



# THE VOLUNTEER



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

November 2002

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Governor's Office on National  
and  
Community Service



Alabama Department of  
Economic and  
Community Affairs

# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Johnny Dennis*



## A Sign Of The Times

With the many problems we face in our fire service today, recruiting and retaining volunteers is at the top of the list. The very backbone of our service is not funding, or the requirements we must comply with to be firefighters. As all of these play a major roll in our service, however, these are not the most crucial elements to the success of our operation-it is firefighters themselves. Alabama's fire service, like many other states, is hurting for someone to fill the shoes of those who are no longer members of the departments. In my travel across our country, I see more and more fire departments pleading for volunteers. The first photo with this article was made in Baldwin County at Ft. Morgan Vol. Fire Department. This plea for help is becoming a sign of the times with many departments. Not only is Alabama reaching out for volunteers, other states are doing the same. The second photo was made in the State of Washington in Pierce County, which is served by District 21 Graham Fire & Rescue. According to Deputy Chief Gary Franz, keeping volunteers is becoming harder each year. Many coming into the service find the requirements too many and time-demanding. This creates short-term volunteers for three to five years.

The question is how do we solve a nationwide problem on recruiting and retention? If we had the answer to this question, we

could solve Alabama's recruiting problem. I do have some suggestions that could help entice new members and retain those who have years of firefighting experience. First, we must change the way most fire departments have been doing business. As in most business operations, a percentage of the annual income is budgeted for advertising. In our case we need to budget a percentage of our income solely for recruiting. We can no longer wait for the public to come knocking at the fire department doors. We must go to the general public by every means possible- public television, newspaper, radio, bill boards, posters and signs in front of each station. Each county should have one or more persons to write articles for their county fire service. This keeps the activity of the county fire service in front of the public eyes at all times. Second, departments must provide some incentive other than a thank you and a pat on the back for the demands we place on our volunteers today. Twenty-five years ago knowing how to

operate a pump and put out a fire was the basis of fire fighting. Today firefighters need a higher degree of knowledge to deal with the many unknowns we face. In addition to being a firefighter, most departments in Alabama have added the AED program to their service. This project will save many lives, but does come at a cost to our firefighters who must have some medical training to use and maintain the AED.

With the higher demands and a greater number of calls in today's service, it is essential we provide some benefits for our volunteers. This association has been working with other states for two years to find benefits for Alabama's volunteers. In March of this year this association hosted the Second National Benefit Summit. In February, 2003, the third summit will be in Sacramento, California hosted by the California State Firefighters' Association, Inc. With 24 States now on file and new states attending the 2003 Summit, we can review this data to select the best possible benefits for our firefighters.

If your department needs help with your recruiting program, call the AAVFD office at 1-888-972-2833 or contact me @ 256-766-4707.



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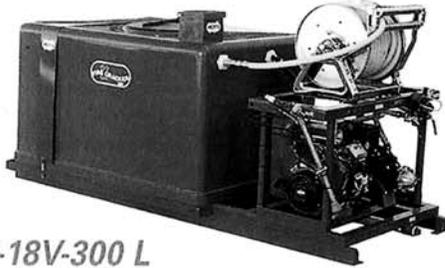
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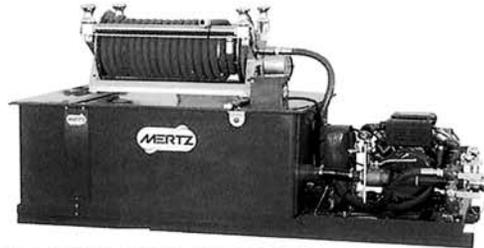
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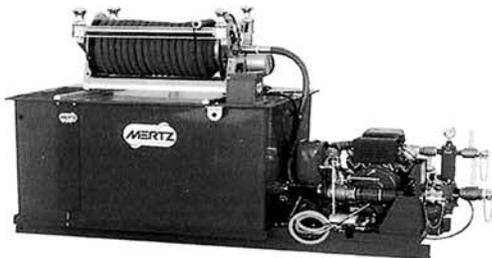
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# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

**T**HE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS statewide continues to pay off in improved ISO ratings. Listed below are changes in ratings.

DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING	DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING
<b>Effective September, 2002</b>				<b>Effective September, 2002</b>			
Ball Play 2	Etowah	8/9	5/9	Loxley	Baldwin	7/9	5/9
Beat 1	Monroe	9/9	7/9	Lusk	Choctaw	7/9	4/9
Carrollton	Pickens	7/9	6/9	Micaville	Cleburne	-	9/10
Fish River-Marlow	Baldwin	7/9	5/9	<b>Effective October, 2002</b>			
Flat Rock	Conecuh	9/9	8/9	Cottonwood	Houston	7/9	5/9
Lookout Mountain	Etowah	7/9	5/9	Fyffe	DeKalb	8/9	5/9

Congratulations to these departments and their hard working members! Improved ISO ratings are what we are often measured by and it's obvious that Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments measure up!

Baker Hill VFD, Barbour County, took delivery of a 3500-gallon tanker equipped to fight brush fires.

On June 22nd, nine new fire trucks purchased with money received from Greene County's ad valorem tax were on display on the courthouse square. The proud new owners of these trucks are Dollarhide, Forkland, Knoxville, Lower Gainesville Road, Mantua/Lewiston, Steam Plant Road, Tishabee, Union and West Greene Volunteer Fire Departments.

Steam Plant Road VFD, Greene County, has purchased and cleared the land for a new fire station.

Pine Ridge Fire Protection Authority, DeKalb County, took delivery of a new 2002 KME International pumper with 1000-gallon water tank and 1250 GPM pump. This new truck, delivered by NAFECO, replaces a 1967 Army surplus truck from Forestry.

DeKalb County Association of Fire Departments recently honored retiring secretary Wayne Scott of the Pine Ridge VFD. Presented a plaque for over 19 years of service, Wayne has been secretary of the association since

it was formed. Wayne stated that he "just wants to sit in the audience and make motions and quit taking notes".

Montevallo VFD, Shelby County, held its 75th annual Fire Prevention Parade. There was also a circus for the kids, arts and crafts vendors, a rubber ducky race and many other events during the day.

Monroe County EMA hosted a Response to Meth Labs Workshop October 15th. 96 emergency responders attended: Burnt Corn VFD from Conecuh County; Antioch, Fulton, Grove Hill, Helwestern, Scyrene-Chance, Salitpka, Thomasville, Tri-Community and Winn VFD from Clarke County; Appleton, Huxford, McCall, McCullough, Poarch, and Roberts VFD from Escambia County; Excel, Finchburg, Franklin, Frisco City, Goodway, Mexia, Peterman and Rocky Hill VFD from Monroe County. Also in attendance were the Public Works Department of the City of Monroeville, Fulton Police Department and Monroe County Rescue Squad.

Washington County Fire Association held its annual awards banquet on

October 12th. The South AAVFD Honor Guard presented the colors.

Lauderdale County Annual Firefighter Competition was held on October 12th, followed by the annual Fire Truck Parade in downtown Florence. The participants in this parade proceeded to Sheffield in Colbert County for their annual Fireman's Parade.

Lauderdale County Volunteer Fire Departments sponsored KIDS Fire and Life Safety Day on October 12th in Florence, AL. Local Fire & Rescue services were on hand, as well as police, EMS, EMA, Air Evac Lifeteam and more. Events scheduled included Kids Firefighter Combat Challenge, Kids Fire Safety House, Fire Extinguisher Class, Bicycle Safety Class, Fingerprinting, Fire & Life Safety Seminars, CPR Classes, Child Care Seat Checks, Live Fire & Rescue Demonstrations, and also on hand were Smokey Bear, Sparky and McGruff.

Congratulations to Ashley Milstead, Jackson VFD, Clarke County, who was honored as Firefighter of the Year.

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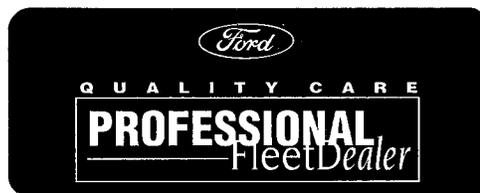
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# Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission

*W.L. Langston, Executive Director*

## THE ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE

The Alabama Fire College has released a newly designed website as an added resource for our fire and emergency services personnel. The site, [www.alabamafirecollege.org](http://www.alabamafirecollege.org), features information on the many different programs and services available through the Alabama Fire College, including training both at the Tuscaloosa campus and training in your department.

