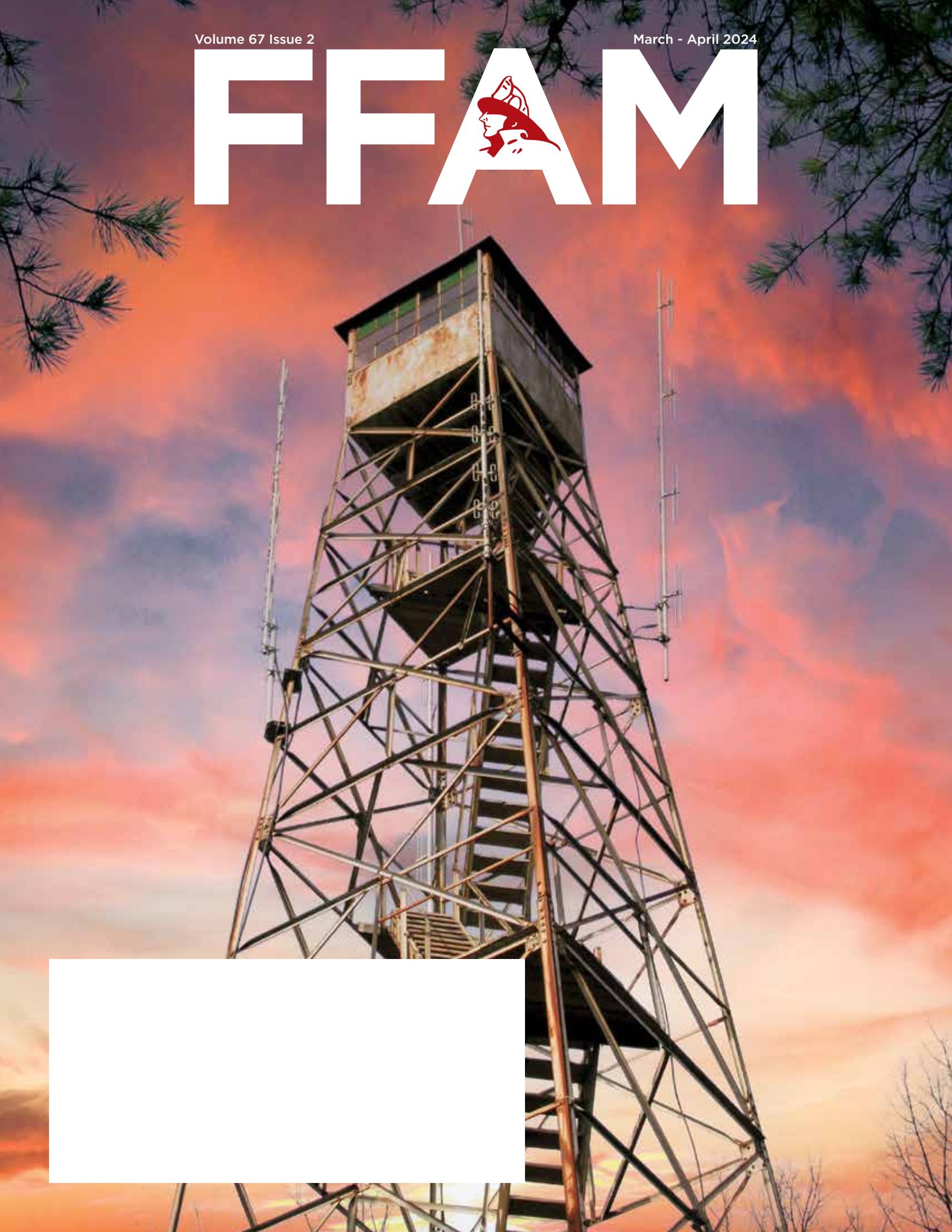


Volume 67 Issue 2

March - April 2024

FFAM







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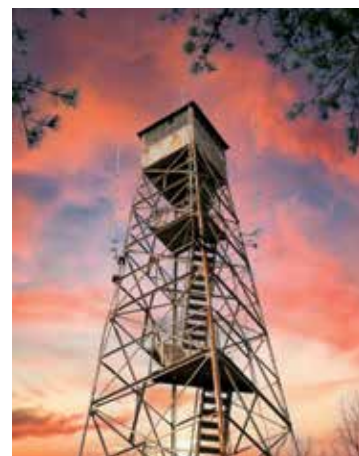
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Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



ABOUT THE COVER

Fire tower at Sam A. Baker State Park in southeast Missouri
Image by Chad Doolen

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CONTENT

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President's Remarks

Welcome to Spring!



Larry Jennings

Greetings and welcome to Spring! Hopefully, you have had a successful winter season and were able to accomplish as many indoor projects as you could so you won't be restricted in the amount of time you can now spend outside (without multiple layers of clothes to stay warm).

If you haven't seen the information yet the FFAM Convention 2024 is on! The event will be held May 17-19 at Lodge of the Four Seasons and will be hosted by Lake Ozark Fire Protection District. Group rates are available for lodging on site and registration and banquet reservations are currently available. This is a prime opportunity for you to join other members of FFAM for education and networking and get to have a direct voice in the business affairs of the Association as a voting delegate representing your agency. We hope to see you at the convention and the annual meeting.

While we are on the topic of Convention, this is also the time we get to honor some of our more deserving peers with various awards. The recipients of these awards are selected from your nominations during arduous deliberations by the Awards Committee and recognize them for various accomplishments.

During the convention, the recipients of educational scholarships are also honored providing us an opportunity to officially recognize those that represent the future of the fire service.

Please plan to attend the convention and join us at the banquet Saturday evening to help celebrate the accomplishments.

Firefighter's Day at the Capitol scheduled for March 26 is a focused opportunity to meet directly with Missouri's legislators to help educate them on the needs of Missouri's fire service. Each year a day is set aside on the Capitol calendar for this event so if you have never attended before make plans to attend and make your voice heard. We have seen direct results benefiting the fire service due to our visits with the legislators. Keep

in mind however that this one day is not the only time you should visit with your local legislator. If you don't already know who your local legislator is take the time to find out and then introduce yourself to them. These people rely on the voices of the area they represent to help put perspective on the needs of the area and often the ramifications potentially created with some legislation.

Congratulations to the University of Missouri Extension's Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) on another successful Winter Fire School. The report on attendance and some unofficial reviews I have heard about some of the courses offered shows their continued commitment to provide quality training opportunities. The information also shows the Missouri fire service personnel understand the need for continued training and are willing to give up even more of their personal time to attend training to enhance their skills as they serve their local communities. Nice job fire folks.

Don't forget the Missouri State Fair is just around the corner (August 8-18) and the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department will be up and running again as the only known fully functioning fire department that is in service for only eleven days each year.

This service is certainly unique and is made possible by the generous assistance provided by other departments across the state and the selfless giving of personal time provided by the members of the FFAM who staff the department. If you are interested in serving make sure your application is submitted by June 1.

If the Board of Directors or I can be of any assistance please let us know as we continue to serve you, the Missouri fire service.

Be Safe!



Fire Marshal's Update

It is that time of the year we call election time. As Missourians, and Americans we should practice the right of voting at the local, state, and national levels. We have many state offices up for election this year. Please take the time and educate yourself on who is running within your area, and then go vote.

I would like to say how proud of the Missouri fire service I am. In recent weeks many of you have had major wildland fire events within your protection areas. I appreciate seeing and hearing how everyone has been actively involved with assisting your neighbors when they have requested your assistance. We in the Missouri fire service like every other state are experiencing a shortage of staff in our fire departments. This elevates the reason we should have strong mutual aid/automatic aid agreements with our neighboring fire departments. Building these relationships is paramount before you need their assistance. If you do not have a

written agreement with your neighboring department, I strongly encourage you to work on getting your mutual aid agreements in place. Attending your local fire chiefs or county fire department meetings will reap great dividends when major events happen. Training together and knowing what each other can do will provide relief to you and your agency.

STATE FIRE MUTUAL AID REGIONAL COORDINATORS

This is a list of your state fire mutual aid regional coordinators who work for you if and when you need resources for that major event that breaks out and exceeds your local department's capabilities.

Region A: Dan Manley — 816-935-3456

Region B: John Cook — 660-665-3734

Region C: Greg Brown — 636-262-2400



Tim Bean



Region D: Rich Stirts — 417-839-5697

Region E: Jason Mouser — 573-576-8709

Region F: Scott Frandsen — 573-216-5900

Region G: Kurt Wilbanks — 417-255-3584

Region H: Bill Lamar — 816-387-3269

Region I: Ron Smith — 573-578-2507

Please add these coordinator's names and phone numbers to your contact list. In the middle of the event is the wrong time to be trying to figure out who to call! We stand ready to assist you at any time.

We have hired a new Statewide Fire Mutual Aid coordinator for the Division of Fire Safety. Scott Clarkson will begin the first of April in his new role. Until then, Matt Luetkemeyer is your contact for anything related to fire mutual aid, fire department registration, or any other fire department-related questions. Our contact phone number is 573-821-0937, which is available 24/7/365. You can always contact me at 573-645-2069.

In closing our annual *Firefighters' Day at the Capitol* is March 26th. Events kick off at 10:00 am here on the 13th floor with a legislative briefing. We will dismiss from here and then you may go and visit your legislators. At noon the ceremony will begin in the rotunda with the presentation of the colors, followed by remarks from Governor Parson and others. Our theme this year is *Women in Fire*. The day will be dedicated to the females who serve across our state. Come join us for your day at the capital, lunch will be provided for you before you head back home, I hope to see you here!

It is an honor to serve you as the State Fire Marshal. Thank you for being the "Best boots on the ground" and leaving things better than you find them! Feel free to reach out if I can be of any assistance to you.



President Larry Jennings called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 am on Sunday, February 11, 2024, 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

OFFICERS

President Larry Jennings, Johnson County FPD; First Vice President Charlie Peel (V), Southeastern Randolph FPD; Second Vice President Grant Oetting, Higginsville FPD; Secretary-Treasurer Jaime Miller, Johnson County FPD #2; Sergeant-at-Arms Rex Reynolds, Southern FPD of Holt County.

DIRECTORS

District 3 Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; District 5 Terry Plumb (V), Southern Stone FPD; District 6 Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; District 7 RB Brown, Union FD; District 9 Kurt Wilbanks (V), West Plains FD; District 10 Greg Brown, Eureka FPD.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

District 1, Janet Cain, Shoal Creek FPD; District 3, Josh Loyd, Martinsburg Area FPD; District 4, Jonathan Evans, Lincoln FD; District 5 Dylan Honea (V), Southern Stone FPD; District 5 Shelby Honea (V), Southern Stone FPD; District 6 Alan Braun, Cole County FPD; District 7 Andrew Caldwell, Boles FPD; District 11 Kris White, Mayview FPD; District 14 Kyler Oliver, Rosendale FPD.

GUESTS

Gail Hagans, Harry Ward, David Hedrick (V) – University of Missouri Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute; Tim Bean (V), Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Keith Smith, Warrenton FPD; Cameron Lauber, Kegan Wilson, Johnson County FPD; Roy Pennington, Pettis County Ambulance; Roger Meyers, Concordia FPD.

*(V) denotes *Virtual Attendance*

AGENDA

President Jennings asked for additions to the agenda. No additions were made.

MINUTES

President Jennings asked for additions or corrections to the December 3, 2023, meeting minutes.

Rob Erdel moved to accept the minutes as presented. A vote was held, and the motion was approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Jennings asked for a review of the November/December 2023 financial report. Discussion was held and the board advised to file the report for the annual compilation.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S):

Harry Ward with the University of Missouri Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) reported that Winter Fire School was held last week. There were 940 in attendance representing seven states. They received great feedback from the vendors who attended the expo. There were several dignitaries who attended. Missouri Fire Chiefs had a booth and MU Extension Interim Vice Chancellor Chad Higgins also attended.

Summer Fire School will be from May 29 – June 2. They are bringing back wildland classes.

The Fire Service Enhancement Leadership Program started in January. There are 24 signed up.

Spring classes are filling up fast so if you are interested in training, contact the Division of Fire Safety.

The advisory council met in January. There are two new members, Travis Gregory and Nathan Manually.

Tim Bean with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety thanked MU FRTI for a great Winter Fire School.

There is \$500k available in the state training budget. Please take advantage of the funding available for training. Contact DFS if interested in applying for this funding.

Reach out to your local legislators. They have been supportive of the Missouri Fire Service with these training funds and it is

important for them to know the continued need for this funding.

March 26 is Firefighters Day at the Capitol. The theme is *Women in Fire*.

Legislators are back in session and the DFS budget is good. He will be presenting it to the House tomorrow.

The National Association of Fire Marshals will be in Kansas City July 29-31. The event will be open to the public.

NFPA has recently changed the fire investigation course which will now be 80 hours.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1 – no report given.

District 2 – no report given.

District 3 – Rob Erdel reported that emails were sent to the departments in District 3. Both Assistant Directors have also made several contacts.

District 4 – Jonathan Evans reported that he had met with several departments including assisting with an eyeglass claim. He assisted at the WFS booth. Joe Vaughn also submitted contact forms for several departments.

District 5 – Dylan Honea reported that he attended the Tri-Lakes Chiefs Association meeting and met with five departments. Terry Plumb reported that he spoke with Hurley and Aurora and provided literature.

Dylan also advised that Silver Dollar City will be holding a grand opening event for their new Fire in the Hole ride. More information to follow.

District 6 – Gary Berendzen reported that he and the two Assistant Directors split their district and have made several department contacts as well as plans to attend area chief's meetings.

District 7 – RB Brown reported that several contacts have been made and he is looking for a second Assistant Director.

District 9 – Kurt Wilbanks reported that he has contacted several departments in Howell

County. He sent emails to all departments in his area but due to the large amount of turnover, much of our contact information is not current.

District 10 – Greg Brown reported that he met with Fenton and several other departments with some interest. He is still waiting to hear back from the IAFF council.

District 11 – Kris White reported that they split the district into 3 areas between the Director and Assistant Directors. They did gain a new membership with Lone Jack.

District 12 – no report given.

District 14 – Kyler Oliver reported that he attended the Nodaway County Chiefs Association meeting.

Rick Dozier has contacted several other departments.

CORRESPONDENCE

No report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

President Jennings advised there are two vacancies on the memorial foundation. Reach out to him prior to March if you are interested in filling a vacancy.

Charlie Peel presented a proposal for new district boundaries. Discussion followed. Everyone was advised to review and present any questions to the Executive Committee before the April meeting.

President Jennings advised that District 6 Director Gary Berendzen has submitted his resignation.

He will be visiting with the Assistant Directors regarding the position. Berendzen has also submitted his resignation as the Contest Committee Chairman. If anyone is interested in that position, please let him know.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Charlie Peel reported they are working on the bell for the Sayer award.

EMS Week 2024



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BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report was given.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Jonathan Evans presented several proposed bylaw changes.

Discussion followed. The committee will review the suggestions and the proposed changes will be posted on the website for review before the convention.

CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

David Hedrick reported that the Fire Chaplains Conference dates have been set for 2024. Missouri Fire Chaplains Corp will be conducting their Annual Conference in Jefferson City on Sept. 9-10, 2024. For more information contact MFCC Secretary Ed Hatcher at edhat@earthlink.net. The Federation of Fire Chaplains will hold its Annual Conference in Annapolis, MD, Oct. 21-24, 2024. For more information see the FFC website.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

No report was given.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Josh Loyd reported that the convention will be May 17 – 19, 2024 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark. Links for registration and hotel are ready and will be sent out this week.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Gail Hagans reported that the Missouri Propane class will be at the Missouri State Fair Fire Department in Sedalia from March 24 – 25. Contact Larry Eggen if you want to stay at the fire station.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Andrew Caldwell advised that posters will be accepted until 10:00 am on May 18. The theme is Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.

2024 Fire Prevention Week is October 6-12.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Brown reported that week six has wrapped up. The House is working on several things including the Federal

Continued on page 22.

