



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

January - March, 2005

2005 WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION GRANT The Smart Way to Fight Fire

There are two ways to fight fire. One requires thousands of dollars in fire equipment, firefighters, and many hours day or night, not of our choosing. The other requires taking advantage of a grant provided by this association with the help of the Alabama Forestry Commission. This Fire Prevention Program is designed for one purpose: to prevent and reduce the number of Wildland fires. This association has provided \$276,000 in Wildland Fire Prevention Grants to the volunteer fire service over the past four years. Grants were issued to eighteen County Associations and one hundred and three departments.

Once again, this Association, with the assistance of the Alabama Forestry Commission, is providing over \$60,000 in grants for 2005. The requirements are the same as before, with one exception. The Association will provide the grant recipients Wildland Fire Prevention catalogs. This is due to a number of grant recipients purchasing fire safety items that are not allowed in the grant guidelines. Any funds used to

purchase Fire Safety or Fire Prevention material other than "Wildland" Fire Prevention material or not used in your grant program must be repaid to the Association.

All grant applications must be postmarked no later than May 30, 2005. All grant reports will be due November 1, 2005. The final report must include: (1) a narrative of what was done on the project, (2) how the grant funds were spent (with receipts), (3) the number of man-hours your department/association contributed to your project, and (4) the approximate number of people to whom your program was presented.

If you have any questions regarding the 2005 Wildland Fire Prevention Grant Program, contact the AAVFD office @ 1-888-972-

2833 or President Johnny Dennis @ 1-256-766-4707 or e-mail jden@comcast.net.



INSIDE THIS EDITION

2005 Wildland Fire Prevention Grant 1	2005 AAVFD Membership 13	EMS Corner 23
From the AAVFD President's Desk 2	Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative 16	Limestone County AVFD 23
AAVFD Scholarship Program 2	Don's Perspective 19	69th Annual Fire College Week 25
2005 AAVFD Conference Schedule 4	2005 Annual Dues Reminder 19	National Firefighter Fatalities 26
Account of Gerry Brown 6	2005 Annual Awards Nominations 19	104 Deaths in the Line of Duty in 2004 27
From Here and There 9	USFA Notice of Policy Change 20	The Bell Told 27
Underwood-Petersville VFD Celebrates 25 Years . . . 10		

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

Johnny Dennis



In November 2004, I had the pleasure of attending a Mid-West Fire Service conference in Des Moines Iowa. Seven states, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska and Alabama, discussed issues such as legislation, membership, insurance, retirement plans, medical plans and state recruiting programs. These are a few of the many issues brought to the attention of states attending the National Fire Service Benefit Summit which was begun in 2001 by North Carolina. The 2005 National Benefit Summit will be hosted by the Fireman's Association of the State of New York in Albany, New York, May 15-19.

At the upcoming 2005 summit in New York, all these issues will be addressed. We hope to have states attending that have not attended in the past. Benefits are the main issue reviewed; however, other issues that affect the fire service such as state budget cuts are brought to the table as well. The fire service in Minnesota stopped their state government from raiding the retirement funds to use in other state programs. Other states lost funds, as the fire service seems to be an easy target due to fire safety/prevention or benefits being viewed as less important than state programs. The reality of that statement is that some consider people's lives and property less valuable than social convenience.

In the Mid-West conference, many expressed ideas on improving our fire service by developing family programs, low cost or free college tuition for members of the fire departments. This has

been a recommendation since the beginning of the national recruiting and retention program. Benefits are the key to increasing the number of volunteers and keeping volunteers committed to the fire service for a longer period of time. Benefits may not be the only solution in increasing the number of volunteers in our fire service. A few departments are turning to paid or paid on call firefighters. In most departments in Alabama where departments can barely afford to pay department insurance, equipment replacement or payments on a fire engine, this is not an option. The most realistic option for these departments is to become part of a statewide benefit program.

States as North Carolina offer free college tuition to firefighters, which is a great incentive in recruiting and retention. An insurance program, both medical and dental, is another program that is needed by many firefighters and their families. Those that have jobs that provide these plans sometimes lose sight of others in our service that do not.

Just as the number of volunteers is falling short, some states are also experiencing a shortage of people to serve as officers, directors or delegates in their state associations. The demand for travel and long hours away from family and jobs are taking a toll in this area of our fire service as well. How do we overcome the loss of qualified people to serve in the leadership roles of our state and county associations? In my view, the same incentive programs in recruiting and retaining volunteers (benefits). Our National, State and County leaders must understand, just as freedom is not free, neither is protecting the citizens of our state.

In the October-December issue of "The Volunteer" the majority of resident voters in Lancaster, Massachusetts voted not to provide an annual death benefit to a fireman's wife and three children after firefighter Martin McNamara lost his life battling a basement fire. No greater benefit could a firefighter have than the care of his or her family in the event they themselves lost their life in protecting the lives or property of others. Fortunately, at the annual Town Meeting in May 2004, the city supported purchasing an annuity pension plan for the widow and three children. They also allowed the McNamara family to purchase the town health insurance. In many cases, the firefighter's family sometimes becomes victims themselves as we forget they exist. With only a meager amount from the state and Federal Death Benefits, these families must pay the bills and raise a family just as before.

AAVFD Scholarship Program



*This
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*2003 Winners Valerie Crosby of
Clarke County and Nick Ray of Lee
County.*

It's that time again. The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, in partnership of VFIS of Alabama, is proud to present our 2005 Scholarship Program. AAVFD will award four \$500 scholarships. As has been our practice, these scholarships are one-time awards to be used within one year and will be available to any volunteer firefighter, dependent son or daughter, spouse or a dependent listed on the 1040 tax return of a firefighter who is a current, active member of a certified volunteer fire department for a minimum of three consecutive years and has been a member of AAVFD for the last three consecutive years.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833 or www.aavfd.org. The completed application should be mailed to the Montgomery office to the attention of Scholarship Chairman Roy Adamson and postmarked no later than March 31, 2005.

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Conference Guest Speaker Dr. Stephan Hittmann... A native New Yorker, he served for many years as the Executive Director and Chief Learning Officer of the FDNY. His responsibilities were overseeing all training for the 16,000 uniform and civilian personnel. He was responsible for the rebuilding of the department post 9-11. He was one of the responding officers to the WTC. He has recently retired from the FDNY to head the 9-11 Foundation, a non profit organization that provides training and strategic development services to fire departments domestically and internationally. Dr. Hittmann has lectured at hundreds of functions – from small private meetings with local fire chiefs to the Naval War Games.

**2005 AAVFD
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2005

- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration in Lobby at Holiday Inn
- Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- Noon – 5:00 p.m. Vendor Time at Fair Grounds
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting - Holiday Inn
- 6:00 p.m. Cookout – Spring Park

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2005

- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration in Lobby at Holiday Inn
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Competition Registration & Captains Meeting
..... Fair Grounds
- 9:00 a.m. – Noon Competition at Fair Grounds
- 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Vendor Time at Fair Grounds
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Annual Business Meeting at Holiday Inn
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Holiday Inn
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Awards Banquet at Sheffield Recreation Center
- 9:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Social Time at Holiday Inn

2005 State Conference Information

The Colbert County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments is proud to host the 28th annual Conference of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. The upcoming Conference will be July 15-16, 2005 in Sheffield, Alabama.

The host motel will be the Holiday Inn, and the overflow motel will be the Webster Hotel & Suites. Reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn at 256-381-4710 and the Webster Hotel & Suites at 256-383-4100 or toll free 1-877-474-6257. Make sure you state you are attending the AAVFD Conference. The room rate will be \$59, plus tax, at both hotels.

If you have any questions, you may contact Conference Chairman Lawrence Huffman at home 256-446-9813, by cell phone 256-810-0671 or by e-mail 1whuff1@yahoo.com. The conference schedule and guest speaker information is not complete at this time.

Conference pre-registration will be \$20.00 per person, and registration at the conference will be \$25.00 per person. Please complete the pre-registration form to the right.

Conference Pre-Registration

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Account of Gerry Brown

Bowling Green, KY Fire Department

Rescue One

This is our smallest unit - only 10 tons. I had been the assigned driver on it for approximately two years at the time of the accident. The crew consisted of one firefighter and myself. We responded to all structure fires within the city, as well as any non-fire rescue incidents. We also responded to rescues in the county. These were primarily vehicle extrications. On average, we went on a true rescue run every other 24-hour shift.

My partner and I were both EMTs. At the time I had over 10 years' experience. Greg had about six. We had been on the unit together for several months and had further developed an extremely close working relationship, as well as a personal friendship, begun when we were assigned together earlier in our careers on the same engine company. I love him dearly. From his position in the passenger seat he was always extremely alert, scanning traffic, watching for and calling out any danger.

The Run

Friday, Dec. 19, 1987, had been a relatively quiet day run-wise. The weather was miserable, with gusting winds, intermittent rain and temperatures in the 40s.

At approximately 10 P.M. we were dispatched to a reported structure fire at a convenience store. This business was located nearly five miles from our station. The response consisted of us, an engine from our station, two engines from substations and the command car. I led the engine out of headquarters. The shift commander was out of quarters when the call came in, so we had units responding from four different locations.

