

Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow

Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



West Newbury Hand Tub



2023

MCVFA Officers

President

Michael Goldstein, Sherborn FD
President@MCVFA.org

Secretary

Jeffrey Gruenglas, West Barnstable FD
jgruenglas@wbfdems.org

Treasurer

Michael Goldstein, Sherborn FD
President@MCVFA.org

Executive Vice President

Chris Hajder, Swansea FD
chrishajder552@gmail.com

Region 1 Vice President

John Walcek, Wareham FD
john_walcek@warehampolice.com

Region 1 Coordinator

Mike Palmieri, Carver FD
mpalmieri@gmail.com

Region 2 Coordinator

Lisa Evans, Groveland FD
reg2cor@mcvfa.org

Region 3 Vice President

Vacant

Region 4 Vice President

Kevin Connolly, Northfield FD
shamrock3910@comcast.net

Region 5 Vice President

Frank Speth, III, New Ashford FD
vpre5@mcvfa.org

Region 5 Coordinator

Kevin Hampstead, Clarksburg FD
klhnyy27@yahoo.com

Fall 2023

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Cover Photo Courtesy of Lisa Evans. Foreman Michael Lawless, with flag, stands atop West Newbury Gardner 4 during the Salisbury Days muster.

Executive Vice President's Message



Greetings to all.


After a long and wet summer I have a feeling we're all in for a long wet winter in New England. I hope this message finds you all well and healthy.

As we pack away the deck furniture and bathing suits for the season, let's all keep in mind that our commitment to our community remain vigilant and unwavering during the winter season. The Commonwealth's fire service turns a historic page with the retirement of Marshall Ostrowski and the pinning of Chief Devine as his replacement, as well as the 33rd Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards honoring the bravest of the brave and countless individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice across the globe devoting to their communities.

Both our fire and EMS services continue to revel in technological advancements that make us safer as we answer the call. Recruitment and retention efforts in every department continue through this unforeseen time of dwindling numbers in membership. As I've mentioned in the past, the NVFC is a great resource to get current information and literature to boost your department's R&R campaign.

"Cancer"—the word that everyone hates is again front and center of our fire service world. PFAS chemicals and our own protective equipment are the center of safety discussions. There is an apparent move to have manufacturers create better products for the health and safety of our own members. If you or a loved one has cancer concerns and have been directly involved in Fire/EMS service, please contact your department and local officials with information about assistance.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with this quote from Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi: "Practice does not make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect". If you plan on attending a training session, make the most of your time and train like your life depends on it!

Thank you for doing what you do for your community and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 




Executive Vice President

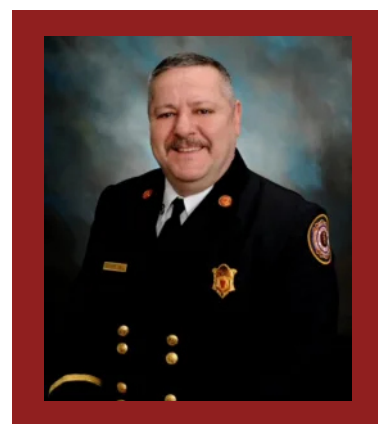
Chris Hajder, Swansea FD

CONGRATULATIONS, CHIEF EVANS!



The MCVFA Family Congratulates Newly Sworn-In Newbury Fire Chief David Evans along with his wife Lisa (Region 2 Coordinator) and their family.

Thank you for your service! 



NVFC Meeting – Cooperstown NY

MCVFA President Michael Goldstien and Fire Chief Joe Maruca, both members of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Board of Directors, attended the NVFC Board of Directors meeting, on your behalf, on September 21-22 in Cooperstown, NY, to conduct Council business, participate in committee meetings, and guide the direction of the organization. Sixty-six directors from 40 states were present, along with other leadership from state fire associations, corporate members and sponsors, and guests.



NVFC committees met on a range of issues including health and safety, legislation, recruitment and retention, wildland, standards and codes, and more. The EMS/Rescue Section also held its biannual meeting. In addition, two general sessions were held with the full board to discuss matters of national and state interest and provide input and guidance on the strategic direction of the organization.

