



# THE VOLUNTEER



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

October – December 2012

## Pell City Bridge Program

Twenty men from across the state gathered this week to participate in the fire department's Bridge Program. Fire Chief Mike Burdette said the program bridges the gap between volunteer and full-time firefighters through a state certification program for firefighters. He said the Pell City Fire Department is the only department in the state to offer

the Alabama State Fire College certification program for volunteer firefighters. After certification, men and women can work fulltime as firefighters. Pell City Firefighter Alan Rickles, who is one of the lead instructors for the program, said the students would go through five weeks of classroom and hands-on training.



## Hoover man charged with attempted murder after firing on firefighters called to his home

By: Carol Robinson – Al.com

Police say a man fired shots at Hoover firefighters early today when they responded to a call for medical assistance at his Lake Cyrus home.

Firefighters were dispatched about 4:30 a.m. to the man's home in the 1600 block of Lake Cyrus Club Drive. As firefighters entered through the front door, police say Phillip Earl Jones Jr. opened fire. The firefighters retreated to a position of safety, said Hoover police Capt. Jim Coker. No one was injured by the gunfire.

Police on the scene took Jones, 45, into custody. He was taken to Shelby Baptist Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries. He was then taken to the Hoover City Jail on

an attempted murder charge, Coker said. He was later transferred to the Jefferson County Jail where he is being held on \$30,000 bond.

Coker said authorities are still trying to determine the man's motive for shooting at firefighters.

The shooting comes just three days after two firefighters were fatally shot and two others wounded when responding to a fire in Webster, N.Y. Authorities there say an ex-con gunned down those firefighters after luring them to his neighborhood by setting a car and a house ablaze early Monday. They say he then took shots at police and committed suicide while several homes burned.

FROM  
THE  
AAVFD  
PRESIDENT'S  
DESK  
BY

*W. A. Neal*

Dear fellow fire fighters,

I hope each of you had a good holiday with you family. I know many of you (myself included) spent Christmas Day responding to tornadoes. The state was quite lucky that only one death occurred with 15 confirmed tornado touchdowns. I spent the evening and late into the night either at a scene or standing by at the station. The EF-2 tornado touchdown in neighboring Pike County caused a lot of destruction and serious injuries but no deaths.

The events in Newtown Connecticut and Webster N.Y. brought much focus on the volunteer fire service. The fire station in New Town was as a place of refuge for the families who lost children in that horrible tragedy at Sandy Ridge School. Then the ambush shooting of the volunteer fire fighters in what was a deliberate set up shooting was another tragedy. Then Hoover FD paramedics were fired upon over the holidays. The danger from deranged persons to fire fighters is becoming an increasing threat. I am working on a article for the spring issue on do's and don'ts. If you remember just four years ago, a deranged individual started a killing rampage in Coffee and Geneva County. This individual's first act was setting his mother's house on fire. Volunteer fire fighters could easily have been his first victims. I tell many first responders, don't get the **Mayberry mentality**. You never saw Barney and Andy's patrol car shot up like the one in Crenshaw county in December. Two deputies on a domestic violence call were ambushed by a drug crazy individual. The individual shot 18 rounds from an assault rifle into the hood of their patrol car. One deputy was slightly injured.

I want to switch to a more positive note. I am planning on obtaining more informative articles in the "Volunteer". Starting this month our EMS representative James Register will have the latest information concerning changes in EMS in this state. I would also like to personally thank Sunbelt Fire's Thomas McClendon and NAFECO's John Wilson on obtaining articles on turnout gear and small engines. I wrote an article on crime scenes or accident scenes.

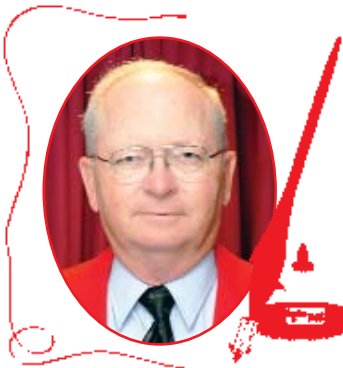
We still need articles or photographs from your area. Please keep sending them in. I hope these articles will provide information that will assist you in making your equipment last a long time into the future.

The State of Alabama has been quite fortunate to have received several million dollars in Assistance to Fire Act Grants. Congress has re authorized these grants. But, the amount of funding Congress still must provide has not been answered. The day before I wrote this letter, the "fiscal cliff" had been temporarily averted by Congress. I attended a FEMA AFG workshop in May 2011. My own fire department had just gotten the email informing us our application had not been funded. The workshop coordinator informed me that my grant had been approved but the funds had run out before they got to me. The coordinator made it very simple. There was a smaller money pie and more fire departments wanting a slice. It would probably get worst in the future. The future is now here.

I want to remind all members that annual dues need to be in by the end of January. Many of you have insurance payments due now. Please send them in as soon as possible.

Be safe, careful, and always remember "everybody goes home." includes you.

*Yours truly,  
W.A. Neal  
President*





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# Recent Delivery

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## A LETTER FROM THE ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE'S ALLAN RICE



As we roll into 2013, exciting things continue to happen for the Alabama fire service. The Fire College is more committed than ever to help you and your department accomplish your goals and keep your community safe. We have recently release our annual report for last year, and we were surprised by how much training is being done across Alabama! With your help, last year we served a total of 21,247 people and taught 1,482 classes. This is a 50% increase in students and a 75% increase in the number of classes over five years ago! You can see the entire report at this link: <http://www.alabamafirecollege.net/docs/brochures/annualreportfy12web.pdf?sfvrsn=6>. These outstanding results are due to the great firefighters in Alabama who are dedicated to their departments, their communities and their fellow firefighters.

We are very excited about the formation of an organization for fire instructors in Alabama. The first meeting was held at AFC several weeks ago, and there were representatives present from all corners of Alabama. These interested instructors came from all different types of fire departments---large and small, urban and rural, career and volunteer---with the goal of starting a group that will help make fire instructors in our state better at what they do. AFC will be helping this effort along the way and will look to this group to give us valuable information about how we can improve training statewide.

Going forward, we are committed to these five core strategies:

- 1) Providing excellent education and training
- 2) Supporting the Alabama fire service
- 3) Promoting higher education for the fire service
- 4) Providing excellent customer service
- 5) Insuring stewardship of public resources

Our staff is gearing all of our efforts toward the achievement of these strategies. Please let us know how we are doing, and what we can do better to serve you more effectively.

Yours in service,  
*Allan Rice*

District 1 – Madison County

## HUNTSVILLE MAN AMONG FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

By: Michael Mercier – The Huntsville Times

Bill Varnedoe one of 12 Southeastern veterans selected to receive the French Legion of Honor for his service during World War II.

A Huntsville man is among 12 American World War II veterans receiving the highest military honor from the French government. William Varnedoe, of Huntsville, was a First Lieutenant with the 385th Bomb Group in the US Air Force during World War II. On Sept. 27, Varnedoe and 11 others will be recognized for their efforts in liberating France from 1944-45. The Consul General of France in Atlanta, Denis Barbet, will award the Legion of Honor on Sept. 27 at the Lenox Building in Atlanta.

The Legion of Honor was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 and is the highest honor in France. It recognizes outstanding service to the French Republic and recipients are designated by the French president.

