



# Smoke Signals II

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

## Pat Thompson Named Division Director for State Fire Rescue Training

On Monday March 4, 2013 Pat Thompson was named Division Director of the Kentucky Fire Commission’s State Fire Rescue Training program. Ronnie Day, Executive Director of the Fire Commission and his staff welcome Pat, who will be working out of the System Office of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) in Versailles, and ask that you support Pat and the SFRT field and system office staff as the program continues to grow and evolve.



Pat has been a volunteer firefighter for nearly 30 years. He retired as a career firefighter with the Henderson Fire Department in 2011. He has been an adjunct SFRT instructor for several years and is a part-time sheriff’s deputy. Pat has served nearly two terms on the Governor’s Fire Commission.

Before becoming SFRT Division Director, Pat served as the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for the Fire Commission.

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

It's hard to believe that the year is half over with my serving as your KFA President; however time slows down for no one. The legislative session has been very active with many issues coming up that effect the KFA. We have been dealing with the pension reform and the special taxing district question that have been the main two areas of concern during this session. At the time of my writing this article it looks like there will be a special session called to address pension reform and the special tax district is still up in the air. I would personally like to thank Howdy Kurtsinger for his effort during this session, for all the hard work and time that he has put in for the fire service of Kentucky. Many of you may not be aware that Gerald Stewart has been having some health issues and hopefully he will be back with Howdy for that special session if indeed it becomes a reality. Gerald has served the fire service of Kentucky proudly for many years and I pray that his health continues to improve so that he can serve for many years to come.

The KFA will be having its next Executive Board meeting in Lexington on June 8, 2013 at 9am during the Kentucky State Fire School. I would personally invite each and every one of you to come out and participate in the meeting and enjoy one of the finest fire schools the Commonwealth of Kentucky has to offer. I especially would like to see all the KFA Directors there to participate in the business of the Kentucky Firefighters Association. The Director's job is to participate in the business and then to take it back to each association to let them know what is going on in the KFA. The KFA is only as strong as the local associations and we encourage you to come out and let your voices be heard.

This year's State Fire School has had many changes with new classes added and many new afterhours activities added. The State Fire School committee has been busy at work all year long to present the best school possible and I would ask that each department try to send students to this school.

The KFA Conference committee has been busy working on the conference scheduled for Au-

gust 3-6 in Ashland, Kentucky. If you have never been to a conference I challenge you to attend this one in beautiful Eastern Kentucky and see what the KFA is really all about. The committee is actively selling ads for the 2013 Conference book and help support the KFA and Conference by purchasing those ads. The selling of the ads helps us make the conference a success by allowing us funds to put the conference on. I would invite you to visit the website for the conference it is [www.kfa2013.com](http://www.kfa2013.com), it has all the forms needed for registration, booklet ads and the golf tournament. If you have not already registered for the conference do so now while the price is still \$70 per person.

Let's all strive to make the KFA the best we have ever seen in 2013. Please be safe out there and continue to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to the best of our ability. I pray that God will watch after each and every fire-fighter in the Commonwealth and that he blesses those who put their lives on the line to save others.



### From the 3rd VP Jeff Pohlman

Greetings from Northern Kentucky! I don't know about you all but I am ready for baseball's opening day and warmer weather!

The Legislative session is in full swing and I am sure Howdy will have his report later in this news letter. Again, keep a close eye on Howdy's weekly report for the issues that may affect your department.

Congrats to the following recipients that were chosen for awards at the NKFA Awards Banquet that was held in January: Chief Bill Birkle, Carol Michels, Adam Casteel, Alex Fish of the Petersburg FPD, Ron Jones and Wayne Isaacs of the Hebron FPD for the EMS Award, Lt. Adam Bradbury of the Northern Pendleton FD for FF of the Year, Kristina and Nehemiah Hickman for the Citizens Award, Belleview-McVile and Union FPD for Department Rescue of the Year, and one of my own Explorers, Josh Seitz for Explorer of the Year.....congrats to all!

The NK Fire Officer's class is winding down and the NK Emergency Services School is scheduled for May 17-19. Hope to see you all there!

Access the registration at nkyess.org. State Fire School will be held in Lexington June 6-9. Both will have numerous informative classes.

Speaking of education, please access the KFA website for information on how to obtain a scholarship through the KFA for fire science degrees. This is a "best kept secret" although we do not want it to be. Look under the "SOG" tab for more information.

And lastly, the 2013 KFA Conference hosted by President Sam Stacy will be here sooner than you think. Visit the KFA 2013 website for more details. Pre-filed resolutions must be in 45 days to the Secretary prior to the first day of the opening ceremony. Again, the KFA website under the "bylaws" tab will explain the details.

Please stay safe!

*Jeffrey H. Pohlman*

Fire/EMS Chief  
Alexandria Fire District



**Vice President at Large  
Mike Hulsey**

I attended the Green River Association Bryant Stiles Officer School. I want to thank the guys of Green River for all the hard work you did to show everyone that it's still a school with Bryant's signature on it. I loved the video that Jimmy Van-cleve put together to honor Bryant. It was a fitting tribute. The Green River Association put on a great school, with new activities and classes. One more year in Lexington and I am sure that they will be happy to take it home to Owensboro.

On Friday at the Fire Commission meeting a new President of the Commission was voted in. I want to wish the best of luck to Tiger Robinson for being elected to that position, I believe he will continue to build on the platform set by past Presidents James Riddle, and Greg Lowe. Greg has done a remarkable job in his two year tenure, working for the betterment of the Fire Service, Thank you Greg and God bless.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Pat Thompson, for being hired as the State Fire Training Director I know he will do a fantastic job, and in time will place his imprint on the position. We all know he will be filling some very big shoes and will want to continue

the work Bryant started.

At the KFA meeting President Stacy put together a committee to establish FF funeral response. The E-Board wants to fairly administer our response to all firefighter funerals in a fair equitable way across the State, and that is what the committee is charged to do. The FF Funeral program is very expensive while worthwhile we must administer it as economically as possible.

