



# THE VOLUNTEER



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

May 2003

## 2003 State Conference Information

The AAVFD Annual Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 27 and 28, 2003, in Fort Payne, Alabama and will be hosted by the DeKalb County Fire Association. The registration headquarters will be at the VFW Fair Grounds on Gault Avenue.

### Registration

Pre-registration for the Conference will be \$20.00 per person and increases to \$25.00 when you register at the Conference. Included in this fee are the Friday night cookout meal and the Saturday night banquet. (Pre-registration form included in this newsletter.) You must have your registration name tag to eat at the cookout on Friday night and at the banquet on Saturday night.

### Elections

At the annual business meeting on Saturday, elections will be held to fill the officer and board member positions.

**Officers:** The nominating committee made the following recommendations:

For the Office of:

President .....Johnny Dennis (I)  
John Miller

Vice President

Southern Area ....Clayton Cobb, Sr. (I)  
Central Area .....Danny Orr  
Northern Area ....Joey Boyd, Sr. (I)  
Don Shield

Secretary .....Mary Jane Sells (I)

Treasurer .....Rhonda McKissic

Floor nominations at the annual meeting may join these. Per AAVFD By-Laws, all candidates, except those presented by the

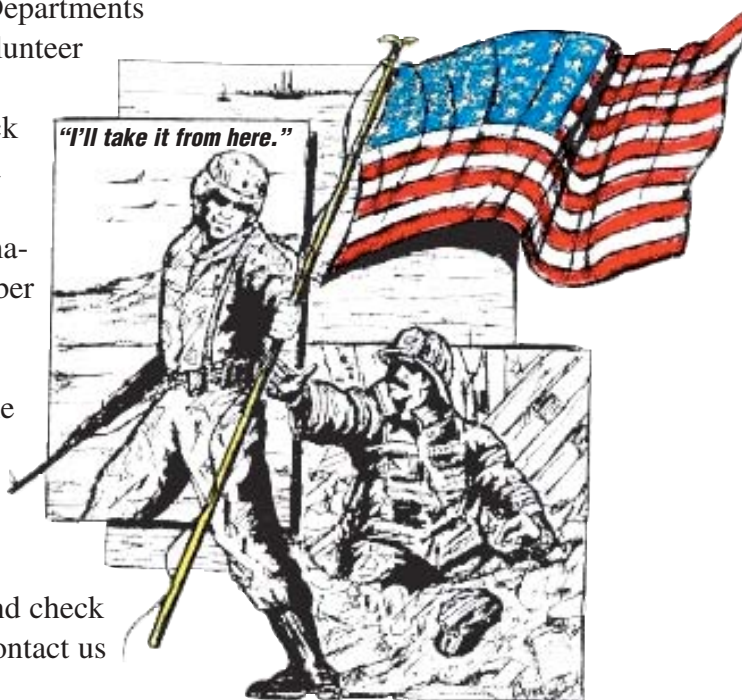
nominating committee, must be nominated from the floor and must be present at the annual business meeting. All six officers are elected by majority vote of the members in attendance and those members represented by proxy.

**Board Members:** Each District (1 through 10) will elect two individuals to represent their district on the Board of Directors for the coming year. AAVFD By-Laws require that those two individuals shall not be from the same member department and, in so far as possible, shall come from different geographical areas within the district. Directors and Alternate Directors shall be elected by a committee consisting of one individual from each dues-paid general member department from within the district (**ONE VOTE PER DEPARTMENT PRESENT**) at the general meeting.

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) serves as the voice for Alabama's volunteer fire fighters. Our office is centrally located in Montgomery, Alabama so that we can keep track of legislation that impacts your ability to field a safe and effective fire crew.

We believe that by promoting training, information exchange, and mutual aid among our member departments, we not only improve the safety of the firefighter, but the quality of protection provided to the communities we serve. Probably the best indicator of the effectiveness of the fire service in this state is the increasing number of lower Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings found throughout the state.

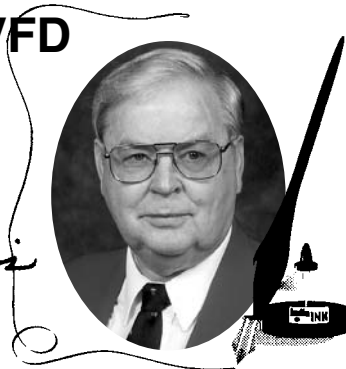
Please stop by our web site [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org) and check us out. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [aavfd@mindspring.com](mailto:aavfd@mindspring.com).



# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Johnny Dennis*



In April of this year I attended a meeting of our local Underwood-Petersville Kiwanis Club. Our guest speaker was Mr. Forrest Wright, CEO of the Shoals Economic Development Authority in Florence, AL. In Mr. Wright's presentation, he said if you are operating a company the same way you did ten years ago, you were doomed to fail. The general principle of doing business today has changed so dramatically that people can no longer operate as we did a decade ago. In listening to Mr. Wright's comments I was reminded that this holds true for our volunteer fire service. In 1999 Alabama became the thirtieth state to join the National Recruiting and Retention Program that was developed by the State of New Jersey and placed under the National Volunteer Fire Council. Our recruiting part of this program has been successful as we are getting letters each month from people who want to become volunteer firefighters. However, our recruiting program does nothing to keep volunteers who have many years in the service.

Three years ago, this association joined with fourteen other states in Raleigh, North Carolina, to change the way the fire service has been doing business. Just as today's business has changed, we too must change the way we think about operating our volunteer fire service. In the first meeting in North Carolina, it was clear each state had the same problem. It was also clear, in order to change this problem, someone had to take steps to change the thinking of those who have the responsibility to the fire service of their state. By the end of the two-day conference, we had created The

National Fire Service Benefit Summit. Our objective was to develop a national databank of each state's benefits that would save each of us time, effort and money to find the answers we needed to provide benefits to our firefighters, both paid and volunteer. The most important issue was a firefighters' retirement plan. Of the states reviewed in the past three years, the state of Georgia has the best retirement plan. A firefighter with 25 years of service and 55 years of age can retire with \$738.00 per month. No other state reviewed has a retirement plan that compares with the state of Georgia. Some of the other issues discussed were association dues, membership, insurance programs, department and association fund raising projects.

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments was asked to host the second Benefit Summit in 2002. With the help of our Rural Community Fire Protection Institute, this summit was a great success. Due to Alabama being involved in the first summit, I was asked to design a CD that would give a general description of each states benefit program, association and contact information. This would provide an instant reference to each state's data on benefits and state system.

The California State Firefighter's Association, Inc. in Sacramento, CA hosted the third summit in February 2003. President of the RCFPI Don Shield and I represented the Alabama Volunteer Fire Service. We anticipate having most of the states on board by the third year. However, many states were not aware that the benefit summits exist due to the changing of presidents and some states having more than one organization in their fire service. Until the remaining state's information on all the issues can be processed, this summit will continue with the 2004 meeting being hosted by the South Carolina State Firemen's Association. The Firemen's Association of the State of New York has asked to host the 2005 Summit at the Firefighters Retirement Home in New York. The states of Washington and Oregon requested this summit to return to the western side of the U.S. for the year of 2006.

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## Directions to Fort Payne

DeKalb County is accessible via Interstate 59, Alabama Highways 11, 35, 75, 117 and the scenic Lookout Mountain Parkway. Fort Payne is approximately 1-1/2 hours north of Birmingham and 1-1/2 hours east of Huntsville via I-565 to Alabama Hwy 72 east to Alabama Hwy 35.

