



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER, 2021

17th ANNUAL ALABAMA FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL SERVICE



The Alabama Joint Fire Council and the Alabama Fire College joined together on October 9, 2021 to remember members of Alabama's Fire Service for the annual memorial ceremony. Twenty-nine additional names were added to monuments that make up the Alabama Fallen Firefighter Memorial. These individuals dedicated their lives to serving their communities.

Volunteer firefighters who were remembered during the ceremony included

Michael Fredrick Tyler
Appleton VFD – EOW 10/20/2019

Michael Wayne Johnston
Equality VFD – EOW 10/18/2019

Donna Jo Horton
Marion VFD - EOW 6/10/2019

Alabama's Firefighter Memorial was built in 2008 to pay tribute to firefighters who made sacrifices in service to their communities. More than two hundred names of Alabama Firefighters who died in the line of duty and/or through ailments or injuries related to the job appear on stone monuments at the Memorial which is located on the campus of the Alabama Fire College.



The **2022 AAVFD Conference** will be hosted by **Colbert County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments** on **July 8-9, 2022**. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Additional information is forthcoming in the January-April edition of the *Volunteer* newsletter and the AAVFD Auxiliary Facebook page.



Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments



From the Desk of ...
Billy Doss, President

Hello to everyone,

By now Christmas and New Years should be over. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Most of all I hope everybody feels good and your families are well.

As the board members know, at our last meeting in Tuscaloosa, we talked about moving meetings North and South but with our Conference going to Colbert County this year. I didn't want everybody in the South to have so much traveling. So our next board meeting will be in Elmore County at their training facility.

I wanted to hold our meeting as soon as possible after the legislative session began. This way we will all know what has been introduced and have time to discuss any legislation that we need to. Also a few other items we all need to discuss.

I want to thank everyone for all the help I have had so far. Thanks to each and every one of you for all that you do!

See everyone soon,

Billy Doss

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ALABAMA FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL SERVICE OCTOBER 9, 2021



SAFER Grants and the Alabama Volunteer Fire Service

For those in leadership at volunteer fire stations there are so many things flying around in their lives that one struggles sometimes to catch everything and put it in the right place. In essence, those in leadership roles at the fire department or association are working another full-time job on top of the busy schedule that life and primary employment thrusts upon them. There is no doubt that keeping up with what is going on in the grant world is difficult since it is just one of the balls that leaders are required to juggle. However, leaders need to pay close attention to that "ball" this year and be prepared to strike. Several Alabama Counties (and individual departments) have been successful in completing recruitment and retention programs that have achieved funding. These recruitment and retention grants are part of the larger Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) through FEMA. <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer>

There are many options and combinations that can be offered to members of volunteer fire departments through this grant. One important thing to remember is that the recruitment and retention portion of the grant has no match so the expense to the department is zero if the department writes its own grant and if you have a grant advocate/consultant working on your behalf, the fee they charge is all that you will owe. The critical thing is to start now with deciding who will host the application in your county and make sure that their FEMAGO and SAM accounts are up to date as this takes about a month to complete. Once that is done there is plenty of data that must be collected and prepared for the application, but this mountain of paperwork is manageable, and the prize is worth the pain.

Here are some options for programs to include in a SAFER grant:

- Pay per call stipends for members that meet certain criteria that your department or association decides upon.
- Providing Cancer Insurance for all members
- Providing Retirement through the Annuity Fund for all members. (This does include the purchase of prior service as one county has already received a grant for this)
- Providing a salary for a recruitment and retention coordinator for your grant
- Advertisements for volunteers
- Scholarships for college, trade school, or EMS programs
- Turnout Gear for recruited members
- Physicals for recruitment members
- Stipends for attending training

The funding is available to establish this program in your area. If you are having trouble maintaining manpower, this will help but it is not the magic bullet. However, we must grasp at every program and dollar we can to help our departments strive and grow so that we can continue to support our primary mission. What is that mission... I think it has become solving every problem in the community that a gun is not required for. Alabama's Volunteer Fire Service is the first and last line of defense for our rural communities.



