



State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

# INFO FIRE

M A G A Z I N E

VOL. 48 / APRIL 2013



2013 CONFERENCE EDITION

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# INFOFIRE

M A G A Z I N E

Vol. 48 / APRIL 2013

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2013 CONFERENCE EDITION

# ABOUT US

## Executive Board / Executive Director's Corner

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Front row (Left to right): David Wade (President), Bill Gardner (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Rusty Kattner (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Paul Hamilton (3<sup>rd</sup> VP), Henry Perry (4<sup>th</sup> VP) Back row (Left to right): Blake Lockname (Mascot), Rex Klesel (Immediate Past President), Ben Kennedy (Chaplain), F. Jim White (Assistant Secretary), Joe Ondrasek (Secretary), Chris Barron (Executive Director), Rayford Gibson (Parliamentarian)



Spring 2013 is here and we are quickly moving through another year of projects, legislative session, etc. By the time you receive this magazine the legislative session will be nearing its end. We are watching several bills this session that could impact our membership and emergency services in Texas. T\*Flag Chairman Dan Key will be covering several of these bills in his article on page 8.

SFFMA has several projects we are working on that have kept us busy. I'll provide a summary of several of the projects to let you know what all SFFMA is doing for you. I encourage you to take advantage of some of our benefits, membership benefit providers, and stay informed on things that are going on in our state.

SFFMA's new office building construction is proceeding ahead of schedule. In the month of April we will see the foundation being poured and the framing soon starting. The project has gone well and hasn't run into any major hurdles. We have recently installed a web camera on the Manchaca Fire Department's station (next door) to allow for you to view the progress of the construction. Please go to our home page and click the building progress button on the left hand side of the website to view the latest pictures on the project. If all goes as planned, the builders are expecting a 9-month build time.

Our database is undergoing an upgrade that will allow our membership more information, options, interaction with other members, staff, etc. We have implemented a new server that will allow for a more stable environment, website content management, future growth/memory and faster access to membership/certification records. We are hoping this upgrade project will be done in the coming months after thorough testing.

Several grant programs are still underway including the DHS Training Travel Assistance

Grant that was awarded to SFFMA for assistance in the travel costs associated with getting firefighters trained. A button is located on the front page of our website to access the application for this grant program. The Trusted Choice VFD grant program is a new grant program administered by the Trusted Choice Independent Insurance Agents of Texas. It provides VFD departments up to \$5000 for equipment or fire prevention programs. The initial program has been well received and we have received numerous applications for this program. (Grant application closed on March 15th). The DHS Recruitment/Retention program that SFFMA was awarded continues with us purchasing air time across Texas in various markets to help local departments recruit new members. We started 2013 with a media campaign run in the Panhandle area composed of billboards, TV airtime, and newspaper ads. We still have recruitment/retention banners, posters, etc available to departments across Texas. Please visit our website at [www.volfire.com](http://www.volfire.com) or send an email to [recruitment@sffma.org](mailto:recruitment@sffma.org) to request any materials. The materials are FREE!

We have several new benefits that have been recently rolled out to our membership including retail discount programs, several discount programs on life and other insurance programs. The latest list of benefits can be found in this magazine or on our website under the Join SFFMA tab.

I encourage you to take advantage of the savings that our providers have to offer and the programs we have set up for you.

I welcome you to contact our staff, myself or our board members at any time with suggestions, comments, etc about our association. Thank you for what you do for your community and the emergency services of Texas.

  
Chris Barron  
SFFMA Executive Director



## PRESIDENT'S FORUM

My term as President to date can be described as "fast and furious!" I know that conjures-up negative thoughts these days, but in the context of this forum it describes the activities of your Executive Board and that of the state office.

As soon as the 2012 Training Conference and Convention came to an end, your Board was off and running. In our first meetings in June and July as your newly elected Board, we identified two areas of focus, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature Session and the long-term future of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA). Over the last several months, we have developed strategies and objectives for moving forward on the premise that what we do in the next five years will affect the SFFMA ten, fifteen, and possibly twenty years from now.

In October last year, the Board held a retreat in Manchaca for our annual budget workshop and to discuss the future of the SFFMA and annual conferences. We enlisted the assistance of TEEX Program Director, Dr. Brandi Plunkett, to facilitate the process and keep us focused.

The process began with a discussion of what we think the purpose of the Training Conference and Convention currently is, and what we believe it should be. Survey feedback of previous conferences was a crucial tool to help us understand what our members value when it comes to conference location, content and time of year. The Board values your input in SFFMA matters and the surveys are an apparatus for us to obtain it. I urge you to take the time to participate in future surveys.

Our debate affirmed the strength of the SFFMA is in the certification program. Without the certification program we lose our niche in the Texas fire service. We acknowledged the laborious work the Certification Board has put into retooling our certification program to make a good system even better. We provided the Certification Board with aggressive objectives in order to better align with the strategic direction we set for the SFFMA. That work continues and an update will be provided during The Woodlands conference.

We examined the best ways to market our strategic direction and concluded that it needs to be at the District level and that we needed to engage our Districts. To that end, we scheduled a strategic planning retreat for District Officers.

This event took place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Waco and was well attended with only two Districts not represented. The Board's vision for the SFFMA and future conferences was well-received by the District Officers. They provided the Board with strategic ideas to be implemented at the District and state levels. I encourage you to attend your District meetings to learn more about what your Dis-

trict is doing and how you can be a part of it.

The Board took a break from retreat activities on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, to hold an official groundbreaking ceremony for the new SFFMA office, which many of you attended. The state office staff and Manchaca VFD did an outstanding job of hosting and coordinating the ceremony and providing a delicious meal. The loan for the building closed on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and heavy equipment started moving dirt on January 28<sup>th</sup>. At the writing of this article, construction on the building is ahead of schedule and expected to be complete in August. The Board is very excited about what this new building means for the SFFMA and we have you to thank for it!

Planning for the 137<sup>th</sup> SFFMA Training Conference and Convention at The Woodlands began with a successful planning meeting at The Woodlands Marriott, January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board has changed the conference schedule for 2013 to provide time for the traditional competitive events such as Pumper Races, Kids Event, Driving Contest, and Golf Tournament, while affording more time for attendees to attend training sessions of interest. The Pumper Races and Kid's Activity will be held on Saturday afternoon. The Driving Contest and Golf Tournament schedules remain unchanged in 2013.

The Speaker and Training Committee have done an outstanding job of developing training tracks and sessions that will interest everyone. We have speakers and presenters from all over the country who will conduct fifty-six sessions in thirteen tracks during two days of training.

If there's one disappointment leading to the June Conference, it's the availability of room at the host hotel. The rooms that had been blocked at the state rate filled quickly and the hotel made a business decision not to extend additional rooms at that rate. However, Gabi has done an excellent job of securing overflow hotels nearby at lower rates. Attendees staying at overflow hotels will be able to park in the parking garage behind the Marriott at no charge while attending activities at the host hotel.

I want to invite everyone to attend the President's Reception Sunday evening immediately following the first business session. The event will take place at Town Green Park, just walking distance from the hotel. I promise good food, good music, a great time, and relaxing atmosphere.

For more information on the 137<sup>th</sup> Training Conference and Convention, including schedules, training sessions, and overflow hotels, refer to this edition of the InfoFire Magazine or our website.

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature Session convened on January 8<sup>th</sup> and is well underway. Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the

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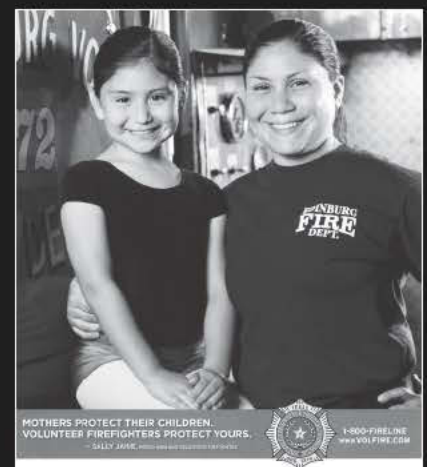
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*President's Forum continued*

governor, was on March 8<sup>th</sup>. With the start of the Legislative Session, the newly-created Texas Emergency Services Political Action Committee (TES-PAC) started meeting weekly via conference call. TESPAC was formed to provide a political voice for the thousands of emergency services personnel who serve our state. Our 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. Not to be confused with T\*FLAG whose duty is to study and take necessary action on such legislative matters as may come to their attention; to initiate and promote such legislation as may be necessary to preserve and promote the best interests of the firefighters of Texas. TESPAC is tracking Bills of interest and networking with fire service consortium partners to support or oppose related Bills. You can find more information regarding TESPAC on the website under SFFMA News. The SFFMA hosted the traditional Legislative Day and Firefighter Memorial at the Capitol in Austin on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The day started early with the Fire Service Consortium Legislature Breakfast sponsored by VFIS of Texas. Legislation information and discussion was provided by the SFFMA, Texas Fire Chiefs, SAFE-D, TCFP, Texas A&M Forest Service, and Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service. Trey Blocker continues to do a great job as our lobbyist and presented the Bills we are supporting this Session. He opened his presentation by recognizing how much Steve Perdue is missed in Austin. This is the first Session in many without Steve walking the Capitol halls and schmoozing the legislators. Trey then introduced Dan Key as the new T\*FLAG Chairman and touted his ability to fill Steve's shoes. The Legislative event continued with the Firefighter Memorial Service on the south steps of the

Capitol followed by a Pipe and Drum march to the Firefighter Memorial Statue for the unveiling of the inscribed names of the seven volunteer firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2011 and 2012. The Memorial was well attended by LODD families, career and volunteer fire fighters, and Fire Marshals from all over the State of Texas. Immediately following the Memorial was the renowned catfish fry on the Capitol lawn for our legislators and their staff. As always, this was the highlight of the day for all. The remainder of the day was spent visiting legislators or their staff members, to provide information and flyers on Bills we ask they support. So as you can see it has been "fast and furious" for your Executive Board and state office since the Houston conference last June. We are doing things we think are in the best interest of your Association, will help us grow, and is for the betterment of the Texas fire service. As always, if you have questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to contact any of your Board members or the state office. In closing, I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize all that you are doing to protect the citizens of your community and state. A majority of the state continues to be in drought conditions with no end in sight. As I write this article, many areas of the state are already starting to experience wildfires requiring mutual aid and state supported response. I urge that you please be careful as you go about your duties protecting life and property.

**Be smart, be nice, and stay safe...**

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in June at The Woodlands!



David Wade  
SFFMA President

## 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND ACTION STEPS

### Diversify Certification Program (Certification Board)

1. Develop CE for multiple groups
2. Specialized Certifications
3. Career Path
4. Verification of Certifications

### Engage Members (Executive Board and Staff)

1. Leverage Technology
2. District Symposium/Workshops
3. Consider Publicizing Total Membership
4. Welcome New Members on Website
5. Executive Board out to Visit Around the State (staff as much as possible)
6. Review and Communicate Roles and Responsibilities of Districts/Committees/Etc.

### Strengthen Partnerships (Executive Board and Staff)

1. Attend Non-SFFMA Events
2. Make Contact with County and Other Officials
3. Develop Marketing Packages and Materials
4. Recognize/Appreciate Current Partners
5. Honorary Membership for Officials

### Legislative Engagement (Executive Board and Staff)

1. Get the Certification Program recognized
2. Educate New Legislators
3. Work on 2604 Funding
4. Continue to Monitor Actions of Legislators

### Expand Membership Types (Executive Board)

1. Establish Committee
2. Consider District Level Appointments

### Conferences (Executive Board)

1. Review Purpose and Goals
2. Set New Directions

*If you have any questions regarding these Goals and Action Steps, contact any member of the Executive Board.*

## MEMBERSHIP

2013 is going to be an amazing year for SFFMA! The Association is getting a brand new home later this year, as well as revamping the website and the overall functionality of your member experience in the next few months. We hope that this helps you stay connected and active within SFFMA, because you are representing the voice of Texas firefighters with your involvement.

As you know, SFFMA is growing, not only because of all the benefits it offers, but because of the excellent Certification Program we have. We provide a great curriculum with self-paced training opportunities that certify our members each year. We have over 22,000 members and in order to communicate and alert our members, we need to be able to reach you by e-mail. A lot of our members are still hesitant to use email, but it has become increasingly important as we are trying to keep operational costs down. Email and social media is one of the best ways for us to get information out to you. If you need assistance with SFFMA Online, emails, updating your record, etc. please contact the SFFMA Staff. We are here to help you! As part of SFFMA it's important for each member to stay informed and keep track of the newest benefit opportunities. Lots of information can be found on Facebook, Twitter, and our monthly e-Newsletters. Summer is coming up, are you taking advantage of your hotel and vacation discounts? Check out your AMBA benefits, because they are excellent money savers! Visit [www.myambabenefits.info/sffma](http://www.myambabenefits.info/sffma)

Our newest benefit offers several new insurance programs, and even has a cash back program on online purchases with the SFFMA Toolbar, so please check it out at [www.sffmabenefits.com](http://www.sffmabenefits.com) or call (877) 870-4447 X 8 for more information!

Lastly, we hope that we can count on your help to promote membership in your area. Remember that anybody can join SFFMA and enjoy the benefits we offer. Share this information with your friends, we would be happy to explain that their annual dues go a long way in helping the Texas fire service.

Stay safe out there!



# Here's the Value of Membership

**SFFMA ANNUAL DUES = \$30 A YEAR  
LESS THAN \$3.00 A MONTH!**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP					
INCLUDES	MEMBER PRICE	NON-MEMBER PRICE	ANNUAL SAVINGS	BASED ON...	
State Legislative representation	FREE	NO	Priceless	Success of SFFMA lobbying for Legislative Bills benefitting the Texas Emergency Services	
AD&O and LODD policy		VOTING RIGHTS		A 40 year old firefighter in the open market	
e-Infofire Newsletter/Special Notices		AWARENESS		EXCLUSIVE FOR MEMBERS	An email subscription
SFFMA Online Access/Technical Support		SUPPORT			Included with your membership
Record Retention		Cost = \$75	\$75		Records dating back since the 1970's
NCEMSC Affiliate Membership		Cost = \$15	\$15	Monthly membership price with NCEMSC	
Texas Firemen's Magazine & Infofire Publications				Retail cost of similar publications	

### WHY?

If you don't think that \$30 dollars for membership to SFFMA is worth it, think again. Here's a cost analysis we did for one of our members. Using just 4 of the discounts we offer; they saved close to \$300 in one year!

