



# THE VOLUNTEER



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

**September - December, 2018**

## **Firefighter Fatalities in the United States**

In 2018, there have been 81 firefighter fatalities as of December 12, 2018. There were 60 on-duty firefighter deaths in 2017, the lowest number we've reported since NFPA began producing this study in 1977. Sudden cardiac death accounted for more than half of the fatalities.

The number of firefighters who were fatally struck by vehicles was unusually high in 2017, while the number of crash deaths continued to occur at a rate far lower than what we've seen in past decades.

The number of deaths at the scene of fires continued to be far lower than usual: 17 deaths in 2017, two more than reported in 2016, with nine at structure fires and eight at wildland fires.

Deaths among career and volunteer firefighters also continued to be low, with both at the second-lowest total occurring in 2017.

While the hazardous nature of firefighting cannot be fully captured in a study that focuses only on deaths that occur while firefighters are on the job, it is not possible to accurately assess the total number of deaths and injuries that have resulted annually due to long-term exposures to carcinogens and physical and emotional stress and strain. A complete picture of duty-related fatalities would also include deaths resulting from cancer, cardiac issues, and stress, as well as other fatalities that were caused by exposures to toxins or the emotional toll of responses.

Other sources can offer perspective on aspects of the overall firefighter fatality problem. According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, 91 firefighters and 17 EMTs and paramedics died by suicide in 2017. Over the past several years, in its annual report on U.S. firefighter deaths, the U.S. Fire Administration has included an average of 15 firefighters a year who qualified for Hometown



Hero benefits, which cover firefighters who suffer a heart attack or stroke within 24 hours after engaging in non-routine stressful or strenuous activity on duty. As mentioned above, the USFA is following up on more than 20 such fatalities in 2017.

Research by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on firefighter cancer estimates that firefighters are nine percent more likely to have a cancer diagnosis than the general population and 14 percent more likely to die of cancer. The agency's first study identified a link between firefighting and solid cancers, and a second study showed a relationship between firefighting and lung cancer and leukemia.

NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation is currently involved in three studies related to firefighter health and safety: a 30-year cohort study to track exposures and effects, a study to validate procedures for the optimal removal of several types of contaminants from firefighting gear, and a study to develop prototypes for a real-time particulate and toxic gas sensor to alert firefighters to hazards in the air. The Foundation recently released a report on the development and implementation of a Fire Service Contaminant Control campaign. The findings from these studies will inform relevant NFPA standards for the fire service as well as educational and training programs aimed at reducing firefighter exposures.

There has been increased focus on first responder behavioral health issues and the importance of prevention programs and peer support for firefighters. Data collected by the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance has shown that, as with heart disease and cancer, this is a problem that follows firefighters after their careers end, whether in retirement or some other form of separation from the fire service.

Continued on page 18

# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY

Mike Green

Greetings Alabama Volunteer Firefighters,

As you are reading this another year has passed and the holiday season is behind us again. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and were able to spend some quality time with friends and loved ones and pray that each of you have a prosperous 2019. I also want you to know that if you as a member of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments have something that you would like to see done or have a concern regarding the fire service of AAVFD please reach out to a board member or myself. We are here to serve you and are the voice of the volunteer fire service in this state not only at the Capitol but also in your departments.

That being said, there are also times when the board needs your help! Most of these times are indeed at the Capitol during the legislative session. Nothing beats face-to-face conversation or phone calls to your legislators, so they will understand how important the fire service is to you. Please remind them of your dedicated service to the community and the issues we are facing. We are currently working to again pre-file a bill to allow for a state tax exemption for members of the volunteer fire service. As I have stated in the past, I know this may be a "long shot" but feel it is necessary not only to retain our current ranks but hopefully serve as an incentive in recruiting new members. This has been a topic of discussion in recent years without much support from our elected officials but remember, progress has little to do with speed and a lot to do with direction. I sincerely feel this is the right direction and will diligently, along with the other officers of this association, push for this piece of legislation to be brought to the top of the priority list. Each of you devote your lives to your communities and it is HIGH TIME the powers to be recognize your true worth to this state and rural Alabama. I fully understand that the highest reward for your work is not what you get for it, but what you become by it. And for that I am always grateful and humbled to be able to call myself a member of this family of public servants.

