



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

April – June 2009

2009 STATE CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The AAVFD Annual Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 31 and August 1, 2009, in Florence, Alabama and will be hosted by the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. The registration headquarters will be at the Shoals Marriott Conference Center.

ELECTIONS

At the annual business meeting on Saturday, elections will be held to fill the officer and board member position. The Nominating Committee made the following recommendations:

PresidentChauncey Wood (I)
Vice President
 SouthWilliam Neal (I)
 CentralSteve Dennis (I)
 NorthLawrence Huffman (I)
SecretaryMary Sells (I)
TreasurerOtis "Butch" LeCompte



**Otis "Butch"
LeCompte**

You will note that all nominees are incumbents with whom you are well acquainted, with the exception of treasurer. Nominee Butch LeCompte serves his community and county as a Licensed NREMT-B, EVOC Driver, Certified Volunteer Fire Fighter and Fire Instructor with Baker Hill Fire/Rescue, Clayton Fire/Rescue, and Green's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department. He is vice president of Green's Crossroads Board of Directors. He is District 6 Alternate Director on the AAVFD Board of Directors, serves on Public Relations, Legislative, Wildland Fire Prevention Grant, and RCFP Steering Committees, and represents AAVFD on the SE AL EMS Council and Rural Community Fire Protection Institute.

Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are permitted by the AAVFD by-laws. All candidates, except those presented by the nominating committee, must be present at the annual business meeting.

All six officers are elected by majority vote of the members in attendance and those members represented by proxy.

Each District (1 through 10) will elect two individuals to represent their district on the Board of Directors for the coming year. AAVFD by-laws require that those two individuals shall not be from the same member department and, in so far as possible, shall come from different geographical areas within the district. Directors and Alternate Directors shall be elected by a committee consisting of one individual from each dues-paid general member department from within the district (ONE VOTE PER DEPARTMENT PRESENT) at the general meeting.

PROXY VOTES

AAVFD Secretary Mary Sells will accept proxy votes at the Conference on Friday, July 31st, from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm. On Saturday August 1st, proxy votes will be accepted from 10:00 am until 1:30 pm. Location will be announced.

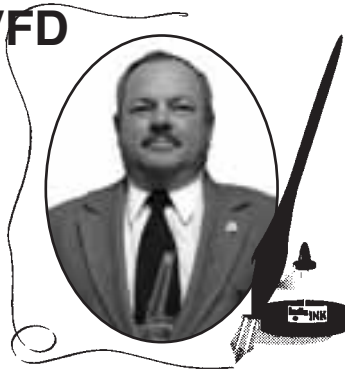
According to AAVFD By-Laws, all proxy votes shall be called for three times by the presiding officer as the first agenda item following the opening ceremonies of the general meeting. All proxy votes must be turned in to the Secretary before the third and final call for proxy votes. Once the third and final call is given and the presiding officer has officially declared the proxy votes closed, proxy votes cannot be accepted from anyone for any reason.

Continued on Page 2

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

Shay Wood



This has been an outstanding year for **"Our Association!"** A new logo has been designed and caps, t-shirts, patches and pins with the new design will be available at conference. We have partnered with AFA President Tim Bailey and the Alabama Firefighter Association, which was the recipient of a \$300,000 SAFER "Recruitment and Retention" Grant; AAVFD is the recipient of \$100,000 in USDA Forest Service funds, through the Alabama Forestry Commission, for a Wildland Fire Prevention Grant for eligible county fire associations and volunteer fire departments; Alabama Heroes CEO Ron Creel honored ALL firefighters and EMS personnel June 19th at the opening ceremonies of the Alabama Sports Festival "Special Olympics" at BJCC in Birmingham; and most importantly, seven legislative fire service bills were passed, May 15th, and signed by Governor Bob Riley, May 21st. (See Legislative Update on page 20.)

I want to personally say a big **"THANK YOU"** for all the e-mails, letters and telephone calls of support to the Representatives and Senators regarding our fire service legislation, and especially to Euell Hodge, Otis "Butch" LeCompte, State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk and Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen for walking the halls and attending committee meetings with me at the Alabama State House. (Note: When you have two committee meetings scheduled at the same time, House and Senate, it is impossible to be in two places at once. Thank you, Ed and Scott!) Our own Sandra Mott, AAVFD's Executive Assistant, made several trips over, also, and was a good fire services "Watch Dawg" for **"OUR"** Association. Thank you, Sandra!

Now, it's time to talk about our Annual conference July 31st and August 1st. This year, it is being held in Florence and hosted by the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. County President Morris Lentz, along with members of the conference committee, have been working "overtime" to make our stay both enjoyable and memorable! There are lots of ideas, thoughts and suggestions that will be shared, and we hope you will consider attending so that you may take some of what you learned back home to your department.

Competition is always at its best under the direction of Joey Boyd. Of course, we all know that Joey couldn't do what he does if it were not for his beautiful bride, Sandy!

One important issue **"OUR"** Association will be addressing at

annual conference is a dues increase. The last time a dues increase was approved by the general membership was August 4 2001, and at that time, dues went from \$20 to \$35 per department. Over the last eight years, the cost of operating our Association has gone up, with no corresponding increase in operating monies. We are in dire need of a dues increase, so please be thinking about this and be prepared to discuss and vote on this at conference.

Let me take this opportunity to say that it has been an honor for me to represent **"OUR"** Association of some 28,000-plus volunteer firefighters. I have worked extremely hard for the goals of AAVFD and will work even harder this next year in accomplishing the passage of **"OUR"** Firefighter Annuity and Benefit" bill, recruiting and retention, and grant monies for Wildland fire prevention and narrow-wide band interoperability.

I will continue to be a "Fire Watch Dawg" for unwanted Federal and State mandates for the volunteer fire service. We have accomplished much this year and made great strides, but we still have a ways to go in our efforts to succeed and be recognized as a Serious Volunteer Fire Service Organization.

In closing, may we be mindful of I Corinthians 16:13: "Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got" as we put our lives on hold to save lives and protect property in our communities. Until next time, be safe and may **"God Bless Our Association."**

2009 Conference Information *continued from Page 1*

All proxy holders who will be casting proxy votes at the annual business meeting are reminded that no proxy vote will be honored for a department having one or more members at the meeting. Although a proxy ballot containing a list of all county departments is sent to each county president, a department is not required to give its county president, or anyone, the authority to cast its department's vote. If one person is present at the meeting that person shall vote their department's one vote; whether that person votes or not, the proxy holder shall not be entitled to vote for that department.

In order for the annual meeting to progress in a timely manner, it will be very helpful for the representative from all departments voting to come by and register with the Secretary during the hours set aside to accept proxy votes. However, any person voting for their own department is entitled to a ballot up until the final call for proxy votes has been made.

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ASBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ken Burns 878-1392 or cell 572-7113 1606 Old Bethel Road Albertville, AL 35951



Left to right: Brian Cordell, Veronica Cordell, Lisa Williamson, Doug McCutchen, Tim Pace, Ken Burns and Les Bolding

Chief Albert Childress of the Asbury Volunteer Fire Department is always looking at ways to improve the department. About 3 years ago, the department did a water shuttle procedure under the watchful eye of an ISO representative. This was for the purpose of lowering their 9/7 rating. It was successful, and they were awarded an ISO rating of 6 (with no / which means everyone within their service, regardless of distance from a hydrant is rated 6). With the / those farther than 1,000 feet from the hydrant do not qualify for the lower rate.

