

Firefighting Content for Maryland & Beyond



VOLUME XIII: ISSUE VI

VOLUNTEER TRUMPET

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

RANGER



MSFA 2024 CONVENTION

WHEN TO SAY "WHEN"

What is good leadership?

IN MEMORY OF RON GRABENSTEIN SR.



Harney Volunteer Fire Company



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**Happy Easter from all of us at the
Volunteer Trumpet!**

Fire-Free Family Gatherings

Did you know that home cooking fires peak on major U.S. holidays that traditionally involve cooking? During big family gatherings, it's easy to be distracted by the holiday hubbub. Here are a few tips to keep your family celebration from going up in flames.

- Don't let too many cooks spoil your holiday. Avoid overcrowding the kitchen and doing too many things at once. Keep children out of the kitchen if possible, and make sure to watch them closely when they are present.
- Be alert when cooking. If you're sleepy or have consumed alcohol, avoid using the stove and oven. Set timers, and don't leave anything unattended.
- Keep flammable items – such as oven mitts, kitchen towels, wooden utensils, food wrappers, and curtains – away from your cooking area.
- Be careful when frying anything. In the event of a small grease fire, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Remove the lid once completely cooled.
- Small oven fires can be put out by turning off the heat and keeping the door closed.
- Sometimes, it is possible for you to put out small fires on your own. If you have any doubts about doing so, evacuate immediately – closing the door behind you to contain the flames – and call 911.



Editor's Corner



My ninth topic is going to focus on **what a leader is and how that affects attitude**. Is a leader the president of the fire department? Is a leader the person who wears a white helmet? Is a leader a person with the title CEO? Is a leader the person who holds elected office? Well, the answer is maybe. Titles don't define a leader. In fact, it has everything to do with one's attitude and actions. Leadership is all about how someone interacts with people, customers, and staff and exactly how you motivate and support them to work collectively towards a common goal. In the volunteer fire service, we can be our own worst enemies, where egos tend to get in the way of solutions and progress. People seek affirmations and recognition and push aside challenges and hardships because change and improvement are scary. At the end of the day, focus on the community, your shared goals, and yourself. You are your own best asset; continue to do what's right, even when it's hard, don't let anyone have the power to put you down; and as Paulo said it best, "Haters are losers pretending to be winners." You lead by example no matter your position, age, title, or responsibilities; at the end of the day, the fire service will be better because of it.

Because this section of the newsletter is meant to share ideas and start conversations, I want to hear from the readership new topics that I should cover and ways that we can work on expanding the readership of the Trumpet. If you want me to write about an issue, please send ideas to Jonathan Dayton at jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com. About the Editor, Jonathan is a volunteer Firefighter/EMT serving Allegany County, MD. MSFA Committee Chairperson, Assistant Secretary, Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire Rescue Association Past President, President and Public Information Officer, Member of the Maryland Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council, and Nation Fire Service Speaker and Educator. Jonathan holds an associate's degree in Fire Science and bachelor's and master's degrees.

Jonathan

-EASTER EGG HUNT-

Here's a twist on the "FIND THE ___ Challenge" for this month! This time you are tasked with finding **THREE** easter eggs (to the right), hidden somewhere throughout this issue. Starting on **April 1st**, once you find all 3 small items hidden within the publication, you must email Stephen Jenkins (sjenkins@msfa.org). They can be located on **ANY** page **EXCEPT** the front and back cover, and they will not be all together. The first correct person to discover the items will win the opportunity to submit one free 1/4 page ad!



Training/Announcements

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

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 <https://www.cfsi.org/support-afg-safer-and-usfa-take-action-now/>

SAFER Marketing Grant Program Round Two Announcement: The MSFA SAFER team is excited to announce round two 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 a color 10x10 Tent with a Logo and Department Name, One Table Cover with a Logo and Department Name, and a Backwall with a 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 participate 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 who 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 the Department
- Contact information for the 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.

The Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation is selling bricks! Honor those who 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:

MSFA 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 and nominate your members! Remember, recognition of a job well done is a fantastic retention tool!
- The Convention Events page has been updated for 2024 and will include additional information as we get closer to the Convention.
- Be sure to visit the website <https://convention.msfa.org/> often for the most up-to-date info!