Among the decisions of the board was to add the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome (HERO) Act to the NVFC's legislative priorities. The HERO Act would establish a series of programs designed to address public safety behavioral health issues. In addition, the board voted to establish the Ron Roy Memorial Scholarship in honor of the late Washington director, who passed away on July 31.

The agenda also included an update on the FirstNet Authority and a panel discussion on Advocating on Behalf of the



Volunteer. Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center addressed the Health, Safety, and Training Committee about the Firefighter Cancer Initiative, a research project seeking to understand and address the excess burden of cancer among firefighters.

The next NVFC Board of Directors meeting will take place April 26-27 in Arlington, VA. 🚒

Must you Follow NFPA Standards?

By Chief Joe Maruca

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards are industry consensus standards. Unless they have been adopted into law (or regulation) in your jurisdiction either by the federal government, state government, or local government, you are not legally required to follow them.

Industry consensus standards are a voluntary standardization system for an industry. They set conformity and uniform criteria for the development and manufacture of a great volume of products, or they provide uniform criteria for procedures and processes. These criteria are developed by committees of representatives from industry, labor, legal experts, technical experts, and government agencies.

Let's talk about NFPA standards

At the NFPA the standards are developed by technical committees made up of about 30 volunteers from different stakeholder groups (firefighters, EMS providers, lawyers, engineers, manufacturers, regulators, etc.) Each NFPA standard has its own technical committee to write the standard. The standard writing process is public, and anyone can participate.

Federal, state, and local law overrule industry consensus standards. You are required to follow the law. Industry consensus standards are generally considered best practices.

The little known or least understood aspect of NFPA Standards is that the "authority having jurisdiction", typically the fire chief, has the power to decide whether or not to adopt or accept an NFPA standard for their fire or EMS department.

And, even less understood is that the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) can modify an NFPA standard to fit the resources, geography, and other needs of their community and department.

For instance, there is no law in Massachusetts that requires a fire department or fire chief to adopt NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness Program. So, adoption of NFPA 1500 is up to the AHJ – the fire chief. However, the chief can adopt the standard with amendments if there are valid reasons for not meeting the standard as written.

For example, NFPA 1500 says you should do firefighter

occupational medical exams for all firefighters annually. But your department responds to less than five fires each year and has a budget of \$80,000. Given these two factors, few fires and little money, the fire chief could, by using a cost/risk – benefit analysis, adopt NFPA 1500 but amend it so that you do medical exams every three years instead of annually.

Another example is that NFPA 1500 says each fire truck should carry at least five street cones that are 28" high. The compartments on your brush truck are too small to carry 28" street cones, so instead you carry 14" street cones. Does this mean you can't adopt or meet the NFPA 1500 standard? No, it means that you adopt the standard and amend it to that you will "carry 14" street cones on Brush 1 because that's all that fits on the truck".

To adopt or not adopt a standard

I can hear the yelling, already: "You can't do that! If you change it, it's not a standard! You must follow the standard exactly as written." Nope.... The state and federal government adopt and amend or modify NFPA standards all the time and nobody is outraged or claims they can't do it. A Massachusetts fire department is a government agency with all of the same powers as the state and federal government (within their local area and so long as they don't conflict with state and federal power).

For example, in 2012, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts adopted NFPA 1 as our state fire code, but when we did, we also adopted 178 pages of amendments to the standard.

The power to do this is contained in the language of each and every NFPA standard. Within each NFPA standard there is an equivalency clause (usually in Chapter 1 of the Standard) that allows the AHJ to modify the standard, unless required by law, to meet the needs of the community.



Here is an example of a typical NFPA equivalency clause:

- 1.3.1 It is not the intent of this document to limit or restrict the use of other inspection, testing, or maintenance programs that provide an equivalent level of system integrity and performance to that detailed in this document.
- 1.3.2 The authority having jurisdiction shall be consulted and approval obtained for such alternative programs.

So who decides what to adopt?

I think the reason for the standards adoption being so poorly understood is twofold.

