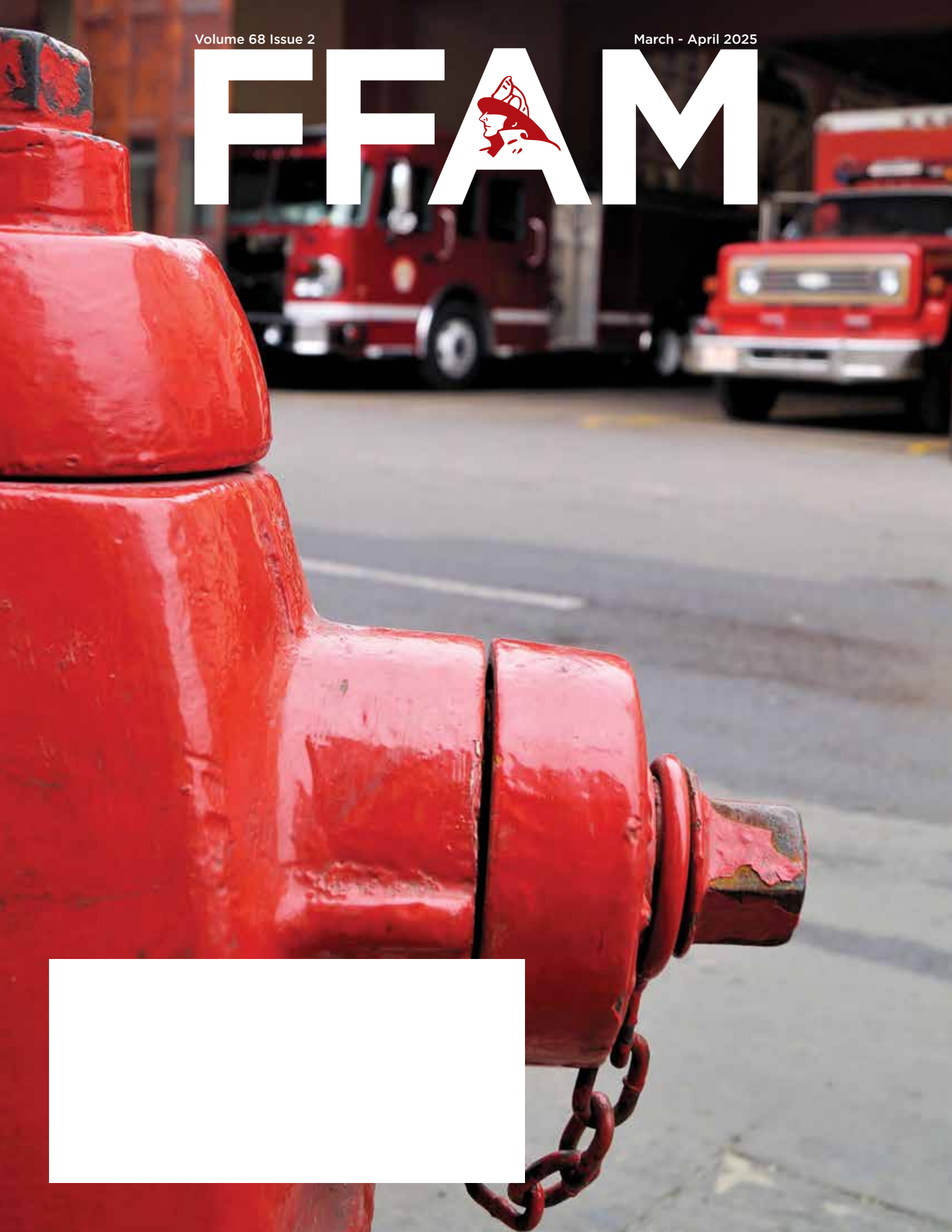


Volume 68 Issue 2

March - April 2025

FFAM



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FFAM BOARD MEETING: 9:00 a.m., April 6 • Sedalia, MO

Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



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CONTENT

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President's Remarks

Spring Update



Larry Jennings

By the time you are reading this, I hope the winter weather has loosened its grip and everyone is getting started on their Spring plans. I remember one time, long ago I used to enjoy the winter months. Somehow with age and spending hours in the frigid temperatures on incident scenes, I have grown a little less fond of those winter "opportunities", but do still enjoy some of the winter beauty as long as I am inside and the fireplace is operating.

The University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) Winter Fire School has come and gone. The event appeared to be almost full of vendors and the attendee numbers appeared to be strong. What a great experience for members of the fire service to obtain quality training and get to see the latest equipment and apparatus on display by the many vendors. If you have never attended classes or even just stopped in for the expo I encourage you to make plans for the next event. Summer Fire School is just around the corner so look for that announcement and sign up for classes.

While at the event in Columbia, I had the distinct pleasure of taking part in presentations to a few of our member departments who were on hand and were recipients of the MFA Volunteer Fire Grant program. MFA funds the grant program with \$50,000. Following a review of the 115 applications totaling over \$300,000 in requests, we were able to award 28 grants for the total available funds. When this opportunity is open again and you meet the requirements, I encourage you to apply. The answer is always NO if you don't apply so complete the application and hopefully you will be one of the benefactors. I could not close this paragraph without a huge THANK YOU to MFA for their generous support of volunteer fire departments throughout the state. Great job MFA!

Hopefully, this edition will reach you before March 27th. If so then you still have time to plan to attend the 2025 Fire Fighter's Day at the Capitol. This annual event is a prime opportunity for you to meet one-on-one

with your state legislators and other elected officials and discuss the issues affecting the fire service. There is a Fire Service Alliance Report at 9:30 at the Fire Marshal's Office followed by meetings with the legislators at 10:00 and then the noon gathering in the Capitol Rotunda. Even if you are or were not able to attend make sure you are getting to know your legislators so they know who the subject matter experts in their area are when they need input on actions being taken that can affect the fire service.

The convention is just coming up fast so if you haven't registered yet please do so. This annual event will be held May 2-4 at the Chateau on the Lake. As always featured events will be the firefighter challenge contest, a recognition banquet and the annual business meeting of the organization. Registration is free this year, but you still need to fill out a registration form so the hosts can plan for the appropriate number of attendees. All information is available on the FFAM website under the "Committees" tab and then "Convention" look at the upper right-hand side of the page and you will find the information you need. I hope to see each of you at the Convention this year.

The Missouri State Fair is scheduled for August 7-17. The FFAM is under contract

again this year to provide fire and EMS services. Applications to work at the fair are available under the "State Fair" in the "Committees" tab on the FFAM website. Get your application submitted as soon as possible so you can be considered to work on some or all of the events. This is a great way to work with peers from across the state from career, combination, and volunteer agencies to informally learn and also formally learn in the various trainings provided during the fair. You also will have the opportunity to showcase your talents to the many visitors and staff attending the fair. See you in August in Sedalia!

With the onset of Spring and the fresh new growth often associated with Spring remember to take the time to help your agency grow and recruit new members into the fire service. Remember we often have to go to them to generate interest as you normally do such a good job in delivering your services that many people don't realize new/additional help is needed. Get out and make your agency known in the community and clearly communicate that help is needed. Along with recruiting new members don't forget we need to be attentive to the needs of our current members so we can retain their services for years to come.

If the Board of Directors can be of assistance please contact one of us and ask. Be safe in all you do!



NERIS Rollout in 2025

OVERVIEW

The National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) is rolling out in 2025 to provide fire departments with a powerful, modern system for incident reporting and data management. Built on collaboration and support, the rollout plan will aid departments in onboarding successfully. By the end of 2025, thousands of departments will be part of this national transition from the legacy system.

The NERIS rollout will occur in phases to strategically allocate resources, ensuring platform reliability at every step.

Prepare for the new National Emergency Response Information System

Fire Marshal's Update

As I start this article it is a whopping 8 degrees, "Let it be known, I hate cold weather!" Man, I feel better just saying! My oldest son Nathanael who is a Fire Captain with Joplin Fire Department sent me a picture of him and the crew after battling a structure fire in the arctic weather. It brought back memories of my firefighting days. I'm shivering while I type this! "Thank you" to each and everyone who has been out during this inclement weather doing what we do as the Missouri Fire Service. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors"!

Here in Jefferson City, our legislators are working in harmony. Both chambers have been productive with committee hearings and good floor debate. There are several bills that pertain to the fire service, and the first responder community. Some bills I have my eyes on are House Bill 72 (Work Comp), HB 365 (Line of Duty Compensation), HB 70 (MERC), HB 210, HB 751, HB 930, (Unmanned Aerial Systems), HB 533 (Prohibits fire protection district boards from enacting ordinances that subject agriculture buildings to certain fire safety requirements). I again encourage you to get involved with what is going on at your state capitol.

I was looking over the reported 2024 fire fatalities from across our state. Our data shows (we do not get visibility on all fire deaths) that we had 107 Missourians perished from fire. Some of the higher causes of death are, smoking while on oxygen, suicide by fire, improper use of smoking material, and hoarding in homes.

Fire fatalities are up in our state from 2023. We have some work to do to educate our communities about fire prevention. We still have homes consistently that do not have smoke detectors.

I love data, it tells the true story! We need your help across our state to report fire fatalities. Many of you call us to work on your fire fatalities. I am asking those who do not use us to please use the QR code I have provided to capture your fire fatality event. With your assistance, we can use this data to create what messages we need to focus on across our state about Community Risk Reduction CRR. Thank you for your assistance with this!

We have big things coming shortly every fire department will need to participate in. The U.S. Fire Administration will be rolling out the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). The old reporting system will be leaving this year. We will be sending information to you across the fire department registration platform. It will be very important for you to watch your email. We will be working on having Web-ex workshops to assist everyone in the transition. Please be patient with us as we learn alongside you. We will all need to work together to be successful!

FIREFIGHTERS' DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Firefighters' Day at the Capitol is March 27th. In the previous article, I had March 25th, that is incorrect! We invite one and all to come to your state capitol and visit with



Tim Bean



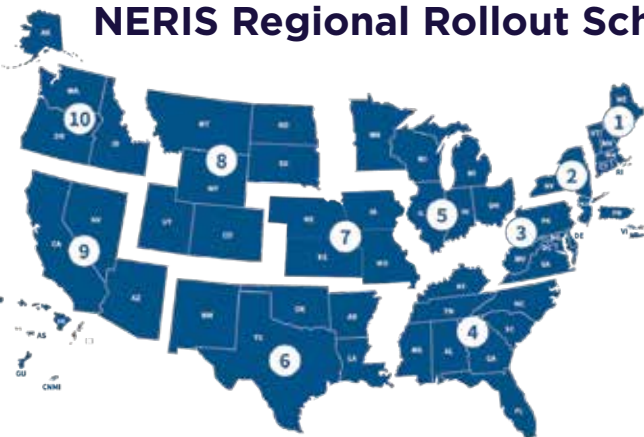
Please Report Fire Fatalities

We need your help!

your legislators. We start the day with a briefing here on the 13th floor at 9:30 a.m. followed by going to the capital to visit your legislators. At 12 p.m. we will gather in the rotunda for our annual ceremony. Our theme this year is "Recognizing your Spouses, and our 9-1-1 Telecommunicators. Please help get the word out. Let's make it the best ever. Bring your spouse or significant other and reach out to your local 9-1-1 telecommunicator and bring them with you. Let's show them how much we appreciate them supporting us in their individual ways! Lunch will be provided after the event.

In closing, I will continue to be your Missouri State Fire Marshal. Governor Kehoe gave me the nod to continue doing what we are doing. Thank you, Governor, for the opportunity to continue serving our Missouri Fire Service and the Division of Fire Safety. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at tim.bean@dfs.dps.mo.gov or 573-751-1742.

NERIS Regional Rollout Schedule



- Phase 1: Platform Launch (2024)
- Phase 2: Targeted Rollout: (Early Q2 2025)
- Phase 3: Broader Adoption (Late Q2 2025)
- Phase 4: National Deployment (Q3 2025)
- Phase 5: Widespread Availability (End of Q4 2025)

MONTH IN 2025	NUMBER OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS
MAY	
FEMA REGION 2	2,385
JUNE	
FEMA REGION 4	5,009
JULY	
FEMA REGION 6	3,632
AUGUST	
FEMA REGION 7	2,400
SEPTEMBER	
FEMA REGION 3	3,080
OCTOBER	
FEMA REGION 1 & 10	2,496
NOVEMBER	
FEMA REGION 8 & 9	2,701
DECEMBER	
FEMA REGION 5	5,460

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President Larry Jennings called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 AM Sunday, February 2, 2025, at the Missouri State Fair Fire Department, 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; Second Vice President Grant Oetting, Higginsville FD; Secretary Treasurer Jaime Miller, Johnson County FPD #2; Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Evans, Lincoln Comm FD (V).

DIRECTORS

District 1, Terry Wynne, Galt FPD; District 3, Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; District 4, Joe Vaughn (V); District 7, RB Brown, Union FD; District 8, Bob Floyd, El Dorado Springs FD; District 12, Rob Francis (V); District 14, Rick Dozier, Southern FPD of Holt County.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

District 1, Janet Cain, Shoal Creek FPD; District 3, Dale Ransdell, Madison West Monroe FPD; District 3, Josh Loyd, Martinsburg Area FPD; District 5, Dylan Honea, Southern Stone FPD; District 6, Mike McNeill, Moreau FPD; District 6, Alan Braun, Cole County FPD (V); District 7, Andrew Caldwell, Boles FPD (V); District 11, Josh Koepke, Kansas City FD (V); District 11, Kris White, Mayview FPD; District 11, Jason Deitch, Brunswick FD (V); District 14, Kyler Oliver, Rosendale FPD.

GUESTS

Dave Hedrick (V), Gail Hagans, University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute; Tim Bean, Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Keith Smith, Warrenton FPD; Larry Eggen, Cameron Lauber, Johnson County FPD; Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; Kyle Arnold, Kearney FPD; Stephen McLane, Memorial Foundation; Brian Zinanni, Funeral Team; Stefanie Shell, Fair Grove FPD; Chad Shell, Ebenezer FPD.

*(V) denotes *Virtual Attendance*

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Present Jennings asked for a review of December 1, 2024, meeting minutes. Rick Dozier moved to accept the minutes as presented. Dylan Honea seconded the motion and all approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Jennings asked for a review of the November/December 2024 financial report. Discussion was held and the board advised to file the report for the annual compilation.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S):

Gail Hagans with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute reported that there are 800 registered for Winter Fire School the following weekend. There are changes coming to Summer Fire School which will now take place May through early June. More information will be out soon.

There are three new part-time employees in the office to assist. The Division of Fire Safety has funded several of the classes for SFS and some will be fee based.

The MFA grants have been awarded. 28 departments received a total of \$50k. 129 departments applied for the grant.

Tim Bean with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety reported that there are lots of new legislators so get to know your local representatives.

With the new change in government, the federal fire grants, AFG and SAFER, are okay right now and doesn't appear they will be cut.

Bean advised he recently traveled to Emmitsburg to the National Fire Administration to receive training on the new national reporting system NERIS. NFIRS will be going away the 4th quarter of 2025. DFS will help to education everyone so watch for upcoming training announcements.

Over \$2 million was requested for training this year. Keep requesting funding to continue to show the need for these funds in the annual budget.

Last year there were 109 fire fatalities in Missouri which is an increase from previous years. DFS wants to know why there has been an increase. They will be attending a community risk reduction conference later this month to get ideas on what can be done. Please contact DFS if you have a fire fatality in your area.

Firefighter Day at the Capital will be March 27. This year's focus is on spouses and telecommunicators and will begin at 9:30 am.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

DISTRICT 3

Rob Erdel attended the Paris FD banquet. Dale Ransdell is working with Howard Co and Randolph Co. fire chiefs. Salisbury FD has also invited him to attend a meeting.

DISTRICT 4

Joe Vaughn advised Kylie and Brandon attended events in Johnson County and Cole Camp.

DISTRICT 5

Dylan has left information with several departments.

DISTRICT 6

Mike McNeill advised Moreau will be renewing. Alan Braun advised he is meeting with Boonville this week.

DISTRICT 7

RB attended the Gerald Rosebud banquet. Andrew Caldwell will be attending a 50th anniversary celebration later this month.

DISTRICT 8

Bob Floyd sent an email to all departments in district 8 and will be attending a chiefs meeting next week.

DISTRICT 11

Kris White met with Lafayette County chiefs last week. They also had a LODD in the district this week. Billy Smith will be meeting with the Chariton County fire chiefs.

DISTRICT 12

Rob Francis attended the North Cape County Firefighters Association last week and met with the new president.

DISTRICT 14

Rick Dozier attended the Andrew County rural pancake fundraiser and will be meeting with several fire chiefs this month.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

President Jennings advised the Firefighter Critical Illness Pool open enrollment closed December 31. There are 15 new members through the partnership with FFAM.

The Memorial Foundation has requested assistance from the directors and assistant directors with the annual memorial services Oct. 4-5. Please reach out to the Foundation if you are able to help.

President Jennings advised he received a recommendation to appoint Stefanie Shell with Fair Grove FPD and Rusty Darnell with Strafford FPD as District 8 Assistant Directors. Jonathan Evans moved to appoint Stefanie Shell and Rusty Darnell as District 8 Assistant Directors. Grant Oetting seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that he would like to appoint Tim Frankenberg with Washington FD as the Legislative Committee Chairman since Greg Brown has retired. Dylan Honea moved to appoint Tim Frankenberg as Chairman of the Legislative Committee. RB Brown seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised he is still seeking a person to fill the District 10 Director position since Greg Brown's retirement.

