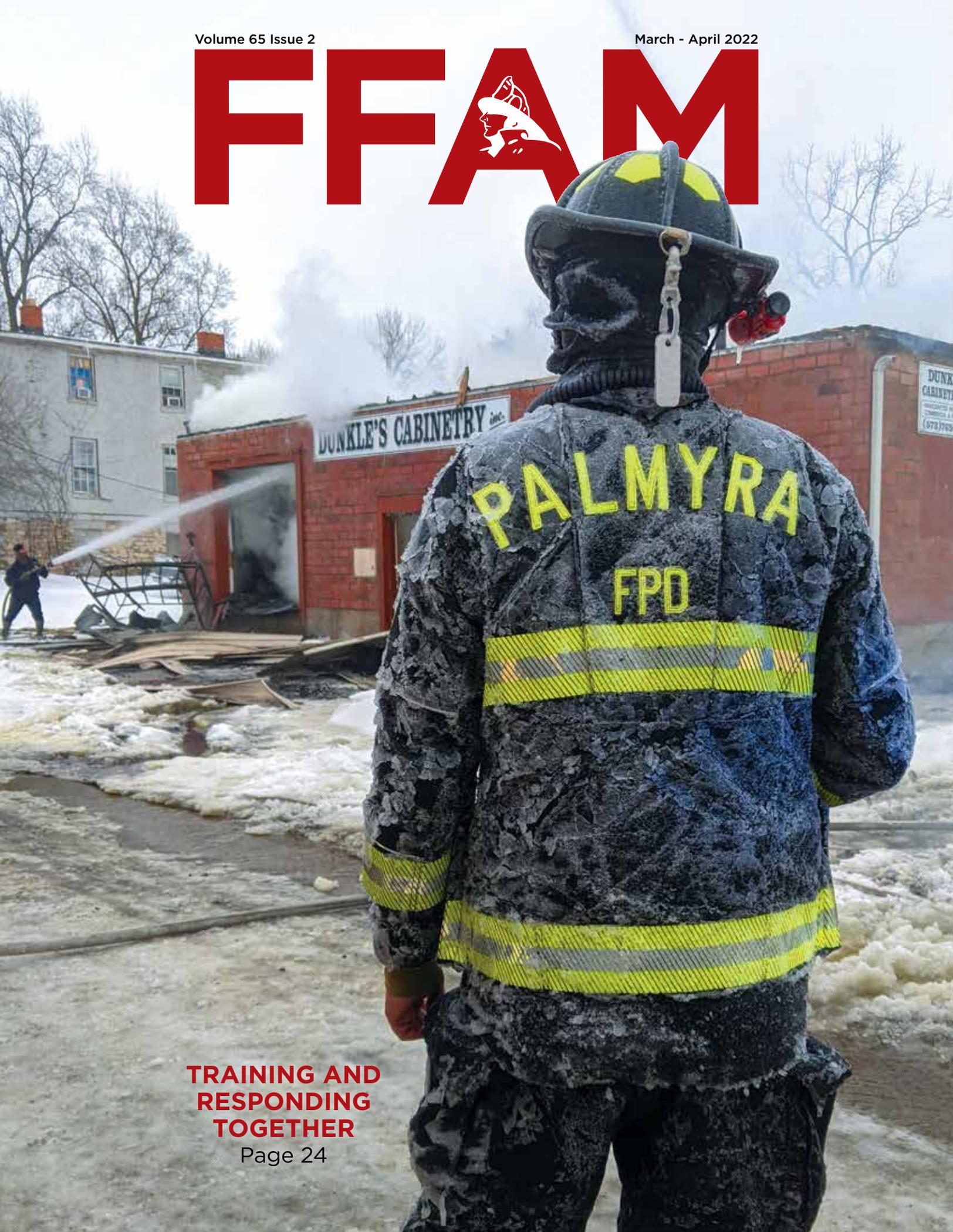


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Page 24

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## Intern Program | 14 by Mid-County FPD



## Awards Banquet | 16 by Western Taney County FD



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**FFAM BOARD MEETING:** 9:00 a.m., May 8 • Washington, MO

# Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



## ABOUT THE COVER

Commercial structure fire at Dunkle's Cabinetry. See page 24.  
Image by Palmyra Fire Protection District.

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### CONTENT

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### SUBMIT ADDRESS CORRECTIONS TO:

FFAM  
PO Box 1153  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

**FFAM.ORG**





# President's Remarks

A Busy Spring Planned



Larry Jennings

It is good to see that spring is arriving and bringing new opportunities to get outside without being bundled up. Now we can get started on those outside chores that may have been neglected around the house or the fire station.

I had the opportunity to spend some time recently at the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute's Winter Fire School to visit with attendees from across our great state. I hope you also had the opportunity to attend either the equipment exposition or some of the classes and continued to pursue improving your skills and the services we provide to our communities. The inclement weather that visited just before the kick-off certainly affected the event. Several vendors either were not able to attend or had an abbreviated booth. This is always an excellent event to attend and do some quality networking. If you missed this year, pencil it in for next year.

In case you didn't get the opportunity to stop by for a visit at the FFAM vendor booth, I think it is important to note that Secretary Miller was on site for the duration of the expo spreading the news about FFAM. Due in part to weather and other commitments, the assistants that had offered to share time at the booth were limited in number, but she recruited (assigned) Chief Miller from JCFPD #2 to be her right hand during the event, and he did an outstanding job helping her out. Thank you Chief Miller for always being "willing" to man the booth and help out the FFAM when needed.

April 5th at noon is the annual Fire Fighter's Day at the Capitol. It is an excellent opportunity for members of the fire service from all corners of our state to meet and take time to visit with the various legislators who will be there. This is a face-to-face format opportunity to make sure those folks understand the needs of the fire service and how their work often affects what we do in the field. Also on that day, the Missouri Division of Fire Safety will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Missouri State Fire Marshal's office. Current and former employees of the Division should be on hand to celebrate the occasion, and this would be a great time to visit with those you may not have seen in years.

May is shaping up to be busy for our membership for two very good reasons. The FFAM convention is slated for May 6-8 in Washington and will include the annual meeting. There are classes planned along with vendor displays and of course, the always anticipated firefighter challenge contests. Networking events are planned for Friday and Saturday night, so it looks like it will be a weekend packed with opportunities and fellowship. You can find more information on the FFAM website.

The second event in May is the annual Fire Fighter's Candlelight and Memorial Services. These are scheduled for May 14 and 15 respectively in Kingdom City. Please plan to join us there to honor those of the Missouri Fire service that have passed away. The Memorial Foundation is always willing to accept assistance for various aspects of this event. If you have some extra time leading up to that weekend or want to be involved during the weekend, please contact a foundation member.

The last event I will highlight for this edition is the Missouri State Fair. Slated to take place August 11-21, the fair will continue to rebuild the in-person, full-scale event that was sidelined during the height of the COVID spread. The FFAM is scheduled to once again assemble the Missouri State Fair Fire Department and serve during the duration of the fair. No matter if you have served in the past or not, I encourage you to go to our website and fill out and submit the application before the due date of June 1.

As we move further into this year, take the extra time to serve your community in the safest way possible. Remember to seek out and take part in training at every opportunity. There are numerous training events or options available throughout the state, some at no charge and some for a fee, but you have to take the initiative to participate. We all can learn daily, and no matter how long you have been in this industry, there is always something to learn and help us function better.

Be supportive of your fellow personnel and those belonging to the surrounding departments. Let's continue to show all those watching us that we are truly a "family" as we often state publicly. If any of the Board of Directors or I can be of any assistance please make sure you contact us. Be Safe!

## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICES

### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:

Saturday, May 14, 2022 • 9:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY SERVICE:

Sunday, May 15, 2022 • 10:30 a.m.

Kingdom City, Missouri

# Fire Marshal's Update

Themes for March... Dr. Seuss's birthday, Read Across American Day, Easter, spring begins, St. Patrick's Day, caterpillars, butterflies, and ladybugs start showing up, but one of the most important themes is Women's History Month. I thank all the women of the Missouri Fire Service! We have approximately 1,200 women throughout the Missouri fire service, and I am proud of each of them. Their ranks include fire chiefs, assistant chiefs, company officers, safety officers, training officers, and standard firefighters. I am excited as I crisscross our state and meet our female firefighters. We have some outstanding opportunities coming down the road.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the #1 woman in my life, my mother Juanita Ruth Bean, the woman among women! The woman who stayed in love with my dad for 68 years, raised five of us kids, worked every day for over twenty years as a cook. Mom would get up and be gone by 7:00 a.m., return home and have supper ready. Then she washed, cleaned, and helped with homework and other duties as assigned. She is and has always been a Godly woman, loving, encouraging, caring, listening, supporting, and appreciating others. I feel, if you look in the dictionary under women, my mother's name will be there. Thank you mom for being a good woman for 87 years. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers, she has Alzheimer's and can't function like she once did, but she still can recognize her family and say, "I love you," and that is worth all the money in the world. I love you Mom!

I would also like to take the time and acknowledge three more women. Soon they will be exiting the thirteenth floor after a combined 85 years of service to the state and the Division of Fire Safety. Fiscal and Administrative Manager Sherry Hoelscher, Personnel Analyst Donna Moore and Deputy Chief of Training and Certification Becky Trapani. These three women have built their legacy across the Missouri fire service with their characteristics of caring, dedication, commitment, kindness, knowledge, sweetness, joy, hardworking, understanding, skilled, forgiving, humble, long-suffering, loyalty, and intelligence. Sherry and Donna began their employment the same year and are now ending their careers simultaneously. They have witnessed a multitude of changes over their careers. Things like new firefighter laws enacted, division programs added, good and

lean budget years, six different fire marshal office locations, six state fire marshals and numerous other items. Sherry and Donna have both demonstrated an outstanding work ethic over each of their 32 years of service. Their fingerprints will be on the Division of Fire Safety for many years to come.

Becky's reputation and work ethic throughout her 20 years of service in the training and certification division have been top shelf. Becky has a friendly attitude and a willingness to listen. She keeps an open mind and will try to find solutions to every situation. After becoming deputy chief in 2017, she has been extremely busy. On her watch, her team has been able to get reaccredited with IFSAC/PRO-BOARD for another five years. They have maintained 27 levels of state certifications, been awarded five AFG grants, and implemented a new record/learning management system and computer-based testing for all of our firefighters, just to name a few of her accomplishments. I, along with the Division of Fire Safety family will miss these ladies on the thirteenth floor. These three ladies truly represent why we celebrate Women's History Month! Good



Tim Bean



luck, and I wish you each a blessed and healthy retirement. We will be celebrating their retirement on March 31st at 1:00 p.m. Anyone that would like to join us you are welcome to attend.

In closing, everyone is invited to attend the 2022 Firefighters Day at the Capitol. On Tuesday, April 5th, we will begin the day with a legislative update beginning at 10:00 a.m. Then move to the Capitol rotunda to begin the 50th-anniversary ceremony. We ask any color guards, pipes/drums to come and participate in the ceremony. Previous state fire marshals and other fire safety members will be in attendance. Make history with us! It is an honor to serve as your State Fire Marshal. On February 13th, I begin my fifth year and look forward to serving alongside each of you. May God continue to protect and keep you.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Missouri Division of Fire Safety

### START THE CELEBRATION!

Annual Fire Fighters' Day at the Capitol • April 5, 2022

#### REQUEST FOR HONOR GUARDS

All available fire department honor guard units are invited to participate in the noon ceremony.

#### TO PARTICIPATE CONTACT

Eric.Hartman@dfs.dps.mo.gov  
Eric Hartman

Thank you!



President Larry Jennings called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, February 13, 2022, at the Missouri State Fair Fire Department in Sedalia, MO. The meeting began with the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

## ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

*\*(V) denotes Virtual Attendance*

### OFFICERS

President Larry Jennings, Johnson County FPD; First Vice President Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; Second Vice President Grant Oetting, Higginsville FPD; Secretary-Treasurer Jaime Miller, Johnson County FPD #2.

### DIRECTORS

District 1, Terry Wynne, Galt FPD; District 2, Greg Wright, Shelbina FD; District 3, Larry Jones, Madison West Monroe FPD; District 4, Joe Vaughn (V), Pleasant Hill FPD; District 5, Terry Plumb, Southern Stone FPD; District 6, Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; District 7, RB Brown, Union FPD; District 9, Kurt Wilbanks (V), West Plains FD; District 10, Greg Brown, Eureka FPD; District 11, Billy Smith, North Central Carroll Co FPD; District 12, Rob Francis (V), Fruitland Area FPD; District 14, Rick Dozier, Southern FPD of Holt County.

### ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

District 1, Janet Cain, Shoal Creek FPD; District 3, Josh Loyd, Martinsburg Area FPD; District 3, Charlie Peel, Southeastern Randolph FPD; District 4, Jonathan Evans, Lincoln FD; District 6, Alan Braun, Cole County FPD; District 6, John Scheper, Gravois FPD; District 7, Andrew Caldwell, Boles FPD; District 10, Harriett Vaucher, Eureka FPD; District 11, Kris White, Mayview FPD; District 11, Josh Koepke (V), Kansas City FD; District 14, Glen Dittmar, Dearborn Area FPD. District 14, Emily Sweet, Gower FPD.

### OTHERS

Past President Ken Hoover, Little Dixie Fire Protection District.

### GUESTS

Tim Bean, Eric Hartman, Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Gail Hagans, David Hedrick

(V), University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute; Larry Eggen, Ben Burd, Joe Jennings, Johnson County FPD; Keith Smith, Warrenton FPD; Chase Greeninges, Eureka FPD; Ed Daugherty, Chillicothe FD; Holden Peel, Northeast R-4 FPD; Brian Zinanni, Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team; Matt Frankenberg (V), Washington FD.

### AGENDA

President Jennings asked for additions to the agenda. Gary Berendzen moved to accept the agenda as presented. Grant Oetting seconded the motion and all approved.

### MINUTES

President Jennings asked for corrections to the December 5, 2021, meeting minutes. Rick Dozier moved to accept the minutes as presented. Billy Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

President Jennings asked for a review of the November - December 2021 financial report. RB Brown moved to accept the financial report presented. Gary Berendzen seconded the motion and all approved.

### REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S):

Gail Hagans with the University of Missouri Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute reported Winter Fire School was held last weekend. Approximately 1,000 people attended. The expo had 87 vendors with 22 no-shows. There was good attendance at the expo as well. MU FRTI will be out of the office this week due to carpet installation.

State Fire Marshal Tim Bean with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety reported that the DFS is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. There will be a celebration on April 5, 2022, during Firefighters' Day at the Capitol at 12:00 pm at the Missouri State Capitol. DFS will be moving to the MODOT building west of the Capitol in November. Their current location will be undergoing renovation for a couple of years.

There will be some upcoming personnel changes soon. Administrative Manager Sherry Hoelscher, HR Generalist Donna Moore and Deputy Chief Rebecca Trapani will all be retiring in March. Scott

Stoneberger is the new Deputy Chief of Investigations. There are two investigator vacancies in Troop C and one in Troop I so response times may be a little longer.

Eric Hartman reported that fire department registration began December 1, 2021. There are only six departments in the state that haven't registered. He is still reaching out to volunteer fire departments and associations to apply for the \$2k workers' compensation grant funding. Participation has been low so far so all departments that qualify are encouraged to apply. Contact the Division for more information. Since October 1, approximately 20 applications have been approved.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing reported.

### OLD BUSINESS

Charlie Peel reported that the 1929 engine is now being housed in the new enclosed trailer.

He is working with Gail Hagans on a design for the trailer. There is some mechanical work to be done to the engine and he has lined up a new mechanic who is willing to help.

### NEW BUSINESS

President Jennings advised that Larry Jones has resigned as the Chairman of the Convention Committee but would like to remain on the committee. He is recommending Josh Loyd be appointed to the committee as the new chairman. Rob Erdel moved to appoint Josh Loyd as Chairman of the Convention Committee. Greg Brown seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised he is recommending the appointment of RB Brown as Chairman of the State Fair Committee. Rick Dozier moved to appoint RB Brown as Chairman of the State Fair Committee.

Terry Wynne seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that RB Brown will be removed as Chairman of the Prevention Committee. He is recommending Andrew Caldwell be appointed to the committee as the new chairman.

Gary Berendzen moved to appoint Andrew Caldwell as Chairman of the Convention Committee. Terry Wynne seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that a suggestion has been made to move the board meeting time to 10:00 am instead of 9:00 am to allow those who travel a long distance or those who are getting off shift ample time to get to the meeting. Discussion followed. Greg Wright moved that starting at the June 2022 meeting, the meeting time be moved to 10:00 am for the remainder of the meetings in 2022 with a review at the December meeting. Greg Brown seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings opened discussion on the Association's need for occasional legal counsel to consult with over various issues. He has reached out to an attorney that he has direct knowledge of, and that attorney has agreed to represent FFAM at an hourly rate and would not require a retainer.