- First, the NFPA has done a great job of creating and distributing its standards, but it takes the position that it is not up to the NFPA to tell us how to use them. I think they should have done a better job of explaining how to use the standards, and I hope that day is coming.
- Second, we firefighters and fire chiefs never actually (or rarely) read NFPA standards. We have a bad habit of listening to other people (who also haven't read the standards) tell us what they say. For instance, people are always telling me that the Firefighter I/II standard requires some certain number of hours to complete, or that you have spend hours on certain irrelevant topics. Not true – the Firefighter I/II standard doesn't ever mention how many hours you need to spend on any topic or the entire program.

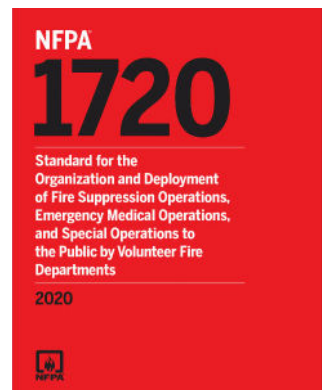
So, when the Firefighter I/II standard says you need to train your firefighters for high rise operations and rural water supply, the Boston Fire Department can train all day on high rise packs and spend 15 minutes on rural water supply, and the West Barnstable Fire Department can spend all day training on rural supply and spend 15 minutes on high rise packs, and both departments are meeting the standard.

And Boston would be perfectly fine if it determined to skip rural water supply altogether because they never have a rational reason to do it.

Modifying or amending an NFPA standard isn't as simple as saying "I don't like that. I'm going to change that". You need to first acknowledge the standard. This means read and understand the standard. Then you determine what you can and can't meet, and you keep all that you can. Next, using a cost-benefit analysis and/or a risk-benefit analysis, you can determine an alternate approach to the standard. Or you can determine that you can't meet part of the standard because you lack specific resources, or the geography, topography, demographics, building construction, and community risks don't fit the standard. Then you put your modifications in writing.

Here's my challenge to everyone:

Adopt NFPA 1720, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments. Combination fire departments can choose to adopt this standard or NFPA 1710.



NFPA 1720 is one of the easiest standards to adopt. It is short and it is simply a template of the basic elements of organizing a call/volunteer fire department. NFPA 1720 is only about four pages long and provides for lots of flexibility. It requires a written deployment plan, a written training plan, quarterly reports to your community (Select Board), and an annual report.

The part of NFPA 1720 that causes many departments to shy away from it is the response time and turnout matrix that tells you how many firefighters should arrive at a fire and in what time frame they should arrive. However, the AHJ can modify this.

If you cover 20 square miles and it takes 12 minutes just to drive to the edge of town, you can adopt a response time that reflects the geographic or road system reality in your town. You can create zones with different response times. You can exempt cabins in the woods and other remote properties.

Essentially, you are taking the NFPA Standard and making it your standard. The important thing being that you have a standard.

It still requires effort and work to accomplish, but it's not as hard as you've been led to believe. Try it. If you need help, send me an email.

An Example of How to Modify and Adopt an NFPA Standard

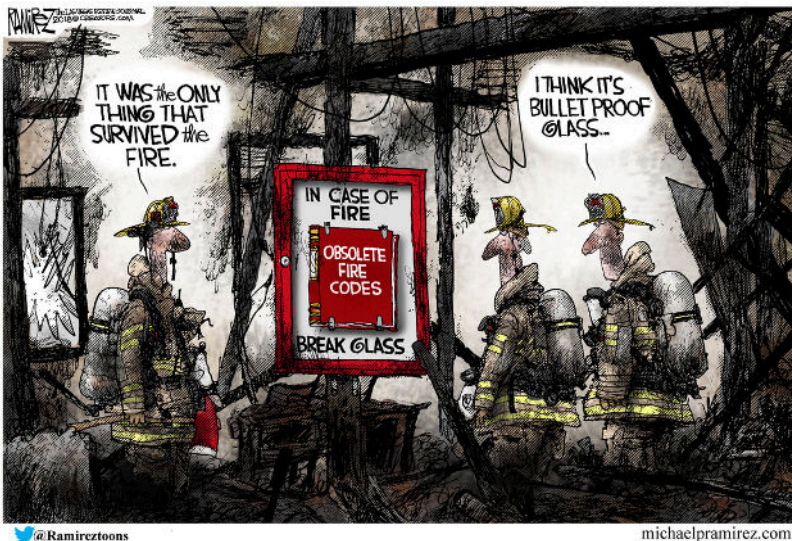
The West Barnstable Fire Department (WBFD) hereby adopts NFPA 1720, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments (2014 Edition), as its organizational and deployment standard, subject to the following amendments, modifications, and options:

