



e-INFO FIRE NEWSLETTER

State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

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



VFIS OF TEXAS

The Insurance Leader for Texas Emergency Service Organizations since 1985.

A DIVISION OF WINSTAR INSURANCE GROUP

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

September 2023

This incident was one for the books. Hico Volunteer Fire Department was toned out at 12:52 a.m. to YesWay for a vehicle fire and partial building collapse. Radio reports were about a large explosion and heavy flames visible from miles away. An eastbound tractor-trailer hauling a load of Amazon packages had blown through the red light, hopped the curb, hit the rock sign subsequently rolling into its side, and careened into the first bank of fuel pumps, totally compromising the rain/shade canopy on the south side. More than three dozen firefighters and ten fire apparatus gained control of the dangerous situation within an hour, keeping further pumps from igniting, or the main fuel storage tanks for that matter. Mop up operations took nearly 12 hours. It's reported that a Hico resident walking his dog hit the emergency fuel shutoff valve, likely preventing an even worse situation.



Welcome to SFFMA e-Info FIRE

It seems as though the entire state of Texas is on fire. And we don't just mean the business climate. Volunteer firefighters are suiting up daily to battle the blazes. They start from cars, butts, chains, tires, welding...you name it. Exacerbated by lack of rain and plenty of grass fuels, wildfires are a year-round threat, not just a season. And they are just one part of the hard work volunteer FFs do – they still go to wrecks, medical calls, community events. They host fundraisers and movie nights. They stand watch at football games and rodeos. They are always there for the community.

Thanks to each of you for stepping up!

We know y'all are tired. Hot. Sweaty. Ready to be done. Ready for rain. (But not floods!) Thank you for continuing to answer the call. To be there on someone's worst day. To provide calm in the chaos.

Enjoy this issue of e-Info FIRE. It's about volunteer firefighters and it's for volunteer firefighters. Making this newsletter something you want to read each month is our goal.

Want to have your department or a specific member featured in an upcoming issue? Send an email to Kim Hilsenbeck! Her email is khilsenbeck@sffma.org.

The President's Corner

As we enter into September, I was hoping for cooler weather; however, it seems there is no end in sight to these excessive temperatures and heat indices. To all our responders working tirelessly to protect lives and save property: look out for yourselves and each other. Stay hydrated and listen to your body if something doesn't feel right. Get yourself attended to.



The Legislative session has pretty well wrapped up, and although the SFFMA did not get everything we had testified for, a few things that did go through were:

- Approx. \$10 million added to the HB 2604 funding
- Criteria for 2604 funding revised to include the age of equipment in qualifying
- Allowance for emergency transport of persons in non-EMS vehicles in certain instances
- Increased penalties to drivers who do not move over for emergency vehicles
- Creation of an Industrial Firefighter license plate
- More temporary licenses allowed for bingo fundraisers by volunteer fire departments

The fall district meetings are just around the corner, and your Executive Board is hoping to attend as many as they can; however, with several districts scheduling on the same day and time, the Eboard must split up to ensure each district gets represented and updated on what's happening around the state and in Austin.

Please welcome our newest full-time staff member to the SFFMA office, Kim Hilsenbeck. Kim has been with us since February in a part-time position. Kim's work during this time has shined a bright light on the SFFMA, member departments, and individuals. During this time, the number of Facebook followers to our page has increased by nearly 2,000 putting us at 13,898. Kim will be over our Media/Marketing and Outreach endeavors.

Talks are continuing with a major manufacturing company very interested in becoming a member of the SFFMA and helping to develop curriculum and training dealing with lithium/ion batteries, as well as tank batteries at solar farms. They have indicated interest in building training props to address these issues. We will keep you informed as details emerge.

Now the sad news...on September 1, 2023, our Executive Director served notice of his intention to retire in January 2024. He has ensured us his decision was not due to anything any individual or Executive Board member said, did, or asked to be done. He stated he knew it was time to retire when he left Corpus Christi, when he stepped down from the TCFP, and now from the SFFMA. I respect his decision and wish him well. He has been a catalyst in developing the new data tracking system, along with Derrell Beasley. He has stated he will work to make a smooth transition to the individual that is chosen to take the reins.