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- The Fire Police Committee will be holding its 2nd meeting on February 24th at 10 am 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. emtka@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 12 pm. Location TBD
 - The Scholarship Committee has announced that the Scholarship application period for 2024 is now open. Additional scholarship opportunities have been posted on the committee page, so please visit <https://www.msfa.org/committees-2/scholarship/> for more information!
 - This year, new to the Scholarship program 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 the 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 have a cool story to share? Contact Chair Jonathan 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/>

Volunteer Fire Departments across Maryland participate in training activities!



The Maryland State Firemen's Association's Executive Committee met on Saturday, February 3rd - and Sunday, February 4th, at Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company.





Estimate at 8000 people attended the annual Christmas tree lighting. The Leonardtown VFD has been erecting a tree in the town square since 1933 every year except 1942 due to the war at that time. In 1988, we began the current program with a train garden and official lighting with about 1600 in attendance. Since that time the trains have been eliminated but the tree lighting has continued. This year it has been estimated at around 8000 people were in attendance. Of all of the events held in town, the christmas tree lighting is the largest. attached are a couple of photos.

Submitted by PP
Tom Mattingly Sr



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Death of Tim Ganley, Long Time Board of Review

by

Clarence "Chip" Jewell & Susie Nicol

Tim Ganley, a long-time member of the Board of Review, passed away at his home on January 29, 2024, after a long illness. Tim passed away Monday at his home surrounded by his family. Tim started in the fire service as a volunteer at the Independent Hose Company. When Ink Kline retired, Tim was hired as the paid driver for the Independent Hose Company.

He held several positions at the Independents, including president, vice president, treasurer, and director. Tim also volunteered at Citizens Truck Company, Middletown, Braddock Heights, and Urbana fire companies. He often drove the ambulance for the Junior Fire Company in the early years of their EMS service. He was an active member and had served as the treasurer of the Citizens Truck Company of Frederick.

He was very active in the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association serving as president as well as several years as a trustee. At the time of his death, he was the assistant treasurer. In 2004, he was honored for his contributions by being named to the FCVFR Hall of Fame. Tim was the Frederick/Washington County representative on the Review Board of the Maryland State Firemen's Association for many years and was serving representing Frederick County. In 2022, he was named to the MSFA Hall of Fame. Tim retired from the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, where his duties involved hotel and motel safety.

Highway Dedication to Honor Frederick County Fallen Hero

Clarence "Chip" Jewell, President

Libertytown Volunteer Fire Department

On June 25, 2019, Firefighter Michael Powers responded to his last alarm when he collapsed on the scene of an incident he responded to as a Libertytown Volunteer Fire Department member. Firefighter Powers drove Engine 172 of the Libertytown Volunteer Fire Department to the scene of a severe automobile accident on Rt 26 near Unionville, where he collapsed and went into cardiac arrest. This was the third alarm Powers responded to on that day. The section of Maryland Rt. 26 where Firefighter Powers died in the line of duty was dedicated in his honor and memory on January 26, 2024, at a ceremony at the Libertytown Volunteer Fire Department.

Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater spoke presenting the family a proclamation and declared January 26, 2024 as a day in his honor. Former County Executive Jan Gardner talked of the day Firefighter Powers died as one of the most difficult days of her time as county executive. Deputy Chief Kenny Poole represented Fire Chief Tom Coe. He spoke very personal about Mike Powers as Chief Poole joined the Libertytown Volunteer Fire Department as a junior member when Powers was an active firefighter and driver. During his terms as a delegate, Senator William Folden introduced the legislation to allow road signs to honor fallen public safety and military heroes. He talked about how the legislation came about and his personal friendship with Mike Powers and his family.



A miniature copy of the sign was unveiled and presented to the family, who were present for the event. The signs honoring Firefighter Powers have been installed along State Rt. 26 between Clemsonville Rd. and Unionville Rd. East.



In memory of Ronald V. Grabenstein Sr.

Ronald was a lifetime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, He was a member of American Legion Post 13, District 16 VFD where he served as Chief for 16 years, the AGCVFRA where he served as President 1983-1984, and Maryland State Firemen's Association where he served on the Executive Board.