THE COLOR RED IN THE AMERICAN FIRE SERVICE

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

If a firefighter were asked to name a color that traditionally represents the fire service, they would most likely name the color “red” or perhaps with the additional notation of “fire engine red.” In the United States, the color red is instinctively linked to the fire service. For most older Americans, as they grew up they were used to seeing fire apparatus painted red along with other fire equipment and paraphernalia. Though the color of the local fire department’s apparatus might have varied, most people intuitively think of the color red when referring to fire engines. There is little doubt the color red has become a traditional part of the American fire service.

This leads one to ask the historical questions of when and why the color red became inexplicably linked to the American fire service. As is the case with much of the history of the American fire service’s customs and traditions, the tradition of the color red seems to have been obscured by history. In most cases, oral myths or assumptions have blurred the facts over time. In this chapter, we will examine some of the historical events and circumstances that compelled the color red to be such a predominant part of the traditions of the American fire service.

A quick search of the all-knowing, but somewhat suspect, internet revealed a variety of answers regarding the color red in the fire service. It was found that a number of the postulated theories are in conflict, and provided little in the way of documented

facts. Several fire departments’ websites list some brief explanations of how the color red came to represent the fire service. Again, most of these websites have little in the way of historical facts and appear to be based on assumptions or oral myths.

Two conflicting assumptions that were found regarded the price of paint. They are: red was a cheap paint color and therefore it was used to paint the fire apparatus based on low cost, versus, red was an expensive color of paint, and the firefighters spared no expense in painting their fire apparatus. The quality and cost of paint (actually the pigment used to provide the color) varied depending on the period, pigments, and mixture. Historically, red paint could range in price from low to high depending on pigment and the type of paint process used, similar to other paint colors. Though some red pigments were more expensive than others. The cost factor alone does not answer why firefighters would choose red over other colors of paint.

Another myth is that when automobiles came into use they were mostly painted black like Henry Ford’s Model T. Therefore, to stand out among the other vehicles, firefighters started painting their fire engines red. Historic references show that fire apparatus were painted red before the days of the internal combustion engine. So this fire service practice started before the automobile. However, it is true that Henry Ford’s Model T automobile, the most popular



Leaving the Firehouse, Lithograph by H. A. Thomas & Wylie Lithographic Company, 1895, published by Buchanan and Lyall, Smithsonian Institute, National Museum

and affordable car of its time, came in one color, black, an overall cost savings by mass production, standardizing on one model all produced the same.¹

The final assumptions that will be mentioned are related to comparison or symbolism represented by the color red. Part of this is that the flame of a fire is red

FFAM 1929 Ford Model A Fire Engine with gold and white pin striping. Photo by Gail Hagans.





of American History. (Note Firemen responding in “red” shirts.) Considered to be in the Public Domain.

and therefore the firefighters picked red for their apparatus in emulation of their calling or respect for their enemy. The other is that the red color is a tribute to the strength and blood of firefighters. The red symbolizes the bravery of the firefighters willing to risk their all, shed their blood, to save others. The later theory based on symbolic bravery and shedding of blood may have some historic and religious merit but still does not provide the total answer.

So what color is your fire department’s fire apparatus? Have you ever asked why? This chapter in “A Part of Fire Service History” will delve into the previous myths or oral histories mentioned, and seek to elicit the most plausible answer based on historical circumstances as to why the color red has come to traditionally represent the American fire service.

As a proviso, it needs to be mentioned that today, as in the past, not all fire apparatus are red. A fire department or organization may choose another color based on local traditions or circumstances. In addition, starting in the 1970s, studies were done concerning color and safety related to the visibility of emergency vehicles. The

research suggested the use of alternative colors for the fire service (before the standard for inclusion of high-visibility reflective striping) and had some impact on changing the color of emergency service vehicles in some fire departments.

THE HISTORY OF THE COLOR RED

To better understand the use of the color red in the fire service, the origins and utilizations of color will need to be briefly examined. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the color red is “the longest wavelength of light discernible to the human eye.”² As you may remember from high school physics class, objects absorb some wavelengths of the visible light spectrum while they reflect others. The color wavelength the object reflects is what we see as the object’s color. Oddly enough, “the color we perceive an object to be is precisely the color it isn’t: that is, the segment of the spectrum that is being reflected away.”³ So with that bit of confusing knowledge, let us move on.

The word red is derived “from Sanskrit rudhira [blood] and Proto-Germanic rauthaz.”⁴ In old English the term “reed” (red) described “the colour of blood, a ruby, a ripe tomato, etc.”⁵ The color red varies

greatly in shade or hue and is sometimes described by a prefix noun or adjective, such as cherry-red, blood-red, or in the case of the fire service the term fire engine red.

Early red pigments used to make paint came from a variety of sources as time progressed. Some of these sources included mineral compounds, plant matter, and even the dried bodies of insects. Some of the early processes to produce some mineral pigments were toxic. Today’s paints are developed from mineral pigments providing the color and combined with a binder, solvent, and special additives depending on the type of application.

So when did people start using color to express themselves through art, customs, and their everyday life? A review of the historical beginnings of the use of color is in order. As to why exactly our early ancestors began the practice of coloring objects or drawing, we will leave to the extensive and scholarly discussions of the Paleoanthropologist or Archeologist.

Michel Pastoureau in his book *Red, The History of a Color* relates that Paleolithic people painted pictures on cave walls in



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Chauvet Cave (Ardèche, France) between 33,000 and 29,000 BCE.⁶ Besides using Charcoal for black line drawings, these people used red ocher or hematite (iron oxide mineral) mixed with various ingredients including animal fats to make various shades of red paint that could adhere to stone.⁷ Perhaps the first use of the color red. Pastoureau says that in ancient societies “red is the color of life” as exemplified by fire, “a source of light and heat.”⁸

Besides using color in paintings, early civilizations began to use color in clothing. According to St. Clair in the book *The Secret Lives of Color*, early civilizations “between the sixth and fourth millennia B.C.” first began the process of dyeing cloth.⁹ Red was one of the earliest colors to be used.

Egyptians were skilled at dying fabric and used Madder (a red pigment made from the root of the madder plant), and Kermes (a red pigment made from the Kermes insect). Other additives such as alum or lime were added to the mixture to allow the dye to “permeate the fibers of fabrics” and bond with them.¹⁰

In medieval times the color red was linked to Christianity and the Church through the symbolism related to the blood of Christ. Cardinals and even the Pope wore red and white garments or robes during religious ceremonies.¹¹ The reader may recall from a previous article by the author in this series, *The Maltese Cross, A Historical Symbol of the American Fire Service*, that the Knights of St. John (that would become the Knights of

Malta) wore a surcoat with “a white cross on a red ground – ‘The white Cross of Peace on a blood-red field or War’.”¹² An institutionalized ritual during the Second Crusade was for knights to wear a small cross “cut from a piece of red cloth; it was always placed on the left shoulder of a tunic or cloak in memory of Christ bearing his cross.”¹³ Perhaps this laid the foundation for the later wearing of red by some armies (British Army “Red Coats” of the Revolutionary War) or the eventual adoption of wearing red shirts by early American firemen.

Eventually red became a popular and dominant color in the early American fire service, being used as a dye in early uniform shirts to identify firemen, and as a paint pigment to intensify the appearance of early fire “Engines”. (A more in-depth discussion of this will be examined later in this chapter.)

Over time the color red not only became a chosen or preferred color to paint fire apparatus, but it also came to be used as a standardized color in fire training, fire prevention, and fire safety in the United States. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a national fire consensus standard-making organization, established the *NFPA 704, Standard System for the Identification of the Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response* that uses a hazard diamond symbol to mark products to quickly relate the associated hazards in four categories: health, flammability, instability and specific hazards. The flammability quadrant of the diamond is always color-coded red for fire.¹⁴ The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has also developed color-coded standards for industry that have been adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to protect workers. The color red is used to identify “the location of fire protection equipment and apparatus such as fire alarm boxes, fire extinguishers, and industrial fire hydrants.”¹⁵

RED BOOKS

In the early beginnings of fire service training, various groups utilized the color red as a cover binding to identify their training manuals. One of the most well-known of the early historic fire training manuals came from Oklahoma. Oklahoma A & M College (to become Oklahoma State University in 1957) “assumed the role of state fire training” in 1931.¹⁶ They began publishing an introductory fire training manual in 1934 that “later became the first ‘Redbook’ (noted by red covers).”¹⁷

Eventually the organization would become the International Fire Service Training Association in 1955.¹⁸ Vintage firefighters may recall full sets of these red-covered training manuals enclosed in red plastic binders in the fire station when they started their career or avocation in the fire service.

It should be mentioned that the color red has also had negative connotations associated with it throughout history, such as representing the devil and hades or being used to identify dangerous substances or situations. However, the use of the color red continues to be used today in a positive light to represent various organizations, causes, and fields of endeavor. The International Red Cross in its humanitarian mission uses a flag and emblem of a red cross on a white field. Also, red is a prominent color used on many national flags throughout the world including the United States flag. So too has the color red become a prominent part of the American fire service being used on emblems and emblazoned on fire apparatus. Now, let us delve into how this traditional use of red began in the American fire service.

THE BEGINNING OF A TRADITION

As has been found in documenting other areas of fire service history, oral myths sometimes obscure the facts, and it is not always possible to discern the real history. However, there is some documented history of the use of red in the fire service that aids in authenticating its application and timeline.

Perhaps the first use of the color red regarding fire protection was in the painting of fire buckets. In the early days of colonial America, a leather fire bucket was one of the first pieces of firefighting equipment utilized by citizens of the community to form bucket brigades when a fire broke out. Some of the first fire protection ordinances were passed during this time that required communities to be equipped with fire buckets in case of fire.¹⁹ Fire buckets were usually marked with some identifying marks so they could be claimed by the owner after the fire.

Individually owned fire buckets generally had the owner’s last name painted somewhere on the bucket to identify it. If residents were required to have more than one bucket then each bucket was also numbered. In some cases, fire buckets were highly decorated with a coat of arms, patriotic scenes, or a fire society’s emblem to help identify them. Organized Fire Societies



Vintage Fire Service Training Manual Binder, “Red Books”, International Fire Service Training Association.



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By National Volunteer Fire Council

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has launched an online, searchable directory of behavioral health professionals ready and able to help firefighters, EMS providers, rescue workers, and their families. This new tool replaces the previous PDF directory and will make it easier for responders and their families to find the assistance they need.

Emergency responders face unique challenges that can have a significant impact on their mental well-being, and it is important that they have access to providers who understand this. The providers listed in this directory are behavioral health professionals vetted by the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance (FBHA) who either have firsthand experience with the fire and emergency services or have completed a training course through the FBHA to educate them on the fire service and the specific challenges responders face. In addition to licensed healthcare professionals, there are other resources for assistance such as chaplains and peer support specialists.

The new online tool is searchable using a wide range of criteria, including location, areas of expertise, accepted insurance, whether the provider is licensed, and whether the provider offers telehealth. This will enable those seeking assistance to identify the providers that are the best match for their needs. Over 220 providers from across the U.S. are currently included in the directory, and more are added each month.

Access the new online directory of behavioral health professionals at nvfc.org/provider-directory.

NVFC members and their household families also have access to the First Responder Helpline in a crisis moment and for assistance with behavioral health issues and work-life stresses. This includes counseling sessions, resources, and referrals for a variety of issues such as stress management, depression, family conflict, financial or legal concerns, substance misuse, child or elder care, and more. Learn more at nvfc.org/helpline.



Find additional resources and training to support first responders and help departments implement a behavioral health program at nvfc.org/help. Many of these resources, including the directory of behavioral health professionals, are made possible thanks to a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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 nvfc.org.





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 Platte Pipe Line Company, LLC
 Spire Missouri Inc
 Spire Missouri Inc - MoGas Pipeline
 Spire Missouri Inc - Omega Pipeline
 Summit Natural Gas of Missouri
 Tallgrass Energy
 TC Energy - Keystone Pipeline
 Texas Eastern Transmission, LP



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Pipeline Association of Missouri

By Robert (R.B.) Brown, State Fair Committee Chairman

Volunteer first responders help their fellow citizens in times of need. Volunteers enjoy a sense of accomplishment, achievement, and pride in the work they do. You'd learn new skills, make new friends, be a part of a team, give back to the community, and make a real difference. So, what is the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department? It is one of a kind. Did you know that the Missouri State Fair is the only State Fair to have its own fire department? That is correct, the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department is the only 11-day fire department in the nation, and it is in service only during the Missouri State Fair. This year's fair is August 8-18.

As a Missouri State Fair volunteer firefighter, you're not only in service at the state fair but also a more visible member of the community. This means the work that your crew does either EMS or fire in the community directly impacts the people you know and work with daily. This will give your work a stronger sense of purpose and have a positive impact on those in your life. Saving lives and serving people is the basis of virtually everyone's entry into the public safety or healthcare service profession. As a volunteer firefighter, you will get to do this daily. You'll have a part-time contribution and a community of peers you can truly be proud of and fulfilled by.

Almost everyone you volunteer with has other interests and likely another profession. Volunteer firefighting is a great way to make strong connections. When seeking a professional reference, a career recommendation, or even someone to help you out or share in your part-time hobby project, you'll have plenty of people to turn to. Your network grows even further when you attend events for the firefighting community, fire school, and convention and in this day and age, the secret to success can be just as much about who you know than what you know.

The Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department has minimum requirements one must meet before joining that may include:

- Minimum age requirement 16 for juniors (Dispatch)
- Member of a department in good standing that is a member of the FFAM and the member dues are paid.
- Valid driver's license
- Not required but suggested basic firefighter or firefighter 1 and 2
- For EMS a current EMT or paramedic license

So, what goes on behind the scenes at the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department? As I'm writing this, I have had a meeting with the fair director. The command

staff has had meetings about staffing and equipment. All of the apparatus and equipment used during the fair is donated by departments and districts, so it takes time to coordinate those things that allow the department to function. All of these things and much more are at work from the end of one fair to the start of the next.

The fire station needs some attention and help so we will have some work detail weekends which will be announced soon. Depending on department services, and the department's needs, you may be asked to do some of the following:

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Services
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Search and Rescue
- Traffic Incident Management
- Public Information and Education
- Inspections
- Public Events (concerts, special events)

If this is something that you would like to do, then fill out your application which is available on the FFAM website.

Just select "State Fair" under the Committees tab.

Applications are due by May 31, 2024. I hope to see you at the fair. Have a great safe day.



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nvfc.org/hazmat



May 30-June 1, 2024



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OSHA'S NEW "EMERGENCY RESPONSE RULE" UPDATE

By Keith Smith

First of all, please don't shoot the messenger. On December 21, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced that it would issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to modernize the agency's "Fire Brigades" standard which was first published in 1980. Following this NPRM's publication in the Federal Register, there was a 90-day period to submit comments. The timing between an NPRM's announcement and the publication in the Federal Register can vary greatly. As of January 5, OSHA's fire brigade NPRM had not been published but as of February 6th, it was. The comment period ends May 6th. The NVFC project committee is monitoring this action closely.

OSHA held a webinar on January 31 regarding the new "Emergency Response Rule" and several key staff and directors of NVFC attended. It covered the timing, process, and context of the rule, the NFPA standards used or incorporated and verified that volunteers will be impacted directly. The feds expected this to be formally posted in the federal register by the end of January but that did not happen because there are still many concerns about how this will affect so many things and specifically volunteer departments. You can view that 90-minute webinar at this link: oshaedne.com/webinar-emergency-response-rule/

EXCERPT FROM OSHA EMERGENCY RESPONSE RULEMAKING WEBSITE

osha.gov/emergency-response/rulemaking

BACKGROUND

Emergency response workers in America face considerable occupational health and safety hazards in dynamic and unpredictable work environments. Current OSHA emergency response and preparedness standards are outdated and incomplete. They do not address the full range of hazards facing emergency responders, lag behind changes in protective equipment performance and industry practices, conflict with industry consensus standards, and are not aligned with many current emergency response guidelines provided by other federal agencies (e.g., DHS/FEMA). In recognition of the inadequacy of the outdated safeguards provided by the current OSHA standards, the proposed rule seeks to ensure that

workers involved in Emergency Response activities get the protections they deserve from the hazards they are likely to encounter while on the job.

