



# Smoke Signals II

*Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association*

## The Kentucky Fire Commission Has a New Home!



The Kentucky Fire Commission has moved from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System office in Versailles to a new facility in Lexington. The Kentucky Fire Commission, along with the

Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS) share the lower level of a two-story, multi-tenant office building located at 118 James Court, off Winchester Road. The building overlooks the exit ramp to New Circle Road and was just completed in early June.

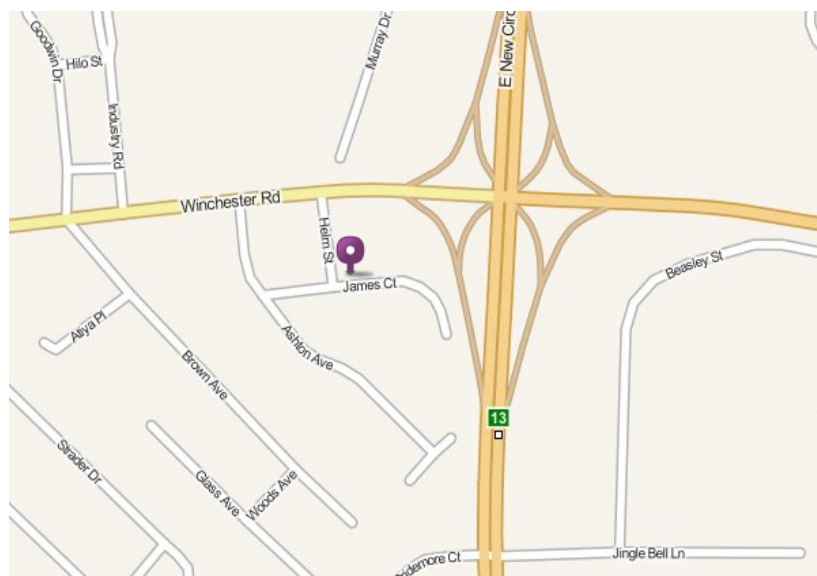
The new facility means more space for conferences and meetings, as well as state-of-the-art networking and data communications. The new location also means improved services to statewide

firefighters, EMS and paramedics, in addition to new amenities for employees and room for growth.

All phone and fax numbers for the Kentucky Fire Commission remain the same. The friendly staff you know and love are always ready to assist, should you have any issues requiring Commission attention.

Remember, when mailing important documents please be sure to use the new address:

Kentucky Fire Commission  
118 James Court, Suite 50  
Lexington, KY 40505



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### Notes From The President's Desk Sam Stacy

As I sit here reflecting back on the past 4 years I realize that time goes by quicker than one can imagine. The last year on the KFA Executive Board has really been a blur with meetings, events and more meetings taking place. I have been blessed to be able to serve the fire departments of the Commonwealth for these past 4 years and I will surely miss being on the Executive Board after August. I must express my deepest appreciation to all the great individuals who have assisted me in any way during my term on the Executive Board and more especially during my year as President.

By the time most of you are reading this article the 93rd KFA Conference will be over with and a new Executive Board will be installed. The conference could not have been possible without the help of the entire Conference Committee staff, and for that I am truly indebted to each and every one of them. I must thank the East Kentucky Firefighters Association and the Mountain Firefighters Association for working together to make our conference a success. I would be remiss if I didn't add a special thanks to the lady that work so hard to keep the committee focused on the mission and tasks at hand. Amy Salvage you are truly a wonderful person and a great supporter of the KFA, without you I don't know what we would have done.

The State Fire School was a great success this year and I think that with a few more positive changes it can get even better. I had no clue how much work was involved in the planning stages for State School until this year. We had a great committee that worked hard and really cared about the firefighters of the Commonwealth. Next year's school should be even better and if anyone has any ideas for classes, vendors or other activities please let someone from the committee know about them.

I've had the opportunity over the past year to travel all over the state and meet the best firefighters in the country. I would like to thank all the fire departments, regional association and fire schools for having me there. I have had the privilege of representing the firefighters of Kentucky

in Washington D.C., Frankfort, Lexington and all points in between and I feel that I'm a better person from this experience. I was not able to make all the meetings I was invited to; however I did log over 5000 miles during my term as President.

I would like to thank the Hazard Fire Department members for their patience and understanding over the last 4 years. I know that I have been away from the office more than normal but I think that all the effort has been worth the sacrifice. I want to thank you guys for stepping up to the plate and filling in for me in my absence from our Department.

I want to wish Chris Crawford all the success in the world as he is sworn in as 94th KFA President. I know Chris will do a great job and I will be right there to support him in any way that I can. We need to get behind Chris and make our organization stronger and better than even for the future of the firefighters depends on us.

Finally I want to thank all the members of the Kentucky Fire Service for all that they do every day to keep the citizens of the Commonwealth safe and secure. Firefighters are the best people in the world and we have the best of the best right here in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. If I can ever be of any assistance to anyone of you I'm just a phone call or email away. May God continue to bless each and every one of the firefighters of Kentucky and may we always know where our strength comes from.

Sincerely,

*Sam Stacy*



### Chris Crawford 1st Vice President

By the time you read this the 2013 Conference will be in the record books and I am sure we will have had a great one due to all the mountain hospitality. The last three years have really flown by. We have tackled some big issues and then some issues that have seemed trivial at times as well, but I can assure you that your executive board is working in the best interest of all firefighters of the Commonwealth.