1. A Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) may also be known as a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT);
2. The WBFD shall use the rural area response time and staffing as set forth in Table 4.3.2 Staffing and Response Time, except that no response time shall be assigned to incidents on Sandy Neck Beach or in Wilderness areas inaccessible by paved road;
3. If the WBFD Standards of Cover and NFPA 1720 are in conflict, the WBFD Standards of Cover shall prevail;
4. The WBFD will provide special operations as follows: Motor Vehicle Extrication and Hazardous Materials Response at the Operational Level;

5. The WBFD will not generally provide special operations as follows: Maritime/Marine Fire and Rescue, Aircraft Fire and Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Low Angle Rescue, Trench Rescue, Hazardous Materials Response at the Technical Level and Swift Water Rescue. The WBFD will respond to these incidents, but mutual aid from state and regional responses teams will be relied upon for technical operations;
6. Communications Facilities are a regional communications facility under the control of the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office (a division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) and do not comply with NFPA 1221. The WBFD lacks the funding to operate its own NFPA 1221 compliant communications facility. The WBFD lacks the legal or political power to have the regional communications facility become NFPA 1221 compliant.

Write it down and make it part of your department's policies and procedures (or operational guidelines). And that's all it takes. Using what is printed above, the West Barnstable FD is an NFPA 1720 compliant fire department. 🚒

Obsolete Fire Laws – Rope Throwing Guns & Life Nets



Up until this law was repealed in 1997, Massachusetts law required each fire department to have a gun capable of throwing a projectile with a cord attached into the windows of any building, and a life net strong enough to break the fall of a person jumping from the top story of a building. You must bring these two items with you to every fire in a building over two stories in height.

This law, MGL Chapter 48 Section 50, was enacted back in 1888. 🚒

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MCVFA Offices

PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538
1-800-551-FIRE
mcvfa@mcvfa.org | www.mcvfa.org

MCVFA President

Michael Goldstein, Sherborn

Editor

Jeffrey Gruenglas, West Barnstable

Publisher/Art Direction/ Production

Carlotta Maruca

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Address all editorial content to:

Smoke Showin'

MCVFA, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538

For address changes or MCVFA membership
questions please call
1-800-551-FIRE

For advertising requests contact the Editor
jgruenglas@wbfdems.org

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Fast Firehouse Taco Soup



Need a simple, fast, and tasty soup for your next firehouse gathering. This is a great one. Serves 4 or 5. Takes about 30 minutes to make.

Ingredients:

1 LB Ground Beef

1 Jar of Your Favorite Chunky Salsa (16 oz)

6 Cups of Beef Broth

1 Bag of Frozen Corn

Taco Seasoning – 1 oz package or make your own.

Make Your Own Taco Seasoning: Mix a ½ teaspoon of garlic powder, ground cumin, onion powder, chili powder, oregano, and salt with 4 teaspoons of paprika.

Instructions:

Cook the ground beef until browned in a Dutch Oven over medium heat. Break up beef.

Add half of the taco seasoning – mix.

Stir in the Salsa & add the Beef Broth.

Mix well & simmer for 5 minutes.

Stir in frozen corn and remaining taco seasoning. Simmer low for 15 minutes. Stir occasionally.



EAT!

Firefighters: What Are You Waiting For?



NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER REGISTRY *for Cancer*

Understanding &
Reducing Cancer

It's time for you to register with the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer at nfr.cdc.gov

The National Firefighter Cancer Registry opened in April after years of lobbying by all fire service organizations including the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association and the National Volunteer Fire Council. It is hoped that at least 200,000 firefighters will sign up this year.

The registry is open to all current and former firefighters, volunteer, career, and call. It doesn't matter whether you have or ever had cancer. It's for all of us so we can track cancer in the fire service. This will allow us to find ways to prevent cancer, and it gives us the data we need when talking with medical professionals and government leaders.

