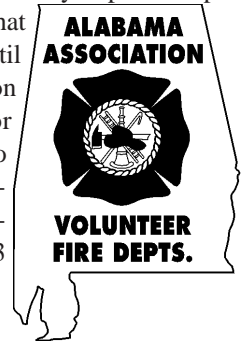
When volunteer fire departments start closing their doors due to these funding cuts, this is only going to cause other hardships for adjoining departments because these departments would be required to pick up those coverage areas no longer covered.

I have already heard departments saying they won't be able to attend the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute Dinner and the AAVFD Conference because of these funding cuts. These funding cuts have also affected the Forestry Commission's annual budget with the projection that Firefighter Appreciation Day will also be eliminated. These events offer to the volunteers a tremendous benefit, Fire/EMS vendors displaying the latest wares on the market, financial institutions helping with new equipment, apparatus and stations, training, and emergency service personnel sharing their knowledge with others in the field.

I have seen the volunteer fire service in the State of Alabama make tremendous strides in the last few years. New stations, new Fire/Rescue apparatus and better personal protective gear are seen throughout the state. This is not the time to start mov-

ing backwards. The volunteer fire service needs to join together now more than ever, and make our voices heard. The benefits provided to our communities, counties and state surely outweigh the funding cuts our state government deemed necessary for the volunteer fire service.

Make an appointment today with your legislators, (Senator and House Representative) and discuss your situation. Try to make this happen on your turf, at your station. Make sure you place emphasis on the point that you can't wait until the next election year (2006) for them to react to your present situation. The legislative session starts 3 February 2004.



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# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

**T**HE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS statewide continues to pay off in improved ISO ratings. Listed below are changes in ratings.

DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING
<b>Effective October 1, 2003</b>			
Bankston-Stough	Fayette	9/9	7/9
Eagle Creek	Tallapoosa	9/10	6/9
Glen Allen	Fayette	9	6/9
Lisman	Choctaw	9/9	6/9
Lock 5	Hale	9/9	7/9
Red Oak	Covington	9/10	7/9
Styx River	Baldwin	9/10	5/9
<b>Effective November 1, 2003</b>			
Camp Hill	Tallapoosa	8/9	6/9
Davis Lake	St Clair	9/10	5/9
Harpersville	Shelby	7/9	4/9
Huxford	Escambia	9/9	7/9
Ray	Coosa	7/9	6/9
<b>Effective December 1, 2003</b>			
Arley	Winston	9/9	7/9
Barney	Walker	9/9	8/9
Berney Station	Talladega	9/9	6/9
Hopewell	Covington	9/9	8/9
Pleasant Hill	Choctaw	9/9	8/9
Union Grove	Marshall	8/9	7/9
Valley Grande	Dallas	9/10	7/9

Congratulations to these departments and their hard working members! Improved ISO ratings are what we are often measured by and it's obvious that Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments measure up!

Congratulations to Chris Owes who was honored as Firefighter of the year by Thomasville VFD, Clarke County.

Franklin County held a dinner to honor the county firefighters on December 4, 2003.

Congratulations to Robert Dean who was honored as Firefighter of the Year by Jackson VFD, Clarke County.

Frisko City VFD, Monroe County, held their annual

awards banquet on December 13, 2003. Congratulations to Firefighter of the Year Douglas Kendrick, Rookie of the Year Glenda Gulley, and Officer of the Year Chief Buddy Enzor. The Appreciation Award was presented to Linda Rowell, and the Outstanding Service Award was presented to Vincent Ferraro.

West Blount VFD, Blount County, hosted a Fire Instructor I class in November and December.

West Bend-Bethel VFD, Clarke County, held open house at its new fire station on November 1, 2003.

Springville VFD, St Clair County began a First Responder class and sponsored a 160-hour Firefighter course on January 15th.

Conecuh County held its annual Firefighter banquet on January 10th.

Frisko City VFD, Monroe County, held a 16-hour EVOC class on January 24th & 31st.

Lacey's Spring VFD, Morgan County, is hosting PEPP (Pediatric Emergencies for Pre-Hospital Professionals) class on February 28-29.