As the executive board works for the better-

ment of the fire service we need your help. We need you to continue to support us with your membership and I also challenge you to reach out to your fellow fire departments and talk to them about how the KFA benefits them and about joining the KFA. Only through our strong membership and strength in numbers can we continue the resilient fight for the firefighters of Kentucky.

One of the new and continuing projects we are going to work on this year is continuing the firefighter license plate as well as incorporating a firefighter motorcycle plate. If we get enough people interested in the motorcycle plate we will have the transportation cabinet make them. So if you are interested, please contact us and let us know.

The fall KFA executive board meeting will be at the Lyon County Convention Center on October 19th starting at 09:00 CST. The address for the convention center is 309 S. Jones Park Road, Eddyville. I hope to see a large crowd in attendance.

I anticipate to see many of you around the state this year as we have many opportunities to meet: The Kentucky Fallen Firefighters Memorial, all the regional fire schools, state fire school, and the conference to be held in Elizabethtown in August 2014 to name a few.

In closing I would like to thank you for your support and look forward to a successful year.

Sincerely

*Chris Crawford*



**Mike Hulsey President At-Large**

You may not see this until after the conference in Ashland, I personally am glad that the KFA is returning to the Eastern part of the State, we must always remember the KFA is a voice for the entire State.

Being involved with the E-Board of the KFA and the Chief's Association I have had the opportunity to see inside of how the needs of the fire service are met, thru education and the political field. I have had the opportunity to travel with the Fire Commission to the National Fire Caucus in Washington DC and meet with our representa-

tives in Congress to express the needs of the KY Fire Service. Ronnie Day did a fantastic job in explaining the needs of our Commonwealth and why certain programs need to continue. I was also able to attend the NVFC awards banquet where Bryant Stiles family was presented a special award for Bryant. This award has only been awarded 3 times, with Ken Knipper being one of the other recipients.

This year I have had the opportunity to see how we can agree to disagree, and continue to work together for one common goal. This is accomplished because we have caring people involved and want nothing more than to make sure that all of us are represented fairly in all stages of State operations.

I have served for four years as the Vice President at Large on the E-Board and hopefully will have two more, as you read this the outcome probably has already been settled. Regardless if re-elected or not my vow is to continue to serve the fire service in this great Commonwealth.

As President Stacy ends his term of office I must say "Good Job Sir", you have set the bar high, and hopefully we can meet it.

Sincerely

*Mike Hulsey*

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From the desk of  
Past President Randy Courtney.

By the time you are reading this article we will have completed or will be well underway with the 2013 KFA Conference. As a past president of this great organization, I personally know what hard work it takes to put a conference on and therefore I want to give a big shout out to our current President Sam Stacy of Hazard Fire Department and the Mountain Firefighters Association for a great conference and a great year. We are still busy here in Pike County putting up smoke detectors. We are kind of like Santa Clause, we're making our list and we're checking it twice.

We have been working with our SFRT Coordinator Greg Gray to bring to Eastern Kentucky another great fire school. The dates for this year's school will be September 6,7,8 2013 in PIKEV-

ILLE. We have changed some things around this year and the Pike County Combat Challenge competition will be on Saturday Night at Pikeville Fire Station #1 right after classes end. There will also be a cookout there as well so we can feed you while you watch some great sportsmanship. We will be sending out brochures sometime in the middle of August if you haven't gotten one in the past from us please drop me a email at pfd211@yahoo.com and will be sure to included you in this year's mailing.

Well if we didn't see you at the conference or at Hazard Fire School then you're just going to have to come to Pikeville Fire School and see us.

Be safe out there and always watch each other's backs. Thanks again Sam Stacy for an outstanding year.

Sincerely  
Randy Courtney



## National Volunteer Fire Council

My most sincere THANKS for the support of the Fire Commission, Fire Marshal, and many others who attended the NVFC presentation of the James E. Monihan Award posthumously to Bryant Stiles's family. This award is seldom given and was in recognition of the outstanding contributions Bryant made to the NVFC and the fire service.

While in Washington I was asked by the CFSI to be on a panel that discussed the impact of the Affordable Care Act on fire departments. While this question will most probably be answered in time it is clear that it will indeed have some impact.

Department of Homeland Security recently held a meeting at the White House to discuss ways to smooth entry of our returning veterans into the workforce. I represented the NVFC at this meeting and expressed our support for the project. So many of these veterans have skills for many kinds of jobs but find too many impediments to overcome to secure employment.

The USFA is developing a manual covering the full scope of EMS in the fire service. I have

reviewed a draft and found the 163 pages to be a valuable tool.

The CDC is preparing an updated document titled "The National Health Security Preparedness Index: Opportunity and Challenges". I have reviewed the draft that will go through a bit of vetting before being released. You can go to the CDC site to look at what they are proposing. Any suggestions are welcome.

The NVFC has been presenting webinars that have received great reviews. Check the website to see what is available. A recent one on HIPAA has been praised for its completeness and documentation.

It is an honor to represent you on the national level. If you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me.

