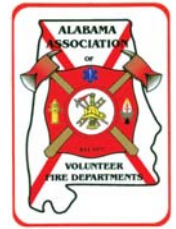




THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Jan. – March 2010

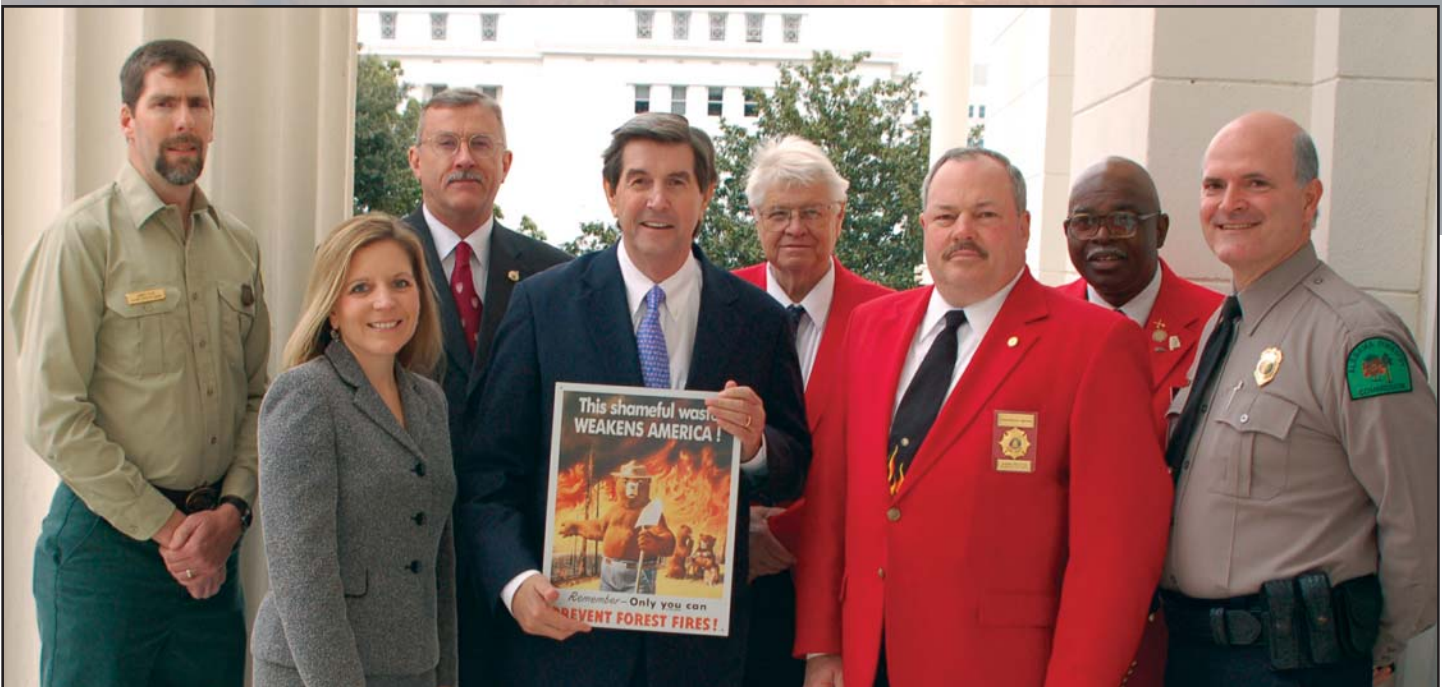
2010 WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION GRANT **FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!**

We are in the 2010 spring fire season with numerous wildfires occurring across the state. A good fire prevention program makes citizens aware of this fire hazard and knowledge aids in reducing the number of wildfires each year.

Since 2001, a Wildland Fire Prevention Grant has been awarded to volunteer fire departments across the state by the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. This program is made possible by the USDA Forest Service through the Alabama

Forestry Commission. \$100,000 is available for the 2010 Wildland Fire Prevention Grant.

In sponsoring this grant program, AAVFD President Chauncey Wood stated, "We seek to act, not react. Our ability to live more safely in the Wildland/Urban Interface depends on pre-fire planning and public education so that everyone has a better chance of protecting their lives and property from wildfire."



Back row, left to right: James Flue, Fire Management Officer USDA Forest Service, National Forests of Alabama; Dan Jackson, Protection Division Director, Alabama Forestry Commission; Roy Mott, President, Rural Community Fire Protection Institute; and Charlie Dixon, AAVFD Public Relations Director

Front row, left to right: Patricia Powell, Division Director of State Lands, ADCNR; Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama; Chauncey Wood, AAVFD President; and Craig Hill, Law Enforcement Chief, Alabama Forestry Commission.

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

Shay Wood



"Humble yourselves therefore, under God's might hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Peter 5:6 (NIV)

Good communication starts with a simple, clear and direct message like the biblical instruction above. It is very simple, yet powerful and keeps me going on a daily basis!

In a previous "From the President's Desk" message to you, I mentioned 2010 would be problematic - that was and is an understatement, to say the least. Many believe poor oversight caused our economic crisis; personally, I say greed was the root cause of our economic woes as we are at the crossroads.

The 2010 legislative session has been cranking right along so far, with plenty of debate, and as always, lots of drama! There have been discussions, arguments and votes on issues from ethics, furloughs, no-bid contracts, road construction, charter schools,

grocery tax, bingo, and now plain and simple, power. It is just amazing and would almost be funny if it were not such a serious matter of funding of state services, particularly for the individual who least can stand the loss of such, much less those who provide these services.

Will there be a second round of stimulus money for Alabama? Who really knows? Can I just say, "Go Congress!" I realize that you all cannot speak before a committee. However, we ALL need to realize WE CAN call our representatives and senators. WE CAN write, e-mail or fax. WE CAN invite our legislators to volunteer fire department functions and discuss the points favorable to VOLUNTEERS. Our "grass roots people" have got to get involved for more effectiveness!

Our own Executive Assistant, Sandra Mott, is learning the legislative process and attending committee meetings when two are scheduled for the same time. Charlie Dixon, our Public Relations Director has walked the halls of the state house and attended committee meetings with me, as WE, the Alabama Fire College, Fire Marshal's office, and Forestry Commission, ALL work together through the Joint Fire Council for passage of fire-related legislation, as well as opposing bills detrimental to the fire service.