Initially traffic was extremely light. The rain had stopped, but the streets were still wet. I drove accordingly. Even when we turned onto a long, straight stretch of four-lane highway our speed never exceeded 50 mph. Shortly after entering the straight section of road we noticed the warning lights of Car 7 (the command car) well in front of us. He was running about a minute ahead of us.

Traffic became heavy as we neared a major cross street. A typical large suburban mall and a variety of other businesses were clustered near this intersection. It was closing time and workers and holiday shoppers were on their way home.

The traffic signal at the intersection was red for us and both lanes were backed up 10 or 15 cars deep. There was no traffic in the oncoming lanes, so I crossed over the dividing line to make my way around the stopped vehicles. Just as I started to move the first-in engine reported "on the scene, nothing showing," but we were already committed.

I had slowed to about 25 mph as we neared the stopped cars. When we began our move around I took my foot from the accelerator and placed it on the brake pedal. Rescue 1 has an automatic transmission, so I didn't have to worry with downshifting. I simply let the unit coast as we passed the traffic. By the time we reached the edge of the intersection we had slowed to 10 to 15 mph.

Greg and I both routinely practiced a process we called "locking down" - making eye contact with the drivers at intersections and confirming that they have come to a full stop. We were very alert to movement. Our attention was especially focused on the street to the right, for two reasons: in this maneuver vehicles on the right are the most shielded and thus the last one you can check; and we knew the other substation engine was approaching on this street.

Experience had taught us that headquarters units and this substation engine usually arrived at this intersection close together. In fact, we normally made radio contact to determine who should go first. I was just about to do this when the first-in unit gave its initial report and broke my timing. Since I was beginning my move around the traffic at this moment, I decided to make certain I could stop if the substation engine was too close. I certainly didn't wish to be struck by a fire truck!

As was my habit, I scanned the intersection ahead of me. Left, front, right, left, front, right. (Traffic from the left has the first "shot" at you.) From our height I was able to look over the tops of the cars we were passing while we were still two or three car lengths from the boundary of the intersection.

I locked down the first car - a light-colored vehicle, maybe white or silver. There was another car to the right of it, which had also stopped, but was turned slightly as if the driver intended to make a right turn onto our street. I let my gaze follow up the line of traffic until I saw the lights of the approaching engine. It was still a couple of blocks away. I made another quick check around, then coasted into the intersection.

To line up for the next stretch of highway I had already turned my wheels back to the left when Greg yelled, "Look out!" I saw the roof of a car directly in front of us. We were so close that's all I saw. A split second later there was a tremendous noise and we went into a rapid counterclockwise spin. Neither of us experienced any physical sensation from the collision. It didn't even jar us. Greg was out the door before we came to a full stop. I threw the shift into neutral, set the air brake and turned off the siren, then made a radio transmission to dispatch for an ambulance. I just knew somebody had to be hurt.

The Scene

The car was a Corvette, charcoal gray - a color almost identical to wet blacktop. Corvettes are made of fiberglass. The left rear portion of the car's body had shattered, spraying small pieces across the pavement. The force of the collision had driven the car sideways and it struck both cars that were stopped in the oncoming lanes at the edge of the intersection. Those cars sustained only minor damage.

I took a quick glance at the auto nearest me. The occupants - a family of four - appeared unhurt. I'll never forget the look on that driver's face. His gaze was riveted on the Corvette, frozen in sheer terror. I quickly made my way to the driver's side of the Corvette. The door was jammed shut from the impact, although the glass was shattered, permitting me to lean inside and check the driver.

She was a young woman, 19 years old. Unbelievably, since she wore no seat belt, she still sat upright. She was unresponsive, unconscious, but her eyes were only partially closed. A thin trickle of bright red arterial blood came from her left ear and nostril. No other signs of injury were evident. I felt for a pulse and found one, finally - rapid and very weak.

Returning to the unit, I gathered a light, a stethoscope and a blood pressure cuff. Then I rushed back to her. One pupil was dilated, the other constricted. I don't remember her blood pressure numbers, but they were very close together. I do remember some difficulty hearing over the loud static coming from the radio.

Everything I had learned only confirmed my first thought at the sight of those two ribbons of blood: brain injury. Bits of EMT class flashed through my mind: "brain bruised and torn," "rapid swelling," "to relieve the pressure holes are drilled in the skull," "priority transport." I took her hand and prayed.

Until now Greg and I had missed each other in our trips to the Rescue. A young lady had approached me while I was checking vital signs, announced she was an EMT, took a quick glance inside and gasped, "Oh my God, she's a nurse!" (the victim wore a white smock) and disappeared. Suddenly firefighters were everywhere. The crews from the two engines swarmed over the vehicle. Someone started the hydraulic rescue tool's motor and others began using the spreaders in what proved to be a futile effort to pop the door (fiberglass doesn't pry.) Another man was inside, holding traction. I tried to help with the hydraulic tool, but the men gently elbowed me aside.

The first ambulance arrived on the scene in less than five minutes. The paramedics soon lost patience with the delay in opening the driver's door and with the firefighters' assistance took the woman out through the passenger side. Before the ambulance left I caught one of the paramedics by the arm. We knew each other from working numerous accidents together. "It's not good," he said.

What followed was routine accident investigation - questions from the police, pictures, and measurements. My shift commander informed me the call had turned out to be a smoke scare. Almost two hours on the scene with nothing to do but stare at the vehicles and think. The steering on the Rescue was damaged and the bumper was bent against the left

front tire, pining it in place, still turned to the left, as it had been at the moment of impact. At long last a wrecker came to tow the unit back to the station. Inexplicably, the shift commander had Greg and I ride in the unit's cab. That was a long ride. It was now past midnight - Saturday morning.

Return To Quarters

Firefighters met us in the bay. Everyone had questions, but we had few answers. Greg had seen a flash of blond hair. All I had seen was the roof of the car. It was well past midnight now, yet I went into the living quarters and called my wife.

We only spent a few minutes on the phone. My wife was everything any man could want or expect in that brief conversation: sympathetic, understanding, loving. I heard some of my pain in her voice, sharing.

Something else happened as I stood there at the phone. In spite of the late hour every one of the dozen firefighters on duty at the station that night had stayed up till we returned. Now most headed toward the bedroom. They had to go by me. As they passed each one touched me. Just a pat on the arm or back was all there was to it, physically. I wish I could do justice in describing the force of those simple acts. Angels do walk the earth. Corny? Yes, but true. The intention behind their action was what mattered.

Then my shift commander took me to the county jail for a breathalyzer test. It came out negative, as it should have. Still, this was my first experience with this procedure and I was very apprehensive.

On my return to the station a fellow firefighter, off duty, came in with his fiancée. She had just gotten off duty at the hospital. The prognosis was no better than 50-50.

A couple of men stayed up with me even after the reports were filed. They finally had to give it up though, in the wee hours of the morning. I did not go to bed or sleep. Fortunately, no more runs came in. One of the captains called Greg and I over in the morning just before the shift ended and helped us fill out worker's compensation forms. In his comments section he noted that we might need some care later. He meant counseling. This same man and his wife visited my home later that day.

At 7 o'clock I climbed into my old battered pickup and headed home. Up to that point I had held it together fairly well. During the 10-minute drive, however, I began, as folks around here say, "to come unglued." I remember sitting at a stoplight, sobbing. I remember my wife meeting me at the door, then holding me, listening. Finally, I went to sleep on the floor. I awoke later to the sound of my mother's voice. Once more I let myself be a child in her arms.

It is impossible to determine how many times the events of that night replayed in my mind during my "48 hours off." The images were constantly repeated: the light-colored vehicle at the front of the long line of traffic; the car beside it, slightly behind and to the right; scanning the line till I saw flashing red lights, then back to the light-colored vehicle, still stopped; the roof of a car flashing in sight; and the driver, named Tammy. Her condition was extremely critical for several days. She was in a coma. Within a few hours of being injured her hands and feet began to curl inward. This often precedes death. After a couple of days, though, she began to stabilize. Several more days passed before she was moved to a hospital in Nashville, TN.

Although she remained in a coma, we began to receive reports that she was starting to respond to stimuli. After two months she regained consciousness. Her left side was paralyzed and she had a somewhat diminished mental capacity. To this day she still suffers, although we hear in occasional reports that she continues to make slow progress. Sadly, we have never heard of there being hope for a complete recovery.

The Days After

A lawsuit was filed against the city Monday morning. My chief and shift commander both assured me this was to be expected, although it was unusual for it to happen this fast. We learned later the attorney had visited the family at the hospital within a few hours of the accident.

My time off was consumed with worrying about Tammy and attempting to figure out what had gone wrong. Paradoxically, when I was on duty was the only time I had any real peace of mind. At least there I had things to keep me occupied.

From the facts I knew I just could not make sense of it. If anything, I had driven more cautiously than usual because of the weather conditions.

The crew of the engine that had been following us could not add anything to what I already knew. Initially I was told the same was true for the crew of the engine on the side street.