As always, thank each of you for what you do for your department, community, district, county, the State of Texas, and the SFFMA. Please stay safe.

God bless y'all.

Donny Boggs
SFFMA Executive Board
President 2023 – 2024
979-220-0141

[Email](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Stephen Sullivan, Robinson VFD

This member spotlight feature Stephen Sullivan with Robinson Volunteer Fire Department and is part of a new focus on recruiting younger volunteers.

Reflecting on when he joined the Robinson Volunteer Fire Department about five years ago, Stephen Sullivan, 34, said he wasn't the youngest volunteer. Still, he estimates he was younger than about 70 percent of the crew.

Our recent conversation revolved around recruiting younger volunteers in 2023 and beyond. 'Young' can have different connotations, of course. We typically mean those aged 18-24, but for some departments, young can be anyone under 35—or even 40.

Stephen said he sees the need for more recruitment but that different age cohorts are looking for different things in their volunteerism. This means the approach and the medium used to recruit may differ for different age groups.

"I always wanted to be part of something bigger than myself because that is what was instilled in me growing up, and the opportunity to join RVFD has been something that has allowed me to do that."

While his full-time career is as a fundraiser in higher education, he said the chance to help people on their worst days was one factor that drove him to volunteer.

"I get to intervene in a positive way," he said. He added that the physical aspect of firefighting was more enticing than other volunteer options because of his desire to remain active.

We talked about some of the differences in age cohorts in terms of the appeal of becoming a volunteer firefighter.

"Those who are Gen X and Boomers have been raised to give back and serve their community," he said. "Millennials are now raising families; they are stay-at-home moms, they are partners in law firms, and they are physicians. They live busy lives," he added. "For Gen Z (born between 1997 and 2012), they often ask, 'How does this benefit me?' And it's not monetary for this group. They think, 'I'm giving up X to do Y – what are the rewards of that decision compared to what else I could be doing with that time?' They want to be part of something bigger – part of a cause." So it's pretty clear that you have to look at recruiting differently based on the generation differences.

Stephen said it's not just recruiting that is challenging; sometimes, it's getting volunteers to respond to calls.

"Family comes first, of course," he said. "We never expect you to miss your child's T-ball game, but many volunteers also recognize that when a house is on fire in your community, someone else is having a terrible day, and we can sacrifice some of our time to help others."

He added that he doesn't expect volunteers to feel obligated to go to every call.

“We all need to balance our work life with family life and volunteering,” he said.

That’s one reason why Stephen began an informal partnership between Robinson VFD and a local university in McLennan County. “There are pre-med students who are EMTs who want to gain clinical experience and volunteer hours. We need people to respond to calls,” he said. “They sign up to be on call at our station, two to three per shift.” Typically, they recruit first- and second-year students so they can keep them on the roster for several years.

He said academic priorities always come first, but it’s been a beneficial partnership.

“We hope to have 21 students on the on-call roster this semester,” Stephen said.

He added that they hold regular meetings to make sure everyone understands the high standards RVFD upholds for our community. The department also invites students to study at the station if they need somewhere quiet. “We have coffee and snacks,” he said.

What about recruiting volunteers who aren’t students? Stephen said social media is big, but they also find word-of-mouth most effective.

“When we’re out on calls, people don’t always know we’re a volunteer department,” he said. “We are a professional crew, but that’s a double-edged sword because people don’t realize we need more volunteers.

In his experience, the best volunteers are people you already know – friends, family members, and co-workers. “They are highly likely to succeed. We have high expectations,” he said.

RVFD also puts a link to its website on its new fire apparatus. They also do some traditional recruiting, such as sending postcards through the mail.

In terms of funding, they do everything from fundraisers to applying for grants.

“We apply for grants through Texas A&M Forest Service, large corporations, and local companies,” he said.

Unlike some VFDs, RVFD receives the majority portion of its funding from the City of Robinson.

“The city contracts with us to provide fire services,” Stephen said. “We have a great relationship with our City administrators and the City Council.”

Robinson’s fire chief is part-time and earns a stipend, as do some administrative personnel. They also have part-time employees for station maintenance.