Bill is a Charter Member of Green Mtn Volunteer Fire Dept. He was also one of the founders of the Madison County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments which had the vision of our County's Fire Service. Which was the first of its kind in the state. They laid out the plan that services all of Madison County's fire protection today. After Bill and others started the Association, this blueprint was used to start the AAVFD.

## PEA RIDGE FIRE & RESCUE ANNUAL LUNCHEON

On December 2, at 1:30 p.m. The members of Pea Ridge Fire and Rescue along with family members met for the Annual Department Lunch. The members brought a variety of casseroles, vegetables and soups, and chili made from deers, elks, and beef. Desserts were plentiful and delicious. The members were presented fire department tee shirts for their dedication to the community. Door prizes were awarded participants. The Fireman of the Year plaque was given to Alan Picklesimer for his outstanding service to his depart-

ment and the community.

Fire Chief Eric Wilson informed the members of new meeting date change and training schedule to be put in place for 2013. The Board of Directors were recognized and the Auxillary was thanked for their work with the meal preparations. Everyone enjoyed the companionship in a more relaxed atmosphere for a change. We wish our fellow fire-fighters a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May everyone enjoy good health and successful runs.



*Pictures are of Fireman of the Year, The firemen and women of the Pea Ridge Fire and Rescue of Shelby County, and the three generations of Brantley fire women: Brenda Brantley (mother), Lauren Brantley (daughter), Cason (grandson) and Stephanie Cleckler.*



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# FIREPLACE AND HOME FIRE SAFETY

Source of Information: US fire Administration

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels.

Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility ...Fire Stops With You!

## Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney.
- Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room. Most glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces that do not have a glass fireplace door.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

## Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.

- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet away from your home and any other nearby buildings. Never empty the ash directly into a trash can. Douse and saturate the ashes with water.

## Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

## Protect the Inside of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

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# UPDATE ON NFPA 1971, STANDARD ON PROTECTIVE ENSEMBLES FOR STRUCTURAL FIRE FIGHTING AND PROXIMITY FIRE FIGHTING

Pat Freeman, Technical Services Manager – Globe Manufacturing LLC

NFPA standards are revised every five years and 1971 is no exception. This is the standard which governs manufacturing of all ensemble elements: helmets, hoods, coats, pants, interface elements and footwear. The current edition of NFPA 1971 is the 2007 edition and the 2012 revision to NFPA 1971 was delayed as a result of motions filed to reconsider some of the new requirements and test methods contained in the document (mainly for boots and for gloves). NFPA is very proud of the fact that their standards are based upon public input, public review, public comment and that anyone who wishes to become involved can have a voice in the standard. The motions filed to reconsider some of the new or revised requirements are an important part of this process and they were presented to the entire NFPA body at its annual meeting in June of 2012. The standard was finally issued in August, with an effective date of August 29, 2012.

First and foremost, the title of the standard was changed from the 2012 edition to the 2013 edition. As with any NFPA standard revision, no new certifications to the 2007 edition were allowed after the new standard became effective. All manufacturers have until August 29, 2013 in which to complete their testing and become compliant. What follows is a listing of the most significant changes to the standard for coats and pants. Please note that the following new or revised requirements should not be interpreted as representing all of the changes to garments.

## FLAME & HEAT TESTING FOR INTEGRATED HARNESSSES

Under the 2007 edition of the standard, there was no provision, requirement or testing procedures for flame and heat resistance on harnesses, even when they were being sold and shipped with an NFPA compliant garment. While the majority of harnesses in use today may not be flame and/or heat resistant, the technical committee responsible for writing the NFPA standard, felt strongly that if a harness was integrated into an FR garment, then it too should meet the same flame and heat resistance requirements as the garment into which it was being installed. It should be noted that this does not mean that all fire fighting harnesses must be flame and heat resistant; it simply means that any harness integrated into a garment must meet that same level of resistance. In conjunction with this, the 2012 revision to NFPA 1983, Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services, includes optional flame and heat resistance requirements that mirror those found in NFPA 1971.

## PRODUCT NAMES ON LABELS

This requirement is that manufacturers must use the exact trade name of the material, as opposed to a generic name. For example, one of the most popular outer shell fabrics used in the fire service has a trade name of Advance™, which is a blend of Nomex and Kevlar fibers. However, there are two other outer shell fabrics that contain those exact same fibers in the same blend, but these outer materials have different trade names: Fusion™ and Crusader™. These different shell fabrics are available to any garment manufacturers, and the mills who produce each of these products will inform you that there is a significant difference in the performance of these outer shell fabrics, based upon the way in which they are woven, finished, and other attributes. But if a garment label only says “Nomex/Kevlar blend”, the end user has no way of knowing which of the three available products he is receiving. By requiring trade names, the labels will reflect the exact material used in construction.

## CCHR - TIME TO PAIN

CCHR stands for conductive, compressive heat resistance and it is a test that is found in the 2007 edition of the standard. The test is performed on shoulders and knees and is intended to provide additional protection in those areas that are likely to be compressed during normal fire fighting duties. The test is to insure that certain areas of the garment provide the same level of protection under compression as do other areas of the garment when they are not compressed. In the 2007 edition, the test measured the time in seconds to achieve a 24° rise in temperature, and the requirement was that this time could not be less than 25 seconds. In the 2013 edition of the standard, this test will be changed from a time for a temperature rise, to a test that measures the actual time to burn; however, the minimum requirement of 25 seconds did not change. The areas to be tested also remain the same; it is only what is actually being measured that has changed.

## HOOK & LOOP REQUIREMENTS

In the 2007 edition of the standard, as in all previous editions, hook and loop is exempted from all performance requirements. However, in the 2013 edition, there will be requirements for peel and shear strength as well as a minimum number of cycles (i.e. the number of times you can effectively open and close the hook to loop) the product must be able to withstand.

*Continued on Page 9*



# UPDATE ON NFPA 1971, STANDARD ON PROTECTIVE ENSEMBLES FOR STRUCTURAL FIRE FIGHTING AND PROXIMITY FIRE FIGHTING (CONTINUED)

Pat Freeman, Technical Services Manager – Globe Manufacturing LLC

## TRANSMITTED & STORED ENERGY

Over the years there have been more and more reports of fire fighters receiving burns under very low heat conditions, even when the garments appear completely unaffected. These burns can be referred to as stored energy burns, steam burns, and/or compression burns. The best example we can give of this phenomenon is when you come in from the outdoors on a balmy January day in New England, and stand with your backside towards a wood stove or open fire place to get warmed up. As long as you remain standing, you will feel warm and toasty; however, if you immediately sit down, compressing your clothing against your body, the warm and toasty can become downright hot! This is because your clothing can absorb the energy (heat) and then transmit it to your skin under compression.

This new test is designed to protect against these stored energy burns and it will be required to be performed on anything that is sewn to the outer shell sleeve. The reason the sleeve was chosen by the NFPA technical committee is because that is where the greatest number of reported injuries seem to be located. In preliminary testing, supported

by the UL certification testing, the real challenge is the required sleeve trim bands and other options, generally coated, that are sewn to the outer shell sleeve as customer options. However, there are various methods that can be used to compensate for this stored energy, and they will be required in any coat that is labeled to the 2013 edition of the standard.