Treasurer Duane Suttles announced that while membership dues are about the same as last year, there are a lot of long time members that have not renewed their membership. Hopefully this is merely an oversight and when you check your records you will renew your membership. Howdy and Gerald are working hard for you in the legislative session and your membership means a lot.

The E-Board has not given up on the firefighter motorcycle plate, if you're interested contact your director, or one of the e-board members.

Finally our friend Woody is going through some health issues and I want him to know that while he is going through this trial we will keep him in our prayers, and he has lots of friends out here that will do whatever they can to help God bless.

Vice President at Large  
Michael Hulsey



**\$ KFA TREASURY NOTES \$  
BY TREASURER DUANE SUTTLES**

Greetings from the vault of the KFA Treasury. The executive board of the KFA met in regular session February 23rd, during the Officers School held in Lexington. Since many of you were not able to attend the meetings due to your participation in classes or inability to attend the weekend at all due to various reasons, I have chosen to report to you, the status of our current membership numbers and explain membership options that are available.

As of the February meeting, 422 Kentucky fire departments are currently paid members of the KFA. Of these 422, 54 are new, meaning they were not members in 2012. There are still 70 departments that regularly maintain their membership, but are behind on dues for this year. I feel

confident that these 70 members plan to remain in good standing; they are just running a little behind in sending in their membership application with payment of dues. This will leave us short only 8 member departments from our goal of 500. Those are great numbers. I see these figures as very positive because we are moving forward in numbers with nearly 60% of Kentucky fire departments as members of the KFA. To our friends that still need to send in their dues, remember our by-laws set December 31 as the due date for membership dues, making delinquent all departments not paid by that date. This could have an effect on those departments when it comes to membership benefits, such as our \$3000 accidental death and dismemberment insurance, so it's real important that departments attempt to remain up to date.

In addition to department memberships, the KFA also offers personal memberships for individuals at a rate of \$25 per year and Sustaining memberships for our commercial supporters at a rate of \$150 per year. More information on these alternative memberships can be found on the KFA website at [www.kyfa.org](http://www.kyfa.org). State fire school will be coming up in June and Therese Cheney, our vendor specialist for the annual vendor show, will be contacting potential sustaining members to share information on how to display your equipment and products at our vast Vendor Show.

As always, I personally thank you for taking the time to read this issue of Smoke Signals and if I can be of any assistance or you have an issue for the office of the treasurer, give me a call at 606-922-7671. Be safe and I look forward to seeing each of you at one of the regional fire or rescue schools this spring.

*Duane Suttles*

KFA Treasurer

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## Words of Wisdom

Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.

Mark Twain



## NFPA's Commitment to the Fire Service: Partnerships & Public Education

By Russ Sanders, NFPA's Central Regional Director

In this my fourth and final article in the series NFPA's Commitment to the Fire Service, I will write about NFPA's extensive partnerships, services and public education programs.

### Partnerships, Projects and Services...

NFPA partners with other fire service organizations to protect and promote the AFG and SAFER grant programs. NFPA was a key supporter of the successful D-Block legislation that won successful passage in the 2012 Congress with funding at \$13.5 Billion. We continue to work with all partner organizations to ensure proper funding for the "build-out" of a national system.

NFPA is now and has in the past worked with NIST, the IAFF, IAFC and many other organizations on staffing and deployment projects, including a high-rise project that will soon be completed.

NFPA partners with the IAFC, USFA and IFSTA to fund all tuition expenses for chief officers to attend the State and Local Government Senior Executive program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. NFPA provides the lion's share of the funding to support this program.

NFPA provides technical advisory support, training and educational services through our Regional Offices, Engineering, Public Affairs, Public Education, and Public Fire Protection Divisions. Further, NFPA's Washington, D.C. Government Affairs Office provides a focus for fire service issues in our nation's Capitol.

NFPA provides numerous research and publication services to support the fire service. These publications include the Annual Fire Fighter Death & Injury Reports, Fire Investigations Reports, Fire Data & Statistics Reports, NFPA Codes & Standards News, NFPA Journal Update, and the NFPA Journal to mention only a few.

NFPA maintains one of the most complete fire service libraries in the world.

NFPA was one of the founding sponsors of the Congressional Fire Services Institute and continues today as an active participant and supporter

of the CFSI.

NFPA sponsors 16 membership sections, including the International Fire Marshals Association, the Fire Service Section, the Metro Fire Chiefs Association (a joint IAFC/NFPA Section), the Education Section, and the Wildland Fire Management Section.

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, to further its goal of protecting our nation's first responders, NFPA made available its haz-mat response and protective ensemble standards – free of charge – to all fire service members.

### **Public Education**

NFPA has been committed to public education since the creation of a division in the mid-1970s. The mission of the division is to eliminate fire deaths and injuries through effective public education programs and information. Our goals are to position the division as the primary source for fire and life safety information; continuously improve strategies to train the fire service; increase awareness of and involvement in Fire Prevention Week; and create a public awareness of NFPA and its fire and life safety messages.

NFPA has seven Public Education Advisors coordinating network members in each state and Canada. In the Central Region, NFPA has Meredith Hawes from Travers City, MI serving as the contact for the region.