Chief Childress wanted to improve their shuttle ability and began to search for a better tanker. Eventually he located a 1998 International with heavy duty frame, tandem rear axle, and 9-speed transmission. A trip to Jacksonville, Florida proved successful.

Southern Metal Fabricators of 1215 Frazier Road, Albertville custom-made a tank to fit that particular truck. The tank capacity of approximately 3,200 gallons was baffled to the required guidelines and fitted with a 10-inch Newton Dump Valve. Department members and others from the community prepared it for painting and added fenders and attached a rack for a 2,100-gallon drop tank and a rack for filler hoses. Auto Specialties of Albertville put the lettering and decals in reflective colors to match their other vehicles. Lights were added by department members, and it is now ready for use.

This truck is the 11th truck serving the Asbury Volunteer Fire/Rescue Department. They have their original 1960s open cab ford, which is serving as a “reserve” and is considered “semi-retired”. They have a NEW Sterling Pumper/Tanker obtained with a FEMA Grant, and three other pumpers, two other tankers, a rescue truck, a brush truck, and a support truck.

Asbury VFD has a mutual aid agreement with Alder Springs and Beulah Volunteer Fire Departments and works closely with Albertville and Guntersville city departments. All this effort by Chief Childress and all members of the department led to their department being selected as DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR during the annual meeting of the Marshall County Association of Fire and Rescue at Lake Guntersville State Park. Other awards were given to deserving individuals.

All these accomplishments are funded by local fund raisers such as dinners, road blocks, auctions, and an annual Golf Tournament at Willow Brook Golf Course in Asbury. Customers of the Asbury Water System can make contributions monthly on their water bill and the legislators in our county (Senator Hinton Mitchem, Rep. Frank McDaniel, and Rep. Jeff McLaughlin) provide some funds thru the Alabama Forestry Service. They also get their share of a tobacco tax to complete their limited budget.



Firefighter Jon Holcomb fills new tanker



Chief Albert Childress

From Here and There

News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama



As you can see from this picture, Johnny Alberson, Past President of AAVFD, still has his hands full. He is shown here with his four grandchildren. He's holding Annajane Alberson, who is three weeks old, and Whitley Alberson, who is six weeks old. Standing beside him are Eli Dugan, step-grandson who is seven and Lexi Alberson who is 4 1/2.

According to the Home Safety Council (HSC), fire and/or burns are the third leading cause of unintentional home injury in the U.S. June is Home Safety Month, providing a perfect opportunity for Fire Department members to take a hands-on approach, reach out to the public, and work to reduce this unfortunate statistic.

Former Thomasville VFD (Clarke County) firefighter Beau Gunter was presented a Lifesaving Medal and EMS Provider of the Year by Tuscaloosa Fire & Rescue Service. Firefighter/Paramedic Gunter and his partner, PJ Bean, were awarded the Lifesaving Medal in recognition in their rescue of a 47-year-old heart attack victim.

Pine Hill VFD, Wilcox County, held Open House at their fire station on May 30th.

Beloit VFD, Dallas County, has built a new four-bay fire station.

Fulton VFD, Clarke County, presented Fireman of the Year to Sandra Johnson in memory of her husband, Captain James Johnson, honoring his 30 years of service to the department and the outstanding job he always did on the Community Gospel Singing hosted yearly by the department. Congratulations are also extended to Bradley Martin and Dale Stephens, who were recognized as "Most Improved".

AAVFD President Chauncey Wood spoke at the District 8 Fire Association meeting hosted June 14 by Lillian VFD, Baldwin County in conjunction with their annual Recycle Regatta weekend. The week-end events included raft races, Motorcycle Poker Run with 100% of all proceeds going to charity, craft & vendor show, live music, food vendors and a down-home Cajun crawfish boil. Fire apparatus and an emergency service display put on a show, giving departments an opportunity to showcase what they have and educate the public on what they need. There was also Firefighter Competition.

Morgan County held their 22nd annual Fire & EMS Banquet on April 11, 2009. The Morgan County VFD's



District 6 - Dale County

LEVEL PLAINS VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT

By: Chief Jamie Gatlin

The Level Plains VFD put their new brush/rescue truck in service 5-6-2009. The truck was built by Freedom Fire Equipment of Marietta Georgia on a 2008 Ford F-550 chassis. The truck has many features including four wheel drive, 12000 lb winch with remote control, LED lighting, rescue style body, HID scene lights and a 300 gallon skid tank with pump. The truck will be used for wildland/grass fires, medical calls and other rescue calls. The truck will replace a 1976 Dodge pickup that is on loan from the state forestry department. The truck will also allow our current Rescue truck to be converted to a Service truck. This is the first new vehicle we have ever had. It will be added to our fleet that includes 2 engines, 1 tanker and 1 service truck. Level Plains is located in the southwest corner of Dale County. We

have an ISO rating of 6/9 thanks to the dedication and hard work of our 25 members. The truck was paid for with a FEMA grant with the remainder coming from fire department funds.



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*Mayor Lenwood Herron
Fire Chief Greg Lee
New Brockton, Alabama*



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NORTH MONTGOMERY VOLUNTEER FIRE HONORS A FOUNDING MEMBER



North Montgomery VFD sadly said goodbye to one of its founding members on May 16, 2009. "A great man" is how many described him, a man that worked all of his life and dedicated the last 15 or more years to helping others.

From the North Montgomery County community, "Thank you, Mr. Harold Rhodes."



*Mr. Harold
Rhodes
Recruiting
a new
firefighter.*

Mr. Harold Rhodes was one of the founding fathers of North Montgomery VFD. Founded and

formed in 1996 from the ground up, North Montgomery VFD originated as a one-engine company housed in an old barn. Thanks to the help and dedication of this one man, North Montgomery VFD has evolved into an active organization of approximately 35 members staffing two engine companies, two brush trucks, a rescue unit, and two stations.

In honor of his work and dedication to the community, Station Two was dedicated as "Harold Rhodes Station, Division of Training". While Mrs. Rhodes was being interviewed after Mr. Rhodes' death, she was asked how he would describe the life he had lived. She replied, "In a word...proud."



District 7 - Escambia County

APPLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appleton Volunteer Fire Department took possession of a 2009 E-One Tradition Class A Pumper Apparatus mounted on a Freightliner M2 4-door Chassis. This was made possible by the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant through FEMA. Chief Michael Tyler and the members of the department were on hand when the Pumper was delivered to

the station May 27, 2009 from Sunbelt Fire. Chief Tyler says, "The members of the department are anxious to begin outfitting the pumper so they can begin their training. This new pumper will be able to serve our community for many years to come at a level of protection never before available to the public."





ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

BY-LAWS Section 15



All proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted to the President, in writing, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. The President shall submit the proposed amendments in writing to all voting members at least twenty (20) days prior to any meeting. The proposed amendments may then come before the annual meeting and must be approved by at least 2/3 of the voting members present to become effective.