Course descriptions, schedules, the Alabama Fire Fighter Memorial, the Course Content Advisory Committees, and the Risk Watch program are just a few of the categories to choose from. "We hope to provide the fire fighters in Alabama and throughout the nation with the most current and up-to-date information as possible, and the Fire College website is an excellent tool for doing that," said Alabama Fire College Executive Director William L. Langston.

The Alabama Fire College plans on adding a free email subscription service to

the website to provide you with weekly fire service news from across Alabama. Also included in the new website expansion are online registration forms for your convenience. Visit the website at [www.alabamafirecollege.org](http://www.alabamafirecollege.org).

## NEW CERTIFICATION TEST DATES

The bi-monthly certification examination at the Alabama Fire College campus will now be given on the first and third Friday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time, effective October 1, 2002. You must give advance notice by calling the Alabama Fire College Field Programs Division at 1-800-241-2467, at least one week prior to taking the exam.

## RECERTIFICATION FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

Fire Fighters who hold the Volunteer Fire Fighter Certification issued by the Alabama Fire College must be re-certified every three years. During the third year of certification as a volunteer fire fighter, the

fire chief and training officer can sign a statement attesting to the fact that the individual has participated in thirty (30) hours of recurring training annually and the individual may be recertified for another three-year period. For a sample recertification letter and to see a copy of the Policies, Procedures and Regulations of the Commission visit the Alabama Fire College newly designed website at [www.alabamafirecollege.org](http://www.alabamafirecollege.org).

## FIELD COURSE APPLICATION PROCESS

All Field Course Applications must be submitted to the Alabama Fire College Field Programs Division at least four weeks prior to the start of training. All EMT-Basic application must be in at least five weeks prior to the start of class. For more information on course delivery within your fire department contact the Alabama Fire College training hotline at 1-800-241-2467 or visit our website at [www.alabamafirecollege.org](http://www.alabamafirecollege.org).



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## 2003 INSURANCE RENEWALS

2003 insurance renewal forms were mailed to the Chief of all AAVFD member departments on October 10th. Coverage of the current policy will expire on December 31, 2002. It is very important that the insurance/enrollments for the new year be sent to the Montgomery office as soon as possible so that department personnel do not lose a month of coverage.

Cost for the accidental death & disability policy remains \$12 per year for \$10,000 and \$20 per year if you choose to have coverage of \$20,000. Coverage begins January 1, 2003, or if mailed after January 1st, coverage begins on the day that your insurance enrollment is received in the AAVFD office.

## AAVFD SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2003. Four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded. Each scholarship is given on a one-year basis and must be applied for each year regardless of previous applications.

Applications may be obtained from the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833. Completed applications must be mailed to AAVFD, Attn: Roy Adamson, Scholarship Chairman, 660 Adams Avenue, Suite 345, Montgomery AL 36104 and post marked no later than March 31, 2003.

## AAVFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The AAVFD Board of Directors will meet Saturday, December 7th, at 10:00 am at the Alabama Power Conference Center in Clanton. The Conference Center is located at the 205 Exit off I-65. Go north on Highway 31 for 1/2 mile, and the Center is on your right.

## 2003 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Fire department membership notices for the year 2003 were mailed out October 4th. If your department joins through the county association, the notice was sent to the county president. Annual Membership dues are payable January 1, 2003.

If you are not a member, contact the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833, and we will be glad to send you information on the benefits associated with AAVFD membership, such as eligibility for our AD&D insurance coverage, student scholarships and the Alabama Volunteer Firefighter credit card. If you do not belong to a member department, associate membership is available to anyone who is interested in the purposes, goals and activities of AAVFD. Associate membership affords you the same benefits as regular membership, except the right to vote.

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## Don's Perspective

by Don Shield  
Alabama Firefighter

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The exchange of ideas, messages or information, as by speech, signals or writing. As with any organization effective communications plays an important role in its success. The AAVFD has many modes of communications, you can call the office 1-888-97AAVFD, email AAVFD@mindspring.com, Web site www.aavfd.org, AAVFD newsletter "THE VOLUNTEER".

Volunteer Fire Departments and county associations, can communicate their concerns, ideas and suggestions to their respective AAVFD Directors and Alternate Directors to be passed on to your AAVFD Board Members. Without your input from the field the AAVFD Board is doing what they think should be done, and maybe that is not what should be. Your

ideas and suggestions are important.