Here is a short list of FREE Public Education Offerings:

#### **For People with Disabilities**

Student Planning Guide

Safety in the Workplace brochure (English and Spanish)

Teaching Tips for Educators (English and Spanish)

Escape Planning Lesson Plan

Smoke Alarms for People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (English and Spanish)

List of organizations serving people who are deaf or hard of hearing

#### **Older Adults**

##### ***First Nations Remembering When***

Remembering When materials in 15 languages (Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French Creole, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Kore-

an, Polish, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese)

### **Escape Planning**

Clear Your Escape routes brochure (English and Spanish)

Home escape planning grid

Safe and Secure – security bars information (leaders guide and brochure in English and Spanish)

### **Smoke Alarms**

Planning and Implementing a Successful Smoke Alarm Installation Program

### **Disaster Preparation**

Get Ready: Preparing Your Community for a Disaster

### **Campaign Kits for the Fire Service**

Keeping Your Community Safe and Warm

Keeping Your Community Safe and Sound

Keeping Your community Safe with Home Fire Sprinklers

Keeping Your Community Safe and Energized

Keeping Your Community Cooking Safely

Keeping Your Community Safe with Home Escape Drills

### **Education Programs**

Lesson plans for Risk Watch: Unintentional Injuries, Learn Not to Burn Preschool Program and Remembering When: A Fire and Falls Prevention Program for Older Adults. A new Learn Not to Burn Program for grade one students will be available in the Fall 2012.

### **Sparky Website**

Monthly activity

Games

Parent Page

### **Fire Prevention Week Website**

Fire statistics

Fundraising support

Lesson plans

Media materials

Radio PSAs

Annual Scholastic FPW project

### **Sparky's Wish List**

Matches fire department wish lists for FPW

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### 2012 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

Date	Area	Location	Phone
4/6-7	9	Maysville	888-301-2946
4/13-14	9	Middletown	888-306-8064
8/17-18	14	Campbellsville	888-234-1780
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
11/30-12/1	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 EKU 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!

#### Area 14 Spring Fire School

April 12 - 14 Somerset

#### CKFA Fools School

April 13 Paris

#### FDIC

April 22-27 Indianapolis

#### NK Emergency Services School

May 17-19 Florence

#### 22nd Daniel Boone FS

May 17 - 19 Morehead

#### State Fire School

June 6-9 Lexington

## Words of Wisdom

Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves are its only safe depositories.

Thomas Jefferson

### 1st Annual CKFA/FOOLS School

Saturday 13 April 2013

Jessamine County Fire Department Station 1 and Training Facility Registration starts at 07:30 hours Opening Session at 08:00 hours Pre-registration \$30.00, at the door \$ 35.00 F.O.O.L.S. member \$20.00.

#### Classes

Engine Company Operations  
Truck Company Operations  
Rapid Intervention Teams  
Officers Training for Todays Officers

### Area 14 Spring Fire School Pulaski County

Hal Rogers Regional Fire Training Center

April 12, 13, 14, 2013

Class application can be downloaded at [www.pcfirecommission.com](http://www.pcfirecommission.com)

- 1 Basic Firefighting - Hands on & Classroom (2 days)
- 2 Farm Rescue (2 days)
- 3 Drivers Training (2 days)
- 4 Arson Investigation (2 days)
- 5 Fire Pump Maintenance (Sunday only)
- 6 NFPA 1403 (2 days)
- 7 ICS 400 (2 days)
- 8 Rappelling / Ropes (2 days)
- 9 EMT Recertification Hours (2 1/2 days)
- 10a Highway Scene Safety (Sat Morning)
- 10b I'm a Chief Officer, Now What? (Sat Evening)

For more info call 606-679-7075

### NK Emergency Services School

May 17 - 19 Florence KY

Gateway Community & Technical College

to register go to [www.nkyess.org](http://www.nkyess.org)

### Explorer Competition Friday May 17th

Scheduled Classes:

#### One Day Classes Friday

001 Fire Alarm Inspector

#### One Day Classes Saturday

101 Firefighter Survival (FC10000)

102 Aircraft Crash - Fire - Rescue

103 Wildland Firefighting (S-190)

104 Company Officer Boot Camp (Sat)

**One Day Classes Sunday**

- 111 Firefighter Rescue (FC20000)
- 112 Flashover Simulator
- 113 Company Officer Boot Camp (Sun)

**Two Day - Saturday/Sunday**

- 201 Firefighter Basics / Explorer
- 202 Basic Pump Operations
- 203 Haz-Mat Operations Level
- 204 Auto Extrication - Advanced Stablization
- 205 Smoke Diver Advanced SCBA
- 206 Live Burn Class
- 207 Arson Detection For The First Responder (NFA)
- 208 PICO - Preparation For Initial Company Operations (NFA)
- 209 STICO - Strategy & Tactics For Initial Company Operations NFA)
- 210 Health & Safety Officer (NFA)
- 212 Fire Department Chaplain Class
- 213 EMT Basic & Paramedic Refresher CEU's

**Extended Classes**

- 301 Fire Instructor Level 1 May 4-5 & May 17-19
- 302 Fire Instructor Level 2 (May 3, 4, 5, 17)
- 303 Confined Space Rescue (May 4, 5, 17, 18, 19)

**22nd Annual Daniel Boone FS  
May 17 - 19 KCTCS Rowan Campus  
Morehead**

**Friday Night Classes**

- 1 Intro to Building Inspections
- 2 Clandestine "Meth Lab" Awareness
- 3 Fire Dept / EMS Health and Welfare
- 4 KY Wildland Awareness

**Saturday 1 Day Classes**

- 5 FF Survival
- 6 Propane Bobtail

**Sunday 1 Day Classes**

- 7 FF Rescue
- 8 Flashover

**Full Weekend 3 Day Classes**

- 9 EMT Refresher
- 16 Confined Space Awareness & Ops

**Weekend Two Day Classes**

- 10 Farm Rescue
- 11 Basic Firefighting
- 12 Hard to Get Hours

- 13 Swift Water
- 14 Ladder Operations
- 15 Leadership III
- 17 Pump Operations

**84th Annual Kentucky State Fire School  
/ Homeland Security Conference**

Lexington June 6 - 9

Registration information and forms may be obtained on-line at [www.kyfa.org](http://www.kyfa.org) under resources/fire schools.

Registration fee before May 31st \$50.00. April 1st and after \$70.00. On-line registration will be accepted as well as credit card payments. Visit [www.sfrtarea3.org](http://www.sfrtarea3.org) for more information. Checks can be made payable to **State Fire School**. Mail completed registration forms to "State Fire School" PO Box 700, Calhoun KY 42327.

