



Smoke Signals II

Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association

Tower ladder failure injures 3 Pa. firefighters

Firefighters reported that a cable snapped and the bucket dropped about 50 feet before coming to a sudden stop.

The Belle Valley Fire Department said improper cables installed on its tower truck during a rebuild two years ago are blamed for causing an accident with the rig's ladder that injured three firefighters on June 25. The rig is Tower 369, a 2010 Sutphen, from the Belle Valley Fire Department. Tower 369 was at the Wattsburg Fire Hall at 14415 Wattsburg Road when the incident occurred.



The truck's manufacturer, Sutphen Corp. of Columbus, Ohio, has accepted responsibility and has picked up the truck to make the necessary repairs at no cost to Belle Valley, department President Jeff Skonieczki said.

Two Belle Valley firefighters and a member of the Wattsburg Hose Co. were in the truck's bucket that was about 80 feet in the air outside of the Wattsburg Hose Co. station on June 25 when raising and lowering cables snapped and the ladder closed suddenly. The firefighters suffered neck, back and knee injuries, officials said.

The firefighters were taken to UPMC Hamot Hospital for treatment. The last was released from the hospital on Friday June 27.

Sutphen Corp. officials are trying to determine exactly what caused the cable failure, Skonieczki said. He said their investigation into the accident determined that the wrong raising and lowering cables were placed on the truck when the ladder was rebuilt after suffering major chemical damage while at a fire at a building on Iroquois Avenue in Harborcreek Township on May 14, 2011. The building housed American Biodiesel Energy Inc. and North American Powder Coatings.



Skonieczki said that Sutphen Corp. continues to investigate whether the improper cable installation was caused by employee error, mismarked inventory or an identification error by a supplier.

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Notes From The President's Desk Chris Crawford

Where does the time go? As I write this article we are four weeks from the 94th annual conference. I have done a lot this year and the KFA has accomplished a lot this year. We held our fall meeting in Eddyville and the folks of Lyon County and the Pennyriple Region was very welcoming and our meeting went very well.

We worked on a lot of legislation in Frankfort to better the fire service, we did not get as much accomplished as I would of liked, but our Senators and Representatives know we are here and we will always speak up for the fire service.

The Kentucky State Fire School was a great success this year, we changed up a few things added some different classes that you can only get at State Fire School. The vendor show was a great success this year with some very good products and good looking equipment being showcased.

It has been as great year, it has been an honor to serve as your President and be part of this great organization known as The Kentucky Firefighters Association.



Notes From 2nd Vice President Jeff Pohlman

Greetings from Northern Kentucky! Summer is in full swing and the heat is on. After the cold of winter, we welcome the warmth! I remember getting in my Chief's car this past winter on the way to work and seeing minus 15 degrees on the dashboard display. My, what a difference a few months make!

As I write this month's article, I glance out my office window and am encouraged to see AFD shift personnel training with minimum standards (hose evolutions/ladder raises/aerial ladder operations). Although an overcast day, it is a little warm outside (upper 80's and very humid). The bottom line....they get it! Your experience is only as good as how you train and how often you train. How you train may save your life one day. A fire is a fire...there is not a career or volunteer fire.... it knows no difference! I am a stickler on training

and how I trained early in my career while a young firefighter has definitely made me what I am today. I still learn every day. Technology is constantly changing and if you do not keep up with it, you will be left behind. I truly believe that when you stop learning or think you know it all, it is time to retire. There are many opportunities regionally and state-wide with training. I receive emails constantly from Ronnie Day, our Fire Commission Executive Director on the many fine regional fire schools throughout this Commonwealth. These schools take many hours of administrative activities to coordinate Instructors and Logistics....and this is long before the school starts. We have the oldest and best State Fire School in the nation. Take advantage of these schools. Be a part of knowledge. Be all you can be. You owe it to the citizens you serve....and your family to make it back home safe.

I want to express my thanks to the great firefighters and fire departments of Northern Kentucky who keep the Chief's well informed on what is going on regionally. The EMS committee meets monthly and discusses EMS related issues. As many of you know, almost all FD's in NK have ALS ambulances within our fire departments. The EMS committee meetings are attended by our FD EMS supervisors/representatives and are continuously keeping FD's educated on technology, equipment, and protocols. These meetings are well attended by not only FD EMS personnel, but also our Medical Directors, hospital liaisons (Cincinnati and NK), and KBEMS. Our Fire Inspector groups, attended by FD Fire Inspectors, keep us educated on fire and building codes. Our Training Officers do the same with training enhancements to improve our regional fire schools and in-house trainings. If there is a better way of doing things, these are the meetings where it happens. Our Technical Rescue Team has become part of the Kentucky Task Force 1 group, which is in its inception, with a long way to go. There are many hours of dedication that goes into these groups and we thank the Chief's for assisting in these endeavors. We are all in this together.

I want to congratulate a few of my friends that I have had the pleasure of working with in one way or another over their careers who have decided to

retire or will by fall. My congrats goes out to Captain Greg Schultz of Ft. Thomas FD, Chief Dennis Halpin of the Taylor Mill FD, Assistant Chief Doug Brefeld of the Elsmere FPD, Chief Marc Muench of the Florence FD and Chief Jerry Sandfoss of the Central Campbell FD. If I have to guess, there are about 175+ years' worth of dedicated service in those five names. Congrats and enjoy retirement!

