Our promise:
To be responsive to our nation’s first responders.

That’s why we’re working with the State Firemen’s & Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas to provide access to auto
and home insurance designed exclusively for you and your fellow fire fighters.

For 100 years, California Casualty has delivered trusted, personalized insurance for those who protect, strengthen and enhance the quality of life in American communities.

Because at California Casualty, it’s our policy to do more for the people who give more, starting with you. Call today for your free, no-obligation quote.

For a free, no-obligation quote, call 1-866-680-5137 or visit www.CalCas.com/SFFMA

Exclusive Discounts | Free ID Defense | Turnout Gear Reimbursement*
2015 SFFMA PLANNING CONFERENCE
JANUARY 23 - 24, 2015 - Galveston, TX

Host Hotel
Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center
Seven Hope Blvd
Galveston, TX 77554
Ph. 409.741.8484
Room rate: $119 + tax (room/night)
GROUP BLOCK IS CURRENTLY FULL.

Annual Conference
June 12-17, 2015
Check for conference updates at www.sffma.org.

TENTATIVE AGENDA
Friday, January 23
8 a.m. - noon TIESB Meeting
1 - 5 p.m. SFFMA Executive Board

Saturday, January 24
8:30 a.m. Golf Tournament Committee
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Constitution and By-laws Committee
Pumper Race Committee
Fire Marshal Committee
Finance Committee
8:30 a.m. - noon Certification Board
Ladies Auxiliary Board
9 - 10 a.m. Sergeant-at-Arms Committee
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Poster Committee
Exhibits Committee
Memorial Committee
Driving Contest Committee
EMS Committee
T*Flag Committee
12:30 p.m. Speaker Selection Committee
1 - 2 p.m. LUNCH (not provided)
2 - 3:30 p.m. District Officers Meeting
3:30 - 4 p.m. June Conference Agenda Review
3:30 - 5 p.m. Health and Safety Committee
4 - 4:30 p.m. Site Selection Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS
1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S CORNER
Updates and upgrades

2 PRESIDENT’S FORUM
Meet your current president

3 SFFMA FAQ
General and certification

6 SOCIAL MEDIA ... SO WHAT?
General information, things you should know and basic setup

9 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS
Full list of current membership benefits offered to SFFMA members

12 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Listing of bills that will be submitted in the 84th legislative session

16 SUSTAINING MEMBER LISTING
Support those who support you—buy from our sustaining members

22 THE CALL TO SERVE, ANSWERED
Texas A&M Forest Service article

28 SFFMA INTERNATIONAL
International training

32 COMMITTEE LISTINGS
Contact information for those who serve you

42 BE AT YOUR B.E.S.T
New resources for health & safety

51 TEXAS FIREMEN’S AUXILIARY
TFA Board member information, president’s update

© 2014 State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas.
Texas Firemen is published once a year in the fall. Any person interested in the emergency services may become an individual member of this association by the payment of annual dues in the amount of $30 per year (January - December) which includes individual membership and allows for eligibility of benefits, including a subscription to this magazine. Advertising rates are available upon request or may be found online at www.sffma.org. SFFMA and the Texas Firemen assume no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Advertising in Texas Firemen does not imply approval or endorsement by the SFFMA.

Photo Credits
Front Cover - Blackburn Photography
Page 1 - www.moodygardens.com
Page 2 - Molly Quirk Photography
Page 15 - Lary Jones, AEP/ETT
Page 23 - Thomas McDonald, Friendswood FD
Pages 3, 5, 18, 27 and 51 - Jim Hanson
Hello SFFMA Members,

It is nice to see that the fall season will soon be arriving, and maybe we will see some cooler temperatures and hopefully some much-needed rain!

The 2014 summer was a busy one for SFFMA...

---

**Executive Director’s CORNER**

We started off in June with our annual conference, which was a great success. The quality of the classes that were taught, the hospitality received from the Panhandle district and local departments, and the overall program was a positive thing for our association.

From there we went into assisting with and participating in the various annual fire schools in College Station, with staff working our trade booth during the Spanish and municipal fire schools along with Executive and Certification Board meetings. During the time between conference and fire schools, SFFMA’s website went through a major upgrade and rewrite. An updated database was launched allowing for all staff to have the ability to update the website’s content with current news and events quickly rather than relying on a single webmaster. More importantly, the new database/website allows for our members to have a friendlier experience when logging in, purchasing materials and signing up for events. It also allows for the capabilities to donate directly online, have a social networking board, and several other features we are still learning about. The website will continue to change and improve as we learn more about all of the different features but we are glad we have a much more technology-stable website for our members.

As we go into the fall season, the certification staff is working on preparing for the mandatory testing of firefighter certifications in partnership with TEEX. TEEX will be hosting regional testing dates/locations across the state to allow for numerous opportunities for firefighters needing to test. Staff are also testing a new certification module that is directly connected with our master database and we plan to implement the certification module as soon as it is tested and programmed for our needs.

We want to thank all of you who have donated to our Capitol Monument Expansion Project. We are very pleased and proud to report that, as a team, we have met our goal of raising $150,000 in 150 days. Unfortunately, as things often go with big projects, we’ve come across another obstacle in the expansion process. The State Preservation Board, which has the ultimate authority and charge of caring for monuments upon capitol grounds, has recently informed us that a readjustment to the build estimate has been made. Folks, to put it simply—we’re going to have to raise some more money ... but what a better group to take on this challenge than the first responders of the great state of Texas? So in the coming months, we will re-strategize our fundraising efforts for this project until we find ourselves on the avenue leading to successful completion of the expansion. And we will get there, because the honor and memory of the brave men and women who have given their lives in the protection of others, must be permanently recognized. Please stay tuned for updates, and remember—this setback is just another opportunity to show how determined and accomplished the SFFMA has always been and will continue to be, because we get where we’re going together.

As we go into the 2015 legislative session, our focus will be on the legislative priorities of the association: protecting the grant funds dedicated to VFDs and increasing the funding to the full level for the dedicated grant programs. Our T*Flag representative will have an article in this magazine with the details of our legislative priorities for the next session. We always welcome your comments, concerns, questions, and compliments on how we are doing and what else we can do for you as our members.

Be Safe,

Chris Barron
Executive Director
Well, my year as president of this great association is here. I am grateful to the membership for giving me this opportunity of a lifetime. I value my service to the membership and pledge to always remember who gave me this opportunity.

I grew up in Copperas Cove, Texas. At that time, it was a small community of military families located about 60 miles northwest of Austin, and bordering Fort Hood on the west. My family settled there well before World War II, after emigrating from Germany. I remember my grandmother had a collection of Methodist hymnals in their house that were in the German language. Most of my family and relatives still reside there and continue to raise their families in Copperas Cove. My grandfather (we called him Dad) was one of the founding members of the Copperas Cove Volunteer Fire Department. My dad followed in his footsteps and joined the volunteer fire department as a young man, eventually becoming fire chief in the late 60s. My dad also served as president of the Central Texas District in 1980. My uncle, Grafton Seale, became the first paid fire chief in the early 70s and served in that position for a couple of years, just long enough to hire me into the fire department in 1973.

I joined the fire department as a volunteer in 1970 while still in high school. I remember making trips to the Central Texas District meetings from Fredericksburg to Brenham and everywhere in between. In those days the Central Texas meeting began on Saturday evening with a dance and Sunday was for meetings and pumper races. As I recall, in those days it was nothing to see 300 to 400 people attend the convention—and yes, it was a real convention rather than a meeting. I grew up getting to know such notable people as Past Presidents Blondy Rucker, Herbert Gorubec, Leo Bales, Robert Stubblefield, Don Hoffman, and Ben Norman, all of whom hailed from the Central Texas District. Henry Perry probably remembers this: Blondy Rucker at one time owned a skating rink in Killeen and he was a very good skater. He would often, after the pumper races, put on his skates and skate about the dance floor with a bottle of whiskey in one hand and a cigar in the other, just having a ball.

After graduating from high school in 1972, my intention was to pursue a career in law enforcement. I attended college, eventually earning a degree in criminal justice. However, my uncle hired me as a firefighter in 1973. A year later in 1974 the city needed a fire marshal, so I was volunteered. My uncle was gone by then and we had a new fire chief, Raymond Ashcraft, who knew I was studying criminal justice at the time and just felt like I would be a good fit, so he volunteered me.

President’s FORUM

the Central Texas District meetings from Fredericksburg to Brenham and everywhere in between. In those days the Central Texas meeting began on Saturday evening with a dance and Sunday was for meetings and pumper races. As I recall, in those days it was nothing to see 300 to 400 people attend the convention—and yes, it was a real convention rather than a meeting. I grew up getting to know such notable people as Past Presidents Blondy Rucker, Herbert Gorubec, Leo Bales, Robert Stubblefield, Don Hoffman, and Ben Norman, all of whom hailed from the Central Texas District. Henry Perry probably remembers this: Blondy Rucker at one time owned a skating rink in Killeen and he was a very good skater. He would often, after the pumper races, put on his skates and skate about the dance floor with a bottle of whiskey in one hand and a cigar in the other, just having a ball.

After graduating from high school in 1972, my intention was to pursue a career in law enforcement. I attended college, eventually earning a degree in criminal justice. However, my uncle hired me as a firefighter in 1973. A year later in 1974 the city needed a fire marshal, so I was volunteered. My uncle was gone by then and we had a new fire chief, Raymond Ashcraft, who knew I was studying criminal justice at the time and just felt like I would be a good fit, so he volunteered me.
I was just 20 at the time and had no idea of what being a fire marshal meant. The fire department had no inspection program, no pre-fire plans and no public education. So while learning everything I could by the seat of my pants, I began setting up those programs. I spent most of my summers attending municipal fire school to learn my job as a fire marshal, or going to the police academy and attending an arson investigator class in Galveston for two weeks. While in Galveston I became friends with the Galveston fire marshal, A.D. Carroll, and was hired as assistant fire marshal in Galveston in April 1977.

My first day on the job was eventful. That was a day I will never forget. I was on that day and we had a general alarm fire downtown. When I was called to respond, I looked out my hotel window on Seawall Boulevard toward downtown and the entire night sky was lit up. When I finally made it downtown, a three-story hotel and a large furniture store were on fire—a half a block. The fire resulted in seven people being burned to death and many people unaccounted for. Nine months later, the grain elevator blew up, killing 22 people. Needless to say, my first year was quite eventful.

In 1988 I was promoted to fire marshal and served in that position until my retirement in 2000. As fire marshal, Galveston was a recipient of a grant from the U.S. Fire Administration to develop a fire safety program for senior citizens. With the help of the University of Texas Medical Branch and the Shriner Burn Institute we produced a video in English and Spanish, PSAs, and distributed over 1,000 smoke detectors. We used community organizations such as the Noon Optimist Club and Meals on Wheels to present the programs while the fire department installed the smoke detectors. Our PSAs were shown courtesy of Houston TV stations. All this hard work paid off though—prior to receiving the grant, Galveston's fire death rate averaged about three senior citizens annually. After the program was implemented and smoke detectors installed, we had no fire deaths for almost seven years and that number has remained low ever since.

In 2000 I retired and went to work part time for the Village Fire Department conducting inspections, primarily residential sprinkler systems. The Village Fire Department is co-op between six small villages. In 1999 and 2000 all six villages amended their fire and building codes to require residential fire sprinklers in all new homes and any commercial building larger than 1,000 square feet. We have nearly 20 percent of our homes protected by residential fire sprinklers. Our residential fire sprinkler program is responsible, in part, for the fire department and all of the villages receiving an ISO rating of Class 1. In 2003 I was hired full time as an inspector, and in 2010 promoted to fire marshal.

All my life I have been active in numerous fire service organizations. I am a charter member of the Texas Fire Marshal’s Association (TFMA). I was one of those who saw the need for such an organization and in 1977 we were chartered. Since that time we have grown to over 300 members and sponsor the annual Texas Fire Marshal’s Conference in Austin. I currently serve as a director of the TFMA and was a recipient of their Life Member Award in 2008. I have been active in the Galveston County Fire Fighters Association since 1979. I served as president in 1983, and secretary and/ or treasurer since 1988. (I am currently serving as a commissioner and treasurer for the county association.)

Several years ago the Houston-area fire marshals saw the need for an organization among fire marshals to network and share information. As a result, the Greater Houston Area Fire Marshal’s Council (GHFMC) was formed. We provide a means to network and share information, and provide regular training sessions in fire investigation and fire prevention. I am a past director and currently serve as their treasurer. In 1988 I served as president of the Gulf Coast District. I have also been an instructor at the municipal fire schools for 29 years.
I have instructed the executive director to develop a district manual that will give guidance to the district boards on their responsibilities, report guidelines, and how to communicate with their membership. It will include guidelines for the selection process of the firefighter and EMS person of the year, pumper team rules, poster contest rules, and all those things that evolve around the district.

I have asked the Executive Board to reach out to their counterparts on district boards to solicit the needs of the district and to provide a contact person that a district board member can call upon anytime there is an issue. If you are a district board member, you should be contacted by your Executive Board member counterpart. If you have not been contacted, please call them. Their contact information is in the magazine and on the SFFMA website. Communications between our district boards and the Executive Board is imperative for a successful venture.

Speaking of the EMS provider of the year—do you know that this award may go away sooner than later? Since the award was instituted there have not been enough nominees each year to make it worthwhile. There is talk that if the committee doesn't see an increase in nominees, the program will be canceled. Please, the Executive Board asks that each district submit a name. Give the program a chance to recognize those who are deserving of such a prestigious award.

The association is doing quite well under the leadership of our Executive Director Chris Barron. I don't think you will find a more qualified person to oversee our association business. All the Austin staff work hard to assist the volunteer fire service of Texas. When you compare our program to that of other states, we are second to none. In fact, it has been told that our certification program is the best in the country.

As you know, as of January 1, 2015, we will begin mandatory testing for Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications. A couple of years ago, the board decided that it was in all our best interests that testing for all our disciplines be mandatory. So we instructed the Certification Board that we wanted to see testing by 2015. I am proud to say we are there, at least for FFI and FFII. We also solicited the assistance of TEEX for testing. The Certification Board and Executive Board felt it was important that third-party testing be a part of the program. Third-party testing adds a certain level of credibility to the program and TEEX seemed to be the perfect fit for us. So, thanks to TEEX and Chief Moore, we will have testing beginning in January. The details of how this system will work will be coming out in the near future, if not in this magazine. The changes to the FFI and FFII certification program did not make everyone happy. Certain individuals complained when some subjects were removed and they felt it was taking away from our certification. The program we have meets the minimum standard of NFPA 1001. I want to emphasize minimum. If a district, county or department wants to add certain components to the program to meet their needs without taking away from the minimum standard, by all means, that is acceptable and encouraged. The testing process is new, so be patient with the Austin staff and TEEX as we work our way through this. I am certain there will be hiccups, but enough thought and study have been put into the testing process that those hiccups will be minor and easily overcome.

This coming legislative year will be a busy one for the SFFMA. We have numerous pieces of legislation that we will be looking to file. The first is a residential fire sprinkler bill. In 2009 the Legislature took away from municipalities the ability to enact residential fire sprinkler ordinances (it’s called home rule). We are of the belief that a municipal government is the best to gauge whether or not residential sprinklers are needed, and not the state. Each community is unique in its own right. Furthermore, each community knows best what level of fire protection it needs, not the state. So the SFFMA is joined by numerous fire service associations and trade associations and will be proposing legislation to reverse what was done in 2009. I want to emphasize that the legislation will not be about residential fire sprinklers but about home rule—the ability of a municipality to enact ordinances.

We will again try to get passed legislation that enables certified volunteer fire marshals to inspect businesses. Currently a volunteer fire marshal cannot inspect for code enforcement reasons if he or she does not hold a TCFP certification. An SFFMA inspector certification currently does not enable a fire marshal to conduct code enforcement inspections and we think that he or she should be able to. Another piece of legislation we will again propose is the Volunteer Firefighter Protection Act. The act will prohibit business owners from disciplining a volunteer firefighter who leaves his job in response to a fire incident. We came really close last legislative year to getting this done, but unfortunately when the bill got to the governor’s desk it was vetoed. Those are just three pieces of legislation we will be working on and I am certain there will be others as we move forward this legislative year.

Please keep in mind that when you are called by a member of the T-Flag or the Austin staff to call on your state legislator to support these bills or any other bill the SFFMA supports, please do so. This is a call to action, and believe me, your legislator listens to his constituents when they call. Chances are you voted for him or her and may have even participated in their campaign. So when called upon, please make those phone calls.

Before I forget and get into some serious trouble, I need to mention that I am married to Nita, and while at the Galveston convention we will celebrate 40 years of marriage. We have one daughter, Kristal, and two grandchildren: Garrett, age nine, and Renee, age four. As grandparents go, there is nothing those two kids want that we won’t get for them, even if their mother objects. Many of you know Nita served as president of the TFA in 2008 and two terms as president of the Gulf Coast Ladies Auxiliary.

Finally, our convention will be here before you know it. Your attendance is urgently requested. You know that our membership is 20,000+ strong but only about 250 delegates make the decisions that impact all of them. I know we won’t get all 20,000 to attend, but if we could get just five percent of the membership to attend (that’s 1,000 members) each and every convention, those decisions we make will be more representative of our membership. I ask that you make the commitment to attend our convention—even if it’s your first time or if you have missed a few or just stopped coming—we want to see you in Galveston in 2015, McAllen in 2016, and San Marcos in 2017. We have top-quality training and networking. You will always come away with something new.

Thanks so much for reading my article. I hope to see you in Galveston.
LOSING THE CLIPBOARD: TRUCK CHECKS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

By David Cain

Most fire districts across the country still log their apparatus and equipment checks on clipboards or paper logsheets. But that’s starting to change, as many departments are beginning to convert from these pen-and-paper systems into digital logbooks. Automating inspections saves departments both time and money since crews can perform their checks with greater efficiency, ensuring that nothing slips through the cracks.

While the start-up costs of implementing such systems is higher than paper-based programs, the savings in the long run are substantial. “A conservative estimate is that a targeted document management effort can return as much as $20-$40 for every dollar invested,” according to a report from totallypaperless.com. These savings are the result of increased productivity, immediate access to decision-critical data, and the ability to keep, organize and retrieve vast amounts of information (think regulatory guidelines, manufacturer specs, and compliance documents). But the highest ROI for departments that have taken their checks paperless comes from identifying and repairing apparatus issues early on, before the repairs become more costly and dangerous. According to Daniel Cimini, fire chief for Surfside Beach (S.C.) Fire Department and former member of the NFPA 1901 Technical Committee, “There are several things that firefighters can do on a regular basis to head off issues early on, and that will help to prevent the need for costly repairs. When everyone knows what needs to be done and what has already been done, the fire department saves time and money. Problems get caught up front and major breakdowns are reduced drastically or eliminated altogether.”

