



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

October - December, 2004

Alabama State Firefighter Memorial Dedication

Billy Mims, chairman of the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission, remembers that as early as the 1960's fire service leaders such as Vernon Craig and Ray Tucker discussed the importance of Alabama having its own fire fighter memorial. Lynn Lybrook a coordinator for the Alabama Fire College remembers in the mid-eighties and during her tenure as President of the Joint Fire Council that a drawing was done and funds sought for building the memorial.

At last the memorial became a reality. On Tuesday the unveiling of the

bronze statue and dedication of the grounds became history. Honor guards from all over the state, bagpipers, uniformed fire fighters, police and sheriffs, friends, family, and special dignitaries all joined to remember the Alabama fire fighters lost in the line of duty. All 196 names dating back to 1901 were read out and the final bell sounded.

Dennis Graves of the Alabama Joint Fire Council lead the day's events. Chief Mike Sewell of Pell City Fire Department lead the invocation written specifically for the dedication. Special guests included Dr. Denis Onieal, Su-



perintendent National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland and the honorable Bob Riley, Governor who lead the unveiling ceremony.

Superintendent of the National Fire Academy Dr. Denis Onieal said, "Around 200 fire fighters have been memorialized here. This memorial is the great equalizer there are no stars next to anyone's name, no one ranks higher or lower, they are all equal, neither braver than the other nor less brave, no big cities, no small towns, they are all equal, and the reason that they are all equal is that each of them gave everything they had to the citizens of Alabama. They gave their lives."

In the speech given by Governor Bob Riley of Alabama he stated that, "Being a fire fighter is a demanding and dangerous job. It has been said that a fire fighter's first act of bravery is taking the oath to serve because all of them serve knowing that one day they may not come home. Today we honor those who did not come home. Today we commemorate this memorial to them with pride and with deep gratitude."

Mr. Graves thanked members of the Joint Fire Council including Chief Paul Syx, Chief Robert Ezekiel, Dr. William Langston and the Alabama Fire College, Alabama Power, State Farm Insurance, and numerous other contributors for making the memorial a reality.



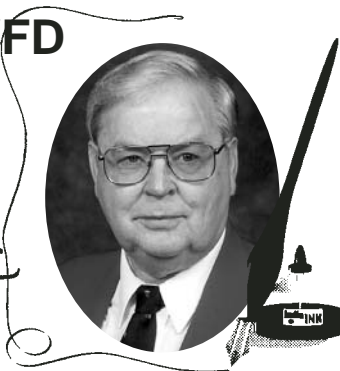
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FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

Johnny Dennis



If there was any doubt about the value of our volunteer fire service in this state, that doubt should have been removed after hurricane Ivan hit Alabama. Thousands of volunteers, firefighters and EMS personnel worked day after day in clearing roads, providing generators to power refrigerators, freezers and oxygen units. Twenty-four hours a day, these people worked thousands of hours to help those who needed a helping hand when there was no one else to turn to. This is not to say we were the only ones working to help those in need. Many organizations provided countless hours to help people all across Alabama. In most cases, the front line of each disaster that hits most, if not all states, is the volunteer fire service.

Ivan was one of the most devastating disasters to hit Alabama in many years. Unfortunately, recovery will take months to years to rebuild the Gulf Coast and many counties across our state. Maybe this will be a good time for the Volunteer Fire Service to evaluate your department's operation, as this will not be the last disaster to come our way. If you don't have an emergency plan, I suggest you develop one. Shooting from the hip may get you there; however, reacting to a pre-determined plan is the most efficient in cost and results.

One item each department should have on hand is a generator to power your station. Extra fuel for chain saws and other gasoline-powered equipment can buy time until local fuel is restored. Communications proved to be a problem for some counties after

towers were down and repeaters losing power. These measures may seem extreme in most cases; however, when a disaster of this magnitude happens needed supplies and communication can be days and miles away.

Ivan was costly in the loss of people's homes, crops, the timber industry and, most of all, the life of a volunteer firefighter. A firefighter in Limestone County was killed when a tree was blown down on his truck when he was returning to his station for equipment. This is not the first time volunteers have paid the ultimate price, nor will it be the last.

Scholarships Available

Bound Tree Medical has established a scholarship to assist children of career or volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians or Paramedics in pursuing a career in emergency Medical Services. The program can assist a paramedic student up to \$2,500.00. To find out more, contact Kerry Shaw Willis at 800-282-7904, ext. 5095, or kwillis@boundtree.com.

A Note of Appreciation from the Second Vice President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who trusted me with your vote at the June 19th election in Dothan, AL. I look forward to serving on the board as Second Vice President of the Central Alabama Region. This region of the AAVFD is made up of 4 districts and 28 counties who have Volunteers dedicated to serving many communities.

Our Volunteer Fire Departments do a great job caring for and protecting their communities and I promise to be there for them as they serve. Together, we can make Volunteer Fire Service better and safer for our men and women who have so selflessly dedicated their lives to this service. I will work hard to assure that everyone's ideas and concerns are heard and addressed.

Once more I would like to thank you for your votes. I will serve to the very best of my ability.

John W. Wilson (334) 569-3022
Second Vice President
AAVFD

The Story of the Maltese Cross



When a courageous band of crusaders, the Knights of St. John, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Lands, they were faced with a new device of war – fire.

As the crusaders advanced on Jerusalem, the Saracens pelted them with glass bombs full of naphtha and then threw down flaming torches. Hundreds of knights were burned alive while others risked their lives to save their kinsmen from painful fiery deaths. Thus these became the first firefighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders who awarded them with a badge of honor similar to the cross firefighters wear today.

Since the Knights of St. John lived nearly four centuries on the island of Malta, in the Mediterranean Sea, the cross came to be known as the Maltese Cross. The firefighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down his life for others, just as the crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago.

Author Unknown

*Alabama Firefighter Memorial,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama*

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Current Information from the Alabama Department of Public Health EMS Division (11/2004)

The State Health Officer has issued an EMS rule variance to allow the EMS Division to implement several changes that impact re-licensing of EMTs in the State of Alabama. The changes are due to revenue shortages and are effective April 1, 2004. Please disseminate to all licensed personnel.

Refresher Course:

The EMS Division will no longer require application for approval of individual refresher courses, can no longer provide any refresher manuals, nor will print any refresher certificates after March 31, 2004. These tasks are now being allowed by any EMT that meets the requirements listed below:

- * The EMS Division required the minimum D.O.T. standards for those choosing to instruct or attend a refresher course.
- * A refresher course may be instructed by any State licensed individual up to the level he or she is licensed.
- * All refresher courses must utilize the instructional objectives as outlined for each level of EMT. The Alabama required courses are: the 1996 EMT Basic Refresher Course; the 1996 EMT Basic Refresher Course and the Alabama EMT Intermediate Refresher Course, and; the 2001 EMT Paramedic refresher course. These can be found online at www.adph.org/ems or <http://www.nytsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/>. The EMS Division can no longer print and mail out copies of this information. If you have a current copy on hand, check the versions and proceed if appropriate.
- * Each level of EMT must attend his or her own level of refresher course. An EMT Basic or Intermediate cannot receive refresher course completion credit by attending a Paramedic refresher and vice versa.
- * Each refresher course instructor must abide by all instructional standards as contained in each course. Violations may result in license revocation.
- * The instructor's responsibilities include providing a typed completion certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course. The certificate must contain the following:
1) Date completed; 2) Instructor's full name; 3) Title (level) of the course; 4) Individual's full name; 5) Individual's SS# or; 6) Individual's EMT license number; and, 7) The name of the department or company that sponsored the course. *The certificate must be signed by the instructor.*

Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC)

- The EMS Division will require completion of the minimum D.O.T. standards for those choosing to instruct or attend an EVOC course.

