



Smoke Signals II

Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association

Lake Dreamland Fire Department Looses a beloved Chief and friend!



Chief Wilkinson suffered a fatal heart attack at his home early on the morning of April 13, 2012 after returning from a fire call. He was 44 years old and had served as a Lake Dreamland firefighter since 1985. He advanced to Chief in October 2010 when his father retired after serving the department for fifty years. Chief Wilkinson was also Assistant Chief of Kentucky Air National Guard Fire & Rescue where he has also served since 1989.

Chief Wilkinson was a third-generation Lake Dreamland firefighter. His grandfather was killed in the line of duty in 1950 when he fell from a responding apparatus.

He is survived by his wife Jennifer, daughter Shianne, and mother Nancy.



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Notes From The President's Desk Van Taylor

As we go into summer and schools let out, Sate Fire School is upon us and we know that the conference is just 8 weeks away. Have you sent in your registration? Have you made your reservation? The KFA website has all the information you need to make all of that happen for you. Preparations are at a fevered pitch. There are many fun and exciting things to do at the conference July 28th through the 31st in Lexington. Hotel rooms are going fast so make your reservation now!

The schedule for the conference is:

Saturday

- Olympics 9 AM to 3 PM
- Registration 1 to 4 PM
- Sunday
- Registration 9 AM to 1 PM
- Fire Commission Mtg. 1 to 2 PM
- Memorial Service 4 PM at the Hotel
- Welcome Party 6 PM at the pool
- Hospitality Rooms Open after Memorial Service

Monday

- Registration 9 AM to 1 PM
- General Business Meeting 8 to 11 AM
- Ladies Banquet 11 AM
- Golf Outing at Griffin Gate 1 PM
- Hospitality Rooms and Pool Party in the evening

Tuesday

- General Business Meeting 8 AM to 4 PM
- Ladies trip to Paul Mitchell Beauty School- Discounts: \$10 wash & set and special packages
- Hospitality Rooms Open in the evening
- Installation of Officers and Banquet 7 to 11:30 PM

Please don't miss out on this grand time of business, food, fun and fellowship. You need the work the KFA does on your behalf and the KFA needs you!

There is a task that falls upon the president and officers of your association that is necessary but never pleasant and that is a Line of Duty Death Funeral. The Executive Board attended Chief Wilkinson's funeral on Tuesday April 17th

and presented the family with a Bible. Please keep Jennifer and Shianne in your thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months to come. The Lake Dreamland Fire Department lost a wonderful brother and chief.

Remember that summer brings the risk of heat related injuries to firefighters. Plan now to provide for the increased temperature by having a rehab plan for each run. Carry plenty of water and items like Gator Aid or some other liquid that will replenish electrolytes in the body that sweat depletes. We spend a lot of time and money maintaining our equipment and sometimes we forget to do even simple things to keep us from losing our most valuable assets our people.

Your Executive Board will meet at the State Fire School/Homeland Security Conference in Lexington on Saturday June 9th at 9 AM. If you are free on Saturday please stop by and visit the meeting. Ask about meeting location at registration. Have a great time at fire school!

Do your best to say thank you to those on your department that serve the community by risking their lives to make your community a safer place to live and work. Until next time be safe and enjoy your friends and family.

You're President

Van Taylor



Michael E. Hulse Vice President at Large

Unfortunately, the E-Board has been busy attending funerals, both line of duty and non-line of duty. Chiefs please remember that if these were accidental deaths the KFA provides a \$3,000 life insurance policy, and you need to contact our Treasurer Duane Suttles.

Chief Shaw has announced that this is his last year of working the vendor area for the Fire School in June. He will truly be missed and we all need to thank him for a great job done over the past years.

The Elizabethtown Fire Department, Shift 3 primarily are restoring the 1944 Mack (See top of next column for picture) that was sold many years ago to KY 86 Fire & Rescue. They are



working diligently and the community is responding with donations to assist them. The goal is to have the truck partially done by the Elizabethtown Cruisin , July 28th.

Vice President at Large

Michael E. Hulsey



**Chris Crowford
2nd Vice President**



On April 26, 2012 Secretary Monica Rath and I, along with members of the fire commission, fire chiefs association, professional firefighters association and homeland security traveled to our nation's capital of Washington, DC. While in Washington we met with several of our congressman and our senators to discuss with them the need for continued support of legislation for the overall good of the fire service.

During our meetings we discussed the following legislation with them:

- S.911 Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act this would open up the interoperable wireless broadband network.
- S.550/HR 2269 this act would fully fund the assistance to firefighters grant program and the staffing for adequate fire and emergency response grant program through 2016.

- HR 376/S.1911 Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act this act would amend the IRS code to allow for length of service awards for volunteer firefighters.
- HR 1792/S. 1035 Fire Sprinkler incentive Act
- Chief Possich discussed regeneration issues on diesel engines which raises the cost of new fire engines and could endanger the lives of firefighters and citizens. The request would be for the EPA to waive fire trucks from this requirement beginning in 2013.
- Chief Shuck discussed issues related to receiving surplus property from the military.

This was a very successful trip and our legislators understand the need for support of the fire service in Kentucky.



Ben Chandler and John Yarmuth meeting with the Kentucky Fire Service representatives



John Sparkman Chief of Staff for Congressman Whitfield meeting with the Kentucky Fire Service representatives

Words of Wisdom

All the president is, is a glorified public relations man who spends his time flattering, kissing, and kicking people to get them to do what they are supposed to do anyway.

Harry S. Truman



National Volunteer Fire Council

Ken Knipper, Director Bryant Stiles, Alternate

2012 E. James Monihan Director of the Year: Ken Knipper



Ken Knipper has been awarded the E. James Monihan Director of the Year award by the National Volunteer Fire Council at the NVFC Spring meeting. Ken was recognized for being a tireless voice and advocate on behalf of the emergency medical services and has dedicated over 30 years

to its service and advancement. He has been an invaluable asset to the NVFC as a leader in EMS and also currently as a member of the Council's Executive Committee.