It's easy to participate but does take about 15 to 30 minutes to complete the questions depending on how long you have been in the fire service. You will be asked about all your roles in the fire service, all of your department service, your exposures, and your health. ⚙️



Are You Using “Make Me A Firefighter” to Recruit New Members?

Make Me A Firefighter is an online portal that any call/volunteer fire department can use to advertise for and recruit new call/volunteer firefighters and EMS providers. The system is free. The system was created by and is managed by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

Additionally, Make Me A Firefighter is a source for templates to create online recruitment posts, flyers, posters, and other recruitment materials

Make Me A Firefighter can be found at

<http://portal.nvfc.org>

More than 4500 volunteer and combination fire departments across the country are using Make Me A Firefighter as part of their recruitment effort.

The MCVFA is an NVFC member organization and part of your dues helps provide this benefit. ⚙️

REGION

1

As I prepare to attend the State Meeting to be held at the Hadley Fire Department, two things come to mind: First, it is forecasted to be 80 degrees, with beautiful sunshine. Second, I have the opportunity to meet with brother and sister firefighters from the western part of the commonwealth. So, while I would like to be with the family and enjoy the beach, I made the commitment to my other family to attend the annual state meeting. To the meeting I go.

Speaking with my chauffeur to the meeting, Lt. Scott Billings of the Hanson Fire Department, he said something I took to heart: *"I made the commitment to attend, and I think it will be good to represent the eastern part of the state."*



I thought about what he said. Scott represents the call fire-service so well. He is not interested in money or fame, just a genuine desire to help people in their time of need. His can-do attitude is what we need

to encourage our young recruits. No matter the weather, time, or inconvenience, Scott and so many like him around our beautiful state put their own personal needs aside for the good of the department and public. Rarely do the tones drop at a "great" time. Usually, it seems that the sole purpose of the tones is to cause havoc in our lives!


Lt. Billings also added that his department was actively seeking call-firefighters. Call Lt. John Fontes of the Hanover FD said his department was recruiting new call-members as well. The list continues in Region 1, of departments reaching out. Lt. Chris Hadjer of Swansea told me that



they were busy getting the message out for new volunteers. Carver FD, a well-respected powerhouse in call departments continues their annual recruitment drive and testing. All of these departments are but a sampling of what is happening all over Region 1. Call and volunteer firefighters are crucial to the safety and security of our communities.

While many departments in Region 1 are getting new apparatuses and equipment, I am truly convinced it is the people that make a department effective. People like Scott, John, and Chris. Region 1 has many more firefighters that the same characteristics of these stalwart men.

Let's hope that all the departments have successful recruitment drives, and more importantly let's hope they have the men to teach them about service above self.

It's what we do. 

John Walcek

Vice President, Region 1

Images of WBFD Training.

So what is it like to apply for a Fire Chiefs position? It's approximately two months or more of work prepping and submitting your resume, interviewing, going through an 8-hour chief's knowledge assessment and CORI check. if you are lucky enough to become a finalist, then there's an open interview in front of the board of selectmen and the towns' people.

The knowledge assessment shows a candidate's effectiveness of prioritizing fast-paced work as a Chief, budget, personnel issues, with fire emergencies occurring all around you. (No pressure, right!)

Sometimes a town will hire an outside firm to assist with the interviewing and in the assessment process. To the hiring town, it may seem as though firefighters speak a different language, with so many acronyms, different organizational names, and on-scene terminology, both medical and fire related. The hired firms' knowledge of the fire service

