"They protect firefighters like me."

“California Casualty specializes in protecting firefighters like me. My well-being is important to them. I’ve already experienced it multiple times.”

Jeff B.
Firefighter
protected by
California Casualty

Get your no-obligation quote for auto & home insurance.

1-866-680-5137
www.CalCas.com/SFFMA

Jeff B.
Firefighter
Protected by
California Casualty
SFFMA and the InfoFire Magazine assume no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Advertising in InfoFire does not imply approval or endorsement by the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas. Writers, photographers and artists are encouraged to submit their work to InfoFire Magazine.

ABOUT US
4 President’s Forum / Executive Board
5 Executive Director’s Corner / Staff
6 Certification / Membership
7 T-Flag / EMS
32 District Officers Listing
37 Texas Firemen’s Auxiliary

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
10 Proposals

CONFERENCE
20 Keynote Speaker, Chief Richard B. Gasaway
22 Conference Information / Registration
25 Sponsors / 2012 Photo Contest
28 In Memoriam / Course Descriptions

FEATURED ARTICLE
26 Texas Forest Service

ARTICLES
12 NFPA Process
33 TCFP / VFIS / TFFF
34 Challenges with Combination Agencies: Regulations/Laws
35 Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force

2012 CONFERENCE EDITION
**President's Forum/Executive Board**

**2011 - 2012 Executive Board**

**President**
Rex W. Klesel  
3537 County Road 326  
Alvin, TX 77511  
W: 281.331.7688  
C: 281.387.9967  
Email: rklese@sffma.org

**1st Vice President**
David Wade  
3018 Eileen St.  
Deer Park, TX 77536  
W: 281.478.7281  
C: 713.545.9299  
Email: dwade@sffma.org

**2nd Vice President**
Bill Gardner  
PO Box 319  
League City, TX 77573  
W: 713.468.7941  
Email: bgardner@sffma.org

**3rd Vice President**
Rusty Kattner  
680 Fountain View Ln.  
League City, TX 77573  
W: 832.221.9533  
Email: rkattner@sffma.org

**4th Vice President**
Paul Hamilton  
PO Box 364  
Bushland, TX 79012-0364  
W: 806.640.2195  
Email: phamilton@sffma.org

**Secretary**
Joe Ondrasek  
3572 Caroline Dr.  
Bryan, TX 77807  
W: 979.775.0194  
C: 979.800.1038  
Email: jondrasekJffma.org

**Assistant Secretary**
F. Jim White  
304 E. Mundy St.  
Overton, TX 75684  
H: 903.834.3457  
Email: jwhite@sffma.org

**Chaplain**
Ben Kennedy  
PO Box 11859  
College Station, TX 77842  
W: 979.862.7420  
C: 979.801.2028  
Email: bkenndenysfma.org

**Past President**
Bryan Rickert  
142 County Road 2791  
Carthage, TX 75633  
W: 903.754.0403  
Email: brickert@sffma.org

**Executive Director**
Chris Barron  
4450 Frontier Trl.  
Austin, TX 78745  
W: 512.453.1876  
C: 512.454.3473  
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

**Mascot**
Dawson Maples  
3400 Steenwood Lane  
Alvin, TX 77511  
H: 281.331.3973

**Board of Directors**
Rayford W. Gibson  
PO Box 7274  
Tatum, TX 75561  
W: 972.229.8134  
C: 903.947.2831  
Email: rgibson@sffma.org

By the time you read this article the Planning Conference has come and gone and the Spring District Meetings will be in full swing. It is the intention of the Executive Board to have at least one - and many times four or five - Board Members at each of the District Meetings. The reason for this is to hear you, and when possible, to address your concerns, and also to inform you and your Fire and EMS Departments about issues impacting you as an Emergency Responder. The Executive Board travels thousands of miles each Spring and then again each Fall to attend your District Meetings to be there for you. I want to thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend these meetings.

The Austin Staff had done a phenomenal job this year receiving and administrating grants in the form of education and equipment and has had a very positive bottom line financially. I also want to thank all of the SFFMA Committee Members for your dedication to the Association, without your service there would not be an Association.

Please make plans to attend this year’s Convention in Houston, as the Host District is working hard to have this 136th Annual Training Conference both educational and pleasurable.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming District Meetings.

Rex W. Klesel  
SFFMA President

---

Lone Star Tribute

Be part of the Lone Star Tribute and help us raise money for our new building by donating and having your name, department or corporation be part of our new facility.

- **Walkway Brick Purchases with Sponsor Name**
- **12x12" Tile in Walkway**
- **Sitting Bench**
- **Exhibit Display Sponsorship**
- **Parking Space Logo**
- **Logo Sponsorship in Sales Area**
- **Room Sponsorship**

For more information please visit: www.sffma.org
As we start to approach the spring and summer months the fire service starts preparing for responding to wildfires and the hopes of a slower fire season ahead. We are doing our part to try and assist fire departments throughout Texas by continuing the Texas Wildfire Relief Program, raising money for the program and then issuing out awards for wildland protective clothing. In mid-March, we issued out over $120,000 worth of awards to departments who applied for assistance. Due to the overwhelming success of the program we have had to find additional vendors to help fulfill orders and be able to get the wildland gear in the hands of the fire departments in a timely manner. We are continuing to process applications and orders and are doing everything we can to encourage manufacturers and suppliers to fill the Texas orders as soon as possible. The weather experts say that the conditions are lining up for another active fire season which might be on a more regionalized basis. We want Texas firefighters prepared and ready to respond with the appropriate personal protective clothing for the conditions.

If you know of a company, organization, association, etc. that might be willing to help firefighters out, please have them contact me so that we can discuss the various opportunities to assist.

Our new certification standards have rolled out and although there was some confusion in the beginning, our program has raised the bar to bring our certification in line with NFPA Firefighter I and II standards which are nationally based standards for firefighting. Having our firefighter certifications mirror national standards will allow for an individual to have other opportunities to be a firefighter in another state but most importantly have the knowledge and skills needed to perform a job to the best of their ability. Standards which have been recognized all across the US which have been tested, adopted, and modified as technology and techniques in the fire service continue to improve. Unfortunately our database was not quite prepared for the changes and although we had put in the requests for the changes in the early part of the fall, our database provider has been working hard to finalize all of the custom work for SFFMA Online for our members. Our database will also be upgraded over the coming months allowing for more flexibility for our staff and members. With the rollout of the upgraded database users will see a different look of the SFFMA Online login which will be more user friendly and easier to use. Several new features will include an ability to have a membership directory, show a members activity history and contact information and best of all a much improved Sales experience! Also with the upgrade we will see a new mobile based version of our website allowing for someone with a smartphone to have the same functionality as a user would on a laptop or desktop. The DHS grants we received for over $1.2 million are going well. We are continuing to offer the FREE classes all over the state and provide as much material as we can to those departments who have implemented a program in their area. We are hoping that a recent amendment to utilize some left over money from our first grant will result in an additional PSA in Spanish, banners for fire stations to help recruit new members and an extended AD&D policy emergency providers. There are some exciting things coming to SFFMA in the coming months and the year. The Executive Board has adopted some new member benefits which are expected to bring additional opportunities and offers to our members. The Goldwasser Real Estate Corporation, the programs offered by AmeriDoc and Innovative Health Insurance Partners which will be highlighted in this magazine are just a couple of new member benefits we have to offer. I think you will find some of the offers are outstanding and provide a benefit unlike some we have. Other benefits that we continue to offer from our discounts on home/auto insurance from California Casualty, phone services provided by AT&T, Sprint, Nextel, and T-Mobile, travel and retail discounts from AMBA, Curb/Address Markings through Glowing Streets, Discounts on Funeral Services from Dignity Memorial, discounts on EMS supplies/equipment from NCEMSC, or home alarm monitoring from Monitronics are just a few of the benefits we offer. Please visit www.sffma.org for full benefits listing. If we don’t have your email address, you are not getting your free monthly newsletter we offer to our members. Please log in to SFFMA Online and update your contact information. We will be glad to help you log in if you need assistance. Please let us know how we can help provide a better service to you!

Be safe and thank you for your commitment to the emergency services!


CERTIFICATION TRANSITION

There is still some confusion as to how the previous certificates now credit in the new Module-based program.

Previously issued certificates are still valid under the new program, the names have just been changed in the database.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before 2012</th>
<th>After 01/01/2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory</td>
<td>Module 1 – Firefighter I (Intro) training completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Module 2 – Firefighter I (Basic) training completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Accredited</td>
<td>Basic Accredited – valid certification, new ones not issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Module 3 – Firefighter I training completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Accredited</td>
<td>Full Firefighter I certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Module 4 – Firefighter II (Advanced) training completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Accredited</td>
<td>Full Firefighter II certification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training transferred into the SFFMA program is credited as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documentation</th>
<th>Credits in Program as</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TCFP Basic Firefighter (valid after 1993)</td>
<td>Module 1-4 objectives and test (must file applications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCFP Basic Academy Completion</td>
<td>Module 1-4 objectives (must file applications and test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFPA with IFSAC/Pro-Board</td>
<td>Module 1-4 objectives and test (must file applications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFPA without IFSAC/Pro-Board</td>
<td>Module 1-4 objectives (must file applications and test)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Applications received in the Austin office after December 31, 2011 must be submitted in the Module format and meet the new guidelines for required objectives. The updated hand-written application is available on the Certification Page of the website under Applications and Forms.

PANHANDLE REPRESENTATION UPDATE

At the last Certification Board Meeting in Houston, Panhandle District proposed a Certification Zone realignment. New district map divides the area into North (Zone 19) and South (Zone 12).

For more information contact the zone representative:

Zone 12
**Morris Lockmane**
ZONE 12 - ZONE 12
PANHANDLE DISTRICT
West Carlisle FD
Phone: (806) 252-2840
Email: mjlock@xanadoo.com

Zone 19
**Curtis Brown**
ZONE 19 - ZONE 19
PANHANDLE DISTRICT
Dalhart FD
Phone: (806) 244-5454
Email: dalhartfd@hotmail.com

SFFMA Certification Department can be reached via phone at 512-454-3473 ext. 903 (Kevin Creamer) or ext. 904 (Joyce Stein)
Email: kcreamer@sffma.org or jstein@sffma.org
MEMBERS
The Austin office SFFMA staff constantly tries to find ways of making information, documentation, etc. as readily available as possible. We have a vast amount of information on our website and even post reminders on the monthly e-Infofire.

Still, we urge you to take the time to find out about the benefits SFFMA offers. Tell your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. There are membership opportunities for everyone, and we want to continue to expand. There’s power in numbers, and more members means more benefits for you!

With the summer coming up, a lot of members will be looking for travel deals, remember we have a new benefit that can help you with that search. Look into taking a Funjet.com vacation! It’ll save you some money and they have a functional and easy to use website with daily deals and member discounts.

Every member of SFFMA has an SFFMA ID#. This number is unique and important when it comes to your membership. Think of it as your account. Very soon this unique number will provide members with an array of networking opportunities and change the functionality of your online account forever. I urge you to ask about your SFFMA ID#. It’s especially important if you’re on a department roster. The changes will occur soon, so stay posted!

A great part of our membership prefers to opt out of any online/computer activity and we are aware of this, however it’s important to keep the lines of communication open. If you don’t like to use SFFMA Online let us know about any changes you need to make to your membership via phone, letter or fax.

SFFMA just finished a very busy renewal period over at the Austin office, so please know that if you have not received your membership card and it’s been over two weeks, we’ll track it down for you! Shoot us a quick e-mail: membership@sffma.org (NOTE: If you are a department affiliated member, please check with your department first; membership materials are sent to the departments).

Thank you for your continued support!

Diana Cardona
Membership

OPTIONAL EXTENDED POLICIES

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN’S INSURANCE SERVICES
Eligible for reimbursement from Texas Forest Service under HB 3667.

In 2011, SFFMA adopted a “New” Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Program as an enhanced benefit to our members. This new program offers more benefits and broader coverage. For only $10 a year, your beneficiary will receive a $20,000 benefit in the event of your ON-DUTY accidental death (including travel to & from authorized activities). In the event of an OFF-DUTY accidental death, a $10,000 benefit will be paid. In addition, if you suffer a Severe Burn over 20% or more of your body, a lump sum benefit of $5,000 is paid.

It is important to know that IF a department chooses the additional policy for their members there is an age reduction schedule. IF a department member is above the age of 70 the following applies: Member Age 70-79 the policy pays 50% of amount otherwise payable. Member age 80+ the policy will pay 25% of amount otherwise payable. Please be sure to be aware of these stipulations and inform your set beneficiaries. SFFMA will keep a record of payment for this policy and report it to VFIS. This is only a brief description of the coverage available. For complete details of coverage including limitations and exclusions, please review the Group Accident Insurance Certificate, available online at www.sffma.org. For specific coverage questions, contact Barbara Marzean at VFIS of Texas at 800-252-9435.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL EXTENDED POLICY
SFFMA has also partnered with the National Volunteer Fire Council to offer your department members additional benefits!

Why would you want to join NVFC? For Only $12 a year, your beneficiary will receive a $20,000 benefit in the event of your death. You need to be a member on a department roster to be eligible for NVFC membership at the reduced price of $12.

Benefits to NVFC membership include:
• $10,000 AD&D benefit and $20,000 LODD benefit
• Subscription to the NVFC quarterly newsletter, Dispatch
• Member access to the NVFC website
• Personalized membership card
• Access to the bi-monthly NVFC Email Update Service
• Discounts on NVFC Publications and Materials
• Subscription to the NVFC, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, Junior Firefighter and Fire Corps E-Updates

Both of these options are an additional coverage. Yes, that’s in addition to the $3,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit and $5,000 Immediate Line of Duty Death benefit that SFFMA offers our members. They are completely optional, and you can also choose to have both at once.