Is the first Chair of the NVFC's EMS/Rescue Section, which officially launched in 2010. Before that was the Chair of the NVFC's EMS Committee from 2005 until the creation of the EMS/R Section. Ken chairs the NFPA Technical Committee on EMS and is active on many national EMS projects and initiatives.

The E. James Monihan Director Award honors a current or former board member whose remarkable achievements on the NVFC board exemplify outstanding performance. The selection of the award recipient is determined by the Executive Committee and is not necessarily awarded annually.

Congratulations to Ken for being recognized at the national level by the National Volunteer Fire Council

NVFC Committee Report

The Spring Board Meeting was held in Washington, DC on April 26-29. Bryant and I attended with 35 other states being represented. A major administrative issue was the development and approval of a three-year strategic plan.

Before the meeting I was privileged to represent the NVFC on a CFSI panel regarding the im-

pact of the EMS Bill, a discussion on the NEMSAC Roundtable on the EMS Education Agenda for the Future, and the impact of private sector EMS acquisitions, mergers, etc. Phil Stitleburg, NVFC Chairman, participated in a discussion on transition to combination departments. It was interesting to note that a few full paid department chiefs were also being asked to transition to combinations departments. These are interesting times.

As usual many legislative issues were discussed and priorities set. There are a number of important legislative initiatives to follow so instead of numbering the priorities as they have done in the past the legislative committee agreed to use a monitoring system to keep abreast of the various bills. The system provides three levels of monitoring.

The EMS/Rescue Section continues to develop and completed a strategic plan for the Section. The main emphasis behind the plan is to grow the Section. New promotional materials will be developed to show the benefit of membership and participation in the Section. Information can be obtained by going to www.nvfc.org and checking the EMS section.

The NFPA is currently soliciting input on a project on Community Paramedic Programs. The NFPA Technical Committee on EMS has received requests to develop a guidance product as there is little information available for those who are considering such a program. If you feel such an effort is justified, write the NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471. These programs are growing around the country with Wisconsin being the first state to pass enabling legislation for such programs.

The NVFC has just released a Junior Firefighter Recruitment Program video. Check the NVFC site www.nvfc.org/juniors to download the video.

The NVFC also has on line an Emergency Services Liability program. This program was developed with Chief Bill Jenaway and VFIS. It is an outstanding program that covers many emergency responder liability issues.

Bryant Stiles is working with a group on the development of a B.E.S.T Incident Safety Officer Course. This project is funded by Motorola through the FEMA Grants Office.

If you intend to attend any Fire Academy or FEMA courses you will need to obtain an ID number from FEMA as they will no longer be using social security numbers.

I had previously sent notice regarding a program by Globe Uniform to supply free turnout gear to volunteer departments. Go to www.nvfc.org and check the Globe application process.

Get on your computer and go to www.nvfc.org and pull up the 2011 annual report. If you want to learn more about the NVFC and what it does for volunteer firefighters every day, take a look at this issue. Browse the site as it is filled with valuable information.

Bryant and I thank you for the opportunity to represent Kentucky's firefighters at these meetings.



Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain Karl Lusk (right), with the assistance of Freddie Dewitt, New Haven Fire Chief (center) and Frank Hall, Rolling Fork FD Chief (left) offers a blessing of the two departments' rescue truck and equipment.



Fr. Troy Overton, (at podium) offers a blessing of all firefighters prior to presentation of St. Florian medals to each. Chaplain Lusk and Chiefs Dewitt and Hall

FIRE DEPARTMENTS HOLD RECOGNITION SERVICE

Two all-volunteer departments headquartered in New Haven KY, the New Haven and Rolling Fork Fire Departments, held a service of recognition and blessings on Thursday, May 10 at the departments' station on Center Street in New Haven. The two departments respectively provide fire protection and rescue to the City of New Haven, and a rural area of approximately 100 square miles in southern Nelson and northern Larue counties.

This opportunity to honor the all-volunteer membership of the two departments coincided with the observance of the feast day for St. Florian, patron saint of firefighters, according to the Rev. Troy Overton, Administrator of St. Catherine Roman Catholic Church, New Haven and Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, Culvertown, both in the two departments' service area. "We had wanted to find a way to recognize the good work of these two departments, since we are all part of the same community," he noted. "I met with the chiefs of both departments and their chaplain, the Rev. Karl Lusk, Pastor of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Bardstown, who lives in New Haven. They were very receptive to the idea."

The service, led by Frs. Overton and Lusk, offered prayers to ask God's blessing on the fire apparatus, equipment, and building, as well as the firefighters themselves. A St. Florian medal was presented to each firefighter. About sixty members of the public attended, in addition to twenty-two members of the two departments and representatives of the Bardstown-Nelson County Fire Department and Boston Fire Department. "We really appreciated the community turn out to support our firefighters," Lusk said. "We hope to make this an annual event to honor those who give countless hours in training, responses, and community service."

St. Florian was a Roman soldier who headed a unit of the Roman Army specially trained in fire-fighting, stationed in what is now Austria. They were assigned to protect government buildings in case of fire and were one of the first recorded

"Chaplain's Corner" continued on page 9

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2012 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Phone</u>
TBD	7	Cold Springs	888-306-8101
8/4-5	12-13	London	888-234-0100
9/29-30	1	Calvert City	888-306-7901
10/6-7	6	Middletown	888-306-8064
11/3-4	5	Leitchfield	888-234-7201
12/1-2	7	Cold Springs	888-306-8101

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!