Exclusive Pricing	ANNUAL COST	MEMBER COST	SAVINGS!
<b>Sprint</b> <small>* discount cannot be applied to the Everything Unlimited Plan</small>	\$1167.84	\$974.64	\$193.20
<b>La Quinta Inn &amp; Suites</b>	\$139 a night	\$85 a night	\$54 <small>(Savings vary by location &amp; time of year)</small>
<b>AmeriDoc Health Care Alternative Plan</b>	\$239.40	\$179.40	\$60
<b>SFFMA discounts on Fire Training Books from different publishers</b>	\$78	\$68	\$10

**Estimated total savings per member = over \$800 a year**

## Stay CONNECTED!



State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas



@SFFMA



[www.sffma.org](http://www.sffma.org)

To receive our monthly e-InfoFire newsletter, keep your email address updated or email [newsletter@sffma.org](mailto:newsletter@sffma.org)

### CERTIFICATION

#### Previous Training not reported correctly through SFFMA Online

As you're probably already aware, some objectives for levels already earned are reporting as not completed. A small portion of these objectives are due to the 2012 realignment. The majority, though, are due to a programming change that is currently being reviewed by the programmers.

When the Certification Board realigned the objectives to NFPA 1001, all Firefighter I objectives previously located in Advanced (now Module 4) moved to Modules 1-3. The Board is aware this change shows minor gaps in training. The individual's next level of certification will not be held for these objectives, but the Board expects that as professionals, the objectives will be covered in a timely basis. Additionally, the individual will want to cover the training, because the information may appear on the Firefighter I or II exam as a requisite objective.

For the objectives misreported as a result of the programming error, we do have the programmers reviewing the issue. In the meantime, a quick fix is for the department to add four classes (one for each level: Intro, Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced), and mark the objectives as complete as they now fall in the program. Please review the supporting pages 2-5 attached to the Firefighter application on the website ([http://www.sffma.org/pdfdocs/certification/13\\_Modules.pdf](http://www.sffma.org/pdfdocs/certification/13_Modules.pdf)). The pages show highlighted in yellow where the pertinent objectives now fall in the Module breakdown.

#### Progress Reports (annual training summary)

Reports were due on the January 31<sup>st</sup> and we have had an amazing submission rate. So far 518 reports have been filed for the 2012 training year. Of these, 30 (6%) departments submitted handwritten reports, and 4 (less than .1%) submitted reports generated through FireHouse. The vast majority (93%) submitted their reports using the SFFMA Online program.

The Certification Office staff would like to thank these departments for taking the time to use SFFMA Online, as review of the reports becomes significantly faster and easier.

As stated previously, the Austin Office staff can accept faxed or scanned signatures, which also speeds up the processing of applications and Progress Report cover pages.

Please note that it is a requirement for all departments to show all previous training on progress reports, regardless of reporting method. We do accept and review reports received after the January 31<sup>st</sup> due date, but must charge the department a flat \$25 late fee.



Kevin Creamer  
Certification Administrator

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS



The 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature is in full swing as of this writing. Several bills are moving through the process that could have an effect on the Fire Service in Texas. We (T-FLAG, Trey Blocker, Chris Barron and others) are watching these bills and others that

might be brought up. The budget debate is also underway which will determine the level of funding for 2604 grants. Sunset Committee recommendations will affect the Fire Fighters' Pension Commission and other agencies. The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) appears to still be moving under the Department of Insurance.

I want to apologize to any of you who feel that T-FLAG has not been kept informed during this legislative session. The process has only been getting up to speed for about 2 weeks or so (early March). Prior to that a lot of procedural actions were taking place such as committee assignments and bill writing before the deadline for submitting bills on March 8.

We had a good turnout for Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 20. The day started out with a well attended breakfast sponsored by VFIS of Texas. Good discussions about budgets and bills were served up along with breakfast. Representatives from SFFMA, TFS, TFCA and the TCFP were there.

We moved from the breakfast to the Capitol to visit with House and Senate members and their staff to ask for their support on key bills that relate to the Fire Service. The Fallen Firefighter Memorial service was held and as usual it was a very moving service during which 7 more names were added to the FF Memorial. Lunch for legislators and staff was served on the Capitol grounds after which more visits were made in the Capitol to finish up the day. I want to personally thank all of you who went to Austin for this important event.

We are currently tracking about 10 bills as they make their way through the process of hearings, amendments, language changes and finally to calendars to be brought to the floor of the House and Senate for debate, amendments, a vote and in some cases on to the Governor's desk. We have a ways to go (regular session ends May 27<sup>th</sup>) so please don't feel left out. If we identify a bill that needs us to make calls or go to Austin for a show of support I know I can count on you to respond.

At this time (late March) the bill we are watching closely is SB 766, Volunteer Firefighter Protection Bill; Senator Hegar. This bill will protect Volunteer FF's from being forced to be certified/licensed by any state

agency. This bill includes a definition of what a volunteer Firefighter is. It also will include language to allow VFDs, ESDs, Industrial Brigades and Fire Chiefs to set certification requirements for their individual organizations without state agency oversight.

Other bills on our radar are listed below by number and sponsor followed by a short description. You can go to Texas legislature online to look up more information about these and other bills and where they are in the legislative process.

SB 1267/HB2751 (Sen. Nichols/Reps. Bell & Clardy) relating to liability of those providing assistance to TFS in the performance of certain fire suppression duties.

SB 1405/HB 487 (Sen. Nichols/Reps. Bell, Clardy, Flynn, Guerra and Otto) relating to liability of certain persons assisting with man-made or natural disasters.

SB 1506/HB 3221 (Sen. Schwertner Rep. Springer) relating to fire safety inspections.

HB 1429 (Rep. Paddie) relating to the exemption from certain construction requirements for VFDs in certain counties.

HB 1531 (Rep. King) relating to the application of certain weapons laws to certain emergency services personnel licensed to carry a concealed handgun.

HB 2206 (Reps. Price & Flynn) relating to the authority of a county to adopt a fire code.

HB 2516 (Rep. Springer) relating to fines for violation of a county regulation prohibiting or restricting outdoor burning.

Please feel free to call on me for any questions you have. It is an honor to serve as the T-FLAG Chairman. I appreciate your continued support.

Regards,

*Dan Key*

Dan Key  
SFFMA- T FLAG Chairman

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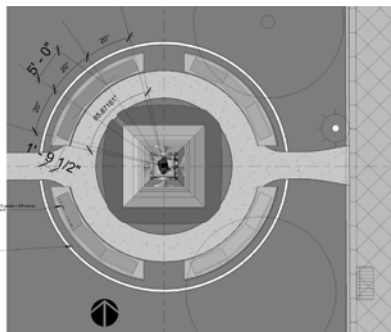


# CAPITOL MONUMENT'S EXPANSION PROJECT

## SFFMA Needs YOUR Help!

Constructed in 1896, the Volunteer Firemen's Memorial on the Capitol's south approach was the second monument added to the Capitol grounds. Each legislative session, fallen volunteer firefighter names are added to the monument for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. 117 years later, the monument does not have any room left for names to be added. SFFMA was responsible for erecting the monument in 1896 and has been responsible for approving names and paying for the engraving on the monument ever since. Unfortunately the time has come in which we must think about expanding the memorial so that more names can be added to the monument.

In cooperation with the State of Texas Preservation Board (who has ultimate approval of anything going on the Capitol grounds), a memorial expansion project is being proposed which will include large pieces of granite and plenty of room for names to be added to the monument for many, many decades.



This project will have to be paid by SFFMA and initial estimates indicate it will cost over \$100,000 for all of the granite, installation, and site work. If the State Preservation's Board Board of Directors approves this project, we could get started as soon as we have the funding and have it complete by the 2015 Legislative Session.

## HISTORY

During the construction of the present Capitol, on March 28, 1883, Governor John Ireland approved an act passed by legislature "to permit the State Firemen's Association to erect a monument on the Capitol grounds." The law required the monument to cost at least \$5,000 and "that the names of only those firemen who have lost their lives in discharge of their duty as firemen shall have their names engraved on said monument."

The Firemen's Association did not erect the monument at the time, probably because of the construction of the Capitol, and in February 1895 the legislature amended the 1883 act to provide for the selection of a site for the monument. Jaeggli & Martin of Brenham contracted to build the monument and Frank Teich of San Antonio became the subcontractor for the project. By May 1896, work had begun to erect the monument on the Capitol grounds. By late June, the monument was nearly completed, and the Firemen's Association was planning a dedication ceremony. After completion of the monument on June 30, it was "veiled" in sheeting and unveiled on the afternoon

of July 7, 1896 during a statewide meeting of the Firemen's Association in Austin.

In place of the bronze statue of a fireman holding a baby on the monument today, the Firemen's Monument originally had a tall obelisk topped by a granite statue of a fireman holding a large fire hose. The obelisk and original granite statue were replaced by the bronze statue, and the monument, rededicated in May 1905 at another statewide meeting of the Firemen's Association in Austin. On the base of the sculpture is stamped "MFD by W.H. Mullins, Salem, Ohio, J. Segesman, Sculptor."

According to newspaper articles from the Austin Daily Statesman, dated July 7, 1896... "the firemen will with much pomp and glory unveil the monument in the Capitol grounds which has been constructed under the personal supervision of the foremen's committee. These ceremonies will be most imposing in every particular, and a chorus of 600 voices accompanied by a brass band and under the leadership of Professor Besserer will render some appropriate music. 106 fire companies were represented."

*If you would like to make a donation for this project, please send your check payable to*

**SFFMA Capitol Memorial Expansion Project**  
4450 Frontier Trail, Austin, TX 78745

*We need to raise over \$100,000 in order to pay for this project and can't do it without YOUR help!*

## IN MEMORIAM Non-Line of Duty

<b>William Allen Graham</b> <b>HALLSVILLE FD</b>	<b>September 10, 2009</b>
<b>Franklin Carl Craig</b> <b>HALLSVILLE FD</b>	<b>December 19, 2010</b>
<b>James O. Reynolds</b> <b>TRINITY VFD</b>	<b>May 18, 2012</b>
<b>Larry Lee Blackwell</b> <b>OLDEN VFD</b>	<b>September 4, 2012</b>
<b>Kenneth Ornell, Sr.</b> <b>BEEVILLE FD</b>	<b>November 26, 2012</b>
<b>Jack A. Davis</b> <b>ARCHER CITY VFD</b>	<b>December 14, 2012</b>
<b>Harold Erman England</b> <b>HALLSVILLE FD</b>	<b>February 4, 2013</b>
<b>Johnny Corbett</b> <b>EL CAMPO FD</b>	<b>February 7, 2013</b>
<b>David Hunter</b> <b>EL CAMPO FD</b>	<b>February 21, 2013</b>
<b>Rodney Lynn Faist</b> <b>BURTON VFD</b>	<b>March 21, 2013</b>

## Annual Memorial Service

June 23, 2013 - 10:30 AM

In order to acknowledge firefighters and first responders who passed away in the past year, please provide the SFFMA office with the following:

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

**SUBMISSIONS ARE  
REQUIRED  
NO LATER THAN  
MAY 31, 2013**

Please email information to  
[memorial@sffma.org](mailto:memorial@sffma.org)



### SFFMA INTERNATIONAL

In January, SFFMA International had a great turnout in McAllen, TX at the 2013 SFFMA/TEEX International Conference. It was the first year ever held in the Rio Grande Valley. We were hosted by the McAllen FD, who provided excellent training and accommodated the SFFMA members with hands on training and instruction. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and hospitality. Special recognition goes out to Chief Balderas, Lt. Rene Alaniz, DC Amado Cano, Capt. James Ferrell, Lt. Rolando Garza, Capt. Juan Gloria, DC Juan Jalomo, and DC Jim Schultz from McAllen FD who helped SFFMA put on this conference to generate further interest in the SFFMA International Program. We would also like to thank our dedicated instructors Lt. Oscar Alaniz, Juan Caceres, Capt. Juan Gloria, Capt. Comado Martinez, and Lt. Tony Nelson who developed the courses for the our members to participate in the training. We hope to work with them again in the future, as they showed a tremendous amount of initiative and dedication to helping this conference go well.



McAllen, January 2013

Although the Annual Conference is held in conjunction with TEEX's Annual Instructors Meeting and is held in Texas each year; SFFMA International Committee continues to campaign outside the U.S and in border regions of Texas promoting the services and events that we offer as an Association. SFFMA International is an important branch of the Association, because not only does it have a growing membership base, it is solidifying the value of the standards and education of the firefighters in Texas.

The SFFMA Certification Program is being adopted in other countries, making an SFFMA's Certification more valuable worldwide, and SFFMA a more renowned organization. The goal is to create a program that is convenient, inexpensive, and easy to follow for those who want to promote training and have a means of tracking progress in their country. It has been a slow process getting this program organized, as our own Texas Certification Program just adopted changes this year. However, the SFFMA Committee can soon begin to set up the final curriculum

and structure for our members to begin reporting training.

Lt. Ian R. Moscoso from Cloverleaf VFD and Chairman of the International Committee campaigned at courses organized by EPA and the Department of Defense. He provided training and spoke about the benefits to be part of the SFFMA International this year in Presidio, and McAllen, TX, in addition to the countries of Panama and Bolivia.



Presidio, TX

SFFMA will be presenting their newly translated International Certification Program, courtesy of South Texas College, McAllen, TX during the Cumbre Americana de Bomberos, taking place July 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. We will be promoting SFFMA membership and the International Certification Program. This is a huge opportunity for the SFFMA Certification program's recognition to expand to more Latin-American countries, and grow our organization and SFFMA International brand. For more information on SFFMA International like us on Facebook "SFFMA of Texas International", where we have pictures, and information about our annual conference available.

SFFMA continues to work with TEEX during their Annual Spanish School; this year is the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual School which begins July 7<sup>th</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. SFFMA will be attending and providing discounted materials and merchandise to our International Members. There are more than 150 students, instructors both federal and state, which participate in this training.

The SFFMA database will also be undergoing some upgrades and changes, so this will provide a better network for our international members to become more involved, and updated on SFFMA activities. We hope that this year will be the start of something very important for our International Members. It is with their support and input that we can organize and structure a program they can benefit from.

Thanks to all of them, we will continue striving to make SFFMA International a success!



### EMS

Hello fellow EMS'ers. Spring is in the air and that means two things...No more winter! And it's time for district and state meetings. We have had quite a winter up here in the Panhandle. While we have not had too many snow days, the days we had packed a mean punch with blizzard-like conditions several days. These are just some of the challenges we all face on a daily basis.

District meetings have already begun. I will be out as much as possible, along with some of our other committee members, in attempts to attend some of your meetings. We want to spread the word of EMS and gain new members to our organization but we desperately need your help. Please invite some EMS providers to your district meetings to show them the benefits of joining the SFFMA.