- All EVOC courses must utilize the current instructional objectives as outlined by the National Highway Traffic Safety standards found in the EVOC Instructor's Guide. This course and the participant's manual can be found online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/> under national Standard Curricula.
- The EMS Division will maintain an ongoing list of approved EVOC participant or EVOC instructor courses that meet these requirements. The list will be posted at www.adph.org/ems.
- An EVOC course may only be instructed by a successful graduate instructor of the EVOC course.
- Each EVOC instructor must post all intended courses through the EMS Division prior to the course offering.
- Each EVOC course instructor must abide by all instructional standards as contained in each course. Violations may result in license revocation.
- The instructor's responsibilities include providing a typed completion certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course. The certificate must contain the following: 1) Date completed; 2) Instructor's full name; 3) Title of the course – refresher or full course; 4) Individual's full name; 5) Individual's EMT license number; and 6) The appropriate course specific completion language. The certificate must be signed by the instructor.

Approved CPR Courses are listed at www.adph.org/ems.

They currently include: AHA Health Care Provider, ARC Professional Rescuer, EMP America / Medic First Aid BLSPRO, HeartSmart, Inc. CPR for Medical Professional, National Safety Council Professional Rescuer CPR, and ASHI CPR PRO.

PLEASE NOTE: There are sub-courses developed by many of these BLS courses that will not suffice for license renewal. An example of a course not acceptable for license renewal is the AHA Heart Saver course.

License Renewal Applications:

All license renewal applications must be in by February 1, 2005 for those renewing. Applications can be found at www.adph.org/ems. Download, complete form in its entirety and send in with \$10.00 money order or check and copy of CPR card and Refresher certificate.

Please call Gary Mackey or Russell Crowley, EMS Division at (334) 206-5383 or email gmackey@adph.state.al.us (license section) or rcrowley@adph.state.al.us (education section) if you have any questions.

2005 State Conference Information

The Colbert County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments is proud to host the 28th annual Conference of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. The upcoming Conference will be July 15-16, 2005 in Sheffield, Alabama.

The host motel will be the Holiday Inn, and the overflow motel will be the Webster Hotel & Suites. Reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn at 256-381-4710 and the Webster Hotel & Suites at 256-383-4100 or toll free 1-877-474-6257. Make sure you state you are attending the AAVFD Conference. The room rate will be \$59, plus tax, at both hotels.

If you have any questions, you may contact Conference Chairman Lawrence Huffman at home 256-446-9813, by cell phone 256-810-0671 or by e-mail 1whuff1@yahoo.com. The conference schedule and guest speaker information is not complete at this time.

Conference pre-registration will be \$20.00 per person, and registration at the conference will be \$25.00 per person. Please complete the pre-registration form to the right.

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Does the Code of Alabama Require that Volunteer Fire Departments Fly the State Flag?



STATE OF ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

TROY KING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 15, 2004

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
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MONTGOMERY, AL 36130
(205) 545-7200
WWW.AGO.STATE.AL.US

Honorable Tom Butler
Member, Alabama State Senate
Madison County Legislative Office
Suite A
100 Saint Clair Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Alabama State Flag - Volunteer Fire Departments

Because volunteer fire departments are not state agencies, section 1-2A-7 of the Code of Alabama does not require that the department fly the state flag. If a department is sanctioned by a municipality, the fire department building may be a municipal building that must fly the flag under section 1-2A-5.

Dear Senator Butler:

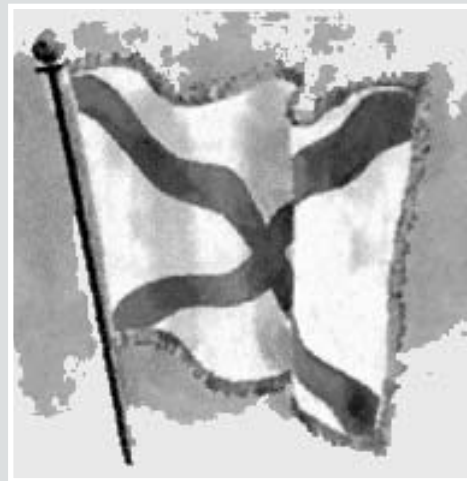
This opinion of the Attorney General is issued in response to your request.

QUESTION

Does section 1-2A-7 of the Code of Alabama require that volunteer fire departments fly the state flag?

FACTS AND ANALYSIS

The Alabama State Flag Act, section 1-2A-1, *et seq.*, of the Code of Alabama, provides for the display of the flag. The act requires the flying of the flag by county courthouses [ALA. CODE § 1-2A-4 (1999)], state and local law enforcement agencies [ALA. CODE § 1-2A-5 (1999)], state parks or historic sites [ALA. CODE § 1-2A-6 (1999)], state agencies [ALA. CODE § 1-2A-7 (1999)], and municipal buildings [ALA. CODE § 1-2A-8 (1999)]. Your question concerns section 1-2A-7, which specifically provides that "[e]ach facility or building located



The Alabama State Flag

Honorable Tom Butler
Page 2

in this state that is affiliated with any department or agency of the state and supported in whole or in part by public funds, shall prominently display the Alabama State Flag" ALA. CODE § 1-2A-7 (1999).

This Office has addressed volunteer fire departments in the context of the proper use of department funds on numerous occasions. Most recently, it was explained that, under section 9-3-17 of the Code of Alabama, volunteer fire departments can be created in one of two ways -- as a private entity or a local governmental entity. Opinion to Honorable Roger D. Bedford, Jr., Member, Alabama State Senate, dated January 5, 2001, A.G. No. 2001-059. The volunteer fire department can be an incorporated nonprofit organization or sanctioned by a political subdivision of the state. *Id.* In the latter case, the department becomes part of the particular governmental subdivision. *Id.* For example, "[v]olunteer fire departments sanctioned by a . . . municipality . . . become part of the municipal government." *Id.* See also opinion to Honorable Seth Hammett, Member, House of Representatives, dated January 8, 1996, A.G. No. 96-00086. If it is a municipally sanctioned fire department, however, the fire department building may be a municipal building that must fly the Alabama flag under section 1-2A-5 of the Code of Alabama.

CONCLUSION

Because volunteer fire departments are not state agencies, section 1-2A-7 of the Code of Alabama does not require that the department fly the state flag. If a department is municipally sanctioned, however, the fire department building may be a municipal building that must fly the flag under section 1-2A-5 of the Code of Alabama.

I hope this opinion answers your question. If this Office can be of further assistance, please contact Ward Beeson of my staff.

Sincerely,

TROY KING
Attorney General
By:

Carol Jean Smith
CAROL JEAN SMITH
Chief, Opinions Division

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From Here and There

News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama

Washington County Association held its annual Firefighter Banquet on October 9th.

Congratulations to McIntosh VFD, Washington County, for achieving a Class 6/8B from a prior 8/9 rating, effective July 1, 2004.

Congratulations to Excel VFD, Monroe County, for achieving a Class 6/9 from a prior 7/9 rating, effective November 1, 2004.

Congratulations to Samantha VFD, Tuscaloosa County, for achieving a Class 4/6 from a prior 7 rating, effective November 1, 2004.

Congratulations to Monroe County Chief of the Year Fred Brake, Goodway VFD; Firefighter of the Year Lewis Green, Rocky Hill VFD, Rookie of the Year Jeremy Flowers, Frisco City VFD; and EMT of the Year Rathan Owens, Excel VFD.

Snowdown VFD, Montgomery County, welcomed Haynes Ambulance sub-station to the community. Over 100 people attended a dinner on September 7th and toured the newly constructed Haynes Ambulance rooms at the main station.

Uriah VFD, Monroe County, purchased a 2004 4x4 Rescue truck.

The annual Lauderdale County Fire Prevention Parade was held October 11th.

Marshall County Fire and EMS Day was held October 16th.

Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, conducted a 12-hr. School Bus Extrication Class taught by Tommy MacPherson on October 22-23.

Springville VFD, St. Clair County, hosted a Basic Refresher course the first week in November. They also hosted a Paramedic Refresher course during the month.

Congratulations to Joe Hicks, Jr., Chief of Pine Hill VFD, who was honored as Wilcox County Fireman of the Year.

Lawley VFD, Bibb County, held open house October 23rd. The firefighters showcased a dump tank operation and fire extinguisher demonstration for the community.

Millbrook VFD, Elmore County, was awarded \$1,000 by Wal-Mart Prattville to be used for fire prevention education in their schools.

