



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

September - December, 2017

Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention

In 2017, there have been 80 deaths attributed to fire related injuries compared to 119 in 2016.

Alabama is ranked fifth in the nation in the number of residential fire deaths. The state Fire Chief's Association and the State Fire Marshal's office created the Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention campaign to try and help reduce the fire death rate. This initiative is to help people become more aware of the dangers of fire. The leading cause of residential fire deaths is unattended cooking. The second leading cause is alternate heating sources, such as space heaters. Most home fire deaths are in homes with no working smoke alarm.

By uniting the resources of all Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments along with the paid departments, we can have a noticeable stand of fire prevention awareness throughout the state.



Each fire department throughout the state is encouraged to emphasize the importance of taking personal responsibility when it comes to protecting the home and family from fire to the citizens in their fire district. Fire departments are encouraged to increase their efforts to educate their citizens on how to prevent fires and how to avoid serious injury or death if fire occurs; the use and maintenance of smoke alarms; and developing and practicing escape plans. Everyone is encouraged to take time for home fire prevention.

Free smoke alarms are available through the American Red Cross and the Alabama Fire College.

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY Greetings Fellow Firefighters,

I hope this finds you all doing well as we start another new year. I pray you have had a safe and joyous holiday season and were able to spend time with family and friends and reflect on those things that are most important in your lives.

As you are reading this we have already began a new legislative session in the State of Alabama. The association has several items we would like to see brought up this session, but I feel it will be over quicker than the scheduled end date. That being said I have brought two items to the top of the agenda. I will again ask that members of the legislature sponsor a bill to afford volunteers a tax incentive for their tireless efforts in helping those in the communities that you serve. Again, I know this is a "long shot" request considering the financial woes faced in all aspects of state government at this time, however, I also know that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease." To that end, I want this to remain a conversation until someone, someday realizes just what an asset the volunteer fire service is to this State and its citizens. The second item deals with tax exemption. As you are already aware, state law provides for exemption of state and local sales and use tax as well as ad valorem taxes. However, you currently must file an annual certificate of exemption with the Department of Revenue. A bill has been pre-filed to amend Section 40-9-38 of the Code of Alabama 1975 to provide for permanent certification of exemption and exempt us from the requirement of obtaining an annual certificate from the Department of Revenue. To some departments and county associations this may seem to be irrelevant but I have received numerous calls and emails from individuals across the state concerning this annual process and the burden placed on their departments due to the current law. This should be a simple and non-controversial bill and I do not anticipate any agency or Legislator being against its passage. However, you never can tell what may happen during the session and should resistance show its face I will be reaching out to you to contact your respective Senators and Representatives to garner their support for its passage. I will keep you informed of our progress soon.

DATA DRIVEN: I do not have to tell you that in the world we live today we must provide data to show our true impact in a given area. In my opinion the fire service in this state, especially the volunteer fire service, lacks in this category. I have held conversations with several individuals concerning this deficit and we are working towards a template that can be used statewide to gather critical data that will accurately depict the monetary impact the volunteer fire service has on this state. The president of the Elmore County Firefighters Association, Mr. John Wilson, and his colleagues in Elmore County have done such a study and the insurance savings in this one county alone are astounding. If we could compile data for all 67 counties the savings we provide to our citizens would be astronomical! We must have solid information to provide to our elected officials when lobbying for benefits for the volunteers across the state. I feel that this is the only way to have our voices heard and hopefully you will receive further information concerning this initiative soon. We must all do our part to make this effort successful.... every department in every county!

