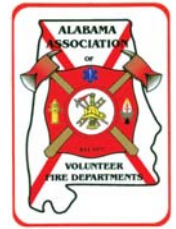




# THE VOLUNTEER



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

January – March 2011

## AAVFD SERVES IN INAUGURATION

Since William Wyatt Bibb took the first oath of office on November 9, 1819, in the temporary capitol of Huntsville, fifty-one men and one woman have been inaugurated as governors of the state of Alabama.

Governor-Elect Robert Bentley requested that the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) Honor Guard and Volunteer Firefighters in red-coats assist in coordinating inaugural activities on January 17, 2011.

The inauguration of the State's Elected Officials was a family-friendly event. The day began with a prayer breakfast. The inaugural parade started at 9:45 am on Montgomery's main street, Dexter Avenue, with AAVFD personnel escorting the elected officials to the

platform as they arrived in their parade vehicles. The state capitol building served as the backdrop for the ceremonies where the officials took their oath of office as the public viewed the proceedings.

Inaugural celebrations began at 2 pm at the Montgomery Biscuits Baseball Stadium. It included free food, music, inflatables for children, photo opportunities and remarks from Governor Bentley and concluded with fireworks. Each elected office holder hosted a reception for the many Alabamians in attendance.

Inauguration day wrapped up with the inaugural ball at 7 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery.



# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Shay Wood*



bind. When you consider that education has to be a priority for state leaders and is critically important to **OUR** future (Alabama Fire College), I wonder what will happen.

The Alabama General Fund, however, is a different story. It is worse off than the education budget. We can look for another round of proration, layoffs or furloughs of our many state employees, and possibly, the complete elimination of some state agencies and departments. The General Fund is where **OUR** line-item funds and grant monies are located.

To maintain current levels of service requires \$700 million. It will be difficult to choose between reducing health care for the poor or releasing prisoners on one hand, and cutting other needed governmental services on the other. This WILL BE a very problematic and tough session for all concerned.

With that being said, I ask that you read carefully the below message from State Forester Linda Casey!

Stay safe, be proud of what you do, and try to make a difference when you can. May God Continue to Bless OUR Association.

***"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Ecclesiastes 11:4***

The year 2010 is now in the record books. With the start of a new year comes a time of re-dedication. (The above verse is one of my favorites. I keep it on my desk in front of me to remind me to act now, not tomorrow or next week!)

You have a responsibility to your community and the people who live there. Review last year's programs and see what was accomplished. Have your fire calls diminished? Are dollar losses due to fire decreasing? Can you speak with pride about your fire protection efforts? No?!?! Then it is time to make a change, to have a fresh commitment and a new direction. **ACT NOW!** Remember, it is your family, your friends, your neighbors and your community. Start by doing what is necessary; then, what is possible..... Hey! Before you know it, you're doing the impossible (St Frances of Assisi).

As firefighters, we are committed to saving lives and property! Firefighter deaths were below 100 for a second year. Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) rates show a decline from 90 fatalities in 2009 to 87 on-duty firefighter fatalities in 2010, which is a 6% decrease. "Everyone Goes Home" has had a positive reflection in the past two years. 2011 LODD through March 1st are 9.

By the time you read this message from me, the 2011 Alabama Legislative Session will be well under way, and with the legislative goals set by **OUR** Association, it looks to be a busy session again. A lot of my time is spent these days meeting, talking and explaining **OUR** legislation to the freshmen House and Senate members, asking them to join the RCFPI Fire Caucus and for support of fire service legislation.

During this regular session, the legislature will be facing some tough decisions. There are no more stimulus monies, and that puts Alabama in a real



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March 7, 2011

To: Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Department Members



State Forester  
Linda Casey

I need to let you know of a crisis which the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) faces today and describe what you can do to help us avoid a catastrophic reduction in our ability to protect Alabama's forests. The AFC and members of the AAVFD across the state work in partnership every hour of every day to protect the forest and homes of landowners and homeowners.

Over the past several years, the Forestry Commission has taken extraordinary measures to reduce our operating costs in the face of steadily declining revenue. We have not purchased new equipment or made any capital improvements for five years. In the last 16 months we have reduced the number of people employed by AFC from more than 334 to 263, a reduction of more than 20 percent. With our reduced staffing levels, coupled with periods of high fire occurrence, we do not have the personnel to provide landowners with adequate fire protection.

