TEXAS * FIRENERN The Magazine for Emergency Professionals

State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

OCT 2012 / VOL. 47

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SFFMA PLANNING CONFERENCE

January 4 - 5, 2013 The Woodlands Marriott Waterway

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Saturday, January 5, 2013 8:30 - 10:30 am Internati Paus-

8:30 am - Noon

9 - 10 am 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

11 am Noon 12:30 - 1:30 pm 1:30 - 2:30 pm 3-4 pm 4 pm

Friday, January 4, 2013 8 am - Noon TIESB Meeting..... 1 - 5 pm SFFMA Executive Board Meeting.

International Constitution & By-laws

Pumper Races Fire Marshal ... Finance Certification Board TFA Meeting Sergeant-at-Arms ter Contest Exhibits . Memoria **Driving Contest** EMS T*Flag Meeting .. **Conference Training Workshops** Lunch District Officers Meeting Review of June Conference Schedul Site Selection Report

Oak Ridge Nortl Alden Bri Waterway .Waterway Waterway ochran's Crossing Shenandoal

.Waterway

ON YOUR OWN Waterway 6 .Waterway 6 Waterway 6

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott & Convention Center 1601 Lake Robbins Drive The Woodlands, TX 77380

HOTEL INFORMATION

Ph. 281.367.9797

Planning Conference Room Rate: \$109 + tax (per room/night) This rate doesn't include breakfast Group Code: SFFMA For reservations call 800.262.1509

> MARK YOUR CALENDAR **37**[™] SFFMA ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION *The Woodlands* June 21 - 26, 2013

NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY





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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



The fall of 2012 brings some exciting times and busy times for SFFMA and the future of our organization. In October, the Executive Board

will conduct a weekend of strategic planning, along with a budget workshop and the ground breaking ceremony for our new office building and training center. Our ground breaking ceremony will be October 20th at 1pm and we look forward to soon starting construction. We have purposely designed this building with the future in mind, growth opportunities and training opportunities for our members. The new building will have enough room for current and potential future staff, enough storage and sales area, to accommodate our current and future needs and plenty of parking. Some of our concepts we are incorporating into the construction include energy efficient windows, insulation, and lighting, tankless water heaters, a rain water collection system and xeriscaping on the complex. We are also accounting for the latest in telecommunications, wireless, and security systems along with incorporating a fire sprinkler system.

With the building project coming into place, this could not have been made possible without the support of YOU, our members, and our sponsors. Sponsors such as California Casualty, CASCO, Independent Insurance Agents of Texas, Mike Hopkins Distributing, Texas A&M TEEX, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Farm Bureau Insurance, VFIS of Texas, and many, many more that have helped our association over the years through support, membership and sponsorship. I would like to especially thank VFIS of Texas for their contributions directly related to the building and the training center. VFIS has a great interest in the protection of firefighters and their property and offers outstanding service and rates to the departments of Texas.

As we go into the fall, I can only be reminded of the many different meetings that have been ongoing to prepare for the 2013 legislative session. To say that we will be busy is somewhat of an understatement. We have several key issues we will be monitoring, lobbying for, and trying to resolve which affect all of us as emergency responders. I ask that if you are not receiving our emails each month, you provide your email address and put it on your personnel record with SFFMA so that we may keep you informed of the latest developments. Due to the cost of printing and mailing and the speed of getting a magazine done, we find that the quickest way to get information out to the membership is through email. So please make sure we have your correct address. We do NOT give out your email addresses to any of our vendors nor do we send any type of spam.

As always, we welcome your comments, input and participation. I also encourage you to read about our newly formed TESPAC (found on page 7) to learn more about our political action committee and how it will most likely be needed this upcoming legislative session.

Thank you for your membership, support and service to your community!!

Be Safe!!

Chris Barron Executive Director

PRESIDENT'S FORUM



I remember the day of September 1, 1979... I was sitting in my living room during an afternoon thunderstorm just waking from the graveyard shift at the plant, when all of a sudden there was a loud explosion

that shook my house and rattled my windows. I thought "that was not a normal clap of thunder", so I jumped to my feet and peered through the windows of my back door to see a black mushroom cloud rolling into the sky from the area of the Shell Deer Park oil refinery. Within a minute or two, the loud outdoor Civil Defense sirens at the two Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department (DPVFD) stations used to alert the volunteer firefighters began to wail. I soon learned that an 800' oil tanker unloading at the Shell Deer Park Refinery dock was struck by lightening and had exploded.

The cargo ship SS Chevron Hawaii had docked with 110,000 barrels of heavy crude oil. A huge piece of the ship's deck flew 600' through the air penetrating a shore tank containing ethyl

alcohol, igniting its contents. The fire spread to a nearby barge slip where four barges caught fire, three of which eventually exploded and sank.

I stood at that back door for hours watching the flames and thick black smoke billow into a sky still heavy with rain clouds, and listened to the non-stop sirens of emergency vehicles screaming to the scene. As a job function at the chemical plant I worked, I had recently been placed on the fire brigade and received some fire training. In my mind I was thinking I could be there helping fight those fires.

Within days I stopped by the fire department to pick up an application. The secretary asked how old I was, and I replied 20. She said the minimum age for the DPVFD was 21. I'm sure she could see the disappointment on my face, and then she asked me to go ahead and fill out an application and leave with her as she didn't expect the department to have an academy until after the first of the year. In February 1980 I received a phone call from a member of the DPVFD to inform me they would start an academy soon and asked if I was still interested in joining. I was 21 years and 1 month old and more than ready!

continued on page 4

David Wade. Bill Gardner,

Rusty Kattner

Paul Hamilton

Blake Locknane, Rex Klesel,

Ben Kennedy,

Joe Ondrasek,

Chris Barron.

Rayford Gibson

F. Jim White,

Henry Perry



2012 - 2013 Executive Board

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SERVING THE CITIZENS WASN'T ENOUGH

The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1950 to provide fire protection to the citizens of Deer Park. At that time there were 11 charter members, one fire engine and a one-bay fire station.

Since that time, the Deer Park VFD has grown to serve an area of approximately 17 square miles in Southeast Harris County, consisting of the City of Deer Park and the industrial district located along the nation's 2nd largest port and first largest petrochemical complex.

The membership has grown to over 80 members, 16 pieces of equipment, 4 command vehicles, 4 support vehicles, 3 fire stations and a training field. The Volunteers of Deer Park provide Fire and EMS coverage to over 33,000 citizens that live within the city, as well as fire education to over 3000 children each year. Current call volume averages about 3,000 per year.

I graduated my academy in November 1980. I felt the fire service in my blood before I even completed the academy and remember thinking this is something I'll do the rest of my life.



Caring for the sick and injured soon became a passion and I found myself responding with the ambulance when I wasn't on a fire truck. I attended the first ECA class I could get into and eventually became a certified Paramedic in 1988.

Early in my career, I served as a fire inspector under the direction of the Deer Park Fire Marshal. I have gone on to serve the fire department in the roles of EMS Captain, Vice President, and President. I currently serve as Safety Officer, a position I've held since 1995.

I have been honored with many awards over the years, including Rookie of the Year 1981, President's Award, Chief's Award, Rotary Club Firefighter of the Month, and the prestigious Odis Chappell Award. Odis was the 100th President of the SFFMA in 1976, Austin Convention.

Serving the citizens of Deer Park wasn't enough for me. My drive to give more to the fire service led me to get involved with the Harris County Fire Fighters' Association (HCFFA) and SFFMA Gulf Coast and Tri-River Districts (GC/TR). I currently serve on the Executive Board of the HCFFA as President, and on the Executive Board for the SFFMA GC/TR Districts as Immediate Vice President. I also serve as the Safety Coordinator for the TEEX-ESTI Annual Spring and Summer Fire Schools and represent the firefighters of Harris County on the Regional Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), First Responder Committee.

One of the most memorable experiences of my career was visiting the Deer Park, NY Volunteer Fire Department in November 2001 after 9/11. My department had raised several thousand dollars for the families of four members of FDNY from Deer Park, NY, who had lost their lives in the collapse of the World Trade Centers. One of those firefighters was the renowned Chief of Special Operations, Ray Downey.

I was born in 1959 to parents who valued family, friends, and love of the outdoors, I grew up in Pasadena, Texas and I'm the third child of four. My parents instilled the importance of taking care of family and friends, especially in the time of need. Looking back now, these are the values that would serve me well as a volunteer.

I moved to Deer Park with my parents in 1978, soon after I graduated from high school. The City of Deer Park, known as "The Birthplace of Texas", lies in the shadow of the San Jacinto Monument and is home to the Battleship Texas. These two Texas icons, along with the Lone Star Flag, stand strong and have endured the test of time, just as the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA) has for 137 years!

In 1978, after a semester in College, I decided to take advantage of a robust industrial job market and hired on with Du Pont Chemical where my father worked. I retired from Du Pont in 2003 after twenty five years in operations and emergency response.



I became Harris County's first Industrial Liaison in December of 2004 and am assigned to the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

Management under the direction of Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. As the Industrial Liaison, I partner with Industry along the nation's second largest port, as well as other industries in Harris County, to assist with all-hazards emergency planning, security, and emergency communications during large-scale incidents. I was also instrumental in developing and managing the Nation's first Industry Essential Personnel Credentialing System and the East Harris County Manufacturers' Association (EHCMA) Hurricane Status Reporting System. As Industrial Liaison, I also participate on the EHCMA Security Committee, Area Maritime Security Council, Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council for the Southern District of Texas, and the Capt. of the port's Port Coordination Team, just to name a few. Since Harris County is home to the second largest port and the largest petrochemical complex in the nation, the liaison function is critical to the region's homeland security, preparedness, and emergency response.

I'm involved in several local, State, and national conferences, serving on steering committees, and often a guest speaker for the National Hurricane Conference, Texas Hurricane Conference, and HotZone Conference. I'm also a charter member of the State's San Jacinto Type III Incident Management Team, and credentialed as a Logistics Section Chief, Liaison Officer, and Safety Officer. One of the highlights of my career was assignment as Deputy Unified Area Commander, Night Operations, for the "Reliant City" mega-shelter operations in Houston during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In 2005, I was approached by a Board member of the HCFFA and asked if I had ever considered serving on the SFFMA Executive Board. My response was that I had not, because those are the elite of the Texas fire service. The follow up response was the HCFFA Board wanted to promote a local leader to run for the SFFMA Board and felt I had the right stuff. Humbled by the suggestion and after a lot of thought, I agreed to pursue what I feel is the highest honor of the Texas volunteer fire service.

What an honor it is that you, the members of the SFFMA, have bestowed upon me to take the gavel of this great institution. Serving on the Board has proven to be an amazing experience. In my two years of campaigning, and going on five years of serving on the Board, I have traveled thousands of miles, visited many fire stations, and met hundreds of people who I consider family.

My campaign was centered on the slogan "Emergency preparedness, through training and developing relationships before you need them, is the primary component for success in managing emergencies and protecting the community. **The SFFMA** is our network for creating and nurturing this vital component." This was illustrated by how the fire service all over Texas came together to support one another after Hurricane Ike and during the 2011 wildfire season. The SFFMA has proven time again to be the training and relationship conduit for the Texas fire service. As Texas Forest Service Director, Tom Boggus states repeatedly (paraphrased), "I don't want to be involved in a disaster, but when I do, I want it to be in Texas!"

Our Austin staff, led by Director Chris Barron, is absolutely amazing! In my four-plus years on the Board, I've seen Chris lead the Team to improve membership benefits, see merchandise sales soar, provide administrative support to the Certification Board as our Certification Program was retooled, develop the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund to provide much-needed PPE for departments fighting wildfires, generally promote the SFFMA, and the develop a Recruitment and Retention Program for the Texas Fire Service that is second to none. Please keep in mind that the Executive Board and Austin Staff are here to serve you.