Although fire agencies do not necessarily need a software program to help them catch issues early on (Chief Cimini has been repairing apparatus long before there were digital systems out there), the demand is increasing as departments are asked to do more with less. Firefighters are trained in more areas today, and departments have much more specialized equipment to track, maintain and document. Digital logbooks help departments organize and manage this multitude of information more efficiently than paper checksheets.

With the improved efficiency and transparency that comes with digital logbooks, it is only a matter of time before they take the place of paper checks. Consider what has happened with incident reporting. Before NFIRS, all incident logs were done on paper. But the move to computerized records has drastically increased efficiency by centralizing information, improving accessibility, and cutting down on redundancies. Digital logbooks aim to do the same thing for apparatus and equipment checks.

David Cain was deputy chief with the Boulder (Colo.) Fire Department for 34 years. Since his retirement in 2013, he has worked as a consultant for PSTrax, a cloud-based service that digitizes fire department apparatus and equipment checks. You can reach Chief Cain at david@pstrax.com or 303-972-9444.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Certification

How does the TCFP firefighter program match up to the SFFMA firefighter program?
Because both programs are based on the same training, the TCFP views the following certifications with the same weight as a TCFP academy: current Module 4, Firefighter II (Advanced), full Firefighter II, or Advanced Firefighter/Accredited Advanced Firefighter issued prior to 2012. Provide a copy of one of these to TCFP to document eligibility to challenge their Basic Firefighter exam(s).

A department’s certification coordinator should credit anyone holding a TCFP academy completion certificate with the required objectives for the current SFFMA program, Modules 1-4, and can file an application up through and including all four modules. Anyone already certified to Module 4, who provides a copy of their TCFP exam verification letter or TCFP Basic Firefighter certificate will be upgraded to full SFFMA Firefighter II, at no extra charge.

My department had a fire/flood/catastrophe and all of our training records are gone. Do we have to start over?
No. In situations where training records are missing, an instructor certified by SFFMA or TCFP can test individuals on the material. As long as the individuals are able to demonstrate knowledge of the material, the coordinator may give them credit for the specific objectives. The exam will take the place of the missing documentation in the individual’s records.

How long do we need to keep training records on file?
The Certification Board recommends retaining training records for a minimum of three years. If the department has access to a scanner, consider saving them in PDF to a CD or other portable medium to cut down on physical storage space.

My application was sent in a long time ago and I’ve not gotten a certificate. What’s the holdup?
Please check with your department’s coordinator. All applications are currently reviewed within three weeks of arrival and are either immediately issued or the coordinator is notified of any irregularities. Main causes for delay are: Progress Reports (annual training summaries) not submitted or closed, coordinator has not met the workshop attendance requirement, appropriate fees have not yet been paid, applicant’s membership dues have not yet been paid, clear/appropriate documentation not submitted with the application, and missing/incorrect signatures. Once the last of the issues is corrected, we will issue the outstanding certificates, even if it takes a couple of years.

I recently attended training outside of the department, but I do not see that reflected in my individual training record in SFFMA Online, why not?
The certification coordinator at your department is the sole individual responsible for entering your training into the SFFMA Online system. SFFMA certification staff has no way of knowing who has attended what training and where, or what material was covered in the training unless that information is provided to us directly, and furthermore, we do not have the authority to sign off on the accuracy of records made and kept within your department. It is up to the individual and the coordinator to be sure that accurate training information is entered when training is completed.

I received my membership card but it does not show my certifications, why not?
Unless you have applied for certification through SFFMA, you will not have any certification codes on your membership card—even if you are TCFP, IFSAC or ProBoard-certified. Our membership cards only reflect certifications held through the SFFMA Certification Program at the time that the card was printed. If you have applied for SFFMA certifications and they do not show on your card, please check with your coordinator to see if they are aware of any issues holding up your certification(s), or call the SFFMA certification staff. If you require a new card, replacements are available for $5.

How much will my application cost?
Currently, application processing fees range from $5 to $30, but on January 1, 2015, the fees will standardize to $25 each.

2015 UPDATE

Is the Certification Board going to stop making changes to the program anytime soon?
No. At the Executive Board’s direction, the Certification Board has tied the SFFMA program to NFPA standards. Those NFPA standards go under periodic review about every four years, so you can plan on continual review and update of all of the certifications offered.

When can we expect another update?
January 1, 2015, should be the last major restructuring of the firefighter program. The next update to NFPA 1001 should be effective 2018, with SFFMA and TCFP making their program adjustments effective 2019. All of the other certifications are based on separate NFPA standards that are on their own four to five-year review cycles.

I’ve heard the changes are to mirror the TCFP program. Is that true?
No. SFFMA and TCFP both base their certification programs on a national standard (NFPA), and by doing so help to legitimize both programs nationally. A benefit of basing the programs on NFPA is that certifications based on the same standard from other states easily transition into and out of Texas. IFSAC and ProBoard exams are also based on the NFPA curriculum materials.

What is the overall change to the firefighter program for next year?
There is an overall decrease in the amount of material required to earn a firefighter certification through SFFMA starting on January 1, 2015.

Six categories of training are being fully removed from the firefighter curriculum with three of those moving from the firefighter to the driver/operator curriculum. There are some objectives added to the program, but the overall total will be significantly lower.

The term “Module” has been widely confused with the TEEX “Phase” classes, so the board is scrapping that term. Instead there will be three levels to NFPA 1001 training: Introductory, full Firefighter I and full Firefighter II. Introductory is the minimum amount of Firefighter I training recommended under NFPA 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions.

Membership Q&A can be found on our website at www.sffma.org under About Us.
**New Nonprofit Invites SFFMA Members to Create Statewide Fire Policy**

**Austin**—A new nonprofit will bring a unique form of policymaking to Texas this fall—one that could permanently improve fire prevention for Texans. Glasshouse Policy, which was founded in February by Francisco Enríquez and Thomas Visco, has built an online forum where they plan to host a public effort to “crowdsource” state policy.

“After the tragedy in West, Texas, some legislators, firemen and newspapers pointed to Texas’s fire codes, saying that the codes are to blame for the destruction of property and loss of life,” Enríquez said. “Other Texans say that our fire codes work, and they worry that augmenting the current system of fire codes could hurt the economy.”

“Whichever side you come down on,” Visco added, “fire prevention policy is fertile ground for a collaborative dialogue.” Crowdsourcing is the process of bringing together a diverse collection of otherwise disconnected individuals to accomplish a goal. Similar to the way in which Wikipedia constructs their comprehensive, user-written and user-edited encyclopedia, Glasshouse Policy will craft legislation based on input from a huge swath of Texans.

Grace Renbarger, a board member of Glasshouse Policy and a lecturer at the University of Texas, hopes that the forum will include more Texans in a policymaking conversation this fall. “Not every firefighter or fire marshal in Texas can appear at a committee hearing in Austin to discuss their concerns,” she said. “Now, with Glasshouse Policy’s one-of-a-kind ‘Texansourced’ policy forum, every Texan will have the opportunity to submit legislative ideas and share unique points of view with legislative decision makers.” Glasshouse Policy’s online, crowdsourced process starts in September. In October, Glasshouse Policy will host the first of several stakeholder roundtables. At these roundtables, Glasshouse Policy users’ opinions will be presented to experts, advocates, academics, and legislators.

“We hope our platform provides new ideas for the capitol community,” Enríquez said. “Our ultimate goal is to get stuff done in Austin,” he continued, “and we’ll need Texans to help us accomplish that goal.”

To find more information on Glasshouse Policy or to participate in their online discussion, go to [www.glasshousepolicy.org](http://www.glasshousepolicy.org).

---

**Rule Review for TESRS**

By Michelle Jordan

It’s been a productive first year and we’re proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish with our partners in the fire service. We value our relationships with SFFMA, member departments, active members, retirees, and other stakeholders. We’re all on the same team. Collaboration produces better results. Working together makes us stronger.

With those principals in mind, we will be beginning a review of all of our program rules, in order to clarify and improve their efficiency. It is our hope that our member departments will contribute their ideas, because we know that they know how this stuff really works in practice.

We will begin this process in October 2014 with the goal being to provide the board of trustees proposed changes at the board meeting in Galveston, to be held during the SFFMA conference on June 16, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel, in order to make it possible for departments to attend the meeting and address the board if desired.

The schedule for our rule review is as follows:

- **October 15, 2014**
  - Rules Committee to begin rule review process

- **December 15-16, 2014**
  - Rules Committee to meet in Austin to discuss rules under consideration for change

- **February 6, 2015**
  - Deadline for emailing rule change suggestions to the agency

- **February 26-27, 2015**
  - Rules Committee to meet in Austin to finalize rule change suggestions

- **March 2015**
  - TESRS staff to format proposed rule changes

- **April – June 2015**
  - Legal review of proposed rule changes

- **June 16, 2015**
  - Rules Committee presentation of proposed changes to the board of trustees in Galveston, with a public hearing format for departmental input

- **June 2015**
  - Proposed Rules posted in the Texas Register for comment

- **August 2015**
  - Board consideration for adoption of the proposed rules

If you’d like to send suggestions for rule changes, you can email them to us at [rulereview@tesrs.texas.gov](mailto:rulereview@tesrs.texas.gov). Rule changes require a legal review and we need to allow enough time for that process. For this reason, suggestions must be forwarded to us no later than February 6, 2015.

We’re grateful to all of our stakeholders for their support as we work to make TESRS the best it can be. Follow our progress: online at [www.tesrs.texas.gov](http://www.tesrs.texas.gov), [txfirefighterbenefit](https://twitter.com/txfirefighterbenefit) on Facebook, and [ForTexasHeroes](http://www.facebook.com/ForTexasHeroes) on Twitter. We hope you’ll feel free to contact us anytime with your comments and suggestions at (512) 844-TXHEROES or michelle.jordan@tesrs.texas.gov.

---

**The Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (TESRS)** is an agency of the state of Texas that administers a pension system for 223 volunteer fire and emergency services departments in communities statewide. In addition to providing a pension benefit, departmental membership in the TESRS system means volunteers are covered by death and disability benefits.
SOCIAL MEDIA ... SO WHAT?

Statements, information and tips within this article taken from the HubSpot eBook, “How to Use Facebook for Business: An Introductory Guide” and 2014 Social Marketing Industry Report by Social Media Examiner.com

By now you have heard of social media, and maybe you’ve experimented with it. Not only is it an excellent way to keep in touch with friends and family, but it has become increasingly important for businesses and organizations to find customer and donor support.

Think about how you find information about products and services. Are you watching commercials on TV? Maybe you’re sifting through those mailers that fill up your mailbox or looking online. There are a lot of options when it comes to consuming information, but people have gotten better and better at ignoring marketing messages.

Enter Facebook. Facebook is a social media tool used for networking. It allows users to connect and share information in many different ways. The access to all age demographics and the ability to hone in on niche markets have made Facebook the top social media site in the world.

Users have an opportunity to use Facebook to engage with others directly, and this allows you to promote content like webinars, articles and other resources that further similar interests or causes.

Facebook is a great tool for fire departments because it provides an easy way to connect with your community.

Websites are over! They continue to have a purpose, but they’re not where the action is happening. People want real-time activity and relevant news, especially if you’re trying to inform them about a cause or a campaign for recruitment or even an upcoming event.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:
1. Do not create a personal profile for your business. Profiles are for individuals and pages are for businesses.
2. Pages allow you to designate multiple administrators, so that you can have several people managing the account.
3. Pages are public and help you get listed in more relevant search results.
4. Profiles have friends, which require user-acceptance, but anyone can become a fan of your page without going through an approval process.

GET STARTED
1. Create an engaging page. Use applications like Facebook’s Discussion Boards and YouTube’s Video Box to add more interesting and engaging content to your page. Give users a reason to become a fan of your page and interact with you.

2. Use the News Feed. The added benefit of creating an engaging page is that every time a fan engages with your page, that activity is published to their News Feed.

3. Use your existing network. Spread the word to the people you already know and ask them to become fans of your page on Facebook. This will lead to more likes, and build your audience.

4. Make your page publicly searchable. Make sure that your page settings are set to be public. This will allow your page to show up in searches and drive more likes.

GROUPS vs. PAGES
The key distinction between groups and pages is that a group is for a community of people with a common interest, while a page represents a brand or entity of which there are fans. Depending on how you want to manage your audience, you can use either. However, it’s important to be transparent and authentic when using social media for your organization. People like to connect with people, and what’s more people-oriented than the fire service?

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS
- 73% of men and women born between 1946-1964 use Facebook over other social media sites
- 13% of men and women born between 1946-1964 use Twitter
- 13% of men and women born between 1946-1964 use LinkedIn

Think about what audience you want to reach. This can help you make a decision about where your social media activity will be more successful.

If you have any questions on how to get set up with any of these social media tools, please email membership@sffma.org and we’ll provide you some useful information to help you get started!
NAVIGATING THE NEW SFFMA WEBSITE

ABOUT US
NEWS—currently also displayed on the homepage, under building image
EXECUTIVE BOARD and STAFF listing and contact information
FAQ—membership
CONTACT US

DIVISIONS
DISTRICTS—new information available (maps, district contacts, updates on events)
EMS
INDUSTRIAL
INTERNATIONAL
TFA (scholarship information)

CERTIFICATION
Includes direct access to SFFMA ONLINE, CERTIFICATION NEWS, LISTINGS, BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION, LICENSE PLATE APPLICATION INFORMATION and FAQ.

COMMUNICATIONS
ADVERTISING INFORMATION—rates, deadlines, artwork specifics
MEMBER CONNECTIONS
PUBLICATIONS—e-InfoFire, InfoFire, Texas Firemen
PHOTO GALLERY
**COMMITTEE ROSTERS—must sign in to view rosters

SHOP
Includes anything you can purchase or order through SFFMA (TRAINING LIBRARIES, SFFMA MERCHANDISE, R&R MATERIALS, FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL EXPANSION DONATIONS, VFD INSURANCE, BUILDING PAVERS).

EVENTS
GENERAL INFORMATION
CONFERENCE INFO—previous year contest winners and following year details
EVENTS LIST
CONTEST RULES—Photo Contest, Pumper Races, FFOY/EMS of the Year, Driving Contest
RESOURCES
CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS
TRAINING
FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE
AVAILABLE GRANTS—HB 2604, VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company
READY, SET, GO GUIDE
FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL EXPANSION
VFD INSURANCE
BUILDING PAVERS

MEMBERS-ONLY AREA
Once you log in, you will be able to view and access member benefits (including promotional codes), communications (directory where you can search for members in different departments, committee rosters), and your account (where you can update your information).

YOUR INPUT
If you have any questions, changes or suggestions on how to enhance member experience with our website, please email webmaster@sffma.org.

*Please do not create a new account if you maintain current membership or you have previously been a member.
CAR RENTAL

**AMERICAN BENEFIT ADVISORS**

**Members’ Travel Benefits**

Now it’s easy to rent and save with exclusive member rates! Choose from a large selection of cars, vans and SUV's, available at any of our convenient airport or neighborhood locations. Think “member benefits” when you reserve a rental car for business or pleasure! Discounts up to 25%!

**Avis discount code:** AWD # 6725000  
Call: 800.331.1212  
www.avis.com

**Budget discount code:** BCD X925500  
Call: 800.527.0700  
www.budget.com

**Hertz discount code:** CDP #1860896  
Call: 800.654.2210

TRAVEL

**AMBA TRAVEL PERX**

AMBA Travel Perx brings the best values in vacations to association members. Special offers are available on fantastic cruises, resorts and escorted tour vacations to the Caribbean, Mexico, Panama Canal, Europe, Alaska, South America, and Asia.

**Cheap-O-Air**

Save $10 - $25 off your airfare. SFFMA members must request a promocode prior to purchase. Promotions vary throughout the year.

**SFFMA Travel Perx**

Save $10 - $25 on your stay with a choice of many hotels all over the world. Promotions vary throughout the year. Request a promocode via email.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS**

**AMERICAN BENEFIT ADVISORS**

SFFMA members can get up to 25% off their nightly rate by providing a unique promocode when presenting their SFFMA ID card at check-in. Offer varies based on location, participation and availability. Check www.lq.com for more information.

**LaQuinta Inn & Suites**

SFFMA members can get up to 25% off their nightly rate by providing a unique promocode when presenting their SFFMA ID card at check-in. Offer varies based on location, participation and availability. Check www.lq.com for more information.

**Wyndham Hotel Group**

**Wyndham Garden, Wingate, Hawthorn Suites, Ramada, Days Inn, Super 8, Baymont Inn & Suites, Microtel Inn & Suites, Howard Johnson, Travel Lodge, Knights Inn**

**Cheap-O-Stay**

Save $10 - $25 off your airfare. SFFMA members must request a promocode prior to purchase. Promotions vary throughout the year. Request a promocode via email.

MYAMBADINING.COM

**AFlac (Supplemental)**

Reduce the out-of-pocket expenses caused by hospitalization or accidents. Aflac pays cash directly to you!  
Contact: David Espinosa  
Phone: 512.535.5683  
www.espinosaAgency.com

**Ameridoc**

Call a doctor while on the road or traveling; no denials or application, immediate coverage nationwide. Ask about life/disability benefits.  
Phone: 877.870.4447 Ext.8

**VFIS of Texas**

SFFMA’s longstanding partner and benefit provider. Any fire department insurance need can be fulfilled with VFIS’s extensive coverage packages that include accident and sickness insurance, liability, property, etc.  
Phone: 800-252-9435  
Fax: 512-448-9929  
Email: vfistx@vfistx.com

**AIR EVAC LIFETIME**

Call a doctor while on the road or traveling; no denials or application, immediate coverage nationwide. Ask about life/disability benefits.  
Phone: 877.870.4447 Ext.8

**Apple Discount**

Members qualify for preferred pricing on some of the latest Apple products and acces-

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

**SFFMA has negotiated a discounted rate on all the supplemental plans. (AMBA, Aflac, AFBA, AirEvac, AmeriDoc, VFIS of Texas). These plans are NOT included in your SFFMA membership.**
sories. Apple member purchase program benefits include special member discounts on Apple products, quarterly promotions, free standard shipping on orders over $50, free engraving on iPod, online custom product configuration, and simplified checkout using any combination of credit card, Apple Gift Card and Apple Instant Loan. Phone: 1.877.377.6362
When calling, use discount code "AMBA"
*Discounts not available on all items. Check with Apple by phone or online to verify discounted items.

Dell Computer
Dell now offers members special pricing under their Employee Purchase program
Phone: 866.257.4711
www.dell.com/epp
Dell ID number-PS95750248

Discounts on Services

Assets In Order
This online service is 256-bit encrypted, equal to security levels used by banks. Includes 1 GB of storage of any important information your family might need in case of your passing. SFFMA members get a free 1-year Legacy Lockbox Heritage Membership!
Phone: 888.840.1213

BAKFlip Tonneau Covers
The BAKFlip Tonneau Cover/Truck Bed Cover is the newest generation of hard, folding, multi-panel tonneau covers! Enjoy all the security of a locking hard tonneau cover and have instant access to your entire truck bed! SFFMA members receive $75 off their purchase. Limited to one per customer. Request a promocode by emailing membership@sffma.org.