Please remember that the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has numerous programs to assist you with topics ranging from recruitment and retention, cancer prevention, suicide, funding, training and the list goes on. The website, [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org), has tons of information to assist you in accomplishing the goals you have set forth for your departments. I urge you to take advantage of this cost-free data! One of the most recent programs offered is the SHARE THE LOAD program which deals with firefighters and EMS providers facing the risk of many behavioral health concerns such as anxiety, depression, burnout, post-traumatic stress disorder, and addiction among others.

In closing I would like to thank each and every volunteer firefighter in this state for your commitment and dedication to making your communities safer places to live and work. I understand at times you feel like throwing your hands up, your gear in the floor and walking out the door. At those trying times just remember what you began volunteering for in the first place and continue to strive to be a better YOU and a better organization. Keep training and keep teaching!

May God bless you and keep you safe always.





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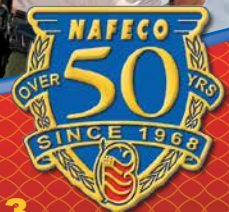
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# Alabama Fallen Firefighters Honored

Alabama honored fallen fire heroes on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at the Alabama Firefighter Memorial which is located on the campus of



the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. This memorial pays tribute to firefighters who have made the supreme sacrifice in service to their

communities. The 2018 memorial service marked the fifteenth year for the service.

The roll of honor contained the names of the Alabama firefighters honored during the Alabama Firefighter Memorial Service. The list consisted of nine individuals who lost their



lives this past year; including two volunteer firefighters: Eddie Parnell

Harris of North Courtland VFD and Jeffery Lane Hann of Stemley VFD.

During the ceremony, the name of each individual was revealed, and each family presented with a United States flag, photo and other fire memorabilia. Each individual's name was also engraved on the memorial.



Keynote speaker was the Honorable John Merrill, Alabama Secretary of State.







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## **YOUR PEOPLE ARE YOUR CULTURE**

Culture is always a big topic when we talk about the fire service. We have traditions and ceremonies that we carry on with pride, we strive to provide a service to our citizens, not afraid to get dirty or push ourselves and each other to physical extremes to help a citizen in need. These traits are part of the fire service culture, just like wearing the Maltese cross on our shirts, recognizing officers with bugles, and painting fire trucks red (all fire trucks are red, right?).

One of the issues we now face is the lack of people who want to embrace our culture, or even enter into public service. Articles are written almost daily about the shortage of new firefighters across the nation, particularly in the volunteer sector where the reward for the job is basically satisfying the desire to serve. As we struggle to recruit and keep new members of our service, it can be tempting to overlook what might have disqualified someone only a few years ago.

In the August AAVFD newsletter and the conference in July, State Fire Marshal Pilgreen discussed the importance of financial accountability. We are all aware of times where a rogue member has misused department funds, and we all received a black-eye because of that misuse. Obviously, this isn't the sort of culture that we want in our fire service. We have also seen instances where one member of a department makes some bonehead move on social media or in a public place, and it casts the entire department in a negative light.

A few weeks ago, I received a call from a volunteer chief seeking advice. Without going into the details, one of his newer members did something that made the entire department look bad and possibly opened them up to liability. He was struggling with what he knew was the right decision, which was to dismiss an otherwise good member. This member came to drills, made calls, and was aggressive about training, but he made a bad choice. To make it worse, he didn't realize why his choice was wrong.

It is often thought that a culture is created simply by the leadership. The idea is that a strong chief who leads by example is enough to set and maintain a positive culture. While strong leadership is an important piece, it isn't the most important and cannot overcome every situation. To have a strong, positive culture we must have the right people for the job. Not just those that show up, but people that share our values and believe in our mission. We can teach new people to fight fire, but they've already decided what right and wrong means.

I encourage you to define your department values and live by them. Don't just accept people to fill seats, accept people who share those values. Everything we do is based on public trust; the fullest roster or the strongest firefighters are no good without it. Don't let a bad apple ruin the entire basket.



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## From the Desk of State Fire Marshall Scott F. Pilgreen ...

This quarter's article is intended to be an advisory to the members of AAVFD and the fire service in general about the use of structures for training fires.

Several weeks ago I received a call about a volunteer fire department that had been issued a letter from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) stating that the fire department was to be fined because the guidelines concerning the use of a structure for a training fire had not been followed.