Congratulations to Chief Dwight Pugh who was honored by Coffeeville VFD, Clarke County, as Fireman of the Year.

Congratulations to Gary Counselman who was honored by West Bend-Bethel VFD, Clarke County, as Fireman of the Year.

The American flag proudly waves in front of the White City VFD in Autauga County. Kris Taylor erected a 30-foot metal flagpole in front of the firehouse as his Eagle Scout project. Autauga County Association President John Pirtle is also scoutmaster of Kris' Billingsley Boy Scout Troop 7.

Rogersville VFD, Lauderdale County, Town of Rogersville and Woodmen of the World conducted a Flag & Memorial Dedication to the late Rogersville Chief James O'Neal Embry, Sr. and United States Military Veterans on November 11th.

Senate of Alabama

Montgomery, Alabama Office of the Secretary

Resolution

Designating the Alabama Firefighter Memorial as the Official Firefighter Memorial for the State of Alabama

By Senators Poole, Steele, Lee and Bedford

WHEREAS, the Alabama Joint Fire Council unanimously agreed that a monument should be erected to serve as the official memorial to honor firefighters who heroically serve with pride, courage, and honor; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Joint Fire Council is made up of representatives from the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs, the Alabama Fire Fighters Association, the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Professional Firefighters Association of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Joint Fire Council also agreed that the monument should be placed on the beautifully landscaped ground of the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Fire College and the Professional Standards Commission are responsible for training thousands of paid

and volunteer firefighters, including fire protection personnel, rescue squad members, and emergency medical personnel throughout the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Firefighter Memorial will serve as a symbol of gratitude to the men and women of the fire service who risk their lives every day to protect the people of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, designated as a tribute to all of Alabama's firefighters, the Alabama Firefighter Memorial consists of a "Walk of Honor," personalized bricks allow firefighters, families, and friends of Alabama's fire service to be recognized and become part of the memorial, and a life-size bronze statue of a firefighter in full protective gear; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby extend our most sincere gratitude to all men and women who stand ready every day to put their lives on the line when the alarm bell rings and do further designate the Alabama Firefighter Memorial, located at the Alabama Fire College, Dr. W. L. Langston Campus in Tuscaloosa, as the official firefighter memorial for the State of Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be provided to the members of the Alabama Joint Council and to the Alabama Fire College for appropriate display.

I hereby certify that the above is a true, correct and accurate copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 13, adopted by the Legislature of Alabama on June 11, 2003. Act No. 2003-178

McDowell Lee, Secretary of Senate

President Signs FY 2005 Homeland Security Spending Bill

FIRE Grant Cut, SAFER Funded for the First Time

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On October 18, President Bush signed the \$33.1 billion Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2005. While the bill provides \$4 billion for State and local assistance programs, including grants to high threat areas, firefighters, and emergency management, it cuts funding for the highly successful Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, commonly referred to as the FIRE Act, from \$750 million to \$650 million.

In addition, the legislation provides \$65 million for the SAFER program, marking the first time the program has received funding. Besides using the funds to hire new firefighters nationwide, the program includes an NVFC-backed provision which sets aside 10% of the total amount appropriated for retention and recruitment grants for fire departments to enhance the number of volunteer firefighters and an additional 10% of the funds for hiring firefighters at volunteer and majority volunteer departments. The law authorizing SAFER also included a provision protecting the right to volunteer. More specifically it says, "any firefighter hired with funds provided under this bill shall not be discriminated against for, or be prohibited from, engaging in volunteer activities in another jurisdiction during off-duty hours."

"While we are pleased that Congress has again funded the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program above the President's request and has provided initial funding for SAFER, we are very concerned about the substantial cut the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program has taken over last year's level," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "The NVFC is also concerned about the potential in future years to use FIRE Act money to fund the SAFER program. Both programs need to be fully funded."

The Conference report from Congress also included the following language directed at the Department of Homeland Security:

"The conferees are concerned by the Department's proposed shift in grant focus from all-hazards to placing priority on terrorism, and the proposed deletion of several eligible activities, specifically, wellness and fitness programs, emergency medical services, fire prevention programs, public education programs, and modifications of facilities for health and safety of personnel. The Department should continue the present practice of funding applications according to local priorities and those established by the United States Fire Administration (USFA); reinstate all pre-

viously eligible funding areas, continue direct funding of grants to fire departments and the peer review process for determining funding awards; and include the USFA during grant administration."

The President's budget, submitted to Congress in February, proposed funding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program at \$500 million and did not request any funding for the SAFER program.

Below is a breakdown of first responder funding level for FY 2005:

- \$650 million for FIRE Grants;
- \$65 million for SAFER Grants;
- \$1.1 billion for basic formula grants;
- \$1.2 billion for high-density urban areas, including \$150 million for rail security and \$150 million for port security;
- \$400 million for State and local law enforcement terrorism prevention grants;
- \$180 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants;
- \$195 million for First Responder training and;
- \$30 million for USAR Teams.

Brady Creel and 50 Fireman Years



The year was 1947, when Brady Creel moved from Bibb County, Alabama, to Linden, Alabama, with his wife, Hazel, and 3 year old daughter, Gloria. Brady and Hazel worked, managed, and owned a retail store in Linden, until 1967.

Fifty years ago, the month of October 1954, Brady joined the Linden Volunteer Fire Department. He has held various positions through the years, such as, Fire Chief, Public Safety Director, police patrolman, Police Chief, and operated the city radio communications, and fire siren from the home he shared with his family. Hazel was the dispatcher, as well as Chief Creel's support system in communications and weekend operations.

Linden VFD fastly began to outgrow their lcoation. Mr.

Brady and members of the fire department approached the then mayor and city council requesting a new facility. With their support, fundraisers, and lots of hard work, Chief Creel and his men moved into their new station on Coats Avenue, in 1984.

The station was deservingly named the B. W. Creel Station. In 1986, Brady retired as Public Safety Director from the City of Linden, but, continued as Captain of the LVFD. He celebrated his 83rd birthday, June 13th.

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments does not have data or stats of longevity with length of active service. They are considering implementing such statistics for futhur reference. It is believed that Mr. Creel has the distinct honor of being the oldest living active firefighter in the State of Alabama, at present time. He continues to be an active firefighter with the LVFD and, presently serves as Assistant Fire Chief.

Continued on next page

2005 AAVFD Membership – Total 109

Over the past years, this association has provided many benefits to each department across our state. The Automated External Defibrillation (AED) program placed over 735 AEDs in departments at a cost of over \$1,847,000. This program is one of a kind, as no other state has attempted a major project for their volunteer fire departments with this AED program. This Association provided shipping addresses of County Association presidents to the Alabama Department of Public Health for the AED battery program.

To date, the Alabama Wild Land Fire Prevention Program, with the help of the Alabama Forestry Commission, has provided \$291,000 to the departments and county associations for wild land fire prevention grants.

Out of approximately 1,000 departments, 878 departments were members of this Association last year. Just as community fire service is not free and is very costly, working for your interest in Montgomery and across this state is costly in travel, as well as operational cost of the state office in Montgomery.

For this Association to represent you, your support is needed. Every department in this state should be a member of the AAVFD. In the AED program and the Wild Land Fire Prevention Program over \$2,000,000 was put back in your departments. This does not include legislation and countless other issues that this association oversees. If you were not a member of this Association last year, I urge each department to become a member of AAVFD. This Association is working seven days a week for the benefit of our volunteer fire service.