The Governor's recommended 2012 State General Fund (SGF) budget for the Alabama Forestry Commission is \$7,700,000. This is a reduction of \$4,300,000 from the 2011 SGF budget. A reduction of this magnitude combined with projected losses in federal funds and stagnant or declining severance tax collections, will result in further cuts in personnel.

The magnitude of personnel cuts would result in many counties having little to no forest fire protection. Additionally, all services with the exception of firefighting would have to be eliminated. We will reach a point where we cannot respond to many wildfires, resulting in fires which destroy tens of thousands of acres of forest land along with homes and other structures.

If our 2012 General Fund budget is significantly reduced, additional pressure would be put on AAVFD members who are responding to fires and our ability to continue the Federal Excess Property Program would be jeopardized. I'm asking on behalf of all AFC employees for your support and help. Please call, write, or visit your local legislators and ask them to keep AFC's general fund appropriation for FY2012 at the same level as the current fiscal year. We expect the Legislature is already considering the FY2012 budgets so any contacts need to be made as soon as possible.

The ability of the Forestry Commission to provide even the most basic services is at stake. I hope you will join many of your fellow members who are already making contact with legislators and other leaders in state government. Thank you in advance for helping in this most important effort.

Sincerely,

*Linda Casey*

Linda Casey  
State Forester



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## AUXILIARY HELPS PIKE ROAD FIREFIGHTERS, COMMUNITY BY MATT OKARMUS – DECEMBER 29, 2010

While members of the Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department donate their time to help the community, they also have a group established to help the firefighters when they need it.

The Pike Road Fire & Rescue Ladies Auxiliary was established in April 2009, and its members have worked to help not only firefighters but also the community. President Debbie Green said the group's goal is to bring people together.

"We are a group that got together to bring about sisterhood while also promoting brotherhood," Green said. The auxiliary is made up of wives, mothers and friends of the firefighters and includes 15 active members. While they generally help out in the community, the women also arrive at the scene of fires.

"We provide water, Gatorade and other refreshments to the firefighters," Green said. "We want the guys to know they have somebody looking out for them."

Green's husband, Mike, is the fire chief. He has worked with the department for three years, and they have lived in Pike Road for 14 years.

Green hopes the auxiliary helps bring the community together.

"We want to bring a closeness and a more family oriented atmosphere," Green said. "We want to encourage

goodwill and friendships."

The women have sponsored fundraisers and have checked on families that might be in need.

A hit fundraiser for the department was "Rescue Me," a cookbook made up of recipes from women of the auxiliary. Green said the book has 17 sections and more than 450 recipes.

The auxiliary also sponsored a family for Christmas, which Green hopes to do each year.

Just before Christmas, Santa and Mrs. Claus rode in a firetruck up to the house of Dorothy Kiser and brought her children presents such as makeup kits and skateboards.

"The kids had no idea it was happening, and they were so excited when they saw Santa," Kiser said. "I am so thankful for those in the community that help out."

Amanda Moore, who has been an auxiliary member since May, also went to the house to see the kids enjoy their gifts.

She joined the group in support of her husband, Rescue Chief Ryan Moore, and said she likes being a part of a group that supports the community and the people who help protect it.

"We want them to know that when they leave, they have people back home supporting them," Moore said.

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*The Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary members, from left, Elizabeth Staten, Amanda Moore and Debbie Green load Christmas gifts into Santa's bag as they prepare to deliver gifts to the Kiser family. (Mickey Welsh)*



# FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY JUNE 3-4, 2011

The Monroe County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, Inc. invites you to the first Firefighters Appreciation Weekend sponsored by the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute (RCFPI).

RCFPI wants to recognize the contributions for the volunteer firefighter by sponsoring a time for them and their families to come together to enjoy themselves. Many events are scheduled beginning on Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th.

The host association will provide a cookout on Friday night with live entertainment. The Organized Seafood Association of Alabama will provide a Seafood Bash at the noon meal on Saturday. The 2-day event will include firefighter competition, extrication competition, vendor displays, brush truck competition, chili and stew cook off, and cake baking and homemade ice cream competition. The event schedule and lodging information follows.