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Rescue Pumper**
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



**2009 Pierce Arrow
75' Quint**
Waterous 2000 GPM Pump
470 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



2004 Pierce Dash Pumper
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



**2014 Pierce Impel
Rescue Pumper**
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



**2006 Pierce Dash
100' Platform**
Detroit Diesel



**2008 Pierce Dash
Rescue Pumper**
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Tank
Foam System
Caterpillar Diesel



**2011 Pierce Arrow XT
100' Platform**
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Tank
Detroit Diesel



**2009 Spartan Smeal
Rescue Pumper**
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2010 Ferrara
Freightliner Pumper**
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



2010 Pierce Impel Pumper
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



**2006 Custom Fire
Sterling Pumper**
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2008 Ferrara Inferno
107' Aerial**
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2012 Pierce Impel PUC
Rescue Pumper**
Pierce 1500 GPM Pump
900 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



**2010 Pierce
Velocity Pumper**
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



**2013 Ferrara Ember
Rescue Pumper**
Hale 2000 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Tank
Low Miles



**2013 Pierce
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Maxforce Diesel
Low Miles



**2008 Pierce Saber
Heavy Rescue**
Cummins Diesel
Light Tower



2006 E-One 95' Tower
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**2009 Pierce
Velocity Pumper**
Pierce 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank
Cummins Diesel



ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

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FROM THE DESK OF ...



RICK OATES
STATE FORESTER

I don't do this often enough, but today I am going to brag on the people who make up the Alabama Forestry Commission. They are here to serve in many capacities, whether developing a management plan, fighting a wildfire, organizing a landowner tour, installing fire lanes or assisting in the clean up after a natural disaster.

Our Forestry Academy is a great example of their dedication. The original version of this program for new employees ended in the nineties due to budget constraints. The reinstated course gives our new employees consistent training on the "AFC way." These field and program employees spend one month in the fall and one in the spring at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in Andalusia. In the fall they learn to conduct prescribed burns, fight fires and safely operate our heavy equipment. In the spring, classes focus on forestry topics-dendrology, measurements, map making and plan development.

Two groups of people make the Academy successful-the instructors and the students. The instructors are our veteran employees who want to continue to see the agency excel. They devote a considerable amount of time, away from home and family, to help our new recruits learn their jobs. While at the Academy this fall I spoke at length with many of the instructors. Without exception, they were thankful for the opportunity to spend time with our "newbies." They understand that these new folks are the key to our future.

The students at the Academy are our new employees who are eager to learn. These men and women give me hope for the future of the Alabama Forestry Commission. This younger generation is sometimes labeled as spoiled and self-centered. That's not the case with our first- and second-year employees. They are dedicated to their jobs and ready to serve the people of this state. They too give up a great deal of time and are put in difficult situations. But, they understand the importance of learning to operate a bulldozer correctly, as it may one day save their life.

Governor Ivey challenged the previous class during her keynote address at their graduation, "I want each of you to understand the importance of the job you are about to undertake...It is imperative that we remain steady and ready to assist and educate landowners on issues such as fighting wildfires and conducting controlled burns." She understands the importance of the AFC's mission and the role our employees play to help Alabama.

Forest landowners in Alabama can rest comfortably knowing that the employees of the AFC are getting great instruction from well qualified people. We have a great group of men and women who are dedicated to serving Alabama.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

On behalf of the Sells family, we wish to thank the AAVFD, volunteer firefighter/ first responders for the support, love, cards, flowers, and prayers shown during the death of our husband, father, and grandfather, **Darrell Sells**. Your heartfelt guidance and sincere expressions of sympathy during this difficult time was very much appreciated. We love each of you - Mary Sells and family

Hazel Green VFD (Madison County) received a grant award of \$44,271.82 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) under the direction of Federal Emergency Management Agency. This grant is highly competitive having thousands of participants throughout the U.S. each year. This grant will allow Hazel Green VFD to purchase new rescue equipment to better serve the rapidly growing Hazel Green Community, as well as neighboring communities. Congratulations to Hazel Green Fire Chief Steve Watson and the Hazel Green volunteers!

