



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

October-December 2007



Season's Greetings



2007 Fallen Firefighter Memorial



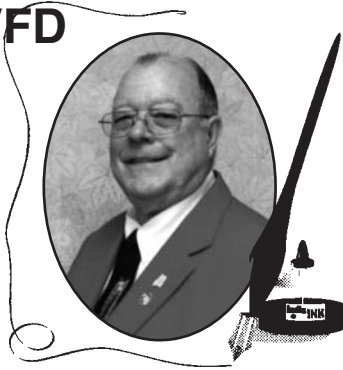
"Thanks for the record crowd that attended this year's Firefighter Memorial Ceremony. I know that the Joint Fire Council joins with the Commission and AFC staff in expressing our appreciation for the departments and individuals that made the ceremony a fitting tribute to our fallen firefighters. We are already discussing ways to make the ceremony even more impressive next year, with the focus being on honoring those that have sacrificed for their communities. We will always remember, because we can never forget."

Executive Director Allen Rice
Alabama Fire College and Personnel
Standards Commission

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

Johnny Alberson

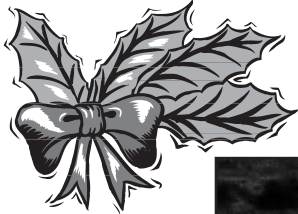


Here's hoping everyone has a wonderful holiday season - a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, as well as a Happy New Year! We should all be thankful that we live in a country that we can celebrate and enjoy holidays as we please, without any persecution.

Our association is gearing up for the 2008 legislative

session. It is my understanding that it will begin February 5, 2008. The 2007 session was a failure in getting any bills passed, but we will "be back". We intend to try again with the same bills as last year, plus any that anyone feels would benefit the Volunteer Fire Service. If any of you have any ideas, contact either Chauncey Wood or myself (Johnny Alberson). If you see either your Senator or Representative, please ask them to support any AAVFD legislation. If any one wishes to spend some time in Montgomery at the State House, please consider this an invitation.

I guess that it is time to be thinking about our 2008 Conference. I received information already that Tuscaloosa Association are already at work. The 2008 conference will be held in Tuscaloosa on the first weekend in August 2008. There is always plenty of work for everyone, so feel free to bring your ideas forth and work to make this one of the best conferences we have had.



Happy Holidays



"The Volunteer" Editors



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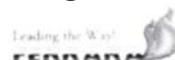
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“Experiences of AAVFD Honor Guard Members at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend”

Written by: Dustin Lovelady and Reggie Sprinkle

Co-Written and Edited by: Dr. Beth McCulloch Vinson (daughter of fallen firefighter, Lloyd McCulloch)

On the first weekend in October of 2007, two Honor Guard members of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD), Reggie Sprinkle and Dustin Lovelady, participated in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland at the National Fire Academy. Over 1100 honor guard members from around the world also participated.

Here is their story.

We were there to serve on the Line of Duty Death (LODD) Battalion to honor the lives of Captain Lloyd McCulloch and Firefighter Dusty Jones of the Moulton Fire Department. These two firefighters lost their lives at the scene of a commercial building fire on February 21, 2006 when the front wall collapsed

during the mop-up phase of the fire. These men were two of the 82 men and 5 women honored at the national event.

Months before we attended the memorial we made hotel arrangements. We had other people traveling with us and had been hearing that the hotels would fill up fast. The closest we could get was Gettysburg. We went right to work on sponsorships. Dustin Lovelady's company, Hagemeyer, provided our transportation.

Due to communications from Emmitsburg, we knew in advance that we would need to bring our honor guard uniform, which consisted of a leather hat, white shirt, black tie, Eisenhower dress coat, pants, and a mourning band, which comprises the full Class A uniform. Our information packet also instructed us to bring khaki pants and a polo style shirt to wear during the training exercises.

Since this memorial ceremony had been conducted annually since 1982, we expected the routines and procedures to be very polished and regimented. In fact, they would have been. However, one thing changed that. On Wednesday, before we pulled out of Alabama on Thursday, we received an e-mail requesting information to run background checks on us. The e-mail stated that President Bush would be in attendance and that he would be greeting each family member.

When we arrived in Maryland, we checked in at the National Fire Academy on Friday afternoon. When we checked in, they made our photos for our ID badges. We also

received our room key and our honor guard parking pass. Interestingly, they warned us that our vehicles would be towed if they remained on the campus parking lots at night. On Saturday morning, we stayed on campus all day for training. We stayed in a dorm room at night. These rooms had two twin beds, two dressers, a small table for eating or working,

a television, and a bathroom. The National Fire Academy fed us three times a day. We all ate in the common dining hall on campus. We knew what we were to do and when because they gave us a printed schedule upon arrival.

When we signed in at the gymnasium, they had Dusty's and Lloyd's names beside our names. The word spread among the honor guard members that

there were Line of Duty Deaths. They kept saying that if there was anything they could do, please let them know. Their respect inspired us.

As we rehearsed on Saturday there was some talk about the Secret Service wanting us to salute the President. One commander noted that we were all there for the families of the fallen firefighters, and that the President was also there to honor the families and their fallen firefighters. The Secret Service agreed and we went forward with our preparation.

In regard to accommodating the President's part of the program, we were given explicit instructions that if the President is moving, you stop. During the ceremony, it was interesting to note that when one of the honor guard members fainted, the President fanned him. It took awhile for them to bring the stretcher up to the honor guard member because the emergency workers were not cleared to get up that close to the President.

On Sunday, the day of the memorial, snipers were on the rooftops. We were on lockdown from 5:00 - 7:00 a.m. There was to be no movement between these times. During this time they did a two-hour sweep of the campus. All equipment, such as bagpipes and flag poles, had to be left out so they could run these through the Secret Service check.