Johnny Dennis
AAVFD President

DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN	5 of 13
CHEROKEE	
DEKALB	
ETOWAH	
JACKSON	
MADISON	100%
MARSHALL	17 of 17

DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT	
CULLMAN	
JEFFERSON	
SHELBY	9 of 22
ST CLAIR	
WALKER	
WINSTON	

DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE	
GREENE	
HALE	
LAMAR	
PICKENS	
SUMTER	
TUSCALOOSA	

DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS	100%	13 of 13
CLAY		
CLEBURNE		
COOSA		
RANDOLPH		
TALLADEGA	2 of 15	
TALLAPOOSA		

DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA	100%	10 of 10
BIBB		
CHILTON		
DALLAS		
MARENGO		
PERRY		
WILCOX		

DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR	2 of 12
COFFEE	100%
DALE	9 of 9
GENEVA	
HENRY	
HOUSTON	
PIKE	

DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

BUTLER	
CONECUH	
COVINGTON	
CRENSHAW	
ESCAMBIA	
MONROE	

DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN	7 of 33
CHOCTAW	
CLARKE	
MOBILE	
WASHINGTON	

DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

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

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK	
ELMORE	
LEE	
LOWNDES	
MACON	
MONTGOMERY	
RUSSELL	



Brady Creel continued from page 10

The Present Linden Mayor and Council presented a proclamation to Assistant Fire Chief Creel, October 4, 2004. A reception was held immediately following the City Hall proclamation ceremony at the B. W. Creel Fire Station. Linden's Public Safety Director, Jeff Laduron presented an engraved plaque honoring his fifty years of active service. A proclamation from the office of the Honorable Governor Bob Riley will be presented later in the month of October at the Marengo Area Firefighters Association area district meeting.

Linden Fire Chief James Creel is following in his father's footsteps. Chief Creel has embarked on his thirty-first year of active service with the LVFD.



Chehaw Volunteer Fire Department, Macon County, recently took delivery of a 1982 Ford Pierce pumper.



Firefighters Memorial Statue

Alabama Fire Fighter Memorial Dedication Ceremony

Tuesday, October 19, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests

Dwight Graves, Chair
Alabama Joint Fire Council

Billy Mims, Sr., Chair
Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission

Invocation

Mike Sewell, Chief
Pell City Fire Department

Presentation of Colors

Jim St. John, Battalion Chief
Vestavia Hills Fire Department, and Color Guards

Presentation

Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent
National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland

Presentation and Unveiling of Memorial Statue

The Honorable Bob Riley, Governor
State of Alabama

Memorial Service

Johnny Dennis, President
Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

Joe Lynch, President
Alabama Firefighters Association

Jay Eaton, President
Professional Fire Fighers Association

Paul Syx, President
Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs

Conclusion of Service:

"Amazing Grace"

**Adjourn Ceremony to Refreshment Area,
Alabama Fire College**



Firefighters Memorial Statue



Dr. Denis Onieal, Natl. Fire Acad.



Governor Bob Riley



Paul Syx, AL Assn. of Fire Chiefs



Joe Lynch, AL Firefighters Assn.



Johnny Dennis, AAVFD



The American Flag flies high hoisted between two fire trucks



Jay Eaton, Pro. Firefighters Assn.



Firefighters Memorial Statue overlooks the crowd of participants



Refreshments hosted by Alabama Fire College



AAVFD Honor Guard



In memory of 196 fallen Alabama firefighters, the bell tolls...



Bagpipe players sound off "Amazing Grace"



Bagpipe players



Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama Joint Fire Council



Acting Fire Marshall Richard Montgomery talks with Alabama firefighter.

*Photos property of Alabama Fire College.
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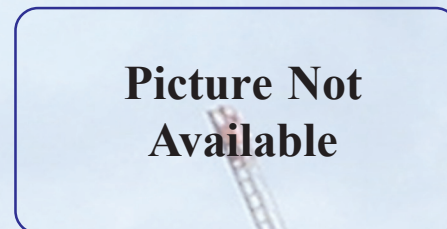
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Detroit Diesel



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1991 E-One Cyclone Custom Pumper
1500 Hale Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
On-Board Foam System
Detroit Diesel



**Picture Not
Available**

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1990 E-One Pumper Tanker
1000 GPM Top Mount Pump
1500 Gallon Tank
Diesel Engine



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1998 E-One 75' Quint
1500 Hale Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
30 Gallon Akron Foam Tank
Detroit Diesel



Call for Pricing
2000 ALF Custom 4x4
1500 Waterous Top Mount Pump
500 Poly Tank/ 10 & 30 Foam Tanks
PTO 8KW Generator
Detroit Diesel



\$35,000
1997 E-One Freightliner
Type III Ambulance
Automatic Transmission
Diesel Engine



\$109,000
1994 Pierce Dash
1500 Waterous Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Honda 5KW Generator
Detroit Diesel



\$119,000
1996 KME Custom Pumper
1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Honda 5KW Generator
Detroit Diesel



\$69,000
1986 E-One Hurricane Custom Pumper
1000 Hale Top Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
Brand New Paint
Cummins Diesel

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 Kawasaki 4.5KW Generator
 Detroit Diesel



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 1992 Pierce 75' Quint
 1500 Waterous Side Mount Pump
 750 Gallon Poly Tank
 Akron 1000GPM Nozzle at Tip
 Detroit Diesel



Call for Pricing
 1990 E-One Hurricane Pumper
 1500 Top Mount Pump
 500 Gallon Poly Tank
Tank Size Can Be Increased
 Detroit Diesel



Call for Pricing
 1995 Freightliner Luvenc
 1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
 750 Gallon Poly Tank
 30 Gallon Poly Foam Tank
 Cummins Engine



\$59,000
 1991/1975 Seagraves 100' Ladder
 Spartan Monarch Cab
 1997 Aerial Retrofit w/ Nylon Slide Block Kit
 20KW Diesel Generator
 Detroit Diesel/ Allison Automatic



\$95,000
 1993 E-One Hush Pumper
 1500 Hale Side Mount Pump
 500 Gallon Poly Tank
 Detroit Diesel
 Automatic Transmission



\$79,000
 1989 Pierce Dash Pumper
 1250 Waterous Top Mount Pump
 1000 Gallon Steel Tank
 Allison Automatic
 Cat Diesel



\$109,000
 1993 Pierce Dash Pumper
 1250 Waterous Side Mount Pump
 750 Gallon Poly Tank
 Enclosed Seating for 4
 Detroit Diesel



\$65,000
 1988 E-One Hush Pumper
 1500 Hale Side Mount Pump
 500 Gallon Aluminum Tank
 Hale 4KW Generator
 Detroit Diesel



\$65,000
 1985 E-One 55' Telesquirt
 1250 Hale Side Mount Pump
 400 Gallon Aluminum Tank
 Detroit Diesel
 Allison Automatic



\$25,000
 1980 Mack Commercial Pumper
 1000 Waterous Side Mount Pump
 1000 Gallon Fiberglass Tank
 5 Speed Transmission
 Mack Engine



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 1999 E-One Superior Rescue
 Ford F-350 Chassis
 Warn 12K lb Winch
 Two 500W Telescoping Quartz Lights
 7.3L Turbo Diesel

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*"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*



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1983 Chevrolet Tanker

Gas, standard transmission, Hale 750 gpm, 2200 gallon steel tank, 2000 gallon portable tank, 9" rear dump, 6,000 actual miles. Excellent condition.



1990 Ford F-800 Pumper/Rescue

Diesel, 6-speed, air brakes, power steering, 750-Darley, 750 stainless tank, 3500-watt generator, 2 extending lights, ladders, pike poles, hard suction, included. Excellent condition.



Beautiful 1988 Ford Pumper

Diesel, automatic, Hale 1250 gpm, 1000-gallon steel tank, extending lights with 24,000 miles. Excellent condition. Available January 2005.



1977 Pierce International Loadstar

Gas, 5-speed, 750-Waterous pump, 750 gallon tank, 3500-watt generator, 3 quartz lights, low miles. Excellent condition.



Totally Refurbished 1976/2003 International Continental

Gas, standard transmission, Hale front mount 750 gpm pump, new 2500 poly tank with new hose bed and 9" rear dump, 2500-gallon portable dump tank included. Excellent condition.

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HUD outside view

HUD inside view

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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.

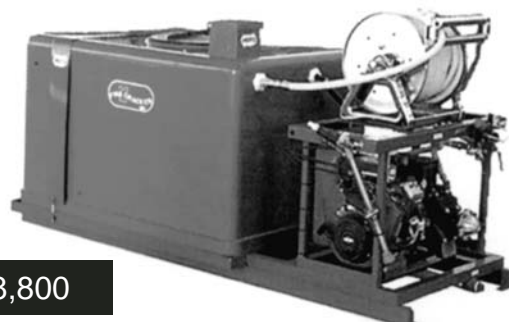
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This is the 18 hp version of the famous "FireCracker." With pressures of over 500 psi this is the top of the line "Wildland" firefighter. Standard tanks up to 300 gallon, but larger optional tanks are available. Engines from various engine manufacturers are also available. Optional foam systems can be installed.