Competition events will take place at the VFW Fair Grounds, and the Awards Banquet will be held at Wills Valley Recreational Center. A map will be included in your Welcome Package.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the AAVFD Board of Directors will be at the Annual Conference in Fort Payne AL on Friday, June 27th at 4:00 pm. The Association's annual meeting will be Saturday, June 28th, at 2:00 pm.

## Fundraiser Drawings

Anyone who wishes to sell tickets for a fundraiser drawing at the AAVFD Annual Conference must get prior approval from the AAVFD Board. Send a letter outlining the item you propose to give away to the Montgomery office no later than June 1st. Approval will be sent in writing, and you must have it with you at the Conference.

# 2003 AAVFD CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The DeKalb County Association of Firefighters

Welcomes you to the  
2003

Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments Annual conference  
Schedule of events:

## FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

9:00 am – 5:00 pm .....Registration (VFW Fairgrounds)  
Noon – 1:00 pm.....Lunch (on your own)  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm .....Vendor Show (VFW Fairgrounds)  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm.....Board of Directors Meeting (VFW Fairgrounds)  
6:00 pm .....Cookout (VFW Fairgrounds, Bring your name tag)  
7:00 pm .....Entertainment (not confirmed)

## SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2003

7:00 am – 8:00 am.....Registration for Competition (VFW Fairgrounds)  
8:00 am – 8:30 am.....Competition Captain's meeting  
8:00 am – 2:00 pm .....Vendor show (VFW Fairgrounds)  
8:30 am – Noon.....Competition (VFW Fairgrounds)  
8:30 am – Noon.....Kids Competition (VFW Fairgrounds)  
Noon – 1:00 pm.....Lunch (on your own)  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm .....AAVFD Business meeting (DeKalb Theatre)  
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm .....Board of Directors meeting (DeKalb Theatre)  
7:00 pm .....Banquet (Wills Valley Recreation Center)  
(Entertainment & Social time after meal)

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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	DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING
<b>Effective March 1, 2003</b>				<b>Effective April 1, 2003 (continued)</b>			
Ohatchee	Calhoun	8/9	7/9	New Hope	Madison	7/9	4/10
<b>Effective April 1, 2003</b>				Nixon Chapel	Marshall	7/9	5/9
Crawford	Russell	9/10	5/9	South Sauty	Marshall	9/9	5/9
Friendship	Escambia	7/9	6/9	Spring Valley	Colbert	9/10	5/9
Green's Crossroads	Barbour		6/9	Summerdale	Baldwin	6/9	5/9
Headland	Henry	7/9	6/9	Wallace	Escambia	9/9	8/9

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 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!

The grand opening ceremony and open house for the new Pace's Point Fire Station, Tallapoosa County, was held on May 17, 2003.

The third week in April was observed as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. This is a time we recognize the "first" first responder. National Public Safety Telecommunications Week enhances public awareness and promotes much needed education regarding important public safety issues and legislation by placing national attention on the seemingly nameless and faceless individuals who help save countless lives by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and equipment and providing moral support to citizens in distress.

International Firefighters Day was observed May 4th.

May 5-12 is Arson Awareness Week and Wildfire Preparedness Week. During fiscal year 2001-2002, Alabama experienced 4,242 wild land fires that burned 50,327 acres, five percent higher than the previous five-year average, while acres burned was twelve percent above the average. Arson continues to be one of the most common reasons for wild fires in Alabama. Teach your children that matches are a tool, not a toy.

Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, held its Annual Awards Banquet on March 22, 2003. Congratulations to Firefighter of the Year Daniel Day, Officer of the year Jimmy Brown, Rookie of the Year Debra Pugh. The Outstanding Service Award was presented to Vincent Ferraro and a Special Award was presented to Darren Wilson.

Hale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments held its annual Awards Banquet on May 3rd.

Monroe County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments held its annual Awards Banquet on April 26, 2003.

The cost to train and equip a firefighter is approximately \$4,500. (Fire Facts. US fire Administration Web page.) Average expenses associated with firefighting are:

**Equipment**

Protective Clothing	\$1,000
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	2,500

**Training**

Firefighter I-II	\$ 500
Emergency Medical Technician-Basic	300
Hazardous Materials Awareness	75
Emergency Vehicle Operator	75

**Total Cost per firefighter \$4,450**

# Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

## BY-LAWS

### Section 15

All proposed amendments of these By-Laws shall be submitted to the President, in writing, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. The President shall submit the proposed amendments in writing to all voting members at least twenty (20) days prior to any meeting. The proposed amendments may then come before the annual meeting and must be approved by at least 2/3 of the voting members present to become effective.

#### **Proposed By-Law Changes**

(For the Annual Business Meeting, 2:00 pm, June 28, 2003)

Change 1. Section 5: Officers (3). Currently reads: The First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively, shall be selected as follows: One or more individuals shall be nominated from the Northern Area (Districts 1, 2 and 9); one or more from the Central area (Districts 3, 4, 5 and 10); one or more from the Southern Area (Districts 6, 7 and 8). During the elections at the annual meeting, the membership shall elect one individual from each of these areas, and also shall by their voting designate which individual shall be First Vice-President, which shall be Second Vice-President, which shall be Third Vice-President. Prior to such voting, the membership shall be reminded by the Chair that their selection of a First Vice-President shall be done in view of Section 10 of these by-laws; that the First Vice-President becomes the President in event of a vacancy occurring in that office.

Proposed change: The First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents shall be selected as follows: One or more individuals shall be nominated from the Northern area (Districts 1, 2 and 9); one or more from the Central area (Districts 3, 4, 5 and 10); one or more from the Southern area (Districts 6, 7 and 8). During the elections at the annual meeting, member departments from District 1, 2 and 9 shall elect the Vice-President Northern area. Member departments from District 3, 4, 5, and 10 shall elect the Vice-President Central area. Member departments from District 6, 7 and 8 shall elect the Vice-President Southern area. Member departments in attendance shall select the First, Second and Third Vice-President from the newly elected Vice-Presidents. Prior to such voting, the membership shall be reminded by the Chair that their selection of a Vice-President should be done in view of Section 10 of these by-laws; that the First Vice-President becomes the President in the event of a vacancy occurring in the Office of President.

SYNOPSIS: Currently all member departments vote for a Vice-President from all areas. This change in the selection process will allow member departments from each of the three areas to vote for the individual who shall represent them as their Vice-President.

Change 2. Section 5: Officers (6). Currently reads: In Order to hold any office in this Association, whether an elected or appointed office, an individual must be a bonafide member of this Association. If an elected or appointed individual ceases to be, or is found not to be, a bonafide member, the individual forfeits the office and the Board of Directors will appoint another, eligible individual to hold the office for the remaining term.

Proposed change: Any of the six Officers, District Directors, or Alternate Directors whose department has not paid current dues by January 31 of the calendar year, (Section 4 Dues) may not serve on the Board of Directors and must remove himself/herself from the Board. The remaining Board of Directors shall appoint another, eligible individual to hold this office for the remaining term, unless otherwise stated in the By-Laws of the Association, Section 11(b).

SYNOPSIS: In order to be a voting member of the AAVFD Board of Directors, this will require that the department's current membership dues of all members of the AAVFD Board of Directors be paid by January 31st.

Change 3. Section 7: Voting (3c). Currently reads: Preferably in every case, the individual to vote the proxy would be a person from the same county.

Proposed change: The Person carrying the proxy votes shall be from the same county that the department is within.

SYNOPSIS: This will require proxy be voted only by an individual from that county.

Change 4. Section 7: Voting (5).