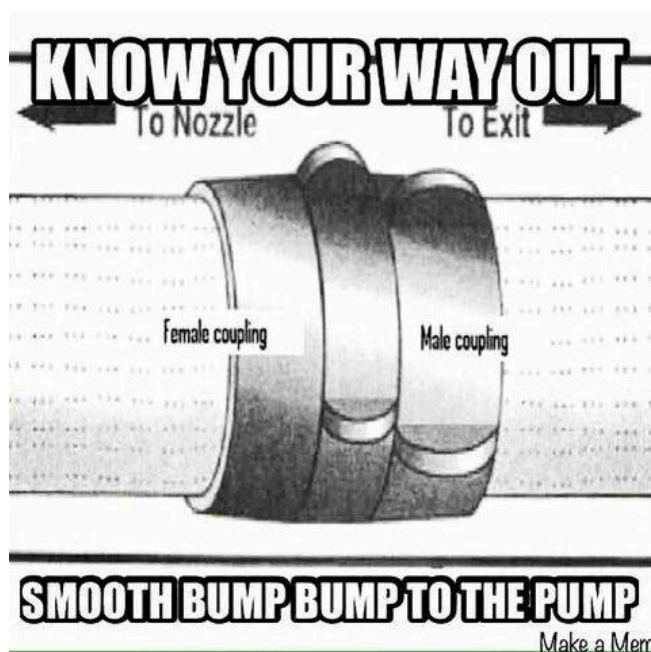
assists the town with a bias assessment process and is helpful to explain the value of the candidates' qualifications, such as Fire Chiefs Credentialing, Fire Science Degree, and FF I/II certification. The consulting firm is a helpful way for the town to effectively hire the right candidate for the right position.

The experiences and choices you make today will help to carve out your fire career. Take advantage of each opportunity offered by the fire service, expand that resume, but most of all follow your heart. Find your personal specialty that you are interested in and become an expert in your field.

Congratulations to David Evans, the newly hired Newbury Fire Chief! 🚒

Lisa Evans

Region 2 Coordinator



REGION

5

The Savoy Volunteer Fire Department held a fire prevention day at the Emma L Miller Elementary School on October 13th. The students learned how to pull a hand line, learned the different equipment on the fire apparatus and even had put on some gear that was just made for the students.🔥

Frank M Speth III

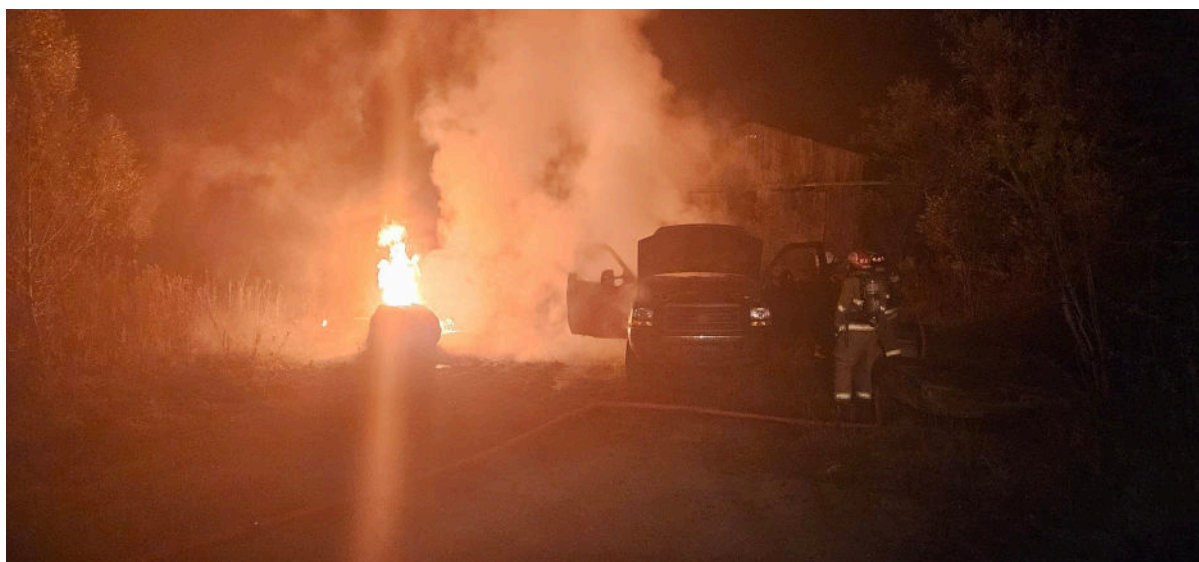
Region 5 Vice President



The Peru Volunteer Fire Department for their Tuesday night drill on October 17, 2023 did a mock live motor vehicle fire. The training involved using the proper handline, working on scene with safety precautions and the full use of proper PPE. 🔥

