

TEXAS FIREMEN

The Magazine for Emergency Professionals

OCT 2011 / VOL. 46



**STATE FIREMENS AND FIRE MARSHALS'
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**

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Jeff B.
*Firefighter
protected by
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California Casualty had technical difficulty with the processing of the SFFMA August mailing to members. All member information is correct and secure with SFFMA. We apologize for any additional concern that this may have caused.

Jeff B.
*Firefighter
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SFFMA PLANNING CONFERENCE

January 27 - 28, 2012
Crowne Plaza Houston Hotel near Reliant Park

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, January 27, 2012

8 am - 12 pm TIESB Meeting..... San Jacinto 2
1 pm - 5 pm SFFMA Executive Board Meeting..... San Jacinto 3

Saturday, January 28, 2012

8:30 am - 10:30 am International San Jacinto 3
8:30 am - Noon Certification BoardSan Jacinto 1
Finance San Jacinto 4
Constitution & Bylaws San Jacinto 5
Pumper Races San Jacinto 2
TFA Meeting Alamo 3
Fire Marshal San Jacinto 6
9 am - 10 am Sergeant at Arms Gulf Coast 1
10:30 am - Noon Poster Contest San Jacinto 5
Exhibits Gulf Coast 1
Memorial San Jacinto 3
Driving Contest San Jacinto 2
EMSGulf Coast 6
11 am T*Flag Meeting Gulf Coast 3
12 pm - 1 pm Conference Training Workshops San Jacinto 6
12 pm - 1 pm Lunch ON YOUR OWN
1 pm - 2 pm District Officers Meeting Stephen F. Austin
2 pm - 4 pm Review of June Conference Schedule.. Stephen F. Austin
4 pm Site Selection Report Stephen F. Austin

ALL MEETINGS ADJOURN ON SATURDAY

NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY

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TEXAS FIREMEN

The Magazine for Emergency Professionals



STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

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Executive Director's **CORNER**



We have had quite a bit activity over the last few months and it seems like just when we think we have a reprieve from a busy day or week we get hit again with another call for help. Being in

the fire service is like no other profession. The camaraderie, friendships, and trust you build in each other is unique and often difficult to explain. I'm proud to be associated with such a great profession and represent the association at various events, activities and disasters.

In March, we saw that the state legislature was facing a huge shortfall in the budget and that it would greatly affect the TFS grant program offered to the fire service. We saw picture after picture of firefighters fighting fires with no wildland gear on and with the weather predictions coming from TFS, we knew the fire service would be in for a long, long fire season. SFFMA had to do something to help out the fire departments to get the most basic set of wildland ppe. We started the Wildfire Relief Fund and with a quick poll, we discovered that fire departments were lacking critical protective clothing for fighting wild fires. Soon, our requests had reached close to \$500,000 and just by word of mouth we became flooded with requests for assistance. We knew we had a good case on our hands and started the fundraising efforts. The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas quickly stepped up to the plate and gave a \$100,000 contribution to our fund. This was greatly appreciated but quickly spent as the need for gear was so much higher.

We soon entered into a contract with a PR firm focused strictly on working on the wildfire relief program. After several press conferences, numerous contacts and events, the team and SFFMA continue to raise awareness and raise donations for the Wildfire Relief Fund. Recent activities include press conferences in San Angelo, Austin, and Bastrop, a booth at the Austin City Limits Festival, filming and editing of a public service announcement with Actor Kyle Chandler, planning for the 9/11 Vigil (which was cancelled due to fire activity in the area), and strategically planning for other fund raising efforts and events. After doing these things we saw donations pickup, another donation from IIAT for \$100,000, donations from Verizon Foundation, British Petroleum, Bank of America, American Electric Power, CarMax Foundation, RGK Foundation, and hundreds of concerned citizens from Texas and beyond.

We are not near filling all departments requests yet but please don't let that stop a department from applying. The Wildfire Relief Fund provides wildland coats/pants to fire departments in Texas at 100%. All departments who have applied for the grant are still in our system and as we receive donations we will make awards. We hope that we can soon have all requests filled as we continue to receive donations but also we hope to start "Texas Wildfire Relief Phase 2" (please see page 7 of this magazine for more info).

SFFMA continues to get stronger and stronger with changes in our certification program, updates and improvements to our online reporting system and conferences and guidance and input from our membership. Our Executive Board is requesting your support to help us raise the funding necessary to be able to build a new office so we can better serve you and improve our services to you. We have tried raising money for this new building through a building fundraiser but unfortunately our fund raising efforts for this project have not taken off as much as we thought they would be. A proposal was made to raise association dues by just \$10 per year per individual and \$20 per year per department with the increase specifically going to the development of a new building. We are requesting your support for these proposals which will be voted on next June and possibly take effect next November. If you don't quite know what all your dues go toward and the benefits we have to offer please see page 11 of this magazine. I can tell you from personal experience, the benefits FAR outweigh the costs of the membership dues. Just in one month alone, you can more than pay for the cost of your membership by taking advantage of the many benefits we have to offer.

SFFMA has been there for our members since 1876 and we will continue to be for the years ahead. We request your support now and in the future so that we can better serve you and represent your interests. If our Executive Board, Staff or I can be of assistance to you or your department please do not hesitate to ask. We will do our best to help you to the best of our abilities.

Be Safe,

Chris Barron
Executive Director

2011 - 2012 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President's **FORUM**



Hello All,

Well I have been President for a little over three months. The first month was spent putting together the working committees of the SFFMA and hopefully most everyone was put on the committee of their choice. These committees are so important to the success of our association so please participate when you are called upon by the Chairmen.

While at the Municipal Fire School in July I had the honor of signing the paperwork purchasing the land for the future SFFMA Office that I can happily say was mostly paid for with cash. It would have been paid for in full with cash but the Executive Board wanted to hold enough money back to hire an architect to plan and design the new

building for current and future growth. Shortly you will be hearing the Executive Board and Past Presidents plans to fund the construction of the new office. Remember we are planning for the future of the SFFMA. Please keep an open mind when presented with the plan to raise dues to fund the construction, as this is the only way we can have enough guaranteed funds to pay for this endeavor.

I would like to thank all of the contributors, helpers and participants that made our first Casino Night fundraiser at Municipal Fire School a great success. These funds raised will help make next year's Conference and Convention larger and better.

Please be safe!

Rex W. Kleesel
SFFMA President

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2011 - 2012 Executive Board



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David Wade,
Bill Gardner,
Rusty Kattner,
Paul Hamilton

Back row from L to R:
Dawson Maples,
Ben Kennedy,
Joe Ondrasek,
Jim White,
Rayford Gibson,
Chris Barron,
Bryan Rickert

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SAVE THE DATE for the 136th SFFMA Conference



June 8 – 13, 2012, the State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA) Annual Training Conference and Convention will return to Houston for the first time since 1976 and I personally want to welcome you. The SFFMA Gulf Coast and Tri-Rivers (GC/TR) Districts, in partnership with the Houston Fire Department, Harris County, Galveston County, and Brazoria County Fire Fighters' Associations, are proud to co-host the 136th Annual SFFMA event. For five days, first responders from all over Texas representing the municipal and industrial fire service, fire marshals offices, and emergency medical service, will converge on Reliant Park and Crown Plaza, Reliant, to train, play, and conduct the business of the SFFMA.

Houston is the largest city in the state of Texas, and the fourth-largest city in the United States. Houston is the seat of Harris County and the economic center of Houston–Sugar Land–Baytown, which is the sixth-largest metropolitan area in the U.S.

Houston was founded in 1836 on land near the banks of Buffalo Bayou. It was incorporated as a city on June 5, 1837, and named after then-President of the Republic of Texas—former General Sam Houston—who had commanded at the Battle of San Jacinto, which took place 25 miles east of where the city was established. The burgeoning port and railroad industry, combined with oil discovery in 1901, has induced continual surges in the city's population. In the mid-twentieth century, Houston became the home of the Texas Medical Center—the world's largest concentration of healthcare and research institutions—and NASA's Johnson Space Center, where the Mission Control Center is located.

While in Houston you'll find more to do than one can fit into a single trip. The Theater District is a 17-block area in the center of downtown Houston that is home to the Bayou Place entertainment

complex, restaurants, movies, plazas, and parks. Bayou Place is a large multilevel building containing full-service restaurants, bars, live music, billiards, and art house films.

Space Center Houston is the official visitors' center of NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center and only 30 minutes away from Reliant Park. The Space Center has many interactive exhibits including moon rocks, a shuttle simulator, and presentations about the history of NASA's manned space flight program. Other tourist attractions include the Galleria (Texas's largest shopping mall located in the Uptown District), Old Market Square, the Downtown Aquarium, and Sam Houston Race Park. SplashTown Waterpark Houston is a water park located north of Houston.

Houston is home to 337 parks including Hermann Park, Terry Hershey Park, Lake Houston Park, Memorial Park, Tranquility Park, Sesquicentennial Park, Discovery Green, and Sam Houston Park. Within Hermann Park are the Houston Zoo and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Sam Houston Park contains restored and reconstructed homes which were originally built between 1823 and 1905.

Houston has sports teams for every major professional league, except the National Hockey League. Minute Maid Park (home of the Astros) and Toyota Center (home of the Rockets and Aeros), are located in Downtown and just minutes away from Reliant Park. Houston has the NFL's first retractable-roof stadium, Reliant Stadium (home of the Texans). In addition, Reliant Astrodome, the first domed stadium in the world. Other sports facilities include Robertson Stadium (home of the Houston Cougars football team and the Dynamo), Hofheinz Pavilion (Houston Cougars basketball), Rice Stadium (Rice Owls football), and Reliant Arena. A soccer-specific stadium for the Dynamo—to be located just east of Downtown—is expected to be finished by 2012.

Houston has outstanding dining options, and is widely considered the most restaurant-oriented city in the United States, with a thriving community of ethnic

restaurants, superb Tex-Mex, classic Texas steakhouses and Gulf Coast seafood, as well as chain restaurants. Houston's fine dining scene has exploded in recent years, with Downtown, Montrose, Midtown, and the Heights (including the Washington Corridor) as the epicenter of what's hot-and-happening now.

The GC/TR Districts, Houston Fire Department, and County Association Partners are working hard to make the 136th SFFMA Convention one of the largest and best in SFFMA history. We trust that we will be able to provide the perfect environment for you to enjoy the SFFMA Training Workshops, Business Sessions, Exhibits, and Games. We hope you leave here with many fantastic memories of a great conference.

Sincerely,

David Wade

President, GC/TR Districts
President, Harris County Fire Fighters' Association
1st Vice President, SFFMA
Email: dwade@sffma.org

HOST HOTEL

Crowne Plaza Houston
Hotel near the Reliant Park
8686 Kirby Drive
Houston, TX
Phone: 713.748.3221

Room rate: \$109*

(or prevailing state rate for the city of Houston for 2012)

**rate based on single/ double occupancy, 3rd and 4th person in the same room is subject to additional \$10.00 per person/ night*

Cut off date: May 5, 2012

All conference related information can be found at www.sffma.org under News & Events/ Conference News.

For any conference related questions and details, contact Gabi Glass at gglass@sffma.org or call 512.454.3473 ext. 902.

I have been asked to write an article letting each of you know something about myself.