Theodore Dawes VFD in Mobile County announced on December 9, 2021 the promotion of Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Lewis to the role of Fire Chief of the Department. Chief Lewis replaced former Chief Terry Morgan who stepped down from being active fire chief and will become assistant chief. Chief Morgan has been a member of the department for nineteen years, seven of which he has been the active chief. Chief Lewis is a well known and respected member of the first responder community. He has been with the department for twelve years and holds multiple certifications.

The **Old Spring Hill Volunteer Fire Department** in Marengo County was presented an M-1083, a former U.S. Department of Defense cargo truck, through the Firefighter Property Program (FFP), administered through the USDA Forest Service and the Alabama Forestry Commission. This truck was converted into a brush truck that will enhance the wildland firefighting capabilities in the Old Spring Hill community. After meeting all the requirements through the FFP, the Alabama Forestry Commission presented the title and transfer of ownership to the Old Spring Hill VFD on October 16, 2021.



Antioch VFD in Tuscaloosa County was named the Tuscaloosa County Fire Protection Authority department of the year for 2021. The Department was presented the award during the October meeting.



Pictured is AFC Southwest Region Fire Specialist Billy Carlisle presenting the title to the Old Spring Hill VFD to Chief Todd Foster and members of the VFD.

Crossville VFD (DeKalb County) held their annual Christmas party on December 2, 2021. Fire Chief Danny White (pictured) was bestowed the Firefighter of the Year award. This award is voted on by department members.



Montevallo VFD in Shelby County held their annual Christmas Party on December 11, 2021. Firefighter Shannon Blackburn was awarded the 2021 Firefighter of the Year award.

Zip City VFD in Lauderdale County named Terry Borden the department's Firefighter of the Year on December 11, 2021.

Ladonia VFD in Russell County awarded EMS of the Year to Jeremy Dunman, Rookie of the Year to Michael Truesdell and Firefighter of the Year to Randy Collinge.



Jeremy Dunman, Michael Truesdell & Randy Collinge



Theodore Dawes VFD in Mobile County would like to give thanks to their community and Board of Directors as the department took delivery of a new E-One HR100 Aerial. The department continues to hold its promises to provide newer and more capable equipment to provide a better service to the community.

Ladder 27 was dedicated to Robbie Skipper & his son Gabe, which was an emotional event. Robbie's son passed away in an accident that shattered his family's heart in 2012. Robbie faced another setback in 2019 when he was diagnosed with metastatic kidney cancer. He has served the community well for many years as a Captain and Safety Officer. Robbie has remained "Skipper Strong" throughout his fight and this dedication is a reminder for his fellow firefighters to keep up the fight at keeping the community safe. Theodore Dawes Fire Rescue wants him and his family to know that we stand behind him throughout this fight and that his son will always ride shotgun on Ladder 27.

On November 8, 2021, **Bagley VFD** wrapped up an Emergency Care Provider course through the Alabama Fire College in District 2. Departments represented were Bagley, Glenwood and Yerewood (Jefferson County). The course was taught by Bagley Paramedics Preston Crews, Stentsen, Ellenburg and Steven Blackmon. Paramedic Crews serves as Alt. Director for AAVFD District 2.

Tuscaloosa County Fire Protection Association presented the male and female Firefighter of the Year awards during the Exchange Club meeting in October. Tom Clarke of Carroll's Creek VFD was named the male Firefighter of the Year and Barbara Clarke of Carroll's Creek was named the female Firefighter of the Year.



Left to right - AAVFD President Billy Doss, Tom Clarke & Barbara Clarke



Thomas Fitts

Coates Bend VFD in Etowah County held its annual Christmas Party to recognize and honor their volunteers that have a servant's heart for helping others.

Each year the department members choose a fellow firefighter as Firefighter of the Year. This year's recipient is "Bubba" Thomas Fitts.



Waugh Mt. Meigs VFD in Montgomery County held their annual Christmas dinner on December 17, 2021. Philip Gamble (pictured) was bestowed the 2021 Firefighter of the Year award.

Beulah Fire (Lee County) held their annual awards Christmas party December 4, 2021. **Shane McCoy** was named volunteer Firefighter of the Year.