MedeStat
This is a free service that aims to reduce the cost of health care by providing important information vital to the patient’s health via specialized QR-code system. If you know you have a special medical condition, take medication, or have food allergies, this free QR program could save your life! It can even store your emergency contact information. SFFMA members are encouraged to use the free basic service to create their own MedeStat label. Medestat also has upgraded products that can be updated remotely.

Dignity Memorial
SFFMA Bereavement Program offers savings on funeral/cremation products and services. Discount based on the arrangements made through a Dignity Memorial service provider in your area.

Premier Nationwide Lending
Home Sweet Texas/Homes for Texas Heroes Program:
Premier Nationwide Lending is one of the leading mortgage companies in America. Eligible borrowers are full-time: teachers, teacher’s aides, librarians, nurses, counselors, nurses/nursing program faculty, allied health program faculty, firefighters, corrections officers/juvenile corrections officers, county jailers, public security officers, peace officers, medical service personnel. Get more information about eligibility!
Contact: Jorge Aldrete
Phone: 512.699.5267
Email: jaldrete@pnlending.com
www.teamaldrete.com

Stream Energy/PowerUp!
Lower your energy costs by switching your provider to Stream Energy and you may receive discounts on your monthly bill! Check if Stream Energy is an energy provider in your area. Enroll in the PowerUp! Program and see how you can save big. If you are already a Stream Energy customer, please contact our representative and let him know.

Contact: Ajax Daughtery
Phone 214.766.7056
Email: ajax@ajaxpower.com

Cellular Phone Services

Solavei
No contract, no hidden fees, just $49 a month for unlimited voice, text and data. Add three people to your Solavei Network and earn $20 a month! Add nine people and your monthly bill is PAID IN FULL! http://www.solavei.com/txfirefighters

T-Mobile
Switch to T-Mobile and your family’s early termination fees will be covered when you trade in your devices—up to $650 per line. So you can experience fast, 4G LTE network with no annual service contract and no overage charges.
Phone: 1.866.464.8662
Promocode: 25454TMOFAV
President Kattner has appointed Past President Bill Gardner and me as co-chairmen of T*FLAG for this year. Together, Bill and I will be able to track the election and the subsequent legislative session more effectively since Bill is located closer to the center of the action in Austin.

Election 2014 is in full swing now, and once the races are settled and the swearing-in, inauguration speeches and inaugural festivities are over, all eyes will be on the 84th Texas Legislative Session. During the SFFMA conference in Lubbock back in June, we sat and talked about how the 84th session might shape up. There will be more changes in leadership than have been seen in a long time at the capitol. There will be a new governor, a new Lt. governor (senate president pro tem), a new AG, and many new senators and representatives in the house. The speaker of the house is one of the few who will remain in place. What this could mean is that the Legislature could get off to a slow start while the new leaders get all the committee assignments made and get settled into their new positions. We don't know yet what the new leaders are going to designate as priorities in the budget process or in considering bills to be brought up.

We will keep a close watch for the early trends of the new leadership at the capitol with the help of Executive Director Barron, our lobbyist Trey Blocker and others.

T*FLAG is working with President Kattner to identify the legislative priorities for SFFMA. We have a preliminary list of legislative priorities which includes the following:

- Inspector bill (broaden language to inspectors meeting/exceeding NFPA 1031)
- Home Rule bill, Chapter 1301 of plumbing code related to sprinklers
- Restoration of TFS 2604 funding to the full $30 million
- Double TFS TIFMAS funding to $2 million
- Volunteer firefighter job protection bill (50 employees minimum)

The election will come first in early November, and T*FLAG as well as TESPAC are in the process of evaluating which candidates to endorse. We are vetting the candidates to see who will support the issues of firefighters and first responders. We are capable of bringing a very large group of voters to the polls election day, given the SFFMA membership of over 22,000 along with their families and friends. The candidates know very well what a huge influence we could have on a race for statewide office. Please keep an eye on the races as early voting starts in a week or so and political issues related to the fire service could always pop up in the campaigns.

The SFFMA website and social media links will be a good source of information for you to refer to. The first responders of Texas can influence budget priorities and legislation if we stay engaged and speak with an informed voice. Please join the effort and get engaged in the election and the run-up to the 84th Texas Legislative Session.

As always, if you have questions or need help with fire service issues related to legislation, please contact me or Past President Gardner.

Sincerely,

Dan Key
Co-Chairman, T*Flag Committee

Dan Key
Cell: 281.923.7670
Email: dannylkey@yahoo.com

Bill Gardner
Phone: 512.845.9689
Email: bgardner@sffma.org
At about the same time that the SFFMA team was completing plans for the Legislative Day trip, Executive Director Chris Barron was also meeting with representatives from Electric Transmission Texas (ETT) regarding contributions. Barron extended an invitation to ETT representatives to accompany the group to the firefighter school. Larry Jones, AEP Texas Corporate Communications manager and a spokesperson for ETT, was able to join the trip and photograph the group touring the site.

"The facility is absolutely incredible," Jones said. "We learned about what occurred during recent wildfires in Texas and were able to see the types of training that volunteer firefighters go through here in Texas. My respect and appreciation for how seriously the volunteers take this training was already high; but those feelings increased by orders of magnitude as a result of the tour."

"Touring Disaster City reminded me of trips to Universal City," Jones continued. "The difference is the participants are training for life and death situations—not make-believe ones."

**Thank you to TEEX and Texas A&M Forest Service for hosting the 3rd Annual Legislative Day at their headquarters in College Station. Many thanks to each and every one of you who took the time out of your busy schedules to participate in this event. SFFMA appreciates your time and dedication to the fire service of Texas.**

---

**SAVE THE DATE**

First Responder and Legislator Appreciation Day & Memorial Service

MARCH 25, 2015

11 A.M.

Memorial service will be followed by a fish-fry luncheon. More information to follow.
Below is an alphabetical listing of current SFFMA Sustaining Members. Sustaining Membership is available to any company interested in exhibiting at the SFFMA Annual Conference & Convention. Please keep these companies in mind when purchasing new apparatus, equipment and services.

**A**

Advanced Rescue Systems
WILLIAMS, BRYAN
3459 FM 36 S
Caddo Mills, TX 75135-6773
Phone: 903.527.3841
Email: advancedrescue@hotmail.com

AG-Meier, Inc.
HAYS, BILLY
920 East 6th Avenue
Belton, TX 76513-2712
Phone: 979.451.3855
Email: salesami@vvm.com

Akrorn Brass Co.
RUDY, ZACH
PO Box 86
Wooster, OH 44691-0086
Phone: 800.228.1161
Email: zrudy@akrornbrass.com

American Signal Corporation
RIESELBACH, ROB
8600 W Bradley Rd
Milwaukee, WI 53224-2816
Phone: 800.243.2911
Email: steve_barnett@bullard.com

Applied Force Technologies
WATKINS, BOB
2409 Colleen Dr
Pearland, TX 77581-5403
Phone: 832.289.2135
Email: bob@appliedforcetech.com

**B**

California Casualty
ALMEIDA, LISA
PO Box M
San Mateo, CA 94402-0080
Phone: 866.680.5143
Email: bwatson@calcas.com

Casco Industries
MURRAY, RAYMOND
607 W 62nd St
Murray, UT 84107-2913
Phone: 800.551.8787
Email: raymond@cascoindustries.com

CCMAX
MOROQUECHO, FERNANDO
11211 Katy Fwy
Houston, TX 77079
Phone: 832.436.7028
Email: safety@ccmax.us

CE Solutions
LUBITZ, LINDA
PO Box 3004
Marble Falls, TX 78654-3076
Phone: 512.715.9333
Email: support@ems-ce.com

Chief Fire & Safety Co. Inc.
PAYNE, RICHARD
927 S 4th St
Chickasha, OK 73018-4655
Phone: 405.224.2596
Email: rpayne@chieffiresafety.com

Consolidated Traffic Controls, Inc.
AYERS, DAVID
1016 Enterprise Place
Arlington, TX 76001-7140
Phone: 817.365.3421
Email: president@c-traffic.com

**D**

Daco Fire Equipment Co
DOBMEIER, GARRETT
PO Box 5006
Lubbock, TX 79408-5006
Phone: 806.763.0808
Email: garrett@dacofire.com

Deep South Fire Trucks, Inc.
TAYLOR, RONNIE
11 Wayne Dr
Woodville, TX 75979-4004
Phone: 601.722.4166
Email: cronnietaaylor@yahoo.com

Del Mar College - Regional Fire Academy
THIEME, WALTER
101 Baldwin Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78404-3805
Phone: 361.698.1724
Email: wtthieme@delmar.edu

DK Fireexpress LLC
KRISTENSEN, JESPER
8001 Boat Club Road Ste B
Fort Worth, TX 76179
Phone: 817.480.2485
Email: jesper105@live.dk

Elkhart Brass Mfg. Co., Inc.
BENN, RACHEL
1302 W Beardsley Ave
Elkhart, IN 46514-1891
Phone: 574.285.8330
Email: rbenn@elkhartbrass.com

Emergency Response Maps
ROBERTS, BEN
12550 W Colfax Ave 109
Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone: 480.205.6524
Email: broberts@ermaps.com

Emergency Services Insurance Program - ESIP
DIXON, BILL
PO Box 5670
Cortland, NY 13045-5670
Phone: 361.293.3557
Email: wthieme@delmar.edu

**F**

Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.
JOHNSON, MIKE
PO Box 249
Holden, LA 70744-0249
Phone: 225.567.7100
Email: mike.johnson@ferrarafire.com

Fire in Texas
GOTHARD, RONNIE
1334 Sharon Ln
 Sulphur Springs, TX 75482-5509
Phone: 903.438.0300
Email: dedee@fireintexas.com

Fire Supply Inc.
MCKITTRICK, RICK
PO Box 89
Godley, TX 76044-0089
Phone: 817.389.2377
Email: rich@firesupplyinc.com

FIREHOUSE Solutions - A Xerox Company
ROGERS, MIKE
10051 Barton Cir
Frisco, TX 75035-6667
Phone: 972.941.3475
Email: mike.rogers@firehousingsoftware.com

Firehouse Trophies and Gifts
MORGANS, KAY
12525 Skyline Dr
Jenks, OK 74037-4917
Phone: 918.528.6119
Email: morgans@cox.net

Fisher Sportswear
FISHER, BARRY
6672 Lincoln Dr
Philadelphia, PA 19119-3118
Phone: 215.755.8565
Email: barry@fishersportswear.com

FUEGO International, LLC
HIDROGO, JOE
8101 Cameron Rd Ste 101
Austin, TX 78754-3816
Phone: 512.490.1480
Email: joeh@fuegostore.com

**G**

Global Traffic Technologies
DOWELL, STEPHANIE
7800 3rd St S Ste 100
Saint Paul, MN 55128-5452
Phone: 651.248.2497
Email: chance.waid@gtt.com

Government Capital Corporation
SEIDBERG, DANIEL
PO Box 3004
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482-5509
Phone: 903.447.3385
Email: dedee@fireintexas.com

Gulf State Safety, LLC
HELLER, REBECCA
1115 San Jacinto Ste 100
Austin, TX 78701-9194
Phone: 512.440.9914
Email: pbradley@iso.com

H

Hall-Mark Fire Apparatus Texas LLC
HOLMES, MARIA
601 Martin Duke Rd
Van Alstyne, TX 75495-2824
Phone: 972.962.9708
Email: mholmes@hall-markfire.com

Hoyt Breathing Air Products
HOTI, PETE
PO Box 653
Quinlan, TX 75474-0011
Phone: 903.447.3385
Email: hloyt4033@aol.com

**I**

IamResponding.com
SEIDREK, DANIEL
PO Box 93
Sycruse, NY 13214-0093
Phone: 315.701.1372 ext. 23
Email: dseidberg@emergencyvsc.com

Independent Insurance Agents of Texas
VANDELINDER, DAVID
1115 San Jacinto Ste 100
Austin, TX 78701-9194
Phone: 512.880.7428
Email: ltimm@iat.org

**J**

Jacobs-Weber, Inc.
HULL, PATRICK
PO Box 67
Yoakum, TX 77995-0067
Phone: 361.293.3557
Email: phull@jacobs-weber.com

Jones and Bartlett Learning
ROONEY, BRIAN
5 Wall St.
Burlington, MA 01803-4700
Phone: 978.579.8154
Email: brooneyeb@jblearning.com

**K**

Kimco Services, Inc.
KIMMEL, ROY
103 Oyster Creek Dr # 3
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-4157
Phone: 979.297.9246
Email: kimco@kimco-services.net

Knaphide Truck Company
PIKE, TIM
398 N Interstate 35 Service Rd
Red Oak, TX 75154-4248
Phone: 972.617.3770
Email: tpike@knaphide.com

Knox Company
HELLER, REBECCA
1601 W Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85027-2112
Phone: 623.687.2300 x 505
Email: cjones@knoxbox.com

**L**

La Quinta Hotel Management
ALLEN, KATHERINE
2220 Fine Thicket Lane
Bedford, TX 76021-2542
Phone: 972.505.4507
Email: katherine.allen@laquinta.com
Many of you know that Blake Locknane (2012 SFFMA mascot) had an accident in June while assisting with pumper race truck transportation to the convention in Lubbock. SFFMA is happy to report an update from his parents:

Blake was able to start school on time in August. At the last doctor’s appointment, he was very impressed with how fast Blake was recovering and was doing in general. He told him that he could start putting 100% weight on his left leg and he could do away with his crutches. He continues to go to physical therapy three times a week, and that should be concluded in three weeks. Since he is no longer having to use crutches, he has now been able to obtain his driver’s license. We are now finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel from this tragic accident.

We can’t thank our SFFMA fire family enough for everything each and every one of you has done to make this tragic accident and recovery easier for our family.
Capitol MONUMENT Expansion Project

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE LISTED ON THIS PAGE FOR HELPING US REACH OUR GOAL OF $150,000 IN 150 DAYS!

WE DID IT!!

Unfortunately an updated bid from the State Preservation Board came in and we have to raise additional funds to complete the entire expansion of the monument at the capitol grounds.

IF YOU WAITED TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION, NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

DONATIONS OVER $5,000

ALL 2013 AND 2014 DONORS

Aaron Lopez; Alex Coyne; Allen Blakemore; Allen Russell; Alvin VFD Ladies Auxiliary; Alvin VFD Ladies Pumper Team; Anderson/Cargile Families; Anonymous Donors; April Hudson; Becky Willard; Beeville Knights of Columbus Council 9268; Bellville VFD; Ben Kennedy; Bethel Cayuga VFD; Bill B. Zilar; Billy Joe & Christi Marie Williams; Billy Powers; Bluff Dale VFD; Bob & Marcie Doolittle; Boling FD; Bonham VFD; Bootleg VFD; Brent Allen; Brian Beck; Caddo Mills FD; Candace Busch; Canyon FD; Carlton & Diane Clark; Carol Wagner; Chad Cryer; Charles Gee; Chase Westerman; Chelsea Perry; Bastrop FD; Chris Bruce; Chuck & Lucia Garris; City of Plains VFD; Clay & Mel Deatheree; Clemente & Elena Sanchez; Comanche VFD; Cory Bradley; Curtis Powell; Dallas Ward; Danna M. Markides; Darren Smith; David Rosier; David Varner; David W. Maltzan; Dawson FD; Deborah Hinckley; Decatur FD; Deloss Edwards - Landon & Luke Ammons; Dennis Wright; Derrick Curtis; Diana Cardona; Diana Howe; Dixie & Earl Whitmore; Donald J. Smith; Dorothy L. Ryden; Dublin FD; Eastaide VFD; Eddy Harris; Edna & Shawn Snider; Edward & Mary Armstrong; El Campo VFD Ladies Auxiliary; Emily Gardner; Emmett Tullia; Enrico Barone; E. Jim White; Fire Inc; Fire Rescue; Flatonia Fire and Rescue; Frankie Joe Salinas; Frankie Marenkiewicz; Gabi & Michael Glass; Gary Williams; GBW Associates LLC in collaboration with Bastrop County; FFA; Genevieve Do; Gerald Roberson; Golf Committee; Gulf Coast Ladies Auxiliary; H. Don McFarland; Hal & Donna Chudalla Family; Hill Country CF Association; Honri Dicks; Leander FD; Hood Co. Sta. 70 VFD; J.A. Barron; Jaden Roy; James Carr and Decatur FD; James Hudson; James Lee Terry; James Longmier; James Terry; James Wistinghausen - Bacliff VFD; Jason & Clayton Sbeeld; Jason Johnson; Jeffrey & Darlene Townes - Whitney FD; Jennifer Bradley; Jennifer Selby Doyle; Jerry & Jolynda Loeb; Jerry & Pat Rust; Jerry Williams; Jesse & Betty Creamer; Jessica Hafner; Joel Sumrall - Santa Fe Fire/Rescue; John & Nancy Burgoyne; John Donaho; John W. Bales; Joseph A. Aaron; Joshua Sisk; Judy Seymour; Julia D. Beaucamp; Karen Bettis; Kevin Creamer; Kim Tanner; Kurt Ecker; Lauren Hamilton; Leander FD; Les Bunte; Lillian FD; Louise & Kent Watts; Luling VFD; Macey Perry, Bastrop FD; Madison Looney; Mallory & Nathan Farrar; Manvel VFD; Marc Harris; Maria Moseley; Mark Bulla; Mark Wobus; Marty Vaughan; Marvin DeVore; Mary Yonne Brame - In Memory of Jack King; Melissa Robinson; Melissa Henderson; Melody Ruddell; Melvin Hitchcock; Mercedes VFD; Michael Smith; Michele Rabel; Mike Richter; Mike Sipes; Mike Wisby; Milano FD; Mistie & Steven Koinim; Morris; Jerri; Murray & Blake Locknane; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hart, Jr; Mr. & Mrs. Ray Horky; Mulberry Canyon VFD; Nancy Clinton; Natalia VFD; Nathan Mendenhall; Neal Morton; Needville FD; Needville VFD Ladies Auxiliary; New Deal Fire/EMS; Oplin FD; Otis Amey; Past Presidents; Patricia & Richard Baker; Paul Hannemann; Paul Loeffler; Penny Smith; Permian Basin District; Perryton VFD; Phil & Rocio Thomas; Phyllis Looney; Pleasanton FD; Ponder VFD in memory of Donald “Pinky” Deussen; Ponderosa FD; Prairie Hill-Rocky Hill VFD; Quitman FD; R. C. Flores, Mcallen FD; Randy & Teri Parkison; Red Springs VFD; Refugio FD; Rick Goodney; Robert Kleen - In Honor of Sergeants-at-Arms; Ron Moellenberg; Rosemont Analytical Employees - Steve Donovan, Rod Holbrook, Mao Van Le, Stephanie Gonzales, Linda Fields, Sonia Martinez, Mike Smith, Joe Aaron, Genevieve Do, Edwin Markham, Dallas Ward, Tranq C. Nguyen, Chuck Baron, Alicia Roberts, Shelley Moore; Ryan Hudson - Cold Water Challenge; Scott Kerwood; Sean Thomas, Leander FD; Shamrock VFD; Shari & Bill Schifman; Shelley R. Moore; Sheryl & Wayne Huebner; Shirley Popp, Wayne E. Popp Family; Sir/Madam who donated In Memory of Clyde Vandygriff; South Ector County VFD; St. James FD, Inc. Engine 3; Stephen Dossett; Susan Miller; TEEX/VFIS, Terrell VFD, Inc.; Texas Broiler Council; Texas Egg Council; Texas Fire Marshals’ Association; Texas Poultry Federation; Texas Poultry Improvement Association; Texas Turkey Federation; Texmark Chemicals; TFA Past Presidents; TFA Presidents; The Nassau Bay VFD; Theresa Lewis Hutchison; Tim & Leslie Rutland; Todd Colvin; Tom Vanwyngarden; Trent Pokorny; Trenton Anderson, Santa Fe Fire/Rescue; Vic Einspahr, Washington, TX VFD; Wayland & Diane Price; Wheelock VFD; William R. Coffman; William Schettino, Wise County FFA; Yuliya Marcer

DONATIONS OVER $1,000

Abernathy FD; Alvin VFD; Ann Stulce - In Memory of Bob Stulce; Bacliff FD; Baird VFD; Bastrop County Firefighters Association; Brazoria County CF Association; Brazos County Pct# 4 VFD; Brenham FD; Caldwell County Fire Chiefs Association; Chris Barron; Christine Rogerski; David Wade; Decatur FD; Edwin "Rusty" Kattner & Nita Kattner; Emily Barron; Ernest O. Reesing; Fort Stockton VFD; Galveston County Fire Fighters Association; Gilmer VFD; Henderson County Fire Chief’s Association; IAT/Trusted Choice Foundation; Jeannie Green; Kyle & Debbie Stephens; Ladies Auxiliary - Brenham FD; Leander FD; Liz Cargile - SAFE-D; Manchaca VFD; Mike & Debbie Richardson - In Memory of Chief Ted Richardson; Mike Rogers; Northeast Texas Firemen’s Association; Pasadena FD; Red River District - 10; Rio Grande Valley Firefighter’s and Fire Marshals’ Association; Santa Fe Fire/Rescue; Sinton VFD; Stephen Donnelly; Tatum VFD; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas Firemen’s Auxiliary; The Foundation for Dreamers; Thorndale VFD, Inc.; VFIS of Texas- Regnier & Associates; West Carlisle VFD; West I-10 VFD
Your SFFMA Member Benefits Include:

• Dental & Vision Plans for you & your family!
• First Diagnosis Heart Attack & First Diagnosis Cancer Plans
• Final Expense Whole Life Policies
• Long Term Care
• And many merchant discounts!