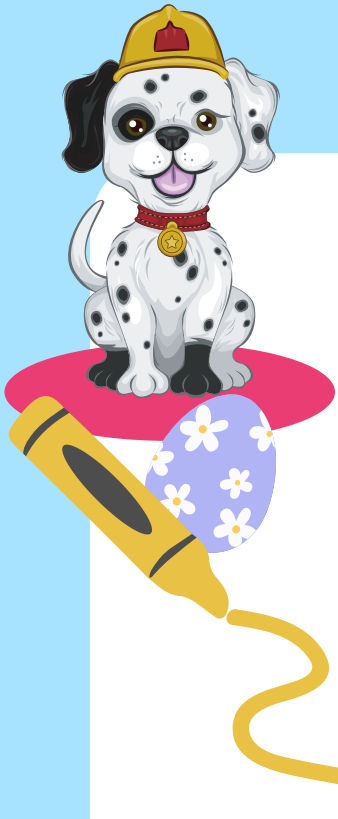
He was a dedicated member of the District 16 VFD, where he responded to their emergencies, hauled many gallons of drinking water to area residents, called bingo every Thursday night for many years, and enjoyed the Saturday night dances, which he loved to call the square dances.

Ronald's other accomplishments include Past Chief (Chief award 2004), President, Trustee, and Chaplin at District 16 VFD, Allegany-Garrett County VFD Hall of Flame, MD State Firefighters Hall of Fame 1999, and MD State Firemen's Executive Board. Received Fireman of the Year four years and Special Recognition Ambulance Service 2007.

The folks here at the Volunteer Trumpet want to express our sincerest condolences to the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System and the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company as they continue to mourn the loss of Firefighter Trevor Brown, who lost his life during an incident on Friday, February 16, 2024. The incident also injured ten additional firefighters on scene.



KIDS CORNER



Hey kids! Fire Dog Spotty is painting a picture of the Easter Bunny! He needs YOUR help to color him in! Find some crayons, markers, or maybe even some paint and fill it in!





The Right Care When It Counts Maryland EMSC 2024 Program



The Maryland EMS for Children program is In Search Of children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated Steps to Take in an Emergency or Ways to be Better Prepared for an Emergency. Actions taking place January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, are eligible for nomination. We will be recognizing children and youth who acted so that others would receive "The Right Care When It Counts." Each nominee will receive a patch and certificate and be eligible for a state award at a ceremony during EMS Week 2024. Questions? Email awards@miemss.org

Children and youth who have met one or more of the following criteria are eligible for Right Care Awards:

1. Activates the Emergency Response System by calling 9-1-1 in an emergency
2. Calls the Poison Control Center in an emergency (1-800-222-1222)
3. Provides family emergency phone numbers, address, and contacts to emergency responders
4. Knows and practices an emergency plan at home
5. Applies knowledge learned in a first aid class
6. Performs CPR and/or uses an AED effectively
7. Knows his or her medical history (allergies, medications, special needs, etc.) and shares this information with emergency care professionals
8. Participates in fire and injury prevention education in the community
9. Prepares, with his or her family, to respond to a disaster
10. Provides emergency assistance in the community

Nominations for 2024 Awards are DUE by March 29, 2024 (Friday).

Submit through the online link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dc5605d40ced4ae4b77d62cca788ea8b>

This is a reminder that the deadline for the annual EMSC Awards for children and youth is Friday, March 29, 2024. The link to the website with detailed information and links to the SmartSheet submission is:

<https://www.miemss.org/home/Public/Awards>



"On February 9, 2024 this group of gentleman gathered to celebrate the 93rd birthday of MSFA Chaplain Rev. Marvin Jackson. Not only was the birthday celebrated, but, this distinguished group presented Rev Jackson with his 50th year pin from the MSFA.

(Pictured - Chief Rusty Leftwich, Rev. Jackson, PP. Chief Ben Kurtz, PP. Chief Stephen Cox, Parliamentarian Chief Richard Brooks)

Dear Volunteer Trumpet Safety Advocates and Readers,

Maryland Kids in Safety Seats has just released the 2024 schedules for car seat checks. As you know, these are free opportunities for families to get help from a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician with their car, car seat/s, and children. Appointments are required for most of these, and virtual checks are also an option.