“Our volunteers don’t receive pay, not even a fuel stipend,” he said. “But \$7 per call is not usually what’s getting you out of bed at 2 a.m. to go on a call anyway,” Stephen said. RVFD is exploring adding a pension for its volunteers through the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System.

He knows that recruitment is a critical need for the future of the department.

“I don’t want our long-time volunteers not to have someone to take their place,” he said. “New folks are needed but have no experience or historical knowledge. We need those people to pass on our collective institutional knowledge.”

Side Bar

Baby boomers are anyone born between 1946 to 1964.

Generation X is anyone born between 1965 to 1980.

Millennials are anyone born between 1981 to 1996.

Generation Z is anyone born between 1997 to 2012.

Generation X and Boomers have an obligation to give back to their community.

Gen Z – what's in it for me; want a reward for time spent; 'I'm giving up X to do Y.'

Rewards are not compensation; part of something bigger, a larger cause.

Understand they are actually receiving a greater benefit than just a PT job.





Facebook Fundraiser Fridays

Want another way to promote your VFD fundraisers? Each Friday, SFFMA will provide a list of upcoming fundraisers around the state. See more info and the posting rules below:

- Submit your fundraiser information to Kim Hilsenbeck at least 21 days prior to your event. **Email Kim** with all the details. Please do not send a flyer or graphic; just list out the event info.
- Priority given to SFFMA members, but all are welcome to submit.
- Fundraiser info needed: VFD Name, Event Name & Type, Date, Time, Cost, Location (with address).
- Events will be run a minimum of two times on a Facebook Fundraiser Fridays post.
- We will link to your department FB page or website; let us know which you prefer.

That's it! Easy peasy lemon squeezy.



Check out the SFFMA videos!

If you haven't seen the new promotional videos created to encourage more volunteers to join their local fire department, what are you waiting for??

Please visit our [Facebook page](#) to see all three videos or link to them directly below. And we encourage you to share the videos on your department and even personal FB pages to continue to spread the word.



Certification Testing



Now that things are going pretty smoothly with getting everyone into Portal, here's a quick review of what is needed to have individuals register for written exams:

- 1) Verify individuals are on the department's roster and pay dues if necessary.
 - From the department's page in Portal, go to *Roster* and *View*.
 - If not on roster select "*Add to Roster*" button at bottom of Search Options menu **(Tutorial)**
 - *Add/Renew Membership* link in the middle of the page to access the dues payment wizard **(Tutorial)**
- 2) Make sure that all training is entered into Portal to show 100% completion for any levels they want to test.
 - Step 1: from the department's page in Portal, go to *Training*, then *In-House Training*, and *Add Training* to start the training entry wizard **(Tutorial)**
 - Step 2: from the department's page in Portal, go to *Training* and then *Coordinator Hub*. Review and approve the entered courses to count those objectives toward individuals' records **(Tutorial)**
- 3) Individuals must register their individual account in Portal **(Tutorial)** - (send them [here](#)).
- 4) All exam eligibility fees must be paid through Portal
 - From the department's page in Portal, go to *Testing*, and then *Written Test Eligibility*.
 - Select items from the *Requires Payment* column to add to cart for online payment.
 - Once paid, items move to the *Awaiting Scheduling* column.
- 5) Registration for the actual examination: only individuals/items in the *Awaiting Scheduling* column can be registered for a testing session. SFFMA maintains a current calendar of scheduled exam sessions on the website [HERE](#). To register for an exam session, **e-mail us** specifying which exam session is requested along with your name or names of department personnel who wish to test.
- 6) Once registered, Portal will generate a confirmation e-mail to the address provided during account registration.

If your department is interested in hosting a testing session, please review the requirements listed [HERE](#). While we are looking for 10-12 examinees for each session, this can be a combination of individuals from multiple area departments. For smaller groups, we need significant lead time in scheduling to allow for time to notify area departments/personnel to try and get as close to 10-12 examinees as possible. **E-mail us** to start this process.

We have had significantly positive customer feedback for the following exam preparation guides from Dr. Ben A. Hirst (available on the SFFMA store):

[Fire Fighter I & II Exam Prep, 6th Edition](#)

[Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Exam Prep, 7th Edition](#)

Conference News and Events

Fall 2023 District Meeting Schedule

We're excited about the upcoming SFFMA fall district meetings! These are not just a good time (and they are a good time!) but they are a great way to

hear about what's new, what's happening, what to look forward to in the future and how your Executive Board is working for you.