This is a very exciting time for the SFFMA and our members. We will break ground on a new office complex on October 20, 2012. Chris has worked diligently with the Executive Board and architects over the last year to design an office building that will serve us many years into the future, and possibly forever.



We are also heading into a legislative year that promises to be active and exciting. You should know by now we have established a Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC will be known as the "SFFMA – Texas Emergency Services Political Action Committee" or "TESPAC". We see this PAC as an important complement to T-FLAG.

When this article is published, the Executive Board will have had a retreat in October to discuss and develop a 5-year plan and meet with the Finance Committee for the annual Budget Workshop. We will share the details and updates of these activities and those mentioned above as we attend District meetings this fall and next spring.

There are so many people I want to thank for supporting me in my quest and tenure on the SFFMA Executive Board, and it starts with DPVFD Chief Greg Bridges, DPVFD Assistant Chief Don Davis, and all the members of the DPVFD. The concessions you made and excusing my absence when I'm on the road has not gone unnoticed. I owe you more than I'll ever be able to give back!

I also want thank Chief Michael Battise for being the one who believed in me and encouraged me to represent my department, Harris County, and GC/TR Districts on the SFFMA Executive Board – I hope I didn't let you down!

I extend my gratitude to the Executive Boards and members of the

HCFFA and GC/TR Districts for supporting my concurrent participation on your Boards while serving on the SFFMA Board.

Thanks to SFFMA Past Presidents like Jack King, Bob Looney, Deloss Edwards, and the rest for being there anytime I needed mentoring. Your guidance over the years have been invaluable.

Everyone who has served on the SFFMA Executive Board knows they could not do it without the unwavering support of their employer. I don't have all the words to articulate how much I appreciate my immediate supervisor, Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Coordinator, Mark Sloan; Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Harris County Commissioners Court; and finally Harris County Fire Marshal Mike Montgomery, for supporting my role with the SFFMA and understanding the value our Association has on the Texas fire service, Harris County firefighters, and emergency management organizations."

To the Texas fire service and SFFMA, it's a privilege and honor to serve as your President for 2012 – 2013.

While these are exciting times for the Association, they are also challenging, but like the Lone Star Flag, Battleship Texas, and San Jacinto Monument, the SFFMA will continue to stand strong and endure the test of time.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 137th SFFMA Training Conference and Convention Planning Meeting in The Woodlands, January 4th and 5th, 2013.



The NVFC is Working For You.

Now is the time to Join the Voice of the Volunteer Fire Service.

Whatever you need, you can count on the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – serving as your voice in Washington, DC; providing resources on critical topics like health & safety, recruitment & retention, and funding; and administering programs that support your department, including the National Junior Firefighter Program and Fire Corps. Join the NVFC through SFFMA and take advantage of all of the exciting benefits of membership at 50% off the Individual Membership rate!



TEXAS FIREMEN | The magazine for Emergency Professionals

SFFMA UPDATES

NEW OFFICE BUILDING

SFFMA's New Office Building Project is continuing as planned. We have been working on the loan documentation, finalizing building plans, and having a third party review and make recommendations. The bidding process is underway along with the permitting process. The builders that have shown interest in bidding on the project have indicated about an 8- to 10-month build time since the site work/drainage has already been completed.



Photos of the progress of the project will be posted online at www.sffma.org/gallery

CHAMPION OF THE AXE LUNCHEON

CHAMPION OF THE AXE LUNCHEON HONORS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAVID DEWHURST

On April 18th, the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund (TWRF) honored Lt. Governor David Dewhurst as the Champion of the Axe for his commitment to Texas volunteer firefighters.

"Governor Dewhurst appreciates the courage and conviction of our state's volunteer firefighters. He is a true Champion of the Axe," said Chris Barron, executive director of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas. "Governor Dewhurst's support of the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund and his interest in tackling some of the most challenging issues facing our state as a result of last year's wildfires is much appreciated."

The Champion of the Axe Award was presented to Governor Dewhurst during an awards luncheon and ceremony held in Austin.

"It's an honor to stand among the true heroes, those brave men and women who courageously serve our state when the fires rage," said Lt. Gov. Dewhurst. "It's important that we never lose sight of the critical work they're doing. I hope every Texan will join Tricia and me in supporting the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund. It's doing great things for Texas' volunteer firefighting force."

At the event, Barron noted that battling wildfires comes at a great cost to the state by straining all local authorities and burdening volunteer fire departments.

The TWRF Champion of the Axe event was sponsored by Apache Corporation. Apache has given \$65,000 over the past year to TWRF.

TWRF (www.txwildfirerelief.org) is working to continue to raise funds and awareness for the state's volunteer firefighters. TWRF is the non-profit fundraising arm of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association. We need your support to provide Texas volunteer firefighters with all the equipment they need.

TEXAS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD UPDATE BY EDWARD WALSH FF/LP ON BEHALF OF THE TEXAS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD



CHANGES

In 2013 EMS is changing. Are you ready for the changes?

Just in case you have not noticed, some of the companies offering paramedic programs are no longer offering their paramedic program. The reason is, in November 2007, the National Registry Board voted to require, as of January 1, 2013, all paramedic applicants graduate from a training program accredited by Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). CoAEMSP is the only nationally accrediting agency for EMS and is sponsored by several organizations, but the list is too long to include here. The CoAEMSP website, http://www.coaemsp. org, provides information on how to become accredited if a program is not currently accredited. This website has more information than can be provided in this article.

The accreditation requirement is only for paramedic programs.

CLEAR UP A RUMOR

I heard several folks discuss, and have seen a few messages in groups, Texas Department of State Health Services will require all paramedics to become certified and maintain that certification under National Registry.

I confirmed with Texas DSHS that this is a rumor and only a rumor. There is no

such requirement now or in the near future.

Per Maxie Bishop, RN, LP - State EMS Director, there was only a committee meeting to discuss this requirement. If this became a Texas DSHS requirement, it would be only for paramedics certified after a specified date who would have to maintain their certification through the National Registry. Anyone registered before that date could maintain only their Texas certification/license.

As of the date of this article and in the foreseeable future this is not a requirement.

EMS CONFERENCE

Just in case you are not aware, the EMS conference is not the week of Thanksgiving this year. The Preconference Classes are November 9-11 with the lectures and workshops on November 12 -14. Early bird pricing ends October 14; regular pricing from October 15 to November 11th; and no refunds after October 26, 2012.

Go to http://www.texasemsconference. com for more information.

The 2013 Texas EMS conference will be held November 24-27 in Fort Worth at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

MEDICATION SHORTAGE

Every ambulance service throughout the country is experiencing medicine shortages. In the article "Drug Shortages on the Ambulance: What Can EMS Do?" by Jeff Beeson, DO in the July/August issue of the *Texas EMS Magazine*, this is a national problem. I would recommend that you read this article and the review http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ DrugShortages/ucm050792.htm for Current Drug Shortages. This shortage is occurring at hospitals, too.

CHECK YOUR CERTIFICATIONS

I talked to some current and former EMS providers throughout the year and heard that throughout Texas some individuals were practicing as uncertified paramedics. The individuals let their certifications expire and did not have the necessary hours or training to recertify. I know one individual lost his job for not keeping track of his recertification date and letting it expire, and I have heard of others. The certification is your responsibility; be sure to check it regularly.

Have you checked your recertification date lately? Have you checked your partners? Do you know if the organization you work for, or volunteer at, is still certified? Go to: http://www. dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/ newcert.shtm and select "Click here for live online Certification/Licensee Search". Select "Public License Search", and the appropriate search.

Remember that in Texas, a Texas certification is still needed to practice. Even though you passed the National Registry exam, and are National Registry certified, in Texas you are not permitted to practice until you have completed the Texas certification/ license application and received Texas Certification.

NCEMSC

Have you looked into the lower prices at NCEMSC? Members of the SFFMA of Texas and the TEMSB receive discounted prices through NCEMSC, http://www.ncemsc.org. (more information on page 12).

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

T★FLAG UPDATE

The 83rd Legislative Session is getting closer. During the coming weeks and months there will be a lot of activity in and around Austin in preparation for the start of the next session in January. There will be many new faces around the Capitol and many of them don't know a lot about the Texas Fire Service and our needs. The expected shortfalls in the state budget will drive most of the issues that are discussed and the bills that are introduced and debated in committees in the House and Senate. As in the past couple of sessions, legislation that increases spending will be a hard sale.

You have read about the top priorities for the volunteer fire service here in past issues. They are headed up by full funding for 2604 grants. Other bills that are expected to be brought up include a tax rate increase for ESDs and limitation of the authority of County Judges and Mayors regarding disaster declarations. T-FLAG is considering putting a bill together that would establish SFFMA as the certifying agency in the State of Texas for volunteer firefighters. T-FLAG is also discussing a bill that would require all VFDs to register with the County Judge in their county as a way of identifying all the VFDs in the state. We will also be watching to see if the commission (TCFP) attempts to push for more volunteers to be brought under their jurisdiction. The Firefighters Pension Commission will go through the Sunset Review process during this session to determine if it will continue to exist in its current form.

The SFFMA Executive Board voted to form a political action committee to help support T-FLAG efforts this session. The Texas Emergency Services Political Action Committee or **TESPAC** will provide us a means to support legislators and candidates who support the volunteer fire service. We have developed a logo for the PAC as well as all the required filings with the state. Our lobbyist, Mr. Trey Blocker, has been very helpful in developing by-laws for the PAC. We have set up a board of directors made up of Executive Board members and T-FLAG members to lead the PAC as well. **TESPAC** will need your (SFFMA members) help to be effective. Individual donations will be used to help us be successful. Look for a mailing from the SFFMA headquarters in the near future asking for donations. Please consider supporting our PAC with any donation you can spare.

SFFMA's 21,000+ members working through T-FLAG and **TESPAC** will help ensure legislative success now and in the future.

Best Regards,

Dan Key Chairman SFFMA T-FLAG Committee Cell: 281-923-7670 Email: dannylkey@yahoo.com





On July 25, 2012 SFFMA, TEEX and TFS hosted the 2nd Annual Legislative Day in College Station. Approximately 45 staffers from both Texas House and Senate offices participated.

The program included a short visit to TFS/TEEX Headquarters where participants could see equipment purchased through the HB 2604 grant. Gary Sera, TEEX Agency Director, Tom Boggus, TFS Director and several others also gave presentations to the attendees.

In the afternoon, participants went to Brayton Fire Field where they were offered a hands-on firefighting experience.

SFFMA would like to THANK everyone who helped make this event so successful.

Event Photos are available at www.sffma.org under Photo Gallery.



LEGISLATIVE SURVEY INPUT NEEDED

Your input is GREATLY needed as we prepare for the upcoming 2013 Legislative Session. Please take a minute to complete a short survey that will help us identify those items that are of the greatest interest to YOU, our membership.

surveymonkey.com/s/2013_Legislative_Session

This is your chance to give us your opinion and help influence policy for the fire service of Texas.

TEXAS EMERGENCY SERVICES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The State of Texas continues to grow and with it grows the need for dependable, well-trained emergency services personnel. Despite increasing demand, funding for emergency services continues to decline, and the threat



of increased regulation continues to rise. This trend is particularly burdensome for volunteers who risk their lives and give their time solely for the purpose of serving their communities.

The Texas Emergency Services Political Action Committee (TESPAC) was formed to provide a political voice for the thousands of emergency services personnel who serve our state. TESPAC's purpose is to raise and distribute funds to support legislators and candidates for public office who understand the importance of promoting and protecting individuals who serve as volunteer firefighters, on EMS squads and industrial fire brigades.

Membership in TESPAC is open to anyone interested in investing in the future of emergency services in Texas. Your investment will provide the necessary support for our governmental affairs team to be successful during the legislative sessions.

What is TESPAC?

TESPAC is a voluntary, nonprofit, unincorporated political action committee whose membership consists of entities and individuals who understand that political involvement is essential to legislative success. As a "PAC" registered with the Texas Ethics Commission, TESPAC strictly complies with all Texas campaign finance laws and regulations.