*About the author: Patricia Freeman (a.k.a. Pat) is the Technical Services Manager for Globe Manufacturing Company LLC in Pittsfield, New Hampshire. Pat has been involved with Globe and the fire service for over 30 years and is a 20 year plus member of the Technical Committee for NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, and for NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care & Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting. She served as the Technical Committee Secretary for NFPA 1971 from 1995 until 2007, and remains an active member of the Technical Committees for both 1971 and its associate standard, 1851. She also serves as an alternate on the NFPA Technical Correlating Committee.*

District 2 – Shelby County

## MONTEVALLO FIRE PREVENTION PARADE

Submitted by Linda Boothe-Pea Ridge Fire and Rescue-Shelby County

The Annual Montevallo fire Prevention Parade was held on a beautiful sunny day and many fire departments were represented by the wailing and honking of sirens as the apparatus rolled through town. The Life Saver helicopter flew above the crowd and the children looked on in awe as it maneuvered its way to the park.

Ambulances, Department of Forestry and Alabama Power had floats which later were parked in Orr Park and presentations to the public were on the program for the day. The Alabama Fire College had a burn trailer that firemen practice in on the campus and the younger version "Smoke House" was available for the children.

Montevallo Fire Dept. had set up a mock plywood house

for children to spray water through windows so they could experience the hose and aim for putting out a fire. Vendors had food, shirts, and various craft displays for the public and fire equipment suppliers also had merchandise available. After the 90 plus vehicles were parked for display in the park, the participants were treated to BBQ chicken plates provided by Montevallo fire Dept. Everyone enjoyed the meet and greet session for the fire fighters from other area departments and other agencies that work alongside our volunteers and paid firemen. After lunch the firefighters participated in relays and the winners were recognized for their swiftness and endurance in the events. The parade was a success as always and everyone enjoyed the activities.



# BE EARTHQUAKE READY: GET READY TO SHAKEOUT

By: Art Faulkner – Director

**Clanton** - Tornadoes and Hurricanes are both commonly expected of when you think of severe weather in Alabama, but there is another threat that is often overlooked and that is the potential for an earthquake. Just in the last 30 days, the U.S Geological Survey website shows that Alabama has experienced two earthquakes. The probability of a large earthquake occurring in any specific area within a given time frame is based on several variables including recorded historical seismic activity and geologic setting. Given the geologic settings in Alabama and the Southeast, strong magnitude earthquakes are a possibility. Scientists researching the seismic setting in the Southern Appalachians have estimated probabilities of a large magnitude quake occurring with variations in their estimates.

Earthquakes are not uncommon in Alabama. The largest earthquake on record occurred in 1916 near Birmingham. On Tuesday morning, April 29, 2003, a 4.9 magnitude earthquake occurred in DeKalb County, Alabama, 10 miles northeast of Fort Payne, Alabama. The quake was felt in 13 states. The earthquake was deep enough to suppress significant damage in Fort Payne, the closest city, although the event did damage weaker chimneys and formed cracks in some structures. The majority of the earthquakes are



associated with the Southern Appalachian Seismic Zone (SASZ in northern and central Alabama).

## HOW TO PREPARE:

You are invited to join millions of people who will Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:15.m. on **February 7, 2013 in the 2013 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut!** Last year more than 12.5 million people were registered in **ShakeOut** drills worldwide. Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be

prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes. Here is how you register, log on to <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>.

## What to do During an Earthquake:

**DROP** down on the floor. Take **COVER** under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture. If that is not possible, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors, or tall furniture. If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, **HOLD** on to it and be prepared to move with it. Hold the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.

For more information on earthquake preparedness, visit [ema.alabama.gov](http://ema.alabama.gov), and click on earthquake preparedness.

District 10 – Montgomery County

## PIKE ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOWS SUPPORT FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS.

For the second year in a row, the men and women of the Pike Road Fire Department changed from their blue fire department shirts to wearing pink shirts during October to show their support for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Not only will the Department raise awareness for the disease through pink shirts, the ladies auxiliary are raising funds for the American Cancer Society. All proceeds will be donated.

Over sixty firefighters and ladies auxiliary members attended the Department's inaugural breast cancer awareness event on October 9. The event kicked off with a dinner followed by two presentations from breast cancer survivor, David Barranco and Dr. Robert Avery, MD FACP, Cancer Care Center.

David Barranco was diagnosed with breast cancer in

2004. He spoke of learning to cope and understand the disease. He stated, "if you like most men, you never thought of men having breast cancer." He reminded attendees men can be diagnosed with breast cancer too. Many do not realize men have breast tissue and that they can develop breast cancer. Men benefit for being alert to signs and symptoms.

Dr. Avery said, "With improvements in cancer and early detection most women are surviving breast cancer today." One in eight women will develop breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. Screening and early detection is a key to overcoming this disease. Learning how to detect breast cancer is critical. He strongly encouraged women to have yearly mammograms. Dr. Avery pointed out three key areas in lowering ones risk to having breast cancer: weight control, nutrition and exercise regularly.

## MCCALL VFD RECEIVES CONTRIBUTION

"The Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade" contribution in the amount of \$10K was recently awarded to the McCall Volunteer Fire Department in Escambia County, Alabama. Since the Bucket Brigade Grant Program was established in 2006, Georgia-Pacific has awarded more than \$1 Million in contributions to volunteer fire departments in communities across the country. The picture shows GP's Brewton Mill Manager Jeff Joyce presenting the \$10K donation check to McCall Fire Chief Charles Jackson and members of their department in Brewton, Alabama."



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## 2012 AAVFD Membership – Total 956

### DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN		8 of 10
CHEROKEE	100%	13 of 13
DEKALB	100%	25 of 25
ETOWAH	100%	23 of 23
JACKSON	100%	22 of 22
MADISON	100%	17 of 17
MARSHALL	100%	18 of 18

### DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT	100%	21 of 21
CULLMAN	100%	26 of 26
JEFFERSON		15 of 30
SHELBY		6 of 18
ST CLAIR		18 of 20
WALKER	100%	25 of 25
WINSTON	100%	11 of 11

### DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE		5 of 13
GREENE	100%	14 of 14
HALE	100%	9 of 9
LAMAR	100%	10 of 10
PICKENS	100%	17 of 17
SUMTER	100%	19 of 19
TUSCALOOSA	100%	21 of 21

### DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS	100%	13 of 13
CLAY	100%	18 of 18
CLEBURNE	100%	12 of 12
COOSA	100%	10 of 10
RANDOLPH	100%	17 of 17
TALLADEGA	100%	15 of 15
TALLAPOOSA	100%	13 of 13

### DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA	100%	10 of 10
BIBB	100%	9 of 9
CHILTON		14 of 16
DALLAS	100%	15 of 15
MARENGO	100%	12 of 12
PERRY	100%	11 of 11
WILCOX	100%	10 of 10

### DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR	100%	12 of 12
COFFEE	100%	9 of 9
DALE	100%	13 of 13
GENEVA	100%	10 of 10
HENRY	100%	6 of 6
HOUSTON	100%	17 of 17
PIKE	100%	9 of 9

### DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

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

### DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN		22 of 31
CHOCTAW	100%	14 of 14
CLARKE	100%	14 of 14
MOBILE	100%	19 of 19
WASHINGTON	100%	19 of 19

### DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

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

### DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK	100%	7 of 7
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE	100%	7 of 7
LOWNDES	100%	10 of 10
MACON		2 of 10
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL	100%	11 of 11



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## LAUDERDALE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS HOSTS ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments hosted its annual awards banquet on Saturday, February 11th at Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence. World-renowned comedian and phone prankster Willie P. Richardson from Nacogdoches, Texas provided entertainment for the evening.