Please refer families to these specific checks or to Maryland Kids in Safety Seats (www.MdKISS.org). Do NOT tell families to stop at a fire or police station, as it is highly unlikely that they'd have someone certified in child passenger safety and available to help!

If you want the schedules for other parts of the state go to MD KISS' website by scanning the QR code!



When to Say “When”
Chip’s Firehouse Logbook
Chief Clarence “Chip” Jewell

When I was born, we lived directly across the street from the fire department pole siren. It was aimed at my bedroom window. My very first days on this earth were influenced by the sounding of the fire siren. I guess my baptism by noise destined me to join the fire service. Because I grew up just down the street from the United Steam Engine Co. No. 3, I knew some paid drivers and attended some pancake breakfasts to raise money to purchase an ambulance.

I joined the volunteer fire service in Frederick, MD, in 1969, at age 16, even before I had my driver’s license. When I became a member, I met older members who simply stopped by the firehouse to sit and talk about “the good old days.” Some of those members actually operated the steam pumpers and fed the horses. (I often am lovingly accused of having been in the fire service long enough to have tackled those same tasks.) At age 16, I couldn’t understand why someone who was 50 years old or older was allowed to be a firefighter, much less drive. How your perspective changes with age.

Little did I realize that 70 years after my parents brought their newborn son home from the hospital, I would be involved in the fire service. I have reached the age when I will cease being an operational member. That said, I realize that simply using the age of 70 is arbitrary. Even though I physically feel that I can continue to respond, I must be honest with myself in the decision in consideration of my health and my family

I passed my most recent NFPA 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments physical, but my pulmonary function test and depth perception aren’t what they used to be. Because this is my 50th year as an EMT, I definitely have taken my last refresher. Crawling around on the floor, doing splinting and bandaging, using a backboard, and doing high-performance CPR undoubtedly is a younger person’s job.



One overriding factor that came into play in my decision—one that I hope that you never face—was being on the scene of the line-of-duty death of a lifelong friend. At age 70, Firefighter Michael Powers announced to our department that he would no longer be operationally active. With more than 50 years of service, he decided that it was time to ease back and support the department as an administrative member.

However, after a few months, Mike realized that the department was struggling to get drivers. He reconsidered his operational activity. Knowing in the fall of 2019 that the county budgeted for a full-time engine crew to be on duty in the fall, Mike offered to the fire chief to come back and drive apparatus until the fire company was assigned full career staffing for an engine. Mike took his physical and returned to the actively driving apparatus.

At approximately 4 a.m. on the morning of June 25, 2019, our department dispatched mutual aid to a neighboring county for a two-alarm house fire. This particular day, Mike took off to work around ---

the house. Knowing he was usually on the way to work by 4 a.m., I was surprised to see Mike pull into the firehouse parking lot. We did not make the first responding units, but remained in quarters and stood by in the event of another incident. As we sat and talked about how long each of us would continue to respond to incidents, our engine was dispatched for a medical assist call. With Mike driving and me riding officer, we responded with our medic. The medic and I joked with Mike about him putting on his turnout pants when we got on the scene for a medical call. We returned to the station just as other units started to go back in service from the house fire.

Shortly before 2 p.m. that same day, our department was dispatched to a serious motor vehicle accident—a private passenger car versus a tanker semitrailer—with the report of one person pinned. Because our rescue engine was out of service (mechanical), Mike drove our structural engine, with our chief (a career captain in Baltimore County) and our career station captain as the crew. I followed with our brush mini-pumper.

On arrival, the medic immediately advised an obvious fatality and no other injuries. At about the same time, I heard our chief radio communicate a report of a firefighter down. The report was very calm with no hint there was a firefighter in a critical medical condition. As I pulled up on the scene, I soon discovered that the firefighter down was my lifelong friend, Mike Powers. Immediate advanced life support efforts were being instituted. I ran to assist, pulling off the same turnout pants that I kidded Mike about on the 4 a.m. call.