ABOUT THE RULE

The proposed rule would replace OSHA's existing Fire Brigades standard, 29 CFR 1910.156, which was originally promulgated in 1980, covers only a subset of present-day emergency responders (firefighters) and has only had minor updates in the 43 years since it was published. The focus of the proposed *Emergency Response* rule is to provide basic workplace protections for workers who respond to emergencies as part of their regularly assigned duties. Notably, the scope of protected workers under the proposed rule would be expanded to include workers who provide emergency medical services and technical search and rescue. OSHA looks forward to receiving comments and other input from interested stakeholders and the general public (by May 6th). Comments can be submitted to the Emergency Response Docket at regulations.gov/docket/osha-2007-0073

AN OVERVIEW

OSHA considers the current emergency response and preparedness standards to be outdated and incomplete. To this end, OSHA has published its new proposed 1910.156 Emergency Response Rule. It will affect both workers with primary duties and those with collateral duties (workplace emergency response teams). Over two dozen consensus standards are being incorporated into the proposed rule. From new firefighting and PPE requirements, to EMS, to technical search and rescue, this rule change dramatically affects emergency response operations.

The following is an abbreviated excerpt from a December 26, 2023, internal summary to all NVFC Directors by Joe Maruca, MA, NVFC Director (Attorney at Law & Fire Chief).

JOE MARUCA, MA, NVFC DIRECTOR

This proposed change in OSHA Federal Regulations is very sweeping. If fully enacted, it will substantially change the fire service and it may be the most impactful regulation that small fire departments have ever had to adapt to. This proposal is a mile wide and a mile deep. This is a quick look at the proposal.

AN ABBREVIATED SUMMARY

It is 604 pages long and I got it on Thursday and squeezed in a lot of late-night reading over the holiday weekend. There are a lot of details that I haven't spelled out. I wanted to give a fast 30,000-foot view of the proposal. Many pages of the proposal consist of data outlining the need for the regulations. The data appears accurate and from reliable sources.

There is going to be some variation in the extent to which volunteers are covered in each state. Some state plans only cover volunteers in municipal fire departments. Others cover all volunteers. (Massachusetts only covers municipal fire departments, but that is 99% of the fire service in our state.). Some states may cover volunteer EMS providers and special rescue teams, but others may not. I lack the information to analyze this down to that level of detail. However, the volunteer fire & EMS service should anticipate some impact from this proposed regulation. The primary reason for the state-by-state variation is that each state defines "employee" differently. Is a volunteer and employee for employee safety purposes – in Massachusetts, yes, they are. Other states answer this differently. I would suggest, however, that any paid-on-call staff will be classified as an employee in all the states, and therefore they will be impacted by this proposed regulation.

SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

The proposed regulation would incorporate by reference (IBR) all or part of the following NFPA consensus standards. I include this in list form to make the point of how inclusive or exhaustive this regulation is. (*NFPA standards are listed by number to save space. They are all the key standards for structural firefighting and PPE, seeming all of the training requirements and vehicle qualification*) NFPA 1001, 1002, 1005 1006, 1021, 1081, 1140, 1407, 1582, 1910, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1971, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1999 plus ANSI/SEA 207.

Additionally, the following NFPA Standards, while not incorporated by reference in whole or in part, were used for the creation of certain regulations, and the regulations were written to be consistent with these standards: (*NFPA standards listed by number*): NFPA 10, 600, 1201, 1451, 1500, 1521, 1561, 1581, 1660, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1851, 2500.

WHY?

Besides and in addition to the obvious hazards to firefighters – fire and burns, falling through a floor, falling off a ladder, or smoke inhalation, OSHA has paid attention to all of our (the fire service in total) calls to do something about firefighter cancer, and firefighter mental health and suicide. OSHA's observation is that we haven't significantly reduced deaths and injuries, particularly cardiac deaths using voluntary measures. The big picture rationale for this is that we, the fire service as an industry, have failed to voluntarily use our consensus standards or other means to reduce injury or death and to take the steps necessary to address cancer and mental health/suicide issues. It's called "market failure and needs regulation".

WHAT?

1. Updates current rules for Hazmat PPE to meet the current NFPA 1990 standard.
2. Shift structural PPE requirements out of existing rules and into this new rule.
3. Updates definitions of portable extinguisher agents (mostly newer technologies).
4. Skilled support workers fall under IC and within requirements for protection from hazards at the incident. (The IC is responsible for the safety of the electrical worker or backhoe operator.)
5. Updates dozens of definitions to match those in the NFPA standards (switching to the terms more familiar to the emergency response community). Pages 110 to 135.
6. Requires written emergency response plans: a. Pre-Plans b. Community Risk Assessments c. Responder Protection Plans d. Resource Plans – effective response force determinations.
7. Requires Health & Safety Programs a. Facility Modifications b. Hazard Reporting & Response Systems.
8. Risk Management Plans – refer to NFPA 1500.
9. Medical & Physical Requirements a. Half of FF deaths are cardio & they feel we've done nothing about this. b. Good news – the proposed regulations give a lot of flexibility to the local agency to establish their standards, however, they are going to have to adopt some kind of medical and physical exams. But at least every three years. c. Reinforces Fit

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- Testing of mask requirements. d. Strong emphasis on heart disease and toxic gases (cancer).
10. Mandatory annual skills checks – NFPA 600, NFPA 1500 & NFPA 1670.
11. Increased skill level for instructors – they need to have more skill/knowledge than those they are teaching.
12. Emphasis on interactive teaching – not watching videos.
13. Required training would include a. Risk Management; b. Bloodborne Pathogens/Infection Control; c. PPE Hazard Assessment/PPE Selection & Use; d. Respiratory Protection; e. Portable Extinguishers; f. Incident Management Systems (IMS); g. Accountably Systems; h. Hazmat Awareness; i. AED/CPR; j. The NFPA Job Performance Requirements (JPR) for each activity the responder performs; k. NFPA 1001 is required for all firefighters; l. Rapid Intervention Training (NFPA 1407) for all structural firefighters; m. NFPA 1002 is required for everyone who drives fire apparatus; n. Anyone who is in an "officer position" must be trained to NFPA 1021; o. Wildland Firefighters

must be NFPA 1410, or Red Card trained; p. Our stations will have to provide decontamination, cleaning, and storage areas for PPE; q. Testing and maintenance of alarm systems in our stations will be required according to the manufacturer's recommendations; r. Sleeping areas need interconnected hard-wired smoke detectors & CO detectors; s. New stations with sleeping areas must have sprinklers; t. Provision of tools and equipment for training by members is required; u. PPE must be provided at no cost to the employee; v. Training provided at no cost to the employee (seems mostly in the area of providing the same tools and equipment used in the field – if you use "quick clot" in the field, you have to provide it for training; w. Employees need to be trained before new equipment is put in use; x. PPE must fit; y. Gross decon before leaving the incident would be required; z. A "robust" vehicle inspection and maintenance program will be required; aa. Seats and seat belts are required. (Harnesses in ambulances.)

Continued on page 42.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

By Cole County Fire Protection District

The Cole County Fire Protection District recently held its 2023 annual service awards banquet. The annual event shows appreciation to the firefighters for their years of service and dedication to the district.

There is another aspect that stands out with the 2023 service awards. The District recognized 7 firefighters who have given 80 combined years of service at the end of 2023. The combined years of service of district personnel are over 1300 years. This in itself shows the commitment to the district by its personnel in the aspects of training, call response and the rewards of helping others in their time of need.

The following firefighters were recognized for years of service in 2019.

5 YEARS

Dakota Roth and Tony Vanderpool

10 YEARS

James Buechter and Bradley Kempker

15 YEARS

Adam Bashore and Clayton Isenberg

20 YEARS

Matt Long

FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

James "Max" Campbell

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Justin Braun

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Truck, Bunker Gear and Air Pak Committees

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Honor Guard

Left to right: Steve Barnes presenting plaque to Matt Long for 20 Years of Service



Left to right: Max Campbell receiving a plaque from Steve Barnes Fire Fighter of the Year



Left to right: Steve Cearlock, Ed Savage, Max Campbell, Zack Rustemeyer, Diana Rutledge, Tim Kennedy, Nathan Luebbering, Mike Hart, Blake Bopp and Shawn York. Not pictured is Gary Berendzen



The District also recognized cadet fire-fighters Austin and Ethan Pritchard

The District is always looking for men and women who would proudly serve the community.

Firefighting is a very rewarding experience helping those in need, whether educating children on fire safety, extricating people from vehicle accidents or extinguishing fires. If you are interested please contact the District office at 573-634-9011.



JOIN THE FFAM

Left to right: Justin Braun receiving a plaque from Steve Barnes for *Officer of the Year*



Be a member in the largest fire service association in the state of Missouri

Support an organized voice on important annual fire service legislation in Jefferson City

National Volunteer Fire Council representation

Access to college scholarships for yourself, dependents or family

Access to low cost Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

Receive a 10% discount on IFSTA (red book) manuals

Left to right: Justin Braun, Mac Kennedy Justin and Ethan Pritchard



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

For More Information Visit Our Website

FFAM.org



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

STUDENT RESIDENT FIREFIGHTER

DEDICATION - LOYALTY - HONOR - INTEGRITY



Resident Highlights

- Free dorm room in our fire station!
- Get paid while you learn!
- Work on all required certifications you will need to start your career!

Start Your Career

- Firefighter I and II certification training provided.
- EMT Basic tuition reimbursement.
- Get on-the-job training that gives you an edge for future positions.

Program Track Record

- 23% Hired full-time at WFD**
- 81% Completed their degree**
- 73% Hired into full-time public safety positions**



Requirements to Apply

- 18 years old
- Drivers license
- Enrolled, or will be enrolled at the start of the program, as a full-time student at a college or university

Are we a fit for you? Schedule a ride-a-long.
<https://forms.office.com/r/LC60Q0XCLv>



To Apply

<https://www.warrensburg-mo.com/Jobs.aspx>

Projected Start Date in August of 2024

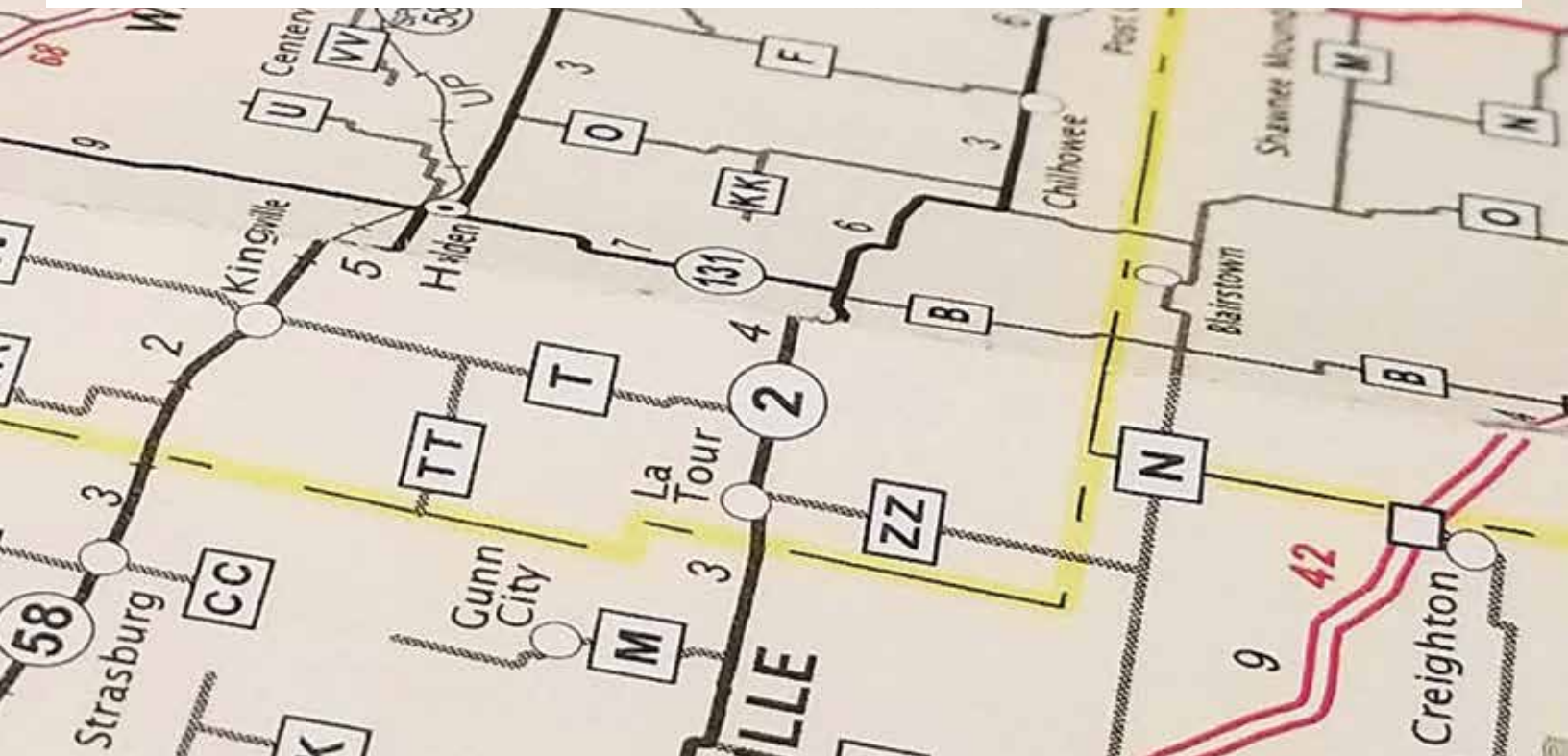
STE GENEVIEVE FD AWARDS



On February 10th the Ste Genevieve Fire Department held our annual awards supper where we honored two retirements. At this event, we presented years of service axes to Captain Charlie Wibbenmeyer for 44 years and Assistant Chief Bob Bonnell for 46 years of service. Bob Bonnell also received the “Fire Fighter of the Year” award. We presented Fire Chief’s Awards to Bill Holst, Justin Donovan, Gary Roth and Kate Breckenfelder for their extra service to the department.



Left to right: Captain Charlie Wibbenmeyer and Assistant Chief Bob Bonnell

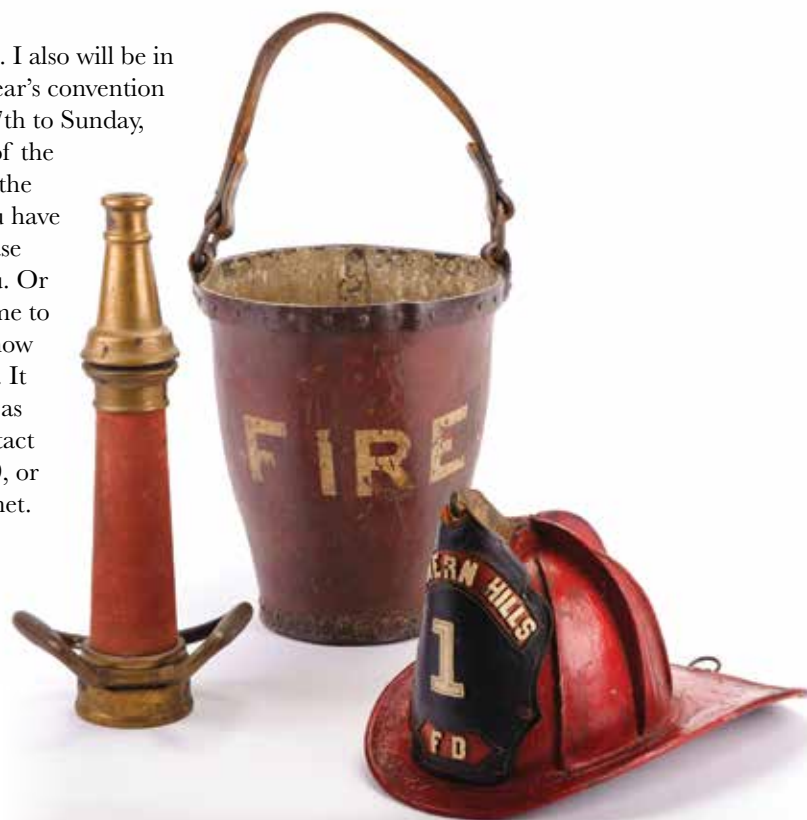


By Theresa Cox, FFAM Historian

In case you have not met me, I am Theresa Cox, your current historian for the FFAM. A huge part of my job is to collect items about the history of our FFAM. History comes in different forms. I am looking to collect or gather any documentation, correspondence, articles, and such that needs to be preserved for the FFAM. Secondly, we are looking for key examples of firefighting equipment that has a significant history or represents firefighting through the years. These would be items that can be displayed at the museum for educational or visual effects about various topics. We are looking for museum-quality or important pieces that will represent Missouri and our firefighters. If you have old papers or specialty item(s) that have meaning, please reach out to me. It would mean so much to have those items so they can be shared with the public.