Poarch VFD, Escambia County, conducted a Life Flight Safety Class on January 11th.

Congratulations to Mike Sheehan and Charlie Dixon who were honored as life members of Thomasville VFD, Clarke County.

Frisko City VFD, Monroe County, conducted a life Flight Safety Class on February 15.

Congratulations to Koss Green, Jr. & Lee Barkley who were honored as Firefighters of the Year by Pine Hill VFD, Wilcox County.



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 1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Cummins Diesel  
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**\$109,500**  
 1999 Ford 4x4 Rescue  
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 Commandlight Lighttower  
 10KW Generator  
 Automatic Transmission/ Diesel Engine



**\$65,000**  
 1988 E-One Hush Pumper  
 1500 Hale Side Mount Pump  
 500 Gallon Aluminum Tank  
 Detroit Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



**\$59,000**  
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 Ramsey 12,000lb Winch  
 Diesel Engine/Automatic



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 Caterpillar Engine  
 Allison Automatic



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Allison Automatic



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750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Cummins Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$59,000

1987 Quality Pumper  
1250 Waterous Top Mount Pump  
750 Gallon Steel Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$79,000

1989 Pierce Dash Pumper  
1250 Waterous Top Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Steel Tank  
Cat Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$100,000

1999 Saulsbury Rescue Pumper  
1250 Hale Pump  
1000 Gallon Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$49,000

1982 Mack 106' Quint  
1250 Waterous Side Mount Pump  
150 Gallon Tank  
Mack Diesel  
Automatic Transmission



\$49,000

1993 E-One 55' Telesquirt  
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450 Gallon Tank  
Diesel Engine  
Automatic Transmission



\$61,500

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Pick your own Pump Size up to 300 GPM  
Gasoline Engine/Automatic-Transmission



\$155,000

1984 E-One 95' Tower  
1500 Hale Pump  
200 Gallon Aluminum Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$57,500

1988 E-One Hurricane Pumper  
1000 Hale Top Mount Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Cummins Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$129,000

1994 E-One Rescue Pumper  
1250 Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Tank  
Full Amkus System & Airbags  
Detroit Diesel/Allison Automatic



\$90,000

1994 E-One Hush Pumper  
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump  
500 Gallon Poly Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic

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"We built Chevrolet's, Trucks, what is great, and what don't we like, if anyone of them  
but no do, just, and so fire engine, and so will, humbly wish you God?" March 6, 4

# Alabama Frontier Day



*Richard & Becki Cumbie*

Hopefully, times will not get this bad due to the Governor's budget cuts however, if they do, Assistant State Forester Richard Cumbie and wife, Becki are prepared to live off the land if need be. Actually, Richard and Becki are taking part in the re-enactment at the annual Alabama

Frontier Day at Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson State Historic Site in Wetumpka. This year over 10,000 students and residents across Alabama came to see history as it happened from 1700 to 1820. Demonstrations by Richard and Becki showed students how to cook over an open fire and grind corn using two stones just as it was done in 1700. Other demonstrations by Native Americans in Archery, Blowguns, Hide Tanning, and story telling attracted young and old alike. Firing of the flintlocks, muskets and cannons by the Colonial Marines got the attention of everyone; but I do suspect it made a nervous wreck out of the little squirrels in the nearby woods.

Just as we dedicate our time and skills to provide fire protection to our communities, many others like Richard and Becki dedicate their time and knowledge of history to our younger generations showing them first-hand how people provided for themselves hundreds of years ago. To see the reaction on the faces of these students grinding corn or holding the animal pelts that may have been traded for food or powder for a musket is not something I will not soon forget, nor will they.

Johnny Dennis

## Alabama Wildland Fire Academy

The Alabama Wildland Fire Academy is scheduled from May 10-23, 2004.

The academy will be held at the Oak Mountain State Park (Birmingham, Alabama).

Scholarships are available for Alabama Volunteer Firefighters. Low cost tuition is available for all others.

