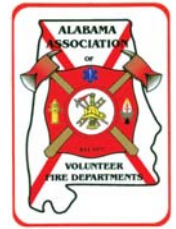




# THE VOLUNTEER



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

Oct. – Dec. 2009

## REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF AAVFD 2009 LEGISLATION

Fire Caucus Co-Chair in the House of Representatives Richard Laird assisted AAVFD President Chauncey Wood in presenting Axes to members of that legislative body in recognition of their support of successful 2009 fire service legislation that was signed into law by Governor Riley.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 21*



*Rep. Duwayne Bridges*



*Rep. Randy Wood*



*Rep. Richard Lindsey*



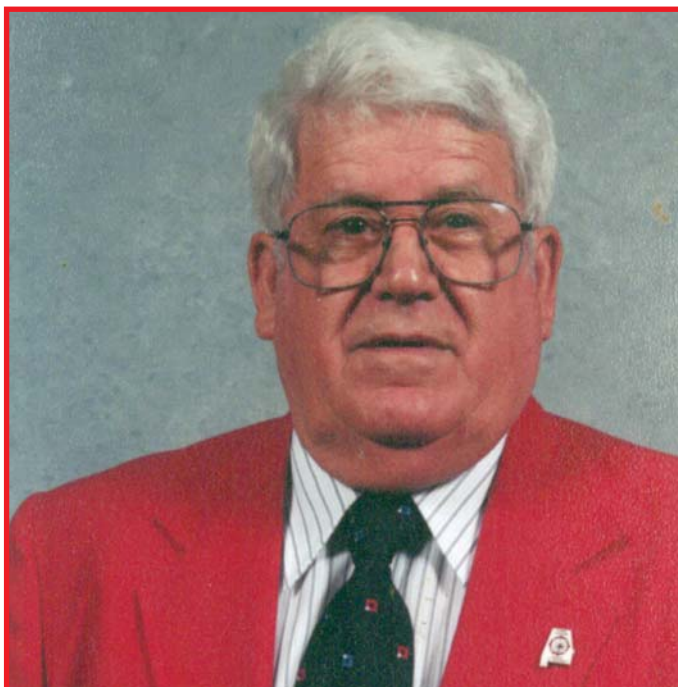
*Rep. Arthur Payne*



*Speaker of the House  
Seth Hammett*

## FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

***“THE VOLUNTEER” IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF EUELL HODGE***



On Tuesday, December 1, 2009, Euell Hodge said good-bye to this world. His wake was Thursday, followed by his funeral on Friday. His many friends joined with his family in honoring his life and his commitment and contributions to the volunteer fire service.

Euell served Cullman County Fire Association as President and was a member of Berlin VFD.

Euell was Alternate Director on the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments Board of Directors. He served as AAVFD Representative on the Hazardous Materials Advisory Board and Public Relations Director in the North Region. He was honored as a Life Member of AAVFD on August 7, 1998.

Euell assisted me with the very successful legislation that was passed for the fire service in the 2009 legislative session, and his expertise in this capacity was invaluable.

But more than all of his accomplishments, Euell was my friend, and he will be missed.

by AAVFD President Chauncey Wood

# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Shay Wood*



*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*

The lights shine brightly around Christmas. Many communities go all out with festive decorations. The holiday season is my favorite time of the year. While struggling to bake or fry the perfect turkey or find just the right present, once all the chaos settles, it all comes back to family and friends!

It's a time for giving, sharing and volunteering; whether at church, school, Red Cross, Salvation Army or Fire and Rescue. Too few people are joining our fire departments, and many of those who join don't stay. It is very difficult to attract younger members due to a range of reasons, to include demand on people's time, two-income households, longer commuting distances to and from work, and increased training requirements.

Last September 2008, AAVFD partnered with the Alabama Firefighters Association (AFA) on a \$300,000 SAFER grant for "Recruitment and Retention". The 1-800-Fire-Line was implemented whereby one can call from anywhere in the USA to learn about the volunteer emergency service opportunities in their area, along with a National Jr. Firefighter Program Podcast and radio and video public service announcements (PSA) promoting volunteering with their local fire department. With the passage of the one FREE firefighter distinctive tag and other benefits, it's my hope this will be an incentive for younger people to join.

Busy, busy, busy, and fast and furious - that describes the past sixteen months as your President! All in all, I feel good as we increased our membership dues to support our organization, expanded our AAVFD Honor Guard from three regions to six, and had a very successful legislative year. Both the Regular Session (Feb-May) and extraordinary Special Session (August) brought seven bills and one resolution passed by both the House and Senate and signed by Governor Bob Riley for Fire & Rescue Services, including the State Fire Marshal's office!