Shane McCoy

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

Caddo-Midway VFD in Morgan County held their Christmas Party on December 11, 2021. They honored the department's work for the year 2021. Jerred Weatherby was named Firefighter of the Year.

Kingston VFD in Coffee County held their annual Christmas Party on December 11, 2021. Firefighter of the Year was bestowed to Eric Gilmore pictured below (left) with Chief Jason Parrish (right).



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Mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Additional information is forthcoming in the January-April edition of the *Volunteer* newsletter and the AAVFD Auxiliary Facebook page.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

Mary Nash of Altoona VFD received the Alvin Goolsby EMS Provider of the Year award given by Etowah County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.



Ashland VFD in Clay County presented the Firefighter of the Year award to Brandon Pollard on December 13, 2021. Brandon Pollard is pictured at left.

Sylacauga VFD in Talladega County held their department's Christmas Party on December 11, 2021. They enjoyed special visits from the Gingerbread Man and Sparky and honored Logan Blake as Firefighter of the Year for his outstanding service to the community.



Logan Blake

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Underwood-Petersville VFD in Lauderdale County held their annual Christmas party and awards dinner December 11, 2021. Robert Lee Spencer was named Firefighter of the Year. Pictured here (left to right) are President Adam Richardson, Chief Joe Maxwell and Robert Spencer.

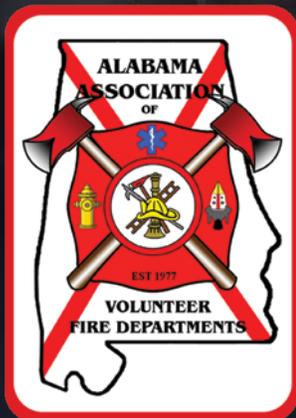
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From the Desk of Matt Russell, Executive Director



I hope you are all happy and healthy these days. There are always so many things for which we should be thankful. I am thankful that our elected officials and our Personnel Standards and Education Commission provide the Alabama Fire College resources to serve you, for our staff whose goal is to make your experience a great one as they interact with you every day, and for your continued support of our efforts to properly serve you. To put into context why I am thankful, following is an update regarding some of the positive things happening here at the AFC:

- In 2020-2021 the AFC issued 10,832 ProBoard/IFSAC certifications-the most in AFC history
- The Personnel Standards and Education Commission just received bids to construct a \$4.1 M building to house AFC assets, add two classrooms/office space, and provide additional storage. This building will protect our assets and thus assist in providing longevity to our equipment and props
- The AFC was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to develop a learning management system. We are in the final stages of development. This system will allow departments and individuals to view and manipulate records via the internet

Chiefs and training officers will have the ability to:

- View and search the roster the AFC has on file for a department
- Filter for upcoming courses by location, county, or region
- View upcoming classes a department has scheduled/view classes a department has taught in the past
- Register personnel for classes
- Pay for the training with either a purchase order or by credit card
- View and print certificates
- Filter for personnel who have or do not have certain training courses
- Change the department roster online (for the tag list)
- Since February 2020 we have been transitioning to the ProBoard/IFSAC Live Fire Instructor crossover course. Beginning in January 2022 the only course available that will qualify you to teach live fire evolutions will be the ProBoard/IFSAC Live Fire Instructor In Charge course.
 - 507 students have been through the crossover course and received the ProBoard/IFSAC certification
 - We have four more classes scheduled prior to January 2022
- Fire Inspector II is now a field delivery course. Those wishing to teach this course must:
 - Be certified as a Fire Inspector II in Alabama and
 - "Shadow" someone who has taught this course in the past so the shadowing instructor understands the course agenda, course flow, intent of the projects, etc.
- Opelika Fire Department was designated by the Personnel Standards and Education Commission as Regional Training Center which means they can teach many of the fee courses

taught at the Alabama Fire College. We are grateful that the City of Opelika has invested in their fire department which has allowed them to acquire this designation.