NEW SFFMA BENEFITS PROVIDERS:
AmeriDoc (see page 16)
Goldwasser Real Estate (see page 31)

For more information about membership benefits, please contact Diana Cardona at 512-454-3473 ext. 906 or membership@sffma.org.

www.sffma.org
T-FLAG Update

Fellow Texas Firefighters
By Dan Key
Interim Chairman
SFFMA T-Flag Committee

President Klesel has appointed me to fill the unexpired term of Chief Steve Perdue, who passed away in December, as Chairman of the T-FLAG committee. I agreed to do my best to meet the challenge of assuming Steve’s position knowing that the task of filling his shoes would be a large one. First, let me say that Steve did a great job as T-FLAG Chairman during the past 3 legislative sessions during which I have served on the committee. He was well known at the Capitol and spent countless hours walking the halls, talking with members and staff, attending legislative committee hearings as well as sitting in the galleries during House and Senate sessions when bills that affected Texas Firefighters were going through the legislative process. That “process” can sometimes be a very long, drawn out process and can wear out even the strongest. But not Steve. He was there for us time and time again. Many times in success, sometimes in failure, and sometimes when bills just went away. Steve will be missed.

President Klesel and First Vice President Wade have both stressed to me the importance of maintaining the momentum of the T-FLAG committee through the June conference in Houston and the run up to the 83rd Legislative session which will start in January 2013 in Austin. Meetings have already been held in Austin with Director Barron and our Lobbyist, Mr. Blocker, to keep that momentum going. We are moving forward with plans for the 2nd annual Legislative Day at Texas A&M Municipal Fire School in July. This has been expanded to a 2-day event this year with Legislators attending on Wednesday, July 25th and legislative staff members attending on Thursday, July 26th of fire school week. Each day the guests will be bussed to College Station from Austin, given a tour of the Bratton Field Complex, given an opportunity to participate in training evolutions, meet with their constituents who are attending fire school and return to Austin in the late afternoon. This event was very well received last year and it is hoped that it allows the Legislators and their staff members a chance to learn more about what firefighters do to prepare to serve the citizens of our state.

During the Legislative session next year, the annual Fire Fighter Legislative Day will be held on March 20, 2013. This very successful event will include a memorial service recognizing fallen firefighters, visits to Legislators to gain support for fire service related bills, and a fish fry luncheon on the grounds of the Capitol. The fish fry is a very well attended event which provides us with a lot of goodwill with members and staffs at the Capitol.

Legislatively, one of our key areas of focus will be to restore full funding of the 2604 Grant Program which was significantly reduced last session due to severe shortfalls in the state budget. Keep in mind that funding for this program comes from fire insurance premiums but spending of the funds must be approved by the legislature, and therefore comes under the limitations of state budgeting guidelines. Other legislation that could come up involves TIFMAS liability for industrial responders, ESD tax rate increases, Wildfire impact funding and our favorite “Black Hydrant” amendments. There are some discussions about changing certification requirements for TIFMAS deployment that we will be watching for sure. The Fire Fighters Pension Commission is due for Sunset Review during this session as well. If you have fire service related issues that might warrant legislative action, now is the time to get the process rolling. The issue needs to be well thought out, explained and preferably something that will have an effect on the Texas fire service in general rather than a narrow local focus, if possible. Relay the information to me or members of TFLAG and it will be discussed.

This brings me to my final and most important point. The 21,000+ members of SFFMA, their families and friends represent a very powerful force in the State of Texas. We are well respected in the eyes of our communities and at the state level as well. I would ask each of you, if possible, to get to know your local, county and state officials better and develop a good relationship with them so that when the time comes that we need support for legislation we can call on those folks for support. It has been a proven time and time again that when the Fire Service pulls together there is not much we can’t accomplish. As a way of enhancing the influence we can have legislatively, it may be time to start the discussions again about forming a political action committee (PAC) for fire service related legislation. This “Fire PAC” would allow us to compete on a more even playing field and allow us to further develop our relationships at the Capitol.

I appreciate the opportunity that I have been given to lead this important committee and ask for the continued support of each of you, my fellow Texas Firefighters. Please, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have. I look forward to seeing you in Houston at the conference.

Sincerely,

Dan Key

Dan Key
Call: 281-923-7670
Email: dannylkey@yahoo.com

---

About Us

T-Flag/EMS

Ems Update

by Tim Smith, BSN, RN, EMT-P
Chairman Texas EMS Board

Hello to all fire and EMSers out there. The year is flying by and convention time will be here before we know it! Your Texas EMS Board has been busy this year. We are currently working a variety of projects for EMS. Included in these is a new SFFMA EMS certification for completing certain TEEX EMS Leadership courses. This important project is spearheaded by Dennis Gifford of the Lumberton Fire Department. There will be more to come on this project.

As a reminder, spring meetings are upon us and that means nominations for EMS Provider of the Year will also be due. All nominations must be submitted to local Districts by a fire department on or before the District’s Spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from the fire department and signed by the 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 District and signed by the District President or Secretary. The state SFFMA office will log in the submissions as received and leave the submissions unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above criteria. Nominees will be notified of the results and the selection announced at the annual convention in Houston.

Please take the time to honor one of your own for this very important award.

Thanks for your interest in Texas EMS. As always, we invite your input and welcome your suggestions on the best way to continue to provide the very best prehospital care for our citizens.

Tim Smith, BSN, RN, EMT-P
Fire Chief/EMS Director
West Carlisle Fire/EMS

Next EMS Meeting

June 9, 2012
5:00 pm
Crowne Plaza Houston
2012 ANNUAL AWARDS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
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:
   - 8) Letters of Recommendation (no more than 4 please)

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
9) Pictures may be submitted (No more than 4 please)

All nominations must be submitted to local Districts by a fire department on or before the District’s Spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from the fire 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 leave the submissions unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results.
The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the 1st Business Meeting. All submissions will be returned to the Districts after the state convention.

EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR
Nominee's department or agency must be a current Active Member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.
Nominees must be a current Individual Membership in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.
A nominee could be considered because of past heroism in an EMS-related act, act of bravery, dedication to training or introduction of new and innovative training methods.
Leadership abilities to be considered are:

1) Work knowledge,
2) Communications,
3) Creative ability,
4) Innovation,
5) Attitude,
6) Interaction with other people

Community involvement considered, either church or civic.
A nominee should be considered for the committees he/she may have chaired or served on and how these committees functioned under his/her guidance.
Nominees will be considered on a point system, giving points for their contributions in the above various areas.
There will be a personal interview conducted with the top three finalists.
To win the State Award as EMS Responder of the Year, nominees do not have to be an agency officer or chief.
All nominations for EMS Responder of the Year must be submitted to a local District Association, on department or agency letterhead and signed by the department or agency chief officer or executive, assistant chief or executive and/or department or agency President.
The district offices will conduct submissions of District nominations to the SFFMA State Office. Submission of winning nominations must be on a district letterhead, and/or signed by the President or Secretary of the district.
One nomination from each District President/Secretary shall be submitted to the SFFMA State Office by fax, email, or postal mail by the 3rd Monday in May.
Copies of Certificates and pictures may be included (but no more than four of each).

DEADLINE IS MAY 28, 2012.

Annual Memorial Service
June 10, 2012, Houston, TX

Each year at the Annual Training Conference and Convention a Memorial Service is held to honor firefighters and first responders who have passed away in the past year.
In order to acknowledge them in the Memorial Service Program, please provide the following information.

- Name
- Fire/EMS Department
- Date of Death
- Active or Retired
- Did death occur in the line of duty?

4450 Frontier Trail
Austin, TX 78745
Fax: 512-453-1876
Email: gglass@sffma.org

SUBMISSIONS ARE REQUIRED NO LATER THAN MAY 21, 2012.

2012 BLYONDY RUCKER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Wildcat Golf Club
12000 Almeda Rd.
Houston, TX 77045

June 11, 2012 - 1:00 pm
Registration form is available at www.sffma.org
Registration Fee: $75.00 per player

TO SECURE YOUR SPOT IN THE TOURNAMENT YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY MAY 31, 2012. NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER MAY 31, 2012. Non-SFFMA members are required to send full payment with their registration.
Pre-registered SFFMA members can pay on Saturday, June 9, 2012.

EVENT SPONSORS: Pepsico, Nestle, Budweiser, VFIS of Texas
At the 2012 Planning Conference in January, several proposed amendments were submitted to the Constitution and By-Laws committee for consideration to be placed on the ballot at the June 2012 conference.

All but 1 of the 7 proposals were submitted by or for the SFFMA Executive Board who are working very hard to properly best represent the interests of our association and its members. These 7 proposed changes will increase our department dues by $20.00 and our individual membership dues by $10.00, and shall be directed into a “restricted fund” dedicated to construction and maintenance of a new SFFMA Office to help us improve and expand our association services to our membership.

1 of the 7 proposals was submitted by a Rio Grande District Association and it concerns some clarification of duties for the Conference Site Selection Committee.

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee has reviewed all the proposals in great detail and fully supports them in their entirety. We strongly recommend the passage of these proposals as they are placed on the Ballot for your vote on June 13th, 2012 while attending our 136th Annual Conference & Convention in Houston.

These proposals will be available for review in a number of places. Please be sure to review them with your department delegates ahead of time, and ask any questions if you have them. This will help the lengthy voting process move much more smoothly.

Please contact the Constitution & By-Laws Committee Representative from your District, anyone on the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, or any of the Executive Board Members if you should have any questions.

Dennis M. Gifford
Secretary - Constitution & By-Laws Committee
Secretary – East Texas District

PROPOSALS 1 – 6 WERE SUBMITTED BY SFFMA 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

1. Each Participating industrial organization or installation shall remit to the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association the annual membership fee keye 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 keye 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 form 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 form 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 $20 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.
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 $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.

Proposition #7
SUBMITTED BY: RIO GRANDE VALLEY FIRE FIGHTER’S AND FIRE MARSHALS’ ASSOCIATION

Current Reading
Article IV – Duties of Working Committees
Section 14. Site Selection Committee: it will be the duty of the committee to visit prospective sites, negotiate with the appropriate facilities and bring the recommendations to the Executive Board for approval and then to the Convention Delegates for a vote of acceptance or rejection. This Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, the Association Meeting Planner, two (2) representatives from the current Executive Board and two (2) Past Presidents who shall be appointed by the incoming Association President after each Annual Conference and Convention proceedings.

Proposition #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 IV – Duties of Working Committees
Section 14. Site Selection Committee: it will be the duty of the committee to receive proposals, visit all prospective sites, and negotiate with the appropriate facilities. All proposals will be reviewed and top three (3) sites shall be visited. All sites shall be visited before the Annual Conference in June, so recommendations could be made to the Executive Board. Then the Executive Board shall recommend the top three (3) sites for the Convention Delegates to vote for acceptance or rejection. The Executive Board shall have their recommendations submitted by the end of the Annual Conference so prospective sites can be placed on the ballots for the Annual Conference & Convention Proceedings. This Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, the Association Meeting Planner, two (2) representatives from the current Executive Board and two (2) Past Presidents who shall be appointed by the incoming Association President after each Annual Conference and Convention proceedings.

Proposition #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.

SFFMA Plans for New Building & Property Sign
SFFMA continues to work with the architects and officials from Travis County ESD #5 to work out the details of the design of the new building and monument sign for property. The ESD is in its final stages of the development of the fire station and a sign located next to the road which will offer an LED board and the logos of the ESD and SFFMA. The new 12,000 square foot SFFMA building design is also being worked on with the architects to allow for ample parking spaces, storage, meeting and office space. It will also allow for the expansion of office space if we need it in the future or we partner with another organization. We hope that if the By-law changes go through it will allow us to afford the payments to the building, we will be able to start construction in the late summer or fall.
The NFPA Process
By Kenn Fontenot, Louisiana Director, National Volunteer Fire Council

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards have a significant impact on the fire service. Documented standards from the NFPA 1001 Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, NFPA 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training Evolution, NFPA 5000 Standard on Occupational Safety and Health, and NFPA 1901 Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus are just a few of the many standards that the fire service uses as a basis for training, certification, and the acquiring of equipment.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) strongly encourages all members of the fire service to be active in the development and review process for the NFPA standards. Standards and Codes—along with the Codes and Standards-Making Guiding principles for the NFPA—are a key component of the NVFC’s B.E.S.T. practices for health and safety. The B.E.S.T. practices, which make up the NVFC’s Health and Safety Priorities, cover the four main focus areas of Behavior, Equipment, Standards, and Codes, and Training. Learn more about all of the B.E.S.T. practices on the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org/health_safety.

Overview
Many wonder how the NFPA standards come into existence or how they are revised. The purpose of this article is to help clarify how standards are written, by whom, and how you, the user, can influence what goes into these documents.

Technical Committees (TC) for the various standards are formed consisting of volunteers, either individually or by representation of their organization, or having expertise and subject matter knowledge. NFPA balances the committee membership by selecting from various groups including users, labor, manufacturers, installers, applied research, enforcing authority, insurance, consumer, and special expert. This is to preclude one section from dominating the group. Each TC has an NFPA staff liaison to ensure that the codes and standards development process is followed.

Existing standards are revised approximately every five years. The revision cycle takes about two years and involves a five-step process. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to offer input and can influence the revision during several steps within the cycle.

Guiding principles for the NFPA Codes and Standards development System include due process, openness, and consensus. The following is a brief overview of the five-step process.

Step One: Call for Proposals
A public notice is made approximately two years before the document revision is complete. The public is encouraged to submit proposals to the NFPA Standards Administration. You do not have to be a member of a TC to have your concern heard. The proposal does need to be on a Proposal Form, which is available on the NFPA web site at www.nfpa.org. Proposals can seek to clarify, add, or delete components of the standard. Any proposals received after the proposal period has closed will be held until the next cycle.

Step Two: Report on Proposals (ROP)
The submitter of the proposal does not need to be present at the ROP meeting. By process, the TC is required to consider and act upon all proposals. Proposals can also be submitted by members of the TC at the ROP meeting.

The TC will review all proposals for new or revised sections to be submitted as is available to the committee. Each proposal is voted on in terms of the actions by the committee: accept, reject, accept in principle, accept in part, and accept in principle and in part. With the exception of the committee vote to “accept,” the TC must also substantiate the reason for voting, which will become part of the ROP record. This vote is a simple majority vote made by the members of the committee present that allows the proposal to move to a “letter-ballot” (written ballot). It is not necessarily a reflection of the committee’s position on the issue. The letter-ballot is sent to all members of the committee after the ROP meeting is completed.