Since this came to my attention I've had several conversations with a number of people on both sides of this issue. It became obvious to me and I believe most would agree that there was a lack of understanding within the fire service as to what a department must do should a structure be used for training fire purposes.

In an effort to clarify the rules I've chosen to use this article as a means to disseminate the guidelines as published by ADEM regarding the Requirements for Residential Fire Training. A copy of the guidelines should accompany this article in the AAVFD Newsletter.



It is my hope that the information provided is helpful.

*State Fire Marshal, Scott F. Pilgreen*

LANCE R. LEFLEUR  
DIRECTOR



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KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR

### ADEM Requirements for Residential Fire Training

1. A current and thorough asbestos inspection by an Alabama accredited asbestos inspector
2. Removal of all asbestos containing material (ACM)  
\*Friable ACM must be removed by an ADEM certified asbestos removal contractor
3. Notify the Department of abatement and/or intent to demolish by burning at least 10 working days prior to the start date (ADEM Form 496)
4. Active fire training is to be performed during the fire. Disposal of ash/debris at any landfill (do not bury)

#### Helpful Links:

- <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/epa-340-1-92-013-199209.pdf>
- \*See page 2-2 for information regarding intentional burning
- <http://adem.alabama.gov/DeptForms/Form496.pdf>
- <http://alabamasafestate.ua.edu/environmental-accreditation/asbestos/index.php>
- <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title40-vol8/pdf/CFR-2011-title40-vol8-part61-subpartM.pdf>



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# Happenings Around the State

A few members of the **AAVFD Honor Guard** attended the Alabama Fire College Honor Guard class on Friday, October 5, 2018. The class was taught by Gavin Blakely, Air National Guard and Stentson Ellenburg, Birmingham Fire Department. Attendees were taught US Military Honor Guard duties, proper flag etiquette, presentation of colors for conferences and other events.



**Waugh – Mt. Meigs VFD in Montgomery County** has had an active year. However, firefighters put aside their equipment on Saturday, December 8, 2018 for an evening fellowship and dinner in recognition of their hard work. Firefighters, their immediate families and local dignitaries gathered at the annual event to honor those who serve the community. While the annual Firefighters Appreciation Night honored the entire department's volunteers, four received special recognition by their department. "It is important to recognize those who go above and beyond the call of duty in serving their community", said Alma Bowen, Board President. Co-Firefighters of the Year were bestowed to Brady Medley and Terrell Thompson. The Co-President's Award was presented to Cody Haire and Grant Purvis. Jordan Medley was the recipient of Most Improved Firefighter Award.



(L-R) Deputy Chief Mike Green, Assistant Chief Ryan Moore, Lt. Brady Medley, Firefighter Jordan Medley, Firefighter Grant Purvis, Captain Terrell Thompson, Firefighter Cody Haire and Chief Lee Stinson.



**Wicksburg VFD (Houston County)** held their annual firefighter appreciation dinner and banquet on Saturday, November 10, 2018.



Firefighter of the Year was bestowed to Clay Redding. Robert Smith was presented the Support Personnel of the Year Award and Kayce Carey was presented the EMT of the Year Award.

During the appreciation dinner, Chief Wanda Andress thanked each member for their service and dedication to the department. She said, "It takes each and every one to keep the fire department strong."



**Hatton VFD in Lawrence County** held their annual Firefighter Awards Dinner on December 8, 2018. Firefighter of the Year was bestowed to Derrick Parrish and Matthew Harville was the recipient of the Officer of the Year.

**Fulton VFD in Clarke County** held their annual Christmas event on December 8, 2018. Morris Allday was presented the Firefighter of the Year and Dakota Lott was presented the Most Improved Firefighter.



Dakota Lott (left) and Morris Allday (right)



**Crossville VFD in DeKalb County** named Kevin Duke the 2018 Crossville VFD Firefighter of the Year in November. Congratulations Kevin!

**Mt. Olive VFD in Tuscaloosa County** announced their firefighters of the year on September 13, 2018. Congratulations to firefighter Kevin Battle for being named Male Firefighter of the Year and Theresa Battle for being name Female Firefighter of the Year at Mt. Olive VFD.