Proposed By-Law Change

(For the Annual Business Meeting, 2:00 pm, August 1, 2009)

Synopsis: The Board of Directors of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments voted to present an increase of \$10 per department to membership dues beginning in 2010 for your consideration. The cost of all aspects of conducting the business of the Association have risen, and in order to continue to provide you with the representation that you want in Montgomery and around the state, this dues increase is needed.

Section 4. Dues.

As a condition for membership, all general and associate members shall be required to pay dues in the amount set below; said dues being due and payable the first day of January each calendar year; and shall be delinquent after January 31st. No dues shall be required of a Life Member.

- (1) General Membership dues shall be \$50.00 per year per separate volunteer fire department.
- (2) Where local, county or regional volunteer fire departments have formed an association, general membership dues in this association shall be \$45.00 per year per department provided that all members of such local, county or regional association who are eligible for membership in this association, in accordance with Section 3 of these By-Laws, join and pay their annual dues. A Failure to achieve 100% participation of all the bona fide members of the local, county or regional group will result in the individual departments being required to pay the full annual dues of \$50.00. Should one or more departments in that area not choose to join the local, county or regional group, that group shall not be penalized; the 100% participation is computed on the group's number of members.
- (3) Dues for associate members shall be \$45.00 per year.

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The Lighter Side of Fund Raising!

A Texas firefighter moved to Alabama and joined the local fire department. Later, he bought a donkey from an old farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day. The next day, the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry, but I have some bad news. The donkey died."

"Well, then just give me my money back."

"Can't do that. I went and spent it already"

"OK, then, just unload the donkey."

"What are you gonna do with him?" asked the farmer.

"I'm gonna raffle him off," replied the firefighter.

"You can't raffle off a dead donkey!"

"Sure I can. Watch me! I just won't tell anyone that he is dead," he said.

A month later, the farmer met up with the firefighter and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

The firefighter replied, "I raffled him off and raised money for my fire department. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars and made a profit of \$898."

"Didn't anyone complain?"

"Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back."

RECOGNIZE OUR OWN HEROES!

SHERRY GARNER MEMORIAL AWARD AND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Do you know a volunteer firefighter whose achievements in the fire service and in the community exemplify the philosophy of fire prevention and suppression? All fire service organizations in Alabama should be thinking of submitting nominations for the Firefighter of the Year award and the Sherry Garner Memorial Award.

Many go the extra mile in serving their department and community, spending many hours in firefighter training, educating the public in fire prevention, as well as risking their lives and

livelihood fighting fires. It is certain that many of our volunteer firefighters across Alabama perform outstanding feats of heroism that should be recognized by AAVFD. These awards are to recognize this service to their fellow citizens.

All fire departments are encouraged to send in a nominee. Nominations must be post marked no later than July 15, 2009 and mailed to AAVFD, 660 Adams Avenue, Suite 345, Montgomery AL 36104-4373.

Registration Form



Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

32nd Annual Conference July 31 – August 1, 2009

Shoals Marriott Conference Center

800 Cox Creek Parkway South, Florence, Alabama 35630

Sponsored by the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments



Registration: \$35.00 per person

Hotel Information

Please specify the AAVFD Group Rate when you call.
All rates are for King or Double.

Shoals Marriott Hotel and Spa 256-246-3600
800 Cox Creek Parkway South, Florence, Alabama 35630
<http://www.marriottshoals.com>

1-800-593-6450
Rates: \$99.00 + tax

Alternate Hotels

All Alternates are within in 2 miles of Conference Center

Jameson Inn	Florence	256-764-5326	1-800-JAMESON	Rates: \$72.99 + tax
Hampton Inn	Florence	256-764-8888	1-800-HAMPTON	Rates: \$79.00 + tax
Comfort Inn	Florence	256-740-0444	1-877-424-6423	Rates: \$65.00 + tax

Any questions can be emailed to fpPhillips@bellsouth.net or Contact Paula Phillips @ 256-247-1614

Please fill out the following form, detach and mail along with payment to the following address:

LCAVFD
ATTN: AAVFD REGISTRATION
Post Office Box 2145
Florence, AL 35630

Registration: \$35.00 per person

Fire Department - _____ Number attending - _____

Amount Enclosed - _____ Please make checks payable to the LCAVFD

Please print name and phone # of each individual attending conference

AAVFD CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, July 31, 2009

9:00 am - 5:00 pmRegistration at Conference Center
Noon - 1:00 pmLunch on your own
Noon - 5:00 pmVendors at Conference Center
3:00 pm - 4:00 pmTraining at Conference Center
4:00 pm - 5:30 pmBoard of Directors Meeting Conference Center
5:30 pmCook Out & Entertainment
Heritage Park (Bring your name tag)

Saturday, August 1, 2009

7:30 am - 8:30 amCompetition Registration Veterans Park
8:30 am - 9:00 amCompetition Captains Meeting Veterans Park
9:00 am - NoonCompetition at Veterans Park
8:00 am - UntilRegistration at Conference Center
8:00 am - 3:00 pmVendors at Conference Center
Noon - 1:00 pmLunch on your own
2:00 pm - 5:30 pmAnnual Business Meeting Conference Center
7:00 pm - 9:00 pmAwards Banquet at Conference Center
(Bring your Name Tag)

Guest Speaker - History of Muscle Shoals Music - Songwriter's Showcase

9:30 pm - 12:30 pmEntertainment Zack Hacker
(Nashville Star Runner Up)



NEWS FROM THE ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

Barbour County Firefighter honored as Fire Instructor of the Year

Representatives Derrick Swanson and Jimmy "Bull" Conner from the Alabama Fire College were at the Barbour County Fire Fighters Association meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2009, to present Wayne Stell, Training Captain for Green's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, with the Fire Instructor of the Year award for 2008. Wayne was selected for this award, by the Alabama Fire College, due to the number of classes that he taught during 2008. He taught eleven certification and non-certification courses to local paid and volunteer firefighters. Among the classes taught were Fire Instructor I, Fire Officer I, Volunteer Fire Fighter I, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Medical First Responder, Propane Gas Emergencies, Basic Pump Operations, and Introduction to Technical Rescue. Wayne has been a paid firefighter since 2001.

Wayne is currently employed full-time as a Lieutenant with Fort Rucker Fire and Emergency Services, and part-time as an Emergency Medical Technician Basic with Clayton Fire

and Rescue. He also volunteers with Green's Crossroads and Louisville Fire Departments, which are located in Barbour County.

Wayne attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 22-25 with members of the Alabama Fire College.



COMPETITION EVENTS

Joey Boyd, Competition Chairman

Well gang, I took a trip over to Florence just the other day to take a look at the host hotel and competition site, well...two trips. Let me tell ya, this is a beautiful place! I think everyone will love the hotel. I had lunch with Steve (McEachron) and Morris (Lentz) at the restaurant at the hotel. The food was really good. I haven't seen any of the rooms yet, but if they look anything like what I saw, they will be something else! The hotel has a nice large pool and a play area for small children. If you haven't visited the web site of the hotel, you should take the tour.

Lauderdale County is working hard to make this one of the best conferences for the AAVFD. I know when I attend their County Banquet; they put on a class act. Also, when I make the trip over to their County Competition during Fire Prevention Week, there is always a great time to be had by all. I've been doing that for more years than I can remember.