We work hand and glove with the Rangers and Foresters of the Alabama Forestry Commission in protecting our state's rural areas from wild fire. Let me encourage all of you to continue to keep this as a top priority! Since our Volunteers partner with the Forestry Commission, I am including a message to you from State Forester Linda Casey. As always, "Be Safe and May God Bless our Association."

FROM THE STATE FORESTER'S DESK



All AAVFD Members:

First, I'd like to thank everyone who has taken the time to talk to their Representative and/or Senator to express your support for an increase in the Alabama Forestry Commission's 2011 general fund appropriation. This increase would address our potential funding shortfall.

Beginning last year, the AFC began to see declines in revenue derived from severance tax, as well as from other revenue sources. This decline was a result of the general economic slow-down and closures of forest product mills. The reduction in severance tax receipts coupled with 12% proration in 2009 and a forecasted 12% reduction in 2010 required the AFC to implement several cost cutting measures that would allow us to match our operating cost with anticipated revenues. Several of these cost cutting measures were not popular but necessary to allow our agency to operate at current levels.

The operating budget shortfalls faced by the AFC in FY 2011 are of crisis proportions. Every effort to reduce operating costs has been made in FY 2010. Your continued help in working with the legislature to fully fund the AFC will be appreciated. Let me assure each of you that our mission doesn't change due to changes in our operating fund. First and foremost is our obligation to the public to respond to fires and that obligation is not diminished due to reductions in funding. We will respond to every call received in a manner that will keep our response time as short as possible.

Again, I appreciate your help and ask that you continue your support of our efforts to fully fund the Alabama Forestry Commission. Our continued partnership with all volunteer fire departments is important to the Commission and by working together we can make it through this difficult period.

Thank You,

Linda Casey

Linda Casey

State Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

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AAVFD 2010 LEGISLATION

BY: CHAUNCEY D. WOOD, III, AAVFD PRESIDENT

HB180 FIRE PROTECTION AUTHORITY - Rep. William Thigpen - This bill would increase the level of board member compensation for members and the chairs of water, sewer, and **fire protection** authorities and boards of directors of municipal corporations providing water and sewer services and would increase the compensation for members and chairs of county and municipal boards of directors of water, sewer, and **fire protection** authorities.
HISTORY- Passed and signed by Governor Riley

HB262/SB254 LODD TAG & TAG LIST - Rep. Richard Laird - Sen. Tom Butler - Motor vehicles, distinctive license tags, Forestry Commission and Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission required to prepare lists of persons eligible for, widow or widower of firefighter or volunteer firefighter who dies in line of duty authorized to receive free license tag, Sec. 32-6-272 amended.
HISTORY - Passed and signed by Governor Riley

HB306 ACCIDENT RESPONSE FEE- Rep. William Thigpen - This bill would prohibit any person or other entity from imposing an accident response service fee on or from an insurance company, the driver or owner of a motor vehicle, or any other person or entity. (AMENDMENT TO HB306, ON PAGE 2, LINE 11, AFTER THE PERIOD, INSERT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE RESCUE SQUADS OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS)
HISTORY - On Senate Calendar

SB299/HB446 - ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND - Sen. Roger Bedford - Rep. Randy Wood - To create the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit Fund for paid and volunteer firefighters; includes qualified service, disability and death benefits, annual audits and reports, duties to Insurance Department.
HISTORY - SB299 passed the Senate and is on the Special Order Calendar in House of Representatives for passage; then, go to the Governor for signature.

HB546 DEATH BENEFITS- Rep. Arthur Payne - Under existing law, the dependents of a peace officer, fireman, or volunteer fireman who is killed in the line of duty are entitled to a death benefit in the amount of \$100,000. If a death occurs within 10 years from an injury received in the line of duty and is proximately caused from the injury, the death is deemed to have occurred in the line of duty. This bill would delete the requirement that the death be within 10 years of the injury if the death results from the injury.
HISTORY - Passed the House and is pending in the Industrial Development & Recruitment Senate Committee.

SB127 PER DIEM AND MILEAGE - Sen. Arthur Orr - This bill would provide per diem and mileage, under certain conditions, to a volunteer firefighter or a volunteer emergency medical service provider appearing as a witness in a deposition or court hearing in connection with a civil matter regarding an event he or she witnessed or investigated in the course of his or her duties as volunteer firefighter or a volunteer emergency medical service provider.
HISTORY - Passed and signed by Governor Riley.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

Coffee County - Rep. Terry Spicer -HB191 passed allowing voters to create county fire districts and levy a fire protection fee on dwellings and commercial buildings. The initiative will be on the June 1, 2010 ballot.

Geneva County - Sen. Harri Anne Smith - SB485 allowing voters to create county fire districts and levy and collect a service fee passed in the Senate and is pending its third reading for passage in the House of Representatives.

Lauderdale County - Rep. Mike Curtis - HB660 to exempt the county fire association from sales tax is assigned to a sub-committee in Education Appropriations in the House of Representatives.

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From Here and There

News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama

Governor Riley declared January 2010 as Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation and Recruitment Month for the State of Alabama.

Congratulations to Walker County Firefighter of the Year Carl Davis. Carl is a member of Saragossa and Thach VFD.

Congratulations to former Pentecost VFD Chief Wesley Pasley who was honored as the 2009 Autauga County Firefighter of the Year. Chief Pasley retired after serving 27 years as the department's chief.

Appleton VFD, Escambia County, hosted a 40-hour First Responders course with thirteen firefighters attending. The class had five members from Wallace VFD, three from Pineview-Foshee VFD, one from McCall VFD, one from Nokomis VFD, and three from Appleton VFD. On February 8th, all thirteen firefighters passed their examination. Michael Tyler and Ginny Tyler were the AFC instructors for the course.

Manage people the way you want to be managed. Don't succumb to elitism. Your title confers **responsibility** more than privilege.--Mike Rubin, Paramedic, Gaylord Opryland

Congratulations to John Gibson who was honored as Firefighter of the Year by Opine-Tallahatta Springs VFD, Clarke County. Brandon Baker and Chris Courtney were names Most Improved.

Opine-Tallahatta Springs VFD, Clarke County, recently completed the Emergency First Responder Course.

Elmore VFD, Elmore County, was recognized with a plaque of commendation from MDA's "Fill the Boot" campaign for collecting over \$6,000 for local families and children with neuromuscular disease.