Frank M Speth III

Region 5 Vice President



REGIONAL NEWS



The ***'Take C.H.A.R.G.E of Battery Safety'*** public safety education campaign highlight six main messages aimed at driving safe behaviors among the public related to the use of lithium-ion battery devices:

- C**hoose certified products
- H**andle lithium-ion devices with care
- A**lways stay alert for warning signs
- R**ecycle devices and batteries properly
- G**et out quickly if there's a fire
- E**ducate others on safe practices

Choose certified products: Many consumer items are purchased online, and the importance of third-party safety certification is not required by some sellers, unbeknown to many consumers. When purchasing a lithium-ion battery-powered device, you should be sure to look for a product that has been listed or safety certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to ensure that product meets important safety requirements.

Handle with care: Follow the manufacturer's instructions and only use the charging equipment that comes with the product. Do not modify the battery or the charger in any way. Store batteries away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, exits, and anything flammable – never in your exit path.

Always stay alert for warning signs: Check battery-powered devices often to make sure they are working properly. Look for signs of damage or abuse such as swelling, punctures, or overheating. Listen for unusual hissing or popping sounds.

Recycle devices and batteries properly: Take old or damaged batteries to the nearest battery recycling center for safe and responsible disposal. Do not dispose of batteries, chargers or battery-powered devices in the trash!

Get out quickly if there is a fire: Get out if you see – or hear – warning signs. Follow your home fire escape plan to leave immediately and call 9-1-1.

Educate others on safe practices: Now that you know what actions to take, spread the word. Help protect your friends and loved ones how they can ***'Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety'***.

While these tips are important year-round, we are approaching the start of the holiday shopping season, when many consumers will be purchasing lithium-ion powered devices. Ensuring both your department and community are educated on the importance of understanding and avoiding the risks associated with overuse or misuse will help keep everyone safe. 🔧

AFG, SAFER, and USFA Authorizations Lapse: Take Action Now

On September 30, 2023, the authorizations for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, and U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) lapsed. AFG and SAFER could potentially permanently be shut down if Congress does not act to reauthorize them by September 30, 2024.

These programs provide critical resources and assistance to the fire and emergency medical service departments that protect our communities. AFG enables departments to obtain the equipment, vehicles, and training they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. SAFER supports recruitment, retention, and hiring efforts so departments have enough staffing to respond to emergencies. USFA is the federal agency that assists the fire service in preparing for, preventing, mitigating, and responding to all hazards.

Though the Senate's reauthorization bill (S. 870) passed the Senate 95-2 in April and the House's reauthorization bill (H.R. 4090) unanimously passed the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in June, there are still obstacles that are impeding this reauthorization's further movement. Some key Senators have also objected to including AFG, SAFER, and USFA's reauthorization in key pieces of legislation. The House's rules for the 118th Congress make it difficult to pass this reauthorization due to the constraints on length and expense of reauthorizations. The House also lost valuable time to consider legislation due to the three-week pause of legislative business while they were without a Speaker. There is now the threat of an additional pause in legislative business if the government shuts down after the expiration of the current continuing resolution on November 17.

The best way to overcome these obstacles to reauthorization is education. The NVFC and other national fire service organizations have been active advocates of these programs through various means, including the news media. In May representatives from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and other national fire organizations testified before the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology regarding the importance of AFG, SAFER, and USFA. On September 20, the NVFC, Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI),

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hosted a Congressional open house highlighting the need for AFG, SAFER, and USFA. On October 12, these organizations co-hosted a press conference in Washington, DC, to raise awareness of this issue.

While the NVFC and other national fire organizations remain actively engaged in Washington, DC, we need your help to amplify the message. Your Representative and Senators need to hear directly from you as their constituents, especially if you have received an AFG or SAFER grant or have benefited from the USFA's curriculum. It is very effective when members of Congress and Senators hear directly from constituents about a program's success stories in their state or district. The NVFC, CFSI, IAFF, IAFC, NFFF, and NFPA all have experts on staff that can provide you with Congressional office contact information, talking points, and anything else you may need to contact your legislators.