Since we were from Alabama, and they were taking things in alphabetical order by state, we were known as “No. 1” for Dustin Jones's remembrance, and “No. 2” for Lloyd

(Continued on page 5)



Reggie Sprinkle

Dustin Lovelady

Experiences of AAVFD Honor Guard Members *Continued*

McCulloch's remembrance. It occurred to us on Saturday that we would be doing ours first. For a minute we felt like we were two Alabama rednecks who would be setting the tone and pace for the rest of the honor guard members from the nation. Somehow, we made it through without a glitch.

As soon as the ceremony was over, we heard a helicopter gearing up, we realized the President had disappeared from the stage, and suddenly, Marine One, was in the air. We were in the holding cell and were not even released before the President had gone.

One thing that surprised us was the size of the national memorial. We thought it would be much bigger. We had never been there before. However, we had been to the memorial at the Alabama State Fire College. Alabama's memorial is awesome. There is a lake and a waterfall that serve as the scenic and peaceful backdrop to the bronze statue of the firefighter standing underneath towering flags.

While we were at the national memorial, one thing that made us nervous was the thoughts of having red dots (laser dots) on us. We were told that while President Bush was there, we had to do (and not do) certain things. We were told that if we saw a red laser dot on us that we would not get a second warning.

In some ways, while we were there in Emmitsburg things

were so machined and regimented we didn't have much time to be emotional. Other honor guard members told stories of the fallen firefighters they knew from the 2006 group, or even from years before that. Some were returning from years gone by and told their stories. Since some of the honor guard members didn't know who their fallen firefighter was until they got to Emmitsburg, many of them had questions for us since we were personally connected with our fallen firefighters.

When we returned home, we were asked, "What was the most emotional part?" Our answer is simple; it was the reason we were there. Two firefighters we knew lost their lives. In fact, we were very connected to these two firefighters. We had known them "forever." Also, one of us (Lovelady) pulled Captain McCulloch out from the rubble the night he died. Another of us (Sprinkle) had spent the whole time on that extended fatal fire speaking back and forth on the radio with Captain McCulloch.

We wish that both McCulloch and Jones could have seen the weekend memorial program honoring them. Both of these men were the type that if they had survived and others had fallen, they would have been there working alongside us to make sure the families felt honored.

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DISTRICT 3 HOSTS 2008 AAVFD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Billy Doss, AAVFD District 3 Director



Everyone in District Three has really been working hard and together on our 2008 Conference. The date and place have been decided. The date will be August 1-2, 2008. All the activities will be held at our Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa. We are working on several activities for everyone, even the children. Registration and hotel information will follow in the next issue of "The Volunteer".

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From Here and There

News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama

Monroe County Fire Association held its annual Awards Banquet September 20th. Congratulations to Fire Chief of the Year - Tim Casey, Excel VFD; Firefighter of the Year - Jerry Knight, Monroeville F/R; Rookie of the Year - J. J. Burgess, Excel VFD; Female Firefighter of the Year - Sue Starr, Frisco City VFD; and EMT of the Year - Raythan Owens, Excel VFD.

Fulton VFD, Clarke County, sponsored their annual Fall Gospel Singing on October 6th.

Monroe County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments hosted a Propane Emergency II Class on September 6-8.



Roger Fore was named "Fireman of the Year" for the Coffeeville Volunteer Fire Department, and Joe James was named Fireman of the Year for the West Bend/Bethel Volunteer Fire Department at the fourth annual Fireman's Ball. Clarke County

Senator Hank Sanders, District 23, presented \$3,300 to Opine-Tallahatta Springs VFD, Clarke County.

Boise Paper, Alabama Operations, donated \$5,000 to Jackson VFD, Clarke County, in appreciation for the dedication and hard work the department has exhibited over the years.

The Southern District of the Fire Marshals Association of Alabama hosted a "Lunch-n-Learn" training session sponsored by Amerex Corp. & the Fire Pro on November 14th at Foley Fire & Rescue in Baldwin County. Topics included "Suppression at a Glance" - which outlined the ways to determine if a suppression system is UL300 compliant and installed properly, and also "Changes to NFPA 10" - which gave a thorough overview of the updated changes to NFPA 10, 2007 ed.

Alder Springs VFD, Marshall County, held Thanksgiving Open House on November 3rd. On display was their new pumper recently purchased using a Federal grant.



Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, hosted an ISO Fire Suppression Rating Class taught by ISO personnel Brad Bain and Kyle Biles on November 15th.

The annual Jackson Fire Prevention Parade, Clarke County, was held October 10th featuring firefighters, firefighting vehicles and the Fire Prevention Queen and her court.

A Thank You from the Community

Dear Editor:

I want to thank all the men and women that serve as volunteer firemen, not only in Jackson, but in the Clarke and Washington Counties area.

These men and women receive no pay and in a lot of cases, very little in the way of a Thank You. They give of their time and energy for the benefit of everyone and in some cases, even spend some of their own money.

We not only need to thank these brave people, we need to pray for them and their families. These men and women often are called to duty during the middle of the night, when they have to leave the safety of their homes, leaving their families alone or maybe it is while they are at church or graduation or a wedding or a holiday or Sunday dinner with their family and friends. The point is, they sacrifice their time for all of us.

I personally have been involved in cases of automobile accidents and other events and have seen these people at work as firemen. They do an excellent job and if you watch much TV where they show firemen and policemen at work, you would think you were there with them.

I would also like to say that this is truly one area that you can see your tax dollars at work for us all. If you have noticed the equipment these firemen are driving or using, next time you see one of them, ask them about the equipment they used to have and what they have now in the way of fire and rescue equipment.

