VISIT OUR NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE AT:
WWW.MFAS.COM

Authorized Sales and Certified Service Centers

CORPORATE  713.692.0911  S. HOUSTON  713.475.2411  MANSFIELD  817.467.0911
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### Tentative Agenda

**Friday, January 28, 2011 • Hampton Inn & Suites**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 pm – 5 pm</td>
<td>SFFMA Executive Board Meeting</td>
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**Saturday, January 29, 2011 • Hampton Inn & Suites**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am – Noon</td>
<td>Certification Board SALON D</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Finance SALON A</td>
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<td>Constitution &amp; Bylaws PELHAM</td>
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<td>Pumper Race RIATA B</td>
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<td>TFA Meeting RIATA A</td>
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<td>International (8:30-10:30am) RIATA A</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am – Noon</td>
<td>Poster LATIGO</td>
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<td>Exhibits EXHIBIT HALL</td>
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<td>Memorial CAYUSE</td>
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<td>Driving Contest RIATA A</td>
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<td>EMS SALON C</td>
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<td>T*Flag Meeting SALON B</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 pm – 1 pm</td>
<td>Lunch ON YOUR OWN</td>
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<td>1 pm – 2 pm</td>
<td>District Officers SALON B</td>
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<td>2 pm – 4 pm</td>
<td>Review of June Conf. Schedule SALON B</td>
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<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Site Selection SALON B</td>
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All meetings adjourn on Saturday. No meetings scheduled for Sunday.

Redfield

Space is limited, make your reservations today!

Hampton Inn & Suites
1700 Rodeo Drive
Mesquite, TX 75149
Phone: 972-329-3100
Rate: $90 standard room/$110 suite per night plus tax

Group code: SFFMA
Cut off date: January 14, 2011

Good day to all. As I stated in many meetings, a lot of information is at your finger tips. Just go to the Web Page and start surfing. www.sffma.org. As new information becomes available make sure you are receiving the E*InfoFire newsletter e-mail! That way when something is published, it will come to your e-mail. Be sure and read through this magazine and see some new benefits that are available to you as members of this association. I would like to remind all, Fire Service personal members or not, to send the State office names of any firefighter or auxiliary, who have passed away since last year, to be recognized at our June Annual Memorial Service in Mesquite. Please include department name, member name, date of death and active or retired to memorial@sffma.org. This information needs to be in by May 13th to be printed in the Memorial Service program.

Legislative Session is just around the corner again. We will closely watch any attempt at regulation. We’re obviously going to support Larry Taylor’s bill on probate fee exemptions for LODDs. We also have to closely watch Sunset on the Texas Forest Service and The Department of Insurance which includes the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

If something sensible comes out regarding an exemption on budget cuts for small agencies, we need to support it as this would impact Pension Commission and Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

This is not the year to get aggressive, especially for things that cost money. Your Legislature is going to be concerned about an 18 billion dollar shortfall and redistricting, and not necessarily in that order. We need to be cautious so that at the end of the session we haven’t lost anything, especially 2604 funding and/or the old Commission grant funding that transferred to TFS. We will possibly try to assist in the clean up language for the black fire hydrant bill.

The Certification Board will be meeting this month and possibly November to continue work on the Certification Program changes. More information will be coming out on the website and E*InfoFire newsletters.

The SFFMA Online program and all of the paper forms have been updated to track/report by objectives. Fire departments will, in the long run, find this system easier because it provides a clear report of which specific items their firefighters need to cover for their next level of certification. If you have questions, contact your Certification Coordinator in your department or if you need further assistance contact your Certification Zone Representative. If you are not sure which zone you are in, you can go to the web page and find your zone, if all else fails contact Kevin Creamer at the Austin office.

Your Executive Board has made all the Fall District meetings this year with one to five board members at each meeting, and we are excited to make your upcoming 2011 Spring meetings to bring you hopefully good and exciting news for the Fire Service. At one of the meetings’ I was asked in a one-on-one conversation how many miles I have traveled. I told them I did not want to think about it because I enjoyed all the meetings and sometimes it takes 8-9 hours to get there, but when I am there it is well worth the trip to see families. I would like to encourage all members to go to your District Meetings and stay on top of what is going on in your area. Also make plans to make the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association 135th Annual Training Conference and Convention in Mesquite, Texas June 17-22, 2011.

Texas Firemen assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Advertising in Texas Firemen does not imply approval or endorsement by the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas. Writers, photographers and artists are encouraged to submit their work to Texas Firemen.
Marshals’ Association of Texas

Do you ever wonder when the “busy times” will slow down or come to an end? For the staff at the SFFMA office, we do that quite often. We have our “cycles” of more busy times than others but for the most part, there always appears to be a project, schedule, or deadline to meet.

Our summer at the association office was yet another busy one. Between our conference, Spanish school sales, municipal school sales/exhibits and legislative day, we always seemed to have something going on. Recently we made some great improvements to our website and the online certification reporting program.

We also upgraded our database to a newer version which will allow for more customized reports for our staff, board and membership when there is a need. Our online committee listings now show live data directly from our database! Now, when a committee member makes a change to his or her contact info, the change is immediately visible in the committee listing that person is a member of.

As we go into the fall season, I look forward to the colder weather but the travels across the state pick back up. Between district meetings, area schools, board meetings, and various conferences, quite a few road miles will be put on the association vehicles.

Please remember, SFFMA has several outreach services available to you, your department, your district, county fire association, etc. We are available to come to your area fire school and exhibit or sell training materials or logoed items, we offer the recruitment and retention education program and also the SFFMA member benefit program. If your department is considering joining SFFMA or utilizing our certification program, please give us an opportunity to come to your facility, make a visit and show you all the benefits we have to offer!

One of the most beneficial and rewarding projects for the summer was helping coordinate the legislative trip to College Station on July 28th. As we boarded the bus with 34 legislative staffers, offices, etc, we began what I would consider a historic and rewarding trip for SFFMA and the legislative offices. We took those representatives to the Texas Forest Service headquarters where they heard briefings and updates from Director Tom Boggs of TFS, Director Gary Sera of TEEX, and Chief Les Bunte of ESTI. Visitors got to see equipment purchased with HB2604 funds and a dozer and grader purchased with wildfire protection program funds. From there, we took the group to the fire school, bunkered those who wanted to fight fire and put them on a project. To end off the trip we identified constituents from each of the representative’s area, and each were able to visit with those departments that were represented along with getting a personalized tour of the fire field.

This great day could not have happened without the help of our lobbyist Trey Blocker, TFlag Chairman Steve Perdue, Texas Forest Service and TEEX staff!

The certification board continues to update the certification program to accommodate new standards aimed at increasing the safety of firefighters in Texas. Please continue to monitor the SFFMA website and read the newsletters to be aware of the changes coming down the road. There are many myths and rumors about the program’s intentions so if you hear of something that just doesn’t sound right, PLEASE contact our office so that we may put the right information out.

