



# e-INFOFIRE NEWSLETTER

State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

*Promote, Unify, Represent and Educate the Fire Service of Texas*



A DIVISION OF WINSTAR INSURANCE GROUP



**VFIS OF TEXAS**

The Insurance Leader for Texas Emergency  
Service Organizations since 1985.

ACCIDENT & SICKNESS | LIABILITY | AUTO | PROPERTY | WORKERS' COMP

## February 2023

### Executive Director's Corner

Greetings all,

Things continue to percolate at the Austin office, and I know the same is the case for you and your organization. In the January newsletter, I provided some bullet points regarding updates on current projects, meetings around the state, and the association's newly-awarded SAFER Grant. I'll continue with that format to provide additional updates:



- **SFFMA Portal:** The next module of the SFFMA Portal is slated to launch within the next few weeks, which will include the always important feature for submitting completed training for members. We've received a lot of feedback regarding the need to get the training submission feature launched as quickly as possible, so that is the priority at this point. When launched, members and department administrators will also be able to view their records of completed training and of certifications earned. The ability to request/schedule needed tests and to obtain additional certifications will follow soon after this launch.
- **Annual Membership Renewal:** Please bear in mind that we have changed how renewal happens each year with the SFFMA Portal. In the past, membership invoices were mailed to departments...that is no longer the case. However, the process is very easy and convenient: A department administrator logs into their account and chooses to manage the department, reconciles their roster as needed, and follows the instructions for renewing the department and personnel desired. Payment can be made online, or the administrator can print/mail the invoice with payment. ***Please help us continue to get the word out regarding the above change.***
- The association held what was considered by all to be a successful **Leadership Symposium** at the end of January. Attendees saw it as a valuable venue, and we will plan additional symposiums for the future.
- Please see the information on the SFFMA website regarding our current **SAFER Grant**. It's structured to assist departments with a number of needs that were not included in the previous grant.

Good luck with your departments' planning for the new year and with spring district meetings. Your executive board will do its best to attend those meetings to provide updates and receive important feedback from you.

---

## Certification Update

We are days away from launching the ability for departments to report and track training objectives through the new Portal database. Shortly afterwards, we will make the rest of the training/certification module active allowing upload of course completion certificates and submission of fees.

As with any project of this nature, we do not want to give a firm date as any unforeseen problem can delay the launch. Another big change with this program: we are doing away with the need to file actual signed application forms. Once all prerequisites and training are marked complete with training entered and validated, certifications that do not currently require an examination can be issued automatically upon payment of the fee. At this same point, certifications which require testing will prompt for written exam registration.



## Membership News

The new SFFMA Portal has been a huge success. We encourage you to visit our website, register and take advantage of our great benefits.



Just one of the many great benefits is from SAVVIK. Members get exclusive pricing and bundle discounts on the Panasonic TOUGHBOOK line until 02/28/2023.

We are also working to get membership cards out ASAP. We anticipate starting to mail them out by month's end. Thank you for your patience.

Please reach out to us [via email](#) with any questions or concerns.



### Register Now for the Regional Wildland Symposium

The NVFC's inaugural Regional Wildland Symposium is less than two months away.

There is still time to register for this event taking place March 17-18 in Box Elder, SD.

Attend sessions and share ideas relating to key topics in wildland fire response and mitigation, with a focus on the Plains region. The Symposium has been approved for CEUs through Columbia Southern University.



### Pumper Races at Conference

We are planning on having the pumper races this year and **NEED AT LEAST 6 TEAMS TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE AND RACES BEFORE MAY 1**. This gives us time to get needed equipment ready. Please let **Heather Lundy** in the State office know when you register. If we get 6 teams before May 1, we will leave registration open until 12 noon Saturday.

Looking forward to having the races again!!!!  
The Firefighter Gauntlet will run again this year as a exhibition.

[Learn more and register](#)

Take Care!!!

**Stephen Donnelly**

Racing/Competition Chairman

## Conference News and Events

SFFMA's 2023 Conference is June 9-14 in McAllen!

Conference details are being posted on the association webpage as they develop.

We are utilizing a third-party service for registration this year, and we will have online registration available on our [website](#) by April 3.



The Speaker Selection and Training Committee members have distributed requests for presenters and are finalizing details of the training schedule. That schedule will be posted online as soon as it is available.

The conference schedule is available [HERE](#).

Hotel Information is available [HERE](#).

For other questions about conference, please [email us!](#)



## NVFC 2023 Membership Meeting Will Take Place March 8

The NVFC's Annual Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on March 8, 2023, at 1:00 pm ET. This meeting is open to all state, individual, and corporate members of the NVFC. Attendees will hear reports on the NVFC's business and financial operations. State member representatives may vote on matters raised at the meeting.

[Register](#)



## Kickstart Your 2023 Training with the NVFC

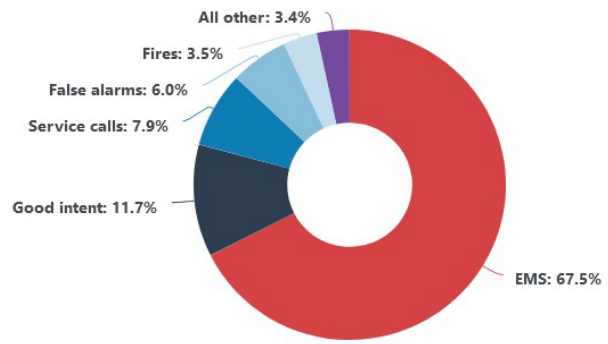
Looking for training opportunities to help you increase your knowledge and proficiency in 2023? Need ideas and resources for your department's training program? Then check out what the NVFC has to offer, including more than 120 on-demand courses and webinars, upcoming training events, and a new training guide.

[Read Article](#)

## Texas Fire Loss and Fire Department Profile

**This page** presents a snapshot of Texas fire losses reported through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in 2020. Also included is information about **Texas fire departments, firefighter and home fire fatalities**, as well as fire casualties by general incident type - Texas vs. National Average.

Texas ranks *below* the national average for fire deaths and injuries per 1,000 fires as of 2020.



Incident Types

### SFFMA Store

New from Jones and Bartlett:

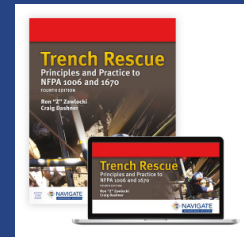
#### Trench Rescue: Principles and Practice to NFPA 1006 and 1670, 4th edition

*Trench Rescue: Principles and Practice to NFPA 1006 and 1670* is the most comprehensive trench rescue resource on the market, delivering updated information on soil assessment, trench protection, shoring techniques, and more. The Fourth Edition provides a comprehensive introduction to trench rescue, focusing on the knowledge and skills required to effectively and safely perform rescues.

Global updates include:

- Separation of Awareness, Operations, and Technician level content helps readers easily access relevant content
- Detailed, step-by-step instructions and visuals highlight how critical skills are performed
- Prescriptive shoring designs created by a professional engineer provide safe and efficient solutions to swiftly apply in an emergency
- From foundational knowledge to skills application, safety concerns are reinforced throughout the text to help keep responders free from harm during actual rescues

Find it on our store today! [Click here.](#)



Know someone who would like to receive our newsletter?

Sign up  
here!