I will be attending the next Board Meeting on Sunday, April 7th, in Kingdom City,

Missouri at 9:00 am. I also will be in attendance at this year's convention from Friday, May 17th to Sunday, May 19th, at Lake of the Ozark, at Lodge of the Four Seasons. If you have items to donate please bring them with you. Or feel free to contact me to arrange to let me know you have something. It is an honor to serve as your historian. Contact me at 636-357-0939, or at cox.theresa@att.net.



Meeting Minutes continued from page 7.

Reimbursement Act for EMS, fireworks reform legislation, and HB1769 Firefighter bill of rights.

They are working on additional funding for the critical illness pool and continuing to build on mental health injuries. This will roll out later this year. They are also working on a process where individuals could join the critical illness pool without a department being a member if they are a member of a “sponsoring” agency. This is still being discussed. Anyone can use the information and training available on the website without being a member. There are currently 3,240 firefighters covered in the pool through 96 agencies.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Grant Oetting reported the following membership counts: 352 Directors/Councilman; 353 Retired; 7 Associate; 4 Sustaining; 11 Corporate, 272 Fire Departments; 4815 Active; 2 Educational Entities; 5 Educational Active; 102 Juniors; 4 EMS Department, 107 EMS individuals; 0 911 Entity; 0 911 individuals.

Oetting reported that he will be attending the MO Chiefs conference in Branson in late February. He will also be attending the

Missouri Association of Fire Districts conference in June and the JeffCo Engine Rally in September.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Ken Hoover reported the following district director positions are up for election in May: Districts 4, 5, 6, 9, 10. Contact him if interested.

NVFC COMMITTEE

Keith Smith reported that the NVFC fall meeting will be September 18-20 in Kansas City. His full report will be available in the next magazine.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The scholarship deadline is February 28.

STATE FAIR COMMITTEE

RB Brown reported that there was a water leak in the laundry room and restroom. The state fixed the issue. The fair will be August 8-18. Applications are available online and work dates will be announced later.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

No report was given.

MAGAZINE

Jaime Miller reported that the next magazine deadline will be February 28.

HISTORIAN REPORT

Theresa Cox asked that anyone with donation items, please bring them to the next meeting.

FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

No report was given.

EMS FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

Jaime Miller reported on behalf of Greg Wright that the team has responded to 3 non-LODD services since the last meeting, including our board president Paramedic Kevin Cash. The annual funeral teams conference at Camden at the Lake in Osage Beach is set for October 11-13. Registration starts May 1. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Barry Young, Chaplain Independence Missouri Police Department. All are welcome to attend. They will hold a fundraiser on that Friday-The Tom G Yates Boggie classic golf outing at the Bear Creek golf course in Osage Beach Mo. More to come on both.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Keith Smith advised that his report will be available in the next magazine.

President Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

FFAM CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

\$70 for 70

Thanks to the early leaders of the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) and various fire departments in early 1954 for deciding to form a statewide fire organization in Missouri. Chief Feters and Chief Walden of MU FRTI were instrumental in mailing letters to regional firefighters' associations to get their support for this organization. Waldo Sherman, the Chief of Herman and John Boeman of the Missouri Inspection Bureau met with Joe Feters to discuss how to proceed. They decided to write letters to Missouri fire departments. Meeting notes from October 17, 1954, show that over 100 fire departments throughout Missouri met in Jefferson City to form a statewide association. At that meeting, they elected officers and appointed committee members to get organized. They agreed to continue meeting again on November 14, 1954, to work on the organization's rules and bylaws. The permanent name of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri (FFAM) was proposed and tabled to make sure the name did not conflict with any other in the state. The emblem was discussed and agreed upon for a design. They also started to discuss issues concerning fire departments and Senate Bill 270 concerning rural fire protection districts.

To honor the early leaders and departments for their efforts as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri we are asking all members to consider donating \$70 to our campaign to finish the Education and Historical Preservation Center in Kingdom City.



Please mail your suggested donation of \$70 to:

FFAM 70 for 70
PO Box 1153
Warrensburg MO 64093.

The first 100 donations of \$70.00 will receive a unique commemorative FFAM 70th Anniversary challenge coin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Larry Eggen
Public Information Officer
Missouri State Fair Volunteer Department



68TH ANNUAL CONVENTION FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

Working Together for Tomorrow

May 17-19, 2024 • Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO

REGISTRATION FORM — ONE PER PERSON



Name: _____

Department (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Registration includes:

Friday—vendor expo; mixer following open ceremony with light snacks & open bar; Saturday—firefighter contest, dance following the banquet with light snacks with an open bar for two hours, then cash bar. Sunday—light break-fast during the meeting.

Adult Convention Registration (18+) \$25.00

Junior Convention Registration (13-17) \$10.00

Child Convention Registration (5-12) \$5.00

Young Child Convention (under 5) \$0.00

Banquet meal (all attendees regardless of age) \$40.00

Convention T-shirts \$25.00 each

Sizes: _____

Total Due \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Lake Ozark Fire Protection District

Send registration to: Lake Ozark FPD - FFAM Registration
Attn: Michelle Kauten
1767 Bagnell Dam Blvd
Lake Ozark, MO 65049

If you have any questions,
visit our website
www.ffam.org
or email
mkauten@lofpd.com

Office Use Only Date Received: _____ Date Entered: _____ Amount Received: _____ Check#: _____

68TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI



**WORKING
TOGETHER FOR
TOMORROW**



Hosted By Lake Ozark Fire Protection District

May 17-19, 2024 • Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO

Vendor Expo: Friday, May 17, 2024 — 11:00-6:00 pm

Banquet: Saturday, May 18, 2024 — 5:00-8:00 pm

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Board Package \$5,000

- Indoor Expo Booth
- Banner at Expo Entrance
- Logo on Bags
- 6 Banquet Tickets
- Challenge Coin with FFAM & Company Logo
- Full page ad in July/August magazine

Chief's Package \$2,000

- Indoor Expo Booth
- Banner at Expo Entrance
- 4 Banquet Tickets
- Half page ad in July/August magazine

Assistant Chief's Package \$1,000

- Indoor Expo Booth
- Banner at Expo Entrance
- 2 Banquet Tickets
- 1 column ad in July/August magazine

Captain's Package \$500

- Indoor Expo Booth
- Banner at Expo Entrance
- Business card size ad in July/August magazine

Firefighter's Package \$25

- Business card size ad in the July/August FFAM magazine that is distributed to 7,000+ members

Indoor Expo Booth \$125

- Single Booth Table

Indoor Expo Booth \$200

- Two Booth Tables

were often well-recognized civic groups made up of the community's leading citizens for fire protection. It was an honor to be selected as a member of these societies and therefore the members proudly displayed their membership through specially painted fire buckets. In some communities, leading citizens who were members of the fire society hired local artists to "personalize and decorate fire buckets."²⁰

In the early 1700's the hand-pumped fire engine came into use and spread throughout the American colonies. Fire companies were formed by local citizens to man the engines and fight fire.²¹ As these fire companies developed into a significant firefighting force they began to stockpile and supply their buckets for providing a water supply to the pumper. Despite having a mechanical fire pump ("Engine") there was no pressurized water system to supply water to the pump and fire buckets were still used to fill the hand pumper. In some cases, the fire company's buckets were painted in the same color scheme as the fire company's hand-pumped engine and numbers.



Franklin Fire Society Fire Bucket - note the red stripe around the top. Smithsonian Institute, American History Museum. The photo is considered to be in the public domain.

We see historically the use of various colors, artwork, and/or names/numbers to decorate and identify fire buckets. There are examples of some fire company buckets being painted with red around the rim to help identify their buckets. It was difficult to see logos or numbers painted on the sides of the buckets when they were mixed in a pile with other buckets from the community after the fire, and thus the red rim.

So, what would come next, the red shirt or the red painted "engine"?²² First we will examine the history of the firemen's red shirt.

RED SHIRTS - A DESIRE TO BELONG

It should be mentioned that early colonial American towns/cities did not have a community-wide fire department. Fire protection was provided by individual groups organized into firefighting units. First formed as a fire society, they would later be called a fire company, such as an engine company or hose company. Though they would come together to fight the fire, they were managed as separate organizations, sometimes loosely structured under a community fire warden or the city officials. These individual fire companies had their own identity and loyalty to their company. However, a fire company was quick to adopt successful new ideas or customs from their fellow or rival fire companies. One of these new customs was for the wearing of a red shirt. The wearing of red shirts began during the era of the volunteer firemen and was a way to show membership and loyalty to their respective fire company.

The 1980 NFPA book *Fire Terms* included the term "red shirt", and defined the term as "a volunteer fire fighter, derived from the bright red shirts once a part of the uniform."²³ Though the definition refers to volunteers, as historically documented further on in this section, the red shirt was also worn by some of the first career service firemen. This term was dropped from later editions of fire terms, perhaps because it was considered to be obsolete terminology. Unfortunately, historical terms like this have been deleted from fire service reference sources obscuring the history for future generations. However, the documented use of this term does illustrate that at one time the symbol of the red shirt had significant meaning in the fire service.

There is some disagreement among historians as to which fire company and period



An example of a vintage Fireman's uniform with a red double-breasted shirt. Photo courtesy Chief Darryl Kerley (Ret.).

first adopted the practice of wearing red shirts as part of a uniform. According to fire historian John Morris in his book *Fires and Firefighters*, members of the "Honey Bee" Engine Co. 5 of New York were the first to wear "bright red shirts" but he did not reference exactly when this started.²⁴ However, Holzman presented in his book *The Romance of Firefighting*, that the Protection Engine Company No. 5 of New York "adopted the red flannel shirt as their uniform in 1840."²⁵

Regarding the practice of wearing red shirts, Morris related that they "so suited the firefighters' profession that it was quickly adopted by many other companies."²⁶ This red shirt soon became like a lodge or fraternity pin that identified the wearer as a member of the brotherhood of firefighters. Other companies also began the practice of wearing elaborate parade belts or "suspenders (usually red)" as part of their dress uniform.²⁷

The red colored shirt, along with red suspenders, would quickly spread throughout the American fire service and establish one of the earliest traditions for firefighters.

As career fire departments began to be instituted, the tradition of the red shirt carried over to the full-time firefighters. The State of New York ordered the establishment of a Metropolitan Fire Department (MFD) for the City of New York toward the end of the Civil War. The rules and regulations of 1865 required the firemen to wear uniforms as follows: “Chief Engineer and other Engineer officers (chiefs) were instructed to wear a red flannel, double-breasted shirt, dark blue pilot cloth coat (knee length), vest and pantaloons of the same material, blue cloth cap and white fire hat.”²⁸ In 1868, the “General Orders” changed the uniform requirements with chief officers wearing white shirts, while “red shirts then became part of the uniform for the company officers, with firemen and engineers of steamers continuing to wear blue shirts.”²⁹

THE STYLE OF THE RED SHIRT

Volunteers might have different types of red shirts depending on the circumstances. They might wear a simple red “service” shirt for regular activities while wearing a “parade” shirt for parades and special occasions. The fancier “parade” shirt could be worn for fire response also. The service shirt was a standard style single-breasted shirt (single row of buttons on the front of shirt) made of wool flannel and long-sleeved. The “parade” shirt was generally a fancier style shirt with a double-breasted button front (two rows of buttons one to each side securing a bib front composed of a square or shield-shaped cloth front piece).³⁰ The “parade” shirt is sometimes referred to today as a “cavalry” or “bib” style western shirt. Either the service or parade shirt could have regular pearl or cloth buttons. Special metal buttons with fire department (FD) stamped on them were available as an option from manufacturers. As more and more fire companies adopted the wearing of red, the custom of adorning the shirt front or bib with a cloth or embroidered number or letter initials of their fire company helped differentiate as to which company they were a member.

It was found in a period fire equipment sales catalog in New York from 1872, that a fireman plain shirt in either red or blue was \$2.00 each, while a fireman “parade” shirt in either blue or red averaged \$3.20 each.³¹ Bureau of Labor statistics for New York in 1872 showed a skilled worker wage of \$1.75 per day.³² So volunteer firemen put in approximately two days of work at their job to purchase a “parade” shirt.

It should also be mentioned that the wearing of red shirts or the color red has had other meanings at different times in history, some linked to good intent and others to bad. Researchers will come across a number of these, two different examples of this follow. In recent years there has been a movement to support United States Military troops who are deployed abroad by wearing the color red on Friday. A positive display of support for our military who continue to serve and protect us in assignments overseas.³³ A negative initiative from history is the Red Shirt Movement after the American Civil War regarding intimidation of African American voters by activists wearing red shirts.³⁴

THE HAND FIRE ENGINE AND COLOR

The American colonists faced the constant hazard of uncontrolled fire in their communities due to the use of combustible building materials, and open flame used for light, heating, and cooking. This along with the increase in incendiary fires and major conflagrations would lead the colonists to seek a better means of fighting fire besides the sole use of a fire bucket. The first fire pumps used in the American colonies were the “Newsham” hand-pumped fire engines from England. The first one was

placed in service in Boston around 1678.³⁵ Philadelphia and New York would follow Boston’s example and import Newsham engines in the early 1700’s.³⁶ In 1743, New York City Council hired Thomas Lote, a cooper and boat builder, to build “an American engine that could compete with the British-made Newshams.”³⁷ By the late 1700’s the American Colonies would see the beginning upstart of the American hand-engine manufacturing business, and the spread of hand-engines throughout the colonies. This would spawn the rise of volunteer engine companies.

The American colonist were proud of their freedoms and took civic duties to be a part of their service to support the community. The duty of the volunteer fireman was one of these well-respected civic duties that a citizen could perform. These newly formed fire companies soon became an independent powerful entity that “wielded considerable political influence by their numbers and strong organization.”³⁸ As a strong independent group they would soon be the ones to make the decisions about the colors and trim that would adorn their “enjin.”



Small Krest hand-engine “Kearsarge” ca. 1756. Early common green paint scheme. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum, Jeffersonville, IN.

Early hand-engines were made primarily of wood. Their pump cylinders and brakes (pump levers) linkages and other fittings were made of metal, but the frame, wheels, water tub, and air chamber cover were all made of wood. Because these first “enjinés” were mostly made of wood, the main surfaces had wood finishes sealed with protective coatings such as wood oils (linseed or tung oil), wax, or lacquer. These would be fairly cheap and readily available with wood artisans as part of their standard finishes. The brake arms or handles were made of oak “and were waxed and rubbed to a satin-smooth finish.”³⁹ These finishes highlighted the natural beauty of the wood surfaces such as mahogany and oak used in the higher-quality apparatus.

The early Newsham and other hand-pumped fire engines had a tall upright air chamber that equalized the water flow coming from the two alternating pump cylinders, this gave a continuous flow instead of squirts of water. Coming off this was the discharge riser pipe which was mounted to a moveable water pipe/nozzle. This pipe and nozzle assembly was called a “goose-neck” because of its appearance. These “goose-neck” engines usually had a cabinet support structure built around the air chamber and riser. The “box” cabinet had removable side panels to allow access to service the engine components. According to Fire Historian Dunshee in his 1939 book, *Enjine!-Enjine!*, “the old goose-necks, with their high-backed panels, were more readily adaptable to decoration than any other type.”⁴⁰ With this early design came the opportunity to carve intricate designs in the frame of the panels

and have a beautiful oil painting featuring a portrait or landscape in the center. According to Dunshee celebrated artists of the time were hired to paint these panels. These paintings “often feature patriotic, heroic, or allegorical images to associate the volunteer companies with these lofty ideals.”⁴¹ To protect these elaborate works of art, the panels were usually removed “when the engines were hauled out for a fire,”⁴² During the period of the hand pump or handtub fire “Enjine”, the artistic paintings on some engine panels became more elaborate than the overall paint and ornamentation of the apparatus.