The competition site is only about a block away from the hotel, so not much travel distance at all. I wouldn't walk, but car pooling wouldn't be a bad idea. There is parking at the site, but if you want to park right at the events, you better get there early. You will be able to come, unload your equipment and go park. Keep your pants on, parking is not that far away! It's less than a block, and all is paved. The competition site is on a soccer field, which is nice and flat with short grass. There is plenty of room for those who wish to set up tents for the Competition teams. Rest rooms are nearby, and I'm not talking port-a-potties, either, real bath rooms! There are even some bleachers for those who just come to watch, and I hope we have lots.

Well gang, that's about it. I'm hoping we have a lot of teams this year with many new ones and a lot of our ole' ones, also. I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone at the Conference and at the Competition this year. Time is running short so make your plans now, if you haven't already.

Oh, is there something else I was supposed to write about???????????? Oh yeah, I know ya'll want to know which events we will be running. I have asked a few people about drawing the events out of a hat that morning, can't find too many that like that idea. OK, OK, I'm getting to it, hold your taters! The events will be (Can I get a drum roll?).... You call that a drum roll? The first event will be the AIR PACK RELAY; the second event will be the OBSTACLE COURSE; and the third event will be the HOSE LAY.

Now pay attention: Are you listening; are you sure? Lauderdale County is going to put on a tug of war competition, which will be run after the three AAVFD events. If there is interest, there will be a men's event, and then, a ladies event. Team members do have to belong to the department. I do not know how many team members it will require. Also, this event will NOT play a part in the overall scores of the AAVFD events.

OK gang, there you go. If you haven't started practicing already, it's time to start. Have fun, because that's what we are there for! I will be looking for you all.



WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION GRANT AVAILABLE



Beginning in 2001, the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments has offered a Wildland Fire Prevention Grant program, in association with the Alabama Forestry Commission. This year, the amount appropriated is \$95,000. These grants are available to volunteer fire departments, county fire associations and district fire associations.

Applications were mailed to your county association president in May. Applications are also available at www.aavfd.org. The completed application should be sub-

mitted to the AAVFD office at 660 Adams Avenue, Suite 345, Montgomery AL 36104-4373 postmarked no later than July 10, 2009. E-mail applications will not be accepted.

If you have any questions regarding the 2009 Wildland Fire Prevention Grant Program or wish to have an application sent to you, please contact the AAVFD office @ 1-888-972-2833 or President Chauncey Wood @ 334-403-0301 cell or e-mail aavfd@mindspring.com.



Left to right: Front row - Butch LeCompte, State Forester Linda Casey, President Chauncey Wood, Fire Marshal Ed Paulk. Back row - Dan Jackson - AFC Fire Division Director, Lou Hyman, AFC Assistant Fire Division Director

NATIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES DINNER AND SEMINAR

District 8 Director Charlie Dixon and District 6 Alternate Director Butch LeCompte represented the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments at the 21st annual National Fire & Emergency Services Dinner and Seminar in Washington, D. C. LeCompte and Dixon, along with representatives in the paid fire service, met with Alabama's Congressmen and Senators, or a representative from their office, to discuss grants for safety and homeland security. Of special interest to the AAVFD representatives was funding for volunteer fire departments to aid them with

the Federal mandate, without funding, to narrowband their radio systems by the end of 2012.

The nation's fire and emergency services respond to over 22 million calls annually. This event provides the opportunity to educate policy makers and the public about the vital role of fire fighters and rescue personnel, and the role of the federal government in providing funding to equip and train our first responders.



Alabama Firefighter Delegation



From left to right, Charlie Dixon, Juan Hinojosa - Legislative Director with office of Rep. Bobby Bright, Butch LeCompte

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AAVFD HONORS OUR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



Firefighter Adam Cody Renfroe (DeKalb County) who died in the line of duty while battling a house fire. The department's new pumper/tanker truck was

dedicated in his memory. AAVFD President Chauncey Wood presented Cody's family with an AAVFD flag as a tribute to the young man who dedicated his young life to the fire service, an American flag, and a proclamation issued by the Alabama Legislature mourning the death of Cody Renfroe.



Representative Richard Laird, Legislative Fire Caucus Chairman, presented an AAVFD flag to the family of Chief Roy Carr of Millerville Volunteer Fire Department (Clay County) in memory of his service to his department and community. Chief Carr was a founding member of the department, and at the time of his death, had served as fire chief for 15 years. Representative Laird also presented a proclamation issued by the Alabama Legislature mourning the death of Chief Carr. Left to right: Traci Morrow, daughter; Roxann Horn, sister; Representative Laird; Kathy Carr, wife; Johnny Horn, brother-in-law



Snowdown Volunteer Fire Department (Montgomery Co) honored one of their own, Steven F. Bouchard, in a Fallen Firefighter memorial ceremony remembering his dedication to his department, service to his community, and his ultimate sacrifice. RCFPI President Roy Mott presented the family with the AAVFD flag and Asst State Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen presented them with the American flag. Each flag was raised and retired in a touching ceremony. AAVFD President Chauncey Wood presented the family with a Proclamation from the Alabama Legislature mourning the death of Steven Bouchard.



The family of Clayton Cobb, Sr., Paul VFD (Conecuh Co) gathered at the grave of the former AAVFD Vice President with AAVFD President Chauncey Wood, Escambia County President Joey Moffett, and fellow Honor Guard members Daniel Day and Mary Sells. In a moving ceremony, Clayton's family was



presented with an AAVFD flag, an American flag, and a Proclamation from the Alabama Legislature mourning the death of Clayton Cobb, Sr.



Lieutenant Lavon Mount was honored by the Brantley Volunteer Fire Department (Crenshaw Co) for his 30 years of dedicated service to his department. AAVFD Vice President W.A. Neal presented his family with an AAVFD flag and State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk presented the American flag. Each



flag will be flown over the fire station and retired. President Wood presented a Proclamation from the Alabama Legislature mourning the death of Edward Lavon Mount.

BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN

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1996 E-One Hurricane 75' Quint
Cummins M-11 450 HP Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1997 Pierce Quantum 105' Quint
Detroit Series 60 470 HP Diesel
Allison HD 4060P Automatic
Hale QSMg150-23-1500 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Poly Tank
Akron 95 GPM Foam System



1994 E-One Hurricane 105' Quint
Detroit 8V92TA Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale QSMG200-23 2000 GPM Pump
150 Gallon Poly Tank



1991 Grumman 102' Platform
Detroit Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous CMUYBX 1250 GPM Pump
250 Gallon Poly Tank



1991 E-One 75' Quint
Detroit 6V92TA 400 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic
Hale QSMG125-23 1250 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Akron Foam System



1995 E-One 110' Ladder
Detroit 6V92TA Diesel
Allison HT 740 Automatic
Piped Waterway
8KW PTO-Driven Generator



1996 Spartan/Smeal 100' Platform
Detroit Series 60 470 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
Waterous CSUYBX 1500 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Poly Tank
Elkhart 240-95P Foam System



1994 Simon Duplex 95' Quint
Detroit 8V92TA 475 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous 2000 GPM Pump
200 Gallon Poly Tank