**This Year's Class Lineup!****Thursday Only Classes**

- 308 Con Ed for Fire Supression Systems Insp.
- 401 All Hazards Awareness Workshop
- 501 Risk Communication (Thurs AM)
- 501 FF Fitness & Welness (Thurs PM)

**Thursday Repeated on Friday Classes**

- 304 Con Ed for Fire Alarm Inspectors

**Thursday Repeated on Sunday Classes**

- 415 Forestry Fire Fighting

**Thursday and Friday Classes**

- 201 NFA Leadership I
- 301 Arson I
- 305 Fire Inspector I
- 409 KYTF-1: The USAR Initiative Awareness
- 410 Basic Chaplaincy

**Thurs & Fri Classes Repeated Sat & Sun**

- 101 Aircraft Firefighting

**Thurs, Fri, and Saturday Classes**

- 103 Basic Firefighting "Fire Academy"
- 109 Basic Search & Rescue BSAR
- 302 Arson II - Fire Scene Investigations
- 303 Arson III - Legal Issues for Fire Inves.

**Friday Only Classes**

- 307 Basics of fire & Life Safety Education
- 414 Contaminated Water Diving
- 502 Chief Officer Transition Siminar (AM)
- 502 Sprinklers the Big Picture (PM)

**Friday Repeated on Sunday Classes**

- 408 "Meth" Lab Awareness

- 415 HSEEP Toolkit Course  
**Friday & Saturday**
- 108 Big Rig Rescue  
**Friday, Saturday & Sunday**
- 104 "Bread & Butter" Boot Camp
- 110 EMT Refresher  
**Saturday Only Classes**
- 106 Tanker Operations & Water Supply
- 403 EMS Evaluator
- 407 Managing Farm Related Emergencies
- 411 Advanced Chaplaincy
- 503 Hit & Run Tactics/Doing it Different (AM)
- 503 Leading From Where You Are (PM)  
**Saturday & Sunday Classes**
- 102 Pump Maintenance & Testing
- 111 Junior FF Mini Academy
- 112 Full Face Mask/Dry Diving Certification
- 202 NFA MTCO Decision Making
- 306 Fire Inspector 2
- 402 Rural FF Operations  
**Sunday Only Classes**
- 107 Foam Fire Streams
- 404 EMS Instructor Orientation
- 405 Emerg Resp to School Bus Incidents
- 406 Highway Crash Scene Management
- 504 Response to West Liberty  
**Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday Classes**
- 105 Rapid Intervention Team
- 203 Haz Mat Awareness & Operations
- 412 IMT-4 Incident Management Team
- 413 Applicants Agent Briefings

**NEW LAW REQUIRES ADDITIONAL TESTING  
FOR ALL CAREER KENTUCKY  
FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATES**

Versailles, KY – Beginning **January 1, 2013**, all career firefighter candidates will be 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.

**Reminder to those High School Seniors  
graduating This Year!**

High school seniors 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?

**Pike County Firefighters Association News**

Well we here in Pike County have been extremely busy since January. Let me give you a little history in case you don't know what's been going on. On January 9th in the early morning hours the Shelby Valley Volunteer Fire Department got toned out to a structure fire, while enroute to the scene they were told there were probably people still inside the structure. And unfortunately there was still a family in the burning home and we lost 4 small children all under the age of 6 yrs old and their father, the mother escaped with severe burns to her body and had to be air lifted to UK burn center for a couple weeks. What makes it even worse is the fact that during the investigation they could not find any working smoke detectors anywhere in the house.

But as most things go in the fire service we learn from our tragedies and our experience's. I was contacted on January 17 by Assist Director Richard Peddicord with the Ky State Fire Marshal office and he advised me that he had made contact with Kidde Smoke Alarms and they were going to donate 250 smoke detectors to Pike County Firefighters Association for distribution to people in Pike County thru their local volunteer fire departments.

Now here is where we turn a tragedy into a great thing, I told Richard that we would be honored to assist in the distribution of the smoke detectors to our firefighters in Pike County. I just knew that the great bunch of firefighters that we have here in Pike County would just jump right on this and want to help the people in their communities. So we had a press conference with all 26 fire



departments in Pike County being invited along with Fire Marshal Swope. So we got 250 Kidde Smoke Detectors on Tuesday January 22 and we told every department to start a list of people needing and wanting smoke detectors in their homes, come back to us and we would give them a least 2 detectors for each house some would need 2 or 3 and some might not need but one or even none just fix what they got. I am proud to say that on Sunday 27th I gave out 175 Kidde Smoke Detectors to start being installed in their coverage area.

We picked up some more sponsors and we purchased 252 more with Kidde donating another 252 to the association for a total of 504 more. This was about a week ago and we are down to about 125 left and getting ready to order more. And we will continue to order them as long as I can get sponsors to pay for them. We will let you know the final count sometime near the end of this year.

*Randy Courtney*, President



**Chaplain's Corner**

***Curves of Life***

As we go through this life frequently we get thrown some curves that make you wonder "Why Me" what have I done to deserve what has happened to me. That always causes me to look at Job. Here is a guy that has everything going for him. He was wealthy and had sons and daughters that loved him. Then Satan and the Lord had a discussion which ended up with a test of Job's faith. Job had done nothing wrong even though his wife urged him to curse God and die he would not do it. Satan threw everything he could at Job but Job remained faithful. At the end Job got back all that had been taken away and more. So if we are going to glean any gems of wisdom from this story it can only be "Stay Faithful". Put your trust in the solid rock of like Job did. Jesus Christ has the power to help you through the curves of life but what it takes from you is to stay faithful. We are to praise Him in the good times and during trials. That's the hard part. Trusting and praising when you just don't feel like it. He is still alive and faithful if you will but trust. The ball is in your court, what will you do?