State Fire School

Lexington June 6-10

Mountain Fire School

Hazard August 24-26

KFA Conference

Lexington July 28-31

Meade County Fire School

Brandenburg Sept 8-9

Hazard Fire School

Hazard August 25-26

Kentucky EMS Conference

Lexington September 18-21

Jefferson County Fire School

Louisville September

Buffalo Trace Fire School

Maysville October 26-28

Green River Fall Fire School

Owensboro October 26-28

Kentucky (Green River) Officer's School

Lexington February 22-24



Middletown FPD, Eastwood FPD & JCFA Present

Ret Chief Jeffrey Johnson

June 8 and 9, 108 Urton Lane in Louisville KY. Chief Johnson currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Western Fire Chief's Association and previously served as Fire Chief of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (OR) for over 15 years. Chief Johnson is internationally known as an innovator and ambassador for excellence through customer service. Additionally, he advocates for cooperative initiatives and business practices that achieve efficiencies and demonstrate smart government while maximizing the value of services provided to the citizens. He has authored two fire service books and is a featured international lecturer. Chief Johnson currently serves in various leadership positions with local, state, and federal fire service organizations.

Chief Johnson will provide information on challenges facing the fire service and share perspectives accumulated during his 32 year distinguished fire service career. His presentation is designed to give organizations a peek "over the horizon" at what impacts are in store for the fire service. Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain some valuable insight and guidance in strategic planning for your organization!

Cost: Registration is \$30.00 for one day or \$50.00 for both days per person (lunch provided)

Questions? Contact:

Training Officer Ron Maddux at RMaddux@mfpd.org

Meade County Fire School

Meade County High School Brandenburg

September 8 & 9

Saturday & Sunday Classes

- 1-EMS Continuing Education
- 2-Firefighter Safety & Survival FC1000/FC2000
- 3-Basic 16 Hour
- 4-Aircraft Crash & Rescue
- 5-Heavy Rescue

Saturday Only Class

- 6-Flashover

Sunday Only Classes

- 7-Wildland Awareness 4 Hours AM Only
- 8-Haz Mat Update 4 Hours PM Only

83rd State Fire School & Homeland Security Conference**June 6th through the 10th Lexington Kentucky**

For registration and Hotel Information go to www.kyfa.org click on resources then Fire Schools then click on brochure under State Fire School.

(X indicates day(s) courses are offered and **R** denotes a course repeat)

Course #	Course Name	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<u>“Learn By Doing” (Hands On Courses)</u>					
101	Aircraft Firefighting	X	X	R	R
102	Pump Maintenance and Testing			X	X
103	Basic Firefighting – “Fire Academy”	X	X	X	
104	“Bread and Butter” Boot Camp		X	X	X
105	Tanker Operations and Water Supply			X	
106	EMT Refresher		X	X	X
107	Junior Firefighter “Mini-Academy”			X	
108	“Big Rig Rescue”		X	X	
109	Foam Fire Streams				X
<u>National Fire Academy/KCTCS Degree Classes</u>					
201	NFA Incident Safety Officer			X	X
202	NFA Leadership I (Degree course number FRS 2073)	X	X		
203	NFA MTCO Decision Making (Degree course number FRS 2062)			X	X
204	NFA ICS 100, 200 and NIMS IS 700 (Degree course number FRS 2072) (NEW)	X	X		
<u>Fire Investigations, Inspections, Prevention and Public Education</u>					
301	Arson I - NFA Arson Detection for the First Responder (FRS2074)	X	X		
302	Arson II - Fire Scene Investigations	X	X	X	
303	Arson III - Legal Issues for Fire Investigations	X	X	X	
304	Continuing Education for Fire Alarm Inspectors	X	R		
305	Fire Alarms for the Fire Fighter		X		
306	Fire Inspector 1			X	X
307	Fire Inspector 2			X	X
308	Basics of Fire and Life Safety Education		X		
309	Continuing Education for Fire Suppression System Inspectors	X			
<u>Seminars</u>					
401	All Hazards Awareness Workshop	X			
402	Rural Firefighting Operations	X			
403	EMS Evaluator			X	
404	EMS Instructor Orientation				X
405	FD Planning & Response to Weather Emergencies				X
406	Ky Dept. of Environmental Protection – Environmental Response Team	X			
407	Courage To Be Safe: The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Life Safety Initiatives Program				X
408	Basic Chaplaincy	X	X		
409	Advanced Chaplaincy “Challenges & Ethical Considerations in Fire Chaplaincy”			X	
410	Railroad Safety for Emergency Responders	X			
411	“Meth” Lab Awareness		X		
412	PR101 The Do's and Don't of Dealing with the Media			X	
413	Implementing a Juvenile Fire Starter Intervention Program	X			
414	College Dormitory Fires: ICS Strategy and Tactics				X
415	Managing Farm Related Emergencies			X	
416	Highway Crash Scene Management and Emergency Traffic Control				X
<u>Senior Management Courses</u>					
501	KY Fire Commission – 2012 and Beyond	X			
502	Integration of KY Fire Service into KY Fusion Center	X			
503	Junior Firefighter Program Update		X		
504	“Office of the Chief”			X	

EDUCATIONAL CORNER

When a Firefighter is Expecting

By Dawn Vail, CRM

Loss Control Safety Specialist

Emergency Services Insurance Program

I was 29 years old when I walked into my local fire department and asked for a membership application. The officer that met me at the door asked, "For you?" While I thought the answer to that question seemed obvious as I was the one asking, I soon realized that women in the fire service face several challenges I didn't expect. Fortunately, feeling accepted was never an issue in my department; the men I work with have always been supportive and encouraging. What I did not anticipate was turn-out gear that never fit me right because it was designed for a man's body, boots that were almost always too big, learning to do the same job differently using body mechanic techniques to compensate for my weaker upper body, and figuring out how to handle bathroom issues when on long calls.

According to the International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services, nearly 35-40,000 women volunteer as firefighters and 6,200 women currently work as full-time, career fire-fighters and officers in the United States. The conversation stopper in many board rooms then becomes what should we do if a female firefighter becomes pregnant. Is she able to continue active duty? Can she still be a member of the fire department? Every department, whether career or volunteer, should develop policies regarding short-term medical disabilities, including pregnancy and reproductive health, to ensure that all personnel are treated fairly and without discrimination. To do this, emergency service organizations should educate themselves on the legalities pertinent to pregnant firefighters and EMS personnel, develop policies that will address leaves of absence, light duty or non-hazardous alternatives, training and personal protective equipment.