In closing, I hope you all had a great time attending this year's KFA Conference. We continue to work for you the firefighter and what is best for the Kentucky Fire Service! You can make a difference!

Stay safe!

Jeffrey H. Pohlman
2nd Vice President



Mike Hulsey
Vice President At-Large

I am greatly honored and humbled to be inducted into the KFA Hall of Fame. I believe there are many more that deserve this honor before me. When I think about my name being put alongside Sylvan Smith, Bryant Stiles, Ken Knipper, Mark Luckett, and all that have helped form the Kentucky Fire Service into the best in the Nation, I am deeply humbled. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

The KFA membership is up, but a somewhat troubling fact is that many departments that were members last year did not reapply for membership. The KFA is always working hard to better the fire service in this great commonwealth; we are only as strong as our membership, and the backing of the regional associations. We must find the formula to increase growth in the local associations and the KFA, together under one voice we are a mighty force.

A special thank you goes out to the Pulaski County Firefighters Association for being a leading force in reorganizing the Lake Cumberland Firefighters Association. I would also like to submit a challenge to our brothers in the South Western area to once again get their firefighters association the Barren River Firefighters Association

up and running.

To Chris Crawford, I want to commend you for a job well done, we greatly appreciate the leadership, time and sincere concern you have provided for your fire service brothers. With your term ending, you leave the KFA in great shape and have laid a solid platform for President Steve Kyle to grow. God Bless you and thank you.

Michael E. Hulsey
VP at Large



Notes From Fireman Joe
The Ol Fire Dog

I sure hope everyone had a safe and fun Fourth of July Holiday. I always get nervous during this time of the year especially with the Fireworks.

A special thanks goes out to all the great guys and gals who attended our State Fire School Public Fire Education Class in June. Greg and I still enjoy teaching that class and this year was no exception, we had a blast. My compliments to the cooks at the cookout, food was pretty good and as always it was fun to see all our friends. My pals from Lexington continue to be exceptional hosts; I never get tired of coming to Lexington.

I am getting excited about the upcoming KFA Conference. When I talked to President Crawford, he promised an exciting and fun time in E-Town for all. I can't stress enough how valuable your support of the KFA is for the emergency service workers of Kentucky. If your department is not a member contact Duane Suttles today, wouldn't it be great if everyone was a member?

I promised my good friend Ken Knipper that I would mention the National Volunteer Fire Council. I for one check weekly their website (www.nvfc.org) so much is going on with this great organization and they are always right in the middle of everything that is going on in the Emergency Services World today.

At the KFA Conference Banquet two more well deserving members of the Kentucky Fire Service will be inducted into the KFA Hall of Fame. I know who they are but I am not sure if I am allowed to mention who it is yet, both of these gentleman are very good friends and brothers in the fire service that I have long admired. From my own experi-

ence this is such an honor. From the time I was a young firefighter, so many exceptional people have played such an important part in my own fire service career it is always so very special to see these folks so honored. CONGRATS!

I spoke to my good friend Jeff Pohlman the other day and he and his committee have been working on fund raising projects for the next Northern Kentucky Hosted Conference in 2016. With so many neat and fun activities going on there is never a dull moment in NKY.

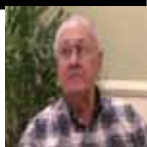
Lastly I want to comment on something I feel very strongly about. With all that can and does happen in the fire service in the performance of our duties it can be extremely overwhelming at times. I tell my young firefighters all the time, no matter how bad things are today it always looks better tomorrow. To put it frankly, if something is on your mind, if something happens that really messes you up inside PLEASE talk to someone. Don't carry this on in your head! We have a very stressful job, at times, and a lot of what we do can be distressing. There are many avenues out there you can seek help from, DO SO!!

Until next time, GOD BLESS and STAY SAFE!!

Joseph "Fireman Joe" Stambush



Legislative Report Gerald Stewart



During the last legislative session many issues came before the Legislature. None of these issues more important than the issue to allow the PVA offices to apply a fee to taxing districts to help fund the PVA's office. The PVA's are important to the taxing district fire departments and do a great job. But to put a fee ("TAX") on the money that fire departments need to operate and the rate that they were going to put on was outrageous and would have shut down many fire departments. Thanks to the calls and the support from the fire service we were able to make enough contacts to force this issue to be withdrawn. When we reported you responded, and that is the reason they were not able to put on the tax. The reason I bring this to your attention is that these type issues are the main reason the fire service needs to have members in Frankfort during every legislative ses-

sion. If we are not there then anything can happen. Sometimes when we are there we cannot stop issues but we can always make known that issues like the tax effects the fire service good or bad. The fire service could change Frankfort if we worked together but we need to have representatives in Frankfort to keep the firefighters and fire departments on their mind! Whether it is Gerald Stewart, Jack or me or someone else please know that we need someone to keep watch on the legislators. We need to make sure our word is strong and to inform you when issues come up we need to support or defeat we need to be there! Your voice does make a difference with your local legislator.