**"NFPA" continued from page 5**

materials with sponsors

**NFPA Website**

NFPA official educational messages  
Safety Tips sheets

**Safety Source E-Newsletter**

More than 85,000 subscribers

**Other Programs**

Urban Fire Safety Forum  
Urban Fire Safety Task Force (public educators)  
Disabilities Task Force  
Public Education Advisory Committee  
State/Provincial Public Educator Network  
Public Education Advisors  
Remembering When Scholarship program  
Public Educator Scholarship program  
Educator of the Year  
Rolf Jensen Memorial Grant

**Conclusion...**

The series of four articles titled NFPA's Commitment to the Fire Service that have been published in Smoke Signals II over the past several months offer only a sample of the services, projects and programs NFPA provides and sponsors for the fire service.

There is much that the fire official must consider before deciding which fire, life safety and building codes are best for his or her jurisdiction. NFPA 1, Fire Code™ has a long history of proven compatibility with all building codes used in the United States. Also, technical guidance for existing buildings is a critically important issue. In this respect, NFPA 1 and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code® are the industry benchmarks. However, there is more to consider than code compatibility and technical provisions. When a fire chief recommends the adoption of a fire and life safety code, the chief is entering into a professional partnership with that code writing organization. Therefore, it is equally important to know what that organization stands for and its history of commitment (or lack thereof) to your profession.

If each of these issues is carefully considered, I am convinced that fire service leaders throughout our nation will support the adoption of NFPA Codes and Standards.



## Notes From Fireman Joe

My congratulations and thanks to the Green River Gang for an outstanding Bryant Stiles Fire School past February 22nd thru 24th in Lexington, as usual great instructors and speakers. It was especially good to attend the Fire Commission Meeting and see some old friends I haven't seen for a while. Congratulations to my friend, Pat Thompson on his recent promotion and appointment. I have known Pat for a long time and have enjoyed him as a friend, colleague and brother in the fire service. I am confident Pat will continue his dedication and commitment to the Kentucky Fire Service.

I also attended the KFA Hall of Fame Committee and sadly said farewell to Chief John Daley as chairman of that committee, Chief John has done a splendid job of coordinating the selections, ceremony's and events for Hall of Fame these past ten years. Congrats and thanks to Chief John Beach of Southgate Fire Dept. for accepting Chairman of the KFA Hall of Fame Committee. John will keep us all on task and make the coming selections to honor the well-deserved folks of our Kentucky Fire Service.

I sure hope Spring has Sprung by the time you read this, last year I remember the horrible tornadoes that struck our State and hope we can be spared those types of incidents. As I write this article I look outside to gray skies, cold and rain with more snow on the way this evening and March looks to start that way as well. But with along Spring comes unexpected and sudden change in weather conditions so be ready for that and prepare. I have found it is helpful to prepare an emergency kit containing water & food supplies, radio with extra batteries, blankets, medications, change of clothing, flashlights with extra batteries and more importantly realize utility disruptions that may last several days. Watch the media alerts and know the difference between watches and warnings.

Fireman Joe has been enjoying my retirement but miss my past associations and spending time with the children. So glad I decided to stay on a couple of days doing my public education things which I still love. I must admit retiring from Edgewood, KFA Committees and other Pub

Ed Events left me realizing how busy my life was before so some free time does feel good. I am so very grateful to those who have decided to carry on our statewide programs and events which are so crucial to the safety of our Kentucky Communities. With that being said, don't forget upcoming State Fire School in Lexington in June which I have been assured may be the best school ever. Wanda Isaacs and Greg Schultz are planning an excellent Pub Ed Class and even Fireman Joe may stop by to see how things are going and offer my comments. Be sure to check out the brochure and register for this great school, Ronnie Day has told me the brochure should be out soon to Fire Depts. and on the KFA Website.

Well until next time, BE SAFE! And as Always GOD BLESS!

## *Fireman Joe*

### **Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association Honors Emergency Responders**

Erlanger, Kentucky: Firefighters, Emergency Medical Personal and Good Samaritans were recently honored at the Northern Kentucky Firefighter's Annual Awards Banquet. These individuals and departments were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond this past year. These nominations were reviewed and recipients chosen by a panel made of citizens from the community.

The Emergency Medical Services Award went to Members of Petersburg Fire/EMS; Bill Birkle, Adam Casteel and Alex Fish along with members of Hebron Fire District; Ron Jones and Wayne Isaacs. These individuals received this award for their actions in saving the life a four year old boy who had been accidently hung in Petersburg.

The Meritorious Service Award is given to a citizen or citizens who have been instrumental in the saving of a life. This year's award was given to Kristina and Nehemiah Hickman, a sister and brother who were hauling water for their family when they heard someone yelling for help. This brother and sister quickly responded to the cries for help, finding a man lying in a yard suffering from an apparent cardiac arrest. They quickly called 911 and began CPR; they continued pro-

viding CPR to this stranger until EMS arrived taking over rescue procedures. If it were not for their efforts this stranger would have had any chance of survival. This victim is now home with his family enjoying his second chance at life thanks to Kristina and Nehemiah.

The Department of the Year Rescue Award / Liberty Mutual Award was shared this year by two neighboring departments for their efforts during the rescue of a pilot who crashed his small plane in southwestern Boone County. This award went jointly to the Bellview-McVille Fire Protection District and to Union Emergency Services.

Junior Firefighter of the Year is given to a youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who shows great potential in the fire service. This youth will promote growth within of his or her department's Junior Firefighter Program. This year this honor was awarded to Joshua Seitz of the Alexandria Fire District's Explorer Program. Joshua is the very first recipient of this award.

The Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Lieutenant Adam Bradbury of the Northern Pendleton Fire District. Adam was nominated by his department for the dedication and leadership he has shown to his community during last March's Tornado that tore through Adam's home along with the community of Peach Grove. After the tornado had passed severely damaging his house, Adam began to survey the damage to this community along with rendering first aid and searching for victims.