- The Personnel Standards and Education Commission recently approved for the Alabama Fire College to engage in contractual relationships with federal, quasi-government (airport authorities), and private fire departments so that full-time firefighters at these entities can maintain their career firefighter certifications in Alabama.
- The AFC driving simulator is out of service until further notice. We are evaluating new technology so that when we upgrade this unit it has the most up-to-date equipment available.
- Toby Rigsby (Hoover Fire, trigsby@alabamafirecollege.org) and Jim Terrell (Pelham Fire, jterrell@alabamafirecollege.org) are the Program Managers for the Peer Support Program. Go to Alabama First Responder Peer Support at www.afrps.com or www.firestrong.org to get more information about fire and EMS peer support in Alabama.
- We have recently been notified there are individuals in south Alabama who are soliciting donations on behalf of the AFC. The AFC will never solicit funding from individuals because we are a state funded agency and it would be inappropriate for us to solicit funds from the public. If you witness anyone claiming to represent the AFC in this manner immediately notify your local fire department or law enforcement and contact us here at the AFC.
- We have recently issued serious disciplinary action to fire service members for cheating. Please do not use another's work and claim it to be your own - this is plagiarism. Projects in several AFC courses are part of the testing process. Most of these are individual projects that must be completed without outside assistance. We have seasoned evaluators who use plagiarism software to detect similarities in projects. These are compared to previous projects we have stored in an internal repository. I do not want to issue disciplinary action for these type offenses, and I do not want staff to waste their valuable time conducting investigations when this could very easily be avoided.
- We have cases of suspected falsification of records that are being reviewed by the State of Alabama Attorney General. There are members of Alabama's fire service who have modified or out right created documents that are invalid. I will recommend to the Personnel Standards and Education Commission that we vigorously pursue legal action against anyone who falsifies, fabricates, or modifies AFC forms, documents, records, or certificates.
- NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualification-the new curriculum will be offered beginning in January 2022.
 - Fire Officer I and II will use
- Trench prop has been modified to include a 'walk-out' so that it is now NFPA compliant
- We are planning to upgrade/update the burn building so that we maintain compliance with the NFPA standards
- For more information about any item listed above please contact your Regional Coordinator and if they can not provide direct information, they can get you an answer

As always thank you very much for your support of the AFC. If you have ideas about how your Fire College can improve training within the State of Alabama, please contact me at mrussell@alabamafirecollege.org. We appreciate you, what you do for your communities, and the value you bring to our profession!





KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

Jim L. Ridling
Commissioner

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STATE FIRE MARSHAL
SCOTT F. PILGREEN

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MARK DRINKARD

ASSISTANT STATE
FIRE MARSHAL
BILL HERMAN

MEMORANDUM

To: All Alabama Fire Departments
From: Scott F. Pilgreen, State Fire Marshal
Date: December 14, 2021
Subject: Reporting of Fires

All,

As most everyone that reads this memorandum understands the State of Alabama for several years now has consistently ranked as one of the worst states per capita in the number of fire fatalities and injuries.

During the past decade a number of initiatives primarily by the fire service have attempted to address this problem. While I firmly believe that initiatives like "Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention" and others are helping to address this problem more needs to be done.

In every conversation that I've been a part of with leaders in the fire service and other stake holders there is one constant question, *how to collect comprehensive data?* Complete data is needed so that all stake holders can better identify risks so that messaging to our citizens can be structured to address those concerns in a specific manner. Though general messages during seasonal times have a place and should continue we need all-inclusive information that can assist us in our Fire Prevention/Safety - Community Risk Reduction efforts.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) has been available since the mid 1970's to the fire service to provide a way for fire departments to report their run data to FEMA. However, NFIRS is woefully underused in the State of Alabama. In fact, participation in the program ranges between 35-40% annually.

Celebrating 120 Years of Insurance Regulation
1897 - 2017

Now to restate the question, *how to collect comprehensive data?* The answer is to improve reporting of all fires by the fire service and others.

As such Alabama has a mandatory reporting law of all fires to the Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office. For reference purposes the link below is provided. (See Title 36 Chapter 19)

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/CodeOfAlabama/1975/Coatoc.htm>

Additionally, the reporting requirement can be found in Alabama Department of Insurance (ALDOI) regulation <https://www.firemarshal.alabama.gov/PDF/FM-112-2021.pdf> (see pages 2/3).