On the second working day after the accident someone mentioned in passing that the acting officer on this substation engine had seen the accident. I called him immediately. He related how he had seen Tammy's car swerve out of the line of traffic to the left, hesitate before the first car at the intersection, then pull out in front of us, "sudden like." In my state of mind I failed to recognize the full significance of this information. I was still focused entirely on my actions.

My Support Network

I am extremely fortunate. My family did everything possible to support me. This was always a burden for them; at times a very great burden, for I remained in a deep depression for at least six months. After that I was subject to frequent "bad spells" until the trial was over.

The greatest weight fell on my wife and daughter. They had to deal daily with my swings from despondency to anger to bouts with whiskey. My daughter's 16th birthday was a week before the accident. She waited another two years to get her driver's license.

My wife went beyond "for better and worse." I owe my recovery to her. But she paid a terrible cost. As if I were not enough load to carry, there was also trouble with our sons and their families during this time. (Ironically, both boys' wives were also named Tammy.) One night a year after the accident I went on a rampage - broken furniture and glass, much screaming and cursing. She left; quite frankly, the only reasonable course of action. A short time later my sister called to tell me my wife was in a hospital's psychiatric ward. While there she underwent a series of shock treatments. Guilt is such a small word.

My fellow firefighters were tremendous. The first call came within a few minutes of my arrival home the morning after. They continued throughout the day. Several men came by. A common observation from all was, "It could have been me." Perhaps most importantly they have listened with patience and tolerance through the years when I vented my emotions. This has occurred more frequently than I care to admit.

A little over two years after the accident I enrolled in a college course for company officers. The course had a segment on Critical Incident Stress (CIS). The memory of checking off each item as I read the list of signs and symptoms is still fresh. I had them all! Understanding myself began that night. Education is the key. When the opportunity came for formal training in this area I jumped at it. I am now a peer member of the Kentucky Post Trauma Response Team.

Named As A Defendant

Several weeks after the accident I went to the hospital in Nashville with a fellow firefighter. I had been able to keep track of Tammy's condition primarily through him. Tammy and his daughter were close friends. He thought it would be meaningful to the family, and I agreed, if I could relate my concerns to them in person. I cleared this through the city and the insurance carrier's attorney.

We met for a few minutes with Tammy's mother and another family member at the hospital. My brief comments related my and my family's concern and prayers. Within a couple of days I was named as a defendant in the suit.

I visited the city attorney for advice. His answer, hardly comforting, was that I had two choices: take my chances with the insurance company attorney, since he had to protect me in protecting the city, and perhaps lose everything; or hire my own attorney and lose everything in raising the money to pay his fees. Not much of a choice. I took the first option.

A few months after this development I had a little confrontation with an assistant chief/shift commander from another shift. I mention it because it raises a concern that can easily crop up regarding any apparatus incident - namely, people speaking of matters of which they know nothing. This man's knowledge was based solely on erroneous press reports.

I confronted this individual at shift change one morning and, in the presence of another assistant chief and a number of firefighters, gave him a lecture. "Chief," I said, "I hear you've been telling a pack of lies about the accident. I don't remember seeing you out there that night. In case you

GERRY BROWN, *continued on page 11*

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From Here and There

News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama

Congratulations to Whorton Bend VFD, Etowah County, on the completion of their new building. The 7,000 sq. ft. building contains the fire department and community center. Jimmy Gann serves as Fire Chief and Tony McGlaugh as Asst. Chief.

Congratulations to Kinsey VFD, Houston County, for achieving a Class 4 from a prior 7 rating, effective March 1, 2005.

Foley VFD, Baldwin County, along with TEEEX, a branch of Texas A & M hosted a Threat and Risk Assessment course January 18-20, 2005.

Congratulations to Kerry Pickard, Lee-Chambers VFD, Lee County, who was honored as Lee County Firefighter of the Year by the Lee County Exchange Club. Kerry was also named Lee-Chambers VFD 2004 Firefighter of the Year.

Pine Hill VFD, Wilcox County, hosted an Assistance to Firefighters Grant workshop taught by FEMA on February 11th.

South Marengo Fire & Rescue Squad, Marengo County, was awarded a grant from the First Responder Institute GSK/Tums Grant-in-aid program. The department first heard about this grant program through the AAVFD e-groups. They were one of 29 departments nationwide, and the only Alabama department, to be awarded a grant in the fourth quarter. The funds will be used to purchase two generators.

West Blount VFD, Blount County, will host a Swiftwater Rescue Technician and Advanced Technician class from March 29th through April 3rd. They will also host a 40-hour Fire Officer 1 class in February.

Over 300 firefighters and their families attended the 27th annual Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments Awards Banquet held on January 29th at Joe Wheeler State Park. Guest speaker was State Fire Marshal Richard Montgomery. The Lauderdale County Association was presented the Smokey Bear Award in recognition of excellence in training, fire control, fire prevention, equipment maintenance and cooperation. The Individual Fire Prevention Award was given to Justin Bishop of Underwood-Petersville VFD.

Lauderdale County Ladies Auxiliary Individual of the Year was presented to Leslie Wallace, Greenhill VFD.

Lauderdale County EMS Star of Life Award was presented to Ronnie Ray, Greenhill VFD.

Chief Trent Putman, Killen VFD, was honored as Lauderdale County Fire Chief of the Year.

Ryan Kiser, Killen VFD, was honored as Lauderdale County Rookie Firefighter of the Year.

Bill Scott, Cloverdale VFD, was honored as Lauderdale County Firefighter of the Year.

The People's Choice Award recognized Zip City VFD as the outstanding department in Lauderdale County.

Lauderdale County also recognized Big Star, Inc of Killen as the Small Business Supporter of the Year and Lowe's of Florence as the Large Business Supporter of the Year.

On January 31st, 13 Frisco City Firefighters, 3 Range firefighters, 2 Munsun FL firefighters and 2 Cherokee River firefighters attended a federal fire and emergency service ARFF technique and aircraft safety class at the Frisco City Fire Station in Monroe County. Brandon Rowell, firefighter with the city of Pensacola and the Pensacola Naval Air Station, taught the three-hour class. Five hours of hands-on training is to take place at a later date.



Dixons Mills VFD, Marengo County, recently took delivery from Buddy Gray Fire Equipment a 2005 Kenworth T300 pumper. It has a 1500 GPM Darley Pump and a 2,000-gallon stainless steel tank. This is the largest

pumper/tanker combination in the county and will allow them to handle structural fire with one apparatus and also provide support for surrounding departments.

Congratulations to Appleton VFD, Escambia County, for achieving a Class 7/9 from a prior 9/9 rating, effective February 1, 2005.

Congratulations to Jeremy Flowers who was honored as Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, Firefighter of the Year at their annual awards banquet on December 16th. Sam Weeks received the Rookie of the Year award. Fire Lt Daniel Day, a third generation firefighter, received the Officer of the Year award. Monroe County EMA Director Chuck Murph received the Outstanding Service Award. Three firefighters, Lt. Shannon Sawyer, Firefighter Sue Starr and Asst. Chief Vincent Ferraro received Outstanding Service Awards.

Owens VFD, Limestone County, held their Awards Banquet on December 4th. Firefighters honored were Charles Snider – Training Officer of the Year, Dennis Blakely – Most Improved Award, Elna Toone – Sara Hurd Award, Fallen Firefighter Award – Tim Toone, Royce Evans – Barnard Clark Award, Gary & Teresa Lovell – Ricky Moore Award, Laura Blakely – Jr. Firefighter Award, Sherie Swanner – Female Firefighter of the Year, Dennis Blakely – Male firefighter of the Year, and the late Clinton Romine – J. B. Rose Award.

From the Lighter Side

Medicinal Strength

THROUGH THE AGES, humans have discovered different ways to treat an earache, explains Paul Johnston, Gresham, Oregon.

2000 B.C. – Here, eat this root.

1000 A.D. – That root is heathen. Say this prayer.

1850 A.D. – That prayer is superstition. Drink this potion.

1940 A.D. – That potion is snake oil. Swallow this pill.

1985 A.D. – That pill is ineffective. Take this antibiotic.

2000 A.D. – That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root.

Underwood-Petersville VFD Celebrates 25 Years



Twenty five years is typically viewed as an accomplishment in any area of life – whether it be a marriage, a career, or service to your local fire department. How about twenty five years of uninterrupted, unpaid staffing at a volunteer fire department? We felt like that was definitely *quite* an accomplishment, and one worthy of celebration. On October 3rd, 2004 we opened our doors, pulled out the trucks, and invited the public to join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Underwood-Petersville Volunteer Fire Department.

Many people attended from our community, including past and present members of the fire department, local politicians, and friends of the fire department. After some refreshments and a time of fellowship, Don Montgomery, President of the Board of Directors (as well as a charter member), addressed the crowd, highlighting the progress we've made since opening our doors in 1979.



We've gone from a 1979 Ford front-mount pumper in a borrowed shop building and a small camping trailer to an eight-bay station with two engines, two tankers, a brush truck, and a rescue. We've brought our ISO rating from a class 9 to a class 4 – the lowest in Lauderdale County.