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Maximum Volume: 26.0 GPM
Maximum Speed: 550 RPM
Number of Cylinders: 4

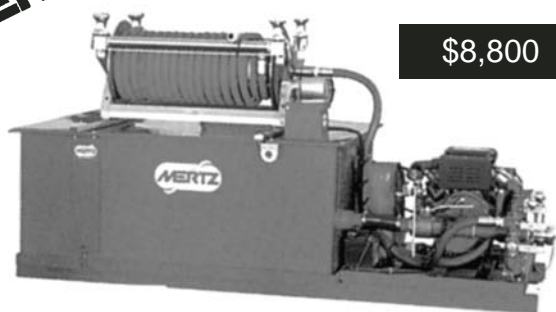
FD-18V-300 L



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\$8,800

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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AAVFD Scholarships Are Available



The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2005. 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, 2005.

AAVFD Board of Directors Meeting



The AAVFD Board of Directors will meet Saturday, December 11 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 Hwy 31 for 1/2 mile, and the Center is on your right.

Timing is Everything

How many times have you heard the statement, "Timing is everything"? Well, timing may not be important in every issue; however, if one of your firefighters is hurt or killed and your department has not submitted the 2005 AAVFD insurance forms, your firefighters are not covered under this policy. In the past, we have received department's insurance payment in July, August and later, which means these firefighter's insurance coverage is for the remaining part of the year.

In years past, firefighters have been hurt or killed thinking they were covered under the AAVFD insurance, only to find out later that these forms were not returned to the AAVFD office. The statement, "Timing is everything", is very true in this case. We also want to remind you that with this policy, you also receive the AAVFD newsletter. "The Volunteer", which covers important issues regarding the national and state fire service that you, as a firefighter, need to know.

Your present policy expires December 31, 2004. I suggest each department purchase one \$10,000 policy for only \$12 or the \$20,000 policy for \$20 for each of your firefighters. This is the very least your department can do for the firefighters who sometime pay the ultimate price for your department and community.

While serving as president of this association, I have received many calls, letters or e-mails asking if the firefighters who lost their lives and suffered long-term injury

had the AAVFD insurance. Many times I had to reply, "No, we have not received your form or payment to renew this coverage". To a wife who just lost her husband, with no income coming into the household, this can be devastating. Most departments can not financially assist a family with this loss; however, you can provide a policy to help families who are faced with this situation.

I urge each fire chief to look at your department and your firefighters and purchase one policy for the families that make up your department. If you have any questions or need insurance forms, contact the AAVFD office at 1-888-972-2833.

2005 insurance renewal forms were mailed to the Chief of all AAVFD members departments on October 7th. Coverage of the current policy will expire on December 31, 2004. 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. Coverage begins January 1, 2005, or if mailed after January 1st, coverage begins on the day that your insurance enrollment is received in the AAVFD office.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program:

Death Benefits

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides a one-time financial benefit to the eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths are the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

Who is eligible?

How do I apply?

How is payment received?

Eligibility

Beneficiaries of the PSOB Death Benefits Program must comply with the PSOB Office's administrative review process by producing sufficient evidence to show that the public safety officer died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty.

Eligibility Dates

- * State and local law enforcement officers and firefighters are covered for line-of-duty deaths occurring on or after September 29, 1976.
- * Federal law enforcement officers and firefighters are covered for line-of-duty deaths occurring on or after October 12, 1984.
- * Federal, state, and local public rescue squads and ambulance crews are covered for line-of-duty deaths occurring on or after October 15, 1986.
- * As of October 30, 2000, employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state, local, and tribal emergency management and civil defense agency employees working in cooperation with FEMA are considered to be public safety officers under the PSOB Program, provided they were performing official, hazardous duties related to a declared major disaster or emergency. Consequently, these individuals are covered for line-of-duty deaths occurring on or after that date.
- * Retroactive to September 11, 2001, chaplains are included in the PSOB Act definition of a public safety officer.
- * Effective December 15, 2003, public safety officers are covered for line-of-duty deaths that are a direct and proximate result of a heart attack or stroke, as defined in the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act of 2003.

Applying for Death Benefits

Eligible survivors may file claims directly with the PSOB Office or through the public agency in which the public safety officer served.

1. After a fatality occurs, the department should:
 - * Make arrangements for an autopsy, which often provides the PSOB Office with useful information regarding the cause of death.
 - * Identify a department member to serve as a liaison between the department and the PSOB Office.
2. After being named, the department's liaison should:
 - * Call the PSOB Office at 1-888-744-6513.
 - * Provide accurate, up-to-date information regarding:
 - * The public agency's name.
 - * The liaison's name.
 - * Phone numbers for the department and the liaison.
 - * A fax number or mailing address so the PSOB Office can send the claim initiation guidance letter.
 - * The name of the deceased (public safety officer).
 - * The date of the incident and the deceased's date of death.
 - * A brief description of the incident.
 - * Relay the information very carefully and include only what is known. There should be no speculation as to the cause of death.
 - * Leave a phone message with the liaison's name and telephone number if calling during the evening or on a weekend.
3. After being informed of an incident by the department liaison or other sources, the PSOB Office will mail a Claims Guidance Package to the department liaison as soon as possible. Included in this package are the following items:
 - * Claim initiation guidance letter.
 - * Report of Public Safety Officer's Death form.
 - * Claim for Death Benefits form.
 - * Consent to Release Confidential Information form.
 - * Copy of the PSOB Act.

4. After receiving the guidance package, the liaison should:

- * Meet with the claimant as soon as possible to complete the Claim for Death Benefits and Report of Public Safety Officer's Death forms.
- * Ensure that the family provides a copy of the death notice.
- * Gather the other documentation requested in the claim initiation guidance letter.

5. Upon receiving the claim package from the liaison, the PSOB Office may contact the department liaison and/or family if further information is needed.

6. Because determining the eligibility of claimants under the PSOB Program is often time consuming, these benefits are not intended to meet emergency financial needs. However, the PSOB Office works closely with Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), both of which provide an array of support services that may be helpful to the survivors immediately after a line-of-duty death. When the Consent To Release Confidential Information form is signed by the claimant and returned with the other requested documents, the PSOB Office will forward the claimant's name and address to the appropriate partner agency so that contact may be initiated.

7. Once the processing is completed, the PSOB Office will send a letter notifying the claimant and department of the decision reached. Should the claim be denied, information on the appeals process also will be provided.

Payment of Death Benefits

Following approval of a death benefits claim, the eligible survivors will be paid the benefit in a lump sum. This payment is made through the U.S. Department of the Treasury either by direct deposit or by check mailed to the claimant's home address (provided on the "Claim for Death Benefits" form) within 14 business days after the claimant's receipt of notification. If direct deposit is desired, the claimant will be required to submit his or her banking information.

The Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. § 3796, et seq.) is retroactive to September 11, 2001, and amends the PSOB Act of 1976 in the following ways:

- * Includes chaplains in the definition of public safety officers.
- * Defines chaplain as "including any individual serving as an officially recognized or designated member of a legally organized volunteer fire department or legally organized fire or police department who was responding to a fire, rescue, or police emergency."
- * Adds a new category of beneficiary. If the public safety officer had no surviving spouse or eligible children, the individual designated as the beneficiary on the officer's most recently executed life insurance policy is eligible for benefits.¹

Beneficiary Hierarchy Under the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act	
Before September 11, 2001	On or After September 11, 2001
Survived by spouse but no eligible children, ² the spouse will receive 100% of the benefit.	Survived by spouse but no eligible children, the spouse will receive 100% of the benefit.
Survived by spouse and eligible children, the spouse will receive 50% of the benefit and the children will receive equal shares of the remaining 50%.	Survived by spouse and eligible children, the spouse will receive 50% of the benefit and the children will receive equal shares of the remaining 50%.
Survived by eligible children but no spouse, the children will receive equal shares of the benefit.	Survived by eligible children but no spouse, the children will receive equal shares of the benefit.
Survived by neither a spouse nor eligible children, the surviving parents will receive equal shares of the benefit.	Survived by neither a spouse nor eligible children, the benefit shall be paid to the individual designated by the officer under his or her most recently executed life insurance policy, provided that the beneficiary survived the officer.
Survived by neither a spouse, eligible children, nor parents, a claim for benefits will not be initiated.	Survived by neither a spouse nor eligible children and does not have a life insurance policy, the surviving parents will receive equal shares of the benefit.