Discussion was held on upcoming meetings. Terry Wynne moved that we will not hold a June meeting due to convention in May. Rick Dozier seconded the motion and all approved. The October meeting conflicts with the memorial services. Dylan Honea moved that all future October business meetings will be held the second Sunday of October. RB Brown seconded the motion and all approved.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Joe Vaughn reported that award nominations are due February 28. The Phil Sayer plaque award is almost complete.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report was given.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report was given.

CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

Dave Hedrick reported that the Missouri Fire Chaplains Corp will conduct a winter training session Feb. 5-6, 2025 at the Campus Lutheran Church in Columbia, MO. The pre-conference class will be Managing School Crises: From Theory to Application. For more information contact MFCC Secretary Ed Hatcher at edhat@earthlink.net.

The MFCC will also be participating in MU FRTI's Winter Fire School Exposition, and teaching the class, Stress Management for the Trauma Service Provider.

Membership dues for the MFCC for 2025 are due.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Rob Erdel reported that participation in the contest is low. If departments aren't sure how to get started, reach out to him.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Dylan Honea reported that the registration and banquet tickets are available online through the FFAM website. Attendees still need to register even though registration is at no cost. Contact him for vendor information.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Josh Koepke reported there will be a certified board class at convention.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Andrew Caldwell advised that posters are due May 2 at 7:00 pm. The theme is Smoke Alarms – make them work for you.

Continued on page 48.

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

In this series, *A Part of Fire Service History*, we have examined the true historical foundations that have developed the culture and traditions that are ingrained in today's United States Fire Service. Early equipment and practices have been reviewed and related to their impact on terminology and procedures in the fire departments. However, there are some prominent cultural Fire Service traditions that still need to be addressed. Why do Celtic (Irish and Scotch) customs form such a significant part of the American Fire Service culture and tradition? Along with this, why are Scottish bagpipes such a prominent part of fire service celebrations and bereavement services? This chapter will endeavor to unearth the historical roots of the Irish and other Celtic ancestry that has contributed so much to the culture and traditions of the American Fire Service. However, to achieve a full understanding of the "Why", we need to spend some time looking at the overall history of the early settlement of what would become the United States.

As part of this cultural review of the early days of the Fire Service, this chapter will also examine the tradition of bagpipes in the Fire Service. It is common for firefighters today to have a stirring sense of pride when they hear the unique skirling sound of Pipes and Drums Corps at parades or other Fire Service celebrations. Or, an inexplicable sadness at hearing the song *Amazing Grace* or other laments played by Bagpipers at a Fire Service Funeral. These cultural aspects of the historic foundations of the Fire Service relate back to a Celtic Culture contributed by the Irish and Scottish people to the American Fire Service. In this chapter of *A Part of Fire Service History*, we will examine how these traditions came to be a part of the American Fire Service.

AMERICAN SETTLEMENT HISTORY

The American continent was visited by various European peoples probably beginning with the Viking's exploration voyages to Vinland (Canada) around 1000 AD.¹ The first permanent English settlement came in 1607 in Jamestown (VA), challenging the Spanish foot-hold in the New World.² (Disregarding the "Lost Colony of Roanoke," VA.) The English colonists that settled in Jamestown would be the first immigrants to the New World in what would become a part of the original thirteen American Colonies.

This began a major period of immigration that would populate an area and eventually become the United States. Early immigrants left Europe for a new life in America seeking political and religious freedoms and economic opportunities that were not afforded them in their original countries.³

Though North America was settled by a variety of ethnic peoples, the primary immigrants were of English ancestry. According to 1790 census data compiled from the American colonies, the original nationality by percentage of the population consisted of: English – 82%, Scottish – 7%, German – 5.6%, Dutch – 2.5%, and Irish – 1.9% (All others 3.5%).⁴ The 1800s, would see a major change in nationality composition with the immigration influx that was to come. Even so, it can be seen that the Scotch and Irish were at least a small part of the first early settlers in America.

As new generations were born from these original settlers, the current population over time began to consider themselves "nativist" in comparison to the new waves of immigrants (not to be confused with the original Native American indigenous population).⁵ This would produce conflict during various periods of U.S. history, and even unfortunately continues today.



Maltese Cross with an Irish Shamrock in the center. An example of various emblems in the Fire Service. Photo Author's collection.



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The various ethnic groups that would meld together to become the American people, brought their ethnic heritage, customs, and religious beliefs to the mix that would create the American experience, and in this particular study contribute to the culture of the American Fire Service.

The Revolutionary War (American War of Independence 1775 - 1783) further solidified this feeling of original citizens who fought and endured the war as “nativists” versus the new immigrants who came after.

IT STARTED WITH A POTATO.

Most people today do not realize that ethnic immigration to America was greatly impacted by the simple potato in the mid-1800s. The potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) is a vegetable that is a member of the nightshade family and is “widely cultivated for its edible starchy tuber” (potato).⁶ Historically it was a native plant from the Andes of South America, and it is thought to have been first cultivated by the early Incas around 200 AD. In the 1500s the Spanish Conquistadors who invaded the Incas brought the plants back to Europe, where during the next century they developed into a major European cultivated food source. The potato tuber is easily digested and provides a source of “vitamin C, protein, thiamin, and niacin.”⁷

During the 1800s the potato became a major food source in Ireland and their economy was based on this agricultural food crop.⁸ Irish farmers and laborers depended on the potato to supply “80 percent or more of all the calories they consumed.”⁹ To get maximum crop yield from their small farms or tenant holdings, they planted only one or two varieties of high yield potatoes which left the plants more susceptible to potential diseases.

A mold (*Phytophthora infestans*) or “late blight” originally coming from America infected Ireland’s potato crops in 1845. The disease caused the potato vines and tubers to rot and created a partial famine that year, with further devastating crop failures in the years that followed.¹⁰ In addition to facing starvation, tenant farmers and laborers could no longer pay taxes or rent and were evicted. Though Great Britain provided some famine relief to Ireland, it was not substantial enough to stave off the effects. This further intensified political strife between Britain and Ireland, and the Irish desire for independence from British rule. Due to famine, starvation, and other related diseases, an estimated one million

people died during this period. Seeking relief from starvation and a way of making a living, many Irish citizens immigrated to other countries. During this period it is estimated that of the total emigrants coming to America, 49 percent were Irish.¹¹

For centuries beginning in the 1100s Ireland fought politically and sometimes militarily for the right to home rule from the oppressive British government. This chapter will not cover this complex cultural and social struggle, except to relate some background information to help explain the happenstance that led to the eventual mass immigration of the Irish to the North American Continent.

Though the Irish were among the various ethnic groups that migrated to settle the American Colonies, they were a minority in the 1790s. English immigrants made up the majority at 82%, while Irish immigrants were 1.9% of the total. During these early days, Scotch immigrants made up 7%.¹² The major second wave of Irish immigrants came to America as the result of the Great Potato Famine beginning in 1845. The first year of the famine saw 44,821 Irish immigrants with the number swelling each year to over 112,000 immigrants in 1848.¹³

With crop failures, the already subsistence farmers and laborers of Ireland were poor with no way to pay for their passage to the new world. However, established Irish family members already in America helped pay for some immigrants along with Aid Societies in America. Even England helped by deporting some of their unwanted troublesome Irish population. Later in some cases railroads and canal companies imported Irish workers for cheap labor.¹⁴ However, most of these new arrivals from Ireland were broke and lived in extreme poverty.

With these later waves of Irish immigrants, most were unskilled along with being uprooted to a new world. Because of this, they preferred to remain in the disembarkation port cities or other large communities with an existing Irish population they could reach out to for help. By 1850 the City of New York “sheltered 133,000 Irish.”¹⁵ Western frontier cities also soon followed with Irish immigrant populations such as St. Louis. These cities soon saw the development of “Irish towns” or “Shanty towns” within the city housing these ethnic groups.

ETHNICITY AND IMMIGRANTS

The term ‘ethnicity’ from an anthropological perspective refers to a group of people that share identifying cultural characteristics.¹⁶ A unique ethnic population may be identified through language, music, values, religion, clothing styles, and foods. Calling someone Irish would be “considered an ethnic label.”¹⁷ In the 18th and 19th Centuries in America the people from Ireland would be proud of their Irish ethnic heritage and their name. Similar to the Scotch people from Scotland. However, historically (1700s to 1800”) the term Irish might be used by English colonists/nativists as a derogatory term for the newly arriving groups of Celtic immigrants.

The traditional Irish language was Gaeilge (or Gaelic) and is one of a group of Celtic languages. It has a grammatical similarity to Latin and German.¹⁸ Many Irish Immigrants to America were already bilingual, speaking some English in addition to native Gaelic. Others fairly quickly learned English, and some English words we have today came from Irish roots.

CELTS

Celts were originally an “Indo-European people” that spread across Europe to Britain in 3 BC. After, conquests by the Roman Empire in Europe, their culture declined on the continent.¹⁹ Leaving a more isolated group in the British Isles. The term Celtic (kel.tɪk) is defined by the *Cambridge Dictionary* as: “of an ancient European people who are related to the Irish, Scots, Welsh, and Bretons, or of their language or culture.”²⁰ Though the Scotch and Irish people each have their own unique culture, they share a common ancestry and historically they did intermingle in some instances creating a borrowed culture. In recent times the term “Celtic” is used to refer to a related Scotch and Irish ethnic culture.

With both immigration occurrences in Britain and America, we will find the Scotch and Irish people already with somewhat similar heritage would assimilate some of each group’s cultural traits. This would also occur between immigrants and the communities where they settled. A term for this is acculturation, which means “cultural modification of an individual, group, or people by adapting to or borrowing traits from another culture.”²¹ As will be seen acculturation occurred between the Scotch and Irish, as well as between them and the early American settlers, but not always was it an easy process.



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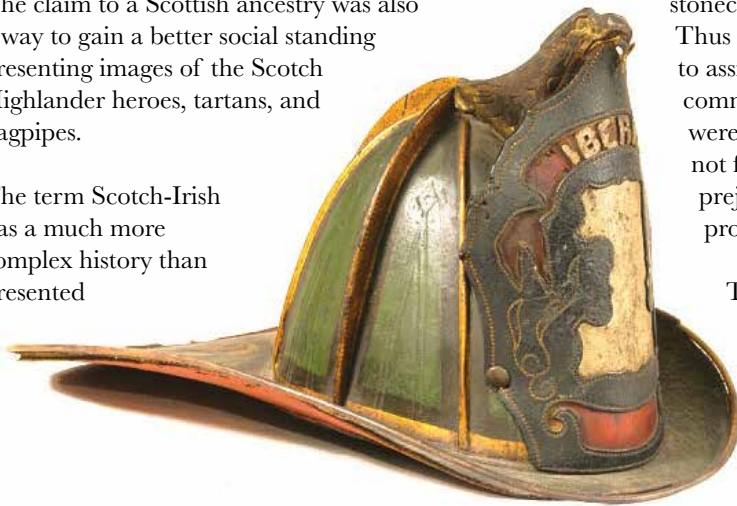
SCOTCH-IRISH

Some historic references will refer to a mixture of the Celtic population as “Scotch-Irish.” So how did the term Scotch-Irish come about and what does it mean?

Historically thousands of Scottish people from the lowlands immigrated “to Ireland in the seventeenth century.”²² This migration to Ireland was primarily in the Ulster area. Thus before the great famine and immigration to America, there was various intermixing of the Scotch and the Irish peoples and their customs. After several generations in Ireland, these groups of Scotch had socialized with their neighbors and “inevitably took on certain aspects of Irish culture.”²³ The main difference between the Ulster Irish and the Scottish immigrant was religion. The Scotch were Presbyterian while the native Irish were Catholic.²⁴ This would play a future role in the ethnic makeup and standing of the Irish who immigrated to America.

The first Irish immigrants coming to America from Ulster in the 1700s were considered Irish despite their retention of Scottish Presbyterianism. If a distinction was made, the American colonists might refer to them as “Ulster Irish,” Northern Irish,” or “Irish Presbyterians.” Though the term Scotch-Irish was used in England, it pretty much disappeared in America between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. With the later waves of immigration to America of Irish Catholics, the nativist Irish Presbyterians began using the term “Scotch-Irish” as a means “to dissociate themselves from the newcomers [Irish-Catholics].”²⁵ The claim to a Scottish ancestry was also a way to gain a better social standing presenting images of the Scotch Highlander heroes, tartans, and bagpipes.

The term Scotch-Irish has a much more complex history than presented



Hibernia Fire Company No. 1, Traditional Style Fire Helmet, mid-19th century. Hibernia was an Irish Protestant Volunteer Fire Company in Philadelphia, PA. Note the green and gold colors on the crown reflecting the Irish heritage. Photo from Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of American History. Considered to be in the Public Domain.



Late 1800's Help Wanted Sign with notation “No Irish Need Apply.” Photo: Antique collection.

here and remains somewhat controversial. However, it does illustrate that there was a blending of Celtic cultures between the Irish and Scotch in some groups of immigrants coming to America. This occurred both before and after immigration. So this perhaps accounts for some of the blending of customs and culture within the Irish-related traditions in the Fire Service.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

In the heyday of the Volunteer Firemen, most of the Firemen²⁶ in major cities were of British ancestry. As an example, in New York the aggregate fire companies were almost 60 percent English with Irish representing “about 7 percent.”²⁷ The Firemen were civic-minded volunteers who were mostly working-class business owners or skilled tradesmen. They represented the make-up of the cities at the time. Many of the early Irish immigrants, before the potato famine, arrived with some small savings and were skilled tradesmen and generally integrated into communities by providing needed trade services such as “blacksmiths, stonecutters, and tailors.”²⁸

Thus they were better able to assimilate into the local communities. Also, many were Ulster Protestant Irish, not facing the anti-Catholic prejudice of the nativist protestant colonist.²⁹

The demographics of the American cities continued to change over time due to a growth in immigrants and indentured servants. These later waves of immigrants had fewer skills and economic resources coming

to the cities and were made up of lower-class laborers and the poor. In the case of the Irish immigrants, the males struggled to find work and took low-wage physical positions such as digging the Erie Canal or building new railroad lines.³⁰ Female Irish immigrants found work as domestic household servants, chambermaids, and nurses.³¹

With the coming of the American Civil War, many Irish found a way to show their courage and worthiness as new citizens by volunteering for the military, with “144,000 Irish immigrants” in the Union Army, many serving in the Irish Brigade.³² Females served as nurses adjacent to the battlefield. However, Irish immigrants also served on both sides of the conflict, with many in the South serving in the Confederate Army.³³

This was certainly the case in the wave of Irish immigrants migrating to America after the great potato famine in Ireland. The demographics of the fire companies also reflected the population change. The number of Irish joining fire companies or forming their own, especially Irish Catholic, became a trend. New York City saw an increase of “nearly 40 percent” in Irish Firemen.³⁴

The huge wave of Irish immigrants coming to America after the potato famine created overcrowding problems in cities and pushback from the nativist colonists. Competition for jobs by the primarily unskilled Irish immigrants and being mostly of the Catholic faith created major conflict between the Nativists and immigrants. It was common to see signs in businesses or advertisements in papers seeking workers that had the additional notation, “No Irish Need Apply” or the abbreviation “NINA.”³⁵ Though the presence of this sign or acronym has been disputed in recent years, there is historic evidence and references that this hiring prejudice against the Irish did occur.



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TRANSITION FROM VOLUNTEER TO CAREER FIREMAN

The adventurous spirit and drive to forge a new life in the untamed American Colonies were some of the factors that led to the success of the settlement of America. Joint community projects, such as martial defense (militia) and fire protection, were seen as essential and worthy undertakings by the citizens. This would lead to the heyday of the Volunteer Firemen. The attributes of someone who volunteered for the local fire company were seen as the makings of a good citizen for the community. These early volunteer Firemen came from all trades and ethnic groups within the community. Historian A.B. Lampe in his article on historic Volunteer Fire Companies related that:

It did not matter whether they were rich or poor, schooled or unschooled, German, Irish or French, or for that matter what religion they professed. All that mattered was that they were willing to organize spontaneously, give help without recompense, and rally to the aid of a neighbor in distress.³⁶

The prestige of community service, protecting the citizens from fire, would be one of the values that would transition with the job of Firemen from volunteer to paid/civil service positions. The newly established career Firemen realized the need to demonstrate that their courage and proficiency were as good as their predecessors, the volunteer Firemen had been.

Though the era of the steam fire engine would only last about 65 years, its contribution and impact on the Fire Service was far-reaching. By reducing the number of personnel needed to effectively fight a fire, the steamer was a main impetus in the creation of the career fire service. With the steam engine to power the fire/water pump, less manpower was required to manually pump the “brake levers” to produce water flow/pressure from the old hand pumpers. Coming about at the same time was the acceptance of using horses to pull the heavy fire apparatus instead of large numbers of firemen pulling the apparatus to the scene.³⁷

Fire Companies no longer needed 60 to 100 men for pumping and hauling of the apparatus. A small crew of six to eight firemen could produce the same water flow and fire attack with a horse-drawn fire steamer versus the original hand pump fire company. Two other factors were the development of riveted

leather fire hoses and water distribution systems (fire mains and hydrants) in cities that enabled the tremendous improvement in fire fighting capabilities of this period.

This quadruple convergence of the four closely aligned developments in firefighting would establish a new paradigm in the Fire Service.³⁸ This convergence began with the development of workable riveted leather fire hose by Sellars and Pennock in 1807, the implementation of fire water mains and fire plugs (hydrants) gaining wide acceptance around the 1850s, the invention and sale of the Latta Brothers first practical fire steamer in 1852, and fire horses added for quick response in the 1860s. The convergence came at a critical time allowing the historic culture change in the Fire Service, and created the impetus for large cities to change from volunteers to the first career Firemen.

These changes would also lay the groundwork for a change in staffing, specialization, operations, and modern tactics. In so doing it forever changed the history of the Fire Service and established new traditions that would eventually be incorporated in both the volunteer and career Fire Service.