What are TESPAC's goals?

- Raise and distribute funds to legislators and candidates who support emergency services.
- Build a grassroots army capable of supporting our governmental affairs team when the Legislature is in session.
- Educate the public about the importance of supporting their local emergency services personnel.

Why should I invest in TESPAC?

- As a member of a local volunteer or combination fire department, a local EMS unit, or an industrial fire brigade, it is essential that you help elect legislators who will stand up for your profession, restore essential funding, and oppose unnecessary regulation. An investment in TESPAC is an investment in your future.
- 2) As Texans, we pride ourselves on our independence and self-reliance. However, when fire, hurricanes or other emergencies strike, we all need a helping hand. Investing in TRESPAC helps ensure that helping hand will be there when you need it.

Your investment in TESPAC will help keep Texas safe. Please consider making a contribution today. Contributions may be sent to TESPAC at 4450 Frontier Trail, Austin, TX 78745.

Contributions are not tax-deductible. Texas law requires us to report occupation and employer information for contributors of \$500 or more.

IN MEMORIAM

Line of Duty

Captain Neal Smith

September 17, 20112 ATASCOCITA VFD

Non-Line of Duty

Chief Randal J. Zimmer	September 3, 2011
	SEABROOK VFD
Captain David R. Gray	June 1, 2012
	MARSHAL FD
Kenneth Stewart	June 4, 2012
	ARCHER CITY VFD
Robert James Miller	August 2, 2012
	ARANSAS PASS VFD
Waldermar "Wally" Carl Hannemann	August 22, 2012
	FREDERICKSBURG FD
Carl Davis	August 28, 2012
	BON WIER VFD
Chief Arthur Lee Hickey	September 13, 2012
	MAURICEVILLE FD

Thank you for your support and honor.



The Bon Wier Vol. Fire Dept. would like to express our Thanks to the following Fire Depts.: Burkeville, Deweyville, East End, Fred, Hemphill, Jasper, Kirbyville, Lake Rayburn, Newton,Trout

Creek, Texas Forest Service and Newton County Sheriff's Office for your support and honor to our fallen comrade during the service of our Assist. Chief Carl F. Davis. You will never know how much this has touched our community and our hearts. We appreciate your honor and your support during this time. A special Thanks to Jasper Fire Dept. for their Flag presentation,Trout Creek for covering our area during the service and Newton & Burkeville for traffic control.

Sincerely,

Curbey L. Schmidt Jr. Chief of Bon Wier Vol. Fire Dept.

MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION HIGHLIGHTS

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

The Certification Board introduced a new Fire Inspector certification in line with NFPA 1035 standards. This certification replaces Fire Prevention Specialist I & II which are being phased out effective December 31, 2012. Applications for Prevention Specialist need to ARRIVE in the Austin office by the end of the year. Fax the signed application and credit card payment form to 512-453-1876 to ensure the arrival date. Applications received on or after January 1, 2012 will be returned with payment to the department.

SFFMA Online is now updated to allow full reporting of all objectives. The last couple of straggler objectives have been corrected on the class entry page and report forms.

The "Apply for Certification" link for Module 1-4 certification is at the top of the roster. There is no further need to use the handwritten application with a printout of training completion. You have my personal thanks for being so patient with this issue.

We continue to work with the programmers to re-credit all of the objectives for previous levels of certification. If this becomes a pressing issue, Coordinators can enter one class per level (Intro, Basic, Intermediate, Advanced), dated 12/31/2011 with the applicable credits from the older certificates. Mark anyone holding these levels of certification as attending and the system will clear the outstanding objectives.

SFFMA MEMBERSHIP VALUE



Dear SFFMA Members,

Can you believe the year is almost over? 2012 has practically flown by, and here we are again, gearing up for what seems like an eventful nearfuture. As you may already know, SFFMA is buzzing with activity, as we get ready to break ground on the new SFFMA Headquarters. We want our

members to be well informed about the upcoming changes to everything that goes along with this move!

One of the most important changes will be better service! Not only will we be upgrading the SFFMA Office, but we will also be upgrading our forms, our Online System, and our benefits! Just take a look at our new benefits list, we hope it provides you with more concise information about how SFFMA can save you money.

Remember that some of the discounts we offer will be solely through our website ads. Be sure to check the SFFMA website periodically for savings opportunities, and definitely stay tuned for our next membership article in the e-info newsletter. Not to worry! If you'd rather receive a printed copy of the e-Infofire Newsletter, just let us know, we'll be happy to send you one.

Until next time!

Diana Conton

Here's the Value of Membership

Exclusive Savings From SFFMA and Affiliate Companies

AFFILATE	EXCLUSIVE PRICING	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	SAVINGS PER YEAR!	BASED ON
	Ameridoc Health Care Alternative Plan	\$239.40	\$179.40	\$60	Single year plan.
	NCEMSC Affiliate Membership	\$75	FREE	\$75	Annual membership price with NCEMSC
	NVFC Membership (Extended Optional Benefits) \$10,000 AD&D \$20,000 LODD	\$30	\$12	\$18	Membership <i>only</i> with NVFC
ØVFIS	VFIS Policy (Extended Optional Benefits) \$10,000 AD&D \$20,000 LODD	Exclusive for Members	\$10	Exclusive for Members	A 40 year old firefighter in the open market
	La Quinta Inn & Suites	\$139 a night	\$85 a night	\$54 (Savings vary by location & time of year)	A reservation in Austin, TX at least 14 days in advance; prices vary
Monitronics.	Monitronics	\$299.40	\$120	\$179.40	A 36 month contract specified in exclusive SFFMA offer.
Sprint 🎾	Sprint (NOTE: This discount cannot be applied to the Everything Unlimited Plan)	\$1167.84	\$974.64	\$193.20	450 anytime minutes with an Everything Premium DATA plan and device insurance.
🥌 at&t	AT&T	\$1196.40	\$1104	\$92.40	2yr plan for new and existing customers, savings may vary.
T · · Mobile ·	T-Mobile	\$959.88	\$863.88	\$96	2yr Unlimited Plus Plan Including: unlimited minutes, text, 2GB data.
	Discounts on Fire Training Books from different publishers	\$78	\$68	\$10	The cost of an IFSTA Essentials Book
	Certifications (department affiliated individuals)	\$85 (TCFP) a year	\$10-\$30 one -time fee (Lifetime Certification)	Up to \$85 a year	Comparison to TCFP certifications
CORG. INTRAL	Conference Registration Discount	\$200-\$300	\$150-\$250	\$50	Price of one Main Conference registration

DISCLAIMER: Cost Assumption: All based on a 40 year old firefighter shopping as a non-member on the open market, versus the SFFMA member price.

More Discounts We Offer Special Discounts Services for Members

	Revenue Program for Local FD's! Use The Address Shop Highly Reflective and Glow Address product line to raise money in your community and FD. Enhance your community with better addressing of homes and businesses using high quality products!	The Address Shop will provide the tools you need to make fundraising successful with no selling. Several program options available to fit your department needs. Ph. 877-634-6386 F. 817-462-5440 Email. infogtheaddressshop.com theaddressshop.com
Af f ac.	Aflac offers discount insurance policies that can give you piece of mind and cash benefits. If you have ever been out of work because of an injury, you know those are two things that are hard to come by. Hospital Confinement Indemnity Insurance Accident Indemnity Advantage	Reduce the out-of-pocket expenses caused by hospitalization, or accidents. Aflac pays cash benefits directly to you! David Espinosa Ph. 512-535-5683 Fax: 1-801-217-7352 espinosaAgency.com
Association Member Benefits Advisors	AMBA offers an array of discounts and insurance services at low monthly payments. • Dental/Vision Insurance (VSP) • Long Term Care/ Home Health Care • First Diagnosis Heart Attack & First Diagnosis Cancer Plans • Final Expense Whole Life Policy • Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans	In addition, AMBA offers SFFMA members discounts on hotels, vacations, rental car services, and many more! For more information: Ph. 1-800-258-7041 myambabenefits.info/sffma
California Casualty	When it comes to finding the best value in Auto insurance, turn to a company that knows you and the challenges you face, California Casualty. • Special Rates for all SFFMA Members • ID Defense-FREE SERVICE • S500 personal property coverage-including turn-out gear and other safety equipment • Towing and roadside assistance • Guaranteed rates for 12 months • Convenient payment plans • 24/7 emergency claim service	Call now for a free, no-obligation rate quote. Ph.1-866-680-5142 Hours: MF 8AM-8PM, Sat 10AM-2PM CT calcas.com/sffma Brandon Watson Field Marketing Manager - Texas Ph.1-866-477.7423 Email: bwatson@calcas.com
Dignity	 SFFMA Bereavement Program, should you suffer the loss of a loved one, or when you make funeral arrangements in advance. Dignity Memorial extends: 10% Savings on funeral/cremation products and services when you select a Dignity Memorial Provider 10% Savings on cemetery interment rights, products and services through Dignity Memorial affiliated cemetaries Bereavement Travel Services, 24-hr Compassion Helpline access, and 100% Service Guarantee 	Discount based on the arrangements made through a Dignity Memorial Service provider in your area. Locate a Dignity Memorial provider in your area Ph. 1-888-615-2277
Goldwasser REAL ESTATE	List and sell your home through Goldwasser Realty, through the "Heroes Helping Heroes Program" 15% of the sales commission is RETURNED to you! \$% is donated to the Texas Wildfre Relief Fund \$500 is donated to Texas Wildfre Relief Fund for any closing with Heros Helping Heros Program	Based on the purchase of a \$200,000 home in the Austin Market = \$900 returned to you! = \$300 donated to Texas Wildfire Relief Fund = Another \$500 is donated by Capital Title to Texas Wildfire Relief Fund Ask about the "Heroes Helping Heroes" Program! Ph. 512-470-2277
TARGETS	Target solutions delivers innovative applications that help fire departments run more efficiently. Accredited Training for EMS continuing education Track and record hands on training Internet based—no software necessary.	Receive up to a 30% discount on Prevention Link Professional Online Training. Jason Finley Ph. 858-376-1619 jsf@targetsolutions.com targetsolutions.com
Texas Fire Facilities Fund	Texas Fire Facilities Fund is dedicated to providing the most cost effective financing and expertise your department needs to fund your fire station. They provide: • Expert financial planning • Lower closing costs • Low, fixed, and tax exempt rates • Early ayoff options and flexible terms • Benefits the SFFMA Swadley Fund	Financing available for: Stations & facilities, all types of apparatus, land acquisitions, planning & design, equipment & bunker gear and refinance of existing debt. Government Capital Corporation Ph. 1-800-883-1199 govcap.com



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LOGIN AND UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION OR SIMPLY EMAIL

newsletter@sffma.org

MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION TESTING

Is your department is interested in challenging the written or skills exams for full SFFMA Firefighter I or II certification? Contact the Certification staff in the Austin office for a full eligibility roster.

To schedule a written examination, contact the Zone Representative from your area; and to schedule an examination, contact the Certification staff in the Austin office.

Written Exam

The exam for Firefighter I consists of 150 questions covering material from Modules 1-3 of the Certification Program. The exam for Firefighter Il consists of 75 questions covering material from Module 4 of the Certification Program.

Skills Exam

The exam for Firefighter I consists of three (3) skills chosen from Modules 1-3 of the Certification Program (1 skill required from SCBA). The exam for Firefighter II consists of three (3) skills chosen from Module 4 of the Certification Program.

The Austin certification staff issues a full Firefighter I or II certificate along with a rocker patch when both portions are completed.

2012 Progress Reports

Training summaries are due by January 31st of 2013, allowing at least a month after your department's last training session to complete the submission forms. The 2012 report is the first based on the updated breakdown of objectives. New for this year, we can accept faxed Progress Report signature pages.

Kevin Creamer

Certification Administrator kcreamer@sffma.org

A Network of Emergency Service Providers United to Save You Money!