Suggestions were made on another attorney who has also expressed interest in representing FFAM. Greg Brown moved to authorize the Executive Committee to find, interview and enter into an agreement with an attorney to represent FFAM. Rick Dozier seconded the motion and all approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### AWARDS COMMITTEE

Joe Jennings reported that the deadline for awards submissions is February 28. Three submissions have been received so far.

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

Discussion was held on year-end unspent budgeted funds. Rick Dozier moved to transfer the year-end unspent budgeted funds into the reserve account and that a report be given every February by the Treasurer on the dollar amount to be transferred. Terry Plumb seconded the motion and all approved.

### BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report given.

### CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

David Hedrick reported that due to weather conditions the MFCC winter training event



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scheduled for February 2-3, 2022 was postponed and will be rescheduled for some time in the spring.

The Missouri Fire Chaplains Corps has set the dates for their fall training meeting and training session. The fall training will be conducted September 12-13, 2022, in Arnold, MO. Additional Information is available by contacting MFCC Secretary/Treasurer Ed Hatcher at edhat@earthlink.net.

The Federation of Fire Chaplains national conference is scheduled for Oct. 15-20, 2022, in Atlanta, GA. More information is available at: ffc.wildapricot.org.

### CONTEST COMMITTEE

Gary Berendzen reported that he is asking for the Directors and Assistant Directors help with the contest on Saturday and set-up on Friday. If you would like to help, let him know. Any contest teams that register before April 1 will receive a free t-shirt from Washington FD.

### CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Matt Frankenberg reported that registration is open. There are several training opportunities on Friday. The vendor expo will begin

Friday at 5:00 p.m. There will be a mixer with snacks Friday night. Saturday will include the contest, vendor expo, parade, ladies event and banquet.

Larry Jones reported that there is still no host department for 2023 so if any department has an interest, please let the committee know.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Gail Hagans reported that none of the five departments that were awarded the Winter Fire School Scholarship opted to accept. The committee made the decision to offer a Summer Fire School Scholarship. Any individual interested in that scholarship must apply.

### FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

RB Brown reported that the posters are due on Friday, before the start of the convention and can be turned in to the Auxiliary. The theme is *Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety*. The rules can be found on the FFAM website.

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Brown reported that April 5, 2022, is Firefighters' Day at the Capitol. Please make plans to attend.

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A department must be registered with the state to apply for grants.

Eligible departments are encouraged to apply for the worker's compensation grant so the funding will remain in place.

The Senate is still working on redistricting so they are optimistic that the budget will get done. The House has passed some bills cleaning up EMS language and financial auditing. A personal property tax removal has been proposed.

The Public Safety Committee passed a bill eliminating firefighter residency requirements in the state.

HB 2381 establishes telecommunicators as first responders are moving forward.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Grant Oetting reported the following membership counts: 418 Directors/Councilman; 315 Retired; 9 Associate; 8 Sustaining; 17 Corporate, 292 Fire Departments; 4919 Active; 1 Educational Entity; 4 Educational Active; 102 Juniors; 7 EMS Department, 99 EMS individuals; 0 911 Entity; 0 911 individuals.

There are also several conferences in 2022 that FFAM plans to attend.

Tim Bean reported that the Division of Fire Safety will be providing lunch for the firefighters that attend Firefighters' Day at the Capitol. Funding for this is done through sponsorships. He asked if FFAM would sponsor the lunch along with MO

Chiefs and the Fire Marshals Association. Discussion followed. Terry Wynne moved to provide a \$1,000 sponsorship to the Division of Fire Safety for lunch for Firefighters' Day at the Capitol. Greg Brown seconded the motion and all approved.

## **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Ken Hoover reported the following positions are up for election at the 2022 annual meeting and the individuals who have filed for the positions.

1st Vice Present (remainder of the unexpired term to 2023): Rob Erdel and Charlie Peel  
District 2 Director: Greg Wright  
District 6 Director: Gary Berendzen  
District 8 Director: Open  
District 12 Director: Rob Francis

## **NVFC COMMITTEE**

Keith Smith reported that the NVFC spring meeting is April 7-8.

The NVFC advocacy has been involved the last two weeks with a complaint in Missouri involving bullying. This matter is still ongoing.

NVFC is still actively looking for sponsorships and grants and has recently received more than \$50k in grants.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Larry Eggen reported the deadline to apply for scholarships is February 28. Only one scholarship application has been received.

## **STATE FAIR COMMITTEE**

RB Brown reported that the fair will be

August 11 – 22. Applications are online and are due by June 1. They are addressing the female bathroom issue.

This will be the 60th anniversary of the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department. Larry Eggen reported on a 60 for \$60 fundraiser sponsored by the MSFVFD. They are asking current and former state fair fire members to donate \$60. Funds will be donated to the museum.

Charlie Peel advised that the State Fair BBQ team has been approached about cooking during the memorial and the 2023 Revolutionary Fire Tactics at the Lake. More information to follow.

## **WEBSITE COMMITTEE**

Jaime Miller reported that the new website is up. If you see any issues or updates that need to be made, let her know.

## **MAGAZINE**

Jaime Miller reported that the next magazine deadline will be February 25.

## **HISTORIAN REPORT**

No report was given.

## **FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT**

Brian Zinanni reported that in 2021, the team assisted with 10 LODD in Missouri, 8 LODD in other states/disciplines and 36 non-LODD. So far in 2022, the team has assisted with 5 LODD and 3 non-LODD. If you aren't sure about LODD covid related deaths, reach out to him.

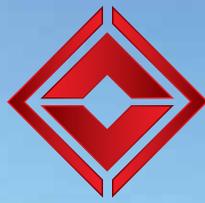
## **EMS FUNERAL TEAM REPORT**

Greg Wright reported they have had one call out since the last meeting. The annual conference is scheduled for October 14-16, 2022, at the lake and they will also be having a national honor guard academy.

## **FOUNDATION REPORT**

Keith Smith reported that they will have a foundation meeting today. The 2022 memorial service will be from May 14-15. They are looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the service so if you are available, let him know. WSKF Architects had passed a memorandum of understanding, so they are moving forward. The Foundation is holding a beef raffle fundraiser. Contact a Foundation board member if you wish to buy a ticket.

President Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.



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By John Wilke, Boone County Fire District and Mark A. Woodward, Missouri Employers Mutual

At 6:00 p.m. each night, fire pagers and smartphone dispatch apps come alive across Missouri. From McDonald County to Clark County pagers are activated by dispatch to check the notification system.

Could nightly pager tests be an opportunity to improve firefighter safety awareness? As part of routine pager tests, could quick “just in time” safety messages be added to a dispatcher’s script - and recited to firefighters each night?

For years the Columbia Fire Department has performed daily radio checks with on-duty crews. During this procedure a statement is recited by the dispatcher: “All personnel are to use caution while operating fire department apparatus and equipment.” Each day all on-duty CFD personnel hear this quick but important message.

What a great way to get safety messages to firefighters!

Can your department and dispatch center work together to start a similar practice?

Could this concept ALSO be expanded to law enforcement and ambulance districts?

For example, could scheduled or random alert tones with safety messages be transmitted to on-duty law enforcement officers in your area?

Add a safety message to the dispatcher’s nightly pager test script. For example:

- This is the nightly pager test for the \_\_\_\_\_ fire department. The fire chief expects all firefighters to respond safely. All firefighters must use seat belts when responding in fire apparatus or personally owned vehicles... This is the nightly pager test for the \_\_\_\_\_ volunteer fire department. Nightly Safety Alert: Weather will deteriorate overnight. If dispatched, please drive and operate on emergency scenes safely.
- This is the nightly pager test for the \_\_\_\_\_ fire district. The fire chief and officers want you to stay safe. Use personal protective equipment on all fire, rescue, and emergency medical responses...

- On highway scenes, be prepared for secondary crashes. Park apparatus properly and use blocking techniques.
- Check your personal protective equipment for readiness and function. Report any problems to your officer.
- Temperatures will be excessive this week. Stay hydrated, take breaks, and keep drinking water handy.

Expanding the use of smartphone apps is a great way to send safety messages. If your fire department uses smartphone apps in addition to traditional pagers, authorize a member to send regular safety messages to all members.

Diversify the message - change it often. Customize the message. Be sincere with your safety alerts. There are 365 opportunities per year to share a new safety message!

- “This message is from the fire chief...”
- “The board of directors and fire district officers care about your safety...”
- “Do your part to keep each other safe...”
- “Firefighter safety is a top priority at our fire department. To stay safe on emergency calls do the following...”

Create scripts that address:

- Weather changes, incoming bad weather, extreme heat or cold, or dangerous winds or storms
- Deteriorating road conditions, to include excessive rain, flooding, or accumulating ice and snow
- Response area safety concerns, like power outages, water line problems, low-water crossings
- Safe driving messages for apparatus, ambulances, and personally owned vehicles
- Safe responses during community events like fairs and parades
- When equipment, building, or trucks change, or when there are specific response instructions
- Utilizing personal protective equipment at all fire, rescue, or emergency medical scenes

Contact the authors any time to discuss this process or message ideas. We’d be happy to help! It’ll take some work to coordinate, but the result is **reduced incident risk** through improved **firefighter safety awareness**. Let’s use all communication tools at our disposal to share “just in time” safety messages!

THIS IS THE NIGHTLY PAGER TEST. FIREFIGHTER SAFETY IS A TOP CONCERN. PLEASE RESPOND TO CALLS SAFELY AND WEAR YOUR SEATBELT.



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## Fire Marshals Association of Missouri: Saving Lives and Protecting Property



The mission of the Fire Marshals Association of Missouri is simple, to improve the quality of life in our great state.

Join us at our next meeting at 10:00 a.m., March 16, 2022, at the MO Division of Fire Safety office in Jefferson City. Our membership comes from every corner of Missouri and beyond. If you wish to know more or would like to join the organization, visit our website at:

[missourifiremarshals.org](http://missourifiremarshals.org)

Meeting called to order by President Jessica Weisz at 9:00 a.m.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jessica Weisz, Norborne FPD; Diane Wynne, Galt FPD; Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD; Joni Fields, Paris FPD; Missy Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; Bailey Burd, Johnson County FPD; (via zoom is Christine Loyd, Little Dixie; Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD, Carissa Thompson, Holt Summit FPD).

### MINUTES

Jessica asked if everyone had a chance to review the December 5th, meeting minutes and if there were any corrections, additions, or discussions about them? Missy made a motion to accept the December minutes, Diane seconded, motion passed

### FINANCIAL

Theresa reported our income this month was from membership dues coming in for the last two months. There have been no expenses since the last meeting. Jessica asked Diane who will be auditing the books on Friday night at Convention. Sheri offered to assist Diane. Sheri made a motion to accept the financial report, a second was made by Carissa, motion passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### MEMBERSHIP

Sheri reported we have 73 members. It was suggested she contact the departments which usually participate in the games at the convention to ensure they get their membership paid before the convention. She is still waiting on Mayview to send her the list of their membership.

### NOMINATIONS

If you have a nomination for a deserving person or persons for the *Auxiliary Member of the Year*, please contact one of the auxiliary officers as soon as possible.

### CONVENTION

Reminded everyone convention is May 6-8, 2022. You need to register for convention admission and registration, and also secure your lodging registration very soon. You can go to the FFAM website for more information about the convention or go to [washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022](http://washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022). Carissa will contact Kim at Washington to see if they need anything donated to their silent auction.

### BY-LAWS

See the article by Joni Fields, in this month's magazine for the proposed changes to the by-laws.

### HISTORIAN

Carissa discussed the comparisons between PayPal and Venmo accounts for us to use. She will check with Jaime to verify what the FFAM uses so we can be compatible with their procedures possibly.

### NEW BUSINESS

We discussed FFAM sponsored events, if there is space, we could put together a basket or item(s) to raffle off or sell to raise money.

Update on the schedule of events. We are allowed one Auxiliary officer to attend the event with Grant or a representative for the FFAM at each event. Adjustments were made.

Tim Bean joined our meeting letting us know it is the 50th Anniversary of the Division of

Fire Safety in Missouri. He wanted to invite everyone for the big celebration on April 5th, at Fire Fighters Day at noon in the rotunda at the state capitol in Jefferson City. He also shared the information his office is moving due to renovations. He is expecting to be at the new location for about 2 years. On Monday, February 14th Tim will celebrate being our State Fire Marshal for 5 years. The group extended a thank you to Tim for all of his wonderful service, time, and dedication to the Fire Service.

Charlie Peel asked the ladies to help next year with the Revolutionary Fire Tactics, July 15-17, at the Lake of the Ozark at Margaritaville. He was asking for help cooking and serving food possibly. More information to come.

The FFAM just voted to change the bi-monthly meetings starting at 10:00 a.m. The Auxiliary meetings also will start at 10:00 a.m. going forward.

Jessica was informed about an article in the January - February 2022 magazine written by Larry Eggen titled *60 for 60*. The Missouri State Fair Fire Department (MSFFD) is celebrating its 60th Anniversary at this year's State Fair from August 11-21. Part of his article challenges all the members of the MSFFD who have served over the years, or anyone wanting to help recognize the MSFFD, to make a donation of \$60 to their fundraiser, *60 for 60*. The funds raised will go to the Firefighters Memorial Foundation. Theresa made a motion for the Auxiliary to make a donation for \$60 to the *60 for 60* fundraiser. A second was made by Joni, motion passed. And we challenge each of our members to make their own donation to this wonderful cause.

Memorial ribbons need to be ordered very soon. The group consensus was to order only purple and white ribbons. This will cause less waste of ribbons thrown away. Joni offered her students to put the ribbons together this next year as a school project.

Joni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane seconded, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Theresa Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

## WANT TO JOIN AUXILIARY?

Send your name, department affiliation, address and \$5 dues to:

Sheri Berendzen  
FFAM Auxiliary  
2314 Tanner Bridge Rd  
Jefferson City, MO 65101





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## Fire Fighters Association of Missouri Delegate Registration



**2022 FFAM Annual Board of Directors Business Meeting**  
Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.  
Knights of Columbus, Washington, MO

An FFAM membership card may be required for membership verification. Fill out your delegate information and mail to:

FFAM  
PO Box 1153  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Or Email to:  
ffam.jmiller@gmail.com

Or deliver to the Secretary-Treasurer at least one hour prior to the annual business meeting.

### FFAM BYLAWS: ARTICLE VIII - DELEGATES

**Section 1.** Each member fire department in good standing with FFAM shall be entitled to representation at the annual meeting. A maximum of three delegates from each fire department shall be allowed. In the event any special meeting of this association is called, the number of delegates allowed shall be determined in the same manner as that of the annual meeting. All Board of Directors shall be delegates at annual meeting.

**Section 2.** All delegates must be active members in good standing with the FFAM and

be current members of the fire department which they represent.

**Section 3.** No fire organization may be represented by proxy.

**Section 4.** Credentials of each delegate and alternate should be in the hands of the Secretary- Treasurer or his/her designee at least one hour prior to the annual meeting. These credentials shall be on forms supplied by the Secretary-Treasurer and signed by the chief officer or his/her designee of the department the delegate represents.

**Section 5.** Alternate delegates may vote in the absence of the regular delegate.

**Section 6.** Any active member may take part in the discussion of all orders of business at the annual meeting however, only a duly authorized delegate may place a motion or cast a vote.

**Section 7.** Only one vote shall be allowed to each delegate.

**Section 8.** The Secretary or Sergeant-at-Arms shall poll the delegates by number and department prior to the annual meeting.

Department _____	FDID _____
Delegate (PRINT)	Alternate (PRINT)
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
Chief or Designee (print) _____	Chief or Designee (signature) _____

# FIREFIGHTER INTERN PROGRAM

Gain Experience and Education

By Mid-County Fire Protection District

The Mid-County Fire Protection District (MCFPD) is located in central Missouri at the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks and encompasses 227 square miles in central Camden County with seven fire stations and two fireboats. MCFPD is a combination organization of career and volunteer personnel. In 2021, MCFPD responded to 2,250 emergency incidents including structural, vehicle, and wildland fire suppression, vehicle and technical rescue, marine firefighting and rescue, water rescue and dive recoveries, emergency medical services, code enforcement, fire prevention / public education, along with a host of other activities and services. Additionally, MCFPD provides mutual aid service to the surrounding fire districts and fire departments and offers the only water rescue/dive team at Lake of the Ozarks.

## OPPORTUNITY

In 2011, Mid-County Fire Protection District was awarded a SAFER Grant for Recruitment and Retention. As a result of those funds, the district has initiated a resident firefighter intern program that will provide the necessary training and hands-on experience to become a professional firefighter. Our goal is to provide participants with the training and experience needed to help them compete for career positions in the fire service while improving the fire district's staffing level.

