

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

Weekly Report 3/1/24

HIGH ALERT WARNING FROM MCAC: On Friday March 1st, a male subject visited two volunteer firehouses in a southern Maryland county. At both firehouses, he claimed to be a member of another company in the county who was interested in transferring. While he was at both houses, he was unusually interested in rescue squads, rescue engines, and other apparatus that carries extrication equipment. The subject asked multiple questions about where extrication tools were kept and whether or not they were battery operated. Given recent events, this raised the suspicions of the crews, who promptly notified county law enforcement and the MCAC.

**Please pass along to your departments, particularly your volunteer Chief Officers, to keep an eye out for any similar inquiries over the next several days. If any fire/EMS stations in Maryland or the National Capital Region observe similar activity, please notify local law enforcement immediately and follow up with your respective fusion center.

Upcoming Executive Committee Meeting, April 6-7, 2024:

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 for the meeting weekend will be made available shortly.

Reminder to County Association Leadership: 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. Association meeting dates have been uploaded to the website calendar <https://www.msfa.org/events/>. Please review. If there have been changes to when your meetings are held, please send that information as well.

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. If you are on the waiting list from last round, you will be receiving an email on how to order your items this weekend.

-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.

Reminder from the MSFA Cancer Support Committee to Get Your Annual Physicals

An annual physical can help your doctor identify anything that may need attention. The importance of catching conditions such as cancer, diabetes, high cholesterol, etc. early cannot be over-stated as it gives you the best chance for treatment.

If a full firefighter physical isn't available to you, make sure you let your primary care provider know you are a firefighter and provide them with the IAFC's Healthcare Providers Guide to Firefighter Physicals:

<https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/healthcare-providers-guide-to-firefighter-physicals>

Recruiter Training Announcement: 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 Public Safety Training Facility
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. -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/>

You Can Help Save SAFER and AFG: From our national advocates at the NVFC: Thank you to all those who contacted their Representative to express the importance of the AFG and SAFER grant programs and request that they sign the letter urging the leadership of the House of Representatives to include AFG, SAFER, and U.S. Fire Administration reauthorization in the upcoming "must pass" funding bill.

-Over 1,625 letters were sent through the NVFC's Legislative Action Center and the Representatives listened; 139 members signed the letter to House Leadership. This strong showing will hopefully convey to House leadership how important these programs are.

-Through this advocacy, we took a big step forward in the fight to save AFG and SAFER. However, this fight is far from finished, and we need to keep this momentum going. **The next deadline for Congress to reach an agreement on Homeland Security funding is March 8.** It is uncertain at this point if Congress will reach a funding agreement in time for this deadline, but we need to do all we can to continue to remind Congress that they need to act to save AFG and SAFER before it shuts down in a few months. Send your message here:

<https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/98446/Respond>

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

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!

Upcoming Training:

-**March 23, 2024; *The 2024 Public Fire & Life Safety Educator Seminar***; 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM MFRI Hdqtrs 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 23-24, 2024; *Southern MD Recruitment and Retention Officer Course***, MFRI LaPlata Register here: <https://missioncit.com/events/the-retention-and-recruitment-officers-rro-role-in-organizational-success-sponsored-by-the-maryland-state-firemens-association-southern-maryland/>

-**April 10, 2024; *Pipeline Emergencies Train-The-Trainer*** 8:00AM-4:00PM MFRI Headquarters 4500 Campus Drive College Park ,MD Register here: www.mfri.org/register/HMS-111-S001-2024/seminars

-**April 13-14, 2024; *Western MD Retention and Recruitment Officer Course***; MFRI Allegany Register here: <https://missioncit.com/events/the-retention-and-recruitment-officers-rro-role-in-organizational-success-sponsored-by-the-maryland-state-firemens-association-western-maryland/>

-**May 18-19, 2024 *Northeastern MD Recruitment and Retention Officer Course***; Bel Air VFC Register here: <https://missioncit.com/events/the-retention-and-recruitment-officers-rro-role-in-organizational-success-sponsored-by-the-maryland-state-firemens-association-north-eastern-md/>

-**May 20-21, 2024; *Supervising Emergency Medical Services (SEMS)*** 8:00AM-5:00PM MFRI Headquarters 4500 Campus Drive College Park, MD Register here: www.mfri.org/register/NFA-230-S001-2024/seminars

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

MSFA Committee Notices:

-*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 at the Laurel VFD Station 10 (PG County)

-*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/>

-*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/>

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

MSFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY COUNTY:

Allegany/Garrett	Tim Dayton	daytontd22@gmail.com
Anne Arundel	Ron Block	blockntackle@comcast.net
Baltimore	Doug Simpkins, Jr.	dougsimpkins350@gmail.com
Calvert/Charles/St. Mary's	Randy Smith	firehouseblues56@yahoo.com
Carroll/Howard	PP Mark Bilger	mbilger@miemss.org
Dorchester/Talbot	Bob Phillips	rfcchief48@gmail.com
Frederick	Chip Jewell (Chair)	cjecc171@comcast.net
Harford/Cecil	PP Steve Cox	msfa96@gmail.com
Montgomery	Buddy Sutton	b.sutton@ldvfd.org
Prince George's	Lee Lutz	leelutz49@gmail.com
Queen Anne's/Kent/Caroline	Bill Faust	billf44@atlanticbb.net
Somerset/Wicomico/Worchester	PP Roger Steger	rstege21842@gmail.com
Washington	Dale Fishack	chiefringgold@aol.com