As part of the letter-ballot, TC members are balloted to accept, reject, accept in principle, accept in part, or accept in principle and in part. With the exception of the committee vote to “accept,” the TC members must also substantiate the reason for voting.

The actions of the TC and the results of the simple majority vote and the two-thirds majority letter-ballot are published as part of the ROP and made public on the NFPA web site and in print. Anyone submitting a proposal will receive a printed copy of the results.

Step Three: Report on Comments (ROC)
Once the ROP is released, period for public comment is open. No new proposals can be added, but the proposals that were acted on by the TC can be addressed on a Comment Form and submitted to the TC for review and action.

Again, an individual or organization can have input or influence on the standard. The letter-ballot by the TC does not mean that a proposal is complete. The public can request with substantiation the reason for the revisions to be revisited. For example, the public may ask that a deleted item be returned to the standard, or else the public comments may ask for items to be added or changes to language in wording for syntax or grammar will also be considered.

The TC will convene to review and act on each public comment. Each comment is voted on in terms of the actions by the committee: accept, reject, accept in principle, accept in part, and accept in principle and in part. The exception of the committee vote to “accept,” the TC must substantiate the reason for voting. This will become part of the ROC record. This vote is a simple majority vote made by the members of the committee present that allows the proposal to move to voting. It is not necessarily a reflection of the committee’s decision. The letter-ballot is sent to all members of the committee after the ROC meeting is completed.

As part of the letter-ballot, TC members are balloted to accept, reject, accept in principle, accept in part, or accept in principle and in part. With the exception of the committee vote to “accept,” the TC members must also substantiate the reason for voting.

Before the results of this phase of the proposal are published, the Technical Correlating Committee (TCC) is convened to review and verify that there is no overlap between the standards that would cause significant impact to the documents. The TCC then conducts a letter-ballot with a three-quarters majority required to vote to accept, reject, accept in principle, accept in part, or accept in principle and in part. With the exception of the committee vote to “accept,” the TCC must also substantiate the reason for voting.

The actions, simple majority vote, and two-thirds majority letter-ballot vote by the TC, and the actions and letter-ballot vote by the TCC are all published as part of the ROC and made public on the NFPA web site and in print. Anyone submitting a proposal will receive a printed copy of the results.

Step Four: Technical Committee Reports (TCSR) Session
At the NFPA Conference each June, the TCCs meet to discuss the proposed changes to the NFPA documents. The NFPA Standards Council reviews and certifies the motion. The motions can only be on the items based on the ROP and ROC. There are limitations as to who can make a motion. The motion is placed on the agenda and anyone can speak to the issue. The vote is made by the NFPA general membership present. Successful motions are then letter-ballotted to the respective TCs and TCCs.

Step Five: Standards Council Issuance
All the steps previously outlined are documented and written in language that reflects the concerns of all who participate in the process. From the proposals that are submitted by the individual or organization, the substantiations, the letter-balloating, the publications, and the public comments become part of a public document transparent for all to see. Appeals can be made to the Standards Council if someone believes the process was not followed. Once the appeals are heard and acted upon, the Standards Council will issue the standard. The standard is published with all the revisions and the cycle is complete.

While the process appears to be complex and detailed, it is understood that this process is valid. The NFPA Codes and Standards have saved lives and property.

In Closing
Unfortunately many times the fire service does not take advantage of the process until the document is validated and final. Then there is a general pulling of hair and gnashing of teeth and the feeling that the NFPA has caused the sky to fall.

Hopefully, this article has clarified the NFPA standards revision process and how to participate in standards affecting you are due for revision, get involved in the process. Write proposals. Suggest changes. Add, delete. Become acutely aware of the timing of both proposals and public comment periods. When the document is released for public comment and the proposal you submitted is rejected, write a comment. This will ensure that the TC has given thoughtful consideration to your suggestion. Additionally, consider volunteering to sit on a Technical Committee.

The fire service should take a more proactive approach to the NFPA Codes and Standards Process. This assures that your needs and concerns are being considered and if justified, additions, changes, or deletions are made to the documents. Your input has a strong impact on the Technical Committee and the resulting standard. Be part of the process - you do have an influence.

Kenn Fontenot is the National Volunteer Fire Council’s Louisiana Director and Chair of the NVFC Health and Safety Committee. He is also a Charter Member and First Fire Chief of the LeBlanc Volunteer Fire Department. Fontenot is a Principal Member on the NFPA 1001 standards committee and Alternate Member of NFPA 1021, is the Regional Fire Training Coordinator at the Louisiana State University Fire and Emergency Training Institute, and is a Past President of the Louisiana State Firemen’s Association. He holds an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science.
FIRE AND EMT CERTIFICATION TRAINING
LARGEST ONLINE FIRE AND EMT CERTIFICATION TRAINING IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

EMS EDUCATION:
- ECA First Responder
- EMT Basic

“Our Department now exclusively sends our paramedics to this fire academy because of the great results and savings we have seen.”

Chief Mark Jordan,
Katy Fire Department

FIREFIGHTER COURSES:
- Basic Fire Academy
- EMT - Basic & Paramedic
- Firefighter I & II
- Driver/Operator/Engineer
- Fire Inspector
- Fire Investigator
- Fire Officer I & II
- Fire Instructor Courses
- HazMat Awareness
- HazMat Operations
- Texas SFFMA Volunteer
- Grants Available

Now offering the new SFFMA Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2

CURRENT & ASPIRING FIREFIGHTERS:
Train from home at your own pace while still working at your current job. Gain the certifications necessary to enter advance in the fire service.

CHIEFS:
Save money, maximize downtime, minimize travel expenses, and avoid shift coverage problems by training your department online.

“If you have the drive and desire, Training Division can help you achieve your goal.”

Rob Stone, Coppell
Texas Fire/Rescue
EXCLUSIVE FINANCING FOR SFFMA MEMBERS

Parker County ESD #6
Spring Creek VFD

Comal ESD #3
Canyon Lake VFD

Harris ESD #2
South Lake Houston

Financing Services:
- Expert financial planning
- Debt structuring & analysis
- Fleet Management strategies
- Combined interim and permanent
- Low, tax-exempt rates
- Benefits all SFFMA members

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

WE HAVE CAPITAL READY TO LEND!

Call (866) 582-FIRE (3473)
www.texasfirefund.com
info@texasfirefund.com
WE HAVE HANDLED OVER 370,000 EMERGENCY SERVICES CLAIMS

VFIS is the largest provider of insurance, education and consulting services to Emergency Service Organizations. Since 1980, we have handled more than 370,000 emergency service claims for our customers. Our success is reflected in our accomplishments.

- VFIS insures more Emergency Service Organizations in North America than any other provider
- We have retained 95.7% of our customers
- In 2010, VFIS trained more than 14,000 students in 43 states

For additional information on how you can receive industry leading Insurance, Benefits and Education, Training & Consulting, contact VFIS of Texas/Regnier & Associates at (800) 252-9435 or visit www.vfistx.com.
The Doctor will see you NOW!

AmeriDoc is an affordable solution to the challenge of healthcare access. We provide you and your family with round-the-clock access to U.S.-based, licensed physicians for telephone consultations. Regardless of your location, you can connect with a doctor in real-time for treatment or diagnosis of common conditions.

Consult with a Doctor by Phone 24/7

Call a Doctor while on the road or traveling

Immediate access to a Doctor

No denials or application

Immediate coverage nationwide

Special SFFMA Pricing

Single: $19.95 → $14.95
Family: $29.95 → $21.95

For more information, please visit www.ameridoc.com or call 1-877-870-4447 X 8
Often times we discover too late that we don’t have enough life insurance. As a member of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas, you can now make it easy to provide important coverage to meet the life insurance needs of your family!

**GREAT NEWS! You can receive a guaranteed amount of coverage without providing evidence of insurability.** ( Guarantee Issue means that there is no medical qualification for coverage. No health questions or physical exams. )

### Lifestyle Voluntary Group Term Life:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Spouse*</th>
<th>Child*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum</strong></td>
<td>4 times Annual Salary</td>
<td>50% of Member Benefit</td>
<td>50% of Employee Benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(up to) $300,000</td>
<td>(up to) $150,000</td>
<td>(up to) $100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guarantee Issue Limit</strong></td>
<td>4 times Annual Salary (up to) $100,000</td>
<td>50% of Employee Benefit (up to) $50,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Member must buy coverage on themselves before coverage can be purchased on spouse or children.

**Accelerated Death Benefit Rider** – Included at no additional cost, the ADB Rider will pay up to $5,000 of the Death Benefit early due to a terminal condition. This covers spouses and children insured under the program as well.

**Disability Continuation** – Included at no additional cost, benefits continue should the member become totally disabled. Premiums are waived during the period of total disability.

**State Firemen’s & Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas**

**Wage Protector Family Plan**

- 24 Flexible Benefit Options – You can pick and choose!
- Benefit Premiums can be purchased up to 60% of an employee’s current monthly wage or $6,500 per month (whichever is less)
- A weekly benefit for non-work related accidents or illnesses

**All programs are portable!**
- No loss of benefits (limitations apply)
- No increase of cost (limitations apply)
- Coverage continues should you terminate employment after the first premium is paid

**Call Today to Enroll by Phone, 1-877-870-4447 ext. 8**

Please enroll immediately! Enroll by June 15th for an August 1st effective date.

**Disclaimer:** This is a brief summary. Please refer to product brochures for more detailed information.
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

Register to win an iPad® 2 today!
For more information, visit www.TargetSolutions.com/offer/ or contact TargetSolutions at 800-840-8048.

TRAIN. TRACK. REPORT

- Track SFFMA objectives, ISO training hours, and TDSHS requirements
- Robust course catalog featuring more than 700 titles
- Unrivaled client services support available 24/7
- Secure technology relied on by thousands of organizations

TargetSolutions now offers fire departments 100% of the required CEs for all levels of responders in every category as required by TDSHS over a 4 year period.
Remember and honor all those who participated in the most historic wildfire season in Texas history.

Coin and pin available online or at our store.

Vote RICHARD VAN WINKLE
SFFMA 4th Vice President
HOUSTON 2012

Dedicated, experienced and ready to serve...

- 35 Years in the Fire Service

SFFMA
- Honorary Life Member
- Firefighter of the Year 2011
- Secretary 2001 - 2010
- Current Member - Finance Committee
- Past Member
  - Credentials Committee
  - Constitution and By-laws 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

CERTIFICATIONS
- SFFMA - Advanced
- TCFP - Head of Department

A special THANK YOU from SFFMA of Texas to all the students and volunteers involved in the fundraising efforts and donation to the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund.

TEXAS WILDFIRE OUTBREAK

Remember and honor all those who participated in the most historic wildfire season in Texas history.

Coin and pin available online or at our store.

Harvie Cheshire
SFFMA 4th Vice President

HONOR
ACCOUNTABILITY
RESPECT
VISION
INTEGRITY
EXPERIENCE

Make sure to follow me to Houston on

College Station, Texas
PI KAPPA ALPHA

College Station, Texas
PI KAPPA ALPHA

Texas Wildfire Outbreak

Remember and honor all those who participated in the most historic wildfire season in Texas history.

Coin and pin available online or at our store.

Vote RICHARD VAN WINKLE
SFFMA 4th Vice President
HOUSTON 2012

Dedicated, experienced and ready to serve...

- 35 Years in the Fire Service

SFFMA
- Honorary Life Member
- Firefighter of the Year 2011
- Secretary 2001 - 2010
- Current Member - Finance Committee
- Past Member
  - Credentials Committee
  - Constitution and By-laws 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

CERTIFICATIONS
- SFFMA - Advanced
- TCFP - Head of Department

A special THANK YOU from SFFMA of Texas to all the students and volunteers involved in the fundraising efforts and donation to the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund.

College Station, Texas
PI KAPPA ALPHA

Harvie Cheshire
SFFMA 4th Vice President

HONOR
ACCOUNTABILITY
RESPECT
VISION
INTEGRITY
EXPERIENCE

Make sure to follow me to Houston on

College Station, Texas
PI KAPPA ALPHA
Hello to all my first responder friends in Texas!

I am really excited to be joining you to celebrate the 136th Annual Conference of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association. I am honored to have the opportunity to share two very powerful safety messages during my visit.

First, on Sunday I will be delivering an address entitled “A Recipe from Hell’s Kitchen.” During my evaluation of hundreds of first responder casualty incidents I found there were disturbing themes that tied many of these events together. I will share with you the “recipe” that may reveal your organization is on its way to having a catastrophe. Of course, I will also share with you how to change the recipe to improve the safety of your members.

Then, on Monday I am going to discuss some really important (and cool) things I learned while conducting research on how first responders make decisions under stress. I’ll share with you some amazing things I discovered as I studied a bunch of “B. S.” (brain science). But don’t worry. I’m not going to try to impress you with a bunch of scientific gobbledygook. The lessons are too important to risk any misunderstanding. This program has been described as a “wake up call” for all first responders. You’re not going to want to miss it!

I am on a journey to help first responders see the bad things coming in time to change the outcome. Thanks for coming aboard and riding along with me for a few hours. I am confident you’ll find your time well-spent!

Chief Richard B. Gasaway

Richard B. Gasaway entered the fire service in 1979 and has served as firefighter, paramedic, lieutenant, captain, assistant chief and fire chief in 6 fire and EMS agencies in West Virginia, Ohio and Minnesota. After completing his 30-year fire service career, Chief Gasaway now splits his time among four endeavors: He is the founder and Executive Director for the Center for the Advancement of Situational Awareness and Decision Making; Chief Scientist for the Public Safety Laboratory, Chancellor of the Credentialing Board for the International Society of Fire Service Instructors and Founder of the Public Safety Training Network.

Chief Gasaway holds bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees in finance, economics, business administration and leadership. He is a resident faculty member at the National Fire Academy and is an instructor in the Executive Development Program for the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program and is an Accredited Chief Fire Officer through the Commission for Public Safety Excellence.

As a professional speaker and author, Dr. Gasaway has contributed to more than 150 books, book chapters and journal articles on topics related to leadership, safety and decision making. His best selling book, Fireground Command Decision Making, serves as a popular read for developing and experienced incident commanders. His high-energy, humor filled presentations are a favorite with emergency service providers and have earned him over 1,000 program and keynote address invitations throughout the United States, Canada, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Australia and Borneo.