**Tuscaloosa County Fire Protection Authority** held their annual Firefighter Banquet on October 20, 2018. The following were named Firefighter of the Year for their department. Brookwood VFD – Michael Sullivan; Carrrolls Creek VFD – Tyler Smith; Coaling VFD - Dakota White; Duncanville VFD – Allen Phillips; Engelwood Hulls VFD – Ben Miller; Fosters/Ralph- Robert Bowers; Hagler VFD – Arthur Smallwood & Patsy Williams; Mayfield VFD – Andrew Gregory; Montgomery VFD – Crystal Connell; Mt. Olive –Theresa Battle & Kevin Battle; Romulus VFD – Ali Driver; Samantha VFD- Blake Bull Cannon; Sipsey Valley VFD – Jeremy Robertson; Vance VFD – Donald Edge & Calab Burns; Lakeview VFD – Tyler Doyle & Johnathan Vickery.



Tuscaloosa County Female Firefighter of the Year was presented to Cindy Smith of Mt. Olive VFD and Male Firefighter of the Year was presented to Billy Doss of Duncanville VFD. The President's Award was bestowed to Belinda Lancaster of Duncanville VFD for her dedication and support to the County Association. The VFD of the Year was presented to Samantha VFD.



Jason Taylor (right) was presented the Firefighter of the Year for **Rogersville VFD in Limestone County** on December 6, 2018.

**Oakland VFD in Lauderdale County** announced the department's annual awards in December. Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Josh Gooch; Rookie of the Year was awarded to Anna Eckl and Explorer of the Year was bestowed to Austin Crider.

**Laton Hill VFD in Washington County** held their annual Christmas party on December 1, 2018. To show appreciation to the ones that go above and beyond the call of duty, two special awards were presented during the party. A plaque was presented to Assistant Chief Cody Crager for answering the most calls in 2018. He answered 32 out of 64 runs. Chief Engineer Stephen Crager was presented the award for the most training hours. He had 109 hours of training in 2018. Thank you guys for your dedication to the fire service and your community!



**Toney VFD** is celebrating 50 years of service! Toney Fire & Rescue is a 100% volunteer organization that has been serving Madison County since 1968. As volunteers, Toney VFD is committed to the same vigorous training requirements and operates under the same expectations as our counterparts in the career service. All of the active members are required to be certified in fire ground and hazardous materials operations as well as emergency medical care. Most important, though, they are dedicated to expanding and improving upon their ability to serve through additional coursework, company training, and education on the latest technologies and procedures in emergency response. Comprised of over 30 active members, the ranks are gleaned from across the occupational spectrum of the community; carpenters, doctors, plumbers, students, businessmen, and even career firefighters unite in service by protecting the people and property of their community. Congratulations on 50 years of service!

**Etowah County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments** held their annual appreciation dinner on October 18, 2018.

Rep. Robert Aderholt was the guest speaker for the evening's event.

Fire Chief Bryan Blanton of Egypt VFD was presented the Don Ayers Award.

Fire Chief Phillip McCormick of the New Union VFD was the recipient of the Alvin Goolsby EMT Award.



Pictured L to R – Jerry Jackson, President of Etowah County Association, Chief Bryan Blanton and Paul Evans, Vice President of Etowah County Association



Pictured L to R Paul Evans, Vice-President of Etowah County Association, Chief Phillip McCormick and Jerry Jackson, President of Etowah County Association

## Happenings Around the State

# Live Fire Training Evolutions Using Acquired Structures



"The ongoing training of fire fighters is the cornerstone of good fire protection in today's world. However, the benefits derived from live fire training can be negated by injuries and deaths suffered by fire fighters under unsafe and poorly supervised training conditions." (NFPA 1403, Origin and Development of NFPA 1403). The first edition of NFPA 1403 was published in 1986 and originally titled *Live Fire Training Evolutions in Structures* and has gone through several revisions including the incorporating NFPA 1406 *Outside Live Fire Training Evolutions* in 1997 into one document that is today's NFPA 1403.

This article is going to elaborate on one component of NFPA 1403, **Chapter 5 Acquired Structures**. The discussion is not an argument for or against the use of acquired structures in live fire training evolutions, but to list a few points of interest when considering using such training methods, specifically asbestos regulation. The other chapters and annexes of 1403 should be referenced along with local jurisdiction SOP/SOG's to ensure training objectives are met in a safe manner.

Fire Chiefs and Training Officers throughout Alabama routinely receive calls from individuals, in their jurisdictions, wanting to donate structures for their departments to use in live fire training. Many departments have used donated structures to train new fire fighters and to allow seasoned firefighters to polish skills. In most instances these training events are uneventful and objectives are met in a timely and proficient manner.