Now, looking ahead into 2010. It will be problematic, bare bones, grant-less year, I'm afraid. As your President, I will do my

best to continue to advocate on both Capitol Hill (D.C.) and Goat Hill (Montgomery) to get the necessary legislation passed and implemented that will help departments in their retention and recruitment efforts; i.e.,

- Funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
- Staffing for adequate fire and emergency response (SAFER-H.R.3791) that passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and is in the Senate awaiting passage as we go to print.
- Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (H.R.3666) that would extend income tax exemptions on property tax benefits and increase to \$600 the amount of "other benefits" that are exempt from federal income tax in a given year.
- Passage of the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act
- Extension and expansion of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act
- Alabama Firefighter Annuity and Benefit Fund (volunteer and career fire service)
- Tag list for distinctive firefighter license plate with the volunteer list being maintained by Alabama Forestry Commission and career and retired list being maintained by Alabama Fire College.
- Wildland Fire Prevention Grant
- State Executive Community Service Grant from State General Fund by members of Alabama House of Representatives (non-education funding).
- Assistance to Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Fire College and State Fire Marshal's Office with fire-related legislation.

In closing, I'd be remiss in not saying Thank You to our own Executive Assistant, Sandra Mott, who is ultimately responsible for the daily operation of our Association and for supporting and assisting me during the past sixteen months. My thanks to the Greatest Board of Directors any President could want or ask for and committee chairs and members. You ALL have worked long and hard toward the improvement of our Association and the Fire Service. Your support has been greatly appreciated! To our Honor Guard Commander Daniel Day and Honor Guard members - THANK YOU for going that extra mile. You all are a valuable asset to AAVFD and a credit to honoring our Heroes!

And finally, a special Thank You to Charlie Dixon, Otis "Butch" LeCompte and Roy Mott for all they do for the fire service during session and out. And Thank You - Members of our Association - for allowing me to serve another term as your President! It is indeed an honor and privilege to represent 1,012 volunteer fire departments with over 28,000+ volunteers.

Be safe always and may God bless our Association!

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Representative Recognized.....	1	Structure Fire in Columbia.....	9	Membership Totals.....	20
Farewell to a Friend.....	1	Autauga County Banquet.....	9	Membership Renewals Due.....	21
From the President's Desk.....	2	Structure Fire in Newton.....	10	Representatives Recognized cont'd.....	21
Pine Level Firefighter Test.....	4	Historic Home in Pinckard.....	10	2010 AAVFD Scholarships.....	21
Morgan County Fire/EMS Boat.....	5	Governor Signs Fire Prevention Week Proclamation.....	14	National Fatalities.....	22
From Here and There.....	6	Designating Authorized Vehicles.....	19	Classifieds.....	23
A Word of Thanks.....	6	Frisco City VFD Training.....	19	Condolences.....	23
Hot Shots.....	9	District 3 Hosts 2010 Conference.....	19	Thank You from Euell Hodge Family.....	23



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## **PINE LEVEL FIREFIGHTERS TEST FOR ADVANCED LEVEL**

**BY DON FLETCHER, *PROGRESS STAFF WRITER***



Most firefighters are trained to handle the prospects of entering a burning building, dealing with a hazardous materials spill or witnessing the carnage of a violent vehicle crash. But the situation faced by 10 members of the Pine Level Volunteer Fire Department on Monday had the rural emergency responders more than a little anxious.

The PLVFD personnel chewed fingernails, scribbled on scratch paper or paced back and forth nervously as they faced one of their biggest challenges to date -- a 100-question, written test that would determine whether or not they would advance a level in their certification as firefighters.

Each of the local test-takers, along with three Clay County volunteers and the late addition of two Montgomery firefighters, were awaiting the commencement of the state-sponsored Firefighter II examination. The personnel from Pine Level represented the first group to complete an advanced firefighting course since 1991, PLVFD firefighter Scott Ninesling said.

Wayne Greer, an instructor with the Alabama Fire College who administered the test, said such advanced education in firefighting theory and procedures was a strong indicator that volunteer firefighting units had destroyed the stereotypes that once existed among many members of the public.

"People don't really understand just what volunteer firefighters do," said Greer, who retired as chief of the Montgomery Fire Department in 1997. "It used to be that they were like a supper club, but it's not that way anymore. It's a lot more involved than it used to be. They don't just get out and have barbecues and other fundraisers, they really work."

The Pine Level group covers a 67-square-mile area that includes 17 miles of Interstate 65. The members are often dispatched to assist when incidences occur outside their geographic coverage territory.

"We have mutual aid agreements with most of the other volunteer departments," Ninesling said. "We handled 692 calls last year, about 29 percent of the total (rural) calls in Autauga County."

Greer said that 83 percent of the state's firefighters are volunteers. Most have obtained or are trying to obtain the same level of certification as those who are paid to man fire trucks and other emergency vehicles in larger communities.

"Once they get past the 200 hours of initial certification, it pretty much puts them on the same level as everyone else," he said. "Once they pass this test, they have the same basic certification that (firefighters in) Montgomery or Prattville have. The only difference is, the volunteers don't have to go through the physical fitness part."

A PLVFD member standing nearby mumbled that, "it's good

that we don't," prompting laughter that eased the pre-test tension to some degree.

Asked why the rural rescue personnel risk their lives and safety, Ninesling said the reasons are many.

"We do it because we love it," he began. "And it's pretty big for Autauga County. It helps the community when we bring our level of certification up. It also improves our compliance with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) standards, and it helps improve our grant possibilities."

Randy Chambless, the PLVFD's lead instructor for the course, said the advanced certification would benefit area residents who own homes or other property. He also pointed out that continued training in the handling of incidents involving hazardous materials could prove to a major factor when such a situation evolves.