The NVFC also has an active [Action Alert](#) that allows you to easily email a letter to your Senators and member of Congress to advocate for increased funding and the reauthorization of AFG, SAFER, and USFA with just a few clicks. In addition, CFSI has [set up a landing page](#) for AFG, SAFER, and USFA reauthorization, where you can learn more and submit a success story related to an AFG or SAFER grant you have received. The more specific examples Congress hears about AFG and SAFER's successes, the more successful our advocacy efforts will be.


Though AFG, SAFER, and USFA have had a very successful track record, their future is far from certain because they are competing with many other federal legislative priorities. If these programs are not reauthorized by the end of this year our opportunities to do so before AFG and SAFER's September 30 sunset date will significantly diminish. Please urge your member of Congress and Senators to reauthorize these critical programs by December 31 and encourage others within the fire service to do the same. 🔥



Posts for November 2023



NVFC
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL
FIRE • EMS • RESCUE

Follow us on Facebook [@nvfc1](#), X [@nvfc](#), Instagram [@mynvfc](#), and LinkedIn [@national-volunteer-fire-council](#) to directly share any content you feel would be useful for your members. You can also use these handles to tag the NVFC in the following posts or in any posts from your organization that you'd like us to share. 

AFG/SAFER Reauthorization

The authorizations for AFG, SAFER, and USFA have lapsed. Urge your members of Congress to pass reauthorization now so we don't lose these critical programs! The NVFC has issued an Action Alert to make it easy to contact your Representative and Senators: <https://bit.ly/afg-safer-usfa-action>

Share your AFG, SAFER, and/or USFA success story to help make the case for why these critical fire service programs need to be reauthorized now. Use this form from CFSI to submit your story: <https://bit.ly/fire-service-programs>

Urgent Action Needed! Tell your members of Congress to reauthorize AFG, SAFER, and USFA. Learn more about this critical fire service issue and how you can help here: <https://bit.ly/fire-service-programs>

Grant Feedback

Do you have thoughts about how FEMA can improve processes and administration surrounding its preparedness grant programs, including AFG and SAFER? You can submit your input by November 7 here: <https://bit.ly/3ModG67>

FEMA is looking for feedback on how to enhance the management and administration of its preparedness grant programs. Now is the time for your voice to be heard. Submit your input here: <https://bit.ly/3ModG67>

Crash Responder Safety Week

Set aside the week of November 13-17 to educate the public and your department on what they can do to prevent injuries and deaths of responders at roadway scenes. Find resources for Crash Responder Safety Week here: <https://bit.ly/3Qcy1fG> #CRSW

Crash Responder Safety Week takes place Nov. 13-17. Use this week to educate the public to slow down, move over, and stay alert when passing a roadway incident.

Find resources to help here: <https://bit.ly/3Qcy1fG> #CRSW

Has your department participated in Traffic Incident Management Training? Crash Responder Safety Week is the perfect time to focus on this critical topic. Find free training and resources here: <https://bit.ly/3e9m9Yq>

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Join UL's Fire Safety Research Institute in its new campaign to empower the public to Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety. Learn about the campaign and find resources at <https://www.batteryfiresafety.org/>.

UL's Fire Safety Research Institute is launching a new campaign to help prevent fires and mitigate risks surrounding devices that utilize lithium-ion batteries. Learn more at <https://www.batteryfiresafety.org/>.

Roundtable Talk

Are you getting the most out of your state fire academy? Join the NVFC and NAFTD for a Roundtable Talk on Nov. 29 to learn how volunteer fire departments can fully engage with fire academies to meet their training, recruitment, and retention needs. Register: <https://bit.ly/4OnXbMX>

Junior Firefighter Recruitment

Join the NVFC for a free webinar on Nov. 15 to learn how your fire department can partner with local high schools to enhance your junior firefighter program. Register: <https://bit.ly/46VD3nW>

EMS Scene Safety

What does it really mean to develop and maintain a safe scene at an EMS incident? Join the NVFC on Nov. 7 for an interactive discussion on challenges to and best practices for maintaining scene safety. Learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/3sekI6m>