Documents explaining our mission as well as the outstanding benefits offered by our group are available online or in print. So, if you know a fire based EMS service or a stand-alone EMS service that is not a member, invite them to join our great organization. Speaking of meetings, don't forget our annual convention will be held June 21-26 at The Woodlands. Hotels are filling up fast so make your reservations early. Also, don't forget, the cost of the registration for the annual convention can be reimbursed by HB2604. We have some great training lined up at the convention including an entire track for EMS. We have secured an emergency room physician, who is also a certified firefighter/paramedic, to provide some insight on care of the entangled patient. We also have lined up an excellent program on ambulance billing options and a host of other fantastic topics. This will not be one to miss, sign up early and stay late, it promises to be a great convention.

Several great opportunities exist today to recognize some of our own that go above and beyond every day. One way is to nominate someone for the coveted EMS provider of the Year. This award honors those EMS providers who exhibit outstanding dedication and devotion to their chosen profession. Last year, Karen Pickard was honored to be the recipient of the very first award of its kind. Place those nominations now. Another way to honor our finest is to nominate someone for the State Department of Health Services EMS Awards. The nominations forms are available online and are due October 4<sup>th</sup>.

These awards are given out at the Texas EMS Conference which will be held this year in Ft. Worth in November.

As we go about our daily duties, let us not forget those that have preceded us and especially those that have paid the ultimate price. Last month, at the state Capitol, we honored those that laid down their life for that of another. It is my hope we never need to place another name on that wall. Please include safety as a part of your daily duties.

Remember to stay safe, wear your seatbelts, protect yourself, have an escape route, fight from the black, whatever you need to do..... we need you, your family needs you, your department needs you to come home after every call, after every shift.

See you in the Woodlands. Stay safe!!

**Tim Smith, BSN, RN, EMT-P**  
Fire Chief/EMS Director  
West Carlisle Fire/EMS  
Chairman Texas Emergency Medical Services Board

## 2013 ANNUAL AWARDS

### FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department **MUST** be a member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominee **MUST** hold current individual membership with SFFMA.

Each nominee will be considered on a Point System to determine the three finalists. The areas to be considered are:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Leadership abilities including<br>Leadership positions held<br>Work knowledge<br>Communications<br>Creativity and Innovation<br>Attitude<br>Interaction with others | 3) Involvement in SFFMA, both state and district level<br>4) Community involvement, both church and civic<br>5) Acts of heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery<br>6) Accomplishments/awards received<br>7) Certifications held<br>8) Letters of Recommendation (no more than 4 please) |
| 2) Dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods   | 9) Pictures may be submitted (No more than 4 please)  |

All nominations must be submitted to local Districts by a fire department on or before the District's Spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from the fire department and signed by Fire Chief, Assistant Chief or President.

One nominee from each District should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the state SFFMA office no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from the District and signed by the District President or Secretary.

The state SFFMA office will log in the submissions as received and leave the submissions unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results.

The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the 1<sup>st</sup> Business Meeting. All submissions will be returned to the Districts after the state convention.

### EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department or agency must be a current Active Member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominees must be a current Individual Membership in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

A nominee could be considered because of past heroism in an EMS-related act, act of bravery, dedication to training or introduction of new and innovative training methods.

Leadership abilities to be considered are:

- 1) work knowledge,
- 2) communications,
- 3) creative ability,
- 4) innovation,
- 5) attitude,
- 6) interaction with other people

Community involvement considered, either church or civic.

A nominee should be considered for the committees he/she may have chaired or served on and how these committees functioned under his/her guidance.

Nominees will be considered on a point system, giving points for their contributions in the above various areas.

There will be a personal interview conducted with the top three finalists.

To win the State Award as EMS Responder of the Year, nominees do not have to be an agency officer or chief.

All nominations for EMS Responder of the Year must be submitted to a local District Association, on department or agency letterhead and signed by the department or agency chief officer or executive, assistant chief or executive and/or department or agency President.

The district offices will conduct submissions of District nominations to the SFFMA State Office. Submission of winning nominees must be on a district letterhead, and/or signed by the President or Secretary of the district.

One nomination from each District President/Secretary shall be submitted to the SFFMA State Office by fax, email, or postal mail by the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in May.

Copies of Certificates and pictures may be included (but no more than four (4) of each).

**DEADLINE IS MAY 27, 2013.**

## 2013 BY- LAWS PROPOSAL

### By-Laws

#### ARTICLE VII - Nominations of Officers and Selection of Meeting Place

Current Reading:

Section 1. Nominations of all officers and mascots shall be made at the hour designated on the official Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the business session of the second day of the annual conference.

Proposed Change:

Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the hour designated on the official Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the first (1st) business session of the of the annual conference.

## 2013 BLONDY RUCKER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**JUNE 24, 2013 ■ 1PM**

**River Plantation Golf Course**

**550 Country Club Dr.**

**Conroe, TX 77302**

**Registration Fee: \$75 per player**

**To register contact Lang Flisowski at  
spankylang@hotmail.com**

## PUMPER RACES

Please note that the pumper races will be held Saturday afternoon. Please be sure to register your teams early. Anyone needing copies of the Six Ladies or Three Ladies Pumper Team Rules, you can go to the website [www.SFFMA.org](http://www.SFFMA.org) and click on Convention News, then click on Women's Pumper Races Contest Rules.

If you would like a copy of the rules mailed to you, please contact 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pam Maples at 713-594-2787 or email at [momonthego@swbell.net](mailto:momonthego@swbell.net).

## Fire Sprinklers in New Homes: Why should firefighters care?

By Maria Figueroa  
Fire Sprinkler Initiative  
Communications Project Manager

Fire in the home poses one of the biggest threats to the people in your community. Nearly 2,500 people per year, on average, die in U.S. home fires. Last year, 83% of people who died in fires, did so in one- and two-family homes. Sixty-seven percent of all residential structural fireground firefighter deaths occurred in one- and two-family dwellings.

Sprinkler advocates across the country, including the fire service, asked for a coordinated effort to encourage the use of home fire sprinklers. NFPA launched that effort through the Fire Sprinkler Initiative®: Bringing Safety Home in 2009.

Starting in 2006, NFPA 1 Fire Code, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, and NFPA 5000 Building Construction and Safety Code require fire sprinkler protection in all new one- and two-family dwellings. Since 2009, all model safety codes require fire sprinklers in these dwellings. Model codes represent minimum standards of safety to protect the people and the responding fire force in the event of fire in the home. Amending these codes by removing the requirement results in substandard home construction.

Opponents have launched an aggressive campaign to keep the requirement out of the code. Their misleading arguments have been refuted by scientific research; but they have sometimes prevailed due to their political power and influence. To overcome this powerful opposition it is imperative that firefighters understand the importance of the requirement, embrace it, and assist in engaging and providing factual information to stakeholders.

Home fire sprinkler systems are vastly different from commercial systems. NFPA 13D, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes covers "the design, installation and maintenance of automatic sprinkler systems for protection against fire hazards" in these structures. They are cost effective and efficient life safety systems designed to prevent flashover and improve the chance for occupants to escape or be evacuated. Of special interest to the fire service is the added protection that fire sprinklers provide to firefighter safety. They protect structural stability, allow-

ing fire crews to conduct search and rescue operations and perform an offensive fire attack in a more tenable atmosphere.

NFPA 13D requires only the standard operating water pressure of the domestic plumbing system. Most domestic water supply systems are able to manage the operating pressure demands of a home fire sprinkler system. Communities integrating residential fire sprinklers with water supply systems employ practical solutions that satisfy the needs of all stakeholders.

Opponents of the home fire sprinkler requirement claim that smoke alarms provide enough protection in the home. Fire deaths decreased consistently after the requirement of interconnected, wired smoke alarms in new construction. A plateau was reached in the early 90's and the maximum benefits of smoke alarms alone have been achieved.

Sprinkler systems provide additional benefits, on top of the benefits already provided by smoke alarms. Smoke alarms and sprinkler systems work together to provide protection in the home the same way that seat belts and air bags provide protection in the event of a motor vehicle crash. Opponents of residential fire sprinkler systems also like to boast that newer homes are safer homes and that the fire and death problem is limited to older homes. Statistically, the only fire safety issue that is relevant to the age of the home is outdated electrical wiring. Beyond that, age of the home has little to nothing to do with fire safety. A fire at two-o'clock in the morning is equally deadly in a newer or older home.

In fact, new methods of construction negatively impact occupant and firefighter life safety under fire conditions. In 2008, Underwriters Laboratories® (UL) conducted a study to identify the danger to firefighters created by engineered lumber. Its findings also point to the failure of lightweight engineered wood systems used in floors and roofs when exposed to fire. These structures are prone to catastrophic collapse as early as six minutes from the onset of fire. Lightweight floor assemblies and roof trusses are not the only danger to firefighters found in new homes. Passive protection of these assemblies will not solve the problem. The synthetic construction of today's home furnishings also add to the increased risk by providing a greater fuel load.

Larger homes, open spaces, void spaces, and changing building materials contribute to faster fire propagation, shorter time to

flashover, rapid changes in fire dynamics, shorter escape time and shorter time to collapse. Fire sprinklers can offset these increased dangers and create a safer fire environment for occupants and responding fire crews.

An NFPA study conducted in 2009 found that the cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.61 per square sprinklered foot (SF) for new construction. To put the cost of a sprinkler system into perspective, many people pay similar amounts for carpet upgrades, granite countertops, paving a stone driveway, or a whirlpool bath. The Fire Protection Research Foundation released the Incentives for the Use of Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems in U.S. Communities report revealing that typical incentives offered by communities may offset up to one-third of the cost of home fire sprinkler systems.

In addition to the life safety benefits provided by home fire sprinklers they reduce the average property loss by 69% per home fire. Home fire sprinklers also protect the environment, reducing carbon emissions by up to 98%. Water conservation is another benefit of home fire sprinklers. Sprinklers flowing for ten minutes require up to 90% less water than water used by firefighter extinguishing methods. Water infrastructure demand is reduced at least 47% when the homes within a community are protected by fire sprinkler systems.

Home fire sprinkler requirements are not intended to replace the fire service. Adopting these requirements has allowed the fire service to keep up with growth, and to continue to provide an appropriate level of service, which many times translate into savings for a community. Most importantly, it reduces community risk and protects new housing stock for generations to come.

NFPA has developed a free PowerPoint presentation highlighting the threats of lightweight construction methods and firefighter safety. For additional information, to request the free presentation, and to access reports cited here and other resources, please visit the Home Fire Sprinkler Initiative: Bringing Safety Home website: <http://www.fire sprinklerinitiative.org>



## State of Texas CO-OP Purchasing

Dear Fellow Texans:

*Under Texas State law, volunteer fire departments have the option to join the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program and purchase goods and services at discount prices. Since 1979, this program has allowed local government and certain assistance organizations to leverage the purchasing power of the State of Texas to save millions of dollars throughout the entire purchasing process. We have recently become aware that many volunteer fire departments in the State are not familiar with our program. Over the next few months, we will be using a variety of means to reach out to fire departments like yours, including the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas's newsletter; don't be surprised if you hear from us again. The State of Texas has a dedicated division within the Comptroller's office that is responsible for centralizing over \$13 Billion of State purchasing. We also administer contract monitoring and management, which means that you can save time on the procurement process and have more time to focus on your core business. Because our contracts have already been awarded through a competitive bidding process, purchasing from our contracts satisfies any State bidding requirements your department is required to meet. Through the Co-Op program, your department can receive the same State of Texas pricing for the more than 1 million commodities available on hundreds of contracts. Items on contract include (but are not limited to):*

- Tires
- Vehicles
- Heavy Equipment
- Office Supplies
- Fire Protection Equipment and Supplies
- A fuel card that pays a rebate for fuel purchased
- Computers
- Cell Phones and Service Contracts
- Copiers and other office equipment
- Furniture

*Note that due to legislation, volunteer fire departments are not currently eligible to make use of our travel contracts.*

*Please see the following link for information about the program, including links to contracts offered: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/coop/>*

*Please contact the Co-Op team if you have any questions at 512-463-3368. Thank you.*

State of Texas Cooperative  
Purchasing Team

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## SFFMA Member Benefits

Visit your **NEW** member  
benefits website today!

[www.myAMBAbenefits.info/sffma](http://www.myAMBAbenefits.info/sffma)



## NEW SFFMA BUILDING UPDATE



SFFMA's new office building construction is proceeding ahead of schedule. Foundation will be poured in April and the framing will begin soon after that.

Photos are available at: [www.sffma.org/gallery](http://www.sffma.org/gallery)



October 2012 - Ground Breaking Ceremony



March 2013 - Construction Site

## FIRE STATION FINANCING – KEY CONSIDERATIONS

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

The lending market continues to offer the lowest interest rates available in years. Over the past twelve months, many SFFMA members have refinanced their debt obligations saving thousands of dollars in interest costs. If you have a facility previously financed as a commercial transaction with an interest rate greater than 4%, you may want to consider the possibility of refinancing your loans at today's historically low TAX-EXEMPT interest rates.