When an “enjiné” was removed from service or sold it was common to remove the panels and hang them in the firehouse or present them to honored members of the engine company. This is one reason so many of these panel paintings remain today in museums and fire collections.

As time progressed and more engine companies were formed within a community, each company took pride in its engine and fire-fighting capability. They began to compete with each other both in firefighting and parades where they proudly displayed their engine. This would precipitate the elaborate painting, trim, and other ornamentation that would come to adorn the engines. According to Historian Morris, after testing a new engine, the fire company would establish a painting committee to decide on how to “dress her [the new engine] up.”⁴³ This committee would decide on color, striping and other trim work.

It should be mentioned that the idea for quality painting, lines and stripes, and application of gold leaf decoration did not originate with fire companies. Opulent coach makers were already decorating the horse-drawn coaches of their wealthy clientele. However, these coaches were more modest in style than some of the lavishly adorned fire engines that were to come. From historical research, we find some family coaches and transportation company stagecoaches that were painted red.

So what color was used to first paint these hand-pumped engines? Historical records from the engine companies in New York, illustrate that some of the popular colors of the period were red, green, and black.⁴⁴ David Falconi, a hand-engine historian, said that green was a popular color of hand engines in America up until about the 1850’s.⁴⁵ New York’s Engine Company No. 3, painted their engine green after a memorable speech by one of their members, and after this “when No. 3 extinguished a fire it was said that she ‘painted it [the fire] green’.”⁴⁶ This story and saying may have contributed to the early spread of the color green as an apparatus color in the colonial and early American fire service.

The era of the volunteer firemen and their hand engines certainly exemplified the desire to have the biggest and best, and the capacity to pump more water than other engine companies along with the

Red Fire Chief’s 1925 Ford Model T automobile with gold trim.



finest-looking fire engine. Intricate paint lines and stripes with gold or silver colors, application of gold leaf designs, and silver plating of brass work could embellish a hand engine to be a real showpiece of apparatus, combining function with glittering art. As new apparatus was added to support the engine companies, such as hose companies with hose reels (jumpers) or hose wagons, they would receive a make-over as well. Some of these hose reels were “emblazoned all over with gold, silver, and the choicest artistic gems.”⁴⁷ The phrase “all dressed up like a fire engine” was a “familiar American quotation” of the period.⁴⁸

It should be mentioned that though the town aldermen or fire warden might authorize and provide payment for the purchase of a new engine, they were unwilling to pay for frivolous and expensive extras such as expensive paint, trim, and ornamentation. The firemen of the fire company would be responsible for providing for the cost of painting and other trim. They did this through personal or community donations or other fundraising venues. This early tradition of the firemen paying for the painting of the engine may have contributed to the oral myth that firemen selected the most expensive paint color for their engine (in the oral myth – red).

So how did the firemen finally get around to creating the tradition of red fire apparatus?

Photo courtesy Chief Darryl Kerley (Ret.).



PIGMENT, PAINTING, AND COST

As was mentioned earlier in this chapter, some type of pigment is used for colorization to make paint. According to academic research done on historic paint processes of the period, paints were composed of “three components: (1) pigment, to make the paint opaque and to add color; (2) a binder (such as oil, chalk for water-based paints, hide glue, or gelatin) to bind the pigment particles together; (3) and, a vehicle (or medium), which is the fluid component of paint (such as turpentine in oil paints, or water in water-based paints).”⁴⁹

The paint was hand-made by local artisans in small batches up until the late 1800s when the demand for paint made large-scale ready-mix paint profitable. However, this factory-manufactured paint was not readily available throughout the country.⁵⁰ The first commercial paints were sold as pigment dissolved in oil with varnish added by the painter when they were ready to paint.⁵¹ Not until the development of the automobile and the motorized fire apparatus did pre-manufactured paint come into general use in the fire apparatus industry. During this time synthetic paints, new coatings, additives, and processes began to be developed.

From the days of the fire bucket up to the age of steam, fire apparatus paints were hand-made by artisans. Pigments were ground at first by hand and then with the use of mechanical grinders to make a fine powder to mix with a binder and medium to make paint. These paints had limited “pot” life so they were mixed in small batches and used that day. With inconsistencies in pigment, mixing, and application, it would have been difficult in the early days to routinely produce a matching paint color from one batch to another.

As a related side note, in the 1800’s it became popular to paint barns to help preserve the bare wood longer. A common color that penetrated well into boards and resisted fading was Venetian red. This paint was made from clay containing iron oxide found first in Italy and later dug in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia where it was called Indian red. As an earth pigment and acquired locally, it was relatively inexpensive, thus being used as barn paint. The 1922 Sears catalog listed it for about half the cost of other house paints.⁵²

Vermillion red was a preferred red pigment that came to be used for fire apparatus, with

American Vermillion being cheaper coming from local resources. Based on ledger or journal entries from the 1860s, English Vermillion a finer, purer pigment was \$1.25 per pound and used sometimes for painting fine lines or details. American Vermillion cost was \$0.50 per pound.⁵³ Though it wasn’t cheap it wasn’t as expensive as some other pigments. The previously mentioned barn paint, Indian red was less than half the cost of American Vermillion. Regarding the oral myths that red was used because it was the most expensive pigment/paint, or the reverse myth that it was the cheapest, it appears that neither of them stands out as the most apt reason. Though pigment cost was a factor in paint costs, there were other factors to consider. The cost of the other ingredients, along with the painting process including the number of primer and finish coats, all factored into the cost of painting the fire apparatus of the period. Slapping one coat of Indian red on a barn was not the same as the quality painting of the cherished fire apparatus. If firemen had simply chosen a color based on cost, they could have gone with ultramarine blue one of the most expensive pigments per pound.⁵⁴ There was at least one engine company that painted their engine blue. Called the “Blue Box”, a piano box style hand-engine of 1803, it was manned by the “Blue Boys” of Jefferson Engine 26 of New York.⁵⁵

A clear varnish was used as a final protective coating on the painted engine. However, over time the varnish would darken and make the paint appear less bright. Also, due to sunlight fading and chemical changes over time, along with successive layers of re-painting, make it difficult to determine the original color of the paint used in the past.⁵⁶ However, new techniques using microscopic analysis to determine paint components have helped to determine a more accurate true color of historic paints.

HISTORIC PAINT AND EMBELLISHMENT PROCESS OF FIRE APPARATUS

In this section, we will cover a general description and explanation of the historic painting and embellishment process for fire apparatus. Depending on the fire apparatus manufacturer and the specific time, the process may have varied. The author highly appreciates and acknowledges the information and tutelage provided by Peter Achorn in the following narrative. Peter Achorn is a master artisan in the painting and embellishment of historic fire apparatus



1912 Waterous Steam Fire Engine, note traditional finish for the period, red frame and running gear, with black boiler, and polished brass and steel surfaces. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum.

including painting, pinstriping, gilding, and decal application. He began his career as an apprentice sign painter and over time acquired and mastered the many skills of his craft. For over thirty years he has worked on the restoration of antique fire apparatus paint and decoration. His artisan skills and historical research have provided him with a unique and knowledgeable perspective on the painting and embellishment of historic fire apparatus.

As was previously covered, early hand engines were generally painted and decorated by local artisans hired by the fire company after the delivery of the apparatus. Late in the period of the hand engines manufacturers began offering the option for custom painting and embellishment of the fire engine before it was delivered.⁵⁷ With the coming of the factory-made steam fire engine in the mid-1800s, the painting and embellishment of the engine became a part of the factory assembly process.

The embellishment of a fire engine refers to the added final decoration of the apparatus that may include hand lettering, line and stripes (pinstriping), gilding (gold leaf) scroll-work, and application of decals. A skilled painter that had mastered the art of lettering and line and striping was called a “fancy

painter”. The term pin striping was not used until around the early 1900’s. Before it was called line and stripe. A painted line larger than 1/4” in width was called a stripe, and a line smaller than 1/4” in width was a line. Artisans specializing in painted scroll-work or decals were called an ornamentor. Scroll-work is a general term used to describe the fancy corner details, such as intricate designs or flowers (Fleur-de-lis), at the corners where two stripes or lines meet.⁵⁸

The various steam fire engine manufacturers employed skilled artisans for the painting and embellishment process of finishing the apparatus at the factory. These artisan painters had learned their trade through apprenticeship work in carriage or sign shops. The master artisans (fancy painters) would be assisted by apprentices who were learning the trade. The apprentice would come in early and grind the pigment for the paint that would be used that day. Pigments such as Vermillion would change color from cherry-red to orange-red depending on the length of time it was ground. The painter would mix the paint depending on the application step. Painting was a multi-step process. A primer or base coat was first applied. During the period, several coats of paint would need to be applied to get the full coverage and desired color. Paint would

be allowed to dry for a day to several days between coats. In the case of red paint, the cheaper vermilion might be used for initial paint coats with more expensive carmine red used toward the end for a deeper red color.⁵⁹

Before the final coats of clear varnish were applied to protect the paint, the fancy painters would hand paint lettering, along with line and stripe the apparatus. Painted or decal application of corner scroll work would also be applied at this stage. After these final embellishments, the paint and ornamentations would be sealed by final coats of clear varnish. Varnish of the period would have been made of tree sap selected for clarity and ability to dry to a hard durable finish.⁶⁰

As can be seen, the painting and embellishment of fire apparatus in the mid-1800s to early 1900s was a time-consuming process. However, the assembly process and painting of several apparatus at the same time made it more efficient and economized cost. This encouraged manufacturers to standardize on a specific color of paint and style of embellishment. Though a manufacturer might standardize a design for striping and scroll work, each artisan added their unique style to the process.

THE STEAMER TO MOTORIZED APPARATUS

As the age of steam entered the fire service (the mid-1800s), the “steamer” fire engines did not have the flat spaces for elaborate paintings like the pump boxes of the old handtubs. Manufacturers used the finished metal parts such as copper or brass to put a highly polished shine to the steamers. Cast iron parts like the boiler were generally painted black, while iron or steel frame components were usually painted red. These frame members and the wagon wheels soon became a place for additional adornment with detailed pin striping or gold leaf application. As the fire apparatus manufacturers expanded to meet demand, they added personnel including full-time painters and gold leaf artisans. As explained previously, this changed the process from the painting of fire apparatus after delivery by local artisans to factory painting and custom work to meet client specifications. With the steamer’s factory assembly and painting approach, the color red became a standard color for fire apparatus.⁶¹ Red was a good bright contrast color to the large black boiler and other polished metal components.

The hose wagon that carried the fire hose would have the exterior painted in the fire department's colors except for the hose bed. The area where the hose was stored would have a natural wood shellac or varnish finish. This would be to keep paint from rubbing off on the fire hose itself as it was loaded or unloaded from the wagon bed. Generally, the "drive pole" or wagon tongue had a natural wood finish with forged metal brackets painted black or silver.

Unfortunately, the romantic age of strong galloping horses pulling the polished, smoking steamer would only last about 65 years. First to go were the horses when they were replaced by the invention of the internal combustion engine to haul the steamer. Ultimately the internal combustion engine would power both the drive gear and the pump.

By the 1920s, motorized fire apparatus would become the new standard for fire response and extinguishment. With the new automotive era came metal-enclosed vehicle bodies, curved fenders, and fine detail that provided new areas on the fire apparatus that could be painted and decorated. Soon new painting techniques and continuing refinements in pin striping, along with chrome-plated accessories would take the appearance of the working fire apparatus to new heights of splendor. As fire apparatus manufacturers shifted from steamers to motorized vehicles, the popular red color already in use continued to be the standard for fire apparatus.



Gold striping and leaf scrollwork on the red frame of the vintage Hose Cart. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum.

Based on this review of the color red related to the fire service, it leads one to surmise that it wasn't cost or the color competition with other vehicles that affected the firemen's choice of the color red. Empirical data seems to indicate that the bright appearance and historic symbolism created the attraction that led our fire service predecessors to choose red as a dominant color for the fire service.

VISIBILITY AND CONSPICUITY OF FIRE APPARATUS

In the last sixty years many studies have been conducted identifying the best color, reflectivity, and lighting for emergency service vehicles, and in particular fire apparatus. In this article, we have focused on the history of the color red as it has spanned multiple centuries of the American fire service. However, the research and controversy of recent years attempting to make fire apparatus safer based on color needs to be briefly examined.

Perhaps the first major study regarding changing the actual color of fire apparatus was conducted in England in 1965. Lanchester College of Technology and Coventry Fire Brigade's joint study "concluded that the color lime or bright yellow was actually easier to see in a variation of lighting — including at night."⁶² The findings of this study crossed the big pond and the U.S. Fire Service began seeing some departments switching to yellow or

lime-green fire apparatus in the 1970's. In the 1990s, Optometrist Stephen S. Solomon began promoting lime-yellow fire apparatus over red based on accident comparison data. A later four-year study by Solomon and James G. King printed in the *Journal of Safety Research*, "found that the risk of visibility-related, multiple vehicle accidents may be as much as three times greater for red or red/white fire trucks compared to lime-yellow/white trucks."⁶³

However, in a 2009 study conducted by the U.S. Fire Administration it was "concluded that the paint color was not important."⁶⁴ Regarding emergency apparatus color, the report stated that: "Whatever the specific color, research performed for this report suggests what is more important is the ability for drivers to recognize the vehicle for what it is. (Schmidt-Clausen, 2000)"⁶⁵ In addition, it is "theoretically possible to 'overdo'" when it comes to reflective striping and colored lights.⁶⁶ The researchers found that the driving public needs to be able to perceive that the vehicle is an emergency vehicle. This perhaps leads one to make the assumption that people recognize fire apparatus based on the color and appearance of the fire apparatus where they grew up. The study recommended a combination of color, reflective striping, emergency lights, and other identity factors to increase visibility and safety.



Eagle on Top of Globe, Engine Panel Painting, Artist unknown, ca 1863, Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of American History. Painting is considered to be in the Public Domain.



Gold pin-striping and detailing of a wheel of a vintage 1875 Steam Fire Engine. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum.

The National Fire Protection Association has for years provided consensus standards to guide the fire service in best practices. In the past *NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus* provided recommendations on apparatus design including colors, striping, and lighting. It is being replaced by a compilation standard in 2024 covering all fire response vehicles, *NFPA 1900 Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances*. This standard relies more on retroreflective striping and lighting than color to make fire apparatus safer in responding and on the emergency scene.

So, though fire apparatus can still be red or almost any other color, reflective striping and light combinations as promulgated by recommended standards affect the appearance of today's fire apparatus. Unfortunately, these requirements seem

to have visually obscured the beautiful and artistic gold, silver, or matching color pinstripe, scroll-work, and/or decorative fleur-de-lis of the past heyday of early motorized apparatus.

TODAY'S FIRE APPARATUS COLOR AND GRAPHICS

So how has the paint color and process changed on fire apparatus today? The composition of paints and the painting process began to change in the 1960s and today there are more durable primers and paints available in a multitude of colors. Fire apparatus manufacturers now use a multi-step paint and finishing process, along with computer graphics and modern vinyls to produce customized fire apparatus finishes and graphics packages that meet the specifications of almost any customer. In general, each apparatus manufacturer has their proprietary paint colors, but they can match existing fleet colors for the fire department customer.

Gold leaf lettering and hand-painted striping are still available from a few remaining artisans. However, almost all the manufacturers now use gold on vinyl or a SignGold vinyl using computer graphics programs and plotters to produce and cut out lettering and designs. The new vinyl processes are more durable and have a longer life compared to real gold leaf which requires maintenance and clear coating over time. Vinyl is also used for pin striping these days and looks like it is hand-painted. Though gold and silver pen stripes are favorites, in recent years black reflective striping

has gained in popularity. Fire department emblems are made as full-color decals and applied then clear coated.