On another note I am in receipt of a letter from the Department for Local Government that was sent to all Chapter 75 and Chapter 273 fire departments that had not, at that time, registered with the DLG. Many of you have signed but I am sure many have not. This is required by State Law KRS 65A which passed during the 2013 legislative session. If you received this letter please comply. If you are a Chapter 75 or Chapter 273 (non-profit) you do have to register. Please sign up because any monies you should receive could and will be held until you comply. If you did not receive the letters and you know you are a Chapter 273 or 75 go ahead and sign up. This is the LAW!!! A copy of the letter is available on the KFA website at www.kyfa.org. The letter is available on the front page of the website in the news section. Please read and follow the directions to ensure your department is in compliance.

At the KFA Conference we will set the agenda for the next Legislative session. If you have any concerns or requests, please let us know and we can submit those issues to the legislative committee to present to the Committee and get the support from the entire membership!

Please stay involved and informed. Send us your contact information so we can discuss your issues with the rest of the fire service.

Words of Wisdom

Better to fight for something than live for nothing.

George S. Patton

What's in Your Fleet?*July 2014 By Bill Tricarico**Senior Risk Management Consultant**Emergency Services Insurance Program*

Fire apparatus accidents are a leading cause of firefighter line of duty death and injury. Of far less importance but still significant, the monetary losses related to these incidents are staggering. So, rightfully, we spend a good deal of time discussing and training to reduce such events. Engines, tankers or tenders, ladder trucks and heavy rescues each have their own issues and fire service leaders have a responsibility to see that all drivers are properly trained to handle them.

We seem however to forget about another group of fire service vehicles which are also involved in numerous accidents annually, the staff vehicles. We often consider staff vehicles as "just a car" and dismiss any training for their operation, but with the name of our department on the doors and the trust of the public that you will operate their vehicle properly, it is more than "just a car."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that over 31,000 people are killed and nearly 4 million people injured in traffic accidents each year, mostly in "just cars." Yet we take these vehicles for granted.

Fleet safety doesn't begin and end with the "big trucks". Every vehicle in your fleet deserves maintenance, care, and training.

Most fire department staff cars are driven well over 100,000 miles before retirement and budget restrictions are always driving that number up. As such, regular preventive maintenance is vital including tires and brakes.

Cars with lights and sirens such as command staff vehicles and first response vehicles are not quite as big as larger fire apparatus and thus not as readily noticed by other motorists making intersections even more dangerous. This is part of the training that should go hand and hand with the right to operate these vehicles. When was the last time your staff vehicle operator took a defensive driving course? If it was more than 3 years, it is probably time for a refresher.

NFPA standards for driver qualifications and for driver instruction define Fire Department Vehicle as "any vehicle, including fire apparatus, operated by a fire department." After a catastrophic accident and questions such as "Why weren't the brakes maintained better?" or "Why wasn't that driver properly trained?", the answer can never be...but it is "just a car."

Recalls

As we all know summer is Bar Ba Que season. This recall is specifically for you out door grillers! June 27, 2014 - Richard's Rubs & Seasonings LLC is recalling Richard's Too Good BBQ Sauce, Richard's Too Good Hot Sauce and Richard's Too Good Teriyaki Sauce because they may have been improperly processed and because they may have the potential to be contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum*, which can cause botulism, a serious and potentially fatal foodborne illness.

Foodborne botulism is a severe type of food poisoning caused by the ingestion of foods containing the potent neurotoxin formed during growth of the organism. Foodborne botulism can cause the following symptoms: general weakness, dizziness, double-vision and trouble with speaking or swallowing. Difficulty in breathing, weakness of other muscles, abdominal distension and constipation may also be common symptoms. People experiencing these problems should seek immediate medical attention. Consumers are warned not to use the product even if it does not look or smell spoiled.

The recalled sauces were sold in western Washington grocery stores and butcher shops in Kitsap, Snohomish and King counties.

Sauces are packaged in 12 oz tall glass bottles with metal screw caps and black heat resistant tamper seals.

The products being recalled were distributed up to the date of June 17, 2014. This recall has been initiated because of a consumer complaint indicating that sauce may have been improperly processed. Richard's Rubs & Seasonings LLC has not been notified of any illness associated with their products.

Richard Mullen, owner of Richard's Rubs and Seasonings, believes that "The health of our customers is a priority for our company, which is why we are working with the Washington State Department of Agriculture and a recognized process authority, to take the steps necessary to ensure that our products continue to remain good tasting and are safe"

Consumers who have purchased recalled sauces are urged to return it to the place of purchase. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 206-854-7046 during the hours of 9AM to 5PM PST. Visit www.richardsrubsandseasonings.com for updates on this recall.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



CPAT Testing Schedule

If you are interested in testing please contact Rick Larkins, CPAT Director email rick.larkin@kyfa.org.

We have two fixed testing sites one in Louisville, KY at 11605 Fairmount Road and the other in Winchester KY at 525 BLT Way.

Testing Dates

Louisville (open)

October 6th-6 PM Orientation (Mandatory)
October 27th-6 PM 1st Practice
November 10th-6 PM 2nd Practice
November 24th-6 PM Final Test

Henderson (open at KCTCS Campus)

October 25th-8AM Orientation (Mandatory)
November 15th-8 AM 1st Practice
December 6th-8 AM 2nd Practice
December 13th-8 AM Final Test

Coming Events At A Glance!