Review your member benefits today at:

www.myAMBAbenefits.info/sffma
THE CALL TO SERVE ANSWERED, TIME AND TIME AGAIN

By Jessica Jackson, Texas A&M Forest Service communications specialist

For nearly 100 years Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) has answered the call to help conserve, protect and lead. Throughout Texas the agency is known as a steward of this land … but there is another side to the agency. A side that is seen in the event of an emergency. Oftentimes this extends beyond the state’s boundaries. When the call is put out for our men and women to serve alongside other agencies, we answer that call—every time.

Deploying to the Front Lines

A service agency with a bias for action is how TFS is often described by current director, Tom Boggs. When it comes to eagerness and dedication to help those in need, this is one statement that rings true for TFS crews.

When other states or agencies need to request assistance, the order goes through the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC). TFS looks at the needs from the request and determines how best to fill the request. TICC checks the list of available qualified personnel, notifying them of the deployment opportunity. Interested personnel then must seek approval from their chain of command. Once this is done, TICC fills the request and starts to make arrangements for travel.

Because TFS is part of a nationwide system that gives qualified individuals a prime opportunity for personnel to get experience in different areas.

For that reason TFS firefighter Jonathan Keller volunteered to go on recent deployments.

“I’m usually a ‘dozer operator and I’ve never had the opportunity to be on a hand crew,” Keller said. “I wanted to be involved and help others while learning a new skill.”

Knowledge and experience, together with the determination to complete every mission successfully, makes TFS a vital part of interagency operations.

Recent Deployments

Since this July, TFS has responded to 18 out-of-state incidents. These deployments often involve supporting efforts to either suppress wildfires or help manage an incident.

The French and Beaver Fires

On July 30 a request for additional resources came through TICC for the French Fire in the Sierra National Forest outside of Oakhurst, California. Eight TFS personnel stepped up to assist other agencies. The nearly 14,000-acre fire was already 70 percent contained when assistance was requested, but crews were still needed to help mop up the area and check for hazards.

According to Bryan Collins, task force coordinator and crew boss, due to the fire being in a remote location with no road access, additional resources were needed. “[The French Fire] was a very well-coordinated event,” Staff Forester and firefighter Jason Furmaniak said. Working with such agencies as U.S. Fish and Wildlife and USDA Forest Service, it allowed each team to bring unique perspectives and experiences to help most efficiently suppress the fire.

Beyond the crew’s dedication to help, it also showed perseverance, resiliency and professionalism.

Almost immediately after being released from the French Fire, the crew rode 12 hours to make it to the Beaver Fire in the Klamath National Forest outside of Klamath River, California. “On this assignment, we ran night operations,” Keller said. “While it was exciting to be near the fireline to help put out spot fires and do back-burns, it was also much more hazardous than the French Fire.”

The back-to-back fires did little to slow down the crew’s drive to be successful.

“Upon our release, both fires were in really good condition,” Collins said. “The French Fire was 95 percent contained and Beaver was approximately 75 percent contained.”

Crew members agreed that the most memorable parts of their assignment were working with other agencies, helping to protect the beautiful countryside, and realizing how well they worked together for a common goal.

The King Fire

On Sept. 16 a TFS crew was deployed to help suppress the King Fire near Pollock Pines, California. As the fire intensified, TFS assistance was requested, and we responded by sending six personnel to help manage the incident.

“I wanted to learn how large-scale incidents were ran out west,” stated Nicole Lang, fire coordinator. “This was my first and I learned what needed to be done within a fire squad and how to look out for the people around me.”

Having TFS personnel on these fires greatly increases their experience and knowledge to continue to improve upon how incidents are managed in the future.

“Working closely with other agencies, you can learn a lot about their protocols which, in turn, helps us when we run into similar instances in our own area,” Lang said.

Upon their release, the 97,000-acre fire was nearly 85 percent contained.

Pecos Flood

Heavy rains associated with Hurricane Odile caused extensive flooding throughout West Texas. With floodwaters rising as a result of debris collecting and causing the water to back up, a request for additional resources was put out on Sunday, Sept. 21. TFS deployed eight personnel to support the Pecos River Flood, making up an incident management team.

According to Jeff Meiner, assistant chief fire regional coordinator, the IMT helped organize and track resources related to the incident, and assisted emergency managers in planning, coordinating and developing the incident action plan on a daily basis.

“The incident went very smoothly,” Meiner said. “We helped bring calmness and reassurance to the public.”

These deployments not only allow TFS to bring in its expertise, but also offer valuable training experience.

“Most of us just went through a training of a new program called I-Suite. This deployment allowed us to fine-tune our skills and better track resources,” Steven Carter, regional fire coordinator said. “We were able to save time developing the IAP,

Continued on page 30
SFFMA Online Store

COME VISIT OUR NEW SFFMA ONLINE STORE!

THE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN GREATLY ENHANCED MAKING THE STORE EASIER TO NAVIGATE WITH NEW PRODUCT SEARCH AND SORTING FEATURES.

Don’t forget to sign in with your department username and password for tax-exempt orders.
Check it out today at www.sffma.org!

SFFMA is a leader in sales of firefighter training libraries across the state of Texas. Call today to let us design a custom package that’s perfect for your department.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AVAILABLE RURAL VFD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANTS FOR TRAINING LIBRARIES.

Mention this ad and get FREE SHIPPING on your next order for training materials!

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF $100. Offer limited to the first 25 customers.
Expires December 31, 2014. Must CALL or EMAIL your order to Sales (800.580.7336 ext. 105 or sales@sffma.org) to take advantage of this offer.

For more information call 800.580.7336, email sales@sffma.org or place your order online at www.sffma.org.
TEXAS FIRE FACILITIES PROGRAM FORUM

TEXAS FIRE FACILITIES PROGRAM CELEBRATES EIGHT YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 2006, the SFFMA created the Texas Fire Facilities Program (the “Program”) which is administered by Government Capital Corporation. It was created specifically to address the challenge members were facing when seeking new financing. Prior to creating the Program, many emergency services departments needed new facilities or needed to expand or renovate existing structures, but had not been able to do so due to financing obstacles. In some cases, members had also arranged financings at higher costs as a result of not taking advantage of the specific IRS tax code section specifically designed to reduce the cost of borrowing to VFD’s. Even today, most traditional financing sources don’t offer the flexibility and customized financing solutions many in the industry need. The SFFMA’s Program continues to provide fire departments with the professional industry-focused expertise and very competitive cost structures they expect. The SFFMA and its members also win when they participate in this financing program since the Program makes a donation to the SFFMA Fire Programs Institute/J. C. Swadley, Jr. Fund for each qualified transaction.

FIRE STATION FINANCING

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The lending market continues to offer the lowest interest rates available in years. Over the past year, many SFFMA members have refinanced their debt obligations saving thousands of dollars in interest cost. If you own a facility previously financed as a commercial transaction with an interest rate greater than 4%, 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 and 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.

The SFFMA Fire Facilities Program is endorsed by the SFFMA for the specific purpose of helping its members understand and navigate the unique requirements and borrowing authorities applicable to the Texas fire service community.

If you have not yet contacted the Texas Fire Facilities Program, today’s interest rate environment may be just the reason to do so. Although interest rates are at historically low levels as mentioned previously, many economists are predicting meaningful interest rate increases as soon as the first quarter of 2015.

Contributed by the Texas Fire Facilities Program Team
EXCLUSIVE FINANCING PROGRAM FOR SFFMA MEMBERS

Financing Services:
- Debt structuring & analysis
- Fleet management strategies
- Combined interim & permanent
- Low, tax-exempt rates
- Benefits all SFFMA members

Financing available for:
- Land acquisition
- Equipment & bunker gear
- Stations & Facilities
- Apparatus of all kinds
- Refinancing existing debt

PUT OUR EXPERTISE TO WORK FOR YOU

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

Government Capital Corporation (“GCC”) is providing the information contained herein for informational purposes only. In providing this information, GCC: (i) is acting for its own financial and other interests that may differ from yours; (ii) is not acting as your municipal advisor or financial advisor and has no fiduciary duty to you in connection with these materials; and (iii) is not recommending any action with respect to the information contained in this document.
PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

BEST IN SHOW

Thomas McDonald
Friendswood VFD

Two a.m. garage fire in Friendswood; garage is detached with one vehicle inside

FIRE-RELATED ACTS

1st Place - Thomas McDonald
Friendswood VFD

2nd Place - Kevin O’Connor
Center VFD

3rd Place - Thomas McDonald
Friendswood VFD

LIFESAVING ACTS

1st Place - Lauralee Veitch
Community VFD

2nd Place - Thomas McDonald
Friendswood VFD

3rd Place - Thomas McDonald
Friendswood VFD

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

1st Place - Marie Williams
Brazos County Pct. #4 VFD

2nd Place - Thomas McDonald
Friendswood VFD

3rd Place - Kristine Schaffner
Alvin FD
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:
Lubbock Fire Department
Visit Lubbock
Panhandle District
Tim Smith
Jim Hanson — Photography
TEEX Staff — Training and AV equipment
SFFMA Executive Board & Staff
Sergeant-at-Arms
All Committee Members & Attendees

More conference photos can be found on our website at www.sffma.org.
SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP ON “UNIFIED COMMAND APPROACH IN CASE OF INDUSTRIAL EMERGENCIES”

The training course Unified Command for Industrial Emergencies was organized in the auditorium at the Cultural Centre in Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina. The training was delivered by renowned international consultant and professional firefighter Ian Moscoso.

More than 190 people attended the event, representing different educational institutions, public agencies, businesses, and various uniformed groups such as firefighters, frontier police (“gendarmería”), the armed forces, the coast guard, and civil defense personnel. The activity was declared of municipal interest and was jointly organized by Pan American Energy (PAE) and the municipality of Comodoro Rivadavia through the office of the province secretary and within the framework of the community initiative being carried out by PAE in the region.

After taking part in the workshop, Sofia Fiel, one of the candidates of the Rada Tilly Volunteer Fire Department, remarked, “I’m very satisfied with the training and with the clarity with which the trainer explained the concepts. The experience shared with Ian has allowed us to learn and understand concepts we were not fully aware of. And the interaction with the trainer and the exchange of ideas with the group about the different topics has also been extremely valuable.”

Gastón Malbos, manager of institutional relations at PAE, talked about the high turnout and pointed out that, “We are very pleased with the results obtained and the number of participants. The initiative put forth by PAE and the municipality of Comodoro Rivadavia is a clear example of the positive results that can be obtained when public and private institutions coordinate their efforts.”

During the workshop, Moscoso talked about different aspects related to setting up a unity of command approach and to identifying the necessary tools for coordination in case of an industrial emergency. The course was devised to train participants to operate efficiently and effectively for incident or event management within the Incident Command System (ICS). It also focused on how to manage and administer both human and technical resources. Using audiovisual aids, case studies of actual emergencies and events were discussed, and different scenarios were analyzed, such as industrial fires, mass casualty incidents, unlawful attacks, sabotage and major spills.

Through these initiatives, PAE reinforces its commitment to the communities where it operates by offering proposals that encourage learning and development.

Ian Moscoso is a federal trainer in Incident Command Systems (FEMA/NIMS), consultant to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and also the chairman of the International Committee of the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas. Source - https://www.pan-energy.com
Get in touch with our energy representatives Ajax Daugherty and Ron Klink. They are working for you to save money with the Stream Energy POWER UP! Program.

Remember that our representatives believe in helping SFFMA members, so take some time to find out more about how you can benefit from these exclusive services from our providers.

- The largest direct-selling energy company in the world
- The largest competitive retail electric provider in the state of Texas
- Trusted and reliable energy provider generating over $6 billion in revenue in 9 years

*For more information about this offer, please email membership@sffma.org.

© 2006-2012 SGE IP Holdco, LLC. All rights reserved. Licensed in TX, GA, PA, MD, NJ & NY (TX #10104, GA #GM-38, NJ #ESL-0109 & GSL-0120, PA #A-2010-2181867, MD #IR-2072)
THE CALL TO SERVE ANSWERED, TIME AND TIME AGAIN continued from page 22

it made managing the incident much more efficient. Interagency operations give TFS personnel the opportunity to build professional relationships and meet new comrades whose paths they will surely cross again.

TFS worked alongside the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Emergency Management, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Army National Guard Aviation, Texas Task Force 1, National Weather Service, Texas Department of Transportation, and Union Pacific, among many others.

"These kinds of incidents allow TFS to build critical relationships with local, state and federal agencies, reaffirming we can work together and be successful," Steve Pollock, chief regional fire coordinator said. "It’s an honor to work with a great group of professionals who are dedicated to doing a job, even under the worst conditions."

Striving to serve
No matter how small or insignificant a job may seem, it is often those that are the most critical. This is one of the many lessons learned from recent deployments. Everyone has a job and everyone plays a vital part in completing the mission. With interagency operations we are truly stronger together than we are alone. 

Aerial view of the bridge on Business 20; east of Pecos
Debris blocked up the river and diverted the waters toward the city of Pecos. A debris dam can be seen south of the bridge.

Smokey Bear celebrated his 70th birthday this year all across Texas. His career began in 1944 as a cartoon character. In 1950, a real bear cub was rescued on a fire in New Mexico, nursed back to health, flown to live out his life in the National Zoo in Washington DC as one of the most recognizable bears in history.

HELP US DEVELOP A FUTURE VISION

ARE YOU:
- Active in the SFFMA and passionate about our mission?
- Active in the fire service and recognized as a current or future leader?
- Less than 45 years old?

If interested in serving on a new committee, please email events@sffma.org no later than December 1, 2014.

Texas A&M Forest Service
The North Central EMS Cooperative (NCEMSC) is affiliated with the State Firemen’s & Fire Marshals’ Association (SFFMA)... therefore, if your service is part of SFFMA, you are part of us! SFFMA members automatically become members of the NCEMSC. SFFMA elects to pay your service’s annual NCEMSC membership dues ($75 value)! Your involvement is important. We share revenue! A percentage of your purchases are returned to SFFMA, which helps SFFMA recoup the annual NCEMSC membership dues and support other projects.

The NCEMSC is a group of more than 4,000 EMS organizations that have joined together to take advantage of volume pricing discounts on a wide array of EMS products and services. As an SFFMA member, you will have the opportunity to share in these discounts.

Phone: 888.603.4426   Email: office@ncemsc.org   www.ncemsc.org

Thank you for all your help and support in raising funds to finance MDA research. Contact us directly with any questions.