So what is the most requested color on fire apparatus today? Red is still popular but now being used in two-color paint schemes such as red and white or red and black. Regarding the color red, there is no standard red in the fire service. The color varies in shade depending on the manufacturer or the fire department's preferences. Some departments like a brighter red such as a candy-apple red, while others lean toward a darker cherry red.

Scott Shelton, owner of Fire Master Fire Equipment, Inc., said that red is a dominant color with about 95% of the apparatus they manufacture being red.⁶⁷ However, he related that split colors have become popular such as black or white over red. Scott related that one of the unique colors they have done was a solid blue fire apparatus for a refinery. Brad Johnston, President of Precision Fire Apparatus, said that about 50% of the apparatus they sell is red but of those most are a two-tone combination with charcoal over red becoming a popular color combination.⁶⁸ They are also seeing requests for matching local school or city colors. Brad related that a memorable recent color design was white over chartreuse. Columbia (MO) Fire Department, which serves the City of Columbia and the University of Missouri's main campus, purchased an Air Supply Truck in 2009 during Chief William Markgraf's tenure that was painted in the University's colors, black and gold.

Author in Fire Instructor's red coveralls, Louisiana State University Firemen Training Program, 1980-90's. Author's collection.



1980's St. George VFPD Sta. 65, Baton Rouge, LA. Note the yellow fire apparatus. Author's collection.



THE LEGACY OF TRADITIONS AND CHANGE

This chapter examined the question of why red is such a predominant part of the American fire service, and through this review finds a historical explanation for this tradition. A tradition that has forever linked the color red to the fire service as illustrated by its use on fire apparatus and other firefighting paraphernalia across many centuries.

Paleoanthropologists have identified cave paintings that show the color red held a prominent place in the life of early man. The human fascination with the color and symbolism of red has been expressed throughout history. Seen in art and form the color has been embraced by groups, alliances, and religious ceremonies. So too has the color red become a symbolic part of the American fire service. Beginning with a desire to belong to a noble volunteer group, the early firemen donned a distinctive red colored shirt to show their membership in the elite public service organization of its time. The color red was also used to highlight their prized firefighting equipment, the fire bucket and then the venerated hand-pumped “Engine”. With the advancements in fire fighting pumps and equipment, such as the iconic steamer, the color red became more entrenched in the traditions of the fire service. By the time of the internal combustion engine and the motorization of the fire service, red was a predominant color for fire apparatus.

This review of the color red related to the fire service leads one to surmise that it wasn't the cost of the paint or the competition with other vehicles that affected the firemen's choice of the color red. Empirical data seems to indicate that the bright appearance and historic symbolism created the attraction that led our fire service predecessors to choose red as a dominant color for the fire service.

Today, according to the Fire Apparatus Manufacturing Association (FAMA), “Fire Engine Red” remains the most popular choice of paint color, and “has been used on thousands of fire apparatus over the years.”⁶⁹

Though new standards have instituted safety requirements related to reflective striping and graphics, today's fire apparatus still replicates the colors and embellishments that trace their origins to the early beginnings of the American fire service.

The color of your fire department's apparatus may or may not be red, but there is a history as to why and what the color represents to the current and passed firefighters of your department and your community. For too long oral myths have been concocted, embellished, and passed on as hyperbole to ultimately become accepted as truth while displacing the real history and traditions of the fire service. I encourage you to do your own research and learn the true history and traditions of your fire department or organization, and thereby understand how it influences the current and future fire protection of your community. What you learn and pass on to others may



Vintage Firemen Welcome Banner (1960's) and other red fire service tools and items. Author's collection.

one day be an important footnote in the continuing history and traditions that shape the American fire service.

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Columbia (MO) FD Air Supply Vehicle painted in the University of Missouri colors. Courtesy of Assistant Chief Jerry Jenkins.



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RECOGNIZING OUR MEMBERS

By Cedar Hill Fire Protection District

Cedar Hill Fire Protection District held its annual awards banquet on February 24th, 2024. The event was held at Sunnyhill Adventure Center in Dittmer, Missouri and had about 120 attendees. The following awards were issued:

YEARS OF SERVICE

1 YEAR

Engineer Shawn Hahl
Engineer Joseph Smith
Junior Firefighter Lucas Powell
Junior Firefighter Ella Shaffrey
Auxiliary Member Amanda Polfer
Junior Firefighter Braydon Sherrill
Firefighter Zachary Roussin
Firefighter Nicholas Morgan
Firefighter Travis Brown

15 YEARS

Lieutenant Will Powell

25 YEARS

Captain Christopher Guse
Auxiliary Member Thelma Dunn

MOST HOURS LOGGED FOR A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Junior Firefighter Braydon Sherrill
Lieutenant Will Powell

MOST HOURS OF TRAINING

Firefighter Jacob Kielholz — Senior Volunteer Firefighter
Engineer Dennis Polfer — Paid Firefighter
Junior Firefighter Braydon Sherrill — Junior Volunteer Firefighter



CLINICAL SAVE AWARDS

Captain Christopher Guse
Lieutenant Mike Wittu
Engineer Dennis Polfer

FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Battalion Chief Bob Tucker

25 Years of Service — Left to right: Director Tom Scott, Director Clifford King, Auxiliary Member Thelma Dunn, and Fire Chief Mick Fischer



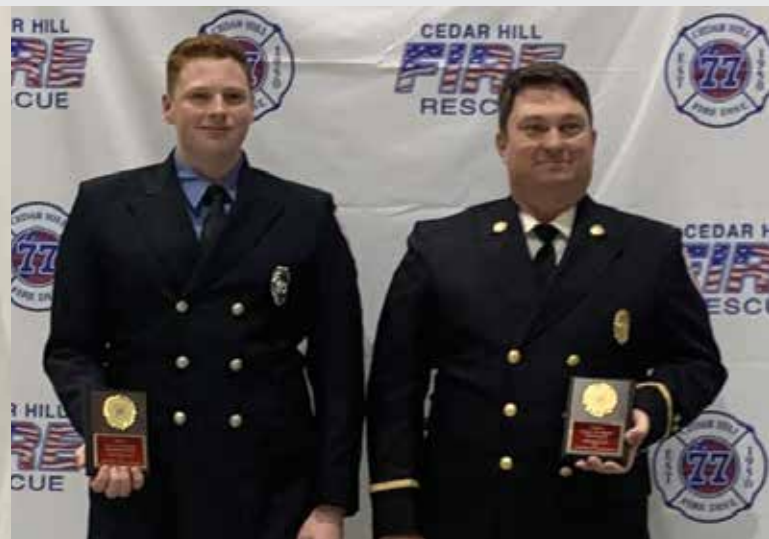
1 Year of Service — Left to right: Engineer Shawn Hahl, Engineer Joseph Smith, Junior Firefighter Lucas Powell, Junior Firefighter Ella Shaffrey, Auxiliary Member Amanda Polfer, Junior Firefighter Braydon Sherrill, Firefighter Zachary Roussin



Fire Officer of the Year — Left to right: Director Tom Scott, Director Clifford King, Battalion Chief Bob Tucker, and Fire Chief Mick Fischer.



Most Hours Logged for a Volunteer Firefighter — Left to right: Junior Firefighter Braydon Sherrill, Lieutenant Will Powell



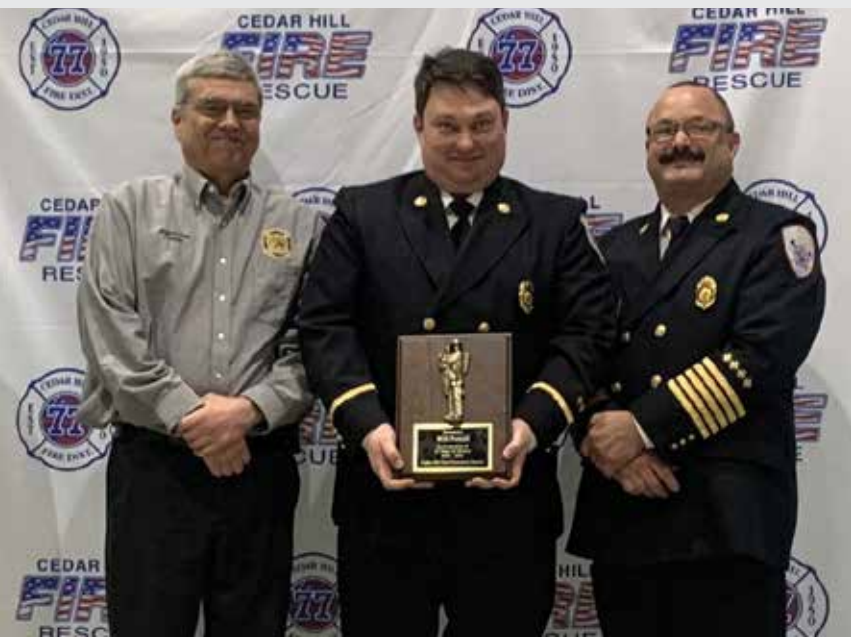
25 Years of Service — Left to right: Director Tom Scott, Director Clifford King, Captain Christopher Guse, and Fire Chief Mick Fischer.



Most Hours of Training — Left to right: Firefighter Jacob Kielholz: Senior Volunteer Firefighter, Engineer Dennis Polfer: Paid Firefighter, Junior Firefighter Braydon Sherrill: Junior Volunteer Firefighter



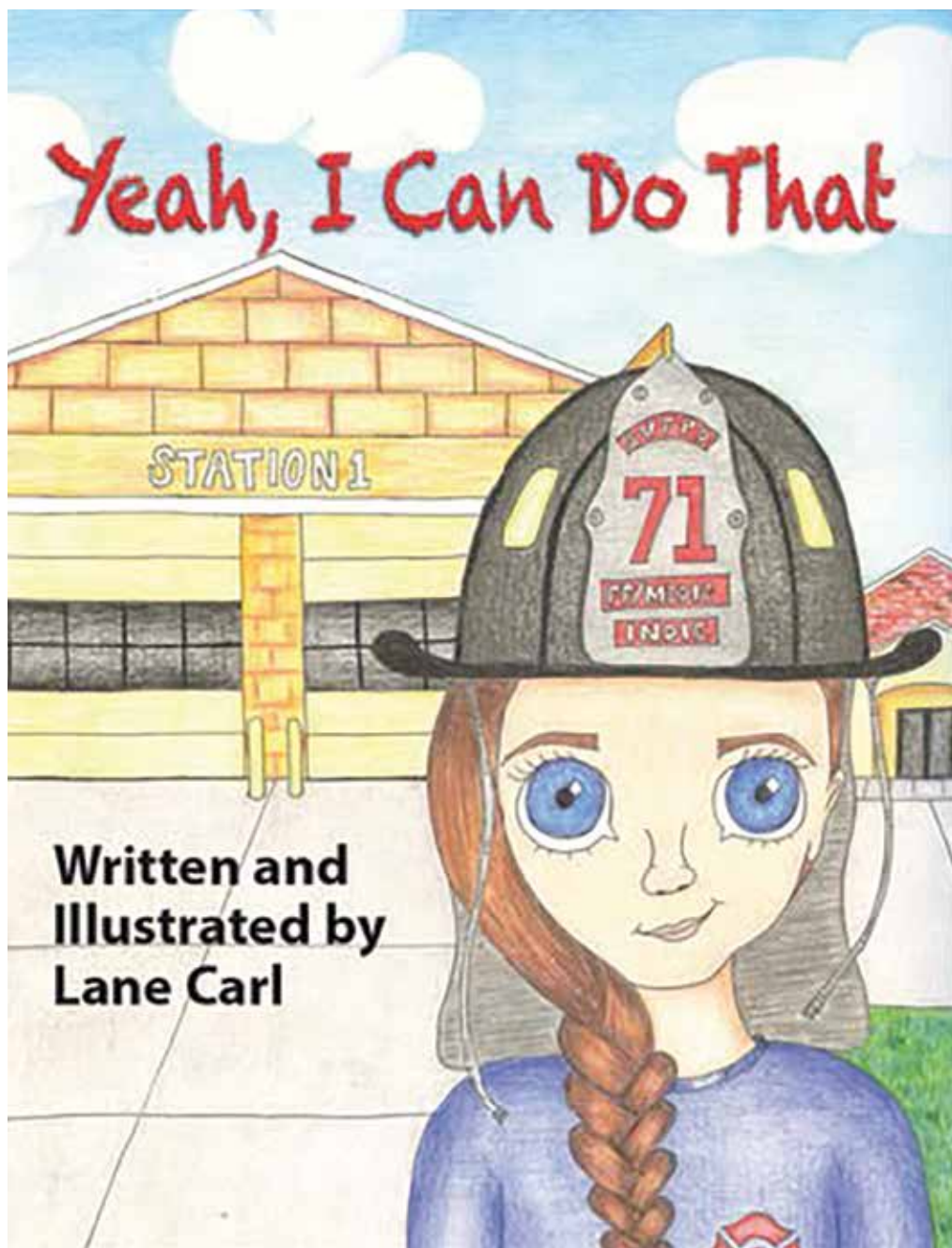
15 Years of Service — Left to right: Director Tom Scott, Director Clifford King, Lieutenant Will Powell, and Fire Chief Mick Fischer.



Clinical Save Awards — Left to right: Captain Christopher Guse, Lieutenant Mike Witt, Engineer Dennis Polfer



By Joe Clote, Group Publisher, Publishing Concepts, LLC



Written and Illustrated by Lane Carl

AN IGNITING TALE OF A YOUNG GIRL WHO'S DETERMINED TO PROVE SHE CAN DO IT

Lane Carl, a firefighter paramedic from Jefferson County, releases *Yeah, I Can Do It*, an illustrated children's book that inspires imagination and encourages kids to follow their dreams.

In this enchanting story, like most children, Indie is unsure of what she wants to be when she grows up. After becoming inspired from career day at her school, Indie embarks on an engaging test of skill, ability, and grit to become a firefighter. Surrounded by her

supportive friends and family, she overcomes self-doubt and builds the confidence to follow her dreams. Indie passes multiple tests to determine if she has what it takes to become a firefighter, each time declaring, "Yeah, I can do that."

Carl used her own experience and expertise as a firefighter paramedic to create this blazing story that will teach children to strive for success and not give up. With colorful illustrations and a glossary in the back of



the book with firefighter terms, *Yeah, I Can Do That* is a resource that educates children about the work of their everyday heroes and reminds them that with determination, passion, and courage, anything is possible to achieve.

Follow Indie on this thrilling journey as she pursues her dreams of becoming a firefighter. *Yeah, I Can Do That* is available to purchase at: publishingconceptsllc.com/product/yeah-i-can-do-that/

ABOUT LANE CARL

Lane Carl went from teaching in a high school art room sixteen years ago to becoming a full-time professional firefighter paramedic. When she was looking for a new career path, she was told by a career firefighter, a friend, that firefighting is the greatest profession. She trusted in that and now is in her third year as a career firefighter at Rock Community Fire Protection District located in Jefferson County, Missouri. Although Lane traded in her teacher's ID for bunker pants and a leather helmet, she hasn't lost her desire to create. As a female in a very male-dominated field, she felt a calling to share her journey and experience in the fire service.

ABOUT PUBLISHING CONCEPTS, LLC

For 28 years, Publishing Concepts, LLC has published everything from children's books, poetry, novels, and limited-edition books for self-published authors, to training manuals, magazines, and directories for organizations in the hospitality/tourism, medical, construction, chemical, and cybersecurity industries.



13 FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL EACH RECEIVE FOUR SETS OF GEAR THROUGH MSA AND DUPONT'S GLOBE GEAR GIVEAWAY

Proper personal protective equipment is critical to the safety, health, and effectiveness of firefighters, yet many volunteer fire departments struggle to find the budget to provide their firefighters with adequate, up-to-date turnout gear. MSA Safety, DuPont Personal Protection, and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) team up each year to help volunteer departments meet this need through MSA and DuPont's Globe Gear Giveaway.