Qualified applicants will be interviewed, tested, and chosen to become part of the firefighter intern program. They will be required to commit to a two-year contract for the program. We will commit to certified training (IFSAC) opportunities through the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI), the National Fire Academy (NFA), the Missouri Division of Fire Safety, hands-on training with

professional firefighters, and free housing including internet, a fully equipped gym, kitchen, and dorm-like sleeping facilities.

## SUCCESS

We are offering a premiere opportunity for men and women seeking a career in the fire service industry. Our program will immerse the interns into the lifestyle of a firefighter, allowing them to develop top-level emergency service skills and certifications. MCFPD will prepare its interns for a professional career through outstanding training, education, and real-world experience. We believe their success is also our success. This program has been successful in transitioning interns into paid emergency services careers in our community, surrounding communities, and across the nation. Our program currently has an 85% placement rating in the fire service and EMS field.

## EXPERIENCE

Upon entering the program, our intern firefighters will be assigned a dorm-style room they will share with other interns at our main station or one of our outlying stations. Upon completion of initial training, recruits will be assigned to one of three shifts. Recruits will respond to all types of emergencies with their assigned shift commander and firefighters. This will give them a one-of-a-kind, hands-on experience while preparing to become a professional firefighter/ EMT.

## EDUCATION

In addition to free housing the district will pay tuition and tuition travel expenses for the intern to obtain their Firefighter I and II, EMT-B license, Fire Service Instructor I, Driver/Operator, and Fire Officer I through the University of Missouri Extension's Fire and Rescue Training Institute's summer and winter fire schools.





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### PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

- The applicant must be at least 18 years of age or older and possess a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- The applicant must possess a current and valid state-issued vehicle operator's or chauffeur's license or greater (CDL).
- The applicant must have a satisfactory driving record. This will be determined by the operator's record check, background check, and personal observation.
- The applicant must pass the physical agility testing performed by Mid-County Fire Protection District during the application process.

- The applicant must be willing to follow the guidelines set forth in the Recruitment and Retention Resident Rules and Regulations.

For more information or to apply for the MCFPD Firefighter Intern Program contact:  
Division Chief Odenwald  
rodenwald@mcfpd.org  
573-346-2049 ext. 113

Check out our website at [mcfpd.org](http://mcfpd.org) or follow us on Facebook at Mid-County Fire Protection District.



# ANNUAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION BANQUET

A Celebration

By Western Taney County Fire District

The Western Taney County Fire District held its annual *Awards and Recognition Banquet* on January 9, 2022, at the Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks. After a great dinner, numerous people were recognized

and several awards were handed out. *Support Team Member of the Year* went to Lori Hammon, *Rookie of the Year* went to Station 12, Firefighter Bill Lynch. *Firefighter of the Year* went to Station 2, Firefighter Jacob Reynolds.

Not in a picture, due to being on a call, *Fire Officer of the Year* went to Station 1, Lieutenant Andrew Hunt. Dispatcher Corki Fancher was recognized for consistently processing calls the fastest.

From left to right:  
Lieutenant Nicole Dilly and Lori Hammon.



From left to right: Board President David Waters, Rookie Firefighter Bill Lynch, Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Mattson, Fire Chief Chris Berndt.



From left to right:  
Corki Fancher and Chief Berndt.



From left to right: Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Mattson, Firefighter Jacob Reynolds, Board President David Waters, Fire Chief Chris Berndt.



Support team members and junior firefighters are in the front row, then firefighters, officers and board members.



## YOUR 'WHY'

By Josh Loyd, District 3

What is your why? If you have not found your why, or don't think your why has merit - think again! Who gets the privilege to define your why? Every one of us has a reason why we have chosen our profession, and I am greatly interested in your why.

The longer we remain in the profession our why changes; however, we continue to do the job for the same reasons. For these reasons, many outside of the profession will never understand, and we should not expect them to. At any given moment, we could have a story as to our why and someone outside our profession would begin to question our sanity.

I started my journey in 2001 with many unanswered questions about what I wanted to do with my time of adulthood. One thing that was certain, I wanted to help people! How many times have you said or heard that? Can you still say it? It wasn't until 2003, nearing high school graduation when my why became concrete. My first major call was for a young child that ended up losing his life while he and his family were enjoying their time together, doing something many of us have probably done ourselves. Still very new to the profession, I watched experienced co-workers seamlessly move through the 'gates of hell' giving their every effort to help this child and

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his family. It wasn't until many days later, we learned all efforts were exhausted. My why was fortified with the unknown. The constant

thought of 'there must be a way to make opportunities for survival better for everyone' was engraved in my brain.

This thought is not only on my mind but on yours also. Therefore, we train and retrain many times a year trying to be part of and give the opportunity of survival in any situation we are in. We are fortunate to have many training opportunities in our great state with excellent instructors. It warms my heart, in my opinion, knowing Missouri is the best at what we do! Art Smith once told me, "Every encounter deserves your best effort".

Your why is unique to you! As it should be. Others may not understand your why, and that's fine. It really isn't for them to define or understand. This is the special part of what makes up a team. Each person has a specialty that shines when needed.

Have you ever been told you are too driven by your passion? I will admit, a person can allow passion to interfere with normalcy if normalcy is even a thing. What passion does for our field, allows us to always improve and provide opportunities for survival. Always remember YOUR why! Those we serve across Missouri, are in great hands! Stay safe!

## Get Ready 2022 CONTEST INFORMATION

By Gary Berendzen, District 6th Director, FFAM Contest Chairman

Just a friendly reminder convention is coming up, May 6th-8th. The convention contest will be held Saturday, May 7th at 8:00 a.m. The contest committee would like to invite all teams to participate. All team members need to be current, active members of the FFAM or auxiliary and you must be registered for the convention.

All information can be found on the FFAM website under "contest" and any questions you have you can contact any contest committee member.

The deadline for all registrations and signed release forms of teams is Wednesday, May 4th, prior to the convention. We need time to resolve membership issues and for the committee to get the brackets and

competition evolutions set up. All registration information, as well as contest information, can be found in the newsletter. The contest registrations and signed release forms can be e-mailed or mailed to me at any time, no need to wait until the last minute.

We would like to invite any and all director and assistant directors to compete or assist on the day of competition grounds the day of the contest it takes a lot of people to keep things going in a timely manner. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. on the contest grounds Saturday morning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time – 573.680.2452 or gberendzen@ccfpd.net

**Contest Rules and Registration: [FFAM.org/committees/contest/](https://www.ffam.org/committees/contest/)**

By Robert "R.B." Brown, Fire Chief, Missouri State Fair Volunteer FD

Through the years I have seen many candidates apply to volunteer with the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department. Recently, I started thinking about the challenges of our proud fire service and how special of a person it takes to become a professional volunteer firefighter. In a world where there are many kinds of people and many different personalities and priorities, these people give their time and energy to make their communities safer.

As I pondered this for a moment, I reflected upon some of our members. I asked myself why they wanted to join our fire department and realized that many of their reasons for joining our service are not that different. People come from all walks of life and often have the same goal... to help other people. They say it in a variety of different ways, with different words, but it's all the same. When I think about some of the reasons, I have heard the most, I remember statements like "I want to help my community," "I want to serve," and "I want to help people."

What a noble admission this is, to give your time to serve the great state of Missouri and the State Fair. It's even more impressive

considering that these members are coming to the fair for the eleven-plus days, or what they can, with the understanding that fire-fighters can be in danger providing a service. Every one of us has probably thought about that as we began our candidacy, before joining our first department. But are we doing it for the above-mentioned?

The Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department is one-of-a-kind and the only fully functional fire department in the nation that serves for only eleven days per year. Times have changed and so has the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department. We will be like our home department or district with many of the same rules and regulations. I hope everyone is volunteering for the right reasons: to serve, learn, help, make new friends, have fun and go home safe and sound.

This situation is not unique to us as volunteers and transcends generations of firefighters. FDNY's Chief Edward F. Croker (1899 – 1911) once stated, "When they join the department, they face that fact. When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work."

## THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IS CELEBRATING ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY!

60<sup>for</sup>  
\$60

### CELEBRATION AND MEAL

Anyone who has served with the department, past and present is invited to attend a 60th celebration and meal on August 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department in Sedalia. Families welcome!

This is Emergency Services Day at the fair. All emergency service personnel receive free fair admission with a department ID.

### DONATIONS

Mail to:  
Larry Eggen  
139 NW OO Hwy  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

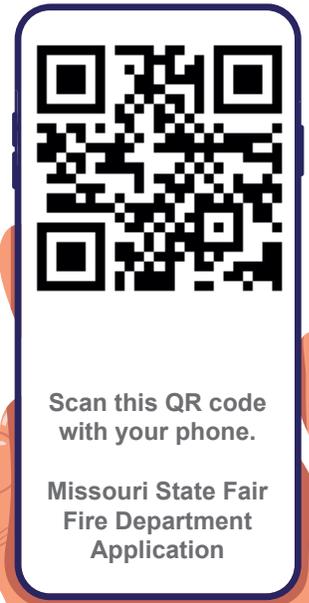


### 60 FOR \$60 CHALLENGE

All the members of the MSFVFD who have served over the years, or anyone wanting to recognize the MSFVFD is challenged to donate \$60.

Funds raised will be presented to the Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation to reach their goal to finish the Education and Historical Preservation Center in Kingdom City.

Checks make payable to:  
Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation  
Memo: 60 for 60



The interesting part here is that he made that statement over 100 years ago.

Some of the other reasons that I have heard often from candidates through the years, in no order, are: To learn new skills. To fulfill a family tradition (mom, dad, grandpa, uncle, was a firefighter). Interest in public safety as a potential career field. To be a part of a team. Someone in the F.D. talked to them, and they were so excited about it that it sounded neat. To gain excitement and experiences. To develop a future career/build resume. To pursue firefighting as a career field.

Each of these reasons is valid. Of course, these can vary from person to person. Many of us have had one or more of these in our minds as we began our journey to a fire service career. It's important to remember these reasons from time to time, as years of evening and weekend training and departmental experiences can change our focus on the priorities at hand. To retain those important volunteers, we must make sure that they are meeting their individual goals too!

When I first applied to our department, I put on my application that I wanted to join the fire service to serve my community. In my interview, I also added that I wanted to be a part of a great team. All these years

Winter weather has slowed down many of our outdoor activities, meetings, and some outdoor training, but spring is on the horizon. River Radio started a first responder appreciation night a few years ago and holds it in February every year. This winter caused it to be postponed, but on February 17 at the A.C. Braise Arena in Cape Girardeau, this year's event was held and it was a very good event. Fire, Law Enforcement, and EMS personnel got together for some good food, fellowship, and prizes from area vendors that assist in providing financial support as well as the door prizes.

This year the keynote speaker was Captain Jamie Holcomb EMD, EMT-B from Stoddard County. She spoke about recharging our batteries, not the ones in our equipment but our mental batteries and our mental health. What we do takes a toll on us, even if we don't recognize it ourselves. Captain Holcomb made several great points for all of us, but something that hit home was what happens to us mentally and how we do or do not handle it. That's the part of her presentation that was a reality check, at least it was for me.

I used to tell my fire students that in this business, at some point you will see things that no human should have to experience, but that is the nature of what we do. We answer the call to help those in need at the worst day or moment in their lives, it isn't always pleasant or has a happy ending, that's the reality. Over time it's going to have an effect and that can either be positive or negative, it's how we learn to cope and deal with those calls that make the determination

later, I can proudly say that I've done both of those things... and many more. What a great experience it has been.

Why do you volunteer? A lot of things are going on around the station including addressing the women's bathrooms and sleeping accommodations. Work details will be needed and all the help we can get will be very much appreciated. We will have one in June, July, and August. The dates will be announced on our Facebook page so let us know if you can help!

By Rob Francis, District 12 Director

of positive or negative. We are humans, not robots, and being human, we have feelings and emotions and we are all a little different in how we act and react.

Sometimes, just sitting down talking with another firefighter or an officer about a call that is bugging us inside helps, especially if that person has had a similar experience and worked through it. Sometimes it's not that simple, those are the incidents when other resources are needed. Knowing where those resources are and how to access them are key.

Mental health first aid for the responder is a great resource. There is also a program for the family of the responder as well. These programs can be accessed through counseling groups in your area. There are hotlines available that can be found easily through a search engine on the internet. I just learned of another resource recently that is pretty successful in some of the eastern states called On the Job and Off the Job, and one of their contacts is right in our backyard in District 12.

If you ever need these services or even think you need these services for yourself or to encourage someone you serve with, reach out to them. I told my students this as well, if you don't know who to talk to call me, I'm no expert, but I've got resources that I can reach out to or put you in touch with. We in emergency services have a special bond of brotherhood and sisterhood in what we do and the heart to do it. Keep the flames of passion for the work we do alive and bright. Thank you for what you do for your communities and stay safe out there.

The convention is right around the corner, May 6-8. Washington Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting the great event. I call that a pre-fair gathering so I hope to see many from the fair at the convention. In closing, I hope and pray that everyone has had a great winter with minor situations with what mother nature has given us. As I finish up it is thirteen degrees with ice on the roads. Please be safe, you are very much needed, and think spring is just around the corner. Until we meet again.

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**CRISIS AND DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT**

By Matt Frankenberg, Chair of the 2022 FFAM Convention

The Washington Volunteer Fire Company (WVFC) is honored to be the next host of the 2022 FFAM Convention in Washington, MO, on May 6-8, 2022. The convention kicks off on Friday, May 6th, with training sessions and an opening ceremony. Friday events include the Vendor Exhibit and Friday Night Mixer, featuring a silent auction and guest speaker, Chief Jason Hoevermann, with Florissant Valley Fire Protection District. Saturday will begin with the *National Anthem* followed by the contest games and the fire department parade. Following the parade, the ladies' event on Saturday afternoon will include a shuttle to historic downtown Washington to visit local shops, restaurants, art galleries, as well as other historic locations. Visit [downtownwashmo.org](http://downtownwashmo.org) and the WVFC website for additional information. The day will conclude with the banquet followed by a dance that night.

The vendor expo continues from Friday through Saturday morning and the silent auction will conclude immediately before the

banquet on Saturday night. The banquet will feature a guest speaker, past IAFC President, Fire Chief Tom Jenkins from Rogers, Arkansas.

The Convention will come to a close on Sunday, May 8, with business meetings being held and the closing ceremony. The main events will be located at the Knight of Columbus Hall. The training classes will be held at the Washington Fire Department Headquarters, the department's training facility, and the Knights of Columbus Hall. Registration is open for all training. Visit the WVFC website for registration information.

We would like to request anyone who wishes to attend the banquet to please register by April 15. Registration is through Eventbrite and can be accessed from our website.

The following training sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday:

- Engine Support, Truck Support, and Search Training conducted by Engine House Training, LLC.

- Fire Chief Tom Jenkins, Former IAFC President, will be providing a lecture on *The Real Fires and the Fire Service*.
- Washington Fire Chief, Tim Frankenberg, will be providing a lecture on *Overcoming Challenges and Culture in the Fire Service*.
- Monte Olsen will be providing the *Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training*.

Visit the website for all additional information, including lodging accommodations, and to stay informed for future updates. For anyone who wishes to enter a float, antique fire apparatus, or any in-service fire apparatus, please visit the website for the parade application and additional information. For anyone who wishes to be presented as a sponsor for the convention or participate in the vendor expo, please visit the website for any additional and contact information.

The Washington Volunteer Fire Company is proud to be hosting this annual event and please visit [washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022](http://washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022) for additional information and updates. We hope to see you all there!

## For Registration and Details Visit: [washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022](http://washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022)

### 2022 FFAM Convention Parade Registration Form

Saturday, May 7, 2022

Type of Entry:  Antique Fire Apparatus  Float  
 Modern Fire Apparatus  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Must have proof of insurance**

**Parade Line-Up:** 11:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**Location:** 2nd St. Between Olive and Cedar

Send registration to: 200 E 14th St. Washington MO, 63090  
 or Email Mark Frankenberg at: [mpfrankenberg@washmo.gov](mailto:mpfrankenberg@washmo.gov)

For questions or to view the parade map.

Visit our website: [washmofire.org](http://washmofire.org)

Or Email Mark Frankenberg [mpfrankenberg@washmo.gov](mailto:mpfrankenberg@washmo.gov)

Registration Available the Day of Parade!

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# 66th F.F.A.M. CONVENTION

WASHINGTON MISSOURI  
KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS HALL



"THEN and NOW"



## 66th Annual FFAM Convention • May 6-8, 2022 • Washington, Missouri

### FRIDAY, MAY 6

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Engine Support Training - EHT	WFD Facility -TBD	8:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.
Certified Fire and EMS Board Training	Knights of Columbus, Lower Level	8:00 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.
Registration	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	12:00 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.
Truck Support Training - EHT	WFD Facility -TBD	1:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M.
The Real Fires and the Fire Service Class	WFD Facility -TBD	1:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M.
Opening Ceremony	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	6:00 P.M.— 6:45 P.M.
Exhibitors Displays	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	5:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M.
Mixer - Music by Nick's Mixx	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	7:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M.
Speaker — Chief Jason Hoevelmann	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	7:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M.
Silent Auction Opening	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	7:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M.