As a part of the event, the LCAVFD was honored to display a piece of World Trade Center steel that was donated to the Alabama Fire College by the Terry Farrell Fund last summer. The steel remnant, which will become part of a permanent memorial at the fire college, was part of a structural beam that fell and killed Farrell (a decorated FDNY firefighter and volunteer fire chief) and other members of FDNY Rescue 4 in the attacks of September 11, 2001. John James, Regional Coordinator for the Alabama Fire College, escorted the steel to Lauderdale County and shared its history during the banquet. The steel and memorial display was also open to the public during the afternoon hours leading up to the banquet so the public could have the opportunity to experience this unique piece of American history.



John James, Regional Coordinator for the Alabama Fire College, escorted the steel to Lauderdale County and shared its history during the banquet. The steel and memorial display was also open to the public during the afternoon hours leading up to the banquet so the public could have the opportunity to experience this unique piece of American history.

**David Charles** (Center Star VFD) was recognized for three years of service to the association as a past board member and executive officer of the LCAVFD.



For the fourth consecutive year, Scott Moore from Municipal Emergency Services (MES) presented the Fire & Life Safety Day Extrication Award to the **Underwood-Petersville Volunteer Fire Department**.

**O'Reilly Auto Parts of Rogersville** was recognized as the Small Business Supporter of the Year and **Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. (MES) Southeast** was recognized as Business Supporter of the Year.

**Jim Hulsizer** (Mid-Lauderdale VFD) was presented with the Parking Attendant of the Year award for his involvement with the association's 16th annual parking fundraiser at the North Alabama State Fair.

Steve McEachron, of the Alabama Forestry Commission, presented **Cloverdale Volunteer Fire Department** with the Smokey Bear Award, which is based on the department's training, fire control, fire prevention, equipment maintenance, and cooperation.

**Eva Kavich** (Waterloo VFD) and **Tiffany Hale** (Central VFD) were awarded the Individual Fire Prevention Award. **Tina Hendrix** (Rogersville VFD) was presented with the Ladies Auxiliary Individual of the Year. **Bobby Forsythe** (Waterloo VFD) was presented with the EMS Star of Life Award.



The Fire Chief of the Year award was presented to Fire Chief **Tony Eckl** (Underwood-Petersville VFD) for exceptional contributions over the past year. The "People's Choice Award," also known as the Fire

Department of the Year, was awarded to **Zip City Volunteer Fire Department**. The recipient of this award is selected by the association's general membership each year.

**Jessie Pollard** (Underwood-Petersville VFD) was named Rookie Firefighter of the Year.



**Chris Ramsey** was selected as Firefighter of the Year. Ramsey currently serves as Deputy Chief of the Rogersville VFD and is a career firefighter & paramedic with the City of Madison. Ramsey was instrumental in obtaining new extrication tools, a new medical response vehicle, and special response trailer for the Rogersville VFD. He has established a local training program and conducts weekly firefighter training sessions. Ramsey has become a mentor to members of the department's cadet program and has a genuine concern for all. Following the tornadoes of April 2011, Ramsey took off work and volunteered for search & rescue, clean up, and organized a food and clothing drive to assist storm victims. He is actively involved with Rogersville's fundraising efforts. His supportive wife, Brittney, is actively involved as the department's official photographer. Deputy Chief Ramsey received a plaque commemorating his award, as well as a traditional fire helmet donated by Municipal Emergency Services and an engraved desk clock.

The banquet was dedicated to the memory of **Terry Lovelace** who passed away on February 9, 2012 following an extended illness. Lovelace was a founding member of the Central Volunteer Fire Department where he served for 37 years, over 25 as chief. Chief Lovelace left a legacy that will not soon be forgotten by members of the Lauderdale County fire service.

# BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN

## FIRE APPARATUS, LLC



**2007 E-One 95' Mid-Mount Platform**  
 Cummins 500 HP, Allison Automatic  
 Hale 8GFR 2000 GPM Pump  
 250 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Monitor in Platform



**2004 American LaFrance 93' Platform**  
 Detroit 500 HP, Allison 4000EVS  
 Hale 1500 GPM Pump  
 200 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Harrison Hydraulic Generator  
 Breathing Air to Platform



**2004 Pierce Dash 75' Quint**  
 Caterpillar 455 HP Diesel Engine  
 Allison EVS 4000P Automatic  
 Hale QMAX 1500 GPM Pump  
 450 Gallon Poly Tank



**2002 Pierce Lance 75' Quint**  
 Cummins ISM 500 HP, Allison HD 4060P  
 Waterous CMU 2000 GPM Pump  
 500 Gallon Poly Tank  
 8KW Hydraulic Generator  
 Automatic Tire Chains



**2000 American LaFrance 50' Telesquirt**  
 Detroit Series 60, Allison HD  
 Waterous CS 1250 GPM Pump  
 500 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Aerial Waterway, Arrowstick  
 Automatic Tire Chains



**2001 Ferrara / Spartan 105' Aerial**  
 Diesel Engine, Automatic Transmission  
 Hydraulic Generator  
 Hydraulic Reel in Bumper



**1997 E-One Hurricane 50' Teleboom**  
 Detroit Diesel, Allison Automatic  
 Hale 1250 GPM Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Combination Monitor at Tip  
 Hydraulic Ladder Rack



**2000 Pierce Dash 100' Platform**  
 Detroit Series 60, Allison 4060PR  
 Waterous 1500 GPM 2-Stage Pump  
 300 Gallon Poly Tank  
 2 - 1500 GPM Monitors  
 10KW Hydraulic PTO Generator



**1996 E-One Hurricane 105' Platform**  
 Detroit 8V92 500 HP Diesel Engine  
 Allison HD4060 Automatic Transmission  
 Hale QSMG 1500 GPM Pump  
 150 Gallon Poly Tank  
 6KW Hydraulic Generator



**2004 Spartan Walk-In Heavy Rescue**  
 Cummins ISC 330 HP, Allison EVS3000  
 Onan 10KW PTO-Driven Generator  
 6-Bottle 6000psi Cascade System  
 Hitch Receivers on Front and Rear  
 Awning on Driver's Side



**1994 Freightliner Heavy Rescue**  
 Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel Engine  
 Allison Automatic Transmission  
 Winco 20KW PTO Generator  
 Wilbur Light Tower



**2008 Crimson / Int'l 4x4 Interface Pumper**  
 Navistar 300 HP, Allison 2500EVS  
 Waterous CXV 1000 GPM Pump  
 500 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Hale HPX300-B18 Auxiliary Pump  
 FoamPro 1600 System