SFFMA members deserve an association that provides excellent customer service, offers clear and understandable benefits, and allows volunteer firefighters and departments to better serve their communities. Our training and certification program was completely overhauled this past year – we now have a new portal that is easy to use and helps you keep track of all your certifications in one place.

We encourage all members to attend your district meeting to hear an update on the activities and plans, as well as receive a tutorial of the new portal.

Check out the schedule below and mark your calendar today!

We still have a few districts that need to send in their meeting location information – please don't delay! SFFMA wants to help promote the meetings so get that info to us as soon as you can.

District	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
Rio Grande Valley	8/24/23	6:00:00 PM	Edinburg FD
North Texas	9/23/23	6:00:00 PM	7204 Dick Fisher Dr, N Richland Hills Fire Station #5, North Richland Hills, TX
Wintergarden	9/23/23	10:00:00 AM	Jourdanton VFD
Northeast Texas	9/30/23	12:00:00 PM	Woodland Hills Baptist Church at Mason Creek, 14206 FM 968 W, Longview, TX
Guadalupe	9/30/23	9:00:00 AM	Kingsbury VFD, 1060 FM 1104 Kingsbury, TX
North Central	10/7/23	12:00:00 PM	Granbury, TX, Reunion Grounds
Central Texas	10/7-8/2023	9:00:00 AM	Moffat VFD, 5660 Lakeaire Temple, TX
Mid-West Texas	10/14/23	1:00:00 PM	DC Musick Training Field, Abilene, TX
South-Central	10/14/23	9:00:00 AM	Rockport VFD, Rockport, TX
East Texas	10/21/23	10:00:00 AM	Trinity VFD, 203 S. Elm Trinity, TX
Permian Basin	10/21/23	10:00:00 AM	Denver City, TX

Executive Director's Update

Greetings all,

Well, the fall is nearly upon us. We can look forward to cooler temperatures and (hopefully) some drought relief. Many of the districts have notified us concerning their fall meetings, and we are posting the information on the website as we get it. I thought I'd touch on a couple of items this month that should be of significance to you:



- **Fall meetings:** We will be making an effort to have an SFFMA staff member at as many of the district meetings as possible so that they can assist as they are able with various features in the SFFMA Portal. They can do things like help people register their accounts, walk individuals and department administrators through some of the features available to them, show how to add training to the system, and show how to upload certificates for training/certification credit. If you or someone you know needs help with the Portal, please have them attend the meeting so that our staffers can help.
- **Speaking of uploading certificates** This has been an extremely popular feature in the Portal, so I wanted to provide a few pointers and guidelines for using it:

The upload feature is designed to only address:

1. Receiving credit for SFFMA objectives leading to certification; or (b.) providing reciprocity from ProBoard, IFSAC, or TCFP certifications; or (c.) receiving credit for additional required training such as Courage to Be Safe, Traffic Incident Management, etc.
2. When uploading a certificate, you will be required to identify the certificate from a list of courses and/or credentials. If you don't see your certificate on the list, it means that we have

not yet “mapped” it to applicable SFFMA objectives or certifications, so please delay uploading that certificate until it has been mapped.

3. A “Request Mapped Course” feature will soon be available in the module once we have the backlog of existing submitted courses reviewed and mapped.

There are also tutorial videos available on the SFFMA website for some of the Portal modules, with more tutorials to be developed. Thank you for the feedback on the new Portal system, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help with any of the features. Enjoy your fall season!

Tim Rutland

SFFMA Fire Chief Development Program

Joe Yeakley is not your average Joe. Far from it.

In 2014, Joe, a veteran firefighter, was responding to a house fire just outside of Lindale, Texas. While he and another firefighter were in the garage, the attic and garage collapsed, trapping Joe. The time from “Mayday” to “all clear” was almost four minutes. He was taken to the hospital and was unconscious for nearly 100 days. He had third-degree deep tissue burns on 55 percent of his body. He lost part of his nose, his left ear and all of his fingers.