Recent example: Small volunteer department struggling to survive. Suggested having a surplus equipment list put somewhere so departments might list equipment no longer needed in one department, but maybe needed by someone else. This list has been attached to the AAVFD Egroups. You can join the AAVFD Egroups on the AAVFD web site. What better way to clean out the equipment no longer needed in your department and still help your brother departments.

Should you have problems joining the AAVFD Egroups you can contact me directly at dshield@hiwaay.net, and I will assist you.

# Call for Photographs – Volunteers In Action

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the non-profit organization created by the U. S. Congress to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters and their families, has commissioned a book entitled **THE FIREFIGHTERS, AN ANTHOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN FIRE SERVICE.**

Steve Austin, the nationally respected fire service leader and past president of the Delaware Volunteer Fireman's Association, has been selected to author the chapter on volunteer firefighting. The complete volume will contain hundreds of photographs, and there is the desire to have at least one photograph from each of the fifty states depicting some aspect of the volunteer fire service. This is an opportunity to have your volunteer fire department included in what will be an important volume in every fire service library.

Photographs are needed in the following categories:

- Fire and EMS Operations
  - Firefighting*
  - EMS Responses*
  - Rescue*
  - Training*
  - Fire Inspection and Investigations*
- Fire and Life Safety Educations
  - Fire Prevention Classes*
  - Displays*
  - Fire Safety Houses*
  - Fire Prevention Floats*
  - Fire Prevention Queen Contests*
- Apparatus
  - New*
  - Antique*
  - Special Use*
- Fire Stations
  - Engine Rooms*
  - Social Halls and Social Quarters*
  - Unusual Structures*
- Fund Raising Activities
  - Boot Drives*
  - Tag Sales*
  - Bingo*
  - Public Dinners*
  - Other Fund Raisers*

- Ladies Auxiliaries*
- Junior and Explorer Programs*
- Parades*
- Meetings and Conventions*
- Social Events including organized sports*
- Fire Department Funerals*

A selection of current and historical photos is needed, and color or black and white photos are acceptable.

Photographers will receive Credit for published photographs. All photos will be returned to the sender. Please attach a description, as detailed as possible, including a date if available, to each photograph. Copyrighted material may not be used unless accompanied by a release from the copyright holder.

Mail submissions to:

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*Jimmy Wynn  
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# You make the call...

*If your family is important to you, then this bill justifies your time to contact your Senators and Representatives of Alabama immediately. One of the leading causes of deaths in the fire service is a heart attack.*

*Don Shield, President  
Alabama Rural Community Fire Protection Institute  
1-800-897-7237*



On October 16, Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT), James Jeffords (I-VT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced the Senate version of the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act (S. 3114), which would extend the current Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB) Program to public safety officers who die as a result of a heart attack or stroke while on duty. The House version (H.R. 5334), introduced by Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC) and cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 103 Representatives, unanimously passed the House Judiciary Committee on October 9 and is awaiting consideration by the full House of Representatives.

Heart attacks and strokes represent a

significant risk among public safety officers, accounting for nearly half of firefighter deaths each year. The Public Safety Officers Benefits Program currently provides financial assistance to families of public safety officers (fire, police and EMS) killed in the line of duty, as well as to officers permanently disabled while on the job. The death benefit is payable to the survivors of a public safety officer who "has died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty."

Unfortunately, in almost every incidence of death by heart attack or stroke, it is ruled that the heart attack or stroke was not a direct result of an injury sustained in the line of duty and

the family receives no benefits even though the deaths were clearly triggered by the rigors of the job. The Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefit Act would correct that deficiency in the law.

**ACTION:** CALL your Senators and Representative immediately and ask them to become a cosponsor of S. 3114 / H.R. 5334, the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefit Act.

If you do not know your Representative or Senator's telephone number, visit: <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials> or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

## KIDS Firefighter Combat Challenge

Even the children got involved during the recent Firefighter Appreciation Day Competition. The KIDS Firefighter Combat Challenge was a BIG hit! The challenge was sponsored by the Lauderdale County fire Department. Special thanks to Brian Balch and Greg Angus!