God Bless and keep you safe always,

Mike W. Green





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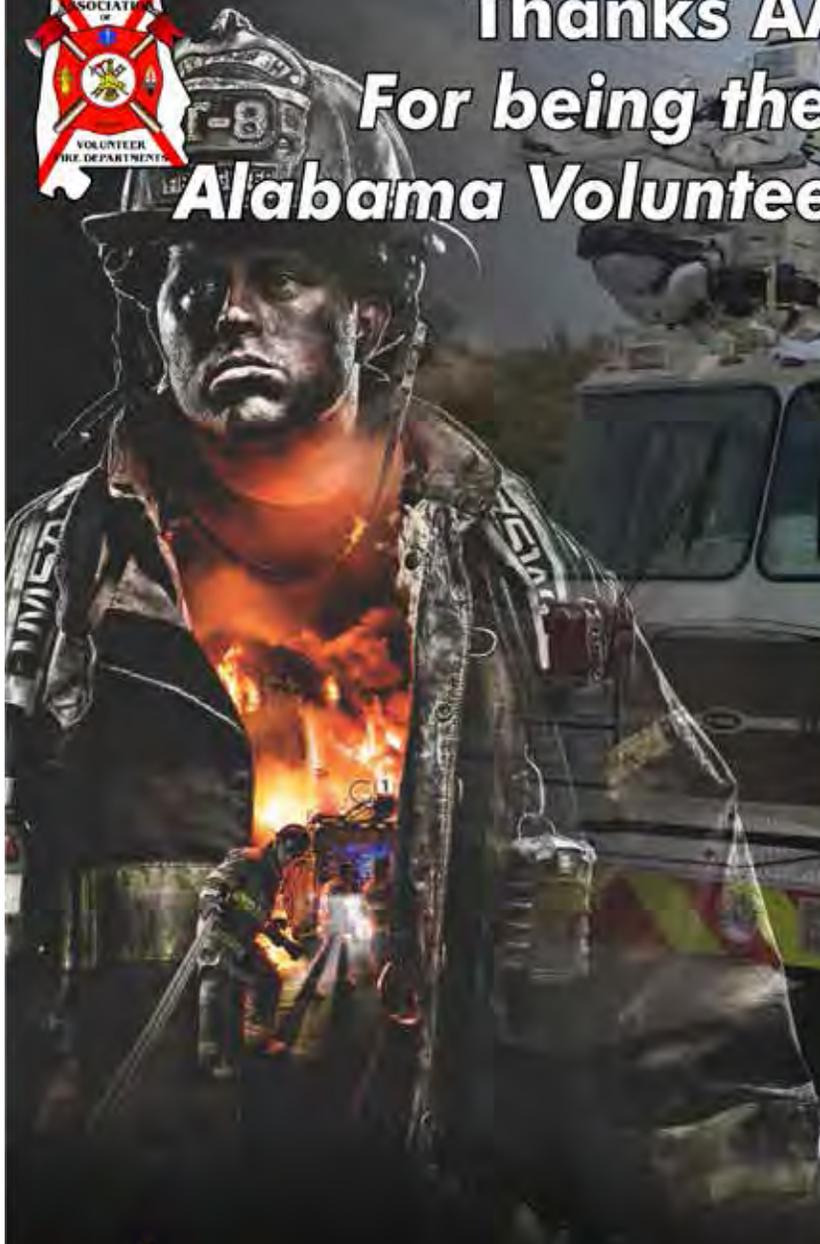
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Ceremony Held to Honor Fallen Firefighters

On Saturday, October 7, 2017 firefighters across Alabama came together at the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa to honor fallen heroes.

This year marked the fourteenth year the Alabama Fire Service has held a ceremony to honor the fallen firefighters from departments around the state. The AAVFD Honor Guard presented the colors during the ceremony.

Family members are given their loved one's fire department uniform badge and an American flag during the ceremony. Three individuals were honored for the past year, **Christopher Lane Foster, Stanley Ed Wood, II** and **Chief Tracy Sanders**. Sanders served as Fire Chief of the Mt. Olive VFD in Calhoun County.



AAVFD Honor Guard

Following the ceremony, family members were taken to the Alabama Firefighter Memorial where each of the loved one's names are now added.



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Billy Doss, Mike Green & Russell Ledbetter

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Tuscaloosa County Volunteer Firefighters Honored at Annual Banquet

The brave men and women of Tuscaloosa were recognized at the Tuscaloosa County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments' annual banquet on October 7, 2017. Firefighters were recognized for their service to the community and each volunteer was thanked for their tireless service. Derrill Booth, Romulus VFD, was named Firefighter of the Year. Derrill also serves as vice-president of the County Association. Jana Brown, Mayfield VFD, was named Female Firefighter of the Year. Hagler VFD was named the Department of the Year. The President's Award was bestowed to Hays Webb, Tuscaloosa County District Attorney.