The NCEMSC assists members in providing cost-effective, quality service by negotiating discounted contracts for the following equipment and supplies.

- AMBULANCES
- BILLING & COLLECTION SERVICES
- CONTINUING EDUCATION
- DASHBOARD/ ANALYSIS/ ALERTING SOFTWARE
- DEFIBRILATORS/ AEDS & ALS MONITORS
- ELECTRONIC PATIENT CARE REPORTING

NCEMSC

- EMS LEGAL SERVICES & SEMINARS
- FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
- FLEET FUEL CARDS
- MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT
- MOBILE GATEWAY
- PATIENT SAFETY STRAPS
- PATIENT & CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS
- PROMOTIONAL CLOTHING & ITEMS



North Central EMS Cooperative 888.603.4426 office@ncemsc.org www.ncemsc.org

The NCEMSC is affiliated with the SFFMA......therefore, if you are a member of SFFMA, you are part of the NCEMSC! SFFMA elects to pay your annual NCEMSC membership dues (\$75 value)!

Texas EMS Conference November 11-14, 2012





Austin Convention Center

Exhibit Hall Hours

Sunday 2 to 7pm Monday 11am to 6pm Tuesday 8 to 11:30am

Education

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

The full package includes

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



New! Exhibit Hall Passes

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For details, go to www.dshs. state.tx.us/emstraumasystems.

Deadline for early registration is October 26.





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SFFMA Member Benefits Website Upgrade!

The new upgrades include online enrollment for dental and vision plans, detailed benefits, discounts, an education center, and much more!

Visit your *NEW* member benefits website today!

www.myAMBAbenefits.info/sffma

2012 SFFMA SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Below is an aphabetical listing of current SFFMA Sustatining Members. Sustaining Membership is available to any company interested in exhibiting at the SFFMA Annual Conference. Please keep these companies in mind when purchasing new apparatus, equipment and services.

Α

ACS FIREHOUSE Solutions ROGERS, MIKE 10051 Barton Cir Frisco, TX 75035-6667 Phone: (888) 941-3473 Email: mike.rogers@acs-inc.com

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. RAY, A. C. 1000 East 6th Avenue Belton, TX 76513-2712 Phone: (800) 446-7319 ext. 3 Email: fireami@vvm.com

Air Cleaning Technologies, Inc. DUNCAN, DĂVE 1300 W Detroit Broken Arrow, OK 74012-3625 Phone: (918) 251-8000 Email: info@aircleaningtech.com

Akron Brass Co. RUDY, ZACH PO Box 86 Wooster, OH 44691-0086 Phone: (800) 228-1161 Email: zrudy@akronbrass.com

Always There for Texas BOWLING, VIRGIL PO Box 5555 Bryan, TX 77805-5555

Phone: (903) 227-1064 Email: virgilbowling@aggienetwork.com

America's Command Training COLURCIELLO, JOSEPH 194 Mineral Springs Rd Lockhart, TX 78644 Phone: (512) 801-2666

American Signal Corporation RIESELBACH, ROB 8600 W Bradley Rd Milwaukee, WI 53224-2816 Phone: (800) 243-2911 Email: rrieselbach@americansignal.com

Applied Force Technologies WATKINS, BOB 2409 Colleen Dr Pearland, TX 77581-5403 Phone: (281) 485-8260 Email: bob@appliedforcetech.com



Barefoot TORCHIA, TERESA PO Box 1277 Stephenville, TX 76401 Phone: (254) 918-0511 Email: teresa@barefootathletics.com

Brotherhood Instructors, LLC Kevin LeGacy 976 McLean Ave Ste 425 Yonkers, NY 10704 Phone: (845) 239-1028 Email: Brotherhoodinstructors@gmail.com

BWA - Boynton-Williams & Associates RISSER, STEVE 4455 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy Ste 820 Dallas, TX 75244-5917 Phone: (972) 661-5461 Email: srisser@bwaarchitects.com

С

California Casualty ALMEIDA, LISA 21143 Hawthorne Blvd Torrance, CA 90503-4615 Phone: (866) 680-5143 Email: bwatson@calcas.com

Casco Industries MURRAY, RAYMOND 607 W 62nd St Shreveport, LA 71106-2913 Phone: (800) 551-8787 Email: raymond@cascoindustries.com

Consolidated Traffic Controls, Inc. AYERS, DAVID PO Box 151837 Arlington, TX 76015-7837 Phone: (817) 265-3421 Email: fdayers@aol.com

D

Danielle Dawn Smalley Foundation HODGES, BOB 999 W US Highway 175 Crandall, TX 75114-2003 Phone: (972) 472-6500 Email: bobhodges@smalleyfnd.org

Deep South Fire Trucks, Inc. TAYLOR, RONNIE PO Box 293 Seminary, MS 39479-0293 Phone: (601) 722-4166 Email: dsfiretrucks@bellsouth.net

Del Mar College- Regional Fire Academy THIEME, WALTER 101 Baldwin Blvd Corpus Christi, TX 78404-3805 Phone: (361) 698-1724

Department of Inner City Emergency Response

MORTON, ELIZABETH PO Box 8408 Houston, TX 77288-8408 Phone: (832) 352-6192 Email: emorton@in-cert.com

Dooley Tackaberry SNEAD, ANDREW 1515 W 13th St Deer Park, TX 77536-2535 Phone: (281) 479-9700 Email: andrews@dtihome.com

Ε

E.D. Bullard **BARNETT, STEVE** 1814 Bayou Breeze Dr Baytown, TX 77523-8448 Phone: (713) 384-3028 Email: steve_barnett@bullard.com

Elkhart Brass Mfg. Co., Inc. VANCE, ALISON 1302 W Beardsley Ave Elkhart, IN 46514-1891 Phone: (800) 346-0250 Email: avance@elkhartbrass.com

Emergency Mgmt Training & Svcs HOGAN, DÓUG 16238 Ranch Road 620 N Ste F185 Austin, TX 78717-5212 Phone: (512) 350-6306 Email: dhogan@emtsacademy.com

Emergency Response Solutions -Texas RIGGINS, REID 6700 Woodlands Pkwy Ste 230-204 The Woodlands, TX 77382-2575 Phone: (281) 796-7556 Email: reidriggins@erstexas.net

Emergency Services Insurance Program - ESIP CHAPPLE, HEATHER PO Box 5670 Cortland, NY 13045-5670 Phone: (800) 822-3747 Ext 510 Email: hchapple@mcneilandcompany.com

Extraco Insurance

RICE, JUDY 18 S Main Street Fl 7 Temple, TX 76501-7652 Phone: (254) 774-5905 Email: jrice@extracobanks.com

F

Fechheimer Brothers Co. RINN, STEPHANIE 4545 Malsbary Rd Cincinnati, OH 45242-5624 Phone: (682) 225-7298 Email: srinn@fechheimer.com

Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc. HURST, ROBIN PO Box 249 Holden, LA 70744-0249 Phone: (225) 567-7100 Email: info@ferrarafire.com

Fire & Safety Specialists, Inc. GORE, JEFF 540 Graham Rd College Station, TX 77845-9661 Phone: (979) 690-7560 Email: brazosfire378@aol.com

Fire in Texas GOTHARD, RONNIE PO Box 3063 Kilgore, TX 75663-3063 Phone: (903) 845-3473 Email: dedee@fireintexas.com

Fire Supply Inc.. MCKITTRICK, RICH PO Box 89 Godley, TX 76044-0089 Phone: (817) 389-2377 Email: rich@firesupplyinc.com **Firehouse Trophies and Gifts** MORGANS, KAY 12525 Skyline Dr Jenks, OK 74037-4917 Phone: (918) 528-6119 Email: morgansk@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

Garner Environmental Services RHOADS, MIKE 1717 W 13th St Deer Park, TX 77536-2531 Phone: (281) 930-1200 Email: mrhoads@garner-es.com

Global Traffic Technologies WAID, CHANCE 7800 3rd St N Ste 100 Saint Paul, MN 55128-5452 Phone: (214) 548-2497 Email: chance.waid@gtt.com

Goldwasser Real Estate

SHEARER, SUE 5929 Balcones Dr Austin, TX 78731-4296 Phone: (512) 736-1017 Email: Sshearer@goldwasserrealestate.com

Gulf State Safety, LLC (Fire Fighter Tool Supply, Inc.) DAVIS, RAYE JEAN 20119 Stuebner Airline Rd #4 Spring, TX 77379-5426

Email: rj@firefightertool.com

Phone: (281) 631-0588

н

Hall-Mark Fire Apparatus Texas LLC HOLMES, MARIA 601 Martin Duke Rd Van Alstyne, TX 75495 Phone: (713) 962-9708 Email: mholmes@hall-markfire.com

Ham's Trucks Plus, Inc. HAMILTON, DIANA 27207 State Highway 249 Tomball, TX 77375-6510 Phone: (281) 255-3090 Email: hamstrucksplus@sbcglobal.net

HMA Fire

CARROLL, BILL 1212 Fourier Dr Madison, WI 53717-1961 Phone: (608) 229-2759 Fmail: billc@hmafire.com

Hoyt Breathing Air Products HOYT, PETE PO Box 653 Quinlan TX 75474-0011 Phone: (903) 447-3385 Email: Ihoyt4033@aol.com

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2012 SFFMA SUSTAINING MEMBERS CONTINUED

I

IamResponding.com GLAZIER, MICHAEL PO Box 93 Syracuse, NY 13214-0093 Phone: (315) 701 - 1372 ext. 14 Email: mglazier@emergencysmc.com

Independent Insurance Agents

of Texas VANDELINDER, DAVID 1115 San Jacinto Ste 100 Austin, TX 78701-1994 Phone: (800) 880-7428 Email: dvand@iiat.org

Industrial Safety Training Council PHILP, JIM 324 N Memorial Fwy

Nederland, TX 77627-7150 Phone: (409) 833-2378 Email: jim@istc.net

Insurance Services Office, Inc. BRADLEY, PHILLIP 4030 W Braker Ln Ste 350 Austin, TX 78759-5353 Phone: (512) 440-9914 Email: pbradley@iso.com

Intermedix COGGINS, ERIN 6451 N Federal Hwy Ste 1000 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308-1424 Phone: (954) 308-8700 Email: erin.coggins@intermedix.com

J

Jacobs-Weber, Inc. HULL, PATRICK PO Box 67 Yoakum, TX 77995-0067 Phone: (361) 293-3557 Email: phull@jacobs-weber.com

John Wright Associates, Inc. WRIGHT, JOHN 1111 W Abram St Arlington, TX 76013-7324 Phone: (817) 459-2001

Jones and Bartlett Learning ROONEY, BRIAN 5 Wall St FI 3 Burlington, MA 01803-4700 Phone: (978) 579-8154 Email: brooney@jblearning.com

Κ

K-Con, Inc. REITMEIER, SKIP PO Box 70904 North Charleston, SC 29415-0904 Phone: (843) 745-0434 Email: skipr@kconinc.com

Kilgore College Fire Academy EARLY, MIKE 1100 Broadway Blvd Kilgore, TX 75662-3204 Phone: (903) 983-8662 Email: Iparrott@kilgore.edu Kimco Services, Inc. KIMMEL, ROY

103 Oyster Creek Dr # 3 Lake Jackson, TX 77566-4157 Phone: (979) 297-9246 Email: kimco@kimco-services.net

Knapheide Truck Company PIKE, TIM 398 N Interstate 35 Service Rd Red Oak, TX 75154-4248 Phone: (972) 617-3770 Email: tpike@knapheide.com

Knox Company HELLER, REBBECA 1601 W Deer Valley Rd Phoenix, AZ 85027-2112 Phone: (623) 687-2300 x 505 Email: cjones@knoxbox.com

L

LaQuinta Hotel Management CLINTON, SANDY 70 Mission Dr New Braunfels, TX 78130-6659 Phone: (512) 983-9945 Email: sandy.clinton@laquinta.com