I was born in February 1956 in Wichita Falls Texas to Ed and Delores Klesel, my father was in the Air Force and my mother was a nurse at that time. My father's chosen career at that time required him to be moved from base to base so I along with my older sister and brother were all born at different Air Force Bases. After my father's stint in the Air Force we moved to the Houston area looking for a place to make a permanent home. While I was in Junior High my parents purchased a farm with a 100 year old farm house on it close to Alvin, getting them back to their roots since both of them were raised on farms in Schulenburg, Texas.

After graduating from High School I was employed as a painter's helper, we were painting a home of an Alvin Volunteer Firefighter, while painting the home I found it very interesting listening to his stories after coming back from fire calls. So in 1975 I joined the Alvin Volunteer Fire Department. Two months after joining the fire department I went to work for Calgon Corporation Industrial Plant. After being at the plant several years on my way home from work one day I happened to see black smoke rising from a neighborhood, being curious I went to investigate the smoke and found a house on fire. Immediately I began helping the contractors out of the house they were working on and tended to the burns one of the workers had received. Shortly the local fire department arrived and I began helping them put the fire out, this act earned me the honor of being named Alvin's Firefighter of the Year in 1978.

In 1980 I married my wife Charlene, who was also TFA President in 1992, and in 1982 our son Jordan was born. Being from a family with six children and Charlene being from a family of

five children we chose to have a smaller family than we both were from.

During my service with Alvin Volunteer Fire Department I have served as Captain in the Fire Department for six years and Assistant Chief for 10 years being elevated to Chief in 1996.

Also while working for Calgon Corporation for 26 years with the last 10 years of being there I had the opportunity to be the Industrial Fire Chief assembling the Industrial Fire Department, constructing the fire station, purchasing the fire equipment and training all of the firefighters until the plant closed in 2001. In 2005 I was hired by the City of Alvin as the Fire Department Administrator, with two Fire Marshals, one Equipment Maintenance Coordinator, an Administrative Assistant, and up to 70 volunteer firefighters reporting to me.

..while painting the home I found it very interesting listening to his stories after coming back from fire calls..

Seems like it was just yesterday but I now have 36 years with the Alvin Volunteer Fire Department. It is ironic how things happen to your family once you get involved in something, Charlene works as the Office Manager

for Santa Fe Fire & Rescue and our son Jordan is a Police Officer, so as you can see Public Service is a big part of our lives.

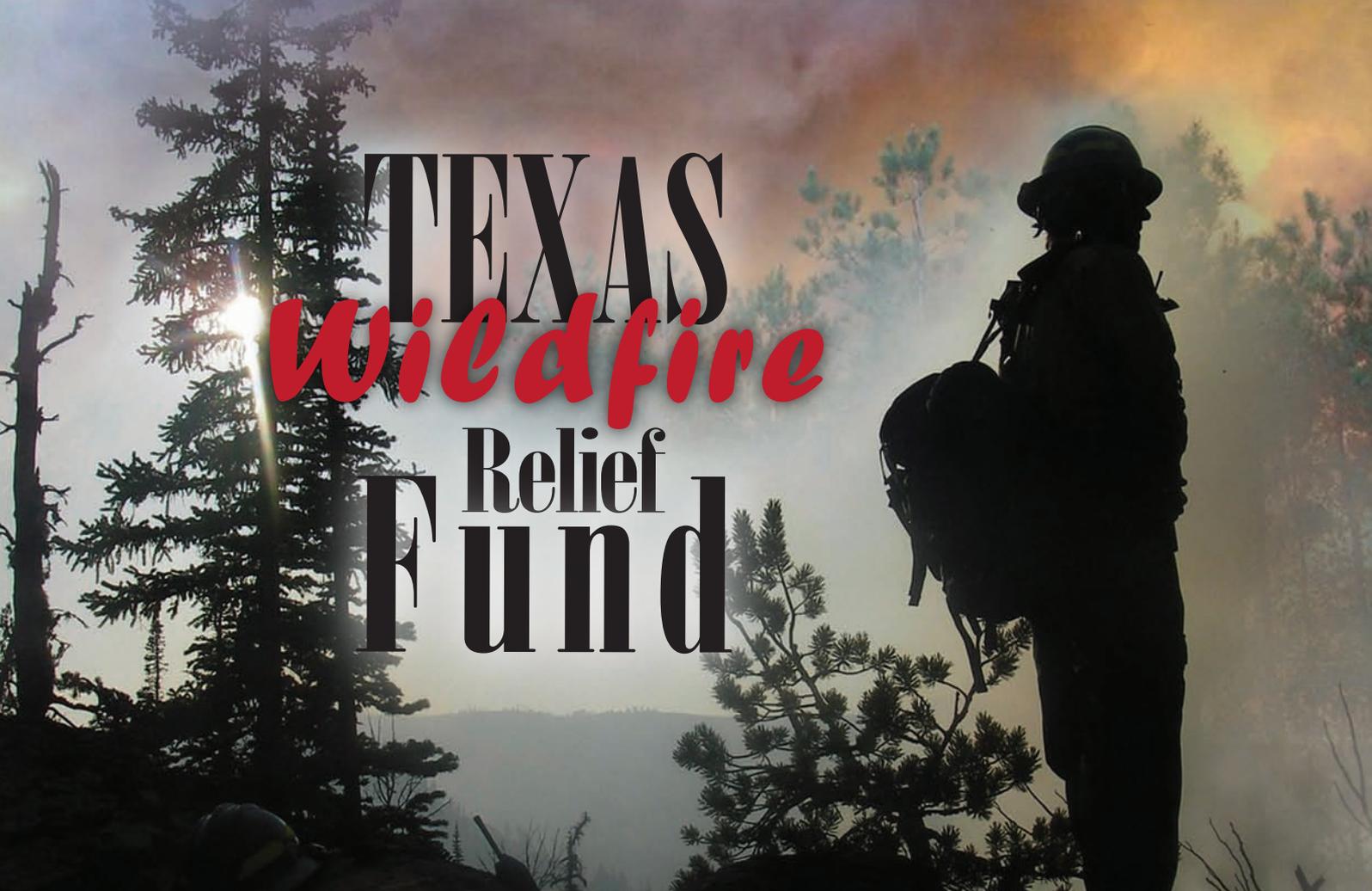
I have been very blessed to be involved in so many different areas within the fire service. I have served on the Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board, TESRA Pension Board, President of the Brazoria County Fire Chiefs' Association and President of the Gulf Coast District Board. I volunteer with the Brazoria County Fair Association and serve on the Board of Directors for the Chocolate Bayou Community Federal Credit Union.

I have had the opportunity to attend the National Fire Academy on several occasions and am most proud of being Master Certified through the SFFMA. All of these opportunities and accomplishments have transpired over years and have taken time and hard work so in my spare time I enjoy managing and caring for our own family ranch that we live on.

When I need some time to think, Charlene and I take a ride in my Kawasaki Mule to see what is biting at the pond or just drive around checking on the livestock and just enjoy the peace and quiet of country life. ■



Rex and Alvin Firefighters at fully involved apartment fire.



TEXAS *Wildfire* Relief Fund

OUR MISSION

The Texas Wildfire Relief Fund is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) committed to generating awareness and garnering support for Texas volunteer firefighters. We must come together as a state to help provide necessary resources to the firefighters in need and ensure Texas is prepared for future wildfire disaster relief.

WILDFIRE RELIEF CONTRIBUTORS:

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Andrew Delaney Foundation
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Karey Bresenhan
Kay Wentworth
Paul L. Foster
Valerie vonBerg

Thank you to the many citizens and many businesses of Texas
who have contributed to the wildfire relief fund and have helped put firefighters in gear.

Texas Wildfire Relief *Phase II*

When we reach the point of fulfilling all requests for wildland PPE we plan to implement "Texas Wildfire Relief Phase II" and we need to know how we can help your department.

WE HAVE RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR:

WILDLAND HELMETS
WILDLAND BOOTS

HOT SHOT MASKS (PARTICLE MASKS)
GOGGLES

If your department has a need for any of these other wildland firefighting accessories please go online to www.sffma.org and click the "Wildfire Relief Phase II" button on the right hand side of the web page for instructions on applying.



82nd LEGISLATIVE SESSION Update

Below please find a list of all fire related bills that were discussed during the 82nd Legislative Session.

Passed



HB 956/SB 396

Mandates that the State Fire Marshal investigate all line of duty deaths.

REP. MARQUEZ/SEN. DEUELL



HB 1163

Clean up language for tuition free bill passed last session for Advanced Accredited Volunteers pursuing a fire science degree at a state school.

REP. KEFFER



HB 1209/SB 543

Exemption from probate fees for firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty.

REP. L. TAYLOR/SEN. HEGAR



HB 2308/SB 646

Sunset Bill to continue the Texas Forest Service.

REP. COOK/SEN. NICHOLS



HB 993

Allows firefighters to close roads in case of emergency.

REP. RODRIGUEZ



HB 1951/SB 644

Sunset Bill to continue State Board of Insurance which includes the State Fire Marshal.

REP. L. TAYLOR/SEN. HEGAR



SB 666

Mandates the marking of fire hydrants that are unavailable for use in fire suppression.

SEN. HINOJOSA



HB 3735/
SB 1673

Only changes the distribution of funds collected by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. It allows the Commission to keep all funds collected with 50% of the funds for administration of the Commission and 50% of the funds for training.

REP. A. MARTINEZ/
SEN. GALLEGOS

Bills that SFFMA opposed and did NOT pass



HB 2369/SB 1265

These bills basically eliminate National Registry testing for EMS but give no guidelines for establishing a testing program.

REP. QUINTANILLA/SEN. URESTI



HB 3617

This bill would abolish the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

REP. MADDEN

For more legislative updates, contact your District's T*Flag Committee representative.
Full listing of the T*Flag Committee can be found on page 50 of this Magazine.

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.



NCEMSC +



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OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR!]**

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)!

CERTIFICATION Highlights

This has been a very busy year in the Certification Office, and we would like to extend our thanks to you, the members of our association, for working with us to identify your areas of concern with the program update.

The Board's transitioning of the Certification Program to better align with NFPA 1001: Firefighter I & II should keep our program in a position of national prominence, and isn't that where Texans belong?

Just to make sure everyone is on the same page regarding the transitions, individuals who are certified as Introductory, Basic, Intermediate or Advanced by December 31st of this year will be transitioned to completion of Module 1, 2, 3 or 4 training.

After January 1st, the Board will no longer offer Basic Accredited testing, but the issued certificates will still be valid as documentation that the bearer has passed an examination covering that set of objectives.

Accredited Intermediate and Advanced certifications will transition to full Firefighter I & II certifications after January 1st. The Board will administer new examinations after this date replacing the accredited exams. The new examinations will consist of both a written examination, plus demonstration of a selection of objectives from

the appropriate level. Testing over the skills at the department level, or even an organized "skills practice day" in your area will provide your firefighters with the confidence in their own abilities prior to the state level examinations.

The 2011 Progress Report is due by January 31st of 2012, allowing at least a month after your department's last training session to complete the submission forms. The 2011 report is based on the current breakdown of objectives, so you can use the current forms.

If you have not had a chance to look over the updates to the program, they are available in PDF format on the Certification page. The new objectives are listed by category or by level, depending on your particular needs.