Derrill Booth – Tuscaloosa County Male Firefighter
Belinda Lancaster & Billy Doss



The yearly event brings together firefighters and their families. President Billy Doss said we have firefighters who have provided significant services in the community, heroic efforts and heroic acts. We have individuals who go above and beyond every day. This is the time of the year to recognize a member from each department who has gone above and beyond. Each department recognized a firefighter of the year.

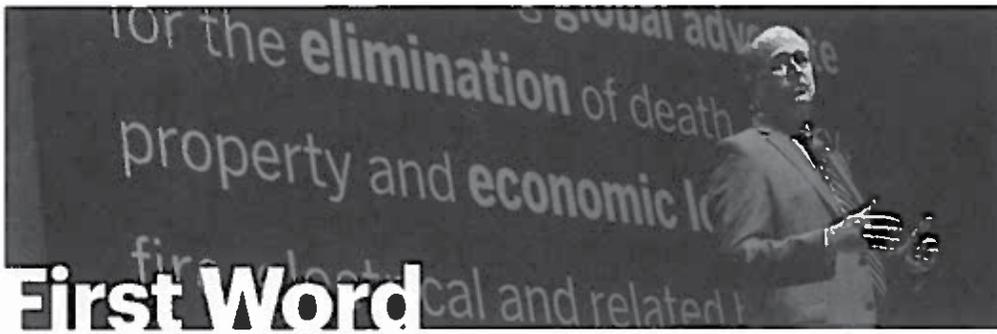
The following are recipients from their department:

Vance -Hunter Coons & Caleb Borns
Hagler - Shirley Morrison & James Allen
Sipsey - Mitchell Williams
Samantha – John Hagler
Mt. Olive – Kevin Cox & Cindy Smith
Carrolls Creek – Reginald Smith, Jr.
Duncanville – Ben Tucker
Mayfield – Phillip Edmonds
Montgomery – Mark Turner
Coaling – Brian Nickles & Scott White
Coker – Rusty Vick
Englewood Hulls – Scott Blake.



Tuscaloosa County
Firefighters of the Year

Thank you to all the firefighters in Tuscaloosa!



If You Build It...

BY JIM PAULEY, NFPA President

For 120 years, NFPA has maintained a focus on fire prevention and public education. In conjunction with the fire service and many other partners, we have made progress on those objectives, but we still have a long way to go. To cover that distance, we need to consider new and innovative approaches to changing consumer behavior, and we need to do it in unique ways that engage the public.

A little more than a year ago, members of the fire service, government, academia, and the business community in Alabama gathered to talk about establishing a fire museum. Their thinking became much bigger, and the idea for the National Center for Fire and Life Safety (NCFLS) was born.

The aim of the NCFLS is to reduce injury and loss of life associated with fire, as well as damage to property and other resources, by developing and deploying nontraditional, innovative fire prevention and life safety training and education.

Through partnerships with the world's leading authorities in fire and life safety, the center wants to promote a collective vision of a safer world.

I am proud to say that NFPA has agreed to be the title sponsor for the NCFLS. The mission of the center and the mission of NFPA are directly aligned, and we see a huge opportunity to reach the public in a much different way that will result in a world that is better informed and ultimately safer through the positive actions of its citizens.

Don't think of the center as a static classroom-type environment—the vision is to create a transformative experience using engaging stories, emotional experiences, practical hands-on activities, and active role-playing to immerse the visiting public in life safety education.

The center will be a nonprofit entity. Construction will be funded through a strong fundraising and partnering campaign. We hope to break ground in 2019. Once the center is open, ongoing operation will be funded primarily by visitor revenue. Much of the preliminary planning and economic analysis has been completed, and the next year will be used to gather additional partners who want to be a part of this revolution in fire and life safety. If you are interested in partnering with the center, contact Russell A. Jackson, CEO of the NCFLS, at rjackson@ncfls.org.

There is a lot of work to do to finalize plans and construct and open the center. We will keep you informed along the way.

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Achievement and Bravery Honored at the Greene County Ball & Banquet

Greene County Volunteer Firefighters were recognized for their service to the community at the Greene County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments Fifth Annual Ball and Awards Banquet on Friday, October 13, 2017.