Compliance with these reporting requirements can be achieved by fire departments entering their runs into the National Fire Incident Reporting System. By doing so those reports will be stored in FEMA's database electronically.

In 2020 FEMA updated NFIRS from the system that you may have been using to the new *eNFIRS*, which is all online. The updated system is much easier to use as it streamlines the reporting process.

To access the new *eNFIRS* program go to: <https://www.nfirs.fema.gov/NFIRSWeb/login>

Should anyone need assistance with establishing an account for reporting to *eNFIRS* please contact ASFM Mark Drinkard, mark.drinkard@insurance.alabama.gov or ASFM Bill Herman, bill.herman@insurance.alabama.gov

My intent with this memorandum is to raise awareness of the reporting requirements and provide an established method to achieve compliance. Improved reporting by all and specifically increased participation in *eNFIRS* by the fire service will provide all stake holders with the comprehensive data needed which will serve to enhance all Fire Prevention/Safety - Community Risk Reduction efforts. I believe that these efforts built on improved data will serve to change habits and behaviors of our citizens which will lead to a reduction of fire injuries and fatalities.

Please help us be better prepared for our future and as always, if you have a question, feel free to contact me at scott.pilgreen@insurance.alabama.gov or (334) 241-4166.

Sincerely,



Scott F. Pilgreen
State Fire Marshal

Celebrating 120 Years of Insurance Regulation
1897 - 2017

WEEKEND CLASS OFFERINGS FOR ALABAMA VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

Rescue Technician: Rope I	January 8, 9, 29, & 30 All class days are 10 hour days.
Wildland Firefighter (Sponsored by the Alabama Forestry Commission)	January 8, 9, 29, & 30 All class days are 10 hour days.
Volunteer Fire Fighter: Module I (Hybrid)	January 11 - February 27 Orientation: January 8 Skills days: TBD Last classwork day: February 20 Exam: TBD prior to February 27
Rescue Technician: Rope II	February 12, 13, & 26
Strategies and Tactics for Initial Company Operations	February 26-27
Volunteer Fire Fighter: Module II (Hybrid)	February 28 - April 16 Skills days: TBD Last classwork day: April 9 Exam: TBD prior to April 16
Rescue Technician: Vehicle Extrication I & Machinery Extrication I	March 12, 13, 26, & 27
Rescue Technician: Wilderness I/II	April 9, 10, 23, & 24
Fire Apparatus Operator: Mobile Water Supply	May 21-22
Volunteer Fire Fighter: Module III (Hybrid)	April 18 - June 4 Skills days: TBD Last classwork day: May 28 Exam: TBD prior to June 4
Fire Apparatus Operator: Pumper	June 11 - June 26
Hazardous Materials/WMD: Awareness & Operations	June 11, 12, 25, & 26
Rescue Technician: Surface Water I/II	July 9, 10, 23, & 24
Fire Investigator I	Aug 13, 14, 27, & 28

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Published August 31, 2021. Subject to change, visit our website for most current information.



Shinbone Valley VFD Spreads Cheer

The smiles, the laughter, the dancing, and some tears made for a very unforgettable event at



Shinbone Valley Fire Department in Clay County. Milk and Cookies with Santa 2021 and the toy drive for Children's Hospital Sugar Plum Shop were both a huge success again this year. The department has watched this event grow from the meeting room to the entire fire department building. This free event is

held in two parts. The first hour we invite the families from the ARC of Clay County to attend and the second hour is open to the public. Some children have a compromised immune system, and we want to give them the same opportunity to visit Santa without fear of getting sick. The toy drive is held each year for the Children's Hospital Sugar Plum Shop. The hospital holds this event to give parents or caregivers an opportunity to shop for their child in the hospital and siblings at home, totally free. Families of a child in the hospital during the holidays should still be able to have Christmas without the financial burden of shopping. This year, the toy drive was held in memory of Baby Ryleigh Smith.