If a member department of AAVFD chooses not to attend the Annual Conference and wishes NOT to have someone carry their votes by proxy, the Chief of the department may request an absentee ballot from the AAVFD office a month prior to the conference. The absentee ballot shall be established by the AAVFD Board. The AAVFD office shall mail the absentee ballot to the Chief of the Department. The Ballot shall be marked by said Chief, signed and notarized. The ballot would then be mailed back to the AAVFD office and kept UNOPENED until the day of the election. All absentee ballots would be brought to the Conference during the election and given to the committee in charge of tabulating the votes, at which time the votes would be opened and counted.

SYNOPSIS: The purpose of this is to establish an alternative means of voting by proxy. By waiting until a month prior to the conference to request a ballot, all items would be known by each member AAVFD department from the newsletter. Only items or nominations coming from the floor could not be voted on by absentee ballot.

## Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

# **BY-LAWS** *(continued from page 6)*

### Change 5. Section 15. AMENDMENTS

(1) All proposed amendments to the By-Laws shall be submitted to the President, in writing, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. The President shall submit the proposed amendments, in writing, to all voting members at least twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting. The proposed amendments may then come before the annual meeting and must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the votes cast by those members present and members represented by proxy, in good standing, to become effective. Voting shall be by secret ballot. The results of any balloting shall be tabulated by a three (3)-person committee appointed by the President. The results shall be reported to the Secretary for recording and the ballots remanded to his/her safe keeping for sixty (60) days

### NEW PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO: SECTION 15. AMENDMENTS.

(1) All proposed amendments to the By-Laws shall be submitted to the President, in writing, ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting. The President shall submit the proposed amendments, in writing, to all member departments at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting. The proposed amendments may then come before the annual meeting and must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the votes cast by those members present and those members represented by proxy, in good standing, to become effective. Voting shall be by ballot.

(a) Any proposed amendments to change the By-Laws submitted to the association must be signed by the person submitting the proposed change showing the date and qualifying department.

(b) The state association shall mail all proposed amendments and proxies to the member departments by certified mail requiring a signature of receipt.

### Change 6. SECTION 9. ELECTIONS.

(3) At the annual meeting, the election of the six officers (President, First, Second, and Third Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be by secret ballot when more than one candidate seeks a specific office. The results of any balloting shall be tabulated by a (3) person committee appointed by the President. The results shall be reported to the Secretary for recording and the ballots remanded to his/her safe keeping for sixty (60) days. The six officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by those members present and those members represented by proxy, in good standing.

### NEW PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO: SECTION 9. ELECTIONS.

(3) The President shall appoint no less than a five (5) person committee to tabulate the results of any balloting. The committee shall consist of a chairperson to oversee the voting process, two (2) committee people to count and confirm each ballot, two (2) committee people to tabulate the results of the election and proposed amendments. The chairperson shall report the results of the election and proposed amendment change in accordance with the Robert Rules of Order to the membership. The voting ballots, proposed amendment changes and all records of the voting process shall be presented to the Board Secretary for safe keeping until the next election at which time the Board Secretary shall destroy the ballots and voting records in the presence of not less than three (3) presiding officers.



*Alabama Fire College  
and Personnel Standards Commission*

*W.L. Langston, Executive Director*

## Summary of Annual Fire College Week

The 67th Annual Fire College Week (April 24-27, 2003) was a great success. More than 450 students from almost every area of the state were excited to be here and to participate in the courses offered. The first session (Thursday/Friday) courses offered were Basic Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, Crash Victim Extrication, Basic Pump Operations, Basic Rope Rescue, Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts, and the National Fire Academy Methods for Enhancing Safety. The courses for the second session (Saturday/ Sunday) were Basic Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Crash Victim Extrication, Propane Emergencies, Fire Combat Tactics and Strategies, Basic Pump Operations, Basic Confined Space, Basic Wildland Firefighting, Basic Rope Rescue, Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts, and Arson Detection for the First Responder.

Both Thursday and Saturday morning began with the students finding their assigned classrooms and the main hall was filled with the sound of greetings from students and staff. This yearly event reunites friendships from across the state. The students were welcomed in their assigned classrooms by members of the Fire College staff and their instructors. Each

class began with classroom sessions highlighting background information and safety issues. By lunch, most classes were outside setting up for the hands-on sessions. Many of the students had little experience in the areas covered and the students found that the instructors were excited to share their experiences with them.

Terry Walker, instructor in Crash Victim Extrication stated, "A student told me that he had never used extrication tools and was somewhat nervous about the class." Lt. Walker told the student to pick out a tool and that he would work with him until he felt comfortable.

A student in the Basic Rope Rescue, who had never rappelled before, looked at the instructor during the safety check of his equipment and asked "May I scream as I go over the edge?" The instructor, Matt Russell, reassured the student and smiled as the student looked up after reaching the bottom and sent him a "thumbs-up" for a job well done.

Ricky Linn and Bryan Maynard began their outside activities by introducing the students to confined spaces. The students crawled through an above-ground pipe before being lowered into the underground system located on the drill field. Ricky felt

that this exercise gave the student a chance to experience the stress of being in a controlled confined space to build confidence in the student.

The Alabama Fire College would like to thank each instructor for sharing their expertise with all the students. We are very fortunate to have instructors who are motivated to improve the quality of services offered to the citizens in Alabama through fire service education. We commend our instructors for a job well done.

As a side note, we also hosted a cookout on Saturday afternoon for those who attended Fire College Week. You may have heard the saying "there ain't nothing like a fire house cook". Well, whoever came up with that phrase is right. A special thanks to the Fire College crew who are so faithful every year to cook for everyone and support the events that take place during Fire College Week.

Fire College Week is held annually during the month of April. If you would like more information on next year's program, contact Janet LeVert at 205.343.7407 or via email at [jmlevert@alabamafirecollege.org](mailto:jmlevert@alabamafirecollege.org).

# Legislation Introduced in Washington

On February 26, legislation was reintroduced in both the House and Senate that would expand the Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB) Program. The Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act (HR 919/S459) would extend the current PSOB Program to public safety officers who die as a result of a heart attack or stroke while on

duty. Heart attacks and strokes represent a significant risk among public safety officers, accounting for nearly half of firefighter deaths each year.

On March 18, the Rural Fire Department Equipment Priority Act (HR 1311/S641) was reintroduced in both the House and Senate. This legislation would

benefit rural fire departments across the nation by giving higher priority to rural fire departments and their cooperators when Department of Defense excess property is screened.

Contact your Representative and Senator asking them to support this important legislation.

## Proxy Votes

AAVFD Secretary Mary Sells will accept proxy votes at the Conference on Friday, June 27, 2003 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. On Saturday, June 28th, proxy votes will be accepted from 9:00 am until 11:00 am, with a lunch break from 11:00 am until noon, and resuming from 12 noon until 2:00 pm. Location will be announced.

According to AAVFD By-Laws, all proxy votes shall be called for three times by the presiding officer as the first agenda item following the opening ceremonies. All proxy

votes must be turned in to the Secretary before the third and final call for proxy votes. Once the third and final call is given and the presiding officer has officially declared the proxy votes closed, proxy votes cannot be accepted from anyone for any reason.

All proxy holders who will be casting proxy votes at the annual business meeting are reminded that no proxy vote will be honored for a department having one or more members at the meeting. Although a proxy ballot containing a list of all county departments is sent to each county president, a department is not required to give its county president, or anyone, the

authority to cast its department's vote. If one person is present at the meeting that person shall vote their department's one vote; whether that person votes or not, the proxy holder shall not be entitled to vote for that department.

In order for the annual meeting to progress in a timely manner, it will be very helpful for the representative from all departments voting to come by and register with the Secretary during the hours set aside to accept proxy votes. However, any person voting for their own department is entitled to a ballot up until the final call for proxy votes has been made.