Master of Ceremonies was Bennie Abrams. Abrams said there are not many volunteer groups who are expected to be on call 24/7, leave their home or job at a moment's notice, or put down children and rush to the scene of an emergency, placing themselves in harm's way for the sake of, quite often, a complete stranger's life. Each of you is to be commended for your service to our citizens.

Citizens, often times, take for granted the time and effort that goes into the hundreds of hours of training that these men and women put forth, all the dinners they miss or the

time away from their family because of their dedication to helping others. It is not only the firefighters and rescue personnel that make sacrifices while serving the community but also the families that allow you to do

this special voluntary work. To all the families – thank you for allowing your lives and time with your brave loved ones to be interrupted and endangered. Your support and sacrifice is priceless not only to your loved one but to all of us in Greene County as well.



Greene County expressed its gratitude to each individual in the volunteer fire service for the fire calls and rescue calls that you bravely answer each year. You are our heroes!



The 2017 Greene County Firefighter of the Year award was presented to Mike Abrams from Eutaw VFD where he serves as the Fire Chief of the department.

A Fireman's Wife

*The table's set, the meals prepared,
Our guests will soon arrive,
My husband once more disappears,
With hope of keeping a child alive.*

*While waiting at home,
Our plans having gone awry,
My first impulse is merely,
To sit right down and cry.*

*But soon again I realize,
The importance of my life,
When I agreed to take on
the duties of a Fireman's Wife.*

*While there are many drawbacks,
I'll take them in my stride,
Knowing "My Daddy saved a life,"
Our children can say with pride.*

*The gusting winds and raging flames,
May be his final fate,
But with God's help I can remain,
"my" Fireman's faithful mate.*

A Message From the Alabama Fire College

Professionalism Is Not Defined By a Paycheck

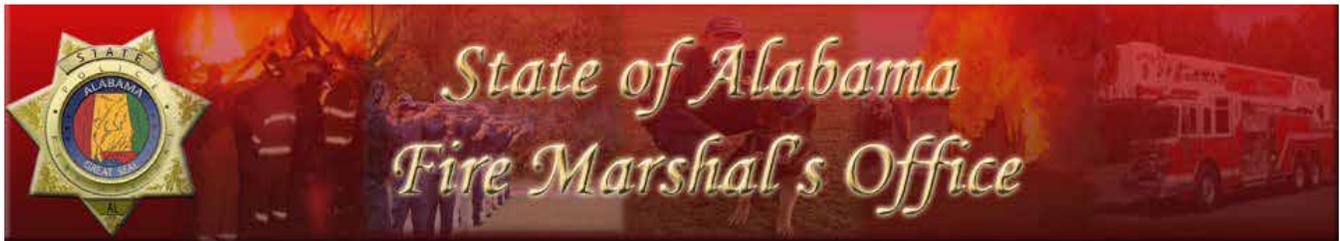
The modern fire service faces many of the same challenges faced a century ago. The availability of a well-trained firefighting force servicing all areas is very dependent on financial resources and the dedication of people to step-up and take action. Cost of equipment has risen exponentially, the amount of funding for departments has decreased, and the need for well trained personnel is increasing. Not all communities can afford the cost of a fully staffed and trained department and the vast majority of those communities rely on volunteers to provide service. In our communities that depend on volunteer organizations, the paycheck does not define the label of professional. Merriam-Webster defines a professional as “a: of, relating to, or characteristic of a profession, b: engaged in one of the learned professions”. In the State of Alabama we have the availability to develop professional firefighters to perform at every level of the profession and receiving a paycheck is not in any of the descriptions of certification. The dedication of the thousands of men and women who volunteer across our great state is evidence of the availability of personnel willing to participate in providing service to our communities in need.

We now need to enhance the professionalism of the dedicated personnel that provide emergency services not only in the expansion of the Certified Volunteer Firefighter program, but continue the education and certification process. There are a host of opportunities for those individuals wanting to provide “professional “ service without the paycheck and the Alabama Fire College through its on-campus, regional, and department delivery courses is one path to achieve that goal. The need for professional development for those personnel providing service without the paycheck is as important as the development of personnel in a metro-size department. If you are a new member or the Fire Chief it is incumbent on you to seek out the available certification and training opportunities, develop a career progression step for each individual and the department. If you need more information concerning certification courses and how to participate, access the Alabama Fire College website <http://www.alabamafirecollege.org> or contact your Regional Coordinator.