With the issues of political infighting of large independent volunteer fire companies and the general growing mistrust of the city populations, in many large cities, the city fathers and the Insurance Industry argued for a social change by advocating for a “paid” full-time Fire Department that they could more easily manage or control. Also, still suffering from a diminished pool of young, fit manpower in the cities due to the American Civil War, the time had come to consider the radical concept of a paid municipal fire force to serve the cities. This would lead to the first paid firemen and change over to career fire departments from the volunteer fire companies. A part of this would be the implementation of Civil Service positions for the fire department similar to what had transpired earlier with the police departments.

During the transition from Volunteer to paid Fire Departments, many of the existing Fire Companies had prominent businessmen or tradespeople who served as volunteers. Though they were certainly as dedicated to the firefighting avocation as the Irish volunteers who applied for career positions, they found it difficult to give up their businesses and /or trades that they had built up in order to take a full-time position with the new paid

Fire Department. So came the opportunity for the less established immigrants.

Why did civil service jobs in America attract so many immigrants, especially the Irish? The newly created civil services jobs such as Policeman and Fireman provided the Irishman three things they had not had in Ireland, “respect, [job] security, and a living wage.”³⁹ However, the benefits of the occupation of Fireman demanded an especially heavy price. Not only the requirement to risk one’s life on an almost daily basis, but to also live an austere and regimented lifestyle. In the early days of the paid fire department in many cities like New York, Firemen were required to always be on the job with the exception of one meal a day at home and one day off each week.⁴⁰ Despite the dangerous and austere life of the career Fireman, these new civil service positions quickly became a respected career for the Irish male immigrant. Irish descendants growing up in Fire Service families came to see this as the family business or occupation. Soon there would be multi-generations of family Firefighters serving in the same Fire Department. Today, in many locations around the country this custom of family service passing from one generation to the next remains a tradition.

EXAMPLES OF CELTIC IMMIGRANTS AND THE FIRE SERVICE

As can be seen from the previous historical review, Celtic immigrants had a major impact on settlement patterns and local ethnic culture in most major cities in the mid to late 1800s. To better understand these impacts and the effects on the Fire Service, we will examine two examples of leading port cities of the period, one on the east coast and one a river port at the entrance to the west.

NEW YORK CITY

The City of New York has been discussed in previous chapters of this series, *A Part of Fire Service History*, because of its founding impact on many of the customs and traditions of the Fire Service. The town of New Amsterdam which would become the City of New York was well situated geographically being a major seaport and as such an early leader in American politics. Also, the city was known for its proactive approach to fire protection, instituting some of the first fire codes, and adopting new technology (hand pumpers) to improve fire protection and firefighting capability. New York’s innovative approach led to them becoming a recognized guide for



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American Firefighters.⁴¹ Some of the early developments coming from New York that would become tradition included: the iconic styled leather fire helmet, Maltese-cross badges and emblems, and the red shirt of early fire service uniforms.

As a major disembarkation port of the time period for newly arriving immigrants to America, New York would early on experience the mass influx of Irish immigrants resulting from the potato famine in Ireland. Though the city did not always deal with the resulting immigration problems successfully, they would be the early test of the great “American melting pot” for ethnic cultures.⁴²

The town of New Amsterdam (New York) would be the first Dutch settlement in North America being established as a trading outpost by the Dutch West India Company in 1626.⁴³ Peter Stuyvesant (noted as a leader in early fire protection in previous chapters) established the City of New Amsterdam in 1653 “modeled after the cities of Holland.”⁴⁴ Due to internal and external issues Stuyvesant was forced to surrender the city to the British in September 1664.⁴⁵ The city and territory quickly became the British Colony of New York with a resulting ingress of British citizens.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW YORK

The development of a Fire Service in New York City progressed like most communities in America, starting with no fire protection and moving to communal efforts such as fire bucket brigades or fire societies. The purchase of the first two hand-pumped fire engines or “Handtubs” in 1731, would lead to the establishment of the first fire companies and the “age of Volunteer firemen.”⁴⁶ New York received its first steamer (steam fire engine) in 1841, but it was not readily accepted and later removed from service.⁴⁷ With the institution of the Metropolitan Fire Department (MFD), to later become the FDNY, steamers were added.

In 1865, at the end of the Civil War, the New York state government enacted a law to create “a Metropolitan Fire District (MFD) and Establish a Fire Department Therein.”⁴⁸ This included Brooklyn’s east and west divisions and replaced the problem-plagued volunteer fire departments establishing the M.F.D. Because of the war, the volunteer departments in New York were short on manpower, having trouble turning out on calls, and politically mismanaged. The replacement of volunteers actually took until

1869, and in 1870 the city regained control of the fire department from the state and changed the name to “Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY).”⁴⁹

Not all things went smoothly in the early days of New York City and the Fire Department or for the Irish immigrants. New York experienced a number of challenges and issues during its formative years. However, that is another part of Fire Service History.

EARLY IRISH FIREMEN - FDNY

To illustrate the link between the Irish immigrants and the FDNY, we will take a brief look at two example Firemen who were of Irish heritage.

In 1889 Hugh Bonner was appointed Chief of the Fire Department. He was the first Irish immigrant to be appointed as Fire Chief. As an Irish immigrant, he had survived the “Great Potato Famine” and truly reflected the typical Irishmen of New York at the time. In New York, he grew up in the city’s Sixth Ward, a poverty-stricken area of tenements housing Irish immigrants. As a teenager, Bonner was a runner with “Lady Washington’s Engine Co. 40” and by the end of the volunteer era he was “the company’s foreman.”⁵⁰ Chief Bonner was noted for a heroic career as a Fireman, but his most prominently remembered for his work in fire prevention, and the establishment of the “school of Instruction” for rookies, as well as veteran Firemen.

John Bresnan was another Irish-American Fireman whose family immigrated in 1844 when he was a boy. They like the Bonners’ settled in New York’s Sixth Ward. As a youth, he attached himself to the local Engine Company in Five Points. In 1861 he “joined Engine Co. 21 as a volunteer,” and in 1865 “he was appointed to the new Metropolitan Fire Department” that would become the FDNY.⁵¹ Bresnan climbed the ranks to Battalion Chief and worked closely with Chief Bonner on fire prevention initiatives and committees. In late December of 1894, Batt. Chief Bresnan was killed in a factory fire, which was “at least his third fire in less than six hours.”⁵² His son John Bresnan, Jr. later joined the fire department and served as Chief Dispatcher.⁵³

Irish Historian Terry Golway, in his book, *So Others Might Live, A History of New York’s Bravest*, relates that “by 1889 the story of the FDNY and the story of the Irish in New York were interwoven.”⁵⁴ Research

conducted by Golway indicated that of the one thousand Firemen listed on the FDNY roster in 1888, 75% of them were either born in Ireland or of Irish descent.⁵⁵

ST. LOUIS

St. Louis began as a fur trading outpost on the Mississippi River in 1764 by Pierre Laclède Liguist, a Frenchman from New Orleans. It was named after the canonized French King Louis IX. Even though a French outpost the territory at the time was owned by Spain. Later the territory was ceded back to France and then became part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.⁵⁶ The outpost and later town were originally settled by French and German settlers. Unlike the situation related to immigrants in New York, the original French settlers of St. Louis being mostly Catholic with a dislike for the English, the Irish Catholic immigrants were readily accepted into the community. Steamboats began to provide ready transport and commerce, and the city developed rapidly to become a major riverport city on the Mississippi. Mimicking to some extent the growth of New York City as it became a major sea port on the Atlantic coast. St. Louis like New York also experienced a series of major fires and epidemics that devastated the city during its early years.

Continued on page 32.

Painting of Battalion Chief John Bresnan FDNY, from the James L. Ford book *The Third Alarm*, 1908. Library of Congress.



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Meals, banquet, training, refreshments and more are included in registration. More to come after January 1, 2025 on our website www.moemsfuneralteam.com. Sponsorship for the event will be available on the web site as well starting at just \$65.



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A Message From The 2nd VP

The 9-1-1 System



Grant Oetting

I bet everyone is sick of the winter weather by now, the state has seen lots of snow, bitter temperatures and its share of icy roads. Bring on spring.

In this article I will talk about something that fire departments rely on every day, that is 911, the number our citizens call in case of an emergency and the history of how 911 started.

The three-digit telephone number “9-1-1” has been designated as the “Universal Emergency Number,” for citizens throughout the United States to request emergency assistance. It is intended as a nationwide telephone number and gives the public fast and easy access to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

In the United States, the first catalyst for a nationwide emergency telephone number was in 1957, when the National Association of Fire Chiefs recommended the use of a single number for reporting fires.

In 1967, the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a “single number should be established” nationwide for reporting emergency situations. The use of different telephone numbers for each type of emergency was determined to be contrary to the purpose of a single, universal number.

Other Federal Government Agencies and various governmental officials also supported

and encouraged the recommendation. As a result of the immense interest in this issue, the President’s Commission on Civil Disorders turned to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a solution.



In November 1967, the FCC met with AT&T to find a means of establishing a universal emergency number that could be implemented quickly. In 1968, AT&T announced that it would establish the digits 9-1-1 (nine-one-one) as the emergency code throughout the United States.

The code 9-1-1 was chosen because it best fit the needs of all parties involved. First, and most important, it meets public requirements because it is brief, easily remembered, and can be dialed quickly. Second, because it is a unique number, never having been authorized as an office code, area code, or service code, it best met the long-range numbering plans and switching configurations of the telephone industry.

Congress backed AT&T’s proposal and passed legislation allowing the use of only the numbers 9-1-1 when creating a single emergency calling service, thereby making 9-1-1 a standard emergency number nationwide. A Bell System policy was established to absorb the cost of central office modifications and any additions necessary to accommodate the 9-1-1 code as part of the general rate base.

With Enhanced 9-1-1, or E9-1-1, local PSAPs are responsible for paying network trunking costs according to tariffed rates, and for purchasing telephone answering equipment from the vendor of their choice.

On February 16, 1968, Senator Rankin Fite completed the first 9-1-1 call in the United States in Haleyville, Alabama. The serving telephone company was the Alabama Telephone Company. This Haleyville 9-1-1 system is still in operation today.

On February 22, 1968, Nome, Alaska implemented a 9-1-1 service.

In March 1973, the White House’s Office of Telecommunications issued a national policy statement that recognized the benefits of 9-1-1, encouraged the nationwide adoption of 9-1-1, and provided for the establishment of a Federal Information Center to assist units of government in planning and implementation.

The intense interest in the concept of 9-1-1 can be attributed primarily to the recognition of characteristics of modern society, i.e.,

increased incidences of crimes, accidents, and medical emergencies, the inadequacy of existing emergency reporting methods, and the continued growth and mobility of the population.

In the early 1970s, AT&T began the development of sophisticated features for the 9-1-1 with a pilot program in Alameda County, California. The feature was “selective call routing” This pilot program supported the theory behind the Executive Office of Telecommunication’s Policy.

By the end of 1976, 9-1-1 was serving about 17% of the population of the United States. In 1979, approximately 26% of the population of the United States had 9-1-1 service, and nine states had enacted 9-1-1 legislation. At this time, the service was growing at the rate of 70 new systems per year. By 1987, those figures had grown to indicate that 50% of the US population had access to 9-1-1 emergency service numbers.

In addition, Canada recognized the advantages of a single emergency number and chose to adopt 9-1-1 rather than use a different means of emergency reporting service, thus unifying the concept and giving 9-1-1 international stature.

At the end of the 20th century, nearly 93% of the population of the United States was covered by some type of 9-1-1 service. Ninety-five percent of that coverage was Enhanced 9-1-1. Approximately 96% of the geographic US is covered by some type of 9-1-1.

These are a few points I found interesting in doing my research on the history of 911 and how much it has progressed over the years. Next time you see a 911 dispatcher thank them for their service as these men and women are our lifeline and remember that the caller puts the dispatcher under the same stress as the caller. The 911 dispatcher is the “First First Responder or the First Incident Commander.”

If the FFAM can be of any assistance to you or your agency please don’t hesitate to call the office or email me at grant_oetting@yahoo.com or call me at 660-229-4525.

Be safe my brothers and sisters, until next time.



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By Cole County Fire Protection District

The Cole County Fire Protection District recently held its 2024 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 really stands out with the 2024 service awards. The District recognized 7 firefighters who have given 185 combined years of service at the end of 2024. 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 2024.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mac Kennedy, Zack Rustemeyer

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Blake Bopp

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Jason Hammann

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Scott Kempeter

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rich Gordon

55 YEARS OF SERVICE

Gary Smith

FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Luke Braun

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Alan Braun

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Tim Kennedy

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Diana Rutledge



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.

Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Mac Kennedy



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Zack Rustemeyer



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Blake Bopp



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Jason Hammann



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Scott Kempeter



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Rich Gordon





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Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Gary Smith



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Luke Braun



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Alan Braun



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Tim Kennedy



Fire Chief Wayne Hammann presents the award to Diana Rutledge



The Dirty Dozen.



ONWARD AND UPWARD

By Keith Smith, Chairman

The article submission was on February 28, so some additional news has likely occurred since then. I hope to see you at the FFAM Convention, on May 2-3-4. The Foundation will have a table at the vendor expo so please come by.

The Foundation elected officers for 2025. I was retained as Chair, Kenneth Hoover as Vice Chair and Stephen McLane as Secretary. Our Treasurer continues as a contracted position. We are pleased to announce that Doc Kritzer has been re-appointed to the Foundation after a brief respite and will continue all engraving responsibilities. **Welcome back Doc!** Tracy Gray has accepted the responsibility of building and grounds. Bill Albus will continue with outside flag management and Gail has our flag sponsor program.

Your memorial will be 23 years old in May. Age with surface-mounted things that remain 100% in the weather develop various needs for repairs and another phase of that will start in March with raising and leveling several sections of the stamped concrete. We also have a flagpole that is leaning a few inches out of its center.

We are finalizing the purchase of our own chairs and eliminating paying over \$1,200 on a two-day rental each year. To give you some perspective on how attendance has grown, our first rental was for 200 chairs, then 300, and in the past three years 450, which is no longer enough for the Sunday service. Purchasing our own chairs now

allows the Foundation to hold a variety of other events throughout the year, which would not be easily accomplished and costly with each event.

The next phase of potential construction inside of the museum is currently under plan and materials review and involves both framing and electrical in the north half of the building. Much more on this will hopefully follow in the next article.

Planning for the October services is now fully underway with contacting families and the agency regarding the recognition of their loved one. The Foundation has arranged for a listing of the non-line of duty names that we have so far in this edition of your magazine. We are honoring those who passed in 2024, and any names brought to our attention having missed from 2022 or 2023.

NOTE: there are some names currently listed as non-LODD that are awaiting administrative determination for Line of Duty status. Once that is finalized, they will then be given full LODD Honors regardless of the timeline. For now, they are receiving service recognition while we wait. In case you are not aware, the Foundation is using two authorities for this decision. It is helpful to get both, but just one is required. Either a State of Missouri Workers Compensation Line of Duty Death ruling or NFFF following the PSOB determination by the DOJ.

We are pleased to announce the Keynote Speaker for the Sunday Service will be

Russell Hobbs. He is a firefighter and the son of Rickey Lee Hobbs from Waynesville, a Line of Duty honoree from our 2023 services. We continue to adjust service recognition and how we present honors to improve the family experience. Your Foundation is fully open and would be appreciative of suggestions. Please think about this and get back to us ASAP so additions and adjustments can be made in a timely manner. By July 1, nearly everything is locked related to the October services.

Just in case you missed this in the last edition, July 1 is the cutoff for all engraving. Both of the 2025 services are going to be recorded, and the Sunday Service will be live-streamed. Unlike the two previous services, we will be able to get you this information well in advance vs. days before. The last two services have provided more delivery of honors and recognition to families and require more logistical support. That said, we are asking for help in advance of and day(s) of each service. If you have an interest in doing so, please contact us. A reminder that our mailing address is 5550 Dunn Drive, Kingdom City, MO 65262. For email, please use info@mofirememorial-museum.org. This is a shared platform for checking on messages, so please give it a few days to respond. If it is urgent, please call me at 314 709 0760.

Thank you for your time and continued support of your memorial and future museum.



The Foundation is presenting a listing of the non-line of duty names that we are aware of at this time. We are honoring those who passed in 2024, and any names we may have missed from 2022 or 2023. **VERY IMPORTANT:** There are some names in this list that are awaiting administrative determination for Line of Duty status. The Foundation WILL represent those names for LODD Honors at such time as their status is revised. If you should have further questions on LODD status, please contact Brian Zinanni - 341-973-0685. If we have missed a name, please submit that to info@mofirememorial-museum.org or call Keith Smith 314-709-0760.