We are here to serve you and offer programs in which you can benefit from as an individual and department. Two new member benefit programs we are offering is a cooperative purchasing group to purchase your medical supplies and some fire equipment through North Central EMS Cooperative (www.ncmesc.org) and discounted home and auto insurance for SFFMA members through California Casualty. More information on both of these programs can be found in this magazine.

Be safe!

Chris Barron
Executive Director
SAV E T HE D ATE!
135th SFFMA Annual Conference and Convention

Come celebrate Father’s Day in style!
June 17 - 22, 2011

I want to personally welcome you to Mesquite, Texas. We are very excited to be chosen as the 2011 host of the 135th State Firemen’s & Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas Annual Conference to be held June 17 to 22, 2011, at the Hampton Inn and Suites. We are located just east of Dallas, and if you want to see an authentic Texas town, you have found it here in Mesquite.

Mesquite is a pleasing mixture of the old and the new. We are the home of the world famous Mesquite Championship Rodeo, where you can experience the excitement of the Old West in air-conditioned comfort on Friday and Saturday nights from June to August watching cowboys and cowgirls compete in thrilling rodeo events. A short distance away, you can take in a theater production or observe an art exhibit at the Mesquite Arts Center, or you may enjoy one of our live country music shows around the old Town Square. If you’re longing for something good to eat or drink, you can satisfy any type of food craving with Mesquite’s more than 150 outstanding restaurants. You can shop ‘til you drop at our mall or one of our many shopping centers, or for something more exhilarating, you may want to visit Devil’s Bowl Speedway, where you can see spine-tingling Sprint car racing on a dirt track on Friday and Saturday evenings. You may prefer to engage in a round of golf at our Mesquite Golf Club or tour one of our old historic homes. If that’s not enough for you, downtown Dallas is only 15 minutes away, and Ft. Worth is only 40 minutes more to the west.

You won’t find more friendly place than Mesquite, Texas, and we trust that we will be able to provide the perfect environment for you to enjoy the SFFMA Training Workshops, Exhibits and Games. We hope you will leave here with many new friends and wonderful memories of a great conference in our town.

Sincerely,

Mark Kerby
Fire Chief

Remember to budget $150 per person for 2011 Conference Registration

HOST HOTEL
Hampton Inn & Suites
1700 Rodeo Drive
Mesquite, TX 75149
Ph: 972-329-3100
Rate: $90 standard room/$110 suite
Group Name: SFFMA

ALTERNATE HOTELS
Courtyard by Marriott
Dallas/ Mesquite
2300 Interstate 30
Mesquite, TX 75150
Ph: 972-681-3300
Rate: $90 + tax
Group Name: SFFMA

Holiday Inn Express
21850 IH 635
Mesquite, TX 75149
Ph: 972-288-9900
Rate: $90 + tax
Group name: SFFMA

We look forward to sharing our Real. Texas. Hospitality. with such a wonderful group whose dedication to service is an inspiration.

Mesquite CVB
For more than 50 years, the Mesquite Championship Rodeo has entertained families with thrilling rodeo events such as saddle bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing and more. Exciting changes for this year include jumbo video boards to highlight all of the action, a private club and more children's activities. Kids will continue to enjoy the petting zoo and pony rides, along with the Dash for Cash, and Mutton Bustin. Enjoy home-cooked barbecue at Sonny Bryan's restaurant, and shop for that perfect souvenir at Wild Bill's Rodeo Shop. Performances are every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. from June through August, in air-conditioned Resistol Arena.

The Devil's Bowl Speedway offers explosive race-car action on its half-mile, outdoor dirt track. Here all types of vehicles race in action packed competitions, including the O'Reilly Spring and Winter Nationals. The season runs from March to mid-October, Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. Call for ticket information.

From symphony to drama to art exhibits, a wide variety of cultural activities can be found at the Mesquite Arts Center. The Concert Hall is home to the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra and the Mesquite Symphonic Band; the Black Box Theater houses the Mesquite Community Theater, and artists display their talents in the Main and Chamber Galleries. See the website for Calendar of Events and details.

If you are a “little bit country, a little bit rock ‘n roll, or a little bit gospel”, then Rodeo City Music Hall is the place for you! Every Saturday night at 7:30 pm the stage is packed with musical talent that will have your foot tapping and your hands clapping – you may even find yourself singing along!
Legislative Day at Brayton Fire Field

On July 28, 2010, SFFMA invited all Texas Legislators to participate in a field trip to become better informed about the operations of the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Engineering Extension Service. Representatives from US Senator John Cornyn and Senator Hutchinson's office along with approximately 40 State Representative's and Senator's offices were represented during this historic event.

The trip started with a bus ride to College Station then a trip to the Texas Forest Service headquarters where they were given an overview of TFS, the Emergency Operations Center and TEEX. After lunch, the bus took everyone over to the fire field where the Staff and the Legislators were given the opportunity to suit up and participate in a live fire exercise while at the fire field.

At the conclusion of the live fire training, each of the offices were allowed time to be given a tour of the field and meet with their constituents while there.

 Pictures of the 2010 Municipal School and Legislative Day may be found at www.sffma.org

Thank you to all who participated!

Recruitment and Retention Program

SFFMA is leading an effort to recruit and retain more volunteer firefighters in local fire departments. Through a grant received from the Department of Homeland Security, SFFMA has built a recruitment and retention program to assist Texas fire departments to get more firefighters and keep the firefighters in each department.

Since February 1st, 2010 SFFMA is providing:

- A two hour workshop
- All materials, Public Service Announcements, Posters

What we need is a hosting department or location, a convenient time/date, and for as many local fire departments to attend the seminar as possible.

To schedule a visit please email recruitment@sffma.org

* For those departments who have implemented the program, don't forget to submit your semi-annual reports!
WHERE I AM TODAY

When I was a child I can remember I wanted to be a Fireman (like any child) and a Motorcycle Cop. I was born in Chester, Pennsylvania November 13, 1960. Yea that’s right I am a dam yankee one that won’t go home, anyway, my Mother and Father, older brother and sister, and twin sister moved to Chicago, Illinois, Bradenton, Florida, and then called home Carthage, Texas in 1970. At the age of 20 I started work for the City of Carthage July 27, 1981 as a Mechanic, I will never forget when I received my first pay check from the city, they had deducted retirement and I went straight to the city pay roll department and told them they made a mistake that I did not approve them to deduct for retirement and she told me that it was mandatory, I then told her to make a record of that I did not approve of this. Well I hope she did not record it because retirement looks better every day now. As I had to work on all city vehicles when I got to drive the police cars and fire trucks to the maintenance shop I enjoyed turning on the lights and sirens, never got caught except for one time I told my boss that I had to make sure everything worked. One day I got called to a fire scene of a fire truck problem after fixing the truck I watched the firemen at work and said I can do that. I joined the Carthage Fire Department September 1986. Receive my Reserve Law Enforcement license 1988. Was voted Fireman of the Year 1992. November 4, 1995 I married Jennifer with her 5 year old daughter Valerie and Bryce came 3-14-98 they all have been the best things in my life and I love them very much. My first District meeting was in Carthage. I was approached by my Fire Chief and a Fireman as I was setting up the ladder truck and they asked me if I would be interested in running for Northeast District Office. Sure I’ll try anything once, at that meeting I was voted in by the District members as I preformed the duties of office I have learned a lot about SFFMA, ever since I joined the Fire Department I received a SFFMA membership card yearly and put it in my wallet not to see it till the next year when I replaced it with a new one. After becoming a District Officer I started making State Conventions and state business for the good of state firefighters, In Corpus Christi 2004 I asked my District how they would feel about me running for 4th Vice President and they were very excited. When I returned home I asked the City and Fire Department and they were behind me 100% so in Wichita Falls 2005 at the close of Convention I announced that I would be running for 4th Vice President in Waco. Though it has been expensive and time consuming and a lot of traveling I would not trade it for anything, I would like to thank the City of Carthage, Carthage Fire Department, Northeast Texas District, and especially my wife and family for letting me serve in this position. As I elevated to President in Corpus Christi it was a great and very proud time for me and Jennifer as our son Bryce was voted in as SFFMA State Mascot. I would encourage every one to get involved with your District funcitons as I have had unforgettable experiences with the pumper races, great food and fellowship, and as I have been making other District meetings through out the State in the past 6 years all the 16 District have something different and exciting that they do, if you are able please try to make other District meetings.