## Friday, June 3

- Noon – 4:00 pm – Registration @ Alabama Southern College
- Noon – 4:00 pm – Mobile Training trailer @ Monroeville Fire Training Tower Complex
- Noon – 5:00 pm – Vendor Display @ Alabama Southern College
- 5:00 – 8:00 pm – Cook out with Live entertainment & Door Prizes
- 6:30 – 8:00 pm – RCFPI Board of Directors Meeting
- 9:00 – Midnight– Social time with door prizes and entertainment

## Saturday, June 4

- 7:00 – 8:00 am – Competition Registration @ Monroe Co Dept of Agriculture
- 8:00 – 8:30 am – Captains Meeting @ Monroeville FD Training Tower Complex
- 8:00 – 11:00 am– Registration @ Alabama Southern College
- 8:00 – 2:00 pm – Vendor Display @ Alabama Southern College
- 8:30 – 10:00 am– Firefighters Competition @ Monroeville Training Tower Complex
- 8:30 – 10:00 am– Extrication Competition @ Monroeville Training Tower Complex
- 9:00 – 9:30 am – Chili & Stew Judging & Alabama Southern College
- 9:30 – 10:00 am– Cake & Homemade Ice Cream Judging @ Alabama Southern College
- 10:00 – 11:00 am– Brush Truck Competition @ Our Place Theater
- 10:00 – 11:00 am– Children's Competition @ Monroeville Training Tower Complex (Ages 4 - 12)
- 10:00 – 2:00 pm – Mobile Training Trailer @ Monroeville Training Tower Complex
- Noon – 1:00 pm – Seafood Bash provided by Alabama Seafood Association @ Alabama Southern college (Door Prizes)
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm – Competition Trophy Presentation

Ok, Gang!

This is what it's going to be at Firefighter Appreciation Day on June 4th ...

- OBSTACLE COURSE
- HOSE LAY II
- WATER ON THE ROOF

All you teams start practicing now. I'm looking forward to seeing all the ole' teams and some new ones! Good luck to all!

Joey Boyd, Competition Chairman

## MOTEL INFORMATION Monroeville AL 36460

**Days Inn (Host)**  
4389 S Alabama Av  
251-743-3297  
\$59.95 plus tax

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4419 S Alabama Av  
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# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

Many thanks to the departments that have already sent their department patch for our office "Wall of Patches". New patches have come from **Autaugaville** (Autauga), **Kellyton** (Coosa), **McIntosh** (Washington), **Owens VFD** (Limestone), **Roberts** (Escambia), **South Montgomery Co** (Montgomery) and **Montgomery Police/Fire/EMS** (Montgomery). Please send your department patch if you haven't already done so.

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Congratulations to Battalion Chief Frank Martin who was honored as Fireman of the Year by Fulton VFD (Clarke County). Battalion Chief Ricky Steadham was recognized as "Most Improved". "Behind the Scene" Awards were presented to Chief Danny Bedwell and Battalion Chief Don Pugh. Bradley Martin was recognized for completing Firefighter I & II.



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*AAVFD members met with Homeland Security Director Spencer Collier to get acquainted and discuss issues concerning first responders. L-R: AAVFD Treasurer Charles Jackson, RCFPI President Roy Mott, Director Spencer Collier, AAVFD President Chauncey Wood, AAVFD First Vice President W. A. Neal*

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# Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

## 2011 AAVFD Legislation



1. **SB119 - Senator Arthur Orr - PROCEEDS FROM FOREITURE OF PROPERTY:** Authorize the circuit court to distribute proceeds from forfeited property to a fire department or a volunteer fire department that participates in the investigation or seizure of controlled substances (meth labs, haz mats, etc)
2. **SB129/HB243 - Senator Gerald Dial - Representative John Merrill - AL FIREFIGHTERS ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND:** Allow a minimum voluntary \$2 income tax contribution by check off of annual income tax returns. (Voluntary Check Off # 2 @ top following Alabama Child Abuse)
3. **SB130/HB213 - Senator Tom Whatley - Representative Richard Laird - APPOINTMENT TO AL FIREFIGHTERS' PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION COMMISSION:** Authorize one member of the 7-member Commission to be appointed by AAVFD. Currently AFA and PFFA have one appointment each, and the Governor has 4 appointments. The State Fire Marshal is a member by virtue of his office. This would reduce the Governor's appointments to three.
4. **HB201 - Representative John Merrill - AL FIREFIGHTERS ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND:** Amend to provide for a voluntary annual fee (\$3), less an administration fee (not to exceed 3% of revenues remitted to fund), on each property and casualty insurance policy issued.
5. **HB205/SB280 - Representative Randy Wood - Senator Bryan Taylor -SPRINKLER SYSTEM PERMITS:** Allow State Fire Marshal to issue permits to certified potable water single family dwelling fire protection sprinkler contractors.
6. **HB331- TAX EXEMPTION - Representative Richard Laird:** Provide sales tax exemption (excluding school taxes) for AAVFD and County Volunteer Fire Associations, AL Association of Rescue Squads, County Rescue Squads and Fire Districts that do not come under the auspices of their County Commission.
7. **HB390/SB355 - SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FEE EXEMPTION - Representative Elaine Beech - Senator Marc Keahey:** Exempt any volunteer fire department in this state from the payment of any fees required for solid waste disposal service by the county.