### SATURDAY, MAY 7

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Registration	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	8:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.
Contest	Knights of Columbus, Parking Lot	8:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.
Exhibitors Displays	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	8:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.
Searching Hands On Training - EHT	WFD Facility -TBD	8:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.
Overcoming Challenges and Culture Class	WFD Facility -TBD	8:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.
Parade Line Up	Main and 2nd St.	11:30 A.M.
Parade Start	See Map for Details	12:00 P.M.
Ladies Event	See Program for Details	1:30 P.M. — 4:00 P.M.
Speaker — Fire Chief Tom Jenkins	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	6:30 P.M.
Banquet/Dance	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	6:30 P.M. — 12:00 A.M.
Silent Auction Closing	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level	6:30 P.M.

### SUNDAY, MAY 8

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
FFAM Board Meeting	Knights of Columbus, Lower Level Hall	9:00 A.M.
FFAM Auxiliary Board Meeting	Knights of Columbus, Upper Level Hall	9:00 A.M.

[washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022](http://washmofire.org/ffam-convention-2022)



# 7

**Robert Brown**  
Director

**G**reetings from the east side of the state. I hope everyone is doing well. Mother Nature has given us some winter weather as I write this article. We may get another round of winter delight. This will be my last article as the chairperson of the Fire Prevention Committee. Andrew Caldwell from Boles Fire Protection District has been appointed and approved to serve as the chairperson. I hope I fulfilled the position to the members, and I know Andrew will do a great job, so congratulations Andrew!

As a reminder, the fire prevention posters are due before the start of the convention which will be in Washington May 6-8. The posters will be judged by the Auxiliary so turn the posters into the Auxiliary booth at the convention. Also, when you turn in your winning posters, they need to have all the contact information on the back and the posters are of the size as listed in the rules and regulations. If not, they will not be judged. Rules and the poster label are available on our website. The winners will be contacted and invited to attend the Missouri State Fair and receive their prize money, admission tickets to the fair, tickets to the midway, and have lunch or supper with the State Fair Volunteer Fire Department, along with their immediate family.

### **NOW FOR SOME FIRE TIPS**

It's easy to associate at-home fire protection with the colder months with the use of space

heaters, fireplaces, decorative candles, and tangled strings of holiday lights. But just because we're less inclined to turn the heat on doesn't mean we shouldn't still be vigilant when it comes to protecting ourselves and our property from fire hazards. As you transition from sweaters to shorts, deep fryers to grills, and indoor holiday parties to backyard barbecues, keep an eye on these areas:

### **GRILLS**

Fire is unavoidable when it comes to preparing the perfect kabob or rack of ribs on the grill, which means you've got some inherent risks right from the get-go. In fact, the NFPA reports that an average of 8,900 home fires are caused by grilling each year. Here are some fire safety tips for the grill. While the meat is marinating, be sure to check each potentially problematic point of the grill including the propane tank, the hose, and all connecting points. Charcoal should be soaked with charcoal starter fluid only, so don't let the pyro-happy Boy Scout in your family go anywhere near the grill with a container of lighter fluid, no matter how cool he swears it will be! Make sure the grill is clean failing to clean the grill before and after use is a contributing factor in nearly 20% of all grill structure fires. Make sure the grill is set up in an open, outdoor area with nothing flammable (plants, paper, etc.) nearby.

### **OUTDOOR FIRE PITS**

The necessary safety precautions for an outdoor fire pit (s'mores, anybody?) are much the same as for a grill, plus a few others. Never leave young children unattended near a fire in the pit. Fill a bucket with water and set it next to the pit before you even begin building the fire. Avoid throwing leaves,

pinecones, pine needles and paper into the fire. They catch fire quickly and can result in dangerous floating embers. Unless there's an emergency, avoid dumping the entire bucket of water on the fire to put it out. Instead, spread the pieces of fuel as far apart as possible and gently sprinkle water over them until there are no more glowing embers. This prevents the scattering of embers and a thick cloud of smoke. Toast your marshmallows over the embers rather than the flames. This not only gives them that perfect golden crust but prevents them from catching on fire.

### **CHIMNEYS**

As cozy as it was in January and February, come April and May chances are you'll be less inclined to build a fire in the living room fireplace. As easy as it is to just scoop out the ashes, close it up, and forget about it until November, go ahead and have the chimney inspected as part of your spring-cleaning effort. The NFPA recommends having a chimney inspected and thoroughly cleaned at least once a year anyway and getting it out of the way this time of year often means ridding it of buildup that would only cause more damage if it hung around until the fall. Plus, chimney technicians will be more likely to have flexible schedules in the springtime.

### **SMOKE ALARMS**

You knew this one was coming, right? The batteries should be changed once a year, anyway, so just go ahead and roll it into your spring-cleaning ritual. As the spring and summer days progress, don't forget to test the smoke alarms (there should be at least one on every floor of the house) each month.

### **DRYERS**

If you're lucky enough to have the space for a clothesline, consider drying your clothes and linens outside during these lovely warm months—is there anything better than the smell of freshly-laundered sheets after they've been dried by a soft spring breeze? If that's not an option, keep in mind that the leading cause of clothes dryer-related fires is a failure to keep them clean. Scooping out the lint basket takes about 12 seconds, so be sure to clear it out every time you throw a load in. The NFPA also recommends cleaning out the vent pipe at least once a year, so might as well add that to the spring-cleaning list, too.

We hope that you found these tips helpful  
Happy Spring!



## Enter the Poster Contest

ATTACH ENTRY FORM  
TO BACK OF POSTER

Artist Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# ENTER THE FFAM FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

- The Poster Contest will be conducted by an FFAM member department in their local schools, civic groups, churches, organizations or individually if all requirements are met.
- There will be four divisions:
  - Grades 1-2;
  - Grades 3-4;
  - Grades 5-6
  - Special Needs Grades 1-6.
- Sponsoring departments may submit three posters in each grade division.
- All posters must meet the following requirements:
  - All posters must be the work of only one child.
  - Posters must be on 11x17 white heavy paper or poster board.
  - All work must be original.
  - The child's name, mailing address, grade, school, county, sponsoring department and parent's phone number must be on the back of the poster.
  - Posters must incorporate and state the theme as determined by the NFPA Fire Prevention Week.
- The winning poster in each division will become the property of the FFAM.
- The following prizes will be awarded to the winners of each division:
  - 1st place in each division will receive \$75.00
  - 2nd place in each division will receive \$50.00
  - 3rd place in each division will receive \$25.00Winners and their immediate family will also be invited to spend a day at the Missouri State Fair. This will include free admission to the fair, a tour of the Missouri State Fair Fire Department and one carnival ticket for the winner.
- The winning posters in each division will be on display at the Missouri State Fair Fire Department during the Missouri State Fair and published in the FFAM newsletter.
- Prizes in each division will be awarded following the annual FFAM Convention by the local Fire Chief and/or the FFAM District Representative or during the Missouri State Fair.
- Judging of the posters will be based upon:
  - Presentation of the fire prevention theme (75%)
  - Artistic attributes (25%)
- All posters must be submitted to the Fire Prevention Committee no later than 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the opening ceremonies of the annual FFAM Convention.
- The judges of the poster contest will be determined by the Fire Prevention Committee.
- The first-place winners from each division will be announced during the annual convention banquet.

Download the complete rules for the contest:  
[ffam.org/committees/fire-prevention/](http://ffam.org/committees/fire-prevention/)

By Palmyra Fire Protection District

## TRAINING

Palmyra Fire Protection District, Hannibal Fire Department, and the Tri-Township Fire Protection District, in conjunction with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI), participated in an eight-hour Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue class. A huge thank you to Nutrien Ag Solutions for sponsoring this class and Doyle Equipment Manufacturing / Riverview Manufacturing for their classroom and facility. This class featured four hours of classroom instruction and lecture, followed by four hours of hands-on technical simulations with live grain bin props. This training provided great interdepartmental training between agencies and increased our effectiveness when responding to these types of emergencies.



### RESPONDING

On February 9 at 06:43, the Palmyra Fire Protection District was dispatched to a commercial structure fire at Dunkle's Cabinetry. First arriving units found the structure fully involved with flames coming through the roof. A defensive attack was coordinated with the help of the Hannibal Fire Department, LaGrange Fire, and the City of Monroe Fire Department. We appreciate the awesome help and manpower. Fireground operations were greatly hindered due to high snowdrifts, frozen hydrants, and sub-zero wind-chill factors.



By David E. Hedrick, Fire Service Director (RET)

Firefighters wear an assortment of personal protective equipment (PPE) as part of their profession, whether career or volunteer. The turnout (bunker) coats, pants, boots, gloves, self-contained breathing apparatus, and other pieces of the fire protective ensemble are all part of the occupation. However, no piece of equipment is more recognizable than the firefighter's helmet. Though new materials and designs have produced a variety of styles and configurations over the years, the most preferred helmet style for firefighters in the United States is based on the configuration of an 1800s leather fire helmet. So, how did this all come about? The circumstances of the development of the American-style fire helmet is another remarkable story in fire service history.

Though the American fire helmet didn't begin with its current configuration, the style of helmet we will be examining for the most part in this article is usually referred to as the "New Yorker" style fire helmet. We will find that the City of New York played a major role in the history of the American fire helmet.

### IN THE BEGINNING

Even young children today quickly come to recognize the traditional style of the fire helmet that identifies a firefighter. Though the iconic style of the American fire helmet has remained fairly constant for over 150 years, the headgear for firefighters didn't start out that way. In the early days of fire protection in the American colonies along with the bucket brigades, there was no specific protective equipment worn by the brigade members. So the traditional tri-corner hat worn by many of the male colonists served as limited head protection. Based on research it was found that most references credit Jacob Turk (also spelled as Jacobus Turck) as inventing the first specific hat for firefighting use. Jacob was actually a junior, though most references do not identify him as such confusing him with his father who was a city Alderman.<sup>1</sup> Jacob was a gunsmith by trade. In 1736 he was appointed as "Overseer of Fire Engines" for two new Newsham hand pumpers purchased by New York. Turk invented the first fire helmet in 1740, and "it was leather, with a high crown and wide brim."<sup>2</sup>

According to Arnold Merkitich, a firefighter and author of the 1981 book, *Early Fire Helmets*, the first reference he found regarding the wearing of specific fire hats occurred in 1762 where Firemen in New York "were directed to wear leathern caps when on duty."<sup>3</sup> In 1764 in Boston, the first "Fire Hat" that was used was "a black leather 'Jockey Cap' with a 'Pewter Badge' bearing the number of the Fire Company."<sup>4</sup> From these developments, we can see the beginnings of a method to identify authorized firemen on the scene and to which fire society or company they belonged.

The next innovation in fire hats came about in 1788 in Philadelphia, "it was a round hat of stovepipe shape with a narrow brim."<sup>5</sup> This style hat was to be copied and worn, with different variations, by firemen throughout the early American states. Painted hat fronts and "front pieces" were added to these hats over time, and laid the foundation for the concept of a shield or helmet front on later helmets.

In 1824, a man named Matthew Du Bois, who was a saddler and cap maker, was first credited with adding a metal rod around the brim or edge of the fire hat so it could be better shaped and not distort or deform from the heat or water from the fire.<sup>6</sup>

### HENRY T. GRATACAP

Not only did some cities and towns require firemen to wear identification on fire scenes, the fireman themselves liked to wear symbols of their volunteer avocation. Though there were numerous local artisans making regalia for firemen to wear such as hats, helmets, and capes (yes, back in the day men wore

cap), not much thought had been put into the actual occupational design of the fledgling fire helmet up to this point. Many of these leather artisans in New York were harness and trunk makers.

Along comes Henry T. Gratacap, who many consider the father of the American fire helmet. Gratacap was an apprentice to William Hinton, who was a leather artisan and would also go on to make fire helmets.<sup>7</sup> In 1836, Gratacap established his own business at 329 Broadway in New York.<sup>8</sup> His company began "making luggage for overseas voyages with specially treated leather for durability."<sup>9</sup> Gratacap was also a volunteer fireman with New York Fire Department and "in 1858 was foreman of the Columbian (Fire) Company."<sup>10</sup> He was well respected for his durable leather luggage that stood up to water and heavy use. Taking his artisan expertise and his real-world experience in fighting fires, he set out to design a true fire helmet that would protect the fireman and stand up to the fire environment. The Smithsonian American History Museum describes Gratacap's creation as:

A specially treated leather helmet with a segmented "comb" design led to unparalleled durability and strength. The elongated rear brim (also known as a duckbill or beavertail) and front piece were 19th-century innovations that remain the most identifiable feature of firefighters' helmets. The body of the helmet was primarily designed to deflect falling debris, the rear brim prevented water from running down firefighters' backs, and their sturdy crowns could aid, if necessary, in breaking windows.<sup>11</sup>

Painted leather fire hat, Junior Fire Co., early 1800s.



The “comb” was a way to add strength to the helmet. A comb is basically a ridge formed on the outside of the helmet where two pieces come together and are sewn. This is how the rounded cone shape of the helmet crown is made with multiple pieces of shaped leather. Most common were four and eight comb helmets. So a construction feature became a valued design feature. Manufacturers also molded into the leather additional combs or ridges for shape, strength, or artistic design. In Duchesne’s book, *Fireman’s Headgear in America 1658-1918*, he reports that presentation helmets could have 148 to 180 combs.<sup>12</sup>

Gratacap’s eight comb helmet with an elongated rear brim became known as the “New Yorker” style fire helmet. It was adopted by the New York Fire Department sometime in the 1800s, though a specific date was not identified. The volunteer New York Fire Department was organized in 1731 and lasted until 1865 when it was disbanded and a career department took over fire protection responsibilities.<sup>13</sup>

Gratacap was also the first to develop the stitched or raised frontispiece and add a “finial” figure or “front holder” on the top front of the helmet to hold the top of the shield. The first finials were made of leather and later he teamed with the Cairns Company to produce brass finials that were more durable in holding the shield.<sup>14</sup>

The Gratacap helmets can be identified by a number of accouterments or trim options. The front and side brim could be embossed or stamped with various vine patterns or floral motifs. The rear brim usually bore a

complex design with “H.T. Gratacap” in the center and “New York” under it. Another variation included a date, all embossed within a horizontal oval.<sup>15</sup> Of course due to Gratacap’s helmet popularity, his design and embossed embellishments were soon copied by a number of helmet makers adding minor variations and their own company’s name.

Gratacap’s company at one point in time was producing an average of 100 fire helmets a week. The cost at the time of a regular helmet was four dollars, and a fancy presentation helmet could run \$75.<sup>16</sup>

### OTHER EARLY HELMET MAKERS

In tracing the history of fire helmets, it is sometimes difficult to determine who the manufacturer was for a particular helmet. Early hats and helmets, like fire buckets, were made by local leather artisans and might have no identification label or a simple paper label that has been lost or disintegrated over time. Some early makers did stamp or emboss their names into the brim of the leather helmets they produced. The practice of paper labels and stamping were “eventually replaced by a brass identification disc.”<sup>17</sup> Cairns and Brothers who bought Gratacap’s company followed this practice with a variety of disc types used over the years.

Adding to the confusion, around the 1890s various fire equipment supply businesses were organized who bought helmets from well-known helmet makers and inserted their own label. Merkitch related that he had seen a fire helmet with three different identification labels or stamps. Apparently

bought from one, re-sold by another, and then repaired at some point by yet another company adding to the uncertainty of its origin.<sup>18</sup>

Gratacap’s unique and durable style fire helmet were instrumental in setting the fire helmet standard of the day. However, it didn’t take long for other leather artisans and companies to follow suit and get involved in making and selling leather fire helmets. There were over 20 businesses making or selling fire helmets in New York during the 1800s.<sup>19</sup> Philadelphia and Boston were listed as having quite a few helmet makers.