*Ken Knipper*



## Electrical Fires

In 2011, an estimated 47,700 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fires resulted in

418 civilian deaths, 1,570 civilian injuries, and \$1.4 billion in direct property damage. Non-home electrical fires in 2011 were estimated at 16,400, with associated losses of 13 civilian deaths, 243 civilian injuries, and \$501 million in direct property damage.

Home electrical distribution or lighting equipment fires in 2011, an estimated 21,300 reported U.S. non-confined home structure fires involving electrical distribution or lighting equipment resulted in 295 civilian deaths, 840 civilian injuries, and \$822 million in direct property damage.

These estimates are based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) annual fire department experience survey.

Keywords: Electrical fire, wiring, lamp, light, cord, plug, fuse, circuit breaker, transformer, outlet, receptacle, switch, generator, battery, fire sta-

tistics, home fires, residential fires.

#### Acknowledgements

The National Fire Protection Association thanks all the fire departments and state fire authorities who participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the annual NFPA fire experience survey. These firefighters are the original sources of the detailed data that make this analysis possible. Their contributions allow us to estimate the size of the fire problem.

We are also grateful to the U.S. Fire Administration for its work in developing, coordinating, and maintaining NFIRS.

For more information about the National Fire Protection Association, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) or call 617-770-3000. To learn more about the One-Stop Data Shop go to [www.nfpa.org/osds](http://www.nfpa.org/osds) or call 617-984-7443.

Copies of this analysis are available from:

National Fire Protection Association  
One-Stop Data Shop  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02169-7471



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#### Notes From Fireman Joe

Hello from the ole Firedog and it is a beautiful day in Northern Kentucky. I hope it was as nice wherever you were on this Wednesday June 19th. I wanted to thank the Fire School Committee for a great Fire School this year. I was impressed with attendance and how well things seem to go. Our Public Education Class this year was one of the best ever in my opinion. We had 35 students and many new first time future Public Educators and we had a lot of fun with them. I hope they enjoyed the class as much as Greg and I did. Fire and Life Safety Education continues to be so very important. It distresses me when I hear or read about fire fatalities, injuries and property loss, especially when these things can be prevented. I so miss going around Kentucky and meeting all the wonderful emergency service folks, people, teachers and community members. I have encouraged my colleagues who have taken over to continue this with all their ability. Wanda is doing a marvelous job but it takes a lot of folks behind the scene to make it all work.

Conference time will be here shortly; it has

been a long time since I have been in Ashland, looking forward to going down there and seeing many of my old and dear friends. I got to spend some time with my dear friend and KFA President Sam Stacy while I was in Lexington. Sam has assured me this will be a great conference and has been enjoying his tenure as President. He has many behind the scenes folks helping him out so it should be a great time for all; hope to see all of you there.

I have asked Wanda Isaacs, KFA Pub Ed Chairperson, to consider and investigate the possibility of having another Pub Ed Seminar similar to the ones we had in E-Town and Northern Kentucky several years back. So many positive and helpful things are accomplished when we all get together and share ideas, programs and see what we can do to make Kentucky Safe. I am asking my friends on KFA Board and Fire Commission to help Wanda with that project.

I want to spend just a few minutes on a topic I feel of extreme importance, Firefighter Safety and things we need to do to keep us safe. Fireman Joe will celebrate my 68 Birthday in January, went to ER Saturday and to my family Doc's yesterday only to confirm I have contacted another bout of Pneumonia. I guess I was told the words I did not want to hear but 50 plus years in firefighting and the conditions we often are placed in has caused exposure to some bad air. I started at a time when SCBA's were not so readily available and not to mention the ole mentality of toughing it out was prevalent. I guess what I am saying is, USE YOUR SCBA, even during cleanup or when you can see again. Especially today, who knows what chemicals or toxic materials are in the material of buildings and fires we may have to enter. Personal survival training is so critical today; I am elated when I see classes and training on personal protective safety tactics. Make sure your turnout gear will do the job, be seen on the fire scene especially on those highways and roadways, I especially like the use of reflective tapes and decals. Take some time to look out for your safety, believe me you will be glad you did when you get older and as they say, Isn't it nice when everyone goes home!!

**GOD BLESS and Stay Well!!**

*Fireman Joe*

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### 2012 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

Date	Area	Location	Phone
8/17-18	14	Campbellsville	888-234-1780
9/4-5	2	Princeton	888-306-7986
9/7-8	12	Hazard	888-234-6759
9/14-15	15	Nicholasville	606-922-7671
9/28-29	1	Calvert City	888-306-7901
10/12-13	6	Middletown	888-306-8064
11/2-3	5	Leitchfield	888-234-7201
11/9-10	11	Pikeville	888-302-8935
11/30-12/1	7	Cold Spring	888-306-8101
12/7-8	4	Bowling Green	888-234-5760

Written testing information is available on the Ky IFSAC testing web site at <http://www.kyffcert.com>. Tests are given at the system office usually on the third Monday of the month. Each time you take the written test you must pay a \$15.00 charge. Contact Duane Suttles for more information about written test location and dates at 888-301-2946. REMINDER: Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and be a member of a Kentucky FD or a full-time student of Fire Science at ECU or KCTCS to be eligible for firefighter testing. Candidates must bring state issued drivers license or ID card to skills testing site for positive identification and verification of age eligibility. Candidates under 18 may complete any of the written exams, and may certify to Haz Mat Awareness only. All Certifications are based on the Professional Qualification standards set forth by the NFPA for Firefighters, except Haz Mat, which is a Job Performance standard. Our accreditation is through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