Courses to be taught:

- Basic Wildland Firefighter
- I-100-Introduction to ICS
- I-200-Basic ICS
- I-300 Intermediate ICS
- S-131-Advanced FF
- S-211-Portable Pumps
- S-212-Power Saws
- S-215-Wildand/Urban
- S-230-Single Resource
- S-231-Engine Boss
- S-234-Ignition Operation
- S-261-Applied Intragency Business Management
- S-270-Basic Air Operation
- S-290-Intermediate Fire
- RX Burn Manager
- S-280-Leadership
- ATV-4 Wheeler
- GPS
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Firewise Workshop

For specific class dates and a registration form, go to:

[http://www.forestry.state.al.us/publication/pdfs/Fire\\_Academy\\_2004.pdf](http://www.forestry.state.al.us/publication/pdfs/Fire_Academy_2004.pdf)

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## 2004 Annual Conference to be Held in Dothan

Houston County President  
Kenny Givens, Chairman

The 2004 AAVFD Conference will be hosted this year by the Houston County Volunteer Firefighters Association on Friday and Saturday, June 18-19, 2004.

The motel location is the same as 2000; however, both have changed their name. Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) and Holiday Inn Express (formerly Hampton Inn) will host the annual event. One is owned by the other and is adjacent to each other – almost like one very large motel. (Total of 214 rooms)

You may make reservations by calling 334-794-6601. When the Quality Inn is full, they will ring and switch you to the Holiday Inn Express. Room rate is \$55, plus tax. Deadline for reservations is June 4, 2004.

You know, of course, you need to pre-register for the conference at a cost of \$20 each. Failure to do so will cost you \$5 more.

Kenny Givens will serve as Chairman and may be reached during the day at 334-793-0074, night at 334-677-3101 or via e-mail [chiefkennyg@yahoo.com](mailto:chiefkennyg@yahoo.com).

At this writing, we still have numerous decisions and plans to make, no doubt, to be announced in the next newsletter. We will also give you more details regarding food and entertainment.

This is our 4th “Lucky Draw” at this thing. You should know by now, we are going to try to show you a good time.

Don't wait till the last minute to reserve your room and pre-register – why not do it now?

## 2004 AAVFD Annual Conference Pre-registration

Please make your check payable to and mail check  
and form to:

HCVFFA, PO Box 246, Cowarts AL 36321

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people.

Our Fire Department is \_\_\_\_\_.

Please print name of each person (Use another sheet,  
if needed):

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Cardiac Arrest Survival Commission Meets

In January the Cardiac Arrest Survival Commission met after a period of 18 months due to the change in the Governor's administrations. The first order of business was to update the number of AED's that were placed in our Volunteer Fire Service from the beginning of the pilot program that started in 1999. Not including 77 units purchased under the HRSA grant, over 700 AED's are now in the hands of Volunteer Fire Departments. Dr. Williamson asked the board to consider where this program is going after the volunteer fire service received their AED's. The commission decided to give the volunteer fire service until April 1, 2004 for the primary department in each county to join in this program. The guidelines are the same, as before, you must have no less than 4 people trained in the use of AED's and certified in CPR. After April 1, the commission will consider substations and other organizations or agencies for AED's. The program to provide pads to the volunteer fire services and others in this program will be in place shortly. Hopefully, funds to purchase AED batteries will also be part of this program. UAB is in the process of collecting the data from each unit after these units are used regardless if you were successfully in reviving you patient or not. This program will be very important, as no other state has undertaken a study on providing AED's in the rural areas on a large scale. This data from UAB will provide information that will benefit the AED program in Alabama and other states as well. It is our hope other states will follow Alabama in the AED program.

## Wildland Fire Prevention Grant



The AAVFD has completed another agreement with the Alabama Forestry Commission in funding the third Wild-land Fire Prevention Grant Program. Applications will soon be available at the AAVFD Office and on the AAVFD web site: [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org). There will be some changes in the 2004 grant application. As in the previous grants, this is a Wildland Fire Prevention grant and not to be used for Fire Safety or to purchase equipment for your fire engine or station. If you have any question regarding the 2004 grant, contact the AAVFD office 1-888-972-2833, your County Forestry Office or email: [Jden42@aol.com](mailto:Jden42@aol.com), [jden42@comcast.com](mailto:jden42@comcast.com).