**1999 3D / Int'l 4x4 Interface Pumper**  
 Int'l DT466 Diesel Engine  
 Allison MT643 Automatic  
 Darley HE 500 GPM Auxiliary Pump  
 250 HP Diesel Pump Engine  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank



**2007 Pierce Velocity Rescue Pumper**  
 Detroit Series 60, Allison 4000EVS  
 Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Huskey Foam System with CAFS  
 LED Lighting Package



**2007 Ferrara Intruder Rescue Pumper**  
 Cummins ISC 330 HP, Allison 3000EVS  
 Waterous CSM 1500 GPM Pump  
 1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Seating for 6 - 5 SCBA Seats  
 Booster Reel, Slide-out Rear Tray



**2004 American LaFrance Rescue Pumper**  
 Cummins 330 HP Diesel Engine  
 Automatic Transmission  
 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Foam Pro 2001 A&B Foam System



**2003 Pierce Dash Rescue Pumper**  
 Detroit 500 HP, Allison Automatic  
 Waterous 1250 GPM Pump, Hercules CAFS  
 1000 Gallon Poly Tank, 2 - Foam Cells  
 Harrison 5KW PTO Generator  
 Command Light Tower



**2000 Central States Rescue Pumper**  
 Cummins ISM, Allison MD3066  
 Hale DSD 1500 Side-Mount Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Class B ATP Foam System  
 FoamPro 1600 Class A Foam System



**1999 Ferrara / Spartan Pumper Tanker**  
 Cummins 330 HP Diesel  
 Hale QSG 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
 2000 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Dump Valve in Rear  
 Mileage: 30,606



**1998 Saulsbury / Spartan Rescue Pumper**  
 Detroit Series 60 470 HP Diesel  
 Allison HD4060 Automatic  
 Waterous 2000 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 800 Gallon Poly Tank

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# BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN

## FIRE APPARATUS, LLC



**1998 HME Rescue Pumper**  
 Detroit Series 40 Diesel  
 Allison WTEC1111 Automatic  
 Hale 1250 GPM Pump w/Enclosed Panel  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Onan Generator



**1998 E-One Custom Pumper**  
 Diesel, Automatic  
 Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Mileage: 58,000



**1997 KME Custom Rescue Pumper**  
 Detroit 325 HP, Allison MD3060P  
 Hale QSMG 1500 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
 900 Gallon Poly Tank, Foam System  
 2 - 10 Gallon Foam Cells  
 Aluminum Hose Bed Cover



**1997 KME Renegade Custom Pumper**  
 Detroit Series 60 400 HP Diesel  
 Allison HD4060 Automatic  
 Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 500 Gallon Polypropylene Tank



**1996 E-One Custom Pumper Tanker**  
 Detroit 8V92 370 HP Diesel  
 Allison HT740D Automatic  
 Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 1900 Gallon Poly Tank



**1995 Pierce Saber Rescue Pumper**  
 Detroit Series 40, Allison MD3060  
 Waterous 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Generator, Automatic Tire Chains  
 Aluminum Hosebed Cover



**1994 E-One Sentry Custom Pumper**  
 Cummins 300 HP, Allison MD3060  
 Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Automatic Tire Chains



**1993 KME Renegade Rescue Pumper**  
 Caterpillar 8.3L 300 HP, Allison MD3060  
 Hale QSG 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Gillette 6000W Hydraulic Generator  
 Hydraulic Ladder Rack



**1991 E-One Pumper Tanker**  
 Detroit 8V92, Allison HT740  
 Have QSMG 1500 GPM Pump  
 2000 Gallon Water Tank  
 Feecon Foam System  
 Onan 7.5KW Generator



**1989 E-One Hurricane Rescue Pumper**  
 Cummins NTC 400 HP Diesel  
 Allison HT4060 Automatic  
 Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 500 Gallon Poly Tank  
 8000# Winch on Front Bumper



**2008 Kenworth Rescue Pumper**  
 Paccar PX-8 Diesel, Allison 3000EVS  
 Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 500 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Hale Foam Logix  
 Backup Camera, LED Lighting



**2003 E-One / Peterbilt Pumper Tanker**  
 Cummins ISC 330 HP, Allison MD3060P  
 Hale QFLO 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 1500 Gallon Poly Tank  
 FoamPro A & B Foam System  
 6KW Hydraulic Generator



**2002 Pierce / Int'l Foam Pumper**  
 Int'l DT530 330 HP, Allison Automatic  
 Waterous 1250 GPM Pump  
 1000 Gallon Poly Foam Tank  
 Husky Foam System  
 Mileage: 6,880



**2002 Pierce / Int'l Rescue Pumper**  
 Int'l 330 HP Diesel, Allison MD3060  
 Waterous 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 500 Gallon Polypropylene Tank  
 FoamPro System with 2 - 10 Gallon Cells  
 AMPS PTO Diesel Generator



**2001 Sutphen / Int'l Rescue Pumper**  
 International CL 300 HP Diesel  
 Allison MD3060 Automatic  
 Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 500 Gallon Fiberglass Tank  
 Onan 4KW Gas Generator



**2000 ALF / FL 4x4 Pumper**  
 Cummins 350 HP, Allison MD 3066  
 Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
 950 Gallon Poly Tank  
 Feecon Foam System



**2000 ALF / Freightliner Pumper**  
 Cummins 300 HP Diesel  
 Allison MD3060 Automatic  
 Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 750 Gallon Poly Tank



**1998 E-One / Int'l 4x4 CAFS Pumper**  
 Int'l 210 HP, Allison Automatic  
 Pneumax 120-60 CAF System  
 400 Gallon Water Tank  
 20 Gallon Foam Tank  
 Winch on Front Bumper



**1997 Pierce / FL Rescue Pumper**  
 Cummins 300 HP, Allison MD3060  
 Waterous CS 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
 500 Gallon Poly Tank  
 10KW Generator, 3000W Light Tower  
 12,000# Winch in Front Bumper



**1996 International Pumper Tanker**  
 Cummins 300 HP Diesel Engine  
 Waterous 1000 GPM Side Mount Pump  
 2500 Gallon Poly Tank

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## ETHANOL FUEL

In my travels over the past couple of years I have seen ethanol fuel become one of the worst enemies of the fire service. It has hindered us from doing some of our most critical duties as well as day to day duties. It has affected the equipment we use to save lives such as gas powered pumps, hydraulic power units for rescue tools, positive pressure ventilation fans, and ventilation saws. It has also affected the lawn mowers and weed eaters that we use around the station. You have probably even been faced with this same problem at home.

In the past fuels would go several months before starting to go bad. In my experience ethanol fuel will start the process of clogging up carburetors in three to four weeks if the engine is not run. Ethanol fuel has been very detrimental on fuel lines and fuel tanks. It can also cause engines to lock up. Right now the fuel we are using is E10. The government has signed a mandate that E85 fuels can be sold now and this is going to only worsen problems. There are only a few automobile engines designed to run on E85. All small engines at this point are approved and warrantied for up to E10 fuel only. General rule of thumb, if you're running an engine that was manufactured before the year 2000, you will experience continuous problems with all ethanol fuels.

Here are a few tips to try to help you deal with the day to day problems that we face with ethanol.