AUSTIN 512.691.0065
BEAUMONT 409.838.4545
DALLAS 972.480.0011
EL PASO 915.584.6355
FORT WORTH 817.338.1024
HOUSTON 713.522.8561
HOUSTON South 361.985.1758
MIDLAND 432.570.4970
SAN ANTONIO 210.650.3181
WICHITA FALLS 940.696.5581
**TEXAS A&M ADVISORY BOARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Zone</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Hlavaty</td>
<td>Member (until 2015)</td>
<td>PO Box 1395, El Campo, TX 77437-1395</td>
<td>979.543.0341</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pat.helen@sbcglobal.net">pat.helen@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Russell</td>
<td>Member (until 2016)</td>
<td>PO Box 7444, Longview, TX 75607-7444</td>
<td>903.237.6689</td>
<td><a href="mailto:krussell@eastman.com">krussell@eastman.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kiracofe</td>
<td>Member (until 2017)</td>
<td>PO Box 1395, El Campo, TX 77437-1395</td>
<td>979.337.7311</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkiracofe@jvfd.org">jkiracofe@jvfd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Member (until 2018)</td>
<td>2318 Atascocita Rd, Humble, TX 77396-3503</td>
<td>281.436.8000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike_montgomery@itc.co.harris.tx.us">mike_montgomery@itc.co.harris.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CERTIFICATION BOARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Zone</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gary Williams</td>
<td>Chairman/Zone 6</td>
<td>4302 Blind River Dr, Pasadena, TX 77504-3118</td>
<td>713.248.3688</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gwilliams@sffma.org">gwilliams@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankie Marcinkiewicz</td>
<td>Vice Chairman/Zone 3</td>
<td>11438 Newberg Rd, Cat Spring, TX 78933-5183</td>
<td>979.530.8992</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frankmarcinkiewicz@yahoo.com">frankmarcinkiewicz@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.J. Thomas</td>
<td>Secretary/Zone 4</td>
<td>3190 Rebecca St, Ingleside, TX 78362-4649</td>
<td>361.776.7422</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rjthomas@sffma.org">rjthomas@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Baker</td>
<td>Zone 18</td>
<td>West I-10 FD, PO Box 400, Barker, TX 77413-0400</td>
<td>713.396.8707</td>
<td><a href="mailto:douglas.baker@emerson.com">douglas.baker@emerson.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Scheffer</td>
<td>Zone 1</td>
<td>101 N Chappell Hill St, Brenham, TX 77833-3323</td>
<td>979.337.7300</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bscheffer@sffma.org">bscheffer@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin Baker</td>
<td>Zone 2</td>
<td>Stockdale FD, PO Box 8005, Lumberton, TX 77657-0005</td>
<td>830.996.1383</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chief@cityofchinmah.com">chief@cityofchinmah.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ubaldo Perez</td>
<td>Zone 5</td>
<td>Edinburg FD, PO Box 8005, Lumberton, TX 77657-0005</td>
<td>956.383.7691</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubalda@email.com">ubalda@email.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Rains</td>
<td>Zone 7</td>
<td>Hardin County ESD #2/Lumberton Fire &amp; EMS, PO Box 8005, Lumberton, TX 77657-0005</td>
<td>409.291.9249</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wnrains@aol.com">wnrains@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody Crawford</td>
<td>Zone 8</td>
<td>Henderson FD, PO Box 1064, Henderson, TX 75653-1064</td>
<td>817.881.2840</td>
<td>Email:<a href="mailto:mmoffitt@sffma.org">mmoffitt@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mick Moffitt</td>
<td>Zone 9</td>
<td>Joshua FD, PO Box 1064, Henderson, TX 75653-1064</td>
<td>817.297.0232</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmoffitt@sffma.org">mmoffitt@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nate Marra</td>
<td>Zone 10</td>
<td>Decatur FD, PO Box 1064, Henderson, TX 75653-1064</td>
<td>940.627.3199</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nnmaradfd@gmail.com">nnmaradfd@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Deatherage</td>
<td>Zone 11</td>
<td>Shackelford County Rural VFD, 264 Ward St, Moran, TX 76464-2422</td>
<td>325.762.2242</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mo2se@att.net">mo2se@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris Locknane</td>
<td>Zone 12</td>
<td>WestCarlisle FD, PO Box 98044, Lubbock, TX 79499-8044</td>
<td>806.252.2840</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lockanem@yahoo.com">lockanem@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent Allen</td>
<td>Zone 13</td>
<td>Ballinger FD, PO Box 227, Ballinger, TX 76821-0227</td>
<td>325.365.5137</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ballen@ballingerfd.com">ballen@ballingerfd.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Garris</td>
<td>Zone 14</td>
<td>Pleasanton FD, 114 W Adams St, Pleasanton, TX 78064-3502</td>
<td>830.570.0166</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sgarris@sffma.org">sgarris@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Burgoyne</td>
<td>Zone 15</td>
<td>Greenwood Rural VFD, 307 Llano Rd, Weatherford, TX 76088-8413</td>
<td>817.341.3473</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnburgoyne@ymail.com">johnburgoyne@ymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For the latest and most updated committee rosters visit www.sffma.org*
Texas EMS Conference
Fort Worth Convention Center
November 23-26, 2014

Exhibit Hall Hours
Sunday 2–7 pm
Monday 11 am–6 pm
Tuesday 8–11:30 am
For details, go to www.texasemsconference.com

Education
Lectures: one-hour sessions on a wide variety of EMS subjects
Workshops: hands-on sessions offering in-depth specialty topics
Preconference classes: 4- to 24-hour courses offered Friday through Sunday

Lunches and Snacks—Included!
Buffet lunch on Monday; Awards Luncheon on Tuesday; coffee and afternoon snacks available Monday through Wednesday

Bring a Friend
Exhibit Hall passes can be purchased for non-attendees—$6 online and $10 at the door

Special conference rates available at several downtown hotels.

AUDIENCE: Fire & Emergency Responders
TOPICS: Leadership, Management, Safety, and Budgeting
COST: $150 for out-of-state attendees
No admission fee for Texas resident Firefighters
REGISTER: Online at teex.org/leadership

January 12–14
2015
Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center — San Marcos, TX

REGISTRATION OPEN!
### COMMITTEE LISTINGS

#### CERTIFICATION BOARD CONTINUED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Loeffler</td>
<td>DeSoto</td>
<td>3004 S 18th St</td>
<td>972.703.2777</td>
<td>972.721.4080</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ploeffler@cityofdesoto.com">ploeffler@cityofdesoto.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis Brown</td>
<td>North Richland Hills</td>
<td>12430 Marsh Lane</td>
<td>972.979.1234</td>
<td>972.979.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:curtisbrown@cityofnrich.com">curtisbrown@cityofnrich.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cary Roccaforte</td>
<td>Plano</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:caryroccaforte@cityofplano.com">caryroccaforte@cityofplano.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>1111 Commerce St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:micemontgomery@cityofdallas.com">micemontgomery@cityofdallas.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Wobus</td>
<td>Plano</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwobus@cityofplano.com">mwobus@cityofplano.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### COMBINATION DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Van Winkle</td>
<td>Balch Springs</td>
<td>123 Main St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com">rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Gothard</td>
<td>Plano</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tgothard@cityofplano.com">tgothard@cityofplano.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Richardson</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mrichardson@cityofarlington.com">mrichardson@cityofarlington.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandi Plunkett</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bplunkett@cityofdallas.com">bplunkett@cityofdallas.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CONFERENCE TRAINING & SPEAKER COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cary Roccaforte</td>
<td>College Station</td>
<td>4000 Esti St</td>
<td>979.999.1234</td>
<td>979.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:caryroccaforte@cityofcollegestation.com">caryroccaforte@cityofcollegestation.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Schaffer</td>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bschaffer@cityofbryan.com">bschaffer@cityofbryan.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmontgomery@cityofbryan.com">mmontgomery@cityofbryan.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Weniger</td>
<td>Seguin</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gweniger@cityofseguin.com">gweniger@cityofseguin.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Hurt</td>
<td>Bloomburg</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dannyhurt@cityofbloomburg.com">dannyhurt@cityofbloomburg.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD Liaison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shawn Snider</td>
<td>Edinburg</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sshaw@cityofedinburg.com">sshaw@cityofedinburg.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gardner</td>
<td>Leander</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bgardner@cityofleander.com">bgardner@cityofleander.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Barron</td>
<td>Brenham</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cbarron@cityofbrenham.com">cbarron@cityofbrenham.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### EXECUTIVE Director

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Van Winkle</td>
<td>Balch Springs</td>
<td>123 Main St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com">rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com">mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Industrial Board Liaison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Richardson</td>
<td>Plano</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chuckrichardson@cityofplano.com">chuckrichardson@cityofplano.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Forest Service Representative</td>
<td>Plano</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwobus@cityofplano.com">mwobus@cityofplano.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Texas A&M Forest Service Representative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Van Winkle</td>
<td>Balch Springs</td>
<td>123 Main St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com">rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com">mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Guadalupe District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Van Winkle</td>
<td>Balch Springs</td>
<td>123 Main St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com">rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com">mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Northeast Texas District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Van Winkle</td>
<td>Balch Springs</td>
<td>123 Main St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com">rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com">mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Past President Liaison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Van Winkle</td>
<td>Balch Springs</td>
<td>123 Main St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com">rvanwinkle@cityofbalchsprings.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Montgomery</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>200 E 15th St</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td>972.999.1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com">mmontgomery@cityofdallas.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Conference Training & Speaker Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gardner</td>
<td>Executive Board Liaison</td>
<td>Leander FD</td>
<td>Phone: 512.528.2848 Email: <a href="mailto:bgardner@sffma.org">bgardner@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 319</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Leander, TX 78646-0319</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Luedeke</td>
<td>Staff Liaison</td>
<td>Needville FD</td>
<td>Phone: 979.559.0026 Email: <a href="mailto:chief700@consolidated.net">chief700@consolidated.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Needville, TX 77461-0132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Constitution & By-Laws Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Gifford</td>
<td>Chairman/East Texas District</td>
<td>Labelle-Fanette FD</td>
<td>Phone: 409.794.1441 Fax: 409.284.2527 Email: <a href="mailto:dennissmgifford@aol.com">dennissmgifford@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>115 Candlewick Dr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lumberton, TX 77657-7291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cary Roccaforte</td>
<td>Central Texas District</td>
<td>TEEX-ESTI</td>
<td>Phone: 979.776.6430 Fax: 979.776.0408 Email: <a href="mailto:cary.roccaforte@teex.tamu.edu">cary.roccaforte@teex.tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2121 Nuches Ln</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bryan, TX 77803-1986</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Watts</td>
<td>Guadalupe District</td>
<td>Southeast Caldwell County VFD</td>
<td>Phone: 830.875.9239 Fax: 830.875.9239 Email: <a href="mailto:louisewatts50@hotmail.com">louisewatts50@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>303 E Bowie St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Luling, TX 78648-2905</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Cox</td>
<td>South Central District</td>
<td>Rockport FD</td>
<td>Phone: 361.729.5392 Fax: 361.729.1268 Email: <a href="mailto:dumptruck161@yahoo.com">dumptruck161@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 627</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fulton, TX 78358-0627</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruben Balboa</td>
<td>Rio Grande Valley District</td>
<td>Harlingen FD</td>
<td>Phone: 956.216.5700 Fax: 956.430.6672 Email: <a href="mailto:rbalboa2615@yahoo.com">rbalboa2615@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22099 Amistad Rd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harlingen, TX 78550-1953</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankie Salinas</td>
<td>Rio Grande Valley District</td>
<td>Edinburg FD</td>
<td>Phone: 956.383.7691 Fax: 956.383.7111 Email: <a href="mailto:txhighunter@aol.com">txhighunter@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>821 Park Cir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Edinburg, TX 78539-7306</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maricruz Tovar</td>
<td>Rio Grande Valley District</td>
<td>Edinburg FD</td>
<td>Phone: 956.383.5661 Email: <a href="mailto:mtovar@cityofedinburg.com">mtovar@cityofedinburg.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>212 W McIntyre St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Edinburg, TX 78541-3340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Crawford</td>
<td>Gulf Coast District</td>
<td>Sheldon Community F&amp;R</td>
<td>Phone: 281.458.1431 Fax: 281.458.7394 Email: <a href="mailto:wcrawford@sheldonfd.org">wcrawford@sheldonfd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 1877</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Channelview, TX 77530-1877</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Shoemaker</td>
<td>Gulf Coast District</td>
<td>Lake Jackson FD</td>
<td>Phone: 979.238.5771 Fax: 979.285.0368 Email: <a href="mailto:fire15s@aol.com">fire15s@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>54 Juniper Ctl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Jackson, TX 77566-5002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Dooley</td>
<td>Northeast Texas District</td>
<td>Henderson FD</td>
<td>Phone: 903.657.6551 Fax: 903.657.5329 Email: <a href="mailto:patrick.dooley@ruskcountyom.org">patrick.dooley@ruskcountyom.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1604 Slaydon St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Henderson, TX 75654-4246</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Credentials Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danny Hurt</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Pleasant Grove FD</td>
<td>Phone: 903.838.7123 Email: <a href="mailto:dannyhurt@netzero.com">dannyhurt@netzero.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4786 FM 3129 S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bloomington, TX 75556-4020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teri Parkison</td>
<td>Guadalupe District</td>
<td>Latium Wesley Greenvine FD</td>
<td>Phone: 830.996.1383 Fax: 830.996.136 Email: <a href="mailto:bdeason4200@yahoo.com">bdeason4200@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7550 FM 2502</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brenham, TX 77833-7616</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Deason</td>
<td>South Central Texas District</td>
<td>Stockdale FD</td>
<td>Phone: 361.729.5392 Fax: 361.729.1268 Email: <a href="mailto:mables35@sover.net">mables35@sover.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9505 State Highway 123 N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stockdale, TX 78160-6221</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Cox</td>
<td>Gulf Coast District</td>
<td>Rockport FD</td>
<td>Phone: 281.489.8898 Fax: 281.489.7268 Email: <a href="mailto:buckstevens@gmail.com">buckstevens@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 462</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pearlman, TX 77588-0462</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gerber</td>
<td>North Texas District</td>
<td>Alvin FD</td>
<td>Phone: 281.331.7688 Fax: 281.331.9713 Email: <a href="mailto:billy.gerber@att.net">billy.gerber@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 2202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alvin, TX 77512-2202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Crawford</td>
<td>Gulf Coast District</td>
<td>Sheldon Community F&amp;R</td>
<td>Phone: 281.458.1431 Fax: 281.458.7394 Email: <a href="mailto:wcrawford@sheldonfd.org">wcrawford@sheldonfd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 1877</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Channelview, TX 77530-1877</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Dennis Gifford
Labelle-Fannett FD
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX

East Texas District
Phone: 409.794.1441
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

Thom Jones
Madisonville VFD
921 E Main St
Madisonville, TX 77864-2113

East Texas District
Phone: 936.348.3317
Fax: 936.349.0149
Email: thom.jones@sbcglobal.net

Mark Hanson
Bellevue FD
520 King St
Bellevue, TX 76228-1630

Red River District
Phone: 940.928.2125
Fax: 940.928.2109
Email: farmboymh@sbcglobal.net

Joe Ondrasek
Brazos County Pct #4 FD
5572 Caroline Dr
Bryan, TX 77807-7806

Executive Board Liaison
Phone: 979.775.0194
Fax: 979.775.0123
Email: jondrasek@sffma.org

Bob Looney
SFFMA Past President (1986)
220 Juniper St
Mansfield, TX 76063-1815

Past President Liaison
Phone: 817.473.1182
Email: palintex@yahoo.com

Gabi Glass
Staff Liaison
PO Box 1709
Manchaca, TX 78652-1709

Staff Liaison
Phone: 512.454.3473
Fax: 512.453.1876
Email: gglass@sffma.org
DISTRICT OFFICERS

1 - CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT

Teri Parkison
Directors
Latium Wesley Greenvine FD
7500 FM 2502
Brenham, TX 77833-7616

Timothy Manley
Secretary
Rocky Creek FD
1702 Morgan St
Brenham, TX 77833

2 - GUADALUPE DISTRICT

Jason Scheel
President
La Vernia FD
12235 US Highway 87 W
La Vernia, TX 78121-5862

Kent Watts
Secretary
Southeast Caldwell County VFD
303 E Bowie St
Luling, TX 78648-2905

3 - TRI RIVERS / 6 - GULF COAST DISTRICTS

William Crawford
President
Sheldon Community F&R
PO Box 1877
Channelview, TX 77530-1877

Michelle Cornell
Secretary
Tri-Rivers FFMA
1940 Melody Ln
Richmond, TX 77406-2905

4 - SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Gonzalo Benavides
President
Falfurrias FD
300 N Miller Blvd
Falfurrias, TX 78355-3536

Elena Sanchez
Secretary
Sinton FD
PO Box 652
Sinton, TX 78387-0652

5 - RIO GRANDE VALLEY DISTRICT

Alfredo Garza, Jr.
President
Roma FD
PO Box 947
Roma, TX 78584-0947

Maricruz Tovar
Secretary
Edinburg FD
212 W McIntyre St
Edinburg, TX 78541-3340

6 - GULF COAST DISTRICT

see Tri-Rivers District for information

7 - EAST TEXAS DISTRICT

Francis Garza
President
Bridge City F&R/OCESD#2
4504 Scales Ln
Orange, TX 77630-1400

Dennis Gifford
Secretary
Lavelle-FannettFD
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291

8 - NORTHEAST TEXAS DISTRICT

Patrick Dooley
President
Henderson FD
1604 Slaydon St
Henderson, TX 75654-4246

F. Jim White
Secretary
Overton FD
304 E Mundy St
Overton, TX 75684-1734

9 - NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT

Christine Rogalski
President
Ennis FD
1007 N McKinney St
Ennis, TX 75119-2418

Melissa Robinson
Secretary
Chatfield VFD
106 Gorman St
Corsicana, TX 75110-1883

10 - RED RIVER DISTRICT

Marvin Geis
President
Windthorst FD
PO Box 57
Windthorst, TX 76389-0057

Jack Roberts
Secretary
Archer City FD
PO Box 367
Archer City, TX 76351-0367

11 - MID-WEST DISTRICT

Jason Anderson
President
Hamby VFD, Inc.
39 Woodcock Cir
Abilene, TX 79605-4420

Kristopher Hester
Secretary
Merkel FD
1408 N 4th
Merkel, TX 79536-3205

12 - PANHANDLE DISTRICT

Billy Bonner, Jr.
President
Shamrock FD
PO Box 631
Shamrock, TX 79079-2032
**District Officers Continued**

### 12 - Panhandle District

**Dennis Rice**  
Canyon FD  
PO Box 289  
Canyon, TX 79015-0289  
*Secretary*  
Phone: 806.655.5010  
Fax: 806.655.5029  
Email: rice.dennis@rc-sheriff.com

### 13 - Permian Basin District

**Daniel Eaton**  
Marathon VFD  
PO Box 115  
Marathon, TX 79842-0115  
*President*  
Phone: 432.364.2277  
Email: danielgagehotel.com

**Keith Mensch**  
Denver City FD  
PO Box 115  
Denver City, TX 79323-0115  
*Secretary*  
Phone: 806.592.5426  
Fax: 806.592.9436  
Email: kmmensch@valornet.com

### 14 - Hill Country District

**Mark Hasty**  
Grape Creek FD  
10493 Raccoon Rd  
San Angelo, TX 76901-6834  
*President*  
Phone: 325.465.5023  
Email: firefighter957@hotmail.com

**Brent Allen**  
Ballinger FD  
PO Box 227  
Ballinger, TX 76821-0227  
*Secretary*  
Phone: 325.365.5137  
Fax: 325.365.5612  
Email: ballen@ballingerfd.com

### 15 - Wintergarden District

**Daryl Kallio**  
Dilley VFD  
PO Box 151  
Dilley, TX 78017-0151  
*President*  
Phone: 830.965.1969  
Fax: 830.965.1920

**Jerry Rust**  
Val Verde County Rural VFD  
PO Box 421314  
Del Rio, TX 78842-1314  
*Secretary*  
Phone: 830.774.7640  
Fax: 830.774.7686  
Email: valverdecountyfire@stx.rr.com

### Driving Contest Committee

**Michael Richter**  
Needville FD  
PO Box 374  
Needville, TX 77461-0374  
*Chairman/Gulf Coast District*  
Phone: 979.793.4262  
Fax: 979.793.7255  
Email: richtmic@co.fort-bend.tx.us

**William Schiffman**  
Needville FD  
1006 Bittersweet Dr  
Richmond, TX 77406-6552  
*Vice Chairman/Gulf Coast*  
Phone: 979.793.4262  
Fax: 979.793.7255  
Email: wschiffman@comcast.net