"We do this to help get a better ISO rating, which lowers the cost of fire insurance," Chambless said. "It also helps us to get grants for new equipment or a new station. It's a pretty big step. And we're going to be training in haz-mat awareness and operations. There are more hazardous materials on these roads than most people know about."

The fire instructor agreed.

"If there is an accident outside Prattville, either north or south, it's going to be volunteers that get dispatched," Greer said. "And on the Interstate, there could be hazardous materials involved in any of the accidents."

Ninesling pointed out that pre-test field training required each participating volunteer to give up his or her Tuesday and Thursday nights for three weeks, along with the forfeiture of two full weekend days.

The PLVFD group consisted of two husband-wife teams -- Chief Mark Caffey and his wife Regina, and Wayne and Dianne Hendrix -- along with Ninesling, Dale Russell, Paul Moses, Andrew Tveit, Assistant Chief Buster Barber and Dave Kirkendall.

While most of the rural rescuers felt confident that they would do well on the exam, the group apparently took an extra precaution, just in case.

The department's chaplain, William Hall -- an ordained minister with Elmore Church of God -- was in attendance, although he was not one of those taking the test.

"I'm here for moral support," said Hall, who pointed out that he, responds to most calls in order to be of comfort to accident victims or residents of a burning home. "A bunch of firefighters is like a big family. So I try to put the Lord in the middle of each situation. You can't go wrong if the Lord is part of what you're doing."



## MORGAN COUNTY PUTS FIRE/EMS BOAT IN SERVICE

### SUBMITTED BY CHIEF TONY WEIKERT

The Morgan County Rescue Squad put their Fire / EMS boat into service Feb 2008. It was a long time dream that took two years of planning and designing to bring to reality.

The manufacturer is SeaArk in Monticello, Arkansas. The boat is 10-ft. wide by 27-ft long, plus a 3-ft. extension for twin 225 hp motors. It is equipped with an EMS bench and BLS equipment, which essentially makes it a floating ambulance. We can begin treating a patient while en-route back to shore to a waiting ground transport ambulance.

The SeaArk is equipped also with 2 full setups to deploy divers in the water and a 4-ft. section of the port wall is removable to have easy access to the water for divers. The fire pump is capable of handling two 1 1/2 inch hoses at a max. pressure of 110 psi and 750 gpm. The boat is equipped with GPS, dual side-scan sonar, and

underwater camera.

With a crew of 4 people, top speed is approx. 49-50 mph. The cost of the SeaArk was \$186,000, plus added equipment for a total around \$200,000. The squad secured financing for the boat with 10 yearly payments using funding collectively from TVA, County Commission, City of Decatur, and United Way monies. The squad still must rely heavily on picture shoot income and other fund raisers to be fully operational.



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## AD&D INSURANCE RENEWALS

The AD&D insurance policy remains one of the least expensive policies that can be purchased for volunteer firefighters. In the event a firefighter dies in the line of duty, this policy would provide some financial assistance to the family in paying bills. Support is also provided with a weekly disability stipend for an injury in the line of duty that prevents the firefighter from returning to work up for up to one year.

It is very important that the insurance enrollments for the new year be sent to the Montgomery office as soon as possible so that department personnel do not lose any coverage in 2010.

Cost for the accidental death & disability policy remains \$12 per year of \$10,000 and \$20 per year if you choose to have coverage of \$20,000. Coverage begins January 1, 2010, or if mailed after January 1st, coverage begins on the day that your insurance enrollment is received in the AAVFD office.

As an extra benefit, each policy holder will receive a quarterly issue of "The Volunteer" to keep informed of the latest events and innovations in the fire service in the state and nation.

# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

South Marengo Fire & Rescue, Marengo County, were presented \$2,034.57 by Senator Hank Sanders to be used to upgrade the department's communication equipment.

Asbury VFD, Marshall County, held their annual fundraiser "Chicken House of Horror" every Friday and Saturday night in October.

Pine Hill VFD, Wilcox County, hosted a CPR recertification class on November 9, 2009.

Brindlee Mountain VFD, Madison County, hosted a CPR recertification class on November 10th.

**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: Alder Springs, Baker Hill, Butler, Frisco City, Jackson, Killingsworth Cove, Lillian, Pea Ridge, Tallassee, Union, Cullman County Association, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Fire College and State Fire Marshal office.

Dallas County Association President Jebb Harrison conducted a 13D Home Sprinkler demonstration in Selma on November 19th.

The Culture of Excellence Award was presented by the Alabama Health Department's EMS & Trauma Division to Cahaba Valley Fire & Fultondale F/R (Jefferson County), and Pintlala VFD (Montgomery County).

Underwood-Petersville VFD, Lauderdale County, honored Leon Wesson, Sam Blackmon, Johnny Dennis and Don

## A WORD OF THANKS:

We, the members of Piney Woods Volunteer Fire Dept., would like to graciously thank the Valley Grande Vol. Fire Dept. for all of the hose that they donated to us. They are a great bunch of people. We would also like to thank the Reform Vol. Fire Dept. for the donation of a 1984 International Tanker. Truly a beautiful piece of equipment. We would like to thank each and every person who has either helped with donations of equipment or given their time to help us get things in order. Again, from all of us at PINEY WOODS VFD, THANK-YOU ALL.