**AAVFD continues to monitor legislation that can/will affect the volunteer fire service, such as Worker's Comp, Telecommunications, or other issues.**



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# 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2011 Annual AAVFD Conference will be hosted by the District Eight Association in Fairhope on August 26 – 27, 2011.

Registration will be \$35.00 per person. Please have registration turned in by August 12, 2011. After this date registration cost will be \$40.00 per person.

Registration and Vendors will be held at Grand Hotel Marriott Resort 1 Grand Boulevard Point Clear, AL (251) 928-9201. Friday night cook out & Saturday competition locations will be announced later.

Competition events will be announced later!!!

The Awards Banquet will be nearby at Oak Hollow Farms on Saturday night.

Motel Information: Host Motel: Grand Hotel Marriott Resort - 1 Grand Boulevard, Fairhope, AL (251) 928-9201  
The discounted rate given for this event is \$139.00/room.

Nearby Motels: Holiday Inn Express - 19751 Greeno Rd, Fairhope, AL (251) 928-9191

Hampton Inn - 23 North Section St, Fairhope, AL (251) 928-0956

Key West Inn - 231 Greeno Rd S, Fairhope, AL (251) 990-7373

Any questions call:	Chairman	Co-Chairman
	Margie Bowden	Ray Hogans
	(251) 406-6007	(251) 747-1451
	rosintonvfr@yahoo.com	boots1@gulftel.com

## 2011 Conference Pre-Registration

Please make your check payable to: AAVFD District Eight Association

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Margie Bowden, Chairman

PO Box 469

Loxley, AL 36551

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **PRINT** the name of each individual going to attend:

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Darley LDM 1500 GPM Pump  
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Cummins 325 HP Diesel  
Allison MD306P Automatic  
Hale QSMG175-17L 1750 GPM Pump  
500 Gallon Poly Tank



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



**1992 E-One Hurricane 75' Quint**  
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**1989 E-One Hurricane 110' Aerial**  
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Allison MD3060P Automatic  
Waterous 750 GPM Pump  
2500 Gallon Poly Tank



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1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Foam System with 20 Gallon Tank



**2001 GMC/E-One Commercial Pumper**  
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Allison MD3060 Automatic  
Hale 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Honda 5KW Gas Generator



**2000 Ferrara Inferno Pumper**  
Cummins 400 HP Diesel  
Allison HD4060 Automatic  
Hale 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Apollo/Akron Deck Gun



**1999 FL Southern Coach Pumper**  
Cummins 8.3L HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060P Automatic  
Hale QSG125-23 1250 GPM Pump  
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**1998 Ford/E-One Pumper**  
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Allison MD3060P Automatic  
Hale 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Piped for Deck Gun



**1998 Ford/E-One Pumper**  
Cummins 8.3L 250 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060P Automatic  
Hale 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Piped for Deck Gun



**1997 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper**  
Detroit Series 40 330 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060P Automatic  
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Apollo/Akron Deck Gun



**1997 Spartan/Southern Coach Pumper**  
Cummins C8.3 325 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060 Automatic  
Hale 1500 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Foam Poly Tank



**1997 Spartan/Southern Coach Pumper**  
Cummins C8.3 325 HP Diesel Engine  
Allison MD3060 Automatic  
Hale 1500 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Foam Poly Tank



**1997 Seagrave Custom Pumper**  
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump  
500 Gallon Tank  
5KW Diesel Generator



**1996 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper**  
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Allison MD3060 Automatic  
Waterous 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank  
Akron Foam System



**1996 FL/Pierce Commercial Pumper**  
Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060P Automatic  
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump  
1000 Gallon Poly Tank  
Piped for Deck Gun



**1996 Pierce Quantum Pumper**  
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Allison Automatic  
Hale 1500 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank



**1995 Freightliner Darley Pumper**  
Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060P Automatic  
Darley 1500 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Galvanized Tank  
TFT Crossfire Deck Gun



**1994 E-One Sentry Rescue Pumper**  
Cummins 8.3L 300 HP Diesel  
Allison MD3060 Automatic  
Hale QSMG150-19 1500 GPM Pump  
750 Gallon Poly Tank



**1993 E-One Cyclone 4x4 Pumper**  
Detroit 8V92TA 450 HP Diesel  
Allison HT741 Automatic  
Hale 1500 GPM Pump  
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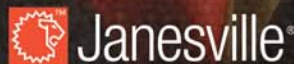
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# CONGRESS APPROVES FISCAL YEAR 2011 SPENDING BILL

On Thursday, April 14th the House of Representatives approved H.R. 1473, the Fiscal Year Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, by a vote of 260-167. The bill funds the federal government through Fiscal Year 2011, which ends on September 30, 2011. The Senate approved the bill by a vote of 81-19.

Included in the bill is funding for several programs of interest to the fire and emergency services, including the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs. FIRE and SAFER were funded at a combined total of \$810 million, the same amount as Fiscal Year 2010 and \$200 million more than the Obama Administration's request for Fiscal Year 2011. The programs are funded at an equal amount of \$405 million each. The State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) were funded at \$725 million each, a combined reduction of \$387 million from FY10 and \$700 million below the Administration's request for FY11.

The bill has been signed by President Obama.



McCord Communications appreciate the courageous work performed by the men and women of our Volunteer Fire Departments. In order to better show our appreciation, we have developed a program we call **Community Partners**. To participate, a department must be at least 85% unpaid fire fighters. This is our way of saying "thanks" for all you do.

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## Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission

### Executive Director Allan Rice

As we approach the 75th Annual Fire College weekend, we are excited to see a steady increase in the number of training classes being hosted by volunteer fire departments around the state. Our

initial emphasis two years ago was to increase the availability of the Certified Volunteer Firefighter (160) course, and now we are seeing departments and county associations beginning to host Fire Officer, Fire Instructor and Apparatus Operator classes as well. This signals an important advancement in the level of training for Alabama's dedicated volunteer firefighters.

We are pleased to report on a very successful Alabama State Weekend at the National Fire Academy. This is the second year for this event since it was revitalized, and there was more interest in this event than we anticipated.

Approximately 80 volunteer and career firefighters from Alabama traveled to the NFA to participate in two-day training classes and experience the campus in Emmitsburg, MD. Our dates for next year's weekend are being locked in now, so go ahead and plan to join the Alabama delegation for this great opportunity.

As the budget squeeze continues to affect all of us, the Fire

College is working to maintain the level of service that has been established over the past few years. We are continually looking for more efficient ways to operate, but we are also keeping the delivery of field classes as a top priority. We are dedicated to maintaining the Regional Services Staff at current levels in order to help bring training closer to you. We are also exploring new ways of delivering training, which includes alternative formats and the use of distance education where possible. As we do so, we are asking volunteer fire chiefs, training officers and instructors to help us by providing input. If you have a suggestion about how we could serve you better, please contact your Regional Staff member. If you do not know the name or number of your Regional Staff member, please call 1-800-241-2467 (toll free) and we will be glad to assist you. You can also contact Jimmy Conner, Director of Regional Services, at 1-877-359-7207 (toll free). By working together we will overcome the challenges that these economic times have presented. We will keep doing everything we can to support your training efforts, and we look forward to seeing all of you at the conference this summer!

Allan Rice

Executive Director

Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission



## From the Office of State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk

One hundred twenty-two men, women and children died in fires in the state of Alabama in 2010. This is the highest number of fire fatalities since 1997. The vast majority of these fatalities were in residential occupancies. This is a record that we are not proud of and one that we must address. We cannot require the installation of fire sprinkler systems in homes, which admittedly would dramatically reduce this number, and even if we could it would be in new construction, therefore it would be 20 years before we could expect significant improvement because most fire fatalities occur in older properties.

We must educate people to be responsible for their safety and change their outlook and the way they approach life. In today's environment we must always be aware of where we are, the ways to ensure our safety by knowing at least two ways to escape our surroundings. We must change our habits to practice fire safety in our daily lives thereby improving conditions in and around our homes. We must develop an emergency response plan and practice that plan. We cannot wait until an emergency happens and expect to have time to develop a plan to save ourselves and our family. We react to emergency situations properly when we have a plan that we have practiced. Join me in helping our fellow citizens learn about safety, let's give of our experience and help with the formulation of emergency plans and promote the training to give our plans meaning.