Additionally there are other benefits of working with an experienced knowledgeable finance specialist including:

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

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

## Thank you! to everyone who attended the 2013 Emergency Services Legislative Day at the Capitol

Sponsored by:



Special thanks to:

Austin Fire Department Honor Guard  
 Kilgore Fire Department Honor Guard  
 Travis County ESD #4 Cadets

Music Provided by:

Emergency Services Pipes and Drums Association  
 Bryan Fire Department Pipes and Drums

More photos available at: <http://www.sffma.org/gallery>



Contributed by the Texas Fire Facilities Fund Team

Sheldon Community F&R



Annaville VFD



West Limestone VFD



Southlake Houston EMS



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Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport's Fire Training Research Center celebrates its Grand Opening in early 2013. Find out more at [dfwairport.com/firetraining](http://dfwairport.com/firetraining)

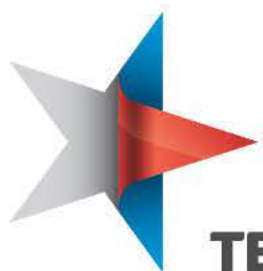


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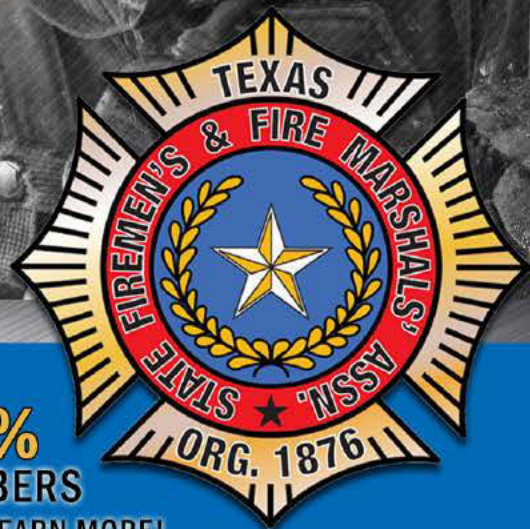
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*Chief Mark Jordon,  
Katy Fire Department*

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*Rob Stone, Coppell  
Texas Fire/Rescue*



# SFFMA STORE ONLINE

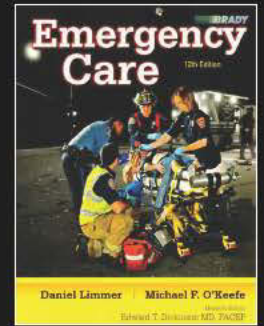
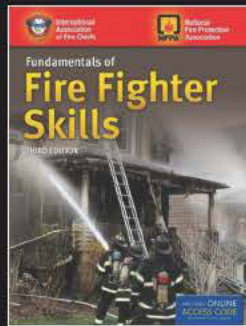
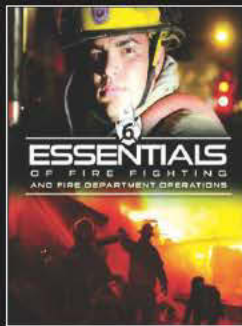
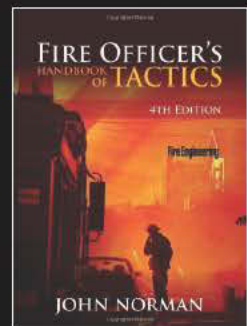


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- CT Scan, MRI, EGG
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& Physical Therapy (10 per accident)
- Initial Accident Hospitalization Benefit . . . . . \$1,500
- Accident Hospital Income Benefit . . . . . \$200 per day  
(Up to 365 days while in the hospital)
- Wellness Visit Benefit. . . . . \$100  
- Colonoscopy, Mammogram, PSA, Cholesterol



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# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

JUNE 21-26, 2013

THE WOODLANDS, TX

## MAIN EVENTS

### EXHIBITS

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott  
Saturday, June 22 - 9 AM - 5 PM  
Exhibit Hall is a part of the Woodlands Waterway Marriott complex.  
Complimentary parking is at the Six Pines parking lot.

### PUMPER RACES

Saturday, June 22 - 4:30 - 6:30 PM  
Pumper races for 3 and 6 men/ ladies teams. Team members don't have to be from the same fire department. Each 3 member team has to run 50' before performing the following: first member connects a hose to the truck, second member connects hoses together and third connects nozzle to allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. 6 member team members have to connect hard suction hose to hydrant, pull hose from the hose bed and in an approximate straight line, connect to pumper on one side and to a nozzle on the other side, open valve on hydrant and allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. Registration will be available at the Exhibit Hall until 3 pm.

### DRIVING CONTEST

Sunday, June 23 - 7:30 - 9:30 AM  
Sign up to test your ability at a timed obstacle course or come cheer for a friend.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott  
Sunday, June 23 - 10:30 AM - Noon  
To honor those who passed away in a line of duty or non-line of duty in the past 12 months.

### BUSINESS SESSIONS

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott  
Sunday, June 23 (2 - 5 PM), Monday, June 24 (8 - 9:30 AM)  
Wednesday, 26 (8 - 10:30 AM)  
Business Sessions include Fire Service Agency Reports, Executive Director's Report, Committee Reports and Updates, Keynote Speaker and delegate voting (Wednesday).

### PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Town Green Park, The Woodlands  
Sunday, June 23 - 7 - 10 PM  
David Wade (SFFMA's President) invites you to the Town Green Park. Refreshments and music provided.

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

River Plantation Country Club  
Monday, June 24 - 1 - 5 PM  
Golf Tournament has on average 60 players. Registration fee is \$75 per player. Refreshments are provided at no additional cost.

### HOSPITALITY NIGHT

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott  
Monday, June 24 - 7-10 PM  
Various candidates for office and other entities will be hosting Hospitality Suites at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott. Food and drinks will be provided. Open to all conference attendees.

### DINNER & DANCE

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott  
Tuesday, June 25 - 7 - 10 PM  
Dinner and dance. No awards will be given during this event. Dress code: no shorts or flip flops, please. Each conference attendee will receive one (1) Dinner & Dance ticket with their registration. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$30 each.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

### La Quinta Inn & Suites - 4 miles away

24868 Interstate 45 N - The Woodlands, TX 77386  
Phone: 281.681.9188 - Rate: \$85 + tax/night

Cut off date: June 1, 2013 - Group Block - State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Assn.

### Drury Inn & Suites - 2 miles away

28099 Interstate 45 North - The Woodlands, TX 77380  
Phone: 800.325.0720 - Rate: \$114.95 + tax/night

Cut off date: May 20, 2013 - Group number: 2172451

### Fairfield Inn & Suites - 4 miles away

16850 Interstate 45 South - The Woodlands, TX 77384  
Phone: 936.271.0110 - Rate: \$114 + tax/night

Cut off date: May 24, 2013 - Group name: SFFMA - Annual Conference

## SCHEDULE

### Friday, June 21, 2013

6 - 7 AM	Exhibits Committee Meeting
7 AM - 5 PM	Exhibitor Registration
8 AM - 5 PM	Exhibit Hall Move-In
8 - 11 AM	TIESB Meeting
11 AM - 3 PM	Executive Board Meeting
3 PM	Certification Board Meeting
3 PM	T*Flag Meeting
3 PM	TFA Board and Committee Meeting
3 PM	Fire Marshal Committee Meeting

### Saturday, June 22, 2013

7 AM	Past Presidents' Breakfast (By invitation only)
8 - 9 AM	Constitution & By-laws Committee
8 - 9 AM	Finance Committee
8 - 9 AM	EMS Committee Meeting
8 - 9 AM	Poster Committee Meeting
8:15 - 9:45 AM	Firefighter/EMS Responder of the Year Interviews
8:30 AM	Sergeant-at-Arms Meeting
9:15 AM	Ribbon Cutting
9:15 AM - 5 PM	Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 AM - 5 PM	Registration inside the Exhibit Hall
9:15 AM - 3 PM	Golf/Driving/Poster Registration/ TFA/Pumper Races
10 AM - 4 PM	Vendor Workshops
10 AM - 12 PM	Memorial Service Rehearsal
1 - 3 PM	TFA Workshops
3 PM	Pumper Race Captain Meeting
3:30 - 4 PM	SFFMA Recognition of Exhibitors
4:30 - 6:30 PM	Pumper Races/Kid's Activities
5 - 10 PM	Exhibit Hall Move Out

### Sunday, June 23, 2013

7:30 - 9:30 AM	Driving Contest
8:30 AM	Firefighter of the Year Breakfast (By invitation only)
10 AM	Memorial Service Lineup
10:30 AM - 12 PM	Memorial Service
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Luncheon
2 - 5 PM	First Business Session
3 PM	TFA Scrapbook Judging
5 - 6 PM	District Officers Meeting
7 - 10 PM	President's Reception

### Monday, June 24, 2013

7:30 AM - 12 PM	Registration
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Poster Contest Judging
7:30 - 8:30 AM	TFA Business Meeting registration
8 - 9:30 AM	Second Business Session
8:30 AM	TFA Business Meeting
10 AM - 5 PM	Training Workshops
1 PM	Vernon "Blondy" Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament
6 - 9 PM	Hospitality Night Events

### Tuesday, June 25, 2013

7:30 - 11 AM	Registration
8 AM	Credentials Committee
8 AM - 5 PM	Training Workshops
11 AM	TFA Luncheon
7 - 10 PM	Dinner & Dance

### Wednesday, June 26, 2013

8 - 10:30 AM	Third Business Session
9 AM	TFA Board Meeting
1 - 3 PM	SFFMA Executive Board Meeting



# 137<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION

JUNE 21 - 26, 2013

THE WOODLANDS, TX

OFFICE USE ONLY

## REGISTRATION FORM

**AVOID FILLING OUT REGISTRATION FORM BY REGISTERING ONLINE AT [www.sffma.org](http://www.sffma.org)**

Member ID#:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as to appear on badge)

Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Attendee

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

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

Delegate #: 1 2 3 4 5

Fire Chief Signature:

### FEES & DEADLINES

#### Registration Fees include:

- Access to exhibits, all functions
- Training workshops
- ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant

**Members**  
BEFORE MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$150  
AFTER MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$250

**Non-Members**  
BEFORE MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$200  
AFTER MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$300

**One Day Registration:**  Monday  Tuesday  
• Training workshops

BEFORE MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$80  
AFTER MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$100

BEFORE MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$100  
AFTER MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$120

**NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>**

PLEASE INDICATE ACTIVITIES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:  PUMPER RACES (SAT)  HOSPITALITY NIGHT (MON)  PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION (SUN)  DINNER & DANCE (TUE) (A) Subtotal:

**TFA AND ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION** - Allowed only with the purchase of the FULL conference registration above. This registration includes access to main conference, exhibits, activities and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant.

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

**BEFORE MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$70 + AFTER MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> \$90**

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION TYPES:  TFA  SPOUSE OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER  GUEST OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER  OTHER

(1) NAME:  (2) NAME:

**YOUTH REGISTRATION** - Allowed only with the FULL conference registration above, includes access to exhibits, activities, and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant. Price of \$30 for ages 7-17, children 6 and under are FREE!

(1) NAME:  AGE:  (3) NAME:  AGE:

(2) NAME:  AGE:  (4) NAME:  AGE:

**ADDITIONAL DINNER & DANCE TICKETS** - Are available for those who will be attending the SFFMA Dinner & Dance ONLY.  X \$30.00 Each =

(B) Subtotal:

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



METHOD OF PAYMENT:  MC  VISA  AMEX  DISC

CARDHOLDER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK #:   
 PO

Subtotals (A) \_\_\_\_\_  
(B) \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/yr)

GRAND TOTAL:

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE MAILED TO: **SFFMA 2013  
4450 FRONTIER TRAIL  
AUSTIN, TX 78745**

**PLEASE SELECT YOUR SESSION CHOICES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**

# PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW

1. Do you require special assistance during conference? Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you have any severe food allergies or dietary restrictions? (Sunday luncheon & Tuesday dinner). \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetarian     Vegan     Gluten Free     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS

	AM	9:00AM	10:00AM	11:00AM	PM	1:00PM	2:00PM
<b>SATURDAY</b>		<b>NO CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE FOR VENDOR WORKSHOPS ON SATURDAY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW CAR TECHNOLOGY! DOES YOUR DEPT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? <i>Kirby Wilson</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVING MONEY WITH THE STATE OF TEXAS CO-OP PROGRAM <i>Bryant Clayton</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIREHOUSE/ FIRE RECOVERY USA/ FUNDING ALTERNATIVES <i>Mike Rogers/Allison Dean</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> BILLING FOR SERVICES, INSPECTIONS AND FD COST RECOVERY <i>Meredith Doty</i>
<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>		<b>1:00PM</b>		<b>3:00PM</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/> RESPONSE SAFETY (TEEX DRIVING SIMULATOR) <b>Pre-registration required - space is limited</b> <i>Robert Averitt</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> IMPROVING YOUR ISO - PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION <i>Phillip Bradley</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY RESPONSE AT OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION SITES <i>William G. Burket</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> NO HYDRANT! NO PROBLEM! <i>Michael E. Norman</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE BEHAVIOR <i>Chris Anderson</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> THE HAZMAT RESPONSE <i>Robert "Andy" Dexter</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> LEADERSHIP - INSIDE OUT <i>Gilbert T. Bennett</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> THE CUTTING EDGE COMMAND OFFICER <i>Edward Hadfield</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE INSTRUCTOR'S WORKSHOP <i>Danny Hurt/ Rayford Gibson</i>
		<b>2ND BUSINESS SESSION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> BACKPAIN: EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW IS WRONG <i>John Hofman</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIREFIGHTER SAFETY, HOW ARE WE DOING? <i>Ronnie Sexton</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> SELF SAFETY - THE EFFECTS OF CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS <i>J.C. Skip Straus</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> HONOR GUARD 101 - A (Part 1) <i>JoAnn Linnenkugel</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> HONOR GUARD 101 - B (Part 2) <i>JoAnn Linnenkugel</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT LODD PREP CLASS <i>Wendy Norris</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> EOC FIRE DESK OPERATIONS <i>Mike Montgomery/ Mark Sloan</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> INCIDENT ACTION PLANNING <i>Al Guarino</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FDS <i>Al Guarino</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA - WHAT FIREFIGHTER SHOULD KNOW <i>John Pape</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> BASIC STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEDIA INTERVIEW <i>Francisco Sanchez/Dean Hensley</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> THE MEDIA & TODAY'S MEDIA ENVIRONMENT <i>Francisco Sanchez/Dean Hensley</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> TEXFIRS <i>Virginia Garza</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION - CAREER VS. VOLUNTEER? <i>Mike Montgomery</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP <i>Certification Board Representative</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>		<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>		<b>1:00PM</b>		<b>3:00PM</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> WHY YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS A CHAPLAIN <i>Jimmie Duncan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSESSING YOUR READINESS TO PURSUE EMPLOYEE SURVEYS <i>Michael DeSousa</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> CLANDESTINE LABS FOR FIRE AND EMS <i>Elizabeth Morris</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> TCFP/SFFMA PANEL DISCUSSION <i>TCFP/SFFMA Representatives</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE FIRES <i>R.W. "Bob" Royall/W.T. "Bill" Hand</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE <i>R.W. "Bob" Royall/W.T. "Bill" Hand</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL/ MUNICIPAL INTERFACE <i>Craig Shelley/Sue Tarantino</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> MAJOR INCIDENTS OF THE PAST & MAYBE IN YOUR FUTURE <i>Woody Cole</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> CRITICAL THINKING OF FIREGROUND ORGANIZATION <i>Russell Johnson</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> INSPECTIONS <i>Jimmy Williams/Laurie Christensen</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> DEVELOPING A FIRE FIT EMPLOYEE <i>Edward Hadfield</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> UPDATING TACTICS FOR THE NEW REALITY OF MODERN FIRE BEHAVIOR <i>Jason Hearnberger</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES <i>Justice Jones</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> TFS FIRE REPORTING AND FD DIRECTORY <i>Don Hannemann</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE <i>Jason Keiningham/Steve Pollock</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIREFIGHTER SAFETY IN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE <i>Justice Jones/Jared Karns</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP <i>Certification Board Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WRITTEN TESTING <i>Certification Board Representative</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR 101 <i>Kevin Creamer</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR 102 <i>Kevin Creamer</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> ENCOURAGE THE HEART OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS <i>Bobby Mims</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> BEST PRACTICES <i>TFCA - Betty Wilkes</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> THE VOLUNTEER COMPANY OFFICER <i>Robert "Andy" Dexter</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> COMMAND DECISIONS FOR CLANDESTINE LABS <i>Elizabeth Morris</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST RESPONDERS <i>Ernie Cantu</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 TIPS FOR SELECTING AN ETHICAL, PROFITABLE AMBULANCE BILLING COMPANY <i>Christopher Turner</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FIELD EMS CARE OF THE ENTANGLED PATIENT DURING EXTRICATION <i>Taylor Ratciff</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL LEGAL - AN EXPERT WITNESS PERSPECTIVE <i>Jay D. Cloud</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESSING THE TOP 3 ACCIDENT CAUSES IN THE FIRE & EMS SERVICES <i>John Hicks</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY SERVICE UTV/ ATV SAFETY PROGRAM <i>Roy Mercer</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE (PART 1) <i>Dennis Gifford</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE (PART 2) <i>Dennis Gifford</i>

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE CONFERENCE!**



# CONFERENCE HOST HOTEL

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott

1601 Lake Robbins Dr  
The Woodlands, TX  
77380

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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## 2013 TEXAS FIREMEN PHOTO CONTEST

If you were in the right place in  
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moment, we encourage you to  
enter the contest.