Kevin Creamer
Certification Administrator
kcreamers@sffma.org

IN MEMORIAM

In Line of Duty

Gregory Simmon	April 15, 2011 <i>EASTLAND FD</i>
Elias Macias Jaquez	April 20, 2011 <i>CACTUS FD</i>
Caleb Hamm	July 7, 2011 <i>BOISE, ID</i>
Lt. Larry Nelson	August 12, 2011 <i>VAL VERDE COUNTY RURAL VFD</i>

Non-Line of Duty

Orin Cobell	November 10, 2010 <i>RICHMOND FD</i>
Horace Hienz Mathews	February 7, 2011 <i>HEARNE VFD</i>
Angie Crow	May 15, 2011 <i>DEER PARK VFD (TFA)</i>
James W. Starkey	June 12, 2011 <i>HEARNE VFD</i>
Leona Najvar	June 17, 2011 <i>HALLETTSVILLE FD (TFA)</i>
Chief Harland Zacharias	June 29, 2011 <i>KICASTER VFD</i>
Chief Mike Fuhre	June 23, 2011 <i>KINGWOOD VFD</i>
John Henneke	July 1, 2011 <i>HALLETTSVILLE FD</i>
Lt. Shannon Stone	July 7, 2011 <i>BROWNWOOD FD</i>
Johnny Ramos	September 13, 2011 <i>ANNVILLE VFD</i>
Tammy Spivey	September 20, 2011 <i>RALLS FD (TFA PAST PRESIDENT)</i>
Robert "Bob" Collins	October 1, 2011 <i>ALVIN FD</i>

e-INFO FIRE NEWSLETTER
State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas
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To receive your monthly electronic newsletter, email your contact information to newsletter@sffma.org

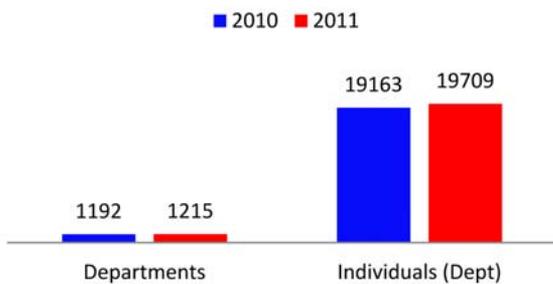
MEMBERSHIP Information

Dear Members,

The year has gone by in a blink, and it's no wonder, given everything SFFMA has been able to accomplish this year thanks to all of you! Successful changes to our certification program, Legislative day, the launch of the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund, and the 2011 Conference in Mesquite, Texas; are just some of the events that took place throughout the year.

Our continuous efforts to promote, unify, represent and educate, have paid off! The graphs below compare Department Members and Individual Members presently, to the final count made in November of 2010.

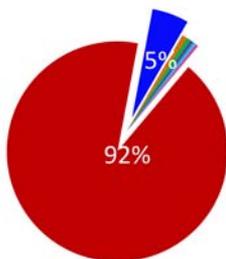
2011 Membership Increase



In 2011, our membership consists of the following:

2011 Membership

■ IMF ■ DEPT ■ IIMF ■ IM ■ I
 ■ SUS ■ INT ■ ORG ■ PP ■ EIM



Abbreviations: IMF (Individuals affiliated with fire departments), DEPT (Departments), IIMF (Individuals on Industrial Depts), IM (Individual Members no affiliation to departments), I (Industrial Dept), SUS (Sustaining Members), INT (International Members), ORG (Organizations), PP (Past Presidents), EIM (EMS Members).

Inclusion of the Optional Extended Benefits programs has been a success. The support for the National Volunteer Fire Council and Volunteer Firemen Insurance Services continues to grow; 30% of our members are participating in an extended benefit program. There has been a 2% increase in the level of participation overall from 2010 to 2011. These programs are inexpensive and substantially increase the member AD&D and LODD benefits, and it's important to know they are a viable option for SFFMA members.

SFFMA continues to search for new and useful benefits for its members, and in 2011 our friends over at Association Member Benefits Advisors added a couple more deals. For instance, if you are tired of your cell phone, but don't want to sign a multi-year contract to get a new one; don't worry, it happens a lot! Take advantage of the new AMBA benefits offered through Wirefly and CU Wireless and see how you can get a discounted cell phone without signing a contract, and still keep your current cell phone plan. Just visit www.amba.info/wireless

This year SFFMA conducted a department survey aimed to collect important information about each member department. The results are aimed to help SFFMA maintain optimal communication with department officers, keep accurate records, and address various needs throughout the state.

Out of 1206 departments that received the survey, 290 submitted their response. The results show:

SFFMA DEPARTMENTS POLLED SAY THEY:	YES	NO	OTHER
Use SFFMA Online	72%	27%	1%
Want more information on SFFMA Online	52%	48%	
Have Individual Members in their Department	85%	15%	
Want to know more about Individual membership	10%	69%	21%
Ensure home address information is provided for their members	66%	34%	
Prefer being contacted by email over mail	50%	49%	1%
Are aware of SFFMA benefits	87%	13%	
Want to know more about SFFMA Benefits	55%	45%	
Know about House bill 2604	77%	23%	
Know about House bill 3667	72%	28%	
Know about our Optional Extended Benefits	70%	30%	
Inform the members about SFFMA Benefits	86%	14%	
Participate in the Certification Program	55%	24%	21%
Want more information about SFFMA's Certification Program	33%	65%	2%

We would like to send out a great big thank you for those who took the time to submit their responses. As always, we like to poll our members periodically and get direct feedback in order to provide better assistance and information. We will address the issues that concern our members and continue to send updates and provide materials to keep them well informed. Throughout the next few months SFFMA will be working on publishing an "SFFMA GUIDE" which will function as a manual for those who are new to the association. We hope to capture the importance of SFFMA and its impact on the fire service, as well as inform members about its numerous perks, events, and traditions. Stay tuned!

Diana Cardona
 Membership Administrator

SFFMA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO YOU!!

- Membership with 21,000 other Texas Fire Fighters, EMS & Fire Service Professionals
- Certification Programs available in Fire Suppression, Investigation, Inspection, 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
- Discounts on IFSTA, Delmar, Jones & Bartlett, McGraw Hill, International Code Council, Action Training Systems, PennWell & Brady Materials
- Monthly E* InfoFire email based newsletter, InfoFire Conference Edition, and annual Texas Firemen Magazine
- Annual Training Conference & Convention registration discounts
- 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
- Cellular Phone Service/Equipment Discounts : 11% off AT&T, 23% off Sprint/Nextel, and 10% off T*Mobile
- Bereavement program and discounts available through Dignity Memorial
- Discounts on Security Alarm Monitoring through Monitronics
- Discounts on Aflac Policies: Contact Martha Thomas (903) 312-7698 or Jennifer Quin (903) 343-9598 for details
- 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 - see page 13 for more information)
- SFFMA, in partnership with TargetSafety, now offers members up to a 30% discount on PreventionLink



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS
CONTACT: membership@sffma.org or call 1.800.580.7336**

How can the **TEXAS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD** help me and/or my organization?

By Edward Walsh FF/LP on behalf of the Texas Emergency Medical Service Board



I was sitting at the Texas Emergency Medical Services Board (TEMSB) booth during the Texas EMS conference 2010 in Austin, as fellow EMS folks walked by the booth. The most common question asked “What is the TEMSB about? I have received a card in the mail and I would like to know more.”

First things first, what a great EMS conference! Like always Texas DSHS puts together a great conference and in case you are not aware, TEMSB taught five EMS classes at the conference. We appreciate all that attended these classes.

A little information, the Texas Emergency Medical Services Board, www.temsb.org, is a division of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas, www.sffma.org. The SFFMA of Texas has been around for well over 100 years and is still running strong. There are many benefits for being a member of the TEMSB and SFFMA. Being a member of one makes you a member of the other. This article highlights some of the benefits to members of the TEMSB. To see all of the benefits please look at the TEMSB or SFFMA websites.

For the last several years, throughout the United States, Fire and EMS organizations are merging. Even in cities where Fire and EMS operate as two separate entities, these entities work closely together on medical calls, accidents, rescues, fire rehab and much more. Observing this trend, the Texas SFFMA executive board decided to create an EMS board to help the EMS community within the SFFMA. This led to the creation of the Texas Emergency Medical Services Board (TEMSB). The Texas SFFMA membership consists of many diverse organizations throughout Texas. This includes industrial, volunteer, combination and paid fire departments, and EMS organizations.

During the 2011 Texas legislative session the TEMSB was very involved and did some good for the EMS community. Please see the SFFMA website for more information. The SFFMA provided training for Texas legislature to give the legislatures an idea of what firefighting is about. TEMSB is looking and providing similar training geared towards EMS in future legislative sessions.

To answer many of the questions we received at the TEMSB booth, I put together the following questions and answers. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact the SFFMA office in Austin or one of the district officers.

THE COST AND WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR DUES?

Probably the most often question I have heard is what does it cost and what do I get for my dues. To answer that I have answered the two membership questions first. The dues for an individual member are \$20 and with that you get:

Benefits of Membership: My favorite individual benefit is the discounts for cell phones and usage. This benefit alone usually covers the cost of membership and then some. See www.sffma.org or www.sffmabenefits.org

Another favorite benefit is the free or low cost *training*. SFFMA and TEEX have partnered to provide rural training throughout the state at minimal cost. I have seen NAEMSE instructor courses offered for the cost of the material. I received Incident Safety Officer training for the material cost of around \$15. The Incident Safety Officer training was geared for both fire and EMS. More information on training a little later in this article.

Visit <http://www.sffmabenefits.org> to see the many benefits offered through AMBA and www.sffma.org for the rest of the member benefits.

My favorite information to provide to departments in Texas is that a lot of training can be paid for using the Texas Forest Service HB 2604 grant program. Cost-share assistance for Training Tuition Grants are available up to \$12000 per department per fiscal year. This does include EMS classes.

During the 134th SFFMA Annual conference, in Corpus Christi, several EMS related classes were offered. These classes included PEPP and EMS Leadership. For the last two years an ECA class was offered during the Annual Municipal School at Texas A&M’s Brayton Fire Training Field. During the 135th SFFMA annual conference, in Mesquite, several EMS classes were offered. This conference offered Chief Rick Lasky’s “Pride and Ownership” class. Chief Lasky is the Fire Chief from Lewisville, Texas who runs both fire and EMS calls.

Starting in 2010 TEMSB offered classes at the Texas EMS Conference. Again in 2011 TEMSB was asked by DSHS to provide classes at the Texas EMS Conference in Austin.

WHAT IS THE ORGANIZATIONAL COST AND WHAT ADVANTAGE DOES THE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP HAVE?

The cost Department/Organization membership is based on population served.

Population Served (From Last Census)

0 to 1750	\$75
1751 to 5000	\$115
5001 to 10,000	\$135
10,001 to 20,000	\$155
20,001 to 30,000	\$175
30,001 to 40,000	\$200
40,001 an over	\$225

www.SFFMAbenefits.org

Learn more about your member benefits on our special website!

Member Benefits

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Whole Life Insurance Policy
- First Diagnosis Heart Attack & First Major Heart Surgery Policy
- First Diagnosis Cancer Policy
- Long Term Care Policy
- Medicare Supplement Plans



Benefits made available by



Visit www.SFFMAbenefits.org or call AMBA at 800.258.7041 to learn more

Texas EMS Conference 2011

See you in Austin!

Austin Convention Center
November 20-23

Exhibit Hall Hours

Sunday 2 to 7pm
Monday 11am to 6pm
Tuesday 8 to 11am

Education

One-hour lectures
Two-hour, hands-on workshops
In-depth preconference classes

The full package includes

Up to 15 hours CE credit
Conference logo tote bag
Coffee and snack breaks each day
Buffet lunch on Monday
Awards Luncheon on Tuesday



Register early and save!