One Federal Statute and two court decisions have helped to provide guidelines for emergency service organizations that are developing policies surrounding pregnancy. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 (PDA), and amendment to the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, broadens the definition of sex discrimination set forth under Title VII to include discrimination based on pregnancy and childbirth. In summary, this change

makes it necessary for organizations to treat pregnancy related medical conditions the same as any other disability condition that affects a members ability to perform specific duties associated with their position within the organization. In 1987 the Supreme Court's decision on California Federal Savings and Loan, directed that employ-ers must do for the pregnant worker at least as much as they do for the worker who is injured off the job. In 1991, Supreme Court addressed fetal protection policies in its decision in UAW v Johnson Controls. Johnson controls had barred all fertile women from working in jobs using lead be-cause lead could harm a fetus. The Supreme Court reflected this policy as a form of sex discrimination and a violation of the PDA. The majority opinion stated, "Decisions about the welfare of future children must be left to the parents who conceive, bear, support, and raise them rather than the employers who hire those parents... It is no more appropriate for the courts than it is for individual employers to decide whether a woman's reproductive role is more important to herself and her family than her economic role. Congress has left this choice to the woman as hers to make." Ultimately the decision to transfer to light duty or take a leave of absence from the department cannot be mandatory.

With these guidelines in mind, an organization needs to establish procedures for notifying appropriate personnel of their medical condition. They should also provide information regarding the risks of working in hazardous environments to the pregnant provider of emergency services that can be shared with her obstetrician. The policy should encompass options of non-hazardous duties, leaves of absences (for either parent-father's take paternal leave, too), discussions of continued benefits, whether or not the department will be able to accommodate additional personal protective equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to adapt to her changing body, and whether or not participation in training exercises will continue, and the procedures necessary to return to full active duty after the birth of the baby. Once drafted, it would be in the best interest of the organization to have their local legal council review the prospective policy to make certain all labor laws are adhered to properly.

Words of Wisdom

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.
William James

“Chaplains Corner” continued from page 5

trained and organized fire-fighting units in history. Florian became a Christian, and was executed by the Roman Army when he refused to recant his faith and persecute other Christians. Because he was a martyred fire-fighter, he was canonized as a saint, and became the patron saint of firefighters around the world.

Today, the word “Florian” is used in Europe as a synonym for firefighter or fire department.

For more information, contact Fr. Overton at 502-549-3680, or Chaplain Lusk at 502-827-9111.



**FIREFIGHTER
INSPIRATION-
AL PRINT**

The Kentucky Firefighters Association has partnered with www.firefighterprint.com to offer you this very special inspirational print titled

“WHO AM I”

\$10.00 OF EVERY \$20 PRINT SOLD

goes directly into the scholarship fund to help deserving individuals realize their dreams of becoming firefighters. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 and you can help by buying this one of a kind inspirational print that touches the heart of everyone that reads it.

PLEASE GO TO: WWW.FIREFIGHTERPRINT.COM

TO PURCHASE

“WHO AM I”

(Below is the inscription on the bottom of the print)

My profession is somewhat unique in comparison to that of the average person. At any one fixed moment in time when duty calls upon me, I am prepared to sacrifice my own life to save the lives of others I may not even know. I am willing to do this because I understand that we all make choices in life. As for myself, this is the choice and path of service I have chosen to follow. Though my job is often rewarding, it can also be unsettling. I often reflect upon the simplicity of one question, “Who am I ?” At times, I cannot provide this answer, not even for myself. So, “Who am I” to choose a profession in life that regularly shows no mercy for the preciousness of life? “Who am I” to willingly, without hesitation, invite myself into some of the most uninviting situations known to mankind? “Who am I”, so that when duty calls, may never again lay eyes on the loved ones I could leave behind? The assumed simplicity of this question is not so simple after all. Understanding “Who am I” may be difficult to answer at times. However, all I need to do is pause, think about, and remember those lives I have positively influenced and maybe even saved. All I need to do is look back on the years of service I have given to my community and realize that I have helped make the world a safer place in which to live. In my heart, I know I made a difference. “Who am I ?” I am a Firefighter !



**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.

“Today’s firefighters have to be prepared to handle a variety of situations,” said Ronnie Day, executive director of the Kentucky Fire Commission. “This test will allow us to evaluate career firefighter candidates well before they begin recruitment training and/or on-the-job training.”

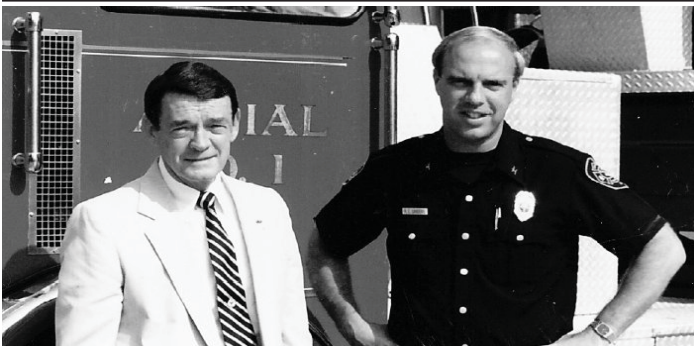
Exercises for the CPAT will include, but are not limited to: stair climbing, hose drag, equipment carry, ladder raise and extension, forcible entry, search, rescue, ceiling breach, and pull.

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.



**Kentucky SFRT Area 13
Instructor Recognised**

Area 13 Instructor Terry Wattenbarger, from Kentucky Fire Commission State Fire Rescue Training has been recognized as a Bronze Level Indirect Authorized Trainer for training over 100 first responders in Incident Command last year. These training efforts are part of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) indirect training program.