NFPA 1403 Chapter 5 starts with "Any acquired structure that is considered for a structural fire training exercise shall be prepared for the live fire training evolution" (Structures and Facilities, 5.1.1). Preparation includes determining ownership, clear title, written permission to train within the structure, and a long list of other documentation. There is one requirement that has always been a bit of a mystery to many in the fire service throughout Alabama, asbestos removal and documentation.

Debris removal from an acquired structure before and after live fire training often is a shared liability between the property owner and the department using the acquired structure. Regulations regarding debris disposal is governed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), but asbestos is an exception because of federal and state regulations. The Alabama

Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) administers all major federal environmental laws, including asbestos inspections and abatement. ADEM understands the need and/or desire by fire departments to use a structure, such as an old residential property, to train firefighters. But ADEM has to weigh the fire service needs against the environmental hazards to the public such as the risks associated with exposure to asbestos.

The ADEM list of requirements for live fire training in residential structures are listed on page 8.

A current and thorough asbestos inspection by an Alabama Accredited Asbestos Inspector must be completed. The inspector must be certified through Alabama Safe State (a link to their website is listed on page 8).

All asbestos containing material (ACM) must be removed. Firable ACM must be removed by an ADEM certified asbestos removal contractor (Friable is ACM is that can be reduced to powder by hand).

ADEM Form 496 must be completed and received by ADEM at least 10 days prior to asbestos abatement and beginning training fire.

The burning of the structure must be used for live fire training.

Disposal of the remaining debris/ash shall be at a landfill and not buried.

Live fire training using an acquired structure can be a useful training aid. Many factors must be considered when conducting live fire training evolutions including cost. The cost required to make a structure safe for training may be cost prohibitive and thus require alternatives to training in acquired structures.

A number of links that should be useful in obtaining definitive information about the possibility of asbestos in an acquired structure are listed on page 8 of this newsletter.



**Arthur Willis**  
**Section Chief**  
**Alabama Fire College**



## Are You Looking for a Way to Give Back? Join the AAVFD Auxiliary

Whether you donate money or time, giving back is beneficial. Finding time to volunteer can be difficult; however, it allows you to have a positive impact on your community, learn new skills and meet new friends. We welcome you to join us and be a part of a great group of individuals working to make a difference in the volunteer fire departments and the AAVFD. Our meetings are held in conjunction with the board meetings and the annual conference.

The auxiliary is looking for additional ways to support and enhance the AAVFD. For the past two years, we have sponsored the Sportsmanship Award which is part of the firefighter competition and we will continue to sponsor this award. In 2019, the individuals selected as the AAVFD Firefighter of the Year and the Sherry Garner Memorial Award will each receive \$100.00 from the auxiliary. Recipients will also continue to receive the plaques as in the past. We encourage volunteer fire department members, fire chiefs, and assistant fire chiefs to nominate someone from your department. Please remember nominations must be signed off by two individuals who are either the fire chief, assistant fire chief or a member of the board of directors.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual conference in Conecuh County July 19 – 20, 2019.

Thank you for supporting the AAVFD Auxiliary!



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# NFPA Standard on PPE Cleaning

Fire Rescue by Jeff and Grace Stull

We have written extensively about PPE contamination issues facing the fire service, trying to create awareness for how the contamination occurs. We've shared basic practices that should be undertaken to minimize contaminate transfer to the firefighter, to other clothing, apparatus, the station and to others.

A key theme we've followed has been to recognize that turnout clothing exposed to a structural fire is contaminated and not just soiled. By making this admission, the frequency for applying advanced cleaning practices increases in frequency.

According to the current edition of [NFPA 1851: Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting](#), turnout clothing advanced cleaning should take place at least every 12 months. However, the standard further states that turnout clothing should be subjected to advanced cleaning when soiled.

Advanced cleaning means taking the gear out of service and performing a thorough cleaning of the item (which, for garments and certain other elements, means laundering them).

"Soiling" has been defined as having accumulated materials that are not considered hazardous materials or body fluids, but of the nature that could degrade the performance of the clothing. In contrast, "contamination" is defined as containing hazardous materials or body fluids. Yet, the trigger for performing advanced cleaning is ordinary soiling, which by definition, is not hazardous. Needless to say, this information was not particularly helpful for fire departments to decide when they should perform advanced cleaning.