Dr. Gasaway has been the recipient of several prestigious honors including the American Heart Association’s Phoenix Award, the C. B. Singleton Academic Scholarship, the William J. Litzinger Outstanding Instructor Award, and the British Fire Journal – W.L. Gore Research Excellence Award.

Chief Gasaway hosts the Leader’s Toolbox on Firehouse.com – a monthly podcast radio program that addresses leadership challenges in emergency services. The program has enjoyed more than 150,000 downloads making it one of the most popular fire service leadership podcast shows on the Internet.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH - 2:00 PM

A recipe from Hell’s Kitchen: Sharing the ingredients for catastrophe and success.

The surest way to create a first responder casualty event is to follow a simple eight-step recipe. This keynote address shares the secret ingredients that when combined, in the right proportions, will produce a bitter catastrophe. But it doesn’t have to turn out that way. Come and learn a better recipe to improve the safety of your first responders.

TRAINING PROGRAM - MONDAY, JUNE 11TH - 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Mental Management of Emergencies: Improving situational awareness and decision making under stress.

Since the inception of the National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System in 2005, the leading contributing factors to near-miss events have not been related to equipment or procedures or training. The leading contributing factors are situational awareness and decision making. Likewise, the line-of-duty death investigation reports by the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health continually identifies issues with situational awareness and decision making as leading contributing factors in casualty events.

Organizations with great equipment, sound procedures and quality equipment are still killing dozens of firefighters annually at emergency scenes. If we are going to reduce emergency responder casualty incidents, we must first improve their ability of our responders to develop and maintain strong situational awareness and to understand how to make decisions under stress. This program focuses on improving the understanding of situational awareness and decision making.

The program explores and discusses:

• 6 ways your decision making are impacted by physical and mental stress
• 7 step process for how experts make decisions in high stress, dynamic, rapidly changing environments
• 4 essential components to making decisions under stress
• 4 levels of competency in the development of expertise including tips for how to accelerate the development of expert-level performance
• how decision making is influenced by pattern matching, mental modeling, sense-making and information chunking
• 3 levels of situational awareness including how to develop and maintain each
OFFERS YOU THE BEST DISCOUNT PRICES
For updates and a wider selection of books and related materials visit

www.sffma.org
MAIN EVENTS

EXHIBITS
Reliant Park
Exhibit Hall E2 and E4
Saturday, June 9, 2012
9 AM - 5 PM
Transportation from the Crowne Plaza Hotel will be provided during Exhibit hours.

PRESIDENTS’ RECEPTION
Crowne Plaza Houston near Reliant Park
Saturday, June 9, 2012
7 - 9:30 PM
Rex Kiesel and Donna Chudalla invite you to join them for a poolside party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Refreshments and music provided.

DRIVING CONTEST
Green Parking Lot - next to Crowne Plaza
Sunday, June 10, 2012
7:30 - 9:30 AM
Sign up to test your ability at a timed obstacle course or come cheer for a friend.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Crowne Plaza or Reliant Park
Sunday, June 10, 2012
10:30 AM - 12 PM
To honor those who passed away in a line of duty or non-line of duty in the past 12 months.

BUSINESS SESSIONS
Crowne Plaza Houston near Reliant Park
Sunday, June 10 (2 - 5 PM), Monday, June 11 (8 - 9:30 AM)
Wednesday, 13 (8 - 10:30 AM)
Business Sessions include Fire Service Agency Reports, Executive Director’s Report, Committee Reports and Updates, Keynote Speaker and delegate voting (Wednesday).

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Wildcat Golf Club
Monday, June 11, 2012
1 - 8 PM
Golf Tournament has an average of 60 players. Registration fee is $75 per player. Everyone wanting to participate in the Golf Tournament must be pre-registered by May 31, 2012. SFFMA members can pay on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at the Exhibit Hall, non SFFMA members have to submit full payment with registration. Refreshments are provided at no additional cost.

HOSPITALITY NIGHT
Crowne Plaza Houston Near Reliant Park
Monday, June 11, 2012
7 - 10 PM
Various candidates for office and other entities will be hosting Hospitality Suites at the Crowne Plaza on Monday evening. Food and drinks will be provided. Open to all conference attendees.

PUMPER RACES
Reliant Park
Tuesday, June 12, 2012
3 – 5 PM
Pumper races for 3 and 6 man/ ladies teams. Team members don’t have to be from the same fire department. Each 3 member team has to run 50’ before performing the following: first member connects a hose to the truck, second member connects hoses together and third connects nozzle to allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. 6 member team members have to connect hard suction hose to hydrant, pull hose from the hose bed and in an approximate straight line, connect to pumper on one side and to a nozzle on the other side, open valve on hydrant and allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle.

AWARDS BANQUET
Crowne Plaza Houston near Reliant Park
Tuesday, June 12, 2012
7 – 9:30 PM
Sit-down dinner followed by the Awards Ceremony for the Driving Contest, Golf Tournament, Pumper Races, Poster and Photo Contests. Dress code: no shorts or flip flops, please. Each conference attendee will receive one (1) banquet ticket with their registration. Additional tickets can be purchased for $30 each.
AVOID FILLING OUT REGISTRATION FORM BY REGISTERING ONLINE AT www.sffma.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Member ID#: __________________________

Member Type:  [ ] Member (Non-voting)  [ ] Non-Member  [ ] SFFMA Board/Past President  [ ] Delegate

Name: __________________________

Mobile #: __________________________ (as to appear on badge)

Email: __________________________

Fire Department/Organization: __________________________

[ ] First Time Attendee

REGISTRATION FEES include:

• Access to exhibits, all functions
• Main Conference workshops
• ONE banquet ticket per registrant

FEES & DEADLINES

Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BEFORE MAY 21ST</th>
<th>AFTER MAY 21ST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Members</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One Day Registration:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>BEFORE MAY 21ST</th>
<th>$80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>AFTER MAY 21ST</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members:  

Delegate #: 1 2 3 4 5

For Delegates Only: Each member department is authorized to send up to five delegates. Registration must have an approved signature from the Fire Chief on file to be processed.

[ ] I authorize the above named individual to represent our member department as a delegate at this year’s annual conference. I understand there can only be 5 delegates per department participating in the voting process.

Fire Chief Signature: __________________________

Registration Fees include:

• Access to exhibits, all functions
• Main Conference workshops
• ONE banquet ticket per registrant

MEMBERS

BEFORE MAY 21ST $150
AFTER MAY 21ST $250

NON-MEMBERS

BEFORE MAY 21ST $200
AFTER MAY 21ST $300

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER MAY 21ST

PLEASE INDICATE ACTIVITIES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

[ ] PRESIDENTS’ RECEPTION (SAT)  [ ] PUMPER RACES (TUE)
[ ] HOSPITALITY NIGHT (MON)  [ ] SFFMA BANQUET (TUE)

SUBTOTAL: __________________________

TFA AND ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION - Allowed only with the purchase of the FULL conference registration above.

Spouse/Guest Registration includes ONE banquet ticket per registration, access to main conference, exhibits and activities.

NOTE: TFA and Additional Registrants will NOT be eligible to attend training sessions.

BEFORE MAY 21ST $70 ➔ AFTER MAY 21ST $90

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION TYPES:

[ ] TFA  [ ] SPOUSE OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER  [ ] GUEST OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER

(1) NAME: __________________________

(2) NAME: __________________________

YOUTH REGISTRATION - Allowed only with the FULL conference registration above, includes access to SFFMA exhibits, activities, and ONE banquet ticket. Price of $30 for ages 7-17, children 6 and under are FREE!

(1) NAME: __________________________ AGE: __________________________

(2) NAME: __________________________ AGE: __________________________

(3) NAME: __________________________ AGE: __________________________

(4) NAME: __________________________ AGE: __________________________

ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKETS - Are available for those who will be attending the SFFMA Banquet ONLY.

[ ] x $30.00 Each = __________________________

SUBTOTAL: __________________________

METHOD OF PAYMENT:  [ ] MC  [ ] VISA  [ ] AMEX  [ ] DISC  [ ] CHECK #:

[ ] PO #:

CARDHOLDER NAME: __________________________

CREDIT CARD #: __________________________

EXPIRATION DATE: [mm/yy]

DISC: __________________________

GRAND TOTAL: __________________________

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE MAILED TO:

SFFMA 2012
4450 FRONTIER TRAIL
AUSTIN, TX 78745

OR FAXED TO (512) 453-1876

PLEASE SELECT YOUR CLASS CHOICES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

OFFICE USE ONLY

Texas Forest Service Approved

THIS TRAINING CONFERENCE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE TEXAS FOREST SERVICE FOR ELIGIBLE HB2604 GRANT FUNDING.

THE 136TH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION
JUNE 9 - 13, 2012
HOUSTON, TX
### Training Workshops

#### AM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td><strong>EXHIBIT GRAND OPENING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>FIRST RESPONDER EDUCATION &amp; INFORMATION FOR IMMTRAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00AM</td>
<td>PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER’S &amp; OTHER BENEFITS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00PM</td>
<td>NFPA 1901 - WHY IT’S IMPORTANT FOR YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15PM</td>
<td>NEW CAR TECHNOLOGY! DOES YOUR DEPARTMENT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00PM</td>
<td>USING FIREHOUSE FOR SFFMA REPORTING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00PM</td>
<td>TEXFIRS I - ISO WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - AN UPDATE ON TOOLS, RESOURCES AND THE FSRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15PM</td>
<td>TEXFIRS II - ISO WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - AN UPDATE ON TOOLS, RESOURCES AND THE FSRS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Monday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>MENTAL MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>ISO WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - AN UPDATE ON TOOLS, RESOURCES AND THE FSRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00PM</td>
<td>12 REASONS FIRE TRAINING CAN FAIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00PM</td>
<td>FIREFIGHTER SAFETY, ARE WE GETTING BETTER AT IT?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Tuesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>SPECIAL SITUATIONS - THE HEAT IS ON!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>HAZMAT OFFICER, TAG YOU ARE IT! R.W. “Bob” Royall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00PM</td>
<td>SAFETY OFFICER AT INDUSTRIAL INCIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00PM</td>
<td>TEXAS FIRE SERVICE 101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Please Answer Questions Below

1. Do you require special assistance during conference? Please specify.  

2. Do you have any severe food allergies or dietary restrictions? (Sunday luncheon & Tuesday dinner).  
   - Vegetarian
   - Vegan
   - Gluten Free
   - Other

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

CATEGORIES

Fire Related Acts
Life-Saving Acts
Education and Public Safety

For more information please visit www.sffma.org

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS FRIDAY • MAY 18, 2012

Anyone can enter the contest with the EXCEPTION of professional photographers, no minimum age requirement.
Almost 4 million acres of Texas land burned in an unprecedented wildfire season last year. Time after time, the 911 alarm sounded, and firefighters scrambled aboard battle-worn engines and headed to the scene. Many faced organizational and personal tragedies of their own. Hundreds of responders felt the gut-wrenching frustration of seeing homes go up in flames, despite their best efforts to save each and every one. Some firefighters even lost their own homes while battling to protect those of others.

When flames engulfed the fire stations in two small Texas communities last year, it seemed like things couldn’t get much worse. Fire destroyed the 356 Volunteer Fire Department station in Trinity County in July 2011. The small department operates on an annual budget of just $5,300, provided primarily by county government. They’re staffed with 18 firefighters, none of whom are paid. Responding to a call from the county sheriff’s office on the morning of July 17, Chief Travis O. Bryan and other volunteers headed to the station to battle the blaze. By the time the fire was extinguished, 356 VFD had lost its fire station, two brush trucks, a rescue truck and a tanker truck—all worth about $400,000. “We lost everything from the slab up,” Bryan said.

Within days of the tragic blaze, officials with Texas Forest Service’s Helping Hands Program contacted 356 VFD and made arrangements to provide a pumper/tanker, protective clothing and a sizeable delivery of fire equipment. Not long afterward, the department applied for and received an emergency grant through Texas Forest Service’s Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program to help it acquire a new replacement brush truck loaded with a hose and generator. The total value of the items provided by Texas Forest Service is $48,572—more than nine times the department’s annual budget. Texas Forest Service, a member of the Texas A&M University System, operates nine assistance programs for the state’s 1,900 fire departments.

“The efforts of the Texas Forest Service got us back to fighting fire in our area and providing mutual aid to the surrounding communities,” Bryan said. Trinity County is located within an area designated by Texas Forest Service as the “East Branch” of the state. The branch covers 42 counties—each of which saw significant wildfire activity in 2011. East Texas fire departments and Texas Forest Service responded to 2,439 fires that burned 191,598 acres during the 2011 fire season. One such blaze—the Bearing Fire on June 17, 2011—wiped out 20,222 acres and destroyed an estimated 30.6 million cubic feet of timber, valued at $18.3 million. It was important for the volunteers to get back to protecting their community as the fire season raged on, Bryan said, noting that the closest fire department to 356 VFD is about 15 miles away. “During the height of fire season, we didn’t stop running,” he said. And it wasn’t just Texas Forest Service that assisted 356 VFD. Departments from all over the nation sent donation checks. A pumper truck came from South Carolina, and fire departments in Louisiana and Missouri sent hand tools and bunker gear.

The 356 VFD’s small group of volunteers can now respond to fires, but the department still struggles. The firefighters communicate by cell phones and keep their fire trucks parked at a gated location where they can be monitored during the day. The volunteers remain, however, committed to defending the homes and lives in the community where they live. “We really appreciate the help from our community and the citizens of the state of Texas and beyond,” Chief Bryan said, “and we extend a special thank you to Texas Forest Service. They really came through for us.”

As the 2011 winter holiday season approached, another tragedy struck. Firefighters in the South Texas community Linn-San Manuel were enjoying a holiday party on Dec. 10 when they received the 911 call that their fire station was engulfed in flames. Although the blaze wiped out the building, a pumper truck, rescue gear and other equipment, the firefighters felt fortunate. No one was injured, and a tanker truck and two brush trucks escaped harm because they were on call with the volunteers at the holiday party. Chief Domingo Hinojosa, Jr. said responding to a fire at his own station was something he never thought he’d have to do. “It felt like somebody had ripped my heart out of my chest,” he said. “It was really emotional. Our firefighters felt completely helpless not being able to put out our own fire. We just had to stay strong.”