Congratulations to Jamie Agee who was honored as Firefighter of the Year by Fulton VFD, Clarke County. Brandon Martin was named Most Improved. The department's "Behind the Scene" Award was presented to Morris Allday, Larry Bradford, Dennis Haskew, Frank Martin and the Town of Fulton.

Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, sold hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage dogs and drinks at a fund raiser in December. The Alabama Forestry Commission arson investigation dog, Blaze, was on hand, as well as Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog. Educational fire prevention material was distributed during the event.

Ninety-four percent of volunteer firefighters are in departments that protect a population of less than 25,000 and more than 94% are located in small, rural departments that protect a population of less than 2,500.

The Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments held their annual Awards Banquet February 22nd. Congratulations are extended to: Todd South, Oakland VFD-Individual Fire Prevention Award & North Alabama State Fair Parking Award; Center Star VFD-AL Forestry Commission Smokey Bear Award; Cox Towing, Jim Cox, Owner-Small Business Supporter of the Year; MES, Tom Bottoms & Scott Moore-Business Supporter of the Year; Dianna Sue Charles, Center Star VFD-Ladies Auxiliary Individual of the Year; Nathan Springer, Greenhill VFD-EMS Star of Life Award; Waterloo VFD-People's Choice Award; Mark Thompson-Rookie Firefighter of the Year Award; Chief Frankie Phillips, Rogersville VFD-Fire Chief of the Year; and Morris Lentz, Rogersville VFD-Firefighter of the Year. Chad Menard and Kenny Wright were honored for

their heroic efforts in getting Morris out from under the wall when he was injured last year.

Tallassee VFD, Elmore County, hosted a 40-hr. Firefighter II Certification Course that included 9 Tallassee firefighters along with Citronelle, Selma and VictoryLand firefighters. Tallassee firefighters who were already certified had an opportunity to utilize their training at a propane tank fire last year. Informally referred to as the "propane course", Chief Matt Missildine explained, "That's why we do this kind of training, which is the same exact scenario. You have a line that's on fire from a tank, and you have to protect the tank." The Firefighter II course also included interior training in Tallassee's multi-story training facility.

REMINDER: Please send your fire department patch to us for the AAVFD Office "Wall of Patches". Thank you to the following departments and fire service organizations that have sent a patch: Alabama Department of Correction Fire Brigade, Colbert County Association, Conecuh County Association, Dadeville, Fyffe, LaGrange, Perdido, Pike County Fire & Rescue, Pike Road, Repton, Thomasville, U. S. Forest Service, Waterloo and DPHS Waterloo Light Rescue 9.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR AAVFD MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already renewed your AAVFD membership for 2010, remember to do so now to prevent any disruption of member benefits. Your support enables AAVFD to continue to serve as the voice of the volunteer fire and emergency services with Alabama state government in Montgomery, as well as on the national level in Washington, D. C.

2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

District 3 Association (Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa Counties) cordially invites you to attend the 33rd annual AAVFD Conference on July 23-24, 2010 at the Alabama Fire College campus in Tuscaloosa AL.

The host motel will be the Jameson Inn (Phone 205-345-5018). All activities will be at the Fire College.

Conference Chairman: Billy Doss
205-247-4996
Doss1200@bellsouth.net

Co-Chairman: Scott Hallman
205-371-6555

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HOT SHOTS!!!



District 3 - Tuscaloosa County

WRITTEN BY AND PHOTOS BY: BILLY GREEN - FIREFIGHTER, SAMANTHA FIRE DEPT.

On February 6, 2010, three members of the Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service reached out to assist in the community. They were Battalion Chief David Hallman, Captain Bart Morrison and Fire Fighter Jimmy Johnson. Morrison and Johnson were the lead instructors that provided live burn training to over 20 volunteer firefighters from Samantha and Mayfield Fire Departments. For several of the Volunteers it would be their first time to experience fire first hand. During this all day event teams rotated through the structure practicing search and rescue techniques with no smoke and progressing to a smoked filled house. They were even able to simulate having to remove an unconscious victim thanks to Tuscaloosa EMA lending one of their Rescue Randy's. The TFRS members were also able to talk the volunteers through the stages of how a fire progresses and then they were able to show them those stages first hand. It was a learning experience by all.

"Capt. Bart Morrison and Firefighter Jimmy Johnson did a great job, and all the Samantha and Mayfield volunteers put forth a lot of effort and got a lot done that day. These types of training sessions are always beneficial to everyone involved,

in technical skills, communication, and cooperation. They help all involved to be more aware that whenever more than one department is involved in an incident, we are all on the same team doing the same job," Battalion Chief David Hallman.



District 5 - Autauga County

PINE LEVEL RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM SENATOR MITCHELL

On Monday, Jan 18, Senator "Walking" Wendell Mitchell visited Pine Level VFD in Autauga County for a special presentation. Senator Mitchell presented the department with a \$5,000 donation to support their Fire Prevention Unit with the purchase of "Patches", a robot designed to present fire prevention material to school-aged children.

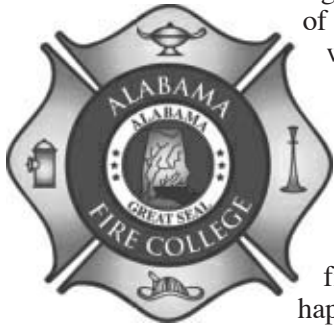
Senator Mitchell informed the department of his support for this initiative during Fire Prevention Week in October when the department took delivery of the new equipment. While visiting the department, the Senator was shown a demonstration of "Patches" capabilities and how the department uses it for prevention activities. The Senator commented that the children should get a real joy from this new equipment and hoped this unit helped with fire prevention efforts.

According to Chief Mark Caffey "the members of the Pine Level Fire Department are very grateful and appreciative of the Senator's continued support to the fire service and fire prevention efforts".

Shown in the picture are from left to right: Lt. Ray Smith, Sgt. Regina Caffey, Capt. Andrew Tveit, Chief Mark Caffey, Sgt. Dale Russell, "Patches", Senator Wendell Mitchell, Jeremy Cassidy, Crystal Tveit, Sherry Tveit, and Amber Tveit (kneeling).