Bryan Rickert
SFFMA President
Transfer to Objective-Based Tracking

In order to make tracking and reporting of training easier and more clear, the Certification Board recently revised the Program to use individual objective completion in place of training “hours”. The use of hours could be arbitrary, and the same class could be reported differently depending on the interpretation of the program. Reports could be confusing (and monotonous) requiring totaling of hours and then subtraction from the requirements, often leading to confusion, mistakes and delays in Progress Report closure and issuance of certifications.

The SFFMA Online program and all of the paper forms are updated to track/report by objectives. Fire departments will, in the long run, find this an easier system of tracking and reporting training. In place of the math used in the old format, the new format reports whether trainees completed specific objectives. Yes or No, these are the only choices.

Certification for Introductory Fire Fighting is still available. There is no longer a separate section on the forms for completion of Introductory, because these objectives are a portion of those required for Basic Firefighter certification. Introductory objectives are part of the Basic section and have an asterisk (*) next to them on the new forms.

For more information, contact your Zone Representative or Kevin Creamer at the Austin office.

“Online” Certification Workshop Now Available

Are you overdue for your Certification Workshop and cannot find one in your area? Do you have applications or reports on hold due to workshop attendance? We have good news for you!

The Certification Board recently approved use of an “online” workshop option. Although specifically designed for Coordinators overdue on workshop attendance to meet participation requirements, the online option is available to anyone wanting to learn more about the Certification Program.

Through review of a PowerPoint presentation and completion of an online quiz, Coordinators can meet their attendance participation requirement without driving across the state. The Board does emphasize the importance of the face-to-face interaction with other Coordinators, Chiefs, and your Zone Representative at in-person workshops, so the online option is only for occasional use. Coordinators are still required to make their next workshop attendance in person.

To request the online workshop option, contact Kevin Creamer at the Austin office.

Progress Reports are due January 31st

Here’s a little reminder that your department’s annual training summary (Progress Report) is due by January 31st, 2011 covering all training earned through the end of 2010. The form is a little different this year, so please take a look at it early. You may find the task to be easier than in previous years, but if you have any questions, please contact Joyce Stein at the Austin office.

Certification Department contact information

Kevin Creamer
Phone: 512-454-3473 ext. 903
Email: kcreamer@sffma.org

Joyce Stein
Phone: 512-454-3473 ext. 904
Email: jstein@sffma.org

Conferencia Internacional 2011
Laredo, TX
13 - 15 de enero del 2011

2ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LAREDO

Date: January 13 - 15, 2011
Location: Embassy Suites Laredo
110 Calle Del Norte
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: 956-723-9100

Training classes offered in spanish: Haz Mat Awareness and Operations; Confined Space Rescue; Driver Simulator; NIMS 100/200; National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer Class; ACLS

For more information contact
Diana Cardona at international@sffma.org
Members!

It has been a pretty busy year, and it’s gone by quickly! We are nearing the end of 2010, and the next year is approaching. We hope you like what we have in store for you! First of all, we’ve been working on getting a lot of our system and materials updated so that it’s easier and faster for you to use. The new look for our membership card is finally finished!

I’m including a picture so you can take a look at the new and improved design. Soon we will be accepting 2011 dues, so be sure to get your 2011 renewals in starting November 1st.

I also want to mention that there has been an increase in departments using SFFMA Online for the membership process. This program allows you to control the status if your members and generate new invoices/ rosters. If your department hasn’t used SFFMA Online please email membership@sffma.org for a step-by-step guide on how to use it and update your department information.

With our new system updates, it has become increasingly important that members that need online access have a functioning e-mail address. Please be sure to have your e-mail information on record. It is the way we communicate important alerts and association information. Legislative session is approaching and we just want to remind you to get involved and remain informed on the important issues that can affect the Texas Fire Service.

In case you haven’t heard, there are some new benefits being offered, so check those out!

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of SFFMA!

Membership Administrator

---

Are you tired of paying catalog prices?
If so, the NCEMSC can help you!

The NCEMSC assists members in providing cost-effective, quality service by negotiating discounted contracts for the following equipment and supplies. As an SFFMA member, you have the opportunity to share in these discounts.

- **Ambulances**
- **Billing & Collection Services**
- **Continuing Education**
- **Dashboard/Analysis/Alerting Software**
- **Defibrillators/ AEDs & ALS Monitors**
- **Electronic Patient Care Reporting**
- **EMS Legal Services & Seminars**
- **Fire Fighting Equipment and Supplies**
- **Fleet Fuel Cards**
- **Medical Supplies & Equipment**
- **Mobile Gateway**
- **Patient Safety Straps**
- **Patient & Customer Satisfaction Surveys**
- **Promotional Clothing & Items**

The NCEMSC is affiliated with the SFFMA...therefore, if you are part of SFFMA, you are part of the NCEMSC! SFFMA elects to pay your annual NCEMSC membership dues ($75 value)!

---

Inquire Today!

North Central EMS Cooperative

**www.ncemsc.org**

888.603.4426

office@ncemsc.org

EMS PROVIDERS SAVING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR!
### TRAINING TUITION

- Cost-share assistance for Training Tuition grants will be capped at a maximum of $12,000 per department per fiscal year (September 1 through August 31). Training Tuition grants are capped at a maximum of $85 per trainee per day, a maximum of $595 per trainee per school, and a maximum of $6,000 per school per department.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR RECEIVING HB 2604 GRANT MONEY (4th meeting 08/10)

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Workers' Compensation Purchasing Group Earns Dividends from Texas Mutual

The Workers' Compensation Emergency Service Organization (ESO) Purchasing Group sponsored by VFIS of Texas/Regnier & Associates and endorsed by SFFMA has earned a $65,456 group dividend from Texas Mutual Insurance Company. Dividend checks were recently mailed out to individual policyholders for their portion of the dividend.