I am proud to live in an area where we have people that will volunteer for such work and equally proud of the equipment they now have to do the job.

Thank You, Thank You and Thank You.
Wayne Latham, Jackson AL

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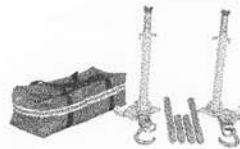
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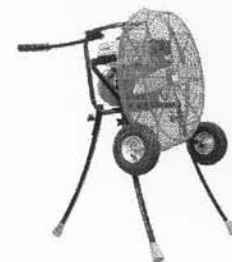
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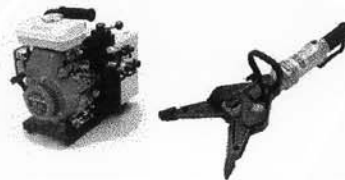


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EWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

By: Jason Thomas, President

Photos by Tina Wood

Ewell Volunteer Fire Department (Dale County) was founded on January 8, 1993. Its primary support area is approximately 17 square miles and covers a population of 3,800 residents.

The Department has 14 active firefighters at the present time. The Officers of the department include: Chief Mike Riley, Assistant Chief Mark Beasley, President Jason Thomas, Vice President Bobby Strickland, Secretary Donna Beasley and Treasurer Faye Casey.

The Department's equipment consists of two brush trucks that are Forestry surplus, a 1977 Dodge 4x4, a 1985 Chevrolet K30 4x4, and two pumpers, a 1972 American LaFrance, and through State grants, a 2005 International 4200 pumper.

The Volunteer Firemen of Ewell VFD pride themselves on responding to all fires and medical emergencies in its area efficiently and supporting the other local departments when needed.



Pictured Left to right: Asst. Chief Mark Beasley, President Jason Thomas, Vice President Bobby Strickland, Firefighter Brandon Morris and Firefighter Adam Bruhn.



2008 DUES AND AD&D INSURANCE RENEWALS

The fire department membership dues for the year 2008 and the 2008 AD&D insurance renewal/application notices were mailed the first week in October. If your department joins through the county association, the notice was sent to the county president. Insurance notices were sent to the chief of each department.

The AD&D insurance policy remains one of the least expensive policies that can be purchased for volunteer firefighters. In the event a firefighter is disabled or dies in the line of duty, this policy would provide some financial assistance to the family in paying

bills. As an extra benefit, each policy holder will receive a quarterly issue of "The Volunteer" to keep abreast on the latest fire service news in the state, as well as national events.

Annual membership dues are payable January 1, 2008. If you did not receive your dues notice or if you are not a member and wish to join, contact the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833, and we will send you information on the benefits associated with AAVFD membership, such as eligibility for the insurance coverage, student scholarships and the Wildland Fire Prevention grant.

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This fire at Gulf Eagle Wholesale near Huntsville (Madison County) spread quickly to the entire structure which warehouses shingles, tar and other roofing supplies. Firefighters from Monrovia, Toney, Harvest Volunteer Fire Departments, and Huntsville City and Madison responded to the call. They did an outstanding job saving the structures around the fire.

Photos by: Brett Haas



2008 AAVFD SCHOLARSHIPS

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2008. Four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded. Each scholarship is given on a one-year basis and must be applied for each year regardless of previous applications.

Applications may be obtained from the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833 or on the AAVFD web site 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, 2008.



ARITON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Reprinted with Permission from Pea River Electric Cooperative

When he's not handling duties as right-of-way foreman for Pea River Electric Cooperative, Aubrey Peters spends most of his "free-time" as chief of the Arton Volunteer Fire Department, which also is involved in rescue operations. It's not unusual for him, his wife, Rhonda, and son Jason to be called out in the middle of the night or on holidays to put out a fire or help pull someone from wrecked vehicles. Peters will never forget one Memorial Day when his fire and rescue unit was asked to help save a couple and their two children involved in a collision with a tractor-trailer on U.S. 231.

"All four had been thrown out of their pickup truck," he says, "We found the parents and one child outside, but we couldn't find their 8-year-old daughter. Then we heard a scream from under the eighteen-wheeler."

Her name was Bridget and she had been hurt so bad that one leg "was hanging by a thread," says Peters.

"It was a pretty bloody scene and most of them had broken bones," he says. "It was touch and go for awhile, but we were able to help Bridget, who fully recovered and has a child of her own today."

Son Jason is a captain in the fire-and-rescue unit, while Rhonda is a lieutenant. The whole family is involved in helping others.

Their unit provides ambulance support for athletic events in Dale County and it is not unusual to see them outside stores soliciting financial support to keep their organization going strong.

"We get support from local governments, but we also buy our own equipment," Peters says, "I came up with my own slogan to help raise money. It's 'Get out your loot and fill our boots.'"

Peters and his wife are concerned about the safety of every resident – a fact illustrated when a horse tried to jump a barbed wire fence and got stuck halfway.

"We were on our way to a funeral visitation when we heard about it," the co-op foreman says. "We tried to

calm the horse until help arrived. The last thing we wanted to do in a situation like that was traumatize him."

Just for good measure, the couple went back to check on the horse after it had been rescued.

"We just wanted to make sure he was okay," Peters says.