1990 Pierce Lance 75' Quint
Cummins 400 HP Diesel Engine
Allison HT-740 Automatic
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Steel Tank



1989 Pierce Arrow 75' Quint
Detroit 8V92TA Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous CSUYBX 1500 GPM Pump
300 Gallon Poly Tank



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



1994 KME 55' Teleboom
Detroit 6V92TA 350 HP Diesel
Allison HTB-741 Automatic
Hale QSMG125-23 1250 GPM Pump
1250 GPM Monitor at Tip



1992 KME 52' Snozzle
Cummins LTA10 300 HP Diesel
Allison MT-647 Automatic
Hale QSG125-23 1250 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Fiberglass Tank



2002 FL/ALF Heavy Rescue
Cummins 8.3L 315 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060P Automatic
Onan 25KW PTO Generator
Roll-out Trays



1996 Seagraves Heavy Rescue
Detroit 6V92TA 400 HP Diesel
Allison HT741 Automatic
Winco 45KW PTO Generator
Safe Air Breathing Air Compressor
Four Bottle Cascade w/Refill



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



2007 FL HazMat/Command Unit
Mercedes Diesel, Allison Automatic
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Light Tower with 2 - 1000W Lights
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1992 Int'l/Hackney Heavy Rescue
Int'l DTA466 230 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic
Katolight 28KW PTO Generator
Ingersoll SCBA Compressor
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3000 Gallon Steel Tank



1989 AE Pumper/Tanker
Detroit Series 60 425 HP Diesel
Allison Hc-741 Automatic
Hale QSMG 125-23 1250 GPM Pump
2000 Gallon Aluminum Tank



1988 Wolverine Pumper/Tanker
Detroit 8V92TA Diesel
Allison HT740 Automatic
Hale QSMG 1500 GPM Pump
1200 Gallon Steel Tank



2003 ALF Custom Rescue Pumper
Detroit Series 60 430 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Top-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank
Command Knight II Light Tower



2002 Saulsbury Rescue Pumper
Cummins Diesel, Allison Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Rear-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
FoamPro Injection System



2001 ALF Custom Rescue Pumper
Detroit Series 60 430 HP Diesel
Allison HD4060P Automatic
ALF 2000 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank
Elkhart 125 GPM Foam System



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



1990 E-One Hush Rescue Pumper
Detroit 6V92TA Diesel
Allison Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Pump w/Enclosed Panel
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1994 E-One Rescue Pumper
Detroit 6V92TA Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale QSMG 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank
Elkhart 240-P Foam System



1993 E-One Rescue Pumper
Caterpillar Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump
720 Gallon Stainless Steel Tank
Inline Foam Eductor



2000 Pierce Dash Pumper
Detroit 350 HP Diesel
Allison HD 4060P Automatic
Waterous 2-Stage 1500 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank
Hale Foam Master Foam System



1992 E-One Protector Pumper
Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060 Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1995 Peterbuilt Rescue Pumper
Detroit Series 60 430 HP Diesel
Allison HT-740 Automatic
Waterous CSUYBX 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



2000 Pierce Contender Pumper
Detroit Series 40 300 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060 Automatic
Waterous CSYCX 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1990 E-One Cyclone Pumper
Cummins LTA10 350 HP Diesel
Allison MT740 Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1988 E-One Hurricane Pumper
Detroit 350 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Top Mount Pump
750 Gallon Aluminum Tank
Feecon Model AP Foam System



1998 FL/SC Rescue Pumper
Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale QSMG 125-23 1250 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Polypropylene Tank



2001 ALF Commercial Pumper
Cat 7.2L 300 HP Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
ALF ALD-1500 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Polypropylene Tank



2002 International Ambulances
Int'l DT466 Diesel Engine
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Ford 7.3L Diesel Engine
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Four-Bottle Cascade and Fill Station
Honda 5KW Gas Generator

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Alabama Firefighters and EMS Personnel Honored in Opening Ceremonies of Alabama Sports Festival



The Alabama Sports Festival honored all Alabama firefighters and emergency medical personnel at the 2009 Opening Ceremonies in Birmingham AL on June 19th. Honorees received a specially minted Medal of Service recognizing their service. Families of firefighters and emergency medical personnel killed in the line of duty received the Medal of Sacrifice to honor their family member. *More detailed coverage of this event will be in the next issue of "The Volunteer".*

This is a continuation of the *Honoring Our Heroes* program which has honored military veterans, law enforcement officers and others throughout the years. A DVD of the Opening Ceremonies will be available through the Alabama Sports Festival beginning July 15th for \$10 each. To purchase your DVD, you may call Dean Kelly at 334-356-8068.

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District 7 - Escambia County

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS HONORED

The Escambia County 10th Annual Firefighter Appreciation Banquet was held May 30, 2009.

Members of the South Honor Guard posted the colors and honored this year's county fallen firefighters. Congratulations to the award winners.



Left to right: Gregory Tucker Memorial Award for Career Firefighter of the year: Ronnie Jackson - EMS Person of the Year: Ginny Tyler - Male Firefighter of the Year: Joey Moffett - A.C. Cook Memorial Award: Charles Jackson.

Alabama Fire College Executive Director Allan Rice and AAVFD President Chauncey Wood present Female Volunteer Firefighter of the Year to Danita Smith.

District 6 - Barbour County

GREEN'S CROSSROADS VFD

By: Joanne LeCompte

Green's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department held their annual Deer Hunt on January 9 - 11, 2009. This Deer Hunt is a fundraiser, in which all of the community members with the Green's Crossroads and Mt Zion area can participate in by volunteering their land, lodging, and fellowship to the hunters. The funds raised go toward the maintenance and needs of the fire department.

There were several deer harvested, with the overall winner trophy going to 16-year-old Zack Reynolds of Lake Placid FL. His deer was a 9-point buck weighing in at 215 pounds.

This deer was taken from land owned by David and Scarlett Abercrombie.

Other deer were taken by Clark Ricke, Steve Ricke, and Zak Reynolds, all from Florida, on land owned by Butch and Joanne LeCompte and Tom and Sherry McGuire.

This was the Third Annual Deer Hunt sponsored by Green's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, and as usual, a fun, safe and good time was had by all workers and hunters.



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VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SERVICE BILLS PASSED DURING THE 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In addition to the Representatives and Senators below who sponsored the emergency services bills in the 2009 Legislative Session, we want to thank the Speaker of the House Seth Hammett, House Majority Leader Ken Guin, Chair of the Government Appropriations Committee Representative John Knight, Representative DuWayne Bridges, Representative Ron Grantland, and especially Senator Tom Butler and Representative Richard Laird (Fire Caucus Chairmen) for their unwavering support on our behalf this year.

Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, Inc. President Chauncey Wood

SB54/HB558: Senator Roger Bedford & Representative Randy Wood * Representative Richard Laird and Representative DuWayne Bridges

TAG BILL - Will provide for one free firefighter tag for one passenger vehicle registered in the name of the volunteer firefighter. Signed by Governor Riley on May 21, 2009, Act Number 2009-618. **Effective Date: 1 August 2009**

SB379/HB744: Senator Ted Little & Representative Marc Keahey

FREE TUITION - Will provide free college tuition for dependents and spouse of volunteer firefighter who is killed or becomes totally disabled in the line of duty. Signed by Governor Riley on May 21, 2009, Act Number 2009-631.