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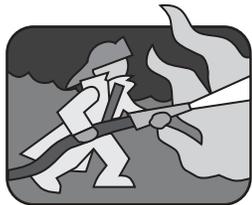
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# 18th Annual VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY

*Roy Mott, RCFP Chief*

As Hurricane Isidore bore down on the Gulf Coast, volunteer firefighters from across the state gathered in Valley AL for the 18th annual Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day. The day dawned windy and overcast, cooling the hot temperatures usually endured during past years. Each year, the Alabama Forestry Commission and the RCFP Steering Committee sponsor Firefighter Appreciation Day. This day of fun and relaxation for volunteer firefighters and their families is held each year in recognition of the service provided to the people by their local volunteer fire department. This year, Chambers County Fire & Rescue Association was the host for the event at the Sportsplex in the City of Valley.

The Awards Banquet was held on Friday night, September 20, 2002, with over two hundred and fifty in attendance. Special guests included Senator Gerald Dial, Representative Richard Laird, Representative Duwayne Bridges, and State Forester Timothy C. Boyce. Guest speaker for the occasion was Pelham Fire Department Chief Gary Waters. His descriptive narrative of the ordeals, achievements and camaraderie among the firefighters who fight wild fire across our nation was enlightening, as well as entertaining.

RCFP Chief Roy Mott presented the RCFP Steering Committee Awards. State Forester Timothy C. Boyce congratulated each recipient, along with Steering Committee Chairman John Hendricks, who presented the Governor's Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day Proclamation to the Chambers County Association President Jeff Monroe.

The Ray Tucker Memorial Award was presented to Lawrence Huffman, Brick Hatton VFD, Colbert County, who was recognized by the Steering Committee for his dedicated years of service, leadership, and commitment as a member of the RCFP Steering Committee.

The Walter Vest Award was presented to Grant VFD in Marshall County. The RCFP Steering committee recognized this department as the Outstanding Volunteer Fire Department of the Year.

Each year the RCFP Steering Committee recognizes two Alabama Forestry Commission employees for their outstanding work with volunteer fire departments.

Associate of the Year Award was presented to County Ranger Jeremiah "Bull" Rodgers for his outstanding leadership in Pike County.

County Supervisor of the Year Award was presented to County Forester Clayton Schwind for his outstanding work with volunteer fire departments in Chambers County.



**LAWRENCE HUFFMAN**  
**DISTRICT 9 REPRESENTATIVE**  
*Outstanding Steering Committee Member*



**JEREMIAH "BULL" RODGERS**  
**PIKE COUNTY**  
*Associate of the Year Award*



**CLAYTON SCHWIND**  
**CHAMBERS COUNTY**  
*County Supervisor of the Year Award*

Volunteer fire departments from across the state competed in the  
**18th Annual Fire Fighter Appreciation Day Competition Events**

on Saturday, September 21st, in Valley. *The winners are listed below:*

TEAM .....SCORE .....POINTS

**AIR PACK RELAY**

Kinsey.....	1:20 .....	10 pts
East Limestone .....	1:25 .....	7 pts
Fulton .....	1:34.....	5 pts.

**OBSTACLE COURSE**

East Limestone .....	1:19.....	10 pts.
Vinemont-Providence.....	1:19.....	7 pts.
Fulton .....	1:24.....	5 pts.

**WATER ON THE ROOF**

Kinsey .....	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " .....	10 pts.
East Limestone .....	22 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " .....	7 pts.
Vinemont-Providence .....	22 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " .....	5 pts.

**OVERALL**

East Limestone .....	24 pts.
Kinsey .....	20 pts.
Vinemont-Providence .....	12 pts.

**COOKING COMPETITION**

**CHILI**

First Place	Phil Slay, Five Points VFD (Chambers County)
Second Place	Kalyn Ray, Lee-Chambers VFD (Lee County)
Third Place	Sandy Boyd, East Limestone VFD (Limestone County)

**CAKE**

First Place	Diane Wilson, Piney Woods VFD (Walker County)
Second Place	Kim Moore, Vinemont-Providence VFD (Cullman County)
Third Place	Becky Givens, Hodgesville VFD (Houston County)

**BRUSH TRUCK COMPETITION**

**FEPP BRUSH TRUCK**

First Place	Lakeview VFD (Chambers County)
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**OPEN BRUSH TRUCK**

First Place	Vinemont-Providence VFD (Cullman County)
Second Place	Oak Bowery VFD (Chambers County)
Third Place	East Alabama VFD (Chambers County)