This dividend is based largely on the group’s premium volume and loss ratio. Since the group’s inception in 1999, more than $580,000 in group dividends has been paid out to group members. By committing to workplace safety and helping injured workers return to productive employment, purchase group members improve their chances of qualifying for future dividends. In addition to potential dividends, members get a group discount on their workers’ compensation premium. They also have access to free industry-specific safety materials, including online videos, pamphlets, DVDs and a written safety plan. This group dividend is separate from the $100 million in general dividends that Texas Mutual recently mailed out to individual policyholders. Many purchasing group members qualified for dividends under both plans.

VFIS of Texas Celebrates 25-Year Anniversary

VFIS of Texas is thrilled to announce the celebration of our 25th Anniversary of providing specialty insurance coverages to Texas emergency service organizations. We have experienced a tremendous amount of growth in our 25 years, becoming known as the industry leader in taking care of our customers’ needs. The credit for our success goes to our ever-growing number of loyal customers for their continued confidence and support.

On October 25, 1985, Cynthia Regnier became the Regional Director for VFIS for the state of Texas. VFIS is a subsidiary of Glatfelter Insurance Group in York PA and is the largest provider of insurance, education and consulting services to emergency service organizations. With over 15,000 clients in the United States and Canada, VFIS has a long history of helping the Emergency Service Community to protect their assets and manage the many risks that they face. We look forward to the next 25 years and continue our promise of service, trust, and value. It has been our special privilege to be your chosen provider of insurance products and services. Thank you!
State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO YOU!!

Reasons to be a SFFMA Member:

• Membership with 21,000 other Texas Fire Fighters, EMS & Fire Service Professionals
• Certification Programs available in Fire Suppression, Investigation, Inspection, and Prevention, Driver/Operator, Wildland Firefighter, Rescue, Officer, and Instructor
• SFFMA Online - Web-based Online Training Reporting Tool
• The Fire Service’s Legislative Voice at the State and Federal Level
• Sponsorship of Texas Fire Training School at Texas A&M University
• $3000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy for all SFFMA Members
• Monthly E* InfoFire Email based Newsletter, InfoFire Conference Edition, and Annual Texas Firemen Magazine
• Annual Training Conference & Convention discounts
• Receive special discount rate with La Quinta Inn and La Quinta Inn & Suites by using promotional code “SFFMA10” prices may vary depending on locations
• Industrial Fire Services Support through TIESB
• The SFFMA Website at www.sffma.org for up to date information concerning the fire service
• Credit Card Discount Program - SFFMA / Bank of America Credit Card
• Cellular Phone Service/Equipment Discounts : 11% off AT&T, 23% off Sprint/Nextel, and 10% off T*Mobile
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• Discounts on Security Alarm Monitoring through Monitronics
• Discounts on home and auto insurance through California Casualty
• Discounts on EMS equipment and supplies through North Central EMS Co-Operative affiliates. www.ncemsc.org
• Travel, Retail and Insurance benefits through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)

For a complete list of AMBA benefits, please visit www.sffmabenefits.org

Contact: membership@sffma.org or 1.800.580.7336
SFFMA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
OFFICIAL RULES
(Revised September 1, 2010)

Nominee’s department MUST be a member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas.
Nominee MUST hold current individual membership with SFFMA.

Each nominee will be considered on a Point System to determine the three finalists. The areas to be considered are:

1) Leadership abilities including:
   • Leadership positions held
   • Work knowledge
   • Communications
   • Creativity and Innovation
   • Attitude
   • Interaction with others
2) Dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods
3) Involvement in SFFMA, both state and district level
4) Community involvement, both church and civic
5) Acts of heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery
6) Accomplishments/awards received
7) Certifications held
8) Letters of Recommendation
   (no more than 4 please)
9) Pictures may be submitted
   (No more than 4 please)

All nominations must be submitted to local Districts by a fire department on or before the District's Spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from fire department and signed by Fire Chief, Assistant Chief or President.

One nominee from each District should be submitted in a sealed envelope to state SFFMA office no later than the 4th Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from District and signed by the District President or Secretary.

The state SFFMA office will log in the submissions as received and will leave the submissions unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results.

The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the 1st Business Meeting. All submissions will be returned to the Districts after the state convention.
Did you know you can get up to three sets of Certified Firefighter License Plates?

All you have to do is submit your application together with your basic certification to SFFMA.

For more information, visit our website at www.sffma.org or call 512-454-3473

REMINDER

Injured Firefighters Assistance Fund Available

Through a grant received from the Department of Homeland Security, SFFMA is able to make available $20,000 each year to assist injured/disabled volunteer firefighters who may need financial assistance in paying medical bills or lost wages.

The program is being made available to those firefighters who may not have been covered by a workers compensation policy or health insurance.

An injured firefighter just needs to fill out the application form which may be found at http://www.sffma.org/pdfdocs/miscpdfs/SFFMAFirefighterInjury-DisabilityClaimForm.pdf and submit it to the SFFMA Office along with any required documentation, incident reports, etc.

SFFMA will review the application and decide to what level the firefighter will receive assistance. Assistance is limited to $5000 per applicant and will only be given to applicants involved in emergency operations at the time of the injury.
Fire Engineering’s Handbook for Firefighter I and II
ISBN: 1593701352
List price - $95.00
Member price - $80.75
Fire Engineering’s Handbook for Firefighter I and II, and its ancillary products compose a totally new approach to training Firefighter I and II.

Fire Engineering’s Skill Drills DVD Set for Firefighter I and II
ISBN: 1593701748
List price - $195.00
Member price - $165.75
2-DVD Set (Combined run time: approx. 7 hours).

COMING SOON!
Drawn by Fire by Paul Combs
ISBN: 1593702434
List price - $29.00
Member price - $24.65
The powerful messages delivered in this collection of 156 fire service editorial cartoons by Paul Combs.

Delmar's Fire and Life Safety Educator
ISBN: 1428305416
List price - $59.95
Member price - $50.97
Based on the 2010 Edition of NFPA Standard 1035, Fire and Life Safety Educator is a comprehensive and reader-friendly guide for those who are involved in public education for the fire service.

Firefighting Strategies and Tactics, 2E
ISBN: 1418048933
List price: $98.95
Member price: $84.10
This comprehensive text is an ideal building block for aspiring fire officers and an essential review for experienced command officers.

Case Studies for the Emergency Responder
ISBN: 1418053597
List Price: $28.95
Member Price: $22.05
Case Studies for the Emergency Responder.

Industrial Fire Brigade series
List price - $4,690.00*
Member price - $4,135.00*
This series of 12 programs for the industrial sector is designed for training fire brigade members to the incipient level, which provides the capability to extinguish incipient-stage fires while wearing normal work clothing. This basic training is a prerequisite for advanced exterior and/or interior structural level fire brigades.

* Price includes 12 DVD series only. Additional items sold separately.