LION HORN, JENNIFER 7200 Poe Ave Ste 400 Dayton, OH 45414-2547 Phone: (972) 223-5570 Email: cparkinson@lionprotects.com

Lone Star Emergency Vehicles STRONG, CORBIN PO Box 917 Midlothian, TX 76065-0917 Phone: (888) 791-7827 Email: corbin.strong@lonestarev.com

Μ

Marathon Fitness COOPER, CLINT 13823 N Promenade Blvd Stafford, TX 77477-3992 Phone: (281) 565-2307 Email: clint@marathonfitness.com

Masimo RAY, DAVID 105 Osiana Dr San Antonio, TX 78248-2808 Phone: (210) 380-9534 Email: dray@masimo.com

Medic-CE.com EZZEDDINE, RICHARD PO Box 540141 Houston, TX 77254-0141 Phone: (877) 458-9498 Email:mcesales@medic-ce.com

MES - Municipal Emergency Services ALLEN, BRENT 15865 International Plaza Dr Ste 240 Houston, TX 77032-2595 Phone: (281) 442-9190 Email: ballen@mesfire.com

Metro Fire Apparatus

Specialists, Inc. MINTON, JIM 10940 W Sam Houston Pkwy N Ste 325 Houston, TX 77064-5769 Phone: (281) 517-0911 Email: jminton@mfas.com

Micro-Blaze[®] Microbial Products (Verde Environmental, Inc.) FELLERS, WAYNE 9223 Eastex Fwy Houston, TX 77093-7001 Phone: (713) 691-6468 Email: wafellers@micro-blaze.com

Morton Buildings, Inc. MARCOTTE, SEAN 8840 FM 2920 Rd Spring, TX 77379-2201 Phone: (281) 374-0490 Email: sean.marcotte@mortonbuildings.com

Muscular Dystrophy Association BAKER, ED 12655 North Central Expressway Ste 235 Dallas, TX 75243-1707 Phone: (972) 669-3892 Email: ebaker@mdausa.org

Ν

National Fire Safety Council COOK, LINDA PO Box 378 Michigan Center, MI 49254-0378 Phone: (800) 255-1082

Neel Fire Protection Apparatus LEDNICKY, CLAY 1118 Interstate 35 N Waco, TX 76705-2834 Phone: (800) 433-3402 Email: neel@texnet.net

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Occucare Occupational & Mobile Medicine FOISIE, DANNY 5151 Katy Fwy Ste 170 Houston, TX 77007-2261 Phone: (713) 802-2261

Ρ

Plas-Mac, Inc. WILHELM, ROGER 3696 US Highway 83 Wellington, TX 79095-4817 Phone: (800) 687-0128

Powell & Leon LLP CLARK, ANDREW 1706 W 6th St Austin, TX 78703-4703 Phone: (512) 494-1177

Provident Insurance D'IPPOLITO, DAREN 272 Alpha Dr Pittsburgh, PA 15238-2934 Phone: (800) 447-0360 Email: ddippolito@providentbenefits.com

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Safety and Fire Education Training TITTEL, DEACON 400 Riverside St Highlands, TX 77562-2509 Phone: (281) 932-0891 Email: safet4u@gmail.com

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C.H. BORING - "A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND LOVE"

Clement Howard Boring, Jr. was born to C.H. Boring, Sr. and Aurelia Grace Tinsley Boring on February 3, 1919 in Rosenberg, Texas. He graduated from Rosenberg High School and attended Baylor University and Draughn's Business College. He operated Boring's Variety Store until his retirement in 1981.

He married and had five children, Nita, Reggie, Wayne, Diane, and Howie. Proudly he served in the United States Navy in World War II and saw combat in the Pacific on the Destroyer Escort USS *Daniel T. Griffin*, DE334 and APD38. As with all of "The Greatest Generation", service to his country forever changed his life.

He became the youngest fireman in the Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department in 1937 and worked up the ranks to become Fire Chief for over 25 years. He was proud to be a member of the Rosenberg Pumper Team from 1937 to 1981, which won the State Championship ten different years, second place at State twelve years and third place at the Championship 8 times a record which is still unbroken. The team

also won six State Fair Championships and the Seattle World's Fair Championship in 1962. While Chief of the Rosenberg Fire Department, he lived by the creed that he would never send his men into a situation he would not go into himself. He was ALWAYS proud that he never lost a man "on his watch."



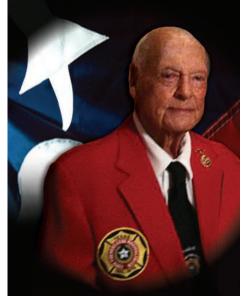
C.H. Boring - 1960 He was proud to be elected by the firemen of Texas as 4th Vice President of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association in

1956. He served on the Board for a total of five years, serving as President in 1961.

In 1975, he married the love of his life, Anne Boring and became father to Mike, John, Katheryn, and Liz. Retiring after 44 years in the Fire Department, he and Anne moved to Walden on Lake Conroe. They lived in Montgomery and spent many happy hours fishing and enjoying the lake and each other.

In 1998, C.H. and Anne "retired" from retirement to their beloved Honolulu, Hawaii, where they spent the last 14 years. As a member of Waikiki Baptist Church, he served on the council and as a Greeter. He was an inspiration and a friend to all.

He loved being Rosenberg's first Fire Chief Emeritus and being one of the "Grand Old Men" as a Past President of the SFFMA of Texas. He enjoyed sitting on the lanai, 23 floors above the Honolulu Fire Department at Waikiki, watching the trucks answer calls. He dearly loved his precious wife, family, Firefighter family, friends and Navy buddies. Most of all he loved the Lord and is rejoicing now in the presence of his Saviour.



C.H. Boring - 2011

On December 16, 2011 C.H. left his earthly body in Honolulu, Hawaii to make his joyful entrance into Heaven to spend eternity with his Heavenly Father and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

January 24, 2012 a Celebration of Life Service was held at Waikiki Baptist Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, officiated by Pastor Andrew Large. Special music was peformed by Roy Akau, Tim Byam while Marilyn Miller and Suzanne Large danced special hulas. Pastor Stephen Ventura offered prayer and Brian Akahoshi delivered the eulogy in the service.

A Texas Celebration of Life Service for C.H. Boring, Jr. was held June 2, 2012 at the First Assembly of God Church in Rosenberg. The service was officiated by his son, Wayne Boring, with messages from Pastor Andrew Large of Waikiki Baptist Church, Pastor Juan Acosta of Austin, Texas, Pastor Deborah Prihoda of First Assembly of God Church of Rosenberg, and Dr. Keith Thomas of Cornerstone Baptist Church in The Woodlands. Honor Guard members were George Velasquez, Sr., Joe Hollingsworth, Charles Lindemann, Rick Todish, Rusell Todish, Allen Scopel, Pastor Deborah Prihoda, Gerald Matheaus, Floyd Engle, Kenneth Bezecny, Carl Tullos, Roy Mercer and Greg Mensik. Honorary Honor Guard was all former & current firefighters, law enforcement & EMS. He was escorted to the cemetery by a motorcade of the Patriot Guard.

June 8, 2012 C.H. was honored at the Memorial Service at the SFFMA State Convention in Houston. He always loved to look at the signatures of all the Past Presidents and it was difficult for his family seeing the gold star next to his signature this year signifying that he now resides in heaven.

On August 22, 2012, C.H. left Honolulu, Hawaii for the last time aboard the U.S. Navy Guided Missile Destroyer, USS Chafee DDG90, for a burial at sea with full military honors. During his service in the U.S. Navy, C.H. was proud to serve on a Destroyer Escort. It is fitting that his last voyage on a Navy ship he was the one being escorted.

The family of C.H. Boring, Jr. would like to thank the entire State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas and especially the Rosenberg Fire Department for all of the prayers, love and support you have given us as we adjust to life without this precious man. You will forever be part of the Boring Family and we love and appreciate each of you and pray God's blessings for you. ■



C.H. Boring's family was honored at the 2012 SFFMA Conference in Houston



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PARTNERSHIP WITH NVFC



Hello All,

I want to thank all of the SFFMA Districts, Associations, Staff, Executive Board, and my Fire Department for making my year as President such a memorable experience. To top it all off being presented with the unbelievable

amount recognition plaques and gifts from each of you. All I can say is thank you again, and that I will always cherish the time I have spent serving you in every capacity that I have, and that I will continue to serve you during the many years to come.

Rex W. Klesel

SFFMA Immediate Past President



I would like to thank the membership of the SFFMA for electing me your 4th Vice President. I had a wonderful time traveling around to the districts, meeting each and every one of you. I cannot thank Richard and Harvie enough. this was one the cleanest campaigns I have

ever witnessed. My family and I had a great time traveling the state with both of these fine families.

I will continue to provide myself to the organization to assist in any manner possible. I hope to be one of the best presidents this association has ever had, and I have a lot of work to get there. I just want to say thank you to the membership for having the faith in me to provide the leadership for which you have elected me.

Henry Perry

SFFMA - 4th Vice President



I would like to thank everyone for electing me as SFFMA State Mascot. I appreciate your confidence in me. I am looking forward to serving SFFMA and raising lots of money for MDA. I plan on attending as many District and State meetings as

possible, so have your change ready for MDA.

Thanks again, Blake Locknane State Mascot 2012-2013



SFFMA Members: Join the NVFC for Just \$15

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has partnered with the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA) to offer huge savings to Texas' first responders. Members of SFFMA can join the NVFC for the extra low rate of just \$15 per year! That's half off the normal cost of Individual Membership.

As a member of the NVFC, you will enjoy a variety of exciting benefits you can use all year long.

• Stay Informed with the Dispatch newsletter and E-updates.

Protect your Loved Ones

- o Receive a \$10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy through Provident Agency.
- o Keep your finances in order with eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union. o Access the Member Assistance Program through Treatment Solutions, which

provides a toll-free, confidential hotline for immediate assistance with issues such as addiction, stress, and more.

o Individual Members in eligible states can get auto and home insurance through California Casualty.

Expand your Knowledge

- o Take NVFC training on topics such as grant-writing, recruitment and retention, and health and safety.
- o Achieve your educational goals with discounted admission and waived application free from Columbia Southern University, which offers online fire science degrees. Competitive scholarship opportunities are also open to NVFC members. o Receive complimentary copies of NVFC resources and manuals.

Access Resources

- o Find tools and sample documents to help you with grant-writing, recruitment and retention, and more on the members-only section of the NVFC web site.
- o Junior members can earn incentive rewards for hours of volunteer service.

Support the Voice of the Volunteer

- o Display your personalized membership card and car decal with pride.
- o Utilize NVFC programs including the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, Fire Corps, and National Junior Firefighter Program.

• Enjoy Fantastic Discounts through partners including:

- o Various products from MSA through Volunteer Incentive Pricing, plus low-interest financing available through FASNY Federal Credit Union
- o Background checks from IntelliCorp to screen fire department applicants
- o Registration to tradeshows through Firehouse Events
- o Entertainment, tickets, travel, and shopping though Working Advantage

By joining the NVFC, you receive all of these great benefits while furthering the work of the NVFC. Your support enables the NVFC to continue providing the advocacy, resources, information, and tools vital to the fire and emergency services.

Join the NVFC as part of your SFFMA membership renewal process to take advantage of this huge discount. Departments can consider getting an NVFC membership for all of their members to provide extra benefits and incentives as part of their recruitment and retention efforts.

Contact SFFMA with any questions about how to join through this special offer. Learn more about the NVFC at www.nvfc.org or call 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832).