Lessons Learned – A Tribute to John Ridge
By
Russ Sanders

More than any other factor, the success I've had in my fire service career and beyond is due to my first fire department assignment, to Louisville (Kentucky) Fire Department Quad Company #4, which I began on November 12, 1967. That was also the day I began a life-long education with Captain John Ridge. It was a different world then, a time of big fires and lots of them, and Captain (later to become Colonel) Ridge instilled in every company member the importance of studying past fires and applying lessons learned through pre-planning and training. And every duty day that is exactly what we did. Colonel Ridge was the finest firefighter, fire officer, teacher, and leader I have ever known. In late October 2011, he died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He was 83.

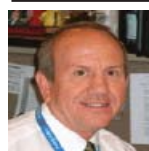
Earlier in the fall, when I called his daughter-in-law to see how he was doing, she told me that he wanted to talk to me. I had no idea what to expect, as John was a realist and knew his days were short. We talked for a few hours, and he told me he'd completely pre-planned his funeral. He'd even written his own eulogy.

But that's not why he wanted to talk. He wanted me to look at a photo he thought might be of the Feeder's Supply fire in Louisville in the early 1970s, and if I'd been there. The photo was of very poor quality, though, and we couldn't tell which fire it was or if I was there. Then he asked if I remembered the Texas City fire. Like most students of our profession, I was familiar with it; it was the first time I'd read about the hazards associated with ammonium nitrate fertilizer. While we talked I contacted the NFPA librarian, Sue Marsh, to ask for help, and she soon found an article on the fire. It occurred on April 16, 1947, in Texas City, just

across the bay from Galveston. The ammonium nitrate explosion killed 468 people, injured 2,000, and damaged 1,000 buildings, resulting in property loss exceeding \$40 million. It also killed all 28 members of the Texas City Fire Department.

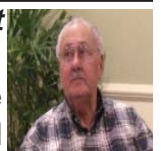
John explained why he wanted to discuss these two fires. Like the Texas City fire, the Feeder's Supply fire involved large amounts of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. Unlike Texas City, there were no deaths or injuries at Feeder's Supply, and the fire was confined to the building of origin. "I read about the Texas City fire in an NFPA publication in 1950, took the lessons learned and incorporated them into our pre-planning and training, and put that information to work at the Feeder's Supply fire," he told me. "NFPA never received the credit it deserved in those days, but I feel NFPA should be recognized, even 40 years after the fact, for the outstanding work it has done in helping prepare fire officers in the field."

Throughout our book, *Structural Fire Fighting*, Ben Klaene and I talk about the importance of learning from past incidents, and then pre-planning and training to apply those lessons to future incidents. For this reason, our text includes numerous case studies of past fires. Talking with John, I was once again reminded of the importance of learning from the past. I hope this brief tribute is a fitting way for me to thank the finest firefighter I have ever known, and that it accomplishes John's desire to recognize NFPA for the fine work it has done for more than 100 years.



**Final Legislative Report
for 2012 Session**

The 2012 legislative session has come and



gone and again the political problems between the Governor's office and Senate leadership caused the breakdown. Again the Governor called for another special session the week after the regular session ended. This time over the road plan and during this special session many issues other than the road fund came up with fighting along party lines and a veto by the Governor.

Firefighter issues during the regular session this year that we followed range from firefighter safety, changing taxing districts, pension, cities,

counties and appropriations just to name a few. This year I sent 14 different legislative reports, and a meeting report to try to keep everyone informed of what was going on in Frankfort, January through April. We began this year with high hopes but as with past years not many issues passed. Sometimes it is better to retain what we have gained in the past rather than losing any of the current benefits. There were a total of 786 bills introduced 220 senate bills and 566 house bills and 605 resolution introduced in total by both houses. Of these only 113 passed. That number is way down from the past and I think the reason is that the redistrict issue started the political fights in both houses. What was ironic they passed two of the first four that the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional.

Here is a summary report of the bills that we had on our legislative report #14 and how some of them progressed during this year's session:

- HB 38 Rep. C. Rollins – An Act relating to safety inspections for official vehicles. After talking to the sponsor about the cost to volunteer fire departments. This bill did not pass.
- HB 122 Rep. Rollins – An Act relating to local ordinances concerning residential care facilities. This bill passed with our amendment attached.
- HB 189 Rep. Jimmy Lee – An Act relating to merged governments. This bill passed with our amendment attached.
- HB 193 Rep. M. Meredith – An Act relating to a tax credit for Volunteer Firefighters. We supported this bill but due to budget problems we could not get it moving. Did Not Pass.
- HB 214 Rep. S. Riggs - An Act relating to worker's compensation benefits for firefighters. This bill passed the House but did not get heard in the Senate. Did Not Pass into law.
- HB 232 Rep. Jimmy Lee – An Act relating to sheriff's collection fees for volunteer fire department membership charges or subscriber fees. This bill passed after we discussed with the members of the KFA who gain more from these collections.
- HB265 Rep. R. Rand – An Act relating to appropriation (the budget). This bill passed after long debate and many changes. The budget money we requested was in this budget and there was

an additional \$7.3 million transferred each year from the fire commission to the General Fund.

- HB 300 Rep. M. Cherry – An Act relating to retirement and declaring an emergency. This bill passed. This bill was clean up language for the retirement system. The only thing changed for firefighters was that the retirement COLA was suspended for the next two years.
 - HB 324 Rep. R. Henderson – An Act relating to payments for firefighters permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. This bill passed after trying to pass it for the last 7 years! The only change we made from the past 7 years was change CPI to increase by \$100.00 to a total of \$300.00. Praise the Lord!
 - HB 326 Rep. R. Nelson – An Act relating to firefighters only passed the House Committee did not pass into law.
 - HB 338 Rep. T. Thompson – An Act relating to delaying the effective date of insurance premium surcharge increases. This bill passed after discussion from our legislation committee.
 - HB 423 Rep. D. Floyd – An Act relating fire protection districts and declaring an emergency. We did amend this bill and supported it. This bill did not pass.
 - HB 461 Rep B. Yonts –An Act relating to fire protection sprinklers systems design and installation. This bill passed.
 - HB 471 Rep. J. Gooch Jr. – An Act relating to the Kentucky firefighters foundation employer reimbursement fund and making an appropriation therefor. We worked against this bill because it would have taken funds from our programs. This bill did not pass.
 - HB 502 Rep. T. Thompson – An Act relating to pension plans for second class cities. This bill passed.
 - SB 55 - Senator Westwood - An Act relating to Interstate Mutual Aid Agreements. This bill passed with our amendment.
- SB 91 Senator E. Harris – AN Act relating to ambulance taxing districts. This bill passed
- There were many hours spent in Frankfort during this year's legislative session and I must thank those who spent the time to walk the halls for the firefighters of this Commonwealth;
- “Legislative Report” continued on Page 12***