The intervening years have been a roller coaster for Joe and his family. He worked hard to rehabilitate himself, learning how to speak and walk again. He's now back to running and continues to push himself each day.

Lindale Volunteer Fire Department voted to promote Joe to Fire Chief in 2017. He continues to instruct at Texas A&M as well.

In 2022, Joe started the SFFMA Fire Chief Academy. The class runs over a 12-month period with four in-person weekends at the association's headquarters in Austin. Joe missed the phase three portion of the course. He joined the 2023 academy class to complete his instruction. This weekend, he graduated!

We just wanted to take a moment to congratulate Joe Yeakley on completing the Fire Chief Academy and let him know he is an inspiration to many. Thanks for allowing us to share at least part of your story.

Learn more about the Fire Chief Academy and see the 2024 course info on the [SFFMA website](#).

You can also check out the QR code below.





Fire Chief Academy instructor Andy Dexter presents Chief Yeakley his class completion certificate.



2023 class participants stand to recognize Chief Yeakley as he receives his certificates, logoed polo and class challenge coin.

SFFMA Mascot Raises Funds for MDA

Speaking of District Meetings, the immediate past Mascot, Casey Johnston, helped raise \$4,001 for MDA in 2023. Great job, Casey!





PHOTO BOOK



Don't tell the Pipe Creek Fire Chief, but he was briefly replaced for a day by these adorable tiny chiefs. According to the FB post, the volunteers thoroughly enjoyed these two visitors at their station!



Volunteers at Tye Fire Department love helping and teaching the younger generation. They have a group that loves doing tours and showing kids how things work and what firefighters do. Love to see this kind of dedication to getting the next generation excited about serving their communities.



Keene Fire Rescue was excited for Jarrett to begin his first day of paramedic school. So of course, they had to capture a few first day of school pics! On the FB post they wrote, "Jarret has become a very valued member in the department and we couldn't be more



This shot was snapped during the Box Ranch Road Fire in the Lorena area. Crews from Lorena VFD battled the blaze for more than six hours and numerous structures were saved, and the fire was contained.

proud of his next step! Good luck Jarrett!" We agree – good luck, Jarrett!



"When the tones drop, we want to make sure we are the 'ones' who took time to train."
Couldn't have said it better if we tried,
Seminole Fire Department.



August 11 was a long day for Winters VFD. Grass fire, truck rollover, multiple power lines down, missing person search, and a house fire. #ADayintheLife



Krum VFD has a station dog named Lieu. He is featured in photos like this one, which was in honor of National Dog Day.



Check out the #frominsidethetruck pic from Beeville VFD! (We would love to get more of these kinds of selfies to share.)



Gregory VFD participated in the annual Gregory Patriotic Parade. They had a great turnout with an awesome fireworks display!

Send us your photos and videos!

We want to continue sharing our “A Day in the Life” photo series on Facebook and to do that, we need you. The pics and videos you share help us tell the story of being a volunteer firefighter in Texas. Send us photos showing the faces and actions of your VFD members doing what they do, whether it’s on a real scene, during training, at an event/fundraiser, during a school safety presentation or anything else that shows your community what you do. This is an important story to tell. But we can’t tell it without your help!

Family Traditions Series

Thanks to those who already sent us their family traditions info. We are always looking for more. If your family has volunteer fire service connections, e.g., couples, fathers, mothers and children, grandfathers, siblings...we want to hear about it! Look for more of these stories on our FB page and here in the e-Info FIRE newsletter each month.

Special Notice for District Leaders

Dear District Leaders,

The SFFMA Executive Board invites you to a **District Leaders’ Symposium** this coming January 2024!

Friday, January 26, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Meet/Greet, Location TBA

Saturday, January 27, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., SFFMA Offices

Sunday January 28, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., SFFMA Offices

The District Leaders’ Symposium provides the opportunity to:



- Foster improved communication between the districts and the state association.
- Have a venue where districts can interact with each other and discuss common issues of concern.
- Establish a forum for further development of association goals and direction.
- Discuss both association and district responsibilities.
- Cover important issues such as recruiting and retention impacting the fire service, grant program benefits for local fire departments, and other items.
- Provide valuable guidance and training for district leaders.
- Meet with representatives from stakeholder organizations and benefit providers.