The scene became surreal: a lifelong friend now lying lifeless. I asked the chief for permission to return the mini-pumper to the station, and I would notify the family. As I pulled up in front of Mike's residence, his wife knew immediately why I was there: Listening to the incident on the monitor, she recognized all of the voices that were operating but didn't hear her husband.

I responded to the hospital with the family, hoping that the heroic efforts to save Mike's life somehow

would be successful. Despite a valiant effort by all who were involved, Mike was pronounced dead a short time later.

I was very fortunate to have almost immediate intervention from several of the Frederick County Division of Fire/Rescue Services career EMS officers who are trained in critical incident stress management. Their support and caring got me through one of the most difficult days of my 50-year fire service career. I hope that you never experience a line-of-duty death of a colleague because your life will change, and your perspectives will change. Our county crisis team continued to follow up with me. The county career paramedic who was on duty at our station that day was devastated and, ultimately, needed further intense follow-up.

Age 70 took on a new meaning to me that day. So, now, as I have turned 70 and am rapidly approaching 71, I must be honest with myself. Should I be driving a fire truck? Can I honestly say that I can perform fireground tasks today the same way that I did even ten years ago? Even having passed the NFPA 1582 physical, am I truly capable? Can other firefighters depend on me to back them up on a line, to search a room or to rescue them?

About six years ago, I had serious back surgery that required fusion between two lumbar vertebrae. After two months off of work, I was released to full duty as a county deputy chief. Although the vast majority of my responsibilities were administrative in nature, I still was the county duty officer for the "C" shift every three days.

I decided to retire but remained operational as a volunteer, primarily driving or incident command. I am very aware of the fusion in my back and try to avoid extremely heavy lifting. Other medical issues that complement my continued advancement in age have begun to creep in.

I know some friends who are in the fire and rescue service who continue to drive apparatus or serve on an ambulance crew into their 80s. God bless them! One can only admire such dedication. However, as I review my own checklist of health, wellness ---

and abilities, I believe that I must be honest with myself: 70 is old. I must consider my wife and children, who continually worry about me responding, particularly in the middle of the night.

At age 25, I was involved in a stress survey of Montgomery County, MD, fire/rescue dispatchers. (The U.S. Army considered the operations of our emergency communications center comparable to a wartime military command center.) We wore special monitoring devices around the clock, on and off duty. I happened to be wearing the monitoring devices off duty at my volunteer firehouse when we were dispatched to a report of a gas station fire in a neighboring county. On hearing the dispatch, my vital signs nearly exploded. Heart rate, blood pressure and body movement all showed the sudden shock to the system when the alarm sounds. The completed survey demonstrated the same type of physical reactions to dispatchers during high-stress incidents.

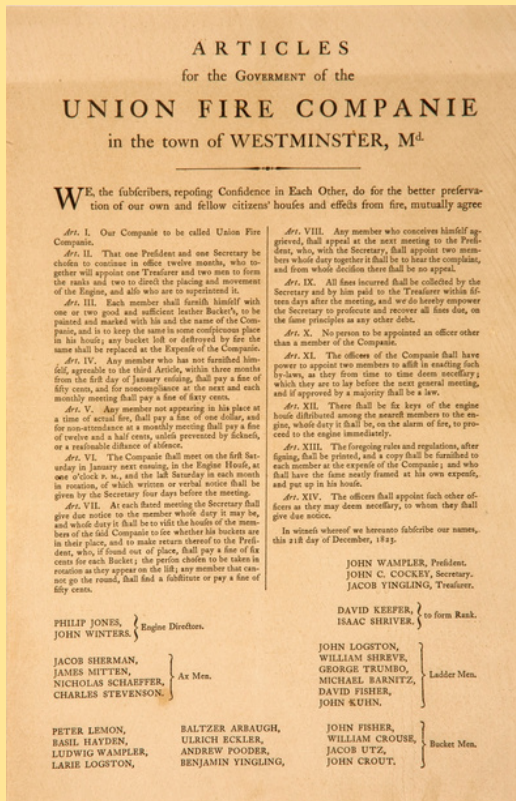
Did that sudden adrenaline rush push Mike's body -

over the edge? Did getting up in the middle of the night hearing a two-alarm fire dispatched heighten vital signs that never diminished? We never will know, but what I do know is that what my body could withstand at age 16, or age 30, or even age 60 is very different from what my body can withstand at age 70.