### CATEGORIES

Fire Related Acts

Life-Saving Acts

Education and Public Safety

For more information please visit  
[www.sffma.org](http://www.sffma.org)

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS  
FRIDAY • MAY 31, 2013

Anyone can enter the contest with the  
EXCEPTION of professional photographers,  
no minimum age requirement.



# BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT PRODUCES FIRST EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN OF ITS KIND IN TEXAS

by April Saginor  
Email: [asaginor@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:asaginor@tfs.tamu.edu)

Many Texans will never forget the wildfires that blazed across the Lone Star State in 2011, challenging the state's 1,900 local fire departments that serve as the first line of defense.

Three thousand homes were destroyed that year. Four million acres of land burned. Often there simply weren't enough resources to effectively contain the forces of nature that ravaged wildlands and urban communities.

The situation could have been overwhelming for the Bryan Fire Department, which serves a community of about 76,000 residents.

But instead it was a call to action.

Bryan Fire Chief Randy McGregor assembled a team in 2012 to work alongside Texas A&M Forest Service in developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

"It's our responsibility to protect our community," McGregor said. "This wasn't something we wanted to do; it was something we needed to do."

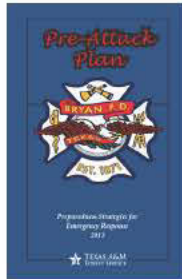
A Community Wildfire Protection Plan, or CWPP, identifies wildfire hazards and risks throughout a community and outlines specific strategies for reducing those risks. For example, some neighborhoods in the City of Bryan are in close proximity to large pockets of wildlands, where vegetation can dry out, creating challenges when a wildfire ignites.

Combustible attachments also were identified in some areas, as well as things like minimal access routes and poor signage.

Once the hazards and risks were identified, the group set out to develop mitigation strategies, such as fuels reduction projects, public education campaigns and an ingress/egress plan for high-risk neighborhoods.

"The Bryan Fire Department has some of the sharpest, most

innovative guys I've ever worked with," said Jared Karns, a wildland urban interface specialist with Texas A&M Forest Service. "They've put a considerable amount of time into working on this plan and tailoring it to suit the needs of this community." They also got creative along the way and decided they wanted to do more than a CWPP.



The team's drive and determination resulted in the first Pre-Attack Plan in Texas. The plan – a spiral pocket guide – includes information

firefighters can use to size up a wildfire in the city. It could be particularly beneficial to mutual aid responders who may not be familiar with the area. The plan outlines tactics for fighting wildfire in each of Bryan's five response zones, detailing fuel types, water sources, staging areas, evacuation considerations and contingency plans for each region.

"It's incredibly valuable information for responding firefighters, and it didn't exist collectively on paper anywhere," Karns said. "This could potentially help responders identify their plan of attack before they even get to the fire. At the end of the day, it ensures a safer, more efficient wildfire response."

If mutual aid is called to a wildfire in Bryan, firefighters can pick up a Pre-Attack Plan when they check into the incident. If, for example, the fire was burning around Newton Street in Response Zone One, emergency responders could flip to that section of the plan.

They could then determine that the area is surrounded by a 450-acre area of wildlands. The heavy fuel loading includes grass, juniper and oak, and most of the homes in the area are built with ignition-resistant materials but have combustible attachments.

The Pre-Attack Plan also outlines values at risk in the area, hydrants and other water sources, watch-out situations and evacuation trigger points.

"This is the type of information that sometimes takes several hours to determine when you're thrown into an incident, and unfortunately sometimes homes are destroyed because responders don't have all the tools they need to properly suppress the fire," Karns said. "It's very forward-thinking for the City of Bryan to prepare for the next big wildfire long before it happens."

## A TRAGIC TURN OF EVENTS

Two months after Bryan began gathering data for its CWPP and Pre-Attack Plan, news of a late-night fire at the Knights of Columbus Hall rocked the city. Text messages, Facebook posts and tearful phone calls shared the unthinkable during the early-morning hours of Saturday, Feb. 16: A firefighter lost his life.

Later that day, another firefighter's life was claimed. Two others remain in a Galveston burn unit recovering from injuries sustained on the night of the fire.

One of the first responders that fateful February evening was Lt. Eric Wallace, a member of Bryan's Community Wildfire Protection Plan working group. Lt. Wallace led Texas A&M Forest Service officials in conducting risk assessments for the Fire Station One response zone.

Wallace was known around the fire department for his initiative. He volunteered to be the BFD's HazMat response coordinator, served on the apparatus committee, helped teach Citizen Fire Academy courses and worked with youth every summer at Fire Gator Camp.



Texas A&M Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface Specialist Jared Karns, left, reviews high-risk communities with Bryan Fire Department Lt. Eric Wallace.

Wallace believed in what the CWPP set out to accomplish and took an aggressive approach to learning wildland firefighting terminology and tactics.

At the 36-year-old's funeral, less than two weeks after he spearheaded the risk assessments for his Station One response zone, Chief McGregor acknowledged the need to finish the projects Eric Wallace started.

"There's an inscription in the front of the CWPP that dedicates the plan to our fallen firefighters," McGregor said. "But what that means to us is that we have to roll up our sleeves and ensure that we carry it out and we make the City of Bryan a safer community."



In its darkest hour, the Bryan Fire Department emerged from the ashes with a plan

in place, a plan that will guide firefighters and potentially serve as a model for other departments to emulate.



# TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

To learn more about creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan or Pre-Attack Plan, visit [texasfirewise.org](http://texasfirewise.org).

# RURAL TEXAS FIRE DEPARTMENTS LOOK TO ENHANCE THEIR WILDFIRE RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

*TetraKO Wildfire Protection System and newly announced Texas Community Enhancement Funds.*

The large-scale damage caused by wildfires in the state of Texas and across the country have become more frequent – the state will never forget the nearly four million acres burned in 2011. And from January 1, 2013 to February 28, 2013, Texas Forest Service and local firefighters responded to 923 wildfires. As the 2013 wildfire season heats up, federal and state fire officials – and local rural fire departments – are exploring ways to prepare for the inevitable battles to come as they also face budget challenges.

One new funding source for rural fire departments involves recently announced Community Enhancement Funds (CEF), which will become available later this spring through the Texas Ag Commissioner's Office. This program provides a source of funds not available through other State of Texas Community Development Block Grant Programs. These 100% reimbursement grant monies are being set-aside primarily for rural communities, and the amount of each grant is between \$100,000 and \$350,000. The grants are ideally suited for rural Texas fire departments that desire to ramp up their wildfire protection capabilities.

To be eligible for CEF monies, the project must be a community facility project, renewable energy project, or a combination of the two that can demonstrate a benefit to all citizens within the jurisdiction. The community applicant must meet the Low and Moderate Income (LMI) national objective for its entire jurisdiction (at least 51 percent LMI). These grants provide an avenue for rural fire departments to obtain enhanced wildfire protection capabilities.

## NEW WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM

There is a new wildland firefighting system, with strong connections in Texas, which is already pre-approved for the CEF monies. At the heart of the system is TetraKO water enhancer, a new product that has been extensively



*TetraKO's technology is biodegradable and non-toxic, and has proven to be far superior in fighting fires to plain water and Class A foam because its proprietary dual thickening agent allows it to adhere and stay where applied.*

tested in Texas. TetraKO's technology is biodegradable and non-toxic, and has proven to be far superior in fighting fires to plain water and Class A foam because its proprietary dual thickening agent allows it to adhere and stay where applied. When heated by fire, TetraKO becomes even thicker and releases a cooling steam, dramatically aiding in fire suppression. TetraKO is the first product of its type that contains no super absorbent polymers.

## TESTED AT TEEX

As part of TetraKO's research and development process, a white paper was prepared for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). The white paper was requested after members of the IAFC Technology Committee and Wildland Policy Council attended two days of TetraKO testing at the TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field. The fire knockdown tests demonstrated that TetraKO yielded a significant advantage over water and foam. (A download of the IAFC white paper is available at [www.TetraKO.com](http://www.TetraKO.com).)

“Having this white paper written and presented to the IAFC Technology Committee – following a full complement of testing at the TEEX Brayton Fire Training

Field – is the type of performance validation of TetraKO we seek out,” said Scott Bocklund, TetraKO, LLC president. “When combined with real world results observed by our Peer Group fire departments and other firefighting organizations, it confirms TetraKO water enhancer as a

game-changing, bio-based technology.” Day one of the testing performed at the TEEX Product Development Center consisted of TetraKO aerial drops – consisting of level 2, level 3, and full salvo drops – with attendees witnessing the technology being dropped from an aircraft and providing a consistent coating on vegetation and sensitive fuels. Day two featured identical 10' x 10' pod burns comparing TetraKO side by side with plain water and Class A foam for knockdown performance. The result: fire knockdown testing found that TetraKO yielded a nearly 91% efficiency increase over water alone, and an 86% increase over Class A foam.

## TESTED BY HOTSHOTS

TetraKO has been positively evaluated by California Hotshot crews from Los Angeles County and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for wet fire line and fuel coating, knockdown and mop up, ease of use, and clean up. A video of the California Hotshot crew testing can be viewed at [www.tetrako.com](http://www.tetrako.com).

## MORE ABOUT THE NEW SYSTEM

The TetraKO Wildfire Protection System originated in response to requests from Texas Fire Depart-

ments to develop an integrated firefighting package that exploits the many firefighting benefits of TetraKO technology. The products include the TetraKO TurboMixer system, the TetraKO Wildland Skid, and TetraKO powder concentrate.

The TetraKO TurboMixer is an engineered, assembled system that facilitates large-batch mixing of TetraKO powder concentrate into water – for storage in the system tank, or immediate off-loading of mixed TetraKO solution into any fire apparatus.

The TurboSkid Unit is designed for placement on the flatbed of a pickup truck or on a trailer. The TurboSkid comes equipped with a 200-gallon tank, and an 18 hp Waterous pump. Unique to the TurboSkid is its ability to rapidly mix TetraKO while a vehicle is in route to an incident. Turning on the system just prior to departure initiates mixing; the TetraKO will be ready for use upon arrival. With the TurboSkid and TetraKO water enhancer, a firefighter possesses the best tool for laying a wetline, coating structures, and directly taking the head out of a fire.

As part of a promotion to introduce this program, the first 50 Texas fire departments that apply and qualify for funding will receive a bonus of on-site training and a supply of TetraKO water enhancer powder to provide the equivalent of 5,000 gallons of mixed solution, or the equivalent of nearly 50,000 gallons of water.



*By adhering to vertical surfaces and smothering the fire, TetraKO can knockdown fire faster and more effectively than water, traditional Class A foam and compressed air foam (CAF) or gels.*



*TetraKO testing at TEEX included three separate trials of TetraKO released from the Fire Boss aircraft tank, including a Level 1 coverage drop, a Level 3 coverage drop and, finally, a full Salvo coverage drop. TetraKO clings to trees, bushes and grasses and won't fall to the ground, and can be applied to wildfires from air, truck or backpack.*

*continued on page 35*

# VOTE 4 HARVIE CHESHIRE

4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
in the Woodlands

*"I am ready to serve and work for YOU as  
your next SFFMA 4th Vice President."*

- 35 Years as a Volunteer Career Fire Fighter
- 33 years as a Paid Career Fire Fighter
- 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



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# CONFERENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## SATURDAY

June 22, 2013

NO CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE FOR SATURDAY VENDOR WORKSHOPS

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

### **New Car Technology! Does Your Department Have What it Takes**

*Kirby Wilson, Jr.  
Wilson Fire/Rescue*

New car technology, rescue tools, and computer training programs per NFPA.

**11:00AM - NOON**

### **Saving Money with the State of Texas CO-OP Program**

*Bryant Clayton  
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts*

Attendees will be given general information about the State Co-Op program including eligibility requirements, program objectives, and tips about how to use the co-op to conserve department funds.

**1:00 - 2:00 PM**

### **FireHouse/ Fire Recovery USA Bringing Revenue to your FD/ Funding Alternatives**

*Mike Rogers/ Allison Dean - FireHouse Software*

Bringing Revenue to your FD/ Funding Alternatives.

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

### **Billing for Services, Inspections and Fire Department Cost Recovery**

*Meredith Doty - INTERMEDIX*  
Billing for Services, Inspections and Fire Department Cost Recovery.

## MONDAY

June 24, 2013

10 - 11:45 AM

### **GENERAL Response Safety**

*Robert Averitt - TEEX*  
**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. MAX. # OF ATTENDEES 12.**

Driving Simulator Theory. Simulator Driving will take place on Monday afternoon.

### **FIREFIGHTER I No Hydrant! No Problem!**

*Michael E. Norman - District Chief Bastrop FD*

Discuss water shuttle operations with Tenders and portable tanks in the rural or suburban settings.