*AAVFD President Chauncey Wood presented Alabama Association of Rescue Squads President Matt Knight with the ax award in appreciation for his service and dedication to the volunteer fire service and rescue squads as District 8 Director Ray Hogans looks on. Matt worked many hours on legislation that affects first responders, among his many other duties as AARS president. Chauncey stated, "We depend on the dedication and commitment of public servants like you every day of the year. Thank you for all you do to strengthen our communities and protect those in need."*





# 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.

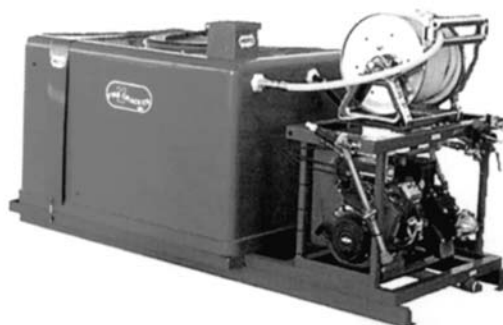
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### 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.

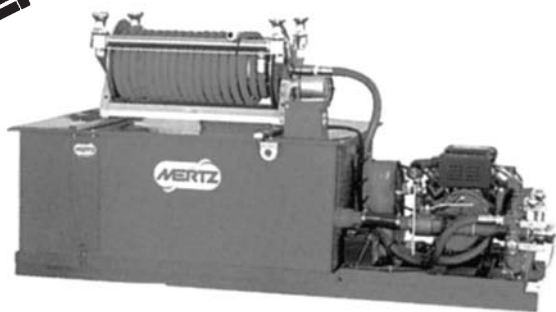
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## PIKE ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT BESTOWS ANNUAL AWARDS

The Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department held their annual appreciation dinner on February 26, 2011. This occasion is set aside each year to honor and recognize Pike Road firefighters. The event was hosted by the Pike Road Fire Authority Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Ladies Auxiliary. The theme for this year's event was Pike Road Firefighting - the profession with heart. A video was shown while dinner was served of events and emergency calls the Department answered throughout the past year.

Chauncey Wood, president of Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments was the keynote speaker. Wood thanked the fire department and ladies auxiliary for giving of their time and talents to provide services to the citizens of Pike Road. Wood said the volunteers in Pike Road place their lives on hold to help people they may not even know in the community. Wood said, "I take great pleasure in congratulating the Pike Road Fire Department on a job well done and encourage each of you to continue the fine work you do in contributing to the health and welfare of the community."

Wood elaborated how Pike Road volunteers excel in what they are trained to do. The long hours spent training shows dedication, commitment and pride to the Department. He stated, "Each of you are leaders who inspire others to do and be responsible."

Special guest was Noopie Cosby, impersonator. Cosby gave an outstanding impersonation of the late George Wallace. He kept the crowd entertained throughout the evening. Cosby also applauded the volunteers for their time and commitment to serving the community.

Fire Chief Mike Green commended the volunteer firefighters for their excellence and dedication in fire fighting and other emergency services to the citizens of Pike Road. Volunteer firefighters are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays! That's an extraordinary responsibility to take on as a volunteer.

Green further stated being a volunteer fighter offers a reward few other jobs can match - the opportunity to make a real difference and save lives - it's a dangerous and challenging calling. Firefighters must be prepared to rush into dangerous situations at a moment's notice - whether it's rescuing residents from their burning homes, extracting crash victims from their cars or assisting with a medical emergency.

Chief Green presented four awards on behalf of the Pike Road Fire Department. These awards included: Leadership Award to John Scanlan; Outstanding Service Award to Andrew Gerachis; Ironman Award to Robbie Olesen and the 2010 Firefighter of the Year was presented to David Hughes. These four men exemplify what firefighting is all about dedication, hard work and commitment to the Pike Road Fire Department!



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# BRIERFIELD & DRY VALLEY VFD ANNUAL RECOGNITION BANQUET

BY: BRIERFIELD FIRE & RESCUE CHIEF SPRUCE MCREE

On February 5th, men and women from both the Brierfield and Dry Valley Volunteer Fire & Rescue Departments gathered at the annual recognition banquet to receive outstanding achievement awards and to be honored and recognized for their bravery and persistence in the line of duty.