Adams, Richard Lee | Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.
 Albert, Larry Logan | Carrollton
 Amelunke, David Wayne | Gordonville FPD & Fruitland FPD
 Barks, Melvin A. Sr. | West Plains Fire Dept.
 Barnes, Michael Joseph, Sr. | St. Louis Fire Dept.
 Berry, Tucker Lawrence | Redings Mill & Lockwood FPD
 Blackwell, Sherman Lee | O'Fallon Fire Prot. Dist.
 Bledsoe, Christopher William | New Melle Fire Prot. Dist.
 Bowers, Blake Edward | Lanton Vol. FD + 3 others
 Brinker, Kyle | Kansas City Fire Dept.
 Call, Erman L. | Columbia FD & Boone Co. Fire Prot. Dist.
 Chilovich, Michael Paul | Union Fire Prot. Dist.
 Clancy, Timothy | Florissant Valley Fire Prot. Dist.
 Colbert, Dustin Shane | Lilbourn Vol. Fire Dept.
 Delameter, Derald Arley | Mercer Co. Fire Prot. Dist.
 Denkler, Herman | Belton Fire Dept.
 Derry, Ronald | Taney Co, Hollister & Branson FD
 Dunn, Michael Lee | Harrisonville & St. Georges FD's
 Elliott, Owen Dale | El Dorado Springs Fire Dept.
 Firth, Dennis E. | Cowgill Vol. Fire Dept.
 Frisbey, Roy Allen | US Airforce (2-MO) + Topeka, KS & Columbus, NE
 Fromme, David Emil | Holts Summit & Osage FPD
 Gillman, Eugene Robert | Cedar Hill Fire Prot. Dist.
 Goodhead, Charles Edward | Central Crossing Fire Prot. Dist.
 Groner, Cameron Dion | South Callaway Fire Prot. Dist.
 Gunter, Sam Leman | Pomona Fire Dept.
 Haggard, William Casey | Herculaneum Fire Dept.
 Hailey, James Howard | Sikeston Dept. of Public Safety
 Harris, Thomas Edward | Farmington Fire Dept.
 Haynes, Ron | Cedar Hill Fire Prot. Dist.
 Henderson, John N. | Creve Coeur Fire Prot. Dist.
 Hendren, Jeffery David | Orchard Farm Fire Prot. Dist.
 Hillerman, Maurice E. | Washington Vol. Fire Co.

Hilmes, Scott Christopher | Ebenezer Fire & Rescue
 Hodge, Clay Aaron Sr. | Boles Fire Prot. Dist.
 Horn, Lisa C. | Washington Vol. Fire Co.
 Jones, Scott D. | Creve Coeur Fire Prot. Dist.
 Kilb, Gary | Cedar Hill Fire Prot. Dist.
 King, Charles E. | Lake Ozark Fire Prot. Dist.
 King, Nolan Reid | Pleasant Valley Fire Dept.
 Lashley, Isaac Keith | Washington Vol. Fire Co.
 Long, Stephen Allen | Pleasant Hill Fire Prot. Dist.
 Loy, Thomas Lyle | Lee's Summit Fire Dept.
 Manson, Mark E. | Hazelwood Fire Dept.
 Martin, Gene Edward | Lee's Summit Fire Dept.
 Matheis, David | Osage Beach Fire Prot. Dist.
 McCabe, Ron Jr. | Valley Park Fire Prot. Dist.
 McCarty, Kris | Western Adair Co. & Hurdland Vol. FD
 McClain, Alan | Rock Community Fire Prot. Dist.
 McGarry, John Robert | St. Joseph FD
 McNeill, Joyce Lee | Moreau Fire Prot. Dist.
 Meek, Rylan Samuel | N. Bollinger Co. Fire Prot. Dist.
 Modrosic, William J. | Saline Valley Fire Prot. Dist.
 Miller, David | North Central Carroll Fire Prot. Dist.
 Moody, John J. Jr. | Community Fire Prot. Dist.
 Murray, Delbert M. | Ava Rural Fire Dept.
 Niemann, Roland W. | Wright City Fire Prot. Dist.
 Newsome, Stanley P. Sr. | St. Louis Fire Dept.
 Norman, Randall R. | Monarch Fire Prot. Dist., Eldridge Vol. FD
 Northcott, Robert E. | Sunrise Beach Fire Prot. Dist.
 O'Dell, Jackie Lee | Orrick Fire Prot. Dist.
 Parks, Stephen W. | Clinton Fire Dept.
 Peebles, Mackovis Sr. | Kinloch Fire Prot. Dist.
 Pegue, Carolyn Mitchell | Kansas City Fire Dept.
 Pehle, David Eugene | Union Fire Prot. Dist.
 Petrovic, Robert M. | Cedar Hill & Affton Fire Prot. Dists.
 Price, Albert Hendrix | Osage Beach Fire Prot. Dist.
 Reese, William Leon | DeKalb Fire Prot. Dist.
 Rogers, Donald Keith | Chillicothe, Lexington & Braymer FD
 Rooft, Tom Wayne | Dent Co. Fire Prot. Dist.
 Sanneman, Steve | Liberty Fire Dept.
 Schultz, Edmond | Midway Fire Prot. Dist.
 Sexton, Steve Edward | Jennings-Riverview Fire Prot. Dist.
 Simpser, John | Western Taney Co. Fire Prot. Dist.
 Smith, Richard James | Osage Beach Fire Prot. Dist.
 Smith, Steven Anthony | Morehouse, Miner and Scott Co Rural
 Sneddy, James Standley | US Airforce & Gerald-Rosebud
 Staley, Joshua Edward | Kennett Fire Dept.
 Stewart, John William | Metro North Fire Prot. Dist.
 Stewart, William T. | Excelsior Springs Fire Dept.
 Thomure, Alan | Farmington Fire Dept.
 Tolivar, Gary Dale | Hannibal Rural Fire Dept.
 Trantham, Glen Edward | Rover Fire Dept.
 Walden, Mike | Osage Beach Fire Prot. Dist.
 Weber, Neal | Cedar Hill Fire Prot. Dist.
 Winters, Stephen Edward | Ladue Fire Dept.
 Wolff, Timothy G. | St. Louis Fire Dept.
 Young, Edward Eugene | Mound City
 Zaring, Jeff | Centralia Vol. Fire Dept.



By Warrensburg Fire Department

On Saturday, February 15th, the Warrensburg Fire Department held its 3rd Annual Awards Banquet. The ceremony started with a badge-pinning ceremony. This included new part-time and full-time

firefighters as well as promotions to the rank of Firefighter Specialist and Captain. Following the badge pinning, years of service were recognized. These included the following:

2024 Firefighter of the Year Adison Bernier with Fire Chief Ken Jennings and Deputy Chief Doyle Oxley



2024 Fire Officer of the Year Captain Terry Hill with Fire Chief Ken Jennings and Deputy Chief Doyle Oxley



5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Firefighter/EMT Jeremy Crist and Firefighter/EMT Parker Dill

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Captain Ryan Smith, Captain Kegan Wilson, and Division Chief Jeremy VanWey

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Captain Terry Hill

LIFESAVING AWARDS

Two lifesaving awards were awarded. The first one to Firefighter/EMT Deidra Gross, Firefighter Specialist Tom Anderson, and Captain Ryan Smith. The second one was Firefighter/EMT Adison Bernier, Captain Ryan Smith, and Captain Weston Farmer. A Unit Commendation was awarded to Firefighter/EMT Sam White, Firefighter/EMT Jeremy Crist, and Captain Weston Farmer.

STAFF AWARDS

The staff awards were concluded with the 2024 Firefighter of the Year and 2024 Fire Officer of the Year. Adison Bernier was recognized as the Firefighter of the Year. Captain Terry Hill was recognized as the Fire Officer of the Year.

CIVILIAN AWARDS

The evening concluded with two civilian awards from the Warrensburg Fire Department. The Community Partner Award was presented to the Matthews-Crawford American Legion Post #131. The Citizen Award for Bravery was presented to Jeremiah Wild of Warrensburg, MO. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and celebrating the great work performed in 2024.

KNOX BOX PROGRAM IN FAIR GROVE



Fair Grove Fire Protection District is pleased to announce we have been awarded a grant to offer 40 residential Knox Box door hangers to the senior citizens in our fire protection district. This grant was funded by the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund.

The residential Knox Box program provides a secure lock box to the front door of your home. A spare key to your home, which you provide, is locked inside allowing only the Fair Grove Fire Protection District rapid access to your home during an emergency. This reduces



Around the State

our response time by accessing your home during medical emergencies where you may be unable to open/unlock the door. This also prevents unnecessary damage to your home.

If you are interested in this program, you must live in the Fair Grove Fire Protection District. You must have health or mobility issues that may limit your ability to open/unlock the door.

FIRE CHIEF KEN SCOTT RETIRES

Well, the day has come. Fire Chief Ken Scott has announced his retirement. He addressed it as follows: "I am truly grateful to each of you, the fire-fighters and volunteers that work here and to this community. I am humbled by the quality of people I am surrounded by." After what will be 10 years as Chief here in Willard and a total of 37 years in the fire service, his last day will be April 6, 2025. It is with mixed emotions that we wish him all the best in his retirement and humbly thank him for everything he has accomplished in making this fire district what it is today. Congratulations Chief!



FULTON FD & HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Fulton Fire Department has teamed up with the Fulton Public Schools and offers Firefighter I & II to High School Seniors. This is the first year of the program and there are currently four students enrolled. This is a great opportunity to allow the students to be able to test after their 18th birthday. If anyone has questions about the program, contact Chief Russell Sing at firechief@fultonmo.gov.



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT EARNS LOFTY ISO 3 RATING

By Doug Davison, Houston Herald

There are tens of thousands of fire departments in the United States, and each one is rated based on several criteria by New Jersey-based Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO).

ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) ratings range from 1 to 10 (with 1 being the highest and 10 the lowest) and only a fraction of departments occupy the top three levels (just over 6,000), with even a smaller percentage being small town agencies. The City of Houston Fire Department is now one of those rare examples of an ISO 3 in a small town, as Chief Robbie Smith recently learned.

"This proves that ISO sees that we're better serving the community," Smith said. "It shows that what this department is doing is headed in the right direction."

For its PPC program, ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States, which helps them evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment and training.

The four primary criteria scrutinized in ISO's PPC program are equipment, apparatus, manpower and training. Other elements considered include water supply, fire hydrant numbers, conditions and inspections, and dispatching.

Smith said the HFD's dispatch center, Texas County Emergency Services (911), played a major role in the improved rating.

"They're doing a great job," he said.

ISO indicates online that it has detailed information on about 40,000 fire departments across the U.S.; there are 498 departments with an ISO 1 rating, 2,004 with an ISO 2 and 3,826 with an ISO 3.

Of 105.5 available credits, the HFD earned 70.71.

"This is a huge accomplishment for us," Smith said. "It shows that this community has a fire department that is trying hard to provide the best service possible."

ISO ratings are recognized by most insurance companies, with high ratings often resulting in lower premiums. Online, ISO indicates that by helping reduce fire insurance premiums in communities with better public protection, the PPC program "provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services."

The HFD's new ISO rating officially kicks in on April 1. The HFD achieved ISO 4 status in 2013.

THE HFD'S BIG YEAR

The HFD experienced a huge year in 2024, highlighted by the construction and launching of its new Training Tower.

The multi-level facility (on Industrial Drive next to the water tower) was originally scheduled to be assembled in October by Fire Training Structures LLC of Phoenix, Arizona, but the firm was able to get to Houston's project much sooner and the facility was up and running in May. Its existence for that many months of 2024 made the difference in securing the ISO 3 rating.

"Having the facility show up so early really worked in our favor," Smith said.

The Training Tower has already been used close to 20 times, with firefighters from several area departments benefiting from it.

"The facility itself isn't designed to generate income," Smith said, "but all of those people who come here to use it spend money in town, so it's definitely a good thing for the city."



Smith said several current and former City Council members were instrumental in providing support for the training facility, including Kevin Stilley, Don Romines, Tim Ceplina, Angie Gettys, Fred Stottlemire and Sheila Walker.

"All of us in the department want to thank those individuals for seeing what we're after, where we're trying to go and what our true needs are," Smith said.

The HFD has 33 people on its roster, including six ranking officers. Personnel responded to a record 289 calls in 2024, including 213 that were of a medical nature (the department began Emergency Medical Responses (EMR) at the beginning of 2022).

"We're doing extremely well," Smith said, "and we're very pleased with the direction all of us continue to go in."

The HFD's funding mostly comes from a sales tax approved by voters in 2019.

"Without that, none of this is even possible," Smith said. "We would still be a Class 4, there wouldn't be a training facility and we would be squeaking by with whatever we could get."

Houston Fire Chief Robbie Smith stands in front of the fire station on First Street.
Credit: DOUG DAVISON | HOUSTON HERALD



For non-emergencies, the HFD can be reached at 417-967-3348, extension 231. For emergencies, dial 911.

Smith said he doesn't rule out the HFD someday reaching ISO 2 status.

"We need to keep moving in the same direction," he said. "There's never going to be a point at which we can't improve more, and it's our responsibility to know that and act upon it."

Workers with the Mobile Rescue Repair department of MacQueen Emergency Solutions in Eureka perform various duties with an HFD pumper truck.



Two new fire hydrants purchased by in 2024.



HFD IN 2024

- Total emergency responses: 289
- Emergency medical responses: 213
- Motor vehicle crashes: 23
- Carbon monoxide/propane/gas leaks: 13
- Fire alarms: 10
- Smoke inside residence/commercial: 9
- Wildfires: 5
- Severe weather: 4
- Power lines down/pole on fire: 3
- Vehicle fires: 3
- Aircraft emergency on runway: 1
- Called and cancelled on the way: 1
- Fumes inside commercial structure: 1
- Juvenile extrication at residence: 1
- Mutual aid structure fires: 1
- Unlawful burn: 1

Firefighting personnel perform various duties at the Houston Fire Department's training facility only two days after its construction was completed last May.



The Training Tower.



CELEBRATING MANY PROMOTIONS

By Captain Joe Jennings, Public Information Officer

The Johnson County Fire Protection District is pleased to announce several well-earned promotions over the past months throughout the organization.

CLANCY NAMED BATTALION CHIEF

Fire Chief Larry Jennings is pleased to announce the promotion of Greg Clancy to the position of Battalion Chief. In his new role, Battalion Chief Clancy will lead Battalion #3, which includes Stations 4 (Knob Noster), 10 (Warrensburg), and 12 (Burtville).

Clancy has been with the District since 2016 and has served in various capacities, including at Station 1 and in the Training and Safety Division. His experience and leadership have made him a valuable member of the team, and his promotion reflects the District's confidence in his abilities to continue guiding, mentoring and supporting his colleagues.

"Greg Clancy's dedication, skill set, and leadership abilities have been evident throughout his tenure with the District," said Chief Jennings. "We are confident that his experience and expertise will greatly benefit Battalion #3, and we look forward to his continued success in this new role."

Battalion Chief Clancy holds a wide range of certifications, including Firefighter I and II, Hazardous Material Awareness and Operations, Fire Service Instructor 1, ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800, Live Fire Training Instructor, Vehicle Rescue Technician, and Incident Safety Officer. His extensive experience and commitment to excellence demonstrate his dedication to maintaining the highest standards.

MCDANIELS TO LEAD TRAINING AND SAFETY

Nick McDaniels has been selected to lead the District's Training and Safety Division as Division Chief. A dedicated member of the District since 2009, McDaniels has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment throughout his career, which includes serving as a Lieutenant at Station 1 (Warrensburg) and as both a Lieutenant and Captain in the Training and Safety Division since 2016.

Throughout his tenure, Division Chief McDaniels has earned numerous certifications that reflect his expertise and passion

for the fire service. His qualifications include Firefighter I and II, Hazardous Material Awareness, Operations and Technician, Fire Service Instructor 1 and 2, Ice Rescue Technician, ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800, Live Fire Instructor In-Charge, Live Fire Training Instructor, Trench Rescue Operation, and Vehicle Rescue Technician. These certifications highlight his comprehensive skill set and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of training and safety.

"Division Chief McDaniels has proven himself to be a dedicated and knowledgeable leader. His promotion to this important role within the Training and Safety Division is a reflection of his years of hard work, professional development, and commitment to excellence," said Fire Chief Larry Jennings.

In addition to his work within the District, Division Chief McDaniels is actively involved with an EMS service provider and supports various community services. His dedication to the safety and wellbeing of others extends far beyond his role in the District.

Battalion Chief Greg Clancy



Captain Cameron Lauber



Division Chief Nick McDaniels



Captain Nathaniel Boyea



PROMOTIONS IN TRAINING AND SAFETY DIVISION

The Johnson County Fire Protection District is pleased to announce several well-earned promotions within the Training and Safety Division (TSD). These promotions reflect the dedication and expertise of our personnel in ensuring the highest standards of training and safety within the agency.

Fire Chief Larry Jennings expressed his pride in the newly promoted personnel, stating, "These individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership and

commitment to advancing the safety and preparedness of our firefighters. Their expertise and experience will strengthen our district and enhance our training programs."

CAPTAIN PROMOTIONS

The District is proud to announce the promotions of Lt. Nathan Boyea and Lt. Cameron Lauber to the rank of Captain in the TSD.

Captain Nathan Boyea joined the District in 2017, serving at Station 1 (Warrensburg) and Station 11 (Water Rescue). He was promoted

to TSD Lieutenant in 2023. Captain Boyea holds multiple certifications, including Fire Service Instructor 1, Live Fire Instructor, Firefighter 1 and 2, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Boat Operations Technician, NIMS 100, 200, 700, and 800, and Vehicle Rescue Technician.

Captain Cameron Lauber has been with the District since 2018, also serving at Station 1 and Station 11 before being promoted to TSD Lieutenant in 2023. Captain Lauber's certifications include Fire Service Instructor 1, Firefighter 1 and 2, Hazardous Materials

Lieutenant Warner Short



Lieutenant Ben Burd



Lieutenant Andrew Oglesby



Lieutenant Andrew Rotter



Lieutenant Jerrad Kelly



Lieutenant Kelvin Lipscomb



Awareness, Operations, and Technician, NIMS 100, 200, 700, and 800, Ice Rescue Technician, and Vehicle Rescue Technician.

Chief Jennings remarked, “Captains Boyea and Lauber have proven themselves as leaders in the Training and Safety Division. Their knowledge and dedication will be invaluable in shaping the future of our training initiatives.”

LIEUTENANT PROMOTIONS

The District is also excited to announce the promotions of several personnel to the rank of Lieutenant within the Training and Safety Division.