Effective Date: Immediately

HB519: Representative Arthur Payne * Senator Tom Butler handled this bill on the Senate Floor.

FUEL TAX EXEMPTION: Will exempt volunteer fire departments and fire protection districts from all state and local gasoline and diesel fuel taxes. Signed by Governor Riley on May 21, 2009, Act Number 2009-717.

Effective Date: 1 August 2009

Alabama Association of Rescue Squads, Inc.

HB315 - Representative William Thigpen and Representative William M. "Billy" Beasley * Senator Roger Bedford handled this bill on the Senate Floor.

FUEL TAX EXEMPTION: Will exempt volunteer rescue squads from all state and local gasoline and diesel fuel taxes. Signed by Governor Riley on May 21, 2009, Act Number 2009-660. **Effective Date: 1 August 2009**

State Fire Marshal Office Fire Marshal Ed Paulk

- **HB289/SB139** - Representative Steve Hurst & Senator Hinton Mitchem * Industrial Development & Recruitment Committee Chair Senator Larry Means assisted. This bill would provide that the State Fire Marshal would regulate and license persons who install fire detection, fire alarm, or fire communication systems. Signed by Governor Riley on May 21, 2009, Act Number 2009-657. **Effective Date: 1 August 2009**
- **HB528** - Representative Alan Boothe * Senator Myron Penn handled this bill on the Senate Floor. This bill would repeal current law and create a new law that would prohibit explosives and explosive devices, bacteriological and biological weapons, and would provide for fines and penalties for falsely reporting an incident, the unlawful manufacturing, transporting, distributing, possessing with intent to distribute, etc, and would provide for forfeiture and seizure of all material used in violation of this act. Signed by Governor Riley on May 21, 2009, Act Number 718. **Effective Date: 1 August 2009**
- **SB311/HB610** - Senator Hinton Mitchem * Representative Jeff McLaughlin * This bill would create test methods and performance standards for cigarettes sold in the state, require manufacturer to pay certification fees, submit written certification to the State Fire Marshal, establish penalties for noncompliance, allow the State Fire Marshal to enforce and establish a special fund for collected penalties to be used to support fire safety programs. Signed by Governor Riley on May 21, 2009, Act Number 630. **Effective Date: 1 January 2010**

SHERIFF, FIRST RESPONDERS WORK ON COMMUNICATION

By: Jillian Pope, Washington County News

Following several communication conflicts between the Washington County Sheriff's Office and volunteer fire departments, a special meeting was called April 4 at the courthouse in order for members from each group to have questions answered regarding incident command. Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments President Chauncey Wood was present to moderate the meeting. "I've given this a lot of thought and prayed about this," Wood said. "Everybody needs to work together. Let's see what's not working and see if we can make it work. We need to get harmony between the sheriff's office, fire departments, police departments, troopers and anyone else who may respond to emergency calls." Throughout the meeting, various laws explained about who is allowed to have emergency lights running on vehicles at the site of a vehicle collision, as well as who is in charge at the scene of a collision. According to State Trooper Cpl. Brad Napp, state troopers investigate vehicle collisions, therefore if there is not the immediate need for a person to receive lifesaving medical care; troopers are in charge of the scene.

"The first person on the scene is in charge until an arresting officer gets there then the arresting officer assumes command of the scene," Napp said. "However, if there is a fire involved or someone needs life saving care, the fire department or medical provider is in charge until that care is given and if a trooper is on scene, he will do whatever you need him to do until that care is given." In response to questions concerning emergency lights on vehicles, Napp said the law is very clear on who is and is not allowed to have emergency lights. "No one can have blue lights on a privately owned vehicle, period," Napp said. "White and amber, or any shade in between, are legal for warning lights but have to be on the farthest side of the vehicle and must flash simultaneously. There can be no lights on the dash, period." Lights colored red or amber, or any shade in between, can be placed on the rear of a privately owned vehicle but must be placed on the farthest corner of the vehicle and also must flash simultaneously. Sheriff Richard Stringer said he hopes the meeting was informative and hopes all agencies will be able to better communicate during emergency situations. The sheriff's office and fire departments have scheduled another meeting at 9:30 a.m., June 6 in order to continue working on communication skills between departments.



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FIRE TRAINING

BY JOSH DEWBERRY, Journal Staff Writer

A total of 74 emergency personnel from nine fire departments, Monroe County Emergency Management Agency and Simmons Ambulance Service, as well as two constables, worked a search and rescue in a warehouse Monday evening - all as part of a drill.

Firefighters from Frisco City, Mexia, Uriah, Monroeville, Rocky Hill, Vredenburgh, Burnt Corn and Beatrice, EMA officials and Constables Brad Jordan and Walter Day took part in an industrial fire and search and rescue exercise at an empty warehouse at the Frisco City Farmer's Co-op.

The drill was geared at teaching firefighters the proper procedures for battling a fire inside a large, open structure like a warehouse, and also how to conduct search and rescue, set up an incident command post and deal with the possibility of hazardous material.

Barrels were placed throughout the building, and then filled with hay, which was set on fire to fill the building with smoke. There was only one way in or out, and light inside the building was limited, making the situation just about as bad as possible for the training exercise.

"I think everything went really well," Frisco City Fire Capt.

Daniel Day, who helped plan the event, said. "We want to thank all the personnel who participated and also the Frisco City Farmer's Co-op for allowing us to use the warehouse." In other activity:

- Last Thursday at 4 p.m. 12 Monroeville firefighters responded with one engine and one ladder truck to a report of smoke coming from Haley Stacy's residence at 72 Sunset Dr. A neighbor called the fire in, and when firefighters arrived they found the occupant was grilling, causing the smoke. There was no fire, and firefighters spent 30 minutes on the call.
- Saturday at 4:15 a.m. 11 Monroeville firefighters responded with one engine to a one-vehicle wreck at 1511 South Alabama Ave., in the parking lot of McDonald's. They assisted Simmons Ambulance Service with the patient, shut off a ruptured water line and cut the battery cables on the car. They spent an hour on the call.
- Saturday at 6:12 p.m. 13 Monroeville firefighters responded with one engine and one rescue truck to provide medical support for LifeFlight medical helicopter landing at Monroe County Hospital. They spent an hour on the call.



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District 5 - Bibb County

NINE AREA FIRE DEPTS PARTICIPATE IN “BEYOND HOSES & HELMETS” LEADERSHIP TRAINING

By: Stephanie Patton

Brierfield, AL - Members from nine central Alabama volunteer fire departments participated in a 2-day leadership training program this weekend at the University of Montevallo. The program, called Beyond Hoses & Helmets, was sponsored by Pierce Fire Apparatus and the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Participating fire departments included Pea Ridge, County Road 17, West Shelby, Dry Valley, Kingdom, Marbury, Jemison, Centreville and host participant Brierfield.

“This course is designed for new and existing Fire Officers to enhance their leadership skills,” according to Brierfield Chief Spruce McRee. “However, since it's imperative that everyone on a fire scene operate in a productive and safe manner, we opened the course to all firefighters and rescue personnel interested in the program - we had 39 members

participate in the program.”