The specific agenda for the symposium is being finalized at this time and will be distributed soon.

What we will need from you between now and January:

1. We ask that you select **two** members of your current executive board to attend at the District Leaders' Symposium and provide the names of those attendees to the state office no later than **January 5, 2024**.
2. The association is contracting with a nearby hotel for all attendees and will make the necessary reservations. Again, please provide the names of your two attendees as soon as possible but no later than January 5, 2024, so that we can finalize reservations.
3. Send the names of your attendees to **Events** or to **Heather Lundy**.

****MILEAGE AND MEAL COSTS ASSUMED BY ATTENDEES ARE REIMBURSABLE.**

****NO COST TO THE ATTENDEES FOR THE HOTEL ROOMS.** (Attendees are responsible for any incidental charges incurred at hotel – may be required to provide a CC card # at check-in). **[View flyer here.](#)**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

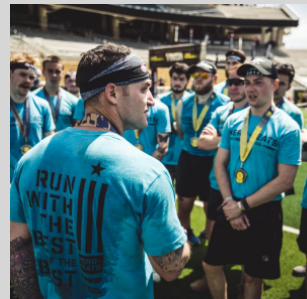
Run for free – Spartan Race

Read on to learn about this amazing opportunity to race **FREE** at our **[Dallas event on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 1:45 p.m.](#)**

Our free **[Special Warfare Hero Heat](#)** allows any racer between 17 and 32 years old to register for free when they enter the code **AFHEROHEATSSR2324** at checkout.

Receive special swag and experience what it takes to run alongside the best of the best – our nation's Special Warfare Airmen and Operators. During each of these heats, racers will be tasked with not only making their way through 5K of obstacles, they'll also be tasked with working with fellow racers to complete tasks through **[team building work](#)** and will experience added layers of mental difficulty as they learn more about how the best of the best in the military is trained.

Contact **[Cherry Rafael](#)** to sign up today!



Leadership Development Seminar - R&R Grant Reimbursable

Today's fire service is faced with many challenges including responding to emergencies, fire department administration, recruitment/retention, and marketing/budgeting. Attendees will come away from the class understanding the challenges of managing and leading a department.

Dates: September 22-23, 2023

Times: Friday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Workshop: Pasadena Fire Training Center, 6600 Genoa Red Bluff,
Pasadena, Texas 77507

Hotel Info: Fairfield Inn & Suites, 3640 East Sam Houston Pkwy S,
Pasadena, TX 77505



Dates: **November 3-4, 2023**

Times: Friday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Workshop/Hotel: Holiday Inn Longview (Lincoln Rm), 300 Tuttle Circle, Longview, TX 75605

Register here. For more information contact (855) VOLFIRE or Vicki via **email**.

TEEX Training Spotlight

Special Announcement

Rural VFD Assistance Program (HB 2604)

The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program will continue this coming fiscal year 2024, at an annual grant budget of **\$17 million**. Texas A&M Forest Service is also receiving **\$5 million in additional funding** for FY24 and FY25, which will be focused on funding more truck requests.

The following changes are effective as of September 1st, 2023:

Training Tuition Rates and Annual Maximum Increased

The reimbursement rate for Training tuition grant assistance has been increased to a maximum of **\$140 per day**, up to a maximum of **\$700 per trainee per school**. The annual maximum training tuition assistance for a department per fiscal year has also increased to **\$15,000**.

Eligible Item Added to Fire/Rescue Equipment Category

UTVs are now eligible for reimbursement under the Fire/Rescue Equipment Category (*minimum specifications will apply*).

New Apparatus Rating Component - Age of Fleet

There is a new rating component for apparatus requests, which takes into consideration the age of the equivalent apparatus being replaced (if applicable). This information is required on new apparatus requests, and must be updated on existing apparatus requests. To do this, log in to [FireConnect](#), open each apparatus request your department has on file, and edit the request to add this information. A video guide for this process can be found linked in the program description page on FireConnect ([and here on YouTube](#)).

Revisions to Emergency Grants

Declared State of Disaster grants will now follow the same item categories as Catastrophic Loss. Emergency grants will soon be integrated into FireConnect, but in the mean time, a PDF application for disaster grants will be available on our website, along with a list of active declared disasters. An announcement will follow the integration into FireConnect, along with guide videos to explain the new process.

