

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

Weekly Report 2/23/24

2024 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule:

April 6-7 Grantsville VFD 178 Springs Road Grantsville, MD

Hotel location Hampton Inn Frostburg 11200 New Georges Creek Road Frostburg, MD at a rate of \$119.00 plus tax. Reservations can be made at this time by using this link - <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/fbgmdhx-0md-239799f0-5d7d-49a9-9a12-d1c0cc89e45c/> or call the hotel directly at 301-689-1998 or book on Hilton.com and use the code OMD. Handicap Rooms have been included in the block

Additional information will be forthcoming for the weekend

*Please submit your current County Association leadership contact information to Secretary Cox at doyle.cox2010@gmail.com and Kate Loveless kloveless@msfa.org if you have not done so already. If there have been changes to when your meetings are held, please include that info as well.

RESPONSE REQUESTED: The following information could have a significant impact financially and operationally on all of Maryland's Fire Service.

-OSHA is proposing a new rule to protect emergency responders, called Emergency Response. OSHA's current Fire Brigades standard, 29 CFR 1910.156, provides protection specifically to industrial or private firefighters but no other types of emergency responders. It was published in 1980 and has not been updated with subsequent improvements in personal protective clothing and equipment or advances in safety and health practices. OSHA proposes to replace the existing 29 CFR 1910.156 with the new Emergency Response standard. The new rule would provide updated health and safety protections for firefighters, emergency medical service providers, and technical search and rescuers. **See attachments.**

-Federal OSHA does not have jurisdiction over state and local government workers. Maryland is a State Plan state that operates under the authority of OSHA with the requirement that it is "at least as effective", which requires State Plans to adopt OSHA final rules. All State Plans, including Maryland, must also cover state and local workers. A list of those states can be found here: <https://oshspa.org/>.

-The Maryland Fire Service in partnership with the Division of Labor & Industry/MOSH is currently reviewing the proposed rule and is working to consolidate feedback to OSHA.

***Please take time to review the attachments and provide feedback to the MSFA through Kate Loveless at kloveless@msfa.org by 1600 hours on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. In your feedback, please reference the page number you are commenting on.** The submissions will be collected and forwarded to the workgroup.

-Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to ensuring the common voice with regards to this matter and reviewing this new rule for Maryland's Fire Service.

Recruiter Training Announcement: NOTE UPDATE TO ALL LOCATIONS! See attached flyer.

The SAFER Team is excited to present 7 regional offerings of the Retention and Recruitment Officer Course!

March 23-24	Southern MD	MFRI LaPlata
April 13-14	Western MD	MFRI Allegany
May 18-19	Northeastern MD	Bel Air VFC
September 14-15	Upper Eastern Shore	MFRI Centreville
October 19-20	Lower Eastern Shore	MFRI Princess Anne
October 26-27	Northern MD	Frederick County Training Center
November 2-3	Mid-State	MFRI College Park

-This SAFER-funded two-day workshop takes a retention-first approach to help participants evaluate the type of environment they're inviting potential members into and offers keen insight and process improvement from the moment of inquiry, to application and acceptance, and through the onboarding phase.

-This immersive learning experience offers real-world experiences and solutions from leaders and subject matter experts working in your field. It shares processes and best practices that can increase your success at generating prospective volunteer interest, identifying and screening quality candidates; closing the deal on your next recruit committing themselves to serving in your Fire/EMS organization, and keeping them supported and engaged once you've got them hooked. This interactive encounter will identify and help address barriers to recruitment and retention in your volunteer agency.

-NOTE: **To ensure a personalized experience, the course will be open to a limit of 24 attendees per region (and limited to two people per department) so be sure to register early!** This course is for those that are active in their department's retention and recruitment efforts.

-Mileage will be reimbursed for all attendees traveling 50+ miles one way.

-Lodging will be reimbursed for one night up to \$175 for those traveling 75+ miles one way as well as mileage.

Register here: <https://missioncit.com/maryland-state-firemens-association-retention-and-recruitment-officer/>

DOI Launches Pilot Program to Strengthen Local Governments' Wildfire Response Capabilities

-On Feb. 6, the Department of the Interior (DOI) [announced the launch of a pilot program](#) to strengthen local governments' wildfire response capabilities by converting vehicles to wildland fire engines.

-The pilot program can be used by local governments to purchase slip-on tanker units that will allow them to quickly convert trucks and other vehicles to be operated as wildland fire engines. Local governments that provide emergency services to areas with a population of 25,000 or less are eligible to apply for this funding. Grant amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$200,000. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorized \$50 million for the pilot program, and \$5 million is available during this first round.