"Legislative Report" continued from Page 11

Gerald Steward, Jack Reckner, Bruce Roberts, Ronnie Day, Chris Bartley and Mark Blankenship. We all owe all of these members who attended this session a great big thanks because we did not lose anything and continue to move the fire service of Kentucky forward.

We attended the National Fire Caucus in Washington DC April 25th through April 27th. KFA Vice-President Chris Crawford filled a report for the KFA newsletter. (See his report page 3)



Notes From Fireman Joe The Ol Fire Dog

People ask me all the time how I like retirement, my reply is very simply, not sure have not really had an opportunity to find out too much so far because of Injury Rehabilitation and still doing some fire and life safety projects. I will say this, I have gone from a 60 and sometimes more hours a week down to 20 Hours which is nice but I must tell you, it is hard to stay completely out of the picture. On February 13th I had my Rt Hip Replaced, (Fifty Plus Years of Fire Service Damage) and the surgery went very well and I have ReHabled nicely and getting around very well. I have begun to work a couple of days a week, one day at Fire Dept Bellevue-Dayton and one day at Campbell County Fire District # One visiting the schools, Day Care Facilities, giving talks to Senior Citizens, writing Newspaper Articles and Greg Schultz has asked me to assist at Kentucky State Fire School. I must also tell you, I miss the children from Edgewood Schools very much but my replacement there are doing a splendid job of continuing the many projects I started long ago.

I want to take this opportunity to salute FF/ New EMT Benton Cliff of CCFD#1 for obtaining National Registry Status and KY EMT Certification for our EMS Units at CCFD#1. Also from CCFD#1 I wish much success and best wishes to Blake Steinhauer, Son of Capt Randy Steinhauer and Past Fire Chief of Silver Grove Fire Dept who is entering Military Service with the United States Air Force, we are all very proud of Blake but will miss him volunteering at Station 51 for CCFD#1.

State Fire School in Lexington Begins June 6th thru the 10th and as I look at the classes offered this year I am extremely impressed with how this school and conference has grown to meet the

growing needs of our Fire Service Personnel. I hope everyone takes advantage of the classes available and consider attending this school. Lexington will also be hosting the KFA conference which will begin in July 28th at the Clarion Hotel on Newtown Pike, site of the old Holiday Inn, home to Kentucky State Fire Schools for many years.

I encourage everyone to review NFPA's exceptional website for Fire Prevention and Public Education activities. Of particular interest is the Sparky's Wish List Website at www.sparkywishlist.org and always a hit www.sparky.org A very valuable information source is NFPA's Safety Source Newsletter which is published every month. If you haven't signed up go to www.nfpa.org you can arrange to check the website every month or have it sent directly to your e-mail address. I can't even begin to tell you how many informative and FREE things that are available on this website. CHECK IT OUT!!!

I will be in Lexington during the State Fire School and Homeland Security Conference in June, please look me up and know I am always happy to make a guest appearance at Meetings, Schools and special events or if you just want to say hello my e-mail address is Stambushj@hotmail.com.

Joseph "Fireman Joe" Stambush,
Past KFA Pub Ed Chair

KFA Scholarship

The Kentucky Firefighters Association Scholarship Committee is looking for three students who are interested in being scholarship recipients. A copy of the guidelines and an application can be accessed on the KFA website at www.kykfa.org. Also, we are pleased to announce that the E-Board has raised the amount of the scholarships to \$1,000 per semester. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Allen Johnson, Chairperson

Words of Wisdom

No student ever attains very eminent success by simply doing what is required of him: it is the amount and excellence of what is over and above the required, that determines the greatness of ultimate distinction.

Charles Kendall Adams



THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT CODE ENFORCERS TO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Quincy, MA- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recently launched a recruitment campaign to increase the number of code enforcers participating on the NFPA's Technical Committees. NFPA has more than 200 technical committees, which create and revise codes and standards that protect people and property. NFPA seeks to have code enforcers represent at least 20 percent of the overall Technical Committee membership by 2013.

“One of the greatest strengths of the NFPA standards-development process is broad participation. We work extremely hard to ensure we have a balance of interests on these committees.” said James Shannon, president of NFPA. “ We need code enforcers because they have particular knowledge and experience on how our codes and standards are applied in the field. We need them to provide their expertise to the important work that is being done by our Technical Committees in order to advance our safety mission.”

Recent cuts in municipal budgets, including elimination of travel expenses for public employees, have made it harder for code enforcers to participate in technical committee meetings. In response to this concern, the NFPA created special funding to subsidize 80 percent of travel and lodging expenses that may come when code enforcers participate in technical committee meetings. The assistance with these expenses is available to code enforcers who are public employees or part of the volunteer fire service.

“We created this special funding as part of our commitment to make the NFPA Technical Committees as accessible as possible to code enforcers whose participation is needed to ensure that we have a balance of voices in the process,” said Shannon.