Pelham Fire Department Honor Guard led the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Master of Ceremonies Dollar Bill Lawson explained that communities tend to take firefighters for granted, especially volunteers. "You are giving the most precious commodity you have - your time and your lives here on earth - just to help someone else."

Cathy Hedrick from the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation educated the crowd on the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation and the support available to the families of fallen firefighters. Alabama State Fire Marshall Ed Paulk, AAVFD President Chauncey Wood and Alabama Fire College Executive Director Allan Rice offered words of recognition and encouragement. State Senator Cam Ward and Representative Kurt Wallace assured the crowd of their support for volunteer fire departments and expressed appreciation for all that volunteers do for their communities.

Many special guests from around the country were also present. Battalion Chief Tim Lohan from The Eagle Fire Co in New Hope, PA represented the Terry Farrell Foundation reaffirming the Foundations continued support for volunteer fire departments in Alabama. (Terry Farrell was with FDNY Rescue 4 and lost his life at the Twin Towers.) His brother, Brian, established the foundation to help fire departments in need with equipment. Last year Brierfield was the recipient of a rescue truck from the foundation, the first department outside of NY to receive help from the Foundation. Retired FDNY Engineer Bob Train, currently a volunteer with the Haleyville Fire Department, is the only survivor of

FDNY Tower 138. He lost his whole crew in the Twin Towers on 9-11 and was severely burned himself, spending 9 months in a burn hospital.

Recognized during the banquet, Brierfield Firefighters Zac Moore & Jonathan Moreland received 1 year badges. Dry Valley 1 year badges were presented to Pam Davis, Tammy Wilson, Justin Davis and Samantha Davis. Brierfield Auxiliary members Marsha & Martha McAllister received 5 year service pins and outgoing President Stacey Harbison received the Auxiliary of the Year Award. Dry Valley Captain Shannon Wilson received the William L. Johnstone Award in honor and memory of former longtime Chief William Johnstone. Dry Valley Barbie Johnstone received a 15 year Service Award. Brierfield board member Charlie Daviston received a 20 year service pin. Brierfield Assistant Chief Kenneth Harbison received a training award. Brierfield EMT Stephanie Smitherman and Captain Randy Smitherman received the Best Call Attendance Award. Brierfield Administrator Ann Richardson received the Jim Seaman Chief's Award for outstanding service and leadership. Dry Valley members Glenda & Larry Reid received a special appreciation award for service to the department.

Guest speaker was retired Philadelphia Fire Chief John McGrath from Raleigh, NC. He also serves as the Incident Commander for the National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Weekend. He began by telling the crowd, "This is not an easy job for volunteers, and it's not an easy job for leadership. From one professional to another - thank you." He further stated, "You have an unbelievably hard job. Never forget how dangerous your job is. Be safe and get home to your families." On a lighter note he stated, "Being a firefighter is like being Peter Pan. You never have to grow up."



*Brierfield Firefighter Zac Moore receives Rookie of the Year Award*



*Brierfield Firefighter Lynn Crider receives The Bill Brown Firefighter of the Year*



*Brierfield Explorer, Michaela Smitherman receives Junior Firefighter of the Year for her father, Captain Randy Smitherman*



*Dry Valley firefighter Michael Daviston receives the Chief's Award*



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# LOOKING FOR GRANTS?

Seventy-two percent of the firefighters that protect our homes, children and communities are VOLUNTEERS, and many volunteer at facilities without the necessary resources to properly perform their duties.

It's remarkable to think that in the United States nearly 1.2 million firefighters give of themselves to put out structural fires, protect our forest lands and teach our children fire prevention at school. But, what's more amazing is that the majority of these selfless acts go unpaid.

One of the many sources of funding pursued by volunteer fire departments is in the area of grants. Many grants, such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), have closed their application window. Below is a list of current grants available.

State Farm Insurance.... awards grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and focuses on giving in three areas: Safety, Education, & Community development. The grant cycle is January 2 - October 21. All applications must be submitted on-line.

Web Site: <http://www.statefarm.com>

Wal-Mart State Giving Program....supports organizations with programs that align with the Wal-Mart mission to create opportunities so people can live better. The State Giving Program awards grants starting at \$25,000 to nonprofit organizations that serve a particular state or region. This grant is available from February 1 - April 22. Applications are accepted only on-line.