# Firefighter Appreciation Day Competition



Air Pack  
Relay

Obstacle  
Course



Water on  
the Roof

Brush Truck  
Registration



**EAST LIMESTONE VFD - LIMESTONE COUNTY**  
*First Place – Overall*



**KINSEY VFD - HOUSTON COUNTY**  
*Second Place – Overall*



**VINEMONT-PROVIDENCE VFD - CULLMAN COUNTY**  
*Third Place – Overall*

## Fulton VFD Wins Brush Truck

October 9th, Fulton VFD, Clarke County, took delivery of the brush truck that Firefighter Rusty Gates won at Firefighter Appreciation Day. Each Year, the Alabama Forestry Commission refurbishes and equips a FEPP vehicle to be given away to a fire department at this event. As Federal excess property cannot be titled to any department, the winning department has the use of this vehicle as long as it wishes.

The four-wheel drive Chevrolet features a 200-gallon tank equipped with a high-pressure pump, hoses, siren and other equipment. Fulton Chief Danny Bedwell stated that the truck would be put to good use fighting brush fires around the area. Members shown with the truck are, front, Jered Daniels, Winner Rusty Gates, Daniel Allday, Chief Bedwell, Danny Ray Pugh, Jarred Webb and Mike Norris. Back row: Benji Elmore of the AFC Clarke County office, Regional Forester Gary Cole, Roy Mott, RCFP Chief and Stanley Anderson, SW Regional Assistant Forester.



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Fire Chiefs, Deputies & Fire Equipment Purchasing Decision Makers

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### **Power PBI Commando**

*Same Coating as Fusion, 29" and 32" available*  
Coat #PPCMDMK92K, Pants #PPSUMK92K

### **Traditional Nomex**

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# NFPA Study Finds That Fire Death Rates Vary Greatly from State to State

Quincy, MA - Where you live can make a big difference in your likelihood of dying in a fire, but everywhere in the United States, you're safer from fire today than you were two decades ago.

Those are the key findings in a new state-by-state analysis of fire death patterns by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). The study found that, although death from fire has dramatically declined overall—from 5,804 deaths in 1980 to 3,347 in 1999—there are huge variations from state to state in how many people die.

The states with the highest fire death rates in 1999 were Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina and West Virginia. Those with the lowest rates were New Hampshire, Hawaii, Utah, Colorado and California. But every state had a lower fire death rate in 1999 than it did in 1980.

The differences among states are explained chiefly by the characteristics of the population. The highest fire death rates were in states with a higher proportion of adults who lack a high school education, who smoke or who are poor.

So a high fatality rate does not mean that state and local fire officials are doing a poor job. At the same time, though, a state can lower its death rate without changing its population.

The experience of South Carolina illustrates this point. South Carolina had the nation's highest fire death rate in 1988 and 1989. Then it introduced a statewide fire-safety program that emphasized smoke-alarm installation and fire-safety education. By 1991, the state's rank had dropped to No. 6. Right after the program lost its funding, the death rate went up again, and by 1993, South Carolina had the nation's second-highest fire death rate. The program has since been restored.

"What this study shows is that fire deaths can be prevented. They're not inevitable," said the report's author, John R. Hall, Jr., Ph.D. of NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division. "When a community reaches out to educate the public and provide the tools to be safe, lives are saved.

Universal fire safety education in schools and compliance with modern consensus fire safety codes and recommended rules for safe use of home products, all are additional steps that

have been proven to save lives in any state, for any group of people."

Four of every five fire deaths occur in the home. But many can be prevented if there are working smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas. Additionally, every household should draw up-and practice-a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of each room, unobstructed and easy-to-use exits, a meeting place outside, and a posted emergency number for the fire department. Consider, too, home fire sprinklers, as they cut the chances of dying in a fire by more than half.

The study of fire death patterns by state was drawn from the national database of death certificates collected by the National Center for Health Statistics, which includes most but not all fire deaths. For example, the database does not count arson deaths, often categorized as homicides or suicides, and fire deaths after a vehicle crash. Because of such anomalies, small differences between states should not be overemphasized. But the major patterns that the study found are valid.