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE



This year is shaping up to be a record-breaking year for firefighter training in Alabama. In spite of the severe economic issues that we are all facing, we are on track to exceed last year's training totals. One important statistic to note---in 2009, the percentage of training delivered by AFC in the field was up to 80%. This means that the vast majority of firefighter training in Alabama happened close to your home communities, and at very low cost. On another high note, 2009 was the first year in history that an AFC class was held in ALL 67 counties in Alabama! Thanks for partnering with us to make this goal a reality. Even with tremendous challenges to our budget, we are committed to maintaining the high volume of firefighter training that is occurring all around Alabama. Remember to contact your AFC Regional Staff member for assistance setting up a field training class.

One issue that we have been asked about in recent months involves the use of paid-on-call volunteers. If a volunteer fire-

fighter is paid an amount of money per call to reimburse expenses, they are not currently considered a "paid firefighter" UNLESS they are obligated to respond to emergencies. If the firefighter is free to be about their personal business and choose whether or not to respond to a call, they are not considered "paid" and do not have to be certified as a career firefighter. If the volunteer is obligated to respond, whether from the fire station, from home, or from any other location, in order to receive their expense reimbursement, they are then considered paid and must be certified with the 360 hour recruit school. This can be very confusing, so if your department is using this method or thinking about using it, please contact us so we can fully explain the requirements.

Thanks for the outstanding support that you are showing to AFC. We are very excited about once again hosting the AAVFD summer conference and competition and we hope to see many of you here in July. When we all work together, it is amazing what the Alabama fire service can achieve!

Allan Rice
Executive Director
Alabama Fire College & Personnel Standards
Commission

District 5 - Montgomery County

PIKE ROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HEROES HONORED

The Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department held its annual Firefighter Appreciation Dinner and Firefighter Recognition Day on February 27, 2010 at Station # 1 located on Wallahatchee Rd. Pike Road, AL. The dinner recognized all those who volunteer with the Pike Road Fire Department. The theme for the event was A Time to Honor Our Own Everyday Heroes.

The guest speaker for the evening was Chauncey Wood, President of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. Mr. Wood also presented a ten year service medal to those who have ten plus years in the fire department. Other special guest included County Commissioner, Reed Ingram and Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone. County Commissioner Ingram presented a Firefighter Proclamation to Chief Mike Green and the other Pike Road Volunteers. In addition to the Proclamation, two awards were given out.

Chief Green presented Robbie Olesen the Outstanding Service Award and BJ Green was named 2009 Firefighter of the year.



District 8 - Choctaw County

AAVFD Public Relations and District 8 Director Charlie Dixon presented each volunteer fire department in Choctaw County with a check for \$900 from Senator Marc Keahey.



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1994 Simon Duplex 105' Platform
Detroit 8V92TA 475 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
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200 Gallon Poly Tank



1992 E-One 95' Platform
Detroit 8V92TA Diesel Engine
Allison HTB741 Automatic
Hale QSG125-23 1250 GPM Pump
Onan 12KW Diesel Generator



1989 Pierce Lance 105' Platform
Detroit 6V92 Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Tank



1994 KME 75' Aerial
Detroit 400 HP Diesel
Allison HTB741 Automatic
Hale QSMG150-23 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1998 E-One Heavy Rescue
Cummins 8.3L 325 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060P Automatic
20KW Pto Generator
12,000# Winch on Front



1996 FL/Becker Heavy Rescue
Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
35KW Generator
3-Bottle 4500psi Cascade System



1994 Volvo Walk-In Rescue
Cummins 330 HP Diesel
Allison HT740-D Automatic
Ramsey 12,000# Winch in Rear
8 - Quartz Scene Lights



1989 Oshkosh 6x6 ARFF Vehicle
Detroit 8V92TA 540 HP Diesel
Hale 2000 GPM Pump
3000 Gallon Steel Tank
400 Gallon Steel Foam Tank



1994 4x4 ARFF Rapid Intervention
Gas Engine, Automatic Transmission
50lb PKP Dry Chem System
Fire Combat ARFF System
100 Gallon AFFF Water/Foam Tank



1997 E-One Ambulance/Attack
Cummins 300 HP Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale Side-Mount PTO Pump
150 Gallon Poly Tank
Robwen Foam System



2008 Sterling 4x4 Brush Truck
Cummins 305 HP Diesel Engine
6-Speed Automatic Transmission
Gas-Powered CAF System
300 Gallon Polypropylene Tank
12 Gallon Foam Tank



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Caterpillar 3116 250 HP Diesel
Hale 500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Akron 95 GPM Foam System



1995 Pierce Arrow 4x4 Pumper
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Waterous 1000 GPM PTO Pump
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Hale Gas-Powered 200 GPM Pump
2000 Gallon Stainless Steel Tank



1989 Mack Foam Tanker
Maxidyne 350 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 2000 GPM Side-Mount Pump
Feecon Foam System
2 - 1000 Gallon Foam Tanks



1988 E-One 6x6 Pumper/Tanker
Detroit 8V92 Diesel
Allison Automatic
2000 GPM Side-Mount Pump
2000 Gallon Tank



2008 Rosenbauer Rescue Pumper
Caterpillar C13 485 HP Diesel
Allison EVS 4000 Automatic
Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
FoamPro 2001 Foam System



2004 ALF Rescue Pumper
Cummins 370 HP Diesel
Allison 4000EV Automatic
ALF 2000 GPM Top-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Polypropylene Tank
30 Gallon Foam Tank



1999 E-One Rescue Pumper
Cummins ISM 400 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
FoamPro System with A&B Foam



1998 Pierce Lance Rescue Pumper
Cummins M11 450 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
Feecon ATP Foam System



1996 E-One Cyclone Pumper
Detroit 6V92TA 400 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1996 Spartan/Ferrara Pumper
Cummins Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1993 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper
Detroit Series 40 Diesel
Allison MD3060 Automatic
Waterous 1000 GPM Top-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1990 E-One Cyclone Pumper
Detroit 6V92TA 350 HP Diesel
Allison HT-740 Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
Akron Foam System



1990 E-One Hurricane Pumper
Detroit 6V92TA Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



2004 FL/E-One Pumper
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Allison 3000EVS Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



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Cummins 315 HP Diesel
Allison EVS3000 Automatic
Waterous 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
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FoamPro Foam System



2001 FL/ALF Rescue Pumper
Cat 7.2L 246 HP Diesel
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FoamPro Foam System



2001 Int'l/Pierce Rescue Pumper
Int'l DT530 330 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump
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2000 Int'l/E-One Pumper
Navistar 330 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1995 Int'l/E-One Pumper
Diesel Engine
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SHINING EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEERISM IN THE PIKE ROAD COMMUNITY: THE PIKE ROAD FIRE & RESCUE LADIES AUXILIARY

The Pike Road Fire and Rescue Ladies Auxiliary was established in April 2009 with the goal to support the fire department as needed and promote civic welfare in the community. The Ladies Auxiliary provides support and general assistance to the fire department and is available to assist our volunteers with refreshments when they respond to a fire or serious emergency within our community. The Ladies Auxiliary encourages good will, sociability, friendships and caring among and between the fire department and surrounding community. The group is working diligently to make a difference in the fire department and community.