- 1) Try to purchase non ethanol fuel. However be careful when purchasing non ethanol fuel to get

high enough octane. Most small engines require at least 89 octane. In most cases non ethanol fuel is only 87 octane. In which case you will have to add octane boost to the fuel to avoid fouling spark plugs.

- 2) Purchase fuel specified for small engines. NAFECO carries the products 40 Fuel and 50 Fuel premixed for Vent saws, K12 Saws, Chainsaws, & Weed eaters. This is a non ethanol fuel.
- 3) Stabilize ALL fuel!!! There are several fuel stabilizers on the market. Some of the ones that manufacturers recommend are Seafoam & Startron. There are also some products on the market now by STP, Lucas, and other manufacturers specifically for ethanol fuel. These products can be used alone or in conjunction with the products above.
- 4) You should crank your small engines at least once a week. Once started they should run at least 10 to 15 minutes. Run time is very important. This will achieve two things. One it will allow the old fuel to pass out of the carburetor and second it will bring all fluids up to operating temperature. This will also reduce the chances of spark plugs fouling out. After each time the engine is run, all fluids should be checked and topped off to assure the tool is ready to perform when needed.

John Wilson

NAFECO

334-324-3475

[jwilson@nafeco.com](mailto:jwilson@nafeco.com)

## SPACE HEATER SAFETY

All heaters are dangerous if not used properly, so electric heaters must be selected and used with care:

- All portable heaters should bear the mark of an independent testing laboratory indicating that the heater has met basic safety standards.
  - Be sure to use a space heater according to the manufacturer's instructions.
  - Only use heaters that are equipped with automatic safety switches that turn off the unit if it is tipped over accidentally.
- Check the cord before plugging in the heater; if frayed, worn or broken, do not use it.
- Never use an extension cord with a portable heater.
  - Keep portable electric heaters away from sinks, tubs and other wet or damp places to avoid deadly electric shocks.
  - Keep all space heaters at least three feet away from curtains, bedding, newspapers or anything that might burn.
  - Never leave the heater unattended keep children and pets away and never leave the house or go to bed without turning off the heater.
  - Do not hang items to dry above the heater.



# FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO CHRISTMAS NIGHT TORNADOES



"Luverne VFD searched debris for victims on Christmas day 2012 following a tornado touchdown at approximately 4:30 p.m."

## "CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least twelve inches away from anything that can burn.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.
- Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

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## ACCIDENT SCENE



The purpose of this article is to educate and inform first responders about traffic accident scenes. It is in no way intended to condemn or criticize the actions of those responders involved. I have been a first responder for over 45 years. I worked as a state trooper, police officer, rescue squad EMT, and a volunteer fire fighter.

As part of my duties as a state trooper, I was assigned as a traffic homicide investigator (THI). I later attended over 500 hours of accident reconstruction training. I twice assisted the National Transportation Safety Board in major incident investigations in Alabama. When I retired, I had investigated over 151 fatality type accidents that took the lives of 172 people. I served as an instructor in THI schools at the Selma Criminal Justice Training Center. I was called upon many times to reconstruct accidents after the incident occurred. I assisted district attorney's (DA) in criminal prosecutions and case preparation across the southern third of the state.

I got a call on a Wednesday from the Highway Patrol THI coordinator to go to Dothan and assist a DA in a criminal prosecution. At this point, I had zero knowledge of any facts of the case. When I got to Dothan the next day, I learned a jury trial was set to start on Monday. The defendant was a suspected drunk driver who was involved in an accident about a year before. The suspect had killed nearly an entire family in a head on collision. The mother, father, and one child were dead. The surviving child was in a severely incapacitated physical and mental state. Furthermore, the suspect's family had hired a high powered defense attorney to defend their son. The defense attorney had hired a retired state trooper THI to testify for the drunk driver. The defense attorney had found a major hole in the prosecution's case. There was no on-scene evidence to prove the suspect vehicle was on the wrong side of the road. The reason there was no on scene physical evi-

dence was that the volunteer fire department had covered the scene with foam and washed down the entire roadway. The blood alcohol sample was obtained properly and would be admitted into evidence. But, the fact remained, the prosecution had zero physical evidence to show the suspect was on the wrong side of the road. I scrutinized both the scene and vehicle photographs. I was able to find two photos that I could use to show the victim's vehicle was perfectly in their lane when impact occurred. But, we still needed more physical evidence. I played a hunch from previous experience. I checked with the local newspaper. Remember, this was before i-phones or even cell phones were in widespread use. The local editor had shot a few frames. The DA immediately subpoenaed those frames and we got them enlarged. The black and white photo in this article is one of those newspaper frames. It clearly shows a well meaning fire fighter probably doing what he was told to do. The fireman was hosing down the scene. But while doing his job, he was destroying physical evidence that could not be replaced. If you look closely just to the left of the hose nozzle water hitting the roadway surface, you will see a tire scuff mark. This mark ended up being the piece of evidence the prosecution needed.

The case went to trial that Monday. The jury heard testimony for seven days. The suspect was convicted of all charges. The conviction was appealed to the appellate courts and affirmed. During our numerous discussions with the DA on how to present the case, we nearly had to tell the family members that the same first responders that were trying to save their loved ones, were the persons responsible for destroying the physical evidence we needed to send the suspect to prison.

A few years before the Dothan case, I was sent to Conecuh County to follow up on another case. This time things were the exact opposite. A father was car-

*Continued on page 25*

# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

Many thanks to the departments that have already sent their dept. patch for our office "Wall of Patches". New patches have come from Craig VFD and Boldo Fire & Rescue. Please send your department patch in if you have not already done so.

## RIVER REGION CPR

**Mission Statement:** To provide the best, most accurate possible by providing classroom as well as hands on lecture. To ensure that the guidelines of the American Heart Association are followed, and to ensure that the student receives top of the line accuracy and proper instruction from providers with a emphasis on teaching.

**Values:** Our greatest asset is the customer in which we provide a service, a service that the customer and student will carry with them. A knowledge of how safely and effectively provide urgent emergency care to those in need until proper Emergency Care and Transport can arrive. Our greatest value is an open mind and a willingness to learn.

I, Brantley Greene provide onsite instruction in the following: CPR, First Aid, & AED, CPR friends and family, Heartsaver AED & CPR, CPR & AED in schools. Please contact me for more information on group discounts. Email is ambulanceman378@yahoo.com or call 1-334-850-7796.

It is time for individual license renewal for EMS. Everyone renewing in 2013 will be required to provide a

copy of his or her National Registry card and proof of full Alabama Patient Care

Protocol completion. Online registration is available at [adph.org](http://adph.org) then click on EMS Trauma. Registration is from January 1, 2013 through midnight on March 31, 2013, there is an additional charge of two dollars for online registration. Check the December 2012 newsletter for a list of Protocol verification for each level. In light of some recent events, let us take this time to remind ourselves to always be safe. Scene safety and the utilization of protective and reflective equipment should be a priority. We all want to go home to our families at the end of the day.

The Alabama Fire College is hosting Fire College Week March 6th -March 10th 2013. Registration is now open, visit [www.alabamafirecollege.net/news](http://www.alabamafirecollege.net/news).