Aubrey Peters and his son Jason

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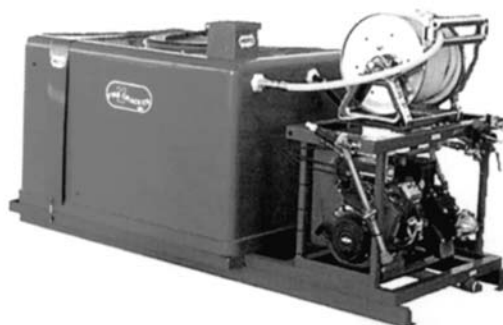
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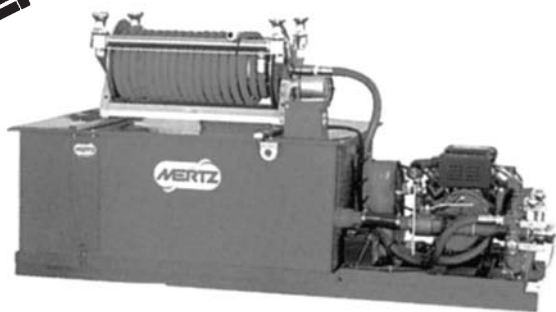
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Hale 1500 GPM Side Mount Pump
300 Gallon Aluminum Tank



Pierce Lance Heavy Rescue
Cummins 350 HP Diesel Engine
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2002 Saulsbury Rescue Pumper
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750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank



2002 ALF Rescue Pumper
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750 Gallon Polypropylene Tank



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750 Gallon Poly Tank



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Detroit 8V92TA 475 HP Diesel
Allison HT740 Automatic
Waterous 2-Stage 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1997 E-One Hush Rescue Pumper
Detroit Diesel, Allison Automatic
Interior Command Desk
Hale 1500 GPM Pump
500 Gallon Tank



1995 Pierce Saber Rescue Pumper
Detroit Diesel, Allison Automatic
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank
40 Gallon Poly Foam Tank



**2000 Pierce/Int'l Commercial
Rescue Pumper**
Cummins Diesel, Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank



1996 Ferrara Rescue Pumper
Cummins 300 HP Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Side Mount Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank



2001 Pierce Rescue Pumper
Detroit Series 40E 330 HP Diesel
Allison MD3060R Automatic
Waterous 1500 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Poly Tank

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1989 E-One Rescue Pumper
Detroit 8V92 445 HP Diesel
Allison HT-740 Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1988 E-One Cyclone Pumper
Cummins Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1500 GPM Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1990 E-One Hurricane Pumper
Detroit 8V92 450 HP Diesel
Allison HT741 Automatic
Hale 1500 GPM Top Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1993 Pierce/FL-80 Pumper
Cummins 8.3L Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Waterous 1250 GPM Pump
1000 Gallon Steel Tank



1993 Ferrara Silent Knight Pumper
Cummins 320 HP Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1250 GPM Side Mount Pump
500 Gallon Poly Tank



1995 E-One Commercial Pumper
Diesel Engine, Automatic Transmission
Ford F-800 Chassis
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Polypropylene Tank



1984 PemFab/ E-One Pumper
Detroit 8V92 Diesel Engine
Automatic Transmission
1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
750 Gallon Tank



1991 Southern Coach Pumper
Cummins LTA10 300 HP Diesel
Allison HT740 Automatic
American Godiva 1500 GPM Pump
660 Gallon Poly Tank



1982 Pirsch/Spartan Pumper
Detroit 8V71 316 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1500 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1980 Ford C-8000 Pumper
Caterpillar 3208 Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
1250 GPM Pump
750 Gallon Tank



1992 E-One/Int'l Pumper/Tanker
Cummins DT466 Diesel
Allison MT643 Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1500 Gallon Poly Tank



1998 E-One Commercial Pumper
Cummins 250 HP Diesel
Allison Automatic
1250 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1986 E-One Commercial Pumper
Detroit 6V71 Diesel Engine
Allison Automatic Transmission
Hale 1000 GPM Side-Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1996 Southern Coach Pumper
Cummins 300HP Diesel Engine
Allison MD3060P Automatic
Hale 1000 GPM Side Mount Pump
1000 Gallon Poly Tank



1969 White/Trautweins Pumper
Cummins Diesel, CumFuller Automatic
Hale 1250 GPM 2-Stage Pump
Robwen Model 500 Foam System
600 Gallon Poly Tank



1993 NAB Type III Ambulance
Ford E-350 Chassis
International 7.3L Turbo Diesel
Ford Automatic Transmission



1994 Ford 4x4 Ambulance
Ford Diesel Engine
Automatic Transmission
Mileage: 139,000



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Taylor Made Type I Ambulance Body
Ford 7.3L Diesel Engine
Ford Automatic Transmission



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Automatic Transmission
Whelen Light Package



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REMEMBERING 9-11

Frisco City and Uriah in Monroe County observed “A Day to Remember” dedicated to all heroes honoring area firefighters, police officers and the First Responders who sacrificed their lives on September 11, 2001. The Mobile County Firefighters Association Honor Guard presented the colors followed by a welcome by Fire Chief Shannon Sawyer and Mayor Jim Cave.

The guest speaker was Alabama State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk and special guest Charles Jackson, U.S.M.C. Retired. A Candle Light Vigil followed. Firefighters met at the flag pole as the closing prayer was given by Captain Charlie Dixon, Thomasville VFD.

The Mobile County Honor Guard conducted the “Last Call” ceremony, followed by a 21-Gun Salute and “Taps” by the American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard.



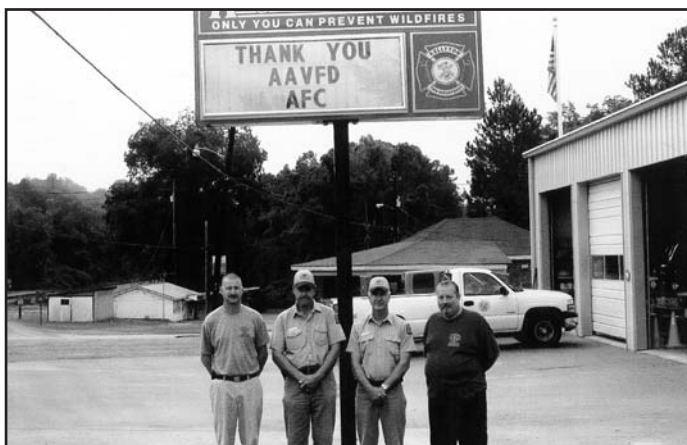
WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION GRANTS

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments urges state volunteer fire departments to take a leadership role in ensuring our communities are educated and prepared for the threat of Wildland fire. The recent situation in southern California and continuing drought conditions in many parts of the U.S. serve as reminders for the fire and emergency services to stop and evaluate Wildland fire planning in your local community.