## Bill Introduced To Help Rural Fire Departments



On September 19, Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR), along with 29 other cosponsors, introduced legislation that aims to give rural fire departments across the nation better access to federal excess property. The Rural Fire Department Equipment Priority Act (HR 5421) would help provide firefighters with the equipment they need to protect the communities they serve by giving rural fire departments and their cooperators higher priority when Department of Defense excess property is screened.

The Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP), adminis-

tered by the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the state foresters, loans excess Federal equipment from other agencies to rural fire departments throughout the nation. However, many other excess equipment programs currently have priority over the FEPP when it comes to allocation of this useful equipment. This legislation would change these inequities and give volunteer and rural fire departments the ability to receive the tools they need to better protect their communities.

Passage of this legislation is a priority for both the National Volunteer Fire

Council and the National Association of State Foresters.

### **ACTION:**

Contact your Representative immediately and ask them to support HR 5334, the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefit Act and HR 5421, the Rural Fire Department Equipment Priority Act. If you do not know your Representative's address or telephone number, visit [www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials](http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials) or call the AAVFD office at 888-972-2833 or 334-262-2833.



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 Diesel Automatic



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 Diesel Automatic



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 Generator  
 Diesel Automatic



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 750 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Automatic



\$45,000  
 1987 American Eagle  
 1250 Hale Pump  
 1000 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel 5-speed



\$39,000  
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 1250 Tank  
 Diesel Automatic



\$49,000  
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 1250 Hale Pump  
 2000 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Automatic



\$29,000  
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 Walk-In  
 Automatic



\$68,000  
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 1250 Hale Top-Mount  
 750 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Automatic



\$25,000  
 1989 E-One C-8000  
 1250 Hale Pump  
 500 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Automatic



\$99,000  
 1988 Saulsbury Heavy Rescue  
 250 Pump/200 Gal Water  
 Winch, Generator, Cascade  
 Diesel Automatic



\$99,000  
 1986 E-One 110' Aerial  
 1250 Hale Pump  
 500 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Automatic



\$24,000  
 1978 American LaFrance  
 1500 GPM Pump  
 500 Gallon Tank  
 Diesel Automatic

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

# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: **Firefighter Alan Wayne Wyatt, Career**  
 Department: **US Forest Service Columbine East  
 Ranger Dist, Bayfield, CO**  
 Date of Death: **7/2/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Died from injuries received when a  
 green tree fell and struck him while  
 he was in the process of cutting  
 "hazard trees".**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter Recruit Andrew James  
 Waybright, Career**  
 Department: **Frederick Co Dept of Fire & Rescue  
 Service, Frederick MD**  
 Date of Death: **7/3/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Collapsed and died shortly after of  
 heat exposure on return jog to  
 training facility on third day of  
 training.**

Name/Rank: **Chief James E. Sylvester, Volunteer  
 Deputy Chief John D. West, Volunteer**  
 Department: **Mt Ephraim FD, Mt Ephraim, NJ**  
 Date of Death: **7/4/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Died when trapped in collapse at  
 residential structure fire.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter Thomas G. Stewart, Career**  
 Department: **Gloucester City FD, Gloucester, NJ**  
 Date of Death: **7/4/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Died when trapped in collapse at  
 residential structure fire.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter Barry Dockter, Volunteer**  
 Department: **Anamoose FD, Anamoose, ND**  
 Date of Death: **7/5/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Died from injuries sustained when  
 struck by an errant fireworks shell at  
 Drake Centennial fireworks show.**

Name/Rank: **Pilot Milt Tollak, Career  
 Pilot Rick Schwartz, Career**  
 Department: **US Forest Service, Rocky Mtn Area  
 Coordination Center, Lakewood, CO**  
 Date of Death: **7/18/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Died when an on-board explosion  
 caused the four-engine PB4Y-2 air  
 taker under contract to the US Forest  
 Service to break apart and crash.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter John Self, Career  
 Firefighter Steven Oustad, Career  
 Firefighter Heather DePaolo, Career**  
 Department: **USDA Forest Service, Klamath  
 National Forest, Yreka, CA**  
 Date of Death: **7/28/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Wildland fire crew of 5 was  
 monitoring a 500-acre backfire near  
 Happy Camp, CA when their crew-cab  
 pickup equipped with a 500-gallon  
 water tank left the roadway and rolled  
 800 feet down a steep slope.**