# BUDGET FRIENDLY

## NEW SKID PUMP UNITS

Mertz Fire Apparatus has built skid units up to 1,500 gallons, with pumps from all Fire Pump Manufacturers, which includes Hale, Waterous, and W.S. Darley. Mertz Fire Apparatus also provides pumps by Hypro and Udor. Vanguard electric start engines are featured on all pumps and Honda engines are available. The Mertz 16V1550 Series pump system will pump up to 170 gpm at 170 psi and will pump in excess of 50 gpm @150 psi.

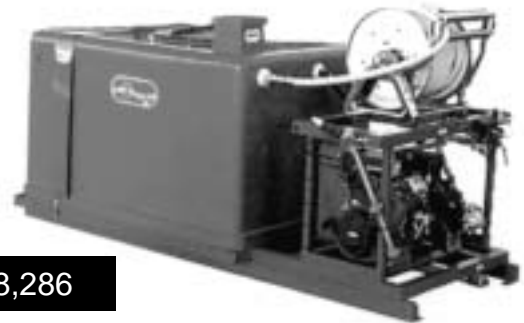
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### FD 18V 300 L

This is the 18 hp version of the famous "FireCracker." With pressures of over 500 psi this is the top of the line "Wildland" firefighter. Standard tanks up to 300 gallon, but larger optional tanks are available. Engines from various engine manufacturers are also available. Optional foam systems can be installed.

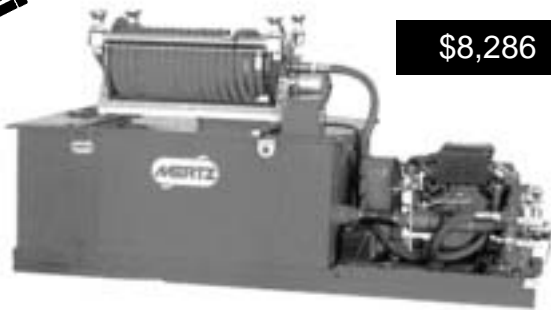
Maximum Pressure: 560 PSI  
 Maximum Volume: 26.0 GPM  
 Maximum Speed: 550 RPM  
 Number of Cylinders: 4

FD-18V-300 L



\$8,286

**MERTZ, INC.**



\$8,286

**Low Cost**

#### FC 16V1550 200 LFT

The standard series of the Mertz 16V1550 standard pump systems are available with 150 to 400 gallon booster tanks. Standard features include hose, hose reel, outriggers, primer, fuel tank, plumbing and battery. The tanks are 20 years limited warranty fiberglass tanks.

Stats	150G	200G	250G	300G	400G
Height	39.5"	44.5"	51.5"	56.5"	52.25"
Length	91"	91"	91"	91"	98.5"
Width	43"	43"	43"	43"	64"
Wt. Dry	800#	850#	875#	900#	925#
Wt. Wet	2075#	2550#	3000#	3985#	4325#

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## Alabama Fire College *Policy Changes*

When you apply to host a certification course within your department, you may notice changes to the application forms and other information. The following policies were implemented January 5, 2004:

**ZERO TOLERANCE ABSENCE POLICY** - All certification courses, except volunteer firefighter, will have a ZERO TOLERANCE absence policy. This means that a student MAY NOT miss any portion of a certification course, both classroom and practical, regardless of the schedule. When the regional coordinator comes to monitor your certification course, and a student is absent from class, he or she will be dropped from the course and will not be allowed to test.

**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD** - When completing the field course application, you will notice that a section has been added to document the instructor teaching. You must put in writing what instructor will be teaching the course during the selected day. If you have any changes to the scheduled instructor, please notify the Alabama Fire College by call our toll-free training hotline at 1-800-241-2467.

**CURRENT TEACHING OUTLINE & PPT** - All of the Alabama Fire College teaching outlines and power point presentations now have a revision date posted on every page of the teaching outline (except cover page and table of contents) and on the very first slide of the power point presentation. The

Alabama Fire College Regional Coordinator will be checking what version of the teaching materials you are using. It is imperative that you have the most current and up-to-date teaching outline. The NFPA Standards are constantly changing, and as a result our teaching materials are constantly changing. To ensure you have the current teaching outline, contact our toll-free training hotline at 1-800-241-2467.

**VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER ABSENCE POLICY** - Students may miss one session per 40-hour block. Depending on the date missed, this may be any number of hours, but one student may only miss one time. Failure to properly mark absences can result in disqualification of the instructor from teaching future classes.

**Make-Up Policy:** Assignments, Academic and Practical, shall be the responsibility of the course instructor. Make-up work shall be completed in written format on the subject matter compatible to course hours missed (Academic). Make-up work shall be completed and documented on the appropriate evaluation forms (Practical). Make-up work shall be completed and evaluated by the course instructor prior to the course completion and final examination, and should be identified by student name and date of absence. All make-up work shall be forwarded to the AFC Field Division with final course records.

For more information regarding the changes to these, contact the Training Division Hotline at 1-800-241-2467.

## Congress Passes Legislation to Cover Heart Attacks Under PSOB



WASHINGTON, DC — On November 25, the Senate gave final approval to the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act (S. 459 / H.R. 919), which expanded the Public Safety Officers Benefit (PSOB) program to cover public safety officers who die of heart attacks or strokes in the line of duty. The legislation gained House approval on November 22.

“This is a huge victory for public safety officers nationwide,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “The fire service owes its utmost gratitude to the bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives that worked so hard to ensure this bill’s passage.”

The legislation was originally introduced in the House by Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC), along with Representatives Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Michael Oxley (R-OH), and Curt Weldon (R-PA). In the Senate the effort was spearheaded by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), along with Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jim Jeffords (I-VT).

Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees respectively, also played critical roles in moving

the bill through the process.

The PSOB program currently provides a one-time death benefit payment of \$267,494, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, to families of public safety officers (fire, police and EMS) killed in the line of duty, as well as to officers permanently disabled while on duty. The death benefit is payable to the survivors of a public safety officer who “has died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty.”

Unfortunately, in almost every incidence of death by heart attack or stroke, it has been ruled that the heart attack or stroke was not a direct result of an injury sustained in the line of duty and the family receives no benefits even though the deaths were clearly triggered by the rigors of the job.

The Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefit Act will correct that deficiency in the law, by ensuring that a public safety officer who suffers a fatal heart attack or stroke while on duty or not later than 24 hours after participating in a physical training exercise or responding to an emergency situation, is presumed to have died in the line of duty for purposes of public safety officer survivor benefits.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 37 firefighters died from heart attacks in the line of duty in 2002.