In 1869 after approximately 33 years of running his own business, Gratacap sold it to Cairns. Cairns would become Cairns and Brothers and become one of the major fire equipment supply houses and fire helmet makers in the United States.<sup>20</sup> Two brothers, Jasper and Henry, formed Cairns and Brothers. The leather fire helmet business remained a core part of their fire equipment supply business as they grew over the years. Starting out in New York in 1869, they moved several times in the city until finally moving to Clifton, New Jersey in 1948.<sup>21</sup>

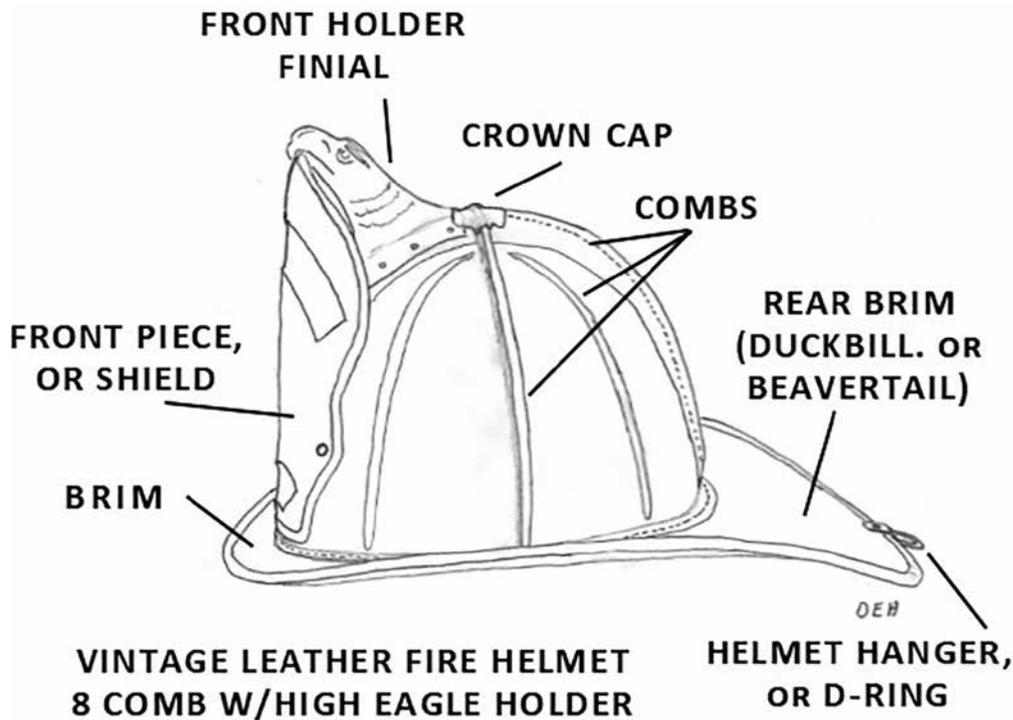
The shape of the “New Yorker” helmet has remained virtually unchanged through approximately 190 years of faithful and steadfast service. “Leatherhead” is a term used for a firefighter who uses the leather helmet for protection from the hazards they face every day on the streets. Of historical note, though firefighters were definitely the first to be called leatherheads, the term was also to become synonymous with athletes in a newly developing American sport. In the

Gratacap leather Fire Helmet, early 1800s, with high eagle front.



Gratacap leather fire helmet stamp in brim.





Cairns and Brothers fire helmet metal disk tag marked New York, from 1940s.

early days of the game of football, protective gear was sought for the players. A leather helmet was first worn in the Army-Navy football game of 1893.<sup>22</sup> A padded close-fitting leather helmet came into use by football players in the early 1900s and the men who played the game were also known as “leatherheads.”

### HELMET DEFINITIONS, CONSTRUCTION, AND MARKINGS

To help visualize the characteristics of the typical vintage leather fire helmet design and corresponding nomenclature, an illustrated drawing is provided.

How would one define a fire helmet? A general brief definition might be a head covering worn by firefighters for protection while performing potentially hazardous fire and rescue duties. The helmet can be made of leather or various composite materials, has a distinctive high crown, circular brim with a longer back brim, and may have identifying front piece and lettering. Wikipedia, the all-knowing web source provides a little more description and history in their definition, which says, “For centuries, firefighters have worn helmets to protect them from heat, cinders and falling objects. Although the shape of most fire helmets has changed little over the years, their composition has evolved from traditional leather to metals (including brass, nickel and aluminum), to composite helmets constructed of lightweight polymers and other plastics.”<sup>23</sup>

How does an official source define the fire helmet? The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a consensus standard making organization in the fire service, defines a structural fire fighting helmet in their NFPA 1971 Standard as: “The element of the protective ensemble that provides protection to the head.”<sup>24</sup> Accurate but not very descriptive of the historic fire helmet.

### CONSTRUCTION

Though fire helmets were originally made of high-grade leather (tanned cowhide), because of leather shortages in the 1800s it was not uncommon for some of the manufacturers to use buffalo hide for both fire helmets and leather fire hose.<sup>25</sup> This led to varying grades of leather and their durability over time.

Combs on the exterior of the helmet where pieces of the crown came together and were sewn helped create the shape and durability of the helmet crown.

Finials of front piece holders were added to hold the shield or stitched front piece to the helmet. They were developed by Gratacap for use on helmets with tall front pieces. Tall fronts became a matter of personal preference and a prestige thing over time. Officer helmets and presentation helmets were adorned with the taller fronts. More traditional six-inch fronts went to eight and ten inches high. Taller is better right. Or at least more impressive. Especially seen on parade or ceremonial helmets. The tall eagle holder

or finial was predominantly used as a holder for these high fronts.

Where did the idea to use an eagle as a finial come from? This is another part of fire service history that comes mostly from stories and oral traditions. Though most firefighters assume the eagle stands as a patriotic symbol and denotes a sense of pride, no one knows for sure. One story related by Duchesne is that in 1825 a sculptor, name unknown, created a commemorative figure for a fireman’s grave in New York that depicts a fireman rescuing a child and on his helmet is an eagle. Thus fireman got the idea from this.<sup>26</sup> A similar story is related by Chaplain Doug Farmer in an article related to blessing fire helmets.<sup>27</sup> And yet another story is that Gratacap saw this and got the idea to make the first front holder out of leather depicting an eagle. From there he partnered with Cairns to make a brass eagle holder. This soon spread to a variety of designed holders or finials that depicted various animals. However, the eagle was one of the most popular designs and is predominantly used as a front holder today.

### IDENTIFICATION TAGS

Besides paper labels and tags and the use of embossed stamps in the helmet leather, usually in the brim, a number of manufacturers began using metal discs attached inside the helmet. These metal discs were primarily made of brass in the beginning and attached to the inside center of the crown. Some of these discs had holes that



Cairns and Bros. "Senator 350" aluminum helmet from the 1950s.



Cairns and Bros. "Solid Top" leather fire helmet, 1940s.

penetrated through the crown and came out underneath the brass crown cap and were used to ventilate the crown of the helmet.

Cairns and Brothers used metal discs for an extended time period during the manufacturing of their helmets. An example of their brass tag seen in Duchesne's book bares the date 1896.<sup>28</sup> Other information has their aluminum tags undated but with New York on them as helmets made sometime before 1948. At that time they started using a letter date code on their helmets beginning with the capital letter "A" and ending in "Z" for helmets in 1997-98.<sup>29</sup>

A special note of caution. Helmets with a year prominently displayed on the rear brim of the helmet, usually as painted numbers, indicate the founding date of the fire company, fire society, or organization. They do not indicate the date the helmet was made, so don't be misled.

### HELMET COLORS

Early helmets were made of tanned leather and had a natural brown color after finishing with preservative oils. Leather could also be dyed or the helmet painted after construction. Helmet colors in the early days varied depending on the colors favored by the local community, fire company, or individual preference of the owner. Even today this may play a factor in some cases. However, the use of colors to identify rank got started in the early days of fire hats and then helmets. By the 1830s New York was standardizing fire

cap colors. Merkitch states, "in general all officers, except engineers wore black caps with a white front, lettered in black, and all Privates wore black caps with black fronts lettered in white."<sup>30</sup> In general today we see most fire departments with chief officers in white helmets, company officers and engineers in red or yellow, and firefighters in black helmets.

### A WORD ABOUT ANTIQUE FIRE HELMETS

Though this article provides information that would aid in determining the manufacturer and historical dating of antique fire helmets, the information presented here does not provide sufficient education and training for one to garner the expertise necessary to evaluate and determine the authenticity of vintage fire helmets. This can only be learned over time under the tutelage of an experienced fire service historian that specializes in fire helmets.

Needless to say, leather fire helmets are extremely collectible, not only by the fire service practitioner and buffs, but also by the lay antique collector. An original Gratacap helmet is possibly the holy grail of all fire helmets. As mentioned previously, with Gratacap's company producing an average of 100 helmets a week, one would think they would be fairly common and easy to find. However, this is not the case. Perhaps they were passed down to multi-generations of firefighters and eventually wore out, but the willingness to part with a historical family

artifact at any point is hard to fathom. With new NFPA compliant New York style leather fire helmets costing over \$1,000, there doesn't seem to be much difference in the antique versus the new.

The difference between old and new is in the history, the ambiance, and the provenance of the well-used fire helmet. It carries the scuffs, scrapes, and marks of the active firefighter and the fires fought and lives saved during a life dedicated to the protection of others before self.

If you are fortunate enough to own a historic fire helmet, I encourage you to properly maintain it so it will last for generations to come. Hanging on a hook the leather will dry out and depending on how the helmet is sitting or hanging up it may deform. Dust will also over time deteriorate the designs and colors. Heat and cold are great enemies of the preservation of leather fire helmets. Leather fire helmets and other antique fabric and leather fire service items should be stored in a dust-free climate-controlled environment, limited temperature changes and humidity controlled, away from direct sunlight. That is why fire museums have elaborate heating, humidity, and air filter systems to preserve their artifacts for future generations.

Firefighter, author, and fire service collector and preservationist, Arnold Merkitch, restored fire helmets for various fire service museums and was an appraisal consultant



MSA Safety "Topgard" helmet replica as an LA County Fire Department paramedic helmet. As seen in the television show *Emergency*.

for Christie's International Auctioneer in New York. He related, "It is far better to have a helmet that has been restored . . . then to go by the old adage 'don't tamper with antiques or you will decrease their value', and watch your helmet disintegrate before your eyes."<sup>31</sup> Regarding the repair of leather helmets for preservation, it is recommended that the collector seek out a historical leather artisan or museum-trained conservator to determine the best ways to preserve their valued and cherished antique fire helmet.

There are some independent companies that restore leather fire helmets. As always make sure you are dealing with a knowledgeable and reputable company before trusting your prized artifact with anyone.

If you choose to share your family's fire service artifacts with future generations through a donation to a museum, make sure to search out an appropriate fire museum. Ask questions about how they plan to display your family's cherished artifact, and the infrastructure they have in place to assure the preservation of the artifact. Trained and knowledgeable curators or fire historians should be part of the organization to provide proper oversight and conservation of the museum's collection.

### THE AMERICAN FIRE HELMET TRANSITION TO TODAY

Just as the manufacturers of fire helmets first expanded in the 1800s, starting in the 1940s a variety of manufacturers began making fire helmets. Various materials were used including aluminum, metal, plastic, fiberglass, or composite helmets. They were cheap to produce but not always provided the same level of head protection that they should. Gary Ryman in his article, *Top Hats to Tupperware: Fire Helmet History*, wrote:

A generation later, in 1962, their vacuum-formed polycarbonate helmet line began; and in the "modern" era, Philadelphians, Phoenix, and Metro helmets were among the new style that some saw as a radical change from the classic shape. But it was radical only at first glance as even these helmets retained the short front brim and longer rear tail. Helmet types and styles have developed fans and detractors over the years.

Leather helmet devotees sometimes disparage the plastic models as "Tupperware."<sup>32</sup> Though some of the newer composite helmets were disparaged by the traditionalist firefighters, a number of the helmet brands became famous in

TV dramas. One such is the television show *Emergency* in the 1970s, which follows the exploits of two firefighter/paramedics. Though the television dramas were fictional, they were based on real exploits of the LA County Fire Department, which at the time wore polycarbonate MSA Safety "Topgard" helmets.

Today, all fire helmets have to meet a rigid standard for the safety and protection of the firefighter. The National Fire Protection Associations (NFPA) standards and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), regulations both help assure that firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE) including fire helmets are manufactured and maintained to appropriate standards.

Leather fire helmets are still available from prominent fire equipment manufacturers. If you are going to be using the helmet for actual firefighting and rescue, you need to make sure the helmet meets the current NFPA standards for structural fire helmets (NFPA 1971 - Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting), and are compliant with your state's OSHA requirements. NFPA and OSHA-compliant helmets will be listed as such by the manufacturer.

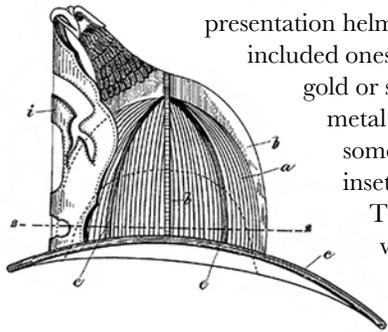
Cairns and Brothers over the years became one of the leading manufacturers of firefighter protective helmets. In 2000, their helmet division was acquired by Mine Safety Appliances Company (MSA). After over 150 years of manufacturing helmets, they have transitioned to become part of the MSA line of firefighter protective equipment. The New Yorker N5A style leather fire helmets are still being produced and are available through MSA for the new and seasoned firefighter.

In the early 1970s, former California State Fire Marshal, Ronnie Coleman and former Assistant Chief of the California State Fire Training Division, Ray Russell came together to form Phoenix Technology to produce a new generation of contemporary fire helmets starting with the "First Due" fire helmet. In the early 2000s, they "decided to capture and preserve the rich history and tradition of the fire service by designing their very own traditional leather helmet."<sup>33</sup> They introduced the TL2 leather fire helmet which provides the firefighter with a leather helmet option that is compliant with NFPA standards.

## THE CONTINUING TRADITIONS OF THE FIRE SERVICE HELMET

Beginning with the first fire helmets and continuing to this day, honorary or custom fire helmets were presented to valued fire company/department members upon retirement or achievement of a specified number of dedicated years of service. Also, honorary helmets may be presented to public officials or officeholders for their support or assistance. These helmets may be of recreated vintage style or current fire department

helmets with a special insignia or helmet fronts. Some historic presentation helmets included ones with gold or silver metal fronts, some with inset jewels. These were quite



expensive even in their day, and certainly a significant tribute to the individual. Antique presentation helmets with a confirmed provenance have significant historical value.

At the end of life, in cases of fire service line-of-duty-deaths or the passing of honored members of the fire department, the firefighter's helmet may be used to set atop the casket or given a place of honor at the funeral ceremony. Afterward, it may be presented to the honored firefighter's family in tribute to the firefighter's life of heroic service. In some cases, the helmet may be draped with a funeral bunting or wreath as an additional tribute honor.

Though each of us has our personal memories about the first fire helmet we wore on duty, I would assume many of us carry a similar shared memory. No matter the materials or design of the fire helmet, besides its protective function, to a firefighter

the helmet represents a symbol of pride, honor, and belonging in carrying out their sworn duty of the fire service profession. To the individual who wears it, the helmet represents a point of focus and meaning of their life. Some firefighters carry pictures of their loved ones inside the crown of the helmet. As they don this piece of protective clothing on each emergency response, they carry the memories and love of the family, both personal and fire service family, as they take action to save the lives and property of their fellow man.

Each vintage fire helmet carries its own history and story. A story of dedication and service of the many firefighters that wore the helmet, placing others before themselves in the protection of life and property. There could not be a more fitting representation of the firefighting occupation or avocation in which each of us serves than the iconic fire helmet.

### AUTHOR'S COMMENTS

The author wishes to recognize and thank the fire service personnel and organizations for their assistance in the development of this article, and the University of Missouri Ellis Library/Lending Library for the inter-library loan of various research documents.

### ENDNOTES

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### PHOTOS

All photos were provided courtesy of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and the author's private collection.



# 1st VP Comments

Celebrating 30 Years of Service



Rob Erdel

**G**reetings and welcome to spring. What a great time of year, although it always seems to be very busy. I hope everyone is doing well. For me, spring, or early spring, means time for a visit to Southern Stone County where I make an annual trip to Table Rock Lake to fish for spoonbill. I find it funny that a group of us travel 150 miles for this yet some of the locals don't even know what snagging for spoonbill is. Oh well, their loss.

So many activities are coming up. Firefighter Day in Jefferson City is April 5th. Fire Marshall Tim Bean would like to have a large turnout this year to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Division of Fire Safety. This day is a good opportunity to come to Jefferson City and meet with your legislators. It is up to us to discuss important matters with them so they can see we are vested in the future of the fire service. They need to hear that we would like them to help

preserve the future of the fire service and this is a great opportunity to do so. In May we will have our annual memorial service in Kingdom City. The dates are May 14-15. Always leading up to the memorial are a few scheduled workdays to clean up and prepare the property. All help is appreciated on these days. The committee members' contact information is on the website. If you would like to help, please reach out to them. I am sure they would appreciate all the help they can get.

The annual convention will be May 6-8. Washington Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting this year. They are working hard to put on a great convention. Information is available on their website at [washmofire.org](http://washmofire.org).

Contest teams are needed for Saturday morning's competition. There are three divisions, firefighter, female, and cadets so plenty of opportunities for you to bring a team. If your fire department is new to the games or would like to get started, you can contact me and I will help however I can to get your team started.