Name/Rank: **Lieutenant John Mickel, Career  
 Firefighter Dallas Begg, Career**  
 Department: **Osceola County Fire-Rescue,  
 Kissimmee, FL**  
 Date of Death: **7/30/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Killed during a live fire training  
 exercise. Details of incident pending  
 full investigation.**

Name/Rank: **Pilot Leonard Gordon Knight, Career**  
 Department: **USDA Forest Service, Arapaho &  
 Roosevelt National, Fort Collins, CO**  
 Date of Death: **7/30/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Died in helicopter crash while drop-  
 ping water on hotspots of recently  
 controlled 4,400-acre fire near Rocky  
 Mountain National Park.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter David Martin, Volunteer**  
 Department: **Opal VFD, Opal, SD**  
 Date of Death: **8/1/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Died from severe burns and injuries  
 received when he fell from the back of  
 firefighting vehicle into the fire while  
 fighting a prairie fire.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter Travis Lyn Wiems,  
 Volunteer**  
 Department: **Wichita West VFD, Wichita Falls, TX**  
 Date of Death: **8/12/02**  
 Cause of Death: **Firefighter Weims was riding in a cage  
 on the front bumper of a brush truck  
 using hose to fight flames when  
 another vehicle traveling in low visi-  
 bility conditions due to smoke, struck  
 the brush truck causing Weims to fall  
 out of the cage and under the wheels  
 of the apparatus, killing him instantly.**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

**FOR SALE:** Curry Fire & Rescue has one 1967 Ford fire truck for sale. The truck has a 1,000 gal. pump and 500 gal. tank. The truck will be sold with some equipment on it. We will be asking \$15,000 for the truck. Pump will pass pump test at 1,000 gal. min. For more information on truck call 205-387-0364 or 205-221-6008. Leave a message and call back number.

**FOR SALE:** 1967 Boardman / Ford C-950 Engine, 534c.i. gas, 5-speed manual, air brakes, 1000 GPM Waterous pump, 500 tank, 2 electric-rewind booster reels with hose, 2 - 10" hard suction hose, 4500 watt generator w/ 4 extendable quartz lights, warning lights, electronic siren, air horn. \$6000 negotiable. East Chilton Vol. Fire & Rescue, Clanton, AL. Chief Terry Bates 205-755-6169 after 4 PM.



**About The Volunteer:** *The Volunteer* is issued 6 times a year: in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov. Articles, information, and advertisements for the newsletter must be in Montgomery not later than the 15th of the month before publication.

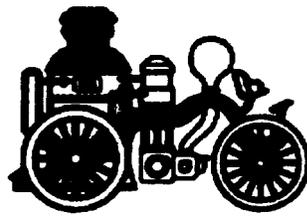
**Articles & Information:** Submissions of articles, letters, and information for inclusion in this newsletter are greatly appreciated and encouraged. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. No libelous or slanderous material will be published. We reserve the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

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

**AAVFD Officers:**  
 President Johnny Dennis  
 1st VP Joey Boyd  
 2nd VP Clayton Cobb, Sr.  
 3rd VP Steve Dennis  
 Secretary Mary Jane Sells  
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**Fax number:** (334) 262-2834  
**E-mail:** aavfd@mindspring.com  
 on the Web at www.aavfd.org



# THE BELL TOLLED

William J. "Bill" Harris, St. Stephens VFD, Washington County, passed away October 2, 2002. He was serving as a Baptist pastor.

George "Buffalo" Howell, Lookout Mountain VFD, Etowah County, passed away October 2, 2002.

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

If any Volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of day or night. Johnny Dennis— (256) 766-4707 or Joey Boyd (256) 233-1597; or Clayton Cobb, Sr. (251) 578-2855; or Steve Dennis (334) 283-2110.

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.

## National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service Observed During Fire Prevention Week October 6-12, 2002

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday-through-Saturday period in which October 9 falls. 2002 marks the 80th year that NFPA has officially sponsored Fire Prevention Week. Each year since 1925, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation pronouncing a national observance during that week.

Although the history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 8-9, 1871 and is the best-known blaze to erupt during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the

biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, which roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,200 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it was controlled.

This year's annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service honoring over 400 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2001 was held in Washington, DC due to the unprecedented number of firefighters being honored this year. This year's service honored those who died at the World Trade Center along with those who made the ultimate sacrifice across the country.

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



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