The fire department has no paid members and, like other departments across the state, had a year of vigorous activity in 2011. During last year’s unprecedented fire season, the 40 counties in Texas Forest Service’s “South Branch” responded to 65 fires that burned 235,413 acres. The 24 volunteers at Linn-San Manuel VFD serve an area that is primarily ranch land, and about 90 percent of the department’s calls are wildfires in grass or brush, rather than structure fires, Hinojosa said.

The department receives a “per-call” rate from Hidalgo County, meaning they receive funding based on each fire response. The organization has an annual operating budget ranging from $30,000 to $60,000 per year plus donations, Hinojosa said. Upon hearing that the Linn-San Manuel VFD building was destroyed, neighboring departments stepped forward with offers of equipment and tools. Officials already had been raising funds for a new station, and the process was expedited after the winter blaze.

Texas Forest Service’s Helping Hands Program offered rapid assistance with a pumper truck, fire equipment and protective gear—worth a total of $36,584.

The Linn-San Manuel Volunteer Fire Department station was engulfed in flames on Dec. 10, 2011 and lost a pumper truck, rescue gear and other equipment.
“We’ve had an outpouring of support, tremendous support,” Hinojosa said. “We never had a lapse in service. It’s really important to arrive before a fire gets too big. With the help we’ve received, we’re able to continue to serve and protect our community.” The department is now temporarily housed in a former post office located next to the fire station that burned. The volunteers use radios on loan from the county emergency management office and are hoping to be in a new permanent home by the end of the year. Hinojosa said his No. 1 priority is to protect the homes and families of Hidalgo County.

“In 2008, we had a fire that burned 64,000 acres,” he said. “It devastated our community. We lost a lot of cattle and burned a lot of ranchland. Since then, our strategy has always been to stop each fire before it gets that big. We do it for our community.” It’s departments like 356 VFD and Linn-San Manuel VFD — and the hundreds of others throughout the state of Texas — that protect citizens from harm. Staffed with volunteer and paid members who routinely put their lives on the line, volunteer fire departments are the primary first line of defense in emergency response. Texas Forest Service’s fire department assistance programs are a special initiative of state government designed to help fire departments accomplish their emergency response mission. Since its inception in 2002, the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program has awarded more than 17,500 grants to Texas volunteer fire departments, valued at more than $154 million.

No other state offers a comparable suite of fire department assistance programs. In fact, Texas Forest Service has been nationally recognized seven times for assistance to underserved communities. “Assistance like this occurs every week of every month and has been for more than 20 years,” said Mark Stanford, Texas Forest Service’s Associate Director for Forest Resource Protection. “Volunteers cycle in and out of fire departments, as do members of our staff. Yet the commitment to service, both by the fire departments and our agency, remains the same.” Joe Fox, department head for Texas Forest Service’s Capacity Building Programs, said the agency is grateful for the work of local firefighters. “Service as a firefighter and service on a volunteer fire department requires great personal initiative and a readiness to engage in daring action in times of danger,” Fox said. “The operation of a community fire department is equally a challenging and expensive enterprise. Local fire departments desperately need continuing, sustainable financial support from their communities. Texas Forest Service is proud to work alongside and in close cooperation with local fire departments, and proud to offer a collection of assistance programs that help, in some small measure, to equip, train and protect fire departments and their members.”

Texas Forest Service’s Fire Department Assistance Programs:

Department of Defense Firefighter Property Program (FPP)
In partnership with the Department of Defense and the USDA Forest Service, Texas Forest Service administers the Firefighter Property Program (FPP), which provides excess military property to firefighting organizations.

Fire Quench Program
Fire Quench is a Class A firefighting foam. It is available from Texas Forest Service offices throughout the state and is made available for sale to local fire departments. Fire Quench is sold in 55-gallon drums and 5-gallon pails.

Firesafe Program
This program provides low-cost wildland and structural protective clothing, hoses, nozzles and other water-handling accessories to rural and small community fire departments.

GSA Wildland Fire Program
The U.S. General Services Administration permits non-federal organizations to purchase wildfire suppression equipment through its catalog. The purpose is to help fire departments acquire standardized equipment, supplies and vehicles in support of wildland fire suppression efforts. Texas Forest Service provides enrollment sponsorship in this federal program.

Helping Hands Program
This program provides used equipment to volunteer fire departments. By statute, liability relief is granted to donors in industry, business, cities and others that donate surplus fire and emergency equipment to the program. Texas Forest Service then distributes the donated equipment to needy fire departments across the state.

Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program (HB 2604): This program provides reimbursement grants to qualified fire departments to assist in the purchase of PPE, fire equipment, rescue equipment and training. It’s designed to fund a full spectrum of cost-share projects and continues to make a significant impact on firefighters and communities.

Rural VFD Insurance Program
This program provides reimbursement grants to qualified fire departments to assist in the purchase of workers’ compensation insurance, life insurance and disability insurance for their members.

Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Grant Assistance Program
Provides grants to qualified fire departments to assist in the purchase of training, equipment and apparatus to not only strengthen fire departments but also support mutual aid mobilizations. During the 2011 fire season, TIFMAS mobilized 13 times with a total of 207 departments, 1,274 firefighters and 329 engines.

VFD Vehicle Liability Insurance
The Texas Volunteer Fire Department Motor Vehicle Self Insurance Program (VFD Risk Pool) provides low-cost vehicle liability insurance to qualified volunteer fire departments.

Contact us:
texasfd.com  (936) 639-8100  (979) 458-6505

Linn-San Manuel VFD: The Helping Hands program allows fire departments to donate equipment that is then redistributed to fire departments in need.

Lometa Fire Department donated a truck that was distributed to Linn-San Manuel through the Helping Hands program.

www.sffma.org
IN MEMORIAM

IN-LINE OF DUTY

Larry Gale Nelson
Val Verde FD
August 12, 2011

Matt Waller
Memphis FD
February 25, 2012

Ozona FD
Dee Keilers
October 17, 2011

McAllen FD
Chief EH “Butch” Derr
September 23, 2011

Canyon FD
Jack Jennings
September 6, 2011

Ingleside VFD
Carsten Meyer
December 11, 2011

North VFD
Benjamin H. May
December 11, 2011

Lake Jackson FD
Ralph Michael Harper
June 18, 2011

Plano FD
Brody Fleming
March 12, 2012

Hereford VFD
Lonnie W. Tiemann
July 30, 2011

Stafford FD
Odis Wells
May 7, 2011

Brenham FD
James (Jimmy) H. Fathauer
May 29, 2011

McAllen FD
Honore Castro
September 6, 2011

Brenham FD
Nathan Watson
December 29, 2011

Lake Jackson FD
Ralph Michael Harper
June 18, 2011

Lake Jackson FD
Carsten Meyer
December 11, 2011

Hereford VFD
Lonnie W. Tiemann
July 30, 2011

Brenham FD
James (Jimmy) H. Fathauer
May 29, 2011

Canyon FD
Jack Jennings
September 6, 2011

Brenham FD
Patti Donnelly
February 7, 2012

McAllen FD
Chief EH “Butch” Derr
October 17, 2011

McAllen FD
September 23, 2011

Rosenberg FD
C.H. Boring
December 16, 2011

McAllen FD
Lloyd Thomas Graham
Conroe FD
February 3, 2012

Rosenberg FD
December 16, 2011

Ingleside VFD
Carsten Meyer
December 11, 2011

TFA Past President
Patti Donnelly
February 7, 2012

Rosenberg FD
C.H. Boring
December 16, 2011

City of Conroe
Lloyd Thomas Graham
February 3, 2012

Conroe FD
Sarah Elizabeth Truitt Chase
February 16, 2012

Conroe FD
Robert Capozzelli
March 23, 2012

Conroe FD
Robert Capozzelli
March 23, 2012

NOTE: See page 9 for more information on how to submit names of those who passed away in the past year, to be included in the Memorial Service Program during our Annual Conference and Convention in June.

NON-LINE OF DUTY

During our Annual Conference and Convention in June.

passed away in the past year, to be included in the Memorial Service Program.

C.H. also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II where he saw combat in the Pacific on the U.S.S. Daniel T. Griffin. After the war, C.H. returned to the fire department. He became Assistant Fire Chief in 1948 and was Chief from 1955 until 1981. C.H. served on the Rosenberg Fire Department for a total of 44 years. His philosophy was, I will not send a firefighter into any situation that I would not go myself.

During his tenure at Rosenberg FD he was a member of the pumper race team which won many honors, both in district and state races. During the 44 years C.H. was a member they were state champions nine years, won first place at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas and also won the World Fair Championship in Seattle, Washington in 1961.

He served as president of both the Tri-Rivers and Gulf Coast District Firefighter Association, but the highlight of his career was in 1957 when he was elected fourth vice president of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas. He served as President in 1961. When he completed his term on the board, Major Jeff Stovall handed him the keys to the first fire chief’s car. The car was purchased through donations from the citizens of Rosenberg. Fund raising was with the help of Gerald Matheaus, Rick and Gary who all later became fire chiefs at Rosenberg VFD. This is one of the many things C.H. was very proud of.

In 1981 he sold his family’s business in Rosenberg. On May 14th, 2005 a firefighter statue was placed at the entrance of the Rosenberg civic center honoring him as fire chief emeritus. In 1997 C.H. and his wife Anne moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, and he was active in the Waikiki Baptist Church for many years. He passed away on December 16, 2011.

C.H. also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II where he saw combat in the Pacific on the U.S.S. Daniel T. Griffin. After the war, C.H. returned to the fire department. He became Assistant Fire Chief in 1948 and was Chief from 1955 until 1981. C.H. served on the Rosenberg Fire Department for a total of 44 years. His philosophy was, I will not send a firefighter into any situation that I would not go myself.

During his tenure at Rosenberg FD he was a member of the pumper race team which won many honors, both in district and state races. During the 44 years C.H. was a member they were state champions nine years, won first place at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas and also won the World Fair Championship in Seattle, Washington in 1961.

He served as president of both the Tri-Rivers and Gulf Coast District Firefighter Association, but the highlight of his career was in 1957 when he was elected fourth vice president of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas. He served as President in 1961. When he completed his term on the board, Major Jeff Stovall handed him the keys to the first fire chief’s car. The car was purchased through donations from the citizens of Rosenberg. Fund raising was with the help of Gerald Matheaus, Rick and Gary who all later became fire chiefs at Rosenberg VFD. This is one of the many things C.H. was very proud of.

In 1981 he sold his family’s business in Rosenberg. On May 14th, 2005 a firefighter statue was placed at the entrance of the Rosenberg civic center honoring him as fire chief emeritus. In 1997 C.H. and his wife Anne moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, and he was active in the Waikiki Baptist Church for many years. He passed away on December 16, 2011.

C.H. also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II where he saw combat in the Pacific on the U.S.S. Daniel T. Griffin. After the war, C.H. returned to the fire department. He became Assistant Fire Chief in 1948 and was Chief from 1955 until 1981. C.H. served on the Rosenberg Fire Department for a total of 44 years. His philosophy was, I will not send a firefighter into any situation that I would not go myself.

During his tenure at Rosenberg FD he was a member of the pumper race team which won many honors, both in district and state races. During the 44 years C.H. was a member they were state champions nine years, won first place at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas and also won the World Fair Championship in Seattle, Washington in 1961.

He served as president of both the Tri-Rivers and Gulf Coast District Firefighter Association, but the highlight of his career was in 1957 when he was elected fourth vice president of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas. He served as President in 1961. When he completed his term on the board, Major Jeff Stovall handed him the keys to the first fire chief’s car. The car was purchased through donations from the citizens of Rosenberg. Fund raising was with the help of Gerald Matheaus, Rick and Gary who all later became fire chiefs at Rosenberg VFD. This is one of the many things C.H. was very proud of.

In 1981 he sold his family’s business in Rosenberg. On May 14th, 2005 a firefighter statue was placed at the entrance of the Rosenberg civic center honoring him as fire chief emeritus. In 1997 C.H. and his wife Anne moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, and he was active in the Waikiki Baptist Church for many years. He passed away on December 16, 2011.

Eugene Steven “Steve” Perdue
1948 - 2011

Steve Perdue, 63, the emergency management coordinator for Palo Pinto County and fire chief for Mineral Wells Volunteer Fire Department, passed away Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, in Mineral Wells, Texas.

He was born Feb. 12, 1948, in Ranger, son of the late Eugene and Ruby Wescott Perdue. Steve earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Tarleton State University and began his teaching career in the late 1960s with the Mineral Wells ISD where he taught chemistry and advanced science. After several years of teaching, Steve took a position as assistant principal of Mineral Wells High School. After leaving Mineral Wells ISD, Steve taught the EMT program at Weatherford College.

He also taught at the TEEX Municipal Fire School at Texas A&M. Steve believed in educating everybody and taught in most Texas counties with firefighters eager to learn. In March 1977, Steve joined the Mineral Wells Volunteer Fire Department where he held positions from the rank of firefighter to his current position of chief. He served on the legislative board of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas and was instrumental in starting and maintaining Tornado’s Angel Tree in Mineral Wells. Steve was prominent in the acquisition of much-needed equipment for multiple fire departments, including Mineral Wells, through his tireless efforts in grant-writing.

Steve’s faithful participation on the SFFMA T-FLAG Committee was invaluable as he worked session after legislative session to help protect and further the interests of all volunteer firefighters in this state. His influence on state and federal legislators alike was impactful and far-reaching as he fought time after time to ensure the decisions they made would be beneficial to the fire service. His presence will be greatly missed.
CONFERENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A-LA-CARTE WORKSHOPS
SATURDAY, JUNE 9th
RELIANT PARK

9:00 - 9:50 am
Ultra High Pressure Systems
Bill Carroll
General Manager - HMA
Discussion of the benefits of ultra-
high pressure fire suppression
systems.