### Coming Events At a Glance!

#### **Hazard Fire School**

August 24-25 Hazard

#### **Pike County Regional Fire School**

September 6-8 Pikeville

#### **Meade County Fire School**

September 7-8 Brandenburg

#### **Jefferson Co Fire School**

September 13-15 Louisville

#### **Southeast FF Assn Fall Fire School**

October 18-20 London

#### **Buffalo Trace Fire School**

October 25-27 Maysville

#### **Green River FF Assn Fall Fire School**

October 25-27 Owensboro

#### **Fire & EMS Instructors Weekend**

November 15-17 London

## Hazard Fire School

August 24 - 25 Hazard KY

### Classes

### **Fire Training**

1	Basic Firefighting Sat & Sun	16 Hrs
2	Junior Firefighting Sat & Sun	16 Hrs
3	Hard to get Hrs Sat & Sun	16 Hrs
12	Fire in Manufactured Homes S&S	4 Hrs
13	Fire Instructor Update Sat & Sun	8 Hrs
16	Arson 1 Sat & Sun	16 Hrs
21	Leadership 3 Sat & Sun	16 Hrs

### **Rescue**

4	Firefighter Survival Sat Only	8 Hrs
5	Firefighter Rescue Sun Only	8 Hrs
6	Large Animal Rescue Sat Only	8 Hrs
8	Rope Rescue - Rappelling S&S	16 Hrs
11	Farm Related Rescue Sat & Sun	16 Hrs

### **Administrative**

7	Kentucky Fire Commission S&S	8 Hrs
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### **EMS**

9	EMS Continuing Education S&S	16 Hrs
10	EMS Instructor Meth. Sun Only	8 Hrs
18	Landing Zone Sat Only	4 Hrs
19	Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma Sun Only	4 Hrs

### **Other**

14	Traffic Incident Management S&S	4 Hrs
15	Meth Lab Awareness Sat & Sun	4 Hrs
17	Weather Related Emerg. S&S	8 Hrs
20	Response to Suicide Bomb S&S	4 Hrs

All classes held at the Hazard Community & Technical College. For more information contact (606) 435-6087 or email [myla.barrett@kctcs.edu](mailto:myla.barrett@kctcs.edu).

## Words of Wisdom

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.

Albert Einstein



## Jefferson Co. Fire School

September 12 - 29

Louisville

Each class date listed is 8 hours long.

001	Sprinkler Systems	Sept 12
002	Fire Alarm Systems (Industry Pro)	Sept 13
101	Fire Alarm Systems for FF's	Sept 13
102	Engine Company Operations	Sept 14
103	Truck Company Operations	Sept 15
104	Making a Difference	Sept 15
105	Know When to Go	Sept 15
106	Public Education	Sept 14
107	Recruitment & Retention	Sept 15
108	CPR Instructor	Sept 15
201	Recruit Basic	Sept 14 & 15
202	Handline Operations	Sept 14 & 15
203	Pump Operations	Sept 14 & 15
204	Fire Inspector I	Sept 14 & 15
205	Fire Inspector II	Sept 14 & 15
206	Leadership Bootcamp	Sept 14 & 15
207	Survival and Rescue	Sept 14 & 15
208	STICO (Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations)	Sept 14 & 15
209	NFA Leadership III	Sept 14 & 15
210	Arson I	Sept 14 & 15
211	Hard to Get Hours	Sept 14 & 15
212	Line of Duty Death	Sept 14 & 15
301	Haz Mat Operations	Sept 13, 14 & 15
302	Haz Mat Tech Refresher	Sept 13, 14 & 15
303	EMT Refresher	Sept 13, 14 & 15
304	Paramedic Refresher	Sept 13, 14 & 15
305	Instructor Certification (IFSAC)	Sept 14, 15 & 28, 29
306	Rope Rescue Technician	Sept 14 & 15, 21 & 22
307	Confined Space Rescue	Sept 14 & 15, 21 & 22
401	Vehicle Rescue Update	Sept 13
402	Advanced Vehicle Rescue	Sept 14

No fee for classes. Most classroom type classes will be held at the Galt House in Louisville. Some classes will be held at various other locations. For exact information and a brochure go to [www.jcfia.com](http://www.jcfia.com). Note some classes are two separate week-ends with homework during the week between.

## Buffalo Trace Regional Fire School

October 25-27, 2013 Maysville KY

### Friday Saturday & Sunday Classes

Class #	Name	Hours
1	EMT Continuing Education	24 Hrs
2	Basic Firefighting	24 Hrs

### Friday Night Only 6:30 PM

4	Street Drug Awareness	4 Hrs
15	Kentucky Wildland Awareness	4 Hrs
16	Auto Extrication	4 hrs
17	Electrical Safety & Gas Line Emergencies	2-3 Hrs
18	Chief's Round Table	3 Hrs
19	A 21st Century Look at Barn Fires	3 Hrs
20	Courage to Be Safe - Everyone Goes Home	3 Hrs

### Saturday & Sunday Classes

3	Hard to Get hours	16 Hrs
5	NFA: Training Operations for Small Departments	16 Hrs
6	Haz Mat Operations	16 Hrs

### Saturday Only Classes

7	Introductions to Fire Inspections	8 Hrs
8	Firefighter Survival	8 Hrs
9	Fire Control	8 Hrs
10	Pump Operations	8 Hrs
14	Initial Fire Attack With Limited Man Power	8 Hrs
21	Thermal Imaging Orientation Course	8 Hrs

### Sunday Only Classes

11	Firefighter Rescue	8 Hrs
12	Flashover Recognition & Survival	8 Hrs
13	Advanced Foam	8 Hrs

For more information call (888) 301-2946 or email [tduncan0052@kctcs.edu](mailto:tduncan0052@kctcs.edu).