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Introducing ILMS Version 2 for Action Training’s CBT products.
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For more information or to purchase these materials contact Julie Beauchamp at 512-454-3473 ext. 905
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Fire Service Pump Operator: Principles and Practice
Item #0763739081
List price - $71.95
Member Cost - $57.56

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, 5E
Item #36741
List price - $58.00
Member Cost - $49.30

EMR Complete: A Worktext
Item #0135037719
Check out this new First Responder/ ECA text based on the new National EMS Standards.
List price - $86.6
Member Cost - $73.66

BLOW OUT SALE!

First Responder: Your First Response in Emergency Care, 4E
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Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement, 7E
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THAT’S 20% OFF!
List price - $84.00
Member Cost $67.20

A Leadership Guide for Volunteer Fire Departments, 4E
Item #0763742074
List price - $83.95
Member Cost - $67.16

Visit the SFFMA e-Store at www.sffma.org for updates and a wider selection of books and related materials.
TIPS FOR SECURING FINANCING IN TODAY’S LENDING ENVIRONMENT

Is your department or ESD planning a new station or apparatus purchase? If so, there are several things you can do in advance which will make the process easier and save your department time and money.

Due to the financial crisis of 2008 and the resulting changes in banking laws and regulations, the availability of credit has seriously tightened. For those departments or ESDs that have borrowed money in the past year for stations or apparatus, you may have noticed the tougher credit and underwriting standards as compared to years past. The reason is that Volunteer Fire Departments and ESDs access the same capital markets which the states, cities, counties and public schools access, and some drastic changes have occurred in that market over the last couple of years. These more demanding underwriting guidelines have resulted in some departments being unable to secure the financing they need for their station or apparatus acquisitions. Here are some tips to help your department be prepared so delays and higher interest costs are avoided:

First, you will need to have at least three years of financial records available. Typically the ESDs will have audited financial statements and the VFDs have unaudited financial statements. The financial statements consist of a Balance Sheet and Income & Expense statement for each year. If the request for financing is made more than six (6) months after the fiscal year, interim statements for the part of the current year to date will be needed as well. In addition, if the request for financing is within sixty days of the fiscal year end, a budget for the next year may also be needed.-

A large number of departments use Quick Books to keep their records which has the ability to print out the required statements for each fiscal year. If you do not have access to Quick Books, you may want to consider purchasing it or a similar software product for your department. Good financial record-keeping for the department is as important as training of its fire fighters.

In addition to financial statements, an ESD will need copies of the executed documentation that evidences the election and formation of the ESD. A VFD will need a copy of its Articles of Incorporation, 501-C3 letter and current Fire Service Agreement. This documentation is required to support the tax-exempt borrowing ability of the department and are required under IRS Code 150-E3. Compliance with these provisions substantially reduces the cost of the Volunteer Fire Departments’ borrowing.

Knowing what your Department can afford to borrow under the current economic conditions and interest rates will assist you in your budgeting and planning for equipment acquisitions or planning for a new station.

Despite the more stringent underwriting guidelines resulting from the financial crisis, ESDs and VFDs are actively accessing the credit markets these days. Interest rates are at unusually low levels and proactive and financially prepared ESDs and VFDs are taking advantage of low interest rate credit facilities by acquiring stations and apparatus for their growing areas.

Wayne Walker
Senior Credit Analyst
Government Capital Corporation
EXCLUSIVE FINANCING FOR SFFMA MEMBERS

Call (866) 582-FIRE (3473)
www.texasfirefund.com
info@texasfirefund.com

Financing Services:
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- Benefits all SFFMA members

Financing available for:
- Land acquisition
- Planning & Design
- Stations & Facilities
- Equipment & Bunker Gear
- Apparatus of all kinds
- Refinancing existing debt

Signs of Growth

Kyle VFD - Fire Station, Training Facilities & Offices, Kyle, Texas

Grand Opening February 2010

Comal County ESD #5

Red Springs VFD

WE HAVE CAPITAL READY TO LEND!
Thank you, Richard......

As I sat down to write a thank you to Richard Van Winkle I had to wonder where to start. He and I have been friends and comrades for many years. Our cities are about 20 miles apart and about the same size. Richard and I were on the North Texas Board together in the late 80's and he then went on to become Secretary of SFFMA. When I decided to run for 4th VP for SFFMA Richard was one of the first people that I contacted for his thoughts. One thing for sure, don't ask him if you don't want a straight forward and honest answer. He said he would support me, and that was a big step toward my decision to run and ultimately be elected.

Over the next seven years we traveled thousands of miles for the SFFMA, sometimes going to the same meetings and sometimes not. Richard usually arrived before me and was able to get the last hotel room in town, leaving me to travel a few miles out of the way. We worked together as a team then just as we do in everyday life.

When the SFFMA Board met, within two hours the preliminary minutes were in your email inbox. When decisions had to be made Richard would analyze and then give you the RVW decision; if you liked it, fine, if you didn't, that was fine too. So, Richard, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all you did and will continue to do for this great organization. It would not be fair unless I also thanked Pam Van Winkle for her support of Richard in all of those thousand mile weekend trips to visit Districts around the State. Thank you, Pam, also, for always making sure that my tie was straight and my collar was turned down. What great people and wonderful friends you both are.

Thanks again!

Donnie Pickard
SFFMA Past President
NEW! SFFMA Current Member Department Listing NEW!

as of September 20, 2010
THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Conference sponsors:
Texas Farm Bureau Insurance, Budweiser, TEEX, Texas Fire Fund Facilities, VFIS of Texas, Black Iguana, Casco, Dignity Memorial, Hall-Mark, H-E-B, NFPA, Piecemakers By the Bay Quilt Guild, Sam’s Club, SFA, TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool, Ladies Auxiliary of the Guadalupe Fire Fighter’s and Fire Marshals’ Association, AOS - Deeper Than That, Apparatus Services, LLC., Mr. & Mrs. Danny and Jeri Cos, Vic Einspahr, L & D Collision Center, Red River Rescue Tools/ Chamption Tools and Mr. R.J. Thomas

And to all our exhibitors for making the 2010 conference possible.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MESQUITE IN 2011.
2010 CONFERENCE PHOTOS

Special thank you to:
City of Corpus Christi
South Central District
Jim Hanson – Photography
Lloyd Klatt – Videography
Scott Matthews – Training Coordinator
TEEX Staff – Training, Certificates, Etc.
SFFMA Executive Board & Staff
Sergeant-at-Arms for all their help and all committee members & others who made the conference so successful!

Welcome 134th Annual Training Conference and Convention
Thank you
2010 Photo Contest Winners

**Best of Show**

by Dawn McGee - Deer Park VFD
"Brotherhood" - Transformer caught three different sheds on fire. Real event - April 2010

**Fire Related Acts**

1st Place
by Robert Guillemette
Village FD

2nd Place
by Darron Rosenquist

3rd Place
by Latresha Allen
Ballinger VFD Ladies Auxiliary

**Life Saving Acts**

1st Place
by Dawn McGee
Deer Park VFD

2nd Place
by Trish Cook
Seabrook VFD

3rd Place
by Trish Cook
Seabrook VFD

**Education and Fire Safety**

1st Place
by Rick Townsend
Forney FD

2nd Place
by Alice Molina
Edinburg Ladies Auxiliary

3rd Place
by Latresha Allen
Ballinger VFD Ladies Auxiliary
2011 Texas Firemen Photo Contest

State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas

If you were in the right place in time to capture that special moment, we encourage you to enter the contest.