10:00 - 10:50 pm
First Responder Education &
Information for ImmTrac
Andrea Legnon - Tx Department
State Health Services
ImmTrac Participation can: Help
to ensure first responders receive
immunizations to protect them
against communicable diseases
that they maybe exposed to
when responding to a disaster/
emergency.

11:00 - 11:50 am
Public Safety Officer’s and Other
Benefits
David F. Wyrwas - VFIS
On average over 100 firefighters
lose their life and over 80,000
suffer injuries while protecting
their communities. This seminar
provides an overview of benefits
available to protect the financial
security of the Firefighter and his/
her family. Public Safety Officer’s
Benefit (PSOB), State Death
benefits, Workers Compensation
and supplemental line of duty
benefits are discussed. The intent
it too enhance awareness of the
benefits to ensure injured and
deceased firefighters receive all
benefits available to them.

1:00 - 2:00 pm
NFPA 1901- Why it’s Important
for Your Fire Department
Paul Christiansen - Aerial Product
Manager - Ferrara Fire Apparatus
Critical safety items covered in
to limit your liability by making sure
your new apparatus purchases
comply with NFPA 1901.

2:15 - 3:15 pm
New Car Technology! Does Your
Department Have What it Takes?
Kirby Wilson, Jr.; Paul Feley
Wilson Fire/Rescue
New car technology rescue tools
and computer training programs per
NFPA.

3:30 - 4:30 pm
Using Firehouse for SFFMA
Reporting
Mike Rogers, Allison Dean
ACS Firehouse Software
Overview of Firehouse Software
for member departments that are
currently using it.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS
MONDAY, JUNE 11th
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
GENERAL
10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Mental Management of Emer-
genccies - Improving situational
awareness and decision
making under stress
Chief Richard B. Gasaway
Since the inception of the National
Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting
System in 2005, the leading
contributing factors to near-miss
events have not been related
to equipment or procedures or
training. The leading contributing
factors are situational awareness
and decision making. Likewise,
the line-of-duty death investigation
reports by the National Institute
of Occupational Safety & Health
continually identifies issues with
situational awareness and decision
making as leading contributing
factors in casualty events.

FIREFIGHTER I
1:00 - 2:45 pm
TEXFIRS I
Virginia Garza
Texas Department of Insurance -
State Fire Marshal’s Office
Basic introduction to and
instructions on completing a
TEXFIRS/NFIRS report.

3:00 - 4:45 pm
TEXFIRS II
Virginia Garza
Texas Department of Insurance -
State Fire Marshal’s Office
TEXFIRS/NFIRS program update
and data quality discussion.

LEADERSHIP
10:00 - 11:45 am
ISO What You Need to Know -
an update on Tools, Resources
and the FRSR
Robert “Butch” Cobb - ISO
Director, Community Mitigation
Programs
ISO - The Public Protection
Classification™ (PPC) program
and the value it brings to your
community. Join us at this
important session to learn what
every community should know
and understand about ISO PPC
Program. Fire chiefs and community
officials should use ISO as an
objective source of information and
support, knowing that insurers use
of the PPC program can provide
economic benefit to their citizen-
policy holders. Statistical data
bears out the relationship between
excellent fire protection - as
measured by the PPC program -
and lower fire losses. A community’s
investment in fire mitigation is a
proven and reliable predictor of
future fire losses.

1:00 - 2:45 pm
12 Reasons Fire Training Can Fail
Danny Hurt
Training Officer Pleasant Grove FD
Rayford Gibson
TEEX-ESTI College Station
Firefighting is a dangerous job
whether you are a volunteer or a
career firefighter, it is hard to get
people to give up their time to train.
Volunteer firefighting involves a
large time commitment: volunteers
must train at least one night a
week for three to four hours. In this
session we will talk about twelve
reasons your fire department
training can fail.

EMS
1:00 - 2:45 pm
Prehospital Care of the Acute
Stroke Patient
Tim Smith, BSN, RN EMT-P
West Carlisle Fire/ EMS
Prehospital care, assessment and
clinical decision making.

1:00 - 2:45 pm
Firefighter Rehab and Medical
Monitoring
Mike McEvoy, Ph.D., REMT-P, RN -
EMS Coordinator Saratoga County,
New York
The NFPA 1584, “Standard on the
Rehabilitation Process for Members
During Emergency Operations and
Training Exercises” took effect in
2008. This presentation provides
real world tools for implementing
the standard. Properly conducted
rehab increases the available
manpower pool, allows firefighters
to work harder and longer,
deCREASES injuries and prevents
deaths on the fireground. The
presenter will provide attendees
with an overview of the standard
with a focus on EMS and medical
monitoring. Realistic and easy
to accomplish mechanisms for
implementation will be highlighted.

SAFETY
1:00 - 2:45 pm
Firefighter Safety, Are We Getting
Better at it?
Renne Sexton - TMLIRP
During this session, participants
will discuss current issues and
trends concerning firefighter safety
and look to see if the fire service is
improving in safety.

POTPOURRI
10:00 - 11:45 am
New Rules for Inspection of
State-Licensed Facilities
Mike Montgomery
Fire Marshal - Harris County Fire
Marshal’s Office
This workshop covers the new
laws and rules for inspections of
foster homes, day care homes and
centers, assisted living and other
health care facilities. Answers more
questions on “can you”, “should
you”, and “how do you” inspect
these occupancies from a VFD/
ESD perspective.

1:00 - 2:45 pm
SFFMA Certification Workshop
Kevin Creamer
Certification Administrator - SFFMA
Workshop attendance is a
requirement for all Certification
Coordinators as continuing
education in order to maintain the
department’s participation status
within the Certification Program.
Full Coordinators are required to
attend a workshop once every two
years, and provisionally certified
Coordinators are required to attend
annually.

3:00 - 4:45 pm
SFFMA Certification Testing
Kevin Creamer
Certification Administrator - SFFMA
The written portion of the testing
is open to all individuals certified
to the Module 3 or 4 level to test
toward their full Firefighter I or II
certification. Firefighter I exams
consist of 150 multiple-choice
questions from Modules 1-3.
Firefighter II exams consist of 75
multiple-choice questions from
Module 4. Skills demonstrations
are to be handled separately.
GENERAL

8:00 - 9:45 am
SPECIAL SITUATIONS…the heat is on!
Bob Koenig - State Incident Management Team Coordinator and is Chief of Response Training - Texas Forest Service
Victoria Koenig - Certified Public Manager (CPM) - Deputy City Manager at the City of Nacogdoches, Texas
Think it can’t happen to you? Think again! More often than not, the All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT) is being challenged with that out-of-the-ordinary situation – often referred to as an ‘incident-within-an-incident.’ And, typically, this incident-within-an-incident becomes the catalyst for a domino effect that potentially will catapult the IMT’s role front and center!
Learn how the IMT’s response can be impacted in these special situations. Environmental, social and political factors can weigh heavily in the IMT’s decision making process – and those of the Agency Administrator, first responders and elected officials on the incident. Coupled with the handling of sensitive incident information, the heat is on!

1:00 - 2:45 pm
Safety Officer at Industrial Incident
Stephen Greco - Safety Superintendent, CIMA Specialist - Lubrizol Corporation/ CIMA
The roles and responsibilities of a Municipal/Industrial Safety Officer at an incident involving an industrial plant present challenges not seen in a structural fire-type scenario. This session will discuss these challenges from a fire ground management perspective with an emphasis on hazard recognition.

FIREFIGHTER I

8:00 - 11:45 am
Ground Cover
Mark Wobus- Regional Fire Coordinator - Texas Forest Service
This class will cover Section 25 (Module 1 & 3 of Firefighter I).

1:00 - 2:45 pm
Sprinkler Systems
Neal Morton - President - Brazoria County Fire Fighters Association
This class will cover Section 13-I.01 - 13-I.03, 13-I.05 - 13-I.17

FIREFIGHTER II

8:00 - 9:45 am
Fire Cause & Origin
Harry County Fire Marshal's Office - Arson
Enabling Objective: NFPA 1001, 6.3.4:
• Protect evidence of fire cause and origin, given a flashligh and overhaul tools, so that the evidence is noted and protected from further disturbance until investigators can arrive on the scene.

10:00 - 11:45 am
HazMat Officer, Tag You are It!
R.W. “Bob” Royall - Assistant Chief - Harris County Fire Marshal's Office
This interactive workshop will utilize a set of short case studies and series of photos to illustrate the duties and responsibilities of a HazMat Officer as described by NFPA 472. It will also include an open discussion of those other special skills needed to navigate the incident command mine field, perform a hazard and risk assessment, determine the size and complexity of an incident, predict the unknowns as well as what is involved in termination of the incident.

1:00 - 2:45 pm
Public and Media Relations for the Firefighter
John Pape - Editorial Director for Neighborhood Media News Services (Houston) and Training Coordinator, San Felipe-Frydek VFD
This presentation will give you general information about the Bastrop Complex Fire, share lessons learned, and answer questions participants might have.

1:00 pm - 2:45 pm
Surviving the Fireground - Search Ropes - Simple and Effective: Are They in Your Tool Box? Robert “Butch” Cobb - ISO - Director, Community Mitigation Programs
According to NFPA's Fire Analysis & Research Report a major cause of fireground injuries and death is: lost inside structures and ran out of air. This class covers the important tasks needed for safe & successful search operations inside a smoke filled burning building. Several search ropes methods are previewed including searching with or without a thermal imager. The Search Rope is an effective tool and a key to staying oriented and surviving the fireground!

SAFETY

8:00 - 9:45 am
The Risk of Vehicle Conversions
Roy Mercer - Retired SLFD Battalion Chief, VFIS of Texas
Emphasis of the class will be examining the characteristics of converted vehicles to fire department apparatus, incidents with converted vehicles, the factors surrounding these incidents, and the risks associated with converted vehicles. Numerous concepts and considerations will be identified to assist in the conversion process. Lastly, who are the stakeholders and what risks accompany the emergency response with converted vehicles.

LEADERSHIP

8:00 - 9:45 am
Basic Public Information and Media
Francisco Sanchez, Jr. - Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, member of Ponderosa FD
Dean Hensley - Lt. Field Operations/PIO - Harris County Fire Marshal's Office
Fundamentals of public information and the media. PIO strategies on a fire scene. This course was developed specifically for the fire service after recent Texas wildfires.
10:00 - 11:45 am
Safety Officer II
John Hicks - OHST Texas Mutual Insurance Company
Updated duties and responsibilities; fabricated vehicle certification: and leadership and accountabilities of the Fire Safety Officer.

1:00 - 2:45 pm
Texas Commission on Fire Protection Update
Don Wilson - TCFP Executive Director
Laurie Taylor - TCFP Injury Reporting
Certifications, Injury Reporting, updates. Covering general information and any current updates.

EMS
8:00 - 9:45 am
“The ABC’s of DRT” - On-scene Death Notification
Steve Arze, MD - Vice Chairman - Emergency Ministries
J.C. “Skip” Straus, NREMT-P, BCCC/CEO - Senior Chaplain - Emergency Ministries
“The ABC’s of DRT” addresses a tough situation - how to deliver a death notification on scene of an obvious death or upon termination of resuscitation efforts. Objectives of this session is to educate those who must deliver death notifications as a part of thier position. It is imperative that the death message be delivered with compassion, courtesy and professionalism.

10:00 - 11:45 am
Assessing and Managing the Eyes
Jay D. Cloud - Firefighter-Paramedic, Professor - Deer Park VFD (retired)/ San Jacinto College
Presentation and discussion on improving the assessment and management of eye emergencies. (1. Assessment of the eye and adjacent structures, 2. recognition of medical and traumatic conditions of the eye, 3. management of medical and traumatic conditions of the eye.)

1:00 - 2:45 pm
The Structure and Function of the Burn Unit
James Cross, MD - Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Acute Care Surgery (University of Texas School at Houston), Medical Director of the Burn Center at Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center
Provide insight into what makes a burn unit special, the initial care of the burn patient and which patients should be brought to a burn unit.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY/ CODE ENFORCEMENT
10:00 - 11:45 am
So...You Want to Adopt a Fire Code
Mike Montgomery - Fire Marshal, EMC - Harris County FMO and Harris County OEM
Answers the question of “can you”, “should you”, and “how do you” adopt fire codes and standards from a VFD/ ESD perspective.

1:00 - 2:45 pm
Arson as a Terrorist Weapon
Mike Montgomery - Director/ Fire Marshal - Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office
Recent attacks show the use of this most basic of weapons is on the rise. As a fire chief, what should you be prepared for?

POTPOURRI
8:00 - 9:45 am
Successful Recruitment and Retention Program
Chris Barron - SFFMA Executive Director, Fire Chief Manchaca VFD
How to build a successful recruitment and retention program for your department.

10:00 am - 2:45 pm
Courage To Be Safe
Dennis Gilford - Lumberton Fire & EMS
The “Courage To Be Safe” course is a provocative and moving presentation that is designed to change the fire service culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a “normal occurrence”. Building on the untold story of LODD survivors, it reveals how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter death and provides a focus on the need for firefighters and officers alike to change our basic fundamental safety attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line of duty injuries and deaths. The central theme promotes the “courage to do the right thing” and promoting a new culture that allows and encourages everyone to be more observant and willing to share everyday safety concerns in order to protect themselves and other firefighters to ensure that “Everyone Goes Home” at the end of the day.

WILDFIRE
10:00 - 11:45 am
Train the Trainer - READY, SET, GO

Jerry Williams - Wildland Urban Interface Specialist - Texas Forest Service
Justice Jones - Prevention Coordinator - Texas Forest Service
Train the participants to present the IAFC, Texas Forest Service Ready, Set, Go Program to their communities.

1:00 - 2:45 pm
Community Wildfire Protection Plan for your Community
Justice Jones - Prevention Coordinator - Texas Forest Service
Fire prevention plan for your community.