Lt. Benjamin Burd has been with the District since 2014, most recently serving as a Lieutenant at Station 4 (Knob Noster) since 2022. He holds certifications in Firefighter 1 and 2, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and NIMS 100, 200, 300, 700, and 800.

Lt. Jerrad Kelly has served the District for over nine years at Station 10 (Warrensburg). His certifications include Fire Service Instructor 1, Firefighter 1 and 2, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Vehicle Rescue Technician, and NIMS 100, 200, 300, 700, and 800.

Lt. Andrew Oglesby has been with the District since 2008, serving at Station 1 and in the Water Rescue Division at Station 11. Promoted to Lieutenant at Station 1 in 2017, he holds certifications as a Fire Investigator, Fire Service Instructor 1, Ice Rescue Technician, Live Fire Training Instructor, Vehicle Rescue Technician, and NIMS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800.



Lt. Andrew Rotter has been with the District for nearly five years, serving at Station 1 and in the Water Rescue Division at Station 11. He holds certifications in Firefighter 1 and 2, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Vehicle Rescue Technician, and NIMS 100 and 700. Lt. Warner Short joined the District in 2018, serving at Station 9 (Cornelia) and in the Water Rescue Division at Station 11. His certifications include Vehicle Rescue Technician and NIMS 100, 200, 700, and 800.

Chief Jennings added, “These newly promoted Lieutenants bring experience and knowledge to the Training and Safety Division. Their leadership and dedication to continuous improvement will ensure our District remains at the forefront of fire and rescue training.”

FIREFIGHTER KELVIN LIPSCOMB TO LIEUTENANT

The Johnson County Fire Protection District is proud to announce the promotion of Firefighter Kelvin Lipscomb to the position of Lieutenant at Station 12 (Burtville). Lt. Lipscomb has demonstrated unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving his community since joining the District in 2021. He has previously served from Station 3 (Chilhowee) and Station 12 and has earned certifications as a Vehicle Rescue Technician and in NIMS 100 and 700.

Fire Chief Larry Jennings praised Lt. Lipscomb’s hard work and devotion to the department, stating, “Lt. Lipscomb has continually shown his passion for firefighting and dedication to the safety of our community. His leadership and strong work ethic make him a great fit for this role, and I have no doubt that he will serve the District with excellence.”

“We are a family that stands together, supports one another, and works tirelessly to protect the lives and property of those we serve,” Chief Jennings added. Lt. Lipscomb embodies these values, and we are excited to see him grow in this new leadership position.”

MORE INFORMATION

More information about the Johnson County Fire Protection District can be found online at www.jcfpd.net or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/johnsoncountypfd.



JOIN THE FFAM

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

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

For More Information Visit Our Website

FFAM.org

By Crystal City Fire Department

On February 24, 1975, Rob Schrage went to his first fire call on the Crystal City Fire Department. On February 24, 2025, we surprised him with a 50th celebration to honor him. Presenting Rob with the axe is his brother, Mike, who is the assistant chief with the Crystal City Fire Department. Between the two of them they have 108 years of fire service. (Mike celebrated his 50th in 2017.) They followed their dads and uncles' footsteps in the fire department. Also have nephews that are active firefighters as well.

Not only was Rob on Crystal City but a couple years later, he joined Festus Fire Department.

After many years, being with both departments, he was talking with the Fire Chief of Jefferson R-7 FPD; he decided to just join them. He is currently a captain with R7. (only department he is on now)

He celebrated with almost all the family and friends from FFAM, plus his childhood friend from Pennsylvania. Needless to say, Rob was speechless!



Irish immigration to St. Louis began before the Irish potato famine, and by 1820 the city's population was around 15% of Irish descent.⁵⁷ Thirty years later by 1850, 43% of the ethnic composition of St. Louis' population was from "either Ireland or Germany."⁵⁸

Just as in New York, as the Irish population grew with increasing new arrivals, they tended to settle into Irish communities within the city of St. Louis, the "Kerry Patch" to the north, and Cheltenham neighborhood, sometimes called "Dogtown."⁵⁹ Being mostly Catholic they established parishes with their own Catholic churches, schools, and representation of Irish-Catholic culture.

ST. LOUIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The development of the Fire Service in St. Louis progressed like most communities in America, starting with no fire protection and moving to communal efforts such as fire bucket brigades. They formed the first two Fire Companies around 1821, the North Fire Company and the South Fire Company.⁶⁰ St. Louis purchased their first steamers (three) from the Latta brothers in 1857, resulting from the City Council ordinance establishing the Fire department.⁶¹

Early career Firefighters served in difficult conditions, having to pay for their own uniforms. They served in hazardous situations

Oil painting of St. Louis firefighter Phelim O'Toole by St. Louis artist Paul Harney. Missouri History Museum, Missouri Historical Society in the public domain.



with only a volunteer charity fund to provide relief in case of injury or death. Finally in 1893 Missouri legislation provided for municipalities to establish Pension Funds.⁶²

Just like in New York, not all things went smoothly in the past for St. Louis and the Fire Department, or for the Irish immigrants. St. Louis experienced a number of challenges and issues during its formative years. However, that is another part of Fire Service History.

EARLY IRISH FIREMEN - STLF

St. Louis Firemen Phelim O'Toole was one of the Department's many heroic Firefighters. He was born in Ireland near Dublin in 1848. Going to sea at a young age he eventually landed in St. Louis in 1866 and joined the Fire Department in 1872. He came to prominence at the Southern Hotel Fire in 1877 while assigned to Hook and Ladder #3. Using a combination of rope and an aerial ladder he rescued 12 people.⁶³ He again demonstrated his heroics and ingenuity at the St. Louis Courthouse dome fire where he climbed to the top and cut a hole to be able to extinguish the fire. He achieved the final rank of Captain and died in 1880 at the age of 32 while fighting a basement fire.⁶⁴

Another St. Louis Fireman who typified the Irish tradition of public service was Robert Finnegan. He was a second-generation Irish-American who was appointed to the St. Louis Fire Department in 1911. In his 45-year career, he climbed through the ranks to Deputy Chief.⁶⁵ Robert's older brother, Michael Finnegan, was a career police officer in St. Louis.⁶⁶

KANSAS CITY, MO

Though in this chapter we have focused on New York and St. Louis as example cities with Irish-American populations and Firefighters, It needs to be mentioned that Kansas City, Missouri, like St. Louis, also had an Irish and Catholic heritage in the City and Fire Department. Like other Midwest cities of the time period such as St. Louis, MO, Chicago, IL, and Milwaukee, WI, Kansas City had a growing Irish population and a substantial number serving in the public sector (Police and Fire). Starting out with bucket brigades and adding the first steam fire engine after the Civil War, the fire department grew rapidly to meet the needs of the citizens. During the 1880's approximately 60% of the City's Firefighters had been born in Ireland.⁶⁷ As in other cities of the period, the job of firemen was a hazardous

occupation. They lived in austere conditions at the firehouse and originally earned only a "buck a day."⁶⁸ Still like the Irish members of other fire departments, they came to view the job as a family occupation with son following father into the fire service.

Kansas City Fire Department Retired Deputy Chief Pat Gilchrist shared with the author numerous stories related to his Irish family history and KCFD. He said that there used to be an old saying that "you had to be a fair-haired Irish kid to be in the fire department."⁶⁹

Today the City has a Kansas City Irish Center and various festivals that promote and celebrate the rich Irish heritage of the area. The City has a number of non-profit and church-sponsored Pipes and Drums bands.

CELTIC TRADITIONS AND BAGPIPES

One of the most recognized Celtic traditions adopted by the Fire Service is the playing of Bagpipes in parades, or for bereavement services at the death of a Firefighter or other official. The Bagpipe Corps or Bands are sometimes linked to Irish Emerald Societies that promote the Celtic culture in the Fire Service. There are also Emerald Societies in many Police Departments. Though these societies are Irish organizations and the sponsored pipers and bands may be of Irish lineage, it is found that most play Scotch Great Highland Bagpipes instead of Irish Uilleann pipes. This leads one to ask the question, what led Irish Firemen to adopt Scottish bagpipes thus creating a unique aspect of Fire Service culture and tradition?

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF BAGPIPES

When Bagpipes are mentioned in America today, the picture that usually comes to mind is that of a Scottish Highlander dressed in a tartan kilt playing a culturally unique-sounding musical instrument. Though Bagpipes are certainly a part of Scottish history and culture, the bagpipe did not originate there.

Somewhere in the past man's ancient ancestors discovered they could make a musical sound by blowing through a hollowed-out reed. Additional experimentation by adding holes allowed differing sounds or notes to be made. These early pipes were probably made by shepherds minding their flocks were called "shepherds pipes".⁷⁰ This would begin the history of the forerunner to bagpipes in Biblical times. The first actual bagpipes are estimated to be from around 100 AD

where a reed pipe was combined with a bag made of “a bladder or a whole sheepskin or goatskin.”⁷¹ Bagpipes show up early in the ninth century in Europe and over time spread through various countries. Starting as a folk instrument, bagpipes changed and developed over time, and by the 15th century, they gained prominence as court musical instruments in France to military musical instruments on the battlefield.⁷²

To shorten the history lesson, some reference suggest that the Romans first brought the bagpipe to Britain around 80 AD or later from Europe by the Anglo-Saxons conquests around 450 AD. However, some historians relate that “the Celts in Britain had the bagpipe a full century before the time of Caesar.”⁷³ According to William Flood, in his book *The Story of the Bagpipe*, the Irish brought bagpipes to Scotland during colonizations in 120 and 506 AD. Irish language scholar John O'Donovan, related that because of this colonization relationship between the Irish and the Scottish Highlands “the literature and music of the one having been ever since those of the other.”⁷⁴ As part of the Irish and Scottish culture, bagpipes begin to be played in church services and for funerals. Especially for the funerals of prominent leaders. Throughout the intermingled battles for dominion between the English and the Scotch and Irish in the late 1200s and early 1300s, bagpipes or the “piob cogaidh” (war bagpipes) were prominent on all sides.

There is a fascinating history related to the bagpipes and the wars for independence between the Irish/Scotts and the English. For a time bagpipes and other Celtic cultural traditions were banned and pipers were incarcerated in English-controlled

territories.⁷⁵ But this did not stop the traditions and customs of the Celtic people from being maintained. Soon these traditions and unique musical instruments would travel with their descendants in their immigration to America.

As mentioned there have been numerous ethnic groups making and using various types of bagpipes throughout history. This chapter will focus on the Irish and Scotch pipes and the modern-day Great Highland Bagpipes most commonly used by Military and Fire Service bands.

IRISH BAGPIPES

Irish bagpipes are called uilleann (or union) pipes, the term coming from the Irish word “uillinn” or elbow, being related to how it is played.⁷⁶ Also called Union pipes, these pipes are generally played with the piper seated with the bag lying on the lap and pressing the bellows (bag) with the elbow.⁷⁷ Pressing the bellows “feeds the air to the reeds of the melody chanter, as many as three drones, and three regulator stocks.”⁷⁸ The union pipes compared to Scottish ones, have “a wider range” and can play “half-notes or chromatic notes.”⁷⁹ Irish pipes were generally quieter and therefore historically played indoors for celebrations and church services.

SCOTTISH BAGPIPES

Scottish bagpipes have two basic types, the Great Highland or Small Border pipes. The Highland Bagpipes are louder and used most commonly outdoors, while the Border pipes are quieter and used indoors. Highland pipes are played with the piper standing and the bag on the left side under the arm. To play, the piper inflates the bag “through a blow-pipe and the pressure from the left arm on the bag sends and controls the flow of air to the melody chanter and three drones.”⁸⁰ Highland Bagpipes were used by the Scots as a “tool of intimidation and inspiration in war.”⁸¹ The British military came to incorporate these pipes in their marching bands and they spread throughout the English colonies by their troops. In the early 1900s, Irish Regiments began to switch to the Great Highland Bagpipes as the preferred instrument because of its loud sound and to match the other pipe bands.⁸² Thus forming the tradition seen today of using Highland pipes

in military pipes and drums units, and public service bands.

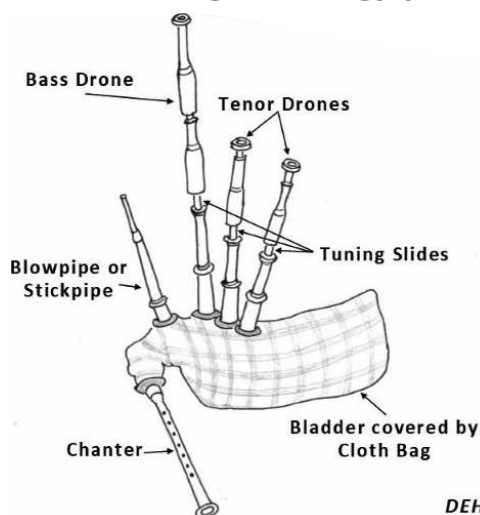
MODERN HIGHLAND BAGPIPES

The modern Great Highland Bagpipe (Piob Mor) is considered a woodwind musical instrument and consists of the basic components of a blowpipe, chanter, bag, and drones – two tenor drones and one bass drone. The blowpipe or blowstick attaches to the bag and is a mouthpiece that is used by the piper to blow air into the bag. It has a one-way valve to keep air in the bag. The bag is a bladder that is filled with air and used by compressing the bag to push air through the drones and chanter reeds to produce sound. The air-tight bladder is traditionally covered with a cloth bag. The Pipe Chanter contains a double reed and produces melody notes by the piper fingering the eight holes of the chanter. The drones contain single reeds and there are two tenor drones and one long bass drone. The drones produce the humming sound of the pipes. The bass drone is tuned one octave below the tenor drones. Drones are tuned by shortening or elongating their length using tuning sliders.⁸³ As mentioned previously, the Scottish Great Highland Bagpipes are generally chosen as the preferred pipes for Military, Police, and Fire Department bands because of their loud volume of sound, and this tradition began in the early 1900s.

LEARNING THE PIPES

The Bagpipe is a challenging instrument to learn, but with practice and proper instruction, it can be a pleasurable instrument to play. Having a good instructor is essential to the learning process. There are a number of types of piping traditions found today including the Great Highland pipes, the Uilleann Pipes (Irish), Northumbrian Small Pipes, and Scottish Small Pipes. The Great Highland Pipes are the choice of most pipes and drum bands because they are very loud and command respect when played. No matter what type of pipes a piper plays, it is essential to choose a set of high-quality bagpipes. The McCallum Bagpipes, Ltd. from Scotland are makers of quality pipes that are used by many pipe and drum bands. Other quality manufacturers include Peter Henderson Bagpipes, R.G. Hardie Bagpipes, and MacLellan Bagpipes.

Scottish Highland Bagpipes



DEH



Example of a “Practice Chanter” used by beginners in learning to play the Bagpipes. Photo courtesy John Cunning, Drum Major, BCFPD Pipes and Drums.

To begin learning to play the bagpipes, one first uses a “practice chanter” (a blowpipe and chanter combined without the bag and drones) to learn the basics of playing. The practice chanter and the chanter of the bagpipes have eight finger holes to play various notes. The chanters are, played with the right hand on top using the right thumb and first three fingers, with the left hand below using the four fingers. After the practice chanter is mastered, the student moves on to learning to play the bagpipes. With consistent practice and ability, some people can learn to play the bagpipes within a year. It is not an easy instrument to play but a culturally rewarding one to master.

FUNERAL TRADITIONS

With the incorporation of bagpipes in military tradition, the pipes began to be used in funerals to honor heroic soldiers killed in battle or at the death of prominent leaders. Special funeral marches were composed. This would lead to the bagpipes being played at funerals for honored family members and become a part of Celtic funeral tradition. This tradition would ultimately come to America with Irish immigrants and British military units.

In the early days of the American Volunteer Firemen, various fire companies in New York had amateur musicians who formed bands to play for parades, firemen musters, and on occasion funerals. However, they originally played more traditional musical instruments not bagpipes. With the influx of Irish and Scottish immigrants and subsequently some of them joining the local fire company, Irish instruments and traditions came to be used, especially for funerals.

With the change over from volunteers to a career department in New York, first as the Metropolitan Fire Department (MFD) and then to the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), the Irish became the major ethnicity in the department. In the first thirty years of the career department, of the hundred firefighters that made the ultimate sacrifice, “sixty-six of them were Irish.”⁸⁴ These heroic sacrifices by the high number of Irish-American Firemen would bring Irish funeral traditions to the forefront in the fire service.

With the implementation of civil service positions in Police and Fire Departments of the period, and the Irish occupying a significant number of these positions, the practice of playing bagpipes at Line of Duty

Funerals ultimately became a tradition in America. Unfortunately, the tradition waned for a while in the 1900’s,

Today, some of the more prevalent songs that are played for firefighter funerals in the U.S. Fire Service include: *Amazing Grace*, *Going Home*, and *Highland Cathedral*. The haunting and somber notes of the pipes are like no other musical instrument. The sound and the ethnic dress of the pipers and drummers provide distinctive honor and traditional farewell to a fallen compatriot, along with a lasting memory to the families of the firefighter.

REVIVAL OF THE BAGPIPE

The Fire Department of New York (FDNY) first instituted a band in 1900. Their purpose was to provide music for celebration parades and to honor members at funerals. However, it did not last but a few years. The FDNY formed a marching band in 1913, with the addition of a Bugle and Drum Corp in 1920.⁸⁵

A Bagpipe band in New York was first formed in 1960 by the Police Department’s Emerald Society. The Fire Department’s Emerald Society pushed to have their own band, and a group of Irish-American Firefighters came together in 1962 to learn to play the bagpipes.⁸⁶ The first public appearance of the band was at an Emerald Society dance in 1962, followed by performing in St. Patrick’s Day parades in 1963.⁸⁷ With these performances, the Irish tradition of Bagpipes had returned to the Fire Department.