Although I have curtailed my operational activities and stepped down as Deputy Chief, I have yet to see whether I will let a tanker fail to respond to a desperate need for water if I am standing in the firehouse. It's difficult to know precisely when to say when. "When"

Author's Note: I wrote this article several months ago, and it was first published on FIREHOUSE.com. I want to express my appreciation to FIREHOUSE Editor Peter Mathews for permission to reprint the article in its entirety in the Volunteer Trumpet.

BE SAFE! CHIP



Westminster Fire Department started 200 years ago. Congratulations on 200 years of service!





Bowman's Addition Volunteer Fire Co.11 members had the pleasure of joining DNR for a field day to close out a 4-day wildland firefighter class. Members learned about fire lines, tools, safety, and other wildland tactics. The members that attended were Firefighters Timothy Iman, Ryan Dubit, Mariah Beard, Firefighter Zachary Judd, and Chief Matt Jones.



MSPAC Deploys GO-TEAM, Whole Blood to Western Maryland For Patient Heavily Entrapped Under Tractor Trailer.

On a busy night for MSPAC, Trooper 5 was requested to the scene of a car vs. tractor-trailer with heavy entrapment on McMullen Highway in Rawlings, Allegany County. Recognizing the severity of injuries and extensive entrapment, the Shock Trauma GO-TEAM was deployed by Trooper 1 to the scene. Whole Blood was administered on scene, with additional airway management before transporting the patient and GO-TEAM to Shock Trauma in Baltimore.

This was only one of three critically injured patients that Trooper 1 flew last night, which included a fall patient in Kent County and ended with another tractor-trailer collision with entrapment on I-95 in Harford County early this morning. MSPAC will continue to bring rapid, high-quality care and specialized services across Maryland and our region, no matter where you live.

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 #marylandstatepoliceaviation
 #marylandstatepolice #MSP #AW139 #medevac
 #EMS #trooper #MSPAC #goteam
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Maryland State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci Retires After 50-Year Career

STATEWIDE (December 21, 2023) - State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci announced his retirement today from the Office of the State Fire Marshal after a 50-year career, including ten years with the agency. Geraci's announcement coincided with the agency's holiday luncheon in Pikesville. He was surrounded by his family, current and retired employees, including former and current police and fire chiefs, and other representatives from several fire prevention and life safety associations.

Geraci was appointed State Fire Marshal by Maryland State Police Colonel Marcus L. Brown on August 14, 2013, after William E. Barnard, who served in the position since 2001. Under Geraci's tenure, Maryland is considered a leader in the United States in fire prevention after working with legislators to ensure residential sprinklers for new homes and ten-year sealed battery smoke alarms and CO alarms in all existing homes and drafted successful legislation requiring non-arc-resistant jacketed CSST in all new homes and buildings.

Geraci had more than forty years of experience as a fire service professional. He spent over 30 years with the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, spending 21 of those years in the Office of Fire Marshal before his retirement in 2006 as a Battalion Chief assigned to the county's Homeland Security Department. He finished the last twelve years of his career in Montgomery County as the Assistant Fire Marshal.

Geraci continued his dedication to fire safety and prevention by transitioning into the private sector and serving on the Maryland State Fire Prevention -

Commission. In June 2010, Geraci accepted a position with the Office of Emergency Management in Arlington County, Virginia. Ten months later, he transferred to the fire department as the Coordinator for the Bomb Squad Unit.

As state fire marshal, Geraci oversaw a staff of nearly 70 employees, including more than 40 sworn deputy state fire marshals. Geraci has overseen numerous upgrades within the agency, including improving fire investigator safety by focusing on cancer prevention, and oversaw the purchasing and modernizing vehicles within the agency. He worked alongside the State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) in negotiating significant salary increases for sworn investigators and the civilian staff, spearheaded efforts on employees' mental health issues, and sought training on this topic for all staff and their families.