## AAVFD Competition for 2003 Conference Fort Payne, Alabama

*Joey Boyd, Competition Chairman  
First Vice President, AAVFD*

This year everyone is in for a change. We are going back in time and pulling out one of the oldest events. Matter of fact, it's one of the oldest events we have, the Bucket Brigade! We will also run one of the newest events we have, the Hose Lay II. The third event will be the dreaded Obstacle Course. The Hose Lay II and the Obstacle Course will be run on grass, with the Bucket Brigade being run on a hard surface.

If there are any questions, feel free to email me

at [fightsfire@aol.com](mailto:fightsfire@aol.com). I will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the competition. If you don't have email, you can always call me at 256-233-1597. If I'm not home, which seems to be quiet often, just leave a message. I'll call you back.

*A full set of Competition Rules can be obtained by calling the AAVFD office at 1-888-972-2833 or 334-262-2833.*





# 2003 STATE CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The DeKalb County Fire Association would like to invite everyone to attend the 2003 AAVFD conference on June 27th and 28th.

Located in the northeast part of the state, the county seat is Fort Payne, also known as "The Sock Capitol of the World" and home to the country music group "Alabama" and our fire association is preparing to make this years conference, one of a kind.

We hope you will take advantage of the many resources and attractions throughout our county, including Little River Canyon National Preserve, Historic Sequoyah Caverns, Buck's Pocket and Desoto State Parks. If you can find time for fishing, DeKalb County Lake is one of the finest man-made lakes in the state.

We have over ten hotels and motels and many "bed & breakfast" facilities. We also have six

different facilities with accommodations for camping and Rv's, three museums including the Alabama Fan Club and museum, the Fort Payne Depot and The Hosiery museums.

DeKalb County is accessible via Interstate 59, Alabama Highways, 11, 35, 75, 117 and the scenic Lookout Mountain Parkway. We are approximately, 1 1/2 hours north of Birmingham and 1 1/2 hours east of Huntsville via I-565 to Alabama Highway 72 east to Alabama Highway 35.

The tentative schedule for the weekend will include a cookout Friday night and the final Board of Directors meeting of the year at the DeKalb County VFW fairgrounds. Saturday will begin early with the competition and vendor show so that everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy both, and both held at the VFW fairgrounds. Shortly after lunch the annual meeting

and the first board of directors meeting will be held at the historic DeKalb Theatre. Saturday evening, the banquet will take place at Wills Valley Recreational Center.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated tourism association that has done an outstanding job of promoting our county through their efforts and their website. If you would like to see the different accommodations, attractions and events that DeKalb County has to offer, visit [www.tour-dekalb.com](http://www.tour-dekalb.com). We hope everyone will be able to take a few days before or after the conference to see our county and get just a taste of what we call home.

Accommodations will be available at four different hotels in Ft. Payne, the DeSoto State Park Lodge. We encourage everyone to make your reservations as soon as possible.

Reservations can be made beginning January 2, 2003. Be sure to state that you are attending the AAVFD Conference. Pre-registration is \$20.00 per person and registration will be \$25.00 per person at the conference. Please complete the pre-registration form below.

## — Host Motel Information —

### DeSoto State Park Lodge

Located: Just off Lookout Mountain Parkway on Co. Rd. 951  
 Phone: 256-845-5380  
 Avail/Price: Blocked six, 4-person rustic cabins @ \$74.90 per night  
 Blocked six, 4-person chalets @ \$96.00 per night  
 (These cabins and chalets will be held available until June 12th)  
 Amenities: Cabins and chalets come with kitchen, fireplace, linens & cable TV.  
 ID/Conf. #: Our block ID is "CGFIRE".  
 Our confirmation # is "74338"

### DeSoto State Park Campground

Located: 261 County Road 951  
 Phone: 256-845-5380  
 Avail/Price: No campsites have been blocked.  
 58 campsites w/water, electricity, grill, tables, fire ring @ \$15.00 plus tax, per night.  
 20 campsites w/sewer, water, electric, grill, tables, fire ring @ \$17.30 plus tax, per night.  
 Amenities: Hiking trails, olympic size swimming pool  
 ID/Conf. #: None. All campsites will be first-come, first-served.

### Days Inn

Located: On Highway 35 West at the 218 exit on I-59 County Road  
 Phone: 256-845-2085  
 Avail/Price: Blocked 25 rooms @ \$58.00 plus tax, per night. (register by June 1 for guaranteed rate and room - there will be other rooms available.  
 Amenities: Microwave, refrigerator, continental breakfast  
 ID/Conf. #: Contact Jane Robertson

### Holiday Inn Express

Located: On Airport Rd. (exit 218), across Highway 35 from Days Inn and across Airport Rd. from K-Mart.  
 Phone: 256-997-1020  
 Avail/Price: Blocked 25 rooms @ \$56.95 plus tax, per night (Must register before June 13 - Extra person charge is \$9.00 per person).  
 Department groups can fax your reservation information to 256-997-1080 (Attn Sara Malone). There will be other rooms available.  
 Amenities: Iron, ironing board, hair dryer, continental breakfast  
 ID/Conf. #: Fire Department

### Econo Lodge

Located: On Highway 35 West at the 218 exit, on I-59 (beside Days Inn)  
 Phone: 256-845-4013  
 Avail/Price: Blocked 70 rooms @ \$44.95 plus tax, per night. (Must register before June 1 - There will be other rooms available).  
 Amenities: Continental breakfast, coffee maker, microwave, refrigerator, largest pool in town  
 ID/Conf. #: Rooms blocked under Johnny Dennis

### Ft. Payne Inn

Located: 1828 Gault Ave. North (across Gault Ave. from the VFW Fairgrounds)  
 Phone: 256-845-0481 / Fax 256-845-6152  
 Avail/Price: Blocked 60 rooms:  
 Single rooms @ \$34.00 plus tax, per night  
 King rooms @ \$36.00 plus tax, per night  
 Double & Exec Rooms @ \$38.00 plus tax, per night (Must register by June 6 - there will be other rooms available).  
 Amenities: Continental breakfast  
 ID/Conf. #: DeKalb County Fire Association

## CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

Please make your check payable to **DCFA (DeKalb County AFD)**  
 Mail check and pre-registration form to:  
**Attn: Mike Leath, P.O. Box 680113, Ft. Payne, AL 35968**

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

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

Please PRINT name of each individual

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 14th Annual Rural Community Fire Protection Institute Dinner & Vendor Show

The 14th Annual Rural Community Fire Protection Institute Dinner and Vendor Show was held at the Montgomery Civic Center on March 29, 2003. The day began with the vendor area opening at noon. This area had several companies selling and displaying trucks, equipments of all kinds, services and collectibles.

During the day, three workshops were offered for free to attendees. These workshops were a great success. Each workshop had over 100 people participate. At the closing of the workshops, the Institute held a drawing for 14 re-certified airpicks. The following departments won in the drawing: Sylvania VFD, Good Hope VFD, Pea Ridge VFD, Daleville DPS, Napier Field VFD, Loxley VFD, Lakeview VFD, Zion VFD, Winterboro VFD, Bankston/Stough VFD, Walnut Grove VFD and Walnut Lane VFD. Congratulations to these departments!

The Dinner began with the presentation of colors by the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Department's Honor Guard. During the evening, we heard from many distinguished guests among them were Governor Bob Riley, Secretary of State Nancy Worley and State Treasurer Kay Ivey. Also during the evening, awards given out included the Betty Gober Inspirational Award presented to Don Shield, Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Joey Lane Lovelady, the Alabama State Forester's Fire Prevention Award received by Cliff Cobb and an award for bravery and courage was presented to Jim Hudson. The close to the Dinner was a little different this year. Instead of having a traditional keynote speaker, we chose to have musical entertainment. The Alabama Blues Brothers took the stage at the end of the evening. They were very entertaining and if you missed them, you missed a great performance!