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- Graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program
- Graduate of the TEEX Texas A&M University Fire Service Chief Executive Officer Program
- Graduate with AAS Degree from Navarro College Corsicana, TX. in Fire Safety Administration and Criminal Justice
- 37 Professional Certifications held through SFFMA, TCFP, TCLEOSE, IFSAC and TDHS
- 7 Certifications held are at the Master Level
- Current Deputy Chief and Fire Marshal for Madisonville, TX. Volunteer Fire Department
- Current Madison County Fire Marshal (Volunteer)
- Current Annual Schools Training Manager for the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

Follow me on: Harvie Cheshire @Harvie4VP harviecheshire@yahoo.com

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RECRUITMENT, A NEW APPROACH

Volunteer fire departments all over the state of Texas have one thing in common; recruitment. New Deal Fire/ EMS has a program that could aid that problem. Fire Chief Randy Teeter implemented a Junior Firefighter Program within his department. The program began in 2008 and has become a great success.

Chief Teeter, along with appointed supervisors Jeff Deslaurier and Amber Thomas, set out on a journey with our community's young people, ages 13-17. The idea for this program is to get the kids involved not only in our community, but in fire service. Hopefully during their time in the program, we are able to retain some of the kids to move forward to volunteer firefighters or EMTs. Occasionally, we have a junior firefighter who recruits a parent. In this case, the department gains a new member and the junior firefighter and his or her parent can train together.

This program operates just as the department with its own standard operating guidelines and procedures. Over time the supervisory role has changed to Chief Teeter and Firefighter Chris Bruce. Since the appointment of Chris Bruce, he and Chief Teeter have implemented many new ideas and changes. The program guidelines concentrate on areas such as school grades, respect, morals, and citizenship. These young people are now gaining a real knowledge of fire service as a whole. The Junior Firefighter Program has their own meetings, during which they decide on community projects, charities, and schedule their own training. The kids also participate in the department's regular business meetings, fundraising activities, and most other aspects of our department.



They are now allowed to train in most areas alongside the senior firefighters, and gain training toward their Level M1

Certification. The main areas that they are not allowed to participate in are live fire and ladders, and this of course will be available in future training.



The members of our program attend the Lubbock Area Fire Conference each year, with mandatory training classes in HAZMAT and CPR/AED. Most of their specialized training is conducted by Chris Bruce, who holds a Level M2 Firefighter Certification and Instructor I Certification.

Chief Teeter's program allows these young people a chance to be a part of live fire scenes. The parents of the kids have the opportunity to sign a permission slip which enables their son or daughter to respond in the truck to a scene. So if there is any empty seat it can be filled by a Junior Firefighter, but they are not allowed to cross the fire line. While behind the line, junior firefighters put their training to use by changing and assisting in filling of air bottles, firefighter rehab, retrieving loose equipment, pulling and rolling hose, and assisting with water supply efforts.

The department is very proud of these kids and the effort and knowledge they show. We have been asked many times by other departments after a fire call, "Who are those kids? They do a great job." Randy and Chris' reply is "These young men and women are members of our Junior Firefighter Program and we are training them for the future." It makes us very proud to discuss our program with other departments, and we are always available to answer questions pertaining to the start up and maintenance of this type of program.

Throughout the school year we offer an internship in conjunction with New Deal High School. This internship allows the Junior Firefighters who are seniors to choose an area of fire service and create a project from it. The project is then displayed at the High School Awards Banquet, during which time we are given the opportunity to announce our scholarship recipients. The community involvement has been a large part of our program. Each summer the program members, along with Chris Bruce, assist with the city-wide cleanup in our community. Chris and his kids, as he generally refers to them, use a truck and trailer and move their way throughout the community to assist the elderly and shut-ins collecting unwanted items and transport them to the drop-off site. It is a very hot and exhausting day, but the kids gain a good feeling assisting their community.

In the summer of 2010, Chris and his kids assisted a neighbor with cleaning up his property, since he was physically unable. They worked approximately 9 hrs that day, but were rewarded with soft drinks and lunch, and had smiles on their faces knowing they helped someone in need. The area of community involvement is something that Chris emphasizes to all members of his program. Always be proud of the community you live in; your involvement can make it a better place.



The year of 2011 was a very exciting time for the program as we inducted 2 honorary members. The first member being Sensei Sekiguchi Takaaki, who is a true samurai from Japan. We were honored with his visit and interest in our program. The Junior Firefighters demonstrated different aspects which they had learned and also assisted Sensei in donning turnout gear along with an air pack. This was a memorable day for them. The second honorary member was a 13-year-old young man from our community. This young man had a lot of interest in the program, but unfortunately had been diagnosed with leukemia and was unable to be a full member. A fundraiser was held by the program to assist with medical expenses. These honorary memberships were decided upon by Chris and the members of the program.

During the summer of 2012, Chris and the Junior Firefighter Program competed in the Panhandle Firefighters Association Challenge in Amarillo, Texas. We placed 3 teams in the hose relay event and placed 4th, and one team place 6th in the adult bucket brigade. This was a great stepping stone for these young people as this was their first competition.

Chris was extremely proud of his teams and the showing that was made. He teaches that it is not what place you get, it's whether you put forth your best effort and work as a team. We look forward to future competitions.

Since 2008, The New Deal Fire/EMS Junior Firefighter Program has promoted 3 young men to full membership within our department. These young men are Ignacio Gonzales, Tyler Johnson, and Mark Blanco. Johnson is currently enrolled in the Wolfforth Fire Academy to become a professional firefighter. Mark Blanco successfully passed the EMT-B class at the age of 17. The class was taught by Chief Teeter EMT-P. Blanco now has his state and national certifications, and is currently enrolled in the Paramedic Program.

Chris takes pride not only in New Deal Fire/ EMS, but fire service as a whole. He is very proud of the Junior Firefighter Program, each and every member, Chris's two daughters are active junior firefighters and his wife serves as a Paramedic on the department. Chris, along with the assistance of other firefighters, spends numerous hours in program development, classroom instruction, and hands on training with the young men and women that make up his program. You can obtain information or contact Chris about our Junior Firefighter Program from our website www.newdealfiredept.org. The young people of our community are our future, and we are very fortunate to have this program in place.



Members of the Junior Firefighter Program working with their new mascot Blaze

N MEMORY OF THE 343 FALLEN FIREMEN WHO GAVE THEIR ALL ON 09/11/01

BROTHERS

By Roy Adams - Retired Firefighter

On that fateful day, You pulled your trucks from the bay, You answered the call, You rushed to the scene, You were all so brave, Even if afraid, You knew your task well, You would not fail.

You arrive at the scene, You split into teams, You are ordered upstairs to look for folks there, You put on your gear and go with no fear, You were trained for this task, One you thought would never come to pass, After all we are in Americe The Land Of The Free.

> You'll never be forgotten and always be America's Heroes. America's prayers shall always be with your families.

LEST WE FORGET!!

BRUCEPOLDAN BURNON

TEXAS FIRE FACILITIES FUND CELEBRATES SIX YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 2006, the SFFMA created the Texas Fire Facilities Fund (the "Fund") 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 Fund, 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 financing at higher costs as a result of not taking advantage of the specific financing structures designed for the unique needs of the fire services industry. Even today, the traditional financing sources don't offer the flexibility and customized financing solutions many in the industry need. The SFFMA's Fund 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 Fund makes a donation to the SFFMA Fire Programs Institute/J. C. Swadley, Jr. Fund for each completed transaction.

Since its inception in 2006, the Texas Fire Facilities Fund has assisted many SFFMA members with approximately \$40 million in real estate and equipment financing transactions. In addition, the SFFMA and the J.C. Swadley, Jr. Fund have received approximately \$40,000 in support payments from the Fund.

INTEREST RATES ARE AT LOWEST LEVELS IN RECENT YEARS

As you may already realize, interest rates are at an all time low. No one knows how long they will remain at these levels, but most economists are saying rates will begin to move upward along with inflation as early as 2013. With that in mind, today is a very good time to review all existing financing on facilities, as well as, equipment purchased within the past five years. Many transactions which were financed under commercial terms with rates as high as 5%, can now be refinanced at tax-exempt rates. In some recent cases, the interest rate on the refinanced loan has been reduced by 50% as compared with the originally contracted finance rates.

Because of the current favorable market conditions, this is also a good time to review the need for new facilities and much needed renovation of existing facilities. Whether it's finding a way to affordably finance new stations, or refinance existing debt, the Texas Fire Facilities Fund is an SFFMA member benefit you should seriously consider. Other program benefits that are also available at no cost to you include:



Preservation of tax exempt status

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Use of time-saving documents approved for use state-wide

References to architects and other professionals utilized on similar projects in your area

The SFFMA Fire Facilities Fund was formed 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 Fund, today's interest rate environment may be just the reason to do so.

Contributed by the Texas Fire Facilities Fund Team







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RECENT LEGISLATION

According to information published by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP):

"As of September 1, 2011, anyone performing code enforcement must be a TCFP certified inspector. This new requirement does not include those performing pre-fire planning, but does include those performing code inspection and enforcement tasks. This is a change that will impact all departments and fire marshal offices in the state..."

According to the author of HB 3866 (80R) statement of intent:

"Many state agencies and local governments ... require licensed facilities or regulated entities to undergo periodic fire safety inspections. However, most directives do not specify who can perform these inspections and to what standard they are to be inspected. As a result, many facility operators contract with inspectors who have no specific training or expertise in the fire safety inspection process, and often there is no written standard to guide the property owner or the inspector. Consequently, the agency, the business owner, and the building occupants do not get what was intended or paid for, and the results can be devastating."

As a result of this legislation, firefighters that are not TCFP-certified inspectors, career and volunteer alike, are no longer able to perform periodic fire and life safety inspections. This includes those certified by SFFMA as Fire Protection Specialists. In some parts of the State, this has had the effect of limiting all inspections to those performed by the State Fire Marshal's Office or other State agency.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION ON RESERVE ARSON/ FIRE INVESTIGATOR

April 20, 2009 the Attorney General's office rendered Opinion Number GA-7079. Although the opinion is specific to county attorneys; the interpretation holds for all reserve officers other than reserves of the county sheriff, constables, municipal police forces, and navigation district volunteer police.

Since fire marshals are not included in this list, the opinion (which has been

supported by TCLEOSE), is that fire marshal offices cannot have reserve ARSON investigators (note emphasis on ARSON -- non-paid Origin and Cause investigators and fire inspectors are OK as long as they are not commissioned peace officers.)

Some county attorneys may be interpreting the opinion differently. The Fire Marshal's Committee recommends that you check with your agency's attorney for specific advice and recommendations.

NEW CERTIFICATIONS COMING SOON

The Fire Marshal's Committee and the Certification board are in the final stages of putting together the new Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II and Plans Examiner certifications. These certifications follow requirements of NFPA 1031 *"Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner"*, with an effective date of January 1, 2013. The intent of the change is to align the SFFMA Inspector certification requirements with those of NFPA and the TCFP.

To complete this certification the candidate will be required to pass a written exam and complete appropriate skill sheets.

The skill sheets will need to be signed off by someone with the SFFMA Fire Inspector

Certification and have SFFMA Instructor I.

Keep in mind that this information is subject to change until finalized.

Editor note: Certification now available effective 07/2012.

ALMOST FREE EDUCATION

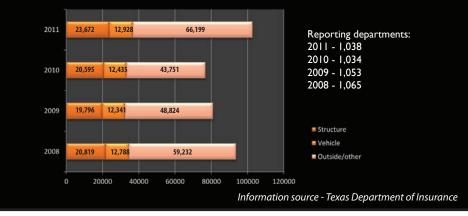
I have been asked several times, "I am a volunteer so why should I get an accredited certification?".

The best reason is to get a significantly reduced cost on a college education. In 2010 the SFFMA of Texas worked with the 82nd Legislative Session to get HB 1163 passed. This bill states if you are a SFFMA Accredited Fire Fighter II and have been an active member of an organized volunteer fire department in Texas for more than a year, you might be able to get a college level credit towards an Associates or Bachelors of Fire Science degree. Per this bill all tuition costs are exempt for "Fire Science" courses. I recommend that you read HB 1163 for further information. The student will have to pay fees, books and other incidentals that are not considered tuition.