Just as New York had been a significant leader in establishing traditions in the Fire Service, their implementation of Emerald Societies and Bagpipe Units or Bands would soon encourage other fire departments across the country to revive the tradition of bagpipers.

PIPERS AND PIPE & DRUM BANDS - MO

Today there are numerous Pipers and Pipes & Drums Bands that participate in Fire Service functions and memorials. They carry on the historic tradition by playing to honor the service of those who serve. Some pipers or bands have members from a Fire Service background, while others are musicians who play the pipes and drums as part of their Celtic heritage and in support of the Fire Department traditions. The Annual Fire Fighter Memorial Service conducted by the Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri in Kingdom City, MO, is but one

of the moving tributes to firefighters who have lost their lives in the Line of Duty or past after years of dedicated service. Honor Guard Commander Tracy Gray said that the volunteer Pipers, Pipes & Drums Corps, and Honor Guards that participate each year provide a sense of dignity and solemnness to the memorial service, as well as preserve and maintain the historic traditions.⁸⁸

There are a number of Pipes and Drums Bands that are affiliated with Fire Departments or Fire Service Organizations in Missouri. The author had an opportunity to interview some of them and appreciates their sharing of their knowledge and experience.

BRIAN ZINANNI FIRE SERVICE PIPER

Perhaps one of the more well-known Pipers in Missouri is Brian Zinanni. Besides helping create one of the Pipes and Drums bands in Missouri, Brian is the founder and state coordinator of the Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team. During his fire service career, Brian felt the need for a way to better honor the service of firefighters and other public safety officers who had fallen in the Line of Duty. The tradition of Bagpipes in the Fire Service resonated with him, and he began learning the bagpipes around 2000. Moving to Missouri, Brian served with the Clayton (MO) Fire Department,

Brian Zinanni – Playing bagpipes at St. Louis 9-11 Observance Ceremony. Photo courtesy of Brian Zinanni.



eventually serving as a Lieutenant and Medical Officer. Brian related that it takes about a year to learn the practice chanter before moving to the bagpipes. Though some can play the pipes after about six months to a year, Brian said that one never stops learning to play the pipes. Like most Fire Service Pipers, Brian played the Great Highland Pipes as part of the modern tradition. Though Brian does not have a Celtic family heritage, he was drawn to the Irish traditions in the Fire Service.⁸⁹

Though Brain does not play the pipes anymore, he continues a prominent presence through the many organizations he leads or represents that serve the families of Firefighters who have passed in the Line of Duty or after years of dedicated service. He truly reflects the historic Fire Service tradition of service to others before himself.

GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA FIREFIGHTERS HIGHLAND GUARD

The Greater St. Louis Area Firefighters Highland Guard was formed in 2002 by Brian Zinanni and was composed of local area firefighters interested in following the tradition. The Guard currently has seven members composed of pipers and drummers. Two of the members are non-fire with the rest active duty or retired Firefighters. They currently have two new Pipers in training. The Pipers in the band play the Great Highland Pipes from various manufacturers. Originally the Greater St. Louis Firefighters Highland Guard played wearing modern traditional Black Watch tartan kilts. Later they had a specially designed tartan woven in honor of and worn in memory of Ryan Hummert, FF/Paramedic, Maplewood, MO, killed in the Line of Duty in 2008. The tartan weave is an officially registered tartan with the Scottish Register of Tartans.⁹⁰

Greater St. Louis Area Firefighters Highland Guard playing at Missouri FF Memorial 2024. Photo courtesy Gail Hagans.



Boone County Fire Protection District Pipes and Drums at the Missouri Governor's Office. Photo courtesy John Cunning.

The Guard Chairman and Drum Sergeant Richard Aholt is a retired Firefighter/Paramedic with 30 years of service. Aholt related that the Guard played at 27 events in 2024. Aholt said that though they play at public events including the St. Patrick's Day parade, their primary mission is to provide traditional music for Fire Memorials of Funeral services.⁹¹ The Guard has played at the Missouri Fire Fighters Memorial Services each year and also played at the International Association of Fire Fighters Memorial Service held in Colorado Springs, CO, in September. Drum Sgt. Aholt said that serving and honoring Firefighter's families is what it is all about.

BOONE COUNTY FPD PIPES AND DRUMS

The Boone County Fire Protection District (BCFPD) Pipes and Drums were founded in 1997 by a group of the department's volunteer Firefighters interested in the tradition. With a core group of six pipers and a few drummers, they made their first public performance in 1999. Today the band has nine pipers and six drummers and are all volunteer musicians, with one also being a volunteer Firefighter. A few members were experienced as pipers, but most were interested novices who learned to play through the instruction of mentors within the band. The piping members of the band play the great highland bagpipes made by various quality musical instrument manufacturers. Drum Major John Cunning leads the band and he related that they average performing at 10 to 12 community events a year along with Veterans' Honor Flights out of Columbia, MO. They also are prepared to play for Firefighter Funeral ceremonies as needed. Drum Major Cunning said that the members of the band were passionate about preserving their Celtic heritage and continuing to honor the Fire Service traditions.⁹² They regularly participate in the Missouri Firefighters Memorial Services in October each year in Kingdom City, MO.



IAFF #152 Black Sheep Pipes and Drums. Photo courtesy Daniel Zacher.

IAFF #152 BLACK SHEEP PIPES & DRUMS

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local # 152 Black Sheep Pipes and Drums was formed in 2012. The band members are current firefighters from the IAFF local that represents nine different fire departments. The band has two pipers playing Highland Pipes and five drummers. The band wears traditional Celtic uniforms with a Wilson tartan in honor of the founder of Springfield. The band plays approximately 15 times a year including Fire Fighter Funerals, Fire Fighters Day at the Capital, Firefighter Memorials, and other solo piper performances. FF/Piper Daniel Zacher related that the Black Sheep Pipes and Drums are proud to give back to the Fire

Service and honor the Firefighter families that have lost loved ones, providing support through their musical tribute.⁹³

JEFFERSON CITY FIREFIGHTERS PIPES AND DRUMS

The Jefferson City Firefighters Pipes and Drums originally had its origin when Firefighter Mike Schultz began learning the bagpipes as a way to honor the traditions of the fire service and the memory of those who died in the Line of Duty. Mike first played with other pipers at a memorial in observance of 9-11. He had the opportunity to play with other FF Pipes and Drums Corps in Missouri. In 2014 two other Firefighters became drummers and

formed the official Pipes and Drums. The band wears traditional kilts of the Black Watch tartan and a unique doublet jacket of green in honor of the Irish history of the Fire Service. The Jeff City Pipes and Drums have played for various memorials, as well as celebrations such as weddings. Currently, they mainly make themselves available for Firefighter Funerals when needed. Piper Mike Schultz says it doesn't make any difference whether a Fire Department is large or small, when needed they are there to honor firefighters and their families.⁹⁴

HONORING PIPERS AND BANDS

The author as a Fire Service member has personally attended numerous Fire Fighter memorials and Funerals and knows the beautiful musical tribute these and other Pipes and Drums Bands bring to the ceremony along with providing full honors for those fallen in the Line of Duty. These bands continue to honor the heritage and traditions of the Fire Service and perform in tribute to their fellow firefighters. The author apologizes to the Missouri Pipers and Bands that he was unable to cover in this chapter.

OTHER IRISH CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

CELTIC WEAR

As proud ethnic cultures, the Irish and Scotch people in the historic past had traditional manners of dress specific to their heritage. Some of this traditional dress has

Jefferson City Firefighters Pipes and Drums playing at the State Capital. Photo courtesy JC Pipes & Drums.



been passed down to be worn by the Pipes and Drummers of the military and public service bands today. The uniform worn by many Celtic Pipes and Drum Corps in the Fire Service includes a high-collared uniform-styled short jacket (doublet) and kilt, along with other traditional clothing items and accouterments. The kilt is a historic form of woven plaid wool clothing of the Celtic peoples, and still worn today for formal ceremonies, and in military and fire service pipe and drum bands. The kilt wraps around the body and resembles a skirt or “knee-length garment that is worn by men.”⁹⁵ The kilt is made of woolen fabric woven in a heraldic pattern called a tartan.

Scottish tartans are based on the traditional woven wool of a “cross-checked pattern of different colored bands, stripes, or lines of definite width and sequence.”⁹⁶ The Scottish tartan identifies the specific family or clan from which the individual wearer comes. The Irish tartan differs in that the pattern and colors represent the ancestral district or county from which the individual comes.

Individual members of Fire Service Pipes and Drums Corps/Bands may wear their Celtic family heritage tartan, significant related tartan, or a specially designed tartan. The Scottish Parliament created *The Scottish Register of Tartans* to preserve “information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world.”⁹⁷ The registry includes listings of tartans designed and registered specifically for a fire department or fire service organization. Many of these tartans contain a mix of the colors of red, black, and gold as traditional fire service colors.

OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DANCE

It should be mentioned that in addition to original uilleann pipes, Irish traditional music had other instruments including the Irish harp, the fiddle, the flute, the tabor (small double-sided drum), and the traditional bodhran drum. They were played for various celebratory events and accompanied by ethnic folk dance that included jigs and reels. Traditional celebration dances are performed with fast foot movements and high kicks while the upper body is kept straight. Dances can be performed individually, in groups (Ceili), or in teams. Celtic music and dance have had a resurgence in America in recent times with many popular performers and dance troops performing on tour. Irish dances may be performed by Irish

Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, medallion. Author's collection.



groups at various Emerald Society or Fire Department celebrations in major cities with an Irish heritage.

SAINT PATRICK

Saint Patrick was considered the religious apostle to the Irish and is the patron saint of Ireland. There is some controversy over the date of his birth and death, but he is thought to have lived in the late 5th Century.⁹⁸ He was born in Britain and when a teenager he was kidnapped by Irish pirates. He was later freed and underwent training in the Christian ministry. Returning to Ireland he befriended the Celtic tribes and went about evangelizing and baptizing Irishlanders to Christianity.

St. Patrick was highly successful in his ministry, and legends started to grow about him. Around the seventh century, a number of legends began to be attributed to St. Patrick including driving all the snakes out of Ireland and destroying them in the sea.⁹⁹ It is said that St Patrick used the Irish Shamrock, to explain the Christian religious concept of the “Holy Trinity” as part of his ministry.¹⁰⁰ The Trinity refers to one God in three forms, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.¹⁰¹ The iconic shamrock is a native three-leaf plant on a stalk that is a type of clover growing in Ireland. It is related to white clover and suckling clover found in the British Isles.¹⁰² The Shamrock is considered a national flower in Ireland, and it is traditionally worn on lapels and images used as decorations on St. Patrick’s Day,

Some Firefighters, historically and today, wear a crucifix, Maltese Cross, or medallion on a chain or lanyard around the neck

Preserved Irish Shamrocks in a remembrance stick pin.



in recognition of their faith, heritage, or profession. A religious medallion could be a Catholic Saint’s medal, such as Saint Florian (Patron Saint of Firefighters) as a religious symbol of protection. Or, it may simply be worn as a non-denominational symbol related to their profession. In the Fire Service St. Florian and St. George medallions are popular. Firefighters of Irish descent may choose to wear St. Patrick medallions as a symbol of their heritage and/or beliefs or the image of a shamrock.

FEAST DAY OF ST. PATRICK

March 17th is the feast day of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Ecclesiastical feast days for Christian Saints are days set aside to honor Individual Saints on the date of their martyrdom or as a celebration day in remembrance.¹⁰³ In the United States, the ethnic heritage of Irish immigrants brought the tradition of celebrating St. Patrick’s Day with them. However, today it is more of a secular holiday than a religious one with partying and the imbibing of various beverages. Part of the tradition is the wearing of green-colored clothes and/or shamrocks to celebrate the day. Irish immigrants in America first celebrated Saint Patrick’s Day with a parade in Boston in 1737. New York followed with its first St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 1762.¹⁰⁴ The Volunteer Firemen of these cities were undoubtedly part of the parades showing off their elaborately decorated apparatus, as well as celebrating their members of Irish heritage.

It is traditional for people of Irish ancestry (and celebration partakers) to wear the color green in celebration of St Patrick’s Day,

along with shamrocks. The color green and shamrocks are representative of St. Patrick and Ireland. However, the wearing of green did not become prominent until the 18th century. Before that the Order of St. Patrick's official color was blue, but that is another story in and of itself.¹⁰⁵

CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE

So why do Americans eat corned beef and cabbage in observing Saint Patrick's Day? Most people assume it is an Irish ethnic dish historically from Ireland. However, it is an American dish that is traced back to Jewish immigrants in early American cities. As has been covered earlier in this chapter, the typical tenant farmer in Ireland could not afford beef and subsisted primarily upon potatoes with maybe a little pork. What cattle were raised in Ireland were conserved for dairy cattle or made into corned beef and sold to Britain and other countries. Corned beef was an early means of preserving meat by being brined in salt and spices. Traditionally using coarse kernels of rock salt called "corn" thus the name corned beef.¹⁰⁶ In the American Colonies, corned beef was imported and became a staple of inner city butcher shops selling to the poor and immigrant populations. The Jewish butchers and local families probably introduced the dish of corned beef and cabbage to the Irish immigrants, becoming a fairly cheap food staple for them in America and

traditionally being mixed with, you guessed it, potatoes.¹⁰⁷ In reality, the eating of corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day began as an American custom or tradition not originating in Ireland. So if you really want to be traditional in celebrating St. Patrick's Day, cook up some pork and boiled potatoes.

EMERALD SOCIETIES

Emerald Societies in America are social organizations that promote the fellowship and culture of Irish-American decedents. Local chapters may be tied to individual public service agencies, such as fire or police. The first Emerald Society in the United States began in New York City with the Police department in 1953. In 1956, Firefighters of the FDNY of Irish American descent formed their own chapter.¹⁰⁸ Today many major cities have an Emerald Society. In support of cultural activities, they may sponsor bagpipe bands, and host cultural events and parades.

Though these organizations did not start in the early days of American civil service Firefighters or Police Officers, they relate back to the tight-knit social groups and communities of Irish immigrants as they embraced their culture along with the professions of service in America.

THE LEGACY OF CHANGE AND TRADITION

The American colonies that would become the United States were settled by various ethnic groups that would meld together to become the American people. Though the English were the early dominant colonists, other nationalities were part of the mix. Each group brought their ethnic heritage, customs, and religious beliefs to the mix that would create the American experience.

The earliest Irish immigrants being tradesmen or skilled laborers would join other colonists in taking responsibility for serving their community through various public services such as joining local militias or volunteer fire companies. With the coming of the first-hand tubs or hand-pumped engines, the grand and glorious days of the Volunteer Firemen would protect American citizens for a period of over 150 years. Though not always mild-mannered or successful, these Volunteer Firemen protected life and property in the American Colonies and early days of the United States.

These Firemen coming from various ethnic groups would lay the foundation of the traditions of the American Fire Service. Each ethnic group shares its customs and traditions through the close-knit camaraderie of the local Fire Company.

Combined Missouri Honor Guards and Pipes and Drums bands at Missouri FF Memorial 2024. Photo courtesy Gail Hagans.



With the invention and implementation of mechanical-driven (steam) fire pumps, horses and quick hitch harnesses to deploy the engine, along with dependable fire hoses and municipal water supplies; the stage was set for social change in the Fire Service and the introduction of the first civil service career firefighters. The prominent migration of Irish Immigrants coming to America because of the great potato famine would be a significant source of manpower for the newly created career fire departments and in so doing contribute their cultural traditions to the American Fire Service.

Because of a prominent number of Irish-American Firemen serving with Fire Companies, they would also be numbered among those who would face death in the Line of Duty. This would bring Irish funeral traditions to the forefront. With the implementation of civil service positions in Police and Fire Departments of the period, and the Irish occupying a significant number of these positions, the practice of playing bagpipes at Line of Duty Funerals ultimately became a tradition in America. Though the tradition lapsed for a while in the early 1900s, it was reinstituted with the forming of the FDNY Pipes and Drum Corp in the 1960s. This reinvigorated tradition would soon proliferate throughout the United States.

Despite the dangerous and austere life of the early career Fireman, these new civil service positions became a respected career for Americans and Irish male immigrants. Irish descendants growing up in Fire Service families came to see this as the family trade or occupation. Soon there would be multi-generations of family members serving in the same Fire Department. Today, in many locations around the country this custom of family service passing from one generation to the next remains a tradition. The personal and team commitment to service above one's self has made the Fire Service the honored occupation or avocation that it is today.

AUTHORS COMMENTS

The author along with fellow Firefighters proudly celebrates the traditions of the Fire Service, including the Irish-American customs and heritage. Coming from intermingled Irish and Scotch ancestry, I still remember as a youth the family tradition of wearing green on Saint Patrick's Day.

The author wishes to recognize and thank the fire service personnel and organizations for their assistance in the development of this article. In particular, the author expresses his appreciation to:

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Fire Fighter's Association of Missouri | Member Benefits

ANNUAL DUES

Low-cost membership dues.

FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

\$3.00 of the active member dues goes to the Fire Fighters Memorial in Kingdom City. \$7.00 remains with the FFAM.

FFAM MAGAZINE

A bi-monthly magazine detailing a large variety of fire service issues, training schedule of regional and state opportunities, featured articles, equipment sales postings and status of political issues.

INSURANCE

A low-cost Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance is available to individual members up to \$50,000. through VFIS.

VFIS Accident & Sickness policy discounts available to departments.

Missouri Firefighter Critical Illness Pool benefits available for individual members

LODD BENEFIT

\$1,000 LODD benefit to the member's beneficiary.

DEPARTMENT GRANT

Department grant is available each year for the purchase of equipment.



REPRESENTATION/LIAISON

Representation with the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Liaison between members and the Missouri State Fire Marshal, the political front and other state agencies.