Montgomery for 30 years each of service to their department.

Dale County Commissioners presented a check for \$1,500 to each county volunteer fire department and rescue squad.

Fulton VFD, Clarke County, held its annual Awards Banquet on December 5, 2009.

Thomasville VFD, Clarke County, held its annual Awards Banquet on December 5, 2009. Jackie Bouler & Jason Sims were honored as co-recipients of Firefighter of the Year.

The Southwest Alabama Economic Development Association (S.A.E.D.A.) and the Dixon Mills Volunteer Fire Department held their groundbreaking on Saturday Nov. 14. The event was to initiate the future of a walking track, storm shelter and park being placed behind the fire station on County Road 6 in Dixon Mills. Participating in the celebration were community ministers, board members, children and adults from the community.



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# HOT SHOTS!!!

State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk working with the Recruitment & Retention Program at the Talladega Races.



## District 6 - Houston County

### STRUCTURE FIRE IN COLUMBIA BY TINA WOOD

Columbia VFD and Webb VFD assisted on the scene of a structure fire at Bill Yance Rd between Columbia and Webb. The first report was smoke coming from the roof vents when firefighters arrived they found the attic area was a fully involved fire. The house was vacant at the time of this event. Firefighters running out of water due to no hydrants near the fire had to shuttle water. Fire fighters were on scene for a while due to flair up. No injuries were reported.



## District 5 - Autauga County

### AUTAUGA COUNTY BANQUET BY CHIEF MARK CAFFEY

The Autauga County Fire Fighters Association held its Christmas banquet December 10th at the Doster Center in downtown Prattville. More than 270 volunteer fire fighters, family, and friends were in attendance. Among those in attendance were President of the AAVFD Chauncey Wood, State Fire Marshall Ed Paulk, Sherriff Herbie Johnson, a life team from Air Evac, CEO of the Alabama Sports Festival Ron Creel and his wife. Chauncey Wood introduced the guest speaker for the evening former running back for Alabama Mr. Siran Stacy. Mr. Stacy delivered a powerful and inspirational message that left few dry eyes in the audience. The AAVFD Honor Guard honored the firefighters that lost their lives in Autauga County in 2009 by presenting a flag, helmet, and badge to the family of fire fighter Harvey Cox & Doug Jackson. Accompanying the presentation of the flag Camron Bolt played Taps. Fire fighter of the year awards were presented to: Marbury Fire Dept - Billy Ricketts, Pentecost VFD - Wesley Pasley, Booth Fire Dept - Phillip Murray, Jones Fire Dept - Willie Wilson,

Autaugaville Fire Dept - James Johnson, Billingsley Fire Dept - Larry Thomas, Pine Level Fire Dept - Sherry Tveit, White City Fire Dept - James May, Independence Fire Dept - Bob Davis, Old Kingston Fire Dept - Jean Silas. The Fire Fighter of the year for Autauga County was presented to Pentecost VFD - Wesley Pasley. Entertainment for the event was provided by the Prattville Chorus. Saxophone was played by Richard Harrison. Special thanks to Regina Caffey for coordinating this event with the help of Valery Moses and Sherry Tveit.



*Siran Stacy, Banquet Guest Speaker*

## STRUCTURE FIRE ON SPRING STREET IN NEWTON

BY TINA WOOD

Wicksburg Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to back-up Newton Volunteer Fire Department on a structure fire at 1348 Spring Street in the town of Newton. Other volunteer fire departments in Dale Co also responded at this time.

Reports were the structure fire started around 1:00 am and volunteer fire units responded and put the structure fire out. Unseen smoldering hot spots rekindled and volunteer fire units were called back around daybreak. The mobile home is a total loss. No injuries were reported by any responding VFDs.



## HISTORIC PINCKARD HOME NEXT TO FIRE DEPARTMENT BURNS

ARTICLE BY EBONY HORTON • PHOTOS BY DANNY TINDELL  
DOTHAN EAGLE

A lingering cough and a cup of water may have been what saved the lives of two Pinckard residents on Monday from a fire in a historic home.

Authorities said that the more-than-century-old home of Andy and Beth Anderson, known as the Gissendaner home on state Highway 134, went up in flames around 3 a.m. and continued to smoke throughout the day.

The home is next door to the Pinckard Volunteer Fire department.

Beth Anderson said Andy Anderson woke up to get a glass of water to help a lingering cough when he noticed the fire burning in the kitchen of the residence.

While the fire appeared extinguished on Monday, Pinckard Fire Chief Ted Matysiski had firefighters on duty to monitor the smoke to prevent the fire from re-igniting.

The cause of the fire remained under investigation.

Beth Anderson said her great-great-grandfather built the home sometime between 1901 and 1903.

Some heirlooms including pictures of her ancestors and one antique frame - were saved on Monday.

The American flag also survived she said.

"Had it not been for that cough that I had been begging Andy to get seen about, then I don't know that we would have gotten out of there," said Beth, who with Andy owns Andy's Restaurant on Highway 231.