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# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank:	Firefighter/Fuels Management Supervisor Rick Lupe, Career	Cause of Death:	Died from injuries received when municipal truck he was driving in support of operations at a Wildland fire left the highway and crashed over an embankment.
Department:	Fort Apache Agency, US Dept of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Whiteriver AZ	Name/Rank:	Firefighter/EMT Ronald L. Holmes, Career
Date of Death:	6/19/03	Department:	North Platte FD, North Platte NE
Cause of Death:	Died of burns received over 40% of his body when he was overcome by fire progress in a prescribed burn project.	Date of Death:	8/6/03
Name/Rank:	Asst Chief/EMT/SAR Coordinator Ralph Dawdy, Volunteer	Cause of Death:	Died from vehicular trauma while conducting routine patient transport.
Department:	Animas Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Animus NM	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Recruit Wayne Mitchell, Career
Date of Death:	6/26/03	Department:	Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami FL
Cause of Death:	Died enroute to Jenny Fire in Gila National Forest when tanker left roadway and rolled ejecting Dawdy.	Date of Death:	8/8/03
Name/Rank:	Asst Chief Doug Thomas, Volunteer	Cause of Death:	Overcome by heat during simulated shipboard fire training at Resolve Marine Fire School in Port Everglades FL and died while in transit to hospital.
Department:	Kent Island VFD, Stevensville MA	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Barry D. Lutsy, Volunteer
Date of Death:	7/9/03	Department:	Racine VFD, Racine WV
Cause of Death:	Injured on September 16, 2001 while responding to boat fire at Kent Island Yacht Club when his engine left roadway struck a utility pole and overturned. After being in and out of the Shock Trauma Center, he was removed from life support and passed away.	Date of Death:	8/13/03
Name/Rank:	Firefighter Samuel Lee Green, Career	Cause of Death:	Killed when struck by apparatus while it was backing into bay at fire station after returning from a call.
Department:	Shelby County FD, Memphis TN	Name/Rank:	State Firefighter I Wayne W. Mickie, Career
Date of Death:	7/21/03	Department:	Massachusetts Wildfire Crew, Bureau of Forest Fire, Pittsfield MA
Cause of Death:	Died of heart attack while on duty at the fire house.	Date of Death:	8/15/03
Name/Rank:	Firefighter Shane Heath, Career	Cause of Death:	Died in his sleep from an apparent heart attack while in camp with Massachusetts Wildfire Crew battling forest fires near Missoula MT.
Name/Rank:	Firefighter Jeff Allen, Career	Name/Rank:	Inmate Firefighter Edward Buti, Career
Department:	US Forest Service, Salmon-Challis National Forest, Salmon ID	Department:	Idaho Correctional Institution, Orofino ID
Date of Death:	7/22/03	Date of Death:	8/20/03
Cause of Death:	Killed while cutting firebreaks when fast moving flames on Cramer Fire in the Salmon-Challis National Forest trapped them.	Cause of Death:	Died from cause to be determined as he was hiking to a wildfire with an inmate firefighting crew.
Name/Rank:	Firefighter Douglas Bruce Coffey, Volunteer	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Ricardo "Ricky" Ruiz, Career
Department:	Blowing Rock FD, Blowing Rock NC	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Mark Ransdell, Career
Date of Death:	7/22/03	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Leland Price, Jr., Career
Cause of Death:	Died from an apparent heart attack after returning home from working a residential structure fire.	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Richard B. Moore II, Career
Name/Rank:	Pilot Randall Harmon, Career	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Jesse James, Career
Department:	Superior Helicopter, LLC, Grants Pass OR	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Jeff Hengel, Career
Date of Death:	7/25/03	Name/Rank:	Firefighter David Hammer, Career
Cause of Death:	Killed when his helicopter crashed while fighting McGinnis Flats fire in Washington State.	Name/Rank:	Firefighter Paul Gibson, Career
Name/Rank:	Pilot Jess Pearce, Career	Department:	First Strike Environmental, Roseburg OR
Name/Rank:	Firefighter/Helitack Crewmember Randall Bonito, Jr., Career	Date of Death:	8/24/03
Department:	BIA Fire Management, Whiteriver AZ	Cause of Death:	Died on their way home from fighting a wild fire in South Fork ID when their van collided with tractor-trailer and exploded in flames, killing all inside and injuring two people in the semi-trailer.
Date of Death:	7/26/03	Name/Rank:	Lt. Stephen G. Gavin, Volunteer
Cause of Death:	Killed when helicopter crashed while taking firefighters from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to begin initial attack on fire in Aspen Ridge area of Arizona.	Department:	Owego FD, Owego NY
Name/Rank:	Lt. Randy Neal Jones, Volunteer	Date of Death:	9/2/03
Department:	Cool Springs VFD, Statesville NC	Cause of Death:	Died as result of heart-related problems suffered in the line of duty at a mutual aid structure fire.
Date of Death:	7/28/03	Name/Rank:	Captain Jerry Wayne Armstrong, Volunteer
Cause of Death:	Died from traumatic injuries sustained after being involved in vehicle crash (POV) while responding to structure fire.	Department:	Bryant VFD, Bryant IN
Name/Rank:	Firefighter Alan Jeffrey Koval, Volunteer	Date of Death:	9/6/03
Department:	Inkom FD, Inkom ID	Cause of Death:	Suffered a massive heart attack and died while working fundraiser event at community festival.
Date of Death:	8/6/03		

## CLASSIFIED ADS

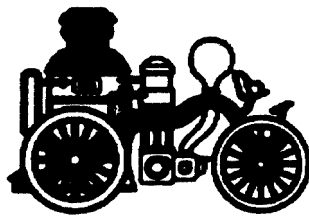


### Pine Level Volunteer Fire Department has a tanker FOR SALE:

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 Pump: 400 GPM  
 Engine: Cummins

**FOR SALE:** 1963 Ford Pumper, with gasoline engine and 750-gallon main tank. Asking \$2,000 or best offer. Call 205-372-4822 before 9:00 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** 10 sets of yellow turnout gear. Includes everything (pants, coat, helmet, boots, gloves, etc.). All sets are in good to like-new condition. Would like to sell all in one group, if possible. Asking \$500 per set. Contact Chief Eddie Snow @ 251-862-2704 or e-mail ghsnow@frontiernet.net.