1. A 1-year waiting period will commence from the date of signature on the initial PSOB claim form "Claim for Death Benefits."

2. An eligible child is defined as any natural, illegitimate, adopted, or posthumous child or stepchild of the public safety officer who, at the time of the officer's death, was 18 or under, or between 19 and 22 (inclusive) and a full-time student at an eligible educational institution, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-support due to mental or physical disabilities.

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Pictures shown with some options added



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Don's Perspective

by Don Shield
Alabama Firefighter

Many of you, knowing that the AAVFD President according to our by-laws is only allowed to serve for a period of three consecutive years, starting inquiring if I would run next year for the AAVFD President's position. I have given this much thought, because the time required to perform in this position and do our organization justice is demanding.

At this time I want to announce that I will be seeking the position of AAVFD President. I welcome all your support, as I believe a team concept balances the workload and makes for a much better outcome. In the next issue of the AAVFD newsletter I will detail my **three year goals**, if elected, to move the AAVFD forward through an approved board five and ten year propose plan, highlighting my management philosophy towards team build-

ing and improving communications throughout the organization. Some may ask, why **three year goals**. In making my decision to run for this position, I had to make a commitment to myself, family and my fire service peers that it would be for three years, not just one.

Over the years many good ideas have surfaced, either through general conversation, at conferences, and board meetings, to be overshadowed by events. Many of these ideas need to come back, be revisited, worked and maybe instituted as official policy for the organization.

Nothing in the above comments is intended to take away accomplishments in the past; I just have a different management style. The AAVFD Officers and Board of Directors each have functions/jobs that support the

organization, and all these positions should be accountable to the AAVFD membership.

Again, I welcome your support, and those of you who would like to offer input as to positive changes in moving this organization forward, please feel free to contact me directly.

Email: DSHIELD@hiwaay.net
Phone Evening: 256-776-9760



Improving Safety

Our department had an incident of a rescue air bag failure the other day.

After the incident I conducted an investigation into the reason for the failure, and what I found was very interesting, and I feel that I need to share it with the other members of our association. On July 29, 2004 we were attempting to raise the right front wheel of one of our custom pumpers up to make room for a jack to be placed under axle to repair a flat tire. While attempting the lift, one of the two Maxiforce air bags (Model #KPI-17) being used for the lift ruptured approximately one inch from the air connection and uncontrollably released the air from the bag. We replaced that bag with another bag and made the lift. After the lift we removed the bags and found another bag (Model #KPI-22) had suffered failure by allowing air to get between the layers of the bag compromising the integrity of the bag and not allowing the bag to fully deflate. We were attempting to lift approximately 4 tons with a 17- and 22-ton air bag set when the failure occurred. These two bags are no more than 15 years old, show very little signs of wear and had no visible physical damage.

After the incident I contacted Paratech, the maker of the

Maxiforce air bag, and they advised me that these air bags have a service life of 10 to 15 years.

This was the first time I have ever heard of this type of equipment having a service life. I down-loaded the information from their website, and I found no mention of service life in any of the material they listed. The reason for passing this information along is that most other fire officials that I have contacted have never heard of a service life restriction on air bags and the people in the fire service need to know this information. Please check your air bags to know what you have and what is going on with them before someone gets hurt. We were lucky that our incident was not a rescue call. Also as a parting note, Paratech has worked well with us in replacing our bags. Call me for the details if you are interested.

Byron M. Pigg, EFO
Fire Chief
East Alabama Fire Department
334-756-7170 Office
334-756-7269 Fax
chiefmbp@knology.net



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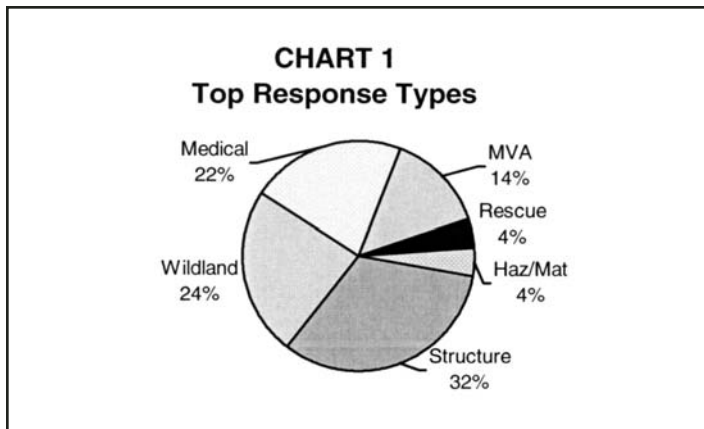
Who We Are: 2003 Rural Fire Department Survey

Lou Hyman, Fire Staff Officer, Alabama Forestry Commission

In the fall of 2003, the Alabama Forestry Commission, in conjunction with the Southern Group of State Foresters, conducted a mail survey of all Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) in Alabama. About 974 fire departments responded out of a total mail-out of 1,011. This high response rate (96.2%) makes this survey statistically accurate.

The vast majority of rural fire departments are volunteer. Only 1.9% of the firefighters are paid. Of the 64 departments that have paid staff, the majority have fewer than 5 paid employees. Most departments have some firefighter training. A majority of departments (69.2%) participate in a formal Firefighter Certification Program.

The departments respond to a variety of emergencies. The vast majority of their work involves structural fires, wild-land fires and medical emergencies (Chart 1).

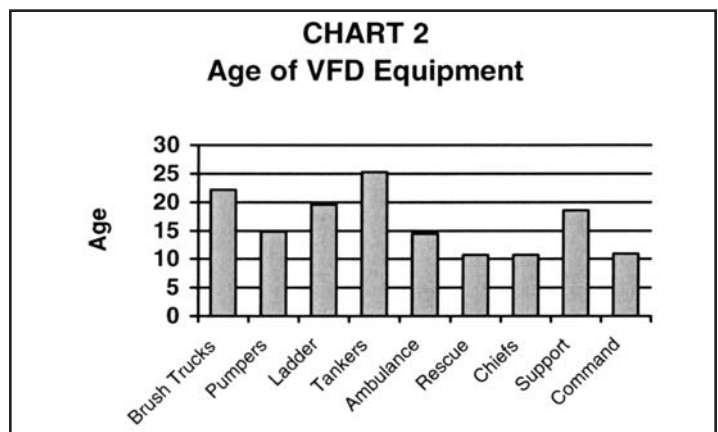


The survey asked the VFDs to list issues facing them. Each department ranked several issues, selecting their top issues. The VFDs are most worried about funding, firefighter availability, recruitment and retention.

The VFDs are working to address these issues. Over 90.9% of departments have mutual aid agreements with their neighboring departments to help when emergencies exceed the VFD's manpower availability. Funding is an issue for all departments. Only 1 in 7 VFDs (14.7%) have funding from local taxes. The departments use a variety of funding sources. Each VFD selected its top sources of income, with donations, fundraisers and county or city grants being the primary sources. It should be noted that the AFC state grants to departments appear to be critical to only 7.3% of VFDs.

EQUIPMENT

The VFDs have a large collection of fire fighting equipment, but the equipment is aging. The departments have an average of 4.6 pieces of equipment. The most common items are pumpers, followed by tankers and brush-trucks. The average age of the fire vehicles controlled by the departments is over 18.5 years (Chart 2).