Web Site: <http://walmartstores.com>

Georgia-Pacific Foundation.....is a partnership between the GP Foundation and the company's facilities to support local fire departments that need basic supplies and resources to keep their neighborhoods safe. The amount varies. Interested fire and rescue units should contact their local Georgia-Pacific facility. All entries for consideration must be approved by a facility manager before being submitted. Application may be made from January 1 and October 31.

Web Site: <http://www.gp.com>

## 2011 AAVFD Membership – Total 827

### DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN	50%	5 of 10
CHEROKEE	100%	13 of 13
DEKALB	100%	25 of 25
ETOWAH	100%	23 of 23
JACKSON	100%	21 of 21
MADISON	100%	17 of 17
MARSHALL	100%	18 of 18

### DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT	0%	0 of 21
CULLMAN	100%	26 of 26
JEFFERSON	27%	8 of 30
SHELBY	50%	9 of 18
ST CLAIR	75%	15 of 20
WALKER	100%	25 of 25
WINSTON		

### DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE	31%	4 of 13
GREENE	100%	14 of 14
HALE	100%	9 of 9
LAMAR	0%	0 of 10
PICKENS	100%	17 of 17
SUMTER	100%	19 of 19
TUSCALOOSA	100%	21 of 21

### DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

CHAMBERS	100%	13 of 13
CLAY	0%	0 of 18
CLEBURNE	100%	12 of 12
COOSA	100%	10 of 10
RANDOLPH	100%	17 of 17
TALLADEGA	27.7%	5 of 18
TALLAPOOSA	100%	13 of 13

### DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA	100%	10 of 10
BIBB	100%	9 of 9
CHILTON	81%	13 of 16
DALLAS	100%	15 of 15
MARENGO	100%	12 of 12
PERRY	100%	11 of 11
WILCOX	100%	10 of 10

### DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR	100%	12 of 12
COFFEE	100%	9 of 9
DALE	100%	13 of 13
GENEVA	100%	10 of 10
HENRY	0%	0 of 6
HOUSTON	100%	17 of 17
PIKE	100%	9 of 9

### DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

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

### DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN	59%	19 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	0%	0 of 13
LAUDERDALE	0%	0 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	25%	2 of 8
MACON	10%	1 of 10
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL	100%	11 of 11



# THE BELL TOLLED

**Captain John Harper**, past chief of Turkey Heaven VFD, Cleburne County, passed away February 2, 2011 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He wanted all to know that "his body may be in the grave, but he's gonna look over each and every one of us". He will be greatly missed by his family and his brothers and sisters in the fire service in Cleburne County.

**Asst Chief John Thomas "J.T." Abbott**, Perdido Beach VFD, Baldwin County, passed away February 17, 2011. Chief Abbott served several years as Chief of the department, stepping down after suffering a heart attack. After recovery, he came back as a Captain and later, Asst Chief.

**Captain Clifford L. McLain**, Seminole VFD, Baldwin County, passed away February 20, 2011. He had been a member for 22 years.

**Stephen Lee Shankle**, Trinity VFD, Morgan County, died March 13, 2011 in an automobile accident.

**Kineth D. Heard**, Tanner VFD, Limestone County, passed away March 16, 2011.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend condolences to Representative Richard Lindsey (House District 39) and his family on the passing of his father, Vann, on October 12, 2010.

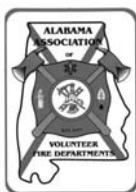
We extend our condolences to the EMS community on the December 15, 2010 death of Emergency Medical Technician Laura Elizabeth Pullam of Care Ambulance in Montgomery AL. While operating at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on I-65 near Hope Hull, she was struck by another vehicle that was passing slowed vehicles at the accident scene. Ms Pullam is mourned by many friends in the fire service.

We extend condolences to District 3 Director and Tuscaloosa County Association President Billy Doss whose mother, Mable, passed away January 1, 2011.

**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) 403-0301, William Neal – (334) 335-3643, Steve Dennis – (334) 283-2110 or Derrick Gatlin (256) 230-3526.

**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 Steve Dennis  
3rd VP Derrick Gatlin  
Secretary Mary Jane Sells  
Treasurer Charles Jackson

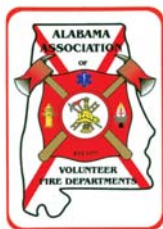
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