KFA Conference

Elizabethtown, August 2 - 5

KAFC Leadership Seminar

Bowling Green, August 22 - 23

Hazard Fire School

Hazard, August 23 - 24

Meade County Fire School

Brandenburg, September 6 - 7

Pikeville Fire School

Pikeville, September 5 - 7

SEKFA Fire School

London, October 17-19

Green River Fall Fire School

Owensboro, October 24 - 26

Jefferson County Fire School

Louisville, September 25 - 28

Buffalo Trace Fire School

Maysville, October 24 - 26

2014 Instructors Weekend

London, November 21 - 23

Bryant Stiles GR Officers School

Owensboro, February 21 - 22, 2015

Words of Wisdom

The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.

Albert Einstein



2014 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

| Date | Area | Location | Phone |
|------------|-------|---------------|--------------|
| 8/13 - 14 | 7 | Cold Springs | 888-306-8101 |
| 8/15 - 16 | 13-14 | Somerset | 888-234-0100 |
| 9/13 - 14 | 15 | Nicholasville | 888-361-2273 |
| 9/27 - 28 | 1 | Calvert City | 888-306-7901 |
| 10/29-30 | 15 | Lexington | 859-361-2273 |
| 11/1 - 2 | 5 | Elizabethtown | 888-234-7201 |
| 11/22-23 | 6 | Middletown | 888-306-8064 |
| 3/7-8/2015 | 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).

Mountain FF Association's Hazard Fire School

August 23 - 24, 2014

Hazard, KY

All classes will be held at the Hazard Community & Technical College. For information contact (606) 487-3065 or myla.barrett@kctcs.edu

KY Fire Commission Explorer/Junior FF Guidelines

1. We Welcome Explorers/Jr. FFs! Our fire school is following the Kentucky Fire Commission Explorer guidelines that were implemented January 1, 2011. The Mountain Firefighters Association and SFRT will make sure that these guidelines are followed.

2. Students attending classes under the age of 18 must complete and submit the Explorer per-

mission form with all pre-registrations or before actual classes start.

3. Students ages 16-17 wanting to take Drivers Training (if offered) must submit a copy of their driver's license and the Explorer Permission Form and bring their own POV to drive.

4. Students ages 16-17 wanting to take EMS Continuing Education must submit a copy of their First Responder card and the Explorer Permission Form.

5. We observe a zero tolerance policy for disrespectful or disruptive behavior. Explorers/Jr. Firefighters that exhibit disruptive or disrespectful behaviors will be asked to leave. The student's parents/guardian and the fire chief will be notified of the dismissal.

There will be a FREE picnic on Saturday evening at 6:00PM at the Perry County Park shelters near the big stage. Everyone attending fire school is invited to attend. Firefighter games will start after the picnic. Bring your five (5) member team and participate in the fun and excitement.

Picnic sponsored by Air Methods of Kentucky and Perry County Fiscal Court.

Classes Being Conducted Include:

Sat. & Sun. - 16 hour classes

Class # Class Name

- 1 Basic Firefighting
- 2 Junior Firefighting
- 3 Hard to Get Hours
- 8 Rope Rescue - Rappeling
- 11 Farm Rescue
- 9 EMS Continuing Education
- 8 Hrs - Sat. Same Class Repeated on Sun.**
- 12 Fire Instructor Update
- 13 Firefighter Tactaics
- 7 Kentucky Fire Commission 2014
- 17 Water Related Emergencies
- 18 Haz-Mat Awareness
- 8 Hr. Class on Saturday Only**
- 4 Firefighter Survival
- 6 Large Animal Rescue
- 8 Hr. Class on Sunday Only**
- 5 Firefighter Rescue
- 4 Hr. AM Class on Sat. Repeated on Sun.**
- 10 Fire in Manufactured Homes
- 4 Hr. PM on Sat. Repeated AM on Sun.**
- 16 Wildland Firefighter Awareness

4 Hr. PM on Sat. Repeated PM on Sun.

14 Traffic Incident Management

4 Hr. AM on Sat. Repeated PM on Sun.

15 Meth Lab Awareness

4 Hr. PM on Sat. Repeated AM on Sun.

16 Wildland Firefighter Awareness

Meade County Fire School

September 6 - 7, 2014

Registration will be held at the Meade County Fire Station 1 7 - 8 AM 1800 Armory Place Dr. Brandenburg

Classes

Saturday & Sunday Classes

- 1 EMS Continuing Education
- 2 Firefighter Safety and Survival
- 3 Basic 16 Hours*

Saturday Only Class

4 Propane Emergencies

Sunday Only Class

5 Flashover Trailer

Registration fee \$25.00 For more information call 270-272-2111

NEW AND INOVATIVE EQUIPMENT



An invention by a group of freshmen at Marshall County High School has earned them a chance to compete on a national level with their

device designed to put out fires.

The students have developed a working prototype that effectively combats fires, and their work has won them a trip to Washington D.C. on June 16 – 20 to compete to be national winners of the U.S. Army-sponsored eCYBERMISSION competition.