The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a Christmas party for Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department volunteers and their families on December 13, 2009. Santa and Mrs. Claus were in attendance. Each child was given a goodie bag filled with surprises and photos were taken with Santa.

The hearts of the Ladies Auxiliary were also filled with the spirit of giving as the group sponsored a family within the community for Christmas who is struggling financially. Members of the Ladies Auxiliary, volunteers from the fire department along with Santa and Mrs. Clause delivered the gifts to the home on December 23. The family was excited to see Santa arrive in the fire truck and appreciative of their gifts.



Pictured (L to R) bottom row - Randa McCartha (VP), Jeanine Hughes, Ashley Pugh Top row - AAVFD President Chauncey Wood, Leslie Hooks, Debbie Green (Pres.), Holly Olesen, Lisa Green (Sec./treasurer), Jessica Shaw, Linda Jackson and Laura Whatley.

A Note from President Wood: I encourage all volunteer Fire departments to organize an auxiliary to support their Department. Pike Road Ladies' Auxiliary demonstrates the enormous benefits they can bring to the efforts of the hardworking firefighters.

A WORD FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHALL ON BUILDING CODES



Building and Fire Codes in the state of Alabama. All too often I have heard people say that there are no building and fire codes in the rural areas of the state. The troubling thing is that some of the people who are saying this are in the Fire Service. Minimum Building and Fire Codes have been adopted for the state of Alabama and are in effect for

all areas of the state. The codes can be found by visiting the Fire Marshal website at www.aldoi.gov, under the Fire Marshal tab look under Codes. The list of adopted building and fire codes can be downloaded from the website.

In addition to the codes that are adopted, Alabama law requires that any building larger than 2500 square feet in size that is not a single family dwelling or a farm structure, be designed by a design professional, an architect or engineer working in his or her field. This law further states that an assembly occupancy or educational occupancy of any size must be designed by a design professional. Design professionals know the building and fire codes that are adopted.

Anyone with questions concerning building and fire codes, please contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 334-241-4166.

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FIREFIGHTERS RISK OWN LIVES TO RESCUE TWO

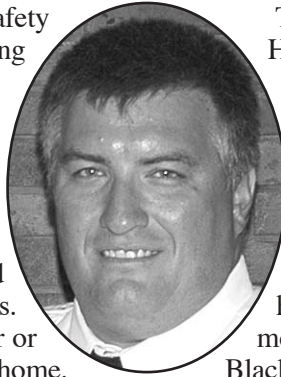
JOSH DEWBERRY, THE MONROE JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Monroeville's fire chief and an assistant chief went into a residence without regard for their own safety to rescue an elderly couple from their burning home.

According to officials, firefighters were notified of a fire at David and Nancy Katz's home and were told there were two occupants trapped inside.

Chief Billy Black and Assistant Chief Ronnie Darby arrived before the first truck and found smoke coming from the roof and windows.

They entered the house without any fire gear or air packs and brought both people out of the home. An engine arrived and put out the fire, and firefighters con-



ducted salvage and overhaul of the residence.

The Katz' were transported to Monroe County Hospital. David Katz suffered burns and smoke inhalation and Nancy also inhaled too much smoke.

The fire was apparently caused by David Katz smoking while on oxygen and was limited to the bedroom. A total of 23 firefighters responded with two engines, a ladder truck and a utility truck, spending 2 1/2 hours on the call.

Three days later, David Katz died at a Mobile hospital while in surgery. Mr. Katz had pre-existing medical conditions and was on home oxygen. Chief Black said it is unclear if injuries sustained in the fire led to his death.

District 9 - Lawrence County

FAMILY TRADITION ENCOMPASSES THIRD GENERATION

BY: CAREN STEWART, FF, EMT-B, RN

Little did retired State Fire Marshal Richard Montgomery know back in 1967 when he started volunteering his time with Moulton Fire Department that today, he would have such a following.

His children grew up as "firehouse brats" and the tradition has continued with his grandchildren. They can all tell you of disrupted family plans, but they can also tell you they can't imagine life any other way.

Richard went to work as a Deputy Fire Marshal in 1983, and at that time went on inactive status with the fire department. He was later inducted as a lifetime member. After retiring from the state in April 2006, it took less than a year for him to return to active status. He runs pumps, helps with training and safety and generally does whatever need to be done.

Wesley, Richard's son, joined the department in 1981 while still a senior in high school. During his time in the department, he went to work for the State Forestry Commission. While working for Forestry, he remained an active volunteer and often worked shift if a paid man needed off. In 2001, Wesley went to work full time for the Alabama National Guard, and due to having to move around the state, had to give up the department.

Caren, Richard's daughter, waited much longer to pursue a dream she had at age 16. Back then, Tim Blakemore was the fire chief at Moulton, and Caren wanted to be the first female firefighter there. Time and circumstances changed that, and it was not until 2001 at the age of 40 that Caren decided it was time to do her part.

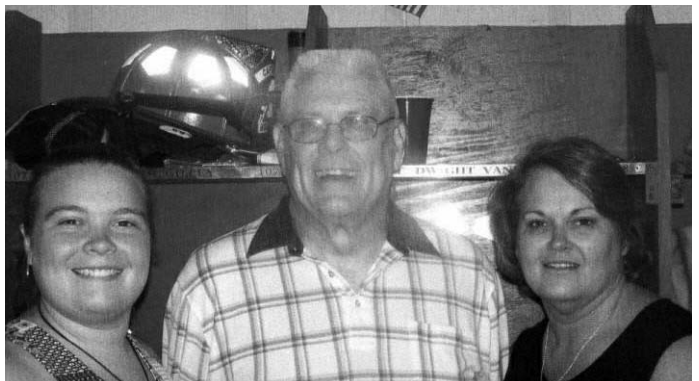
She was a nurse at the local hospital and joined the department to assist with safety. After only a few times of smelling smoke, she put away the stethoscope and donned her first set of turnouts. She recalls the night she told her parents she had joined. Her mom said, "I can't believe you did this" and her dad said, "I can't believe you waited so long".