The fire service is full of traditions and history. This year marks my 30th year in the

fire service. An amount of time I would have never thought I would invest in volunteering. Many ups and downs, highs and lows thru my time. That being said, I cannot tell you how proud I am that while receiving my 30-year pin at our department's annual awards banquet I had a son-in-law receive his 10-year pin. Also, that night his daughter Hailey was recognized for starting with our department as a cadet firefighter. They always say to leave it better than you found it. As these two continue their careers, I feel I have done that. Ours is not the only family able to boast this fact, so I will give credit where credit is due. The Nichols family also started their 3rd generation of firefighters. Steve Nichols' granddaughter Brooke started as a cadet firefighter this year also. Steve's son Scott was recognized for 20 years of service.

Remember this is your organization and we are here to serve you. I hope to see you at many of the upcoming events. If there is anything I can assist you with please feel free to contact me anytime by phone, text or email. 573-473-0972, [roberdel@ktis.net](mailto:roberdel@ktis.net). Thanks for what you do for your communities and be safe.

Lieutenant Steve Nichols and assistant chief Rob Erdel are proud of their 3 generations of firefighters. From left to right: Scott Nichols, Steve Nichols, Brooke Smithee, Hailey Cuno, Rob Erdel, Casey Cuno



# LITTLE DIXIE FPD AWARDS BANQUET

Little Dixie Fire Protection District held its annual awards banquet in February. Several years of service awards were presented from five years to 30 years. Also presented were two *Firefighter of the Year* awards and a *Life-Saving Award*.

## 5 YEAR SERVICE

Firefighter Austin Terrell  
Firefighter Audri Deimeke  
Firefighter Nathan Yeager  
Firefighter Ethan Baca  
Firefighter Colton Hamilton  
Firefighter Doug Boner

## 10 YEAR SERVICE

Firefighter Tyler Shaw  
Firefighter Casey Cuno

## 15 YEAR SERVICE

Firefighter Greg Stowers  
Lieutenant Jared Jackson

## 20 YEAR RECEIVED A GOLDEN AXE

Captain Josh Loyd  
Captain Scott Nichols  
Captain John Gray  
Lieutenant Korey Smith

## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lieutenant Michael Orth

## 30 YEARS RECEIVED A LEATHER HELMET

Assistant Chief Rob Erdel

## 2 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Firefighter Eli Kramer  
Firefighter Brandon Reams  
Life-Saving Award  
Captain Todd DeOrnellis



# Around the State

## CADET PROGRAM

Little Dixie is very proud to sponsor a cadet program. Five new cadets started in February which includes two second generation and two third generation firefighters. We have one cadet that is second generation who has been in the program for two years.



From left to right: Cameron Weakley, Noah McCune, Brooke Smithee, Leigha Finch, Korbyn Smith, Hailey Cuno

# SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The Southern Stone County Fire Protection District serves a larger number of elderly and retired citizens in our area, which unfortunately leads to high numbers of cardiac arrest medical calls. Our district took a look at these types of incidents and tried to determine if there was a better way to serve our citizens which we protect as well as reduce fatigue on our members. We were fortunate to be able to demo the Lucas 3 device for a period earlier in the year and witnessed a benefit from having the device as a resource.

The Lucas 3 device provides ideal to near-perfect chest compressions

mechanically which increases the survivability of the patient to which it is attached. This device also helps overcome caregiver fatigue, individual variations in CPR quality, and awkward positions while providing chest compressions by using automated, guidelines-consistent CPR.

The device has a backplate that is placed under the patient and the device locks onto the backplate. It is then attached to the backplate with the two arms and turned on. The device is very simple to operate and has minimal setup required.

The district purchased three Lucas 3 devices which have been in service since December 16, 2021. Since having these devices in operation in our district they have been used many times with success, as well as assisting with transporting patients to the hospital either by ground ambulance or aircraft. We thank the people who live, work and play here in our beautiful area for their continued support. We also thank the Board of Directors and our Responders who make our fire district something we can all be proud of!

# BUTCH CALLAHAN

February 14, 1935 - February 15, 2022

**B**utch Callahan of Ironton passed away Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at the age of 87 years, and 1 day. He was born February 14, 1935, in Esther, Missouri, a son of the late Theodore and Lessie Umfleet Callahan.



Surviving are a daughter, Vicky Reichert and husband Rob of Arcadia, Missouri; three granddaughters, Becky Loenneke and husband Danny of Jackson, Missouri, Sarah Ebert and husband Ande both of Jackson, Missouri, and Alison Erpenbach and husband Todd of Arcadia, Missouri; six great-grandchildren, Oliva, Grant, Will, Blake, Emma, and Sam. A host of other relatives and friends also survive. He was preceded in death by a sister, Alice Rose Callahan Hicks.

For many years Butch owned and operated Arcadia Sporting Goods. He served as Fire Chief of the Pilot Knob Fire Protection District for more than 20 years. He was a charter member of the Arcadia Valley Elks, the Arcadia Valley Lions Club, Arcadia Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Ozark Mountain Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. In the early 1980's he was instrumental in starting the 4th of July fireworks display in the Arcadia Valley.

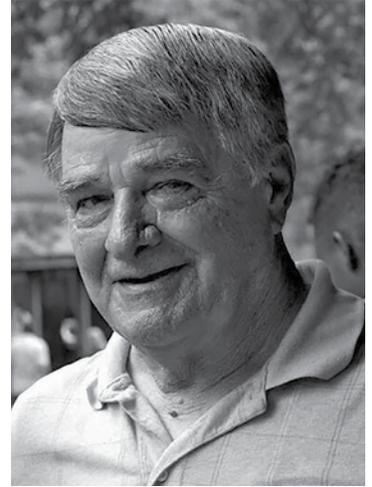
**Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team**  
**888-4911-HELP • mofirefuneral.org**



# LARRY K. DONAVANT

August 27, 1943 • February 15, 2022

**L**arry King Donavant was born on August 27, 1943, in Kansas City, Missouri, and departed this life on February 15, 2022, at home from complications of a recent diagnosis of lung cancer at the age of 78. He was the son of Leroy and Eleanor (Andlauer) Donavant. He graduated from Bishop Hogan High School in Kansas City. Larry was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, cousin, uncle, and friend. He has been a resident of both Stone and Taney County areas for 47 years coming from Kansas City/Grandview area.



Larry was a man of strong work ethic, was self-employed with his business of Antique and Classic Restorations in Lee's Summit, Missouri until he and his family moved to Table Rock/Kimberling City area in 1975. He opened an autobody shop there to continue his love for cars.

Another passion Larry had was the fire service. Larry started his volunteer firefighting career with the Kimberling City Fire Department and became chief in 1977/78. In the role of fire chief, he was instrumental in establishing the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District and resumed the role of Fire Chief for that district until he moved out of Stone County. Larry volunteered for the Western Taney County Fire protection district for many years leaving at the position of captain. He then went to work for Branson Fire Department in the role of training officer for a number of years and finished his firefighting career as Fire Chief for Central Taney County Fire protection district until he retired in 2010 from the fire service. During his firefighting career, he was a lead instructor of auto extrication for the University of Missouri Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

Even as his career in the fire service flourished, he continued his gift with cars and the long-term friendship he had with Mark Trimble, starting with Mark's personal car collection and then exclusively working for Mark at the Ozark Auto Show. During this time Larry also began his long connection with so many people at Shepherd of the Hills.

Larry was a man who loved serving his community, was well respected and was often looked at as a mentor by others. But the greatest blessing he felt was his family. Larry was preceded in death by his father Leroy Donavant and mother Eleanor and stepson Michael Coffelt Jr. He is survived by his wife Linda Donavant, sister Carolyn Grover (Bob), 3 children Deanna Hustead (Darin), Chrisy Pollard (Curt), Joe Donavant (Jan), stepson Chad Coffelt (Joyce). Grandchildren, Rebecca Ranker, Sean Smith, A. J. Pollard, Tyler Pollard, Garrett Donavant, Cole Donavant, Mallory Donavant, Cheyann Coffelt, Lyndsy Edmondson, Kelby Edmondson, Tray

# DONALD "MARK" KISNER

February 2, 1948 - February 5, 2022

Donald "Mark" Kisner passed away on February 5, 2022, at the age of 74. He was Born on February 2, 1948, in Fairmont, West Virginia, to John and Claudia (Knotts) Kisner.



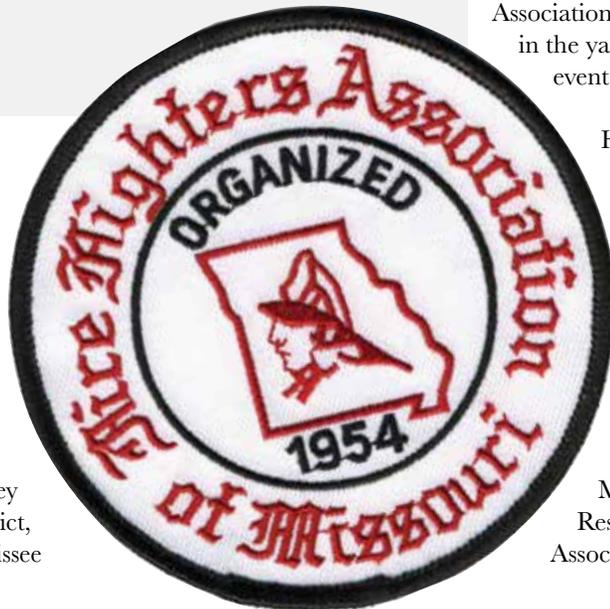
Mark joined the Army on December 7, 1967, where he became an Army Radar operator, and received several medals, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. Mark was mustered out with an honorable discharge on October 20, 1969.

On June 3, 1977, Mark married Connie North at Vegas Valley Christian Church. The newlyweds then moved to Hurley, Missouri in May of 1978, where Mark joined the Hurley Fire Protection District and became Chief for several years. Mark was an active member in his community, the Hurley Saddle Club, and the Stone County Citizens in Action. He had the American Price food Service where he enjoyed cooking at community events. He worked for Clever Mill for around 20 years and was the owner and operator of the Spring valley Stock Farm and spent the last four years driving for Hillhouse pump service.

Mark enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and being with his fire department family. He is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers: Matthew and James Kisner, and brother-in-law, Ronald Edwards. He is survived by his loving wife Connie, of 44 years, two sons; Jason and Steven Kisner, and Jamie Bolin, all of Hurley, Missouri, sister Rebecca Edwards of West Virginia, and two brothers, Michael Kisner, Timothy and wife Susie Kisner of North Carolina, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Coffelt, Lane Edmondson, Coye Coffelt, Jace Coffelt. And 21 great-grandchildren as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Central Taney County Fire Protection District, 21060 U.S. Highway 160, Kisseemills, MO 65680.



# GARY LEE WILSON

October 16, 1956 • February 17, 2022

Gary Lee Wilson passed away on February 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. He was born the son of Howard and Ruth (Breithaupt) Wilson on October 16, 1956, in Eudora, KS. He was raised in Eudora, KS, and graduated from Eudora High School in 1974. He married Stephanie Alberg on July 14, 1979, in Eudora.



Mr. Wilson joined the fire service in 1977 with the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant. He was also a volunteer firefighter for the Eudora Fire Department.

He joined Fire Service Training at the University of Kansas in 1988 and later became director of the program. In 1996 he joined the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute as associate director and later the director of the program in 2002. He left the MU program in 2006 to become the training chief for the Overland Park Fire Department where he retired in 2021. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the department in 2021.

He was a graduate of Johnson County Community College and Mid America Nazarene University. He served on many regional and national committees in the fire service. He was the State Co-Chair for the Training Resource and Data Exchange (TRADE) through the National Fire Academy and served as President of the North American Fire Training Directors. He also served as chair for the Fire and Emergency Service Company Officer 4th and 5th editions and vice-chair of the 7th and 8th editions of the Fire and Emergency Service Instructor texts from the International Fire Service Training Association through Oklahoma State University. He was Chiefs Training Officer designee through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), served as a peer assessor for CPSE on accrediting fire departments. He was a member of the International Fire Chiefs Association and the Church of the Resurrection. He enjoyed working in the yard, playing golf, attending his granddaughters' sporting events, and listening to classic rock.

He is survived by his wife Stephanie, a son Justin, Overland Park, KS; a daughter Sarah, Overland Park, KS; a granddaughter Audreana, Overland Park; a sister Deanne Benton; Lawrence, KS; his mother-in-law Marilyn Alberg, Overland Park, KS (formerly of Topeka) four sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law, four nieces, and four nephews. His parents, a son Geoffrey, brother James (Sweet Lips) Wilson, father-in-law Walter Alberg, and brother in law Richard Benton, preceded him in death.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Michael's or Matthew's Ministry at the Church of the Resurrection, the Overland Park Fire Department Benevolent Association, or The University of Kansas Cancer Center.

By Joni Fields, Auxiliary Sergeant at Arms, Paris Rural Fire Protection District

I hope this message finds you well and spring is on the way. As you read, you will find the most up-to-date draft of the by-laws as of February 14, 2022. After the February meeting, there were a few grammar and spelling errors that were corrected as well as a few rewordings. All things being removed are struck through and highlighted in red. All new items being presented are simply highlighted in red. Most changes are simply rewording or updated as necessary with the current time, however, there are a few new other changes that we feel are important to add. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. These will be voted on at Convention in May. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out. I look forward to seeing everyone in Washington, MO at Convention May 6-8, 2022.

## FFAM AUXILIARY BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the *Auxiliary to the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri*, hereinafter referred to as the Auxiliary.

### ARTICLE II OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES

- To promote firefighting safety
- To promote fire prevention education
- To give fire and emergency assistance
- To create and maintain a fellowship among members of the Auxiliary

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall consist of spouse, spouse of retiree, parents of the member, children of members and/or be sponsored by a firefighter from their local department who is in good standing with the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri

Honorary Members: Widows or widowers, who were active members of the Auxiliary at the time of their spouse's death, shall be given life membership with all privileges of members. Children of fire fighters, who have passed away, may remain active members of the Auxiliary, and will continue to pay yearly dues.

Membership Dues: Dues shall be five dollars per year, payable January 1 before the convention. The dues will be remitted to the Second Vice President.

### ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

The Officers of this Auxiliary shall consist of a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-president, Secretary/Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and ~~Historian~~ **Public Information Officer**. They shall be elected by nomination and majority vote of the authorized delegates at the annual convention on even years. All officers shall be elected for a term of two years at the same time.

**\*\*In extenuating circumstances (example: pandemic, natural disaster, etc.) election time and location may be adjusted with full intention of minimal changes as possible.**

### ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of all current Auxiliary Officers and the Immediate Past President of the FFAM Auxiliary.

### ARTICLE VI VOTING PROCEDURES

Delegate(s)

- Each department shall have 1 voting delegate per regular business meeting, and a majority vote rules.
- Each department may have 2 convention delegates which are active paid members of the FFAM Auxiliary.
- If there is only 1 qualified auxiliary member from your department that person shall serve as a delegate with only one vote.
- Delegates must be present at the convention to vote.

### ARTICLE VII VOTING ELECTION

The nominees shall consent to serve before their names are placed on the ballot, and they shall be in attendance at the convention.

A simple majority of delegates votes is required for election.

Officers shall be elected for a two-year period. No officer may serve more than two, two year terms consecutively in any one office and shall attend all board meetings.

**\*\*Being in attendance can be in person and via electronic video application/program.**

All officers, not including past presidents, are required to attend a minimum of three regular bimonthly business meetings. The Annual FFAM Conventions are required in addition to the three bimonthly meetings. If unable to attend any meeting, notification must be given to a current Auxiliary officer.

If the requirements are not met, after your second absence of the bimonthly meetings a letter will be sent requesting your intent. After your third absence, a final letter will be sent and your office position will be filled by another Auxiliary Member appointed by the Executive Board for the completion of your term.

Officers' terms shall begin at the close of the annual convention.

### ARTICLE VIII DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

~~The Executive Board shall consist of all the Auxiliary Officers and the immediate Past President and shall have such powers as voted by the Auxiliary:~~

**President:** ~~It shall be the duty of the President to:~~

- a) Preside at all meetings of the Auxiliary and all meetings of the Executive Board
- b) Appoint all committees and shall be voting, ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- c) Have the power to call special meetings of a committee, and to call special meeting of this organization.

**First Vice-President:** ~~It shall be the duties of the First Vice-President to:~~

- a) Perform all duties and assume all responsibilities of the President during the absence of the President
- b) Work with the Convention Committee in the host town at the annual convention and be responsible for all convention items
- c) Shall assume the chairperson of the audit committee. This duty will be performed and completed before the Annual Convention.