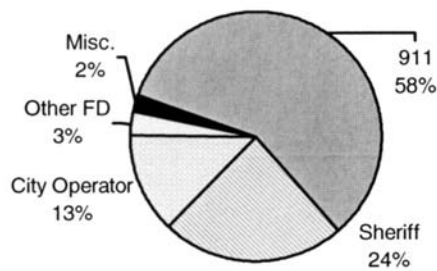
There was some confusion about some of the questions on the survey form. The VFDs reported that only 3.5% of their equipment was Federal Excess Property. However, AFC records show that VFDs hold over 4,000 pieces of FEPP equipment. As a positive note, nearly all (98.4%) of VFDs have vehicle liability insurance.

VFDs need to acquire more personal protective equipment. About 1 in 8 departments (12.6%) do not have full Bunker Gear. About 5 in 8 (63.3%) VFDs do not have Wildland Fire Protective Gear. Less than half (46.6%) of rural firefighters have working self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

All of the departments have some radio communication. Most departments had either VHF High Band or UHF radios. However, only 21.4% of departments have radios that are narrow band compatible. Over 10.4% of rural fire department apparatus do not have direct radio communications.

Nearly all VFDs have a formal dispatch system. The majority of departments are dispatched by either a 911 system or through the Sheriff's office (Chart 3).

CHART 3
Rural Dispatch Systems



DEPARTMENT NEEDS

In the survey, VFDs were asked to indicate their equipment and training needs, using a 1 to 14 scale. There was some confusion by the departments in this process, as some departments gave several items a number 1 priority, and left some items blank. For this analysis, those items which received a 1 or 2 priority were evaluated. Spread out among 14 choices, the top priorities are hard to identify. However, structural firefighting, basic wildland firefighting, first aid and ISO requirements were the most needed training programs.

In addition, the VFDs were asked to list their equipment needs. Again, several departments listed many items as priority 1. Based on the survey, the top equipment needs for VFDs are pumpers, tankers, wildland PPE, bunker gear and brush trucks.

Volunteer fire departments in Alabama perform an extremely valuable service to their communities and the state. However, as this survey indicates additional assistance is needed in several areas to help them do an even better job.

A more in depth examination of the survey results can be viewed on the Alabama Forestry Commission's webpage at www.forestry.state.al.us.

On the Lighter Side

Big Brother Strikes Again



A man was driving down the road. He passed a traffic camera and saw it flash. Astounded that he had been caught speeding when he was doing the speed limit, he turned around and, going even slower, he passed by the camera. Again, he saw it flash. He couldn't believe it! So he turned and, going a snail's pace, he passed the camera. AGAIN, he saw the camera flash. He guessed it must have a fault, and home he went. Four weeks later he received 3 traffic fines in the mail, all for not wearing a seatbelt.

Sentinel & Enterprise

by Shari Duffy

Sentinel & Enterprise Correspondent
Wednesday, November 3, 2004

LANCASTER – Town residents voted against providing Martin McNamara V's widow and family with annual death benefits following his death fighting a fire in November 2003.

After waiting anxiously for several hours as the town's vote were counted, family members of fallen Lancaster fire fighter Martin McNamara V and his fellow firefighters were left stunned and visibly distraught.

Just 18 votes separated those who were against a tax override that would have raised local taxes 7 percent for one year to fund an annuity to pay the McNamara family annual benefits. The final vote count was 1,615 against, 1,597 in favor with 170 blanks.

McNamara's father, Martin McNamara IV, reacted sharply to the defeat, saying there were 30 call firefighters in Lancaster who "just got a message from the town people that said if you lose your life, it isn't worth it to us."

McNamara later added his gratitude for those who did vote in favor of the override.

One Lancaster firefighter shouted as he left the polling location, "This town just sent these guys a message and the message is they don't give a crap. The townspeople just said 'Stick it.'"

Lancaster has an all-call, or volunteer, fire department.

McNamara, a call firefighter from Clinton, was killed on the morning of Nov. 29, 2003, the day after he turned 31 years old while battling a fire in the basement of a home on Mill Street. He left behind a wife, Claire, and three small daughters.

Jim Buck, a member of the committee to support the McNamara family said they intend to seek a recount. Town Clerk Susan Thompson also said there were 29 provisional votes – votes taken by people who claimed they were registered in Lancaster but whose names were not on the voter registration lists, that could be added to the final count if they are validated as legitimate Lancaster voters.

At the Annual Town Meeting last May, voters overwhelmingly supported purchasing a \$650,000 annuity to be used to provide McNamara's widow and three children an annual death pension equal to two-thirds the annual salary of a first-year firefighter. It would also allow the McNamara family to purchase town health insurance. Voters at that same town meeting also improved coverage for all call firefighters to ensure that if another call firefighter is killed in the line of duty, the town will have the insurance to provide for the family.

Had voters approved the override, residents would have seen their tax bills increase by approximately \$140 for every \$100,000 in property for one year only.

Chairman of the Selectmen Joanne Foster said she was saddened by the result but vowed "we are not going to let this family go without any benefits."

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: Pilot Wayne Turner, Career
Department: BLM Arizona Strip Field Office, St. George UT
Date of Death: 6/17/04
Cause of Death: Died while flying under contract for BLM when his single-engine tanker crashed for a cause still to be determined while working the Dammeron Fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Willie Lacy, Career
Department: Augusta FD, Augusta GA
Date of Death: 6/17/04
Cause of Death: Died while on duty in station of cause still to be determined, possible heart attack.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Joshua Martin, Volunteer
Department: Duson VFD, Duson LA
Date of Death: 6/19/04
Cause of Death: Died as passenger when firefighter's POV hydroplaned and hit another vehicle in head-on collision while responding to an apartment fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Gary D. Archibeque, Volunteer
Department: Show Low Fire District, Show Low AZ
Date of Death: 6/19/04
Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack while working as lead of chipping crew on department's forest treatment program.

Name/Rank: Captain Thomas De Angelis, Volunteer
Department: Stowe Township VFD #2, McKees Rocks PA
Date of Death: 6/23/04
Cause of Death: Became ill after returning from 2 a.m. call and died of apparent heart attack.

Name/Rank: Lt. Kenneth W. Lipyance, Volunteer
Department: Churchill Volunteer Fire Company, Pittsburgh PA
Date of Death: 6/30/04
Cause of Death: Reported not feeling well at scene of vehicle extrication accident involving piece of fire apparatus. After working a second vehicle accident in front of fire station, he got into his POV and suffered stroke as he left the parking lot.

Name/Rank: Chief G. Don Fox, Volunteer
Department: Bluegrove VFD, Bluegrove TX
Date of Death: 7/9/04
Cause of Death: Reported to have become ill at scene of hay/vehicle fire and found later in his home having died from apparent heart attack.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Harold Dean Chappell, Volunteer
Department: Arlington F/R, Jonesville NC
Date of Death: 7/12/04
Cause of Death: Returned to home after responding to motor vehicle crash on 7/11/04 and suffered fatal heart attack the following morning.

Name/Rank: Captain Daniel E. Elkins, Career
Department: Los Angeles County FD, Los Angeles CA
Date of Death: 7/13/04
Cause of Death: Died from injuries received in POV accident as he left brush fire scene.

Name/Rank: Crew Chief George Raber, Volunteer
Department: Hebron Fire Protection District, Hebron ND
Date of Death: 7/31/04
Cause of Death: Suffered heart attack while exiting engine on fire scene.

Name/Rank: Chief Ed Stallings, Volunteer
Department: Carthage VFD, Carthage TN
Date of Death: 8/1/04
Cause of Death: Died from injuries sustained while directing fire suppression operations at church fire in April. Roof structure collapsed causing front wall to fall outward as the Chief and two of his firefighters exited the building.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Captain Tom Conway, Volunteer
Department: Haddon Heights FD, Haddon Heights NJ
Date of Death: 8/3/04
Cause of Death: Suffered chest pain while directing traffic at fire department call on 7/29/04, passing away 4 days later.