Goldwasser REAL ESTATE

“Heroes Help Heroes” - Firemen Real Estate Assistant Program

- Professional Real Estate Sales Service
- Proven Process for Selling Homes-Simplified for Less Stress
- Consistent Quality for No Surprises, Satisfaction and Less Hassle
- Team of Experts-Professionally manage all the intricacies of home buying and selling
- #1 Broker Statistics for selling homes in less time for more money in Greater Austin
- Rebate of 15% of Sales Commission to Members of SFFMA
- Donation of 5% of Sales Commission to SFFMA

Call 512-470-2277 for your FREE Real Estate Consultation

“Heroes Help Heroes Program”

5929 Balcones Drive Suite 300 - Austin, TX 78731
8 - NORTHEAST TEXAS DISTRICT

Barry Barnett - President
Am FM Fire
17916 County Road 2142
Troup, TX 75789-3725
Phone: (903) 859-5232
Email: bbarntn01@hotmail.com

F. Jim White - Secretary
OVERTON FD
304 E Mundy St
OVERTON, TX 75684-1734
Phone: (903) 834-3457
Email: jwhite@sffma.org

9 - NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT

Van Fowler - President
TELICO VFD
700 Lone Oak Rd
Ennis, TX 75119-0356
Phone: (972) 878-2083
Email: 1969fowler@gmail.com

Karen Pickard - Secretary
Ovilia FD 307 E University St
Ovilia, TX 75154-3401
Phone: (972) 617-7375
Email: karen.pickard@utsouthwestern.edu

10 - RED RIVER DISTRICT

Michael Richardson - President
Decatur FD
608 County Road 4460
Decatur, TX 76234-8138
Phone: (940) 627-3199
Email: mrichardson@decaturfd.com

Jeffery Jackson - Secretary
JACKSBORO FD
PO Box 88
JACKSBORO, TX 76458-0088
Phone: (940) 556-2448
Email: jjackson@jackcountypfire.com

11 - MID-WEST DISTRICT

Wyatt Oakley - President
Shackelford County Rural VFD
PO Box 704
Stamford, TX 79553-0704
Phone: (325) 338-2507
Email: wyatt.oakley@yahoo.com

Steve Cochran - Secretary
MERKEL FD
100 KENT
Merkel, TX 79536-3612
Phone: (325) 928-4725
Email: stevec@taylortel.net

12 - PANHANDLE DISTRICT

Mario Garcia, Jr. - President
Dalhart FD
114 Osceola Ave
Dalhart, TX 79022-2326
Phone: (806) 244-5454
Email: bigchief911@hotmail.com

Kristin M. Schumann - Secretary
Dalhart FD
110 Denrock Ave
Dalhart, TX 79022-2622
Phone: (806) 244-5454
Email: tfirewoman91@yahoo.com

13 - PERMIAN BASIN DISTRICT

Robert Silva - President
McCamey FD
PO Box 633
MC Camey, TX 79752-0633
Phone: (915) 652-3421
Keith Mensch - Secretary
Denver City FD
PO Box 115
Denver City, TX 79323-0115
Phone: (915) 652-5426
Email: kmensch@valornet.com

14 - HILL COUNTRY DISTRICT

Michael Schuler - President
Menard FD
PO Box 414
Menard, TX 76859-0414
Phone: (325) 396-2333
Email: mieschuler2003@yahoo.com
Brent Allen - Secretary
Ballinger FD
PO Box 227
Ballinger, TX 76821-0227
Phone: (325) 365-5137
Email: ballen@ballingerfd.com

15 - WINTERGARDEN DISTRICT

Casie De Luna - President
Val Verde County Rural VFD
115 E Skyview Dr
Dev Rio, TX 78840-2691
Phone: (830) 774-7640
Jerry Rust - Secretary
Val Verde County Rural VFD
PO Box 421314
Dev Rio, TX 78842-1314
Phone: (830) 774-7640
Email: valverdecountrypfire@stx.rr.com

16 - NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT

Raymond Wilson - President
Tolar FD
3109 Wilkerson Ct
Tolar, TX 76476-5349
Phone: (254) 835-4334
Email: rwilson@lolavfd.org
Christopher Gable - Secretary
Erath County Vol Fire Rescue 1120
Timmer Ridge Dr
Stephenville, TX 76401-7778
Phone: (254) 965-3388
Email: erathfire800@co.erath.tx.us

If your District listing is not up-to-date, please email gglass@sffma.org. District Report Template for the 2012 Proceedings Book can be found by the District Officers Roster at www.sffma.org
State And Local Initiatives Enhance Fire Fighter Safety

One of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection’s most important roles is to help improve the safety of Texas fire fighters. Within the last biennium, the commission initiated two important programs to address the issue of fire fighter safety: the “Courage to Be Safe” program, and the Fire Fighter Injury Reporting system. Several statewide fire service stakeholder groups provided input into the development of these programs, including the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association (SFFMA), the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO), the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters (TSAFF), the Texas Fire Chiefs’ Association (TFCA) and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).

Taking seriously our mission to improve the safety of Texas fire fighters, the commission has developed an injury investigation reporting document to help investigate “near misses.” By making this form available to the fire service, and providing technical assistance when necessary, we hope to help everyone learn from “near miss” events. The intent of the project is to facilitate a complete and unbiased review of all aspects of an event, including:

• The department’s role (for example, departmental standard operating procedures).
• Personnel functions and the level of performance and proficiency.
• Personnel training.
• Equipment deployed and its performance.
• Command structure during the event.

To succeed, these reviews must explore both strengths and weaknesses found at the event. The goal of the review is to gain a better understanding of the occurrence and to learn what steps might be necessary to prevent such events from occurring in the future.

“Courage to Be Safe” focuses on implementing a culture of safety within fire departments. It includes 16 Life Safety Initiative. Initiative 9, Fatality, Near-Miss Investigation, focuses on the importance of learning from “near miss” events. The commission would like to recognize a few departments that, true to their mission and members, took the difficult and sometimes uncomfortable steps to change their culture by evaluating “near miss” events, thus fostering a safety culture within their departments:

• On June 5, 2011, the Wichita Falls Fire Department had a structure fire in an attached garage. Two of their fire fighters received burns.
• On June 17, 2011, the Flower Mound Fire Department had a structure fire in a two story residential home. Two of their fire fighters received burns.
• On September 5, 2011, Hutto Fire Rescue had a structure fire in a residential structure with an attached garage. Two of their fire fighters received burns.

The commission would also like to recognize the entities that are actively participating in the Fire Fighter Injury Reporting program. The high quality of information that departments are providing is contributing to our knowledge base. This helps us to provide solid recommendations and up-to-date information about what is happening throughout the state. Our bigger departments, including San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, El Paso and Corpus Christi, have been particularly active. We would like to thank all the reporting departments and their chiefs for encouraging and participating in the program.

For more information about “Courage to Be Safe,” Fire Fighter Injury Reporting, or any other TCFP initiatives, please contact the agency at (512) 936-3838 or info@tcfp.texas.gov

Roy C. Mercer Joins VFIS of Texas As Director Of Training, Education and Safety

VFIS of Texas/Regnier & Associates is pleased to announce the addition of Roy C. Mercer as their Director of Training, Education and Safety. Roy holds an A.A.S., Fire Technology from Houston Community College and a B.B.M., Business Management from LeTourneau University. He has tenure of over 34 years in the fire service with numerous certifications. He served as a Safety/Training Officer for City of Rosenberg Fire Department, Safety Director for Richmond State School, Business Manager for Fulshear Volunteer Fire Department and most recently as Battalion Chief/Professional Development (retired) for City of Sugar Land Fire Department. He is also an adjunct instructor for Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Roy is not new to VFIS of Texas. He has been a part-time Client Educator for VFIS of Texas for more than 16 years. In his new position, he will be working with clients to provide consulting, training, education, loss control and safety services that will help these emergency service organizations to reduce their losses which will save them both time and money. He can help in many areas from pinpointing root causes of claims, developing SOPs/SOGs, EVOC training and specialized/customized training such as Reading Smoke and Officer Development. VFIS of Texas strives to provide superior coverage, service and value to their clients and the addition of Roy Mercer will solidify those efforts.

If you have not already been contacted by Roy and would like a personal consultation or have a training or safety concern, Roy can be contacted at mercer@vfisx.com or by cell at 832-473-5414.

VFIS of Texas and their staff are here to help!

Fire Station Financing - Key Considerations

In 2006, SFFMA created the Texas Fire Facilities Fund (TFFF) to specifically address the challenges public safety organizations were experiencing securing financing to expand or improve their physical facilities in a time of rising interest rates and prohibitive construction costs. Since its inception, the TFFF has assisted numerous departments statewide in obtaining millions of dollars of cost effective financing for their new facilities. Additionally, the TFFF has made significant donations each year to the SFFMA Fire Programs Institute / J.C. Swadley, Jr. Fund.

The lending market continues to offer the lowest interest rates available in years. Over the past twelve months, many SFFMA members have refinanced their debt obligations saving thousands of dollars in interest costs. If you have a facility previously financed as a commercial transaction with an interest rate greater than 5%, you may want to consider the possibility of refinancing your loans at today’s historically low TAX-EXEMPT interest rates. Additionally there are other benefits of working with an experienced knowledgeable finance specialist including:

• Avoiding costly interim constructions loans
• Avoiding the need for personal guarantees
• Creative flexible terms to meet your budget needs

Considering the complexities of the current lending environment, it is vitally important you partner with a lending source experienced and knowledgeable of the unique financial requirements and TAX-EXEMPT borrowing authorities applicable to the Texas fire service community. Just as an architect can save your department from making costly construction mistakes, experienced financial representatives can recommend financing structures to meet your department’s needs and budget.

Contributed by the Texas Fire Facilities Fund Team
Challenges with Combination Agencies: Regulations/Laws

By Fred C. Windisch EFO CFO Fire Chief - Ponderosa FD Houston, TX

Some of you have heard my ramblings related to the various issues surrounding administrative duties in a combination emergency response organization (ESO). The intent of this article is to educate about the three rails that never seem to cross, and I will also have a story for you that will simply amaze you. For the purposes of this article we will define a volunteer firefighter as a member of your ESO who is employed full time elsewhere, and a volunteer is a professional firefighter who is a qualified member of your ESO who receives some dollars for their commitments.

Conflict With Various Agencies And Rules
The three rails I speak about are similar to our railroad's rails; in this case they are the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Worker’s Compensation Insurance (WC), and the Department of Labor (DOL) / Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Combination ESO’s are growing at a very rapid rate and that is based on continuing population trends especially around metropolitan areas, but not in all cases. There are other pressures related to available volunteers (the pool available to you), recruitment methods, retention programs, and the continuing super pressures of increased “standards” being placed on us. All of the above are only some of the reasons why “pure” volunteer systems move toward some sort of paid system. Common sense tells us that leadership must do something to maintain a volunteer system because there is not enough money to hire full time firefighters, and that is especially true with the current ten cent Emergency Services District tax cap in Texas.

This article cannot explain the details about these issues but there is a book on the market that attempts to do so; A Leadership Guide for Combination Fire Departments. There are a lot of other educational materials out there and it is important for the leader to seek those by focusing on the soft issues that publishers have on their shelves... It is a lot more fun to read about squirting water but let’s face the facts; if you are a chief officer you don’t do that anymore --- or you shouldn’t be. You should be in a philanthropic position that pushes and leads others to be the superheroes they are.

Benefits And Incentives
Various forms of volunteer benefits and incentives are being used throughout the country. The most common forms of benefits are WC and other insurances. Length of Service Awards Programs can be defined contributions, such as a 401K type savings account, and defined benefits such as a pension. There are other benefits like vehicle usage, cell phones, etc. Incentives come in many different colors; pay per call, banquets, uniforms, stipends for various performance based programs, shirts, the list is long.

Whenever a benefit or incentive involves tangible items or money the IRS gets involved. Did you know that if you give your members a banquet that the IRS determines that is most likely imputed income, and that is a taxable income? You provide a cell phone stipend that is taxable income. Insurance and other non-tangible benefits are most likely not imputed income. Incentives are clearly taxable according the IRS. Staffing stipends are actually a “wage” according to WC, IRS and FLSA. The IRS is very clear via Publication 15 (http://www.irs.gov/govt/frslg/article0, id=113500,00.html) that any dollars “paid” for services to the folks you supervise is subject to the various withholding taxes including Social Security and unemployment, Medicare’ et al. This is where the can of worms is opened!

Understand The Rules
The ESO cannot use IRS Form 1099 (like some agencies still do), and of course the ESO has to pay Social Security as additional cost. This creates a payroll and I caution you to be very clear in your deliberations before beginning stipends (of any sort). Regarding the FLSA issue, you should download, read and understand the FLSA rules regarding payments to “volunteers”. That is available at no charge at the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Volunteer and Combination Officers of Texas (VCO) website at vcos.org, click on Resources and then Publications for the FLSA document. A significant portion of the research for this document includes the definition of the twenty percent bright line when it comes to paying a volunteer firefighter. With this in mind, understand this to assure you are not exposed to FLSA fines and other costs.

So now we know the base rules related to incentives, but that isn’t the end of the story. Being subject to “payroll” opens the doors for unemployment payments; note that this article is primarily focused on Texas. The volunteer member is actually paying the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) - the agency that operates unemployment rules and benefits. It is pretty simple to understand that but there is more to the story.

The WC issue is related because of the current rules of utilizing payroll to set the premium rate for your ESO. Just because a volunteer is considered an IRS employee does not mean that our WC costs should increase. I have developed a master spreadsheet using hours worked (training and responses) per member to demonstrate they are still to be considered volunteers via the WC rules. It seems to be working but we really need to have some rule adjustments related to “pay” for volunteers.

The Story
One of our volunteers receives stipends for staffing, pay per call, training hours and bonuses for special projects (our Ponderosa Volunteer Incentive Program - PVIP), and he was recently laid off from his primary employment. He applied for unemployment benefits and was approved. Then the fun began. That unemployment benefit triggered the charge to our ESO to help pay for the unemployment benefits even though he was still a member (employed) and still receiving benefits and incentives. What was most surprising (and brings) to me during the appeals process with the TWC was their definition of the requirements for unemployment benefits.

In this case they quoted some type of rule that states that since the “employee” is subject to call – a volunteer firefighter carrying a pager – therefore he is eligible for unemployment benefits. Yes, he already qualified via his former full time employer but the impact was felt within our ESO to utilize some of our unemployment “beef” to supplement the TWC payments to the person. You can imagine my dismay after that ruling and I appealed two more times to no avail. Clearly, and without question, the TWC rule is improperly applied in this case. I repeatedly stated that a volunteer firefighter is always on call, but they did not listen nor did they try to listen. This is not about the impact on our TWC account, and it is minimal, it is about the principle of a government agency NOT understanding what we do.