Eligible volunteer fire departments in the U.S. and Canada can apply to receive four sets of turnout gear and helmets in 2024. Now in its 13th year, MSA and DuPont's Globe Gear Giveaway will award a total of 52 jackets, 52 pants, and 52 helmets to 13 departments to help keep their members safe. In addition, MSA will provide the first 500 applicants with a complimentary NVFC membership.

"The safety of volunteer firefighters is a top priority of the NVFC," said NVFC chair Steve Hirsch. "We're fortunate and grateful to have like-minded partners such as MSA and DuPont that want to go that extra mile to protect our nation's first responders."

"This program allows us to support our valuable volunteer firefighters so they can help keep their communities safe and be there when their neighbors are in need," said Bob Apel, MSA Safety's executive director of global fire service and digital experience. "At MSA, our mission is to help keep people safe at work, and these types of partnerships are an important part of helping us fulfill our mission."

"We are honored to give back in thanks to those that selflessly serve others and leverage our over 60 years of science and commitment to the fire service community in bringing trusted solutions to departments with limited resources," said Stephanie Vrakas, NA emergency response segment leader at DuPont.

The application period is now open. 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
- Be a member of the NVFC (MSA will provide complimentary memberships for the first 500 applicants)
- Demonstrate a need for the gear

View the full criteria and apply by June 1 at www.nvfc.org/gear.

Winners will be announced monthly between July and December. Stay tuned to the NVFC website, Dispatch newsletter, and Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram pages, as well as the Globe Facebook page, for details.

ABOUT GLOBE MANUFACTURING COMPANY AND MSA SAFETY

Globe Manufacturing Company, a leader in fire service protective clothing, is a subsidiary of MSA Safety Incorporated. MSA Safety Incorporated (NYSE: MSA) is the global leader in advanced safety products, technologies and solutions. Driven by its singular mission of safety, the Company has been at the forefront of safety innovation since 1914, protecting workers and facility infrastructure around the world across a broad range of diverse end markets while creating sustainable value for shareholders. With 2022 revenues of \$1.5 billion, MSA Safety is headquartered in Cranberry Township,

Pennsylvania and employs a team of over 5,000 associates across its more than 40 international locations. For more information, please visit www.MSAsafety.com.

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.

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 its solutions can be found at www.dupont.com. Investors can access information included in the Investor Relations section of the website at investors.dupont.com.

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LOSS OF A LEADER

By DeKalb Fire Protection District



The DeKalb Fire Protection District mourns the loss of retired Fire Captain William Leon Reese, who passed away on February 11, 2024. He was 80 years old.

Leon retired from the DeKalb Fire Department in 2013 after serving for 32 years. Leon was one of the founding members of the DeKalb (MO) Rural Volunteer Fire Department established in 1981. Leon helped establish what is now the DeKalb Fire Protection District.

Leon was always on the fire board since its inception, until retiring in approximately 10 years ago. Leon was President of the Fire Board for over 2 decades. Leon held the rank of Captain and as a Driver/Engineer. It was hard to beat Leon to the fire station when there was a call. When personnel were arriving at the station, Leon always had the fire truck pulled out of the station waiting for volunteers.

Leon was instrumental in the planning, logistics, and building process of the current fire station that was constructed in 2009/2010.

Leon also helped bring the fire department out of the old and into the new. In addition to Leon's commitment to the fire department, he was a great father and a family sponsor to many foreign exchange students over the years.

When Leon retired from the fire department, he was presented with a Courtesy Resolution by the Missouri House of Representatives, made possible by then State Representative Galen Higdon. Leon received many accolades over the years for his service to the community.

Hale

Volunteer Firefighter Fund

5K RUN & WALK

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH

REGISTRATION FEE
\$35

START AT 9:00 AM

Text 1-660-383-3860 for registraion form or go to
google form <https://forms.gle/j6HAcJIXjBgE24r6A>

The Hale Volunteer Firefighter Fund will be hosting a 5k Run Walk on April 20th, 2024 at 9 am starting on Main Street in Hale, Missouri.

Proceeds from this along with our raffle will go towards funding farm accident extraction equipment. You can sign up until the day of the event but will only receive a T-shirt if signed up by March 20th, 2024.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER

<https://forms.gle/j6HAcJ1XjBgE24r6A>

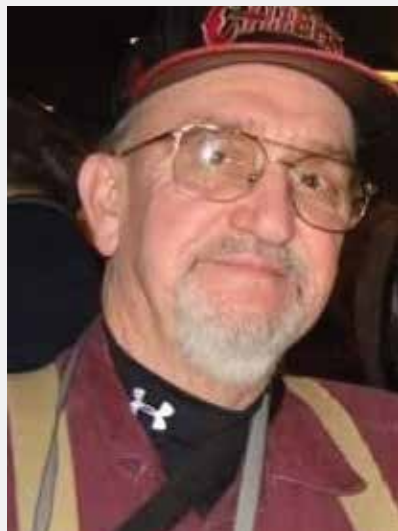
OR contact Chief Nicholas Wilson at 1-660-383-3860

Payment can be made via Venmo @HaleVolunteerFirefighterFund or by mailing a check to 618 W 3rd St. Hale MO 64643. All checks need to be made out to the Hale Volunteer Firefighter Fund. Thanks in advance and we look forward to seeing you on race day!

WILLIAM LEON REESE

January 27, 1944 — February 11, 2024

William “Leon” Reese, 80, of Platte City, Missouri, formerly of DeKalb, MO, passed away Sunday, February 11, 2024, in Platte City. He was born January 27, 1944, in DeKalb, MO, the son of Beatrice and Miles Reese.



He graduated from DeKalb High School, class of 1962. Leon retired from Rockwell International as a Supervisor. He was a member of the former Rushville Masonic Lodge # 238, served with Region H Haz-Mat, and served as the former Mayor of DeKalb. He was instrumental in the start of the DeKalb Rural Volunteer Fire Department and later helped establish the now DeKalb Fire Protection District. He served the department for over 30 years, holding the rank of Captain and Driver Engineer, and also served as Board President for over two decades.

He enjoyed officiating and coaching youth baseball when his children were younger. Leon was an avid Royals, Chiefs, and Mizzou fan. He never knew a stranger, was a great friend to all, and was committed to his time in public service and helping others.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sons Tony and Cory Reese, and siblings, Kenny Reese and Bonnie Youngberg. Survivors include daughters, Cindy Reese (Kevin Marquardt) of Columbia, MO, Victoria (Brad) Fisher of Platte City, MO, brothers, Marvin (Janice) Reese of Houston, TX, Bob (Cathy) Reese of St. Charles, MO, sister, Beverly Reese of Atchison, KS, grandchildren, Morgan and Jayda Marquardt, Wyatt, Logan, Isabell, and Josephine Fisher, and numerous nieces and nephews and cousins.

Leon was active in the Rushville (MO) Masonic Lodge, DeKalb Christian Church, DeKalb Homecoming Association, Region H Haz-Mat Team, DeKalb (MO) Village Board of Trustees and was the DeKalb mayor a time or two as well.

Our department will always be indebted to Leon’s service and commitment to public service. Leon was a great friend and mentor to all.

Funeral services were held on Monday, February 19, 2024, at Rupp Funeral Home in St. Joseph. Leon was inurned on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Westlawn Cemetery in DeKalb, MO following a last call. Leon is survived by his two daughters and several grandchildren.

GENE ROBERT GILLMAN

August 1, 1947 — February 12, 2024

Gillman, Eugene “Gene” Robert, of Dittmer, Missouri, was born August 1, 1947, in St. Louis, Missouri to Russell and Edna (nee Bauer) Gillman and entered into rest Monday, February 12, 2024, in Fenton, Missouri at the age of 76 years.



He is preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Edna (nee Bauer) Gillman. He is survived by his loving wife, Ruth Ann (nee Kramme) Gillman (married September 16, 1967); one

(1) son, Robert Gene (Kara) Gillman; seven (7) siblings: Darlene (Jim) Woodard - their son, Michael (Amy) Woodard; Gerry (Gary) Jones – their children, David (Jaime) Jones, Cindy (Mike) Fikes, and Karen Jones; Wanda Gillman – her children, Brian (Heather) Jones and Thomas (Stephanie) Jones; Delmar (Jill) Gillman; Randy Gillman; Kathy (Jim) Casey – their children, Trevor and Katherine; Marvin (Robert) Gillman two (2) sibling-in-laws: Dianne (Tom) Lowerre – their children, Amanda (Shaun) O’Donnell, Ben Lowerre, and Anna (Jon) Pool; Daniel (Jeri) Kramme – their children, John (Marc) Kramme, Danielle Kramme; and many other family members and friends.

A life-long resident of Dittmer, Missouri, and member of St. Martin’s United Church of Christ in Dittmer, Missouri, Gene served in many different leadership roles. He served in the Missouri Army National Guard and retired as a Captain in the Cedar Hill Fire Protection District. He had volunteered there for more than 47 years.

Gene was a long-time coordinator and sponsor of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 894 and the newly founded Girls Troop 894G at St. Martin’s UCC in Dittmer.

Professionally, Gene was a sheet metal worker, and HVAC installer and service technician since the age of 18. In his spare time, he loved to be with family, play cards, hunt, fish, bar-b-que, cook, cut wood to heat the house and work in the garden. Gene will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to any of the following organizations in Gene’s memory:
St. Martin’s United Church of Christ, Dittmer, MO
Cedar Hill Fire Protection District
Boy Scout Troop 894 or 894G- St. Martin’s Dittmer, MO

The family extends special thanks to all the medical professionals who helped comfort Gene in his final years of life. Family and friends can review and share stories, photos and condolences online at www.stlfuneral.com and follow details of this event and others in the community at www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill.

Some flexibility for operations when being seated and belted is not feasible (parades, funerals, reloading hose lays, etc.); bb. Pump & aerial ladder testing will be required; cc. Vehicle operator training would be increased; dd. Private vehicle or home response policies are required; ee. Reiterates 2 In 2 Out rule; ff. Use of incident management/ NIMS required; gg. Rehab needs to be provided at incidents; hh. Traffic safety procedures need to be implemented – including the use of reflective vests; ii. You'll need SOPs. And including non-emergency incidents; jj. Use of backup spotters required; kk. Post Incident Analysis will be used for any significant event – injuries, death, large-scale events, or near misses; ll. Annual review of operations for effectiveness.

WHAT NOT?

A few items are specifically excluded.

- A. Lower-than-technical level search & rescue is not included. (It appears that the same is true of hazmat, but I didn't see it as obviously stated. If you don't do it, you don't need the training.)
- B. Fire Poles are not banned! But training on 4-point contact by the responder is required. And there are some other rules on their use.
- C. No required vehicle replacement schedule.

A FEW THOUGHTS:

- 1. Significant financial impact on the small fire departments (those 50% of departments serving communities of fewer than 3000 people).
- 2. The small fire departments are currently lacking administrative/management staff with the skill sets needed to implement much of what is proposed. The OSHA proposal does address the economic and financial impacts of this, but I don't think there is a real understanding of the lack of skills to do some of this.
- 3. I think that half of the fire departments out there will take 20+ years to fully implement this, assuming access to funding and leadership is capable and willing to implement it.
- 4. Providing written comments and testimony on this proposal will be a huge task for the NVFC, and we need an action plan. We have less than 90

days (if I'm reading this correctly) to provide written comments. a. Maybe have a large group of individuals each draft comments on one small piece of the proposal over the next 30 days, and then pull it all together and correlate them into a single document?; b. Focus on the details in their report.; c. Focus on the impact on small organizations and the need for flexibility in how we implement this, as well as a long timetable.; d. What we can block entirely? How are the other fire service groups responding? Will we be swimming alone or with them? What topics are we the only ones addressing – this increases our need to focus.; e. Address how we deal with the possibility that we will oppose certain regulations that are consistent with our statements in things like the Lavender Ribbon Report.

IN SUMMARY

I am appreciative of the insight that Joe Maruca has provided and would also like to add some thoughts on my own. There is hope that the comment stage which runs through May 6 will have a measured impact on how this currently looks/is applied as a final standard. Also adding to the discussion is a belief that OSHA seemingly does not have a full understanding of the implications of potentially shutting down hundreds of departments that may not be able to fully comply vs. facing OSHA citations/fines that would bankrupt them out of business. There are cases of a proposed OSHA standard up-grade being so controversial that it never goes into effect. Saving all of that, there is the nuclear option of going directly to Congress for relief. This is only the beginning of a new challenge, not the final outcome at the time of this writing. This is being watched very closely by NVFC and there will be future updates in your FFAM magazine.

HELP US GROW

By Robert (R.B.) Brown, Director

Hello and greetings from District 7. I hope all has been well. It has been a while since I have had an article in the magazine and I hope it will continue. District 7 may be changing soon and with change comes responsibility, dedication, pride and ownership.

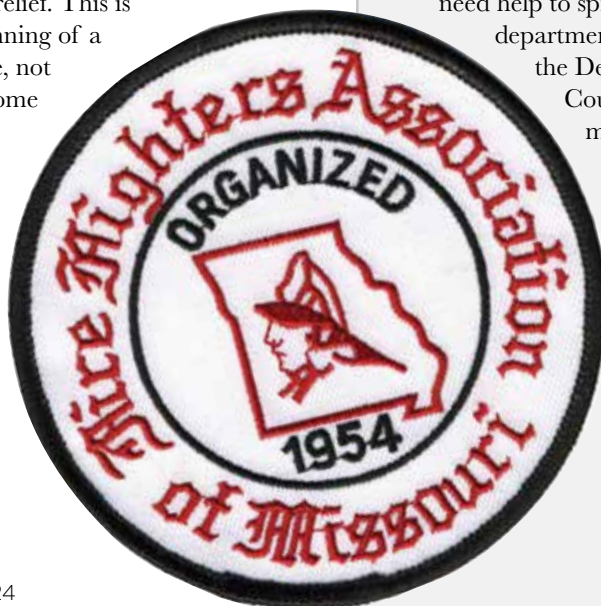
It seems like leaders are always lamenting the lack of cooperation and collaboration in their organizations. But more often than not, the culprit isn't their member's unwillingness to give others a hand — it's the fact that most people simply don't, or won't, ask for help.

Why? First, asking for help is often perceived as a sign of weakness or ignorance, implying that someone can't get their work done on their own. A second common barrier is a nervousness about incurring social debts or obligations — "What do I owe this person now?"

Third, and for American workers in particular, personal values can get in the way. In today's organizations, you can't be successful if you don't ask for what you need.

So you may be thinking what is he talking about? It is simple...this fine organization is run by the members but not all fire, E.M.S., and dispatch organizations are members of the F.F.A.M. so we need to get out and spread the word on the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri and get your mutual aid departments and districts to join.

As I mentioned, District 7 may be changing so with that change Andrew and I will need help to spread the word. Any department member that is in the Dent, St Francis or Perry Counties please contact me at district7ffam@gmail.com. Each and everyone is a team player and together everyone achieves more (TEAM). Have a safe great spring.



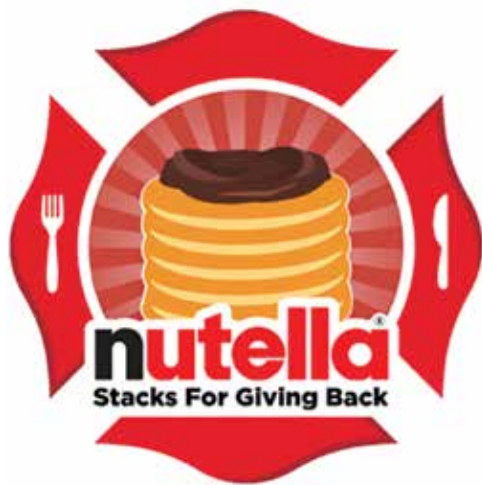
By Keith Smith



Welcome to the National Volunteer Fire Council report.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

The NVFC has teamed up with Nutella on their *Stacks for Giving Back* program. This launched on March 1 and will include two components. Fire departments can apply for a chance to receive one of five \$5,000 grants to help support department necessities, and members of the public can nominate a local fire department for the chance to win a Pancake Breakfast Kit to help pull off their next fundraiser.