Now, let's move on to generation number three. Courtney Coan, Caren's oldest daughter and Richard's oldest granddaughter, recently followed in the footsteps. Richard was already with the state when Courtney came along, but not only was Uncle Wesley a firefighter, her father was also a volunteer, first with Hatton, then at Moulton. Her father's brothers were, and still are, firefighters.

Courtney joined Chalybeate's department in the fall of 2008 where her fiancé Blake, whose uncle is a paid man at Moulton, had joined earlier that year. Chalybeate is a neighboring department to Moulton in Lawrence County. Looks like at some point in time there will be a whole new generation of "firehouse brats" for this family!

Jennifer, Caren's youngest daughter, and Nicole, Wesley's daughter, say that firefighting is not for them. Even though Jennifer's father, the late Tommy Stewart, was also a firefighter for a time she has no desire to continue this tradition.

So you see, what started as volunteering a few hours a week for one man has grown into a family tradition. I don't think Hank, Jr. has anything on this bunch!



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LOOKING FOR GRANTS?

There are many funding opportunities available to emergency responders. Check them out!

The Firehouse Subs Foundation.....funds "life-saving" equipment for FD and EMS. Grant amount to be requested should be \$15,000-\$25,000.

Web Site:

<http://www.firehousesubs.com/>

Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade.....awards grants to local community fire departments. The application process will begin in the spring of 2010. Congratulations to Lambeth VFD, Escambia County that received \$10,000 in 2009.

Web Site:

<http://www.nvfc.org/index.php?id=1168>.

Wal-Mart Store and Sam's Club Giving Programs.....supports local, state and national non-profit organizations that provide opportunities in the communities served. Grant amount to be requested must be from \$1,000 to \$5,000. This grant is available from February 1 through Dec. 31.

Web Site:

http://www.walmartstores.com/community_giving/

State Farm Safe Neighbors Grant.....funds available to meet community-based needs. This grant is available from January 2 through October 31. Applications must be done on-line.

Web Site:

http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp

Fireman's Fund Heritage.....awards more than \$20 million in grants for needed equipment, training and community education programs. Employees and independent agents nominate fire departments and are encouraged to provide volunteer support.

Web Site:

<http://www.firemansfund.com/heritage>

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).....assists firefighters, emergency responders, and emergency medical service organizations in obtaining needed equipment, emergency vehicles, training, and other necessities for fire protection. The application period is announced within 1 to 2 weeks of date the application is to begin. Information will be on the web site.

Web Site:

<http://firegrantsupport.com/content/html/afg/default.aspx>.

Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant (SAFER).....funds provided to help fire departments and volunteer firefighters increase the number of trained personnel and provide staffing needs. Web site provides requirements and amount of funds available by category. This grant is usually scheduled to open during the summer of 2010, but the application period will be announced within 1 to 2 weeks of date the application is to begin.

Web Site:

<http://firegrantsupport.com/content/html/safer/default.aspx>

Fire Prevention & Safety Grant (FP&S).....Supports projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and reduce injury and prevent death. Grant was expanded to include Firefighter Safety Research and Development. The application period will be announced on the web site within 1 to 2 weeks of date the application is to begin.

Web Site:

<http://firegrantsupport.com/content/html/fps/>



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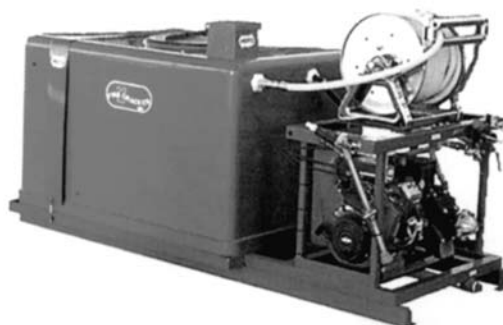
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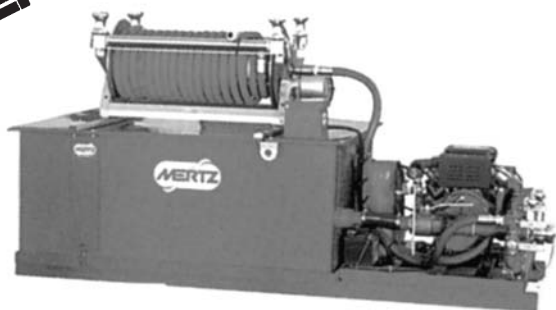
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District 3 - Sumter County

WARD VFD PROMOTES FIRE PREVENTION

During Fire Prevention Month 2009, several members of the Ward VFD, Sumter County, visited the Cuba Head Start Center in the Kinterbish community. The children enjoyed inspecting the fire truck and learning a few fire-fighting techniques. Chief Rosemary Rew conducted a short question-and-answer session and was impressed with answers the children gave concerning steps to take when a fire occurs. Pictured with the children and staff members is Sumter County VFD Association President David Holder. Gloria Townsend (third from left), Head Start Staff member, is also a member of Ward VFD. Not pictured: Chief Rew, June Stephenson and Jean Rew, Ward VFD volunteers



District 10 - Bullock County

UNION SPRINGS VFD RECEIVES DONATED EQUIPMENT

Union Springs VFD received surplus fire equipment donated by Summerville, Pine Ridge and Whitesville South Carolina Fire Departments. Delivering the equipment were first cousins of Alabama State Senator Myron Penn. Captain Billy Penn has been on the Summerville Fire Department for 16 years and Terrell Flod has been with the department for 10 years. The other cousin, Gregory Penn is not a fireman.

Senator Penn's cousins delivered 2,200 feet of fire hose and turnout gear, valued at \$15,000 new, with Senator Penn assisting in the delivery. Union Springs Department was given a supply of surplus fire equipment by these fireman about two years ago. Chief Duane Anderson expressed his appreciation for the donation and Senator Penn's assistance.

Photo by Thomas May:

L-R: Captain Billy Penn, Senator Myron Penn, Gregory Penn and Terrell Flod.