The Marshall County team – Hunter Peck, Max Chambers and Will McGee – will compete against 19 other teams that have been selected as regional first-place winners in the 12th-annual competition, which challenges students in grades six through nine to develop solutions to real-world challenges in their communities.

“TITAN” continued on next page

Lisa Devillez, AP Chemistry teacher and team adviser, said she had 28 teams of students enter inventions in the contest this year, but she was proud one of them had gone so far in the competition already.

The team has already won at the state and regional level, which Devillez said is an impressive feat for a group of ninth-graders.

"I think it's great they've gone the extra mile to build an actual prototype that they've been able to take to the Benton Fire Department and get feedback on," she said. "They've looked to see if they can get their device patented and see if they can eventually sell it. This team has really worked well together – they've really gone above and beyond."

Chambers said when his team first learned about the competition in Devillez' Science Technology and Reasoning Skills elective class they wanted to do something much harder.

"We toyed with the idea of building a robot that could deliver oxygen to a victim inside of a burning building, but we quickly realized that was going to be nearly impossible because oxygen is flammable," he said. "Then we decided to build a robot that would dispense water in the building."

Chambers said the team quickly realized that with the limited amount of time and money they would have to actually work on the project they would need to simplify the project and that was how they decided on building a more sophisticated water-dispensing unit.

Peck said that was how TITAN was born.

"The Independent Throwable Attack Nozzle," he said. "We were going to make it spherical, but we saw that a dodecahedron has all the vertexes which will help firefighters break through windows easier."

A dodecahedron is a polyhedron with 12 sides and 20 vertices.

The device is designed to be attached to a fire hose and be deployed through a window of a burning building, allowing water to be dispensed from inside to create a safer path of escape and an entrance for firefighters.

The competition is based around the idea of developing solutions to real-world challenges in communities. The team got their own idea from one of their childhood friends who lost her life in a fire.

McGee said, "When we were younger there was a girl we were friends with who died in a fire and we've known other people who have lost people in house fires and that kind of gave us the inspiration to do this."

McGee said he hopes this might one day save someone else from losing a loved one.

According to Devillez, the team has used the tutelage of the Benton Fire Department in testing the device and guiding them to make sure it works effectively.

Although the D.C. trip is two weeks away, the team is getting anxious.

"We're lucky to have come this far, but we've worked hard and we're anxious to meet the other teams and see what they've accomplished too," Chambers said.

The students have already won \$9,000 for their work from the state and regional events of the competition, and could win another \$20,000 in the finals.

The U.S. Army-sponsored eCYBERMISSION science competition (ecybermission.com) is managed by the National Science Teachers Association and challenges students to identify real-world problems and create solutions using science, technology, engineering and math.



Chaplain's Corner

Should there be any room for religion in the fire service? After all, our main business is saving/protecting life and property. We can do that without any religious conviction at all, can't we or can we? Come to think about it when we start talking religion, like politics, that's when disagreements start cropping up. So let's not talk religion and get on with our basic duties, right? Wouldn't the fire service be better off without injecting religious talk? As far as that goes wouldn't life in general be more peaceful and less complicated without the strife and questions that differing religious views bring before us? Some of us would say "absolutely". So "chaplain be quiet and quit bringing up this religious stuff will ya"?

I have thought about it and maybe I should remain silent BUT then I thought about it some more and I came to the awareness if I don't say anything somebody will sooner or later start "the religious talk". I have even tried it. I have said to myself, "I am not going to bring up any religious talk with people", guess what? It is as if thinking religious thoughts and asking religious questions are built into the very essence of our being. When I was

in college I majored in sociology. That's because math and science were way beyond the gray matter that I have for what is called a brain. Dealing with people was more my speed. After all there is nothing complex about people, right? Ha! The principles of math and science pale in comparison to the ever changing, unpredictability of human behavior. Just when I think I have lived long enough to surely have seen it all, wrong again! One of the things I learned early on in sociology is that every culture known to mankind has had some sort of religion. There have been those who have said that religion is nothing more than "superstition", or "religion is for weaklings that don't have enough mental capacity to face life on their own". You will remember another famous statement, "religion is the opium of the people" (Google, if you don't remember who said that). To try to evade the talk of religion is like trying to control the weather. We may grasp the principles of what causes certain weather patterns just as we are able to understand certain human behavior patterns but controlling and being certain, well, that remains impossible.

So as I have pondered this thing of religion I have surrendered to the idea that religion in some form or fashion is here to stay as long as humans are around.

That being the case then comes a flood of questions. You have asked many of those questions and probably you still have more. Why so many religions in the world? Which one is right? Who is wrong? Can't I just believe what I want without being told by some manmade tradition? Do I need to believe in anything at all beyond myself? What/who do I trust beyond just myself to help me determine what is true or not, or what is right and wrong? Maybe you can just get by telling yourself I will just live and die without all these unanswerable questions and the conflicting answers of religions. Maybe you have said or have heard, "It doesn't make any difference what you believe, just be sincere". There is one big wrong with that thought. We can be sincerely wrong. Those who flew the planes into the twin towers on 9/11 over twelve years ago were about as sincere as you could get. Where they wrong or right? What I or you believe does make a difference. What we believe determines what we will do. Ultimately actions follow beliefs (values). How we spend our

time, money and energy are not too far away from what we believe is important. Someone once said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". In other words what we value most will determine how we will invest our life. Get the beliefs (values) wrong and all sorts of not so good things can be the result.