-The funding will help small, remote emergency response agencies quickly expand their wildfire response capacity. Grant applications must be submitted through the [Grants.gov website](#). Statements of interest are due by **Thursday, March 21, 2024**. If invited, application packages will be due on **Tuesday, June 4, 2024**. Additional details about the pilot program and application process will be available in the Federal Register in the coming days.

Call to Action: Please Help Reauthorize the Fire Grant Program Earlier this week, representatives of America's fire service met on-line to discuss strategies to force Congress and the Senate to pass the reauthorization bill for AFG/SAFER/FP&S and the USFA. We have decided that the time is **NOW** to ask the fire service to unite and fill up the inboxes of Congress/Senate to address this critical issue.

-Together, AFG, SAFER, and USFA help to improve fire and life safety across the country.

For more information, visit [Support AFG, SAFER, and USFA: Take Action Now! - Congressional Fire Services Institute \(cfsi.org\)](#) Use this [link](#) to write a letter to your Senator and Congress representatives.

-David Lewis, President; Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighter's Association

SAFER Marketing Grant Program Round 2 Announcement: The MSFA SAFER team is excited to announce round 2 of the SAFER Marketing Grant Program. This program is designed to help member departments increase community awareness through items designed for recruitment events. In the second phase of this program, which will run from March 1st through April 15th. \$1200.00 will be allocated for another 65 departments for event materials. We have 13 departments already on the waiting list from the first round so be sure to get your request in early.

-We have partnered with Activate Canopy once again to provide a customizable Event Kit which will be available through an online shopping platform. Each kit includes: One Full Color 10x10 Tent with Logo and Department Name; One Table Cover with Logo and Department Name; Backwall with logo and Department Name (customizable). There will be an opportunity to add additional items to spend the entire \$1200.00

-To be eligible to apply for this grant program, your department cannot be participating in any other SAFER grant program (as per FEMA). Your department must also have an up-to-date profile on MarylandVolunteer.org and must have an individual that will be able to communicate with the vendor directly.

To apply, please send the following info to kloveless@msfa.org no later than April 15th:

-Name, Address, and Phone Number of Department

-Contact information for person applying

-Any information that needs to be updated on the department's MarylandVolunteer.org profile, especially the recruitment contact info (if applicable)

-If you do not have a department profile on the MarylandVolunteer.org website, one can be created here:

<https://www.firstarriving.com/maryland/>

Once approved, you will be sent a link to the online shopping cart. The vendor will work with your department directly to customize the kit and coordinate shipment.

2024 MSFA/LAMSFA Cancer Support Walk of Hope Announced: Sunday, April 28, 2024. This year's walk will begin at 4pm (registration at 3pm) for an "Evening Stroll Through Annapolis", ending at Stan and Joe's Restaurant. The After-Walk fundraising event at the restaurant will be held in support of the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation. Register to walk/be an event sponsor here:

<https://www.msfa.org/2024-msfala-cancer-support-walk/>

Chaplain Conference Benefit Purse BINGO Announced: Chaplain Long has announced an upcoming PURSE BINGO at the Ferndale VFC on Saturday, March 23rd at 1pm to benefit the 2024 Chaplain's Conference. Please email Chaplain Long for tickets. JLong@fvfc34.org

The Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation is selling bricks! Honor those that have made an impact in your life by buying a brick in their name to be placed at the Annapolis memorial. For more information, visit <https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/marylandfire/>

2024 Convention News:

The 132nd MSFA Convention and Conference is scheduled for June 16 – 21, 2024

-**Registration** platforms are now OPEN! Department Credentials, Vendor Registration, Sponsorships, and Program Book Ads are all available online at <https://convention.msfa.org/>

The **Seminar Schedule is now available! <https://convention.msfa.org/calendar/category/education/list/> We are excited to offer classes on many topics from instructors around the country on relevant fire service issues.

Note that the EMT Refresher and PDI registrations will only be available on the MFRI website.

-The First Mailout and **Awards** Packet will be distributed to all departments shortly. You can also review all awards online at <https://www.msfa.org/awards/>.

-There are also opportunities to submit requests for **Certificates of Recognition** from the MSFA for EMS Top Responder, Fire Top Responder, Rescue Top Responder, Active Military Service, Three or More Generations in the Fire Service, Over 90 years of Age and Still Active, 50 Years of Service, and the Life Saving Award.

Requests can be made online here: <https://www.msfa.org/awards/recognition-certs/>

Be sure to take the time to review these lists nominate your members! Remember, recognition of a job well done is an amazing retention tool!

-The **Convention Events** page has been updated for 2024 and will include additional information on as we get closer to Convention.