I recommend that you also check with the local community college or one of the four year colleges that offer fire science degrees.

FIRES IN TEXAS

In 2011, fire departments reported a total of 102,799 fires, an increase of 26,018 (34%), including 23,672 structure fires, an increase of 3,077 (15%); 12,928 vehicle fires, an increase of 473 (.04%); and 66,199 outside or other types of fires, an increase of 22,448 (51%) from 2010. 2011 total structure fires resulted in 681 civilian injuries, 122 civilian deaths, 481 fire service injuries, 1 fire service death and an estimated \$472,027,609 in property loss.



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2012 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



BEST IN SHOW

By Xavier J. Garcia

April 27, 2012 - 18-wheeler cab caught fire and spread. HWY 37 north MM 106, Pleasanton VFD - Atascosa County

FIRE RELATED ACTS



1st Place - Lauralee Veitch

LIFE SAVING ACTS



1st Place - Charles Krampota Alvin FD

EDUCATION AND FIRE SAFETY



1st Place - Debbie Conard



2nd Place - Jim Hanson Ovilla FD



2nd Place - Jim Hanson Ovilla FD



2nd Place - Debbie Conard



3rd Place - Jim Hanson Ovilla FD



3rd Place - Charles Krampota Alvin FD



3rd Place - Steven Knadle Canyon FD

2012 CONFERENCE PHOTOS



More conference photos can be found at http://www.sffma.org/gallery under 2012 136th Training Conference and Convention.

PROTECTING HOMES FROM WILDFIRE



COMMUNITY RALLIES TO PROTECT HOMES FROM WILDFIRE

Walker County, Texas Wildfires swept across Texas in 2011, burning nearly 4 million acres. News reports showed communities where hundreds of homes were destroyed. But the story most Texans didn't hear was that more than 39,000 homes were saved – able to survive a wildfire, often without the benefit of firefighting resources. The reality that many residents face unknowingly is that, under extreme conditions, there just aren't enough resources to protect every home. Allocating resources and determining when to evacuate a neighborhood in the face of a dangerous and costly wildfire can place a tremendous burden on emergency management personnel. Sometimes the toughest call is deciding which homes can be saved. But a little planning can go a long way to protect a community before disaster strikes. That's the philosophy embraced by the leadership of Walker County, Texas.

CRAFTING A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

In 2005, Walker County leaders met with Justice Jones, Wildland Urban Interface and Prevention Coordinator for Texas Forest Service. Their mission was to identify wildfire risks, create mitigation strategies and devise a plan that would empower residents to protect their homes and property.

"It sounded like a lot of work," said John Hobbs, Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Huntsville. "But we believed in it. We worked really well together. To make it work, you have to get a partner. Texas Forest Service knows how to get people motivated and educated. And really, it's for the safety of your own home. It's protecting your home, your community." Walker County Emergency Management Coordinator Butch Davis agreed that preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan seemed daunting, but was made easier by the guidance of partnering agencies.

"Many hands make light loads," Davis said. "Together we can do tremendous amounts."

The community leaders who met back

in 2005 became a working group that created the first countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan in Texas. The group, still intact with its original members, determines when the plan needs to be updated and ensures the identified risks are being mitigated. During the planning process, the group identified its high-risk areas and began mitigating, even before the plan was finished. They were committed to prioritizing efforts regardless of demographics, assigning the first project - a shaded fuel break - to protect a historically-underserved community. Texas Forest Service Director Tom Boggus said Walker County's diverse stakeholder group showed a strong sense of pride in the community as a whole, and fostered a sense of teamwork among the residents.



Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and Texas Forest Service joined Walker County and Huntsville officials to celebrate the Elkins Lake community's Firewise designation on May 19, 2012.

"What a great example of Texans helping Texans," Boggus said. "Walker County came together and showed what can be done when we all work toward a common goal – protecting the people and property in their community. They've accomplished so much in a very short amount of time. The bar is set high for the rest of our state." After Walker County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan was complete and approved by all the necessary entities, the group set out to protect other communities at risk. That included the Elkins Lake subdivision, situated in the Sam Houston National Forest.

SECURING FUNDS

Walker County, with technical assistance from Texas Forest Service's Wildland Urban Interface staff, applied for and received the first grant for wildfire hazard mitigation in the state's history. They used the funds to clear 200 feet of "defensible space" around the perimeter of Elkins Lake.



Vegetation was thinned around this Elkins Lake home to reduce the probability of wildfire spreading through the forest and damaging the home.

"They cracked the code, so to speak, for other communities to tap into this important funding source and follow suit," said Texas Forest Service's Justice Jones.

The U.S. Forest Service worked to ensure that out of 13 southern states vying for funding, the Elkins Lake project was deemed top priority. Because the community is surrounded by U.S. Forest Service and private lands, it took a joint effort to implement the fuels reduction project.

"Due to the number of homes and families in Elkins Lake, fuel mitigation is important to reduce their risk," said Jordan Beakley, a fuels and prevention specialist with the U.S. Forest Service. "We felt this project would be extremely beneficial."

EMPOWERING RESIDENTS

Throughout the process of developing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and laboring to make neighborhoods safer from wildfire, the working group employed another prong to their strategy: empowering homeowners.



Texas Forest Service assists with a fuel mitigation project on a Firewise community cleanup day.

They did that by sharing the Ready, Set, Go! program every chance they got. It worked. The residents understood that fire officials weren't trying to encroach on their property or take away their trees, but wanted to take strategic action to protect their homes from wildfire. And the residents wanted to protect their homes, too. The Elkins Lake community pooled \$15,000 to go toward mulching and fuels reduction.



A shaded fuel break is created when trees in a forested area are thinned and pruned, creating a break in vegetation but retaining some crown canopy. A fuel break can reduce fire risks and rates of spread.

"A healthy forest is a fire-resilient forest," Jones said. "Cutting down all the trees won't solve problems. What we strive for is awareness and empowerment. In Walker County, the community has backed our mitigation and prevention strategies. They believe in this. That's the real success story. No one asked them to invest \$15,000."

That amount of money - \$15,000 – is half the price tag to fly a heavy air tanker over a wildfire for one hour.

"In the history of East Texas, we never saw losses like we did last year," Jones pointed out. "You can't afford not to mitigate."

Assistant Chief Hobbs noted that making the residents a partner in the wildfire protection planning process is also key to ensuring their safety.

"We need them to understand the importance of evacuation," he said. "Wildfires in this environment produce massive amounts of heat and embers. Until we started doing this research, we didn't know what the possibilities were. That's why I'm out there doing Ready, Set, Go! programs. If I can get one person to mitigate the risk to their home or develop an evacuation plan, I've earned my salary. In Elkins Lake, we've won over way more than one person. They've done their homework, and that might be what keeps me off CNN News." In May 2012, Elkins Lake earned its Firewise Communities designation another first for Walker County.

Butch Davis, the county's Emergency

Management Coordinator, said the Community Wildfire Protection Plan has made great strides toward showing elected officials where the threats are and what can be done to mitigate hazards. Walker County Judge Danny Pierce and the Commissioners Court, along with the Huntsville City Council, have shown tremendous support of the group's efforts, Davis said. The Huntsville Public Works Department has even committed to mowing 85 miles worth of fire breaks around the city.

"When you've got as many risks as we do, this is time well spent," Davis said. "If we don't save but one life, it was worth every hour devoted to this project."



The Midway/Cowboy Church Fire burned 2,412 acres of Walker County land in June 2011.

PUTTING THE PLAN TO THE TEST

Like most of the Lone Star State, the Walker County region saw significant fire activity in 2011.

That same month, the Dyer Mill Fire in nearby Grimes County burned 5,280 acres and destroyed 30 homes. In September, the Riley Road Fire in Grimes, Montgomery and Waller counties destroyed almost 19,000 acres and 73 homes.

"Right after Riley Road, everybody got on board," Jones said. "I love seeing these citizens getting together, getting out there and cleaning up their yards. We're not doing it for them. This community is empowered to protect their homes and to spread the message that you can help prevent wildfires. It's a credit to the CWPP working group that they were planning for what could happen long before it did happen. That takes commitment and vision." Huntsville Fire Chief Tom Grisham said the Community Wildfire Protection Plan has helped officials guide and prioritize wildfire risk mitigation efforts. "I'm very proud of our community," he

said. "We work very well together. Our CWPP was the tool that got us heading in the right direction. The plan works, but it takes a commitment from all involved."







READY, SET, GO! is a national program designed for fire departments to teach residents how to prepare their homes and families for the threat of wildfire, understand current conditions and evacuate early when necessary.



SFFMA PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP



SFFMA PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND TRAINING IN SOUTH AMERICA

SFFMA International Committee is engaging in an aggressive campaign to gain more members from countries outside the United States and promote the services and events that we offer as an Association.



Lt. Ian R. Moscoso from Cloverleaf Volunteer Fire Department and Chairman of the International Committee visited some of those countries as part of this campaign, provided training

and spoke about the benefits to be part of the SFFMA International.

On March 24, 2012, at the Venezuelan Science Investigation Institute, located in the City of Los Teques, Miranda, Lt. Moscoso made a presentation relating to ICS in the Fire Services and Safety during Fire Operation. This presentation was based on ICS 100, promoting safety procedures and best practices during fire operations. Officers from Colonels, Chiefs, Captain, Lieutenants and firefighters were present during the class. Another topic covered was hazardous materials in emergencies and the safety consideration for the first who arrive on scene.



After the class, the group visited the Miranda Fire Department Headquarters and saw the new engines and hazardous material unit on service at that location. Miranda Fire Department has one of the busiest roads in the country where car tank truck with gasolines, diesel and other chemical move in both directions. The Chief of the Fire Department, Colonel Javier Miranda, thanks SFFMA for the opportunity to share and update valuable information with their members to improve and do their service safely.



In Colombia, City of Bucaramanga, which is 6 hours from Bogota the capital of Colombia, the local fire department organized an ICS 100 class to promote the incident command system as we use here in the US, with 30 participants attending this presentation. Lt. Moscoso explained the benefits of ICS, the way it can be applied in the fire service or in various environments, and the importance of fire officers delegating responsibilities based on objectives.

In Panama, City of Panama, Lt. Moscoso was invited to be part of the preparation meetings between different agencies that are part of the PANAMAX exercise sponsored by the United States Coast Guard at the Panama National Coordination Center, a building inside the Presidential Ministries complex.

The goal of the meeting was to prepare the local responders and different agencies in case of a terrorist attack or chemical emergency in the Panama Canal or vicinity. During that presentation Lt. Moscoso explain about ICS interface with the EOC.

After that presentation he took part in a special meeting with the National Director of the Panama Fire Department, Colonel Pablo Tuñon, some of the officers, and members of the Panama Fire Department board. At this time Lt. Moscoso explained membership benefits and how SFFMA can be a strategic partner with the Panama Fire Department in order to not only share, but promote training programs according to the SFFMA Certification Program curriculum. This was well received from the National Director and members of his board and we hope to hear from them soon.



A great big "thank you" goes out to Lt. Moscoso, for assisting SFFMA in its marketing and recruitment efforts during his travels. It's important to note that these efforts by members of the International Committee are making SFFMA an internationally recognized organization, which we are very proud to represent and be a part of.

A "last but not least" important event was the Safety Officer in the Fire Service class provided to Captains and Lieutenants of the Panama Fire Department that took place at their headquarters. 40 officers participated in that training and it was extremely useful for them to understand the importance of safety during fire operations.

With all these activities during April 2012 and August 2012 the International Committee of the SFFMA with the constant support of our liaison Diana Cardona and Executive Director Chris Barron are moving forward to promote SFFMA outside the United States of America.



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AN ADDRESS SHOP FOR EVERY MEMBER DEPARTMENT



Every emergency responder knows well the importance of a clear, visible address when responding to calls, especially during night time hours. Most cities and towns have ordinances that require addresses, but in many cases residences remain poorly addressed. There are numerous options available at hardware stores, but few provide the high reflectivity and consistent visibility necessary to be easily seen.