ANYONE CAN ENTER THE CONTEST WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS, THERE IS NO MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT.

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS FRIDAY • MAY 20, 2011

All photos submitted will be exhibited at the SFFMA Annual Training Conference and Convention. The winning photographs will also be published in the Texas Firemen magazine and e-Info Fire newsletter throughout the year.

CONTEST RULES:

1. Department membership is NOT required. (Professional photographers are NOT allowed to submit entries.)

2. Photos must be 8” x 10” unmatted color or black and white. ALL OTHERS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. Please include prints and digital files on a disk.

3. You MUST fill out the Photo Contest Entry Form and attach to the back of EACH photo submitted. Make as many copies of the entry form as needed.

4. Only three (3) photos per category may be entered. (If more than three per category are submitted, the first 3 will be considered, ALL OTHERS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED).

5. Entries become the property of Texas Firemen magazine and the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas, and may be displayed by SFFMA at fire service events. (Author will be credited)

6. Photos from previous Photo Contests CANNOT be resubmitted, any submissions will be disqualified.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

FIRE-RELATED ACTS - any variety; MUST be “real life” incident

LIFE-SAVING ACTS - any variety; MUST be “real life” incident

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY - any “staged” fires such as at fire training schools and anything relating to public safety

PLEASE PRINT

2011 Texas Firemen Photo Contest Entry Form
Deadline - May 20, 2011

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
City/State/ZIP: ____________________________
Contact #: ____________________________
Member of Fire Department: ________
If yes, what Department: ____________________________

MUST INCLUDE BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Describe what happened, date, and location of incident.

Mail to: SFFMA-Texas Firemen Photo Contest 4450 Frontier Trail • Austin, TX 78745
Southwest Bell County FD
Chief: Joseph Bailey
Phone: (540) 526-4500
Email: dennis.manewal@baysystems.com

Spearman FD
Chief: John Kunselman
Phone: (806) 659-5511
Email: svfd@santden.com

Splendora VFD
Chief: Virgil Ray Vadon
Phone: (281) 898-6900
Email: rvadon@splendoralire.com

Spring Branch FD
Chief: Eran Denzler
Phone: (830) 885-7151
Email: edenzler-sbvf@gtvc.com

Spring Creek VFD
Chief: Dusty Benthal
Email: dbenthal@aol.com

Spring VFD
Chief: Alan Lankford
Phone: (281) 355-1266
Email: rogan@springgfd.com

Springleake VFD
Chief: Keith Clayton
Phone: (806) 986-4274

Springtown FD
Chief: Jason Hinton
Phone: (817) 523-7598
Email: jcrook@pcps41.org

Starmount FD
Chief: Alan Plummer
Phone: (325) 773-2626
Email: starmountfire@starmountfd.com

Star FD
Chief: Ed Sanders
Phone: (915) 948-3255

Steel Creek Acres VFD
Chief: Bryan Busby
Email: scvfdfireservice@yahoo.com

Stephenville FD
Chief: Steve E. Thomas
Phone: (254) 918-1277
Email: office@billdawntowneshop.com

Stillhouse VFD
Chief: Dale Hammerschmidt
Phone: (254) 933-2302
Email: dale.hammerschmidt@yahoo.com

Stinnett FD
Chief: Alan W. Wells
Phone: (806) 978-6224
Email: awells@sbcglobal.net

Stockdale FD
Chief: Edwin Baker
Phone: (830) 996-1383
Email: chief@sto41000@gmail.com

Stonewall FD
Chief: Phone: (512) 644-5574

Streetsman FD
Chief: Brent Carroll
Phone: (830) 599-1165
Email: streetsmansfire@yahoo.com

Sudan FD
Chief: Mike Hill
Phone: (806) 227-2112
Email: sudanfirem@gmail.com

Sugar Hill VFD
Chief: Gerald 'Jerry' Clark
Email: michelle@peoplescom.net

Sunnyvale FD
Chief: Joe Plummer
Phone: (972) 203-0314
Email: jplummer@gmail.com

Sunset FD
Chief: Alan Campbell
Phone: (940) 845-2015
Email: sunsetsfiredept@aol.com

Surfside Beach FD
Chief: Donald R. 'Pete' David
Phone: (972) 233-5926
Email: surfsidebeachfd@yahoo.com

Sweeny Fire & Rescue
Chief: Timothy D. Webb, Sr.
Phone: (979) 548-3320

Taft FD
Chief: Rick Gibson
Phone: (361) 528-3512
Email: wchinders@cityoftaft.net

Tahoka FD
Chief: Steve Sanders
Phone: (806) 561-4211

Tanglewood VFD
Chief: Marty Lucas
Phone: (512) 466-0485

Tarkington VFD
Chief: Paul Gregory
Phone: (281) 592-7600
Email: tarkingtonfd@sbcglobal.net

Tatum FD
Chief: Rayford Gibson
Phone: (903) 947-2217
Email: tatumfire@tatumtel.net

Tawakoni South VFD
Chief: Andy Oxford
Phone: (903) 356-0141

TEEX-ESTI
Chief: Les Bunte
Phone: (979) 458-6800

Telephone VFD
Chief: James Skidmore
Phone: (903) 644-2140
Email: rebeccabirley29@yahoo.com

Telico VFD
Chief: Van Fowler
Phone: (972) 878-2083
Email: erik.ludwig@tx dps.state.us

Temple FD
Chief: Lorenzo Wallace, Jr.
Phone: (254) 298-5682

Tennessee Colony FD
Chief: Edward Crockett
Phone: (903) 928-2940
Email: shawn@tvfd.org

Terlingua Fire & EMS Inc.
Chief: Greg P. Henington
Phone: (432) 371-2633
Email: greg@iloc.net

Terrell FD
Chief: Jim Harper
Phone: (972) 551-6651
Email: jharper@cityofterrell.org

Terrell VFD
Chief: Donald L. Lindsey Jr.
Phone: (972) 551-2772
Email: terrellvfd@yahoo.com

Texas City FD
Chief: Joseph A. Gorman
Phone: (409) 643-5700
Email: ggrimm@texas-city.tx.org

Texas Forest Service
Chief: Mark Stanford
Phone: (979) 458-6507
Email: rmdonald@tfs.tamu.edu

Texas Pipe Works FD
Chief: Christian Kehl
Phone: (936) 825-6571

Texline FD
Chief: Ray Eads
Phone: (806) 362-4801
Email: texline@x1.net

The Colony FD
Chief: Mike Nolen
Phone: (972) 625-3944
Email: tcfire1@aol.com

The Woodlands FD
Chief: Alan Benson
Phone: (281) 367-3444
Email: abenson@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov

Thomas Lake Rd VFD
Chief: Rick Gibson
Phone: (936) 594-6459
Email: rlgibson@windstream.net