Obviously history and our own human experience will teach us some truths with which we can navigate this life that has been given us. One of those common truths may very well be that there have always been those extremist (across the religious spectrum) that have no tolerance or respect for anyone outside their own group. If you don't believe what they do then you are their enemy and have no right to exist. So far those persons/groups have had to yield to the greater "good" that has opposed and eventually been victorious over the wrongness of their religious beliefs.

Well obviously I am not going to solve the dilemma of mind and spirit that so long has divided. Let me simply say there has been and will continue to be a major role that religion plays in our life and yes even in the fire service. Why in the world would anyone do what a firefighter does? The answer you will find not in words necessarily but in a belief held in common among those in this profession. There are some right things worthy for which to risk your life.

Thank you for doing so!!!

Chaplain Wayne Bishop
Jefferson County Fire/Rescue



National Volunteer Fire Council

Ken Knipper, Director
Pat Thompson Alt. Director

The NVFC works hard to secure opportunities for volunteer and combination fire and EMS departments. A recent example was the opportunity to acquire a training system from Action Training Systems. ATC offered a \$250,000.00 national package to volunteer and combination departments. Each state was to have a winner. Kentucky had the second highest application total of all the states (37) and I thank Ronnie and Monica for getting this information out. Oldtown Fire Department had the winning application for Kentucky and will

'NVFC' continued on next page

receive a training package estimated to be about \$5000.00 in value. Congratulations Oldtown and Chief Martin.

New opportunities keep coming. At the present time The NVFC and Columbia Southern University are offering two scholarships to help departments achieve their educational goal. The application period is now open and can be made by going to the NVFC site.

I don't know if any Kentucky department received any Globe gear but I do know that 20 Kentucky departments received free NVFC memberships courtesy of Globe.

This past year Sears provided over \$250,000.00 in donations to departments through their Hometown stores. Steak-umm Sliced Steaks and Johnsonville Sausage have annual programs that benefit volunteer and combination departments. Go to their sites to get information on how to enter these programs.

While limited to departments within 30 miles of a Georgia Pacific facility, the GP Bucket Brigade Grant is now open. Check to see if you have a GP facility within 30 miles as these grants provide \$2500.00 to \$10,000.00 in financial support. GP has distributed over \$1.25 million to rural and small town fire departments since 2006.

NVFC has developed a Virtual Classroom and offers many excellent webinars. Currently there is a course on fire service risk management and liability.

The NVFC has its behavioral health project up and running. Share the Load offers insight into behavioral health problems and guides departments on how to recognize and deal with them.

The National Fire Academy has announced its new multi-year professional development program. Go to the NFA site to get information on this program.

The USFA is working on an EMS Safety Manual that covers the full spectrum of EMS operations. I was asked to review the document which covers 163 pages and found it to be an interesting and potentially valuable tool. No release date has been announced.

At the request of the NVFC I reviewed a CDC document titled "The National Health Security Preparedness Index: Opportunity and Challeng-

es. The index is intended to measure progress in preparedness within and among jurisdictions.

The current NVFC legislative priorities are: Safer, Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act, Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection and Reauthorization Act, USFA Appropriations, Medicare Ambulance Access Act, Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act, National Preparedness Grant Program, and the Fire Sprinkler Act.

Pat and I thank you for allowing us to represent Kentucky's firefighters on the NVFC Board. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Ken Knipper 859-462-9056

Emergency Vehicle Maintenance Response Readiness By Woody Will

I recently read an article entitled "Apparatus Safety – Driver or Mechanic?" by Michael P. Dallessandro. It is an interesting article because it looks at small things the driver operator can do when he or she first arrives at the station to assess the road worthiness of a vehicle before it goes on the road. He opens his article with a recap of the 2009 LODD of Boston Fire Department Lt. Kevin Kelley. Lt Kelly was a 30 year veteran of the Boston FD and was killed when the ladder truck he was riding in, Ladder 26, went speeding down a steep street, crashed into two parked cars, broke through a fence/barrier wall, and struck a building resulting in damage, injuries and the line of duty death of Lt Kelley.

That incident resulted in a rash of finger pointing in every different direction in order to assign blame. The bottom line is the vehicle was in need of serious repair. You can say what you want, but when a life is snuffed out because of vehicle disrepair the buck is going to stop at the chief. You must have your vehicles serviced regularly! It is imperative because rural departments are responding down hilly, twisty roads where visibility is poor at best and stopping a big and heavy fire apparatus on a dime is essential!

He points out the question of when have you driven by a police department and seen 15 year

Emergency Vehicle Maint. Continued on Page 13

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How Do We Keep Our Legacy Alive By Woody Will

There are some that would call me old and at times I would agree with them. However, one benefit of being older (Not necessarily Old) is the ability to look back and see where you have come from. That gives you a much better picture of where you are going. It is our past that keeps us going in a straight line. I remember my grandfather plowing with a team of mules. He told me how critical it was to get that first row straight. Because it was that first row that guided every row that followed. If it was off then by the time you multiplied the small differences in each row the plowed field might look more like a diagonal than parallel rows.