Review and update as needed your Community Wildfire Protection Plan and tactical and operational procedures pertinent to responding to a Wildland fire situation in your community and surrounding communities.

Take a leadership role in educating local officials and citizens to understand the threat of Wildland fire and what can be done by all members of the community to prepare for such an event.

Take a leadership role in educating and training your department. Local officials will turn to you for information. Take the time now to better prepare to lessen and respond to Wildland fire risk.



To emphasize their Fire Prevention program in Coosa County, Kellyton VFD purchased a sign with a Wildfire Prevention message using funds from the Alabama Forestry Commission & AAVFD Wildland Fire Prevention Grant

Marley Mill VFD

By: Tina Wood

The residents of Marley Mill determined that there was a need in the community for a volunteer fire department in January 1993. A meeting was held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church with a majority of residents attending. It was voted on and approved by those present to start a volunteer fire department for the community. A Fire Chief and Board of Directors were elected to serve one year. The Marley Mill Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated on February 18, 1993.

A 1970 Hahn 750 GPM pumper fire truck was received in April 1993. The department was certified by the State Of Alabama in May 1993. A 44-ft x 80-ft, 3-bay fire department building was built during the summer, including a full kitchen and a training/meeting room. Two additional 20-ft wide bays were added in 2000.

A building was constructed behind the fire department to house a BBQ pit large enough to cook 1,000 pounds of Boston butts at one time. BBQ's were held monthly from October until April each year to meet operating expenses, purchase vehicles, equipment, pay for the buildings, insurance, fuel, and other expenses. Currently BBQ's are being held October, November, February and March. Efforts of the community, fire-fighters and donations have made the department debt free at this time.

A 1978 E-1 fire engine with a 1000 GPM pump and tank was purchased in December of 2000. A new E-1 fire engine with a 1250 GPM pump and a 1,000 gallon tank was purchased and delivered in October 2002.

An ISO rating of 7/9 was earned and received in September 1995. The rating was upgraded to 6/9 in September 1999.

Marley Mill VFD has two Class A pumpers, a 1984 Chevrolet 5/4 pickup truck with a pump and 200 gallon tank. On loan from the Alabama Forestry Department is a 1965 General 1,200 gallon tanker with a pump and a 2,400 gallon drop tank, and a 1984 Chevrolet panel truck that is used as a service truck.

The original 1970 Hahn was donated to the Midway-Damascus Volunteer Fire Department in May 2007.





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Smokey Bear Pays A Visit



October 7-13 was Fire Prevention Week. This year's message is "It's Fire Prevention Week - Practice your escape plan!" When fire strikes, every second counts and knowing how to react quickly and correctly can mean the difference between life and death. That's what escape planning is all about. Baker Hill, Clio and Green's Crossroads Volunteer Firefighters came together to educate students in ways to live fire-safe each day.

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Sumter County - District 3

Ward VFD



In recognition of fire prevention month some members of the Ward Volunteer Fire Department recently visited the Cuba Headstart Center in the Kinterbish community where the children were given the opportunity to learn some fire fighting techniques. They enjoyed examining the truck and were shown different types of hoses, gauges, etc. Pictured with the 57 head start children are Murry Rew, Arthur Townsend, and Gloria Townsend, members of Ward VFD; Geraldine Tanks, Burnetta Baskin, and Anna Adams, Headstart staff members, and Charles Fisher of Cuba VFD. Gloria Townsend is also a Headstart staff member. Not shown is Bob Stephenson, Ward VFD truck operator.

Louisville Dedicates Firehouse



Wayne Cost, left and Chauncey Wood of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments salute the flag during the dedication of Louisville's new firehouse Sunday. The firehouse is located in the former location of B.D. Whigham Hardware. The much anticipated firehouse was christened the "Whigham Building" Sunday at the firehouse's dedication in honor of the hardware store that used to stand where the new Louisville Fire Department is now located.



Louisville citizens mingle during their new firehouse's dedication Sunday. The new firehouse was funded by \$100,000 grant from the USDA and a \$192,000 loan also from the USDA as part of its "Rural Development" program. The new firehouse will house all of the department's vehicles including a tanker, a pumper, a brush-truck, an ambulance and a homeland security trailer. A Federal Emergency Management Association grant has also supplied the new firehouse with a generator.



"Puggs" mugs for the camera!

Baker Hill VFD

From Then to Now

Baker Hill Volunteer Fire Department in Barbour County was established in 1972 with trucks on loan from the Alabama Forestry Commission. All of the equipment was housed in the old school building on a wood floor that was constructed in the 1920's. The building was moved to the present location in 1982 where it remains and all but one truck has been turned in to the Forestry department. During this time, our only founding member living stated that they used to have to buy gas for the equipment out of their own pockets.

In 2005, firefighters began looking at building a new station where equipment could be better protected from the weather since termites had started eating the old building. A USDA grant was unsuccessful, so members went back to the drawing board. With the help of donations, money on hand, and money loaned to the fire department by the Rescue Squad, Baker Hill VFD was able to build a 50-ft X 100-ft metal building with 5-bays to house two pumpers, one tanker, a brush truck and Barbour County Mobile Command Center.