"This house was built so intricately and six generations have lived here, but I'm a firm believer that God doesn't put anything more on you than you can bear. For whatever reason, it was meant for us to be able to stand here and watch all this go up into flames."

Pinckard Fire Sgt. Stephen Gibbons said the fire was at least the second this year that occurred near the fire

station.

In Monday's case, Matysiski said he was thankful the fire did take place nearby.

"When you have a volunteer fire department, you don't have a full-time staff and the fire fighters have other jobs. In this case, we were able to get up pretty quick and come here, and luckily we had several other agencies to respond," he said.

"We're paged out like any-one else when a fire occurs, and because our staff other departments are automatically paged."

Matysiski said rescue departments from Marley Mill, Newton and Midland City responded.

Beth Anderson said her family planned to rebuild the residence.





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**7**



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**2002 Rosenbauer 75' Quint**

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Foam System with A & B Foam



**1994 Simon Duplex 95' Platform**

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Allison Automatic Transmission  
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200 Gallon Poly Tank



**1992 KME 52' Snozzle**

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750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank  
FoamPro 2001 Foam System



**1994 Volvo Pumper/Tanker**

Detroit Series 60 450 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Waterous CXVK 1250 GPM Pump  
2500 Gallon Fiberglass Tank



**1993 Int'l 4x4 Pumper/Tanker**

Cummins N14 370 HP Diesel  
Allison HT740 Automatic  
Hale 1250 GPM Front-Mount Pump  
1500 Gallon Stainless Steel Tank



**1988 E-One 6x6 Pumper/Tanker**

Detroit 8V92 Diesel  
Allison Automatic  
2000 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
2000 Gallon Tank



**1989 FL/4-Guys Tanker**

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Hale Gas-Powered 200 GPM Pump  
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Allison HD4060P Automatic  
Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Feecon ATP Foam System



**1996 Pierce Lance Rescue Pumper**  
Cummins N14 460 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Waterous 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank



**1996 HME/Becker Rescue Pumper**  
Diesel Engine, Automatic Transmission  
1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Tank  
Foam Injection System



**1995 E-One Rescue Pumper**  
Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060 Automatic  
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Polypropylene Tank  
FoamPro Foam System



**1994 E-One Hush Rescue Pumper**  
Detroit 6V92 400 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Hale 1250 GPM Pump w/Enclosed Panel  
500 Gallon Poly Tank



**2001 Int'l Pierce Rescue Pumper**  
Int'l DT530 330 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank



**2001 Int'l Pierce Rescue Pumper**  
Int'l DT530 330 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank



**2001 Pierce Contender Pumper**  
Detroit Series 40 330 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060 Automatic  
Waterous CSYCX 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



**1996 Pierce Lance Pumper**  
Detroit Series 40 320 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Waterous CSYCX 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Steel Tank  
Elkhart 240P Foam System



**2002 E-One Cyclone II Pumper**  
Detroit Series 60 350 HP Diesel  
Allison HD4060P Automatic  
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank  
Akron 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



**1995 Pierce Quantum Pumper**  
Detroit Series 60 470 HP Diesel  
Allison HD 4060P Automatic  
Waterous CMYCX 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Steel Tank



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



**1988 E-One Hurricane Pumper**  
Detroit 6V92TA 350 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Hale QSMG150-21 1500 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Aluminum Tank



**2002 Pierce Commercial Pumper**  
Cummins ISC 325 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Waterous CSYCX 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



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Int'l 530 300 HP Diesel  
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Waterous 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
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Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel  
Allison Automatic Transmission  
Hale 1250 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



**1994 FL/Firemaster Pumper**  
Cummins ISC 300 HP Diesel  
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Darley 1500 GPM Top-Mount Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
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## GOVERNOR RILEY SIGNS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAMATION



*Governor Bob Riley signs the AAVFD/RCFPI Fire Prevention Week Proclamation as RCFPI President Roy Mott and AAVFD President Chauncey Wood look on.*

The 2009 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned!" focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns.

The fire service of Alabama is dedicated to preserving the

life and property of friends, family, and constituents from the devastating effects of fire, and the local efforts of the fire service are supported by the activities of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, Inc. and the Alabama Rural Community Fire Protection Institute.

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## ***District 5 - Marengo County***

### **MARENGO GET DONATION FROM SEN. HANK SANDERS**

On behalf of the State of Alabama, Sen. Hank Sanders of Selma (right) presented South Marengo Fire and Rescue President Richard Rogers with a check for \$2,034.57. Rogers said the money has already been used to help upgrade the fire department's communication equipment. He said, "Thanks to Sen. Sanders for his service through the years to Marengo County and the State of Alabama."



## ***District 5 - Chilton County***

### **NORTH CHILTON VFD PROJECT HELPS FAMILY WITH CHRISTMAS**

**BY SCOTT MIMS  
CLANTON ADVERTISER**



A north Chilton County family will have a merry Christmas this year, thanks to the efforts of several volunteers.

The volunteers of North Chilton Fire Department, employees of Regional Paramedical Services, Sheriff Kevin Davis and deputies responded to a special call for help this week by purchasing food, gifts and clothing for a family of seven children.

In a time of economic hardship, these individuals dug into their pockets and found the true joy of Christmas - the joy of giving.