A Brief History of UPVFD

The Underwood-Petersville VFD was started in 1979 by a dedicated group of individuals who saw the need for protection of their homes and property. The vision of those individuals remains the mindset of UPVFD today, one of unparalleled service with first-class equipment. Since the day our doors opened, we have had one or more people on duty at our station for each of those 219,000

hours. During the daytime, our station is staffed largely by a team of dedicated retired individuals who work in two six-hour shifts from 6 AM until 6 PM. Each night, one or more firefighter(s) begins his/her twelve-hour, semi-weekly shift.

In 1992, we started a monthly fish fry fundraiser to supplement our department's income. Little did we know the success we would have with this endeavor. We continue to host our fundraiser on the fourth Saturday of each month except for December, catering monthly to a large crowd. We have been able to purchase modern equipment with the profits from the fundraiser, and we continue to enjoy the benefits of our hard work! Since 1992, we have served over 77,000 tons of fish.

Moving Forward

UPVFD continues to make great strides towards the future. In the past few months, we've restructured our training program, and now require all eligible firefighters and EMTs to be certified EVOC drivers. We have developed a new and improved Public Relations & Fire Prevention program, and using Lauderdale County's Kid's Fire & Life Safety Smoke House & Kid's Challenge Obstacle Course we present a new program to our community's children each year (see www.LCAVFD.com for more information). We've also developed a website, www.UPVFD.com, to help keep our personnel and community informed of the department's happenings. Next time you're surfing the web, swing by and check it out! Our call volume has continued to rise, as I'm sure everyone's has. In 2004, we responded to 453 calls, both emergencies and community assistance.



By Justin Bishop, FF/NREMT-B
Public Relations & Prevention Officer
Underwood-Petersville VFD
www.UPVFD.com

don't know, I've been named in the suit. I may lose everything I own. My suggestion to you is keep your mouth shut, unless you want to tell it on the witness stand."

Also, at no time was there a news report that came even close to accurately depicting what had happened. Someone made the statement in the initial investigation that the fire truck ran over the car. Someone else speculated the bumper might have struck Tammy on the head.

The great majority of coverage centered on Tammy; her hopes and plans before the wreck; on her shattered future. Perhaps it is unrealistic to expect anything else. After all, her life has been devastated.

In Court

Every firefighter on the run was called in to give a deposition. Mine lasted four hours; my training officer's lasted over six.

About a week before court (22 months post-accident) I had a meeting with the attorney for the city's insurance carrier. This was but one of a series of meetings. This time, however, he revealed that an offer of an out-of-court settlement was being made. I had no choice in the matter and felt cheated. Naively, I hoped the trial would vindicate me.

The best I remember, before the trial was to begin the following Monday, I was dropped from the suit without explanation. While this was a tremendous relief, I was still in the middle of things. I sat with counsel in court each day. Letters were exchanged every morning - ours offering settlement, theirs rejecting it.

I was called to the stand twice. The first time was brief and I think I conducted myself well. On the second occasion I didn't. Several of my answers were curt and my attitude toward the plaintiff's attorney revealed my great disdain for him. Most of his questions were based on false premises, forcing me to disagree and correct him. There was frustration on my part in that I didn't feel I was being allowed to relate all my side of the incident. One can only respond to specific questions. If the right questions are not asked, your full story will not be told. My performance can best be summed up in a remark our attorney made to the other firefighters who were about to testify after me. He said, "Remember, conduct yourselves as professionals." That hurt. Yet no one had briefed me on what to expect or how to act.

Much of the testimony centered, on Tammy's injuries and the resultant losses stemming from them. Tammy testified, yet she remembered nothing of the events of that night. This was the first time I had seen her since the wreck. It was terrible to see her in a wheelchair, yet my joy at seeing her alive overwhelmed me. I think I probably smiled the entire time she was present. For so long I had feared she would die.

Among the witnesses were the drivers who had stopped at each side of the intersection. The woman who was at the front of the line of traffic on the right was great. She remembered every detail. She had heard us approaching and seen our lights. In fact, she had seen and heard the first engine and Car 7 pass through the intersection earlier. When she spoke of how Tammy had pulled up on the left beside her I finally thought I fully understood the accident. She had said to her husband only moments before the accident, "Oh my God! She's going to try to beat the fire truck!"

Maybe she was trying to beat us. Perhaps the radio drowned out our siren. Why she moved no one will ever know for sure. I believe she was actually stationary when Greg and I looked in that direction, and that's why neither of us picked up any movement of headlights.

The jury was made up of 14 people - 12 women and two men. Two alternates were dropped when deliberations began. One of them was one of the men. The lone remaining male was 24 or 25 years old and had never had a driver's license. He was elected foreman. After nearly 2+ hours the jury came back in with a question for the judge: "Does a fire truck have the right to go through a red light?"

I was shocked by the question. These people apparently weren't certain or didn't know that this is indeed legal. In his instructions to the jury the judge had given the only segments of the statutes that he thought were pertinent. These did not include this exemption or the two parts I thought important regarding Tammy's actions: requirements to yield and stay clear of intersections. (She was not cited on these.)

The judge replied that he had given all the instructions he intended to and the jury must return to its deliberations. As soon as the last juror had

exited both attorneys rushed to the center of the room. Thirty seconds later it was settled. I heard the next day the amount was \$1 million - exactly what had been offered before court. A fellow firefighter polled some of the jurors as they left and discovered they had been split, seven to five, in my favor.

The Aftermath

The settlement, after six days in the courtroom, gave me immense relief. Others, including my wife, felt the system had failed because I was not vindicated.

I don't think a day has gone by that I haven't thought about the accident. Greg reports he still has occasional nightmares. The driver of the engine following us has left the fire service, a victim of substance abuse. While the accident is probably not entirely responsible for his behavior, I know it played a role. He often said it could have been him. In his deposition he also said something very important to remember: "Sometimes you can do everything right and it still turns out wrong."

The fire department tightened its drivers' training with the biggest change being a certification system for relief drivers. The city installed a pre-emption system on about a dozen intersections, including the one where the accident occurred. This was the result of a lot of research by firefighters and some concerted political legwork. There was a press conference announcing the system and the jurors were invited. I seized the opportunity to enlighten the five who attended.

From the first coherent thought I had after the crash I wanted to prevent this from happening again. My training officer had a short tape of one of our runs. That was a start as far as showing people just what we were up against. But the question from the jury kept haunting me. Obviously, the public was not being educated regarding emergency vehicles.

A footnote: Throughout the ordeal I had been unable to determine anything about the light-colored vehicle I had seen at the edge of the intersection. It turned out to have been a brown van; its driver was the woman who testified in court. Not until after the trial did I realize that, viewed from the front, this van would have appeared light-colored because of the windshield and chrome grill and bumper. One little mystery was thus solved.

Lessons Learned:

That concludes Gerry Brown's story. It provides many lessons to everyone in the fire service:

- "Covering the brake." The action of moving your foot from the accelerator to the brake can save on braking distance. Example: An emergency vehicle operator going 40 mph by covering the brake will save 44 feet. You take 40 mph and multiply it by the constant 1.1, which equals 441 of distance saved. Had Gerry not have covered the brake the outcome could have been much worse.

- "Shotgun Alley." This is the part of the intersection where one lane of traffic is unoccupied. A civilian may decide to pull from a blocked lane of traffic (the person at the head of this lane is aware of the emergency vehicle approaching and has stopped at a green light) and go into the unoccupied lane and "shotgun" into the intersection, neither hearing or seeing the oncoming emergency vehicle.

- A firefighter who has been involved in an emergency vehicle accident has suffered a serious psychological event. The firefighters in this story should have not been made to return to quarters in the wrecked fire truck nor should they have been made to finish out their tour of duty.

- If you are involved in an apparatus accident of this magnitude, you will be given drug and alcohol tests. Don't do drugs or drink and drive!

- The need for Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) after such an apparatus accident cannot be overstated.

- Be aware of comparative negligence laws, under which driver negligence is decided by percentage of blame.



DON'T GET BURNED BY IVAN

In the wake of Hurricane Ivan, many areas of our state received extensive damage to the forest resources. The tremendous amount of available fuel on the ground creates a very high hazard for wildfire. In order to protect you, your property, and your community from another devastating loss, the Alabama Forestry Commission is asking citizens to follow the guidelines below to ensure no lives are lost or homes destroyed because of the careless use of fire.

DON'T DO ANY OUTDOOR BURNING UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

IF POSSIBLE, haul debris to an approved debris disposal site in your area. (Your local Alabama Forestry Commission or County Commission office will know the location of available sites.)

IF HAULING your debris to an approved site is impossible because of volume or distance, take the following safety precautions when attempting to burn.

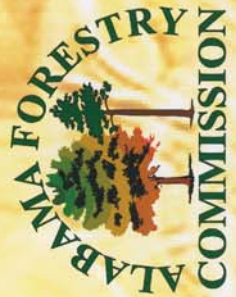
WHERE FEASIBLE, debris piles can be covered with plastic and burned immediately after rainfall is received.