## Words of Wisdom

Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.

Abraham Lincoln

## National Responder Preparedness Center

4678 State Route 181 North  
Greenville KY 42345

### 2013 Class Schedule

8/1-5 Fire Officer I (Certification Testing) 40 Hrs  
In State FF Fee \$275 out of state \$550  
9/9-13 Rope Rescue Awareness & Operations 40  
Hrs Fee \$500  
9/28-29 NFA Preparation for Initial Company Operations 16 Hrs No Charge  
10/8-10 Confined Space Operations 24 Hrs In  
State FF Fee \$175 out of state \$350  
10/11 WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness  
#AWR-140 6 HRS No Charge  
10/12-14 WMD Radiological/Nuclear Operations  
#PER-240 24 Hrs No Charge  
11/4-8 Fire Instructor II (Certification Testing) 40  
Hrs In State FF Fee \$275 out of state \$550  
For more information call 888-990-6772 or email  
nrpc@att.net

## Responding While Under the Influence

By Stephanie Martin

Risk Management Safety Specialist  
Emergency Services Insurance Program

As summer BBQ's and family get-togethers approach, McNeil & Company wants to take a moment to remind your organization that drinking alcohol and responding on calls is a large liability to each member and the organization. Now is the time to start off the summer right by making sure your organization is implementing a zero tolerance policy for alcohol in an effort to prevent unnecessary losses.

Many times members do not think about the consequences that may follow if they decide to have a drink and respond to an emergency call under the influence. Some may think, "Oh, well I only had one drink tonight, I can still respond." Unfortunately, all it may take is that member having one drink before your organization could be facing liabilities. What your organization would want to pay attention to is the portrayal you may have to the public. If the public sees a member drinking at the local bar wearing your organization's apparel, the public does not know how many you have had

to drink. Whether you have one drink or five, the public knows you were consuming alcohol and will smell it on you.

Responding under the influence affects a person's judgment and performance as an emergency responder, creating a risk in your organization. One error in judgment by a member under the influence can endanger the lives of fellow members as well as the general public. Take the time now to review the policies you have in place regarding alcohol consumption with the members of your organization. Ensure that each member is familiar with these policies and the possible consequences if they do not comply. Let's begin the summer off the right way by preventing unnecessary losses in your organization.

## Reminder to those High School Seniors who graduated this year!

Recent high school graduates interested in pursuing a Fire Science Degree from one of our local institutions. The KFA awards scholarships to those interested students that meet the criteria for scholarship. The application and information is available on line at the KFA website [www.kyfa.org](http://www.kyfa.org). The money is available to you with little or no effort on your part just fill out the forms and let us help you! Higher education is within your grasp all you have to do is apply! So what are you waiting on?

## THE LAW REQUIRES ADDITIONAL TESTING FOR ALL CAREER KENTUCKY FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATES

As of January 1, 2013, all career firefighter candidates are required to undergo a physical ability test.

The candidate physical ability test (CPAT) will be designed to assess a candidates' ability to handle the physical demands of fighting fires and shall include exercises that stimulate the most common tasks involved in fire suppression.

Exercises for the CPAT will include, but are not limited to: stair climbing, hose drag, equipment carry, ladder raise and extension, forcible entry, search, rescue, ceiling breach, and pull.

The Kentucky Fire Commission will charge a fee of \$125 for all out-of-state firefighter candidates participating in the CPAT. In-state participants will not be required to pay a fee.

### 19 Arizona Firefighters Are Killed in a Wildland Fire

On June 30th, 19 firefighters from the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew were found in or near their emergency fire shelters, leading officials to believe they were overrun by the wind-driven flames. Safety protocols require crews to have a place to go in case fire overtakes them. That did not happen in the Yarnell Hill fire Sunday. They most likely did not have time to create the necessary shelter space. When you hear of such tragedy it is truly terrible. But when it is so far away from home it isn't personal. You don't know the people, who they were and their circumstances. So who were these 19 brave heroes?

**Kevin Woyjeck 21** - Kevin Woyjeck was following in the footsteps of his father, Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Joe Woyjeck, said L.A. County Fire Dept. Inspector Keith Mora.

He started as a Fire Explorer, an L.A. County Fire Department mentorship and training program, and was a paramedic in Los Angeles and Orange counties. He eventually hoped to work side by side with his father, who has been a county fire captain for nearly 30 years, Mora said.

**Christopher MacKenzie, 30** - Christopher MacKenzie was a 2001 Hemet High graduate who joined the U.S. Forest Service in 2004. He moved to the Prescott Fire Department about two years ago, the Riverside Press-Enterprise reported.