Tim Love

Chief of Training

Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards & Education Commission



From the Desk of

STATE FIRE MARSHAL SCOTT F. PILGREEN



State Fire Marshall
Scott F. Pilgreen

Its early 2018 I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Although spring is just around the corner on the calendar and depending on the weather in your area at this moment we remain in the winter season. That said I want to remind everyone of a few things we all can do at our homes, workplaces, etc. in order to protect us against the possibility of a fire.

First, if you or someone you know are using space heaters as a primary or auxiliary heating source make sure these appliances are used properly. Keep them safe distances from any combustible material such as drapes, bed clothing, furniture, etc. If the appliance is a kerosene or LP/Natural gas fueled unit make sure that it has proper ventilation.

Second, if using fireplaces these should be inspected annually to ensure that the flues and chimneys are clear of buildup and there are no cracks or spaces present which could allow embers to escape and cause a fire.

Third, be mindful when using items that have open flames such as candles, smoking materials, i.e. cigarettes, cigars, etc. and outdoor burning. Do not leave candles unattended or place them close to combustible materials, when smoking please discard these items in a safe manner and never smoke while using oxygen, and when conducting any type of outdoor burning be alert to weather conditions such as wind and never leave these fires unattended.

Lastly I want to encourage everyone to develop and practice an escape plan from your home primarily but extend this to wherever you might be. We all need a plan that is well practiced and has become second nature. Should an emergency occur and we find ourselves unprepared the time to develop and practice a plan has passed.



I firmly believe that if we as individuals develop safe habits and behaviors and encourage those in our circles of influence to do the same then collectively all of us can reduce the occurrence of fires as well as the injuries and deaths that are too often associated with them.

Cancer Risk in Firefighting

National Fire Protection Association

Firefighting is a dangerous profession, and a growing body of research and data shows the contributions that job-related exposures have in chronic illnesses, such as cancer and heart disease. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently undertook two large studies focused on firefighter cancer and concluded that firefighters face a 9 percent increase in cancer diagnoses, and a 14 percent increase in cancer-related deaths, compared to the general population in the U.S.

WITHIN THE FIRE SERVICE, not using SCBA and wearing soiled PPE were long considered badges of fire fighter toughness and bravery. For many fire fighters, those perceptions have been costly, and in some cases deadly. Fire fighters who for years didn't regularly wear SCBA or clean their personal protective equipment (PPE) after returning from firefighting incidents have developed various forms of cancer, including lung cancer, and other long-term illnesses. There are even cases of young fire fighters with far fewer years of contaminant exposure who have received cancer diagnoses as well.

Minimizing Contaminant Exposure and Risk: Fire service organizations and individual fire departments have become increasingly aware of the health and safety hazards posed by contaminant exposure, and have been working to educate the fire service about ways to reduce those risks.

At the Fire Protection Research Foundation – the research affiliate of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - three major initiatives are under way to address fire fighter exposure to contaminants on the fireground and beyond.

How Clean is Clean: While general PPE cleaning procedures have evolved as best practices, scientifically established methods for removing toxic chemicals, biological pathogens and other hazardous substances from PPE is lacking. "Validation of Cleaning Procedures for Fire Fighter PPE" (a three-year study due in late 2018) works to identify the contaminants found on PPE and the disinfection/sanitization procedures required to remove them. (See nfpa.org/ppcleaning)

Contamination Control and Beyond: It's quickly becoming recognized that contaminants found on fire fighter PPE are also present far from the fire ground: on hand tools, fire hose, apparatus, stations, and beyond - sometimes even into private vehicles and the homes of fire fighters. The "Campaign for Fire Service Contamination Control" (a one year-study due in late 2017) aims to educate the fire service about the health and safety risks of contaminant exposure in all these locations, and to provide steps for controlling contaminants' spread. Go to nfpa.org/contamination for more information.