The Institute Board of Directors and Staff would like to take a few lines to thank all of the volunteers that help with this event. Without your assistance, the Dinner would not be the success that it is. We would also like to thank Senator Tom Butler for being our Master of Ceremony. He did a great job. Also, we would like to welcome our new Co-Chair of the Rural Fire Caucus Representative Neil Morrison. We would also like to thank all of the attendees and vendors. Thank you so much for your support over the last 14 years and your continued support in the coming years.



*Master of Ceremonies Senator Tom Butler, Madison County, Co-Chairman Alabama Rural Fire Caucus*



*Representative Neil Morrison, Cullman County, Co-Chairman Alabama Rural Fire Caucus.*



*Alabama Forestry Commission State Forester Timothy C. Boyce presents the State Forester's Fire Prevention Award to Cliff Cobb, Prevention/Enforcement, Assistant Regional Office - Administration/Programs.*



*Joey Lane Lovelady of Shelby County presented with Lifetime Achievement Award.*



*Jim Hudson, Good Hope VFD, Cullman County, honored by RCFPI for bravery and courage.*



*RCFPI Vice President Wess Etheredge (left) presented RCFPI President Don Shield with the Betty Gober Inspiration Award recognizing Mr. Shield as the Outstanding RCFPI Board Member of the Year.*

## Meth Lab Workshop...

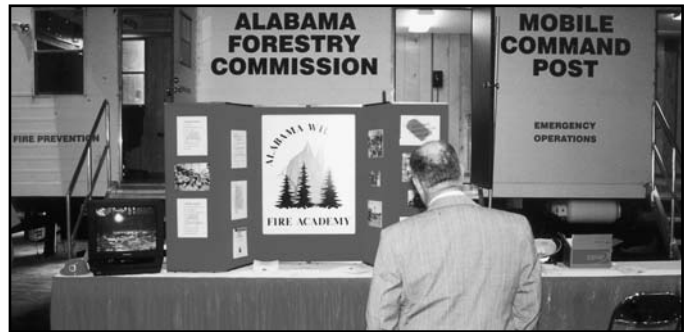


*presented by Daleville Police Department*

## Vendors display the latest in fire fighting equipment...



## Fire Prevention Education...



## Entertainment...



*James Williams, Jimbo Robinson and Don Webster help the Blues Brothers of Alabama entertain guests at Awards Banquet.*



# 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.

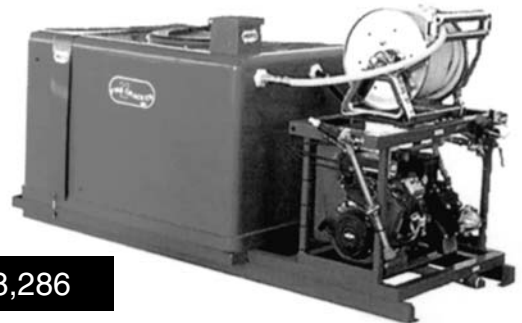
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### 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

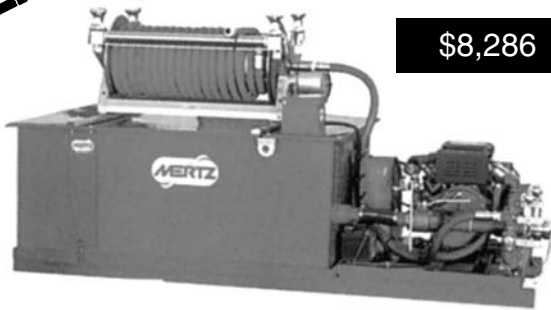
FD-18V-300 L



\$8,286

Low Cost

MERTZ, INC.



\$8,286

#### 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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# Grant Fire & Rescue

Written by Chief Robert Patterson

The Grant Volunteer Fire Department was organized on August 16, 1954 by a group of people in this area who could see that there was a great need for some kind of fire protection in this rural community. Having no support from the Town of Grant, these people took it upon themselves to obtain members, train and find a fire truck and some way fund this department.

Some of the founding firemen were: Ed Burk, Floyd Jacox, Arden Keller, L. D. Walls, Wallace Jones, O'Neal McDonald, Woody Troup, Earnest Keller, Gordon Winkles, Earnest



**Front (L-R): Runt Rice, Ernest Winkles, Gordon Winkles, Ed Burks, John Morrow, O'Neal McDonald, Budge Ward, Arden Keller.**  
**Back (L-R): Floyd Jacox, L. D. Walls, Woody Troup, Perry York, Clyde Click, Carter Campbell, Jewell Troup.**

the old city hall and jail on what is now Third Street East where Mr. Walls still lives.

Now comes the problem of funding the new fire department. They did so with membership dues being

charged to the firefighters, fines for missing meetings, fire training, etc. and by having turkey shoots and raffles. I guess you can say if it wasn't for the hard work, dedication and many sacrifices that these men were willing to make that this department would never be where it is today, the Best Volunteer Department in the State, 2002. Thank you all for the many sacrifices you made for us.



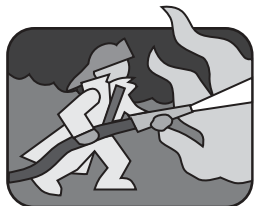
Winkles, Runt Rice, John Morrow, Sr., Hillarey Ayres and many others who gave time and money to get this department to where it is today.

Before a truck was ever located, the firemen would go to DAR School to train with a gasoline-powered pump that the school had purchased to use with their fire hydrant system. These were the only hydrants in Grant then and for many years to come.

Finally, they get their first truck donated by Woody Troup which was an old 1935 school bus which the firemen took the body off and after much hard work installed an old gas tank and a 5 horsepower gas pump on back to spray water. Then L.D. Walls supplied the place to store the truck at his house in



**Front (L-R): Gene Tidwell, Josh Grimes, Shawn Bevel, Junior James, Ben Long, Billie Westbrooks.**  
**Back (L-R): Denny Penle, Jack Hodges, David Wright, Ray Pressell, Wade Morrison, Asst. Chief Bob Davis, Chief Robert Patterson, Mikey Antwing, Joe Erby.**



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*Alabama and Mississippi*

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- ◆ NFPA 1981, 2002 Compliant SCBAs

We also offer the ISI Surveyor and Navigator  
Advanced thermal imaging cameras.



***New Crimson 2003 International Pumper***  
***1250 Waterous Pump 1000 Gallon Poly Tank, 300 Horsepower Diesel Engine,***  
***Stainless Steel Body and many more amenities.***

***Priced to Sell!***

***Available for Viewing or Immediate Delivery***

***"THE BITTERNESS OF POOR QUALITY REMAINS LONG AFTER THE SWEETNESS OF  
LOW PRICING IS FORGOTTEN."***

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## Spring Specials



1983 Pierce



1985 Hahn



1992 American



1988 FMC



GMC Brush Truck

### 1992 American

Diesel Automatic, 1500 GPM Hale Pump, New 1000 Gallon Poly Tank, Hose Reel, Deck Gun

***Special Priced!***

Thanks to our valued customers, sales have been great! We are now looking for an experienced salesperson to join our staff. If you have knowledge and experience with sales in fire trucks and equipment and are interested in a great opportunity, please give us a call at 1-800-453-2025 or fax your resumé and contact information to 251-937-2863.

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Our staff of EVT Certified Mechanics certify all pumps and do a complete inspection prior to delivery.