**Aaron Rubach**  
Latiun Wesley Greenvine FD  
9560 FM 389  
Brenham, TX 77833-7680  
*Central Texas District*  
Phone: 979.836.6946  
Email: aaronrubach@yahoo.com

**Chris Yianitsas**  
Latiun Wesley Greenvine FD  
PO Box 331  
Industry, TX 78944-0331  
*Central Texas District*  
Phone: 979.836.6946  
Email: speedy3@industryet.com

**Ronnie Sexton**  
Thornsdale FD  
3705 del Norte Blvd  
Temple, TX 76502-1616

**Alvin Fail**  
Cameron FD  
2804 W 4th St  
Cameron, TX 76520-3049

**Brian Deason**  
Stockdale FD  
9505 State Highway 123 N  
Stockdale, TX 78160-6221

**Daniel Cabrera**  
Falfurrias FD  
PO Box 302  
Falfurrias, TX 78355-0302

**Robert Doolittle, Sr.**  
Bayou Vista FD  
1428 Foreman St  
La Marque, TX 77568-5420

**Dennis Gage**  
Kilgore FD  
PO Box 379  
Kilgore, TX 75647-0379

**Keith Mensch**  
Denver City FD  
PO Box 115  
Denver City, TX 79323-0115  
*Secretary*  
Phone: 806.592.9436  
Fax: 806.592.5426  
Email: kmmensch@valornet.com

**Robert Doolittle, Sr.**  
Bayou Vista FD  
1428 Foreman St  
La Marque, TX 77568-5420

**Dennis Gage**  
Kilgore FD  
PO Box 379  
Kilgore, TX 75647-0379

**John Robinson**  
Retreat VFD  
621 N Spikes Rd  
Corsicana, TX 75110-8586

**EMS Committee**

**Timothy Smith**  
West Carlisle FD  
PO Box 98044  
Lubbock, TX 79499-8044

**Jason Loyd**  
Brazos County Pct #3 VFD  
1217 Harrisonburg Ln  
College Station, TX 77845-4049

**Timothy Mantey**  
Rocky Creek FD  
1702 Morgan St  
Brenham, TX 77833

**Daniel Williams**  
Brazos County Pct. # 4  
5601 Caroline Dr  
Bryan, TX 77807-7809

**Gerald Weniger**  
Seguin FD  
PO Box 215  
Seguin, TX 78156-0215

**Chairman/Panhandle District**  
Phone: 806.797.0412  
Fax: 806.797.0514  
Email: wcfd9751@hotmail.com

**Central Texas District**  
Phone: 979.776.6430  
Fax: 979.776.0408  
Email: jasonloyd@pct3vfd.com

**Central Texas District**  
Phone: 979.203.1974  
Fax: 979.530.0176  
Email: tmmantey@yahoo.com

**Central Texas District**  
Phone: 979.775.0194  
Fax: 979.775.0123  
Email: dpwilliams@bryantx.gov

**Guadalupe District**  
Phone: 830.401.2310  
Fax: 830.401.2772  
Email: gweniger@stx.rr.com
## EMS COMMITTEE CONTINUED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen Pickard</td>
<td>Ovilla FD</td>
<td>North Texas</td>
<td>972.617.7375</td>
<td>972.617.5793</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpickard307@aol.com">kpickard307@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kade Long</td>
<td>Vernon Fire/EMS</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>940.553.1782</td>
<td>940.552.2293</td>
<td><a href="mailto:klong@vermontx.gov">klong@vermontx.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Schuler</td>
<td>Menard FD</td>
<td>Panhandle</td>
<td>806.675.2301</td>
<td>806.675.7012</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chuck.richardson@p66.com">chuck.richardson@p66.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gardner</td>
<td>Leander FD</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>979.491.2034</td>
<td>979.491.2241</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike@cowichallenge.com">mike@cowichallenge.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Richardson</td>
<td>Phillips 66 Company</td>
<td>Hill Country</td>
<td>325.396.2333</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bgardner@sffma.org">bgardner@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Tidwell</td>
<td>Crosbyton FD</td>
<td>Panhandle</td>
<td>806.675.2301</td>
<td>806.675.7012</td>
<td><a href="mailto:willt@vermontx.gov">willt@vermontx.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Schuler</td>
<td>Menard FD</td>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>361.364.2381</td>
<td>361.364.3781</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csanchez1123@sbcglobal.net">csanchez1123@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Glaves</td>
<td>Alvin FD</td>
<td>Gulf Coast</td>
<td>281.331.7688</td>
<td>281.331.9713</td>
<td><a href="mailto:matt.glaves@bluebell.com">matt.glaves@bluebell.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Sumrall</td>
<td>Santa Fe Fire &amp; Rescue</td>
<td>Gulf Coast</td>
<td>409.925.7331</td>
<td>409.925.7330</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joelsumrall@gmail.com">joelsumrall@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Jones</td>
<td>Madisonville VFD</td>
<td>East Texas</td>
<td>936.348.3317</td>
<td>936.349.0149</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thomasjones@sbcglobal.net">thomasjones@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Taylor</td>
<td>Gilmer FD</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>903.843.3225</td>
<td>903.843.3251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhtaylor25@etex.net">jhtaylor25@etex.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayland Price</td>
<td>Whitney FD</td>
<td>North Texas</td>
<td>254.694.2444</td>
<td>254.694.5332</td>
<td><a href="mailto:whitneyfirechief@hotmail.com">whitneyfirechief@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad Snider</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (2009)</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>830.401.2310</td>
<td>830.401.2772</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tntmayfield@yahoo.com">tntmayfield@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Mayfield</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (1999)</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>830.401.2310</td>
<td>830.401.2772</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tntmayfield@yahoo.com">tntmayfield@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bledsoe</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (1987)</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>903.843.3225</td>
<td>903.843.3251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bledsoet@etex.net">bledsoet@etex.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabi Glass</td>
<td>SFFMA</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>512.454.3473</td>
<td>512.453.1876</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gglass@sffma.org">gglass@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Glaves</td>
<td>Alvin FD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Sumrall</td>
<td>Santa Fe Fire &amp; Rescue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Jones</td>
<td>Madisonville VFD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Taylor</td>
<td>Gilmer FD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayland Price</td>
<td>Whitney FD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad Snider</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (2009)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Mayfield</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (1999)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bledsoe</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (1987)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabi Glass</td>
<td>SFFMA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COMITEE LISTINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clemente Sanchez</td>
<td>Sinton FD</td>
<td>Hill Country</td>
<td>325.396.2333</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bgardner@sffma.org">bgardner@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gardner</td>
<td>Leander FD</td>
<td>Gulf Coast</td>
<td>281.331.7688</td>
<td>281.331.9713</td>
<td><a href="mailto:matt.glaves@bluebell.com">matt.glaves@bluebell.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Tidwell</td>
<td>Crosbyton FD</td>
<td>Panhandle</td>
<td>806.675.2301</td>
<td>806.675.7012</td>
<td><a href="mailto:willt@vermontx.gov">willt@vermontx.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel Rodriguez</td>
<td>Clute FD</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>979.491.2034</td>
<td>979.491.2241</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike@cowichallenge.com">mike@cowichallenge.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Sumrall</td>
<td>Santa Fe Fire &amp; Rescue</td>
<td>Gulf Coast</td>
<td>409.925.7331</td>
<td>409.925.7330</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joelsumrall@gmail.com">joelsumrall@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bledsoe</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (1987)</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>903.843.3225</td>
<td>903.843.3251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bledsoet@etex.net">bledsoet@etex.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabi Glass</td>
<td>SFFMA</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>512.454.3473</td>
<td>512.453.1876</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gglass@sffma.org">gglass@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FIREFIGHTER/EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ben Kennedy</td>
<td>TEEX-ESTI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bkenney@sffma.org">bkenney@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Marzean</td>
<td>VFIS of Texas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bmarzean@vfistx.com">bmarzean@vfistx.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemente Sanchez</td>
<td>Sinton FD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:csanchez1123@sbcglobal.net">csanchez1123@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COMMITTEE LISTINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clemente Sanchez</td>
<td>Sinton FD</td>
<td>Hill Country</td>
<td>325.396.2333</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bgardner@sffma.org">bgardner@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gardner</td>
<td>Leander FD</td>
<td>Gulf Coast</td>
<td>281.331.7688</td>
<td>281.331.9713</td>
<td><a href="mailto:matt.glaves@bluebell.com">matt.glaves@bluebell.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Tidwell</td>
<td>Crosbyton FD</td>
<td>Panhandle</td>
<td>806.675.2301</td>
<td>806.675.7012</td>
<td><a href="mailto:willt@vermontx.gov">willt@vermontx.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel Rodriguez</td>
<td>Clute FD</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>979.491.2034</td>
<td>979.491.2241</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike@cowichallenge.com">mike@cowichallenge.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Sumrall</td>
<td>Santa Fe Fire &amp; Rescue</td>
<td>Gulf Coast</td>
<td>409.925.7331</td>
<td>409.925.7330</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joelsumrall@gmail.com">joelsumrall@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bledsoe</td>
<td>SFFMA Past President (1987)</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>903.843.3225</td>
<td>903.843.3251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bledsoet@etex.net">bledsoet@etex.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabi Glass</td>
<td>SFFMA</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>512.454.3473</td>
<td>512.453.1876</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gglass@sffma.org">gglass@sffma.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIRERIGHTER/ EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE CONTINUED

David Wade
Deer Park VFD
3018 Eileen St
Deer Park, TX 77536-5022

Dennis Gage
Kilgore FD
PO Box 379
Gladewater, TX 75647-0379

Edward Konick
Alvarado FD
104 W College St
Alvarado, TX 76009-4319

Karen Pickard
Ovilla FD
307 E University St
Ovilla, TX 75154-3401

James Carr
Decatur FD
401 S Miller St
Decatur, TX 76234-1933

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Allen Scopel
Rosenberg FD
3814 Marilyn St
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5349

Patrick Hlavaty
SFFMA Past President (1997)
El Campo FD
PO Box 1395
El Campo, TX 77437-1395

Rayford Gibson
Tatum FD
175 Stonewall St
Tatum, TX 75561

Kent Watts
SFFMA Past President (2010)
South East Caldwell County VFD
303 E Bowie St
Luling, TX 78648-2905

Dayna “Bert” Hill
Mathis FD
202 Lake Shore Dr
Mathis, TX 78368-3412

Herbert Willich
PO Box 681
Elsa, TX 78543-0681

Tommy Anderson
SFFMA Past President (2003)
Santa Fe Fire/Rescue
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

Gulf Coast District
Phone: 281.478.7281
Fax: 281.478.7289
Email: dwade@sffma.org

Northeast Texas District
Phone: 903.988.3142
Fax: 903.988.3142
Email: dennis.gage@cityofkilgore.com

North Texas District
Phone: 817.790.8884
Fax: 817.790.8884
Email: konick@sbcglobal.net

Red River District
Phone: 940.627.3199
Fax: 940.627.7057
Email: carr2699@gmail.com

South Central District
Phone: 361.815.9672
Email: daynah@ccctexas.com

Rio Grande Valley District
Phone: 512.454.0924
Email: willichella@gmail.com

Gulf Coast District
Phone: 409.925.7331
Fax: 409.925.7330
Email:_fdchief700@comcast.net

Jim Phlip
Hardin County ESD #2/
Lumberton Fire & EMS
7866 Walnut Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-8995

Melissa Robinson
Chatfield VFD
106 Gorman St
Corsicana, TX 75110-1883

Kent Smead
Vernon Fire/EMS
2738 Oaklawn Dr
Vernon, TX 76384-6417

Steve Cochran
Midwest District
821 Yucca
Merkel, TX 79536-7010

James Harp
Canyon FD
17 Edgewood Ln
Canyon, TX 79015-2111

Brent Allen
Ballinger FD
PO Box 227
Ballinger, TX 76821-0227

Jerry Rust
Val Verde County Rural VFD
PO Box 42134
Del Rio, TX 78842-1314

Rusty Kattner
Santa Fe Fire/Rescue
680 Fountain View Ln
League City, TX 77573-1971

Shawn Snider
SFFMA Past President (2009)
Edinburg FD
PO Box 1079
Edinburg, TX 78540-1079

Michael Looney
SFFMA Past President (2001)
110 Danbury Dr
Mansfield, TX 76063-6612

Rex Klesel
SFFMA Past President (2012)
Alvin FD
3537 County Road 326
Alvin, TX 77511-1564

Kyle Stephens
SFFMA Past President (2007)
Decatur FD
PO Box 331
Decatur, TX 76234-0331

Chris Barron
SFFMA
PO Box 1709
Manchaca, TX 78652-1709
MAKE THE CALL TO MAKE THINGS BETTER

IF YOU SEE NO WAY OUT

THEN JUST REACH OUT

Talk to someone you love. Talk to a friend or colleague.
Or, talk to counselors trained and experienced in
the firefighter and EMT culture by calling the national
Fire/EMS Helpline: 1-888-731-FIRE (3473).

Find resources to Share the Load at www.nvfc.org/help.

PERSISTENT SADNESS • SUICIDAL THOUGHTS • SUBSTANCE ABUSE • WORK/LIFE STRESSES
Be at Your B.E.S.T. With New Resources for Health and Safety

With a diverse geography, a population of over 26 million people, and a vast array of potential types of emergencies, Texas presents unique challenges to the men and women who protect its communities. It is critical that firefighters and EMS personnel in Texas have the tools and resources they need to effectively and safely do their jobs. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has many resources that can help.

The NVFC created the Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities to provide departments and personnel with a series of B.E.S.T. practices they should follow to bring health and safety to the forefront and make sure everyone goes home. These B.E.S.T. practices are divided into four categories: Behavior, Equipment, Standards and Codes, and Training. View the B.E.S.T. practices at www.nvfc.org/health_safety.

Many new resources and tools are now available to help departments implement the B.E.S.T. practices and address critical health and safety needs. Find all of the following resources and many others on the NVFC website at www.nvfc.org.

Also remember that Texas firefighters can join the NVFC for the special low rate of $15 through the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas. That is half off the regular individual member rate and you still receive all of the great benefits of NVFC membership.

SHARE THE LOAD

Due to the nature of the job, firefighters and EMTs are at increased risk for behavioral health concerns such as depression, PTSD, anxiety, and addiction. The NVFC launched the Share the Load program to provide emotional support to firefighters, EMTs and their families. Through this behavioral health campaign, the NVFC is working to break the stigma around behavioral health issues, open up the dialogue in departments, and provide resources departments and emergency personnel can use to prevent tragedies such as suicide.

A main component of the program is the Fire/EMS Helpline, a free 24/7 helpline at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473) that first responders and their families can call anytime for assistance with a variety of behavioral health issues. Other resources include a newsletter with articles containing tips and tools for addressing behavioral health issues in the fire service, outreach and awareness materials departments can use to let members know help is available, suicide prevention guides and training, and an online resource center providing additional avenues for assistance.

FAMILY GUIDE

Family support is critical to the wellbeing of first responders and too often family relationships become strained or disintegrate under the pressures of the volunteer fire service life. The NVFC has developed a resource to help families face the unique challenges that come with having a volunteer first responder in the family. What to Expect: A Guide for Family Members of Volunteer Firefighters is designed to help spouses, children, parents, siblings, and significant others navigate the volunteer fire service life, keep family relationships strong, and become a part of the fire department family.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE SAFE OPERATIONS

The NVFC has released the second edition of Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations for Volunteer and Small Combination Emergency Service Organizations. With vehicle accidents a leading cause of firefighter fatalities each year, this educational program helps departments develop and implement vehicle safety policies and procedures to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries.

PPE VIDEOS

The NVFC is releasing a series of videos this fall focusing on proper use and maintenance of PPE. Topics will cover overhaul, cleaning, replacement, standards, finding funding, and new technologies.

STANDARDS GUIDE

The NVFC partnered with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to create a guide to help departments understand and successfully implement key NFPA safety standards. The guide provides clarification, identifies manageable steps, and highlights available resources to assist departments in reaching their safety goals.


CODES GUIDE

The NVFC partnered with the International Code Council to create a guide to help departments understand and utilize key components of the International Fire Code (IFC). The guide reviews the code-setting process and highlights important topics from the IFC—including fire hydrant location, proper water main size, proper access for fire apparatus and fire lanes, commercial building pre-incident planning, and vacant buildings. It also contains practical checklists to help fire departments take action to ensure safety in the build environment.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

The NVFC’s online learning center features low-cost courses on a variety of topics, designed and delivered by fire service members and industry leaders. The courses are on-demand and self-paced, and include downloadable course materials and certificates of completion. Topics range from health and safety to leadership to recruitment and retention, and more.

WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TRAINING

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the NVFC has launched a four-module course and companion toolkit and resources as part of the Wildland Fire Assessment Program. The program teaches volunteer firefighters and nonoperational support teams how to conduct assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface so they can help make their communities more fire-adapted.
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

David Wade
Deer Park VFD
3018 Eileen St
Deer Park, TX 77536-5022
Executive Board Liaison
Phone: 281.478.7281
Fax: 281.478.7289
Email: dwade@sffma.org

Ronnie Sexton
TML
3705 del Norte Blvd
Temple, TX 76502-1616
Central Texas District
Phone: 512.431.1024
Email: wgoldwing04@hotmail.com

Louise Watts
303 E. Bowie St
Luling, TX 78648-2905
Guadalupe District
Phone: 512.245.0406
Fax: 512.245.0504
Email: lwatts@lulingfire.org

Jason Scheel
La Vernia FD
12235 US Highway 87 W
La Vernia, TX
Guadalupe District
Phone: 830.391.4654
Fax: 830.779.1729
Email: laverniachief@gmail.com

Roy Mercer
Village of Pleak FD
2118 Enchanted Oaks Ln
Rosenberg, TX
Guadalupe District
Phone: 713.833.5158
Fax: 713.833.5159
Email: rm Mercer@vfistx.com

Dennis Gifford
Labelle-Fannett FD
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291
East Texas District
Phone: 409.794.1441
Fax: 409.284.2527
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

Tim Smith
West Carlisle FD
PO Box 98044
Lubbock, TX 79499-8044
Panhandle District
Phone: 806.797.0412
Fax: 806.797.0514
Email: wcsd9751@hotmail.com

Henry Perry
Bastrop FD
PO Box 88
Bastrop, TX 78602-0088
Executive Board Liaison
Phone: 512.321.5550
Fax: 512.321.1315
Email: hperry@sffma.org

Terry Boyett
Chevron Phillips Chemical Co
9500 East Fwy
Baytown, TX 77521-8155
SLOT 02
Phone: 281.421.6232
Fax: 281.421.6444
Email: boyette@cpchem.com

Todd Johnson
SWS Environmental Services
414 FM 1103
Gibbs, TX 78108-3533
SLOT 05
Phone: 210.566.8366
Fax: 210.566.8247
Email: todd.johnson@swsenvironmental.com

VACANT

Chuck Richardson
Phillips 66 Company
PO Box 66
Sweeny, TX 77480-0066
SLOT 06
Phone: 979.491.2034
Fax: 979.491.2241
Email: chuck.richardson@p66.com

Paul Hannemann
Fredericksburg FD
708 W Austin St
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-2502
SLOT 09
Phone: 830.997.5603
Fax: 830.997.3918
Email: phannemann@tfs.tamu.edu

Vacant

Rodney Kovalcik
ExxonMobil Company
5000 Bayway Dr
Baytown, TX 77520-2123
SLOT 11
Phone: 281.834.4006
Fax: 281.834.4024
Email: rodney.r.kovalcik@exxonmobil.com

James Pursell
Valero Energy Corporation
PO Box 690000
San Antonio, TX 78269-6000
SLOT 12
Phone: 210.345.3054
Fax: 210.370.4716
Email: james.pursell@valero.com

Vacant

Lee Kaderli
ExxonMobil Chemical Co - MBPP
PO Box 1653
Mont Belvieu, TX 77580-2693
SLOT 16
Phone: 281.834.9417
Fax: 281.834.9674
Email: lee.r.kaderli@exxonmobil.com

Vacant

Chairman/SLOT 03
Phone: 832.260.7852
Fax: 832.260.7852
Email: rick.deel@lubrizol.com

Vice Chairman/SLOT 04
Phone: 903.242.7657
Email: krussell@westlake.com

Secretary/SLOT 08
Phone: 281.860.1363
Email: gerald.sherman@lyondellbasell.com

SLOT 01
Phone: 281.424.6860
Fax: 281.887.7085
Email: bsteed@eprod.com

SLOT 06
Vacant

SLOT 07
Phone: 979.491.2034
Fax: 979.491.2241
Email: chuck.richardson@p66.com

SLOT 09
Phone: 830.997.5603
Fax: 830.997.3918
Email: phannemann@tfs.tamu.edu

SLOT 10
Phone: 281.834.4006
Fax: 281.834.4024
Email: rodney.r.kovalcik@exxonmobil.com

SLOT 12
Phone: 210.345.3054
Fax: 210.370.4716
Email: james.pursell@valero.com

SLOT 13
Phone: 361.844.5241
Fax: 361.844.5113
Email: dcave@citgo.com

SLOT 14 & 15

SLOT 16
Phone: 281.834.9417
Fax: 281.834.9674
Email: lee.r.kaderli@exxonmobil.com

SLOT 17

SLOT 18
Phone: 210.528.3252
Fax: 210.528.4232
Email: jhoffstadt@epco.com

SLOT 19
Phone: 281.228.2973
Fax: 281.228.8398
Email: akdelaney@dow.com

SLOT 20/TEEX Representative
Phone: 979.862.4469
Fax: 979.847.9304
Email: robert.moore@teex.tamu.edu

Executive Board Liaison
Phone: 512.321.5550
Fax: 512.303.5550
Email: hperry@sffma.org

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
INTERNATIONAL MEMBER COMMITTEE

Ian Moscoso
Cloverleaf VFD
333 Normandy St Apt. 805
Houston, TX 77015-3589

Chairman/Gulf Coast District
Phone: 713.453.1811
Fax: 713.455.9976
Email: iammoscoso@hotmail.com

Rosendo Garcia
TEEX-ESTI
6215 Guyler St
Wallis, TX 77485-9495

Staff Liaison
Phone: 915.453.1876
Fax: 915.453.1876
Email: ianmoscoso@hotmail.com

Kevin Creamer
TEEX Representative
Phone: 979.458.6800
Fax: 979.847.9304
Email: rosendo.garcia@teex.tamu.edu

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Ben Kennedy
TEEX-ESTI
4210 Camber Ct
College Station, TX 77845

Co-Chairman/Chaplain
Phone: 979.458.4603
Fax: 979.847.9304
Email: bkennedy@sffma.org

Michael Richardson
Decatur FD
608 County Road 4460
Decatur, TX 76234-8138

Co-Chairman/4th VP
Phone: 940.627.3199
Fax: 940.627.6014
Email: mrichardson@decaturfd.com

Jeri Hamilton
PO Box 364
Bushland, TX 79012-0364

Auxiliary President
Phone: 806.359.4960
Email: hamilton5134@sbcglobal.net

Mary Jane Cargile
Santa Fe Fire/Rescue
4712 Scott St
Santa Fe, TX 77517-3314

Auxiliary Chaplain
Phone: 409.925.7330
Email: propho999@verizon.net

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

Chris Barron
SFFMA
PO Box 1709
Manchaca, TX 78652-1709

State Director
Phone: 512.453.3473
Fax: 512.453.1876
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

Dallas Renfrew
SFFMA Past President (2000)
PO Box 10571
College Station, TX 77842-0571

Alternate Director
Phone: 979.458.6800
Fax: 979.847.9304
Email: drenfrew@sffma.org
PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Billy Haynes
PO Box 840
Livingston, TX 77351-0014

Past President 1973
Phone: 936.328.3121

Ray Williamson
320 E Milam St
Wharton, TX 77488-5024

Past President 1984
Phone: 979.532.2111

Bob Looney
220 Juniper St
Mansfield, TX 76063-1815

Past President 1986
Phone: 817.473.1182
Email: palintex@yahoo.com

Thomas Bledsoe
Gilmer FD
2596 Bob O Link Rd
Gilmer, TX 75645-7340

Past President 1987
Phone: 903.843.3225
Fax: 903.843.3251
Email: bledsoet@etex.net

Ernest O. Reesing, Jr.
Marathon VFD
20 Branch Rd
Alpine, TX 79830-1015

Past President 1988
Phone: 432.386.2299
Email: ernest.reesing@teex.tamu.edu

Gerald Matheaus
2226 Ripple Creek
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5429

Past President 1989
Phone: 281.232.6871
Fax: 281.232.3538
Email: fire_2@sbcglobal.net

Billy Ray Mize
808 Easy St
Burkburnett, TX 76354-2617

Past President 1991
Phone: 940.322.5281
Fax: 940.569.4192
Email: b.mize@nortexrpc.org

J. E. Eckert, III
1101 Lake Shore Dr
Beaver Dam, WI 53916-1239

Past President 1992
Phone: 920.319.6116
Email: jee_eee@swbell.net

Donald Hoffman
PO Box 1769
Brenham, TX 77834-1747

Past President 1993
Phone: 979.836.9473
Fax: 979.830.7144
Email: don.hoffman@sbcglobal.net

Deloss Edwards
4733 Catclaw Dr
Abilene, TX 79606-3217

Past President 1995
Phone: 325.695.5133
Email: delossedwards@gmail.com

Patrick Hlavaty
El Campo FD
PO Box 1395
El Campo, TX 77437-1395

Past President 1997
Phone: 979.543.0341
Email: pat.helen@sbcglobal.net

Terry Mayfield
Seguin FD
18156 S State Highway 123
Seguin, TX 78155-0845

Past President 1999
Phone: 830.401.2310
Fax: 830.401.2772
Email: ttmayfield@yahoo.com

Dallas Renfrew
TEEX-ESTI
PO Box 10571
College Station, TX 77842-0571

Past President 2000
Phone: 979.458.6800
Fax: 979.847.9304
Email: Dallas.Renfrew@teex.tamu.edu

Michael Looney
1110 Danbury Dr
Mansfield, TX 76063-6612

Past President 2001
Phone: 817.399.4303
Email: hiwaytoons@hotmail.com

Richard Harmon
Cameron Gardens FD
1841 FM 171
Wichita Falls, TX 76305-6909

Past President 2002
Phone: 940.767.7557
Email: rm.harmon@hotmail.com

Tommy Anderson
Santa Fe Fire/Rescue
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

Past President 2003
Phone: 409.925.7331
Fax: 409.925.7330
Email: fdchief700@comcast.net

David Luedeke
Needville FD
PO Box 132
Needville, TX 77461-0132

Past President 2004
Phone: 797.793.7255
Email: chief700@consolidated.net

Robert Welborn
Silsbee FD
505 Winters St
Silsbee, TX 77656-5033

Past President 2005
Phone: 409.790.1179
Fax: 409.385.4761
Email: bwelborn@aol.com

Kyle Stephens
Decatur FD
PO Box 331
Decatur, TX 76234-0331

Past President 2007
Phone: 940.627.7240
Fax: 940.383.7111
Email: ssnider@cityofedinburg.com

Shawn Snider
Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Past President 2009
Phone: 956.383.7691
Fax: 956.383.7111
Email: ssnider@cityofedinburg.com

Kent Watts
Southeast Caldwell County VFD
305 E Bowie St
Luling, TX 78648-2905

Past President 2010
Phone: 830.875.9239
Fax: 830.875.9239
Email: kentwatts31@yahoo.com

Bryan Rickert
Carthage FD
142 County Road 2791
Carthage, TX 75633-6150

Past President 2011
Phone: 903.693.4855
Email: brickert373@yahoo.com

Bill Gardner
Leander FD
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646-0319

Past President 2012
Phone: 512.528.2848
Email: bgardner@sffma.org

GARY TILTON MEMORIAL FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST COMMITTEE

Nancy Hall
Gilmer FD
1003 Antelope Rd
Gilmer, TX 75644-5155

Past President 2013
Phone: 903.843.3251
Email: fireball011465@yahoo.com

Billy Jo Jasinski
Burton VFD
PO Box 548
Burton, TX 77835-0548

Past President 2014
Phone: 979.289.0039
Email: b.j.jasinski@bluebell.com

Chairperson/Northeast Texas District
Phone: 903.843.3225
Fax: 903.843.3251
Email: fireball011465@yahoo.com

Central Texas District
Phone: 979.289.3473
Fax: 979.289.0039
Email: b.j.jasinski@bluebell.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isidore Moy</td>
<td>Floresville FD, 776 US Highway 181 S # B, Floresville, TX 78114-5135</td>
<td>Guadalupe District</td>
<td>Fax: 830.393.2056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elena Sanchez</td>
<td>Sinton FD, PO Box 652, Sinton, TX 78387-0652</td>
<td>South Central District</td>
<td>Phone: 361.364.2381, Fax: 361.364.3781, Email: <a href="mailto:esanchez1019@sbcglobal.net">esanchez1019@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankie Salinas</td>
<td>Edinburg FD, 821 Park Cir, Edinburg, TX 78539-7306</td>
<td>Rio Grande Valley District</td>
<td>Phone: 956.383.7691, Fax: 956.383.7111, Email: <a href="mailto:txgighunter@aol.com">txgighunter@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Alvarez</td>
<td>Harlingen FD, 3510 E Grimes St, Harlingen, TX 78550-1756</td>
<td>Gulf Coast District</td>
<td>Phone: 956.216.5700, Fax: 956.430.6672, Email: <a href="mailto:ralvarez@myharlingen.us">ralvarez@myharlingen.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Roberson</td>
<td>Channelview FD, 415 E Milton Ave, Lafayette, LA 70508-7945</td>
<td>Gulf Coast District</td>
<td>Phone: 281.452.5782, Fax: 281.452.2100, Email: <a href="mailto:geraldroberson1@att.net">geraldroberson1@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Tullgren</td>
<td>Deer Park VFD, 602 Kingston Ct, Deer Park, TX 77536-6126</td>
<td>East Texas District</td>
<td>Phone: 936.348.3317, Fax: 936.349.0149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankie Smith</td>
<td>Madisonville VFD, 107 W Turner St, Madisonville, TX 77864-3130</td>
<td>North Texas District</td>
<td>Phone: 972.875.3473, Fax: 972.875.4615, Email: <a href="mailto:isomk@airmail.net">isomk@airmail.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Isom</td>
<td>Ennis FD, PO Box 220, Ennis, TX 75120-0220</td>
<td>Red River District</td>
<td>Phone: 940.337.0313, Fax: 940.524.3840, Email: <a href="mailto:ems12afax@yahoo.com">ems12afax@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Fox</td>
<td>Petrolia FD, PO Box 39, Petrolia, TX 76377-0039</td>
<td>Hill Country District</td>
<td>Phone: 325.387.2428, Email: <a href="mailto:maraycearley@yahoo.com">maraycearley@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maray Cearley</td>
<td>Sonora FD, 808 E Poplar St, Sonora, TX 76950-2656</td>
<td>Hill Country District</td>
<td>Phone: 325.977.2525, Email: <a href="mailto:lallen.surety@verizon.net">lallen.surety@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latresha Allen</td>
<td>900 N 5th St, Ballinger, TX 76821</td>
<td>Ladies Auxiliary Liaison</td>
<td>Phone: 806.675.1707, Email: <a href="mailto:tidwell_brandy@yahoo.com">tidwell_brandy@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandy Tidwell</td>
<td>PO Box 242, Crosbyton, TX 79422</td>
<td>Past President Liaison</td>
<td>Phone: 830.401.2310, Fax: 830.401.2772, Email: <a href="mailto:tntmayfield@yahoo.com">tntmayfield@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Mayfield</td>
<td>Seguin FD, 18156 S State Highway 123, Seguin, TX 78155-0845</td>
<td>RC Flores</td>
<td>McAllen FD, PO Box 220, McAllen, TX 78505-0220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Ray Mize</td>
<td>Burk Burnett FD, 808 Easy St, Burk Burnett, TX 76354-2617</td>
<td>Rio Grande Valley District</td>
<td>Phone: 956.972.7500, Fax: 956.682.0377, Email: <a href="mailto:rcflores1@yahoo.com">rcflores1@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PUMPER RACE COMMITTEE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Donnelly</td>
<td>Pearland FD, 3913 Cedarwood Dr, Pearland, TX 77584-9248</td>
<td>Overall Chairman</td>
<td>Phone: 713.569.6633, Fax: 281.489.3348, Email: <a href="mailto:jsds3913@yahoo.com">jsds3913@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Horelica</td>
<td>Cameron FD, 1505 N Travis Ave, Cameron, TX 76520-1647</td>
<td>3-Man Chairman</td>
<td>Phone: 254.697.4702, Fax: 254.697.3040, Email: <a href="mailto:henry_horelica@yahoo.com">henry_horelica@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duane Henry</td>
<td>Conroe FD, PO Box 433, Normangee, TX 77871-0433</td>
<td>6-Man Chairman</td>
<td>Phone: 936.396.9151, Email: <a href="mailto:duane777@usa.net">duane777@usa.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Williams</td>
<td>Pasadena FD, 4302 Blind River Dr, Pasadena, TX 77504-3118</td>
<td>3 and 6-Ladies Chairman</td>
<td>Phone: 713.475.5512, Fax: 714.466.6258, Email: <a href="mailto:frank.rubio@boral.com">frank.rubio@boral.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Rubio</td>
<td>Rockdale FD, PO Box 820, Rockdale, TX 76520-0820</td>
<td>Central Texas District</td>
<td>Phone: 512.760.5112, Fax: 512.446.6258, Email: <a href="mailto:frank.rubio@boral.com">frank.rubio@boral.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vic Einspahr</td>
<td>Beeville FD, PO Box 634, Beeville, TX 78104-0634</td>
<td>Guadalupe District</td>
<td>Phone: 361.362.7609, Fax: 361.362.1637, Email: <a href="mailto:vicfire@sbcglobal.net">vicfire@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Marcinkiewicz</td>
<td>Cat Spring VFD, 11438 Newberg Rd, Cat Spring, TX 78935-5183</td>
<td>Guadalupe District</td>
<td>Phone: 830.401.2310, Fax: 830.401.2772, Email: <a href="mailto:gweniger@satx.rr.com">gweniger@satx.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC Flores</td>
<td>McAllen FD, PO Box 302, McAllen, TX 78535-0302</td>
<td>South Central District</td>
<td>Phone: 361.325.2422, Fax: 361.325.1762, Email: <a href="mailto:ffvd31@yahoo.com">ffvd31@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Caceres</td>
<td>McAllen FD, 5656 Old La Blanca Rd, Donna, TX 78537-5147</td>
<td>Rio Grande Valley District</td>
<td>Phone: 956.972.7500, Fax: 956.682.0377, Email: <a href="mailto:rcflores1@yahoo.com">rcflores1@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Johnson</td>
<td>Center FD, PO Box 291, Center, TX 75935-0291</td>
<td>East Texas District</td>
<td>Phone: 936.598.3288, Email: <a href="mailto:rgi410@yahoo.com">rgi410@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUMPER RACE COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Jeremy Jennings
Jacksboro FD
203 S 7th St
Jacksboro, TX 76458-2103

Juan Hernandez
Uvalde VFD
208 W Nueces St
Uvalde, TX 78801-3614

Gerald Matheaus
Richmond FD
2226 Ripple Creek Dr
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5429

Red River District
Phone: 940.567.2883
Fax: 940.567.2324

Wintergarden District
Phone: 830.278.3334
Fax: 830.278.2234
Email: cj5on39@yahoo.com

Ladies Auxiliary Liaison
Phone: 806.781.3706
Email: jerrilocknane@jonesflygare.com

Past President Liaison
Phone: 979.559.0026
Fax: 979.793.7255
Email: chief700@consolidated.net

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS COMMITTEE

Robert Kleen
Blanket VFD
7800 County Road 329
Blanket, TX 76432-6318

Matthew Cornell
Pecan Grove FD
1940 Melody Lane
Richmond, TX 77406

Jason Scheel
La Vernia FD
PO Box 55
La Vernia, TX 78121

Tomas Sanchez
Sinton FD
719 East Market Street
Sinton, TX 78387

Melissa Sanchez
Sinton FD
719 East Market Street
Sinton, TX 78387

Jerry Gomez
Alamo FD
PO Box 871
Alamo, TX 78516-0871

Anthony Cargile
Santa Fe Fire/Rescue
4712 Scott St
Santa Fe, TX 77517-3314

Elton Thornell
Brookside Village VFD
5706 W Broadway Trlr 7
Pearland, TX 77581-7846

Jim Cargile
Santa Fe Fire/Rescue
4223 Avenue J
Santa Fe, TX 77510-8698

Daniel Hernandez
Hardin County ESD #2/
Lumberton Fire & EMS
8558 Ash St
Lumberton, TX 77657-8927

David Andrusick
Center FD
220 James St
Center, TX 75935-3243

Derek Thayer
Cameron Gardens FD
3351 River Rd
Wichita Falls, TX 76305-7267

Donald “Cowboy” Wiley
Floydada FD
PO Box 73
Floydada, TX 79235-0073

Pat Olivas, Jr.
Fort Davis FD
PO Box 1084
Fort Davis, TX 79734-1084

Rickey Cearley
Sonora FD
808 E Poplar St
Sonora, TX 76950-2656

Paul Hamilton
Potter County Fire/Rescue
PO Box 364
Bushland, TX 79012-0364

Richard Harmon
Cameron Gardens FD
1841 FM 171
Wichita Falls, TX 76305-6909

Gulf Coast District
Phone: 409.795.4224
Email: propho999@verizon.net

Gulf Coast District
Phone: 806.781.3706
Email: jerri.locknane@jonesflygare.com

East Texas District
Phone: 409.755.6031
Fax: 409.751.6237
Email: dthayer90@yahoo.com

Permian Basin District
Phone: 432.249.1164
Email: elpatocook77@yahoo.com

North Texas District
Phone: 940.502.1024
Email: jcargile86@yahoo.com

Executive Board Liaison
Phone: 979.793.7255
Email: jan.austin@lumbertonfireems.org

 grupos y formas perfectamente articuladas.