"We take for granted the needs of others in our community beyond the 911 emergency calls we respond to," North Chilton Fire Chief Jason Scott said. "Sometimes the most simple acts of kindness provide the department members and families the greatest reward."

A special "Christmas committee" was formed to coordinate the project. The committee comprised four NCFD volunteers - Katie Moon, Kevin Dennis, Jason Snipes and department chaplain Allen Foster.

The volunteers and employees also shopped for gifts and prepared food items. On Christmas Eve, vehicles from each department will deliver the gifts and a home-cooked Christmas feast to the family.

"In this day and time, just to put food on the table is hard for some families. We are so blessed to be able to help this family this year. I just hope this starts a chain reaction, and the blessing continues," Assistant Rescue Chief Kevin Dennis said.

North Chilton's rescue chief, Jason Snipes, said the project was in the works even before the family's need was known. He said the family would not have been able to afford gifts on their own.

"This time of the year is full of miracles," he said. "In this line of work, we see these miracles firsthand. It feels great to be able to be a miracle to a family - no doubt we were placed and sent here to do what we do."



## ***District 6 - Dale County***

### **DONATION TO ARITON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**BY COREY CARR**



*Left: Dale County District I Commissioner presents a check for \$1,500 to Aubrey Peters, chief of the Ariton Volunteer Fire Department.*

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# BUDGET FRIENDLY

## NEW SKID PUMP UNITS

Mertz Fire Apparatus has built skid units up to 1,500 gallons, with pumps from all Fire Pump Manufacturers, which includes Hale, Waterous, and W.S. Darley. Mertz Fire Apparatus also provides pumps by Hypro and Udor. Vanguard electric start engines are featured on all pumps and Honda engines are available. The Mertz 16V1550 Series pump system will pump up to 170 gpm at 170 psi and will pump in excess of 50 gpm @150 psi.

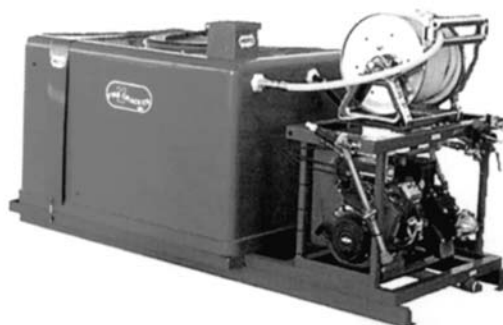
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### FD 18V 300 L

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

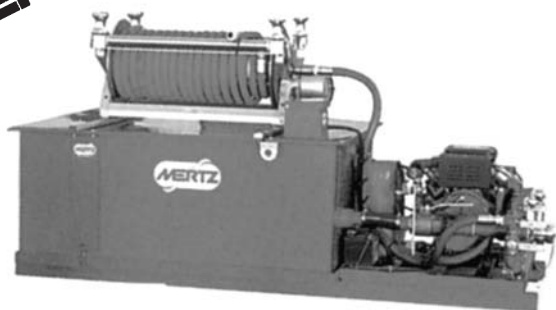
Maximum Pressure: 560 PSI  
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Maximum Speed: 550 RPM  
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#### FD-18V-300 L



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Stats	150G	200G	250G	300G	400G
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# DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED VEHICLES

BY MICHAEL WAYNE ROBINSON, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



In §32-1-1.1, the Code of Alabama grants the director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety or any police chief of an incorporated municipality the sole authority to designate privately owned vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles. In the absence of legal requirements or guidelines governing the exercise of this authority, the

Department of Public Safety has determined that denying requests for this designation serves the best interests of the public's safety and, more specifically, highway and traffic safety.

Title 32 addresses the operation of authorized emergency vehicles in the state, including required emergency equipment, operation of the equipment, and duties of the operators of authorized emergency vehicles. No privately owned vehicle may be equipped or operated as an emergency vehicle unless it has been designated officially as an authorized emergency vehicle. For most volunteer fire departments, which largely operate in unincorporated areas, the designating authority is Public Safety's director, in keeping with an attorney general's opinion that designation by a chief of police is valid only within his or her police jurisdiction.

The Department of Public Safety's primary consideration

in denying such authorization is safety. The operation of emergency vehicles is inherently dangerous, and many law enforcement agencies have adopted strict policies governing the use of emergency vehicles, especially during high-speed chases and when responding to crashes or crime scenes. Law enforcement agencies also are cognizant of civil and criminal liability which may result from a finding of negligent operation of emergency vehicles.

DPS also has factored into its consideration questions about the nature and extent of the operator's training and knowledge of applicable laws, the mechanical condition of the vehicle, and financial resources of the owner to allow for compensating injured parties in the event of negligent operation of the emergency vehicle.

Mandatory automobile liability insurance does not alleviate insurance concerns. Even if an individual has sufficient liability coverage for his or her vehicle, this protection generally is provided only for private use of the vehicle. Many insurance companies have indicated they would not insure a private vehicle that has been designated an emergency vehicle. If such coverage were obtained, the premiums would be exorbitant.

DPS continues to designate as authorized emergency vehicles those vehicles owned and operated by volunteer fire departments and used solely for the purpose of fighting fires.