"Yesterday I saw about the firefighters in Arizona and I always pay attention, being a former firefighter myself," said Dav Fulford-Brown, MacKenzie's friend since childhood and former roommate in Hemet. "I said, 'Oh my God, that's Chris' crew.' I started calling him and calling him and got no answer."

MacKenzie was a firefighter just like his father, former Moreno Valley Cal Fire Capt. Mike MacKenzie, the Press-Enterprise reported

**William Warneke, 25** - Billy Warneke, 25, had just bought property in Prescott, near where his sister lives, according to the Riverside Press-Enterprise. He joined the hotshot crew in April, and was a four-year veteran with the U.S. Marine Corps.

When his grandparents, Jack and Nancy

Warneke, saw the news about the fire, they called Warneke's sister. She told them their grandson and his unit were gone.

"Even though it's a tragedy for the whole family, he was doing what he loved to do. He loved nature and was helping preserve nature," Nancy Warneke said.

Warneke's wife is due with their first child in December, Nancy Warneke told the Press-Enterprise.

**Scott Norris, 28** - Scott Norris, 28, was one of the newest members of the Granite Mountain crew: He transferred from a hotshot team in nearby Payson earlier this year and started work at the beginning of the fire season, about six weeks ago.

In the off-season, Norris worked part-time in sales, shipping and receiving at Bucky O'Neill Gun Shop in downtown Prescott. After six months in the shop, he'd built a rapport with the customers, said co-owner Jim Marnell. Older customers in particular liked his gentle manner, ability to remember faces and tendency to joke around. "He was raised right," Marnell said. "He just came out a good person."

Norris spoke often about firefighting, Marnell said, and the rugged lifestyle of a hotshot crew. "I asked him once, how long he went without a shower," Marnell said, "and he said, '14 days.' No showers. Sleeping in tents. And he loved it."

**Clayton Whitted, 28** - Clayton Whitted was a personable leader who always had a smile on his face. Clayton and his wife, Kristi, married several years ago in a simple ceremony attended by about 150 people.

Their wedding website still displays photos of the couple strolling through a forest, at a rodeo, in each other's arms. The Whitteds' wedding website says: "Newlyweds for 870 days!"

**Robert Caldwell, 23, and Grant McKee, 21** - Family, friends and neighbors of Robert Caldwell and his cousin, Grant McKee, recalled how different the two were in their personalities, but how well they worked together.

Caldwell, one of the crew leaders, was an outdoorsman and a "gentle giant" who showed his love through actions, not words, his aunt Linda McKee said. Grant McKee was, as one friend put

**FOR SALE****1988 Seagrave Custom 4-Door Cab Pumper**

The pumper includes a Detroit Diesel 6V92 Engine with an Allison HT-740 Transmission, a Waterous CSU 1500 GPM pump - Front Suction - 2 - Crosslays and a 680 Gallon Tank - Hydraulic Generator & 2 Floodlights - Electric Cord Reel - Ground Ladders on Both Sides of Body. The engine received major repairs in 2011 - Pump Certification is current. Mileage - 62483 - Engine Hours - 9544 - Pump Hours 570.

**Priced at \$15,000.00**

**Contact Jimmy or Dennis at**

**Fire Speciality Equipment:**

**(502) 957-2145 or (800) 506-0702**

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Charles Wynn of Wynn Fire Equipment sold to the McKee Fire Department, Jackson County Kentucky a 1999 American LaFrance 75' Aerial Apparatus. Congratulations to the McKee Fire Department on their recent acquisition.

**Words of Wisdom**

The purpose of our lives is to be happy.  
Dalai Lama

**Chaplain's Corner****Faith, What is Faith?**

Wikipedia the on line encyclopedia defines Faith as the belief, confidence or trust in a person, thing, deity, or in the doctrines or teachings of a religion or view (e.g. having strong political faiths).[1] It is something that is believed especially with strong conviction.[2] In religion, faith often involves accepting claims about the character of a deity, nature, or the universe. While some might mistake all faith to be blind faith instead of evidence-based faith, proponents of evidence-based faith such as the Professor of Mathematics John Lennox at Oxford University argues, "Faith is not a leap in the dark; it's the exact opposite. It's a commitment based on evidence... It is irrational to reduce all faith to blind faith and then subject it to ridicule. That provides a very anti-intellectual and convenient way of avoiding intelligent discussion." [3] The word faith is often used as a substitute for hope, trust or belief.

My faith in Jesus Christ is not blind faith. His life and death were recorded. He is alive today and I have Faith in Him. My Faith is what sustains me through hard times!

it, “spunky, loud and, for a while, somewhat troubled.”

The youngest of the family’s four cousins, McKee was chatty and generous, his grandmother remembered. He grew up in Costa Mesa and attended Newport Harbor High School, where he was a wrestler. He moved to Arizona when he was 17 to live with his aunt — a more “homespun environment,” she said, where Caldwell often coaxed him to go camping, fishing and hiking.

McKee began to straighten out when he decided to start “in the fire path,” said John Nelson, 20, an oil field worker who knew both men. “I remember the night Grant said, ‘I’m going to fight fires, like Robert,’” Nelson said. “You’ve got to have a fire in your heart, because you don’t fight fires for yourself. It is utterly terrifying, but it is also a rush.”

McKee was certified a year ago as a hotshot crew member. He also held an EMT certification and hoped to become a paramedic. He recently became engaged.