Past President Liaison
Phone: 806.781.3706
Email: dispc700@consolidated.net
SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Rusty Kattner
Santa Fe Fire/Rescue
680 Fountain View Ln
League City, TX 77573-1971
President
Phone: 832.221.9533
Fax: 713.468.5249
Email: rkattner@sffma.org

Harvie Cheshire
TEEX-ESTI
1100 Merry Oaks Dr
College Station, TX 77840-2607
3rd Vice President
Phone: 979.862.7440
Fax: 979.458.0649
Email: harvie.cheshire@teex.tamu.edu

Shawn Snider
Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057
Past President Liaison
Phone: 956.383.7691
Fax: 956.3837111
Email: ssnider@cityofedinburg.com

Gabi Glass
SFFMA
PO Box 1709
Manchaca, TX 78652-1709
Past President Liaison
Phone: 940.627.3199
Fax: 940.627.6014
Email: gglass@sffma.org

Kyle Stephens
Decatur FD
PO Box 331
Decatur, TX 76234-0331
Past President Liaison
Phone: 281.996.3360
Fax: 281.996.9237
Email: dannylkey@yahoo.com

Chris Barron
SFFMA
PO Box 1709
Manchaca, TX 78652-1709
Executive Director
Phone: 512.454.3473
Fax: 512.453.1876
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

T*FLAG ADVISORY GROUP

Bill Gardner
Leander FD
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646-0319
Co-Chairman/Central Texas District
Phone: 512.528.2848
Email: bgardner@sffma.org

Dan Key
Friendswood FD
2204 Pine Dr
Friendswood, TX 77546-5539
Co-Chairman/Gulf Coast District
Phone: 281.996.3360
Fax: 281.996.9237
Email: dannylkey@yahoo.com

Ryan Hudson
Leander FD
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646-0319
Central Texas District
Phone: 512.528.1664
Fax: 512.528.0726
Email: rhudson@leandertx.gov

Ronnie Sexton
TML
3705 del Norte Blvd
Temple, TX 76502-1616
Central Texas District
Phone: 512.431.1024
Email: wgoldingw04@hot.rr.com

Don McFarland
McQueeney FD
PO Box 1246
Seguin, TX 78156-1246
Guadalupe District
Phone: 830.822.1188
Email: don.mcfarland@gmail.com

Edwin Baker
Stockdale FD
602 S 7th St.
Stockdale, TX 78160-6031
Guadalupe District
Phone: 830.996.1383
Fax: 830.996.1366
Email: chiefsfd4100@gmail.com

Barry Fuhrken
Bishop FD
400 E 2nd St
Bishop, TX 78343-2235
South Central District
Phone: 361.584.6828
Fax: 361.584.6168
Email: bfuhrken@stx.rr.com

R.J. Thomas
Ingleside VFD
3190 Rebecca St
Ingleside, TX 78362-4649
South Central District
Phone: 361.776.7422
Fax: 361.775.1186
Email: rjthomas@inglesidetx.gov

Ricardo Saldaña
Mission FD
2004 N Bryan Rd
Mission, TX 78752-3028
South Central District
Phone: 956.580.8705
Fax: 956.580.8712
Email: rsaldana@missiontexas.us

Jeffery Thomson
Alvin FD
2305 County Road 284
Alvin, TX 77511-8325
Gulf Coast District
Phone: 281.331.7688
Fax: 281.331.9713
Email: avfd22@sbcglobal.net

Kendall Hunting
Alvin FD
1738 Glenview Dr
Alvin, TX 77511-4329
Gulf Coast District
Phone: 281.331.7688
Fax: 281.331.9713
Email: khunting@cityhall.cityofalvin.com

Jason January
Huntsville FD
PO Box 1
Huntsville, TX 77342-0001
East Texas District
Phone: 936.291.3047
Fax: 936.291.3472
Email: jjanuary@huntsvilletx.gov

Barry Barnett
Arp FD
17916 County Road 2142
Troup, TX 75789-3725
Northeast Texas District
Phone: 903.859.5232
Fax: 903.859.2207
Email: bbarn01@hotmail.com

Christine Rogalski
Ennis FD
1007 N McKinney St
Ennis, TX 75119-2418
North Texas District
Phone: 972.875.3473
Fax: 972.875.4615
Email: cookiegirl62@hotmail.com

Michael Richardson
Decatur FD
608 County Road 4460
Decatur, TX 76234-8138
Red River District
Phone: 903.859.5232
Fax: 903.859.5232
Email: mrichardson@decaturfd.com

Clay Deatherage
Shackelford County Rural VFD
3709 US Highway 180 E
Anson, TX 79501-2807
Mid-West Texas District
Phone: 325.338.2507
Fax: 325.762.2242
Email: mo2se@att.net

Richard Goodney
Colorado City FD
950 E 15th St
Colorado City, TX 79512-4008
Mid-West Texas District
Phone: 325.728.5252
Fax: 325.728.9415
Email: fdcc323@aol.com

Brent Allen
Ballinger FD
PO Box 227
Ballinger, TX 76821-0227
Mid-West Texas District
Phone: 325.365.5137
Fax: 325.365.5612
Email: ballen@ballingerfd.com

Charles Garris
Pleasanton FD
312 Tagert St
Pleasanton, TX 78064-3964
Wintergarden District
Phone: 830.569.2813
Fax: 830.569.2813
Email: plezfire@2fastmail.com

Barry Fuhrken
Bishop FD
400 E 2nd St
Bishop, TX 78343-2235
South Central District
Phone: 361.584.6828
Fax: 361.584.6168
Email: bfuhrken@stx.rr.com

R.J. Thomas
Ingleside VFD
3190 Rebecca St
Ingleside, TX 78362-4649
South Central District
Phone: 361.776.7422
Fax: 361.775.1186
Email: rjthomas@inglesidetx.gov

Ricardo Saldaña
Mission FD
2004 N Bryan Rd
Mission, TX 78752-3028
South Central District
Phone: 956.580.8705
Fax: 956.580.8712
Email: rsaldana@missiontexas.us

Jeffery Thomson
Alvin FD
2305 County Road 284
Alvin, TX 77511-8325
Gulf Coast District
Phone: 281.331.7688
Fax: 281.331.9713
Email: avfd22@sbcglobal.net

Kendall Hunting
Alvin FD
1738 Glenview Dr
Alvin, TX 77511-4329
Gulf Coast District
Phone: 281.331.7688
Fax: 281.331.9713
Email: khunting@cityhall.cityofalvin.com

Jason January
Huntsville FD
PO Box 1
Huntsville, TX 77342-0001
East Texas District
Phone: 936.291.3047
Fax: 936.291.3472
Email: jjanuary@huntsvilletx.gov

Barry Barnett
Arp FD
17916 County Road 2142
Troup, TX 75789-3725
Northeast Texas District
Phone: 903.859.5232
Fax: 903.859.5232
Email: mrichardson@decaturfd.com

Clay Deatherage
Shackelford County Rural VFD
3709 US Highway 180 E
Anson, TX 79501-2807
Mid-West Texas District
Phone: 325.338.2507
Fax: 325.762.2242
Email: mo2se@att.net

Richard Goodney
Colorado City FD
950 E 15th St
Colorado City, TX 79512-4008
Mid-West Texas District
Phone: 325.728.5252
Fax: 325.728.9415
Email: fdcc323@aol.com

Brent Allen
Ballinger FD
PO Box 227
Ballinger, TX 76821-0227
Mid-West Texas District
Phone: 325.365.5137
Fax: 325.365.5612
Email: ballen@ballingerfd.com

Charles Garris
Pleasanton FD
312 Tagert St
Pleasanton, TX 78064-3964
Wintergarden District
Phone: 830.569.2813
Fax: 830.569.2813
Email: plezfire@2fastmail.com
The Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (TESRS) recently announced a program to assist volunteer and combination departments in obtaining used surplus furniture and office equipment at no cost. The program is open to participation by both members and non-members of the TESRS. For more information, contact TESRS at 844-TXHEROES or shirley.hays@tesrs.texas.gov.

The Insurance Council of Texas is trying to get every fire marshal in Texas to utilize the Arson Hotline posters which, placed at the scene of suspicious fires, ask for those who know anything about the fire to call the toll-free Texas Arson Hotline. The hotline is maintained 24/7 and pertinent information from the calls is passed on to the State Fire Marshal’s Office, which then forwards the information to the investigating officer.

All callers remain anonymous and calls that lead to an arrest or indictment can be rewarded up to $1,000. The rewards come from A Texas Advisory Council on Arson (ATAC) which the Insurance Council of Texas helps manage.

The Arson Hotline poster is in English, and when flipped over, is in Spanish. Through the help of the SFMO, we will forward to fire investigators who request them: Arson Hotline posters, arson business cards (English and Spanish) and bumper stickers promoting the phone number, 1-877-4 FIRE 45. The Texas Arson Hotline has resulted in several arrests and thousands of dollars in reward money have been handed out.
Greetings to all:

I am honored and pleased to assume the duties of president of the Texas Firemen’s Auxiliary.

I want to thank the SFFMA, the TFA Board and the committees for the hard work you have done this past year.

I especially want to thank my family for their love and support over the previous four years I have served on this board.

As I have discussed many times, I plan to focus on growing TFA by recruiting new members; improving communication through social media; and supporting Texas firefighters by promoting the interest and welfare of the SFFMA.

These items will require change, and change is a crucial part of productivity and growth. In order for TFA to grow, we need to take into consideration that the face of the fire service is changing. More and more women are firefighters and therefore, not allowed to be members of our auxiliary. Auxiliaries are made up of both men and women whose purpose is to provide supplementary or additional help and support to a group. In order for TFA to be able to support ALL Texas firefighters, perhaps we should look at changing the face of our auxiliary. Perhaps we allow members of support services to become members of our auxiliary. These men and women are not firefighters, but want to lend support to their firefighters. Would allowing these support groups to be members of TFA require change? It most certainly would. My question is …. are you open and willing to change?

TFA has moved forward with our presence on social media. We now have a Facebook page (Texas Firemens Auxiliary), a Twitter account (follow us at tfaaux), and are currently working on our own website. With these mediums in place, our goal is to be able to attract more members and to be able to communicate more efficiently with our current members.

I would like all of our members to remember why TFA exists. We exist because of the SFFMA. Without them, we are nothing. As an auxiliary, we are here to support, assist and supplement the SFFMA. I think too often we get caught up in the details and tend to forget this.

Plans are well underway for the 2015 SFFMA Conference and Convention to be held at beautiful Moody Gardens in Galveston. SFFMA President Kattner and I are working closely together to ensure this convention is fun and successful. The TFA luncheon is being planned as well and ALL women are invited to attend. Please watch for additional details as you won’t want to miss this time of fellowship.

My motto and theme for this year is “Imagine the Possibilities.” Imagine where we are able to take this auxiliary if we are open to change. Imagine what it would be like if we focus on why we exist. And imagine what a difference we can make by offering our support to ALL Texas firefighters!

Thank you again for the privilege to be able to serve a great organization. I look forward to seeing you all in sunny Galveston!

Jeri Hamilton
TFA President

2014-2015 TFA EXECUTIVE BOARD

**PRESIDENT**
Jeri Hamilton
Cell: 806.290.5845
Email: hamilton5134@sbcglobal.net
Email: jhamilton@bcsma.org

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**
Jerri Locknane
Cell: 806.781.3706
Email: jlocknane@jonesflygare.com

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**
Billie Smith
Cell: 806.789.8013
Email: billiesmitbitemp126@gmail.com

**3RD VICE PRESIDENT**
Anggie Sumrall
Cell: 409.739.0622
Email: angela(sumrall@gmail.com

**4TH VICE PRESIDENT**
Brandy Tidwell
Home: 806.675.1707
Email: tidwell_brandy@yahoo.com

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**
Pam Maples
Cell: 713.594.2787
Email: momontheego@swbell.net

**SECRETARY**
Donna Svatek
Cell: 281.239.9205
Email: ddsvatek@yahoo.com

**TREASURER**
Kendra Charbula
Cell: 979.637.1560
Email: skhula@yk.com

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**
Brooke Palermo
Cell: 409.739.2276
Email: brooke.sumrall@gmail.com

**HISTORIAN**
Penny Horelica
Cell: 254.652.3612
Email: howdyhoney991@yahoo.com

**CHAPLAIN**
Mary Jane Cargile
Cell: 409.795.0811
Email: propho999@verizon.net

**SWEETHEART**
Megan Chance
Home: 409.974.0184
Email: megchance99@gmail.com

PICTURED L TO R: Megan Chance, Mary Jane Cargile, Penny Horelica, Brooke Palermo, Kendra Charbula, Jeri Hamilton (at the lectern), Donna Svatek, Pam Maples, Brandy Tidwell, Anggie Sumrall, Jerri Locknane
The commonality between emergency vehicles, all-terrain vehicles and utility vehicles (ATVs/UTVs) is that they are all vehicles. Providing a fast, fun-to-ride, low-cost, easy-to-deploy, and navigable option, ATVs/UTVs are becoming more noticeable in emergency service organizations (ESOs) across our state. Each ESO should place a high level of seriousness toward the driver’s experience and training on this response vehicle. Additionally, the ESO should equally recognize that conversion of an ATV/UTV to an emergency vehicle encompasses a great deal of requirements. The ESO should consult the manufacturer before embarking on the conversion process of adding a tank or an EMS skid unit themselves.

Utilization of ATVs/UTVs in our service has been around approximately 30 years now. As ATV/UTV equipment has evolved, personal protective equipment (PPE) has increased. Even with warning safety labels and safety advertisements, personnel are still rejecting these important messages and are treating ATVs/UTVs as recreational vehicles. Furthermore, ESOs are placing personnel in the driver’s seat for emergency response while never considering the education and maintenance needs before deployment. Emergency service organizations must perform an assessment to identify proper personal protective equipment (PPE) purchase needs and/or offer the appropriate safety equipment for the response. The state of Texas requires helmets worn to meet the United States Department of Transportation standards. Additionally, gloves and goggles must be worn while transferring these vehicles across public terrain (Texas law, Section 663.034).

Emergency service personnel are using these ATVs/UTVs like the bicycle theory: Once you ride one once, you’re good to go for life. This theory does not help reduce liability for the ESO. The ESO cannot assume anything; personnel must be aware of dangers when driving, operating and/or riding in or on these vehicles. Many causes of accidents on ATVs/UTVs fall into two categories: 1) Operator behavior, and 2) Equipment failure. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Sarah Garland, February 2013) reported that from January 1992 to December 2011, 11,688 ATV/UTV deaths transpired across the U.S., with 571 happening in Texas, which is one of the highest death tolls of any state. Sadly, these fatalities occurred across all age groups. Thirty-five percent of deaths occurred in those 16 years and younger, meaning that 65% of ATV/UTV fatalities featured victims over the age of 16. These numbers are shouting to the emergency organizations across the state, and we as ESOs should take preventive proactive measures to avoid becoming part of such tragic statistics.

What about the terrain? Geo mapping is very important, giving the preplanning of the terrain a higher priority. The ESO will be traversing in areas that are not common. The development of preplans of recreational locations are crucial; where people hike, ride mountain bikes, horses and dirt bikes, or participate in other entertaining activities. When traveling off road, most recommend traveling on dirt and/or areas traveled by other vehicles, including rutted or worn terrain. If this cannot be accomplished, a partner should walk in front of the vehicle and determine whether the vehicle can proceed forward in the unknown area safely. Remember, we usually respond down roadways within our district. When we go off road in unknown terrain, we could accidentally travel in high water areas or fall from a shift of dirt or rock formation causing more injuries and even death.

Annual training is necessary, and identifying the risks associated with ATVs/UTVs is no different from other emergency vehicles within our fleet. Traversing over different types of terrain, the correct operations and maintenance procedures, personnel performance measures, and the proper use of PPE are very important subjects within the educational process. At a minimum, each person should attend four hours of classroom with another four hours of driving an obstacle course (off road preferred). The classroom portion should cover the latest accident trends, safety equipment, terrain identification and mapping, maintenance processes, operation, driver qualifications, and lastly, trailer operations, which are equally important. Skill practice should consist of a preventive maintenance checklist, a cone driving course, flat field and/or level ground area, on road surface, then an off road guided experience (Figure 3), with a post-maintenance check and cleaning being performed.

Lastly, all ATVs/UTVs are important members of our fleet. Personnel should be aware of the risks associated with the utilization of these vehicles and response areas they will be traversing. All safety equipment worn and standard operating procedures developed and enforced should be reviewed by all personnel. These vehicles are not for recreation. They are for performing an important task, and the ESO’s implementation of best practices before the deployment of these vehicles is a proactive approach. Remember, the safe response begins before the response.
The TEEX Extension Program offers a variety of classes

Program Overview
• Receive professional training delivered to your location
• Courses meet or exceed the requirements of the NFPA, SFFMA, and/or TCFP
• NFA field and direct delivery courses are also offered
• Go online to view the current calendar of courses at www.teex.org/extension
• Many courses are delivered at no cost to personnel within Texas

Regional Coordinators for the State of Texas

Region 1
Name: Mike Terry
Mobile: 512-566-6006
Email: michael.terry@teex.tamu.edu

Region 2
Name: David Rosier
Mobile: 903-240-2219
Email: david.rosier@teex.tamu.edu

Region 3
Name: Rosendo Garcia
Mobile: 979-324-5685
Email: rosendo.garcia@teex.tamu.edu

Region 4
Name: Darren Smith
Mobile: 210-269-9437
Email: darren.smith@teex.tamu.edu

Region 5
Name: Ben Kennedy
Mobile: 979-229-1263
Email: ben.kennedy@teex.tamu.edu

Region 6
Name: Alan Dillon
Mobile: 254-718-4776
Email: alan.dillon@teex.tamu.edu

Region 7
Name: Jeff Rhoads
Mobile: 254-541-8422
Email: jeff.rhoads@teex.tamu.edu

Region 8
Name: Ken King
Mobile: 903-818-1823
Email: ken.king@teex.tamu.edu

Dallas Renfrew, Training Director
dallas.renfrew@teex.tamu.edu | 979-458-4603

Scott Matthews, Enterprise Coordinator
scott.matthews@teex.tamu.edu | 979-204-2079
THANK YOU

Our sincerest thanks for making us the largest insurer of non-profit Emergency Service Organizations in Texas.

You’re here for us. We’re here for you.

CONTACT US:
(800) 252-9435
www.vfistx.com