Thorndale FD
Chief: Eric K. Melde
Phone: (512) 898-2523
Email: hub.tvfd@yahoo.com

Thunderbird VFD
Chief: Donald Mays
Phone: (903) 856-2080

Tigerton VFD
Chief: Jerry Hale
Phone: (903) 739-2198

Timber Lakes VFD
Chief: Keith B. Eagerton
Phone: (281) 367-0373

Timbercreek Canyon FD
Chief: Eddie Wood
Phone: (806) 622-3936
Email: timbercreekcanyonfd@hotmail.com

Tin Top FD
Chief: Walter Kent 'Bear' Morgan, Jr.
Phone: (817) 596-8864
Email: bear-morgan@sbcglobal.net

Tivoli FD
Chief: Arnulfo Perez
Phone: (512) 286-3826

Tolar FD
Chief: Matt Hutsell
Phone: (254) 835-4334

Tolar FD
Chief: Matt Hutsell
Phone: (254) 835-4334

Taurus VFD
Chief: Jordan E. Rutherford
Phone: (903) 842-4900
Email: taurvfd@embarqmail.com

Tulia FD
Chief: Johnny Daniels
Phone: (806) 995-2112
Email: tuliatfrd@cebridge.net

Turnersville VFD
Chief: Allan Philip Thompson, II
Phone: (254) 494-1111
Email: turnersvillevfd@yahoo.com

Uncertain VFD
Chief: Fred Peterson
Phone: (903) 789-3443

Union Valley FD
Chief: Edward Ragsdale
Phone: (972) 635-9715
Email: avfdhfd@yahoo.com

USAA Emergency Response Team
Chief: Richard S. McAlister
Phone: (254) 494-1111
Email: michael.johnson@usaa.com

Utopia VFD Inc.
Chief: Jordan E. Rutherford
Phone: (830) 796-5636

Uvalde FD
Chief: Gene Ayala
Phone: (830) 278-3334
Email: todd@roadrunner-energy.com

Val Verde County Rural VFD
Chief: Jerry Lee Rust
Phone: (830) 774-7640
Email: valverdecountysfire@stx.rr.com

Trinity Forks FD
Chief: James Linated
Phone: (913) 356-2533
Email: jlninated@horizon.net

Trinity County ESD
Chief: Gary Warren
Phone: (913) 327-9405

Trent FD
Chief: Ray King
Email: trentvfd@aol.com

Trenton VFD
Chief: C. J. Fillingham
Phone: (903) 821-7912
Email: bparsons@raytheon.com

Tri-Community FD
Chief: Vane Smith
Phone: (409) 423-3717
Email: vane_sc@yahoo.com

Tri-County FD
Chief: Fredy Williams
Phone: (936) 372-3420
Email: ghrc4h10@msn.com

Tri-Lakes FD
Chief: Jerry Ward
Phone: (903) 577-3900
Email: saratov@vfd.abilene.tx

Trinidad FD
Chief: Arthur Arnold
Phone: (972) 778-2525

Trinity FD
Chief: Wilson 'Hayne' Huffman
Phone: (936) 594-2505
Email: swomack@cityoftrinity.com

Trophy Club FD
Chief: Danny L. Thomas
Phone: (682) 831-4700
Email: dthomas@trophyclub.org

Troup FD
Chief: Tim Mager
Phone: (903) 842-4900
Email: trougvfd@embarqmail.com

Tulia FD
Chief: Johnny Daniels
Phone: (806) 995-2112
Email: tuliatfrd@cebridge.net

Tri-Community FD
Chief: Vane Smith
Phone: (409) 423-3717
Email: vane_sc@yahoo.com

University FD
Chief: Gene Ayala
Phone: (830) 278-3334
Email: todd@roadrunner-energy.com

USAA Emergency Response Team
Chief: Richard S. McAlister
Phone: (254) 494-1111
Email: michael.johnson@usaa.com

Utopia VFD Inc.
Chief: Jordan E. Rutherford
Phone: (830) 796-5636

Uvalde FD
Chief: Gene Ayala
Phone: (830) 278-3334
Email: todd@roadrunner-energy.com

Val Verde County Rural VFD
Chief: Jerry Lee Rust
Phone: (830) 774-7640
Email: valverdecountysfire@stx.rr.com
Does the future of the Fire Service matter to you? come join us for

2011 Legislative Day at the Capitol

March 23, 2011
~meet with your legislators~
~pay tribute to those who died in the line of duty~
~network during lunch~

This event is sponsored by SFFMA

* If interested contact legislativeday@sffma.org

In the game of life we are all moving from point A to point B. If we begin life at point A then we will someday get to point B. One can choose to be an active participant in the process or choose to be acted upon by the events of life itself. In their book, Getting Results through Individual and Organizational Accountability: The Oz Principle, Roger Connors, Tom Smith and Craig Hickman suggest, “A society of observers is not a society of participants, If you sit on the sidelines watching “the game of your life” play out before your eyes, you relinquish your ability to affect the final score, just as much as a spectator watching a football game from the bleachers.” This suggests that each of us has within us the ability to model the outcome of our future. To model one’s fire service career, one must first accept ownership and accountability for one’s actions or failure to act and plan.

For a brand new employee, it may be hard to see past that first year and the goals may be as simple as successfully completing fire recruit training, completing emergency medical technician training, paramedic school and probation. These are all important goals, but too often some think that once these objectives have been completed, it is time to sit back and enjoy the years until retirement.

Failure to be motivated to plan beyond that first year leaves one vulnerable to be acted upon by many external forces outside of one’s personal control. So how do you stay off of the bench (on the sidelines) or worse in the bleachers? You must determine what a successful career is to you personally, then develop and implement the plan.

I would suggest that you consider these elements in your plan: certifications, degrees, certificate programs and promotions. Each represents a degree of accomplishment and a step forward. The rewards, beyond self-satisfaction, may not be evident at first. However, each accomplishment plays into the overall success of your long term plan.

Certifications (both fire and emergency medical) represent a degree of professional development and commitment. You have got to get that basic certificate, but have you given any thought about what certification levels are available beyond the basic? What are the requirements for advanced levels of certification? How quick can I obtain the next level? Is there a monetary value attached to the certification?

There are some fire departments that are now requiring an associates degree as a prerequisite for employment, or at a minimum a set number of college hours. College degrees are recognized by fire as well as police certification agencies, as accomplishments worthy of credit toward advanced levels of certification. Today it is common to see a minimum requirement of a bachelor’s degree for the position of fire chief. Many colleges and universities now offer online degrees. With the convenience of online training, it is harder to sell the old excuse of “I don’t have time”.

Certificate programs are a great way to increase one’s knowledge. The National Fire Academy offers officer development training that is cost effective and some of the best training offered anywhere. On the State and local level, training opportunities are more abundant than ever. You don’t have to wait for your department to send you to training; place some of the responsibility upon yourself.