**Second Vice-President:** ~~It shall be the duties of the Second Vice-President to:~~

- a) Perform all duties and assume all responsibilities of the President during the absence of the First Vice-President and President.
- b) Be the membership chairperson and shall make every effort to increase the membership of the Auxiliary
- c) Keep an up-to-dated roster of the Auxiliary membership and provide all officers and past 3 presidents with this list.

**Secretary-Treasurer:** It shall be the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer to:

- a) Keep an accurate record of all of the auxiliary meetings. A copy of all minutes shall be provided to the President and all Board members prior to the submission to the media
- b) ~~Be responsible for bringing recorder and have available the prior recorded meeting minutes.~~  
Be responsible for maintaining all written meeting minutes from meetings held. (Meeting minutes will be recorded using the electronic video application/program recording option and be able through the electronic video application/program. Account maintained by the Public Information Officer)
- c) Conduct the correspondence of the Auxiliary
- d) ~~Be custodian of all funds of the Auxiliary, receiving and disbursing funds upon the authorization of the Auxiliary. The books shall be in order at all times. For the audit the following shall be provided: a detailed list of expenditures, deposits, balanced bank statements and the checkbook~~  
Maintain all finances of the Auxiliary, including but not limited to: receiving and disbursing of funds, management of funds and accounts, etc. as needed and authorized by the Auxiliary.
- e) Audit-must include a detailed list of expenses, deposits, balanced bank statements and the checkbook.
- e) ~~The checking account will now be required to have two signatures on the signature card the bank holds for verification of funds deposited/dispensed:~~

\*\*\*\*the FFAM Auxiliary Checkbook requires there to be two signatures on the signature card for verification of funds deposited/dispensed.

**Historian:** It shall be the duty of the Historian to:

**Public Information Officer**

- a) Shall attend meetings/conventions and maintain the history data of the Auxiliary
- b) Keep an updated list of officers past and present, convention sites, and Auxiliary Member of the Year.
- c) Maintain all FFAM Auxiliary Social Media Sites
- d) Prepare and make certain all virtual meeting options and opportunities are

- given to membership for all meetings and conventions
- e) Send any correspondence to news media outlets when necessary and appropriate (secretary will maintain control of meeting minutes and their publication)

**Sergeant at Arms:** It shall be the duty of the Sergeant at Arms to:

- a) Aid the President by preserving order
- b) Notify delegates of voting procedure
- c) Distribute and count election ballots
- d) Certify votes, if necessary
- e) Review the bylaws for updating and presenting those changes at the annual convention
- f) Shall read Roll Call of Auxiliary Membership Departments during convention ~~between the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report.~~

**ARTICLE VIII IX COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES**

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee shall consist of the immediate past three presidents. This committee will be responsible for submitting a slate of officers for the election at the convention.

**Auditing Committee:** ~~Auditing-Committee's responsibilities shall be to audit the financial record keeping and report this audit at the convention. This audit shall take place before the annual convention.~~  
~~The committee will consist of the 1st Vice-President and a member as appointed by the President.~~

Shall consist of the 1st Vice president and a member appointed by the President. The committee is responsible for the audit of the financial record keeping and reporting this audit at convention. The audit shall take place before convention.

**Auxiliary Member/Department of the Year Committee:** ~~The committee shall consist of the past three winners from the previous years. Their duties shall consist of presenting the nomination story and to obtain and present the plaque.~~

Shall consist of the past 3 winners. The committee is responsible for presenting the nomination story, obtaining and presenting of the plaque at convention.

\*\*In extenuating circumstances (example: pandemic, natural disaster, etc.) presentation time and location may be adjusted with full intention of minimal changes as possible.

**ARTICLE IX X AMENDMENT**

~~By-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the auxiliary by a 2/3rd majority vote of the delegates. The amendment shall be submitted to the Auxiliary, read at the meeting, and voted on at the next regular meeting. The decision was made by the Board that the meaning of the Regular Business meeting should be referring to those Meetings that occur every other month. Furthermore, an account of changes and additions to the by-laws shall be given at the annual convention.~~

By-laws may be amended at any regular bi-monthly of the auxiliary by a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates present. The amendment shall be submitted to the Auxiliary for discussion and reflection one month, submitted to the FFAM Magazine and website for publication, and publicized on the FFAM Auxiliary Member only social media page for viewing, discussed and voted on at the following bi-monthly meeting. An account of changes, additions or corrections of the by-laws shall be given at the annual convention.

**AUXILIARY TO THE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI**

Standing Rules (use Robert's Rules of Order)

1. Order of Business
- Call to order
- Presentation of colors with the Pledge of Allegiance
- Notify delegates of responsibilities
- Financial Report
- Reports of standing committees
- Report of chartered and long-standing members
- Report of special committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Retiring of colors
- Adjournment

1. Order of Business
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Presentation of Colors

Continue reading on page 42.



# Director's Comments

MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute



**John Worden**  
Interim Director

We recently received approval to begin the hiring process to hire new leadership for the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI). We are working on a job description and hope to have the position posted within the next few weeks. My goal is to have a new MU FRTI leader in place around July 1st.

Former Director Gary Wilson passed away on February 17th, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. Gary was hired in 1997 as the Associate Director for the Institute after he was lured away from Kansas Fire Service Training. During his time as Associate Director, MU FRTI had many record-setting years, delivering more than 1,000-1,200 classes and enrolling more than 25,000 students annually. Gary assured that classes were conducted in all of Missouri's counties. After serving in that role for five years, he was appointed Interim Director and finally became Director in 2002. During his tenure at MU FRTI, he developed innovative programs to expand MU FRTI's reach to the fire and allied emergency services, and served on several IFSTA committees. He led the Institute until 2006 when he accepted a position at Overland Park Fire Department, where he retired in 2021. He continued his leadership on IFSTA book writing committees. Gary was also a key figure with the IAFC Fire Department Accreditation program. Gary was always quick to say "yes" when asked to come back and teach for MU FRTI. He was a friend, a mentor and a true leader. He will be greatly missed.

I hope everyone is making it through the ever-changing weather! It's not one of my favorite things about Missouri, but we will soon be looking at high temps and humidity. Even the weather couldn't stop our Winter Fire School. It was great to be back to in-person learning and holding our Equipment Exposition during Winter Fire School. We had over 1,000 firefighters and over 2200 enrollments. We also had 87 vendors for the expo signed up for the show, but the weather stopped about a third of their arrival. It was still a great show and a steady crowd throughout the day.

We are already planning our annual Summer Fire School. This year Summer Fire School will be May 18-22. Be sure to look for registration information coming out soon. As always if you have questions, please contact our office.

MU FRTI has experienced two losses in February. Larry Donavant, retired MU FRTI Adjunct Instructor and Regional Coordinator, passed away on February 15th. Larry started his fire career early on and became chief of the Kimberling City Fire Department in 1977. He volunteered for Western Taney County Fire Protection District, went to work for Branson Fire Department and finished his career as Fire Chief for Central Taney County Fire Protection District. His other love was the restoration of antique cars and owned a body shop for several years. His instructional career with MU FRTI began in 1985, and he served as one of our lead auto extrication experts. He became one of our original Regional Coordinators in 1992 and served in Region D until 2001 when he retired.

**MAY 18 - 22, 2022**

**COLUMBIA, MO**



Find Out More Online:  
**MUFRTI.ORG**

**SUMMER FIRE SCHOOL**  
NINETIETH ANNUAL

Upcoming MU FRTI Classes • For Details and Complete Schedule Visit: MUFRTI.org

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE
3/18	Simulated Incident Management for First Arriving Officer	Cape Girardeau	Matt Mittrucker	573-339-6330
3/18	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Cuba	Brandon Plank	573-259-1261
3/19	School Bus Rescue	Kahoka	Chris Blomgren	660-342-3962
3/19	Large Area Search Team Training	Rolla	Roger Hayes	573-341-2211
3/19	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Wright City	Kyle Creech	760-686-4687
3/19	Surface Water Rescue: Awareness	Troy	Robert Shramek	636-528-8567
3/19	Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue	Ste. Genevieve	Bill Holst	573-579-3108
3/21	Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders	Maryville`	Jace Pine	816-589-4411
3/24	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Lake Ozark	David Woodward	573-280-0161
3/24	Fire Service Instructor I (Blended)	Gladstone	Sean Daugherty	816-729-8902
3/25	Emergency Response to Ammonia Incidents	Kirksville	Travis Gregory	660-665-3734
3/25	Swiftwater and Flood Rescue: Awareness	Barnhart	Kevin Schnable	314-420-0314
3/25	Vehicle Rescue: Technician	Richland	Russell Hobbs	573-512-1091
3/26	Emergency Services UTV/ATV Safety	Independence	John Weber	816-650-5811
3/26	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Marthasville	Sean Johnson	636-667-8920
3/26	Vehicle Rescue: Technician	Kennett	Paul Spain	573-717-6442
3/28	Health and Safety Officer	Union	Matt Tobben	636-583-2515
3/30	Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Techniques for Structural Fire Fighters	Lee's Summit	Dave York	816-969-1314
4/1	School Bus Rescue	Piedmont	Earl Mumper	573-712-4685
4/1	Shaping the Future	Cape Girardeau	Matt Mittrucker	573-339-6330
4/1	Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth	Barnhart	Kevin Schnable	314-420-0314
4/1	Vehicle Rescue: Technician	Squires	Travis Veldkamp	417-543-2263
4/2	Fire Department Medical First Responder	Doolittle	Brandon Williams	573-201-7069
4/2	Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue	Urbana	Larry Senyard	314-249-0139
4/2	Large Vehicle Rescue	Jefferson City	Julie Rademann	573-634-9011
4/4	Fire Service Instructor I	Valley Park	Curtis VanGaasbeek	636-225-4288
4/4	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Pumper	Union	Matt Tobben	636-583-2515
4/5	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Core	Herculaneum	Bob Tucker	314-280-2673
4/6	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Core	Lake Ozark	David Woodward	573-365-3380
4/7	Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge	Cape Girardeau	Matt Mittrucker	573-339-6330
4/8	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Core	Gordonville	Tim Bleichorth	573-382-1553
4/8	Basic Pump Operations	Pomona	Randall Dennis	417-293-0889
4/8	Company Officer Responsibility Incident Safety	Kirksville	Travis Gregory	660-665-3734
4/9	Exterior Live Fire Skills	Brighton	Ken Witt	417-343-5141
4/9	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Garden City	MU FRTI	800-869-3476
4/14	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Kansas City	Mike Collins	816-785-7181
4/19	Confined Space Rescue: Awareness	Moberly	Ben Wolverton	660-346-6082
4/22	Farm Machinery Rescue	Nevada	Chris Robinson	417-448-5105
4/22	Farm Machinery Rescue	Savannah	Tom Sontheimer	816-617-5826
4/29	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Houston	Robbie Smith	417-293-7395
4/30	Vehicle Rescue: Technician	Bethany	Jordan Wallace	660-868-2610
5/2	Structural Collapse Rescue: Awareness	Kirksville	Travis Gregory	660-665-3734
5/4	Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge	Hillsboro	Bob Tucker	314-280-2673
5/6	Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incident Response	Piedmont	Earl Mumper	573-712-4685
5/6	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Washington	MU FRTI	800-869-3476
5/7	Trench Rescue: Awareness	Savannah	Tom Sontheimer	816-617-5826
5/7	Fire Fighter I and II Live Fire Skills	Cape Girardeau	Matt Mittrucker	573-339-6330
5/13	Farm Machinery Rescue	Rocky Comfort	Eric Norris	417-489-0467
5/13	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Doolittle	Brandon Williams	573-201-7069
5/13	Lost Person Search and Rescue	Wright City	Kyle Creech	760-686-4687
5/14	Trench Rescue: Operations	Savannah	Tom Sontheimer	816-617-5826
5/16	Killer in the Attic	Ava	AJ Carmichael	417-543-6333

## OFF-ROAD RECOVERY & OVERSTEERING

Manage your speed, minimize distractions and pay attention when driving on roads with minimal shoulder. Many drivers will inadvertently allow their right-side tires to fall off the pavement edge. When this happens, they often panic, yank the steering wheel and slam on the brakes. This causes the vehicle to veer sharply to the left, usually resulting in an overturned vehicle or head-on crash. Reduce or eliminate the risk of this type of crash with basic defensive driving techniques.

Find more safety information at [www.mem-ins.com](http://www.mem-ins.com)

### CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

#### DON'T PANIC. DON'T YANK THE WHEEL!

Overcorrection crashes occur when a driver veers off the edge of the road and, in response, turns the vehicle sharply in the opposite direction. Pay attention to the road and keep both hands on the steering wheel.

Overcorrecting could cause your vehicle to cross the center line, slide out of control, tip over or strike another vehicle.

Often, overcorrection is caused or worsened when the driver strongly brakes after veering off-road.

In this case, the tires are braking on two different surfaces:

- Driver-side tires brake on pavement;
- Passenger-side tires brake on grass, rock or soil.

If you do veer off the road, simply take your foot off the accelerator. Keep a firm grasp on the steering wheel and guide your vehicle gradually back into the lane.

- Don't panic!
- Don't yank the wheel or jam on the brakes.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Gently make slight corrections to your steering and guide your vehicle back onto the pavement.

Of course, a better plan is to avoid veering off-road in the first place.

- Don't speed in heavy pumpers, tankers and aerials.
- Drive at speeds appropriate for road conditions.
- Reduce your speed on curvy roads, rural roads with narrow shoulders or gravel surfaces.
- Focus on the road. Keep both hands on the wheel.
- Minimize distractions – stay off the phone and radio.
- Scan for and avoid pavement drop-offs.
- Slow down when heading into curves and down hills.
- Slow down any danger is experienced.



FOCUS ON THE ROAD. MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS. ALL CREW MEMBERS MUST WEAR SEAT BELTS.



HEAVY TANKERS CAN BE UNFORGIVING ON RURAL ROADS. SLOW DOWN AND ARRIVE SAFELY.



DRIVERS WILL PANIC WHEN THEIR TIRES FALL OFF THE EDGE OF THE PAVEMENT. DON'T YANK THE WHEEL, DON'T PANIC. KEEP CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE AND BOTH HANDS ON THE STEERING WHEEL.

*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and the Firefighter Association of Missouri assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional. 07/16/20 by MW*

**THE MID-COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IS CURRENTLY SEEKING TO FILL FIREFIGHTER/ EMT-B POSITIONS**

The Mid-County Fire Protection District (MCFPD) is located in central Missouri at the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks and encompasses 227 square miles in central Camden County with seven fire stations and two fireboats. MCFPD is a combination organization of career and volunteer personnel. In 2021, MCFPD responded to 2,250 emergency incidents including structural, vehicle, and wildland fire suppression, vehicle and technical rescue, marine firefighting and rescue, water rescue and dive recoveries, emergency medical services, code enforcement, fire prevention / public education, along with a host of other activities and services. Additionally, MCFPD provides mutual aid service to the surrounding fire districts and fire departments and offers the only water rescue/dive team at Lake of the Ozarks.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Fire Fighter 1 & 2 from Missouri Division Fire Safety (IFSAC)
- EMT-B (preferred) required within 1 year of employment
- Tri-State Fire Recruitment Alliance testing completion

**BENEFITS:**

- Starting Salary - \$37, 200 (Probation, 6 months)
- Base Salary - \$40,500 (Completed probation with EMT-B)
- FLSA Non-Exempt
- Health Insurance is provided, 100%, on the first day of employment. The fire district pays 50% of the premium for qualifying dependents.
- Life Insurance is provided, 100%, on the first day of employment.
- MO LAGERS is provided, after 6-month probation (unless previously employed with MO LAGERS employer), the employee contributes 2% at this time.
- Short Term Disability is provided, 100%, after 6 months.
- 2 different supplemental insurance available, at the employee's expense.
- Secondary retirement program available, at the employee's expense.

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT:**

MCFPD Station #1  
 184 North Business Route 5  
 Camdenton MO, 65020  
 Or  
[mcfpd.org/careers-training/](http://mcfpd.org/careers-training/)

**DEADLINE:**

Open until positions are filled



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**\$10**

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**All Proceeds Go To The Missouri Firefighters Museum**

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**BUY TICKETS ONLINE:**

[facebook.com/ffmuseumproject](https://facebook.com/ffmuseumproject)

Processing will be paid for by the Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri.

Drawing held on **08/18/2022.**

*Winners to be notified by phone.*

*Beef donated by Wynne Angus Farm.*

By Kris White, Assistant Director District 11

**M**y name is Kris White and I have been a volunteer firefighter for the Mayview Fire Protection District (MFPD) for 22 years. It is an honor to have been nominated and recently voted in as the FFAM's District 11 Assistant Director.

Outside of the fire service, I own Tier 1 Fabrication, a welding and manufacturing company located in Mayview. Prior to opening the business in 2016, I was a professional welder for KCPL/Evergy for nearly 13 years. My wife, Jessica, and I have been married since 2016. She works for an Independence, Missouri-based driveway logistics company. Jessica also serves as the President of the Mayview Fire Ladies Auxiliary and is the Secretary/Treasurer for the Mayview Fire Protection District. Our daughter, Abby, is a freshman at Odessa High School. She is very active in 4-H, FFA, and is a junior member of the Ladies Auxiliary. We reside in rural Mayview on a small farm.