For details, go to:
www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems.
Deadline for early registration is November 1.

Special conference rates available at seven downtown hotels.

SFFMA members have the opportunity to share in the discounts through NCEMSC. This benefit alone should be more than enough to save the membership amount. The annual fee for membership in NCEMSC is covered by the SFFMA. NCEMSC has generated documented savings of 35% for many of our member departments. Take a look at <http://www.ncemsc.org/> to see more information about NCEMSC and see the negotiated discounts for the following:

- Ambulances
- Billing and 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 Service Cards
- Medical Supplies and Equipment
- Mobile Gateway
- Patient Safety Straps
- Patient and Customer Satisfaction Surveys
- Promotional Clothing and Items
- The First Responder's Legislative Voice at the State level

FOR ANSWERS TO ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

contact the SFFMA office in Austin, TX
512.454.3473
or 800.580.7336

Other than holidays, the only time the office is closed is during the SFFMA convention in June. Business hours are

**MONDAY - FRIDAY
7:30 AM TO 4:30 PM**

THE SFFMA AND TEMSB LOCAL CONTACTS

If you want to stay connected with SFFMA or TEMSB members in your area, find committee rosters on pages 34-51.

FUTURE PLANS OF TEMSB

- EMS Leadership Certifications
- Cross Fire and EMS training at the EMS conference
- Continuing Education EMS training at SFFMA conference and convention
- Working with the DSHS and the National Registry to help improve training and testing in Rural Texas.

To join, please fill out an application found at www.sffma.org under EMS/TEMSB tab. ■

SFFMA FIREFIGHTER/ EMS RESPONDER 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 or EMS department on or before the District's Spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from fire/EMS department and signed by Fire Chief, Assistant Chief or President.

One nominee from each District should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the state SFFMA office no later than the 4th Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from the 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/ EMS committees will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists in each category based on the above criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results.

The three finalists from each category will be interviewed by the FFOY/ EMS committees 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.



Congratulations!

RICHARD VAN WINKLE
2011 Firefighter of the Year

**2011 FFOY
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&
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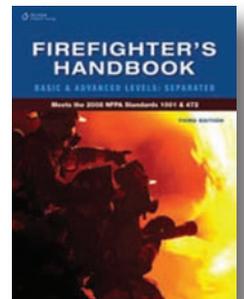
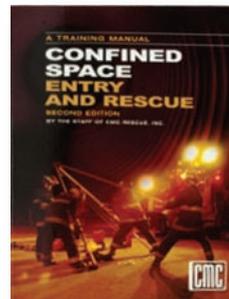
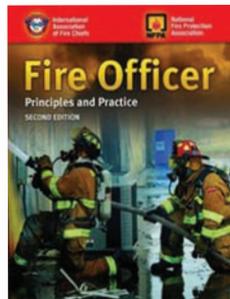
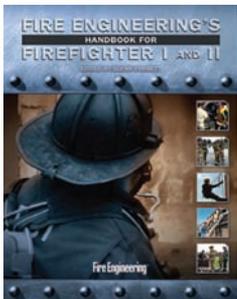
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For updates and a wider selection of books and related materials visit

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A

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10051 Barton Cir
Frisco, TX 75035-6667
Phone: (888) 941-3473

Advanced Rescue Systems

WILLIAMS, BRYAN
3459 FM 36 S
Caddo Mills, TX 75135-6773
Phone: (903) 527-3841

AG-Meier, Inc.

RAY, A. C.
1000 E 6th Ave
Belton, TX 76513-2804
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Air Cleaning Technologies, Inc.

DUNCAN, DAVE
1300 W. Detroit
Broken Arrow, OK 74012-3625
Phone: (918) 251-8000

Akron Brass Co.

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Wooster, OH 44691-0086
Phone: (330) 287-7019

AMBA

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6034 W Courtyard Dr Ste 300
Austin, TX 78730-5035
Phone: (800) 258-7041 ext. 332

Apparatus Services LLC.

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9421 FM 2920 Rd Bldg 12A
Tomball, TX 77375-8950
Phone: (281) 255-4405

Applied Force Technologies

WATKINS, BOB
2409 Colleen Dr
Pearland, TX 77581-5403
Phone: (281) 485-8260

Axcess Hose & Ladder Co.

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PO Box 689
Cypress, TX 77410-0689
Phone: (281) 213-4911

B

Barefoot

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PO Box 1277
Stephenville, TX 76401
Phone: (254) 918-0511

Brotherhood of Instructors

DEMARSE, NATE
6 Tower Hill Dr
Washingtonville, NY 10992-1009
Phone: (845) 418-6849

BWA - Boynton-Williams & Associates

RISSER, STEVE
4455 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy Ste 820
Dallas, TX 75244-5917
Phone: (972) 661-5461

C

California Casualty *

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21143 Hawthorne Blvd
Torrance, CA 90503-4615
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Casco Industries *

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Department of Inner City Emergency Response

MORTON, ELIZABETH
PO Box 8408
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1515 W 13th St
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E

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16238 Ranch Road 620 N Ste F185
Austin, TX 78717-5212
Phone: (512) 350-6306

Emergency Response Solutions - Texas

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6700 Woodlands Pkwy
Ste 230-204
The Woodlands, TX 77382-2575
Phone: (281) 796-7556

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Dallas, TX 75243
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N**National Fire Safety Council**

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Michigan Center, MI 49254-0378
Phone: (517) 764-2811

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Addison, TX 75001-3503
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TECGEN *

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Thank you to ALL Sponsors, Exhibitors and Attendees for making our 2011 Conference possible.

We look forward to seeing you again in Houston in 2012!

THE FOLLOWING BYLAW PROPOSALS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

PROPOSAL #1

Current Reading

Article III – Duties of Standing Boards
Section 3. THE TEXAS INDUSTRIAL EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD:

Section 3.4 Participation Requirements

2. Each Participating industrial organization or installation shall remit to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association the annual membership fee keyed to the number of employees in the organization or installation as follows:

- Less than 200 employees \$250
- 200 to 500 employees \$375
- 501 to 1000 employees \$500
- 1001 to 1500 employees \$675
- More than 1500 employees \$750

Proposed Change

Article III – Duties of Standing Boards
Section 3. THE TEXAS INDUSTRIAL EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD:

Section 3.4 Participation Requirements

2. Each Participating industrial organization or installation shall remit to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association the annual membership fee keyed to the number of employees in the organization or installation as follows:

- Less than 200 employees \$270
- 200 to 500 employees \$395
- 501 to 1000 employees \$520
- 1001 to 1500 employees \$695
- More than 1500 employees \$770

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the industrial organization membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs or addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

PROPOSAL #2

Current Reading

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 2. The dues of each department are to be according to the last federal census, and on a staggered amount according to the population. The minimum annual dues of any department shall be \$75 on cities and towns from 0 to 1,750 population, \$115 on cities and towns of 1,751 to 5,000 population, \$135 on cities and towns of 5,001 to 10,000 population, \$155 on cities and towns of 10,001 to 20,000 population, \$175 on cities and towns of 20,001 to 30,000 population, \$200 on cities and towns of 30,001 to 40,000 population and \$255 on all cities and towns of 40,001 and over population.

Proposed Change

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 2. The dues of each department are to be according to the last federal census, and on a staggered amount according to the population. **The minimum annual dues of any department shall be \$95 on cities and towns from 0 to 1,750 population, \$135 on cities and towns of 1,751 to 5,000 population, \$155 on cities and towns of 5,001 to 10,000 population, \$175 on cities and towns of 10,001 to 20,000 population, \$195 on cities and towns of 20,001 to 30,000 population, \$220 on cities and towns of 30,001 to 40,000 population and \$275 on all cities and towns of 40,001 and over population.**

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the department membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs or addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

PROPOSAL #3

Current Reading

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 4. Fire Marshals offices, when duly certified by their political sub-division, shall be eligible to membership in this Association on the basis of \$75 annual membership dues.

Proposed Change

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 4. Fire Marshals offices, when duly certified by their political sub-division, shall be eligible to membership in this Association on the basis of **\$95** annual membership dues.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the Fire Marshals office membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs or addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

PROPOSAL #4

Current Reading

Section 5. The regularly organized district, county, rescue association, industrial, and other fire service organization or individuals hereinafter recognized by Executive Board of this Association shall be eligible for membership in this Association upon payment of \$100 annual dues.

Proposed Change

Section 5. The regularly organized district, county, rescue association, industrial, and other fire service organization or individuals hereinafter recognized by Executive Board of this Association shall be eligible for membership in this Association upon payment of **\$120** annual dues.

The Association shall dedicate \$120 of the organization membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs or addition to a building or for the purchase of land. ►

BYLAW PROPOSALS continued

PROPOSAL #5

Current Reading

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 6. Sustaining members of the Association, which includes manufacturers, jobbers, distributors, and/or sales personnel of fire apparatus, equipment, and accessories, may obtain sustaining membership in this Association upon payment of \$150 annual dues. Only sustaining members will be eligible to contract for exhibit space at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Proposed Change

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 6. Sustaining members of the Association, which includes manufacturers, jobbers, distributors, and/or sales personnel of fire apparatus, equipment, and accessories, may obtain sustaining membership in this Association upon payment of \$170 annual dues. Only sustaining members will be eligible to contract for exhibit space at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the sustaining membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs or addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

PROPOSAL #6

Current Reading

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 9. Any person interested in the fire service may become an individual member of this Association by the payment of annual dues in the amount of \$20 per year which includes individual membership and allows for the eligibility of any other benefits which may be available to individual members.

Proposed Change

Article V – Membership Dues

Section 9. Any person interested in the fire service may become an individual member of this Association by the payment of annual dues in the amount of \$30 per year which includes individual membership and allows for the eligibility of any other benefits which may be available to individual members.

The Association shall dedicate \$10 of the individual membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs or addition to a building or for the purchase of land. ■

THANK YOU..



Thank you for the privilege of serving...

I would like to thank everyone for the privilege of serving on the Executive Board for the last 6 years. It was an experience I will never forget and will always cherish. Someone asked me once "how many miles do you travel?" Well my darling bride Louise kept a record.

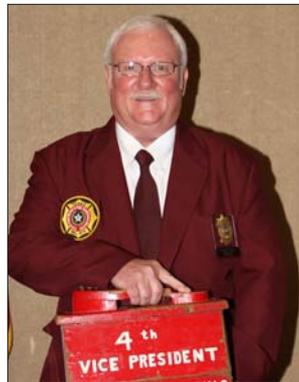
In 6 years, I traveled to 151 District Conventions out of 180, made 6 Annual Conventions, 6 Pre-Planning Sessions, and 10 Fall and Spring Meetings, plus some extra travel needed to conduct business throughout Texas. I traveled 55,411 miles and loved every minute.

Every District made me and Louise feel like family and welcomed us with open arms. We made great friends across Texas and we are here for you if you ever need us. Thank you again for your love and support during my years on the Board and to a continued friendship.

Kent Watts

President 2010

4TH VICE PRESIDENT



Words are difficult to find, to express my thanks to all of you for supporting me during the past year. I promise to do my best as an officer of your SFFMA. We have a lot of work to do.

Paul Hamilton

President 2016

MASCOT



Thank you for everyone's support. I really appreciate it. I'm currently working with schools in my area to set up fundraisers for MDA. I already have one on board. I'm working on other ideas to raise money.