The FFAM serves as an organized voice on important annual fire service legislation.

TRAINING

Training classes available including certified board member training and other various topics.

IFSTA MATERIALS DISCOUNT

10% discount on all IFSTA training materials.

JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING MATERIALS DISCOUNT

10% discount on all JBL fire/EMS training materials.

BLUE LIGHT PERMIT CARDS

Available at no cost to the department.

LEARNING PARTNERS

Tuition and textbook discounts through our learning partners' agreement with Columbia Southern University and Waldorf University's online programs.

FIRE LOSS ASSISTANCE

Any member who sustains a minimum of \$10k fire loss in their primary residence will be given \$500 to help with expenses.



ANNUAL CONVENTION

Includes a vendor expo, competitive firefighter contest, awards banquet, dance and a business meeting.

MISSOURI STATE FAIR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members can volunteer to work at the MSFFD which provides fire, EMS, and first aid to fairgoers each year. It is the only fully operational fire department in the United States that operates for only 11 days a year.

EYEGLASSES

Assistance with the repair of broken or lost eyeglasses while at a scene—up to \$200.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Members and relatives of members have access to scholarships up to \$1,000 for both high school seniors and those pursuing continuing education.

FACEBOOK

Stay up-to-date with important announcements on our Facebook page.

Check out our website for more exclusive member benefits!



FFAM.org

By Keith Smith, NVFC Committee Chairman

At the time this article is being submitted; February 28, we have drama playing out in Washington D.C. unlike anything seen before. But to keep it civil and politically neutral (as best I can), let's take some snippets of recent events and outcomes.

January 28 – NVFC reported that President Trump issued an order temporarily pausing grants, loans and other federal assistance programs that would impact funding sources for NVFC. Those included 5 active federal grants through FEMA (which I will come back to later). The US Forest Service, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and a subrecipient on another federal grant awarded to NFPA's research foundation. These grants allow NVFC to focus on firefighter health and safety, provide training in more rural areas where departments are less likely to have access to training, and assist departments through their national recruitment and retention campaign, "Make Me a Firefighter."

Fortunately, on January 29, the memorandum calling for a freeze of federal funds had been rescinded and the crisis averted until they took their promised deep dive into FEMA. There is a lot of chatter ranging from eliminating FEMA altogether to restructuring while re-evaluating each program with applied downsizing of staff and budget or being eliminated entirely. This is still very fluid at this time. A trend has already emerged if you look at the current percentage of reduction being applied in many of the federal agencies. It is 6-8% right now and could potentially go higher.

February 20 – Firefighter Close Calls. "New Federal layoffs include NIOSH, LODD investigators, firefighter cancer registry staff, USFA and more". While the impact on all of these groups is concerning, the cancer registry hit is a gut punch. It took years to get this pulled together and hinged on a mechanism that could reach out nationally, the capacity to build and manage a highly secure database, and the staffing and funding

to keep it going. It came down to NIOSH which is where the registry is located. We are now at a crossroads of uncertainty for its future. I encourage you to reach out to your legislators at the federal level and make them aware of the vital role NIOSH and the Cancer Registry play in better understanding firefighter health and safety related to reducing firefighter injury and death.

If you are interested in assisting, please email me directly for some cut/paste language examples you may use. One of those is a joint statement from NVFC. If you are willing to assist, contact me at keith.smith1974@yahoo.com and I will reply with your options. Your subject line can be NVFC Assist.

NVFC reached out to each state that had a Senator involved with the Secretary of Labor hearing requesting we ask our Senator to ask a question of Lori M. Chavez-DeRemer, the nomination for Labor Secretary. Missouri was asked because Senator Hawley was on the committee which was completed as requested in advance of the hearing. Senator Collins from Maine was the first to get the question presented. I have edited the question slightly due to length - "I have heard a great deal of concern from volunteer firefighters regarding the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's (OSHA) proposed Emergency Response Standard. These volunteer firefighters have informed me that this proposed standard would only be feasible for large career departments to comply with due to their draconian administrative requirements and costly nature. I also understand that, if adopted without major revision, the proposed standard could cause many small rural volunteer departments to close."

"If confirmed, would you commit to working with volunteer firefighters across the country on formulating an approach within OSHA's jurisdiction that would improve firefighter safety without compromising emergency response capabilities in rural America?"

I was able to watch that exchange on YouTube and Lori did not directly say "YES" but that she would be reviewing all standards, especially those being proposed to see if they were excessively burdensome and cost effective. Well, at least she did not say no. She was likely aware that labor fully supports all of the proposed standards. By



the way, I had to look up the definition of "Draconian" and it means – "excessively harsh and severe". DC continues to speak a revised language outside of plain English.

Now in other news, a reminder there are numerous benefits to individual NVFC membership. The annual dues for 2025 are \$24.00 and include AD&D coverage. New NVFC Virtual Classroom courses continue to be developed for their membership.

Some 2024 Highlights, NVFC had an incredibly productive year! Legislative wins included the Reauthorization of AFG/SAFER/US Fire Administration. Passage of the Firefighter Cancer Registry Reauthorization Act (remember my earlier comments). Membership Growth concluded 2024 with 37,390 individual members. Welcomed New Mexico back as the 48th state member.

Program & Resources launched new initiatives, including the State Farm Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program which will be returning in 2025 with \$1.5 M for 150 Fire Safety Grants. Nutella's "Stacks for Giving" will be returning in 2025 with \$25-K in grants. Tractor Supply provided funding that is helping support several NVFC efforts. Anheuser Bush has agreed to 1.5 million cans of Emergency Drinking Water for the Wildland Firefighters program in 2025.

NVFC secured 2 federal and 2 private/corporate grant applications. Completed 65 live, in-person training events held in 27 states. Released new tools including the Family Guide, Volunteer Value Calculators, and PBS featured: Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat. Expanded virtual learning, including a Leadership Track and training for firefighter families.

Thank you for your time plus allowing Rob and I to serve on your behalf with NVFC.



Join Now
@
nvfc.org

BEST PRACTICES

for Preventing

FIREFIGHTER CANCER

1

Full protective equipment (PPE) must be worn throughout the entire incident, including SCBA during salvage and overhaul.

2

A second hood should be provided to all entry-certified personnel in the department.

3

Following exit from the IDLH, and while still on air, you should begin immediate gross decon of PPE using soap water and a brush, if weather conditions allow. PPE should then be placed into a sealed plastic bag and placed in an exterior compartment of the rig, or if responding in POVs, placed in a large storage tote, thus keeping the off-gassing PPE away from passengers and self.

4

After completion of gross decon procedures as discussed above, and while still on scene, the exposed areas of the body (neck, face, arms and hands) should be wiped off immediately using wipes, which must be carried on all apparatus. Use the wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately.

5

Change your clothes and wash them after exposure to products of combustion or other contaminants. Do this as soon as possible and/or isolate in a trash bag until washing is available.

6

Shower as soon as possible after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants. "Shower within the Hour"

7

PPE, especially turnout pants, must be prohibited in areas outside the apparatus floor (i.e. kitchen, sleeping areas, etc.) and never in the household.

8

Wipes, or soap and water, should also be used to decontaminate and clean apparatus seats, SCBA and interior crew area regularly, especially after incidents where personnel were exposed to products of combustion.

9

Get an annual physical, as early detection is the key to survival. The NVFC outlines several options at www.nvfc.org. "A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals" can be downloaded from www.iafc.org/healthRoadmap.

10

Tobacco products of any variety, including dip and e-cigarettes should never be used at anytime on or off duty.

11

Fully document ALL fire or chemical exposures on incident reports and personal exposure reports.

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By Josh Loyd, Assistant Director

Coming from District 3! I sincerely hope all of you are well. Daily, I learn something new about one of our brothers or sisters. Some good and some bad! There are many of us here to help however we can. I try to reach out as I learn things. There are times I am unaware, but I have faith that those who know will do what they can to help. That is another testament to our Missouri fire service.

Most of us have heard the saying, “What is in your toolbox?” The importance of knowing what is in your toolbox, where it is, and how you can use it in specific situations is crucial for success in an emergency. As we are onboarding new members and even members with many years of experience, it can be a challenge to know where our tools are and how they function. Maybe I am the only one that has experienced this.

Do you understand your toolbox? The tools we have are generally what we find works best in our situations. I find it imperative that the tools we have serves the communities needs. To accomplish this, we must know those needs. We must get out in the community to pre-plan and use previous incidents to help build your tool list. Where does your list start? As we review items that likely need to be on your list, I start with safety. My tool list simply starts with my bunker gear. It is our responsibility to make sure our tools are in proper working order. Arriving on-scene

is not the time to identify a problem with our tools. As we train, we must train on how to mitigate arising issues on the scene. Are we capable of adapting and overcoming the problem? Do I have another tool I can use instead? Adequate training can play a key role in your adaptability. How well do you know your toolbox?

Are you utilizing your toolbox? Most of us are fortunate enough to have adequate tools allowing us to perform the best we can. As we collect items to fill our toolbox, we should use those tools. It does not do much good if we have all the items, but they never get deployed. In training, we train ourselves to know when and how to use the tools. Is that the only time we allow ourselves to utilize the tools? I have been guilty of this, especially on ‘routine calls.’ Our department challenge is, that we do not have routine calls. This may sound simple and some may disagree; however, if we wait until a low-frequency high-risk call comes in, we will not be ready and will underperform. When we are placed in these situations, we must use the tools we have. Deploy your tools often!

On a different note, Winter Fire School was a success for us. We were able to send thirteen members, and I have heard many positive comments. As the virtual class ended on Sunday, I started receiving text messages and a few phone calls asking if we could do what we just learned. My response was,



“Absolutely, we can!” I felt more excited than they did from their excitement of wanting to better themselves. Thank you MU FRTI!

I wish to recognize the Madison-West Monroe Fire Department in its efforts to better serve its citizens and members. Madison is setting an example of what can be done with limited resources through their training. What you are doing is being noticed. Great job!

If we look back on our time in the fire service, we can identify a few things that stand out the most to us. Maybe an accomplishment or something you get to witness unfold. My Wife joined the fire department about two years ago. She is fortunate enough to have been around the fire service all her life and learn from many wonderful people. The energy she puts into learning the role of an active member is unmatched. As she learns, she always takes time to help new members. It is a pleasure to be part of her endeavor.

In closing, if there is anything District 3 can help anyone with, we will give it our best effort. Please stay safe and I hope to see you at the Convention.



The February 2, 2025 FFAM Auxiliary meeting was called to order by President Sheri Berendzen, Cole Co FPD at 9:00 am. In attendance were: Joni Fields, Paris Rural FPD; Rosanna Jorgenson, South Holt FD; Lachrissa Smith, North Central Carroll FPD (zoom); and Diane Wynne, Galt.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 1, 2024 meeting held at the MO State Fair Fire Station were read. Rosanna Jorgenson made a motion seconded by Carissa Thompson to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

\$8,422.66

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POSTER CONTEST

Entries must be turned in by 9:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2025

MEMBERSHIP

Membership has not changed. 13 honorary members and 109 paid members.

MEMORIAL

October 4 & 5, 2025 in Kingdom City.

AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR

There have been no nominations for a few years. Joni is working on a new form for the magazine and the website.

BYLAWS

Work is being done on the wording

CONVENTION

Convention will be May 2-4, 2025 in Branson. We will have a silent auction. Members should begin collecting items and bring them to convention. If anyone wants

to donate, they may reach out to a member or bring it to convention.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

FUNDS

Discussion was held on ways to use some of the funds that the auxiliary currently has. A motion was made by Diane Wynne and seconded by Joni Fields to spend up to \$1000 for membership "loot" bags for convention.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Carissa Thompson is working on membership cards to pass out to members.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Joni Fields and seconded by Carissa Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 am. The motion carried.

Save-the-Date

April 25-27, 2025

We are excited to announce the 2025 Missouri Women of Fire Conference, taking place April 25-27, 2025, at the Fenton Fire Protection District in Fenton, Missouri. This unique event will bring together women firefighters from across the state to network, learn, and train together. The conference will feature leadership development sessions, hands-on training at the fire tower, and opportunities to build lasting connections with fellow women in the fire service.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details on registration, session offerings, and special guest speakers. Whether you're looking to

sharpen your skills, expand your leadership capabilities, or simply connect with other women in the field, this conference will provide valuable experiences and insights. More information is coming soon!



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The USFA is committed to continuously improving the system and values user feedback to guide its evolution.

By RB Brown, Director

Loyalty in the fire service is indeed a cornerstone of the profession, underpinning the strong bonds and unyielding dedication that make up the fabric of fire-fighting teams. It is a multifaceted concept that encompasses several key aspects:

1. **Team Commitment:** Firefighters are part of a tight-knit unit that relies heavily on trust and support. Loyalty to the team means being there for one another, not only during emergencies but also in the day-to-day operations and challenges that come with the job.
2. **Adherence to Core Values:** The fire service is guided by a set of core values, such as courage, integrity, and duty. Loyalty involves upholding these principles both in and out of the fire station.
3. **Professional Development:** Continuously striving to improve one's skills and knowledge through training and education is a sign of loyalty to the profession. This commitment to growth ensures that firefighters are prepared to serve their communities to the best of their abilities.
4. **Support During Crises:** Firefighters must be willing to support each other during the most intense and traumatic situations. This unwavering support is crucial for the mental and emotional health of the team.
5. **Public Trust:** The community places a high level of trust in firefighters. Loyalty to the public means honoring this trust by providing exceptional service and care, as well as maintaining a positive image of the fire service.
6. **Accountability:** Being loyal to the department and the community involves holding oneself and others accountable for actions and decisions. This helps maintain high standards of conduct and performance.
7. **Mutual Aid:** Firefighters often extend their loyalty beyond their own department by assisting other agencies during large-scale emergencies. This collaborative spirit is essential for effective emergency response.

RETURN OF THE FIREMAN'S PICNIC

MAY 31ST, 2025 GERALD LEGION PARK

START TIME: 11:00A

- SIMULATED TRAILER HOUSE FIRE
- LIVE BURN TRAILER
- EXTRICATION DEMO
- CPR DEMONSTRATIONS
- MINI PERSONAL SAFETY CLASS
- FIRE ENGINE RALLY
- FIREFIGHTER GAMES
- SAFETY EDUCATION BOOTHS
- CONCESSION STAND
- AND MUCH MORE

Any and all departments are welcome to bring an engine to our rally! We are also looking for vendors and public safety info booths to join in the fun! Contact Morgan Schoenfeld at (314)810-9090 for more information.

8. **Long-term Service:** Many firefighters view their career as a lifelong commitment, serving their communities for decades. This long-term loyalty is reflected in their consistent presence and contribution to the safety and well-being of the people they protect.
9. **Peer Support:** Firefighting is a physically and mentally demanding job. Loyalty among firefighters often translates into a strong network of peer support, helping colleagues cope with the stresses of the job and ensuring they have the resources they need to perform at their best.
10. **Legacy Building:** Loyalty also means working to leave the department and the community better than when one started. This can involve mentoring new firefighters, advocating for improved resources, and contributing to the development of new protocols and safety measures.

The loyalty within the fire service is not just a professional expectation but a deeply personal commitment that shapes the very identity of those who serve. It is this loyalty that enables firefighters to perform their duties with courage and compassion, knowing that they are part of a brotherhood and sisterhood that extends far beyond their immediate team.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Brian Zinanni reported that the LODD benefits will sunset June 19. There is legislation in the works to reallocate that money.

There are several house bills that are being watched including HB 1105 which sets restrictions on fire district property taxes. HB 155 firefighter bill of rights act and HB 365 LODD benefit.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Grant Oetting reported the following membership counts: 389 Directors/Councilman; 389 Retired; 7 Associate; 17 Sustaining; 14 Corporate, 274 Fire Departments; 5641 Active; 2 Educational Entity; 16 Educational Active; 110 Juniors; 4 EMS Department, 52 EMS individuals; 0 911 Entity; 0 911 individuals.

Grant Oetting advised that he and Dylan Honea will be attending the Missouri Fire Chief's conference in Branson in February. Jaime Miller advised she will be attending Winter Fire School Expo in February.

NVFC COMMITTEE

Keith Smith reported that January was Cancer Awareness month, but we need to make everyday cancer awareness.

NVFC ended 2024 with 37,390 individual members. 48 of 50 states are NVFC members.

They held 65 in-person training events in 27 states and dozens of webinars.

They were very successful in renewing 1/2 dozen major grants and secured new ones.

The temporary pause in all federal grants got everyone's attention. While NVFC is very fortunate to have several diversified revenue sources including non-federal grants and partners, they have 5 active federal grants through FEMA, the US Forest Service, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and are a subrecipient on another federal grant awarded to NFPA's research foundation.

NVFC Chairman Hirsch has sent a letter to President Trump requesting the proposed OSHA Fire Brigade Standard be reviewed. While the letter has not yet been made public, key wording of overreaching authority, burdensome regulations, billions in unfunded mandates and negative impact on volunteer recruitment and retention were included.

Everything is more expensive – NVFC has raised individual dues from \$21 to \$24.

The Spring meeting in Alexandria VA is coming up May 8-9-10.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Ken Hoover advised that the following positions are up for election at the 2025 convention: President, 2nd Vice President, District 2 Director, District 6 Director, District 8 Director, District 12 Director and the Sergeant-at-Arms and District 9 Director will need to run to fill unexpired terms.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Jaime Miller advised that the next magazine deadline is February 28. She would also like to get individual director/assistant director photos and a group photo at convention. If you need a new shirt, contact her.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Larry Eggen advised that the scholarship deadline is February 28.

STATE FAIR COMMITTEE

RB Brown reported that he met with Jason Moore and a project manager about the new fire station. They are working on a design and will go out for bid in June. The building will need to be empty by the end of September so help

will be needed. Work details will be posted on their Facebook page.