# THE BELL TOLLED

Christine Harrington, South Marengo Fire & Rescue, Marengo County, passed away October 22, 2003.

Chastity Hutchcraft, McCall VFD, Escambia County, and her 5-year-old son, Lane, died in an auto accident on October 24, 2003. Chastity, secretary of the department, was a firefighter/EMT and was named Volunteer of the Year in 2002. She was a nominee for AAVFD Sherry Garner Award in 2003.

Captain Barry K. Daugherty, Dora Fire & Rescue, Walker County, passed away on November 2, 2003. He was a member for 12 years, serving as an officer the last 6 years with two of these as Assistant Chief.

Matthew Karl Brimer, Weaver VFD, Calhoun County, died in a vehicle accident on November 15, 2003.

Larry Vinson, Owens VFD, Limestone County, passed away December 2, 2003.

Alvis L. Carter, Nitrate City VFD, Colbert County, died of massive heart attack following response to fire call on January 1, 2004.

Wendell Manners, Collinsville VFD, Chilton County, passed away January 7, 2004.

Retired Chief Robert Muse, first Chief of Underwood-Petersville VFD, Lauderdale County, passed away December 29, 2003.

## VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FAMILY'S HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

At approximately 10:00 p.m., January 7, 2004, the home of Les & Lisa House in the Liberty community of Ethelsville, Alabama was destroyed by fire. Reverend Jonny and his wife awoke to see flames engulfing the western half of their son's home 100 feet away. Liberty Fire Department was paged out and arrived within 5 minutes to find the home engulfed in flames.

With the combined efforts of Liberty and Forest Fire Departments, the flames were extinguished before the home totally burned, but Les and Lisa lost all possessions due to fire, intense heat and smoke damage. They had no insurance coverage.

Les is a volunteer firefighter with Liberty VFD and is employed at Wal-Mart in Columbus, MS. He and Lisa have one son, Christian, age 2.

A fund has been established at the West Alabama Bank in Reform, AL for anyone wishing to make a donation for the benefit of this young family. You may send your donation to: Fire Fund for James Lester and Lisa Tippet House, c/o West Alabama Bank, P.O. Box 310, Reform, AL 35481. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

**I**f any Volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of day or night. Johnny Dennis— (256) 766-4707 or Dave Davis (334) 366-4490; or Clayton Cobb, Sr. (251) 578-2855; or Don Shield (256) 776-9760.

**A copy of the booklet "Death In Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or www.aavfd.org.**



**About The Volunteer:** *The Volunteer* is issued 4 times a year: in Jan, April, Jul, and Oct. Articles, information, and advertisements for the newsletter must be in Montgomery not later than the 15th of the month before publication.

**Articles & Information:** Submissions of articles, letters, and information for inclusion in this newsletter are greatly appreciated and encouraged. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. No libelous or slanderous material will be published. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections, and style.

**Other AAVFD Information:** ALL Membership information, Insurance information, changes of address, and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery office.

**AAVFD Officers:**  
 President Johnny Dennis  
 1st VP David Davis  
 2nd VP Clayton Cobb, Sr.  
 3rd VP Don Shield  
 Secretary Mary Jane Sells  
 Treasurer Rhonda McKissack

**Newsletter Editor:**  
 Johnny Dennis  
 Don Shield  
 Sandra Mott  
  
**Office Staff:**  
 Johnny Dennis/Sandra Mott

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**Fax number:** (334) 262-2834  
**E-mail:** aavfd@mindspring.com  
**on the Web at** www.aavfd.org

Office hours are Monday - Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



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