The technical committee responsible for NFPA 1851 has endeavored to propose changes that help the fire service make a clearer distinction for judging contamination and specifically the need for advanced cleaning. A key part of this process has been to go back to the definitions. Most of the fire service considers soiling a natural outcome of fighting a fire. When they consider contamination, they think of the HazMat team and the types of products faced during specialized responses. This is not the correct way for judging clothing that has been worn in a potentially hazardous environment.

## NEW DISTINCTIONS FOR CONTAMINATION

"Products of combustion" is a new important definition for the proposed new revision of NFPA 1851. We know that products of combustion arise from fires and most of the particles and chemicals created in the combustion process can be dangerous to breathe, particularly when synthetic materials are involved as the fuels. What many people do not know is that some of those same products are not only respiratory hazards, but also hazardous by skin absorption, which can occur when the chemicals are both persistent and skin contact is maintained over extended periods of time. Products of combustion from fires include a variety of toxic, corrosive and carcinogenic chemicals. Thus, products of combustion – soot and fire gases – are genuinely contamination.

By incorporating products of combustion into the definition of contamination, this means that entry into any structural fire can be considered an event that warrants advanced cleaning. A recommended rule of thumb is that individual members that have to wear self-contained breathing apparatus by virtue of entering an immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environment have clothing that is contaminated (a more straightforward determination that contamination has occurred). If contaminated with products of combustion, then advanced cleaning should be undertaken.



## **PPE ADVANCED CLEANING VS. DECONTAMINATION**

Another point of confusion when it comes to terminology is understanding the difference between advanced cleaning and decontamination in protective clothing and equipment:

- Cleaning is the act of removing both soiling and contamination.
- Decontamination is the act of removing or neutralizing contamination.

These definitions are similar. However, it is now proposed that advanced cleaning be defined as the act of removing both soiling and contamination that is generally associated with products of combustion (i.e., structural firefighting). On the other hand, decontamination is applicable to wider range of contaminants.

Other forms of contamination may be more easily recognized:

- Structural gear used in a hazardous materials incident where potential contact with toxic or harmful chemicals occurs.
- Clothing exposed to blood, body fluids or flood water, often contaminated with potentially infectious microorganisms.
- Encountering specific bulk chemicals during a structural fire response.
- Learning after a response that the structure contained asbestos.

Other than blood and body fluids, which warrant additional procedures to address the microbial contamination (a process called sanitization), it is recognized that the clothing should be taken out of service and require "specialized cleaning," essentially another form of decontamination.

However, sometimes the question is not whether cleaning should be applied but whether the clothing can be adequately cleaned at all. Qualified individuals must judge if suitable cleaning methods exist or to condemn the gear. Access to these qualified individuals will vary for the department but could include the hazardous materials team, a verified independent service provider for cleaning services or other industry experts who are familiar with the types of contamination involved.

## **HOW DOES SOILING RELATE TO ADVANCED CLEANING?**

As it stands now, soiled firefighting clothing necessitates advanced cleaning. There has been no proposal to change the definition of soiling. So, if clothing is just soiled, why should it be subjected to advanced cleaning?

To overcome this issue, it is important to realize that soiling, likely to be regular sweat, body oils and just plain dirt, does have an impact on the performance of the gear. Yet, to get around this problem, if the clothing is simply soiled, the committee now recommends that advanced cleaning be applied as needed. This approach gives the department the opportunity to assess whether clothing could be compromised or is unsafe simply because it is too dirty.

This latitude to apply advanced cleaning for soiling should not be seen as a way out from having clothing properly cleaned. PPE used in structural fires should still be subject to advanced cleaning.

## **CHALLENGES TO PPE ADVANCED CLEANING**

We still don't have all of the evidence to make direct connections between contamination of PPE and its impact on firefighter health. We do know that turnout clothing becomes regularly contaminated with hazardous substances, including carcinogens, and that some of these contaminants are relatively persistent in the clothing and can transfer to the firefighter. We further recognize that advanced cleaning will help to remove much of the contamination but also poses challenges: 1- Taking clothing out of service to clean presents logistical issues. 2 -Frequent cleaning itself could lead to earlier degradation of turnout clothing.