With the completion of the new fire station, future plans are to start replacing the older trucks with more modern ones to better serve the community.



VOLUNTEERS ON THE JOB



BURGLARS TORCH HOME!

Marengo County Volunteer Firefighters from Surginer, Dixon Mills, Thomaston, and South Marengo Fire & Rescue battled flames at a home that had been broken into by burglars who dropped guns and jewelry as they fled the garage, then sped away. They apparently had set the house afire as they were escaping



FIRE IN TODDTOWN

Antioch, Salitpa, Jackson & Helwestern firefighters (Clarke County) responded to a house fire in the Toddtown community. The fire was discovered shortly after the owner had left the home.

The Lighter Side



On a trip to see Santa, my friend's young son Danny climbed onto St. Nick's lap and shared his wish list. Later that day, in another store, there was Santa again.

"And what would you like for Christmas?" he asked Danny.

Shaking his head, Danny sighed, "You really need to write these things down."



Firefighters participate in a propane gas school fire held in Baldwin County. Photo taken by Capt. John Saraceno, Fairhope FD.

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DISTRICT 1 MEMBERSHIP

CALHOUN		2 of 12
CHEROKEE	100%	13 of 13
DEKALB		0 of 25
ETOWAH		0 of 23
JACKSON	100%	21 of 21
MADISON		0 of 17
MARSHALL		0 of 18

DISTRICT 2 MEMBERSHIP

BLOUNT		0 of 21
CULLMAN	100%	26 of 26
JEFFERSON		0 of 31
SHELBY		9 of 19
ST CLAIR		0 of 20
WALKER		0 of 25
WINSTON		0 of 11

DISTRICT 3 MEMBERSHIP

FAYETTE		1 of 13
GREENE	100%	12 of 12
HALE		0 of 9
LAMAR		0 of 10
PICKENS		0 of 17
SUMTER	100%	19 of 19
TUSCALOOSA	100%	20 of 20

DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP

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

DISTRICT 5 MEMBERSHIP

AUTAUGA		0 of 10
BIBB	100%	9 of 9
CHILTON		0 of 15
DALLAS	100%	15 of 15
MARENGO		0 of 12
PERRY	100%	11 of 11
WILCOX	100%	10 of 10

DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

BARBOUR	100%	11 of 11
COFFEE		0 of 9
DALE		0 of 13
GENEVA		0 of 10
HENRY		0 of 6
HOUSTON		0 of 17
PIKE	100%	9 of 9

DISTRICT 7 MEMBERSHIP

BUTLER		0 of 16
CONECUH		0 of 21
COVINGTON	100%	20 of 20
CRENSHAW	100%	12 of 12
ESCAMBIA		0 of 22
MONROE		0 of 15

DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP

BALDWIN		10 of 33
CHOCTAW		0 of 14
CLARKE		0 of 13
MOBILE		0 of 19
WASHINGTON		0 of 19

DISTRICT 9 MEMBERSHIP

COLBERT		0 of 14
FRANKLIN		0 of 13
LAUDERDALE		0 of 14
LAWRENCE		0 of 11
LIMESTONE		0 of 13
MARION		0 of 12
MORGAN		0 of 22

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP

BULLOCK		0 of 7
ELMORE	100%	20 of 20
LEE		0 of 8
LOWNDES		1 of 8
MACON		0 of 10
MONTGOMERY	100%	8 of 8
RUSSELL	100%	11 of 11



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Basic Pump Operations Class



Clio Volunteer Fire Department hosted a Basic Pump course to teach firefighters pump operation, theory of drafting, maintenance, and calculating fire stream requirements. 48 firefighters representing 10 Volunteer Fire Departments were in attendance. Steve Messer of Dothan Fire Department instructed the class with the assistance of Wayne Stell from Fort Rucker Fire Department. The class was a 12 hour pro board Alabama Fire College Certification Course.

Training Highlight: Elmore County

Elmore County is the home of Millbrook, Wetumpka and Tallassee combination paid-volunteer fire departments and 17 other volunteer-only fire departments. Elmore County is adjacent to Montgomery County, home of our beautiful state capital. Being located so close to Alabama's rapidly growing capital has meant that Elmore County is experiencing rapid growth.

In the early 1990s, the Elmore County Firefighters Association, comprised of the county's 20 fire departments, began a push to increase firefighter training in the county's fire departments. Some of the first classes were held in local fire stations, but most were held at Tallassee and Friendship fire departments under the leadership of then association chairman Steve Dennis. Steve has been the lead instructor at each of the countywide Volunteer Fire Fighter classes since that time.

In the late 90s, the citizens of Elmore County voted for a service fee to support the fire service across the county. In the original legislation, a percentage of this service fee was marked for countywide training. Chief Jake Strickland of the Wetumpka Fire Department worked with the Industrial Development Board of Wetumpka to acquire property at no charge to the Elmore County Firefighters Association on which to locate a new countywide training center. Using the new

service fees for backing, the firefighters' association built a 5000-square-foot training center. Currently, the center contains a 70-student classroom, a 40-person conference room, a reference library, offices, a kitchen and two offices housing the Alabama Forestry Commission for Elmore County.

The training center was completed in late 2001, and a

Volunteer Fire Fighter class was held almost immediately. Since that time, not only have hundreds of fire fighters received training ranging from Volunteer Fire Fighter and Firefighter II to Mass Casualty Incidents and Planning but local EMS law enforcement, emergency management and other first responders have also regularly trained at the center. The training center has been a great



Elmore County Training Facility.

Photo taken by Chris Smith.

boon to all first responders across the county.

In addition to the training center, the county association instituted a countywide Haz Mat Team made up of personnel from the county's fire departments. The association is also the proud recipient of a grant of over \$300,000 for recruitment and retention programs.