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2010 AAVFD Membership – Total 880

DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN	80%	8 of 10
CHEROKEE	100%	13 of 13
DEKALB	100%	25 of 25
ETOWAH	100%	23 of 23
JACKSON	100%	21 of 21
MADISON	100%	17 of 17
MARSHALL	100%	18 of 18

DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT	100%	21 of 21
CULLMAN	100%	26 of 26
JEFFERSON	34%	11 of 32
SHELBY	42%	8 of 19
ST CLAIR	0%	0 of 19
WALKER	100%	25 of 25
WINSTON	100%	11 of 11

DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE	31%	4 of 13
GREENE	100%	14 of 14
HALE	100%	9 of 9
LAMAR	0%	
PICKENS	100%	17 of 17
SUMTER	100%	19 of 19
TUSCALOOSA	100%	21 of 21

DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS	100%	13 of 13
CLAY	100%	18 of 18
CLEBURNE	100%	12 of 12
COOSA	100%	10 of 10
RANDOLPH	100%	17 of 17
TALLADEGA	20%	3 of 15
TALLAPOOSA	0%	0 of 13

DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

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

DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

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

DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

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

DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN	53%	17 of 32
CHOCTAW	93%	13 of 14
CLARKE	100%	14 of 14
MOBILE	100%	19 of 19
WASHINGTON	100%	19 of 19

DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

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

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK		
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE	100%	7 of 7
LOWNDES	25%	2 of 8
MACON	30%	3 of 10
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL	100%	11 of 11

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

BY: CRAIG HILL – LAW ENFORCEMENT CHIEF

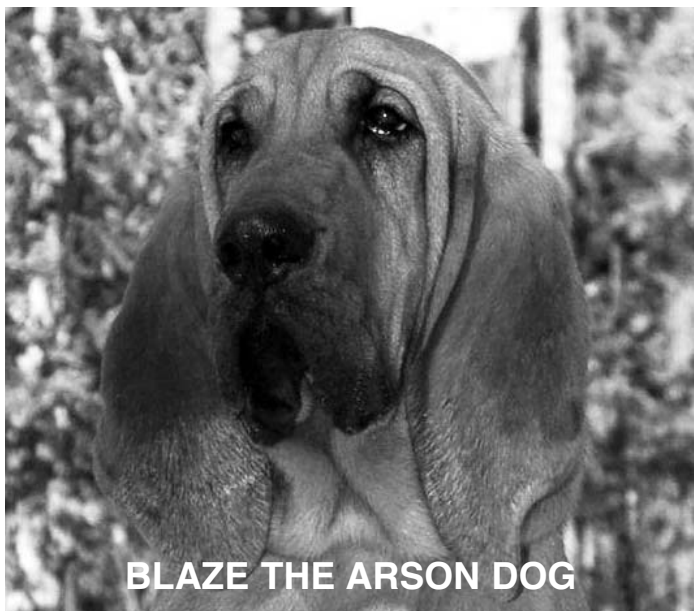


The AFC Law Enforcement Division wants to thank the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments for support during this legislative session. Senate Bill 150 has passed the House (102-0) and sent to the Governor for his signature. Your support made this possible. This bill made some much needed changes to the current wildland arson law. These changes, along with educational programs, will greatly reduce this state's 40% arson rate. Without an eyewitness investigators must rely on physical evidence left at the scene. Much of this evidence is being destroyed during suppression efforts. So to increase our effectiveness and allow the use of Blaze the LE Division is teaching a crime scene protection course. The course takes about 3 hours to complete and our goal is to teach every county's VFD Association by the end of the year. An investigator will be in contact with your association to schedule this course.

Statewide for the period October through February, the AFC Law Enforcement team made nine felony arrests, two of which were for wildland arson, four for theft of timber by deception, and three for theft of timber harvesting equipment. A total of 78 misdemeanor arrests were also made, 42 for timber theft, 13 for intentionally giving false information when selling timber, 9 illegal burning violations, and 14 other arrests. Warnings were issued to 9 persons for illegal burning violations. To date, there have been 32 convictions, with fines imposed totaling \$10,550, and restitution totaling \$18,016. Stolen timber has been valued at \$203,963.00. Timber harvesting equipment stolen was reported at a value of \$436,600 of which \$412,500 has been recovered.

The Alabama Forestry Commission is committed to reducing the number of forestry-related crimes that occur each year across the state. These crimes generate losses of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to landowners, the timber industry, and Alabama's economy. The AFC provides an Arson/Forest Crimes Hotline so that citizens can call and report theft of timber, theft of harvesting equipment, and

wildland arson. The toll-free number is 1-800-222-2927. Any information provided is confidential and the caller remains anonymous.



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HONORING OUR HEROES

Marion County firefighters and EMS personnel with 10 years or more of service were honored in a Medal of Service ceremony at the Pea Ridge Volunteer Fire Department on Monday, Feb. 1st.

"It was a very moving and successful ceremony," said Bill Loden, President of the Marion County Firefighters Association. Loden noted, "Eighty medals were awarded among members of Marion County's dozen fire departments,



Shiloh Fire Chief Jim Robart is shown in the midst of other award recipients.

and we all appreciate the sacrifice these people make, putting their safety aside to save the lives and property of others. We also appreciate the support we receive from Senator Roger Bedford, who presided over the ceremony, and Representative Mike Millican, who was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. They have both worked for years to bring funds to our county fire departments."



Loden (far left) is shown with distinguished guests (from left) Alabama Fire College Executive Director Allen Rice, Alabama Association of Volunteer Firefighters President Chauncey Wood, Bedford and State Fire Marshall Edward Paulk.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

NAME/RANK: Chief Jimmy Lee Davis, Sr. (63) Volunteer
DEPARTMENT: White Oak VFD, Maysville NC
CAUSE/DATE: Collapsed and succumbed to a medical emergency on 12/11/09 while responding to a vehicle accident alarm.

NAME/RANK: Asst Chief Gregory Paul Thompson, Jr. (33) Career
DEPARTMENT: South Bay FD, Olympia WA
CAUSE/DATE: Died while on-duty from a self-inflicted gunshot wound on 12/12/09

NAME/RANK: Battalion Chief Tommy Lee Adams (51) Career
DEPARTMENT: Shreveport FD, Shreveport LA
CAUSE/DATE: Remained in a relative state of a coma since sustaining debilitating injuries while clearing debris from ladder truck participating in Mardi Gras parade on February 21st and passed away 12/12/09.