Dawson Maples

Mascot 2011/2012



SFFMA, in partnership with TargetSafety, now offers members up to a 30 percent discount on PreventionLink Professional. Developed exclusively for the fire and

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SFFMA

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- Past Member
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 - Constitution and Bylaws Committee
 - Sergeant at Arms Committee

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT

- Firefighter of the Year 2010
- Past President
- Past Secretary

ALVARADO FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Joined Alvarado FD in 1977
- Fire Chief for Alvarado since 1989

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- SFFMA - Advanced
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TEXAS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF FUND

By Rodney Crosby, President



What happens when a catastrophic event happens to a volunteer? The Texas Volunteer Firefighters Relief Fund, Inc. was established to help those who help others. We raise money throughout the year to assist in a time of catastrophe; the death of a volunteer, a family member, or the loss of their home due to fire or flood. The Relief Fund provides short - term assistance in many ways. Sometimes just being able to drive someone to an important appointment or simply holding the hand of a grieving person can be the very best support that we are able to give.

In most areas throughout Texas, Volunteers provide fire protection and emergency medical service. These men and women work full time jobs during the day or night and come out to help in their communities at all hours.

They sometimes work without sleep to make sure that a damaged roof was covered or someone's personal treasure was secured. Like any charitable organization, the Relief Fund relies solely on the generous contributions and help of the community.

In addition, we have special fundraising events during the year.

With assistance from individuals and organizations like you we will be successful in bringing our community together, and you will help us help our own.

14th Annual Parade of Lights

SUNDAY ■ DECEMBER 4, 2011

START @ 5:00PM

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| - Motorcycles | - Specialty (any other vehicle not listed above) | |

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TEXAS FOREST SERVICE Report

By April Saginor



More than 300 days have passed since the Texas wildfire season began on Nov. 15, 2010 – and the dangerous blazes it's produced have left record-breaking damage in their wake. So far this fire season, more than 3.7 million acres have burned. More than 2,700 homes and 4,700 buildings have been destroyed.

The seven-month period between October 2010 and April 2011 was the driest seven-month period in Texas history, dating back to 1895.

Six of the top 10 largest fires on record in Texas history occurred this year. We've seen fires jump railroads, highways and bodies of water. We've seen hundreds of families evacuated, not knowing if they'll have an opportunity to return home.

Four firefighters and six civilians have lost their lives, but the tragedy didn't stop there. Texas Forest Service officials have come across burned and fatally-wounded animals while assessing damage after a fire.

We've seen a lot of tragedies – and we've also seen the kindness and gratitude of Texans across the Lone Star State.

After putting out a blaze that was threatening homes in Hale County, a homeowner hugged all 15 engine crew members and a regional fire coordinator before allowing them to leave the property. Residents across the state have approached firefighters in restaurants and convenience stores, offering to pay for their meals, buy their fuel or just say thank you.

While many Texas homes and structures have been lost, more than 34,000 homes and 14,000 other structures have been saved.

Bastrop County Complex

September 2011

Critical fire weather conditions were forecast for Labor Day weekend this year. Texas Forest Service strategically staged resources and alerted media and the public to the possibility of significant fire danger. The wildfire that erupted in Bastrop County on Sunday, Sept. 4, ended up being one of the most destructive in Texas history, with more than 1,550 homes destroyed and two fatalities. Josh Gill, battalion chief with the Bastrop Fire Department, was one of the first responders.



"It was a red flag warning day, so I knew if we had a fire, it was going to be bad," Gill said. "We started getting calls on the radio about power lines sparking throughout the whole county. I knew there were going to be some brush fires."

Some of the losses hit close to home. By day's end, 17 of the 30 homes on the road where Gill lives had been destroyed.

"Initially, we tried to protect homes, but we realized after a few minutes that wasn't going to be possible," he said. "Anything that got in this fire's way was consumed. It was spotting. We had crown fire. We had torching. It was jumping over roads and highways. There was nothing you could do to stop it." Gill was faced with a tough call. "We weren't going

to fight this fire. We were going to evacuate people," he said. "It's a very difficult decision to stop doing what you're trained to do and go to the worst level possible – start saving lives."

Bastrop County 911 dispatchers were flooded with calls – people trapped in their cars or homes, people reporting the fire, people asking what to do.

"There were people crying, running down the road barefoot," Gill said. "They only had seconds to escape. Numerous animals were trapped and killed. We also had people standing in their front yards with a water hose saying, 'I'm not leaving.'"

Just two years ago, the Wilderness Ridge Fire burned roughly 1,500 acres in Bastrop County, wiping out 20 businesses and 26 homes.

"That was our biggest nightmare ever, a total disaster," Gill said. "But on September 4, I told the EMCs when I was en route that this one's going to make Wilderness Ridge look like a campfire."

Calling the recent Bastrop Complex Fire "the biggest tragedy I've ever seen," the battalion chief said it was crucial to have partnering agencies assist with managing the fire.

"We didn't have the manpower to handle it. The support was tremendous," he said. "And it was greatly appreciated."



Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County

April 2011

Texas Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator David McWatters remembers hearing radio traffic about a grass fire in Marfa on Saturday, April 9 – after 14 consecutive days of red flag warnings in the area. On his way to check it out, McWatters heard a call for mutual aid.

“They were asking for help a couple minutes in,” McWatters recalled. *“I knew it was not going to be good.”* By the time McWatters checked in with the local fire chief and called for aviation resources, the fire had spread to the county line. *“At the time, I thought, ‘We’re not stopping this,’”* he said. *“It was a nightmare situation. It happened so fast.”*



In fact, the fire spread 31 miles in a single afternoon. Evacuations began almost immediately. Local law enforcement officials were driving through neighborhoods shouting warnings through a bull horn because they didn't have time to go door to door. *“We had a cycling race going on so we had about 200 cyclists in town, and a lot of people wanted to take pictures of this fire that was coming right at them,”* McWatters said. *“I spent a lot of time trying to evacuate vehicles that were pulled over on the side of the road to take pictures. I was just trying to push people out of town.”*

More than 300,000 acres ultimately

burned in Jeff Davis County, as the area saw one of the largest recorded fires in Texas history. Jeff Davis County Commissioner Larry Francell was quoted saying the area looked *“like the newsreels of Baghdad.”* Many statistics have been tossed around since the Fort Davis fire, but McWatters said he points to the three most important numbers: Zero, zero zero.

“There were zero fatalities, which is unbelievable on a 313,000-acre fire in a small town. I came to find out later there were people who never left their homes,” he said. *“There were zero significant injuries. With 480 firefighters working over 20-plus days, we had a twisted ankle, a twisted knee and a bee sting – and this is in some of the roughest country in Texas. And we had zero structures lost after the first operational period. That’s including a fire that blew back into town a few days later.”*

“We had good training, good safety and good practices,” McWatters added. *“But honestly, a big part of it was the hand of God.”*

Possum Kingdom Complex, Stephens, Young and Palo Pinto counties

April 2011

When the Possum Kingdom complex of fires was extinguished after burning more than 126,000 acres, 168 homes and two churches had been destroyed.

It started as the “PK West” Fire in Stephens County and grew to 20,000 acres in a very short period of time.

Texas Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Mike McGuire recalled that personnel came in that day from California – and were put to work as soon as they arrived.

“Everybody was paying attention to the PK fire because it jumped the lake, but there was a heroic battle going on at the south end at the corner

of Highway 207 and Highway 16,” McGuire said. *“With 80- to 100-foot flame lengths, we held that fire to Highway 16. If we would have lost Highway 16, we would have lost the town of Strawn, the town of Gordon and the town of Mingus. It was an amazing feat. We held it there until the wind shifted.”*



The firefighters' efforts protected more than 20,000 people living in the threatened area.

Regional Fire Coordinator Cody Rattan said he was amazed at the community support.

“The last day when we closed down the Young County Arena, we walked outside and all the city ladder trucks were there with the ladders crossed. There were so many people there, saluting us and thanking us,” he said. *“The pharmacy at Wal-Mart donated all kinds of supplies, and people brought care packages and blankets. I talked to one lady who had lost her home. She was out there volunteering because she said it was all she could do to keep her mind off what had happened.”* But the tragedy wasn't over for property owners at Possum Kingdom Lake. Another devastating wildfire ripped through the area in September, scorching 6,555 acres and destroying 39 homes. Texas Forest Service officials have acknowledged that significant fires will likely continue through the winter. ■

For more information on how to protect your home from wildfire, visit texasfirestorm.org.

SUCCESSFUL FINANCING OF VFD PROJECTS



Financial markets, including the stock market, bond markets and global markets for U.S. Treasury securities continue to surprise folks on a daily basis with their many twists and turns. However, while all of this occurs on a global and national level, financing of VFD equipment and projects at the local level around the state of Texas continue to occur on a week-by-week “normal” basis. This of course is great news to all of us who are seeing the demand for fire services around the state of Texas reach unprecedented levels.

The process of financing emergency services equipment, vehicles, and stations has not changed much over time and continues to be a very simple and efficient process. Several thoughts on how to prepare and plan for a successful and timely financing are highlighted below.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

One of the more critical aspects of securing low, tax-exempt interest rates involves locating and providing a few simple documents evidencing the VFD’s legal status and contractual funding arrangements:

- Organizational creation documents (filed when the VFD was created)

- IRS documentation evidencing the Department’s tax-exempt status
- A properly executed fire service agreement with a City, County, or ESD

Locating these documents should be a priority on every VFD’s “To Do” list. Once located, these documents should be kept in a secure place so they are handy when the need for financing arises.

KEEP FINANCIAL RECORDS UP TO DATE

One key to the success of any business is keeping good financial records. This also holds true for Volunteer Fire Departments even though the financial transactions may be few and you may not have an accounting staff to oversee the finances on a daily basis. Many VFDs find using a simple accounting program such as “Quick Books” is a low cost, simple way of keeping the financial records in order. QuickBooks and other similar software packages can provide the VFD with quick access to monthly and annual financial statements. Additionally, when the need for financing does arise, balance sheets, profit & loss statements and budgets can be quickly and efficiently prepared in a format that will be satisfactory for a lender.

REAL ESTATE CONSIDERATIONS

There are many things to consider when a VFD needs to identify and purchase land for a new station. Clearly, identifying the best location

for your station is critical. Generally, it is best to avoid property located in a flood plain or in other locations requiring costly dirt work for the proposed station. You will also want to make sure the seller will be able to provide you with a survey and the existing deed from the title company. These documents contain valuable information relative to existing liens as well as easements for underground piping, utility lines, hazardous waste, etc.

If the VFD intends to construct new facilities on property it currently operates under a ground lease, it is important to make sure the ground lease does not restrict liens being placed on the property. Similarly, if you plan to build on property donated to the VFD, you should check your property deed and consult with legal counsel regarding any possible restrictions on the use of the property. Such deed restrictions can usually be resolved, but it is best to identify and resolve them sooner rather than later.