Now thanks to The Address Shop (SFFMA sponsor/partner), SFFMA member departments all have their own online address shop to offer residents in their community the opportunity to purchase highly reflective, durable addressing products online while also creating revenue for the department.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Address Shop (www. theaddressshop.com) has created a unique coupon code for every member department. All departments should have received their code via email. In most cases the code is the name of the fire department, such as VanVleckFD. All the department needs to do is make their residents aware of The Address Shop website and products and the importance of clearly marked addresses to their safety, and the coupon code.

Products are available that cover the addressing needs of virtually every type of property, all using highly reflective or "glow in the dark" aluminum plates.



A special line of products are available for more rural or unincorporated areas. Sharp graphics such as the American or Texas Flag and many others are available on all products.



The Address Shop will provide marketing materials for the department such as custom emails and custom templates for printed materials such as flyers and water bill stuffers to help get the word out.



A link to The Address Shop will be provided for use on the department website as well. Residents place orders online and enter the coupon code. Address marker products are shipped directly to the resident. Quarterly reports will be provided to each department along with 20% of the sales proceeds from orders utilizing their coupon code.

FREE UPGRADE CUSTOM SHOP

Many communities, particularly those towns with one high school have a graphic such as a school mascot that residents of the town would be proud to display on their address marker. The Address Shop will create for the department a custom shop of products utilizing that graphic. Residents may purchase either stock graphic products or the custom graphic. This is a great way to build community unity and pride.



To see an example of this type of custom shop, visit www. theaddressshop.com. Click on Custom Fire Department Shops.

INDIVIDUAL SFFMA ADDRESS MARKER ORDERS

As an individual member of the SFFMA, you can purchase address markers from The Address Shop. Enter the code SFFMA during the checkout process and you will receive a 15% discount on your order. Markers make great Christmas and housewarming gifts as well.

If you haven't received your department coupon code or have any other questions or thoughts, please contact Jim Reeder at *info@theaddressshop.com*





2012 - 2013 SFFMA COMMITTEE LISTINGS

for the latest and most updated committee rosters visit www.sffma.org

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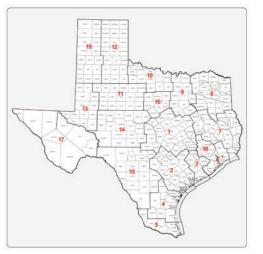
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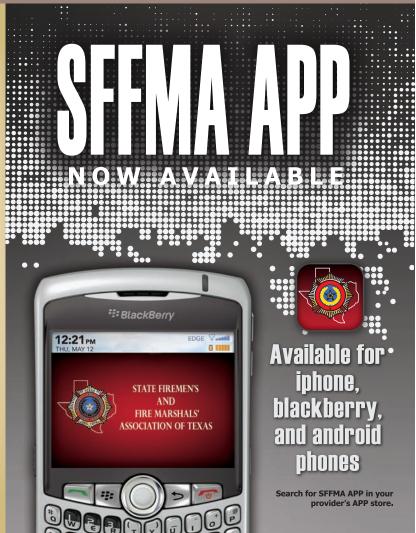
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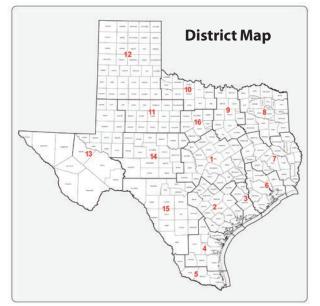
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TIRE SAFETY

By Roy C. Mercer Director of Training, Education and Safety VFIS of Texas

Tire safety is a serious concern among public safety personnel. As tires age the rubber breaks down, making the tire susceptible to destruction. The tire industry recognizes 6 years as an important timeline for tire aging. Although some tires are manufactured with anti-aging materials and will look new with good treads, the tires will be over-aged and the tire may come apart while driving the vehicle down the road. The British Rubber Manufacturers' Association, several European vehicle manufacturers, and some American vehicle manufacturers are concerned about tire aging.

How do I tell how old my fire truck tires are? By law, every tire has to have a DOT serial number. The last four digits of the serial number will give you the age of the tire.

An example:



Courtesy of the Rosenberg Fire Department

DOT B6DF HBTX (2511

- 25 Manufactured during the 25th week of the year
- 11 Manufactured during 2011

Tire safety is more than just aging of the tires; the proper inflation and rotation should be maintained. Consult your tire manufacturer's manual on the proper maintenance of your tires.

Look at your station apparatus. Do you have trailers and fire apparatus just sitting in the bay or outside of your station, are the tires dates inspected? Find a spot on your maintenance logs and place the tire dates in the log.

Remember, everyone comes home safe!

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The first responder community in Texas has a long-standing tradition of excellent service to its citizens. TDEM would like to thank you for everything you do as first responders to the citizens of the State of Texas. Your service is greatly appreciated.

A large part of a responder's role is focused on continually refining capabilities, improving programs, and becoming more effective in response. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) supports and administers programs to facilitate these response activities across the state. Some of these programs include coordination of the reimbursement process for Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) and Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs), providing guidance for issues such as mutual aid agreements and facilitating the First Responders



Advisory Council (FRAC). The Fire Departments and the Firefighters of Texas are crucial members to our success. TDEM and the State of Texas value your time, energy, and hard work to the success of all our programs.

WILDFIRE REIMBURSEMENTS

The 2011 wildfire season was devastating. Two federal disaster declarations and over 50 FMAGs were issued by year end. TDEM processed TIFMAS requests totaling over \$8 million and continues to work on reimbursements for response to these wildfires. Following an extremely busy year, TDEM, with statewide assistance, is working to streamline the reimbursement process to create a better, simplified, reimbursement system.

In July of this year, representatives from several state agencies met to create a reimbursement package that is standardized across jurisdictions, agencies and organizations. Participants discussed existing forms, reviewed FEMA requirements and shared best practices. This standardized package includes all of the reimbursement forms needed to apply for funding as well as clearly outlining the documentation needed to backup required reimbursement forms. This will create a universal system and reduce needed documentation. Several state agencies have been asked to adopt this improved state reimbursement package.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

There are often questions regarding the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and local mutual aid agreements. Statewide Mutual Aid is currently in place. If the agreement is oral, a written agreement should be implemented before reimbursement. If a local mutual aid agreement is in place, the reimbursement process must be consistent and follow agreement requirements as FEMA requires strong documentation. For further guidance please refer to http:// www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/SOTWDocs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm Subchapter E-1.

FIRST RESPONDER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (FRAC) UPDATE

FRAC is currently developing a statewide credentialing program. As a subcommittee of FRAC, the Statewide Credentialing Committee has met several times in 2012 to create a state identification card for responders that will include the components of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) credentialing program. Numerous state licensing agencies have been involved in the process. The committee is currently pursuing funding to conduct a pilot study.

Effective emergency response is based on relationships. Creation of a cohesive process of supporting responders and jurisdictions is one of TDEM's prime objectives. TDEM partnership with these response agencies is a key factor that makes Texas a leader in response.

For more information please visit our Website at: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ index.htm or contact your local District Coordinator: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/ dem/FieldResponse/DistCoordMap.pdf.

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First off, I want to say a big "Thank You" to the firefighters who put their lives on the line each day as they go into burning buildings and rescue those who can't get out!

Being raised in the fire department, I have a huge respect for them!! At this time, if any of our firefighters

have left the state to go to Louisiana or Mississippi to help, I applaude you and say "thanks for going"!!

I want to thank those who helped out during the A&M Golf Tournament, I hear we had a great turn out!! Also, a big thanks for everyone who helped out at Casino Night during Fire School!! That money will be used to help offset cost for the upcoming Convention!!

The TFA held their fall meeting on Sept 15, 2012 in Waco, Texas. I am trying to keep it centrally located so no one has to travel very far!! Items discussed were adding the Computer Bundle to our Standing Rules, Pumper races, and seeing if the ladies want to become members of the SFFMA so we can benefit from the benefits available to us!! If any lady wants to, she can join SFFMA and pay her dues and she will get all the benefits that the firefighters get!

I am keeping the community service project going that Immediate Past President Donna Chudalla started, but concentrating on the kids this time. If any of you have anything that can be donated to any burn center, any children's hospital, or a Ronald McDonald house, or cancer treatment place, please feel free to send that stuff directly to them!!

Just a reminder that the Planning Conference is in early January this year!! Hope to see lots of you there at the Annual SFFMA Training Conference and Convention in The Woodlands this coming June 2013!!

Kerry Rodriguez TFA President

2012 - 2013 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TEEX AND SFFMA TRAINING SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

11/2	National Registry Exams (EMS938), National Registry Skills Review, College Station
11/5 - 9	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level (HAZ005), HazWoper for Clean-Up Operations Training, College Station
	WMD Terrorism (MGT347), Incident Command Systems (ICS) Forms Review, Fort Worth
11/6 - 7	LNG Emergency Response (LNG101), LNG Spill Control and Fire Suppression, College Station
	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue (MAR202), Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
11/8 - 9	WMD Terrorism (PER211), Medical Management of CBRNE Events, Laredo
11/11 - 14	
	Marine Firefighting (MAR003), Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-125), College Station
11/12 - 14	Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue (MAR202), Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
11/12 - 14	
	Trench Rescue (RES020), NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Trench Rescue Levels I & II Training, College Station
11/12 - 16	Fire Officer (FOP200), NFPA 1021 Fire Officer II, Stephenville
11/12 - 16	Annual Municipal School (INS100), NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I Training, Frisco
	Awareness, Operations & Technician Level (HAZ020), NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Technician Training, College Station
11/13 - 16	Marine Firefighting (MAR002), Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-15), College Station
	Industrial/Emergency Response Brigades (IND024), Advanced Tactical Leadership Training, College Station
11/26	
11/26 - 29	
11/26 - 12/7	
11/26 - 30	Industrial/ Emergency Response Brigades (IND017), NFPA 1081 Industrial Interior Firefighting Training, College Station

DECEMBER

12/3 - 7Industrial/ Emergency Response Brigades (IND016), NFPA 1081 Industrial Exterior Fire Brigade Training, College Station
12/10 - 14Oil Spill Response (OIL 100) Coastal Oil Spill Control - Tactical and Operations Level, Galveston
12/10 - 14Barine Firefighting (MAR003), Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-125), College Station
12/10 - 14Awarness, Operations & Technical Level (HAZ002), Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
12/11 - 14Marine Firefighting (MAR002), Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-15), College Station
12/12 - 14Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue (MAR202) Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston
12/13 - 14Industrial/ Emergency Response Brigades (IND010), Incident Safety Officer (NFPA 1521) Training, College Station
12/14National Registry Exams (EMS938), National Registry Exams (EMS938), National Registry Exam Skills Review, College Station
12/17 - 19Fast Rescue Craft Search and Rescue (MAR202), Fast Rescue Boat (TXEESTI-193), Galveston

JANUARY

1/1 - 3/31	
1/7 - 3/29	Recruit/ Firefighter Entry Level Academy (RFT002), Laredo Fire Training Academy, Laredo
1/8 - 4/19	Basic, Intermediate & Paramedic EMS Courses (EMS135), Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
1/14 - 4/4	Basic, Intermediate & Paramedic EMS Courses (EMS110), Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station
1/14 - 16	Leadership Development Symposium, Frisco
	Leadership Development Symposium, <i>Frisco</i> SFFMA International Conference, <i>McAllen</i>
1/16 - 19	

FEBRUARY

2/4 - 2/15Fire Officer (FOP340), NFPA 1021 Fire Officer II/IV Combination, San Marcos	
2/11 - 5/24Basic, Intermediate & Paramedic EMS Courses (EMS135), Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station	

MARCH 3/18 - 3/28

Fi	ire Off	ficer (FOP340),	NFPA 10	021 Fire	Officer II/IV	Combination, Cypress
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