The fire service has some of the same issues. When I first became associated with the Kentucky Fire Service, I had no idea where we were headed. I also had no idea where we had been. At that time State Aid was about \$300.00 give or take a little. It was what was left over after paying our workmen's comp and other items that the State Fire Marshal saw fit to take out of the fund. Also at that time the KFA and the KPF were at odds with each other and would not help with any legislation. If the KFA wanted a bill passed to help volunteers then the union was automatically against it. We learned a great lesson. Legislators told us "Look guys get together and decide what you want and then come back and talk to us otherwise we don't have time for you". We learned to work together out of necessity and it paid off. State Aid is now over \$8,000.00 and Training Incentive for paid firefighters is now \$3,100.00. We have come a long way.

But where are we headed? That's a really good question. Our legislative group now meets with the KPF, Chiefs Association, and other groups interested in fire issues. At that meeting they decide several things. They decide which pieces of legislation they will support. They decide which pieces they won't necessarily support but will not fight. They also decide which pieces of legislation are bad for all groups and they will fight them. You, as a firefighter are the beneficiary of that teamwork. However, that teamwork costs money. For us to keep a legislative person or persons in Frankfort looking out for our interests is not cheap. How

do we meet that challenge? With paid dues from people like you. Dues for the 2014 – 15 membership year will come due in October. Won't you take the time to fill out the application when it arrives by mail and add the name of your department to the list of departments that have said YES to progress? We can't survive without your help!



NVFC Launches Share the Load: A Support Program for Fire and EMS

Behavioral health is a subject not often talked about in the fire and emergency services, but it affects every department and first responder in some way. To address the growing need for behavioral health support and resources, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has launched Share the Load™, a support program for fire and EMS.

Firefighters and EMTs respond to the worst crises, such as fires, traffic accidents, domestic abuse, shootings, and more. At the same time, they juggle the needs of the department, their families, outside interests, and for volunteers, full-time jobs. Add to that everyday stressors and often poor sleep and fitness patterns. It is easy to see that these factors will impact the behavioral health of many who answer the call.



Unfortunately, many first responders ignore or simply don't address their behavioral health needs. This can lead to serious and life-threatening health concerns, such as depression, chronic stress or anxiety, PTSD, or drug or alcohol addiction. In some cases, unaddressed behavioral health issues can result in suicide – an often preventable tragedy that impacts the entire fire service community.

The NVFC is bringing behavioral health to the forefront of the fire service with the Share the Load program. Through this program, the NVFC is working to break the stigma around behavioral health issues, open up the dialogue in departments, and provide resources departments and emergency personnel can use to prevent tragedy.

The NVFC has partnered with American Addiction Centers to create the Fire/EMS Helpline, a free, confidential helpline available 24 hours a

day, 7 days a week to firefighters, EMTs, and their families. The Fire/EMS Helpline can serve as an individual resource, or departments can offer it as an Employee Assistance Program for their members. The helpline was created for first responders by members of the fire service. Callers receive compassionate, non-judgmental support for a variety of behavioral health issues, such as addiction, depression, suicide prevention, stress or anxiety, critical incidents, PTSD, relationship issues, or other issues affecting their work or personal life. The helpline is available at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473), or learn more at www.nvfc.org/help.

Additional components of the Share the Load program include an online resource center of organizations, tools, and trainings available to help individuals and departments address behavioral health issues; a newsletter with tips and information to help first responders take a proactive approach to behavioral health; and outreach materials such as a poster that departments can hang up at the station to remind their members they are not alone and that help is available.

The key to addressing behavioral health is to take action. Those experiencing behavioral health issues are not alone. All first responders can join together to Share the Load in order to overcome these challenges and build a stronger, healthier, more resilient fire service.

Funeral Resource Information and KFA Funeral Director

Your KFA has created new resources to further serve the Kentucky Fire Service in a time when you need it most along with position to further assist you. The resources are available on the KFA website at www.kyfa.org. On the left side of the



website, click on Resources and then on Funeral Resources.

The resources found there include:

1. Chaplain's Manual.
2. How to Help the Family.
3. LODD Planning.
4. Main Points for Funerals

5. Firefighter's Prayer
6. KRS 61.315 KY LODD Benefit
7. KRS 95A.070 KY Disabled FF Line of Duty Insurance benefit
8. KRS 164.2841 KY Free Tuition to family LODD
9. KRS 164.2842 KY Free Tuition Permanently Disabled LOD

Your KFA has also appointed Charles W Shaw (Charlie) as its new Kentucky Firefighters Association Funeral Director. Charlie will be assisting you with LODD or other firefighter funeral needs. You can contact Charlie by phone at 270-572-6161 or by email at fireresq@kyol.net.

Your KFA is always looking to find new and better ways to serve you the firefighter. We are here if you need us!

As your Funeral Director I need your help! Please send the following information to:

Charles W. Shaw, fireresq@kyol.net or mail to 108 Wakefield Dr., Campbellsville KY 42718. If you have any of the following please send that information to me:

1. List of your member trained to participate in Color or Honor guard.
2. Persons in class A uniform capable to participate in "Line of Duty" or Non-Line of Duty funerals.
3. Bagpipe players - cost - availability.