Caldwell got married in November and had a 5-year-old stepson.

**Andrew Ashcraft, 29** - T.J. Ashcraft looked up to his little brother Andrew.

“We always kind of pushed each other in good ways,” the U.S. Army sergeant, 32, told the Los Angeles Times. “He went the firefighter route and I went the military route.”

He said his brother was a father of four.

“All I can say is he was a really great guy, a really great father,” T.J. Ashcraft said in a phone interview. He was preparing to head to Arizona from Kentucky, where he is stationed.

Ashcraft asked all who know the families to “keep praying for comfort in this hard time.”

**Anthony Rose, 23** - Glendale, Ariz., resident Phyllis Barney and her family met Anthony Rose when he was 16 years old.

He had moved to the small, tight-knit community of Crown King, where Barney has a summer home. “He was a wonderful young man,” she said.

Rose, 23, had worked for the Crown King Fire Department. He was a “fantastic person, and a great worker,” a perfect fit for the rigors of the Granite Mountain Hotshots crew, Crown King Fire Chief Steve Lombardo told the Los Angeles Times.

“It’s tragic, absolutely tragic,” Lombardo said.

Barney said Rose and his fiancée were expecting their first child.

**Wade Parker, 22** - Ronda Ehlert, 43, was Wade Parker’s youth pastor at Chino Valley’s Word of Life Church, about 30 miles north of Prescott.

She recalled him as “a rambunctious little boy, always moving.” As a teenager, Parker loved getting into things like hunting, dirt-biking and camping. He “helped lead the Chino Valley High School baseball team to state championships two years in a row,” Ehlert said.

Many acquaintances said one of his greatest loves was “worship music,” particularly by the Christian rock group Third Day.

“Firefighting was his passion. You’d never hear him complain about it,” she said. “Those guys knew they were the best, and they were proud of it.”

**Dustin DeFord, 24** - Dustin DeFord learned to love two things growing up: God and firefighters.

He was raised in Ekalala, a tiny town in southeastern Montana, by a Baptist pastor who volunteered for the local fire department. Surrounded by teenagers and toddlers, Dustin — the fifth of 10 children — was always loud and in motion, roughhousing with his seven brothers and sprinting during playtime. “Even into his 20s, he was an innocent boy who never grew up,” his mother, Celeste DeFord, told The Times. Even in adulthood, she said, he retained a “pure view of the world.”

The DeFord sons had dreamed of starting a family fire company. The family’s eldest son joined the Marines. The next four became firefighters.

DeFord joined his father at the Custer County Fire Department when he turned 18. He briefly left firefighting to attend Cornerstone Bible Institute in South Dakota and serve a mission in Canada. He moved to Arizona in January to join the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew.

During the hours the crew spent near danger, DeFord talked about God. Although not all the crew members were practicing Christians, memories and appreciations of DeFord’s faith circulated on Facebook on Monday, his mother said.

“He was not afraid of death,” his mother said. “There was no fear. He had a simple faith in Je-

**‘19 FF Killed ’ continued on page 12**

sus — that whatever he chose, it was going to be all right.”

**Jesse Steed, 36** - Jesse Steed saw fighting wildfires as a way to serve the community.

A former Marine, Steed worked as a hotshot for the Prescott and Granite Mountain fire crews. His neighbor, Bill Halpin, described him as a “big bull of a guy” who ran through their suburban housing development in Prescott Valley. He also went on camping trips and worked on cars in his driveway, Halpin said.

Neighbors have started a relief fund to help Steed’s widow, a stay-at-home mom. The couple has two children: a 4-year-old boy and a 2-year-old girl.

**Eric Marsh, 43** - Eric Marsh was the superintendent of the Granite Mountain hotshot team and the oldest crew member to die in the Yarnell Hill fire, his father said.

He grew up in Ashe County, N.C., and became interested in firefighting while studying biology at Arizona State University, the Associated Press reported. He lived with his cousin in North Carolina during the winter between 1992 and 1996, returning to Arizona during fire season each summer.

**Joe Thurston, 32** - When a group of friends ventured into the wilderness of southern Utah, Joe Thurston was the one who willingly flung himself off a 40-foot cliff, adding a front flip, into the water far below.

Thurston, a native of Cedar City, Utah, was a daredevil who loved being active and being outdoors, friends from Utah told the Salt Lake Tribune. He was a drummer in a band and loved to skateboard.

“He was never one to shy away from a challenge or new experience,” classmate and friend E.J. Overson said. “He was service-oriented, very caring and willing to do some things that many others would say, ‘I don’t want to get involved.’”

Thurston graduated from Cedar High School, where he played soccer, and attended Southern Utah University. One of his favorite things to do, another longtime friend said, was to sneak a key to the school swimming pool and throw late-night parties there.

Thurston wasn’t outspoken and was considerate toward everyone. “When you got to know him,

you’d realize there was a lot more to know than you might think at first blush,” Overson said. “He was able to touch a lot of lives.”

**Garret Zuppiger, 27** - Garret Zuppiger loved to be funny. On his blog, “I’d Rather Be Flying,” the 27-year-old chronicled his hijinks through the United States, including a hokey photo shoot at a Sears in Palm Springs, a too-long nap in an Oregon hot spring, and a stop in a San Francisco cafe called “Coffee to the People.”