Courses being offered are:

- EMT Refresher
- Live Fire Instructor
- 12 Minutes of Decision-Making
- Chainsaw Techniques for Handling Storm Damage
- RT: Crash Victim Extrication
- Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory Awareness
- Ethanol: Response Considerations

## STATE OF ALABAMA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

The election of officers was held on October 20, 2012. Thanks to all who have participated and shown an interest in the auxiliary. A special thank you to those who have committed and dedicated time to serve the organization for the next two years. We would like to wish the best to the first incoming officers in our newly formed state-wide auxiliary.

The auxiliary has selected the following individuals as the 2012-2014 officers: President - Debbie Green (Pike Road VFD - Montgomery County), Vice-President - Doris Jackson (Ivalee VFD- Etowah County), Secretary - Rindy Vaughn (Cuba VFD - Sumter County), Treasurer - Della

Wade (Theodore & Tillman VFD - Mobile County), and Parliamentarian Whitney McClelland (AAVFD).

The auxiliary is ready to reinforce and give a helping hand to the AAVFD when needed. The auxiliary was created for the purpose of aiding and assisting local fire departments as well as creating a connection with other departments across the state. We are ready to assist in providing guidelines for organizing local organizations, growth and training. Other objectives of the organization are bringing advancement of harmony and good fellowship among the departments throughout the state.

**If you are interested in learning more or becoming involved in the auxiliary, please contact the AAVFD office at (334) 262-2833.**

# FIREFIGHTERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE SATURDAY

The Monroe County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments held its first-ever fire prevention parade last Saturday in Monroeville followed by a cookout and awards ceremony at Monroeville's Veterans Park.

The association recognized firefighters, fire departments and individuals who contribute to the fire service in other ways during the ceremony.

There was a tie for Fire Department of the Year between Mexia and Uriah, and the fire chiefs from those departments - Shay Harper from Mexia and Eddie Snow from Uriah - were also recognized at Chief of the Year.

Firefighter of the Year honors went to Robert McPherson of Frisco City and Bryan Hill with Uriah.

Tammy Raines with Mexia received the Female Firefighter of the Year, and Larry McCrory with the Monroe County Rescue Squad was named Rookie of the Year.

A new award this year was the Rusty Till Lifesaver award, which went to Finchburg Chief Darren Sheffield for using the skills he learned in a basic emergency medical class to save a woman's life earlier this year.

Ellen Jaye, who is a member of the Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department and works with Simmons Ambulance Service, was named EMS of the Year. Jaye and fellow Simmons Ambulance personnel Matthew Casey, John Higginbotham and Kathleen Meade were recognized for their work on a fatal wreck in south Monroe County as well.

Adam McKinley and John Adams from Mexia and Jimmy Stokes of Excel were honored for being injured in the line of duty.

Receiving certificates of appreciation for their contributions to the fire service in Monroe County were Stuart Richeson, State Farm Insurance; GP Cellulose; United Way of Monroe County; Woodmen of the World Lodge 1896 in Evergreen; Peggy Jaye with GP; Beat 7 Constable Robert Knight; Eddie Wilson and Roy Maye with the Alabama Forestry Commission; Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments President Chauncey Wood; EMA Director J.T. Johnston; association board members Rod Sims, Tammy Raines and Mary O. Smith; Monroe County Rescue Squad Captain Joey Castillow; Chuck Murph with Alabama Department of Homeland Security; and Journal Staff Writer Josh Dewberry.

The members of the county's recently organized honor guard were presented with custom county fire association patches for their uniforms.

All departments in the county, as well as the Rescue Squad and EMA office received a certificate and an American flag donated by Woodmen of the World in Evergreen.

County association President Daniel Day thanked everyone who contributed to the events Saturday.



*Matthew Casey and Ellen Jaye accept awards from Murph.*



*Murph presents Mexia Fire Chief Shay Harper the Chief of the Year award. Uriah Chief Eddie Snow was unable to attend the service.*



*Tammy Raines, right, accepts Female Firefighter of the Year award.*



*Robert McPherson, left, and Bryan Hill, right, accept Firefighter of the Year honors from Murph.*



*Mexia firefighters accept the Department of the Year award.*



*From left, Harper, McKinley, retired Mexia Chief Luther Godwin, Adams, Stokes and Excel Chief Tim Casey.*



*Uriah firefighters accept the Department of the Year award.*



*Larry McCrory, left, is named Rookie of the Year.*



*Sheffield, right, receives the Rusty Till Lifesaver award from Donna Till, wife of the late Rusty Till.*

# 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.

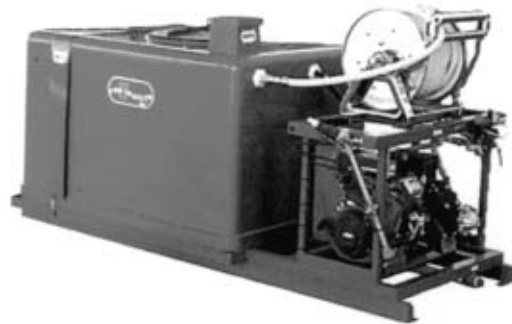
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### 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.

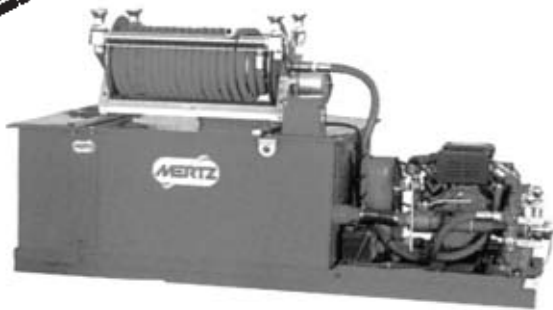
- Maximum Pressure: 560 PSI
- Maximum Volume: 26.0 GPM
- Maximum Speed: 550 RPM
- Number of Cylinders: 4

FD-18V-300 L



Low Cost

MERTZ, INC.



#### 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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## THIRD ANNUAL FIRE EXPLORER WEEKEND

The third annual Fire Explorer Weekend was held at the Alabama Fire College campus in Tuscaloosa November 3 and 4, 2012.

It was a great weekend of training for the future fire fighters of the Alabama fire service.

There was a total 118 explores in attendance, with 50 adult advisors and instructors to assist in the training. There were 19 different Explorer Posts represented from all over the state.

Training evolutions included Rapid Intervention and Fire Fighter Survival, Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue,

Fire Extinguisher selection and use, Live Fire Attack and Fire Hose and Search Evolutions.

The next youth fire fighter training opportunity will be June 3-7, 2013. The Fire College will be hosting the first annual week long Alabama Youth Fire Academy. The planning for this program is in process and will be published after the first of the year. Planning is also in the works for the 4th annual Fire Explorer weekend 2013

Keep a check on the Fire College web site for future up dates on these programs and other offerings through the Alabama Fire College. [www.alabamafirecollege.org](http://www.alabamafirecollege.org)

District 10 – Montgomery County

## PRVFD FIREFIGHTERS TEACH FIRE SAFETY TO MACON EAST STUDENTS

October was fire safety month. To the amazement of more than 120 students at Macon East Academy, a bright red fire truck along with the Children's Fire Safety House rolled up on October 10. There was no fire alarm - just hands-on fire safety lessons every child needs. Pike Road firefighters "answered the call" as part of the school's annual safety program, which brings Pike Road fire fighters and first responders to speak to classrooms.