\$28,000

1983 E-One Ford C-8000 Engine  
1000 Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Aluminum Tank  
Cat 3208 Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$109,000

1993 E-One Hurricane  
1500 Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Poly Tank  
Detroit 6V-92TA Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$49,000

1983 E-One Ford C-8000 Tanker  
1000 Top Mount Pump  
2000 Gallon Tank  
Cat 3208 Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$19,900

1984 Young GMC Mini Pumper  
750 Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Tank  
427 Cubic Inch Gas Engine  
Allison Automatic



\$59,500

1987 E-One Hush Pumper  
1250 Hale Pump  
750 Gallon Aluminum Tank  
Detroit 6-71 Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$25,000

1973/93 E-One Maxim  
1000 Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Tank  
Detroit Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$97,000

1989 KME Firefox  
1250 Hale Pump  
1000 Gallon Steel Tank  
Detroit 6V-92 Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$89,000

1990 E-One Hush Pumper  
1500 Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Poly Tank  
Detroit 8V-92TA Diesel  
Allison Automatic



\$55,000

1989 E-One W/I Rescue  
4x4  
Onan 6 KW Generator  
Ford Diesel  
Allison Automatic





\$65,000  
 1991 Smeal Pumper  
 1250 Enclosed Top Mount Pump  
 1000 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Engine  
 Allison Automatic



\$39,000  
 1985 Sutphen Pumper  
 1500 Hale Top-Mount  
 750 Gallon Fiberglass Tank  
 Detroit 8V-92TA Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$29,000  
 1982 E-One on Duplex Chassis  
 1200 GPM Pump  
 500 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Engine  
 Automatic



\$75,000  
 1988 FMC (Enclosed Cab)  
 1250 Hale Pump  
 750 Gallon Tank  
 Cummins L-10 Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$74,000  
 1991 E-One Commercial 4x4 Pumper  
 500 Gallon Pump  
 500 Poly Tank  
 DT 466 230 Diesel Engine  
 Allison Automatic



\$65,000  
 1984/99 Ford Pumper/ Tanker  
 1500 Waterous Pump  
 1000 Poly Tank  
 Detroit Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$27,500  
 1982 Maxim Pumper  
 1500 Hale Pump  
 750 PolyTank  
 Detroit 8V-71 Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$65,000  
 1984 Sutphen 65' Mini Tower  
 1500 Hale Pump  
 500 Gallon Tank  
 Detroit 8V-71 Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$89,000  
 1997 KME F-800 Pumper/ Tanker  
 1250 Hale Pump  
 1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Cummins Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$80,000  
 1981 Sutphen 100' Tower  
 1500 Hale Pump  
 300 Gallon Tank  
 Detroit 8V-71 Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$45,000  
 1987 Smeal Ford C-8000  
 1250 Waterous Pump  
 750 Gallon Steel Tank  
 Cat 3208 Diesel  
 Allison Automatic



\$37,000  
 1983 Pierce Pumper/ Tanker  
 1250 Waterous Pump  
 1500 Steel Tank  
 5" Jet Pump  
 Diesel/ Auto

**Our service technicians are available for work on your apparatus at our facility and also in the field.**

*"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8*

# CAN YOUR DEPARTMENT USE \$10,000.00?

Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus of Morgan City, Alabama,  
is pleased to invite you and your department to our

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 14, 2003 (Rain Date: July 19th)

15410 Highway 231

Union Grove, Alabama

*Our facility is located on 231, 8 miles south of Huntsville and 7 miles north of Arab.*

Vendors & Entertainment Open at 8:00a.m.

Pizza and BBQ plates May be purchased beginning at 11:00a.m.

**AT 1:00P.M. A DRAWING WILL BE HELD AND ONE LUCKY FIRE  
DEPARTMENT WILL BE GIVEN A \$10,000.00 CHECK!**

*To be eligible to win, a member of your department must be present at time of drawing, the department must consist of  
all volunteers or combination, and you must be registered prior to May 20, 2003.*

**IN ADDITION TO A \$10,000.00 CHECK FOR A DEPARTMENT, FIVE (5) \$1,000.00  
CHECKS WILL BE GIVEN TO INDIVIDUAL FIREFIGHTERS.**

*To be eligible, you must be a member of a volunteer or combination department, and you must be present to win.*

**NOTE- BE ONE OF THE FIRST 150 DEPARTMENTS TO REGISTER  
AND YOUR NAME WILL BE ENTERED TWICE IN THE DRAWING!!!**

To Register: Mail completed form to Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, 15410 Highway 231, Union Grove, AL 35175

You may also register online at: [www.firetruckmall.com](http://www.firetruckmall.com). Map & Directions available online.

Department Name: _____
Station Mailing Address: _____
City _____ State _____ County/Parish _____ Zip _____
Department Phone Number _____
Estimated total number of people from department (including spouses and children) attending: _____
Where did you find out about the open house? _____
Person completing form: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

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**1-800-406-7149**

Email: [tfe@networktel.net](mailto:tfe@networktel.net)



### 1979 Hahn Pumper

1000 GPM Pump • 1000 Gallon Booster Tank  
 Diesel Engine • Automatic Transmission



### 1977 Pierce Hendrickson

1250 GPM 2 Stage Waterous Pump  
 750 Gallon Booster Tank • Automatic Transmission  
 Detroit 8V71 Engine 350 HP • Deck Gun • Booster Reel



### 1983 Spartan Van Pelt

Van Pelt Steel Body • New Paint  
 Detroit 8V71 370 HP Engine/Automatic Transmission  
 Mileage 74,184 • 1500 GPM Hale Double Stage Pump  
 500 Gallon Steel Tank • 4000 Watt Generator  
 Rear 5-inch intake • (2) 500 Watt Extend-a-Lights



### 1986 Spartan Wolverine

Wolverine Steel Body • Diesel Automatic  
 Mileage 69,962 • 1250 Hale Pump  
 500 Gallon Steel Tank • 6-Man Enclosed Cab



### SKID UNIT

300 Gallon Tank • Booster Reel • Starting at \$5,200.00

### STREAMLIGHT SL-45

- Hand Down the industry standard in portable lights
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- 50,000 candlepower
- Eight hours run time



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## **PUMP TESTING \$150.00 PER TRUCK**

Our portable pump testing unit allows us to pump test your trucks in your area by using your local lake or pond.

Discount for multiple trucks!

# Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day

The 19th Annual Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day will be hosted by the Clarke County Firefighters Association and sponsored by the Alabama Forestry Commission's Rural Community Fire Protection Steering Committee.

The RCFP Steering Committee Banquet will be held Friday night, September 26th. The host motels will be the Day's Inn (334-636-5467) 32810 Hwy 43, Budget Inn & Suites (334-636-0614) 1400 Mosley Drive, Economy Inn (334-636-0123) 33691 Hwy 43, and Holiday Inn Express (334-636-2000) 1704 North Park Drive. A

new Best Western is presently under construction and should be in operation prior to this event. Their information will be supplied at a later date. Accommodations are also available in Grove Hill and Jackson. Contact the AAVFD office if you need contact phone numbers.

Competition will be held the following day, September 27th at Thomasville High School on Gates Drive. The events will be the Obstacle Course, Hose Lay II and Air Pack Relay. There will also be a Brush Truck competition, along with a cake baking contest and a chili and stew cook off. Vendors

will be on hand with their exhibits all day Saturday.

In appreciation for the strong partnership between the volunteer fire service and the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Commission will provide the eight RCFP Brush Truck to be put on permanent loan to one lucky fire department. Fulton VFD in Clarke County was last year's winner. Registration for the Brush Truck Drawing will begin on Saturday morning.

For more information, you may contact Chief Mark Sims at 334-636-4897 or Charlie Dixon at 334-636-2877.