“At this establishment there seems to be an unwritten law stating that all who sit here shall use Macintosh computers and iPhones,” Zuppiger noted wryly. “I fit right in.”

In Oregon, Zuppiger fell in love with the simple beauty of a nearby island, and tried to barter for its sale with the woman who ran the visitor’s center:

I tore a piece of paper from the Crater Lake National Park Map, wrote ‘\$3,500 American’ on one side and my cell number on the other side. I said to her as I passed it nonchalantly over the counter, “Maybe this will change your mind.” Rapidly, I turned and exited. I did my best.

He built his own skateboard, which he called the “Zuppiger Pro Model.” He also loved vintage machines: a red Honda motorcycle and a 1952 pickup of indeterminate color.

The dream, Zuppiger said, would be slipping into his truck with a cup of coffee as the sun came up and turning on public radio:

I listen to some obscure news story about Jane Goodall or a career librarian. If it’s Saturday, it’s Car Talk. Into gear the truck goes, and I motor to wherever at the blazing top speed of 45–55 mph. Old Truck, Warm Coffee and Talk Radio. And me smiling.

**John Percin, 24** - John Percin, who grew up near Portland, Ore., had an unforgettable laugh and loved to play baseball, his friends and relatives remembered. He was a multi-sport high school athlete who graduated from West Linn High School in 2007.

“He was probably the strongest and bravest young man I have ever met in my life,” his aunt, Donna Percin Pederson, told the Associated Press.

An old friend, Geoff McEvers, grew up playing baseball with Percin and remembered him

as a fun-loving guy, the Oregonian reported. "It's already tragic when you hear about those who died," McEvers said, "but when you find out it's someone you know personally, it's tough."

**Sean Misner, 26** - Sean Misner, 26, was the nephew of Montecito Fire Department Operations Chief Terry McElwee and grandson of former Fire Chief Herb McElwee, according to the department.

Misner played varsity football and participated in the school's sports medicine program, where he wrapped sprained ankles and took care of sidelined athletes.

"He was a team player, a real helper," Mark Swanitz, principal of Santa Ynez Valley Union High School, told the Associated Press. "He was very passionate and committed to his career as a firefighter."

**Travis Carter, 31** - Travis Carter, known as the strongest man on the hotshots crew, once famously held a plank for 45 minutes.

The 31-year-old was a relentless worker, but he was also humble, Captain Crossfit trainer Janine Pereira told the Associated Press. "No one could beat him," she said. "But the thing about him was he would never brag about it. He would just kill everyone and then go and start helping someone else finish."

Travis Turbyfill, 27 - Nicknamed "Turby" among the crew, Travis Turbyfill worked out with fellow hotshots at Captain Crossfit gym in Prescott, Ariz.

He trained in the morning, and then came back in the afternoon with his wife and children, the Associated Press reported.

Tony Burris, one of the trainers, recalled that scene. "He's this big, huge Marine, hotshot guy, and he has two little girls — reddish-blond curly hair — and they just loved their dad," Burris told the AP.

**Turbyfill, 27** - graduated from Prescott High School in 2004. "I have decided to live forever or die in the attempt," the caption under his yearbook photo reads, the Arizona Republic reported

So you judge for yourself. Who were these 19 heroes that gave their lives to help save communities? Were they any different than you and I? News source the LA Times. For more information go to <http://graphics.latimes.com/towergraphic-ariz-firefighters/>

## EDUCATIONEDAL CORNER

### Inovative Equipment



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**The Deadline for October issue submission of articles is September 10, 2013**



### **Nation Mourns During Arizona Firefighter Memorial Service**

As the fire service continues to try to understand the horrific turn of events that took the lives of nineteen firefighters from Prescott, AZ, on June 30, first responders from across the nation gathered on July 9 to memorialize those brave individuals. Thousands of firefighters, community members, and government officials packed an arena to pay their respects to the members of the Prescott-based Granite Mountain Hotshots firefighting team who perished fighting the Yarnell Hill fire, which has destroyed thousands of acres northwest of Phoenix, AZ.

Dignitaries such as Vice President Joe Biden, Department of Homeland Security Secretary and former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, current Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, and Senator John McCain were on hand to pay their respects to the firefighters. The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) First Vice Chairman, Kevin Quinn (Union, RI), attended the event on behalf of the volunteer fire service.

"Representing the NVFC at the memorial service was a moving experience. I am honored that I was able to bring with me the spirit, thoughts, and prayers of nation's volunteer firefighters, rescue, and EMS first responders, as a tribute to the utmost courage and valor that these firefighters brought day in and day out," Quinn said.

"It was also a special time for me personally, because my son, a wildland firefighter, was in attendance," Quinn continued. "Being able to share this celebration of life of this dedicated crew and having the opportunity to meet some of my son's crew for the first time brought the memorial service close to my heart. We are extremely fortunate to have these men and women ready to respond at any moment."

After a year filled with a tragic number of natural and man-made disasters and emergency situations, this is yet another reminder of the important role that first responders have in our nation. Amid grief and tragedy, we are reminded of the commitment and sacrifice of firefighters, EMTs, and other emergency responders every day of the year. We continue to remember all of the firefighters who have been lost in the line-of-duty, and to promote fire prevention, fire safety, and training to help reduce the number of losses and injuries.