## *District 7 - Monroe County*

### **FRISCO CITY VFD TRAINING**

Firefighters from Frisco City and Mexia (Monroe County) participated in a school bus extrication class Nov. 14-15, spending Saturday in a classroom setting and getting hands-on training Sunday. They learned the best way to cut into a bus that is sitting upright and on its side. Tommy McPherson with the Alabama Fire College instructed the class, and Frisco City Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department hosted it. (Photo by Josh Dewberry)



### **DISTRICT 3 HOSTS 2010 AAVFD ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Everyone in District Three is already working hard on the 2010 AAVFD Conference. The date will be July 23-24, 2010. All the activities will be held at the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa. The host motel will be the Jameson Inn (1-205-345-5018). Registration and additional details will be in forthcoming issues and available at [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org).

# 2010 AAVFD Membership – Total 282

## DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN		4 of 10
CHEROKEE		
DEKALB	100%	25 of 25
ETOWAH	100%	23 of 23
JACKSON	100%	21 of 21
MADISON		
MARSHALL		

## DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT		
CULLMAN	100%	26 of 26
JEFFERSON		
SHELBY		4 of 19
ST CLAIR		
WALKER		
WINSTON		

## DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE		3 of 13
GREENE		
HALE		
LAMAR		
PICKENS	100%	17 of 17
SUMTER		
TUSCALOOSA	100%	21 of 21

## DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS	100%	13 of 13
CLAY		
CLEBURNE		
COOSA	100%	10 of 10
RANDOLPH		
TALLADEGA		3 of 15
TALLAPOOSA		

## DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA		
BIBB		
CHILTON		
DALLAS	100%	15 of 15
MARENGO		
PERRY		
WILCOX	100%	10 of 10

## DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR		
COFFEE		
DALE	100%	13 of 13
GENEVA		
HENRY		
HOUSTON		
PIKE		

## DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

BUTLER		
CONECUH	100%	21 of 21
COVINGTON		
CRENSHAW		
ESCAMBIA		
MONROE		

## DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN		12 of 32
CHOCTAW		12 of 14
CLARKE		
MOBILE		1 of 19
WASHINGTON		

## DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

COLBERT		
FRANKLIN		
LAUDERDALE		
LAWRENCE		
LIMESTONE		
MARION		
MORGAN		

## DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK		
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE		
LOWNDES		
MACON		
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL		

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## AAVFD MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE JANUARY 1

AAVFD membership renewals are due January 1, 2010. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now to avoid any disruption in member benefits.

Please keep in mind that a dues increase proposal was approved at the general meeting on August 1st. Individual fire department membership dues are \$50 per department. Membership dues where all departments join through the

County Association are \$45 per department.

Your support enables AAVFD to continue to serve as the voice of the volunteer fire and emergency services on Capitol Hill in Montgomery and in the national policy arena, as well as provide critical programs, tools, resources, initiatives, and advocacy on behalf of the volunteer fire service.

## REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF AAVFD 2009 LEGISLATION

*Continued from page 1*

Representatives honored were Randy Wood (District 36), Arthur Payne (District 44), Duwayne Bridges (District 38), Richard Lindsey (District 39), Ken Guin (District 14), John Knight, Jr. (District 77), Richard Laird (District 37), Speaker Seth Hammett (District 92), and Representative (now Senator) Marc Keahey (District 65) who was honored in the Senate.

Members of the Senate who supported the 2009 AAVFD legislation were featured in the July-September issue of "The Volunteer". We sincerely appreciate the support of these Senators and Representatives and look forward to a successful 2010 Session.



## 2010 AAVFD SCHOLARSHIPS

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2010. In partnership with VFIS of Alabama, AAVFD will award two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Each scholarship is given on a one-year basis and must be applied for each year regardless of previous applications.

Applications may be obtained from the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833 or on the AAVFD web site [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org). Completed applications should be mailed to AAVFD, Attn: Roy Adamson, Scholarship Chairman, 660 Adams Avenue, Suite 345, Montgomery AL 36104-4373 and post marked no later than March 31, 2010.

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# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

**Name/Rank:** Captain Tedmund "Ted" Hall (47) Career  
**Department:** Los Angeles County FD, Los Angeles CA  
**Cause/Date:** Suffered fatal injuries on 8/30/09 after driving off the side of road.

**Name/Rank:** Fire Police Captain/Chaplain Richard Holst (60) Volunteer  
**Department:** Huntington Manor FD, Huntington NY  
**Cause/Date:** Collapsed 9/9/09 as he walked around burning eating establishment investigating smoke performing his Fire Police duties.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter/Operator Ricky Christiana (44) Career  
**Department:** David Crockett Volunteer Fire Company # 2, Gretna LA  
**Cause/Date:** Collapsed 9/11/09 from apparent heart attack while performing fire suppression operations at structure fire.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Terry Sharon (60) Volunteer  
**Department:** Monterey FD, Owenton KY  
**Cause/Date:** Suffered a medical emergency returning from accident scene on 9/13/09 when the mini pumper he was driving left the road striking an unoccupied parked camper. The cause of death resulting from the medical emergency and vehicle accident are under investigation.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Patrick Joyce (39) Career  
**Department:** Yonkers FD, Yonkers NY  
**Cause/Date:** Died 10/2/09 from injuries sustained when he and two other firefighters (both in critical condition) were forced by rapidly progressing fire conditions to jump from third story of residence.