Low-cost tax-exempt financing continues to be available to VFDs and can be arranged very efficiently. Departments who maintain up to date internal records in an organized, secure location will be positioned to complete financings and construction projects with ease and avoid delays. ■

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2011 PHOTO CONTEST Winners

Best in Show

By Jim Philp - *Lumberton Fire & EMS*

Fire Brigade Members tame the center flange at the 84 Pump House Project at Beaumont Emergency Services Training Complex in Beaumont, TX



Fire Related Acts



1st Place

By Trish Cook
Seabrook VFD



2nd Place

By Adam North
Greenwood-Slidell VFD



3rd Place

By Dawn McGee
Deer Park VFD

Life Saving Acts



1st Place

By Dixie Hughes
Alvin VFD



2nd Place

By Trish Cook
Seabrook VFD



3rd Place

By Howard A. Mead
Jersey Village FD

Education and Fire Safety



1st Place

By Geoff Hall
Lone Oak Texas FD



2nd Place

By Howard A. Mead
Jersey Village FD



3rd Place

By Clemencia Pittman
Alvin VFD

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2011 CONFERENCE PHOTOS





SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- Mesquite Fire Department
- Mesquite CVB
- North Texas District
- Jim Hanson - Photography
- Lloyd Klatt - Videography
- Scott Matthews - Training Coordinator
- TEEX Staff - Training, AV equipment
- SFFMA Executive Board & Staff
- Sergeant-at-Arms
- All committee members & attendees

PROGRAMA FRONTERA 2012



Emergency Preparedness and Response – Preparación y Respuesta a Emergencias.

Hazardous materials training and equipment valued at \$150,000 was donated to Matamoros, Tamaulipas and Nuevo Laredo fire and safety agencies as part of a U.S. Department of Defense initiative.

A 40-hour program, which consists of classroom and hands-on activities, will help prepare the Mexican Fire Departments, Cruz Verde (Green Cross), Mexican Red Cross, Mexican Customs, Policia Judicial, Mexican and Civil Protection members from the three principal border Cities, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas and Matamoros to handle emergencies involving hazardous materials.

More than 90 members from various public agencies from different Mexican Emergency Response agencies and Government organizations were invited to take part in the training. Participants learned how to use the equipment donated by U.S. Northern Command of the Department of Defense.



Ian Moscoso, a lieutenant with the Cloverleaf Volunteer Fire Department in Houston, member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas and member of the International Committee of the SFFMA led the training. He is a hazardous materials specialist certified by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.



Training lessons included topics on coordination, teamwork and how to respond once the community has been exposed to hazardous materials.



The 15 sister cities across the U.S.-Mexico border will be receiving training and equipment from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Defense (U.S. Northern Command).

Approximately \$1.5 million will be spent on the program that meets the emergency, preparedness and control goals of Border 2012, a U.S.-Mexico environmental program to improve the environment and protect people living along the border. These courses were organized by EPA through Dynamac and Texas A&M Corpus Christi.



"In the highest levels of the U.S. Department of Defense we have interest in all our neighbors around the world, but especially with Mexico, to help develop capacities to prepare individuals to respond to hazardous disasters," said Jeffrey B. Smith, chief for International Building Partnership Capacities at U.S. Northern Command.

The SFFMA through our International Department was represented in this effort to prepare responders from Mexico and keep them ready to respond in case of an emergency. ■

*Article sources: The Brownsville Herald, Tamaulipas on line, Metronoticias.com.mx
Photos by IMV*

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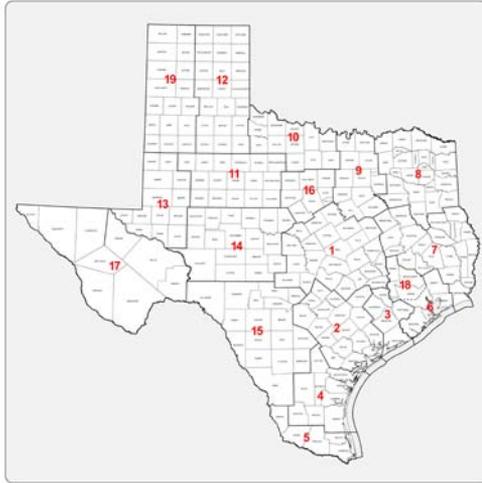
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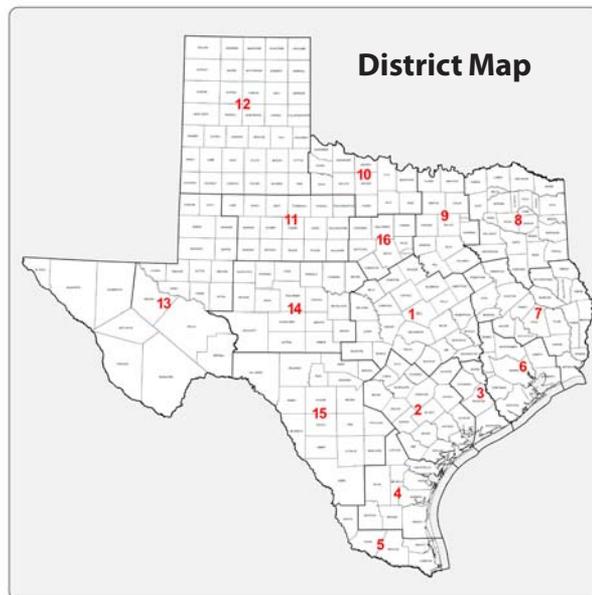
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The new facility is slated to better accommodate staff and some room for growth. It will contain offices, a seminar room, larger and expanded sales area, storage and much more parking!

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Supporting Wildfire Relief Fund

The **READY, SET, GO!** Program



National Program Bringing Fire Departments and Residents Together in Response to Wildland Fire

The Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Program was launched nationally in March 2011 at the Wildland Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nevada. The program assists firefighters to teach individuals who live in high risk wildland fire areas how to best prepare themselves and their properties against wildland fire threats. The RSG

Program stresses that when firefighters encourage residents to take personal responsibility for preparing their property and family for wildland fire, residents become an active part of the solution to the problem of increasing fire losses. This is especially important in Texas and is why the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association endorses and supports the program's development. We ask you to visit the program website, www.wildlandfireRSG.org and join to assist your wildland fire outreach efforts.

The RSG Program is a three step process that fire departments can deliver to significantly increase the safety of residents and the safety of responding firefighters. It is easy to remember and is easy to implement:

- **READY** – Be ready, be Firewise. Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.
- **SET** – Situational Awareness When a Fire Starts: Pack your vehicle with your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media and your local fire department.
- **GO** – Leave early! Follow your personal action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire. For more information about how to be Ready for wildland fires, go to www.Firewise.org.

The RSG Program provides tools through its website, www.wildlandfireRSG.org for fire departments who join the program to better understand preparedness techniques; help in identifying local partners and audiences; useful outreach models and presentation tools; and general background on wildland fire activity. These are especially designed to assist small volunteer and rural fire departments that are often strapped for time and resources. The RSG Program works in complimentary and collaborative fashion with Firewise and other existing wildland fire public education efforts. It amplifies these messages to individuals to better achieve the common goal we all share of fire-adapted communities.

The program was developed for national rollout by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), with support from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), U.S. Department of the Interior, the Firewise Communities Program and the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS). For more information about the RSG Program, visit www.wildlandfireRSG.org. ■

CONGRATULATIONS...

On June 2, 2011, Fire Marshal Randy Crim with the Lake Jackson Fire Marshal's Office and Fire Chief Mike Harper with the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department were recipients of the prestigious "Fire Sprinklers Save Lives" Award from the American Fire Sprinkler Association.

Randy Crim is Fire Marshal for the City of Lake Jackson, Texas. His vision to the benefits of fire sprinklers is second to none and he has been the driving force behind many initiatives that have been implemented in the city. Mike Harper, Fire Chief of the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department, speaks with authority and experience relative to the tragic consequences and the benefits of fire sprinklers in saving life and property, and improving the safety for his firefighters.

- In 2005, the city of Lake Jackson adopted the 2003 International Fire Code and under Fire Marshal Crim and Chief Harper's direction, the city implemented a locking FDC cap program for all new and existing sprinkled buildings, with the new fire station being the first to be protected by locking FDC caps.
- On August 5, 2005, the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department commanded by Chief Harper conducted a "live-fire" demonstration to educate the community on the effectiveness of residential fire sprinklers. Fire Marshal Crim arranged to have a fire sprinkler system installed in a few rooms. Many attended the demonstration and the visual evidence to the benefits of fire sprinklers was video taped and shown to the city council in efforts to introduce them to their idea of legislation mandating fire sprinklers.

“FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES” Awards

- During Fire Prevention Week of 2005, the Lake Jackson Fire Marshals Office and Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department led a partnership with other local fire departments and others to produce a Newspapers in Education project. The first distribution of 10,000 newspapers went to grades K-5 in the Brazosport Independent School District. Among the many articles in the 16-page special edition were information for children and families to learn about home fire sprinklers. With the second edition, it was expected that readership could be as many as 60,000 persons.

- Since there were not enough structures to continue “live-fire” demonstrations, Fire Marshal Crim and Chief Harper wrote a grant and on February 2, 2006 the Lake Jackson Fire Marshals Office was awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program’s Fire Prevention and Safety Grant valued at \$65,000. A portion of the funds went to the purchase of a custom-built fire sprinkler demonstration trailer to educate the public, homebuilders, elected officials, and other stakeholders to the benefits of fire sprinklers. Partners in making this trailer possible include the Texas Fire Sprinkler Contractor’s Association. In fact, their logo is prominently displayed on the trailer.

- In late 2007, the city of Lake Jackson adopted comprehensive fire sprinkler legislation that mandates every new home to have fire sprinklers installed beginning January 2009. The legislation also established a zero threshold for all new buildings built in the jurisdiction. Fire Marshal Crim and Chief Harper are directly responsible for introducing and the successful adoption of this legislation.

- In early 2009, Lake Jackson, Texas deferred the January 01, 2009 implementation date of the fire sprinkler ordinance for one and two family dwellings to coincide with the implementation of the IRC requirements in January 2010.

On June 16, 2009, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed a bill (SB1410) that did not allow municipalities in Texas to adopt the IRC 2009 with the fire sprinkler requirement for one and two family dwellings.

- Educating the public about the benefits of home fire sprinklers has not stopped because of a few legislative setbacks. The Lake Jackson Fire Marshal’s Office and the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department have utilized their fire sprinkler demonstration trailer not only in the city of Lake Jackson but also in neighboring cities such as, Clute, Richwood, Freeport, Alvin, and Pearland TX.

- On June 25, 2011, the fire sprinkler demonstration trailer was again on display to educate the public at The TX LODD Task Force fundraiser at the Galveston County Fairgrounds.



Chief Mike Harper with the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department (left) and Fire Marshal Randy Crim with the Lake Jackson Fire Marshal’s Office receive their Fire Sprinklers Save Lives award from TX FSCA members.

RANDY CRIM

Randy Crim has served as Fire Marshal since 2003. He is a member of the following organizations:

- SFFMA
- Texas Fire Marshal’s Association where he serves as a director and is on the Code/Technical Committee and Residential Sprinkler Imitative Committee.
- Texas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
- National Association of Fire Investigators
- International Association of Bomb Technicians & Investigators
- Greater Houston Fire Marshal’s Council
- Texas Municipal Police Association
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- American Fire Sprinkler Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- International Code Council

MIKE HARPER

Mike Harper has served as Fire Chief since 1999 and has been a LJVFD member since 1985. He is a member of the following organizations:

- SFFMA
- Texas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
- National Association of Fire Investigators
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Texas Fire Chiefs Association
- Brazoria County Fire Fighters Association

TEXAS A&M FIRE SCHOOL History



Third Annual Fire School

1929

State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association selects Texas A&M as the site for a firemen's training program, primarily for volunteer fire departments. Texas A&M College Officials, Dr. T.O. Walton and Dr. F.C. Hedges established the school and assigned the function to the Chemistry Department. Professor Harold R. Brayton was the first Director.