The mission statement of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri begins by mentioning the brotherhood that exists between the members of the Association throughout the State of Missouri. When I was 16, I became a volunteer firefighter in Mayview. After 10 years of service, in 2010, I was elected to serve as Chief and continue to serve in that role today. Over the years, I have learned that the concept of brotherhood as it relates to the fire service isn't something that one can fully understand until they are directly involved.

For our department and for my family and me, that bond and brotherhood are what really opened our eyes to the FFAM and the outstanding people who make up this organization. In 2017, the MFPD



Kris White

experienced its first line of duty death. The outpouring of support from our brothers and sisters from all over the state was nothing short of incredible. The Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Kingdom City was a beautiful way to honor our fallen brother, his family and his fellow volunteer firefighters.

From the day of the accident on, many members of the FFAM went above and beyond and helped us to navigate through a very difficult time. Those members are the people who have inspired me to get more involved and I hope to serve the FFAM with the same level of dedication and commitment that was shown to us.

I look forward to learning more about all aspects of this organization and I am eager to meet more of the amazing men and women of the FFAM.



- c. Pledge of Allegiance
  - d. Notification of Delegate Responsibilities
  - e. Roll Call of Departments
  - f. Reading and Approval of Minutes
  - g. Reading and Approval of Financial Report
  - h. Other Officer Reports
  - i. Standing Committee Reports
  - j. Special Committee Reports
  - k. Special Orders (Guests, other special business when appropriate)
  - l. Unfinished Business
  - m. New Business
  - n. Announcements
  - o. Retiring of the colors
  - p. Adjournment
2. Four members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum to transact business
  3. The time of the Auxiliary meetings shall coincide with the meeting of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri.
  4. When a motion is presented on the floor, the member should stand and state their full name and department represented.
  5. Auxiliary fund-raising activities shall be determined by the auxiliary.
  6. The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31, with the audit before the annual convention and presented at the convention.
  7. The Executive Board shall have the power to spend funds for special projects not exceeding \$500.00 providing the funds are available.
  8. Executive Board meetings are the only meeting where only Executive Board member may vote.
  9. Due to new Federal Banking Laws, the decision was made to have two signers on the signature card at the Bank in which the current association's non-profit checking accounts is located. This ensures those monies will be secured back to this association in the event anything happens to the Officer who is currently holding the Secretary/Treasurer position. Please note that it was also decided that the officer living closest to the current Secretary/Treasurer, not including Past Presidents, will be responsible for signatures upon the election of new officers. (Revised and put in by-laws May 2020)

# A SPRING CLEANING WIN-WIN: A SPARKLING HOME AND A COMMUNITY HELPED BY YOUR DONATIONS

We've been shut in our homes for months. Many have taken the opportunity to clean, organize and purge. But before stowing those cleaning supplies, go through the checklists below to finish your spring cleaning (inside and out) before the lazy days of summer hit. You'll also find tips for recycling or donating items like extra business wear, old shoes and leftover paint.

**Inside** — You know the drill: dust and wipe down all surfaces. Vacuum and mop floors; clean carpets and rugs as needed. Disinfect light switch covers, doorknobs and handles throughout your home. Expert tip: clean one room at a time before moving to the next. And try to hit these extras—they'll make a huge difference:

1. **Kitchen.** Organize pantry and cupboards. Defrost and clean the freezer. Toss expired food. Sharpen knives and give your pots and pans a deep clean. Don't forget the oven (inside and underneath).
2. **Bedrooms.** Vacuum, rotate and flip mattresses. Launder all bedding—including pillows!
3. **Living areas.** Clean the fireplace and hearth. Launder curtains and drapes. Vacuum sofas and under cushions, and wash cushion covers. Change the batteries in smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector.
4. **Laundry room.** Clean appliances—underneath and even inside. Clean dryer lint trap.
5. **Bathrooms.** Clean toilet lid hinges and bolt covers on toilet base. Clean exhaust fan. Check expiration dates on medications and dispose of safely.

6. **Garage.** Get rid of unwanted items and re-organize what you want to keep. Sweep, wash and degrease the floor—and repair any cracks to extend the life of the concrete. Inspect your garage door, including weather stripping and the door track hardware.
7. **Basement.** Declutter and re-organize items. Vacuum and wash vents. Check for and treat any mold or mildew.

**Outside** — Backyards and home exteriors, often forgotten, also benefit from spring cleaning love. The following not only ups the beauty quotient but enhance safety and prevent damage.

1. **Gutters.** Clean out debris and check for cracks, gaps or sagging.
2. **Patio furniture.** Scrub furniture clean with the appropriate cleaning solution. Hose off and let dry in the sun. Brush off and wash outdoor cushions.
3. **Deck.** Sweep, scrub and powerwash. Inspect for and repair any rotting wood, chips in concrete or rusted metal.
4. **Trees.** Trim low-hanging limbs or any that risk damaging your house.
5. **Lighting.** Replace bulbs as needed. Clear fixtures of cobwebs and insects, and clean inside and out.
6. **Windows.** Wash windows inside and out. Gently brush and wipe down screens (remove if necessary to deep clean). Remove, wash and store any storm windows.
7. **Grill.** Check all connections and functions. Give the grill a thorough scrubbing and replace propane tanks if needed.
8. **Outdoor surfaces.** Powerwash the siding around your home. Check driveways, sidewalks, retaining walls and walkways for damage or safety hazards.

## Where to donate:

You've purged and cleared the clutter—inside and out. What to do with all that stuff you've bagged up or set aside to get rid of? Besides the local donation stand-bys, try apps like NextDoor or Freecycle to donate usable items to folks in your neighborhood. Here are other ideas for some common items.

- **Suits** — To donate business wear to those newly unemployed and seeking work, check out Dress for Success, Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits, or local organizations.
- **Old running shoes** — Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program keeps athletic shoes out of the landfill—and turns them into new running surfaces.
- **Linens** — Many animal shelters welcome used towels and blankets for their 4-legged residents.
- **Leftover paint** — Many organizations can use your (non-expired) leftover paint. Try Habitat for Humanity, local shelters or churches, and community organizations that work with kids (and hence, have projects!)
- **Hazardous materials** — Drain cleaner, antifreeze, motor oil and other toxic chemicals can be dropped off or collected by your local waste management agency, or the national Waste Management, which serves most U.S. municipalities.
- **Lumber scraps** — Untreated wood (along with tree trimmings!) can be composted. Wood that's painted, treated or varnished unfortunately must go to the landfill. Remember not to burn it, as that releases toxic chemicals.

A freshly scrubbed home and yard will make everyday relaxing and summer barbecues all the more enjoyable. And you'll feel better knowing your used items helped out neighbors in need.

## ABOUT CALIFORNIA CASUALTY:

Headquartered in San Mateo, CA, with Service Centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty provides auto and home insurance to educators, higher education employees, firefighters, law enforcement, nurses and United MileagePlus members across the country. To learn more about California Casualty, or to request an auto insurance quote, please visit [www.readyforquote.com/katelyn](http://www.readyforquote.com/katelyn) or call 1.833.989.3579



# California Casualty

# LAGERS PENSION: A GUIDE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

By Missouri LAGERS

The Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System, more commonly known as LAGERS, offers a means for Missouri's political subdivisions to provide their employees with a quality retirement plan in a more efficient manner than any one employer could provide on its own. LAGERS membership is made up of thousands of municipal administrators, firefighters, police officers, utility workers, EMTs, public works personnel, and librarians, to name a few.

For nearly 55 years, LAGERS has helped middle-class workers transition into middle-class retirees. Dependable monthly income is essential for people to exit the workforce with dignity and helps them maintain their standard of living throughout retirement. LAGERS exists solely for the benefit of its members and the people who are dependent upon them. The security, flexibility, and portability of the benefits make LAGERS the preferred retirement plan for Missouri's local governments.

## LAGERS WAS CREATED BY THE MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

LAGERS was created to be a tool for Missouri's political subdivisions to attract and retain quality employees with its retirement, disability and death benefits. Prior to the establishment of LAGERS, only the largest local governments had access to a quality pension program. Former Missouri Municipal League director Jay T. Bell led an effort to change that by amending the Missouri Constitution in 1966 and then passing enabling legislation in 1967 that allowed a pension plan to be created that was available to all local governments - large and small. LAGERS operated under a contractual agreement with MML until 1970 when the young system had grown large enough to be self-sustaining.

"Retirement benefits not only allow employees to plan for the future but encourage them to pursue a career in which they have chosen to serve their fellow citizens in governmental administration."

- John H. Poelker, Chairman of the LAGERS' Board, 1969



Jeff Kempker, Assistant Executive Director, External Affairs of Missouri LAGERS

## THE GROWTH OF LAGERS IN MISSOURI

Since its humble beginnings with ten original charter member local governments, LAGERS has grown to over 820 participating employers, overseeing \$10 billion in assets for its nearly 70,000 current and former members. The pension plan's funding level is consistently in the top ten nationwide and currently sits at 95.6%. LAGERS is open to all of Missouri's political subdivisions and typically sees around 15 employers join each year. Local governments may also appoint LAGERS as the administrator for their frozen legacy pension plan.

## LAGERS IS A DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN

A defined benefit retirement plan provides each eligible retiree with a monthly lifetime income. The amount of an individual's benefit is determined by a formula that incorporates a multiplier chosen by their employer, their salary and their length of service. An employee is eligible for a benefit after five years of service and may retire with full benefits at age 60 or age 55 for police officers, firefighters and certain public safety workers.

## FLEXIBLE BENEFITS ARE CONTROLLED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

LAGERS' flexible benefit structure enables each employer to customize their pension to meet their compensation and budgetary goals. Each participating employer chooses from over 100 benefit combinations and then



# THE PURPOSE OF A RETIREMENT PLAN

# GET THE TOOLS TO SAVE LIVES.

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each employer funds the benefits based on those choices. The benefits and costs should then be continually monitored and evaluated by the employer to ensure their goals are being achieved. Changes may be made to the benefit levels once every two years. Not only may the employer change the benefit levels, but also the amount the employees will contribute to helping fund their benefits. The amount of the employee contribution ranges from 0% to 6% of salary. This grants the employer ultimate flexibility in designing their retirement plan. Many LAGERS-participating employers also provide access to a deferred compensation retirement plan, like a 457(B), so employees can save

additional funds for retirement through a payroll contribution.



#### HOW EMPLOYER COSTS ARE DETERMINED

Each employer pays LAGERS a unique contribution based on the demographics of its employees and the benefits the employer has chosen. The cost is designed to remain steady for the long term but may be adjusted each year to ensure benefits are properly funded. Since LAGERS is a defined benefit plan, detailed demographic and economic assumptions are made about future events in order to determine the appropriate employer contribution. The year-to-year differences between the assumptions and the actual experience are examined each year and adjustments to each employer's contribution rate are made because of these differences. If an employer's contribution needs to increase to keep up with funding, the maximum one-year increase allowed by statute is one percent of the employer's payroll. The majority of LAGERS' employer contribution rates are decreasing or remaining unchanged for fiscal years beginning in 2022.

#### BENEFITS PAID TO RETIREES HELP STABILIZE MISSOURI'S ECONOMY

LAGERS paid over \$350 million to benefit recipients in 2020, with 93% of those funds staying in Missouri. The stable, predictable income paid to LAGERS retirees and beneficiaries is recycled back into local economies across the state as the pension payments are spent on local goods and services. LAGERS retirees do not need to modify their spending habits during economic downturns because their benefits are defined and paid for life. Retirees also receive an annual cost of living adjustment so their income from LAGERS keeps pace with inflation.

LAGERS' board of trustees and staff are proud to serve those who are responsible for keeping our Missouri communities going. Our members are the lifeblood of the state, providing vital services to the citizens. LAGERS was created to encourage public service and to provide local government workers a dignified exit from the workforce. After almost fifty-five years of service, LAGERS is still delivering on the promises by which it was founded.



## APPLY NOW FOR TURNOUTS AND HELMETS FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT

MSA, DuPont Personal Protection, and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) are teaming up again in 2022 to provide volunteer fire departments with four sets of new, state-of-the-art Globe turnout gear through MSA and DuPont's annual Globe Gear Giveaway program. A total of 52 jackets, 52 pants, and 52 helmets will be awarded to 13 volunteer fire departments in need in 2022 to increase firefighter safety.

### To be eligible to apply, departments must:

- Be over 50% volunteer
- Serve a population of 25,000 or less
- Be located in the U.S. or Canada and legally organized under state/province law
- Be a member of the NVFC. MSA will provide complimentary memberships to the first 500 applicants.
- Demonstrate a need for the gear

### Deadline:

View full criteria and apply by June 1 at [nvfc.org/gear](http://nvfc.org/gear)

Winners will be announced monthly between July and December. Stay tuned to the NVFC web site, Dispatch newsletter, and Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as the Globe Facebook page, for details. Since 2012, 611 sets of turnouts and 156 helmets have been awarded to 134 departments through the Gear Giveaway program, valued at over one million dollars' worth of life-saving gear.

### About MSA

Established in 1914, MSA Safety Incorporated is the global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of safety products that protect people and facility infrastructures. Many MSA products integrate a combination of electronics, mechanical systems and advanced materials to protect users against hazardous or life-threatening situations. The company's comprehensive product line is used by workers around the world in a broad range of markets, including the oil, gas and petrochemical industry, the fire service, the construction industry, mining and the military. MSA's core products include self-contained breathing apparatus, fixed gas and flame detection systems, portable gas detection instruments, industrial head protection products, firefighter helmets and protective apparel, and fall protection devices. With 2020 revenues of \$1.35 billion, MSA employs approximately 5,200 people worldwide. The company is headquartered north of Pittsburgh in Cranberry Township, Pa., and has manufacturing operations in the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America. With more than 40 international locations, MSA realizes approximately half of its revenue from outside North America. For more information visit MSA's web site at [www.MSAafety.com](http://www.MSAafety.com).

# GEAR GIVEAWAY!

### About DuPont Personal Protection

From first responders to industrial workers, DuPont provides a wide range of personal protection solutions, including some of the most trusted and innovative brands in the industry, such as Kevlar®, Nomex®, Tyvek® and Tychem® to meet your safety needs. More information can be found at [personalprotection.dupont.com](http://personalprotection.dupont.com).

### About DuPont

DuPont (NYSE: DD) is a global innovation leader with technology-based materials and solutions that help transform industries and everyday life. Our employees apply diverse science and expertise to help customers advance their best ideas and deliver essential innovations in key markets including electronics, transportation, construction, water, healthcare and worker safety. More information about the company, its businesses and solutions can be found at [www.dupont.com](http://www.dupont.com). Investors can access information included on the Investor Relations section of the website at [investors.dupont.com](http://investors.dupont.com).

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### About the NVFC

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides critical resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).



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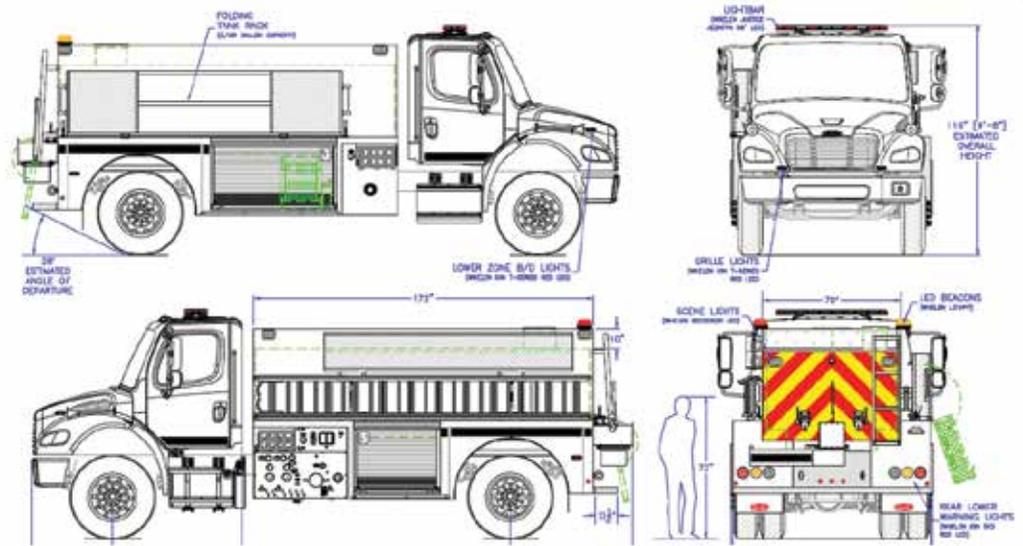
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