The PRVFD firefighters engaged with the kindergarten through third grade students at Macon East Academy. Students had the opportunity to meet firefighters and learn about clothes firefighters wear and equipment they use to fight fires. Students were taught how to stay safe and escape a fire. Afterwards, they were able to practice and perform what they were taught by touring the Department's Children's Fire Safety House.

A special guest was also in attendance with the firefighters. Sparky, the fire dog is an important member of the team at Fire Station Number 1. Sparky, escorted through the halls by firefighters Scott Powell, BJ Green, Andrew Parker and Barry Glassford, spoke to each class and shared fire safety tips along the way. At the end of the fire safety presentation every student received a fire prevention-themed bag of

goodies, filled with crayons, stickers and coloring books.

Mrs. Johnson said, "We look forward to Pike Road Fire Department's fire prevention program because it is never too early to learn about fire safety and prevention. The children are fascinated by the firefighters dressed up in their gear, they pay attention, and I think that Chief Mike Green and firefighters enjoy interacting with the children."



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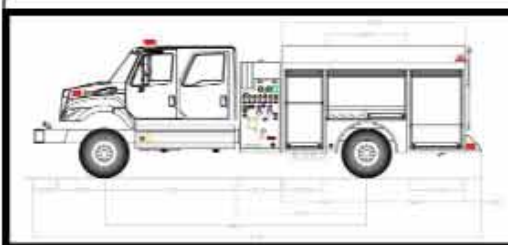


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## ACCIDENT SCENE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

rying his six year old son back to his mother on a Sunday night. The father's car hit head on a suspected drunk driver on a rural county road. The child was declared brain dead on Monday, and died Monday night. I got the call on Tuesday to start an investigation. I went to the accident scene and the junkyards. I was able to find an abundance of physical evidence from both the roadway and vehicles. This evidence put the suspect's vehicle at least 4 to 5 feet on the wrong side of the road. This was a young rookie state trooper's first fatal accident. He had not followed proper procedures. The blood sample he obtained was inadmissible in court. We now had to prove the driver was under the influence. I literally tracked down every first responder who was at that scene. I got statements from each of them. Two volunteer fireman had attended to the suspected drunk driver. Both gave statements of how strong the odor of beer was in the front seat of the suspect's car. One of them actually saw family members of the suspected drunk driver remove the beer from the car and throw the beer cans into the woods. I used these volunteer fireman's statements, two ambulance EMTs, two ER nurses and a ER doctor to testify of the drunken state of the suspect driver. This case went to a jury trial about a year later. The testimony of those first responding fire fighters was priceless. The suspect was convicted of vehicular homicide. He was sent to prison for two years.

I choose to use these two actual cases to show how first responders and help and hurt an investigation of a traffic homicide case. A first responder must understand, that when an incident involves a death, the accident scene becomes a crime scene. The scene must be handled with care and caution. I am going to list some DO's and DON'Ts of handling accident scenes.

1. Secure that scene with cones or vehicles and make it safe for your personnel.
2. Cut the battery cables. Do not change the positions of any of the light or wind shield wiper switches. The bulbs in the headlights on nighttime accidents and light switch positions are critical evidence. I have investigated numerous accidents within a mile or so of a beer joint where a drunk driver had just left. Many never turn their lights on.
3. Do not let anyone remove items from vehicles. If articles are removed, advise the first on scene law enforcement officers of what was removed.
4. If you remove the windshield, try not to mess with the rear view mirror. The mirror is another price-

less piece of evidence. If the mirror is facing toward the driver's side, the driver will probably have a wound on the right side of their head. This wound would be nearly identical in size to the mirror. The mirror may actually have hair and skin from the person whose head hit it. If the mirror is facing to the passenger side, the passenger will have a wound on the left side of their head. This helps investigators find the actual driver. Remember, if three drunks are ejected and one dies, I can assure you the two living drunks will swear that the dead one was the driver.

5. Do not allow members to use their I-phones to photograph accident victims. You cannot stop bystanders from making photos but your fire fighters should be professional enough in their actions not to photograph victims. If a bystander posts something on face book you cannot control that. But, if a fire fighter posts it, it shows a clear disregard of the privacy of the injured or deceased victim. You can use tarps or sheets to cover the removal of a victim.
6. It would be wise for first responders to type up a statement immediately upon return to the station of their actions at a fatality type incident. Do it while it is still fresh on your mind. I have done this several times with firemen in my own VFD.
7. If you have to deflate a tire for stabilization, advise the investigator which tires you deflated. A tire is often punctured and deflates during impact. An investigator often uses the track of a deflated tire and rim to establish point of impact. I did this in the Dothan incident. A deflated tire leaves a distinct marking on the highway. It also helps in determining if a tire blew out before impact and caused the driver to loose control.
8. Please use oil dry as much as possible to account for vehicle fluid runoff. Do not wash off the scene with water if it can be avoided. The location of vehicle parts shows the direction of force. This direction can be used to calculate speed in accident reconstruction formulas.

If the injured or deceased victim of a traffic collision was a friend or family member, you certainly would want the incident thoroughly investigated. Please follow these eight DO's & DON'Ts. It will build a good professional working relationship with law enforcement officers in your area. Remember all first responders exist to serve and protect the citizens of our communities and state.

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# THE BELL TOLLED

**Jay Chitwood**, Level Plains VFD, Dale County, Passed away unexpectedly October 25, 2012. He was with the dept. for over 10 years and served as a Lieutenant and the training officer.

**Robert Edward O'Neal**, Lawley VFD, Bibb County, passed away October 30, 2012 after his fight with cancer. He was a valuable volunteer for 15 years at the Lawley VFD.

**Prentiss O. Guy, Sr.**, Silas VFD, Choctaw County, passed away November 28, 2012 at the age of 82. Mr. Guy was retired from the fire dept., but gave many years of service to them. He passed away from a heart attack and his residents.

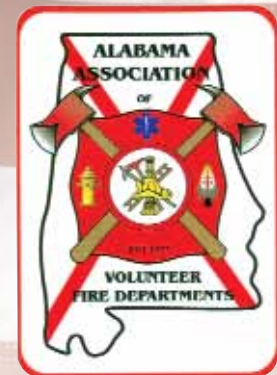
**William Clarence Stephens**, Mt Olive VFD, Chamber's County, passed away November 29, 2012. Mr. Stephens was Founder and Chairman Board of Directors of the Mt. Olive VFD.

**John Martin**, Brewton FD, Escambia County, Mr. Martin was the Chief of Brewton FD for 26 years before retiring. He passed away January 15, 2013. After retiring he went to work with NAFECO.

## THE FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER



*When I am called to duty, God, whenever flames may rage;  
Give me strength to save some life, whatever be its age.  
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late  
Or save an older person from the horror of that fate.  
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.  
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,  
To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.  
And if, according to my fate, I am to lose my life;  
Please bless with your protecting band  
my children and my wife.*



*Author Unknown*

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: William Neal – (334) 335-3643, Derrick Gatlin (256) 230-3526, Dan Hopkins (256) 225-7230, or Honor Guard Commander Daniel Day – (251) 267-2527.

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).



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

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

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

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