Harold R. Brayton

1930

196 firefighters representing 76 Texas cities and towns attend the first annual school, two days of drills and ground practice. The first school was the combined efforts of the SFFMA, the College, and the City of Bryan Fire Department. Fire Chiefs from several large cities of the state were the instructors.

1931

Texas Legislature authorizes an annual training school by passing House Bill No. 921. The bill authorized and directed the Board of Directors of A&M College to create and operate a firemen's training school as part of the college, providing for the creation of a Board to advise in the conducting of the school and make appropriations for the operations of the school. The bill outlined the duties and responsibilities of the Advisory Board.

1930-1947

An annual one-week training school was conducted by the Chemistry Department under the supervision of Professor Brayton. Professor Brayton served as head of the fire school from its inception until World War

II, when he was recalled to military service. During the interim, Dr. C.C. Hedges assumed responsibilities for the school as Director. Upon Brayton's return and the merger with the Industrial Extension Service Brayton took leave from his teaching duties and was appointed Director of the school until he left in 1955 to serve with the Executive Department of the State of Texas, a Division of Defense and Disaster Relief.

1947

The Texas Firemen's Training School is created when the Texas A&M annual on-site school merges with the Industrial Extension Service programs that train firemen across Texas. Training is held on campus and at Hensel Park just north of campus. Chief Frank Williams left the group to become the State Firemen's Pension Commissioner. L.O. Bynum was hired in addition to A.L. Cartwright. The staff also included Chiefs Otis Muenster, James R. Dobson and Paul R. Williams.



1948

The Industrial Extension Service becomes part of the new Engineering Extension Service.

1949-1950

Williams and Cartwright resigned and were replaced by E.W. Parker, and Henry D. Smith. A new position was accepted by Joe Fogley.

1954

A class was added for training in areas of Industrial Fire Protection. One day of class was recessed to visit the fire field to observe municipal firefighters in action.

1955 - 1957

Henry Smith is appointed Acting Chief of the Firemen's Training School. After Colonel H.R. Brayton's death in January, Henry D. Smith was appointed Chief of the program.

1960

Brayton Field is established on 26 acres west of campus as the University expands to become Texas A&M University.

1962

Industrial School established. Growth and success of the school contributed to the generous support and assistance of equipment manufacturers, distributors, sales representatives, and industry supporters. Hundreds of representatives from organizations donated their professional time and talent and have donated equipment to help the school continue to succeed. Municipalities, industry, and the armed forces have contributed to the growth of the school.

1963

School expanded to include a second week. Total attendance of students was 104.

1967

Spanish School established. By 1971, there was a total attendance of 208 students from 66 cities and towns from Spanish speaking countries.

1970

The Recruit Training Program and Annual Municipal Inspection Training School are established.



1972

Brayton Field is expanded to 62 acres and included advanced fuel storage, pipelines and advanced water reservoirs, communication equipment and lights. Through the efforts of Henry D. Smith, the Firemen's Training School Advisory Board and the officers and members of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, the field was expanded. Nearly 3.6 million dollars on equipment and training facilities was invested.

1975

Basic Marine Firefighting and Emergency Training course is added.

1981

Brayton Field nearly doubles in size with the addition of 60 acres.

1986

Charles L. Page is appointed division head.

1987

Brayton Field undergoes \$250,000 in renovations and new construction, including a rescue tower, classroom computer graphics system and multi-level chemical complex.

1996

Charles L. Page retires and Dr. G. Kemble Bennett, director of the Texas Engineering Extension Service, is named interim head. His connections at the state and national level help the Division expand its focus from firefighter training to include other emergency response professions, paving the way to become the Emergency Services Training Institute in 2000.

1997

Rick L. Tye is appointed division head.

1998

U.S. Department of Justice establishes the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, to train emergency responders to respond to nuclear, biological or chemical attacks by terrorists. Construction begins on a \$70 million "Disaster City" and Emergency Operations Training Center adjacent to Brayton Field.

1998

Texas Task Force 1 is established as the first statewide Urban Search and Rescue Team. The team comprises 186 emergency services personnel from 48 organizations, divided into three 62-member teams. A \$2 million cache of equipment is maintained at Brayton Field.

2000

The Fire Protection Training Division becomes the Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI). The Center for Marine Training and Safety in Galveston becomes part of ESTI.

ESTI is accredited under the National Professional Qualifications System (Pro Board). Texas Task Force 1 is named a FEMA team. Guest Instructor Memorial Wall is dedicated at Brayton Fire Field.

2003

Chief Les Bunte is appointed division head. The American Council on Education reviews and approves several ESTI courses for college credit equivalency.

2004

The annual Municipal Fire Training School celebrates its 75th anniversary.

2005

New fire extinguisher refill facility opens. Over 12,000 fire extinguishers are filled each year.

2007

World renowned for its hands-on, customized training, the Texas Engineering Extension Service offers a wide range of technical, skills training programs aimed at employed workers and those entering the labor force.

During its fiscal year 2007, TEEX provided training and technical assistance to more than 204,000 people from all 50 states, five U.S. territories, the District of Columbia and 54 countries in over 8,300 deliveries conducted across the nation and world. H.D. Smith Operations Complex & new Structural Burn Building open.

2008

Process Complex Fires project with 40 leak points added. New Wastewater treatment plant goes into service.

2009

HazMat Chemical Complex added.

2010

2.3 square mile site-wide paving project completed.

2011

Brayton Fire Training Field more than doubles in size to 279 acres.

Chief Les Bunte retires, Chief Robert Moore is named Division Director.



Brayton Field then...



All photos used in this article are property of TEEX.

...and now.

FIRST FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL

Dedicated to ALL unveiled in Beaumont, Texas

By Carol Gary, Fire Museum of Texas Executive Director

The State of Texas Firefighter Memorial was unveiled on Saturday April 16, 2011 in Beaumont Texas on the C.A. Pete Shelton Firefighter Memorial Plaza. The Plaza is located on the grounds of the Fire Museum of Texas at 400 Walnut Street, in downtown Beaumont. The bronze memorial is dedicated to the service of all firefighters in Texas. The Memorial was made possible by joint fundraising efforts of Beaumont Fire & Rescue, the Fire Museum of Texas and Firefighter's Local #399.

Fund Raising Committee Members included C.A. "Pete" Shelton, Captain Ted Hillin, Retired Captain Tommy May, Captain Charlie Cox and Carol Gary, Executive Director of the Fire Museum. Fire Chief Anne Huff, Fire Marshal Jack Maddox and Beaumont Fire & Rescue Administrator Danny Cross served as Advisors on the committee. Dohn LaBiche, Architect generously donated his time to oversee the project.

The unveiling ceremony included special guest Former City of Beaumont Fire Chief and Fire Museum Founder, Pete Shelton and Becky Ames, City of Beaumont Mayor. Mayor Ames spoke on behalf of the City of Beaumont acknowledging the unique partnership of the City and the Fire Museum. "Plaza improvements and the addition of the State of Texas Firefighter Memorial compliment downtown revitalization and enhance the entrance to Downtown's Museum District," said Ames. Guy Turner, President of The Texas State Association of Fire Fighters (Texas' only professional, career fire fighters organization, representing over 15,000 fire fighter members and 169 affiliate locals including Beaumont Firefighter's Local #399) traveled from Abilene in support of the Fire Museum mission and recent accomplishment.

The State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas has endorsed the Fire Museum as the "Official Fire Museum of Texas," since 1986. David Wade, 2nd Vice President of the SFFMA, attended the unveiling ceremony and spoke in support of the importance of the memorial. "April 16, 2011 was appropriately chosen for the Memorial unveiling in memory of the firefighters who lost lives in the Texas City explosion in 1947," said Wade.

The memorial is the first of its kind to honor all present, past and fallen firefighters of Texas. All firefighters — either paid professionals, volunteer servicemen and women, instructors or firefighters trained in the petrochemical industry — are recognized for their dedication



David Wade, currently 1st Vice President of SFFMA

to service and the willingness to put others before themselves in the community.

Captain Ted Hillin, Beaumont Fire & Rescue was Master of the Ceremony. "It has been a challenging three years for fundraising, we are excited it is finally here and paid for in full," said Hillin. "The project was a success because people from all over the state got behind the project. Donors saw the need to recognize the dedication of firefighters and we appreciate their support." The Plaza on the grounds of the Fire Museum of Texas also includes brick pavers from fire departments around the state, brick pavers naming deceased and fallen firefighters from across the state of Texas, a memorial to the fallen New York Firefighters of September 11, 2001, and a 24 foot Dalmatian spotted fire hydrant donated by Walt Disney in 1999 and a new 30x40 Pavilion. The total investment for Plaza improvements totals approximately \$260,000.

Fundraising began in April 2008 with a 36 month goal of completion. A majority of the funds were raised by support of the City of Beaumont and community partners including Industrial Safety Training Council, the Beaumont Emergency Services Complex and Quality Mat. In addition to accepting donations from generous corporations and individuals the Fire Museum worked with Beaumont Fire & Rescue to raise the funds hosting special events. Fundraising included two Golf Tournaments and three Fire Prevention Festivals featuring Pancakes on the Plaza with

Cooks 2 Dozen Plus. Firefighter Appreciation Days at Chili's and Baskin Robbins also helped raise funds.

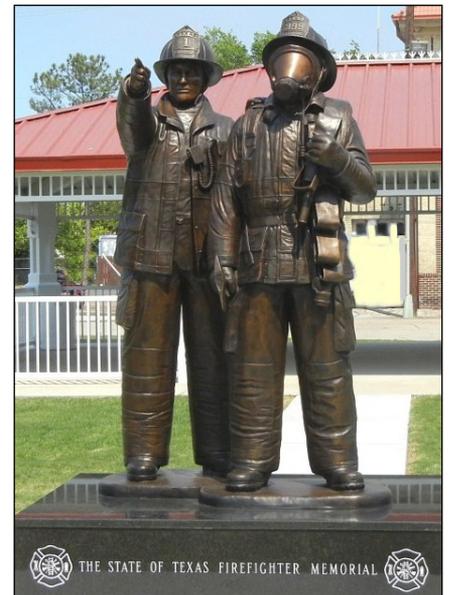
The Memorial's two bronze firefighter sculptures which stand over 6' tall and weigh 450-500 pounds are mounted atop an 18" black granite pedestal. Ron Petitt, Beaumont native, is the artist that designed the Memorial and sculpted the lifelike figures in his studio in Loveland, Colorado. The Memorial was cast at a Foundry near his home, and transported to Beaumont for installation.

"It has been an amazing privilege to be involved with a Memorial that will be a constant reminder of the commitment and sacrifices that our firefighters make everyday to the communities that they serve," said Ron Petitt. Broussard's Mortuary and Transit Mix donated materials for the completion of the Memorial's foundation and walkways. Additional benches were provided by the City of Beaumont. ■

The Fire Museum of Texas opened in 1986.