## STEERING COMMITTEE BANQUET REGISTRATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003 • 6:00 PM

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Thomasville Volunteer Fire Department and mail to Attn: Firefighter Appreciation Day, Thomasville Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 1007, Thomasville AL 36784.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE:** Tickets purchased in advance may be picked up at the door.  
NO advanced tickets will be mailed.



# 19th Annual Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day



**September 26-27, 2003**

*Sponsored by*  
**The Alabama Forestry  
 Commission Rural  
 Community Fire Protection  
 Steering Committee**

*Hosted by*  
**CLARKE COUNTY  
 FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

***Fully Equipped Brush Truck to  
 be given away by the Alabama  
 Forestry Commission***



**WINNER OF 2002 BRUSH TRUCK  
 FULTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
 CLARKE COUNTY**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
26th	6:00 p.m.	Banquet
27th	7:00 a.m.	Registration
27th	8:00 a.m.	Captain's Meeting
27th	8:30 a.m.	Competition
27th	9:30 a.m.	Cake & Chili Judging
27th	10:00 a.m.	Stew
27th	10:30 a.m.	Brush Truck Competition
27th	11:30 a.m.	Lunch
27th	Final Event	Brush Truck Giveaway

### *Host Motels*

**BUDGET INN & SUITES – 334-636-0614**  
 1400 Moseley Drive • Thomasville, AL 36784  
*Rate:* \$40 plus tax (double occupancy)

**DAY'S INN – 334-636-5467**  
 32810 Highway 43 • Thomasville, AL 36784  
*Rate:* \$38 plus tax (double occupancy, double beds)  
 or \$35 plus tax (king)

**ECONOMY INN – 334-636-0123**  
 33691 Highway 43 • Thomasville, AL 36784  
*Rate:* \$36 plus tax (double occupancy)

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS – 334-636-2000**  
 1704 North Park Drive • Thomasville, AL 36784  
*Rate:* \$69 plus tax (double occupancy)

*A Best Western is currently under construction on North Park Drive across from Holiday Inn Express and will be completed shortly. The tentative rates are \$59 per room.*

**Contact:**

**Charlie Dixon  
 334-636-2877  
 Chief Mark Sims  
 334-636-4897**

**Competition Site:**

**Thomasville High School, Gates Drive**

### COMPETITION EVENTS:

- OBSTACLE COURSE
- HOSE LAY II
- AIRPACK RELAY
- BRUSH TRUCK COMPETITION
- COOKING COMPETITION
- SURPRISE EVENTS –

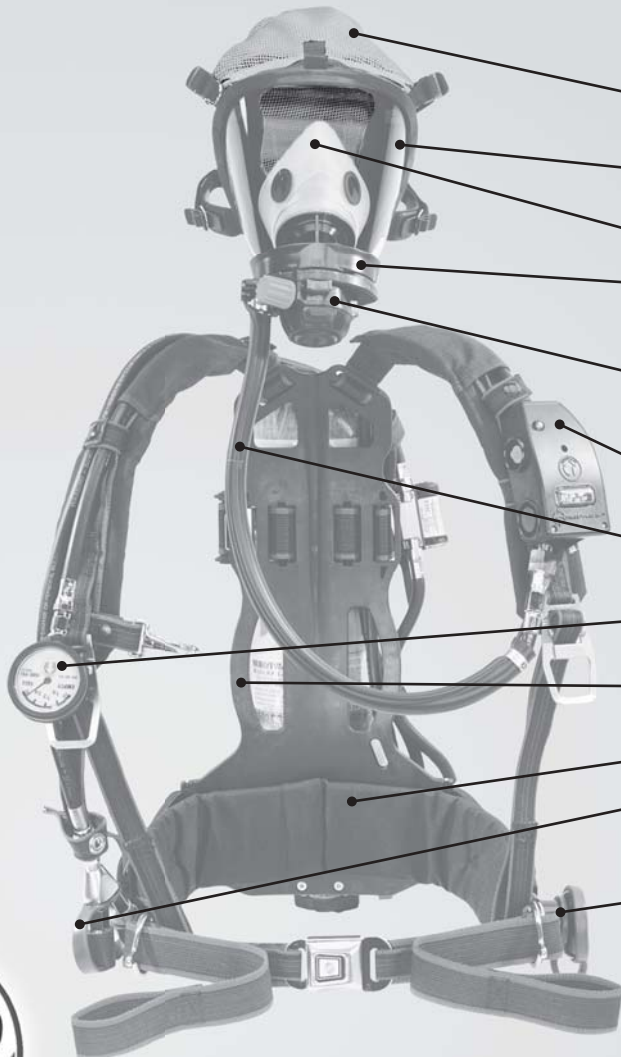
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**NEW  
NFPA 2002  
EDITION**

**Attention:**  
Fire Chiefs, Deputies & Fire Equipment Purchasing Decision Makers

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- Kevlar® Headnet™ - Also available with silicone headstrap.
- Twenty Twenty Plus - silicone facepiece available in three sizes.
- Nose Cup - available in three sizes.
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- Hip Pad - for maximum comfort.
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PHOTO: AMY/STANLAW



## Don's Perspective

by Don Shield  
Alabama Firefighter

### To: Alabama Volunteer Fire Service

Last year at the closing of the AAVFD Conference I made an announcement that I would not be seeking reelection as your Treasurer in 2003. I will be running this year for the AAVFD elected position of Vice-President Northern area. Over the last twelve years I have been fortunate to hold positions in the AAVFD, as Alternate Director, Director and your Treasurer. While in these positions I have had the opportunity to serve on many AAVFD committees; legislative, Alabama Joint Fire Council, EMA Hazardous Material Advisory Committee and attended national meetings regarding much needed benefits for the volunteers.

Many of you, who know me well, understand that I have but one important goal for the fire volunteer service in Alabama. Make the task as safe as possible, through every avenue available. I have strived to improve communications throughout the volunteer fire service, with the establish-

ment of AAVFD Egroups, the National Fire Service Benefit Summit communication Egroups site for all 50 states, the AAVFD Web page, addressing issues and disseminating information through articles in the AAVFD VOLUNTEER newsletter (Don's Prospective).

Day to day operations of the AAVFD is difficult at best, with the widespread diversity (funding, geographical locations and limited communications) of the association. The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments is big business, number of members in excess of 23,000 and in the last three years moving over one million dollars in the AED Program and the Wildland Fire Prevention Grant.

As we get ready to address many diverse and difficult fire service issues that will face all of us in this century, the leadership of the Alabama Assn. of Volunteer Fire Departments should be paramount when making your decision at this up coming election.

Years ago the main function of the fire service was to put the wet stuff on the red stuff. Times are changing, we must all plan for the future, protect present funding, budget wisely, interact with our legislators and sponsor fire prevention programs within our communities. I challenge each volunteer fire department to generate a five year fire plan or better yet, ten year plan listing all the things that you want to accomplish in those years. This plan can be used as a measurement tool for your internal leaders and membership.

I encourage all, county assns, fire departments, chiefs, officers, firefighters and EMS personnel to get involved with the big picture of the volunteer fire service. The destiny of the Alabama volunteer fire service is in your hands. A quote from Jean DeCosta, "The only constant in life is change. The trick is to master change – to cope with it, embrace it and prosper."

## FREE GUIDE HELPS FIRE DEPARTMENTS PROMOTE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire departments seeking practical advice on promoting their Fire Prevention Week programs can find it in a free guide available from Syndistar, Inc.