Promotions allow a person to grow by taking on responsibility. This forces one to expand their knowledge as they take on new duties and responsibilities. If one’s desire to promote continues throughout one’s career, there is continuous self-improvement and expanded opportunities for future growth. Failure to take advantage of promotional opportunities will over the years limit one’s career. Self-improvement and expanded opportunities for future growth. If one’s desire to promote continues throughout one’s career, there is continuous self-improvement and expanded opportunities for future growth. Failure to take advantage of promotional opportunities will over the years limit one’s career.

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for the latest version of committee rosters please visit www.sffma.org

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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jack King</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>661-B FM 2550 Rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntsville, TX 77320-1972</td>
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I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know how excited I am to be President of the Texas Firemen’s Auxiliary. I look forward to working with each and every one of you during the coming year. I would not be here without the support of the Needville Fire Department, the Needville Fire Department Auxiliary, the Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers district and especially my husband Bill and our daughter and son-in-law, Jamie and Daniel. The love and support they give me each day allows me to focus on what I need to do.

One of my primary goals this year is to continue to find better ways of communicating with each other. We are spread out all over Texas and this can sometimes cause problems in communicating. I want to encourage everyone to contact me or the Executive Board with any questions or concerns you might have. We all need to work together to keep our Auxiliary running properly.

I also am excited about working with the SFFMA Executive Board and the Austin office. President Rickert and I are busy working together to bring you a fabulous convention in Mesquite. The dates for the Mesquite Convention are June 17 – 22, 2011. Please make note that it is a week later this time and will fall on Father’s Day weekend.

Since our main purpose is to promote the interest and welfare of the SFFMA, we need to continue to support them and to find ways to become self-sufficient. With our economic times being what they are, we need to find ways to raise money for ourselves so that we do not continue to rely on the SFFMA for funding. I also want to remind y’all that we are here to serve you. Your voices and your opinions are important. I plan on visiting as many districts as I possibly can between now and the June Convention in Mesquite. In addition, I want to encourage each of you to consider running for a position on the Executive Board or serving on a committee. It would be nice to have each district represented.

We are looking for suggestions to fill the time on Mondays at Convention. Monday morning is the TFA general meeting and Monday nights is the various hospitality rooms. Several people have contacted me about finding something for the ladies to do that afternoon. I am asking everyone to talk to their various districts and come up with some things you might like to have available. Once we have some ideas, we will contact the Mesquite Convention and Visitors Bureau. They have expressed the desire to help us with whatever we need. Please get back to me by December 1st with some suggestions for what you would like to do. We are looking forward to providing a full-filled afternoon for you in Mesquite.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their support as I have moved through the chairs. The advice and help that I have received are truly appreciated. I am looking forward to having a wonderful year!

Shari Schiffman
TFA President
To the members of SFFMA thank you for your support during my campaign and election to the 3rd Vice President. The next few years will be exciting and challenging for us all as we move forward and address changes in this new era of public safety. Remember the Executive Board is your voice in the Texas Fire Service and to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Again Thank you and see you soon,
Bill Gardner

Thank you for supporting my candidacy for 4th Vice President. I promise to work hard for you and always protect your interest.

Rusty Kattner
President 2015

Thanks to everyone for the support you gave me during this past year. I look forward to serving on the Executive Board as your Secretary. Please don’t hesitate to call me, if I can help you or your district in any way. I would ask that all district secretaries and presidents keep me informed with what’s going on in your District.

Joe Ondrasek
Secretary

I would like to thank everyone that voted for me, and especially my second family the Northeast Texas District that worked very hard with me during my campaign and also my mother & father.

Bryce Rickert
Mascot
### Training Opportunities 2010 - 2011

#### October
- **10/21 - 22**  
  Medical Management of CBRNE Event, Belton
- **10/25 - 29**  
  Fresh Water Oil Spill Control Course, Galveston
- **10/25 - 29**  
  Hazardous Materials Pipeline Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
- **10/27 - 29**  
  Incident Management/Unified Command (MGT - 313) (ICS-300 Equivalent and Compliant), Arlington

#### November
- **11/1 - 2**  
  Basic Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-53), College Station
- **11/1 - 5**  
  NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Roper Rescue Level I Training, College Station
- **11/1 - 12**  
  NFPA 1021 Fire Officer IV, Garland
- **11/1 - 5**  
  STCW Basic Safety Training, Basic Marine Fire Fighting, First Aid CPR, Person Survival at Sea,
  4HR Personal Safety and Social Responsibility, College Station
- **11/1 - 12**  
  NFPA 472, Annex E, Flammable Liquids Bulk Storage Specialty, College Station
- **11/8 - 12**  
  Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI - 12), College Station
- **11/8 - 12**  
  Emergency Medical Services Instructor, College Station
- **11/9 - 12**  
  EMS Leadership Academy: Basic Supervisory Practices, Brenham
- **11/10 - 11**  
  National Registry Written Exam Review, College Station
- **11/12**  
  National Registry Exam Skills Review, College Station
- **11/15 - 17**  
  Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pumper Training, College Station
- **11/15 - 19**  
  Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
- **11/16 - 17**  
  LNG Spill Control and Fire Suppression, College Station
- **11/17 - 19**  
  Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial Training, College Station
- **11/20 - 21**  
  Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents, Austin
- **11/21 - 24**  
  Texas EMS Conference, Austin
- **11/29 - 30**  
  Advanced Incident Management/Unified Command, Arlington
- **11/29 - 12/3**  
  Basic Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-53), College Station
- **11/30 - 12/2**  
  Advanced Tactical Leadership Training, College Station

#### December
- **12/6 - 10**  
  NFPA 1081 Industrial Interior Firefighting Training, College Station
- **12/6 - 10**  
  NFPA 472 Hazardous Material Technician Training, College Station
- **12/6 - 7**  
  NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Incident Command Training, College Station
- **12/8 - 9**  
  NFPA 1081 Leadership Training, College Station
- **12/13 - 17**  
  Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-125), College Station
- **12/13 - 17**  
  NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I Training, College Station
- **12/14 - 17**  
  Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-15), College Station
- **12/15 - 16**  
  National Registry Written Exam Review, College Station
- **12/17 - 17**  
  National Registry Exam Skills Review, College Station

#### January
- **1/3 - 3/23**  
  Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station
- **1/3 - 3/16**  
  Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
- **1/3 - 3/25**  
  Fire Training Academy, College Station
- **1/10 - 12**  
  Leadership Development Symposium, Frisco
- **1/10 - 5/26**  
  Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
- **1/10 - 14**  
  Hazardous Materials Transportation Specialist Training, College Station
- **1/13 - 15**  
  International Conference, Laredo
- **1/17 - 4/8**  
  Laredo Fire Training Academy, Laredo

#### February
- **2/7 - 25**  
  Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station
- **2/7 - 18**  
  NFPA 1021 Fire Officer IV, Cedar Park
- **2/28 - 3/4**  
  Emergency Medical Services Instructor, College Station

#### March
- **3/6 - 11**  
  Spring ARFF Fire School, College Station
- **3/15 - 6/30**  
  Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
- **3/19 - 25**  
  56th Annual Arson Investigators Seminar, Austin
- **3/28 - 4/29**  
  Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station
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