The Museum is visited annually by over 10,000 individuals from all over the world. Operating as a 501(c)(3) the Museum is managed by a Board of Directors through a partnership with the City of Beaumont. The Museum is recognized as one of Texas's Best FREE places for individuals, groups and families to visit. The Museum is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 p.m. Guided group tours are welcome with reservations. Donations to the Museum can be mailed to 400 Walnut Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701. For additional information visit

www.firemuseumoftexas.org
or call (409) 880-3927



Firefighter Memorial - Sculptor Ron Petitt



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*Chief Mark Jordon,
Katy Fire Department*

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*Rob Stone, Coppell
Texas Fire/Rescue*





The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) has resources and information that are available to all firefighters in the state of Texas. We wanted to introduce you to these resources and inform you of some issues that we have come across that will impact the potential safety of the fire fighters in your departments.

Injury Reporting

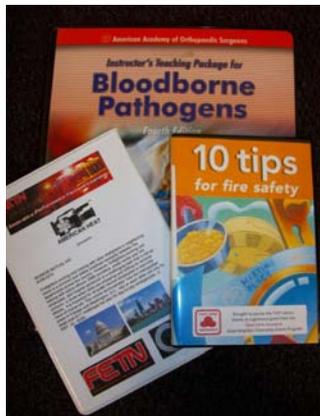
The TCFP began collecting injury reports in 2010 via our FIDO injury reporting system. These reports have been used to identify trends and to find potential areas where additional training could be implemented for the education and safety of your fire fighters. All injuries that are reported through 1st (first) report of injury for workers compensation could also be reported in the FIDO system, whether your department is regulated by the TCFP or not. We can give your department access to the FIDO injury reporting system so you can voluntarily enter your injuries, adding to our data pool and making our results more comprehensive. Your participation benefits your department and all fire fighters in the state of Texas. With more information, we can make more educated recommendations for avoiding injury.

As of now, the information that is being gathered is serving several purposes and is being disseminated in a variety of formats, both formally and informally. Formally, the TCFP is required to report all injuries for each calendar year to the State Fire Marshal's office, along with formal *recommendations* from the

commission. The State Fire Marshal's office will include these statistics in their annual LODD report. Informally, in collaboration with our library (The Earnest A. Emerson Fire Protection Resource Library), we've started a new blog called *Avoid Injury!* With this blog, we will bring you up-to-date information on the injuries departments are reporting to us. You'll get to see what other departments are reporting, see how your department stacks up, and then we'll provide you with tips for avoiding these injuries. We hope this blog will be a space to collaborate, share, and interact with all Texas fire departments about ways to avoid injuries.

TCFP Library

The Emerson Library also provides members of the fire service with resources to help with public and professional education. The Library services include an audiovisual (A/V) training collection, a print collection, and fire and emergency related research services. We recently added a research links page to our website where you can find quality online resources to help you do your job. Additionally, the library publishes an electronic newsletter focusing on hot topics (such as Courage to be Safe's 16 Life Safety Initiatives), and the related Emerson library resources available for borrowing.



Legislative & PPE News

The TCFP would also like to share information about legislative changes and PPE concerns that we've seen and that we're addressing. First, as of September 1, 2011, anyone performing code enforcement must be a TCFP certified inspector. See HB 3866 of the 81st legislative session for details about this change. This new requirement does not include pre-fire planning, but *does* include anyone who performs code inspection and enforcement tasks. This is a change that will impact all departments and fire marshal offices in the state.

Second, helmets are a vital piece of equipment to a fire fighter. During our regular visits to fire departments we are finding that there are cracks in the brims of many helmets. This is a safety issue that everyone needs to be aware of. The manufacturers are aware of the issue and have provided some information and guidelines on what to look for while inspecting helmets. Cracks that are longer than an inch, any crack all the way through the shell, and soft spots should all be advance inspected for safety.

More Information

Find more information on all these topics by visiting our website (www.tcfp.texas.gov), our blog (www.tcfpblog.blogspot.com) and via the Texas Commission on Fire Protection's Facebook page.

We look forward to providing the members of SFFMA with all the information we can to ensure the safety of all fire fighters and citizens throughout the state. Feel free to contact us by email at info@tcfp.texas.gov for more information on any of the above issues.

TEXAS FIREMEN'S AUXILIARY



TFA President's Pen

As I write this it is currently raining!!! God has finally answered some of our prayers.

I would like to "Thank" everyone for their donations and time given to the A&M Golf Tournament benefiting the TFA in July, it was greatly appreciated.

The TFA Executive Board had their Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 17, 2011 in Waco, Texas. We tried to meet in Central Texas so everyone had to drive. Items discussed were about by-law changes, community service project, and the planning meeting for convention.

This year the TFA is doing a community service project. We are collecting books and small toys to give to the children at the Texas Burn Center. Also, we are collecting toiletries and putting together bags to be given to people in a time of emergency. We have already delivered 100 bags to the fire victim's locations. Anyone wanting to donate to this cause please contact one of the TFA Executive Board Members.

I would also like to thank all the Firemen and Volunteers that have helped with all of the fires during this time of drought.

Hope to see everyone in Houston in June at the 2012 Annual SFFMA Training Conference and Convention.

Donna Chudalla
TFA President

2011 - 2012 TFA Executive Board

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2011 - 2012 TFA Executive Board

2011 - 2012 **TRAINING** Opportunities

OCTOBER

10/24 - 26	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue MAR202 Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
10/24 - 28	Trench Rescue RES020 NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Trench Rescue Levels I & II Training, College Station
10/24 - 25	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level HAZ008 NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Incident Command Training, College Station
10/25 - 26	WMD Terrorism PER211 Medical Management of CBRNE Events, Rio Grande City
10/26 - 27	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND103 NFPA 1081 Leadership Training, College Station
10/26 - 28	WMD Terrorism PER212 Operational Level Response to HazMat/WMD Incidents (NFPA-472, 2008 Ed.), Bryan
10/29 - 30	WMD Terrorism MGT344 Advanced Incident Management / Unified Command, Graford
10/31 - 11/1	Marine Firefighting MAR001 Basic Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-53), College Station

NOVEMBER

11/1 - 3	WMD Terrorism PER212 Operational Level Response to HazMat/WMD Incidents (NFPA-472, 2008 Ed.), San Antonio
11/4 - 6	WMD Terrorism PER212 Operational Level Response to HazMat/WMD Incidents (NFPA-472, 2008 Ed.), Seabrook
11/7 - 11	Marine Firefighting MAR003 Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-125), College Station
11/7 - 9	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue MAR202 Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
11/7 - 11	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level HAZ005 HazWoper for Clean-Up Operations Training, College Station
11/7 - 18	Fire Officer FOP340 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer III/IV Combination, Mesquite
11/7 - 11	Annual Municipal School INS100 NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I Training, College Station
11/8 - 11	Marine Firefighting MAR002 Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-15), College Station
11/8 - 8	WMD Terrorism MGT347 Incident Command Systems (ICS) Forms Review, Galveston
11/9 - 11	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue MAR202 Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
11/9 - 10	National Registry Exams EMS937 National Registry Written Exam Review, College Station
11/11 - 11	National Registry Exams EMS938 National Registry Exam Skills Review, College Station
11/11 - 20	Annual Municipal School INS100 NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I Training, Angleton
11/14 - 18	Oil Spill Response OIL100 Coastal Oil Spill Control - Tactical and Operations Level, Galveston
11/14 - 18	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level HAZ020 NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Technician Training, College Station
11/14 - 16	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND014 NFPA 472, Annex E, Flammable Liquids Bulk Storage Specialty, College Station
11/15 - 17	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND024 Advanced Tactical Leadership Training, College Station
11/15 - 16	LNG Emergency Response LNG101 LNG Spill Control and Fire Suppression, College Station
11/15 - 17	WMD Terrorism PER211 Medical Management of CBRNE Events, College Station
11/19 - 20	WMD Terrorism MGT348 Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents, San Antonio
11/20 - 23	Texas EMS Conference, Austin
11/28 - 30	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue MAR202 Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
11/28 - 12/2	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND016 NFPA 1081 Industrial Exterior Fire Brigade Training, College Station

DECEMBER

12/5 - 6	Marine Firefighting MAR001 Basic Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-53), College Station
12/5 - 9	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level HAZ002 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
12/5 - 16	Fire Officer FOP340 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer III/IV Combination, Universal City
12/5 - 9	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND017 NFPA 1081 Industrial Interior Firefighting Training, College Station
12/7 - 9	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue MAR202 Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
12/7 - 9	WMD Terrorism PER211 Medical Management of CBRNE Events, College Station
12/12 - 16	Marine Firefighting MAR003 Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-125), College Station
12/12 - 14	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue MAR202 Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
12/12 - 13	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND010 Incident Safety Officer (NFPA 1521) Training, College Station
12/13 - 16	Marine Firefighting MAR002 Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-15), College Station
12/14 - 15	National Registry Exams EMS937 National Registry Written Exam Review, College Station
12/16 - 16	National Registry Exams EMS938 National Registry Exam Skills Review, College Station

JANUARY

1/9 - 3/29	Basic, Intermediate, & Paramedic EMS Courses EMS110 Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station
1/9 - 5/24	Basic, Intermediate, & Paramedic EMS Courses EMS130 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
1/9 - 11	Leadership Development Symposium, Frisco
1/9 - 13	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level HAZ002 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
1/9 - 3/30	Recruit/Firefighter Entry Level Academy RFT002 Laredo Fire Training Academy, Laredo
1/10 - 4/20	Basic, Intermediate, & Paramedic EMS Courses EMS135 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
1/11 - 14	SFFMA/TEEX International Conference, San Antonio
1/16 - 27	Fire Officer FOP340 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer III/IV Combination, Coppell
1/23 - 27	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level HAZ005 HazWoper for Clean-Up Operations Training, College Station
1/23 - 27	Rope Rescue RES004 NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Rope Rescue Level I Training, College Station
1/23 - 27	Fire Officer FOP100 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I, North Richland Hills
1/27 - 28	SFFMA Planning Conference, Houston
1/30 - 3/9	Basic, Intermediate, & Paramedic EMS Courses EMS115 Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station

FEBRUARY

2/6 - 9	Rope Rescue RES007 NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Rope Rescue Level II Training, College Station
2/6 - 10	Fire Officer FOP100 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I, Harker Heights
2/6 - 10	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level HAZ020 NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Technician Training, College Station
2/13 - 5/25	Basic, Intermediate, & Paramedic EMS Courses EMS135 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
2/13 - 17	Confined Space Rescue RES002 NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Confined Space Rescue Levels I & II Training, College Station
2/13 - 17	Fire Officer FOP100 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I, Frisco
2/13 - 17	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND016 NFPA 1081 Industrial Exterior Fire Brigade Training, College Station
2/20 - 24	Pipeline Safety and Emergency Operations HAZ023 Hazardous Materials Pipeline Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
2/20 - 24	Trench Rescue RES020 NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Trench Rescue Levels I & II Training, College Station
2/20 - 24	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND017 NFPA 1081 Industrial Interior Firefighting Training, College Station
2/27 - 29	Industrial / Emergency Response Brigades IND014 NFPA 472, Annex E, Flammable Liquids Bulk Storage Specialty, College Station

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THANK YOU

A dramatic photograph showing the silhouettes of two firefighters in full gear, standing in front of a massive, intense wildfire. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising into the air. The firefighters are holding hoses, and the scene is backlit by the fire, creating a powerful and heroic atmosphere.

To all the dedicated and selfless firefighters and other emergency responders who have spent countless hours fighting the devastating wildfires affecting all parts of our great state.

YOU ARE OUR TRUE HEROES!

We are ready to take your claims for any injuries or damages to your equipment, stations or apparatus that may have occurred from Texas wildfires.

There is no deductible for fire losses under your Auto policy.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



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