The 14-page Tips & Tools to Market and Get Media Coverage for Your Fire Prevention Week Program is organized so that readers

may selectively use the techniques that most appeal to them, or quickly learn the basics for putting together a complete marketing/public relations campaign and media kit. Samples and/or guidelines for a media advisory, news release, fact sheet, public service announcement,

news conference, opinion editorial, and letter to the editor make the job easier for the seasoned and novice promoter alike.

Other tips are included for soliciting volunteer help, making presentations, and establishing oneself with media contacts as a credible news source. A fire department

serving a community of any size can benefit from this handy guide and will find it a useful resource throughout the year.

To receive your free guide, call 1-800-841-9532, fax 504-733-2232, or write to Syndistar, Inc., 5801 River Road, New Orleans, LA 70123.



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# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: Chief Henry James Wissel, Volunteer  
 Department: Heidelberg FD, Carnegie PA  
 Date of Death: 12/7/02  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died of heart attack while operating water pumps at structure fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Jonathan Myron Lanphear, Volunteer  
 Department: Boyd FD, Boyd MN  
 Date of Death: 12/12/02  
 Cause of Death: Died of injuries sustained in traffic accident while responding to fire call in personal vehicle.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Shawn Michael Espinoza, Volunteer  
 Department: Ranger FD, Ranger TX  
 Date of Death: 12/13/02  
 Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack while attending training.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/Traffic Control Terry Wren Carroll, Volunteer  
 Department: Coats-Grove F/R, Coats NC  
 Date of Death: 1/7/03  
 Cause of Death: Died of massive heart attack during medical response.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Lattie F. Collins III, Volunteer  
 Department: Donalsonville FD, Donalson GA  
 Date of Death: 1/8/03  
 Cause of Death: Died when personal vehicle was struck at intersection en-route to station in response to motor vehicle alarm call.

Name/Rank: Firefighter James "Matt" Periera, Career  
 Department: Guam FD, Guam  
 Date of Death: 1/9/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from cause to be determined while on duty at Agat Fire Station.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Melinda "Mindy" Ohler, Career  
 Department: San Francisco FD, San Francisco CA  
 Date of Death: 1/8/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from head injuries received when she fell out of open cab of fire apparatus while responding to fire call.

Name/Rank: Captain Joseph Rotherham, Career  
 Department: Springfield Fire/Rescue Dept, Springfield IL  
 Date of Death: 1/14/03  
 Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack at scene of wreck.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Officer James McAuley, Volunteer  
 Department: Polk Township VFD, Kresgeville PA  
 Date of Death: 1/17/03  
 Cause of Death: Died of cardiac arrest assisting at scene of car fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter James Edward Taylor, Career  
 Department: Bonham FD, Bonham TX  
 Date of Death: 1/19/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from injuries received when riding in ambulance involved in vehicle accident while responding to another fatal vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Gary Staley, Volunteer  
 Department: Porter VFD, Porter TX  
 Date of Death: 1/19/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from injuries received when he became trapped while working hose line in auto repair shop blaze.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT Keith R. Hess, Career  
 Department: Fannett Metal Fire Department, Dry Run PA  
 Date of Death: 1/20/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from compression asphyxia during building fire salvage operations when trapped in chimney collapse.

Name/Rank: Captain Dennis G. Mignerone, Career  
 Department: Webster Groves FD, Webster Groves MO  
 Date of Death: 1/21/03  
 Cause of Death: Died on duty while performing department prescribed exercises from cause to be determined.

Name/Rank: Captain Michael Wayne Copeland, Career  
 Department: Charlotte FD, Charlotte NC  
 Date of Death: 1/25/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed of apparent heart attack participating as incident commander in live fire training exercise.

Name/Rank: Firefighter George A. Walker, Career  
 Department: Clarksville FD, Clarksville IN  
 Date of Death: 2/1/03  
 Cause of Death: Suffered heart attack while working residential structure fire and died in hospital several weeks later.

Name/Rank: Engineer Robert John Moseley, Career  
 Department: Santa Barbara County FD, Santa Barbara CA  
 Date of Death: 2/1/03  
 Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack while clearing area of brush for training class.

Name/Rank: Trainee Wayne K. Clark, Career  
 Department: Dallas Fire-Rescue Dept, Dallas TX  
 Date of Death: 2/12/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from cause to be determined while participating in exercises at department training facility.

Name/Rank: Captain Larry Allen Brown, Career  
 Department: Kingsley Field FD, Klamath Falls OR  
 Date of Death: 2/20/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from apparent heart attack while performing routine station duties.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT Curtis Walters, Career  
 Department: Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport FD, Bentonville AR  
 Date of Death: 2/26/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from apparent heart attack while performing station duties.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Bruce H. Young, Volunteer  
 Department: Middlebury FD, Middlebury VT  
 Date of Death: 3/9/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from apparent heart attack while responding to fire call.

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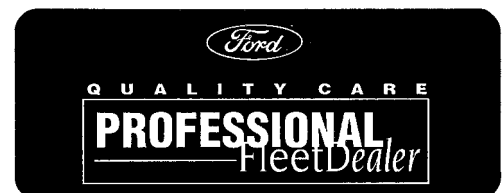
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## CLASSIFIED ADS

Volunteer fire departments, county associations, and other non-profit, fire-related organizations can advertise in the "Items For Sale" column for free. Businesses and other for-profit organizations may advertise here for \$22.50 per column inch, per issue.

**RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION INSTITUTE MERCHANDISE** is available by calling the Institute office at 1-800-897-7237 or at booths at many fire service related functions across the State.



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**AAVFD ITEMS AVAILABLE:** Following items can be purchased through the AAVFD office in Montgomery (address and phone elsewhere in this issue): Single color caps \$6.; two tone cap \$7.; Pins \$2.; Tote Bags \$6.00; Patches \$2.50; AAVFD Logo Decals \$2.; small Swiss Army Knife with AAVFD Logo \$15.; Prints (copy of painting) \$10.; Matted prints \$20.; T-Shirts \$8.; Golf shirt with collar \$22. (Shipping charges will be added.) Golf shirts come in burgundy, forest green, navy/white, burgundy/white in L, XL, XXL and XXXL.

*It is not so much how busy you are – but why you are busy. The Bee is praised. The mosquito is swatted.*



**About The Volunteer:** *The Volunteer* is issued 6 times a year: in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov. 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.

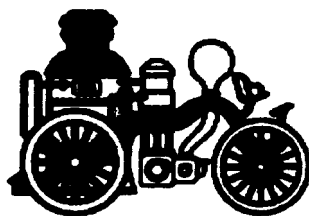
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**E-mail:** aavfd@mindspring.com  
**on the Web at** www.aavfd.org

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



# THE BELL TOLLED

Sam Cook, Linden VFD, Marengo County, passed away March 2, 2003. He was a 30-year veteran of the department.

Hayward Gibson, Monroe Co Fire & Rescue, Monroe County, passed away March 24, 2003.

Billy John Tucker, Broomtown VFD, Cherokee County, died In-the-Line-of-Duty on the scene of a multi-vehicle accident April 6, 2003.

*Let us pause a moment to pay our respect to these firefighters for whom the bell tolled that one last time as we offer our prayers and condolences to their families and friends.*

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 Joey Boyd (256) 233-1597; or Clayton Cobb, Sr. (251) 578-2855; or Danny Orr (334) 992-3417.

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](http://www.aavfd.org).

## 2003 FIREFIGHTER'S INSURANCE COVERAGE

Accidental Death & Disability insurance coverage for the year 2003 is still available and is a bargain. Policy cost is \$12 per year for \$10,000 coverage or \$20 per year for coverage of \$20,000. Coverage began on January 1, 2003, but it is not too late to send your renewals/applications to the Montgomery office. Coverage will begin the day that your information is received. If you need further information, contact the office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833.



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