Long-term Cancer Study: Medical doctors and others don't fully understand which exposures are responsible for cancer in fire fighters, the mechanisms by which exposures cause cancer, nor the most effective means of reducing exposures. The "Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study" is a long-term (30-year) information collection effort led by the University of Arizona to fully address these questions. Updates will be provided at intervals throughout the study's duration. Go to www.ffccs.org for more information.

Bits and Pieces From Around the State



- Colbert County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments held its annual banquet on October 5, 2017. Channin Goss of Cherokee VFD was awarded the Firefighter of the Year award. New Bethel VFD was awarded the Department of the Year award.

- The Etowah County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments held its annual firefighter banquet on October 19, 2017. The 2017 Don Ayers Award was



L- R Rebecca Martin, Jerry Jackson & Sally McCormick

presented to Rebecca Martin of New Union VFD. The 2017 Alvin Goolsby EMT of the Year was presented to Sally McCormick of New Union VFD.

- Congratulations to Assistant Chief DeWayne Watley, Cedar Grove VFD, for receiving Chilton County EMT of the Year.
- Congratulations to Justin Hosmer for being named Firefighter of the Year at Crossville VFD in DeKalb County on December 2, 2017.
- Owens VFD in Limestone County held an award service on December 2, 2017 to honor their fire chief, Gary Lovell for his 24 years of fire service. Lovell joined the department in 1993 & was appointed chief in 2004. Under his leadership, the department has

purchased four trucks, built a new station and purchased turnout gear and radios for members twice. The department was also instrumental in getting a storm shelter at Station 2. According to his family, Lovell has lung cancer that has spread to his brain. After over two decades of fire service to his community, he will be taking a leave of absence from the department to fight his own battle. The community and the Owens VFD are appreciative for his service.

- Matthew Dudley was named Firefighter of the Year and Bubba Cahela was named Officer of the Year for Florette VFD in Morgan County. The firefighter banquet was held on December 9, 2017.
- Pine Level VFD in Autauga County Firefighter of the Year was presented to Joel Garrett during the department's annual Christmas party and awards presentation on December 9, 2017.
- Firefighters from Hatton VFD in Lawrence County gathered for their annual firefighter banquet on December 9, 2017. Firefighter of the Year was bestowed to Jarrod Kerby and Thomas Hagood was named Officer of the Year.
- Brandon Martin was recognized as Firefighter of the Year for Fulton VFD in Clarke County on December 9, 2017.
- Firefighters from Montevallo VFD in Shelby County were honored on December 9, 2017 with a dinner. Jason Picklesimer was recognized as Firefighter of the Year.

- Green Pond VFD in Bibb County named Josh Martin as Volunteer of the Year and Joseph Hall as Firefighter of the Year in December 2017.
- Ken Trowbridge, North Lookout Mountain VFD (DeKalb County), was voted by his peers as the 2017 Firefighter of the Year.
- The 41st annual AAVFD conference is being held in Florence, Alabama on July 13-14, 2018. The conference is being hosted by the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. All events are being held at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend. It's not too early to prepare your team for the upcoming firefighter competition! For more information on the conference contact Scott Childers, President, (256) 335-3234; Brian Ozier, Vice-President, (256) 627-7209 or Steve McEachron, Treasurer, (256) 810-0914.
- The Washington County Fire Association held its Christmas dinner on December 11, 2017. Awards were handed out to people for their hard work and dedication to their department and community. Congratulations to each person and department for their award. Firefighter of the Year was presented to David Odom of Fairford VFD; Ronnie Brown EMS Award was given to Cody Crager of Laton Hill VFD; Fire Officer of the Year was bestowed to Karen Johnson of Millry VFD; the Dewey Reynolds Chief Award was presented to Timmy Crager of Laton Hill VFD and Department of the Year was presented to McIntosh VFD!
- Grant Lyons was named Firefighter of the Year on December 14, 2017 during the New Brockton VFD (Coffee County) annual Christmas party.
- West Bend/Bethel VFD in Clarke County had a tie for the 2017 Firefighter of the Year award. Wade May and Michael White were both recipients of the 2017 Firefighter of the Year award.
- On December 15, 2017 Oakland VFD in Lauderdale County named Steve Melton Firefighter of the Year.
- Slapout VFD in Elmore County celebrated its annual Christmas Firefighter Banquet on December 15, 2017. Randi Lynn & Cody Bryer were named Outstanding Firefighters for 2017. Sara Coleman was named Rookie of the Year.
- North Montgomery VFD in Montgomery County gathered on December 16, 2017 as a family to enjoy fellowship and food. Jonathan Mosley was selected by peers as the 2017 Firefighter of the Year.
- Mud Tavern VFD in Limestone County held its annual Christmas party and awards banquet on December 16, 2017. Award winners were: Junior Firefighter-Jonah Little, Will-Walker Community Service Award – Brandon Adams, Firefighter of the Year – Ethan Stewart, Rookie of the Year – Hunter Lucan, EMT of the Year – Wesley Lucan and Officer of the Year – Thomas Ennis.



ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations, and State Fire Training Academies. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

The FY 2017 AFG open application period will be Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at 8am ET and will close on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 5pm ET. Please make sure that you have thoroughly reviewed the Notice of Funding Opportunity prior to beginning your application, as it contains the latest updates to the FY 2017 AFG Grant Program. For additional information visit the AFG website.

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Waugh – Mt. Meigs VFD Firefighters Honored at Annual Appreciation Dinner

For the past several years, the men and women at the Waugh VFD have been shown their appreciation by the Board of Directors by hosting a dinner and awards ceremony for the emergency responders, and the night of December 16th was no different.



Seated – Fire Chief Lee Stinson, Laron Butts
Standing L- R Charles Hunter, Mike Green, Steven Kilpatrick, Ryan Moore, Brady Medley, Justin Memory, Mike Cooks. Not pictured Philip Davis & Ken Libben

Firefighters, family and community members gathered at Station #1 for the annual event.

Each year, the fire department selects a Firefighter of the Year recipient. Philip Gamble was named Firefighter of the Year for 2017.

In addition to the Firefighter of the Year award, AAVFD President & Alabama Fire College Commissioner Mike

Green presented coins from the Alabama Fire College INVEST (InState Volunteer Emergency Services Training) program to several of the department's members. These coins are presented to recognize individuals for their dedication to safety and their dedication as a volunteer firefighter. Upon completion of each level, a challenge coin, numbered and assigned is presented during an award ceremony.

Basic coins were presented to Chief Lee Stinson, Laron Butts, Charles Hunter, Asst. Chief Ryan Moore, Brady Medley, Justin Memory, Mike Cooks, Philip Davis & Ken Libben. A Master level coin was presented to Steven Kilpatrick.

Waugh-Mt. Meigs VFD is located in Montgomery County. The annual banquet is one of the department's ways of saying thank you to the volunteers for their service. The evening festivities concluded with sharing words of appreciation and words of thanks for each member's hard work and passion for the profession.



L-R Alma Bowen, Board President, Philip Gamble Firefighter of the Year & Fire Chief Lee Stinson



Cherokee County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

Proudly Presents

Brian Kazmierzak

Saturday, February 17, 2018

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Modern Fire Behavior & Tactics

This class will provide a firsthand look at the UL/NIST Modern Fire Behavior/Dynamics studies and show instructors how they can be delivered and instituted in their fire departments. Controversial to some; so be prepared for some great discussion, but in the end, no one can argue with the numbers and the studies – This stuff will change how the ENTIRE fire service operates...

You don't have to look far for good discussion regarding fire command, control, accountability and especially; fire behavior. This class will provide a firsthand look at the PPV/PPA UL/NIST Modern Fire Behavior/Dynamics studies as well as Tactical Recommendations from the studies as well as some other recent UL/NIST Research involving the modern fireground and fire attack.

- Quick Hit vs. Aggressive Interior Attack?
- Open the roof, break a window or use the fan or not use the fan?
- An interactive presentation on integrating Command with Modern Fire Behavior tactics. Several command, control and accountability LODD case studies will be conducted
- UL Top 20 Modern Tactics
- Dollhouse Fires and learning from the live fire environment
- Instructor delivery tactics and materials

MODERN FIRE BEHAVIOR AND SLICE-RS IS AGGRESSIVE FIREFIGHTING TACTICS – ITS NOT JUST HIT IT HARD FROM THE YARDS AS THE FACEBOOK KEYBOARD INCIDENT COMMANDERS SAY!