Recently, the NFPA conducted a survey of current Technical Committee members and found a high level of satisfaction in participants. For code enforcers, participating in NFPA Technical Committees can provide an opportunity to help im-

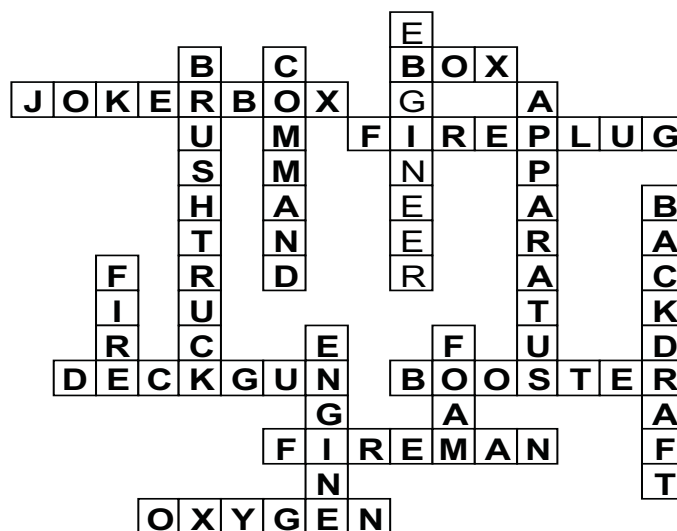
prove safety, a chance to network with other code professionals and a way to learn more from industry experts. In return, NFPA technical committee members are asked to participate in approximately 10 meeting days over a 3-5 year period sharing their expertise and individual perspective.

To learn more about the benefits of joining a NFPA Technical Committee and to apply online, code enforcers can go to nfpa.org/enforcers.

Operational Changes to Smoke Signals II

Decisions have been made to help better promote individual memberships in the Kentucky Firefighters Association. In the past the color version of the newsletter has been posted to the webpage even before it went to the printer for publication. Since the newsletter is now being published in color a decision has been made to post the on-line version when the next month's issue goes to press. In other words the April issue will not be posted to the web page until the 15th of May. If you want to receive a printed copy addressed to you and sent to your residence instead of reading the newsletter sent to your fire department go to the webpage (www.kyfa.org) click on membership on the left of the page print a copy of the personal membership application fill it out and send it along with a check for \$25 to the address on the application. The Kentucky Firefighters Association is the only association in Kentucky that individual firefighters can have a voice and impact the direction of the fire service in Kentucky!

Answers to last issues Crossword Puzzle



Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

<p>10-4 Warning Equipment Todd Roberts PO Box 25107 Lexington KY 40524 606-309-5466</p>	<p>Advanced Fire & Rescue Equip. Nick Gapinski 365 Persimmon Circle Booneville IN 47601 800-853-7675</p>	<p>Air Evac Lifeteam Donald Hare 418 Airport Road Danville, KY 40422 859-854-0081 haredonald@air-evac.com</p>
<p>Air Methods Kentucky David Williams 2417 Over Drive, Lexington KY 40511 859-288-5220 Fax 859-288-5262 Email drwilliams@airmethods.com</p>	<p>Akron Brass Equipment Co. Kent Clasen 343 Venture Blvd Wooster OH 44691 800-228-1161 kclasen@akronbrass.com</p>	<p>Bluegrass Fire Equipment John Baker 780 Enterprise Dr Lexington, KY 40510 800-526-8393 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>Bound Tree Medical Tim Brockmeyer PO Box 8023 Dublin OH 43106-2023 800-282-7904 Ex 5162 tbrockmeyer@boundtree.com</p>	<p>City of Pineville FD Chief James Miracle PO Box 688 Pineville, KY 40977 606-337-7000 pinevillefiredepartment@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Dixie Firefighters Assoc. Larry Naser PO Box 1656 Elizabethtown KY 42702 502-376-1915 lnaser@mcpfd.com</p>	<p>Dove Designs Chris Hays 94 Horizon Loop Monticello KY 42633 888-377-4459 www.dovedesigns.com contact@dovedesigns.com</p>	<p>///EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT MIKE BRADY Res. Equip./Vehicles (859) 359-4502 (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 800-882-9799 Fax 256-772-8792 www.excellance.com</p>	<p>FAAC Inc. Bill Martin 1229 Oak Valley Dr. Ann Arbor MI 48108 734-761-5836 Fax 734-761-5368 wbmartin@faac.com</p>	<p>Finley Fire Equipment 5255 N. State Route 60 McConnelsville OH 43756 800-545-3280 www.finleyfire.com rebersole@finlyfire.com</p>
<p>Fire Apparatus Division S.D.C. Bob Stark 8009 Beulah Church Rd. Louisville KY 40291 502-239-3120 sdcfire@iglou.com</p>	<p>Fire Department Service & Supply Co. Jay Trautwein 1902 Campus Place Suite 2-3, Louisville, KY 40299 800-321-6965 Fax 502-491-1487</p>	<p>Fireblast 451 INC. Jasmine Nava 545 Moncia Circle, Corona CA 92880 951-277-8319 jnava@fireblast451.com</p>
<p>Firecom Corporation Barry Jackson 7340 SW Durham Rd Portland OR 97224 800-527-0555 barry.jackson@firecom.com</p>	<p>Firovac/Reberland Larry Reber 5963 Fountain Nook Apple Creek, OH 44606 330-698-5322 firovac@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Gall's 2680 Palumbo Dr. Lexington KY 40509 859-266-7227 wells-david@galls.com www.galls.com</p>
<p>GBC Customized Calanders Kathy Whitmore 420 Rosebud Lane Winchester, KY 40391 859-737-8237 kwhitmore@gordonbernard.com</p>	<p>Glen's Emergency Equipment Glen Gilreath 345 N Devils Creek Rd Parkers Lake, KY 42634 800-422-4536 glensemeq@highland.net</p>	<p>Heritage Fire Equipment Inc. Robbin Hodges PO Box 14546 Huntsville AL 35815 256-713-9900 rhodges@heritage-fire.com</p>
<p>High Tech Rescue Inc. James Riddle 2116 Frankfort RD. Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 502-633-0149 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 888-504-4357 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>