There are approximately 490 fire fighters in Elmore County. So far this year, Elmore County has had over three hundred students enrolled in Alabama Fire College programs either in the county or at the AFC.

PRESIDENT BUSH ATTENDS FALL FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thousands of Firefighters and their families from throughout the Nation attended The Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Sunday morning, October 7, 2007 held at the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial on the Campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The attendees welcomed President Bush who addressed the group, placed the Presidential wreath at the memorial, and then for more than an hour, individually welcomed the families, and/or representative of the fallen fire fighter honored at the Memorial Service as they received a

rose and an American Flag that flew over the U. S. Capitol.

In an excerpt of President Bush's speech, he stated, "I want to thank the foundation for working hard to ensure that the families of those who have died in - are well treated. I want to tell you today that the Hometown Heroes Act will be fully implemented. This program will be administered the way it was intended to be administrated. (Applause.) That's the least we can do as we honor the families of those who have died in the line of service."

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NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: Firefighter James G. Miller (43), Volunteer
Department: Sesser Fire Protection District, Sesser IL
Date of Death: 7/27/07
Cause of Death: Struck and killed by Greyhound bus while putting hose back into apparatus after extinguishing fire in a semi-trailer truck.

Name/Rank: Captain Kevin Williams (42), Volunteer
Department: Firefighter Austin Cheek (19), Volunteer
Date of Death: Noonday VFD, Tyler TX
Cause of Death: 8/3/07
 Trapped and overcome by fire conditions while conducting search and rescue operations. Further investigation is underway.

Name/Rank: Deputy Fire Chief Jerry Donley (45), Career
Department: Swepsonville VFD, Swepsonville NC
Date of Death: 8/8/07
Cause of Death: Working a 24 hr shift, he spent the morning cleaning equipment from fire call that occurred the previous day and responded to at least one EMS incident. He was discovered in his bed the following morning passed away from a cause still to be determined.

Name/Rank: Lt. Paul D. Baker (39), Volunteer
Department: Turtle Creek FD, Benton AR
Date of Death: 8/10/07
Cause of Death: Died from injuries received when he lost his footing and fell from an Interstate bridge over the Saline River while working to extract victim from a single vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Todd W. Hage (43), Volunteer
Department: Wesley Chapel FD, Waxhaw NC
Date of Death: 8/11/07
Cause of Death: Lost control of pumper while entering turn en route to an elementary school (false) fire alarm. Striking an embankment, the apparatus rolled and a tree tore the roof off of apparatus cab. Although he was wearing safety seat restraints at the time of the incident, he passed away from his injuries.

Name/Rank: Captain Anthony P. Cox (44), Career
Department: City of Topeka Fire Department, Topeka KS
Date of Death: 8/13/07
Cause of Death: Collapsed at scene of multi-family residential unit fire and died from cause still to be determined.

Name/Rank: Chief Mike Heuer (55), Volunteer
Department: Sierra City FD, Sierra City CA
Date of Death: 8/14/07
Cause of Death: After spending several hours working to rescue victim who had fallen down a ravine and broken a leg, he and others returned to the bottom of the ravine to retrieve ropes and other equipment. Not feeling well, he indicated that he needed a drink of water, but before a drink could be provided, he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Name/Rank: Probationary Firefighter Glenn Williams Miller (34), Volunteer
Department: Whispering Pines VFD, Whispering Pines NC
Date of Death: 8/17/07
Cause of Death: Participating in Firefighter Level One training, he experienced chest pains and apparently suffered a heart attack while being transported by ambulance to hospital where he was placed on life support. He passed away three days later.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Robert Beddia (53), Career
Department: Firefighter Joseph Graffagnino (33), Career
Date of Death: Fire Department City of New York, Brooklyn NY
Cause of Death: 8/18/07
 Fatally injured while battling seven-alarm high-rise fire at the former Deutsche Bank building undergoing demolition in Lower Manhattan. After becoming trapped in maze-like conditions on 14th floor, they suffered severe smoke inhalation and were taken to hospital in cardiac arrest where they succumbed to their injuries.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Jeffrey Swartz (36), Volunteer
Department: Wagener FD, Wagener SC
Date of Death: 8/19/07
Cause of Death: Lost control of POV while responding to cardiac distress call and passed away from carbon monoxide inhalation and thermal injuries. He was wearing his seat belt.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Warren Payne (53), Career
Department: Firefighter Paul Cahill (55), Career
Date of Death: Boston FD, Boston MA
Cause of Death: 8/29/07
 Passed away from injuries received while working hose line inside a working structure fire. A large air conditioning unit fell through roof of the restaurant initiating rapid fire progress. Multiple firefighters were trapped and injured. Eight were treated and released from hospital; two remained hospitalized being treated for smoke inhalation.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Jared W. Zimmerly (20), Volunteer
Department: Prairie Township FD, Holmesville OH
Date of Death: 9/9/07
Cause of Death: Died while responding to mutual-aid call for residential fire when he lost control of his POV. He was reported to have not been wearing seat belt. Safe traveling speed per road conditions (wet) may have been a factor in accident, which remains under investigation.

Name/Rank: Engineer George Crotts (70), Volunteer
Department: Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company, Willow Grove PA
Date of Death: 9/9/07
Cause of Death: Seriously injured when he fell and struck his head while loading an antique pumper onto a trailer to be taken to a parade. He passed away from massive head trauma the following afternoon.

Name/Rank: Captain Michael Dean Stanfield (30), Volunteer
Department: Anderson Township VFD, Burlington NC
Date of Death: 9/10/07
Cause of Death: After clearing the scene of a motor vehicle accident, he and another firefighter exchanged vehicles to return to the station. He passed away from injuries received when he lost control of the motorcycle he was operating, left the roadway, and struck a tree.