"It has been an honor and privilege to have worked beside the finest men and women who have dedicated their lives to service for others. As I have said in the past, we are a small agency but a large family, and yes, we have had our moments both here at work and within our own families, and we supported each other during those difficult times," stated Geraci

State Fire Marshal Geraci has also served as vice president of the National Association of State Fire Marshals since 2017. He was awarded the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA), Sprinkler Advocate of the Year award for 2020, and The Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) this past August.

"It has been a short ten years, but during this time, we have accomplished so much, and I am so proud of all of you who have made this journey an outstanding experience," Geraci told staff today during the luncheon.

Chief Deputy Jason M. Mowbray was designated as acting state fire marshal by Colonel Roland L. Butler, superintendent of the Maryland State Police. The selection process for a new state fire marshal will begin after the first of the year when the position is advertised. Candidate resumes will reviewed by the State Fire Prevention Commission. The top candidates will be forwarded to Colonel Butler, who will select the final candidate.

Geraci is relocating to Florida and looks forward to spending time with his wife, Kelly, and their children and grandchildren.



CONVENTION & CONFERENCE



2024

MSFA 132nd ANNUAL CONVENTION AND CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for June 16th-20th! Visit us in beautiful Ocean City, Maryland at the recently renovated, state-of-the-art, Roland E. Powell Convention Center, and see what the 2024 MSFA Convention and Conference has to offer!

**Over 14 Special
Events Held During
Convention Week**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
CONVENTION.MSFA.ORG

DEPARTMENTS:

FREE educational seminars

FREE Hands on Training by OC
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Awards and recognition

EXHIBITORS:

Over 50,000 square feet of exhibit
space available

Both apparatus and booth spaces

Three days of prime exhibiting hours

SPONSORS:

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Corporate sponsorship packages

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



2024

ATTENDANCE:

- MSFA membership: 350+ fire, rescue, and ambulance departments, and 200+ member auxiliaries
- 14,500 Convention members
- 35,000 Convention guests in total, including family, friends, volunteer, career, gov't agency emergency services personnel
- Convention guests from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey!

The MSFA Convention Headquarters are located at 4001 Coastal Highway (MD Route 528) and 40th Street.

MSFA 132nd ANNUAL CONVENTION AND CONFERENCE

Ocean City is home to some of the Mid-Atlantic's best beach resorts and conference centers, and has proven to be a winning destination for the MSFA Convention and Conference year after year.

Our Convention remains one of the largest attended emergency services events in the region. It is located within a reasonable drive for one-third of the nation's population, drawing attendance from across the Mid-Atlantic region.



CONVENTION & CONFERENCE



The Retention and Recruitment Officer's Role in Organizational Success

This two-day workshop boosts member retention by helping you build a welcoming environment.

Dive deep into improving processes from initial inquiry to onboarding, turning newcomers into engaged contributors and maximizing long-term value for every member.

*Locations Subject to Change



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CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- Outline factors affecting member participation in Fire/EMS organizations
- Explore building a unified and collaborative Fire/EMS culture
- Master processes for change: From needs assessment to action plan
- Identify and attract talent with proven recruitment strategies
- Craft a customized recruitment and retention plan for your agency

SEMINAR LOCATIONS | 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM | CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO 24 PARTICIPANTS

Mar 23 & 24

Southern Maryland | MFRI La Plata
10375 Audie Ln, La Plata, MD 20646

Apr 13 & 14

Western Maryland | MFRI Allegany
13928 Hazmat Drive SW, Cumberland, MD 21502

May 18 & 19

North Eastern MD | Bel Air VFC
109 S Hickory Ave, Bel Air, MD 21014

Sep 14 & 15

Upper Eastern Shore | MFRI Centreville
601 Safety Dr, Centreville, MD 21617

Oct 19 & 20

Lower Eastern Shore | MFRI Princess Anne
12148 John Wilson Ln, Princess Anne, MD 21853

Oct 26 & 27

Northern MD | Frederick Co Training Center
5370 Public Safety Pl, Frederick, MD 21704

Nov 02 & 03

Mid-Region MD | MFRI College Park
4500 Campus Dr, College Park, MD 20740

Register online at



SAVE THE DATE



**WELCOME FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND COME WALK WITH US
AS WE WALK FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT.**