Brian P. Kazmierzak, EFO, CTO is the Chief of Training for the Penn Twp. Fire Dept. in Mishawaka, IN. He has a bachelor's degree in fire service administration from Southern Illinois University and serves as the Director of Operations for www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com and the Webmaster for www.ModernFireBehavior.com. Brian was the recipient of the 2006 F.O.O.L.S. International Dana Hannon Instructor of the Year Award, the 2008 Indiana Fire Chiefs Training Officer of the Year Award Recipient and the 2011 ISFSI/FDIC George D. Post Fire Instructor of the Year. In addition, Brian completed the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program in 2006, and is a CPSE credentialed Chief Training Officer serves as a Director at Large for the ISFSI and is on the UL FSRI PPV Research Study Panel. Brian has been a student of the fire service since 1991.

Classes will be held in the "Chamber Room" on the Cherokee County Campus of Gadsden State Community College.

801 Cedar Bluff Road Centre, Alabama 35960

Lunch Provided by NAFECO - Registration is limited to 100 participants.

All Instructors will receive instructional material for future use.

For more information, contact Rich Lindsey by email at rich_lindsey@cherokeegin.com or by phone at 256-484-1229.

Registration services provided by the Alabama Fire College

Visit: www.alabamafirecollege.org or call: 1-800-241-2467 (opt. 7)

The class is being provided at no cost!

THE BELL TOLLED

Bert Campbell passed away December 12, 2017. Campbell was one of the founders and served as the first fire chief of Gallant Fire & Rescue in Etowah County when the department incorporated in 1979. He served the Gallant community for over 23 years.

Janet Larson passed away on November 8, 2017. She was a retired member of the Excel VFD and the Frisco City VFD, serving approximately 12-15 years.

Daniel Smith, age 18, passed away October 7, 2017 as a result of a work related accident. Smith was a volunteer at Stapleton VFD in Baldwin County beginning his service as a Junior Firefighter.

Curtis Newby passed away September 30, 2017. Newby was a Captain with the Mt. Olive VFD in Calhoun County.

Johnny Nichols passed away September 20, 2017 as a result of an automobile accident. Nichols was the Fire Chief of Lawrence Mill VFD in Fayette County.

Thomas Wilson Lovell, age 77, passed away September 8, 2017. He was a lifetime member of Elkmont VFD in Limestone County.

Jana Kaye Hardin passed away on September 6, 2017. Hardin was a member of Meridian VFD in Madison County since 2006 and was currently serving as secretary.

Michael Defee, age 47, passed away unexpectedly August 19, 2017. He was a member of the Luverne VFD in Crenshaw County. Defee served the VFD and community for more than six years.

Kerry Duke passed away on August 5, 2017 at the age of 55. He was a member of the Berlin VFD in Cullman County and will be greatly missed.

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 the day or night: Mike W. Green (334) 309-5026, Derrick Gatlin (256) 998-0043, Dan Hopkins (256) 225-7230 or Honor Guard Commander Daniel Day (251) 267-2527. A copy of the booklet "Death In The Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or at www.aavfd.org.

About the Volunteer: *The Volunteer* is issued three times a year in January, May and September. Articles, information and advertisements for the newsletter must be submitted to the AAVFD office no later than the fifteenth of the month before publication. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections and font.

Other AAVFD Info: All membership information, insurance information, changes of addresses and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery Office.

AAVFD Officers:

President: Mike W. Green

1st VP: Derrick Gatlin

2nd VP: Dan Hopkins

3rd VP: Joey Moffett

Secretary: Mary Jane Sells

Treasurer: Joe Golden

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Green

Executive Assistant: Wanda Jones

Office hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 - 5:00
(334) 262-2833 or 1-888-97-AAVFD

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The Alabama Fire College believes training and dedication go hand in hand. We want to recognize you for your dedication to safety and your community as a volunteer firefighter. That's why we developed **INVEST** (InState Volunteer Emergency Services), an incentive program comprised of four levels of training. Upon completion of each level, a challenge coin, numbered and assigned to you, will be awarded.

Which level do you qualify for?

For more info, contact your Regional Coordinator
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