IF DEBRIS PILES cannot be covered, they should only be burned during periods of high fuel moisture (after rain) and low winds.

IF BURNING more than one-quarter of an acre in size or within 25 feet of a natural combustible material, a burn permit must be obtained. This can be done free of charge by calling the toll-free number located on the front page of your local telephone directory under "Emergency Numbers." Obtaining a burn permit does not relieve you from liability in the event the fire escapes.

THE PERSON doing the burn should use all necessary safety precautions when doing outside burning. You should have plenty of manpower and tools available to control the fire, and you should stay with the fire until it is completely out.

For more information about how to safely conduct outdoor burning or if you want information on how to make your home FIREWISE, contact your local Alabama Forestry Commission office or log on to our web site at www.forestry.state.al.us.



The Alabama Forestry Commission is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

2005 AAVFD Membership – Total 730

As of 2/24/05

DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN		7 of 13
CHEROKEE		
DEKALB	100%	25 of 25
ETOWAH	100%	23 of 23
JACKSON	100%	21 of 21
MADISON	100%	17 of 17
MARSHALL	100%	18 of 18

DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR		4 of 12
COFFEE	100%	9 of 9
DALE	100%	13 of 13
GENEVA		
HENRY	100%	6 of 6
HOUSTON	100%	17 of 17
PIKE		

DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT		
CULLMAN	100%	26 of 26
JEFFERSON		17 of 34
SHELBY		12 of 22
ST CLAIR		
WALKER	100%	25 of 25
WINSTON	100%	11 of 11

DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

BUTLER	100%	16 of 16
CONECUH	100%	21 of 21
COVINGTON	100%	20 of 20
CRENSHAW	100%	12 of 12
ESCAMBIA	100%	22 of 22
MONROE	100%	15 of 15

DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE		
GREENE		12 of 13
HALE	100%	9 of 9
LAMAR	100%	10 of 10
PICKENS		
SUMTER		
TUSCALOOSA	100%	20 of 20

DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN		13 of 33
CHOCTAW	100%	13 of 13
CLARKE		
MOBILE	100%	19 of 19
WASHINGTON		

DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS	100%	13 of 13
CLAY	100%	18 of 18
CLEBURNE	100%	12 of 12
COOSA		
RANDOLPH		
TALLADEGA		3 of 15
TALLAPOOSA	100%	13 of 13

DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

COLBERT	100%	13 of 13
FRANKLIN	100%	12 of 12
LAUDERDALE	100%	14 of 14
LAWRENCE	100%	11 of 11
LIMESTONE		
MARION	100%	12 of 12
MORGAN	100%	22 of 22

DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA	100%	10 of 10
BIBB	100%	9 of 9
CHILTON	100%	15 of 15
DALLAS	100%	15 of 15
MARENGO	100%	11 of 11
PERRY	100%	11 of 11
WILCOX	100%	9 of 9

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK	100%	7 of 7
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE	100%	7 of 7
LOWNDES		1 of 8
MACON		
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL	100%	11 of 11



Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus



Call for Pricing
1995 KME Freightliner 4x4
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
On Board Foam System
8K # Winch/ Electric Generator



Call for Pricing
1993 Ferrara
1250 Hale Top Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
On Board Foam System
Diesel Powered Generator



\$119,000
1999 Pierce Pumper
International Chassis
1250 Darley Top Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
International Diesel



\$9,000
1977 American LaFrance Pumper
1250 ALF Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Steel Tank
Allison Automatic
Cummins Diesel



Call for Pricing
1995 Ford E-One Pumper/ Tanker
1250 Top Mount Pump
1250 Gallon Poly Tank
Automatic Transmission
Diesel Engine



\$25,000
1985 E-One Walk-In Rescue
GMC 4x4 Chassis
Enclosed Seating for 7
GMC Automatic
GM Gasoline



Call for Pricing
1993 Quint 75' Aerial
1500 Waterous Side Mount Pump
400 Gallon Poly Tank
Cummins Diesel
Will Paint to Your Specs



\$85,000
1992 Medtac Rescue Truck
Enclosed Seating for 5
Winco 25KW Generator
Ramsey 12K # Winch
International Diesel



Call for Pricing
1994 E-One Midi-Pumper
450 Hale Side Mount Pump
300 Gallon Aluminum Tank
9KW Gas Generator
8K # Ramsey Winch



\$275,000
1998 E-One Cyclone II Heavy Rescue
Enclosed Seating for 6
40KW PTO Generator
12K # Electric Winch
Cummins Diesel



Call for Pricing
1997 Hummer Brush Truck
300 Waterous Pump
235 Gallon Poly Tank
Foam System
Diesel Engine



Call for Pricing
1980 Sutphen 100' Tower
1250 GPM Side Mount Pump
Automatic Transmission
Diesel Engine



Call for Pricing
1999 Rescue
Automatic Transmission
Diesel Engine



Call for Pricing
1986 Pierce Arrow
1250 Waterous Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Steel Tank
Diesel Engine



\$44,000
1989 E-One Rescue
Onan 6KW Generator
Electric Winch w/ Remote
Detroit Diesel
Will Paint to Your Specs



\$59,000
1988 Mack Pumper
1250 Waterous Top Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
Onan 6KW Generator
Mack Diesel



Call for Pricing
1982 GMC 7000
Hale Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Aluminum Tank
Automatic Transmission
GM Gasoline



Call for Pricing
1995 Spartan Ferrara
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
Allison Automatic
Cat Diesel



Call for Pricing
1989 American Eagle/ Duplex Pumper
1500 Hale Top Mount Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Hydraulic Ladder Rack
Detroit Diesel



Call for Pricing
1990 Pierce Pumper
1250 Waterous Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Tank/ 20 Foam Tank
Hydraulic Ladder Rack
Cummins Diesel

www.FireTruckMall.com

12 EVT Certified Mechanics



\$49,000

1985 Sutphen Pumper
1500 Hale Top Mount Pump
750 Gallon Steel Tank
Allison Automatic
Detroit Diesel



\$150,000

1996 E-One Hush Pumper
2000 Hale Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
Enclosed Seating for 10
Detroit Diesel



\$89,000

1990 FMC Pumper
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
Honda 5KW Generator
Cummins Diesel



\$45,000

1999 Horton Ambulance
Automatic Transmission
Diesel Engine



Call for Pricing

1986 Pierce Arrow
1250 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Diesel Engine



\$99,000

1991 E-One Cyclone Custom Pumper
1500 Hale Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
On-Board Foam System
Detroit Diesel



\$110,000

1990 E-One Protector Pumper/ Tanker
1000 Hale Top Mount Pump
1500 Gallon Poly Tank
Cummins Diesel
Currently Being Painted Red



Call for Pricing

2000 ALF Custom 4x4
1500 Waterous Top Mount Pump
500 Poly Tank/ 10 & 30 Foam Tanks
PTO 8KW Generator
Will Paint to Your Specs



\$59,000

1988 E-One Hurricane Custom Pumper
1500 Hale Top Mount Pump
500 Gallon Aluminum Tank
40 Gallon Foam Tank
Currently Being Painted Red



\$25,000

1995 Emerga Star Type III Ambulance
Ford Chassis
Automatic Transmission
Ford Diesel



\$49,000

1982 Sutphen 65' Mini-Tower
1500 Hale Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Detroit Diesel



\$47,000

1987 E-One Hurricane Pumper
1500 Hale Top Mount Pump
500 Gallon Aluminum Tank
40 Gallon Foam Tank
Detroit Diesel



\$119,000

1996 KME Custom Pumper
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Honda 5KW Generator
Detroit Diesel



\$59,000

1991/1975 Seagraves 100' Ladder
Spartan Monarch Cab
1997 Aerial Retrofit w/ Nylon Slide Block Kit
20KW Diesel Generator
Detroit Diesel



Call for Pricing

1989 Pierce Lance Pumper
1250 Waterous Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Enclosed Seating for 6
Detroit Diesel



\$75,000

1990 E-One Hush 50' Telesquirt
1500 Hale Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Enclosed Seating for 5
Detroit Diesel



\$35,000

1984 Pierce Pumper/ Tanker
Ford L-8000 Chassis
1000 Waterous Side Mount Pump
1500 Gallon Steel Tank
Cat Diesel



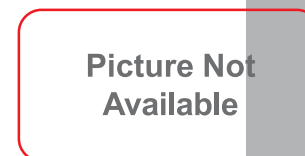
\$89,000

1995 Freightliner/ Luverne Pumper
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
Honda 5KW Generator
Cummins Diesel



\$57,500

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



Picture Not Available

Call for Pricing

1999 Central States Pumper
1250 Top Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Automatic Transmission
Diesel Engine

1-866-285-9305



ALABAMA SMOKE ALARM INITIATIVE

by Amanda Calhoun, M.S.P.H.



In an average house fire, residents have approximately two minutes to

escape. The majority of fatal home fires occur at night when people are asleep. Having a fire escape plan and a working smoke alarm greatly increases a family's ability to survive a residential fire.