## LEADERSHIP

### **Leadership - Inside Out**

*Captain Gilbert T. Bennett  
Houston Fire Department/ TEEX*  
The Physical - Mental - Spiritual aspect of Leadership as an Officer

## SAFETY

### **Back Pain: Everything You Thought You Knew Is Wrong**

*John Hofman  
Sacramento Fire Department*

This lecture will cover many common ailments that are specific to firefighters who have low back pain and how they are brought on by overuse, poor compensation, and improper motor patterns. Specific focus will be provided to hip and thoracic mobility and how to properly strengthen the core to help with injury prevention.

## TEXAS LODD TASK FORCE

### **Honor Guard 101 - A (Part 1)**

*JoAnn Linnenkugel  
TxLODD Task Force/ Honor Guard Society*

How to form your department honor guard, brainstorming session.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### **EOC Fire Desk Operations**

*Mike Montgomery - Fire Marshal - Harris County*

*Mark Sloan - EMC - Harris County*  
Coordination between on-scene response/ IC and county emergency operations center. Emphasis on use of a Fire Desk in the EOC.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS/ MEDIA

### **New Media and Social Media - What a Firefighter Should Know**

*John Pape - Editorial Director for Neighborhood Media News Services (Houston)*

The class is designed to provide the recruit, in-service firefighter or veteran fire officer with the skills needed to effectively deal with the demands of dealing with the news media, as well as the emerging use of social media as a communications tool for a fire department.

## CERTIFICATION

### **TEXFIRS**

*Virginia Garza- Program Manager SFMO*  
Instruction on TEXFIRS/ NFIRS reporting and program updates.

1 - 2:45 PM

### **GENERAL Improving Your ISO Public Protection Classification**

*Phillip Bradley - ISO*  
This guided program will provide an update on the newly revised Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. The revised FSRs will reflect the latest trends in fire protection by referencing current NFPA, AWWA and APC standards.

## FIREFIGHTER I

### **Fire Behavior**

*Assn. Chief - Chris Anderson  
Santa Fe Fire/ Rescue*

This session will cover the following SFFMA objectives: 15-01.01 - 15-01.10

## LEADERSHIP The Cutting Edge Command Officer

*Edward Hadfield - Chief Officer Firetown Training Specialist*

The Cutting Edge Command Officers program will give the student the skill sets and techniques which will make them successful in their jobs and for your organization. It provides the newly promoted Command Officers with the knowledge to be successful in their position.

## SAFETY

### **Firefighter Safety, How Are We Doing?**

*Ronnie Sexton, Loss Prevention Training Specialist - TMLIRP*

This session will discuss current fire service injury trends and root causes of firefighter injuries.

## TEXAS LODD TASK FORCE

### **Honor Guard 101 - B (Part 2)**

*JoAnn Linnenkugel  
TxLODD Task Force/ Honor Guard Society*

Flag Etiquette, ceremony and drill practice.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### **Incident Action Plan**

*Al Guarino - District Coordinator Texas Department of Public Safety*

This session will discuss Incident Action Planning and when written plans are needed and what forms are included within the plan.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS/ MEDIA

### **Basic Steps for a Successful Media Interview**

*Francisco Sanchez, Liaison & PIO  
Lt. Dean Hensley*

*Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Em. Management, HCFMO*

As news goes 24-hours and expands so does the need for hard news and the fire service is hard news. So how do you survive a media interview? This presentation will teach you how.

## CERTIFICATION

### **Firefighter Certification Career vs. Volunteer?**

*Mike Montgomery - Fire Marshal - Harris County*

Provides a comparison of firefighter certification programs in Texas and the U.S.

3 - 4:45 PM

## GENERAL

### **Emergency Response at Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Sites**

*William G. Burket, CFPS  
Range Resources*

Provide information on the process, hazards, and potential emergencies associated with the development of an oil or gas well.

## FIREFIGHTER I

### **The HazMat Response**

*Deputy Chief Robert "Andy" Dexter LP  
Klein Volunteer Fire Department*

Details components of the response to a hazardous materials incident to include discussions on safety, hazard/ risk assessment, response, and available resources.

## LEADERSHIP

### **Fire Instructor Workshop**

*Danny Hurt, Training Officer - Pleasant Grove FD  
Rayford Gibson, TEEX*

Remember the first day you began your career in the fire service? Somewhere in the back of your mind is probably a great fire service instructor. He or she just may be the person who introduced you to the greatest job in America. Fire service instructors are the guardians of knowledge, skills and ability in the fire service - their knowledge is wrapped up in a long tradition that has served many

### MONDAY

June 24, 2013

3 - 4:45 PM

generations of firefighters well. As protectors of that tradition, instructors look to and rely on creativity while constantly striving to perfect training. In this workshop we will cover three areas: Legal Issues, Disruptive and Unsafe Behaviors in the Classroom, and Today's Adult Learners Generation X, Y and the Baby Boomers.

### SAFETY

#### Self-Safety- the Effects of

#### Critical Incident Stress

*J.C. "Skip" Straus - CEO & Senior Chaplain - Emergency Ministries*

A one hour look at signs & symptoms of Critical Incident Stress and ways to avoid it. Also discussed are how to recognize signs in a co-worker.

### TEXAS LODD TASK FORCE

#### Department LODD Prep Class

*Wendy Norris - Tx LODD Task Force*

Learn what your department may need in the event of an LODD or serious injury for their members. This course will present: Basic Planning, Benefit Overview and Caring for Survivors.

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

#### Emergency Management and Fire Departments

*Al Guarino - District Coordinator Texas Department of Public Safety*

This session will discuss the functions of Emergency Management organizations versus Fire Departments functions and operations, how they can compliment each other through comprehensive threat analysis/ response capabilities and the process for requesting assistance from the State of Texas.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS/ MEDIA

#### The Media & Today's Media Environment

*Francisco Sanchez, Liaison & PIO Lt. Dean Hensley*

*Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Em. Management, HCFMO*

Who is the media? Understanding the media and their role in public safety. It will review media formats and basic elements of the news business that fire service public information officers should know.

### CERTIFICATION

#### Certification Workshop

#### Certification Board Representative

Workshop attendance is a requirement for all Certification Coordinators as continuing education in order to maintain the department's participation status within the Certification Program. Full Coordinators are required to attend a workshop once every two years, and provisionally certified Coordinators are required to attend annually.

### TUESDAY

June 25, 2013

8 - 9:45 AM

### GENERAL

#### Why Your Fire Department Needs a Chaplain

*Chaplain Jimmie Duncan Texas Corps of Fire Chaplains*

What a chaplain can do for your Department, how a Chaplain fits into the 16 Health Safety Initiatives. Networking with the Texas Corps of Fire Chaplains, Networking with the Federations of Fire Chaplains. The link between the Texas LODD Task Force and the Chaplains.

### INDUSTRIAL

#### Chemical Warehouse Fires

*R.W. "Bob" Royall, Jr.*

*W.T. "Bill" Hand*

*Harris County Fire Marshal's Office*

This workshop will use a series of short case studies to illustrate the many challenges that first responders face when called upon to battle a chemical warehouse fire. The protection of Life, Property, and the Environment translates into what do we need to do to protect the health and safety of our responders, what actions are needed to limit the amount of damage, and how do we minimize the environmental impact? Come hear some of the lessons that have been learned.

### FIREFIGHTER II

#### Critical Thinking of Fireground Organization

*Russell Johnson - Battalion Chief - San Antonio VFD*

The course will use and compare the Risk Management Profile and the Fireground Factors to help develop a Strategy. The most important part of this class is the Critical Thinking and the Situational Awareness that is taught. We will also develop and practice initial reports including size up, and initial assignments. This course correlates with NFPA 1001.

### WILDLAND

#### Fire Adapted Communities

*Justice Jones - State WUI Coordinator Texas A&M Forest Service*

This session will address the core elements of the national cohesive strategy for empowering communities to become adapted to withstand wildland fire, enhance firefighter safety in the WUI and the fire service role in natural resource management.

### CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

#### Certification Workshop

#### Certification Board Representative

Workshop attendance is a requirement for all Certification Coordinators as continuing education in order to maintain the department's participation status within the Certification Program. Full Coordinators are required to attend a workshop once every two years, and provisionally certified Coordinators are required to attend annually.

### LEADERSHIP

#### Encourage the Heart of

#### Tomorrow's Leaders

*Bobby Mims - Battalion Chief, Carrollton Fire Rescue (Retired) Adjunct Instructor with TEEC*

This session is designed to encourage the fire service leaders of today to inspire and encourage the leaders of tomorrow and to provide them with some practical ways to do it.

### EMS

#### First Responders

*Emie Cantu - Education Coordinator, East Texas Medical Center - EMS*

Discuss the critical things first responders provide for responding EMS units.

### SAFETY

#### Addressing the Top 3 Accident

#### Causes in the Fire & EMS

#### Services

*John W. Hicks, OHST - Texas Mutual Insurance Company*

Discuss the top 3 accident causes in the Fire and EMS service and ways to minimize them.

10 - 11:45 AM

### GENERAL

#### Assessing Your Readiness to Pursue Employee Surveys

*Michael DeSousa - Senior Consultant, CPS HR Consulting*  
A step-by-step process to determine if

your fire leadership is ready to meet the resource and decision commitments required for "best practice" survey projects.

### INDUSTRIAL

#### Pipeline Emergency Response

*R.W. "Bob" Royall, Jr.*

*W.T. "Bill" Hand*

*Harris County Fire Marshal's Office*

This interactive workshop will cover many of the challenges faced by first responders when they roll up on a pipeline incident. Critical questions might include; what material is involved, who is the owner/operator, who do I call for help, where is the release headed, and what are my response options? Come learn from others and share your own experiences.

### FIREFIGHTER II Inspections

*Jimmy Williams, Laurie Christensen Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office*

Inspections of Daycares/ Residential Board & Care Facilities.

### WILDLAND

#### TFS Fire Reporting and Fire Department Directory

*Don Hannemann,*

*Texas A&M Forest Service*

Overview and instruction on entering wildfire incidents into TFS Fire Reporting, dispel common misconceptions about the report, and look at other functions of the Fire Department Directory.

### CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

#### Certification Written Testing

#### Certification Board Representative

The written portion of the testing is open to all individuals certified at the Module 3 or 4 level to test toward their full FFI or II certification. FFI exams consist of 150 multiple-choice questions from Modules 1 - 3. FFI exams consist of 75 multiple-choice questions from Module 4. Skills demonstrations are to be handled separately.

### LEADERSHIP

#### Best Practices

*Betty Wilkes - Executive Director, Texas Fire Chiefs Association*

Texas Fire Chiefs Association's Best Practices Recognition Program.

This program consists of 12 areas of concentration: Administration and Organization; Emergency Medical Service; Training; Special Operations; Records and Information Management; Fire Operations; Fire Prevention/ Risk Reduction/ Community

Outreach; Response Analysis; Communications; Safety and Health; Resources Management; Professional Standards and Conduct (see page 35 for more information)

### EMS

#### 11 Tips for Selecting an Ethical, Profitable Ambulance Billing Company

*Christopher Turner - President and CEO, Emergicon, LLC*

This is an unbiased guide to selecting a trustworthy and knowledgeable ambulance billing services company that will boost your budget and provide quality customer service. Topics include: Days to bill, commercial insurance payments, denials, claim follow-up, days to payment.

### SAFETY

#### Emergency Service UTV/ATV Safety Program

*Roy Mercer - Director of Education, VFIS of Texas*

Utility Terrain vehicles (UTVs) and All-Terrain vehicles (ATVs) continue to gain wider acceptance and use in the emergency service. They have given organizations a less physically demanding, more rapid and effective response to emergency incidents and special events. Adding UTVs and ATVs to the ESO's fleet provides a great benefit but also can present safety issues if those using the vehicle have not been properly trained in the operations and maintenance of these types of vehicles. Training in the use of these vehicles should be part of the organizations commitment to safety. This introductory program is designed to review skills sets necessary for the use of these specialty vehicles.

1 - 2:45 PM

### GENERAL

#### Clandestine Labs/ Criminal HazMat Response Considerations for Fire & EMS

*Elizabeth Morris - Firefighter, Brazos County Pct 3 VFD*

This presentation targets Fire/ EMS personnel and others in emergency response who may encounter incidents involving criminal use of hazardous materials. The material will focus on recognition, protection, and life safety.

### INDUSTRIAL

#### Industrial and Municipal Interface

*Chief Craig Shelley & Chief Sue Tarantino Industrial Emergency Services*  
How do municipal fire departments

interface with industrial fire brigades and what do municipal fire departments need to know to successfully handle fires at industrial facilities? We will explore these and other questions regarding response to industrial incidents whether they be in-plant emergencies, pipeline incidents, or well sites.

### FIREFIGHTER II

#### Developing a Fire Fit Employee

*Edward Hadfield - Chief Officer, Firetown Training Specialist*

Utilization of the principles and the foundational elements of Operational Fitness, Mobility WOD and proper meal planning and fundamental nutrition has proven to be one of the best ways in which to address the ever increasing problem of obesity and poor overall fitness and conditioning in the American fire service.

### WILDLAND

#### Fire Department Assistance

*Jason Keiningham Steve Pollock Texas A&M Forest Service*

General discussion regarding opportunities available via TFS Fire Department Assistance Programs.

### CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

#### Certification Coordinator 101

*Kevin Creamer - Certification Administrator, SFFMA*

This course is intended to provide more in depth understanding of not only the practices of the Certification Office, but why certain requirements are in place. Subjects include: application completion; training documentation/records retention; personal information; as well as examination eligibility and procedures.

### LEADERSHIP

#### The Volunteer Company Officer

*Deputy Chief Robert "Andy" Dexter LP Klein Volunteer Fire Department*

Provide for an interactive discussion as to the cornerstone of the fire service, the Company Officer. The successes and failures of this critical position will determine the outcome of the volunteer fire department.

### EMS

#### Field EMS Care of the Entangled/ Entrapped Patient During Extrication

*Taylor Ratcliff, MD, FF/ EMT-LP Emergency Physician - Scott & White Healthcare*

Session will discuss care of the trapped patient that cannot be transported.

Presentation will use a case based approach including entrapped vehicular trauma, crush or collapse, etc. Also discussed will be advanced care concepts including establishment of regional protocols to care for these patients.

### SAFETY

#### Courage To Be Safe (Part 1 of 2)

*Dennis Gifford Lumberton Fire & EMS*

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

3 - 4:45 PM

### GENERAL

#### TCFP/ SFFMA Panel Discussion

*TCFP/ SFFMA Representatives*  
Panel Discussion with TCFP/ SFFMA Representatives.

### INDUSTRIAL

#### Major Incidents of the Past & Maybe in Your Future

*Woody Cole - Corporate Safety & Health Manager, Calpine Corp.*

A review of some of the largest industrial fires that have occurred on the Houston Ship Channel.