The evening ended with the swearing in of the 2013 Officers of the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association by Kentucky Firefighter's Association Secretary Monica Rath, Southgate Fire Department and 3rd Vice President Jeffery Pohlman, Alexandria Fire District;

President John Seitz, Independence Fire District

Vice President Greg Schultz, Fort Thomas Fire Department

Secretary Katie Bryant, Southgate Fire Department

Treasurer Val "Bud" Lederer, Alexandria Fire District

1 year Trustee Joe Eggemeir, Fire Department of Bellevue-Dayton

2 year Trustee Bill Birkle, Petersburg Fire District

3 year Trustee Rita Hassler, Taylor Mill Fire Department

Legislative Chair Bruce Smith, Erlanger Fire / EMS

Advisor Tim Kleier, Southgate Fire Department

Visit our website for more information, [www.nkyfa.com](http://www.nkyfa.com)

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## **Now Accepting Nominations for 2013 KFA "Hall of Fame"**

Dear Kentucky Firefighters,

We are pleased to announce that nominations are being accepted for potential inductee's to the Kentucky Firefighters Association "Hall of Fame".

The mission of the KFA Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and exceptional contributions to the formation and continued success of the Kentucky Firefighters Association.

The induction ceremony for the 2013 class of Hall of Famers will be during the KFA banquet at this year's annual conference in Ashland. Inductee's will be notified sometime late June or early July prior to the conference. Nominees may be living or deceased.

Please research your department, regional association, and KFA histories and nominate those deserving of this honor. All nominations must be submitted to the committee no later than June 4, 2013.

Mail nominations to Duane Suttles, State Fire Rescue Training, PO Box 248, Morehead, Ky. 40351 ,or by FAX to (606) 784-1878 or you can scan and email to [duane.suttles@kctcs.edu](mailto:duane.suttles@kctcs.edu) .

Sincerely,

Chairman John Beatsch and  
the KFA Hall of Fame Committee

Duane Suttles, Ed Schmidt, Mike Wallingford, Joe Stambush, Tim Brumfield and Bobby Cowherd.

***For a nomination form please go to [WWW.kyfa.org](http://WWW.kyfa.org) and click on "Hall of Fame" there is a link on the Hall of Fame page for a printable nomination form.***



## Legislative Report

To begin this article I first want to wish Woody the very best and hope all



goes well with him. Also I want to report that I spoke to Gerald almost every day of the session and he stayed on top of the issues. He kept us informed and advised us although he could not attend. As of Tuesday he was doing great and should be back if we have to attend a special session, now that is good news!

The bad news is that there could be a Special Session on Pension. This year's legislative session has been one of many turns that took different directions. For years the last days of the session have been hectic but this year seemed worse. As many of you know I have said that this is the worst session that I have attended and many important issues could never get heard. When they, both House and Senate, began the discussions on cooperating with each other and during the process both sides went back to the past sessions of attacking each other.

HB1 passed Tuesday with an amendment. During the discussions we were able to negotiate and took out the ability for fiscal court or city council to make any changes. Also we requested language to prevent any department from being required to follow old HB 44 requirements. We have been assured that NO change in that requirement (**IF YOU WERE EXEMPT BEFORE YOU ARE EXEMPT NOW**). All members of the Auditor's office and the bill drafter all agree that they wrote the language to comply. We had to lobby hard and work with all parties to keep Senator's Thayer's original language off this final version.

Now we have one (1) major issue that has not been resolved. SB 2 the pension legislation should be discussed during the veto session over the next two weeks. They have in the past passed legislation on the last 2 days but who knows what will happen.

Please contact your legislators both House and Senate on the following issue:

### **SB 2**

Your contacts with your legislators have had an enormous impact, those phone calls, emails

and personal contacts were instrumental in the Senate not amending HB 228, with the language from SB2. During a series of State & Local Government Committee meetings last week and this week in afternoon and evening meetings, our legislative friends have asked for you to keep up the pressure on SB 2.

As I am sure you are aware Governor Beshear has been meeting with House and Senate Leadership, with additional meetings possible over the veto period, to discuss pensions and funding. If public employees and retirees are to impact this process, as many additional calls as possible need to be made to Senate and House Leadership, as well as Governor Beshear. When legislators return home please contact them with the same simple message **"funding for pension fix", no "cash balance" and for them to "keep the promise"**. Please remember the phrasing of the message is up to you, the suggested message is just that, a suggestion. The only thing that matters is that contacts are made with the Governor and Leadership, substance over style. A conversation with or a message to, a legislator from a voter in their district, trumps a radio spot by the opponents of public pensions.

A link to members of Legislative Leadership is below and contains both legislative and personal contact information.

[http://www.lrc.ky.gov/org\\_adm/lrc/members.htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/org_adm/lrc/members.htm)

Capitol Switchboard 502-564-8100

toll free 1-800-372-7181

Governor Beshear 502-564-2611

Remember the Capitol switchboard toll free number and Governor's office numbers are not answered over the weekend and when the Legislature is not in Session.

Thanks to all the members who attended the session. Working together we can resolve many important issues for the entire fire service of the Commonwealth.

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## Words of Wisdom

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.  
Albert Einstein

## EDUCATIONEDAL CORNER

### Automotive Event Recorders

We are constantly getting questions with regard to automotive event recorders. While known by several different names, I am referring to cameras generally in-stalled on the windshield of a vehicle with 2 lenses, 1 facing out and 1 facing the driver. The cameras record consistently and sense changes in G forces saving the video before and after the G force event. Depending on the manufacturer and model, some retain all of the video and bookmark the events while others only re-tain events. Again, various models may also retain speeding events, record GPS with the video, record speed, and do a variety of other functions.

Another variation is managed or self-managed systems. The companies providing managed services have cameras which automatically send event images to a re-view center. Their employees analyze the event and forward the video with an evaluation of what occurred and suggestions to coach the driver or other remediation techniques to prevent recurrence. With the self-managed systems, the cameras are physically checked by management on a regular basis and if they indicate events have occurred, the media card is removed and reviewed locally. There is also a hybrid system available which electronically sends videos directly to management for review. Each of these systems has advantages and disadvantages and you need to find the system that works best for your organization, however re-member the managed systems also carry a monthly fee for monitoring.