The program instructors were Chief Larry Curl and Chief Greg Lender. Through interactive educational presentations, topics covered included problem solving, recruitment, retention, leadership, team building, conflict resolution, verbal communications, and training development.



District 7 - Crenshaw County

HIGHLAND HOME VFD AND FULLERS CROSSROADS VFD RESPOND TO TORNADO DAMAGE

By: W. A. Neal, First Vice President

On Friday March 27, 2009, Highland Home and Fullers Crossroads Volunteer Fire Departments responded to the Dong Wong plant on US Hwy 331. The plant was hit by a tornado that flipped a trailer over, damaged the roof and blew out a wall. The damage was to the storage warehouse. No one was injured, despite the fact that several employees were in the plant at the time the storm hit. The ensuing rain flooded the plant.



District 3 - Hale County

HALE COUNTY CHURCH FIRE

Scott Hallman, AAVFD District 3 Alternate Director

On Tuesday night April 14th, 2009, the Moundville Volunteer Fire Department, along with Stewart / Havana Volunteer Fire Department, responded to a fire call at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on County Road 50 just east of Moundville.

Upon arrival, the Church was found fully involved. Firefighters worked all night and into the next morning to fully extinguish the fire. The State Fire Marshall has been called in to investigate.



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NEW SKID PUMP UNITS

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Standard Unit Pricing

FD 18V 300 L

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

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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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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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A WORD FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



I am honored to write to you -- Alabama's heroes. Thank you for dedicating your lives to and risking your lives in the protection of others. There is no higher calling, and you have answered it well. While we can never adequately recognize your work, I am pleased that the State of Alabama honors your sacrifice by offering death benefits to the family of firefighters who die while performing their

duties. Since I became Attorney General, I have worked hard to strengthen Alabama's death benefits laws by raising the benefit amount from \$50,000 to \$100,000, adding an automatic increase every year to adjust for inflation, exempting the benefit from state income taxes, and allowing the benefit to be paid to the firefighter's children even if those children are no longer dependents of the firefighter.

It is my prayer every day that your families and colleagues will never need to use this process. Because the truth is that

the ultimate sacrifice will continue to be required of heroes, I want to offer some tips to make sure that all claims that we receive can be approved in an expedient manner. Once the Board of Adjustment receives an application, they send that application to my office so that my staff can determine whether the claim should be approved. Alabama law has a one-year deadline for submitting an application. Even if you do not have all of the supporting documents, go ahead and submit the application before the deadline! You can always send in the rest of the information after the deadline. Also, if you have any questions, feel free to call Rushing Payne ((334) 353-4591), who is an attorney in my office who handles death benefit claims. I have instructed him and the rest of my staff to do everything within their power to assist Alabama's heroes and their families any time they request or need assistance and to do so as quickly as possible. It is the least we can do.

Thank you for serving our state with honor, integrity, courage, valor, and devotion to duty. Also, please thank your families on my behalf for agreeing to share you with our state.



2009 ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced this year's Arson Awareness Week (AAW) theme – Arson for Profit. The goal is to draw people's attention to the alarming statistics about arson for profit and expand resources and support necessary to reduce this crime.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, arsonists destroyed nearly \$900 million in insured property and killed 295 civilians nationwide in 2007 (latest yearly statistics available). The USFA National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) states the two leading causes of civilian deaths are arson, at 28% and smoking, at 18%. Arson is, by far, the leading cause of property loss, at 26%

There are many financial motives for arson: collect insurance, liquidate property, dissolve businesses, conceal loss, pursue employment, clear a land parcel, and reduce competition. Arson for profit affects everyone through loss of life, increased insurance premiums and related expenses for the fire and law enforcement professionals. The concerted efforts coordinated by fire investigators, law enforcement, insurance professionals and the legal system against this costly crime is showing results. According to the FBI, in 2007, arson offenses decreased 6.7% when compared with arson data reported in 2006. NFPA reports that the trends in intentional fires and associated losses have been downward since 1980.



Pictured with Governor Bob Riley, from left to right, Chauncey Wood, AAVFD President; Ed Paulk, State Fire Marshal; Craig Hill, Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Alabama Forestry Commission; Dallas Johnson, Fire Marshal, Prattville Fire Department; Otis "Butch" LeCompte, Public Relations Director, AAVFD

2009 AAVFD Membership – Total 885

DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN		5 of 12
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		13 of 32
SHELBY		8 of 19
ST CLAIR		0 of 20
WALKER	100%	25 of 25
WINSTON	100%	11 of 11

DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE		5 of 13
GREENE	100%	12 of 12
HALE	100%	9 of 9
LAMAR		0 of 10
PICKENS	100%	17 of 17
SUMTER	100%	19 of 19
TUSCALOOSA	100%	20 of 20

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		5 of 15
TALLAPOOSA	100%	13 of 13

DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA	100%	10 of 10
BIBB	100%	9 of 9
CHILTON		0 of 14
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%	11 of 11
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%	22 of 22
MONROE	100%	15 of 15

DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN		20 of 32
CHOCTAW	100%	14 of 14
CLARKE	100%	14 of 14
MOBILE	100%	19 of 19
WASHINGTON	100%	19 of 19

DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

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

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK	100%	7 of 7
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE	100%	7 of 7
LOWNDES		2 of 8
MACON		1 of 10
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL	100%	11 of 11

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NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT Charles Myshrahl (67) Volunteer
Department: North Coventry VFD, Coventry CT
Date of Death: 1/30/09
Cause of Death: Sustained injured quadriceps muscle torn from the ligaments connecting it to his knee when he fell in driveway while on EMS call. While recovering at home, he suddenly collapsed and passed away from complications from the surgery.

Name/Rank: Engineer William Gray Parsons (58) Volunteer
Department: Millers Creek FD, Millers Creek NC
Date of Death: 1/31/09
Cause of Death: Slumped over steering wheel of apparatus after complaining of not feeling well upon arrival at structure fire and later passed away at hospital of apparent heart attack.

Name/Rank: Firefighter-EMT Mark Bradley Davis (25) Volunteer
Department: Cape Vincent VFD, Cape Vincent NY
Date of Death: 1/31/09
Cause of Death: While Davis and three other EMS personnel were treating an individual at the residence, the patient became agitated, retrieved a high-powered rifle, and fired two rounds, one striking and killing Firefighter-EMT Davis.