Discussion was held on purchasing a used Fire Pup costume. Rob Erdel moved to purchase a used Fire Pup costume from Savannah Rural FPD for \$500. Terry Wynne seconded the motion and all approved.

HISTORIAN REPORT

No report was given.

FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

Brian Zinanni reported that during 2024, the team responded to 9 LODD, 34 non-LODD. Of the LODD, four were assisting other states. So far there have been 4 LODD in 2025.

EMS FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

Jaime Miller reported on behalf of Greg Wright – they had 2 Non-LODD call outs since the last FFAM Meeting.

They have been invited to participate with a booth at the Guardian conference in Quapaw Oklahoma later this month

The new web site is www.moemsfuneral-team.com

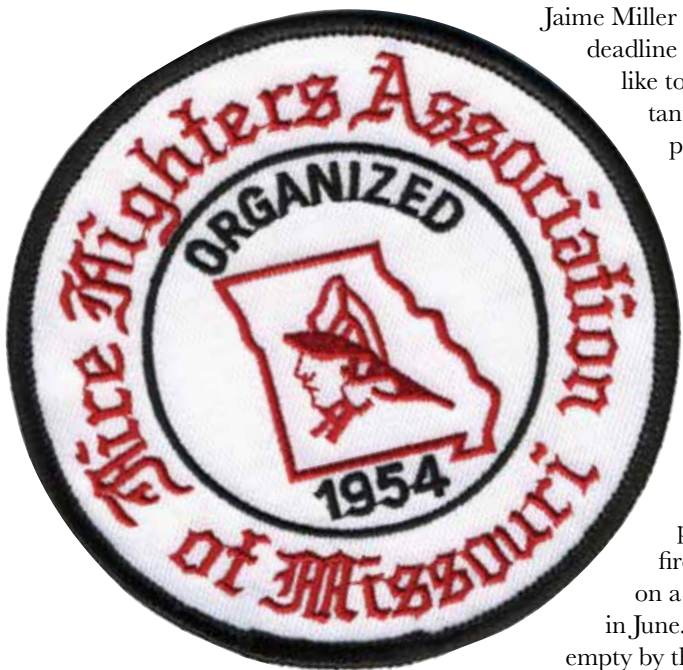
New policies and procedures were put into place January 1.

CEU's and post have been approved for the 2025 annual conference. All are welcome – fire, Law, and EMS and their spouses are welcome to attend. It is October 17-19, 25 at the Camden on the Lake in Osage Beach. Registration starts June 1 on the new website. Sponsorships for the event are there as well. 4 instructors 3 different classes – self-defense for first responders, PTSD, and Sunday the program "Taking care of Ourselves" with nationally known speaker Dr. Barry Young.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Larry Eggen advised he was presented with a firefighter lamp and several other items that could be used as prizes for a fundraising raffle for the museum. He advised he is willing to take on the project if everyone will help sell tickets. Rick Dozier moved to proceed with the fundraising raffle for the museum. Terry Wynne seconded the motion and all approved.

Keith Smith reported that there was an internal election for Foundation Officers in 2025



- Keith Smith Chairman for another year
- Vice Chair is Chief Hoover
- Secretary is Stephen McLane
- Treasurer remains contracted with Melissa Old

Currently 93-non line of duty names for 2025 service Oct 4th & 5th. . We plan to publish the names of those who will be honored in the 2025 services in the next FFAM magazine, so be watching in case we missed someone from 2024. Non line of duty is calendar year so those passing in 2025 will be honored in 2026. Line of duty is an exception and case-by-case.

Old engraving forms – Please go to the memorial website for new forms, especially mailing address. Remove anything that has a PO Box, a Shelbina zip code and especially anything Fulton. 5550 Dunn Drive, KC 65262 is the new address.

Smith advised they must have more volunteers to shoulder the annual service work and have added more in front of and especially behind the scenes for the families and really need help.

The front double doors both have promotional clings in the windows with a QR Code if interested in making a donation.

One of the facility repair projects this year will be raising several sections of the stamped concrete that have settled. They have contracted for that work when the weather allows.

In the 1st two years of CoMoGives, we made some money. This past term they did not and will not be participating in 2025. There were 127 non-profits our first year, 151 our 2nd year and 181 this year..

The Foundation received a generous gift of \$25,000 from Linda Coleberd specifically to museum construction.

Smith advised they continue to accept fire service memorabilia collections if period significant and maintained. They inventory, picture, pack and place into storage. They have turned some down, so if the subject comes up, we are always interested in a conversation, but there is no promise beyond that.

President Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.



Hale
Volunteer Firefighter Fund
5K RUN & WALK
SATURDAY APRIL 19th
REGISTRATION FEE \$35
START AT 9:00 AM
Text 1-660-383-3860 for registraion form or go to
google form <https://forms.gle/xU62jdmABdusq4sJ6>

The Hale Volunteer Firefighter Fund will be hosting a 5k Run Walk on April 19th, 2025 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 28th, 2025.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER
<https://forms.gle/xU62jdmABdusq4sJ6>
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.

The race will begin at 9 AM sharp in front of Hale Lumber. 8 AM registration. We look forward to seeing everyone again at this year's race. Feel free to share and spread the word. A special thank you to everyone and all our sponsors!

Platinum	Silver	Bronze
Daniels Farms	Carroll County Memorial Hospital	BTC Bank
Gold	Hedrick Medical Center	Carroll County Trust
Foster Fire Protection	Hale Hangout	Farmers Electric
Hale MFA	Lindley Funeral Home	Ray Carroll County Grain Growers, INC
McWilliams Lawn Service	Burger Bar	Woody's
		Lock Steel Building Co.
		Hale Methodist Women

Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department now accepting applications for 2025

APPLY NOW

Adult Application (18+):

forms.gle/ss8mxgUSJC7aNaAr5



APPLY NOW

Junior Application (ages 16-17):

forms.gle/2wQTbefXYoGNybYB6



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Get Ready for the Annual Poster Contest



Get Details Online

ffam.org/committees/fire-prevention/

FFAM's poster contest uses the NFPA Fire Prevention Week theme each year. The posters are then judged during the annual convention the following spring so start thinking now for your best ideas and artwork for your poster and send them in.

STEP ON IN

By Larry Eggen, Public Info. Officer

Step On In to volunteer with your FFAM-sponsored fire department at the 2025 Missouri State Fair. If you have not heard, this will be the final year of our current facilities at the fairgrounds. The State of Missouri Legislature has approved funding for a new facility in Sedalia. We are excited about the news and invite anyone who can participate to get in their LAST tour of duty in the current facilities. We have been planning for a great fair and need your assistance in filling out our roster to serve and protect the 2025 fair. We can use your talents at the department and you will need to apply at www.ffam.org. Click on the committees tab, Choose State Fair, MSFFD application 2025-adult or Junior application. You will need to be a current member of the FFAM to be eligible to apply.

The Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department provides fire and medical response during the Missouri State Fair. The MSFFD is operated by members of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri (FFAM). The MSFFD is the only known fully operational fire department in the United States that operates for only 11 days a year. The Department is staffed with dedicated volunteers 24 hours per day throughout the State Fair providing fire suppression and advanced life support emergency medical services.

We staff engine and ambulance crews rotating shifts as activities require. We attend all grandstand events and have several trainings available during the fair. We do daily public relations demonstrations and give truck tours and public education. We have opportunities to help with grilling meals and cooking if you like to share your skills as we cook all our own meals. We staff a first aid facility and provide our own dispatch for calls. Wearing the Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog costumes and interacting with the attendees. You will be busy and enjoy activities and we try to arrange your wishes to do the concerts you want to attend in the evenings. This is your chance to meet new emergency services personnel from around the State of Missouri and make friends for life. If you have any questions, please email me @ leggen@jcfpd.net

I hope to see you at the Fair!



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SERVING WITH HONOR

MO State Fair VFD

By RB Brown, Chairman

Being a member of the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department is a unique and rewarding experience that embodies the spirit of community service and dedication. For 11 days each August, our team stands ready to protect the lives and property of the guests attending the Missouri State Fair, the only fully functional fire department in the nation dedicated to serving a state fair during its active days.

Volunteering our time is not just about firefighting; it is about commitment to safety, camaraderie, and the joy of serving others. Each member brings their skills, passion, and a sense of duty to ensure that every fairgoer can enjoy the festivities with peace of mind. Our presence is a reassurance that help is always nearby, ready to respond to any emergency that may arise.

The success of our department relies heavily on the time, dedication, and loyalty of our members. Without their unwavering commitment, we would not be able

to function effectively. Additionally, we are grateful for the support from local districts and vendors who generously donate equipment, ensuring that we are well-equipped to handle any situation. This collaboration highlights the strength of our community and the shared goal of safety for all.

If you are interested in becoming part of this amazing team, we invite you to apply. Applications are currently being accepted, and you can find more information by visiting the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri (FFAM) website or the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department's Facebook page. Join us in making a difference and serving the guests of the Missouri State Fair with pride and professionalism.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute to a vital service that enhances the safety and enjoyment of one of Missouri's most cherished events. Together, we can continue to uphold the tradition of excellence in fire service at the Missouri State Fair.



Director's Comments



Harry Ward
Director

I am ready for some warmer weather but as I write this article it looks like we are going to have some snow. The good thing is that we got Winter Fire School over before the snow.

The 44th Winter Fire School is in the books. On Friday we had an amazing turnout for the Winter Fire School Expo. I have heard a lot of good comments from attendees and our vendors. During the expo, we had the MFA Volunteer Fire Grant check ceremony. We had 8 departments that came to Columbia to receive their checks. Jason Weirich with MFA said a few words then we announced the winners. Jason Weirich

presented the checks to the fire department representatives. FFAM President Larry Jennings, State Fire Marshal Tim Bean, and Emergency Management Coordinator Jerry Jenkins congratulated each Department on the grant award. We are grateful to MFA for providing an opportunity for needed funding for needed equipment. MFA has awarded over \$236,000 to 158 departments statewide since 2019. The 2025 MFA grant will open in October.

We had a great turnout of students at Winter Fire School taking in-person classes and attending webcasts. I want to thank everyone who attended, all our instructors, and the FRTI staff members.

Keep a look out for our Summer Fire School brochure coming soon. This year's Summer Fire School will be a month-long training extravaganza of classes. Each week

in May we will have several classes ranging from, Fire Officer I, Fire Instructor II, Boat Rescue Operations, Confined Space Rescue: Technician, Live Fire Instructor, Fire Dynamics: Flashover, Trench Rescue: Technician, and so many more. I believe that this Summer Fire School layout will allow more variety of classes and a flexible schedule for students.

MU FRTI's mission remains Focused on providing the very best safety training for the Missouri Fire Service and emergency first responders. If we can be of any assistance, please contact us at 800-869-3476 or 573-882-4735.

Find Out More Online:

MUFRTI.ORG



Find the Full Training Schedule at MUFRTI.org

DATE COURSE CITY CONTACT PHONE

03/17	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Core	Clinton	Matt Willings	(660) 885-2560
03/18	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Marshfield	Travis Cramer	(417) 839-4020
03/19	Gasoline Tank Truck Specialist	Republic	Jerod Youb	(417) 771-3800
03/19	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Aerial	Clinton	Matt Willings	(660) 885-2560
03/20	Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success (Second in Series)	Ferguson	Aaron Bockhorst	(314) 313-6106
03/21	Large Vehicle Rescue	Bolivar	Chris McAntire	(417) 599-4954
03/22	Emergency Response to Ammonia Incidents	St. James	sematraining.com	
03/28	Introduction to the Fire Service	Hayti	Brian Irions	(573) 724-0075
03/29	Handling LP Gas Emergencies	Cape Girardeau	Matt Mittrucker	(573) 339-6330
03/29	Vehicle Rescue: Operations	Bloomfield	Daniel Dew	(573) 568-3576
03/29	The Lithium-Ion Revolution	Fayette	sematraining.com	
04/02	Avoiding Operational Pitfalls for the First Arriving Officer in Command	Valley Park	Curtis VanGaasbeek	(636) 225-4288
04/04	Introduction to the Fire Service	Diggins	David Smith	(417) 241-1770
04/05	Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue	Farmington	Adam Schenavar	(573) 756-2324
04/05	Vehicle Fire Fighting	Bloomfield	Daniel Dew	(573) 568-3576
04/05	Emergency Response to Ammonia Incidents	Oregon	sematraining.com	
04/05	The Lithium-Ion Revolution	Boonville	sematraining.com	
04/07	Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Pumper	Clinton	Matt Willings	(660) 885-2560
04/11	Vehicle Rescue: Operations	Pineville	Ryan Drake	(417) 592-6728
04/11	Vehicle Rescue: Operations	Urbana	Larry Seynard	(314) 249-0139
04/12	Elevator Operations (3 Elevators)	Savannah	Tom Sontheimer	(816) 617-5826
04/12	Vehicle Rescue: Operations	Matthews	Brandi White	(573) 233-0303
04/12	Handling LP Gas Emergencies	St. James	sematraining.com	
04/12	The Lithium-Ion Revolution	Butler	sematraining.com	(660) 679-7175
04/18	Lost Person Search and Rescue	Brighton	Nathaniel McKnight	(417) 839-1468
04/19	Fire Fighter I and II Live Fire Skills	Cape Girardeau	Matt Mittrucker	(573) 339-6330
04/23	Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking (Third in Series)	Ferguson	Aaron Bockhorst	(314) 313-6106
04/23	Elevator Operations (3 Elevators)	Rogersville	Grant Peters	(417) 753-4265
04/25	Introduction to the Fire Service	Sedgewickville	Dana Craft	(573) 513-2598
04/25	The Lithium-Ion Revolution	Kirksville	sematraining.com	

SCAN CODE



FOR SCHEDULE

NINETY-THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER FIRE SCHOOL

MAY 6 - JUNE 1, 2025

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE



REGISTER NOW!
MUFRTI.org

Thank you to the Missouri Division of Fire Safety for providing some of these classes at no cost. 🧯		HOURS	PAGE	FEE	MODFS	Classes daily during May 2025 from 08:00—17:00 with a break for lunch.						
CODE	CLASS TITLE					Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
WEEK 1:					MAY	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
301	Introduction to the Fire Service (continued week 2)	40	X	FREE	🧯							
302	Avoiding Operational Pitfalls for the First Arriving Officer in Command	4	X	FREE	🧯							
303	Fire Officer I	40	X	\$275								
304	Fire Service Instructor I	40	X	\$275								
305	Multi Family Fire Tactics: Garden & Stand-Alone Apartment Buildings	4	X	FREE	🧯							
307	Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Tech, Hybrid	40	X	FREE	🧯							
308	Saving Our Own	8	X	FREE	🧯							
WEEK 2:					MAY	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
309	Boat Rescue Operations	32	X	\$495								
310	Confined Space Rescue: Technician	24	X	FREE	🧯							
311	Fire Officer II	40	X	\$275								
312	Fire Service Instructor II	40	X	\$275								
313	Making the Grab - Residential Search	8	X	FREE	🧯							
314	To the Rescue: Today's Vehicle Rescues Challenges	16	X	\$150								
301	Introduction to the Fire Service (starts week 1)	40	X	FREE	🧯							
WEEK 3:					MAY	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
315	Large Area Search Team Training	16	X	FREE	🧯							
316	Live Fire Instructor Blended	16	X	FREE	🧯							
317	Lost Person Search and Rescue	12	X	FREE	🧯							
318	Rope Rescue Refresher: Patient Handling Systems	8	X	FREE	🧯							
319	Trench Rescue: Technician	24	X	FREE	🧯							
329	Rope Rescue Refresher: Anchors and High-Lines	8	X	FREE	🧯							
WEEK 4:					MAY/JUNE	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
320	Basic Pump Operations	12	X	FREE	🧯							
321	Fire Dynamic: Flashover	8	X	\$150								
330	Fire Dynamic: Flashover	8	X	\$150								
322	Fire Officer III	40	X	\$275								
323	Fire Service Instructor III	40	X	\$275								
324	Structural Collapse Rescue: Initial Response	16	X	FREE	🧯							
325	Tactical Decision Making from the Right Seat	4	X	FREE	🧯							
326	Through the Lock	4	X	FREE	🧯							
327	Truck Company Operations without a Truck	8	X	FREE	🧯							
328	Virtual Reality Simulation for First Arriving Units and Officers	12	X	FREE	🧯							



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cylinders rated for 6,000 PSI Model ACP14V643304000, Air Conditioning, Automatic Tire chains, Interior Medical compartment, 3 interior overhead compartments, Onan 40 KW three-phase PTO generator 1130 hours, Warn XD 9000 Portable Winch, 1 Low pressure Reel with 150' of ½ hose rated 250 psi, 2 Electric cord reels, both reels have 200 ft of carol super vu-tron 2 yellow 10/4 cord, 1 High-pressure reel with 200' of ½ hose rated 6000 psi, 1 Holmatro Pump, 2 Hydraulic hose reels with 100' of ¼ hose on each reel, 1 Holmatro cutter,

1 Holmatro spreader, 1 Arrow stick traffic indicator 47" Code 3 Model NASL847, 1 Code 3 electronic siren, 1 Federal E-Qzb siren, 1 Code 3 XL Model 556A 56" light bar (Cab roof), 2- Code 3 XL 5100 22" light bar (cab roof sides), 1 Will-Burt night scan powerlite (roof-mounted) Model NS15-9000, 6 1,500-watt, 240-volt quartz halogen optimum lights on mask, Mask Height 24 ft 3.5 in, 4 David Clark Headsets.

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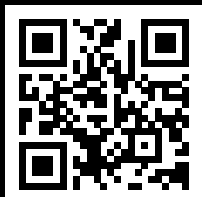
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