Contact Us

Texas A&M Forest Service
200 Technology Way, Suite 1162
College Station, TX 77845
ATTN: RVFDAP

Phone: (979) 458-6505
Fax (979) 845-6160
Email: 2604@tfs.tamu.edu



TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE

Special Announcement

TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program

The TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program will continue this coming fiscal year 2024, at an annual grant budget of **\$2.5 million**, which includes an **additional \$1.5 million** that Texas A&M Forest Service has received for FY24 and FY25.

The following changes are effective as of September 1st, 2023:

Training Tuition Rates and Annual Maximum Increased

The reimbursement rate for Training tuition grant assistance has been increased to a maximum of **\$140 per day**, up to a maximum of **\$700 per trainee per school**. The annual maximum training tuition assistance for a department per fiscal year has also increased to **\$15,000**.

Replacement of Existing TIFMAS Apparatus

Previous apparatus award recipients now have the option to re-apply once their previous TIFMAS apparatus has been in service for the following durations:

Type	Apparatus	Service Year Requirement
Type 6	GVWR <= 22,000 lbs	10 years minimum
Type 3/Tactical Type 1 or 2	GVWR > 22,000 lbs	15 years minimum

UTVs

UTVs and associated complimenting equipment can be awarded in conjunction with Type VI apparatus awards.

Minimum Required Rating For Apparatus Awards

A minimum required rating of 40 has been established for apparatus awards.

Contact Us

Texas A&M Forest Service
200 Technology Way, Suite 1162
College Station, TX 77845
ATTN: TIFMAS Grants

Phone: (979) 458-6505
Fax (979) 845-6160
Email: tifmasgrants@tfs.tamu.edu



TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE

Attend a Virtual Coffee Talk on Artificial Intelligence for Recruitment and Retention

Join NVFC Deputy CEO Dr. Candice McDonald and Chief Joel Cerny for the next "Coffee Talk with the Doc," taking place September 21 at 8pm ET. This interactive conversation will focus on how to use free artificial intelligence tools to enhance fire and EMS department recruitment and retention efforts.

Register. This event is sponsored by **Fire Department Coffee.**

NVFC
FIRE • EMS • RESCUE
Sponsored by **FIRE DEPARTMENT COFFEE**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR R & R

NVFC Virtual Coffee Talk with the Doc & Chief Cerny: Brewing Recruitment & Retention Conversations. Join us to learn how to use FREE AI tools for R & R!

September 21, 2023
8:00 PM ET

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT LINK TO REGISTER
bit.ly/3PbdTet

New Contract New Contract New Contract

RFB: Electronics, IT Solutions and Services #2023-04



Our Newest Publicly Bid Contract is Here!

Electronics, IT Solutions, and Services #2023-04

[Learn More](#)

SFFMA Store

Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice, Sixth Edition

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) are pleased to bring you *Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice, Sixth Edition*, the next evolution in fire investigator training.

Covering the entire spectrum of the 2020 Edition of *NFPA 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation* and 2021 Edition of *NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*, the Sixth Edition offers a comprehensive introduction to the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective fire investigator.



Letter From the Editor

I would like to say that it's been a joy and a privilege to be the editor and publisher of this electronic newsletter since its inception in 2007. I've learned so much over the years and am grateful to have had the experience.



The e-Info FIRE was created at that time to replace the monthly print version of the Info FIRE newsletter which had been published for decades. The electronic version debut also corresponded to the year I first joined the SFFMA staff. It was a big learning curve for me at that time navigating the new software, managing contact lists and collecting information that we felt was important to get out to all of you. It was also a big adjustment for the readers, but we waded through the transition together and you all were very patient, for which I am grateful.

For the last several months, Kim Hilsenbeck and I have been working together on the content and layout, and as she comes on board full time she will be the new editor/publisher of the e-Info FIRE. I'm sure she will do great things as more changes will be in store for this and other areas of the association related to marketing and outreach.

Thank you all so much for your kind words of support over the years, and also for keeping me on track when I didn't get it quite right!

Most Sincerely,

Julie Wegmiller

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