"Emergency Vehicle Maint." Continued

old police cars or driven by a school and seen 20 year old school busses. However, I have been by fire departments and seen several 20 and 25 year old fire trucks. At that age are they still safe?

When you go by your department, how many times have you taken the time to pull out the vehicle log book and seen when it was last serviced? Or looked under the engine compartment to see if it is leaking vital fluids? When did you last check the tread depth to make sure your tires were road worthy? Have you looked at the fluid levels to insure they are at manufacturer suggested levels?

I guess what I am trying to say is that after the wreck it is too late to check the apparatus. Your life depends on that vehicle. You wouldn't go into a fire with ripped or severely damaged turnout gear so why do you travel to a fire on a vehicle that is not roadworthy?

Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

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| <p>Air Evac Lifeteam Dan Durham 101 Greenbriar Drive Campbellsville, KY 42718 270-469-1380 Fax 270-469-1382 durhamdan@air-evac.com</p> | <p>All Safe Industries Inc. 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 800-526-8393 Fax 859-233-1167 www.bluegrassfire.com</p> |
| <p>Bluegrass Uniforms Inc. Mike Holland 132 Chester Court Bowling Green, KY 42103 270-842-7700 www.bluegrassuniforms.com</p> | <p>Charles W Shaw & Assoc. Consulting Firm In honor of Sparks 2011, Bryant 2012, Jamia 2013 108 Wakefield Dr., Campbellsville Ky 42718 270-572-6161 fireresq@kyol.net</p> | <p>Cost Recovery Systems Regina M. Jones 800 Enterprise Pkw, Ravenna OH 44266 888-607-5644 Fax 937-846-0896 regina.moore.crc@gmail.com</p> |
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| <p>Finley Fire Equipment 5255 N. State Route 60 McConnelsville OH 43756 800-545-3280 www.finleyfire.com kpuckett@finleyfire.com</p> | <p>Fire & Specialty Equipment Co. Mike Mudd 235 Rogers Drive Shepherdsville KY 40165 (502) 957-2145 Fax (502) 957-2146 mjmuddsr@windstream.net</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 Blast Paul Ellis 545 Monica Circle Corona, CA 92880 951-277-8319 Fax 951-279-1705 pellis@fireblast.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>Firecom Corporation Barry Jackson 7340 SW Durham Rd Portland OR 97224 800-527-0555 barry.jackson@firecom.com</p> |
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| <p>Ky Fire Comm. SFRT KCTCS Director Ronnie Day 118 James Court Lexington KY 40505 (800) 782-6823 (859) 256-3478 Fax (859) 256-3125</p> | <p>KY Chapter IAAL Russell Todd PO Box 197011 Louisville KY 40259 270-307-4799 ret241@hotmail.com</p> | <p>KY Emergency Management Charlie O'Neal 100 Minuteman Pkwy Frankfort, KY 40601 502-607-1601 charliem.oneal@us.army.mil</p> |

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| <p>National Fire Sprinkler Assn. Ron Brown 1615 Cypress Spring Dr. Ft. Wayne IN 46814 845-661-6534 brown@nfsa.org</p> | <p>On Duty Depot/MPH Ind. Matthew Martin 1040 Mosley St Owensboro, KY 42303 270-685-6423 mmartin@ondutydepot.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> |
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Federal Highway Administration Recognizes National Fire Academy For Safety Training

First Responders Taught Cutting-Edge Safety Techniques for Highway Emergencies

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials have recognized the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy with a plaque honoring the inaugural class of first responders to complete FHWA's new "Traffic Incident Management" (TIM) train-the-trainers course in Emmitsburg, MD.

"Safety is our top priority," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "These train-the-trainer programs help get vital safety information to our first responders – the men and women who are the first to arrive at a highway crash – and are the difference between life and death for so many every day."

Since 2012, 96 training sessions conducted at various locations nationwide have trained over 50,000 firefighters and other first responders. The course, the first of its kind, will be offered at the Academy again this October. It is central to the safety mission of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), a large-scale cooperative research program funded by Congress and administered by FHWA in coordination with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Transportation Research Board.

Each year, an average of nearly 80 first responders and tow-truck operators are struck and killed responding to accidents on U.S. roads and bridges.

During a special ceremony to honor them, nearly 300 firefighters were recognized for their role in learning safer practices at highway accident scenes that will protect firefighters and drivers alike.

"Our goal is to train over one million responders over the next decade, to keep America's roads safe for everyone," said Nadeau. "As of last week, we hit the 50,000 mark – six months ahead of schedule – and we have the EMS community to thank for helping to keep America's roads safe."

The "Traffic Incident Management" course, a part of FHWA's ongoing "Every Day Counts" initiative, promotes a more effective, multi-agency incident response and improves safety for first responders. By training fire crews, ambulance drivers, and other first responders how to properly protect their work area while clearing wreckage and freeing accident victims, the course helps to protect emergency workers and reduce traffic congestion caused by roadway crashes.

FHWA plans to conduct at least one training course in every state, including Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, this year – training thousands of first responders, including over 3,500 instructors who train state traffic incident response teams.