CANCER STUDY FOR WOMEN

The Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study (FFCCS) is conducting a Women Firefighter Study. The FFCCS is a prospective cohort attempting to identify and evaluate risk factors specific to women firefighters that are

associated with adverse health conditions including mental health conditions, adverse reproductive conditions, cancer and plans for effective interventions to mitigate these conditions. They are enrolling career and volunteer women firefighters who are 18 years and older to join the study. ffccs.org/projects/women-firefighters Enrollment in the study consists of a study visit by the FFCCS team in which they will collect blood, urine, and a detailed survey. All participants will receive their personalized anti-mullerian hormone (AMH), a marker of ovarian reserve and results from the enrollment visit. Participants will be asked to follow up for routine biologic collections every 18-24 months. Participation in the study is completely voluntary and participants may withdraw at any time.

OTHER UPDATES

Anheuser Busch has verbally partnered with NVFC for another year of water donations. To date, they have delivered over 9 million cans of water through this partnership. Sarah Lee, Chief Executive Officer of NVFC was able to network with several senior Anheuser Busch staff in early February including their CEO as well as several distributors and she formally thanked them for this partnership. Stay tuned for the notice to apply online.

NVFC has launched a Leadership Track in their Virtual Classroom. The response has been astounding with 290 registrations in just the first month. It's clear that NVFC hit an area of high need with this initiative.

As part of the training plan approved by the NVFC's Health, Safety & Training

Committee, these training tracks are designed to take the guesswork out of which courses to take and provide departments with an easy method of assigning or recommending courses to help individuals grow and develop in their roles. This leadership track consists of the following new and existing courses and instructed by several NVFC Directors:

- Finding the Leader Within – Kim Sylvia
- Volunteer Fire Service Culture: Essential Strategies for Success - The Role of Leadership – Dave Lewis
- Leadership for the Fire and Emergency Services – Quentin Cash
- Fire Chief's 10 Commandments – Chris Barron
- Fire Department Budgeting – Brad Schull
- Fire Service Ethics – Quentin Cash
- Social Fitness: Skills to Improve Community Relations for the Volunteer Firefighter – Tom Merrill
- The Leader's Guide to Overcoming R&R Challenges – Joe Maruca
- Bridging the Divide: A Diversity & Inclusion Training – Dave Denniston
- Creating a Psychologically Healthy Fire Department – David Ballard

If you are not an NVFC Member and want more information on the many other benefits or ready to complete the process for just \$21 per year, go to nvfc.org/join-nvfc/

The National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) is replacing the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). They are reported to be on target for a launch in the fall of 2024. They are planning a soft launch and then NERIS will be the national reporting system of the US fire service moving forward. They have an informational website that also offers training at fsri.org/programs/neris

I will close by redirecting you to the article regarding OSHA's New Emergency Response Rule Update. This proposed change in OSHA Federal Regulations is very sweeping. If fully enacted, it will substantially change the fire service and it may be the most impactful regulation that small fire departments have ever had to adapt to. "This proposal is a mile wide and a mile deep."

Thank you for your time and for allowing Rob and me to serve on your behalf.





Director's Comments



Harry Ward
Director

Well, it looks like the weather is changing and Spring is on its way. MU FRTI has been working hard to deliver numerous classes around our great state. This year's MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute Winter Fire School was an enormous success.

We started this year's Winter Fire School by honoring William "Bill" Westhoff who passed away. Bill served as the third Director of what in 1973 was known as Firemanship Training. Bill Westhoff was a driving force to reorganize Firemanship Training to what we know today as the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

As always, we had vendors from all over the Midwest showing off their products.

The range of vendors varied from fire truck manufacturers, t-shirts, insurance, lighting, firefighting protective gear, organizations like the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri, Firefighter Memorial Foundation, and Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs Association.

We were honored to have Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe who supports the Missouri fire service. We also had members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Tim Taylor, and Kathy Steinhoff, as well as Vice Chancellor Chad Higgins, and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Sara Traub from MU Extension. State Fire Marshall Tim Bean also joined us along with members of the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs. The group met with our command staff and talked about the behind-the-scenes efforts of MU FRTI's conference management.

Saturday morning started early as we welcomed over eight hundred students to the University of Missouri campus. Students from across Missouri, 7 other states, and 3

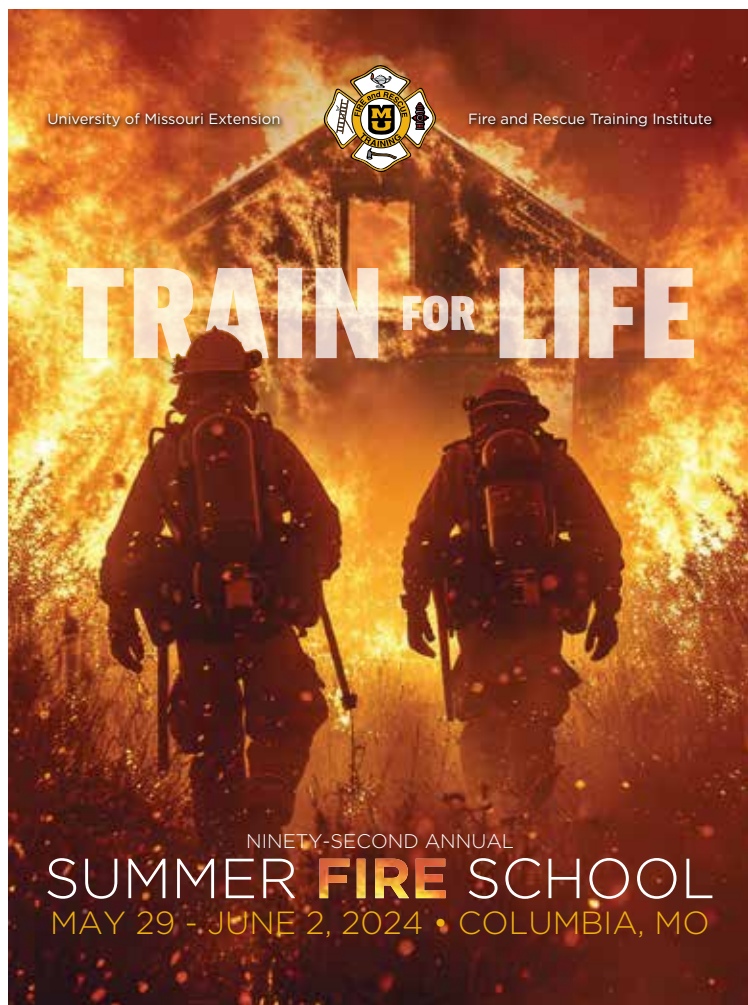
individuals from Korea were able to have some of the best instructors from 27 states including our own MU FRTI instructors. Some of the classes included energy emergencies, tactical fire operations, leadership courses, technical rescue, mental and physical health, and so many others.

Three webcasts were held over the two-day event and 41 departments participated. At the time of writing this, we are still working on total numbers.

I want to thank all our faculty, staff, MU Extension, and the University of Missouri for providing a great venue to host this educational experience. We look forward to seeing more students next year on February 7-9, 2025.

The 92nd Annual Summer Fire School will be in Columbia from May 29 to June 2.

Tracy Gray is putting together an amazing Summer Fire School. We will have a great lineup of classes. One thing that we are



Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training

This workshop will provide the necessary training and education required for newly appointed ambulance and fire district board members under Missouri state law. The Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts and Missouri Ambulance Association has developed the curriculum used in this class to assist new board members in understanding legal liabilities and personal obligations of their position. Topics include: authority of the board, responsibilities, rules, laws of elected boards, elections, and how to preside at a meeting.

May 17, 2024 — 8:00 AM 5:00 PM

Lodge of the Four Seasons
315 Four Seasons Drive
Lake Ozark, MO 65049

Lead Instructor
Monte Lee Olsen

For additional information contact
MU FRTI | (800) 869-3476 • Email - frti@missouri.edu

proud of is the return of the wildland firefighting classes. The classes are the basic S130 and S190 and an advanced class S212, the saw class. We are excited to bring those classes back to Missouri. Keep a look out for more information on Summer Fire School.

Our website has had a total overhaul over the last few months. We worked with Extension web developers to maintain the information. I would ask that you please

visit our website and provide me feedback personally wardh@missouri.edu for what you like or don't like. This will help us make the continuous improvements an up-to-date website requires.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute, "Make every day a training day."



Upcoming MU FRTI Classes • Find the Full Training Schedule at MUFRTI.org

DATE	COURSE	HOST	CONTACT	PHONE
01/17	Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders	Greenfield	Kerry Spain	(417) 693-3364
03/22	Vehicle Rescue: Technician	Central Polk County Fire Protection District	Tommy Gerean	(816) 825-6247
03/22	Basic Pump Operations	Sparta Fire Protection District	Brian Loula	(417) 234-2136
03/23	Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue	Savannah Rural Fire Protection District	Tom Sontheimer	(816) 617-5826
03/25	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Thomasville Fire Department	Tyler Trantham	(417) 293-3218
03/26	Making the Grab - Residential Search	Fenton Fire Protection District	Tom Mueller	
03/30	Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue	Owensville Volunteer Fire Department	Jeff Arnold	(417) 818-7911
03/30	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Dent County Fire Protection District	Dennis Floyd	(573) 729-3250
04/02	Structural Collapse Rescue: Initial Response	Warrensburg Fire Department	Matt Soer	(660) 262-4652
04/02	Swiftwater and Flood Rescue: Awareness	Kirkville Fire Department	Mike Bishop	(660) 665-3734
04/02	Surface Water Rescue: Awareness	Kirkville Fire Department	Mike Bishop	(660) 665-3734
04/03	Elevator Operations (3 Elevators)	North Kansas City Fire Department	Greg Hook	(816) 412-8008
04/05	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Rolla Rural Fire Protection District	Roger Hayes	(573) 341-2211
04/05	Vehicle Rescue: Technician	Highlandville Rural Fire Protection District	Jeff Gallant	(417) 209-9221
04/06	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Savannah Rural Fire Protection District	Tom Sontheimer	(816) 617-5826
04/06	Fire Fighter I and II Live Fire Skills	Gerald-Rosebud Fire Department	Jordan Lottman	(314) 800-8185
04/06	Handling LP Gas Emergencies	Benton Fire Department	Joey Mack	(573) 382-0525
04/06	Engine Company Operations	Fruitland Area Fire Protection District	Rob Francis	(573) 243-6565
04/10	Exterior Live Fire Skills	Preston Volunteer Fire Department	Brian Bennett	(816) 605-3816
04/12	Structural Fire Fighting Techniques	Preston Volunteer Fire Department	Brian Bennett	(816) 605-3816
04/13	Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue	Chamois Fire Protection District	Sean Hackmann	(573) 659-1929
04/14	Fire Fighter I and II Live Fire Skills	Preston Volunteer Fire Department	Brian Bennett	(816) 605-3816
04/15	Trench Rescue: Awareness	Moberly Fire Department	Ben Wolverton	(660) 346-6082
04/16	Trench Rescue: Operations	Moberly Fire Department	Ben Wolverton	(660) 346-6082
04/16	Introduction to the Fire Service	Maryville Fire Department	Angie Jones	(660) 582-9596
04/18	Trench Rescue: Technician	Moberly Fire Department	Ben Wolverton	(660) 346-6082
04/19	Fire Response to Active Shooter Coordination & Support	Republic Fire Department	Lynn Morgan	(417) 872-6512
04/19	Vehicle Rescue: Technician	Nevada Fire Department	Taylor McKlentic	(417) 448-4183
04/20	Introduction to the Fire Service	Sparta Fire Protection District	Brian Loula	(417) 234-2136
04/20	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Forsyth Fire Department	Nathan Bower	(417) 546-3074
04/24	Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders	Van Buren Fire Department	Curt Majors	(870) 275-5053
04/27	Fire Fighter I and II Live Fire Skills	Cape Girardeau Fire Department	Matt Mittrucker	(573) 339-6330
04/29	Structural Collapse Rescue: Initial Response	Jefferson City Fire Department	Nick LaBoube	(816) 217-5925
04/30	Firefighter Friendly Thermal Imaging	Lincoln County Fire Protection District 1	Robert Shramek	(636) 528-8567
05/01	Structural Collapse Rescue: Awareness	Antonia Fire Protection District	Kevin Schnable	(314) 420-0314
05/03	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Southern Webster County FPD	Mark Hensley	(417) 207-0830
05/03	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Pineville Fire Department	Zac Payton	(417) 439-0040
05/07	Large Area Search Team Training	Warrensburg Fire Department	Matthew Soer	(660) 262-4652



AUXILIARY MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Sedalia, Missouri

SILENT AUCTION

By Theresa Cox, Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer

The meeting was called to order by President, Jessica Weise at 9:01 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jessica Weise, Norborne FPD; Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD; Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD; Joni Fields, Paris RFPD; Missy Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; Debbie Meyers, Concordia FPD.

MINUTES

Jessica asked if everyone had the chance to review the December meeting minutes and if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to be made. Theresa made a motion to accept the minutes as they were; a second was made by Sheri. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Theresa Cox reported the Auxiliary made over \$382 at Winter Fire School and thanked everyone who supported us at the event. With this new income, our ending balance is \$6,488.58. Joni made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Missy, Motion passed. Missy and Sheri volunteered to audit the financial books after the meeting. They found the financials were in order.

CONTEST

Sheri stated Gary Berendzen was going to relinquish his position today as chairperson of the contest. She did not have anything else to report.

CONVENTION

Convention is May 17-19, at the Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. In reviewing the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, we need to clarify with Andrew Caldwell when the posters will be due. Including who will be collecting, where posters can be dropped, and the exact dates of collecting. Look for more information to come out about Convention registration and hotel arrangements.

The Auxiliary is asking for donations for Silent Auction items. If a person(s) or department would like to donate something; items will be accepted Friday, May 17th at the Auxiliary booth. The Auxiliary will have a few items for sale, a booze raffle, and a 50/50 drawing this year.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Save the dates of Saturday, October 5th for the Candlelight Service and Sunday, October 6th for the Memorial Service.

NEW BUSINESS

BY-LAWS

Joni presented the By-Law change as:

PROPOSED CHANGE

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of 3 Auxiliary members appointed by the president and when possible should include up to 3 past presidents. ~~of the immediate past three presidents.~~ This committee will be responsible for submitting a slate of officers for the election at the convention.

Joni made a motion we accept the by-law change as presented, the motion was seconded by Sheri, motion passed.

Jessica announced she asked Theresa to be on this year's Nominating Committee, to which she replied yes. This committee will be Diane Wynn, Kim Voss and Theresa Cox.

The 2024 Missouri Fire Service Charity BBQ Smoke-Out will be on Saturday, October 14th at Kingdom City at the Memorial Site. The committee has reported they have a band scheduled for the event.

Applications are available for this year's fair.

Reminded everyone our next Board meeting will be held in Kingdom City on April 7th, at 9:00 am.

Joni made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Theresa. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Theresa Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Soon we will all be getting ready for the 2024 Convention. This year it will be held in Lake of the Ozark on May 17th – 19th, at the wonderful Lodge of the Four Seasons.

The FFAM Auxiliary is having the Silent Auction again this year. Our Auction is only as good as the donations we receive from individuals or a department.

If this is your first convention and have not experienced donating or participating in our silent auction you are in for a treat. Donations range from baskets to items made and everything in between. To give you ideas, last year a department made up a basket with a huge array of art supplies. We have had individuals make corn-hole games, tables, scratcher ticket trees, quilts, etc, which are highly enjoyed by the bidders. The items can be fire-related or not. All Silent Auction items can be dropped off on Friday night May 17th, at the Auxiliary booth. So start thinking about what you or your department might want to donate to the silent auction.

The monies raised by everyone's gracious bidding will later be decided on how we will support our firefighters, the FFAM, great causes, etc. If you have a very large item that will need to be displayed properly let me or one of the Auxiliary Board members know so we can plan accordingly (you will find us on the FFAM Website, Auxiliary officers).

Now all you have to do is have fun being creative with a donation and/or start bidding when you attend the convention in May. I am looking forward to seeing you at the convention.



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