Name/Rank: Chief Dean Walter Mathison (63) Volunteer
Department: Clayton-Winchester FD, Larsen WI
Date of Death: 2/10/09
Cause of Death: After responding to a vehicle fire, Chief Mathison returned to station to assist with clean-up and returning equipment to service. The following day while attending quarterly regional fire department safety league, he was discovered unresponsive in restroom. He was transported to hospital but could not be revived.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Jeffrey Isbell (33) Career
Department: Enterprise FD, Enterprise AL
Date of Death: 2/10/09
Cause of Death: Passed away in hotel room while attending fire department assigned training at Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa. Cause of death is pending further investigation.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Captain Albert G. Eberle, Jr. (74) Volunteer
Department: Roslyn Fire Company, Roslyn PA
Date of Death: 2/16/09
Cause of Death: Passed away shortly after suffering cardiac arrest while working traffic control on scene of motor vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Timothy Nicholas (26) Volunteer
Department: Lt. Johnnie Hammons (49) Volunteer
Date of Death: 2/19/09
Cause of Death: Passed away from injuries sustained while operating at mobile home fire. Investigation continues into cause of fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter John Adams (45) Volunteer
Department: Silver City VFD, Jennings OK
Date of Death: 2/20/09
Cause of Death: While backing his fire apparatus along side of road at 600-acre fire, Adams collapsed and died after fighting fire for 12 hours. Authorities suspect arson because three fires were set within a mile or each other, just moments apart.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Derek Edward North (34) Volunteer
Department: Stockton FD, Lakeland GA
Date of Death: 2/23/09
Cause of Death: Died from injuries sustained when fire apparatus responding to a call swerved to avoid a collision at intersection. Two others sustained serious injuries. The fire apparatus was leased from the state and is reported to have had a baffled tank. Seat belts: Unknown if equipped or in use at this time.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT Ferdinando "Freddy" Pierno (55) Career
Department: Martin County Fire Rescue, Stuart FL
Date of Death: 2/25/09
Cause of Death: Passed away from Hepatitis C Virus infection sustained while on duty.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Michael J. Darrington (45) Career
Department: Toledo F/R, Toledo OH
Date of Death: 2/27/09
Cause of Death: After failing to respond to another alarm after complaining of feeling ill on earlier call, he was discovered in firehouse unresponsive. Medical director and firefighters were unable to revive him. Cause of death is still to be reported.

Name/Rank: Corporal Christopher Allen Dill (43) Career
Department: Oklahoma City FD, Oklahoma City OK
Date of Death: 3/4/09
Cause of Death: Collapsed on scene of apartment fire while cleaning up preparing to return to station and was transported to hospital where he later passed away.

Name/Rank: Lieutenant William Roger Vorwerk (49) Career
Department: Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District, Odessa MO
Date of Death: 3/14/09
Cause of Death: Collapsed and died while working third outdoor fire call of the day.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Gregory Carroll Cooke (60) Volunteer
Department: Salem VFD Whitakers NC
Date of Death: 3/21/09
Cause of Death: Went into cardiac arrest while working a woods fire and was transported to hospital where he passed away.

Name/Rank: Chief Nolan Schmidt (37) Volunteer
Department: Hydro VFD, Hydro OK
Date of Death: 3/23/09
Cause of Death: Was killed on the scene of a soybean storage bin fire at a grain elevator. Three other firefighters, two of which are his brothers, were injured, as well. Investigation into cause of death is pending.

Name/Rank: Lieutenant Robert Strang (60) Career
Department: Melbourne FD, Melbourne FL
Date of Death: 3/26/09
Cause of Death: Discovered unresponsive at station after returning from commercial structure fire and passed away later at hospital. Investigation into cause of death is pending.

Name/Rank: Chief Mike Gilbreath (55) Volunteer
Department: Double Springs VFD, Double Springs AL
Date of Death: 3/27/09
Cause of Death: Dispatched to clear trees from roadway after a storm where he was struck and killed by a vehicle.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT-Training Officer Robert Andrew France (45) Volunteer
Department: Stateline VFD, Stateline MS
Date of Death: 3/30/09
Cause of Death: Returning from fire training meeting when he struck a deer with his motorcycle and succumbed to injuries at hospital after being transported by helicopter.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Manny Rivera (43) Career
Department: Trenton FD, Trenton NJ
Date of Death: 3/31/09
Cause of Death: Collapsed from apparent heart attack after climbing ladder and rescuing fire victim dangling from residence window and passed away after remaining in a coma since the February 9th incident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter George A. Wimberly (63) Volunteer
Department: Stonewall VFD, Stonewall MS
Date of Death: 4/1/09
Cause of Death: Slowed to stop en route to structure fire in POV about 1/2 mile from scene and passed away from apparent heart attack. Cause of fire is being investigated as possible arson.

Name/Rank: Asst Chief John William Jeffers (54) Volunteer
Department: Wellington-Greer Fire Protection District, Wellington IL
Date of Death: 4/2/09
Cause of Death: Complained of not feeling well while reloading hose on fire engine and was discovered at home the following day having apparently died of myocardial infarction.

Name/Rank: Firefighter John Weber (77) Volunteer
Department: Township FD, Eau Claire WI
Date of Death: 4/4/09
Cause of Death: Firefighters returning from a brush fire call found Weber passed away at the station. Investigation into cause of death is pending.

Name/Rank: Pilot Heath Van Handel (36) Wildland Full-Time
Department: Wisconsin Department of Natural resources, Madison WI
Date of Death: 4/8/09
Cause of Death: Killed when his plane crashed into a field during fire suppression operations. Cause of accident is under investigation.

Name/Rank: Probationary Firefighter Damien Hobbs (29) Career
Department: Captain James Harlow (50) Career
Date of Death: Houston FD, Houston TX
Cause of Death: 4/12/09
 Died in house fire when they were unable to exit the structure. Incident remains under investigation.

Name/Rank: Chief Charles Fletcher Clough, Jr. (41) Volunteer
Department: Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company, Sudlersville MA
Date of Death: 4/15/09
Cause of Death: Died in POV in single vehicle accident while responding to a reported appliance fire. Accident is under investigation.

CLASSIFIEDS

AAVFD ITEMS AVAILABLE

The following items can be purchased through the AAVFD office in Montgomery
660 Adams Avenue, Suite 345
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AAVFD Vehicle Tag	\$5
Golf Shirts w/ Collar	\$22
T-Shirts	\$10
T-Shirts w/Pocket	\$12
AAVFD Vehicle Decals	\$2

THE BELL TOLLED

Chief Michael "Mike" Martin Gilbreath, Double Springs VFD, Winston County, died in the Line of Duty on March 27, 2009 when he was struck by a pick up as he worked to remove a fallen tree from the roadway after a storm.

Andrew Lee "Drew" Vaughn, Monrovia VFD, Madison County, died in a traffic accident on April 26, 2009. He had served his department as a medic and a fire fighter for 8 years.

Edward Lavon Mount, Brantley VFD, Crenshaw County, passed away May 2, 2009, actively serving his department for 30 years. Brantley fire fighters served as honorary pallbearers.

Chief Roy Carr, Millerville VFD, Clay County, passed away May 8, 2009. Chief Carr was a founding member of the department and had served as chief for 15 years.

David D. Rogers, a founding member of South Marengo F/R, Marengo County, passed away May 29, 2009.

Jason Beavers, North Chilton VFD, Chilton County, died in a motorcycle accident on June 12, 2009.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Senator Ted Little, 27TH District, (Lee, Russell and Tallapoosa Counties) whose mother, Hester Brogdon Little, passed away in May.

Thank You From Family of Chief Mike Gilbreath

Dear Mr. Wood & Association:

Thank you so much for the (AAVFD Relief Fund) check I received. You have been a great help to my family and me during this terrible time.

Mike truly loved being a part of the Fire Department and serving the people of Double Springs. He is being missed by all who knew him.

Please keep Amanda, Erik and me in your prayers.

Thanks, again.
Ruby Gilbreath

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 Gary Cobb

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AND SECONDS COUNT**