The fire service is at the crossroads of a transformation when it comes to contamination control. Regular advanced cleaning is just one part of that transformation.

Continued from front page

Heart disease, of course, has long been recognized as a significant factor in firefighter on-duty deaths, as sudden cardiac death consistently accounts for approximately half of the on-duty fatalities. Several NFPA standards focus on health risks to firefighters. NFPA 1582, Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, outlines for fire departments the medical requirements that must be met by candidate firefighters and incumbent fire department members. NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program, calls for fire departments to establish a firefighter health and fitness program that meets NFPA 1583, Health-Related Fitness Programs for Fire Department Members, and requires that firefighters meet the medical requirements of NFPA 1582. Information on developing a wellness-fitness program is available from other organizations, including the NVFC's Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, launched in 2003 to address heart attack prevention for firefighters and EMS personnel through fitness, nutrition, and health awareness; and the Fire Service Joint Labor-Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative, a cooperative effort by the IAFF and the International Association of Fire Chiefs that's available at online.

Information Source NVFC

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# THE BELL TOLLED

**Richard Gwen Brooks**, age 64, passed away on December 9, 2018. Brooks was a member of Ohatchee VFD in Calhoun County. He was a long-time member of the Ohatchee VFD and was an asset to the department in many ways. Brooks passed away after a brief illness and will be missed by all.

**Robert Charles Green, Sr.**, age 85 passed away on December 6, 2018. Green was a member of Hatton VFD in Lawrence County. Robert "Bob" Green was a charter member of the Hatton VFD. He was the second Fire Chief of the department and also served on the board of directors. Green was a very instrumental part and leader of the Hatton VFD for many years.

**Elijah Knox** passed away on November 25, 2018. He was a retired chief of the Akron VFD in Hale County. He was the first Africa-American fire chief of Akron, the first African American mayor of Akron and county commissioner for Hale County District 2. He was a great asset to the community and will be solely missed.

**O.C. Knight** passed away on May 1, 2018. He was a retired Fire Chief at Corinth VFD in Randolph County where he served for 38 years.

**Robby Segrest** passed away on November 24, 2018 at his home. Segrest was a member of Franklin VFD in Macon County. He had been fighting an illness for several months. Segrest had twenty-eight years of dedication and service to the fire department.

**Curtis Harrison** passed away July 24, 2018. He was a member of the Spring Valley VFD in Colbert County.

**Donnie Lee Kent**, age 49, passed away on November 23, 2018. Kent was a long-time member of the Lacey Springs VFD in Morgan County and served as Captain.

**Hollis Wilson**, age 85, passed away on November 23, 2018. He suffered from ALS for the past five years. Wilson was a member of Blue Springs VFD in Franklin County. He was a charter member of the Blue Springs VFD and was instrumental in the formation of the fire department. Wilson was a dedicated member of the department and will be missed.

**William O. Smith** passed away on November 14, 2018 after suffering a head injury in a fall. He served the Dandy Ridge VFD in Lowndes County for more than 38 years and was Chief since 2002.

**Billy Houston Loden** passed away on October 5, 2018. He was a member of Hamilton VFD in Marion County. Loden served the department for fifty-three years!

**Chief Larry Keenum** passed away on October 5, 2018. He was a member of South Limestone VFD in Limestone County,

**Anthony Smith** passed away on October 1, 2018. He was a captain and served more than 40 years at Hatton VFD in Lawrence County.

**Timmy Deloach** passed away on September 12, 2018. Deloach served as assistant fire chief with Goodman VFD in Coffee County.

**Charles Wayne Nelson** passed away September 9, 2018. He was a member of the Flint VFD in Morgan County.

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 the day or night: Mike W. Green (334) 309-5026, Derrick Gatlin (256) 998-0043, Dan Hopkins (256) 225-7230 or Honor Guard Commander Daniel Day (251) 267-2527. A copy of the booklet "Death In The Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or at [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org).

About the Volunteer: *The Volunteer* is issued three times a year in January, May and September. Articles, information and advertisements for the newsletter must be submitted to the AAVFD office no later than the fifteenth of the month before publication. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections and font.

Other AAVFD Info: All membership information, insurance information, changes of addresses and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery Office.

## AAVFD Officers:

President: Mike W. Green

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Derrick Gatlin

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Dan Hopkins

3<sup>rd</sup> VP: Joey Moffett

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