2024 MSFA&LA CANCER SUPPORT WALK

For an Evening Stroll Through Annapolis

SUNDAY – APRIL 28, 2024

NOTE THE NEW TIME:

REGISTRATION/CHECK IN BEGINS AT 3:00pm

PROGRAM/WALK BEGINS AT 4:00pm

LOCATION MARYLAND FIRE-RESCUE SERVICES MEMORIAL

This year we have a great opportunity to not only support our members who have been diagnosed with cancer but also something very special to us all a great opportunity to support the Memorial with an After the Walk party at Stan and Joes where there will be dinner and drink specials that night.



Walker Donation \$25.00 a person

Questions please contact:

Teresa Ann Crisman tacrisman@hotmail.com or 240-882-6772



Maryland Life Safety Partners Presents

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar – 2024

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
4500 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20742

Registration will be posted at www.mfri.org/training/seminars

Target Audience:

Community Risk Reduction Specialists
Fire & Injury Prevention Coordinators
Safe Kids & Risk Watch Coordinators
Health & Safety Advocates
First Responders

Registration:

Advanced registration **closes Friday, March 15, 2024**. To register, participants must have a FEMA SID (Student ID) number, which is free online – here is the link to obtain a SID number or locate your existing number:

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>

If you are under 18 and therefore are not able to obtain a FEMA SID number, please reach out to Maryland Risk Watch – riskwatch@msfa.org. We welcome you and your adult chaperone to the seminar and will register you individually.

If you have any questions or need to cancel, please email seminars@mfri.org or call 301-226-9900 or 800-275-6374.

If you require special accommodations, please email your requirements to seminars@mfri.org or call 301-226-9900 or 800-275-6374.

This seminar is hosted by MFRI with financial support from the MSFA & MSFALA Fire & Injury Prevention and Life Safety Committee and Maryland EMS for Children's State Partnership Grant from HRSA/ MCHB / EMSC Program



1/8/2024 FINAL



Safe Kids – Maryland Dates 2024

2024 Safe Kids Maryland State Coalition Meetings:

All local coalitions and community partners are strongly encouraged to participate and provide an update on your county or city's successes!

March 6, 2024 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

In Person meeting will be at MIEMSS Headquarters 653 West Pratt St. Baltimore, Maryland 21201 with Parking in Penn Street Garage.

Networking lunch with PEMAC will be at 12:00 PM

Safe Kids Maryland business meeting at 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

September 4, 2024 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

In Person meeting will be at MIEMSS Headquarters 653 West Pratt St. Baltimore, Maryland 21201 with Parking in Penn Street Garage.

Networking lunch with PEMAC will be at 12:00 PM

Safe Kids Maryland business meeting at 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

ALTERNATIVE platform: GoToMeeting will support both computer audio and conference call participation. Contact Email: safekidsmd@miemss.org

Safe Kids Maryland Educational Opportunities:

March 23, 2024 (Saturday) Public Fire & Life Safety Educator Seminar

@ Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute headquarters in College Park Maryland.

Brochure & Registration OPEN at www.mfri.org under seminars

May 13, 2024 Maryland Highway Safety Summit

@ Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport

Registration to follow in early spring

June 16-20, 2024 Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention Safe Kids & Risk Watch Interactive Displays for Maryland Families

Ocean City Convention Center becomes a learning environment for children and their entire family.

Adult and youth volunteers are needed – email riskwatch@msfa.org

September 2024 - Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference

Details under development

Brochure & Registration will be posted at - <https://www.fabscom.org/malisc-info-and-registration>

For Discussion: In State / Mid Atlantic Safe Kids Coalition leadership seminar in summer / winter in years without an SKWW PrevCon

Please forward other injury prevention education opportunities to safekidsmd@miemss.org

For more information, please call 410-706-1758 or Email: safekidsmd@miemss.org

January 2024 update



The Volunteer Trumpet

**A publication of the Maryland State
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www.msfa.org

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Happy Easter!



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***THE MISSION OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION IS TO SERVE,
PROMOTE, ADVOCATE AND REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE,
RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF MARYLAND.***