**Name/Rank:** Captain Carl Nordwall (56) Career  
**Department:** Norfolk Airport FD, Norfolk VA  
**Cause/Date:** Complained of not feeling well and collapsed participating in shift change and roll call, succumbing to his injury several days later on 10/6/09.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Gary D. Street (60) Volunteer  
**Department:** East Lake Sinclair VFD, Sparta GA  
**Cause/Date:** Collapsed and subsequently passed away 10/17/09 from apparent heart attack at scene of emergency medical call.

**Name/Rank:** Captain John Thurman (52) Career  
**Department:** Clinton FD, Clinton MS  
**Cause/Date:** Passed away 10/21/09 from cause still to be determined while on-duty performing fitness activities.

**Name/Rank:** Lt Roy Everett Westover, Jr. (41) Volunteer  
**Department:** Westover Area FD, Westover PA  
**Cause/Date:** Began feeling ill while working hose line at scene of structure fire, succumbing to an apparent heart attack on 10/24/09.

**Name/Rank:** Chief Phil Whitney (72) Volunteer  
**Department:** Springville FD, Springville UT  
**Cause/Date:** Found dead in his home 10/28/09 after making emergency run on his shift the night before.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Robert Stone (47) Volunteer  
**Department:** Amity F/R, Douglassville PA  
**Cause/Date:** After complaining of chest pains following an alarm, he died of cardiac arrest after undergoing surgery 11/4/09.

**Name/Rank:** Deputy Chief Chad Eric Greene (34) Career  
**Department:** Union Cross F/R of Forsyth County, Kernersville NC  
**Cause/Date:** Found unresponsive at home after completing shift 11/4/09, transported to hospital where he was pronounced dead. Cause is pending further investigation.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Ramon E. Hain (50) Career  
**Department:** Saint Paul FD, Saint Paul, MN  
**Cause/Date:** Passed away 11/14/09 as result of heart failure reportedly caused by rare disease contracted through documented exposure to hazardous substances (body fluids) while treating patient.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Terrance Freeman (37) Career  
**Department:** Rockford FD, Rockford IL  
**Cause/Date:** Passed away 11/22/09 from cause still to be determined several hours after coming off shift during which he responded to multiple calls.

**Name/Rank:** Firefighter Walter Hessling (54) Volunteer  
**Department:** Dix Hills VFD, Dix Hills NY  
**Cause/Date:** Suffered stroke on accident scene and passed away 11/27/09 of complications.

**Name/Rank:** Fire Police Gary F. Neidig, Jr. (36) Volunteer  
**Department:** Mount Carmel VFD, Mount Carmel PA  
**Cause/Date:** Transported to hospital from mutual aid scene after feeling ill and passed away 12/4/09 of cause still to be determined.





## CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** Ford 900 with 534 Oren body, 1000 GPM pump with 500-gallon tank. Pump tested and truck body in great shape. Turnouts, older SCBA's, and some hose go with truck. Asking price: \$2,000. Contact Fruithurst VFD and leave message @ 256-579-5009.

## THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF EUELL HODGE

*"Thank You" seems so little to say when your kindness means so much. We want to let you know just how much your thoughtfulness has meant to us.*

## THE BELL TOLLED

*Charlie Walker, Jr., Brent VFD, Bibb County, passed away October 9, 2009.*

*Douglas W. Jackson, Old Kingston VFD, Autauga County, passed away October 28, 2009.*

*Chief James A. Shelly, Theodore-Tillman's Corner VFD, Mobile County, passed away November 5, 2009.*

*Jimmie Warren Hale, Jones Chapel VFD, Cullman County, passed away November 23, 2009.*

*Tom Lemons, Monroeville VFD, Monroe County, passed away November 29, 2009. Tom was a firefighter for 35-plus years and Monroe County EMA Director for 25 years.*

*Keith F. Holder, Mid-Lauderdale VFD, Lauderdale County, passed away November 30, 2009.*

*Euell Hodge, Berlin VFD, Cullman County, passed away December 1, 2009. He served as Cullman County Association President and in AAVFD as Alternate Director, HazMat Representative, Public Relations and Legislative Committee member. He was Life Member of AAVFD. Euell was a well-known supporter of the volunteer fire service locally and statewide.*

*Retired Asst. Chief Roy Johnson, Boykin-Damascus VFD, Escambia County, passed away December 26, 2009.*

*Asst. Chief Stanley "Stan" Wood, Irvington St. Elmo VFD, Mobile County, passed away December 28, 2009. Stan served with his department for 29 years, and served as Vice President of the Mobile County Association of Volunteer Firefighters. He also served as a District 8 AAVFD Representative for many years.*

## CONDOLENCES

*We extend our condolences to the family of Representative Lea Fite, District 40 (Major portion of Calhoun County), who passed away in October. Representative Fite was a dedicated supporter of the volunteer firefighters he represented, and these firefighters honored him by wearing their uniforms at his funeral.*

**I**f 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](http://www.aavfd.org).**



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

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

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

### 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

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AAVFD, Suite 345  
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