### FIREFIGHTER II

#### Updating Tactics for the New Reality of Modern Fire Behavior

*Lieutenant Jason Hearnberger The Woodlands Fire Department*

Higher fuel loads, Better Insulations, Lightweight construction, Open Layouts, Hotter Fires, Faster flashovers. These are just a few of the realities facing firefighters in the modern world. This class examines the science behind modern fire behavior and how it differs from past generations. Recent research into ventilation-limited compartment fire development is showing

us that our tactics need updating. New tactics based on flexible evaluation of key factors will improve firefighters' ability to save lives and property while increasing fire ground safety.

### WILDLAND

#### Firefighter Safety in the Wildland Urban Interface

*Justice Jones*

*Jared Karns*

*Texas A&M Forest Service*

The Firefighter Safety Series is a multipart information package from the National Wildland/ Urban Interface Fire Program. It addresses problems faced by structural and wildland firefighters when fighting fires, especially those threatening structures in the wildland/ urban interface. An important goal is to improve knowledge of issues that impact firefighter safety and survival.

### CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

#### Certification Coordinator 102

*Kevin Creamer - Certification Administrator, SFFMA*

This course covers use of the SFFMA Online program for new and experienced users. Topics for review include: roster maintenance; invoicing; training management; reporting; and troubleshooting.

### LEADERSHIP

#### Command Decisions for Clandestine Labs

*Elizabeth Morris - Firefighter, Brazos County Pct 3 VFD*

The presentation targets Chiefs, Captains and others in emergency response whose responsibilities may require committing resources to incidents involving criminal use of hazardous materials. Resources include personnel, apparatus and equipment.

### EMS

#### Medical Legal - An Expert Witness Perspective

*Jay D. Cloud - Professor, San Jacinto College Central/ Deer Park VFD (retired)*

The concepts of medical legal issues in EMS will be discussed, including an overview of common mistakes.

### SAFETY

#### Courage To Be Safe (Part 2 of 2)

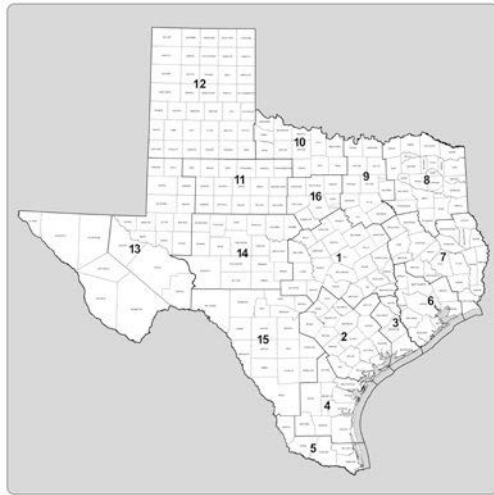
*Dennis Gifford*

*Lumberton Fire & EMS*

See part 1 of 2 for description.

# ABOUT US

## District Officers Listing



### 1 - CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT

**Herbie Vaughan - President**  
Rockdale FD  
1176 Country Road 333  
Rockdale, TX 76567-4204  
Phone: (512) 446-2930

**Timothy Mantey - Secretary**  
Rocky Creek FD  
9771 Longpoint Rd  
Burton, TX 77835-5637  
Phone: (903) 399-0049  
Email: [tmmantey@yahoo.com](mailto:tmmantey@yahoo.com)

### 2 - GUADALUPE DISTRICT

**Brian Deason - President**  
Stockdale FD  
603 S 7th St  
Stockdale, TX 78160-6031  
Phone: (830) 391-4743  
Email: [bdeason4200@yahoo.com](mailto:bdeason4200@yahoo.com)

**Steven Simpson - Secretary**  
150 Tomahawk Trl  
Seguin, TX 78155-6951  
Phone: (830) 379-0309  
Email: [simpson107@att.net](mailto:simpson107@att.net)

### 3 - TRI-RIVERS DISTRICT

**Tito Rodriguez - President**  
Clute FD  
735 Arbor St  
Clute, TX 77531-3717  
Phone: (979) 236-6704  
Email: [favff\\_tman@yahoo.com](mailto:favff_tman@yahoo.com)

**Michelle Cornell - Secretary**  
Tri-Rivers CFMA  
1940 Melody Ln  
Richmond, TX 77406-2412  
Phone: (281) 468-3150  
Email: [mcornell@icisd.org](mailto:mcornell@icisd.org)

### 4 - SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Jason Deleon - President**  
Sinton FD  
PO Box 3955  
Sinton, TX 78387-0955  
Phone: (361) 364-2381  
Email: [jasondeleon@texdot.gov](mailto:jasondeleon@texdot.gov)

### Elena Sanchez - Secretary

Sinton FD  
PO Box 652  
Sinton, TX 78387-0652  
Phone: (361) 364-2381  
Email: [esanchez1019@sbcglobal.net](mailto:esanchez1019@sbcglobal.net)

### 5 - RIO GRANDE VALLEY DISTRICT

**RC Flores - President**  
112 W 8th St.  
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Email: [rcflores1@yahoo.com](mailto:rcflores1@yahoo.com)

**Maricruz Tovar - Secretary**  
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Edinburg, TX 78541-3340  
Phone: (956) 383-5661  
Email: [mtovar@cityofedinburg.com](mailto:mtovar@cityofedinburg.com)

### 6 - GULF COAST DISTRICT

**Tito Rodriguez - President**  
Clute FD  
735 Arbor St  
Clute, TX 77531-3717  
Phone: (979) 236-6704  
Email: [favff\\_tman@yahoo.com](mailto:favff_tman@yahoo.com)

**Michael Richter - Secretary**  
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PO Box 374  
Needville, TX 77461-0374  
Phone: (979) 793-4262  
Email: [richtmic@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:richtmic@co.fort-bend.tx.us)

### 7 - EAST TEXAS DISTRICT

**Phillip Kibodeaux - President**  
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Email: [pkibodeaux121@aol.com](mailto:pkibodeaux121@aol.com)

**Dennis Gifford - Secretary**  
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### 8 - NORTHEAST TEXAS DISTRICT

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### 9 - NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT

**Kevin Ray - President**  
PO Box 198  
Covington, TX 76636-0198  
Phone: (254) 854-2422

**Karen Pickard - Secretary**  
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Ovilla, TX 75154-3401  
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Email: [karen.pickard@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:karen.pickard@utsouthwestern.edu)

### 10 - RED RIVER DISTRICT

**Thomas Smead - President**  
Vernon Fire/ EMS  
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**John Roberts - Secretary**  
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Archer City, TX 76351-0367  
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### 11 - MID-WEST DISTRICT

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Merkel, TX 79536-3612  
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Email: [stevec@taylorlortel.net](mailto:stevec@taylorlortel.net)

### 12 - PANHANDLE DISTRICT

**Kelly Vandygriff - President**  
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### 13 - PERMIAN BASIN DISTRICT

**Todd Lee - President**  
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**Keith Mensch - Secretary**  
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### 14 - HILL COUNTRY DISTRICT

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**Brent Allen - Secretary**  
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### 15 - WINTERGARDEN DISTRICT

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### 16 - NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT

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**Christopher Gable - Secretary**  
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Stephenville, TX 76401-7778  
Phone: (254) 965-3388  
Email: [cglg03@embarqmail.com](mailto:cglg03@embarqmail.com)

If your District listing is not up-to-date, please email [gglass@sffma.org](mailto:gglass@sffma.org).  
District Report Template for the 2013 Proceedings Book can be found by the  
District Officers Roster at [www.sffma.org](http://www.sffma.org)





## AGENCY NEWS

VFIS of Texas, the leading provider of insurance for Emergency Service Organizations in Texas, is proud to welcome two new sales associates, David Hubbard and Randy Teeter, to their organization.

David is Chief of Santo Fire/EMS in Palo Pinto County and sold fire equipment for North American Fire Equipment Company. He has been active in the fire service in Texas since 1990 and is passionate about all facets of the fire service. He will handle the North Central part of the state.

Randy Teeter is the Chief of New Deal Fire/EMS in Lubbock County and is a licensed Paramedic and RN. He has been involved in the fire service for over 36 years. Randy will service the Panhandle area while also selling fire equipment for Casco Industries.

Barbara Marzean, President of VFIS of Texas states, "We feel that it is very important for our sales associates to live in the area that they service in order to provide a higher level of expertise to our clients because they are more familiar with their neighboring emergency service organizations. Adding David and Randy to our team will enable us to be more available to our clients and their needs."

Having sales associates involved in the fire service, familiar with the issues their clients face and being able to meet with their clients face-to-face is a key aspect of their success.

VFIS of Texas serves over 1,200 emergency service organizations in Texas. They are involved in all of the state, district and local emergency service associations and support legislative issues that benefit our state's fire/EMS organizations. They also provide extensive education, training and safety materials/classes, regularly send out informational e-newsletters, provide loss control services to a significant number of their clients, and distinguish themselves in the industry with their expertise and promptness in paying claims. The associates at VFIS of Texas have a deep respect for emergency service organizations and enjoy serving their clients each day.

VFIS of Texas also said farewell to a beloved associate, Mike Barton, Chief of Eagle Mountain Fire/EMS. Mike was recently hired as a full-time paid chief at Eagle Mountain to best meet the demands and changes within his growing department. Mike will be tremendously missed by VFIS of Texas associates and their clients alike. ■

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

It has been a long time coming, but firefighters now have the rights to shut down roadways during emergency operations. A new law concerning closure of roadways by firefighters in Texas became effective September 1, 2011.

Working on roadways has become an increasingly dangerous situation for public safety personnel. The increase in population coupled with the development of road-rage has placed numerous public safety personnel at risk. Effective September 1, 2011, firefighters now have the right to shut down lanes of traffic if it becomes a risk to them or their crews while working an accident or a fire along the roadway. The law is under Transportation Code Sec. 546.007 and states:

- (a) This section applies only to a firefighter who is employed by or a member of:
  - (1) a fire department operated by an emergency services district;
  - (2) a volunteer fire department; or
  - (3) a fire department of a general-law municipality.
- (b) A firefighter, when performing the firefighter's official duties, may close one or more lanes of a road or highway to protect the safety of persons or property.
- (c) The closure shall be limited to the affected lane or lanes and one additional lane unless the safety of emergency personnel operating on the road or highway requires more lanes to be closed.
- (d) In making a closure under this section, the firefighter shall deploy one or more authorized emergency vehicles with audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of Sections 547.305 and 547.702.

Remember, this rule applies to general-law cities. These are:

"Cities are classified as either "general law" or "home rule". A city may elect home rule status (i.e., draft an independent city charter) once it exceeds 5,000 population and the voters agree to home rule. Otherwise, it is classified as general law and has very limited powers."

Now that your personnel have the rights to shut down roadways, remember that this rule is only one portion of your tool kit.

We all have the responsibility to make ensure that personnel conducting roadway operations wear the appropriate protective clothing. Bunkers are great for firefighting, and are legal to wear for these operations along the roadway, but reflective materials on the coat and pants must be seen visible. Clean your gear regularly.

If bunkers are not required, vests must be worn. It is the law. According to Federal regulation 23 CFR 634 that became effective November 2008 personnel should be wearing a Type II or III reflective vest meeting ANSI-107-2004 high visibility garment standard. Also, not only should your personnel be wearing the appropriate reflective materials but your apparatus should be reflective as well, front bumper and back chevrons and side stripping. All should be a priority, as identified in NFPA 1901.

Other important factors to consider early notification and temporary traffic control zones. Early notification is one key to success when working around or in the roadway. Warnings or notifications should be placed in all directions of the roadway where roads intersect around the incident. Topography is a great concern when working at a scene. Stop and look around upon arrival to a scene, if you can't see upstream or downstream traffic, the drivers can't see you either. Something to keep on the forefront; drivers can't see over hills or around curves and have sight impairment during adverse weather conditions, which puts you and your crews at risk.

Deploy Early traffic warning signs. Florescent pink signs displaying "Emergency Incident Ahead" can have a Classification B rating which are for higher speeds and are easily deployed by public safety personnel. I encourage working with law enforcement, if necessary, to accomplish these tasks. An example; if your fire units arrive first, radio your local law enforcement agency where to place the signs. If your law enforcement arrives first, they should radio responding fire units where to place the signs. You can find regulations for sign usage at [http://www.txdot.gov/txdot\\_library/publications/tmutcd.htm](http://www.txdot.gov/txdot_library/publications/tmutcd.htm). Yes, this is a recommendation that both agencies purchase signs. Remember, we all have a job to perform, but want to go home after the incident. We are there to accomplish our tasks in a safe manner by reducing the seriousness of the situation, not make it worse.

The foundation of the safety zone lies with the temporary traffic control area around the incident itself. Placement of traffic cones, which most of us do a great job on the upstream side, is known as the transition area. Equally important is the buffer area, situated between the transition area and the incident, activity area, termination area, and downstream side of the incident and/or scene. Placement of traffic cones tells other drivers how to proceed around your scene and when to re-enter the normal lane of traffic. Additionally, public safety personnel should consider the cones as an identifier for a safe work area. If someone steps outside of the cone area they immediately step into a high hazard zone.

Placement of traffic cones for a temporary traffic control area can also be found at [http://www.txdot.gov/txdot\\_library/publications/tmutcd.htm](http://www.txdot.gov/txdot_library/publications/tmutcd.htm).

Needless to say, much more can be discussed on this subject. The purpose you and your department are on location is to help, not to hamper the situation. More information can be found at [www.vfis.com](http://www.vfis.com) and [www.respondersafef.com](http://www.respondersafef.com).

*Roy C. Mercer*

Director of Training,  
Education and Safety  
VFIS of Texas

# IAFC, NVFC Get Ready for Safety and Health Week

## Behavioral Health Takes Center Stage in 2013 Campaign



The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Volunteer Fire Council have announced that behavioral health will be the focus of this year's activities during the 2013 International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week, to be held June 16-22.

Fire departments are encouraged to suspend all non-emergency activity during Safety and Health Week to focus on safety and health training and education, allowing all shifts and personnel to participate. An entire week is provided to ensure each shift and duty crew can spend at least one day focusing on these critical issues.

### SAVING OUR OWN... AN INSIDE JOB

This year's effort will capture the importance of responders looking out for their own and each other's mental and physical well-being. This year's tag line, Saving Our Own...An Inside Job, reflects the focus on the theme of behavioral

health and the understanding that the most important factor in improving responder health and safety is other responders.

National and international organizations have been focusing on behavioral health issues for the past several years, but they are still taboo in many departments. Safety and Health Week is an opportunity to start moving discussion, action, and resources to the local level.