Event recorders were originally designed to capture crashes in an effort to help determine fault and more quickly adjust insurance claims. Shortly after they began being installed, fleet managers noticed that fewer accidents were occurring. Drivers were aware that the camera would capture every quick start, hard brake, sharp turn, and speed bump taken at 20 MPH. As a result, they began to drive better, avoiding issues which would cause an event on the camera. Another benefit of this is maintenance costs. When drivers operate their vehicles more efficiently, brakes and tires last longer and fuel consumption is reduced.

These items alone can recoup camera costs fairly quickly and also remember that fewer claims can help reduce future insurance costs.

The bottom line is that these recorders provide a great boost to your safety pro-gram. They have proven themselves as an excellent means to manage emergency vehicle safety while reducing operating costs.

For further information on event recorders, check with your insurance provider. Many providers can not only provide information but may also be able to assist in discounted pricing.

March 2013

By Bill Tricarico

Senior Risk Management Consultant

Emergency Services Insurance Program

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### Hercules Tire Recall

Manufacturer: Hercules Tire & Rubber Company

**SUMMARY:** Hercules Tire & Rubber Company (Hercules Tire) is recalling certain Hercules ALL TRAC A/T 10-ply Load Range E tires, sizes LT215/85R16 115/112S, DOT Serial Numbers JEHMECL5008-4010; LT235/85R16 120/116S, DOT Serial Numbers JEKMECL4708-4010; LT245/75R16 120/116S DOT Serial Numbers JEJKECL4608-4010; LT265/75R16 123/120S, DOT Serial Numbers JENKECL4808-4010; LT265/70R17 121/118S, DOT Serial Numbers JENJFCL5108-4010; LT245/75R17 121/118S, DOT Serial Numbers JELKFCL5008-4010 and LT225/75R16 115/112S, DOT Serial Numbers JEJKECL5108-4010. These tires can experience in-service belt and tread separations.

**CONSEQUENCE:** Should a separation occur, the driver could lose control of the vehicle without warning, which could increase the risk of a vehicle crash.

**REMEDY:** Hercules Tire will notify owners and replace the affected tires free of charge, including mounting and balancing. The recall began on February 27, 2013. Owners may contact Hercules Tire at 1-888-965-5795 or by email: [alltracreponse@HerculesTire.com](mailto:alltracreponse@HerculesTire.com) for more information.

**NOTES:** Hercules Tire's recall campaign number is 01-2013. Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

## Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

<p>911 Fleet &amp; Fire Equipment Frank Glowatz 11 Lendal Dr Florence KY 41042 877-605-2378 fglowatz@911fleet.com</p>	<p>Advanced Fire &amp; Rescue Equip. Nick Gapinski 365 Persimmon Circle Booneville IN 47601 800-853-7675</p>	<p>Air Evac Lifeteam Dan Durham 101 Greenbriar Drive Campbellsville, KY 42718 <b>270-469-1380 Fax 270-469-1382</b> durhamdan@air-evac.com</p>
<p><b>All Safe Industries Inc.</b> Steve Haise 1830 Cargo Court Louisville KY 40299 888) 972-3389 Fax (877) 968-4438 steve@allsafeindustries.com</p>	<p>Bluegrass Fire Equipment John Baker 780 Enterprise Dr Lexington, KY 40510 <b>800-526-8393</b> Fax 859-233-1167 www.bluegrassfire.com</p>	<p>Bluegrass Uniforms Inc. Jason Colson 3533 Dahlia Way Bowling Green, KY 42101 270-842-7700 jason@bluegrassuniforms.com</p>
<p>Dove Designs Chris Hays 94 Horizon Loop Monticello KY 42633 <b>888-377-4459</b> www.dovedesigns.com contact@dovedesigns.com</p>	<p><b>///EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT</b> MIKE BRADY Res. Equip./Vehicles <b>(859) 359-4502</b> (859) 359-4503 FAX http://www.EEResQ.com E-Mail: EEResQ@cs.com</p>	<p>Excellance, Inc. Thomas Pugh 453 Lanier Road Madison, AL 35758 <b>800-882-9799</b> Fax 256-772-8792 www.excellance.com</p>
<p>FAAC Inc. Bill Martin 1229 Oak Valley Dr. Ann Arbor MI 48108 <b>734-761-5836 Fax 734-761-5368</b> wbmartin@faac.com</p>	<p>Finley Fire Equipment 5255 N. State Route 60 McConnelsville OH 43756 800-545-3280 www.finleyfire.com rebersole@finleyfire.com</p>	<p>Fire Apparatus Division S.D.C. Bob Stark 8009 Beulah Church Rd. Louisville KY 40291 <b>502-239-3120</b> sdfire@iglou.com</p>
<p>Fire Department Service &amp; Supply Co. Jay Trautwein 1902 Campus Place Suite 2-3, Louisville, KY 40299 <b>800-321-6965</b> Fax 502-491-1487</p>	<p>Fire &amp; Specialty Equipment Co. Mike Mudd 235 Rogers Drive Shepherdsville KY 40165 (502) 957-2145 Fax (502) 957-2146 mjuddsr@windstream.net</p>	<p>Firecom Corporation Barry Jackson 7340 SW Durham Rd Portland OR 97224 <b>800-527-0555</b> barry.jackson@firecom.com</p>
<p>Firovac/Reberland <b>Larry Reber</b> <b>5963 Fountain Nook</b> <b>Apple Creek, OH 44606</b> <b>330-698-5322 firovac@yahoo.com</b></p>	<p>GRA-KAT Enviromental Andy White 50 Cherokee Dr, Shelbyville KY 40065 <b>502-321-3110</b> andy.gra-kat@insightbb.com</p>	<p>High Tech Rescue Inc. James Riddle 2116 Frankfort RD. Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 <b>502-633-0149</b> Fax 502-633-0659 james.riddle@insightbb.com</p>
<p>Hilliard Enhanced Learning Programs (HELP) Mike Hilliard www.4-help.org sales@4-help.org <b>888-504-4357</b> Fax 502-532-0800</p>	<p>Insti. for Preventive Strategies Jessica Melton 2292 South Hwy 27 St 300 Somerset KY 42501 606-677-6000 jmelton@centertech.com</p>	<p>KBEMS Bob Hammonds 300 N Main St. Versailles KY 40383 <b>866-975-2367</b> Fax 859-256-3128 kbems@kctcs.edu</p>
<p>Kenwood Communications Dave BandKamp, 2060 E. Harbor Road Port Clinton OH 43452 <b>419-734-4200</b> info@greatlakescomm.com</p>	<p>KY Emergency Management Charlie O'Neal 100 Minuteman Pkwy Frankfort, KY 40601 <b>502-607-1601</b> charliem.oneal@us.army.mil</p>	<p>Landmark Chiropractic Dr Cole Bergeson 204 Bevins Ln Suite D Georgetown KY 40324 <b>502-868-6008</b> landmarkchiro@yahoo.com</p>
<p>MapSync Tim Fields 149 Main Street Pikeville KY 41501 <b>606-432-9188</b> tfields@mapsync.com</p>	<p>National Fire Sprinkler Assn. Ron Brown 1615 Cypress Spring Dr. Ft. Wayne IN 46814 <b>845-661-6534</b> brown@nfsa.org</p>	<p>On Duty Depot/MPH Ind. John "Red" Noblitt 1040 Mosley St Owensboro, KY 42303 <b>270-685-6423</b> red@shopmph.com</p>

**Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members**

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

<p>Orr Rapid Response Michael Kidwell 11601 Interchange Dr Louisville KY 40229 <b>502-494-3687</b> Fax 800-800-6774 <a href="mailto:michaelk@orrcorp.com">michaelk@orrcorp.com</a></p>	<p>Paul Miller Ford Inc./ Upfitters Brad Ferguson 975 East New Circle Lexington KY 40505 <b>859-255-4242</b> bradferguson@paul.millergmline.com</p>	<p>QDCIP Fire, LLC Cris Marley, 127 Weltmer Circle Perrysville, OH 44864 <b>419-606-0085</b> qdcip@live.com www.qdcipfire.com</p>
<p>RGC/Public Entity Insurance Michele Barrett 1056 Wellington Way Suite 130, Lexington, KY 40513 <b>888-696-9620</b> Fax 859-296-4583 mbarrett@roeding.com</p>	<p>RH Clarkson Insurance Group Aaron Willis 401 West Main St Suite 1500, Louisville, KY 40202 <b>502-585-3600</b> Fax 502-585-8819 awillis@rchgroup.com</p>	<p>Royce Publications Robert Boyd 3320 Clays Mill Rd Suite 212 Lexington KY 40503 <b>859-327-8595</b> rcbyd8898@live.com</p>
<p>Scheller's Fitness &amp; Cycling Bill Goodwin 1987 Harrodsburg Road Lexington, KY 40503 <b>859-873-0699</b> bgoodwin@schellers.com</p>	<p>Scott Health &amp; Safety Tim Divine 119 Lakeridge Dr Richmond, KY 40475 <b>859-353-5017</b> tdivine@tycoint.com www.scotthealthsafety.com</p>	<p>Summit Fire Apparatus Joe Messmer 11 Sperti Drive Edgewood KY 41017 <b>859-331-0360</b> jmessmer@summitfireapparatus.com</p>
<p>Super Vacuum Mfg Command Light Tim Hodgson 3842 Redman Dr Fort Collins, CO 80524 <b>970-290-2532</b> timh@supervac.com</p>	<p>The Public Safety Store, LLC Sean Lawson PO Box 12266 Lexington KY 40582 <b>606-434-7980</b> sean@thepublicsafetystore.com</p>	<p>Vehicle Systems Inc. Gary L Williams 629 Shelby Street Lexington KY 40505 <b>859-252-1377 800-444-FIRE (3473)</b> gwilliams@vehiclesystems.net</p>
<p>Vogelpohl Fire Equipment, Inc. William Vogelpohl 2756 Cireleport Drive Erlanger, KY 41018 <b>800-797-8317</b> Fax 859-282-1550</p>	<p>Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services Steve Siereveld P.O. Box 17374 • Dixie Branch Edgewood, KY 41017 steve@kpep.net <b>800-753-6734</b> Fax 859-331-3734</p>	<p>Ward Diesel Filter Systems 133 Philo Road West, Elmira NY 14903 <b>800-845-4665</b> Fax 607-739-7092 www.warddiesel.com lisa.gray@warddiesel.com</p>
<p>Wynn SOUTHEAST Apparatus Jon Wise &amp; Kevin Williams 326 Old Lynn Camp School Rd Corbin KY 40701 <b>888-996-6277</b> www.wynnapparatus.com</p>	<p>Wynn Fire &amp; Rescue Equipment Charles &amp; Kathy Wynn P.O. Box 1585 Corbin, KY 40702 <b>606-523-9269</b> Fax 606-523-0591 cwynn@wynnfire.com</p>	<p>To advertise in this space in the next issue of Smoke Signals II . . . <b>contact Therese Cheney</b> <b>at 859-907-2108</b></p>
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## ***KFA Smoke Signals II***

This is a Publication of The Kentucky Firefighters Association.  
 Editor Woodrow Will, 46 N Sunset Ave, Cecilia, KY 42724-9782  
 Phone 270-766-9946 or E-Mail at woodrow.will@kyfa.org

**The Deadline for June issue submission of articles is May 10, 2013**



**National Volunteer  
 Fire Council**  
 Ken Knipper, Director

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 Clemmensen. "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. Stittsburg. "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."