Alabama ranks among the top ten states in terms of fire deaths and injuries. The Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative (ASAI) was created in order to reduce these incidences by reaching at risk communities with home fire safety education and by installing smoke alarms at no cost to homeowners. Communities considered to be at risk are those with high fire fatality rates, high poverty rates, and low populations.

The ASAI partners with local fire departments in high risk areas to implement the Initiative. Fire departments chosen to participate agree to conduct door-to-door home visits in its fire service area in order to provide home fire safety education and install free smoke alarms. Program volunteers emphasize home fire safety by teaching residents the importance of creating a family fire escape plan and designating a safe place to meet outside. The volunteers also teach residents about smoke alarm installation, maintenance, and testing.

Since October of 2001, the ASAI has worked with eleven fire departments in seven Alabama counties. These counties

include Barbour, Bibb, Bullock, Greene, Macon, Pike, and Sumter. Firefighters and volunteers from the selected communities have provided in-home fire safety education to over 4,000 households. They have also installed 2,658 smoke alarms to date. The ASAI is currently working with four fire departments in Butler and Randolph Counties.

Since October of 2001, the Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative has saved 35 lives. This success is due to the dedication of local fire departments as well as the involvement of residents in the community.

This ASAI is administered by the Alabama Department of Public Health in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's



Smoke Alarms are Sound Advice

Office. It is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information about the Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative, please contact Amanda Calhoun with the Alabama Department of Public Health at 1-800-252-1818. You may also visit our website at www.adph.org/injuryprevention.

DURABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND **SAVE YOUR LIFE ABILITY.**



As a firefighter you've accepted the challenge to protect those in harm's way. And since 1927 we've met the challenge to offer you the best turnout gear possible at affordable prices. Top quality gear that is UL certified to meet all current NFPA standards. There are no compromises here.*

For more information on Chieftain products contact Tuscaloosa Fire Equipment, Inc., your local distributor.

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*Chieftain Safety Manufacturing is an ISO 9001 (2000) Registered Company Certified by Underwriters Laboratory Inc. D2P4C-04

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.

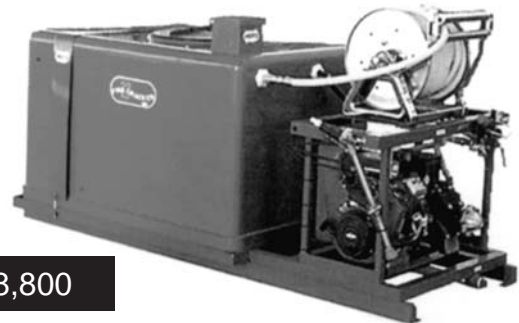
Standard Unit Pricing

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.

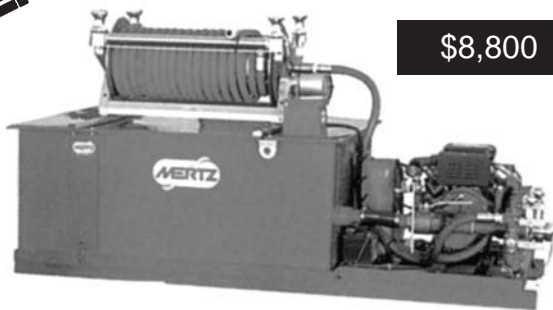
Maximum Pressure: 560 PSI
 Maximum Volume: 26.0 GPM
 Maximum Speed: 550 RPM
 Number of Cylinders: 4

FD-18V-300 L



\$8,800

MERTZ, INC.



\$8,800

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#

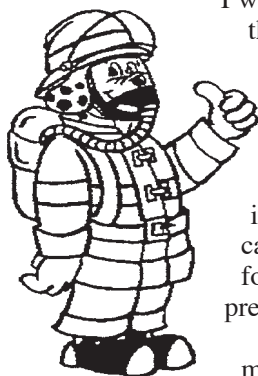
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Don's Perspective

by Don Shield
Alabama Firefighter



I want to inform the AAVFD membership that after much thought and soul searching, I will not be running for the AAVFD President's position. In light of my personal tragedy last fall, changing jobs this spring with a high possibility of extended travel involved, I foresee no possible way I can dedicate the time required to perform and lead this organization as your president if I were elected.

You have a president that devotes major hours for the betterment of the AAVFD. The vast majority of the mem-

bership elects him every year. My recommendation would be for the membership to remove the restriction in the bylaws requiring the president to step down after three consecutive years in office. Let the membership say who is going to be the president, not the by-laws. Should the majority of the mem-

bership desire a change to the by-laws prior to this upcoming election, a by-law vote could precede the election at the General Membership Meeting.

I thank all the AAVFD membership for their support during the years I served as an officer of the board. I also wish the AAVFD well in the future.

Don Shield

2005 Annual Dues Reminder

AAVFD annual dues were payable January 1, 2005.

Membership dues for county associations with 100% membership are \$35 per department.

Dues for individual fire departments are \$40 per department.



It's Not Too Late To Send Your 2005 Insurance Enrollments!

A firefighter has been lost already this year. Our condolences go out to his family and fellow firefighters in Clarke County. His department had taken care of the department insurance for this year, and his family will be receiving benefits to help with expenses that they are faced with at this sad time in their lives.

We urge departments to consider all that your firefighters contribute to your community at no charge. This benefit can be a small compensation for the risks that they take to protect the lives and property of their neighbors.



Brandy Romine accepts insurance check from AAVFD treasurer Gary Cobb. Her late husband, Clinton, member of Good Springs VFD in Limestone County, was killed while helping clean up after Hurricane Ivan.

2005 Annual Awards Nominations



Each year the Association presents the Firefighter of the Year and the Sherry Garner Memorial Award. AAVFD honors a male and a female firefighter who exemplifies outstanding achievements in the fire service and their local community.

The nominated individual must be a member of a volunteer fire department that is a current member of AAVFD. No form is required. Simply recommend the firefighter and tell why you think that individual should be recognized. Letters from others recognizing their accomplishments can also be included.

Nominations must be mailed to the AAVFD office no later than May 30th. The Awards will be presented at the annual conference in July.

United States Fire Administration

Notice of Policy Changes

Notifications for current year on-duty firefighter fatalities can now be made to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) online by using the notification form on the newly redesigned USFA Web site: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/ffmem/notification.jsp>. All notifications are also sent to the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Foundation for separate Line of Duty Death (LODD) criteria evaluation: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fatalities/memorial/criteria.shtm>.

The fatality notices posted at the grounds of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and on the USFA Web site immediately after a firefighter's death are for notification purposes only.

For on-duty deaths reported to USFA immediately following the fatal incident, a notice will be posted and the flags flown at half-staff at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The name will also be added to the Firefighter Memorial Database: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fatalities/>.

For deaths reported some time after the incident, a file will be created for later investigation. A notice will not be posted at the Memorial or on the Firefighter Memorial Database.

The appearance of a firefighter's name on the Firefighter Memorial Database or the Memorial grounds does not necessarily reflect his/her eligibility for permanent placement on the Memorial or inclusion in the annual USFA report on fatalities. Only after information concerning the fatal incident is collected and reviewed are firefighters deemed eligible/ineligible for either the annual analysis report on firefighter fatalities or for permanent placement on the Memorial. Initial reports are often incomplete. Notices are meant simply as a way to inform the fire service community and the general public of the death. Posted deaths need only be linked to on-duty incidents. No immediate determination of eligibility is made.

Who is a Firefighter?

For the purpose of the USFA study, the term "firefighter" covers all members of organized fire departments in all States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. It includes career and volunteer firefighters; full-time public safety officers acting as firefighters; State, Territory, and Federal government fire service personnel, including wildland firefighters; and privately employed firefighters, including employees of contract fire departments and trained members of industrial fire brigades, whether full- or part-time. It also includes contract personnel working as firefighters or assigned to work in direct support of fire service organizations.

Under this definition, the study includes not only local and municipal firefighters but also seasonal and full-time employees of the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, the National Park Service, and State wildland agencies. The definition also includes prison inmates serving on firefighting crews; firefighters employed by other governmental agencies, such as the United States Department of Energy; military personnel performing assigned fire suppression activities; and civilian firefighters working at military installations.

What Constitutes an On-Duty Fatality?

On-duty fatalities include any injury or illness sustained while on-duty that proves fatal. The term on-duty refers to being involved in operations at the scene of an emergency, whether it is a fire or non fire incident; responding to or returning from an incident; performing other officially assigned duties such as training, maintenance, public education, inspection, investigations, court testimony, and fundraising; and being on-call, under orders, or on standby duty except at the individual's home or place of business. An individual who experiences a heart attack or other fatal injury at home as he or she prepares to respond to an emergency is considered on duty when the response begins. A firefighter who becomes ill while performing fire department duties and suffers a heart attack shortly after arriving home or at another location may be considered on-duty since the inception of the heart attack occurred while the firefighter was on-duty.

There is no established mechanism for identifying fatalities that result

from illnesses such as cancer that develop over long periods of time, which may be related to occupational exposure to hazardous materials or products of combustion. It has proved to be very difficult over the years to provide a complete evaluation of an occupational illness as a causal factor in firefighter deaths due to the following limitations: insufficient tracking of the exposure of firefighters to toxic hazards, the often delayed long-term effects of such toxic hazard exposures, and the exposures firefighters may receive while off-duty.