Fighting Back
Further, this situation causes me great concern, not only for our Texas combination ESO’s but also for our nation’s combo ESO’s. I then engaged our little group called the Northwest Harris County Emergency Services Leadership Coalition and we produced a letter to our elected officials explaining the situation. We have asked for legislative changes or a change in the rules specific to volunteers receiving stipends. In my own world, I firmly believe that volunteer firefighters must be exempt from TEC withholding, and that is called statutory exemption for certain work groups that are already in place for other job titles and the federal front. We shall see what happens.

On another front, the VCO is deep into implementing a strategic plan for preserving the volunteer fire service. The examples listed in this article are a portion of the strategic plan and I encourage you to stay abreast of changes we are going to propose and hopefully you will engage in supporting those changes.

It is time for the volunteer fire service to stop being so nice and to fight back when situations like this arise. We must become engaged with our elected officials because they are the ones that can make change AFTER they understand the uniqueness of our service and the current rules that have negative effects on our operations, benefits and incentives. Our volunteers are the salt of the earth and they deserve better than being grouped as “employees”.

TOOT TOOT – here comes the locomotive; which rail will it use today to get to its destination?
History and Mission of the Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force

The Texas Line of Duty Death Response Team was one of the first official response teams in the United States. In 2000, after a blaze took the life of firefighter Scott Harshbarger, firefighter Wendy Norris and fire chief Dennis Gifford saw first hand how difficult a fatality is on a family and a department. From that experience they discussed the need of having a ‘strike team’ made up of firefighters of all rank that would respond within 12 hours to a department that suffered a fatality. Wendy, who is the President of Firefighter Ministries, started working on the details of such a team. She then presented her information to the Texas State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association which readily agreed that such a team should be formed. In early 2001 the Texas Line of Duty Death Response Team was officially formed under the guidance of Firefighter Ministries, the SFFMA, and the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Since its inception, the Line of Duty Death Response Team has provided assistance to nearly 65 families and departments, consulted with hundreds of department around Texas and across the country, educated over a thousand firefighters and EMS workers in department preparation, and has officially partnered with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation LAST Program, the Texas State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association, the Federation of Fire Chaplains, and the Texas Fire Chiefs Association. While the LODD Response Team no longer operates under the guise of the SFMO, they still work closely with the State Fire Marshal as well as with many of their investigators. The Texas LODD Task Force provides assistance, consulting and education to all fire and EMS departments: whether union, private, government, industrial or volunteer.

Education

It’s hard for a department to think about a line of duty death happening to one of their members, however not preparing for such an event can cause even more heartache and stress on everyone involved should a tragedy occur. The emergency services are good at preparing for disasters and emergencies of all kinds and preparing for a line of duty death or injury should be no exception. Having a plan in place will help ensure that caring for the family, department members, putting together a funeral, and caring for long term needs will run a bit smoother.

The TX LODD Task Force offers a three hour preparation course and a comprehensive eight hour course. The three hour course is geared more towards departments who would like to schedule classes for short day or evening trainings. The eight hour course is tailored more for larger departments, county schools, or multiple department training.

At-Need Assistance

When a line of duty death occurs, the afternoon can send a department into a tailspin. The trauma and stress of the situation can be blinding. Most departments find that a myriad of support and services are quickly offered by many individuals, departments, and organizations. While this offered help is well-intentioned, it can quickly become overwhelming and confusing. If your department does experience a line of duty death, it is important that contact is made to the appropriate entities as soon as possible so that some of the initial stress can be alleviated.

Our team is comprised of members who have extensive training and experience in handling the unique needs of a department and family who has experienced a death. With hundreds of hours of experience in funeral arrangements, benefits assistance, and counseling our team provides professional, transparent and compassionate care. All of our team members volunteer their time and efforts.

Our team is designed to be ‘on scene’ within 24 hours (in many cases we have been able to respond within 6-12 hours), pending resources available, after a death has occurred and a call for assistance has been made. Our team will never self-deploy or show up to your department uninvited, so it is crucial that contact is made with us as soon as possible to request our assistance.

Our team can provide the following services but are not limited to:

- basic to full honors fire/ems service funeral arrangements per request of the family
- response trailer with items needed for full honors funeral
- crisis intervention
- chaplaincy care

- resource management
- personal assistance to commanding officers by other commanding officers
- benefits assistance
- media/communications assistance such as PIO
- administrative assistance

Long Term Assistance & Family Care

The needs of a department and a family do not end when their loved one is buried. Grief has no time table. Benefits require a lot of effort in order to file efficiently and correctly. Investigations take place. Adjustment to life after a fatality happens, sometimes with difficulty. Our team knows that the weeks and months after a funeral can be the loneliest and scariest time for all involved. It is our intention to provide care for as long as we are needed. On average, we care for a family for about three years and a department for about one year.

Our long term assistance plan provides the following but are not limited to:

- filing of benefits and follow up assistance
- resources management
- referrals for therapists, financial advisors, attorneys, memorial companies, etc
- chaplaincy care
- assistance in filing paperwork for memorials

For families, the Texas LODD Task Force offers The Texas Fallen Heroes Family Network which brings together survivors for networking, fellowship, and support. The Network also gives the chance for survivors to be a part of the Task Force through speaking engagements, educational opportunities, and response to new survivors.

The Texas Fallen Heroes Family Network offers fellowship for new and seasoned survivors through various events throughout the year including an annual family camp called the Texas Fallen Heroes Family Retreat which is held the first weekend of June (1-3) at the T Bar M Resort in New Braunfels, TX.

The Task Force is made up entirely of emergency workers of all ranks and support personnel who volunteer their time to this important cause. The Task Force is funded through fundraising events such as the Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Ride & Cook-Off as well as through donations and grants given by private citizens, organizations, and corporations and works under the 501(c)3 status of Firefighter Ministries. If you or your department would like more information about our services please visit our website at www.texassfallenfirefighter.com or by calling 932-647-6770.

THE THIRD ANNUAL TEXAS FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL RIDE AND COOK-OFF

BENEFITING THE TEXAS LINE OF DUTY DEATH TASK FORCE WHICH SERVICES THE FAMILIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

THIS YEAR’S EVENT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF FIREFIGHTER Gary Staley, Porter Fire Dept.

JUNE 23, 2012

FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENTS WE NEED YOU!

Fire & EMS Apparatus for the Motorcycle Ride/Procession
Event Sponsors / Cook-Off Teams / Motorcycle Riders / Vendors
Apparatus to Compete in Fire Muster / Apparatus & Equipment for Display
Demonstration at Fire Festival/Cook-Off / Fire Safety Trailers
Arson Dogs for Demonstrations / Fire Safety Clowns for the Children’s Area
Pipe & Drums for Demonstrations / General Volunteers

We will kick the day off with a pancake breakfast at the Cy-Fair VFD Station 11 in Cypress, TX. Afterwards a memorial and wreath laying ceremony will honor our fallen firefighters and EMS providers. From there the motorcycle ride will begin with kickstands up at 11AM. The ride will go through scenic routes in Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, and Galveston Counties. The ride will end at the Galveston County Fairgrounds in Hitchcock, TX where there will be a cook-off and a fire fest. Come join the fun and show your support for the families of Texas emergency service workers.

If your department or department members would like to help with any of the listed activities please contact:
WENDY NORRIS
call: 832.647.6770
email: wendy@texasloddtaskforce.com
visit: www.texassfallenheroesride.com

The ride will end at the Galveston County Fairgrounds in Hitchcock, TX where there will be a cook-off and a fire fest. Come join the fun and show your support for the families of Texas emergency service workers.

The ride will end at the Galveston County Fairgrounds in Hitchcock, TX where there will be a cook-off and a fire fest. Come join the fun and show your support for the families of Texas emergency service workers.

The Memorial Ride is sponsored by: The Red Knights M.T., TX1, TX3 and TX4

BARBECUE PLATES FOR THE RIDERS WILL BE PROVIDED BY MARCH THERMO-FOOD SYSTEMS, INC.

www.sffma.org

InfoFire Magazine / Vol. 47

35
On behalf of MDA and the thousands of Texas families we serve (like Kim, Lee and Dylan Hall out of Bryan/College Station) I want to thank each of you, the members of the SFFMA, for everything you did in 2011. We all know it was a very challenging year for everyone between the economy, the fires, the floods etc. Even with all of those challenges, you still hit the streets and did “Fill the Boot” in spite of adversity. That is so typical of Fire Fighters! When the going gets tough, the tough get going! Even though it has also been a very challenging year for MDA, we have committed to funding twenty groundbreaking research grants in Texas totaling $5,639,227 at The University of Texas Southwestern Med. Center - Dallas; The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston; Baylor College of Medicine - Houston; Methodist Neurological Institute - Houston; The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston and the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio. In addition, for our kids 6-17, MDA funds four Texas camps at Camp for All in Burton, Ceta Canyon Methodist in Happy, Camp Jon Marc in Cleburne and Camp Aranzazu in Rockport. These are provided at no cost to our campers and their families. MDA also funds dozens of Support Groups across Texas and assists with durable medical equipment for those we serve. Your support has made this possible. Our staff and I are looking forward to a GREAT convention and to seeing each of you! We know it will be a fantastic 2012!

Ed Baker
Ed Baker
ebaker@mdausa.org
Spring is in the air and Convention is right around the corner. Before I get started I would like to THANK everyone for all of the hard work and dedication that was given to the TFA this year. I feel we have had a very productive year. Next, I would like to thank my family for all of their support that they have given me while going through the chairs. Thanks again everyone!!!

This year the convention will be in Houston and the schedule looks pretty full.

Saturday morning at Reliant Center we will have registration. At that time you can pay your dues, pick up your packets for the Monday’s meeting, sign up for pumper races, buy your luncheon tickets if you have not already done so, turn in your scrapbooks, sign up to run for an Executive Office, and if you would like to donate an item for the “You Pick it Auction” you can drop it off at this time. On Saturday afternoon we will have workshops for anyone interested in what TFA has to offer. Sunday will be the Memorial Service.

Monday we will have our Annual Business meeting at the Crowne Plaza in the Alamo I room. Please plan to attend, new members are always welcome. I challenge each of you to bring someone new to the meeting. Also, remember to bring you toiletries, books and toys to be given to the hospitals as our community service project. In the afternoon after the meeting we will hold a visit and game party, so bring your favorite game and a light snack and enjoy visiting with everyone if you don’t like to play games. Children are also welcomed to join us at the game party. Don’t miss out and join us for a great social time to get to visit.

Tuesday is the luncheon at the Bethany United Methodist Church the theme will be a “Tailgate Party”, wear your favorite sports team clothes. In the afternoon we will have the Pumper Races, which is always a lot of fun.

Saturday evening starting around 6 p.m. Rex Klesel, myself and our spouses will host a Presidents’ reception around the pool. I would personally like to invite each of you and your family to attend.

See you in Houston!!!!

Donna Chudalla
TFA President 2012

---

JOIN US AT THE

17th ANNUAL A&M GOLF TOURNAMENT

to help raise money for TFA’s Scholarship Fund

The 17th Annual A & M Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the Briarcrest Country Club in Bryan, Texas. This tournament is held annually the Saturday prior to the beginning of TEEX Municipal Fire School.

The four man scramble helps to raise money for the Texas Firemen’s Auxiliary and the Scholarship Fund.

At the SFFMA Planning Conference held in Houston in January, Chairwoman Helen Hlavaty and Committee member Missy Ondrasek presented Scholarship Chairwoman Sara Weiss a check in the amount of $6,250.00 and the Texas Firemen’s Auxiliary a check for $975.00.

If you are interested in playing in this year's tournament, a check in the amount of $80.00 can be sent to Helen Hlavaty, 2012 Wilson Road, El Campo, 77437.

The tournament is limited to the first 86 players. Goody bags and door prizes are given, and refreshments and food will be served.

If you are interested in donating a door prize or being a Hole Sponsor ($100.00), please contact Helen Hlavaty.

We also do a Memorial Hole Sponsorship in memory of someone that has passed away since the last tournament. This is a permanent metal sign that is put out year after year. The cost is a one time fee of $100.00, please contact Helen Hlavaty.

We also donate a Memorial Sponsorship in memory of someone that has passed away since the last tournament. This is a permanent metal sign that is put out year after year. The cost is a one time fee of $100.00 and can also be arranged by contacting Helen Hlavaty. Four random places are given out each year plus the “Pat Barrett Memorial - Bringing Up The Rear” trophy.

---

TFA Tailgate Party

You are invited to attend a TFA Ladies Luncheon honoring our TFA Past Presidents.

Tuesday, June 12, 2012 • 11:00 AM

$16.00 per plate

Bethany United Methodist Church
3511 Linkwood • Houston, TX 77025
(In the Church Hall located behind church)

Pre-sale ticket deadline is May 11, 2012. Tickets will be sold until 3:00pm on Saturday at Registration (Limited Availability)

Menu: BBQ Baked Potato with all the trimmings, Sweet Tea, Cobbler and Ice Cream for dessert.

For reservations, please contact: Pam Maples
3400 Stevenwood Lane, Alvin, TX 77511
Cell phone: 713-594-2787
Email: momonthego@swbell.net
Texas Wildfires
Up From the Ashes
2011-2012
The Texas Fire & Emergency Training Leader

TEEX trains emergency response personnel from more than 45 countries each year.

Municipal / Industrial Firefighting
Emergency Medical Service
Hazardous Materials Response
Search & Rescue / USAR
Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting
Fire & EMS Leadership
Fire Officer / Instructor

Marine - Shipboard Firefighting
Oil Spill Response
Weapons of Mass Destruction
Emergency Management / NIMS
Incident Command
LNG Emergency Response
Assessment / Technical Assistance

Each course can be tailored to meet your exact needs in a variety of areas.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone for more information about this training program.

Schedule these or any of our 130+ courses today.
WWW.TEEX.ORG/FIRE | 1.866.878.8900