NAME/RANK: Asst Chief Bobby Joe Mullins (52) Volunteer
DEPARTMENT: Dante VFD, Dante VA
CAUSE/DATE: Became ill while working a vehicle fire and passed away of sudden cardiac arrest soon after arriving in trauma center on 12/20/09.

NAME/RANK: Chief Crag C. Starr (44) Volunteer
DEPARTMENT: Plymouth FD, Plymouth UT
CAUSE/DATE: Passed away from apparent heart attack while working an EMS incident 12/24/09.

NAME/RANK: Firefighter Clair Melvin Pierce (68) Volunteer
DEPARTMENT: Wellsboro FD, Wellsboro PA
CAUSE/DATE: Passed away at home on 12/26/09 after responding to a series of EMS and fire calls of fatal injury still to be reported

NAME/RANK: Firefighter/Paramedic Paul D. Holmes (37) Career
DEPARTMENT: Douglas County FD, Douglasville GA
CAUSE/DATE: Ejected from fire department rescue vehicle struck by POV they were attempting to pass while responding to a vehicle fire with injuries and subsequently passed away from injuries on 12/28/09.

NAME/RANK: Firefighter Steve Koeser (33) Volunteer
DEPARTMENT: St Anna FD, New Holstein WI
CAUSE/DATE: Died from injuries sustained from a large dumpster explosion in the parking lot of a manufacturing plant, also injuring several other firefighters, one critically on 12/29/09. Initial reports indicate that the plant was closed and no employees were at the scene when the fire was reported. Details are pending.

NAME/RANK: Firefighter Richard Adam Miller (24) Career
DEPARTMENT: Belmont FD, Belmont NC
CAUSE/DATE: Collapsed and died on-duty while participating in physical fitness training activities on 12/29/09. Investigation continues into cause of death.

NAME/RANK: Fire Captain Urban A. Eck (51) Career
DEPARTMENT: Wichita FD, Wichita KS
CAUSE/DATE: Hospitalized after complaining of not feeling well after pulling two shifts and passed away after surgery on 1/2/10 from complications associated with a medical procedure.

NAME/RANK: Firefighter/Past Chief Leroy Kemp (85) Volunteer
DEPARTMENT: Tioga Center FD, Tioga Center NY
CAUSE/DATE: Killed on impact when involved in a multiple vehicle crash 1/13/10 while responding to a mutual aid call.

THANK YOU TO HONOR GUARD FROM ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

I wanted to extend a special "thank you" to the AAVFD Honor Guard for their help Tuesday, January 5th in Andalusia, AL. We were saddened to learn of the death on Friday of retired Andalusia Fire Chief Hubert Hughes, who was laid to rest Tuesday with fire service honors. On Monday, the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Fire College were contacted to help with arrangements for the funeral, including an honor guard.

We had some initial difficulty locating a fire department honor guard that could attend the service on short notice; however, the AAVFD stepped up to the plate and sent a contingent of their personnel to provide proper recognition for Chief Hughes. This was a very meaningful gesture to the family and helped insure that the service was conducted properly.

This type of cooperation exemplifies the best in the Alabama fire service, and it also shows us what can be accomplished when we operate as one cohesive force. Many thanks to AAVFD and the honor guard members who made this sacrifice for the Hughes family during their time of need.

Allan Rice
Executive Director, Alabama Fire
College

THE BELL TOLLED

Harold Len Garner, McCord's Crossroads VFD, Cherokee County, passed away December 16, 2009.

William Jessie Henderson, Delmar VFD, Winston County, passed away January 30, 2010.

Frank Stoll, Nitrate City VFE, Colbert County, passed away February 4, 2010. He was a Department Board Member and a member of the AAVFD Honor Guard.

Terry "Dale" Crawford, Jr., Millerville VFD, Clay County, passed away February 11, 2010. The AAVFD Honor Guard honored his volunteer service and members of the Millerville VFD served as honorary pall bearers.

Chief John Lane, Rockford VFD, Coosa County, passed away February 16, 2010. He served over 15 years as chief.

Arnold Richey, Underwood-Petersville VFD, Lauderdale County, passed away March 23, 2010.

Glenn Woverton, Maytown VFD, Jefferson County, passed away March 23, 2010.

James Gulledge, Clayton VFD, Barbour County, passed away March 25, 2010. He devoted 30 years of service to the department and his community.

Chief Hubert Johnson, Jr., Mount Olive VFD, Calhoun County, passed away April 2, 2010. He devoted 40 years of service to the department and his community.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Duncanville Firefighter Thomas Simmons whose daughter, Marsha Simmons Beard, perished when her home burned on February 23, 2010.

We extend our condolences to the family of Representative Warren Beck who passed away February 24, 2010. Representative Beck was in his second term representing Geneva and Houston Counties in the 87th District. He was an avid supporter of volunteer firefighters and was currently sponsoring legislation for Geneva County Firefighters to enable them to establish fire districts and levy fees in the county.

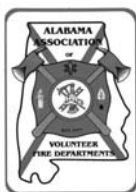
Our condolences go out to Alabama Fire College Northern Regional Director Wayne Murry and his family on the loss of Laura Murry, wife and mother, on March 2, 2010.

Following their loss, the Family of Andalusia Retired Chief Hubert Hughes expresses grateful appreciation for the kind expression of sympathy from the Firefighting Family.

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: Chauncey Wood – (334) 397-4032, William Neal – (334) 335-3643, Lawrence Huffman – (256) 446-9813, 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.



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.

AAVFD Officers:

President Chauncey Wood
1st VP William Neal
2nd VP Lawrence Huffman
3rd VP Steve Dennis
Secretary Mary Jane Sells
Treasurer Otis LeCompte

Newsletter Editor:

Sandra Mott
Corey Carr, M.I.S.
Tina Wood, Photographer
Rick Miller, Photographer
Executive Assistant:
Sandra Mott

Mailing Address:

AAVFD, Suite 345
660 Adams Ave
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone number: (334) 262-2833, 1-888-97-AAVFD
Fax number: (334) 262-2834
E-mail: aavfd@mindspring.com
on the Web at www.aavfd.org

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



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VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**
660 ADAMS AVENUE, SUITE 345
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cschoen@sunbeltfire.com
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**WHEN LIVES ARE IN THE BALANCE
AND SECONDS COUNT**