On December 15, 2003, the President of the United States signed into law the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act of 2003. After being signed by the President, the Act became Public Law 108-182. The law presumes that a heart attack or stroke are in the line-of-duty if the firefighter was engaged in non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activity while on-duty and the firefighter becomes ill while on-duty or within 24 hours after engaging in such activity. The full text of the law is available at:

http://frWebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ182.108.pdf.

The inclusion criteria for the USFA study will be affected by this change in the law. Previous to December 15, 2003, firefighters who became ill as the result of a heart attack or stroke after going off-duty needed to register some complaint of not feeling well while still on-duty in order to be included in the study. For firefighter fatalities after December 15, 2003, firefighters will be included in the study if they become ill as the result of a heart attack or stroke within 24 hours of a training activity or emergency response. Firefighters who become ill after going off-duty where the activities while on-duty were limited to non-stressful tasks that did not involve physical exertion such as clerical, administrative, or non-manual in nature, will not be included in the USFA study.

A fatality may be caused directly by an accidental or intentional injury in either emergency or non-emergency circumstances, or it may be attributed to an occupationally related fatal illness. A common example of a fatal illness incurred on duty is a heart attack. Fatalities attributed to occupational illnesses also would include a communicable disease contracted while on duty that proved fatal when the disease could be attributed to a documented occupational exposure.

Injuries and illnesses are included even when death is considerably delayed after the original incident. When the incident and the death occur in different years, the USFA analysis counts the fatality as having occurred in the year in which the incident took place. Background

For 27 years, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) has tracked the number of firefighter fatalities and conducted an annual analysis. Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts toward finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information also is used to measure the effectiveness of current programs directed toward firefighter health and safety.

One of the USFA's main program goals is a 25-percent reduction in firefighter fatalities in 5 years, and a 50-percent reduction within 10 years. The emphasis placed on these goals by the USFA is underscored by the fact that these goals represent one of the five major objectives that guide the actions of the USFA.

In addition to the analysis, the USFA provides a list of firefighter fatalities to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. If Memorial criteria are met, the fallen firefighter's next of kin, as well as members of the individual fire department, are invited to the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. The service is held at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, during Fire Prevention Week. Additional information regarding the Memorial Service can be found at <http://www.firehero.org> or by calling the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at (301) 447-1365.

Other resources and information regarding firefighter fatalities, including current fatality notices, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial database, and links to the Public Safety Officer's Benefit (PSOB) program and NIOSH firefighter fatality reports can be found at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fatalities/>.

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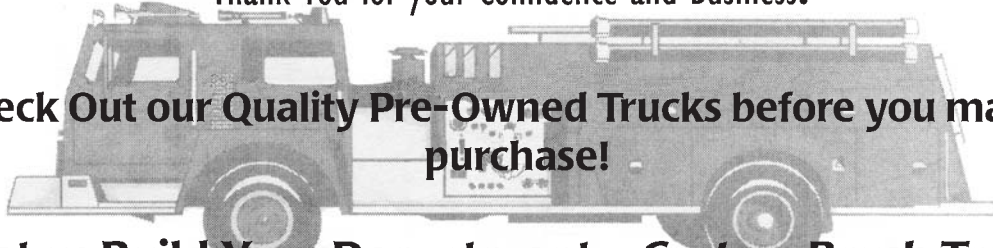
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THE VOLUNTEER EMS CORNER



by Gary Cobb
FFII, NREMT-P

Combitubes for Basic EMTs in Alabama?

For years in Alabama, Intermediates and Paramedics have been able to intubate patients so that they could establish a patent airway – an airway that is open and gives access for proper ventilations, but one that protects the patient so fluids from the stomach can not enter the lungs and cause serious problems. Basics have had to rely on an oral airway that is not very effective and allows fluids to enter the lungs. In addition, the oral airways can allow air to enter the stomach. If you have ever done CPR, you have probably noticed this enlargement of the stomach as it fills with air.

At a recent meeting of the State Emergency Medical Control Committee, a decision was made to allow Alabama

Licensed EMT Basics to use a combitube under certain conditions. The combitube is a much better airway than the oral airway in that, it allows for proper ventilations, protects the lungs, and it is easy to learn to use. It is a blind insertion device, so no special equipment is needed to use the combitube and most EMTs can learn how to use it in less than two hours. That is good news.

The bad news is that the combitubes are fairly expensive (about \$50 each) and you must become a licensed service before the State EMS Office will allow your service to use these tubes.

To receive the necessary training, an EMT from your department needs to contact their nearest EMS training facility or their Region (if it is still in business) for a “Train-the-Trainer” class. This class should be free. That trainer then comes back to your department and trains all your EMTs in the use of the combitube. A list of trained EMTs must be sent back to the agency that provided the “Train-the-Trainer” class. After this, you need to contact Mr. Jim Prince at the State EMS

Division (jprince@ADPH.state.al.us or Alabama EMS Division, Attn: Mr. Jim Prince, PO Box 303017, Montgomery AL 36130) and let him know that your department is ready to move forward.

As a Licensed Department, you will be required to fill out a license application (which can be downloaded from the EMS website at www.ADPH.org/EMS) will be required to have specific EMS equipment, will be required to have a Physician Advisor (Offline Medical Director), and will have to fill out and submit to the State EMS Division, Patient Contact Reports, by computer over the internet.

I know this sounds like a lot of work (and it is), but you are being allowed to use a device that will give you excellent control of the airway of your patient. By using the combitube and an AED on a patient that has had a heart attack, your service could provide patient care that is just below the paramedic level.

I have heard many Basic EMTs across the state complain that they weren’t allowed to do more in the field. This is an opportunity for you and your department to move forward, but it does require an effort on the part of your people and your department.

If you have questions, please contact me at 256-498-2047 or gecobb@otelco.net, and I will try to help you.

Limestone County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

The Limestone County Association honored some outstanding members January 28th at its annual awards banquet at the Beasley Center in Athens.

The evening began with dinner and entertainment provided by Willie P. Richardson “The Radio Prankster”. After the entertainment, the association distributed awards with the help of President Derrick Gatlin, Vice President Marvin Putman and Secretary/Treasurer Paige Crouch.

The Appreciation Award was given to Paige Crouch for her service to the Limestone County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. The Limestone County Memorial Award went to the family of the late Clinton Romine of Good Springs VFD. Clinton was killed while helping clean up Hurricane Ivan damage.



Bottom left to right: Good Springs VFD, Limestone County Chief Andy Thompson holds the award after his department was named Fire Department of the Year; Elna Toone, Owens VFD – Sarah Hurd Memorial Award; Teresa Lovell, Owens VFD – Ricky Moore Memorial Award for Meritorious Service; Jacqueline Posey, Tanner VFD – Female Firefighter of the Year.

Top left to right: Marlon Bradley, Oak Grove-Thach VFD – Male Firefighter of the Year; Royce Evans, Owens VFD – Barnard Clark Memorial Award for Lifetime Service; Charles Snider, Owens VFD – Training Officer of the Year and Gary Lovell, Owens VFD – Ricky Moore Memorial Award for Meritorious Service.

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Special Notes:

- Check-in and assignment of classrooms will be posted in the Alabama Fire College lobby. Students should proceed to the assigned classroom. Classes will begin at 8 a.m. each day.
- Cookout Saturday 11:30 - 1 p.m.
- Students must bring their own **NFPA compliant turnout gear** for those courses that require turnouts. Where required, students must provide their own SCBA, spare bottle, and PASS device. Students who do not have the required gear will not participate.
- Fire departments should attend as many different classes as they can during Fire College Week, then take that training back to their department and pass it on.
- With so many classes going on it will be impossible to make sure lunch breaks are at the same time. Plan accordingly.

Registration Information and Important Notices

- **Register early!** Due to safety factors some class sizes will be limited.
- Deadline for cancellations and substitutions is April 8, 2005. No refunds will be made after April 8, 2005.
- Phone and Fax registrations will not be accepted! Registrations must be mailed in by the April 8, 2005 deadline.
- If you cannot attend after you register, please notify the Fire College by April 8, 2005 so we can fill your slot.
- We assign classes as registrations are received. We will make every effort to see that you receive the training you request. However, we are not responsible for last minute registrations for a certain class.
- **Make sure you select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.**
- Please be considerate. In the past we have had several people to register for a class then not attend. This keeps many people from getting the class they wanted. In an effort to cut down on no-shows, there will be a \$25.00 registration fee per student. This fee will be used in part to fund a cook-out Saturday afternoon.

- Due to the total number of students, fire departments as a group may not be able to attend the same class at the same time.
- Walk-ins and substitutes will not be accepted the day of class.
- Class assignment is final. Classes will not be changed after assignments are made.
- Minimum age requirement: 18.
- Dress code: no shorts or tank tops allowed. No sandals.
- If you have any questions please call (205-391-3749) to check status of class, etc.