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<p>KBEMS Bob Hammonds 300 N Main St. Versailles KY 40383 866-975-2367 Fax 859-256-3128 kbems@kctcs.edu</p>	<p>Kentucky Fire Comm. SFRT KCTCS Director Ronnie Day 300 N Main Street, Versailles KY 42353 (800) 782-6823 (859) 256-3478 Fax (859) 256-3125</p>	<p>KY Emergency Management Charlie O'Neal 100 Minuteman Pkwy Frankfort, KY 40601 502-607-1601 charliem.oneal@us.army.mil</p>
<p>Kenwood Communications Larry Sparks, 2060 E. Harbor Road Port Clinton OH 43452 419-734-4200 info@greatlakescomm.com</p>	<p>KY Chapter of IAAI Rusty Todd 380 Ring Road Elizabethtown, KY 42701 270-307-4799 russell.todd@elizabethtownky.gov</p>	<p>National Fire Sprinkler Assn. Ron Brown 1615 Cypress Spring Dr. 845-661-6534 brown@nfsa.org</p>
<p>New York Life Insurance Co. Brandon Barker 651 Perimeter Dr Suite 200 Ashland KY 41102 606-324-9745 john.hester@mortonbuildings.com</p>	<p>NFPA Russell Sanders 3257 Beales Branch Road Louisville KY 40206 502-894-0411 Fax 502-894-0519 Email rsanders@nfpa.org</p>	<p>On Duty Depot/MPH Ind. John "Red" Noblitt 1040 Mosley St Owensboro, KY 42303 270-685-6423 red@shopmph.com</p>
<p>Orr Rapid Response Michael Kidwell 11601 Interchange Dr Louisville KY 40229 502-494-3687 Fax 800-800-6774 michaelk@orrcorp.com</p>	<p>Paul Miller Ford Inc./ Upfitters Brad Ferguson 975 East New Circle Lexington KY 40505 859-255-4242 bradferguson@paul.millergmline.com</p>	<p>PHI Air Medical of Kentucky 1001 Monarch Street Suite 100 Lexington KY 40513 859-219-3053 Fax 859-219-3059 wdukes@phihelice.com</p>
<p>QDCIP Fire, LLC Cris Marley, 127 Weltmer Circle Perrysville, OH 44864 419-606-0085 qdcip@live.com www.qdcipfire.com</p>	<p>RGC/Public Enity Insurance Michele Finke Barrett 1056 Wellington Way Suite 130 Lexington, KY 40513 888-696-9620 mbarrett@roeding.com</p>	<p>Royce Publications Robert Boyd 3320 Clays Mill Rd Suite 212 Lexington KY 40503 859-327-8595 rcbdy8898@live.com</p>
<p>Scheller's Fitness & Cycling Bill Goodwin 1987 Harrodsburg Road Lexington, KY 40503 859-873-0699 bgoodwin@schellers.com</p>	<p>Scott Health & Safety Tim Divine 119 Lakeridge Dr Richmond, KY 40475 859-353-5017 tdvine@tycoint.com www.scotthealthsafety.com</p>	<p>Simulation Technology Darren Basch 375 Fenton Unit A West Chicago, IL 60185 517-592-4499</p>
<p>Southeast DME Sales & Service Paul E. Lassanske 285 Commerce Pkwy Hodgenville KY 42748 270-358-8365 paul.lassanske@sedme.com</p>	<p>Summit Fire Apparatus Joe Messmer 11 Sperti Drive Edgewood KY 41017 859-331-0360 jmessmer@summitfireapparatus.com</p>	<p>Super Vacuum Mfg Command Light Tim Hodgson PO Box 87 Loveland, CO 80539 970-290-2532 timh@supervac.com</p>
<p>Sutphen Corporation 7000 Columbus Marysville Rd Amlin, OH 43002 614-889-1005 Fax 614-889-0876 hsutphen@gmail.com</p>	<p>The Public Safety Store, LLC Sean Lawson PO Box 12266 Lexington KY 40582 606-434-7980 sean@thepublicsafetystore.com</p>	<p>Vehicle Systems Inc. Gary L Williams 629 Shelby Street Lexington KY 40505 859-252-1377 800-444-FIRE (3473) gwilliams@vehiclesystems.net</p>
<p>Vogelpohl Fire Equipment, Inc. William Vogelpohl 2756 Cireleport Drive Erlanger, KY 41018 800-797-8317 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 800-753-6734 Fax 859-331-3734</p>	<p>Ward Diesel Filter Systems 133 Philo Road West, Elmira NY 14903 800-845-4665 Fax 607-739-7092 www.warddiesel.com lisa.gray@warddiesel.com</p>
<p>Wynn Fire & Rescue Equipment Charles & Kathy Wynn P.O. Box 1585 Corbin, KY 40702 606-523-9269 Fax 606-523-0591 cwynn@wynnfire.com</p>	<p>To advertise in this space in the next issue of Smoke Signals II . . . contact Charles W Shaw at 270-465-8633</p>	<p>To advertise in this space in the next issue of Smoke Signals II . . . contact Charles W Shaw at 270-465-8633</p>
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Phone 270-766-9946 or E-Mail at woodrow.will@kyfa.org

The Deadline for August issue submission of articles is July 10, 2012

B L M E R I F H S U R B N F K B B L L W R
 T C R Z N K Q F Y Y D L I G L F Y T D E F
 H F K Z C B H E F N Z R F T K T A L E H I
 R A L P J X N C J A E D L F I M D N N P R
 G I Z M L M P T T H I C Q L Z E I C V Q E
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 N Y Z G R E A S E R C O M B U S T I O N N

The column to the left is a Fire Service Terms related word search. Circle the word to the left from the list below. The solution will be posted in the next issue.

- ACCELERANT
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- ALARM
- APPARATUS
- BACKDRAFT
- BLEVE
- BOX
- BRUSHFIRE
- CAN
- CHIMNEY
- COMBUSTION
- COMPARTMENT
- DALMATIAN
- DEFLAGRATION
- DISCHARGE
- DISPATCH
- EMS
- ENGINEER
- EVACUATION
- EXOTHERMIC
- FIRE
- FIREFIGHTER
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