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ANNUITY FUND UPDATE

The Annuity and Benefit Fund Commission will hold its quarterly meeting on January 19, 2022, at the Alabama Fire College. The Commission will be voting at that time to accept the most recent actuarial report that was provided by funds actuary. This new study recommends that the fund increase monthly benefits to \$100.00 per month and further recommends that the fund have an additional evaluation once the impact from

various county association grant programs is known. The fund has been in existence for eleven years this year and the benefit has grown by \$40.00 in that time period and the growth is expected to continue and the pace is likely to accelerate with the impact of recruitment and retention programs. Please contact the fund today at info@alabamafirefightersabf.org for more information.

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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: Billy Doss (205) 361-6539, Joey Moffett (251) 238-3668, Patrick Nolen (256) 591-7800, Joey Boyd (256) 497-8505 or Honor Guard Commander Jerry Jackson (256) 613-2045. 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 - Billy Doss

1st VP - Joey Moffett

2nd VP - Patrick Nolen

3rd VP - Joey Boyd

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

aavfd@mindspring.com

www.aavfd.org

THE BELL TOLLED

Stuart Samuel "Sam" Cope, age 78, passed away November 30, 2021. Cope was a member of the Franklin VFD in Macon County for ten years. He was a firefighter and the president of the Franklin VFD Fire board. Cope did not miss a call or training, no matter the time of day or night. He was a retired Lt. Commander after twenty years of service in the United States Navy as a pilot.

Earl Dean McKay, age 85, passed away October 28, 2021. McKay was a servant of his community for much of his life and was instrumental in developing Locust Fork VFD in Blount County. He was known for his relentless work ethic and helping hand. He was instrumental in forming many of the other volunteer fire departments within Blount County, dedicating many hours of his life to better equip and prepare the community for the perils of life. His goal was to make his community safer place. McKay led the fire department as Chief in the late 1980's. McKay never missed a chance to put others first, and after retiring from the fire service, he found other ways to keep himself involved within the community.

Horace DeWayne Turner, age 50, passed away October 17, 2021. Turner served the community and Ino VFD (Coffee County) as a firefighter/first responder. He was a dedicated member of the department.

Anthony Thompson passed away September 29, 2021. Thompson was one of the founding members of the Pea Ridge VFD in Shelby County. He was a past assistant chief and board president.

Rickey Ferguson passed away September 29, 2021. Ferguson served the community and Cook Springs VFD (St. Clair county) for fourteen years. He will be dearly missed by all at the fire station as well as so many others.

Paul Jones, age 70, passed away September 13, 2021. Jones was a member of the Hollywood VFD in Jackson County. He became a firefighter with the department in 2012.

William "Bill" Alan Keller, age 93, passed away September 20, 2021. Keller was a farmer and was involved with his community, which he loved. He was a member of the Barnwell Community Association, Brook Cedron Cemetery Administration and an initial Board Member of the Baldwin County 9-1-1, where he served twenty-five years. Keller also served as the President of the Board of Directors of Barnwell VFD, firefighter for six years holding various positions of Captain, Asst. Chief and Chief of the Barnwell VFD for fourteen years. He served during the Korean War Conflict and was stationed in Alaska. His leadership in the Emergency Services of Baldwin County has made it what it is today.

Don Redmon passed away September 18, 2021. Redmon was a member of the Minor Heights Fire District in Jefferson County. He served his community as a member of the Minor Heights Fire District just short of sixty years. Redmon was a dedicated member of the department.

Steve McPherson, age 45, passed away September 11, 2021. McPherson was a dedicated member of the Coosada VFD in Elmore County.

Skip Frazier passed away September 6, 2021. Frazier was a member of the Ellington VFD (Macon County) for over fifty years, a past fire chief and current fire district commissioner.

Milton Darrell Sells, age 63, passed away August 30, 2021. Sells was a member of the McCullough VFD (Escambia Co.) for over twenty-five years. He was a proud member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Sells was an avid University of Alabama football fan, fisherman and hunter.

Willie Lee Hayes, age 59, passed away August 25, 2021. Hays was a true Christian man, loved serving the Lord, his community and was loved by all who knew him. He worked for Tyson for thirty-three years. Hays served twenty-three years at Webster's Chapel VFD in Calhoun County. He will be missed by all who knew him.



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