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NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: Firefighter Daniel Holmes, Career Department: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers CA Date of Death: 10/2/04 Cause of Death: Died from injuries received after top of 100-ft white fir tree unexpectedly fell and struck him during a control burn.	Name/Rank: Captain Edward G. Schnauss, Volunteer Department: Morrison VFD, Morrison MO Date of Death: 11/13/04 Cause of Death: Found unconscious under fire apparatus he was working on and died from apparent heart attack.
Name/Rank: Assistant Chief Mike Kilpatrick, Volunteer Department: North Lake FD, North Lake WI Date of Death: 10/7/04 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from cause to be determined while on stand-by at neighboring department that was working a five-alarm fire.	Name/Rank: Battalion Chief H. Donald Kersting, Career Department: Wichita FD, Wichita KS Date of Death: 11/15/04 Cause of Death: Undetermined pending autopsy.
Name/Rank: Firefighter Frederick A. Smith II, Volunteer Department: Salem Center VFD, Pleasant Lake IN Date of Death: 10/10/04 Cause of Death: Died from head trauma after falling from horse during a cancer ride for life event where he was acting as a medical first responder.	Name/Rank: Firefighter Jackson "Jack" Gerhart, Volunteer Department: Chambersburg FD, Chambersburg PA Date of Death: 12/5/04 Cause of Death: Died from injuries received 11/30/04 when he fell sustaining a severe head injury while stretching a supply line.
Name/Rank: Firefighter Steven Brack, Volunteer Department: Allentown VFD, Allentown GA Date of Death: 10/11/04 Cause of Death: Died when his POV hydroplaned and crashed while responding to vehicle accident.	Name/Rank: Chief Larry Rogers, Career Department: Claxton VFD, Claxton GA Date of Death: 12/13/04 Cause of Death: Returning to station, rescue apparatus he was driving left the road for unknown reasons. He collapsed and died at the accident scene of cause to be determined.
Name/Rank: Firefighter Jordan Nonnemaker, Volunteer Department: Amity Fire Company, Douglassville PA Date of Death: 10/15/04 Cause of Death: Died while running errand for department when driver lost control of vehicle in which he was riding, and vehicle was struck on passenger side.	Name/Rank: Firefighter Michael R. Dunlap, Volunteer Department: Hydetown VFD, Hydetown PA Date of Death: 12/14/04 Cause of Death: Collapsed at home after responding to numerous fire calls.
Name/Rank: Firefighter William Bierbower, Volunteer Department: Fairmont Hahntown VFD, Huntingdon PA Date of Death: 10/15/04 Cause of Death: Died while consulting with individual making fire incident report after returning to state from mutual aid call. Coroner listed cause of death as hypertension and ASCVD while responding to emergency call.	Name/Rank: Captain William J. Briggs, Career Department: Ineel FD, Idaho Falls ID Date of Death: 12/14/04 Cause of Death: Died of heart attack while exercising.
Name/Rank: Chief Gary Titlon, Career Department: Katy FD, Katy TX Date of Death: 10/20/04 Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack in his home shortly after responding to motor vehicle accident.	Name/Rank: Firefighter Herbert C. Caldwell III, Volunteer Department: Newberry Township FD, Eppers PA Date of Death: 12/17/04 Cause of Death: Became ill upon arriving at station to respond to fire call and later died of apparent heart attack in hospital.
Name/Rank: Deputy Chief Mark Parrish, Career Department: Normandy Fire Protection District, St Louis County MO Date of Death: 10/20/04 Cause of Death: Died after suffering cardiac arrest at firehouse meeting.	Name/Rank: Firefighter Nito Guajardo, Career Department: Baytown Fire-Rescue, Baytown TX Date of Death: 12/20/04 Cause of Death: He was working a residential fire as part of search & rescue crew when conditions deteriorated inside the house. Upon evacuating & bringing fire under control, he was discovered missing and later found dead inside foyer.
Name/Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic Robert D. Heighton, Career Department: South Walton Fire District, Santa Rosa Beach FL Date of Death: 10/20/04 Cause of Death: Died when helicopter crashed returning to base after mission was aborted due to inclement weather.	Name/Rank: Firefighter Theodore Myhre, Volunteer Department: Bishop Hill FD, Bishop Hill IL Date of Death: 12/21/04 Cause of Death: Died when struck by pickup while helping fire truck back up at vehicle accident scene.
Name/Rank: Assistant Chief Lewis R. McNally, Volunteer Department: Newmanstown VFD, Newmanstown PA Date of Death: 11/1/04 Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack returning to station after responding to vehicle accident call.	Name/Rank: Chief Jason Todd Rowe, Volunteer Department: Elkhorn City FD, Elkhorn City KY Date of Death: 12/23/04 Cause of Death: Killed during training exercise to place snow chains on fire truck. Wedge used to prevent tires from rolling and to lift truck loosened and was propelled toward Rowe striking him in the head.
Name/Rank: Firefighter Donald Nathan Carlson, Volunteer Department: Ute FD, Ute IA Date of Death: 11/2/04 Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack while responding to vehicle accident call.	Name/Rank: Firefighter John Stoudt, Volunteer Department: Diligence Fire Company # 1, Summit Hill PA Date of Death: 12/25/04 Cause of Death: Died from fall when attempting to climb into driver's seat of ladder truck.
Name/Rank: Lt. Charlie Webb, Volunteer Department: Mayking VFD, Mayking KY Date of Death: 11/6/04 Cause of Death: Died from apparent heart attack while responding to forest fire.	Name/Rank: Firefighter Jared Moore, Volunteer Department: Fairmount Township FD, Basehor KS Date of Death: 12/29/04 Cause of Death: Fatally injured when hit from rear by highway patrol car while responding to scene of one-car vehicle accident in his POV.

104 Deaths in the Line of Duty in 2004

Firefighters across our nation continue to give their lives while serving their communities. There were a total of 104 incidents that took the lives of firefighters last year.

- * Volunteer, seasonal and part-time firefighters accounted for 78 deaths.
- * Career firefighters comprised 29 deaths (27%).
- * Half of the firefighters died from traumatic injuries, such as asphyxiation, burns, drowning, vehicle crashes and other physical injuries.
- * The balance of firefighter deaths was attributed to non-traumatic injuries, such as heart attacks and strokes. Heart attacks caused the deaths of 49 on-duty firefighters.
- * Nine firefighters died in response to Wildland fires, the lowest level of Wildland-related firefighter deaths since 1996 and is a significant drop from 29 Wildland-related firefighter deaths in 2003.
- * Three firefighters were killed when fire apparatus backed over them.
- * Five firefighters were killed when they were struck by passing vehicles at the scene of an emergency.
- * Four firefighters were killed in falls from fire department vehicles.

- * One firefighter was shot and killed approaching an emergency that involved domestic violence.
- * Twenty firefighters died in vehicle collisions.
- * Seven deaths involved the crash of firefighters' personal vehicles.
- * Three firefighters died in aircraft crashes, one in a medical helicopter and two Wildland fire fighting aircraft.
- * Five firefighters died in crashes that involved responding fire apparatus.
- * Firefighter deaths took place in 40 states. Pennsylvania had the highest number of deaths with 17 firefighters killed; Kentucky suffered seven deaths, followed by California, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey with five deaths each.
- * The average age of firefighters killed while on duty in 2004 was 47. The average age of a firefighter that died of a heart attack or stroke was 52, and the average age of firefighters who died of traumatic injuries was 42.

For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the annual fatality reports from 1986 through 2003 and the Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990-2000, visit the USFA website at http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm.

THE BELL TOLLED



Werden Moral Hurd,
East Limestone
VFD, Limestone
County, passed
away August 15,
2003.

Engineer Thomas E. Melton, Ray Community VFD, Coosa County, passed away on November 3, 2004. He served as a Board member for many years and had a great impact on the fire service in his area.

Jennifer Bachelor, Odenville VFD, St Clair County, died in an automobile accident on December 24, 2004.

William S. Jerkins, Stapleton VFD, Baldwin County, passed away January 4, 2005.

Asst. Chief Charlie Snowden, Mexia VFD, Monroe County, passed away January 4, 2005.

John M. Smith, Antioch VFD, Covington County, passed away January 24, 2005. He served as secretary/treasurer of the department and has been president of the Covington County Firefighters Association for several years.

Bobbie Clanton, Coffeerville VFD, Clarke County, died when he fell from a tree stand while hunting on January 25, 2005.

If 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 Clayton Cobb, Sr. – (251) 578-2855 or John Wilson – (334) 569-3022 or Joey Boyd – (256) 233-1597.

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 Clayton Cobb, Sr.
2nd John Wilson
3rd VP Joey Boyd
Secretary Mary Jane Sells
Treasurer Gary Cobb

Newsletter Editor:
Johnny Dennis
Don Shield
Sandra Mott

Office Staff:
Johnny Dennis/Sandra Mott

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- New 25,000 sq. ft. facility
- Factory authorized Hale service center and parts
- EVT certified technicians
- On-site field service and repairs
- Warranty repairs and assistance
- New pump test facility
- Full-line emergency vehicle parts available

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