"Addressing behavioral health issues can only be done when we first acknowledge there is a problem, and we've been in collective denial as an industry for too long," said IAFC President Hank Clemensen. "Our responders are under unprecedented pressure, and it's time we have some unprecedented conversations about how that impacts our health."

"The mental and emotional well-being of our first responders is as important as their physical health," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "It is time we recognize that these issues have a critical impact on health and safety, and ignoring this puts our personnel at risk. The fire service community needs to understand these issues and

remove the barriers to meeting the behavioral health needs of personnel."

### START PLANNING TODAY

The IAFC and NVFC have provided planning resources on the Safety and Health Week web site at [SafetyAndHealthWeek.org](http://SafetyAndHealthWeek.org), including those related to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Life Safety Initiative #13, which addresses behavioral health issues within the fire service.

Departments are encouraged to submit links to additional resources, articles, and SOPs that can help other departments. Upload these resources using the form available on the Event Planning page of [SafetyAndHealthWeek.org](http://SafetyAndHealthWeek.org).

Begin your planning now. For more information visit Safety and Health Week online.

*About Safety and Health Week*  
Safety and Health Week is a collaborative program embraced by more than 20 national and international fire and emergency-service organizations, with sponsorship provided by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Volunteer Fire Council. The event is coordinated by the IAFC Safety,

*Health and Survival Section (SHS) and the NVFC's Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program. Learn more at [www.safetyandhealthweek.org](http://www.safetyandhealthweek.org).*

### About the International Association of Fire Chiefs

*The IAFC represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide. IAFC members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety legislation. Since 1873, the IAFC has provided a forum for its members to exchange ideas, develop professionally, and uncover the latest products and services available to first responders. Learn more at [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).*

### About the National Volunteer Fire Council

*The NVFC is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides invaluable tools, resources, programs, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).*

National Volunteer Fire Council

# 2013 Fall Meeting

October 31 - November 2  
College Station, Texas



SFFMA will be hosting the 2013 NVFC Benefits Summit and the Fall Board of Directors meeting in College Station. More information will be available at a later date.



## BEST PRACTICES Recognition Program

The Texas Fire Chiefs Association (TCFA) has developed a best practices program to encourage fire departments in Texas to seek continual improvement in their services to their local community.

There are 12 chapters that define best practices in the typical service areas provided by a fire department. This program is applicable to paid, combination, and volunteer fire organizations.

The TFCA encourages fire departments to pursue this third-party designation by completing the performance requirements outlined in the program. This will be a challenging but worthwhile endeavor for organizations pursuing this designation.

The TFCA encourages fire departments to also pursue accreditation through the Center of Public Safety Excellence. The TFCA Best Practices program will help facilitate progress toward national accreditation for those seeking this designation.

The TFCA worked closely with progressive fire officers

throughout Texas to create a program that defines a pathway to organizational excellence that ultimately enhances firefighter safety, long-term planning, standard operating guidelines, deployment analysis, risk management and other administrative functions.

While most communities believe their local fire department is excellent, elected officials, city managers, fire chiefs and citizens have the opportunity to verify this belief by their fire department attaining this best practices designation. It is always preferred to have an independent third party determine if an organization functions at a defined level of excellence.

The TFCA Best Practices program provides a pathway for a fire department to push its level of service to a level of excellence that is validated by independent experts. This designation will demonstrate to customers of these organizations that their fire department is among the very best in the Texas fire service.

### 12 AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

TRAINING

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

RECORDS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

FIRE OPERATIONS

FIRE PREVENTION/RISK REDUCTION/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

RESPONSE ANALYSIS

COMMUNICATIONS

SAFETY AND HEALTH

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

**RECOGNITION PROGRAM ANNUAL FEES  
DEPEND ON THE SIZE OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

For more information, visit [www.bestpracticetexas.org](http://www.bestpracticetexas.org) or contact Betty Wilkes, executive director, Texas Fire Chiefs Association at 512.294.7423 or at [bwilkes@texasfirechiefs.org](mailto:bwilkes@texasfirechiefs.org). Letters can be mailed to: PO Box 66700, Austin, TX 78766

\*SFFMA will offer the Program Overview as a Training Workshop in the Woodlands. (see page 30)

*continued from page 27*

#### TESTED AT THE POSSUM KINGDOM (PK) COMPLEX FIRES

The following are observations from the chief of fire operations at Santo Volunteer Fire and EMS on the performance of TetraKO at the PK Complex fires:

*We cover the southeast corner of Palo Pinto County, and Possum Kingdom (PK) is up in the north-west corner of the county. Our department was part of the response to the infamous PK Complex fires, made up of the combined Hohertz, Jackson Ranch, PK East, and PK West fires.*

*The morning of April 18th, when we had the big blow up, the TetraKO team had set up shop outside the incident command post. I had taken over command of the Possum Kingdom East portion of the fire the night before from Chief Ranft of the PK Fire Department. When Chief Ranft came back on duty at 8 a.m., he asked me to stay and work operations. When I was taking a break, I saw the TetraKO team mixing its product and getting set up, so I spoke with them.*

*They were batch mixing and loading TetraKO into vehicles for anyone in the command area that wanted it refilled into their tanks. What a lot of these firefighters started to use TetraKO for was structural protection and pretreatment. That's what one of our engines ending up doing. I told our guys to go over and have our truck filled with TetraKO and to use it for structural protection, mop up and pretreatment.*

*We saved quite a number of structures, and TetraKO did a great job. The thing I found as the biggest benefit of TetraKO is that it holds the moisture longer and holds up better than Class A foam. TetraKO is thicker in the first place and holds on to the surface better than Class A. I watched them use it and I got feedback from the guys on the engine. They all spoke very highly about the TetraKO!*

*When you start talking about pretreatment and structure protection around buildings, and for other applications such as well sites, fence lines, or anything like that – I'd say it would work real good. After the PK fire, I didn't hear anything negative from homeowners on washing TetraKO off their homes or vegetation.*

*TetraKO needs to be shown to some of the fire departments in our county. Many of us seek out mutual aid, we're progressive, and we look for anything that can give us an advantage!*

Logan Loftin, Chief of Fire Operations Santo Volunteer Fire and EMS Department

For more information on the Texas Community Enhancement Funds, the TetraKO Wildfire Protection System, and to see videos of TetraKO in action, call TetraKO president Scott Bocklund at 612-423-4916 and visit [www.tetrako.com](http://www.tetrako.com).

## e-INFO FIRE NEWSLETTER

State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

To receive your monthly  
electronic newsletter, email  
your contact information to

[newsletter@sffma.org](mailto:newsletter@sffma.org)

# MDA

As we enter the 2013 "Fill the Boot" season, on behalf of the thousands of Texas families served by MDA I would like to thank all of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas departments who collected for MDA. Your support has helped the association continue to be able to provide the finest in patient care and services for individuals affected by neuromuscular disease. The economy continues to take a toll on all non-profits and MDA has been no exception. However, all services provided including twenty-two local clinics, three of which are MDA ALS Research Centers; twenty-one MDA Support Groups and assistance with durable medical equipment continue to be funded. MDA also provides five Summer Camps where Texas kids between 6 and 17 like Dylan Hall have the week of their lives. Finally, MDA is underwriting millions of dollars in research in our state to find the causes and cures for the 43 diseases we cover. This would not be possible without the generosity of SFFMA Departments and the generous citizens who have filled your boots! I know that many of your departments are in rural communities and yet you do a fantastic job on "Fill the Boot". You might not think that what you raise as a small department is important, but it is! Here is an idea of what your department has helped MDA provide based on what you have raised:

- For every \$800 your department raised you sent another kid to MDA Summer Camp. If you raised \$8,000 you sent a whole cabin!
- For every \$70 your department raised you funded one minute of research. In 2012 the average for an SFFMA Department was \$3,500 or 50 minutes of research!
- For every \$500 your department raised you funded the annual repair of a piece of durable medical equipment. If you raised \$2,500 you funded five repairs!

MDA continues to be very cost effective with 77 percent going to patient care and research, 14 percent going to fundraising costs and only 9 percent to management costs including insurance, office space, travel and salaries. Your dedicated efforts make this all possible! If you collected in 2012 thank you and good luck again this year. If you did not support MDA in 2012 I encourage you to do so in 2013. We would love to work with you!

I look forward to seeing each of you in The Woodlands at this year's SFFMA Convention!  
Thanks again!

*Ed Baker*

Ed Baker  
ebaker@mdausa.org

TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING



EXTENSION SERVICE

## 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Municipal School

July 21 - 26, 2013 - College Station, TX  
*"..the best hands-on training I've ever seen!"*

### COURSES OFFERED

- Firefighting Phase I - V
- Transportation Emergencies
- NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector I & II Session I & II (starts Sunday at 2 PM)
- Plans Examiner I (NFPA 1031)
- Public Fire Educator I - II
- Fire Investigator Phase I - II
- Fire Investigator T.C.F.P. Course Completer
- Fire Service Leadership Development I - V
- Rescue I: Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations
- Rescue II: Trench Rescue
- Rescue III: Automobile Extrication
- Rescue IV: Ag Rescue
- Rescue V: Confined Space Rescue
- Rescue VI: Rope Rescue Technician
- NFPA 1041 Instructor I (starts Sunday at 2 PM)
- Public Safety Telecommunicator I (starts Sunday at 2 PM)
- Public Safety Telecommunicator II
- Public Information Officer
- Fire Department Pump Maintenance/ EVT
- Fire Department Pump Operations
- Emergency Medical Responder (starts Sunday at Noon)
- Compressed Air Foam Systems and Class A Foam (CAFS) (starts Sunday at 2 PM)
- S-190/S-130 Wildland Introduction and Firefighting Training
- FSA 105 Basic Criminal Investigation

For more information or to register visit [www.teex.org/annualschools](http://www.teex.org/annualschools)



**Kerry Rodriguez**  
TFA President 2013

Hello everyone!! Hope this finds everyone having a great year so far!! Spring is here and now the countdown to the convention is here!! The Woodlands is right around the corner!!! I will be having my President's Reception in my room on Monday night, hope to see all of you there!! Come join my family and I that evening and have some drinks and snacks!! Look for the flyers up around the hotel giving my room number.

At this time, the TFA has several projects underway. Please give to one of these areas any shampoos, conditioners, body washes, toothbrushes,

toothpaste, etc to your local CPS agencies, women's battered shelters, burn units, children's hospitals, or send to any service person fighting for our country.

At this time, our Parliamentarian has resigned so please send any and all By-Law changes to me at: 735 Arbor Street, Clute, Texas 77531 no later than May 15, 2013.

Please remember the change to the Pumper Race times and try to be at the TFA booth with your team members as soon as you can!!!

Hope to see lots of families there this year!! If there is anything I can do to help anyone please don't hesitate to contact me and I will help you all I can.

I also want to give a shout out to the TFA Executive Board who were able to attend Legislative Day on March 20! Thanks for being there!!!

Hope to see all of y'all in June in The Woodlands!!!

**Kerry Rodriguez**  
TFA President

## JOIN US AT THE

# 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL A&M GOLF TOURNAMENT

to help raise money for TFA's Scholarship Fund

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual A & M Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2013 at the Briarcrest Country Club in Bryan, Texas. This tournament is held annually the Saturday prior to the beginning of TEEEX Municipal Fire School.



For more information contact Helen Hlavaty at [pat.helen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pat.helen@sbcglobal.net)

## TFA MEMBERSHIP

Happy Spring to you all - Convention is fast approaching and 2013 Dues are due. Individual dues are \$20, Auxiliaries are \$30 and Districts are \$30.

You can mail them to me at PO Box 595 ~ Louise, Texas 77455 or stop by the TFA Booth at the Exhibit Hall on Saturday at Convention.

See you all in The Woodlands!!

**Kendra Charbula**  
TFA Treasurer



### 2011-2012 TFA Executive Board

**Top:** Left to right - Ann Stulce (Secretary), Kendra Charbula (Treasurer), Sarah Chudalla (Parliamentarian), Michelle Garcia (Historian), Dixie Whitmore (Chaplain), JoDee Ondrasek (Sweetheart)  
**Bottom:** Left to right - Kerry Rodriguez (President), Pam Maples (1st VP), Jeri Hamilton (2nd VP), Jeri Locknane (3rd VP), Billie Smith (4th VP) and Donna Chudalla (Immediate Past President)

## Texas High Tea Party

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

*Tuesday, June 25, 2013 - 10:30am*

**\$23.00 Presale Tickets ONLY**  
Now through June 14, 2013

**Lone Star Convention & Expo Center**  
9055 Airport Rd ■ Conroe, TX

Dress in your finest traditional tea attire or dress in boots, tutus and crazy tights because this is an event for all generations!  
**Prizes awarded for the best dressed in both categories.**

Make checks payable to **Jeri Hamilton** PO Box 364  
TFA and mail to: Bushland, TX 79012  
806-290-5845

# VOTE MIKE 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President RICHARDSON



Help me put 35 years of working Fire Service experience in a position to help YOU and all Texas Firefighters!

- Paramedic since 1985
- SFFMA and TCFP certified
- Past Instructor at A&M
- Past President Red River District
- T-Flag Committee Member
- NFA EFO



**DEDICATED AND COMMITTED TO SERVE!**



## GET TO GOAL

SELF MONITORING & TRACKING BLOOD PRESSURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



### Trace Your Way to Heart Health

The Get to Goal-Austin Program on Heart360.org is a convenient and easy way for you to track and manage your heart health factors, such as blood pressure, weight, and physical activity! Log on to Heart360.org to begin living a longer, stronger, healthier life.

#### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Anyone age 18 or older with access to phone or computer

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Overall improvements in health/wellness
- Wellness coach provided to each participant
- Chance to win gift cards and other incentives

**SIGN UP TODAY!  
GET TO GOAL**

Begins  
April 2013

For more information contact:

**DUSTY YOUNG**

Ph.512.338.2410 Email: dusty.young@heart.org

*Fires don't wait.  
Neither should you.  
Become a volunteer firefighter today.*

# TEXAS FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM

The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas is leading an effort to recruit and retain more volunteer firefighters in local fire departments.

[volfire.com](http://volfire.com)



## FREE BANNERS!

Through our grant with the Department of Homeland Security, SFFMA now has recruitment banners available to departments in Texas. We will ship your department posters, a 28"x48" table top banner and a 3'x12' banner for FREE. All you have to do is e-mail a request with your shipping information to us.

# 1-800-FIRELINE

[recruitment@sffma.org](mailto:recruitment@sffma.org)

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