Name/Rank: Chief Leonard Bailey (56), Volunteer
Department: Elizabeth Volunteer Fire Co, Elizabeth PA
Date of Death: 9/12/07
Cause of Death: Collapsed in the early morning hours from apparent heart attack after confirming a working fire in a structure near his home, a bar called "Engine No 2", formerly owned by his father. Investigators believe the fire was intentionally set as the structure was abandoned with no utilities and had a history of recent break-ins.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Kelly Page (38), Career
Department: City Lowell FD, Lowell MA
Date of Death: 9/14/07
Cause of Death: Complained of not feeling well, and a short time later was found unconscious on floor of station after working several calls during the day including downed power lines, medical emergencies, false alarms and a basement fire in vacant residential structure. He was transported to hospital where he was pronounced dead from cause still to be determined.

Name/Rank: Firefighter-EMT Jerry W. Stucker (53), Industrial
Department: Loss Prevention Dept, Dow Corning Corp, Carrollton KY
Date of Death: 9/14/07
Cause of Death: Passed away from apparent heart attack while operating at hazmat incident.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Captain William D. McDaniels, Sr. (51), Volunteer
Department: Macanqua Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Shichshinny PA
Date of Death: 9/15/07
Cause of Death: Suffered chest pains and difficulty breathing while responding to reported High Rise fire. He was transported from the fire scene to the hospital where he passed away from apparent heart attack.

Name/Rank: Lt. Bryon Wayne Johnson (32), Career
Department: Sedgwick County Fire District # 1, Wichita KS
Date of Death: 9/24/07
Cause of Death: While battling a wind-whipped grass fire caused when a trailer rig struck a utility pole causing a live wire to fall, he came in contact with the live wire and was severely shocked. He was taken to hospital by air ambulance in critical condition where he passed away within an hour.

Name/Rank: Firefighter John Lietzke (47), Volunteer
Department: Olivet FD, Olivet MI
Date of Death: 9/25/07
Cause of Death: En route in his POV to reported power lines down, he struck a large tree that had fallen into the roadway. Although he was wearing his seatbelt, he passed away from his injuries at the scene.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Mike Reagan (19), Volunteer
Department: Sharon Hill Fire Co, Sharon Hill PA
Date of Death: 9/29/07
Cause of Death: Passed away from injuries received when garage doors and a support beam collapsed on him and two other firefighters. The fire began when the homeowner was fixing a motorcycle and fuel spilled onto a burning citronella candle.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Adam Cole (24), Volunteer
Department: Buchanan Valley FD, Orrtanna PA
Date of Death: 10/4/07
Cause of Death: Killed while responding in his POV to the station for an outdoor fire call when he crossed over the centerline while negotiating a curve, striking an oncoming vehicle. He was not wearing a seat belt.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Matthew Richard Will (30), Wildland Full-Time
Department: California Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection, Hollister Air Attack Base, Monterey CA
Date of Death: 10/9/07
Cause of Death: Killed while working Colorado Fire in Monterey County when his bull dozer overturned.



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Prints	\$10
T-shirts (red or blue)	\$8
Golf Shirt with Collar	\$22

THE BELL TOLLED

Asst. Chief Lomax Owens, Coffee Springs VFD, Geneva County, passed away October 18, 2007. He contributed 25 years of service to his department.

Donald Joe "Judge" Davidson, Vina VFD, Franklin County, passed away November 6, 2007.

President Gene Cooner, Walker County Fire Association and Townley VFD, passed away November 14, 2007. He served as County President for seven years, RCFP Steering Committee member and Walker County Representative to District 2 Fire Association

"Texasville 7" Donald Wayne "Duck" Brown, Texasville VFD, Barbour County, passed away November 26, 2007. "Texasville 7" was currently serving as vice-president of the department.

2006 LODD SUMMARY

According to the USFA 2006 annual report on Firefighter fatalities, 106 Firefighters died while on duty in 2006, 77 were Volunteer Firefighters and 29 were Career Firefighters who died while on duty.

- There were 6 Firefighter fatality incidents where 2 or more Firefighters were killed, claiming a total of 17 Firefighters' lives.
- 22 Firefighters were killed during activities involving brush, grass, or Wildland firefighting.
- Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 61 Firefighters.

- 36 Firefighters died while engaging in activities at the scene of a fire.
- 15 Firefighters died while responding to or returning from emergency incidents.
- 9 Firefighters died while they were engaged in training activities.
- 20 Firefighters died after the conclusion of their on-duty activity.
- Heart attacks were the most frequent cause of death for 2006, with 50 Firefighter deaths.
- 19 Firefighters were killed as a result of vehicle crashes.

If any Volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of day or night: Johnny Alberson – (205) 459-2688, Steve Dennis – (334) 283-2110, William Neal – (334) 335-3643, or Lawrence Huffman – (256) 446-9813.

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 no 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 Johnny Alberson
1st VP Steve Dennis
2nd VP William A. Neal
3rd VP Lawrence Huffman
Secretary Mary Jane Sells
Treasurer Gary Cobb

Newsletter Editor:

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VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**
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"To always listen and know our customers' needs in order to provide them with the best products and service in the industry."

Fire Truck Sales | Fire Truck Service | Fire Truck Parts | Fire Equipment | Breathing Air | Financial Services

We have a brand new website!
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**Updated news, information and other important resources.*



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for a chance to win an
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For additional help, please contact:



Carolyn Schoen
cschoen@sunbeltfire.com
800-642-8484 ext.113
Fax: 251-928-9933



**WHEN LIVES ARE IN THE BALANCE
AND SECONDS COUNT**