**Be sure to visit the website <https://convention.msfa.org/> often for the most up-to-date info!

MSFA Committee Notices:

- *The Fire Police Committee* will be holding their 2nd meeting on February 24th at 10am at the State Hwy building in Hanover, MD; 7491 Connelly Drive, Hanover. The committee is also looking for representatives from the following counties: Garrett, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Talbot, Cecil, Kent, Caroline, Somerset and Worcester. Contact Chair Kevin Albaugh if interested. emtбка@aol.com

-*The Safety Committee* will be meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2024 at the R. Cowley Adams Shock Trauma Center from 1100-1430. A tour of the Trauma Center will occur followed by the Safety meeting in the STC Auditorium. For more info, please contact Cahir Mike LeCompte at michael.lecompte@comcast.net

-The VCAF Committee will be meeting on March 17, 2024 at 12pm. Location TBD

-The Scholarship Committee has announced that the Scholarship application period for 2024 is now open. There have been additional scholarship opportunities posted to the committee page so please visit <https://www.msfa.org/committees-2/scholarship/> for more information!

***New to the Scholarship program this year is the opportunity for individuals or departments to donate to the Scholarship fund in a loved one's name. The donation will be awarded to a deserving volunteer at the Convention in June.**

-The Cancer Support Committee would like to assist any Maryland volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical services personnel who are facing a battle with cancer. We would like to provide a gift card that can be utilized to help offset fuel costs or purchase needed supplies. You can submit a request through this form: <https://tinyurl.com/382scb7a> . To donate to the Cancer Support Committee program, please contact Chair Susan Hilton at shilton2323@yahoo.com

-The Volunteer Trumpet Committee is looking for contributors! Are you a subject matter expert in Health and Wellness, Firefighter Safety, Recruitment and Retention or just have a cool story to share? Contact Chair Jonathon Dayton for more info. <https://www.msfa.org/committees-2/trumpet/>

Interested in serving on an MSFA committee? Submit your interest here:
<https://www.msfa.org/committees/interest-form/>

Upcoming Training:

-February 28, 2024 FEMA AFG Region 2 Webinar; Please join the Region 2 National Preparedness Division for a webinar on the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program (AFGP) which funds critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel, enhance efficiencies and support community resilience. FEMA Region 2 Fire Program Grant Specialist Alvin Mathew will provide a brief overview of AFG grants, grant management, and grant writing. In addition, he will provide tips on how to develop a successful grant application. Who should attend: Local, State, Federal government, Firefighters, EMTs, Grant Writers and Grant Managers
Registration: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/firefightergrant/event/registration.html>

-March 2-3, 2024 John W. Hogle Maryland Officers Seminar The Universities at Shady Grove
9630 Gudelsky Drive Building II, Conference Center Rockville MD 2085
Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/MGTS/302/>

-March 3, 2024 Leadership Lessons from LODD Experience 0900-1600 North Beach VFD Hardesty Hall, Chesapeake Beach MD This free, one-day seminar will consist of two line of duty death case studies delivered by chief officers who functioned as the senior officer on scene or incident commander. See flyer. Register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/81dd46e8-0232-4399-afad-23d57a65b33f/regProcessStep1?locale=en>

-March 18-19, 2024 The Essentials of Chaplaincy Course; MFRI Lower Eastern Shore Regional Training Center Princess Anne, MD. You must be present for the entire 16 hours of instruction to receive Basic Fire Chaplain Certification. This course, created by the Federation of Fire Chaplains, provides an opportunity for everyone – experienced chaplains, new chaplains, and prospective chaplains alike – to learn valuable lessons about Fire Chaplaincy. Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/MGTS/115/>

-March 23, 2024; The 2024 Public Fire & Life Safety Educator Seminar; 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM MFRI College Park 4500 Campus Drive, College Park, MD This seminar is for Community Risk Reductions Specialists, Fire & Injury Prevention Coordinators, Safe Kids & Rick Watch Coordinators, Health and Safety Advocates, and First Responders! Helping Build Your Toolbox for Successful Educating! Networking lunch will be provided. Registration is now open at www.mfri.org/training/seminars

-March 25-26, 2024 First Responder Mental Health and Wellness Conference; Ocean City, MD Ashore Resort & Beach Club. This training is for all First Responders, Police, Fire, Military/Veterans, Corrections, Dispatchers, Chaplains, Retired First Responders, spouses, professional staff, clinicians, and all who work in the public safety field. “1st Responder Conferences presents a multi-faceted two-day seminar and networking event for improving the mental health and wellness of our first responders.” Register here:

<https://app.clearevent.com/eventPortal#event/39855908-d747-4c79-acbd-3a42509e8dbe>

**To add training to this report, email the info to KLoveless@msfa.org

MSFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY COUNTY:

Allegany/Garrett	Tim Dayton	daytontd22@gmail.com
Anne Arundel	Ron Block	blockntackle@comcast.net
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