Name/Rank: Chief Lester Philips, Volunteer
Department: Sunshine VFD, Harlan KY
Date of Death: 8/4/04
Cause of Death: Died in hospital several days after suffering apparent heart attack at scene of house fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Mike McAdams, Volunteer
Department: Sappello-Rociada VFD, Sapello NM
Date of Death: 8/4/04
Cause of Death: Died at home from cause to be determined after responding to scene of vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Rescue Crew Member Michael J. Bliss, Career
Department: Speedway Safety Services, Claremont NH
Date of Death: 8/6/04
Cause of Death: Struck and killed by racecar at Twin State Speedway as he retrieved debris from the track during second practice session.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Barbara Bordenkircher, Volunteer
Department: Wickliffe Rural FD, Wickliffe KY
Date of Death: 8/10/04
Cause of Death: Firefighter Bordenkircher was operating fire apparatus at grass fire when fire vehicle left roadway, striking tree killing her and seriously injuring passenger Firefighter William Stanton.

Name/Rank: Pilot Mike Ward, Career
Department: Okanogan & Wenatchee National Forests, Wenatchee WA
Date of Death: 8/11/04
Cause of Death: Killed when helicopter he was piloting crashed while ferrying firefighting equipment to lightning-caused fire in wilderness area.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Jaime L. Foster, Career
Department: Los Angeles FD, Los Angeles CA
Date of Death: 8/14/04
Cause of Death: Killed in single vehicle accident as she left scene of residential fire. Investigation into circumstances is being conducted.

Name/Rank: Captain John Taylor, Career
Department: Firefighter Rey Rubio, Career
Philadelphia FD, Philadelphia PA
Date of Death: 8/20/04
Cause of Death: Killed when they became trapped in basement of home where they were fighting a one-alarm fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT Benjamin Lang, Career
Department: Polk County FD/Cypress Gardens, Bartow FL
Date of Death: 8/23/04
Cause of Death: Killed instantly while assisting in ambulance that was transporting patient to hospital, which left road striking a tree.

Name/Rank: Firefighter David E. Vinisky, Volunteer
Department: Raccoon Township Independent VFD #1, Aliquippa PA
Date of Death: 8/25/04
Cause of Death: Died of injuries received when he was struck by fire engine at fire station.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/Former Chief Robert E. Woolf, Volunteer
Department: Phillipsburg FD, Phillipsburg OH
Date of Death: 8/25/04
Cause of Death: Died while working annual department fund raising event when pickup truck tailgate support straps broke as he sat on the tailgate, causing him to strike his head when he fell to the pavement.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMS Director Cordell French, Volunteer
Department: Towanda FD, Towanda KS
Date of Death: 8/28/04
Cause of Death: Died of apparent heart attack after returning from fire department drill.

Name/Rank: Deputy Chief James D'Heron, Career
Department: New Brunswick NJ FD, New Brunswick NJ
Date of Death: 9/3/04
Cause of Death: Died in burning two family dwelling after evacuating 15 occupants when conditions deteriorated rapidly trapping him inside.

Name/Rank: Acting Captain Gerald Mac McGowan, Career
Department: Kansas City FD, Kansas City MO
Date of Death: 9/5/04
Cause of Death: Died from injuries sustained when pumper apparatus en route to fire in which he was passenger collided with two vehicles.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Richard O'Brien, Volunteer
Department: Warren FD, Warren RI
Date of Death: 9/11/04
Cause of Death: Responded to residential kitchen fire, opened a few windows to let heavy smoke out of the kitchen, then collapsed and died from a cause to be determined.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Eva Schicke, Career
Department: California Dept. of Forestry, Sacramento CA
Date of Death: 9/12/04
Cause of Death: Died when flames apparently overran the seven-person helicopter crew that was dropped into forest to fight blaze in Tuolumne Fire River Canyon.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Clint Ronnie, Volunteer
Department: Good Springs VFD, Anderson AL
Date of Death: 9/17/04
Cause of Death: Died when tree fell on his vehicle while he was assisting with tree removal from roads following Hurricane Ivan.

Name/Rank: William Jim Lightbody, Volunteer
Department: Paramus Volunteer Rescue Squad, Paramus NJ
Date of Death: 9/18/04
Cause of Death: Succumbed to heart attack returning from motor vehicle entrapment call.

Name/Rank: Asst. Chief William Weborg, Volunteer
Department: Ephraim FD, Ephraim WI
Date of Death: 9/26/04
Cause of Death: Collapsed at fire station and died of cause to be determined while answering a reported boat fire call.

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR SALE: IMMACULATE CONDITION - 1977 Pierce, International with 12,700 miles, gas, 5-speed, 750-gallon tank, 750-g.p.m. pump and high side compartments. Vehicle is complete with 2-booster reels with nozzles, 2-10' lengths of 4-1/2" hard suction with strainer, ladders and pike poles, 3500-watt Winco generator on slide-out tray, 3-quartz lights and new tires. Additional equipment includes: a vinyl hose bed cover, 3-electric cord reels and owners manual. This truck is absolutely in immaculate condition and ready for front line service. Asking \$13,000 negotiable. For further information, please call George at (269) 720-2442.



FOR SALE: 1983 Chevrolet, 427, 5-speed, gas engine, single axle, 2200-gallon tanker with a 750-g.p.m. Hale pump. The truck is equipped with a 2000-gallon portable dump tank, 2-crosslays, 10" rear dump tank, hard suction, new tires and 6770 actual miles. This truck is absolutely in immaculate condition and ready for front line service. Asking price is \$35,000.00 negotiable. For further information, please contact George at (269) 720-2442.

FOR SALE: 1978 Seagrave, Ford C-8000 diesel, 1000 GPM pump and 1000 tank. Comes with 600 ft 1.5" hose, portable deck gun, booster reel and other equipment. Asking \$13,000. For more information, contact Eddie @ 256-446-8059 or Kelly @ 256-710-1901 or e-mail at NCFIRE972@aol.com



FOR SALE: 1979 Ford F700, 429 engine, 1,000 miles on rebuilt engine, 750-gallon fiberglass coated tank, 1200 ft. 2-1/2" hose, 1000 GPM Barton American Pump, ladders and extra equipment, 200- ft. reel hose. \$12,900. Contact Lex Moody at (256) 767-7264.



FOR SALE: 1976 Chevrolet Model 350 Quick Attack. Waterous pump, 400 GPM, Grumman body, 250-gallon tank. \$5,000. Call Lex Moody at (256) 767-7264.

FOR SALE: Surplus Air Packs. 2 Survive Air Packs (80's model), good condition, plus case and 2 steel Survive air bottles - \$200 each. 2 Guardsman Air Packs (model unknown) plus case and 2 steel Survive air bottles - \$250 each. 1 Scott Air Pack (Reconditioned 1990's), new facemask, plus case and 1 steel Scott bottle - \$250. 1 Draeger Air Pack (model unknown), with steel Survive Air bottle - \$65. 1 Survive Air Bottle (steel) - \$35. 3 Scott Air Bottles (steel) - \$35 each. For information, contact 256-352-4292 after 6 p.m.

We extend our condolences to former Vice President and former Treasurer Don Shield whose wife, Kate, died in a car crash October 19, 2004.

THE BELL TOLLED



Clint Romine, Good Springs VFD, Limestone County, died in an accident September 17, 2004 while helping with the clean up from Hurricane Ivan.

Mike Sheehan, Thomasville VFD, Clarke County passed away September 17, 2004.

Sergeant Foster L. Harrington, Seven Hills VFD, Mobile Co., active duty Marine serving in the elite Marine Corps reserve Unit Third Force Reconnaissance Company, died September 20, 2004 in action against insurgents in Al Anbar Province in Iraq.

Bill Brown, Brierfield Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Bibb County, passed away October 21, 2004. He was a founding member, serving in all areas of the department. Mr. Bill was also instrumental in getting the rescue department started at Brierfield. He served on the Board of Directors, as well as department advisor.

Floyal Rodgers, Jr., Sardis VFD, Cullman County, passed away July 12, 2004. He was serving as the department secretary at the time of his death.

Robert K. Washburn, Newbern VFD, Hale County, died in an automobile accident on October 31, 2004.

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 Clayton Cobb, Sr. - (251) 578-2855 or John Wilson - (334) 569-3022 or Joey Boyd - (256) 233-1597.

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.



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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2nd John Wilson
3rd VP Joey Boyd
Secretary Mary Jane Sells
Treasurer Gary Cobb

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